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Watery Walks – Totem Poles Egremont South

West Cumbria Rivers Trust have received funding from Copeland Community Fund to provide a range of riverside walks – project name ‘Watery Walks’ to suit varying abilities, combining the health benefits of exercise with increased access to and understanding of the river environment.

Details and sketch maps of these routes will be available on our website for members of the public to download and follow the walks. One of the aims of the project as a whole is to encourage local people to explore more of their home area as well as encouraging tourists to visit towns and locations outside of the National Park.

The grant includes funding for a number of artists to work with local communities to explore the walks and create physical or spoken art works. The totem poles, for which we require planning permission, are part of an art project in conjunction with Florence Arts encouraging the exploration of the River Ehen. We are working with a local artist who is in turn working with members of the community through workshops to explore the themes of environmental perception, communication and invention. Workshop participants will work to the theme of River Totems, using their observations and discoveries from the river trail experience to create their own unique totem illustration which the artist will utilise to inspire the physical sculptural River Totems to be installed on the river trail. The artworks themselves will be 3 totem poles comprising of six segments positioned on a large central wooden dowel, divided by small metal vertical load bearings allowing rotation of each totem segment. Each pole will be mounted on a paving slab concreted to the ground.