

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT - 22 MARCH 2012

GARSINGTON, LOWER FARM BUS STOP

**Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy
(Highways and Transport)**

Introduction

1. This report considers a challenge to the recent installation of bus stops on the B480 at Lower Farm, Garsington. The location is shown on the plan at Annex 1.

Background

2. The County Council has a general power and duty to create bus stops along the Highway, in accordance with section 65 of the Road Traffic Act 1984. The decision-making process is normally delegated to a site meeting comprising representatives of the Highway Authority, Police, Parish Council, Bus Company and the local County Councillor. Frontagers are advised of the outcome of the site meeting and the Cabinet Member considers any issues raised.
3. As a consequence of revised routing of local bus services, a site meeting was held on 14 April 2011 to establish bus stops on the B480, to replace stops on the Southend road. Possible locations were discussed and a location, adjacent to Lower Farm, chosen on grounds of safety and public amenity.
4. Comments were received from the owner of College Farm House, so the proposed location of the stop adjacent to their property was adjusted and this was endorsed at the site meeting.
5. Subsequently, advice letters were sent to 8 frontagers and dwellings in the immediate vicinity of the bus stops.
6. Following installation of these bus stops, a strong objection was received from a local landowner, disputing the Council's process and rights to create bus stops in this location.
7. Funding to create a pair of bus stops and connecting footpath had previously been sought from the developer of the Oxford Riding School. This finance, had been requested at the time when the bus was routed through Southend, and at this time it was assumed that this new bus stop would be located on this road.

Comments Received from a Landowner

8. Correspondence has been received from a local landowner, aggrieved at not receiving notification of the location of the new bus stops. He asserts that the new bus stop on the western side of the B480 is located on his private land and the location dangerous because of agricultural machinery turning into his drive. Furthermore, he claims that the public have no right to access the new bus stop along the track to Lower Farm.

Commentary

9. New stops have been created as a consequence of the re-routed local bus service, in accordance with the Council's normal site-meeting practice. An adjustment was made to the stop location on the eastern side of the B480 as a result of frontager liaison. Letters advising the outcome of the site meeting were sent to all properties within the locality. It is not Council practice to advise landowners separately.
10. The Highway boundary extends as far as the line of the boundary wall on the western side of the B480 and buses can lawfully stop at the end of the farm track. This is normal practice in a rural location. The occasional passage of agricultural machinery into and out of the farm track is not considered to be a material hazard. Local people will access the bus stops by walking along the B480 road, in addition to the farm track.

Financial and Staff Implications

11. New bus stop poles and flags were recently installed at Lower Farm at an estimated cost of £500, funded from the Minor Bus Stops budget. It is proposed to provide a hard-standing area with fence on the eastern side of the B480 at an estimated cost of £4400, funded from a financial contribution made available from a development at the nearby Oxford Riding School.

RECOMMENDATION

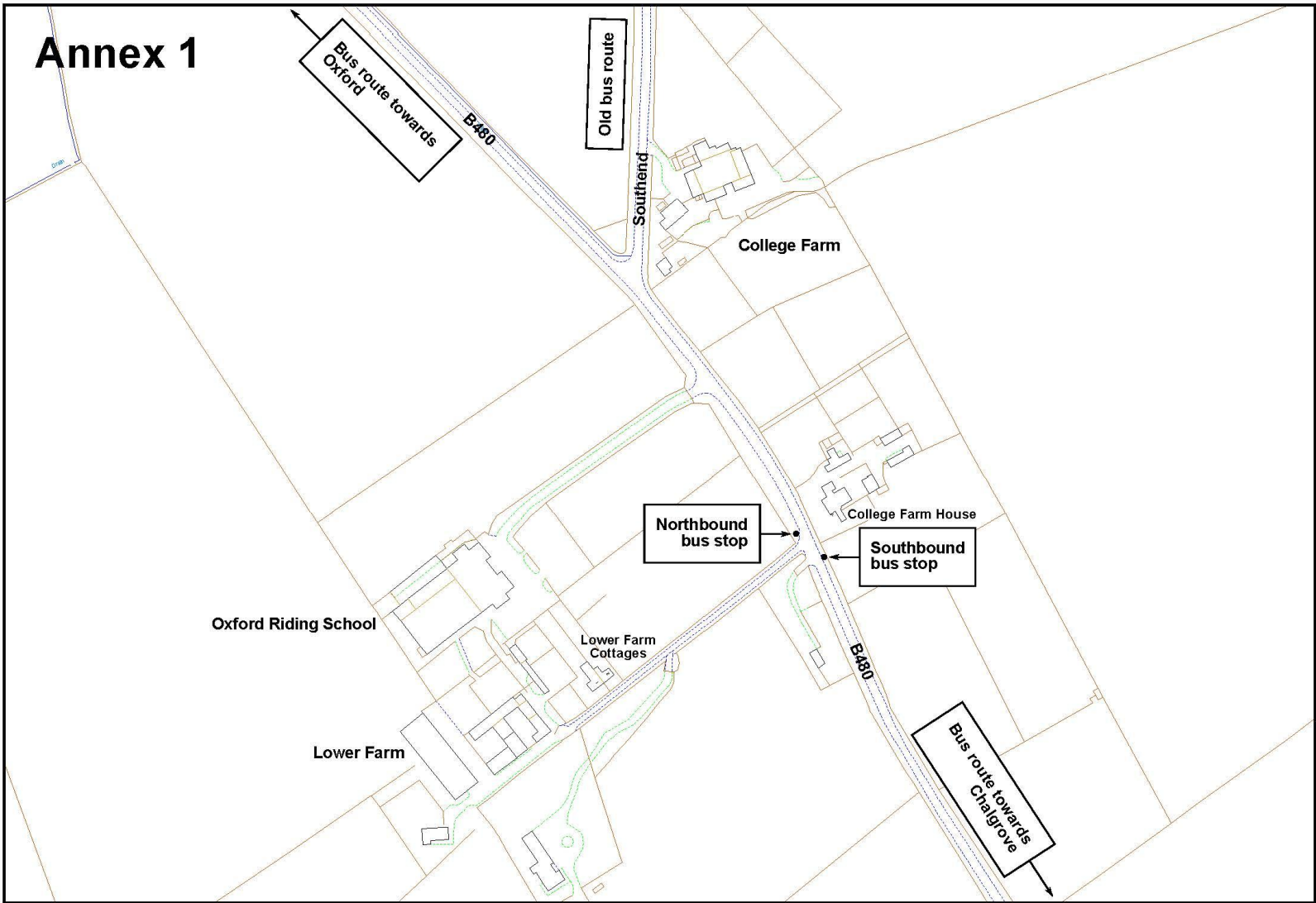
12. **The Cabinet Member for Transport is RECOMMENDED to endorse the decision taken at the site meeting held on 14 April 2012 to establish bus stops at Lower Farm, Garsington as set out in this report.**

STEVE HOWELL
Head of Transport

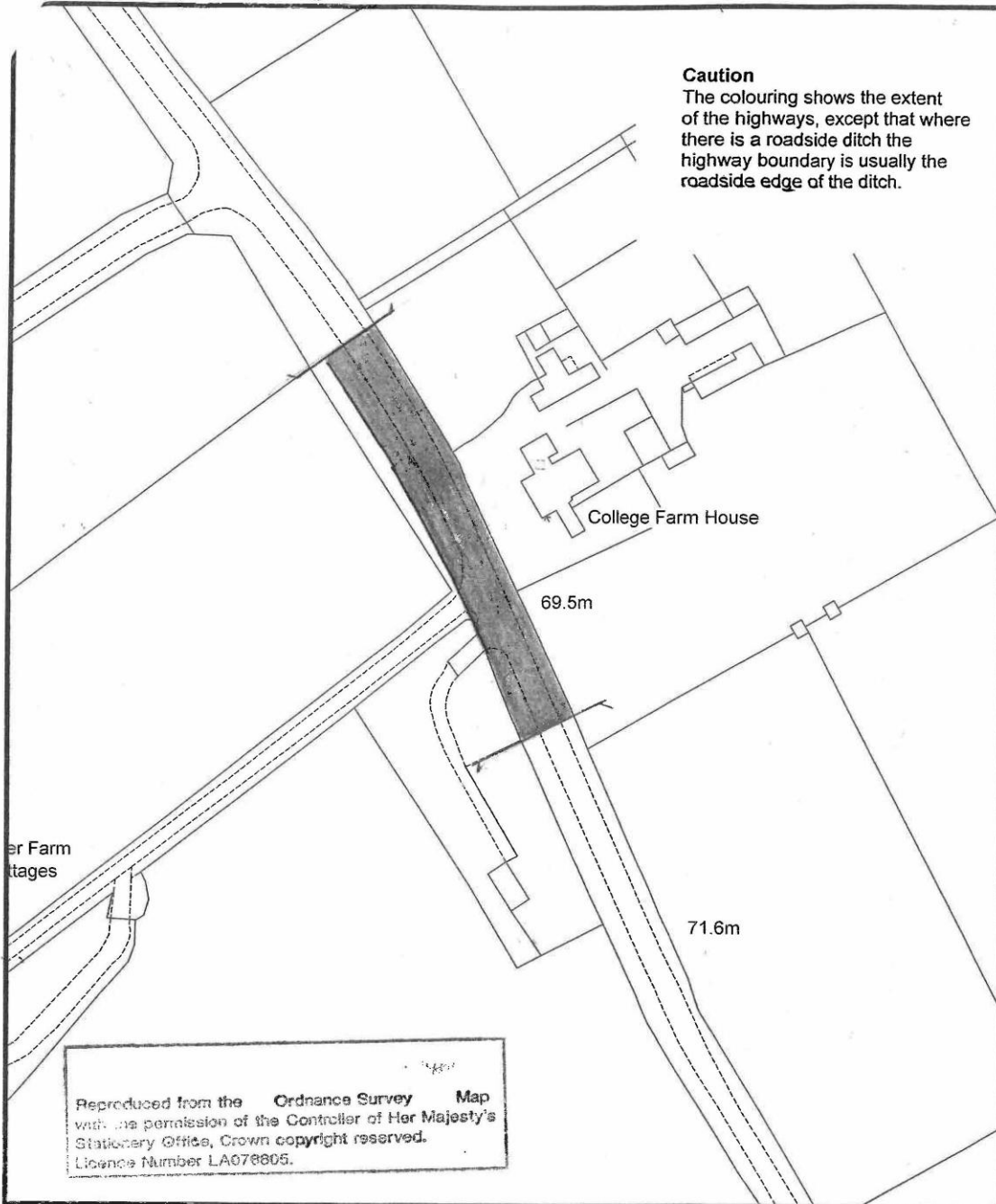
Background papers: Plans and photographs of site.

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March 2012



orsington: Watlington Rd



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Scale:1:1250
Plot Date:11/1/2012
By: Caren
Dept:

View 1 – showing highway boundary line



View 2 – showing highway boundary line

