



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport

Proposed 30mph Speed Limit Extension – B1340 Beadnell

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle, Improving Our Roads & Highways

09 May 2024

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit on the B1340 road between Swinhoe and Beadnell.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the extension of the 30mph speed limit on the B1340 at Beadnell is introduced as proposed.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the Corporate Plan for 2023-26:

‘Thriving Places and Culture – Neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained’

Key Issues

- Road safety at Swinhoe Crossroads was the subject of a recent petition signed by a total of 1019 signatories. A petition report in response to this was presented at the North Northumberland Local Area Council meeting of 28th March 2024.
- An extension of the 30mph speed limit on the B1340 road is part of a package of measures designed to improve road safety at Swinhoe Crossroads.

Delegated Decision

- The proposed 30mph speed limit extension is unrelated to the Phase One Design work planned at Swinhoe Crossroads during the 2024/25 financial year.
- Visibility of the existing 30mph terminal signs for westbound traffic is currently impaired due to the brow of a hill.
- An extension of the 30mph speed limit will ensure adequate sign visibility and may assist in reducing vehicle speeds on the approach to Swinhoe Crossroads.
- A number of schemes have been introduced over the years in the vicinity, the most recent being a scheme to improve signage and road markings which was completed in December 2023.
- According to collision data from Northumbria Police, five personal injury collisions have occurred at Swinhoe Crossroads since 1st January 2020, with two of these classed as serious and the remaining three classed as slight in severity.
- The proposals are supported by the local County Councillor and Beadnell Parish Council.
- The scheme is to be funded through the 2024/25 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

Background

The Swinhoe Crossroads is situated on the B1340 road which is a busy coastal route in North Northumberland linking Alnwick with Bamburgh. Over recent years this route has become significantly busier in part due to an increase in popularity of the area as a tourist destination. The C69 and C388 roads join the B1340 at the crossroads.

Northumberland County Council is aware of road safety concerns at Swinhoe Crossroads, which are primarily due to poor visibility. This issue was the subject of a recent petition, signed by a total of 1019 signatories. A petition report in response was presented to the North Northumberland Local Area Council meeting of 28th March 2023.



Fig. 1: Image of existing layout at northbound approach to Swinhoe Crossroads
(Source: Google Maps, 2024)

Many site meetings have occurred in recent years, resulting in several schemes (consisting primarily of traffic signs and road marking improvements) being implemented, with the most recent scheme completed in December 2023. A 30mph speed limit extension will complement this scheme, ensure adequate sign visibility and may assist in reducing westbound vehicle speeds on their approach to the crossroads in the process. A general overview of the proposed extents are illustrated below in Figure 2.



Fig. 2: Proposed extents of 30mph speed limit extension at B1340 Beadnell

The existing 30mph speed limit gateway signs are sited approximately 70 metres east of the crossroads and it is proposed that these are extended an estimated 160 metres east as detailed by the design plans found in Appendix A.

Northumbria Police and the other emergency services will be notified of this amendment as part of the process for making the Traffic Regulation Order, along with all other statutory consultees.



Fig. 3: Image of existing 30mph traffic signs at westbound approach to Swinhoe Crossroads showing beginning of restriction (Source: Google Maps, 2024)

Delegated Decision

The Council has also allocated a further total of £20,000 to Phase 1 Design work for Swinhoe Crossroads in the 2024/25 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme. This will enable our Design Team to investigate larger scale junction improvements which may involve carriageway realignment/junction configuration. Any preferred scheme would then be costed and considered for inclusion in a future LTP programme.

Collision Data

According to recorded data by Northumbria Police, since 1st January 2020, there have been a total of five personal injury collisions at the vicinity of Swinhoe Crossroads. Two of these were classed as serious, with the other three being slight in severity. All appear to be because of vehicles turning right into the path of oncoming westbound traffic due to the poor visibility. It should be noted that this collision data does not include any damage only incidents or any near misses which may have occurred.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the 2024/25 LTP programme
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	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	None
Ward	Bamburgh

Delegated Decision

Background Papers

Road Safety at Swinhoe Crossroads Petition Report

File reference – HF234318

Appendix A – Scheme Layout

Author

Report Author **Jason Bailey, Technical Assistant**

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Director of Environment and Transport

Subject: Proposed 30mph speed limit extension – B1340 Beadnell

Consultation: Not required, speed limit is being extended in order to improve road safety in the area, however statutory consultees will be informed

Decision Taken: To extend the 30mph speed limit at B1340 Beadnell as proposed

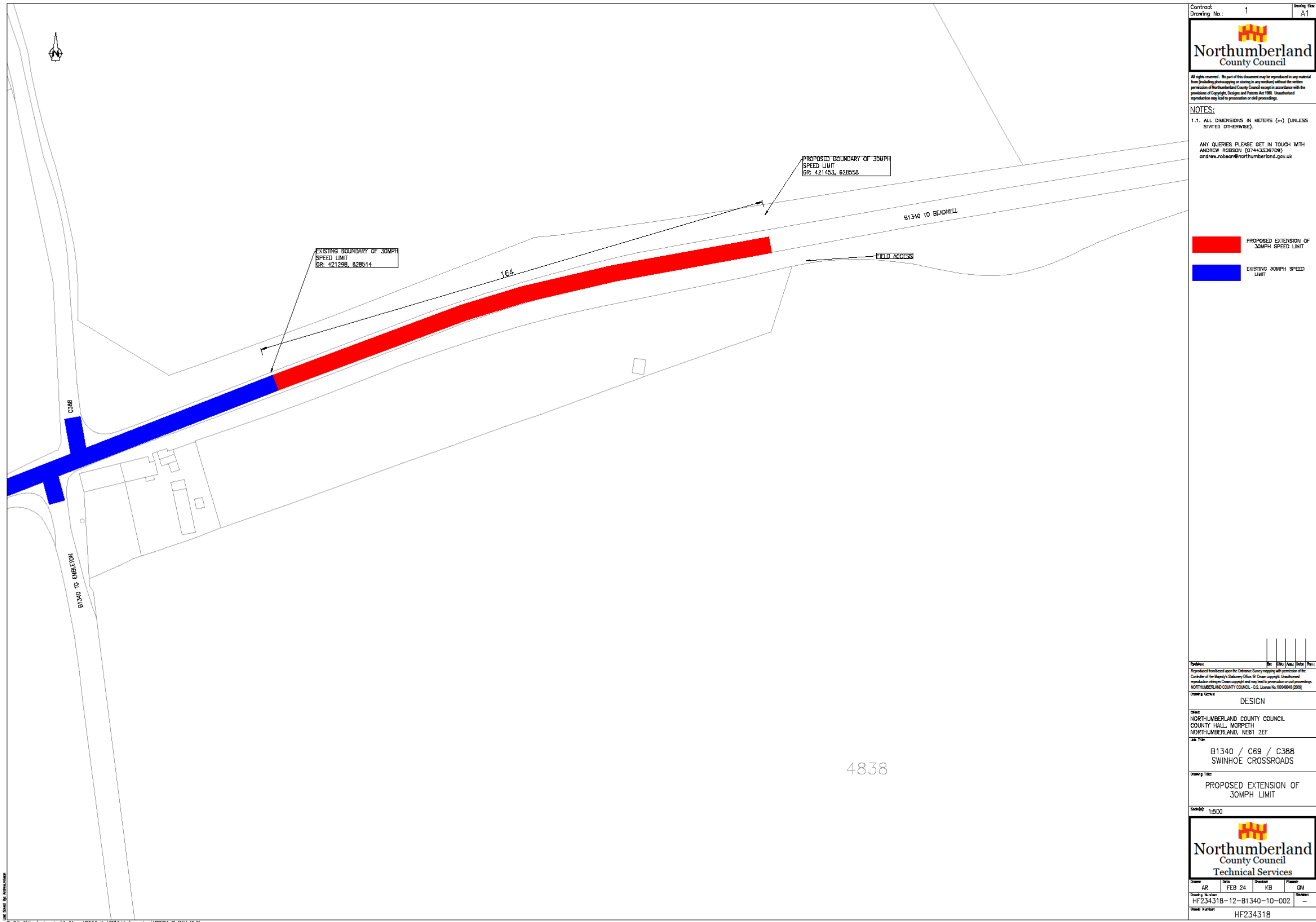
Signature of Director



Date

27th June 2024





Contract
Drawing No.: 1

Drawing Size
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NOTES:

1.1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS (m) (UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE).

ANY QUERIES PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH
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PROPOSED EXTENSION OF
30MPH SPEED LIMIT

EXISTING 30MPH SPEED
LIMIT

Rev.	By	Date	Rev.	By	Date	Rev.

ForWks:

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Drawing Title:

DESIGN

Client:

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COUNTY HALL, MORPETH
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Job Title:

B1340 / C69 / C388
SWINHOE CROSSROADS

Drawing Title:

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF
30MPH LIMIT

Scale:

1:500

Northumberland
County Council

Technical Services

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