

Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Eastern Area Committee of Swale Borough Council approved a project to identify a network of cycling and walking routes to link Faversham and the surrounding communities (Figure 1). Some of the potential cycle routes in and around Faversham form part of a wider strategic network (Figure 2) linking up with Sittingbourne (and on to Medway), Canterbury, Whitstable (to Herne Bay and Thanet) and Lenham. The countywide Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP) needs to also consider links to Ashford and Maidstone.
- 1.2. Painter's Forstal is important because it lies within easy cycling distance of Faversham and within walking distance (2 miles) of Abbey school and the new development at Perry Court. It also lies on the route to Lenham which, in the longer term, could be a part of an inter-urban network.

This briefing paper concerns walking and cycling routes from Painter's Forstal to Faversham.

2. Summary status, recommendations, next steps

- 2.1. Parish Council and local community asked to consider:
 - 2.1.1. Applying for a speed limit of 30mph on Eastling Road
 - 2.1.2. Whether there is appetite to develop a Quiet Lanes initiative around the village
 - 2.1.3. Which cycle and walking routes between Painter's Forstal and Faversham (Figure 4) to pursue and to identify issues and solutions. Three possible routes exist for cycling – all take around 15 minutes to Faversham Station - plus walking variants.
 - 2.1.3.1. **Option 1:** The most direct route for cycling to Faversham station, Abbey School or the supermarket at Perry Court is via Eastling Road / Brogdale Road. Much of the route is national speed limit, the road is narrow, some hills and parked cars nearer to Faversham. Significant interventions would be needed to make this a realistic alternative.
 - 2.1.3.2. **Option 2:** A variant to Option 1 uses Eastling Road and then Vicarage Lane, Mutton Lane and either Water Lane (walking and cycling) or ZF11 (walking). Although less direct, it needs fewer interventions than Option 1
 - 2.1.3.3. **Option 3:** Painter's Forstal Road and Water Lane (walking and cycling) or ZF352 and ZF13 (walking). Slightly less direct to Faversham station, but direct to Ospringe and needs fewer interventions than either Options 1 or 2.

All three options are described in more detail in section 5, with a working list of potential interventions in section 6.

Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

3. Key considerations

- 3.1. With its close proximity to Abbey School, Faversham station and other facilities, Painter's Forstal has potential for cycling and to some extent walking.
- 3.2. To qualify for government funding and to enable routes to be used by all, cycling infrastructure needs to be high quality and fully accessible to all type of cycles, including cargo bikes, assisted cycles etc. Any design compromises needed to implement a route initially must be addressed soon thereafter to bring the route up to current UK government approved standards (LTN 1/20).

4. Further considerations (outside project scope)

- 4.1. A cycle route from Faversham to Painter's Forstal could benefit Eastling, a community that is too small / remote to be prioritised for this project.
- 4.2. Surrounded by a network of rural lanes, increased walking, cycling and horse-riding opportunities would benefit Painter's Forstal residents and visitors. Ospringe PC might be prepared to consider new cycle racks for Painter's Forstal, to attract leisure cyclists.

5. Detailed commentary

- 5.1. Although Painter's Forstal is relatively small (population c. 400), its close proximity to Faversham – 2 miles (15 minutes cycling) to the station / less to Abbey School – means that residents would benefit from better cycling and walking provision.
- 5.2. Three options (plus variants) exist for walking or cycling:
 - 5.2.1. **Option 1:** The most direct route for cycling to Faversham station, Abbey School or the new facilities at Perry Court is via Eastling Road / Brogdale Road. Part of the route is national speed limit, the road is narrow, with some hills and there are parked cars nearer to Faversham. **Currently unsuitable for those walking or any but the most confident cyclists.**
 - 5.2.1.1. Significant interventions are needed to make it usable for cycling: traffic-calming to lower motor vehicle speeds and volumes on Eastling Road.
 - 5.2.1.2. For walking, an informal track exists through Lorenden Park to ZR357, which comes out onto the Eastling Road, from where no pavement exists for about 600m until Brogdale Farm cottages.
 - 5.2.1.3. Making this as a safe walking route into Faversham is challenging, as it requires the informal path to be formalised, a reduction in motor vehicle speeds and volumes or land found off-road for segregated footpath.
 - 5.2.1.4. North of the M2, the direct route is ZF18 through Perry Court. Already suitable for walking, this might be used as a cycle route if upgraded.

Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

- 5.2.1.5. Otherwise, the route continues along Brogdale Road to London Road, where the junction is less than ideal for cyclists or pedestrians.
- 5.2.1.6. An alternative KCC promoted walking route uses a permissive path from ZR359 to Plumford Lane and then ZR365. Although suitable for some, it is a less direct route and contains a number of barriers – see images at Figure 7.
- 5.2.2. **Option 2:** Eastling Road and then Vicarage Lane, Mutton Lane and either Water Lane (walking and cycling) or ZF11 (walking).
 - 5.2.2.1. Slightly longer to some destinations, this requires a similar solution to Option 1 for Eastling Road and uses (the polluted) London Road to reach the Abbey School.
 - 5.2.2.2. Ospringe Road is a suitable alternative for the town centre and the station, either from Water Lane or via Mutton Lane, ZF11 and King George V recreation ground – needs crossing on London Road.
 - 5.2.2.3. Vicarage Lane and Mutton Lane are already suitable for walking and cycling. Making them Quiet Lanes with no access to through traffic and a lower speed limit would make them better for active travel.
- 5.2.3. **Option 3:** This alternative uses Painter's Forstal Road and either Water Lane (cycling) or ZF13 or ZR361 (walking).
 - 5.2.3.1. Traffic speeds are too high along parts of the route, particularly Water Lane, to feel completely comfortable for walking or cycling.
 - 5.2.3.2. A pavement for walkers already exists along Painter's Forstal Road and for all but 600m of Water Lane between ZR361 and St Peter's and St Paul's Church, from where a pavement exists into Ospringe
 - 5.2.3.3. ZR352 and either ZF13 to the church or a well-used informal route due north to Ospringe Street is a suitable off-road walking alternative from the M2. (3b on Figure 4; images in Figure 7 and 8 – note poor signage at Churchyard)
 - 5.2.3.4. Although ZR361 to Vicarage Lane is a walking alternative, it confers no advantage over other routes. (3c on Figure 4 and images at Figure 10)
 - 5.2.3.5. A lower speed limit (?20mph) and possible motor vehicle access restrictions on Water Lane would make it suitable for all, whether walking or riding.
 - 5.2.3.6. Maintenance needed on Water Lane (Figure 9)

Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

6. Potential interventions

- 6.1. A copy of the current list of possible interventions is included at Figure 5. A link to a map showing interventions in Figure 6 is [here](#). This list will need expanding / amending over time, depending on the routes selected.
- 6.2. Option 1
 - 6.2.1. Reduce the speed limit along Eastling Road to 30mph and on Brogdale Road to 20mph (exact point to be agreed)
 - 6.2.2. Formalise the footpath in Lorenden Park nature reserve as a walking route to Eastling Road
 - 6.2.3. Add pavements or footpaths parallel with Eastling Road from ZF357 @ Lorenden Park to Brogdale Farm. Consider on-road walking route if no suitable land available
 - 6.2.4. Remodel junction with London Road to make it safe for cyclists and pedestrians – already included in Faversham's LCWIP as a "Critical Junction".
 - 6.2.5. Add pedestrian crossings of London Road where ZF18 emerges and/or at the Abbey School and/or Brogdale Road.
 - 6.2.6. Upgrade ZF18 to be usable by those on bicycles.
- 6.3. Option 2
 - 6.3.1. As 6.2.1 - 3
 - 6.3.2. Make Vicarage and Mutton lanes "Quiet Lanes" – 20mph speed limit and marked no entry for motor vehicles (except access).
 - 6.3.3. Reduce speed limit on Water Lane in Ospringe to 20mph.
 - 6.3.4. Consider pros and cons of making Water Lane a "School Street".
 - 6.3.5. ZF11 in good condition; needs pedestrian crossing at London Road.
- 6.4. Option 3
 - 6.4.1. Reduce speed limit on Painter's Forstal Road to 30mph and on Water Lane north of St. Peter & St. Paul church to 20mph.
 - 6.4.2. Clear footpaths of vegetation on Painters Forstal Road and on Water Lane near M2 crossing and near Mutton Lane.
 - 6.4.3. Add London Road crossing points to LCWIP (done).
 - 6.4.4. Replace stile on ZF14 at Water Lane with kissing gate.
 - 6.4.5. Issues noted re ZR361; probably not a realistic alternative.

Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

Figure 1: Parishes to Town cycling network (blue, illustrative) and walking extent (yellow)

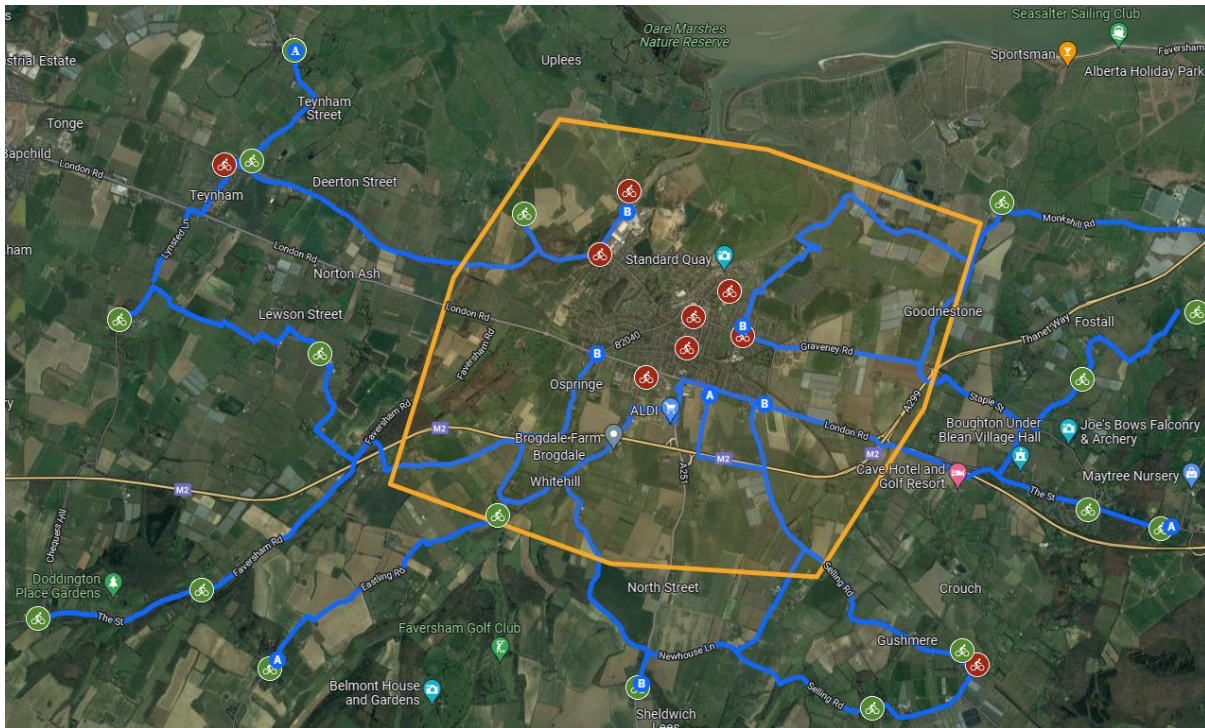
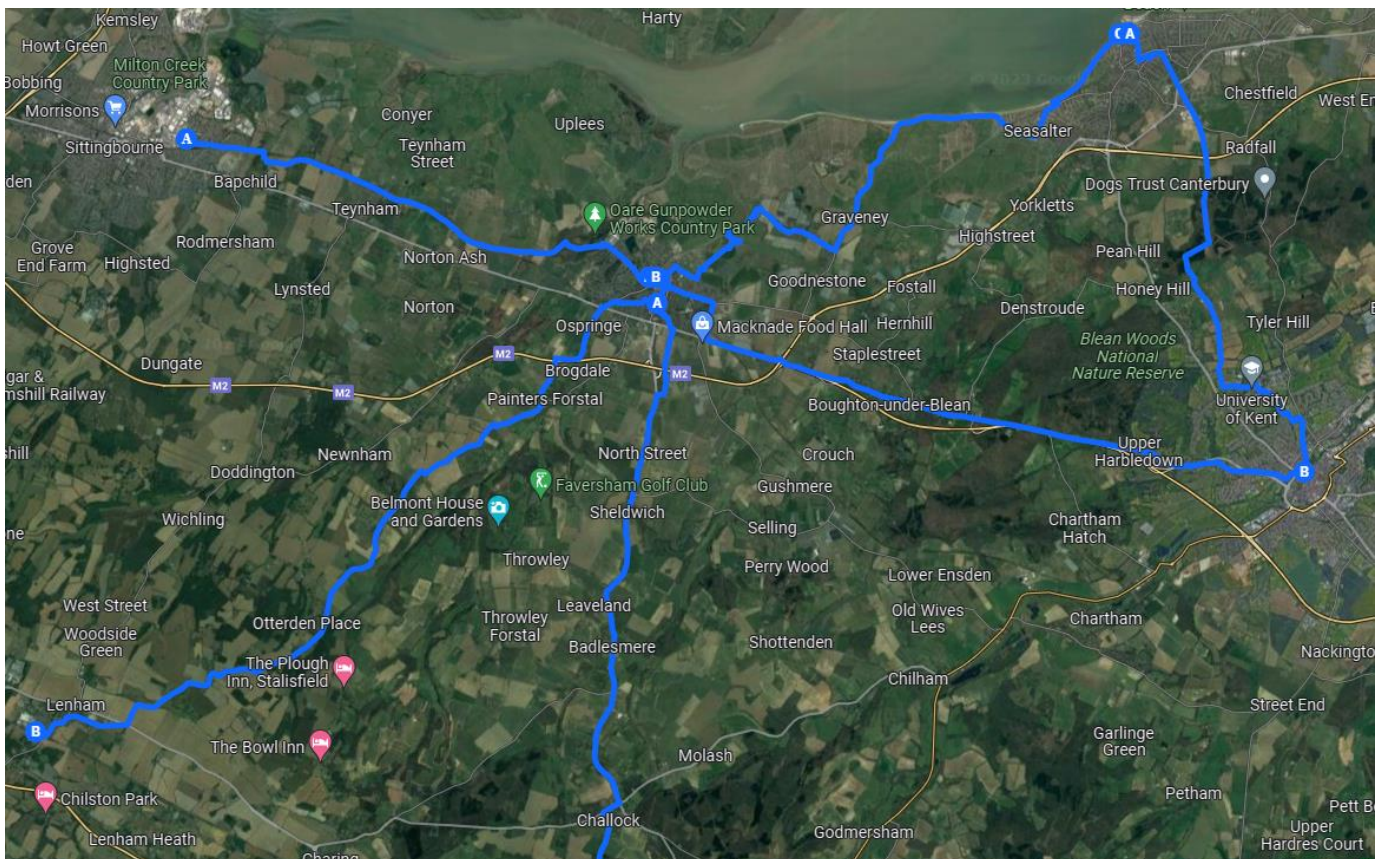


Figure 2: Potential inter-urban network from Faversham (illustrative)



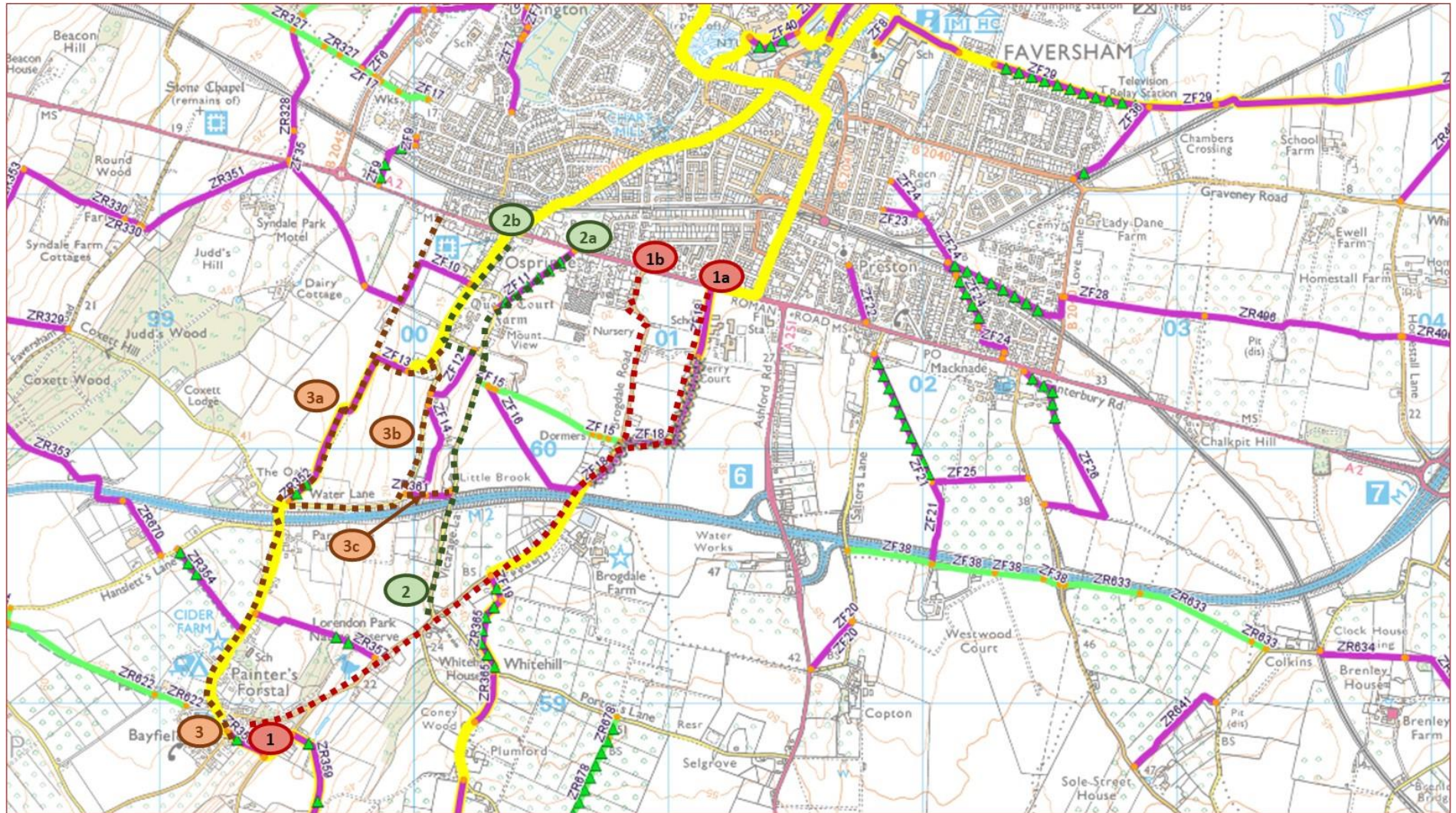
Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

Figure 3: National Cycle Network – current (blue, yellow) and potential (red dotted)



Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

Figure 4: Painter's Forstal to Faversham walking and cycling alternatives



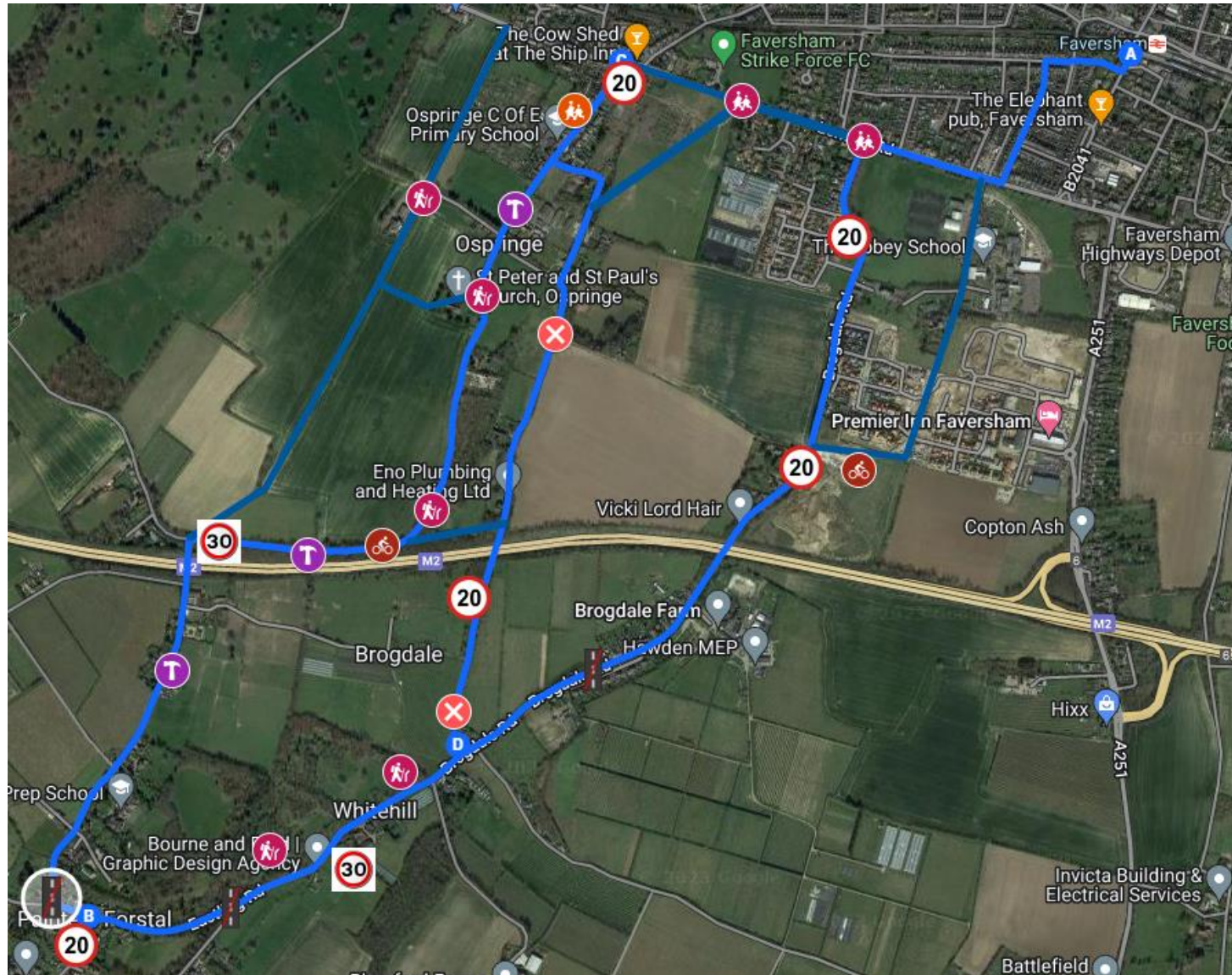
Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

Figure 5: working list of interventions

Parish	Item	Issue	Issue / solution	Location	Comment
Painter's Forstal	34	Taffic speed / vol	20mph	In village?	Parish Council prefers uniform 30mph
Painter's Forstal	35	Taffic speed / vol	centre lines	Remove in village	Can reduce traffic speeds, removes street clutter
Painter's Forstal	36	Taffic speed / vol	30mph	Eastling Road	Extend from village to Brogdale Road
Painter's Forstal	37	Taffic speed / vol	centre lines	Eastling Road	Can reduce traffic speeds, removes street clutter
Painter's Forstal	38	Unclear route	Footpath	Lorenden	Permissive path ?status
Painter's Forstal	39	No footpath	Footpath	Eastling Road	Add pavement / off road path
Painter's Forstal	40	Taffic speed / vol	centre lines	Brogdale Road	Can reduce traffic speeds, removes street clutter
Painter's Forstal	41	Taffic speed / vol	20mph	Brogdale Road	Extent TBA
Painter's Forstal	42	No cycleway	Cycleway	Perry Court	Upgrade existing PROW
Painter's Forstal	43	Junction safety	Crossing	Remodel Brogdale / London Road	to include crossing of London Road
Painter's Forstal	44	Taffic speed / vol	Quiet Lane	Vicarage Lane	remove through traffic
Painter's Forstal	45	Taffic speed / vol	20mph	Vicarage Lane	Entire length
Painter's Forstal	46	Surface quality	Maintenance	Painter's Forstal Road	Remove vegetation from footway
Painter's Forstal	47	Taffic speed / vol	30mph	Painter's Forstal Road and Water Lane	Extent TBA
Painter's Forstal	48	Surface quality	Maintenance	Water Lane near M2	Remove vegetation from footway
Painter's Forstal	49	Taffic speed / vol	Traffic calming	Water Lane	Traffic calming to slow traffic (cycle route)
Painter's Forstal	50	Taffic speed / vol	30mph	Water Lane	Extent TBA
Painter's Forstal	51	Unclear route	Footpath	St Peter & St Paul	Improve signs
Painter's Forstal	52	Unclear route	Footpath	Permissive path	Investigate status - formalise?
Painter's Forstal	53	Surface quality	Maintenance	Water Lane, near Mutton Lane	Remove vegetation from footway
Painter's Forstal	54	Taffic speed / vol	School street	Water Lane	Consider whether potential school street?
Painter's Forstal	55	Taffic speed / vol	20mph	Water Lane, north of St Peter & St Paul Church	Exact location TBA
Painter's Forstal	56	No safe crossing	Crossing	King George V / London Road	Crossing type TBA

Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

Figure 6: Map of possible interventions



Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

Figure 7: ZR365 images



Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

Figure 8: images on ZF13 / ZR352



Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham



ZR352



Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

Figure 9: Water Lane images



Parishes to Town Project: Painter's Forstal to Faversham

Figure 10: ZF13 exit to Vicarage Lane (and lost / permissive path??)

