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Paths for Communities - Project summary sheet:

# Flatts Wood and Tees Bank Restoration Project

Location:	County Durham
Right of Way Created:	Bridleway
	Footpath 1.23 km
Improved existing rights:	n/a

Supporting local businesses:	2
Volunteer hours contributed:	700
Cost of project:	£53,801
Grant rate:	75%

This project was proposed by the landscape partnership; Heart of Teesdale. The partnership had identified the importance of access locally and it became a key element in its work. A Paths for All officer was appointed to liaise with the local community helping them to improve and create the routes that were important to them within this landscape.

The P4C scheme came along just at the right time and could have funded several Heart of Teesdale projects. In the end the community focused on the Flatts Wood area.

An area on the edge of Barnard Castle, a traditional market town in Teesdale. It is a popular tourist destination which forms a gateway to the picturesque dale and



its villages. The project aimed to improve the paths in Flatts Wood and make them permanent. The P4C grant paid for minor surface works, new signage and seating and a replacement bridge that crossed Percy Beck which had come to the end of its serviceable life. The future of the footpath network was secured through legal dedication and inclusion on the local authority's Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way.

The project had parallels with the original partnership in the 1830's when the permissive paths were set out. Then a local philanthropist, Dr George Edwards created 'public access' with the then landowner.

The project had the community at its heart. Local users expressed a desire to keep the seating that had been put in place many years ago which was constructed of cast iron and wooden slats.

As these were seen as important The Paths

Links  
[Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership](#)  
[Flatts Wood & Tees Banks Restoration](#)  
[Durham County Council Rights of Way](#)



for all Officer arranged for the cast iron ends to be renovated and replaced the wooden slats. This up-cycling approach has been welcomed by the community and is in-keeping with the beautiful surrounding of Flatts wood.

*"It is fantastic to have been able to improve such a popular area."*

*"Flatts Wood is used by so many different people it is important that the paths and bridges are in good shape."*

**Emma Ashton-Wickett,**  
**Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership's Paths for All Officer**

Flatts wood are now seen as the towns green lung by its residents. It is an important attraction for visitors too. The P4C panel who assessed the project

were encouraged to see that this project contributed to various elements of the 'Visit Durham' tourism strategy

