

Cycling Strategy: Bray

1. Description of the Area

Bray Parish occupies the area to the south of the River Thames between Maidenhead and Windsor. It incorporates the settlements of Bray, Holyport, Moneyrow Green, Touchen End, Paley Street (part), Fifield, Oakley Green, and the western fringe of Windsor.

2. Local Destinations

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

Community:

- Bray Village Hall
- Holyport Village Hall

Education:

- Alexander First School
- Braywick Court School
- Braywood C of E First School
- Holyport C of E Primary School
- Holyport College

Employment:

- Prior's Way Industrial Estate

Leisure

- Bird Hills Golf Centre
- Bray Lake Water Sports
- Bray Village Centre
- Braywick Park
- River Thames

Shopping:

- Holyport Village Centre
- Squires Garden Centre
- Tithe Barn Shops
- Wyevale Garden Centre

Cross-boundary links are important for local communities (e.g. Bracknell is a major centre of employment).

Most secondary school pupils travel outside the parish to attend schools in Maidenhead or Windsor.

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 Windsor Road
- A330 Ascot Road
- B3024 Forest Green Road / Oakley Green Road
- B3028 Bray Road / Upper Bray Road

Minor roads that are well used include:

- Harvest Hill Road
- Hibbert Road
- Old Mill Lane / Monkey Island Lane
- Holyport Road
- Moneyrow Green
- Drift Road
- Fifield Lane
- Fifield Road

It should be noted that Drift Road is a popular route for cycle racing including time trials and triathlon events, as well as mass participation / charity bike rides.

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 becoming increasingly popular with British and European cycle tourists.

NCN4 also provides local links between Maidenhead, Bray and Windsor. The route mostly follows quiet roads, such as Monkey Island Lane, and surfaced public rights of way, such as The Green Way through Braywick Park. It crosses the Thames into Buckinghamshire via Monkey Island Bridge.

There is also a shared use path along the northern side of the A308 that connects Maidenhead and Windsor.

Public cycle parking has been provided at the following locations:

- Braywick Nature Centre

Few of the destinations identified in Section 2 are served by the current cycle route network. However, the following areas are traffic calmed and subject to a 20 mph speed limits:

- Guards Road (on the approach to Alexander First School)
- Bray Road (within the village centre)

An advisory 20 mph speed limit has been introduced on Oakley Green Road, with flashing lights that operate at the start and end of the school day. A similar scheme is proposed for Holyport C of E Primary School and will be implemented shortly.

5. Key Issues

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

- There are few dedicated cycle routes, which may deter people from making local journeys by bike.
- The width of the footway / cycleway along the north side of the A308 is very narrow, which makes it difficult for cyclists to pass other path users. There is also limited visibility between cyclists and motorists emerging from side-roads and numerous private accesses, which has led to several (damage only) collisions. It also has numerous level changes, which makes cycling uncomfortable, and cyclists frequently have to give way at side roads. As a result, many cyclists choose to remain on-carriageway.
- Cross-boundary cycle links to Bracknell are poor.
- The area is crossed by a number of main roads, including the A308, A330, B3024, B3028 and B3383, which are heavily trafficked with significant numbers of HGV movements. As such, they present significant barriers to cycling.
- Cyclists using the A308 and A330 at peak times cause significant congestion due to the narrowness of the roads, the volume of traffic and a lack of overtaking opportunities.
- Many rural roads are used as cut-throughs by motorists during peak periods. This makes them unattractive for commuter cycling.
- Inappropriate traffic speeds on some routes can cause problems for cyclists (e.g. Drift Road).
- Very few children / young people currently cycle to school / college due to the lack of protected cycle routes.
- Although NCN4 is waymarked, there are few destination signs at key junctions.
- There is no cycle parking serving Holyport Village Centre or the Tithe Barn shops.
- A lack of available highway land is a key constraint to providing more cycle routes.
- There are no cycle bypasses for the traffic calming in Bray Village.
- Some bridleways and byways are unsurfaced and are therefore unsuitable for utility cycling trips.
- It can be difficult to achieve high cost benefit ratios for major cycling investment to serve some of the more rural communities.

6. Road Safety

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

- Zero fatal
- Ten serious
- Fourteen slight casualties.

Locations with more than one incident included:

- Braywick roundabout (2 serious and 3 slight casualties)
- A308 Braywick Road / Harvest Hill Road (1 serious and 1 slight casualty)
- A308 Windsor Road / Holyport Road (2 slight casualties)
- B3024 Oakley Green Road, near Braywood School (1 serious and 1 slight)
- Drift Road / Fified Lane (2 slight casualties)
- Drift Road north of Winkfield Lane (3 serious*)

*All three cyclists were involved in the same incident and were taking part in a competitive cycling event.

Alexander First School and Holyport C of E Primary School both take part in Bikeability.

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
1. Provide an alternative to the A308 cycle route between Monkey Island Lane and The Bingham's via Monkey Island Lane and Hibbert Road.	Transport Policy
2. Liaise with local landowners / developers to secure land necessary to widen the A308 shared use footway / cycleway between Fifield and Windsor.	Transport Policy / Highways Development Control
3. Introduce an advisory 20 mph speed limit around Holyport C of E Primary School.	Traffic Engineering
4. Investigate options for upgrading Bray Bridleways 23, 29 and 64 to improve the cycle route between Maidenhead and Bracknell.	Transport Policy / Public Rights of Way
5. Provide cycle parking at Holyport Village Centre and Tithe Barn shops	Transport Policy
6. Replace Bray Bridge with a new structure incorporating a protected cycling and pedestrian route.	Transport Policy
7. Improve direction signing on existing cycle routes.	Transport Policy
8. Encourage all schools to maintain participation in the Bikeability training programme.	Traffic Management & Road Safety
9. Continue to support the use of Drift Road for sports cycling events / mass participation rides.	Traffic Management & Road Safety