



# Northumberland

## County Council

### RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR – LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

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#### Speed Limit Reduction Measures – A1068 Alnwick to Hipsburn

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

18 November 2022

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#### Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposed graduated 50 MPH and 30 MPH speed limit along the A1068 road between Alnwick and Hipsburn.

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that the existing derestricted speed limit is reduced to 50 MPH and then 30 MPH in graduated fashion when approaching Hipsburn from Alnwick, thereby also extending the 30 MPH speed limit that currently operates through Hipsburn and Lesbury by removing the existing 40 MPH speed limit.

#### 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

The proposals have been developed following a Road Safety Study identifying remedial measures to reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions recorded on this route.

The scheme will be funded from the 2022/23 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

## Delegated Decision

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### Background

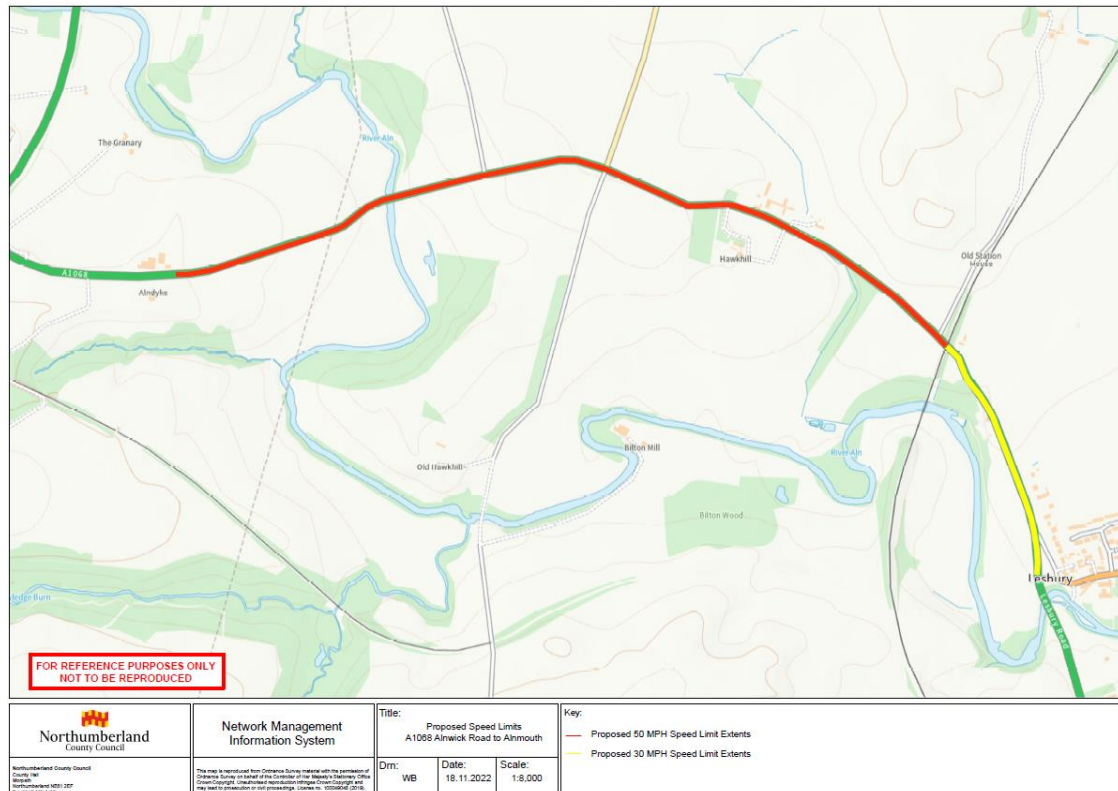
A section of the A1068 road which links Alnwick to Hawkhill, Lesbury and Hipsburn has been identified as a high risk site requiring intervention measures as part of the LTP Local Safety Schemes programme following a Road Safety Study which reviewed the recent road safety record at this location. The route between Hipsburn and Alnwick, estimated to be 5km in length, is a mainly unlit single carriageway running in a west/east direction and is subject to a National Speed Limit with several sharp bends and limited forward visibility alongside very minimal traffic calming features. The derestricted speed limit reduces to a 40 MPH maximum limit when approaching Lesbury travelling from the west.

The recent construction of the Windy Edge housing development to the western extents of the A1068 Alnmouth Road, with new accesses to and from the site, has resulted in the maximum speed limit being reduced to 40 MPH in order to reflect the surrounding area. However, the rest of the route to Lesbury is still classified as National Speed Limit.

### Proposals

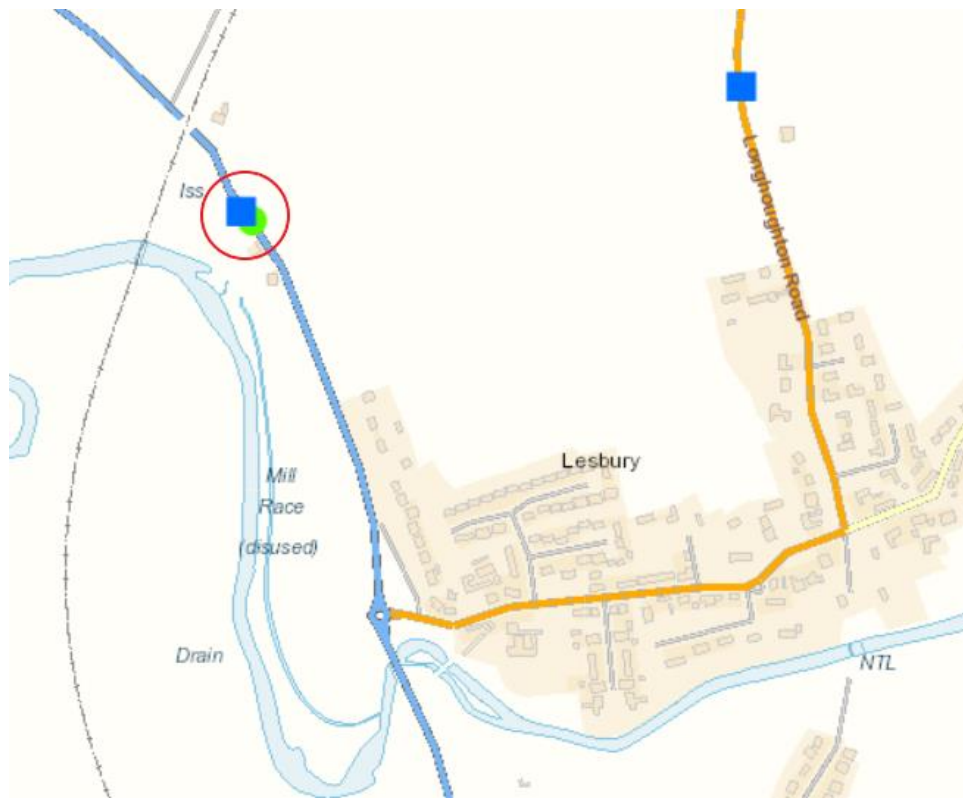
#### Graduated/Transitioned 50 MPH & 30 MPH Speed Limit

A transitioned speed limit approach is proposed in this instance which is acceptable for use in rural locations on approaches to or on the outskirts of areas such as Alnwick. When heading eastbound out of Alnwick and the aforementioned new housing development, the speed limit will be reduced from National Speed Limit to 50 MPH and the existing 40 MPH will be replaced by an extended 30 MPH restriction throughout the residential areas of Hipsburn and Lesbury. This is outlined by the plan in Figure 1.



**Fig 1: Proposed new speed limits at the A1068 road between Alnwick and Lesbury**

Whilst an extension of the 30 MPH speed limit to replace the existing 40 MPH restriction is proposed in an area with limited frontage development in place and therefore not usually considered within the Authority's criteria for a 30 MPH area, two collisions have been recorded at this section in the last three years, with one being slight and one serious in severity. Driving at a high speed limit, loss of control and the road layout extents were all identified as contributory factors and as a result it is considered necessary to reduce the speed limit on this stretch of road.



**Fig 2: Recorded collisions at the approach to Lesbury circled in red. Source: CIRTAS**

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 to inform motorists of junctions and sharp bends, whilst vegetation will be cleared in areas required to improve visibility.

It is expected that the speed limit reduction measures will promote slower traffic speeds on this section of the A1068 road and improve road safety at a location which has a history of collisions occurring. Council Officers have worked closely with the elected County Councillor and Alnwick Town Council on the scheme. 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.

## Delegated Decision

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### Implications Arising out of the Report

<b>Policy</b>	Consistent with existing policies
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Scheme will be financed through the LTP 2022/23 programme
<b>Legal</b>	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Orders
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	A reduction in speed will lead to a safer environment for all road users
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	Speed reduction assists with carbon reduction
<b>Wards</b>	Alnwick

## **Delegated Decision**

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### **Background Papers:**

File reference –

S:\Highways\PROJECT\21\HF Local Safety Schemes\A68, A696, A1068  
Route Action Schemes\HF214112 A1068 Oaks Rbt to Hipsburn Rbt (Sect 1)

### **Author**

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Report Author     **William Binks, Programme Officer**

## Delegated Decision

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### DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Officer:** Service Director, Local Services

**Subject:** Proposed 50 MPH speed limit and reduction from 40 MPH to 30 MPH restrictions along the A1068 between Alnwick and Hipsburn.

**Consultation:** Not required for introduction of a 50 MPH or a 30 MPH speed limit restriction at this location - proposal supported by Local County Councillor and it has been notified to Northumbria Police.

**Decision Taken:** To introduce a graduated speed limit (50 MPH and 30 MPH) along the A1068 between Alnwick and Hipsburn.

Signature of Director



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**Date**  
25.01.23

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