

Appendix A2. Design and Access Statement For Planning Application

Bath: Two Tunnels Project

14th February 2007

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Design and Access Statement

Bath Two Tunnels Project

Process

The Planning Application is being submitted by Sustrans on behalf of the Two Tunnels Greenway steering group. The Two Tunnels group and Bath and North East Somerset Council are partners in this project.

For further information on Sustrans and National Cycle Network please refer to <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/>

Further information on the Two Tunnels group can be read on their website <http://www.twotunnels.org.uk/>

This scheme is a Connect2 project in which Sustrans, the charity behind Connect2, is working with partners around the UK to overcome long-standing barriers such as busy roads, railways or rivers that are dividing communities and making it difficult for people to travel by foot or bike as part of their everyday lives.

Connect2 is one of the projects competing for a single multi-million pound grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Living Landmarks: The People's Millions competition. The winner will be decided by public TV vote in Winter 2007/08 and it is hoped that Connect2 will be successful in going forward to this vote and, of course, in then winning the grant which will make this project a reality. Further information on Connect 2 can be accessed on this website:http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/projects/project_detail.php?id=2

The Planning Application is made as a change of use application. There are elements of engineering operations (ramps, bridges) but these are of limited area so would not exceed the change of use planning fee of £265 which is being sent by post direct to the Council Planning Department.

The application site is indicated by red highlighting on the application plans. The adjacent areas within the applicant's control (referred to in application form section 11) are the National Cycle Network paths to which this project connects: the River Avon towpath in the north and the railway path to Wellow in the south.

Description of Development

The development is described in the maps and annotated diagrams of the application. Where further information depends on detailed design Sustrans suggests that planning conditions are used to require further details prior to implementation.

Use

The National Cycle Network now passes within one mile of half the UK population and as it continues to grow so does its popularity - 232 million trips were made on the Network in 2005 alone. The Network is well signed, it connects towns and villages, countryside and coast throughout the UK offering over 10,000 miles of walking and cycle routes on traffic-free paths, quiet lanes and traffic-calmed roads.

This section of the National Cycle Network will serve both employment and leisure trips. The Two Tunnels group website indicates that this project will receive much public support and use.

Amount of development, Layout and Appearance

These issues are clearly covered in the A3 document.

Scale

There are no buildings proposed and the actual multi-user path footprint is compact, yet giving adequate space for users to pass without causing hazards. It is proposed to comply with the National Cycle Network design standards.

Landscaping

The intention is to retain and enhance the existing green corridor. It is suggested that detailed landscaping matters can be controlled by planning condition.

Access

Working with the other partners, Sustrans undertakes the planning, management and building of many of the National Cycle Network paths which involve other work and considerations such as building bridges and ensuring wildlife is not disturbed.

This project is all about improving access with the major aim of increasing cycling and walking. This should improve access to the city centre for those living further south and will form an important part of longer distance cycle links with neighbouring communities. The path will be available for those with buggies and those using wheelchairs.

Mitigation of Effects on the Natural Environment

Preliminary and some detailed works have been undertaken by Michael Woods Associates on these aspects. The detailed reports contain site specific information on bats and badgers and therefore it is requested that these reports are not placed on the Planning Website. All relevant information will be shared with the case officer.

Further information

If further details are required please contact the applicant or agent.

Applicant: Sustrans Ltd
on behalf of the Two Tunnels Group
Adrian Roper
Sustrans Regional Manager
National Cycle Network Centre
2 Cathedral Square, College Green Bristol,
BS1 5DD
0117 915 0118
Adrian.Roper@Sustrans.org.uk

