

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

DOWNS COMMITTEE

22nd April 2013

Report of: Highways and Traffic

Title: Proposed highway improvement: Suspension Bridge Road area

Ward: Clifton

Officer Presenting Report: David Sarson, Assistant Engineer

Contact Telephone Number: (0117 903 6856)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee accept the recommendations detailed below:

- 1. Clearance of shrubbery and self seeded trees on Suspension Bridge Road and Observatory Road,**
- 2. Adoption of 'Downs' land as highway and stopping up of highway to allow construction of bus drop off point on Observatory Rd.,**
- 3. Slight repositioning of the ice cream van area on Observatory Rd.**

Summary

A scheme of highway works is proposed, to improve the Suspension Bridge Road (SBR) area, in particular with respect to pedestrians. The Suspension Bridge Trust would benefit from a coach drop-off point, and the preferred design necessitates 'Downs' land being used for highway (highway would be stopped up to compensate), slight repositioning of the ice cream van area and clearance of self seeded trees and shrubbery. Similar clearance along SBR would open up the footway, creating a more pleasant environment.

The significant issues in the report are:

- To construct the bus drop off point, approximately 34 m² of 'Downs' land would need to be adopted as highway. This would be compensated for by approximately 36m² of highway being stopped up.
- It is necessary to maintain provision for the ice cream van. A new area would be constructed very close to the existing space.

Policy

1. Part of the Corporate Plan is to create safer and healthier environments and better neighbourhoods, in terms of physical quality, road casualties, air quality and quality of life. The scheme as a whole is aimed towards this. Traffic speeds should be reduced on the exit from the bridge and at the junctions, SBR and its junctions would be made easier to cross for pedestrians by the speed tables and junction build outs, and travel by coach would be facilitated. Investment and improvement of aesthetics would be made by maintenance and use of quality materials, such as Pennant flagstones in places, which have a long life span.

Consultation

2. Internal:

Design input has been made from Highway Lighting and the Parks Departments. A quality assurance process has been commenced, which will ensure design input from Highway Maintenance, Street Lighting, Drainage, Highway Structures, City Design, Network Management, Traffic Regulation Orders, Cycling, Road Safety, Development Control, Arboriculture and Local Councillors.

3. External:

Dave Anderson, Suspension Bridge Trust, North Somerset Council. A full Public Consultation exercise will be carried out at a later date.

Context

4.

4.1 Background

Meetings were held in 2008, between the Bridge Master, Bristol City Council and N. Somerset Council, to consider improvements on Bridge Road (Leigh Woods) and SBR (Clifton), aimed at improving road safety and the quality of the street scene. The next meeting was in 2012 to discuss funding and designs. The Suspension Bridge Trust made a successful bid for £100,000 from the Bristol Local Sustainable Transport Fund and contributed £12,000 to the Bristol scheme, so a meeting was held in February 2013 to start concept design, with continuity between the designs on both sides of the bridge.

4.2 Aim of the scheme

The issues to be tackled are to improve the quality of the area in terms of aesthetics, materials, road safety and accessibility. There is also demand for a coach drop off point on the Clifton side. The proposed play park improvements may increase pedestrian activity in the area.

4.3 General overview of the whole scheme

As discussed, the Bristol scheme is part of an overall scheme which seeks to improve the approach roads on both sides of the Clifton Suspension Bridge. The various aspects of the scheme include speed tables on SBR, which will also act as informal pedestrian crossing points, built out footways at junctions to slow traffic and reduce the width which pedestrians cross, construction of a coach drop off point on Observatory Road and slight repositioning of the ice cream van area. A lamp post is to be moved, and some highway signing removed to 'de-clutter' the area. Shrubbery and self seeded trees on the south side of SBR, and near the proposed coach drop off area are proposed to be cleared. Subject to budget, it is proposed to reconstruct part of the failing footway on the south side of SBR with Pennant flagstones.

Proposal

5. The three parts of the scheme which the Committee have been asked to consider are explained in more detail below:

5.1 Clearance of shrubbery and self seeded trees

The footway on the south side of SBR, west of Sion Hill, is encroached upon by shrubbery and enclosed by lack of sun light. To make this area more inviting and open, it is proposed to remove the shrubs and self seeded trees which have grown between the mature trees. This area could be laid to grass, the full width of footway cleared and the resulting view gained between the trees would improve the aesthetics. The Parks Department advise that this be carried out in two stages, shrubs one year then self seeded trees the next. Clearance of the self seeded trees at the proposed coach drop off point will tidy the area, creating a better impression for visitors stepping off the bus.

5.2 Land use at the proposed coach drop off site

The proposals shown in the drawings require 'Downs' land to be adopted as highway, but highway would also be stopped up and revert to 'Downs' use. It is proposed that this would be landscaped and laid to grass, where appropriate, with paths being extended to meet the new back of footway. It should be noted that land use will be in favour of the Downs, details are set out in the section lower down, ('Land').

It should also be noted that the provision of coach parking is referred to in the Traffic Study Working Group's report from Robert Westlake.

5.3 Ice cream van site

The proposals for the coach drop off site necessitate slight changes to the ice cream van parking area. A new parking / serving area would be constructed as part of the scheme, which would remain within the 'Downs' ownership.

It should be noted that this ice cream van area is referred to in the Traffic Study Working Group's report from Robert Westlake.

Other Options Considered

6. Another option for the coach drop off point was considered, on the northern side of SBR, east of its junction with Observatory Road, opposite Gloucester Row. This option would not have necessitated land take, but was discounted due to the negative impact it would have on the residents of Gloucester Row (their view) and the effect upon motorists' visibility when turning from Observatory Road.

Risk Assessment

7. A risk assessment has not been carried out. As mentioned in section 2, a quality assurance process will ensure that design input is made by many different departments in the Council.

Equalities Impact Assessment

8. No adverse 'equalities' impacts have been identified.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal:

Statutory consultation will be made as part of the Traffic Regulation Order process to provide the coach drop off point. Any objections would be considered by the Strategic Director Peter Mann prior to a decision being made.

Land use would need to be changed by highway adoption and stopping up, as set out below ('Land').

Legal advice given by:

Standard legal processes followed by Highways and Traffic in the course of their duties. Further advice to be sought for the processes of adoption and stopping up.

Financial:

£112,000 is available for the scheme. This will cover design fees, site supervision and the cost of the construction. The construction budget will therefore be limited to around £80,000.

(a) Revenue	nil
(b) Capital	£112,000

Land

To construct the bus drop off point, approximately 34m² of 'Downs' land would need to be adopted as highway. This would be compensated for by approximately 36m² of highway being stopped up and reverting to 'Downs' use.

Personnel

Design, consultation and construction supervision commitments to be provided using in-house staff. No extra resource implications.

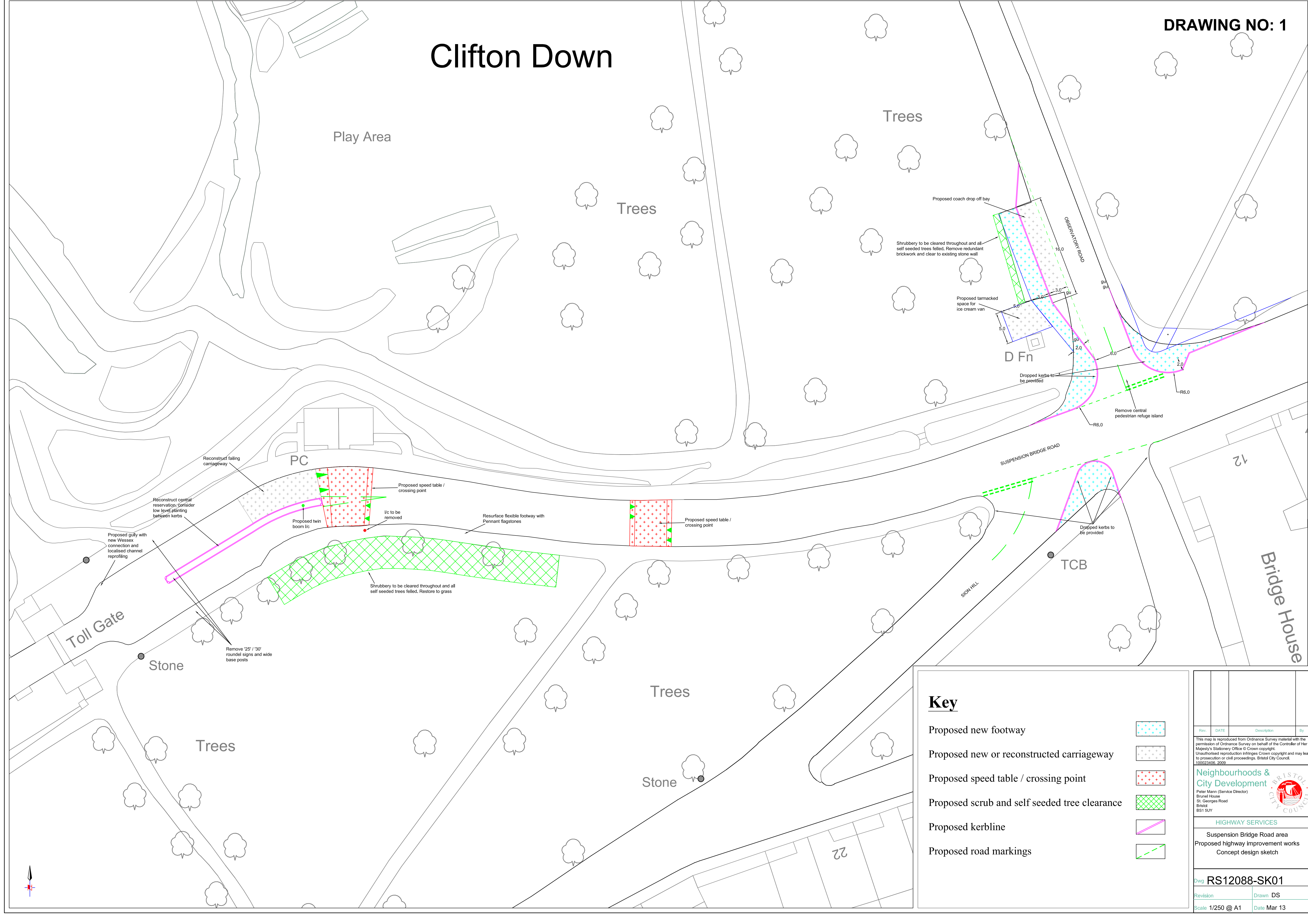
Appendices:

Drawings	RS12088-SK01 (Concept design sketch), RS12088-SK01 Land (Land use proposals) Infocus extract showing existing land ownership
Photograph	Photograph showing self seeded trees at the proposed coach drop off point

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

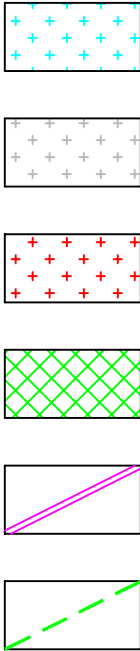
Background Papers: None

Clifton Down



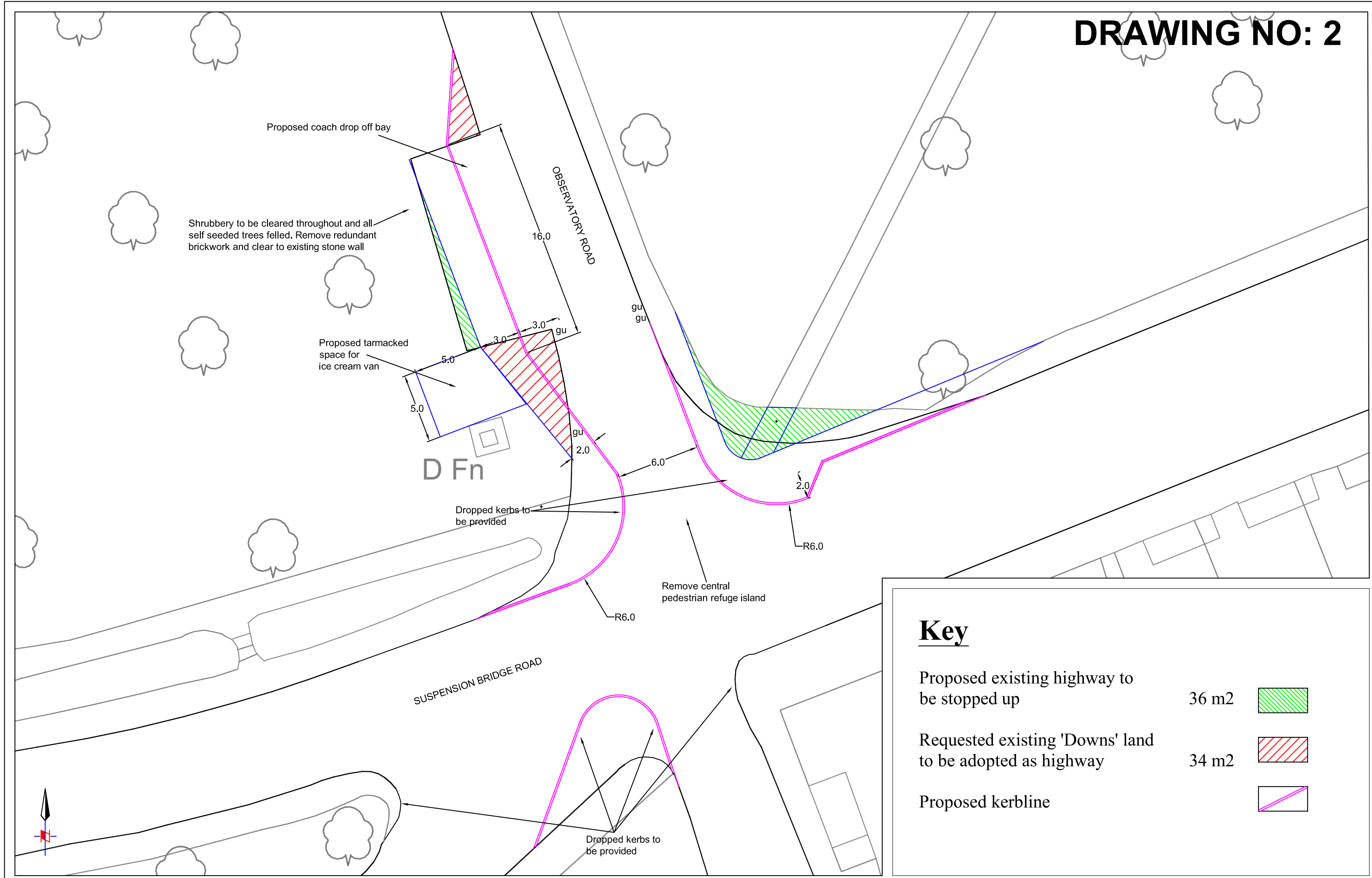
Key

- Proposed new footway
- Proposed new or reconstructed carriageway
- Proposed speed table / crossing point
- Proposed scrub and self seeded tree clearance
- Proposed kerbline
- Proposed road markings



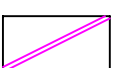


Rev.	DATE	Description	By
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Neighbourhoods & City Development			
<small>Peter Mann (Service Director) Brunel House St. Georges Road Bristol BS1 5UY</small>			
HIGHWAY SERVICES			
Suspension Bridge Road area			
Proposed highway improvement works			
Concept design sketch			
Dwg RS12088-SK01			
Revision		Drawn DS	
Scale 1/250 @ A1		Date Mar 13	

DRAWING NO: 2



Key

- Proposed existing highway to be stopped up 36 m2 
- Requested existing 'Downs' land to be adopted as highway 34 m2 
- Proposed kerblines 

Legend**DRAWING NO: 3****Adopted Highways**

Adopted, Confirmed

- A Road
- B Road
- C Road
- Footpath
- Motorway (not BCC-maintained)
- Pedestrianised
- Trunk Road A
- Unclassified

Unadopted, Confirmed

- Section 38
- Prospectively Maintainable

Adopted, Under Review - Seek Clarification from Highways

- A Road
- B Road
- C Road
- Footpath
- Motorway (not BCC-maintained)
- Pedestrianised
- Trunk Road A
- Unclassified

Unadopted, Under Review - Seek Clarification from Highways

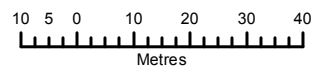
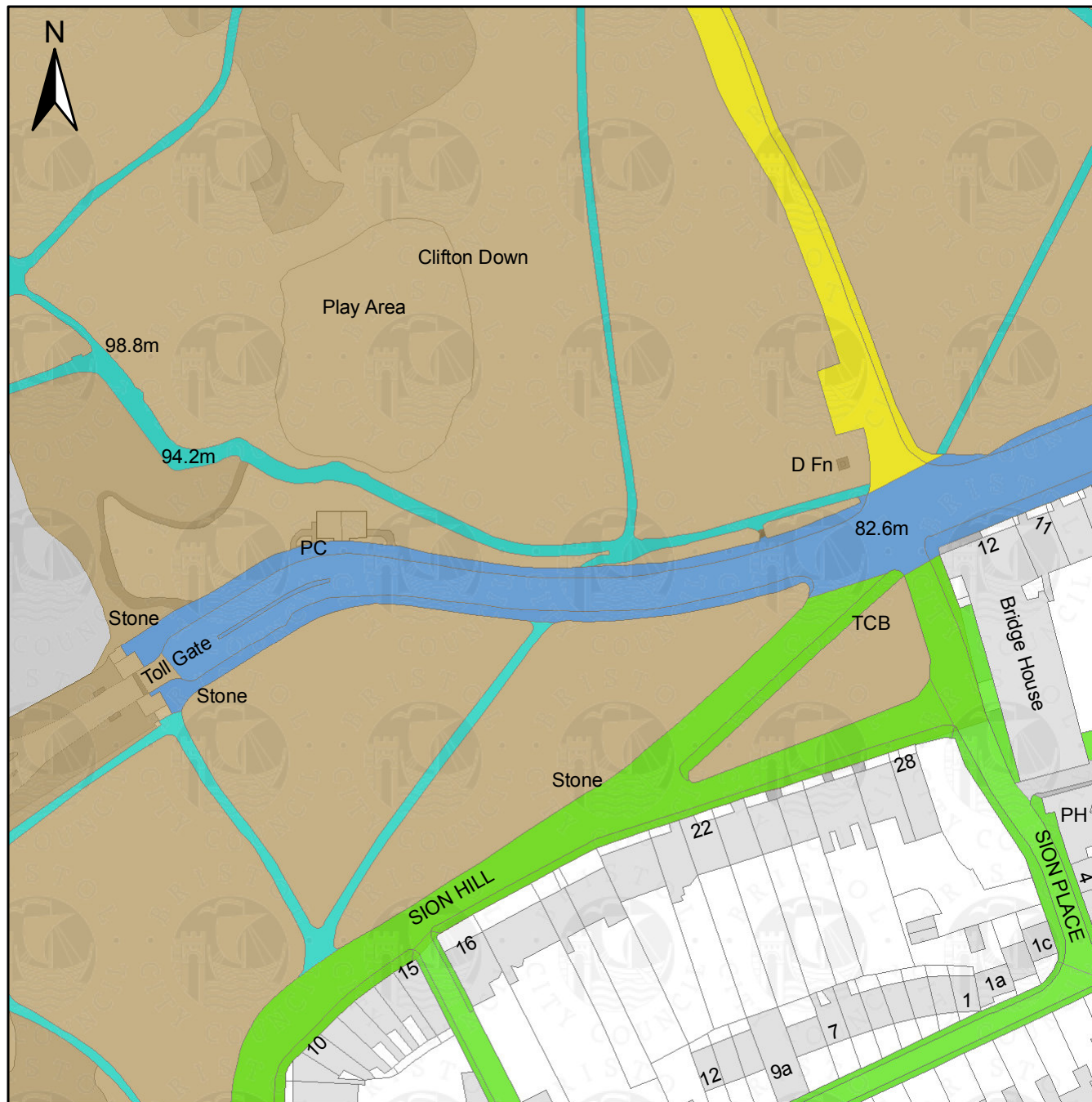
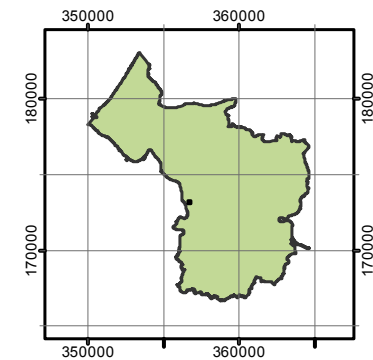
- Prospectively Maintainable

Current Ownership**Department**

- CD - City Development
- CS - Corporate Services
- CYPS - Children/Young People's Services
- HSC - Health And Social Care
- NH - Neighbourhoods
- Non Bristol

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