

Footpath specification for Dukesfield Arches

Near Slaley, Hexhamshire NE46 1SG



The Friends of the North Pennines and Hexhamshire and Slaley Parish Councils require an indicative price for the construction of two footpaths and a footbridge to be created at Dukesfield Arches.

Suggested Materials: Wooden railway type sleepers (to be supplied) with infill of stone and brick rubble (on site) &/or stone chippings (to be supplied).

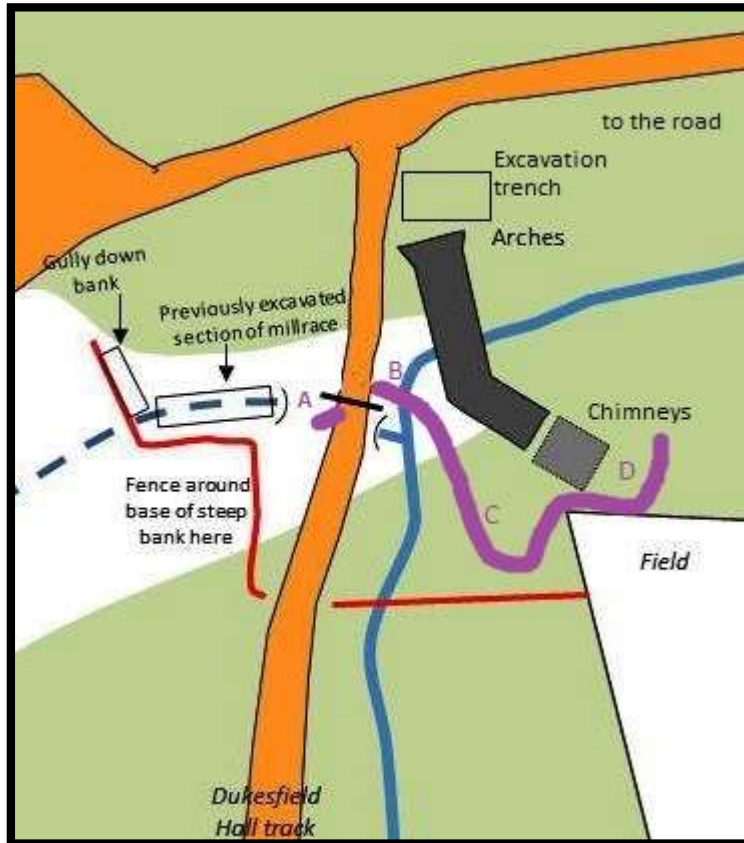
This site will have minimal maintenance after 2015 and needs to be safely accessible by the public for at least 25 years. The site is north facing and shaded by trees so is likely to be damp, therefore surfaces must discourage slippery plant growth. Contractors must use robust materials, which are visually distinctive from the buildings, and will remain safe to use for the duration. Expert advice suggests treated railway sleepers and infill with site rubble or stone chippings, with minimal steps and no handrails.

Accessibility: The eastern route is very steep and the limits of the lease area and the archaeology do not allow a slope of 1:20 as recommended for wheelchair accessibility. However, the path should be a minimum of

Risk: Expert advice from the North Pennines AONB recommends NOT to include hand rails and have the least number of steps possible as these may increase the risk to users as this site will not be frequently maintained.

Timescale: These site works are likely to take place in autumn 2014

Plan of site



Footpath 1 – at point A

A short (c. 2m) stretch up a bank connecting the Hall track to a natural plateau to the east of the mill race. Ideally this section should have no steps.

Footpath 2 – from point B to point D via point C

A longer (c. 30m) stretch crossing the burn at B via a low level 2 sleeper footbridge, then taking the most gentle gradient up the steep bank at C to enable access to view the Chimneys and Arches from point D. Occasional steps may be necessary because of the steepness of this slope.



View from A looking east



View looking south from junction of the main track and Hall Burn track