

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 16 JULY 2020

**CHERWELL & WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICTS - VARIOUS
LOCATIONS: PROPOSED DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES**

Report by Interim Director of Community Operations

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed provision of Disabled Persons Parking Places (DPPP) at: Bridge Street Banbury; Bretch Hill, Banbury; Cheviot Way, Banbury; Evenlode Drive, Bicester; New Street, Deddington - noting this DPPP is to be an informal rather than statutory DPPP; The Paddocks, Deddington; Wadards Meadow, Witney; Leys Close, Wroxton.

But to defer approval of the proposals at the following locations pending further investigations: Angus Place, Banbury; Ribston Close, Banbury; Blake Road, Bicester; Walterbush Road, Chipping Norton; High Street, Hook Norton.

Executive summary

2. Provision of Disabled Persons Parking Places is reviewed when requested by members of the public. Specific proposals are assessed applying national regulations and guidance on the suitability of providing new bays or amending or removing existing ones.

Introduction

3. This report presents objections received to a statutory consultation on proposals to remove, amend and introduce disabled persons parking places (DPPP's) at various locations in the Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts.

Background

4. The above proposals have been put forward following requests from residents, including – where a new place has been requested - an assessment of eligibility, applying the national guidelines on the provision part of such parking places. Annex 1 to Annex 12 provide plans of the locations for which objections have been received or concerns raised.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 3 March and 10 April 2020. Notices were placed in the Banbury Guardian, Bicester Advertiser and Witney gazette newspapers and emails sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance

service, Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, relevant parish councils and local County Councillors. Notices were placed on site and letters sent directly to properties in the immediate vicinity, adjacent to the proposals.

6. Thames Valley Police and Cherwell District Council have not objected.
7. Twenty-six responses were received from members of the public during the course of the consultation. These are summarised in the tables below:

Town	Location	Support	Object	Concerns
Bampton	Bridge Street			1
Banbury	Angus Close		4	2
	Bretch Hill	1		
	Cheviot Way			1
	Ribston Close		1	
Bicester	Blake Road		1	1
	Evenlode Drive			1
Chipping Norton	Walterbush Road		2	
Deddington	New Street			1
	The Paddocks		2	1
Hook Norton	High Street		2	3
Witney	Wadards Meadow			1
Wroxton	Leys Close		1	

8. The responses are recorded at Annex 13 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

9. Comments and recommendations are provided in response to the concerns and objections are given at Annex 13 in respect of each of the proposed site in the following paragraphs.

Bampton – Bridge Street – proposed DPPP

10. While noting the concern expressed over this proposed DPPP, there is insufficient off-road driveway width to unload the applicant concerned near their gate, which is hard up against the driveway. It is recommended to approve this DPPP also noting that an informal space has been there for a while.

Banbury – Angus Close – proposed DPPP

11. In view of the six objections it is recommended to defer approval of this DPPP pending further investigation.

Banbury – Bretch Hill – proposed DPPP

12. One expression of support received.

Banbury – Cheviot Way – proposed DPPP

13. The concerns raised have been taken into account and it has been agreed with the applicant precisely where the bay would go so as not to adversely impact on other parking.

Banbury – Ribston Close – proposed DPPP

14. One objection has been received; the proposed location is not ideal for the type of vehicle but there are no other options. Their off-road parking is not suitable for loading/unloading motorised wheelchairs so the applicant has no option but to do so in the turning space. It is recommended to allow the current informal loading arrangements to continue rather than to provide a formal DPPP.

Bicester – Blake Road – proposed DPPP

15. One objection and two concerns received. It is recommended to defer as the applicant appears to have moved away.

Bicester – Evenlode Drive – proposed DPPP

16. One concern received. The suggestion made in respect of parking arrangements in Colne Close are the responsibility of Cherwell District Council as it is not highway and noting also that it appears very difficult anyway to implement the suggestion for Evenlode Close. Given that there are no formal objections it is recommended to approve this DPPP.

Chipping Norton – Walterbush Road – proposed DPPP

17. Two objections. The proposed DPPP location has been selected so as to minimise the effect on access to and from the driveway opposite but it is accepted that the applicant appears to have the choice to park a vehicle on their driveway and in view of this the recommendation is to defer a decision.

Deddington – New Street - proposed DPPP

18. One concern expressed. This will be marked as an informal bay so that it will be available for general use outside of surgery hours.

Deddington – The Paddocks - proposed DPPP

19. Two objections and one concern received. This bay will be positioned so as to cause minimum inconvenience to other residents.

Hook Norton – High Street - proposed DPPP

20. Two objections and three expressions of concern received. This is a challenging location and officers have sympathy with the views on both sides. It is suggested that a compromise including options of a time-limited bay or an informal 'Loading/Disabled' bay is investigated and discussed with the parish council, residents and other interested parties.

Witney- Wadards Meadow - proposed DPPP

21. One expression of concern received but focussing on a request for a dropped kerb, rather than the principle of the DPPP provision. It is recommended to approve this DPPP.

Wroxton – Leys Close – proposed DPPP

22. One objection was received. The applicant already parks at this location, which is the nearest point to the top of the pathway leading from his bungalow. Officers are aware of other blue badge holders who live in the vicinity who may also choose to use the DPPP but it is nevertheless recommended to approve this DPPP.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

23. The proposals would help facilitate the mobility of disabled persons.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

24. Funding for the proposed waiting restrictions has been provided from the County Council's revenue budget.

Equalities Implications

25. The provision of disabled persons parking places assists those with a mobility impairment.

JASON RUSSELL

Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers: Plans of proposed disabled persons parking places to be provided for which objections or concerns have been received.
Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Hugh Potter 07766 998704

July 2020

Drawing No. Revision 0

Key
DISABLED
Proposed Disabled Parking Bay

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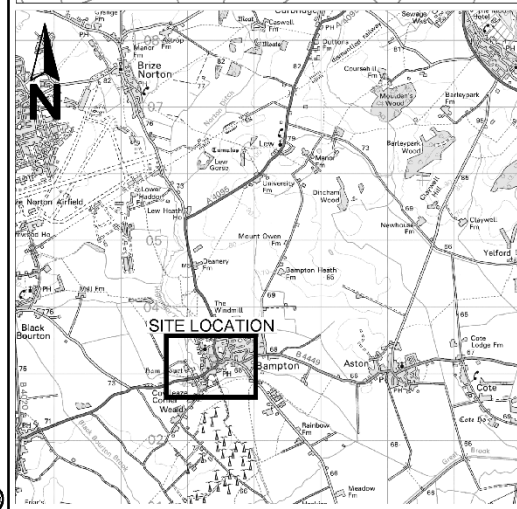
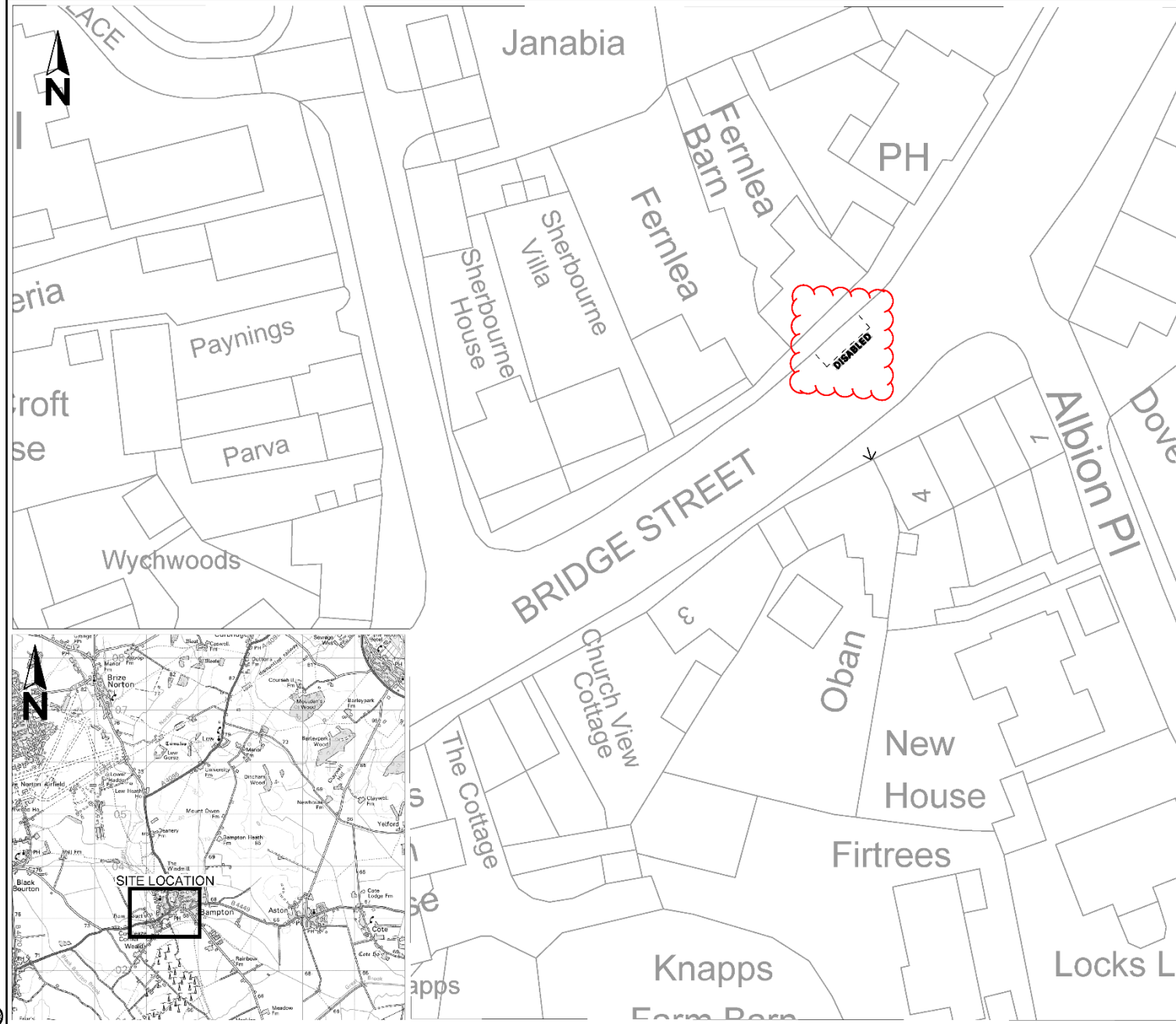
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PROPOSED DISABLED PERSONS
PARKING PLACE

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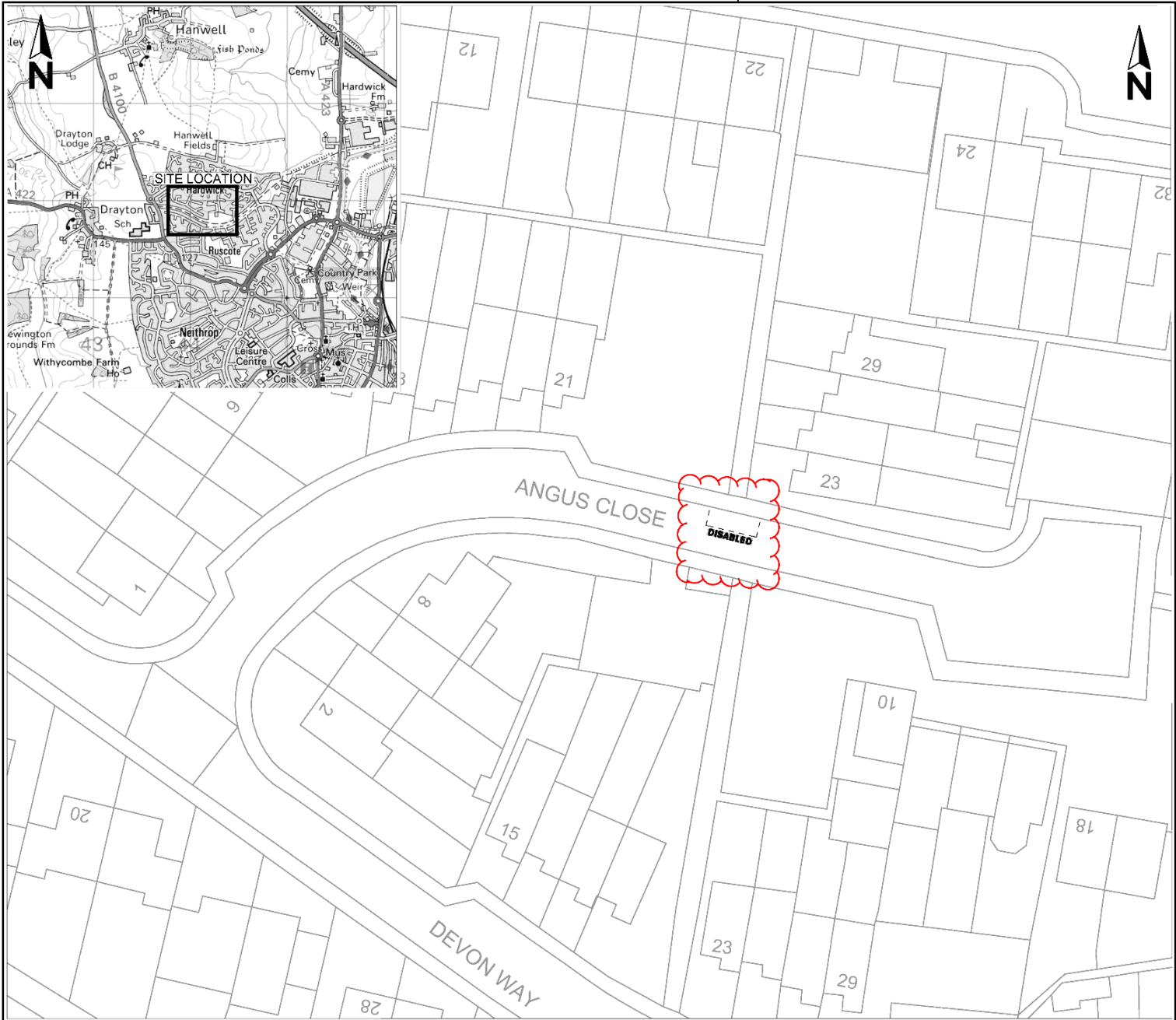
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ANGUS CLOSE**

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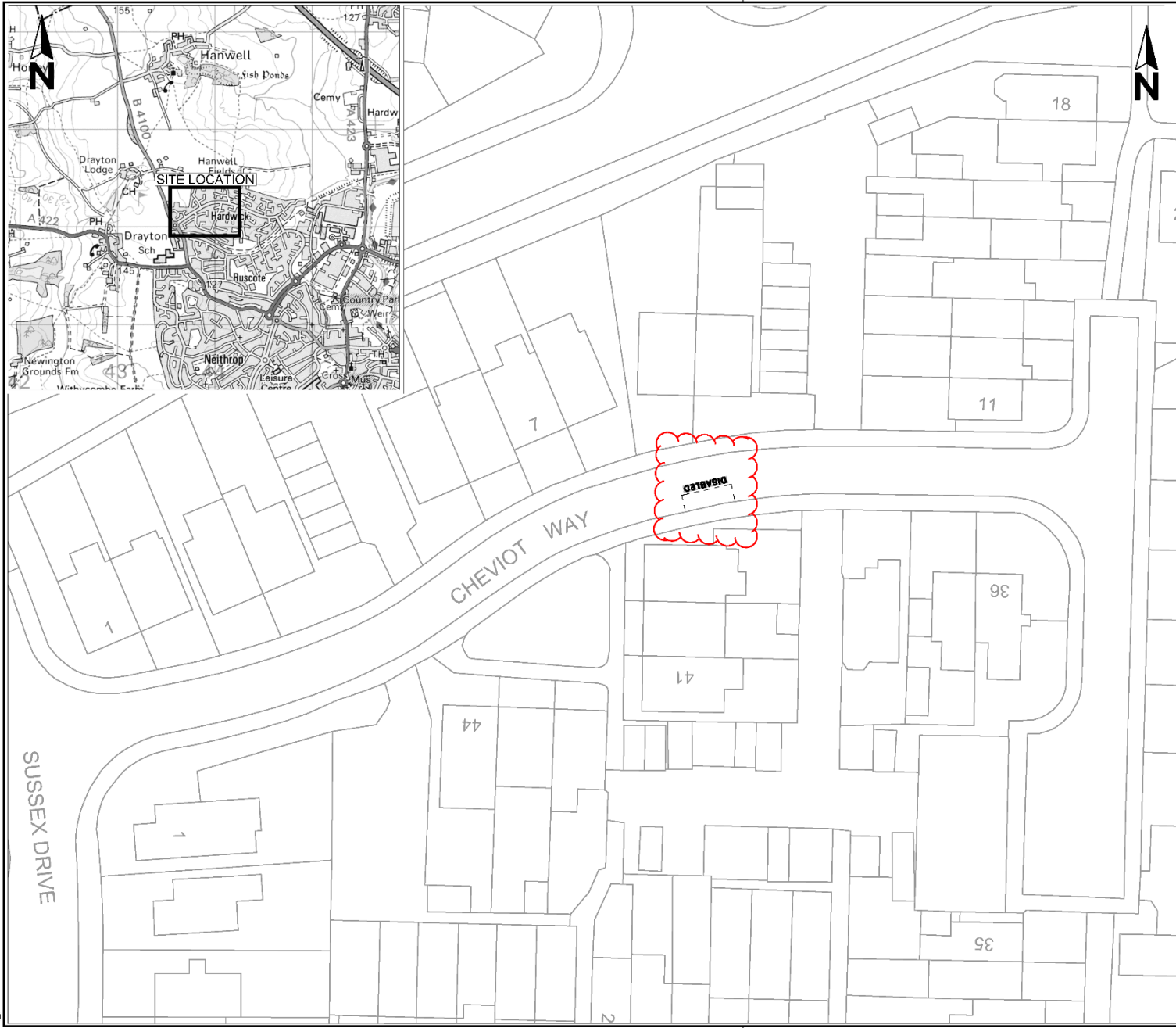
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PARKING PLACE

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BANBURY
RIBSTON CLOSE

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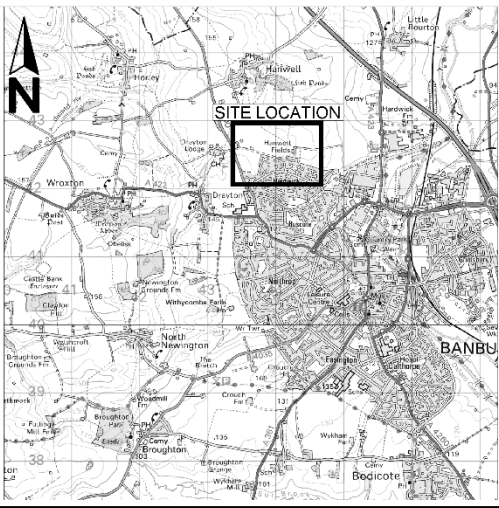
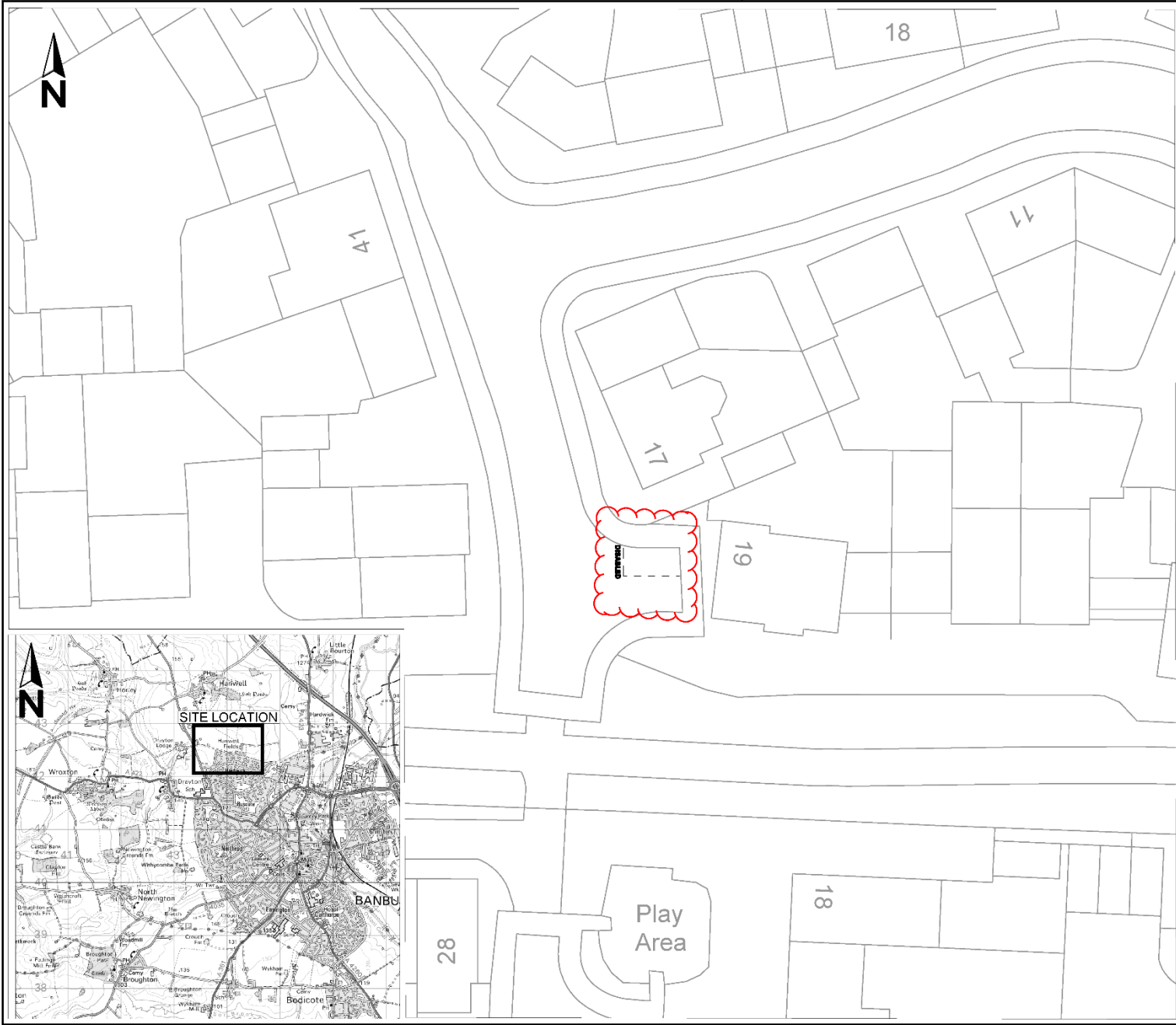
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

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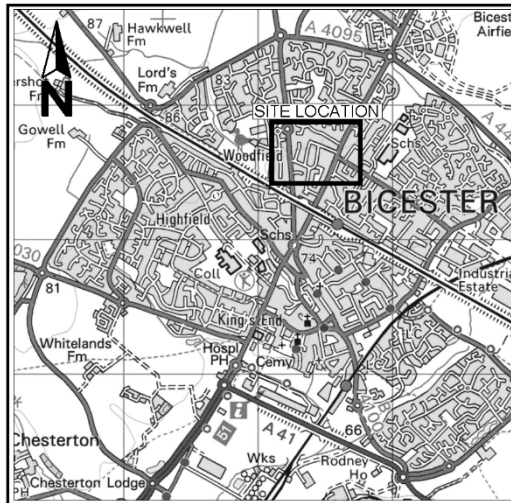
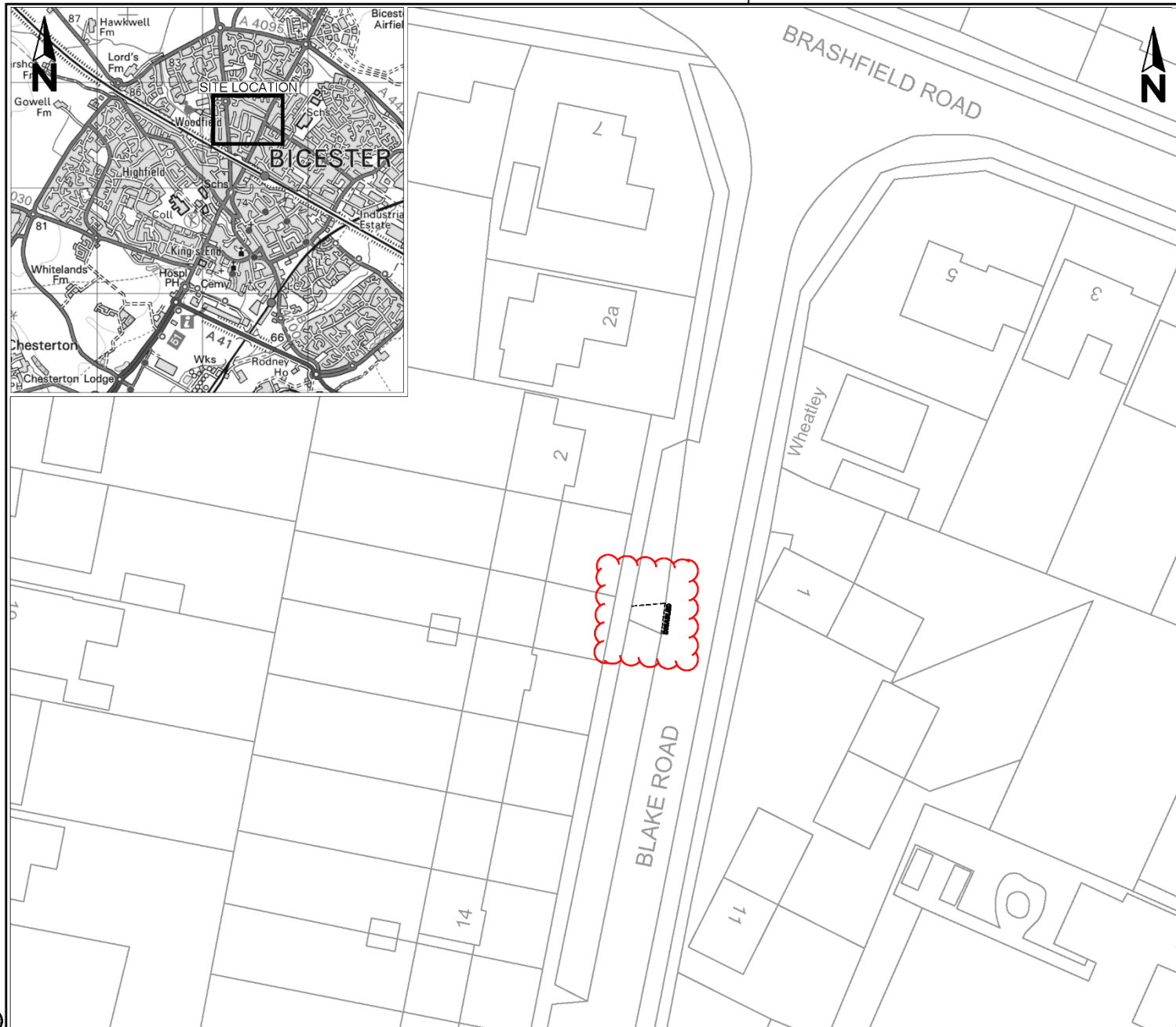
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P14: Improvement Schemes(Traffic) and Road Safety(Projects)A - Cherwell & West DPPP 2019 2020PLANSBanbury, Bretch Hill.dwg



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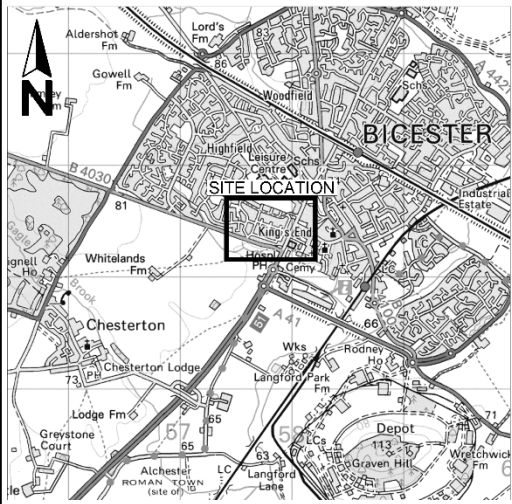
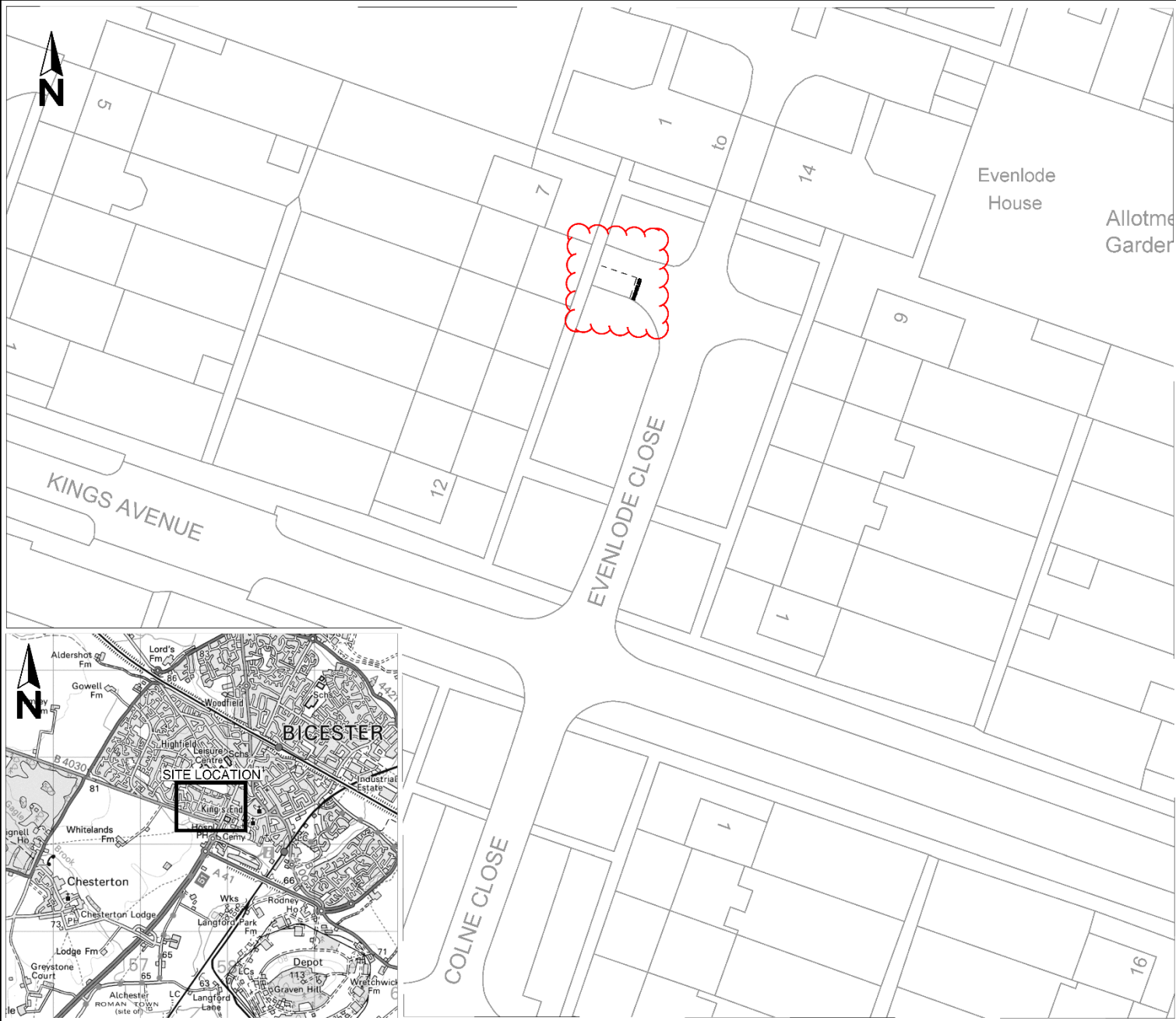
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Drawing title

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PROPOSED DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACE

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CHIPPING NORTON
WALTERBUSH ROAD

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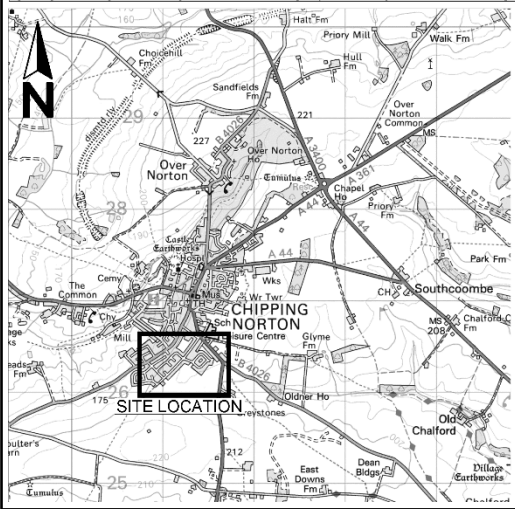
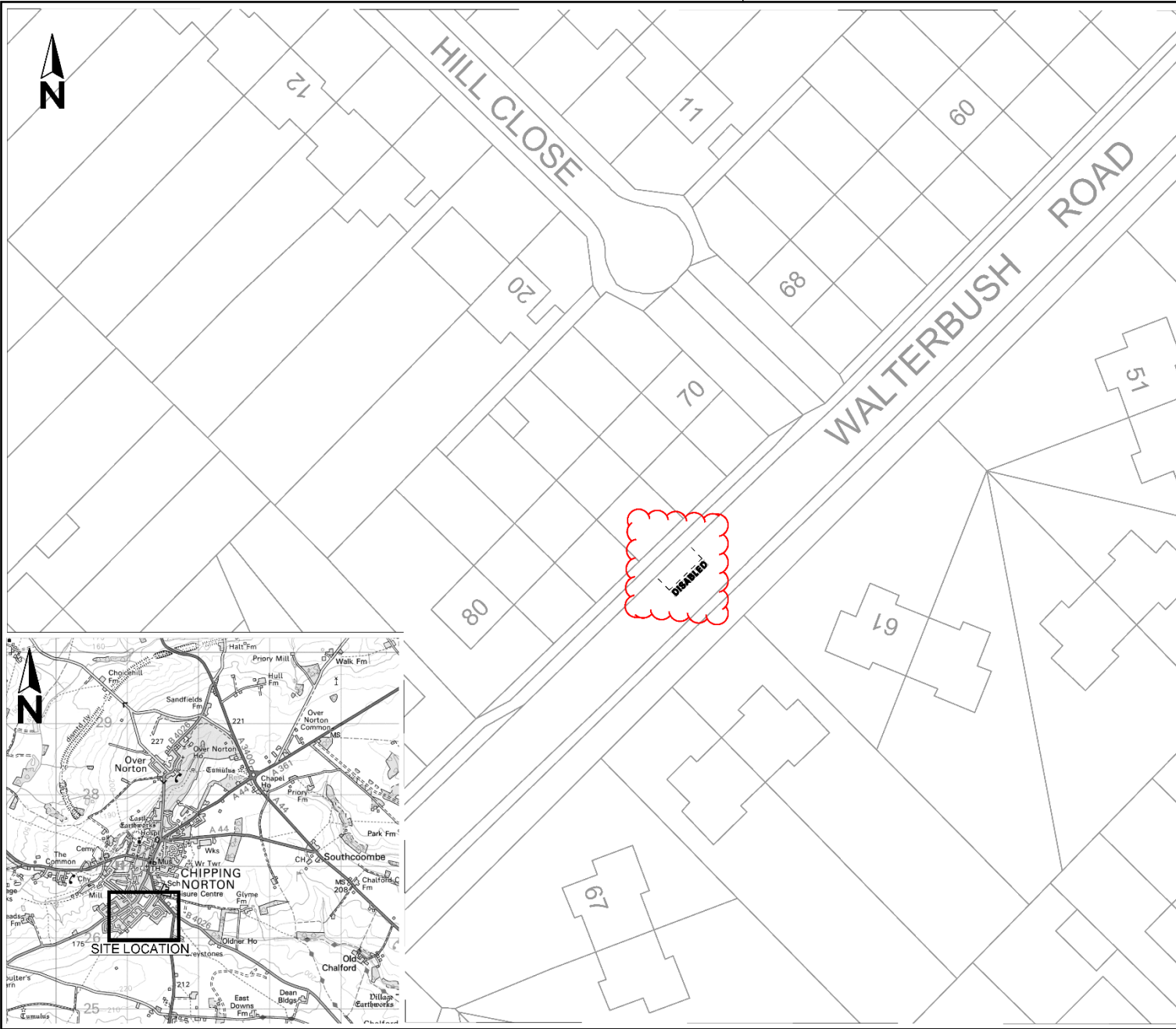
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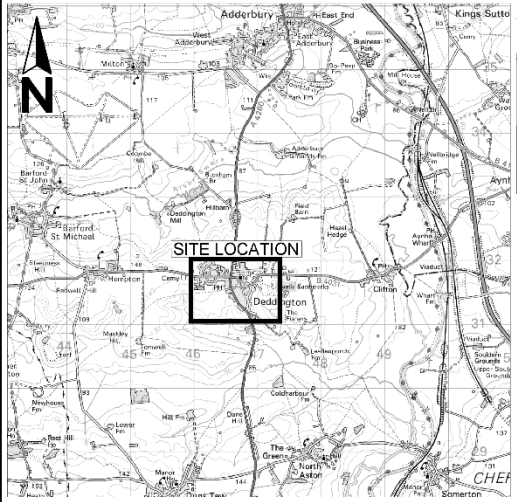
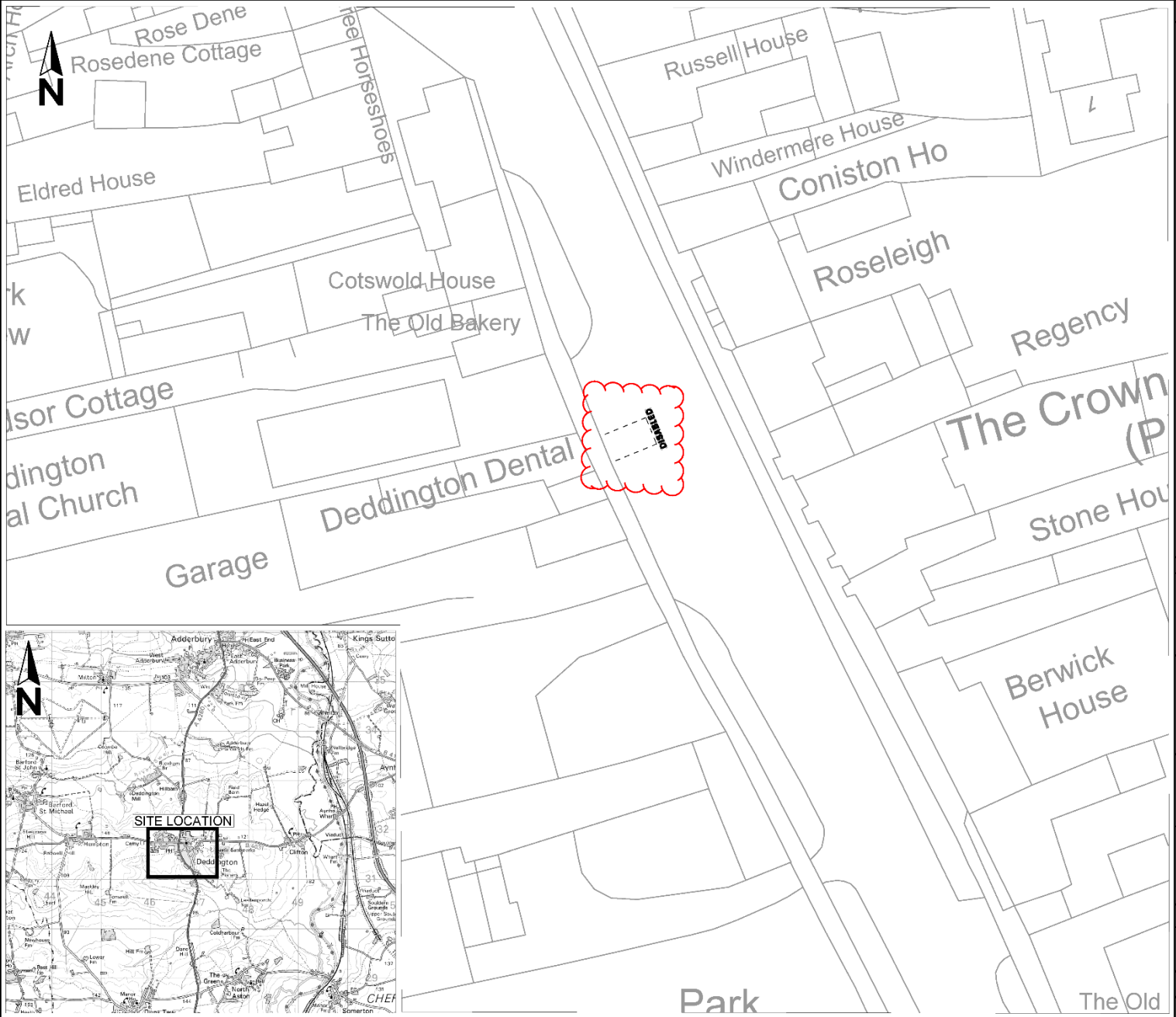
DEDDINGTON
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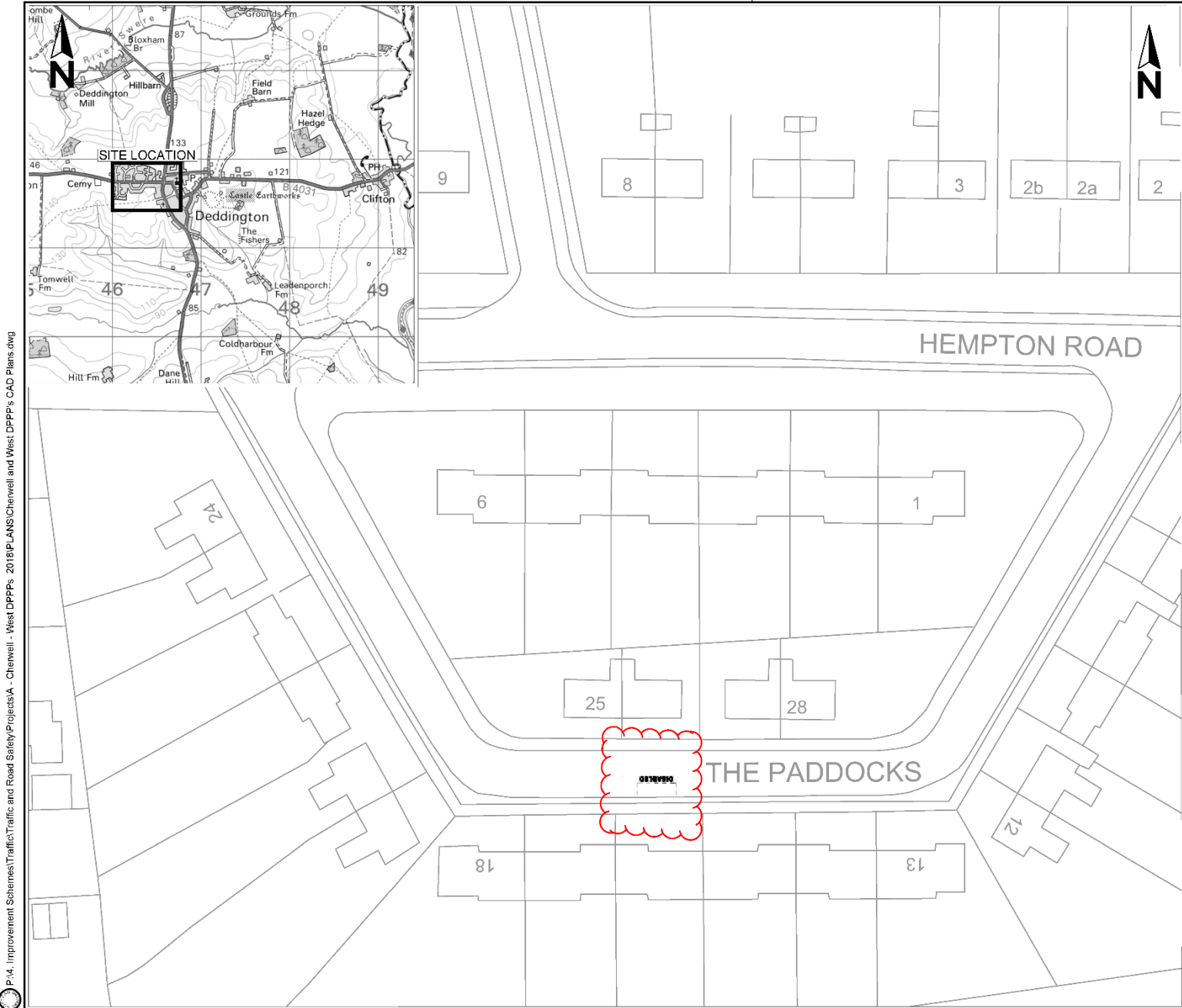
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**PROPOSED DISABLED PERSONS
PARKING PLACE**

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**DEDDINGTON
THE PADDOCKS**

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Project title PROPOSED INFORMAL DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACE									
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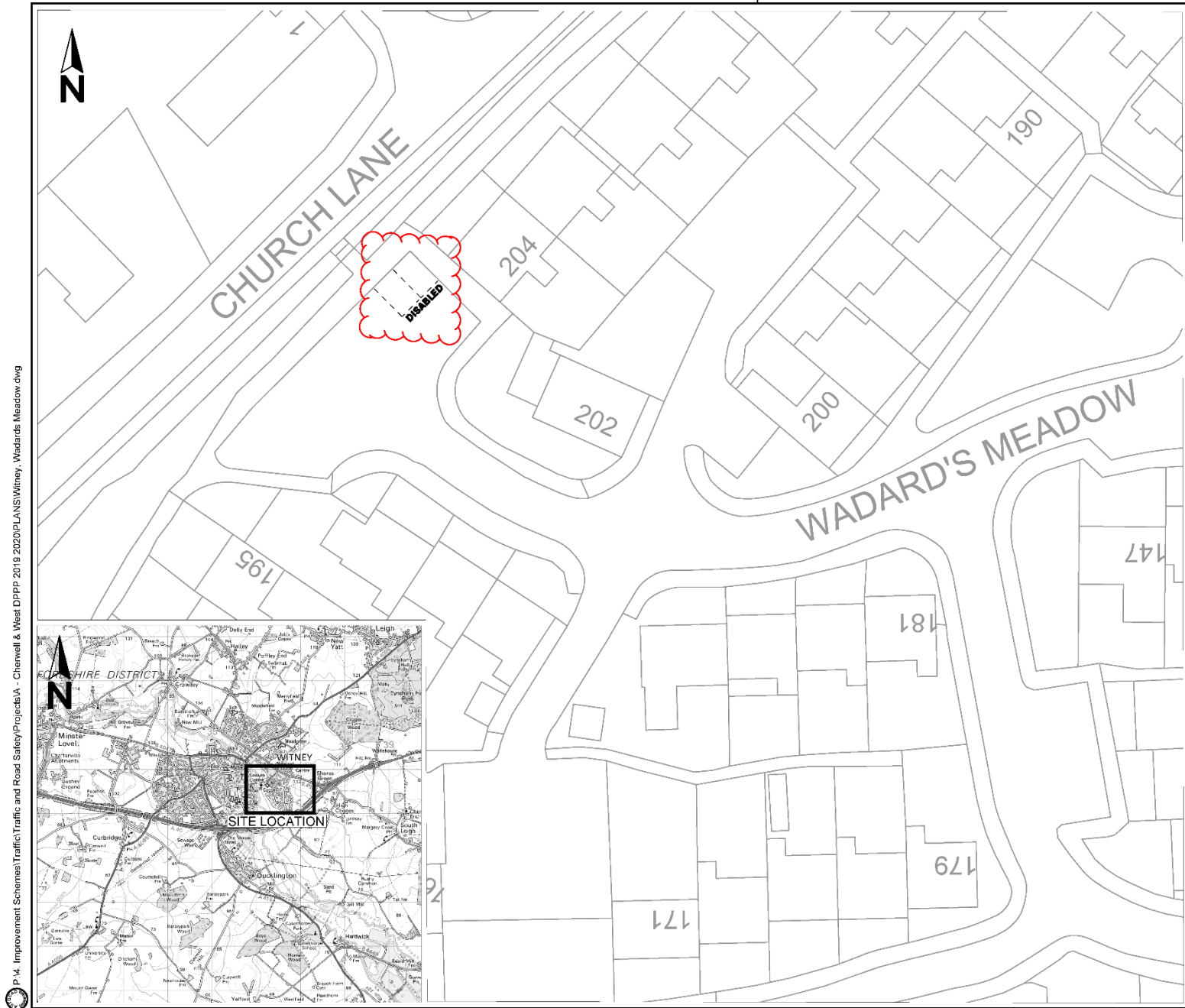
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WADARDS MEADOW

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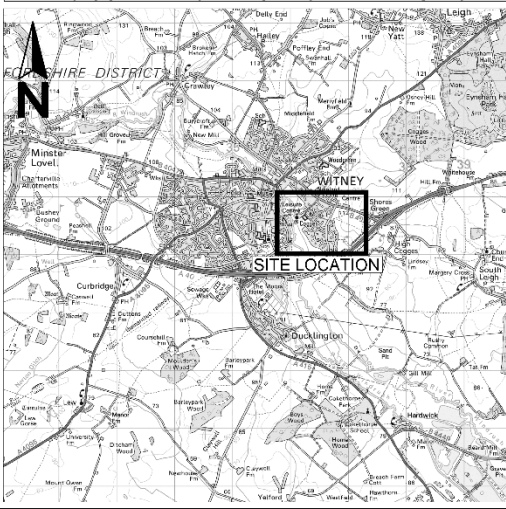
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

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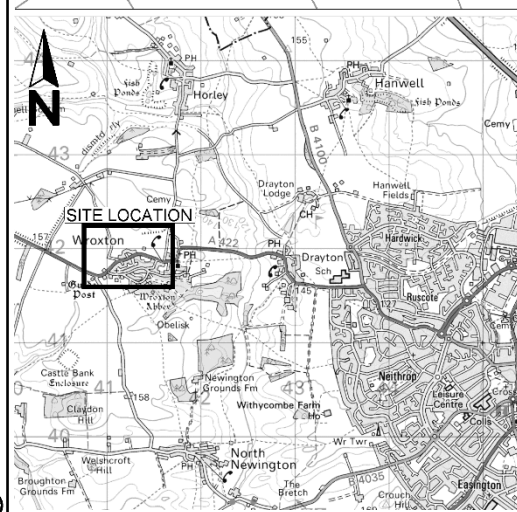
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P14: Improvement Schemes/Traffic and Road Safety/Projects/A - Cherwell & West DPPP 2019 2020/PLANS/Witney, Wadards Meadow.dwg



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Project title PROPOSED DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACE			
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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(2) Cherwell District Council	No objection
<i>Bampton</i>	
(3) Local Resident, (Bampton)	<p>Concerns (Bridge Street) – I have noticed that the vehicle which has been parked on this Disability space on Bridge Street, also appears mostly to be parked in a driveway, immediately adjacent to the assigned space on the road.</p> <p>It is puzzling that there should be a need for a space on a public highway when there is clearly alternative off road parking being regularly used for this vehicle, which appears to be in part of the garden curtilage.</p>
<i>Banbury</i>	
(4) Local Resident, (Banbury)	Object (Angus Close) - A disabled parking space for a person who does not own or drive a car and lives alone
(5) Local Resident, (Banbury)	Object (Angus Close) – <i>No comments.</i>
(6) Local Resident, (Banbury)	Object (Angus Close) - Person doesn't own a car and seems to walk unaided
(7) Local Resident, (Banbury)	Object (Angus Close) - The person in question doesn't own a car and lives alone. Her family member visit. She also seems to be able to walk unaided as well.

	The parking in the street is a nightmare at the best of times with people parking on the grass and pavement when no other space available.
(8) Local Resident, (Banbury)	Concerns (Angus Close) - Please can parking be moved to the other side of the road, then I would support.
(9) Local Resident, (Banbury)	Concerns (Angus Close) – <i>No comments.</i>
(10) Local Resident, (Banbury)	Support (Bretch Hill) – No concerns at all, at present there is only that one parking spot for disabled which I currently use because my wife has difficulty walking anywhere. We do have a Blue Badge and are awaiting replacement which takes up to eight weeks now. If another place is authorised I would suggest it is placed at end of pathway because a family with disabled child would find it easier to put wheelchair in rear of their vehicle.
(11) Local Resident, (Banbury)	Concerns (Cheviot Way) - I have no objections to this space but i would like to make a comment. Parking along this stretch of Cheviot way is very tight for the existing residents. We are all considerate and park sensibly, fairly close to each other and as a result we can get all our vehicles parked ok . Usually about 8/9 vehicles. I am concerned that if this space is not spaced accurately and in the correct spot to allow the current spacing of vehicles. It will cause the loss of a space and the make the present difficult parking situation impossible to get all the residents cars parked in the street. Bearing in mind they are all elderly and and have the same mobility problems.
(12) Local Resident, (Banbury)	Object (Ribston Close) - I have received a notification that this has come up again, on two occasions before this has come up and I have given numerous reasons why this is not a suitable location for this parking bay. It seems to me that adequate access to my drive is not a consideration the council takes any notice of. This bay would contravene the Road Traffic Act as the wheel would be over the dropped kerb. Further to this the applicant already has off street parking and therefore does not qualify for a disabled bay. The bay is not suitable as the applicants block the road with their wheelchairs and the tail lift of the vehicle whilst getting in and out of the vehicle. This places them at risk as well as creating a potential for accidents between vehicles in the road. From my prospective the council has repeatedly ignored my objections and rights, If the council continues to pursue this course I will be forced to pursue legal action to protect my rights.

<i>Bicester</i>	
(13) Local Resident, (Bicester)	<p>Object (Blake Road) - I am very concerned about this proposal as it is a very unnecessary proposal in the allocated area (as shown on the plans).</p> <p>There is not one person who lives on this street who needs this. If i could see a disabled person or a person with mobility issues who needs this i would not be putting my concerns forward. I remember this proposal last year and my feelings are as strong now as they were then.</p> <p>There are a couple who live in Blake Road and the lady occasionally uses a stick (which sometimes looks like a prop to me) but she is certainly able to walk any distance, and very capable of carrying large items, gardening, and walking around town with no problem. (I manage a bakery in sheep street and quite often see her and her husband walking past)</p> <p>My husband has c.o.p.d and gets out of breath we do not even have a blue badge! if needs be i drop him at our front door and then park.</p> <p>This proposal is a complete waste of time and money and it infuriates me that people who don't need this have the downright cheek to apply, and probably claim benefits they are not entitled to at the cost of us tax payers.</p>
(14) Local Resident, (Bicester)	<p>Concerns (Blake Road) – It's number 1 Blake road who have moved away (they said they had applied for a space, so I assume it was them). The housing agency were in there stripping it out for a new occupant two weeks ago and the neighbours said they had moved permanently.</p> <p>Number 11 has also recently died but I don't think they had a car. If it's another number then obviously our first objection should be disregarded. I am just keen to ensure numbers 3, 5, 7 and 9 all have enough space to park and as the bay does not extend turning a space into disabled would greatly reduce the parking for them (we actually usually park further up the road to leave parking for the less able residents).</p>
(15) Local Resident, (Bicester)	<p>Concerns (Evenlode Close) – Whilst I have no objections to a disabled bay being added to the Close - I do not think this is the most logical way of improving parking in Evenlode Close.</p> <p>There are already far more cars than parking spaces available - there are 24 properties in Evenlode Close and parking for approx 12 cars, residents already park all over the grassed areas, as there is insufficient parking available, which is churning up the mud and making the area unsightly. Taking away one of the few spaces for a disabled bay</p>

	<p>would only add to the existing problems.</p> <p>It would surely be more sensible to convert the parking to match the lay out in Colne Close opposite. There is now ample parking in Colne Close, including designated disabled bays. I understand the existing trees in Evenlode Close would make this more difficult, but even if part of the Close was converted to side by side parking it would help alleviate some of the parking problems, whilst also providing sufficient room for a disabled bay.</p>
<i>Chipping Norton</i>	
(16) Local Resident, (Chipping Norton)	Object (Walter Bush Road) – <i>No comments</i>
(17) Local Resident, (Chipping Norton)	<p>Object (Walter Bush Road) – I am writing to you to give my objections concerning the plans to put a disabled parking place to the front of 74 Walterbush Road Chipping Norton.</p> <p>The disabled vehicle at number 74 never has to struggle for a place as everybody in this area keeps to their own parking space. Nobody ever blocks the vehicle in or parks in the space so as the owner cannot park on return. The parking in this area is awful and will be made worse by having the restricted space.. The residents of number 74 have a drive that they could use but they choose to use it to park a Banger racing car and a caravan. They own a long low loader lorry to transport the banger car and this is constantly parked on the grass verge running along the front face of a privately owned bungalow hereby restricting the view of the bungalow owner when they are leaving.</p> <p>When we leave our drive as we are the opposite side of the road to the bungalow we cannot exit our drive safely as there is no visability due to the positioning of the truck and the vehicles belonging to 74. As well as the disability vehicle and the lorry they also own a people carrier which is also parked on the grass outside the other side of the driveway of the bungalow. This is all a very questionable situation!.</p> <p>It will cause more parking problems if more space is restricted when the disability vehicle doesn't use a ramp. I am aware that the disabled parking bay is not for the sole use of number 74 but it is straight outside of their front drive and so nobody else would be able to park there anyway due to the high number of vehicles owned by the household anyway. This area of Walterbush Road is far to congested and a parking bay would cause more problems.</p>

<i>Deddington</i>	
(18) Local Resident, (Deddington)	<p>Concerns (New Street) - Outside of the normal working hours the parking area in front of our house the dentists and the old chapel are invariably full, more so in the years since the council in its infinite wisdom decided to give a takeaway license to Bengal Spice, resulting in cars double parking, blocking my driveway, parking in the spaces marked as reserved for Archway House and the Chapel and generally encroaching onto the main road in the evening and at weekends during peak takeaway hours.</p> <p>I am generally supportive of the idea of a disabled parking space but would ask that the bay is only enforced in the hours that the dentist is open Monday to Friday, as the loss of one space amongst seven in evenings and weekends will add further pressure to the current overcrowding being experienced.</p>
(19) Local Resident, (Deddington)	<p>Object (The Paddocks) – I cant believe this application has come up again.</p> <p>As explained before number 16 has been converted into 3 houses (16,16a and 16b), planning and highways approved the dropped kerb to allow off street parking for 4 cars, (one house is tenanted, one will be sold by the end of this month and one is still on the market) and this proposal would totally block these multiple packing spaces!!</p>
(20) Resident, (Steeple Aston)	<p>Object - The new proposed position is unfortunately less than ideal as it would make egress to and from the off street bay in front of plot #16 challenging.</p> <p>Could it not go on the other side of the road, directly in front of my site... I am guessing that the need stems from one of the residents on that side of the road.</p> <p>Failing that if we could push the bay back a meter or so it would help enormously for both practical and safety reasons.</p>
(21) Local Resident, (Deddington)	<p>Concerns (The Paddocks) – no objection to the proposed parking space but she would like the following comments to be added.</p> <p>When the planning for changing 16 The Paddocks from a 3 bed semidetached property to three individual properties, it was pointed out to the planners that due to the width of the road, vehicles could not be parked on both sides without causing obstruction to traffic flow. This was because changing this property from one to three and allowing off road</p>

	<p>parking, there was a probability at least three vehicles and possible up to six vehicles could be owned by the inhabitants of the three properties. This would mean that the inhabitants of the bungalows opposite (who all have various ailments and social care needs) would have restricted parking options. Also as both 14 and 16 The Paddocks have off road parking as well as road frontage parking all other vehicles would have to park in front of 15 The Paddocks.</p> <p>My mother has lived in her house for a long time and is elderly, she is still able to look after herself but she does have some mobility issues. The problem is that when I, my brother or other members of her family visit her or bring her back home; (when we take her to our homes) parking outside her house can be problematic due to other vehicles parking there and leaving no space.</p> <p>No 14 had two cars on drive and 2 cars on road (they have had up to 5 cars at any one time in past). No16 had 4 cars on drive and 1 van on road; also you can see two other vehicles (outside No15) owned by people in the bungalows. Allowing this Disabled Parking space, which I understand is for one of the residents of the bungalows, would free up a space outside No15 and would be helpful.</p> <p>I understand that when the Covid 19 situation calms down there may be fewer vehicles parked in the week, but that will still leave the weekend when parking may be a problem.</p>
<i>Hook Norton</i>	
(22) Local Resident, (Hook Norton)	Object (High Street) – <i>No comments.</i>
(23) Local Resident, (Hook Norton)	Concerns (High Street) - SuggestSpace time limited ie. 9 - 5pm as parking space is often needed for evening church/pub events
(24) Local Resident, (Hook Norton)	<p>Object (High Street) - As a resident of the High Street I do not accept the need for an allocated Disabled Parking Space.</p> <p>The majority of the High Street consists of residential properties that do not have private parking facilities attached to their homes that is, driveways and garages. As a result, the residents have to leave their own vehicles Parked on the High Street.</p> <p>I believe that the residents of the High Street should have priority over parking spaces near or next to their homes (albeit, near to the local store) rather than have to forfeit a space for official disabled parking reservation 24/7.</p>

	<p>Generally, there has not been a problem in previous years with parking in the High Street if you are using the high street store during opening hours. Parking spaces have been available close to the local store at most hours of the weekdays and weekends.</p> <p>Disable parking is all too familiar in town Superstores. Hook Norton high street store is not a Superstore and should not be considered as one.</p> <p>If disabled parking is granted to Hook Norton high street, perhaps the high street private residents should be considered for residential Parking Permits?</p>
(25) Local Resident, (Hook Norton)	<p>Concerns (High Street) - We make the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are not aware that anything has changed since the matter was considered by OCC in 2017 and the proposal turned down. Principally, we are not aware of any 'increased local demand'; 2. First though, basic principles - we have downloaded and read OCC's Disabled Parking Places. This makes it clear that the DPPP scheme exists to provide parking places for disabled people who are Blue Badge holders to enable them to park close to their home or to their work. Thus it seems this proposal is outside DPPP scheme; 3. That said, we turn to focus on the needs of the whole community. Ease of access rights should be given (if possible) not only to Blue Badge holders to do their shopping, but also to those who have mobility problems, which are real but insufficient to entitle them to a Blue Badge. Also to be borne in mind are elderly infirm people, needing to be helped from their cars and mothers dealing with young children. We see all these using this site, which would be closed to them should this proposal be accepted; 4. Has there been a site inspection, which would put the proposal in context?
(26) Local Resident, (Hook Norton)	<p>Concerns (High Street) - We have thought about this proposal carefully. While we do not want to object to making life easier for blue badge holders, and we can also see why that particular space has been earmarked, the proposal raises considerable difficulties for us.</p> <p>For ourselves and our immediate neighbours (Middle House) there is no off-street parking available. That also applies to other houses beyond the shop and at the top of Bell Hill, and because of the road layout they often park along our frontage already. It also applies to the cottages opposite us; because there is so much movement, all of us park whichever side of the road there is space.</p>

	<p>There are some who work locally – at the shop and the dentist – who also park along this frontage for long periods on a daily basis.</p> <p>The shop is open 7 days a week, for six of those, 12 hours. There is constant coming and going of cars during those times, not to mention delivery, workman's and other vehicles. As a result, all too often we residents have trouble finding parking near our doors as it is. It has become busier since the recently built housing estates became occupied.</p> <p>In addition, we understand that there is a planning application for redevelopment of the shop site which would add three further dwellings to the immediate area. These plans involve the provision of no off-street parking. The effect on demand for parking here is obvious.</p> <p>Events at the church, and people parking on the High Street from elsewhere in the village when it is snowy, can make parking anywhere near at all entirely impossible.</p> <p>We have no rear access. Because at (and only at) that point on the frontage there is no barrier, it is a particularly helpful spot for the delivery of fuel and other heavy goods. The same goes for us when we are taking heavy refuse to the dump. We also point out that the shop has deliveries by large lorries, which sometime park along this frontage in the process (but sometimes have to stop in the middle of the road).</p> <p>Unlike a shopping centre or supermarket scenario, where there is no residential competition for parking, the proposed space would in effect have a permanent impact on the immediate residents, as much outside shop-opening hours as during them. We envisage a space which is genuinely useful to us and our neighbours – and other shop-goers and visitors too – becoming unoccupied for the vast majority of the time.</p> <p>The more we have thought about this, the more we feel that the reservation of this space for a very few users for very short periods will adversely impact the rest of us to the extent that we would consider applying for residents' parking areas or some other 'protection'. We do not want to do this, because it would obviously have a detrimental impact on the shop and the community, and so far we have felt it better to live and let live. However, our instinct is that once even one enforceable reserved parking place is there, the 'system' will be put out of balance. Some of the parking is astonishingly inconsiderate already. The present flexibility (aka 'free-for-all') works – but only just.</p>
<i>Witney</i>	
(27) Local Resident, (Witney)	<p>Concerns (Wadards Meadow) - The 2 spaces next 2 each other down the very bottom of the road are going to be for us at 206 and 204 as requested but will be even more useful if a dropped curb was created near them.</p>

	One resident really struggles with the curb and next door always use a wheelchair and sometimes so do we.Perhaps this could be taken into consideration when the work is finally carried out.
<i>Wroxton</i>	
(28) Local Resident, (Wroxton)	Object (Leys Close) - believes that it will be dangerous for school children as they walk through the waste area located close to the proposed bay. Also parents park in the waste area and believe that the disabled bay could obstruct them. The person who applied for the disabled bay is able to walk quite well.