

**Transport and Environment
Traffic and Safety Group**



**Traffic Management & Cycling
(Minor Project Service)**

PROJECT BRIEF

Project Title: National Cycle Network Route 21 - northern extension
 Project To carry out a feasibility study of options for the extension of the National
Cycle Network (NCN) Route 21 between as Heathfield and Mayfield and to investigate any
additional routes linking the Cuckoo Trail and the Forest Way

Date: 22/12/2004
 Client Order Number: _____ Value: _____
 Client Contact Officer: Tobias Bauer, Principal Officer (Cycling) 01273 482111
 Client Ref: T/Cycles/04
 Consultant Contact _____
 Consultant Ref: _____
 Scheme Location: Wealden District, East Sussex
 Grid Reference: _____

BRIEF REQUIREMENTS

1 Project Stage

Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Consultation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feasibility Design	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preliminary Design	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (State): detailed costing		Detailed Design	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Project Output

Safety Audit – Stage 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cycle Audit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Investigate Comments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sketch Proposals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amend Original Proposals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Works estimate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AutoCAD Layouts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Design Fee Estimate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic Sign Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Impact	
Target programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	Response Analysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assessment	
DfT Authorisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Directors Authorisation	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Schedule for Traffic Order	<input type="checkbox"/>	Statement of Reasons	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Draft Committee Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Covering Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>		

3 Project Data

a) Organise Surveys	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Method of Measurement	
Traffic Volume	<input type="checkbox"/>	Automatic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicle Speed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Junction Count	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peak	<input type="checkbox"/>
Site Observations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12 hour	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Manual	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Radar	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Off peak	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ordnance Survey Background Map	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Land Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Site Measurements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crash History	<input type="checkbox"/>
Highway Boundary	<input type="checkbox"/>		

4 Project Consultation

[Preliminary and Statutory Consultation Process]

	Client	Cons		Client	Cons		Client	Cons
Fire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Councillors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport Strategy Group	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District Councillors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape Group	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ambulance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parish/Town* Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Built Form	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus Companies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area Highway Mgr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statutory Undertakers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustrans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shop Owners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freight Transport Assoc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road Haulage Assoc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) County Ecologist BHS (High Weald Bridleway Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(* Delete as applicable)

5. Public Consultation

	Client	Cons		Client	Cons		Client	Cons
Access Groups (Disabled)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport 2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affected Properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residents Association	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	County Councillor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pressure Group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Employers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highways Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	South Downs Conservation Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Weald AONB Unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Venue to be Arranged	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Questionnaire - Leaflets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Draft Committee Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seek Cabinet Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handbill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Street Notice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Radio Broadcast	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exhibition Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Press Notice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Members Memo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Prepare Summary of Results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Notes for Exhibition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Manned Exhibition Display Only Consultation Period: _____

Comments to be Invited Information Only

6 Supporting Documentation / Plans

Documents (specify)	Traffic data for Newick Lane and Heathfield Local Area Transport Strategy for Heathfield	Plans (specify)	Map of the routes
	Study by Babbie		
	Study by Sustrans		

7 Professional Standards

- 7.1 The consultant is to identify all necessary traffic regulation orders, DfT approval and any other statutory procedures required to allow the works to be carried out. Private land ownership and private road status is also to be identified where necessary.
- 7.2 Any additional items to this brief should be agreed with the client project manager before they are undertaken.
- 7.3 All design work is to take account of the latest advice and recommendations contained in the documents listed below:
- o Department for Transport (DfT) guidance
 - o Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD)
 - o Sustrans guidance ('NCN Guidelines and practical details')
 - o IHT 'Cycling-friendly infrastructure'
 - o Appropriate County Council policies such as the East Sussex Cycling Strategy
 - o Others as specified

8 Context of the study

East Sussex County Council has made a commitment to completing the National Cycle Network (NCN) in East Sussex by the end of 2008 and so to provide safe and attractive routes suitable for a variety of users such as pedestrians, cyclists, disabled people and horse riders in accordance with Sustrans guidelines. The County Council is keen to provide traffic-free routes wherever possible or, where this cannot be achieved, create a road environment suitable for use by a family with small children or an unsupervised 12 year-old child.

The Client requests the Consultant to investigate the feasibility of:

- four already identified routes between Heathfield and Mayfield (Part 1)
- any other suitable route between Heathfield and Mayfield (Part 2)
- other suitable routes linking the Cuckoo Trail and the Forest Way (Part 3)

9. Background information

9.1 The National Cycle Network in East Sussex

Two National Cycle Network (NCN) routes cross East Sussex in north-south (NCN Route 21) and east-west (NCN Route 2) directions. The routes to be investigated by the consultant forms part of

Route 21, which, in East Sussex, is approximately 54km long and runs from Polegate in the south to Forest Row in the northwest. About 35 km of the route are already traffic-free.

9.1.1. The Cuckoo Trail

The two main traffic-free sections of the NCN Route 21 are the Forest Way and the Cuckoo Trail. The latter follows a former railway line between Polegate and Heathfield for approximately 17 km and is used by round about 200,000 visitors, predominantly cyclists and pedestrians, per year. It also provides a safe, traffic-free route for a number of schools such as Maynards Green County Primary School, which has a direct access on to the trail. In addition, the Cuckoo Trail forms part of the Greenway or Avenue Verte, an INTERREG funded flagship project, which will eventually link London and Paris via traffic-free or only lightly trafficked routes.

The Cuckoo Trail section of Route 21 currently terminates in the car park on Newnham Road, Heathfield, from where it continues as a signed route along roads and bridleways to Mayfield and beyond. Since the opening of the Cuckoo Trail its popularity has been constantly growing and has led to a strong demand for its extension north of Heathfield. The County Council is now keen to progress the next stage of the scheme and wishes to commission a feasibility study for a high quality route between Heathfield and Mayfield that complies with NCN standards and is suitable for cycles, pedestrians, disabled people and, where practicable, horse riders. The route is expected to serve a functional as well as recreational purpose and it is important that it should be designed to a high standard suitable for all-year use.

10 Route proposals for the northern extension

Four possible route options for the extension of the Cuckoo Trail between Heathfield and Mayfield have been identified by the County Council in cooperation with its project partners, namely the Heathfield Partnership Trust Ltd., Wealden District Council and Sustrans. A public consultation on the routes was carried out in 2003.

In the context of this feasibility study, the least popular of the original options has been omitted and been replaced by another route, Option C, which was identified during the public consultation process.

In addition to these four options, the Client requests the Consultant to investigate further options for the northern extension of Route 21 as specified in 10.2 and 10.3.

10.1 **Part 1: Identified routes between Heathfield and Mayfield**

Part 1 can be subdivided into two distinct components:-

- The area south of Heathfield High Street between the Ghyll Road/ Cuckoo Trail junction and the High Street.
The Client asks the consultant to identify feasible routes to get users from the Cuckoo Trail/Ghyll Road junction, the most southerly point of the study, to the starting points of the four options i.e., the northern end of the railway tunnel (Options B, C and D) and the Marklye Lane/ High Street junction (Option A). The client does not define any specific eastern or western boundaries.
- The area north of the High Street between High Street, Heathfield and the Knole Hill/Station Road junction, Mayfield. The Client requests the consultant to explore the feasibility of the four options A, B, C and D as specified in 10.1.1 to 10.1.4.

10.1.1 Common elements:

The section between Marklye Farm, Heathfield, and Knole Hill, Mayfield, is shared by options A, B and C. On this section, the route follows Marklye Lane and the Marklye Lane bridleway to Old Mill Farm where it joins Newick Lane. From here, it continues along Newick Lane into Mayfield. Special consideration has to be given to the latter part of the route. Newick Lane is a narrow country lane that carries in excess of 2000 vehicles a day and is used by commuter traffic to avoid Heathfield town centre. The client requests the consultant to explore both possible 'off-but-adjacent-to-road' and on-road options. In the case of the latter, any traffic calming features shall be designed in a way as to minimise their visual impact and the urbanisation of the area. As mentioned above, any recommended route has to be suitable for use by a family with small children or an unsupervised 12 year-old child.

10.1.2 Option A

Option A is intended to be an on-road option that would utilise existing public highways and rights of way where possible. The Consultant is required to identify the most feasible route between the Cuckoo Trail/Ghyll Road junction and Marklye Farm. From there the route continues as described in 10.1.1.

Highest priority has to be given to the safety of all potential users and any recommended route has to be suitable for use by a family with small children or an unsupervised 12 year-old child. The details of the recently approved Heathfield Local Area Transport Strategy are currently being developed and the client requests the consultant to liaise with the ESCC Transport Strategy Group to determine any scope for co-operation.

10.1.2 Option B

For Option B the consultant is required to identify the most appropriate route from the Cuckoo Trail/Ghyll Road junction to the Millennium Green at the north end of the old railway tunnel. From here the routes continues along the old railway line to the second railway bridge (owned by Sustrans) where it joins Marklye Lane at the aforementioned point. From Marklye Farm it continues as described in 10.1.1.

As a section of this route traverses private land, it is essential for the consultant to liaise with effected landowners to identify a route that minimises both land take and the possible impact of the scheme on the landowners (see map and contact list for details). If landowner permission cannot be obtained to survey the route on private land, a seven days notice to the landowner is required to access the land under the 1980 Highways Act, Section 289/290.

10.1.3 Option C

This route would follow Option B from the Cuckoo Trail/Ghyll Road junction to the Millennium Green. It then continues along the old railway line to a point 150 metres north-east of the first railway bridge, where it leaves the old track bed and runs for a short while along a footpath in a northerly direction. Unlike in Option B, there is no existing route or right of way for the route to follow. The Client requests the Consultant to identify the most feasible route between the point where the route leaves the old track bed and Markley Farm via the footpaths west of Orchard House, now Marklye House. From there it continues as described in 10.1.1.

As in Option B a section of this route traverses private land, it is essential for the Consultant to liaise with effected landowners to identify a route that minimises both land take and the possible impact of the scheme on the landowners (see map and contact list for details). If landowner permission cannot be obtained to survey the route on private land, a seven days notice to the landowner is required to access the land under the 1980 Highways Act, Sections 289/290.

10.1.4 Option D

The southern section of Option D is identical with Option C as far as the second (Sustrans-owned) railway bridge from where it continues along the old track bed all the way to its point of termination just east of the A267 roundabout in Mayfield. As in Options B and C sections of this route traverse private land, it is essential for the consultant to liaise with the effected landowners to identify route options that minimise both land take and the possible impact of the scheme on the landowners (see

map and contact list for details). In this context, particular consideration has to be given to the most northerly (Knole Hill) section of the route and to the identification of suitable links between the end of the proposed route and Knole Hill/Station Road junction in Mayfield

If landowner permission cannot be obtained to survey the route on private land, a seven days notice to the landowner is required to access the land under the 1980 Highways Act, Sections 289/290.

10.2 Part 2: Other suitable route between Heathfield and Mayfield

In addition to the four options identified in 10.1, the Client requests the Consultant to identify any other suitable and viable route between Heathfield and Mayfield. Please note that two previous studies by Babtie and Sustrans exist. The Client does not specify any specific eastern or western boundaries but asks the Consultant to concentrate on viable routes only and to take the aforementioned studies into account when investigating Part 2.

10.3 Part 3: Other suitable routes linking the Cuckoo Trail and the Forest Way (Part 3)

Whereas Parts 1 and 2 of the study are limited to identifying possible routes between Heathfield and Mayfield, the Client requires the Consultant in Part 3 to extend the scope of the study and to investigate any other possible links between the Cuckoo Trail in the south and the Forest Way in the north. The Client requests the Consultant to utilise as much as possible of the Cuckoo Trail and Forest Way but as in 10.2, the Client does not specify any specific eastern or western boundaries. The Clients asks the Consultant to concentrate on viable routes only and to take the aforementioned studies into account when investigating Part 3.

11 Outputs

The client requires, in accordance with the specified brief requirements, a report (accompanied by appropriate plans), which discusses the various route options for the northern extension of the NCN Route 21 and makes recommendations with regard to the most suitable route. It is of particular importance that a full rational and a breakdown of the anticipated costs, including long-term maintenance, legal and compensatory costs for any recommendation is given within the report. This applies particularly for Part 1, Option D, for which a structural assessment of the embankment and bridges is required.

12 Instruction

I hereby request the consultant to supply the above information by the agreed date.

Tobias Bauer
ESCC Client Project Manager

Date: 22 December 2004
