

Signing Audit NCN 4 from Blackpill to Swansea County E. boundary

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 north and west of Blackpill, and NCN 43 from the coast northwards.

The captions with the pictures include recommendations.



1. Blackpill (GR 620908)

1a: on sea side of Toucan. Useful sign but destination repeated on finger post 1b which is close to 1a. 1c: Y junction approaching Blackpill from Swansea.

NB: the nearby Millenium sign repeats info. on 1b.

Recommendation

None: signing adequate.

2. Sketty lane (GR 627915) No photo.

Important access to/from University.

Recommendation

Signs needed to show this. (None at present.)

3. Cenotaph (GR 637920) No photo,

Lane swap here: signs easily missed.

Recommendation

Mark cross-over on ground.

4. Y junction west of Civic Centre (GR 648923)

Photo 4a: looking east towards Civic Centre.

4b: looking west; other side of 4a.

Recommendation

4a serves its purpose; however 4b is grotty and could do with replacement.

5. Civic Centre (GR 652923)

There are arguably surplus signs (5) to the Civic Centre; just one to the café.

Recommendation

Consider removing surplus signs.



6. Marina (W. end) (GR 655923)

Recommendation

Provide arrow to divert cyclists to left.

7. Marina (further E.) (GR 656923)

Recommendation

Consider addition of sign to show NCN 4 does not go this way?

8. By observatory (GR 660923)

Arrow serves its purpose, but there lacks a sign for the other way. NB: route assumed to go inland here,

Recommendation:
Replace by fingerpost signs (both ways).



Note: 9 to 14 only apply if existing route is retained. The new (preferred?) route, which follows the continuation of the foreshore path shown in 8, requires a link to the Trafalgar Bridge at its east end. This link is currently lacking.

9. Trawler/Slipway Roads (GR 660925)

Recommendation

Repaint surface arrows.



10. Trawler Rd/Marina (GR 661926)

Tree makes sign pointing to Tawe Basin (10a) easily missed. 10b, on Trawler Road, points west.

Recommendation

Replace 10a by fingerpost sign and repaint surface arrows.



11. Swing Bridge (GR 660927)

There are no signs to show NCN 4 crosses bridge (but there are signs not far away on either side).

Recommendation

Provide signs to show route crosses bridge



12. Sea end of E. Burrows Road (GR 662927)

These signs to mark the start of the section along the Tawe Basin are easily missed. They are complemented by stick-ons on lamp post (not photographed).

Recommendation

Remove signs 12 and replace stick-ons on nearby lamp post with fingerpost signs.



13. New route by Yacht Club (GR 662928)

13a: turning off E. Burrows Rd;

13b: turning to E. Burrows Rd.

Recommendation

None: new signs OK.



14. Sail Bridge: west (GR 662929)

14 illustrates the need for 'U turn' arrows to advise those leaving the bridge to turn south for NCN 4 or north for NCN 43. 14b, which is on the right in 14a by the bridge abutment, largely repeats information on the Millennium sign on the left (behind the white shirted pedestrian).

Recommendation

Construct ramps to remove the necessity for the U turns, failing that paint U turn surface arrows. The signing is adequate so unless there is a need for Sustrans style signs new signs would not appear necessary. If however new signs are proposed they should include the distances to the destinations on 14b.



14a



14b

15. Sail Bridge: east (GR 663929)

There is a destination stick-on sign on the lamppost on King's Rd (behind the bicycle). It shows the distance to Mumbles.

Recommendation

Replace with fingerpost including destinations (ie Mumbles 5½ miles and the City Centre).



16. King's Road/Fabian Way (GR 662932)

16a directs the eastbound to turn right. The Millenium milepost (16b) is just to the right of 16a. The finger to NCN 43 (and also a stick-on pointing across Fabian Way) needs complementing by a sign on the N. side of Fabian Way.

Recommendation

Replace the 43 stick-on (not photo'd) with fingerpost on N. side of Fabian Way.



17. Fabian Way/Langdon Road link (GR 667932)

The fingerpost signs, 17a on the east and 17c on the west of the junction (17b), are easily missed.



Recommendation

Replaced them by a single pair on the post in the central reservation: the white post in 17b.

18. Bus Lane crossing (GR 663929)

18, taken in June 2010 when the bush completely obscured sight of an approaching bus, shows this crossing looking east. (The bush was pruned later.) Action to place warning signs and surface markings was recommended by CCS's Safety Officer following a site visit in April 2008 but this has not been implemented.

Recommendation

Provide the recommended signs and markings as a minimum. (Traffic lights would be better.)



19. Fabian Way P & R. (GR 679932)
Junction of path with Wern Fawr Road.
Recommendation:
None. Existing fingerpost signs OK



20 Wern Fawr Rd/Neath Rd
(GR 680932)
20a & b are on the same post; 20a points towards Fabian Way).
Recommendation
None: stick-ons serve their purpose.



21 Junction with Fabian Way (GR 680932)
21a: left turn off Neath Rd; 21b points to right turn on to Neath Rd.
Recommendation
None: stick-ons serve their purpose.



22 Turn to N. at County Boundary (GR 692932)
No photo. This is the turn-off leading to Elba Crescent.
Recommendation:
Fingerpost signs needed here.

David Naylor
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