

Improving Access for All in the Chilterns

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Insightful Im

Improving accessibility in the Chilterns through the Defra access funding



- The Chilterns Conservation Board received £227,000 funding from Defra in 2022/23 for capital spend **to make our protected landscapes more accessible to people of all ages and abilities and from all backgrounds.**
- We were able to support a wide range of projects which are already making a difference to visitors and communities
- We are expecting further funding of £261,480 for access improvements in 2024/25
- We are planning a 'Widening the Welcome' workshop in October to gather ideas with stakeholders and discuss opportunities



Two new Trampers, access trail and access improvements at College Lake

"We are so pleased to be making these upgrades which mean that more people than ever will be able to come and see what an extraordinary place College Lake is. At BBOWT we believe that people need to see nature to be inspired by it and take action to help it – but spending time in nature is also good for our physical and mental health, so this project really is a win for everyone in our community."

Mark Vallance, Berks Bucks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust Buckinghamshire Land Manager

Projects supported through the 2022/23 Defra Access funding



New mobility vehicles at the Centre for Outdoor Accessibility Training, Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve



"Evie" electric vehicle transporting conservation volunteers with dementia, limited mobility and other restrictions. Supporting access to conservation volunteering. Will enable 200-300 more volunteers to be transported pa.



Projects supported through the 2022/23 Access funding



Staff and volunteers from the Bucks Disability Service conducting accessibility surveys at four popular countryside locations



Contributing to resurfacing and accessibility improvements on the Wendover Canal towpath

Projects supported through the 2022/23 Access funding



Augmented reality App at three hillfort sites - a semi-immersive experience allowing younger audiences to experience the ancient sites in a new and innovative way.

"We are very grateful for our Chilterns Access Grant. This enabled us to purchase a new accessible toilet facility which will improve the visitor experience for our guests with impaired mobility and encourage others to come in the first place."

Gill Whitehead, Chiltern Open Air Museum, March 2023



Chiltern Open Air Museum @ChilternOAM · Jan 9

Thanks to a Chilterns Access Grant from the Chiltern Conservation Board, we will be installing a new accessible toilet onsite.

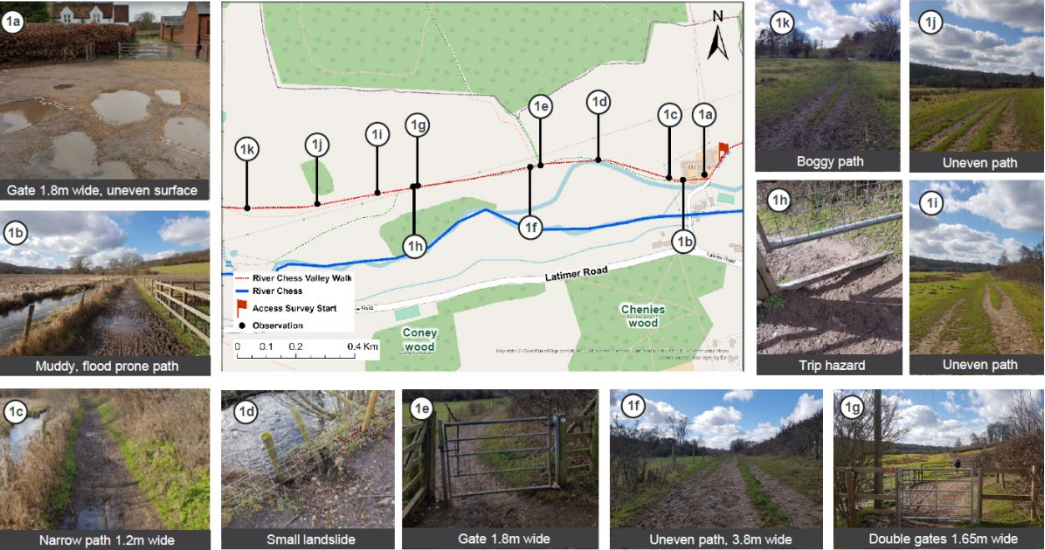
@ChilternsAONB



Looking ahead – improvements to the Chess Valley Walk



Section 1 – Mill Farm to Latimer



Looking ahead: 2024/25 Defra Access funding

We would love your thoughts on projects and priorities for the Defra Access funding. This might include the following

- Disabled toilet facilities
- Replacement of gates
- Additional seating areas
- Improved access to waterways for the mobility-impaired
- Widening and resurfacing of paths for multi-user use
- Purchase of trampers, mobility scooters, electric bikes, and storage/charging facilities
- Purchase of specially adapted tools and personal protective equipment for volunteers
- Provision of accessible signage and visitor information, physical and digital
- Access infrastructure
- Research and development

