

Press Release by Uffington Parish Council

Revitalisation / Upgrading of Uffington Footpaths 387/17, 18, 19 and 27 - stiles to kissing gates



Thirteen kissing gates have just been installed, replacing stiles, along Uffington Footpaths (FP) 387 / 17, 18, 19 and 27. The picture above shows the new kissing gate opposite Garrards Farm (where former poet laureate John Betjeman once lived), at the start of FP 18, with Mr and Mrs David Coxhead, one of the landowners who supported the project.

Pepler Fine Fencing Ltd installed all thirteen kissing gates; Andy and Mario are shown at work on one of them:



These footpaths are used by local people and visiting walkers to get from the village of Uffington to the Uffington White Horse, Uffington Castle, The Ridgeway and Waylands Smithy, and for circular walks on public rights of way via Woolstone, Fawler and Kingston Lisle. FP18 is a short spur from FP19 leading to the Fox and Hounds pub in Uffington. FP27 is a short natural extension from FP19 eastwards to join FP16 and the Fawler Road.

Villagers and visitors can now much more easily walk to and from these world-famous sites, to which Uffington is very fortunate to be so close. The newly gated section of FP19 links to an Oxfordshire County Council Ridgeway Circular Walk, which means that there are now no stiles on the path between the village and the Ridgeway and White Horse Hill.

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	£4,000.00
White Horse Show Trust	£2,000.00
Oxfordshire County Council – Countryside Access Team	£1,000.00
Uffington Parish Council (S106 funds, from the Jacksmeadow estate)	£5,000.00
Uffington Parish Council (Reserves)	£1,000.00

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 kissing 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 Pepler Fine Fencing Ltd (of Goosey) who have done a very professional job for us in the installation of all thirteen 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](#)
- White Horse Show Trust: 01367 820393 <https://www.whitehorseshow.co.uk/>
- OCC Countryside Access Team: 01865 810 226
- Uffington Parish Council: 01367 820776 simon.jenkins@uffington.net