

## **Kent Pedestrian Guard Railing Assessment**

### **Sittingbourne – 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 Sittingbourne.

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 12 sites across Sittingbourne.

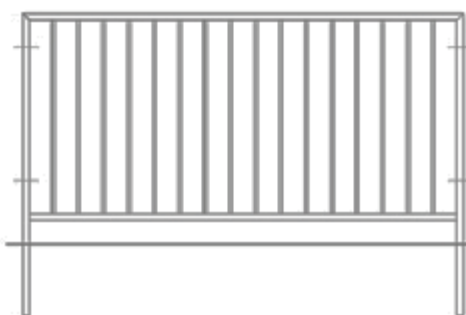
The assessments were conducted within an approximate 750metre (820yard) radius (1 mile diameter) of the High Street to incorporate the main pedestrian thoroughfares in the town centre (see figure 1).

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.

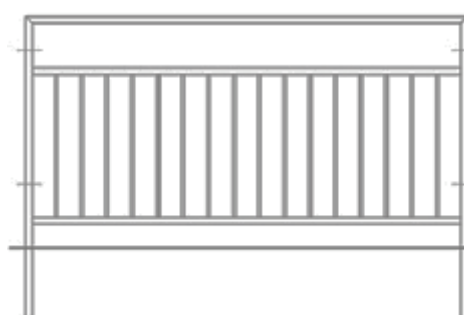
The surveys have allowed sufficient adjacent road space to be included; the exact length of road surveyed to make up a site has been dictated by the existence of side roads, major entrances / exits and the current extent of the existing guard railing.

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

**Standard type**



**'See through' type**



**Decorative type**

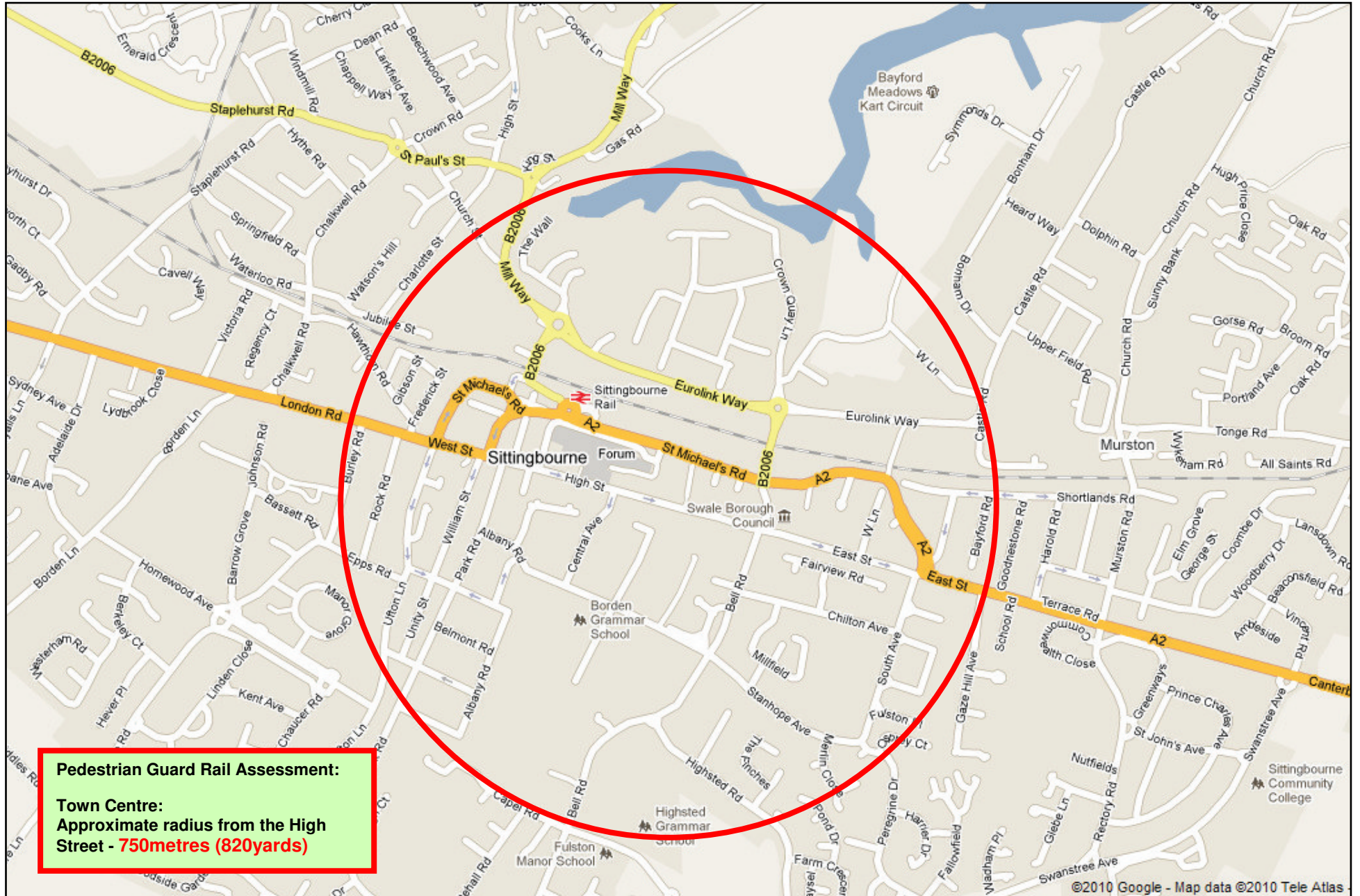


The decorative type of railing has a number of variations.

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.



**Site 1 Location:**

Site 1 is located at the junction of West Street/London Road and St. Michael's Road/Ufton Lane.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes	Yes	

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

The site is has a mixture of residential properties and small retail outlets and a car parking facility on St Michael's Road. St Michael's Road is an access from the residential properties to the Sittingbourne Railway Station.

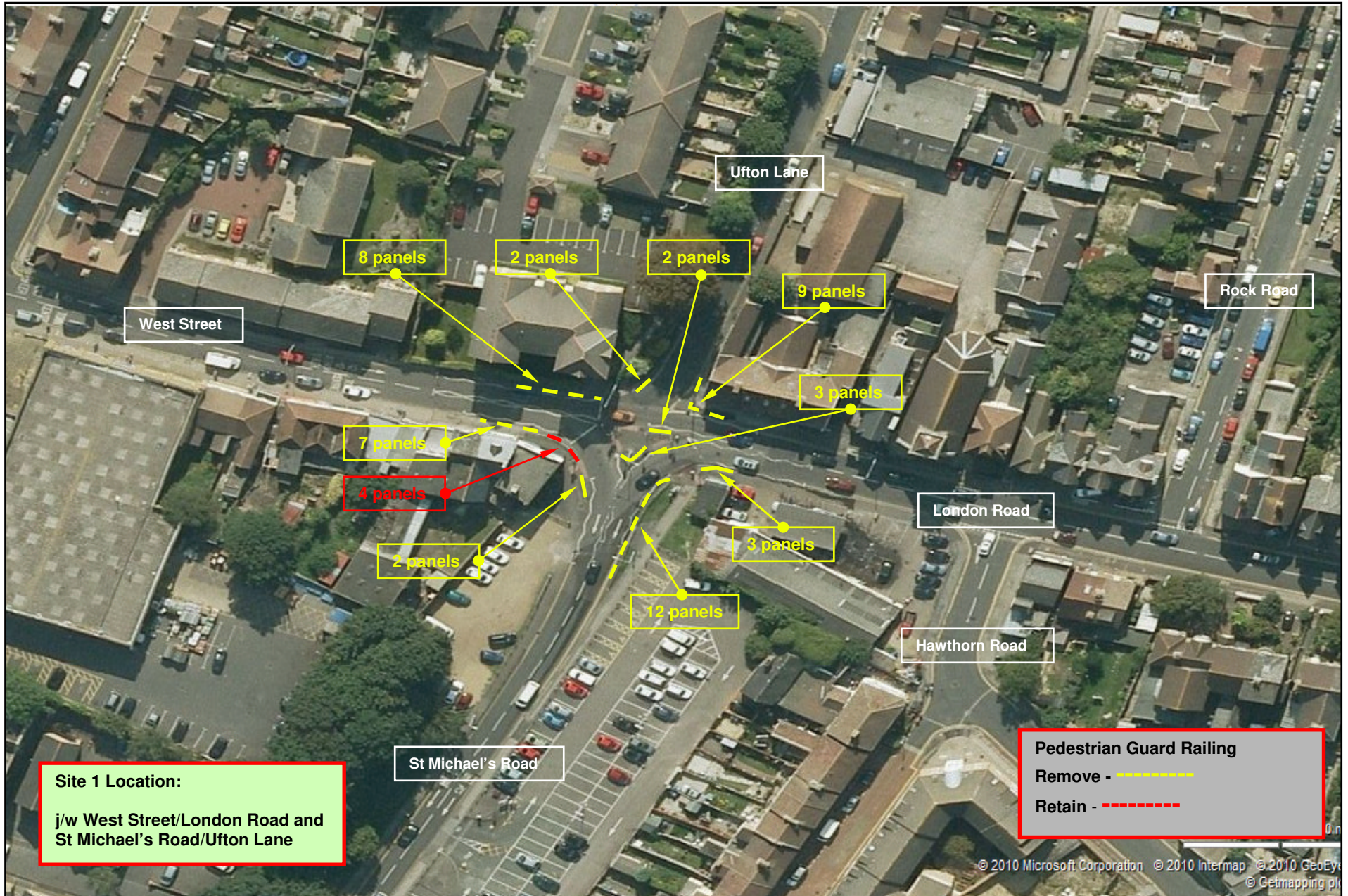
The site has a high volume of vehicular traffic and moderate pedestrian use.

The pedestrian guard railings at the site are a mixture of standard and see through. Those assessed for removal offer little benefit as a guide or protective device.

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

**Illustrated Diagram of site 1**





**Site 2 Location:**

Site 2 is located on St. Michael's Road.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

<b>Standard</b>	<b>See through</b>	<b>Decorative</b>
Yes		

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

The site has a car park on the western side and a wide grassed verge on the eastern side with walled residential properties at the northern end of the site.

St Michael's Road is an access from the residential properties to the Sittingbourne Railway Station.

The site has a high volume of vehicular traffic and moderate pedestrian use.

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.**

**Illustrated Diagram of site 2**



25 panels

46 panels

West Street

St Michael's Road

Site 2 Location:  
St Michael's Road

Pedestrian Guard Railing  
Remove - - - - -

**Site 3 Location:**

Site 3 is located at the junction of St. Michael's Road and Dover Street.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes		

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

The site on the western side is located on an extended semi-circular grass verge, adjacent to a block of flats with half on St Michael's Road and the other on Dover Street and seven panels on a wall adjacent the footway outside the Holy Trinity church.

On the eastern side the guard railings are located on a boundary wall of elevated residential flats.

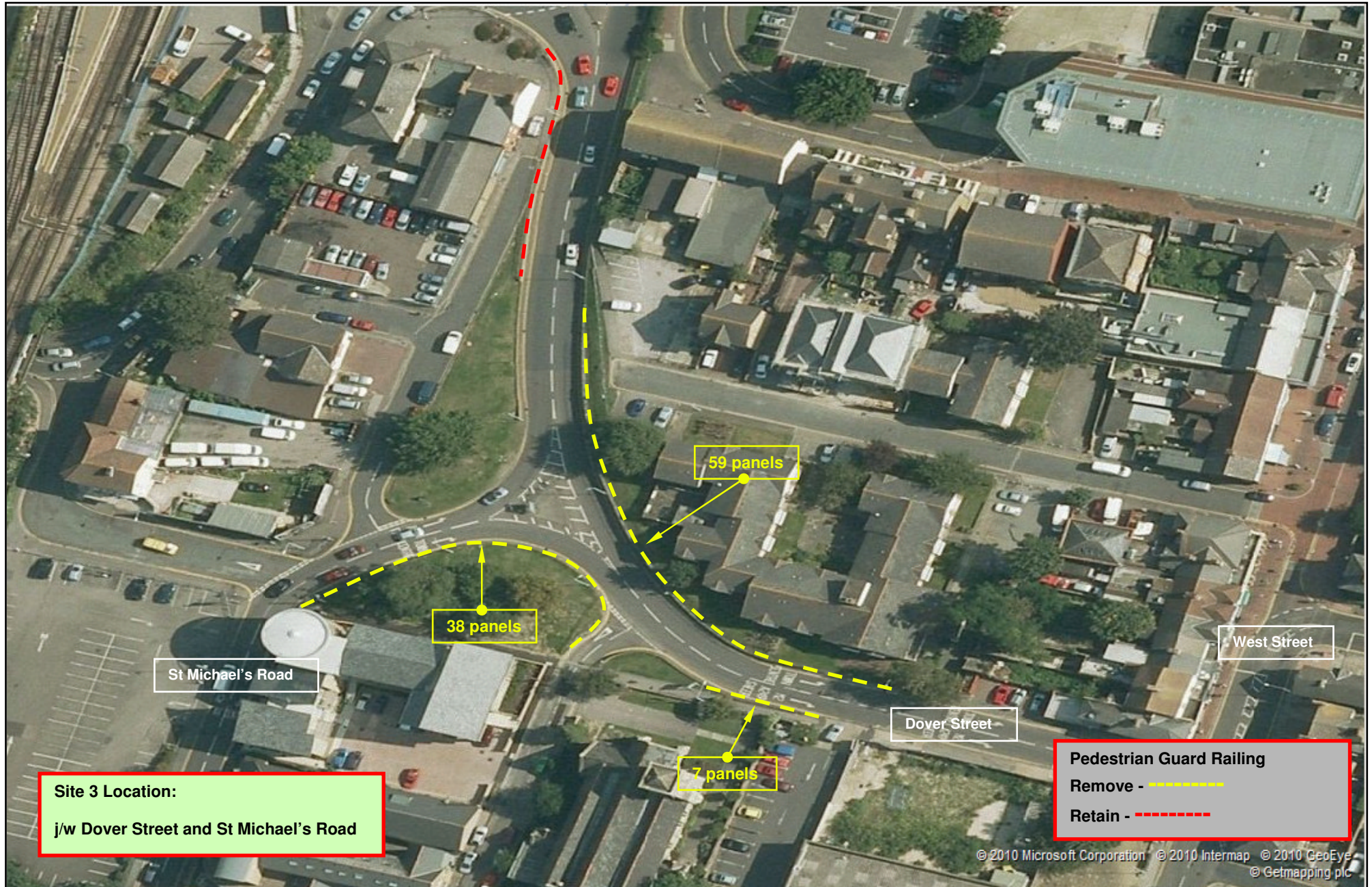
On the northern side the guard railing is located on a wall adjacent to the elevated Fountain Street and footway and as a protective device should be retained to prevent pedestrians falling into the carriageway below.

The site has a high volume of vehicular traffic and low pedestrian use.

The pedestrian guard railings assessed for removal offer little benefit as a guide or protective device.

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

**Illustrated Diagram of site 3**



**Site 4 Location:**

Site 4 is located at the roundabout junction of St. Michael's Road/Dover Street and Milton Road.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

<b>Standard</b>	<b>See through</b>	<b>Decorative</b>
Yes	Yes	

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

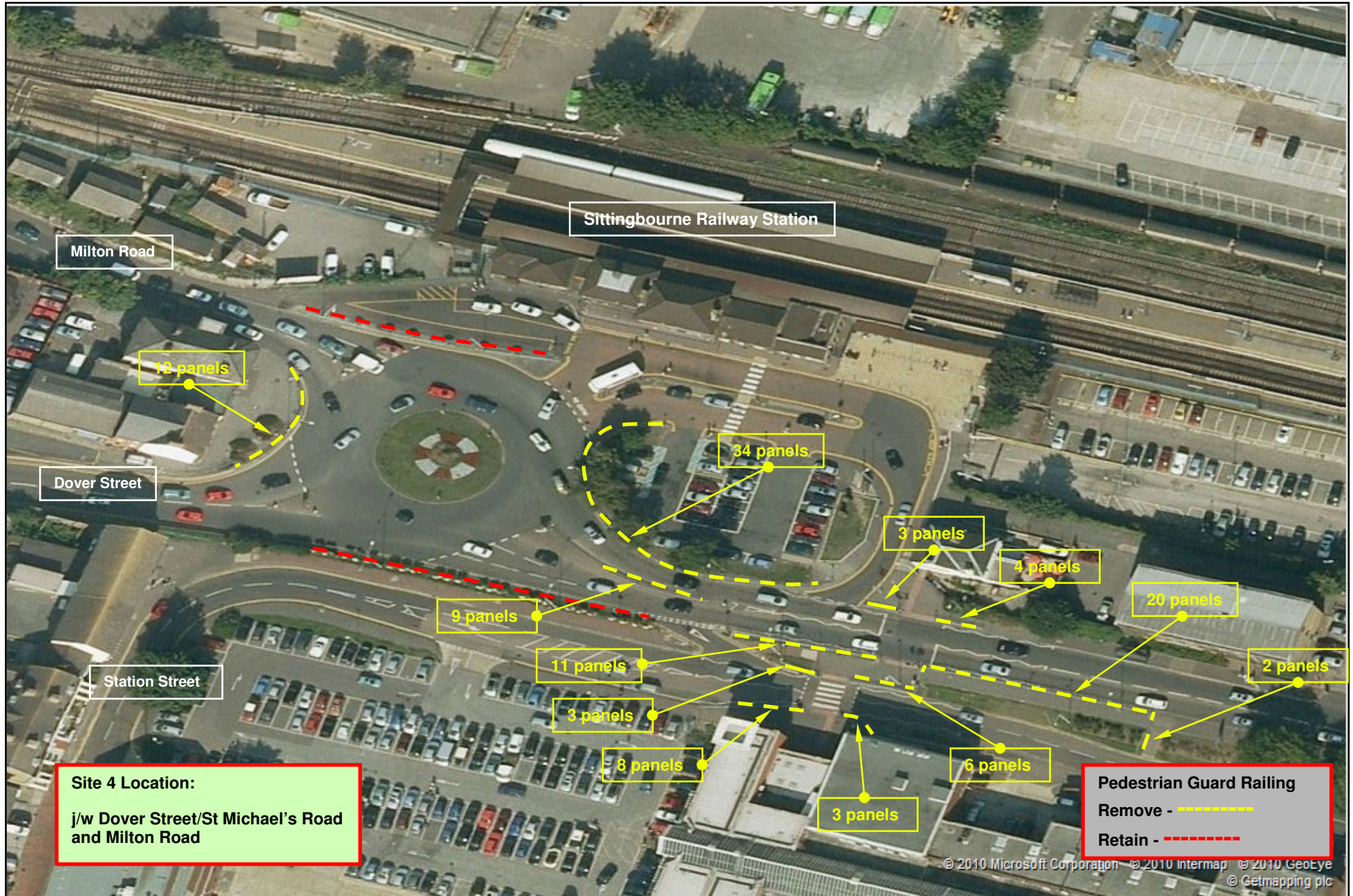
Located on the northern side of the site is Sittingbourne Railway Station with mainly retail outlets on the eastern, western, and southern sides.

The site has a high volume of vehicular traffic and moderate pedestrian use.

The pedestrian guard railings at the site are a mixture of standard and see through. Those assessed for removal offer little benefit as a guide or protective device.

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

**Illustrated Diagram of site 4**



**Site 5 Location:**

Site 5 is located at the junction of West Street and Dover Road.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes		

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

The site is located mainly where there are retail outlets and is an access to the High Street and Sittingbourne Railway Station.

The site has both a high volume of vehicular traffic and pedestrian use.

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 5.**

**Illustrated Diagram of site 5**





**Site 5 Location:**  
j/w West Street/Dover Road and  
Williams Street

**Pedestrian Guard Railing  
Remove - - - - -**

**Site 6 Location:**

Site 6 is located on the Avenue of Remembrance near the junction of Albany Road.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

<b>Standard</b>	<b>See through</b>	<b>Decorative</b>
Yes		

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

The site has residential properties and the Borden Grammar School on the southern side and a block of offices on the north eastern side.

The site has a moderate volume of vehicular traffic and low pedestrian use.

The pedestrian guard railing at the site offers no benefit as a guide or protective device.

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

**Illustrated Diagram of site 6**



**Site 6 Location:**  
Avenue of Remembrance

**Pedestrian Guard Railing  
Remove - - - - -**

**Site 7 Location:**

Site 7 is located on the Avenue of Remembrance outside the Borden Grammar School.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

Standard	See through	Decorative
	Yes	

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

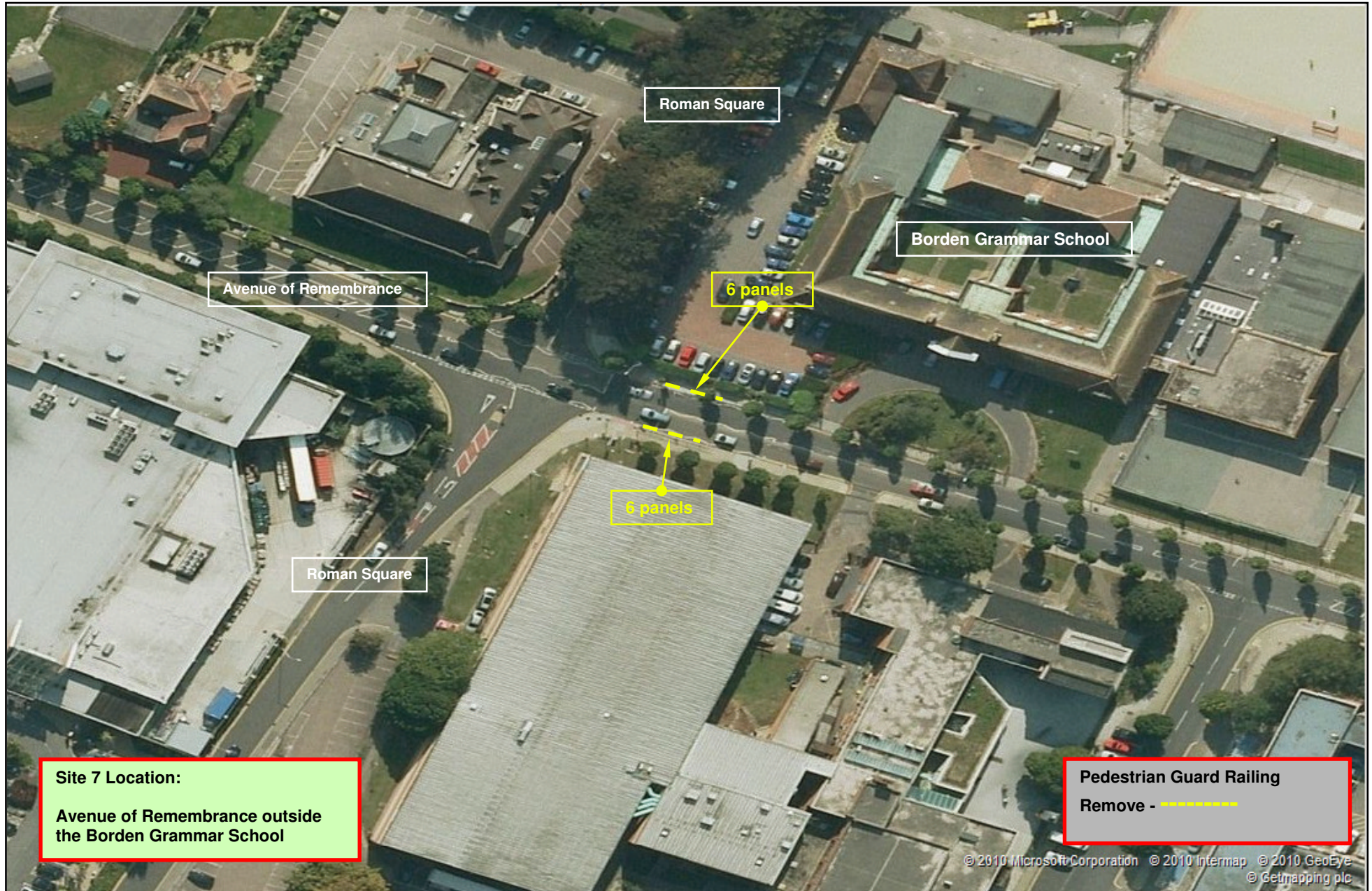
The site is located near the UK Paper Leisure Club, some business premises and outside the Borden Grammar School.

The site has a moderate volume of vehicular traffic and low pedestrian use.

The 6 pedestrian guard railing panels either side of the carriageway offer little benefit as a guide or protective device.

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

**Illustrated Diagram of site 7**



**Site 7 Location:**  
Avenue of Remembrance outside  
the Borden Grammar School

**Pedestrian Guard Railing  
Remove - - - - -**

**Site 8 Location:**

Site 8 is located at the junction of Avenue of Remembrance/Stanhope Avenue and Bell Road.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

Standard	See through	Decorative
	Yes	

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

The site has residential properties on the northern, north eastern and south eastern sides of the site and the Borden Grammar School football field on the southern side.

The site has moderate volume of vehicular traffic and low pedestrian use.

The 6 pedestrian guard railing panels either side of the carriageway offer little benefit as a guide or protective device.

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

**Illustrated Diagram of site 8**



**Site 8 Location:**  
j/w Avenue of Remembrance/Stanhope Avenue and Bell Road

**Pedestrian Guard Railing**  
Remove - - - - -

**Site 9 Location:**

Site 9 is located at the roundabout junction of Eurolink Way/Mill Way and Milton Road.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

Standard	See through	Decorative
	Yes	

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

The site is at the large roundabout bordered by industrial premises with residential properties on the northern, north eastern and south eastern sides of the site and the Borden Grammar School football field on the southern side.

The site has a high volume of vehicular traffic and low pedestrian use.

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.**

**Illustrated Diagram of site 9**





**Site 10 Location:**

Site 10 is located on St Michael's Road approximately 50metres south east of the Aldi Store.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

<b>Standard</b>	<b>See through</b>	<b>Decorative</b>
Yes	Yes	

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

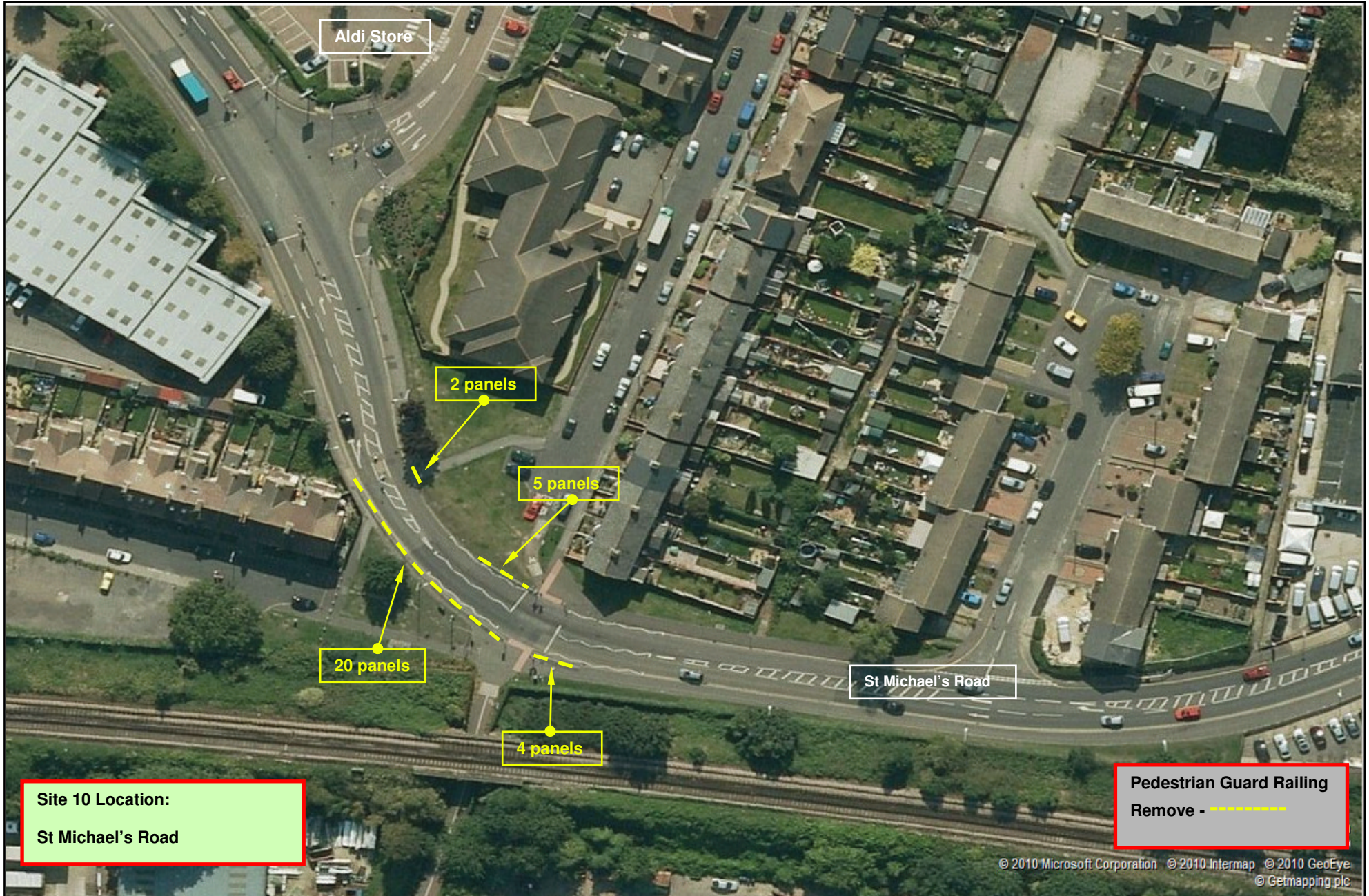
The site has mainly residential properties with some business outlets on the north and south eastern side of the site.

The site has a high volume of vehicular traffic and moderate pedestrian use.

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.**

**Illustrated Diagram of site 10**



**Site 11 Location:**

Site 11 is located on St Michael's Road at the access to the Aldi Store.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

Standard	See through	Decorative
Yes		

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

The site is at the access to the Aldi Store and opposite some business outlets and approximately 70metres south east of residential properties.

The site has a high volume of vehicular traffic and moderate pedestrian use.

The central reservation guard railings offer little benefit as a guide or protective device.

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

**Illustrated Diagram of site 11**



**Site 12 Location:**

Site 12 is located from the roundabout junction of St Michael's Road/East Street and Shakespeare Road/South Avenue to adjacent to the 'Cherry Tree' public house at the junction of Gaze Hill Avenue.

**Types of Guard Railing:**

Standard	See through	Key Clamp
	Yes	Yes

**Conclusions / Recommendations**

The site is located mainly in a residential area with an Aldi store and some retail business outlets on the north eastern side.

The site has a high volume of vehicular traffic and moderate pedestrian use.

The site has two types of pedestrian guard railings installed, 'key clamp fencing' which are in poor condition and the 'see through' type.

The pedestrian guard railings assessed for removal offer little benefit as the guide or protective device.

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

**Illustrated Diagram of site 12**







