

Cycling Strategy: Hurley and the Walthams

1. Description of the Area

Comprising the western parishes of the Royal Borough (Hurley, Waltham St Lawrence, Shottesbrooke and White Waltham), this area is predominantly rural in nature, incorporating the settlements of Hurley, Burchett's Green (part), Warren Row, Knowl Hill, Littlewick Green, Woodlands Park, White Waltham, Waltham St Lawrence and Shurlock Row, and Paley Street (part).

2. Local Destinations

The following have been identified as the main cycling destinations within the local area:

Community:

- Knowl Hill Village Hall
- Neville Hall
- Woodlands Park Container Library
- Woodlands Park Village Centre

Education:

- Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA)
- Burchett's Green CE Infant School
- Knowl Hill CE Primary School
- Waltham St Lawrence Primary School
- White Waltham C of E Academy
- Woodlands Park Primary School

Employment:

- Grove Park, White Waltham
- Horizon, Hurley
- Maidenhead Office Park, Littlewick Green
- White Waltham Airfield

Leisure

- Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit
- River Thames
- Waltham Place

Shopping:

- Woodlands Park district centre

Cross-boundary links are important for communities in the west of the borough, since in many cases they are closer to Twyford, Henley or Marlow than they are to Maidenhead.

Since there are no secondary schools in the area, pupils must travel to schools in Maidenhead or The Piggott, which is located between Twyford and Wargave.

3. Existing Cycling Activity

There is little existing data on cycling activity levels within the area. [Strava Heat Maps](#) provide some indication as to cycling levels, but the data must be treated with a degree of caution, since the Strava smartphone apps tends to be used by sports cyclists rather than utility cyclists. Therefore, the results are not necessarily representative of everyday cycling activity.

Notwithstanding these caveats, the heat maps show that there are a number of routes that are currently well-used by cyclists, including all of the A and B roads:

- A4 Bath Road
- A4130 Henley Road
- B3010 Straight Mile / Twyford Road
- B3024 Broadmoor Road / Hurst Road

Minor roads that are well used include:

- Temple Lane
- Bradenham Lane
- Hurley Lane
- Honey Lane
- Burchett's Green Road
- Warren Road Road
- Bottle Lane / Butchers Lane
- Waltham Road
- Milley Road
- School Road / Plough Lane / West End Lane
- Shurlock Road / The Street / Beenhams Heath
- Smewins Road
- Hungerford Lane

4. Existing Cycling Infrastructure

The area is crossed by [NCN4](#), which is a long-distance cycle route between London and Fishguard, via Reading, Bath, Bristol, Swansea, Carmarthen, Tenby, Haverfordwest and St David's. It also forms part of the [London to Land's End](#) long-distance cycle route that is popular with British and European cycle tourers.

NCN4 also provides local links between Knowl Hill, Littlewick Green and Woodlands Park, with links to Maidenhead Office Park. It also provides onward connections to Maidenhead and Windsor in the east and Wargrave and Twyford in the west. The route mostly follows quiet roads and surfaced public rights of way, but the section between the borough boundary and Wargrave follows an unsurfaced bridleway and is only suitable for use by mountain bikes and hybrids. Also, the connection to Twyford is very indirect.

There is a signed quiet route between Hurley and Pinkney's Green, which uses Hurley Lane, Dungrove Hill Lane and Lee Lane, crossing the A404 via an underpass. However, there is a missing link between the western end of Hurley Lane and Hurley High Street.

The [Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit](#) provides a recreational route via existing public rights of way, linking Knowl Hill, Warren Row, Burchett's Green, Littlewick Green, White Waltham and Waltham St Lawrence. However, this circuit is predominantly aimed at equestrians and uses some unsurfaced bridleways that may be

muddy or uneven in places and may be unsuitable for some bikes. There are other bridleways and byways that are available to cyclists, but these have similar issues to those mentioned above.

Public cycle parking has been provided at the following locations:

- Hurley car park
- Woodlands Park Village Centre

Few of the destinations identified in Section 2 are served by the current cycle route network. However, Burchett's Green Road is traffic calmed and subject to a 20 mph speed limit and Waltham Road is subject to an advisory 20 mph speed limit at the start and end of the school day. An advisory 20 mph speed limit is proposed for Woodlands Park Primary School. An advisory 20 mph speed limit was previously proposed for Waltham St Lawrence Primary School, but the scheme was dropped following local consultation.

5. Key Issues

The following issues have been identified from a desktop audit and previous correspondence:

- Although there are some pleasant, quiet lanes in the area, there are few dedicated cycle routes, which deters many people from cycling for local journeys.
- Many local lanes are used as cut-throughs by motorists during peak periods. This makes them unattractive for commuter cycling.
- Cross-boundary cycling links are poor.
- The area is crossed by a number of main roads, including the A4, A404 and A4130, which are heavily trafficked and difficult to cross, presenting major barriers to cycling.
- There is some demand for commuter cycle routes along the A4 to cater for inter-urban commuters.
- There are often significant numbers of bikes parked at Grove Park, suggesting that this is a key destination for cyclists.
- Very few children / young people currently cycle to school / college due to the lack of protected cycle routes.
- NCN4 is very narrow between Knowl Hill Common and Star Lane, and is constrained by protected trees.
- Although NCN4 is waymarked, there is no destination signing at key junctions.
- Despite not being permitted, cycling on the Thames Path and parallel public footpaths is commonplace.
- There is no cycle parking serving the shops within Woodlands Park district centre.
- A lack of available highway land is a key constraint to providing more cycle routes.
- Previous attempts to introduce cycle routes in the area have been unsuccessful due to objections from parish councils and local landowners.
- There are no cycle bypasses for the traffic calming on Burchett's Green Road.
- Some bridleways and byways are unsurfaced and are therefore unsuitable for utility cycling trips.
- The small size of local communities and the low numbers of cyclists make it hard to achieve high cost benefit ratios for major cycling investment in the area.
- There are few major developments planned for the area that will provide / fund new cycle facilities.

6. Road Safety

The following cyclist casualties have been recorded in the area during the five years 2009 - 2013:

- Zero fatal
- Three serious
- Three slight casualties.

There are no discernible clusters or patterns in the casualties.

All of the primary schools take part in Bikeability, with Knowl Hill Primary signing up in 2015.

7. Action Plan

A number of potential actions have been identified to respond to the issues identified in the audit. These will be consulted upon internally and with key stakeholders including ward members, parish councils, the neighbourhood plan group, the cycle forum, and neighbouring local authorities.

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
1. Investigate the potential for a new cycle route between Berkshire College of Agriculture and Maidenhead.	Transport Policy / PROW	2015/16
2. Consult with local landowners regarding the potential for a new cycle link to White Waltham Primary via the airfield service road / a new route along the perimeter.	Transport Policy / PROW	2015/16
3. Construct a new cycle route between Grove Park and Woodlands Park, with onward connections to Cox Green and Maidenhead.	Transport Policy	2016/17
4. Work with Wokingham Borough Council to investigate the feasibility of constructing a cycle route alongside the A4 Bath Road between Twyford and Maidenhead.	Transport Policy	2015/16
5. Liaise with landowners regarding the potential for cycle access between Hurley and Bisham along Temple Lane	Transport Policy / PROW	2015/16
6. Liaise with landowners regarding the missing section of cycle route between Hurley Lane and Hurley High Street.	Transport Policy / PROW	2015/16
7. Offer to install cycle parking at Woodlands Park shops.	Transport Policy	2016/17
8. Improve direction signing on NCN4, incorporating destination signs at key junctions.	Transport Policy	2016/17
9. Liaise with Wokingham Borough Council regarding upgrading Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 9 / Ruscombe Footpath 4 to improve links to Twyford.	Transport Policy / PROW	2016/17
10. Encourage all schools to maintain participation in the Bikeability training programme.	Traffic Management & Road Safety	Ongoing