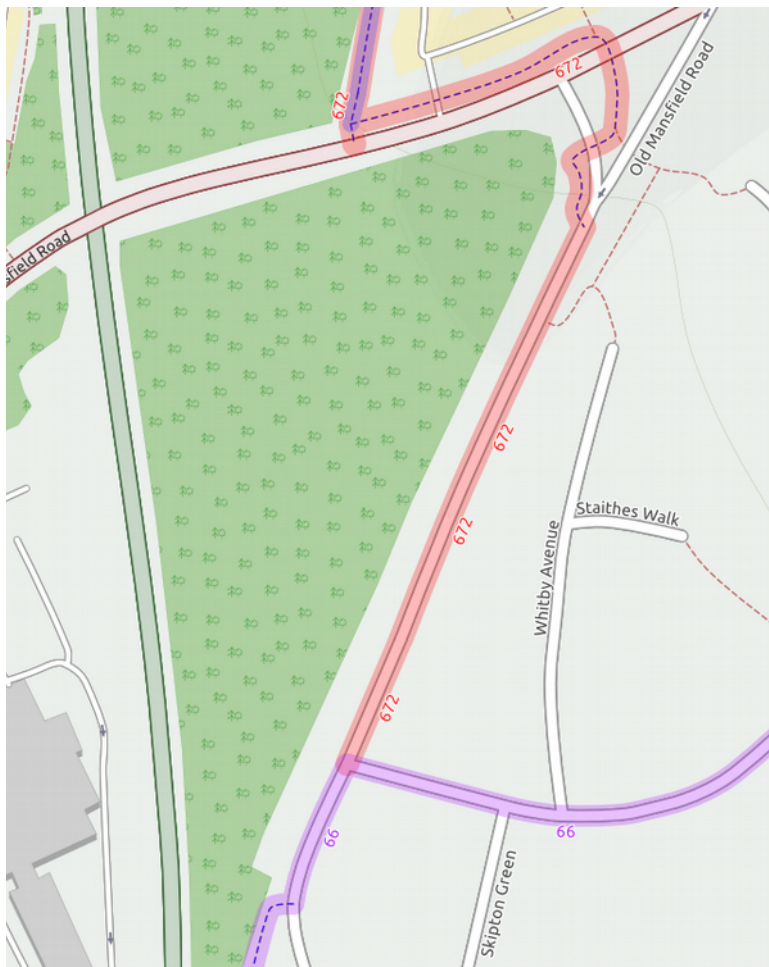


# Proposed improvement for NCN 672 to allow off road section

## 1. Summary

Between the Great Northern Greenway in Breadsall (off road route created on track of old railway) and the Derby regional Route 66 there is a section of NCN 672 which is on road on Old Mansfield Road.



The route is confused and is different for travel from the north to that for travel from the south.

The route is on a road which is fairly lightly trafficked but hosts a bus route and some of the traffic moves at a high speed.

There is an existing footpath behind a hedge alongside the existing pavement and this could be improved to offer a pedestrian and cycle route making this portion of the NCN 672 off road. The footpath is on land that appears to be waste land. It is alongside the A61 road and could be owned by the City Council.

The route lies within Derby City Council area of responsibility.

Creation of the planned route will remove some very poor sections of the existing NCN and replace them with a high quality and safer route. It would connect with off road section of regional route 66 and would allow for NCN 672 to be extended towards Derby.

## 2. Existing situation

The existing route for NCN 672 from Breadsall towards Derby centre is:

- Use of the Breadsall Greenway along the track of an old railway. Completely traffic free and good quality.



North end of route showing "island" and uncontrolled road crossing and a sliproad from Mansfield Road.

- When it reaches the Paddock PH, the railway runs out and the route follows the pavement alongside Mansfield Road for a short while, crosses the main road using a traffic light controlled crossing to reach a kind of island between Old Mansfield Road

- Travelling south, the route is to cross Old Mansfield Road, take the pavement for a few metres and then cross Old Mansfield Road again to cycle southwards along the road. In practice, few people use the 2 crossings and use the sliproad to join Old Mansfield Road and then cycle along the roadway.
- When reaching the junction with Regional Route 66 (Scarborough Rise) cycle traffic needs to proceed further along Old Mansfield Road before crossing on a corner to reach the traffic free portion of route 66 towards Derby centre. This crossing on the corner is at risk of fast traffic along Old Mansfield Road.



End of route 66 from Derby travelling north

- Travelling north from the traffic free portion of route 66, cyclists must join Old Mansfield Road and then cycle along the road before taking a

painted cycle path on the road near the junction by the Paddock PH. After a few metres the painted route moves onto the pavement and then across Old Mansfield Road to the "island". From here the traffic controlled crossing can be used to cross Mansfield Road and then the pavement to reach the Great Northern Greenway.

Sustrans review of the existing National Cycle Network rates the existing route as very poor.

### 3. Proposed Solution



It is proposed that the on road portion of NCN 672 should be modified to make use of the existing walking path behind the hedge on the west side of Old Mansfield Road (marked as a thin green line on the map).

In a perfect world the traffic controlled crossing on Mansfield Road would be moved from its existing position to the end of the Breadsall Greenway so that cyclists could access the land to the west of Old Mansfield Road immediately on leaving the Greenway. However, the cost of this may be high.

The proposal would allow for northbound and southbound cyclists to share the new track and allow the connection of route 66 from Derby to the Breadsall Greenway as a traffic free route with just the road crossing at the north end of Old Mansfield Road and the traffic controlled crossing to negotiate.

The existing path appears to be part of an old road as there is some tarmac in place although heavily overgrown with grass.



*Suggested route looking north from half way along*



*Suggested route from northern end (behind hedge)*



*Suggested route from turn off for Route 66*



The existing and proposed routes fall within Derby City Council responsibility.

*CREATED: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Ian Dent*