

**Newton on the Moor and Swarland
Neighbourhood Plan**

Cycle Ways and Footpaths – Background Paper

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The lack of safe pathways and cycle ways in Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish was identified by the Neighbourhood Plan consultation questionnaire and public meetings, as an important issue by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- 1.2 The Northumberland Local Plan gives full support to the development of safe pathways and cycle ways, under “Promoting sustainable connections”

9.7 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) highlights that the Local Plan should support a range of transport modes with priority given to walking, cycling and public transport and consideration of access for people with disabilities.

9.8 The environmental impact of transport choices affects public health. Poor air quality, early mortality and climate change are less obvious impacts and the focus of policy is often on economic growth and safety. Patterns of development that locate jobs, housing and recreation in close proximity increase the potential for walking, cycling and public transport and associated improvements to air quality.

9.9 Well designed and safe access routes encourage walking. Streets and public spaces play an important part as areas for social interaction. Within the hierarchy of sustainable modes, pedestrians are a priority and developing links and facilities into the existing networks is a key consideration for all development through the plan period. There is a need to protect and enhance networks for everyday walking, cycling and horse riding but also the recreational networks that form an important component of the visitor and tourism economy.

- 1.3 The Northumberland Local Plan also supports the future development of Cycle routes, under Section 3.10 Connections -

County highways and Highways England roads will have been improved to incorporate safe, comfortable and convenient standards for cycling, facilitating increased travel by cycle and reduced car dependence.

- 1.4 Examination of Ordnance Survey maps indicate that there are no footpaths or cycle ways to connect Newton on the Moor to Swarland, further there are no cycle ways to connect Newton or Swarland to Felton. Felton being the nearest stopping place of the X15 Bus service to Berwick via Alnwick going North, and Newcastle via Gosforth going South.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 To improve connectivity it is proposed that three new footpaths/cycle ways be introduced.

1) Newton on the Moor to Swarland

From Newton on the Moor, starting at the Cook & Barker Inn car park, along the village road heading west, turning left onto the road heading south to Swarland and then on reaching the village of Swarland, along The Avenue, and turning left into Old Park Road at the crossroads with Coast View and ending at the car park at Nelsons Café in Vyner Park, Swarland. New cycle stands would need to be in place at both the start and finish.

2) Swarland to Felton via A1 underpass

From Swarland along The Avenue, down Leamington Lane and then via the A1 underpass and on to Felton village Bridge.

3) Swarland to Felton via the B6345

From Swarland south down the road to Old Swarland and then east via the B6345 road bridge over the A1 on to Felton village Bridge.

All of these routes are shown on the map below.

2.2 All three routes will need to be funded. It is understood that funding has been made available by central government to Northumberland County Council for such work to be carried out elsewhere. The Steering Group hope that Northumberland County Council may consider the proposals acceptable. They will, of course, need to be designed and laid out to provide safe and comfortable movement for both pedestrians and cyclist.

