

# **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Between**

**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

**and**

**Parish Council**

**made on the day of**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Devon County Council, as highway authority, has a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of all highways for which it is responsible. This Agreement will not affect that statutory responsibility.
- 1.2 As custodians of village life and rural values, local people and councils are uniquely placed to decide what needs to be done in order to make their rights of way easy to use and enjoyable.
- 1.3 The Parish Paths Partnership aims to harness these local resources and skills to complement the work of Devon County Council by funding the upkeep of rights of way at local level.

## **2. THE GRANT**

- 2.1 The County Council will pay the Parish Council to keep in good repair all the paths in its area at the maximum rate of £30 per mile for each footpath and bridleway and other public highway. The routes which are to be the subject of this agreement are listed in Schedule A. This payment is intended to cover the following areas of activity:
  - condition surveys and inspections
  - the upkeep and improvement of the path network
  - events and activities to encourage use
- 2.2 Additional payments will also be available for undertaking specific improvements, the emphasis being on rural rather than urban paths. Such improvements will, however, need to be bid for on an annual basis.

2.3 The Partnership Agreement will operate on an annual basis. The grant will be paid as a single annual payment in advance of any works being undertaken.

### **3. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AGREES to**

3.1 Make available the support of a Parish Paths Liaison Officer to all Parish Councils entering into a Partnership Agreement. The officer, in conjunction with the Public Rights of Way Warden, will provide advice with regard to the following:

- surveying the condition of the local path network and identifying the needs of the parish
- drawing up a work programme to tackle identified problems and improving the path to an agreed standard
- arranging for the works to be undertaken
- assist the parish with promoting the local rights of way

3.2 Make available to the Parish Council a Parish Grant.

3.3 Provide signposts, waymarkers, gates, stiles, bridge kits and fittings for work undertaken within the Partnership Agreement on rights of way.

3.4 Through the Parish Paths Liaison Officer, arrange training tasks and seminars as required for all involved in practical work and produce a set of associated guidelines.

### **4. THE PARISH COUNCIL AGREES to**

4.1 Make all reasonable effort to ensure that all paths are 'easy to use' as measured against the Devon County Council condition criteria appended to this agreement.

4.2 Carry out and submit to Devon County Council a condition survey of its complete path network on an annual basis.

4.3 Decide how it wishes to undertake the upkeep and improvement work and ensure it is carried out to an acceptable standard. The work may be undertaken through the medium of:

- community groups
- individuals, e.g. honorary rights of way wardens
- volunteer groups
- employment of a lengthsman
- farmer/landowner
- private contractors

In addition, the Grant could be spent on the following:

- purchase of equipment for use by volunteers or lengthsman
- reasonable volunteers' out of pocket expenses
- insurance of volunteers and equipment
- costs of training required by the clerk, councillors or volunteers

- 4.4 Liaise with landowners regarding works to be undertaken and make the initial approach concerning any problems such as obstructions.
- 4.5 Ensure all rights of way in the parish are signed where they leave a metalled road and are waymarked where necessary.
- 4.6 Publicise and provide information about local public rights of way.
- 4.7 Keep P3 money in a separate account, separate to the general parish funds, and ensure a record is kept of expenditure incurred on the scheme.
- 4.8 Establish adequate public liability insurance for volunteers and to undertake risk assessment of projects according to health and safety legislation.
- 4.9 Ensure all contractors employed to carry out works on rights of way have minimum £5m public liability insurance.
- 4.10 Submit an annual statement of expenditure and details of works undertaken.
- 4.11 Make every effort to attend training seminars organised by the County Council.

SIGNED on behalf of Devon County Council by )  
 ROSALIND ANN DAVIES, Parish Paths Liaison Officer )

SIGNED on behalf of .....Parish Council by )  
 and )  
 Members of that Council )  
 )

**List of routes in the Parish of**

**Footpaths**

<b>Path Number</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>		<b>Path Number</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>

**Total Length of Footpaths =**

**Bridleways**

<b>Path Number</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>		<b>Path Number</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>

**Total Length of Bridleways =**

# PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

## SUMMARY OF GRANT

## PARISH OF

### 1) SCHEDULE A

Total length of footpaths:                      miles @ £30 per mile                      =                      £

Total length of bridleways:                      miles @ £30 per mile                      =                      £

**Total =                      £**