



# PPI Parish Paths Initiative

**Countryside Access  
Team**

Issue 1  
Spring 2009

## Welcome

...to the first issue of the PPI newsletter, showing you some examples of improvement projects parishes have undertaken on local paths with the help of a PPI grant during 2007/8 and 2008/09.

### Promotion

#### Great Asby map board

Residents and visitors in Great Asby can now view the footpaths and bridleways around the village on a new information panel. The panel, on the wall of the bus shelter, is the culmination of work which began in 1992 with the formation of the Asby Footpath Committee. Key figures involved were Marjorie Campion, Donald Cowey and Frank Jowett (pictured). Donald Cowey said "The board is a welcome addition to our village which has many visitors who come to walk the footpaths". The sign was funded by East Fells Neighbourhood Forum, Asby Millennium Committee and Cumbria County Council's Parish Paths Initiative.



#### Wetheral Parish

##### map boards by the River Eden

*"Everybody in the parish is really pleased with the new boards; we had many positive comments from residents and visitors. It was a really worthwhile project and we hope the scheme will continue next year so we can keep the momentum going."*

#### Local walks leaflets produced by St Bees , Bolton and Egremont Parishes



### PPI in a nutshell

#### Small grant scheme

- \* available to parish and town councils and associated community groups
- \* for activities on Public Rights of Way
- \* grant can be used as match funding

#### The grant can pay

- 100% towards
  - \* Material costs and labour provided by Contractors
  - \* Purchase or hire of tools including Strimmers
  - \* Safety equipment and insurance
  - \* Training for parish volunteers

50% towards seating, the production of leaflets and other interpretation materials like map boards and panels

**Advice and guidance** from the Countryside Access Team

**Networking** opportunities with neighbouring parishes

## Furniture improvements



**Yanwath & Eamontbridge Parish** received a PPI grant two years running to have a number of stiles replaced with more accessible gates on a well used path in the parish

*“We have already received comments from users as to the ease with which they can complete the walk now”*



## Surface improvements

**Kirkbride Parish** arranged surface improvements on a popular local path. Match funding for their PPI grant was secured from the Solway Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

*“Villagers already reporting about the wonderful new pathway they can now access more easily”*



## Seats and steps



Newly installed steps on a local path in **Alston Parish**



**Allhallows Parish** received a PPI grant for repairs to steps and seating

## Involving parish volunteers



**Haile & Wilton Parish** purchased handtools like loppers and secateurs for keeping local paths clear of overgrown vegetation. The group received guidance from the local area Ranger on a practical day out.

Volunteers from **Haile & Wilton, Thursby, Kirkby & Ireleth and Cumwhitton Parishes** attended a strimmer and brushcutter course organised by Cumbria County Council as part of the PPI scheme. All participants now hold the certificate needed to operate the machinery safely and two parishes purchased a strimmer with the help of a PPI grant.

This will enable the parish to react quickly and undertake additional cuts on local paths where needed. Working with neighbouring parishes is also a good way to make best use of this resource.



Parish volunteers in **Haile & Wilton Parish** clearing overgrowth and making good use of the strimmer and brushcutter training



Local volunteers from **St Bees Parish** spent 2 days improving a well used footpath to Seamil Carpark and the beach. 12 people in all helped install steps and laid over 40 metres of gravel path. The 2 day project was organised with support from the local area Ranger. The parish council advertised for volunteer help, liaised with the local landowner and organised the materials for the work. The ranger provided tools, site safety advice and on site training for the volunteers. We received plenty of positive feedback from local users of the path.



One local resident has been walking this path for the past 38 years and said *"this is the best it has ever been"*.

## Training opportunities with the CA team

### PPI/Public Rights of Way Workshop

**Thursday 23 April 2009** at Newton Rigg College near Penrith

If you would like to....

- \* learn more about how Public Rights of Way are managed in Cumbria
- \* find out how a PPI grant could help you with path improvements in your parish
- \* get advice on how to plan a path project and organise contractors
- \* meet your local area Ranger

...then our PPI/Public Rights of Way Workshop might be of interest to you.

### Health & Safety Training day **Wednesday 3 June 2009**

The day is aimed at potential group leaders to cover a variety of topics including:

- \* What to consider when taking out a group of volunteers
- \* Risk assessments
- \* Safe use of hand tools
- \* Manual handling and safe lifting
- \* Parish Insurance

Parishes involved in the PPI scheme since 2006:

**Carlisle District**

Dalston  
Kingmoor  
Wetheral  
Cumwhitton  
Hethersgill

**Eden District**

Lazonby  
Tebay  
Orton  
Bolton  
Great Asby  
Alston  
Yanwath &  
Eamontbridge  
Culgaith

**Copeland District**

St Bees  
Egremont  
Haile & Wilton

**Allerdale District**

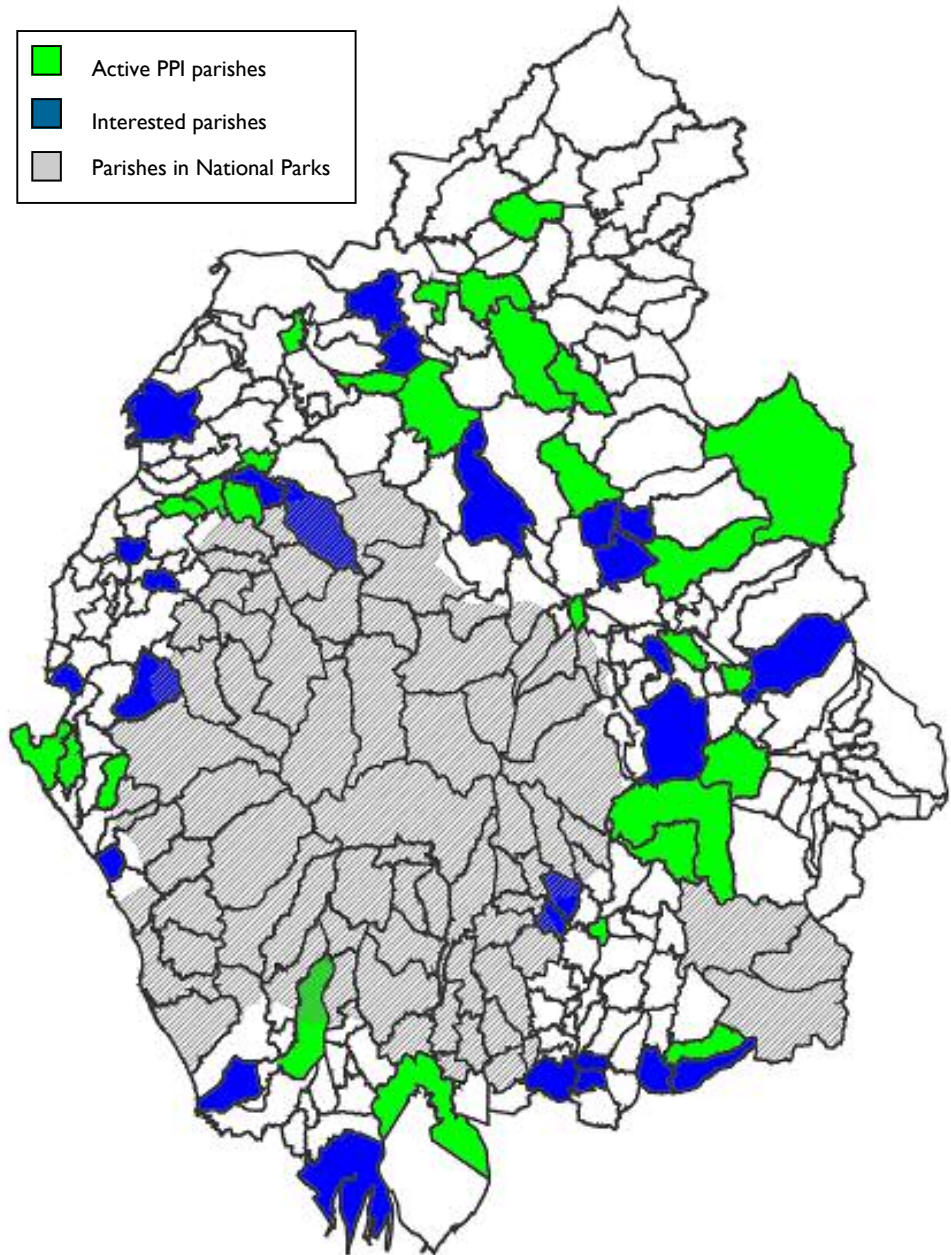
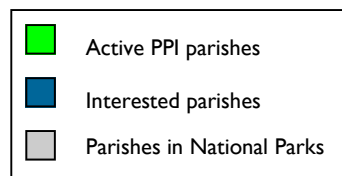
Gilcrux  
Kirkbride  
Allhallows  
Thursby  
Plumbland  
Bothel & Threapland

**South Lakeland District**

Casterton  
Lower Allithwaite  
Barbon  
Kirkby Ireleth

**Barrow District**

Rampside



**For more information please contact**

Andrea Bonacker  
Ranger & Volunteer Officer  
Cumbria County Council  
**Countryside Access Team**  
Environment Directorate  
The Lonsdale Building  
The Courts—Carlisle—CA3 8NA  
Tel: 01228—226605

Email: [andrea.bonacker@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.bonacker@cumbriacc.gov.uk)

[www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/countryside-access](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/countryside-access)