Building better safe routes to schools

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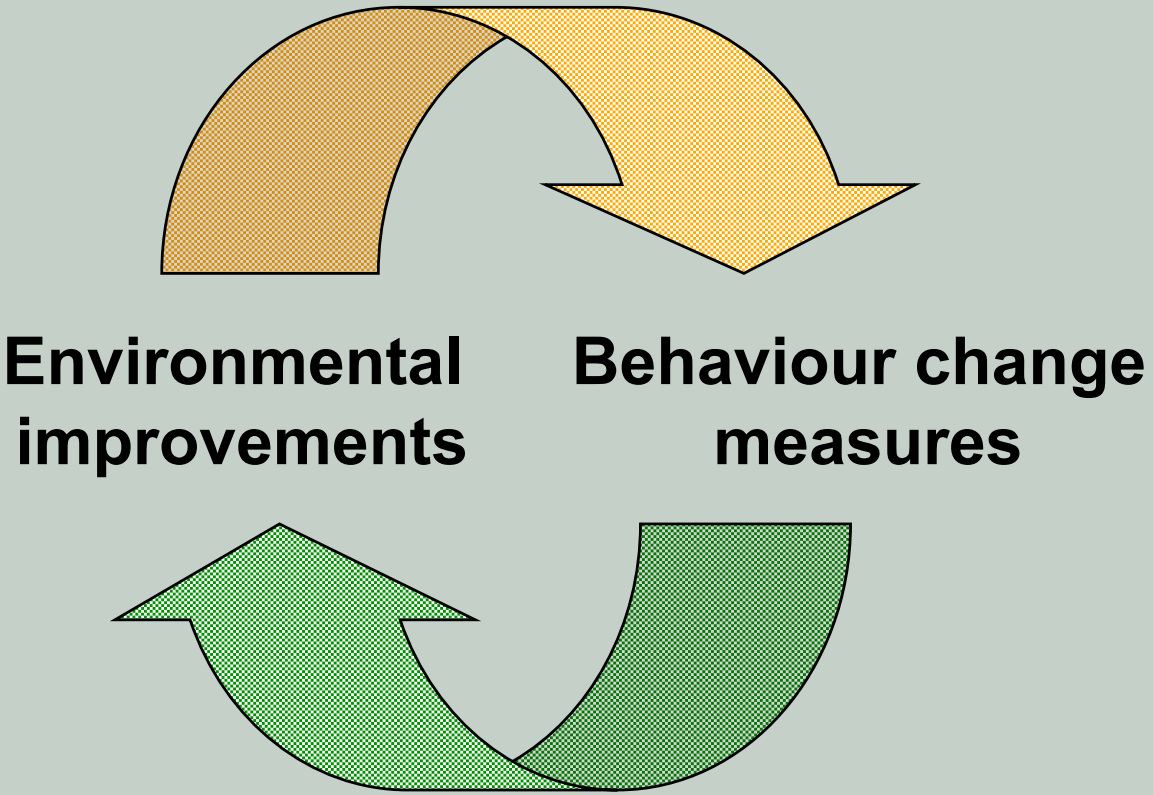
Context…

- Travelling to School Review
- Schools Carbon Strategy
- Schools 14-19 Agenda

Soft and hard measures: a virtuous circle



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Walking and cycling: 'Links to Schools'

extending the National Cycle Network to schools

Department for Transport

cycling england

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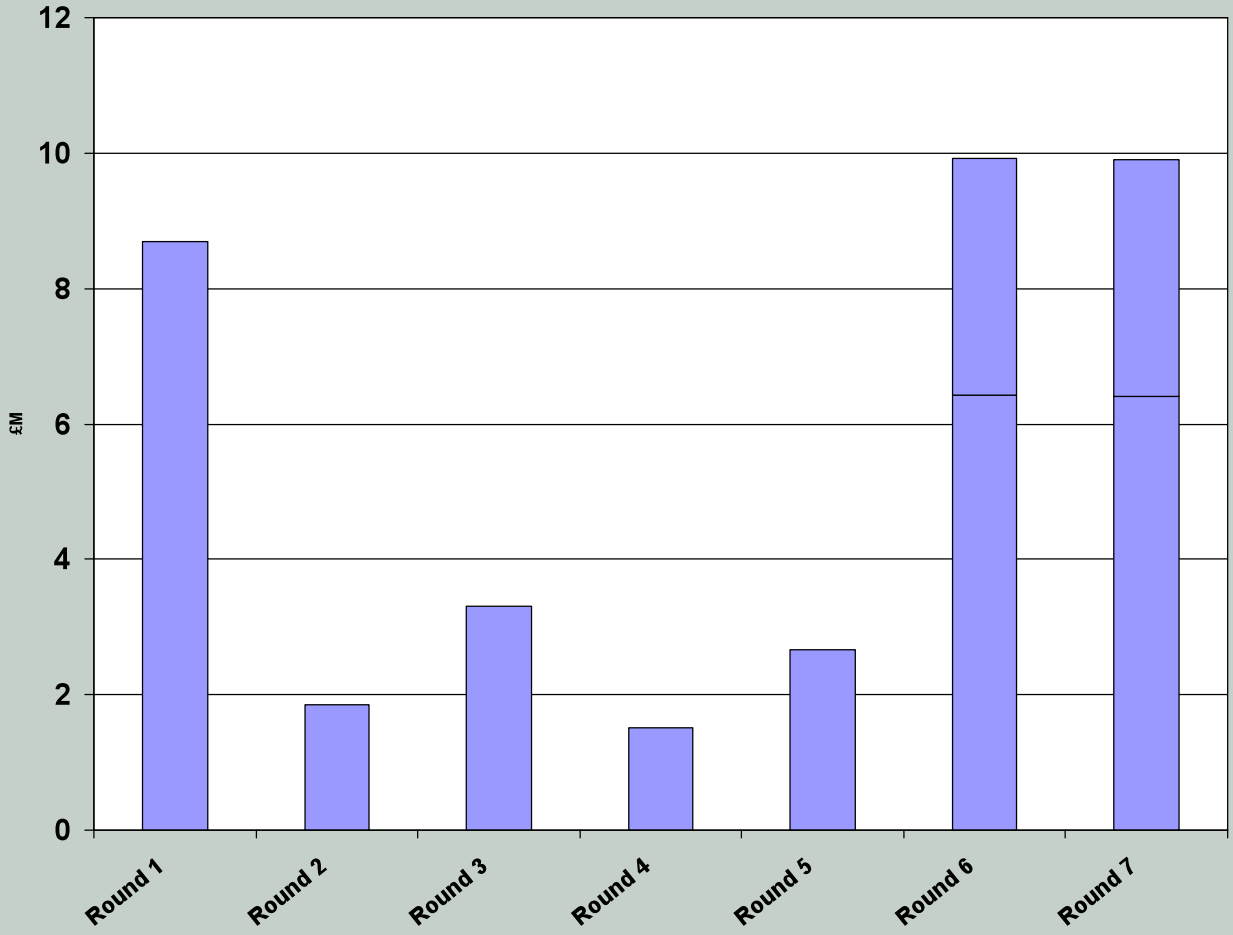
Links to Schools Grants Allocated by Year



2008

National Cycle Network

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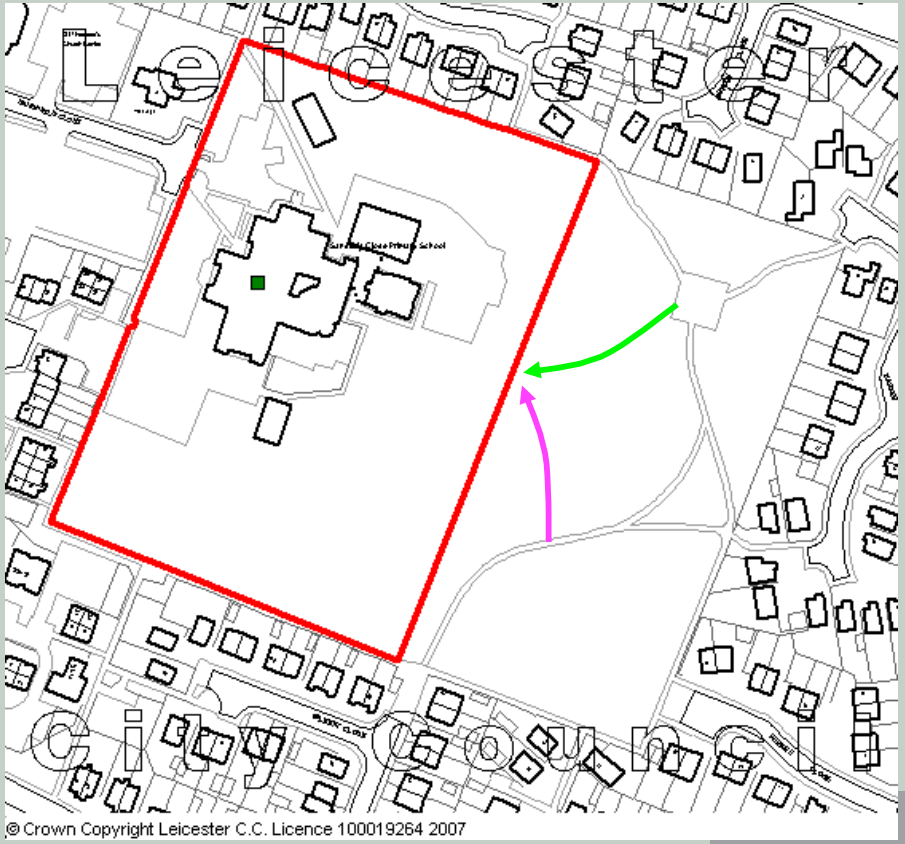
Example 1 – Small Scheme

Sandfield Primary, Rushey Mead, Leicester

Paths built on adjacent park to a new school entrance.

The vast majority of the matched funding was raised by the school, with little local authority involvement.



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Example 1 – Small Scheme

Sandfield Primary, Rushey Mead, Leicester

Cost: £16,850

Links to
Schools Grant:
£5,000

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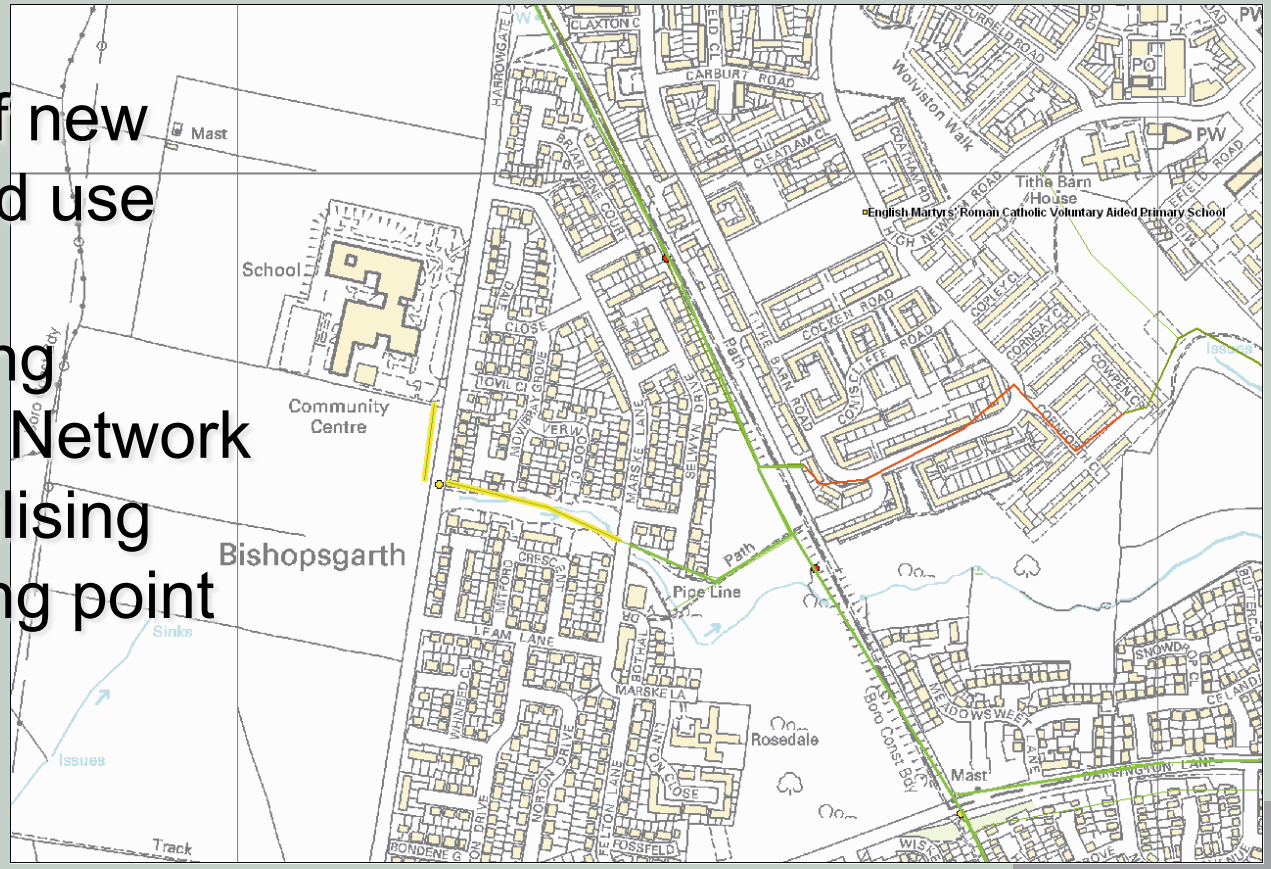
Example 2 – Medium Scheme

Bishopsgarth School, Stockton-on-Tees

Construction of new 3m wide shared use path (yellow) between existing National Cycle Network link (green), utilising existing crossing point



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Example 2 – Medium Scheme

Cost: £38,000 Links to Schools Grant: £18,000

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Example 3 – Large Scheme

Hertford Campus, Hertfordshire

Construction of a traffic-free path (yellow) across public open space.

New ramp linking to on-road cycle route

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Example 3 – Large Scheme

Hertford Campus

Cost: £100,000
Links to Schools Grant: £42,000

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Value for money…think big

- We can offer up to 50% of a project's total cost.
- We are looking for high quality intervention (delivered on time) …
- …and also value for money
- 50% contribution is fine if we really believe that level of funding is needed, and delivers quality.
- The average grant so far is about 33%

Selection Criteria…key priorities

- Supportive school
- Supportive delivery partner
- Support for other local or national initiatives

Evidence for Supportive School

Bike It – Already involved or applying to join the project.

Cycle Storage – In place or proposed.

Cycle Training

- Highest priority will be given to schools providing registered Bikeability training.
- Next highest consideration will be given to schools in areas with active School Sports Partnerships or running pilot projects.
- Some consideration will be made for those schools providing an established cycle training programme equivalent to Bikeablity.

School Travel Plan – supportive of increases in cycling and walking

Supportive staff – for example letters of support from the headteacher.

Evidence for Supportive Delivery Partner

- Delivery partner should be familiar with bringing about modal shift through providing high quality walking and cycling routes.

- **Non local authority** partners should be able to demonstrate a track record of successful working with grant funded programmes. They will either be recommended by the local authority, or have worked well with Sustrans in the past.

- **Local authorities** should be able to demonstrate good practice
  - Bike It
  - Bikeability
  - Cycling Demonstration Status – priority to schemes within areas *unsuccessful* in their bid for Cycling Demonstration status
  - National Cycle Network

Evidence of Support for other projects / initiatives

Projects must complete or connect into…

- National, Regional or Local cycle networks

Ideally the scheme will support other initiatives e.g…

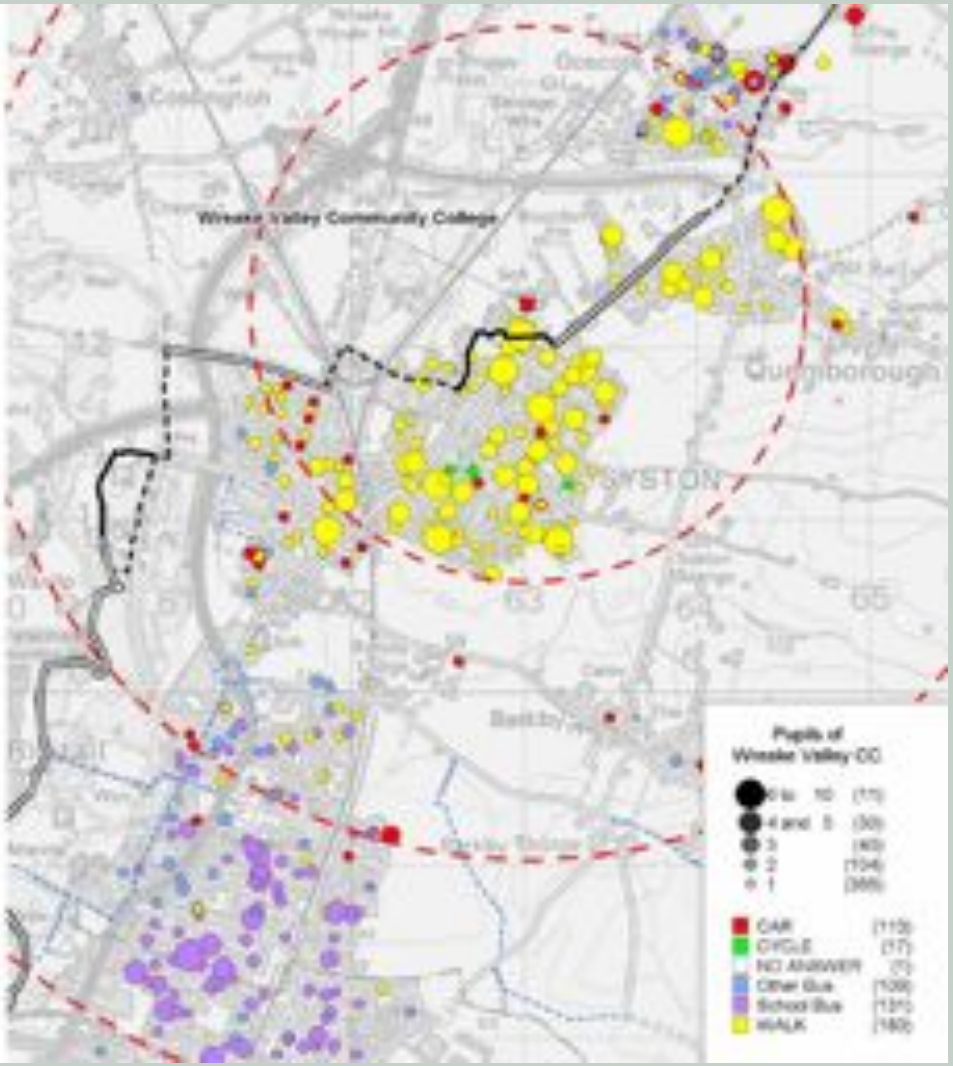
- Bike It, Bike Club, Go Ride
- Bikeability
- DIY Streets
- Sustainable Transport Towns Initiative
- Healthy Schools Initiative.

Pupil travel data

Example of pupil postcode plot "spot plot"

This map shows where pupils of Wreake Valley Community College live

Different colours indicate different modes of transport used to get to school



Pupil travel data

Example of pupil journey concentrations

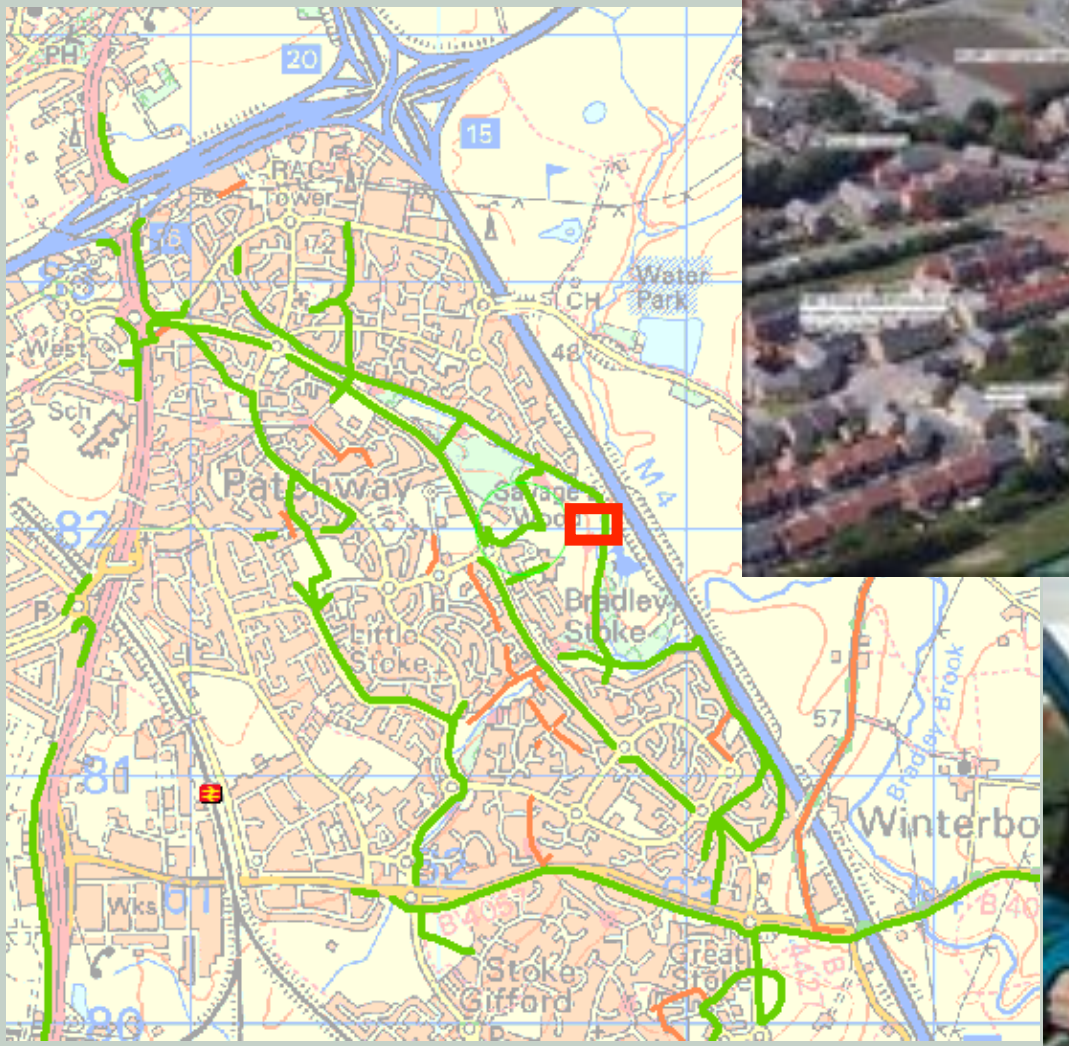
These were produced by asking pupils to draw their route on a base map which was then plotted and overlayed on GIS by Eastleigh BC

Technical standards

Continuity at side roads and junctions

Flush kerbs, minimal access controls, good signing

Bradley Stoke School – ranger support, signing, and promotional work in school.



Headline Figures

- 500 projects
- 1,100 schools
- 500,000 pupils
- 960km of new or upgraded route

Cycle Parking Grants
£3.7 Million to date
500 Schools
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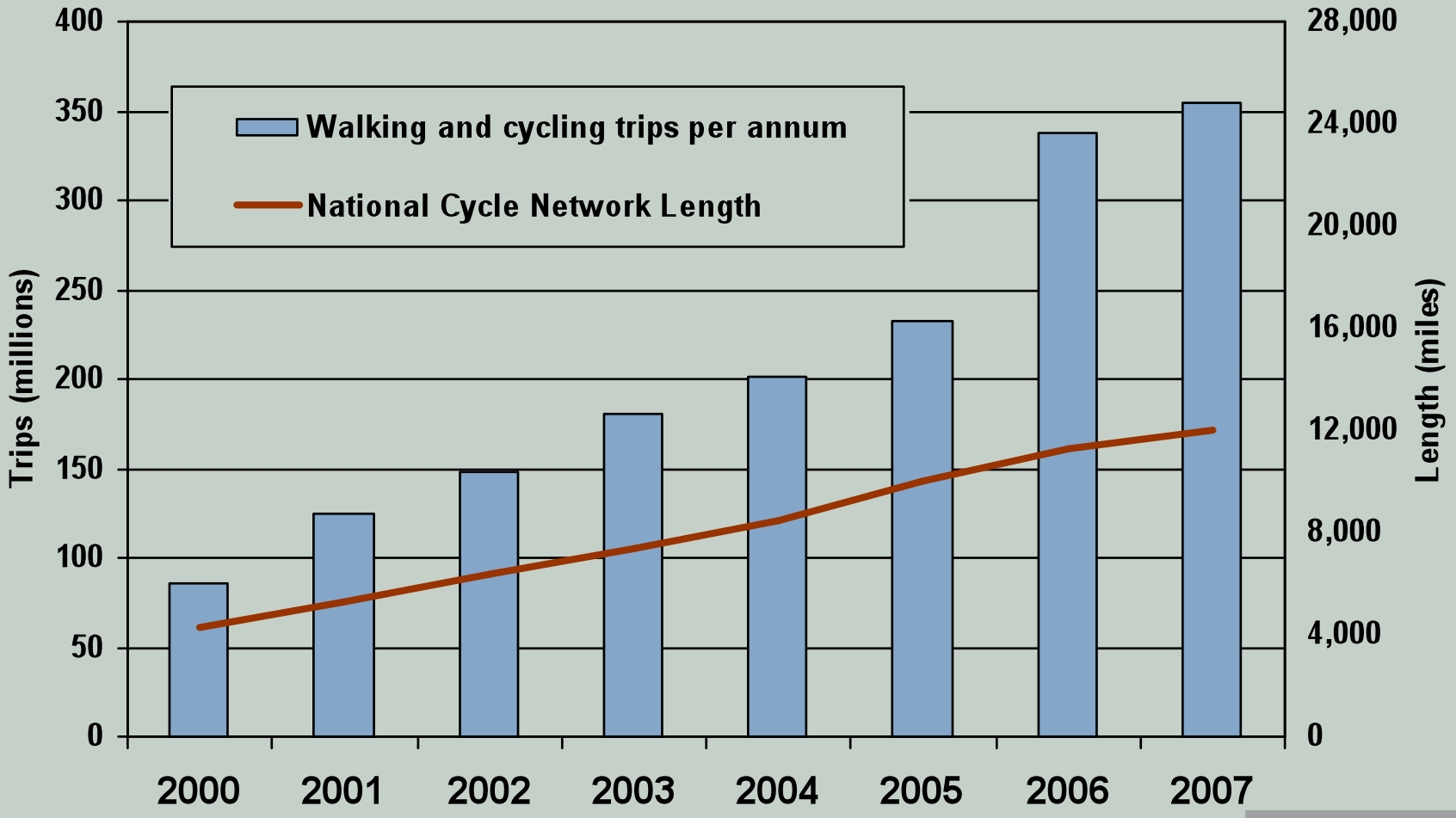
Creating the right environment for people to walk and cycle encourages usage



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Cycling projects working with children

Bikeability

Bike Club

Go Ride

Cycle Experience

Bike It

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Half a million children trained to NS Level2 by 2012

75% of local authorities signed up

30%of School Sports Partnerships involved

Bike It aims to create a cycling culture through a 4-stage process

Awareness raising

↓

Empowerment

↓

Activation

↓

Sustaining

Latest Bike It Coverage

There are **54** staff working in over **600** schools, giving cycling opportunities to **120,000** children

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Feedback from Schools

- 97% of schools believe that cycling has increased, 70% believe that car use has fallen
- Support from Sustrans staff has been the critical success factor
- In particular, Bike It supports school travel plans, increases physical activity and organises popular activities for children and parents
- 94% of schools say that their children are more physically active as a result of Bike It

Headteacher and School Champion survey, Summer 2008.