

Project Update

March 2024



Weensland Footbridge Installed
for more info. see inner pages

The Benefit of a Connection at Weensland

Elected representatives & Sustrans provide their views on this significant connection.

Pages 2 - 4

Hawick's Wee Explore Activity

Spot the difference in the construction site images and circle the hazards.

Page 5

Active Travel Network Works Continue

ATN pathways and parks take shape with the aim to make travel around town safer.

Page 6

Protecting and Enhancing Hawick

Key Milestones Met on the Pathway to Deliver Multiple Benefits



Active Travel Network on target for 2024 opening

We enter 2024 with the vast majority of flood protection in place in Hawick. For the coming months the Project Team will be concentrating their efforts to finish the landscaping and resurfacing as well as connecting the Active Travel pathways.

The year began with a major achievement with the successful install of the new footbridge at Weensland, read more about this on pages 3 & 4. This was a momentous step for the project and highlights the additional benefits we have been able to provide alongside the flood protection.

In recent months, Storm Gerrit and Storm Isha provided high water events that were managed by the new flood defences. As these storms hit, the Project Team were on

the ground to keep an eye on the situation developing. Both of these significant high water events saw the new flood defences prove their worth by holding in the high volume of water. It is highlighted that both these events would have previously resulted in flooding of parts of Hawick and potentially the need for evacuation to take place.

I was grateful for the chance to speak with the pupils of Hawick High School in late November. The pupils learned about building a flood wall and benefits brought to the town from the Active Travel Network. We value the opportunity to capture the interest of the generations that will inherit the project in the future and encourage them to discover new ways to travel around Hawick.

I would like to repeat that we do indeed recognise the upheaval caused by the ongoing construction works faced by the town. We do, however, wish that the residents and businesses of Hawick can see the improvements made to their town through this process.

Conor Price
Project Director



Hawick High School Assembly



Hawick High School Assembly

Representatives Visit the New Weensland Footbridge



Sustrans and Councillor visit

We invited Sustrans and the local Elected Representatives to visit the site of the landed footbridge. This was organised to recognise their instrumental role in enabling this key link for the town to be achieved, through their funding provision and campaigning efforts. Their visit included the chance to be amongst the first people to walk across the footbridge and imagine what the connection will offer to Hawick residents and visitors once opened. We asked Sustrans and your councillors for their thoughts on the new crossing.

“Sustrans are delighted to see the new active travel Weensland Bridge is in place. It will be a wonderful asset for the town connecting local communities, an aspiration that is now realised after many years.”

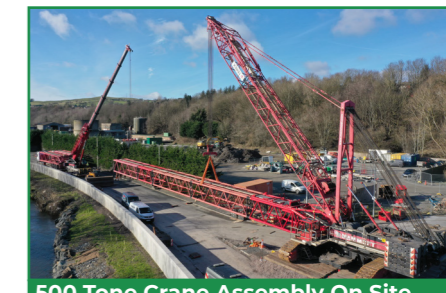


The Benefit of a Connection at Weensland

The new Weensland Footbridge was successfully installed on Monday 12th February 2024.

This crossing is the fourth and final new footbridge to be installed in the town as part of the new Hawick Active Travel Network. Once opened this critical new link will offer improved connectivity to the east of the town between Mansfield Road junction with Hamilton Road over to Weensland.

New approach ramps will provide access for active travel users, these need to be built before the opening



500 Tonne Crane Assembly On Site



South Bridge Span Lifted by Crane



South Bridge Span Lifted into Place

To carry out this lift, a specialist 500 tonne crane was required. This crane arrived in four parts and needed to be put together on site using a smaller crane.

The 5-meter-wide steel structure of the new footbridge was manufactured by Briton Fabricators Ltd in Nottingham and painted in Blyth, Northumberland. The transit of this structure required a police escort and arrived in three sections. The first two arrived at 3.50pm on Wednesday 7th February. These sections make up the northern span, and were bolted together the next day. When put together, the northern span measures 40.4 meters and weighs 80 tonnes. The third and final section arrived on site on Saturday 11th this section was smaller but still measures at 18.4 meters and weighs 31 tonnes.

The north span of the footbridge was lifted into place first, preparation works commencing at around 7am, and was in place by 9.10am. The south span lift began at 11.20am and proved to be a little more complex, as this lift was hampered by higher wind speeds once airborne. A break in the wind allowed for the highly skilled landing to take place by 1.20pm with the fixing works carried out by 1.45pm.

With this key piece of work now in place, it has enabled the road reconfiguration works around Hamilton Road Roundabout and the Hawick Rugby Football Club to commence to the north. To the south, the remaining section of the flood defence embankment directly in front of the footbridge can now be formed.



Cllr Stuart Marshall

“ Like many townsfolk I’m thrilled to see this bridge now in place at lower Mansfield. I know it will serve the town well for many years to come. The bridge will I’m sure prove to be a huge asset for our community and I extend my sincere thanks to Sustrans and everyone else involved in making it possible. ”



Cllr Jane Cox

“ This is a fantastic addition to the Hawick Scheme and I have received nothing but ‘praise and thanks’ for the Hawick Flood Protection Scheme for listening to the people and achieving this momentous passage to allow the rugby following population of Weensland area and beyond to access the Mansfield ground so much more easily and safely!! ”

“ The flood defence scheme started just after I arrived in Hawick and it has been extremely interesting for me to see it take shape. In the last couple of years we have had some high water events and although the scheme isn’t completely finished, the town has not suffered the devastation caused previously. Being able to sleep through the storms will be of much mental and material benefit to folks in the town in the future. As a keen cyclist I was also happy to see the new Active Travel network plans and can’t wait to see how it all comes together as a completed project in the summer. ”



Cllr Annette Smart

“ I was approached by two residents in 2021 to support the set up of an online petition which garnered more than 1,800 signatures to highlight the public support of a footbridge over the River Teviot at Mansfield Park to Weensland. Connecting the town at this area will make a big difference to the residents of Burnfoot and Weensland but also opens up that end of the town. ”



Cllr Clair Ramage



Spot the difference and circle the 13 hazards in the left image that have been removed on the right image.

To see answers visit: www.hawickfloodscheme.com/news



Footbridge lift safe site

On Site Safety

A key factor in construction is following health and safety regulations. The right image above is an example of a safe site in accordance with these regulations.

Safe working practices are a set up to protect employees, contractors and the public from injuries, illnesses, and accidents.

River Clean Up

The Project Team have been allocating time to clean up the riverbanks. Debris has been deposited following recent high water events bringing rubbish from upstream, along with waste produced through construction works. This is essential to keep the river and its biodiversity healthy and thriving.



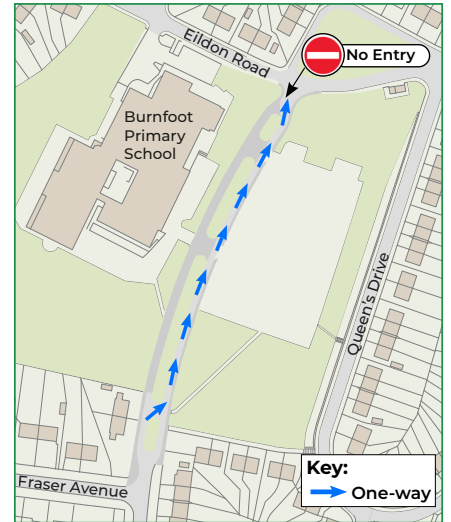
Weensland River Clean Up

Active Travel Network Works Continue

With both contractors working hard to conclude the works, the construction for the Active Travel Network rapidly continues around the town. In next few weeks we will see paths and communal places reopening and landscaping works taking place.

Up in Burnfoot, a one-way trial in front of Burnfoot Primary School on Kenilworth Avenue has been in place since 22nd January, for 3 months. This is to see if safer travel and

better access can be provided to parents and pupils using the footpath daily. To give us feedback on any of these works, please contact the team using the details at the bottom of this page.



Opportunities to Present the Scheme

At the start of this year, the Project Team were given a few chances to talk about the achievements so far of both the Hawick Active Travel Network and the Scheme.

In January, The Project Team took part in an event, organised by the Cycling UK. It was a great chance to show progress of the Hawick Active Travel Network construction to Patrick Harvie, Minister for Active Travel, connect with other cycling organisations from across the Borders and learn lessons from their projects too.

In February, a presentation was given by Project Director, Conor Price, along with Flood and Coastal Management leader for SBC, Duncan Morrison, at the Scotland & Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research (SNIFFER) Flood Resilience Scotland Conference.





Their presentation focused on delivering flood protection and multiple benefits to Hawick through the Scheme. This is becoming all the more of a reality on the ground as we see works finish around the town.



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
 hawickfloodps@scotborders.gov.uk

 @HawickFPS (formerly Twitter) 
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 @hawick_flood_protection

