

Cornwall Cycle Hub

South West Regional Development Centre for Cycling



Cornwall Cycle Hub

British Cycling, Sport England and Cornwall Council are developing a **regional Cycle Hub within Cornwall** that will not only be a show case facility for Cornwall but the whole country. It will provide a safe environment for all of any age and ability to learn and develop bike handling skills and inspire a new generation of cyclists.

The development of the Cycle Hub comes amidst an unprecedented increase in the number of people cycling during lockdown and the release of the Government's new bold and ambitious strategy, 'Gear Change', which encourages everyone who can to cycle and walk more. With Cornwall now hosting the Duchy's largest ever sporting event, the Tour of Britain in September 2021 and Cornwall Council investing in more strategic and recreational cycle routes, this is the time to build a home for cycling in Cornwall. It will create more opportunities for everyone of any age, ability and income to cycle more and improve their health and well-being.

The Cycle Hub will embrace most cycling disciplines. Visitors will be able to try out a range of exciting, fun and exhilarating cycling disciplines such as bmx, road, mountain biking and cyclocross. The Hub will cater for all to practice, learn and train, but importantly to have fun in a safe environment.

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to benefit from the Cycle Hub, we will work with schools,

cycling clubs, GPs, mental health and disability charities and other organisations. There will also be many opportunities to volunteer.

The Hub will be for everyone whatever their ability, it will be for the child just learning to move on a balance bike or someone wanting to get fit or gain confidence on a bike. For someone with a disability who has never ridden an adapted bike or the school pupil learning new skills. For the weekend recreational rider who wishes to develop their skills or those who wish to take part in the competitive thrill of racing. Hopefully everyone leaves wanting more and some possibly encouraged and inspired to follow a more competitive path.

As well as British Cycling coaches on site we also hope to have a British Cycling coach working out in the community so that as many residents as possible will benefit.

The project is at an important stage where **it needs your help in shaping the development of this exciting Cycle Hub** by providing feedback on the initial concept masterplan and wider plans for the Hub, the link to the survey is provided on page 8

“ The breadth of facilities proposed will give opportunities for riders at all different stages, from learning to ride for the first time, through to cycle sport competition and training. The scope of the project will include a number of different cycling disciplines, including mountain biking, road cycling, BMX, cyclocross and others, meaning that there should be opportunities for everyone. The South West has traditionally been under-provided for in relation to high quality cycling facilities and this hub will be a huge step forward for the region. ”

Andy Farr, British Cycling Head of Business Planning and Transformation

Why are we doing this?

Increasing cycling and walking can help tackle some of the most challenging issues we face as a society – **improving air quality, combatting climate change, improving health and wellbeing, addressing inequalities and tackling congestion on our roads**¹

Regular cyclists reduce their risk of developing cardiovascular disease by

 **46%**

Cycling to work reduces the risk of cancer by

45% 



People who are physically active reduce chances of late-onset diabetes by

between a third and a half



Physical inactivity is responsible for **one in six UK deaths** (equal to smoking)

Government Strategy

‘Gear Change – a bold vision for walking and cycling’ is the Government’s new strategy which is responding to these statistics but also the desire shown by the UK population to ride a bike during the Covid 19 Lockdown. The strategy sets out how it will encourage more cycling in walking in our communities; It will give every adult and child the opportunity to be trained how to ride a cycle safely, work closely with GPs to prescribe cycling and establish a national electrically-assisted bike support programme amongst a wider programme of improving cycling infrastructure and making it safer to cycle. Key to Cornwall’s response to this strategy is the Cornwall Cycle Hub.

“ By taking up cycling we can all help improve air quality, do our bit to tackle climate change by leaving the car at home and reducing our carbon footprint, as well as improve our own health and wellbeing. ”

Cllr Geoff Brown, Portfolio holder for Transport, Cornwall Council

Legacy of the Tour of Britain in Cornwall

Hosting a Stage of the Tour of Britain gives Cornwall Council and its partners a showpiece event to maximise outreach promotions to encourage employees and residents to ride their bicycle more often. Cornwall will host the Grand Depart Stage of the Tour of Britain on the 5th September 2021. It will be the biggest sporting event ever to be hosted in Cornwall. Central to providing a legacy of the Tour of Britain in Cornwall is the Cycle Hub, a Centre which will provide a safe environment to cycle and inspire a new generation of cyclists to lead healthier and more active lives.



¹ DFT (2018) Government Response to Call for Evidence Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy: Safety Review (online). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758519/cycling-walking-investment-strategy-safety-review.pdf

Where are we building the Cycle Hub?

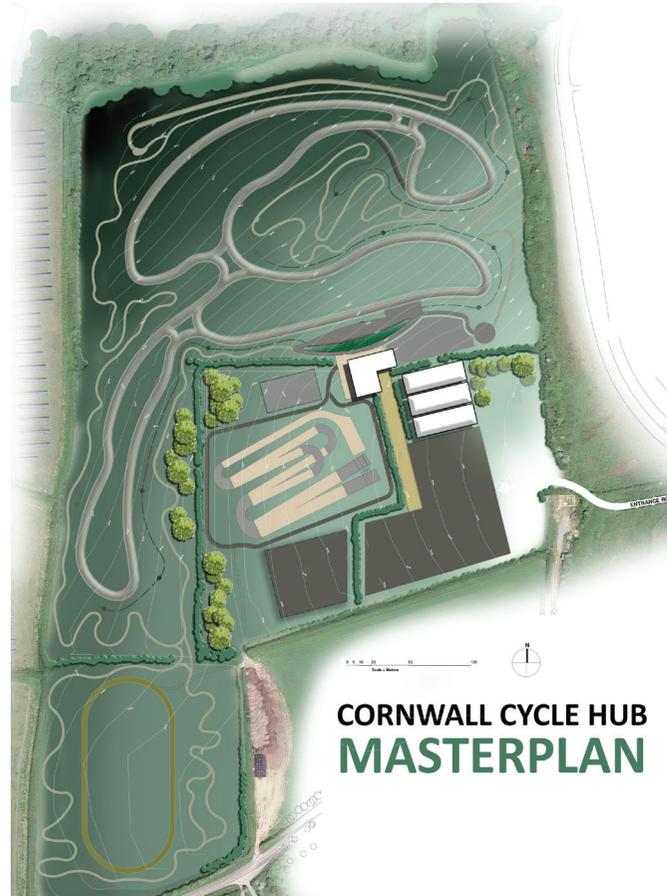
When considering the various options for the location of the facility we kept in mind that the Cycle Hub needed to be **as accessible as possible**, for residents from all parts of Cornwall but also for those travelling to events from other parts of the South West region and Country.

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The location needed to be in mid Cornwall and near to the A30 for ease of access, but also with good links for the local communities to use public transport and opportunities for cycling and walking to the Hub. We also considered the site's constraints such as ecology, designations, landscape of the site and its tenancy arrangements.

The most appropriate and sustainable site that was identified was on Council owned land, adjacent to Newquay Aerohub Business Park. The site is near to Newquay airport, but lies outside of the Local Development Order and allocated development land. The site sits between the Kernow Solar Farm, the Newquay Aerohub Business Park and the proposed hotel location.

The site is located on the A3059 which has a Bus stop at the junction of the Aerohub. Conversations are being held with Cornwall's new provider Go Cornwall Bus about increasing the number of buses that can carry bikes. The ambition of the project is to create a safe cycle and walking route to link the Hub to the quieter lanes to/from Newquay and St Columb Minor and St Columb Major.



What will the Cycle Hub be used for?

A facility which will provide a safe environment for all to learn and develop bike handling skills, try out new bikes and inspire a new generation of cyclists.



How are we going to make this happen?

Funding

The build of the Cycle Hub will cost approximately £3.8 million. A number of grant opportunities have been identified, which will include applying to the government for investment through their new Gear Change investment strategy for walking and cycling. An application is also being developed in collaboration with British Cycling to the Places to Ride Fund for a significant proportion of costs. The project has been successful at passing the Stage 1 process and will submit the final Stage 2 application in the autumn. The ambition is to have all the funding confirmed by the end of the year.

Ecology

We have started ecological surveys on the site and these will continue until September. It is critical to the project that we improve the ecology of the site; the hedgerows are currently in a poor condition so there are plenty of opportunities to enhance their quality by planting more native species of trees. There are no trees on the site, except for the limited trees in the hedges, so we will be planting more trees to encourage wildlife, absorption of CO₂, as well as providing a welcome bit of shade on a sunny day for users of the Hub. We will also be able to create wetland wildlife areas using water run-off from the closed road circuit, and manage areas of the site that are unused to encourage the ecology in the area to thrive.

Timescales

Spurred on by the Tour of Britain here in Cornwall next September and this project being central to the legacy of the Tour's visit, this gives us the perfect target opening date, albeit a little ambitious. The key milestones and target dates to get us there are set out below and we are working hard to stick to them.

Key Milestones - target dates

August/Sept 2020	October 2020	December 2020	January 2021	Sept/Dec 2021
Public Consultation	Planning submitted	Funding confirmed	Start on site	Completion of build



We need your help

To get us to this point we have had some early conversations to gain an understanding of the need for the project, the type of facility that would be required, how it might be used and how it could reach as many people as possible. These conversations have been held with a number of key groups such as British Cycling, Sport England, Cornwall Council, Active Cornwall, Sustrans, some local cycling clubs and coaches, schools, Wheels for All and the Community Network Area.



We now need to get more detailed feedback so that we can move these early designs on and **ensure that the Cycle Hub is designed to how our community will want to use it.** It is therefore really important that we get your views on the concept masterplan and we need your help to improve this exciting opportunity and make it a venue that you, your family, club or organisation will want to use. Help us to make it as accessible as possible for everyone.

We have produced a survey that is initially looking at the technical aspects of the Cycle Hub and we are encouraging Clubs, Schools and Partner organisation to complete this.

The survey will be available from Monday 17th August until midnight on Monday 21st September. 2



<https://cornwalltourofbritain.co.uk/legacy/>

Residents can also find further discussion and provide your feedback about the wider benefits of the cycle hub at the **<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/cycling-hub>**

If you require any of the consultation information in hard copy or another format or language please contact
Cornwall Council, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY
Email: **enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk**
Telephone: **0300 1234 100**

If you would like any further information, have ideas or opportunities for the Hub or you think you could help us to fund this exciting opportunity please email

 **cornwallcyclehub@cornwall.gov.uk**