

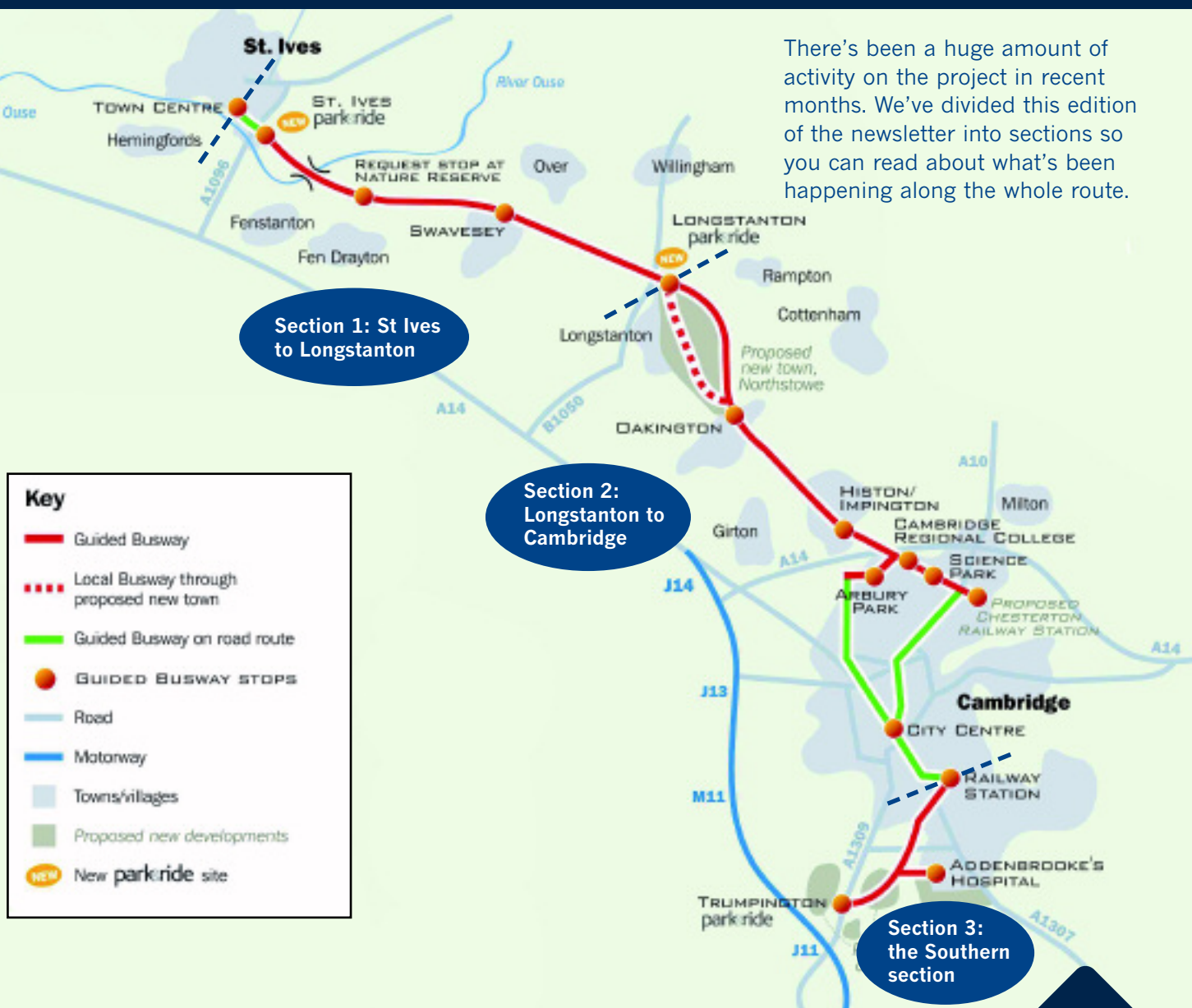


Guided Busway Update

November 2007

This is the seventh in a series of newsletters from Cambridgeshire County Council to keep you informed about progress on the Guided Busway project.

There's been a huge amount of activity on the project in recent months. We've divided this edition of the newsletter into sections so you can read about what's been happening along the whole route.



What's happening in the St Ives to Longstanton area?

We have started clearing vegetation from the route of the old railway line in this section. This means working very carefully in the Lakes area. Our contractor, Edmund

Nuttall Limited always has an ecologist present when they are working in sensitive environmental areas. This work is likely to continue until the end of January.

Site clearance taking place

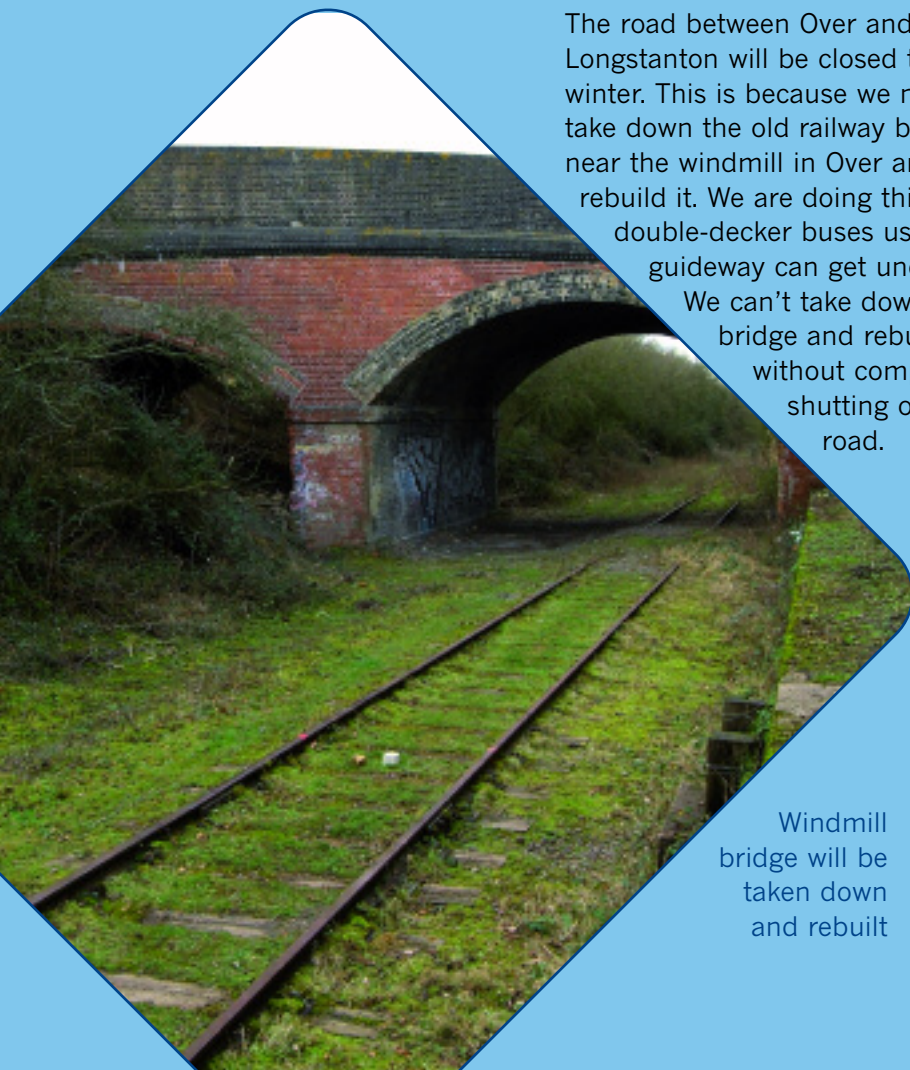


The road between Over and Longstanton will be closed this winter. This is because we need to take down the old railway bridge near the windmill in Over and rebuild it. We are doing this so double-decker buses using the guideway can get under.

We can't take down the bridge and rebuild it without completely shutting off the road.

The diversion route is through Willingham on the B1050 and Over Road. The new bridge will be completed and the road re-opened by June 2008. When the bridge is being taken down and rebuilt we will protect the wildlife site in Over cutting.

Plans for the design and layout of the new St Ives Park & Ride site have been submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council. Our contractor has also started putting together layouts for the bus stops along the whole route and has started to speak to bus shelter manufacturers.



Windmill bridge will be taken down and rebuilt

Special machine laying guideway beams



Road works at Cambridge Regional College

What about between Longstanton and Cambridge?

With the main construction compound near Longstanton, a huge amount has been happening in this section in recent months.

A specially built machine has been brought to the construction compound to lay the guideway beams that will make up the busway. The beams have been produced at the compound for a number of months now, but with the specially designed machine now in operation, these beams will start to be laid along the route.

By Christmas we expect to have laid over 3km of guideway beams. In terms of road closures, a new junction for the busway on Station Road in Oakington was completed on schedule and the road was re-opened to vehicles at the end of October. With Station Road now re-open, Park Lane in Histon (also known as Gatehouse Road) has been closed. The closure is necessary so a new junction can be built for the busway in this area too. Cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders can still use Park Lane.

Work on Station Road in Histon is well underway but on this road there is enough space to use temporary traffic lights, rather than having to close the whole road.

Closer to Cambridge, work on the busway junction near Cambridge Regional College started in October and is due to continue until February 2008. Again, because there is more space at this junction, Nuttall are able to build the junction without having to close the road.

Road works on Station Road in Histon





Above and below:
New bridge over the
railway line near
Addenbrooke's

And what's happening on the southern section of the busway?

Work on a new bridge for the busway, over the existing railway line near to Addenbrooke's Hospital is well underway. All of the preparation work has been completed and the structure of the bridge was craned into place at the end of October. 30 metre long concrete bridge beams have been specially shipped from Ireland to make up the bridge. When complete, the new bridge will provide a safer crossing over the railway line for cyclists and pedestrians as well as a crossing for the busway.

We are also preparing to start work in Trumpington cutting. At the beginning of December we will start clearing some of the vegetation from the cutting. Our approach to clearing the vegetation will be agreed by the City Council's tree experts and also in conjunction with National Grid who are responsible for the gas main in the cutting.

This activity will continue through the winter before actual engineering work on the slopes of the cutting takes place in 2008.

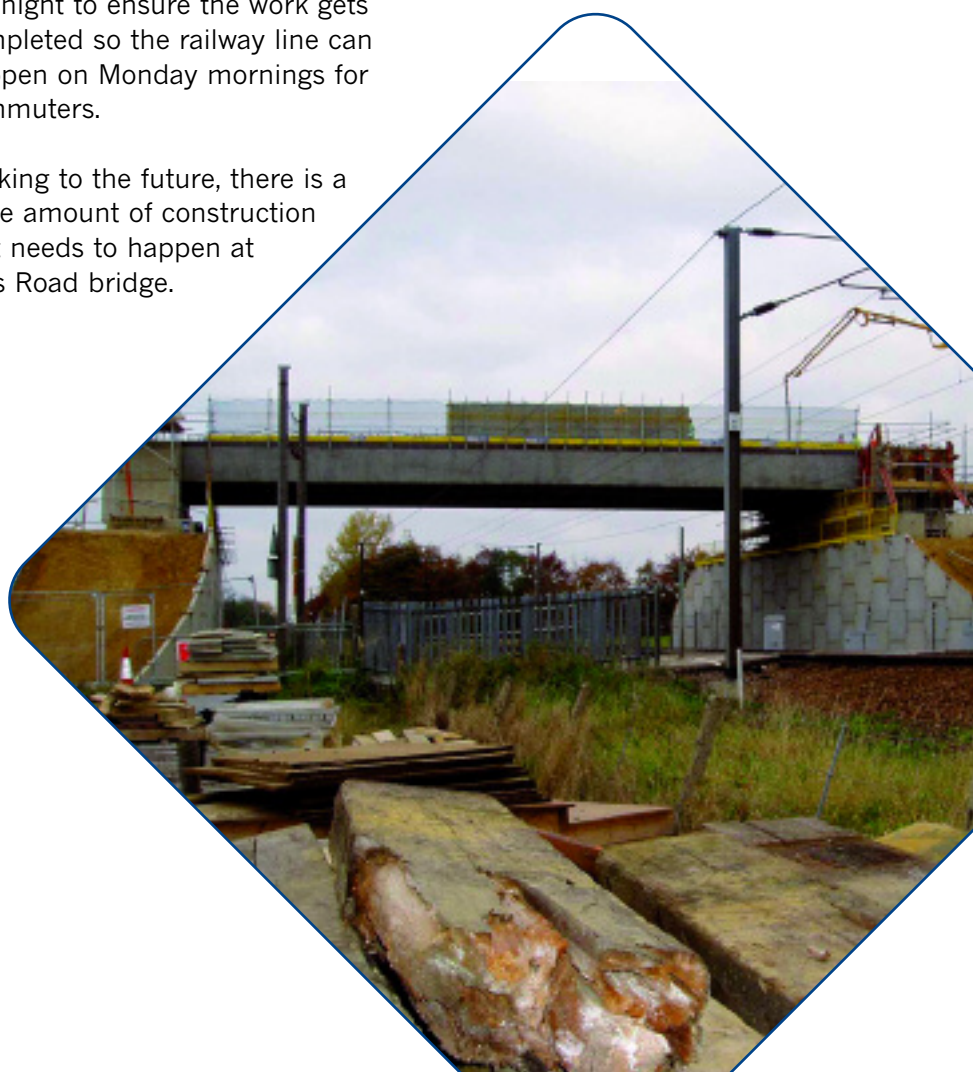
A number of plants from the southern section have recently been moved to the Botanic Gardens in Cambridge for safe keeping during construction.

These are nationally scarce species and the Botanic Gardens will keep them safe until we can move the plants back into some of our landscape and ecological mitigation areas.

Work at Cambridge Railway Station has now been mostly completed. Nuttall have been working at the Railway Station every weekend between Sept 8th and Oct 28th. People have been working through the night to ensure the work gets completed so the railway line can re-open on Monday mornings for commuters.

Looking to the future, there is a huge amount of construction that needs to happen at Hills Road bridge.

Recent work has already made way for Guided Busway work that is scheduled to start early next year. The exact details of how this work can be completed whilst minimising traffic disruption are still being discussed. More information about the works will be in the next edition of the newsletter.



Keeping up to date with Rights of Way closures

As many of you will know there are a number of rights of ways that are currently diverted or closed because of construction work on the Guided Busway.

Over the Christmas period we will do our best to make sure that as many as possible of the closures are lifted. Please check the website for the latest information.

You can keep up to date with all of the latest closures and diversions on our website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rightsofway

Construction timeline

As with any large construction project this programme is subject to change. We will update the programme in each edition of this newsletter.

Activity	Start	Finish
Longstanton to Cambridge construction	July 07	Aug 08
Work on Great Ouse bridge	May 07	Sept 08
Construction of trial guideway section between Longstanton and Oakington	Sept 07	Jan 08
Work on new bridge over railway line near to Addenbrooke's	April 07	April 08
Further site clearance from Longstanton to St Ives (Avoiding the bird nesting season)	Nov 07	Mar 08
Further site clearance from Cambridge Station to Trumpington	Dec 07	Mar 08
Work on Hills Road Bridge	Jan 08	Dec 08
Further construction from Longstanton to St Ives	Mar 08	Winter 08/09
Work on Windmill Bridge at Over	Oct 07	Jun 08
Construction of St Ives P&R	Feb 08	Oct 08
Construction of Longstanton P&R	Oct 08	Mar 09



The first guideway beams have been laid to make up the Guided Busway.

How can I find out more?

If you want to know more about the Guided Busway project or if you have questions or concerns about anything to do with construction, please contact the Guided Busway team on **01223 716972**, e-mail us on guidedbusway@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or write to us at

Cambridgeshire County Council
RES 1504
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

There are also lots of details about the project on our webpages at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/guidedbusway

If you would like a copy of the text in this newsletter in large print, Braille, audiotape or another language please contact the Guided Busway team using the details opposite.

**The next update
about the project
will be available in
February 2008.**

