

Leg It

I think this project is particularly important because it actually addresses an identified need. That is the need for us to link up the boroughs bridleways and also to try and explain more about the different people using different parts of the coast and hopefully building up a mutual respect and it's one of a number of projects where the people have worked together actually in creation of the footpath but also in the organising of all the work that's gone on as well.

Within the project there's quite a few other projects that link together that create access for the public. At Souter what the volunteers did, there were about 14 of them over a couple of weeks headed by Groundwork, and what they did was dig up the old surface which was a bit of a task and then they laid the new surface and rolled it, did some vegetation cutting and removal and created what we have now is a new bridleway up at Souter.

We've been laying the path and that to level it out and meaning people, horses whatever can come down to go into the field. It's been great I think I've learnt a lot of other things like trees planting, also I'm working with disabled people at the same time that's got the same kind of learning difficulties as I've got, you know. It is, it's really good because everybody's mixing in with people and you're getting to know different people in the project. From their experience, they're getting new experience and you just get along with them, as long as you get along with them, friendly and you know the staff, everything goes well for me.

Durham, what they have is a range of 6 projects, 6 improvements to existing rights of way ranging from Murton, Seaham, Blackhall and Sherburn and a couple of other sites and they are looking to basically improve public rights of way in that area. The Drovers Road or Sunken Lane project is a project where we are going to fence this lane here and you can see an example of the problems we do have. There's a small track coming down which some horses use regularly, you can see it disrupts the surface which is really recently just been renewed. What we're looking to do is allow the horses' free access around the area but to protect this Sunken Lane with some fencing, with some kissing gates at the top and at the bottom. What we're looking at is a bringing together of quite a lot of different people, different communities, capabilities and there's a lot of strength being brought out by that; the local people, the volunteers and they've been given a chance to shine and so for us it does really make a difference to see that happen.