

## Progress on flood recovery

Significant progress has been made in securing funding for the widespread damage to the public rights of way network caused by the floods in Nov 2009. Through joint working with the Lake District National Park some £2.6 million has now been secured from a range of external sources as part of an overall £3.8 million programme of work. A joint business case has been prepared to secure the £1.2 million gap funding from the County Council's capital budget to enable full delivery of the programme.

Good progress has also been made in starting to tackle the work. All of the flood impacts across Cumbria have been assessed and scoped – damage to footbridges, path surfaces etc – and a prioritised programme of repair, replacement and flood proofing developed. Recovery works are well underway within the Lake District, together with some of the substantial lead in work required to rebuild some of the big PROW bridges along the Derwent corridor. Subject to securing the gap funding, all of the recovery work will be undertaken across the Lake District and wider Cumbria over the next 2 years.



## “Walks for everyone” across Cumbria

A series of online guides featuring countryside walks suitable for wheelchair users, families with pushchairs and the visually impaired are now available to download free of charge. We have been working with partners across the county to identify routes (outside of the two national parks) that are suitable for those with limited mobility.

Following this work, easy-to-use guides/leaflets have been created for four access-for-all routes in different areas of the county. The guides feature walks in and around Appleby Riverside, Longlands Lake near Egremont, Miltonrigg Woods near Brampton and the Westfield Trail near Barrow.



Selected for their easy terrain, relatively short distances, attractive views and lack of obstacles such as stiles, the walks showcase some of Cumbria's best outdoor environments and the guides are clear, detailed and contain maps and background information about the areas they cover.

Various organisations have contributed their time and effort to helping the countryside access team produce the guides including Cumbria Local Access Forum, Allerdale Disability Association, the Woodlands Trust and the county council's countryside volunteer and property services teams.

The guides are available on the countryside access pages of Cumbria County Council's website at [www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/countryside-access/miles\\_without\\_stiles/Miles\\_without\\_Stiles.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/countryside-access/miles_without_stiles/Miles_without_Stiles.asp)

# Access Forum out and about in Newtown

At the Cumbria Local Access Forum meeting on 25th June members spent the morning hearing about a range of successful project work and included getting out to look at a project delivered through the Parish Paths Initiative (PPI).



The project was the improvement and promotion of a circular walking route around the parish. The PPI grant enabled the replacement of stiles with kissing gates and members saw these first-hand during their walk. The route is now used by the local healthy walking group, includes a section of the Hadrian's Wall National Trail and shows useful links to the rest of the network.

The design of the leaflet was undertaken by Irthington Primary School pupils who wished to promote a number of local features along the way.

# Eden Valley Loops launched

The launch of the Eden Valley Loops took place on the 24 June with the Chairman of the British Horse Society, cutting the ribbon and giving thanks for all the hard work that had been put into opening up the routes.

The British Horse Society secured £18,500 DEFRA & European funding to promote the series of riding routes on and off road, which total some 135km and are suitable for horse riders, off-road cyclists and walkers based in Cumbria. The funding has been used to produce a free waterproof route guide and way markers. The Countryside Access team advised on the routes and are installing the way marking. The routes are available to download on the BHS web site.



The next piece of work will be to develop a potential link from the existing Pennine Bridleway terminus to Kirkby Stephen.

# Skelton Show basks in the sun



Rangers Geoff Fewkes and Tony Burns attended this year's Skelton Show on 3 July, ably assisted by volunteer Steve Pighills. The fine weather brought record breaking numbers to the show.

One of the most common questions asked was about equestrian access; recent partnership working between our team, the British Horse Society and the North Pennines AONB Partnership has resulted in the creation of promoted equestrian routes both in the Eden Valley and the North Pennines and users were signposted to these new resources.

(Pictured—Ranger Tony Burns chatting to the public)