



 Norfolk County Council

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Norfolk

Thetford

May 2023

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Norfolk**
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Thetford

Norfolk County Council is creating a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Norfolk.

What is a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Norfolk?

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is a list of short, medium and long-term infrastructure schemes which have been identified to help people walk, cycle or wheel (using a wheelchair or mobility aid) more across the County.

The Countywide plan builds on those already created for King's Lynn, Greater Norwich and Great Yarmouth. The potential improvements will create a travel network which will create better connectivity within and between 20 towns across Norfolk and help link towns and rural communities.

Why do we need one?

The Government's ambition is for 50% of all journeys in towns and cities to be walked or cycled by 2030. To help more people to choose cycling and walking we want to create a modern, well connected transport network in Norfolk that gives people more alternatives to travelling by car.

What are the benefits of the plan?

All schemes proposed are currently not funded, but having a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Norfolk will be essential to embed these schemes into wider development and to support us in gaining funding from Government to make them happen.

What are the benefits of active travel?

Increased levels of walking, cycling and wheeling can provide many benefits such as;

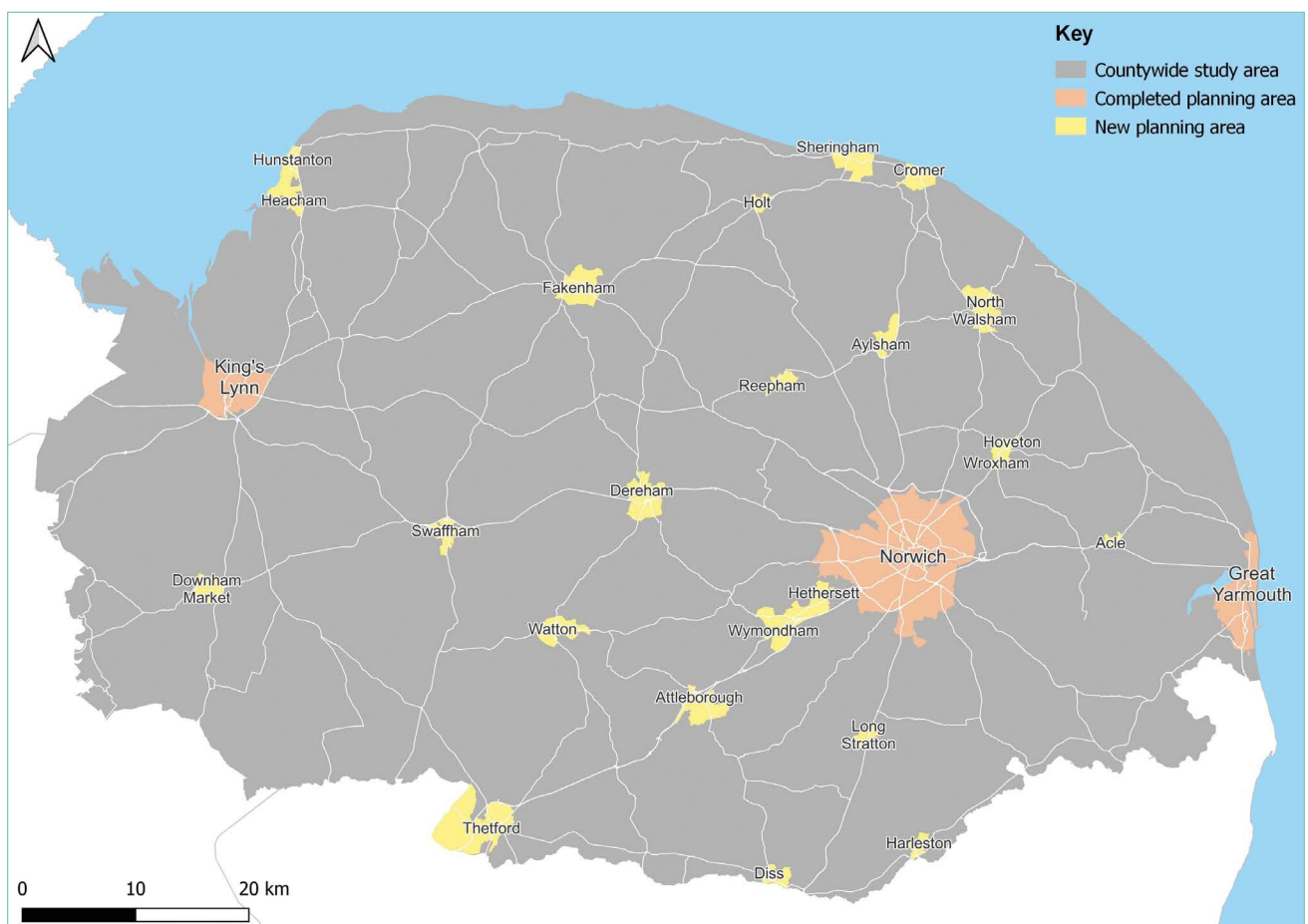
- improving our air quality
- reducing congestion on our roads
- providing access to education, employment and services
- addressing inequalities
- increasing connectivity between people and communities
- improving physical and mental health
- helping to mitigate climate change.

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Norfolk contains proposals for potential **active travel networks** for 20 towns across the County.

Each of the proposed networks includes:

- **Priority routes.** These would connect people with places of employment, education, central services, public transport and green spaces.
- **Walking zones.** A Walking Zone is an area within which the priority for schemes will be to enable people to easily walk or wheel at any time to access key services and areas of employment and education / training.

Such schemes might include increasing or improving road crossings, widening pavements, resurfacing uneven pavements or slowing traffic speeds.



Map 1: Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan study area map.

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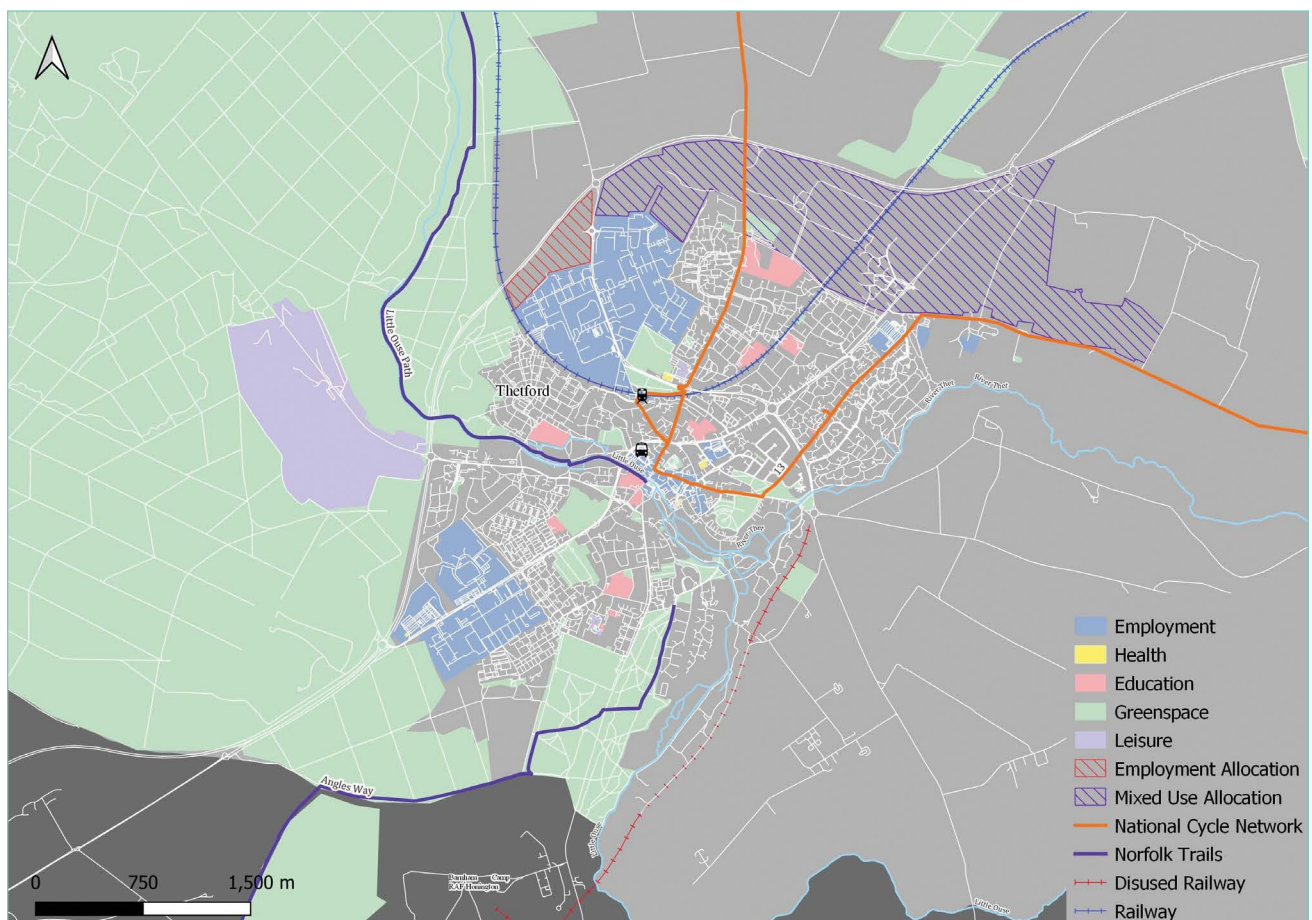
► Thetford

i. Introduction

Thetford is Norfolk's largest market town and fourth largest urban area, located 50km southwest of Norwich via the A11 on the Norfolk and Suffolk border. Thetford has a bus station and a train station providing links to Norwich, Cambridge and London. In 2021, it had a population of just over 24,000 with the Thetford Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) likely to add around 15,000 to this figure. The town has a relatively young population with 32% below 25 compared to 27% in Norfolkⁱ.

The SUE, to the north of the town and where housebuilding has recently started, will eventually bring forward another 5,000 homes. Thetford also has areas allocated to employment development which is set to increase the number of people in employment in the area. In 2011, 14% of residents were in part time employment and around 47% were in full time employmentⁱⁱ.

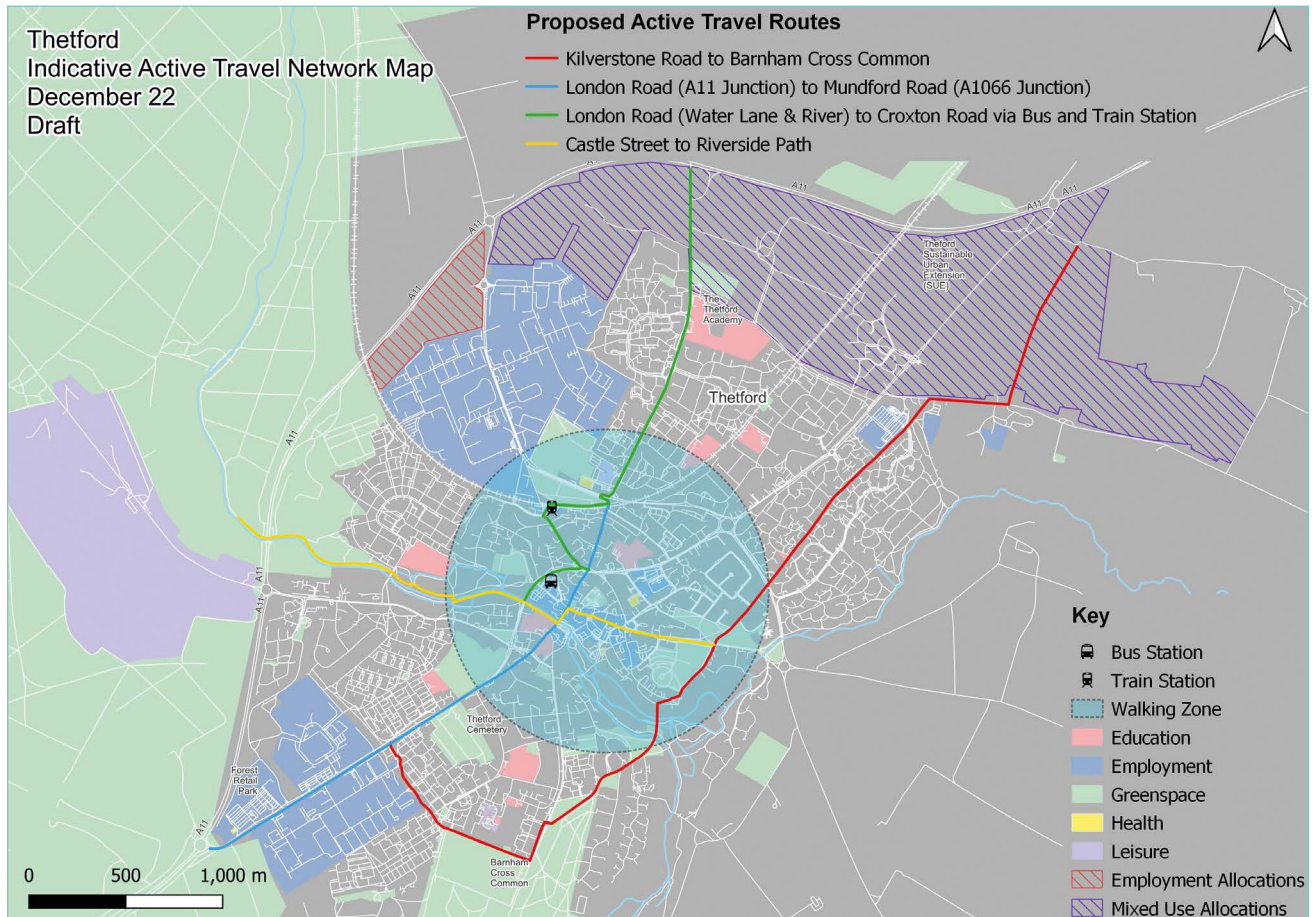
Active travel alternatives to driving and public transport in Thetford are currently provided by the National Cycle Network which links the town to the Peddars Way to the east and the Angles Way to the south. It also links to the Sustrans Regional Cycle Network to the north, which links with the Little Ouse Path.



Map 2: Thetford area map showing current active travel network.

ii. Thetford indicative active travel network

The indicative active travel network for Thetford aims to provide connectivity between residential areas, places of employment and education, commercial areas and central services including Thetford Train Station and bus station. The indicative network will also link to new developments in the north of Thetford and will provide access to greenspace via Little Ouse Path.



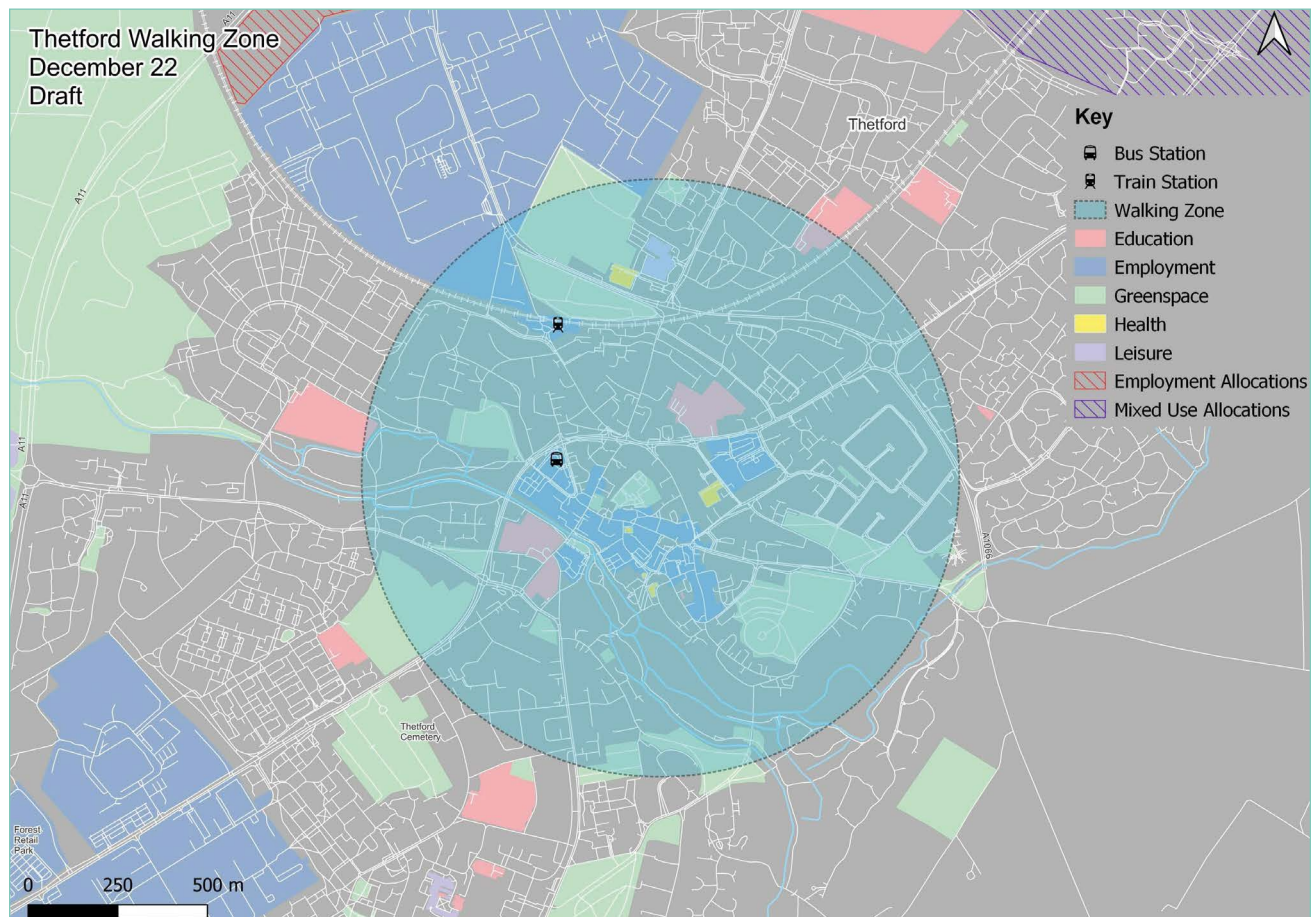
Map 3: Thetford indicative active travel network.

iii. Active travel route summary

Route Number	Route	Route Description
Route 1 (Red)	Kilverstone Road to Barnham Cross Common	The 5.5km route connects the Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) or Kingsfleet Housing Development (east), to Kilverstone, the superstore, other residential areas, to the town centre and greenspaces.
Route 2 (Blue)	London road (A11 Junction) to Mundford Road (A1066 Junction)	A 2.5km route connecting the commercial area to the southwest of the town, via residential areas, to the town centre and train station.
Route 3 (Green)	London Road (Water Lane and River) to Croxton Road via Bus and Train Station	A 3.2km route that connects the river and residential areas to the west of town with the town centre, bus and train stations, and with schools and the SUE (west) residential areas in the north of the town
Route 4 (Yellow)	Castle Street to Riverside Path	A 2.7km route that connects residential areas with the town centre, National Cycle Route 1 and green space.

iv. Indicative walking zone

The Thetford walking zone extends beyond the existing pedestrian area within the town centre to include the train and bus station and riverside area. Schemes within the walking zone will include improvements to cycle parking facilities and wayfinding as well as schemes to improve pedestrian connectivity between: the train station and town centre along Croxton Road; Castle Street to the town centre; Bridge Street to Riverside and the Bus Station to Town centre, specifically where Minstergate joins St Nicholas Street.



Map 4: Thetford indicative walking zone.

- i. [Norfolk Insights \(2021\) Population Report for Norfolk \(online\)](#).
- ii. [Norfolk Insights \(2021\) Economy Report for Norfolk \(online\)](#).



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