

Paths for Communities Update – September 2013

Schemes approved in the SW:

1. West Penwith, Cornwall- The project will create 500 metres new bridleway, comprising total new construction of 160m and clearance and resurfacing of current 340m non designated track. The new bridleway will provide “access for all” and link the medieval St Euny Wells to Chapel Carn Brea Neolithic/bronze Age site. The bridleway will be created by EDCL, recorded on the Definitive Map and then maintained by Cornwall Council.
2. Penrose, Cornwall - This is the first time the National Trust has considered the wholesale conversion of a network of permissive footpaths to public multi-user paths in the SW. The objective is to encourage more people to be active and explore, enjoy and understand the natural environment. The permissive footpath network is fragmented, in poor state and under-used and because it is National Trust there is a perception that access is limited. The project will create 12.3 kilometres of new bridleway.
3. Kilmersdon, Somerset - This project is to create a new 60 metre length bridleway to link the village of Kilmersdon to the Colliers Way, Sustrans SNR24 from Frome to Bath.
4. Chipping Sodbury, S Gloucestershire. - This project will create a new all weather “access for all” footpath, 900m long and 1.5m wide, to link playing field areas at Mead Ridings, with the existing footpath network that leads south to the population centre of Chipping Sodbury and to the north to Sodbury Common and Golf course.
5. Bishops Canning, Wiltshire- tunnel crossing A361 dual carriageway. This project seeks to create a new public rights of way “interchange hub” by making use of a disused agricultural tunnel under the A361 dual carriage trunk road from Swindon to Devizes, creating two new bridleway links (65 and 45metres) and one new footpath link (150metres), all 2 metres wide, to enable safe access to the extensive PROW network on the downland, long distance and ancient routes to the north of the A361 from the population centres to the south of the road.
6. Buckland Monochorum, Devon- A new footpath will be created linking with an existing popular footpath, for which improvements are sought to the surface and realignment to avoid a traditional Dartmoor stone stile, to enable “access for all”. The proposal is to provide a car free safe route to village centre, school and improved access to Dartmoor NP and local visitor attractions.
7. Berrow coast road path, Somerset- The project will create a new 750 metre length bridleway to link Berrow with Burnham-on-Sea, to provide a safe route adjacent one of the busiest B roads in the country on land owned by Burnham and Berrow Golf Club. The proposal will enable visitors and locals to access safely businesses and attractions including a holiday camp at Burnham-on Sea with those at Berrow and reduce short car journeys. The bridleway will be created by a Somerset CC supported agreement under s.30 of the Highways Act 1980.
8. Priests Way, Dorset -An ancient track once used by 15th C clergy, the Priests’ Way starts in the seaside town of Swanage and runs westwards for 4.76km to Worth Matravers village. Today the route is highly valued by local people but it is often unusable due to regular, seasonal flooding. By creating new sections of bridleway and improving existing stretches this project will enable all year round access for all users.