

TRO10032 LOWER THAMES CROSSING

SUGGESTIONS TO ASSIST THE ASI on 12th September 2023 For Deadline 3 (24th August 2023)

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL (IP ref 20035603)

Introduction:

The following notes are submitted with the aim of assisting the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) to be held on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

As a comment, the Day 1 map is not very sharp, please could it be improved if possible. Also, it is very difficult to work out from the notes as to exactly what route is intended to be taken.

We have assumed that the driver will be familiar with the road hazards in the area. If not we can advise on the day.

Thank you very much for considering our representations.

Time	Section	Suggested route and matters to observe
08:45	Ebbsfleet International arrival	
09:05-09:20	Travel to Shorne Woods Country Park (A2 eastbound from Ebbsfleet Station)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traffic speeds and volumes• Hares WCH bridges• North (left) side – After Gravesend East junction: NC177 cycle path on verge, Claylane Wood, former Esso Station and view of Shorne West/Riverview Park across fields as no bund or vegetation there, entrance to drainage pond surrounded by mature vegetation, vegetation now well established on bund from last widening• Note very wide hard shoulder all along to top of rise due to previous slip roads, there may be lorries informally parked up here• Electricity substation to be removed• Graffitied wooden fencing (unsure why installed) and NC177 cycle path rising on former Thong Lane off-slip• Thong Lane overbridge• Inn on the Lake (“Laughing Water”) Hotel (worth a visit sometime to see the lakes)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorne Woods CP and continuation of NC177 • Note central reservation increasingly wide and wooded. • Note long rise in ground level • Immediately after Brewers Road overbridge, take the Cobham/Shorne off-slip • Note wheel marks in the verge due to failed turning at speed, short distance from carriageway to the T-junction, and that queuing traffic cannot be seen due to the tight bend • “Nook Pet Hotel” at Boughurst Cottage on left of off-slip • At T-junction turn right, then left at staggered junction (Park Pale is on the right) into Country Park. • Park up where arranged • Note size of overall Parking area, recycling point (only one in Shorne)
09:20-09:30	Country Park Visitor Centre	
09:35-11:00	Park Pale and A2/M2 Corridor (Items labelled (1) on Day 1 map	<p><i>Printed Itinerary notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Observations of Park Pale overbridge, northern edge of Cobham Hall Registered Park and Garden, Brewers Road overbridge, notable features from a Landscape and Visual perspective.</i> • <i>M2 (Air Quality interest).</i> • <i>A2 London Road and Elaine Avenue Strood (Population and Human Health and Air Quality interest).</i> • <i>Site of former petrol filling station north of the A2 and petrol filling station (Esso) south of A2 (Geology interest).</i> • <i>Ancient Woodland Mitigation near Park Pale/Great Crabbles Wood/Brewers Wood (Soils interest).</i> • <i>Henhurst Road contractor’s depot, south of A2 (Geology).</i> • <i>Ancient Woodland Mitigation, Church Road (Soils interest).</i> • <i>Henhurst Road/Jeskyns Road (Noise and Vibration interest).</i> <p><i>Observations will be made from the bus. Specific locations will be viewed on foot via Public Rights of Way (PRoWs).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave CP, turn right and immediately left into Park Pale • Note any (illegally) parked cars, these are people avoiding paying at the CP car park, there can be over 100 overflow cars parking here when there are special events, school holidays, weekends and at Bank Holidays. • Brewers Wood on left, vegetation screening A2 on right • Assorted mitigation land then at far end Harlex etc depot, current grazing land, includes land area inexplicably left out of order limits and site of future drainage pond

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side turning and roadway up on to Park Pale bridge (question possible use when Brewers Road overbridge has been removed) across A2 and under HS1 to Rochester and Cobham private golf club access roadway • Back up Park Pale, turn left and left again onto A2/M2, note ease of access. <p>After that, it is less clear what route is intended, we suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If going to Elaine Avenue Strood, take the M2J1/A289 off-slip but keep right for the old A2 London Road. Go across Three Crutches Roundabout, note Crutches Lane on left connects to Higham by Gads Hill House and School. Proceed past Strood Academy on the right and turn right into Elaine Road. • At end turn left down Darnley Road to mini-roundabout then turn right and go up Cuxton Road to M2J2. • Join the M2 westbound and travel back up past M2J1, pass under London Road joining M2/A2 then under Park Pale Bridge after which HS1 and the dividing bund is on the left. • Continue westbound on A2 aiming to leave at Gravesend East junction. Note extent of wooded central reservation on right and, after Brewers Road bridge, the petrol station and rest area, mature drainage pond, HS1 electricity substation (if visible) and Henhurst Road Contractors Yard. • When exiting at Gravesend East, move to the left hand lane to turn left into Henhurst Road. Alternatively take the petrol station slip road, go left of the shop to see the small lorry area, then onto the exit road passing mature drainage pond, HS1 Electricity substation (if visible) and remaining houses at the Contractors yard. These can also be seen from the A2 route. Keep left, and turn left into Henhurst Road. • On entering Henhurst road, the Singlewell rail maintenance depot is on the right and the Henhurst Road contractors yard and remaining houses on the left. Proceed over the HS1 bridge, Jeskyns is on the left and Church Road is on the right (mitigation land is left/south side of Church Road). • Continue south on Henhurst Road, bends round to left then passing Owletts and through Cobham noting old buildings including Church and Alms Houses and three pubs including “Ye Olde Leather Bottle”, to the War Memorial. Cobhambury Road (ratrun route from Cuxton) is on the right and Lodge Lane, leading to the Mausoleum is ahead. • As per Gravesham’s suggestion, suggest turn left up Halfpence Lane back to the A2, Ashenbank Ancient Woodland is on the left with small car park, Cobham Hall park is on the right. • We suggest then going straight on at Halfpence/Brewers roundabout to the onslip to the A2 westbound, proceed to Gravesend East and take exit again but this time keep right and turn right. • Over the Marling Cross/Gravesend East A2 overbridge, turn right a first roundabout, at next go straight ahead noting Valley Drive to the left and Nell’s Café ahead, rejoin A2 eastbound, go back to Country Park for next session.
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<p>11:00-12:05</p>	<p>Shorne Woods Country Park Area (items labelled 2 on Day 1 map)</p>	<p><i>Printed Itinerary notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Observations of Ancient Woodland Mitigation north of Brummelhill Wood. Access to the area north of Brummelhill Wood is subject to landowner permission. The extent to which this area will be accessible on the day and whether access will be available to the full party is still subject to negotiation by the Applicant.</i> • <i>If access cannot be obtained for the full party, those needing to wait can shelter at the Shorne Woods Country Park Visitor Centre. Ancient Woodland Mitigation north of Randall Wood (Soils interest).</i> • <i>PRowWs will be used to access this area on foot, which is bordered by NS355 and NS167.</i> <p>Note: Gravesham had suggested for the previous route going on via Thong Lane to Shorne Ifield Road for this but finding somewhere to stop could be a problem. The transport could drop the group down to here to then walk back or be collected again unless a tour of the Country Park is wanted. As said unlikely to be able to park on Shorne Ifield Road, <u>might</u> be able to turn somewhere a lot further on, or could be dropped from Thong Lane at beginning of Shorne Ifield Road and walk along to the land areas in question which would save access time and difficulty.</p> <p>We think some of the mitigation land area referenced here may actually be on the north side of Shorne Ifield Road, the larger plot is south of that road behind Baynards Cottage and bordering the Ifield Farm stream from the Country Park.</p>
<p>12:05-12:45</p>	<p>Country Park Visitor Centre</p>	
<p>12:45-14:30</p>	<p>Higham/Gad’s Hill, Shorne and Chalk (including requests from Higham Parish Council and Shorne Parish Council) (see items labelled 3 on Day 1 Map)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Country Park turn left and proceed through Shorne Ridgeway noting cottages close to/opening directly onto the roadway and parked cars. • Continue along Pear Tree Lane to the traffic lights, turn left onto the A225 westbound. • Turn left at Forge Lane (Shorne) then uphill through Shorne Village noting various heritage and listed properties, then continue uphill on Tanyard Hill to The Ridgeway, turn right into The Ridgeway which becomes Brewers Road, over bridge and go straight on at roundabout to take newly renamed Darnley Lodge Lane, then Thong Lane through Thong noting ancient buildings and “Homes for Heroes on the left side, before turn right at Shorne Ifield Road. • At end of Shorne Ifield Road turn right into Crown Lane then left into Forge Lane (Shorne) heading downhill (north). • Go across the A226 at Shorne Crossroads, take Green Farm Lane to Lower Higham Road. Turn left to Chalk. This is functionally linked land to the Ramsar Site which is about 850m away at this point.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Higham Road passes Filborough Farm and barn, and then becomes residential (with Great Clane Marsh to the north), including Dickens connected properties. Turn half-right at junction with Chalk Road and then pass North Kent College of right to Lion Roundabout where turn left onto Gravesend Road and proceed eastward to Higham passing The Outlook and Shearer’s barns on the south side, and Chalk Church and the Crematorium on the north side, and views of the river. • Pass through Shorne Crossroads then Pear Tree Lane traffic lights. • In Higham, pass Crutches Lane and Gad’s Hill School on right, and Forge Lane (Higham) on left. noting Dickens’ tunnel under the road here. (Note – unclear if this is being visited now, will be term-time) • Go straight ahead at the first A226 roundabout, across the A289, turn back on yourself at the second A226 roundabout (straight ahead would lead to London Rad Strood again but further down the hill than previously) then back across the A289 and straight ahead at the first A226 roundabout again. • At Gads Hill House turn left into Crutches Lane, that will take you past the eastern entrance to Crabbles Bottom on your right just before going under the A289. At the end turn left onto old Watling Street then almost immediately it joins Three Crutches roundabout on the old A2 out of Strood where turn right. • Go over the M2 and merge with the A289 and then the M2/A2 westbound and continue on up the hill and back to the Shorne/Cobham exit and the Country Park again for dropping off.
14:30-14:50	Country Park Visitor Centre	
14:30-14.50	Return to Ebbsfleet Station on westbound A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn right out of Country Park, proceed over Brewers Road overbridge, can see some of Cobham Hall park on left side, to Halfpence Lane roundabout. • Turn right and take slip road onto A2 westbound and proceed on A2 westwards. • Note the continuous woods on the south side, including between the A2 and “Darnley Lodge Lane.
15:00-15:15	To Dartford Crossing Control Centre etc	

Notes: This itinerary omits two areas of Nitrogen Compensation land in Shorne (referred to as “Fenn Wood” and “Court Wood”), Woodlands Lane (cut through route) - these could be visited as USI’s.