



CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Working to Create a Cycle Friendly City.....

CYCLING MATTERS!

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN



WINTER 2023

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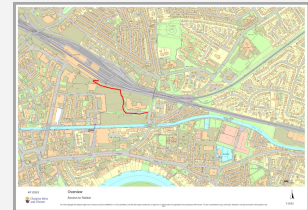
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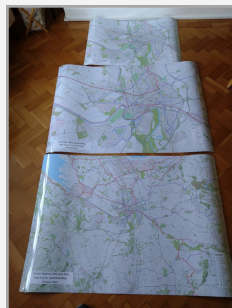
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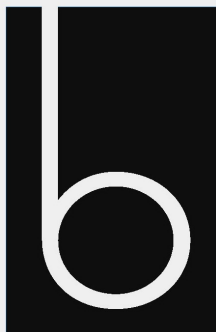


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Fancy Women's Bike Ride 2023

A big thank you to Campaign member Sue Booth for organising this year's "Fancy Women's Bike Ride" which was part of a worldwide event to show that women can claim space to ride on the streets enjoyably and dressed in ordinary clothes!



Riders pause at the amphitheatre in the centre of Chester.

26 women of various ages assembled on Exchange Square, outside the new Chester Market, on Sunday 17th September then rode a circular route using streets and off-road paths around the city, pausing at places of interest and finishing at the Groves beside the River Dee.

At the end of the ride at the Groves the riders enjoyed ice cream from Snugbury's Ice Creams courtesy of Cycling UK's 'Big Bike Revival' initiative which was arranged locally by Campaign member Ian Slater.

The first Fancy Women Bike Ride was held in 2013 in Izmir, Turkey, to draw attention to World Car Free Day and to instill "the smell of perfume in cities instead of the smell of exhaust" It has taken off world-wide and we hope it will become an annual event in Chester.



Sustainable Cheshire Festival 2023



The Campaign had a stall at the Sustainable Cheshire Festival held in Grosvenor Park on Saturday 23rd September, organised by Cheshire Eco Communities.

It was a busy day with several Campaign members answering questions about cycling in Chester. Display materials illustrated cycle routes around Chester, different types of cycles and the many ways you can carry your stuff when cycling. Many members of the public stopped and enquired.

At events like this, lots of people say they would like to cycle in Chester but aren't sure of how to start. If you, or someone you know, is in this situation, check out our [Cycle Buddy Scheme](#) - we can help.

We took the picture above first thing in the morning, before it got busy!



Campaign Donates to CycleStreets

At a recent Cycle Campaign meeting we agreed to make a donation to the CycleStreets organisation. This was considered a very beneficial use of a small portion of accumulated funds.



CycleStreets is a UK-wide, free to use, online cycle journey planner. It is designed by cyclists, for cyclists, and caters for the needs of both confident and less confident cyclists.

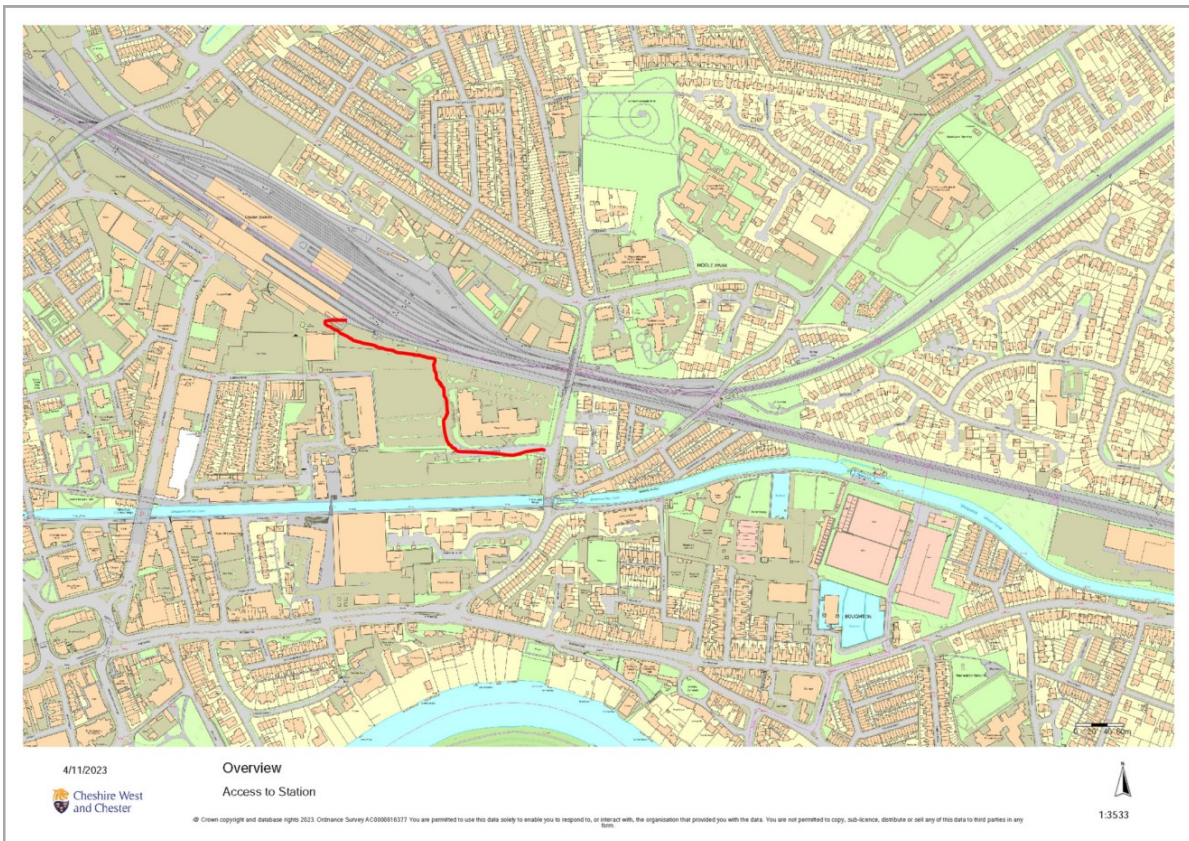
The [Online Cycle Route Planner](#) on the Campaign website uses CycleStreets. It is a web-based, open source resource which provides an easily accessible way to plan a cycle route in the Chester area. It presents 3 route options: the fastest, the quietest, or a “balanced” route. There is also a CycleStreets app for iPhone and Android.

Originally, CycleStreets focused exclusively on the Cambridge area, but when approached, they kindly allowed our Campaign to access the resource so that the Chester area could benefit from their initiative. CycleStreets was created by Simon Nuttall and Martin Lucas-Smith. Both are regular bicycle users, based in Cambridge, and have been involved with Cambridge Cycling Campaign for many years. CycleStreets is run as a not-for-profit organisation.

Because it is open source, people in Chester can continue refining the details of routes in our area.



Protecting Off-road Route to Chester Station



People who are familiar with the rear entrance to Chester Station will know that, at the moment, there is an off-road route, shown in red on the map above, which runs from Westminster Road/Station View, via Charterhall Drive and through the now derelict Lloyds Banking Services site. It comes out at the ramped rear access to the station situated to the east of platform 1, just next to the 2-tier cycle racks.

Campaign members have had growing concerns for quite a while that this direct and fast route from the eastern side of Chester may be blocked off if it is not stipulated to remain when the site is redeveloped.

Development work started recently, so Campaign members contacted the relevant Councillors and Council Officers and conducted on-site visits. They have since had an assurance from one developer who is starting work that a shared route use route round their working area would be protected.

At this stage it is not clear whether there is an overall development plan for the site which might specify a protected route, so it seems we need to keep a keen eye as work begins on further areas of the site.



Large Scale Laminated Maps Now Available for Campaign

Craig Steeland from the Campaign has been hard at work producing some large scale laminated maps of the Chester area which can be utilised whenever the Campaign is attending an event, or meeting with local organisations. Maps of this quality have not been available before.



Produced in A1 and A0 size, the maps show a lot of detail with great clarity and include the various signed cycle routes in the City and nearby. They will be especially useful to identify areas where problems exist and cycle access could be improved.

A big thank you to Craig, for his detailed work in producing the images from Open Source mapping,

then translating them into a readily printable format.

These maps have been added to the growing stock of resources available to the Campaign to promote cycling in Chester and beyond.



Cycle Maintenance at Storyhouse

Campaign member Ian Slater, who is also a Storyhouse volunteer, organised a special introductory cycle maintenance session on 24th September for the benefit of other Storyhouse staff and volunteers.



6 Storyhouse volunteers took advantage of the session which covered basic issues such as safety checks and mending punctures.

Knowing these basic skills gives you more confidence when cycling.

Many people have a neglected bike in the shed and would like to get it going again. Join the Campaign and you can have it checked over for free! See [page 9](#).

Or if you are someone who already does their own cycle maintenance but doesn't have all the tools, join the Campaign and you can borrow our workstand and tools for free! See [this link](#).



Chester Cycle Buddies Scheme



Image credit: London Cycling Campaign

Chester Cycle Buddies is our scheme to help people who would like to cycle more in Chester.

You don't have to be a Campaign member to use Chester Cycle Buddies.

We know (because people tell us!) that many people would like to cycle more in and around Chester, but don't really know how to go about it.

You may be unsure about riding on your own, riding in traffic, or where to park your bike.

Or maybe you're back on a bike after some time and need a bit of practice. Or maybe you want to know what's changed since you last rode - or you just need a bit of a confidence boost.

We can help. We match you up with one of our members who is an experienced cyclist who can help you with whatever you would like help with.

That might be planning cycle-friendly routes to places you would like to go, riding with you to test out routes and answering any queries you may have.

People are often surprised to learn how easy it can be to get around Chester by cycle (work, children's schools, shops, city centre, leisure, friends, etc).

Do click through to Chester Cycle Buddies on our website [here](#)



Join the Campaign and Get a Free Bike Safety Check

Do you have a bike which you haven't ridden for a while? Would you like to start using it around Chester? Maybe you're not sure whether it's roadworthy and would like it checked out?

One of the benefits of joining Chester Cycling Campaign is that you can have a free bike safety check, including puncture repairs, brake adjustments, and derailleur gear adjustments.

And Bren Bikes, a Corporate member of the Campaign, is offering a Cycle Health Check completely free of charge! Normal price is £25. Details of both are on our [membership page](#).

Join us, get your free bike check and you'll be all set for cycling! You can join online, using the link above to our membership page. Or print off and post the form on [page 11](#).



Now On Instagram



Thanks to new member Claudia, the Cycle Campaign now has an active **Instagram Account**. See us [here](#)

WWW

The Campaign **website** is the “go to” place to find out about cycling matters in and around Chester: <https://www.chestercyclecity.org/>

Do have a look - it has:

- a complete library of all the cycle maps of Chester - all are downloadable for free,
- the link to an online cycle route planner,
- news about cycle path closures as and when they arise,
- how to submit camera evidence of a road incident to Cheshire Police,
- a cycle document reference library with local and national documents,
- details of our Chester Cycle Buddies scheme,
- all our electronic newsletters,
- minutes of Chester Cycling Campaign meetings,



Follow our **Facebook** page “Chester Cycling Campaign” to get our updates and news, such as upcoming path clearing sessions.. Check it out [here](#)



X (was Twitter) - Follow our feed and contribute to the discussions!

[@Chester_Cycling](#) .

Check it out [here](#)



Join the Chester Cycling Campaign!

Name	
Address	
Post Code	
Phone	
Email	

If you are happy to receive your Campaign bulletins by e-mail and to be notified of Campaign activities by email, please tick here:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual Membership | £10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Unwaged\Student | £5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family Membership | £15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Corporate Membership | £25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life Membership | £100.00 |

Membership is valid until end of September during year of joining. Join after April 1st and it will be valid until the end of September in the following year!

How did you hear about the Chester Cycling Campaign?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chester Cycling Campaign website | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Press |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cycling Matters Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social Network |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other – state: | | |

I enclose an additional donation of £ _____

I agree to this information being placed on an electronic database for Campaign purposes only.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please send completed form & cheque (payable to Chester Cycling Campaign) to:

Chester Cycling Campaign Membership Secretary
1 King's Crescent West
Chester
CH3 5TQ