

Cycling Strategy: Bisham and Cookham

1. Description of the Area

Bisham and Cookham are the most northerly parishes in the borough. They are predominantly rural in nature, incorporating the settlements of Bisham, Burchetts Green (part), Cookham Dean, Cookham Rise and Cookham.

2. Local Destinations

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

Community:

- Cookham Dean Village Hall
- Cookham Library
- Pinder Hall

Education:

- Bisham CE Primary School
- Cookham Dean C.E. Aided Primary School
- Cookham Rise Primary School
- Holy Trinity C of E Primary School
- The Herries Preparatory School

Employment /Business:

- Moor Hall, Cookham
- The Odney Club, Cookham

Sports / Leisure:

- Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre
- River Thames (Cookham and Bisham)
- Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham

Shopping:

- Cookham Village Centre
- Cookham Rise Village Centre
- Stubbings Garden Centre

Transport Interchanges:

- Cookham Station

Cross-boundary links are important for communities in the north of the borough, since in some cases residents are closer to Marlow and Bourne End than they are to Maidenhead.

Since there are no secondary schools in the area, pupils must travel to schools in Maidenhead, Marlow and Bourne End.

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:

- A308 Marlow Road
- A4130 Henley Road
- A4094 Sutton Road / Sheet Street Road
- B4447 High Street / The Pound / Maidenhead Road / Cannondown Road / Switchback Road North

Minor roads that are well used include:

- Bisham Road
- Temple Lane
- Quarry Wood Road
- Winter Hill / Terry's Lane
- Dean Lane
- Lower Road
- Grubwood Lane / Hockett Lane / Winter Hill Road
- Hills Lane / Spring Lane
- Choke Lane / Long Lane
- Henley Road

4. Existing Cycling Infrastructure

The permitted cycle route between Maidenhead and Cookham Rise forms part of [National Cycle Network Route 50](#), which was conceived as a long-distance cycle route between Maidenhead and Winslow.

However, the path has been made all but impassable for cyclists and pedestrians with pushchairs and wheelchairs, because the landowner has welded bars across the cycle gates at various locations across the route in order to keep out mini motorbikes. Now, only bikes of a particular size and shape can get through. The landowner refuses to remove them and the council has no powers to make him do so, since it is a permitted path rather than a cycle track or public right of way.

Other local routes include the shared use footway / cycleway that runs along the east side of Switchback Road North and Cannondown Road, which provides a link between Maidenhead and Cookham Rise.

There is also a signed quiet route between Maidenhead and Hurley via Dungrove Hil Lane and Hurley Lane, which crosses the A404 via an underpass.

Public cycle parking has been provided at Cookham Station.

Few of the destinations identified in Section 2 are served by the current cycle route network. However, there are 20 mph speed limits through The Pound, on High Road outside Cookham Rise Primary School and on School Lane outside Holy Trinity C of E Primary School in Cookham. An advisory 20 mph is proposed for Bisham Road / Marlow Road supported by flashing lights at the start and end of the school day.

5. Key Issues

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

- NCN50 is inaccessible for the majority of cyclists due to the barriers welded across the gates.

- The existing cycle route between Cookham Rise and Maidenhead does not link through to the centre of either settlement.
- Although there are some pleasant, quiet lanes in the area, there are few dedicated cycle routes, which may deter people from making for local journeys by bike.
- Some local lanes are heavily used by motorists during peak periods. This makes them unattractive for commuter cycling.
- Cross-boundary cycling links are poor – neither Cookham Bridge nor Marlow Bridge has provision for cyclists. Traffic signals do not allow cyclists to clear Cookham Bridge before a green signal is given to opposing traffic. Both bridges are listed structures, which limits opportunities for providing parallel / cantilevered cycle bridges.
- The area is crossed by a number of main roads, including the A308, A404, A4094 and A4130, which are heavily trafficked and difficult to cross, presenting major barriers to cycling. The Bisham Roundabout junction of the A308 / A404 is particularly hazardous for cyclists.
- Few children / young people currently cycle to school / college, which may be due to the lack of protected cycle routes.
- There is currently no cycle parking at Cookham Dean Primary School and cycle parking at Cookham Rise Primary School is poorly located.
- There is no cycle parking serving the shops in Cookham and Cookham Rise, nor at Cookham Library.
- Despite not being permitted, cycling on the Thames Path and parallel public footpaths is commonplace, particularly between Temple and Hurley.
- 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.
- 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.
- Park Wood, The Hockett, Quarry Wood, Long Copse and Coney Copse are being used extensively for mountain biking, including paths that are not currently designated as public rights of way and those that are designated only as public footpaths.

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.

Two of the above casualties occurred at the Bisham Roundabout at the junction of the A404 / A308.

All of the primary schools regularly take part in Bikeability, including Herries Preparatory School.

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 |
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| 1. Liaise with Highways England to secure improvements for cyclists as part of the Bisham Roundabout improvements. | Traffic Management & Road Safety |
| 2. Investigate the potential for a new cycle route between Berkshire College of Agriculture and Maidenhead. | Transport Policy / Public Rights of Way |
| 3. Liaise with landowners regarding the potential for cycle access between Hurley and Bisham along Temple Lane. | Transport Policy / Public Rights of Way |
| 4. Liaise with landowners regarding a new cycle link between Hurley Lane and Bradenham Lane. | Transport Policy / Public Rights of Way |
| 5. Liaise with landowners regarding construction of a new cycle route parallel to the A4094 between Maidenhead and Cookham as an alternative to NCN50. | Transport Policy / Public Rights of Way |
| 6. Liaise with landowners regarding cycle links between Maidenhead, Cookham, Cookham Rise and Cookham Dean, as well as possible connections to Bourne End. | Transport Policy / Public Rights of Way |
| 7. Install cycle parking in Cookham and Cookham Rise village centres and at Cookham Library. | Transport Policy |
| 8. Install cycle parking in Cookham Dean Primary School | Transport Policy |
| 9. Relocate / upgrade cycle parking at Cookham Rise Primary School | Transport Policy |
| 10. Improve direction signing on existing cycle routes. | Transport Policy |
| 11. Encourage all schools to maintain participation in the Bikeability training programme. | Traffic Management & Road Safety |
| 12. Liaise with local landowners regarding the potential for establishing formal mountain bike trails in Park Wood, The Hockett, Quarry Wood, Long Copse and Coney Copse | Transport Policy / Public Rights of Way |