

Land to the East of Longwater Road, Finchampstead

Travel Plan Statement

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Prepared For:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Travel Plan Statement (TPS) has been prepared by DTA Transportation (DTA) on behalf of the applicant, Catesby Strategic Land Ltd and Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Ltd to accompany a planning application for the proposed residential development on land to the east of Longwater Road, Finchampstead. A site plan is contained within **Appendix A**.
- 1.1.2 Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) have produced a Local Validation List (September 2023) which stipulates that a Travel Plan is required for major developments (>10 dwellings), as well as a guidance document for residential Travel Plans in the Wokingham area, titled 'Residential Travel Plan Guidance (2011)'. This TPS has therefore been prepared with reference to both documents
- 1.1.3 The Travel Plan guidance document states that Residential Travel Plans (RTP) '*...are an important mechanism for helping to promote more environmentally sustainable travel patterns from new development.*' and '*When implemented correctly, RTPs have the potential to deliver more sustainable communities and support a reduction in the overall number and length of car based journeys associated with the development.*'
- 1.1.4 The document further states that no Travel Plan is required for single use residential development with less than 50 units. Whilst the proposed development falls below the required threshold for a Travel Plan, this TPS has been prepared as required by the local Validation List
- 1.1.5 The applicant holds a strong commitment to the promotion of sustainable travel practices at the proposed development, and this TPS sets out the objectives and measures for achieving this.
- 1.1.6 This TPS should be read alongside the Transport Statement (TS) report (reference 19200-03c) prepared by DTA; which provides a detailed review of the existing transport conditions within the locality, an assessment of travel demand for the proposed development and details its impact on local transport infrastructure.



1.2 Report Structure

1.2.1 Following this introduction, the report continues as follows:

Chapter 2 describes the TPS's purpose objectives and its benefits;

Chapter 3 describes the site, including the accessibility of the site using sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport;

Chapter 4 describes the measures that could be implemented to meet the aims and objectives of the TPS;

Chapter 5; details the implementation and co-ordination of the plan; and

Chapter 6 provides an action plan to detail the timescales for measures to be completed through the course of the TPS.

2.0 TRAVEL PLAN STATEMENT PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS

2.1 Purpose

2.1.1 A Travel Plan Statement is a living document that provides a strategy for managing travel demand involving a continuing process of monitoring and review. The underlying aim of any Travel Plan Statement is to minimise the number of single occupancy vehicle trips generated by a development, business or organisation. This is achieved by encouraging a shift to more sustainable modes of transport and by reducing the need to travel.

2.2 Objectives

2.2.1 The main objectives are as follows:

- Reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles (SOV) travelling to and from site.
- Promote the health, wealth and environmental benefits of cycling walking and using public transport.
- Provide clear information to all residents on the alternative modes of travel to and from site.
- Enhance the safety and security of people travelling to and from site.



2.3 Benefits

- 2.3.1 Implementing a Travel Plan Statement can bring several benefits to a site, including helping to minimise the potential increase in traffic resulting from a development, helping to manage and reduce carbon emissions, and assisting with promotion of healthy lifestyles.
- 2.3.2 A Travel Plan Statement provides benefits to all parties, including the developer, the site occupants and the local authority, which can help in gaining widespread commitment to its implementation and continuing operation.
- 2.3.3 It is intended that these objectives will be met by identifying and implementing initiatives that provide residents with a variety of travel choices and reduce the need to travel by private car.

3.0 EXISTING TRANSPORT CONDITIONS

3.1 Site Location

- 3.1.1 The site is located to the east of the B3016 Longwater Road and immediately south of the village of Finchampstead.
- 3.1.2 The site is bound by existing dwellings to the north on Wood Moor and The former Eversley Quarry and allocated Blackwater Valley Country Park (Manor Farm Nature Reserve extension) to the south. The location of the site is shown in **Figure 1**.

3.2 Pedestrian and Cycle Facilities

- 3.2.1 Longwater Road has a 2m footway along the site frontage which facilitates access north into the centre of the village and south towards Eversley Cross.
- 3.2.2 A Public Right of Way (FP FINC 13) runs along the northern site boundary; the footpath is fenced on both sides. The footpath heads west, crosses Longwater Road and links up with FP FINC 12 which heads north towards the school.
- 3.2.3 There are no official cycleways within Finchampstead, however local facilities lie within reasonable cycling distance from the site as set out below. Cycling to Wokingham is an option for cyclists, whether this be via Longwater Road and then northeast on Jubilee



Road or using less direct routes via the public rights of way network (bridleways and byways, Hollybush Ride). The distance is between 3.5-5 miles depending on the route, which would typically take between 20-30 minutes.

3.3 Public Transport Provision

Bus

- 3.3.1 The closest existing bus stops to the proposed development are located approximately 250m north of the site.
- 3.3.2 Service number 401 is a school service and travels between Three Mile Cross and Yateley School departing Longwater Road at around 08:15 and returning at 15:30. This service operates between Monday and Friday during the school term.
- 3.3.3 Service number 145 travels between the Three Mile Cross Post Office and Winnersh, via Wokingham. There is one inbound service and one outbound service on Tuesdays. The service leaves Finchampstead at 10:15 and arrives in Wokingham at 10:30. The return service departs Wokingham Town Centre at 12:20 and arrives in Finchampstead at 12:35. Additional amenities served include Wokingham Library and Tesco stores.
- 3.3.4 Approximately 600m north of the site on The Village, the daily 406 service leaves Finchampstead at 07:46 with return journeys arriving back at 15:47 and 17:17. This service connects Finchampstead with Farnborough via Yateley and takes approximately 25 minutes.

Rail

- 3.3.5 The nearest rail station to the site is Crowthorne Railway Station which is approximately 3.6km northeast of the site. This translates into approximate cycling time of circa 18 minutes via Lower Sandhurst Road. There are regular services to Wokingham, Redhill, Reading, Gatwick Airport and Guildford. Car (42 spaces) and cycle (24 spaces) parking is provided at the Station.

3.4 Local Facilities

- 3.4.1 The proposed development is located within close proximity to local amenities, including educational facilities, shops, public transport infrastructure and leisure activities, making the site an accessible location.



- 3.4.2 The nearest primary school to the site is Finchampstead C of E Primary School which is located approximately 650m north of the site. The nearest secondary school is Yateley School. It is located 3.4 km south east on School Lane. The 401 (Yellow Route) school coach service can be used by pupils in Finchampstead to travel to and from the school.
- 3.4.3 Finches pre-school is located 200m west of the primary school providing education for nursery age children.
- 3.4.4 Goswell & Birds Farm Shop and Coffee House operates from within the Greyhound Pub, selling various farm produce. This is location approximately 450m north of the site on Longwater Road and can be accessed via the existing footway.
- 3.4.5 In terms of access to health provisions, Finchampstead Surgery (GP Surgery) is located off the B3016 Finchampstead Road, Finchampstead, approximately 2.2km north of the site.
- 3.4.6 Finchampstead Sports Club is located at the Memorial Park. There are various facilities including the cricket club, tennis courts and small astro turf courts. This is located near to the primary school off The Village and is c750m from the site access following the existing available footways.
- 3.4.7 Supermarkets including Sainsbury's Local, Tesco Express and Waitrose are available Yateley, approximately 3km south from the site, whilst approximately 5km east of the site, a Lidl Supermarket is available on the Crowthorne village High Street.
- 3.4.8 Local recreation includes Burnmoor Meadow local green space (200m) and Finchampstead Allotments (250m). In addition, the allocated Blackwater Country Park to the south could be accessible via a link through the southern boundary when it opens.
- 3.4.9 Wokingham Town Centre is located approximately 6km north of the site and is accessible by public transport; this provides additional amenities and facilities that are available to residents, including leisure centres/amenities, retail/ food stores, local shops, restaurants and drinking establishments.



4.0 TRAVEL PLAN TARGET AND MEASURES

4.1 Target

- 4.1.1 Due to the scale of the proposed development, targets are not set for the TPS, nor is an overall monitoring strategy provided.
- 4.1.2 Notwithstanding, to meet the aims and objectives for sustainable travel set out in this TPS, a number of measures could be implemented. These are outlined below.

4.2 Measures

Sustainable Travel Information

- 4.2.1 Sustainable Travel Information will be provided to all residents on occupation and will contain information, links and apps information to help residents to travel by non-car modes of transport. The information will comprise of maps of the local area showing walking and cycling routes as well as timetable information links for the local bus and rail services.
- 4.2.2 Travel information will be circulated to residents by sales staff as part of the home handover on completion.

Measures To Reduce the Need to Travel

- 4.2.3 The proposals for the site will aim to tap into and expand upon current trends in mobility which have been actuated by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, working habits and use of the internet.
- 4.2.4 Encouraging home working where appropriate can be effective in reducing traffic congestion and facilitating the achievement of sustainable travel objectives. The measures below could be implemented to encourage residents of the development to work from home:
- Infrastructure for superfast broadband access is provided to facilitate remote home working and online shopping; and
 - Information on what home working is and its potential benefits, will be disseminated via the residents welcome pack.



Measures to Promote and Encourage Walking and Cycling

- 4.2.5 The travel information material would include a map showing local amenities and services within walking and cycling distance of the site. The material will also include information about other nearby leisure and recreational walking and cycling routes.
- 4.2.6 The TS has identified that the main route to the primary school could be improved by adding in dropped kerbs and tactile paving at various crossing points to enhance pedestrian safety and comfort. An improvement scheme along this route is proposed and will be agreed via a minor highway works agreement. A plan of the locations which could be improved is contained within **Appendix B**.
- 4.2.7 In addition, the applicant is willing to provide a bench near to the junction of Longwater Road and Longwater Lane which is a mid-point between the school and site. The highway boundary records show that sufficient land is available to provide this.

Measures to Increase Public Transport Use

- 4.2.8 As stated previously, the nearest bus stops to the site (approximately 250m north) allow access to route number 145. The service is limited to one inbound/outbound service on Tuesdays.
- 4.2.9 Given the above, discussions are being held with local operators regarding the feasibility and costs of improving the frequency of local services.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAVEL PLAN STATEMENT

5.1 Travel Plan Co-ordinator

- 5.1.1 In order to implement the TP, a Travel Plan Co-ordinator (TPC) will be appointed by the developer of the site. It is anticipated that a member of the sales team would be appointed as the TPC for the site. The contact details of the TPC will be provided to WBC, once known.
- 5.1.2 The TPC's responsibilities will include:
- Implement existing and future programmes which are part of the plan;
 - Address any comments/ suggestions from residents of the site; and
 - Liaise with WBC's Travel Plan team, where required.



6.0 ACTION PLAN & FUNDING

6.1 Action Plan

6.1.1 To ensure that the Travel Plan is effectively implemented, the measures outlined in Chapter 4 have been arranged into an action plan, which identifies the timescale and responsible party for each measure.

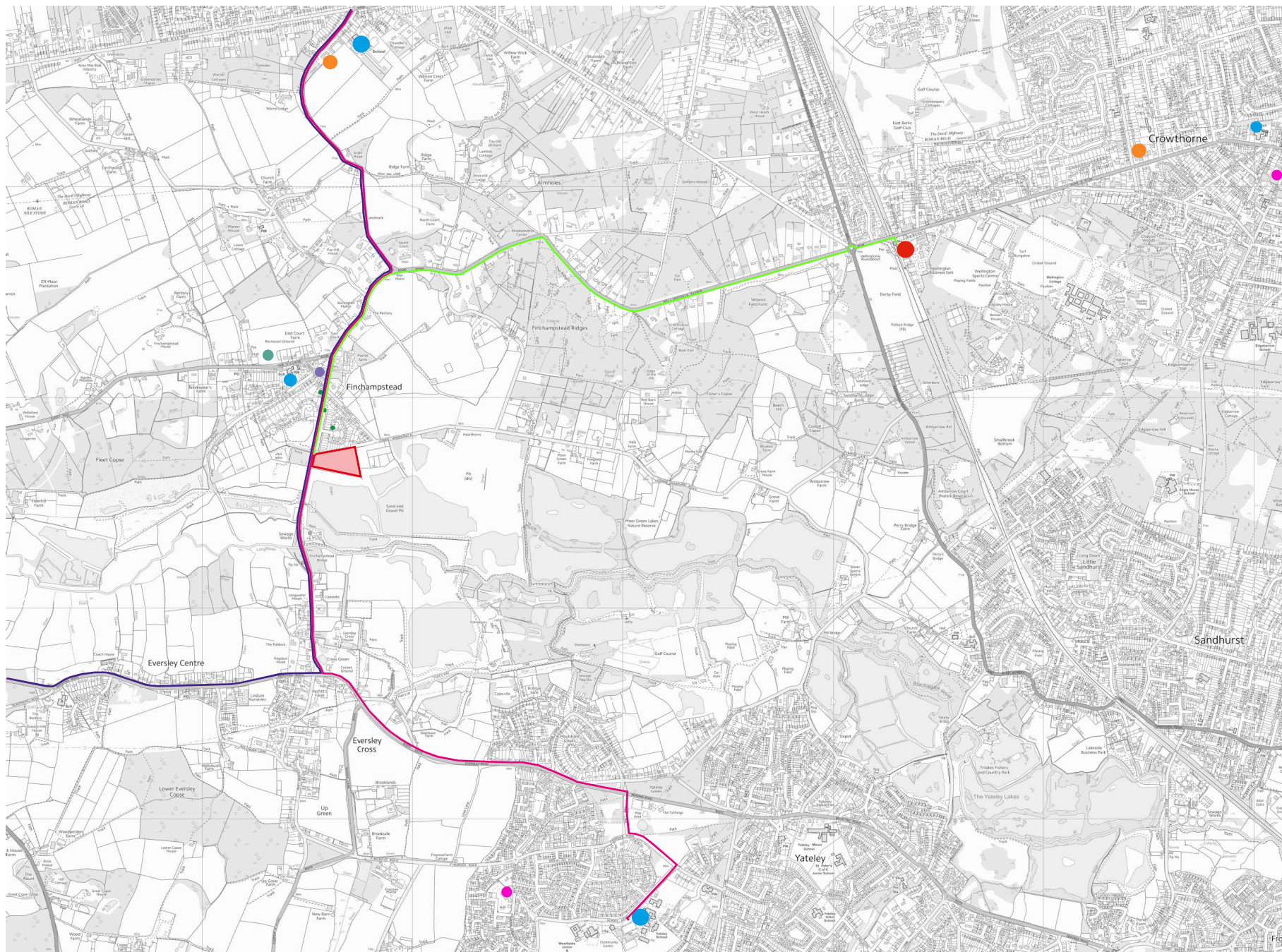
Table 1: Travel Plan Action Plan

Measure	Task	Timeframe	Responsibility
Travel Plan Management	Implement Travel Plan Co-ordinator	Prior to Occupation	Developer
Promote cycling to the site	Provide sufficient cycle parking provision for residents	Prior to Occupation	Developer
Provision of sustainable travel information material	Collate WBC/online travel information material for all residents prior to first occupation of homes	Prior to Occupation	TPC
Reduce the need to travel	Provided broadband infrastructure to facilitate remote home working and online shopping	Prior to Occupation	Developer
Promotion of walking, cycling and public transport to all residents	Sales staff to distribute Sustainable Travel material to residents on completion	Prior to Occupation	TPC
Increase public transport use	Provide an enhanced bus service between the site and key areas	Prior to Occupation	Applicant

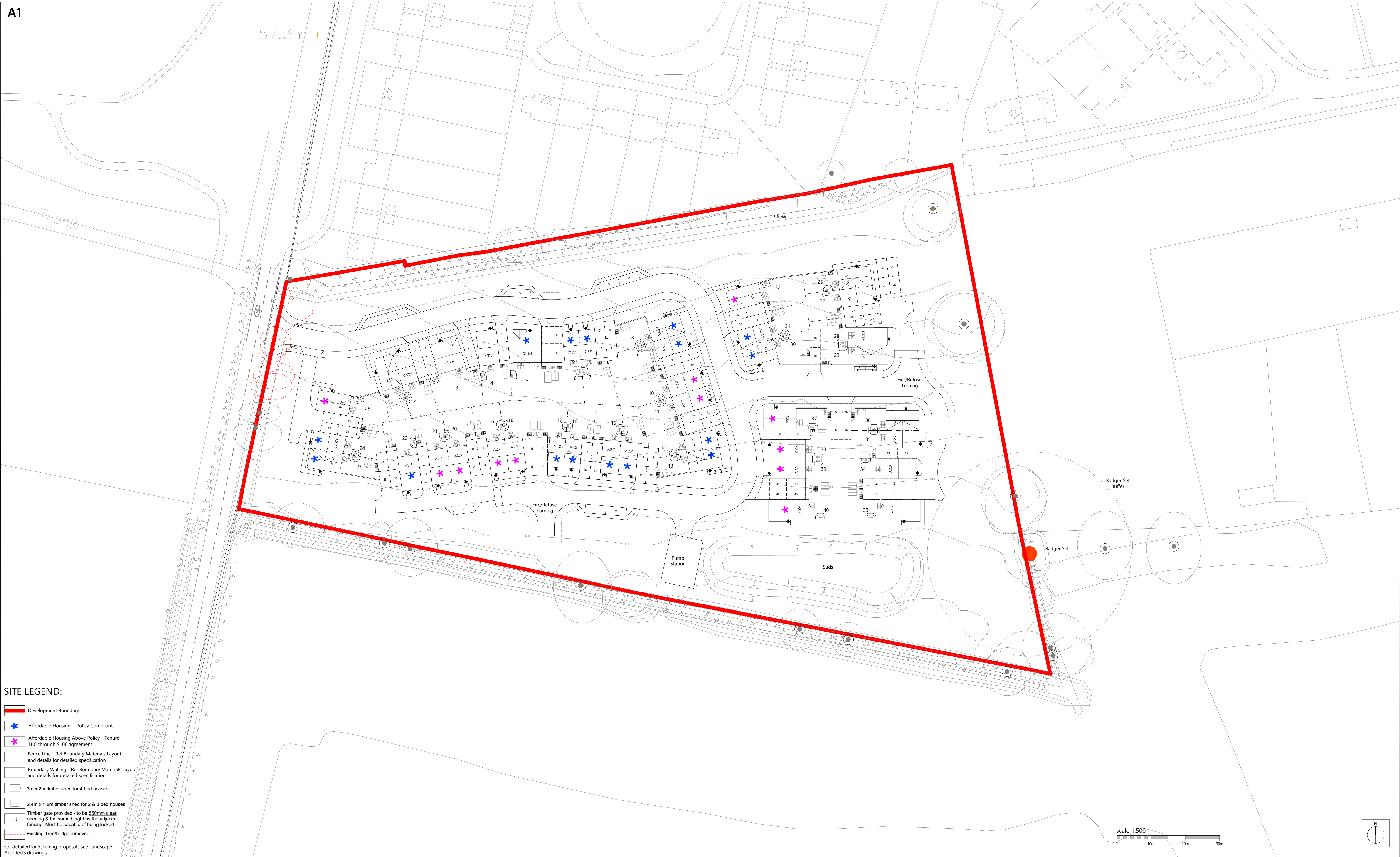
6.2 Funding

6.2.1 Appropriate and proportionate funding will be allocated by the developer to cover the costs involved in administering the Travel Plan Statement and those relating to the implementation of measures and initiatives.

Figures



Appendix A



Romsey	T:01794 367703	Rev	Description	Date	Au	Ch
Portishead	T:01275 407000	A	Issued for Planning	31.05.24	MK	
London	T:01794 367703					

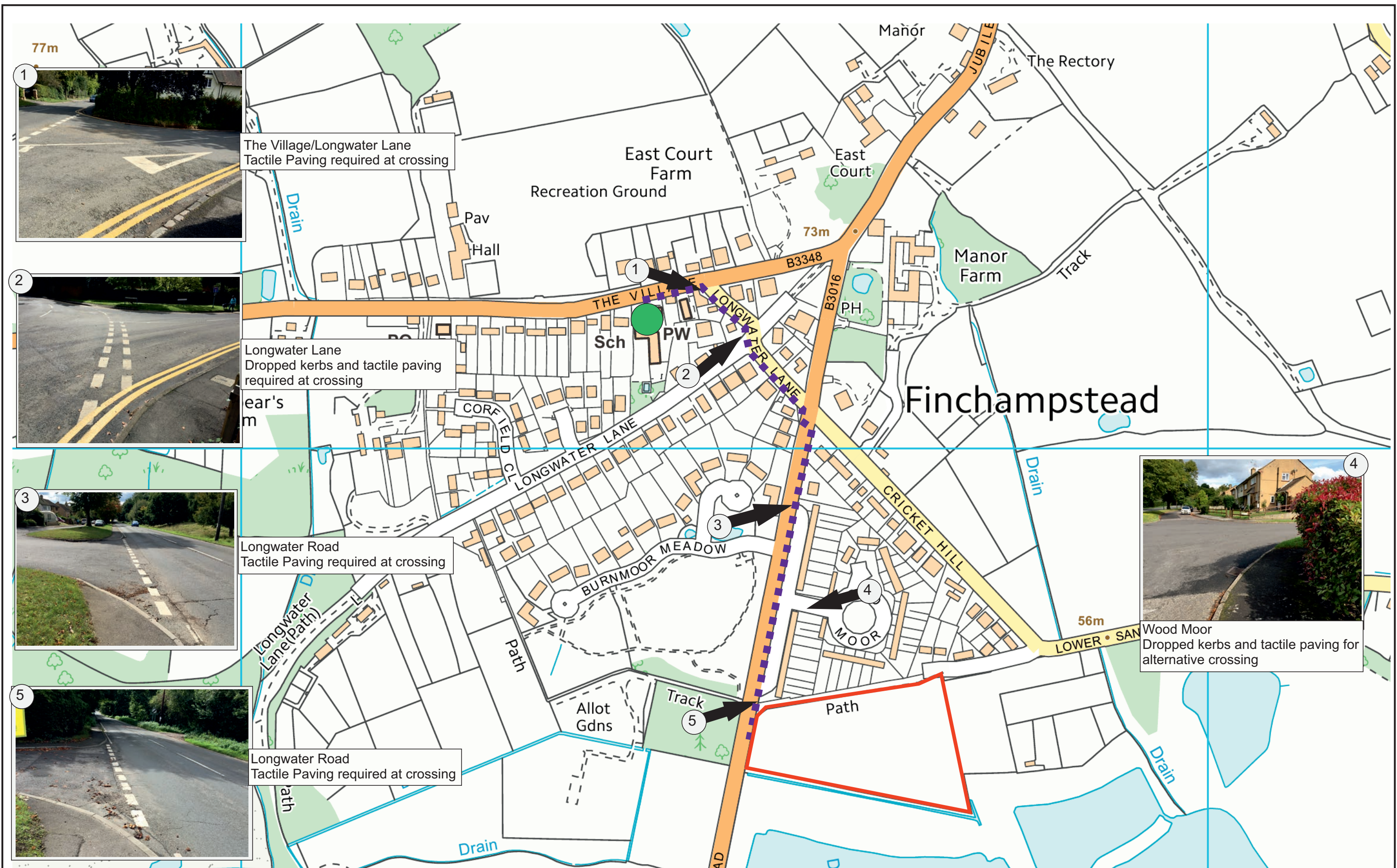
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Project	Land at Longwater Road, Finchampstead		
Drawing	Site Layout		
Client	Catesby Estates PLC & Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Limited		
Job no.	CATE230603	Date	26.03.24
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Author	MK	Checked	
Status	PLANNING	Scale	1:500 at A1
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Appendix B





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