Recycling Norfolk's Disused Railways

A vision for a cycling and walking network for the county







Recycling Norfolk's Disused Railways

Summary

Bringing disused railways, and other under-used parts of the transport network, back into full-use as cycling and walking routes will have significant benefits, for example in the areas of:

- Health
- Rural economy
- Tourism
- Environment
- Transport and traffic congestion
- Mental well being
- Disabled access to the countryside
- Equestrian use

Norfolk County Council has a target of quadrupling the level of cycling and walking to work in Norfolk market towns by 2025.

We are also setting out to make Norfolk a top cycling and walking destination for leisure and tourism by 2025.

These ambitious targets will facilitate economic growth and will protect Norfolk's natural beauty.

Cycling and walking routes have multiple benefits including health, mentalwellbeing, economy, increased biodiversity, alleviation of congestion and air quality improvements.

Disused railways and under-used parts of the road and public rights of way network exist in a wide variety of locations across Norfolk. The proposal is to investigate, through a well aimed feasibility exercise, the likely costs, timescales, land ownership issues.

This will form the basis of a business case and a view of the overall deliverability of bringing this disused railway infrastructure back into intensive use as an integrated cycling and walking network, with equestrian use also built in.

Priority will be given to maximising opportunities to link existing and proposed residential areas with places of employment, education, retail and leisure. Such a

network will be a significant selling point for Norfolk as a visitor destination.

Norfolk County Council is ideally placed to take this work forward having recently produced the <u>Norfolk Cycling & Walking Strategy</u>.

It is proposed that feasibility work will focus on three disused railways, Weaver's Way (owned in part by Norfolk County Council), King's Lynn to Fakenham and King's Lynn to Hunstanton. We will also consider the small section between Fakenham and Walsingham, in addition to a general feasibility study of the whole of the network which will also be undertaken in parallel with this detailed work.

Simon Eyre, Norfolk County Council Cycling & Walking Champion

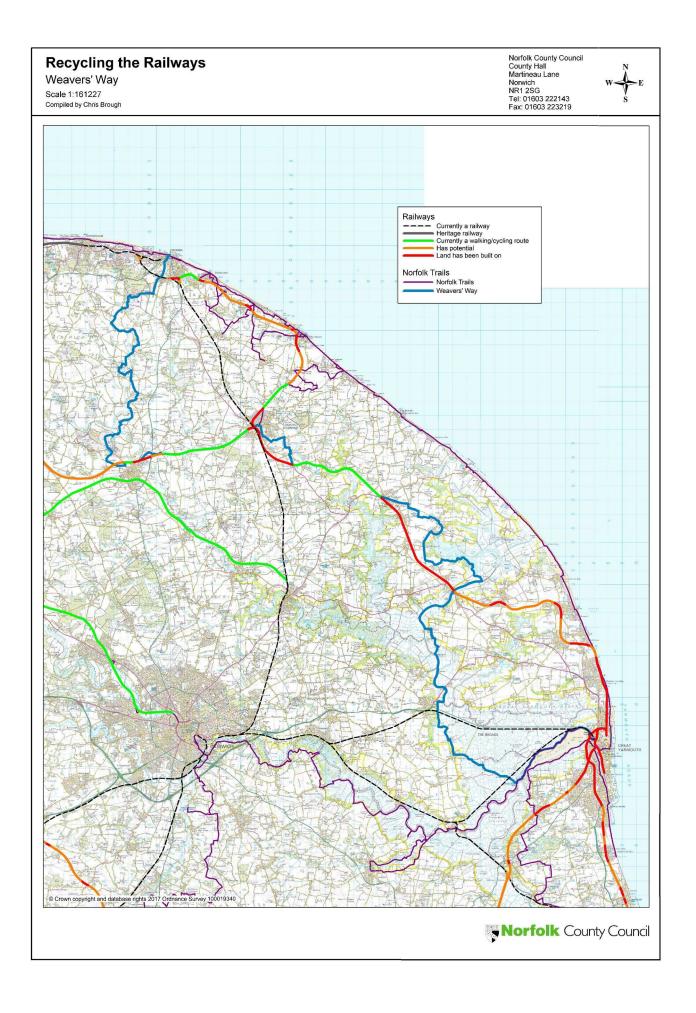


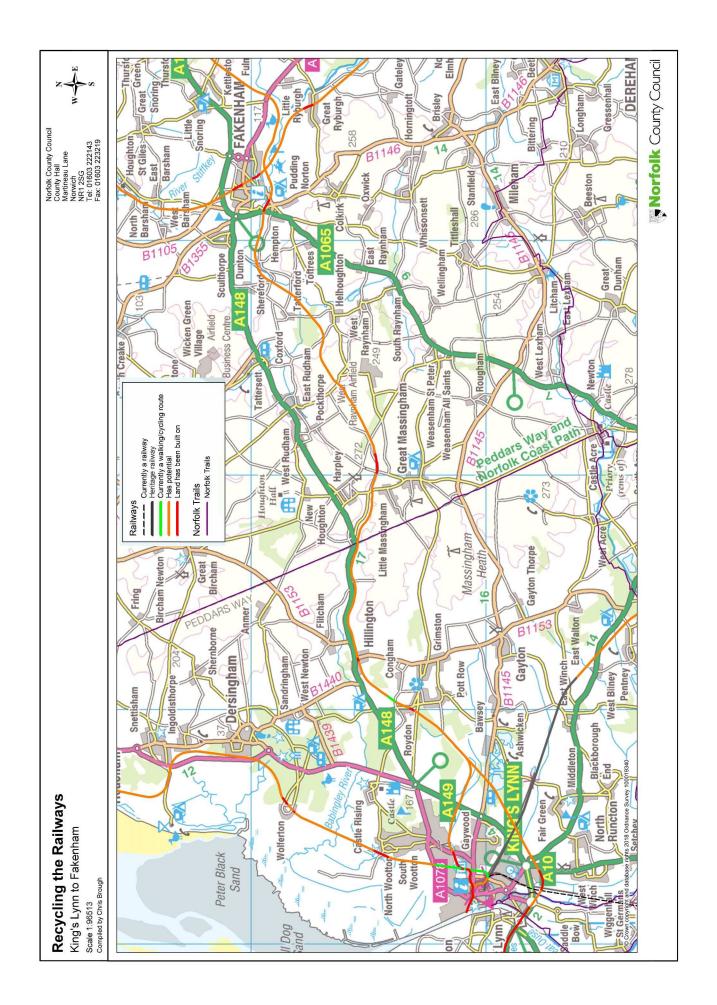


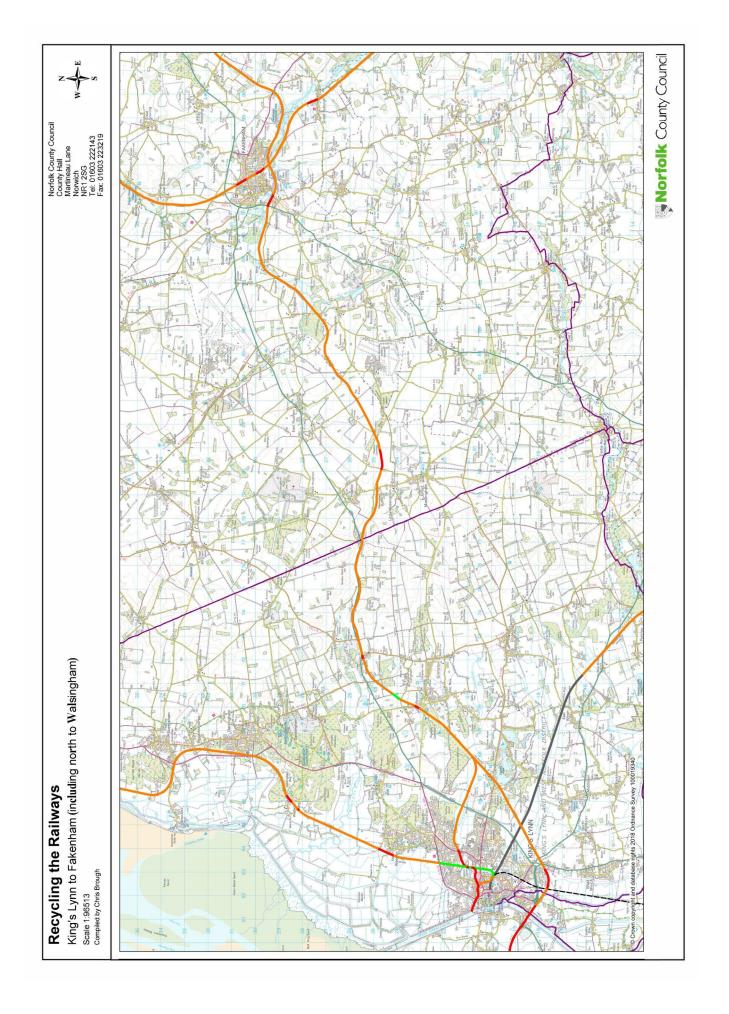














For more information about Recycling Norfolk's Disused Railways, please contact: Dr Andy Hutcheson, Environmental Manager (Green Infrastructure, Strategy and Advice) Community and Environmental Services, Norfolk County Council. Andrew.hutcheson@norfolk.gov.uk

