

Milton Road - Bus, Cycling and Walking Improvements Project October 2022 Update

Vegetation clearance of Elizabeth Way Roundabout



**Elizabeth Way / Highworth Avenue roundabout 2022 – Before.*

Our contractors are currently carrying out initial works on Elizabeth Way roundabout. This involves removing the existing vegetation on the roundabout. The below Q&A sets out the work we are doing and why.

Why does the vegetation need to be removed?

- The existing bushes would block visibility around the new junction, preventing it from being used safely.
- The proposed levels for the new design are approximately 250mm below the current levels, therefore retaining the existing vegetation would be difficult as it would then be above the new ground level.
- The existing vegetation is above a water main if it was kept the water company would very likely want the main diverted. Furthermore, in the event of the leak in future, the bushes would be removed as part of any emergency works that took place.

What is replacing the existing vegetation?

- The existing shrubs will be removed (which are **not** assessed as high quality and **not** recommended for retaining in the arboricultural assessment) and replaced with tree planting. Our ecologist's advice was to avoid creating a landscape that attracts birds or mammals in the middle of the roundabout to avoid the risk of collision with cars.

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- Replace mown grass with a wildflower meadow with species that encourage pollinators. This was proposed to reduce carbon footprint by reducing the number of cuts per year (normally 2 cuts), compared to mown grass (with approximately 8 -11 cuts per year) and to increase biodiversity.
- Flower beds will be replaced with ground covers which require less maintenance. Compared to flower beds which are re-planted annually, ground covers not only would help reduce carbon footprint but would be more ecologically valuable by offering nests to insects.
- Additional elements such as insect hotels, log piles and sandbanks will be introduced to attract invertebrates and insects to enhance ecological value and biodiversity.
- The 8 new trees on the roundabout will be positioned to maintain sight lines and avoid the existing utilities. These 8 are part of the 194 new trees we are planting on Milton Road each using a tree pit system which will help them to grow and increase tree canopy cover.
- Overall, the current roundabout vegetation offers limited aesthetical and ecological value. The aim was to redesign the roundabout with landscape elements that are attractive and enhance the ecological and biodiversity value.

Was this consulted on?

- Yes, a period of consultation and engagement was carried out between 2018 and 2020 to assist with developing the design. A workshop took place with the public, in addition to an online survey questionnaire which was distributed to 706 members of Milton Road Local Liaison Forum. The roundabout design was also discussed at several Local Liaison Forum meetings.

Where can I see the plans?

For details plans as to how the roundabout will look once complete our on the Milton Road project page

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/asset-library/Sustainable-Transport/Other-Transport-Schemes/Milton-Road/Technical-Drawings-Improvement-Works-2022/MILT-WSP-00-XX-DR-LA-003601-Elizabeth-Way-Roundabout-Landscape-GA-C01.pdf>

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/asset-library/Sustainable-Transport/Other-Transport-Schemes/Milton-Road/Technical-Drawings-Improvement-Works-2022/MILT-WSP-00-XX-DR-LA-003602-Elizabeth-Way-Roundabout-Landscape-Section-C01.pdf>

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*Insect hotel example

Ongoing Works

Mitcham's Corner: - Cambridge Water are still working on moving their water main between Mitcham's Corner and Gilbert Road Junction. While the work is ongoing, until the end of November 2022, the Temporary traffic lights will remain in place.

Union Lane: - We have closed this road at the Arbury Road junction end to motor traffic so that we can start putting in the new junction. We expect works to last about 10 weeks from the start date which was 12th October. Access for pedestrians and cyclists is maintained for the duration of the road closure.

Bus Stops: - Westbook East bus stop outside local shops has now reopened.

Cycling along Milton Road

We have had a number of enquiries about cycling routes while we upgrade Milton Road.

This map (<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/asset-library/Sustainable-Transport/Other-Transport-Schemes/Milton-Road/Milton-Rd-phase-1-cycling-diversion.pdf>) shows the safe cycling routes that can be used during this first phase of construction. As the project continues, we will update this map. You can also cycle in coned off areas which is **not** being worked on. However, if an area has been worked on by our contactors, it is not safe to cycle or walk in and would ask that you use the cycling route shown on the map. The nature of the work being undertaken means that different sections of Milton Road are being worked on different days so you may have to alter your routes regularly.

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