



## case study

## equal opportunities



Objective One is part-financed by the European Union



The Objective One Partnership for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

### Walk to Work

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### the project

This project is a new initiative to develop and enhance the multi use trails network in North Cornwall. It has created an additional 3.5 kilometres of new routes based on disused railway lines centred around the Camel Trail and Bodmin.

The Programme has invested £255,855 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the project which has a total cost of £1,070,000.

The aim of this project is to extend established trails into Bodmin town centre and the village of Wenfordbridge. This will increase the number of new visitors into the area as well as providing safe traffic free routes for residents and visitors who have expressed their disappointment at the end points of existing trails where access to centres and villages is not carried through.

### measures of equal opportunities adopted

The 3.5 kilometre route has been built in response to requests from residents for a safe route linking east and west Bodmin and providing improved access to employment opportunities, services, education and leisure facilities in Bodmin. The consultation process involved the whole community and whilst there were very few objections, those were listened to and acted on. Feedback has since been very favourable.

The traffic free trail has been designed to a high standard and is intended for all year round use. Suitable surfacing, improved signage and interpretation along the route have ensured that it is accessible to wheelchair users, parents with children and older people as well as cyclists. The contractor also consulted with the Sensory Trust, British Horse Society, PANIC, the Ramblers Association and Devon and Cornwall Police to ensure the inclusiveness of the design. In



*Bodmin Community College students and Walk to Work Sustainable Access Officer Emma Rojano (on bicycle) using the new network of trails*

addition to ensuring that the landscaping creates no blind spots, safety has been assured by the provision of lighting on the route paid for by Western Power and Wainhomes.

The route is already being used by up to 100 school pupils per day in addition to people using it for work journeys. Bob Mitchell, Head Teacher at Bodmin Community College said: *“Access to the college is an important issue for pupils, staff and governors. The new route will provide safe, direct access for some of our students, changing attitudes and encouraging an increase in walking and cycling.”*

There is also evidence of increased leisure use. The greenway also links through to the Cornish Way (cycle route) enabling residents and visitors in east Bodmin to gain access to the National Trust property Lanhydrock almost entirely ‘off road’ or along quiet lanes.

Walk to Work Sustainable Access Officer Emma Rojano is particularly keen for everyone in Bodmin to become involved in the new trail, now and in the future. She said: *“The east/west greenway is a fantastic new development for the people of Bodmin, and offers many opportunities to access both their place of work or school whilst at the same time enjoying some of the finest countryside in and around the town. I hope it will develop into a real community feature with*

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*many groups and individuals using it for a healthier lifestyle. It has the capacity to take many cars off the already congested routes to Walker Lines and remove schoolchildren from the busy Lostwithiel Road."*

The project, with the support of Sport England, has also created an employment opportunity by providing revenue funding for a project officer briefed to 'Get People Active'.

#### **benefits of equal opportunities**

The project has provided enhanced traffic free and safe access for residential neighbourhoods to the centres of education, commerce and leisure in Bodmin.

Neil Burden, Chairman of North Cornwall District Council's Regeneration Committee said: *"Bodmin is a vibrant employment centre for North Cornwall. These new routes will use council land to help locals and visitors enjoy safe routes to work, school and leisure. Cycling is becoming more and more popular and this project will help the town capitalise on its strategic position on the Camel Trail."*

Dave Attwell, Project Manager, said: *"The economic benefits are very much internal to Bodmin with an increased number of visitors creating increased income for the town. In addition the college, for example, has already increased its cycle storage facility and is developing a bike maintenance course."* He added that the new route *"repositions Bodmin and the northern stretches of the Camel Trail as local and visitor attractions."*

**For more information about how you can incorporate equal opportunities into your project please contact the Objective One Partnership Office on 01872 241379 or email [objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk).**



*Part of the new Bodmin greenway, shortly after completion*