

# Enjoy walking the Sandy Green Wheel

## Countryside Code

### Respect other people:

- ✓ Consider the local community, landowners and other people enjoying the outdoors
- ✓ Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

### Protect the natural environment:

- ✓ Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- ✓ Keep dogs under effective control

### Enjoy the outdoors:

- ✓ Plan ahead and be prepared
- ✓ Follow advice and local signs

## Please respect all users of the Green Wheel

### Walkers & Joggers:

- ✓ Allow cyclists to pass.
- ✓ If you have a dog, please keep it away from other users and always clean up after it.

### Cyclists:

- ✓ Use your bell or say 'excuse me' when approaching others.
- ✓ Keep your speed down, pass other users wide and slowly; and be prepared to stop if needed.
- ✓ Ride in single file when near other users.



The Sandy Green Wheel is being developed as a walking and cycling route around the town, passing through and beside areas of landscape, heritage and wildlife interest. The entire Green Wheel is now in place and able to be used as a walking route. Further works are planned for the coming years to enable paths to be upgraded and promoted for cycling too. Start enjoying the Green Wheel as a walkers' route now, and look out for further route improvements for cycling.



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## About the Wheel

The Sandy Green Wheel is being developed in response to an increased desire for more, better quality, opportunities to walk and cycle in the local area. Having a 'wheel' around the town, with a number of 'spokes' leading from the 'hub' of the town enables people to access the route close to their homes and follow the whole wheel, or just part of it.

BRCC, Central Bedfordshire Council and Sandy Town produced a Sandy Green Wheel masterplan, which was adopted in 2014. The Plan identified the proposed routes and detailed the works required to create the Green Wheel. In conjunction with local landowners some of these works have now been undertaken and the route can be used as a walking route. It is hoped that sufficient funding and landowner consent can be secured to upgrade other sections to enable the whole route to be used for cycling too.

The route of the Green Wheel for walkers is shown overleaf – highlighting which sections can also be cycled. On the ground, a combination of Green Wheel signposts and round waymarker discs will help you navigate your way around the Wheel. Signposts with yellow arrows indicate that section is a Public Footpath and for walking only;

and signposts with blue arrows indicate Public Bridleways or which can also be used by cyclists and horse riders. Signposts with green arrows are used for road sections and can be used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

At present, the main rim of the Green Wheel is 6 miles / 9.5km.

In addition to the paths which form the wheel, a range of spaces, attractive views, heritage sites and habitats add to the enjoyment of the route.

To the east, at The Pinnacle, the route passes over the Greensand Ridge. This geological feature spans Bedfordshire from the south west to the north east and is made from sandstone laid down during the Lower Cretaceous (100 to 146 million years ago). A slight detour from the Green Wheel to climb to the top of The Pinnacle is rewarded with great views of the Ivel Valley and Bedfordshire beyond. The Pinnacle features locally important acid grassland and broadleaved woodland habitats and is home to a wide range of uncommon invertebrates.

The RSPB national headquarters - The Lodge - is 1 mile/ 1.6km to the southeast of the Green Wheel and can be accessed via a shared footway/ cycleway alongside Potton Road.

To the south and west of the Wheel is the low-lying land at the base of the Ivel Valley featuring Sandcast Wood, Sandcast Meadow and The Riddy linked by the River Ivel and tributaries (such as the Riddy Stream). These sites provide a wide range of habitats including wet woodland, young and mature trees, flood meadow and open grazed grassland as well as the water courses themselves. The Ivel is an important river for wildlife and provides a home for a wide range of fish, water birds, mammals and invertebrates - rare is a walk alongside the river that isn't rewarded by a sighting of something interesting.

The northern section of the Green Wheel links the disused Bedford to Cambridge Railway (now route 51/12 of the National Cycle Network) to the Eastcoast Mainline. This section of railway was opened in 1862 and was closed in 1967. The closure was not as a result of the "Beeching closures" but due to the withdrawal of services following a fall in passenger numbers as it became quicker to get from Oxford to Cambridge via London because of the faster trains.

Get out, get fit - have fun!

If you would like information about volunteering to care for and improve the Green Wheel, either individually or as part of a group, please:

Email: [GreenWheel@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:GreenWheel@bedsrcc.org.uk)  
Call: 01234 832618



Central Bedfordshire Council  
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SANDY  
Town Council





In the north of Sandy, there are 2 route options.

The western side of the Green Wheel is currently only available for use by walkers. Options for providing a riders route are being explored.

A dedicated pedestrian crossing of the A603 is due in the next year. Please take care when crossing the road.

A new path has been created to provide a formal link between the A1 footbridge at Beeston and The Bowk.



**Key to map**

- Green Wheel Route Walking only
- Green Wheel Route Cycling and walking
- Green Wheel links Cycling and walking
- Green Wheel links Walking only
- Promoted cycle route
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Take care
- National Cycle Network route number
- One way
- Railway with station
- Crossing
- Cycle Parking
- School
- Parking
- Accessible green space
- Other green space
- Woodland

