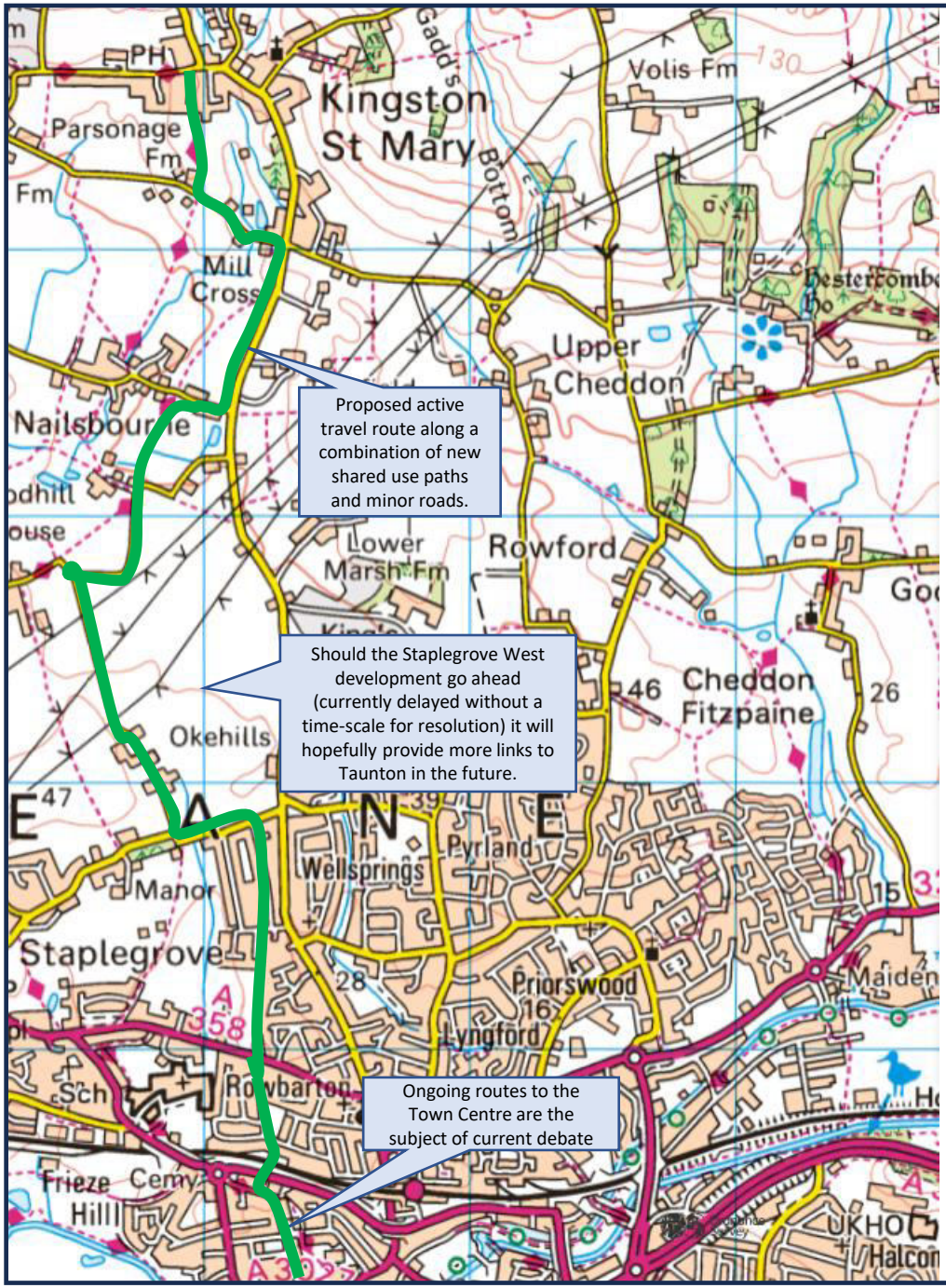
Kingston St Mary – Taunton

Proposals for a good active travel route

John Grimshaw
Greenways and Cycleroutes
October 2023

With support from TACC & KAPACC



Kingston St Mary - Taunton

Proposals for a good active travel route
5.5 km from Kingston to Trenchard Way, Taunton

Greenways and Cycleroutes, TACC, KAPACC October 2023

This proposal by Greenways and Cycleroutes with support from Taunton Area Cycling Campaign (TACC) and Kingston Area Pedestrian and Cycling Campaign (KAPACC), explores an active travel route along a combination of new shared use paths and minor roads, and is a useful complement to the 2022 feasibility study by Sustrans.

The background to this work is the 2016 Kingston St Mary Household Survey, on which the 2017 Community Plan was based. The results of the household survey on cycling and walking showed that for a sizeable majority, it is very important to have off-road pedestrian and cycle routes that join Kingston St Mary to North Taunton. Further evidence of the community's appetite for cycling is reflected in the popularity of the annual Kingston Family Cycle. This event is organised by KAPACC and involves a marshalled family ride along local lanes. The turnout over successive years has been high, with around 80 cyclists aged between 4 and 70 participating.

Cycling between Taunton and Kingston St Mary should be a very straight forward proposition. It is only a distance of 5.5 km (3.5 miles) on relative kind terrain in terms of incline. However, currently the cycle to Taunton involves using the fast and narrow Kingston Road, which is intimidating for many, especially children. The absence of a safe route is therefore socially excluding.

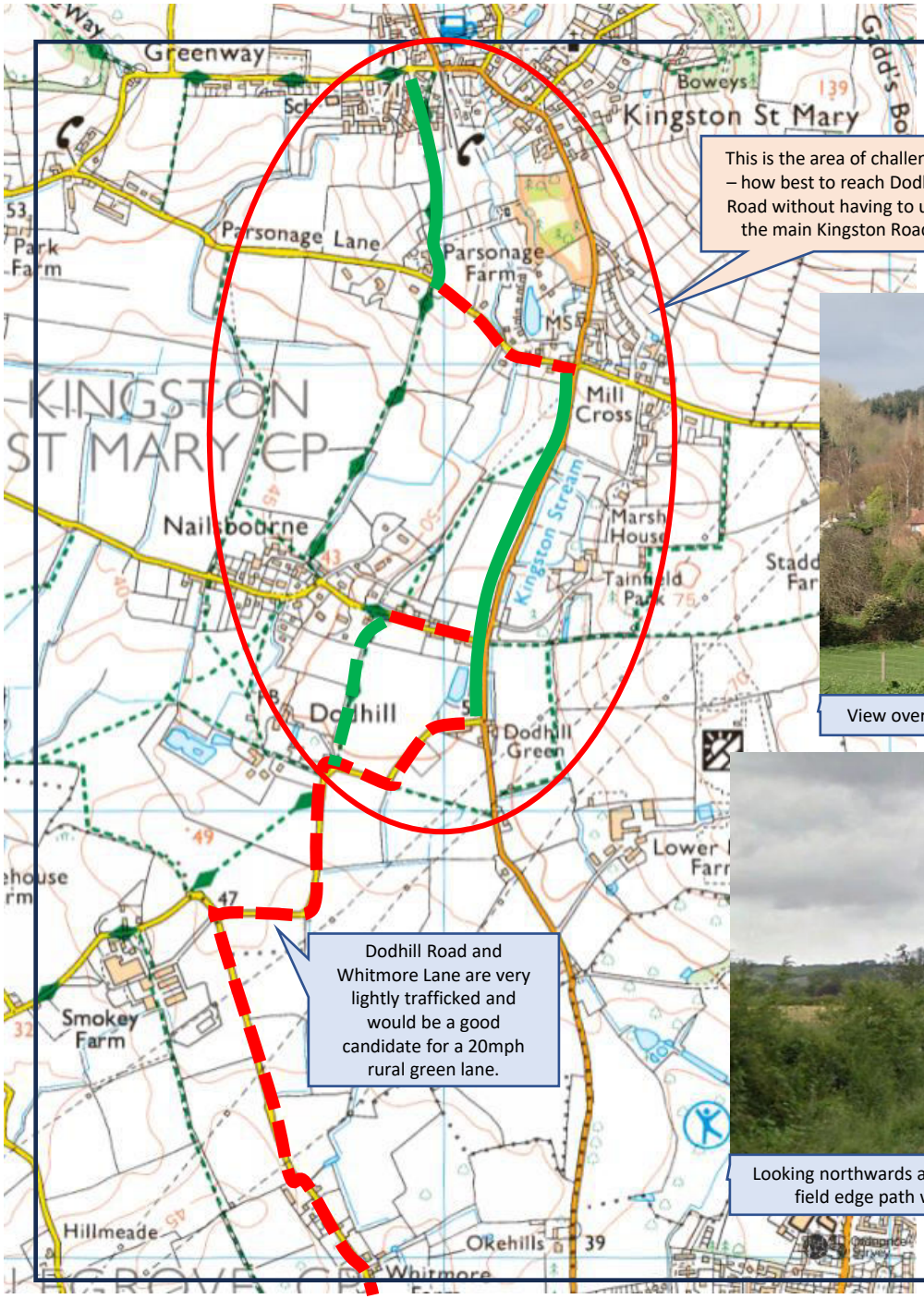
The proposed Staplegrove housing development, a major urban extension, will extend Taunton close to Dodhill, providing an ideal opportunity for improved safe cycling links from Kingston. TACC/KAPACC have engaged with the land promoters on the cycle route proposal.

When the plans for this part of the development come forward, we request early engagement from Somerset Council Planning and the developers to maximise the best route possible.

Kingston St Mary - Taunton

Proposals for a good active travel route Plan showing the new sections of path south of Kingston to bypass the Kingston Road

Greenways and Cycleroutes, TACC, KAPACC
October 2023





View over the Village from the footpath south of the playing fields



Looking northwards along the Kingston Road which carries fast traffic. The proposed field edge path would run beyond the field edge to the left of this picture.

Kingston St Mary - Taunton

Proposals for a good active travel route
Kingston Playing Fields to Parsonage Lane
-400m of new construction

Greenways and Cycleroutes, TACC, KAPACC October 2023

The existing public footpath climbs away from the road on a steep slope. This would not be easy to resolve so it would be better to follow up the road and join Leaches Field residential road for the playing ground.

The existing path along the edge of the playing field could be incorporated into the route to Taunton. One of the option discussed would run along the far boundary of the field before turning south



The existing well used public footpath runs across this open field and is very well used. One option might be to divert it to the field edge as a multiuser path.(The Ramblers might object to this less direct route). Another option would be to plant a new hedge to the west of the direct field path to replace the existing hedge so expanding the size of the larger field. The options need to be carefully discussed with the landowner



Brean Down Way, - example of converted footpath finished in limestone dust and hedged off from the adjacent field to make an attractive corridor



At the southern end the exact line of the path needs to be walked through with the landowner and details such as existing fences and gates be incorporated in the final path arrangements,



Parsonage Lane makes for an attractive onward route although straight across the road to follow the path to Nailsbourne is another possibility

Kingston St Mary - Taunton

Proposals for a good active travel route
Parsonage Lane to Nailsbourne Road
Field edge path 680m long

Greenways and Cycleroutes, TACC, KAPACC October 2023

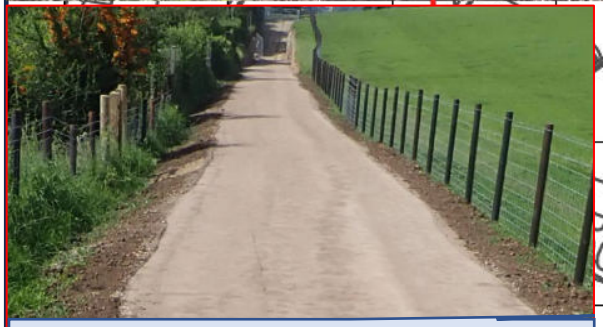


View looking southwards across the northern field. The proposed path, sketched here, would run along the field edge



View looking southwards across the southern field. The proposed path would run along the field edge to join Nailsbourne Road in the distance. Hardened concrete crossings would be provided at the two farm entrances off the main road along with the appropriate gates

View looking north towards Parsonage Lane showing the existing path running on a bank above the road level. The gradient of the link to the road would be eased and the timber railings replaced with a steel balustrade positioned to give a 1.5m wide path over this short distance. Although substandard this width is adequate for this location, remote from schools or other generators of high levels of traffic over a short time.



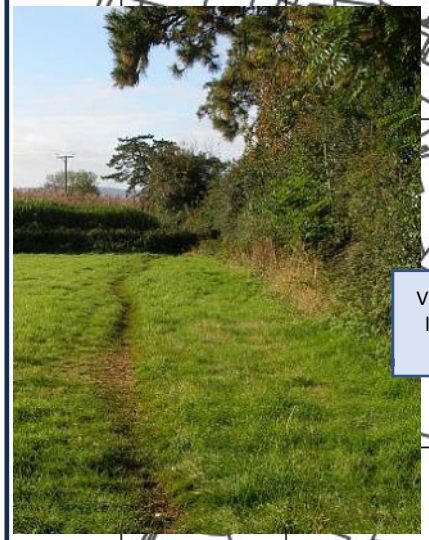
View of typical field edge path with adjacent stock fencing (Westbury-sub-Mendip to Easton path opened September 23



Kingston St Mary - Taunton

Proposals for a good active travel route
Nailsbourne Road to Dodhill Road Link
showing possible options

Greenways and Cycleroutes, TACC, KAPACC October 2023



View of existing path looking south from Nailsbourne Road

Preferred field path option is 430m long



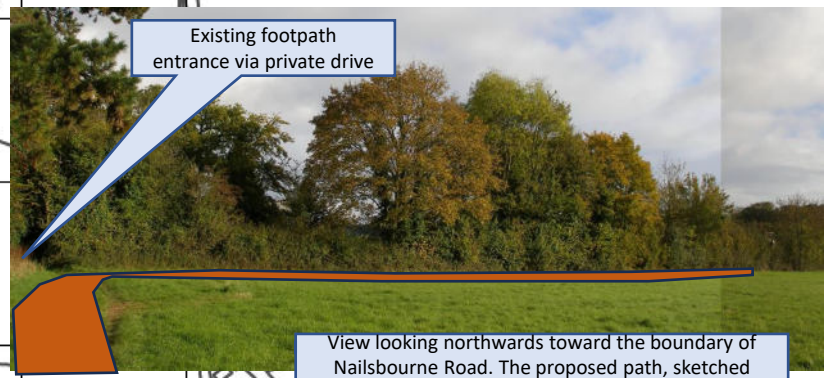
This section of the main road has a very narrow verge. Short of rebuilding the boundary wall, the only options are to reduce the width of this generously wide road to create cycling lanes each side which would require two crossings of the road for those travelling southwards towards Taunton.
It would be much better to follow Dodhill Road and make up a field edge path if this can be arranged.



Existing field edge path looking south. A new shared use path would occupy the width of filed between the trod line and the hedge

Existing gate to Dodhill Road would need to be modified to allow for the passage of cyclists and wheelchairs





Existing footpath entrance via private drive

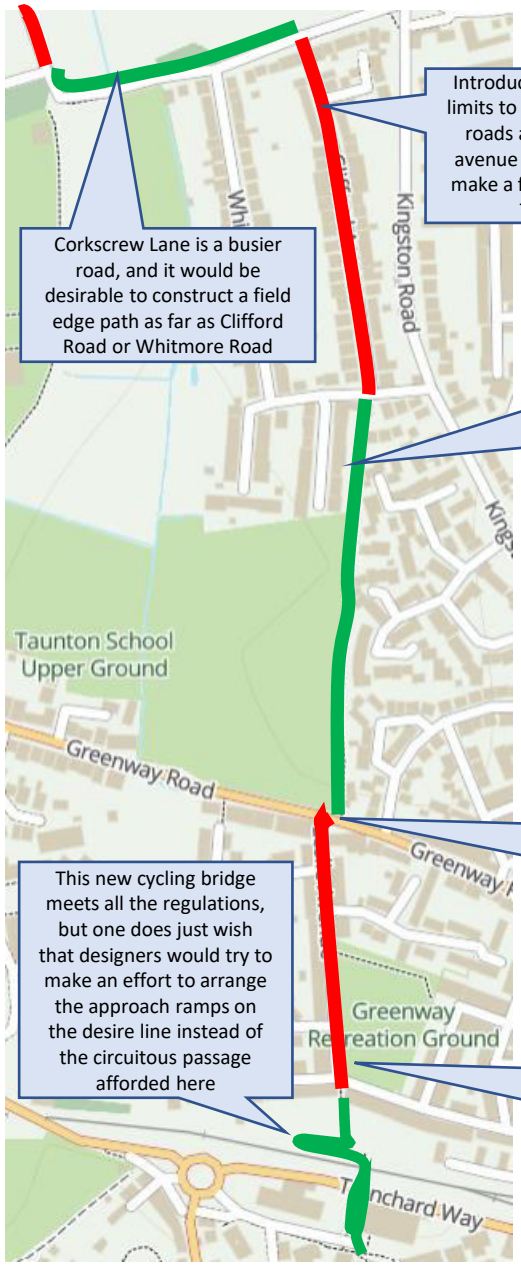
View looking northwards toward the boundary of Nailsbourne Road. The proposed path, sketched here, would run as far to the east as possible to meet the road where the field was nearly level with the road.

Kingston St Mary - Taunton

Proposals for a good active travel route

Taunton north approach

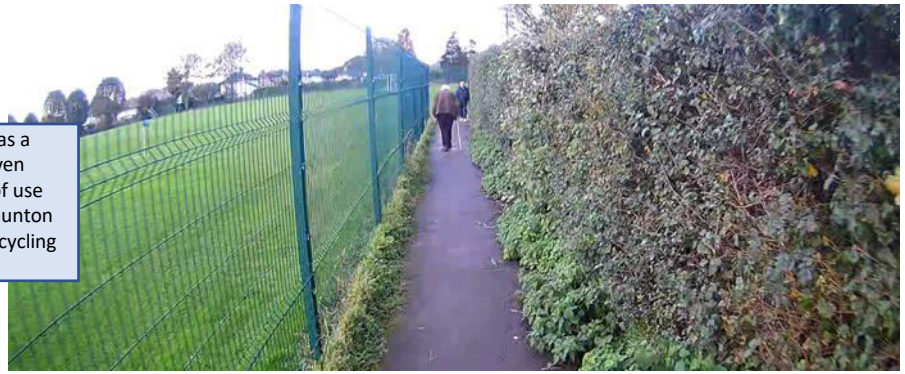
Greenways and Cycleroutes, TACC, KAPACC October 2023



Introduce 20mph speed limits to these residential roads and encourage avenue tree planting to make a fine approach to Taunton

Corkscrew Lane is a busier road, and it would be desirable to construct a field edge path as far as Clifford Road or Whitmore Road

This existing path is signed as a shared use route. It isn't even adequate for current levels of use and needs to be widened if Taunton wants to become a successful cycling town





The new crossing of Greenway Road is very welcome and is a crucial part of this north/south route into Taunton. Here the view is looking towards the east with Leslie Avenue going away to the right in the foreground.

This new cycling bridge meets all the regulations, but one does just wish that designers would try to make an effort to arrange the approach ramps on the desire line instead of the circuitous passage afforded here

Leslie Avenue looking southwards towards the path leading to the bridge over the railway. Cyclists would benefit from logos on the road to make it clear to motorists that they were valued travellers here.

