

Teamwork helps to improve access on part of a popular path connecting Castleton and Mam Tor

National Trust rangers and volunteers in the Peak District recently worked with tenant farmer, Gary Glennerster, to upgrade and improve a section of a popular walking route which goes through Dunscair Farm, close to Winnats Pass. The popular path leads from Castleton to Mam Tor and is used by local people and visitors who are exploring this beautiful area.

Sheep farmer, Gary, who also runs a bed and breakfast on his farm with his wife and son, applied for funding from Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme to upgrade part of the route on the land he cares for.

When he told the National Trust team about his plans, they offered to help him get the job done by bringing in a team of people to build fences, resurface sections of path, rebuild steps, swap styles for gates and upgrade existing gates. The FiPL funding, delivered through the Peak District National Park Authority¹, provides funding for farmers and land managers, to deliver projects for climate, nature and people, including to enable access. Gary's project was given money to pay for the materials needed. It is one of many projects across the country which has been supported to benefit nature, culture and rural livelihoods.

Gary explained why the project was important to him. He said:

"The old gates, fences and path surface on this section of the farm lasted for over 20 years but they needed a refresh to make them look nicer and to ensure the path is more accessible to people with different abilities. It is so important to me that we do what we can to keep things looking smart and welcoming. The funding has helped us do something that people will benefit from. I've already had some very positive comments from local dog-walkers who are appreciating how much easier it is to use the gate instead of the stile.

"It was great to get the support from the National Trust to help with this. It is a labour-intensive job, so it was good to have a knowledgeable team to work on it with us. It meant my family and I could concentrate on the many other jobs we have to do to keep the farm and bed and breakfast running."

Chris Lockyer, National Trust Area Ranger said:

"I am really pleased we were able to work with Gary on this project. It was a team effort which we hope will have a positive impact for years to come. The area looks much better and I'm glad we were also able to improve accessibility at the same time as refreshing what was already there. Making small changes, like replacing stiles with gates and installing new gates which are easier to open, makes a big difference for people with a range of mobility needs. Thanks to the rangers and volunteers who worked with us on this."