

RVCG Task Day Sunday 29th Oct 2023



Silt removal at Frank goit (Sue Shaw)



Silt removal at Wolf goit (Sue Shaw)



Frank goit wall restoration (Hannah Isherwood)



Flow restored to Frank goit



Flow restored to Wolf goit

Task Days

October 2023

Storm Babet hit Sheffield on Friday 20th Oct 2023 leaving an unprecedented trail of damage along the Rivelin Valley. The intense rain over 24 hours created a torrent of water that scoured the valley, moving tons of sand, stone, and debris and changing the course of the river in several locations. The force of the water also damaged structures, washed away footpaths, and blocked several head goits, thus starving some of the old mill dams of their water supply. A week later, the water had subsided enough for the RVCG to organise a task day on Sunday 29th October. An appeal on Twitter helped swell the ranks and around 30 volunteers duly arrived for duty. The focus was to dig out and clear the head goits of two of the dams: Frank Wheel and Wolf Wheel. The event was very successful and the water supply to both dams was restored. Other volunteers cleaned benches, cut back small trees and overhanging branches, and litter-picked. The recovered gravel was also used to restore some of the footpaths.

November 2023

For the November task day, we decided to work our way down the valley from Rails Road repairing the footpaths. Having had a delivery of 10 tons of footpath material, the 20+ volunteers barrowed it down to the nature trail where others filled in the trenches and steps. This was very strenuous and full marks to all the volunteers for their efforts. The RVCG had purchased a compactor especially for the occasion but unfortunately, we couldn't get it started. I discovered later there was a built in mechanism to prevent the petrol engine from being started until there was sufficient oil in the sump! At 1st and 2nd Coppice the footpaths were restored without the use of the compactor. 3rd Coppice has had its stepping stones and bridge swept away and a temporary diversion is in place.

We have also had offers of help from Friends of Loxley Valley, Don Catchment Rivers Trust, and the River Stewardship Company. There has also been a suggestion of crowd funding for any of the required work. The Rivelin landowners, Sheffield City Council, have kindly agreed to meet with the RVCG to discuss the recovery of the nature trail. The areas of concern will be identified, and hopefully we will learn the Council plans for restoration and agree where the RVCG task team can be most effective. Thank you to our new Council Ranger for Rivelin, Ryan Atkin for his enthusiastic support and advice to the RVCG task team.



Restoration of the steps at 2nd Coppice (Sue Shaw)



Father (rake) and son (compactor) at 1st Coppice (Graham Appleby)

Graham Appleby