



Paths for Communities - Project summary sheet:

# Rodmell to Southease Bridleway

Project Location:	The South Downs
Right of Way Created:	Bridleway 800 m
	Footpath
Improved existing rights:	n/a

Supporting local businesses:	5
Volunteer hours contributed:	252
Cost of project:	£79,757
Grant rate:	96%

Situated in the South Downs National Park, close to the south coast, the Ouse Valley runs southwards from the town of Lewes to the channel port of Newhaven. The long term aim is to link these two towns with a multi-user path following the River Ouse. One of the missing sections on this route was the one mile stretch between Rodmell

Village and Southease Bridge and local communities have used P4C funding to create a bridleway along this part of the route.

The bridleway has been constructed on the strip of land running between the river bank and a ditch, whilst the original footpath remains on top of the ditch to avoid conflict with walkers.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



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



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

By opening up access to a network of bridleways from the South Downs Way, the new route is set to increase the number of visitors to the much-visited village green and historic Church at Southease Village. Although it is early days – the route having only opened in April 2014 - other local attractions and businesses likely to benefit include: the pub in rodmeell village, various 'bed and breakfast' establishments, Monks House (National Trust), the local primary school, and a blacksmith. Close to the route is Southease Station with rail links to Lewes, Newhaven, Brighton and London. This is likely to bring more visitors to use the extended path network – as is the brand new 68 bed



Youth Hostel (South Downs YHA) which opened in April 2013.

*"My abiding memory of the day will be the sight of walkers and cyclists of all ages and abilities, mobility scooters and horse riders all enjoying the bridleway together; a truly shared path."*

**Neville Harrison**  
Chair of the Egrets Way Project

This project has been led by the Ouse Valley Cycle Network (OVCN), who's long term aim is to complete a safe cycle route between Lewes and Newhaven. Other key partners have been Sustrans and the South Downs National Park (SDNP), with active support from a range of

organisations including Cycle Seahaven, the Disabled Ramblers, the British Horse Society, and two local Parish Councils.

