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Paths for Communities - Project summary sheet:

Ellerburn multi-user route

Project Title:	Ellerburn	Supporting local businesses:	10
Right of Way Created:	Bridleway	Volunteer hours contributed:	n/a
	Footpath 2.2 km	Cost of project:	£102,804
Improved existing rights:	Footpath 2.3 km	Grant rate:	73%

Ellerburn Multi user route had been in the pipeline for some time. The Forestry Commission were supportive but local communities could not find the funds to realise their plans until P4C came along. The aim of the project was to create a path that people of all abilities could use. Dalby Forest receives 450,000 visitors annually, 7% of these visitors have limited mobility. The multi user route enables further enjoyment of the forest for these

31,500 people and their families.

Many local community groups were involved in the development of the route. Disabled users expressed a wish to have routes which were accessible but challenging. This was achieved by creating part of the route to a fully accessible standard. This then links into the wider bridleways network within the forest which has



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The European Agricultural
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routes for many abilities.

As cycling is a significant element of the visitor experience in Dalby Forest the Cycle Touring Club (CTC) were happy to act as the applicant on behalf of the local communities.

Local businesses and facilities in Dalby Forest including the Bike Barn were very supportive of the project. The Bike Barn had an existing bike hire service which they are now expanding to include 'hand bikes' and tandem tricycles to allow a wider range of users on the new cycle path.

The new section of cycle path provides an accessible surface which meanders through a wide corridor of land in which native trees have been planted by local volunteers. The 'Eller-Burn' is in a priority river catchment area so the planting and new management along it's banks will help improve the water quality. This element of the project has attracted the interest of the Environment Agency as they are activity



David Brewster, Chief Officer at Ryedale Special Families, said: "The multi-user trail will provide us with the chance to go on group bike rides. This is something that we cannot manage at the moment, as there is no suitable terrain in the area. We are delighted with the launch of the trail and very much look forward to using it."

Head teacher at Thornton Dale Primary School, Mrs Karetnyk, said: "The trail will help our pupils develop their confidence on bikes along the route as well as providing us with the opportunity to carry out educational activities, such as learning the names of edible plants and foraging in the forest, in a safer setting."

promoting works that improve water quality in these priority catchments.

The trail was match funded using funds from Yorventure (landfill communities fund) and was opened in April 2014 with the spring sunshine bringing the visitors to Dalby. it was encouraging and rewarding to see families with balance bikes, tag along bikes, and small children's bikes using the trail together with parents with prams and wheelchairs users enjoying this route together.

Links

[Yorventure](#)
[Dalby Forest](#)
[Cyclists Touring Club CTC](#)
[Whitby Scarborough & Ryedale Disabled Action Group](#)

