



Wokingham



# Cycling on the A329 Corridor

[www.myjourneywokingham.com](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com)





## 1 Introduction

Wokingham Borough Council is about to start on the next section of cycleway on the A329 corridor. The work is being funded by the Thames Valley Local Economic Partnership (LEP) through the Local Growth Fund. The work in Wokingham Borough will compliment similar projects in Reading, Bracknell and West Berkshire. When all these schemes are finished, they will form a new National Cycle Route (NCN422) between central Newbury and Ascot.

Work on the A329 in Wokingham Borough started in 2012 and was originally funded by a central government grant to promote sustainable transport. The idea of a new National Cycle Route is to link the town centres of Newbury, Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell and Ascot and to provide safer cycling for destinations in-between including schools and business parks.

In Wokingham Borough the project was originally split into four phases, with the third finishing in Woosehill. However the third phase was stopped at Woodward Close in Winnersh because of other highways work planned in that area - Winnersh Relief Road and the Northern Wokingham Distributor Road. There is no sense installing the cycleway between Woodward Close and Landen Gardens until these other

highways schemes are finished. These schemes, when delivered, will include facilities for cyclists and will fill in the remaining gap.

The fourth phase will create a new section of cycleway from Landen Gardens through Woosehill Roundabout to the Holt Lane junction. As with the previous phases, a new surface will be laid to improve how the road space is used. This stretch of the A329 is very wide in places – from Emmbrook to Woosehill for example - so pedestrian islands and signalised crossing points will remain. However, the crossing points, signs and bus waiting facilities will be upgraded and large sections of footpath resurfaced.

Building a cycleway means work is focused on the edge of the highway. Work is also being timed where possible to co-ordinate with existing Council maintenance to keep traffic problems to a minimum. The carrying capacity of the A329 Wokingham, Reading and London Road won't be affected by the new cycleway. Where the road does narrow in several short sections, cyclists can either stay on the carriageway or use the shared footway/cycleway.

This project is one of many sustainable travel schemes across the borough. Discover what else is happening on the My Journey Wokingham website: [www.myjourneywokingham.com](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com)

## NORTH

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- Existing Cycle Route
- Future Cycleways

## 2 Questions & Answers

### Why has the scheme been delivered in phases?

The A329 crosses the Wokingham Borough and runs some six miles between the Reading and Bracknell boundaries. It wasn't feasible to deliver the scheme in one go. It is also governed by the availability of funding, and mustn't conflict with other highways projects nearby.

### Why is the project happening?

The number of people cycling is rising. In some areas across the borough there has been a 19% increase as a direct result of new cycle lanes.

### Are the shared foot and cycleways going to be retained?

Yes, and in places realigned and resurfaced.

### Are any of the traffic islands going to be removed?

No. Reading Road is wide enough in this fourth phase so they will remain.

### How wide will the cycleway be?

1.5 metres on either side of the Reading Road.

### What happens where the road gets narrow?

The carrying capacity of the Reading Road is not going to be lost in any way. The road is wide and there is space for every one. Where the road does narrow, cyclists can use the shared footpath, but this will only be for short sections.

### What do the green sections of the cycleway mean?

These are the start and end of sections, as well as where the cycleway goes across a road junction.

### What are Reading and Bracknell doing?

Reading and Bracknell are partners in delivering the National Cycle Route (NCN422). They will shortly be developing their sections, alongside West Berkshire. The route through Wokingham will eventually link to Newbury and Ascot, via redeveloped Bracknell town centre.

### Are there many cyclists that will use it?

Surveys by the My Journey team along the A329 corridor show that there are more than 4,500 cycle movements along it every week.

### How are the final sections being financed?

Via a £4.2million grant from the Thames Valley Economic Partnership, through The Local Growth Fund, being shared among Wokingham, Reading, Bracknell and West Berkshire councils.

## PHASE 5

Route to Bracknell enhanced by Coppid Beech Junction Improvement, planned for 2015

To Bracknell

Montague Park

Area of Major Housing Development

## PHASE 4

Area of Major Housing Development

Emmbrook School

Holt School

Station Link Road

Wokingham Station

Molly Millars Industrial Estate

## PHASE 3

WINNERSH

Winnersh Station

Forest School

Winnersh Triangle Industrial Estate

Winnersh Triangle Station

## PHASE 1 & 2

£1.1 million investment for Cycle Safety Fund and the Lower Earley Way cycleway

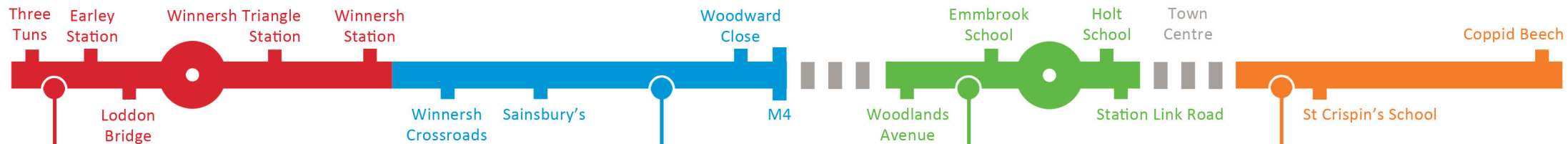
LOWER EARLEY

Earley Station

To Reading

Maiden Erlegh School





### Phase 1 & 2

COMPLETE

The first and second phases were finished in 2014 and 2015, creating the cycleway between the Three Tuns and Winnersh Crossroads.

- New road surfaces mean the carriageway has been reorganised to make better use of the space available
- New signalised pedestrian crossings replace those pedestrian islands removed
- Traffic signals at the Three Tuns, Loddon Bridge Road junction, Showcase Cinema Roundabout, Winnersh Crossroads and Woodward Close have been replaced
- Bus stops have been improved and new shelters installed
- Footpaths resurfaced

### Phase 3

COMPLETE

This was finished in early 2016. It only stretched from Winnersh Crossroads to Woodward Close, rather than Woosehill as intended.

This is because of other highways work planned in that area: Winnersh Relief Road junction; the junction of the Northern Distributor Road, and changes to the junction of Old Forest Road. (It makes no sense installing the cycleway between Woodward Close and Landen Gardens until these other highways schemes are finished.)

The road between Winnersh Crossroads to Woodward Close was completely reconstructed during this phase.

### Phase 4

(Early 2017)

Phase 4 is being timed to start in 2017 and fit in around a number of other highway projects happening in Wokingham Borough, such as the works in Peach Street associated with the Town Centre regeneration.

Parts of Phase 4 will also be timed to avoid school term times to minimise disruption, such as the work we plan to do at the junction of Holt lane and towards the Reading entrances to Emmbrook school.

We will also resurface the road at night time for minimum impact on people using that route.

As with the previous phases, the carriageway will be resurfaced. However, unlike them, there's no need to remove the traffic islands because the carriageway is very wide and can accommodate everyone's needs.

### Phase 5

(2019)

This will link the eastern side of Wokingham to Bracknell, via London Road. This phase is due to finish in 2019.

However prep for the cycleway at the junction of London Road and William Heelas Way has already been completed.

Coppid Beech Roundabout is also ready. It has long been a barrier for cyclists and pedestrians heading towards Bracknell. Traffic signals are now in place to manage traffic flow and let cyclists and pedestrians cross safely.

There is also a new dedicated shared cycle/footway through the junction up to the borough boundary with Bracknell. Development at Amen Corner in Bracknell is starting, which will create a continual cycleway beyond Wokingham's boundary.

During the last three years the My Journey Wokingham team has helped to change the way the A329 corridor is used by: developing on-carriageway cycleways; improving bus stops and shelters; creating better footpaths; resurfacing the carriageway and updating signals at junctions to include advanced stop lines for cyclists. The team has also removed unnecessary street signs and other clutter along the route.

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**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



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