



Greenways



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Greenways are a network of largely car-free off-road routes connecting people to facilities and open spaces in and around towns, cities and to the countryside. They encourage walking and cycling, on safe, high-quality routes that cater for all needs, linking schools, work and leisure, as well as offering a sustainable transport alternative.

Watling Chase Community Forest: The Greenways Project

The Watling Chase Greenways Project is an on-going project within Hertsmere to provide an effective network of greenways around the whole of our borough.

Where is it?

Since the project began in 1999, 11 miles have been created or improved, in addition to the part of the network that already existed.

In addition to the network below, road crossings have been installed at:

- the 'Cloverleaf' crossing of the A41 using the embankment of the M1(the first time in the country that non-motorised users have legally been allowed to use motorway verge which set a precedent countrywide);
- a 'Pegasus' traffic-lighted crossing for shared use by horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians (only the second one in Hertfordshire);
- a 'Dutch ford' crossing of a stream at the bottom of a steep gully approved by the Environment Agency (a new design in Hertfordshire that has now been picked up as a model of good practice by others).

This table shows the key routes developed since 1999

Type	Location	Improved	Created	Length(m)
Right of way	Merryhill, Bushey.		X	1,000

Tylers Farm, Bushey.		X	400
Blackhorse Lane, South Mimms.		X	190
Brookside, South Mimms.	X		2,040
Shenley Bridleway 13, Shenley.	X		1,300
Packhorse Lane, Well End.	X		780
Elstree Aerodrome, Hogg Lane.	X		542
Crab Lane & Commonmeadow Lane, Aldenham.	X		2,804
Saffron Green Greenway, Galley Lane Arkley		X	680
Blackbirds Lane & Aldenham Bridleway 74 Kemp Row 504	X		504
Wash Lane, South Mimms.	X		300


	Shenley Park Bridleway	X	1,500
	'Cloverleaf' crossing		500
	Allum Lane Spinney, Borehamwood.	X	500
Hertsmere			
Park route	Brook Meadow, Haggerston & Leeming Parks, Borehamwood.	X	820
	Parkfields, Borehamwood.	X	1,332
Highway	Blackhorse Lane, Shenley.	X	1,700
	Swanland Road, South Mimms.	X	1,800
Total			18,232
			(11.40 miles)

History of the project

The project began in 1999. A partnership was developed within the Watling Chase area which involved a wide variety of organisations and individuals with an interest in all aspects of the Greenways initiative in order to influence the development of the Watling Chase Greenways project. This initial partnership led to the creation of a Steering Group which including representatives from user groups, individuals and local organisations, ourselves and Hertfordshire County Council. Walkers, cyclists and horse riders worked together to provide their expertise and local knowledge, essential to the successful development of the network.

Independent consultants conducted an assessment, which provided the nature of demand for Greenways from within the local community. This found the main demand was for a network for

leisure activities, with less demand for commuting to work and school. It is estimated that there are five million walking trips and about one million cycling trips made each year in the borough, illustrating the potential for creating a good, high-quality network.

A  [Greenways Strategy \(PDF 3mb\)](#) was developed and published in 2003 for Watling Chase. This provided a 10-year vision for the project and identifies a proposed network of Greenways throughout the borough and in Watling Chase Community Forest.


The overall project is about develop links where people need them, providing shared-use groups such as equestrians, cyclists and walkers, sourcing funding and promoting awareness and support for the concept.

The future

The Watling Chase Greenways Strategy is currently being reviewed to determine whether the routes still meet the Greenways standard of improved width and surface.

Dedicated Greenways sign plates have been approved by the Department of Transport and are being put up as routes are being improved/created and as funds allow. These signs make the routes more visible, accessible and identifiable for all users.

We recognise that it will take many years to see a comprehensive Greenways network established but it is hoped that our commitment, with continued support from the community will allow the vision to be achieved.

If you would like further information, please contact us or email:  local.plan@hertsmere.gov.uk.

Related Pages

1. [Rights of Way](#)

Related External Links

1. [Hertfordshire County Council Rights of Way Maps](#)
2. [Bike Week](#)
3. [Sustrans](#)
4. [Watling Chase Community Forest](#)

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