

## Portrait Bench

So far we have received 15 nominations for characters to stand behind Bedlington's Portrait Bench.

There is still time to make a nomination - Sustrans is accepting nominations until the end of October. We will then put a list of all nominations (providing the nominees and/or families are happy being on the list) out in the press, via [www.bedlington.co.uk](http://www.bedlington.co.uk) and other local media in mid November. You will have two weeks to vote and the characters with the most votes will be made into steel figures to be placed next to a bench along the route next June.

Send in your nominations of famous, infamous, dead, alive or local heroes to

[connect2northumberland@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:connect2northumberland@hotmail.co.uk)



*Sustrans Connect2 Bench in Port Talbot, with (L to R) a local forest ranger, Rob Bryden and Richard Burton.*

## Route Updates

If you take a walk or cycle along the riverside, I am sure you will appreciate the new, improved track which has been expertly laid by the Connect2 contractors, Carillion.

August 2010 was a dramatic time for the Connect2 projects in Northumberland when we discovered a major funding shortfall! This was largely due to cuts in funding, which were exacerbated by actual costs being greater than budgeted. We then found out that there had been a change of land ownership on the south-side of the Blyth with resulting complications for the proposed bridge and route connecting to Cramlington. Sadly, this has meant that the proposed high-level bridge and associated routes have had to be dropped for the moment.

The good news is that all of the in-town routes - along the riverside, through Gallagher Park and linking all of Bedlington's schools - are still going ahead, many of which will be completed by early summer 2011.

The map overleaf shows the routes that are going ahead. Please note that the route through the new Tesco carpark and the connection to Whitley Memorial Primary School are indications that a route will be there, but the actual location of route depends on the outcome of the Tesco planning application.

The ones in blue are ones that will be completed in the first phase and the red routes will all be complete by the end of 2013 at the very latest, though it is likely they will be complete by mid 2012.

## Connect2 Art Strategy

You may remember seeing a little red tricycle and postbox over the summer and postcards inviting you to give your opinions on cycling, walking, art and your local environment. This was part of an excellent Art Strategy by local artists Aether and Hemera.

Tragically, the funding for this work has also been cut, though we are looking for alternative ways to implement at least some of the amazing artworks proposed. Imagine... cycling along and the way ahead suddenly being lit by beams of light, appearing to pulse along the path; or a series of small wind turbines lighting mini-LED lights along the riverside or a fantastic feature made only from bits of old bikes. If you know of anyone who may be able to make some of these art works a reality, please do get in touch.

**Sustrans is the charity that's enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day.**

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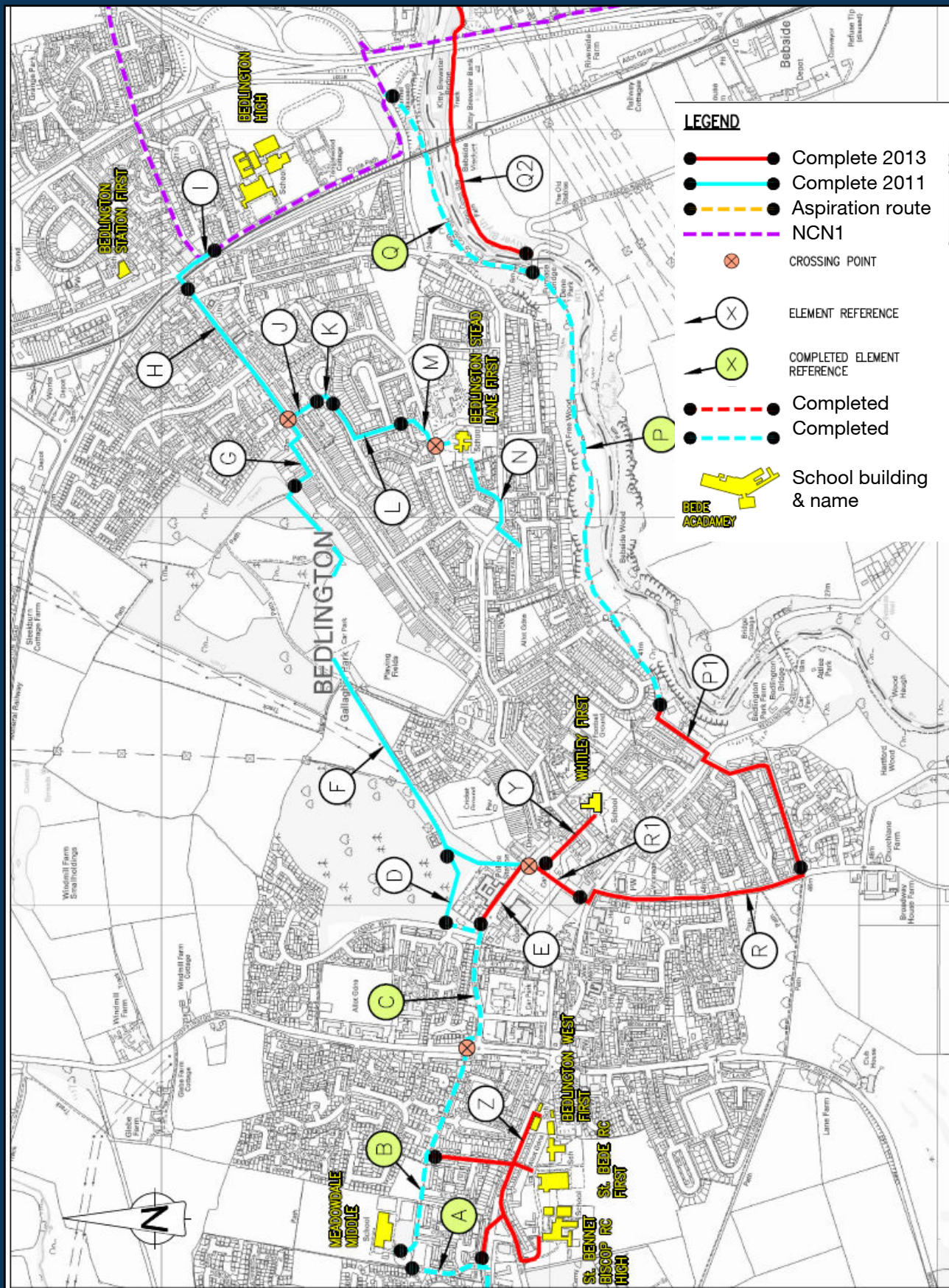


LOTTERY FUNDED





## Map of New Cycle and Walking Routes in Bedlington



### New Cycle Routes and You

Will these new routes have an impact on your life? Do you want to cycle but haven't for a while and are unsure about getting back in the saddle? Would you like to be involved in activities around these new cycle routes.

If so - please do get in touch with me, Philippa Mitchell on [philippa.mitchell@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:philippa.mitchell@sustrans.org.uk), 07917 134085, or at Sustrans NE, Cross House, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 4XX.