

The Friends of Bramcote Ridge

Project Newsletter No. 10 - January 2002

Footpath Improvement - February 10th

Many of you, by now, will have noticed the builder's bag of ballast near the Sandy Lane access point. This has been donated by a local resident, and is to be used to improve the short, but very muddy section, of path above Thoresby Road.

The work will involve removal of accumulated soft earth and old leaf litter, followed by the spreading of the ballast to repair and make good the path surface. A small amount of drainage improvement work may also be undertaken.

The usual 'footpath' tools will be required, so please bring a wheelbarrow (if available), a spade and work gloves. Meet at 10.30, at the top of Sandy Lane.

Mulch removal - March 10th

Late last summer, several members of the group undertook an experiment on the area where we have been concentrating on management of the Bracken. Part of this experiment was to give a small area a thorough raking to remove the deep layer of dead Bracken mulch.

To date, this appears to have been successful, and is allowing stronger grass re-growth. Ideally, this extra competition will serve to further reduce the dominance of the Bracken when it starts to grow, later in the year.

For this session, I would like to treat a much larger area to a thorough raking, before the

grass becomes too long. The rakings will be left to rot down on site.

Meet at 10.30, at the top of Sandy Lane.

The only equipment required will be: -

- **A garden rake (a lawn/leaf rake will be too flimsy)**
- **Your usual work gloves.**

Annual Visit - April 21st

Due to the breeding season, we will not be undertaking any practical work on the ridge between early April and mid-May.

Hopefully, if there are no plagues or diseases sweeping the countryside, I will endeavour to organise a visit to another important wildlife site in the county. At present I am considering a trip Duke's Wood (near Southwell) which is both ancient woodland and an ex-inland oil field. More details to follow, nearer the date...

Bramble Thinning - May 19th

As part of our on-going rotational management of Bramble, we will spend this session clearing another thicket in order to increase the age structure of this species across the site.

As with previous years, we will be clearing small areas of Bramble, and using the cuttings to block faint access paths leading into the dense scrub area in the centre of the site, maintaining the 'sanctuary area'.

Please bring either a pair of loppers or secateurs, and work gloves. Meet as usual at the top of Sandy Lane at 10.30.

Thoresby Road Access - Broxtowe Borough Council has agreed to supply the materials for the group to install steps on the steep rough path, at the upper end of Thoresby Road. This will improve access to the site for those approaching from the top of Thoresby Road and the Sevenoaks/Arundel area, and reduce further erosion of the path.

However, due to the nature of the work, I feel it would be impractical to rota it in as one of the monthly sessions. A large group working in a small area will hamper each other and achieve very little.

Therefore, I would like to run a series of extra sessions throughout February and March, involving small groups of one or two members at a time: each group installing one or two steps per session, depending on progress.

If you would like to be involved and make 'one small step for a man*, but a giant leap for the Ridge' please contact me at 47 Sandy Lane or 9252048 before the end of January. I would like to include as many members as possible. Once the materials arrive I will contact the interested members with further details and arrange mutually convenient time(s) - either weekdays and/or weekends.

(*Or woman!!)