

# Project Update

September 2022



Planning Application for New Weensland Footbridge submitted to Scottish Borders Council.  
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Image showing construction of Lawson Footbridge. Due to open in 2022.

## Working in Partnership with Sustrans

Head of Programme “proud” of work being carried out

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## Map of Active Travel Network proposals

Our detailed Infographic highlights the improvements being made across the town

Page 3 & 4

## Prioritising walking, wheeling and cycling

Find out how additional space has been created to help you in your everyday journeys

Page 5

## Protecting and Enhancing Hawick

# Hawick paving the way for active travel

Partnership working will leave a lasting legacy in the town

The concept of an Active Travel Network layered onto the Hawick Flood Protection Scheme was one of the ideas developed with local businesses, residents and elected members through the various Community Vision Working Groups held from 2018 through to 2022. Since those early meetings, the Active Travel Network has expanded significantly and through partnership working with Sustrans and others the community of Hawick are receiving far more for less cost by delivering this project together.

I am delighted to see some of the network now constructed at areas such as Common Haugh and Buccleuch

Park. Construction has also commenced to extend the route from the McLaren Footbridge to A7 Buccleuch Road which will connect with the Crumhaugh Path and onwards heading south to Langlands Footbridge. This will provide a key link to the west end area of Hawick and provide a safer alternative route for those heading to the Hawick Community Pump Track.

Active Travel is more than constructing paths and bridges, we need to alter our behaviours and encourage others to walk, wheel and cycle for every day journeys. The Project Team are looking forward to further engaging with the community to help



overcome the barriers that are currently restricting active travel around the town. By the end of the project, those not directly impacted by flooding will likely not notice the flood walls but instead benefit from the fantastic network of shared use paths through the town and connecting to communities.

This newsletter edition focusses solely on the Active Travel Network and I would encourage you to visit our website or get in touch with the team if you would like any further information.

**Conor Price**  
Project Director

## A word from our Partners, Sustrans

Active travel network schemes are the coordination of walking, wheeling, and cycling routes. By introducing new and improved infrastructure these schemes seek to encourage people within our local communities to choose healthier, more affordable travel options for everyday journeys.

There are a number of active travel network schemes throughout Scotland funded through Places for Everyone - an active travel infrastructure fund backed by Transport

Scotland and administered by Sustrans.

Chiquita Elvin, Sustrans Head of Programme, highlights the Hawick Active Travel Network as an exciting example.

She said: "We are immensely proud of the work being carried out as part of the Hawick Active Travel Network. The plans include creating a new and accessible cycleway and footpath along Hawick's flood protection defences, which will make journeys in and around the town centre



easier, safer, and more enjoyable for everyone".

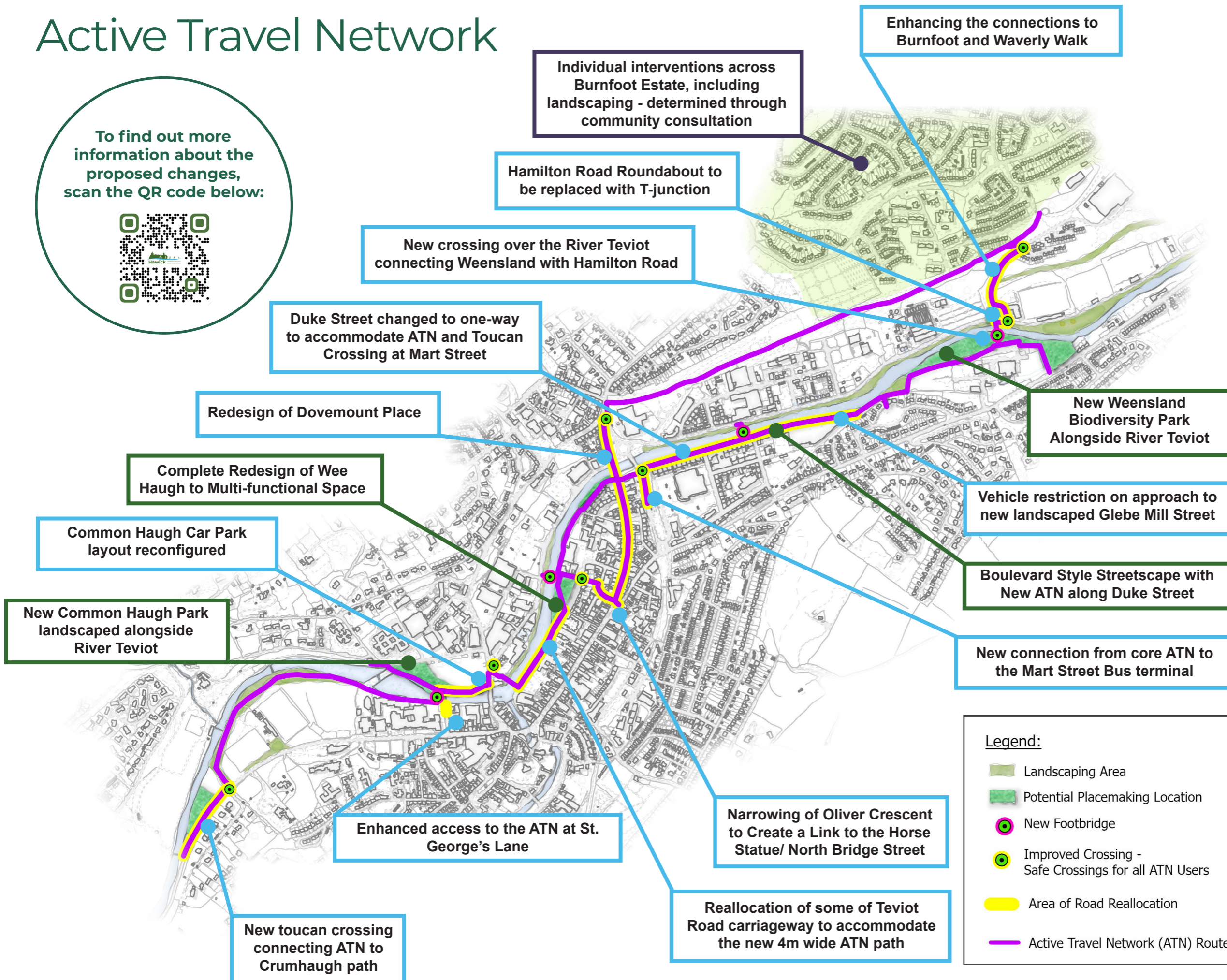
"Thanks to the excellent input received from the local community we have been able to ensure the improvements made reflect what the people of Hawick want for their town".

Find out more about Sustrans work on [www.showcase-sustrans.org.uk](http://www.showcase-sustrans.org.uk).

For more information, log on to [www.hawickfloodscheme.com](http://www.hawickfloodscheme.com)

# Active Travel Network

To find out more information about the proposed changes, scan the QR code below:



**Legend:**

- Landscaping Area
- Potential Placemaking Location
- New Footbridge
- Improved Crossing - Safe Crossings for all ATN Users
- Area of Road Reallocation
- Active Travel Network (ATN) Route



Group on trishaw bicycle in Wilton Lodge Park

## Behavioural Change

A big part of building the Active Travel Network is also encouraging change in behaviour by choosing to walk, wheel or cycle for your everyday journeys instead of using your car.

So far, the Project Team has engaged with pupils at Wilton Lodge School, Burnfoot Primary and wider Hawick community through Community Vision Working Groups, Cycling Festival and Wellbeing Festival to share the plans and talk about the ways that people currently travel round the town and what impact the new proposed active travel network will have to their everyday lives.

In collaboration with Sustrans, the Project Team will be creating further workshops and engagement events in Hawick over the next year to encourage workplaces to choose active ways to get to work and collaborate with students to embed positive Active Travel habits in the next generation.

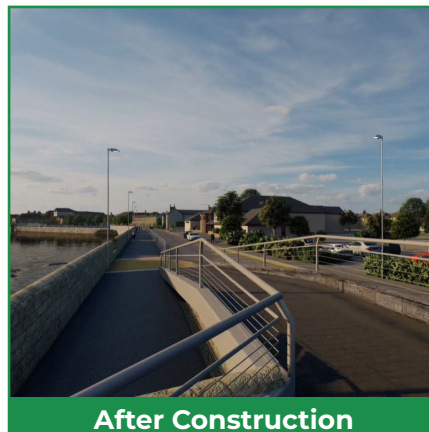
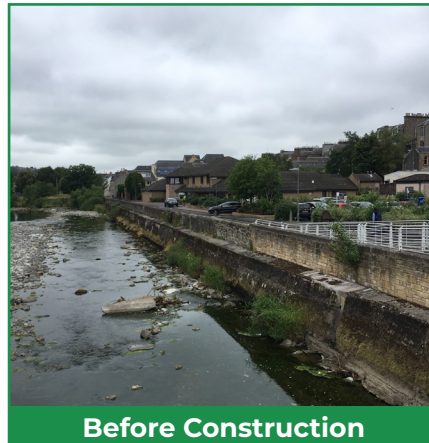
# Creating space for active travel

Weaving a 4m wide shared use path through the centre of this historic mill town was benefited by layering this ambitious project onto the flood scheme. This partnership afforded greater capacity, either through the river corridor or as part of the current road network, to create the reimagined space.

Teviot Road, as shown in these images, is a narrow road with only one footpath running adjacent to the Teviot Medical Practice. By constructing the flood defence wall in the river corridor, the space required has been created to connect the James Thomson Footbridge to the Wee Haugh with a traffic-free path for those to walk, wheel and cycle.

Similarly, between the new Lawson Footbridge and Hawick & Wilton Cricket Club, the flood wall has been designed along the alignment of Hawick High School's boundary wall; with a new retaining wall constructed in the river corridor to support the Active Travel Network. When constructed, this path will still allow the same connection with the river however with a formal flood protection wall in place and the Active Travel Network connecting to the Volunteer Park.

Another key area discussed significantly through the planning stage is Duke Street. Previously, the view downstream from Mart Street Bridge presented a boulevard style outlook featuring mature trees spaced evenly along this road. It has always been the intention to replicate this in a managed way with the



introduction of native trees in planters. A key consideration, as outlined by residents and businesses in the area, was parking which has been fully mapped into the landscaping. By changing Duke Street to one-way and utilising some of the road carriage way, the area will benefit from the Active Travel Network, new landscaping and still retain parking.



## Place making to bring communities together

One of the most important parts of the Active Travel Network are various key landscaped areas for community to enjoy, convenient bike parking and links to local amenities known as Place Making.

Active Travel and Place Making contribute to the Scottish Government's aim for a healthier, environmentally sustainable nation with strong communities - this is trying to be achieved in Hawick.

Three note-worthy areas, as identified on the infographic overleaf, are Weensland Bio-diversity Park, the reimagined Wee Haugh and Common Haugh, where the community can come together to enjoy nature, family picnics, markets or events.

Combined with bicycle storage, a new sign posted connection from Wee Haugh to the High Street through the Hawick Business Centre will draw users of the network up to the town centre. In the other direction, the new wider Victoria Footbridge will encourage footfall over towards Commercial Road and connect both areas together.

# New footbridge for Weensland at last

A connection that Teries have been asking for, that is only possible due to additional funding from Sustrans through the Transport Scotland “Places for Everyone” fund has taken a major step forward this month.

A planning application has been submitted to Scottish Borders Council to construct a 4m wide 60m long footbridge to connect Weensland with Hamilton Road on the Mansfield Road side of the river. The new footbridge will be part of the family of new bridges and compliments the

three others already landed in the town.

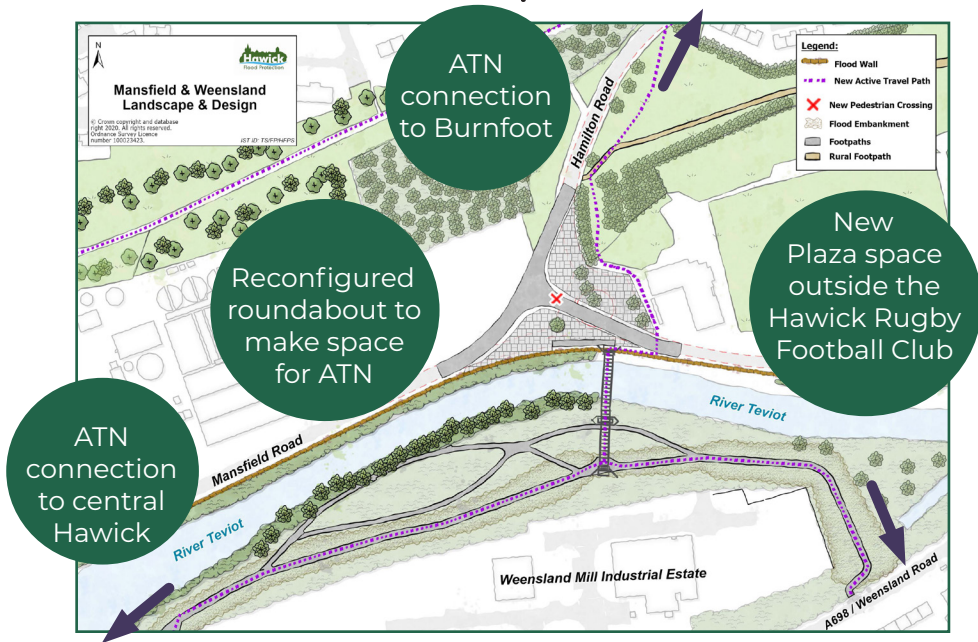
On the south side of the river Teviot, the new bridge will link in to the newly created Weensland Biodiversity Park and the Active Travel Network that runs from high ground at Weensland Road down towards the river and follows the current footpath route which will be upgraded past Oliver Park and onto Glebe Mill Street and beyond.

North of the river, a reconfiguration of the road network will see the

**£12.6 million** in funding provided by Sustrans through the Transport Scotland “Places for Everyone” fund

roundabout changed to a T-junction to provide the extra space for the footbridge landing and Active Travel Network to cross Lower Mansfield Road and weave its way past Hawick Rugby Football Club and up Hamilton Road to connect with Waverley Walk.

This new link in addition to the individual interventions to be delivered across Burnfoot will really enhance the communities connection with the network and encourage more active travel.



## Contacting the team

There are a number of ways you can keep up-to-date with the Hawick Flood Protection Scheme or contact the team to ask questions or provide comments:

- [www.hawickfloodscheme.com](http://www.hawickfloodscheme.com)
- [hawickfloodps@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:hawickfloodps@scotborders.gov.uk)

- @HawickFPS
- @hawickfloodprotectionscheme
- @hawick\_flood\_protection

