

BOGGART HOLE CLOUGH COMMUNITY ACTION TRUST
Protecting and revitalizing Boggart Hole Clough Ancient Woodland Park

‘Do not feed the birds’ signage around the Lakeside at Boggart Hole Clough Local Nature Reserve

Boggart Hole Clough Community Action Trust (BHCCAT), an organization of volunteers founded in 2000, works in partnership with, among others, Manchester City Council, the landowner of Boggart Hole Clough.



Several enlarged reproductions of the 2 signs above are being installed around the Lakeside promenade for the following reasons:-

When people feed birds at the Lakeside:

1. Birds often get onto the promenade where people in contact with their droppings risk contracting diseases e.g. Salmonella;
2. Birds, by eating unsuitable foods, risk contracting diseases e.g. Angel Wing rendering them flightless;
3. Canada Geese are attracted by this abundant food supply, requiring no foraging on their part, which is a major cause of the excessive numbers of this invasive non-native species in the Lake environs.

This Canada Geese overpopulation degrades the environment:

- 3.1 Canada Geese graze some unprotected aquatic marginal plants & ground flora to extinction in the Lake environs;
- 3.2 Canada Geese trample the habitat of other wildlife, e.g. nesting sites of other bird species, & aggressively confront & exclude other large waterfowl, e.g. Swans, thereby reducing native fauna in the Lake environs;
- 3.3 Canada Geese droppings increase bacteria in the Lake producing low oxygen levels in the water & toxic blue-green algae blooms.

BHCCAT is promoting Birding / Ornithology at the Lakeside, an appropriate activity for a Local Nature Reserve, which with the aid of this signage could replace the inappropriate, inadvertently harmful bird feeding activity. Conservation work in progress & preparation, including this signage, is intended to improve the biodiversity health of the Lake environs e.g. increase naturally sustainable populations of diverse indigenous waterbird species. Please visit our website for further information re the ecological regeneration of Boggart Hole Clough.

The black & red images in the signs above are reproduced by permission of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – “**Best wishes on your educational campaign**” – and Thanet District Council – “**Hope it helps with your geese !**”

Thanks to the above & to BHCCAT Members especially Callum Walker, Frank Cairns, Joan Kavanagh, Mark Hackett, Mervyn Romain, Paul McCrystal, Rob Butler, Sarah Gorman, Spencer McKinnon & Stephen Hamilton for their assistance with this matter.