

REPORT PC26.115 LHFIG London Road September 2026

Author: Jon Sloan, Parish Clerk

Date: 26th August 2026

1. BACKGROUND

Cllr Nick Baker has submitted a Highways Improvement Request seeking a range of measures intended to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety on London Road between St Thomas Bridge and Hampton Park Roundabout. The route is regularly used by residents travelling between Bishopdown Farm and the Laverstock schools and has been identified as a key active travel route within the parish.

The request follows concerns raised by local residents regarding narrow footways, visibility at crossing points, vegetation encroachment, surface water flooding and vehicle speeds along the route. Cllr Baker's report notes that previous LHFIG-funded projects have already delivered pedestrian warning signs and improvements to the pedestrian crossing at St Thomas Bridge. The report also notes that Laverstock & Ford Parish Council previously considered the findings of the Atkins Speed Limit Assessment and resolved (PC26.080) to ask the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group to carry out a further assessment of the viability of introducing reduced speed limits on the section of the A30 within the Parish.

The report identifies a number of potential improvements, including:

- Relocation of a directional sign which currently restricts visibility for pedestrians using the crossing point near Hampton Park Roundabout.
- Further vegetation management where footways are being narrowed by overgrowth.
- Improved drainage and gully maintenance to reduce surface water flooding.
- Widening of footways where sufficient highway land is available.
- Extension of the existing 40mph speed limit across the currently derestricted section of London Road and associated approaches to St Thomas Roundabout.

Examples of the issues highlighted within the submitted report (attached as Annex One) include visibility concerns at the Hampton Park crossing point and constrained footway widths along the route.

2. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL SENIOR ENGINEER RESPONSE TO SPEED LIMIT QUESTION

Wiltshire Council's Senior Engineer Officer has provided the following observations:

- The speed limit assessment identified a mean vehicle speed of 27.9mph within the section concerned.

- Three recorded injury collisions were identified at St Thomas Roundabout; however, none involved vehicles approaching from the Salisbury direction.
- Reducing the speed limit may not alter the behaviour of drivers already significantly exceeding the existing speed limit.
- The informal pedestrian crossing point has been improved since the original data was collected.
- Additional highway measures on the approach are already due to be undertaken through the LHFIFG process.
- Whilst an engineering solution is possible, consideration should be given to whether the proposal represents an appropriate cost-to-benefit ratio.

The officer further advised that, because all approaches to a roundabout must carry the same speed limit, any reduction would need to be extended across all approaches to the roundabout. As the roundabout is within a system of street lighting, new terminal signs on the A-classified roads would require illuminated signage and associated electrical connections. Recent comparable schemes have incurred significant costs for cabling and electrical works.

Indicative costs provided by Wiltshire Council are:

Item	Estimated Cost
Traffic Regulation Order	£2,500
Removal/disconnection of existing power supply	£2,000
Cable and illuminated signage works (4 signs)	£20,000
Additional terminal signage (Spire View and Church Road)	£1,200
Road markings and lining	£1,100
Traffic management	£1,250
Allowance for uplift and contingency	Included
Estimated Total	£32,000

The Senior Engineer Officer Wiltshire Council has indicated that LHFIFG may not support funding this element of the project. Should the Parish Council wish to continue pursuing the proposed speed limit changes, it may therefore be required to fund all or a substantial proportion of the costs associated with the scheme.

At this stage, no equivalent cost estimates have been provided for any footway widening or other engineering works identified within Cllr Baker's report.

Councillors may wish to note that:

- Several elements of the proposal relate to maintenance and visibility issues which may be capable of being pursued independently of any speed limit changes.
- Wiltshire Council has advised that average traffic speeds are already below the proposed 40mph limit, even though the current limit is 60mph.

- The speed limit proposal represents the principal financial risk to the Parish Council, with indicative costs of approximately £32,000.
- Additional highway improvements have now been completed in the area through the LHFIG process.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council considers the Highways Improvement Request submitted by Cllr Nick Baker and resolves whether:

(a) To support the movement of the sign blocking view of upcoming traffic for pedestrians crossing at Island at Hampton Park Roundabout; to widen the pavement in sections where there is land available to do this and look at levels to ensure water does not pool; and

To either:

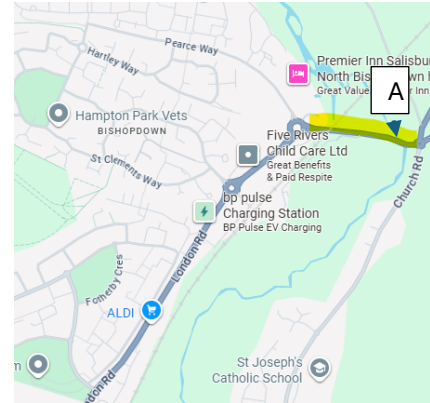
- i) support the proposed extension of the 40mph speed limit and request Wiltshire Council to undertake further development of the scheme, acknowledging that the Parish Council may be required to fund costs currently estimated at approximately £32,000 should LHFIG funding not be available; or
- ii) not support the proposed speed limit changes at the present time, having considered the available evidence, engineering advice and estimated costs.

(b) Or to not support any of the requests for further work at this time.

London Road: Hampton Park – St Thomas Bridge Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety

Context

As the Wiltshire Councillor for Laverstock and Bishopdown Farm pedestrian and cyclist safety on this route is frequently raised with me by local residents. It is the shortest and preferred walking route for many residents of Bishopdown Farm to the Laverstock Schools, however this short stretch exposes pedestrians to traffic using the A30 and A338 and the pavements on the road are narrow, with a river bridge and a rail bridge constraining development.



Two LHFIF projects have already taken place on the route. One to add pedestrian warning signs and the other to improve the pedestrian crossing at St Thomas Bridge. A recent speed limit assessment of the length of London Road reported that the section of around 111 metres of this road which are derestricted could be reduced to 40mph but raised questions about the degree of impact this would have due to average speeds recorded in the area.

This report looks at possible further steps that can be done to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and increase the confidence of residents to use active travel.

Routine Maintenance

Frequent complaints from residents are obstruction of the pavement by vegetation and in the winter that children often arrive at school with wet shoes due to water pooling in the pathway.

- **Parish Stewards-** The Pedestrians Crossing sign for traffic approaching St Thomas Bridge from Hampton Park (point A on map) has been turned around and is facing the wrong way. Can be turned around and vegetation cleared as a high priority. There are several places where brambles and other vegetation intruding into an already narrow pavement. It would be very helpful if this could be cut back as far as possible.
- **Area Highways Engineer-** Rhiannon is going to search local landowners and investigate contacting them and reminding of them of their responsibilities. The photos show vegetation encroaching from what appears to be Great British Rail land, brambles further towards St Thomas Bridge are coming from land is believed to be privately owned.
- **Drainage and Maintenance Teams-** It is understood that some gully clearance took place at the St Thomas Bridge end of the road during the crossing improvements but it would be really helpful if it could be ensured that this gully and particularly the gully near the railway bridge are cleaned before the winter and are on a schedule regular clearing.



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Further Safety Improvements – LHFIFG Issues

Crossing Safety at Hampton Park Roundabout

There is a pedestrian crossing with dipped pavement and an island on the A30 just before the Hampton Park Roundabout designed to allow pedestrians coming from Aldi or the Park and Ride to access the pavement to St Thomas Bridge. However the view of traffic coming through the railway bridge to pedestrians right is totally obscured by the large directional sign, which means cars are only visible only a few seconds before they reach the crossing. This sign really needs moving further into the extensive verge.



Pavement Width

The two constraints of the railway bridge and the river bridge prevent the pavement being widened sufficiently to create a dual use walking / cycle path. However there are several sections of the pavement which could be widened which would be of considerable assistance to pedestrians, push chair and wheel chair users. It would also be helpful to investigate whether there are any areas where water pools in the winter which could be raised.



Speed Limit

The Atkins Speed Limit Assessment said “Notwithstanding [the recorded driven speed], if there is a strong local desire to reduce the speed limit in Section 3 to 40mph (and consequently the other approaches to the roundabout) then that is something that can be taken forward through the LHFIFG process.”



Pavement views from Hampton Park Roundabout towards St Thomas Bridge (L) just past the rail bridge, (R) approaching St Thomas Bridge.

Laverstock and Ford Parish Council reviewed this and voted to recommend to LHFIFG that this limit is changed as described in the

report. As the photograph on the right shows, at the moment a derestricted sign is sending a signal to drivers that they can speed up just as they approach the newly improved pedestrian crossing and roundabout. The parish council noted that this would involve moving the start of the 40mph limit onto the section of the A30 and A338 before the roundabout, and felt this was helpful as while average speeds are not fast due to traffic build up, at quiet times traffic can still approach the roundabout and crossing at high speeds and so the parish council believe it would be helpful to lower the speed limit to 40 before vehicles reach the roundabout and crossing.

Alternative Routes and Cycling

This report recommends cost effective options which could be taken to improve safety on this route, they will benefit walkers, wheel and push chair users more than cyclists. The width constraints on the carriageway limit actions that can be taken to help cyclists. However the Parish Council has given the Devenish Bradshaw Trust a grant to support them in improving the surface of the path from Cow Lane to the Laverstock-Bishopdown path, providing a traffic free alternative route for cyclists to the London Road.

Highways Improvement Request Form

Contact Details

Name:	Nick Baker	Date:	28/07/2026
Address:	2 Linden Close, Laverstock, Salisbury SP1 1PN		
Telephone No:	07921 899396		
Email Address:	nick.baker@wiltshire.gov.uk		

Issue Details

Location of Issue: (please add a location plan where possible)	London Road: St Thomas Bridge-Hampton Park
Community Area:	Southern Wiltshire v
Parish or Town Council:	Laverstock & Ford Parish
Nature of Issue: (Max 600 characters)	
I am frequently contacted by local residents. particularly those living in Bishopdown Farm and Riverdown Park and walking to the Laverstock schools about the safety and desirability of this section of the road due to the narrow pavements and flooding issues.	
How long has it been an issue?	Several years
What would you like done to resolve this issue? (Max 600 characters)	
See attached report for details. In summary: -Move sign blocking view of uncoming traffic for pedestrians crossing at Island at Hampton Park Roundabout. -Widen the pavement in sections where there is land available to do this and look at levels to ensure water does not pool. -Move change in speed limit from 40mph to derestricted to the other side of the St Thomas Bridge roundabout away from the pedestrian crossing.	
Have you been in touch with your local Wiltshire Councillor? (Yes/No)	Yes

***This form needs to be completed and e-mailed or sent to your local Town or Parish Council.
Town and Parish contact details are available via the link below:***

<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx>

Town or Parish Council Comments: (To be completed by Town or Parish Council only - Max 600 characters)
Due to meeting timings, this has not yet been put to full Council. It will be on September 21. There is currently informal support from councillors. Full support is conditional upon confirmation at the next (September) Council meeting and approval by Council of the costs, once we have been notified as to what those costs may be.

Wiltshire Council

