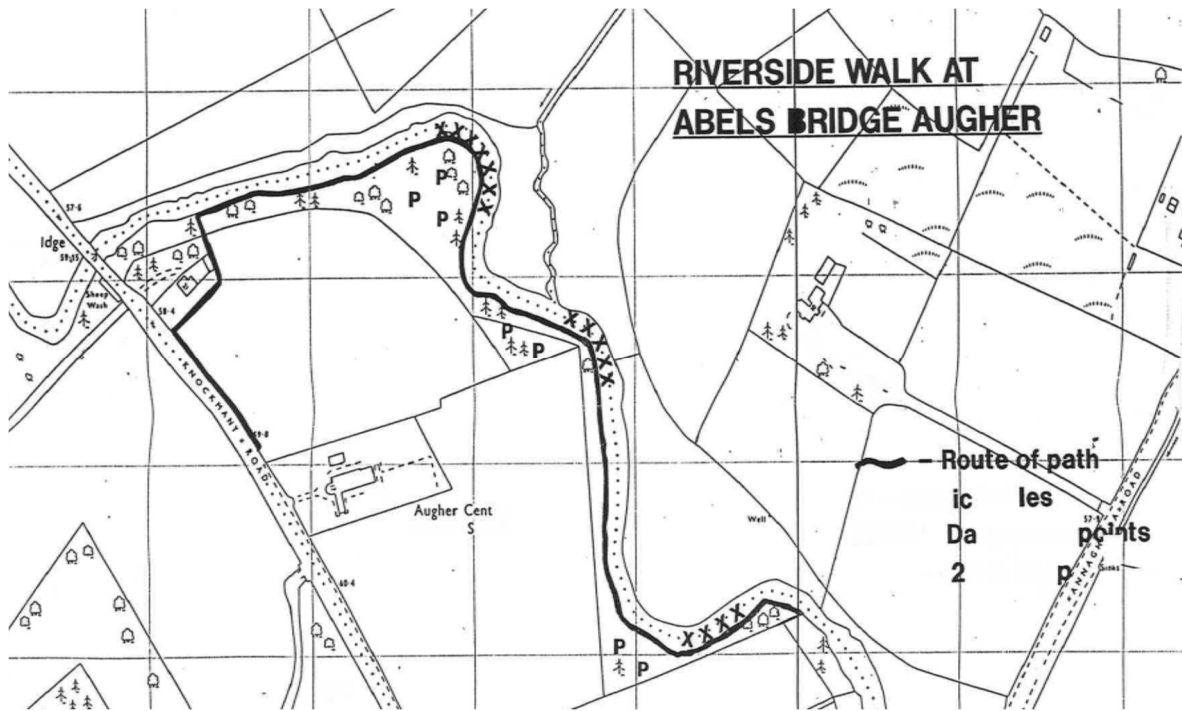


Report on	Augher Riverside Walk Permissive Path Agreement
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Council seeks to formalise and approve the creation of permissive path agreements to facilitate public access along the Blackwater, Augher Riverside Path.
2.0	Background
2.1	Dungannon District Council originally developed Augher, Abels Bridge Riverside Walk for recreational use and to facilitate an off-road link to the village for visitors to the Clogher Valley Show. On completion of this project, ownership and maintenance responsibilities transferred to named trustees on the 23 rd April 1993. With the passing of time, the remaining trustees have recently indicated that they are no longer in a position to fulfil this commitment. In order to protect future public access council will have to consider the creation of new access agreements with the current landowners.
3.0	Main Report

3.1 Council approval is sought to enter into negotiations with identified landowners with the objective to create new public access agreements for approximately one kilometre of public path. These agreements will be developed on the basis of standard Permissive Public Path Agreements. This approach will permit Council to exercise its functions in relation to access to the countryside, health & wellbeing objectives and natural environment tourism. Council will indemnify landowners in relation to public use of the paths and agree to maintain and promote as part of a community trails network.



It is proposed that Permissive Path Agreements are created between Mid Ulster District Council and contributing landowners to facilitate public access from Vias Bridge, Annaghilla Road to Abels Bridge, Knockmany Road.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 Financial & Human Resources Implications

Financial: Annual Parks Service budget cost of £3,500 for grass cutting and general maintenance allocation for countryside Access.

Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support.

4.2 Equality and Good Relations Implications

Protection of shared opportunities for public/community access to the countryside.

4.3 Risk Management Implications

Monitored and managed in accordance with council's operational risk assessment systems and procedures.

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council approval is sought to enter into negotiations with identified landowners with the objective to create and agree terms for new public access agreements for approximately one kilometre of public path. These agreements will be developed on the basis of standard Permissive Public Path Agreements.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	None