

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM****SAFETY AUDIT  
STAGE 3**

**Scheme:** A603 Gonville Place - Gresham Road

**Date of Report:** 21 July 2006

**Auditor(s):** Malcolm Mugridge  
Andrea Haslock

**Information Supplied:** Audit File

**Introduction**

The Audit was carried out at the request of:

**Name** Terry Bedding

**Job Title** Signals Engineer

**Organisation** Cambridgeshire County Council

The terms of reference of the audit are as described in HD 19/03. The audit has examined and reported only on the road safety implications of the scheme as presented and has not examined or verified the compliance of the designs to any other criteria or design standards. Design standards are quoted only where those standards have road safety implications.

All comments and recommendations are referenced to the detailed design drawings specified above.

**Notified Departures from Standard - None notified**

Scheme outline: *(Description of proposals, reference to appendix or supplementary sketch if required)*. – Installation of a new toucan crossing to replace the current separate crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists

**Daytime site visit:** 20 July 2006

**Attending:** Malcolm Mugridge  
Andrea Haslock  
Sam Taylor (observer)

**Conditions at Visit:**

**Weather:** Hot

Traffic: \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nighttime site visit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conditions at Visit:  
 Weather: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Traffic: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Existing Injury Accident Details (Where applicable):**

In the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2005 there has been 8 reported injury accidents in the vicinity of the crossing but of these one was in Gresham Road before it was closed to traffic. ~~Surprisingly~~ there has only been 1 pedestrian and 1 cycle collision. The only common factor crashes are the 3 rear end shunts that have occurred. The worrying aspect is that 5 of these 8 accidents have occurred in the latter 5 months of 2005.

**Items Raised at Previous Audit:**

**Problem**

The bollards at the mouth of Gresham Road are, it is understood, designed to slow cyclists down as they emerge onto Gonville Place. The widest gaps between the bollards are 1.36m and 1.39m (less the radius of the bollards). The auditors have reservations as to (a) the suitability of individual bollards as restrictive devices because of the danger they pose to the visually impaired and (b) the spacing is too great to have any real effect on the sort of cyclist who is likely to sprint out to catch the end of a crossing period.

**Recommendation**

The primary purpose of the inclusion of cycle facilities is for the safe travel of all cyclists without compromising other road users. The auditors recommendation is that a conventional chicane arrangement be placed in the mouth of Gresham Road that will allow the free passage of pushchairs and wheelchairs etc but will prevent a cyclist from sprinting through. Bollards wherever used in a pedestrian situation would always need to be in a carefully chosen colour and para 3.7 of the DfT's 'Inclusive Mobility' guide gives advice.

**Review**

The bollards are spaced so that they provide little impediment to cyclists. During the site visit most cyclists appeared to be using riding responsibly. If this continues then there may be no safety issue, however at stage 4a the accident numbers can be assessed to see if any further slowing feature is advisable.

## **C1 GENERAL COMMENTS**

### **C1.1 Comment**

Regular maintenance of the adjacent trees will be required to ensure that signs and one of the signal heads are not obscured by foliage.

### **C1.2 Comment**

There may be an issue with ponding and a site visit is recommended during wet weather. If this is an issue it will need to be rectified as there is the potential for cyclists/pedestrians approaching the crossing to slip on ice and fall into the carriageway.

## **C2 DESIGN DETAILS**

### **C2.1 Problem**

There are a number of bollards on Gresham Road, on the approach to the crossing. These have reflective bands on to enhance their conspicuity at during periods of low visibility. The post with the push button unit is centred between such bollards, but has no reflective band. There is therefore a risk of collision at night should a cyclists not notice the post.

### **Recommendation**

Install a reflective band on the post

**Audit Team Statement**

We certify that we have examined the drawings and documents listed at the commencement of this report. The examination has been carried out with the sole purpose of identifying any features of the design that could be removed or modified in order to improve the safety of the scheme. The problems identified have been noted in this report together with associated safety improvement suggestions which we recommend should be studied for implementation. No one in the Audit Team has been involved with the scheme design.

**Malcolm Mugridge**

**Audit team leader**

Accident Investigation Team  
Office of Environment & Community  
Services  
ET1018  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Shire Hall  
Cambridge  
CB3 0AP

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

21/07/06

**Andrea Haslock**

Accident Investigation Team  
Office of Environment & Community  
Services  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
ET1018  
Shire Hall  
Cambridge  
CB3 0AP

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

21/07/06

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM**

**RESPONSE TO STAGE 3 SAFETY AUDIT**

Scheme: G479/55 Gonville Place nr Granton Rd, Cambridge

Date of Report: 21/07/06

Auditor(s): A. Haslock & M. Mugridge

The Audit was carried out at the request of:

Name: Tony Bedding

Job Title: Assistant Engineer

Organisation: Traffic Signal Section CCC

Please give your comments on the points raised in the audit in the table below, continuing on the attached sheet as necessary. For CCC personnel, this form is also available electronically in the 'ET Shared/Accinv/Audit Responses' folder, or a copy may be obtained by emailing Sue.Parsons@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Item Reference	Accepted (Y/N)	Action Taken/Reasons for Non-Compliance
C2.1	Y	Reflective bands to be installed above & below the push button unit.

Respondent's Name

Signs

Date 24/07/06

Received by Audit Team

Date 26<sup>th</sup> July 06