



Stroud

Basic Goal

ERDF Wild Towns will improve the connectivity of greenspaces from Stonehouse, through Stroud and on to Nailsworth through restoration and creation of habitats along the cycle path.

Vision Statement

The River Frome Runs from Nailsworth through to Stonehouse on its path to joining the River Severn. National cycleway 45, follows the River for much of its route between the three towns. The route follows a disused railway which has been colonised by many tree species creating an important greenway along the valley. Through ERDF Wild Towns, Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council, this area is going to be enhanced for nature and improved for its users.

The cycleway is going to be resurfaced along four sections which need reinstating, this will make the route more enjoyable for its users and improve the access along it allowing a greater number of people to get out and enjoy this picturesque route. This will be carried out using a sustainable porous paving surface. This creates a surface that is both flexible and porous making it an extremely durable surface, perfect for this cycle trail. The surface is made out of ground rubber from recycled vehicle tyres, stone aggregate and a binding substance to create this flexible and sustainable path.

Along the cycleway there will be many different types of habitat creation and restoration work taking place. As the cycleway is primarily surrounded by trees of a similar age work will take place to diversify the age structure of the trees through felling, pollarding and coppicing the existing species. This will in turn provide a greater diversity of tree cover but also create glades along the cycleway. These glades will allow sunlight to reach the ground and encourage ground flora such as Dogs Mercury, Bluebells and Wild Garlic. These flowers will provide an important nectar source for Butterflies and other insects. Bat boxes will also be installed to provide roosting opportunities along the route, this will complement the new glades which will provide foraging opportunities.

On the section that runs alongside the A419 there is a linear orchard which contains many apple and pear varieties which are under threat of being lost from Gloucestershire. These trees will be given a new lease of life through works to improve their growth. This will involve reducing the canopies of neighbouring trees to increase the amount of light they receive in turn improving their growth and also allowing them space to expand and into.