



Castle Park component of a safe cycle way to Helsby High School

Background

In 2009, following the closure of Frodsham High School CWaC produced a report examining the potential of a cycle route from Frodsham to Helsby High School. The report considered several alternatives, all of which incorporated usage of the existing pathways in Castle Park. No further action was taken. In 2012 the Weaver and Sandstone cycle forum in (conjunction with CWaC) reexamined the proposals as a potential quick win under the 'All Together Better' project. Some aspects of the scheme were then progressed; these included working with the HHS to ensure locker and cycle storage facilities were installed, ensuring the hedge encroaching the footpath to HHS was cut back, and through joint FTC and CWaC financing the installation of a 'pelican' crossing at the junction of Howey Lane and the A56.

Statement of Reason for Castle Park

Given the limitations of Howey Lane the routes through Castle Park represent the best option for cycle connectivity to HHS. The crossing at the Netherton Hall will further incentivise children to view Castle Park as a safe route to HHS by foot; children living on the North side of the A56 will use existing footpaths, although between Marsh and Dig Lanes these have inadequate width to be considered suitable for a 'share with care' scheme, again making Castle Park the most attractive option.

Access to Castle Park (CWaC 2009)

The CWaC 2009 report identifies 2 key entry points to Castle Park for cyclists with a possible third. These are; the Fountain Lane entrance, the Howey Lane entrance, and the Park Lane entrance at the synagogue well. At the time of writing the report there was expectation that significant upgrade work would be conducted on the pathways in the park, this has since been completed. The CWaC report ascertained the Park Lane option would require large scale earthworks to resolve gradient issues (with associated costs).

Proposals in detail

Key to the Castle Park route to HHS is awareness and accessibility. The CWaC 'Bikeability' map for Frodsham already depicts the the lower paths (Fountain Lane to Main entrance) and main path (Fountain Lane to Netherton Drive) as current cycle ways.

- Signage, by way of standard blue pedestrian / cycle way signs depicting approximate walking / riding times to HHS at key places along the route from Fountains Lane to Netherton Drive would serve to direct children along the appropriate route and provide awareness of the short distances and easy access.



- Advertising the route to HHS is easily achieved through an awareness campaign at the school and locally. Castle Park could play a part by having the current park maps modified to highlight the route. It's unlikely children would want to use the route before 8am, however it is likely to be used after 4pm, especially in the summer months. The route must be accessible.

Next steps to consider

- Establishing a safe crossing for Fountain Lane
- Establishing a cycle link to the centre of Frodsham and beyond
- (Long Term) A pedestrian protection scheme for Howey Lane



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