

Press Release by Uffington Parish Council



Revitalisation of Uffington Footpaths Phase 2 - stiles to kissing gates

Three kissing gates have recently been installed, replacing stiles, along Uffington Footpath (FP) 387 / 26. This is Phase 2 of an Uffington Parish Council project to improve access to all footpaths in the village.

FP 26 is used by many people to get from one side of the village to the other, by walking across the iconic small fields in the heart of the Uffington Conservation Area. FP 26 runs from opposite St Mary's Church, behind the former telephone box, south to the Woolstone Road beside the Old Police House. It crosses two paddocks, and the kissing gates have replaced three stiles. As part of the project, an ancient stone footbridge over the stream at the southern end has also been repaired.

The route is now easy to access and walkable by people of all ages; this is excellent for community involvement and therefore beneficial for the health and well-being of our residents.

The new kissing gates are all on land owned by Mr and Mrs David Coxhead, to whom Uffington Parish Council are very grateful, for their support and cooperation to the project.

One of the new kissing gates:



A local company, Pepler Fine Fencing Ltd (of Goosey), installed all three kissing gates on 18 and 19 July – the days when new records for the temperature in UK were set; Andy and Mario are shown at work on the footbridge onto the Woolstone Road:



The whole of the project was funded by Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) with funds from Grundon Waste Management Ltd, from their own funds and through the Landfill Communities Fund, with a grant of £3,657.80. Uffington Parish Council is extremely grateful to TOE and Grundon Waste Management Ltd.

Ben Heaven Taylor, TOE's CEO, said 'Everyone at TOE is delighted to have funded 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 kissing gates, as part of an ongoing project to improve accessibility to all the footpaths around the village, as they will make a big improvement to the way in which walkers of all ages can move around the village. We are very grateful to TOE and Grundon Waste Management Ltd for their grant, to Mr and Mrs David Coxhead, on whose land the gates are installed, and to Pepler Fine Fencing Ltd (of Goosey) who have done a very professional job for us in the installation of the kissing 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://TrustforOxfordshiresEnvironment.org.uk)
 - Uffington Parish Council: 01367 820369 mike.oldnall@uffington.net