

Project Update

St Helens Active Travel Scheme

For any further information or queries please email:
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The St Helens Road Active Travel Scheme aims to create a safe and efficient cycling corridor along the western side of St Helens Road. The works feature a new bi-directional segregated cycle route which will require alterations to the existing street layout, incorporating environmental improvements to pavements and footway surfaces. The works include improvement of footway facilities with toucan crossings to be implemented at existing crossing points by Bonnywell Road and West Bridgewater Street. Works started on Monday 30th September, with the aim for completion by Easter 2025.

Work Carried Out In July

The works were finally completed in July, including the new flexi-pave footpath at the compound, linking the new cycleway with the linear park. The new pedestrian crossings have been commissioned and just awaiting the installation of the bus shelter opposite the car wash.

There is still some minor snagging work to be completed (i.e. clearing up the compound area and installation of trees at West Bridgewater St), so a skeleton crew will be on site for another week or so finishing this off, but the road, footpath and cycleways are all open and functioning as they should.

This was a trial scheme, trying to get all the buried services diverted and/or upgraded at the same time as the new cycleways were constructed to reduce the overall time and minimise disruption. Whilst a good idea in theory, the issues the Statutory Authorities had with their work, and lack of our control over their programmes, meant that in practice it was difficult to coordinate our plans and work efficiently.

Despite these challenges, the scheme has provided valuable learning opportunities. We will be working with Wigan Council to reflect on the lessons learned. The insight gained from this scheme will help inform the planning and delivery of future projects, particularly in relation to multi-agency coordination and traffic management strategies.

