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Kent Pedestrian Guard Railing Assessment Tonbridge – Consultation Report




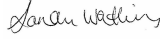


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1 Foreword

Jacobs UK Ltd has received a request from Kent Highway Services to complete a Pedestrian Guardrail Assessment in Tonbridge.

There is an increasing emphasis on improving the streetscape by removing street clutter and providing better pedestrian accessibility whilst maintaining road safety. It is recognised that where pedestrian guard railing is badly sited or over installed it not only alienates pedestrians but also looks unsightly, easily becomes damaged which in turn leads to increased maintenance costs and complaints.

Guard railing can be the right solution when the objectives of installing it (and in the right amount) are fully considered. The main purpose of guard railing is to improve safety by trying to prevent pedestrians from crossing the road at an inappropriate place or from straying into the road inadvertently. Guard railing can also be used to offer some protection to pedestrians at locations where the swept path of large vehicles, such as buses and heavy goods vehicles, takes the vehicles close to the footway, sometimes overhanging it.

This report contains recommendations to retain, partially remove or wholly remove pedestrian guard railing from 11 sites across Tonbridge and 1 site in Hildenborough.

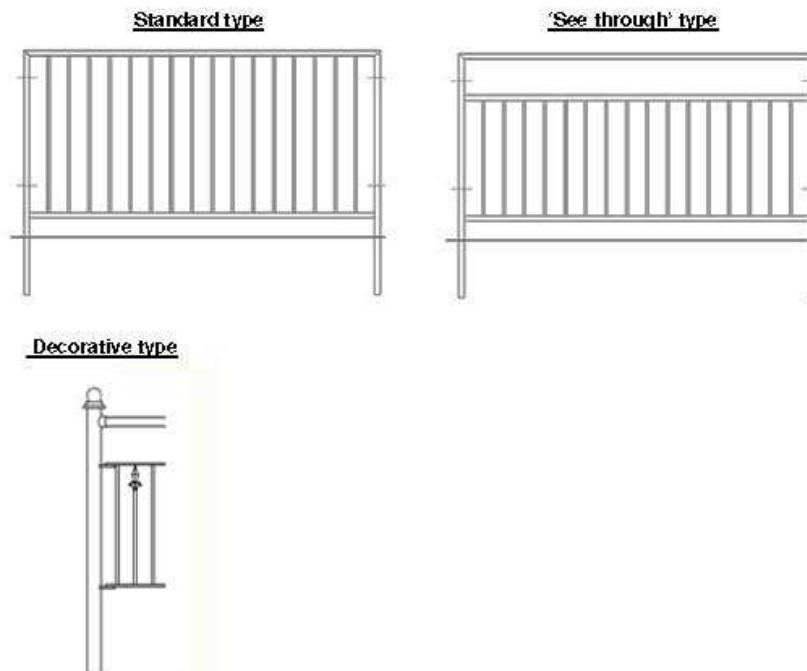
2 Methodology

The assessments were conducted within an approximate 750metre (820yard) radius (1 mile diameter) of the High Street to incorporate the main pedestrian thoroughfares in the town centre (see figure 1). Following a request from T & D the assessment was extended to cover the pedestrian guard railing at a site in Hildenborough also.

Each site has been assessed by a fully qualified road safety auditor and a road safety engineer. Records of each site will be maintained by the KHS Signs, Lines and Barriers Asset Manager.

The surveys have allowed sufficient adjacent road space to be included; the exact length of road surveyed to make up a site has been dictated by the existence of side roads, major entrances / exits and the current extent of the existing guard railing.

The type of pedestrian guard railing assessed has been categorised into one of three types as shown below:

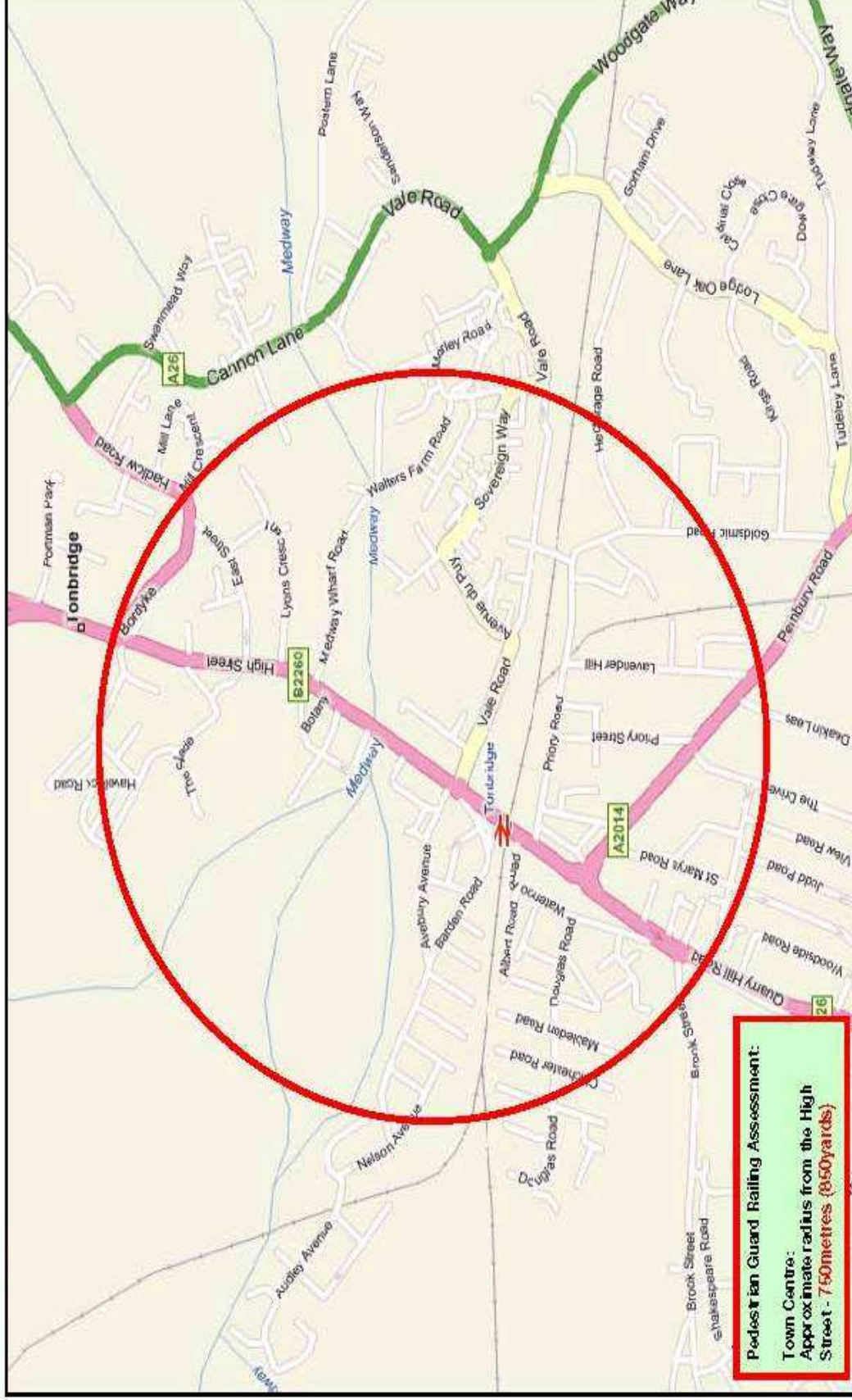


The decorative type of railing has a number of variations.

The site assessment was conducted by assessing the effectiveness of individual guardrails within the site and effectiveness as a whole. Photographs were taken and all technical data pertaining to the site was recorded including guard rail measurements, carriageway and footway width, proximity of junctions, type of pedestrian crossing and proximity to other crossings etc. Local trip attractors and generators have also been identified to assess pedestrian desire lines.

Where appropriate the width of the carriageway and its arrangement into lanes has been recorded as this relates to the degree of difficulty that people have in crossing. The width of the available footway has also been taken and consideration given to the effect the guard railing has on reducing the effective footway width.

Illustrated diagrams indicating pedestrian guardrail locations, any proposals to install additional guardrail panels, the replacement of any damaged panels and to remove or retain the guardrails have been included.



3

Site 1 Location:

Site 1 is located at the junction of Vale Road /Angel Lane.

Types of Guard Railing:

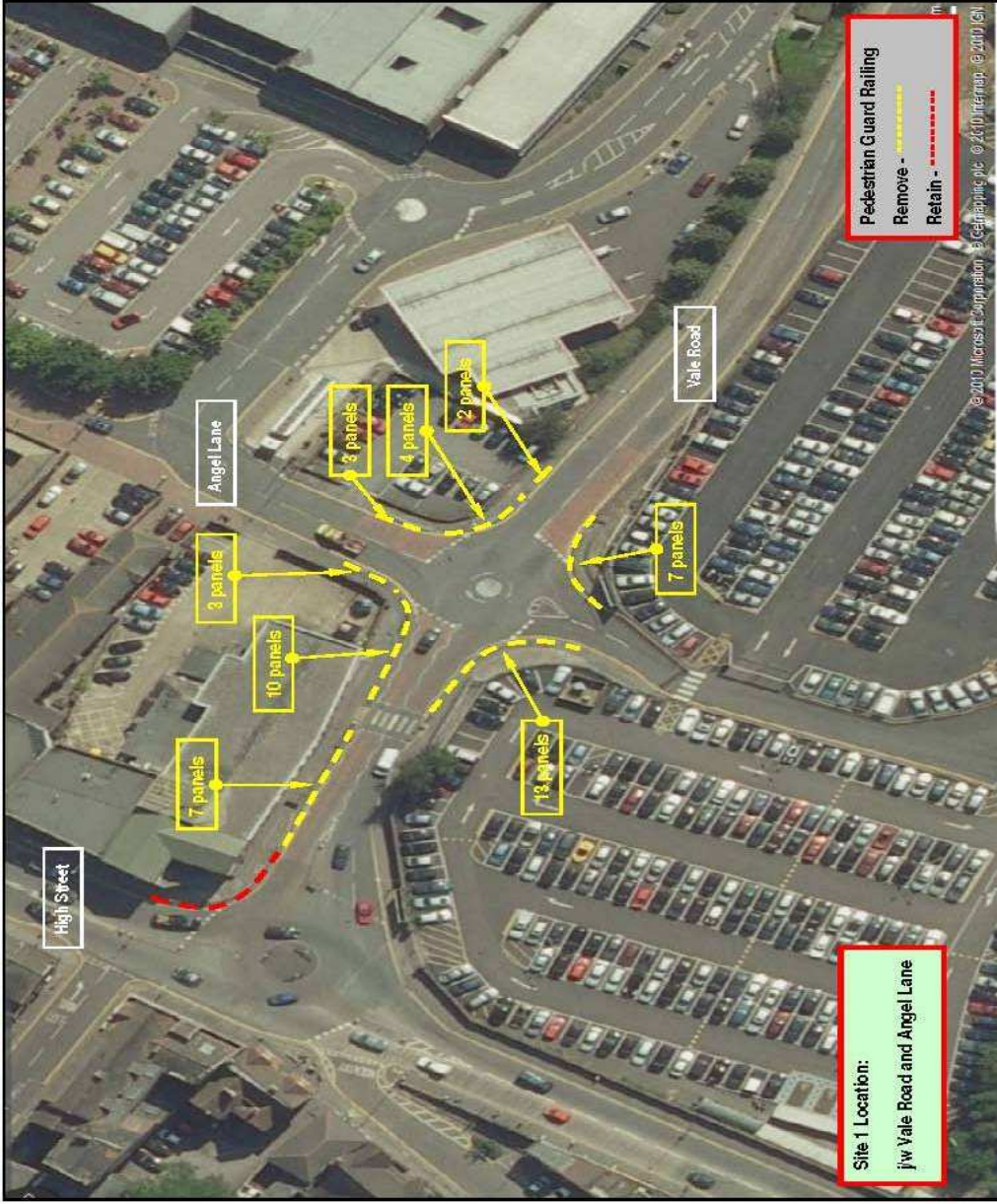
Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes		

Conclusions / Recommendations

Angel Lane is an access to a shopping complex and opposite is a large car park with both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

A section of pedestrian guard railing located on a wall that separates the lower elevation footway from the carriageway should be retained. The remainder of the pedestrian guard railings at the site offer little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to partially remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 1.**



Site 2 Location:

Site 2 is located at the junction of Railway Approach / Priory Road / Waterloo Road.

Types of Guard Railing:

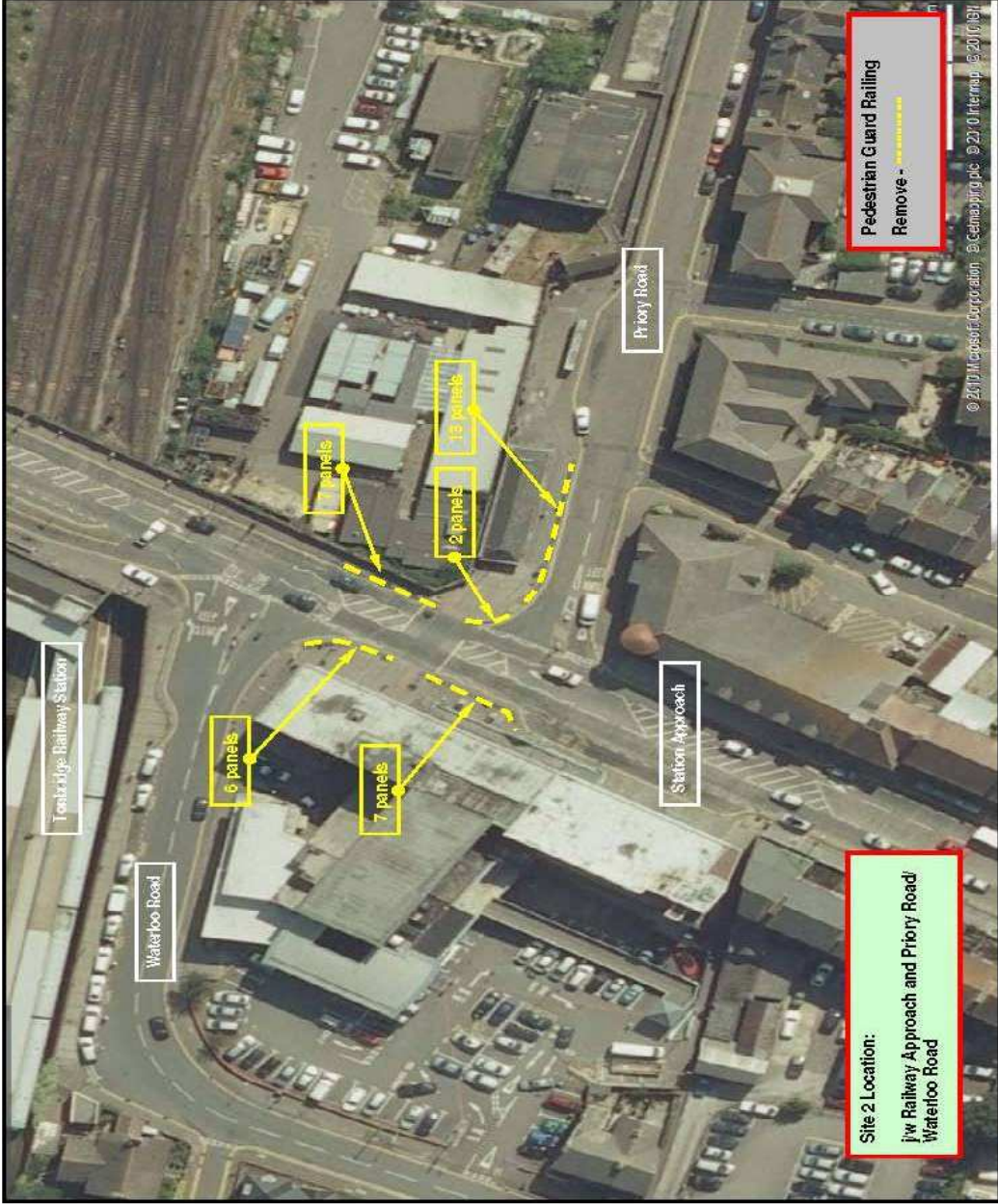
Standard	See through	Decorative
	Yes	

Conclusions / Recommendations

The site is adjacent to Tonbridge Railway Station there are some retail outlets to the south and residential properties to the east. High vehicular and pedestrian movements were observed here.

The pedestrian guard railings at the site offer little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 2.**



Pedestrian Guard Hailing
Remove -

Site 2 Location:
J/w Railway Approach and Priory Road/
Waterloo Road

Site 3 Location:

Site 3 is located at the roundabout junction of Quarry Hill Road and the A2014 Pembury Road.

Types of Guard Railing:

Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes	Yes	

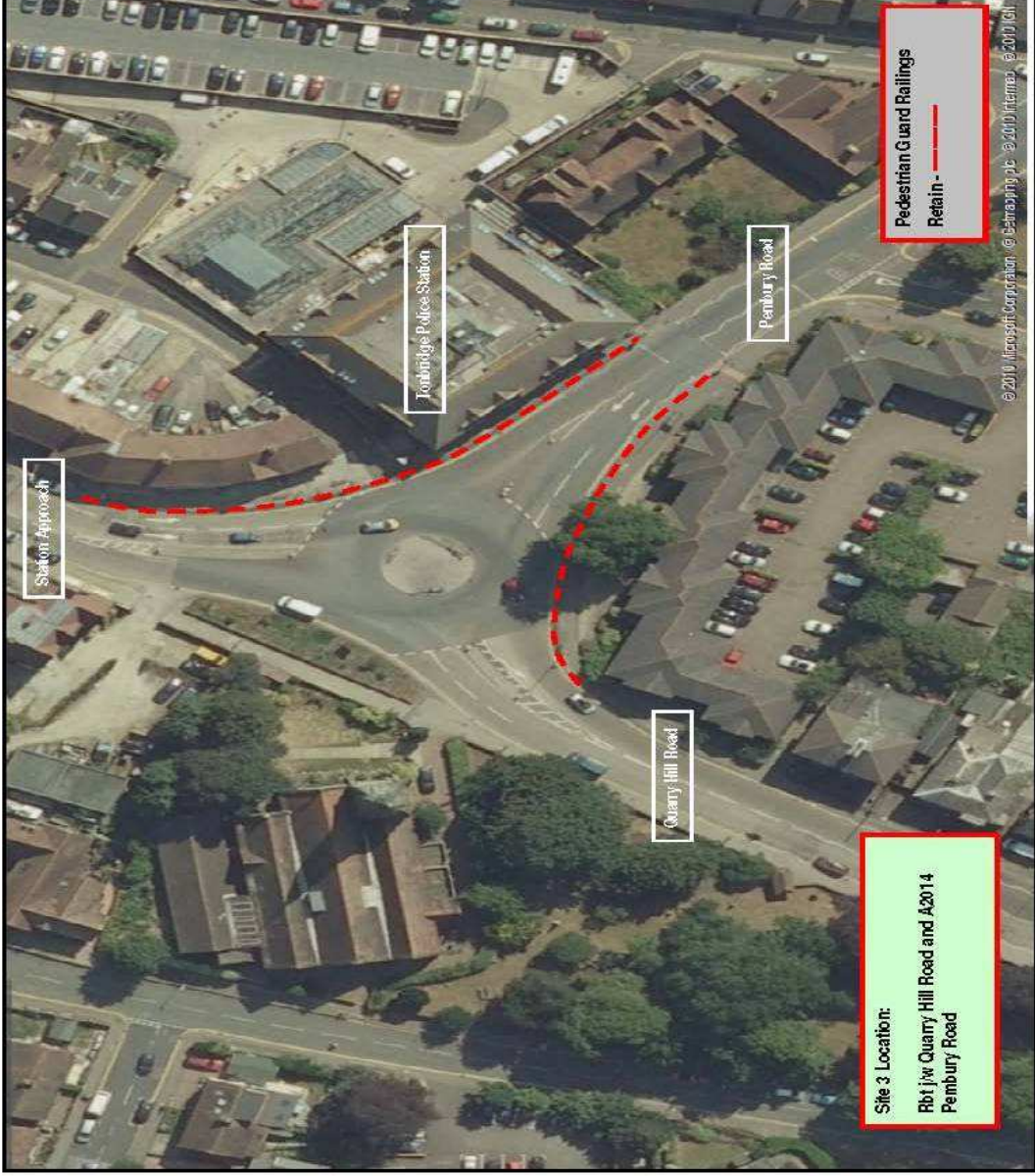
Conclusions / Recommendations

Located within the site is Tonbridge Police Station, some retail outlets and residential properties.

The site has both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railing at the site offers a benefit as a guide and as a protective device.

- **It is recommended to retain the pedestrian guard railings at site 3.**



Site 4 Location:

Site 4 is located on Quarry Hill Road.

Types of Guard Railing:

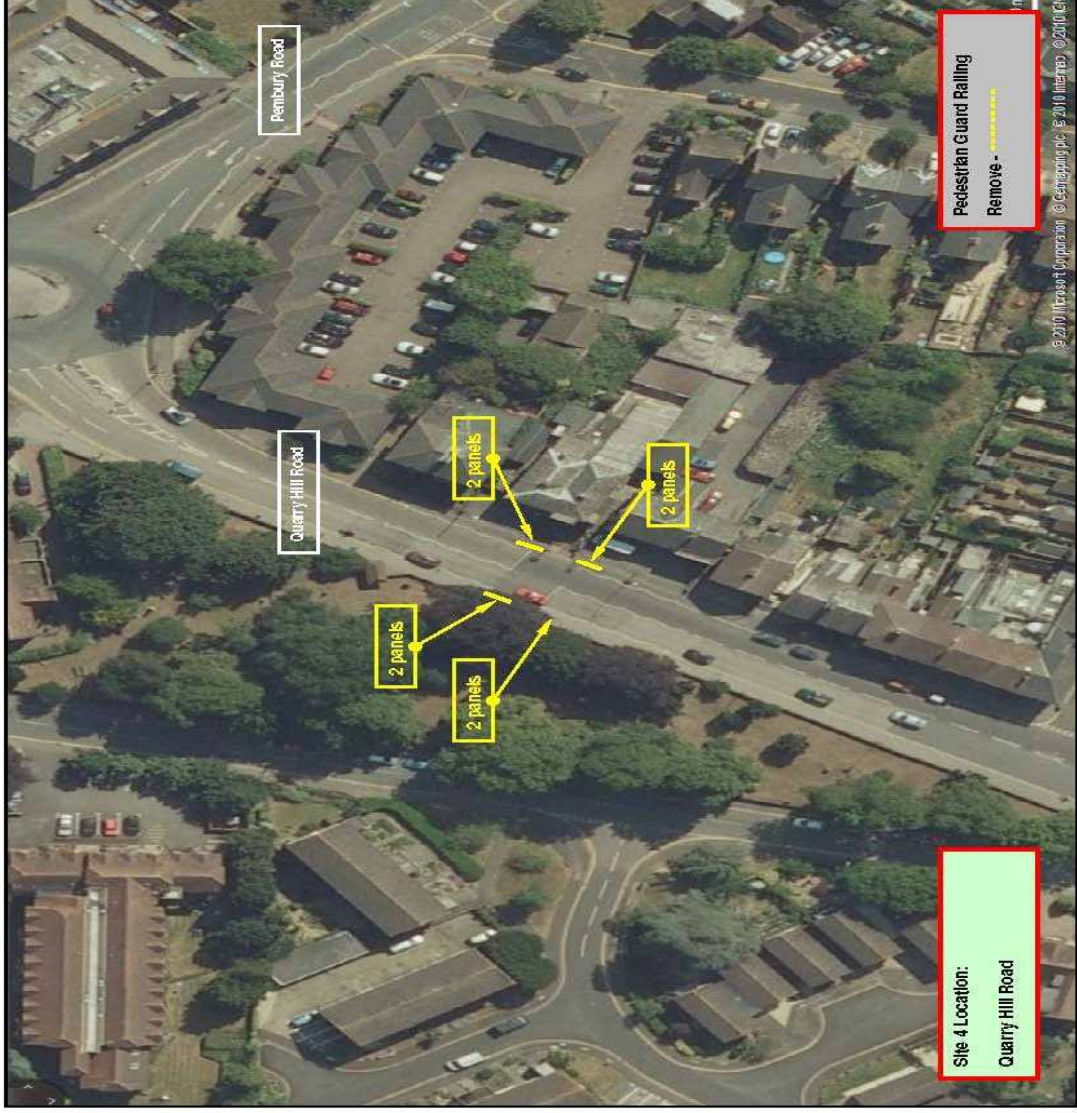
Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes		

Conclusions / Recommendations

On the western side the site is located outside the grounds of the St Stephen's Church and on the eastern side there are some small business premises. The site is an access to and from the West Kent College and residential properties in the south. The site has both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railing at the site offers little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 4.**



Site 5 Location:

Site 5 is located at the junction of Quarry Road/Waterloo Road/George Street and the roundabout junction of Quarry Hill Road and Brook Street.

Types of Guard Railing:

Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes	Yes	

Conclusions / Recommendations

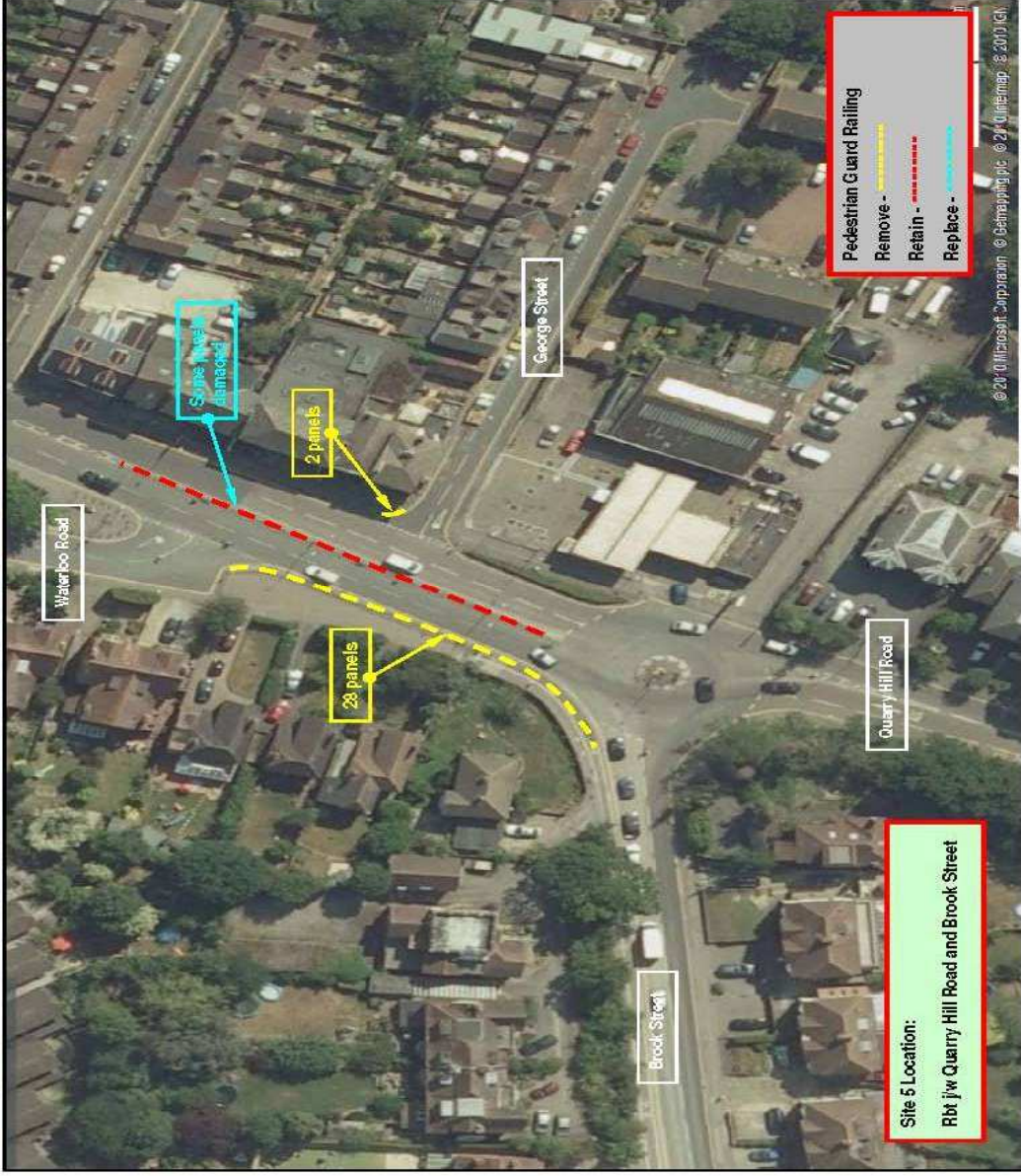
A petrol garage, a public house and some small business premises are located on the eastern side of the site and on the western side beyond a wide footway/cycle facility are residential properties.

Located on Brooke Street approximately 200metres from the roundabout junction with Quarry Hill Road is the West Kent College.

The site has both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railings on the footways offer little benefit as a guide or protective device, while the central reservation guard railing should be retained.

- **It is recommended to partially remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 5.**



Site 6 Location:

Site 6 is located on Station Approach between the roundabout junction of Quarry Hill Road/Pembury Road in the south and Priory Road in the north.

Types of Guard Railing:

Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes		

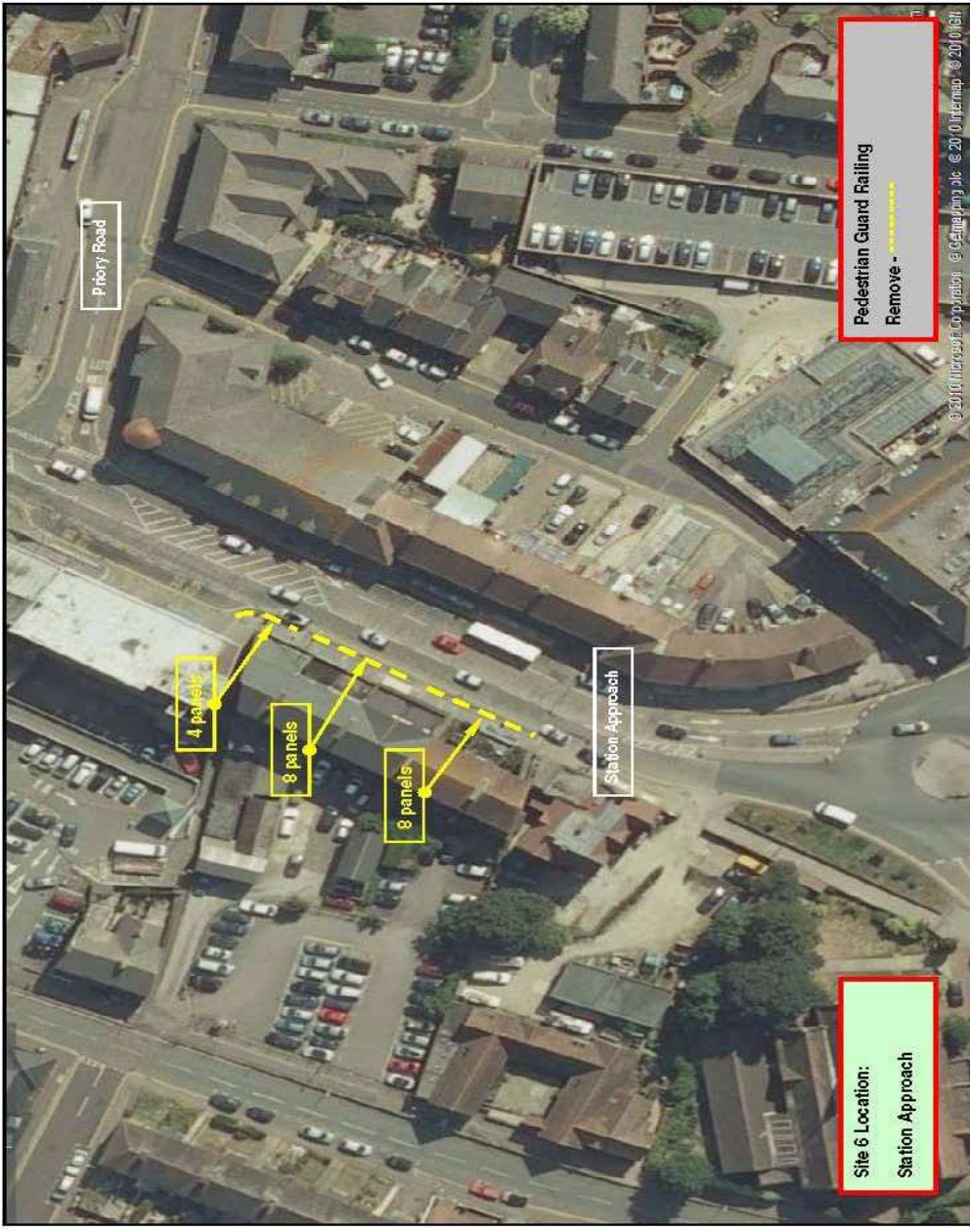
Conclusions / Recommendations

The site is on the western side footway, where small business outlets are located. On the northern side adjacent to the site is a bus only bus stop facility.

The site has both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railings on the footways offer little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 6.**



Pedestrian Guard Railing
Remove -

Site 6 Location:
Station Approach

Site 7 Location:

Site 7 is located at Tonbridge Railway Station.

Types of Guard Railing:

Standard	See through	Decorative
	Yes	

Conclusions / Recommendations

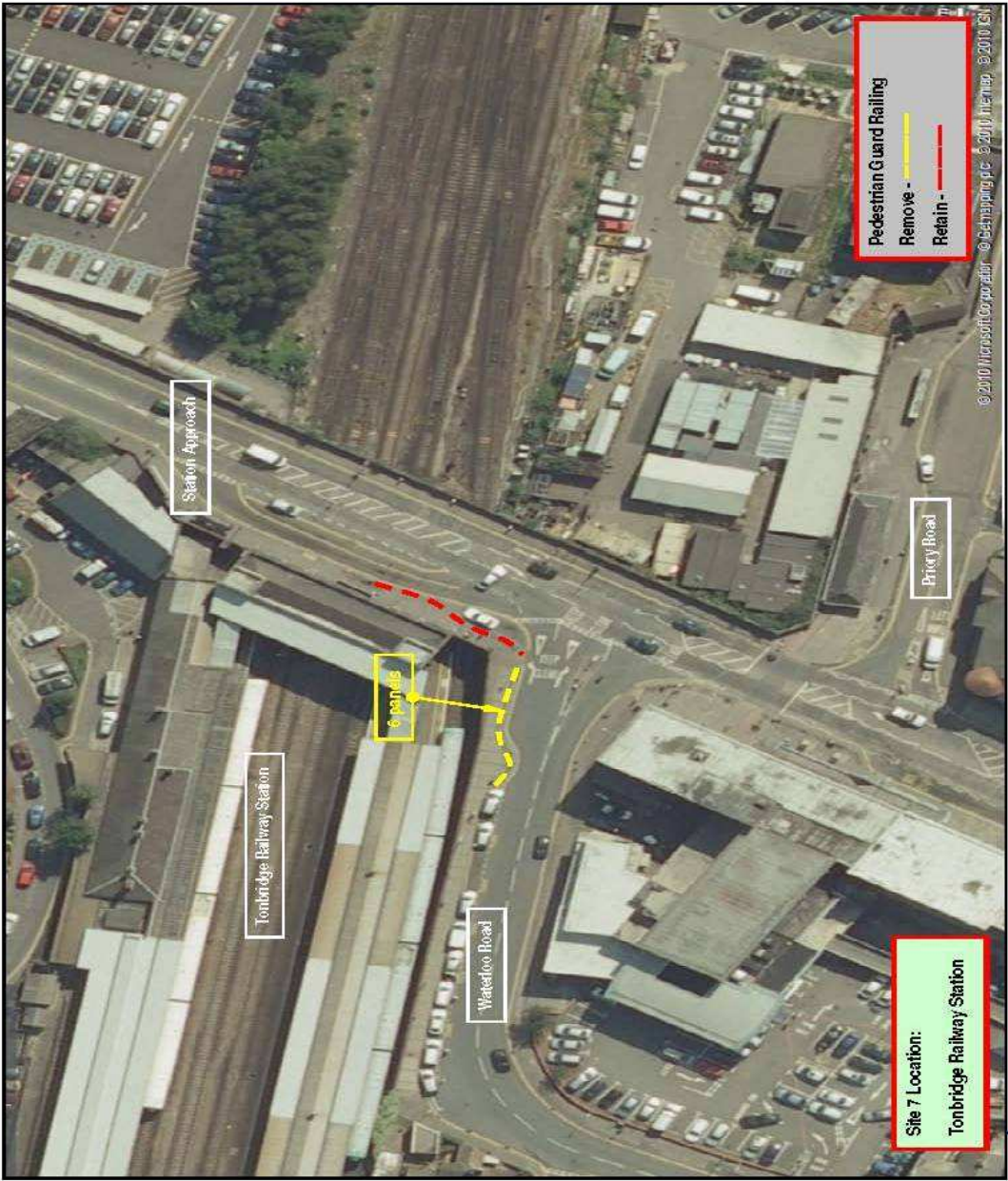
The pedestrian guard railing is located in front of the railway station adjacent to the bus lane with a further section on the southern side on Waterloo Road adjacent to the taxi rank.

The pedestrian guard railing adjacent to the bus lane should be retained to protect pedestrians from injury by bus wing mirrors.

The site has both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railing on the Waterloo Road footway offers little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to partially remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 7.**



Site 8 Location:

Site 8 is located at the roundabout junction of Station Approach/High Street and Vale Road/Barden Road.

Types of Guard Railing:

Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes		

Conclusions / Recommendations

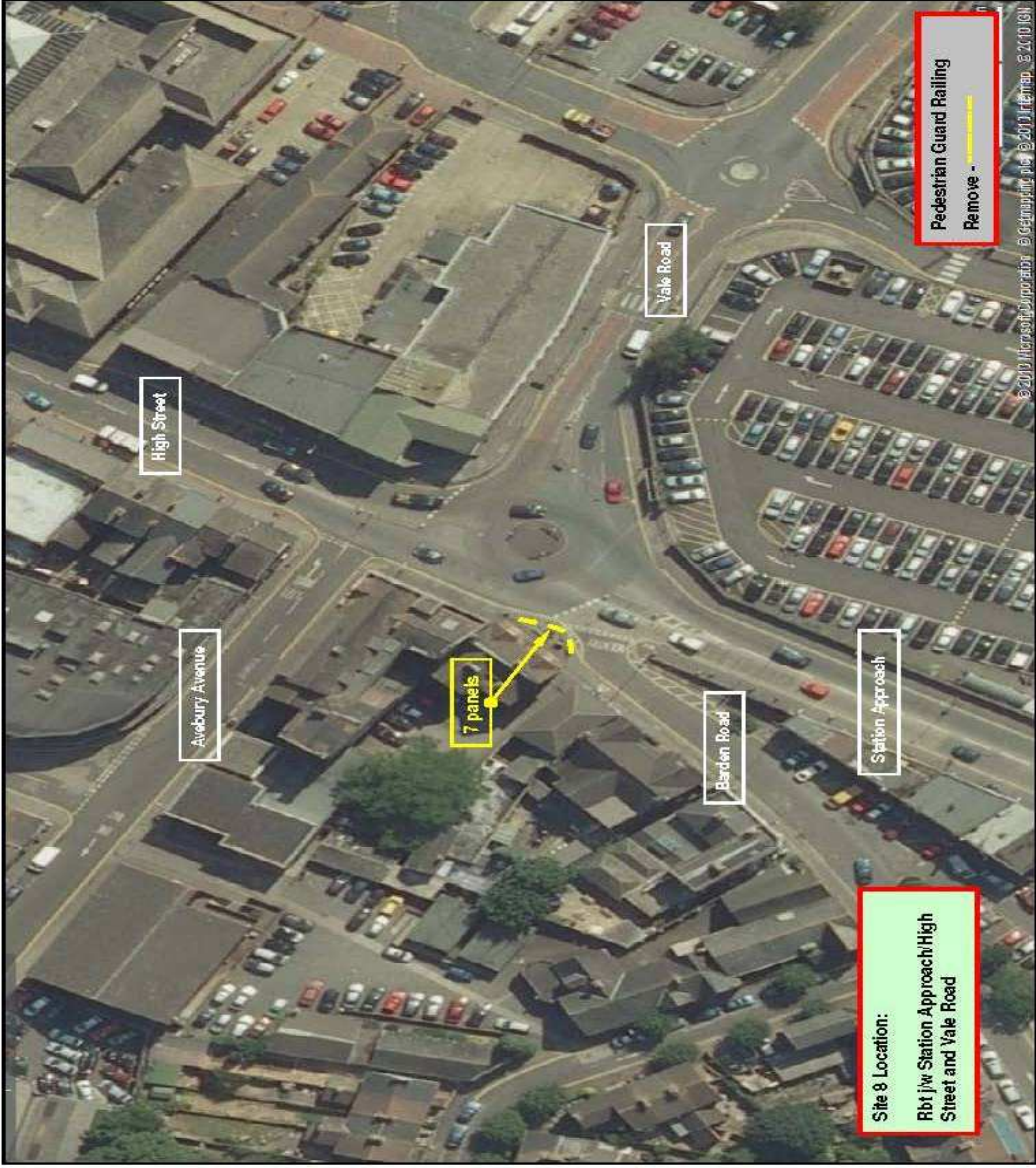
The pedestrian guard railing is located on the western side of the roundabout at the junction of Barden Road outside a restaurant.

The footway widens between the footway and the pedestrian guard railing at this point and accommodates a rest area with a bench.

The site has both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railing offers little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 8.**



Site 9 Location:

Site 9 is located on the High Street approximately 60metres north of the roundabout junction of Vale Road and Station Approach/Barden Road.

Types of Guard Railing:

Standard	See through	Decorative
	Yes	

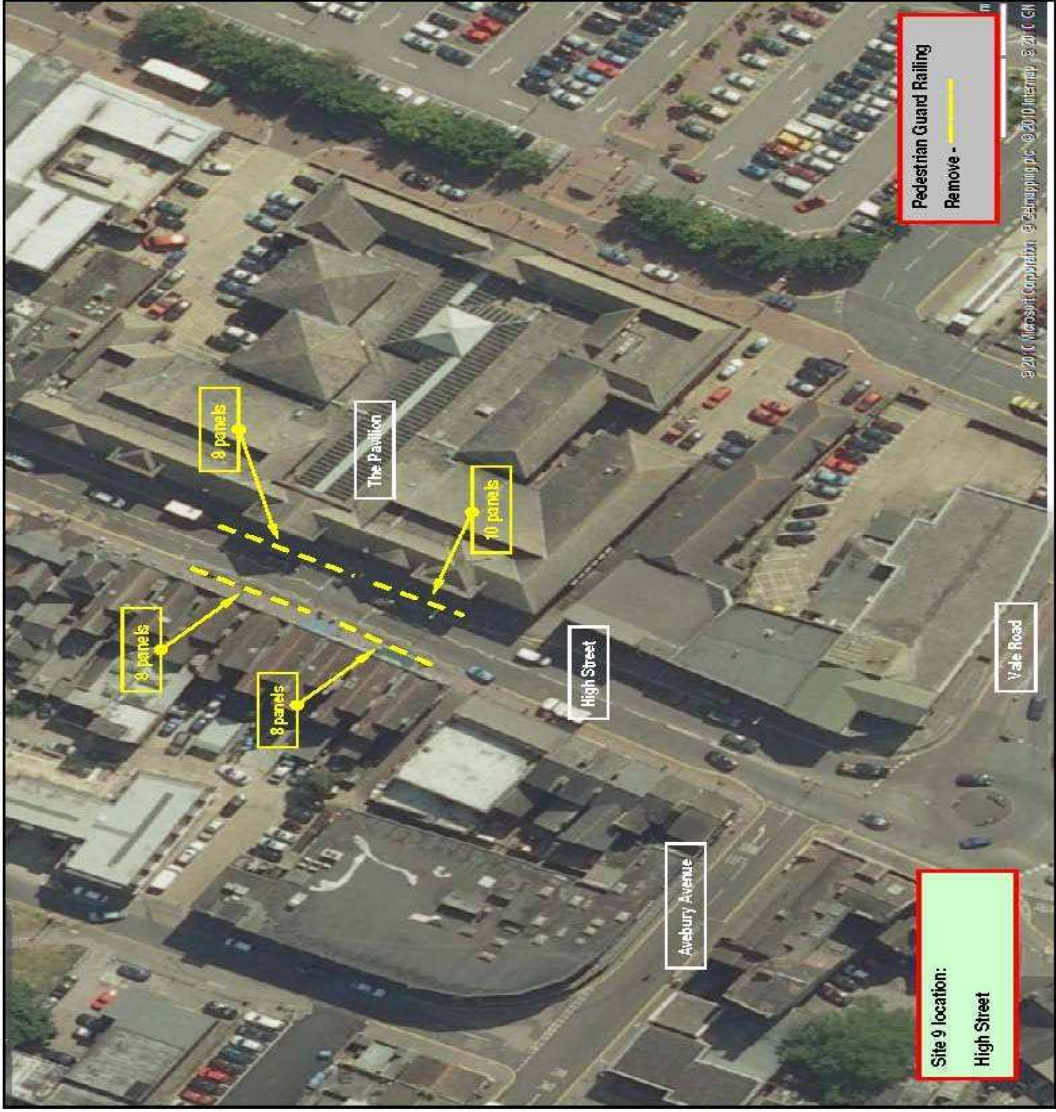
Conclusions / Recommendations

The pedestrian guard railing is located in the main shopping area of Tonbridge outside The Pavilion Shopping Centre.

The eastern footway at this point is 4.0metres wide and the site has both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railing offers little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 9.**



Site 10 Location:

Site10 is located on the High Street approximately 10metres north of the lane Lamberts Yard.

Types of Guard Railing:

Standard	See through	Decorative
	Yes	Yes

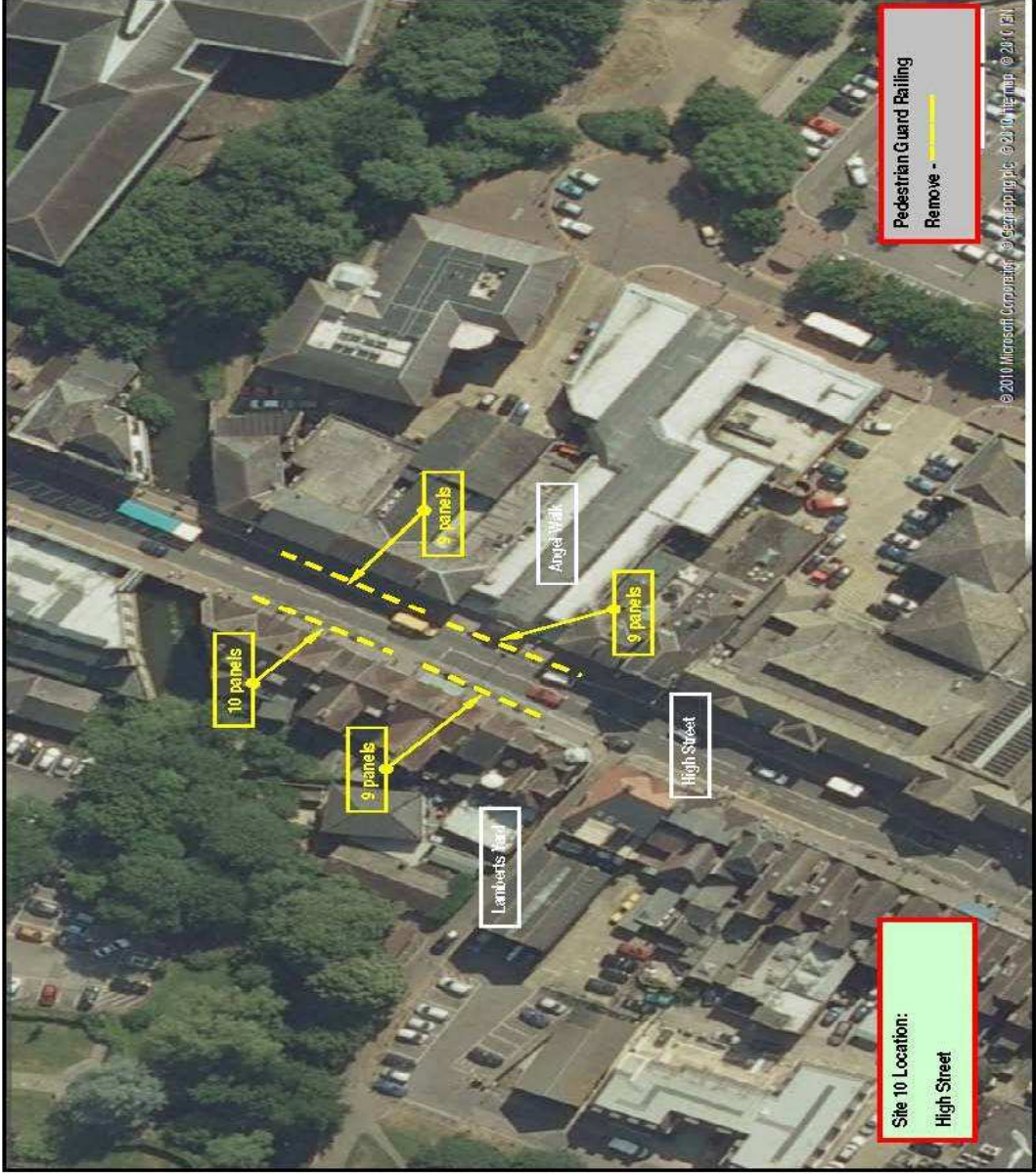
Conclusions / Recommendations

The pedestrian guard railing is located in the main shopping area of Tonbridge outside the Angel Walk Shopping Centre.

The eastern footway at this point is 4.0metres wide and the site has both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railing offers little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 10.**



Site 11 Location:

Site11 is located on the High Street between the junctions of New Wharf Road and Medway Wharf Road.

Types of Guard Railing:

Standard	See through	Decorative
	Yes	Yes

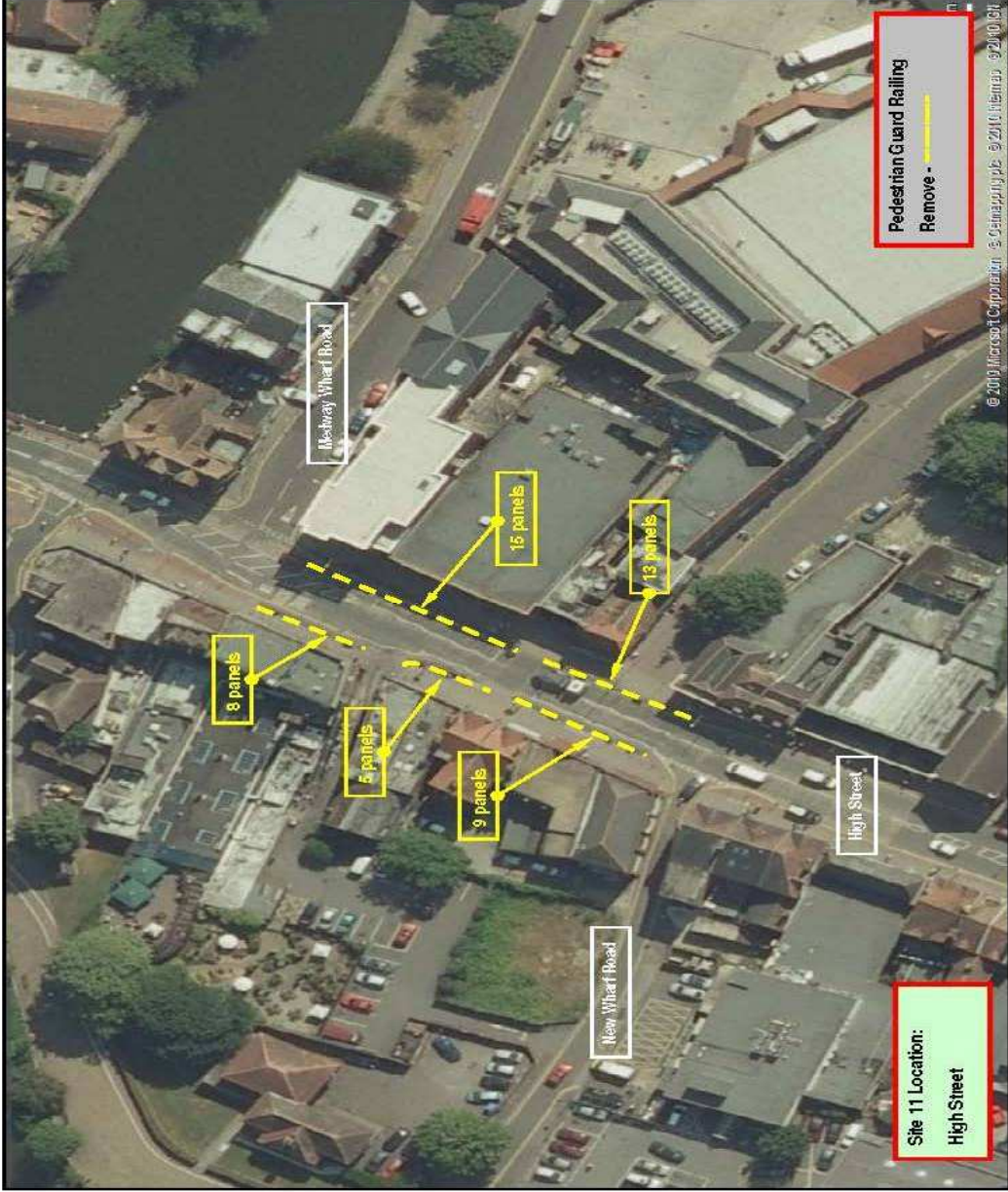
Conclusions / Recommendations

The pedestrian guard railing is located in the main shopping area of Tonbridge near Starbucks Coffee shop and Peacocks Clothing Store.

The footways at this point are 3.0metres wide and the site has both high vehicular and pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railing offers little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 11.**



Pedestrian Guard Railing
Remove -

Site 11 Location:
High Street

Site 12 Location:

Site12 is located in Hildenborough on Tonbridge Road at the junction of Coldharbour Lane.

Types of Guard Railing:

Standard	See through	Decorative
	Yes	Yes

Conclusions / Recommendations

The pedestrian guard railing is located outside Hildenborough Medical Centre. The southern footway width is restricted by a hedge and the guard railing, rendering the footway only 1.90metres wide.

The site has high vehicular and low pedestrian movements.

The pedestrian guard railing offers little benefit as a guide or protective device.

- **It is recommended to remove the pedestrian guard railings at site 12.**

