

Greenways Overall Programme Update

Report to: Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly

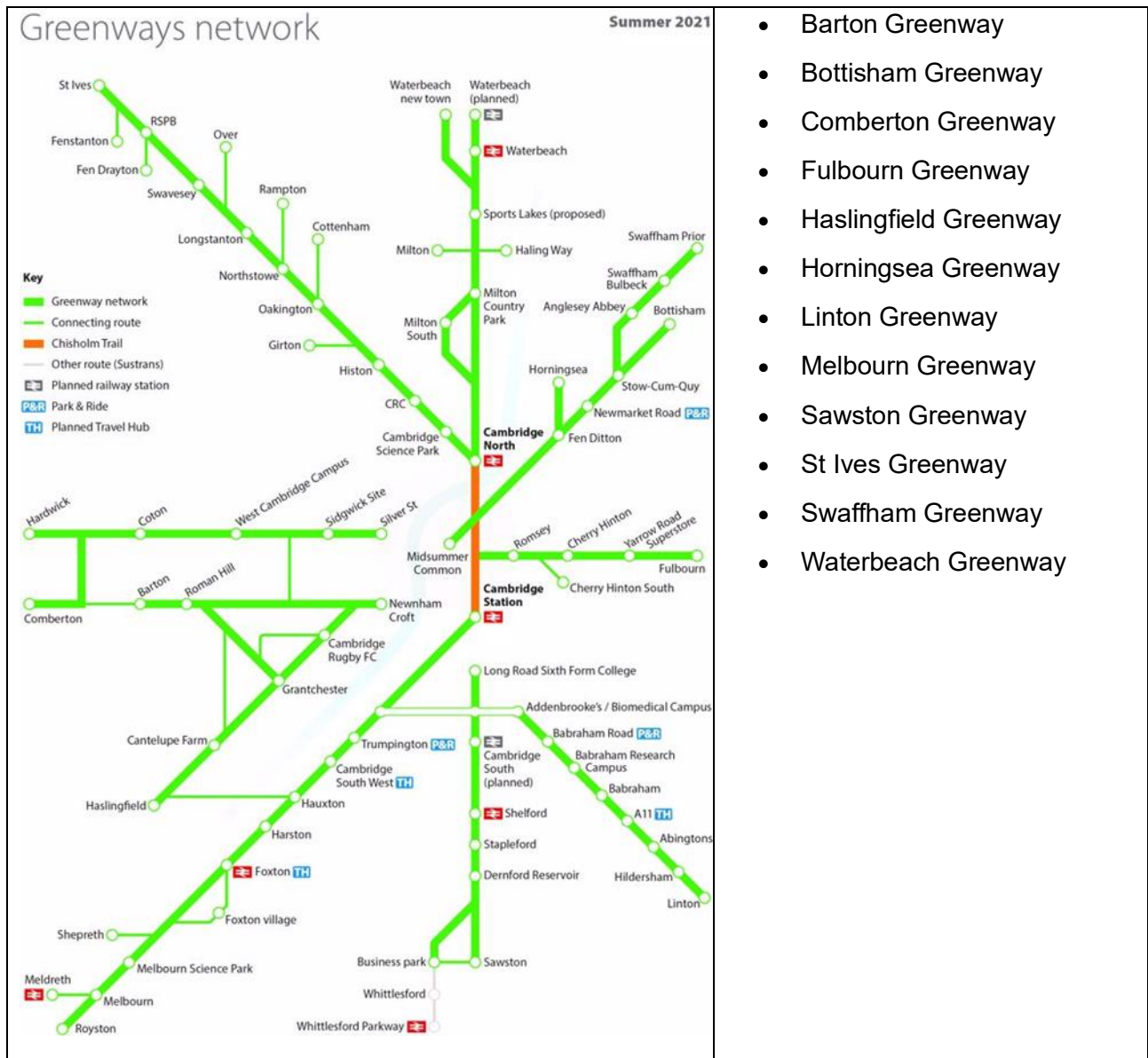
Date: 20 February 2025

Lead Officer: Peter Blake, Interim Director of GCP

1 Background

- 1.1 The creation of an extensive 150km network of Greenways is part of a strategy to encourage commuting by active travel modes into Cambridge city centre from the surrounding villages and settlements within South Cambridgeshire, in a bid to reduce traffic congestion and to contribute towards improved air quality and better public health. The significant programme also provides opportunities for countryside access and leisure.
- 1.2 Greenways are sustainable travel corridors which are intended to make active travel in Greater Cambridge both safer and easier for all abilities. The development of these corridors focuses on the improvement of existing corridors, and also the development of new corridors, in order to create a more connected and cohesive active travel network in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.
- 1.3 The network has the potential to significantly increase access to a range of sites, including planned housing and employment developments at Babraham Research Campus, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Cambridge Northern Fringe, Cambridge Southern Fringe, Cambridge Science Park, Granta Park, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Waterbeach New Town, and West Cambridge (collectively around 10,500 new homes and 19,000 new jobs between 2011 and 2031).
- 1.4 There are a total of 12 Greenway routes being developed, as shown in the network map in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Greenways Network



- Barton Greenway
- Bottisham Greenway
- Comberton Greenway
- Fulbourn Greenway
- Haslingfield Greenway
- Horningsea Greenway
- Linton Greenway
- Melbourn Greenway
- Sawston Greenway
- St Ives Greenway
- Swaffham Greenway
- Waterbeach Greenway

- 1.5 The Greenways will form the basis of a significant active travel network for Cambridge and the surrounding area. It will provide links to already delivered schemes such as the Chisholm Trail, and future projects including the Cycling Plus schemes.
- 1.6 The Joint Assembly is invited to consider and comment on the proposals outlined in section 4 below.

2 Issues for Discussion

Greenways – 2025 programme for delivery

- 2.1 The following table sets out the elements of the Greenways programme which have already been delivered as well as the main works planned during 2025.

Outline Delivery Plan	
Previous Years (Complete)	
Greenways quick wins	<p>Fulbourn Greenway - Cherry Hinton - the Yarrow Road footpath, between Fulbourn Road and just past the Tesco crossing, has been replaced with a 3.5m wide shared use path.</p> <p>Sawston Greenway - Stapleford to Sawston path widening and Resurfacing outside Sawston College.</p> <p>St Ives Greenway - Willingham to the Busway vegetation clearance.</p> <p>St Ives Greenway - Rampton to the Busway, Reynolds Drove byway has been resurfaced.</p> <p>St Ives Greenway - Girton/ Oakington to the Busway, vegetation clearance has taken place and improvements to the path have been made.</p> <p>Comberton Greenway - Sections of the path between Comberton and Barton have been widened.</p> <p>Horningsea Greenway - Improvements have been made to the Wadloes Path including new path edgings, signage and bollards.</p>
Linton Greenway	<p>Addenbrookes to Granham's Road - new signals at Worts Causeway and a new signalised Pedestrian Red Cross Lane completed. Carriageway surfacing renewed from Worts to Addenbrookes Roundabout.</p> <p>Babraham Road Park and Ride to Hinton Way Roundabout - new signalised crossing at Babraham Road Park and Ride and carriageway surfacing at Hinton Way Roundabout.</p> <p>Babraham Institute roundabout and pedestrian crossing through the Babraham Institute to Babraham High Street.</p> <p>Section at Copley Business Park- Widened path.</p> <p>Section at Hildersham High Street and Pampisford Road - New path with a signalised crossing of the A1307.</p> <p>Section at Linton Village College- new signalised junction.</p> <p>Section at The Meadows Linton- widened path.</p> <p>Section adjacent to Dale Head Foods- widened path.</p> <p>Babraham Road Park and Ride to Granham's Road- widened path.</p> <p>Linton Greenway East from Hildersham to Dale Head Foods and West to Linton Road Abington- Widened path.</p>
Comberton Greenway	Comberton Village traffic calming improvements completed including new Zebra crossings and 20mph zone.
Horningsea Greenway	<p>Widening of the path from Fen Ditton Primary School to Horningsea Village.</p> <p>Traffic calming in Horningsea Village.</p>
Melbourn Greenway	Meldreth Link- Improved lighting and widening of the path to Meldreth Station.

2025/26

Summary of work by
Greenway
(Some works are subject to
Traffic Regulation Orders)

Barton Greenway:

- Planning application submitted for the whole of the route.
- Barton Road to Cambridge to be constructed.
- Barton Village works to be constructed.

Bottisham Greenway:

- Planning application to be submitted in early 2025 for the whole route.

Comberton Greenway:

- Adams Road improvements to be constructed.
- Coton Village improvements to be constructed.
- Planning application to be submitted for the rest of the route.

Fulbourn Greenway:

- Fulbourn Phase 1 from Fulbourn to the Yarrow Road Level Crossing to be constructed.
- Fulbourn Phase 2 design to be progressed to consultation.
- Fulbourn Phase 3 to be developed, separate Paper at Agenda Item 1(c).

Haslingfield Greenway:

- Planning Application to be submitted.

Linton Greenway:

- Design work to be progressed for a consultation in 2026 on the proposals for crossing the A11 and the remaining sections east of Linton Village College and from Granta Park to Hildersham.

Melbourn Greenway

- Link to Shepreth to be constructed.
- Remaining sections to have detailed design completed ahead of decision on Full Business Case.

Sawston Greenway

- Genome Path - widening of the existing public right of way to be constructed.
- Section through Stapleford Village to be constructed.
- A1301 Cycle Track.

St Ives Greenway:

- Land negotiations to be concluded on Oakington to Cottenham alongside Detailed Design. Aiming to begin construction by early 2026 subject to approvals in November 2025.
- Fen Drayton – reduced scheme now including an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order.
- Busway Flooding, investigations ongoing.

	<p>Swaffham Greenway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full planning application to be submitted in early 2025. <p>Waterbeach Greenway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section south of the A14 Walking and Cycling Bridge / Cowley Road under construction and will be completed by the spring.• Designs for Milton Village being worked on with stakeholders.• Link through Waterbeach (northern Waterbeach section) to be developed through to the Station.• Detailed design to be completed for section between Milton and Waterbeach.
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2.2 Below are images of works completed during 2024.

Comberton Greenway - Comberton Village, traffic calming:



Melbourn Greenway- Meldreth Link



Linton Greenway- Newmarket Road



Horningsea Greenway- Horningsea Road



Linton Greenway wayfinding trial

- 2.3 The Executive Board agreed in June 2023 to take forward the Wayfinding products for the Greenways as per the below image. These are now in detailed design and the aim is to roll out a trial of the products on the Linton Greenway in Summer 2025. Once in place, feedback will be gathered from the public so that a full set of products can be developed for the entire Greenway network, and Chisholm Trail. This feedback will be reported to the Executive Board.



Melbourn High Street and Meldreth route

2.4 As the Melbourn Greenway has moved forward to its next design stage a number of issues have been raised, both from a road safety and a stakeholder perspective for the designs related to Melbourn and Meldreth villages. These have included the need to change the design from red surfacing to the implementation of speed humps. The change to the design in these areas are necessary to place physical measures in the highway to:

- Address speeding in the villages - maintaining the 20mph speed limit (a practice supported by the Police);
- Provide safer routes and protection for cyclists and pedestrians; and
- Meet Local Traffic Note 1/20 national guidelines for walking and cycling; and
- Prevent routes through villages from being used as a rat run.

Comberton Greenway - Burrell's Walk

2.5 Burrell's Walk is a busy thoroughfare for pedestrians and cyclists as part of a mainly offroad route linking the centre of Cambridge to the University Library and Cambridge West as well as providing access to sports fields and colleges. The current monitoring dataset indicates around 2500 cyclists a day use this part of the Cambridge active travel network. The current bridge over Bin Brook is very narrow, measuring 1.7m wide inside the handrails. This means there is limited space for pedestrians and cyclists to pass and has led to conflict between the user groups.

2.6 Whilst not currently part of the Comberton Greenway it is anticipated a significant proportion of users of the Greenway will access Adams Road via Burrells Walk and it has been identified as an important part of the active travel network within Cambridge. Officers have reviewed the route following a request from Joint Assembly members, and it is proposed the bridge structure is brought within the Comberton Greenway project boundary.

- 2.7 There is currently strong public and stakeholder support for the widening of current facility to create a safer environment for active travel users.
- 2.8 It is therefore proposed that a new, widened bridge over Bin Brook to facilitate easier, safer passage along Burrell's Walk for both pedestrians and cyclists be progressed.

Haslingfield Greenway - Grantchester

- 2.9 The Parish Council is seeking to Judicially Review the decision. The Judicial Review is scheduled to be heard in the Royal Courts of Justice from the 25-27 March 2025.

3 Consultation and Engagement

- 3.1 The overall programme for the Greenways has undertaken significant consultation and engagement. The following will be specific requirements from this report.
- 3.2 Wayfinding - once installed, a survey will be carried out to gather feedback and will inform the next stage of delivery across the network.
- 3.3 Melbourn Greenway - the changes to design will be subject to a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Ahead of this being submitted, engagement will take place with the communities of Melbourn and Meldreth to gather feedback and make any significant required changes.
- 3.4 Comberton Greenway - Burrells Walk - the project team will work with stakeholders and designers to progress initial proposals. The team will also carry out online engagement with relevant stakeholders on the proposals. The outcome of this engagement and updated proposed construction details will be subject to further consideration by the Joint Assembly and Executive Board.

4 Options and Emerging Recommendations

- 4.1 The Joint Assembly is invited to consider the proposals to be presented to the Executive Board and in particular the following recommendations:
- (a) To note the Greenways programme for delivery in 2025.
 - (b) To note the changes to the design for Melbourn and Meldreth villages which will be subject to a TRO.
 - (c) To note the delivery of wayfinding along the Linton Greenway as a trial.
 - (d) To agree to progress development work on Burrell's Walk as part of the Comberton Greenway.

5 Alignment with City Deal Objectives

5.1 The Greenways network will:

- Contribute to securing the continued economic success of the area through improved access and connectivity;
- Contribute to improvements to air quality and enhancements to active travel, supporting a healthier population;
- Contribute to reducing carbon emissions in line with the partners' zero carbon commitments;
- Helping to address social inequalities where poor provision of transport is a contributing factor; and
- Wellbeing and productivity benefits from improving people's journeys to and from employment.

6 Citizens' Assembly

6.1 The Citizens' Assembly members developed and prioritised their vision for transport in Greater Cambridge. The proposals have the potential to complement delivery of the some of the highest scoring priorities:

- Be people centred – prioritising pedestrians and cyclists;
- Enabled interconnection (e.g. north/south/east/west/urban/rural);
- Restrict the city centre to only clean and electric vehicles; and
- Environmental and zero carbon transport.

6.2 The Citizens' Assembly voted on a series of measures to reduce congestion, improve air quality and public transport. The Greenways network will facilitate active travel as a sustainable transport option for commuting to employment sites and in doing so improve air quality.

7 Financial Implications

7.1 Except for the Comberton Greenway (Burrells Walk) all work set out in this report is within the set budget for each project.

7.2 In order to deliver the improvements to Burrells Walk, especially the bridge, additional funding will be required. This will be set out to the Executive Board once the design is completed and costs are clearly understood.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance: Yes.

Name of Financial Officer: Sarah Heywood.

8 Next Steps and Milestones

8.1 Subject to agreement by the Executive Board, officers will take forward the Wayfinding on the Linton Greenway, TRO for Melbourn village and Burrells Walk.

Background Papers

Source Documents	Location
February 2020 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com)
June 2020 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com)
October 2020 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com)
December 2020 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com)
March 2022 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com)
September 2022 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com)
December 2022 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com)
March 2023 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com)
June 2023 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com)
January 2024 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings Calendar
October 2024 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings Calendar
November 2024 Executive Board	Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings Calendar