

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR – LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

Speed Limit Reduction Measures – A696 Otterburn Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle 27 January 2022

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposed 50 MPH speed limit along the A696 road in the vicinity of Otterburn.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the existing derestricted speed limit is reduced to 50 MPH when approaching Otterburn from the west on the A696 road.

Link to Corporate Plan

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for" Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

Key Issues

- 1. The proposal has been developed following concerns raised by residents in the area, the elected member, the Parish Council and Otterburn Primary School & Nursery.
- 2. The area under consideration is a gateway into Otterburn and is subject to high traffic speeds. Otterburn Primary School is located outside the village and on this length of the A696.
- 3. The scheme will be funded from the 2021/22 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

Background

The A696 between Elishaw and Otterburn is a single carriageway which is primarily rural in nature and has no street lighting. Traffic calming is minimal in the form of crash barriers and double white lines to signify no overtaking rules in locations with poor visibility. There are private accesses to fields adjoined onto this section of the carriageway and junctions with minor roads that are not clearly visible.

Before the road becomes subject to a 30 MPH maximum speed limit at the gateway to the centre of Otterburn, the National Speed Limit applies. It has been identified as a high risk site requiring intervention measures as part of the LTP Local Safety Schemes programme due to its current layout and the recorded road traffic collisions which have occurred here.

Proposals

50 MPH Speed Limit

The proposed new speed limit restrictions on the A696 from Elishaw to Otterburn transition from the National Speed Limit to a new 50 MPH gateway which is to begin adjacent to the junction with the U5004 road and continues up to the 30 MPH gateway at Otterburn itself, which is to remain unchanged. This transitioned approach is acceptable for use in rural locations on approaches to or on the outskirts of areas such as Otterburn. The length and location of the new 50 MPH proposal is outlined by the plan in Figure 1.

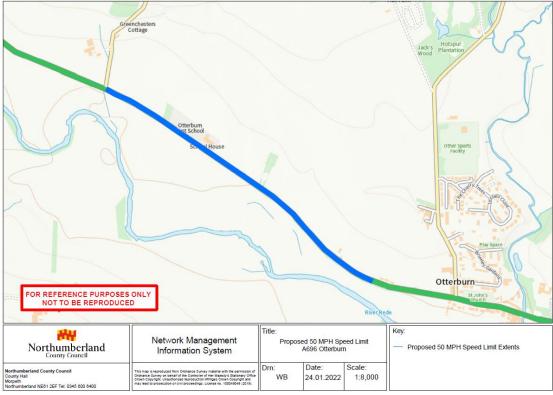


Fig 1: Proposed new 50 MPH speed limit at the A696 road north-west of Otterburn

Traffic Calming Measures

New traffic calming features will incorporate new speed limit signs and road markings in the form of speed limit roundels with red surfacing on the ground to inform motorists of the new restrictions. 'Slow' road marking text will also be installed throughout the scheme with multiple warning signs and verge posts to inform motorists of junctions and sharp bends, whilst vegetation will be cleared in areas required to improve visibility. Countdown markers with red surfacing are also to be marked directly outside and at the approach to Otterburn First School in addition to the existing school warning signs to encourage lower speeds when passing this area.

It is expected that the speed limit reduction measures will promote slower traffic speeds on this section of the A696 road between Elishaw and its junction with the B6341 Elsdon junction, thereby improving road safety at a location which has a history of collisions occurring and through the centre of Otterburn.

Details of the proposals are shown on the plans at Appendix A. Council Officers have worked closely with the elected County Councillor and Otterbum Parish Council on a scheme which encourages slower speeds in the vicinity of Otterburn. Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of these amendments as part of the process for making the permanent Orders.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies										
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the LTP 2021/22 programme										
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Orders										
Procurement	Signage and road markings to meet Regulations for Traffic Regulation Orders (Ref: TROM_238)										
Human Resources	None										
Property	None										
Equalities	N/A										
(Impact Assessment attached) Yes □ No □											
N/A 🗆											
Risk Assessment	None										
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement										
Customer Consideration	A reduction in speed will lead to a safer environment for all road users										
Carbon reduction	Speed reduction assists with carbon reduction										
Wards	Bellingham										

Background Papers:

File reference – S:\Highways\PROJECT\21\HF Local Safety Schemes\A68, A696, A1068 Route Action Schemes\HF214111 A696 Elishaw to B6341 Elsdon junction (Sect 1)

Appendix A – HF214111/20/A696/10/01 - Route Action Scheme Sheet 1 of 5 HF214111/20/A696/10/02 - Route Action Scheme Sheet 2 of 5 HF214111/20/A696/10/03 - Route Action Scheme Sheet 3 of 5 HF214111/20/A696/10/04 - Schedules & Details Sheet 4 of 5 HF214111/20/A696/10/05 - Schedules & Details Sheet 5 of 5

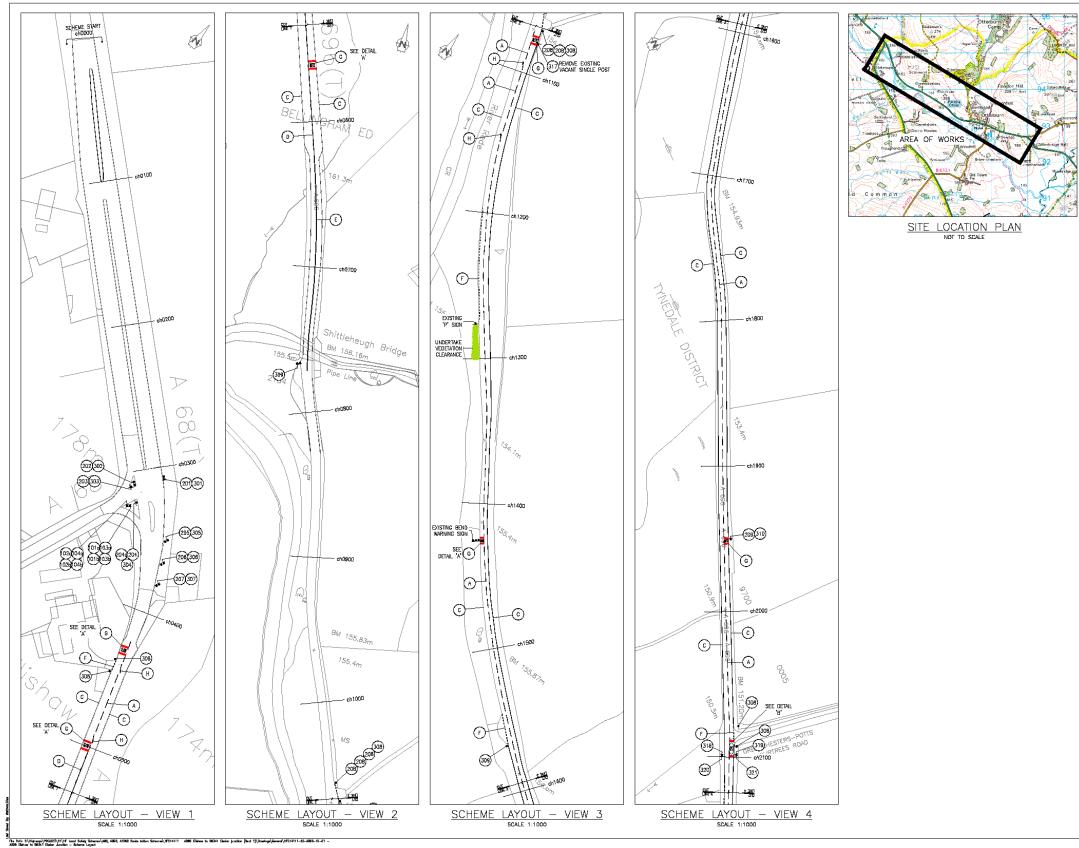
Author and Contact Details

Report Author William Binks, Programme Officer

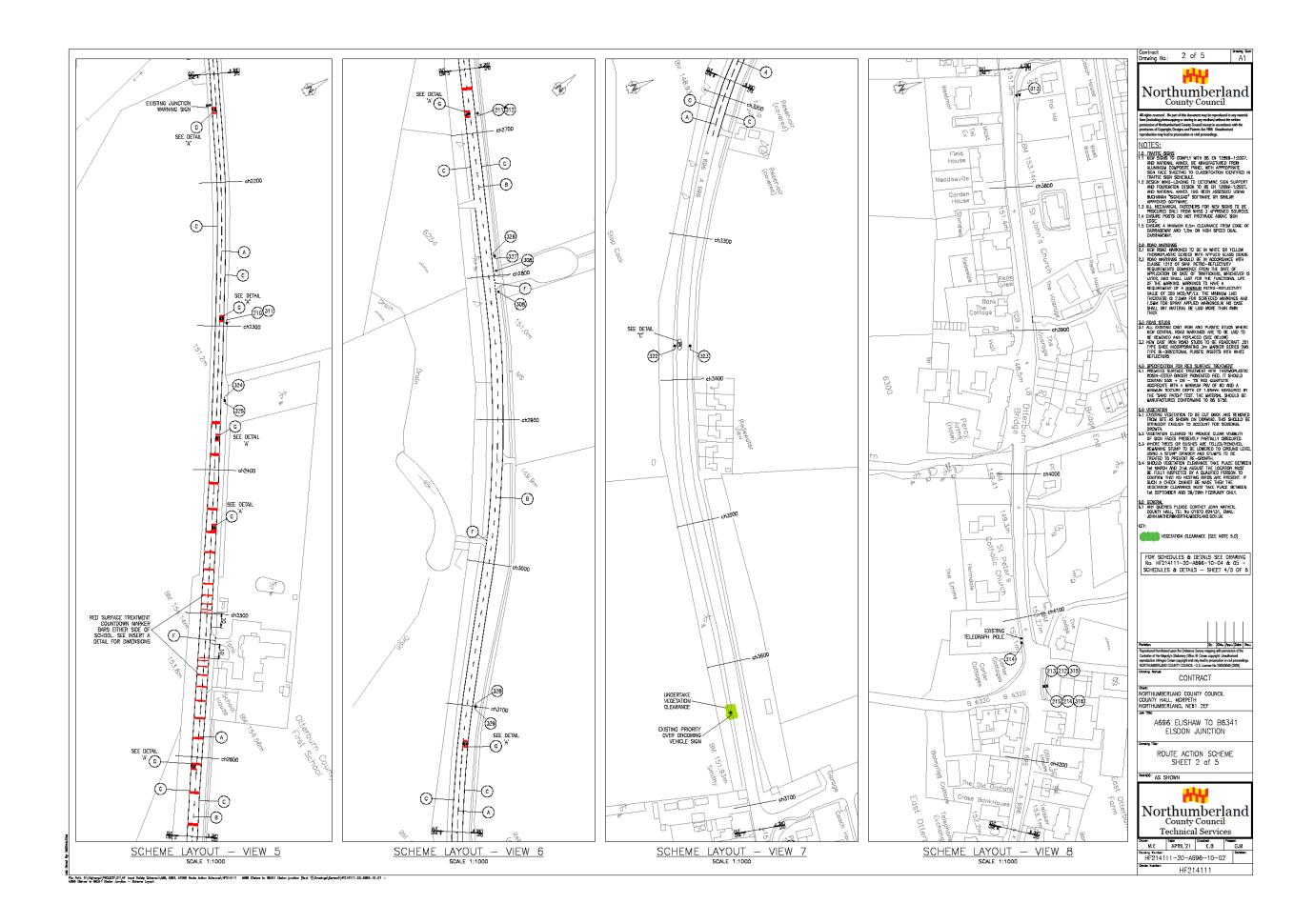
DECISION TAKEN										
Title of Officer:	Service Director, Local Services									
Subject:	Proposed 50 MPH speed limit at the A696 Otterburn.									
Consultation:	Not required for introduction of a 50 MPH speed limit restriction within the vicinity of Otterburn - proposal supported by Local County Councillor and it has been notified to Northumbria Police.									
Decision Taken:	To introduce a new 50 MPH speed limit along the A696 in advance of Otterburn.									

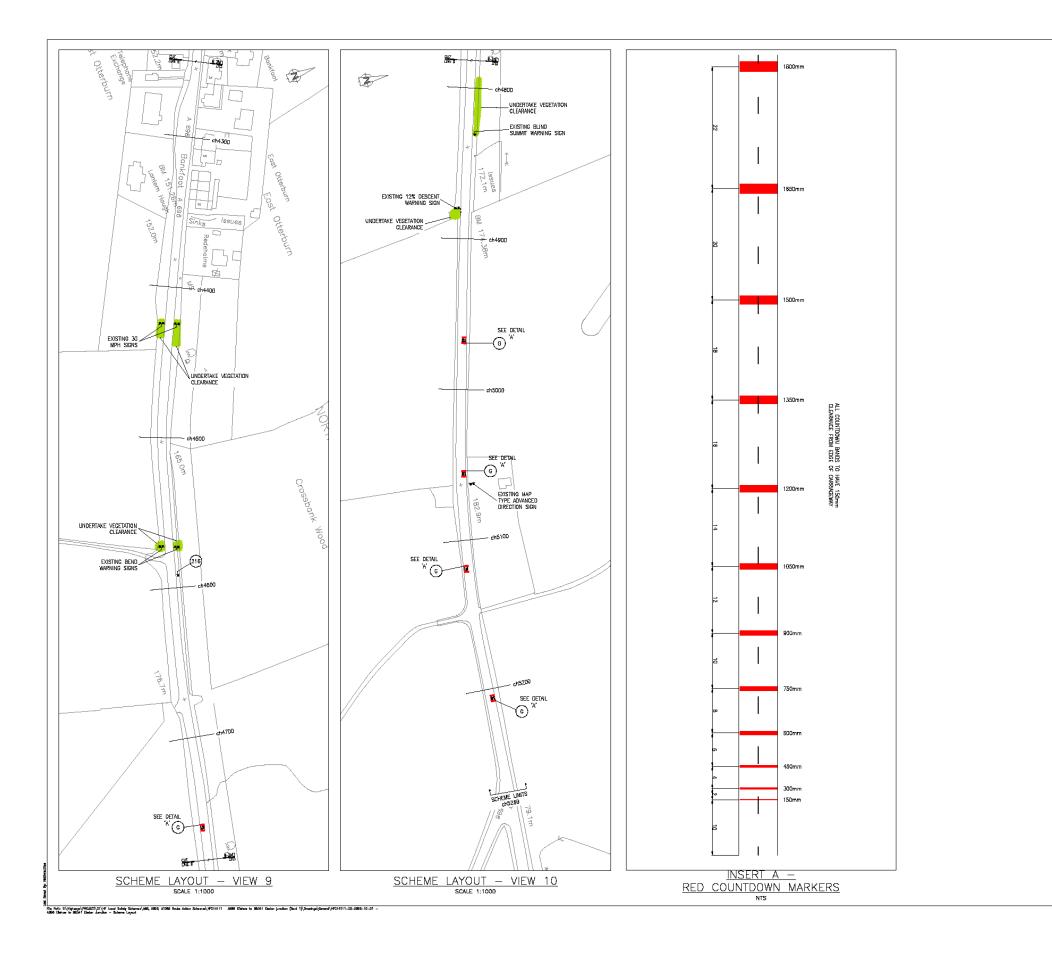
Signature of Director

Date 9th February 2022 Appendix A

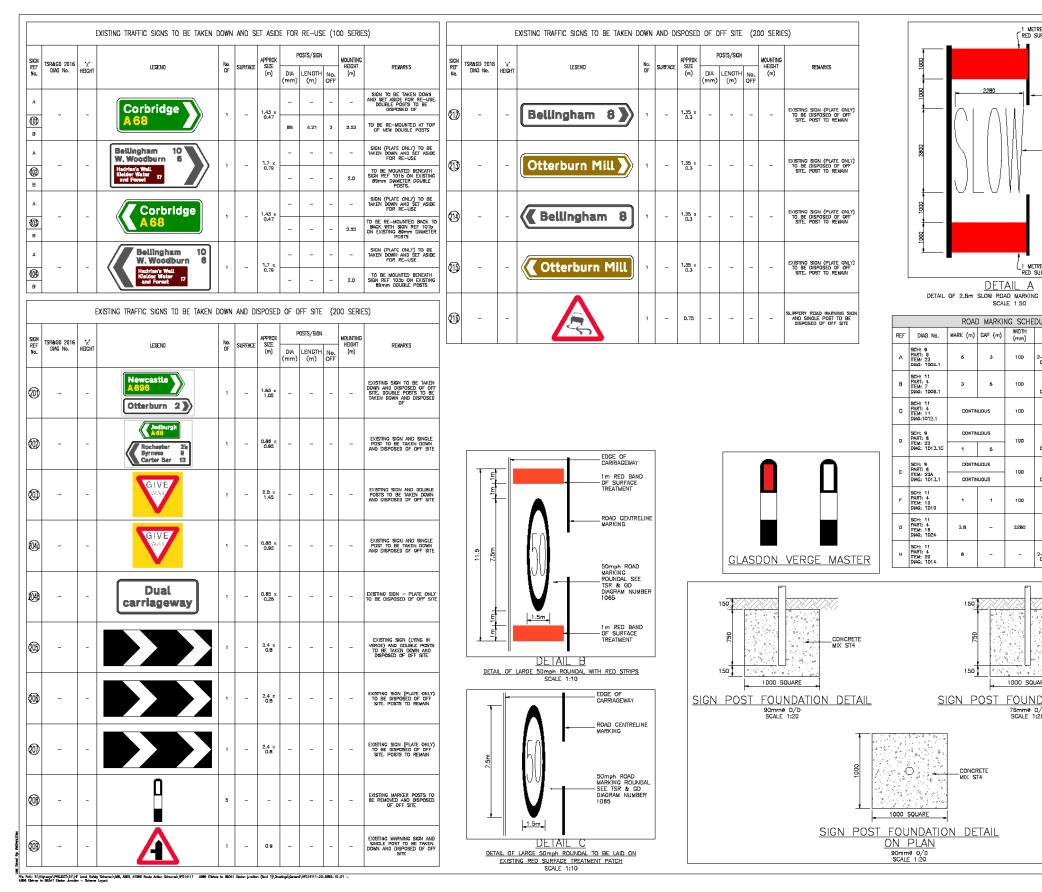












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		Northumberland County Council
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-	"SLOW" LETTERING	FOR SCHEDULES & DETAILS SEE DRAWING No. HF214111-20-A696-10-04 & d5 -
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195	SCH: 2 PART: 6 ITEM: 3 DIAG: 515	-		1	CLASS RA2	2.4 x 0.8	76	2.8	2	1.5	TO BE LOCATED IN CRASS VERGE AT APPROXIMATE LOCATION AS SIGN REF 205 TO BE REMOVED	(19	SCH: 10 PART: 2 ITEM: 1 DIAG: 670	-		1	CLASS R42	0.75	76	3.4	1	2.0	to be located in easter Merce Facing Southboun Traffic
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0	SCH: 2 PART: 8 ITEM: 3 DIAG: 515	-		1	CLASS RA2	2.4 x 0.8	-	-	-	SEE REMARKS	TO BE MOUNTED AT TOP OF EXISTING 75mm DIAMETER DUBLE POSTS TO REPLACE SIGN REF 207 TO BE REMOVED	Ø	SCH: 1D PART: 2 TTEM: 1 DIAG: 670	-		1	CLASS RA2	0.75	-	-	-	SEE REMARKS	TO BE MOUNTED BACK T BACK WITH SIGN REF No. 3 ON EXISTING 76mm DIAMET POST
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1	SCH: 2 PART: 2 ITEM: 13 DRAG: 516	-		1	CLASS RA2	0.6	76	3.2	1	2.1	TO BE LOCATED IN GRASS VERGE FACING SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC	\$25	SCH: 10 PART: 2 ITEM: 1 DI46: 570	-	50	1	CLASS R42	0.3	-	-	-	1.5	TO BE MOUNTED BACK TO BACK WITH SIGN REF No. 3 ON EXISTING 78mm DIAMET PDST
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