

Greenways and Cyclerooutes Workcamp

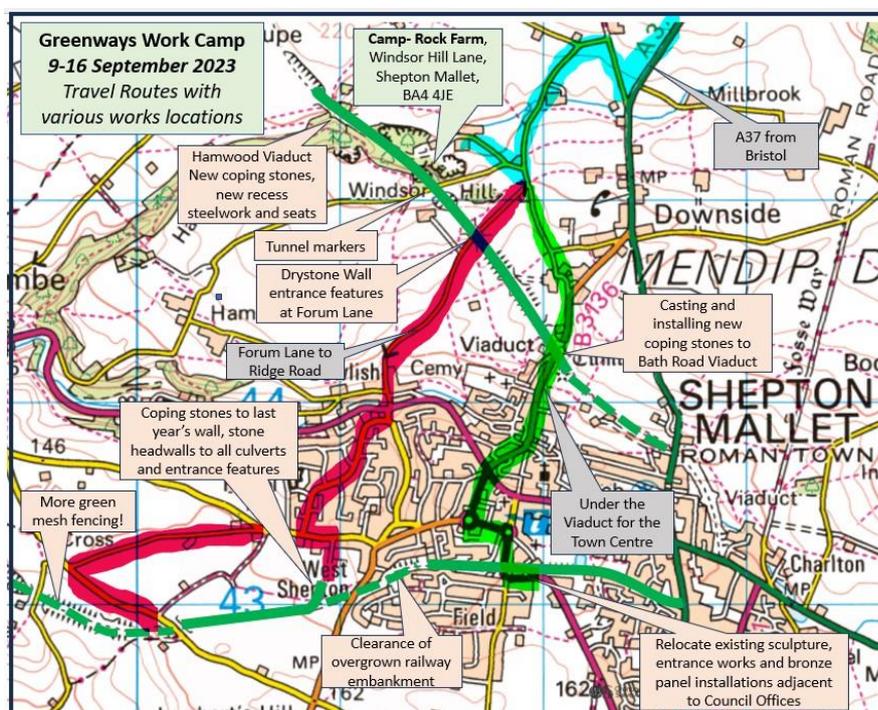
Shepton Mallet – 9 to 16 September 2023

Why: Greenways and Cyclerooutes is a charitable volunteer-led organisation that holds an annual workcamp to help local groups and volunteers to help us to build walking and cycling routes.

What: Our eighth workcamp will be based in Shepton Mallet as in 2022. We will work on the finishing touches to two new routes: a section of the former Somerset and Dorset railway which runs over two viaducts and through the Windsor Hill Tunnel: and the Shepton end of the former Strawberry Line towards Wells at the Council offices and near the Playing Fields in West Shepton.

When: Please join our workcamp, 9 to 5, from Saturday 9 to Saturday 16 September inclusive for as many or as few days as you wish – even if you can only spare a few hours. Join as a day volunteer or bring a tent or campervan and come and stay in our camp.

What: We will be tackling a range of works including casting copings for parapets, installing artworks, fencing, building small retaining walls and headwalls and placing the copings on a dry stone wall at West Shepton, vegetation clearance on a new section of route.



Where: Day volunteers are asked to come to the West Shepton Playing Fields, Old Wells Rd, Shepton Mallet BA4 and look for our white and green banner and register with our volunteer coordinator who will be in the carpark from 9 to 10 each morning. If you cannot find anyone there, then please ring John Grimshaw on 07792 714 708 or Caroline Levett on 07514 568 386.

The camp will be based at Rock Farm, Windsor Hill Ln, Shepton Mallet BA4 4JE.

Day visitors should bring:

- a picnic, and a water bottle and strong working gloves if you have them.
- waterproofs as necessary.
- strong boots or shoes and old warm clothes which you do not mind being wrecked.

Who: We welcome everyone. No previous experience is necessary. There will be a wide variety of work. Children are welcome to join in, but only under supervision of a responsible adult. The workcamp will be led by John Grimshaw, who founded Sustrans and the National Cycle Network. The team will include leaders with 40 years' experience of building cycle routes and managing volunteers.

Please contact us greenwaysandcyclerooutes@gmail.com to express an interest, say whether you want to camp or come as a day visitor, and indicate rough days to help us plan and so we can give you last minute joining instructions.

Do not worry if you need to change your mind – we will not hold you to your word.

John Grimshaw and Caroline Levett for Greenways and Cyclerooutes Limited 3 August 2023

IF YOU WANT TO CAMP, PLEASE LET US KNOW FIRST

Information for Overnight visitors

Timing

Friday 8 September: camping / van site will be available

Saturday 9 September: work begins in earnest, day workers will come from 9.00.

Saturday 9 to Saturday 16 September: we will aim to work from 9.00 and 5.00

Sunday 17 September: the camp will be packed up in the morning. Day work may continue.

Accommodation

The camp will be based at Rock Farm, Windsor Hill Ln, Shepton Mallet BA4 4JE. Facilities will be spartan but the location delightful. We have loads of space, and will have a large marquee with tables and chairs where we can gather for meals etc. There will be a rudimentary shower, and sink and a portaloo. If that sounds too rough, there are bed and breakfasts and hotels in Shepton Mallet, which is a mile away, and you can still join us for the evenings.

What to bring

If you are staying overnight, please bring your own sleeping bag, pillow etc.

Vans – there is firm ground in the quarry. We do not have hook ups.

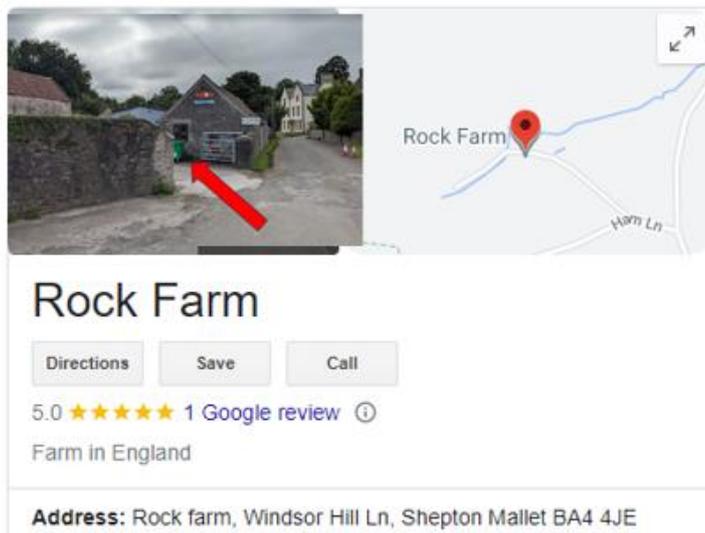
Tents - We have plenty of room in the grassed quarry. Bring tent pegs suitable for hard ground.

Please bring a not too precious bicycle if you have one as the sites are separated. Tracks around the camp site and between Forum Lane and Bath Road Viaduct are rough. Remaining paths are surfaced.

Catering:

Provided we have reasonable notice, campers will be welcome to join in the camp catering, with three meals a day provided. Those who have joined us before will be delighted to learn that Chris and Claire Grimshaw are with us this year. Caroline is relieved.

How to get there



Best to Google 'Rock Farm, Windsor Hill Lane, Shepton Mallet.' **Do not ask for directions to the post code.** The turn before looks like the photo to the right.

Then turn in at the arrow in the photo to the left.

Follow the track to your right and then bend left and

immediately right to pass round the back of a barn conversion house, then up round to the left into the quarry.



Public transport is not easy! You could bike from Bristol (not particularly pleasant) or Bath (much nicer) or Bruton (shorter).

There is a good daily coach from London run by Berrys of Taunton, and there are buses in the area from Bath, Wells, Castle Cary, Frome and Yeovil.

If you have not already done so, please contact Caroline Levett at

greenwaysandcycleroutes@gmail.com to let me know your planned dates and any catering needs.