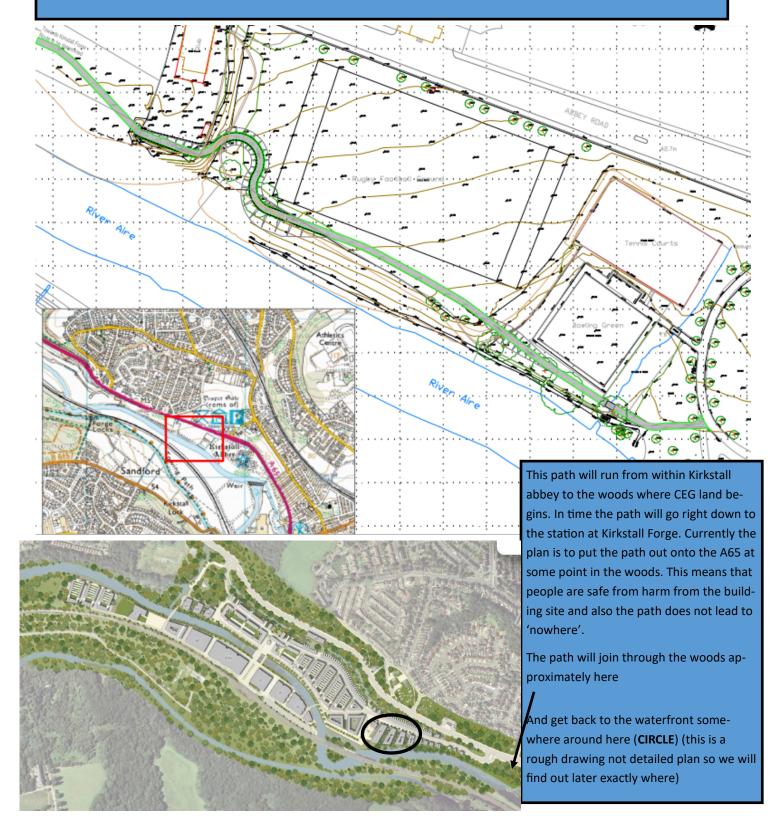
Kirkstall Abbey to Kirkstall Forge station pathway info sheet

It is proposed to create a new pedestrian and cycle path linking the Kirkstall Forge development with Kirkstall Abbey Park. This is part of a wider aspiration to create a continuous corridor along the River Aire known as Kirkstall Valley Park. The money for this section of the path comes from section 106 money from the Kirkstall Forge development. We have been asked to source the drawings so that they can be viewed by people within the community.



The community have already asked a lot of questions as to why the plans look like this, so here is a FAQ section for people to look through:

Why is it not consistently right by the river?

Unfortunately due to the nature of Kirkstall we have steep banks generally at the river side which would mean we had to cut down a lot of vegetation and mature trees in order to create a very expensive river side walk that would spend big parts of the winter time flooded. By moving it back and putting it up a bit it means that it will be a route that can be used all year round.

What trees will have to be cut down?

The number of trees being removed has been minimised, of course some will have to be removed. There are yellow splodges on the trees that will be being removed for the path if you want to go out and visit. The only section with trees being cut is the loop area by the rugby club. The plans have not yet been made for the second section in forge wood, there is the potential for some very minimal tree cutting there as well

Why do we need the loop?

The answer to this is 2 fold. Firstly we need to have a gradient that is appropriate for people to use, if the gradient is too steep wheelchairs and people with mobility issues or prams would struggle to get up it. Similarly if it is too steep coming down people could build up too much speed and cause a danger to those using the path and themselves if they lost control. By putting in the loop and therefore minimising the gradient we are solving both these issues.

Why do we need earthworks at the corner of the rugby ground?

Because the RFU have requirements for the distance from touch line to edge of playing area the path cannot encroach on this so we have to build out in order to keep the width of the path consistent with government guidance. This is a relatively small section and will avoid the two activities of rugby and path use coming into conflict.

Why does the path have to be 3m wide?

The government guidance states that the minimum width of a multi purpose path is 3m. This path will be used by cyclists, walkers and prams and wheelchairs. The guidance also states that with paths that are not up to this standard the first group to suffer is those who are protected by the equality act such as the elderly or disabled. Therefore to ensure fair access to all of our community the 3m is a necessary width for us to maintain. (LTN 1/12 Shared Use Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists)

