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Introduction

1.1 This Walking and Cycling Strategy provides the evidence base for walking actions W1 to W6 and cycling actions C1 to C13 in the Transport Action Plan set out in the Maidstone Integrated Transport Strategy 2011 – 2031 (hereafter referred to as the ITS). It brings together policies and related actions to promote walking and cycling and the delivery of related infrastructure in Maidstone Borough, with the aim of increasing the proportion of journeys made by these active travel modes. Furthermore, the Strategy provides a basis for making bids for improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure in Maidstone through the Local Enterprise Partnership (Local Growth Fund) and other transport funding awarded to Kent County Council (KCC) by the Department for Transport. The Strategy will be a material consideration in development management and spatial planning decisions, and will help to secure support for walking and cycling from other possible funding streams, e.g. developer funding via s106 obligations and CIL together with public/private partnerships between MBC, KCC and public transport operators to improve facilities.

1.2 The emphasis of the Strategy has been on identifying the improvements required to deliver a comprehensive and well-connected cycle network (rather than focusing in detail on pedestrian-only facilities), which will help to make both cycling and walking more attractive alternatives for journeys within the borough. The Strategy has been drafted by MBC with support from the Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum and KCC. The document will act as a tool to assist in the delivery of the Transport Vision for Maidstone and in support of four of the five main ITS objectives as follows;

Objective 1: Enhancing and encouraging sustainable travel choices including:

A: The development, maintenance and enhancement of walking and cycling provision, through network improvements and encouraging uptake amongst the population;

C: Promotion and education regarding walking, cycling and public transport travel options;

E: Place sustainable travel options at the heart of all new developments within Maidstone, to ensure a fully integrated network that puts pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users at the centre of any transport proposals.

Objective 2: The enhancement of strategic transport links to, from and within Maidstone town.

Objective 3: Ensure the transport system supports the growth projected by the Maidstone Borough Local Plan.

Objective 4: Reducing the air quality impacts of transport.

Objective 5: Ensure the transport network considers the needs of all users, providing equal accessibility by removing barriers to use.

1.3 The overarching aim of the Walking and Cycling Strategy is, in addition to supporting the Transport Vision for Maidstone, to provide a framework for delivery of the Department for Transport's Cycling Delivery Plan⁽¹⁾ (draft published October 2014) at the local level. Our local vision supports the national vision, i.e. that:

Walking and cycling become the natural choices for shorter journeys in Maidstone Borough – or as part of a longer journey – regardless of age, gender, fitness level or income.

1.4 The Strategy is aligned with the Submitted Maidstone Borough Local Plan and the Integrated Transport Strategy and is supported by the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy which promotes the use of urban green space and Public Rights of Way for active travel. In facilitating the use of non-motorised transport it also contributes to the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan, Adopted and draft Neighbourhood Plans and KCC Environmental Strategy.

1.5 The Walking and Cycling Strategy encourages active travel and identifies the shared commitment of MBC and KCC to provide an enhanced network for these modes. It acknowledges that, in particular, levels of cycling in Maidstone are low at present and that whilst the borough has some cycle routes which link Maidstone town centre with the surrounding suburban areas; these are often incomplete or require upgrading. In the rural areas of the borough there are very few designated safer routes for cyclists. There is a lack of cycle parking facilities at some key destinations.

1.6 The benefits which can be derived from promoting walking and cycling as low cost, efficient, healthy and environmentally friendly modes of transport for people of varying ages and abilities are wide ranging. These include not just their contribution towards improved mental and physical wellbeing amongst local residents, but also their positive impact on the efficient and reliable operation of the local highway network, and helping to realise a better environment for everyone through reduced air pollution and carbon dioxide emissions. The Strategy identifies a range of measures and interventions to make walking and cycling a more attractive proposition in all areas of the borough, and especially for shorter journeys.

1.7 It is recognised that the Strategy's focus is on the Maidstone Urban area. This is where most people live, where most new development will take place in the coming years and where the infilling of gaps in cycle facilities will make the greatest contribution towards achieving modal shift from private car journeys. However, there is also merit in developing longer distance cycle routes to encourage inter-urban travel and cycle tourism and so the identification of opportunities for improving cycle linkages into neighbouring authorities has been

1 Department for Transport, Draft Cycling Delivery Plan, October 2014, <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cycling-delivery-plan-informal-consultation>

another focus of this Strategy. It is intended to complement the measures and interventions identified in the cycle strategies prepared by neighbouring authorities in conjunction with KCC.

National and Local Policy Overview

2.1 This Strategy is informed by a range of national and local policies and strategies. This chapter briefly outlines the current policy context within which the Strategy has been prepared.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.2 The NPPF ⁽²⁾ sets out in broad terms the approach that local authorities should follow in preparing land use and transport plans, to which this Walking and Cycling Strategy is aligned. In particular, para 17 of the NPPF states that a core principle is that planning should actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling. Developments should be located where the need to travel will be minimised (para 34) and designed so that 'priority is given to pedestrian and cycle movements', with 'safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians'.

National Walking and Cycling Policy Overview

2.3 The All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group published the Get Britain Cycling ⁽³⁾ report in 2013. This marked the outcome of an inquiry which was informed by Members from both Houses of Parliament. The report aims to enable more people across the UK to take up cycling, to cycle more often and to cycle more safely. It seeks to identify the obstacles that must be overcome to achieve these objectives and suggests measures to be undertaken by central and local government, as well as the wider business and third sectors. Recommendations are numerous and divided into five broad topics:-

- A new priority for investing public funds - including the creation of a cycling budget of at least £10 per person per year, increasing to £20.
- Redesigning our roads, streets and communities - including a statutory requirement for developments to be designed for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Safe driving and safe speed limits - including the extension of locally determined speed limits.
- Training and education - including the provision of cycle training for people of all ages and backgrounds
- Political leadership - including the provision of a cross-departmental Cycling Action Plan.

2.4 The DfT published a draft Cycling Delivery Plan in 2014. The document identifies the ambition of Government to do more to encourage people across England to cycle. The Government wants to see hundreds of thousands more people taking advantage of the benefits of cycling and walking. The Cycling Delivery Plan is a 10 year plan for England and recognises that a step change in cycling cannot be achieved overnight; this requires strong leadership, commitment and long term planning for incremental change that develops an environment in which cycling is the norm. A subsequent commitment has been set in the

2 Department for Communities and Local Government, National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

3 <http://allpartycycling.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/get-britain-cycling1.pdf>

Infrastructure Act (2015) which requires Government to prepare a national Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. The resultant Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy was published by the DfT in March 2016. There is a new 'Access' fund for sustainable travel building on the legacy of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and supporting growth in cycling and walking, with £580 million (£80 million revenue and £500 million capital) being provided to the year 2020.

2.5 The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) produced guidance in November 2012 (PHG41) ⁽⁴⁾; on Local Measures to Promote Walking and Cycling as Forms of Travel or Recreation which has been taken into account within this strategy.

Local Walking and Cycling Policy Overview

2.6 The third Local Transport Plan for Kent (2011-16) sets out Kent County Council (KCC)'s policies and delivery plans for the management and improvement of the local transport network. It has five principal themes, all of which include walking and cycling as an aspect; 'Growth Without Gridlock', 'A Safer and Healthier County', 'Supporting Independence', 'Tackling a Changing Climate' and 'Enjoying Life in Kent'. The Plan seeks to support housing and employment growth whilst managing the County's highways and Public Rights of Way, many of which include cycle routes. The Plan supports active travel and the development of cycling as a transport mode.

2.7 The Countryside and Coastal Access Improvement Plan (2013-2017) is KCC's strategy to increase usage and enjoyment of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and improve access to green spaces in Kent. The County's extensive network of paths is a great asset which can be developed further to provide infrastructure for cyclists as well as pedestrians in both urban and rural areas.

2.8 KCC is also preparing an Active Travel Strategy, a draft of which was published for consultation in May 2016. The Strategy has one overarching ambition, to 'Make active travel an attractive and realistic choice for short journeys in Kent.' The objectives and implementation of the Active Travel Strategy will closely support the aims and objectives of this Walking and Cycling Strategy as well as the ITS.

2.9 The Maidstone Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS), for which this Walking and Cycling Strategy provides the evidence base for measures supporting active travel modes, sets out the vision for transport in the borough between 2011 and 2031. The ITS seeks to achieve this vision through addressing existing transport problems in a holistic manner, encouraging a modal shift from the private car and identifying the transport solutions necessary to support the development aspirations of the draft Maidstone Borough Local Plan over the same period. The enhancement of cycling and walking provision is one of the key ITS priorities.

4 National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, Walking and Cycling: Local Measures to Promote Walking and Cycling as Forms of Travel or Recreation, November 2012, <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph41>

2.10 This Strategy is also supported by the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy which promotes the use of urban green space and Public Rights of Way for active travel. In facilitating the use of non-motorised transport it also contributes to the objectives of the following strategies/action plans:

- Maidstone Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2020 (July 2013)
- Maidstone Air Quality Action Plan (2010)
- Climate Change Framework 2011-2016
- Adopted Neighbourhood Plan for North Loose
- Draft Neighbourhood Plans for Boughton Monchelsea, Boxley, Broomfield and Kingswood, Coxheath, Harrietsham, Headcorn, Lenham, Loose Parish, Marden, Staplehurst and Sutton Valence
- Kent Environment Strategy – A Strategy for Environment, Health & Economy: Consultation Draft (July 2015)

The Benefits of Walking and Cycling

3.1 Walking and cycling are low cost, efficient, healthy and environmentally friendly modes of travel. The benefits which can be derived from promoting these modes for people of a variety of ages and abilities are wide ranging. These can be broadly grouped into economic, health and social benefits. This chapter discusses each of these in turn.

Economic Benefits

3.2 Active travel modes benefit the economy through encouraging local trade, due to the increasing number of people travelling on local streets and routes. In urban areas they can improve the efficiency of the transport network through reducing congestion, and in turn, the air pollution that is generated by vehicular traffic. In short, active travel modes have the potential to make a major contribution to supporting the borough's high streets, making them quieter, cleaner, more liveable and more prosperous.

3.3 Kent's visitor economy is reported to be worth £3.4bn according to research commissioned by Visit Kent, with 57 million visitors per year. Over 5 million of these visitors are estimated to be enticed by the County's cycling attractions. Maidstone Borough itself attracts over 4 million visitors per year, spending more than £250 million in the local economy. A Destination Management Plan was produced for the Borough Council in 2015⁽⁵⁾. One of its priorities is to make the River Medway an attraction in its own right and promote its use as a green corridor for cyclists and walkers, alongside the development of other themed cycling/walking trails in Maidstone Borough.

3.4 Existing leisure cycling opportunities in the borough include Mote Park, which is a short distance from Maidstone town centre via National Cycle Route 17 (NCR17). NCR17 provides a signed cycle route between Rochester and Ashford via Maidstone along a mixture of quiet lanes and traffic-free sections. From Mote Park, cyclists can cycle northeast to meet the Pilgrims Cycle Trail which connects Rochester Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral through the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. North of Maidstone town centre, NCR17 climbs Blue Bell Hill before cutting across the countryside to arrive in Rochester by the River Medway and Cathedral. Further information about these opportunities is available from the Explore Kent website

3.5 There are a number of local cycling clubs, including the San Fairy Ann Cycling Club (with more than 500 members) and MCC Offroad which organise and participate in numerous cycling events in the Maidstone area and further afield.

3.6 Cycling is reported to be worth £2.9bn per annum to the UK economy, with the average cyclist contributing £230 per annum through activities including bicycle retail and related employment.⁽⁶⁾

Health Benefits

5 Maidstone Destination Management Plan, July 2015.

6 London School of Economics, The British Cycling Economy: 'Gross Cycling Product' Report, August 2011, <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/38063/1/BritishCyclingEconomy.pdf>

3 . The Benefits of Walking and Cycling

3.7 The role of active travel modes in helping to create liveable towns and cities and promoting improved health/social inclusion is now becoming widely recognised by all tiers of government and health authorities. The link between transport, physical activity and health has been highlighted by the British Medical Association (BMA) ⁽⁷⁾ and warnings about the health consequences of an increasingly sedentary society are widely reported. It has been estimated that the cost of transport-related physical inactivity in England totals £9.8 billion per year. This is in addition to the estimated £2.5 billion annual healthcare cost of treating obesity.

3.8 The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) identifies that the health benefits associated with active travel, include:

- improved mental health and wellbeing;
- improved physical fitness; and
- the prevention of chronic diseases and health conditions, which include coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, cancer and obesity.

3.9 Both cycling and walking are effective ways of increasing and integrating levels of physical activity into everyday life. Many people have yet to experience the benefits of regular cycling, especially for local journeys. In the UK 67% of trips by all modes are less than five miles (well within an hour's cycle ride in an urban area), and 38% are less than two miles ⁽⁸⁾, or within 40 minutes on foot. Therefore cycling is a potential mode for many of these trips.

3.10 Walking and cycling isochrones for the Maidstone urban area are presented in technical documents at the end of this strategy. These show that the vast majority of the Maidstone urban area is within the 5000m (5km) threshold for trips by cycle and a significant proportion of the Maidstone urban area is within the 2000m (2km) threshold for trips on foot. This demonstrates the huge latent potential for increasing the proportion of trips made by walking and cycling.

3.11 A recent study by the DfT into the value for money of the Cycle City Ambition Grant and the Cycling in National Parks Grant found that the combined Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR) of each of these funding streams was 5.5:1, which was considered to represent very high value for money. Around 60% of these benefits were accounted for by improved physical fitness, with much of the remainder being associated with journey quality and congestion relief ⁽⁹⁾.

3.12 Walking and cycling in urban areas can improve air quality through reducing congestion, and the air pollution that is generated by motor traffic, which represents the majority of air pollutants in Maidstone Borough. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was designated in 2001 which covers the

7 British Medical Association, Healthy Transport = Healthy Lives, July 2012, <http://bma.org.uk/transport>

8 Department for Transport, National Travel Survey 2013, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2013>

9 Department for Transport, Value for Money Assessment for Cycling Grants, August 2014, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348943/vfm-assessment-of-cycling-grants.pdf

entire urban conurbation of Maidstone. Within the AQMA, the automatic air quality monitoring station at the A229 (Bridge Gyratory) recorded a mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) of 46.9µg/m³ in the year 2014⁽¹⁰⁾, above the maximum annual mean of 40µg/m³ as required by national air quality regulations. Of the 65 other (non-automatic) monitoring sites across the borough, fifteen sites exceeded the maximum annual mean in the year 2014.

3.13 The above results highlight air quality concerns in the vicinity of main roads in the borough. Poor air quality affects health, contributing towards cardiovascular disease and respiratory illness, adding further to NHS costs. It has been reported that air pollution reduces life expectancy by 7-8 months, which has the equivalent UK economic impact of £20 billion per year.⁽¹¹⁾ The potential for walking and cycling in Maidstone Borough to help increase life expectancy and decrease the economic impact of air pollution generated by vehicular traffic is therefore evident.

Social Benefits

3.14 Both walking and cycling are activities which can be fun and provide an opportunity for social interaction, unlike single occupancy car journeys. They enable a better appreciation of the borough's urban and rural environment. Cycling provides access to routes and locations which are often too far for many to walk. Bicycles can coexist well with other users in residential streets and town centres, unlike the severance effect which can be caused by busy motor traffic routes.

3.15 As well as enabling exercise and recreation, cycling can also be a faster option for short journeys in congested urban environments. It is also a low cost transport option and therefore accessible to most people, promoting social inclusion. By reducing or removing the costs of car ownership, cycling when effectively linked with the public transport network has the potential to be an attractive option for young people in particular, giving them independence and increasing their ability to access education, training, employment, leisure and healthcare opportunities further afield.

10 Bureau Veritas, Maidstone Borough Council Updating and Screening Assessment Report, December 2015, http://www.kentair.org.uk/documents/Maidstone_USA_2015_final_issued.pdf

11 Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs, Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, July 2007, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69336/pb12654-air-quality-strategy-vol1-070712.pdf

Walking and Cycling in Maidstone Borough Today

Existing Cycle Network

4.1 The borough's existing cycle network links the town centre to most suburban areas and community facilities, including several schools, Maidstone East railway station and Mote Park. National Cycle Network route 17 (NCR17) provides an 11 mile leisure/commuter link (approximately half off-carriageway) between Maidstone and Rochester. Via Mote Park, Weaving Street and Hockers Lane, NCR17 connects to the Pilgrims Cycle Trail at Detling in the North Downs. At present, NCR17 connects with NCR1 (Inverness to Dover) in Rochester and ends in Ashford, but KCC has plans to extend the network by connecting to NCR2 (Dover to St Austell) on the South Coast.

4.2 Maidstone has a Regional Route 12 (RR12) which originates in the town centre and extends along the A20 London Road into Tonbridge and Malling. A section of the route within Maidstone Borough is traffic free and provides good linkages to local schools in the residential area of Allington. In addition, Regional Route 19 (RR19) connects the A249 Bearsted Road (in the vicinity of the Hilton Hotel) to the town centre via Hampton Road and Snowdon Avenue/Vinters Road along Union Street to Week Street.

4.3 Cycle parking facilities are provided at locations within the Maidstone town centre shopping area, as well as cycle stands at Maidstone East and West railway stations and at the Gateway, KCC Sessions House and Invicta House. In addition, cycle lockers are available at Maidstone East railway station. Outside the town centre, some neighbourhood shopping areas are provided with cycle stands and Bearsted, Lenham, Marden and Staplehurst railway stations have well-used cycle parking facilities.

4.4 Existing walking and cycling routes and facilities within the Maidstone urban area are illustrated in the Maidstone Walking and Cycling Map published by Explore Kent in 2012. Explore Kent (<http://explorekent.org>) is currently producing webpages for all Kent towns (including Maidstone) which will communicate cycling information including route maps. The Maidstone Walking and Cycling Map will also be added to the Borough Council and Visit Maidstone websites.

4.5 There are a number of issues which currently constrain the attractiveness of walking and cycling within Maidstone Borough:

- **Accessibility** – in many areas the pedestrian network does not currently provide equal access for all users. Dropped kerbs and tactile paving to assist the mobility and visually impaired may be unavailable, and the width of footways may in some cases be too narrow (whether in terms of their actual width, or their usable width due to the presence of sign columns or street furniture) to enable their use by wheelchairs and mobility scooters for example. Some routes are stepped without having a ramped alternative. In some locations topography is also likely to be a constraint.
- **Connectivity** – Linkages from west to east Maidstone via the town centre are limited, although the situation has recently improved with the refurbishment of the pedestrian bridge connecting Maidstone East and

Maidstone Barracks railway stations. Subways are often flooded due to inadequate drainage systems and maintenance. To the south of the town centre there are currently no designated cycle routes in Tovil and Loose, although there are bridleways to the east of the latter. Similarly there are no designated cycle routes in Fant, to the west of the town centre. Safer routes for cyclists to Maidstone West railway station and from the east to the schools and college at Oakwood Park are currently absent.

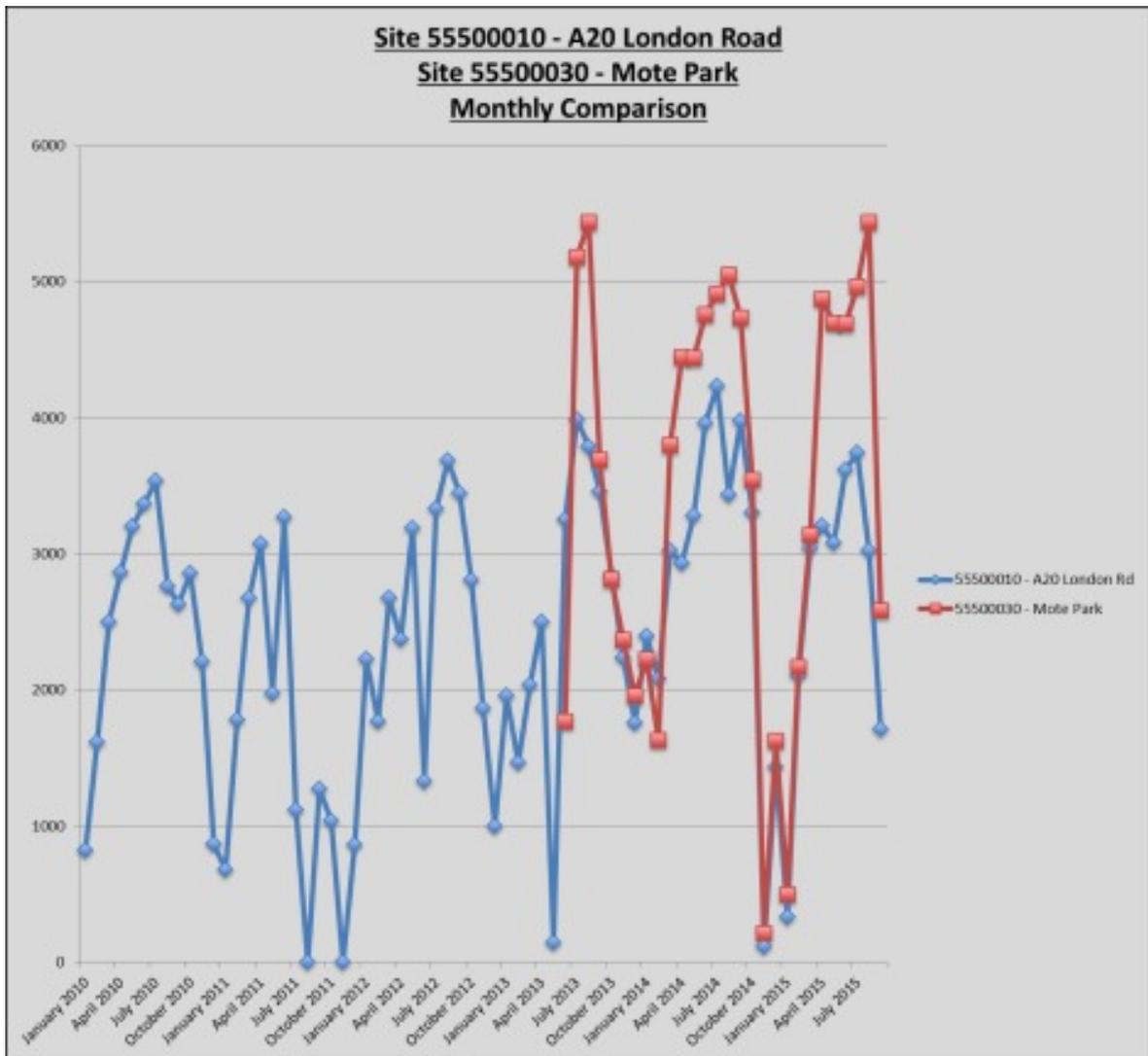
- **Safety** – safety concerns are frequently a barrier to people choosing to walk or cycle for some journeys. There are few traffic free cycle paths in the borough and new cyclists may lack the confidence to share road space with motor traffic. Walking and cycling routes lack lighting and natural surveillance, this may be another deterrent to the use of these modes. In winter, resources may enable the gritting of the most well used pedestrian and cycle routes. Funding for fault repairs and maintenance of cycle and pedestrian routes must be prioritised to enable the busiest routes to continue to be safe to use.
- **Secure cycle parking** – although considerable progress has been made in recent years, the availability of secure and safe cycle parking at key locations such as shopping areas and railway stations can be limited.

Existing Cycling Activity

4.6 DfT provides year on year monitoring of cycling trips across Kent from inner urban cordons and automatic traffic counts. KCC currently has only two fixed off-highway cycle counters for Maidstone, one on the A20 outside the Kent Police traffic headquarters, and the other in Mote Park, on NCR17, which was purchased and installed in 2013. More counters are needed at strategic locations to monitor trip data. This will help gauge the success of future improvements to the walking and cycling network.

4.7 Monthly data for the two fixed cycle counters covering the period from January 2010 to September 2015 is presented overleaf. This suggests that the rate of cycling has remained reasonably consistent over the period, although there is much variability from month to month which could be explained by the following:

- The relatively small number of cyclists crossing the counters;
- Lower levels of cycling in the winter months; and
- Battery problems with the counters may mean some cycling activity was not recorded. The counters are solar powered, but the batteries do not always correctly charge.



4.8 Cycle to work data from the 2011 Census indicates that only 0.8% of adults (935 people) usually cycle to work from homes in Maidstone Borough. DfT Annual Average Daily Flow data ⁽¹²⁾ for the years 2000 to 2014 have been analysed for automated traffic count sites on the key radial routes into the Maidstone urban area. For each radial route, the graphs presented at the end of the strategy identify the average number of cyclists passing the count sites each day and the percentage of all vehicles that these represent. Although this data records on-highway cycle flows only and not movements on parallel shared use footways, it nevertheless provides a useful baseline against which to measure the success of this Strategy.

4.9 Another potential source of useful baseline data is the number of children walking or cycling to school, which can be recorded through School Travel Plans. The reported modal share for all schools completing pupil travel surveys in Maidstone Borough is presented in the table below ⁽¹³⁾.

12 Source: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/>

13 Source: KCC School Travel Planning team

Mode of Travel to School	2013	2014	2015
Walk	33.0%	40.1%	41.2%
Cycle	2.5%	1.3%	3.4%
Bus	31.6%	16.4%	17.5%
Rail	4.4%	3.2%	0.8%
Car (shared)	3.5%	5.8%	2.1%
Car (alone)	24.6%	30.1%	29.4%
Other	0.4%	3.1%	5.6%
Number of schools submitting completed surveys	12	23	18

4.10 Given that not all schools repeat their surveys on an annual basis, the above data should be treated with some caution. However, KCC's school travel planning team indicate that there are a total of 20 schools in Maidstone Borough which have conducted two or more pupil travel surveys since 2007. Travel survey data collated by KCC will be reviewed on an annual basis to identify positive/negative trends in walking and cycling levels at each school and the potential explanatory factors.

Existing Walking Activity

4.11 KCC's Public Rights of Way (PROW) team has fixed walking counters on two footpaths in the Borough. One is path KB22 which connects Cripple Street with Old Drive to the south. The other is path KB11 which is the River Medway towpath between East Farleigh and Upper Fant. The data, not unreasonably, suggests that there are higher levels of walking activity in the summer months.

Improving the Walking and Cycling Network

5.1 As outlined in chapter 9 of the ITS, the Council's targets for active modes are to:

- Increase the walking mode share of all work trips made by Borough residents from 8% in 2011 to more than 10% of all work trips by 2021 and more than 12% by 2031.
- Increase the cycling mode share of all work trips made by Borough residents from 0.8% in 2011 to more than 2% of all work trips by 2021 and more than 3% by 2031

5.2 This Walking and Cycling Strategy identifies four main objectives to achieve these targets:

1. *Creating new links* – seeking new opportunities to extend routes to more people;
2. *Maintenance of the cycle route network* – looking after what we already have, and improving it;
3. *Creating a safer environment for walkers and cyclists* – designing safer routes and providing road safety education for motorists and non-motorised users alike; and
4. *Spreading the word* – raising awareness of existing and emerging facilities available to walkers and cyclists.

5.3 In terms of creating new cycling links within the borough, which will also benefit walkers, proposals will be developed subject to available funding with the following strategic long-term aims in mind:

- “Filling in of the gaps” to create a **fully integrated urban cycle network**, with radial routes joined across the town centre. Key destinations (e.g. schools, colleges, hospitals, shopping centres, visitor attractions) and new housing and employment sites will be integrated into the cycle network.
- The creation of an **orbital walking and cycling route** around the Maidstone urban area, linking to the town centre via radial routes. This would be delivered through the designation of cycle routes along quiet lanes as well as the upgrading of existing footways alongside distributor roads and, where possible, footpath networks to provide cycle linkages. The following areas in particular are identified for intervention:
 - i. To the southeast of the town, between Langley and Loose, incorporating Boughton Monchelsea;
 - ii. To the south, within the Loose Valley Conservation Area and Hayle Park;
 - iii. To the west, within the Medway Valley and on Hermitage Lane (linking with Barming railway station);

- iv. To the north, from Hermitage Lane to Sandling via Allington Lock; and
- v. To the east, via the A20 Ashford Road.
- The creation of **cycle routes from rural service centres and smaller settlements to transport hubs** (where new/improved cycle parking will be provided), along a mixture of quiet lanes and segregated shared use footways, such as:
 - i. To rural railway stations (Headcorn, Staplehurst, Marden, Yalding, East Farleigh, Hollingbourne, Harrietsham, Lenham); and
 - ii. To bus stops on corridors where frequent interurban services are available or are planned as part of the ITS (e.g. A26 Tonbridge Road, A249 Sittingbourne Road).
- The creation of a **rural circular cycle route** (which could potentially be branded as a “Maidstone Ring” or similar) to encourage leisure cycling and exploration of the Borough’s rural attractions. This would complement the existing NCR17/Pilgrims Cycle Trail and improve connectivity between rural service centres by cycle.

5.4 Where the upgrading of existing public footpaths to provide cycle linkages is feasible in rural areas, consideration will be given to their conversion to bridleway status (rather than to cycle tracks) where appropriate and where a need has been identified, so that they can be used by equestrians as well as walkers and cyclists.

5.5 The above principles, and the guidance gratefully received from the Maidstone Cycling Campaign Forum, have informed the development of the detailed Action Plan presented in section 10. These detailed actions feed into the high level Transport Action Plan presented in Chapter 8 of the ITS. In respect of the cycle network the ITS actions are:

Action W1: Provision of accessible pedestrian routes for all users.

Action W2: Improve pedestrian accessibility across the River Medway in Maidstone town centre.

Action W3: Implement public realm improvement schemes within the town centre, such that pedestrian access is the primary mode within the central core of Maidstone.

Action C1: Maintain and further develop a strategic cycle network, connecting the town centre to key facilities and residential areas.

Action C2: Maintain and further develop cycle routes in rural service centres, connecting local amenities and transport hubs (rail stations and bus stops) to housing.

5.6 The objectives of network maintenance, creating a safer cycling environment and spreading the word are explored further in later parts of the strategy.

Maintenance of the Walking and Cycling Network

6.1 Unless new and existing walking and cycling facilities are maintained to an appropriate standard they will quickly fall into disrepair and will not be used. In residential areas, regular street cleaning may keep footways running parallel to motor traffic routes clear of debris, and surface defects may be promptly identified and repaired. However, the maintenance regime for off-carriageway routes, due to issues such as access and pressures on limited funding, is likely to be less extensive.

6.2 Cycle routes require specific maintenance, including the regular cleansing of gullies and kerb lines as well as the cutting back of vegetation to preserve available width and sight lines. Surface defects should be repaired before they become a hazard. Road accident debris such as glass and overgrown vegetation can present hazards to cyclists, resulting in punctured tyres, compromised route alignments or obstacles, all of which could risk the safety of a cyclist and put them in conflict with other road users.

6.3 KCC has primary responsibility for the co-ordination of highways and Public Rights of Way maintenance. It works with third party landowners including MBC, where required, to achieve maintenance objectives. KCC's maintenance programme is determined on the basis of information from regular inspections, annual surveys using specialist equipment, and reports from councillors, parish councils, community groups, user groups and residents. Road surfaces are surveyed by KCC Highway Inspectors in a manner which takes into account the needs of cyclists; for example, by giving appropriate attention to the two metre strip alongside the kerb line where most cyclists ride. In constructing and maintaining cycle routes, the County Council refers to guidance outlined in TRL Application Guide AG26 (Version 2)⁽¹⁴⁾.

6.4 All KCC Highways maintained off-carriageway routes are maintained to set criteria including surface vegetation cuts twice per year on the most well used routes if there is funding available. Maintenance of these routes is led by Maidstone's District Manager with support from the Cycling Transport Planner. The maintenance of the National Cycle Network routes within Maidstone is supported by Sustrans Rangers. They help to maintain the cycle network in a number of ways, including placing temporary signs, reporting faults, undertaking small-scale vegetation clearance and organising work days for more ambitious maintenance projects.

Action C3: MBC and KCC to work with partners to ensure the regular maintenance of all cycle tracks within the borough.

14 TRL, Footways and Cycle Route Design: Construction and Maintenance Guide, 2003, <http://trl.co.uk/reportpublications/trl-reports/report/?reportid=6180>

Safer Walking and Cycling

Cycle Training

7.1 National Standard Cycle Training (Bikeability) is provided across Kent by KCC and local School Games Partnerships. The training courses are structured for primary and secondary age school children, with training subsidised by the DfT for those in Years 5 to 9. The courses give children the skills to make safer choices when cycling and to enjoy the freedom of riding a bike. Bikeability courses are booked directly by schools.

7.2 Bikeability comprises three levels of competency-based cycle training. Level 1 is aimed at the basic bicycle control skills that are required to cycle safely in any environment. Level 2 is delivered on quiet roads and teaches participants the skills necessary to take a basic on-road journey and includes a variety of junctions. Level 3 tackles busy traffic situations and complex junctions. Importantly, participants must demonstrate competence at each level before they progress to the next.

7.3 Adult cycle training courses are also available. Corporate, group and individual training courses can be arranged and further information is available on KCC's website⁽¹⁵⁾



Action C4(a): Year 6 children will have access to Level 1 and 2 Bikeability training, and children in Years 7 to 9 will have access to Level 3 training.

Action C4(b): Adult cycle training will continue to be offered.

15 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-safety/road-safety-training/cycle-training>

Road Safety

7.4 A key barrier to the use of active travel modes are people's concerns about road safety. Traffic free, segregated cycle routes are not available in all parts of the borough. Footways can be narrow or absent and lighting is not always available which can make walking an intimidating experience after dark.

7.5 KCC undertake regular road safety campaigns targeted at different road user groups. For example the "Share the Road Safely" ⁽¹⁶⁾ campaign seeks to promote a better understanding amongst all road users of the challenges faced by others, be they pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, car drivers or HGV drivers. The objective is for road users to be better able to anticipate hazards.

7.6 Plots of Personal Injury Collisions (PICs) involving pedestrians and cyclists are included at the end of the strategy.

7.7 These data plots will be reviewed in detail to identify significant clusters of PICs involving non-motorised users and to analyse the main causes of these collisions. This review will be used to develop a priority list of locations (e.g. road junctions, pedestrian crossing locations) where the upgrading of pedestrian and cycle facilities is required.

7.8 This priority list will be developed with reference to KCC's Road Casualty Reduction Strategy 2014-2020 ⁽¹⁷⁾ which identifies initiatives to improve safety along routes as a whole. Its objective is to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured (KSI) in road crashes by 33% compared to those recorded in Kent during the year 2010.

Action W4: Identify priority areas for implementation of safety improvements to reduce road traffic collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists.

16 <http://www.kentroadsafety.info/oneroadforall/>

17 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-safety/road-casualty-reduction-strategy>

Promoting Walking and Cycling in Maidstone Borough

8.1 The Council recognises that providing new walking and cycling routes alone will not dramatically increase the use of active travel modes in the borough. Action to create a pro-active travel culture is needed in a range of areas which include land use and transport planning, regeneration, leisure, health and education. Promotion of walking and cycling will not only involve improved engineering measures and safety but also training, publicity and raising awareness amongst a range of different audiences.

Walking and Cycling Route Mapping

8.2 First and foremost, KCC and MBC's websites need to be kept updated to enable local residents and visitors to access the latest information on walking and cycling routes and facilities. The Maidstone walking and cycling map should be updated and made available both electronically and in paper format, with copies distributed to the visitor information centre, tourist attractions, hotels, large employers and schools.

Wayfinding

8.3 Efficient wayfinding can encourage walking and cycling through providing people with the information they need to navigate the town successfully, and understand the journey times between locations. Having clearly branded, consistent, wayfinding throughout the Maidstone central area not only provides information and reassurance to those less familiar with the area, but also adds to the overall experience of the public realm. All cycle routes throughout the borough should be fully signposted for the benefit of new cyclists and those who are unfamiliar with the area.

Travel Planning

8.4 As well as walking, cycling should form a key component of school and workplace Travel Plans and local clubs and cycle shops could help to promote cycling within the borough through active promotion and use of the local network. Travel Plans will be encouraged as they can include commitment to improving cycling facilities like secure parking, bicycle lockers or the provision of shower facilities for large employers. Guidance for schools and businesses on preparing their own travel plans is provided at www.jambusterstpms.co.uk and www.kentsmartertravel.co.uk respectively.

8.5 With respect to school travel planning specifically, MBC is a sponsor of the KM Charity Group 'Walk to School' which seeks to encourage more parents and children to walk to school. KM and KCC jointly run walking buses and the 'Walk on Wednesday' scheme. Across the County since its inception, the Charity has resulted in:



- 40,000 children and families being involved;
- 600,000 green journeys annually; and
- 250,000 school run car journeys removed.

8.6 KCC also runs a 'Small Steps' programme which is aimed at Year 2 and teaches pupils to be 'Brilliant Pedestrians'

8.7 Schemes such as the above contribute greatly to reducing traffic congestion. These achievements will be built on via the appointment of a "school travel plan champion" within MBC to work with schools and KCC to further reduce car trips undertaking the "school run".

8.8 A number of Maidstone Borough Council's Civic Enforcement Officers, who have received training through KCC, are now equipped with and use cycles as part of their daily work routine within the urban area.

Walking and Cycling Events

8.9 Successful recent initiatives include:

- **Sky Ride Local** – this programme provides free guided cycle rides for all ages and abilities throughout the UK, including rides in Maidstone Borough. These have been delivered since 2012 by KCC Highways (lead partner), Kent Sport, the KCC Public Health team and MBC's community



team in partnership with British Cycling. Many rides have been linked to Shepway Community Centre and the Fusion Healthy Living Centre at Park Wood. They are led by qualified staff and benefit from wider promotion via www.goskyride.com. Funding has been secured to deliver further Sky Rides Local, Ride Social and Breeze rides in Kent during 2016.



- **Ride Social** – this programme is intended to keep people cycling beyond the Sky Ride Local schedule of rides, assisting Public Health meet targets in reaching inactive people and producing more cycling commuters.
- **Breeze** – this British Cycling programme is targeted at women (young children are also allowed). With the support of Kent Sport a dedicated KCC co-ordinator has been appointed, encouraging new ride “Champions”.
- **Cycle Healthy, Cycle Happy** - this scheme is supported by MBC and run through three GP surgeries in the town (<http://www.communitycycleworks.co.uk/cycle-healthy/>)

8.10 In addition other opportunities to establish cycling events will be investigated, such as during National Bike Week each June and National Cycle to Work Day each September.

Promoting Walking and Cycling Through the Planning Process

8.11 It is important that the requirements of planning applications are standardised and clarified so that cycling can be promoted through the development management process. In particular it is essential that new residential properties and other developments (such as employment, retail, healthcare and educational uses) provide secure cycle parking/storage areas close to the building entrance/exit. In respect of residential properties, for example, although a cycle locked in a shed at the end of a garden is stored within the curtilage of the property as required by the Kent & Medway Structure Plan 2006: SPG4 Vehicle Parking Standards ⁽¹⁸⁾, it is less likely to be used than one stored close to the front door. The provision of secure cycle storage should be managed via the development management process in the same way as car parking is managed. Equally important is the provision of attractive pedestrian and cycle routes within and surrounding new developments, with good natural surveillance and crossing facilities to integrate with the surrounding neighbourhood. The Kent Design Guide ⁽¹⁹⁾ provides detailed guidance regarding the design of streets for pedestrians and cyclists.

Maidstone Cycling Campaign Forum

8.12 With the support of KCC’s Cycling Transport Planner, the Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum was re-established in 2015. The Forum brings together Members and officers from the Council, representatives of organisations with an interest

18 http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/88984/Kent-and-Medway-Structure-Plan-2006-SPG4-Vehicle-Parking-Standards.pdf
19 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/regeneration-policies/kent-design-guide>

in cycling and interested members of the public. Its goal is to “help create a cycle-friendly culture in Maidstone, where residents and visitors of all ages and abilities choose to cycle regularly for those shorter journeys they do not make on foot.”

8.13 The Forum has completed a number of cycle related research tasks since its original establishment, and has recently provided assistance with the assessment of existing cycling routes in the borough, highlighting missing links, as well as identifying potential new strategic routes.

Action W5: Actively encourage and promote walk to school initiatives.

Action W6: Improve street signage with better pedestrian wayfinding and a reduction in footway clutter.

Action C5: Support the Maidstone Cycling Campaign Forum as a group to promote the cycling cause in the borough.

Action C6: Improve cycle security and parking at all key transport hubs and public amenities (including schools, healthcare facilities and retail locations).

Action C7: Encourage employers to incorporate cycling into Workplace Travel Plans.

Action C8: Promote cycling in schools through School Travel Plans.

Action C9: Ensure all cycle routes are fully advertised and signposted within the borough.

Action C10: Revise and update the “Explore Maidstone Walking and Cycling Map” to extend coverage to the wider borough and indicate destinations in neighbouring local authorities. Map to be available both electronically and in paper format.

Action C11: Standardise and clarify the requirements of planning applications with respect to the provision of walking and cycling facilities, to promote the use of these active travel modes.

Monitoring the Walking and Cycling Strategy

9.1 This Strategy will be regularly monitored alongside the ITS.

9.2 Monitoring should take several forms including continuous automatic counters on walking and cycling routes and detailed user surveys. This will enable a detailed database to be established which in turn can inform economic appraisals and health impact assessments in the borough.

9.3 Details of the walking and cycling modal share targets are presented in Chapter 11 of the ITS. Progress against the ITS targets will be monitored using future census data, but walking and cycling activity will be analysed on a more regular basis using the above data sources. It is envisaged that the Walking and Cycling Strategy itself will be updated every five years, with the first update scheduled in 2021.

Action C13: MBC and KCC to identify locations throughout the cycle network where new automatic walk/cycle counters should be installed to enable a detailed analysis of usage. Installation to proceed as resources allow, but each new walking/cycling infrastructure proposal will be assessed to see if an additional counter should be added to augment the data gathering process.

10.1 Proposed Development of the Walking and Cycling Network

10.2 If the aims set out in this strategy are to be achieved then the schemes chosen must create a network that appeals to both existing and potential pedestrians and cyclists.

10.3 Planning and prioritisation of the development of the walking and cycling network in Maidstone Borough has been undertaken with input from the Maidstone Cycling Campaign Forum. Proposals have been sifted on the grounds of likely technical and political deliverability. Recommended interventions have been identified and the Action Plan overleaf splits these into the following geographical areas:

- Maidstone Town Centre
- North West Maidstone
- South West Maidstone
- North East Maidstone
- South East Maidstone
- Rural Maidstone Borough

10.4 The technical documents at the end of the strategy contain three maps illustrating the recommended infrastructure interventions, one covering Maidstone town centre, the second covering the Maidstone urban area and the third the wider borough. These are described in the accompanying Action Plan, together with an indicative timetable for their implementation, potential funding sources and delivery partners.

10.5 As this is a strategy, it should be noted that the proposals are indicative only and that their implementation will be dependent upon negotiation with existing landowners, securing the necessary funding and the completion of satisfactory feasibility design, detailed design and public consultation exercises at the appropriate stage.

10.6 In the first instance, however, it is recommended that a detailed audit of the borough's walking and cycling corridors is undertaken to identify missing links, gaps or barriers, including locations for new or extended cycle parking. The recommended infrastructure interventions will then be refined accordingly. For example, a similar exercise has recently been undertaken by Sustrans on behalf of Medway Council. It is suggested that an indicative budget of £15,000 could be allocated for this task, with the DfT's new Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund being the most likely funding source.

10.7 This Walking and Cycling Strategy is a living strategy, one that is flexible and can adapt to changing circumstances. In particular, emerging Neighbourhood Plans, developed by parish councils in working partnership with MBC, can provide a more local emphasis on the walking and cycling improvements required in rural areas. Furthermore, ongoing engagement with the Maidstone Cycling Campaign

Forum will take place to review progress in implementing the Action Plan. Where appropriate, actions will be refined or new interventions identified which will inform future iterations of the Strategy.

10.8 The improvements identified within the Neighbourhood Plans and through ongoing engagement with the Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum will be incorporated within an updated Walking and Cycling Action Plan as appropriate as part of the monitoring and review process for the Strategy.

Action C14: MBC and KCC to commission a detailed audit of the borough's walking and cycling corridors to refine the infrastructure interventions recommended in the Action Plan.

Maidstone Town Centre

Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Timescale for Delivery	Timescale for Delivery	Timescale for Delivery	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
MTC1	Widening of existing Wat Tyler Way shared use footway	Footway widening on east side of Wat Tyler Way between Ashford Road and Chancery Lane, amended carriageway markings (reduced lane widths).	Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years	CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding	KCC MBC
MTC2	Upgraded crossing facilities on A249 Sittingbourne Road at Union Street/Vintners Road junction.	Signage, upgrading of controlled crossing to toucan standard, widening of footway alongside Sittingbourne Road, surfacing				CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding	KCC MBC

MTC3	Improved cycle connectivity between High Street and Lockmeadow.	<p>Package of measures to improve cycle facilities between High Street and Barker Road. Signage, upgrading of Bishops Way controlled crossing, expansion of cycle/pedestrian waiting areas, relocation of lamp columns/street furniture, cycle facilities on Barker Road, surfacing. Installation of cycle shelter/stands at Lockmeadow. Some measures to be delivered as part of Maidstone Bridges Gyrotory remodelling, other measures as part of action MTC9.</p>			LEP Local Growth Fund MBC New Homes Bonus	KCC MBC
MTC4	Enable cycling between College Road and Brunswick Street.	<p>Upgrade existing footpath link between A229 Hayle Road and Brunswick Street. Install toucan crossing on A229 Hayle Road to facilitate cycle access to and from College Road. Amended Right of Way Order required, signage, surfacing.</p>			CIL S106 DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding	KCC MBC

MTC5	<p>Package of measures to improve pedestrian environment and public realm along Week Street, incorporating appropriate access for cyclists.</p>	<p>Allow cycle access to Week Street: 1) at all times between Station Road and Union Street (contraflow required); 2) from 8pm to 8am between Union Street and High Street (subject to review). Cycle parking facilities to be provided within improved public realm. Amended Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) required, signage on entries to pedestrian priority zone, contraflow road markings, surfacing (to indicate cycle route).</p>			<p>CIL MBC Capital Programme</p>	<p>KCC MBC Town Centre Partnership</p>
MTC6	<p>Package of measures to improve linkages between River Medway and Week Street, including pedestrianisation of Earl Street.</p>	<p>Pedestrianisation of Earl Street between Pudding Lane and Week Street should be designed to maintain access for cyclists. Cycle parking facilities to be provided within improved public realm. Linkages with MTC13.</p>			<p>CIL</p>	<p>KCC MBC Town Centre Partnership</p>

MTC7	New cycle route between Week Street (NCN17) and Medway Valley towpath, serving Kent History & Library Centre.	Signage, footway widening on Stacey Street and Fairmeadow, new direct shared use footway from James Whatman Way to Fairmeadow, existing crossing facilities to south of A229/James Whatman Way roundabout to be upgraded to toucan standard.				CIL S106	KCC MBC
MTC8	Upgrade existing footway across River Medway between Maidstone Barracks (Buckland Hill) and Maidstone East (Station Road) for shared pedestrian/cycle use.	Signage (to indicate shared use of path, but with priority to pedestrians).				CIL S106 DfT Integrated Transport block funding	KCC MBC
MTC9	Medway Valley Towpath	Towpath improvements and making of Cycle Tracks Order to create a cycle route between Allington Lock and East Farleigh. In the longer term, this route to be extended as per RMB7 to the				LEP (Local Sustainable Transport Fund) MBC (New Homes Bonus)	KCC MBC

MTC10	Scotney Gardens – Whatman Park towpath	Medway Towns and Tonbridge.	On west side of River Medway, new section of towpath and improvements to existing towpath.				S106	KCC MBC
MTC11	Wayfinding Strategy – package of measures to introduce themed trails and quarters in the town centre to improve legibility.	Medway Towns and Tonbridge.	Additional signage to benefit pedestrians and cyclists within town centre. Monoliths and finger posts at key locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barracks, East, West rail stations • Outside shopping centres/main shopping streets • Outside major attractions (e.g. museum, theatre) 				CIL DfT Sustainable Travel “Access” Fund	KCC MBC Town Centre Partnership South Eastern Rail Franchisee Network Rail Bus Operators
MTC12	Public realm improvements on King Street between Wyke Manor Road and existing bus station access.	Medway Towns and Tonbridge.	Footpath improvements, cycle facilities. Upgraded crossing facilities at junction with Church Street.				CIL S106 (Church Street crossing improvements)	KCC MBC Town Centre Partnership

								Bus Operators
MTC13	New River Medway pedestrian/cycle crossing	Provision of shared use pedestrian/cycle footbridge linking St Peter's Street and Earl Street.					CIL LEP Local Growth Fund	KCC MBC Town Centre Partnership
MTC14	New cycle parking facilities at Maidstone West railway station.	Funding secured for the installation of five cycle stands (accommodating 10 cycles) with shelter, together with CCTV					LEP (Local Sustainable Transport Fund)	MBC South Eastern Rail Franchisee KCC

North West Maidstone

Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Timescale for Delivery	Timescale for Delivery	Timescale for Delivery	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
			Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years		
NWM1	Footway widening on north side of A20 London Road between Castle Road and Grace Avenue to create two-way cycle path.	Signage, surfacing, reconfiguration of Grace Avenue eastbound bus stop layby.				CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding	KCC MBC
NWM2	Upgraded crossing facilities at Castle Road/London Road junction.	Install controlled crossing facilities on all arms. Dropped kerbs, tactile paving, signage.				CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding	KCC MBC
NWM3	Create new cycle route between	Signage, footway improvements				CIL	KCC

NWM4	Newbury Avenue and Sandling via Allington Lock, providing low vehicle traffic route to Museum of Kent Life.	(widening, dropped kerbs, tactile paving) between Forstal Road and Sandling.			DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding	MBC
	Cycle route on east side of Hermitage Lane, linking Barming rail station (TMBC) with traffic free cycle path to Queen's Road (Cherry Orchard).	Footway widening, signage, dropped kerbs, tactile paving.			S106 CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding	KCC TMBC MBC South Eastern Rail Franchisee
NWM5	Cycle route between Giddyhorn Lane and Hermitage Lane. Continuation to Oakwood Park/Road.	Surface existing footpath and upgrade to bridleway status. Signage and lighting.			S106 CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding	KCC MBC

South West Maidstone

Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Timescale for Delivery	Timescale for Delivery	Timescale for Delivery	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
SWM1	<p>Creation of cycle route from Barming to Kings Hill via North Pole Road. Proposals will be developed through engagement with Parish Councils and public consultation, but potential options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of reduced speed limit and cycle-friendly traffic calming measures. • The introduction of one-way through motor traffic with a short length of cycle contraflow lane in the 	<p>Dependent upon intervention pursued, but could include Traffic Regulation Order for lower speed limit/one way vehicle movement, Stopping Up Order, bollards, signage. Link with Medway Valley Towpath (MTC9) via North Street and South Street.</p>	Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years	<p>CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding</p>	<p>TMBC KCC MBC</p>

SWM2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> middle section of North Pole Road. Closure to through motor traffic through the installation of physical bollards in the middle section of North Pole Road. 					
SWM3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of cycle route from Medway Valley towpath (Unicomes Lane) to Hackney Road and westwards to South Street. This would provide an alternative cycle route during floods at East Farleigh. 	Signage, upgrade existing footpaths to bridleway status, vegetation clearance (e.g. east of Farleigh Lane).	Medium		CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund DfT Integrated Transport block funding	KCC MBC
SWM3	Upgrading of new footpath on east side of Dean Street linking public footpaths KB14 and KB15 to bridleway status.	Signage, upgrade to bridleway status, dropped kerbs/crossing facilities	Medium		CIL s106 DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	KCC MBC

	DfT Integrated Transport block funding							
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North East Maidstone

Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
			Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years		
NEM1	Package of highway improvements between Bearsted and New Cut Roundabouts.	Provision of new toucan crossing and combined foot/cycle way between the roundabouts as part of dual carriageway works.				S106	KCC MBC
NEM2	Package of highway improvements at M20 Junction 7.	As part of Junction 7 signalisation, creation of a new signal controlled pedestrian route through the gyratory				S106	Highways England KCC MBC
NEM3	Cycle friendly traffic management measures on	Feasibility study required but potential measures include:				CIL Integrated Transport block funding	KCC MBC

	<p>measures on the A20 Ashford Road between New Cut Road and Woodcut Farm</p>	<p>refuges and bus stops outside site EMP1(5), improvements to north side footway to facilitate shared use by pedestrians and cyclists, to connect with existing advisory cycle routes in Bearsted.</p>				<p>CIL LEP (Local Sustainable Transport Fund)</p>	<p>KCC</p>
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South East Maidstone

Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Timescale for Delivery	Timescale for Delivery	Timescale for Delivery	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
SEM1	Creation of a cycle route from Sutton Road (Local Plan site H1(10) to The Quarries via Brishing Lane and Brishing Road (these are existing advisory cycle routes). This would connect with an existing advisory cycle route to Loose and the proposed Loose "Greenway".	Signage, surfacing.	Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years	S106	Developers KCC MBC
SEM2	Loose "Greenway" – cycle route from Old Drive to Cripple Street. Potential further extension southwards to Kirkdale.	Signage, surfacing, widening, existing footpaths upgraded to bridleway status.				LEP Local Growth Fund	KCC MBC Loose Parish Council
SEM3	Eastwards extension of Sutton Road cycle routes	Signage, surfacing, lighting, toucan				S106	KCC MBC

	to provide sustainable transport access to housing sites H1(7), (8), (9) and (10).	crossing(s) on A274 to connect housing sites to north and south of road and to connect with existing cycle routes through Shepway/Park Wood.				
SEM4	Crossing facilities on A274 to connect housing site H1(7) to the north with site H1(10) to the south.	Dropped kerbs, tactile paving, signage. Toucan crossing anticipated but details subject to agreement with KCC.	S106	KCC MBC		
SEM5	Crossing facilities on A274 north of Horseshoes Lane junction to provide sustainable transport access to amenities on housing site H1(10) for residents of Langley/Langley Heath.	Dropped kerbs, tactile paving, signage. Toucan crossing anticipated but details subject to agreement with KCC.	S106	KCC MBC		

Rural Maidstone Borough

Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
			Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years		
RMB1	Creation of cycle route from Maidstone to Headcorn (and beyond to Biddenden)	Signage, quiet unclassified roads, some on-street cycle lanes/segregated cycle track (A274).				CIL S106 DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	KCC MBC Ashford DC Sustrans
RMB2	Creation of cycle route from Maidstone to Staplehurst (and beyond to Cranbrook)	Signage, quiet unclassified roads, some on-street cycle lanes/segregated cycle track (A229).				CIL S106 DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	KCC MBC Tunbridge Wells DC Sustrans

Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
			Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years		
RMB3	Creation of cycle route from Maidstone to Marden via Coxheath	Signage, quiet unclassified roads, some on-street cycle lanes/segregated cycle track.				CIL S106 DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	KCC MBC Sustrans
RMB4	Creation of cycle route from Medway Valley towpath to Paddock Wood via Laddingford	Signage, quiet unclassified roads.				CIL S106 DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	KCC MBC Tunbridge Wells DC Sustrans

Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
			Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years			
RMB5	Creation of cycle route from Maidstone to Sittingbourne via A249 and quiet lanes	Signage, segregated shared use footways, possible toucan crossings.					CIL S106 DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	KCC Highways England MBC Swale BC Sustrans
RMB6	Creation of cycle route from Maidstone to Harrietsham/Lenham via A20.	Signage, segregated shared use footways, possible toucan crossings.					CIL S106 DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	KCC MBC Sustrans

Appendix A . Walking and Cycling Action Plan

Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
		Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years			
RMB7	Creation of Maidstone – Tonbridge cycle route via Medway Valley	Extension of action MTC8. From Allington Lock northwards and Barming Bridge southwards. Signage, anticipated mixture of riverside towpath, segregated cycle track and quiet unclassified roads. Interaction of cyclists with existing agricultural activities such as cattle grazing will need to be carefully mitigated.				CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	Landowners KCC MBC Tonbridge & Malling BC Medway Council Sustrans Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
RMB8	Creation of rural circular cycle route linking Rural	Signage, some segregated cycle track, on-street cycle lanes.				CIL DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	KCC MBC Swale BC

	Service Centres and other smaller settlements, e.g. Bredhurst, Wichling, Lenham (via Swale), Headcorn, Staplehurst (via TWDC), Marden, Yalding and via River Medway to Maidstone.	Potential scope for route branding/marketing of attractions en route to stimulate leisure cycling/tourism, in addition to use by commuting cyclists accessing public transport hubs.				MBC	Tunbridge Wells DC Parishes Private Sector Sustrans
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Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
		Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years			
RMB9	Coxheath Sustainable Transport Package	Further work is required to determine specific interventions. An audit of pedestrian/cycle accessibility to key infrastructure (e.g. bus stops, schools, shopping areas) is required. Potential interventions could include measures identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the need for a new footway link from site H1 (45) to Mill Lane, Coxheath has already been				CIL S106	KCC MBC Coxheath Parish Council

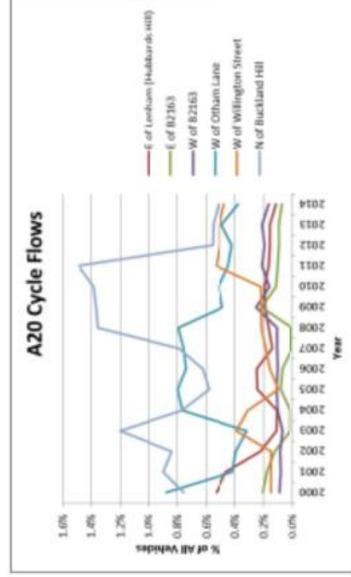
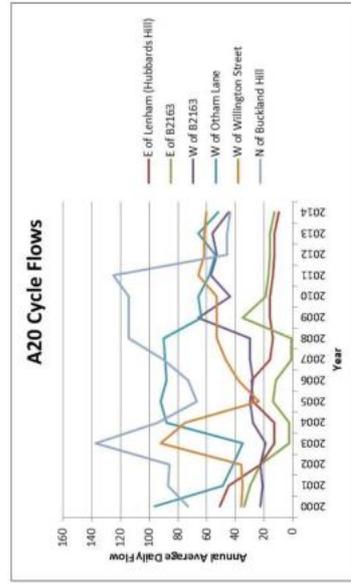
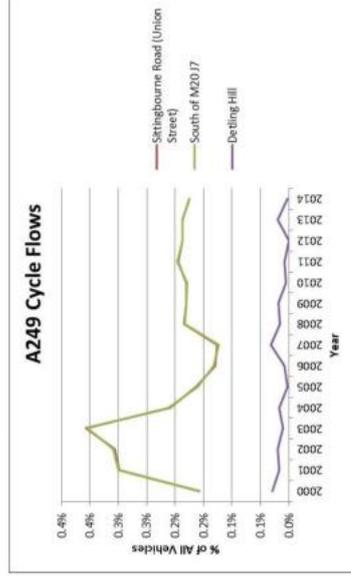
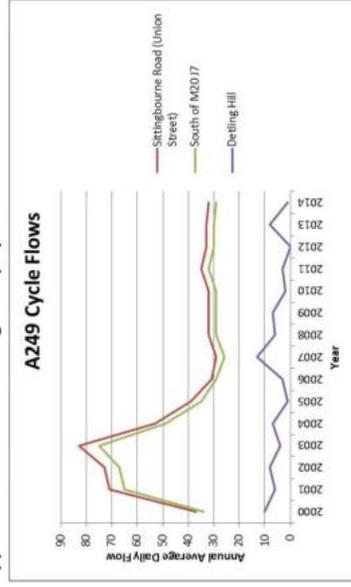
					<p>Neighbourhood Plan. However, the need for crossing improvements at A274 Wheeler Street and a footway link from site EMP1(4) to the A274 has already been identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. In addition funding has been secured for the installation of a shelter over the existing cycle stands at the railway station.</p>		
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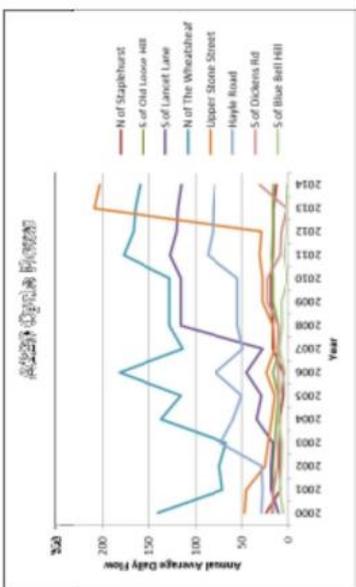
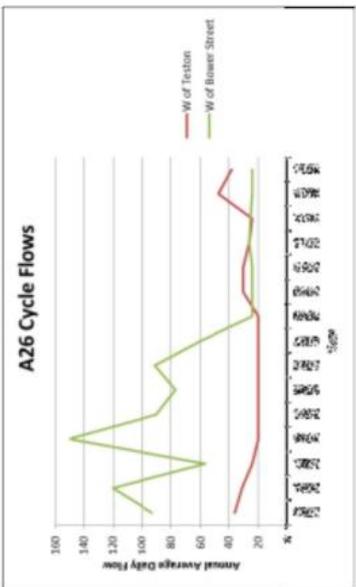
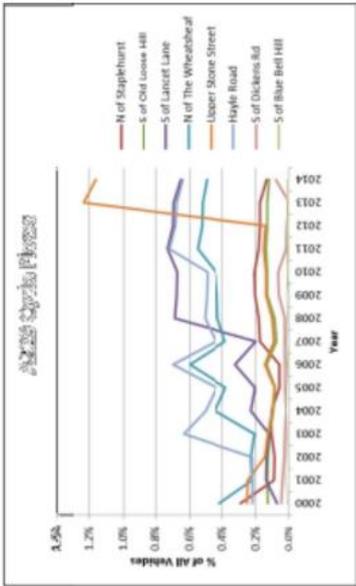
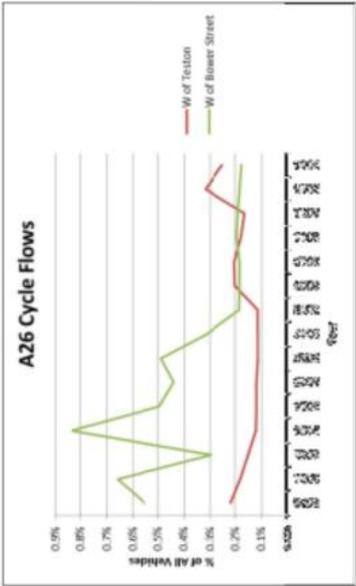
Action	Proposal	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Type of Infrastructure Required	Potential Funding Sources	Delivery Partners
			Short term <5 years	Medium term 5 - 10 years	Long term >10 years		
RMB12	Hollingbourne – Cycle Parking	Funding has been secured for the installation of five cycle stands and CCTV at the railway station.				Local Enterprise Partnership (LSTF)	South Eastern Rail Franchisee KCC MBC
RMB13	Lenham Sustainable Transport Package	Further work is required to determine specific interventions. An audit of pedestrian/cycle accessibility to key infrastructure (e.g. public transport stops, schools, shopping areas) is required. Potential interventions could include				CIL S106 DfT Sustainable Travel "Access" Fund	KCC MBC Lenham Parish Council

		<p>measures identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan has already identified the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading of the Goudhurst Road zebra crossing to a pelican crossing • New pedestrian crossing on Church Green • Traffic calming measures <p>In addition funding has been secured for the installation of 10 cycle stands and a shelter at the railway station.</p>					
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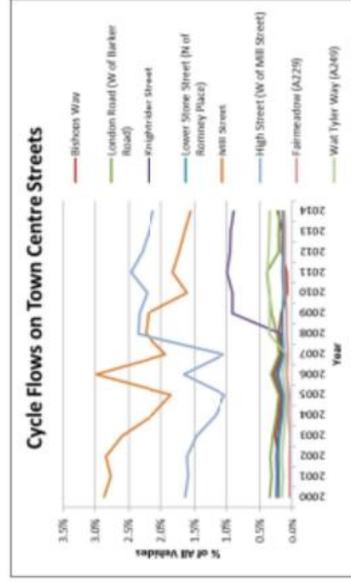
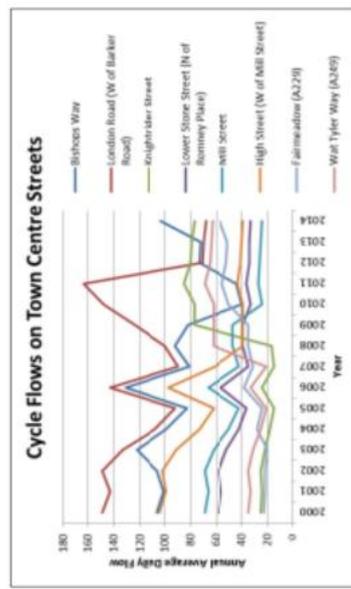
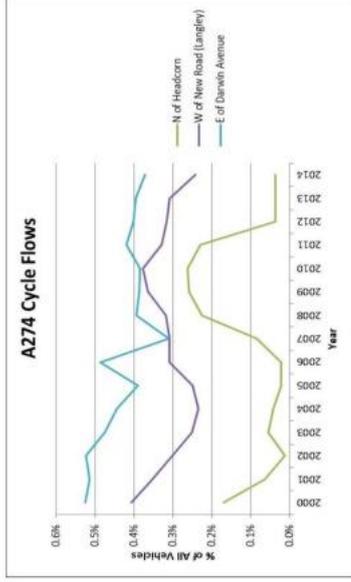
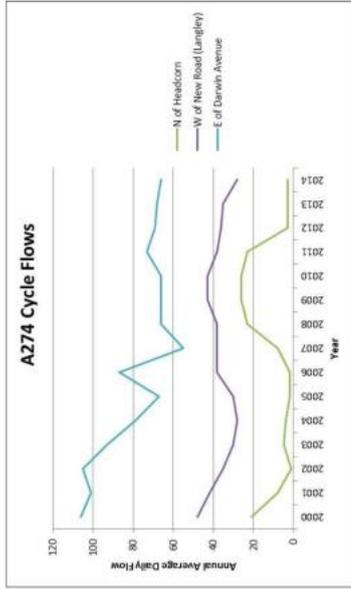
					provision of cycle parking to encourage the use of proposed new rural cycle routes (RMB4, RMB7, RMB8).		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

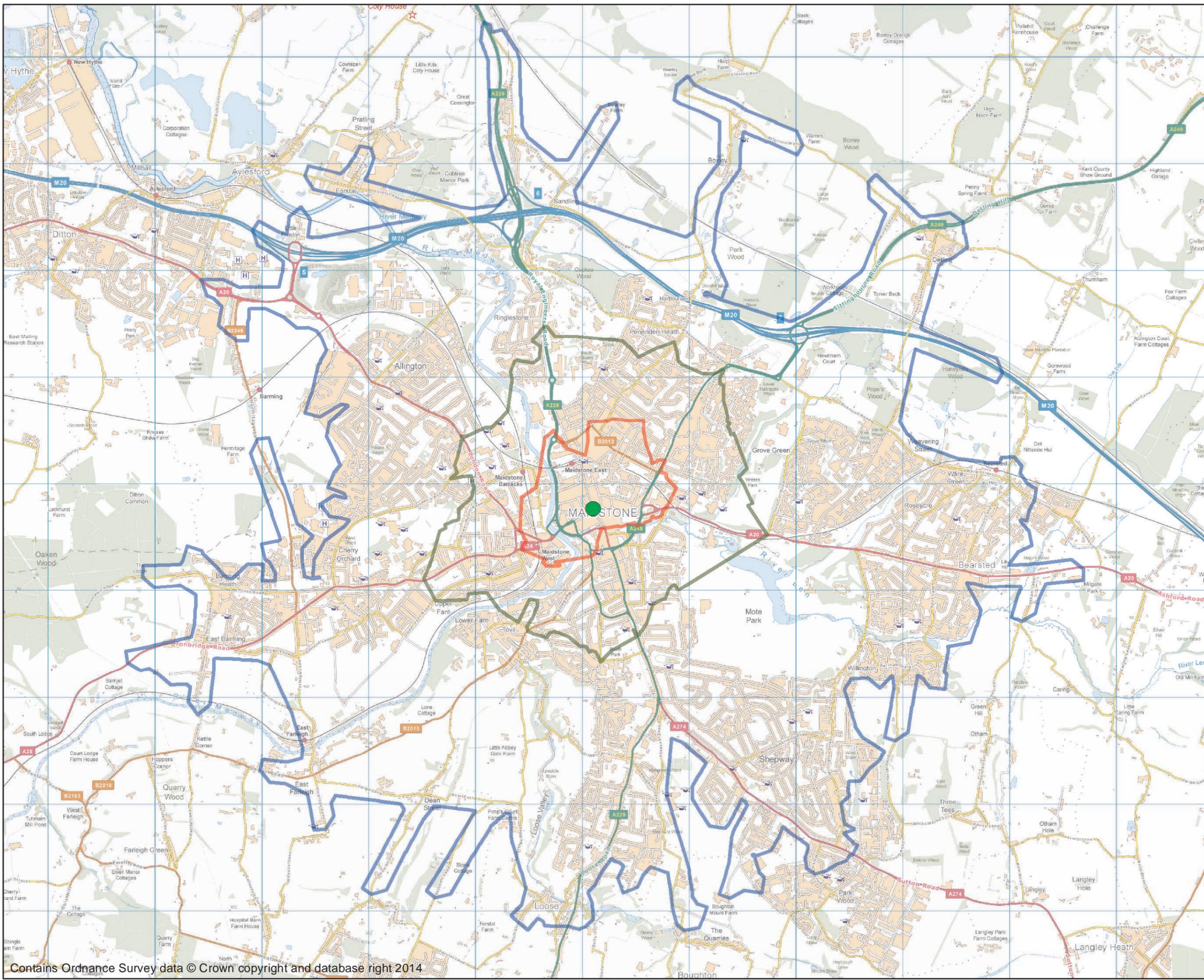
Appendix B: Annual Average Daily Cycle Flows & Modal Share – Maidstone Radial Routes





Appendix B . Annual Average Daily Cycle Flows - Maidstone Radial Routes





Legend

- 1000
- 2000
- 5000
- Located
- ? ● Unlocated



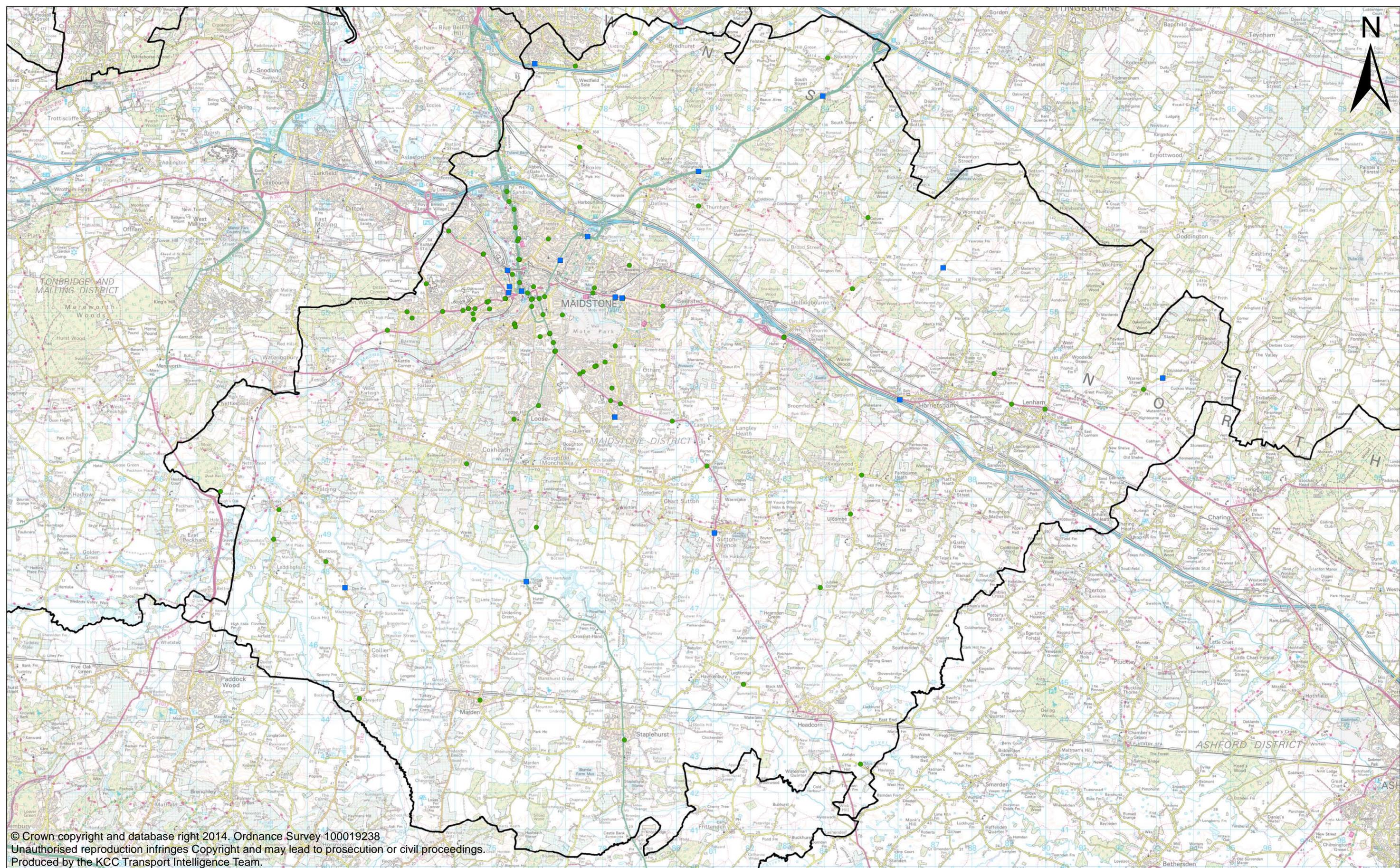
Project:
Maidstone

Drawing Name:
**Maidstone Distance Contour
OS Meridian 2 Layer
Network Analysis**

Drawn: WA	Checked: HM	Approved: TH
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Orig. Size: ISO A3	Scale: NTS
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Drawing Number: 001	Rev: A
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Maidstone District Pedal Cycle Collisions

(01.07.2012 to 30.06.2015)

Note: There were no fatal pedal cycle collisions recorded during this period

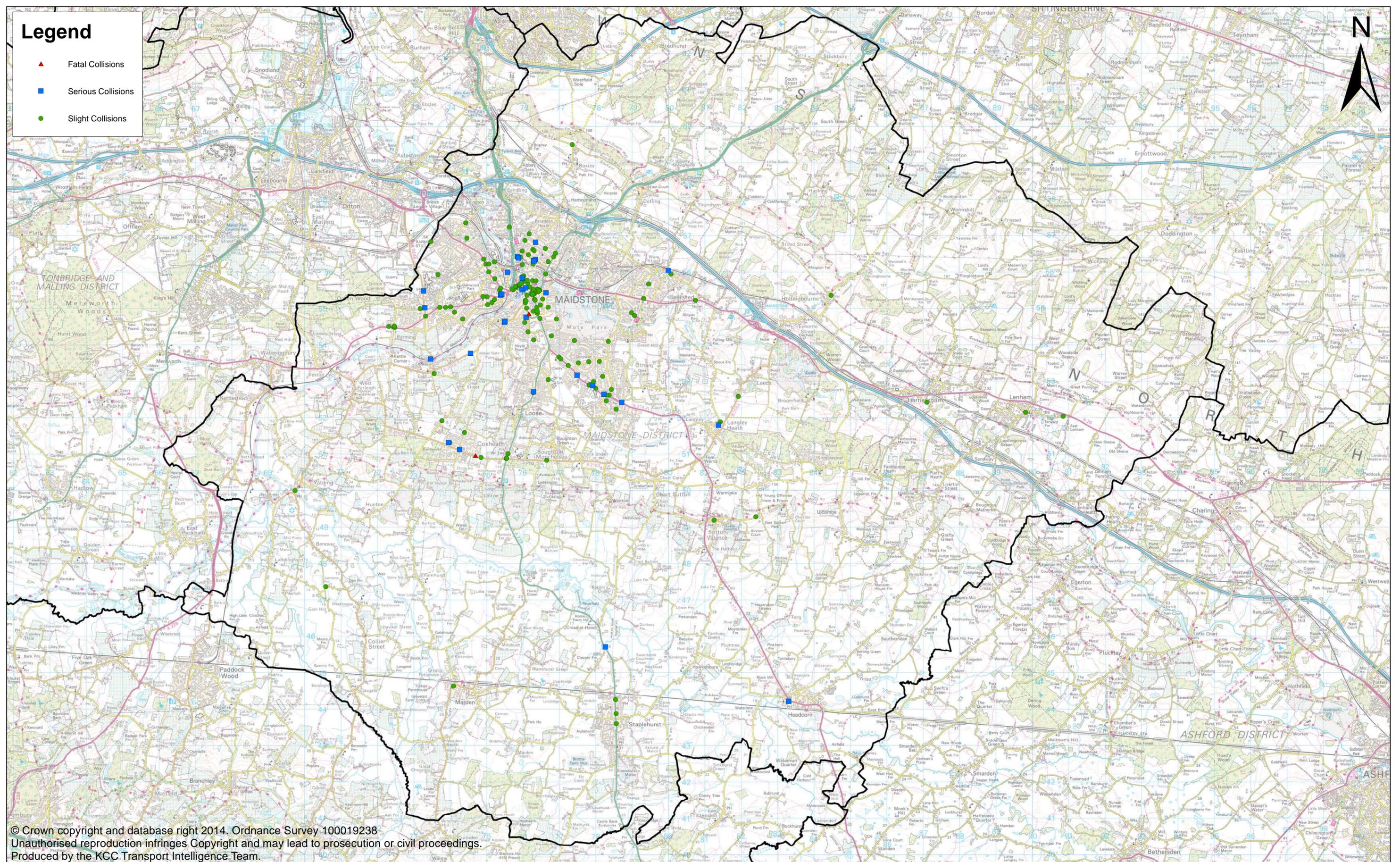
Legend	
■	Serious Collisions
●	Slight Collisions



Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

Legend

- Fatal Collisions
- Serious Collisions
- Slight Collisions

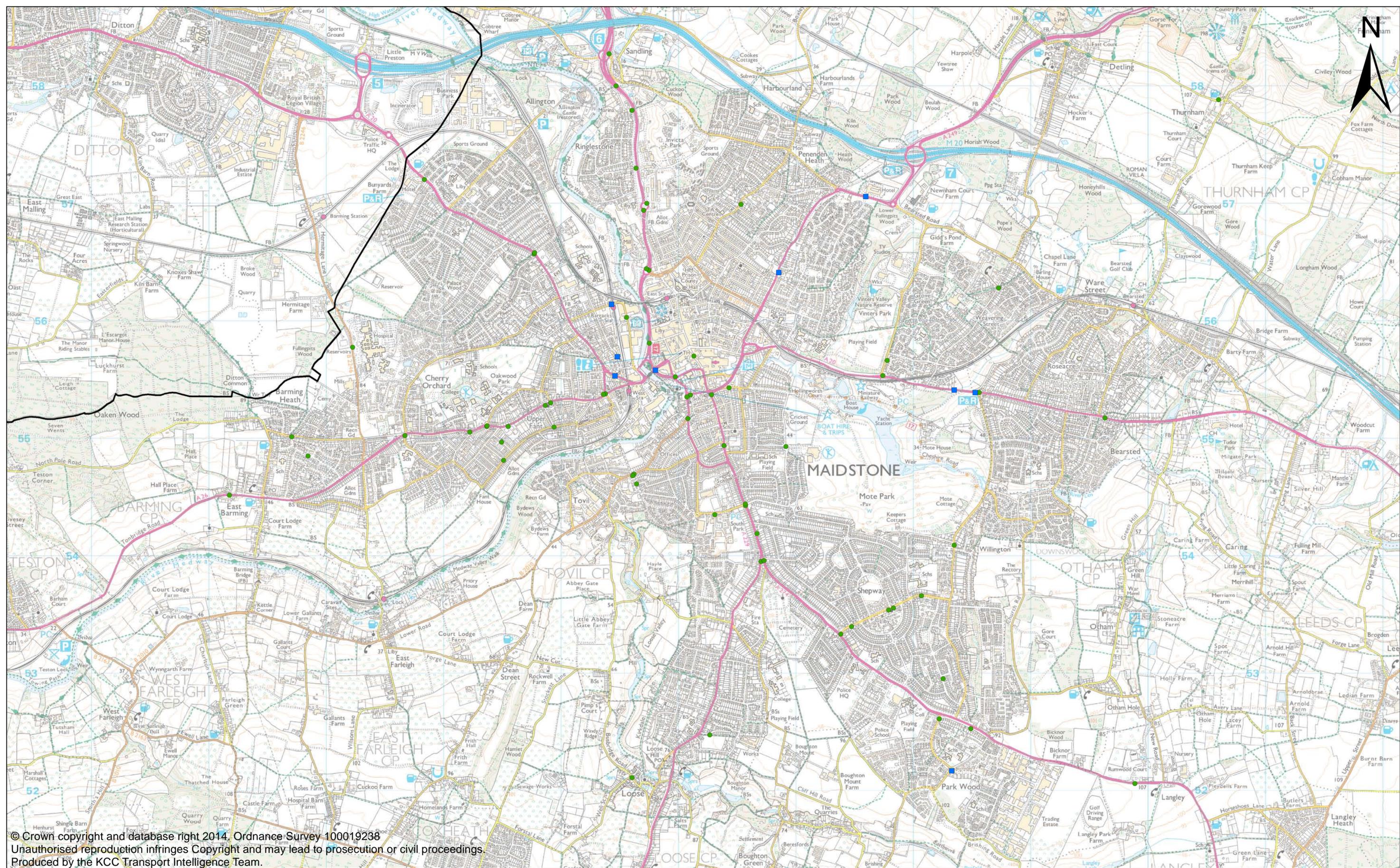


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Maidstone District Pedestrian Collisions

(01.07.2012 to 30.06.2015)





Maidstone Pedal Cycle Collisions

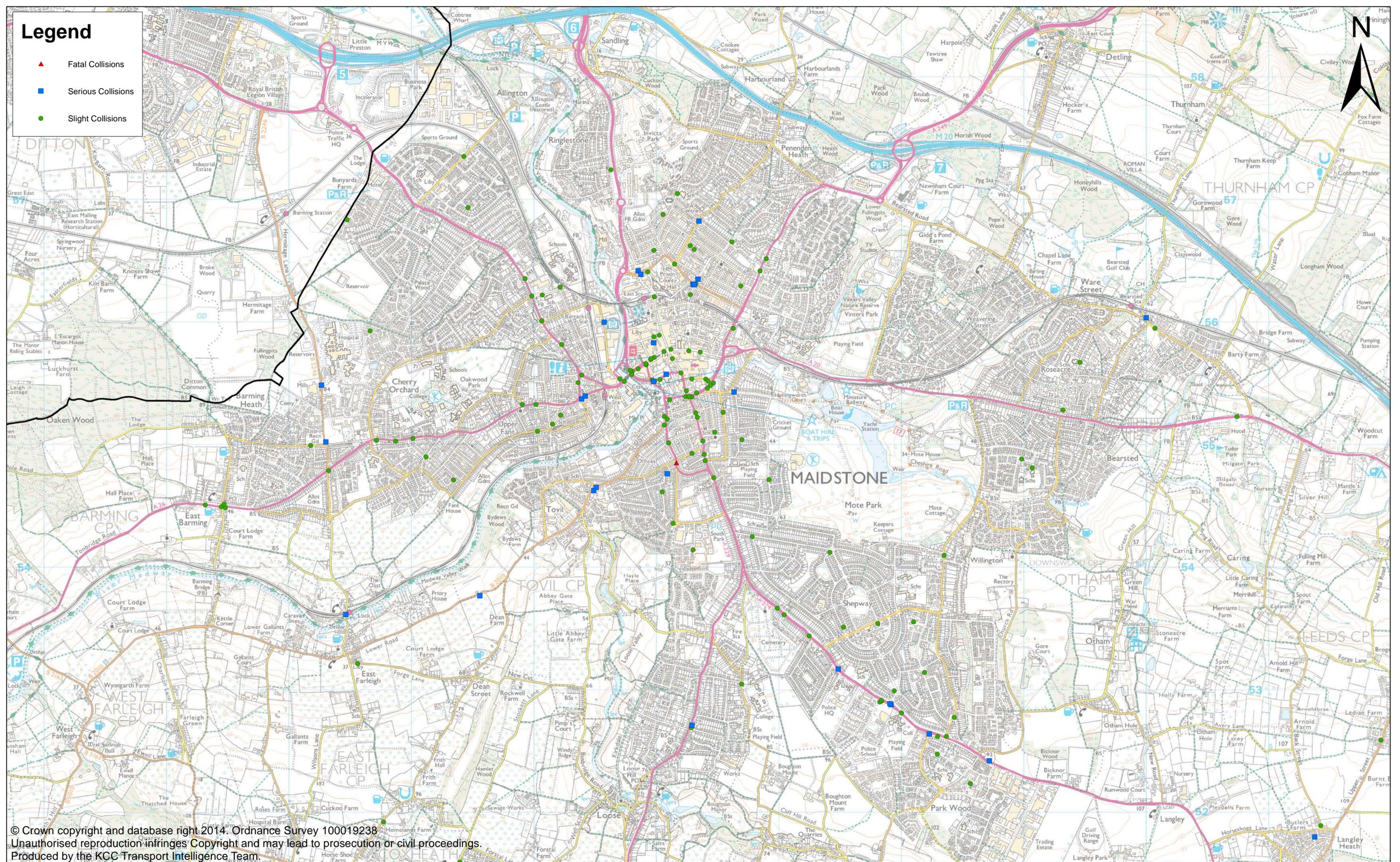
(01.07.2012 to 30.06.2015)

Note: There were no fatal pedal cycle collisions recorded during this period

Legend	
■	Serious Collisions
●	Slight Collisions

Legend

- ▲ Fatal Collisions
- Serious Collisions
- Slight Collisions



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Maidstone Pedestrian Collisions

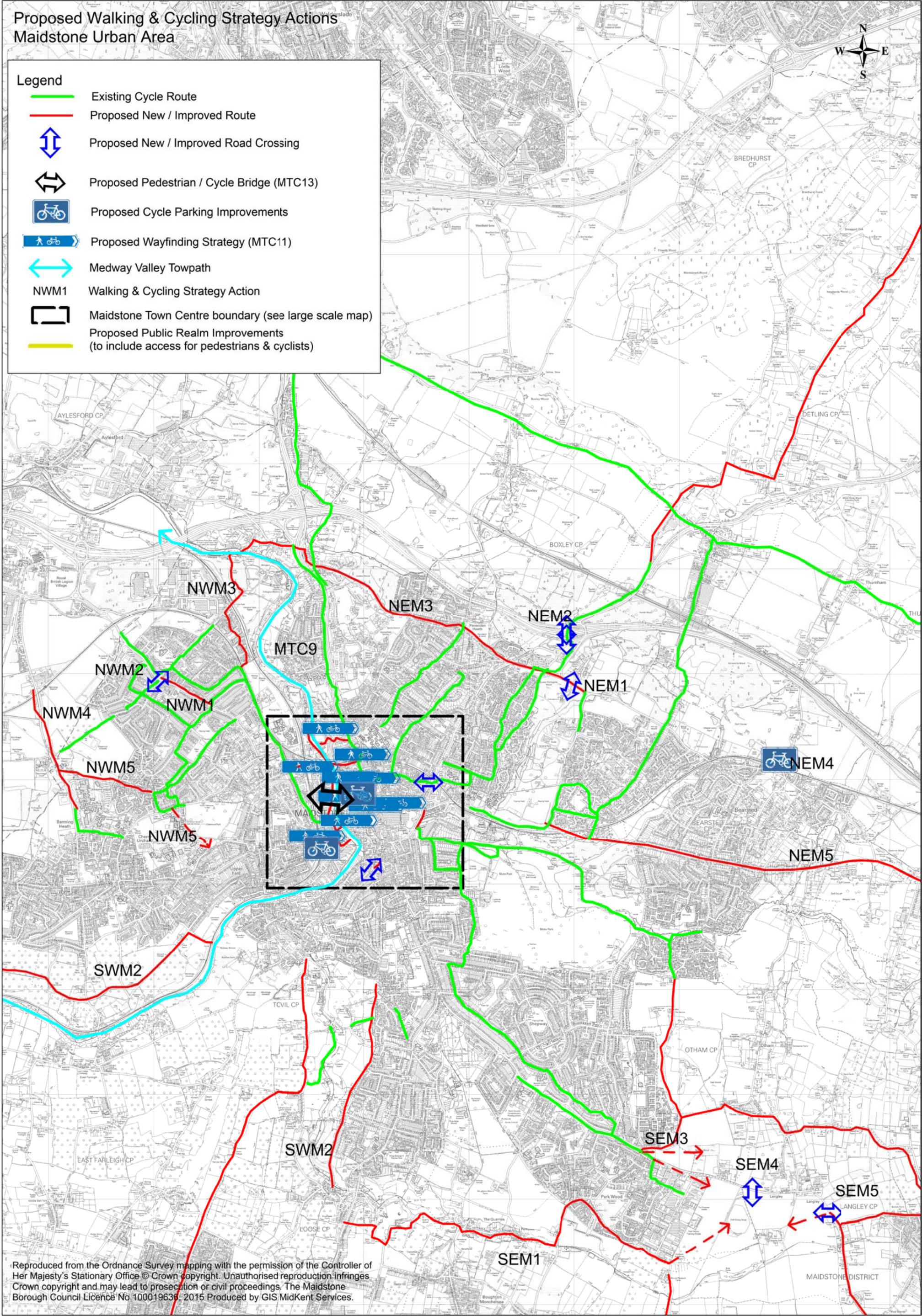
(01.07.2012 to 30.06.2015)



Proposed Walking & Cycling Strategy Actions Maidstone Urban Area

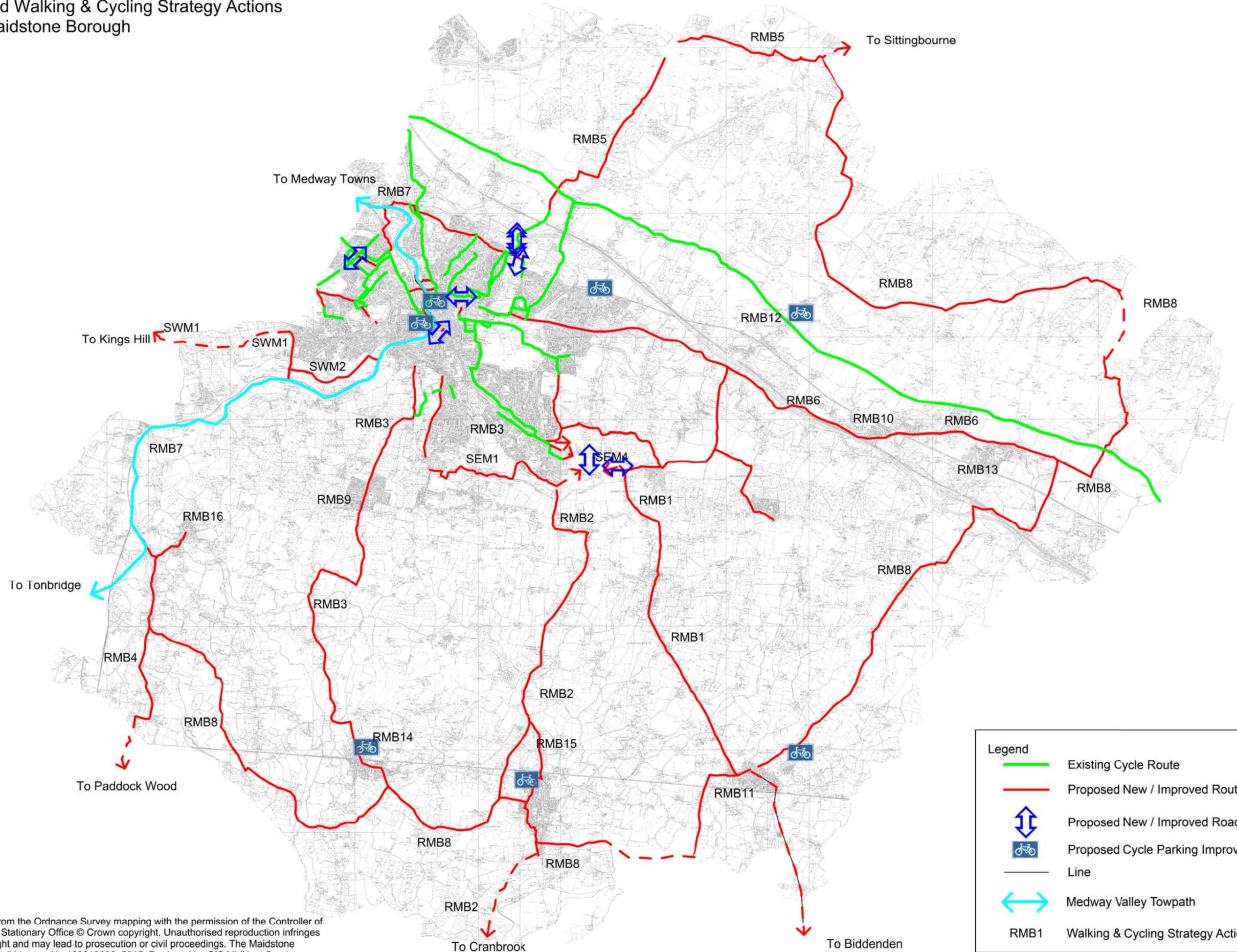
Legend

-  Existing Cycle Route
-  Proposed New / Improved Route
-  Proposed New / Improved Road Crossing
-  Proposed Pedestrian / Cycle Bridge (MTC13)
-  Proposed Cycle Parking Improvements
-  Proposed Wayfinding Strategy (MTC11)
-  Medway Valley Towpath
- NWM1 Walking & Cycling Strategy Action
-  Maidstone Town Centre boundary (see large scale map)
-  Proposed Public Realm Improvements (to include access for pedestrians & cyclists)



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Proposed Walking & Cycling Strategy Actions
Rural Maidstone Borough

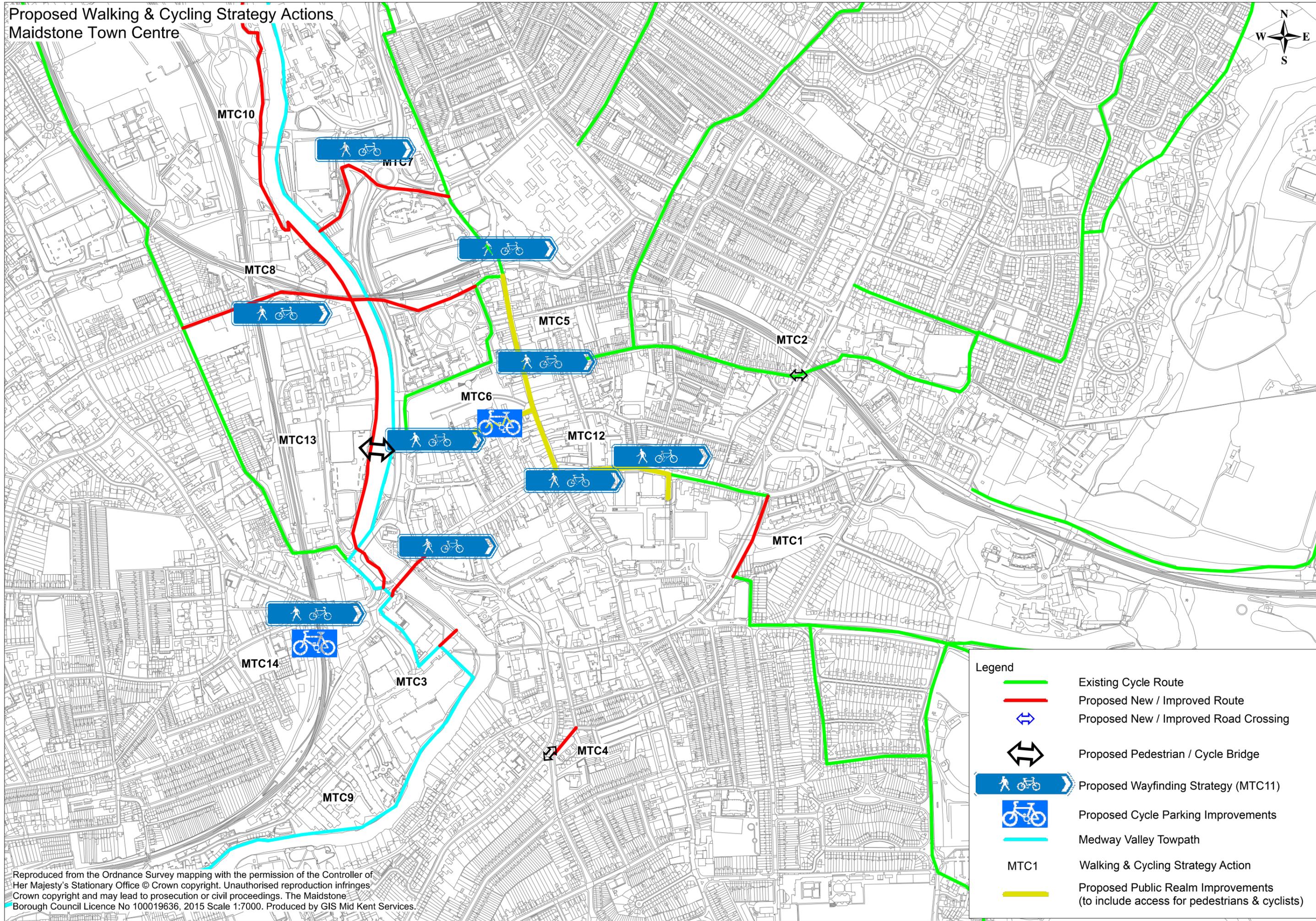


Legend

- Existing Cycle Route
- Proposed New / Improved Route
- Proposed New / Improved Road Crossing
- Proposed Cycle Parking Improvements
- Line
- ↔ Medway Valley Towpath
- RMB1 Walking & Cycling Strategy Action

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Proposed Walking & Cycling Strategy Actions
Maidstone Town Centre



Legend	
	Existing Cycle Route
	Proposed New / Improved Route
	Proposed New / Improved Road Crossing
	Proposed Pedestrian / Cycle Bridge
	Proposed Wayfinding Strategy (MTC11)
	Proposed Cycle Parking Improvements
	Medway Valley Towpath
	MTC1 Walking & Cycling Strategy Action
	Proposed Public Realm Improvements (to include access for pedestrians & cyclists)

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