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Paths for Communities - Project summary sheet:

Marsh & Ham

Project Location:	Dorset
Right of Way Created:	Bridleway
	Footpath 340 m
Improved existing rights:	n/a

Supporting local businesses:	n/a
Volunteer hours contributed:	441
Cost of project:	£20,366
Grant rate:	85%

The Community of Blandford Forum, Dorset used £20,366 of P4C funding to improve access to the river Stour and Meadows - a rural area adjacent to the town. This was achieved by creating a disability access ramp from the main road, 40 metres of new flood resistant path, and improving the surfaces

of a further 300 metres of existing paths. The project has also created an interpretation board and three viewing areas by the river. All the 340 metres of path is being designated as footpath. The meadow, owned by North Dorset District Council is subject to frequent flooding by the River Stour, as was



This project has been funded under the Rural Development Programme for England

illustrated during recent events when the river burst it's banks.

The ramp and new route were officially opened on the 25th January 2014 by the Mayor of Blandford: Councillor Brannigan. Local residents and visitors from further afield - with prams, mobility scooters, wheelchairs, and bicycles - can now access the meadow to picnic, watch the resident otters - and use the improved path network to connect to the North Dorset Trailway.

The project has been led by the Blandford Rotary Club, supported by a range of organisations including: Dorset Countryside, Blandford School, Youth Aid, the Blandford Environmental Trust, and the Disability Action



"It is very pleasing to see community groups making things happen for others in the whole community of Blandford Forum. It is an example of what is achievable by working together."

*The Mayor of Blandford
Councillor Brannigan*

"those with prams, mobility scooters, wheelchairs, and bicycles can now access this beautiful meadow without having to negotiate through a busy car park".

*John Smith
a local resident*

Group (DAG) North Dorset. Before work on the ramp and paths began,volunteers from these organisations produced publicity material, designed leaflets, banners, and a Facebook page. They

also scraped paths and designed the

Links
[Marsh and Ham Rotary Club](#)

