

The Churchill Path of Destiny

A new Copenhagen landmark to celebrate 80 years since the ending of the Second World War



Bust of Churchill 2005



Visualisation of completed path 2025

“Friends of Churchill Park”

Copenhagen

Denmark

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The Friends of Churchill Park are; Robin Drinkall and Christopher Osborne. The representative from Copenhagen City Council and Landscape Architect in 2003 was Rosie Chard.

The Churchill Path of Destiny
Copenhagen, Denmark
Location 55°41'19"N 12°35'47"E

Background

In 2003 The Friends of Churchill Park and Copenhagen City Council entered into conversation about the possibilities for creating a footpath towards the bust of Sir Winston Churchill in Churchill Parken. Rosie Chard, the City Landscape Architect prepared a number of sketches for the visualisation of the new footpath. The concept for the new footpath was to have quotations spoken by Winston Churchill inscribed in new individual footpath stones.

At that particular moment in time in 2003 there was no footpath in Churchill Park leading up to the bust. The original landscaping of Churchill Park in the early 1960's did have an asphalt footpath nearby close to the Museum of Danish Resistance during the Second World War with seating for members of the public to sit and reflect about the war, freedom and the leadership of Churchill. However, the footpath was removed and people lacked access in 2003. This was communicated by veterans who desired access nearer the time of his birthday in late November and when the ground was wet.



Archive photo bust of Churchill 1961

The recent approval by the Ministry of Culture in Denmark (13 June 2024 REF No 24/04308-2) to create a new permanent and hard wearing footpath up to the bust of Winston Churchill is an enhancement of the existing footpath which has evolved out of wear and tear of the grassed area in the years after 2003. The new enhancement has a number of values that will compliment the bust of Churchill and also the immediate area between St. Albans Church and the Museum for Resistance in Denmark. This is recognised in the approval from the Ministry of Culture and for the purpose of this application the footpath will be referred to as a new “landmark”.

The benefit to Copenhagen and Denmark should not be underestimated. Tourists already visit Churchillparken however their curiosity and questions about Churchill are not always answered. People from Spain and Italy have been interviewed on why they photograph the bust. They respond, “Because he is famous.” But as time moves forward the details of what it took to lead to a victory

become eroded. Local people have been interviewed about why the Nazi's invaded Denmark in 1940 and only <5% knew the main reason being linked to Sweden and the high quality iron ore and wood pulp that was exported to Germany for use in rearmament and publishing. The Swedish – German trade in iron was a concern to Churchill which he was vocal about during the 1930's and led to British action in Norway in 1940 and the subsequent downfall of the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

The Churchill Path of Destiny will be an important addition to Churchillparken that will seek to compliment the story already formulating in the area. It is a "literary" addition to compliment the bust of Churchill and intends to return some favour to his stature both in time gone past.

80 years of Freedom in Western Europe - Free Outdoor Learning and Education

In May 2025 it will be the 80th anniversary of the ending of the Second World war and with it 80 years of peace in Western Europe. The new footpath will contain 16 specially selected Churchill quotations indicated by famous VIP's from Denmark, France, New Zealand, Australia and United Kingdom during 2005 (See attached list). The historical quotations are mainly taken from the literature and oratory used by Churchill to motivate the Allies in the fight against Adolf Hitler and the NAZI's during the Second World War. This important insight into the power of Churchill's words adds greater depth and a wealth of learning for younger generations in remembering the stand taken by Churchill against a great evil. The words also add to the permanent memory of Churchill subscribed to by Danes and Brits in 1954 for the bust and the hope of freedom against a tyranny in 1940. Visitors will reflect and see how the words of yesterday can be relevant in situations of today. The war in Ukraine is a fine example of the rhetoric spoken by Churchill being used once again by President Zelenskiy to muster international support. The years after the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001 is another example of the leadership of Churchill used by leading American politicians and remains today. Churchill's leadership and resolve to achieve victory and win Freedom in Europe, against all the odds, is still as necessary today as it was in 1940.

The path stones with Churchill quotations are officially supported by the Churchill family and there is no other footpath with such descriptive oratory linked to Winston Churchill in the world. The Churchill Copyright (See attached) was given to the Friends of Churchill Park by the Grandson of Winston Churchill, Winston Churchill Jr. before his untimely death from cancer in 2010.



Renovation of Churchill monument

The Friends of Churchill Park would like to renovate and clean the bronze bust in its current location. There has been a debate on whether the bust should be relocated to a better location however practicalities and regulations have made the exercise unviable. It should be noted the foundation of the bust is thought to be nearly 1 meter deep and so any cleaning and renovation will need to take place on site. It is hoped that any work carried out will safeguard the bronze artwork and also preserve the granite plinth for many decades. It is also proposed the granite plinth be treated with anti graffiti spray used on historical stonework. The same anti graffiti will be used on the path stones. The shipping magnate Maersk McKinney Møller did suggest cleaning of the bust would take place in 2003 but this never occurred leading to the rather poor state today.



Bust of Churchill 2023

Access and people movement

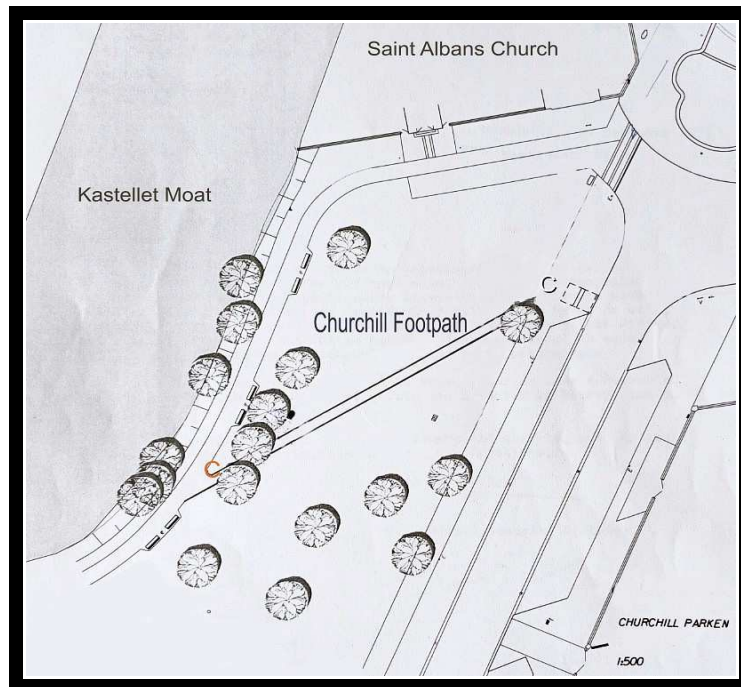
The hard standing access will be described later but one of the concerns about the current location of the Churchill bust is the direction in which it is facing and also its protection against the elements. A site observation exercise was carried out in 2022 and 2023 where people movement around the immediate area near the bust of Winston Churchill was reported. The basic calculations showed that the vast majority of people who visited the area did so to either pass through or visit the church of St. Albans. <10% of people visited the bust and <5% looked closer at the bust to see what was written.

A number of international visitors were interviewed at the location of the monument for Anders Lassen VC. All of the people interviewed were walking from Copenhagen City along the road towards the Gefion fountain or from the Gefion fountain towards the City. None of the visitors knew there was a bust of Winston Churchill in the vicinity and yet were interested in Second World War history. (The road near Anders Lassen VC monument being known as Churchillparken and a continuation of Amaliengade).

The people movement is therefore an interest for the Path of Destiny and it is believed the

enhancement will be an attraction to help bring people closer to the original bust of Winston Churchill. This new flow of people will be between the moat at Kastellet and the road near the gates for the harbour. It has also been noted that visitors to the Museum for Danish Resistance will have added feelings and emotions when considering many of the articles on display in the museum. Finally, Saint Albans known locally as the English church is interested in seeing the area become more tourist friendly and has written a letter of support and encouragement for the completion of the Churchill project (See attached letter). Furthermore, Københavns Indre By Lokaludvalg voted on 10 October 2024 to provide an endorsement for the project. Discussions have also taken place on how best to respond at “peak” times when visitors descend on the area to maximize the visitor experience.

Location of the new footpath



The description of the footpath

The current footpath runs in a North East – South West direction and is circa 49 meters long. It was created out of wear and tear of grassed area by public use to short cut a distance across the park towards the bust of Winston Churchill. The material used for the footpath is loose stone compacted into a clay like material during the summer but turning into a mud like material during wet weather in the winter.

The specification for the new proposal is as follows:

1. A new hard surface to be laid in place of the worn path. The new path hard surface will be in the same location and be made from asphalt with a top layer of small coloured stones. An investigation of the base of the existing path will be carried out to determine the strength of the foundations and if appropriate strengthening will take place. The project will be mindful of tree roots and underground cables and will be flexible in foundation depth where stones are not placed. Thus the asphalt and path stones will only be placed in the footpath where tree roots will not be affected. This distance is estimated at 7m distance after the start at each of the footpath. The footpath within the 7m at either end will not be asphalted nor contain oxidised iron path edgings but simply have a new grass border and a new covering of loose

stones. The colour of the smallstones in the asphalt to be “sand” colour or as close as possible to the same colours of the existing footpath. (New path Length circa 35 (49) meters x 2.7 meters wide). At a distance of 5 meters from the bust the path will fork away from the main path by widening to allow a hard surface directly in front of the bust for flowers and wreaths to be layed at war memorial events. The completed triangular hard area will be in total 15m squared.

2. Hard iron rusty path edging to mark the boundary between the asphalt and green grassed area. The path edging to be created out of the same type of oxidized iron used in the Museum for Resistance in Denmark. (see photo).
3. Sixteen new individual path stones made from fine grain grey granite. (0.8 x 0.6 x 0.2 meters. The stone will be thick to prevent theft and damage from grass cutting machinery).
4. The inscriptions to be made in granite path stones using Times New Roman font. Black colouring inside the letters.
5. The spacing between each path stone to be uniform and circa 2.2 meters from centre of each path stone. (Asphalted footpath area free from tree roots estimated at 35 meters in length).
6. New grass turf to be added in worn areas at side of new footpath and also to form a new border in the existing areas with tree roots.
7. Public information indicating the location of the Churchill Path of Destiny to be included on the standard Copenhagen City Council notices already in place around Kastellet.

The landscaping contractor will be required to ensure the site is safe and poses no risk to the public during building work as set out under normal regulations in public places.

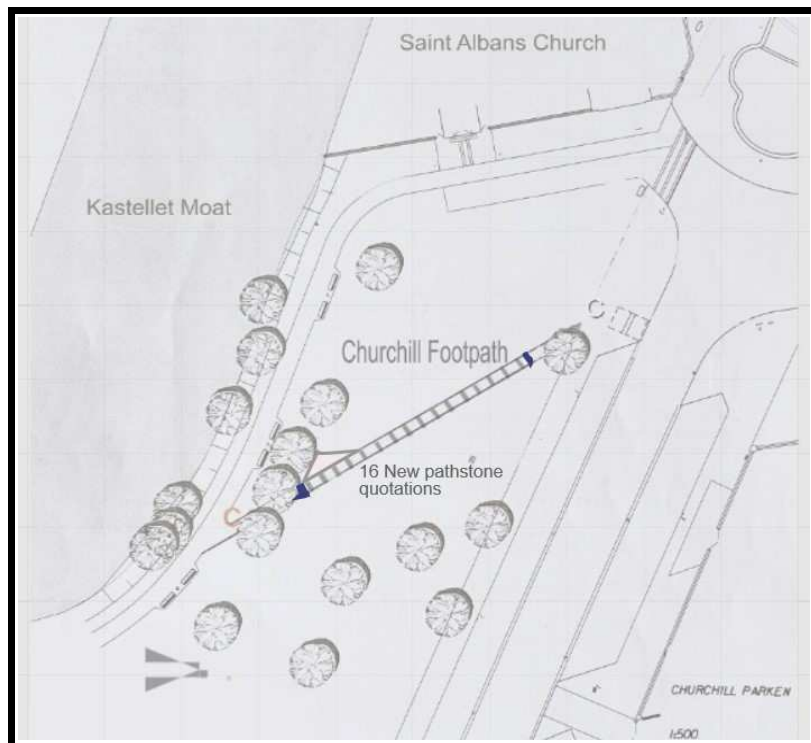
Photo of current footpath



Sketch of new footpath



Placement of 16 stones in new footpath



Blue indicates the start and the end of the asphalted area for protection of tree roots.

Restoration of the bronze Churchill bust

Correspondence with qualified professionals experienced in the restoration of historical bronze works of art has revealed the bust will need up to one weeks work. This estimation has been given through the study of photographs of the bust. Nevertheless, the oak tree that was planted in 1965 has caused some damage by acid droplets from the leaves and stained some of the bronze. Advice has suggested this can be removed however it is considered that a better solution for protection of the bronze could benefit its longevity.

Oxidized Iron path edgings

The path edgings will be created out of standard oxidized iron path edgings and to the same standard used at other locations in Copenhagen. For example the same material is used at the Danish Museum of Resistance next door to where the Churchill bust is located.



Cost of the project

The economy for completion of the project will be achieved by contact with various funds, governments and internet crowd funding websites such as Go Fund Me.

The British government has already been contacted and requested if it would be willing to supply all the path stones with the quotations already engraved. This would reduce the cost considerably however for total completion irrespective if the British government provides the material the project cost is not expected to be more than **1,230.000 million DKK. Incl moms**

The budget details

- Renovation of the 1955 bronze Churchill bust by Oscar Nemon. "Green patina" to be achieved as requested by Copenhagen City Council. The specification is; "the conservation treatment will preserve the natural green patina. A complete stripping of the surface and artificial dark repatination will create too big a contrast to the surrounding sculptures. The final protective surface treatment should be of long-lasting, but reversible character." It is noted that the unavoidable acid stains from the oak tree may return after a longer period of time. Purchase and engraving of 16 light grey granite path stones by Schannong Stenhuggermester, Østerbro, DK-2100. Budget 300,000 Kr.
- Excavation of footpath, new foundations and top surface of asphalt with closely matching coloured stones. Path edgings of oxidized iron. New turf and project management. Clarke enterprise ApS, Frederiksberg DK-2000. Budget 680,000Kr
- Grand opening, Tent hire, programmes, music entertainment, refreshments, PR, SoMe

activities. Budget 250,000Kr.

Total budget for project completion = 1,230.000 DKK Incl moms

Time Schedule

November 2024 – March 2025 – (16 Weeks) Fundraising

March 2025 – April 2025 – (8 Weeks) Project implementation and renovation of Churchill bust

May 2025 – First weekend in May 2025. Grand opening of Path of Destiny

The goal for completion in 2025. No more than 8 weeks should be needed to complete the project because much of the work can already be created off site.

Transfer of rights

After meeting all the requirements between Copenhagen City council and the Friends of Churchill Park the Churchill Path of Destiny should be transferred to the City council.