

Notes

of the Informal Virtual Meeting of the

North Somerset Local Access Forum

Tuesday 25 January 2022

held via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Commenced: 18.00 Meeting Concluded: 20.05

Councillors:

Mike Bird

Apologies: Robert Payne

Absent: Ann Harley

Independent Members

Rights of Way and Access Land Users:

Nikki Barton, Jonathan Brownett, Sheila Dixon, Tina Hamilton, Julie Main (Chair),
Marianne McAleer

Landowning Interests:

John Harris, Richard Jones

Apologies: Robert Parsons

Absent: Bernard Gray

Other Interests:

Peter McAleer, Rhiannon Robinson (Vice-Chair), James Tonkin (in his personal
capacity)

Absent: Gillian Hopkins

Officers in attendance:

Elaine Bowman (Secretary), Andrew Carroll and Ben Searle (Place Directorate)

Roz Hime (Clerk, Corporate Services Directorate)

Also in attendance

Kester Harris and Charlie Moore

LAF Welcome and apologies for absence (Agenda item 1) 19

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

The Chair explained that James Tonkin was attending the Forum in his personal capacity (and not as a Councillor) and was now a member of the 'Other Interests' group.

LAF 20 **Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda item 2)**

Julie Main (the Chair) advised she was a member of the British Horse Society.

LAF 21 **Notes of the Meeting held on 26 October 2021 (Agenda item 3)**

Recommended: that the notes of the meeting be approved as a correct record (to be ratified at the next formal Forum meeting).

LAF 22 **North Somerset Cycle Forum (Agenda Item 4)**

Members received a verbal report from Ben Searle, Senior Transport Policy Officer at North Somerset Council (NSC).

The North Somerset Cycle Forum was not currently active, due to staff shortages.

Ben gave a presentation (contained in Appendix 1) on the Weston-super-Mare to Clevedon cycle path, a 12-mile route which avoided the need to cross the M5 and followed quieter roads. The opening date for the cycle path was not yet known.

In response to questions Members were advised:

- The path would be open to walkers and horse riders as well as cyclists and work would be undertaken to publicise this and to produce appropriate signage.
- Work would be undertaken to ensure the path was also fully accessible to disabled users.
- Extensive consultations had been undertaken with local user groups concerning the changes the path would bring to the seafront at Clevedon. It had been noted that the seafront was a footpath on which cycling would not be condoned and that signage would be needed to make this clear.
- Although consideration would be given to barring access to motorcyclists and trail bike riders the first priority was to ensure all legitimate users of the path were accommodated.
- A link between the Weston-super-Mare to Clevedon cycle path and the Strawberry Line Extension would be considered in due course. The focus would be on finding a route from Clevedon to Yatton going under the M5 that could be used by walkers and cyclists. An alternative route for horse riders would need to be found.

Concluded: that the report be noted.

LAF 23 **Abbots Leigh Parish Council's Lost Ways Project (Agenda Item 5)**

Members received a verbal report from Kester Harris on the Lost Ways Project.

The project had developed a map showing where people were walking (using data from Strava) overlaid onto the Ordnance Survey map. The project had begun in Long Ashton but had now expanded to a wider area. The map showed Public Rights of Way (PRoW), and routes where landowners had allowed permissive access, and enabled mismatches to be identified between PRoW and the routes walkers were actually using. Old footpaths, using data from the Ramblers Association, were also included.

The Forum discussed how the map could be used to work with landowners to open more routes to the public, including if they could be made available to users other than walkers.

Concluded: that the report be noted.

LAF 24 **Secretary's Report (Agenda Item 6)**

Members received a report from Elaine Bowman (the Secretary and Principal Access Officer).

Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) – Wraxall Permissive Bridleway (Agenda Item 6i)

Members received a Report containing maps showing the Wraxall Permissive Bridleway. The Forum discussed the route of the bridleway, its condition (including overhanging branches and nearby rewilding), signage, the popularity of the route with dog walkers and how this affected horse riders, and the challenges presented by part of the route running through a housing estate. It was noted that if the route was signposted as a permissive bridleway a DMMO could not be made.

Felton Common (Agenda Item 6ii)

The Chair and the Principal Access Officer had visited Felton Common to see the measures taken by Winford Parish Council to prevent inappropriate parking.

Buddy System (Agenda Item 6iiia)

The Principal Access Officer explained the purpose of the 'Buddy System' which linked Forum Members to Town and Parish Councils. Forum Members were encouraged to introduce themselves to the Clerk of their designated Council(s), to attend their meetings to explain the work of the Forum, and to provide feedback to the Forum from the Council(s).

Concluded:

(1) that the report be noted;

(2) that the Principal Access Officer would be asked to research if the route in Wraxall should be designated a permissive bridleway;

(3) that the Chair would be asked to write to Winford Parish Council to advise that Public Rights of Way should be taken into account when managing Felton Common, and the introduction of signage encouraging all users to be considerate of others would be welcome;

(4) that Forum Members would be asked to advise the Principal Access Officer which Town and Parish Councils they would 'buddy' with.

LAF Access Officer's Report (oral report) (Agenda Item 7)

25

Andrew Carroll, the Access Officer, provided verbal updates on:

England Coast Path

The England Coast Path would run from the River Avon to the River Axe and work had now begun on the fifth section from the River Avon to Portishead Marina. Natural England were ready to open the tenth section between Brean Down and Sand Bay. Consideration would be given to how horse riders could use the Coast Path alongside other users.

Banwell Bypass Walking, Cycling & Horse riding (WCH) Engagement

The developers were engaging with walking, cycling and horse-riding users concerning their needs with regard to the design of the bypass.

Concluded: that the report be noted.

LAF Chair's report (Agenda item 8)

26

The Chair thanked Bob Rischmiller, who had stepped down from the Forum, for his contribution over many years.

Control of Dogs on Public Rights of Way (Agenda Item 8i)

Members received and discussed a Report containing an article on responsible dog ownership which it was hoped could be published in the Summer 2022 edition of North Somerset Life.

Future meetings (Agenda Item 8ii)

Members discussed the arrangements for future meetings and expressed a preference for returning to physical meetings as soon as possible.

Concluded:

(1) that the report be noted;

(2) that the Principal Access Officer be asked to request the inclusion on the NSC website of guidance on controlling a dog around livestock;

(3) that the Clerk be asked to feedback to the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer, the Forum's preference to return to meeting in person

LAF 27 Notification of Items of business – to be considered at the next meeting (Agenda Item 11)

Mr Charlie Moore asked for an update on repair work to the 'Byway Open to All Traffic LA19/82/20 between Watery Lane and Pinchay Lane'. The Access Officer advised that the repairs had been weather damaged and were having to be redone.

Concluded: that the Access Officer would provide a further update at the next meeting of the Forum.

LAF 28 Date of next meeting during the 2021-22 Municipal Year (Agenda item 13)

Concluded: the Forum would next meet on Tuesday 19 April 2022 at 6.00pm.

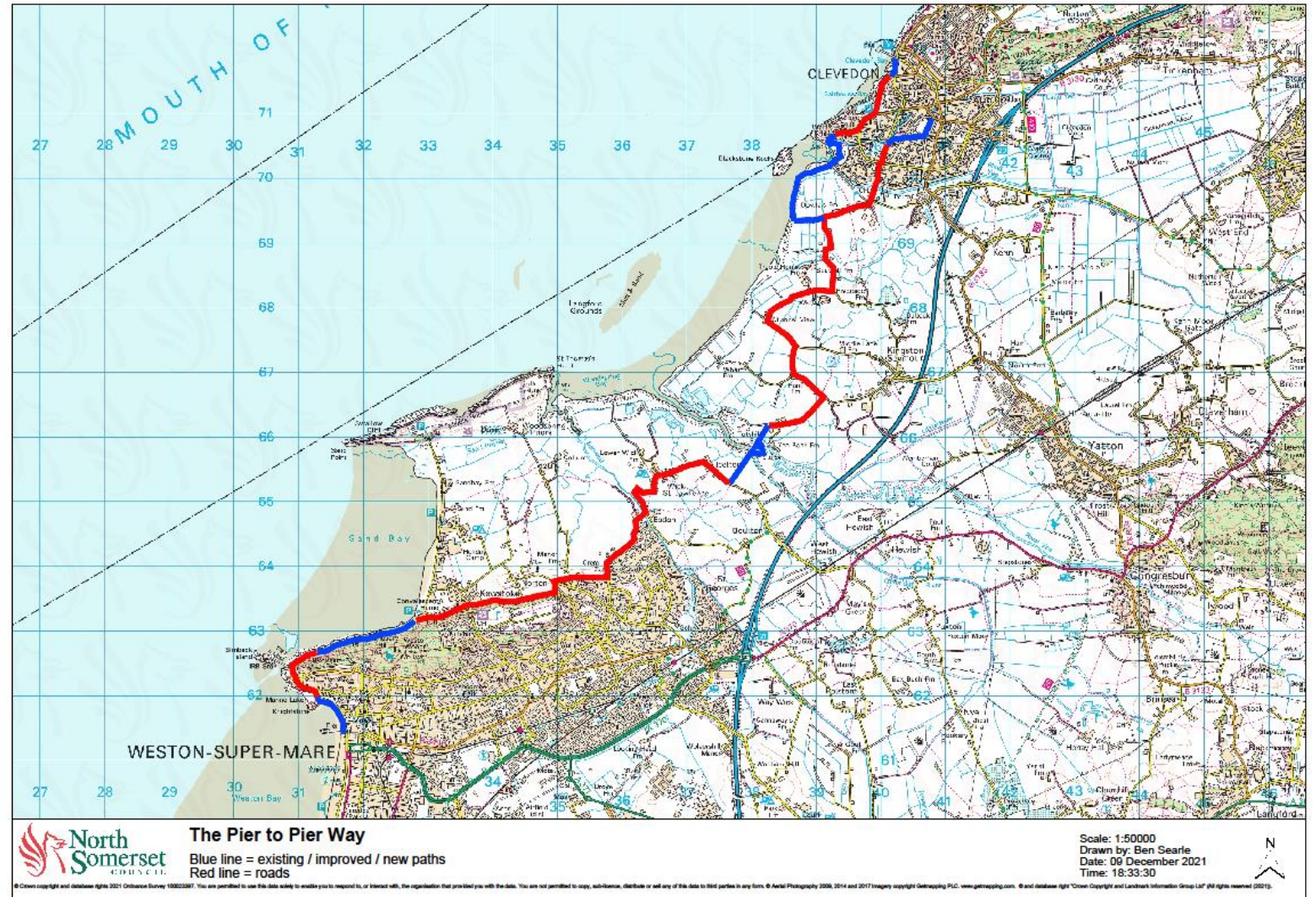
Chairman

Appendix 1

LAF22 North Somerset Cycle Forum
Weston-super-Mare to Clevedon cycle path

The Pier to Pier Cycle Route

- Tutshill agricultural bridge and re-purposed sluice crossings 1.4km of new path (highway to highway)
- Clevedon Sea Defences path upgrades
- Crossing improvements at Southern Way and Queensway (Anson Rd to Lyfield Rd)
- The replica Station Halt (Wick St Lawrence)



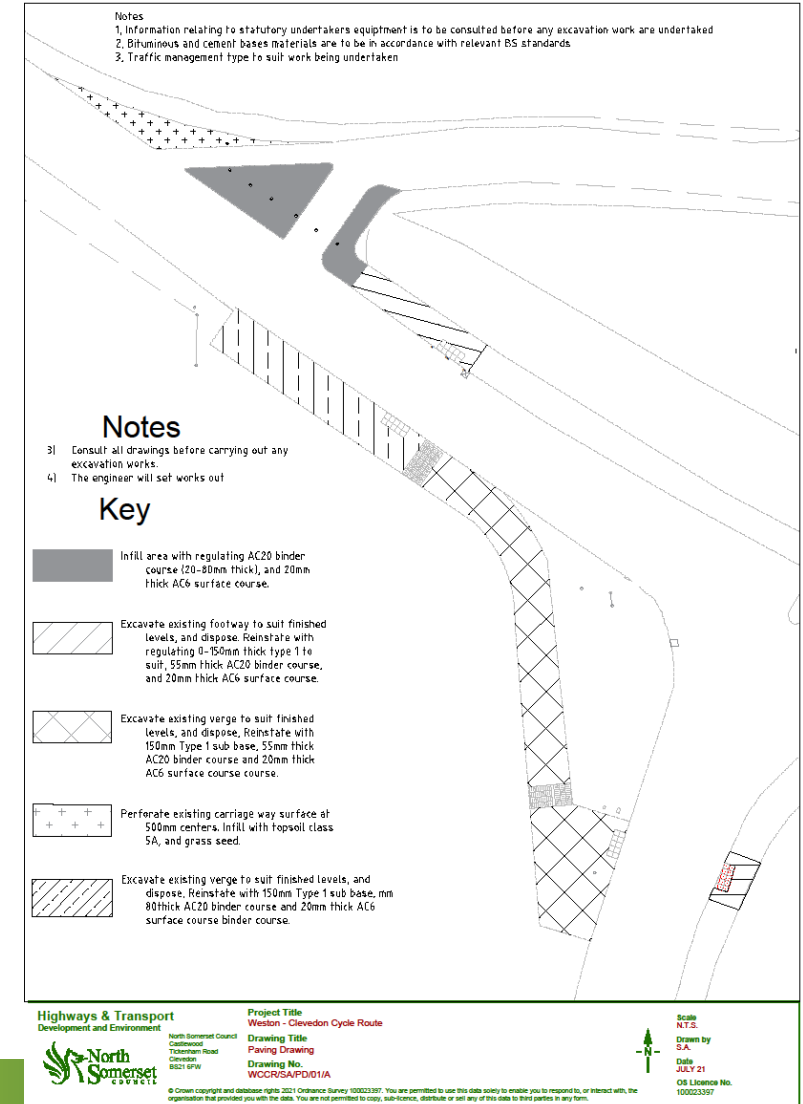
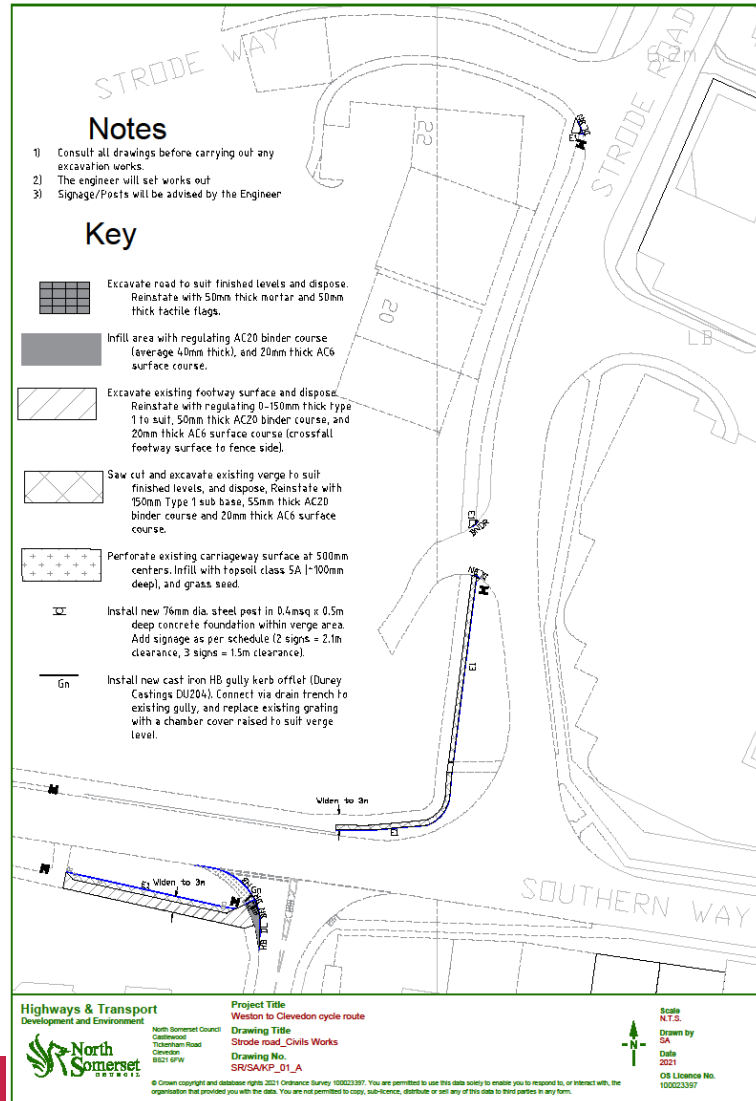
The agricultural bridge and connecting paths

- Specialist, Beaver Bridges appointed and piling works in preparation. Most risky phase. Contingency budget
- Bridge deck delivered
- Bridge due to be completed May
- Path construction underway, Bedrock Civil Engineering appointed. Due to be completed March
- Legals agreed in principle but signed agreements delayed

Clevedon Sea Defences paths

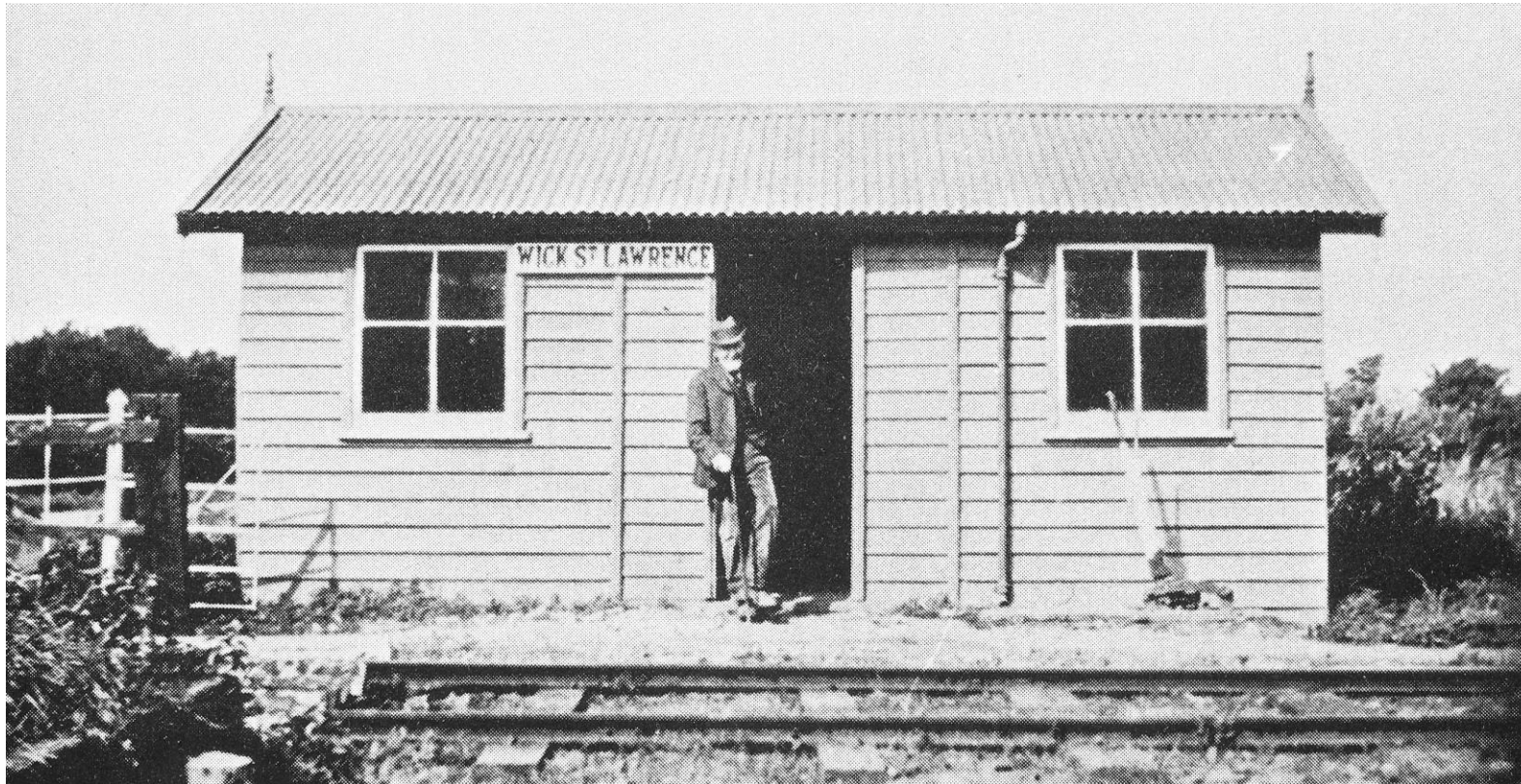
- Crestmoor Construction appointed
- Path from Lower Strode Rd to Sea Defences to be tarmac
- Sea Defences path minor safety works
- Clevedon Golf Club – improvements on hold until England Coast Path agreed
- Marshalls Field – improvements to part of embankment lower path
- Above to be completed March
- Old Church Rd – minor signing and keep clears. Further works to be considered when future improvements to Clevedon Seafront are made

Crossing improvements at Southern Way and Queensway (Anson Rd to Lyfield Rd)



Station Halt

- Issues with land agreement causing delays
- Time running out for EU funding
- To be managed by Weston, Clevedon & Portishead Railway Group



Signing

- Wayfinding, and publicising route
- To be decided, dependant on budget



Promotion, publicity

- Official opening
 - who to cut the ribbon?!
- Map / guide and events to be decided
- Certainty needed over completion date to make plans



Budget

Costs to date estimated at £2,758,308

Contingency available £406,043

(Total budget £3,164,351)

EU funding of £561K and Sustrans £800K to be spent by March 2022. National Highways funding of £1.2M to be spent by March 2023, but less flexible

Wider context

