

ROAD SAFETY AUDIT REVIEW

STAGE 1 2

BATH CYCLE NETWORK/POWLETT ROAD SHARED USE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report describes a Road Safety Audit Review carried out on the proposed Bath Cycle Network shared use footway near Powlett Road, Bath. The audit review was carried out by the Design and Projects Group of Bath and North East Somerset Council between 23th November 2011 and 16th January 2012.
- 1.2 The scheme consists of amending an existing pedestrian footway to a shared use cycle footway. The section of footway extends between Powlett Road and Bathwick Street, Bath.

- 1.3 The Audit Team Members were as follows:

Tony Rutter, AIP Engineer, Bath and North East Somerset Council.
Tasos Papaloucas, Senior Engineer, Bath and North East Somerset Council.

The audit comprised an examination of the drawings relating to the scheme supplied by the design office. The Audit Team visited the site between 1200hrs and 1300hrs on Wednesday 23th November 2011. The weather was fine, mild and dry. The site audited included the footway which runs between Powlett Road and Bathwick Street and the footway at either end to which it links. At the time of the visit only a couple of pedestrians were seen using the footway, no cyclists were observed either mounted or pushing their machine.

- 1.4 The drawing supplied for the audit was TC8511/50, as shown in Appendix A.
- 1.5 This safety audit review has been carried out in principle using Bath and North East Somerset Council's Safety Audit Procedures. The Audit Team has examined only those issues within the design relating to the road safety implications of the scheme. It has not examined or verified the compliance of the design to any other criteria, and no attempt has been made to comment on the justification of the scheme.
- 1.6 All of the problems described in this report are considered by the Audit Team to require action in order to improve the safety of the scheme and minimise accident occurrence.

2. ITEMS RESULTING FROM THE STAGE 1/2 SAFETY AUDIT

2.1 Problem

Location: Short central section of the footway between Powlett Road and Bathwick Street.

Summary: Risk of injury to cyclists from overhanging tree branches.

A number of trees along the central section of the footway extend from adjoining properties over the footway. The height of some of the branches is less than the recommended minimum height clearance for cyclists of 2.3m.

Recommendation

Cut back low growing branches to give a minimum 2.3m clearance over the footway.



2.2 Problem

Location: Footway junction with Powlett Road.

Summary: Risk of pedalcycle/pedestrian collisions.

The visibility to the right when exiting the footway at Powlett Road is very limited. This is caused by a hedge in the corner of the garden of an adjoining residential property. Although drawing TC8511/50 shows a proposed Give Way priority and bollard at the junction this will not be sufficient to stop conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians.

Recommendation

Cut back the hedge to the highway boundary to improve the visibility for cyclists exiting the footway, and for pedestrians using the Powlett Road footway of these cyclists.



2.3 **Problem**

Location: Shared use footway junction with Powlett Road.

Summary: Risk of head-on collisions with traffic on Powlett Road.

Cycle traffic exiting the shared use footway may not be aware that they are joining a One Way street and will meet oncoming traffic head-on if they turn right from the footway.

Recommendation

Clearly indicate to cyclists joining Powlett Road of the traffic flow direction and that the road is One Way.

2.4 **Problem**

Location: Shared use footway junction with Bathwick Street.

Summary: Risk of cycle collisions with pedestrians and/or traffic on Bathwick Street.

Cycle traffic exiting the shared use footway have to join or cross the Bathwick Street footway and meet the carriageway at a right angle. Drawing TC8511/50 shows that a STOP line, a bollard and a "Cyclists Dismount" sign are proposed to be installed across the end of this footway. These measures are considered to be insufficient to stop cyclists from exiting the shared use footway and running straight into the live carriageway. This could be exacerbated if a cyclist speeds up or doesn't stop at the STOP line when the Pelican shows a green for pedestrians. Forward visibility from and of traffic using the footway link is restricted by the properties which closely front Bathwick Street.

Recommendation

Monitor cyclists exiting the footway to see that they are obeying the signing to STOP and dismount their machine at the end of the footway. If they do not, then add a more effective barrier system which physically stops them cycling directly into Bathwick Street.

2.5 Problem

Location: Proposed bollard installation at either end of shared footway.

Summary: There is a conflict point at either end of the shared used footway where it meets Powlett Road and Bathwick Street.

A bollard is proposed to be installed at either end of the shared use footway. This will restrict the useable width of the footway at the bollard to 1.6m. This is below the standard recommended width for a shared use footway. Without sufficient clearance at this point pedestrians and cyclists will collide.

Recommendation

Check the clearance width at the bollard and ensure that there is a minimum width of 2.0m. If this is not possible offset the bollard to achieve this.

Other Issues

- i) It is not clear from drawing TC8511/50 what the purpose of the cycle symbol on the footway of Powlett Road is intended to do. If it is to inform cyclists from Powlett Road that the link footway is for cycle use then it should indicate this.
- ii) Detail of the proposed bollards isn't shown. They need to be clearly visible and include a durable high visibility reflective strip.

3. AUDIT TEAM STATEMENT

I certify that this audit review has been carried out using Bath and North East Somerset Council's Road Safety Audit Policy and Procedure as a guide.

Audit Team Leader:

Name: Tony Rutter **Signed:**

Position: AIP Engineer **Date:**

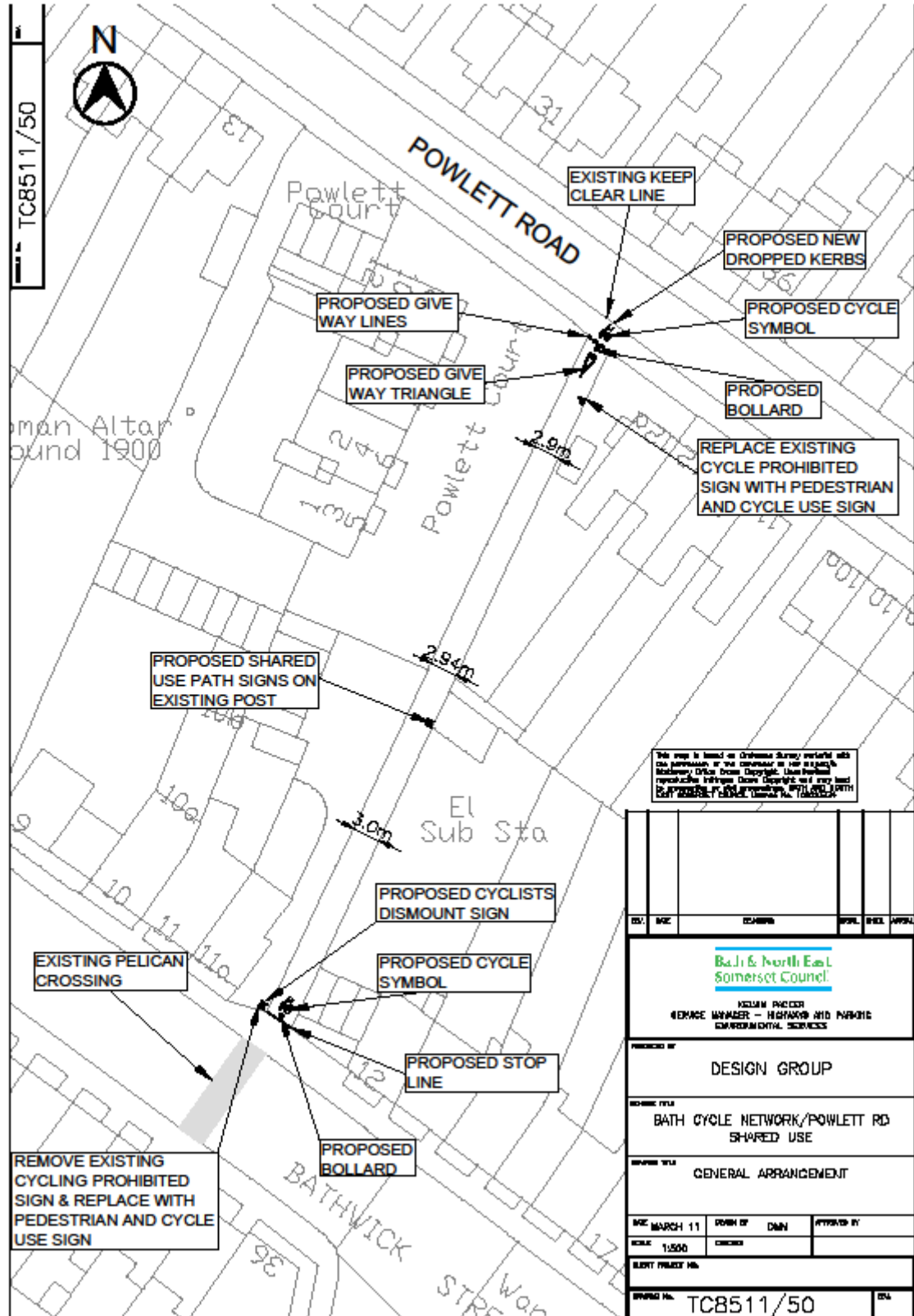
Audit Team Member:

Name: Tasos Papaloucas **Signed:**

Position: Senior Engineer **Date:**

*For and on behalf of Bath and North East Somerset
Transportation and Highways, Riverside , Temple Street, Keynsham, BS31 1LA*

Appendix A



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Bath & North East Somerset Council HIGHWAY MANAGER - HIGHWAYS AND PARKING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES					
PROVIDED BY DESIGN GROUP					
DRAWING TITLE BATH CYCLE NETWORK/POWLETT RD SHARED USE					
DRAWING TYPE GENERAL ARRANGEMENT					
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
MAR 11	MAR 11	MAR 11	MAR 11	MAR 11	MAR 11
SCALE	SCALE	SCALE	SCALE	SCALE	SCALE
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