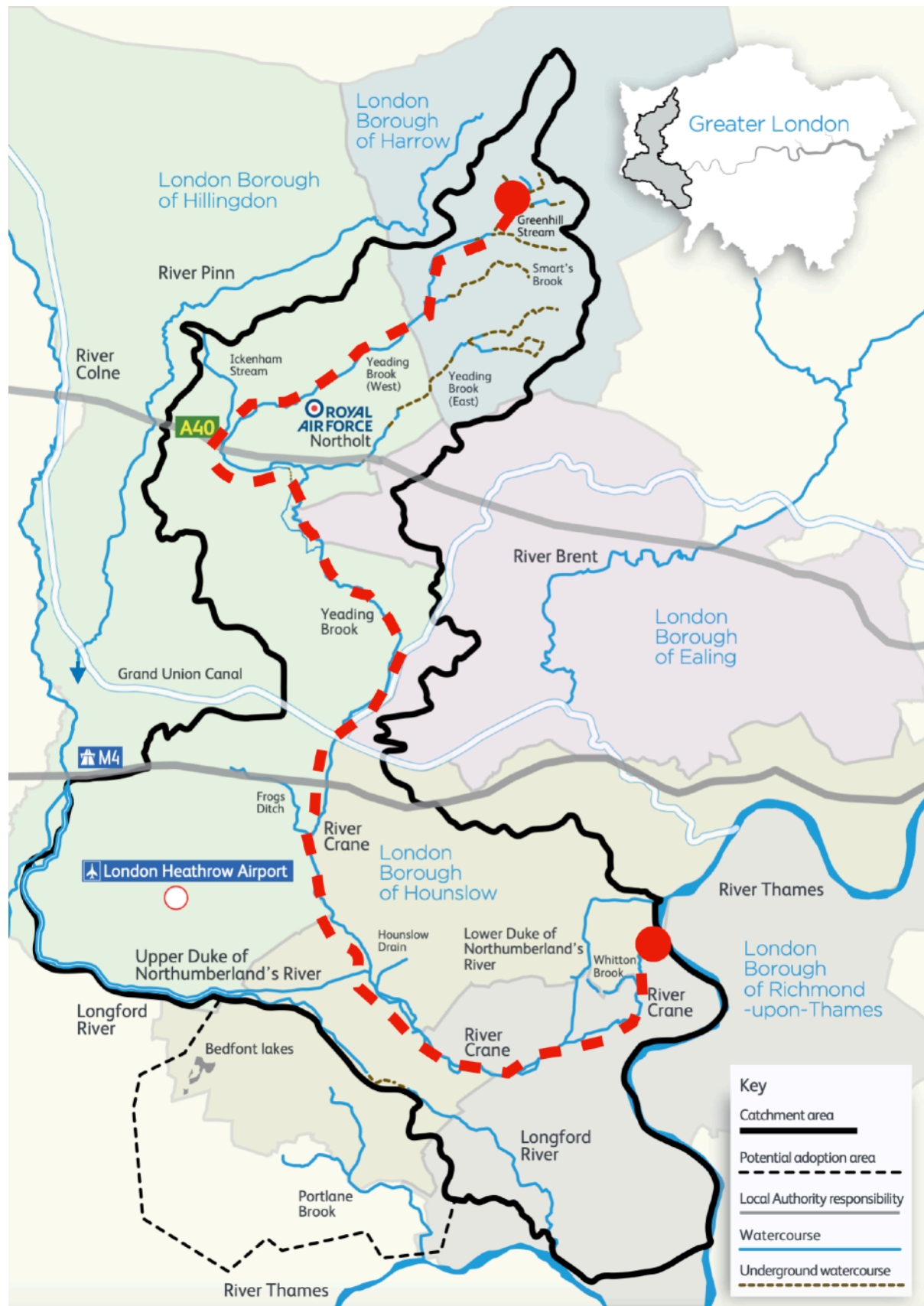




The Crane Valley Trail

A river path for walkers and cyclists



Indicative route of the Crane Valley Trail

Vision

An uninterrupted walking and cycling route along the Yeading Brook West and River Crane, passing through five London Boroughs.

The Crane Valley Trail (CVT) will:

- provide an easy to follow route accessible to all
- make it easy to see and connect with the river
- link all the parks and wild spaces along the route
- improve and join up existing routes, create local circular routes connected to accessible public transport, and provide car-free transport choices
- connect riverside communities and create a sense of local pride
- boost the profile and strengthen the identity of the Crane Valley

There is even scope to create a longer distance route between the Thames and the Chilterns using connections to the Colne Valley

Component routes

The Crane Valley Trail would make use of the following existing riverside routes:

River Crane Walk - *between Isleworth and Hounslow Heath*

London Loop (Section 9) - *between Hounslow Heath and Hatton Cross*

London Loop (Section 10) - *between Hatton Cross and Cranford Park*

Hillingdon Trail - *between Cranford Park and Ickenham Marsh*

Willow Tree Wander - *between Ickenham Marsh and North Harrow*

The Crane Valley Trail would add value to these established routes, providing a common thread that consciously links people with their local river environment





A disused riverside path linking the A4 Bath Road with Waye Avenue Open Space at Cranford. This path will be restored as part of the 'Reclaiming the Riverside' Project, delivering new amenity space and enhanced linkage along the Crane river corridor

Access to Nature and Heritage

Crane Valley Trail route covers the West London Green Chain and Crane Corridor Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation

Nature reserves en route:

Ickenham Marsh, Gutteridge Wood, Ten Acre Wood, Yeading Brook Meadows, Huckerby's Meadows, Cranebank Water Meadows, Causeway, Hounslow Heath, Pevensey Road, Crane Park Island, Mereway Nature Park, Northcote

The route also showcases a number of notable heritage assets:

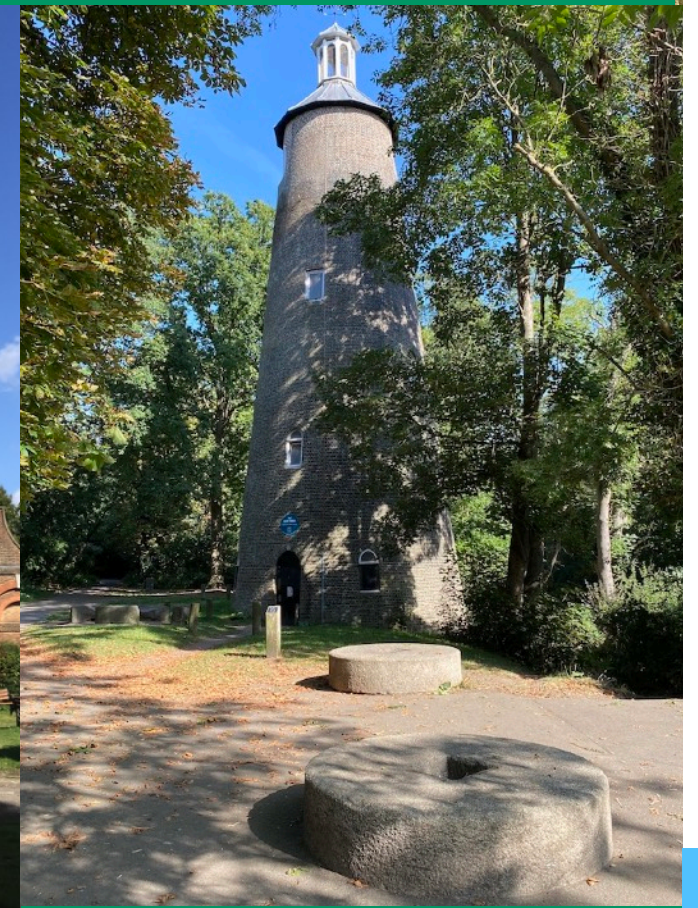
- Headstone Manor and Moat
- Canal Feeder
- Grand Union Canal
- Cranford Park stables, cellars and bridge
- Baber Bridge
- Mill race remnants at Brazil Mill Wood
- Cavalry Tunnel
- Brick Tower at Crane Park



Cattle grazing at Ickenham Marsh nature reserve



The Stables at Cranford Park



The Brick Tower at Crane Park



Community 'ownership' - Yeading Walk in Harrow is a good example along the notional CVT route of where a local community group - Friends of Yeading Walk - takes an active role in landscape maintenance, helping to enhance amenity value



Marker post near Gutteridge
Wood (Hillingdon Trail)

Example of a trail emblem
(The Duke's River Walk)



Cafe at Headstone Manor Park, Harrow

Waymarking

Crane Valley Trail will utilise a combination of existing and new marker posts

marker posts will have clear directional arrows

marker posts will feature a distinctive new Crane Valley Trail emblem

develop online CVT map and CVT smartphone App

Visitor facilities

There is a need to:

- develop a network of 'hub sites', providing visitor facilities (cafe, toilets, interpretation) at convenient intervals en route

Now: Headstone Manor Park, Kneller Gardens

In development: Cranford Park, Moormead Park

Potential future hubs: Roxbourne Park, Minet Country Park, Crane Park, Northcote Nature Reserve

- provide more benches and ensure continuity of interpretation along the entire CVT route

Overcoming barriers

For the Crane Valley Trail to function as intended, **connectivity** and **usability** must be optimised along the entire river corridor. This involves:

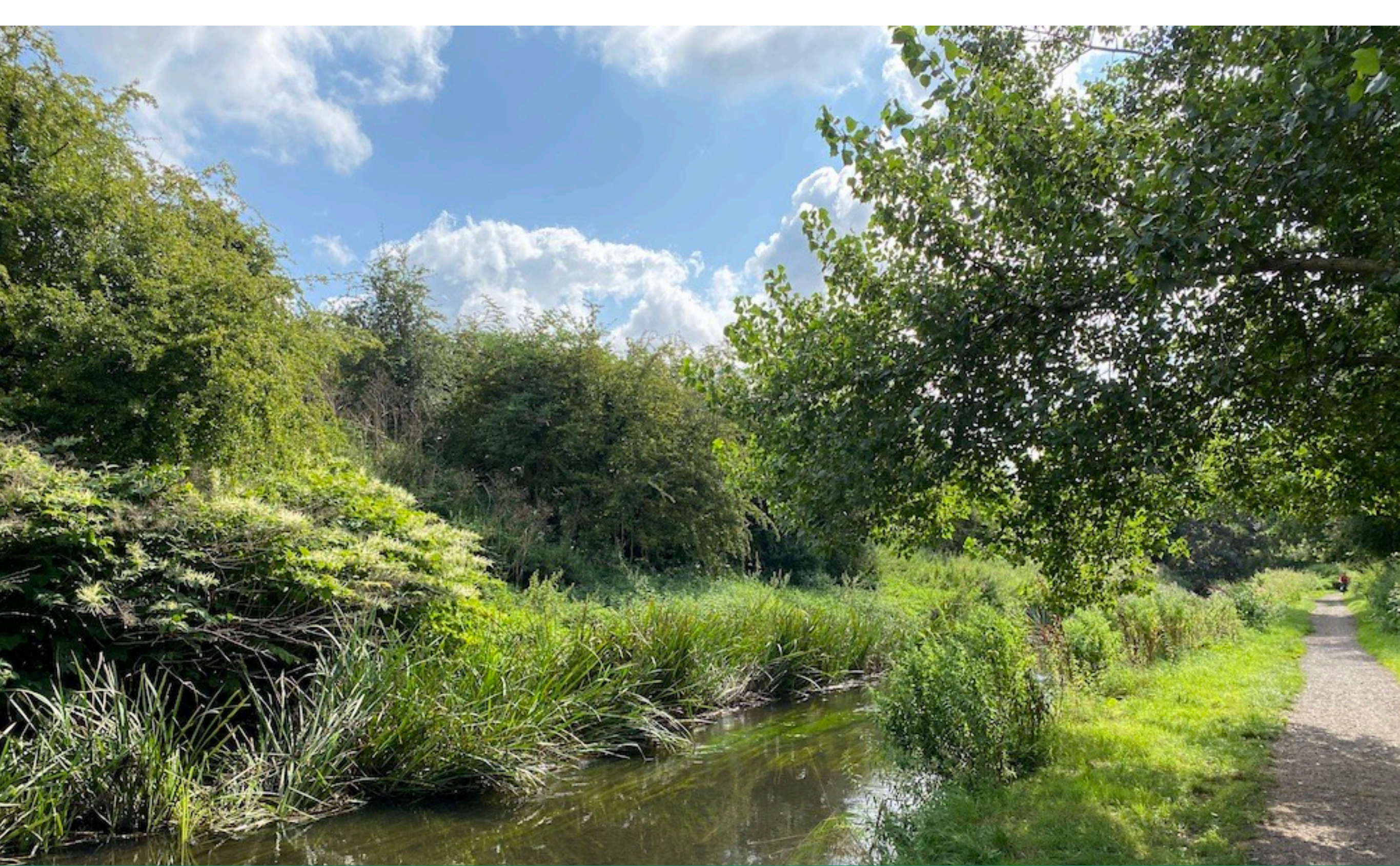
1. Providing a safe and convenient means for pedestrians and cyclists to cross major roads wherever these bisect the river corridor, for example:
 - A30 Great South West Road
 - A4 Bath Road (Cranford Bridge)
 - A316 Chertsey Road (Cole Park)
2. Minimising divergence from the river by creating new riverside linkages (e.g. Hayes/Southall) where practical to do so
3. Enhancing wayfaring/signage in those places where the route must diverge from the river or the river flows underground (e.g. North Harrow)
4. Improving entrance points and path surfaces and enhancing disabled access provision in line with Sustrans recommendations



The A30 dual carriageway at Hatton - bisecting the river corridor between (south side) Causeway Nature Reserve and (north side) Huckerby's Meadows and Cranebank Water Meadows nature reserves. There is currently no means of safely crossing over or under this very busy road here.



Riverside access is very limited in the stretch through Hayes and Southall between Cranford Park and Minet Country Park - but could riverside re-development offer an opportunity for new links?



Riverside path enhancement work is due to take place in this section of the river corridor in the North Feltham/Hounslow Heath area - boosting active transport and recreational opportunities by enhancing the user experience for walkers and cyclists



Working together
to protect and
enhance our water
environment

Co-creating a long-term plan for
the River Crane catchment



Delivering the vision

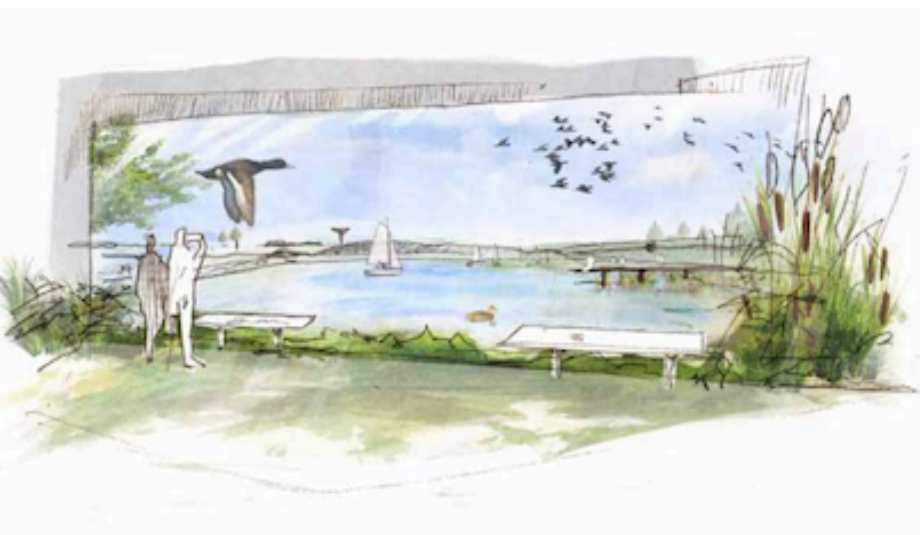
A 'Crane Trailblazer' advocacy campaign features in the ten year **Crane Valley Smarter Water Catchment Plan** launched in 2021. This will promote the CVT concept

SWC (Year 1 and 2) access/connectivity studies undertaken by Sustrans will be used to inform the development of a CVT masterplan

Grants for relevant access/linkage projects are potentially available through the SWC Project Fund launched in June 2022

The Colne and Crane Valleys Green Infrastructure Strategy (2019) highlights the need for investment in walking and cycling routes and the potential for a 'green highway'. The Strategy is due to be reviewed in Year 4 of the SWC programme, providing another significant advocacy opportunity. Mobilising the local planning system is key to success

Where new riverside paths are being introduced or existing routes upgraded, project managers will be encouraged to ensure their schemes are compatible with the CVT vision and provide appropriate waymarking/interpretation



COLNE & CRANE VALLEYS
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY
SEPTEMBER 2019



ARUP

To discuss the Crane Valley Trail concept, please contact: cvp@cvcic.org.uk

