

Cycling Strategy: Eton & Eton Wick

1. Description of the Area

The town of Eton and the village of Eton Wick are situated on the northern side of the River Thames. Eton is a key shopping and visitor destination that enjoys close links with Windsor, while Eton Wick has a number of shops and other facilities that serve the needs of local residents.

2. Local Destinations

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

Community:

- Eton Library
- Eton Wick Library
- Eton Wick Village Hall

Education:

- Eton Porny C of E First School
- Eton Wick C of E First School

Employment:

- Eton College
- Eton Town Centre

Leisure:

- Jubilee River
- River Thames
- Thames Valley Athletics Centre

Shopping:

- Eton Town Centre
- Eton Wick Village Centre

Cross-boundary links are important for local communities, with many people cycling between Slough and Windsor for commuting purposes.

Since there are no secondary schools (other than Eton College) in the area, secondary school pupils must travel to schools in Windsor, Datchet or Slough.

Also, Dorney Lake in South Buckinghamshire is a popular recreational cycling destination.

3. Existing Cycling Activity

An annual cordon count is undertaken around Windsor town centre each year – the results consistently show that Windsor Bridge is the most popular cycling route to / from Windsor town centre followed by Barry Avenue.

[Strava Heat Maps](#) provide some indication as to cycling levels in other parts of the parish, 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:

- B3022 Slough Road
- B3026 Eton Wick Road
- B3026 Pcocks Lane
- High Street, Eton
- Brocas Street
- Atherton Court
- Eton Court
- NCN4 Thames Path / Meadow Lane
- NCN61 Jubilee River
- NCN461 Eton to Slough alongside railway viaduct

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 to Dorney Lake, Bray, Maidenhead and Windsor Great Park. The route follows the Thames Path from Eton Wick and enters Eton via Meadow Lane and Brocas Lane, before crossing Windsor Bridge, which is closed to motor traffic.

[NCN61](#) connects Maidenhead to Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, and Hertford. It follows the Jubilee River between the A4 / Berry Hill junction and Upton Court Park.

[NCN461](#) connects Windsor to Slough and Farnham Common - the path runs alongside the railway viaduct between Eton and the boundary with Slough and was upgraded as part of the preparations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

There are shared use footway / cycleways along both sides of Slough Road between Eton College and Pcocks Lane and on the east side from Pcocks Lane to the borough boundary.

There is a permitted cycle track that runs parallel to Eton Wick Road between the railway viaduct and Eton Wick and another between Eton Wick Road and the Thames Path. Cycling is also permitted on the bridleways across South Field.

Cycling is permitted on Public Footpath 36 between Pcocks Lane and the Jubilee River, past Thames Valley Athletics Centre, with a toucan crossing on Pcocks Lane.

Public cycle parking has been provided at the following locations:

- Eton Court
- High Street, Eton
- Princes Close, Eton Wick
- Thames Valley Athletics Centre
- Windsor Bridge

Many of the destinations identified in Section 2 are served by the current cycle route network.

In addition, Eton Wick Road is traffic calmed with speed cushions and subject to a 30 mph speed limit through the village, while Eton Wick C of E First School has a 20 mph speed limit in force along Sheepcote Road. There is also a 20 mph speed limit in force across most of Eton Town Centre.

5. Key Issues

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

- Cyclists regularly ignore the one-way restriction that is in force on High Street, Eton. This is the cause of numerous complaints.
- The cycle track alongside Eton Wick Road does not continue as far as Eton town centre.
- NCN4 / 61 / 461 are predominantly leisure routes. They are mostly unlit and therefore unsuited to winter commuting.
- The shared use paths on B3022 Slough Road are of a substandard width, with street lights and traffic signs causing obstructions.
- The permitted cycle tracks across South Field are very narrow.
- A lack of available highway land is a key constraint to providing more cycle routes.
- Roads such as Eton Wick Road and Pockocks Lane are heavily trafficked during peak periods. This makes them unattractive for commuter cycling.
- Although NCN routes are waymarked, with destination signs at some junctions, the routes would benefit from additional signage, particularly on Slough Road.
- While there is cycle parking on Princes Court to serve the shops on the south side of Eton Wick Road, there is no cycle parking to serve the shops on the north side.
- There is no cycle parking at Eton Wick library and the village hall, and inadequate cycle parking at the social club and football club.
- There is limited cycle parking in Eton Town Centre.
- Some bridleways are unsurfaced and are therefore unsuitable for utility cycling trips.
- Some sections of the riverside route (footpath 1) are semi-flooded or badly puddled after rain, especially in the area around Long Bridge.
- Illegal cycling regularly occurs across The Brocas.

6. Road Safety

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

- Zero fatal
- Zero serious
- Fourteen slight casualties.

Locations with more than one incident included:

- Slough Road / Pockocks Lane (4 slight casualties)
- High Street / Keats Lane (2 slight casualties)

Eton Porny C of E First School and Eton Wick First 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. Consult on exempting cyclists from the one-way restriction on High Street, Eton, possibly as part of a wider review of traffic and parking restrictions.	Transport Policy / Traffic Management & Road Safety
2. Consult Eton College about extending the cycle route along Eton Wick Road between the railway viaduct and the edge of Eton.	Transport Policy
3. Consult Eton College about widening the cycle routes through South Field.	Transport Policy / Public Rights of Way
4. Improve direction signing on B3022 Slough Road	Transport Policy / Slough Borough Council
5. Widen the shared use path on the east side of B3022 Slough Road to the north of Pockocks Lane, and replace / move the street lights / traffic sign and post that are causing an obstruction.	Transport Policy
6. Review the B3022 to the south of Pockocks Lane to improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians	Transport Policy / Traffic Management & Road Safety
7. Provide cycle parking at Eton Wick shops, village hall / library and the social / football club.	Transport Policy
8. Improve drainage / surfacing along footpath 1 around Long Bridge.	Public Rights of Way