Travel by-cycle around Gloucestershire
This year we will complete a £1.3 million upgrade to the canal towpath linking Hardwicke to Gloucester city centre. We will shortly begin work on £1 million of GFirst LEP funded cycleway improvements connecting Aylburton, Lydney town centre, Lydney station, Dean Academy and residential areas.

We are currently supporting Highways England with their design and consultation plans for a £3.6 million route between Cheltenham and Gloucester that is due to be built in 2020. Looking further ahead we are developing a £3 million scheme between Bishop’s Cleeve and Cheltenham.

To help us identify missing links and plan future routes we are investing £30,000 on developing a digital map of our existing cycle network, with information on the extent and condition of our on-road cycle lanes, off-road dedicated cycle routes and shared routes.

Gloucestershire County Council is committed to improving its cycle network and is developing a £9 million package of improvements to make it easier to cycle across the county.

At a strategic level making more trips by bike will help us to reduce transport emissions that contribute to climate change. At a local level cycling helps to reduce congestion and improve local air quality. On an individual level it is good for our personal health and well being.

Our ambition is to deliver a safe cycling route around the county within the next five years and ‘to make cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys’. We want to develop a high quality cycle network across Gloucestershire which connects our communities and encourages confidence in cycling for leisure, work, school and health.

We have nearly 300 miles of dedicated cycle routes in Gloucestershire and 4.5% of trips to work are by bike, which is almost twice the national average. However, we aspire to do better than this; our vision is for more people to be able to cycle off road where possible between the urban areas of Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud; and in due course the Cotswolds and Forest.

We know that parish and town councils play a vital role in our communities and we hope that our plans for cycle route improvements will encourage further investment in local areas.

Councillor Vernon Smith
Cabinet Member
Highways and Flood
The benefits of cycling and the role of the cycle network

- Most of the county’s population could reach key services, jobs and education by bike, as distances are typically less than 5km - a comfortable cycling distance.
- The highway network is vital to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Gloucestershire.
- Gloucestershire County Council as Local Highway Authority is responsible for maintaining the highway network, including cycle ways.

The wheel of success

The £9m investment package is the beginning of our ambition to provide safe cycling routes in Gloucestershire and aims to encourage cycling as a natural choice for local trips, or as part of an onward journey.

Did you know...

- The percentage of cycle to work trips in Gloucestershire (4.5%) is above the national average (2%).
- Around 550 cyclists use Newtown cycle track every day.
- On average, cyclists live two years longer than non-cyclists.
- Moderate pedal pushing burns up to 500 calories per hour, which is more than walking or swimming.
- By cycling three miles to work every weekday, you’ll achieve your recommended amount of activity without ever having to go to a gym.
- 5-18 year olds need at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Cycling the school run is an easy way to achieve this.
- Cycling will save you and your family a small fortune, and can save travel time.
- Physical activity can increase energy, positive mood, self-esteem, as well as reducing stress and anxiety.
- Those who cycle can experience five times less pollution levels than those who travel by car.
Case study 1: Cycle lane improvements, Cheltenham
- Allowing cyclists to ride both ways along Sandford Mill Lane
- Coloured cycle lane with raised separator to improve safety
- Scheme completed in October 2017
- Amount invested in scheme: £40k

Case study 2: Honeybourne Line, Cheltenham
- This is the second busiest cycle route in the county and runs from Cheltenham train station to the Prince of Wales Stadium and Pittville Park
- Built between 2002 and 2006 with funding from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and GCHQ
- In 2020 it will be extended to the A40 Lansdown Road with £900k funding from the GFirst LEP Growth Deal, GCC, developers and GWR

Case study 3: Gloucester Canal towpath upgrade
- Upgrade to the 5.6km of canal towpath between High Orchard Bridge, Gloucester and the Pilot Inn, Harwick
- The Canal and River Trust began construction in May 2018. The first phase has been completed (between Midsummer Walk and Rea Bridge) with works expected to extend as far as the Pilot Inn before March 2020
- Amount invested in scheme: £1.3m, which includes up to £600k of developer contributions, £635k European Structural and Investment funds and £250k from Gloucestershire Environmental Trust

Case study 4: Newtown cycle track, Tewkesbury
- Newtown cycle track, in Tewkesbury, is one of the busiest cycle routes in the county, with around 550 cyclists using it every day
- The cycle track is a core traffic free spine route for people, especially school children and commuters, to walk and cycle between key destinations
- This cycle track links Tewkesbury town and Ashchurch, as well as connecting to lots of places in-between. It has been developed over the last 20 years and, more recently, there has been an investment of £106k on surface improvements on this well-loved section of Tewkesbury’s cycle network.
Ride as much or as little, as long or as short as you feel. But ride.

*Eddy Merckx*

Cycling to work is an important issue for business – the more who do it, the more our communities will support it. Healthy and green, cycling is worthy of the support of every business in the land.

*Sir Digby Jones, former director general of the Confederation for British Industry*

One of the most important days of my life, was when I learned to ride a bicycle.

*Michael Palin*

An engineer designing from scratch could hardly concoct a better device to unclog modern roads – cheap, nonpolluting, small and silent....

*Rick Smith, International Herald Tribune*