

CP4I – Improvements on the Hartland Peninsular



The project was designed to provide 'added value' improvements to the route of the South West Coast Path along well-used sections on the Hartland Peninsular.

These improvements were:

- Replaced damaged and added in new steps at Marsland Mouth
- Created Kissing gate at Marsland Mouth
- Replaced below standard Field and Pedestrian gate array at St Catherine's Tor
- Re-graded eroded surface and added in run off cut off's at the Warren, above Blackpool Mill
- Replaced Stile with Kissing gate at Blegbury/Blagdon boundary.

Although the route was usable, it was felt that improvements could be made to raise the quality of furniture both for users and the peace of mind of land owners.

To this end, on sections with a higher user volume and where conflict between users and landowners (stock issues) took precedent we applied for grant funding to make the changes. The grant funding enabled us to replace a stile with a kissing gate and standard gates (which often get wedged open) with stock proof yet walker friendly kissing gates. We also took steps to alleviate erosion problems on a section of the path where increased use and increase summer rain has eroded the route.

The works will benefit, both experienced and those less experienced coast path walkers. It will enable less mobile people to access these sections of the trail and ensure that conflict between walkers and landowners is reduced. This will engender good will and harmony for us as managers and the general public walking the route.

The section of Erosion Management has significantly improved the surface and is part of an ongoing experimental scheme. After continued monitoring it is hoped it will be rolled out on other sections of degraded path.

In terms of added value the project has been extremely useful in our attempts to remove all stiles on the coast path and replace them with gates. The type of kissing gate we are using is extremely good at retaining stock and is difficult for anyone to leave open or wedge partially open. These gates will be used as exemplars to show other landowners their functionality and hopefully encourage them to agree to similar changes on their land.



Before and after – the replaced stile and the new kissing gate on the Blegbury/ Blagdon boundary.



Before and after – the replaced below standard field and pedestrian gate array at St Catherine's Tor.



The newly created kissing gate at Marsland Mouth