

Sustrans South East Regional Plan 2006/11

Annual Report 2007/08

Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity.

Our vision is a world in which people choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. We work on practical, innovative solutions to the transport challenges facing us all. Sustrans is the charity behind the award winning National Cycle Network, Safe Routes to Schools, Bike It, TravelSmart, Active Travel, Connect2 and Liveable Neighbourhoods, all projects that are changing our world one mile at a time.

To find out more visit or call: www.sustrans.org.uk 0845 113 00 65

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Sustrans wins £50 million for walking and cycling

This is fantastic news, and thanks to everyone who voted for Sustrans' Connect2 in the People's £50 Million Lottery Giveaway, and for your help in winning £50 million of funding from the Big Lottery Fund for Sustrans to invest in walking and cycling UK-wide. This really is an amazing achievement for our charity and the many local authority and other partners with whom we will work on Connect2. We simply couldn't have done it without you and your votes.

Active Travel Consortium wins £20 million

This exciting portfolio of projects will help people all over the South East change their travel habits and improve their health by giving them the practical support they need to walk and cycle as part of their everyday lives.

The portfolio is supported by £20 million from the Big Lottery Fund's Well-being programme, and is being delivered by a coalition of health, transport and environmental groups, working together as the Active Travel Consortium. Leading an active lifestyle, by including walking and cycling as part of our daily routine, has a huge part to play in tackling the worrying rise in obesity.

The Consortium's lead partner is Sustrans and its members are British Cycling, Cycling England, CTC, Living Streets, London Cycling Campaign, National Heart Forum, National Obesity Forum, The Ramblers Association, Campaign for Better Transport and Walk21.

In the South East, the lottery funding is being used to support an Active Travel Co-ordinator in Southampton, Cycling Community Champions in Reading and East Hampshire and a Bike It Officer in Slough.

Regional staff

We have taken the opportunity presented by Connect2 to reorganise staff resources within the region. A new full-time Thames Valley Area Manager for Bucks, Berks, Oxon and Milton Keynes is being recruited and should be in post by the end of May, based at the Oxford office. This will enable Simon Pratt to become the Regional Director, overseeing all of Sustrans projects in the region.

Managing this large region with no obvious centre is a big challenge – we currently have the following staff working on their own:

- Mark Jarman in Charlbury and Dave Wallis in Maidenhead (both to be replaced by the Thames Valley Area Manager)
- Nick Farthing in Chandlers Ford
- Chris Boocock in Brighton
- David Young in Headcorn

- Active Travel Co-ordinators – Allison Jeavons in Milton Keynes and Natalie Gledhill in Southampton
- Bike It Officers in Aylesbury, Brighton, Ashford, Reigate and Slough
- Ann Furtado, Office Manager in Oxford, supports the Regional Director and all regional staff

This report is structured to reflect the South East Regional Plan 2006/11 and is a two-year report on that plan.

National Cycle Network

- 1.1 Growth in usage – regional figures are not available, but we are continuing to open new sections of the NCN and if we are following national trends should meet the target 10% year-on-year growth.
- 1.2 Growth in mileage – the National Cycle Network in the region has expanded from 1094 miles in 2005 to 1195 miles in 2007
- 1.3 Links to Schools – a summary of the position in the South East is given in the table below.

Year	Number	Total grants	Ave. grant
2004/05	16	£1,009,000	£63,062
2005/06	6	£217,500	£36,250
2006/07	16	£634,000	£39,625
2007/08	6	£327,000	£54,500

Following the recent announcement of additional funding for Cycling England, we look forward to a return to the levels of funding available in the first year of this programme. With this funding from Cycling England, Sustrans continues to work closely with local authorities across the region to identify and implement suitable links, which make a real difference to school journeys. In 2006/07, 16 grants were awarded for links in Southampton, Deal, Ashford (x4), Crawley (x2), Chichester (x2), Slough, Reigate, Wendover, Bierton, Effingham and Oxford. In 2007/08, 6 grants enabled links to be built in Ashford, Herne Bay, Canterbury, Forest Row, Swanscombe and Woking.

- 1.4 Links to public transport – not as much progress as we had hoped, but encouraging signs from the rail industry with the Rail White Paper leading to announcements on Rail Station Travel Plans and the National Stations Improvement Programme. We hope to be able to input into the major works planned at Oxford, Didcot, Reading and Gatwick stations.
- 1.5 Local Development Frameworks – this has proved to be very onerous and much as we would like to contribute to all 47 LDFs, we have had to concentrate on a handful where we have a direct interest.

Town-wide networks

- 2.1 We expect the Connect2 schemes to be a major boost for this work, particularly in Southampton, Shoreham, Hastings & Bexhill, Dover (reserve), Whitstable and Dartford. Some work has also been undertaken in Didcot as part of the Local Networks pilot project managed by Emma Oughton. We have also been active in Ashford and “Kent Thameside” as part for the Government’s Growth Area agenda.
- 2.2 Cycling Development Plans – we are taking this work forward in some towns, particularly the Growth Areas mentioned above in Ashford and Kent Thameside (Dartford & Gravesend).
- 2.3 DIY Streets – we have the 11th pilot street in North Oxford, Beech Croft Road. This is a “middle class” street, so falls outside the main programme, but they are making good progress supported by the team in Bristol. We failed to persuade the County Council to support a pilot project in East Oxford as part of the main programme.
- 2.4 Cycling Demonstration Towns – Simon Pratt and Chris Boocock are continuing to support Aylesbury and Brighton respectively. We are already involved in the second generation Cycling Towns.

Route promotion and monitoring

- 3.1 Leaflets - every traffic-free route over 5 miles has a leaflet, most of which can be downloaded from www.sustrans.org.uk/southeast
- 3.2 Regional cycle tourism strategy – Tourism South East are the lead partner, but have not yet secured funding for this work.
- 3.3 National Parks and AONBs - nine out of 12 AONBs are actively promoting walking and cycling
- 3.4 Regular surveys - route user monitoring surveys have been undertaken at Milton Keynes and some Links to Schools projects
- 3.5 Regional pages of website – the County pages have been overhauled and are regularly updated

Maintenance

- 4.1 Secure additional funding – with few exceptions, we have not been able to secure local or regional funding for those sections of the NCN that Sustrans is directly responsible for. Some routes are well maintained, but others are in need of care and attention. Rangers do a fantastic job, but there comes a time when volunteer effort is not enough. As the Millennium Routes show their age, more resources will be required over the coming years.

- 4.2 Work with LAs on Ranger programme – some progress, but no formal arrangements to date.
- 4.3 All routes to be covered by Rangers - around 80 percent of national routes have Ranger coverage with lower coverage on regional routes
- 4.4 Address all substandard sections – fifty sub-standard sections have been identified on the NCN across the region; we are currently making progress with 15 of these
- 4.5 Arts projects – the only significant art project in the South East in the last two years was the Chalk and Channel Way, National Route 2 between Dover and Folkestone.

Safe Routes to Schools

- 5.1 Work with every local authority – with the rapid expansion of Bike It and new money for Links to Schools, we are well on the way to meeting this target.
- 5.2 Work directly with schools – as above.
- 5.3 Bike It programme – there are Bike It Officers in 5 locations: Brighton & Hove, Aylesbury, Ashford, Reigate & Banstead and Slough & South Bucks.

Climate change

- 6.1 Work with at least one local authority – after initial encouraging contact with Southampton, this work has taken a back seat. However, we have been very active at a regional level.
- 6.2 Work with voluntary sector – Sustrans takes a leading role with the South East Forum for Sustainability and is their representative on the Regional Transport Board. We have attended numerous workshops on transport and climate change and are fully engaged with the Government's Sustainable Transport Strategy.
- 6.3 Work with businesses – no work in this area to date, but a big opportunity.

Physical activity

- 7.1 Engage every LTA – slow progress and difficult to quantify. The eight County Physical Activity Alliances are key to this work, but we have not engaged with all of them.
- 7.2 Demonstration projects – currently working in Milton Keynes and Southampton with Allison Jeavons and Natalie Gledhill. A new Active Travel project, *StreetTread*, started in Southampton in January 2008. This exciting four-year project aims to encourage physical activity and wellbeing in six Priority Neighbourhoods noted for their high levels of deprivation and health inequalities. The project is part-funded by the Big Lottery Fund through the Active Travel Consortium. For more information please visit www.activetravel.org.uk

7.3 Regional co-ordinator – we have tried to secure regional funds without success. However, the new regional Development manager, Paul Jarvis, is very supportive of our work.

7.4 Physical Activity Alliances - we are working with around half of the Physical Activity Alliances.

Sustainable tourism

8.1 Completion of London-Paris route – Sustrans is working with local authority colleagues to improve the English half of this route between London and Newhaven

8.2 Demonstration projects - this work has taken a back seat due to other priorities

8.3 Tourism Development Officer – see 3.2. One proposed outcome of the regional strategy was to employ an officer, but without funding for the strategy it is difficult to see how this post might be funded.

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