

## Crossmichael to Castle Douglas



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### Active Travel Route



### Overview

SWestrans, in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council, has commissioned AECOM to develop a safe and accessible active travel route between Crossmichael and Castle Douglas. The aim is to improve connectivity for those walking, wheeling, and cycling in the area.

By promoting active travel, the route will support Dumfries and Galloway Council's net zero ambitions. It will also contribute to **Strategy Objective 1** of the **SWestrans Regional Transport Strategy (2023-2042)**: to facilitate and encourage safe active travel for all by connecting communities and travel hubs.

The project will incorporate the three key principles of the **Active Travel Strategy (2022–2032): Collaboration, Integration and Diversity** by consulting with the public and a wide range of stakeholder groups. This will encourage local input, ensure integration with existing and future infrastructure and make the route accessible to all.

The proposed route will run adjacent to the A713 between Crossmichael and Castle Douglas, widening the existing footway to create a 2.5m shared-use path connecting both towns. The path will be approximately 4.8km in length. The design will also incorporate a 1m wide buffer between the path and the carriageway.

**Figure 1** below shows an overview of the proposed route.



Figure 1: Crossmichael to Castle Douglas Overview (Esri Ordnance Survey)

The goal of the project is to create a direct link between Crossmichael and Castle Douglas that complements existing leisure routes and provides a foundation for future active travel infrastructure. The route will offer a safe and accessible option for both leisure and commuter journeys, with onward connectivity to destinations such as Kirkcudbright via the National Cycle Network (NCN 7), Loch Ken, the Galloway Forest Park, and neighbouring areas via the B795 and Ken Dee Marshes.

### Project Objective

The project's objectives are to:

- Create a well-connected, accessible and high quality active travel route between Crossmichael and Castle Douglas
- Contribute to Dumfries and Galloway Council's net zero ambitions
- Make it easier for residents and visitors to access schools and local amenities by way of active travel (i.e. walking, wheeling or cycling)
- Enhance links to existing and proposed active travel routes
- Encourage modal shift to walking, wheeling and cycling for short, everyday journeys in Castle Douglas and Crossmichael
- Engage with stakeholders and the local community to encourage involvement and positivity influence travel behaviour
- Support inclusive access for all, no matter gender, age or ability.
- Deliver designs that champion a healthy and sustainable environment and create welcoming spaces for walking, wheeling and cycling.

The project is currently at **RIBA Stages 3-4 (Detailed and Final Design)**

## Engagement Activities

The aim of this engagement is to gather constructive feedback from a range of groups and individuals. These discussions will help inform the final route design.

Public and stakeholder engagement is a vital part of this stage. Detailed designs will be shared with Ward Officers, Community Councils, young people, key stakeholders and the wider public.

Planned engagement activities include:

- Route Interceptor Surveys along the A713
- Evening public drop-in sessions in Castle Douglas and Crossmichael
- Stakeholder workshops (as part of the drop-in sessions)
- Online Ward Officer presentation/workshop
- In-person engagement with Community Councils in Crossmichael and Castle Douglas
- Drop-in sessions with local schools
- Online engagement

## How to Take Part

We will be hosting two public drop-in sessions. You are welcome to attend, review the proposals, and share your views:

Location	Date	Time
Castle Douglas Community Centre	Wednesday 24 September 2025	17:00 – 19:00
Crossmichael Church Hall	Friday 26 September 2025	17:00 - 19:00

If you are unable to attend you can provide feedback online via the interactive map on our [StoryMap page](#).

Alternatively, you can email your feedback to: [callum.allan@aecom.com](mailto:callum.allan@aecom.com)

Before submitting feedback please review the drawings in this [PDF](#).

If responding by email, please use the subject line: **'Crossmichael to Castle Douglas – Feedback'**.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Who is delivering the project?**

The project is being delivered by SWestrans in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council and consultants AECOM.

### **What has been consulted on so far?**

Earlier engagement was carried out by a previous consultant. In this phase, we have conducted Route User Interceptor Surveys (RUIS) to gather feedback from regular users of the route. We have also liaised with local ward officers and will be engaging with Community Councils and local schools.

### **What sort of interventions will you be looking at?**

A 2.5m wide shared-use path for walking, wheeling, and cycling between Crossmichael and Castle Douglas, designed to Cycling by Design standards, with a 1m break separating the path from the carriageway.

### **How is the project funded?**

This phase is funded by Transport Scotland via SWestrans. Additional funding will be sought for the construction phase.

### **Could this money be spent on something else?**

No - this funding is from Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Tier One fund and must be used for active travel projects.

### **Does the project meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010?**

Yes - the project must comply with the Equality Act 2010, and an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out at each stage.

### **How will pedestrians and wheelchair users be considered and prioritised in the proposals?**

The route will be made safer and more accessible for all users, including those who use mobility aids such as adaptive cycles. Crossing points will be upgraded and gradients improved.

### **What effects will the proposals have on businesses?**

Better walking, cycling and wheeling links are expected to boost footfall and retail activity, helping create a more vibrant local economy. Evidence from many other schemes shows that improving public spaces can boost retail sales.

### **Will buses be impacted by the proposals?**

No changes to bus services are planned. Existing stops will be improved to encourage bus use.

### **Is this project related to any existing projects across Dumfries and Galloway?**

No - it is an independent project, but designs will align with existing and planned infrastructure for consistency.

**How can I provide feedback?**

You can respond in the previous [section](#), by emailing [callum.allan@aecom.com](mailto:callum.allan@aecom.com) or attending one of our drop-in [events](#).

**Will I have further opportunities to respond to the proposals?**

No - this is the final engagement phase for the project.