

East Lothian Cycle Forum

Project updates

7th May 2025

Staffing

Hedvig Ponten, who was supporting workplace and school travel planning, has moved on from the team at ELC.

Access to bikes and cycle parking

Community cycle parking / public repair facilities

ELC have identified a further 20 community locations for cycle parking, which will form part of a package of public cycle parking improvements in 2025-26. A full list of locations will be provided at the next meeting.

Further work is being undertaken to identified suitable locations for public repair stands and pumps, with a view to ELC installing some of these in 2025.

To suggest locations for community bike parking and public cycle repair facilities please email activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Folding bike hire pilot

There are now 4 virtual folding bike hire hubs up and running in libraries across East Lothian, which means that visitors to Musselburgh, Haddington, Dunbar and Prestonpans libraries can pick up a Brompton. These bikes are great for taking with you on public transport, or even just going for a ride in the surrounding area.

It usually costs just £5 per 24hrs, but for a limited time, cycle forum members can pick a bike up **for free** for 3 days, using the discount code **EastLothian2024** on the Brompton Bike Hire app. To collect your bike, download the Brompton Bike Hire app and register. Find your nearest Virtual Dock and make a reservation. Visit the dock location to check-in with the staff there. When you are done, simply return the bike to the same dock location you got it from.

Residential cycle storage

In response to interest from residents ELC are exploring three potential locations for shared residential bike hangars in Dunbar and Musselburgh.

The active travel team would welcome further suggestions for shared storage. Residents can express their interest by emailing activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Workplace cycle storage

ELC have received requests for secure workplace cycle storage at Fisherrow Centre, George Johnstone Centre and Dunbar Medical Centre, which the active travel team will explore delivering in 2025-26, subject to grant funding.

Behaviour change and communities

Active Prescriptions

The [East Lothian Social Prescribing Walking Challenge](#) is a 12-week step-based programme designed to promote physical activity and mental well-being. Aligning with NHS guidelines, the challenge encourages participants to gradually increase their daily steps across three activity tiers: inactive, moderately active, and very active. It aims to reduce reliance on short car journeys, boost positive attitudes toward walking, and increase its frequency for leisure and exercise. Participants can earn badges for hitting daily or weekly goals, access curated local walking routes, and track their progress via the Go Jauntly app. The initiative supports long-term healthy habit formation, active travel, and long-term health improvements. Participants can be referred to do the challenge via East Lothian's Exercise Referral Pathway, by GPs at health practices in

Prestonpans and Dunbar. Alternatively, you can self-refer by signing up directly via the GoJauntly app.

Centre Line removal pilot project

ELC's partnership project studying the effects of centre line removal on speed, funded by Road Safety Trust and led by Professor Adrian Davis of the University of West England, is progressing well, with 12-month post-intervention data scheduled to come in by June 2025. Once our academic partners have had a chance to fully analyse and report on this data, findings will be published and decisions on potential changes to ELC policy made.

Cycling UK – Connecting Communities in East Lothian

Connecting Communities in East Lothian had a very successful year supporting over 700 participants by delivering 98 cycling activities and 52 cycle loans. This year has been a productive start to Connecting Communities in East Lothian, supporting hundreds of individuals to start cycling.

In line with the Active Travel Framework, the outcomes after intervention were:

- More than 60% of participants walk, wheel or cycle for short journeys
- More than 60% of car users reduce car/taxi use
- More than 70% feel safer whilst walking, wheeling or cycling
- More than 80% of participants are experiencing health and wellbeing benefits from walking, wheeling or cycling

Follow-up surveys issued approximately 3 months after participation received 23 responses, showing that:

- 41% cycled regularly (i.e., fortnightly or more) for local journeys before support; this increased to 65% after support
- 55% of those with access to a car started cycling for journeys previously made by car
- 74% said they were now likely to cycle more as a means of transport in the future
- 74% said that receiving this support has made them feel safer when cycling
- 52% were not meeting the NHS guidance for physical activity per week before support – 73% of whom reported that this support has helped to increase the amount of exercise they do

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- 91% reported that the support had helped their health/wellbeing (e.g., improved their fitness, feel less isolated, etc.)
 - 87% reported that the support had positively changed how they feel about cycling (e.g., more motivated, more confident, better knowledge, etc.)

For further information on the project, including case studies, visit <https://www.cyclinguk.org/impact-east-lothian>.

Musselburgh Area Partnership Active Travel sub-group

A new Chair is required for the Musselburgh Area Partnership Active Travel sub-group.

This role involves helping to secure cycling, walking and wheeling improvements in and around Musselburgh, Wallyford and Whitecraig, working with ELC officers. The new Chairperson should have enthusiasm for active travel in all its forms and will be responsible for identifying items for the agenda, encouraging participation from attendees and presenting a summary report at the main Musselburgh Area Partnership meeting.

To learn more about this volunteer position please contact the Musselburgh Area Connected Communities Manager Scott McKail - smckail@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Public transport

Dunbar Rail Station access

Due to the funding being released so late, ELC were unable to deliver this project within the necessary timescales last year. Construction drawings are ready and awaiting a decision from Transport Scotland regarding funding in this new financial year.

This will only cover construction on the ELC owned area, with Network Rail to complete construction designs for their area separately.

Journey Hubs

Work has been carried out by consultancies Cenex and Quarterre to develop more flexible designs for Journey Hubs, and concluded in March 2025:

<https://www.cenex.co.uk/projects-case-studies/iuk-east-lothian-bus-shelter/>

ELC are exploring further funding to move these designs from the drawing-board into real-life settings.

Separate to this, ELC is looking at funding options which would support the upgrade of facilities at the main Journey Hubs, including the adding of bike parking and cycle repair stands.

North Berwick Rail Station improvements

An initial phase of works has been agreed with Scotrail, which will focus on widening the public access point at the west of the station platform from the current 1.1m to 1.7m, improving accessibility.

Discussions are continuing around the potential for expanded cycle storage, however options on the existing platform are constrained. A further update will be provided in future.

Route development

Aberlady to Longniddry

See Coastal Feasibility Study

Active Travel Improvement Plan refresh

ELC are progressing the network plan component of the active travel improvement plan refresh. This is focused on defining long distance, secondary, and primary networks for active travel across East Lothian. Desired active travel links have been added from local place plans and active travel plans completed by the community.

Any further reports by communities identifying key active travel connections can be sent to Niall Deans - ndeans@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Blindwells to Prestonpans Rail Station active travel link

Location / description: *a shared-use path from Blindwells to Prestonpans rail station along the B1361. See [Path from Blindwells to Prestonpans Station / Projects / East Lothian Council](#).*

A design has been agreed in principle. Timescales for delivery are now the responsibility of the Developer, Hargreaves.

Coastal Feasibility Study

ELC are awaiting the outcome of funding awards to Sustrans, which will determine whether this feasibility study can be carried out in 2025-26.

Cross East Lothian Active Freeway (formerly SATC)

Location / description: *see [Cross East Lothian Active Freeway / Cross East Lothian Active Freeway / East Lothian Council](#)*

Construction of the East Linton section of this route is now complete. ELC continue to explore funding for further sections of this route.

Dunbar Belhaven designs

The extensive community engagement exercise over the autumn of 2024 included a six-week online survey, a workshop with Community Council representatives and local Councillors, and two drop-in sessions – one for identified stakeholders and one for the general public. Comments from all engagement sources were pulled together and analysed.

As a result, ELC now intend to:

- Seek funding to signalise the junction of Beveridge Row / Edinburgh Road / Shore Road
- Conduct a trial restricting Back Road between Winterfield Place and Winterfield Golf Club to non-motorised vehicles only

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- Finalise designs for Shore Road path to incorporate feedback received, and apply for Planning Permission on this basis
 - Apply for Planning Permission for agreed improvements at Shore Road Car Park entrance, and seek funding to implement this
 - Consult further on restricting beachfront parking at Belhaven to Blue Badge holders only
 - Undertake further design work to change alignment of crossing at Duke Street / Brewery Lane, and seek funding for further consultation and subsequent implementation

The above process will take several years of design and engagement, and we would encourage people with an interest in the area to keep an eye on local media for updates and opportunities to refine the proposals.

Dunbar NCN realignment

This study is formed of two parts, a technical feasibility to assess the potential for segregated cycling along the Edinburgh Road from West Barns to Beveridge Row and options to connect from Beveridge Row to the shared use path at Spott Row, improving connectivity to the railway station and the centre of Dunbar whilst providing a new alignment for NCN route 76.

The study is currently in draft form and designs will be updated based on ELC feedback. The intention is for the study to be published once the concept designs and options for connecting from Beveridge Row to Spott Row are finalised.

Elphinstone to Tranent, active travel options appraisal and concept design

Location / description: development of an improved cycling and walking route between Elphinstone and Tranent, incorporating the Charles River Research Centre.

A preferred option and concept design has been prepared, which will be shared in due course. ELC are awaiting funding confirmation from Sustrans to allow this project to move to technical design.

Fa'side Right of Way

The reinstatement of the Fa'side right of way is about to go out to tender. Unfortunately, due to the terrain this route will not be suitable for cycling, as there will be a number of cross drains and water bars. ELC have struggled for a number of years to come up with a specification for this path, but because it is so steep and has so much water running down it, we have had to rule out a sealed surface. A previous attempt to upgrade this path about thirty years ago with whindust lasted a matter of months before all the material was washed down the hill during heavy rain.

Haddington Community Hospital - extension of railway path

ELC are hopeful that work on the extension of the Railway Walk along the edge of the Community Hospital grounds in Haddington will start shortly. We are currently awaiting confirmation of funding from Sustrans.

Haddington to Longniddry railway path

ELC have a small amount of funding available to do some work on the Haddington to Longniddry Railway path. This will allow Countryside Services to carry out some work on drainage, as well as improving interpretation panels and putting in benches.

Haddington Quiet Way / NCN works

Sustrans, in partnership with East Lothian Council and Haddington Golf Club, is progressing plans to improve an existing path through Haddington Golf Course and Amisfield Park in Haddington.

The route, which is already popular with people walking, wheeling and cycling, is being upgraded to formal shared-use paths to improve safety, accessibility and comfort for all users.

The works include resurfacing damaged sections, gentle regrading of a sloped area to make it easier to use and replacing a gate with a more inclusive access gateway. Some light vegetation clearance will be undertaken to improve visibility, with replacement planting to follow. Once complete, the path will form part of National Cycle Network Route 76, offering a quieter lower-speed alternative to the existing alignment.

This is a modest but meaningful improvement that will make a real difference for local journeys and leisure trips alike. The project is currently at the pre-application planning stage, and further updates will be shared with the community as designs progress.

For more information on this project, please contact Sustrans Engagement Coordinator at lucia.santana@sustrans.org.uk.

Haddington, Riverside Footbridge

Location / description: development of designs for a new 4m wide replacement crossing of the structure [here](#).

Detailed design works are currently under way, covering the structure itself as well as connecting paths on the north and south. Recent focus has been on the various technical elements, including structural, geotechnical and ecological. Further information will be shared with the local community in due course.

Construction of this project is entirely reliant on ELC securing grant funding in future.

Haddington, Tynebank Road

All construction works are now completed for this project. Further information, including images of the completed works, will be shared [here](#) in due course.

Local Development Plan

ELC's Access Officer has been commenting on the proposed sites for the LDP to ensure consideration of paths and active travel. The proposed areas for development will

shortly be sifted by Planning based on initial feedback, after which there will be further opportunity for ELC officers to comment.

East Lothian's Local Access Forum is very keen to ensure that the LDP includes robust wording to ensure that paths are higher up the agenda in any future planning applications.

Musselburgh Active Toun

- Pre-planning advice received from Planning on detailed designs for Routes 1, 2 & 5 outwith the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme footprint. None of the proposed works constitute development so no planning applications are required. Discussions are required with Policy & Projects, Landscape and Tree Officers regarding the detail of materials, finishes, street furniture, potential impacts on existing trees and proposals for new trees.
- Proposed Traffic Regulation Order amendments associated with the Routes 1, 2 & 5 proposals were presented to Cabinet for authority to progress on 11th March 2025. Draft Orders are being developed with the intent to publish in June 2025.
- MFPS team continue to progress designs for Route 3 and the Eskside section of Route 5.
- Planning applications are being developed for sections of MAT route within the general footprint of the MFPS but that require a separate consenting process to the Scheme itself. A phased consultation programme will start in July 2025 before the applications are submitted.
- Consultation on Concept designs for Routes 4 & 6 and section of A199 Edinburgh Road has been summarised in a consultation report which will be made available once approved by partners.
- Bids to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund to progress Detailed designs for Routes 4&6 were submitted in February 2025. No response has been received.
- Sustrans Places for Everyone will continue to fund Detailed design work on Routes 1, 2, 3 and 5 until the end of September 2025. Bids are to be submitted to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund by 30th April 2025 for any funding required after this date.

Musselburgh Levenhall Links

Work began in early May to put an improved cycle path along the access road within Levenhall Links.

This is a connection from the cycle path put in two years ago, between Levenhall Links and the racecourse, which will run along the existing access road to the boating pond. It will be a single-track tarmac road with passing places. A barrier will prevent vehicular access, other than for blue badge holders and people with permission to use the boating pond. There will be signs for motorists to use the passing places to give way to cyclists.

This will result in an off-road tarmac route all the way from Goose Green to the B1348, connecting into the proposed active travel route to between Levenhall and Prestonpans.

Prestonpans to Levenhall

***Location / description:** development of an improved active travel connection between Prestonpans and Musselburgh along the B1348. See [Levenhall to Prestonpans / Projects / East Lothian Council](#).*

Public consultation on the initial design option for this project closed in March, having received around 180 responses. A consultation report is currently being prepared by AECOM and will be published shortly.

Revised concept design options will be presented to key stakeholders for initial feedback in the coming weeks, before being shared publicly.

Prestonpans Cemetery Park

Design work is under way focusing on improving the path networks connecting to and running through the park. This will include additional landscape architecture input, to explore biodiversity and natural play opportunities which would enhance the space.

Designs will be shared with the local community in the coming weeks.

Town Centre audits

The purpose of these audits is to identify minor improvements that could be made to accessibility, including works such as dropped kerbs, tactile paving, consolidation of signage, footway repair and the rearrangement of bollards or guardrails.

A GIS database of issues has been compiled for Haddington, North Berwick, Prestonpans and Tranent, with plans for further audits in Musselburgh and Dunbar over the coming weeks. This work will then be expanded to cover villages.

If members would like to support this work, we would welcome participation on our walk arounds. Please email cmilne@eastlothian.gov.uk and ndeans@eastlothian.gov.uk if interested in doing so.

An initial package of works was delivered during March and April, focused on surfacing, dropped kerb and street furniture improvements in Tranent, including locations such as the George Johnstone Centre and the Heugh. A small number of additional dropped kerb improvements were also carried out in Musselburgh.

Funding has been secured for further follow-up works in 2025-26, which will be spread around various locations, with a greater focus on Prestonpans, Haddington and North Berwick.

Wallyford Toll active travel improvements

Construction drawings are complete and awaiting a decision on funding from Transport Scotland. If funding is confirmed, then construction could commence in early Autumn.

Further information on this project can be found [here](#).

Schools

Bikeability

- 100% Bikeability Scotland delivery in East Lothian Council schools during the 2024-25 academic year, managed by ELC Outdoor Learning and funded by Cycling Scotland.
 - Third year in a row to achieve 100%, one of only 10 Local Authorities in Scotland.
 - Outdoor Learning Service Instructors worked with over 1300 primary pupils in 2024-25.
- Potential new project currently being explored between ELC Outdoor Learning and Active Travel, which could offer all primary age pupils the opportunity to learn to ride.
 - This would address increasing numbers of pupils unable to cycle or with limited skills, therefore unable to take part Bikeability Scotland on road cycle training.
- Data overview for Bikeability in 2024-25:
 - Activities: 78
 - Pupil engagements: 7465
 - School engagement: 100%
 - Learn to ride - pupils: 120
 - Learn to ride - staff: 2
 - Volunteer hours: 487

Cycle and scooter storage

A small amount of grant funding is available to ELC for school improvements in 2025-26, which is likely to be focused entirely on Pinkie St Peters Primary School, where a total of 8 shelters were so badly damaged by Storm Eowyn that they had to be removed to ensure the safety of pupils there.

I Bike

In the previous term Sustrans I Bike East Lothian ran **70 activities**, with **1229 pupil engagements** across **7 I Bike Schools**.

The standout highlight from last term: East Lothian pupil-powered itself to an even better year in the Sustrans' UK wide Big Walk & Wheel (BW&W) competition, where students log how they journeyed to school each day over a fortnight. 2024 saw an impressive 11 schools sign up with 13,500 active journeys logged over the 10-day competition. **2025 had a whopping 20 schools, 31,433 active journeys** in 10 days. Of those, Aberlady PS and St Mary's PS were #5 and #7 in Scotland for small primary schools; Haddington #5 for large primaries; and Dunbar #2 and Knox #4 (albeit their competition was a little easier, only 7 secondaries signed up in Scotland).

We promoted the BW&W locally with emails to schools to encourage participation, as well as some excellent posters as created by students. I also spoke at assemblies to remind students about the physical, mental and environmental health benefits of active travel. We spent the two weeks delivering scooter skills, nurture group cycle skill sessions and more, but the highlights were the group walks to school at Cockenzie and Haddington primary schools - we called them a "conga". Like a Walking Bus, but with students in care of their own households, it was:
"the best way to get to school ever!" - as overheard from students.

We're currently celebrating 2024 Big Walk & Wheel East Lothian school winners by turning Haddington joint campus into a wheelie playground, to celebrate both HPS and St Mary's 2024 success. It covers bike safety checks, Bikeability level 1 skills, playing with bike ramps, scooting and silent disco – a huge array to ensure we have active opportunities to celebrate for all students.

I Bike were delighted to partner with local providers such that in 2025 we'll be celebrating the best class in every school - rather than the best school - to provide visible incentives to the whole of the 17 schools who submitted results, aiming for it to inspire others to be the best class for their next active travel push. Hopeful we can share these stories with you in the next forum.

Play on Pedals

East Lothian Council Early Years Team manage Play on Pedals in EL settings.

ELC Outdoor Learning Service has been promoting / facilitating where possible to increase participation with the programme by early years settings and are in discussion with Cycling Scotland, who manage and fund Play on Pedals, regarding options which could increase numbers of primary age riders.

School Travel Planning

ELC's active travel team continue to work in partnership with schools across the county to offer support with school travel plans. These are designed to identify and address the barriers to sustainable travel faced by each school. The data gathered during development of the school travel plan acts as a benchmark by which the school can measure progress each year. After setting a target to work with 18 schools in by the end of 2024-25, 20 of our primary schools now have live travel plans, which will help to promote sustainable travel to more pupils than ever before.

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