

# Rights of Way Improvement Plan Summary

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2017 Review



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# Forward

## What is a Rights of Way Improvement Plan?

Through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 (Section 60) the government recognises the value of public Rights of Way and requires each Highway Authority to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) in order to identify changes that will "improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with mobility issues." The ROWIP must be reviewed every 10 years. This is the ten year review plan of the original ROWIP, 2007.

## Vision for Rights of Way in Brighton & Hove:

*A city where people with diverse access needs have the opportunity to use a well maintained and joined up public Rights of Way network, connected to the varied green and blue spaces around the city: the seafront, city parks and gardens, open spaces on the urban fringe and the South Downs National Park*

Five main aims have been identified for improving access in and around the city:

1. Improve accessibility for diverse users in Brighton & Hove
2. Make information on the Rights of Way network and access to green spaces more accessible
3. Improve connectivity to green spaces within the city
4. Work with SDNPA and neighbouring authorities to reduce severance and improve access to the National Park and The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere
5. Improve connectivity of the existing Rights of Way network

In order to achieve these aims it is essential that the authority secures funding and involvement from corporate and charitable sources, to augment council budgets and help support potential bids for funding from other sources.

40% of Brighton & Hove is within the South Downs National Park. This beautiful and unique landscape has been created through thousands of years of farming. It is still a working, farmed environment today. It is essential that the improvements made to our access network goes hand-in-hand with improved communication with land managers and better informed users of the network.

Emerging from these 5 aims are more detailed objectives and the actions required to meet them. The full Statement of Action can be found in Table 1 at the end of this report.

A well maintained and enhanced network of Rights of Way has a major contribution to make to ensuring Brighton & Hove remains one of the best places to live.

*(For an outline of the national, regional and local policy framework that has informed the preparation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan [ROWIP] please see the full document).*

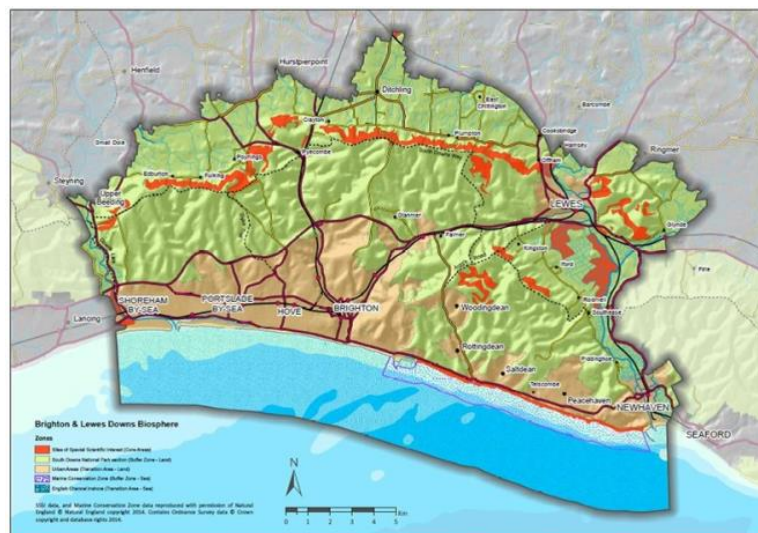
# 1. An Overview of Access in Brighton & Hove

**1.1 Brighton & Hove City Council** covers an area of approximately 8,267 hectares (40km<sup>2</sup>) between the south coast and the South Downs, and from Portslade in the west to Saltdean in the east, with 13km of seafront and a population of almost 285,300 (in 2015). The City attracts between 8 - 11 million visitors a year, providing 13% of the city's income.

**1.2** The city's existing **public Rights of Way network and open spaces** are summarised below:

- The Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network for Brighton & Hove is 159 km in total length, comprising: 54% footpaths, 40% bridleways, 4% restricted byways and 2% byways.
- There are 730 Rights of Way assets (pieces of countryside furniture: gates, stiles, waymarks, information boards), with a total replacement value of £191,808.
- 13.5km of 'easy access' trails have been put in around the city.
- There are 24 km of surfaced multi-user trails (aside from the bridleway and byway network). These paths have hard-surfacing, are fairly level and accessible to a wide range of users including families and people with restricted mobility.
- There is 40.1 km of Permissive Path network (21.2 km of permissive footpath and 18.9 km of permissive bridleway). Where dedication of public Rights of Way has not been possible these paths, under land owner /tenant agreements, serve an important role in providing links across the access network.
- Cycle routes (normally only open to walkers and cyclists) – National Cycle Network routes (NCN) promoted by Sustrans provide 24 km of off-highway cycle path and 15.5km of on-highway cycle path.
- The Council owns 4,045 hectares of Downland Estate, most of which is farmland, surrounding the city. 504 hectares is woodland. More than one third of this land is classified as Open Access (1,441 hectares). Open spaces such as these are often used to create routes to link with adjacent Rights of Way.
- 40% of the land area of Brighton & Hove is within the South Downs National Park.
- Within the city there are 232 hectares of parks and public gardens, across almost 100 sites, and an additional 40 privately owned parks & gardens. 7 of these are green flag parks. There are 50 playgrounds, 200 sports pitches, greens and courts. There are 36 allotment sites with 3000 tenants.
- Satisfaction with the city's parks and open spaces, including access to the South Downs, is very high at 91% (City Parks Survey, 2013).

In 2014 Brighton & Hove became part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, through designation of the Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere, now known as The Living Coast. <http://www.thelivingcoast.org.uk/>. Access to the natural environment is, therefore, of great importance in this area.



## 2. Delivery Mechanisms

The council is the highway and surveying authority\* and it has both statutory duties and discretionary powers. Statutory duties include keeping the Definitive Map and Statement under continuous review, investigating Rights of Way claims, the maintenance of the Rights of Way network and the protection and assertion of the public's rights. Discretionary powers include making changes to the network (creations, extinguishments and diversions) as well as implementing improvement works (delivery of the ROWIP), volunteer schemes and furniture surveys.

All office based work is carried out by the Rights of Way Officer, with assistance from the Highways Legal team. The practical maintenance works are carried out by the Rights of Way officer with assistance from the Grounds Maintenance Team, Ranger Team, volunteers and contractors.

(\* Highways Authority is responsible for the maintenance of the highways network – including rights of way. Surveying Authority is responsible for the preparation and update of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way. As a unitary authority Brighton & Hove holds both positions).

**2.1 Successful delivery of the ROWIP will require joined up working between various internal and external partners.** Example collaborative partners:

- Internal: Parks Projects, Estates, City Transport Division, Planning, Tourism, Legal, ICT
- External: SDNPA, surrounding Local Authorities, Local Access Forum, Biosphere Partnership

**2.2 Volunteering:** There are approximately 1,800 volunteers supporting council services. Around 700 of them support Cityparks activities and 60 are Healthwalks volunteers (Open Spaces Strategy 2016).

One objective of the ROWIP is to create more volunteering opportunities to increase participation in helping to maintain and improve the access network:

- **Volunteer Path Wardens** will look after sections of the network they regularly walk / cycle / ride. This will include carrying out seasonal surveys and minimal maintenance tasks (e.g. cutting back vegetation around signs / gates)
- City wide **volunteer work days**. Work with existing volunteer groups to carry out larger maintenance / improvement projects (e.g. surfacing / cutting back vegetation).
- Maintain and support the **Local Access Forum** – with representatives from various groups interested in access issues. To help guide the focus of maintenance and improvement works.

**2.3 Funding:** There is an opportunistic element to working with partners and drawing down external funds, and a need to balance potential improvements with objectives. This Plan sets out objectives and actions in a broad sense. Potential partners and funding opportunities may not align exactly with our priorities – requiring a reasonably flexible approach in order to achieve improvements across the network (*as recognised in Surrey County Council ROWIP*). Close working with partner organisations such as VisitBrighton and the South Downs National Park Authority will provide shared benefits.

Potential Funding Sources:

- National Government Funding (Local Sustainable Transport Fund; Local Enterprise Partnerships; Sport England; Public Health England)
- Local Government Funding (Local Transport Plan – Rights of Way Improvement budget)
- Developer contributions (through section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy)
- Lottery Funding
- Commercial sponsorship

### 3. Achievements since the last ROWIP (2007-2017)

#### Headline Achievements:

- 392 hectares of Open Access land created
- 43 km of new public Rights of Way added to the Definitive Map
- 30 km of new permissive paths (footpaths and bridleways) added to the network
- 14km of 'Easy Access' trails
- 13km of multi-user paths created / surfaced (with improved access for cyclists, equestrians, those with mobility difficulties)
- 39 missing links resolved (out of 48 identified from the last ROWIP)

The last Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2007-17), set out four main priority areas to work on over the ten years. These are set out below, with a summary of how the Council has performed over this period.

#### **Aim A – Improve the existing Rights of Way network and maintain it to a high standard**

The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for Public Rights of Way is: percentage of public Rights of Way that are open and in good condition. Since carrying out a condition survey of the whole network in 2016 it was found that 83% of the network reached this standard. The South Downs National Park carried out a survey of Rights of Way in 2017. The results were: % Number of Paths Passed = 80%; % Length of Paths Passed = 95%

#### **Aim B – Implement identified Missing Links to improve route coherence, access to the network and reduce dependence on the car by meeting local transport needs**

Missing Links are desirable routes between existing Rights of Way that will enable more circular and/or varied distance routes to be opened up. 48 Missing Links were identified with the Local Access Forum for the last ROWIP. Since then 38 have been resolved (10 outstanding & retained within this ROWIP).

Additions of Public Rights of Way to the Definitive Map have resulted in 43.3km of new path network. *Between 2015 and 2017, 500 urban link footpaths (twittens) were added to the Definitive Map.*

#### **Aim C – Develop and promote the access network to support healthy exercise for all**

- 14.3km of 'Easy Access' trails have been created since 2007
- A further 12.6km of multi-user trails were created / existing bridleways or byways surface
- 19 obstacles have been removed (stiles replaced with gates; gates replaced with gaps)
- There is a close relationship between the **Healthwalks** program and Rights of Way provision.

#### **Aim D – Make full use of the council's position as a major landowner to ensure that a holistic approach is taken towards access to the surrounding countryside and South Downs.**

- 329 hectares of new Open Access and Permissive Access land opened up
- Expansion of permissive footpath and bridleway network by 30km

A great deal has been achieved on improving the public Rights of Way network and access over the last 10 years. It is the aim of this Plan to build on those successes to further improve access for a diverse set of users and provide the information people need to make the best use of the access opportunities available to them.

The Action Plan for this ROWIP has been based on an assessment of Brighton & Hove's Public Rights of Way network and access (*which can be seen in the full document*). From this assessment, a number of common themes emerged:

- The need to improve accessibility for the diverse users of the Brighton & Hove's public Rights of Way network: walkers, cyclists, equestrians and those with mobility issues
- The need to improve information provision – both on the website and on the ground
- The need to reduce severance from the South Downs National Park
- The need to improve connectivity both within the network and to green spaces within the city

In most instances these themes cut across most user groups. They have helped shape the aims of this ROWIP.

## 4. Priorities for 2017-2027, an Action Plan (see Table1)

### Aim1: Improving accessibility for diverse users in Brighton & Hove

*Multifunctional Rights of Way improvements that will improve access for everyone, through effective partnership working with internal and external partners*

#### Objectives

- **Increase the accessibility of the network** for all users, including blind and partially sighted people and those with mobility issues. Every improvement should be assessed; adhering to the principles of 'least restrictive access'
- **Improve safety through design of new Multi-User paths** that are traffic free / off-road for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and mobility vehicles (Non-Motorised Users, NMUs). High quality multi-user routes close to where people live could make a substantial contribution to a modal shift to more sustainable transport choices. Generally bridleways and byways offer a greater potential for use by people with restricted mobility than most footpaths.
- **Surface improvements to increase access opportunities** for those with impaired mobility, in wheelchairs or mobility scooters and sight impairment. The gradient of the South Downs landscape makes the creation of true 'Easy Access' trails challenging in many parts of the Authority.
- **Integrated transport:** look at links with public transport to get people to the public Rights of Way network. Help connect people with education facilities, workplaces, facilities & services, parks and open spaces, the Downs and the coast, and other visitor attractions.
- **Promote off-road rides for equestrians and cyclists.** Provision of long distance, circular routes for cyclists & equestrians (the latter from areas where horses are stabled), out into the Downs and back.

### Aim 2: Make information more accessible to residents & visitors

Make information on access to green spaces and path networks more accessible to the public (local residents and visitors). Improve signage on the ground and online resources: mapping information, downloadable route leaflets and digital route guides.

#### Objectives

- **Improve online resources** to enable route planning for residents and visitors to Brighton & Hove. The Definitive Map only shows recorded public Rights of Way. There are other paths that are used with the permission of the landowner. There are also cycle tracks, access land and public open space. They make a significant contribution to improving access and connectivity in the network, but if they do not appear on maps their use is likely to be restricted to local communities only. Create a new online 'Access Map'.
- **Improve on the ground information** provision to help new and inexperienced users access the Rights of Way network and green spaces. Improve signage from the road and at junctions points.
- **Improve the working relationship with tenant farmers & land managers.** Within Brighton & Hove City Council the countryside estate is looked after by the Estates team, who employ an external land management agency to liaise with tenant farmers. Access and Public Rights of Way are the remit of CityParks. There is a need for more joined up working and to improve communication with tenant farmers.
- **Work with land managers** (landowners and tenant farmers) to help improve education about access and reduce conflict in the countryside. Increase visitor information about the nature of the farmed landscape they are entering, helping them to be sensitive to aspects of farming need and nature conservation aims.
- Improve access to **volunteering opportunities** and link those opportunities to green prescribing from health care providers. The authority will engage with local communities and encourage volunteers to assist with the



maintenance, promotion and enhancement of the Rights of Way network in line with the objectives set out in this Plan, through the Volunteer Path Warden scheme (*see PDF 1: Volunteer Path Warden Leaflet*).

- **Advertise Promoted Routes** – to encourage new users and visitors. Promoted routes, national trails and distance paths (most of them based on public Rights of Way), are considered to be an important part of the network, particularly in terms of encouraging local residents to start walking and attracting long stay visitors from outside the area. These routes would include:

**England Coastal Path (to be opened 2019)**

**Brighton & Hove Way (29km boundary Walk)**

**Discover the Heart of The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere** - Castle Hill National Nature Reserve

### **Aim 3: Improve connectivity to green spaces within Brighton & Hove**

#### **Objectives**

**Improve links between urban areas, housing estates and green space within the city.** Links to parks and gardens in the city centre, but also to natural green space on the urban fringe, such as the many designated sites for nature conservation.

Whilst the management of open land for public recreation does not form part of this plan, it is nevertheless important to ensure that existing access from the Rights of Way network is improved and new points of access to open land created where appropriate.

### **Aim 4: Work with SDNPA & neighbouring authorities to improve access to the National Park & The Living Coast Biosphere**

#### **Objectives**

- **Reduce severance from the National Park** and improve safety at crossing points – where the Rights of Way network (particularly bridleways) intersects with the highways network. Where a path ends at the highway with no direct connection, vulnerable road users are forced to use the carriageway, which can act as a serious disincentive to use of the route (particularly for those on horseback). Even where there is a direct connection across the road, the volume and speed of traffic can make the crossing itself a barrier to users. Certain parts of the city have access to pedestrian bridges or tunnels across the A27. Improving safety at highways junction points will increase the amount of the population with a safe means of accessing the Downs for NMUs and reduce inequality of access. *See Map 1 and Table 2 for priority crossings*
- **Improve 'gateway' sites:** access points to the National Park from housing estates and green spaces on the urban fringe. (Link to Stanmer Park Restoration Project – gateway to the Downs). *See Map 2 for gateways*
- Prioritise Rights of Way improvements along '**Biosphere green corridors**'; from blue to green space: linking the seafront, through the city and out to the South Downs (*the three key environments of The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere*). Green corridors provide a vital link between open spaces, urban areas and the wider countryside, enabling wildlife migration and a sense of continuity of green space for residents. Opportunities to enhance the provision of green corridors as part of Green Infrastructure planning can contribute considerably to improving the Rights of Way network, particularly in urban and urban fringe areas. Improvements can include work to up-grade existing paths and improve connectivity between Rights of Way, making the network more complete and useful to residents and visitors. This will also contribute to the corporate objective of encouraging more people to make short journeys on foot or cycle. *See Map 3 for Green Corridors: Sea →Town→Downs*



- **Falmer Road Corridor:** Rottingdean→Ovingdean→Happy Valley→Woodingdean→Castle Hill
- **Lewes Road Corridor:** Valley Gardens→The Level→Lewes Rd→Woodvale Cemetery→Saunders Park→Wild Park / Hollingbury Woods→Coldean Woods, Ditchling Rd Multi-User Path & Stanmer
- **London Road Corridor:** Valley Gardens→Preston Park→Surrenden Field→Withdean Park→Patcham Place / Horsedean Rec→Waterhall & Patcham Open Access
- **Hove Corridor:** Grand Ave→The Drive→Hove Rec→Hove Park→Three Cornered Copse→Green Ridge / Toads Hole Valley→Waterhall
- **Portslade Corridor:** Shoreham Harbour (development plans see improvements to harbour walkway)→Vale Park→Victoria Rec→Emmaus & Easthill Park / Hangleton Link →Foredown / Benfield Valley→Newbarn Farm & Benfield Hill

## Aim 5: Improve connectivity of the existing Rights of Way Network

A well connected network is likely to be more user-friendly, more beneficial to local people and therefore more likely to contribute to meeting targets such as encouraging more sustainable travel choices; safer routes to school, work, community links and tourism opportunities; reducing congestion and improving health.

The aim is to develop well-connected circular and linear paths that can be enjoyed by walkers, cyclists and horse riders; with increased information about routes and route planning on our website.

### Objectives

**Reduce Fragmentation:** fragmentation of the Rights of Way network often reflects its historical origins. This history is reflected in the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. It is a priority to keep the Definitive Map up-to-date and improve access opportunities and **connectivity** where possible.

An updated version of the Brighton & Hove Definitive Map was printed and posted at Stanmer Park and Hove Town Hall in 2017 (the original map was created in 1995).

The authority will continue on working to fill in the Missing Links and anomalies on the Definitive Map (such as cul-de-sac paths), along with the Local Access Forum. **See Map 4 and Table**

### Summary:

The difficult financial climate means securing resources for improvements is very challenging. The authority needs to pursue an opportunistic approach to improving our Rights of Way and access, without diverting resources from delivering statutory maintenance work. The authority is not in a position to outline in advance all specific work for a variety of reasons including landowner / tenant permissions and resource constraints. The authority must achieve improvements in partnership with other council services, the National Park and neighbouring authorities; and usually by responding to opportunities as they arise.

Budget allocations for Rights of Way improvements have previously come from the Local Transport Plan capital programme. With restricted internal funding, resourcing improvements to public Rights of Way and countryside access is a challenge. However, the Rights of Way network is of great value and can contribute towards many corporate policies and priorities. This presents the opportunity for improvement by developing delivery partnerships and securing funding from a wide variety of sources. This opportunistic approach to improving the network, where securing funding is possible, still requires direction and prioritisation.

This consultation process provides the opportunity for people to feedback on where they feel the authority should concentrate resources and prioritise improvements.

## 5. Performance Monitoring

The Key Performance Indicator for Rights of Way at Brighton & Hove is: percentage of public Rights of Way that are open and in good condition.

There are various ways to monitor the performance of the Rights of Way network in relation to this indicator:

- Public reporting of issues with the network – through the council website, on the ‘report a problem’ form on the Rights of Way page.
- Volunteer Path Wardens carry out a survey of the path(s) they have adopted four times a year (once each season).
- South Downs National Park Authority volunteers carry out sample audits on random Rights of Way across the different Highway Authorities.
- Every 3 years a condition survey of the entire network is carried out. The last survey was completed in 2016. The next is scheduled for 2019.
- South East ADEPT Rights of Way group have initiated an annual benchmarking exercise between highways authorities in the South East of England.
- The National Highways & Transport Satisfaction Survey. The survey asks specific questions on accessibility and on the rights of way network.

The maintenance and improvement works carried out on the Rights of Way network are reported on to the Local Access Forum every quarter. The independent board of members help prioritise Rights of Way improvement projects. The authority reports on improvements made each year to Natural England through the Local Access Forum annual report.



# Statement of Action (Table 1)

Abbreviations used in the Statement of Action (*Methodology adopted from East Sussex County Council ROWIP*)

## Projected cost column (based on approximate costs)

N	Negligible (within existing resources)
£	Less than £5,000
££	Between £5,000 and £15,000
£££	Between £15,000 and £25,000
££££	Between £25,000 and £50,000
£££££	More than £50,000
P	Mainly with existing staff / volunteer levels
PP	Some increase in staff / volunteers required
PPP	Significant increase in staff / volunteers required
C	Requires use of contractors

It must be stressed that this is a 10 year plan. The actions outlined and costs of implementation will have to be spread over the period of this ROWIP (2017 – 2027). There is a need to prioritise works and, if the aims and objectives are to be met, external funding through developer contributions and funding applications are essential.

## Partners column

LAF	Local Access Forum
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
WSCC	West Sussex County Council
SDNPA	South Downs National Park Authority
RD	Riding for the Disabled
NE	Natural England
CW	Community Works
LMA	Land Management Agents
VPW	Volunteer Path Wardens
BIO	Biosphere (BHCC) / Biosphere Partnership
PP	Park Projects (BHCC)
GIS	GIS Team (BHCC)
Ra	Ranger Team (BHCC)
CTD	City Transport Division (BHCC)
PI	Planning Department (BHCC)
To	Tourism Department (BHCC)
Se	Seafront Team (BHCC)
Co	Communications Team (BHCC)
Ph	Public Health (BHCC)
L	Legal (BHCC)

BCV	Brighton Conservation Volunteers
GG	Green Gym
Barch	Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society
SWT	Sussex Wildlife Trust

## Maps, Tables & PDFs at the end of this report: (preceding the Appendix)

Table 1: ROWIP Statement of Action  
 PDF 1: Volunteer Path Warden Leaflet  
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 Table 3: Missing Links, Network Gaps & Inconsistencies

<b>Table 1: ROWIP Statement of Action (Brighton &amp; Hove City Council)</b>				
<b>Aim 7.1 Increase the accessibility of the PRoW network</b>				
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>
7.1.1 Adhere to principals of least restrictive access	Replace gates with gaps / Stiles with gates	ongoing	£££ P	Ra VPW
	Asset Management Plan for rights of way furniture	ongoing		
	Instil user need assessment at early stage of design of schemes	ongoing	N P	PI CTD
	Work with organisations such as Riding for the Disabled (pilot at Stanmer)	2018 onwards	N P	SDNPA RD
7.1.2 Improve safety through design of Multi-User paths	Create multi-user trails around Stanmer Park (Stanmer Restoration Project)	2018 onwards	££ P & C	SDNPA LMA PP
	Use funding bids to create more Multi-User paths in the network	ongoing	££££ P & C	CTD PI
	Identify potential routes that link housing areas with work, services, schools, universities, the National Park	ongoing	N P	CTD
	Create downloadable maps of promoted routes on the council website	2018 onwards	N P	SDNPA
7.1.3 Surface improvements to increase access opportunities	Assess quality of surfaces: firm, level & well-drained surfaces for any new works	ongoing	N P	
	Consider natural hazards when planning new routes / improvements: slopes, sudden drops, overhanging vegetation	ongoing	N P	
	Creation of the England Coastal Path – Brighton & Hove section	2017 - 2019	£ P & C	Se To NE BIO SDNPA ESCC WSCC
	Collect data on the accessibility of the access network	2018	N P	Ra
	Provide described 'access trail' guides – downloadable from the council website	2019 onwards	N P	SDNPA
7.1.4 Integrated transport links	Add bus stop information on the online access map on the council website	2018	N P	

	Liaise with Parks Projects on bus links to Stanmer (part of Stanmer Restoration Project) and with the Highways Team on the Breeze up to the Downs service	2018 onwards	N P	PP CTD
	Promote bus services to urban fringe sites – links to network	2018 onwards	N P	CTD
	Seek funding to improve links to the network from the city's train stations	2018 onwards	£££ - £££££ P & C	BIO SDNPA ESCC WSCC
7.1.5 Promoted off-road rides for equestrians and cyclists	Map location of stables and proximity of bridleways / byways to identify gaps. Use development contributions to plug gaps (CiL/ S.106)	2018 onwards	££ P	PI SDNPA
	Map city cycle network and proximity to bridleway / byway network to identify gaps. Work with Highways team to target cycle path improvements to plug gaps	2018 onwards	££££ P	CTD
	Creation of designated sites for adventure cyclists – using Stanmer as a pilot project	2018-2019	££ P & C	PP SDNPA
	Investigate the use of Toll Rides access arrangements & permissive access for equestrians	2019 onwards	N P	SDNPA

## **Aim 7.2 Make information more accessible**

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>
7.2.1 Improve online resources	Create online access map	2018	N P	GIS
	Ensure council website is up-to-date with legal event orders, registers etc	ongoing	N P	
	Create links to maximise information sharing	2018 onwards	N P	CTD SDNPA
	Improve use of technology – digital routes guides using App View Ranger	2018 onwards	£ P	SDNPA
7.2.2 Improve on the ground information	Improve signage from the highway (statutory requirement)	2017 - 2018	££ P & C	
	Improve intermediary signage at junction points	2017 onwards	£ P	
	Number assets (gates, stiles, fingerposts) to improve fault reporting	2017 onwards	N P	Ra
7.2.3 Improve working relationship with tenant farmers and land managers	City Parks attendance at Farm Cluster meetings – to report access issues	2017 onwards	N P	SDNPA LMA

	Regular meetings between City Parks & the Land Management Agents	2017 onwards	N P	LMA
	Regular discussion point on farm access issues at the quarterly Local Access Forum meetings	2018 onwards	N P	LAF
7.2.4 Work with land managers to improve access and reduce conflict	Improve signage on the ground so visitors are clear of access rights (ensure signage is in keeping with overall design approach of BHCC & SDNPA)	2017 onwards	N P	Ra SDNPA LMA
	Introduce an Access Code of Conduct (link to SDNPA 'Take the Lead' project)	2018 onwards	N P	SDNPA LMA
7.2.5 Improve volunteering opportunities	Create recruitment, training and survey materials for a Volunteer Path Warden Scheme	2017	£ P	Co
	Information on Community Works local volunteering DB	2018 onwards	N P	CW
	Work with Central Referral Point in Adult Social Care & Health to offer outdoor volunteering opportunities – green prescriptions	2018 onwards	N P	Ph
	Work with the developing Volunteer Portal on the council website	2018 onwards	N P	
	Work with existing volunteer groups on city wide volunteering activities	2018 onwards	N P	SDNPA SWT GG BCV
	Work with the Healthwalks scheme to promote access / guided walks to promote the network / volunteer path warden scheme	2018 onwards	N P	Ph
	Continue to support the work of the Local Access Forum to improve the PRow network	ongoing	N P	LAF NE
7.2.6 Advertise promoted routes	Create downloadable trail leaflets on the council website for promoted routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>England Coastal Path (Brighton &amp; Hove)</li> <li>Brighton &amp; Hove Way</li> <li>Discover the Heart of the Biosphere</li> </ul>	2019 onwards	N p	SDNPA BIO To Se
	Promote a variety of circular routes for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with mobility issues	2020 onwards	N P	SDNPA
<b>Aim 7.3 Improve connectivity to green spaces within Brighton &amp; Hove</b>				
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>
7.3.1 Improve links between urban areas, housing estates and green spaces	Identify and map PRow links and gaps around urban green spaces	2019	N P	

	Work with Planning to use developer contributions (CiL / S.106) to fund improvements to links to green spaces	ongoing	££££ P & C	PI
	Improve accessibility at busy crossing points between rights of way and green spaces	ongoing	£££ P & C	CTD
	Work with planned transport projects to improve access to green space	2018 onwards	££££ P & C	CTD PI
<b>Aim 7.4 Work with SDNPA and neighbouring authorities to improve access to the National Park &amp; Biosphere Region</b>				
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>
7.4.1 Reduce severance from the Nation Park	Identify crossing points of particular concern	2017	N P	LAF CTD
	Prioritise key crossing points for improvement – linked to development opportunities e.g. Stanmer Park Restoration Project; Toads Hole Valley development	2018 onwards	£££££ P & C	PI CTD LAF
	Work with SDNPA on their Walking & Cycling Strategy e.g. aspirational route between Stanmer and Ditchling Beacon	2019 onwards	££££ P & C	SDNPA ESCC LMA
7.4.2 Improve 'gateway' sites – access points to the National Park	Work with SDNPA to improve signage on the ground at gateway sites	2019 onwards	££ P & C	SDNPA LMA
	Highlight gateway sites on the online access map	2018	N P	
	Prioritise gateway routes out to the Downs for surfacing improvements	2017 onwards	££ P & C	SDNPA SAV
	Work on access improvements around Stanmer Park as part of the Stanmer Restoration project	2018 onwards	££ P & C	PP SDNPA LMA
7.4.3 Prioritise rights of way improvements along 'Biosphere Green Corridors'	Work with Planning at an early stage of new developments to improve connectivity of the PROW network along green corridors	ongoing	££££ P & C	PI CTD BIO
<b>Aim 7.5 Improve connectivity of the existing rights of way network</b>				
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>
7.5.1 Reduce fragmentation of the network	Investigate claims for new PROW promptly	ongoing	N P	L
	Fill in missing links on the Definitive Map	ongoing	N P	LAF
	Work on legal anomalies on the Definitive Map: gaps / cul-de-sac paths	ongoing	N	LAF



	and changes in status along a route		P	
	Ensure new developments help improve connectivity of the network	ongoing	N P	PI
	Use Brighton & Hove's position as landowner to create additional access e.g. permissive paths / open access arrangements	ongoing	N P	LMA SDNPA
	Consider heritage features in the creation or diversion of any rights of way	ongoing	N P	Barch

## Volunteer path warden Registration form

First name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email

Path(s) I would like to adopt:

Description

Location

Path No / Grid Ref (if known)

Please return to the address below,  
or alternatively email the information to:  
**Cityparks@brighton-hove.gov.uk**

### Postal address:

Rights of Way, Cityparks, Stanmer Nursery  
Stanmer Park, Brighton BN1 9SE

**www.brighton-hove.gov.uk**

This data will be held on an electronic database and only used  
for communications about volunteering with the council.

## Health benefits

By helping to maintain paths you will not only be keeping healthy yourself, but also contributing to helping others access the countryside – creating healthier and happier communities.

- A study by Green Gym conservation volunteers (2016) showed volunteers increased physical health by an average 33%, together with a reduction in social isolation
- A report by the Ramblers and Macmillan Cancer Support (2014) revealed that walking can prevent 37,000 deaths per year and slash the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer's, stroke and cancer by 20-50%



Photo: Rich Howarth

## Contacting us

For more information please contact the  
**Cityparks Team** at Stanmer Nursery,  
Stanmer Park, Brighton BN1 9SE.

Phone: **01273 292929**

Email: **Cityparks@brighton-hove.gov.uk**

To find out where Brighton & Hove's rights  
of way network is, and locate the paths you  
use regularly, have a look at the Highways  
Search Map on the council website:  
**www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/  
highway-search-information-map**

## Volunteer path warden scheme

How to get involved

6217 Brighton & Hove City Council Communications Team

# Become a volunteer path warden and adopt-a-path

Brighton & Hove has 150km of public footpaths, bridleways and byways. These paths stretch from the seafront, through the city and out into the South Downs National Park, all part of the UNESCO Biosphere – The Living Coast.

As part of our commitment to improving access we would like to inspect every path regularly, however, we don't have the resource to do this as often as we would like.

If you walk, cycle or ride the same paths regularly – we'd like you to help keep an eye on them and let us know how they are looking.

## What we would like you to do:

The Volunteer Path Warden scheme encourages volunteers to adopt paths they use regularly and assist with their upkeep to ensure they are open and accessible for everyone.

This could include:

- Walking or riding the paths at least 4 times a year (once each season) to carry out an inspection
- Reporting any problems like faulty gates or stiles, or obstructions such as ploughed up fields
- Help with minor vegetation clearance - cutting back overhanging brambles around signs, gates and stiles
- Promoting responsible use of the path



## We will provide:

- Initial induction and training (including a guidance manual)
- Help and advice with any rights of way questions
- Cover under our insurance policy whilst carrying out the role
- Loan of gloves and tools (for any clearance work)
- Path Warden ID card to show authorisation for tasks carried out

Any maintenance or repair issues reported will be added to our list, prioritised and then dealt with as soon as possible. We aim to inspect reported problems within 14 days (24 hours for safety matters). Safety issues are dealt with within 7 days. When we have fixed things you have told us about, we will let you know.





Scale 1:35,000



### Legend

- + Priority\_Crossings
- Footpath
- Footpath Twittens
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- BOAT
- UA Boundary

Priority Crossing Points:

- RC 1 Falmer Road / Drove Road
- RC 2 Falmer Road bridleways (ESCC)
- RC 4 Old Boat Corner: Ditchling Road
- RC 5 Carden Avenue / A27 Slip Roads
- RC 6 A23 / A27 Slip Roads Patcham
- RC 7 Mill Road Tunnel
- RC 8 Dyke Road / A27 Slip Roads
- RC 9 Devil's Dyke Road / Saddlescombe Road
- RC 10 Wilson Avenue / Roedene Road
- RC 12 Ovingdean Road / Wanderdown Road
- RC 14 Mill Road / Waterhall

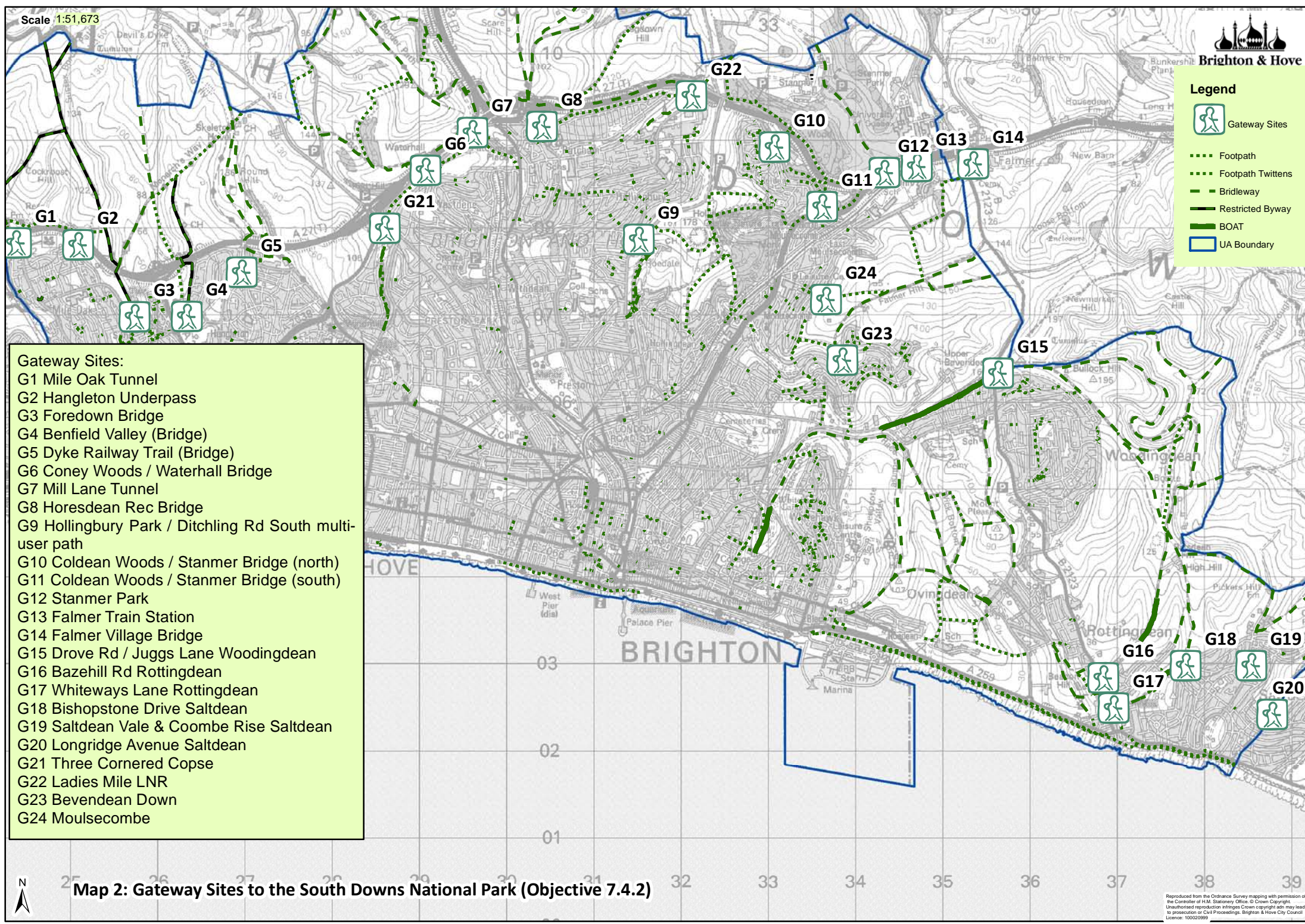
**Map 1: Priority Crossing Points (Objective 7.4.1)**

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<b>Table 2: Priority Crossing Points (LAF)</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Proposed Improvements</b>	<b>Comments</b>
RC1	Falmer Road / Drove Road	Pedestrian Refuge	Currently 30mph but vehicles speeding up /slowing down from nearby 60mph
RC2	Falmer Road / bridleway Crossing	Speed reduction*	60mph limit currently (in ESCC)
RC4	Old Boat Corner: Ditchling Rd / Coldean Lane	Increase bridge parapet height Lights*	High priority link from North Brighton to Stanmer & S. Downs. Bridge parapet too low for cyclists
RC5	Carden Avenue / A27 Slip Road	Pedestrian Refuge / lights*	Link between Ladies Mile / Patcham & Stanmer / S.Downs
RC7	Mill Road	Improve access under bridge	Link from Coney Hill / N. Brighton to Waterhall & S. Downs
RC8	Dyke Road / A27	Improve crossings of slip roads	Link Toad's Hole Development / Three Cornered Copse / Green Ridge to Downs
RC9	Devil's Dyke Rd / Saddlescombe Rd	Improve junction for riders / cyclists	Link from Waterhall to Devil's Dyke
RC10	Wilson Ave / Roedean Rd	Crossing*	Improve access to East Brighton Park
RC12	Ovingdean Rd / Wanderdown Rd	Crossing*	Important link between Woodingdean network & Rottingdean / seafront
RC14	Mill Road	Crossing*	Improve access between Green Ridge & Waterhall footbridge

\*All measures are subject to further feasibility / design plans





Scale 1:51,673



Brighton & Hove

Legend



Gateway Sites

Footpath

Footpath Twittens

Bridleway

Restricted Byway

BOAT

UA Boundary

Gateway Sites:

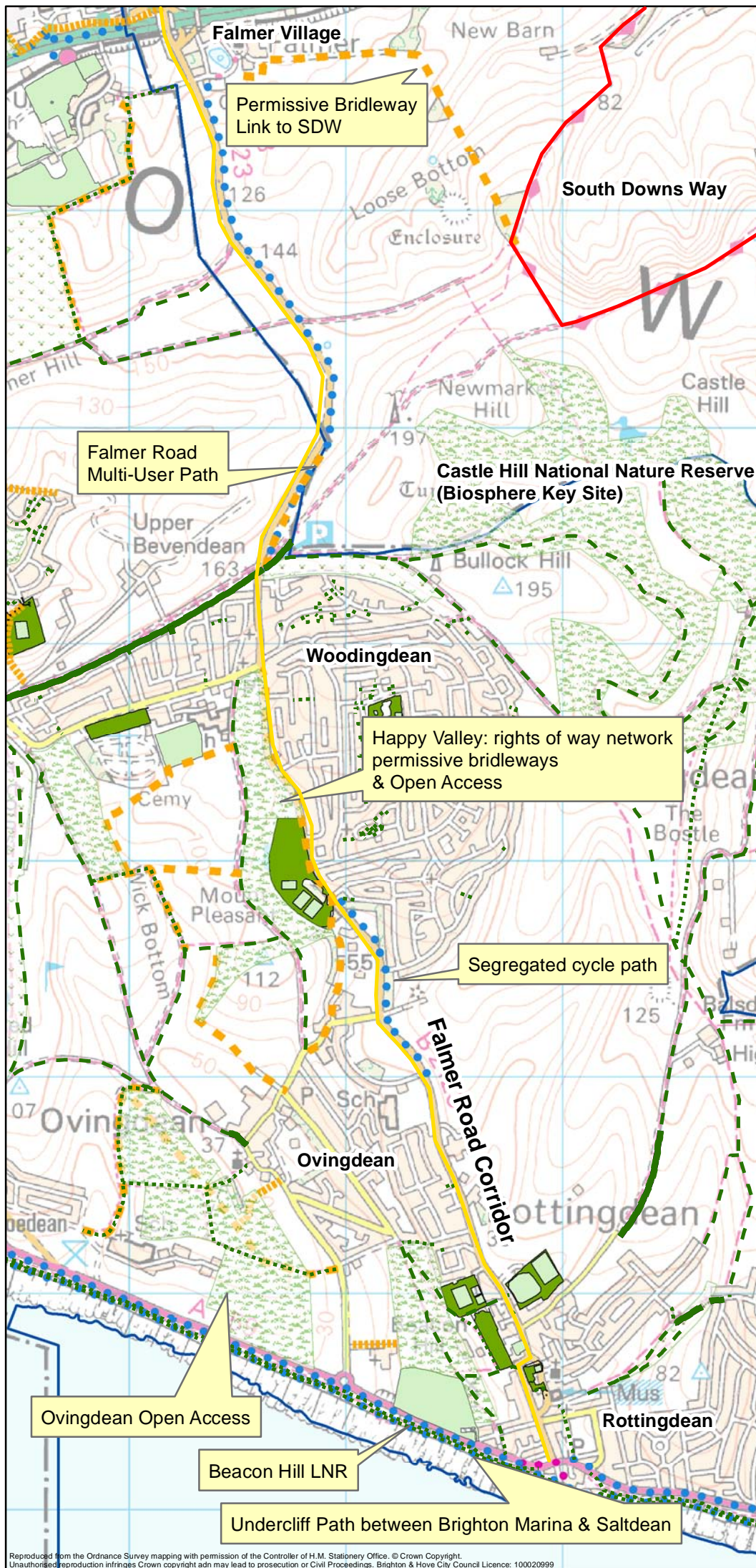
- G1 Mile Oak Tunnel
- G2 Hangleton Underpass
- G3 Foredown Bridge
- G4 Benfield Valley (Bridge)
- G5 Dyke Railway Trail (Bridge)
- G6 Coney Woods / Waterhall Bridge
- G7 Mill Lane Tunnel
- G8 Horesdean Rec Bridge
- G9 Hollingbury Park / Ditchling Rd South multi-user path
- G10 Coldean Woods / Stanmer Bridge (north)
- G11 Coldean Woods / Stanmer Bridge (south)
- G12 Stanmer Park
- G13 Falmer Train Station
- G14 Falmer Village Bridge
- G15 Drove Rd / Juggs Lane Woodingdean
- G16 Bazehill Rd Rottingdean
- G17 Whiteways Lane Rottingdean
- G18 Bishopstone Drive Saltdean
- G19 Saltdean Vale & Coombe Rise Saltdean
- G20 Longridge Avenue Saltdean
- G21 Three Cornered Copse
- G22 Ladies Mile LNR
- G23 Bevendean Down
- G24 Moulsecombe

Map 2: Gateway Sites to the South Downs National Park (Objective 7.4.2)



## Legend

- ..... Footpath
- ..... Footpath Twittens
- - - Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- BOAT
- Open Access Land
- Public Open Space
- Permissive\_Footpath
- Permissive Bridleway
- ● ● Cycle Path (traffic-free)
- ● ● Cycle Path (on-road)
- Parks\_and\_Gardens
- Outdoor\_Sports
- UA Boundary



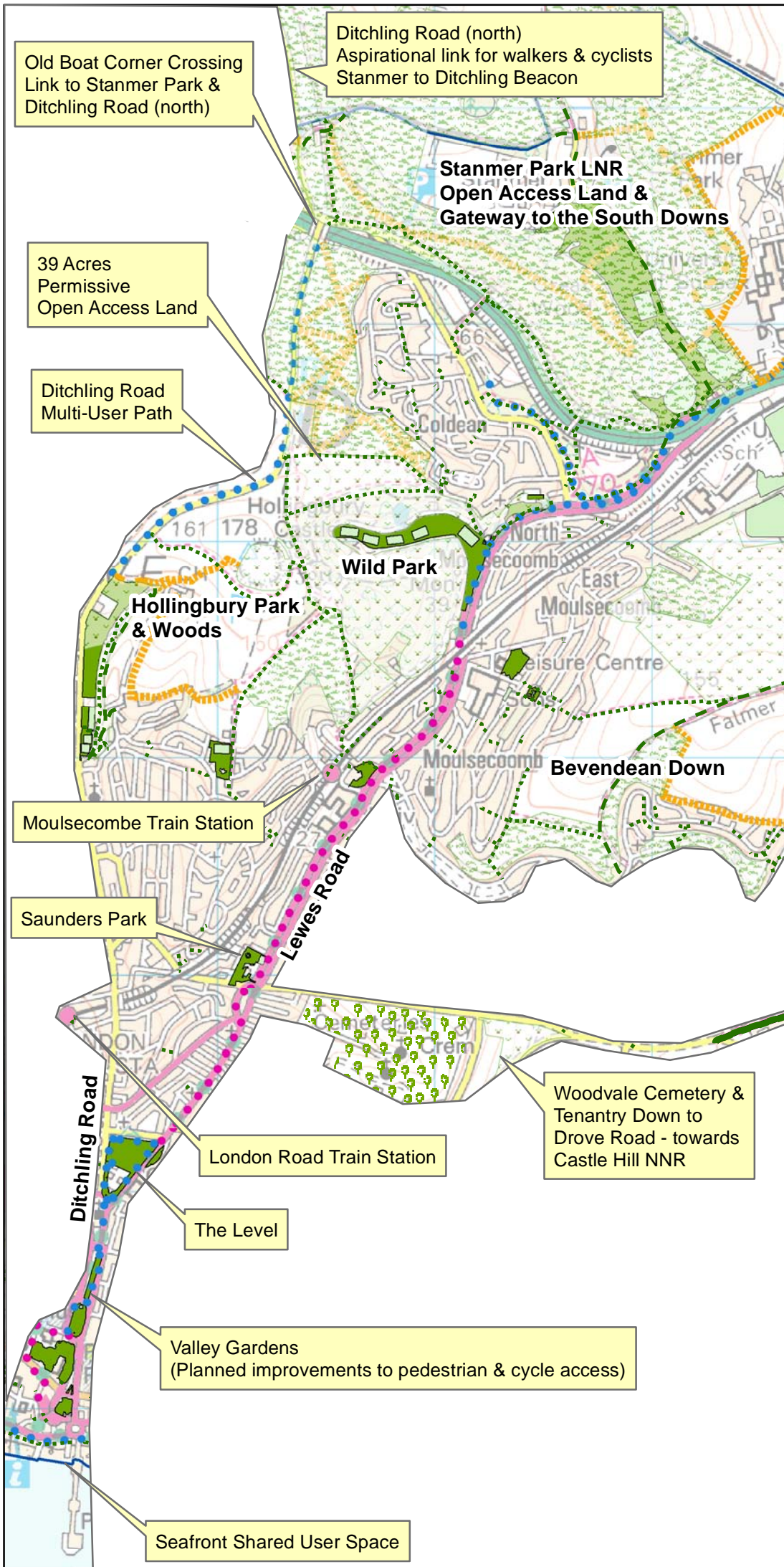
Scale 1:25,000



**Map 3: Green Corridors  
Sheet1: Falmer Road**

**Existing Green Infrastructure**





## Legend

- ..... Footpath
- ..... Footpath Twittens
- - - Bridleway
- - - Restricted Byway
- BOAT
- Open Access Land
- Public Open Space
- ..... Permissive\_Footpath
- - - Permissive Bridleway
- ● ● Cycle Path (traffic-free)
- ● ● Cycle Path (on-road)
- Parks\_and\_Gardens
- Outdoor\_Sports
- UA Boundary

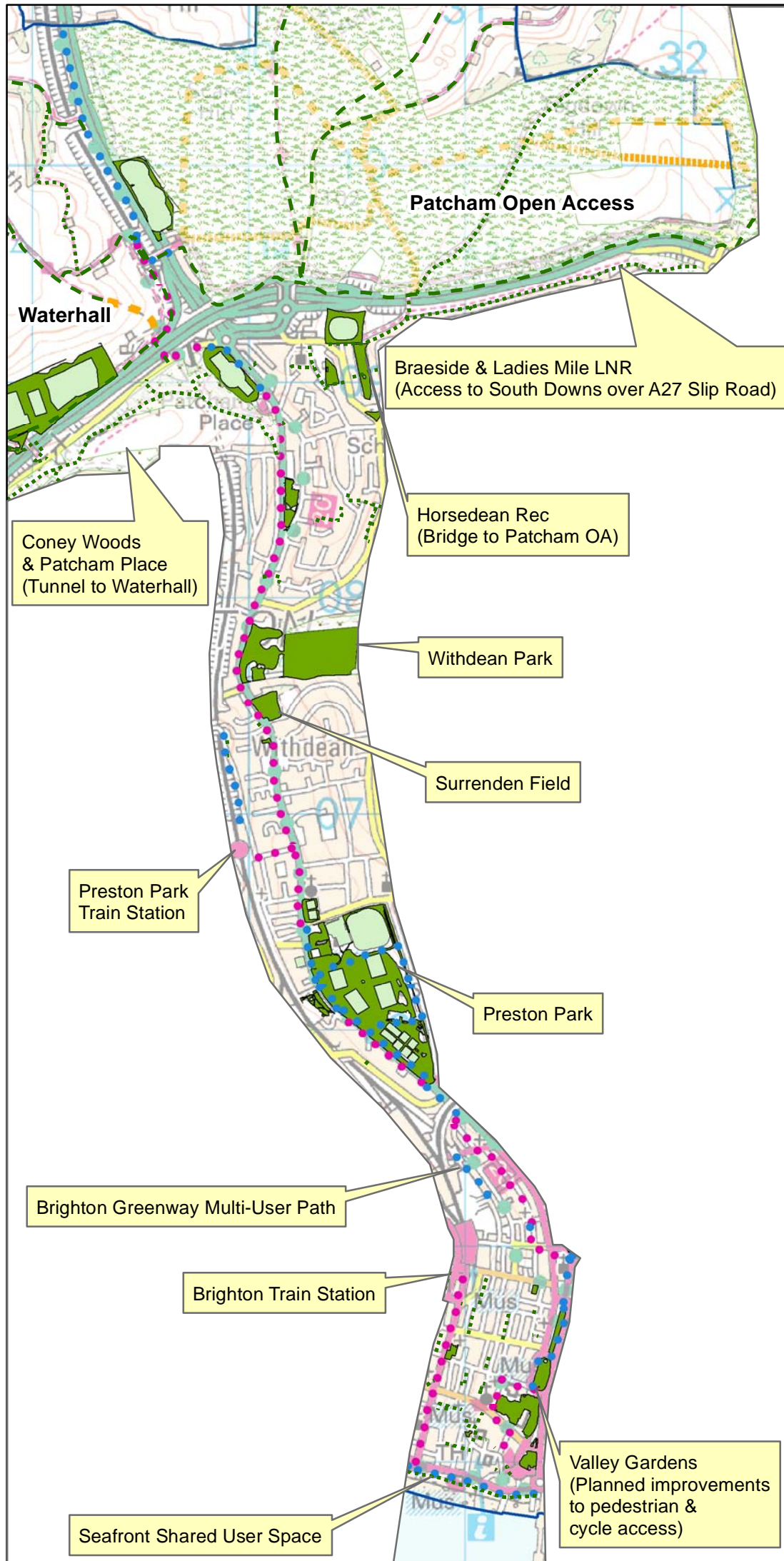
Scale 1:25,000



## Map 3: Green Corridors Sheet 2: Ditchling & Lewes Road

### Existing Green Infrastructure





## Legend

- ..... Footpath
- ..... Footpath Twittens
- - - Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- BOAT
- Open Access Land
- Public Open Space
- Permissive\_Footpath
- Permissive Bridleway
- ● ● Cycle Path (traffic-free)
- ● ● Cycle Path (on-road)
- Parks\_and\_Gardens
- Outdoor\_Sports
- UA Boundary

Scale 1:25,000

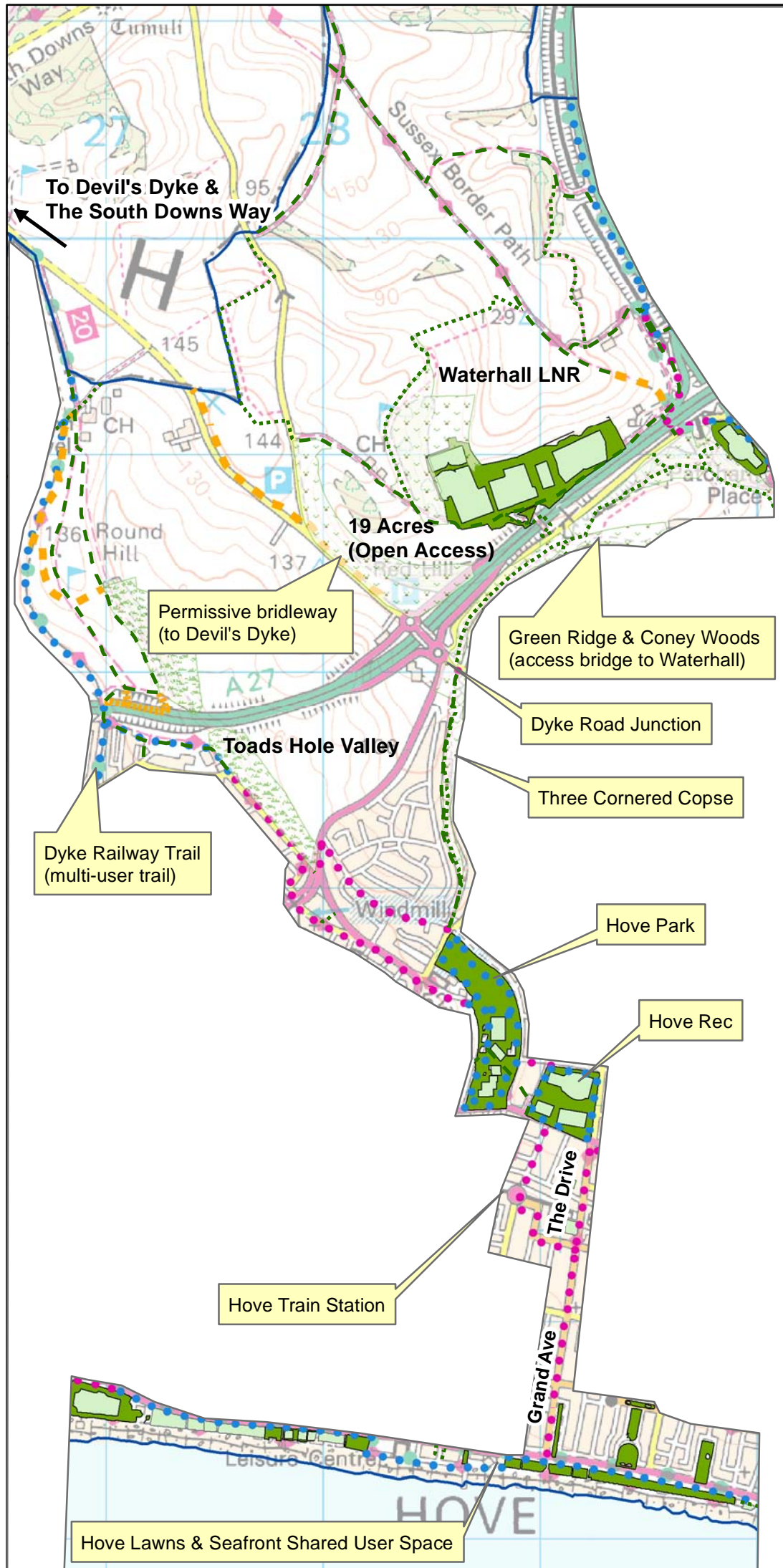


## Map 3: Green Corridors Sheet 3: London Road

### Existing Green Infrastructure



Brighton & Hove  
City Council



## Legend

- Footpath
- Footpath Twittens
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- BOAT
- Open Access Land
- Public Open Space
- Permissive\_Footpath
- Permissive Bridleway
- Cycle Path (traffic-free)
- Cycle Path (on-road)
- Parks\_and\_Gardens
- Outdoor\_Sports
- UA Boundary

Scale 1:25,000



## Map 3: Green Corridors Sheet 4: Hove Corridor

### Existing Green Infrastructure

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## Legend

- ..... Footpath
- ..... Footpath Twittens
- - - Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- BOAT
- Open Access Land
- Public Open Space
- ..... Permissive\_Footpath
- - - Permissive Bridleway
- ● ● Cycle Path (traffic-free)
- ● ● Cycle Path (on-road)
- Parks\_and\_Gardens
- Outdoor\_Sports
- UA Boundary

Scale 1:12,000



## Map 3: Green Corridors Sheet 5: Portslade Corridor

### Existing Green Infrastructure

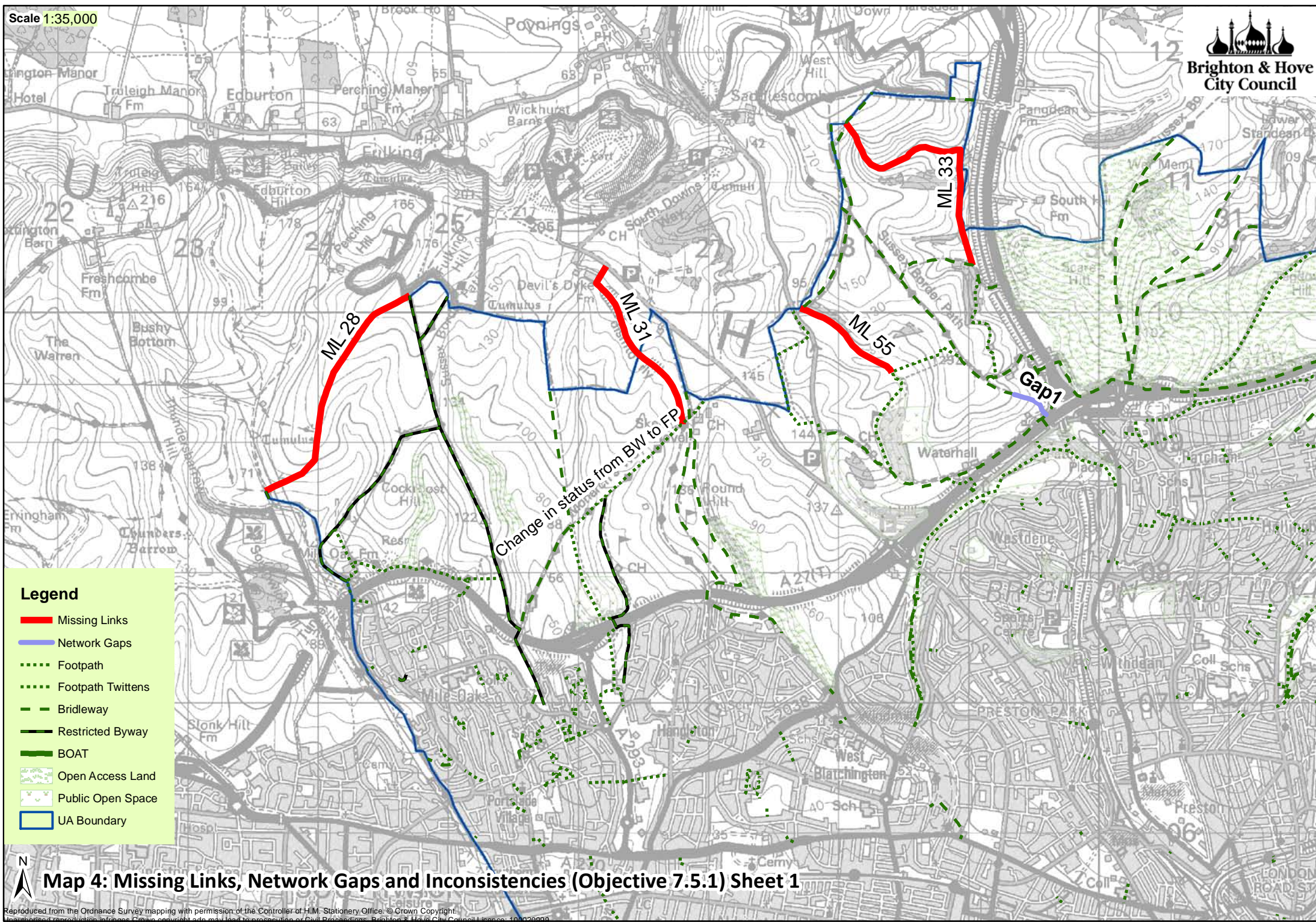
Shoreham Harbour  
(Proposed development includes  
improved pedestrian & cycle access)



Scale 1:35,000



Brighton & Hove  
City Council



### Legend

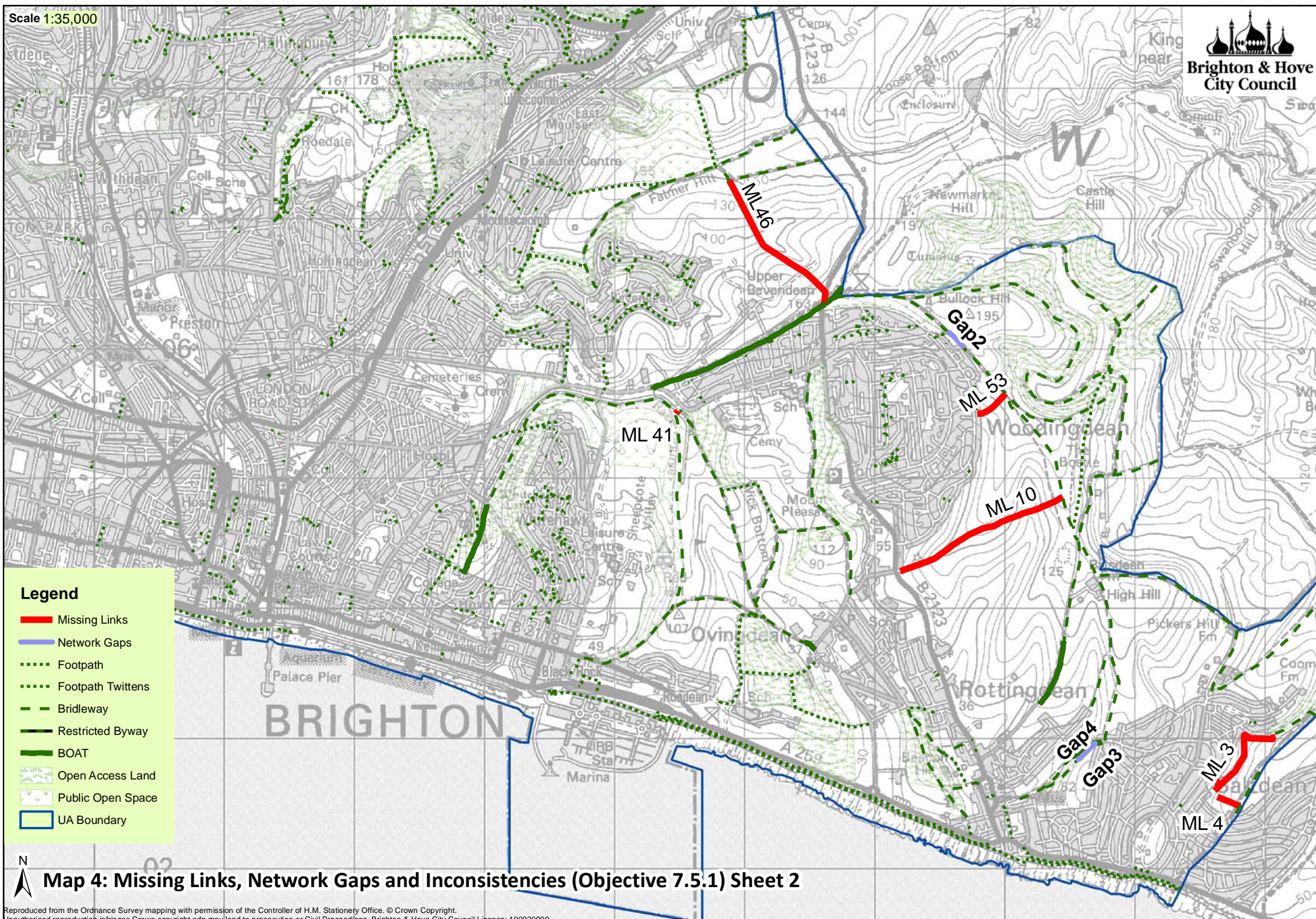
- Missing Links
- Network Gaps
- Footpath
- Footpath Twittens
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- BOAT
- Open Access Land
- Public Open Space
- UA Boundary



Map 4: Missing Links, Network Gaps and Inconsistencies (Objective 7.5.1) Sheet 1



Scale 1:35,000



### Legend

- Missing Links
- Network Gaps
- Footpath
- Footpath Twittens
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- BOAT
- Open Access Land
- Public Open Space
- UA Boundary



Map 4: Missing Links, Network Gaps and Inconsistencies (Objective 7.5.1) Sheet 2



## Table 3 Prioritised Missing Links, network gaps and inconsistencies

### Missing Links (identified by the Local Access Forum)

Missing Link Path No	Proposed Status & Highway Authority	From	To	Length km (mile)	Landowner / Occupier	Route / Comments
ML10	Bridleway BHCC	Point T Falmer Road, Woodingdean TQ 362043	Point U Bridleway 15, north of Balsdean reservoir TQ 374048	1.36 (0.84)	Part BHCC - freeholder Balsdean Farm - tenancy. Challoners & New Barn Farm - tenancy. Part Southern Water?	Possible creation with the consent from the landowners / occupiers. High priority - support from South Dwons Society, Friends of Woodingdean & Mid-Sussex Bridleways Group. Not supported by Balsdean Farm. <b>High Priority</b>
ML31	Footpath BHCC WSCC	Point BK Devil's Dyke Road TQ 262103	Point BL Footpath, near Brighton & Hove Golf Club & Dyke Railway Trail TQ 268092	1.4 (0.9)	Part Golf Farm - freeholder. Part Devil's Dyke Farm - freeholder.	Old Devil's Dyke Railway. Potential easy access route. Possible creation with the consent from landowners / occupiers. High priority - support from South Downs Society. <b>High Priority</b>
ML46	Footpath? BHCC	Drove Ave / Falmer Road junction TQ 3561 0634	Falmer Hill BW49 TQ 3487 0728	c1.2 (0.75)	BHCC - freehold. Upper Bevendean Farm - tenancy	Evidence of some current use. High priority support from South Downs Society. <b>High priority</b>
ML41	Bridleway BHCC	Point CB BWB41	Point CA BWB30a	0.01	Brighton Racecourse - Council freeholder, Race Course - leaseholder.	Supported by Ingleside Racing Stables. <b>Medium priority.</b>
ML28	Footpath BHCC WSCC	Point BE Restricted Byway / Bridleway / Footpath junction TQ 247101	Point BF Restricted Byway Hazleholt Bottom TQ 236086	2.0 (1.2)	BHCC - freeholder. Mile Oak Farm - tenancy. Possibly part Lower Paythorne Farm - freeholder.	Possible part re-alignment in adjacent field(s), one of which is now access land (see ML27). Possible creation with the consent of landowners / occupiers. <b>Medium priority</b> - support from South Downs Society. <b>Northern section from mound on Tenant Hill access land to Fulking Hill access land supported by Mile Oak Farm Dec 2011 - negotiation underway.</b>
ML3	Footpath BHCC	Point E Shepham Avenue, Saltdean TQ 386026	Point F / Point G Greenbank Avenue / Coombe Rise TQ 386027 TQ 391030	0.86 (0.53)	Coombe Farm - freeholder. House with garden at end of Shepham Avenue - freeholder	The paths pass through the Quarry Field and one of the routes was subject to an unsuccessful footpath claim. Possible creation with the landowners consent. <b>Low priority</b> - support from Saltdean residents & South



						Downs Society. Not supported by Coombe Farm.
ML4	Footpath BHCC	Point H Shepham Avenue Saltdean TQ 386026	Point I Bridleway BWB1 TQ 388025	0.19 (0.12)	Coombe Farm - freeholder.	Possibly an old route that has not been used for many years. <b>Low priority</b> - support from Slatdean residents & South Downs Society. Not supported by Coombe Farm
ML33	Footpath BHCC (possibly WSCC)	Point BO Bridleway BWB84 TQ 281115	Point BP Bridleway BWB78 TQ 290104	2.2 (1.4)	BHCC - freeholder. Waterhall Farm - tenancy.	Part adjacent to CROW Act access land (in WSCC). Possible creation with the consent from the landowners / occupiers. <b>Low priority</b> - support from South Downs Society & Mid- Sussex Bridleways Group (as bridleway).
ML53	Footpath BHCC	Cowley Drive / Bexhill Road TQ 3681 0549	Footpath TQ 3702 0564	0.25 (0.15)	BHCC - freehold. Challoners & New Barn Farm - leasehold	Link at Woodingdean requested by resident. Evidence of use.
ML55	Footpath? BHCC	<i>Saddlescomb e Road / BWB83 TQ 2771 1003</i>	<i>NW corner of footpath FPB81 TQ 2841 0954</i>	<i>0.9 (0.5)</i>	<i>BHCC - freehold. Waterhall Farm &amp; Waterhall Golf Club - leasehold</i>	<i>Evidence on pre-1949 OS maps.</i>

### Gaps in the network

Gap No	Status	From	To	Length km (mile)	Landowner / Occupier	Route / Comments
Gap 1	Bridleway	TQ293093	TQ295092	0.3 (0.2)	S. Water	Sweet Hill Waterhall
Gap 2	Bridleway	TQ365061	TQ366060	0.2 (0.1)	S. Water	Norton Drive, Woodingdean
Gap 3	Byway	TQ376029	TQ376029	0.04 (0.02)	?	Whiteways Lane, Rottingdean
Gap 4	Bridleway	TQ376029	TQ375028	0.2 (0.1)	?	Whiteways Lane, Rottingdean

### Change in status along the route

No	Status	From	To	Length km (mile)	Landowner / Occupier	Route / Comments
1	BW - FP	TQ255075	TQ269093	2.3 (1.4)	Part BHCC & part private	New Barn Farm