1.0 **Introduction**

This section of the report presents the conclusions of a highways feasibility study and landscape design proposal for the Airedale Greenway. The section is split into four sections, along with a landscape design statement which applies to the whole route. In terms of the implementation of the Airedale Greenway the sections can be developed as individual projects or undertaken as one large project to include all the sections.

1.1 **Background**

A greenway can be described as a high quality walking and cycling route, which often includes sections of off road route, such as disused railways, towpaths and bridleways. The Airedale Greenway idea was conceived in late 2005 as discussed in part 1. The project aims to create a high quality safe walking and cycling route, which connects the town centres in the Aire Valley within the Bradford district, to the Leeds Liverpool Canal towpath, which forms part of the National Cycle Network Route 66/69. The project principally looks at improving links from, Keighley, Bingley and Shipley Town centres to the canal towpath. The potential areas for improvement were identified through anecdotal evidence and site visits.

By improving access to the canal towpath it is hoped that more people will be encouraged to use the route for utility trips such as journeys to work, to school and to the shops. This in turn can lead to reduced congestion, a healthier population and improved environment.

The project is supported by a number of agencies with representatives from Bradford Council, Airedale Partnership, Sustrans and British Waterways meeting regularly to push it forward. Funding, of £25,000 was granted to the project in late 2006. This was used to enable feasibility work to be carried out to look at what could realistically be achieved given the existing highways and infrastructure constraints, produce cost estimates and to develop a landscape design statement.
1.2 Consultation
In addition to the project steering group the scheme development needs to be informed by consultation with the public and the following groups/agencies:

- Airedale Partnership board
- Highways Agency – Riverside section and Bingley Option 2 section.
- Land owners
- Area Co-ordinators offices for Shipley and Keighley
- Ward Councilors
- Keighley Town Council
- Area committees
- Sport Keighley
- Planning department – in reference to proposed development along the route.
- Network Rail and Northern Rail – in reference to Northern Rail’s cycling strategy
Figure 1 Airedale Greenway Route Map