

High Street and Footway Maintenance

Report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee notes the following report.

1. Background/Introduction

At the April meeting this committee was updated on the programme of footway maintenance work.

Footway defect repair work is carried out in accordance with County Council Highway Inspection Policy to ensure a safe network is available.

In addition, schemes for footway reconstruction to improve footways by providing a more resilient repair in areas with a history of frequent defect formation are prioritised using asset condition data (frequency of pothole formation) and footfall data. This enables a footway reconstruction programme to be agreed to make best use of the available capital budget.

Cabinet approved a county-wide budget of £1.7 million for footway maintenance in April, targeting £250,000 of footway budget to reconstruct slab footways in urban areas.

Members highlighted maintenance issues relating to areas of slabs/flagstones in Exeter High Street and other locations in the City. The Head of Service confirmed that safety defects identified in line with policy would be repaired. Also, that where an analysis of data showed a history of recurring problems, permanent reconstruction pairs would be considered in consultation with local members and community representatives. Where a cost-effective solution could be found, this would be prioritised for funding from the approved footway reconstruction programme budget.

The Head of Service agreed to report on High Street footway maintenance at the next HATOC meeting.

2. Report on High Street

Three areas of footway in Exeter High Street have been identified using highway data and have subsequently been investigated.

The option to replace the slabs with imprint concrete paving, which is colour matched and imprinted to mimic paving slabs, has been considered but was not acceptable in a conservation area.

The foundation structure in each location is being reviewed at each site and will, if necessary, be strengthened. The slabs will then be re-bedded using an innovative high performance paving mortar.

The works have been programmed to minimise the impact on local businesses, shoppers and visitors. Two sites were re programmed to start in late June. The third is programmed to start in September. The sites are as follows:

- Approximately 90m² of slabbed footway will be repaired at the junction of the High Street with Bedford Street. Annex 1.
- An area of footway near to Goldsmith Street will benefit from approximately 15m² of slabs being relayed. Annex 2.
- An area of approximately 104m² of footway slabs will be relayed fronting the Guildhall to Trickhay Street. Annex 3.

An application has been received for the Installation of ducting and fibre for CCTV networking outside the Guildhall on the High Street, with a proposed start date of 20 June and a finish date no later than 1 July. Due to the risk of the works overrunning and impacting on the delivery of the proposed footway construction works, the phase of the scheme fronting the Guildhall will be undertaken in September to minimise the impact on local businesses and visitors.

3. Financial Considerations

The cost of this work, estimated to be £108,859, will be met from County Road Highway Maintenance Capital Budget.

4. Sustainability Considerations

When maintenance work is undertaken it is managed to ensure that the effect on the surrounding environment is kept to a minimum.

5. Carbon Impact Considerations

This proposal will have a carbon neutral impact.

6. Equality Considerations

The Equality of the recommendation has been considered in the preparation of this report.

7. Legal Considerations

The lawful consequences of the recommendation have been considered in the preparation of this report.

8. Risk Management Considerations

The proposals contained in this report have been assessed and all reasonable actions are taken to safeguard the Council's position.

9. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

The proposed programme is designed to make best use of the available financial resources using the Cabinet endorsed Asset Management approach.

David Whitton
Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

Electoral Division: St David's & St James

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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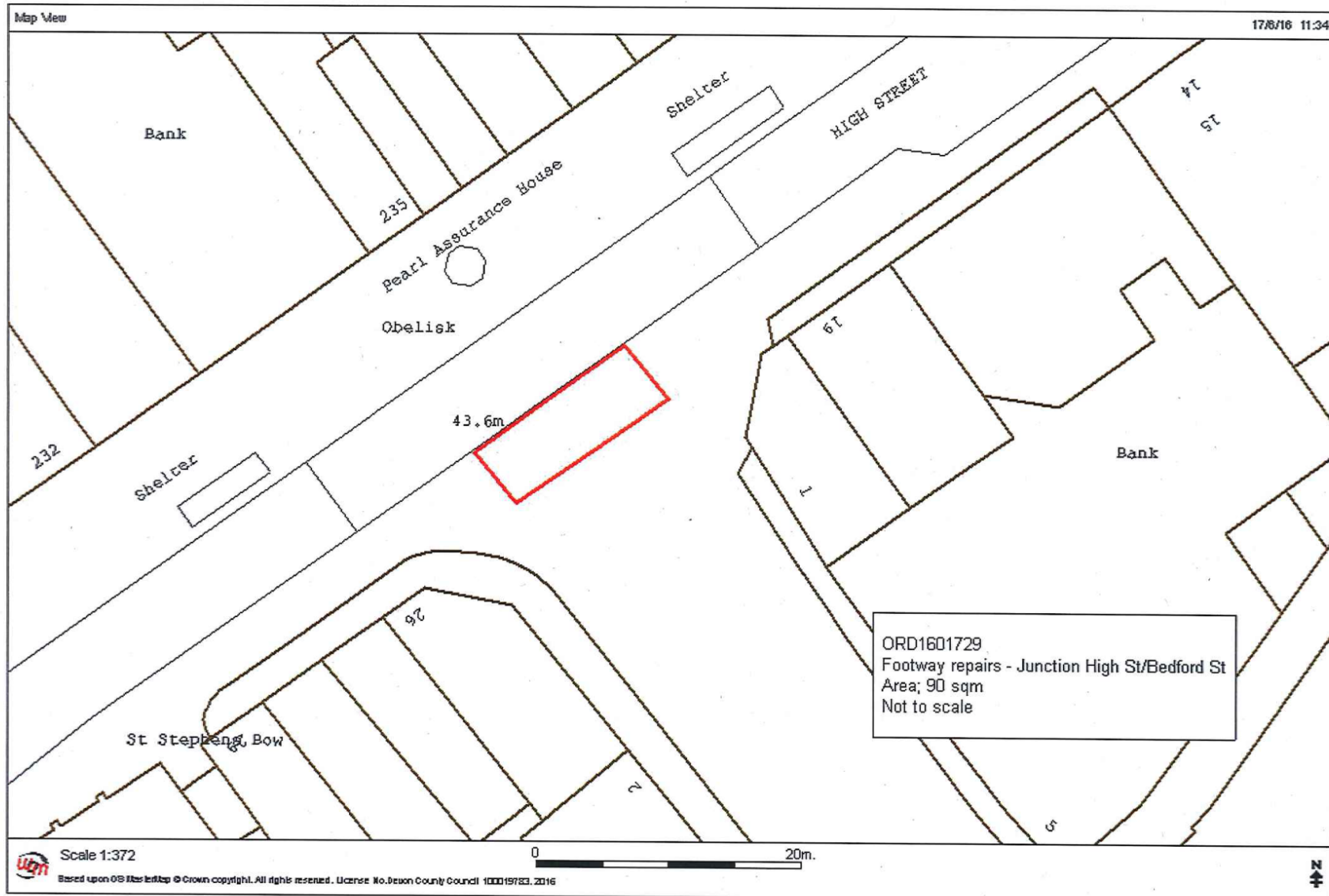
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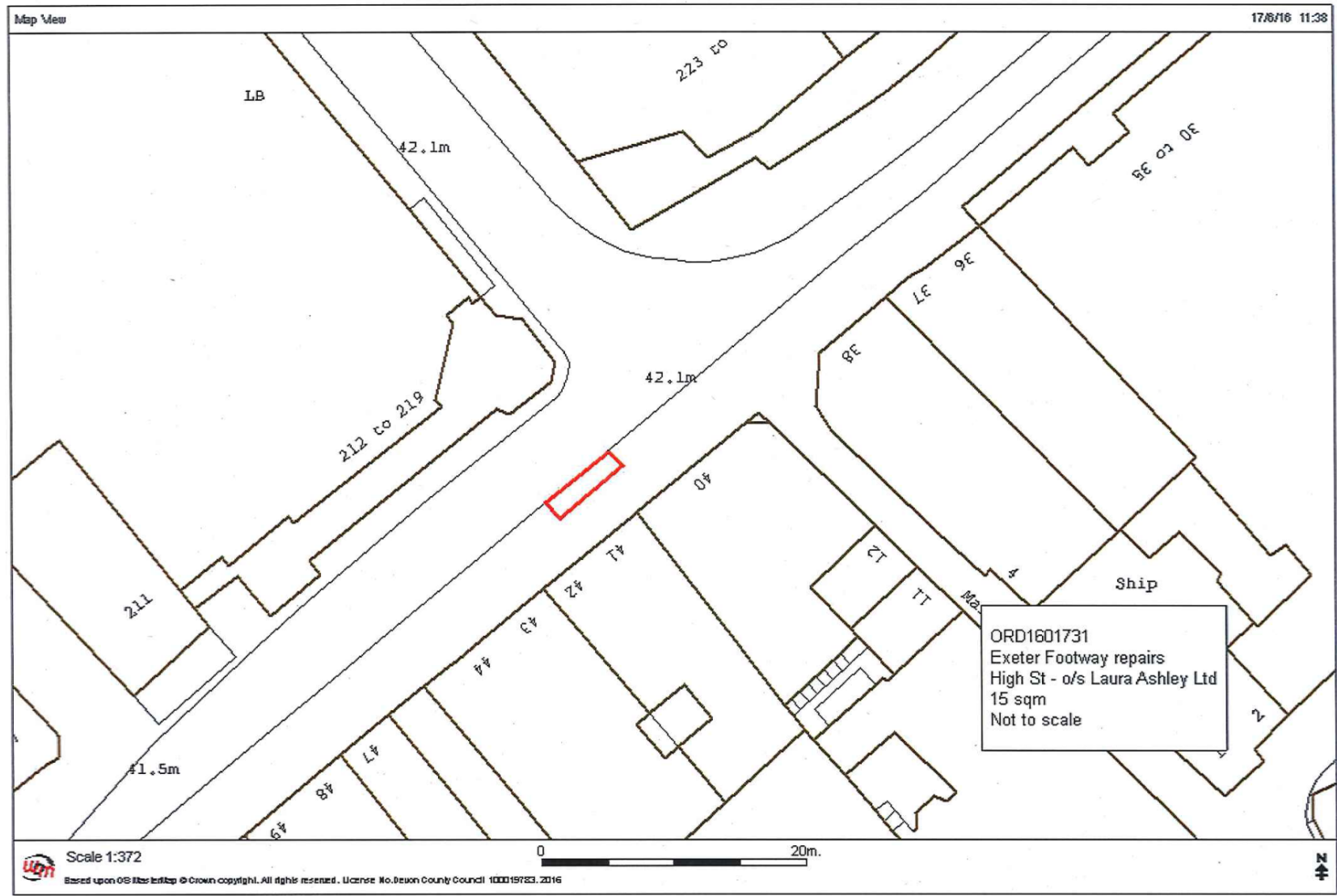
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High Street/Bedford Square Site Location



High Street/Goldsmith Street Site Location



High Street/Guildhall Site Location

