



Paths for Communities - Project summary sheet:

Peakirk

Project Location:	Cambridgeshire
Right of Way Created:	Bridleway
	Footpath 1.1 km
Improved existing rights:	n/a

Supporting local businesses:	n/a
Volunteer hours contributed:	143
Cost of project:	£22,215
Grant rate:	97%

The new route starts in Peakirk along an improved verge then passes along the top of a surfaced embankment on the northern bank of Maxey Cut east towards the main East Coast railway line. It provides a safe route for pedestrians to link up with an otherwise dead end footpath and adds some 1.1 km of footpath to the Rights of Way network.

This path has been an ambition of the Northern Footpath Forum (NFF) for many years. NFF comprises volunteers who aspire to the completion of a comprehensive footpath/

bridleway system, linking rural villages safely by non-vehicular transport.

The project involved a wide range of partners including: Peterborough City Council Highways Department, Peterborough Local Access Forum, Peakirk (and neighbouring) Parish Councils, The Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Network Rail, Lincolnshire County Council Rights of Way and Countryside Access, a small private landowner and a large Estate landowner. At the same time, Network Rail were replacing



a bridge next to the site of the proposed path, an activity which threatened the whole project if contractors could not gain access to conduct necessary works within the life of the scheme. This was during November 2013 and works had to be completed by February the following year. Lengthy discussions were held with all parties who successfully agreed details of the route and when works could start.

The footpath required:

- Installation of an easy-open, self-closing gate.

“This is a man-made environment [in the fens] but nature thrives in it and now people can get out and enjoy it, too” – Richard Astle, LNP chair

“I’ve already started on the next phase of this project – the bridge over the River Welland!” – Sally Ann Jackson, main contact

Many thanks to the Environment Agency for installing this and building an extension to the embankment and PCC Highways for contributing to the costs;

- Construction and installation of two footbridges: one over Long Vicar’s Drain and one sloping up the embankment to meet the existing right of way, by Lattenbury services;
- Installation of two carved oak benches bearing the name of NFF, (also Lattenbury services);
- Two interpretation boards packed with information on things to see whilst out on the

Links

- [Peakirk Village](#)
- [Northern Footpath Forum](#)
- [Peterborough City Council - Rights of Way](#)
- [Peterborough City Council - Communities](#)
- [Lincolnshire County Council - Rights of Way](#)



walk with tactile wildlife carvings on the frame, specially for people with limited sight from Shelley Signs;

- Levelling of remaining field edge sections of route, thanks to the Landyke Countryside Trust
- Peterborough City Council acting as applicant on behalf of the NFF, enabling the project to go ahead despite the grant being paid retrospectively
- The small army of volunteers who helped with everything from clearance work, to detailed planning, negotiations, etc. – the largest number of hours being put in by the main contact’s husband!

Tea and cakes were provided to celebrate the grand opening of the new path on a sunny Bank Holiday in May. Many of the project’s supporters and contributors saw Richard Astle, chair of the Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough Local Nature Partnership unveil one of the interpretation boards.

Peterborough MP Stewart Jackson praised the whole team, which included Councillors from nearby Parish Councils, for their hard work, in partnership, on this successful project.

