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## Paths for Communities - Project summary sheet:

# Connecting North Lichfield

Project Location:	Staffordshire
Right of Way Created:	Bridleway
	Footpath 1.2 km
Improved existing rights:	2.5 km

Supporting local businesses:	n/a
Volunteer hours contributed:	98
Cost of project:	£11,119
Grant rate:	60%

The new permanent footpath funded by P4C connects several existing PROW in Lichfield by providing a linked up network of routes around a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – Christian Fields, and out into the wider countryside. Funding has been used to make the routes more accessible and user friendly with, new steps and hand rails, signage and benches. In addition new bird and bat boxes encourage wildlife to the site.

The route is located in the most deprived ward of Lichfield City and proximity to a large residential area will enable local people to access the local environment close to home. The P4C project adds value to other projects in the locality which have already provided substantial improvements to the LNR and supports other local initiatives, in particular Grow Well - a local horticultural charity working with adults with long term mental



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

health conditions to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes through structured access to outdoor opportunities. Ground clearance, cutting back of vegetation and maintenance work has been carried out by this group.

Lichfield District Council - own adjacent paths as well as the LNR. The council supported the development of a Friends of Christian Fields group for the longer term maintenance of the site



The path forms part of the Erasmus Darwin way - a 10 mile circular walk around the outskirts of Lichfield.

The project was led by Lichfield City Council and The Forest of Mercia working in partnership. Other partners included Grow Well, Friends of Christian Fields, Erasmus Darwin Walk group, Friary School, Lichfield District Council for Voluntary Service.

Community Forest Manager for the Forest of Mercia, Jane Rodd said, "The scale of the improvements achieved has only been possible through effective partnership working between statutory, private and community groups and individuals. The improvement and formal designation of the part of the Erasmus Darwin Walk adjoining Christian Fields significantly enhances the visitor experience at the LNR, preserves the Erasmus Darwin route for future generations to enjoy and has increased usage of the LNR and Erasmus Darwin Walk by the local community. The support of Natural England has played a key role in facilitating a step change in a deprived area, enhancing this for local residents."

#### Links

Lichfield District Council  
Christian Fields  
The Darwin Walk

