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Your Reference:
TR010032

KCC Interested Party
Reference Number:
20035779

Date: 13th June 2023

Dear Rynd,

RE: Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Lower Thames Crossing - Kent County Council's Submission to Procedural Deadline C – Comments on the Applicant's Proposed ASI itinerary (PDB-001)

As outlined within the Draft Examination Timetable (Annex D of the Rule 6 letter (PD-013), this letter is Kent County Council's (KCC) Procedural Deadline C submission which provides the following:

- Comments on the Applicant's Proposed Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) itinerary (PDB-001)

KCC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Applicant's proposed ASI itinerary. It should be noted our comments refer to day one of the ASI, which focuses on the LTC proposals south of the River Thames. We would defer to Interested Parties located north of the River to comment appropriately on the proposed itinerary for day two and three of the ASI.

With regards to day one of the ASI, we are concerned the proposed itinerary does not allow sufficient time to view the locations suggested by National Highways. We have also identified a number of technical errors in regards to the location of proposed sites. For example, it is not possible to view both the A228 and the A229 between the M2 and M20 corridors within the same 15 minute timeslot, as they are in different geographical locations.

KCC officers have prepared an alternative itinerary for day one of the ASI which addresses the concerns we have with the Applicant's proposed itinerary, and provides a more realistic schedule for the day based on our local knowledge. Our alternative itinerary is included within Appendix 1 of this letter.



We hope our alternative itinerary is helpful but should the Examining Authority or the Applicant wish to discuss our suggestions in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Jones
Corporate Director – Growth, Environment and Transport

Appendix 1 - Kent County Council's Alternative Route Suggestion for Lower Thames Crossing Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

Time	Location	Discussion points	Further comments	Associated map
10:00	Pick up Ebbsfleet International train station	Coach to arrive at 9:30am		N/A
10:00 – 10:20	Travel from Ebbsfleet International to Lord Lees and Taddington Roundabout (north of A229 Blue Bell Hill) Park at Lord Lees Grove	Junctions to observe on route: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M2 Junction 1 to 3 - M2 Eastbound off-slip to Taddington Roundabout - Taddington Roundabout to Lord Lees roundabout (westbound) - Lord Lees roundabout (suggest full circle is taken) 	Safe Parking located in Lord Lees Grove.	Figure 1 Figure 2
10:20 – 10:40	Observation of Lord Lees Roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed Blue Bell Hill Scheme - Modelled impact of LTC on these junctions 	Use existing footways to observe traffic movements at north end of Blue Bell Hill	Figure 2
10:40 - 10:50	Travel from Lord Lees Grove to Running Horse Roundabout, this includes entire southbound Blue Bell Hill Route Full circle of Cobtree roundabout Park at Village Hotel	Junctions to observe on route: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lord Lees to Taddington roundabout (eastbound) - Taddington Roundabout (full loop) - Lord Lees to A229 off-slip - Cobtree roundabout 	Suggest stopping (if safe) on concrete area of Cobtree roundabout to observe. Safe parking at Village Hotel	Figure 3
10:50-11:00	Observe Running Horse Roundabout on foot from footway/cycleway.	To observe on route <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed Blue Bell Hill scheme - M20 off slip challenge with additional LTC traffic 	Use existing footways to observe traffic movements at south end of Blue Bell Hill	Figure 3
11:00 - 11:10	Travel from Running Horse Roundabout to M20 Junction 7 and return to Junction 6.	Junctions to observe on route: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Running Horse roundabout - Cobtree roundabout northbound - M20 off slip to Running Horse roundabout 		Figure 4
11:10 – 11:25	Travel northbound on Blue Bell Hill via Rochester Road junctions. Exit Blue Bell Hill via A229 off-slip to Lord Lees roundabout, travel via Taddington Roundabout and through Blue Bell Village to (<i>this ensures off slip is observed</i>) Travel to nitrogen deposition area.	Junctions to observe on route <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rochester Road A229 off-slip - Rochester Road junction - Rochester Road A229 on-slip 	Safe parking located next to Common Road overbridge	Figure 5

11:25-11:40	Observe nitrogen deposition area.	<p>Suggested observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northbound traffic on Blue Bell Hill travelling towards M2. - Cycle route/PROW adjacent to A229 at old slip road from Blue Bell Hill village 	<p><i>Access to the Nitrogen deposition site will be determined by size of vehicle. Private land access will also need to be agreed.</i></p> <p>Possible alternative if not possible to view deposition site: Observe traffic on Blue Bell Hill and PROW from Common Road overbridge on foot. Safe parking located next to Common Road overbridge.</p>	Figure 5
11:40 – 12:00	<p>Travel from Nitrogen Deposition area, southbound on Blue Bell Hill</p> <p>Use off-slip from A229 to Cobtree/Running Horse roundabout and then on-slip to M20 accordingly.</p> <p>Travel towards A228 corridors</p>	<p>Junctions to observe on route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Running Horse off slip to M20 	This route is entirely in the vehicle.	Figure 6
12:00 – 12:25	Travel from M20 northbound on A228 corridor from M20 to M2	<p>Junctions to observe on route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M20 Junction 4 - Holborough Road Junction - Peter’s Bridge Junction - Bush Road junction - Merrals Shaw roundabout - M2 on-slip from A228 	<i>Suggest this is a drive through only. If ahead of schedule, there may be time to stop once along the route.</i>	Figure 7
12:25 – 12:30	Travel from A228 to Shorne Woods Country Park	<p>Junctions to observe on route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M2 Junction 2 - M2 Junction 1 - A2 Cobham off-slip to Shorne Woods 		Figure 8
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch at Shorne Woods Country Park Café	Observe environmental and economic impacts to site.		
13:15 – 14:00	Shorne Woods Country Park – Use designated footpaths to observe area of tree removal/impact	Observe environmental impacts.		

14:00 – 14:45	<p>Travel from Shorne Woods Country Park to Chalk Road</p> <p><i>Timing here leaves time for approximately two stops along the route plus 16 minute walk from Thong Lane to NS167 and NS168</i></p>	<p>To observe on route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brewers Road overbridge over M2 and HS1 - Entrance to Cobham Hall - Darnley Lodge Lane - Gravehill Wood - Thong Lane - Footpath NS167 at western edge of Thong village - Footpath NS169 East of Gravesend - Ancient Woodland Mitigation – Thong Lane - Shorne lfield Road - Thong Lane at Riverview Park - Southern Valley Golf Club - Footpath NG7 south of Chalk 	<p>Private land access may be required for golf course if entry is required. <i>Not included in timings</i></p> <p><i>Suggest stop in Thong to walk to NS167 and NS168, stop out and further stop south of Rochester Road for NG7. Other stops may be possible on route.</i></p>	Figure 9
14:45 – 15:00	Travel from Chalk to Shorne	<p>To observe on route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chalk Park - Lower Higham Road - St Mary the Virgin Church - Thamesview Crematorium - Discussion of south portal approach and compound area (stop at relevant location on Gravesend Road) - Footpath NS316 near the edge of Shorne 	<p><i>Forge lane has a width restriction, therefore depending on vehicle size it could be difficult to get through Shorne.</i></p> <p><i>NS316 is accessed via Crown Lane. An appropriate stopping location in close proximity would need to be located on the day if the footpath needs to be observed.</i></p>	Figure 10
15:00 – 15:45	<p>Travel from Shorne to A2 London Road/Elaine Avenue via Park Pale overbridge</p> <p>Park Pale overbridge could be used as an observation location.</p>	<p>To observe on route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PROW NS168, north-west of Woodlands Lane in Shorne Ridgeway - Ancient Woodland Mitigation near Park Pale/Great Crabbles Wood/Brewers Wood - Park Pale Overbridge - M2 J1 - A2 London Road/Watling Street 	<p><i>NS168 is accessed via Woodlands Lane. An appropriate stopping location in close proximity would need to be located on the day if the footpath needs to be observed.</i></p>	Figure 11

15:45– 16:00	Travel from Strood to Gravesend East Junction Stop on Henhurst Road/Jeskyns Road	To observe on route: - Cobham Services - Henhurst Road contractors depot - Ancient Woodland Mitigation, Church Road - Henhurst Road/Jeskyns Road	<i>Potential stop at Jeskyns Community Woodland for parking.</i> <i>The National Highways suggestion here is to view Henhurst Road and Jeskyns Road. This is possible however there are width restrictions at Cobham. This would add approximately 5-10 minutes on the journey.</i>	Figure 12
16:00 – 16:25	Travel from Gravesend East junction northbound to Gravesend via Valley Road Corridor Return to Gravesend East junction	To observe on route: - Ancient Woodland Mitigation, Claylane Wood - Footpath NS167 near Claylane Wood - Valley Drive - Old Road East - Lion Roundabout - Milton Road - Ordnance Road junction - Parrock Street	Stop for PROW in layby by Nell's Café <i>If time, group could stop in Ordnance Road car park and observe River Thames. This would add approximately 10-15mins on the journey.</i>	Figure 13
16:25 – 16:35	Travel from Gravesend East to Gravesend Central (Wrotham Road corridor)	To observe on route: - Gravesend Central - Wrotham Road - Coldharbour Road - Tollgate junction		Figure 14
16:35 – 16:50 By 17:00	Travel from Gravesend Central to Gravesend West (Springhead Road/Hall Road/Pepper Hill) junction Drop off at Ebbsfleet Station	To observe on route: - Springhead Road junction and associated roundabouts - Springhead Road - Pepper Hill - Thames Way		Figure 15

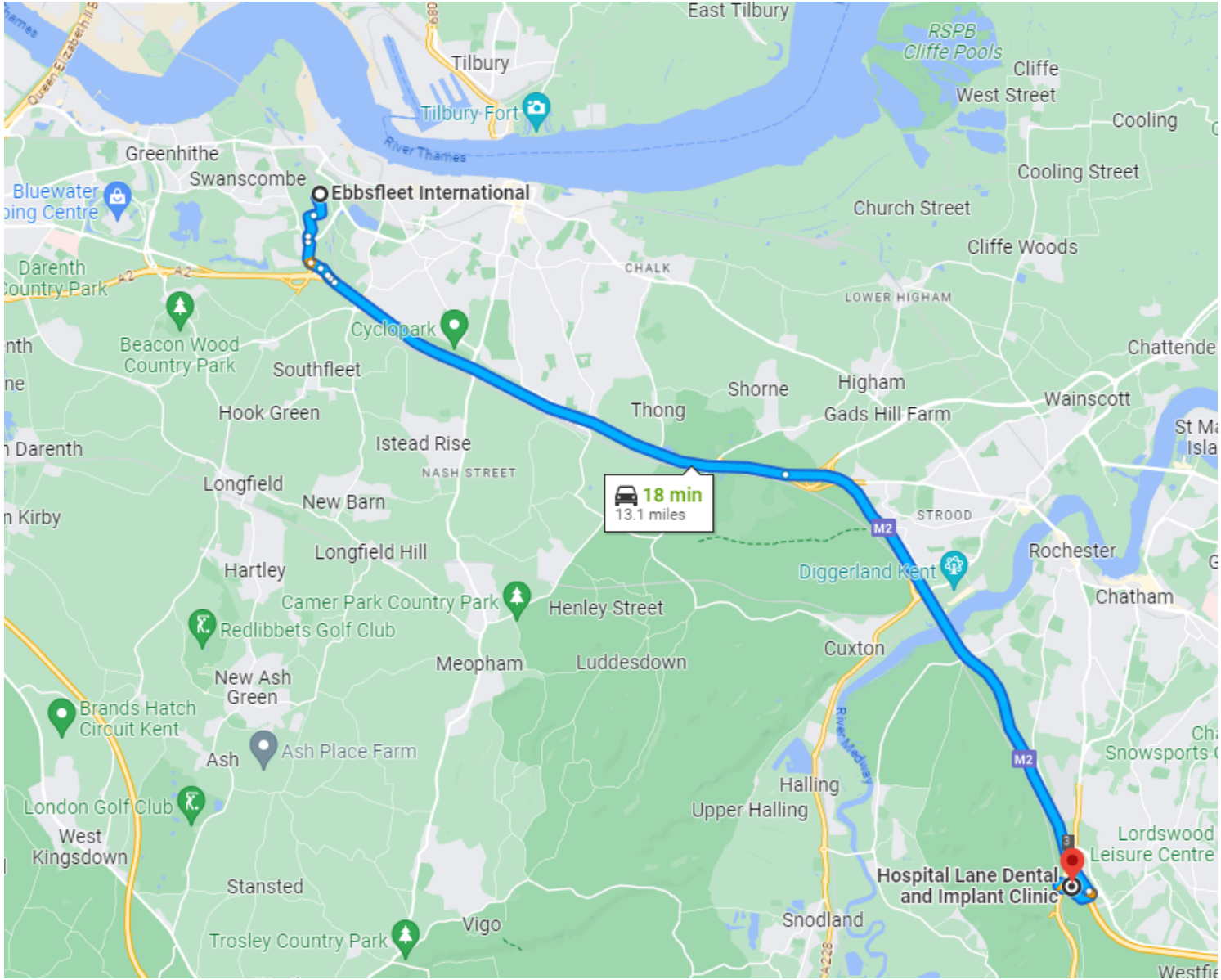


Figure 1: Ebbsfleet International to Lord Lees Grove



Figure 2: Lord Lees and Taddington Roundabout

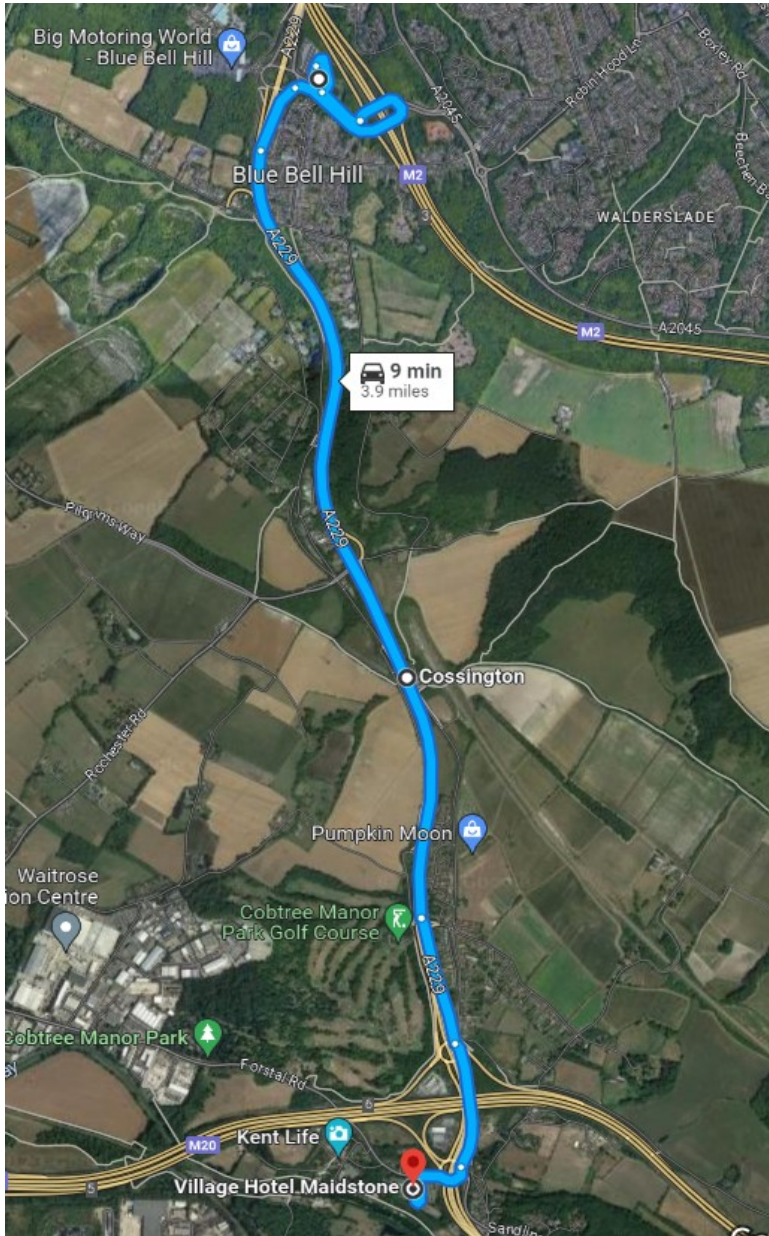


Figure 3: Blue Bell Hill southbound, Cobtree Roundabout and Running Horse (route does not show full circle at Cobtree suggested)

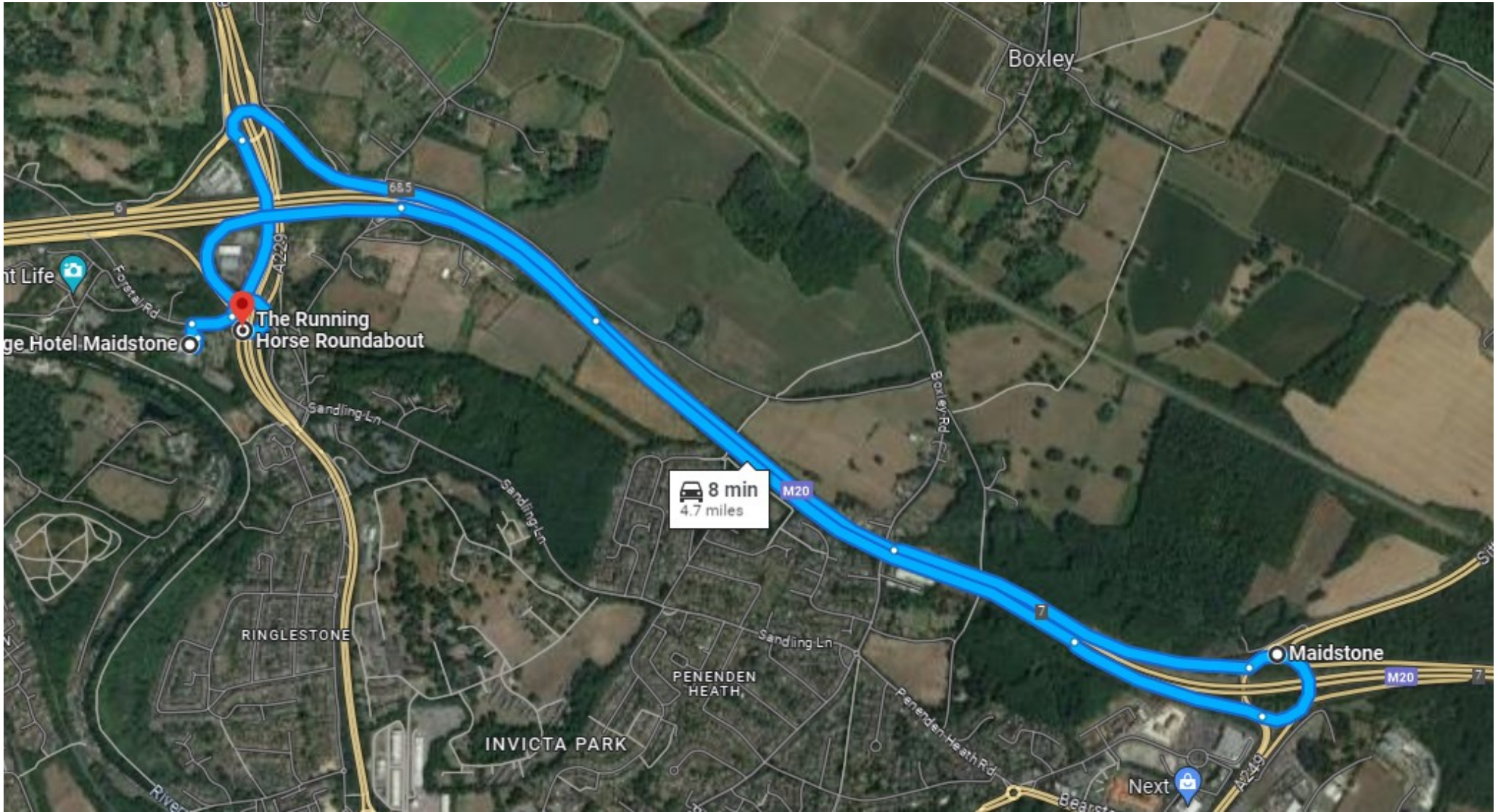


Figure 4: Running horse roundabout to M20 J7 and return

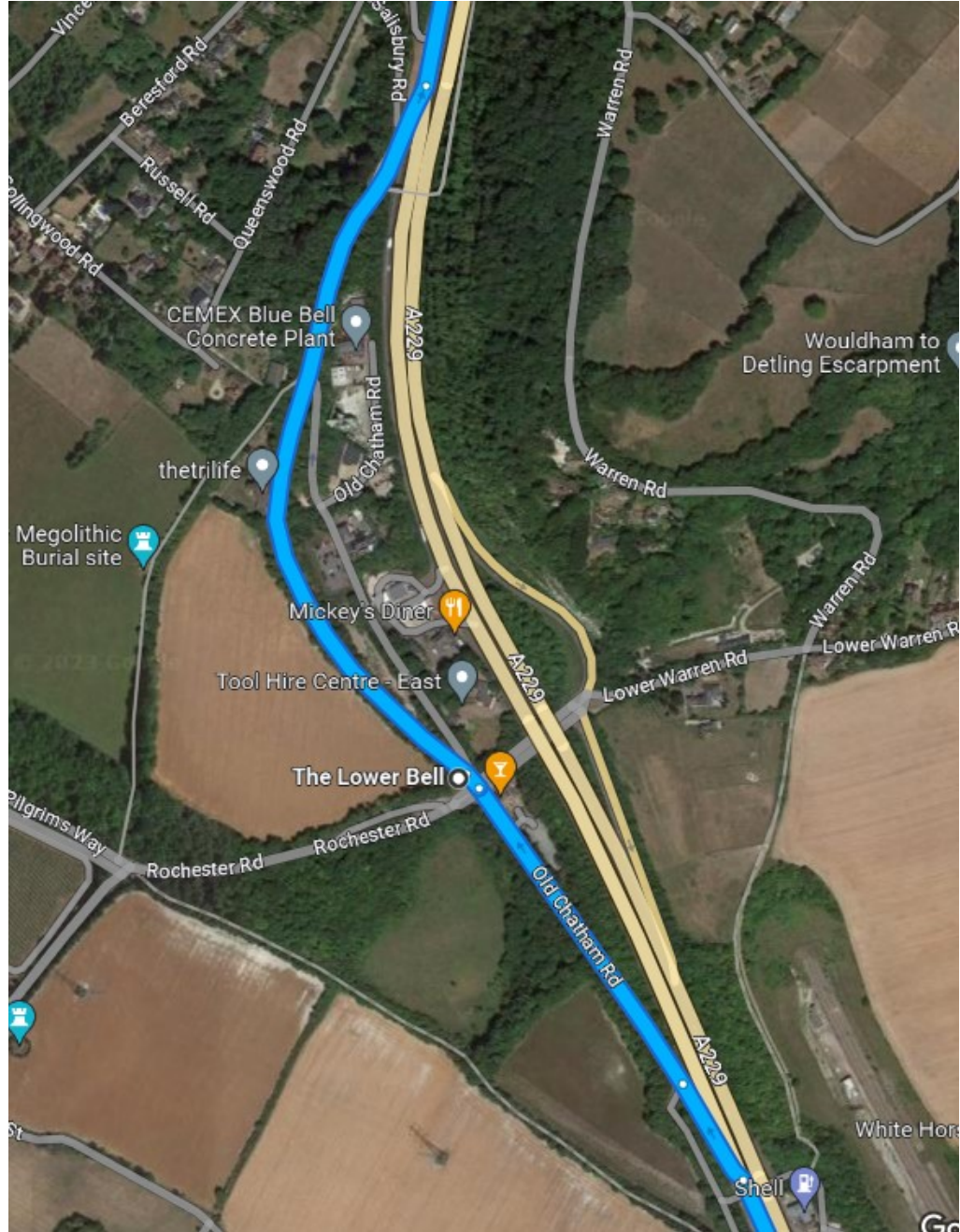
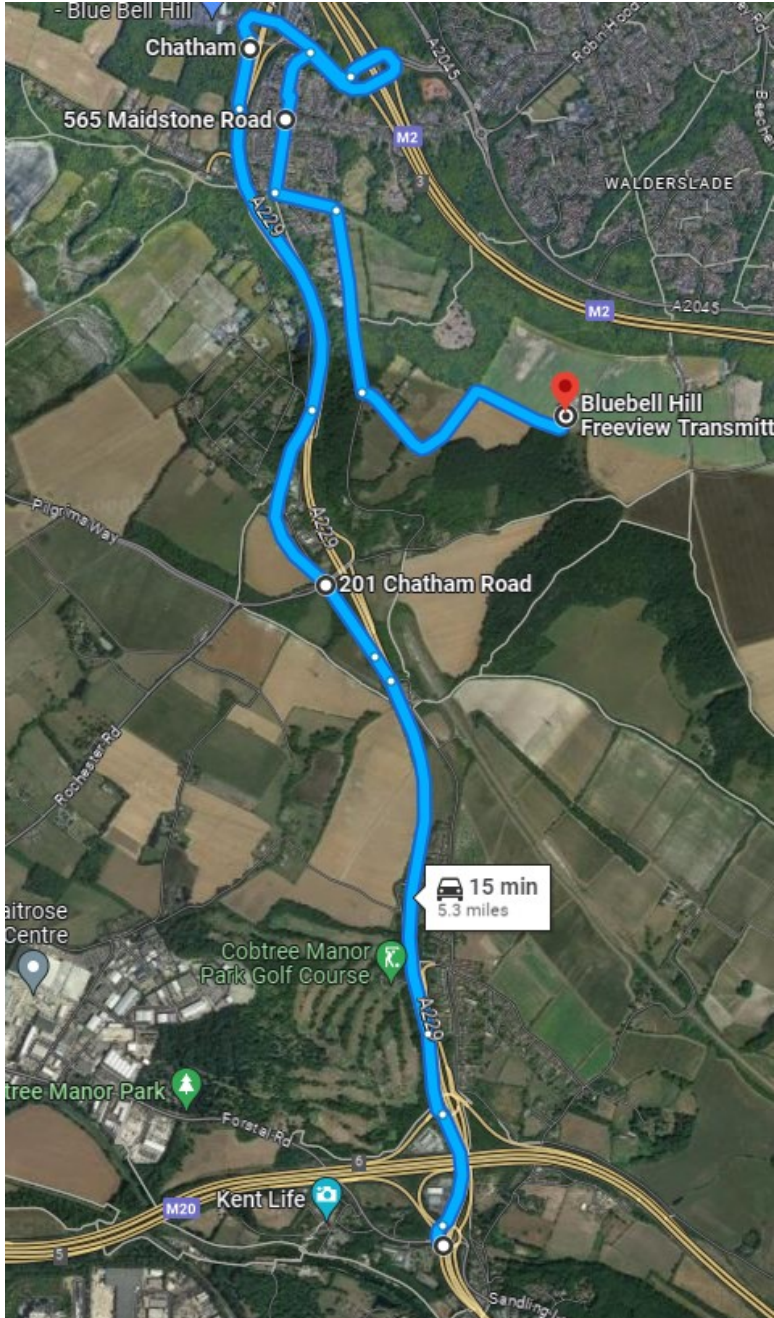


Figure 5: Blue Bell Hill northbound, including Rochester Road and Nitrogen deposition area

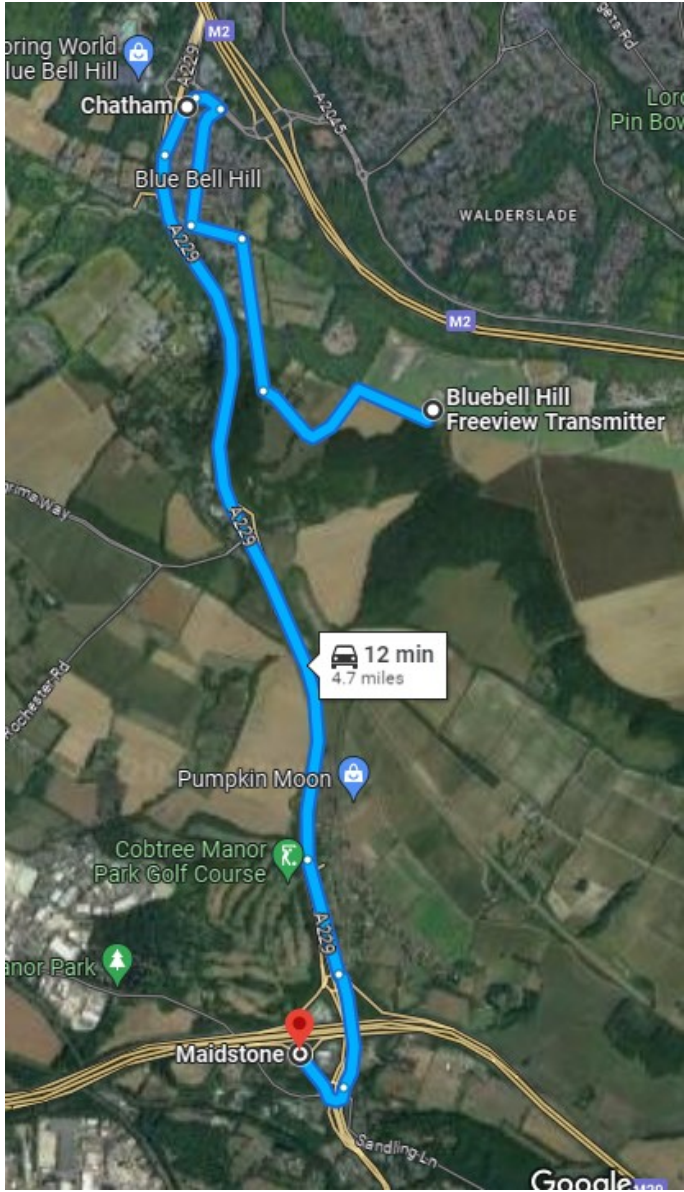


Figure 6: From Nitrogen deposition site to M20 J6

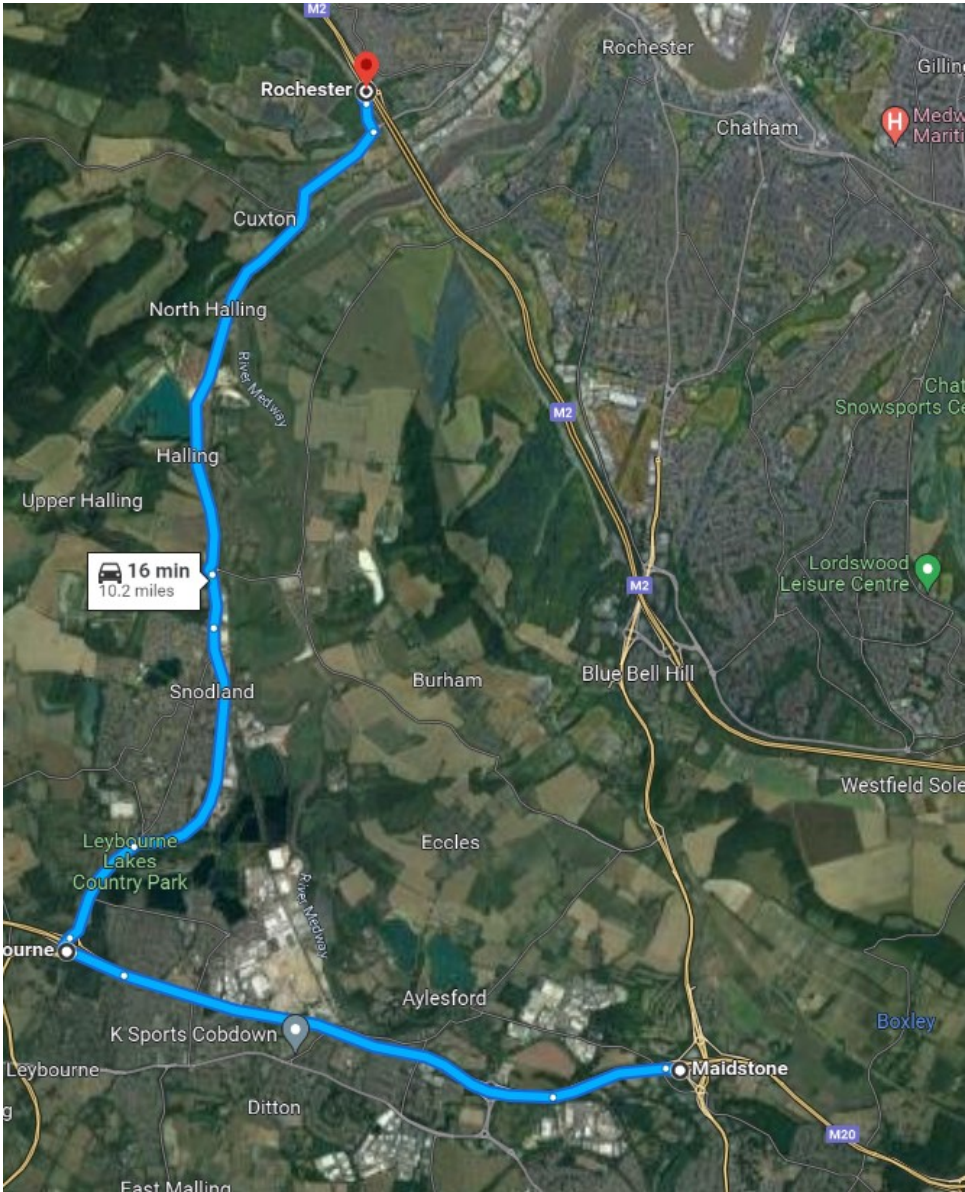


Figure 7: M20 J6 to M2 via A228 corridor

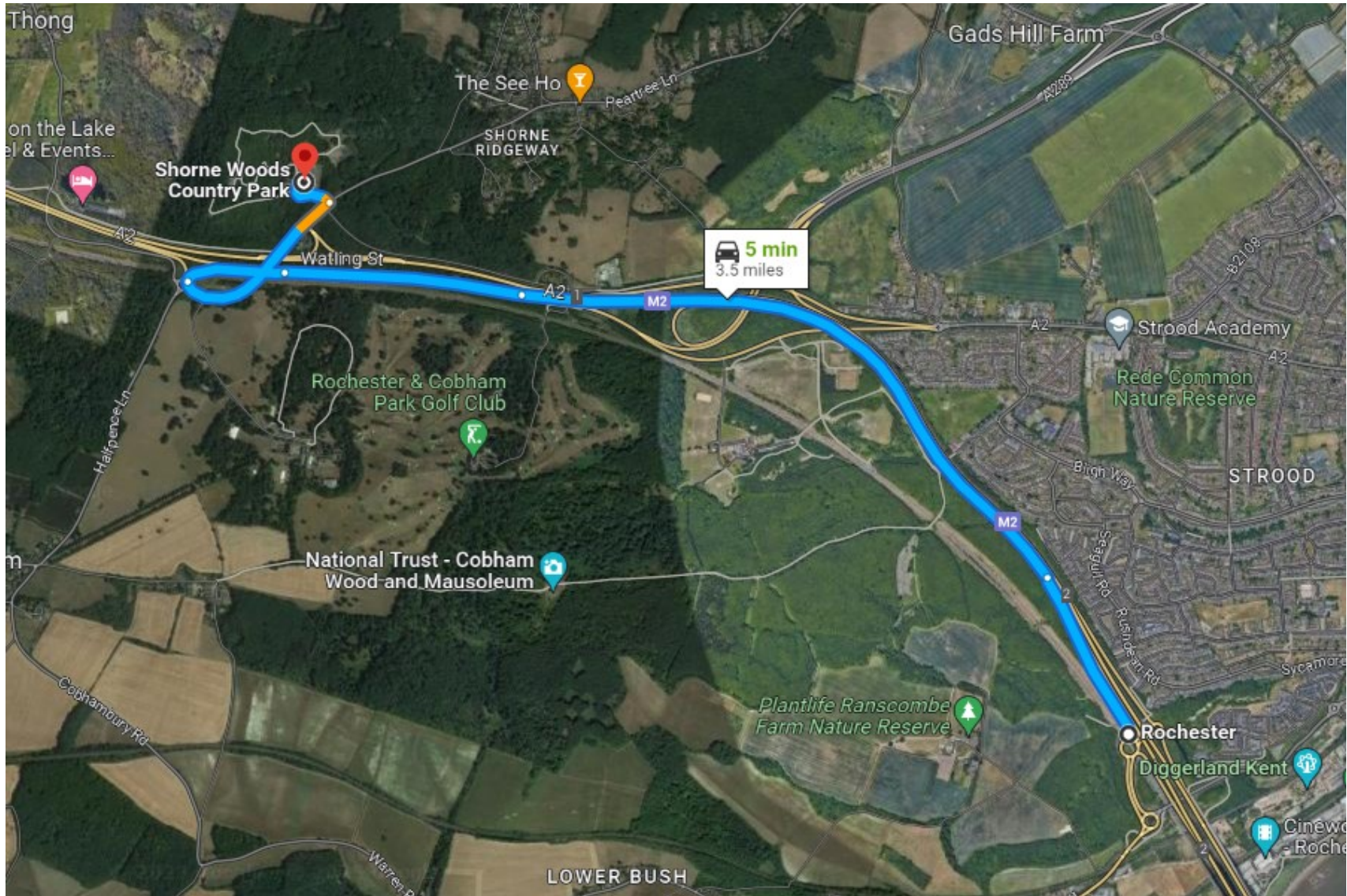


Figure 8: A228 to Shorne Woods via M2/A2 Corridor

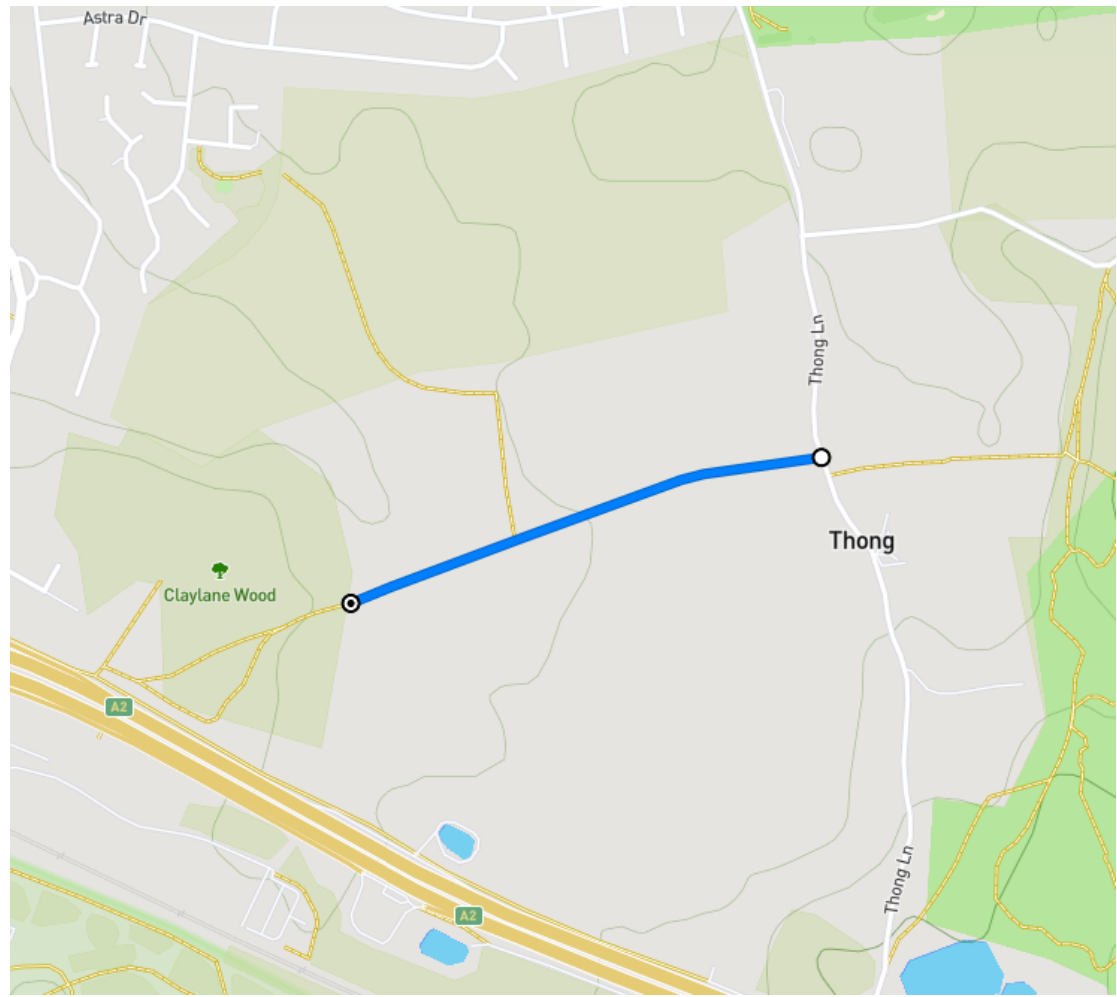
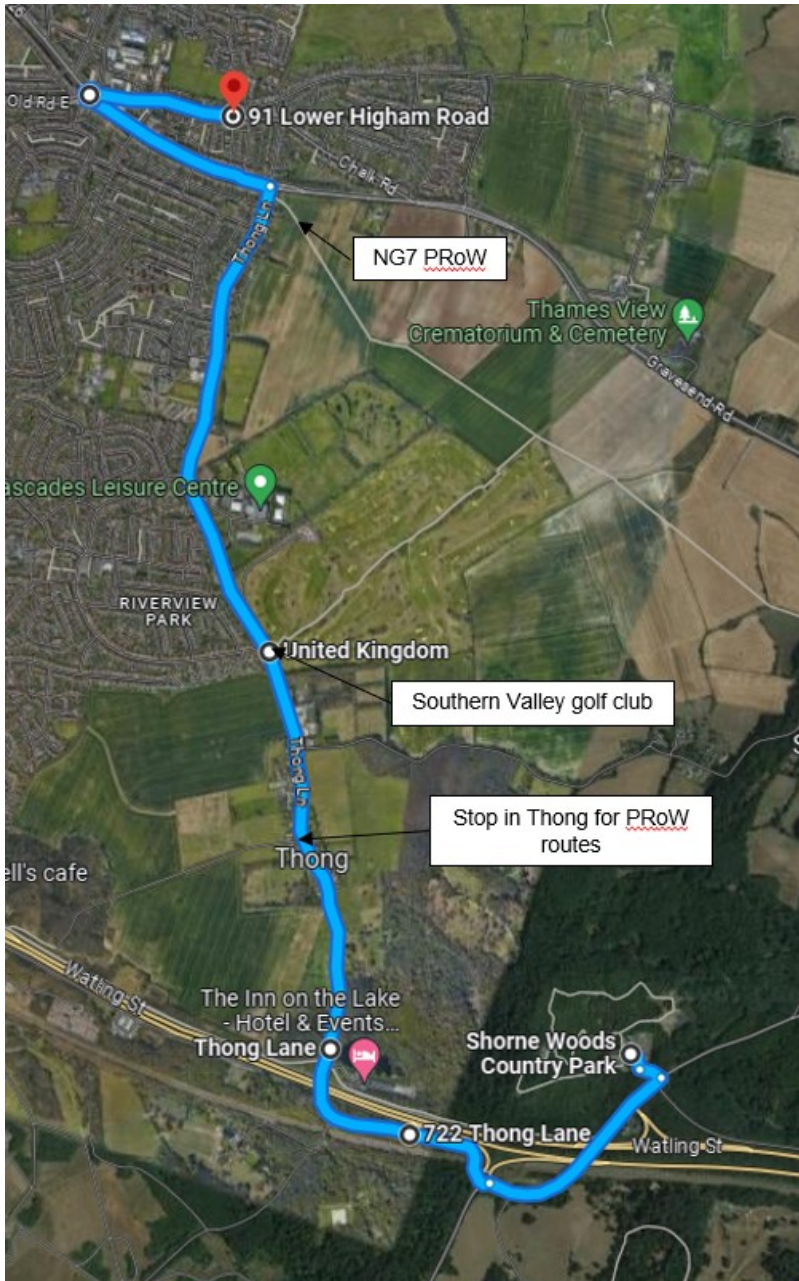


Figure 9: Route from Shorne Woods Country Park to Chalk via Thong. PRoW walking route from Thong shown.

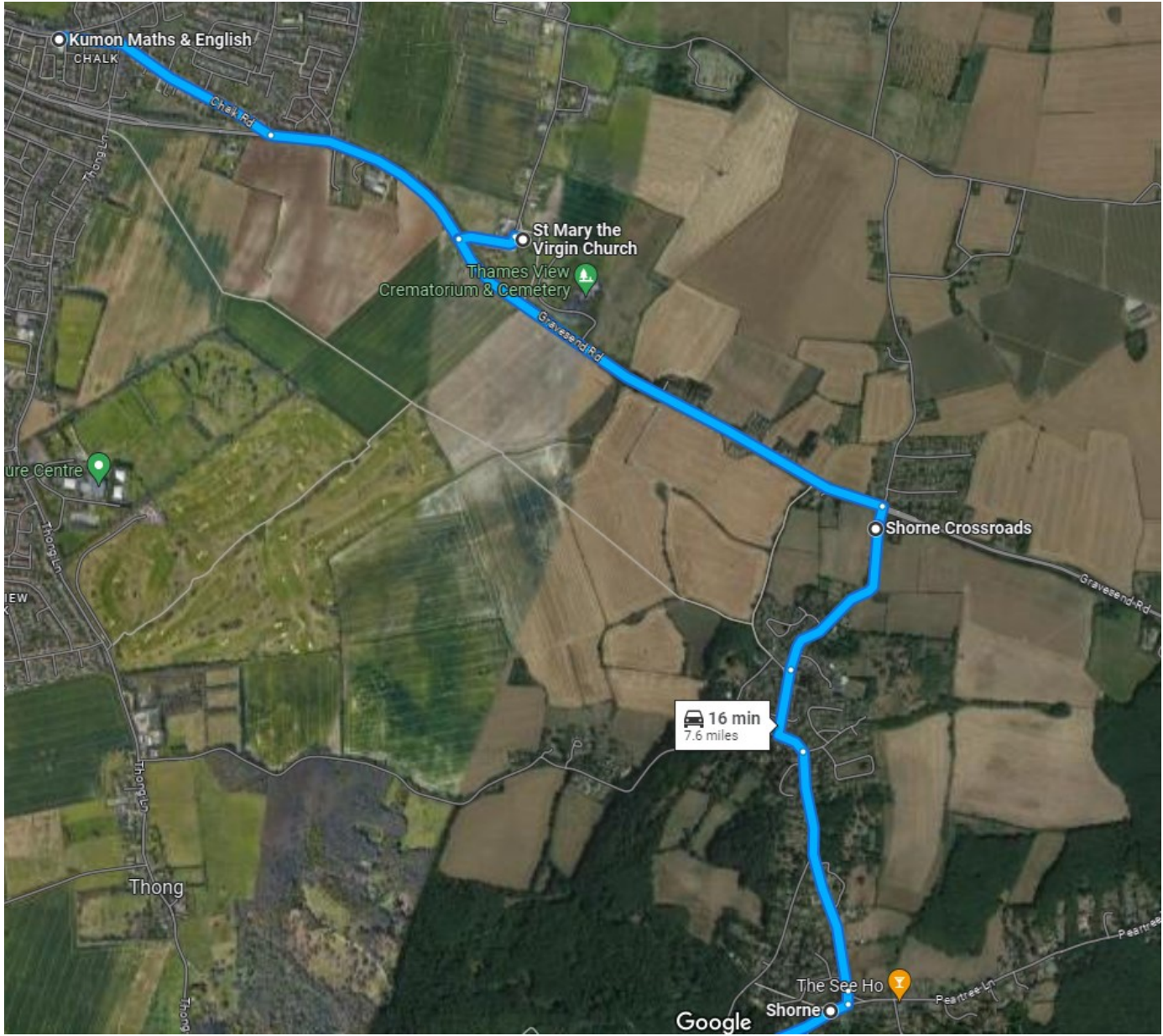


Figure 10: Chalk to Shorne



Figure 11: Shorne to Park Pale overbridge to Strood via M2 Junction 1

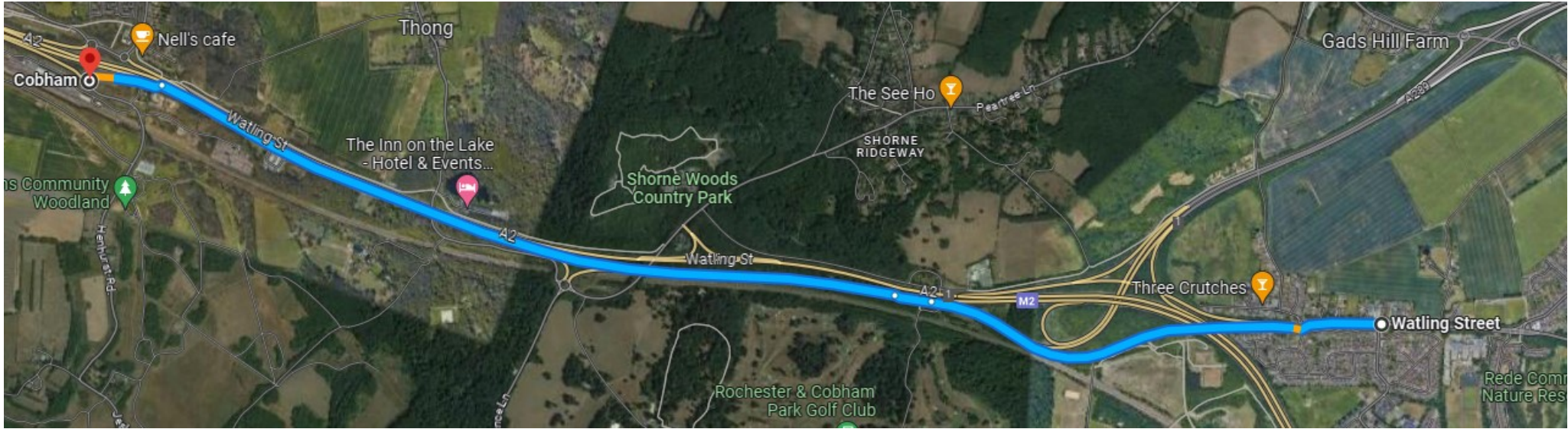


Figure 12: Strood to Gravesend East

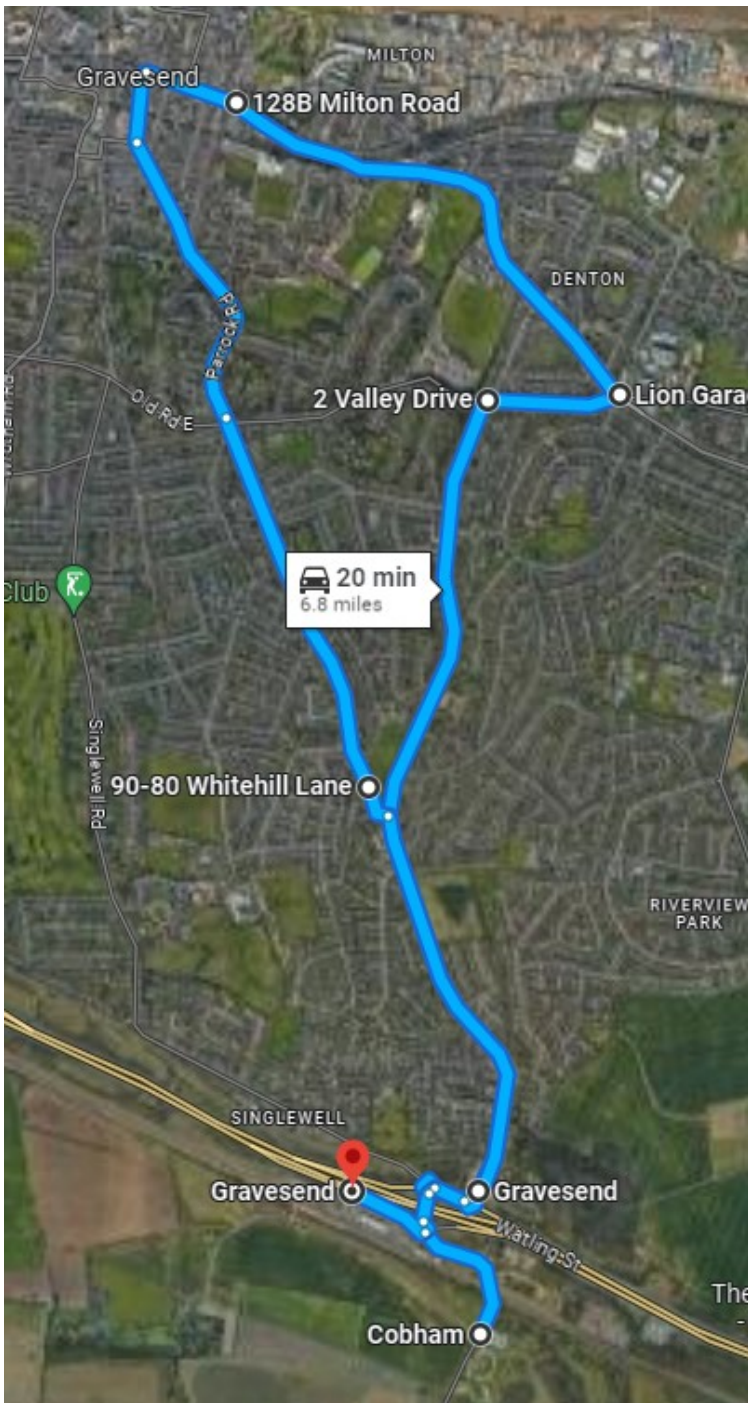


Figure 13: Gravesend East/Valley Drive Corridor

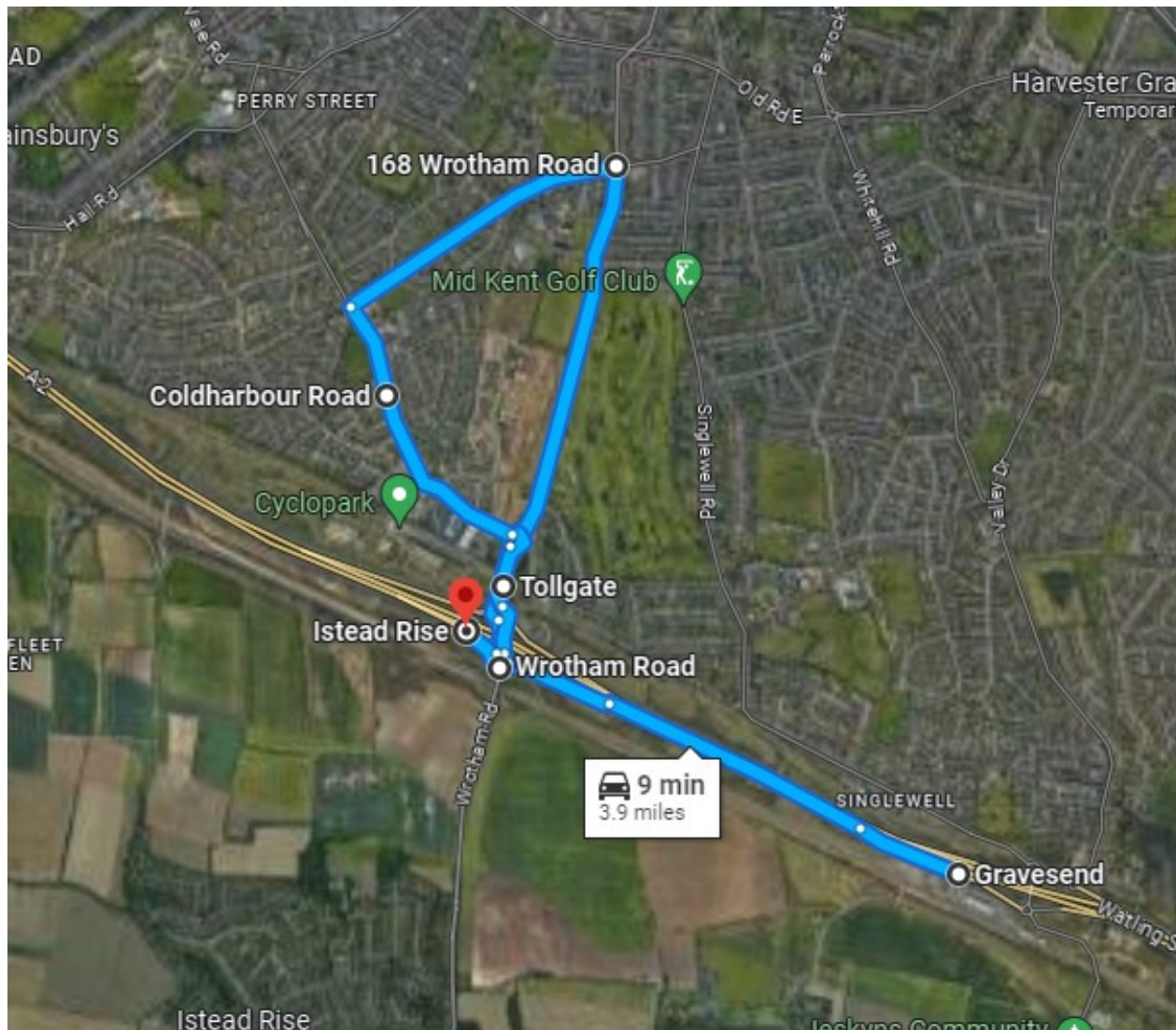


Figure 14: Gravesend Central and Wrotham Road corridor

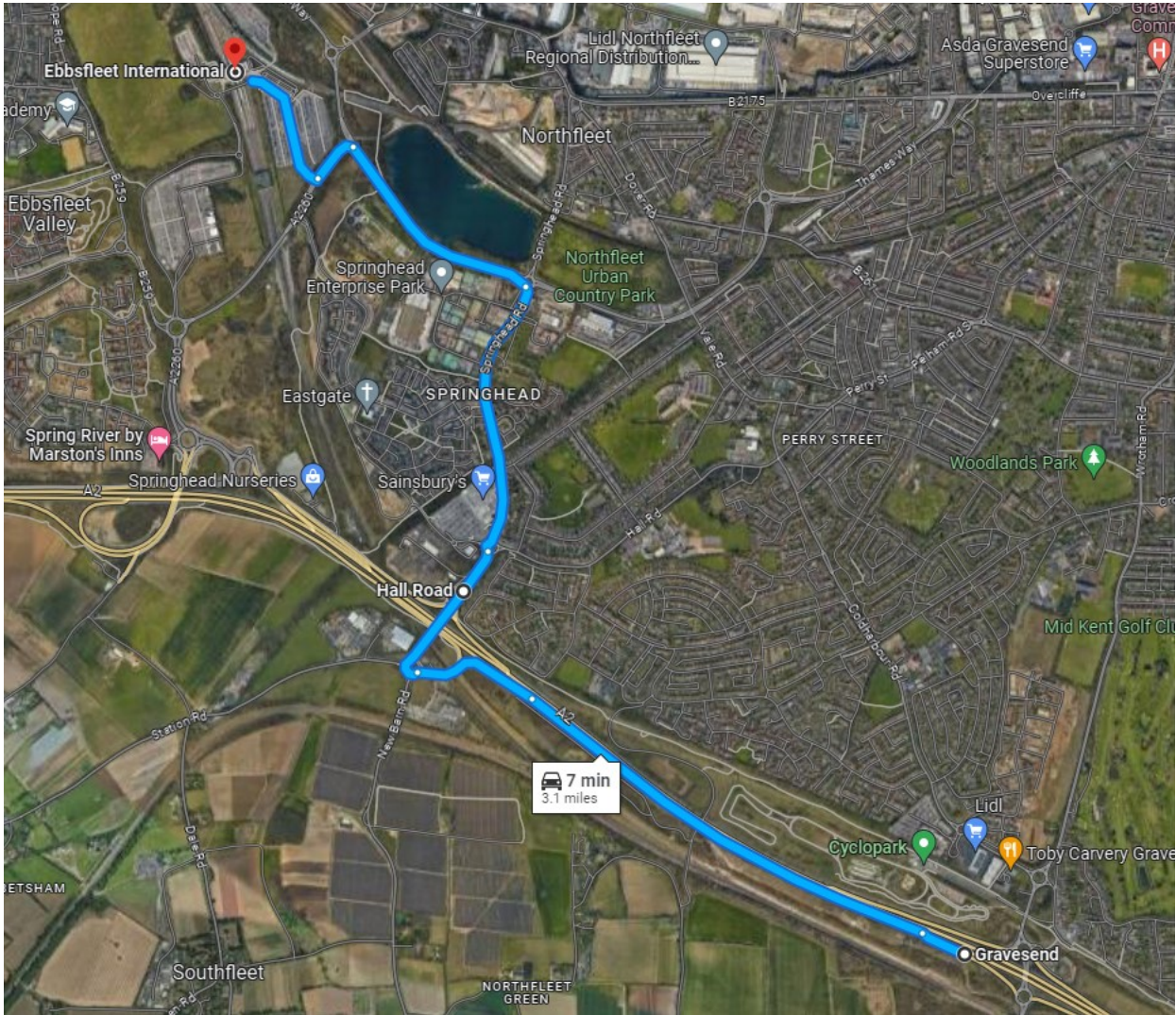


Figure 15: Gravesend Central to Gravesend West (Springhead Road corridor) and Ebbsfleet International