

## **Cycling Strategy: Datchet**

### **1. Description of the Area**

Datchet is situated on the north side of the River Thames to the east of Windsor. It is adjacent to Slough, which is an important destination for commuting, education and retail journeys. Datchet Station lies on the Windsor to London Waterloo railway line.

### **2. Local Destinations**

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

Community:

- Datchet Library
- Datchet Village Hall

Education:

- Churchmead School
- Datchet St Mary's C of E Primary School

Employment:

- Datchet Village Centre
- Ditton Park

Leisure

- Jubilee River
- Liquid Leisure
- Upton Court Park (including BMX track)

Shopping:

- Datchet Village Centre

Transport:

- Datchet Station

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

There are significant numbers of young people living in Datchet who attend secondary schools in Windsor and Slough / Langley.

### **3. Existing Cycling Activity**

[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:

- B376 Slough Road / Horton Road
- B470 Windsor Road / London Road / Major's Farm Road
- B3021 Southlea Road
- B3026 Eton Road
- High Street
- Queen's Road
- Riding Court Road
- The Myrke
- Upton Court Park

#### **4. Existing Cycling Infrastructure**

[National Cycle Network Route 61](#) crosses the northern edge of Datchet ward. This is a long-distance cycle route that connects Maidenhead to Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, and Hertford. It follows the Jubilee River as far as The Myrke before crossing the B376 Slough Road into Upton Park.

There is a cycle track / shared use path along the south side of the B376 Horton Road between Litchfield Road and the village centre.

There is a shared use path along the south side of the B470 Major's Farm Road between Ditton Road and the borough boundary. This route crosses the Borough boundary to link into Slough's cycle route network via the A4.

There is also a cycle track that runs through Ditton Park, where access is permitted and maintained by the site owner, Computer Associates.

Public cycle parking has been provided at the following locations:

- Datchet Station

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

Also, Datchet village centre is traffic calmed with speed cushions and subject to a 30 mph speed limit.

#### **5. Key Issues**

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

- Cycle links to / from Datchet Village Centre are poor.
- There is no direct cycle link to Windsor.
- NCN 61 and the route through Ditton Park are predominantly leisure routes – they are mostly unlit and are therefore unsuited to winter commuting.
- The cycle route alongside B470 Major's Farm Road is partially obstructed by an earth embankment that has been installed to prevent illegal Gypsy encampments in the adjacent field.
- A lack of available highway land is a key constraint to providing more cycle routes.
- The bridges over the River Thames are key pinch points.
- The village green has protected status.
- There is very little cycle parking anywhere within the village.

## 6. Road Safety

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

- Zero fatal
- Two serious
- 23 slight casualties.

Locations with more than one incident included:

- B376 Slough Road / B470 The Green / B470 High Street (3 slight casualties)
- B470 Windsor Road / Queen's Road (3 slight casualties)
- B470 Major's Farm Road / Ditton Road (2 casualties)

Neither Datchet St Mary's Primary School nor Churchmead School currently take part in Bikeability, although Datchet St Mary' has done in previous years.

## 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.

| <b>Action</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b>                   |
|--|---|
| 1. Construct a new cycle route along the south side of B470 between Ditton Road and Lawn Close                       | Transport Policy                        |
| 2. Address the issue with the earth embankment alongside B470 Major's Farm Road                                      | Transport Policy                        |
| 3. Investigate the potential for permitting cycle access on Footpath 3 between B470 Windsor Road and B3026 Eton Road | Transport Policy & Public Rights of Way |
| 4. Install cycle parking in Datchet Village Centre   | Transport Policy                        |
| 5. Install cycle parking at Datchet Library  | Transport Policy                        |
| 6. Install cycle parking at Datchet Village Hall   | Transport Policy                        |
| 7. Encourage Datchet St Mary's to take part in Bikeability   | Traffic Management and Road Safety      |