

1 Introduction



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Over the last 30 years, we have been privileged to have had a chance to build a whole new framework for cycling in the UK – the National Cycle Network. The work has been centred on the idea of making attractive, continuous and traffic-free Greenways, designed for high levels of both walking and cycling. In 2006 some 250 million journeys were made on this network and it is a sobering thought that the arrangement and quality of not only the concept of a route, but of every single detail, will affect all these millions of journeys, to some small extent every day, or even so greatly that the public will either accept the route into their popular consciousness, or shun it.

This work has been carried out in the full light of the public arena and has only been possible because of the support of thousands of individuals, of local authorities, and their policies, of Government, of landowners, especially those with nationwide remit – the Railways, British Waterways, the Forestry Commission and the National Trust – of numerous funding bodies, and a host of other organisations throughout the UK.

This design guide is a record of all that has been achieved through this joint endeavour, and also an opportunity to express our gratitude for this widespread support over many years.



*Forest road
cycle route
to Callander
in the
Trossachs*



*Wonderful bridges:
Lancaster's
Millennium
Bridge and
Gateshead's
Blinking Eye*



*Marvellous promenades:
Llanelli's
Millennium
Coastal Path*



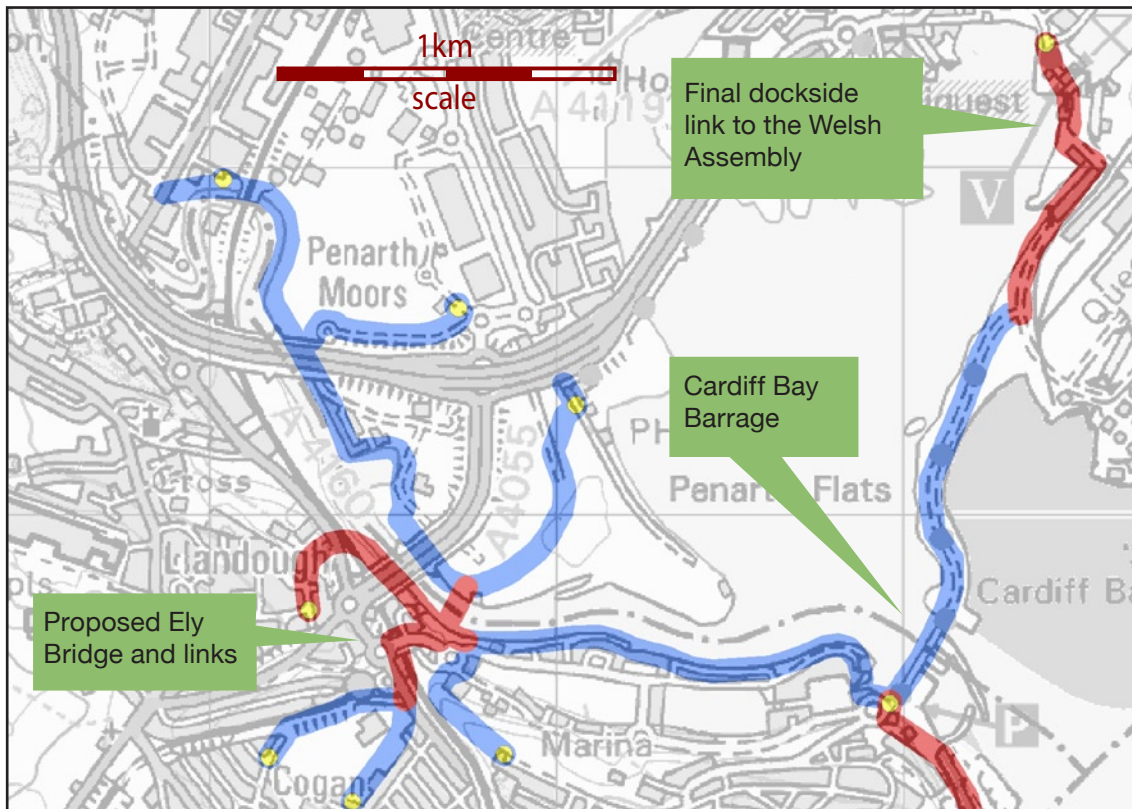
*Greenways
in the heart
of the city:
Belfast*

We are particularly grateful to the Big Lottery for giving us the opportunity to participate in their Living Landmarks Programme. Our **Connect2** project (which sets out to overcome severance and to change the mental map of local communities, so that people can walk and cycle for everyday journeys, for their fitness and health, and for their environment and future), has been a real adventure. It has evolved towards a series of local networks of routes which will stand a fair chance of transforming each local area.

We have been struck by the real support for the **Connect2** project from local people, councillors and officials and, yet again, reminded of the responsibility we have been given to participate in changing our world into a place more fit for the challenges of the 21st Century.

So this Guide, is just that, a guide to the opportunities, the best practice and the details needed to promote walking and cycling. We have tried to include all the lessons we have learned and all the points which we consider important, often with the help of photographs rather than text.

Example of
Connect2
Network
focused on
crossing River
Ely in Cardiff



This Guide sets out the standards we in Sustrans have tried to achieve.

It includes many, many examples of works by others, particularly public authorities. As this Guide is revised and extended, with examples which I hope you will send in to us, I am sure that more and more of these details of best practice will be copied and adopted for the benefit of the local communities throughout the country.

The National Cycle Network has been the product of dedicated and considerable work by many, achieved over many years, in all circumstances, in all weathers, and often persevering against apparently insurmountable obstacles. For this work I wish to thank all my colleagues in Sustrans for their efforts and to congratulate them on their achievements.

John Gunthaw



Sustrans Board visiting
Whitehaven and Rowrah
Greenway