

The Essex County Council (Colchester Road, Great Bentley & Frating)
(40mph Speed Limit) Order 20**

Statement of Reasons

The County Council is proposing to implement and to introduce a 40mph Zone Speed Limit Order to reduce vehicular speeds and improve the pedestrian environment.

A section of the existing 60mph (National speed limit) is proposed to be revoked on Colchester Road (A133), Great Bentley to facilitate extending the existing 40mph to support the installation of a bus stop and uncontrolled crossing. The extension of the 40mph speed limit is recommended by the road safety team to increase forward visibility at the location.

After an application from the Penguin Random House warehouse to provide a marked safe bus stop for local residents and the staff of Penguin Random House, a request was received in 2019/2020 financial year by the Tendring Local Highway Panel (LHP) to install a new bus stop and uncontrolled crossing on Colchester Road (A133), Great Bentley which is a PR1 route in Essex's Functional Route Hierarchy. Personal injury collision data for the last five-year period has been reviewed and indicates that there has been one slight collision at this location.

Currently, passengers have to stand on the grass verge when flagging down the bus. However, not all drivers will stop as the location is unmarked and therefore is not known to all drivers. Staff (from Penguin Random House) have been seen to be waiting along the verge to both sides of the junction but on the whole, they seem to wait opposite the marked bus. As per the above request, a bus stop clearway and the uncontrolled crossing is proposed as shown in the drawing no E08021H032-00-003 (Rev A).

During the scheme detailed design process, a combined stage 1 & 2 safety audit was carried out for the scheme and in the audit safety engineers recommended to extend the existing 40mph east of the access road to Penguin Random House, to achieve an appropriate reduction in speed at the proposed pedestrian crossing point and improve forward visibility at the crossing point. The current proposal is supported by ECC's passenger transport team.