

Wigan to Standish Phase 2 – FAQs



<i>You Said</i>	<i>We Listened</i>
How is the scheme funded?	The funding is from the Greater Manchester Mayor's Challenge Fund.
When are the works scheduled?	The contractor, Eric Wright, are delivering the scheme and will be on site from late August 2024. Works are expected to conclude in Spring 2025.
How can I get in touch with the contractor?	<p>Eric Wright can be reached over the phone at 07815 007928 or via email at gregb@ericwright.co.uk.</p> <p>The Major Projects team at Wigan Council can be contacted via email at majorprojects@wigan.gov.uk</p>
Are paths along the route still open?	Areas of works will be fenced off for safety purposes. Diversion maps are in place and can be found pinned up at key locations.
Why is investment going to this part of the network, rather than being spent elsewhere?	<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</p>

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	<p>connections between Standish and Wigan; and safer for all users.</p> <p>The Mayor's Challenge Fund is a capital grant provided by Greater Manchester and is ring-fenced to be spent on building the active travel component of the Bee Network. If MCF funds were not invested in Wigan, they would be used on active travel improvement elsewhere in Greater Manchester.</p>
What about improvements to elsewhere?	<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 are not planned, but the Major Projects Team are always collating ideas and suggestions for future schemes.</p> <p>The Major Projects team are always looking for more sources of funding to improve walking and cycling across the Borough. You can send suggestions to us at major.projects@wigan.gov.uk</p>

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Who can use the new scheme?	<p>No change is proposed to the range of users that are permitted to use the route.</p> <p>As with any traffic free route, the route is well used by those 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>
Is the route still accessible for horse riders?	<p>Yes. There will be no changes to the existing user groups that enjoy the route.</p>
What type of surface will the path have? Will the same surface be laid along the entire route?	<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>
Concerns around anti-social behaviour	<p>The Council must 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,</p>

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	<p>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>
Have the police been consulted about the scheme?	<p>We routinely engage with emergency services, and all consultation material has been shared with the police.</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. 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>

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Will there be litter bins along the route and who will keep the new path clean?	Litter bins can only be installed where a refuse vehicle has access to empty them. No bins will be provided along the scheme.
Will the route be lit?	Solar studs will be installed at regular intervals as part of the scheme. These will lay flush with the track bed and support wayfinding.
Will wildlife be harmed during the construction of the scheme?	<p>Some vegetation clearance has already taken place.</p> <p>Over the years some foliage and dead trees have encroached on the route. 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 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>

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How will contractors' machinery and vehicles gain access to the site during construction?

The contractors, Eric Wright, have experience delivering other Wigan Council off-road schemes, with health and safety being paramount.

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