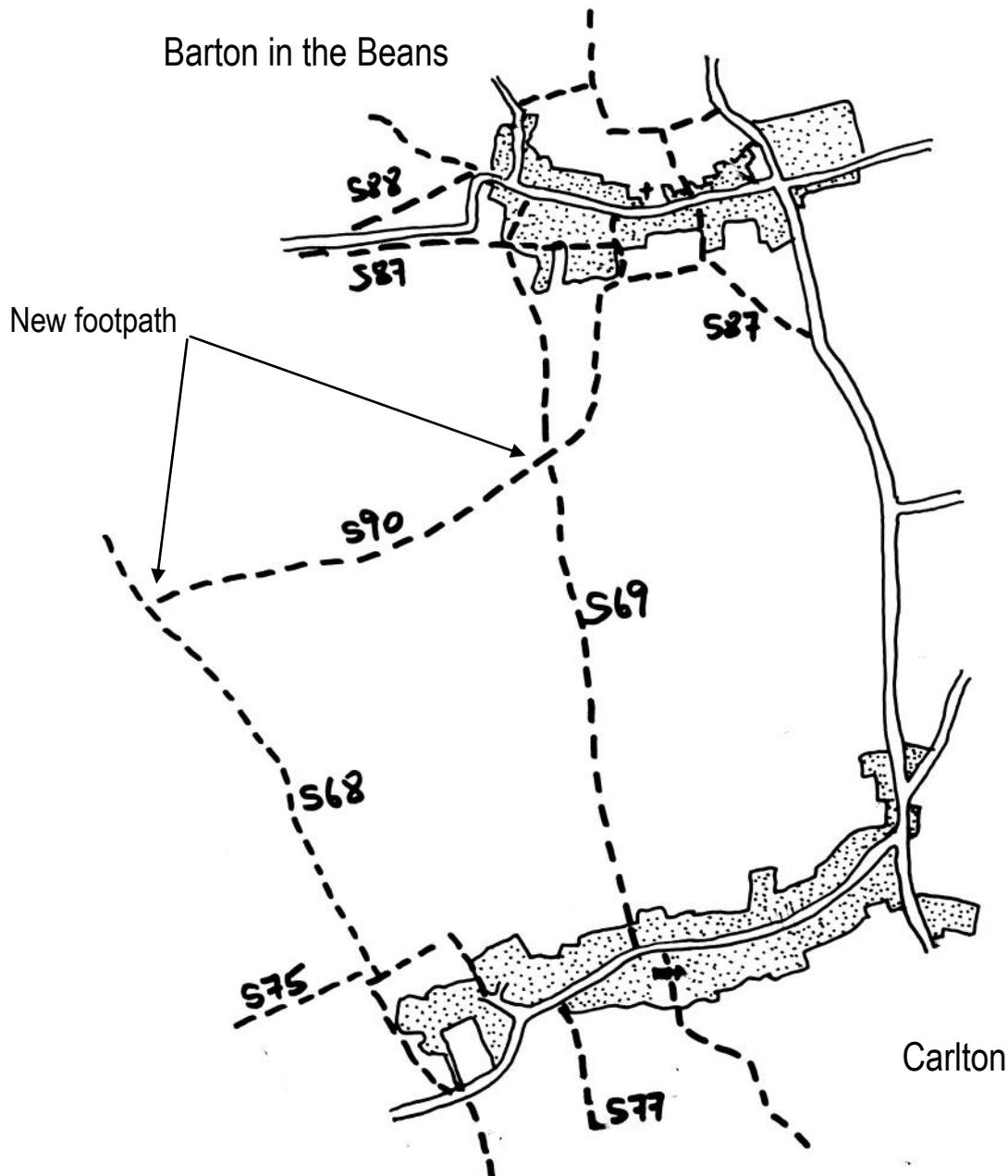


New Public Footpath Opened

A new footpath between the villages of Carlton and Barton on the Beans was formally opened on Remembrance Sunday 2011. Only one or two new footpaths are created each year in Leicestershire, and this was the first in the Bosworth area for more than twenty years. The new path (see map) links footpaths S68 and S69, creating new linkages and circular routes.



This project is part of a bigger scheme, in which an existing path along the south side of Barton has been physically improved, thanks to the landowners and the County Council. Kissing gates have also been installed along the path from Carlton, and these were paid for by Carlton PC, Shackerstone PC and the Barton and Carlton Residents Action Group.



Readers may remember the B&C RAG, which was formed to fight plans for an intensive piggery operation on this site, and which was ultimately successful. The RAG has now been wound up, and all the remaining funds, just over £1200, donated to this project for the direct benefit of both communities. Chris Peat, RAG Secretary, remembered Edith Brown, John Gravell, and Ron Wyatt who served on the RAG for many years and who have now sadly passed away. The other members were John Clarke, who has moved away from the area, David Spence and Marina Sketchley.



In warm sunshine, groups of walkers from Carlton and Barton in the Beans met near the start of the new path at 3pm, for a glass of sherry and to share a special cake baked for the occasion by Tania Sharp. The ceremony was attended by representatives of Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire CPRE, Leicestershire Footpaths Association, Leicestershire Access Forum, Shackerstone and Carlton Parish Councils, the Ibstock Walking Group and the Carlton Footpath Group.





Brian Sutton, local landowner and Borough Councillor, said "Most farmers and landowners are in favour of the increased use of footpaths as long as people respect the Countryside Code. The one thing I ask is that anyone who has an interest in footpaths supports the simplification of relocating and linking of footpaths. This small extension has taken several years at considerable cost. The powers to do this should rest with local Parish, Borough and County councils negotiating with the landowners. This requires changes to the present legislation which should be a priority with localism".



After this, a red ribbon was ceremonially cut and the new path formally declared open. The two groups then walked the new path, and separated to return to their respective starting points, though some hardy souls completed a figure of eight circuit of both walks as the sun set on a memorable autumn day.

