



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR  
OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING DELIVERY**

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**CONCERNS ABOUT INDISCRIMINATE PARKING - SOMERSET CLOSE /  
DEVON CLOSE / DORSET CLOSE, ASHINGTON**

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**Purpose of Report**

To consider the feedback provided through the public canvass exercise, which has been carried out as a result of concerns being raised by residents about indiscriminate parking at school start and finish times.

**Recommendations**

**Based on the feedback received, it is recommended that double yellow lines are introduced to prevent parking at all junctions in the Somerset Close / Devon Close / Dorset Close area. In addition, double yellow lines will be provided in front of the garages on Devon Close and Dorset Close in order to prevent obstruction.**

**Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the 'Stronger Communities and Families' priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2013-2017.

**Key Issues**

- 1) Scheme being funded by LTP
- 2) There are currently no parking restrictions in place.
- 3) The scheme will improve road safety in the area.
- 4) Scheme supported by Councillor Grimshaw and Ashington Town Council.
- 5) Scheme supported by Northumberland County Council's Parking Services Team

**Background**

- 1) Concerns have been raised by residents of Somerset Close, Devon Close and Dorset Close about indiscriminate parking which occurs as a result of parents and grandparents taking children to and from Bothal Upper Primary School.

- 2) These concerns were passed on to Councillor Lynne Grimshaw, who discussed the matter with officers and residents on site. It was agreed that residents should be canvassed about potential solutions which may assist in improving the current situation, while also addressing any further issues which are likely to occur once parking restrictions are introduced in front of the school.
- 3) Two options were suggested to residents in the canvass letter. Option One was a Residents Permit Parking Zone, Option Two was the Introduction of Double Yellow and Single Yellow Lines.
- 4) The canvass letter was sent to 90 properties and approximately 30 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the suggested options is attached together with a copy of the canvass letter (see Appendix A).

### **Canvass Exercise**

- 5) The canvass exercise ended on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017, and responses were received from 22 residents, with 9 in favour of Option One, and 12 in favour of Option Two. One resident did not express a preference. Two responses were received from statutory consultees. These were from the North East Ambulance Service who did not express a preference and the Council's Parking Services Team who suggested that Option Two was a more suitable option bearing in mind there is only an issue at school start and finish times. A summary of all responses received is attached as Appendix B.

### **Option One Feedback**

- 6) While indicating Option One as their preference, residents made the following comments:-
  - Why should I have to pay to park outside my own home.
  - Option 2 means I could be fined for parking where I currently park.
  - Would need to be enforced correctly.
  - Attitude of people picking up children from school is appalling.

### **Option Two Feedback**

- 7) While indicating Option Two as their preference, residents made the following comments:-
  - Why should I have to pay to park outside my own home.
  - Problems will be moved elsewhere.
  - What about school holidays etc.
  - Totally in favour of double yellow lines but single yellow lines are restrictive and unnecessary..

- The issue has been blown out of proportion.
- Would need to be enforced correctly.

### Recommendations

- 8) From the outset, the County Council has endeavoured to respond positively to local concerns raised in this area and it is inevitable that some sections of the community will be dissatisfied with whichever decision is reached. The results of the canvass exercise shows that the majority of residents who responded are against paying for parking permits to park outside their homes. Comments have also been made that the suggested single yellow lines are restrictive, while some have suggested that the situation isn't as bad as some make out, a theory which is supported by the limited number of responses.
- 9) It is therefore recommended that the double yellow lines are introduced to prevent parking at all junctions in the Somerset Close / Devenon Close / Dorset Close area. In addition, double yellow lines will be provided in front of the garages on Devon Close and Dorset Close in order to prevent obstruction.
- 10) The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that the extensive consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended that an inquiry is not held.

### 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 2017/18 LTP Programme.
<b>Legal</b>	The necessary Traffic Regulation Order will be prepared.
<b>Human Resources</b>	n/a
<b>Property</b>	n/a
<b>Equalities</b>	n/a
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Residential area, route to school, congestion and associated visibility issues.

<b>Crime Disorder &amp;</b>	Scheme will assist in improving road safety. The parking restrictions will be enforced by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Parents / Grandparents will be required to park elsewhere at school start and finish times.
<b>Sustainability</b>	n/a
<b>Consultation</b>	All residents of Somerset Close / Devon Close / Dorset Close canvassed for opinion on potential solutions.
<b>Wards</b>	Bothal

**Appendix Index:**

Appendix A - Copy of canvass letter and plan

Appendix B - Summary of responses

Appendix C - Plan showing restrictions to be introduced.

**Background papers:**

None

## DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):**

Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery

**Subject:**

Concerns about Indiscriminate Parking - Somerset Close / Devon Close / Dorset Close, Ashington

**Canvass Exercise:**

22 responses  
9 in favour of Option One  
12 in favour of Option Two  
1 No preference

**Decision Taken:**

To introduce double yellow lines only at all junctions and in front of garages on Devon and Dorset Close.

**Signature of Director**



**Date**

27/7/17

**APPENDIX C - PLAN SHOWING PROPOSALS TO BE INTRODUCED**



## APPENDIX A – COPY OF CANVAS LETTER

County Hall · Morpeth · Northumberland · NE61 2EF · Web: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

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The Occupier

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HE163341  
Enquiries to: Neil Snowdon  
Direct Line: 01670 624128  
E-mail: [HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)  
Date: 3 March 2017

### Concerns about Indiscriminate Parking – Somerset Close / Devon Close / Dorset Close, Ashington

Dear Resident

Concerns have been raised by residents of the above streets about indiscriminate parking which occurs as a result of parents and grandparents taking children to and from Bothal Upper Primary School. These concerns have been passed onto Local County Councillor, Lynne Grimshaw.

Road safety is a concern outside this school, several near misses have been reported, and observations during school start and finish times confirm that there is a need to address this matter. Councillor Grimshaw has been working with officers and the school, and suitable parking restrictions for the area in front of the school on High Market have now been proposed as shown on the attached plan. There is no need to consult on these restrictions as they are necessary in order to improve road safety. However due to the restrictions to be imposed, it is probable that motorists will look at alternative locations to park, which may cause further disruption to residents of the above streets.

In order to alleviate these concerns, Councillor Grimshaw has requested that residents be canvassed about potential solutions which will assist in improving the current situation, while also addressing any further issues which are likely to occur once parking restrictions are introduced in front of the school on High Market.

#### Option One – Residents Permit Parking Zone

A Residents Permit Parking Zone would be an option for Somerset Close / Devon Close / Dorset Close. Signs at the entry to Somerset Close would dictate where Residents Permit Parking is in operation. Bays would not be provided within the zone as they are not required for this type of restriction. To make this scheme enforceable, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £15 a year per permit, equivalent to £1.25 per month). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with one permit reserved for a specific car registered to the resident,



and one for an additional car, for example a visitor. It should however be emphasised that a residents permit does not guarantee residents or their visitors a parking space outside their property.

### **Option Two – Introduction of Double Yellow and Single Yellow Lines**

A second option would be to introduce double yellow lines around all junctions in the Somerset Close / Devon Close / Dorset Close area to prevent parking at junctions which can cause problems for residents accessing and egressing. In addition, it is also proposed to introduce single yellow lines which will prevent anyone (including residents) from parking during the school run. The single yellow lines will prevent parking Monday – Friday 08:15 - 09:15 and 14:30 – 16:00. A plan is enclosed to highlight where these restrictions will be in place.

The County Council is seeking your views on your preferred option. We would welcome comments by Friday 17th March 2017. A freepost response form is attached to facilitate this process. You can also respond to this exercise online, by visiting the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>. We would also welcome comments by email:- [HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk).

Depending on the feedback received, a suitable scheme will be considered for introduction.

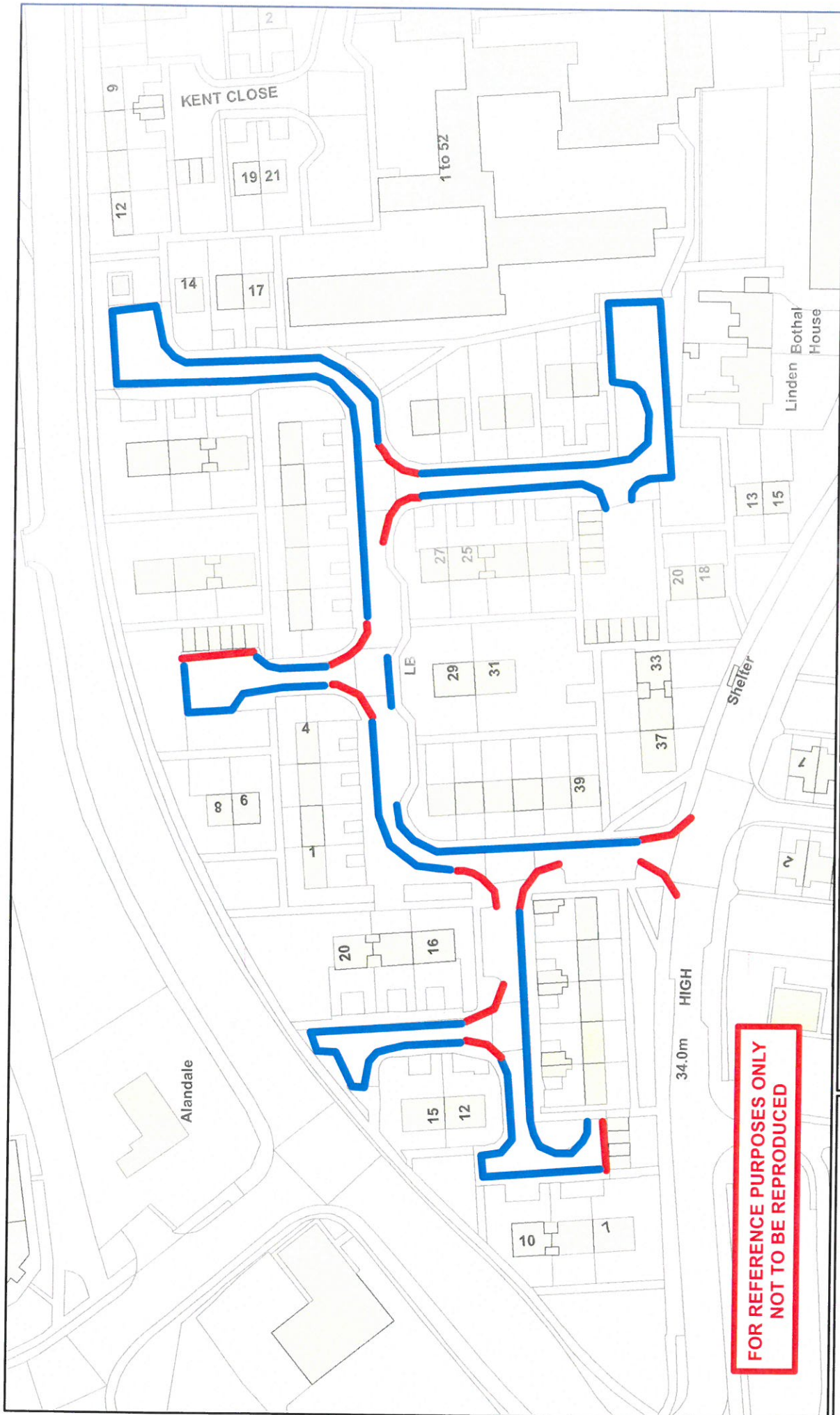
Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report and may be available for public inspection.

Yours faithfully



Neil Snowdon  
**Senior Programme Officer**





KEY:-

— PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS (DOUBLE YELLOW LINES)

— PROPOSED NO WAITING MON - FRI 08:00 AND 14:30 - 17:00 (SINGLE YELLOW LINES)

Title: Proposed Parking Restrictions Somerset Close / Devon Close Dorset Close		
Drm:	Date: 2 Feb 17	Scale: 1:1,250

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<b>Northumberland</b> Northumberland County Council	Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000
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## APPENDIX B - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Thoroughfare	Post Code	Option 1	Option 2	Neither	Other Relevant Comments
Dorset Close	NE63 8QB		1		<p>It's wrong that a problem created by the school should be put back to the residents of this estate you propose either permit or yellow lines both of which penalise the residents where they do park your car if you have no drive as some residents have spent time making gardens are you now going to deny them of that amenity we are told that it is better That we do not have concreted gardens but that is what may happen ,so do you propose that during the no waiting we remove ourselves and are cars or risk incurring hundreds of pounds in fines And the permit both myself and my wife drive ,and we do have visitors so what are they supposed to do</p> <p>With only two permits per house again i strongly object to having to pay to park outside my house</p> <p>The proposals you have forward will not work do</p> <p>You honestly think traffic wardens will be there every day to police this problem ,no of course not</p> <p>The parents will totally ignore restrictions ,and only the residents will be affected i would suggest that the school creates pick up arrangements for these pupils.</p>
Parking Services				1	<p>In my opinion the introduction of the DYL &amp; SYL is the better option. There is not a problem outside of school times. When children are going in/out of school it is a completely different landscape with dangerous parking occurring throughout this area.</p> <p>My only concern is our ability to enforce regularly at this location as with only 3 CEO's based at Blyth it is somewhat difficult to meet all the requests to visit school areas at these times of day. In my opinion this scheme will receive a lot of requests for enforcement as it is chaotic at the moment.</p>
Ambulance Service				1	<p>Thank you for your letter dated 3rd March 2017 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for outpatient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the ongoing road safety programme.</p>
Devon Close	NE63 8PL		1		<p>what about Easter summer holidays etc., will the single yellow line outside my door still be in effect? any I cannot believe that I am being asked to purchase parking permits to park outside of my house, why can 2 permits per household not be issued free of charge?? surely this must be a cheaper option than painting lines all over the estate!!!</p>
Somerset Close	NE63 8PH		1		<p>A £15 charge payable annually (£30) if you have two cars is too much.</p>
				1	<p>I am totally in favour of the double yellow lines indicated in option 2. But regarding single yellow lines I think is to restricted. Where are parents required to park for the few minutes involved in dropping and picking up children from school. I feel this has been totally blown out of proportion by a few residents who have nothing better to do with their time. The flats on Devon Close have hard standing areas for parking and speaking for myself have never obstructed. With regards to proposal at front of school totally in favour.</p>
Dorset Close	NE63 8QB		1		<p>As with any enforced parking/permit situation it will in the end depend on who is monitoring - enforcing it as with the rest of schemes in Ashington motorists will just ignore it due to lack of enforcement.</p>
Somerset Close	NE63 8PH				<p>Yes I highly approve of these restrictions to be applied and I would also approve of speed humps to be applied in sometime or other because of speeding motorists and this would improve road safety in these areas.</p>
Dorset Close	NE63 8QA		1		<p>I am not willing to pay for a permit to park outside my own home. I work full time and I am out of the house from 7.45am to 6.15pm as a result I am very rarely at the property in school hours.</p>
Devon Close	NE63 8PH		1		<p>As above and my reason for option Two is that the only time there's parking problems in this estate (Devon Close) is during the school runs, morning and afternoons, bearing this in mind I think it would be unfair to charge residents for parking seeing as most people have a parking hard stand attached to their property, I personally have a garage which during said times is off limits and usually results in arguments and threats if any action is taken on this issue I would hope that it would be forwarded through the school to all parents</p>
Devon Close	NE63 8PL		1		<p>The only problem it may cause is when our son's come to visit as we are elderly and they come to visit to do jobs for us and of course we only have a single drive</p>

Somerset Close	NE63 8PJ	1			no comments
Devon Close	NE63 8PL	1			Why should residents have to pay for a permit to park outside there own home. I think they should be free. Option 2 means I could be fined for parking where I have parked for the last 39 years.
		1			If option 2 was put in place I feel something also has to be done to stop cars being double parked beside the parking bays either side to the post box on Somerset Close! Also will residents be allowed to park half on the road/path still to help the flow of traffic
Dorset Close		1	1		I would support any suggestion to resolve this problem - My only concern is some motorist park completley on the pavement so they are off the road forcing pedestrians to walk on the road
Somerset Close	NE63 8PJ	1			Option 1 but must be policed properly to enforce the restrictions or else it's a waste of money paying the permit.
Devon Close			1		I am a resident at Devon Close Ashington. I have looked at the proposals and my property doesn't even show on the map. The only access is the gable end facing onto Bothal School. You propose to put a SYL outside my access. I think there is a need and a purpose to have a SYL from the Pedestrian Crossing and opposite the school entrance but I think it could be shortened to allow a couple of cars to park outside the flats. The proposal to put DYL and SYL in Somerset, Devon and Dorset Close seems a bit too extreme and will impact on residents as well as inconsiderate drivers dropping off at the school. I think there is a purpose for the DYL but if you put in the SYL or Resident Permit Scheme you are just going to force the problem to neighbouring areas. I hope my comments are of use
Devon Close	NE63 8PL	1			People parking outside your door while picking children up from school is shocking. . Park on pathways causing flag stones to be dangerous and loose. .When you ask people not to park in front of your garage or driveway you get threatened they use bad language towards you and tell you I CAN F...ING PARK WHERE I LIKE .Ignorant people/ nasty people. .Sick of coming in from work and moving people so I can park at my door causes unpleasantness .people park outside your house and leave there cars unattended .Have had the police before and was told as I have a slopping kerb people cannot park outside my house .someone will get hurt one day before anything is done .When the proposal gets put in place[if it ever will as the council could not care less as they don't live here] it should be monitored and people who do not take notice should be given a parking ticket
Dorset Close	NE63 8QB	1			Although I support the proposal for a residents parking area I do feel it is unfair for us to have to pay for the privilege of parking outside our own property. My concerns for option 2 are one of the areas indicated for no waiting between 8.30-9.30 and 2.30-5pm is where I currently park my car if I park my car here during these times will I be in violation of parking restrictions. Also both options leave the residents of Bothal Cottages in danger as people will just park here I feel this needs to be addresses also. Will residents be effected if Option 2 is carried out if they park in the areas marked as no waiting if so where do you suggest we park? I have lived in Dorset Close for 16 years and this problem has gotten worse each year. It is dangerous and very diffiult to leave the estae at school times.
		1			
Dorset Close	NE63 8QB		1		
	NE63 8PH		1		
Devon Close	NE63 8PL	1			
		9	12	2	

## **APPENDIX C - PLAN SHOWING PROPOSALS TO BE INTRODUCED**





**KEY:-**

— **NO WAITING AT ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS (DOUBLE YELLOW LINES)**

Title: Parking Restrictions Somerset Close / Devon Close Dorset Close		
Dm:	Date: 2 Feb 17	Scale: 1:1,250

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