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Paths for Communities - Project summary sheet:

The Yellow Brick Road

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Location: | Gateshead |
| Right of Way Created: | Bridleway 2.5 km |
| | Footpath |
| Improved existing rights: | n/a |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Supporting local businesses: | 4 |
| Volunteer hours contributed: | 717 |
| Cost of project: | £52,106 |
| Grant rate: | 77% |

Copwell Wood Horse Riding Association and Bridleway Riders Action Group had wanted to create new access in the Derwent Valley for over ten years and when P4C came along they saw their opportunity.

The two groups received support and guidance from the local authority, Gateshead Borough Council, who helped draft up the specification and organised local contractors that were experienced in this work. The

Group also received financial assistance from the British Horse Society, with out which the project may not have happened.

The route crosses Forestry Commission land, who also contributed much in the form of practical works and although this could not be included in the project costs, it made a significant contribution to the route construction.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



The European Agricultural
Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



The project was managed by the volunteers from Copwell Wood Horse Riding Association and Bridleway Riders Action Group. They contributed many hundreds of hours work in both administration and labouring to build the route.

The result is a 2.5km long new bridleway. This is now a key strategic link in the Public Rights of Way network. The Yellow Brick Road links Chopwell woods with the hugely popular Derwent Valley Walkway which forms part of the coast to coast cycle route, National Cycle Network route 72. The Derwent Valley Walkway also links popular greenspaces at the Derwent Valley County Park and National Trust property; Gibside Hall.

This new bridleway provides an accessible off-road route and avoids the dangers of horse riding and cycling on the (3 miles busy narrow road) which was the only alternative before the Yellow Brick Road was created.



“This project could not have succeeded without the co-operation of the landowners and the help of all those who supported our application to Natural England - (horseriders, cyclists, walkers, runners, local businesses, politicians, etc); those who made financial contributions; all the many volunteers who helped with groundwork in Spen Bank Woodland and the BHS facilitation fund..”
Chopwell Wood Horse Riding Assosiation

A year later, and despite twice having the wooden bridge set alight by vandals and eventually being replaced by a metal bridge, it is complete and the two groups who lead the project have been awarded a Route Creation Award from the British Horse Society. This acknowledges all those involved in it's creation, particularly the landowners; a private landowner, the Forestry Commission and Gateshead Council.

Links

[Copwell Wood Horse Riding Association facebook page](#)
[Bridleway & Riders Action Group ...and their facebook page](#)
[Gateshead Public Rights of Way](#)

