

Wigan to Standish Cycling and Walking Network, Phase 2. Wigan walking and cycling scheme

Consultation Questions and Queries

<i>You Said</i>	<i>We Listened</i>
<p>Why are we pursuing this scheme?</p>	<p>The existing School Lane to Gidlow Lane Bridleway is already a popular route to walk, wheel, cycle, and ride – but could be even better.</p> <p>The path is often difficult to access, too muddy to use or inaccessible with vegetation blocking the route and uneven surfacing. The route is also popular with horse riders, and the narrow width does not leave enough room for walkers and cyclists to comfortably pass horses.</p> <p>This scheme will make it easier for everyone to make the most of the Borough’s outdoor spaces; better connections between Standish and Wigan; and safer for all users.</p>
<p>What about improvements to Whitley Estate, or Lurdin Lane?</p>	<p>We recognise and appreciate the need not just for great walking, cycling, and riding infrastructure, but for a great network that is properly joined up.</p> <p>This scheme will join up to the Standish Mineral Line to the north, and Wigan to Standish walking and cycling network phase 1 in the south.</p> <p>Further connections along Lurdin Lane, and to Whitley Crescent via the footbridges over the West Coast Mainline are not part of the Wigan to Standish Phase 2 scheme, but the Major Projects Team are always collating ideas and suggestions for future schemes.</p>
<p>How is the scheme funded?</p>	<p>The capital funding to be used to deliver the project is from the Greater Manchester Mayor’s Challenge Fund and Section 106 funding contributed by developers.</p>

	<p>The Mayor's Challenge Fund is a capital grant provided by Greater Manchester and is ring-fenced to be spent on building active travel components of the Bee Network- such as cycle paths. If MCF funds were not invested in Wigan borough, they would be used on active travel improvement elsewhere in Greater Manchester</p>
<p>Who can use the new scheme?</p>	<p>No change is proposed to the range of users that are permitted to use the route.</p> <p>As with any public bridleway, the route is open to users walking, wheeling, cycling, and riding horses. This already includes mobility scooters, e-bikes, and powered wheelchairs, whilst excluding motorbikes, quad bikes, and motor vehicles.</p>
<p>Is the route still accessible for horse riders?</p>	<p>We understand that the horse-riding community use the bridleway and there are no changes proposed to the exclude the equestrian community. As part of the scheme, more width will be provided to make it easier and safer for cyclists and pedestrians to share space with horse riders.</p> <p>We have consulted with the British Horse-Riding Society who advise a top dressing of grit or spray to make a high-friction surface to mitigate skidding, which we will be using.</p>
<p>What type of surface will the path have? Will the same surface be laid along the entire route?</p>	<p>The surfacing for the scheme will be surface dressing on a stone base, very similar to that used on other off-road paths within the borough such as the Standish Mineral Line.</p> <p>Using a top dressing of spray or grit helps to stop horses from skidding and is advised by the British Horse Society.</p>
<p>Concerns around anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>The Council has to balance the needs of all users with the desirability of preventing access by unauthorised vehicles and will consider how best to achieve this through the detailed design of the scheme.</p>

	<p>Accessibility on public rights of way and other public spaces can be an issue for people with disabilities, those with pushchairs or young children, and the elderly.</p> <p>Gates such as A-frames and kissing gates have historically been installed to exclude motor vehicles. However, in doing so they have also excluded many users, including those using wheelchairs, mobility scooters, adapted cycles, and double buggies.</p> <p>Bollards are proposed along the route, to balance the need for accessibility, with the need to protect from anti-social behaviour. As with all Major Projects schemes, we engage with the emergency services and share plans.</p> <p>Once the project is complete, increased usage will provide more natural surveillance, and easier access for officers.</p>
<p>Have the police been consulted about the scheme?</p>	<p>We routinely engage with the emergency services, and all consultation material has been shared with Greater Manchester Police, who have pointed out the benefits of natural surveillance and easier for officers to access Elnup Woods.</p> <p>All emergency services are contacted as part of the consultation and to date no concerns have been raised. We continue to consult GMP as part of all our consultations.</p> <p>In addition to reporting anti-social behaviour to the police, reports can be made on the Council's 'MyAccount' platform which can be accessed at https://forms.wigan.gov.uk/</p>
<p>How wide will the proposed route be?</p>	<p>Public rights of way need to be wide enough for two legal users to comfortably pass each other. This is regarded as two metres for a footpath and three metres for a bridleway.</p>

<p>Will wildlife be harmed during the construction of the scheme?</p>	<p>Some vegetation clearance has already taken place.</p> <p>Over the years some foliage and dead trees have encroached on the bridleway. This scheme proposes clearing this encroachment, along with invasive species which can be dangerous and costly to manage.</p> <p>Woodland management techniques to protect and improve biodiversity are proposed, including coppicing, and keeping dead wood on site to create mini wetlands. Additional planting will be part of the scheme and will be maintained by the Council.</p>
<p>Will the route be lit?</p>	<p>As part of consultation, we are listening to views on the relative merits and drawbacks of lighting the route and considering the impact to nearby residents and wildlife.</p> <p>The proposals do not at present include lighting.</p>
<p>Will there be litter bins along the route?</p>	<p>Litter bins can only be installed where a refuse vehicle has access to empty them.</p> <p>For this scheme bins will be at the start and finish point of the route and will therefore form part of the Council's waste collection route.</p> <p>Once delivered, the scheme will be handed over to the Council's waste management team and vegetation will routinely be managed by the Streetscene team.</p>
<p>What are the council's obligations in order to make the proposed changes to the existing bridleway?</p>	<p>As a bridleway, legislation provides the public with the right to ride bicycles along the route, but in exercising that right, cyclists must give way to pedestrians and persons on horseback.</p> <p>No changes to terms of use are proposed.</p>

	<p>Upgrades to width and surfacing aim to make it easier to pass other users and make the route more inclusive, accessible, and safe for all users.</p>
<p>How will contractors' machinery and vehicles gain access to the site during construction?</p>	<p>The contractors will work in a similar way to how they deliver other off-road schemes, with health and safety being paramount. The equipment used will be appropriate for this type of scheme and we do not foresee any issues with machinery getting to site.</p> <p>Before any works start on site the contractor will issue a letter to residents with further information.</p>
<p>Has a road safety audit (RSA) been done?</p>	<p>A road safety audit will be carried out along the whole route which would identify any potential issues likely to occur and the mitigation required.</p> <p>The project does not include any proposals for changes to the Wigan Road junction. The scheme is to enhance existing bridleway to upgrade Standish and Wigan's walking and cycling network.</p> <p>When leaving the bridleway and joining Wigan Road, as legitimate road users, cyclists and motorists must follow the highway code.</p>
<p>When will the work start and how long will it take to construct?</p>	<p>The works are likely to start in Autumn 2024 and will take approximately 24 weeks to construct.</p> <p>Residents and those affected will be notified by letter in advance of the works.</p>