

TENTERDEN CYCLE PARKING RACKS SURVEY

Report by Tenterden Cycling Club

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Correctly designed and installed cycle parking in Tenterden is not provided. The existing racks are unsatisfactory in design and use and there are only four single 'camouflaged' black stands available along the High Street. They are of an unusual ornamental arch design and not likely to be recognised as bike stands by a passing rider.

The remainder are poorly sited, being situated outside the leisure centre, public toilet and two supermarkets and are out of sight of visiting cyclists riding along the High Street. The ideal cycle stand, properly installed, provides stability and security for a high number of cycles in a relatively small space and is of simple construction and is called Sheffield stand or hoop. Sheffield stand pics.

www.bing.com/images/search?q=sheffield+hoop+cycle+stand

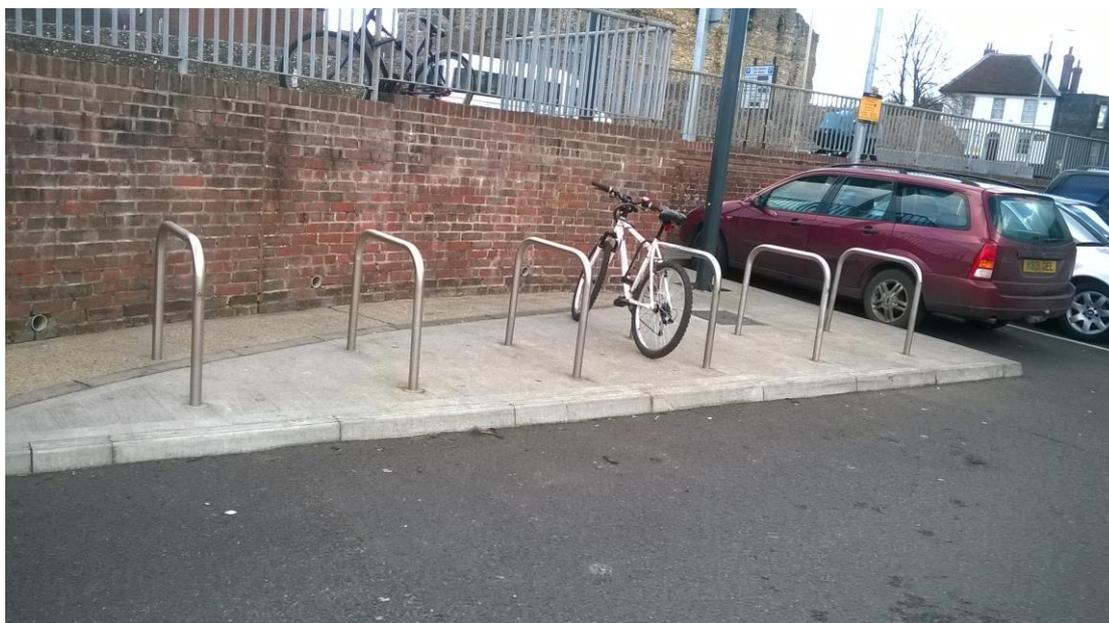
Assuming the bike has Q/R (quick release) wheels, which most do, the widely accepted and most secure method of bike locking to a Sheffield hoop is with a 'D' lock or other heavy duty lock through the rear frame triangle & rear wheel and round one upright of the stand plus a 'D' or cable lock securing the front wheel. The stand supports the whole bike securely.

This short film from the London Cycling campaign shows how to lock a bike effectively and that a basic Sheffield loop is the most convenient way to do so, and it illustrates the inadequacies of our local stands.

<http://lcc.org.uk/articles/cycle-security-lock-it-or-lose-it>

This vid removes the front wheel and accessories too but I would not, in this area at least.

How it should be done, a line of properly installed and positioned Sheffield hoops on a level paved surface outside Aldi Canterbury.



Below follows a critique of cycle stands in Tenterden. None are satisfactory for reasons explained.

1. Outside Tesco

The stands are not secured to the ground and are prone to move when positioning a bike. The loop is the wrong shape and height for adequate bike support. Unless a bike is exactly positioned, which the stand base cross bars prevent, the narrow low loop can pass through the frame making the bike unstable and likely to fall over, particularly if the base interconnecting metal bars are wet when the tyres can easily slip sideways. Consequently it is very difficult to load shopping into panniers with one hand while supporting an unstable bike. The loops are too close together to allow 2 bikes in the gap between thus limiting the capacity of the stand. Also the shape of the loops would make locking a second bike up very difficult.



2. Waitrose

The stands are too long, 143cm, with parked trolleys at one end, so that to position the bike correctly against the only available stand upright the rear wheel obstructs the fire escape access. They are too close together, 65 cm, preventing easy access for a second bike in the gap between them thus limiting capacity. They could be turned 90 deg to provide a barrier to prevent trolley intrusion into the small bike parking area which would be re-fitted with Sheffield loops positioned so bikes didn't obstruct the fire escape access.



3. Outside Caxton House.

The stand uprights are too fat for my widely sold D lock to go round and the ornamental design makes it awkward to effectively secure a bike. The muddy grass around the stand is unsuitable as anything dropped would be hard to find and/or get wet & muddy and possibly fall onto dog dirt that would be difficult to see in the grass. I would not want foul smelly gloves or shoes!



4. Outside WHS

2 racks, as impractical as #3 Caxton house except they are on the pavement.

5. Outside Gateway

As impractical as Caxton house except they are on the pavement.

6. Recreation ground outside toilets

More impractical than Caxton house as the silly small loops position the wheel and thus the bike incorrectly for effective locking. Long grass a problem as before.



7. Leisure centre.

Pointless wheel rack, impossible to lock bike effectively. If you have Q/R wheels and only lock the front wheel. It's a simple matter for anybody, in very few seconds, to undo the Q/R & walk away with your bike then get another wheel! Also if the bike should be pushed sideways it's possible to bend the wheel in some cases.

Bike stolen, wheel still locked to very similar type of single wheel rack!

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=stolen+cycle&view=detailv2&&id=EAF20DACD55E5F5D1B3A95F8A8049A0E45521CBB&selectedIndex=27&ccid=LICYEG19&simid=607991551214291619&thid=OIP.M2c809810697db3fa51f9f4df25ae5695o0&ajaxhist=0>



The few current High Street stands are inadequate and hard to spot and no visiting cyclist will ever find the supermarket or leisure centre ones nor those by the toilets. This limits choice to the 4 'camouflaged' black bike stands that look like ornamental arches. In the warmer weather the town can have bikes locked up to anything and everything. If we wish to make Tenterden more attractive to cyclists, residents and visitors, we must make them more welcome.

Consider positioning stands near cafes, cyclists coming into the High Street are either residents shopping or visitors who come to feed and maybe sightsee.

Recommendations.

Stand minimum installation dimensions to be adhered to.

1. Tesco racks replaced with Sheffield stands.
2. Waitrose as Tesco and barrier provided to separate bikes & trolleys.
3. Caxton House. Replace with increased number of correctly installed Sheffield stands on a paved area.
4. WHS. Replace with increased number of Sheffield stands.
5. Gateway, replace with increased number of correctly installed Sheffield stands
6. Recreation ground. Increased number of correctly installed Sheffield stands on paved area
7. Leisure Centre. Replace with Sheffield stands.
8. Install Sheffield stands outside White Stuff.