

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE

27 April 2011

TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
(EXCEPT FOR ACCESS) - GREAT MINSTER STREET AND THE SQUARE,
WINCHESTER

REPORT OF HEAD OF ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report considers the results of the recent consultation on The Square refurbishment and associated traffic management measures and recommends that a Prohibition of Driving 'except for access' is formally advertised for Great Minster Street and The Square.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the proposal to prohibit motor vehicles (except for access) in Great Minster Street and The Square Winchester as detailed in the appendices to this report is formally advertised for comment.
- 2 That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to prepare the necessary draft Traffic Regulation Orders and associated notice to be advertised.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A joint refurbishment scheme for The Square is being considered by the City and County Councils following the successful repaving of the High Street.
- 1.2 A Project Appraisal for The Square, Winchester, approved by Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Environment on 26 January 2011 set out 3 recommendations as follows:

That the Project Appraisal to improve the structure, condition and appearance of The Square, Winchester with re-paving work and new surface water drainage, at an estimated cost of £712,000, be approved subject to appropriate measures being implemented to reduce traffic impact on the square and a suitable funding contribution being made by Winchester City Council.

That detailed consideration and progression of traffic regulation orders to introduce a 20 miles per hour speed limit and to restrict vehicle access for part of the day be approved and taken forward to formal consultation.

That authority be given for a further consultation with the public to secure wider engagement with the scheme and the traffic options, and to provide a definitive statement of public opinion, following which a final review of scheme options will take place.

- 1.3 In response Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council, with the assistance of Winchester BID, undertook an extensive consultation to ask the views of businesses, residents and visitors on two options for The Square:

Option 1 - To repave the footways and part of the road with Yorkstone to make it more attractive for shopping and tourism, while limiting traffic access;

or, if people felt strongly that The Square should continue to be used as a road and through route as it is currently;

Option 2 - To carry out the essential maintenance work but provide a finish that would be more suitable for its use for traffic rather than pedestrians.

- 1.4 The options were presented prominently in The Hampshire Chronicle on 10 March 2011 and readers were invited to register their views at the County Council's 'Have your Say' webpage. The 'Have your Say' link was clearly displayed on the front pages of both the County Council's and Winchester City Council's websites with direct access to the survey form. The website provided a comprehensive explanation of the scheme objectives, the two alternative options, photomontages and useful background information. Local members, businesses, residents groups, key organisations and stakeholders were advised of the website and encouraged to make their views known by 25 March 2011.
- 1.5 The total number of responses received was 330. Of these, 256, (78%), were in favour of Option 1; 71 (21%) were in favour of Option 2, and 3 (1%) were undecided.
- 1.6 A total of 8 letters were received by the County Council and The Hampshire Chronicle. Only one of these letters supported Option 2. The others were in favour of Option 1. The Hampshire Chronicle published all 3 letters that it received. 2 of these were in favour of Option 1, the other for Option 2.
- 1.7 A total of 7 emails were received by the County Council and Winchester City Council. Of these, 4 supported Option 1, 1 wanted Option 2 and the remaining were undecided.
- 1.8 Two telephone calls were received. One of these was in favour of Option 2. The other was undecided.
- 1.9 The number of correspondents who have made their views known on this occasion is significantly in excess of the total who responded to previous exhibitions and workshops about this scheme. In addition, the circulation of The Hampshire Chronicle, and the reach of the City and County Council's websites, has ensured that the level of awareness about the scheme is now considerably higher, and the opportunity to 'vote' afforded to a far greater number of the community.
- 1.10 The overall response indicates a convincing level of support for Option 1. The feedback from Winchester BID during the campaign has confirmed that Option 1 is also the preferred scheme for the majority of the business community.
- 1.11 Based on these results it is suggested that traffic regulation orders to introduce the prohibition of driving, except for access, in Great Minster Street, The Square and Market Street are taken forward to formal consultation and traffic regulation orders to introduce a 20 miles per hour speed limit in Great Minster Street, The Square, Market Street and associated streets are taken

forward to formal consultation. This will include the emergency services although there are no implications for these services as they will be excluded from such restrictions and it is not proposed to use any physical barriers.

- 1.12 There are no direct implications for cyclists as the proposed restriction would only apply to motor vehicles. The reduction in traffic levels which this proposal would bring about will be of benefit to cyclists and pedestrians. Further suggestions were made as part of the consultation regarding cyclists and these will be discussed further with the Winchester Cycling Group but they do not have any impact on the proposals in this report.
- 1.13 Feedback on the outcome of the 'Have your Say' campaign will be provided to the public and stakeholders.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

2 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CHANGE PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 2.1 The proposal is in keeping with the Council's strategies in its attempt to provide a high quality environment and safe and strong communities and to support economy prosperity.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 3.1 The cost of advertising and implementing the traffic regulation order and associated physical works is covered by the Traffic Management agreement with Hampshire County Council and The Square refurbishment project.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Risks are fully considered as part of the assessment process of all Traffic Regulation Orders.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Correspondence on Access and Infrastructure Division files Ref: 810402/129.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Proposal Statement of Reasons and Schedules

Appendix B: Detail of Proposed Restrictions

PROPOSED VARIATION TO:-

Winchester City Council
The City of Winchester (Various Roads) (Prohibition and Restriction of Driving and
Waiting) Order 2008

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REVISION:-

On traffic management and environmental grounds, to introduce restricted access for the benefit of pedestrians and road safety in general.

PROPOSED NEW SCHEDULE:-

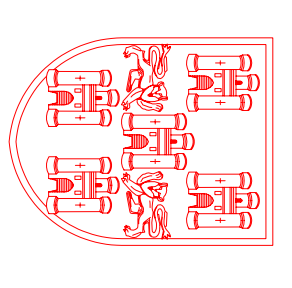
New Schedule
(Prohibition of Motor Vehicles [except for access])

Road	Description
Great Minster Street	Between its junction with Little Minster Street to its junction with The Square.
The Square	Between its junction with Great Minster Street to its junction with Market Street.
Market Street	Between its junction with The Square and its junction with Market Lane.

KEY
 **NEW ACCESS RESTRICTION**
 10 am TO 4 pm, MON TO SUN

NOTE
 1. ALL OTHER ACCESS AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS TO REMAIN AS EXISTING.

Rev	Description	Date	Drawn



Winchester
City Council

OPERATIONS GROUP
ACCESS & INFRASTRUCTURE

City Offices
Colebrook Street
Winchester,
SO23 9LJ.



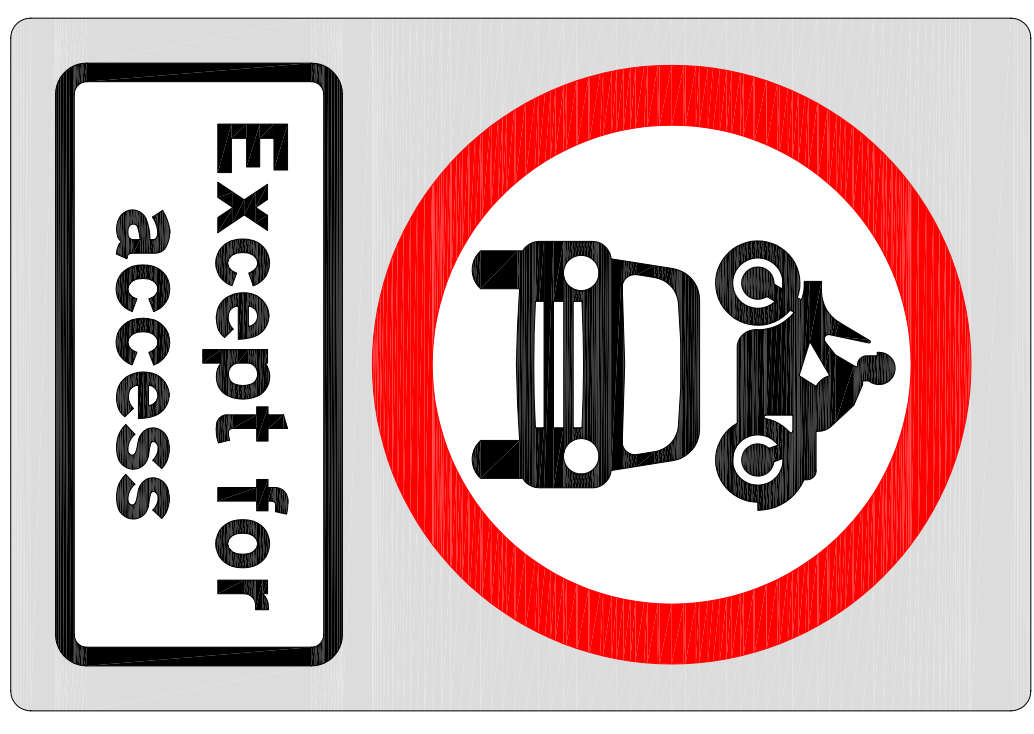
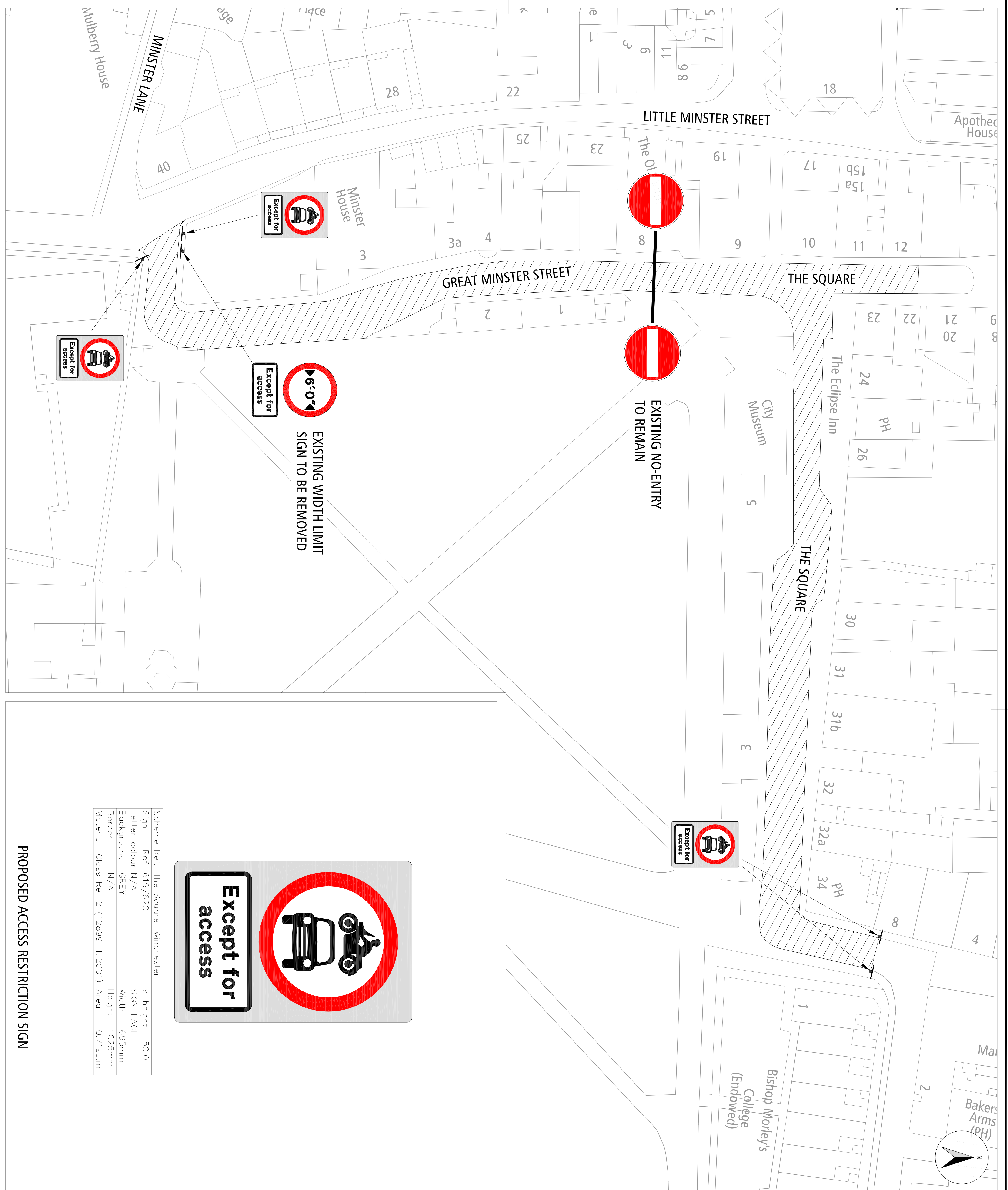
Project: **TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT PROJECTS**
THE SQUARE, WINCHESTER

Title: **PROPOSED ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

Scale: NOT TO SCALE
Date: 15/04/11

Drawn: MCH
Checked: NVC

DRG. No. **810402/129/002**
Status: **P**



Scheme Ref. The Square, Winchester	
Sign Ref. 619/620	x-height 50.0
Letter colour N/A	SIGN FACE
Background GREY	Width 695mm
Border N/A	Height 1025mm
Material Class Ref 2 (12899-1; 2001)	Area 0.71sq.m

PROPOSED ACCESS RESTRICTION SIGN