

Signing Audit NCN 4 from Loughor Bridge to Blackpill

Introduction

The purpose of this audit is to identify locations for permanent signs and suggest what form they should take. To achieve this photos of existing signs have been taken and relevant ones included in this report. This information is intended for Swansea Council to enable them to provide and install the signs. It has been prepared by David Naylor (Sustrans Liaison Ranger for Swansea County) in collaboration with other local rangers and *Wheelrights* members.

This report is one of three covering Swansea County. The other two cover NCN 4 east of Blackpill, and NCN 43 from the coast northwards.

The captions with the pictures include recommendations. Destination distances in () are miles.

1. Loughor Bridge

GR 562980)

1a: at east end of shared path on bridge.

1b: crossing of A4240

1c: View NE from crossing.



Recommendations

Remove sign 1a and the other dismount sign (above bike in 1c). Replace the two signs at 1c by destination signs to Llanelli (7) and Gowerton (2½) respectively.

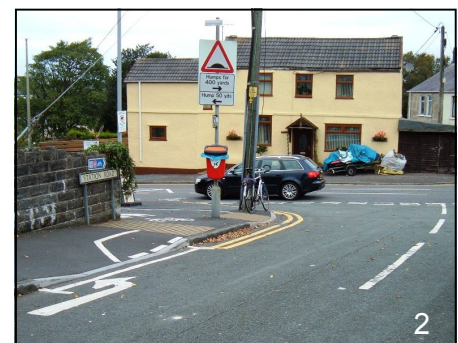
Move the crossing 1b to location 2. (See below.)

2. Station Road junction (GR 563980)

Westbound make sharp left turn here..

Recommendation

Make the crossing here (preferably a zebra) and not at 1b. (Suggested location: immediately to left of car.)



3. Park/Bwrw Rd junction (GR 567979)

Photo is looking west.

Recommendation

None (but sign will need changing when new route complete).



4. Bwrw/Culfor Rd junction (GR 568981)

These signs will be redundant when new route complete.

Recommendation

Remove signs when route complete.

5. E. end of new section (GR 572977).

The photo shows the junction with Culfor Rd looking west. (This incomplete section was constructed in late 2007.)

Recommendation

Fingerpost signs will be required here when this section is opened.



6. By Afon Lliw Bridge (GR 578971)

N. end of Pont y Cob Road.

Recommendation

Replace signs by destination signs pointing to Llanelli (8), Gowerton (1) and Gorseinon (1).



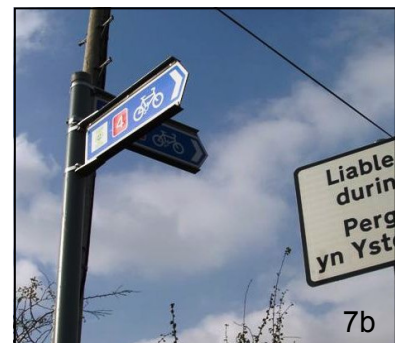
7. S. end Pont y Cob Road (GR 581966)

7a: on NW side of junction looking SW.

7b: on NE side of junction looking NW.

Recommendation:

Replace signs 7a by destination signs pointing to Penclawdd (2½), Llanelli (8½) and Loughor Bridge (2½) and 7b by destination signs pointing to Gowerton (½) and Swansea Bay (5½).



8. Fford Beck junctions

(GR 585966 & 588966)

The crossings at both these junctions are examples of bad practice – both are a hazard to cyclists. The easterly one (8b) could be made acceptable by making it continuous across the junction with priority to path users, The westerly (8a), however, requires major redesign – probably by reducing the size of the roundabout and/or the lane width to allow the path to be widened and a safe cycle crossing constructed.



Recommendations

Remove the “end” marking from 8b and make path continuous across Fford Beck, eg by means of a zebra crossing. Pending redesign of the roundabout at 8a provide a sign or marking to warn cyclists of the dangerous crossing, eg “Caution! Dangerous crossing.” (But not “Cyclists Dismount” which although it might be justified here these signs should not be used because they have been so widely misused that cyclists ignore them.)

9. Mill St crossing, Gowerton (GR 589966)

These are destination signs: the upper pointing to Loughor Bridge (2½) and Llanelli (9); the lower to Gorseinon (1½).

Recommendation

Put this information on fingerpost signs.





10a



10b



10c

10. Toucan crossings by Commercial (GR 592963)

10a is looking east towards the Commercial; 10c is looking north across the Toucan, Commercial on right; 10b is a detail of the signs on the left in 10c viewed the other way. 10d is looking northwest across the Serry Road Toucan. (10c is taken from its far side.) 10e, taken from near 10d, is looking across the B4295.

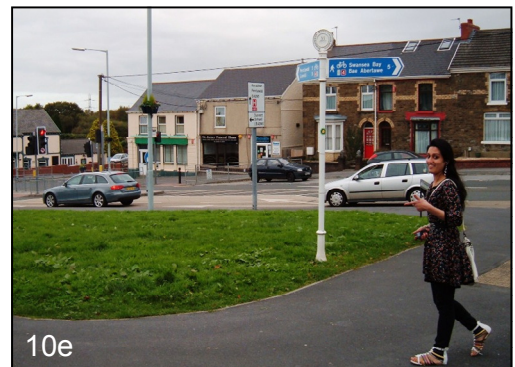
Recommendation

Remove "Cyclists Dismount" (10a) and mark this crossing continuous across the car park entrance (eg as a red strip). 10b & c signs are OK.

Drop the kerb (foreground in 10d) marking the end of Woodlands so that the official route goes directly to the Serry Road Toucan. Leave the barriers as they will slow cyclists approaching the crossing. The left fingerpost (10e) will need turning slightly to point towards Serry Road.



10d



10e

11. Woodlands (GR 593961)

This confirmation sign indicates the route follows Woodlands.

Recommendation

Remove a spurious fingerpost off picture to right. Note: the section of path below and parallel to Woodlands should not be signed NCN 4 as it has a better role as a place where kids can play and learn to ride.



11

12. Oakwood Dr/Clyne path (GR 595956)

The lamp post, which has a stick-on pointing to the right, is not well placed so the sign is easily missed. The painted signs on the road are key.

Recommendation

Re-paint the road markings.



12

13. Clyne Valley path: north from Dunvant. (No photos)

Stick-ons in two places confirm the route.

Recommendation

None: signs OK.

14. Dunvant (GR 595939)

The Millennium milepost (14a) has recently been painted (by a local ranger) and serves its purpose well.

The sign showing the way to NCN 4 (14b) was a makeshift effort and is a bit grotty.

Recommendation

Replace sign 14b.



15. Dunvant RFC (GR 596926)

Link to the RFC.

Recommendation

Provide sign "Dunvant RFC" The tree with existing sign (on left in photo) would be a suitable location.



16. Killay (GR 592931)

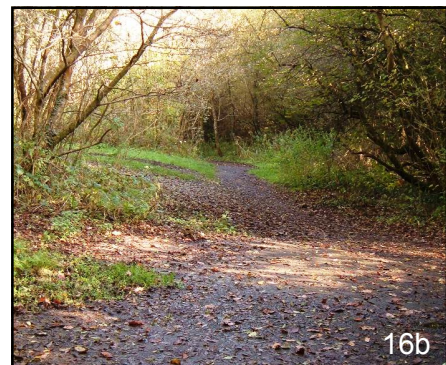
16a: sign on tree points north up path. It is immediately to the left of 16b

16b: link to Woodcote.

Recommendation

Provide sign to Killay; preferably together with an upgrading of the link to Woodcote (ie widening and surfacing).

Consider removing or replacing sign 16a.



17. Railway Inn (GR 598924)

17a is on the A4118 by the Railway Inn turn off. It is a "this way to" sign.

17b points to and shows distances to Swansea Bay (2) and Mumbles (4).

Recommendation

Replace both 17a and 17b with fingerpost signs. (Include the distances on the latter.)



18. Blackpill. (GR 619908)

The stick-ons are on NE side of the path on the land side of Toucan.

Recommendation

Replace stick-ons by fingerpost signs with distances, ie Mumbles (2), City Centre (3), Gowerton (5).



David Naylor
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