

East Lothian Cycle Forum: Project updates

23RD MAY 2024



Staffing

Ian Lennox, Team Manager, Asset and Regulatory within East Lothian Council's Roads team, will be retiring in June. His replacement, Ian King, will take over this post on July 1st.

Cycling UK's new Development Officer for East Lothian, Angie Kinghorn, will start work on Monday 27th May.

Funding

East Lothian Council await active travel funding decisions from Transport Scotland for the current financial year 2024/25.

Grant funding has been awarded to ELC by SEStran under their People and Place Plan. This award totals £147,800 to cover projects including:

- A pilot of shared residential cycle storage at 1-2 locations.
- New workplace cycle storage at ELC sites in Musselburgh and Tranent.
- Development of a workplace travel forum.
- Town centre accessibility audits (see further information below).
- Improved access to bikes in towns.
- An Active Prescriptions project pilot (see further information below).
- Further school cycle storage.

ELC and partners have submitted a range of project proposals to Sustrans National Cycle Network Accessibility Fund, which seeks to improve access on and to the NCN. Decisions are expected in late May.

Route development

Aberlady to Longniddry

See Coastal Feasibility Study

Active Travel Improvement Plan refresh

The current [Active Travel Improvement Plan](#) covered the period 2018 -2024. ELC are therefore beginning the process of updating this to reflect the substantially changed position of active travel across Scotland as well as in East Lothian. The refreshed Active Travel Strategy will establish new Aims and Objectives, as well as consolidating all the strands of strategy and policy that East Lothian Council has been developing that relate to active travel in the county. ELC are at the initial stages of development of the new ATS and will be seeking feedback and review from the cycle forum as it progresses.

Blindwells to Prestonpans Rail Station active travel link

Location / description: *a shared-use path from Blindwells to Prestonpans rail station along the B1361. See [Path from Blindwells to Prestonpans Station | Projects | East Lothian Council](#).*

A design has been agreed in principle. ELC is currently considering updated information recently received from Hargreaves before the Roads Construction Consent can be issued, and construction can commence.

Coastal Feasibility Study

ELC are waiting on confirmation of funding from Sustrans. If provided, this funding will allow East Lothian and Sustrans to conduct a feasibility study into the creation of a coastal NCN alignment. This study will assess the most appropriate alignment for the NCN along the coast from the west end of Prestonpans to the start of Aberlady. As reported in previous updates, this work would also assess options to connect Aberlady to Ballencrief and Longniddry.

Cross East Lothian Active Freeway (formerly SATC)

Location / description: see [Cross East Lothian Active Freeway | Cross East Lothian Active Freeway | East Lothian Council](#)

Initial designs have been completed for Stages 1-3. ELC are awaiting a decision on funding for Stage 5.

Dunbar, Belhaven area improvements

Public consultation on the options identified to date will commence in June.

Dunbar NCN realignment

As with the Coastal Feasibility Study ELC are awaiting confirmation of funding from Sustrans. This study will be formed of two parts, a technical feasibility to assess the potential for segregated cycling along the Edinburgh Road from West Barns to Beveridge Row, and options to connect this to the shared use path that starts at Spott Road on the northeast side of the railway bridge.

Dunbar, Rail Station East access

Enabling works took place earlier this year. ELC are awaiting confirmation of further funding, requested from Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund, before construction can commence.

East Lothian Active Travel Network Action Plan

A draft Network Action Plan is currently with ELC Officers for review. The intention is to publish key components of this plan once this review has been completed.

Elphinstone to Tranent, active travel options appraisal and concept design

Location / description: *development of an improved cycling and walking route between Elphinstone and Tranent, incorporating the Charles River Research Centre*

An appraisal of design options was presented to ELC Officers in April. The most appropriate option will be progressed for concept design, which on completion will be shared with Cycle Forum members.

Haddington, Riverside Footbridge

Location / description: *development of designs for a new 4m wide replacement crossing of the structure [here](#).*

Further technical work was required on the initial list of options for this structure, which has now been completed by Stantec. An appraisal of those options is under way with concept design to be progressed and presented to ELC by the end of May.

Haddington, Tynebank Road

Location / description: *development of a shared-use path at [Tynebank Road, Haddington](#), see [Tynebank Road, Haddington | Projects | East Lothian Council](#). There is currently no path on the southern section of this road.*

Funding has been confirmed from the Iain Findlay Path Fund for the southern section of this route. A planning application is now being completed with a view to construction works starting in the current financial year.

Law Path, North Berwick

Location / description: *development of a path along land to the south of Lochbridge Road, North Berwick, connecting local families to Law Primary School campus.*

Law Primary School Parent Council have been awarded funding from the Ian Findlay Path Fund to progress initial design work on this route, which will commence in the current financial year. ELC Officers will provide support for the design brief and tendering process.

Longniddry to Haddington Railway Path – extension through East Lothian Community Hospital Grounds

Negotiations around potential liability issues continue to sit with the legal teams of contractors and the NHS. ELC hope that these will be concluded soon to allow construction to begin.

Longniddry to Haddington Railway path – resurfacing

The results of the most recent consultation are being considered by ELC and Sustrans. The consultation provided respondents with a choice between tarmac and Flexipave, however a different product, Ulti-trek, is also now available and merits investigation. All of these options need to be carefully considered against criteria such as long-term maintenance, risk of flooding, impact on existing structures and tree roots.

Meadowmill A1 Underpass

Location / description: *lighting the shared pedestrian and cycle underpass at [this location](#) near Meadowmill, Tranent.*

ELC understand that a connection has now been made, however reinstatement work is yet to be completed to ELC's satisfaction. Once this happens BEAR Scotland will attend to commission the lights.

Musselburgh, A199 / Pinkie Playing Fields

A new refuge island crossing point was installed in March.

Musselburgh Active Toun

A consultation report covering engagement between 13th November 2023 and 15th January 2024 and response to feedback is being finalised. This will be published shortly. Subsequent engagement to inform designs has been undertaken with landowners, Community Councils, bus operators and ELC services such as Waste, Structures and Flooding.

ELC's Planning and Legal Services recently confirmed that sections of MAT routes within the MFPS will require a separate consenting process to the Scheme itself. Requirements are currently being determined.

Further updates include:

- Detailed designs for Routes 1, 2 & 5 are close to being finalised.

-
- Concept designs for Routes 4 & 6 and section of A199 Edinburgh Road between New Street and ELC/CEC boundary are progressing.
 - MFPS team continue to progress designs for Route 3 and Eskside section of Route 5.
 - ELC aim to publish draft Traffic Regulation Orders for some routes during summer 2024.
 - A bid for construction funding could be submitted during FY 2024/2025 to enable construction works to commence during FY 2025/2026.

North Berwick High Street

Phase 1 - a raised speed table at the junction of High Street and Quality Street – has been completed. Construction designs for the eastern end of the project are now being finalised. As noted in the last update, a bid for construction funding has been submitted to Transport Scotland.

Pencaitland, crossing of the A6093 at Woodhall Pit

Location / description: crossing of the A6093 [here](#).

In partnership with Sustrans, ELC are supporting design improvements for the alignment of this crossing point, including the installation of cycle/walker activated signage to alert drivers to the presence of walkers/cyclists crossing the A6093. Sustrans and ELC are currently waiting for consultants to submit the designs in response to recommendations from the Road Safety Audit.

Sustrans has developed a survey to collect data for the purposes of monitoring the impact of changes to the crossing point of the Pencaitland Railway Path and A6093, near Woodhall Picnic site. The survey aims to gain views on the crossing point as it currently is to understand how improvements would change the experience at the crossing. If members of the forum could share with their networks, it would be appreciated.

[Pencaitland Railway Path - A6093 Crossing Survey \(jisc.ac.uk\)](https://www.jisc.ac.uk)

Prestonpans to Levenhall and Musselburgh Goose Green

Location / description: *development of an improved active travel connection between Prestonpans and Musselburgh along the [B1348](#).*

AECOM have carried out initial feasibility and optioneering work on this route. Landscaping design options and an Ecological Appraisal have also been presented and are being reviewed by ELC's Countryside Services team. The initial optioneering work explored improvements for cyclists and pedestrians along the B1348 and through Levenhall Links, incorporating travel to Prestongrange Heritage Park. The most appropriate option will progress to concept design, which will be presented to local communities and Cycle Forum members in due course.

Routes4Communities

The full report from Stantec has now been approved and published:
[Routes4Communities | Active Travel strategy | East Lothian Council](#).

Town Centre audits

As noted above, ELC were granted a small amount of money from SEStran to conduct active travel audits for towns across East Lothian. Work has already begun on map-based walking and cycling infrastructure audits in Tranent. This will move on to Prestonpans next.

The purpose of these audits is to identify minor improvements that could be made, as well as logging maintenance issues on the pedestrian network across our towns. This will include locations for new drop kerbs, tactiles, consolidation of signage, footway damage, and other accessibility criteria. The audits will form a log of maintenance issues across East Lothian and enable a structured approach to minor improvements across the county.

A method for Cycle Forum members feeding into these audits will be discussed at the meeting on 23rd May.

Wallyford, Bing Path

Location / description: see [Wallyford Bing path | 2023-24 Completed projects | East Lothian Council](#)

All construction works are now complete except barriers. ELC anticipate the full project being finalized by June.

Wallyford Toll roundabout

Final construction designs have been completed, based on the preferred option outlined at [Phase 7: Wallyford Toll Roundabout | Cross East Lothian Active Freeway | East Lothian Council](#). As noted in the previous update, ELC have applied to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund for construction costs of this project.

Behaviour change initiatives

Active Prescriptions

ELC has been awarded a small amount of funding from the SESTran Regional Transport Partnership to explore Active Prescriptions as a vehicle for encouraging walking and cycling in East Lothian. This intervention will foreground the health and wellbeing benefits of active travel for patients in the primary care sector of the health service. We are currently working with colleagues in the NHS to determine how this approach may be integrated with existing exercise referral pathways utilized by healthcare practitioners in East Lothian.

Centre Line removal pilot project

A study undertaken to analyse the effects of centre line removal on 20mph and 30mph sites - conducted in partnership with the University of the West of England - is well under way. ELC have gathered pre-intervention data on traffic speeds from sites across the county and are now ready to monitor how driver behaviour changes after lines are removed. It is hoped that there will be a reduction speeds that will help make the carriageway safer for everyone, particularly vulnerable road users such as cyclists and

pedestrians. The study will be completed in 2026, when a full report on the findings of the project will be published.

East Lothian Council Bike User's Group (BUG)

The ELC BUG aims to encourage the Council's workforce to cycle to and from work and/or in order to perform work duties seeks to build a community of cyclists across the authority. Since the last cycle forum met, the BUG have completed a led lunchtime ride in partnership with Love to Ride – showcasing the new Sustrans funded quietway at Hailes Castle by travelling from John Muir House in Haddington to East Linton. A lunch meeting in East Linton was used to review plans and gather feedback for the Active Freeway section that will pass through the village. This month, in its Spring newsletter, the BUG will publish a Bike User Guide for employees, setting out the range of facilities and support available to our workforce to help them cycle more often.

East Lothian Council Travel Plan

No current update.

Love to Ride

Changes to external funding mean that Love to Ride will no longer be able to work with employers for free on a county-wide basis. However, the platform is still available to individuals to make use of and share with others. ELC and Love to Ride are currently discussing what form their support may take in 24/25.

Access to bikes and cycle parking

Cargo Bikes

ELC are ready to get our cargobikes out to community groups and businesses across East Lothian. The first organisation to make use of our fleet will be Haddstock Festival, who will be using four different models to support a range of activities associated with the festival, while cutting emissions as part of their climate theme this year. From June onwards we will be lending cargobikes to a range of other organisations in communities in each of the 6 Area Partnerships. ELC countryside rangers are also planning to make use of one cargobike while delivering frontline services.

Community cycle parking

In the last financial year ELC installed a total of 63 new cycle racks across 17 community locations. Works have just been completed installing a cycle rack at Dukes of West Barns, with the following locations scheduled for work in June and July:

- Haddington Athletic Football Club facilities at Whittingehame Drive
- New Street Playpark, Musselburgh
- North Berwick Tennis Club
- Ormiston Playpark

Folding bike hire pilot

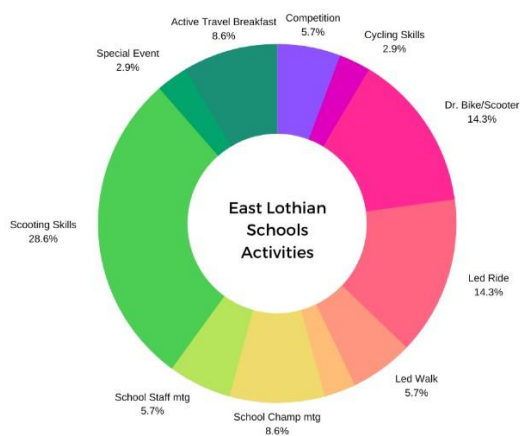
ELC have partnered up with Brompton to develop a pilot which will see folding e-bikes and folding bicycles at community hubs across the county. These will be located at Prestonpans Library, the Royal Mackintosh Hotel, Dunbar and the John Gray Centre, Haddington. These bikes will be available for booking by the public once they have been added to Brompton's app. ELC currently anticipate this happening in June.

In the meantime, the bikes could be made available to ELC staff through an existing asset booking system.

Schools

I Bike

I Bike East Lothian had a brilliant and busy term delivering 74 activities that engaged 1,736 school pupils. 10 volunteers gave their time to support this work.



This included working with Haddington PTA and St Gabriel's RC Primary School P7 pupils to develop local scavenger hunts, as well as Cycling Skills and Dr Bike sessions at Haddington and West Barns. West Barns Primary School also received a brand new fleet of scooters, enabling pupils to improve balance and co-ordination.

Sanderson's Wynd Primary School took delivery of Parking Pledge cards to encourage more active travel, as well as safer parking around their school gates.



THE PLEDGE

- We will only drive to school when necessary. At all other times we will travel by foot, bike or scooter.
- We will always park sensibly and never on the "school keep clear" zigzag lines, on the traffic calming table/bumps, within 10m of a junction or on double yellow lines. We will not park with our engine idling.
- We will always take care and keep within the limits when in the school zone.
- We will always take care and look out for other pedestrians and cyclists.
- We will always respect residents by not parking across driveways or on pavements.

Signed (parent/carer)

Witnessed (child)

Date



A total of 11 East Lothian schools signed up for the Big Walk and Wheel event in March, with more than 13,500 active journeys logged.

Cycle Storage improvements

15 schools have now received improved cycle and scooter storage. These works include 14 new scooter storage stands and 19 new cycle shelters, as well as 121 new cycle stands which have created capacity for an additional 242 bikes.

Further works will take place across 5 more schools between June and August.



School Travel Planning

ELC are currently working on a Standard Working Procedure for School Travel Planning. A draft report will be prepared by the end of May 2024. A pilot project using the SWP will be carried out in June 2024 with Dunbar Primary School.

12 of our primary schools now have a up to date travel plan in place, thanks to the support of our Active Travel Officers. These are the building blocks for establishing an Active Travel culture with stakeholders in our school communities and are used to help monitor and evaluate the success of individual interventions that seek to promote a modal shift away from private car use to walking and wheeling. As part of the travel planning process, ELC have recently begun assisting schools with making and distributing maps of their local area, so parents, carers and pupils know how to get to school safely without taking the car, or where to park their cars to ensure the area immediately around a school site is not unnecessarily congested. ELC are currently reviewing our approach to travel planning support, and are aiming to exceed to 75% (27 schools) coverage by the end of 2025.

Public transport integration

Journey Hubs

No current update.

Rail stations

ELC met with Scotrail in December 2023 to highlight the need for improved cycle storage at North Berwick rail station. Scotrail have confirmed that improvements at North Berwick are not part of their capital plans for 2024/25. ELC will discuss this with the North Berwick On the Move Area Partnership sub-group in the hope that appropriate funding can identified and secured for these improvements.

END