

Sidmouth to Sidbury cycle and walking route development

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

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

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (a) the scheme shown on plan C12002/36 included in Appendix I is approved for construction at an estimated cost of £50K;**
- (b) approval is given to make minor improvements to Laundry Lane to allow for walking and cycling at an estimated cost of £35K. Details included are shown on plan C12002/39 in Appendix II.**

1. Background/Introduction

Cycling has become increasingly popular in Sidmouth in recent years, due in part to recent investment in routes to schools, upgraded cycle parking facilities at Sidmouth College, hosting the start stage of two of the Tour of Britain cycle races and a popular local cycling club.

Sidmouth College and the town centre are well connected to parts of Sidford with the traffic free Byes cycle route. Residents (particularly college students) in the area north of the A3052 currently have no safe and attractive walking and cycling link to connect into this route.

Sidbury similarly has no safe walking and cycling route into the town. Despite being a distance of less than three miles students have to use bus services to access Sidmouth College at a cost to the County Council of over £40,000 per annum. There has been extensive local consultation on a proposed route between Sidford and Sidbury which has received strong support.

A planning application has been submitted for a business park to the east of the A375 between Sidbury and Sidford with the site being allocated for employment in the adopted Local Plan. The route to Sidbury would be an important access to and from this site if it secured planning permission. The developer of this site and others in the vicinity will be asked to make a contribution to, or construct, sections of the route but further funding sources may also be required to complete it.

This report seeks approval to implement Phase 1 of the scheme between Byes Lane and Two Bridges Road.

2. Proposal

The route between the Byes and Sidbury is being planned in three phases, the first being the section between Byes Lane and Two Bridges Road. The second phase would be alongside the proposed business park and the A375 to the entrance to Sidbury village. A longer term third phase would aim to achieve further improvements within Sidbury itself.

The proposed improvements highlighted in the first phase can be seen as 'quick wins' with immediate benefits to the local community. Residents of the Brook Lane/Fry's Lane/Sid Vale Close areas of Sidford would immediately benefit from Phase 1, gaining a direct walking and cycling connection to Sidmouth College, the Byes and the town centre. This will have long term health benefits and help towards reducing local congestion.

The proposed improvements are shown in appendices 1 and 2. A 'Tiger' crossing is proposed near St Peter's church. A Tiger crossing is a recently DfT approved shared walking and cycling crossing similar to a Zebra where cycling is permitted. The proposed crossing, including the necessary highway improvements can be viewed on Scheme C12002/36. The estimated costs of the crossing is £50,000.

Appendix II shows path surface improvements to Laundry Lane, a County Highway, which currently has the width of a footpath. Simple path surface upgrades and widening through vegetation management is required along Laundry Lane to enable this to be a suitable shared use walking and cycle link. A dropped kerb informal crossing is proposed to be constructed across School Street.

3. Options/Alternatives

Options for Phases 2 continue to be developed and negotiated in parallel with the business park planning application. Further work on options for Phase 3 in Sidbury will be required at a later date.

The only alternative to Stage 1 is to use an on-road route via Sidford Cross and School Street. The combination of difficult turning movements at the junction and the narrowness of School Street mean that this option would not be attractive to users, particularly school age children, and is likely to fail a safety audit.

The Laundry Lane section may be carried out by the business park developer if planning permission is achieved within a suitable time frame. This may vary in specification subject to the details of any planning application approval.

4. Consultations/Representations

Extensive local public consultation on route options between Sidford and Sidbury, including Sidmouth College students, took place during February 2014. There was very strong support for the route as a whole. Phase 1 was common to the three options presented.

Ongoing discussions are taking place with land owners, the business park developer and East Devon District Council regarding Laundry Lane and Phase 2. Sidmouth Town Council is also supportive. Discussions will take place with various funding bodies to examine options for achieving Phase 2.

5. Financial Considerations

The crossing of Church Street is proposed to be funded from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Block during 2016/17. This funding source will also apply to the Laundry Lane section unless it can be constructed by the business park developer within a reasonable time frame.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

The proposals will have a positive impact by encouraging more people to walk and cycle, thereby reducing CO₂ and other airborne pollutants. The provision of improved walking and cycle routes to help reduce dependence on private car use is a key element of the County Council's transport policy as set out in the 'Local Transport Plan 2011-2026' and the Cycling and Multi-use Trail Network Strategy.

7. Equality Considerations

An Equality Impact and Needs Assessment is not considered necessary for Phase 1 due to the small scale of the scheme.

The provision of the crossing and Laundry Lane improvement will enable access to the college and town centre by both foot and cycle for a wider range of groups than now. It will encourage use by college students in particular.

8. Legal Considerations

There is a legal requirement for the Highway Authority to give due consideration to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Traffic Management Act 2004, The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and all other enabling powers.

It is the duty of the local authority in exercise of its functions under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities having regard, so far as it is practicable, to the following factors:

(a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;

Officer recommendation: This proposal maintains reasonable access to all properties currently served by Englands Close.

(b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run.

Officer recommendation: This proposal reduces traffic impacts on the lane improving facilities for walking, cycling and access to recreation.

(c) the strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environment Act 1995 (national air quality strategy).

Officer recommendation: Not relevant to this proposal.

(d) the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles.

Officer recommendation: Not relevant to this proposal.

(e) any other matters appearing to the local authority to be relevant.

Officer recommendation: Any other relevant matters for consideration are outlined in the body of this report.

9. Risk Management Considerations

Normal risk management for the construction of schemes will apply.

10. Public Health Impact

The scheme will have a positive public health impact by encouraging increased walking and cycling, with associated physical and mental health benefits. Supporting active travel, such as walking and cycling, is a key component of the Devon 'Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013–16.

Although not designated as an Air Quality Management Area there are expected to be some small air quality benefits from reductions in short distance car trips.

11. Reasons for Recommendations

The proposed scheme will create a more attractive route for walking and cycling from parts of Sidford with a particular focus on students accessing Sidmouth College, and will be a first step forward in creating an onward link to Sidbury.

The proposed scheme will help to promote safer and more sustainable active travel options. This will help support some a reduction in short local car trips and provide long term public health and air quality benefits.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: Sidmouth and Sidford, Ottery St Mary Rural.

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Andrew Ardley

Room No: AB2, Lucombe House, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QD

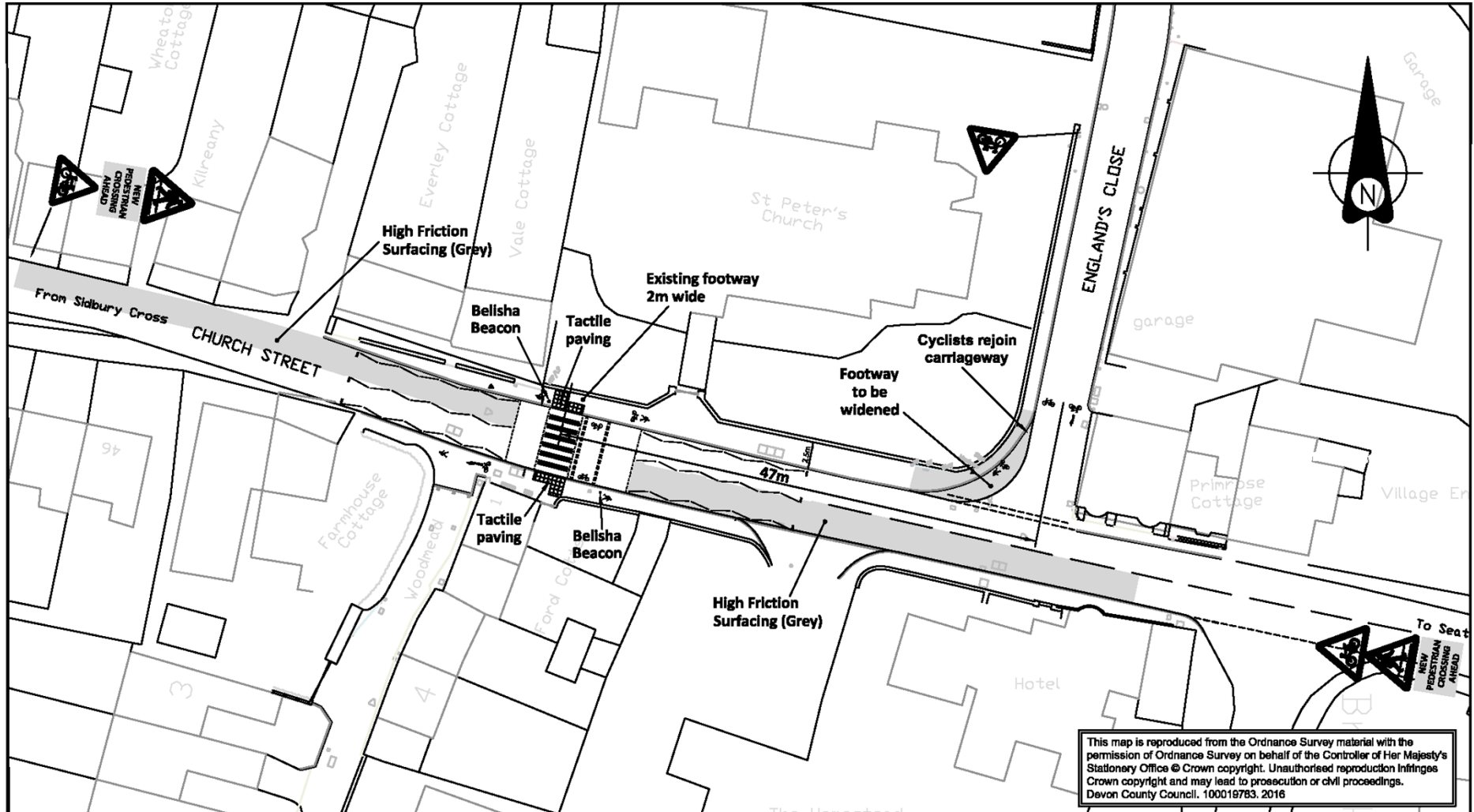
Tel No: 01392-383000

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
------------------	------	-----------


NIL

aa110716edh
sc/cr/Sidmouth Sidbury cycle walking route development
02 140716

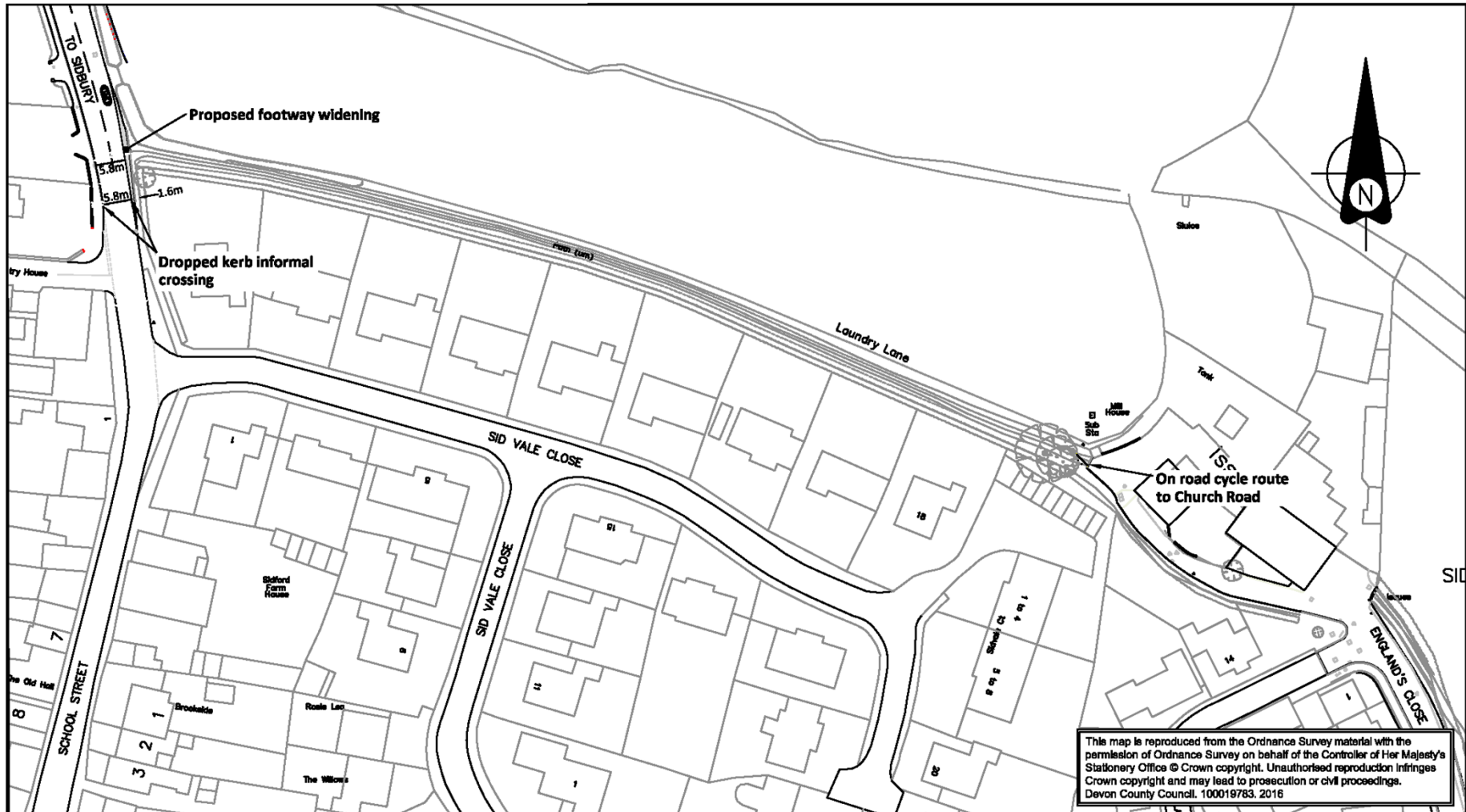
Appendix I
To PTE/16/40



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Devon County Council. 100019783. 2016

	Engineering Design Group	East Devon HATOC	date JULY 2016	scale N.T.S.
		job/title/proposal CHURCH STREET TIGER CROSSING, SIDFORD	number C12002/36	

Appendix II
To PTE/16/40



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Devon County Council. 100019783. 2016



**Engineering
Design Group**

East Devon HATOC

job/title/proposal

IMPROVEMENTS TO LAUNDRY LANE, SIDFORD

date	scale
JULY 2016	N.T.S.
number	
C12002/39	