



TRANSPORT ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM Land South of Chiswell Green Lane



Document History

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Transport Assessment Addendum has been prepared by Glanville Consultants on behalf of Alban Developments Ltd and Alban Peter Pearson, CALA Homes (Chiltern) Ltd and Redington Capital Ltd, hereafter referred to as the applicants, in support of an Outline planning application for a proposed development to the south of Chiswell Green Lane in Chiswell Green (reference 5/2022/0927). The Outline application is for up to 391 dwellings with land being reserved on the site for a 2FE Primary School, with all matters reserved except for access.
- 1.2 The Outline application was submitted to St Albans District Council (SADC) in May 2022 and was supported by a Transport Assessment and Travel Plans for both the residential development and the future school. To inform the scope of the Transport Assessment, pre-application discussions were held with Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Highway Officers.
- 1.3 Following the submission of the application, the Highway Authority provided a consultation response which raised queries on how the proposed northern access junction and Chiswell Green Lane cycle improvements would tie in with the proposed site access for the proposed residential development to the north of Chiswell Green Lane (reference 5/2021/3194) in the event that both developments received planning consent.
- 1.4 A meeting was held with the HCC Highway Officers on 7 July 2022 to discuss their comments. At this meeting, HCC requested the following additional information:
 - a) confirmation that the Chiswell Green Lane site access could be provided in conjunction with the site access for the development to the north of Chiswell Green Lane;
 - b) the replacement of the proposed 1m advisory cycle lane on Chiswell Green Lane with a 3m off-carriageway footway / cycleway;
 - c) confirmation that cycle improvements proposed by HCC along Watford Road, between Chiswell Green Lane and The Noke Hotel Roundabout to the south, would be provided as part of the package of off-site highway works for land south of Chiswell Green Lane.
- 1.5 Following the meeting it was understood that Milestone Transport Planning had produced a Transport Assessment Addendum to respond to HCC's objection on the proposed application for the site to the north of Chiswell Green Lane. This report provided further details on the proposed sustainable transport improvements to the north of Chiswell Green Lane associated with this development.
- 1.6 This Transport Assessment Addendum therefore provides a response to HCC's comments and the additional information requested at the meeting.



2.0 Chiswell Green Lane Site Access

- 2.1 The northern site access junction arrangement has been updated to incorporate a 3m footway / cycleway on the northern side of Chiswell Green Lane and the revised indicative junction layout is shown within Appendix A, whilst the revised swept path assessment has also been provided within Appendix A. The 3m footway / cycleway is discussed further within Chapter 3 of this Transport Assessment Addendum.
- 2.2 The junction layout has been checked to ensure that a suitable tie-in arrangement with the site access junction for the land to the north of Chiswell Green Lane is feasible in the event that both developments receive planning consent. A check has also been undertaken to confirm that both junctions could be accommodated if either development comes forward first. However, the arrangement shown within Appendix A assumes that the development to the south of Chiswell Green Lane would be implemented before the access to the site to the north.
- 2.3 Some minor adjustments to the junction layout would be required as the developments either side of Chiswell Green Lane widen the existing highway into their respective sites. Consequently, for whichever development comes forward second, minor adjustments to the consented or as-built layout may be required to tie into the other junction, but this would be undertaken as part of the respective Section 278 agreement for alterations to Chiswell Green Lane.
- 2.4 The proposed access junctions have a centreline separation of 45m, which accords with the requirements set out within Table 4.1.1.1 of 'Roads in Hertfordshire' Section 4.
- 2.5 The proposed site access junction will continue to provide 10 public car parking spaces to replace the existing displaced verge parking on Chiswell Green Lane. It is understood from the Transport Assessment Addendum for the land to the north of Chiswell Green Lane, that the applicant is proposing to provide spaces for this displaced parking within their site.



3.0 Off-site Sustainable Transport Improvements

3.1 Chapter 10 of the original Transport Assessment identifies that increased sustainable transport promotion and use will reduce the vehicular impact on Chiswell Green Lane and Watford Road, whilst Image 1 shows that the site is well located relative to existing pedestrian and cycle routes to St Albans and Watford. Consequently, various sustainable improvements are being proposed on the off-site highway network to encourage residents to switch from private car use to sustainable travel modes. These improvements are described within this chapter.

Image 1: St Albans Cycle Map Extract



Note: Extract taken from www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/St%20Albans%20Cycly%20Route%20Map%202019.pdf



Pedestrian / Cycle Improvements

Chiswell Green Lane

- 3.2 The original planning application proposed the provision of a 1m advisory footway / cycleway on both sides of Chiswell Green Lane. The intention of providing these cycle lanes was to ensure that the carriageway remained as wide as possible for the proposed bus route into the development. HCC has requested, however, that this cycle lane is replaced with a 3m wide off-carriageway footway / cycleway linking the site to Watford Road. It is understood that this footway / cycleway will need to be provided by whichever Chiswell Green Lane development receives planning consent. HCC has also now confirmed a preference for increasing the frequency of existing bus services on Watford Road instead of diverting services along Chiswell Green Lane to serve the development. As such, the width of Chiswell Green Lane is no longer such a constraint.
- 3.3 The existing Chiswell Green Lane layout has been reviewed and it has been identified that the northern side of the highway corridor has the greatest potential for providing a footway / cycleway due to the existing grass verge. This will also enable pedestrians and cyclists to easily access the improved Watford Road crossing at the Watford Road / Chiswell Green Lane / Tippendell Lane double mini-roundabout junction without needing to cross Chiswell Green Lane in the vicinity of the junction.
- 3.4 When reviewing the feasibility of providing a shared facility on the northern side of the carriageway, it has been identified that there are numerous buried services underneath the footway, along with telegraph poles and overground boxes which would be impacted by the proposals. Similarly, there is a significant level difference across the grass verge between the back of the footway and the adjacent private property boundary. This level difference is particularly significant to the east of Stanley Avenue, which will make it difficult to provide a footway / cycleway with a suitable crossfall whilst retaining vehicular access to the private driveways.
- 3.5 It is therefore proposed to widen the footway / cycleway into the existing carriageway rather than at the back of the existing footway. This would reduce the Chiswell Green Lane carriageway to 5.5m. The proposed footway / cycleway arrangement is shown within Appendix B and will be subject to a Section 278 application in due course.
- 3.6 This footway / cycleway would lead to an improved crossing arrangement at the Watford Road / Chiswell Green Lane double mini-roundabout, where it is proposed to upgrade the Zebra crossing to a Tiger crossing. This arrangement is also shown within Appendix B.

Watford Road

3.7 The St Albans Cycle Map, see Appendix F of the original Transport Assessment, and reproduced in Image 1 of this report, identifies that there is an existing footway / cycleway to the south of the Watford Road / A405 North Orbital Road roundabout which links Chiswell Green to Watford. Similarly, there is a route to the north of Chiswell Green Lane that provides access to St Albans.



- 3.8 HCC is in the process of investigating a scheme of pedestrian / cycle improvements for the Watford Road corridor to improve off-road connections between St Albans and Watford, through Chiswell Green. The intention is to encourage drivers to move away from using private cars to sustainable travel modes.
- 3.9 At the meeting on 7 July 2022, HCC requested that the applicants confirm a commitment to provide pedestrian / cycle improvements on Watford Road between Chiswell Green Lane and the A405 / Noke Hotel roundabout, consistent with HCC's aspirations, ideally via a \$278 agreement. It is understood that the improvements along Watford Road to the north of Chiswell Green Lane will be provided by the proposed development to the north of Chiswell Green Lane, should it receive planning consent, or funding will be sought by HCC from other sources.
- 3.10 The applicants confirm that they are committed to providing pedestrian / cycle improvements on Watford Road between Chiswell Green Lane and the Noke Hotel roundabout, either via a \$278 agreement or via \$106 contributions, provided that the total financial liability for sustainable transport improvements to be delivered by the development does not exceed £2.6m as outlined within paragraph 4.1. The indicative Watford Road improvements are shown within Appendix C.

Bus Accessibility

- 3.11 The Transport Assessment submitted as part of the Outline planning application proposed that the existing 321 bus route would be diverted into the development, or a new bus service provided to serve the site. Buses would utilise Chiswell Green Lane to access and depart the development, turning around within the site.
- 3.12 As outlined within paragraph 3.5, the proposed 3m footway / cycleway would reduce the Chiswell Green Lane carriageway to 5.5m wide, which is 1.25m narrower than the 6.75m carriageway typically required by HCC for a bus route. This would increase the potential for wing mirror collisions between buses and passing vehicles and would make it more difficult for buses to pass parked cars.
- 3.13 Consequently, HCC has confirmed that, if the footway / cycleway is provided, they would prefer to increase the frequency of the existing bus routes on Watford Road rather than bring a new service or divert the existing bus route into the development via a 5.5m carriageway.
- 3.14 Therefore, the applicants are proposing to provide a Section 106 financial contribution to HCC to increase the frequency of bus route 321 on Watford Road. It is understood that HCC will confirm the amount of the contribution required as part of the Section 106 negotiations, but they currently consider they would seek around £175k per year for a five-year period to fund until the development is fully occupied.

Travel Plan Measures

3.15 Residential and School Travel Plans were submitted as part of the planning application. These provided soft measures for encouraging a shift away from the private car to sustainable travel modes. These include the provision of a Travel Information Pack to all residents prior to them moving into the development to inform them of their travel options from the outset.



- 3.16 Additional measures to encourage sustainable travel use could also be considered such as a free monthly bus ticket or voucher for each dwelling (£57 each for 391 dwellings equates to £22.3k).
- 3.17 From the 'Hertfordshire Travel Plan Guidance' documents it is understood that an evaluation and support contribution is required annually with a £1,200 fee for the residential site and £1,500 fee for the school. It is understood that this fee will be required for a five-year period (£6,000 and £7,500 for the dwellings and school, respectively) and will be sourced via a Section 106 contribution.



4.0 Section 106 Contributions

- 4.1 HCC has produced a document entitled 'Guide to Developer Infrastructure Contributions' (2021) to provide a guide as to how the Section 106 financial contributions will be calculated. Technical Appendix 1 of this document identifies how the specific transport related contribution will be calculated. This identifies a figure of £6,826 per dwelling, which would equate to a total transport contribution of around £2.6m for the 391 dwellings proposed, with Section 2 of the report specifying that this funding should be put towards improving sustainable accessibility to the site in accordance with the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4).
- 4.2 Following discussions with HCC, it is understood that the cost of undertaking off-site sustainable transport improvements and bus contributions that will be directly funded will be deductible from the total Section 106 contribution. Consequently, the contribution required to increase the bus frequency on Watford Road (£175k per year for five years) equates to a total bus contribution of £875k, which leaves around £1.7m available to fund the remaining footway / cycleway improvements on both Chiswell Green Lane and Watford Road and the identified Travel Plan measures, although this figure will vary based on final dwelling numbers.
- 4.3 It should be noted, however, that the total cost of the off-site works will be dependent on whether the development to the north of Chiswell Green Lane also receives planning consent. Milestone's Transport Assessment Addendum identifies that the applicant of the site to the north will also provide contributions towards improving the frequency of the Watford Road bus service and the 3m footway / cycleway on Chiswell Green Lane. Therefore, if both applications receive planning consent, one development would likely be responsible for providing the footway / cycleway and one development the improved bus frequency. Alternatively, the costs would be split 50:50. Either way, there would be additional funding available for improving the cycling links to St Albans to the north and Watford to the south if both applications were to receive consent.



5.0 Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1 Glanville Consultants has prepared this Transport Assessment Addendum to provide a response to the consultation responses provided by the Highway Authority for the proposed 391 dwelling residential development on land to the south of Chiswell Green Lane in Chiswell Green, Hertfordshire.
- 5.2 A summary of the findings of this Transport Assessment Addendum is as follows:
 - the site access junction on Chiswell Green Lane has been updated to ensure that
 the junction would operate in conjunction with the site access associated with the
 development to the north of Chiswell Green Lane in the event that both
 developments receive planning consent.
 - the advisory cycle lane proposed on Chiswell Green Lane has been replaced with a 3m footway / cycleway on the northern side of the road providing a link to an upgraded pedestrian and cycle crossing on Watford Road.
 - the applicant is willing to deliver pedestrian and cycle improvements on Watford Road, between the Chiswell Green Lane junction and the A405 North Orbital Road in line with the objectives of a scheme proposed by HCC, either via \$106 funding or a \$278 agreement, provided the developer's total financial liability in terms of sustainable transport improvements does not exceed £2.6m (£6,826 per dwelling). This will provide a connection to the existing cycle route to Watford.
 - HCC has confirmed that its preference is to increase the frequency of the existing bus routes on Watford Road rather than divert / provide a new bus service into the development.
 - the cost of the above sustainable travel improvements would be deducted from the total transport related Section 106 contribution of around £2.6m based on £6,826 per dwelling for the development of 391 dwellings proposed.
- 5.3 Given the above, and the additional information provided within this Transport Assessment Addendum, it is considered that the proposed sustainable transport improvements will encourage a modal shift away from the private car and towards sustainable travel modes to reduce the vehicular impacts of the development on the surrounding road network in accordance with the NPPF and Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan 4. It is therefore considered that the development proposals are acceptable in transport terms and that the Highway Authority should be able to make a positive recommendation to the Local Planning Authority in respect of the Outline application for the proposed development.

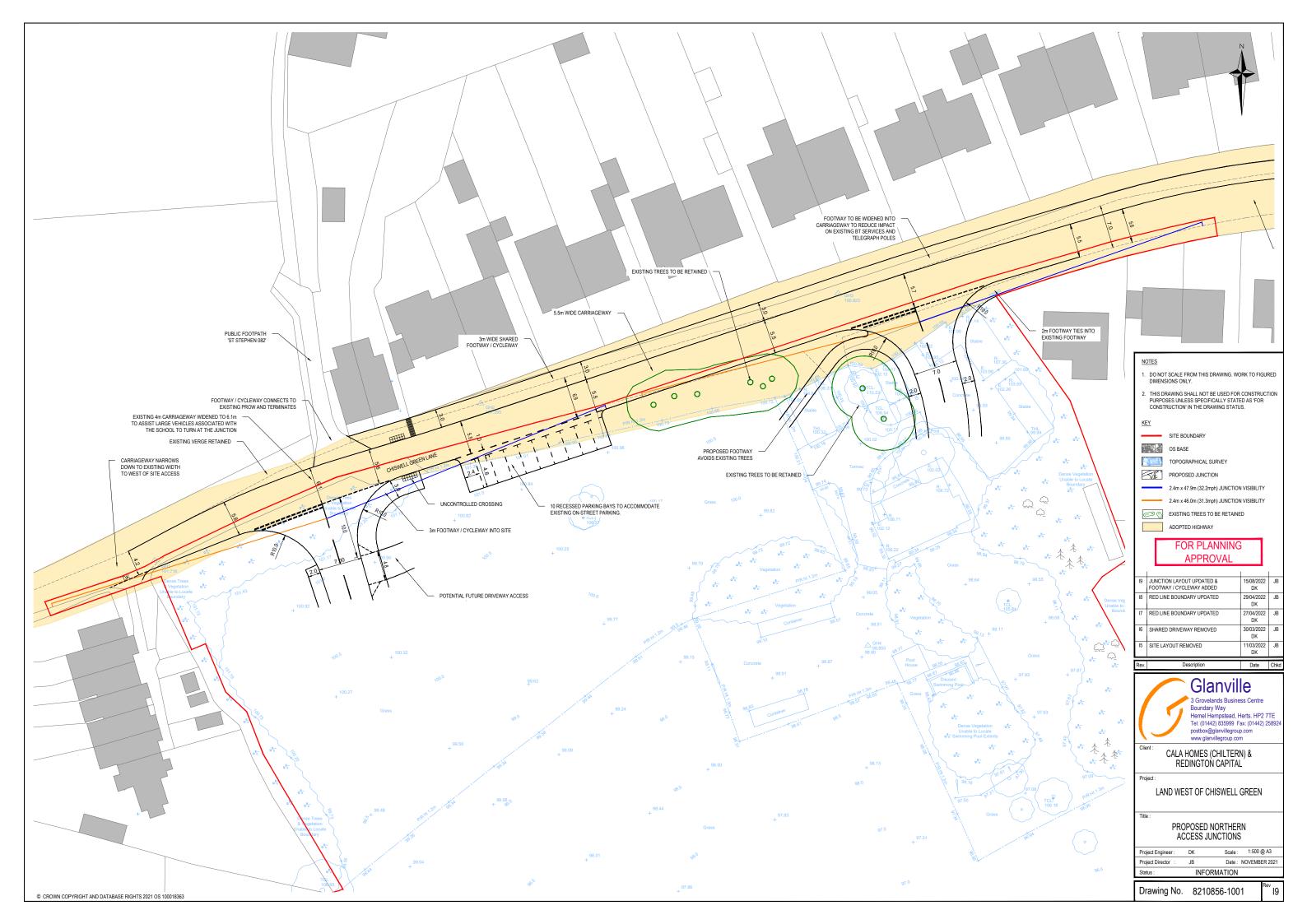


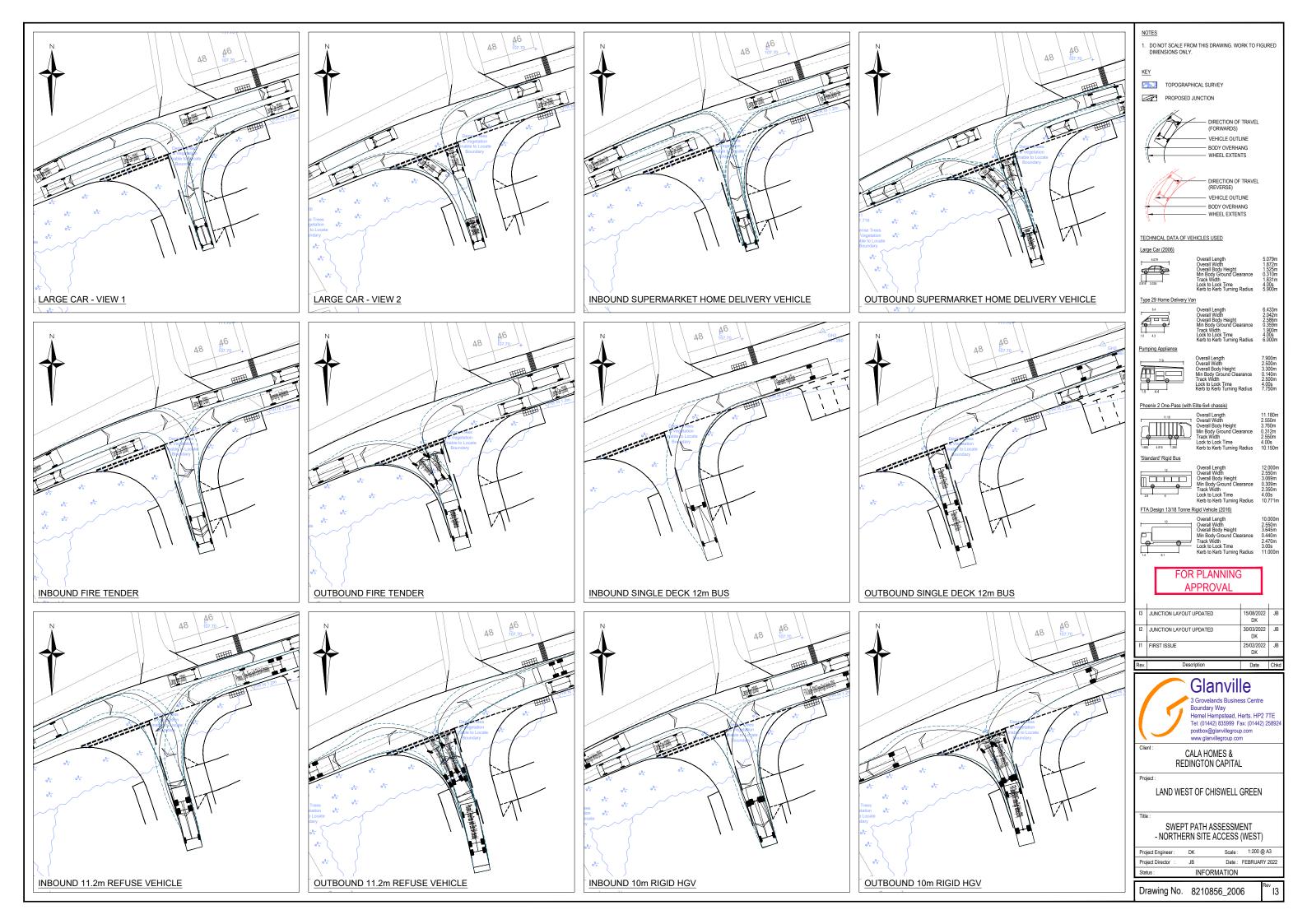
Appendices

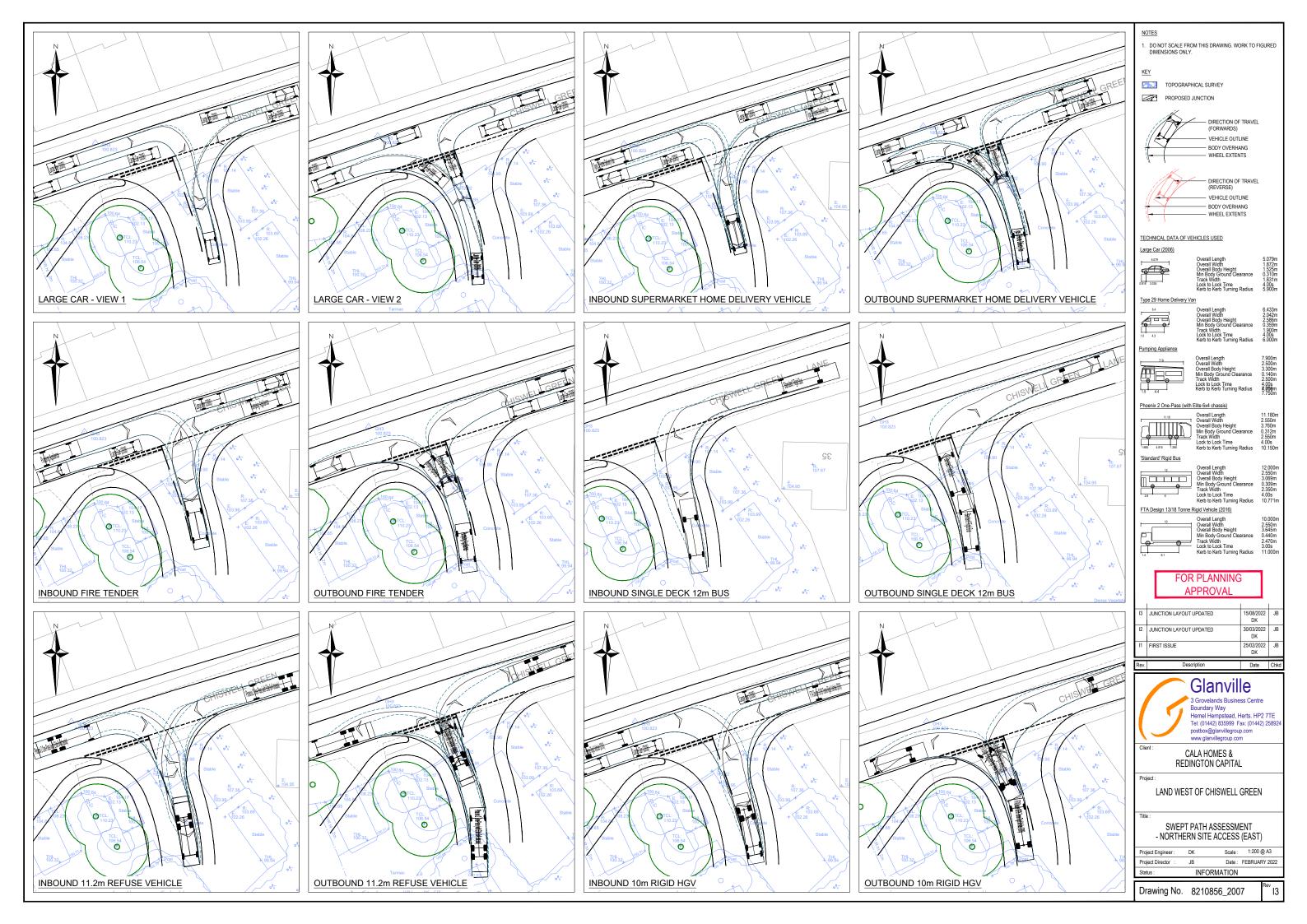


Appendix A

Revised Northern Site Access & Swept Path Assessment



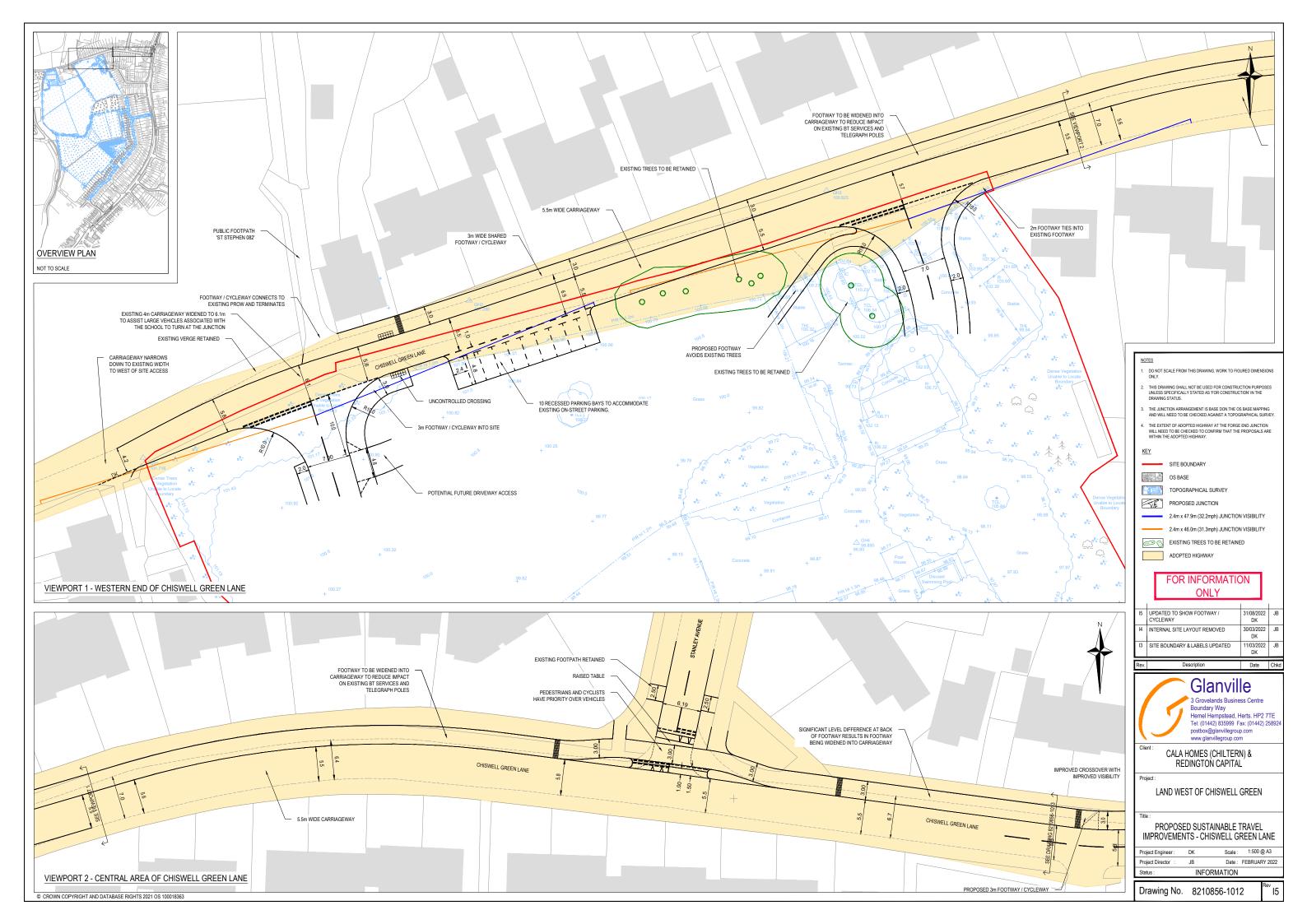


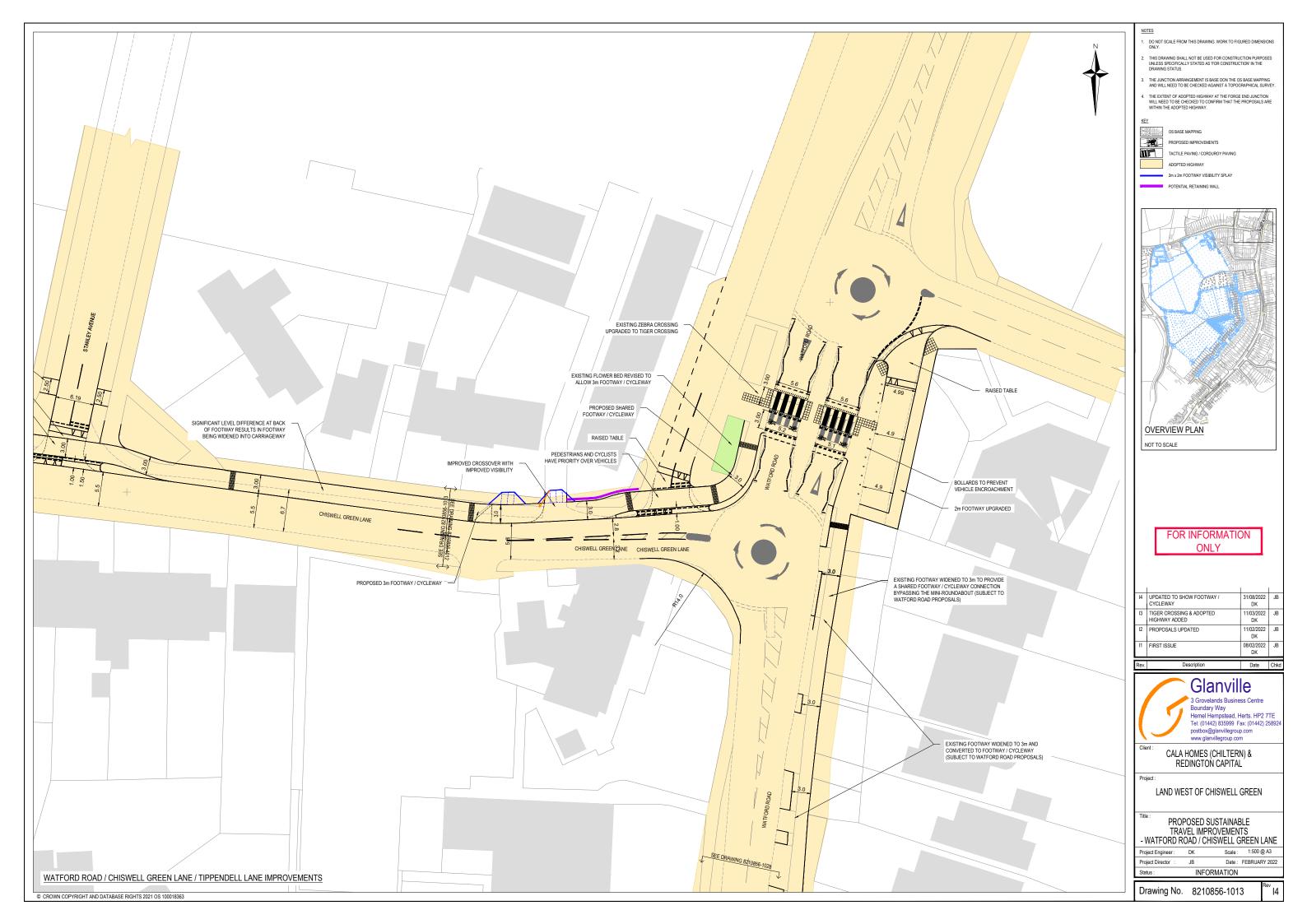




Appendix B

Chiswell Green Lane Proposed Footway / Cycleway

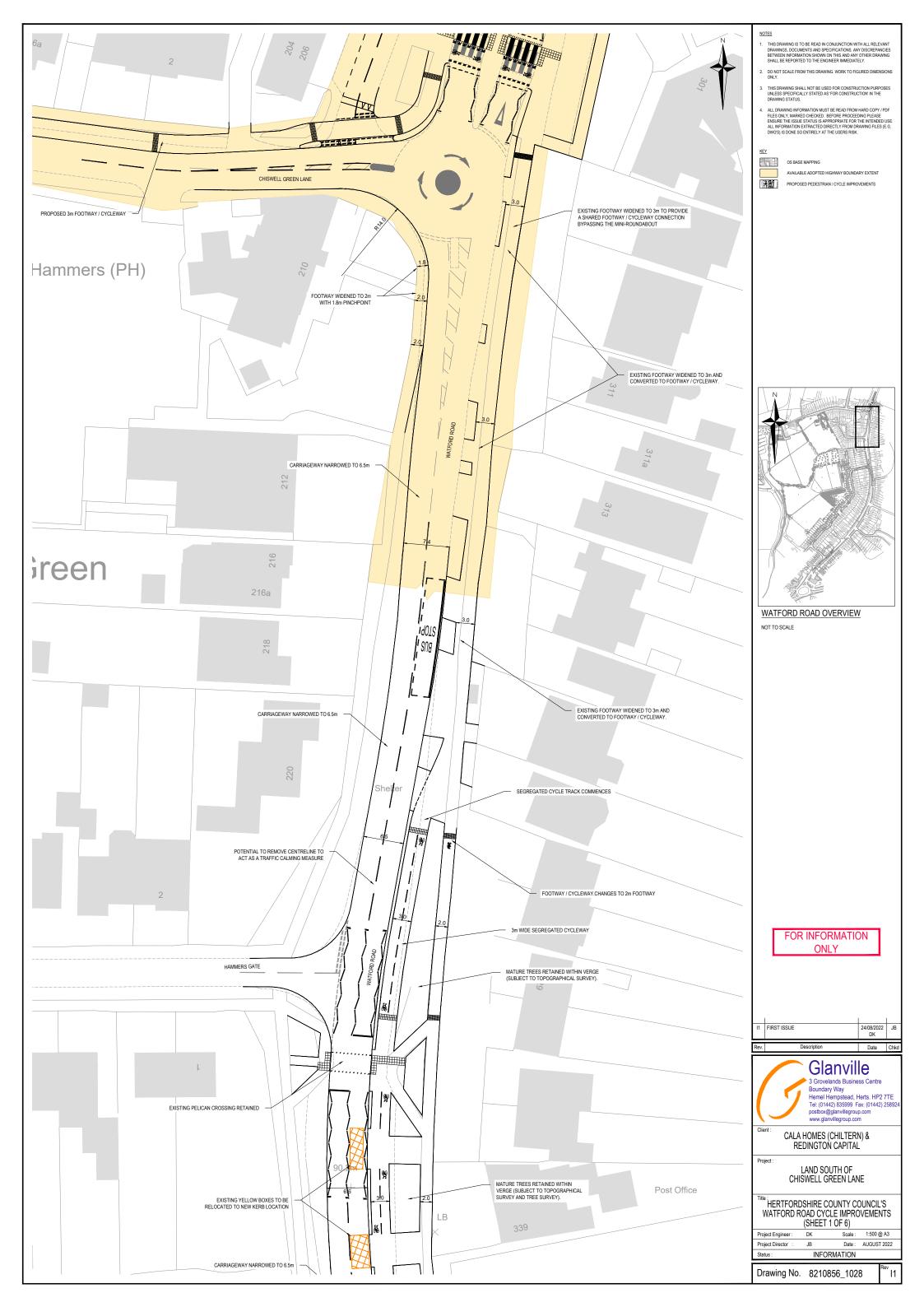


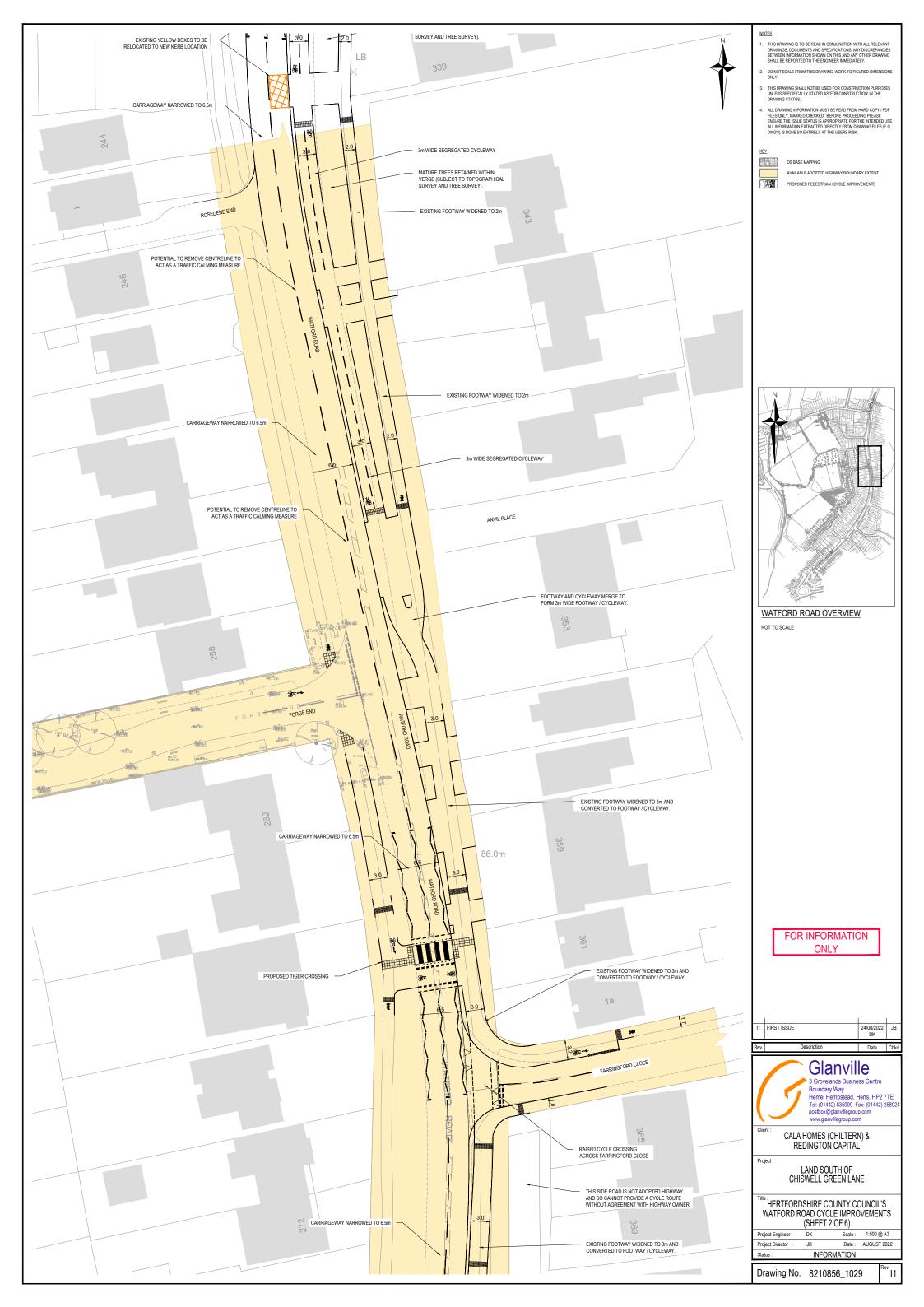


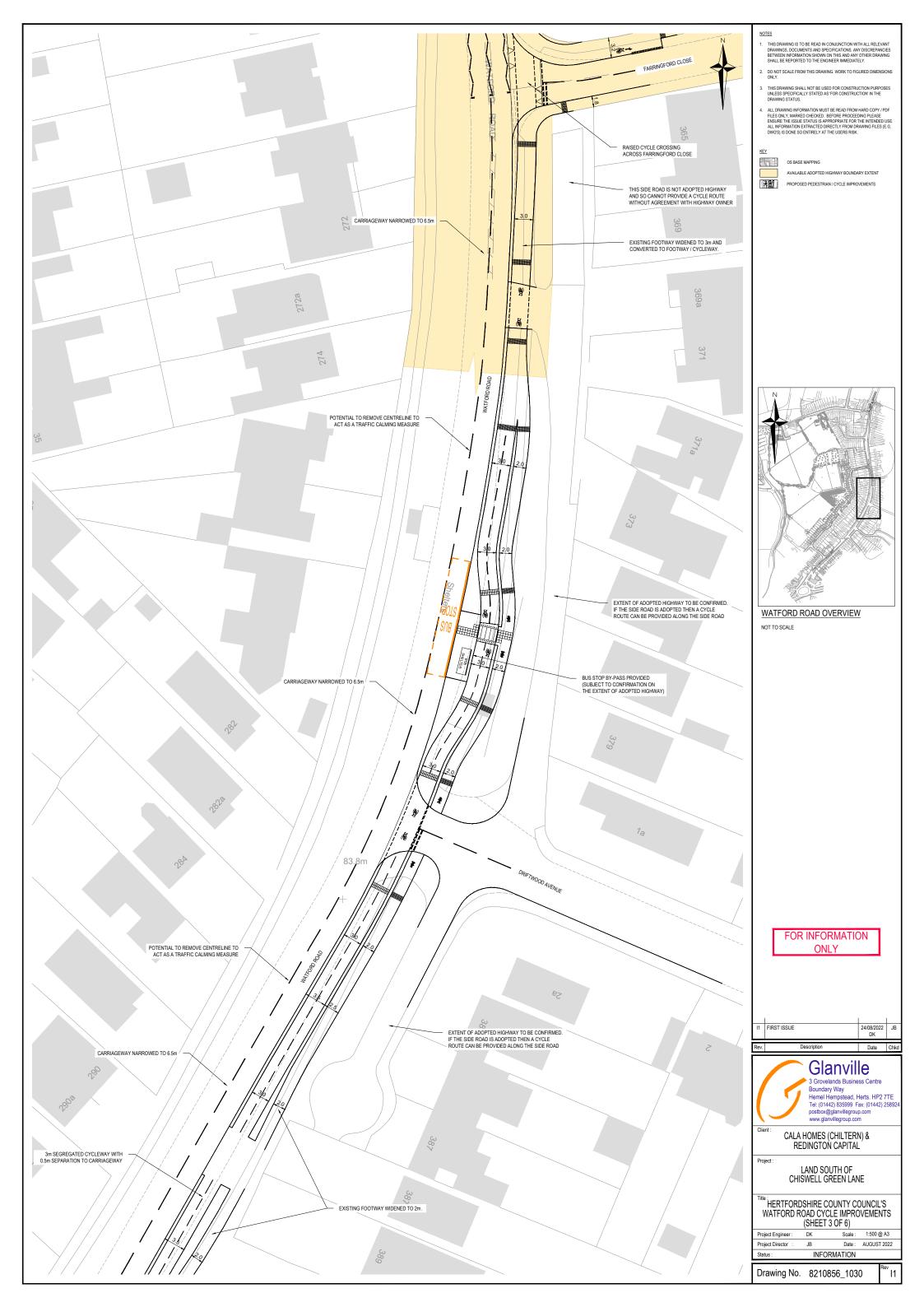


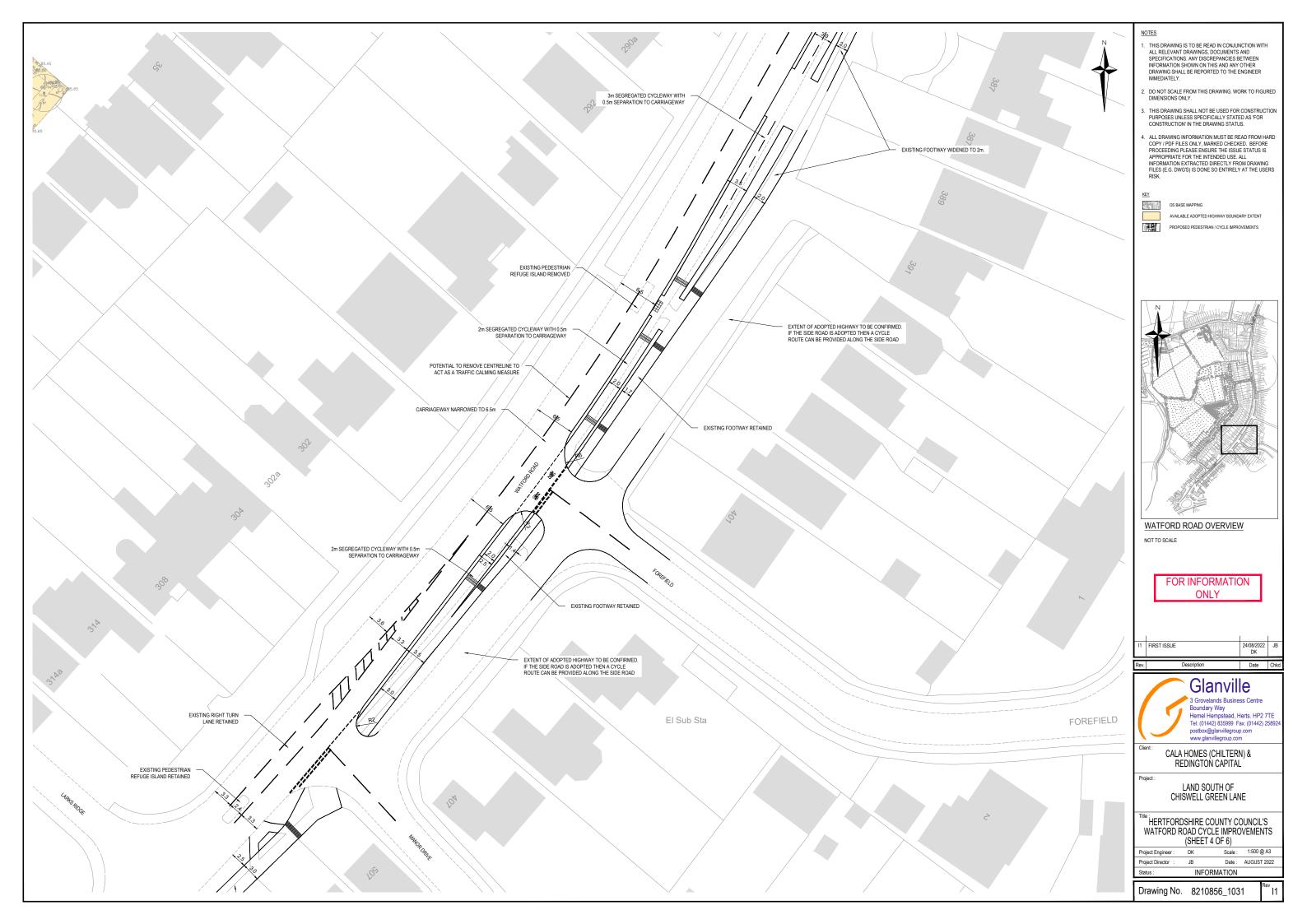
Appendix C

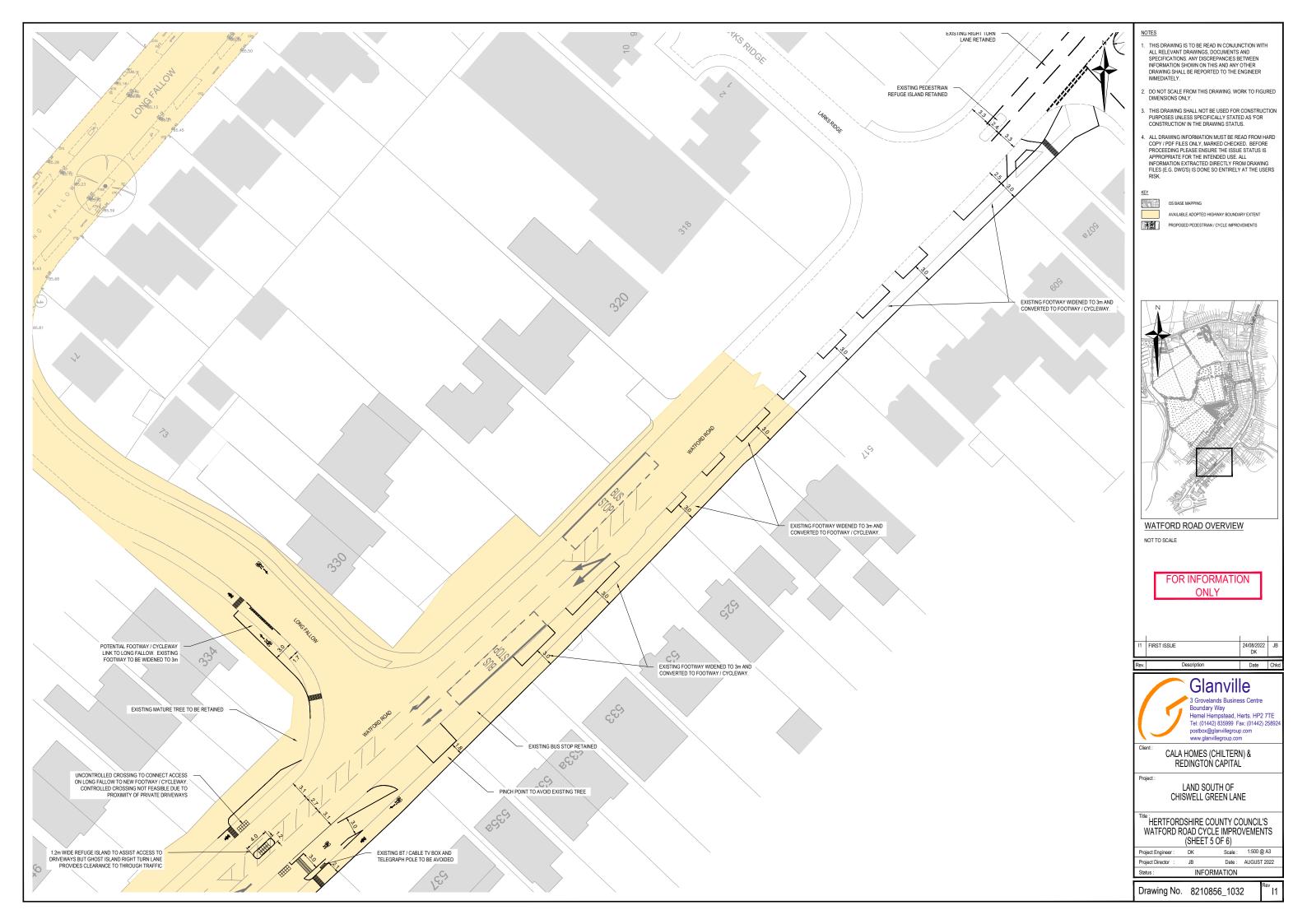
Indicative Watford Road Pedestrian & Cycle Improvements

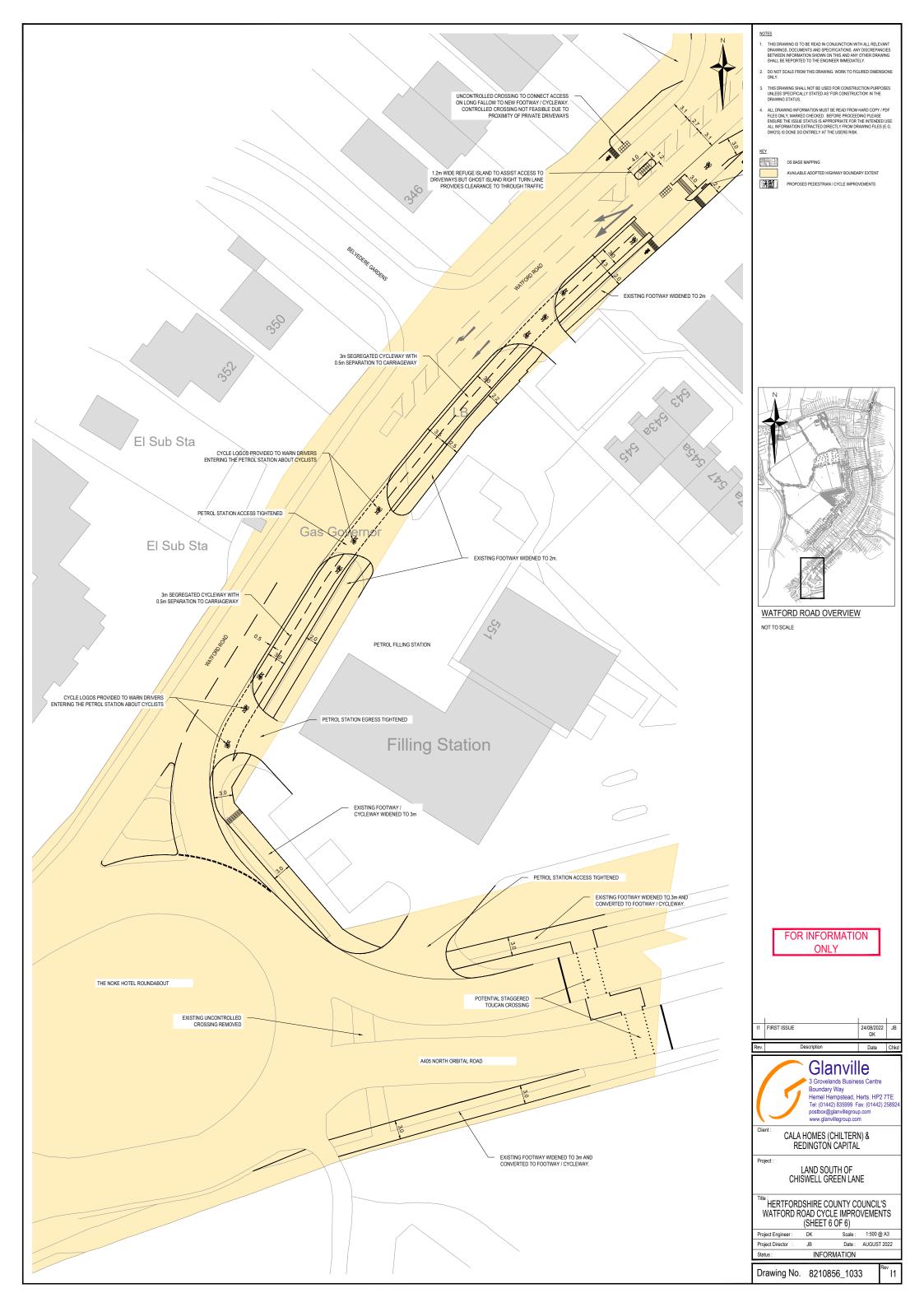














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