

BATH RIVER LINE

Progress Report

January 2026





SUMMARY

The Bath River Line is creating a continuous 10km linear park through the heart of Bath, helping unlock the potential of the River Avon and transforming a neglected corridor into a model for sustainable development, community connectivity and active travel.

Phase 1 has delivered significant improvements along the riverside corridor from Newbridge to Bath Quays, enhancing access for people and habitats for nature.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- Green Park upgrades including a new entrance, resurfaced path and a dedicated river viewing area
- Midland Bridge seating area and Sustainable Urban Drainage System
- Norfolk buildings (path repaired and widened, pollinator planting)

FURTHER ENHANCEMENTS PLANNED:

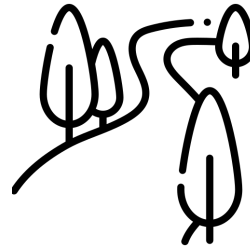
- Improved access and new seating at Norfolk Crescent and Comfortable Place
- Improved play area and planting in Green Park

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DELIVERED:

- Monthly guided walks
- Wide range of Festival of Nature activities including the *River in the Sky* display in SouthGate Bath and *Life on Water* photo exhibition
- Proactive communication around construction works
- A nature-themed mural in partnership with Little Lost Robot
- A wayfinding and interpretation scheme stretching from Pulteney Weir to Newbridge featuring 21 stories

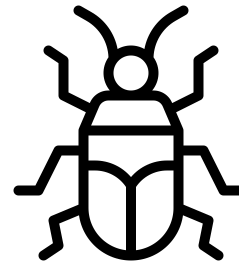


AIMS



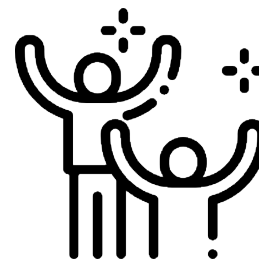
CREATE CONNECTIONS

Enhance and expand the active travel network in Bath by creating a level, accessible route from Newbridge to Batheaston and extending the Bristol Bath Railway Path (BBRP) from Brassmill Lane to Station Road



RESTORE AND REVEAL

Improve biodiversity and climate change resilience through the enhancement of existing, and the creation of new, natural habitats as well as the inclusion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) from Newbridge to Batheaston



REIMAGINE

Provide a safe, social, inclusive space for residents and visitors and enhance the setting of the World Heritage Site through the creation of a unified, high quality linear park which is well designed and easy to navigate



CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

Create new economic opportunities and enhance the tourism offer in Bath by providing improved access to the water for recreational businesses, providing an additional destination for tourists and signposting and bringing additional footfall to businesses outside the city centre



Scheduled completion date: Summer 2026

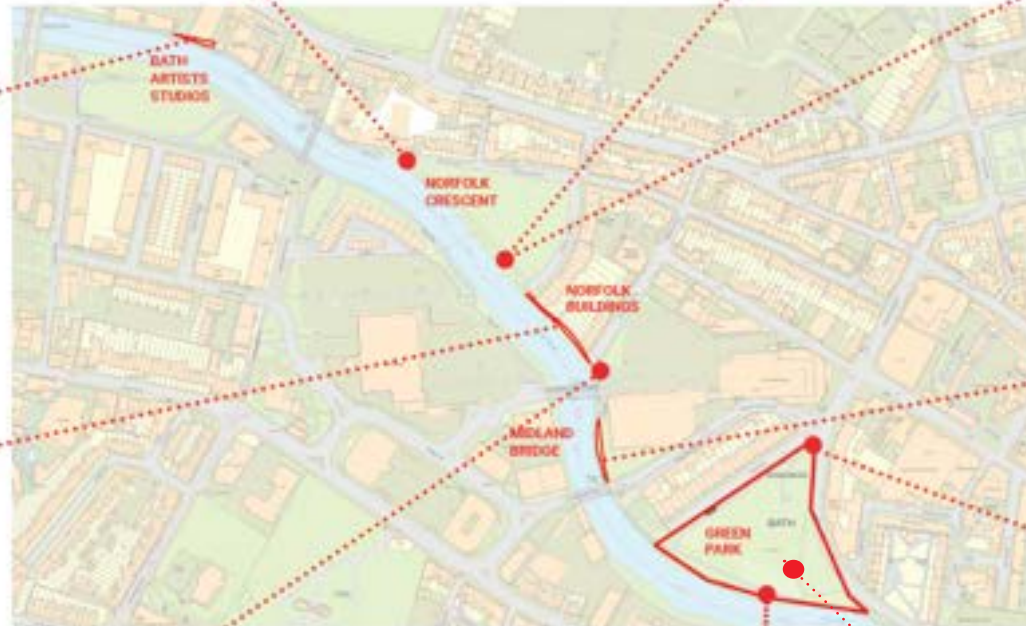
Scheduled completion date:
Summer 2026



Scheduled completion date:
Summer 2026



Scheduled completion date:
Summer 2026



Complete

Complete

Complete



Complete



Complete



Scheduled completion date: Spring 2026

CONSTRUCTION
MAP

GREEN PARK - ENTRANCE & PATH

Green Park was chosen as a key intervention site and the city centre gateway to the Bath River Line. The park was an underused city centre park with great potential. Previously, its entrance was uninviting, the path became inaccessible after rain, the river was hidden from view and the play area was dated. Recent upgrades are helping to encourage more people into the park, use its facilities and connect with the riverside



VISION



BEFORE

AFTER

NEW CYCLE RACKS



LEVELLED ACCESS

WIDER ENTRANCE

NEW BIN

IMPROVED SURFACE



RESURFACED ALL WEATHER PATH FROM
GREEN PARK ROAD TO RIVER PATH



KNEE RAILING

"We rode from Newbridge to Bath Quays and it was like riding along a different path; the outdoor exhibition and works in Green Park have transformed the area!"

Founder of We Are Avon

GREEN PARK - RIVER VIEWING AREA



VISION



BEFORE

AFTER

TWO-WAY FACING BENCH



HARD PAVED SURFACE

VEGETATION CLEARED TO REVEAL THE RIVER



" I
sat for a while (the
bench was actually
quite comfortable) and
spotted a Kingfisher, this
made my day!"

Local Path User

MIDLAND BRIDGE - SEATING AREA

New benches encourage people to stop, enjoy and appreciate the river, offering moments of tranquillity in a busy urban setting. A Sustainable Urban Drainage System uses planting areas to manage rainwater and reduce surface flooding



VISION



BEFORE

AFTER



NEW BIN



RAIN GARDEN SuDS SCHEME - PLANTING COMING SOON

MIDLAND BRIDGE - STEPS

Accessibility has been a priority across the route. Installation of tactile paving and handrails on stepped access points make this active travel route easier for all to enjoy



VISION



BEFORE

AFTER

NEW TACTILE PAVING



POLLINATOR PLANTING



NEW HANDRAIL



NORFOLK BUILDINGS - PATH

To enhance biodiversity and visual appeal, overgrown areas have been replaced with diverse planting schemes that support pollinators and wildlife, and the footpath widened and repaired where possible



VISION



BEFORE

AFTER



PATH REPAIRS

PATH WIDENING



POLLINATOR PLANTING



NORFOLK BUILDINGS - STEPS

Installation of tactile paving on stepped access points make this active travel route easier for all to enjoy



BEFORE



BEFORE

AFTER



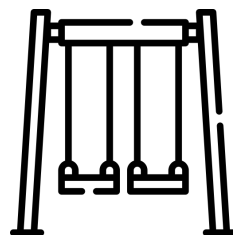
TACTILE PAVING AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF STEPS



COMING SOON

Outstanding interventions for Phase One are scheduled for construction in 2026. Planned improvements include:

GREEN PARK PLAY AREA



Play equipment renovation

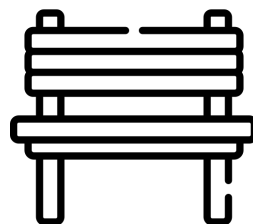
New wooden swing set

Slide replaced with steps connecting play areas

New all weather path leading to play area and river path

New cycle racks, benches and bin

New planting area, including four trees



NORFOLK CRESCENT

Enhanced steps and access

New seating nook



COMFORTABLE PLACE

Paved slope

New steps

Additional seating

New planting



WINDSOR BRIDGE

Urban Garden

New public realm



Public engagement throughout 2024–2025 has been instrumental in shaping these plans and ensuring residents feel heard. In response to feedback the team have:

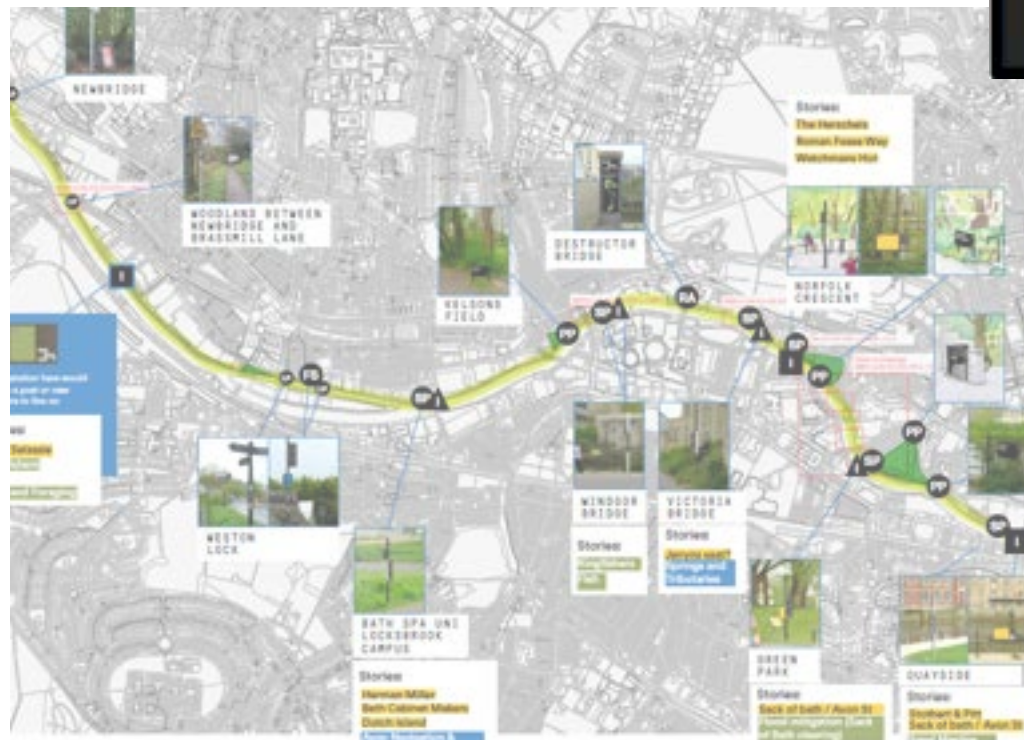
- Worked closely with the ‘Designing Out Crime’ Police team
- Maintained clear sightlines through areas of scrub
- Altered delivery plans to reduce likelihood of antisocial behaviour through removal of planned benches

To build transparency and trust Community Engagement Officers have:

- Met with retirement home residents
- Hosted three local drop-in events
- Distributed targeted emails, e-newsletters, press releases, letters to households, social media updates and are building a project website

WAYFINDING & INTERPRETATION

The Wayfinding and Interpretation project is a major step in creating a connected riverside experience. New wayfinding signage was installed in December, with Interpretation boards following in January. Together, these installations encourage residents and visitors to walk all or part of the 10km route and discover 21 new stories along Bath's riverside



"Through well-designed and high-quality signage, the community and visitors will be able to wayfind, interpret and enjoy all that the river has to offer. It was a privilege to be part of this project!" City of Bath World Heritage Site Manager



"Now
that the mural is
finished, it looks amazing.
There have been many
compliments from the residents
here on Bath Riverside"
Local resident

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

1,415

PEOPLE HAVE
ATTENDED EVENTS,
WALKS & WORKSHOPS

754, 559

ESTIMATED NO. OF
PEOPLE REACHED VIA
AN EXHIBITION OR
INSTALLATION

4

SCHOOLS/
UNIVERSITIES
ENGAGED

5

PUBLICATIONS

755, 974

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PEOPLE REACHED
BETWEEN SEPT 2024 -
DEC 2025

The Bath River Line engagement team has played a vital role in amplifying the project's impact by bringing people closer to the river and building public support for its transformation:



River in the Sky, a striking installation in SouthGate Bath, featured a river canopy, willow fish made by 142 local schoolchildren (three schools), an illustrated nature trail and a plastic bottle (fish) recycling station — the display reached an estimated 7.5million people with additional reach online!



Bringing art and film to the river has engaged a new audience, the **'River' screening** at Bath Quays Riverside drew in people who aren't usually involved



A partnership with the **Climate Hub** allowed the team to reach a wider audience. With an interactive display, further feedback and ideas were accumulated



Pop up and formal **Construction engagement** gave opportunity to build trust and communicate transparency, gaining support for the project



The **Life on Water** photo exhibition with Bath Spa University showcased photography students work, exploring life along the River Avon, with works exhibited during the Festival of Nature and beyond



Monthly walks have included 10K Bath River Line treks, litter picks, 'play on the way' and exploring access with Bath Spa University



A **mural** collaboration with Little Lost Robot transformed a graffitied wall into a vibrant riverside scene, engaging eight NEET young people in design workshops and hands-on painting



Delivered in partnership:

Bath
River
Line ↑

Bath & North East
Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

WEST
OF ENGLAND | MAYORAL
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

Supported by the WaterSpace Partnership:

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