



From: Rachael Smith <Rachael.Smith@durham.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 March 2021 16:19
To: Andrew Bailey <Andrew.Bailey@great-aycliffe.gov.uk>
Subject: 50mph A167

Hello Andrew,

The Authority have recently been successful in bidding for funding from DfT for Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF Tranche 2) which will look to improve pedestrian and cycling links from Aycliffe Village to Newton Aycliffe Town Centre and Aycliffe Business Park. The attached plans (A-A and B-B) show concept proposals to:

- Introduce a 2m footway and 3m bi-direction cycleway from Moore Lane to B6443 St Cuthbert's Way on the western side of A167,
- Introduce a 2m footway and 3m bi-direction cycleway from B6443 St Cuthbert's Way to Durham Road, Aycliffe Village on the eastern side of A167,
- Formalise the current slip-road arrangement into a standard T-junction into Durham Road, Aycliffe Village from A167,
- Introduce a toucan crossing across A167 at B6443 St Cuthbert's Way signalised junction,
- Introduce a shared use footway on the northern side of B6443 St Cuthbert's Way from Durham Way North to A167 and
- Introduce a toucan crossing on B6443 St Cuthbert's Way close to Durham Way North, where the new proposals will link to existing pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

These proposals will eventually form part of the Great North Cycle Route, a route linking Gateshead to Darlington via County Durham, which aligns with the Authority's aspirations to increase the number of people taking part in active travel.

Along this stretch of the A167 it is partially dual carriageway, has an average daily traffic volume in excess of 14000 and at A167/B6443 St Cuthbert's Way signalised junction, there have been 6 road traffic accidents in the past 5 years suggesting that there is a historic but persistent issue at the junction of A167 and B6443 St Cuthbert's Way, which could indicate that speed reduction interventions may be beneficial in that studies have found that there is a strong correlation between speed and likelihood of collision. The Department of Transport quantifies that for every 1 mph reduction in average speed, collision frequency may reduce by around 5%. Therefore, even a small reduction in speed has safety benefits in potentially reduced collision frequency. By introducing a toucan crossing with dedicated green time for NMU's (non-motorised users) it will effectively act as a desire line linking Aycliffe Village to Newton Aycliffe and Aycliffe Business Park and it can be confidently assumed that there will be an increase in vulnerable road users crossing at this point. This scheme would set out to provide segregated off-road continuous facilities for NMUs and to remove conflict between pedestrians/cyclists and motorists on high speed roads and reduce the likelihood and severity of road traffic accidents.

National guidance for setting local speed limits advises that mean speeds should be used as an indicator of appropriate speed limits. The current mean speeds are approx. 48mph indicating that a large volume of vehicles already drive at 50mph or less. To that end, this length of A167 has been assessed on a standalone basis, in line with national guidance on setting local speed limits and it is felt that the appropriate speed limit in this location is 50mph (attached plan shows the extent of the proposed 50mph limit). As part of the ongoing detailed design, speed limit traffic signs and speed

roundel road markings will be frequently repeated on both sides of the carriageway to reiterate the speed limit and to encourage compliance.

There were a number of options considered, but some could be discounted leaving the attached proposals as the preferred option to take forward:

- Do Nothing – doing nothing at all. No improvements for cyclists/walkers in this location and severance of Aycliffe Village remains unchanged. This option was discounted as it offers no betterment.
- Do Something 1 - leave the existing national speed limit TRO in place and introduce the pedestrian and cycling improvement works in a location adjacent to and across the carriageway of a derestricted road with an AADT of 14000 vehicles. This option was discounted as the mean speeds reflect a 50mph speed limit is appropriate in this location, offering betterment in that it would reduce the likelihood and severity of road traffic accidents in this location.
- Do something 2: introducing all cycling and pedestrian improvements, including a toucan crossing across the A167 to reduce severance to the local area and increase connectivity to employment, education and retail destinations and amend the existing national speed limit TRO to introduce a 50mph speed limit in a location where it is felt the current average speeds are appropriate for a 50mph TRO.

The existing derestricted speed limit Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) needs to be amended to reflect the proposed 50mph speed limit so as part of the Statutory Process it will be:

- Consulted on informally in the coming weeks with key stakeholders and affected residential frontages
- After Purdah, it will be consulted on formally with key stakeholders, residential frontages and online, in the local press and onsite.

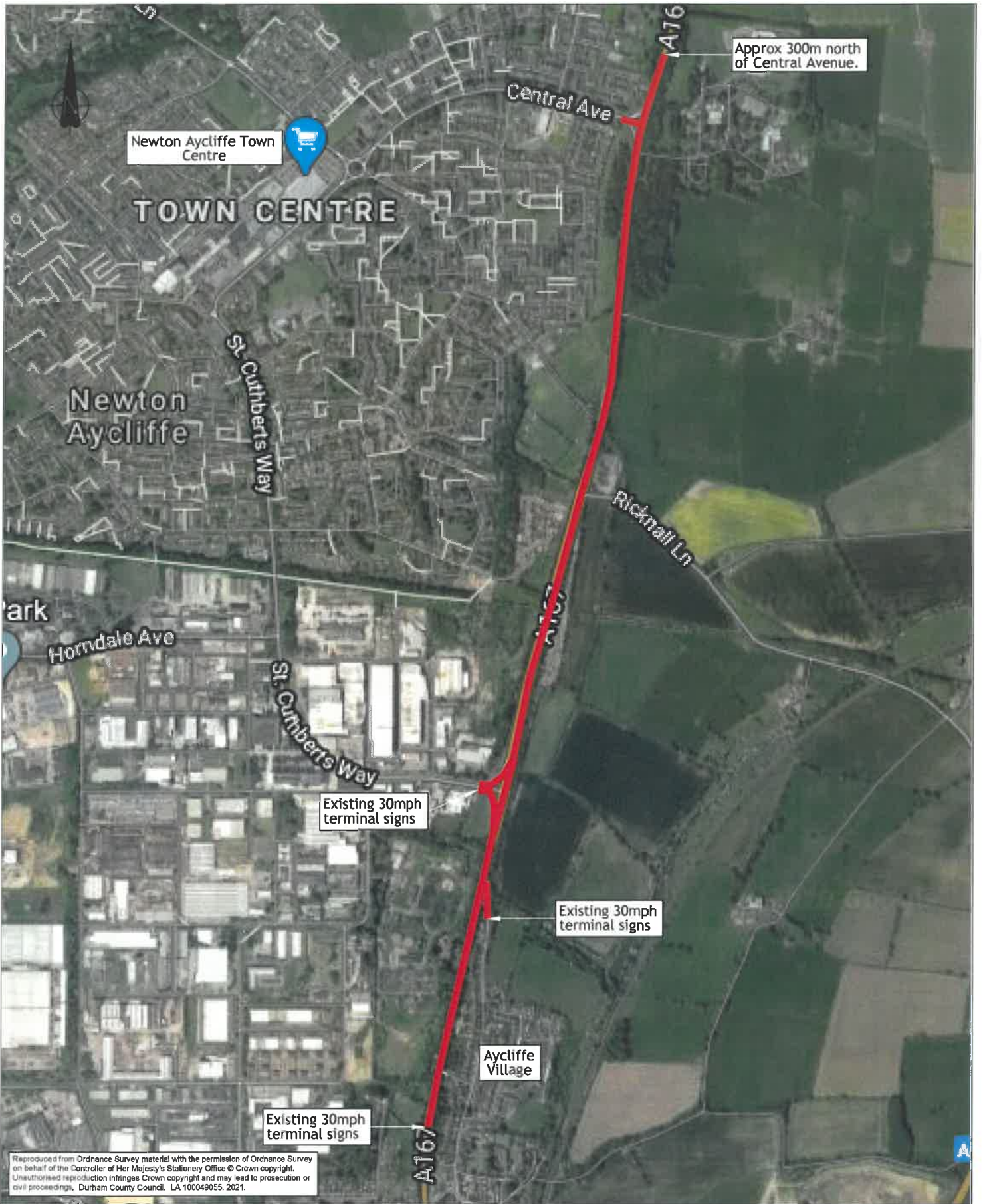
If there are any objections received to the proposals which cannot be resolved, the TRO will be taken to Highways Committee. Given that Purdah is approaching, in the event of Highways Committee being required, it is likely to be in Summer 2021. The current programme reflects construction taking place from May 21 to September 21 but that is subject to change as the detailed design develops.

If you have any comments either in favour or against the proposed 50mph speed limit they would be greatly appreciated, in writing, by no later than 22 March 2021. Noted that my work number has logged out since working from home, so if you would like me to call you, please provide your number to this email address.

Kind regards,

Rachael

Rachael Smith
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Transport and Infrastructure Projects
rachael.smith@durham.gov.uk



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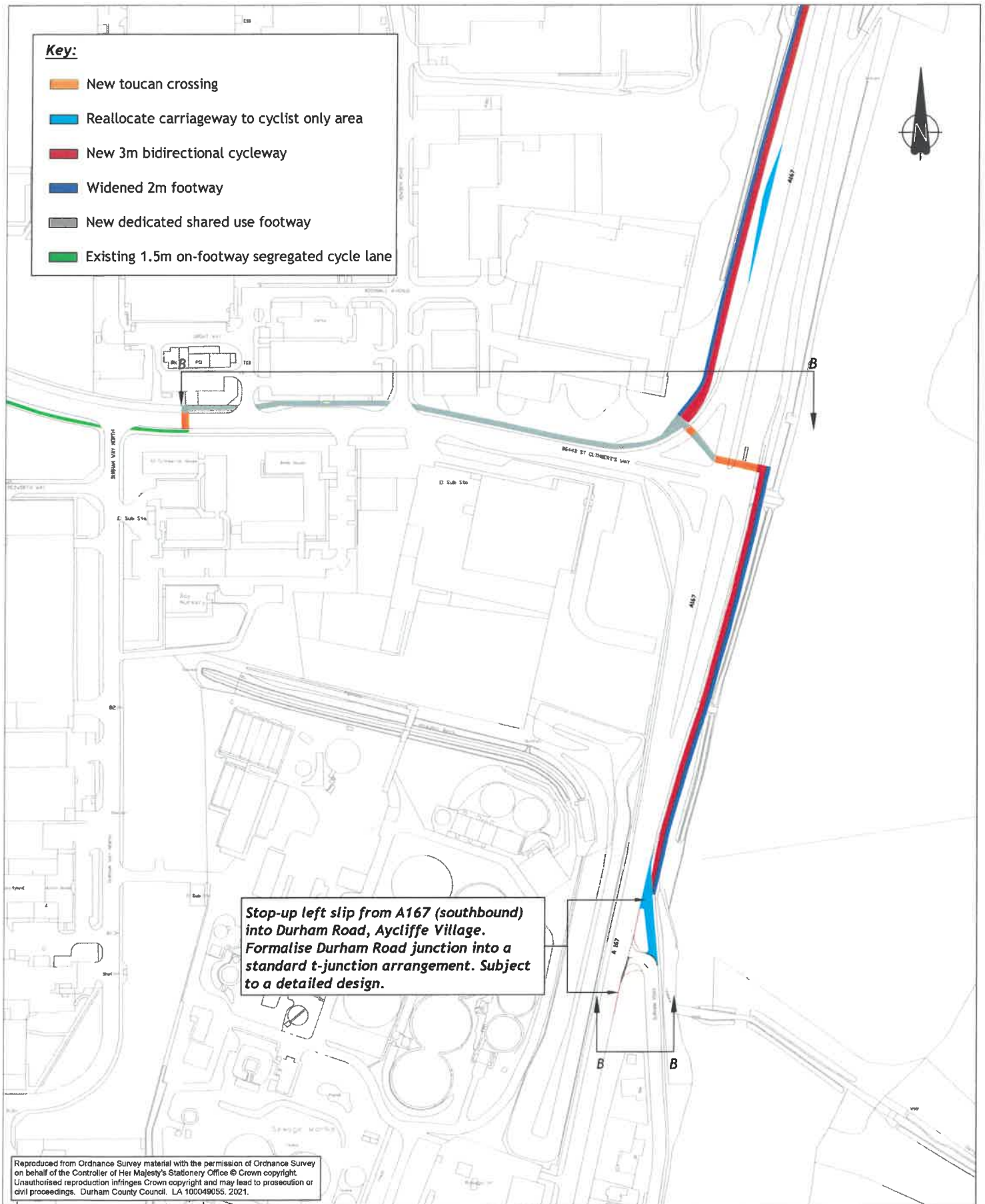
Rev/Andt	Drawn By		Approved By			Description of Amendments
	Name	Date	Name	Date	Sign	
	R.Smith	Feb 21				

Key:
 Proposed 50mph speed limit

Durham County Council STRATEGIC TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF REGISTRATION & LOCAL SERVICES COUNTY HALL, DURHAM, DH1 1TA	Project Proposed A167 50mph Speed Limit
	Drawing Location Plan
Scales Not to Scale	Project/Drawing No. TIP/31/EATF2/TRO/6 Rev.

Key:


- New toucan crossing
- Reallocate carriageway to cyclist only area
- New 3m bidirectional cycleway
- Widened 2m footway
- New dedicated shared use footway
- Existing 1.5m on-footway segregated cycle lane



Stop-up left slip from A167 (southbound) into Durham Road, Aycliffe Village. Formalise Durham Road junction into a standard t-junction arrangement. Subject to a detailed design.

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0/-	R.Smith	Feb 21				



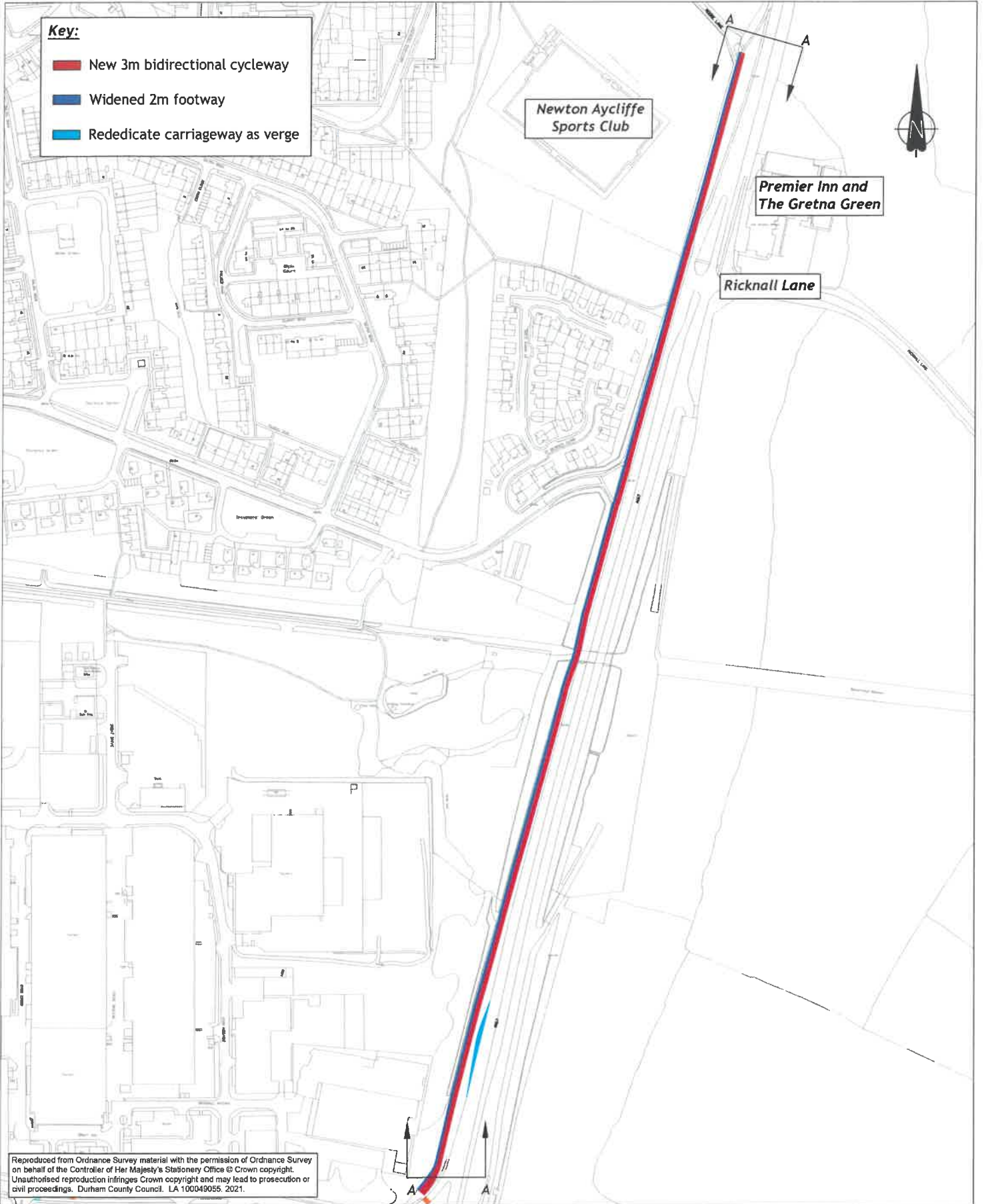
STRATEGIC TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & LOCAL SERVICES
COUNTY HALL, DURHAM. DH1 6UQ

Project
Newton Aycliffe: Walking and Cycling Improvements

Drawing
B-B: B6443 St Cuthbert's Way to Aycliffe Village

Scales 1:2000 @ A3	Project/Drawing No. TIP/018/DU01/FNA/5
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Rev.



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Durham
County Council

**STRATEGIC
TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF
REGENERATION & LOCAL
SERVICES**

Project Newton Aycliffe: Walking and Cycling Improvements	
Drawing A-A: A167 Moore Lane to B6443 St Cuthbert's Way	
Scale Nnt to scale	Project/Drawing No. TIP/018/DI101/FNA/4