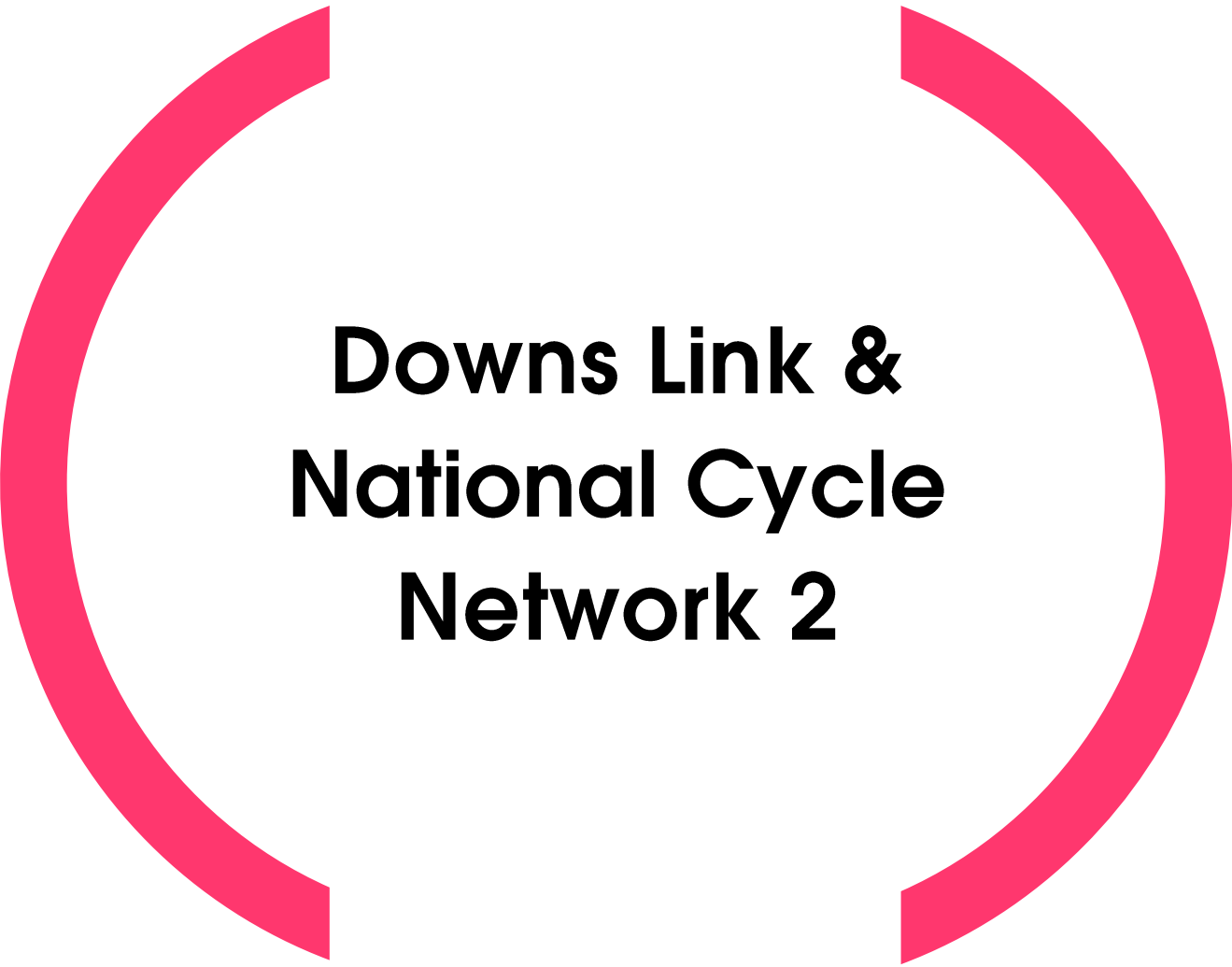


# Coast to Capital

A large, thick, pink circular graphic that is open at the top and bottom, framing the central text.

## **Downs Link & National Cycle Network 2**

## Project Summary

The National Cycle Network 2 (NCN2) aims to provide a continuous cycle path from Dover to Penzance. There are some sections in West Sussex that had not yet been constructed and one such gap between Littlehampton and Bognor Regis became the focus of this Project.

West Sussex County Council devised this project to deliver a safe route for cyclists and pedestrians via a stretch of pathway located along the downs link and the north of the A259 and segregated from the busy road.

The project was awarded Local Growth Fund of £1,200,000 by Coast to Capital to be match funded by the delivery body with £1,315,000. The match funding amount was significantly increased due to additional requirements uncovered by a road safety audit. This resulted in a benefit cost ratio of 1:1.10.

**£1,200,000 Local Growth Fund**



## Project Achievements

The project was very complex in nature due to the ground conditions and regulatory requirements. Construction completed a 4.5km long by 2.5m to 3m wide shared pathway, filling the Littlehampton to Bognor Regis cycle network gap.

This project has significantly improved the environment and safety for pedestrians and cyclists along the A259 without putting themselves near fast moving traffic. There is also a resting place provided mid-point along the route to give users an opportunity to take a break in their journey and enjoy the rural scenery.

## 4.5km new shared pathway



According to automated traffic counter data taken between June 2019 and December 2019, there has been an increase of cyclists by 46% over a 12 hour period. This is based on a 5 day average of two-way flow from the section between Comet Corner and Oystercatcher junctions and is a comparison of road and footpath users from 2015.

The availability of the pathway is also hoped to reduce car use between Littlehampton and Bognor Regis and it is believed that this project has contributed already to a small reduction in journeys. Future improvements to the A259 corridor will include traffic counters which will more accurately show the overall impact that this and other surrounding projects have had on car journeys.

## Project Benefits

This project has supported local employment prospects for local people. In particular impacting pockets of deprivation in the area where this new connectivity option provides access to employment sites for low income families who may not have access to a motor vehicle. Sustainable access to residential developments, in the region of 4,500 homes, provide communities with more opportunities to integrate and encourages the improvement of health and wellbeing by getting active.

The expected increase in activity levels will include cost savings to the NHS due to reduced incidents of ill-health associated with increased physical activity.

There will also be an impact on the environment including the reduction of carbon emissions associated with those who decide to take accessible and sustainable transport options instead of relying on car journeys or public transport.



During the construction phase, the contractor, Jackson Civil Engineering attended an assembly at a local primary school to give a talk about civil engineering and construction. They also engaged the children in a drawing competition to raise awareness to drivers of the presence of pedestrians and cyclists.

The construction created temporary employment in the area which is estimated to be £441,000 in GVA. In addition to the local impact detailed, the project has had an impact on a national level also by supporting a national cycling route scheme.

The Local Growth Fund award made this project possible because without, the Local Authority delivering the project would not have been able to commit to prioritising a project of this nature. The benefits realised are a direct impact of the Local Growth Fund.