

Waterbeach

Newsletter Winter 2024/2025

Living

Discover ways to live
at Waterbeach

Connections

Work to start on
new A10 bridge

Community

Wellbeing Day on
Sunday, 19 January



Welcome to the latest Waterbeach newsletter

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Hello

Hello and welcome to the Winter edition of our newsletter, which provides an update of all the work the team and our partners have been progressing, and the things to look out for in future months.



Rebecca Britton Urban&Civic
 Regional Director, Communications,
 Communities and Partnerships

T 01223 622 533
M 07739 339 889
E RBritton@urbanandcivic.com

With the northern part of Phase 1 underway, and further housebuilders due to join Cala and Stonebond on site in the coming months, the Urban&Civic team has started to prepare land to the east of the lake for the next homes. Work is also due to start on the new pedestrian, cycle and equestrian bridge over the A10, which will connect the new development to Cambridge via the upgraded Mere Way.

With Stonebond and Cala's new homes being delivered, and new housebuilders due to be announced in the coming months, we share information in this newsletter about the Discount Market Sale apartments currently available, along with other ways to live at Waterbeach.

As we welcome new families, we continue to work with Cambridgeshire County Council to deliver the primary school. There is currently capacity in Waterbeach Community Primary School and we are working with the school and new residents to ensure safe and easy access for new residents.



Fiona Reardon-Rose Urban&Civic
 Communications and Partnerships
 Manager

T 01223 622 533
M 07502 191 344
E fiona.reardon-rose@urbanandcivic.com

In this edition we share the latest sustainable travel initiatives from smart journeys and an update from the Greater Cambridge Partnership on new transport projects to significantly improve people's journeys along the A10 corridor.

We also share some of the work we are doing to create and enhance habitats for nature in the northern park planned for the development, an update from Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum and look at some of our recent sporting, creative and cultural events and activities.



Caroline Ward Urban&Civic
 Community Development Lead

T 01223 622 533
M 07795 033 600
E caroline.ward@urbanandcivic.com

For those setting New Year Resolutions on health and wellbeing, Waterbeach is hosting a Community Wellbeing Fair from 11am to 2pm on Sunday, 19 January in The Studio. This will give residents and those living in the area a chance to try some of the regular sports and fitness classes taking place at the development and locally before signing up for regular sessions. We hope to see you there!

With best wishes from
 Rebecca, Fiona and Caroline

Around Waterbeach

Site preparation works

With the northern part of Phase 1 moving forward, and further housebuilders due to join Cala and Stonebond on site in the coming months, the Urban&Civic team has started to prepare land to the east of the lake for the next 269 homes being delivered in Phase 1.

Contractors are currently undertaking a series of earthworks across 22.5 acres, to prepare the ground for infrastructure including roads, footpaths and cycleways, and a pocket park alongside the next homes.

Paul Mumford, Project Director for the Waterbeach development, said: "This work is an important next step for the project, as this second part of Phase 1 starts to connect the new homes north of the lake back to the village, and will start the delivery of the permanent Causeway. In time, this active travel link will replace the temporary pedestrian and cycle way that currently follows the bus connection between the village and the new homes."

Work is also taking place to the north of the current homes to create the next phase of sustainable drainage, which will improve flood resilience for the new development by holding water until it is gradually released back into the ground. These ponds will also provide important new habitats for nature.

As part of Urban&Civic's sustainability commitment to reuse and recycle materials on site, earth produced from these works will be used to create the embankments that will support the bridge over the A10.



It is great to see the activity on site and, in the next few months, we hope to confirm the housebuilders we will be working with to deliver these next homes and public spaces.

Paul Mumford Urban&Civic



Work starts on new A10 bridge

Work is due to start on the new pedestrian, cycle and equestrian bridge over the A10 that will connect the new Waterbeach development to the work carried out to upgrade Mere Way: providing a direct largely off-road connection from the new homes to Cambridge Science Park, Regional College and on to the city. The route beyond the bridge has also been updated to work with and connect most effectively to the new Park&Ride and busway being brought forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

Archaeological investigations have been completed, and the first phase of work on-site is expected to start in the spring. This will see the construction of embankments and the installation of vehicle safety barriers to enable the construction team to work safely by the A10 carriageway.

This will be followed by diverting existing utilities in the area, and creating the structural supports for the bridge to be lifted into place in four sections and welded together.

The majority of work will take place away from the carriageway or off-site and minimal disruption is anticipated to users of the A10. Advance notice will be given of any traffic management required to ensure the safety of construction workers and road users during the installation of the bridge.

Paul Mumford said: "The new A10 bridge is an important piece in the jigsaw of our sustainable transport strategy, making sustainable travel between Waterbeach, the Science Park and Cambridge City Centre a viable option for people living and working in the area – now and in the future. It's great to see it reach this important milestone."

The bridge, which was designed in consultation with key user groups, was granted planning permission in Spring 2022. Construction, however, was paused whilst the Urban&Civic team worked with Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) to review updating the alignment of the northern section of the Mere Way route to work most effectively with the new Park and Ride and busway scheme.

The investment into the bridge forms part of a package of sustainable and active travel improvements by the Waterbeach development including Mere Way upgrades, investment in bus services and a new sustainable travel hub that sits at the gateway of the development. Work on the first phase of Mere Way upgrade works have been completed, and the installation of the new A10 bridge will be accompanied by installing the connection from the bridge to the upgraded Mere Way route – final details of which are still being worked through with GCP.

The construction process and installation are expected to take 12 months and, based on the current timeline, the new bridge is due to open in early 2026.

New homes

Ways to live at Waterbeach

Whether starting out, looking for space to grow or downsizing, Waterbeach has a wide range of apartments and houses coming forward with a range of innovative approaches to help people secure a home within the new development. This includes the Discounted Market Scheme, designed to support local families, and those with local connections to secure a home within the development.

Meet the housebuilders

Stonebond

2 & 3 bedroom apartments and 3 & 4 bedroom houses from £296,000.

Open daily 10am–5pm. Open until 7pm on Thursdays.

T: 01223 901907

E: waterbeach@stonebondltd.com

Cala

1 & 2 bedroom apartments and 3 & 4 bedroom houses from £244,000.

Open 10.30am–5pm Thursday to Monday.

T: 01223 080543

The housebuilders at Waterbeach have a range of incentives to help make your dream home a reality.



To find out more about the wide range of homes and ways to live at Waterbeach, visit www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/homes-at-waterbeach/

Or register for updates on the development: www.waterbeachwb.co.uk

Discount Market Sale apartments

A key part of the discussions during the consultation on plans for Waterbeach was the need for people to have homes that they and their children can afford to live in so they can stay in the local area.

As part of the planning process, Urban&Civic worked with the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Housing team to ensure there will be opportunities for local people, and people with links to the village, to buy a property in the new development.

One such opportunity is Discount Market Sale (DMS), which is available on selected 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments from Stonebond and Cala.

DMS is a government-backed affordable home ownership scheme that enables the purchase of a new home at a 20% discount from the local market value.

Through the scheme, 100% of the property is owned by the purchaser and will remain discounted through its lifetime – which means that when sold, the 20% discount of the market value will be passed on to the next eligible buyer.

The focus for the scheme is people with a connection to Waterbeach, and with the history of the Barracks, it also provides opportunities for members of the Armed Forces looking to set down roots in the area.

SCDC has set out the eligibility criteria for purchasing a DMS home at Waterbeach.

The Qualifying Buyer criteria includes:

- 1 You are a first time buyer.
- 2 You have a direct local connection to Waterbeach village through work (in paid employment for the last 12 months for 16 hours or more per week, or have a formal offer of permanent employment). You have lived in Waterbeach village for at least five years out of the last eight years or you have family members (parents, children or siblings) who have been living in Waterbeach village for at least five years. There are special circumstances that give rise to a local connection to Waterbeach village, for example where the applicant's substantive role is as a carer to a person resident in the village.

- 3 You are a member of the Armed Forces.
- 4 You are a resident of South Cambridgeshire selling an existing home and unable to afford to buy a suitably sized, appropriate market property that meets your needs in the same area as the DMS home you're interested in.

In addition, the following Eligibility & Affordability Criteria must be met:

- Household earnings below £80,000.
- You cannot afford to pay more than 80% of the market value of the property.
- A mortgage for at least 50% of the discount market price must be obtained.
- No financial interest in any other property.
- This must be your main or only residence.
- You must be able to legally own a home in the UK.
- You must not have more than 50% of the discounted sale price in equity/savings/gifted deposit unless you are vulnerable and have a disability.

Application process

Step 1: Choose your DMS home.

Step 2: To apply, you will need to be financially qualified by an Independent Financial Adviser who will ensure you've met the eligibility criteria and collect the evidence needed. This is free of charge.

Step 3: Once you have been financially qualified, you can reserve your new home and pay the £2,000 reservation fee.

Step 4: The legal team at your housebuilder will then be in touch with your solicitor who will receive all the relevant information, eligibility criteria and contracts.

To find out more about the DMS scheme, criteria and how to apply, speak to a sales consultant at the housebuilder you are interested in purchasing a property from at Waterbeach.

New homes

Affordable housing at Waterbeach

Amplius (formerly Longhurst Group) is working with Cala Homes and Stonebond to offer a collection of one, two and three-bedroom properties and initial shares can be bought in stages and range from 25 percent up to 75 percent depending on the lease.

Results have been positive, with Shared Ownership customers already beginning their moving journey to new homes.

When the time is right, there is also an opportunity to staircase and buy additional shares in your home and, if your lease allows, you can purchase the Freehold interest to own your home outright.

To support Shared Ownership opportunities at Waterbeach, Amplius' 'Moving Made Easier' provides an allowance towards moving costs to help the journey to home ownership more accessible and provide the extra support needed to take that first step onto the property ladder.

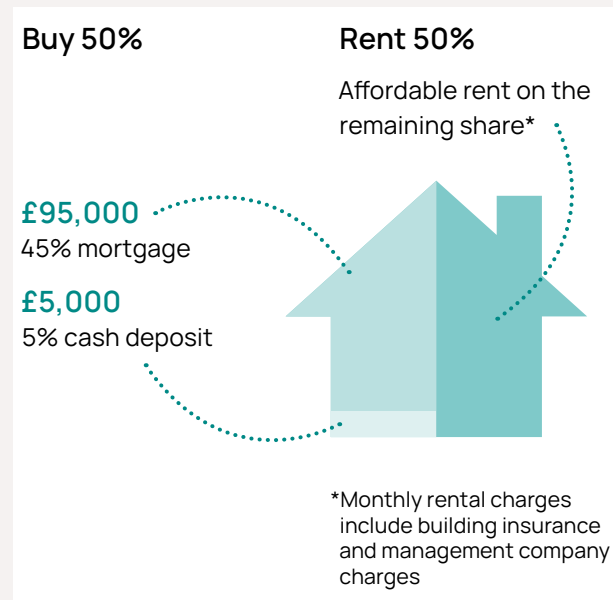
To find out more about 'Moving Made Easier', visit www.amplius.uk/moving_made_easier.



The 'Moving Made Easier' campaign is part of our broader mission to create inclusive, welcoming communities where affordable living is within easy reach. Amplius believes that access to home ownership plays a vital role in building sustainable, long-lasting neighbourhoods and that's what Waterbeach will achieve.

Daniel Sharpe
New Homes Sales Manager at Amplius

Example: Property value £200,000



Cala and Stonebond have affordable housing that is managed by Amplius.

T: 0800 111 4013

www.amplius.uk/waterbeach

Connections

Waterbeach has been designed to encourage a healthy, sustainable lifestyle, with the right infrastructure and services being put in place for people to lead low carbon lives as the development rolls out.

The Urban&Civic team is working with smart journeys, the Sustainable Travel Planning Team hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council, to help deliver a place that puts walking and cycling first and encourages people to leave their car at home.

smart journeys will support residents with a range of sustainable travel options – including walking, cycling, car sharing and making effective use of the local bus services. Recent cycling initiatives at Waterbeach included a bike safety event at Waterbeach Transport Hub with free servicing and repairs as well as free bike lights for residents to support safe cycling during the winter months.

smart journeys has also carried out a travel survey to find out more about travel choices of people living and working on the development, and gain a better understanding of the barriers that prevent commuters from using more sustainable modes of transport. The data collected will help influence future transport decisions and public transport improvements across the local area. It will also be used to inform future travel incentives **smart journeys** offer to residents at the new development. This survey will be repeated annually to ensure the travel plans and incentives are informed by those who are living in Waterbeach.



Other sustainable travel initiatives operating at Waterbeach include:



App Bikes are available at the Sustainable Transport Hub, at the gateway to the development, by the Studio and outside the squash courts. Further locations and bikes will be rolled out as the development continues. They are available for anyone to use, you just need to download the free App, register and get pedalling. Don't forget to take a bike helmet with you and ride responsibly. Urban&Civic is funding the first 45 minutes of each hire, after which it costs £1 for every 30 minutes.



Liftshare support new and existing residents in the area to car share as the driver, passenger or both. As more members join, more potential matches will be available. It's a great way to save money, reduce CO₂ emissions and reduce stress. Download the Liftshare Companion App and join your community: search for 'Urban&Civic' and click to join the Waterbeach community. Alternatively, find out more and sign up at www.waterbeach.liftshare.com.

Plans are progressing for a new **Shuttlebus** service to be available in the spring. In the meantime, the current free taxi service that allows residents to access the train station for peak commuting trains will continue.

For more information about travel and transport at Waterbeach, please visit www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/connections.

Connections

Strategic transport update from the GCP

New transport projects to significantly improve people's journeys along the A10 corridor have been progressed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP).

The GCP is progressing three projects to provide frequent and reliable public transport journeys from Waterbeach New Town to Cambridge city centre, connecting people to education and key employment sites.

Waterbeach to Cambridge

Plans for a new busway and travel hub to connect Waterbeach, Landbeach and Cambridge have progressed. The scheme includes a maintenance track alongside the busway to be used as a new walking and cycling route.

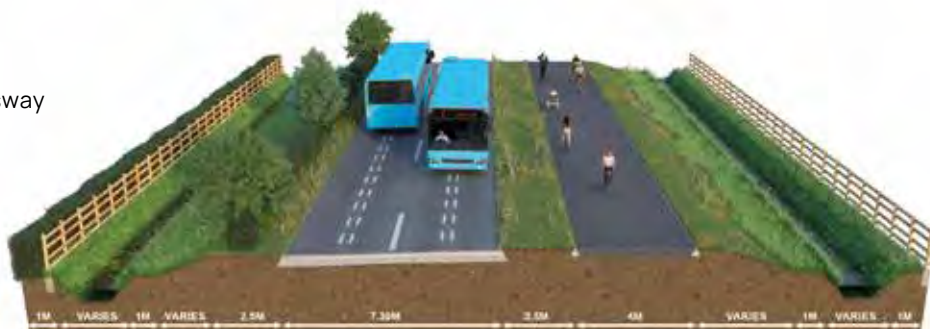
The GCP will shortly be asking Cambridgeshire County Council – the highways authority – to submit a Transport & Works Act Order (TWAO) application to the Government for permission to build the new busway.

Waterbeach Greenway

The scheme will provide new and improved walking, cycling and – where appropriate – equestrian links between Cambridge and villages to the north of the city, as well as links to employment sites and public transport hubs. It is one of 12 greenway routes in development.

In October 2023, the GCP held a consultation on the newly proposed alignment which follows a route behind the A10 and through Milton village. The revised route for the northern section of the Waterbeach Greenway was approved by the GCP's Executive Board this autumn. Further work with local stakeholders will be undertaken to develop the proposals through Milton. Improvements to Cowley Road, which forms part of the greenway, are already underway.

Indicative busway cross-section



Waterbeach Station relocation

The GCP is also supporting the relocation of Waterbeach Station, which will come forward as part of the Eastern side of the development of the New Town. The board agreed the business case and an increased budget of £43.35m to cover the cost of the new station and a new haul road – which will use the existing construction entrances and routes for the Barracks side of the development and then construct new connections across to the station location. This additional funding will be provided by Homes England, with a grant of up to £23.35m released to forward fund the projects.

Cllr Elisa Meschini, chair of the Greater Cambridge Partnership said: "These projects are vital to the future of not just Waterbeach but to the region as a whole. If I look at the new busway, not only will it offer local residents a fast, efficient public transport route into Cambridge, it gives people from further along the A10 corridor like Ely, access to a travel hub and a segregated bus service, which will get them into the city far quicker than staying on heavily congested roads."

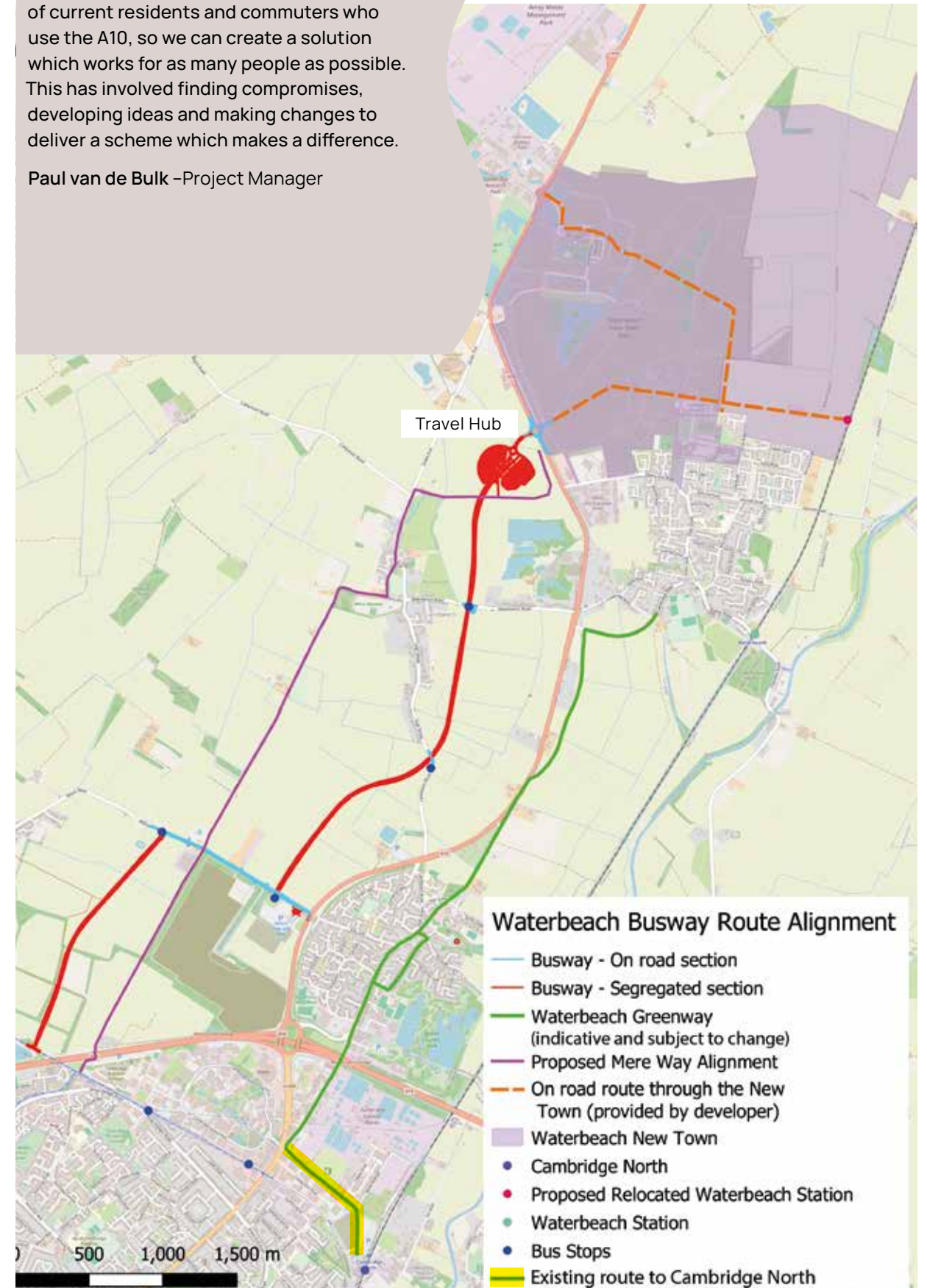
"We are looking to give people alternatives to needing to drive but these alternatives must get you to where you want to go and must be interconnected. So our mission is to make sure existing residents and those yet to move to Waterbeach in the years to come have the facilities and ability to travel in a way which meets their needs. These three projects allow us to do just that."

For more information about our transport projects visit www.greatercambridge.org.uk.



We have spoken a lot with the community to develop these projects. This has involved work to understand the needs of current residents and commuters who use the A10, so we can create a solution which works for as many people as possible. This has involved finding compromises, developing ideas and making changes to deliver a scheme which makes a difference.

Paul van de Bulk –Project Manager



Nature

Creating and enhancing habitats

In the Autumn 2023 edition of the Waterbeach newsletter we introduced the five key habitat areas within the development that will protect and enhance ecology at Waterbeach. In Winter 2023 we highlighted the lake and runway grasslands and in Spring 2024 we focused on the former golf course. In this edition we take a closer look at the northern park.

The northern park

The northern park has small areas of rough grassland along the margins and areas of scattered trees and hedgerows. This area will become a large-scale habitat creation area along the northern boundary of the site. This will allow for links to existing fields and fenland to the north and connections to the other biodiversity priority areas (the former golf course area to the east and the western bund, which we will feature in the next edition of the newsletter).

This area will focus largely on habitat creation, converting the existing arable fields to species-rich grasslands and parklands with peripheral wetland areas.

Within this area, existing species rich grassland will be retained and enhanced, complementing and connecting to the habitats created for newts along the eastern side of the site.

A number of other species will also benefit from this large expanse of rich grassland including lizards, butterflies, moths, bats and birds. Open areas will also be available for farmland birds such as skylark, meadow pipit and yellowhammer as well as small mammals such as brown hares.

Grassland focused habitats will support local priority habitats and species and complement adjacent farmland habitats to the north. Public use will be managed to ensure sensitive ecological areas remain undisturbed, such as areas for ground nesting bird species. Planting trees and scrub species belts within this area will provide foraging opportunities for species such as badger and bats.

Key habitat areas

■ Northern park



The amazing landscape and species that made the old barracks their home have always been a fundamental part of the vision for this new part of Waterbeach.

Safeguarding and enhancing these spaces for nature is a huge part of ensuring nature thrives in homes and habitats alongside the new community, achieving over 20% net gain of space for nature throughout the development.

Rebecca Britton
Regional Director, Urban&Civic



Priority species

Brown hares and barn owls are two of the focus species for the northern park habitat area at Waterbeach.

Brown hares

Brown hares live in grasslands and woodland edges, especially where these habitats meet arable fields and hedgerows. They graze on plants and bark and make use of shallow dips in the ground or grass for shelter instead of burrows.

Brown hares are a protected species in the UK. Weighing around 2-5kg and reaching speeds up to 45mph, their larger size, long legs and long black-tipped ears set them apart from rabbits (of which there are many in the UK!). During the breeding season in early spring, brown hares can be seen 'boxing', when females ward off unwanted male attention.

Barn owls

These owls have a white belly and heart-shaped face with golden-buff coloured back and wings. They feed on mice, rats and voles. Conservation efforts since the 90s allowed the UK population of barn owl to recover enough to be moved from Amber to Green conservation status in 2015.

Barn owls can be seen year-round at dusk and dawn. Look out for them hunting from fence posts or in low flight over farmland and hedgerows. Male barn owls may be heard screeching in the early breeding season and owl chicks can be heard hissing for their next feed in the evenings.

For more information about Waterbeach's key habitat areas, please visit www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/ecology/



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Heritage

Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum update

Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum (WMHM), which is located at the Denny End Road entrance of the development, tells the story of the former airfield: from 1938 when the land was bought and the RAF arrived, to the handover to the Royal Engineers stationed here from 1966 until 2012.

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.

Stone carving of iconic image unveiled

'The Return', a stone carving depicting the crew of RAF 514 Squadron's Lancaster bomber returning home to Waterbeach after a mission, is currently on display at WMHM.

This unique carving created by artist Gordon Hayes portrays an iconic moment captured by a press photographer taken over 80 years ago, when the crewmen returned following a daylight raid on 14 October 1944.

The carving, which was unveiled by Wing Commander John Grenville, Station Commander at RAF Wyton on 30 November 2024, is currently on loan. The team at WMHM is hoping to raise £13,000 to retain the carving at the Museum in memory of all the people who gave their lives flying or serving in Waterbeach in the RAF or Royal Engineers.



The Return captures members of Squadron 514 returning from a mission during World War II. From left to right: Sgt FJ Saunders RAF (flight engineer); Flt Sgt G Burke RNZAF (mid upper gunner); Sgt H Dobinson RAF (rear gunner); Flying Officer S Smitten RCAF (air bomber); Flying Officer EE Cooper RNZAF (wireless operator/air gunner); Flying Officer D Gordon RAAF (pilot – Captain); Flt Sgt JW Mundy RCAF (Navigator)



If you would like to support the fundraising to keep this iconic artwork at Waterbeach, please donate using the QR code.



Exploring the Museum

Four new glass cabinets have recently been purchased with grants from Urban&Civic, Waterbeach Parish Council and Waterbeach Community Association. These are being used in the RAF area of the Museum to enable more of the collection to be displayed and the Royal Engineers area to be extended.

A collection of model Lancaster Bombers made by Derek Abbot, a Royal Observer Corps member of over 50 years, have been donated and the Museum is hoping to display them in formation overhead, together with sound recordings.

In addition to the Lancasters flown by 514 Squadron, many different types of aircraft flew from Waterbeach between 1941 and 1966. Displays are being created for each RAF Squadron stationed at Waterbeach and the Royal Engineers area will be a focus for the WMHM team in 2025.

More space has also been created for the interactive elements of Duxford Radio Trust's exhibit. A replica wireless operator's position installed on a Lancaster Bomber gives visitors a rare insight into communications tools available during World War 2, including the early radar and directional finding equipment used on the military base. There is also a Morse Key for visitors to practice on; with children earning a certificate if they can spell out their names in Morse Code!



We look forward to welcome more new residents to Waterbeach, so they can learn about the heritage of the former RAF Station, Royal Engineer Barracks and training grounds that covered the area of where they are now living.

Adrian Wright Chair of WMHM

Volunteer stewards

The Museum is looking for volunteer stewards to help show visitors around during its open days and support the team behind the scenes. If you would like to find out more, pop in when the Museum is open or send an email to waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org

Find out more

The Museum is open 10am to 4pm on the first Sunday and Wednesday of the month from March to October and 10am to 3pm on the third Sunday of the month (to coincide with Waterbeach Community Market).

Much of the history of Waterbeach RAF Station and Royal Engineer Barracks can be found in copies of 'Sappers At The Beach' and the RAF version 'At The Beach'. These can be purchased from Rosemary News or WMHM. The booklets are £10 each.

✉ waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org

📘 Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum'

🌐 waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk

Community

Supporting New Communities Conference

An Engaging New and Emerging Communities Conference was held in October, which brought together around 80 participants from various sectors. This included local authorities, faith groups, charities, developers and community development professionals alongside residents from new communities in Cambridgeshire like Waterbeach.

The event was organised by Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council with support from Urban&Civic and focused on fostering a sense of community in large-scale developments.

The conference explored some of the challenges of supporting new residents moving into new places to create vibrant communities; delivering early facilities and meanwhile uses to support them; and working with neighbouring communities to build connections between individuals, groups and communities.

Keynote speaker Cormac Russell spoke about the need to both support new residents while still empowering them to shape the new place coming forward around them. Attendees also discussed the challenge and opportunity of bringing local people into sometimes complex discussions within planning, local government, health and education institutions.

Other key considerations during the event were the importance of nurturing community ties, governance and community engagement in new communities, the voice of young people in creating spaces and places, and uses of land until development comes forward.

Cllr Brian Milnes, Deputy Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "South Cambridgeshire District Council recognises that in order for a new community to be a great place to live, we need to create the conditions for a thriving, resilient community with which new residents can connect.

"This conference was an invaluable opportunity to hear from all those involved in creating these conditions, from planners and developers to councillors and, most importantly, local residents: to explore together how we can do this, from the very earliest stages in the planning process, continuing through construction phases and early occupations, and as developments mature to form new communities.

"If we can harness the energy and ideas of residents, building on their strengths, each place can develop its own distinctive character and identity where people feel a strong sense of community."



CamSAR Community Training

Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue (CamSAR) is a member of Lowland Rescue and provides the Cambridgeshire Constabulary with a specially trained emergency team of volunteers from across the county (including Waterbeach) in the search for vulnerable high-risk missing persons.



To assist with its searches, CamSAR can deploy various specialist resources including foot, bike, drone, medical and dog teams and those specially trained for water-based searches. It regularly undertakes searches for the police using its own radio communications, search equipment, IT and planning and mapping tools as well as full welfare support.

In September, some of the CamSAR team came out to the lake in Waterbeach to help raise awareness of water safety with the local community and provided some practical hands-on training, which included rescuing team members from the bank using rescue throw ropes like those placed around the lake.

They also returned in November to facilitate navigation and water safety training for the Cambridgeshire Army Cadets, who are based in Waterbeach Village.

Barry Carter, Chair and one of the Search Managers at CamSAR, said: "Sessions at locations like those around Waterbeach lake provide valuable opportunities for us. We can run many training scenarios and exercises in the types of environment that the team readily finds itself in on real callouts. Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue has existed for over 18 years and within this time has located many missing persons and helped many families. The charity has to find its own funding wherever it can and is 100% operated by volunteers.

"The work we do demands that we are able to provide a professional and highly skilled specialist search team for the police 24/7/365. The team also regularly fulfils a civil contingencies role to Cambridgeshire, such as in times of adverse weather like evacuating care homes in flooding or even helping to deliver food and PPE to the vulnerable that were isolating during the pandemic."

To find out more about CamSAR and register an interest in volunteering, visit: www.camsar.org/join-us.



We receive no funding for the work we do, so for us to have opportunities like the use of Waterbeach lake is gratefully received, as it helps us ensure that the service we provide remains professional and sustainable in the long term.

Barry Carter Chair of CamSAR

Events and activities

Swim, Bike, Run



In the summer, the Waterbeach Communities Team partnered with British Triathlon and Cambridge Sports Lake Trust to host a couple of free family Swim, Bike, Run events. The course, which made the most of Waterbeach's beautiful lake – with a 100m swim, a 2km bike loop and a 1.3km run – was off road and suitable for children and complete beginners as well as experienced athletes.

Supported by Paris Inspired British Triathlon funding, which helps develop active communities during and after the Olympics, the Swim, Bike, Run events were a fun, informal way to give triathlon a go, with participants invited to complete as many loops of the course as they wanted, or skip out a discipline altogether.

Waterbeach resident, Ratna, said: "It was truly amazing to participate in this event with my son. We had a fantastic time. The beautiful lake and the cycling track made the experience very special, and the warm and encouraging atmosphere made it both memorable and motivational."



Health and wellbeing is one of the fundamental pillars of the Waterbeach new development, and partnering with British Triathlon and Cambridge Sports Lake Trust in this way is one of the many initiatives on site as we work towards creating a healthy community. We'll be back with more events next year, as well as other ways to enjoy organised activities in and around the lake.

Caroline Ward Urban&Civic



Painting by the lake

To bring the new residents together and provide opportunities for them to get to know each other and their beautiful new surroundings in September, a painting workshop was held by the lake.

The lakeside workshop, which was attended by 13 residents, was led by local artist Peter Sutton, who provided a demonstration and then supported residents to produce their own masterpieces.

Local resident, Pam said: "I didn't think I could paint, but a relaxing and enjoyable session of painting by the lake showed me that even I could produce something recognisable. Great setting, helpful guidance and a very nice way to spend a morning."



Events and activities

Summer at the Beach

Waterbeach's favourite free art festival celebrated its 10th anniversary at The Terraces at Waterbeach over three weekends in late August/early September.

Run by a collaborative group of more than 20 artists living and working around Waterbeach, this year's art exhibition included ceramicists, milliners, textile artists, painters, printmakers, photographers, filmmakers, sculptors, installation artists, musicians and performers.

Tim Shuker-Yates, who ran the spray-painting workshop by the lake, said: "As an artist that has only relatively recently moved to Waterbeach, it is fantastic to be involved with such a wonderful group of artists involved with Summer at the Beach. I had lots of fun and really enjoyed sharing my skills during the workshop. I hope I'll be back again at next year's event!"



Alongside the exhibition, Summer at the Beach staged a range of free creative drop-in events and workshops and included a creative space with free art materials for visitors to create their own works of art, a book swap, live music sessions and free workshops.



The Repair Cafe also had a session to fix an eclectic mix of household appliances, sewing repairs, electrical items, computers, bicycles, gadgets and other bits and bobs, while refreshments and a range of delicious, homemade cakes and snacks were available from the famous Pop-up Cafe each weekend.

www.summeratthebeach.art



Harvest Festival pop-up

Harvest Festival takes place in the autumn, to give thanks for the food that has been gathered to sustain us, particularly during the upcoming winter months. To celebrate this year's Festival, the communities' team at Waterbeach teamed up with St John's Waterbeach to host an autumnal drop in event at the play area and around the lake.

Local families enjoyed a range of harvest-themed arts and crafts activities including bark rubbings and making leaf crowns before heading over to Wild Woods play area and the lake to find the stamps on the ecology trail and reveal the word that they spelt out.

Fiona Reardon-Rose said: "It was a cold but sunny Saturday and everyone who came along to our event wrapped up warm and enjoyed a fun autumnal event with the family. It was a great way to bring the community together to have fun with arts and crafts, play in the Wild Woods and explore the lakeside as well as giving back with donations to the food bank."



We had a great morning meeting new residents, having conversations and getting to know them. Children and adults alike enjoyed exploring the space whilst out on the trail and making harvest crafts at the gazebo. St John's Church is committed to supporting the new community and seeing it thrive in every way possible. We hope this event is the first of many!

Rev'd Sarah Newns Curate, St John's



Events and activities

Indian community events

The Indian community celebrated two Hindu festivals, Navratri and Diwali with fervour and festivity. The community came alive, dancing to the rhythms of Garba and Dandiya in a lively workshop on 5 October. Diwali was celebrated on 9 November, with vibrant energy, grooving to dhol beats, captivating performances bringing cultural richness, delicious food stalls and noiseless fireworks. The event offered a variety of family friendly activities, including art and crafts, storytelling and rangoli competitions, and the 'Light Up Waterbeach' contest.



Shweta, one of the organisers, said: "Indian Community Waterbeach has been formed to showcase the rich, vibrant and diverse culture of India to the residents of Waterbeach, Waterbeach Village and the surrounding areas of Cambridge. Our mission is to foster a strong sense of community by celebrating cultural diversity under our motto: Sharing Culture, Bridging Communities."



"We aim to create a welcoming space for the Indian community to come together and celebrate the festivals we cherish and connect, form friendships and share the joy of our cultural traditions as one community."

To find out more, visit: www.facebook.com/Indiancomm.waterbeach

Waterbeach Community Market

The Waterbeach Community Market is a vibrant monthly event that brings together residents, the local community and visitors to support an eclectic mix of local traders.

Held on the third Sunday of each month, this bustling marketplace offers a unique mix of over 50 stalls featuring everything from fresh produce, handmade crafts and vintage items to clothing, jewellery, pet supplies, and plants. As well as exploring the diverse range of goods on offer, visitors can also have their hair cut and bike repaired, making the Market a one-stop destination for both shopping and practical needs.

Set in the Terraces, the undercover space enables stallholders to display their wares without worrying about inclement weather, especially during the autumn and winter months. The lively atmosphere is further enriched by food trucks and live music, creating a regular community gathering that supports local businesses and brings people together.



Gaynor Clarke, who co-founded Waterbeach Community Market with fellow local resident Wayne Love, said: "The indoor and outdoor space provides plenty of space and is a great opportunity for the community to gather and support local, independent traders."

"The space at Waterbeach allows the market to be more community orientated. We aim to be truly inclusive and The Terrace at Waterbeach help us to achieve that goal. We are fast becoming a go-to market even for visitors from Cambridge and Ely."

"The support, promotion and partnerships Urban&Civic have opened up for us has been amazing, and we are so pleased we will be able to continue to grow alongside the new community."

On 19 January, a free minibus shuttle service will be collecting from the Village Green and stopping at the Terraces for Waterbeach Market and the Community Wellbeing Day in The Studio (see page 25), and the Sustainable Transport Hub for the show homes and lake loop. You can also head over to Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum to have a look at its new exhibits (see page 14).

www.facebook.com/waterbeachcommunitymkt

Events and activities

Christmas by the lake

On 21 December residents, friends and neighbours joined the Waterbeach Communities Team and St John's Church for an enchanting afternoon by the lake filled with the joy and warmth of Christmas.

As well as Christmas music, festive arts and crafts, and a leisure trail in the Wild Woods play area, little ones had lots of fun visiting Santa's grotto to share their Christmas wishes.

Caroline Ward said: "This will be the first Christmas in Waterbeach for many of our residents, so it was wonderful to have an event so close to Christmas where neighbours could meet up to enjoy festive activities and a glass on warm mulled wine."

With everyone wrapped up warm and enjoying hot drinks and festive treats from Evolve Cafe kiosk by the lakeside, it was a magical way to head into the Christmas break.

**ST JOHNS
WATERBEACH**



Community Wellbeing Fair 11am-2pm on 19 January in The Studio

The start of the New Year is a time to reflect and set goals for the year ahead, which often focus on health, fitness and wellbeing. To support these New Year's resolutions, Waterbeach is hosting a Community Wellbeing Fair to give residents and those living in the area a chance to try some of the regular sports and fitness classes taking place at the development and locally.

To help those looking to take up a new sport or active challenge in 2025, local clubs and groups including jazzercise, archery and taekwondo will be holding free taster sessions and demonstrations in The Studio.

In addition, a range of stalls will be showcasing the variety of sports and fitness classes available in Waterbeach and surrounding villages for all ages and abilities. The Playground will also be holding sessions on its outdoor assault course.

Fiona Reardon-Rose said, "The opportunity to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle is embedded in the design principles of Waterbeach. From the extensive footpaths and cycleways throughout the development to squash courts, tennis courts and facilities in the sports hall, studio and community rooms, there are lots of activities for all ages and abilities to enjoy."

The Community Wellbeing Day is a great way to try something new or have a go at a sport or activity to find the right fit before signing up for regular sessions.

All sessions are free, with no need to book. Just turn up and discover more about the wide range of classes and groups available in the local area to start your 2025 with a healthy mind and body.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Monthly activities: January 2025

The Studio, Sports Hall and Community Rooms are now thriving facilities, offering a range of events for people of all ages and interests. Here is a flavour of the activities in January:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Tang Soo Do 5-6pm	Tennis4Tots 10am	Children's Gym 9.30-10.30am	Kwali Kubs Arts and Crafts Club 9.30am
Waterbeach Colts Football 5pm-7pm	Chair Yoga 10am	Milton Colts 5-7pm	Walking Football 1-2pm
Guides 6.30pm	Pickleball Club 11-12pm	Private 5-a-side football 6pm-7pm	Football Fun Factory 5-6pm
Waterbeach Badminton Club 7-9pm	Waterbeach Colts Football 5.30pm-8pm	Brownies 6-7.15pm	Jazzercise 6-7pm
Waterbeach Brass Band Practice 8-10pm	Jazzercise 6-7pm	Yoga Bright 6-7pm	Pickleball Club 6.30-7.30pm
	Newton Pickleball 6-7pm	Squash Club & Circus Skills 7-9pm	Martial Arts Fitness 7.15-8.15pm
	Circuit Training 7.15pm	Latin American Formation Dancing 7.30-9pm	Indoor Cricket 8-10pm
	Strike Archery Club 8.15-10pm		

Facilities for hire

Community Rooms

What3Words: ///driveways.satin.packet

The building comprises an entrance hall with cloakroom facilities and a middle room that links to the event room, which has a small kitchen area. The event room can hold 30 people theatre style or 20 people boardroom style. £10 per hour.

Squash Courts

What3Words: ///wounds.sadly.splinters

The two squash courts are £5 an hour per court.

Sports Hall

What3Words: ///score.sprayed.skewing

The Sports Hall is marked out for badminton, basketball and indoor football, and has toilets and changing rooms. No equipment provided (e.g. nets, goals and hoops). £20 per hour.

Studio

What3Words: ///informal.districts.crown

The Studio has Wi-Fi access and a small kitchen. It shares toilets and changing rooms with the Sports Hall. £15 per hour.

Tennis Courts:

What3Words: ///childcare.easily.tumble

The tennis court is free to use but needs to be booked in advance.

All facilities have free parking and cycle racks in close proximity.

To find out more and make bookings, email hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Fit4Life over 55's 10-11.30am	Jazzercise 9-10am	Rugby Tots 9.15-12pm
Pickleball 1-2pm	Eagles Futsal 9-10am	Little Cricketers 9-10am
Taekwondo 6-8pm	Taekwondo 11am-4.30pm	Badminton 12.30-4pm
Badminton 7-10pm	Strike Archery 5.30-10pm	Indoor Cricket 4-7pm
		Club Dan Badminton 7-9pm



STUDIO

SPORTS HALL

COMMUNITY ROOM

SQUASH COURTS

Contacts

Bright Moves, Children's Gym
E brightmoves@outlook.com

Daniel Lay Badminton
E daniel.r.lay@googlemail.com

Fit4Living
E vanessa@summerhill.myzen.co.uk

Football Fun Factory
E nathan@thefootballfunfactory.co.uk

Jamie's Circuit Training
E info@jlfrit.co.uk

Jazzercise
E nikki.murphy2@hotmail.co.uk

Kwali Kubs
Art & Craft for Children
E emily@kawaiikubs.co.uk

Latin American Formation Dancing
E contact@xslatin.org

Little Cricketers
E info@littlecricketers.fun

Martial arts fitness class
E richardholborn@icloud.com

Milton & Waterbeach Tang Soo Do
E gabriellatsd@gmail.com

Rugby Tots
E meg@rugbytots.co.uk

Squash Courts
Open for bookings 7am-10pm
E hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk

TBL Tae Kwon-Do Schools and Strike Archery
E bruce@tkd72.plus.com

Tennis 4 Tots and Pickleball
E info@tennis4tots.co.uk

Walking Football
E phil@philmullenssportscoaching.com

Waterbeach Badminton Club
E davidpdurston@gmail.com

Waterbeach Brass Band
E richard.dean444@gmail.com

Waterbeach Brownies
E 1stWaterbeachbrownies@gmail.com

Waterbeach Colts
www.waterbeachcolts.org.uk

Waterbeach Guides
E 1stwaterbeachguides@gmail.com

Waterbeach Juggling Club
www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/beach-balls-juggling-club

Yoga Bright and Chair Yoga
E lisa@yoga-bright.com

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

W waterbeachwb.co.uk

