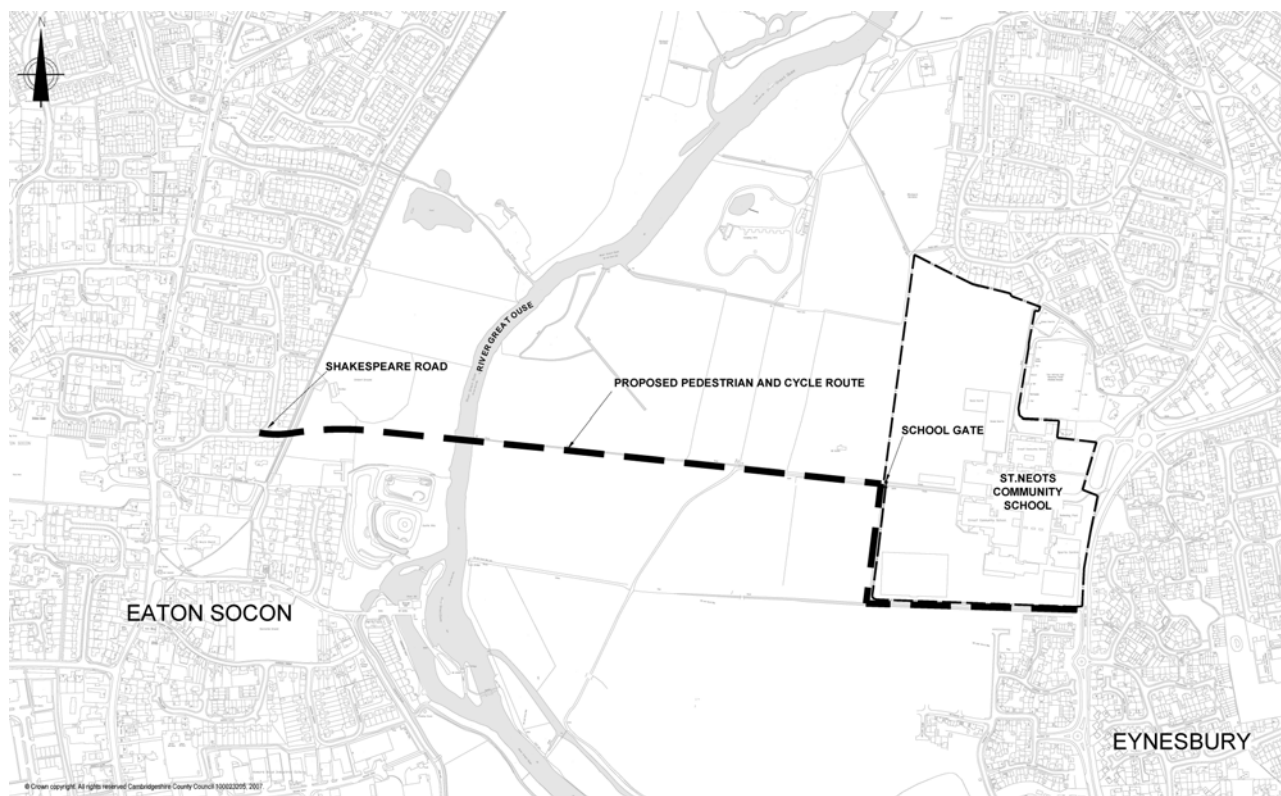


St Neots (Southern) Foot and Cycle Bridge

Connecting the communities of Eaton Socon and Eynesbury

A briefing note from the Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery Team

Cambridgeshire County Council is proposing to build a new cycle and footbridge, with new cycle and footpath links, over the River Great Ouse to connect the communities of Eaton Socon and Eynesbury.



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This follows a public consultation in 2003, on the overall route and location of the bridge. The most popular route, suggested by residents, was then taken forward. Thanks to your numerous votes, the scheme is one of the projects benefiting from the Big Lottery Fund.

The detailed design of the bridge is now at an advanced stage and we want to find out your views.

What will it look like?

The bridge span will have an overall length of about 346 metres. There will be approach ramps on either side of the bridge to make sure it is still usable during normal flooding. The bridge has been designed in agreement with the Environment Agency to ensure the effects of flooding in the area are minimised as much as possible.



The structure of the bridge will be made up of a 'bow string arch' bridge, along with a 3 metre-wide cycle and footpath approaching it. The access ramps at either end of the bridge will be of a gentle gradient (1 in 20) to allow access for people with disability.

The bridge height has been designed to minimise its visual impact on the surrounding area, whilst at the same time maintaining good clearance underneath for boats.

The bridge structure and approach paths will be lit at night-time (subject to planning permission) to make it feel safer

for users. Benches along the route will all be suitable for people with disabilities or walking difficulties.

The bridge itself will be made from steel, and coated with an anti-slip surface. It will also be painted in a natural colour to blend in with the surrounding area.

Connect2 and the Big Lottery Fund's (BIG) Living Landmarks: The people's million

Last year Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity, made a bid, called Connect2, to The Big Lottery Fund's (BIG) Living Landmarks: The people's Millions. Sustrans won £50 million to spend on improving cycle and footpath links nationwide.

The St Neots Foot and Cycle Bridge is one of the schemes that is benefiting from the lottery money. Sustrans is planning on spending £600,000 to improve the cycle links to and from the new bridge, as well as providing some public art along the route.

How much would the bridge cost and who would pay for it?

The bridge is estimated to cost £3.5 million and it would be paid for by Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and developers working in the area. Sustrans is contributing an additional £600,000. This money will go towards improving the cycle links to and from the bridge and incorporating public art into the bridge.

Land for the bridge

Before the construction of the bridge can begin, it is necessary to purchase the land where the new bridge is going to be built. Early discussions have suggested that buying this land by negotiation might not be successful.

However, the bridge is considered to be an important link, as it could benefit many in the local community by making cycling and walking in the area much easier and linking the communities of Eaton Socon and Eynesbury. It will also provide a safer route for many children to get to the Community College.



Therefore, Cambridgeshire County Council's Cabinet has approved using Compulsory

Purchase Order (CPO) powers to purchase the land for the bridge, should further negotiations fail.

Timeline

Possible timeline of key events (without a Compulsory Purchase Order)

Winter 2008/09	Submission of Planning Application
Winter 2008/09	Decision made on Planning Application
Autumn 2009	Earliest possible start date for bridge construction
Summer 2010	Earliest possible opening date for the bridge

If Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) required

Winter 2008/09	Submission of Planning Application
	Publication of CPO
	Possibility of a Public Inquiry
Autumn 2010	Anticipated start date for bridge construction
Summer 2011	Anticipated opening date for bridge

Please note, the timescales given are indicative and may be subject to change.

We want to know what you think

Please take a look at the plans for the bridge and let us know your views. You can fill out one of the feedback forms available, or you can post them to us free of charge at the following address:

By post: St Neots Foot and Cycle Bridge Project Team, Box ET1017, Cambridgeshire County Council, FREEPOST, CB176, CB3 0BR.

By email: transport.delivery@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

By phone: 01223 717585

Finding out more

If you would like to find out more about the bridge, go to:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/projects/huntingdonshire

Or you can call the Project Manager, Alistair Frost, on 01223 717585

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If you would like a copy of this information on audio cassette or in Braille, large print or other languages, please contact the Communications Manager on **01223 718362** or emailing transport.delivery@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.