

Waterbeach

Newsletter Summer 2022

New homes

Stonebond and Cala
at Waterbeach

Connections

Update on Mere Way
cycle way

Community

First play spaces
completed



Welcome to the latest Waterbeach Barracks newsletter

Contents

- 4 **Planning to delivery**
 - 4 Planning update
 - 6 Site preparation
 - Landscaping
 - Demolition update
 - 8 New homes
 - 10 Play areas
- 12 **Transport update**
 - 12 Mere Way update
 - 15 A10 cycle and crossing works
- 16 **Community**
 - 16 Summer at the Beach
 - 18 New assault course
 - 20 Sports Hall and Studio refurbishment
 - 22 Community Market
 - Supporting local families
 - 23 Inspiring future generations
 - 24 Uncovering the past
 - 25 Heron's Preschool
 - 26 Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum
 - 28 Landbeach Tithe Barn
 - 29 Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey
 - 30 Wicken Fen Nature Reserve



Hello



Rebecca Britton Urban&Civic
Regional Director, Communications,
Communities and Partnerships
T 01223 622 533
M 07739 339 889
E RBritton@urbanandcivic.com



Bruce Callander Urban&Civic
Communications, Communities
and Partnerships
M 07502 191 344
E bruce.callander@urbanand
civic.com

Urban&Civic
The Control Tower
Waterbeach Barracks
Denny End Road, Waterbeach
Cambridgeshire CB25 9PA

The transformation of the former barracks and airfield site into a new community is progressing at pace. In this edition we have provided an update on both onsite and offsite work as we continue to move from planning through to delivery.

Updates include progress on the significant onsite infrastructure including cycle and walking routes -and our first bridge! - and progress on the two play areas that will be ready for first residents expected in Spring next year.

Sustainability and biodiversity are at the heart of our development and the landscape team update us on their work improving the existing habitats on site, and delivering the new green spaces coming forward. They are working alongside the infrastructure team to support delivery of the Sustainable Travel Hub, which will help people leave their cars at home and use the extensive cycle and public transport routes coming forward. The newsletter provides a progress report on the delivery of the Mere Way Cycle Route, and our work improving the A10 cycle path - including the early delivery of the Toucan Crossing, which is now installed and operational.

We continue to explore and celebrate the rich heritage of the area and include updates on the recent Archaeology Open Weekend, and school visits held with Oxford Archaeology East.

We have been delighted to open up the site again for Summer at the Beach, which saw around 500 visitors enjoy community activities and the work of local artists as part of Cambridge's Open Studios event.

June also saw the reopening of the Sports Hall and Studio - after their refurbishment - and the launch of The Playground assault course. These facilities reflect the focus on wellbeing and health being at the heart of the new development: in place for new residents, but also great facilities for new and existing residents to meet and forge new connections.

The newsletter also includes updates from key partners at the Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum, Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey, Landbeach Tithe Barn and Wicken Fen.

We continue to engage and consult with a wide range of individuals, groups and other key stakeholders and partners around specific applications and facilities; our community, heritage and skills workstreams; and the delivery of the development as a whole. We look forward to seeing a range of community representatives at forums, meetings and events over the next few weeks, but if anyone would like to set up a meeting or update call with us, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

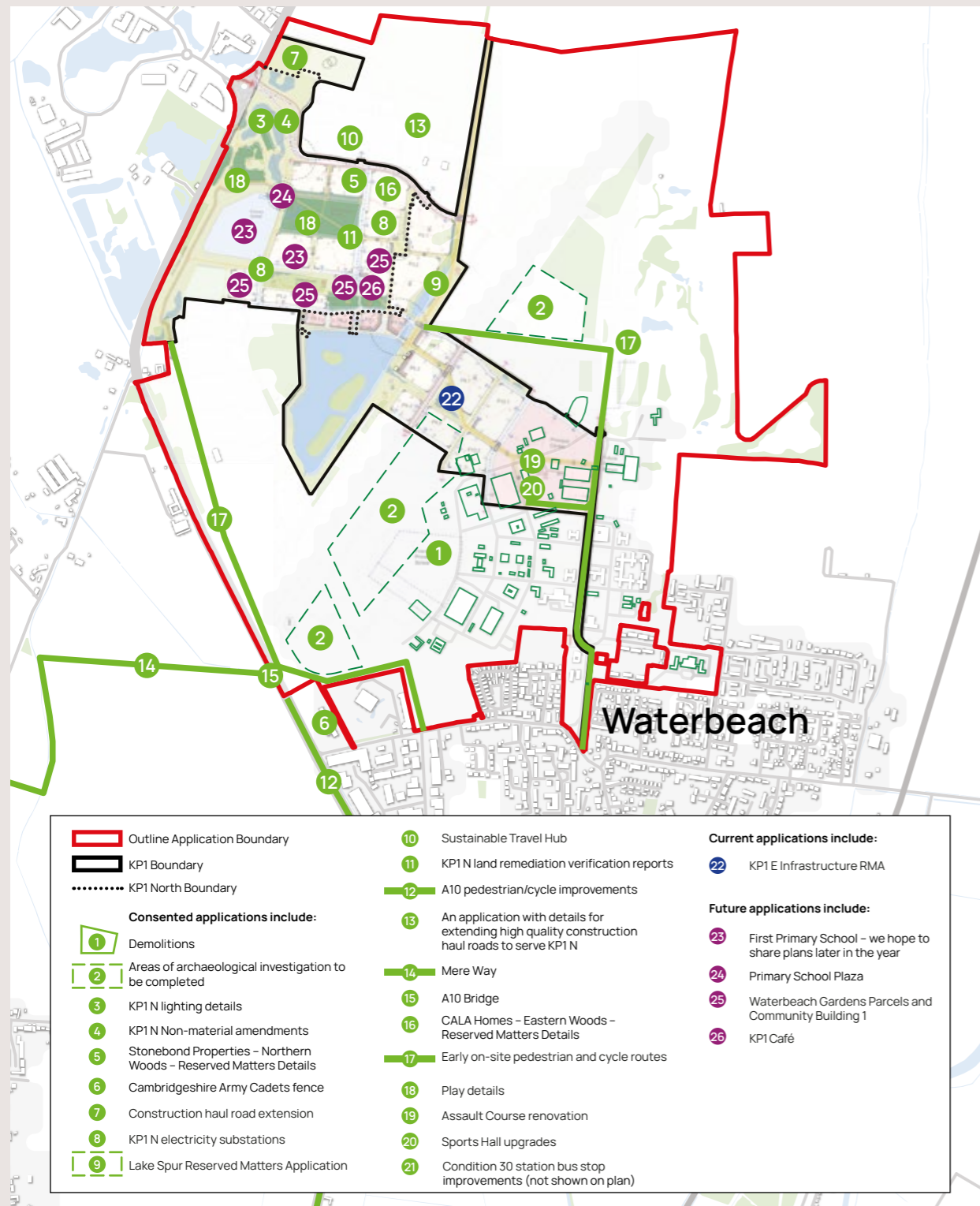
In the meantime, we wish you a warm and sunny summer. With our very best wishes.

Rebecca Britton

Planning update

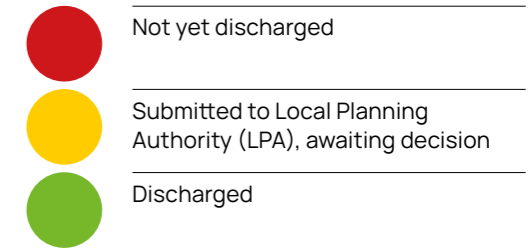
Following the securing of Outline Consent for the development, the team submitted a range of planning applications which supported the delivery of both the key features of the first phase of development (Key Phase 1) and also the detailed applications (Reserved Matters Applications), which define the specific homes, parks and play areas coming forward. Now the focus has shifted to delivering those consented applications and getting ready for the first residents.

The map below shows the range of applications in green consented and in delivery; the blue and purple show the current and future planning applications. You can find all the details of these applications on the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning portal at https://bit.ly/SDC_planning_applications



Planning conditions

Alongside the planning application process, the Outline Consents set a range of conditions which need to be completed (or discharged), at key points within the development process. Below is the table of Conditions we need to discharge before new residents can move in, and our progress against them. The majority have been discharged, with just two awaiting decision from the LPA.



Condition number	Summary of condition requirement	Status
Pre-commencement of development and any enabling works		
8	Site-wide Construction Environmental Management Strategy	Discharged
9	Unexploded Ordnance – site-wide mitigation scheme	Discharged
10h	Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (for Key Phase 1)	Discharged
10i	Land Investigation and Remediation Scheme (for Key Phase 1)	Discharged
Pre-commencement of development		
23	Northern park planting – structural planting scheme to filter views between the proposed development and Denny Abbey	Discharged
Pre-commencement of development within a reserved matters area		
6	No development on any individual Reserved Matters area shall commence, apart from enabling works, until approval of the details of the appearance, landscape, layout and scale within that Reserved Matters area (Key Phase 1 north works)	Discharged
18	Submission and approval of an Air Quality Monitoring Scheme to be undertaken in the vicinity of the A10 and the primary access routes into and across the site.	Discharged
21	Prior to any habitable building being brought into use within a Reserved Matters Area requiring remediation, such remediation is to be completed as specified in the Land Investigation and Remediation Scheme (Key Phase 1 north works)	Discharged
Prior to or concurrent with approval of Key Phase 1 framework		
13	Heritage strategy	Discharged
Prior to approval of Reserved Matters applications within Key Phase 1		
10	Key Phase 1 – Framework submission. Prior to the approval of any Reserved Matters applications within the Key Phase	Discharged
Prior to demolition of existing buildings with re-use potential		
19	No demolition of the existing buildings with potential for re-use will be undertaken until a programme of historic building recording has been undertaken.	Discharged
Pre-occupation		
20	Highway adoption	Submitted to Local Planning Authority (LPA), awaiting decision
26	Refurbishment of the Waterbeach Barracks Sports Hall	Discharged
27	Site access from the A10 Cambridge Research Park roundabout	Discharged
28	Early phase on-site pedestrian/cycle routes: (i) a safe and lit pedestrian and cycling connection between the defined Key Phase 1 area and Denny End Road, via the former Barracks area (ii) a safe and lit pedestrian and cycling connection between the defined Key Phase 1 area and the A10 in an area north of Denny End Road	Discharged
29	A10 pedestrian and cycle route: (a) improve and widen the existing shared pedestrian and cycle path between the A10 junctions with Denny End Road and Ely Road, Milton; and (b) a shared pedestrian and cycle path immediately north of Denny End Road with access to the development site	Discharged
30	Waterbeach bus stop	Submitted to Local Planning Authority (LPA), awaiting decision
31	Public transport interchange	Discharged

Delivery update

Site preparation

Work continues apace to get the development ready for new residents, and to open it up for the local community to enjoy. May and June has seen the focus on completing the walking/running loop which goes around the 23 acre lake, and connecting the walking/cycling routes that connect the woodland play areas, new ponds and islands created at the A10 entrance gateway, as part of the development's sustainable drainage systems and climate-proof design.

The new sustainable water drainage system will take 19 million litres of run-off rainwater, whilst also integrating existing water systems with the lake.

Alongside this work, the team has removed, recycled and re-used over 33,000 tonnes of runway and hardstanding: this is being used in the delivery of infrastructure across the development.

Meanwhile, seven kilometres of cycleways have been delivered on site, including the start of the perimeter route, which will connect to Mere Way Cycle Route, the existing village, and leisure and commuting routes within the development, including around the lake.

Landscaping

During the Spring, Ground Control has been carrying out woodland management, and extensive new planting. This includes a mix of predominantly native trees – such as field maples, English oaks and silver birch trees as well as shrubbery planting – to provide a diverse and rich environment to create wildlife habitats and a sustainable ecosystem that will flourish in the years to come.

Following the end of the tree planting season, the team's focus moved towards planting in the margins of the surrounding lakes, and preparation works for seeding and turfing.

The Electric Vehicle (EV) team has also been installing chargers in the 'Sustainable Travel Hub', alongside the landscaping of this important area, which has seen them plant over 1,200 trees.

Ground Control, who won the 'Sustainable Company of the Year' award at the Pro Landscaper business awards in April, has been working closely with the ecology and landscape team to support both the Biodiversity Strategy for the development and the wider commitment to moving towards zero carbon development.

Jason Knights, Managing Director of Ground Control, said: "It is fantastic to have won this award in recognition of our work that creates, maintains and sustains nature's recovery in the UK, and showcases it at its very best. We look forward to continuing our work with Urban&Civic at Waterbeach, which supports our collective sustainability and biodiversity goals."

Demolition update

The programme of demolition to remove a range of former military buildings in various states of disrepair is progressing well. Over half have been expertly disassembled and materials carefully graded, cleaned and recycled for reuse onsite as part of future aggregate for roads, drainage systems and other infrastructure. All steel has been taken offsite for recycling.

There are around 30 buildings left to remove, with all due to be taken down and the materials processed and recycled by the end of the year.

The demolition contractors have a range of noise and dust monitoring systems in place, and have been working carefully to reduce the impact on all our neighbours. If you do have any concerns or issues to raise about the demolition, then please contact the Waterbeach team between 8:30am–5pm, Monday to Friday, by emailing waterbeach@urbanandcivic.com or calling 01223 622533.



New homes

Stonebond gearing up for November launch



Stonebond Properties continue to progress at Waterbeach, with work on the first of their 89 new homes well underway.

Progress is going well, with the team averaging close to 40 operatives on site each day including groundworkers, shuttering carpenters, crane operatives, steel fixers, reinforced concrete (RC) frame contractors, bricklayers and logistics operatives.

Passers-by may have spotted the two tower cranes from the A10, which are being used to service the site efficiently and effectively, especially in moving materials around.



Looking ahead to the next stage, the team will soon be progressing with the phased foundation works.

We're looking forward to the show area being unveiled later this year and to welcoming our first residents into their new homes shortly after.

Cala Homes has started work on 111 homes to the east of the Stonebond homes. The design of the Cala homes sit within a strong street scene and attractive landscaping, with views looking towards the woodland beyond.

Find out more about the homes on offer at : www.waterbeachbarracks.co.uk/homes-at-waterbeach/

Or register for updates on the development at www.waterbeachbarracks.co.uk



Play areas



Time to play

Bespoke equipment and educational sculptures have been installed in Waterbeach's first ambitious play space – Waterbeach Woods – that will cater for all members of the community.

Inspired by the hedgehog, with a woodland setting providing the backdrop, this play space takes children from the forest floor and into the canopy through a series of play features that grow in scale and complexity to build children's confidence and fuel curiosity.

Waterbeach Woods is the first of two dedicated play spaces being installed in time for the first new residents to move in. The northern Gateway to the development includes a play area, set within a woodland glade. This new play area incorporates the 'milestones' of a tree's life into play experiences to help children learn about the complexity of the natural world. It will maximise outdoor learning through use of the space as a forest school.

The second play space will be shaped around the concept of mind, body and community spirit, this space will be designed to promote active lifestyles and nourish the soul – with space for Tai Chi and yoga alongside sensory spaces and activities for older children.

Caroline Foster said: "Play spaces are areas we spend a lot of time and thought on and, working with Bradley Murphy Design and Jupiter Play, we pride ourselves on the bespoke nature of each area – which responds to the location and our core principles for the development."



We have worked really closely with the Greater Cambridgeshire Planning Team to ensure these areas are accessible to all, with wheelchair friendly play equipment, and spaces where people of all ages can come together to forge new bonds from the earliest days of the new community.

Caroline Foster Urban&Civic

Mere Way update

Mere Way

Mere Way is a vital part of the Waterbeach Barracks transformation, providing early investment in non-car travel options to the main employment centre in the north of the city. It is also an important existing route for many local communities, providing both a rich history and important connections between local villages.

Urban&Civic has been working in consultation with local communities for the last two years to get the plans right: ensuring a fit for purpose future route that respects and enhances the heritage, ecology and existing uses of the much-loved route as much as possible.

While not yet finalised, we wanted to provide an update of the latest information on the route and the works planned to enhance it.

More information is available on our website at www.waterbeachbarracks.co.uk/mere-way/

Background

Mere Way will deliver a predominantly off-road connection for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians, which includes a new bridge over the A10 and improvements through Landbeach village, which then connects to the historic Akeman Street and Mere Way routes. These improvement works would see the refurbishment of the route to create a 2–3m wide grass route, and a 3m hard surface route, with areas over 4m at key points to allow for agricultural access to adjacent fields.

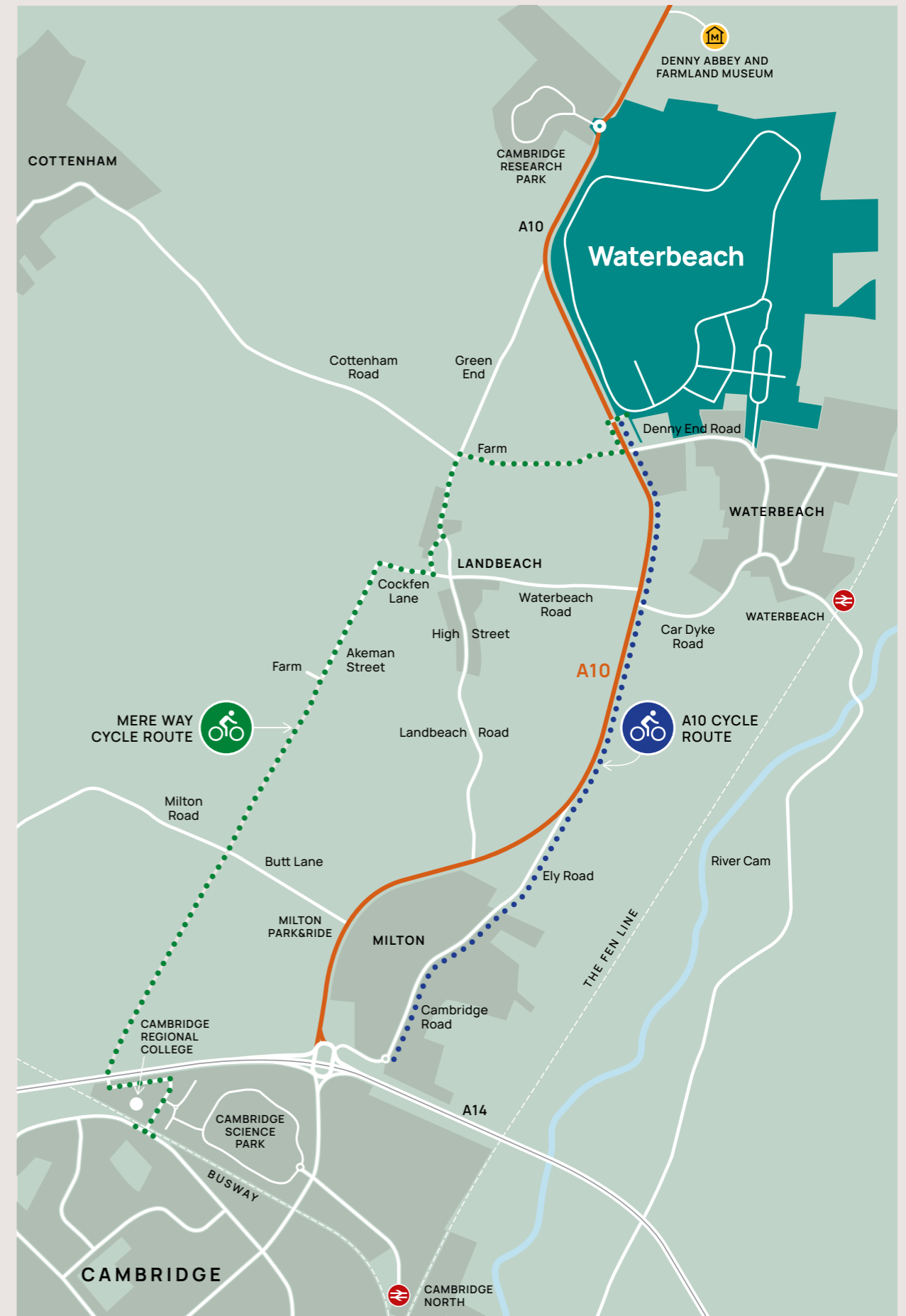
Discussions over the last couple of years have led to changes and improvements in the scheme that respond to the feedback received. There have also been a number of views and opinions that we have investigated but not been able to respond to. A summary of these key points is set out below.

Where we are now

While the new section of the route has secured planning consent, the detailed works for the main part of the route are going through the final stages of a Section 278 agreement with the County Council. This review also draws on a Safety Audit of the plans, to ensure the upgrades meet the robust safety criteria that we all share.



Cycle connections coming forward



Mere Way update continued

Changes to the plans from consultation

Several key amendments have been made that respond to the discussions and feedback as far as possible. These are listed below:

- **Core route:** The route through Landbeach has evolved from use of the High Street to using Spaldings Lane and Cockfen Lane. The approval process is still considering some key 'pinch points' on this route, including ensuring Passing Bays along the narrower stretches of Cockfen Lane and progressing 'Quiet Status' for Spaldings Lane.
- **Surface specification:** given the number of users of the route, this has been worked through extensively and will vary over the length to cater for agricultural access in key areas, alongside cyclist, pedestrian and equestrian users; ensure both grass and hard surface to provide space for all users; and while it has to deliver a surface that the County Council will adopt going forward, this will use a Heritage Surface to provide a softer finish over time.
- **Lighting:** views expressed were diverse on this, and the recommendations are that key areas of the route – ie at the Butt Lane crossing – will be lit for safety reasons. For heritage, ecology and adoption reasons, the route will not have lighting along the full length, although as the plans finalise the potential for using reflective studs is being explored.
- A number of details continue to be worked through to ensure safety on this junction and bend. Some details will also be picked up through the Public Realm investment in Landbeach, which is part of the S106 agreement for the Barracks scheme (as for other local villages).

What happens next

When the details of the scheme are finalised, the Urban&Civic team will provide updates to local parish councils and communities, and include detailed maps on our website. If anyone has any additional concerns they would like to talk through, please get in touch with the team – see contact details on page 3.

Once approved, contractors are lined up to be able to move to delivery, and local residents will be kept informed of exact timings through door drops and direct contact from the Urban&Civic team and its contractors – Walkers.

Rebecca Britton said: "We are really grateful for all the time and experiences people have shared with us, to help us get this route right. We know things have gone quieter during this period of technical review, but we hope to be able to confirm the final plans as soon as signed off by the County Council."



Please do keep looking at the Mere Way pages on our website for updates and we will be in touch with the communities and residents along the route as the project progresses.

Rebecca Britton Urban&Civic

On site cycling connections

A new pedestrian and cycle bridge has been installed onsite, as delivery of extensive walkways and cycle routes continues at pace. The 24m, single span steel crossing was craned into position over the gateway ponds at the entrance of the development and connects the perimeter route around the site, which will be unveiled later this year. The bridge is a vital part of linking the network of footpaths around the site that connect to woodland walks and play areas, as well as the first homes and Primary School.



A10 cycling infrastructure

A10 cycling and footpath improvements

Work is ongoing on the shared use pathway running alongside the A10 from Denny End Road to Ely Road, Milton. The team from Breheny has made exceptional progress and has now successfully installed a toucan crossing at Car Dyke Road, which is designed to improve safety and crossing options on the A10.

The works to the path include relaying the existing surface, implementing a 0.5m separation zone from the roadway and widening the pathway as much as possible along the route, working within the constraints of the adopted public highway boundary. Ultimately the route will connect to Mere Way and the new A10 bridge to significantly upgrade local walking and cycling opportunities.



A10 bridge granted permission

In spring 2023, the skyline over the A10 will have a new addition, with the installation of an elegant pedestrian, cycle, and equestrian bridge just north of Denny End Road.

The fluid design of the new bridge pays homage to the aviation history at Waterbeach and the natural landscape in the area, with the contrasting use of white and dark grey in the sculpted edge beams and deck/parapet sections creating a silhouette effect, ensuring the bridge sits modestly in the landscape. The approaches to the bridge are designed as gently sloped and vegetated embankments, blending the structure within the immediate landscape

Caroline Foster, Project Director for Waterbeach at Urban&Civic, added. "The new A10 bridge highlights our vision, commitment to and investment in sustainable transport. Not only will it provide a robust connection for the new cycle connection to the Science Park for future commuters, but it will also support connections between Waterbeach and Landbeach to help local people access the new services and amenities coming forward within the development in a sustainable way. We're delighted to have secured planning for this elegant structure and excited about making sure its delivery is a key part of the sustainable delivery of the new community."



Visual of the A10 pedestrian, cycle and equestrian bridge

Community

Summer at the Beach

After two years away, Summer at the Beach returned to Waterbeach Barracks over the first three weekends of July. Based in the evocative and distinctive 'Terraces' space – used by the military as hangars for fire trucks in the 1940s and then as a storage and vehicle maintenance area – this year's event provided an eclectic mix of high-quality art, food, music and culture – as well as a giant sunflower!

Run in conjunction with Cambridge Open Studios, this year's exhibiting artists included:

- Karen Lewis - a milliner inspired by themes from the natural world, who creates her own textures using feathers embroidery and beadwork.
- Chris Evans - a mixed media artist recording the icons, archetypes and signposts that he encounters.
- Theo Gayer Anderson - a sculptor working in many different media including ceramic, stone and bronze as well as film and sound.
- Tarryn Porter - an illustrator, painter and printmaker, capturing the atmosphere of place and words in artworks.
- Gideon Pain - a painter and sculptor, exploring how stories can be told in both two dimensional and three-dimensional forms.
- Sheena Harris - a ceramic artist using hand building to create sculptural and functional pieces inspired by nature.
- Helen Jameson - a textile artist working with reclaimed fabrics, wool, threads and other recycled items. Helen aims to create joyful, playful pieces of art with zero waste and ecological sustainability.
- Andrew Taylor - a mixed media painter and printmaker creating abstract collages using a variety of materials including plaster, paint and fragments of maps, music and poems.
- Freya Pain - a digital artist and filmmaker.
- Dora Pain - a mixed media artist exploring the potential cross overs between art and science.
- Dave Pescod - an artist whose work is inspired by music, other artists and exploration of the visual language using mixed media, collage, and painting.



Summer at the Beach is a fantastic opportunity for Waterbeach's artistic community to come together to celebrate and share the place that inspires us.

Andy Taylor Artist and event organiser



Alongside the art exhibition, Summer at the Beach staged a range of free events and workshops, including a relief printmaking workshop with Sue Barnes, a demonstration from graffiti artist Maze and a meet the artist session for members of the Waterbeach WI. It also saw the return of the popular Repair Café, with talented volunteers giving a new lease of life to a wide range of products including household appliances, bikes, musical instruments and a tent. As in previous years, the popular 'Pop-up Café' (set up and run by Karen Lewis), was serving a range of delicious homemade cakes, snacks and refreshments each weekend during the event.

Rebecca Britton from Urban&Civic, said: "It's been great to welcome back Summer at the Beach. The work that the team put in to transforming the Terraces into part of the Open Studios season has been incredible. The diversity of events for people to

enjoy and take part in is amazing, and the showcase of local creative talent is fantastic. As we gear up for new residents moving in next Spring, we look forward to continuing to support this important event in the local cultural and community calendar."

Gideon Pain, local artist and event coordinator, said: "It's great to be able to bring Summer at the Beach back to the Terraces, which provide a great backdrop to showcase the wide range of mixed media art on display. We're hoping to be back next year and have already had expressions of interest from some exciting young artists in the area."



New assault course

The Playground launched a new sports facility at the former Barracks on the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend. Following its success at Bury St Edmunds, the team has brought the assault course used for training by the army regiments based here back to its former glory and adding a further 21 obstacles to create a 1km course.

The original assault course, built by 39 Engineer Regiment, includes wooden steps, an 11ft brick wall, a water jump, a 6ft brick wall, balance beams, a 20ft rope climb, a 5ft wall drop, a scaffold rig and a rope swing. Formed in three rows of three obstacles, this section is perfect for family and friends wanting to compete against each other.

Additional obstacles include hurdles, hangover walls, incline/decline monkey bars and log leaps as well as a cargo net crawl, Ninja Warrior ramp and lots of muddy ditches!

The Waterbeach assault course is available for a range of activities and events – including birthday parties, corporate team building, stag and hen parties, school and college 'enrichment' days, and local sports teams. Individuals and families can also use the course on a 'pay and play' basis on designated evenings and weekends – with discounted annual membership available to local residents.



Nick Smith, founding director of The Playground, said: "We're excited to be launching our second Playground, and Waterbeach is the perfect location! It's great to be able to pay homage to the site's heritage by incorporating obstacles from the former barracks assault course and adding new ones to create a diverse, challenging and rewarding experience.

"We set up our first Playground in Bury St Edmunds back in 2016 partly due to a love of fitness and obstacle courses, but also to help tackle childhood obesity by providing a fun and exhilarating way to get outside, get fit and stay active with friends and family. It has proven incredibly popular with all ages and fitness levels."

The Waterbeach Playground's official launch over the Jubilee weekend was a great success, with all ages and abilities having a fantastic time climbing, swinging and crawling through the various obstacles and avoiding getting stuck in the mud!

To find out more and make a booking, go to www.theplaygrounduk.com/cambs

Sports Hall and Studio refurbishment

Work has now been completed on the refurbishment of the Sports Hall and Studio. The investment improves access and upgrades the facility for use in the first phases of the development and allows both parts of the building to function independently.

The Sports Hall has been upgraded with new LED lighting, relined flooring and a new access ramp at the entrance. Renovations have also been made to the changing facilities, with new toilets and showers added along with lockers.

The Sports Hall will continue to be used as a multi-use facility for a range of sports including football, badminton, netball and basketball.

The new studio space has a new level access with a footpath connection between parking spaces and access points, ensuring it is fully accessible. The Studio has been fitted with a new toilet and kitchen, and a platform which was in place there has been removed to provide a more flexible, accessible space.

The work was carried out by Lindum Group, a Cambridgeshire based construction company that specialises in refurbishment projects. Paddy McAuley, Construction Manager, said: "We've been involved with maintenance at the Waterbeach Barracks site for a while and it was great to have the opportunity to give this old building a new lease of life.

Bruce Callander, from Urban&Civic, added "We have so many local groups using the Sports Hall and Studio, it's great to see it refurbished and reopened, and we hope people can enjoy these improvements.

"The Sports Hall is a fantastic legacy from the Royal Engineers, and with the refurbishment, can provide some great space for existing and new residents to enjoy. Ultimately, a brand new sports centre will replace this building, but this work not only breathes new life into the building, but carries on the Engineer's focus on health and wellbeing, which is a key part of the vision for the future development."



It's had a complete refurbishment, from drainage through to new flooring, with the Sports Hall freshly marked-up for a range of activities including tennis, badminton and basketball. We hope it continues to provide a range of opportunities, events and activities that both the new and existing community can enjoy.

Paddy McAuley Lindum Group



Community Market

Waterbeach's thriving community market, which takes place in the Community Rooms by the Barracks entrance on the third Sunday of each month, brings together over 35 stalls from artisans showcasing a wide variety of local produce – from food and drink to clothing, crafts and gifts for adults and children as well as plants and gardening tools and vintage stores with vintage T-shirts.

The market is also expanding to provide a space for meeting and socialising, with chairs donated by the Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey providing an extra opportunity to put your feet up and have a chat with friends and neighbours.

As well as a wide range of food and drink – including fruit and veg, fish, meat, cheese, craft beer, bread and baked goodies – you'll be able to enjoy a range of barbecued meats being cooked up a storm by Bramble Bee Farm, and cream teas using scones from Raised in Rampton and cutlery provided by Pretty Pieces Vintage Store.

The market also has two free stalls available each month for local charities looking to sell goods as part of their fundraising efforts.

Gaynor Clarke, owner of Pretty Pieces vintage store and co-founder of the community market, said: "The market is going from strength to strength, and we're delighted to have been recognised as an official market by South Cambridgeshire District Council. This opens up the potential for future funding of the market, so we can provide the community with lots of great local produce, and opportunities to meet up and socialise as we continue to grow."

Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum (see page 26) has also extended its opening times to coincide with the community market, so you can pop in and have a look around after picking up your goodies.

To find out more about the market, how to pre-order or to register an interest in one of the charity stalls, get in touch via the Facebook page: [WaterbeachCommunityMKT](https://www.facebook.com/WaterbeachCommunityMKT)



Supporting local families



Many people across the country are suffering from food poverty, which is only likely to worsen as the cost-of-living crisis continues. Urban&Civic has been supporting the Waterbeach branch of the Ely Foodbank and recently teamed up with civil engineering partner, ECL, to donate over £300 worth of food, toiletries and supplies to help support local families in need.

Bruce Callander from Urban&Civic said: "The local Foodbank in Waterbeach makes a big difference to a number of local families and individuals and we hope our donation helps to support local people struggling in these challenging times.

"We will continue to make donations with ECL over the coming years to support the local community. We are also looking to work together to improve the Foodbank's storage and distribution facilities."

If you would like to donate to Waterbeach Foodbank, please visit: https://bit.ly/Waterbeach_Foodbank

Inspiring future generations

As part of National Careers Week, Greater Cambridge Partnership and FormTheFuture hosted a Careers Fair that was attended by over 500 pupils from 10 primary schools across the region. The Fair aimed to show young people aged 9–11 years old some of the wide range of careers available and help understand how the subjects they learn in school can be applied in real life.

The Urban&Civic team attended the event to promote opportunities in the development world armed with PPE and the ultimate placemaking tool, Lego!

The team challenged the pupils to design their own new 'places', with all the amenities they would want to see in a new development. Ideas ranged from traditional sporting facilities, schools and restaurants, through to more innovative suggestions like diving boards, scooter parks and a 'gaming studio'.

Bruce Callander said: "It was fascinating to hear what the children thought about jobs in the construction industry, as well as the growing demand for us to deliver sustainable facilities across all of our developments. It was also encouraging to see how so many young people are keen to develop a career in our sector, and to understand the diversity of roles needed to create a new place – from design and planning to delivery, and even finance, legal and marketing expertise.

"Whilst the attendees are too young to add to our talent pipeline just yet, it was a great day and good to be able to spread the word about our projects to some of Cambridgeshire's brightest young people. If they are anything to go by, we should be in safe hands, and we certainly won't be short of an architect or two in the future."



Uncovering the past

Waterbeach Barracks has a fascinating history and over 300 visitors took the opportunity to find out more about the site's heritage and have a hands-on experience with some of the archaeological finds uncovered during an Open Weekend in April.

Urban&Civic and Oxford Archaeology East hosted the event and provided information around the large Roman settlement and later Saxon Hall discovered at Waterbeach. Visitors were invited to take part in a range of activities including identifying some of the finds for themselves, touring the dig sites and rebuilding artefacts out of clay.

There were also presentations on the archaeological process, how items are discovered and why archaeology is such a crucial early activity when developing strategic sites like Waterbeach.



Bruce Callander from Urban&Civic said: "The area obviously holds huge military significance, but there's also an enormous amount of information about our Roman and Saxon predecessors here at Waterbeach that we are discovering.

"Their stories are also helping shape our future plans, connecting new and existing communities to this amazing place. We're looking forward to inviting more visitors to site over the coming months as the development programme progresses."

The archaeology team has also hosted a range of educational experiences for pupils from local primary and secondary schools. This included a visit from 70 Year 3 pupils from Waterbeach Primary School as well as separate trips for pupils from The Centre School, Cottenham, and Herons' Preschool.

To find out more about archaeology at Waterbeach, visit: www.waterbeachbarracks.co.uk/archaeology/



We were delighted to see so many people take up the opportunity to find out more about the archaeology work taking place on-site.

Bruce Callander Urban&Civic



Heron's Preschool

Heron's Preschool is going from strength to strength since moving into its new home in a repurposed building at the entrance of Waterbeach Barracks at the beginning of last year. The Preschool has nearly doubled its numbers since then and now has around 45 children enrolled, with numbers looking optimistic for September.

The children and staff have been making the most of the indoor and outdoor space, with cooking and baking proving very popular on Tuesday afternoons – especially around Easter when the children made chocolate crispy cakes with mini eggs on top.

The children have also been enjoying a range of trips and activities. This included an archaeology outing, where they discovered what it was like to be an archaeologist for the day and were given some fascinating insights into our ancient ancestors, who lived here thousands of years ago.

Heron's Preschool enjoyed a 'street' party in the school's garden to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They also joined the Village Feast parade on 11 June, with a stall on the Green to raise funds for preschool projects.

Wayne Badcock, Herons' Preschool Manager, said: "We've had a fantastic first year at Waterbeach Barracks and it really feels like home. The children are loving all the space – both inside and out – and it's great to have so many exciting events and activities to look forward to.

"We're also happy to report that the Preschool has made the transition to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), which means trustees from the local community stand for a minimum of two years, providing consistency and structure to the school's governing body."

To find out about Herons' Preschool, visit www.heronspreschoolwaterbeach.org



Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum

Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum tells the story of the former airfield from 1938 to 2012, with the RAF stationed there from 1941 to 1966, until the Royal Engineers arrived. It is located at the entrance of the former Barracks.

The Museum is open on the first Sunday and Wednesday of the month from March to October and has recently added another Sunday to its opening times. You can now visit the Museum on the third Sunday of each month, to coincide with a wander around the Waterbeach Community Market, which has a great selection of stalls selling food, crafts, clothes and gifts as well as much more.

Waterbeach Airfield opened over 80 years ago and amazingly some of the RAF crewmen based there during the World War II are still with us! In January, Eddie Humes who flew in Lancasters with 514 Squadron celebrated his 100th birthday.

Friends of Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum

If you would like to support the Museum by becoming a 'Friend', an application form can be found on the website below or you can pick one up when you visit the Museum.

waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org
www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk
Follow us on Facebook



If you're visiting Waterbeach over the summer, look out for some new signwriting on the exterior walls of the Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum.

Eddie's story*

On the 11 April 1944, on the way back to England from a mission, Lancaster LL639, JI-R was hit by flak, which set the right outer engine on fire. As the blazing engine fell away, making the aircraft uncontrollable, the pilot ordered the crew to abandon the plane.

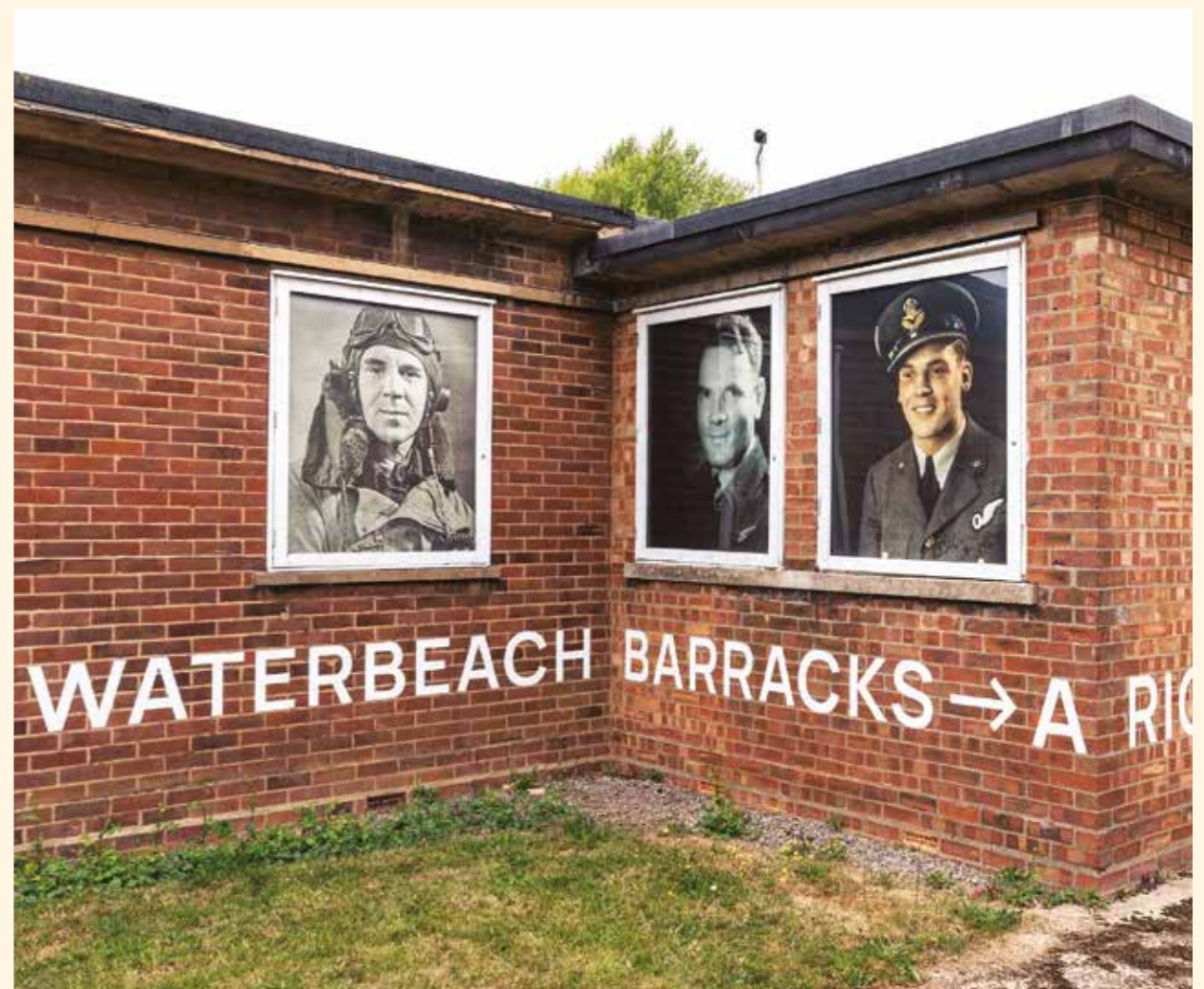
The bomber crashed in a field near Molenbeersel (Belgium) and funeral services for the six airmen killed were conducted at St Truiden on 15 April 1944. They have since been re-interred in the Heverlee War Cemetery.

Only one of the seven crewmembers survived, the navigator Sgt. Eddie Humes. He was injured and spent time in a German hospital before being moved to camp L3 as a prisoner of war.

Eddie was eventually repatriated to England and became a teacher after the war. He has attended many of the 514 Squadron Reunions at Waterbeach Barrack and is hoping to attend this year's reunion.



*Information from 'The Beach Boys' written by Simon Hepworth, Andrew Porrelli and Roger Guernon, a 750-page book with information about all the 514 Squadron RAF crews and the operations they flew. Available on Amazon: ISBN 9781911255475



Landbeach Tithe Barn

One of a handful of buildings of its type remaining in Cambridgeshire, the Tithe Barn in Landbeach is believed to date to the medieval period and has many historic features such as a thatched roof, elm timber frame, timber granary and brick threshing floor. The barn provides a local community asset, which is managed by the Tithe Barn Trust. As well as being used for events, the Barn is also available to hire for activities such as team building sessions and family gatherings, including weddings.



Tree planting

Over recent years volunteers have helped the Trust with a range of outdoor tasks, from clearing brambles, sowing meadow plants, cutting grass and placing owl nesting boxes to maintain and improve the local environment.

In April, an important milestone was reached with the planting of some native shrubs and the Trust's first tree, a young crab apple, that will provide nectar for insects in spring and food for birds and other wildlife in the autumn.

New eco-toilets

Following successful fundraising and a substantial award from the Postcode Community Trust, the Tithe Barn's new, fully accessible eco-toilets are now installed and available whenever the Barn is open. Using solar and wind energy, their advanced technology ensures that the products of the aerobic decomposition process are odourless, non-toxic and importantly overall low maintenance and costs.



Summer events

Each year, Landbeach Tithe Barn hosts a range of events and activities for the whole family to enjoy. Highlights from its Summer programme included an abridged version of Shakespeare's Macbeth by the Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts (CSVPA) and the Open Studios weekend featuring paintings, original prints, life drawings and fine art basketry from local artists.

Forthcoming events:

- **Heritage Open Day**
11am–5pm on Saturday, 10 September
Free entry to enjoy this unique Grade II listed timber-frame Tithe Barn and surrounding green space.
- **Outdoor Gym**
9am–midday on Saturday, 19 November
Get active and join the Trust's Landscape Architect and Horticulturalist tidying up the hedge and meadow strip to the Tithe Barn. No experience necessary.

For event details go to: <https://tithebarntrust.org.uk/learning/2022-events/>

Volunteering

If you are interested in supporting the Tithe Barn, making friends and helping a great cause, email tithebarntrust@gmail.com to find out about the current opportunities.

To find out more about Landbeach Tithe Barn, visit <https://tithebarntrust.org.uk/>



Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey



The Farmland Museum sits within the grounds of Denny Abbey in Waterbeach and together they tell the 850-year story of farming and life in the Cambridgeshire Fens, with a wide range of indoor and outdoor exhibits.

Events and activities

The Museum Team is gearing up for a busy summer of fun with a different themed activity each week.

The holidays started with Victorian Days on 28/29 July, and continues with Knight Club on 4/5 August, where you can learn to fight like a real knight! Younger children will also love the Teddy Bear's picnic on 11/12 August, and animal lovers can pop along for a donkey ride as part of Fenland Life days on 18/19 August. As all tickets are annual admission tickets, you can use your ticket to attend all of these events.

If you like outdoor theatre, Denny Abbey will provide a stunning backdrop for Quantum Theatre's performance of Kenneth Grahame's 'The Reluctant Dragon' at 5pm on Sunday 14 August.

The summer ends with a celebration of all things Medieval! A special event on the August Bank Holiday weekend (Sunday 28 and Monday 29 August) will see knights and archers engaging in battle, a full Medieval camp, demonstrations of traditional crafts and a performance by Fenland Heroes and Villains of History.

Visit the Museum's website for full details of all summer events: www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk

Exhibitions

There's a new exhibition at the museum focusing on Fenland Women. Fenland histories often focus on drainage and farming, which have been traditionally viewed as men's work. This exhibition looks at what Fenland life was like for women: from working in the fields, to motherhood and crafts.

A follow up archaeology exhibition is also planned in conjunction with Oxford Archaeology East and Urban&Civic to highlight some of the key finds uncovered at Waterbeach Barracks over recent years.

Volunteers

The Museum is also on the lookout for new volunteers to support its team. This year they are keen to hear from anyone who can welcome visitors, lend a hand in the cafe and help look after the displays and collections. To find out more, pop in, send an email to info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk or call 01223 860988.

Open from 10am to 4pm every Thursday to Sunday through to the end of October, every ticket is an annual ticket, so you can visit once and return for free as many times as you like. You can also enjoy homemade cakes and lunches in the recently refurbished Docky Box café.

Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Wildlife highlights

There's lots of birdsong to enjoy at Wicken Fen with Spring migrants enjoying the Summer months; so listen out for the melodic song of willow, reed and sedge warblers and look out for the graceful flight of swallows and swifts.

Fen wildflowers also add pops of colour amongst the foliage. From the delicate, pink ribbons of ragged robin to clusters of yellow loosestrife, the plants at Wicken Fen are flourishing. Butterflies and bees are in their element too, enjoying the pollen and nectar provided by the wildflowers.

Footprints' Community Engagement Project

There are some exciting new activities as part of Wicken Fen Nature Reserve's heritage project, 'Footprints'. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project is focused on creating opportunities for local people to access a range of recreational activities and to connect with nature, understand the cultural value of this special place, and be part of its story.

Bikes and boats

Boat trips have started again for the season, with regular trips from Wednesday to Sunday. The Wicken Lode is a beautiful and tranquil waterway, and the trip along the Lode is a great way to enjoy the landscape and its nature.

You can also explore the Fen on two (or three) wheels by hiring bikes from the Cycle Centre. The Nature Reserve has a brand-new fleet of bikes this season with Ebikes, tag-alongs, trailers and bike seats available. The Cycle Centre is open daily from 10am to 5pm (last bike hire at 3pm).

Summer activities

There's lots to see and do at Wicken Fen during the summer holidays – from wellbeing walks and guided walks to pond dipping, owl detectives and dragonfly safaris.

For the latest information or to find out about boat trip availability and bike hire, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen or call the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274.



©Rob Coleman

Urban&Civic is the Ministry of Defence's development manager for the Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield site; one of the largest brownfield sites in the country.

Urban&Civic

If you would like to meet the team, discuss any ideas or issues about the development, have a tour of the site or look at the community facilities, then please contact:

T 01223 622533

E waterbeach@urbanandcivic.com

W waterbeachbarracks.co.uk

