

Walking and Cycling Assessment Maidstone

Sustrans report dated April 2018 in support of Maidstone Walking and
Cycling Strategy 2011-2031

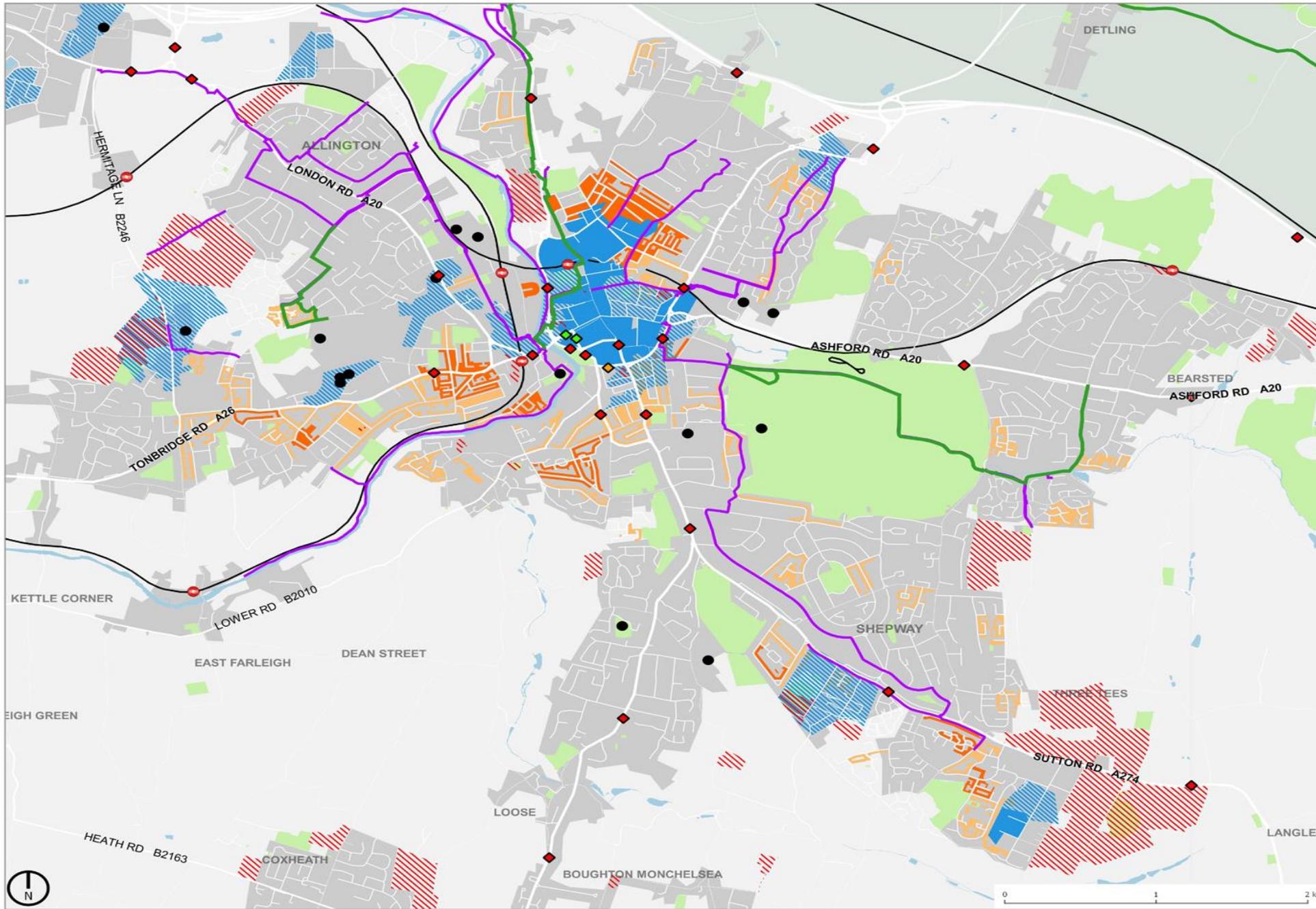
Walking and Cycling Assessment

Maidstone

April 2018



“The approach Sustrans took was to build on Maidstone’s Walking and Cycling Strategy 2011-2031 to assess and audit the town centre and a number of key corridors as well as relevant parts of the existing network, in terms of adequacy and connectivity with destinations such as employment sites, schools, stations and new developments”.



KEY

EMPLOYMENT
 2011 Census Workzones
 Density of Employment (Jobs per Hectare)

- 50 - 100
- 100 +

POPULATION
 2011 Census Population
 Density (People per Hectare)

- 70 - 100
- 100 +

TRIP GENERATORS

- KEY DESTINATION
Includes Higher Education / Health & Leisure Facilities

TRANSPORT
 DfT Traffic Counts 2016
 Average Annual Daily Flow AADF

- ◇ 0 - 5000
- ◇ 5,000 - 10,000
- ◇ 10,000+
- Local Cycle Route
- National Cycle Route

DEVELOPMENT SITES

- ▨ Housing Allocations 2017



PROJECT
Maidstone Cycling & Walking Assessment

TITLE
MAIDSTONE OVERVIEW MAP

Drawn DL	Checked SP	Date 9/3/2018	Scale at A3 1:25,000
-------------	---------------	------------------	-------------------------

STATUS
ISSUED

DRAWING NUMBER 11079.SD-MAP-00-01	REVISION B
--------------------------------------	---------------



Barriers to Walking and Cycling

- “Maidstone has the potential to be a great place to walk and cycle with Mote Park and the river front creating very positive environments for both leisure and utility cycling. Equally the recent improvements to Jubilee Square have had a transformative impact by reallocating road space, restricting traffic and creating a high quality pedestrian environment. However if more people are to walk and cycle more often the network needs to be incrementally improved, key barriers need to be addressed and routes joined up to allow easy movement in all directions rather than isolated pockets of good quality provision.”

Key Barriers (1)

- “A large percentage of the existing cycle network in the study area consists of ‘signs only’ and lacks significant provision.”
- “This Quietway style cycle route network strings together residential streets and off-road paths often providing appealing alternatives to the main roads however these routes fall down at pivotal points such as junctions and crossings resulting in a poorly joined up network.”
- “In general the existing pedestrian and cycle provision is often substandard when compared with current guidance and in some places would be considered unsafe and should be improved as a priority.”
- “Cycling and walking connections both within the new development sites and connecting these sites to the surrounding area are particularly low quality and have significant scope for improvement.”

Key Barriers (2)

- “There is a lack of a dedicated, continuous and joined network of routes for cycling.”
- “There is a lack of easy and safe pedestrian access to key destinations including schools, employment centres and local amenities.”

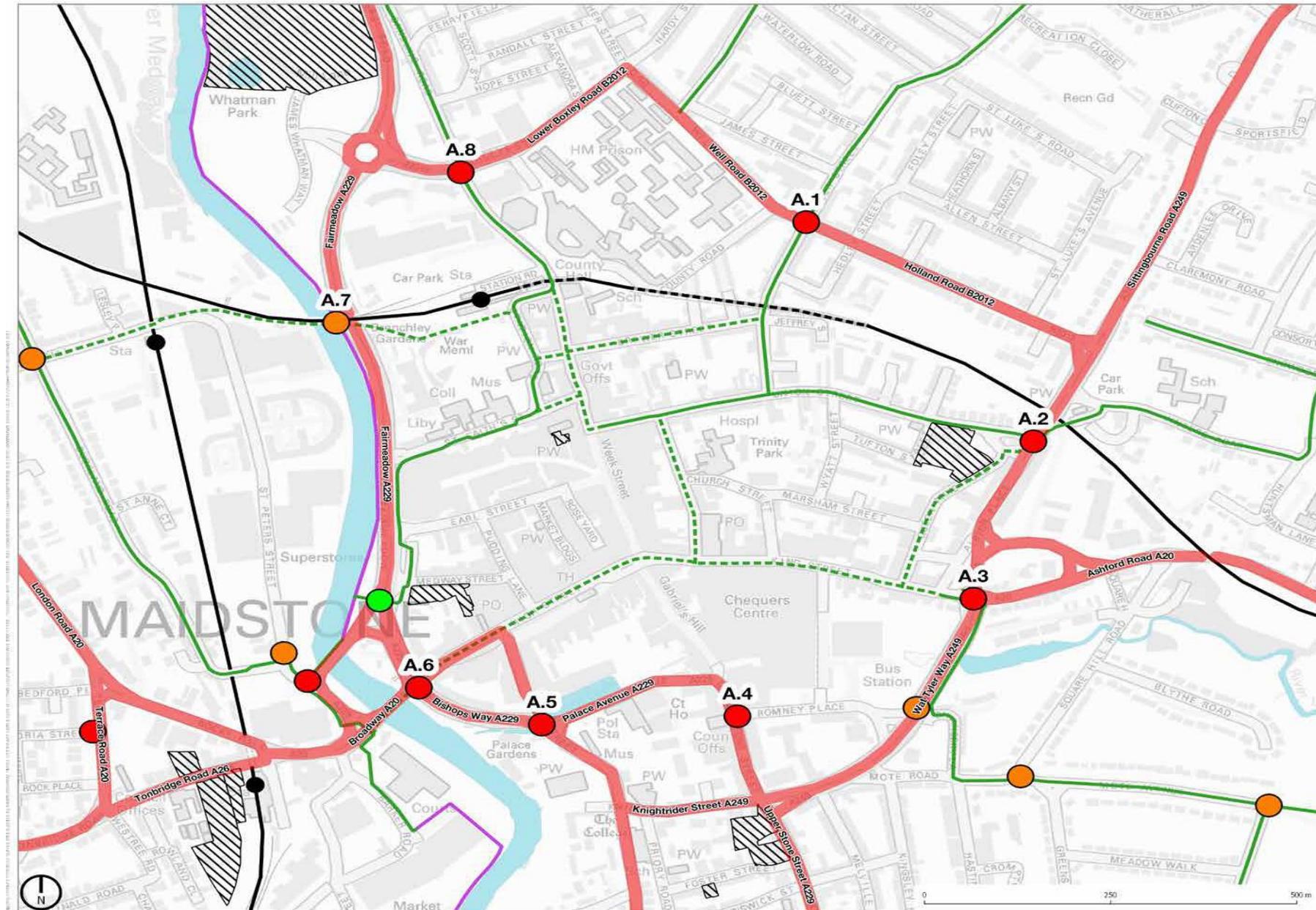
Recommendations

“Useful town wide options to improve cycling and walking:

- Speed reduction as it improves safety and opens up many more design options.
- Start a program of junction improvements targeting key barriers.
- Improve pedestrian access across the town concentrating on the town centre and local destinations such as schools and shopping parades.”

Scope of Assessment

- “In line with the proposal it was agreed that the assessment would focus on the town centre and the North West and South East corridors with the aim of providing both an audit of existing conditions as well as a set of costed recommendations for improvements.”
- “The town centre and South East would be assessed in detail for both walking and cycling improvements whereas the options assessment for the North West would focus on providing a viable cycle route to the new developments next to the hospital.”
- “A number of locations have been worked up to concept design stage in the form of 1:500 sketches. This shows the progression of the design process through the different stages from feasibility towards detailed design as it’s envisaged that this report should act as a further step along this process.”



- KEY**
- JUNCTION ASSESSMENT**
- Green
 - Amber
 - Red
- CYCLE NETWORK**
- Existing
 - - - Proposed
 - Tow path
- HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**
- Housing Allocations 2017
- BARRIER TO MOVEMENT**
- Railway
 - High Volume Road
 - Water



PROJECT
Maidstone Cycling & Walking Assessment

TITLE
MAIDSTONE TOWN CENTRE ASSESSMENT

Drawn: DL Checked: XX Date: 10/4/2018 Scale: at A3
1:5,000

STATUS: **DRAFT**

SHAWNIE HAMMER 11079.SD-MAP-00-02 REVISION: A

© Crown Copyright and the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence No. 100019000. This map is reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Crown. All other rights reserved. No warranty is made by the Crown in respect of the accuracy of the information shown on this map. The user must satisfy themselves that the information is suitable for their purpose. The Crown is not liable for any loss or damage which may be suffered by any person acting on the basis of the information shown on this map.

Barriers to Walking and Cycling – Town Centre

- “Severance caused by the A229, A249 and to a lesser extent the B2012 as well as the street environment of roads running into the town from the ring road.”
- “Lack of high quality crossing facilities of these roads.”
- “Moving away from the central pedestrian area the walking environment deteriorates rapidly with users running into large, complex and formidable high traffic environments such as the gyratory that are hard to negotiate.”
- “Factors including footway crowding, pinch points, vehicle speeds and road geometry become key negative factors causing a low level of service.”
- “Substandard existing cycle infrastructure that fails to provide a joined up network across the centre.”
- “As shown in the map on the previous page locations A1,A2,A3 and A8 are particularly challenging for cyclists especially the advisory lanes at A8. Locations A4,A5,A6 and A8 are poor in terms of pedestrian level of service.”

Recommendations – Town Centre

“A combination of small and medium scale urban realm improvements are being proposed here as well as an upgrading of crossing facilities at key points. Implementing these recommendations has significant potential to improve and boost the town centre as a commercial, tourist and retail destination both locally and regionally.

- Reducing car dominance between the centre and the fringe by rationalising parking, speed reduction and reallocating road space.
- Small scale pedestrian enhancements such as guard rail removal
- Centre wide 20mph limit
- Expand the pedestrian zone and local access only streets
- De-clutter and widen footway • Improve crossings of ring road • Reduce vehicle permeability whilst increasing cycle access • Contraflow cycling”

Progress on recommendations

SUSTRANS were commissioned by Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to assess the current provision for walking and cycling in the town centre and along two Walking/Cycling corridors – Sutton Road and Hermitage Lane. The scope also included proposals for linking the corridors i.e. High Street - Maidstone West, East and Barracks – Medway Towpath. The report went to the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee on Tuesday 12th June - Agenda Item 17. It was approved and the Mote Road cycleway is a first step in delivering their recommendations.



Further reading

- The Sustrans report goes on to explore barriers to walking and cycling in the North West and South East corridors and make further detailed recommendations. The report is available on this link.

https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/6a4450b4-b72f-492f-bffa-4e1989f9c856/downloads/1cfvjt022_214727.pdf?ver=1554823991120

- Maidstone Walking and Cycling Strategy 2011 – 2031 (Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council).

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/6a4450b4-b72f-492f-bffa-4e1989f9c856/downloads/Walking-and-Cycling-Strategy-2011-31-September.pdf?ver=1554823991120>

- Explore Maidstone Cycle Map

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/6a4450b4-b72f-492f-bffa-4e1989f9c856/downloads/Explore-Maidstone-Cycle-Map.pdf?ver=1554823991120>

- MCCF April Newsletter

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/6a4450b4-b72f-492f-bffa-4e1989f9c856/downloads/Maidstone%20Cycle%20Campaign%20Forum%20-%20April%202019%20Ne.pdf?ver=1554823991120>