

Agenda No

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee
Date of Committee	25 September 2008
Report Title	Speed Limit Review Objections to the Statutory Consultation
Summary	<p>Following formal advertisement of the speed limit review proposals, objections have been received for the following routes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A3400 Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon 2. A3400 Shipston Road 3. A422 Banbury Road 4. A44 London Road 5. B4035 Campden Road, Shipston-upon-Stour 6. B4035 Brailes Road 7. B4035 Holloway Hill, Lower Brailes 8. B439 Bordon Hill, Stratford-upon-Avon 9. B4632 Campden Road <p>Those routes which have generated objections are summarised within the attached Appendices A -J, and officers responses have been included. Therefore, it is recommended that each objection is considered separately by this Committee and that due consideration is given to officers' recommendations contained within the appendices.</p>
For further information please contact	<p>Jo Edwards Senior Road Safety Engineer Tel. 01926 412028 joedwards@warwickshire.gov.uk</p>
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	No
Background Papers	Objection correspondence.

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-*Details to be specified*

Other Committees

.....

- Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive
- Legal I Marriott – comments incorporated.
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police (Please see Appendices)
- Other Bodies/Individuals Parish Council, Emergency Services, Road Haulage Associations.

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** (If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review

**Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and
Economy**

Recommendation

It is recommended that each proposal which has generated objections is considered separately by this Committee and that due consideration is given to officers' recommendations contained within the appendices.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the formal advertisement of the speed limit review proposals, those routes which have generated objections are summarised within the attached **Appendices A -J**, and officers responses and recommendations have been included. It is recommended that each proposal is considered separately by this Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2007 a new Speed Management Strategy was approved by the Council. This covers 3 key areas: Education, Engineering and Enforcement. The setting of speed limits is a key element of this strategy. The Speed Limit Review on all A and B roads was developed in response to this strategy and Department for Transport (DfT) guidelines (Circular 1/2006).

The review was carried out in two parts:-

- (i) A technical review of all A and B class roads by officers.
 - (ii) A consultation exercise to determine community concerns.
- 2.2 The technical review was completed at the end of 2007. The findings from this review were determined by using the criteria of the Council's Speed Management Strategy i.e. analysing the existing speed data to identify the mean speeds of drivers, the environment and nature of the road and any relevant injury accident data.

- 2.3 The 'Speed Management' policy places great importance on community concerns, and refers to the environmental impact of traffic and the level of public anxiety. Therefore, in order to address this, feedback was sought through a wide range of media, including the production of a speed limit review website and the development of a speed limit review brochure. In addition, local radio and local newspapers have been used extensively.

3. Speed Limit Review Seminar

- 3.1 A seminar was held on the 2 April 2008, which consisted of Local Members and officers. The purpose of the seminar was to identify (section by section for each route), whether the consensus of views expressed by the local community supported or opposed the findings of the technical part of the review. As a result of this exercise, a number of changes were made to the proposals, to incorporate the views of the community.
- 3.2. Following the seminar, Stratford Area Committee (7 May, 2008), gave approval to advertise the speed limit changes, and to carry out a statutory consultation exercise.

4. Statutory Consultation

- 4.1 Legal notices advertising the speed limit review proposals were placed on the roads and in the press on the 10 July 2008, with an objection period from 10 July to the 1 August 2008.
- 4.2 Letters were sent inviting comments on the proposed Orders to the Local Member, Parish Council, Warwickshire Police, Emergency Services, Road Haulage Associations and other external organisations.

5. Objections

- 5.1 Following formal advertisement of the proposals objections have been received and these are listed in **Appendices A - J**.
- 5.2 The legal process of advertising and receiving objections is only intended to consider proposals to change speed limits, however, objections have also been received for stretches of road where no changes are proposed. Strictly speaking these objections are outside the process. However, it was felt members should be informed of them and they are listed in **Appendix K**. -Changes to the speed limits on new stretches of road would require new formal procedures.

6. Enforcement of Speed Limits

- 6.1 In making decisions on these orders Members should be aware that the Police only have very limited resources for enforcing existing or new speed limits.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 It is recommended that each proposal is considered separately. In order to comply with County Policy, any amendments to the proposed speed limit changes would need to meet the criteria of the Speed Management Strategy, as approved by Cabinet in September 2007.

PAUL GALLAND
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

5 September 2008

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Appendix A of Agenda No**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008****Speed Limit Review Objections****General Objection**

Objector and Reasons – Mr N Humphreys: (Mr Humphreys makes numerous comments in his letter of objection. The main points have been summarised) The consultation process is inadequate, discriminatory and loaded against objectors. Applying 50mph speed limits is not an appropriate solution to individual hazards on rural roads. Both 50mph and 30mph limits are counterproductive in road safety terms. The government sponsored research that underpins blanket rural 50mph limits is both flawed and contrived and therefore Dft guidelines are not reliable. Unreasonable limits that criminalise safe behaviour severely undermine the quality of life of drivers who take road safety seriously and this has a negative impact on public support for road safety, the police and law and order in general.

Officers Comments – An extensive consultation exercise has been undertaken and details of proposals have been available through a wide range of media since the start of 2008. The proposals meet the criteria of the Speed Management Strategy and research has shown that there are many benefits in reducing speed limits, as long as they are appropriate for the environment of the road. In addition to reducing accidents and the severity of injuries, there are many environmental benefits as a result of lower speed limits.

Recommendation - It is recommended that the Stratford Area proposals are implemented as advertised.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

S/1 A3400 Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon (Drawing No. SLR/S/1/G)

Existing Speed limit: 40mph Proposed Speed Limit: 30mph

Objector and Reasons – Warwickshire Police: The mean speed is not currently at or below the proposed limit. This road is the very essence of what a road user would consider a road subject to a 40mph limit and the speed data would confirm this showing a good degree of understanding and compliance with the present limit. Unlikely that the new limit will be as effective in maintaining compliance as the present limit has been and the change would introduce an unserviceable enforcement burden. By product of removing current 40mph repeaters which are a regular reminder of the current speed limit. Interactive signs will not be able to reduce the mean speed enough to make this self enforcing.

Officers Comments - The Speed Management Strategy approved by Cabinet in September 2007 required consideration be given to road safety issues, the existing speed of vehicles, the environment and nature of the road, and community concerns when conducting the speed limit review. We acknowledge that the mean speed is not currently at or below the proposed limit and as such are recommending the installation of vehicle activated signs to compliment the reduction. The environment is built up on both sides of the road and with the extension to the Maybird Centre coupled with the additional housing that has recently been built, Birmingham Road is the epitome of an urban environment and as such the limit should be reduced to 30mph.

Recommendation – It is recommended that the proposal is implemented as advertised.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

S/1 A3400 Shipston Road (Drawing No. SLR/S/1/J)

Existing Speed Limit: 60mph Proposed Speed Limit: 50mph

Objector and Reasons – Mr M J Reynolds: Find it difficult to accept this order and feel it is a complete retrograde step and can see no reason for changing the present limits. Cannot understand how this has been arrived at. Few serious accidents, those that have occurred would not have been prevented by the reduction of any speed limit.

Police Comments – Warwickshire Police do not support the proposed 50mph speed limit.

Officers Comments –The speed limit proposals are based on the Dft circular 01/2006 and County Councils own Speed Management Strategy. The criteria includes the existing speed of vehicles, the environment and nature of the road, and community concerns, as well as collisions along a route. There have been 14 personal injury collisions along this route in the last 3 years. The environment of the road includes a high number of bends and accesses and mean speeds are below 50mph. Therefore the limit is already self-enforcing and the route meets the criteria for a 50mph limit.

Recommendation - It is recommended that this proposal is implemented as advertised.

It is essential that for those routes which run through more than one Joint Committee area, approval will be required from each Committee prior to implementation.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

S/4 A422 Banbury Road, Ettington to Pillerton Priors (Drawing No. SLR/S/4/D)

Existing Speed Limit: 60mph Proposed Speed Limit: 50mph

1. Objector and Reasons – Warwickshire Police: The mean speed is not currently at or below the proposed limit and it cannot be guaranteed that the added signs will lower the speeds sufficiently to make the limit self-enforcing. This road is the very essence of what a road user would consider a road subject to the national speed limit. Principals of circular 01/2006 seem to imply that reducing the speed limit should be a last resort. Unlikely that the new limit will be as effective in maintaining compliance as the present limit has been and the change would introduce an unserviceable enforcement burden. By product of added infrastructure and maintenance vehicles, creating sign clutter and strike hazards.

2. Objector and Reasons – Mr M J Reynolds: Find it difficult to accept this order and feel it is a complete retrograde step and can see no reason for changing the present limits. Cannot understand how this has been arrived at. Few serious accidents, those that have occurred would not have been prevented by the reduction of any speed limit.

Officers Comments – The Speed Management Strategy approved by Cabinet in September 2007 required consideration be given to road safety issues, the existing speed of vehicles, the environment and nature of the road, and community concerns when conducting the speed limit review. The mean speed is below the proposed limit (45mph mean speed recorded along this section of the A422) and in addition, situated along this route is a cluster site known as Ettington Crossroads where injury accidents are still a concern, despite the junction having received a casualty reduction scheme.

Recommendation - It is recommended that this proposal is implemented as advertised.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

S/11 A44 London Road (Drawing No. SLR/S/11)

Existing Speed limit: 60mph Proposed Speed Limit: 50mph

1. Objector and Reasons – Warwickshire Police: The mean speed is not currently at or below the proposed limit and it cannot be guaranteed that the added signs will lower the speeds sufficiently to make the limit self-enforcing. This road is the very essence of what a road user would consider a road subject to the national speed limit. Principals of circular 01/2006 seem to imply that reducing the speed limit should be a last resort. Unlikely that the new limit will be as effective in maintaining compliance as the present limit has been and the change would introduce an unserviceable enforcement burden. Reducing the speed limit alone should not be seen as an alternative for more costly engineering measures. By product of added infrastructure and maintenance vehicles, creating sign clutter and strike hazards.

2. Objector and Reasons – Mr B Gill: The mean of 53mph and 60mph concur well with the Dft figure for 60mph limit. This confirms that the road is functioning perfectly well and meeting the criteria for a 60mph limit. Reducing the limit to 50mph would be against the guidelines and would undoubtedly require enforcement measures all to address a problem which does not appear to exist. I can see no reason within the Dft circular or A44 review for the 50mph limit.

Officers Comments – The DfT circular 1/2006 encourages any proposed reduction in speed limits to be self enforcing. The new criteria is not solely based upon accident data. It is accepted that there will be an increase in the number of road signs, but the proposal meets the criteria of the Speed Management Strategy and vehicle activated signs are to be installed along the section to compliment the speed limit reduction.

Recommendation - It is recommended that this proposal is implemented as advertised.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

S/13 B4035 Campden Road, Shipston-on-Stour (Drawing No. SLR/S/13/B)

Existing Speed limit: 40mph Proposed Speed Limit: 30mph

Objector and Reasons – Warwickshire Police: The mean speed is not currently at or below the proposed limit. Road users readily identify the road as 40mph limit and the speed data would confirm this to be the case showing good understanding and compliance of the existing limit. By product of removing the 40mph limit repeaters which are currently a regular reminder of the current limit. The limit would not be self-enforcing without engineering measures in place. Unlikely that the new limit will be as effective in maintaining compliance as the present limit without the presence of cameras has been and the change would introduce an unserviceable enforcement burden.

Officers Comments - The Speed Management Strategy approved by Cabinet in September 2007 required consideration be given to road safety issues, the existing speed of vehicles, the environment and nature of the road, and community concerns when conducting the speed limit review. We acknowledge that the mean speed is not currently at or below the proposed limit and as such are recommending the installation of vehicle activated signs to complement the reduction.

Recommendation – It is recommended that the proposal is implemented as advertised.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

S/13 B4035 Brailes Road, Shipston-on-Stour to Upper Brailes (Drawing No. SLR/S/13/D)

Existing Speed Limit: 60mph Proposed Speed Limit: 50mph

Objector and Reasons – Mr B Gill: There are no accident clusters and the mean speed is below the present speed limit, there is no requirement to reduce the limit. The hump back bridge and cross roads are each single sites and would not justify a reduced limit within the Dft circular.

Police Comments – Warwickshire Police do not support the proposed 50mph speed limit.

Officers Comments – The Speed Management Strategy approved by Cabinet in September 2007 required consideration be given to road safety issues, the existing speed of vehicles, the environment and nature of the road, and community concerns when conducting the speed limit review. There are other issues to consider when setting local speed limits other than accident data. This will be a self-enforcing speed limit as the mean speed indicates a limit below 50mph.

Recommendation - It is recommended that this proposal is implemented as advertised.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

S/13 B4035 Holloway Hill, Lower Brailes (Drawing No. SLR/S/13/F)

Existing Speed Limit: 60mph Proposed Speed Limit: 50mph

Objector and Reasons – Mr B Gill: There are no accident clusters and the mean speed is below the present speed limit, there is no requirement to reduce the limit. There are few bends and minor junctions and the road is relatively straight. There is no justification of the limit within the Dft circular.

Police Comments – Warwickshire Police do not support the proposed 50mph speed limit.

Officers Comments – The Speed Management Strategy approved by Cabinet in September 2007 required consideration be given to road safety issues, the existing speed of vehicles, the environment and nature of the road, and community concerns when conducting the speed limit review. Due to the number of bends and junctions along this section combined with the speed data reducing the limit to a more natural 50mph is recommended.

Recommendation - It is recommended that this proposal is implemented as advertised.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

S/25 B439 Bordon Hill, Stratford-upon-Avon (Drawing No. SLR/S/25/B)

Existing Speed limit: 60mph Proposed Speed Limit: 40mph

Objector and Reasons – Warwickshire Police: The mean speed is not currently at or below the proposed limit. This road is the very essence of what a road user would consider to be a road subject to the national speed limit. There are already existing problems with abuse of the 30mph limit at this location which we have been dealing with as a partnership. Using the 40mph limit to extend the boundaries of the town further and buffer the existing 30mph limit will not help the situation – will merely exacerbate the position as road users will fail to understand the rationale behind the limit and it will lessen the impact of the 30mph town “gateway”.

Officers Comments - The Speed Management Strategy approved by Cabinet in September 2007 required consideration be given to road safety issues, the existing speed of vehicles, the environment and nature of the road, and community concerns when conducting the speed limit review. The proposal to reduce the speed limit to 50mph was requested at the Stratford-upon-Avon speed limit review seminar with the local member present. The proposal will address long standing community concern with this section of the B439. The mean speed has indicated that a 40 mph speed limit is justified.

Recommendation – It is recommended that the proposal is implemented as advertised.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

S/30 B4632 Campden Road (Drawing No. SLR/S/30/A)

Existing Speed Limit: 60mph Proposed Speed Limit: 50mph

1. Objector and Reasons – Warwickshire Police: The mean speed is not currently at or below the proposed limit and it cannot be guaranteed that the added signs will lower the speeds sufficiently to make the limit self-enforcing. This road is the very essence of what a road user would consider to be a road subject to the national speed limit. Principals of circular 01/2006 seem to imply that reducing the speed limit should be a last resort. Unlikely that the new limit will be as effective in maintaining compliance as the present limit has been and the change would introduce an unserviceable enforcement burden. Reducing the speed limit alone should not be seen as an alternative for more costly engineering measures. By product of added infrastructure and maintenance vehicles, creating sign clutter and strike hazards.

2. Objector and Reasons – Mr M J Reynolds: Find it difficult to accept this order and feel it is a complete retrograde step and can see no reason for changing the present limits. Cannot understand how this has been arrived at. Few serious accidents, those that have occurred would not have been prevented by the reduction of any speed limit.

Officers Comments – There is a history of serious collisions on this stretch of road, and high levels of vehicle usage due to the airfield site. The environment of the road includes a number of bends and the mean speeds indicate that a reduction to 50mph is appropriate. It is accepted that there will be an increase in the number of road signs, but the 50mph repeaters will help to enforce the limit along the stretch. The proposal meets the criteria of the Speed Management Strategy.

Recommendation - It is recommended that this proposal is implemented as advertised.

It is essential that for those routes which run through more than one Joint Committee area, approval will be required from each Committee prior to implementation.

**Stratford on Avon South Joint Committee -
25 September 2008**

Speed Limit Review Objections

B4035 Campden Road, Shipston-on-Stour

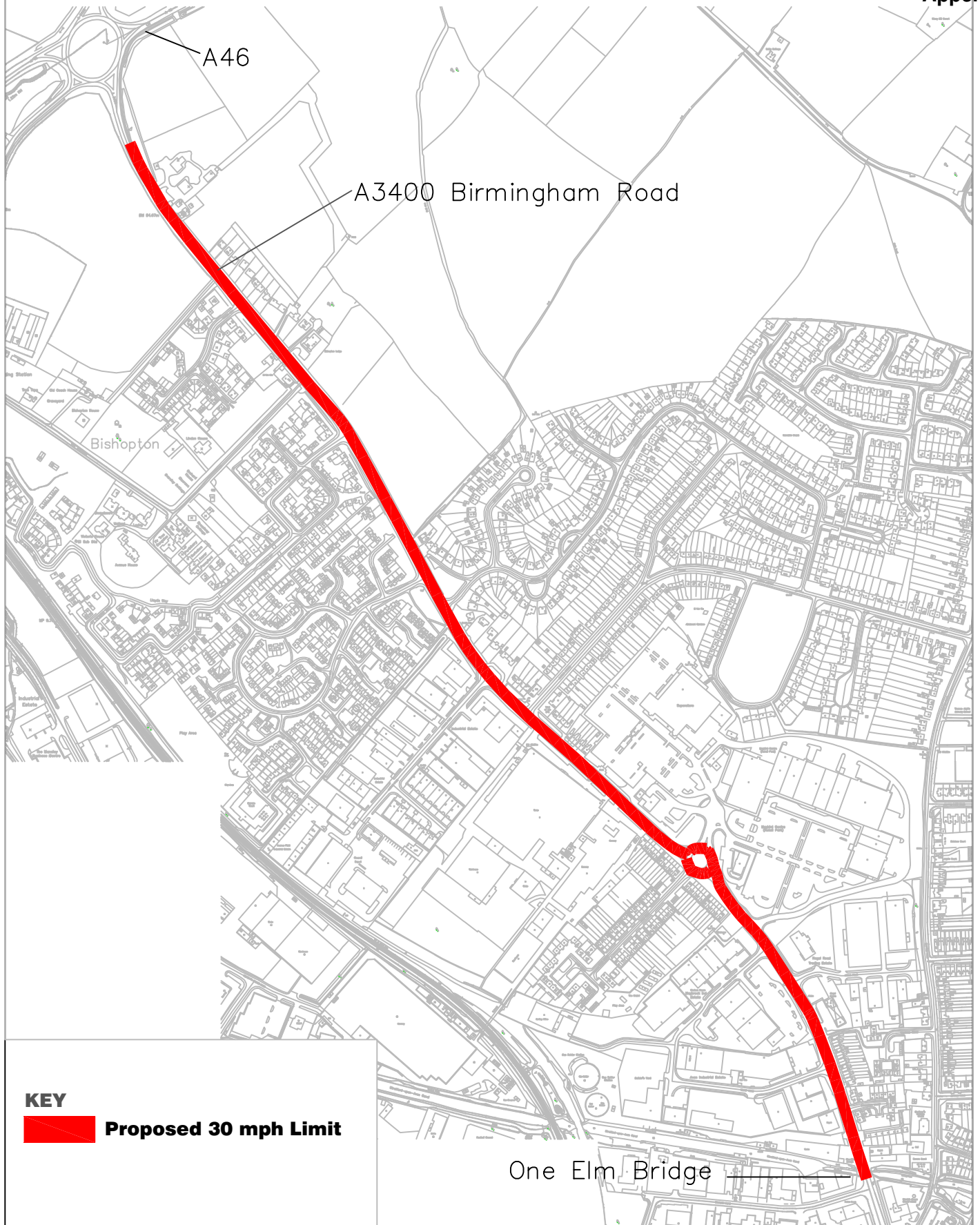
Existing Speed Limit 60mph No Proposal to Change Speed Limit

Objector and Reasons – District Cllr R Chaney: Dismayed to find that from the new 30mph limit the limit is to remain at 60mph. Understand that original proposals were to reduce the limit to 50mph. Traffic comes around blind bend at Norgren Works at a dangerous speed. Request speed reduction measures.

County Councillor Comments – 50mph limit was originally considered but County Councillors voted in favour of 60mph limit.

Officers Comments – The proposal to reduce the B4035 to 50mph was originally considered however following Councillor requests at the speed limit review seminar, the plans were reconsidered and the decision not to take them forward was taken as there had been no public support or objections to what was a borderline proposal.

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KEY

 **Proposed 30 mph Limit**

NTS	Ref No: SLR/S/1/G	Drawn TH	Checked JE	QA Form 19 02/96
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Stratford on Avon Joint Committee South
25th September 2008

A3400 Birmingham Road
Proposed 30mph limit

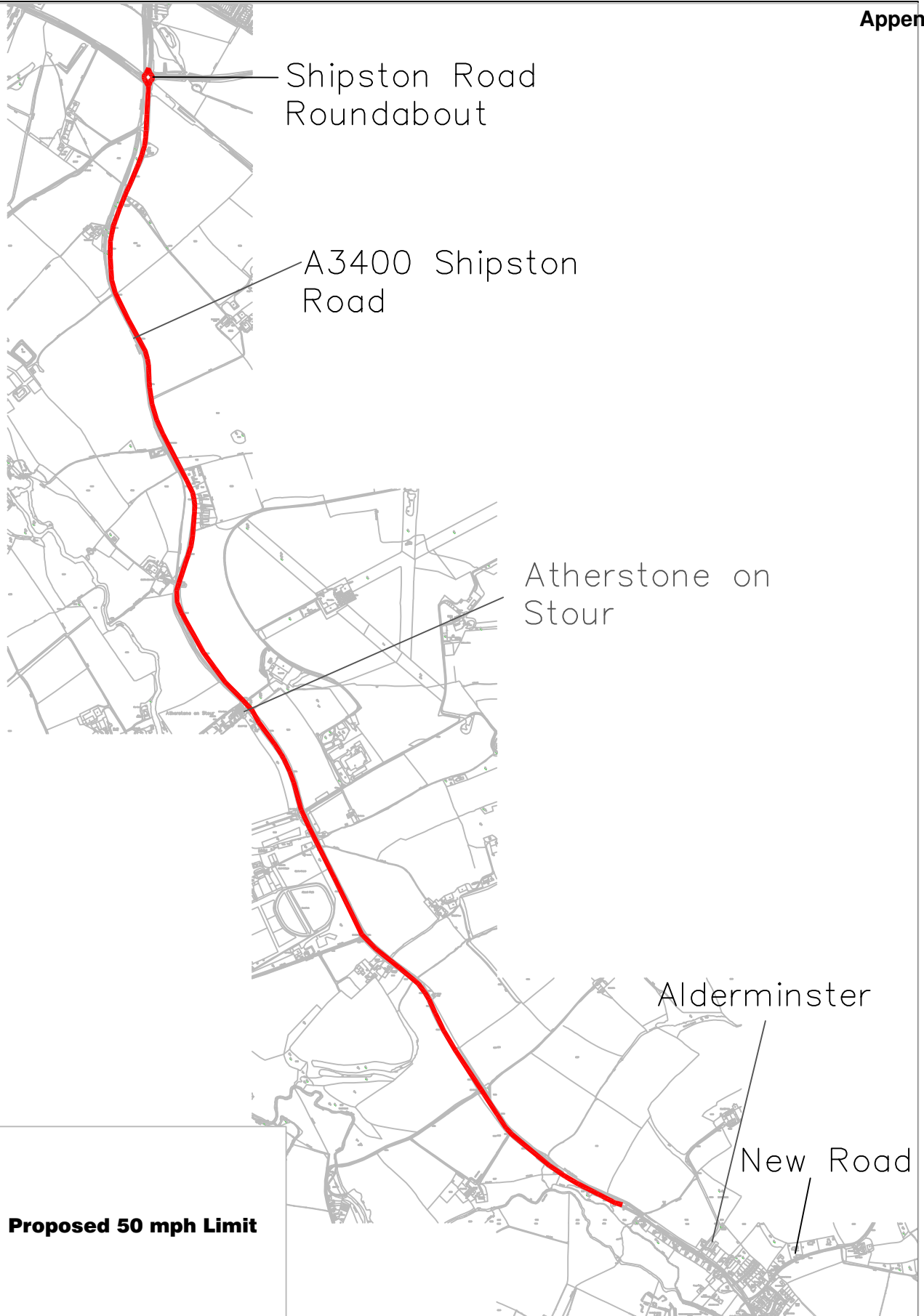


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Paul Galland
Strategic Director of Environment
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Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SX

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KEY

 **Proposed 50 mph Limit**


NTS	Ref No: SLR/S/1/J	Drawn TH	Checked JE	QA Form 19 02/96
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Stratford on Avon Joint Committee South
25th September 2008

A3400 Shipston Road
Proposed 50 mph limit

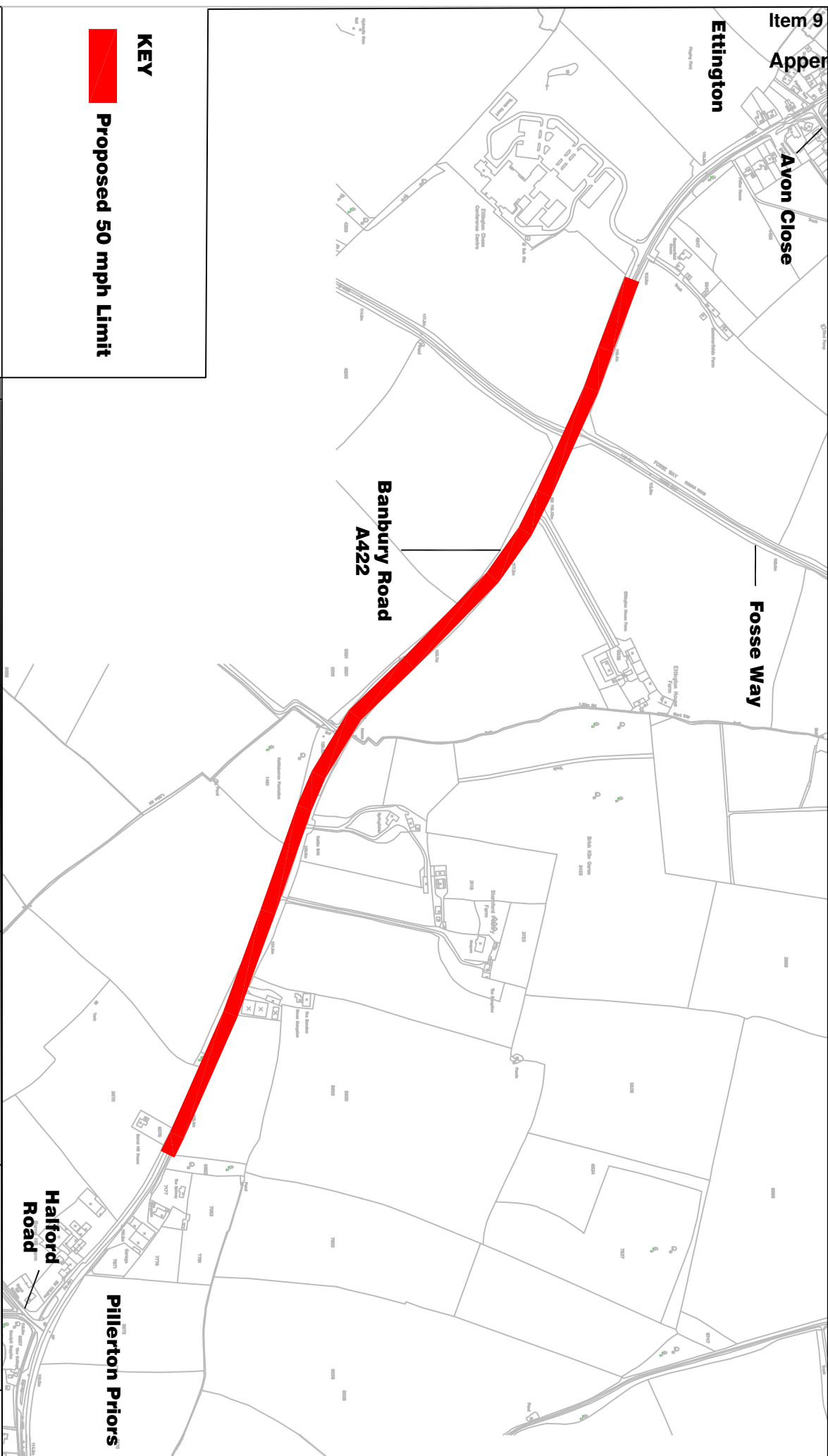


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Item 9
Appendix 4



KEY

 **Proposed 50 mph Limit**

NTS

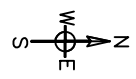
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Drawn JN


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QA Form 19
02/96

Stratford on Avon Joint Committee
25th September 2008
A422 Banbury Road
Proposed 50mph Limit

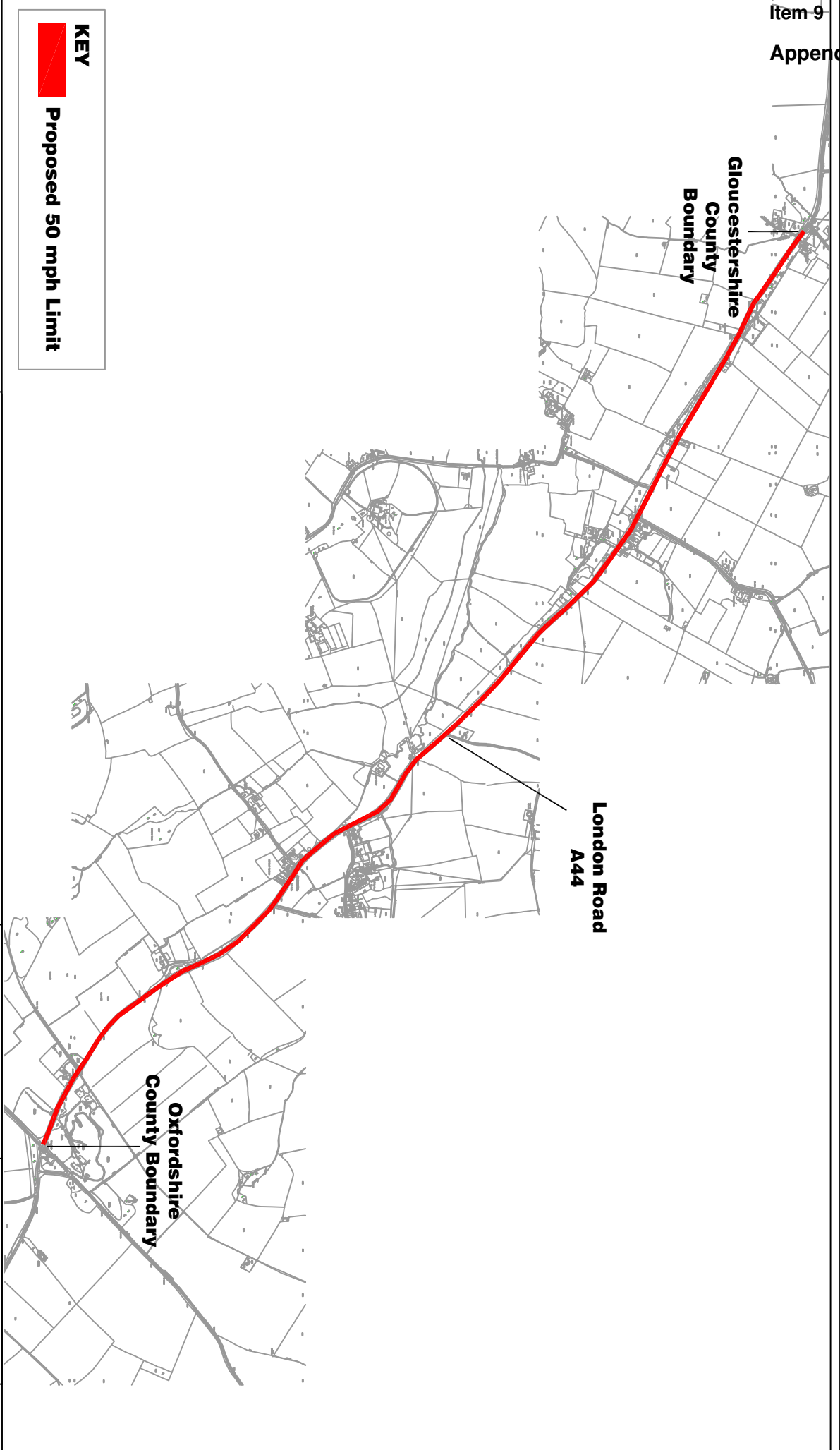


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Item 9
Appendix 5



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 Proposed 50 mph Limit

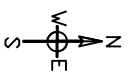
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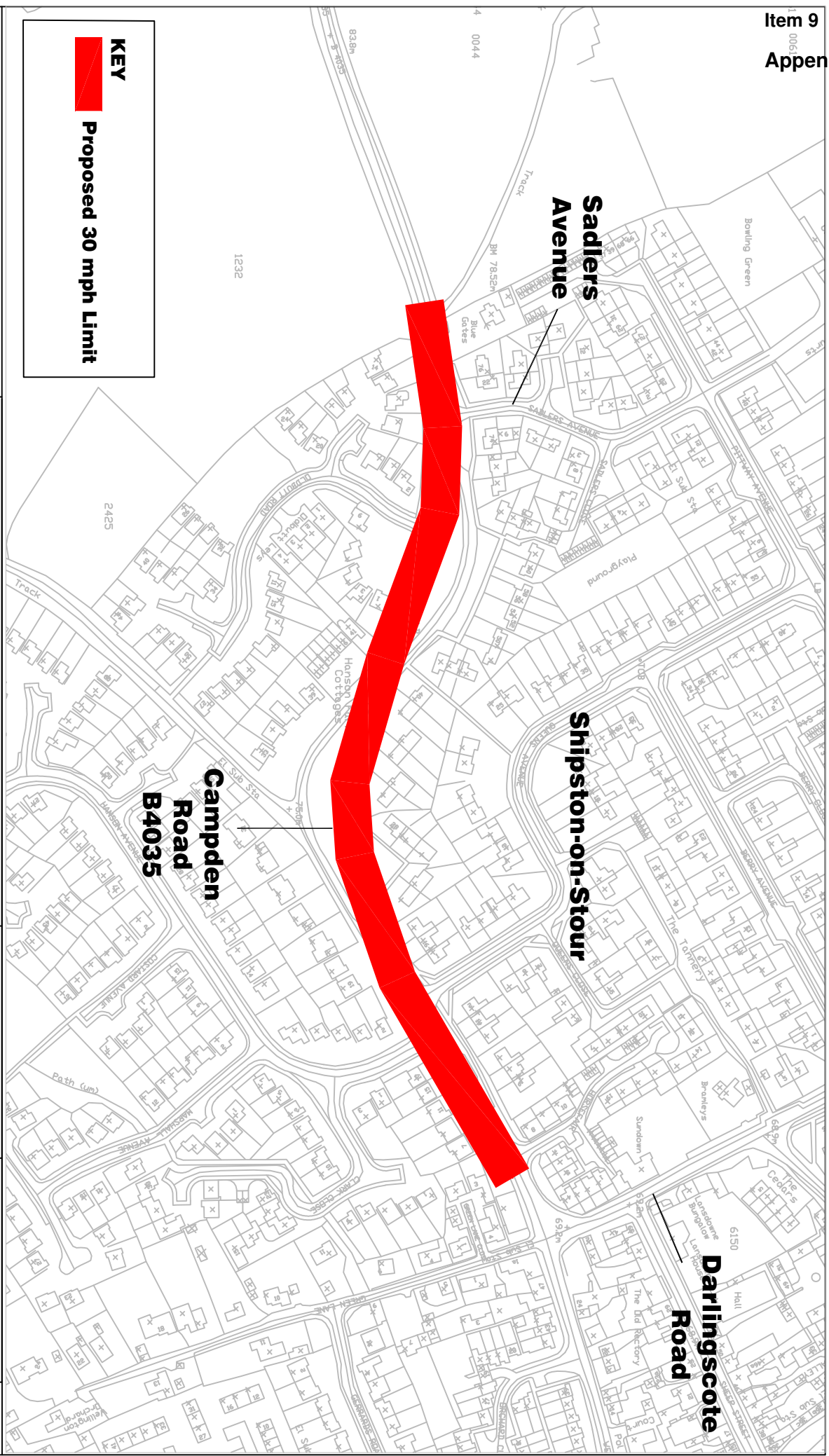
Stratford on Avon Joint Committee South
25th September 2008
A44 London Road
Proposed 50mph Limit




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 Proposed 30 mph Limit

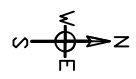
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Drawn JN


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DA Form 19
02/96

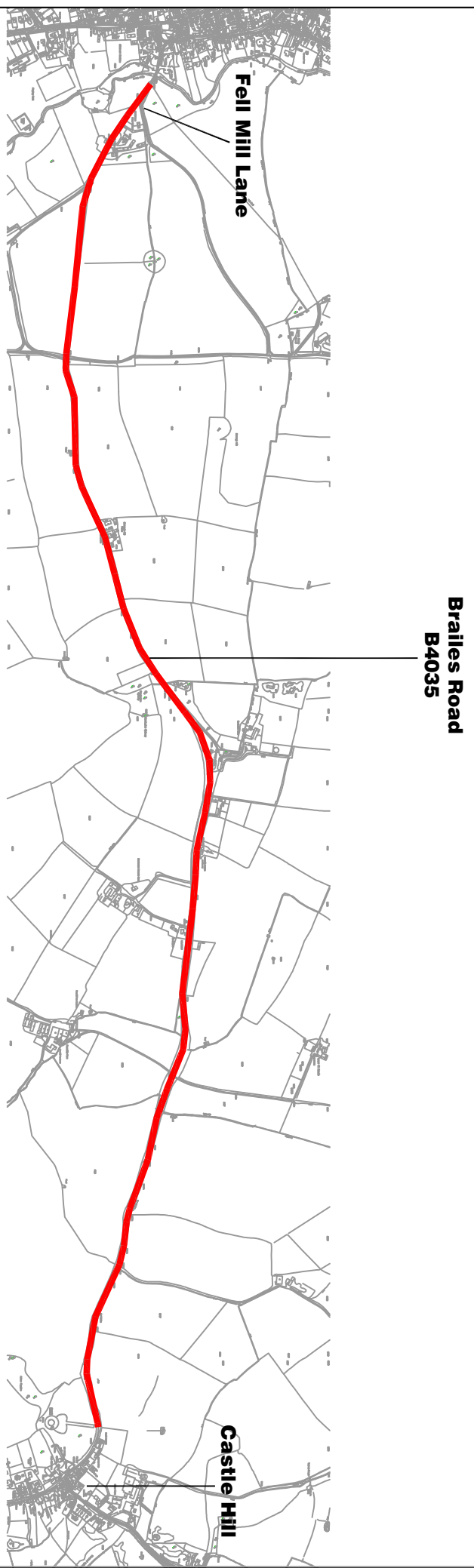
Stratford on Avon Committee South
25th September 2008
B4035 Campden Road
Proposed 30mph Limit



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 Proposed 50 mph Limit

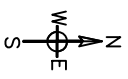
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Drawn JN


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QA Form 19
02/96

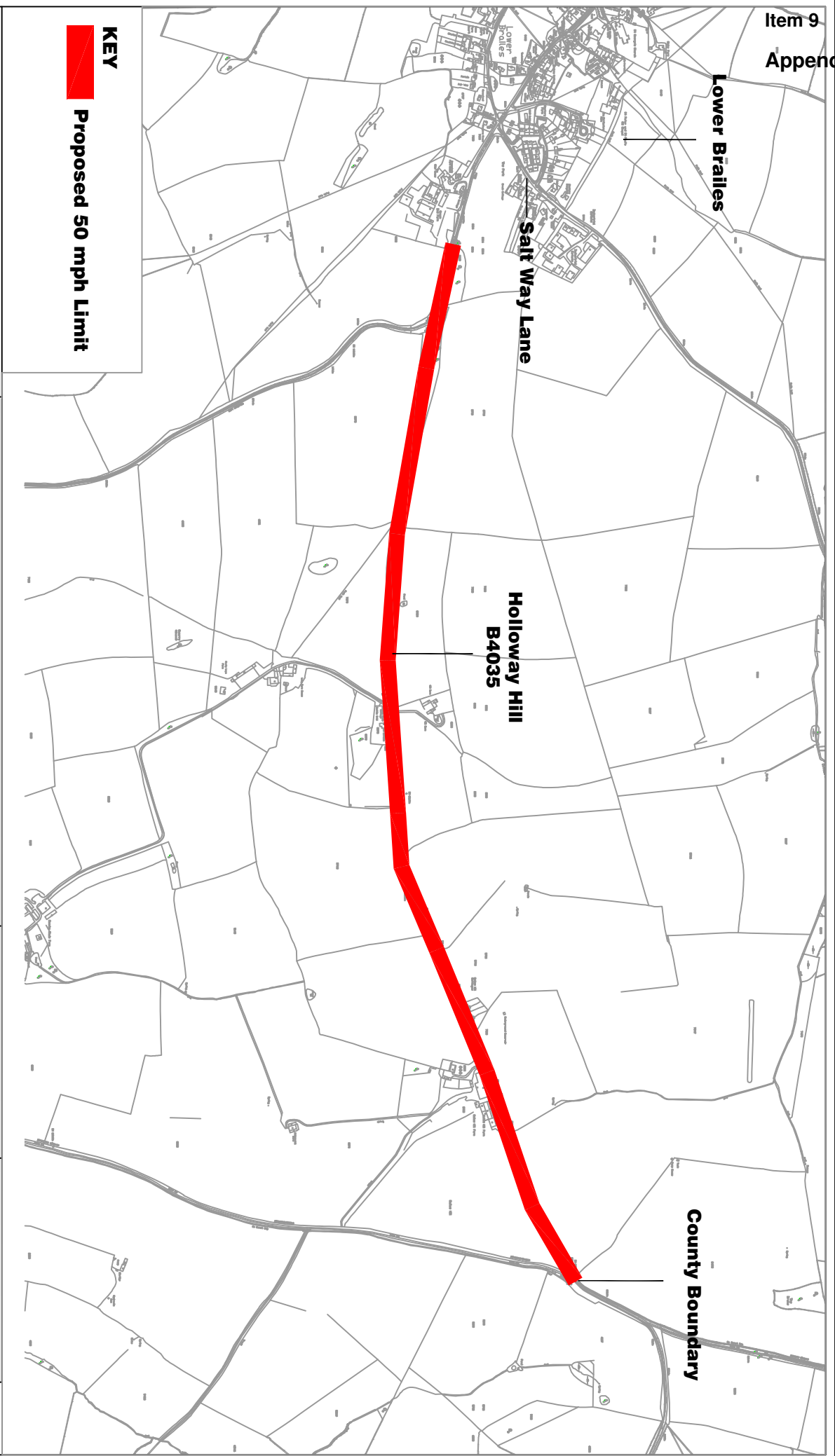
Stratford on Avon Committee South
25th September 2008
B4035 Brailes Road
Proposed 50mph Limit



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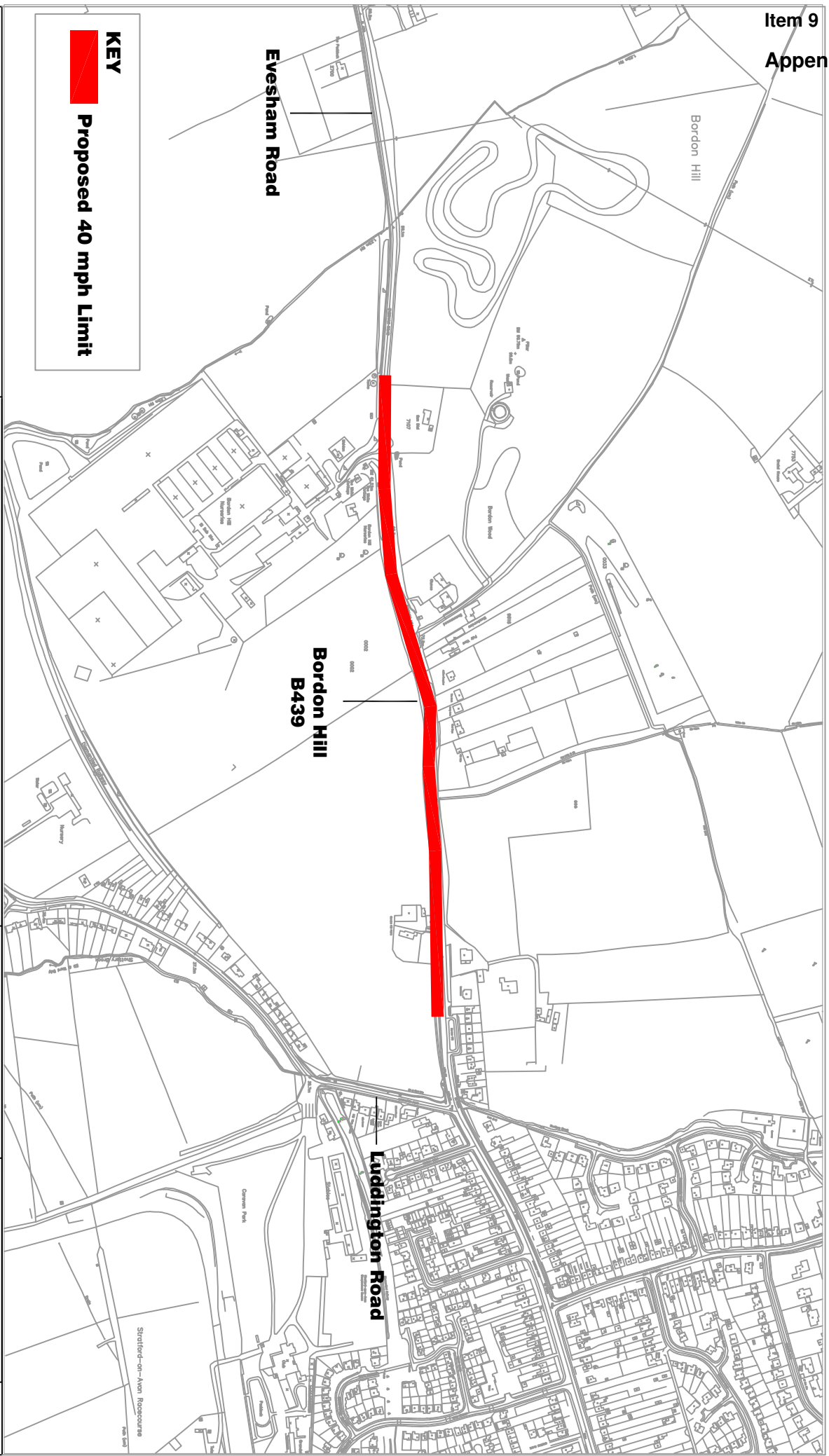
Stratford South Area Committee
25th September 2008
B4035 Holloway Hill
Proposed 50mph Limit



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KEY

 **Proposed 40 mph Limit**

Ref No: SLR/S/25/B

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Stratford on Avon Joint Committee South
25th September 2008
B439 Bordon Hill
Proposed 50mph Limit

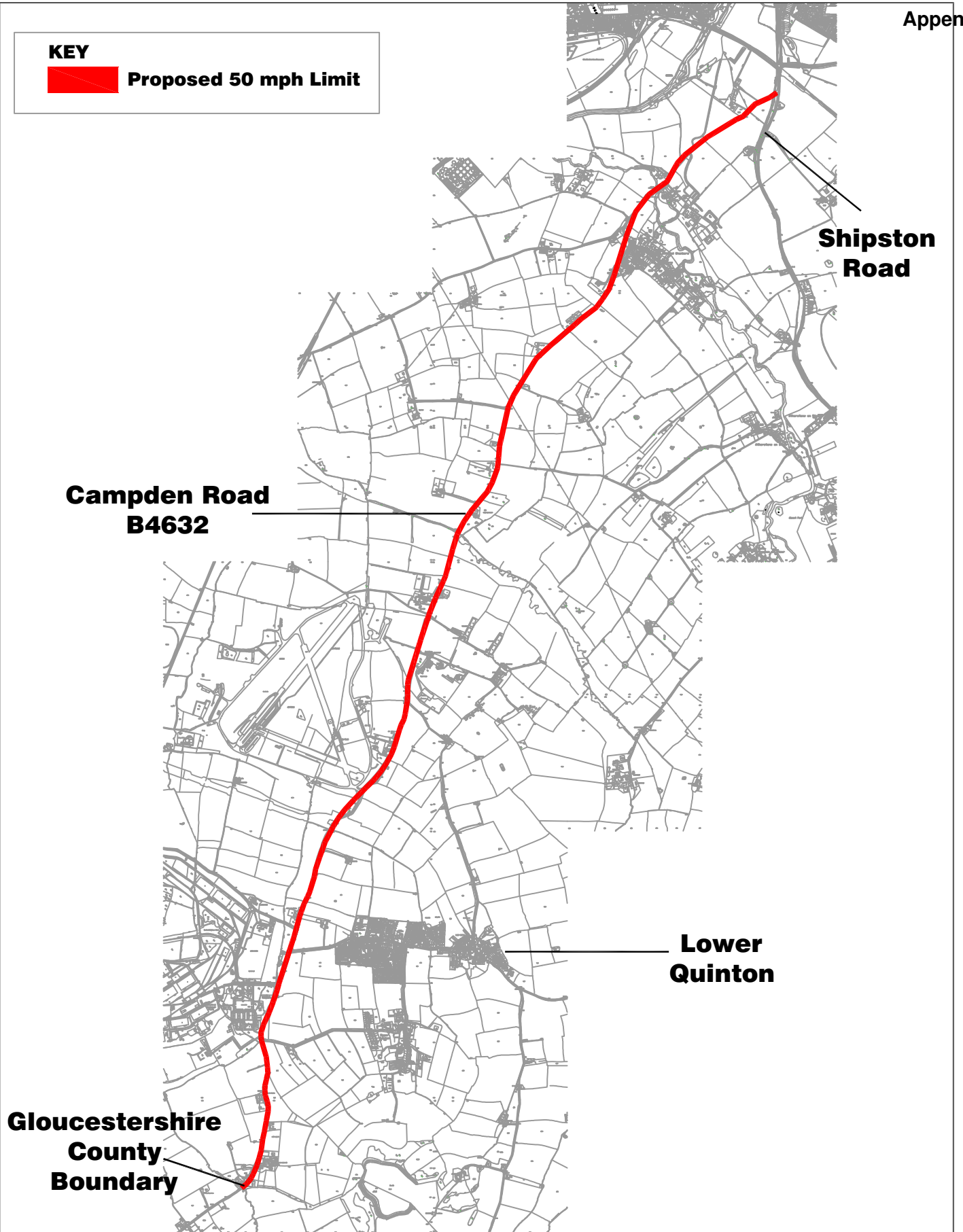


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KEY

 **Proposed 50 mph Limit**


NTS	Ref No: SLR/S/30/A	Drawn JN	Checked JE	QA Form 19 02/96
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Stratford on Avon Joint Committee South
25th September 2008

B4632 Campden Road
Proposed 50mph Limit



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