

21/04/2023

Aona Stuart
National Highways,
2 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AR

Dear Aona,

Hole Farm Community Woodland, B186 Great Warley Street, Road Safety Audit Stage 1

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the Final Stage 1 Road Safety Audit report for Hole Farm Community Woodland.

The problems are recorded as significant road safety hazards, which the overseeing organisation must review. They should then respond to the audit team indicating whether the findings are accepted, and what actions are to be taken against it.

The terms of reference of this Road Safety Audit are set out in Departmental Standard GG119. Please be aware that Departmental Standard GG119 requires the Project Sponsor to ensure prompt action on recommendations.

If you require any further information regarding this Road Safety Audit report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Paul Bartley
Divisional Director/Road Safety Auditor
Email – 

Hole Farm Community Woodland, B186 Great Warley Street

Road Safety Audit – Stage 1

ITEMS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THIS ROAD SAFETY AUDIT

In addition to the safety concerns raised in the attached audit, the Road Safety Audit Team would also like to raise the following issues:

Observation 3.1 - It was observed on site that the northern hedge line is significantly overgrown and requires cutting back to expose the existing road signs located within the verge and to increase the usable footway width. It is recommended that this hedge line is cut back to reveal the existing road signs which would also allow pedestrians to walk along the footway, without having to step into the carriageway.

Observation 3.2 - It was observed on site that the road markings are particularly worn on the approaches and within the vicinity of the proposed new car park access. It is recommended that these markings are refurbished as part of the proposed works.

Observation 3.3 - It was observed on site that the existing 40mph repeater signs were worn and would benefit from replacement.

Observation 3.4 - The area around the start of the existing Public Right of Way (PRoW) requires maintenance and vegetation to be cleared to allow pedestrians to cross the road safely and wait in the verge on the eastern side of the road.

Paul Bartley

Divisional Director/Road Safety Auditor

Hole Farm Lane Road Safety Audit Stage 1

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Version: P03

National Highways

Hole Farm Community Woodland
B186, Great Warley Street

28 April 2023



Hole Farm Lane Road Safety Audit Stage 1

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Project name: Hole Farm
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Introduction

Commissioning and Scope

Jacobs have been commissioned by National Highways to undertake a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit (RSA) on a proposed access to a car park off B186 Great Warley Street.

The Road Safety Audit (RSA) team visited the sites together on Monday 17th April 2023, to review the proposals.

Scheme Description and Objective

The proposed access is part of the Hole Farm development and is a 99.09 hectares (ha) agricultural site, which was purchased by National Highways in 2021 as part of the Legacy and Benefits strategy for the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) Development Consent Order (DCO) project. Working in partnership with Forestry England, the site has been identified as providing an opportunity to create a new community woodland through a combination of natural regeneration of habitats and planting. Facilities for the community such as parking, visitor facilities and a kiosk are proposed, alongside buildings reconfiguration and new reverse bays to improve manoeuvring for harvesting purposes.



Figure 1. Location overview plan of this Audit.

The Hole Farm Town and Country Planning Application (TCPA) will include the following elements:

- vehicular access on B186 Great Warley Street and a 94-space car park, with overflow area, substation and bin store;
- an open sided visitor shelter; a modular café and WC facilities;
- surfaced and unsurfaced woodland paths:
- an access road from the car park to Hole Farm lane to facilitate harvesting operations, maintenance and emergency access resilience to the site:
- creation of ponds:
- countryside heritage and interpretation and informal natural play areas:
- demolition of store and development of a community space with staff welfare and office facilities and outdoor terrace:
- demolition of an existing store and construction of a secure storage space and barn: and
- log storage and lorry turning area at Hole Farm Lane, approx. 240m north of Coldham Hall Lane and elongated T-bay adjacent to proposed building cluster.

The proposed access to the car park is placed on B186 Great Warley Street, an uphill gradient driving northbound and a 40mph mandatory speed limit. The proposed access to the car park is a Simple Priority Junction.

Audit Team and Programme		
The Audit Team	Paul Bartley MSc, BSc, FIHE, CENG Senior Associate Director, Jacobs, Birmingham Ciaron Morgan BSc, IEng, FIHE Associate Director, Jacobs, Birmingham	
The Audit Brief	Audit requested by: National Highways Audit Team approved by: National Highways	
Documents Used	See Appendix A	
Desktop Evaluation	Home Office and MS Teams	Date: 17th April 2023
Daylight Site Visit	The RSA team visited the site together. Traffic Conditions: low motorised, cycle, and pedestrian flows.	Date: 17 th April 2023 Time: 12:00 to 13:30
	Weather: Dry and mild	
	Road Surface: Dry	

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of this Road Safety Audit are in accordance with the principles of GG 119 Road Safety Audit.

Extent of this Audit

The Audit Team has examined and reported only on the road safety implications of the scheme as presented and has not examined or verified the compliance of the designs to any other criteria. Where recommendations are made these do not comprise design decisions, and it remains the responsibility of the Design Team to incorporate any changes into the scheme and consider any interactions between design elements.

Collision Records

Personal Injury Collision (PIC) data has been obtained from publicly available data on CrashMap for the B186 Great Warley Street, between the junction with Warley Road to the north and the junction with Bird Lane to the south. Data has been obtained for the most recent five-year period available, between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2021. This data does not include damage, only collisions or near misses. The data shows a total of one collision in these five years, the collision was slight in severity.

Items Raised at Previous Road Safety Audit

No previous RSAs have been carried out on this Scheme. This is the first Stage 1 RSA.

Items Raised at this Road Safety Audit

This section details the items raised by this Stage 1 Road Safety Audit.

Problem 3.1

Location: Car Park Entrance

Summary: Lack of signing to advise large vehicles such as HGV's or Coaches that there is a height barrier at the entrance to the car park.

The Transport Statement (*Hole Farm Community Woodland: Transport Statement*) references that it is proposed to install a height and security barrier on the access into the car park. In addition, access off Great Warley Street into the car park is intended only for cars and a FTA Design LG Rigid Vehicle - 7m long only, also a 15m long, 4.157m high 6WS Luxury Coach. There is a risk that larger vehicles may not be aware of the height and barrier restrictions and turn off Great Warley Street to access the car park. This may lead to them having to reverse backwards to re-join Great Warley Street, leading to potential side swipe type collisions between motorists on Great Warley Street and the vehicle reversing, and injuries being sustained to the vehicle occupants.

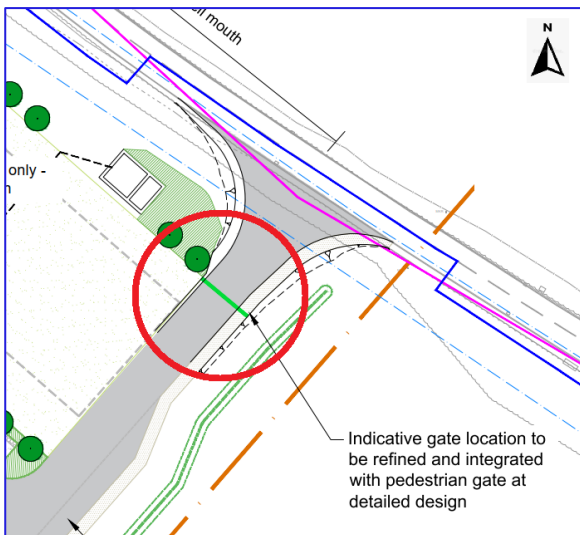


Figure 2. Image showing the proposed height and access barrier to the car park.

Recommendation: Provide appropriate signing on Great Warley Street to the car park for all users, ensuring this access is signed for motor vehicles only.

Problem 3.2

Location: Proposed new access off Great Warley Street.

Summary: Insufficient visibility of junction from the south.

Although the Hole-Farm_Highways.002.3 drawing identifies the extents over which the vegetation is to be cut back, on site observations confirmed a difference in vertical alignment and potential vehicle speeds, which raised concerns that the length of vegetation to be cut back for vehicles exiting the car park access would be insufficient. There is a risk that traffic emerging from the junction is obscured by vegetation and is not seen in sufficient time by vehicles travelling northbound along Great Warley Street. This could lead to emerging vehicles being struck by northbound vehicles, leading to potential serious injuries for vehicle occupants.



Figure 3. Image showing the limited visibility of the proposed junction from the south.

Recommendation: Ensure that the appropriate Stopping Sight Distance (SSD) in both directions along Great Warley Street, as indicated on the Hole-Farm_Highways.003.2 drawing, can be achieved and where required, the design is revised to take account of the change in vertical alignment and potential higher vehicle speeds travelling along Great Warley Street.

Problem 3.3

Location: Proposed new 2.0m segregated footway

Summary: Inappropriate marking of new internal footway.

Drawing number Hole-Farm_Highways.003.1 shows a proposed new segregated footway 2.0m. A 2.0m wide segregated footway is not sufficient to accommodate both pedestrian and cycle users. There is a risk that providing an inadequate segregated footway width to accommodate all users safely, could lead to users stepping out onto the new car park access road, resulting in conflicts between users and vehicles and potential serious injuries being sustained.

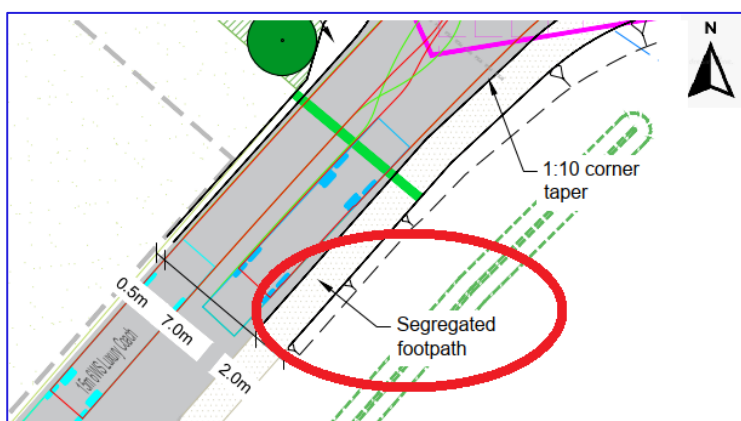


Figure 4. Image showing the proposed footway width.

Recommendation: Increase the width of the proposed new footway to allow all users to share a segregated footway facility or provide an alternative footway arrangement to accommodate all users safely.

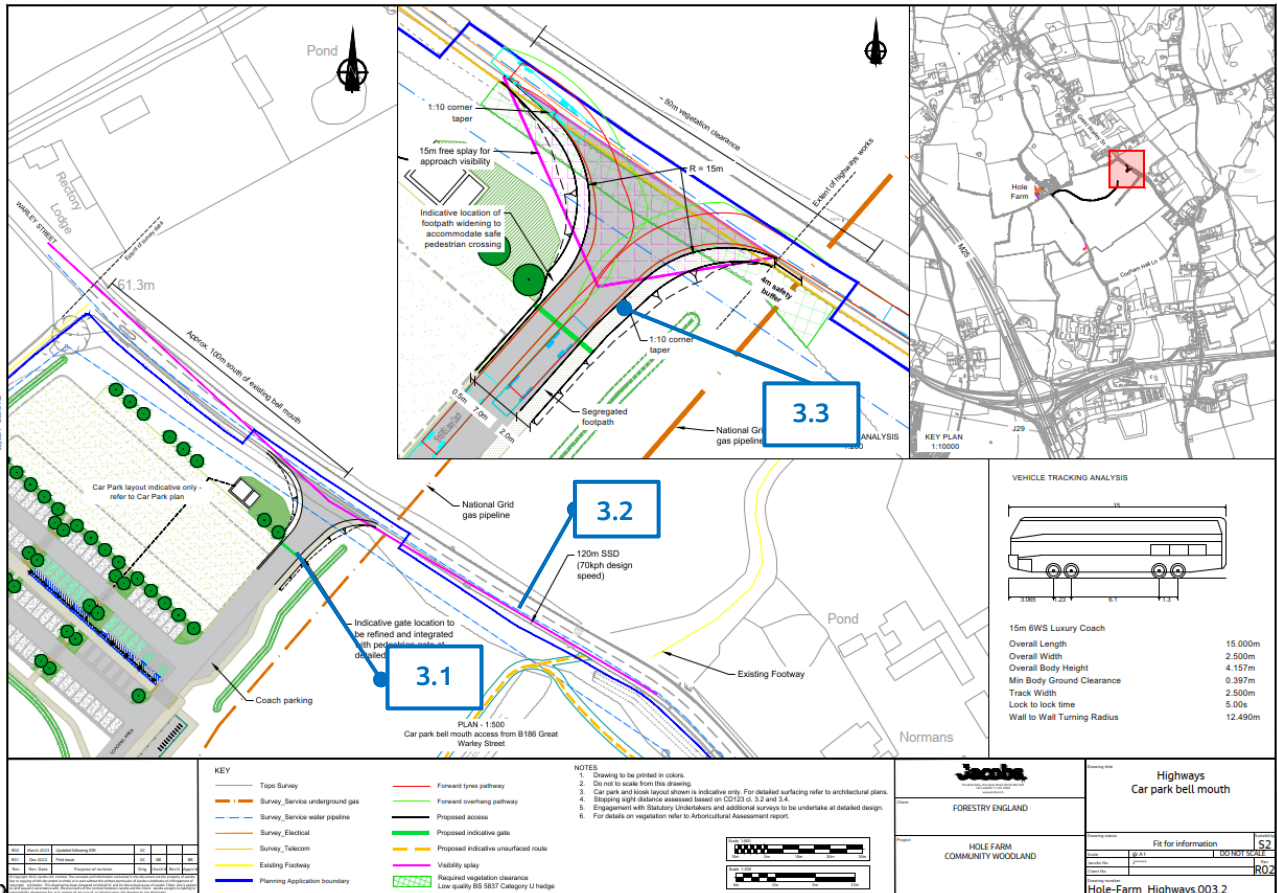
Appendix A. Documents and Drawings Used

Audit Drawings & Documents:

Drawings No. & Documents	Title	Revision
Hole Farm Community Woodland Dwg No. Hole-Farm_Highways.003.2	Highways Car park bell mouth	R02
Hole Farm Community Woodland:	Transport Statement	02

Appendix B. Problem Location Plans

General Arrangement Drawing - Hole Farm Access



General Arrangement Drawing- Highways, Car park bell mouth

Road Safety Audit Feedback Form

Scheme: Hole Farm

Audit Stage: Stage 1 Road Safety Audit

Date Audit Completed: 28th April 2023

Paragraph No. in Report	To Be Completed by the Design Team			To Be Completed by the Audit Team
	Problem accepted (yes/no)	Recommended measure accepted (yes/no)	Alternative measures (describe)	Alternative Measures accepted by Auditors (yes/no)
3.1				
3.2				
3.3				

Signed: Designer Date.....

Signed: Audit Team Leader Date:

Signed: Client Date: