

# Walk Wheel Cycle Trust: NCN Route 6

## Case Study



### Key Outcomes

- 1km extension completed in June 2025
- Zero flooding recorded through camera monitoring
- Up to 50% reduction in carbon and estimated 19% cost reduction vs traditional methods
- Forecast social value of £3.1 million over 10 years across the full route
- Improved year-round accessibility and route performance

## Project Overview

Working with the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust and Milton Keynes City Council a 1km cycle path upgrade and widening scheme, utilising minimised excavation practices, was successfully installed on National Cycle Network Route 6 between Castlethorpe and Wolverton. Following the success of the Crimple Meadows project in North Yorkshire, a path construction and integrated soakaway design solution was developed using permeable Drainage Edges/Spurs and Drainage Mats in order to address persistent flooding that had rendered the route unusable during wet weather and winter periods. The design methodology and approach to constructability enabled the path to be formed, widened and resurfaced using modular drainage system units, while restoring year-round accessibility, demonstrating how integrated drainage solutions can be scaled across nationally significant active travel infrastructure.

## The Challenge

- **Persistent flooding issues** made the 2.5km route impassable in wet weather and winter periods.
- **Families, commuters and disabled users** were unable or reluctant to use the path.
- **Conventional sustainable drainage plans and excavation methods** were unable to provide an acceptable solution to planning approvals.
- **A sustainable drainage solution** was required to improve route resilience and support long-term active travel use.

### Project Details

<b>Client:</b>	Walk Wheel Cycle Trust,
<b>Contractor:</b>	CIJO Ltd
<b>Partners:</b>	Milton Keynes City Council, Rosehill Group
<b>System:</b>	Integrated modular drainage path construction system with Drainage Mats and Drainage Grips/Spurs.
<b>Location:</b>	National Cycle Network Route 6, Milton Keynes

## The Solution

- **Modular drainage system units** installed to form the path body construction, and simultaneously manage surface water drainage.
- **Path widened and resurfaced** with minimised excavation to maintain environmental stewardship best practice, and improve route accessibility and user experience.
- **Sustainable drainage approach** 2.5km approved through environmental assessment and planning processes.
- **Lower-carbon installation** methodology compared with traditional drainage alternatives.
- **Repeatable design** suitable for wider deployment across active travel networks.

## Before - During - After



Before

During Build

Backfilled

Finished surface  
awaiting re-wilding

## Why It Matters

National Cycle Network Route 6 demonstrates how sustainable and modular drainage systems can overcome long-standing flooding issues on active travel routes. Building on the success achieved in North Yorkshire, the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust and Milton Keynes City Council proved that lower-carbon, lower-cost drainage approaches can be delivered using environmental stewardship best practices, at scale as part of national infrastructure projects, providing a practical model for local authorities seeking to improve climate resilience and community connectivity.

## Benefits for Highway, Parks and Active Travel Teams

- **Flood resilience**                      Eliminates persistent waterlogged pathway and supports year-round route performance.
- **Low impact construction**                      No major trenching or pipework, reducing disruption in sensitive public spaces.
- **Sustainable materials**                      Uses recycled rubber drainage components with a low-carbon design approach.
- **Scalable application**                      A repeatable solution for local authority footpaths, cycleways, parks and public realm routes.

### Discuss Your Project

Let our team help you find the right drainage solution for your project.

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