

Press Release by Uffington (Oxfordshire) Parish Council



Revitalisation / Upgrading of Uffington Footpath 387/4 - stiles to kissing gates

Fifteen new galvanized gates (a mixture of kissing and self-closing gates) were installed by Uffington Parish Council ('the Council') in July 2023 to replace stiles on Uffington Footpath (FP) 387 / 4. This was the fourth in a series of projects by the Council to improve access to the footpaths in and around Uffington for walkers of all ages.

Noll Countryside Services Ltd of Lambourn installed all fifteen new gates in July 2023; Kieran and Pete are shown at work on one of them:



Job completed!



Note the blue hose, providing a safe conduit for the electrified wire, where required, under all the new gates.

FP 387/4 is used by many people for walking in a northerly direction from the village towards Moor Mill Farm, and thence on further to Fernham, Baulking or Shellingford, or returning in an extended loop to the village via Uffington Gorse (Uffington Fox Covert) and the kissing gates on FP 12. In Uffington, FP 4 is accessed from a passage behind the 'Cottage on the Green'; it crosses a small paddock initially, followed by several larger fields in agricultural usage, a wooden footbridge over the disused Wilts and Berks Canal, and an elevated footbridge over the railway before reaching Moor Mill Farm.

The route is now easy to access and walkable by people of all ages. Starting close to the centre of the village, near the village shop, this is excellent for community involvement and therefore beneficial for the health and well-being of our residents.

The project was funded by a number of donors, to all of whom Uffington Parish Council is extremely grateful; they are (with the amounts):

Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) with funds from Grundon Waste Management Ltd, from their own funds and through the Landfill Communities Fund	£3,486.00
White Horse Show Trust	£1,577.50
Oxfordshire County Council – Countryside Access Team	£721.70
Uffington Parish Council	£1,577.50

Ben Heaven Taylor, TOE's CEO, said "Everyone at TOE is delighted to have contributed funding towards this project. Spending time outside brings health and well-being benefits to us all and this project is the type of initiative we love to support. We know grants from TOE make all the difference to grass-roots projects which might not otherwise happen and we're proud to have been part of this."

Mike Oldnall, Chairman of Uffington Parish Council, said: 'The village is delighted to have been able to install these gates; they will make a big improvement to the way in which walkers of all ages can access the countryside around the village. We are very grateful to those named above for their grants, to all the landowners involved who have supported this project from the start, and to Noll Countryside Services Ltd, who have done a very professional job for us in the installation of all the new gates.'



Editors notes

1. There are no embargoes on this press release.
2. Photographs by courtesy of Uffington Parish Council
3. **Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment** (TOE) Ltd is a charity and a non-profit making company set up to support communities wishing to improve Oxfordshire's environment. TOE provides strategic support and funding for local communities who want to promote and improve the biodiversity of Oxfordshire's wildlife habitats and increase access to the local countryside and green spaces. TOE is grateful for the continued support of Grundon Waste Management Ltd whose support via the Landfill Communities Fund makes an important contribution to the sustainability of Oxfordshire's environment. TOE works with a range of other funders including individual supporters, the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, local authorities, and local businesses. If you have a local project that needs funding or if you would like to know how to provide support for TOE, please contact us on ben.taylor@trustforoxfordshire.org.uk
4. **Contact numbers:**
 - TOE: 01865 407003 [Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment](http://www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk)
 - White Horse Show Trust: 01367 820393 <https://www.whitehorseshow.co.uk/>
 - Noll Countryside Services: 07760 226865 [Noll Countryside Services | Noll Countryside Services \(nollservices.uk\)](http://www.nollcountryside.com)
 - OCC Countryside Access Team: 01865 810 226
 - Uffington Parish Council: 01367 820776 simon.jenkins@uffington.net