

1.0 Preamble

1.1.1 Jubb has been commissioned to provide highways and transport advice in relation to a planning application for the introduction of a proposed Southern Boulevard for use by pedestrians and cyclists on land located between Canal Road and the River Tone in Taunton. This proposal forms part of a wider mixed use regeneration proposal within the Town Centre, known as Firepool, comprising the former Taunton Cattle Market and surfaced car parks, situated to the east of Priory Bridge Road and bordering the River Tone.

1.1.2 **Figure 1.1** below sets out the proposed Southern Boulevard in the context of the current proposals for the wider Firepool masterplan. This diagram is also included as **Appendix A** of this Technical Note (TN).

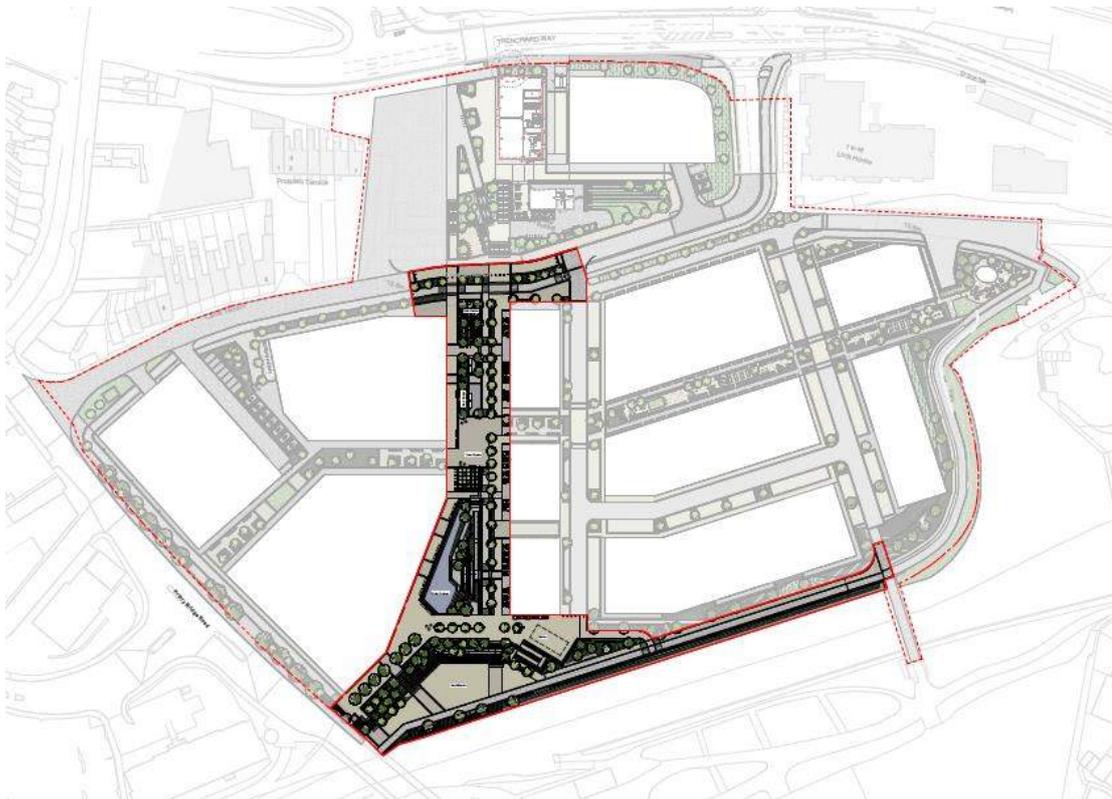


Figure 1.1 Southern Boulevard site plan

1.1.3 The proposed Southern Boulevard proposals will provide a core north south walking and cycling connection that will assist in the creation of a dedicated pedestrian and cycle corridor from Taunton Train Station (in conjunction with the Northern Boulevard forming part of the consented Block 3 works) to the Tone Riverside Path. Furthermore, the east west route along the river would also facilitate onwards connection to Taunton town centre and other local destinations.

1.1.4 Following pre-application consultation with the Local Highway Authority (LHA), the cycle route assessment as set out in this TN has been developed at the LHA's request to set out how the proposals, in conjunction with the evolving wider Firepool masterplan, would complement the existing town network and further enhance connections to key destinations within Taunton.

1.1.5 The TN is therefore structured as follows:

Section 2: Outlines the key existing cycle infrastructure external to the proposals in the local vicinity to provide an associated context for the Southern Boulevard proposals;

Section 3: Sets out how the access strategy of the Southern Boulevard proposals will provide a central key north south cycle link, as well as a suitably located east west link to the south;

Section 4: Provides details of the routes both between the site and through the site to key destinations in order to set out how the Southern Boulevard proposals would assist with these linkages.

1.1.6 In addition, an associated summary and conclusion is also set out in **Section 5**.

1.1.7 It is noted that details setting out how the proposals would enhance pedestrian connectivity are set out in the Design and Access Statement.

2.0 External Cycle Infrastructure Provision

2.1.1 Taunton benefits from a fairly extensive cycle network with high permeability throughout the town centre area in a combination of on-road cycle lanes, traffic-free cycle paths and advisory cycle routes that were knitted together by National Cycle Route 3 (NCN 3). The site is well situated in relation to the local cycle network with a number of cycle routes close to the site that offer a range of cycling opportunities including connections to Taunton Town Centre and Public Transport Hubs. Details of local cycle provision have been extracted from the Somerset County Council (SCC) web site and are shown in **Figure 2.1** with full details included as **Appendix B**.



Figure 2.1 Existing Cycle Provision - Abstract from SCC Taunton Cycling Map (Key included in full plan within Appendix B)

- 2.1.2 NCN 3, which runs through the site at the northern banks of the River Tone, offers a ‘traffic-free’ route to Priorswood Industrial Estate to the east and Taunton Town Centre to the southwest. As part of the proposals the existing towpath along the northern embankment of the River Tone will be improved and incorporated into the Riverside pedestrian/cycle route that will accommodate NCN 3 facilitating an east-west pedestrian and cyclist corridor. Details of this are provided in **Section 3** below.
- 2.1.3 Extending westwards, NCN 3 runs under Priory Bridge Road before crossing the River Tone at an existing pedestrian/cycle bridge to the northwest of Somerset County Cricket Ground and feeding into the pedestrian and cycling route along the southern embankment of the River Tone. Continuing westwards, the traffic free route then provides pedestrian and cyclists connection to the pedestrian shopping zone along St James Street before connecting onto the on-road cycle provision along The Bridge.
- 2.1.4 Running in a north south direction, the on-road cycle track along The Bridge affords the primary cycle link into Taunton town centre. Along the route, it joins together the traffic free cycleways, advisory cycle routes and on road provision along the side roads and River Tone offering onwards connection to the western areas of Taunton.
- 2.1.5 A shared use pathway can also be accessed along the southern side of Trenchard Way. Running in an east west alignment this route facilitates continuous cycling connection to Belvedere Trading Estate in the west, and linkage to NCN 3 to the east. An existing Toucan crossing is also located on Trenchard Way which provides a connection from the Trenchard Way cycle route to the Station access road on the northern side of the road.

2.1.6 In addition, the site is surrounded by a number of on-road and 'traffic-free' cycle routes that spur off NCN Route 3 facilitating onwards cycle connections to the nearby residential, retail, employment and leisure destinations in the local area.

2.1.7 It is also noted that the recent consent at Block 3 to the north will also introduce linkages between Canal Road and Trenchard Way. The proposals will therefore serve to extend this desire line to the south to link with the River Tone.

3.0 Internal Cycle Provision

3.1.1 In order to ensure the safety, attractiveness and accessibility of cycle movement the following infrastructure provisions are proposed as part of the Southern Boulevard proposals:

- Pedestrian and cycleways will be provided through the Southern Boulevard between Canal Road and the proposed east west cycle routes on the River Tone. This will be a mixture of segregated routes where possible with some shared spaces at crossing points and key destinations such as the Town Square and around the Amphitheatre area.
- NCN 3, which passes through the existing site, will be retained and enhanced along the river front. On the northern side of the River Tone, the existing towpath through the southern half of the proposals will be upgraded to an improved shared pedestrian-cycle route that will accommodate NCN 3 in an east-west direction.

3.1.2 **Figure 3.1** (also included as **Appendix C**) provides details as to how the Southern Boulevard proposals in conjunction with the wider Firepool masterplan would facilitate connection with the wider cycle network discussed in **Section 2**.

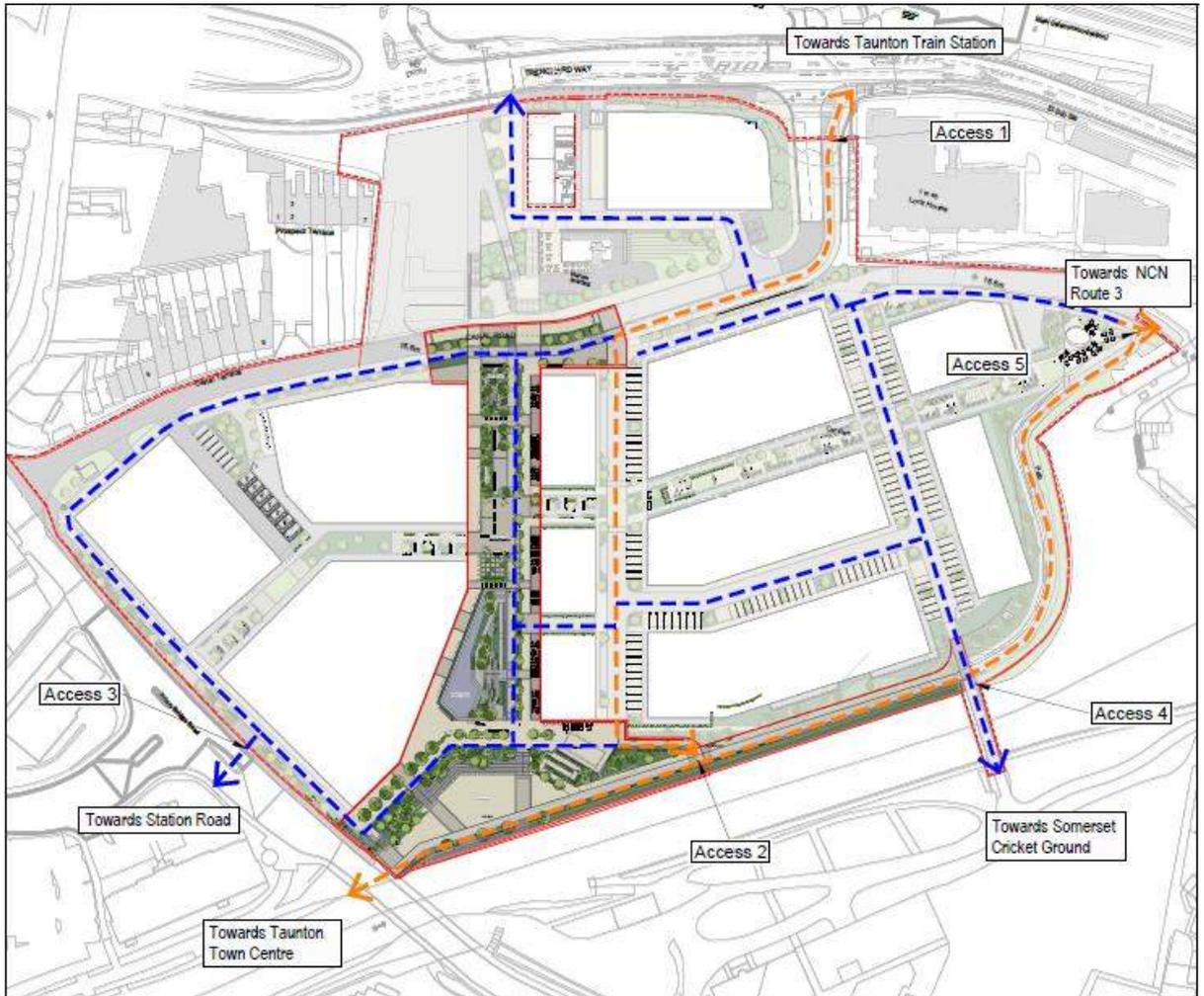


Figure 3.1 Proposed cycle connections through Southern Boulevard proposals (current wider Firepool Masterplan included for further context)

4.0 Links to External Destinations

4.1.1 **Figure 4.1** (also included as **Appendix D**) below sets out the key routes that link with nearby destinations in the area in consideration of the advised SCC cycle routes as set out in **Figure 2.1**. In addition, **Table 4.1** provides details of the cycle distances to and from the centre of Firepool via these routes and in consideration of the Southern Boulevard proposals, with journey time also identified based on a typical cycle journey time of 240m every minute.

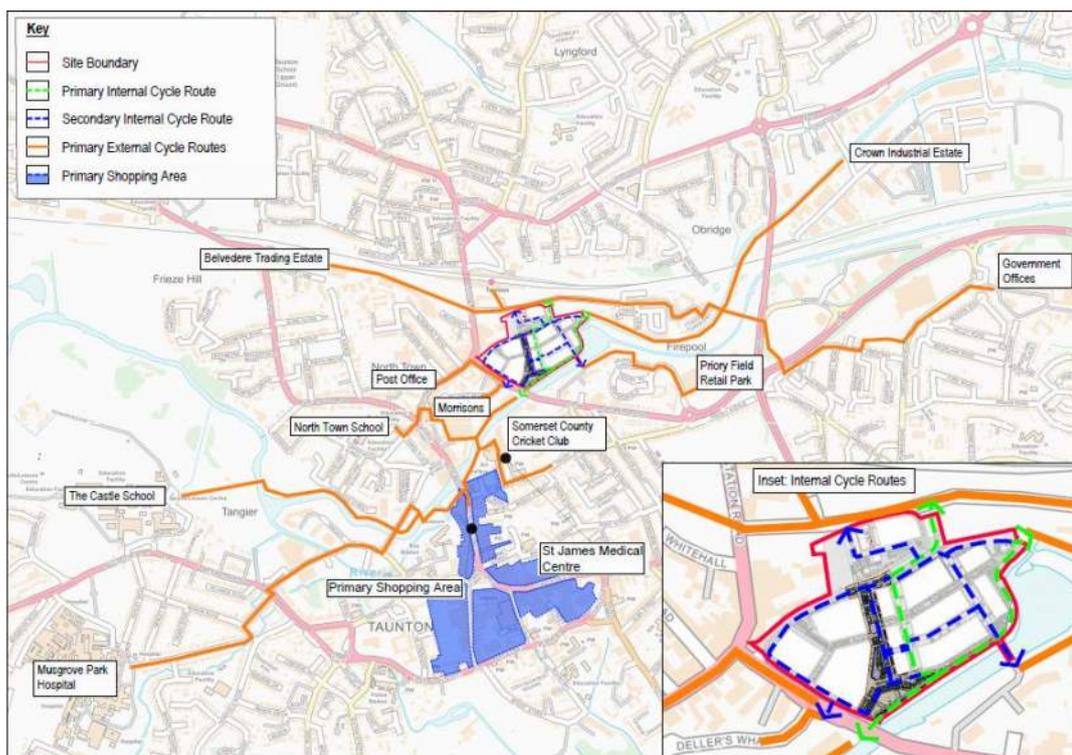


Figure 4.1 Proposed cycle connections to wider destinations (current wider Firepool Masterplan included for further context)

Service/Facility	Location	Distance (m)	Journey Time (minutes)
North Town School	Staplegrove Road	734	3
The Castle School	Wellington Road	1725	7
Post Office	Station Road	519	2
Morrisons	Deller's Wharf	349	1
Priory Fields Retail Park	Priory Avenue	786	3
Primary Shopping Area	North Street	635	3
St James Medical Centre	Coal Orchard	596	2
Musgrove Park Hospital	Parkfield Drive	2050	8
Somerset County Cricket Club	Priory Avenue	825	10
Belvedere Trading Estate	Trenchard Way	963	4
Crown Industrial Estate	St James Street	1436	6
Government Offices	Admiralty Way	1884	8
Taunton Railway Station	Station Approach	223	1
Between Taunton Railway Station and Primary Shopping Area (via the internal cycle network)		858	4

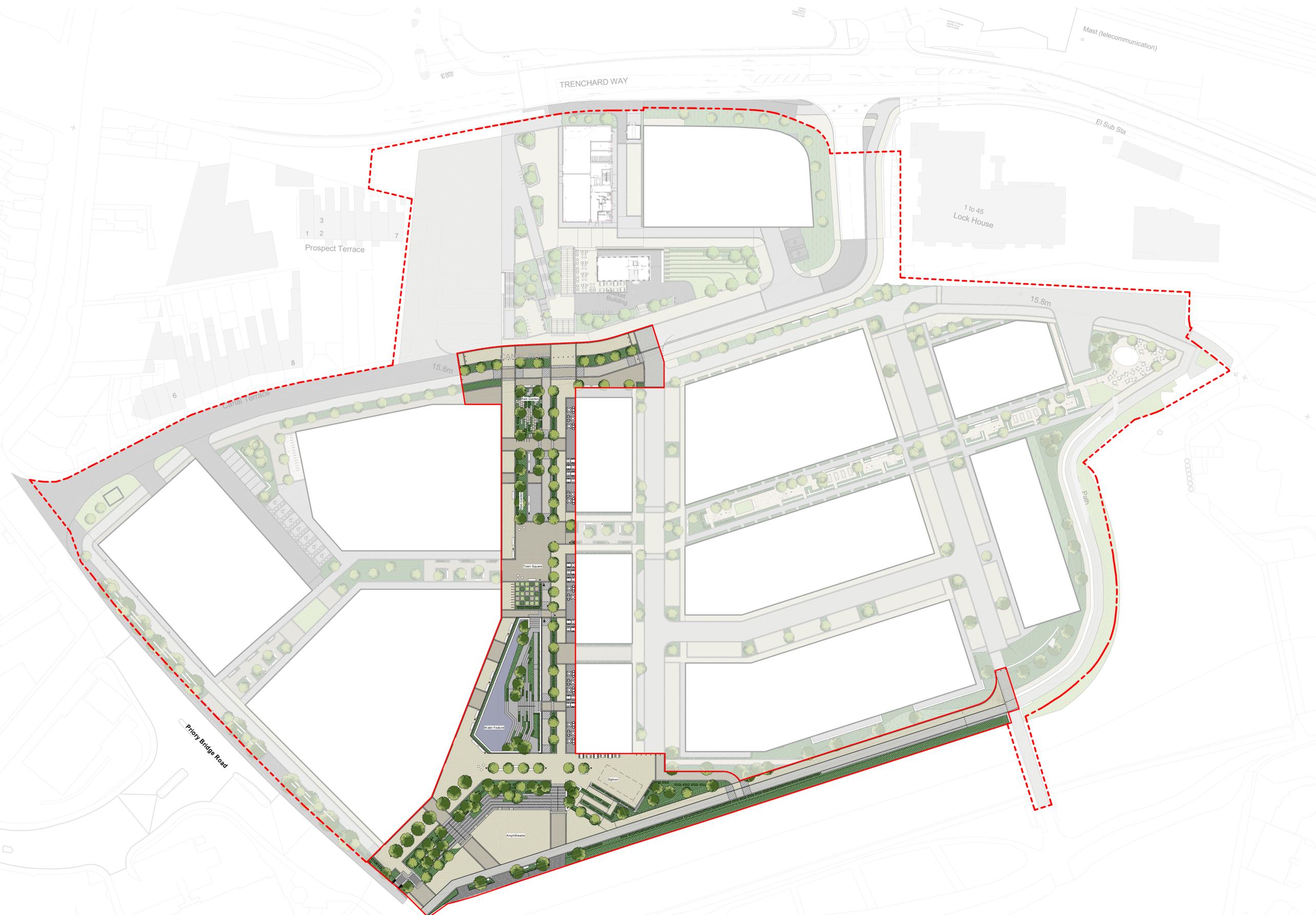
Table 4.1 Travel Distance and Journey Time

4.1.2 As can be seen above, all of the identified key destinations can be reached within a short bike journey of 10-minutes or less. In addition, a cycle journey of approximately 4 minutes from Taunton's Railway Station to Taunton's main shopping area can also be delivered through the internal cycle network. Thus, it is considered that the proposed cycle strategy as set out for the Southern Boulevard is both appropriate in terms of local context and in terms of wider strategic context within the town.

5.0 Summary

5.1.1 The analysis as set out within this TN demonstrates how the proposed Southern Boulevard development will serve to complement existing cycle routes in the area to facilitate convenient journey times to and from the immediate locality. In addition, the proposals also provide a convenient route enabling enhanced connection between Taunton Railway Station and Taunton's main shopping area that would therefore serve to improve cycle connectivity through the centre for visitors to the town. Routes proposed include primary routes to allow cyclists to traverse through the network in a quick and efficient manner (i.e. for journeys through Firepool) and secondary leisure routes that link with the various proposed uses within Firepool. Thus, it is considered that the proposed cycle strategy as set out for the Southern Boulevard is both appropriate in terms of local context and in terms of wider strategic context within the town.

Appendix A Proposed Boulevard Layout in the Context of the Current Wider Firepool Masterplan



Rev	Description	Date	By	Appr	By
P04	(S0) Issued for Coordination	220610	AJS	AJS	
P03	(S0) Layout & Red Line Updated	220411	AJS	AJS	
P02	(S0) Updated Masterplan	220309	AJS	AJS	
P01	(S0) Draft Masterplan	202224	DK	AJS	
Rev	Description	Date	By	Appr	By
DK		2022/02/24		AJS	

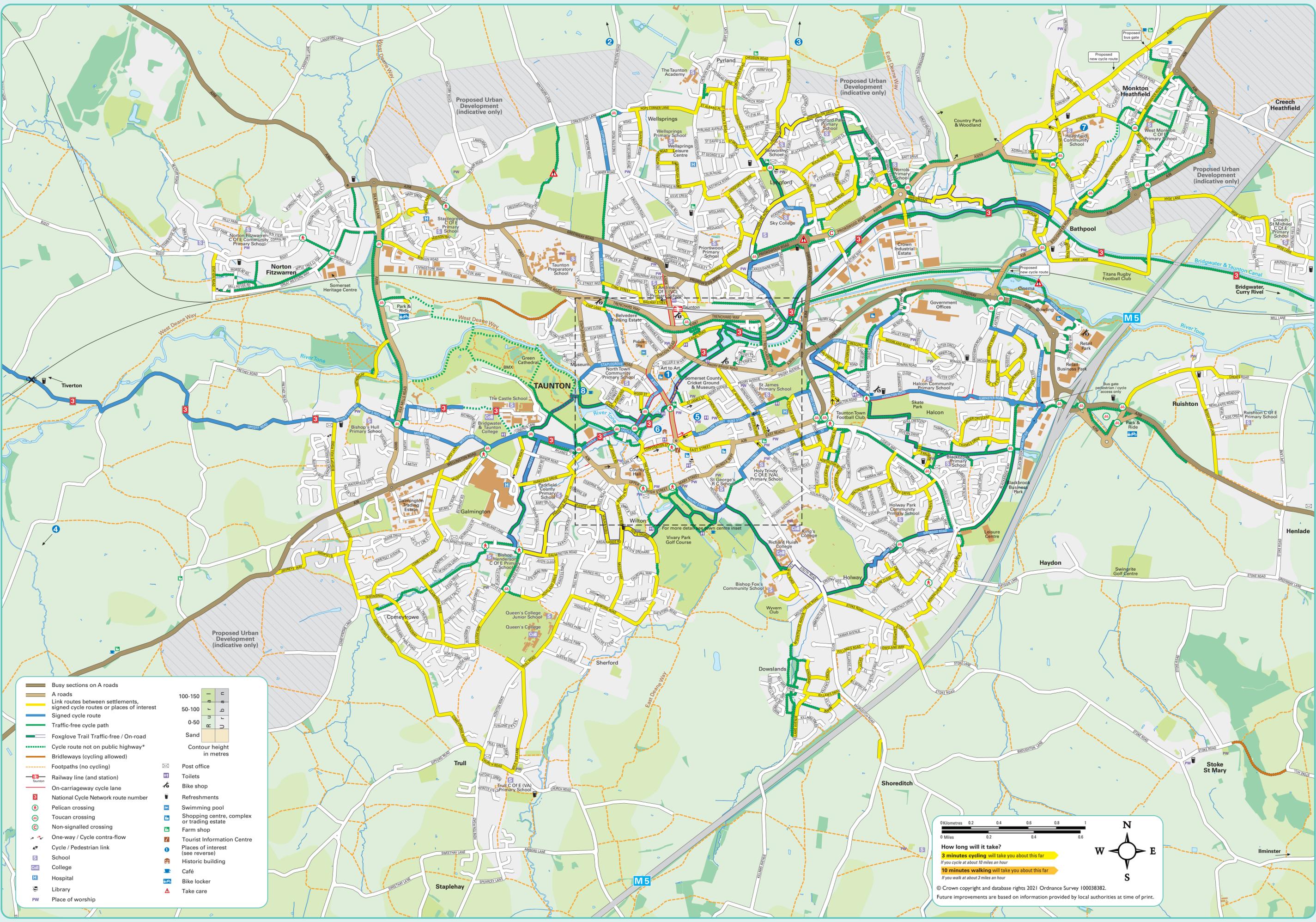


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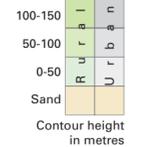
client name Somerset West and Taunton	
project Firepool Masterplan	
drawing Masterplan - Proposed	
computer file C:\projects\FB5-AHR-MP-XX-DR-L-90100\AHR_somwest.rvt	plot date
project number 2021.00440.000	scale 1:400 @A0
drawing number FB5-AHR-MP-XX-DR-L-90100	rev issue status P04 S0

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Appendix B Taunton Cycle Route Network



- Busy sections on A roads
- A roads
- Link routes between settlements, signed cycle routes or places of interest
- Signed cycle route
- Traffic-free cycle path
- Foxglove Trail Traffic-free / On-road
- Cycle route not on public highway*
- Bridleways (cycling allowed)
- Footpaths (no cycling)
- Railway line (and station)
- On-carriageway cycle lane
- National Cycle Network route number
- Pelican crossing
- Toucan crossing
- Non-signalised crossing
- One-way / Cycle contra-flow
- Cycle / Pedestrian link
- School
- College
- Hospital
- Library
- Place of worship



- Post office
- Toilets
- Bike shop
- Refreshments
- Swimming pool
- Shopping centre, complex or trading estate
- Farm shop
- Tourist Information Centre
- Places of interest (see reverse)
- Historic building
- Café
- Bike locker
- Take care

0 Kilometres 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1
0 Miles 0.2 0.4 0.6

How long will it take?
3 minutes cycling will take you about this far
 If you cycle at about 10 miles an hour
10 minutes walking will take you about this far
 If you walk at about 3 miles an hour

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Cycling and walking in Somerset

Including Shoreditch, Stoke St Mary, Trull, Staplehay, Comeytrowe, Sherford and Galmington

Taunton

Cycling groups & services

- TAUNTON AREA CYCLING CAMPAIGN**
Taunton Area Cycling Campaign is seeking improved cycle provision and promotion, working with the local authorities and building on the survey that we carried out in summer 2016. We are a friendly group and welcome new members and supporters. To join our supporters list for regular newsletters, email us tauntonareacyclingcampaign@gmail.com. Visit our website at www.thetacc.org.uk
- CYCLE SOMERSET**
Cycle Somerset is affiliated to Cycling UK (CTC) and is a club for individuals and families. There is a wide range of rides to choose from and in addition to weekend rides the club has events for ladies, 'back on your bike', evening and mid-week groups. Membership is £10/ household p.a. Details of rides at www.cyclesomerset.org.uk
- TAUNTON BIKE CLUB**
Taunton Bike Club is a British Cycling GoRide club and has rides and sessions for bike skills for young riders aged 8-16 years old. Opportunities offered include cyclocross races and visits to Newport velodrome. The cost is £5 membership and £2 a session. www.tauntonbikeclub.org.uk
- WELLINGTON WHEELERS**
Wellington Wheelers Cycling Club, a sociable cycling club based in Wellington, Somerset. It is a welcoming, friendly club that has three groups out every Sunday and Tuesday. Abilities range from relative beginners in the C group to racers and climbers in the A group. Loads of events are laid on throughout the year from Time Trials to barbecues, details of which are at www.wellingtonwheelers.co.uk or on the club Facebook page.
- ON YOUR BIKE**
On Your Bike, Taunton recycles unwanted bicycles, supports disadvantaged people into work and promotes cycling for health and fitness. The charity's retail outlets offer a huge range of new and refurbished bicycles for sale, plus speedy, high quality bicycle servicing and repairs in our workshops. On Your Bike has refurbished thousands of scrapped bicycles, introduced hundreds of new riders to the benefits of cycling and worked with over 300 beneficiaries to improve their well-being and life chances! www.on-your-bike.org
- THE SOMERSET TRIATHLON CLUB**
Somerset RC Tri is an inclusive triathlon club that aims to provide the opportunity for people of all ages to train and race triathlons. For more information please visit www.somersettriaci.co.uk



Taunton - The South West's First Garden Town

Somerset West and Taunton
Taunton blends superb natural surroundings with a thriving centre and a great quality of life. The town was awarded Garden Town status in 2017 by Government and there is a strong commitment to develop a town where the outstanding natural environment, diverse and thriving economy and inspiring cultural offer contribute to an exceptional quality of life and well-being. At the heart of this is the environment; giving the town a green makeover by joining up green spaces, waterways, parks and play spaces, planting more street trees and woodlands to improve it for recreation, tourism and wildlife.

Taunton is already a great place for cyclists and walkers! The Council is committed to enabling more efficient and sustainable ways of getting around and will support reducing car use through park and ride schemes, introducing pedestrian areas in the town centre and creating more, improved walking and cycling routes.

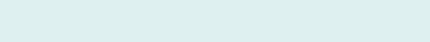
COACH

Centre for Outdoor Activity and Community Hub is a multi-purpose community facility in French Weir Park, Taunton. It provides access to outdoor, social and sporting activities for the whole community, young people in particular. It is home to a number of local sports clubs, including Longrun Meadow.

Parkrun, C.O.A.C.H is also an Outdoor Education centre for schools with activities being run by Channel Adventure (www.channeladventure.co.uk).

Forming part of C.O.A.C.H, The Park Room is a spacious open-plan room available for corporate hire. It has picturesque views over French Weir Park, Longrun Meadow and the River Tone, and is well-appointed with free Wi-Fi and a large screen for meetings and other events.

Also on site is The Weir Café. Situated on the banks of the river, it is independently run and a great place to relax and enjoy some delicious refreshments.



Taunton

Located in a valley between the Quantock and Blackdown Hills (both designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), Taunton, the County Town of Somerset, is steeped in history and is home to an array of splendid historical attractions.

Especially worthy of note are the 12th century Taunton Castle, which houses the Museum of Somerset, and the Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene Church with its impressive 163ft tower. These, and many other buildings of historical interest, can be found by following the Taunton Heritage Trail.

Taunton holds a varied mix of cultural and musical events throughout the year. The popular Broomfield Theatre & Arts Centre presents a wide ranging programme and the CICCIC Creative Innovation Centre is a venue for diverse music, arts and workshops.

With regards to local cuisine, there is a wide selection of venues in the town centre and beyond where you can enjoy some of the region's fantastic local produce. Pubs, cafés, traditional tearooms and prestigious restaurants offer something to suit every taste. The Farmers' Market, held every Thursday, presents a great opportunity to sample locally produced fare.

Taunton boasts an eclectic mix of specialist and independent shops as well as the well-known High Street brands. The Orchard Centre, Bath Place and Taunton Independent Quarter, as well as the Independent Market which takes place on Castle Green, have something for everyone. If antique hunting is to your liking, visit the Antiques Market with over 130 dealers, held on Mondays.

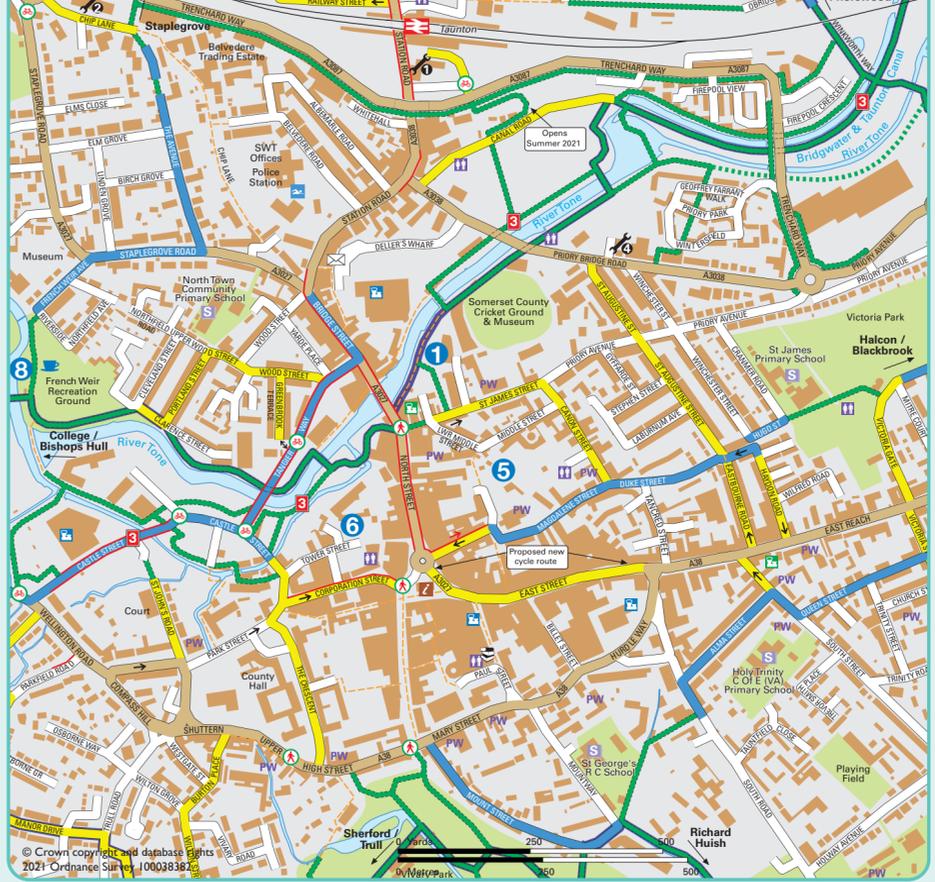
The River Tone flows through the town linking Taunton's green spaces such as Goodland Gardens, French Weir Park and Longrun Meadow. The award-winning Vivary Park in the town centre has been home to the spectacular annual flower show since 1851.

Sports feature prominently in Taunton. The Taunton National Hunt Racecourse is just 2.5 miles from the town centre and the Somerset County Cricket Ground, which also hosts international matches, is in the town centre itself.

There are fantastic opportunities for cyclists and walkers to enjoy the area, from the lovely setting of the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal to the beautiful hills which surround the town. The mostly flat Foxglove Cycle Trail follows some of the town's traffic free paths and quiet roads, and is suitable for all.

For more information on events, attractions and the local area, contact the Taunton Visitor Centre, Market House, Fore Street, Taunton, TA1 1JD
Tel: 01823 340470
Email: tauntonvisitorcentre@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk
Website: www.visitsomerset.co.uk/taunton
Social Media: search 'Visit Taunton'

Town centre



Our campaign to enable more cycling

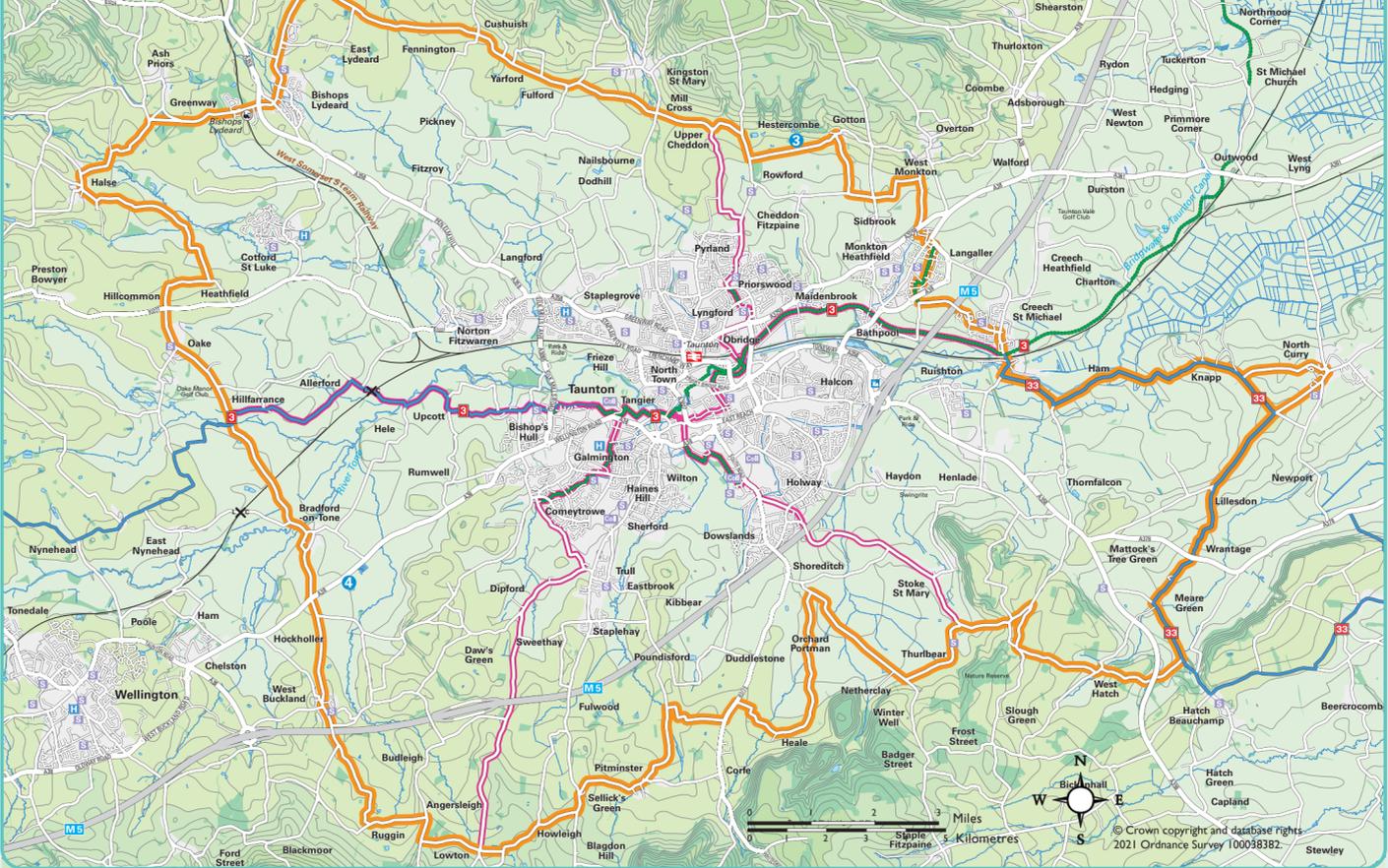
We launched the 'Turn the network blue' campaign in 2019. The aim is to invest so that the red and amber routes (poor and substandard) in the Taunton Cycling network map become blue (better quality routes) so that everywhere locally is easily connected by bike.

Nearly 2000 people signed our petition asking Somerset West and Taunton Council and Somerset County Council to adopt it. The former have the map as part of their plans, whilst SCC has produced a 'Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan' which includes some of the priority routes. Both local authorities have made bids for funding for some parts of the network.

For more information visit our website www.thetacc.org.uk, where you can find our leaflet on the campaign.



Taunton Cycle Trail & the surrounding area



Routes & symbols

- Motorway
- Local routes
- Signed cycle route
- Taunton Cycle Trail
- Taunton Cycle Trail linking routes
- Traffic-free cycle path
- Railway line (and station)
- NCN / regional route number
- School
- College
- Places of interest
- Shopping centre, complex or trading estate
- Hospital

REPORTING A PROBLEM ON THE HIGHWAY AND/OR PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
You can report a problem on the highway, public footpath/bridleway or cycle path by calling 0300 123 2224 or go to www.travelsomerset.co.uk

This map is published with the intention of providing information about the local road and cycle path networks. Every effort is made to ensure that all the information is up to date and accurate. Inclusion of marked routes on the map does not guarantee that these routes will be hazard-free. In particular, the routes marked in yellow indicate strategic routes linking settlements, marked cycle routes or other facilities and have been chosen according to a number of criteria which may make them more convenient to cyclists, including gradient, directness and typical traffic conditions. They do not indicate an enhanced level of maintenance or guaranteed safe conditions. Somerset County Council does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage that may occur resulting from the reliance upon this information.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these maps. Somerset Council and partners cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

*Routes that are not public highway

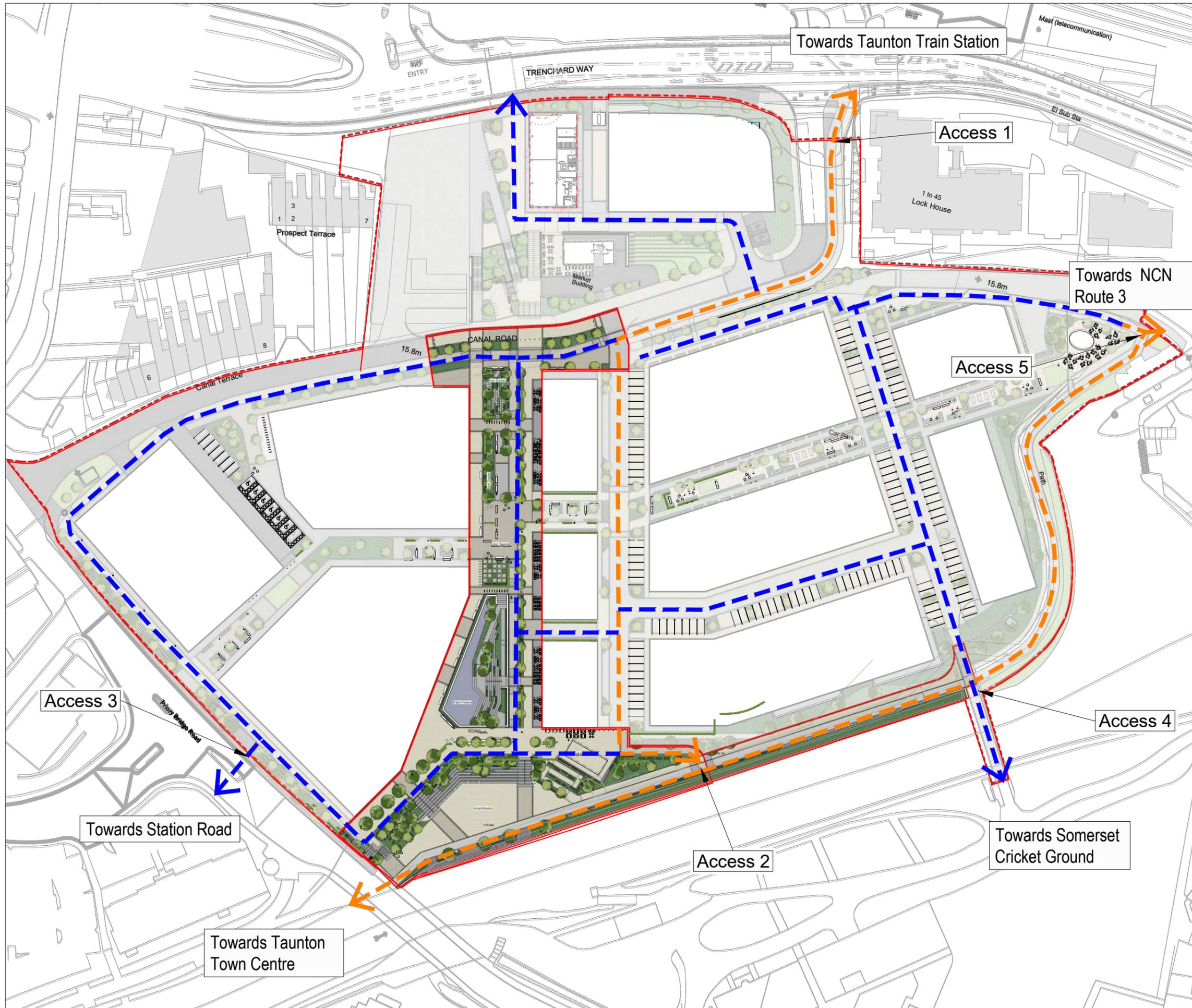
These routes (marked with dashed lines on key) are not dedicated as public highway. Somerset County Council has no responsibility for the maintenance, ease of access or condition of these paths and cannot accept any liability for any injury, loss or damage to any property arising from their use.

Cartography © FourPoint Mapping
Updated March 2021.

Useful information & places to go

- PLACES TO VISIT**
- The Broomfield**
Theatre & Arts Centre
Coal Orchard TA1 1JL
01823 283244
www.thebroomfield.co.uk
 - Fyne Court - National Trust**
Broomfield, Bridgwater
TA5 2EQ
01643 862452
 - Hestercombe Gardens**
Cheddon Fitzpaine
TA2 8LG
01823 413923
www.hestercombe.com
 - Sheppy's Cider**
Bradford-on-Tone TA4 1ER
01823 461233
www.sheppycider.com
 - St Mary Magdalene Church**
Church Square TA1 1SA
01823 272441
 - The Museum of Somerset**
Castle Green TA1 4AA
01823 255088
 - Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre**
School Road TA2 8PD
01823 414141
www.tacchi-morris.com
 - COACH**
French Weir Avenue
TA1 1XQ
01823 432724
www.coach-taunton.org.uk
- BIKE SHOPS**
- On Your Bike Charity**
The Coach House
Great Western Hotel
Station Approach TA1 1QW
01823 259035,
www.on-your-bike.co.uk
 - The Bicycle Chain**
Chip Lane
Staplegrove Road
TA1 1BZ
01823 252499
www.bicyclechain.co.uk
 - Halfords**
3 Hankridge Way
TA1 2LR
01823 443415
 - Nationwide E-bikes**
Three Bridges
Bradford-on-Tone TA4 1ER
01823 461233
www.nationwideebikes.co.uk
 - ND Cycles**
3a Roman Road TA1 2BD
01823 365917
www.ndcycles.co.uk
- LIBRARIES**
- Taunton Library**
Paul Street TA1 3XZ
and
Priorswood
Eastwick Road TA2 7HD
0300 123 2224
taulib@somerset.gov.uk
- TOURIST INFORMATION**
Taunton Visitor Centre
Market House, Fore Street, Taunton TA1 1JD
01823 340470
tauntonvisitorcentre@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Appendix C Proposed Cycle Provision Onsite



- Key**
- Site Boundary
 - Primary Cycle Route
 - Secondary Cycle Route

Rev	Date	Description	By	Apvd
P3	13.05.22	Amendments	NP	JD
P2	05.05.22	Amendments	NP	SR
P1	08.04.22	Preliminary issue	NP	SR

PROJECT:
FIREPOOL, TAUNTON

TITLE:
CYCLE CONNECTIVITY:
PRIMARY & SECONDARY ROUTES

CLIENT:
SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON
COUNCIL

SCALE@A3:
NTS

PROJECT REF:
21137

DRAWING No: SK_006 **REV:** P3

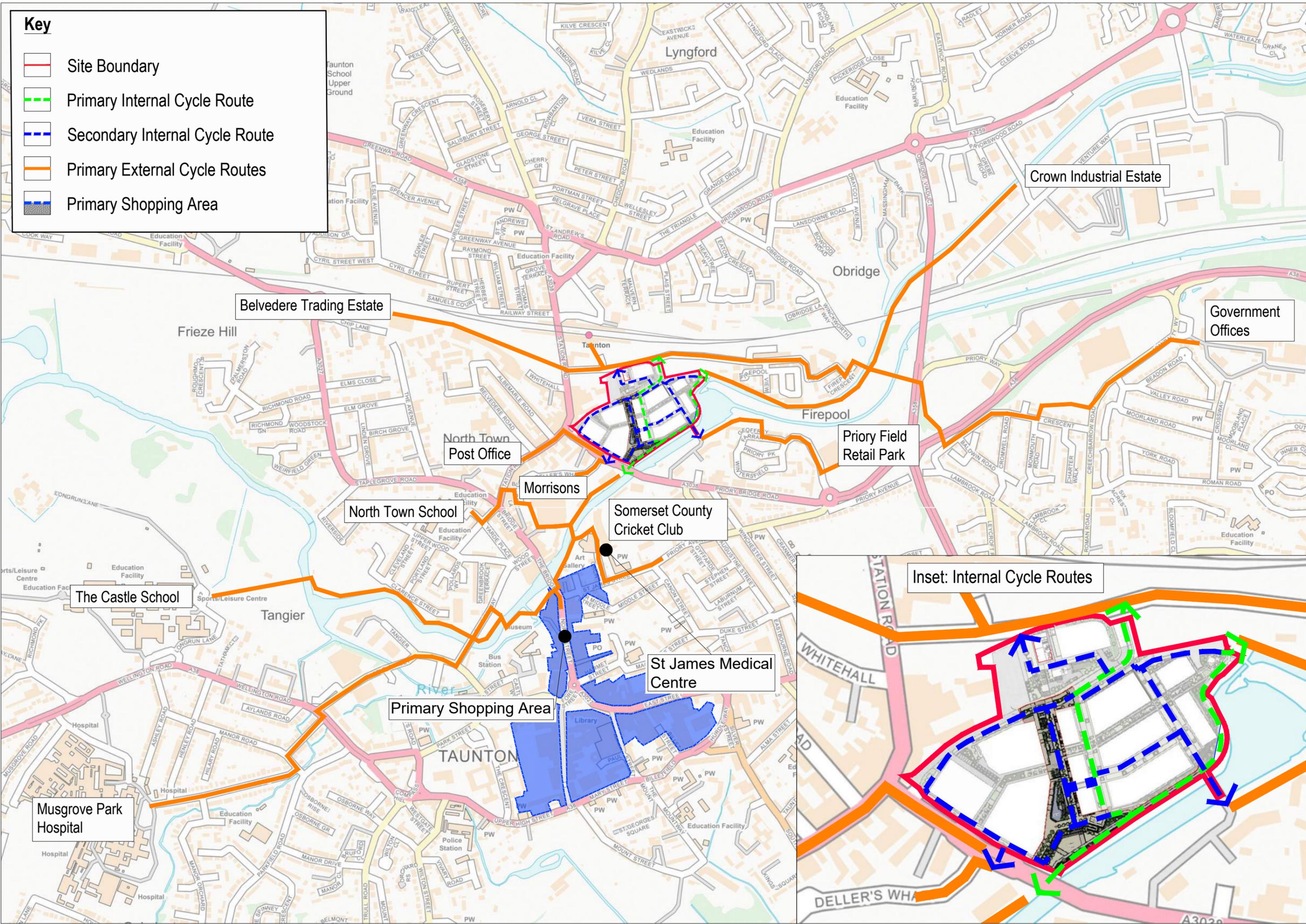
Revision Referencing
P = Preliminary A = Approval T = Tender C = Construction



Appendix D Identified Primary Cycle Routes

Key

- Site Boundary
- Primary Internal Cycle Route
- Secondary Internal Cycle Route
- Primary External Cycle Routes
- Primary Shopping Area



Inset: Internal Cycle Routes

