

CIL project 21: Bushy Lease Active Travel Link

Background

Hampshire County Council's [Local Transport Plan 4](#) (LTP4) sets active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling) front and centre of transport policy in the county. This reflects the growing acceptance that uncontrolled growth of vehicle travel – especially the use of the private car - is unsustainable and has many negative outcomes with respect to health and air quality, and so LTP4 creates a hierarchy reflecting that of the updated [Highway Code](#), with active travel given most priority and private vehicle travel the least.

These changes, together with new design initiatives such as Local Transport Note 1/20 '[Cycle Infrastructure Design](#)' and the emergence of '[Healthy Streets](#)' as a design philosophy, offer mechanisms to create a step change in the quality of active travel facilities in the borough.

In order to encourage and support the growth of active travel in the borough, each of the Council's [Corporate Strategy](#) themes provide mechanisms to deliver improvements – Wellbeing ('Support residents to pursue / achieve active wellbeing'), Pride in Place ('Act to protect the environmental quality in the borough') and Growth ('Enable sustainable development and to support infrastructure improvements in our borough') can all be enhanced by the health and environmental benefits active travel can bring.

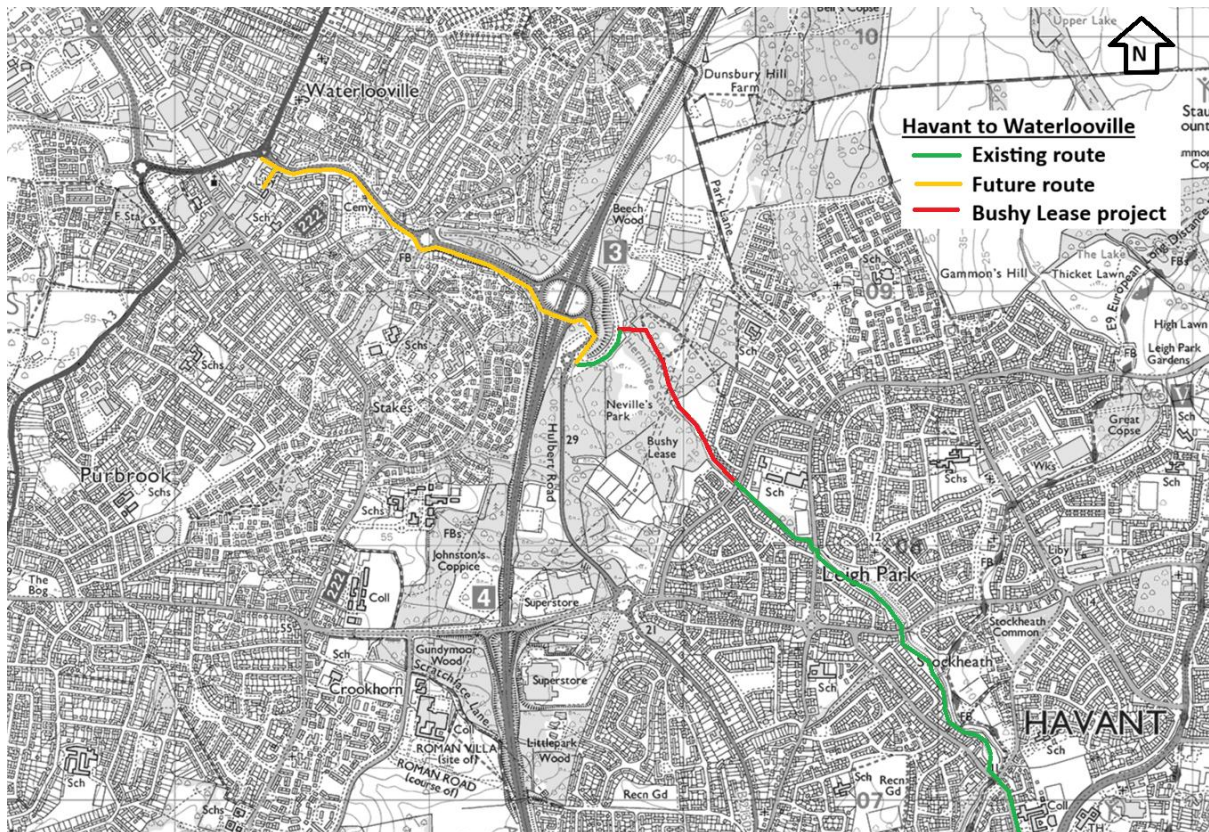
Bushy Lease Active Travel Link is one such scheme, creating a safe new link as part of a route between Havant and Waterlooville town centres away from busy roads.

The Project

At present pedestrians and cyclists wishing to travel between Havant and Waterlooville must use Purbrook Way, Hulbert Road or Park Lane. These routes present distinct challenges for cyclists and pedestrians due to the indirectness of the Purbrook Way route or the lack of a footway on the busy Hulbert Road route. The Park Lane route is a quiet route through Cowplain but is also indirect. Consequently, the number of 'commuting' cyclists in the Borough is low, and this is a missed opportunity to increase the modal shift in favour of more active and sustainable modes of transport such as walking, wheeling and cycling.

This project will aim to address this problem by establishing an 800m long direct route, initially for the benefit of pedestrians but future proofed for later use by cyclists and wheelers, between Park House Farm Way and Fitzwygram Way / Hulbert Road. The new route will include a new bridge across the Hermitage Stream and will form part of a future route to directly link Havant and Waterlooville town centres. Other sections of the route have already been completed in a piecemeal fashion since 2000 to allow largely off-road journeys from Park House Farm Way to Park Road North.

A map showing the Bushy Lease route in relation to other routes in the area can be seen below.



Mapping credit: © Ordnance Survey licence AC0000820867 (2026)

The project involves the creation of a 3m wide stone surfaced path from Park House Farm Way, north-westwards through Ramsdale open space and Bushy Lease, along the route of the existing public right of way before turning west and crossing the Hermitage stream on a new bridge to meet Fitzwygram Way. Where the route passes through the woods, we intend to cut back vegetation up to 3m either side of the path to help us provide a relatively straight route with clear visibility; however mature trees will be retained, with only the brush and understorey being removed.

In order to mitigate the effects of removing this vegetation, we will create a new area of planting to compensate for the loss of the scrub, this will be on the site of the old Ramsdale Avenue play area where the concrete base will be removed, returned to soil, and planted. We will also provide smaller areas of planting along the route, so that the project when complete will provide a [Biodiversity Net Gain](#) score of +13% (the minimum permitted is +10%).

Project funding and cost

The estimated cost for the project inclusive of design fees, surveys, reports and charges, as well as construction, is estimated to be in the range £400k - £500k. Funding is available from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 developer contributions.

Progress to date

Initial vegetation clearance works, to facilitate a topographical survey, were carried out in 2019, and a bat survey commissioned which found that the area was home to protected species. This led to a change in the proposed route which now continues further north along the public right of way, with the new bridge further up the

Hermitage Stream. We have had to renew and extend our ecological and arboricultural survey work to accommodate this new route but in December 2025 we made the necessary planning application for the work to be carried out.

Council officers also met with the Designing Out Crime Officer at Hampshire Constabulary to discuss possible concerns and recommendations so they could be incorporated into the design where practicable.

Once (and assuming) planning permission is awarded we will start to carry out the mitigation work quickly afterwards so that this has a chance to be established during the summer and autumn. After the bird nesting season ends in September, we will then carry out site clearance, ready for the main build to follow. We plan to have the path open for use by the end of winter 2026/27.



Photo 1: parts of footpath 508 have been repaired but still become very wet in winter. The project proposes to widen this path to 3.0m with clearance of the adjacent understorey to open the vista and create an attractive route for users.



Photo 2: the existing right of way (footpath 508) crosses the southern end of Ramsdale Avenue open space. This would be widened to 3.0m and a stone surface added to ensure it was able to be used in all weathers.



Photo 3: due to land shape, it is likely that a small ephemeral wetland will form in the angle between the existing right of way (footpath 508) to the left and the path along the rear of properties in Ramsdale Avenue (to the right), adding interest and supporting biodiversity. Drainage will be provided to allow water in any pool to escape into the Hermitage Stream.



Photo 4: this gate to the rear of properties in Ramsdale Avenue would be removed and replaced with an alternative feature closer to Park House Farm Way. The Hermitage Stream lies to the left, behind the hedgerow, which will remain.



Photo 5: the path will emerge onto Fitzwygram Way between the recently planted trees and the swale (the headwall of which is just visible). The trees in the background are self seeded and will be replaced as part of the mitigation package.