

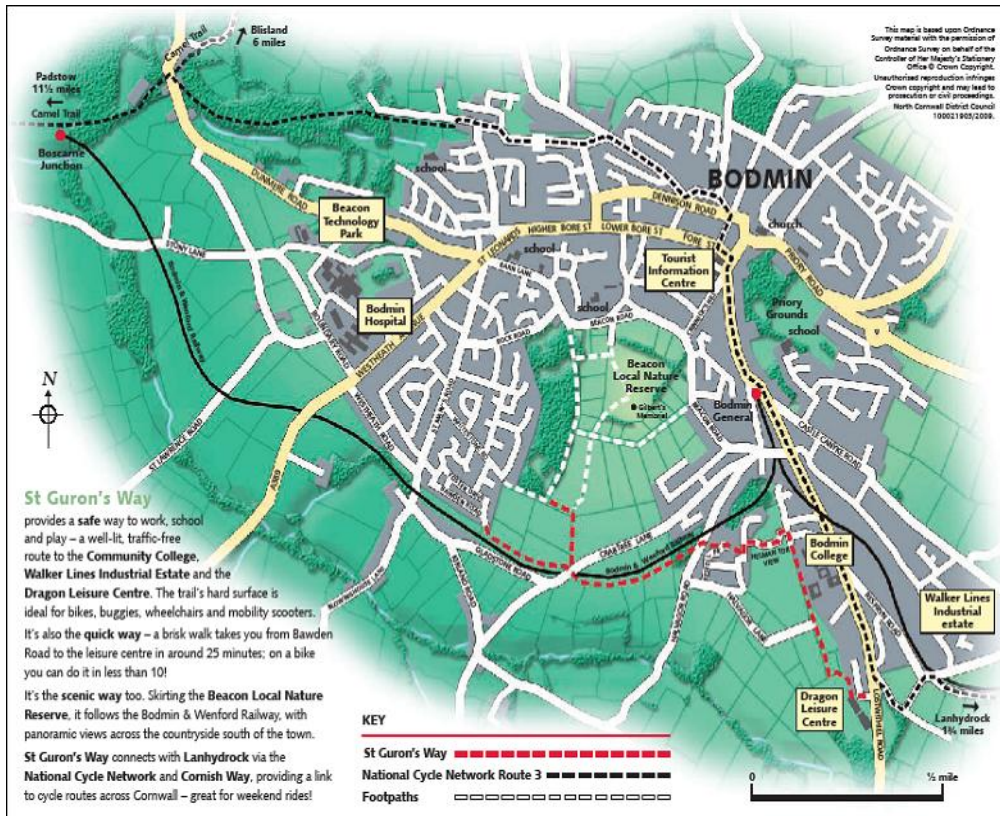
# Green Infrastructure South West Web Portal: Delivery Case Study



## St Guron's Way

### Location:

Bodmin, Southwest Cornwall.



### Lead organisation:

Cornwall County Council own and lead the development of the site. Contact Emma Rojano on [emma.rojano@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:emma.rojano@cornwall.gov.uk).

### Main issues raised and highlighted:

St Guron's Way was developed as part of the Walk to Work project and is a multi use trail which links east and west Bodmin, utilising the natural contour of the railway corridor. The 'greenway' connects to the National Cycle Network Route 3 and enables access to the Beacon Local Nature reserve. The project is used to promote health and well being through

active lifestyles and also as a support to disadvantaged residents facing barriers to employment.

### **Main Partners:**

The trail is maintained by Cornwall County Council as part of their ongoing commitment to take care of all the county wide trails. Day to day responsibility for its management is covered by the Environment Services Eastern Area Operations Team.

The Transportation and Estates Department are responsible for the maintenance of any highway sections of the routes and for all structures associated with traffic calming or road crossings.

### **Funding Stream(s):**

The project received financial support from Objective 1, Sport England and the Big Lottery Fund, South West Regional Development Agency, County Environment Trust, Cornwall County Council and North Cornwall District Council. A very strong local partnership oversaw the delivery and this drew in a wide range of contributions both from the community and the public sector.

The maintenance and development of the site is funded through the Environment Service of Cornwall Council. External funding is obtained to organise events, and develop initiatives to increase participation in cycling and walking activities and to grow the use of the route.

### **Aims of project:**

- Economic benefits.
- Support disadvantaged residents facing barriers to employment.
- Assist residents facing barriers to employment.
- Assist residents and young people on benefits to sustainably access employment areas.
- Promote health and well being through active lifestyles meeting the Governments 5 x 30 agenda.
- Improve access to the Community College, Hospital and national cycle network.

### **Description of project:**



St Guron's Way was developed as part of the Walk to Work project and is a multi use trail which links east and west Bodmin, utilising the natural contour of the railway corridor. Just

over a mile in length the 'greenway' passes through fields, railway embankment and housing, linking residential areas with the community college, industrial estate and the Dragon leisure centre with a connection to the National Cycle Network Route 3. The route also enables access to the Beacon Local Nature Reserve.

The trail passes through some attractive countryside with panoramic views to the south, east and west of the town. Key features include the Beacon, the railway and its infrastructure, distant clay china landscapes, parkland (Lanhydrock) and landscape features such as Fox Parc.

Prior to the development of this project those living in St Mary's Ward were geographically isolated from work locations and facilities on the east side of Bodmin. The town has a declared air quality management area and due to the way that the town has developed on the east and west sides of the Beacon Nature Reserve, had limited scope for increasing cycling and walking opportunities.

Bodmin is spread over a four square mile radius, with the industrial areas being located on the far west side of the town.

Careful design and landscaping of the project minimised environmental impacts and maximised benefits to the environment. The use of existing corridors within open countryside avoided new land being used to develop the trail. This reduced construction within the outlying countryside and minimised visual impact of the development i.e. railway corridor.

The route is predominately a sealed surface pathway (surface dressed) with a minimum width of 2.5 metres and a maximum width of 3m based upon successful standards adopted by Cornwall Council on the Cornish Way and the National Cycle Network.

#### **Delivery mechanism/long-term adoption of project:**

The school council and Travel Awareness Group have played a key role in developing the Trail and continue to integrate it within the school curriculum.

There are proposals of 5000 new houses to be built in and around the town over the next 20 years. This has potential to double the population of Bodmin but will provide opportunities to create a more sustainable, revitalised town through the provision of a network of high quality, safe and convenient cycle routes or green corridors linking new developments within and around the town network.

A number of important projects such as the Bodmin Masterplan and the Bodmin Air Quality Management plan are guiding this anticipated growth for Bodmin for future generations. The importance of the Masterplan in terms of building in opportunities for people to be physically active through walking and cycling has received widespread support from stakeholders and the local community whereby the further development of green corridors is now firmly embedded within the 'vision' for the town. The local community are keen to build on the success of the Walk to Work project and it is looking very promising that their desire to create a link from St Guron's Way to the Camel Trail will be supported in the Masterplan once it is adopted.

Improving the network would further reduce barriers to employment and will ensure that the residents (new and existing) are able to contribute fully to and share in the success of the economy and have a better standard of health.

## Outputs/outcomes/benefits

Planned benefits include:

- Increased Activity - Encouraging more people to increase their activity levels by providing attractive natural spaces, with new opportunities for fun and enjoyment.
- Providing Community Spaces - Providing attractive environments near housing areas to make living in those areas more enjoyable.
- Health and Well Being - Providing spaces for recreation, relaxation, play and reflection.
- Climate Change Adaptation - Helping the City and surrounding areas to adapt to unavoidable climate impacts such as increased flood events.
- Sustainable Transport - Developing walking and cycling routes through natural spaces.
- Biodiversity Enhancement - Creating and enhancing sites to allow wildlife to flourish.
- Education Opportunities – Providing new, innovative and inspiring places to learn.

## Lessons learnt

- The inclusion of the Park as an allocation in a statutory planning document has helped to ensure the LPA commitment to its delivery and has provided certainty for developers and landowners in the area.
- The success of the project is reliant on gaining consensus between landowners on the master plan for the Park. It has therefore been vital to work with them from the very beginning of the design process.
- Organisations, working together in new ways, has allowed new and innovative delivery mechanisms to be developed.