

Wirral Way Widening Scheme



Wirral Country Park has been awarded a Capital Bid to undertake widening of approximately 1,800 metres of the 6 mile Wirral Way managed by Wirral Council between West Kirby and Gayton. The project is being undertaken to improve public safety along the shared pedestrian and National Cycle Route recognising both a general increase in visitor numbers over the last few years and a large increase in visitor numbers since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The surfaced path will be widened by up to 1 metre along three of the narrowest sections between:

- Sandy Lane Bridge to York Avenue Footpath (West Kirby)
- Simons Bridge to Dawpool Nature Reserve access (Caldy/Thurstaston)
- Delavor Road Bridge to Davenport Road (Lower Heswall)

Woody vegetation will be removed for access to the adjacent open ditches that will be redug and culverted allowing for more surface water to be drained from the path as we expect future increased rainfall as a result of climate change. Existing bridges over the ditches will not be required and will be removed providing safer access for homeowners who have direct access onto the Wirral Way. The verges either side of the surfaced path will be managed to increase biodiversity along the route and to improve the visitor experience at the award winning Green Flag and Natural England designated country park.

An Environmental Impact Assessment and drainage inspection has been undertaken for each section and the project meets the aims and objectives of:

- Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
- Wirral Country Park Masterplan 2018: The Renaissance of a Country Park
- Cool2: A Strategy for Wirral in the Face of Global Climate Emergency
- Wirral Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

The Wirral Way Widening Scheme meets Wirral Council's commitment to tackling the ecological and climate crisis, creating opportunities locally to improve quality of life, health, well-being and the economy. As well as encouraging sustainable transport and healthy lifestyles the Wirral Way Widening Scheme will enhance the natural environment and take into account the effects of climate change.

The work for the scheme is looking to start on 4 January 2022 and will be ongoing until Spring 2022.

For further details about the scheme please email wcp@wirral.gov.uk