

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

ALLOCATIONS & DESIGNATIONS

MARCH 2012

BACKGROUND PAPER

CYCLE NETWORK



BEDFORD
DEVELOPMENT
FRAMEWORK

Cycle Network Background Paper

The council is hoping to achieve a comprehensive cycle network including radial routes into town, routes across town N-S and E-W including safer junctions. The aim overall is to encourage a greater number of cycle trips for both leisure and every-day 'utility' trips.

Plotted on the Proposals Map are existing and proposed on and off road cycle routes plus 'required improvements'. Each required improvement is listed in the table below. The corresponding numbers have not been shown on the Map 2 but will eventually be available to view on the interactive proposals map, which will be produced for the Allocations and Designations Plan once adopted.

Required improvements to the cycle network have been identified with the assistance of representatives of the Cycling Campaign for North Bedfordshire and Sustrans, as well as the Bedford Borough Cycling Strategy Group and Greenspace Officers. Parts of the existing and required network are identified as being part of the Borough Council's Green Wheel proposal which is seeking to develop and enhance the existing network of traffic-free and quiet routes, joining up existing rights of way around the periphery of the urban area, for use by pedestrians, cyclists and riders where possible. It also includes proposals for joining up existing routes (spokes) out to the green wheel from the urban area. Where required improvements would contribute to the delivery of the Green Wheel, the reference from the draft Green Wheel report is given in **green**.

The identified required improvements have been added to the network and shown on Map 2 to help to identify schemes and part schemes for which either the council's Capital Programme finance can be used, contributions could be sought from developers of sites where users of the development could benefit from the provision or where an opportunity for improvement arises as part of a highway authority road improvement scheme.

Required improvements to the Cycle Network.

1	Link from Clapham (opposite Lower School) to Bromham Lower Farm Road via Clapham Ford bridge – needs new bridge and surfacing. GW NW1/7
2	Inbound cycle lane on east side of Clapham Road starting from the southern edge of Clapham (to give cyclists free flow beside queuing traffic) GW spoke
3	Improve safety on the Clapham Road / Union Street roundabout.
4	Bromham Road railway bridge. This is cited as a major barrier for children cycling from Brickhill to Biddenham Upper school. Possible links with Bedford Rail Station redevelopment (possible underpass Spenser Rd to station) and dropped kerb link to Spenser Road. (Toucan crossing planned as part of Land North of Bromham Rd development at Ashburnham / Shakespeare Road.)
5	Improve safety crossing Harrowden Road (widen island) and provide Eastcotts link footpath / cycle route from Harrowden Road (west) to Wildflower Way (to join Abbey Path) GW Eastcotts Link 8.1
6	Extend cycle lane along Ampthill Road from Aspley Road to Britannia Road.
7	Link across river from St Mary's gardens to Riverside Square (may be proposed as part of Riverside North development.)
8	Continue cycle route to southern entrance of fire station, and add elephant path across Southfields Road to join Laurel Walk, Kempston.
9	Make the High Street (Bedford) two way for cyclists.
10	Chantry Road to Woburn Road, off road link – requires all weather surfacing,

	lighting and seating GW SW1/8
11	Improve safety around the Goldington Rd gyratory The 'build out' by Cricketers Arms needs a cut through for cyclists. GW spoke
12	Resurface the link between Route 51 and Glastonbury Abbey/Riverfield Drive (flood plain) GW SE1/6 This has been done but needs signing.
13	Improve cycle safety around Aspects roundabout and the right turn into The Embankment GW Spoke
14	Improve lighting along Route 51 by Priory Marina GW Spoke
15	Upgrade the OuseValley Way (footpath 11) to all weather surface in the Biddenham Loop area between Kempston Mill and Bromham Bridge. Upgrade gateway at the northern end at Bromham Bridge to allow bicycles through. GW SW 1/20
16	A high quality cycle route from Brickhill to Clapham. Section from Little Park Farm to the 'triangle' access into Clapham Pk has been resurfaced. Section from 'triangle' west up to The Lodge needs resurfacing. GW NW1/10
17	Improve safety for cyclists between Oakley Road Bromham and the disused railway at Stevington.
18	Prebend Street key N-S route. Air quality issues, AQMA, requires radical solution, possibly one way traffic but two way cycling.
19	Links from river to train station: Commercial Rd, Western Street, Alexandra Rd. If this could be made contra flow it would be the quickest route back. Meanwhile Priory Street, Costin St is the route used returning to the river.
20	Track between Old Ford End Road west then north west to Manor Rd Biddenham requires resurfacing. Grass/mud bumpy track not accessible in wet weather. Green Wheel spoke.
21	Link Kempston Mill to Great Denham: Mill Lane to Kempston Mill Bridge -existing footpath needs surfacing and converted for shared use. Route 51. Kempston Mill bridge needs replacing so accessible for all users. K Mill Bridge to Queens Park bridge – improvements planned as part of Gt Denham devt. Part of GW and S1 river spoke
22	Investigate installation of a mini roundabout at Ashburnham Rd / Woburn Road junction. Turning right in and right out of the station has been highlighted as top hazard in the Station cyclist survey. GW spoke
23	Improve Ford End Road bridge. Also link from Ford End Rd bridge into Station. Link may come forward through the station redevelopment. Provide a cycle route from Ford End Road south to the river. If platform 5 is not built there is potential for cycle route from river, under Ford End Rd arch, along western side of tracks then onto Bromham Rd.
24	Improve route for cyclists on Ridge Road Kempston from Hill Rise to Eugster Avenue and links to routes through housing development west of Bedford.
25	Improve safety for cyclists Manton Lane / Clapham Rd roundabout and along the stretch up to the toucan crossing by making footpath dual use. On street parking plus roundabout make route dangerous. Make the footpath from Byron Crescent north to Clapham Rd roundabout dual use for pedestrians and cyclists – 1.8-2m wide so adequate width. GW spoke
26	Old Ford End Road to Hillgrounds link. Bridge proposed as part of Biddenham Loop planning permission. Need to upgrade footpath link between Hillgrounds and the bridge (to link Kempston with NCN Route 51).
27	Need new cycle route link behind Interchange Retail Park, plus improvements to railway crossing between Interchange Retail Park and Chantry Rd – currently a level crossing. Need for 2 small bridges to cross drains south side of railway along north edge of retail park. GW SW1/3 and SW1/4

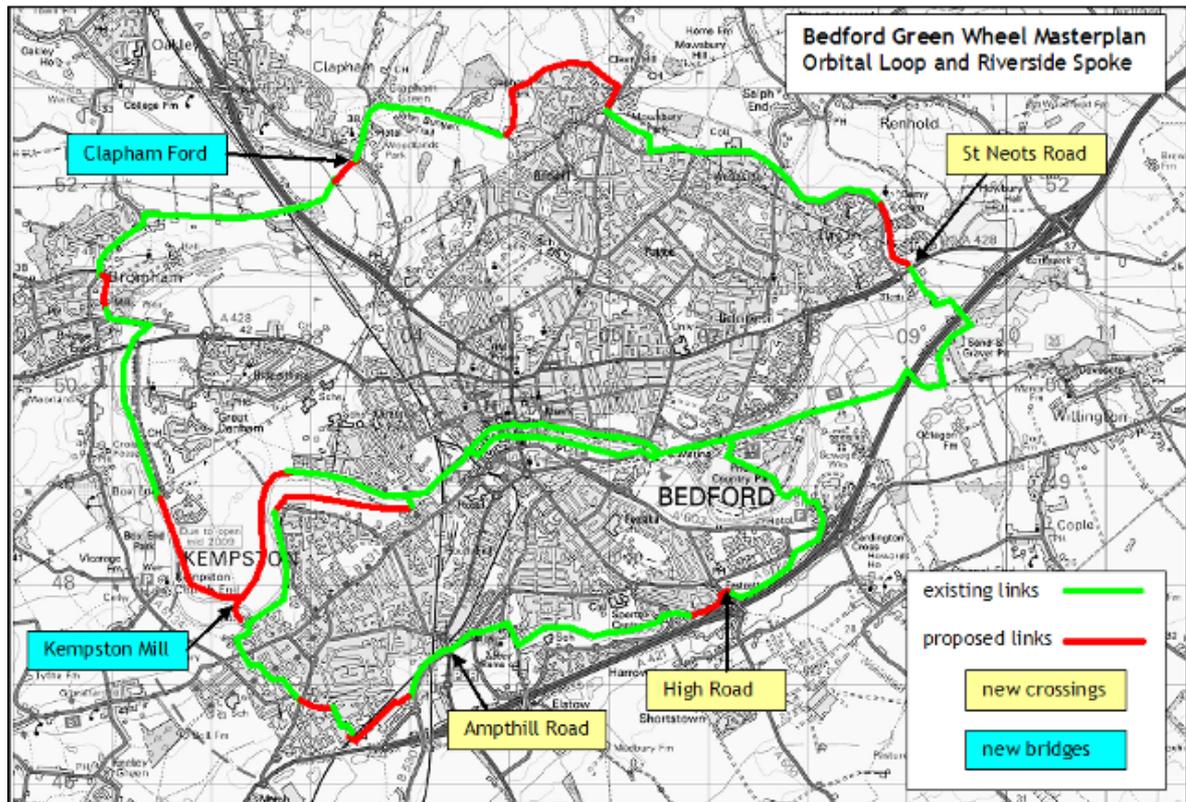
28	Upgrade one of the paths up to Biddenham Upper School from Old Ford End Road to allow for cycling. Investigate provision of a path alongside Hockey centre from Allen Park.
29	Upgrade off road Abbey Path route between Abbey School Elstow to John Bunyan School. GW SE1/18
30	Upgrade footpath along north side Cambridge Road east of Priory Business Park roundabout to allow cyclists to get to Meadow Lane (then link Route 51).
31	Cardington Road needs a cycle route – would link town centre to Priory Business Park & other employment areas plus leisure benefits. GW SE1/11 and SE1/12
32	Upgrade link from Cut Throat Lane to the river, under bypass bridge and to The Anchor on Clapham Road adjacent to playing fields.
33	Link between bridleway 26 Renhold through the development to Norse Road.
34	Renhold / A428– routes alongside grade separated junction are in but need signing.
35	Traffic free shared use path through grass strip adjacent to Browney Path. Proposed sections of GW north of Tyne Crescent through Woodlands Park development.
36	Investigate the addition of a Pegasus crossing on the A603 to link the Bedford River Valley Park development with Cople, Cardington and Shortstown and improve safety between bridleways 4 and 6.
37	Link Bumpy Lane to the western side of Shortstown (and into Shortstown when Shortstown Lower School site is redeveloped).
38	Old A421 - Link south of Marsh Leys layby to Manor Road. This is now installed.
39	Provide a cycle route along Wolseley Road to link with the Woburn Road roundabout.
40	Great Barford, provide cycle route to link Footpath 4 to Route 51.
41	Improve safety across Barkers Lane at the Goldington Road junction.
42	Improve safety and visibility across Barkers Lane just east of the roundabout with Newnham Avenue.
43	Upgrade bridleway between Kimbolton Road / Wagstaff Close and Woodlands Park.
44	Cardington Road - Upgrade north east path from Toucan crossing near Longholme Way to Tesco to dual use.
45	Upgrade footpath between cemetery entrance and Asgard Drive to dual use.
46	Conversion and improvement of footpath from Hawk Drive extension via Brickhill allotments to Brickhill Drive.
47	Clapham Road – Dual use of north side path from Manton Lane Toucan to Clarendon Street.
48	Route on east side of railway tracks from Ford End Road to Bromham Road via station entrance (reference saved route from 2002 Local Plan) (see also Required Improvements 4 and 23).
49	Lovell Road, Oakley – Dual use and improvement of path from east side of railway bridge to top of hill.
50	Bumpy Lane to Wilstead Road Elstow.
51	Amphill Road to Cauldwell Street via St John's sidings.
52	Provide dual use route between Cardington Road (Priory Business Park) Toucan and Wallis Way (west side of roundabout with Cambridge Road).
53	Carriage Drive – upgrade this footpath to a multi user route to allow cycling.
54	Provide a cycle route between Cardington Road and Eastcotts Road – via site AD6.

The draft Green Wheel has been produced by consultants for Bedford Borough Council in December 2009. At the time of writing this Background Report the Green

Wheel has not been adopted by the council, and it may therefore be subject to change.

The following maps illustrate the existing network of traffic-free paths and quiet routes around the Bedford urban area proposed to be developed and enhanced for use by pedestrians, cyclists and where possible and practicable, horse riders too.

EXTRACT FROM DRAFT GREEN WHEEL



**EXTRACT FROM DRAFT GREEN WHEEL
 PLAN 3: MAIN LOOP OVERVIEW – ROUTE TYPES, NEW BRIDGES AND
 CROSSINGS**

