

OFFICER DECISION REPORT - TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TRO)

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APPROVAL TO PROGRESS TRO

PREPARED BY: Traffic Management Team, Highways and Traffic Group

TITLE OF REPORT:	Hunstrete and Woollard village Speed Limit Review
PROPOSAL:	20mph, 30mph and 40mph Speed Limit
SCHEME REF No:	20-026
REPORT AUTHOR:	Kelly Huggins

1. DELEGATION

The delegation to be exercised in this report is contained within **Part 3, Section 4** of the Constitution under the **Delegation of Functions to Officers**, as follows:

Section A	The Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Divisional Directors and Heads of Service have delegated power to take any decision falling within their area of responsibility...."
Section B	Without prejudice to the generality of this, Officers are authorised to: serve any notices and make, amend or revoke any orders falling within his/her area of responsibility.
Section D9	An Officer to whom a power, duty or function is delegated may nominate or authorise another Officer to exercise that power, duty or function, provided that Officer reports to or is responsible to the delegator.

For the purpose of this report, the Director of Place Management holds the delegated power to make, amend or revoke any Orders.

2. LEGAL AUTHORITY

This proposal is made in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which under Section 1 provides, generally, for Orders to be made for the following reasons, and in the case of this report specifically for the reason(s) shown below:

(a)	for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, or	X
(b)	for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road, or	

(c)	for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians), or	
(d)	for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property,	
(e)	(without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (d) above) for preserving the character of the road in a case where it is specially suitable for use by persons on horseback or on foot, or	
(f)	for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs, or	X
(g)	for any of the purposes specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1) of section 87 of the Environment Act 1995 (air quality)	

3. **PROPOSAL**

It is proposed to reduce the existing National Speed Limit to a 20mph, 30mph and short section of a 40mph speed limit on the identified sections of roads. The existing speed limit plans are provided within **Appendix A** and the proposed speed limit plans are provided within **Appendix B**.

4. **BACKGROUND**

Following requests from local residents and parish councils, funding has been secured to introduce a 20mph speed limit within Hunstrete and Woollard village.

In addition to the proposed 20mph speed limit, it is deemed appropriate to propose a 30mph and 40mph speed limit to encourage lower approach speeds for traffic entering the rural environment from the A368 Main Road direction.

It is anticipated that the proposed lower speed limits will improve road safety for both road users and pedestrians within the rural settings.

5. **SOURCE OF FINANCE**

This proposal is being funded through the 2021/22 Transport Improvement Programme (TIP).

6. **INFORMAL CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT**

The proposal requires informal consultation with the Chief Constable, Ward Members and the Cabinet Member for Transport.

7. **INFORMAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

Chief Constable:

I understand from the Officers Decision Report that *“It is proposed to reduce the existing National Speed Limit to a 20mph, 30mph and short section of a 40mph speed limit on the identified sections of roads. The existing speed limit plans are provided within Appendix A and the proposed speed limit plans are provided within Appendix B.*

4. BACKGROUND Following requests from local residents and parish councils, funding has been secured to introduce a 20mph speed limit within Hunstrete and Woollard village. In addition to the proposed 20mph speed limit, it is deemed appropriate to propose a 30mph and 40mph speed limit to encourage lower approach speeds for traffic entering the rural environment from the A368 Main Road direction. It is anticipated that the proposed lower speed limits will improve road safety for both road users and pedestrians within the rural settings.”

As previously discussed, we have a Force stance regarding the introduction of speed restrictions, which has been written to reflect the current speed environment. I copy this below for your information.

“Speed limits are only one element of speed management and local speed limits should not be set in isolation. They should be part of a package with other measures to manage speeds, which include engineering, visible interventions and landscaping standards that respect the needs of all road users and raise the driver’s awareness of their environment, together with education, driver information, training and publicity.

The police service has to ensure all resources are used effectively in responding to community priorities. Avon and Somerset Constabulary will support all appropriate speed limits, including 20mph roads, where;

The limit looks and feels like the limit, giving visiting motorists who wish to conform that chance; the desired outcome has to be speeds at the limit chosen so as to achieve safe roads for other and vulnerable users, not high speeds and high enforcement; the limit is self-enforcing (with reducing features) not requiring large scale enforcement; the limit is only introduced where mean speeds are already close to the limit to be imposed, (24mph in a 20mph limit) or with interventions that make the limit clear to visiting motorists; speeding problems identified in an area must have the engineering, site clarity and need re-assessed, not simply a call for more enforcement.

Enforcement will be considered in all clearly posted limits, given other priorities, and this will be by:

Targeted enforcement where there is deliberate offending and the limits are clear; Where limits are not clear (that is they don’t feel like or look like the limit or are on

inappropriate roads), they will not be routinely enforced, only targeted where there is intelligence of obvious deliberate disregard which may result in increased threat, harm or risk to other road users.

Deliberate high harm offenders will always be targeted and prosecuted whereas enforcement against drivers who simply misread the road may not be appropriate.

None of the above should in anyway leave the impression that we will not enforce the law. As with all speed limits, and other enforcement work, we will use evidence to ensure that our resources are allocated in the most appropriate way using appropriate tactics. Enforcement of limits that do not comply with the above representations could lead to mistaken offending and could risk the loss of public support.

Enforcement cannot and must not take the place of proper engineering and or clear signing.”

We do not, as part of this consultation, check the accuracy or validity of what is being proposed but we do consider implications for road safety and enforcement. We always expect that:

- a) the powers being exercised are available to you as traffic authority, are valid and are appropriate for the proposals;
- b) the descriptions of the lengths of road, the road names, the road numbers and any directional descriptions are correct and accurate;
- c) where any proposals replace existing restrictions or prohibitions, that the previous orders are adequately revoked or varied;
- d) the mandatory traffic signs giving legal effect to the order will be fully TSRGD compliant, will give drivers adequate guidance and will be placed to accord to the descriptions in the order.

We have worked on the assumption that, by submitting this TRO for consultation, you are also confirming the above points and that subject to consultation process, the order will be made. Any enforcement action taken by the Police will be based on this and, should this transpire not to be the case, Avon & Somerset Constabulary will not accept any liability – financial or otherwise – arising as a result.

Ward Members:

Bath Avon South;

Cllr Matt McCabe – No comments.

Cllr Neil Butters – No comments.

Publow & Whitchurch;

Cllr Paul May – No comments.

Saltford;

Cllr Alastair Singleton - These proposals are well planned and thought through. They will play a valuable role in enhancing safety on narrow country roads and will serve local communities well. They have my full support.

Cllr Duncan Hounsell - I am happy to support these proposals which will improve road safety for all road users in the locality. The proposals will also allow for smoother vehicle braking and thus reduce harmful emissions.

Cabinet Member:

Cllr Manda Rigby – No comment.

8. RECOMMENDATION

As no significant objections and/or comments have been received following the informal consultation described above, the Traffic Regulation Order process should commence.

Signature: 

Date: 12th November 2021

Paul Garrod
Traffic Management & Network Manager

9. DECISION

As the officer holding the above delegation, I:

Approve the progression of this Traffic Regulation Order.	X
Agree that this Traffic Regulation Order should not be progressed at this time.	

In taking this decision, I confirm that due regard has been given to the Council's public sector equality duty, which requires it to consider and think about how its policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.

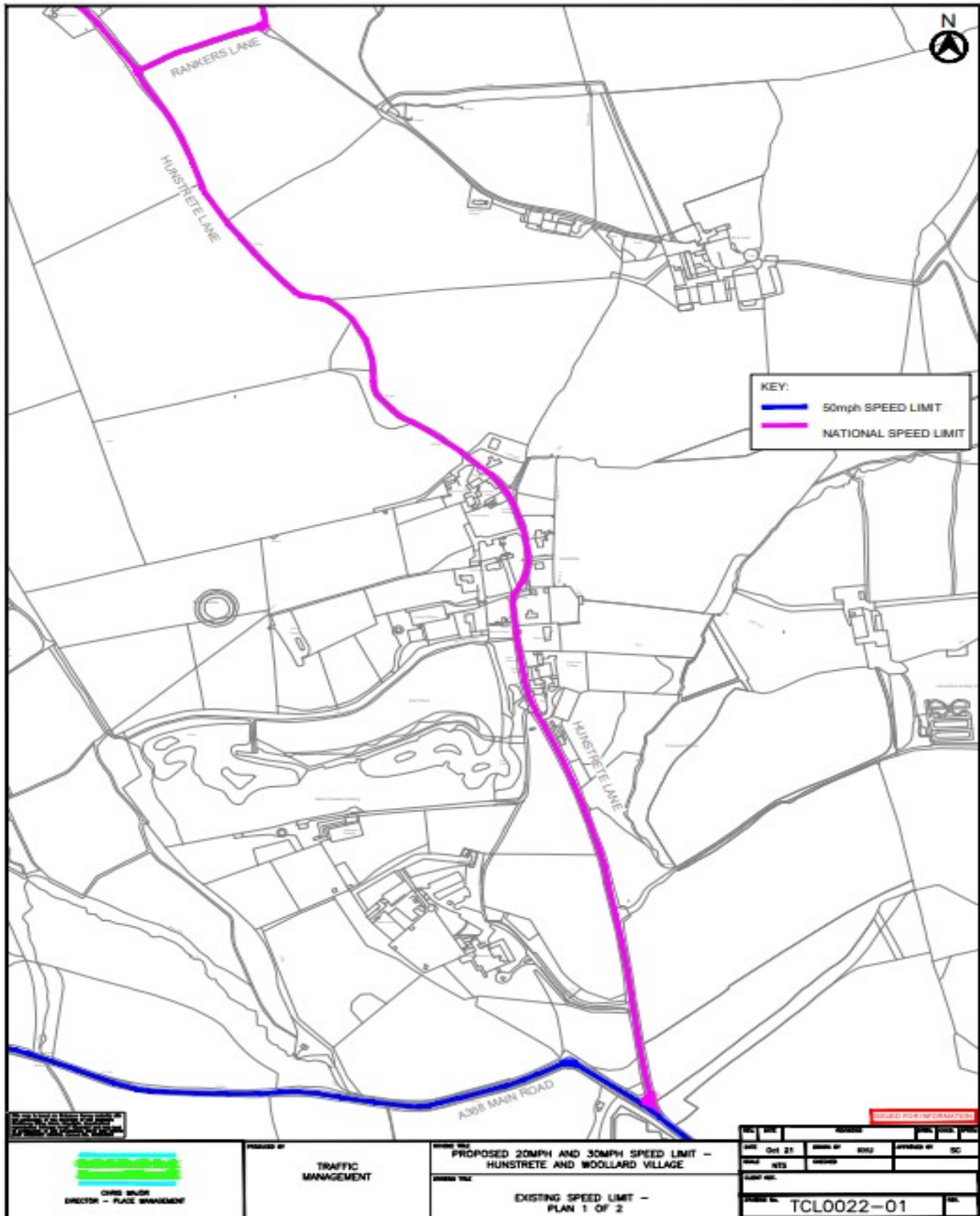
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Major', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Signed:

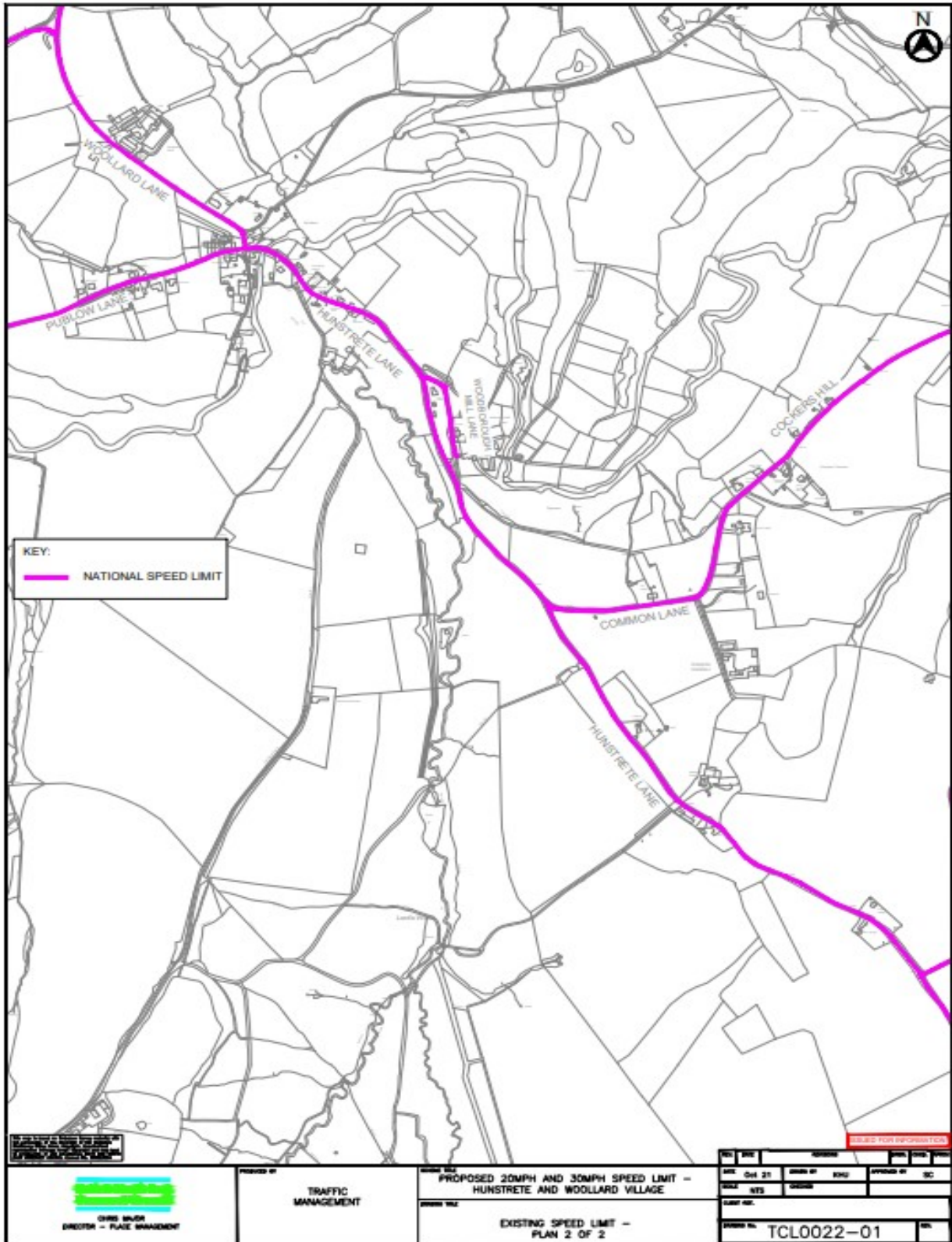
Date: 15/11/21

Chris Major
Director for Place Management

APPENDIX A – Existing, Plan 1 of 2



Existing, Plan 2 of 2



APPENDIX B – Proposed, Plan 1 of 2

