

Enjoy walking the Etonbury Green Wheel

Countryside Code

Respect other people:

- ✓ Consider the local community, landowners and other people enjoying the outdoors
- ✓ Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- ✓ Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- ✓ Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- ✓ Plan ahead and be prepared
- ✓ Follow advice and local signs

Please respect all users of the Green Wheel

Walkers & Joggers:

- ✓ Allow cyclists to pass.
- ✓ If you have a dog, please keep it away from other users and always clean up after it.

Cyclists:

- ✓ Use your bell or say 'excuse me' when approaching others.
- ✓ Keep your speed down, pass other users wide and slowly; and be prepared to stop if needed.
- ✓ Ride in single file when near other users.



First Step

The production of this leaflet has been funded by First Step – your local Number 1 trusted Estate Agent

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The Etonbury Green Wheel is being developed as a walking and cycling route around the settlements of Arlesey, Fairfield and Stotfold, passing through and beside areas of landscape, heritage and wildlife interest. The entire Green Wheel is now in place and able to be used as a walking route. Further works are planned for the coming years to enable paths to be upgraded and promoted for cycling too. Start enjoying the Green Wheel as a walkers' route now, and look out for further route improvements for cycling.



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About the Wheel

The Etonbury Green Wheel is being developed in response to an increased desire for more, better quality, opportunities to walk and cycle in the local area. Having a 'wheel' around the area, with a number of 'spokes' leading from the 'hub' of Etonbury Wood enables people to access the route close to their homes and follow the whole wheel, or just part of it.

BRCC, Central Bedfordshire Council, Arlesey, Fairfield and Stotfold Town Councils produced an Etonbury Green Wheel masterplan, which was adopted in 2018. The Plan identified the proposed routes and detailed the works required to create the Green Wheel. In conjunction with local landowners some of these works have now been undertaken and the route can be used as a walking route. It is hoped that sufficient funding and landowner consent can be secured to upgrade other sections to enable the whole route to be used for cycling too.

The route of the Green Wheel for walkers is shown overleaf – highlighting which sections can also be cycled. On the ground, a combination of Green Wheel signposts and round waymarker discs will help you navigate your way around the Wheel. Signposts with yellow arrows indicate that section is a Public Footpath and for walking only;

and signposts with blue arrows indicate Public Bridleways which can also be used by cyclists and horse riders. Signposts with green arrows are used for road and other sections that can be used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

At present, the main rim of the Green Wheel is 10.6 miles / 17km long.

In addition to the paths which form the Wheel, a range of spaces, attractive views, heritage sites and habitats add to the enjoyment of the route and can be accessed by short diversions.

To the east, on the opposite bank of the River Ivel to the Green Wheel, can be found Stotfold Mill Meadows Local Nature Reserve and Stotfold Watermill, both well worth a visit. The reserve is open for daylight visits all year round and features wildflower meadows and wetland habitats. The watermill has been fully restored and still grinds flour in the traditional manner. It can be visited when it is open (most Sundays over the summer and at special events, check the dates and times on their website before visiting).

At Fairfield an Orchard Trail takes you on a detour through the important historical and wildlife rich orchards originally associated with

Fairfield Hospital. There are art installations and information boards detailing the wildlife and heritage to be found amongst the fruit trees and surrounding areas.

Detours from the route at various locations take you to the "hub" of Etonbury Wood. Owned and managed by Central Bedfordshire Council it is a relatively newly planted wood with a wide range of different tree species and planting techniques, including an experimental "Silvo-arable" area where crops were grown beneath trees (now converted to wildflower meadows). A newly created pond and the Pix Brook add variety to the habitats of the area. Etonbury Orchard, planted by the community, is also found here providing homes for a wide variety of local variety fruit trees.

The route passes through the adjacent nature reserves of Arlesey Old Moat and Glebe Meadows. Once associated with the ancient Manor of Arlesey Bury, the moat is L-shaped and provides homes to spawning amphibians, drifts of tadpoles can be seen swimming in search of food in the spring. Later in the year, dragonflies flit over the open water, looking for suitable areas to lay their eggs. Glebe Meadows is rich in wildflowers, including black knapweed, cuckooflower and the insect mimicking

bee orchid. These sites are managed in partnership with The Wildlife Trust, Arlesey Town Council and Arlesey Conservation for Nature.

Get out, get fit, have fun!

The route connects to the nearby settlements of Henlow, Baldock and Letchworth along National Cycle Route 12. If you would like information about volunteering to care for and improve the Green Wheel, either individually or as part of a group, please:

Email: GreenWheel@bedsrcc.org.uk
Call: 01234 832618

The Etonbury Green Wheel is a joint initiative between:



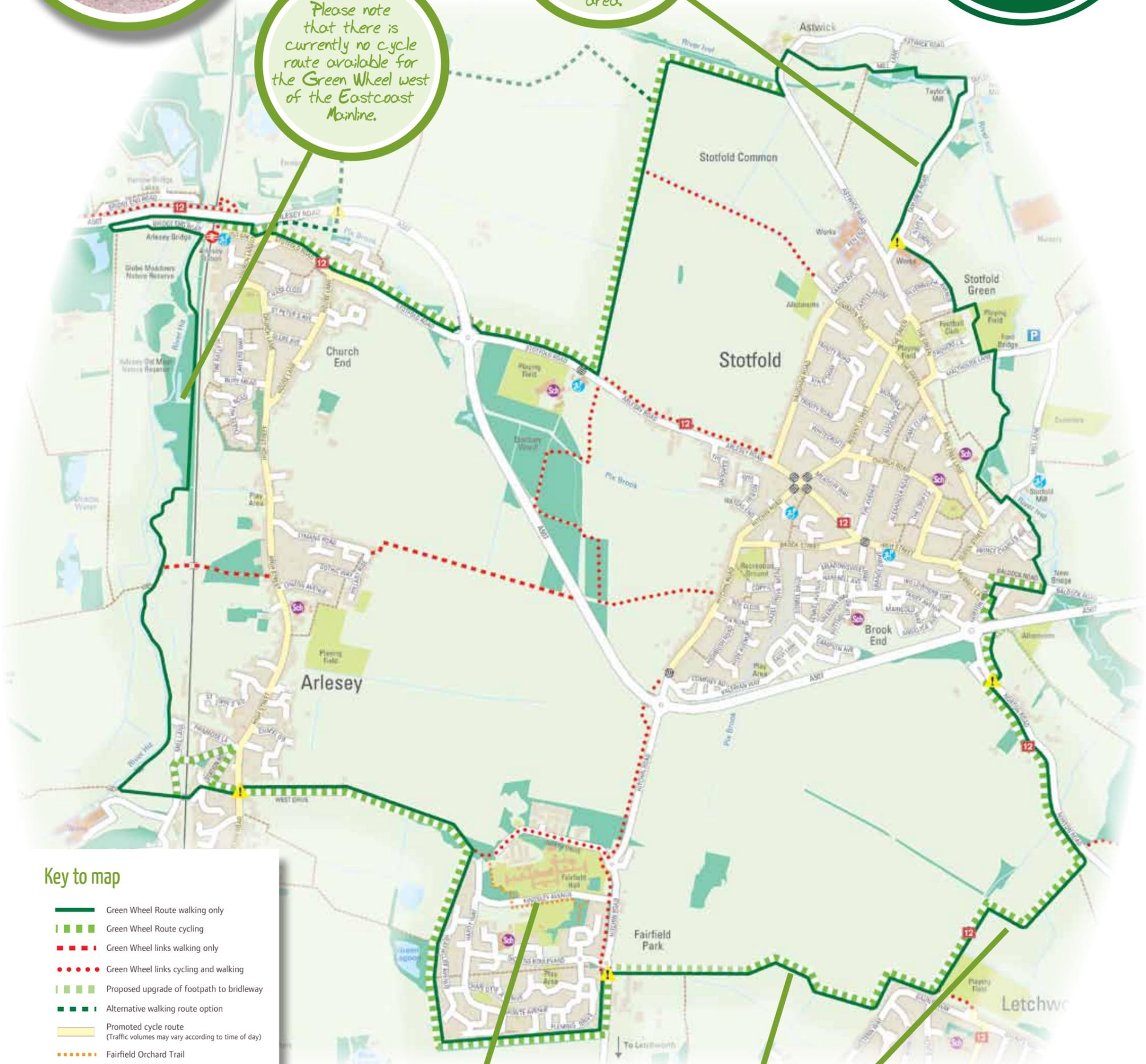
Central Bedfordshire Council
Working in partnership





Please take care walking along Taylor's Road - we are exploring opportunities for new, off-road paths in this area.

Please note that there is currently no cycle route available for the Green Wheel west of the Eastcoast Mainline.



Key to map

- Green Wheel Route walking only
- Green Wheel Route cycling
- Green Wheel links walking only
- Green Wheel links cycling and walking
- Proposed upgrade of footpath to bridleway
- Alternative walking route option
- Promoted cycle route (Traffic volumes may vary according to time of day)
- Fairfield Orchard Trail
- Other bridleway (Unsurfaced)
- Other footpath (Alignment of all footpaths is indicative)
- Bridge or underpass
- Take care crossing
- National Cycle Network route number
- Railway with station
- Crossing
- Cycle parking
- School
- Parking
- Other green space
- Woodland

Please note, an alternative walking route through Fairfield is offered by the Fairfield Orchard Trail.

Please note that the section of the Green Wheel west of Norton Road uses the same route as the Letchworth Heritage Greenway (www.greenway.org.uk)

