

Bottisham Greenway - Riverside

Public consultation – frequently asked questions (FAQs)



These FAQs have been prepared to help you to understand our proposals to improve the Riverside section of the Bottisham Greenway.

About the proposals

1. What is Riverside?

Riverside forms part of Bottisham Greenway, one of Greater Cambridge Partnership's (GCP's) greenway routes, which aim to provide safer, more accessible walking, wheeling and cycling routes along the River Cam.

As part of our proposals, we are aiming to create a safer, more accessible and enjoyable through route to the city and its surrounding areas. As part of the enhancements, additional seating and planting will also be provided.

2. What is being proposed at this stage?

At this stage, early designs are being presented to improve the riverside route between Elizabeth Way Bridge and Stourbridge Common. This includes:

- A continuous, minimum two-metre-wide footway along Riverside. Improvements will be made to pedestrian safety, and better cycling routes will be introduced, with measures to slow cyclists in busy areas.
- New seating, planting, cycle parking and public spaces.
- Improved wayfinding, accessibility and lighting to make the route easier to use.

We are seeking feedback on early design proposals for improvements between Elizabeth Way Bridge and Stourbridge Common. These proposals show how the space could work in the future, but they are not the final designs. Your feedback will be used to refine and improve the proposals before moving to the next stage of design.

3. Why are you engaging on this section of the Bottisham Greenway again?

This section of the Bottisham Greenway received a particularly high level of feedback in earlier engagement exercises. In response, we are holding a separate consultation on the Riverside proposals to give local residents and stakeholders a further opportunity to share their views.

4. Why are these changes being proposed?

Riverside is a well-used route alongside the River Cam, however, its current condition does not adequately meet user needs. Existing pathways are too narrow or absent, increasing the risk of collisions between pedestrians and cyclists. Certain sections are underutilised or present safety concerns, while seating and planting areas are limited.

Our objective is to create an accessible and efficient travel corridor that supports people's journeys, while also enhancing the area with seating and planting to create a more enjoyable place to spend time.

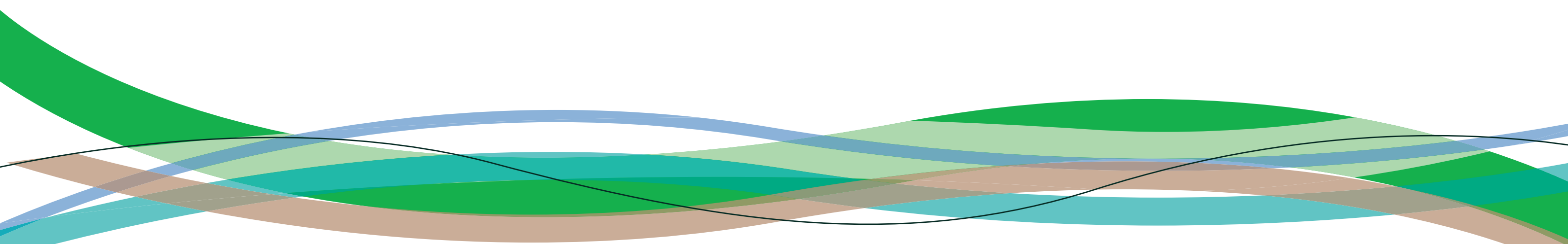
Location and design of the proposals

5. Where will the changes take place?

Our proposals focus on the riverside route from Elizabeth Way Bridge along Riverside, Saxon Road and around Equiano Bridge to Stourbridge Common entrance. The designs are divided into five key areas, each with tailored improvements to walking, wheeling and cycling, widened paths, crossings, planting and seating.

6. Will access along the river be maintained?

Yes. Maintaining access for pedestrians, cyclists and residents, as well as access for cars in certain areas of the route, is an essential part of our proposals. During any future construction phase, access routes will be clearly laid out to minimise disruption.



7. Will vehicles still be able to access Riverside?

Vehicle access will be retained, including for residents, servicing and emergency vehicles. In some locations, changes such as raised tables, shared spaces or one-way sections are proposed to limit speeds and improve safety rather than remove access altogether.

8. How will parking be affected?

To deliver the proposals, certain sections of on street parking are being reviewed. We welcome feedback as part of the consultation process on the extent to which parking is removed or retained as the proposals develop. No final decisions have been made and feedback on parking impacts is an important part of this consultation.

Walking, cycling and accessibility

9. How will pedestrians benefit from the changes?

The proposals are focused on delivering clear benefits to pedestrians enjoying the riverside to enhance their experience of the space. Key features include:

- A continuous footpath beside the river, with wider walkways where possible and safer crossings equipped with tactile paving; this is a type of textured ground surface used in public spaces that helps blind and partially sighted people.
- Extra seating and resting areas so pedestrians can relax and take in the river views, making the space more than just a through route.
- Clearer routes and better wayfinding, and reduced cyclist speeds in crowded areas to improve safety.

10. What benefits will the changes deliver for cyclists? How will cyclists be accommodated?

Cycling will remain an important part of the route in our proposals. The plans will improve safety by delivering clear cycling routes and speed controls where cyclists share space with pedestrians. Our proposals focus on making movement safer and more comfortable for everyone, without restricting access for cyclists.

11. Will the scheme be accessible for people with a range of accessibility and mobility needs, including wheelchair users and people with pushchairs?

Yes. The plans include minimum path widths to support wheelchair and pushchair access, dropped kerbs, and tactile paving. Paths will have smooth, durable, non-slip surfaces. Features such as seating with backs and armrests will make the area more comfortable for everyone. The design team welcomes feedback on accessibility, particularly where improvements could be made.

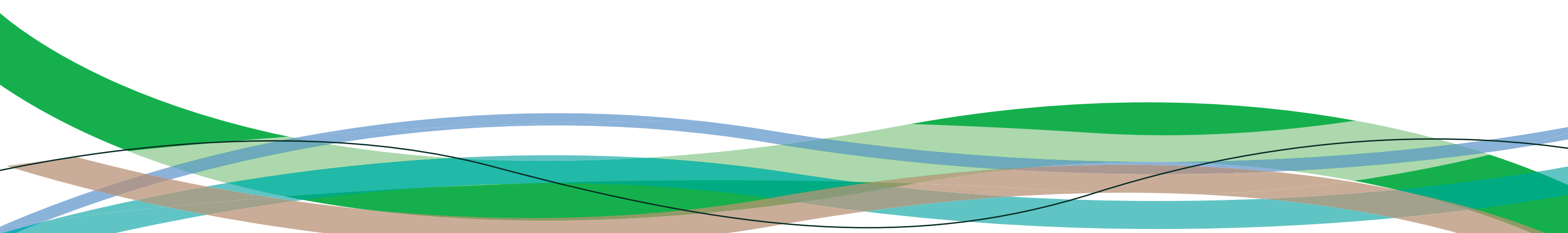
Public space, environment and character

12. Will the riverside become greener?

Yes. The design proposals aim to improve greenspace and nature along the River Cam. Plans include planting wildflowers and keeping current trees and vegetation wherever feasible. Biodiversity will also be enhanced with green verges to make it feel more attractive and welcoming. Planting has been carefully considered to benefit wildlife, while still being easy to maintain.

13. Will there be seating and dedicated rest areas along the route?

New seating is planned along the route, placed at regular intervals to provide opportunities for rest. Our proposals will include inclusive seating and will be positioned to optimise views of the river and commons, while select areas are designed to encourage small public spaces for community gatherings and socialising.



Safety and environment

14. How will safety be improved by the proposals?

Safety is a key focus in all our proposals to help everyone enjoy using Riverside. By widening walkways, lowering speeds for cyclists and vehicles, and enhancing visibility at crossings, the likelihood of accidents among those walking, wheeling and cycling can be reduced. Additionally, clearer route layouts aim to offer greater visibility and safety along the corridor.

15. Will the proposals impact flooding or drainage?

The proposals are being designed to avoid increasing flood risk and to manage surface water appropriately. Drainage has been carefully considered in the development of the Riverside section of the Bottisham Greenway with the current design focused on improving surface water management. The plans include extended drainage channels, elevated surfaces (where necessary), and materials specifically chosen for riverside environments.

Consultation and next steps

16. Is this the final design?

No. These are the early proposals for improving the riverside route between Elizabeth Way Bridge and Stourbridge Common as part of the Bottisham Greenway and are expected to evolve in response to your feedback. Input from the public will help refine designs, identify local issues and opportunities, and inform future detailed design stages.

17. How can I give my feedback on the proposals?

We encourage you to share your thoughts on our proposals. The consultation will run for six weeks until 11.59pm on Monday 13 July 2026.

You can give feedback by completing our online survey at www.greatercambridge.org.uk/riverside or by sending written comments directly to hello@greatercambridge.org.uk. Paper copies of the questionnaire are available and can be returned to: **Greater Cambridge Partnership, PO Box, 1493, Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB1 0YR.**

18. What happens after the consultation?

After the six-week consultation, responses will be analysed with a report summarising the feedback received sent to the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board for a decision on whether to proceed to the next stage of design.