

TRANSPORT DECISIONS COMMITTEE – 11 FEBRUARY 2010

VARIOUS ROADS, WALLINGFORD - PROHIBITION OF WAITING

Report by Head of Transport

Introduction

1. This report considers objections/comments received to a consultation and formal advertisement of the proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions along lengths of various roads in Wallingford. The extent of the restrictions are shown on the plan included at Annex 1.

Background

2. Vehicles parked in the vicinity of the junctions of Atwell Close/Station Road, Millington Road/St. Georges Road and Station Road/Sinodun Road present a risk of accident and contribute to congestion near these junctions. The Town Council and various residents requested the proposed restrictions to reduce these problems.

Consultation

3. An informal consultation on suggested amendments to existing waiting restrictions which sought the views and comments of local and statutory stakeholders was carried out in March and April 2009. This resulted in some amendments to the original suggestions which then formed the formal proposals.
4. The proposals were subsequently advertised in the local press. Notices were posted on site and copies of the notice, draft order, statement of reasons and plans posted to all the statutory consultees and affected frontages. Consultation with statutory consultees and affected frontagers was carried out between 9 September and 9 October, 2009.
5. Thames Valley Police have no objection to the proposals but state that they would have preferred the prohibition to have been extended on both sides of Millington Road to the junction with Walter Bigg Way.
6. Wallingford Town Council support the proposals.
7. One letter supports the proposals but re-iterates the point made by Thames Valley Police
8. Six letters objecting/commenting have been received. Five from local residents and one from a person working in the town. These letters concern the various locations and are summarised at Annex 2 to this report.

9. In respect of Atwell Close, three residents have objected to the proposals indicating that vehicles parked at the junction act as an automatic calming system and that, with children playing in the street, these vehicles make other cars slow down where they would otherwise enter and leave at speed. They also object that residents and visitors to houses in the road and those adjoining it will lose space for their cars as many residents are owners of more than one vehicle. They further highlight that the Baptist Church which is in Atwell Close has a large congregation and, in addition, is used for community activities frequently having up to 75 visitors at a time. The Church points out that the proposed restrictions will displace vehicles further into the development adding to the pressure on parking on the roads. It also reiterates the points made by residents regarding parked vehicles acting as a calming feature.
10. In respect of St. Georges Road and Millington Road one objector states that he regularly parks there and has not seen inconsiderate or dangerous parking there; that removing the ability of workers to park on these lengths will merely move parking further into Millington Road and that the car park on the east side of St. Georges Road is too expensive.
11. Two letters refer to the proposal for Wantage Road/Sinodun Road. Both indicate that they believe parked vehicles opposite the junction have a calming effect on vehicle speeds. One letter indicates that the proposals reduce the amount of parking spaces available in the town when they should be increased; that people parking there have paid both Council Tax and Road Tax and are therefore being treated unfairly and that no consideration appears to have been given to residents' parking. The other objects as it will remove parking outside their home and that, with three young children, access to their front door is essential for shopping and the 'school run'; the proposal would mean they have to park further away from their home; the only rear access they have is limited and restricted being via a private road which is already congested; that the proposal will have a negative impact on the value of the home. Exemptions within the Order allow for loading/unloading, dropping off/picking up of passengers but only whilst such operations take place.

Conclusion

12. These proposals seek to reinforce the guidance set out in the Highway Code in respect of parking at or near junctions. The presence of parked vehicles around the junctions causes risk of accident and hinders the free passage of traffic.
13. The double yellow lines to prohibit parking are proposed in the interest of road safety and the free flow of traffic. They will reduce the danger and facilitate the safe passage of road users.
14. In respect of Atwell Close it is thought that reducing the extent of the proposals to apply to both sides of the road from the junction with Station Road only for 20 metres will improve safety in the vicinity of the junction whilst

retaining the availability of on-street parking of motor vehicles which would meet a significant part of the needs of both residents and the Baptist Church.

Financial and staff Implications

15. The cost of introducing these waiting restrictions will be met from the Southern Area's maintenance budget.
16. The preparation of the Order has been undertaken by Environment & Economy officers as part of their normal duties.

RECOMMENDATION

17. **The Transport Decisions Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) **agree to authorise the making of the Various Roads, Wallingford Prohibition of Waiting Order subject to an amendment reducing the extent of the prohibition of waiting in Atwell Close to a distance of 20 metres from its junction with Station Road; and**
 - (b) **authorise the necessary works to enable implementation of the proposals.**

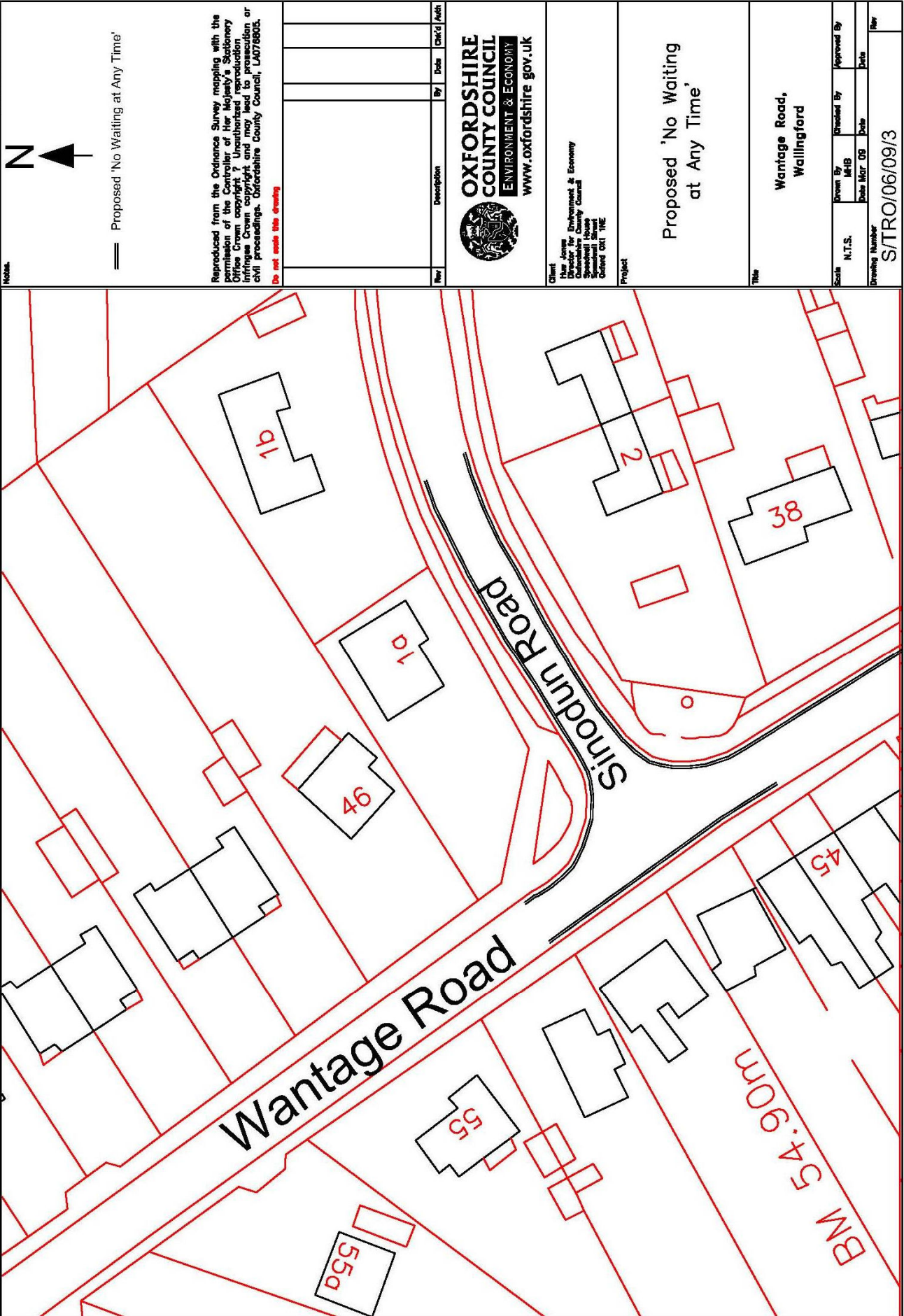
STEVE HOWELL
Head of Transport
Environment & Economy

Background papers: Consultation documentation

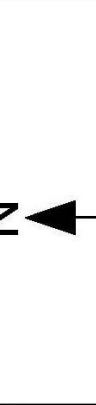
Contact Officer: Malcolm Bowler, Senior Traffic Technician, Environment & Economy Tel: (01235) 466119

November, 2009

ANNEX 1



Notes.



Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time'

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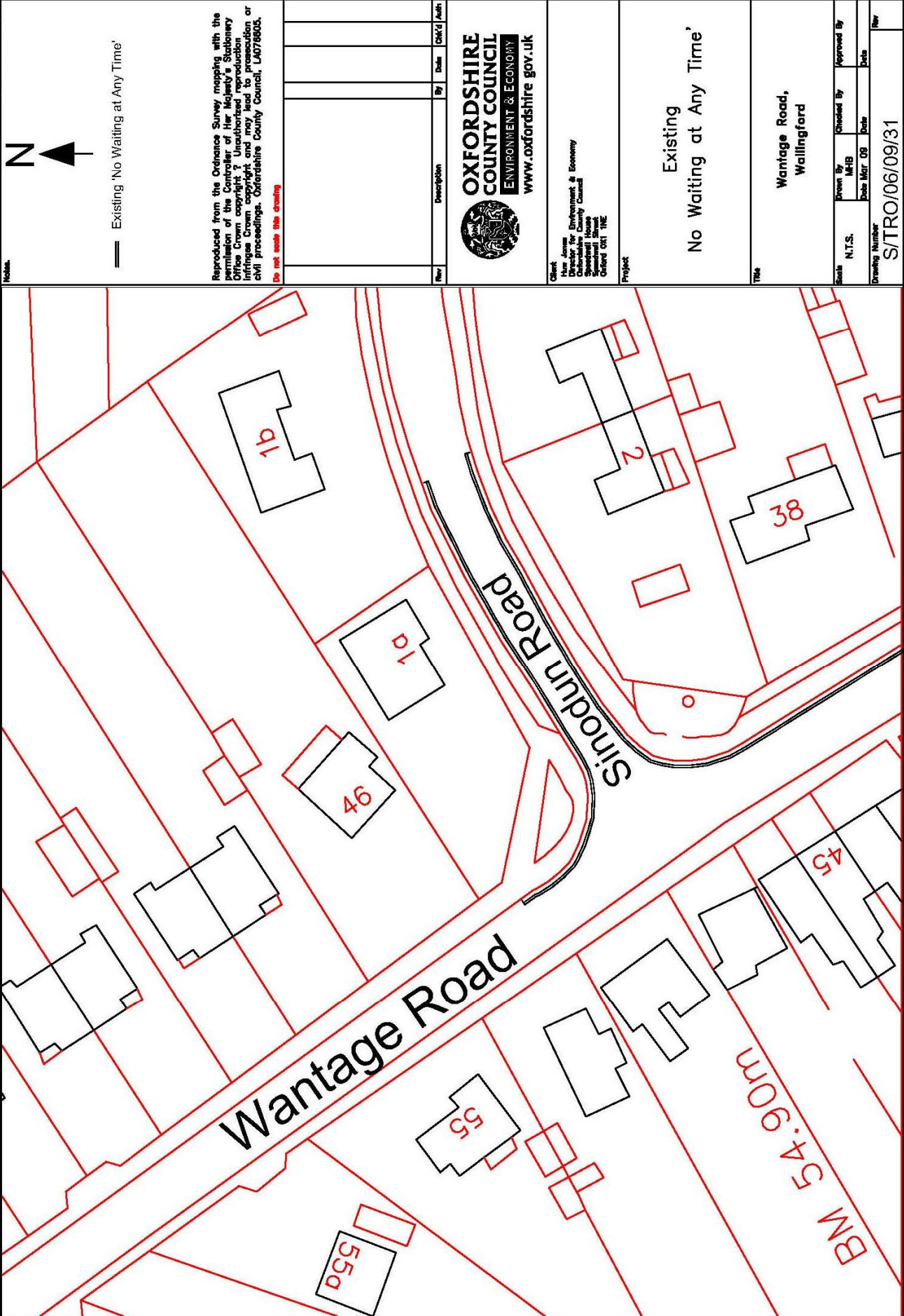
Client: Mr Jones Environment & Economy
 Director for Environment & Economy
 Oxfordshire County Council
 Spenshall Street
 Oxford OX1 1NE

Project:

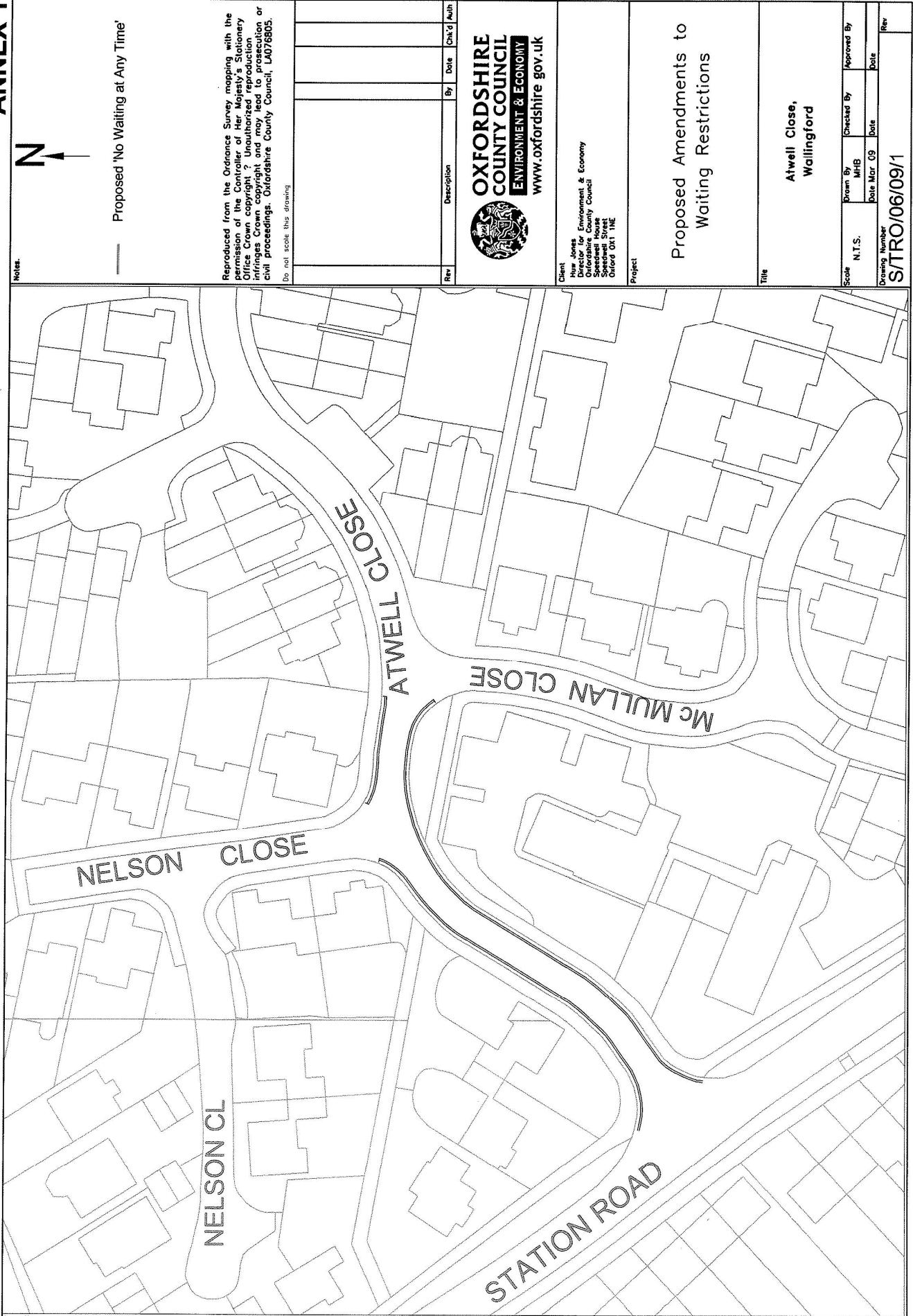
Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time'

Title		Wantage Road, Wallingford	
Scale	N.T.S.	Drawn By	MFB
Checked By		Date	Mar 09
Approved By		Date	
Drawing Number		S/TRO/06/09/3	
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ANNEX 1



ANNEX 1



Notes:

— Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time'

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Project:

Proposed Amendments to
 Waiting Restrictions

Title:

Atwell Close,
 Wallingford

Scale	N.I.S.	Drawn By	MHB	Checked By	Approved By
Drawing Number	S/TRO/06/09/1	Date Mtr	09	Date	Date
Rev					