

Newent - Gloucester Cycleway

This proposal from Newent Cycling Group (NCG) has been planned, researched and developed over ten years.

It seeks to create two crucial link routes to bring safe commuting and recreational cycling between Newent and Gloucester. The route will significantly improve connections with the Forest of Dean and the Sustrans National Cycle Network (NCN routes 41 and 45) in and around Gloucester. It will further attract recreational cyclists and allow commuters to enjoy some of the best cycling experiences in the country.



Hooks Lane Link and Hartpury - Maisemore Greenway

The proposed **Newent to Gloucester Cycleway** will connect existing roads safe for cycling with two new links: one at Hooks Lane (at Malswick, east of Newent), the other between Murrell's End (near Hartpury University and College) and Maisemore. The proposed route covers a distance of 10.2 miles.

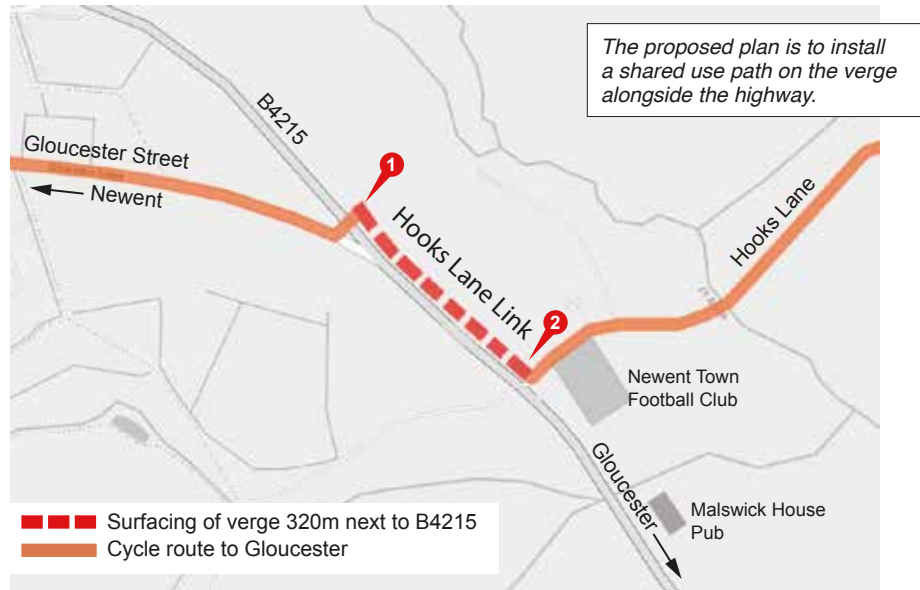
The proposal is supported by Mark Harper MP, Richard Graham MP, Gloucestershire County Council Highways and the Public Rights of Way Team, Hartpury University and College, CPRE Gloucestershire, Disabled Ramblers, Hartpury Heritage Trust, Hartpury Church, Newent Town Football Club, Leadon Vale Cycling Club, Gloucester City Cycling, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust, Hartpury Parish Council, Upleadon Parish Council, Highleadon and Rudford Parish Council, Newent Town Council, District Councillors, County Councillors Gill Moseley and Phil Awford, and, Sustrans the sustainable transport charity.

Local cyclists using a quiet lane near Newent (picture taken pre Covid regulations)



Hooks Lane Link

The B4215 route between Newent and Gloucester is a treacherous road for all but the most seasoned cyclists. The proposed route offers a safe and accessible alternative by means of these two crucial links.



1. Start of cycleway opposite junction, verge 3 metres wide
2. End of cycleway, verge 1.8 metres wide

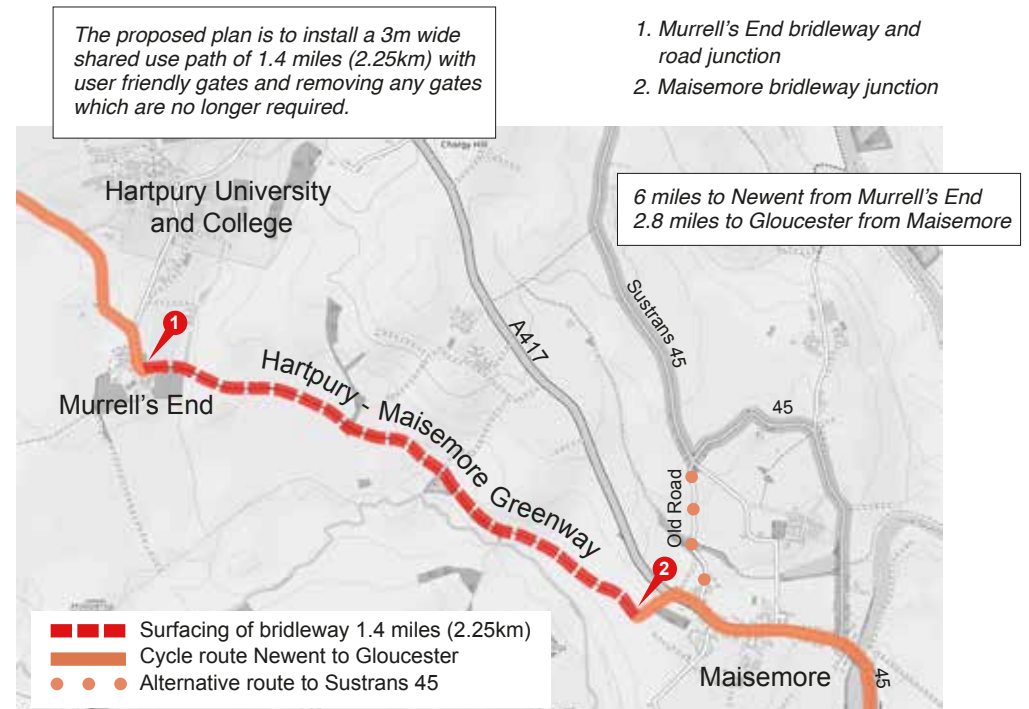
The first link is at Hooks Lane where there is a dangerous 320 metre section of the road which needs a dedicated cycle/pedestrian path. In 2010 Sustrans Area Manager Rupert Crosbee surveyed this stretch and estimated a cost of around £35,000 for the construction of a cycle/pedestrian path alongside.

Since then, we have been working with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways Manager, Andrew Middlecote, on improvements to the adjacent junction into Newent. He reported to NCG in March 2020 that his consultants have a design for this extremely high profile stretch of road. The next stage is a topographical survey still in process because of delays caused by Covid, and then costings. It is essential to the creation of the Hooks Lane Link that any new junction will incorporate significantly safer crossing for cyclists and pedestrians.

Hartpury - Maisemore Greenway

The second link is a Greenway between Murrell's End (near Hartpury University and College) and Maisemore avoiding a dangerous stretch of the A417. The bridleway is already used by walkers, horse riders and off-road cyclists, however NCG now proposes improving the surface. This work would extend its use to cyclists of all kinds, wheelchair users, mobility scooters and pushchairs. There is no need or intention to create any new public rights of way when implementing this proposal and it will remain an offence to take a motorised vehicle on the Greenway without lawful authority.

NCG is working on the project with the Public Rights of Way Officer, Suzanne Hopes. Landowners were consulted on the proposal in the early stages and we are committed to keeping them informed at significant points of the project, particularly when implementing works on the ground.



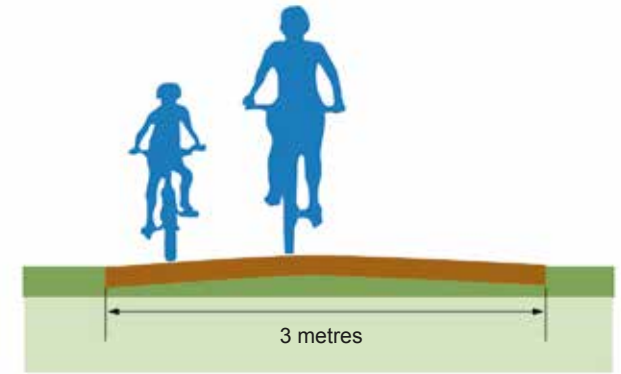
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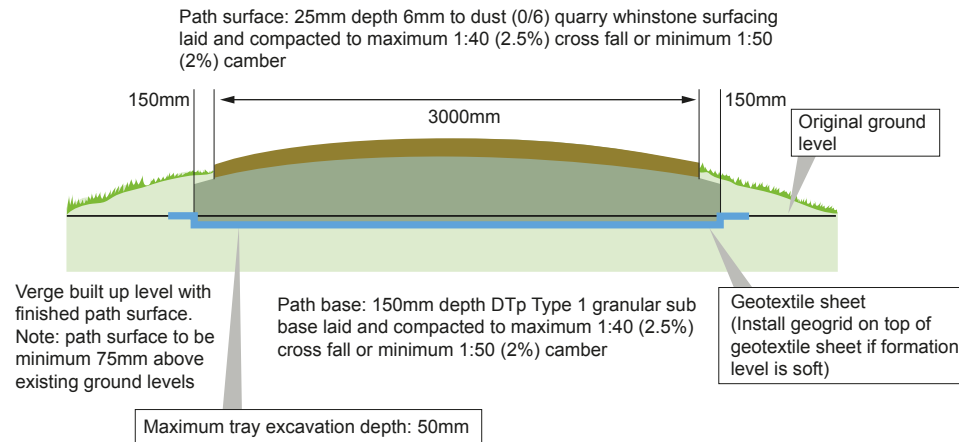
B4215/Gloucester Street junction near Newent.
The cycle/walking path would be on the left and following the hedge for 320 metres



Section of Hartpury - Maisemore bridleway to be surfaced



Showing ample spacing for other users and horse riders



Hartpury - Maisemore Greenway

More about Newent Cycling Group

In 2015 NCG successfully bid for £11,000 of GCC Active Together funding to set up the Newent Loop. This 28 mile circular leisure cycling route along quiet country lanes is fully signposted and connects with the Ledbury Loop. It is highly-acclaimed and has turned Newent into a thriving hub for cyclists (see newentloop.org).

For further information, please contact:
info@newentcyclinggroup.org.uk

