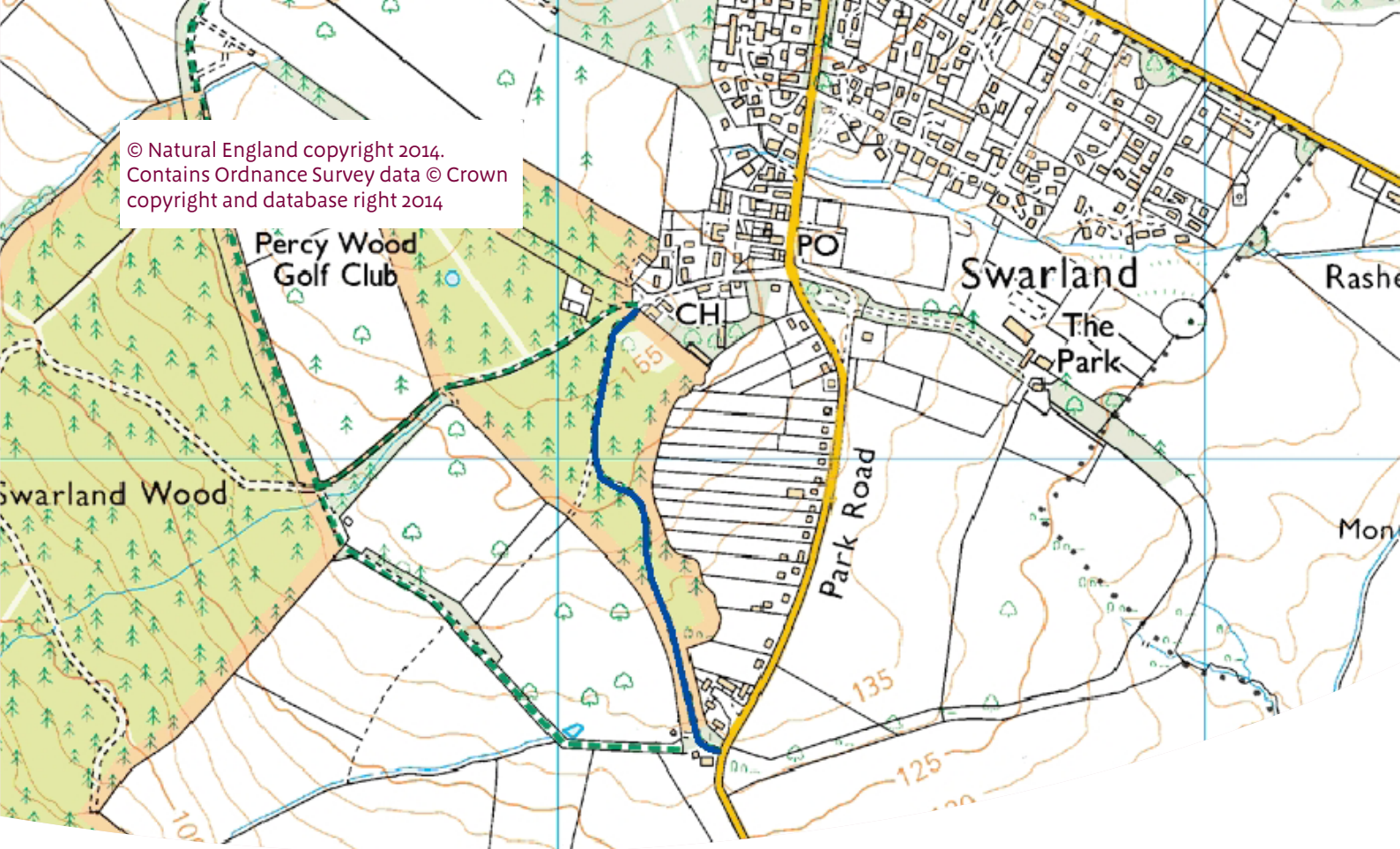


© Natural England copyright 2014.  
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown  
copyright and database right 2014



## Paths for Communities - Project summary sheet:

# Swarland Woods Footpath 17 upgrade

Location:	Northumberland	Supporting local businesses:	1
Right of Way Created:	Bridleway 790 m	Volunteer hours contributed:	593
	Footpath	Cost of project:	£28,607
Improved existing rights:	n/a	Grant rate:	71%

Swarland Village Action Group are a very active community group with several successes under their belts, improving local facilities in the small Northumberland Village.

The community listed the following key beneficiaries of the new route in their application:

- Older people who would like a short walk (40% of the village population is over 60;
- Younger children and families would like to enjoy a safe environment for children to walk or ride away from the road and develop some

‘natural insight’;

- Horse riders will have a complete circuit of around 30 minutes;
- Children from Swarland first school will have access for nature walks;
- Swarland Brownies will have improved access to the woods for evening activities;
- Community members can gain insight into Swarland historical past;
- An opportunity to engage with the wider community and act as a catalyst to further projects;

- The local red squirrel group who will use the route to view the local population of red squirrels.

In addition the creation of the route provided an opportunity to engage with the wider community and act as a catalyst to further projects . The upgrade a footpath to bridleway status, has provided a useful circular route for villagers and for visitors staying at the local caravan park, or those wishing to take a break from golf at the adjoining course. The new bridleway combines with local quiet roads to form a loop. The new section passes through the old gardens of Swarland Hall. The Hall itself is long since gone, but remnants of the garden and grounds can be spotted including old garden paths and a large overgrown pond. Planting from the old grounds can be seen in the form of Rhododendrons which the community volunteers spent many hours cutting back, to make way for the wider bridleway.

The new bridleway follows the route of the entrance drive to the hall. The community created interpretation panels



at both ends of the route which details the history of the area.

**“This new multi-use, all-weather route will enable more people to enjoy the woods throughout the year. We would like to thank Defra, the Forestry Commission and Northumberland County Council for all their support in developing these proposals.”**

**Jim Close, chairman of Swarland Village Action**

The Swarland Village Action Group are now looking towards their next project or projects, which include, restoring the features that remain from Swarland Hall and further improvements to access and the rights of way network in and around Swarland

**Links**  
[Northumberland County Rights of Way](#)  
[Swarland Village Action Group](#)

