



Foss Islands Path Improvements

Hello,

We're writing to let you know about some improvements we're making to a path near you.

In April 2024 Sustrans will begin work to improve the multi-user route known as the Foss Islands Path between Wigginton Road, Clifton and Hallfield Road, Layerthorpe.

The purpose of the scheme is to improve access for all legitimate users including users of wheelchairs, mobility scooters, adapted bikes and those with prams and pushchairs or on horseback, as well as making the route easier to share and use for everyone. This will be achieved by:

- Removing or redesigning barriers,
- widening and reprofiling access points,
- resurfacing and widening the path,
- improving waymarking,
- and addressing the flooding issue on the path to the west of Faber Street.

The Foss Islands Path is an important active travel route in the north of York connecting residents to places of work, education and leisure including shops and industrial units in Layerthorpe, the Nestlé factory and York Hospital in Clifton and schools in the area. The route also serves to connect communities along its length, providing a traffic-free walking, wheeling and cycling corridor linking residents in the suburbs in the north of the city.

While the route is popular for pedestrians and cyclists, it is not equally accessible to everyone. Users of wheelchairs, mobility scooters and adapted bikes can find access challenging, as can those with larger prams and pushchairs due to narrow barriers and difficult access points. To address these issues, barriers will be removed or redesigned to provide a gap of 1.5m or more in line with the latest government guidelines (LTN 1/20) and accesses will be reprofiled to allow for easier access to non-standard cycles.

As the popularity of walking and cycling has increased, more and more people are travelling along the path, so at busy times it can be difficult to share the space safely. We expect that new housing developments close to the route including The Cocoa Works in Clifton and The Gas Works in Heworth will see a further increase in the route's popularity when complete. To cater to this increase in users, the path will be widened to 4m where possible, providing more space for a wider range of users to safely pass one another and allow the route to be used as a social space where people can travel side by side. In addition, a smooth tarmac surface will be laid providing more comfortable journeys for all. Finally, we will improve wayfinding on the path by installing new signage at junctions where it is currently missing or damaged.

Work will begin in April 2024, and is expected take around ten weeks to complete (subject to delays). Due to the nature of the work, closures and diversions will be in place to keep our colleagues, contractors, and members of the public safe. Details of diversions have not yet been finalised, however we will be providing updates on this and the wider project on our [Sustrans North Facebook page](#), as well as on a [dedicated project webpage](#). We will also be holding a drop-in information event at the [York Hospital Sports and Social Club](#) in Clifton on Saturday 13th January, 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm, where you can speak to staff about the project.

We are looking to involve community groups in the project through activities such as wildflower sowing, tree planting, walks, and rides on the path following its completion. If you would like to get involved, please let us know by contacting us using the details below.

This work is being funded by the Department for Transport, and forms part of our Paths for Everyone vision of a UK-wide network of traffic-free paths for everyone, connecting cities, towns and countryside, loved by the communities they serve. Find out more by visiting [our website](#).

[**Find out more about the improvements**](#)

If you have any questions or comments about the project, you can reply to this email or contact us at englandnorth@sustrans.org.uk

Kind regards,

The Foss Islands Path Project Team