

Division(s): West Central Oxford

## **DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – 14 FEBRUARY 2013**

### **OXFORD – RADCLIFFE OBSERVATORY QUARTER (ROQ) PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENTS**

**Report by Deputy Director of  
Environment & Economy (Commercial)**

#### **Introduction**

1. This report summarises the results of a public consultation undertaken on the proposed public realm enhancement scheme (and the associated Traffic Regulation Order) on the stretch of Woodstock Road, Oxford that fronts the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ). The proposals are as shown on the plan at Annex 1 and the location at Annex 2.

#### **Background**

2. Oxford University is currently redeveloping the area between Woodstock Road and Walton Street in Oxford. The area was formerly the site of the Radcliffe Infirmary and is now known as the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ). The University has provided funds under a section 106 agreement for the County Council to carry out an enhancement scheme along the Woodstock Road frontage of the site. The completion of the scheme is to coincide with the opening of the mathematics faculty in September 2013.
3. The scheme seeks to improve conditions for the high levels of pedestrians and cyclists who will be using the area in the years to come. The design increases footway widths, reduces carriageway widths and provides a central refuge. This, in combination with raised entry features and courtesy crossings, will seek to decrease vehicle speeds and provide a safe, more comfortable environment for pedestrians, cyclists and bus passengers.
4. The design has taken account of the character of the street and the proximity of the conservation area and important local architecture.
5. Widening the footway will lead to a loss of approximately four pay & display parking spaces. The current Traffic Regulation Order provides for a length of approximately 26 such spaces. In order to redress this it was proposed to extend the existing pay & display parking outside Nos. 45-55 Woodstock Road northwards by two spaces. These adjustments require an amendment to the existing Traffic Regulation Order.

## **Consultation**

6. Early on in the design process representatives from Oxford Civic Society were invited to provide input for the scheme. A useful meeting took place and many suggestions have been incorporated into the final scheme.
7. Formal consultation on the general scheme design took place between 20 November 2012 and 17 December 2012. There were seven statements of support and one objection received. Consultation on the changes to on-street parking was undertaken between 14 December 2012 and 11 January 2013 with three objections received. A summary of all these responses, along with officer comments, is attached at Annex 3. Copies of the consultation responses are available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.

## **Objections**

8. Thames Valley Police have objected to the provision of courtesy crossings, citing that they could be misconstrued as zebra crossings. Officer research draws on experience of similar crossings in the county and nationally where accident statistics do not indicate an inherent problem. In addition, the Highway Code reminds pedestrians to proceed only when they are sure that it is safe to do so i.e. when vehicles have stopped at the crossing point.
9. Two residents of Woodstock Road and St John's College (as owners of some of the properties) have objected to extending the Pay & Display parking on the grounds that it removes the unofficial dropping off point currently marked with double yellow lines. In addition, residents are concerned about the potential for additional noise nuisance especially at night.
10. It is accepted that overall pay & display parking demand in this area has reduced considerably since the closure of the Radcliffe Infirmary and so, in light of the concerns expressed, it is suggested that the proposed extension to the parking bay outside the residential properties does not proceed at this time. This would result in the number of pay & display spaces reducing from a length equating to approximately 26 spaces to 22.

## **How the Project Supports LTP3 Objectives**

11. The public realm enhancements to this stretch of Woodstock Road will improve the perception of a safer road at this location and facilitate improvements to walking and cycling routes.

## **Financial and Staff Implications**

12. Funding for design and construction of the scheme has been provided by Oxford University under Section 106.
13. Staff from Environment & Economy will deliver the project with the assistance of staff from Legal Services.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

14. **The Deputy Leader of the Council is RECOMMENDED to:**
- (a) authorise officers to proceed to implementation of the public realm enhancement scheme as advertised and set out in Annex 1 to this report; and**
  - (b) approve the advertised amendment to the Oxfordshire County Council (Oxford Central Area) (Designation and Regulation of Street Parking Places) (Variation No 6) Order 20\*\*) to remove existing pay & display parking bays but not approve the northward extension to the parking bay, as described in the report.**

**MARK KEMP**

Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

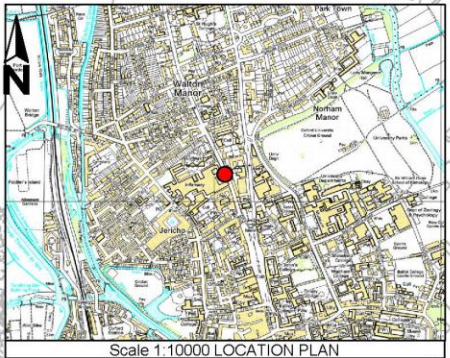
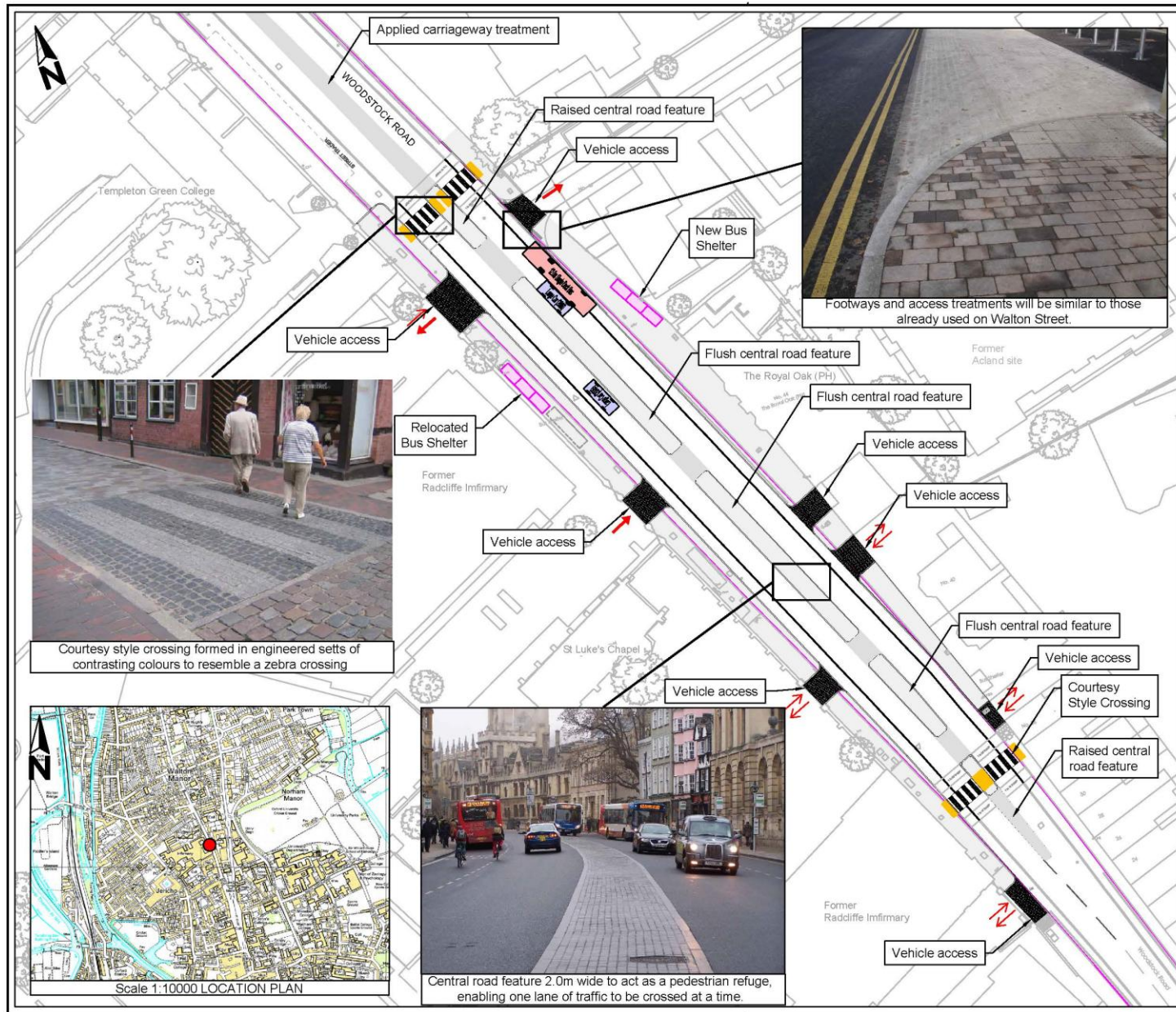
Background papers:

Consultation responses

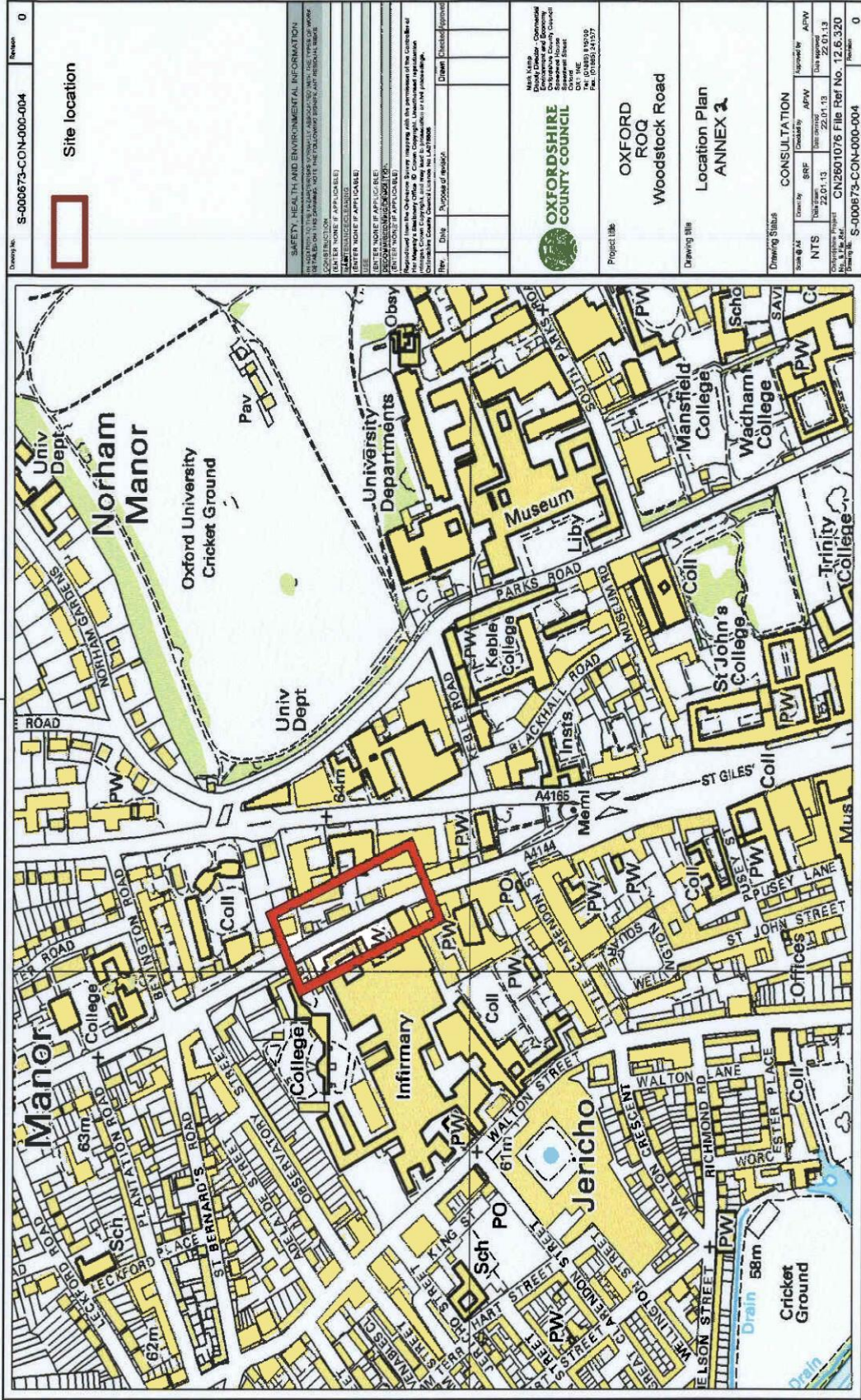
Contact Officer:

Jim Daughton Tel: 01865 815083

January 2013



Drawing No. S-000673-CON-000-003		Revision 0	
<b>NOTES:</b>			
	Existing kerb alignment.		
	New Bus Shelters.		
	Footway paving to be similar to that used on Walton street.		
	Vehicle Access formed in setts, similar to Walton Street.		
	Central overrun areas used to narrow carriageway and encourage lower traffic speeds.		
	1.5m wide on carriageway cycle lane marked by a double line of engineered granite setts.		
	Direction and volume of vehicular traffic.		
<b>SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION</b>			
IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS			
CONSTRUCTION (ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)			
MAINTENANCE/LEANING (ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)			
USE (ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)			
DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION (ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)			
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn/Checked/Approved
 Mark Kemp Deputy Director - Commercial Environment, Economy & Customer Services Highways & Transport Oxfordshire County Council Speedwell House Speedwell Street Oxford OX1 1NE Tel: (01865) 815700			
Project title		OXFORD ROQ Woodstock Road	
Drawing title		Project Overview	
Drawing Status CONSULTATION			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
1:500	IOC	AJP	AJP
Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved	
29-11-12	21-11-12	21-11-12	
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref CN2801076 File Ref No. 12.6.320			
Drawing No. S-000673-CON-000-003		Revision 0	



**Drawing No.** S-000673-COIN-000-004 **Revision** 0

**Site location**

**Project title** OXFORD ROQ Woodstock Road

**Drawing title** Location Plan ANNEX 3

**Drawing Status** CONSULTATION

Scale @ A4	Created by	Checked by	Approved by
NTS	SRF	ABW	ABW
Date issued	Date revised	Date approved	Date approved
22.01.13	22.01.13	22.01.13	22.01.13

**Drawn by** M. A. H. **Checked by** C. N. **Approved by** S. **File Ref No.** 12.6.320

**Drawing No.** S-000673-COIN-000-004 **Revision** 0

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