

LUCY'S MILL BRIDGE

IMPROVED FOOT & CYCLE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER AVON IN STRATFORD UPON AVON AND ASSOCIATED LINKING NETWORK OF ROUTES

Project Brief, Sustrans' Methodology and Offer

1.00 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.01 Lucy's Mill Bridge is an existing bridge over the River Avon that does not provide access for cyclists or wheelchair users. At present only stepped access exists and the bridge width and parapet height are substandard.
- 1.02 Stratford upon Avon is a medium sized town located in rural Warwickshire some 20 miles from Birmingham but as well as a population of around 25,000 people Stratford sees a annual visitor numbers of over 4 million. Local residents and visitors would benefit from improved access to Lucy's Mill Bridge along with a wider and more coherent network of cycle routes.
- 1.03 The aim of this project is to:
- a) Identify options for improving access to and over the River Avon at Lucy's Mill.
 - b) Ensure these proposals incorporate existing linkages and give consideration to future developments.
 - c) Examine issues and propose solutions to enhancing the existing network of routes to and from the bridge.
 - d) Identify how new routes could form part of a tourist trail to enhance the visitor experience and provide new attractions.
 - e) Appraise opportunities for artwork along the existing and new routes, which link to the new bridge design.
- 1.04 There is strong support for a new bridge over the River Avon and local residents association Stratford Voice has been campaigning for a number of years to seek support for the bridge. Stratford Voice has also conducted a survey of bridge users, which demonstrates the strong local strong support. More background reading can be found on Stratford Voice's website: <http://www.stratfordvoice.org.uk/contentok.php?id=791>

2.00 SCHEME OBJECTIVES

- 2.01 The brief is to undertake a feasibility study for the construction of a new bridge that will allow access for cycles, pushchairs and wheelchair users. Also, the brief will identify Greenways and linking cycle routes that will provide a network into the town and residential areas.
- 2.02 The Greenways are an integral part of the initiative to improve outdoor recreation opportunities and to promote healthier lifestyles and access to the river. They can also be part of an enhanced tourist offer to visitors providing a circular route from the town into other important but less visited areas.

2.03 A Feasibility Study of the proposed routes, to include the identification and assessment of potential links to the town centre, local schools, residential areas, workplaces, parks and open spaces, the River Avon and the canal.

2.04 Consideration will be given to artwork to provide a visitor trail linked with the well know town attractions that also improves public spaces for the resident community.

2.05 The main issues that have been identified as being key to taking this project forward are:

- Examine issues and propose solutions for a new walking and cycling bridge over the River Avon at Lucy’s Mill Bridge.
- Our intention would be to construct a new bridge at the present location providing Environment Agency, Highway Authority and private landowner requirements can be met.
- Identify ecological issues which will need to be considered as part of new bridge plans.
- Examine issues and develop a strategy that will gain approval from Environment Agency.
- Identify land issues, such as ownership and land take for the bridge footprint.
- Provide budget estimate costs to construct a new bridge and associated cycle links.
- Examine and propose a coherent plan for development of pedestrian and cycle links to the town centre, residential areas and leisure facilities. This needs to be prioritised so that future funding coming forward in the near future can be allocated for maximum benefit.
- Identify opportunities for art trail and tourism opportunities

2.06 Sustrans will report to a Project Team that comprises:

Lloyd Beesley	Stratford Voice	

The contract for the work will be let by ????? and the work will be led by the Stratford Voice.

3.00 PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

3.01 Methodology

Sustrans has a great deal of experience in delivering walking and cycling route feasibility studies. A recent example of such a study is been provided with this brief and shows the design quality and level of detail that can be expected. It can be downloaded here:

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/6278375/Bennerley%20A3%5B1%5D.pdf>

All proposals made within the study will reflect the standards and current best practice as set out by National Cycle Network guidance (Sustrans), Cycle Infrastructure Design (Department for Transport), and the Cycling England Design Checklist. As such the designs will have the vital core design principles in mind: convenience, accessibility, safety, comfort and attractiveness.

In preparation of proposals, Sustrans will:

1. Consider design for the bridge so that it reaches a minimum standard in compliance of the Equalities Act 2010 to ensure there is access for all users.
2. Consider design for the bridge so that it complies with Environment Agency (EA) standards and would gain approval from the EA.
3. Consider ecological information and report on issues (see appendix A for methodology).
4. Detail information on various locations for the bridge and develop proposals that incorporate consideration of landownership, rights and neighbouring landowners.
5. Consider planning policy so that the bridge design reflects its location.
6. Identify key constraints and benefits for the chosen design options.
7. Assess the feasibility and usefulness of proposed routes, and identify any technical issues.
8. Recommend routes that would provide enhanced opportunities for residents to travel more sustainably.
9. Recommend routes that would provide an enhanced offer for tourists to Stratford upon Avon.
10. Identify access points and links to local facilities.
11. Develop preliminary design conforming to National Cycle Network Design Guidelines.
12. Provide details of artwork and arts trail that could be developed alongside the new bridge proposals to link the town and the bridge into a new cycle network.
13. Feedback preliminary bridge designs and route alignments to Stratford Voice in XXXXX for consideration as part of feasibility process.
14. Advise on aspects of design and provide a cost estimate of works required to provide the bridge and off-road sections of the route including construction, land acquisition, legal fees and ongoing maintenance.
15. Gain feedback on proposals from the Project Team and stakeholders and finalise draft document in XXXXX.
16. Identify and consider existing land ownership of the proposed routes, and make initial contact with the landowners where appropriate and instructed to do so by the Project Team. Make any necessary adjustments as a result of landowner consultations and re-finalise document.
17. Submit final document to Stratford Voice in XXXXX so that it can be used to secure funding for the bridge and associated works and also provide a body of

evidence to local authority partners which demonstrate the validity of various options.

3.02 Actions and Deliverables

The outputs should include:

- Bridge feasibility designs to a standard that will inform full engineering design.
- Alignment drawings and typical cross sections
- Report on actions identified above and ecological issues
- Land ownership drawings
- Cost estimates
- Consultation feedback
- Advise to help raise funding for the project

4.00 SUSTRANS OFFER

4.01 Requirements for completion of the work contained within this brief

The fee for carrying out the work contained in the Methodology above will be £10,000 + VAT.

In order to carry out this work we will need the following:

1. An official order to do the work contained within this brief.
2. As much land owner details as possible preferably marked on a plan and details of known historical problems.
3. As much historical information and previous reports, studies, evidence that has been undertaken in the past.

4.02 Project Implementation

Sustrans are able to assist Stratford Voice in realising the proposals made in the feasibility study by the provision of other services. These include:

1. Involvement with ongoing steering group meetings.
2. Negotiations with landowners.
3. Assistance with planning applications.
4. Cost effective construction services for off-road sections of route.
5. Recruit, manage and motivate volunteer rangers.
6. Publicity, promotion and marketing.

Any of these services can be requested in addition to this brief subject to the covering of the additional costs incurred. As an example, we typically (and very much want to) maintain involvement with the development of cycling schemes right up to the construction phase i.e. items 1,2 and 3 above. If you wish to engage us for

the construction phase and beyond, the costs involved are obviously very much dependent on the outcome of this study.

Edward Healey

Area Manager | Sustrans | The West Midlands

Sustrans | George Nott House | 119 Hollowayhead | Birmingham | B1 1QP

Tel: 0121 6335507

www.sustrans.org.uk

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APPENDIX A

Ecological Methodology

In order to provide an initial assessment of the ecological baseline along the proposed traffic-free route a desk study and a Phase 1 Habitat Survey will be conducted.

The desk study will determine the presence of any designated nature conservation sites and protected species recorded within a 1 km radius of the proposed works. The following statutory and non-statutory organisations holding ecological data relating to the survey area will be contacted;

- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website;
- Local Biological Record Centre;
- Local Interest Groups if Required;
- Any Previous Ecological Surveys provided; and,
- National Biodiversity Network Gateway website.

The purchase of desk study data from record centres will be passed on to the client at cost.

The Phase 1 Habitat Survey will comprise a slow walk-over survey of the site recording habitats along and adjacent to the proposed route using the standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey technique. This will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology issued by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC, 2010). Any notable or invasive plant species will also be recorded during the survey.

During the survey the presence of fauna will be noted and habitats assessed for their potential to support protected or notable species. This survey may therefore identify the need for further protected species surveys.

This report will therefore make an assessment of the ecological impacts of the proposal and make recommendations relating to further survey requirements, avoidance/mitigation measures and enhancement