

Alconbury Weald

MaleNews



Work starts on Phase 2 of Alconbury Weald



Key milestone for new secondary school



: Plans submitted for : Runway Park



Quality of Life: feedback and next steps



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MakeNews

Make/News is produced by Urban&Civic — master developer of Alconbury Weald — to update residents and our neighbouring communities on progress and news from the growing community. It is distributed to Alconbury Weald, Alconbury village, Alconbury Weston, the Stukeleys and Abbots Ripton, as well as being available in housebuilder marketing suites and other public places across Alconbury Weald.



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Natalie Leigh-Brown Community Development E natalie.leigh-brown@urbanandcivic.com T 01480 413141 M 07823 527068 Hello and welcome to our Spring 2025 newsletter, with updates on the latest news and developments at Alconbury Weald.

With the clocks going forward and signs of Spring popping up all over Alconbury Weald, we're looking forward to warmer days, lighter evenings and more opportunities to enjoy time outdoors with family, friends and neighbours.

It's been a busy few months for the development: the new Community Garden is ready for our launch event on 17 April; work has started on early landscaping and infrastructure to support new homes and Prestley Park coming forward in the second phase of the development; and plans for Phase 3 are progressing with the approval of the Design Code and the recent submission of plans for Runway Park.

Education is a key priority for Alconbury Weald, and it is great to see Jemima House Nursery, Ermine Street Church Academy and the recently opened Prestley Wood Academy thriving. The new secondary school also celebrated an important milestone with the submission of updated plans to Cambridgeshire County Council. A September 2027 opening is being targeted and DEMAT, which will be running Alconbury Weald Church Academy, is seeking expressions of interest from parents of children currently in Year 4.

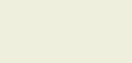
Urban&Civic is also supporting skills, training and recruitment opportunities in construction in the region, and has teamed up with the team behind the successful Marshall Skills Academy to set up Constructed Pathways. Since its formation, it has set up a number of construction skills pilots, which it will be rolling out in the coming months.

The community is looking forward to a range of wellbeing, nature, cultural and heritage events again this year. In addition to support from the Urban&Civic communities' team, Alconbury Weald Community Association members are volunteering their time and talents to organise events and activities that bring together all ages and interests.

The Quality of Life Foundation has also reported back on feedback from residents that took part in its survey last Autumn and highlighted what's working, what isn't and what could be better. We're delighted that the majority of residents enjoy living at Alconbury Weald and are confident that we're making good progress towards addressing some of the key issues raised.

We hope you find this Make|News interesting and informative. If you have any queries, or have any ideas for future editions, please let us know.

With best wishes Becca, Paul and Natalie



Hello

04 Alconbury Weald update



Development update

<image>

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Phase 1

The first phase of development is well underway and will deliver 1,750 homes alongside Jemima House Nursery, Ermine Street Church Academy, Prestley Wood Academy (special educational needs school), The Watch Office Bar and Kitchen, Co-op, The Pavilion community centre, cricket pitch, community library, multi-use games area, parks, play areas and allotments. It is also home to Alconbury Weald Enterprise Campus, which has over 1.5 million sq ft of business space, which will be extended in Phase 3.

The next elements coming forward in Phase 1 include new allotments and a community garden, a health centre over the Co-op, up to five new shops in The Glade and a secondary school, which is currently due to open in September 2027.

Phase 2

The second phase will include new homes, open spaces, play areas and a local centre with retail/café and community space. This phase will be delivered in two stages, with the first 750 homes coming forward in the north of this area. The southern section will continue once the plans for the A141 (Huntingdon outer ring road) are finalised by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

This phase will also bring forward Prestley Park, which will provide 150 acres of parkland — making it almost as big as Hinchingbrooke Country Park. It will also deliver the southern section of The Boulevard spine road, bus and cycle route, which will provide direct access to the A141 and Huntingdon.

Phase 3

In addition to new homes, this phase will include many key amenities for the development including a 'town centre' hub with health centre, community centre and library, shops and services, as well as a 'sports hub'. It will also have large areas of parkland, which will mark the area of the old Cold War runway and connect to a future Heritage Area.

Phase 4

Phase 4 is currently in the very early design stage and will connect phases 2 and 3 as well as delivering the final area of development in the north-west corner of Alconbury Weald.

Community garden and new allotments open

Community gardens provide a wide range of health and wellbeing benefits for all ages, with opportunities to meet people, learn new skills, enjoy time outside and grow fresh produce.

This new space at Alconbury Weald, which has been designed with input from residents, incorporates traditional allotments alongside a community garden for growing projects. Key features include raised timber and tabletop planters, trellis for berries, a community orchard, a storytelling area and a roofed pergola for community workshops and use as an outdoor classroom.

There is also a grassed area that can be used to expand the community garden in the future. as new residents move to Alconbury Weald.

Community planting

At the community planting event on 1 March, residents donned their wellies and enjoyed some Spring sunshine to help plant fruit trees and hedgerow plants around the boundary of the new Community Garden. As these hedgerows mature, they will provide vital resources for a range of wildlife including birds, bats, harvest mice, hedgehogs, butterflies and bees.

School engagement

Prestley Wood Academy overlooks the community garden, and pupils have enjoyed watching the team installing the hard landscaping. They will be able to use the school's polytunnels to start off their seedlings before planting them in a raised bed, and use the pergola and storytelling area for outdoor learning.

Launch event

By the launch event on 17 April, all the hard landscaping will be in place — including paths, gazebos and raised beds — and a blank canvas will be ready for the community to start thinking about how they would like the space to be used.

Head over to the community garden from 11am-1pm to find out more, take part in the activities and share your thoughts and ideas with Adam Castleton, who will be supporting the community as they establish the garden.

Introducing Adam Castleton

Adam has been working in charity and community welfare for around 20 years, engaging with communities to set up and deliver various community-focused initiatives including community gardens and nature spaces.

He is passionate about nature and enjoys being outdoors as much as possible. In his spare time, Adam looks after his own allotment as well as a plot on an ancient orchard.

Adam is looking forward to working with the Alconbury Weald community to create a special space for residents to enjoy: "With imagination and enthusiasm, this can become a lovely space for the community to switch off, invest in their mental and physical health, and immerse themselves in nature. All ages, experience and interests are welcome to help create a special and unique space for the whole community to enjoy."







Work starts on Phase 2

Work has started on the early landscaping, sustainable drainage systems and highway links to support the new homes and Prestley Park coming forward in the second phase of the development.

Southern gateway and link road

The Urban&Civic team was joined by local stakeholders on 12 February to celebrate progress on the next phase of work on the southern link road, which will form the southern gateway to the development and provide direct access to the A141 and Huntingdon.

Once fully complete, The Boulevard will form the primary spine route through the whole development for cars, buses, cyclists and pedestrians and connect the Ermine Street entrance of Alconbury Weald to the A141 west of Huntingdon.

Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, said: "The development of the southern link road at Alconbury Weald is a significant milestone for our region. This new gateway will not only improve connectivity

to Huntingdon and the A141, but also support the delivery of new homes, green spaces, and vital infrastructure. It's a great example of how thoughtful planning and sustainable development can drive economic growth while protecting our environment."

The work to create the southern end of The Boulevard is being carried out by Breheny and will include the installation of new carriageway, footpaths/cycleways, services and streetlights.

The majority of the work will take place on-site and connection into the existing A141 infrastructure will happen once complete, which is estimated to be late 2025. Some early landscaping work and remediation has already been undertaken, as well as archaeological investigations along the route.



Early work to protect and enhance **Prestley Wood**

The first stage of work to help protect and enhance Prestley Wood, which will form an important centrepiece of Prestley country park, started in late February/early March. The work is part of a three-phase management plan on the Scheduled Monument – part of the remains of a double-moated site dating back to the 13th century — that has been developed and agreed with Historic England and Huntingdonshire District Council.

The work includes clearing undergrowth, removing damaged and diseased trees and planting new trees and shrubs to enhance the woodland. This will enable further historical investigations to be carried out on the Scheduled Monument, which will help finalise plans to protect the earthworks and archaeological remains. Understanding more about them will ensure they can be safely opened to the public as an important part of Prestley country park.

Once complete, it is hoped that paths can be more clearly put in place through Prestley Wood, with crossings over the inner and outer moat ditches and interpretation boards to help people learn more about its history.

The first phase of work included clearing trees and shrubs from the central area where the manor house was, and around the moat structures so that further historical investigations can be undertaken. Additional planting will take place later in the year to strengthen the woodland that sits around the central area.

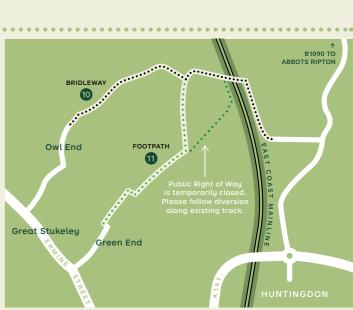
Paul Murfin, Communities and Partnerships for Alconbury Weald, said: "Prestley Wood is an important heritage asset, and we have been working with Historic England for a number of years to agree an approach that will help protect the Scheduled Monument and enhance the woodland setting. We have also worked with The Stukeleus Parish Council and heritage partners, as well as through consultation events, to ensure Prestley Wood will be an important part of the country park that will take its name.

care in the area."

Footpath diversion

To align with the approved layout of Phase 2 of Alconbury Weald, Footpath 11 will need to be diverted. This diversion follows the existing route most people take along the farm track, as the historic Right of Way runs through the field.

A temporary diversion is currently in place for up to six months to support the delivery of the southern link road, and a permanent diversion will be sought when the new route is in place and open for use.





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"In time, we hope it will become a cherished space that connects people to the special history of this part of the development and the families that lived and worked here hundreds of years ago. In the meantime, we apologise for any inconvenience during these management works and ask that people follow any diversion signs around works being carried out and take

All of the work being carried out has been agreed with Historic England, is guided by agreed Consents to carry out work on the Scheduled Monument and has been approved by the District Council through an agreed Management Plan.

Plans progress for Phase 3

Phase 3 of Alconbury Weald will include the next 2,000 homes and the 'Town Centre' Hub, which will bring the next shops, the permanent health centre, community building, library, place of worship and gym/ fitness centre. The phase will also include the Sports Hub, with rugby and football pitches, play areas and parks, and two primary schools. It also encompasses the Cold War Heritage Area, which will bring forward a series of heritage and cultural spaces within a parkland setting, and many kilometres of footpaths and cycleways, including a new perimeter bridleway around the new homes and facilities.

Design Code approved

Phase 3 of Alconbury Weald reached a key milestone with the approval of the Design Code by Huntingdonshire District Council's Development Control Committee. The Design Code is an important part of the Phase 3 Framework, which will ensure the delivery of consistent, high-quality development as Alconbury Weald continues to grow.

As part of its commitment to put community, landscape and biodiversity at the heart of each phase, Alconbury Weald's master developer Urban&Civic will continue to ensure the delivery of quality homes within thoughtfully landscaped settings in walkable neighbourhoods. Phase 3 adopts a nature-led approach that provides spaces for people and nature. Urban&Civic's Biodiversity Toolkit brings together best practice examples to inform the design and drive this approach; guiding the creation of habitats for a wide variety of species that connect with the wider development and surrounding area.

Alongside this, Urban&Civic's Sustainability Framework will support low carbon development, with housebuilders delivering energy and water efficient new homes built with low carbon materials.





Joe Dawson, Project Director for Alconbury Weald, said: "Phase 3 will not only continue the quality landscape, amenities and homes we've delivered to date, but will also bring forward many of the main facilities and amenities of the new community. This will include the 'Town Centre' Hub with shops, cafes, health centre and play areas, as well the inspiring Runway Park, and the creation of Heritage Park, which will start to oversee the reuse of the listed Cold War hangars and bunker.

"The Design Code sets a high-quality bar to ensure we continue to create places people want to live, work and enjoy. The team is currently working hard on the detailed designs for the Sports Hub with local sports clubs, which will come forward just north of Alconbury Weald's secondary school, and recently submitted exciting plans for Runway Park."



Plans submitted for Runway Park

Following engagement with residents and stakeholders, plans for Runway Park — which will form a central part of the third phase of the development and marks the historic line of the runway — have been finalised and submitted. Its multi-layered approach will provide spaces for nature, people, events and activities, and will stretch from The Glade local centre through the future 'Town Centre' Hub.

Following the route of the former airfield's runway, the park incorporates a mosaic of habitats for nature alongside parks and gardens. With quiet spaces for reflection and active spaces to support a healthy lifestyle, Runway Park will provide a wealth of opportunities for people living, working and visiting Alconbury Weald to enjoy quality time outside.

The Green at the eastern entrance to Runway Park will provide space for gatherings and events with a focus on play and nature. This will open up into the Runway Wetlands, an open green space with water features to help manage rainfall and create important wetland habitats to support a range of flora and fauna and enable people to connect with them. Moving into the centre of the park, Runway Meadows will provide a large, flexible parkland with a range of play, sport, community and recreational uses. Runway Park also has a number of greenways that will connect the main park to walking and cycling routes running through the next phase of new homes coming forward in Phase 3 of the development. These routes will include their own areas for nature and play on the way, like the popular features incorporated in the first phase of Alconbury Weald.

The western end of Runway Park, Butterfly Meadows, will provide a large immersive meadow that will wrap around a play zone and open informal space. The meadow will add visual interest in the Winter and create habitat areas that supporting the lifecycles of butterflies. This will include warm sheltered spaces, and plants to feed caterpillars and adult butterflies during the breeding season as well as safe places for eggs during the Winter.

Rebecca Britton, regional director for Alconbury Weald, said: "Green spaces are central to the vision for Alconbury Weald, with Runway Park forming one of four strategic green areas. Runway Park will incorporate parts of the runway to reflect the heritage of the site, reimagined with wetland planting, trees and hedges providing a take-off for nature, and a mosaic of green spaces to provide restorative places for relaxation and rejuvenation as well as active areas for more energetic pursuits.

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"The designs for the park have evolved with input from both heritage and nature partners and the community. We're really excited about the wetland features; what was once concrete will be re-imagined to provide habitats for wetland birds, insects and plants. The seasonally changing habitats will also engage people as they spend time there. It will take a few years for the habitats to establish, which is why we're starting work early, before the new homes come forward, so it can be ready for when that area of the development opens up."

The other strategic green spaces at Alconbury Weald are Watch Office Green and the cricket pitch that sit at the heart of the first phase of development; Prestley Park which will be delivered alongside the second phase; and the Community Sports Hub that will come later in phase three.



Alongside spaces for people, Alconbury Weald has been designed to deliver a Net Gain for Nature, with plans currently supporting a 20% increase in biodiversity. This will be supported through the ongoing management of Runway Park and the other green spaces.

Ways to live at Alconbury Weald

With a wide range of apartments and houses coming forward, there are lots of ways for people to make Alconbury Weald their home. This includes buying, Shared Ownership, Rent to Buy, renting and affordable rent. In this edition, we focus on renting options.

Renting

The Hawkings is a collection of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes to rent, which are ready to move into, apply your personal touches and make it your home.

The Hawkings provides the perfect blend of modern, stylish living, with considerations for energy efficiency and green open spaces; each home features smart home tech, Solar PV panels and EV charging point enabled.

We recently met Maria, who has moved into one of The Hawkings properties with her son, Kevin. Find out more about her journey to Alconbury Weald, how she's settling into her new home and what she's looking forward to as the development grows: www.alconbury-weald. co.uk/living/ways-live-alconbury-weald



Affordable rent

There are also choices with all of the housebuilders at Alconbury Weald for affordable homes for rent. You can access information on these through registering with Home-Link.

Find out more and register: www. huntingdonshire.gov.uk/housing/finding-ahome/apply-to-get-on-the-housing-register/

Rent to buy

Rentplus has affordable rent to buy apartments to give people living in or working in the area the chance to get on the housing ladder without the need for an upfront deposit. Tenants rent their home for five to 20 years at an affordable rate, whilst using that time to save towards their future mortgage deposit and build a good credit rating. At the end of the agreed term, they can purchase their home and Rentplus will gift them 10% of the purchase price to add to their savings.

To find out more and express an interest, email applications@rentplushomes.co.uk

To find out more about the wide range of homes and ways to live at Alconbury Weald, visit www.alconbury-weald.co.uk/living





Campbell Buchanan George 01480 220535 Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald Huntingdon PE28 4LY Open Thurs-Mon 10am-5pm.

David Wilson Homes 0333 355 8485 Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald Huntingdon PE28 4LY Open Thurs-Sun 10am-5.30pm, Mon 12.30-5.30pm

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Hopkins Homes 01480 435108 Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald Huntingdon PE28 4LZ Open Thurs-Mon 10am-5pm.

Closed on Friday at 4.30pm

5

Redrow 01480 710086 Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald Huntingdon PE28 4LY **Open** Fri-Weds 10am-5.30pm and Thurs midday-5.30pm

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3 **Barratt Homes** Opening Summer 2025

Morris Homes 07484 040412 142–146 Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon PE28 4FR Open Thurs-Mon 10.30am-5.30pm

ੰ The Hawkings 0300 1246773 info@thehawkings.co.uk

Education focus 14

Education is a priority for Alconbury Weald, with schools designed to provide for every stage of learning, all in state-of-the-art buildings inspired by Alconbury Weald's rich heritage and community ethos.

Jemima House Day Nursery

Jemima House Nursery, which is based within Ermine Street Church Academy, had its Ofsted inspection in October 2024 and was praised for the high quality of care and teaching across all age groups; providing an encouraging and stimulating environment in which the children can grow and develop. The Nursery was also praised for its positive relationship with parents, who commented on the 'unwavering dedication and support' from staff who 'go above and beyond' to support their children.

Beverley Taylor-Carson, Nursery Director, said: "We really are thrilled. So much work goes into making sure the nursery runs as well as it can and provides the very best care and education possible. It's always a joy to know that all our efforts are being recognised and applauded by His Majesty's Inspectors too."

Over the past few months, the children have had lots of fun with crafts and other activities designed to help them learn about different celebrations including Lunar New Year and Easter. If you keep an eye on the nursery window, these will be reflected in different displays throughout the year!

There was much excitement recently with four ducklings hatching at the nursery! The eggs arrived mid-March and the children were fascinated to see the ducklings emerge from their shells and were very diligent looking after these small fluffy babies for a few days before they were collected and re-homed.

Other recent highlights that provided excellent opportunities to extend the children's wonder. tenacity and creativity included some of their favourite stories during World Book Day (6 March), a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths during British Science Week (7-16 March) and exploring road safety during Beep Beep Day (19 March).

As the weather starts to warm up, they will also be filling their new planters with a variety of plants to stimulate the senses, as well as growing fruit and vegetables. The children revel in looking after the plants and helping them grow from seed to plate encourages even the most reluctant eaters to try new foods!

To find out more about Jemima House Nursery, visit: www.jemima-house.co.uk



Ermine Street Church Academy

Part of the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust (DEMAT), in partnership with the Methodist Family of Schools, Ermine Street Church Academy is Alconbury Weald's first primary school, with wrap-around care provision by Premier Education at The Hangar Club.



Ermine Street Church Academy was inspected in November 2024 and has maintained the 'good' standards identified at its previous inspection. The Inspector acknowledged the school's ambitious curriculum along with the teachers' strong subject knowledge and effective teaching methods. As well as encouraging the children academically, there are also opportunities for personal development through sport, music and supporting local charities. The Inspector identified happy, considerate children that enjoy attending the primary school.

Ayellet McDonnell, Headteacher at Ermine Street Church Academy, said: "We are very pleased with the outcome and felt that the process was fair. There are many positive elements of our school that have been highlighted, and we are pleased that these were recognised in the report. We are excited to continue our journey of Ermine Street Church Academy development and hope that you will join us in celebrating the school's success."



As well as a programme of learning and development, the pupils at Ermine Street Church Academy have a range of visits and activities to enrich their education.

A recent highlight was a visit from Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Public Order Team. Following an assembly where the children learned about the different jobs the police do and the equipment they use - such as riot shields, batons and Hazmat suits they went outside for a drone demonstration. The police train with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue and use the drone to locate people and incidents. The children were shown what they could see through the remote control, and they took some great overhead shots of a very excited playground!

Next was a tour of their van and boat, with an opportunity to find out more about their equipment, try on personal floatation devices and wear high-vis Police vests. The children had lots of questions that were answered by PC Mel Foster and her colleagues. Everyone had a great time and some even want to join the Police Force when they grow up.

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World Book Day on 6 March also proved incredibly popular with the pupils, who had an opportunity to share some of their favourite stories and authors with their classmates.

Some of the children will also be joining the team from Wildlife Trust BCN on 25 April for an exclusive Wild Weald event to explore the underwater world of Carnaile Pond and discover more about the creatures living beneath the surface and in the aquatic vegetation.

To find out more about Ermine Street Church Academy, visit www. erminestreet.demat.org.uk

16 Education focus

Prestley Wood Academy

Prestley Wood Academy, Alconbury Weald's Special Educational Needs (SEN) School, welcomed its first students in September 2024 and will be expanding from 70 to 100 pupils in the next academic year, adding three new classes. **Caroline Place,** headteacher of Prestley Wood Academy, shared some of her recent highlights.

Bike, books and Lego donations

The local community has been supporting Alconbury Weald travel co-ordinator *smart journeys*' recent campaign by donating bikes, books and Lego to support the pupils' learning and development.

In addition to 10 bikes donated by Grafham Water Centre, many bikes have been donated by the community. The bikes will be repaired by a qualified mechanic working alongside the pupils to support their travel training and 'Life Skills' curriculum. They will then be used and enjoyed by pupils at the school for many years to come, teaching the pupils bicycle maintenance and using them for cycle confidence lessons.

The local community has also been contributing to the initiative by donating books to help stock the school's new library and Lego, used as part of the Lego Therapy accredited speech and language intervention to develop social interaction skills.



Fresh fruit donation

Companies at the Enterprise Campus have also been supporting the school and Caroline wanted to say a special thank you to AMFRESH, who have been sending fresh fruit each Wednesday for pupils and staff to enjoy. As well as making tasty smoothies, it has been a fun way to help teach the children about the difference between fresh and processed food. AMFRESH has also offered to hold some healthy food workshops for pupils at the school.

Work experience

Work experience plays an important role in helping develop pupil's skills and confidence, and AMFRESH is hoping to arrange a project for some of Prestley Wood Academy's pupils at its Alconbury Weald facility. Other recent work experience opportunities have been organised with Hinchingbrooke Country Park and Godmanchester nursery.

Community garden

Staff at Prestley Wood Academy have been working with Adam Castleton, the community garden co-ordinator, on projects for pupils in the school. As well as a raised bed to plant up, they are working on an art project with mosaics, that can be installed into the community garden once complete. They are also looking forward to using the pergola for outdoor classes and the storytelling area when the weather brightens up.



The school is also keen that links are reciprocal and will be providing access to its poly tunnel so the community can use it to start off their seedlings. Pupils can then help look after them until they are ready to be planted in the community garden. How this could work will be discussed at the launch event on 17 April and as details of how the community garden will be run are agreed.

Woodland Trust saplings donated

Pupils have planted 150 saplings donated from The Woodland Trust. They will be joined by a team from The Environment Agency, who will be volunteering their time to help create a new outdoor learning space in the school grounds.

Caroline Place said: "We've had an amazing start, and everything has been really positive so far. Our first six months have been fantastic, and I'd like to say a big thank you to the local community — residents and businesses — as we've been overwhelmed by their support and generosity. It's lovely that our pupils feel safe and welcome, with friendly smiles and waves to say hello when their dark green polo shirts are spotted around Alconbury Weald.

"We will have three new classes opening in September and welcome any applications for teaching assistants from the community."

Plans submitted for secondary school

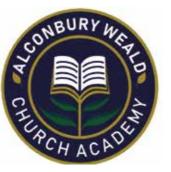
The Education Campus at Alconbury Weald reached a key milestone with the submission of the latest plans for the secondary school.

The new secondary school — Alconbury Weald Church Academy — will sit alongside the Prestley Wood Academy and initially deliver four forms of entry (600 pupils) alongside a sports hall with outdoor playing courts and playing fields. The building has been designed to enable the secondary school to expand to eight forms of entry (1,200 pupils) in response to future demand. The school is currently scheduled to open in September 2027.

The updated plans draw on the planning permission that was granted in Summer 2022 and respond to comments raised through the design development process as well as further engagement with key stakeholders. The project is led by the Education team at Cambridgeshire County Council, working with the future operators of the school — Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust (DEMAT) — and Urban&Civic as the master developer of the Alconbury Weald development.

The key changes include connecting the main hall and performing arts facilities with the main building, an updated external landscape design and a revised design for the main building fronting onto a new civic square within the town centre area. The changes improve student movement at busy times, but also make it easier for the community to access the main hall and performing arts spaces out-of-hours.

The updated landscape design complements the new building arrangement and will offer a greater variety of spaces for seating, teaching, dining, socialising and informal play alongside the maintained provision of hard and soft sports facilities to the east.



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Cambridgeshire County Council is delivering the school in line with its aspirations around sustainability, energy efficiency and best practice design in order to reduce the inherent energy demand and associated CO₂ emissions of the building. In response to this, the school incorporates effective passive design measures through the adoption of a fabric first approach, followed by the use of low carbon energy sources in the form of air source heat pumps. Energy demand will then be further reduced by the use of zero carbon energy generators in the form of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels located at roof level.

DEMAT, who will be running the new secondary school, are seeking expressions of interest from parents of children currently in Year 4 who would be interested in learning more about Alconbury Weald Church Academy (AWCA) as the first-choice option for their child's secondary education. To find out more or register an interest, please visit: www.demat.org.uk/alconbury-weald-church-academy--our-new-secondary-school

Adrian Ball, Chief Executive of DEMAT, said: "We are all so pleased to reach this stage and see our secondary school begin to come to life. The opening of AWCA is a significant step for the Trust and we are privileged to have the responsibility for educating the children at Alconbury Weald from their first lesson aged 4 through to their GCSE exams."

Rebecca Britton, Regional Director at Urban&Civic said: "It is great to see these plans coming forward. While the numbers of children coming forward from the development has meant the original timing for opening the school has been put back, it is great that all the partners have been using this time positively to refine the designs and ensure they deliver an inspiring and sustainable place for learning and the community at the heart of Alconbury Weald."

Enterprise Campus 18

Latest news

Alconbury Weald Enterprise Campus is a dynamic place for businesses of all shapes and sizes whether starting up, relocating or expanding companies can rent flexible space for research and development, production and office accommodation in one of the Incubator buildings, or design and build bespoke facilities to meet their specific requirements, supported by the design, development and project teams at Urban&Civic.



Who's who at the Campus

- 1 The Club: home to Urban&Civic, master developer for Alconbury Weald, as well as The Gym and community library, with meeting rooms and a conference hall available to hire. Email info@alconbury-weald.co.uk to book rooms.
- 2 Incubator and Incubator 2 provide flexible and inspiring office, creative and R&D space for startups and growing businesses.
- 3 Encocam: engineering solutions company and the only manufacturer of Crash Test Dummies in the UK.
- 4 New Shire Hall: Cambridgeshire County Council Headquarters.
- 5 AMFRESH: global innovator in fresh fruit and produce.
- 6 John Adams Leisure: manufacturer and distributor of children's toys, games and arts and crafts products.
- 7 MM Flowers UK: leading fresh flower innovator and distributer.
- 8 IKO Insulations: developer, producer and distributor of innovative insulation products.
- 9 Magpas Air Ambulance: lifesaving charity bringing pre-hospital emergency medical care.

The next phase of the Enterprise Campus will deliver even more opportunities for new, growing and established businesses at Alconbury Weald.

Find out more: www.alconbury-weald.co.uk/ working



New partnership boosts local construction skills and opportunities

The team behind the successful Marshall Skills Academy has joined forces with Urban&Civic to set up Constructed Pathways, to help get local people into the opportunities coming forward in construction across the local area.

With all the growth planned in and around Cambridge and across the county, Constructed Pathways will help create a sustainable pipeline of skilled people: both helping support growth in the area, and criticallu ensuring the opportunities are there for local people. Much of their work will focus on providing career paths for people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and supporting those who have been out of work for a while and want to get back into the workplace.

With start-up funding from Alconbury Weald, Wintringham and Waterbeach master developer Urban&Civic – and working with industry partners, education providers, local authorities and relevant government departments - Constructed Pathways is using its combined experience and expertise to open up opportunities for people to access training, work experience and job opportunities across the area. And crucially working with construction companies to help them access the skills and energy of local people.

Since its formation in October 2024. the Constructed Pathways team has hit the ground running and is already working on a number of projects including a construction skills programme with HMP Peterborough and the delivery of a construction training facility at the Waterbeach development with Inspire2Ignite, Trac, the Department for Work and Pensions, and community groups such as Abbey People.

Steve Coleby, Director of Constructed Pathways, said: "The construction industry is facing an estimated skills shortage of around 250,000 people over the next 10 years, and we believe the answer lies in bringing together the right people, at the right time, to collaborate and bring new and creative ideas to overcome these barriers to growth.

"We've been overwhelmed by the support we've received from the construction industry, education providers and local authorities for this venture. By adopting a unified approach, guided by a team of industry experts, we believe we can deliver industryleading construction skills development for Cambridgeshire; bringing stability and predictability to the supply chain and the people who support it."

Urban&Civic has been involved with Dan and Steve for the last few years, inputting into the scope of work they were leading to understand what the construction industry needs. With three strategic developments underway in the county, Urban&Civic will be creating thousands of opportunities over the 20 plus year timeline of developments at Alconbury Weald, Wintringham and Waterbeach.

The Urban&Civic team has been working with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to set up all of these three strategic development sites in Cambridgeshire as National Skills Academies for Construction; with contractors, housebuilders and other main suppliers contractually obliged to provide training and career

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opportunities for people living in the area.

Their requirements include key performance indicators (KPIs) based on the value of the project to create specific jobs locally, support work placements for local people, carry out educational outreach with local schools and colleges, and support training of both new and existing staff in modern construction and green skills

Constructed Pathways will play a vital role in helping facilitate those KPIs and create a framework to help contractors achieve their requirements.

Rebecca Britton, Regional Director for Urban&Civic, said: "We are so pleased to be partnering with Constructed Pathways and supporting them in this venture. For us. the National Skills Academy approach is about creating a local structure and ecosystem where the developers and contractors we work with are both supporting and benefitting from local people accessing jobs and developing careers across construction and the built environment.

"This really is just the start of a huge opportunity for the area."

Travel and Transport 20



At its heart, Alconbury Weald has been designed to encourage a healthy, sustainable lifestyle, with the right infrastructure and services being put in place for people to lead low carbon lives as the development rolls out.



smart journeys

Big Commuter Survey results

In October smart journeys, the Travel Plan Coordinator for Alconbury Weald, carried out its annual travel survey to find out more about travel choices of people living and working on the development, and gain a better understanding of the barriers that prevent commuters from using more sustainable modes of transport.

Although there is still a reliance on the car for trips to and from work, the results of the survey showed an increase in the number of people car sharing, using the bus and cycling or walking.

Monday-Friday, respondents used the following modes of transport (some using two different modes of transport per trip):



35% car — alone 13% – walked 12% — car share 7% — caught the bus 7% — took the train 4.5% — cycled or scooted

Over 35% of respondents worked from home. These results will help influence future transport decisions and public transport improvements across the local area. It will also be used to inform future travel incentives *smart journeys* offer to residents and employees at Alconbury Weald.

Lift sharing

Lift sharing is a great way to save money, reduce CO₂ emissions and reduce stress — as a driver, passenger or both.

In March, Alconbury Weald switched to the new 'Mobilityways' App, which helps residents find potential lift sharing matches and tracks personal financial and carbon savings.

Those previously registered on the 'Liftshare' App can simply log into the Mobilityways App and find existing journey and team information waiting for them.

Those new to car sharing, please download the Mobilityways App, click 'join a community', join 'Alconbury Weald Liftshare' and create an account. The App will then do the rest and find you potential matches!



All aboard

To support residents and workers at the Enterprise Campus to get about sustainably, Alconbury Weald has the AW1/ AW1X and 904 bus services, which ensure passengers can catch a bus every half hour from 6.30am to 7.30pm on weekdays. The 904 also runs on Saturday and the AW1/ AW1X on Saturday/Sunday.

Bus timetables are available online:

AW1/AW1X — dews-coaches.com/local-bus-service.php 904 — stagecoachbus.com

If you are under 25, you can enjoy £1 bus fares with a Tiger bus pass. To apply, visit www.cambridgeshirepeterboroughca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare/



Personalised travel planning

smart journeys offers Alconbury Weald residents 1-2-1 personalised travel planning sessions designed to explore sustainable and active travel options available to them.

Foot and pedal power

Alconbury Weald has an extensive network of footpaths and cycleways throughout the development, connecting into the wider area. To encourage residents to use active travel to get out and about, smart journeys is bringing a range of events and initiatives to the development.

Cycling initiatives: Alconbury Weald residents have access to a range of free initiatives including bike hire, 1-2-1 cycle training, bike servicing and bike maintenance training.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel (24 March-4 April 2025) inspired pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit them. Each day of the challenge, schools competed to see who could get the highest percentage of their pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school, with a daily prize draw as an added incentive.

Wander on the Weald: May's challenge encourages participants - as individuals or teams — to hit 100km before the end of the month to raise money for adapted/recumbent bikes for Prestley Wood Academy. As well as raising money for a worthwhile cause, it's a great way to stay active and explore Alconbury Weald and the local area.

The Bike Month Challenge in May - Love to Ride — is a month-long social team challenge. Grab your friends, family, co-workers and neighbours and compete against other teams in your area to see who can pedal the furthest.

Find out more and sign up at www.lovetoride.net

Nordic walking session: Nordic walking uses poles to strengthen muscles, burn calories and improve balance. In May, smart journeys will be holding hour long sessions — for beginners and intermediate level — to give residents and Campus workers a free trial.

To find out more about the sustainable and active travel initiatives and incentives at Alconbury Weald, visit smart journey's Alconbury Weald Facebook page or email alconburyweald@smartjourneys.co.uk

Community

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Community Association

Alconbury Weald Community Association is made up of a dynamic group of residents that volunteer their time and talents to organise events and activities that bring the community together and help make Alconbury Weald such a wonderful place to live.

The Community Association also administers the Alconbury Weald Hardship Fund, which enables residents referred by the school, doctor or social worker to access extra financial support that they need but would not be able to get elsewhere.

Celina Jacques from Alconbury Weald Community Association said: "The Community Association works with residents to help bring their ideas to life; whether it's an activity, event or something else. We're also keen to hear from anyone who can help with events and activities, even if they are only available for short periods of time.

"Alconbury Weald has a fantastic, fun and friendly community and we'd love to hear from anyone that would like to get involved. Come along to one of our Community Association meetings to chat with the team and find out more!"

Alconbury Weald contractor, Breheny Civil Engineering, recently donated £5,000 to support the local community: £3,000 to the Community Association for the Hardship Fund and towards community events, and £2,000 to Fusion to support Alconbury Weald Youth Club.



Email alconburywealdca@gmail.com to let them know how you'd like to get involved or find out more on 'Alconbury Weald Community Association' Facebook.

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2025 event highlights

In addition to half term and holiday activities, themed trails, litter picks, garage sales, tallest sunflower competition and the scarecrow festival, Alconbury Weald hosts a range of events to bring the whole community together. So far this year, the community has enjoyed events focused on health, wellbeing and heritage.

Community Wellbeing Day

January is a great time to reflect, set goals and prioritise health, fitness and overall wellbeing for the year ahead. To help kick-start those New Year's resolutions, Alconbury Weald's annual Community Wellbeing Day offered residents and those living and working in the area free taster sessions to try some of the fitness classes, activities and amenities available at the development.

Community hedgerow planting

Over 30 individuals, couples and families donned their wellies and wrapped up warm to help plant over 1,000 hedgerow plants around the boundary of the new Community Garden. As these hedgerows mature, they will provide vital resources for mammals, birds and insects.



Heritage Walk

Residents and visitors joined the Airfield Research Group (ARG) for a guided tour around the residential area of Alconbury Weald in February. The tour, which included the location of some of the airfield's historic buildings, also provided insights into the different roles of the British and American Air Forces based at the airfield and some of the aircraft operated, including the TR1 high altitude spy plane.





There is also lots to look forward to in the year ahead. Keep an eye on future editions of *Make/News* and social media for updates.

The Library Presents 10 April & 14 June

Alconbury Weald is hosting two events in The Pavilion this year. A **printing workshop** creating unique monoprints using leaves, flowers and other natural materials (*at 2pm on 10 April*) and **Shake**, **Rattle & Roll**, an interactive live music gig for toddlers with traditional nursery rhymes, action songs, folk dancing, international songs and original compositions (*at 3pm on 14 June*).

Find out more and book tickets at www.library.live/the-library-presents

Community Garden launch 17 April



The launch of the Community Garden is an opportunity for green fingered residents to meet and share their thoughts and ideas for how the garden can evolve. Head over between 11am and 1pm on *Thursday*, **17 April** to see the hard landscaping that's been installed and the team supporting its creation (see page 6 for more information).

VE Day celebration 10 May

Alconbury Weald Community Association is organising an 8oth anniversary celebration of VE Day on Watch Office Green from midday to 5pm on **Saturday 10 May** with stalls, entertainment, games and food trucks, this community event will have something for the whole community. Each year, Alconbury Weald community library takes part in the Summer Reading Challenge, which encourages children (aged 4–11 years old) to discover the joy of reading for pleasure during the Summer holidays. Children taking part receive a sticker for each book completed and a certificate and medal for successfully completing the challenge.

Open Gardens 1 June

Gardens in new build developments are a blank canvas, and each year green fingered residents across Alconbury Weald open their back gardens to showcase beautiful blooms, perfect patios and wonderful water features to inspire neighbours and those moving into the development. This year's event is being held on **Saturday, 1 June** and funds raised will go to support local lifesaving charity, Magpas Air Ambulance.



Food Festival 14 June

The Food Festival (**Saturday, 14 June**) — organised in partnership with Off The Beaten Truck — is a highlight of the Alconbury Weald Summer calendar with a fantastic array of food and drink, music and family activities on Watch Office Green and The Glade Plaza.



Beer Festival 27-29 June

Following the success of last year's first Beer Festival, it returns on *Friday–Sunday 27–29 June*. In partnership with Wheatsheaf Brewery and The Watch Office Bar & Kitchen, this year's beer festival in The Pavilion is set to be bigger and better than ever!

Opening times Friday: 5pm–11pm Saturday: 11am–11pm Sunday: 11am–8pm

Summer Reading Challenge



Heritage Open Day 13 September

Alconbury Weald's history stretches back through the millennia and its popular Heritage Open Day (**Saturday, 13 September**) brings together tours, exhibitions, stalls, food trucks, music and lawn games; so residents, family, friends and visitors can find out more about the site's past and how it is being reflected in the development as it grows.

24 **Community**

Quality of Life: survey feedback

As part of its long-term commitment to support positive health and wellbeing among residents living in the places it creates, master developer Urban&Civic works with the Quality of Life Foundation to undertake regular surveys to help assess the communities' quality of life. Feedback is then used to help evolve the design and layout, as well as amenities and activities, as its developments grow.

Following feedback from its survey in Autumn 2021, Urban&Civic reviewed its Community Engagement Strategy to ensure an inclusive and ongoing approach to engaging with residents in local decision-making processes; welcomed more fitness classes, social groups and sports clubs; continued to invest in green spaces with plans progressing for Runway Park and Prestley country park; extended the AW1 bus service; and supported the Community Association to hold events and lead projects alongside the communities team, to ensure the needs and interests of residents are being met.

Fast forward three years to Summer 2024, and the team from the Quality of Life Foundation was back! This is the report based on feedback from residents that took part in the survey — what's working, what isn't and what could be better.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the Alconbury Weald residents who spoke with us, filled in our survey, and shared how they feel about their neighbourhood. Your feedback helped us create this report and the donations for each survey completed raised £60 for Fusion Youth and Family; £135 for Alconbury Weald Community Association and £178.50 for Magpas Air Ambulance.

This report is based on the Quality of Life Framework, which focuses on six key themes that help make neighbourhoods happier, healthier and more connected:

- A sense of control focuses on whether people feel they can influence decisions in their neighbourhood, their safety, affordability, and long-term stability.
- Health equity addresses different impacts on health and wellbeing from housing standards, air, noise, and light pollution, and access to healthy food choices.
- **Connection to nature** is measured by access to green and blue spaces, the biodiversity of these spaces, and the climate resilience and adaptability of neighbourhoods.
- A sense of wonder is the sense of distinctiveness and quality of housing design, cultural spaces, and opportunities for play and recreation.
- Getting around with ease covers mobility like walking, wheeling, and cycling, to cars, and finally access to and quantity of public transport options.
- **Connected communities** explores a sense of belonging, opportunities of local business and jobs, and the quantity and quality of local services.

So, whether you're here out of curiosity or because you care about your community, keep reading — you might be surprised by what your community has to say!

Key findings

At Alconbury Weald, 90.1% of residents said they were satisfied with their accommodation (homes). Residents love the abundant green spaces, well-maintained parks, and thoughtful landscaping. They also appreciate the friendly atmosphere and strong sense of community. Walking and cycling paths were another highlight.

However, residents want more social spaces, particularly a local pub for evening gatherings. They also want for more shops and essential services, with some specifically mentioning a GP and dentist.



<u> 6677</u>

The Weald has loads of nature walks, so whenever I'm feeling down, I get myself out and walk through our beautiful community. It really improves my mental health.

Alconbury Weald resident

1. A sense of control Since the last review, feelings of control over life at Alconbury Weald have risen from 6.3 to 7.2.

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There were calls for more security and police presence at Alconbury Weald as residents think there are high rates of car thefts in the area. Despite this, general feelings of safety are higher than the national benchmark, with 96.9% of male and 92.8% of female respondents feeling safe walking around their area alone at night.

Residents at Alconbury Weald also feel they can influence decisions in their local area significantly more than the national average. Affordability also rated well, with 79% of residents feeling that their rent and/or mortgage and bills are affordable.

2. Health equity Since the last review, health equity at Alconbury Weald has risen from 7.0 to 7.2.

A large majority of residents, 83.1%, feel their home positively impacts their wellbeing, noting green spaces, walkability and fresh air as key benefits. Air quality was rated high, but only 65.1% of residents felt their area was clean and free from light pollution, with streetlamps being a concern for some. The closure of the Bohemia Cafe decreased local healthy food options, though residents welcome the addition of the Co-op.

3. Connection to nature Residents' connection to nature improved from 8.0 to 8.9.

An overwhelming 91.7% agree that local green spaces support mental health. Residents love the area's thriving and diverse wildlife and want more wooded areas, shaded seating and picnic spaces as the development grows. This will allow people to spend more time in these spaces and give older residents and those with mobility issues the opportunity to take more regular breaks when moving around the area.

Community 26

4. A sense of wonder

Alconbury Weald's sense of wonder jumped from 5.7 to 7.2.

Around 70% of residents feel proud of their community, and 87.6% said they could be physically active nearby. However, residents were split when it came to cultural and leisure amenities, with 31.7% agreeing that they feel they had good access to a variety of different amenities but the majority, 44.6%, disagreeing. The majority of the feedback was around the desire for more social and leisure amenities, especially a pub, local swimming pool and better gym facilities.

There needs to be some entertainment areas like restaurants/public houses. somewhere to meet people and have opportunities to meet and socialise.

Alconbury Weald resident





5. Getting around with ease Mobility ratings improved from 6.3 to 7.2.

Residents scored Alconbury Weald highly for their ability to move around. Results for walking, wheeling and cycling outperformed the national averages, with 60% feeling that cars did not dominate the streets. However, residents want better cycling links to Huntingdon and the wider area. They commented that unfinished paving and surfaces around the area pose a serious mobility challenge.

44.3% of residents feel local public transport is reliable and of good quality, but many asked for better evening bus services and improved train links to London, especially for work commutes.

6. Connected communities Connected communities score decreased slightly from 7.5 to 7.4.

When asked if they feel that people from different backgrounds get on well together, 80.5% of Alconbury Weald residents agree, scoring higher than the national average in England.

There were mixed feelings about the amenities available to residents. 48.3% of people feel that their area does not provide them with access to everything they needed, namely supermarkets, banks and health services. This rose to 100% of young people when asked the same question and they responded neutrally on this. Residents appreciated local events but want more community programming, social gatherings, better healthcare access (i.e. GPs, dentist and pharmacy) and a broader range of stores.

Conclusion and recommendations

Alconbury Weald residents report higher levels of happiness than nationally and our previous 2021 survey averages. Residents love Alconbury Weald — but with a few key improvements, it could be even better. The majority of your feedback pointed us towards some repeated issues such as:

- Delivery of more essential services particularly a GP, dentist and pharmacy.
- Better parking management addressing cars parked on pavements.
- Smoother roads and pavements completing construction-related issues.
- More social spaces especially after the Bohemia Cafe closure, to give residents somewhere to spend evenings with friends and meet new people.
- Improved green space maintenance tackling overgrown grass and weeds in certain areas.



Paul Murfin, Urban&Civic Communities and Partnerships Manager for Alconbury Weald, said: "We'd like to thank everyone who took part in the survey. We're delighted that so many of you enjoy living at Alconbury Weald and we are formulating a plan to address some of the issues raised and respond to feedback.

"Hopefully The Watch Office Bar & Kitchen opening has helped address some of the comments about amenities and social space in the short-term, with a great range of food and drink available daily and alongside a variety of entertainment such as pub guizzes and music nights. The Glade will see additional shops come forward alongside the Co-op and a range of amenities will come forward in the 'Town Centre' Hub in Phase 3 of the development.

"Parking restrictions have also started to be enforced since the survey was carried out and we're discussing ways to improve the maintenance of green spaces with Encore and expedite construction-related issues with housebuilders. Work is also progressing on plans for the delivery of the interim health centre above the Co-op."

Spring 2025

The Watch Office Bar & Kitchen

A warm and welcoming space that pays homage to the past while creating new memories, The Watch Office Bar & Kitchen is a space for connection, remembrance and community.









Fantastic food: Whether you are popping in for a slice of cake, tasty brunch, leisurely lunch or hearty dinner, there is plenty to tempt your tastebuds. With dishes using locally sourced, fresh ingredients, an extensive selection of gluten free, vegetarian and vegan options, and a children's menu, there is something for everyone!

Delicious drinks: As well as a great selection of coffee, tea and soft drinks, its well-stocked bar serves a range of lagers and ales, fine wines, spirits and cocktails.

Events and activities: As well as a great place where friends and neighbours can come together to share stories and enjoy great food and drinks, The Watch Office Bar & Kitchen hosts special evenings including pub quizzes and live music. Follow on Facebook and Instagram for news on the latest events.

Open: 10am–11pm on Monday-Saturday and 10am–8pm on Sunday

Serving food: 10am–2.30pm and 5.30–8.30pm Monday to Saturday and 10am–4pm on Sunday.

To make a table reservation, please email hello@watch-office.com



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