



**Wokingham Borough
Council**

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020

Consultation Draft

APPENDIX 5

Greenways Strategy and Implementation
Plan

Contents

Introduction	3
About the Project:.....	3
Strategic Context:.....	4
Wokingham Core Strategy	4
Wokingham Priorities:.....	4
What we want to achieve:	5
Project Objectives	5
Project Scope and Definition:.....	5
The Greenway Design Standard	5
Figure 2 – Proposed Typical Cross Sections	6
Legal framework	6
Where we are currently:.....	7
How we will achieve:.....	8
Plan Monitoring and Review.....	9
Project Control and Governance:.....	9
Reporting	9
Appendices.....	10
Maps.....	10
Greenways Consultation Report:	10

Introduction

Greenways are continuous generally traffic-free multi user routes that are aimed at linking the major developments coming to the borough and Wokingham to each other and also to the existing communities and places of interest/employment.

Greenways will provide non-car commuting journeys to work and school as well as new leisure opportunities to get out into the countryside. It is envisaged that, where possible, they will have a hard, permeable surface which are accessible in all weathers and for persons with mobility impairments and to those in wheelchairs. It will also ensure a good surface for cycling and for other leisure and fitness pursuits.

This Wokingham Greenways Strategy Plan has been written for the Wokingham Borough Council's Greenways Project and River Loddon Long Distance Path Project. It refers to the Strategic Policy Context, defines the scope of the Project, sets out the aims and objectives; sets out the key tasks, resources, responsibilities and outputs required to facilitate the completion of the project.

This document covers the entire project which includes Wokingham Greenways as well as River Loddon Long Distance Path. The River Loddon LDP will link between many of the Greenway Routes, particularly the greenways connecting to the Arborfield and the South of the M4 SDL, therefore providing a network of traffic free paths. Combining both the projects will ensure that it follows the similar design standards and provision.

About the Project:

The Greenways Project includes the strategic network of multi-user paths that connects the Strategic Development Locations to the existing settlements as well as linking sites of historic interest and recreational value and provide a continuous traffic free routes in the Borough. The Greenways Project may include existing Public Footpaths, Byways, restricted byways, Bridleways as well as identification of new greenways which when connected will deliver a comprehensive and connected series of traffic free routes for pedestrians, cyclists and potentially equestrian users away from the main roads.

The Greenways Project also includes River Loddon Long Distance Path (LDP) that links the Thames Valley Path in the north of the borough in Wargrave to the Blackwater Valley Path in the South of the borough in Swallowfield. This internal network of Greenways will extend beyond the Public footpaths to public green space, and point of interest in Wokingham borough.

WBC will continue discussions with private land owners with regards to the acceptability of providing a route through land not owned by WBC. Should these discussions prove successful, further route assessments can be completed and details of the preferred route can be finalised.

Strategic Context:

Greenways have always been a part of a wide range of government and local policies which are relevant to the development of a strategic network of multi user routes. Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy 2017 is also aimed to make cycling and walking the natural choices for shorter journeys, or as part of longer journey.

As per the SUSTRANS, almost one third of the 10,000 miles of the National Cycle Network is traffic-free, and much of this runs along Greenways which they define as traffic-free routes which are attractive, generally well separated from traffic and continuous over obstacles and through road junctions. Although Greenways are often rural, many of the most popular and important ones thread their way through the urban fabric.

Wokingham Greenways will contribute in achieving National Government target to deliver Better safety, Better mobility and better streets by 2040.

Wokingham Core Strategy

The Wokingham Borough Council's aspiration is to have Greenways (which are continuous generally traffic-free multi user routes) linking the major Strategic development Locations (SDL's) in the borough (Arborfield Garrison, Shinfield, North Wokingham and South Wokingham) to each other and also to the existing communities and places of interest/employment.

Linked to the Core Strategy (CP10 policy CP10 items 20 and 21 and SDL policies CP18-21), Greenways has also been highlighted in ROWIP 2020-30, Local Transport Plan and LCWIP (in progress). (Appendix 5: Wokingham Greenways Strategy Plan)

The Council has also suggested that a strategy for Greenways implementation is developed. This would feed into the Local Transport Plan which would be cross referenced in the Local Plan, both currently being reviewed to 2036 documents, along with reference in the ROWIP this is considered adequate in terms of policy to implement the network including CPO should it be required.

Wokingham Priorities:

Wokingham Greenways Project aim to fulfil the following Wokingham priorities:

- Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth
- Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well-designed development
- Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the borough.

What we want to achieve:

Project Objectives

The key objectives of the Greenways project are detailed in the table below:

Objective Number	Project Objectives
GW1	To deliver sustainable transport network in accordance with the Council's vision that aim to provide traffic free commuting and leisure routes connecting new Strategic Development locations with the existing settlements.
GW2	To deliver the Project to High Quality, Cost and Time.
GW3	To help achieve WBC policies such as Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Development framework, Core Strategy (CP10), Local Transport Plan, Active Travel Strategy

Project Scope and Definition:

The Wokingham Greenways project will:

- Stage 1 greenways network is an SDL-focused network to satisfy the requirements of the current Core Strategy to deliver the traffic free commuting and leisure routes connecting the existing and new settlements and point of interest.
- The Project will link with and align to additional greenways and paths proposed to improve the connectivity within the Borough and to adjoining boroughs, For example: River Loddon Path project, 'Wokingham Wheel' project, An Urban Network, My Journey Project.

The Greenway Design Standard

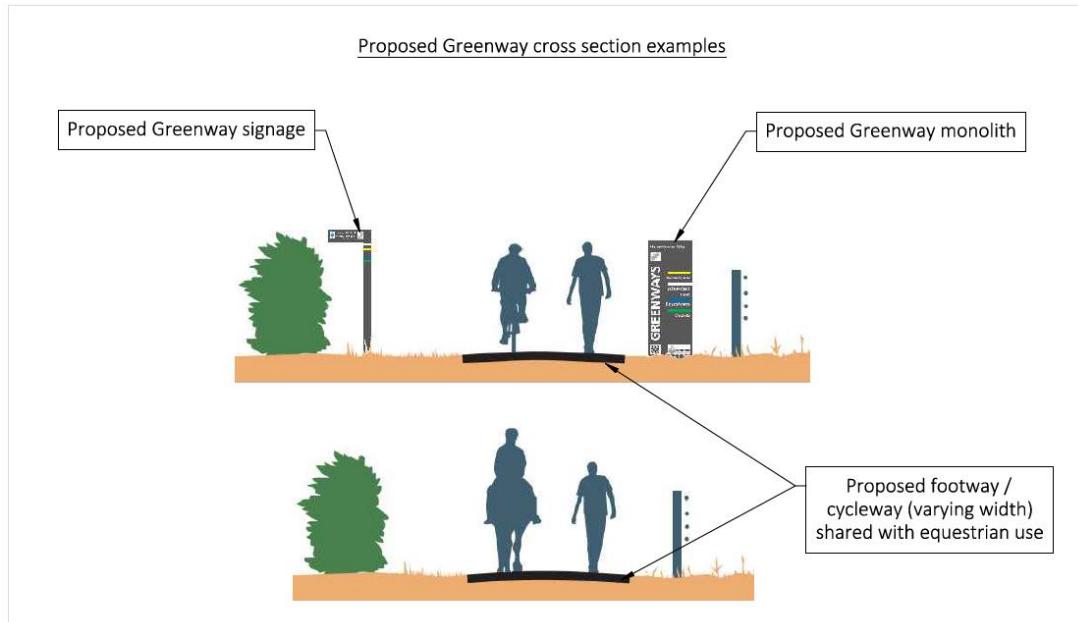
The Wokingham Greenways Project will confirm to the British Standards and Industry Quality standards for the Highway Design and Specifications. It will also refer to Sustrans handbook for cycle friendly design (April 2014). The Greenways network will generally comprise a 3.0m wide path. The greenways will have a hard, permeable surface so that they are accessible in all weathers for commuting journeys to work and journeys to school, and to provide new leisure opportunities to get out into the countryside. Figure 2 provides an illustration of what the typical cross sections could look like.

Permitted users would include: pedestrians; pedal cyclists; dog walkers; wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Where possible, additional and separate provisions will be

made for equestrians alongside the hard surfaced routes, or equestrians will share the hard surfaced path with others. It will be created by the widening of existing public footpaths and improved byways and bridleways to form continuous routes of good and consistent standard across the south of the borough. Where the available corridor width is insufficient the council would seek wherever possible to permit equestrians to share the path with other users.

It is envisaged that the route network will be signed and branded with a distinctive identity.

Figure 2 – Proposed Typical Cross Sections



Legal framework

There is much primary legislation with regard to infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians to which the greenways will need to comply. This includes:

- **Highways Act 1980** which grants powers regarding the construction of highways, including cycle track construction, traffic calming lighting and the erection of barriers.
- **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984** which grants various powers to regulate the use of highways including Traffic Regulation Orders (which will be necessary on some of Wokingham's byways).
- **Traffic Management Act 2004** which imposes a Network Management Duty on Highway Authorities to secure the expeditious movement of traffic including cyclists and pedestrians.
- **Cycle Tracks Act 1984** which grants powers to convert public footpaths to cycle tracks.
- **Town and Country Planning Act 1990** details the requirements for the construction of new cycle infrastructure.
- **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000** gives powers to create new access and powers to create Local Access Forums.

Where we are currently:

In 2013, the Greenways network was identified and a feasibility report and route maps were prepared by the Council.

In 2014/15 these routes were investigated and preliminary route maps, cost estimate were prepared to prepare a business case.

In 2017 the business case was submitted to the Executive and Leadership Team for approval and a budget of £1.0m per annum from 2017/18 was identified by the Council with the Total Project cost in excess of £7.6 million for Greenways Network identified in the business case.

In 2017/18, Route I (Arborfield SDL-Finchampstead) was confirmed, designed and tendered out for construction.

Earlier in 2019, the Greenways Project Phase 2 Route B was consulted. On the basis of the consultation feedback, we are currently working on confirming the route plans and aiming to start construction later this year.



Pictures: California Way



Phase 2 Consultations –March-April 2019

How we will achieve:

The Project will be managed and delivered by Wokingham Borough Council Locality and Customer Services. The Project delivery team has been outlined in the Project Implementation Plan that includes the Project Board, Project Manager and Project delivery team constituting of members from various teams. The Project Manager in consultation with the Project Board and the delivery team will prepare and maintain the Project Plan to phase overall programming, consultation, communications and project implementation and oversee the detailed design.

Core Project delivery team includes the Capital Project Manager, Highway Design Managers, and Strategic Engagement Officer. Throughout the project the project delivery team will need specialist advice and input from across other teams including the PROW Manager, Highway Managers, Landscape Architect, Tree Officer, Ecology Officer, Property Services, Green Infrastructure, Planning, Finance, Legal and IT.

The Project delivery team will meet regularly to monitor the progress and review Design, cost and time objectives. This will include the monthly Project Coordination meeting and weekly project design meetings.

The issue register will be maintained to capture and highlight all relevant project issues. The Communication Plan will detail out all internal and external communications. The Project risk register will be used to help aid the management of project risk which will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

For Project Design and delivery, the Greenways network has been phased into Eight (8) sections or routes detailed out in the table 1 below:

The Greenways Network:

Greenways Project		
Route Name	Description	Length (km)
Route A	South of M4 SDL - Arborfield - Barkham	5.5
Route B	Arborfield SDL - Barkham - Wokingham	7.6
Route D	Arborfield SDL – Barkham – South Wokingham SDL - Wokingham	7.0
Route E	River Loddon – Arborfield	2.1
Route F	Arborfield – Arborfield SDL	4.0
Route I	Arborfield SDL - Finchampstead	1.9
Route J	Arborfield SDL – Blackwater Valley	2.9
Route K	Arborfield Cross	2.5

River Loddon LDP		
Route Name	Description	Length (km)
LDP Section A	Blackwater Valley Path, Swallowfield to A327 Reading Road	6.8
LDP Section B	A327 Reading Road to Showcase Cinema, Winnersh	8.42
LDP Section C	Showcase Cinema, Winnersh to Waggon & Horses Pub, Twyford	6.55
LDP Section D	Waggon & Horses Pub, Twyford to River Thames	8.84

Plan Monitoring and Review

Project Control and Governance:

The Project will be managed by Communities, Heritage & Green Infrastructure team with support from Highways & Transportation. Relevant expertise including procurement/ legal/ Property Services support will be brought in as and when required.

The Project plan is owned by the Project manager and the core delivery team
The progress will be monitored by the monthly project coordination meetings
The project will also be monitored by the Project board with PID and the progress reports.

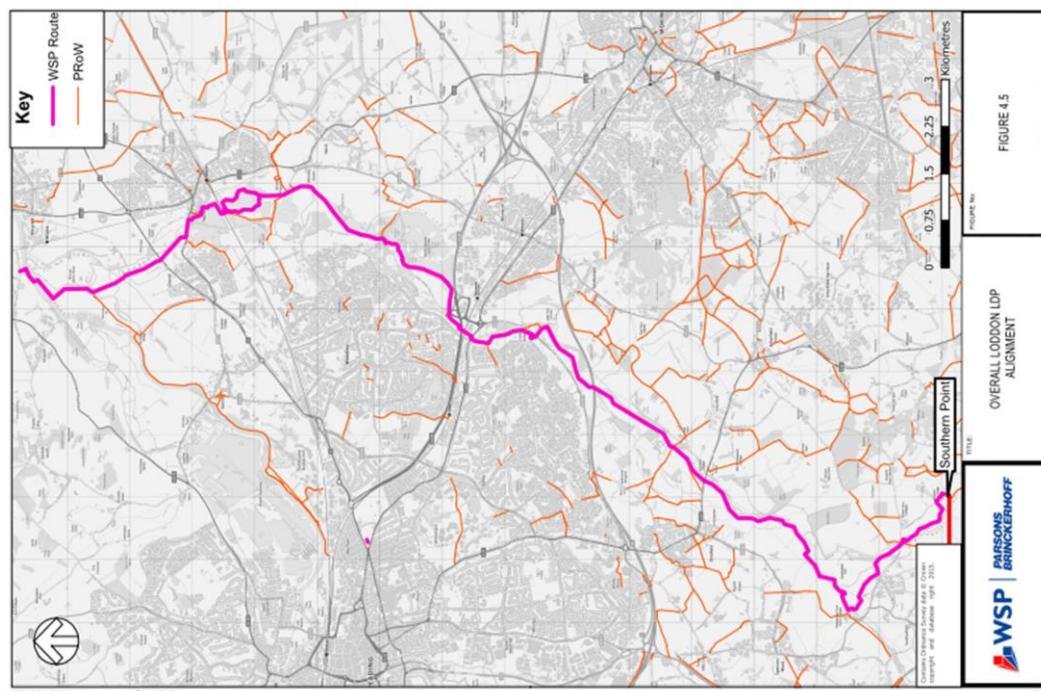
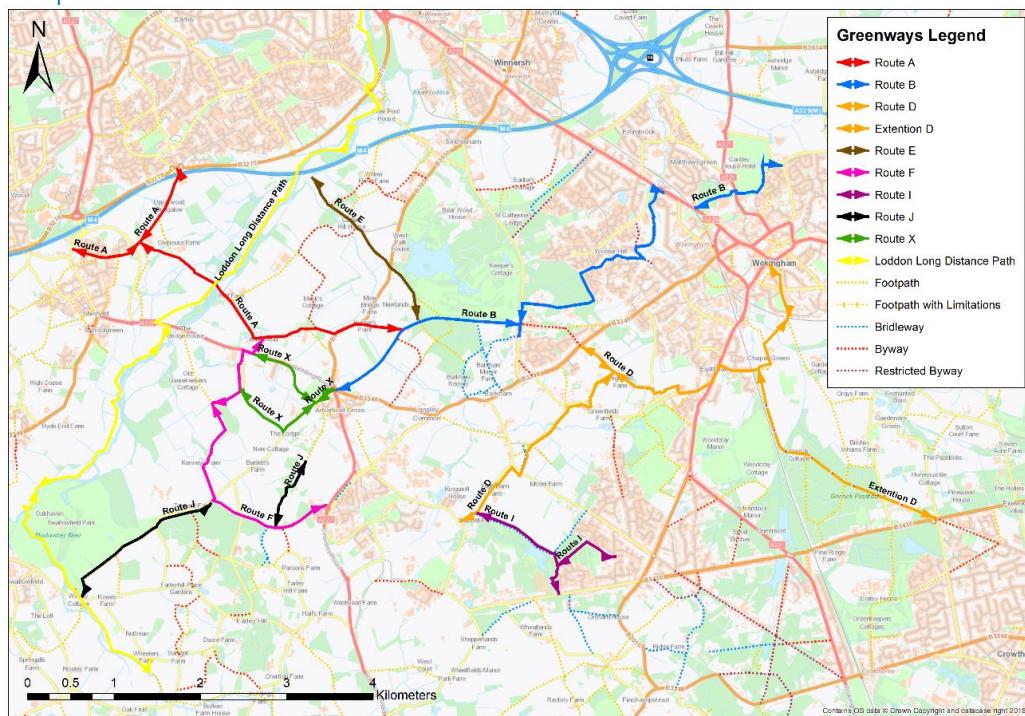
The project has an approved and allocated budget code within Communities and Localities Directorate and managed by Communities, Heritage and Infrastructure team.

Reporting

The Project will be reported to the Project Board who will be accountable for the overall project. The Project manager will coordinate with the Project Team to prepare regular progress reports and will report to the Project Sponsor who will report to and escalate any Risk/ issues if required to seek approval from the Project Board / Executive.

Appendices

Maps



Map 2: River Loddon LDP Greenways routes

Greenways Consultation Report:

The Greenways Consultation feedback for Phase 1 (California Way) is available on the Wokingham Borough Council website and Consultation Feedback report for Phase 2 is in progress and will be published in May 2019.