

# Waterbeach

**Newsletter** Autumn 2023

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## **Homes**

Cala launches  
new homes

## **Travel**

Active travel partner  
appointed

## **Community**

Late Summer at the  
Beach a triumph



# Welcome to the latest Waterbeach newsletter

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# Hello



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It has been another busy few months for the Waterbeach development, and we are working hard to have everything ready for our first residents, who will be moving in very soon. We also have new faces joining the team as the development progresses, and Fiona and Caroline – who we introduce in this edition – have been a great addition to the team and are fast becoming familiar faces among partners, stakeholders and the local communities. We hope the updates in this edition are useful, and we always welcome feedback as to areas to cover. If you have any queries about the development or new community, please do get in touch with us.

Over the next few pages, you can find an update on the work done to create the walking and cycling lake loop around the lake at the heart of Waterbeach, which will be opening up soon, alongside our work to bring the lake into active use for water sports in designated areas from next spring. Meanwhile essential management work on some of the inherited woodland impacted by climate change is progressing well, with failing and diseased trees being removed and over 340 new trees planted. The new trees will include more diverse species of varying canopy heights to create a more natural and sustainable woodland.

While the Urban&Civic team has been working hard to provide the infrastructure, amenities and landscaping, our housebuilder partners have been busy building the new homes for our first residents. We've included some highlights from Stonebond and Cala, along with affordable options from Longhurst Group.

We also have a bit of a health focus in this edition, with an update on the provision of health care within the development and for the wider community. We know there have been a lot of questions on this important subject and getting the right plans in place, at the right time, for the existing community and the future development is a key priority for us and all the local partners. We also include information on the Active New Communities project we are working on with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Living Sport: to put health at the heart of the development, and help connect people to ways in which they can lead more active lives.

Work is progressing at pace on Mere Way to help connect communities by providing an active travel route between Waterbeach and Landbeach, to Cambridge Science Park and beyond. We have also appointed smart journeys to encourage new residents moving into the development to choose cycling, walking and buses, over their car: improving their health and decreasing their carbon footprint.

There has also been lots going on within the local community, from guided ecology walks to Summer at the Beach and the thriving Waterbeach Community Market.

We hope you enjoy the updates and information in this latest issue of the Waterbeach newsletter, and look forward to your feedback, and seeing you over the coming weeks.

Best wishes

Rebecca



# Meet the team

We recently welcomed two new members of the Communities Team – Caroline Ward and Fiona Reardon-Rose. Working with the continued support of Rebecca Britton, Fiona will be leading the communications for the project, working closely with partners, stakeholders and communities as the Waterbeach development comes forward. Caroline will be working with new residents moving in to support an active, empowered and cohesive community within the new development and connecting to the villages around.

## Caroline Ward Community Development Lead

Caroline was born and educated locally and has strong roots in the Waterbeach community, which strengthened after returning to the area to raise her family 20 years ago.

She worked with WAY Youth Club for seven years, helping to develop youth services and secure funding to ensure young people in Waterbeach have support services and enriching activities.

Caroline said: "I first contacted Urban&Civic in 2019, when I successfully approached them for funding to expand WAY's outreach provision. I was instantly impressed with their commitment to engage with existing community groups and their desire to listen to local people's needs."

As a Trustee of the Tillage Hall and having actively supported the local Scouts, football club and primary school whilst her children were growing up, Caroline has a unique insight and understanding of the needs of existing local residents, and believes these connections will help her to integrate the two communities effectively.

Caroline continued: "I am committed to ensuring the new residents develop a real sense of feeling at home and part of the new place, as well as a sense of belonging to the wider Waterbeach community. My longer-term intention is to work with the Urban&Civic team and local partners to ensure the community thrives, with a diverse range of local activities and amenities available from day one."

Before joining Urban&Civic, Caroline spent 13 years as manager of Cambridge Student Community Action, recruiting student volunteers and helping them to establish educational, social and practical projects that assisted local communities. Prior to that, she was CEO of the Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors Neighbourhood Project in Gloucestershire, where she led the team to develop an adult education program, youth and childcare facilities and a health resource centre.

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It is such an exciting time to be working in Waterbeach as the new development starts to take shape. It is wonderful to walk around the magnificent lake and wooded areas and I look forward to organising community events to share some of these hidden gems with you all.

Caroline Ward Urban&Civic

Caroline Ward (left) and Fiona Reardon-Rose



## Fiona Reardon-Rose Communications, Communities and Partnerships Lead

Fiona has extensive experience working with partners, stakeholders and communities to deliver sustainable and dynamic developments that meet local needs.

"I'm so excited to have joined Urban&Civic as the lead for Communications, Communities & Partnerships at Waterbeach, working closely with Caroline as this exciting new community takes shape.

"My previous role saw me leading the communications strategy for the multi-million pound redevelopment of Colchester City Centre, implementing a range of projects from a sustainable travel hub and community health and wellbeing centre to uncovering more of the amazing heritage and archaeology around the city. Before that I worked in book publishing for over ten years, leading the publishing strategy for big non-fiction projects like the Great British Bake Off.

"My role at Waterbeach will entail overseeing marketing and communications, promoting the development's vision and innovation and supporting ongoing planning and delivery of vital engagement work. I'll also be working with Caroline as the community at Waterbeach evolves.

"In the short time I've been at Waterbeach I've been so impressed by the incredible place that is being created here, with the beautiful green spaces and impressive lake that until now have been hidden from the public. I'm looking forward to sharing more news about all the brilliant work being done here as the scheme progresses."

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# Development update

## Woodland plaza planned

A planning application has been submitted for a plaza in front of Deneia Primary Academy, Waterbeach development's first new primary school, which will provide an attractive, landscaped approach to the new school, with accessible seating, play spaces and areas for gathering and small events – so the whole community can meet and enjoy time together in a natural setting.

The school plaza will be a car-free zone and provide safe and seamless links for those walking, cycling and scooting to school. As well as more direct main pathways, informal paths will meander through woodland and landscaped planting, giving opportunities for play and adventure for children of all ages.

In keeping with Waterbeach's approach to accessible play areas inspired by nature, grassy mounds and timber play features will offer 'play on the way': with logs, balance beams and stepping-stones providing a variety of things to do on the journey to and from school each day.

New landscaping will include fruit bearing orchard trees, alongside new hedges, ornamental shrubs and grasses, wildflower areas, herb gardens and a dipping pond. This will support the development's wider biodiversity and habitats strategy, and bring nature closer to people.

Paul Mumford, project director at Urban&Civic, said: "The new primary school at Waterbeach is an important building block for the development and the school plaza has been designed not just to get to the school safely, but to create its own space for families to come together, meet, talk and play as children start and end their school day – which is really important, especially in a new community as neighbours get to know each other.

"We are really excited that – enabled by the design of the car free school – the plaza can create a place for people and nature: creating some really special walks to school!"



## Lake loop and water activities

Caroline Ward, Waterbeach's Community Development Lead is taking paddleboard courses at Milton Country Park, an accredited school with the British Stand Up Paddle Association (BSUPA), so she is ready to support the pilot paddleboarding events in the spring.

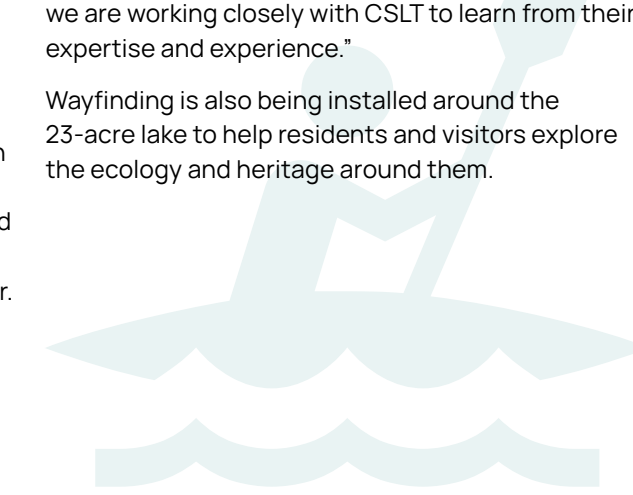
The lake loop – a 1.1km circular route around the lake at the heart of Waterbeach – is expected to open in November to welcome first residents moving in, so they can enjoy a relaxing stroll or pick up the pace for a daily run in this beautiful setting.

The lake will also be an important asset for people living at and visiting Waterbeach, and work is progressing to bring the lake into active use for water sports, within designated areas.

The team has been working with Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust (CSLT), as well as ecologists and health and safety consultants to get the right balance between the quieter areas of the lake for nature and contemplative calm, and enabling some organised events at the north of the lake from spring next year.

Rebecca Britton, Regional Director for Urban&Civic, said: "The lake has always been an enormous asset and draw for the development, and we have been working hard to develop the spaces for nature and safe spaces and routes for people. The next part of that work will see some pilot events for wild swimming and paddleboarding in spring 2024, and we are working closely with CSLT to learn from their expertise and experience."

Wayfinding is also being installed around the 23-acre lake to help residents and visitors explore the ecology and heritage around them.





# Managing woodland in a changing climate

At the heart of Waterbeach's first new homes is Waterbeach Woods, a park with green space for people to enjoy and nature to flourish, and Wild Woods play area, which takes children from the forest floor into the canopy above through a series of play features that grow in scale and complexity.

The woodland is part of the rich legacy, inherited from the Royal Engineers who planted up dense woodland to help their training in the 1970s and 1980s. Unfortunately many of the trees in this woodland have fallen victim to disease and climate change, so the team has been working hard to pull together a management plan with the Forestry Commission to replace the diseased trees, and create a more natural woodland setting that works for people and nature.

## Background

These trees were originally planted by the military as a uniformed woodland block, with a limited number of fast-growing species, to support armed forces training.

This high-density planting meant the trees fought for light and resources, and in 2021 following advice from tree consultants, the trees were thinned to enable the remaining trees to flourish, and the younger trees planted in their place to grow more naturally and create a sustainable woodland.

Since then, due to extreme weather conditions in summer 2022 and increased exposure to wind, a number of trees started to fail and some of the sycamore trees were infected with Sooty Bark Disease, a fungal disease lethal to trees.

Following discussions with the Forestry Commission it was agreed that the trees should be removed and the woodland replanted. A felling license was granted, and the trees were removed in late summer 2023.



## New woodland

The new woodland will include more diverse species of varying canopy heights to create a more naturally occurring woodland, which will, in turn, encourage more varied flora and fauna to flourish as well as providing a lovely setting for the play area, close to homes and the first primary school.

New planting will include over **340 new trees** (69 mature, 218 semi-mature and 56 whips), 417 woodland shrubs and 63 woodland climbing plants. The species have been chosen to reflect local woodland species and ensure greater resilience to climate change.

The majority of the new trees (316) being planted will be deciduous and will include a range of species including Beech (56), Field Maple (35), Cherry – including Wild and Bird Cherry (35), Linden (29), Rowan (24) and Black Alder (23). The rest of the trees include Silver Birch, European Hornbeam, Pussy Willow, Checker, Whitebeam, Crab Apple and Elm. There will also be 27 coniferous trees, mostly Scots Pines, to provide some greenery all year round.

Other ecological enhancement features will include a log stack wall made of Poplar timber from the felling that has taken place, and 'deadwood monoliths' created for insects, reptiles and small mammals. Bird and bat boxes will also be installed using special fittings to allow for future tree growth.

The woodland management work has been approved following consultation with South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Forestry Commission.

Fiona Reardon-Rose from Urban&Civic said, "Through greater diversity and resilience of planting we can create more sustainable woodlands for both wildlife to flourish and people to enjoy. We hope that once the planting is complete, generations of Waterbeach residents will enjoy the Wild Woods play area and get close to the nature all around them."



The replanting work will produce some instant impact for the woodland area. This image shows how it will look in summer 2024. The varied woodland planting will also mean it will continue to grow and evolve sustainability, for many years of happy play.



It has been a bit of a rollercoaster for the team to get the approach right on this woodland. It is such a shame that climate and disease have impacted on the woodland we inherited, but putting all of the trees on site into effective management has meant we can really work hard to improve the wood's condition.

Fiona Reardon-Rose Urban&Civic

## Safety first

While these works are carried out, safety fencing will remain outside the Wild Woods play area to allow the trees to settle into their new habitat and to give them the opportunity to flourish. Wild Woods play area is due to fully open in spring 2024.

For more information, visit: [www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/ecology/the-woodland/](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/ecology/the-woodland/)



# New homes

While the Urban&Civic team has been working hard to provide the infrastructure, amenities and setting for new homes, our hand picked housebuilder partners have been busy building the homes for people to set down roots. Here is some of what they have been up to and how to find out more.

## Stonebond

### Stonebond launches show homes

Stonebond, whose homes sit at the gateway to the development, opened its marketing suite and show homes in April, providing eager buyers the first chance to have a look around and secure a home at the new development.

Stonebond homes at Waterbeach include a collection of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments, and 3 and 4 bedroom houses built in mews and terraced styles, many with views over areas of open space, as well as a range of impressive, detached villas overlooking woodland.

Sustainability is at the forefront of the design, with advanced construction methods being undertaken to create a development that is all-electric; featuring air source heat pumps and vehicle charging points to houses as standard. The specification of every Stonebond home also encompasses a range of high-end features such as Crittall screens and wine coolers as standard.

Annette Cole, Sales and Marketing Director for Stonebond, said: "The show area and the vision for the wider development as well as the Stonebond

designs and specification, have been well received. We have seen visitors from Cambridge city centre and most surrounding villages, with prospective buyers looking for a well-connected, high calibre development offering a unique landscaped setting, a new community and the opportunity for a good work/life balance."

Stonebond has a number of incentives in place to support customers purchasing a new home and to make the transaction a more affordable experience. To find out more about the homes and incentives available visit: [www.stonebondproperties.com/development/waterbeach](http://www.stonebondproperties.com/development/waterbeach) or pop in to see the show homes.\*

Stonebond's show homes are open seven days a week 10am-5pm.

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\*Terms and conditions apply.

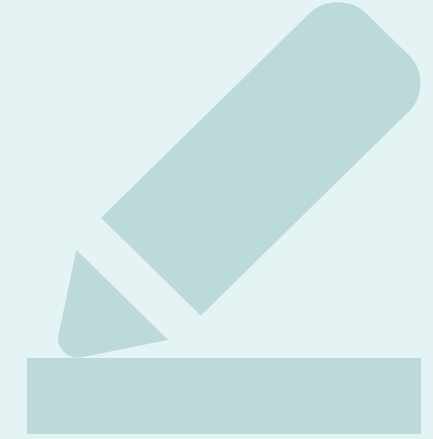




# Cala Homes

Cala Homes is delivering a selection of sustainable 1 and 2 bedroom apartments and 3 and 4 bedroom houses at Waterbeach, incorporating high quality insulation, air source heat pumps and electric vehicle charging points.

Launched in July, Cala's 'Show Home of Support' provides a platform for small retailers and creatives in and around Cambridgeshire to showcase their products, produce and designs to Cala homeowners and prospective buyers.



## Cala's show home supports artistic talent

At Waterbeach, Cala partnered with the Cambridge Drawing Society to run a competition for its members to create an original artwork to take pride of place in the Show Home.

Local artist, Simon King-Underwood from St Ives, was selected as the competition winner for his charcoal powder piece entitled 'Ridgeline'.

Honorary Secretary of the Cambridge Drawing Society, Steve Ashman said: "The competition, open to all of the society's 214 artists, was an exciting new collaboration offering an excellent opportunity for local artists to showcase their work."

Winning artist Simon King-Underwood added: "Having only recently joined the Cambridge Drawing Society, I'm thrilled to have been selected as the competition winner and to have the opportunity to showcase my work at the new Cala Waterbeach show home. My style is semi-geometric, using natural resources such as charcoal powder and more modern mediums such as adhesive stickers, spray paints and even Sharpie pens. It's wonderful to see my work in a home setting. I hope the visitors enjoy the piece as much as I enjoyed creating it."

Cala's show homes are open seven days a week 10.30am-5pm.

T 01223 080 543





## Longhurst Group

### Longhurst Group provides affordable options at Waterbeach

Longhurst is working with all of the housebuilders within the first phase of development to support people to buy a home through supported schemes like Shared Ownership and Rent to Buy.

If you can't afford to buy a home on the open market, Shared Ownership provides the opportunity to get a foot on the property ladder; essentially, you purchase a share of your home (up to 75%) and pay affordable rent on the remainder until you can take full ownership of the property over an agreed timeline.

An alternative option is Rent to Buy, which allows you to move into your new home straight away and pay reduced rent compared to renting privately, giving you extra time and money to save towards your mortgage deposit.

Longhurst Group is working with Urban&Civic, Cala Homes and Stonebond to offer a collection of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom homes. You can register your interest to be one of the first to reserve these new homes as they become available.



The Longhurst team said "We're really excited about working with the Waterbeach teams across Urban&Civic and the housebuilders. We know the area well and already support a range of homes in the village.

"The offering here means that even if you can't afford a mortgage right now, there are options for you within the new development, and the homes from both housebuilders are really stunning."

Longhurst is also working with the District Council Housing team to ensure rented Affordable Housing coming forward is available to local families.

Images are representative of the homes available.



Find out more about all the homes on offer at:  
[www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/homes-at-waterbeach/](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/homes-at-waterbeach/)

Or register for updates on the development at:  
[www.waterbeachwb.co.uk](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk)



# Health provision

## Planning health services for the future

The provision of health care is a hugely complex and emotive subject for existing and new communities. Getting the right plans in place for the future development of Waterbeach is one of the key priorities for Urban&Civic and all of the local partners. Rebecca Britton has been leading the health work within the Urban&Civic team and provided an update on the work that has been going on behind the scenes to agree the approach for Waterbeach.

Thoughts have evolved over nine years of discussions about the former Barracks redevelopment, and in that time Waterbeach Surgery has been through many changes; the country has been through a pandemic, stretching resources and impacting on services; and local structures around health have changed significantly by bringing together health and social care and all the partners who deliver health services into an Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Designing health into new places can be a very complicated business, as many surgeries need a certain number of people using them before they become able to sustain the full range of facilities that a modern surgery needs and patients demand. That is why a phased approach was developed at Waterbeach, which enables facilities to evolve as the new development grows.

The approach to health set out in the planning framework has been carefully worked through with local health providers, the ICB (and its predecessor the Clinical Commissioning Group), the local surgery and the Primary Care Network that it sits within, the local planning authorities – South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council – and developer Urban&Civic.



Rebecca Britton said: "Apart from maybe transport, we have had more meetings on health than any other topic – many of them in the previously snug staff room of Rosamund Franklin House – as we worked through an approach partners were happy with. We still meet regularly (currently on a monthly basis) both to implement the agreed plans, and to ensure the timings remain right.

"We have always said the timings in our S106 planning agreement set out the minimum we must do, but if needs change, we will always ensure that we can respond appropriately."



Getting the delivery of health care right – for the new community but in a way that does not impact our neighbours and ideally benefits them – has been a fundamental part of the vision; alongside seizing the opportunity we have to really deliver something special here, which meets future health needs for the whole community.

Rebecca Britton Urban&Civic



# Health provision

The delivery of health care is set out in three phases:

- Firstly, as part of the refurbishment of the former Barracks blocks to provide accommodation for nurses, a sum of money was secured to support works to the existing surgery. The surgery was already working over capacity, and so the Urban&Civic team worked with the ICB and the surgery partners to provide two additional clinical rooms, and to rework the space to support staff working there. This additional capacity addressed an existing issue and provides capacity for the nurses and for the first residents within the development.
- Secondly, two additional clinical rooms will be provided within the development's first community centre. These will be provided in time for the 250th home being occupied within the development and the design is currently being finalised with the surgery and ICB before being submitted as a planning application later this year.
- Thirdly a permanent new facility will be designed and delivered as part of the main Town Centre within the new development. This needs to be in place by the occupation of the 1600th home, with the approach agreed by the 800th home being occupied.

The legal milestones set out in planning tend to be defined by the number of homes occupied, as the pace of development can vary with the state of the economy and unpredictable industry factors. Rebecca added, "That approach can be confusing for those not working in planning, but it actually ensures that the delivery of facilities does come when they are needed, and it means the planning authority has the ability to stop more homes being built if those obligations are not met to the agreed timescales. It also ensures the dialogue to get that timing right is important for all parties."

Design work on the main health centre will be subject to extensive consultation and has the opportunity to provide a range of cutting-edge features, which reflect the shared aspiration of all partners to deliver not just a GP surgery, but a health and wellbeing hub. The vision for this would include clustering a new surgery with other health services including dentist, physiotherapy, pharmacy, diet and nutrition advice, counselling and mental health services and other health clinics, as well as providing a focus for the management of long-term conditions with social prescribing connected to the parks and growing spaces within the Town Centre.

The opportunity to include diagnostics and other services that provide opportunities for more doorstep services and less travel to Addenbrooke's Hospital will also be scoped out as the designs progress.

Rebecca added: "We are passionate about seizing the opportunity for the design and delivery of a new community and the services that come forward within it, to really put health and wellbeing at the heart of Waterbeach: not just the new community but the existing village and the communities beyond served by the existing surgery. We know that the last few years have been really tough, both for those working in the surgery and the patients needing to access services. We believe the approach that has been agreed works really well for each community and will enable us to evolve great designs for the new facilities as they come forward."

The discussions to date have involved a range of different health providers during the changes to management at Rosamund Franklin House. In January 2023, Malling Health was appointed as the provider of services for the existing villages served by the surgery, and as the provider who would run the interim facility within the Community Centre and the long term new permanent health centre. Fiona Edwards, Director of Primary Care from Malling Health said:

"We are excited to be working alongside Urban&Civic to support the design and delivery of health space in both the community centre and the long-term development. The additional space will add great value to the patients and staff at Waterbeach Surgery."

The partners are working with the Waterbeach Patient Participation Group to hold a community meeting in Spring 2024, where there will be more of a chance to hear about the plans for a new health centre and get involved in shaping the detailed delivery of the strategy.

Viv Cooper, Chair of Waterbeach Patient Participation Group (PPG) said: "The role of the PPG is to act as a critical friend to the surgery. It consists of up to 15 patients in a Core Group and any other patient can join the Virtual Group and receive regular updates on the work of our surgery. The Core Group meets monthly with the Practice Manager. This helps us support the challenging work the surgery team do to deliver services with all the pressures they are under, especially accommodating new residents in the new town."

"We aim to represent patients' concerns. If you feel passionately about health services in the village, I would urge you to join the Virtual Group and to attend the Community Meeting to be held in Spring 2024. This will be an opportunity to hear about the plans for a new Health Centre in Waterbeach."

More details will follow in our next newsletter. If you want to get involved with the Patient Participation Group please email [waterbeachppg@gmail.com](mailto:waterbeachppg@gmail.com) for more information.



## Update from Waterbeach Surgery

The practice has a new Waterbeach surgery website, which is now more user friendly – not only for patients but staff as well.

Our new freestanding blood pressure machine is now up and ready for use. All patients are welcome to use the machine located in the room just before the reception front desk. Patients can follow the instructions outlined next to the machine and staff are on hand to support you if needed.

The practice also has a social prescriber that has been employed to assist patients with any social support that may be needed to assist them.

Patients should consider using the NHS App as it enables you to order your prescription online without using paper and it reduces workload for the prescription clerks. You can find the App on the App store or for Android on the Play store.

We are also using a new initiative where we are able to refer you to the community pharmacy with concerns about Bites & Stings, Congestion and Eyes Mouth & Throat. This will enable the pharmacy to offer you over-the-counter medication.

**Waterbeach Surgery**  
Rosalind Franklin House  
Bannold Road  
Waterbeach CB25 9LQ

Reception: 01223 860387.  
[www.nhs.uk/services/gp-surgery/waterbeach-surgery/D81042](http://www.nhs.uk/services/gp-surgery/waterbeach-surgery/D81042)





# Active Waterbeach

## Supporting healthy communities

The principle of designing healthy living into new places has been a goal of both public policy and best practice masterplanning for a long time: with the focus sharper than ever in the wake of the pandemic, and major public health challenges of both obesity and mental health. The design and layout of Waterbeach has drawn from a range of good practice guidance, including by Sport England and NHS England, on how to put health into the heart of a new place. But critically, the design only comes to life when the spaces and connections created are activated and enjoyed by people.

Drawing from the lessons of the Healthy New Town's Programme, Urban&Civic and South Cambridgeshire District Council have started a pilot project with Living Sport, an independent charity focused on improving the health, happiness and wellbeing of the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Active New Communities project aims to work with new and existing communities to help connect people to ways in which they can lead active lives.

Rebecca Britton, from Urban&Civic said: "When people move into a new home, their whole routine changes, and they may have moved away from the clubs and interests they once had. This provides a threat and opportunity for their health: people might get out of the habit of playing sport or exercising in their relocation, or if they find opportunities early to get involved with things it can create a framework for leading a healthy active life: not just playing sport, or going for a run, but also meeting people and making friends within their new community. Living Sport will be driving those activities and connections whilst ensuring people find their own ways to lead active lives."

Living Sport is part of a unique network of organisations supported by Sport England, and is the local delivery partner for Sport England's national strategy, 'Uniting the Movement'. The charity led an Active New Communities pilot in Northstowe and Alconbury Weald to explore how events, activities and support can open up opportunities for people within a new community to:

- Connect to existing sports groups, events and activities in the area they move to.
- Establish healthy routines in their daily lives to increase their physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Help identify gaps and shape the future delivery of sports and activities within the new development, for the new and existing communities.

Sally Gibson, Head of Programmes for Living Sport, said: "The opportunities at Waterbeach are amazing: not only does the existing village have some fantastic sports teams and a full calendar of events and activities, but the former Barracks is already part of that with the Sports Hall, Studio and squash courts in regular use. If you then add in some of the lovely features coming in the new development, such as the walking loop around the lake and the woodland walks and cycle connections, then we have a great opportunity to not just get more people leading healthy active lives, but also bringing them together to enjoy those activities: literally building communities and connections that make us all happier and healthier."



The project – which has been funded by Urban&Civic and South Cambridgeshire District Council – kicked off in August 2023 with an event in the squash courts and will be reaching out to local sports groups in the coming weeks, as it develops a Sports and Activity Delivery Plan for Waterbeach and the wider area. The work will also support and inform the future sports facilities coming forward within the development.

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Lead Cabinet Member for Communities, Cllr Bill Handley, said: "The work taking place at Waterbeach is all about helping people to get involved – and stay involved – in sport and a healthy, active lifestyle. This is especially important when arriving at a new community because moving home can disrupt exercise routines, and we want to help with that by highlighting the sport and exercise opportunities on offer nearby.

"Between the village and the new development, there are some fantastic facilities on the doorstep that residents can take advantage of. Whether you are taking part in a sport for the first time – or are someone who is used to regular clubs and activities – I really hope that these initiatives and facilities support you. I'm looking forward to seeing how this project contributes to health and wellbeing locally."

If you would like to get involved in the project and speak to the team, please email [sally.gibson@livingsport.co.uk](mailto:sally.gibson@livingsport.co.uk). For more information, visit [www.livingsport.co.uk](http://www.livingsport.co.uk)



“ ”

**Our vision is of lives and communities improved by people being more active.**

Living Sport



# Environment

## Planning for nature

The development incorporates five key habitat areas to protect and enhance ecology at Waterbeach. Dedicated paths and educational trails will be incorporated to provide controlled access for people to enjoy nature without disturbing the mosaic of habitats created.

These habitats will continue to evolve as they are enhanced and managed. Delivery against the biodiversity strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain Action Plan will be independently monitored by the Wildlife Trust and the local authority ecology team.

You can see the areas on the map, or find out more online – including information on some of the species these habitats will support – by visiting [www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/ecology](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/ecology)

### The western bund along the A10

This area provides grassland, wetland and trees/shrubs that will be transformed to benefit species including butterflies, moths, common lizard, birds and bats. Enhancements to the Old Tillage waterway, which connects the River Cam to the Old West River and the Fens, will help species like water vole and otter commute through the area.

### Northern parkland

Arable fields will be transformed into species-rich grassland and parklands with traditional wetland areas.

The five key habitat areas at Waterbeach



Alongside these areas, the urban spaces include both parks and green spaces, with green corridors of trees, hedges and grassland connecting up these with routes for both nature and people.

### Lake and runway grassland

This patchwork of wetlands, meadows and woodland at the heart of Waterbeach will be enhanced to support the kingfishers already using the area, as well as a range of key species groups such as reptiles, bats and amphibians.

### Urban ecology

Waterbeach has been designed so wildlife habitats connect throughout the development; from hedgehog highways through gardens to swift and bat boxes on the homes. Wildlife-friendly gardening booklets in welcome packs and nature walks with our ecologist and the Wildlife Trust will help new residents find out more about local nature and how their gardens can be designed to support wildlife.

### The Royal Engineer's old golf course

The grassland, bunkers and specimen trees have created an amazing backdrop to this important habitat area, creating a rich and diverse home for a wide range of species. This will be further enhanced to support our priority species.



# Environment

## Engaging the community

To help local community groups and organisations find out more about Waterbeach's unique landscape, Urban&Civic is hosting guided ecology tours focused on the lake at the heart of the development.

The tours enable the community to understand more about the work that Urban&Civic has already done to ensure that the nature on site is protected, as well as sharing plans for how this unique habitat will become a home for people and nature to share.

### Waterbeach Gardening Club

In August, 36 members of Waterbeach Gardening Club joined Caroline Ward, Community Development Lead for Waterbeach, for a walking tour around the 23-acre lake that sits at the heart of the development.

The tour started at the former airfield's iconic Control Tower, which has been sensitively restored and refurbished and is currently being used as the office for Urban&Civic's project team.

The Tower's viewing deck provides panoramic views across the development, which helped illustrate the scale of the site and identify the location of the five key habitat areas for ecology that are being preserved and enhanced to ensure people and nature can live in harmony at Waterbeach.

During the walking tour, Caroline explained the unique features of the different habitat areas and the hero species living here – from kingfisher and barn owl to brown hare, water shrew and great crested newts.

There were lots of keen birdwatchers amongst those attending the tour who had brought their binoculars with them to get a closer look at the wide range of species living at Waterbeach. Those attending were fortunate enough to witness two starling murmurations.

Dorothy Druitt, from Waterbeach Gardening Club, said: "Everyone really enjoyed the interesting and informative tour of the former Barracks site. We felt very privileged to be given access to the Control Tower, which has a great vantage point for views across the site, which made the walk around the lake all the more interesting."

### Brownies and Guides

In September, Brownies from Waterbeach 1st and 2nd Pack and the local Girl Guides took part in ecology walking tours on the lake loop to learn more about the development and what it takes to build a new community, with nature at its heart.



If you are part of a community group or organisation and would like to arrange an ecology walking tour, please contact Caroline by emailing [hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk](mailto:hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk) or calling 01223 622533.



“ ”

Caroline answered all our questions, whether relating to flora and fauna or other matters with knowledge and good humour, and it was clear she has a real heart for the community that is developing on site and how it will work with the community here in the existing village. We look forward to keeping updated as things develop.

Dorothy Druitt Waterbeach Gardening Club



# Connections

## smart journeys appointed as sustainable travel planners

Waterbeach will be supported by sustainable travel planners from **smart journeys**, who have been appointed to encourage new residents moving into the development to choose cycling, walking and buses, over their car: improving their health and decreasing their carbon footprint.

The move is part of a package of measures that will be in place for first residents moving in. It builds on the infrastructure being put in place, including the cycle route along the A10, the works to Mere Way to create a cycle and walking route to the Science Park, and a sustainable travel hub, which will provide shuttle bus service connections to the rail station and Milton Park&Ride.

The **smart journeys** team will work hand in hand with the Waterbeach Community Development team to support residents as they move in to find out more about the options available, and plan and incentivise them to leave the car at home where possible.

**smart journeys** will support residents with a range of sustainable travel options – including walking, cycling, e-car hire, car sharing and making effective use of the free shuttle bus services. Initiatives planned include: bike servicing, 1-2-1 cycle confidence training and vouchers to support the purchase of a bicycle or accessories such as helmets, locks and lights; walking events to get people exploring both the onsite woodland walks and the walking routes they connect to across the wider area; and promotion of bus routes and times as well as free bus taster tickets.



The team will also work with Deneia Primary Academy to encourage parents and staff to make sustainable travel choices when traveling to and from Waterbeach's first primary school: which has been designed to prioritise scooting, walking and cycling to school, by having no car drop-off access adjacent to the school.

Inclusivity is at the heart of **smart journeys'** sustainable travel plan initiatives, which will work with key charities and organisations such as Wheels for Wellbeing and TAG Bikes to pioneer accessible travel, in a sustainable travel trailblazer.

Each year, **smart journeys** will carry out a Travel Survey to help plan, monitor and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of these initiatives to enable behavioural change: sharing the effectiveness of the initiatives and travel patterns of the new community with Urban&Civic and local authority partners, and evolving them accordingly to continually improve the offer.

The development is also set up to have continuous smart monitoring onsite and around the development, to be able to monitor the different modes of transport being used on a regular basis. **smart journeys** reporting and the data from the sensors feeds directly into a Strategic Transport Group for Waterbeach, which brings the County and District Councils together with Urban&Civic to review the impact of the development on the wider transport systems and network of the local area.

Marianne Spilling from **smart journeys** said: "Our team is passionate about engagement and believes that behavioural change on how people move about starts with building strong relationships and working with communities to tailor our approach to offer unique, bespoke travel plan services that respond to local needs."



Fiona Reardon-Rose from Urban&Civic said: "When you move home all of your travel patterns and routines change, so it's a great time to establish positive new habits. With the investment we have made in ways people can get about sustainably, Marianne and her team have an amazing opportunity to use their expertise to inform, encourage and support residents to make smart sustainable choices to get about the local area for work or leisure.

"Crucially their insights and knowledge from the new community will help us to evolve the plans going forward to respond to resident demand, to help them overcome the barriers they feel to getting about more sustainably, and make lasting changes to the way they travel, benefitting both the environment and their health."



We look forward to implementing personalised travel planning that enables Waterbeach residents to consider their travel habits and choices, as well as the impact this has on their surroundings; encouraging them to explore more sustainable travel options for work and leisure.

Marianne Spilling smart journeys





# Connections

## Mere Way Active Travel Route Progresses

Mere Way is a key part of the vision to provide robust sustainable transport connections from day one to support the development of the former barracks at Waterbeach, as well as providing benefits to the surrounding area. The improvements will help connect communities by providing an active travel route between Waterbeach and Landbeach, to Cambridge Science Park and beyond – for existing and future users.

### What will the work deliver?

The works include the refurbishment of the existing historic Akeman Street and Mere Way byways to create a 3-4m hard surface pathway alongside a 2-3m wide grass pathway, which will connect up with Green End in Landbeach to a new connection along an existing field boundary to the A10. This will provide a predominantly off-road route for cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians, which will be connected to the development by a new bridge over the A10 early next year. The plans also enable agricultural uses along the route to work effectively alongside other users, with the width expanded in key locations to manage safe agricultural access.

### When is it happening?

The work is underway now, with most of the foundation, drainage and structure now set along the route and the hard surface laid. Over the next few weeks the contractors will be focussing on getting the soft surface area prepared and in place to run alongside this.

Work is also underway through Green End in Landbeach village to widen the existing footpath and ensure a continuous cycle route from Spaldings Lane.

Next year work will start on the connection from just north of Beach Babies along the farm track and field boundaries to connect to the A10 and create the foundations for the bridge to be dropped into place.

Fiona Reardon-Rose from Urban&Civic said: "It has been a really tricky process to get the design right for all of the diverse users of the route – from large agricultural vehicles to walkers and equestrians, while ensuring that the route enables the important active travel connection between both new and existing homes and the jobs at the Science Park and wider Cambridge connections. At the same time it has been vital to respect the heritage and ecology of this important route, comply with the national

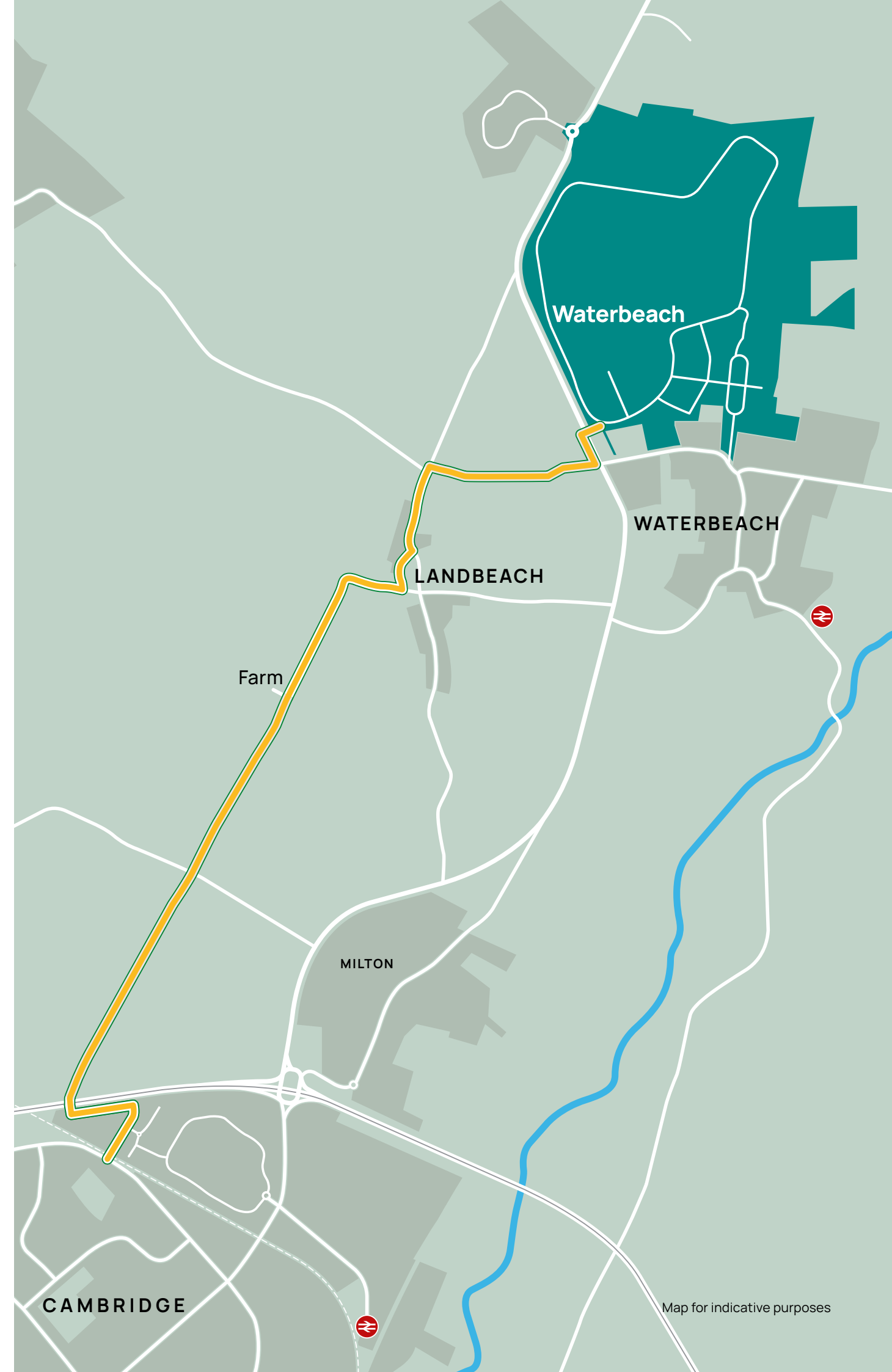
and local policies as well as technical guidance on surfaces and widths for the different types of use, and respond to the safety reviews undertaken.

"Following all of the consultation and discussion, and the challenges of delivering this route while keeping it open for as much of the works as we can, it is good to see it now taking shape. We do appreciate that the work changes the nature of the route, but working with local partners to get the approach right, we also feel that the work futureproofs the importance of this route for this next chapter in its rich history."

The work is being carried out in a way which keeps the route open for as long as possible, throughout the works, but users should be aware they will need to navigate the contractors working on the route. All users are asked to please be aware of the signs and follow the instructions of the contractors for their own safety.

During the construction period an independent health and safety advisor will be carrying out regular checks on the safety of control measures put in place. The contractors also have regular visits and on-call support from an archaeologist and ecology team, as the work continues, but if you see anything that causes any concerns please do talk to the contractors or get in touch with the project team at Urban&Civic on 01223 622533 or by emailing [waterbeach@urbanandcivic.com](mailto:waterbeach@urbanandcivic.com).

To find out more about the extensive consultation carried out on the route, the design and final approach, and the timing of the latest works, please see the Mere Way pages of our website at [www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/mere-way](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/mere-way)



Map for indicative purposes



# Heritage

## New composition celebrates heritage

To celebrate the heritage of the former barracks and airfield site, Urban&Civic commissioned a piece of music that takes the listener on a journey through its fascinating history to its evolution as a dynamic new community for future generations in the local area.

Composed by Steve Robson, the BEACH premiered in Ely Cathedral on 13 May during a wonderful musical evening of virtuoso singing and entertainment starring Waterbeach Brass Band in a joint concert with the London Welsh Male Voice Choir. The concert was held in aid of Ely Rotary Club's chosen charity Arthur Rank Hospice.

Waterbeach Brass has made the barracks site at Waterbeach its home for over three decades – first at the invitation of the Regiment of the Royal Engineers and now with the support of Urban& Civic.

Rebecca Britton, Director of Communities and Partnerships for UrbanCivic, said: "Waterbeach is a truly special place with a rich history that has been shaped by the people living and working here for centuries. This is reflected in the future vision for the development, which draws on this unique heritage and continues to be inspired by the stories shared by the community as well as through our ongoing research and archaeological investigations as part of transforming the former Barracks and Airfield."



## Beach

By Steve Robson  
Commissioned by Urban&Civic  
for Waterbeach Brass

The composition uses a 5 note musical motif which spells out the word Beach: B flat, E, A, C, H. Most of the themes or harmony in BEACH are derived from these notes, and the motif also links each of the sections of the story, acting like a musical time machine. A second rhythmic motif refers to the number 514, reflecting on 514 Squadron, one of the squadrons based at Waterbeach Barracks during the war years.

The story begins early one morning in the mid 15th Century at Denny Abbey. We imagine a group of pilgrims gathering outside the Abbey, listening to a 'Plainchant' being sung within. The Pilgrims set off, walking along the Causeway to Waterbeach and singing the hymn 'Stella Splendens', written by Thomas Aquinas in 1399. The group break their journey at a well, and two musicians strike up a dance. More and more of the pilgrims join in the dance.

The BEACH motif interrupts the scene and transports us to the 1940s, and Waterbeach Barracks. The snare drum heralds the arrival of 514 Squadron. Fragments of a couple of well-known film tunes representing this era are heard, then a fanfare from cornets is answered by lower brass with a variation of the BEACH motif. Ascending runs and chromatic scales help us to reach for the sky.

The Waterbeach Barracks March tries to capture the positive feelings of young soldiers heading to war, with a central section capturing the nobility of serving one's country. Then in marked contrast, the mood becomes more reflective as an off-stage cornet plays the bugle call that is played at the end of the day on military camps.

The BEACH motif is played quietly and plaintively by the Flugel Horn, leading to an 'Elegy for all', remembering the tragic losses on all sides of any conflict and keeping those who served at Waterbeach Barracks in our minds. We then hear a poignant verse of the hymn, 'The Supreme Sacrifice', written at the end of the first World War in 1919 by Charles Harris, which still plays a part in our remembrance services a century later. As the timpani plays the 514 Rhythm, the BEACH motif is passed as a lively bell effect through the band, transporting us to the near future.

We imagine Sunday in the Park, a walk around the lake at Waterbeach – for some a gentle stroll with their dog, for others an excited run. Echoes of the two earlier periods combine. The basses state the BEACH motif one more time as the echoes of the past build and lead to a final bright Major Chord, leaving us with a sense of optimism for the future of Waterbeach.

Website and videos: [www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/new-composition-celebrates-heritage/](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/new-composition-celebrates-heritage/)



It was one of our heritage discussions that led to the commission of a new piece of music specifically to reflect the former Barracks and Airfield, to be played by Waterbeach Brass. We are thrilled the piece was premiered in Ely Cathedral so it could be heard in all its glory during this special fundraising night for Arthur Rank Hospice.

Rebecca Britton Urban&Civic



# 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.

## Exhibits

The Museum has an impressive collection of artefacts and memorabilia on Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield – and the men and women who served there – many of which have been donated by family and friends of those stationed at the airfield.

A number of items have recently been donated or returned from loan. This includes a rare 514 Squadron Lancaster Captain's chart from Operation Manna in 1945, when food supplies were dropped in the west of Holland following the relief of the Netherlands from German occupation. This was one of many mercy missions flown from RAF Waterbeach between 29 April to 8 May 1945 to support Dutch allies towards the end of the war.

The chart is to be put on display alongside the citation of thanks from the Dutch in the Museum given to Waterbeach Station on the 1 May 1985:

"In thankful remembrance to Your action of Courage and Humanity fulfilled by you and your friends in the last days of the War in 1945. Flying food provided to starving Holland."

The second item of note is the return of an Avro Lancaster Mk11 Bristol Radial Hercules engine from Fenland and West Norfolk Aviation Museum which is closing. This engine is believed to have originated from Lancaster LL667 of 115 Squadron, which was shot down on final approach to RAF Witchford outside Ely on the morning of 19 April 1944.

The aircraft had taken off at 22:52 on 18 April and on approach to RAF Witchford, the aircraft was shot down by a German Luftwaffe intruder pilot Hauptmann Dietrich Puttfarken of the 5/KG 51, who was flying an Me 410 A-1/U2 from an airfield in the Netherlands. None of the crew of LL667 survived. As can be seen from the engine, it was a hard crash, however it is understood that another engine from LL667 in much better condition is on display at Witchford Museum on Lancaster Way, Ely.

Adrian Wright, Chair of Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum, said: "We would like to say a massive thank you to the staff at Urban&Civic who sprang in to

action at short notice to arrange for lifting equipment to move the 900kilo engine from the lorry and move it into the storage building. Trustees are now looking at ways of presenting the engine and would be keen to hear from anyone out there with aircraft engineering skills that might be able to help!"

As well as through exhibits at the Museum, much of the history of Waterbeach RAF Station and Royal Engineer Barracks can be found in 'At The Beach' and 'Sappers At The Beach', which can be purchased from Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum or Rosemary News.

## Volunteer opportunities

The Museum team is looking for volunteer stewards for the days it is open. They are also looking for help creating a digital catalogue of all the museum artefacts, which involves photographing items and recording them in a database. Training and support will be provided.

To find out more and express an interest, please email [waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org](mailto:waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org)

## Friends of Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum

If you would like to support the Museum by becoming a 'Friend', an application form can be picked up at the Museum or downloaded from the website: [www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk](http://www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk)

## Opening times

### The Museum is open:

10am to 4pm on the first Sunday and Wednesday of the month, from March to October.

10am to 3pm on the third Sunday of the month (to coincide with Waterbeach Community Market) from March to December.

1-4pm on Remembrance Sunday (12 November).

# Figures from history



If you visited Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum during the Summer, you would have spotted portraits from past servicemen and women stationed at Waterbeach Barracks. Here we provide some of the stories behind these portraits.

## Edna Mary Young

Edna Mary Young enrolled in the Women's Auxiliary Airforce (WAAF) when she was 17 years old. After training as a telephonist in Morecambe, she was posted to RAF Waterbeach where she served for three years (1943-1946). Her brother was a bomber navigator and her sister was also in the WAAF, but they were posted to different stations.

Edna's youngest son, Lloyd Dickinson, recalled that she enjoyed her time at Waterbeach, despite the cycle ride from the base to the WAAF quarters after a long shift, especially in bad weather. Her favourite memories were of the concert parties, with Edna taking centre stage in at least one performance. She also formed firm friendships and, sometime after the war, hired a private investigator to track down her friend Dorothy who she served with at Waterbeach and they were reunited.

At the end of the war, she was among a group of WAAFs serving at Waterbeach taken to Cologne in a Lancaster. Lloyd said that his mother hated the experience due to the smell of fuel and residual gunpowder, and swore that she would never fly again – and she didn't!

She met her husband, who was in the Royal Marines, in 1947 and they had six children.

In a letter to the newspaper from Mrs E Dickinson (nee Young), Hyde Meadows titled 'Dimbleby memories', Edna wrote: "I watched the television with pride today as the plaque to Richard Dimbleby was unveiled by his sons.

"The part they showed of him going on the bombing raid to Cologne brought back special memories, as it was from my station at 514 Squadron at Waterbeach Cambridge, that he went.

"It was myself who took the call from him on his return, as I was the WAAF on duty on the operations switchboard who put him through on the scramble phone to Bomber Command headquarters."

In March, Lloyd Dickinson and his partner Paula were given a tour of Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum by Adrian Wright, Chair of the Trustees. During the visit, Lloyd donated the coat hanger his mother used during her time at Waterbeach, which included her name, service number and rank. This is now on display in the Museum.

We'll be introducing some of the other faces in future editions of the newsletter.





# Community

## Late Summer at the Beach

After three jam-packed weekends of art and culture this September, Late Summer at the Beach came to end with a sold-out Saturday night Ceilidh and local band Disco Rayado bringing the arts festival to a close on the final Sunday afternoon.



Waterbeach's favourite arts festival, Summer at the Beach, was held in the 'Terraces' space of the former Waterbeach Barracks – used by the military as hangars for fire trucks in the 1940s and then as a storage and vehicle maintenance area – a little later than usual this year.

Summer at the Beach celebrates local artistic and creative talent, with this year's exhibition showcasing ceramicists, milliners, textile artists, painters, photographers, filmmakers, sculptors, installation artists and printmakers.

This year's event also featured a new audio art venture in one of the terrace units. Experimental electronic artists from Sound Lab 103 interacted with the industrial architecture to create live and interactive sound installations that responded to the building, its history, and the inherent sonic properties of the space.

Alongside the art exhibition, Summer at the Beach also staged a range of cultural and creative events for all ages and interests, including:

- **Poetry Workshops** exploring connections between visual arts and poetry.
  - Poetry as Wearable Art** – provided an opportunity to play with words, create and illustrate your own poems on textiles, and become performance artists among the works on display.
  - Voluminous Vocabulary** – participants were encouraged to observe closely, make imaginative word choices, and work collaboratively to write their own poems inspired by Summer at the Beach.
- **Printmaking and Clay Modelling Workshops** for visitors to drop in throughout the day to see what you could create.
- **Junk Journalling** using creativity to promote people's health and wellbeing.
- **Ceilidh Night** – with dancing, good music and great company!
- **Closing Party/Music Day**



There was also a **Creative Space** available throughout the exhibition, with free art materials to encourage budding artists to channel the event's energy and inspiration to create their own unique pieces of artwork.

The **Repair Café** was back by popular demand, with talented volunteers giving a new lease of life to a wide range of damaged and broken household products.

The **Pop-up Café** was also serving a range of delicious homemade cakes, snacks and refreshments each weekend during the event.

Gideon Pain, local artist and event coordinator, said: "We were delighted to be back at Waterbeach Barracks this September for our Late Summer at the Beach – our busiest so far! As well as some old favourites, we had some exciting new talent to showcase as well as lots of events and activities to inspire enthusiastic amateurs and the next generation. We've already got some great ideas for next year's event!"

Fiona Reardon-Rose from Waterbeach master developer, Urban&Civic, said: "It was fantastic to welcome Summer at the Beach back again this year. The team puts in so much work to transform the Terraces into an amazing backdrop for this event, which is a great showcase for the talent of artists living in the area, as well as a chance to inspire the next generation and get everyone's creative juices flowing.

"In this transformative year for the former Barracks, as we prepare to welcome the first residents, we're so pleased to continue to support this important part of the area's cultural calendar."

To find out more, please visit [www.summeratthebeach.art](http://www.summeratthebeach.art)



## Waterbeach Community Market

Waterbeach Community Market is going from strength to strength and has relocated to the Terraces space at the former barracks (accessed from the Denny End entrance to Waterbeach).

As well as having ample free parking, the Terraces have more undercover space that will enable stallholders to display their wares without worrying about inclement weather during the autumn and winter months.

The community market, which is open from 10am–3pm on the third Sunday of each month, has over 40 stalls selling a wide variety of local produce – from food and drink to clothing, jewellery, crafts and gifts, as well as pet supplies, plants, gardening tools and vintage items. The Market also has two free stalls available for local charities to sell goods as part of their fundraising efforts.

In addition, the extra space provides opportunities for additional events and activities – such as the art exhibition and bike servicing held in October – to run alongside the community market.

To find out more, visit the Waterbeach Community Market's Facebook page:

[WaterbeachCommunityMKT](https://www.facebook.com/WaterbeachCommunityMKT)



# Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey

The Farmland Museum, which sits within the grounds of Denny Abbey, tells the 850-year story of farming and life in the Cambridgeshire Fens. It is open from March to October each year and has a range of indoor and outdoor exhibits, interactive displays and family events and activities.

## Waterbeach team volunteer day

Earlier this year, volunteers from Urban&Civic's Waterbeach team took time out of their usual schedule to help the Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey get ready for its new season.

The team donned their overalls to redecorate the lobby area and toilets, help with dusting and cleaning after its winter closure, and carry out weeding and garden maintenance. The support provided will allow the museum staff and volunteers to focus on caring for the collection and running the Museum.

Sarah Michael, Museum Manager, said: "It was a fantastic day! The Urban&Civic Waterbeach team achieved so much, and we're absolutely delighted they got everything we needed done and more. I hope they enjoyed it too! Corporate volunteer days are really important for the Museum and Abbey, as the tasks these teams can achieve in a single day would take us weeks to coordinate around our other duties."

Urban&Civic's volunteer initiative gives all employees three days a year to actively support a charity of their choosing. The Waterbeach team already has strong links with the Farmland Museum

and Denny Abbey, having exhibited the latest archaeological finds from the development there, and felt they could pull together to make a real difference.

Paul Mumford from Urban&Civic, said: "The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey provide a wealth of local history and interest, and has a special relationship with Waterbeach having been connected by a historic causeway, which we are planning to re-establish as part of the development."

Whether you are a company looking at corporate volunteering, a family who would like to spend the day doing something together or a group of friends who would like to do something to support a local charity, the Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey team would like to hear from you. Find out more by emailing [info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk) or calling 01223 860988.



With some new team members joining as the Waterbeach team at Urban&Civic grows, the volunteer day was a great way for everyone to connect with this very special place and to make a difference for one of our key partners and neighbours. It was a slightly chilly day, but the team had a great time and was thrilled with what we achieved!

Paul Mumford Urban&Civic





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Urban&Civic is the Master Developer 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 get in touch:

T 01223 622533

E [hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk](mailto:hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk)

W [waterbeachwb.co.uk](http://waterbeachwb.co.uk)

