

# GREENWAYS AND CYCLEROUTES BREAN DOWN WAY Work Camp April 21 to 30 2017 Inaugural ride 1 May 2017

It is less than three weeks to the start of our Spring work camp to finish off the **Weston and Brean Down Way** Cycling Route and long distance footpath. Leases, licences and agreements have been signed and funding confirmed. Advance works are well in hand. Local contractors have culverted the ditch beside the main road and will start laying concrete kerbs and tarmac when the school holidays end on 18 April.



All that remains is to build the last 900 metres of path, with its gates, fences, bird hide walls and other paraphernalia. Materials have been ordered, and the same contractor who worked with us on last year's workcamp – Larry Walker - will be there to handle the machines, arrange supply of materials, and give us backup.

**This needs you!**

The inaugural ride will now leave the Pier at Weston at 12.30 (high tide at 11.13 would prevent us using the beach earlier).  
Contacts details:  
[greenwaysandcycleroutes@gmail.com](mailto:greenwaysandcycleroutes@gmail.com)  
Work camp emergency contact numbers:  
Caroline Levett on 07514 568 386 or John Grimshaw 07792 714 708



## **The basics:**

### **When**

We will be working between 8.30 and 4.30 each day between Saturday 22 April and Sunday 30 April. You are welcome to arrive on Friday 21 April. There will be an inaugural ride of the route setting off from Weston Pier at 12.30 on Monday, 1 May.

Between Saturday 22 April and Friday evening 28 April you can turn up. Please ring before just turning up on 29 or 30 April. If you can let us know which days you hope to work that will help our planning.

### **Who**

We welcome everyone, and no previous experience is necessary, and there will be a variety of work to be done, although most of it will be physically quite hard.

### **Where**

(Free) Camping is at Diamond Farm, Brean TA8 2RL <http://www.diamondfarm.co.uk>. **There is a shower block just near our field.** All the work will take place in walking distance from the camp.

From Weston-super-Mare you can walk or cycle the four miles to Diamond farm – the route will be signed from the station or the promenade, and the sluice gates will be open during daylight hours.

### **Camping**

Trevor Hicks, the owner, has kindly made all these facilities available to us at no cost.

The campsite is an open field adjacent to a formal campsite, but it has no power or other facilities in the actual field. Contact Diamond Farm 01278 751041 if you have any queries about the site. If you are staying overnight please bring your own tent and sleeping bag etc. plate, bowl, mug and cutlery.

### **Food**

If you are staying overnight you are welcome to join in the camp catering, which will be arranged by Chris and Claire. Those who joined us last year know that we will be very well looked after. – familiar to those who joined us last year. You will be asked simply to contribute the cost of the food. If you are coming for just the day please bring a picnic to help us out.

### **Equipment**

You will need strong boots and clothing for rough and dusty work, and a hat if the sun affects you. Even if it is hot you are likely to want to be covered. Tools will be provided, but if you have your favourite gloves do bring them.

### **Health and Safety**

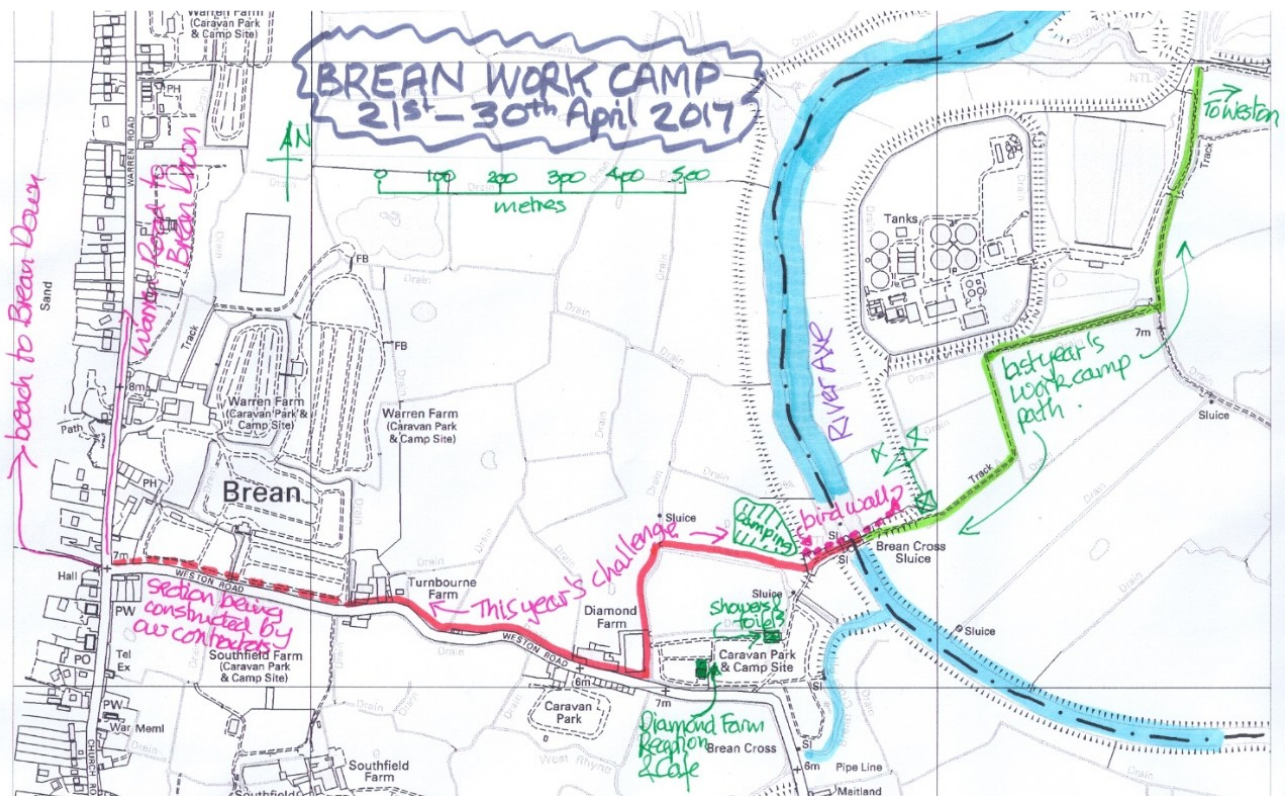
All campers will be introduced to the work and the optimum way of doing it, when they arrive. We will supply high viz tops. Please come with appropriate tough working clothes, gloves and strong boots. Some of the tasks – sand bagging and concreting would benefit from having wellington boots.

You will all be given the phone numbers of the key camp managers, and local emergency numbers. The camp will have a first aid kits along its length but each camper should bring what would be normal when camping.

## Preliminary Schedule of works and allocation of volunteers

There is a wide range of work during the week, which should ensure that everybody can find a task which they enjoy and find rewarding. The works can be divided into the construction of the path and all its details; trimming back the vegetation on the path we built last year; the building of a 120m long timber bird wing walls at the sluices; domestic matters, including provision and catering; and matters relating to the public, promoting the path, guiding people through the works, signing the route, enlisting supporters and rangers for ongoing maintenance and making the inaugural ride on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May a memorable event.

**Allocation of tasks** will be done on a day by day basis, always giving priority to the key elements of the project which we are aiming to complete in time for the opening on May 1<sup>st</sup>.



### Path construction

This will require at least 3 people receiving the stone as it is delivered by dumper and spreading it, & 1 person compacting with a roller. Once this is done, 2 or 3 people need to make up the shoulders and verges either side and tidy up the whole section. Our target is to complete 150 metres each day, (900m) in total. This involves handling approximately 160 tonnes of stone/day.

Note that certain preliminary works have been done in advance, culverts, fencing and gates, the latter so that the farmers can have livestock in their fields whilst we work alongside.

The whole camp is supported by Larry and Dave who will manage the plant and supply of materials. Larry and Dave are our professionals and any instructions from them must be followed. All volunteers on path construction to wear high viz tops at all times.

The tarmac section beside the main road is being constructed by a local contractor, Draytons, and our involvement on this section will be limited to finishing off the verges with turf and tidying up.

**Sandbag headwalls** In total there are 5 ends of culverts which need head walls constructed with sandbags we fill with limestone dust mixed with cement. This work is required early on, for 3 people.

**Removal of old fence along Baker field, and tidying back hedges and vegetation all through**

This work can be done at any time, taking great care not to disturb any nesting birds in the hedges.

**Fencing** The 16metres of post and 3 rail fence by the caravan park will require 2 people for 1 day.

Our contractor will have erected the new gate. We have 230m of fencing down the length of the campsite field as a reserve project if we have enough people.

**The bird wall to prevent disturbance to wading and other birds in the Estuary** This is quite a large project which could absorb almost any number of people. Our plan is to drive in the 110 post bases over the first weekend and then to erect the 2m high wall over the week under the artistic direction of Katy Hallet, with Simon Banbury handling practical matters.

**Concrete Farm crossings** We have two gate areas where Simon Talbot-Ponsonby will organise making a concrete roadway on the Tuesday/Thursday of the week. This will require 2 or 3 people to set out the timber edges, handle the concrete and finish the work off

**Refettling last year's work-camp path** Our work last year has settled down very well. There are a few weeds and grasses growing through which need to be taken out, and the verges need trimming back. This is a task for 2 or 3 people over a couple of days. There is also some work to be done on the Council's Uphill section including the rebuilding of one of the access gates.

**Route signing from Weston to Brean** John Kirkhope (a Sustrans ranger) has this in hand, but may need some assistants to help remove the existing signing on the now to be abandoned route via circuitous and busy roads.

**Promotion and Publicity** We will have piles of flyers available and these need to be distributed around the local holiday camp receptions, in local shops (Weston and Highbridge and elsewhere), as well as meeting and explaining to as many potential users as possible. To this end 2 or 3 people who enjoyed roaming around and talking with passers-by would be very helpful, as would any contacts with the press and media.

**Future Maintenance** Whilst North Somerset Council is responsible for the path on the Uphill side, *Greenways* is for the key section across the sluices and down to the sea. We have undertaken to enlist 200/300 supporters over the next 2 to 3 years each donating an average of £20/year to provide us with the funds to maintain the path, fences and vegetation.

As well as asking for work campers to support us in this way, it would be very helpful if we could specifically ask the early users of the path to support *Greenways* as well. We will have the appropriate forms available.

**Work Camp Records** Photographs are always useful but if we could have an archivist to record conversations and chat of the camps this would be an added bonus. Last year Frankie was the camp artist, but is unable to come this year. We would also like to work up a guide for the Weston/Brean route, and any local historians or local knowledge would also be very useful.

**Domestic matters** Whilst we have made arrangements for meals from Chris and Claire, but they cannot necessarily be with us all the time so we will also need to sort out a rota of shopping and food. There is a café on site (and also excellent showers and washing facilities), as well as pubs and cafes along the coast road. Costs of food will be shared by all campers on a daily basis – I think last year a £5/day

ontribution worked out about right.

**Inaugural Ride and Walk** We need to plan for this event during the week of the Camp including the making of flags and other visual markers, as well as what sort of celebration we could have at Brean Down. Again ideas are most welcome. (Note we will have a formal opening on Friday 7/7/17 so that officials and others who are not able to make the Bank Holiday Monday can come).

*John Grimshaw for Greenways and Cyclerooutes Limited*

*21<sup>st</sup> March 2017*