

The Essex County Council (Chelmsford City) (Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Stopping) and (On-Street Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement Area) (Amendment No.58) Order 202*
The Essex County Council (Wharf Road, and Bow Bridge Road, Chelmsford) (7.5Tonne Environmental Weight Limit Restriction) Order 202*
The Essex County Council (Wharf Road, and Bow Bridge Road, Chelmsford) (20mph Zone) Order 202*
E-Scooter Parking Bay Area Road markings – Wharf Road
Raised Tables – Wharf Road

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The proposed scheme consists of a new linking road, called Bow Bridge Road, connecting Wharf Road with Baddow Road that will be replacing an existing footbridge over the river Chelmer. The existing cycle track links, located either side of the river, will be passing underneath the new bridge instead of joining the top. Cyclists on the bridge will be travelling on the carriageway, and pedestrians will have a designated footway link. The whole of Wharf Road and the new linking road will become a 20mph Zone with the appropriate amount of traffic calming features. This roads intention is to provide a suitable link for the residents of Wharf Road, which include upcoming new developments on Chelmsford City Council's historic land.

1,100 new homes are to be constructed within the vicinity of Chelmer Waterside. Improved infrastructure, including a new bridge over the River Chelmer, is required to cope with the increased demand to the neighbourhood and alleviate the pressure at the junction of Navigation Road and Springfield Road.

Condition 16 of planning ref: 21/00024/FUL states: "Prior to the first operational use of the new road a traffic calming scheme to the satisfaction of the Local Highway Authority shall be implemented on Wharf Road and the new road."

With the predicted traffic flows and potential for queuing throughout the access road, Wharf Road and the new junction for the link road a 7.5 Tonne Environmental Weight Limit Order is proposed, to restrict Heavy Goods Vehicle's (HGV's) use on these roads. HGVs are to be permitted access on Wharf Road, and Baddow Road but will be fully restricted on the proposed Bow Bridge Road.

At present, on Wharf Road, the presence of limited waiting means that road users can legally park their vehicles kerbside outside of the restricted hours. This may adversely affect the proposed priority working system that is proposed at various locations, for example road users overtaking parked high sided vehicles in proximity to priority working may fail to even observe the presence of priority working system in time, leading to head on collisions.

The traffic flow levels along Wharf Road itself are also expected to rise considerably once the access road is open. Therefore, any parked vehicles at this location could add to the congestion / obstructions for larger vehicles, including pantechnicons, and may result in road users colliding with other road users when passing or mounting the kerbs in order to pass safely during periods of high traffic volumes.

Therefore, it is recommended that the existing 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions are extended along the entire length of Wharf Road from its junction with Navigation Road to beyond Bow Bridge Road itself.

Weekday AM and PM peak hour flows on the proposed link are relatively modest, amounting to 50 to 80 vehicles two-way in 2022 and 110 to 120 vehicles two-way in 2037 excluding rat-running traffic and accounting for congestion. Actual traffic demands (i.e. the traffic that would use the proposed link during the weekday AM and PM peak hours if there wasn't congestion) amount to 80 vehicles two-way in 2022 and 140 to 160 vehicles two-way in 2037 excluding rat-running traffic. These equate to Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) of approximately 600 vehicles and 1,200 vehicles in 2022 and 2037 respectively.

Personal injury collision data for the last five-year period (01/08/2018 to 28/07/2023) has been reviewed and indicates that there have been two slight personal injury collisions within the vicinity of the proposed scheme. One involved a failure to give way at the junction of Wharf Road and Navigation Road. The other involved a scooter colliding with a pedestrian on the footway along Wharf Road.

Wharf Road is currently subject to a 30mph Speed Limit, and the geometry is straight increasing the likelihood of vehicle speeds on Wharf Road being close to or exceeding the posted speed limit. Therefore, a 20mph Zone is being proposed on Wharf Road, and Bow Bridge Road.

The proposed 20 mph zone, weight limit and No Stopping at Any Time Red Route contribute to traffic calming, improved traffic safety and improving Non-Motorised User links. The Clearway Restriction on Bow Bridge Road is being proposed to help prevent vehicles parking in locations which could then limit traffic flow and visibility.

Baddow Road will be getting a local narrowing near the junction with Parkway to assist the visibility at this junction and to prevent two lanes of traffic.