

At the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing the Planning Inspectorate requested that we supply a plan of Top Farm indicating the access routes from the Top Farm Buildings to the land that will be adversely impacted by a bridge of restricted width.

The Top Farm buildings are located in the centre of the farm at A and a short distance to the east of these is the area which is the junction of all the main routes to the fields (pink circle). This lies under the proposed land acquisition and the route of the new road. The point is that from Top Farm and this hub location it is possible to move between fields with all the main cultivation and harvesting equipment without having to demount it from tractors, even if that does mean running on grass verge or folding some equipment. The widest cultivation kit is upto 12m wide (the sprayer is wider) but that is a hydraulically folding and it can be reduced relatively simply to the mounted width. Currently the widest fixed mounted width of the fixed bed cultivator or folded equipment is 6m. To reduce the width further the equipment can be detached from the tractors and trailed at a narrower width for road transport. The rubber tracked Case Quadtrac and combine are just over 4.1m wide (the latter nearer 4.5 m width the access ladder mounted) so will not safely fit over the bridge proposed.

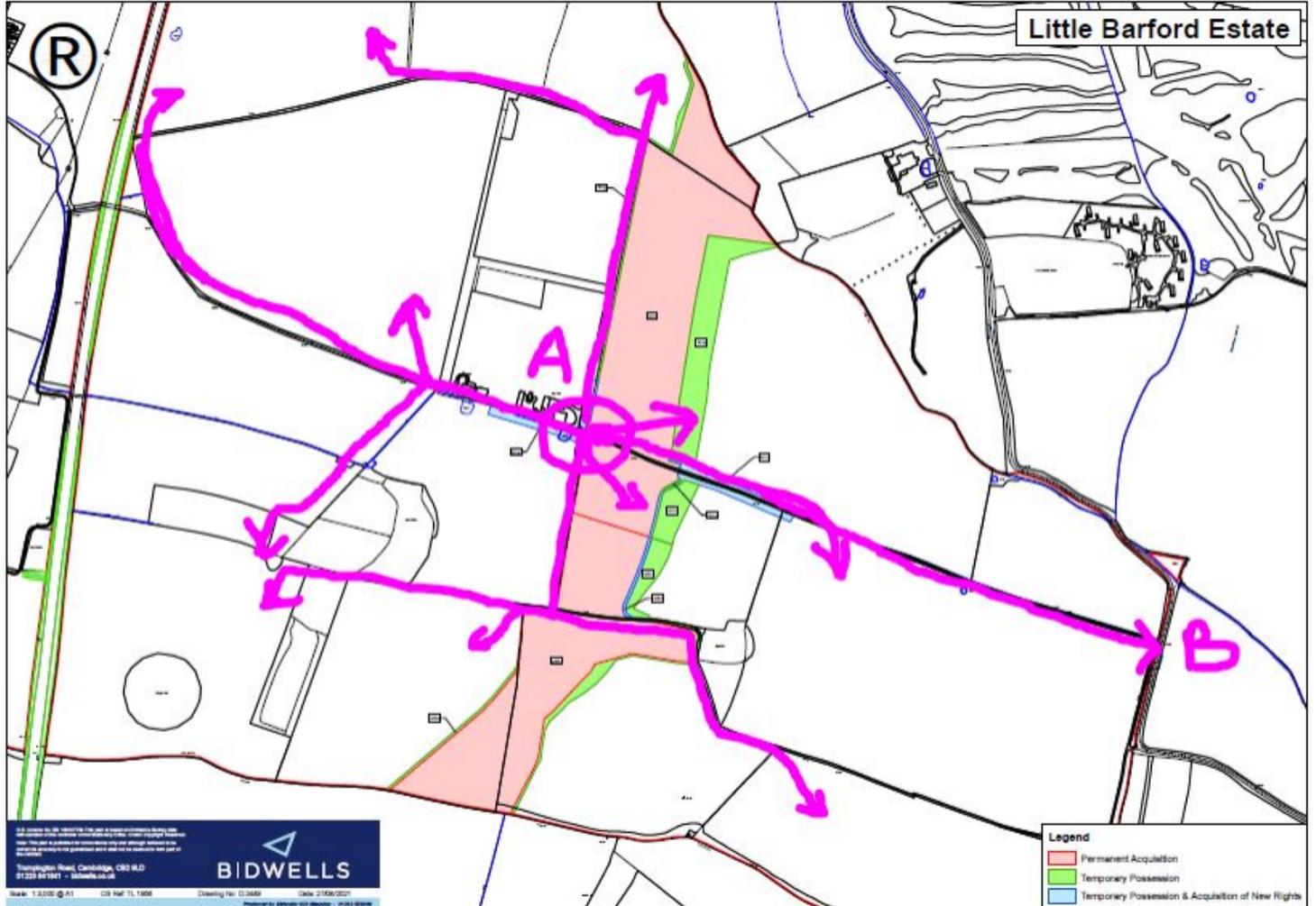
This is current size. The hardcore track could be widened as it adjoins farmland or is situated in wide grass headlands (field edges).

The diagram indicates that there will be restricted access to large parts of the farm if a bridge of limited width is provided.

The request for a 7.4m wide bridge was based on providing a travelling surface width of at least 6m wide, plus margin for movement, and a footway so that future shared pedestrian access avoids farm traffic. The specification referred to in the submissions was the nearest 'standardised' specification for indicative purposes only. It is accepted that as being essentially a private crossing some of the design features of that particular style may not be necessary.

Jeremy Procter MRICS

On behalf of the Execs of N A Alington.



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A

B

- Legend**
- Permanent Acquisition
  - Temporary Possession
  - Temporary Possession & Acquisition of New Rights

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Trumpington Road, Cambridge, CB2 3LQ  
 01223 811011 - [bidwells.co.uk](http://bidwells.co.uk)



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Prepared by: Bidwells Ltd (01223 811011)