

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 28 MARCH 2019
SYDENHAM ROAD, SYDENHAM - PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING
BUILD-OUT

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed introduction of a traffic calming build-out on the Sydenham Road, Sydenham as advertised.

Executive summary

2. The provision of traffic calming measures is reviewed when there are changes to the road layout as a result of development, when requested by local councils as a result of road safety concerns, and as part of the on-going monitoring of reports on road accidents. Specific proposals are assessed applying national regulations and guidance on the use of traffic calming measures.

Introduction

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on a proposal to introduce a traffic calming build-out on the Sydenham Road.

Background

4. The above proposal as shown at Annexes 1-3 has been put forward by the Parish Council.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 15 January and 15 February 2019. An email was sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, West Oxfordshire District Council, Sydenham Parish Council and the local County Councillor.
6. Seven responses were received. One objection, 5 in support and one neither objecting nor supporting. The responses are recorded at Annex 4. Copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

7. Thames Valley Police had no comment to make regarding the proposal.
8. One objection was received from a member of the public claiming the proposed traffic calming build-out was in the wrong location and suggesting several better locations at the north eastern end of Sydenham Road (between Slade Farm and the Inn at Emmington) where many pedestrians walk along the road and there are lots of residential driveways. The objector also states that a build-out will only be effective if there is opposing traffic and suggests implementing full width road humps instead.
9. Five expressions of support were received from members of the public on traffic safety grounds, noting the current situation at this point in the village was hazardous due to the speed & volume of traffic and children having to walk along the road to catch the school bus or visit the nearby playground.
10. Following a Sydenham village meeting in October 2016 Oxfordshire County Council Highways installed a temporary build-out at the site of the proposed build-out to test its effectiveness. Speed surveys carried out before and after installation of the temporary feature demonstrated that it would be effective in slowing traffic down.
11. Sydenham Parish Council undertook a survey in 2018 via survey monkey to ask the view of the village on the proposed build-out. The question put was *“should the Parish Council spend money on a permanent build-out in the same location as the temporary build-out”*. There were 61 responses with 53 in favour.
12. The Parish Council are aware of similar speeding issues at the Emmington end of Sydenham Road with two permanent vehicle activated signs installed at this location several years ago. The Parish Council have said that following successful delivery of this proposed build-out they will start to pursue further build-outs at the Emmington end of the village. Road humps are not an option in Sydenham because there is no street lighting.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

13. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

14. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by Sydenham Parish Council and County Councilor Juliette Matelot's Priority Fund.

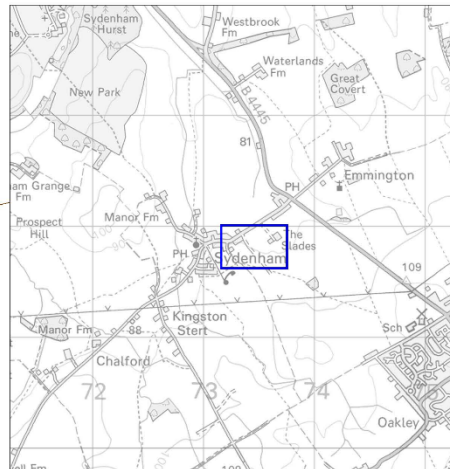
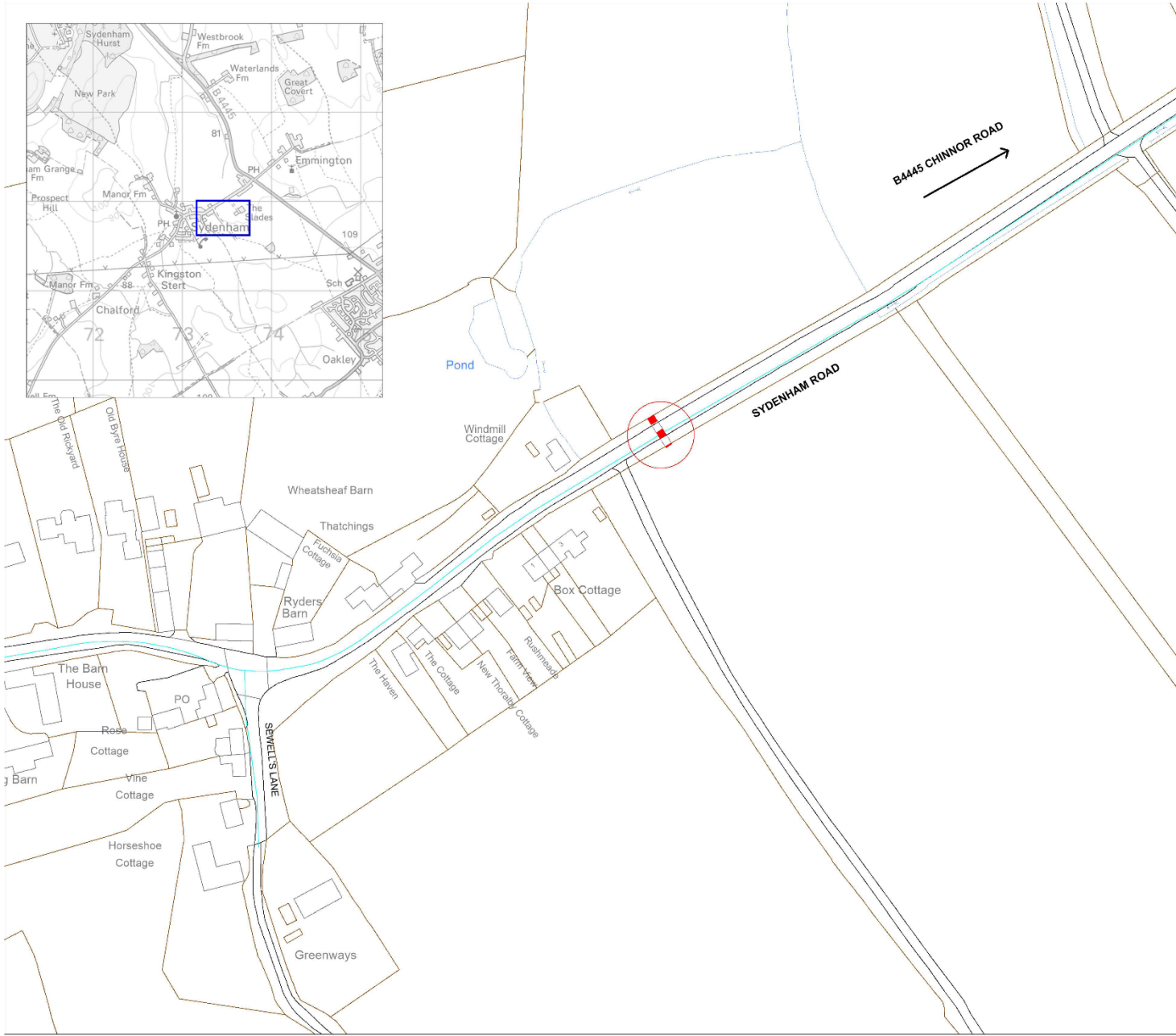
OWEN JENKINS

Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plans of the proposed traffic calming build-out
Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Hugh Potter 07766 998704

March 2019



Drawing No. Revision 1

Approximate location of Kerbed build-out (approx. 9m* long by 1.5m* wide)

Site Location

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Oxfordshire County Council. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2013. 100023943



Owen Jenkins
 Director Infrastructure Operations
 Communities
 Oxfordshire County Council
 County Hall
 New Road
 Oxford
 OX1 1ND
 Tel: (0345) 310 1111

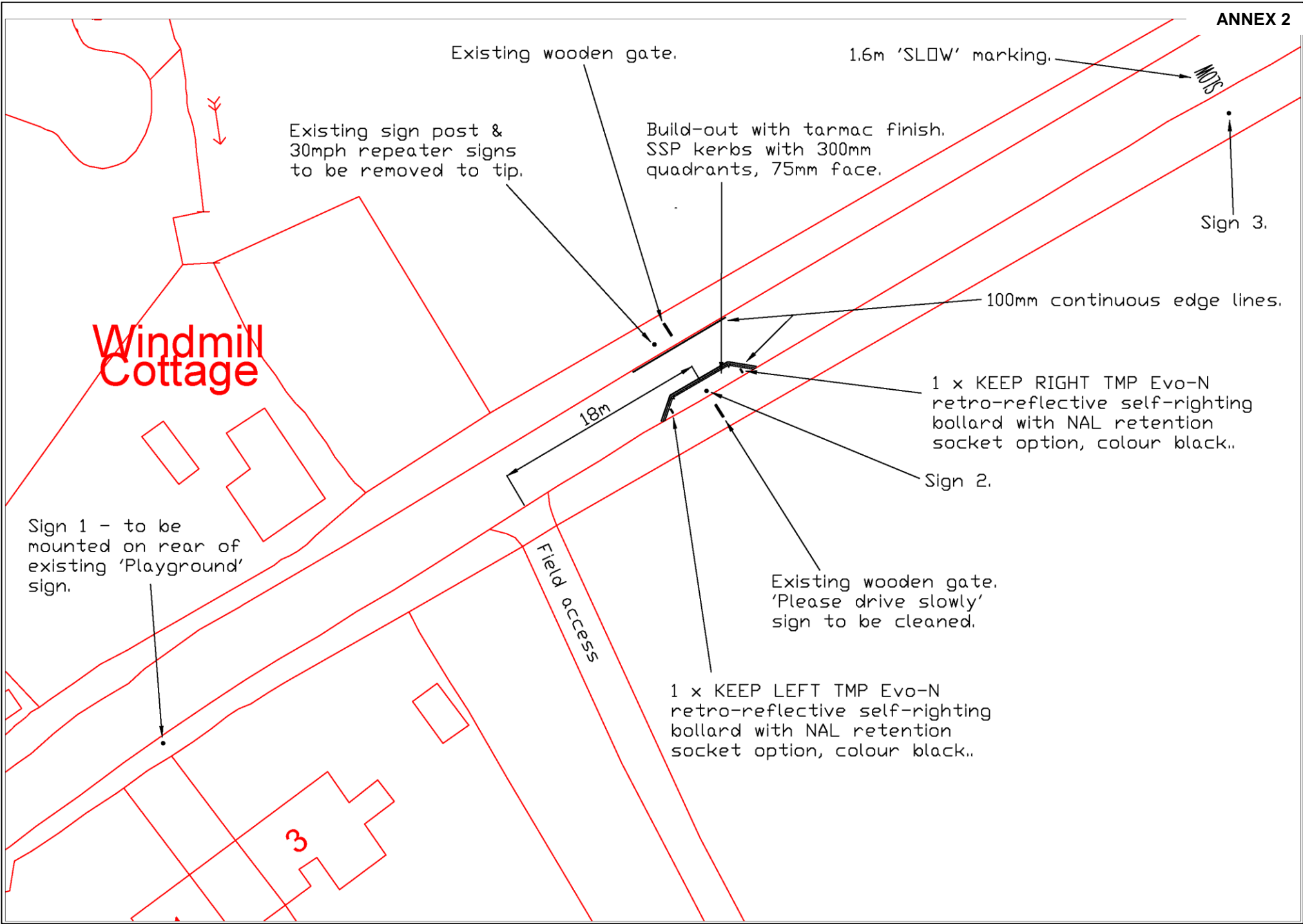
LOCATION PLAN
 PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING
 BUILD-OUT

SYDENHAM ROAD
 SYDENHAM, CHINNOR

Drawing Status		
Drawn by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
CJM		
Date drawn:	Date checked:	Date approved:
15/01/2019		

Drawing No. Revision 1

CMDE7



Existing wooden gate.

1.6m 'SLOW' marking.

Existing sign post & 30mph repeater signs to be removed to tip.

Build-out with tarmac finish. SSP kerbs with 300mm quadrants, 75mm face.

Sign 3.

Windmill Cottage

100mm continuous edge lines.

18m

1 x KEEP RIGHT TMP Evo-N retro-reflective self-righting bollard with NAL retention socket option, colour black..

Sign 2.

Sign 1 - to be mounted on rear of existing 'Playground' sign.

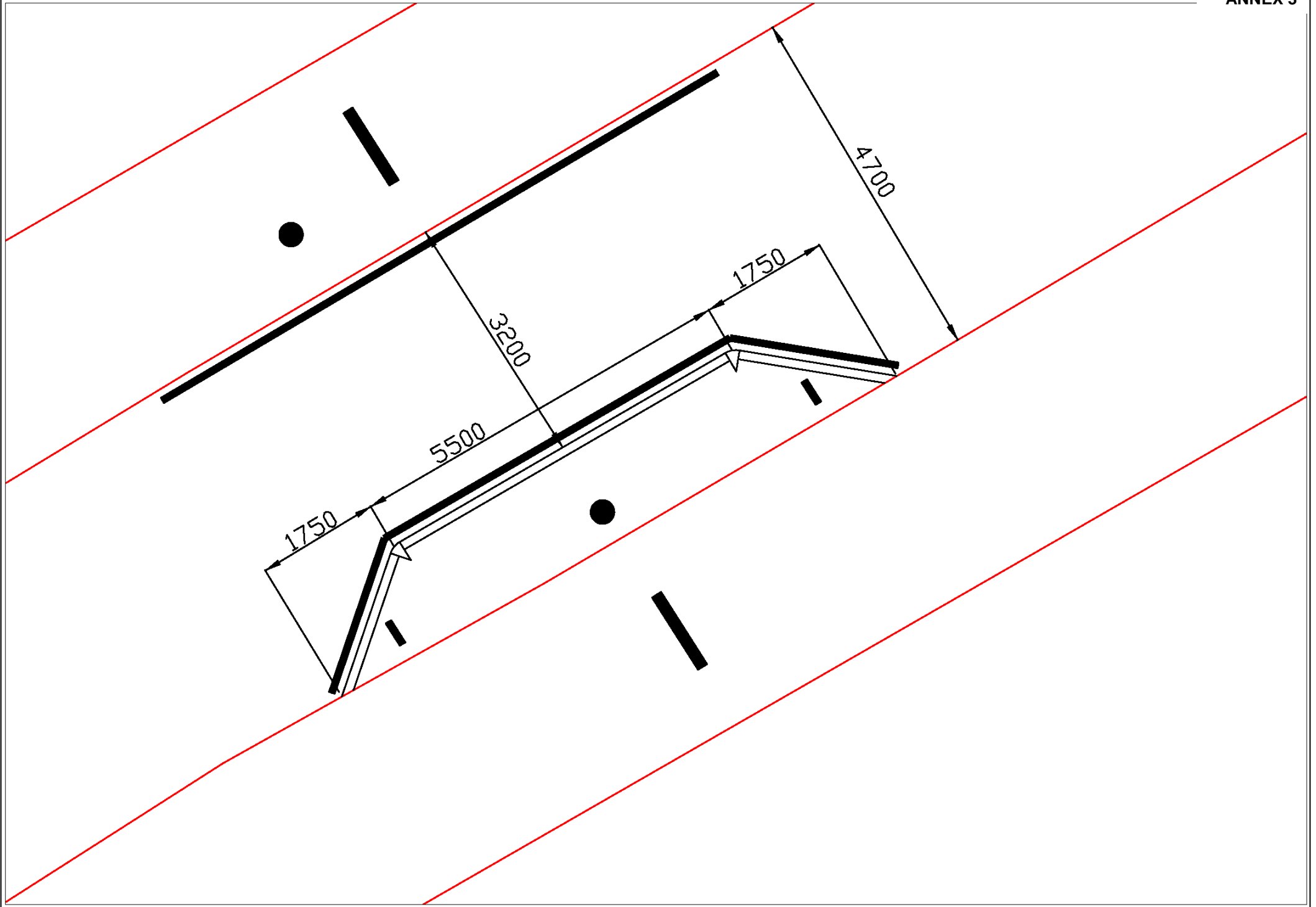
Field access

Existing wooden gate. 'Please drive slowly' sign to be cleaned.

1 x KEEP LEFT TMP Evo-N retro-reflective self-righting bollard with NAL retention socket option, colour black..

3

CMDE7



RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection – <i>No comments.</i>
(2) Local Resident, (Sydenham)	<p>Object – In my opinion this proposal of the Traffic Calming Feature is in the wrong location. The majority of the speeding is between this proposed site and the junction at the Inn at Emmington in both directions. This is where the majority of the pedestrians walk up and down the road. Also lots of driveways where cars are backing out onto the road which means with speeding cars there is a greater chance of a road traffic accident or someone getting knocked down and killed.</p> <p>The proposed location serves no point as the speeders either start at this point or have already speeded along Park View. Why put a traffic calming measure at the end of a straight?</p> <p>I would suggest another survey of the average speed along Park View and then reconsider a number of better locations like between Slade Farm and Park Villa House or between the Inn at Emmington and Park View. Break up the long stretch of straight road so speeders can't build up their speed along the populated part of the road.</p> <p>A kerbed build out only is effective if there is oncoming or waiting traffic at the point and only in one direction. This doesn't stop speeding at night or quiet times where speeders are more likely to speed. A better method would be speed humps at full width of the road in a number of locations between your proposed and the junction at the Inn at Emmington.</p> <p>If the proposed location goes ahead for the kerb build out then it will be a waste of money as it won't solve the issue as speeding will continue along Park View.</p>
(3) Local Resident, (Sydenham)	Support – The section of road where the proposed scheme is situated could undoubtedly benefit from traffic calming measures. The road at this point is narrow, approaches a blind bend and runs past a children's playground. I am therefore in favour of the scheme.

CMDE7

	<p>My only concern is that drivers may consider this the entry/exit point to the village - indeed, your own consultation letter of the 15th January describes it as such. This location does NOT however mark the entry/exit to the village or the point at which the speed limit changes. By introducing traffic calming measures at this point, you may actually (albeit inadvertently) increase the average speed of traffic heading eastwards along the straight section of road towards the B4445 Chinnor Road, with drivers being tempted to speed up, under the impression that they have left the village. This section of road is still a 30mph limit and is already plagued by speeding traffic. I would therefore suggest that the Council considers further traffic calming measures towards the junction with the B4445 and/or implements a much-reduced speed limit (20mph) through the entire village.</p>
<p>(4) Local Resident, (Sydenham)</p>	<p>Support – We live on this road, just up from the proposed traffic calming feature and we support this very strongly.</p> <p>Ever since we have lived here (nearly 6 years), we have seen traffic approaching from both sides, but particularly from the Emmington end at inappropriate and dangerous speeds, often in excess of the 30 mile per hour speed limit. Anecdotally, we have also seen and heard several accidents outside our house as a result of people going too fast.</p> <p>There is no pavement on the stretch of the road outside our house and we have to walk up this road with our children to get into the village and we consider car speed to be a hazard here. Our eldest child is about to go to secondary school and she will have to walk up this road to catch her school bus, so we would welcome this measure as a way of slowing drivers down.</p> <p>In our view, this traffic calming measure is absolutely essential for both driver and pedestrian safety on this stretch of road.</p>
<p>(5) Local Resident, (Sydenham)</p>	<p>Support – I support the proposed traffic calming measure 100%. I live very close to the proposed location. In the 6 years that I have lived here the volume of traffic has increased and I encounter cars speeding through Sydenham on a daily basis. I work from home and it is noticeable throughout the day, but particularly at rush hour in the morning and evening. I have young children walking up to the nearby playground, and walk every day with my dogs, and the speed of which a numbers of cars go through the village, particularly from the centre out to the Emmington end is very worrying. The traffic calming measure is absolutely essential and fully support it.</p>

CMDE7

<p>(6) Local Resident, (Sydenham)</p>	<p>Support – Living right next to the proposed position, I feel it would significantly help in reducing the speed at which cars pass our home. I do not feel the current speed limit is being obeyed, and cars often drive past at frightening speeds. I am worried for the safety of my daughter and pets.</p> <p>The road is becoming busier and busier now that Chinnor has expanded so rapidly in the last few years, causing commuters from Thame to use our village as a short cut to the motorway.</p> <p>Anything that would deter drivers from using this shortcut, by slowing them down and causing congestion would really help.</p> <p>Having helped the parish council man the speed camera, several vehicles were travelling over 40 mph, and this wasn't during rush hour, when they travel even faster.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Sydenham)</p>	<p>Support – I live very near the proposed site with a young child. This traffic calming measure is desperately needed and the sooner the better. The speed at which the cars, delivery and trade vans go past our entrance from Emmington end of the village, towards the play park is terrifying.</p>