

The Essex County Council (B1052 Little Walden Road, Audley End Road, Littlebury, Saffron Walden) (30mph and 40mph Speed Limit) Order 202*

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The B1052 Little Walden Road is a Priority 2 Route (PR2) and is located to the north of Saffron Walden town centre. A change to the speed limit in B1052 Little Walden Road is proposed to support the visibility splays for the new access road serving the Abbey Homes development known as 'Home Pasture'.

The location of the Abbey Homes development is at a semi-rural point in B1052 Little Walden Road where frontage on both sides of the road ceases to exist. Following a recent speed survey on B1052 Little Walden Road, near its junction with Home Pasture (dated Oct 2023), the 85th percentile was recorded as 37.1mph in the northbound direction and 42.6mph in the southbound direction.

The Developer has sought permission and removed the existing hedgerow along their site boundary so that the visibility splays can be achieved and maintained, free of obstruction. This has been accepted by the Stage 3 Road Safety Assessment (RSA). A derestricted length of B1052 Little Walden Road, for approximately 125 metres from the existing 30mph terminal signs, has now become 30mph by virtue of the street lighting which has been installed as part of the S278 works. The Developer has therefore agreed to amend the speed limit to reflect the findings of the recent speed survey.

The proposal involves introducing a 'buffer zone' where a 40mph speed limit would be signed from the existing 30mph terminal sign for approximately 125 metres to the point where no street lighting exists. The 40mph speed limit suits the characteristics of this length of B1052 Little Walden Road and therefore accords with our Speed Management Strategy.

The 40mph speed limit, in lieu of the 30mph by virtue of the street lighting, sets out to resolve any non-compliance where the 85th percentile exceeds the current speed limit.