

# A104 Epping New Road Safer Roads Fund scheme

## Briefing to Epping Forest Consultative Group

David Sprunt – Essex County Council

19 September 2023



## Agenda

- Review of Scheme History
- Progress to date – surveys etc
- Review of Draft Scheme
- Next Steps
- Questions

## Scheme History

On an annual basis the DfT, through the Road Safety Foundation identify the 50 most dangerous stretches of road in England and these are targeted with funding through the DfT Safer Roads Fund (SRF). The A104 Epping New Road between the Wake Arms roundabout and the border between Essex and Redbridge was one of the stretches of roads identified. Earlier this year after completing a bid document Essex County Council was awarded £1.36M by the SRF.

The A104 Epping New Road is an important A-Road linking Epping, Theydon Bois, the M25 (via Junction 26) and the M11 (via Junction 7) with Greater London. Within Essex the road runs through Epping Forest, which is well used for leisure and recreation by pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. The road is long and straight, and average vehicle speeds typically exceed the current 40mph speed limit, which was reduced from 60mph over 10 years ago.

The aim of the scheme is to provide a consistent safer road environment for all road users using the A104 through Essex, through providing compliant road user speeds throughout both the urban and rural environments and improved crossing facilities for non-motorised users (NMUs). The visual aspect of the highway will be altered, thereby bringing about a change in how road users perceive, interact and travel along the A104 and also help to reduce the severance between the two areas of the forest.

# **Overview of survey Data**

## Progress to Date

- ATC (automatic traffic count) giving motorised vehicle volumes and speed data (using cameras) complete May 2023
- Non-Motorised User Surveys (using cameras) completed May 2023
- Topographical Survey (using laser scanning equipment) completed in July / August 2023
- Statutory Undertakers records obtained
- Initial design team visit completed to assess outline proposals



**ATC surveys** were carried out in 4 locations over a 7 day period

- Wake Valley Car Park
- Clay Ride
- Lincolns Lane car Park
- Manor Road



Observations:

- Roughly 90,000 (combined north and southbound) vehicle movements to the north of Robin Hood Roundabout
- Roughly 110,000 (combined north and southbound) vehicle movements to the south of Robin Hood Roundabout
- Over 30% of vehicles travelling in a northbound direction are travelling at speeds greater than 40mph
- Over 60% of vehicles travelling in a southbound direction are travelling at speeds greater than 40mph
- Maximum speeds recorded are between 90-100mph and occur at various points of the day
- The majority of the excess speed is between 40–50mph

**NMU surveys** were carried out in 9 locations over a 2 day period

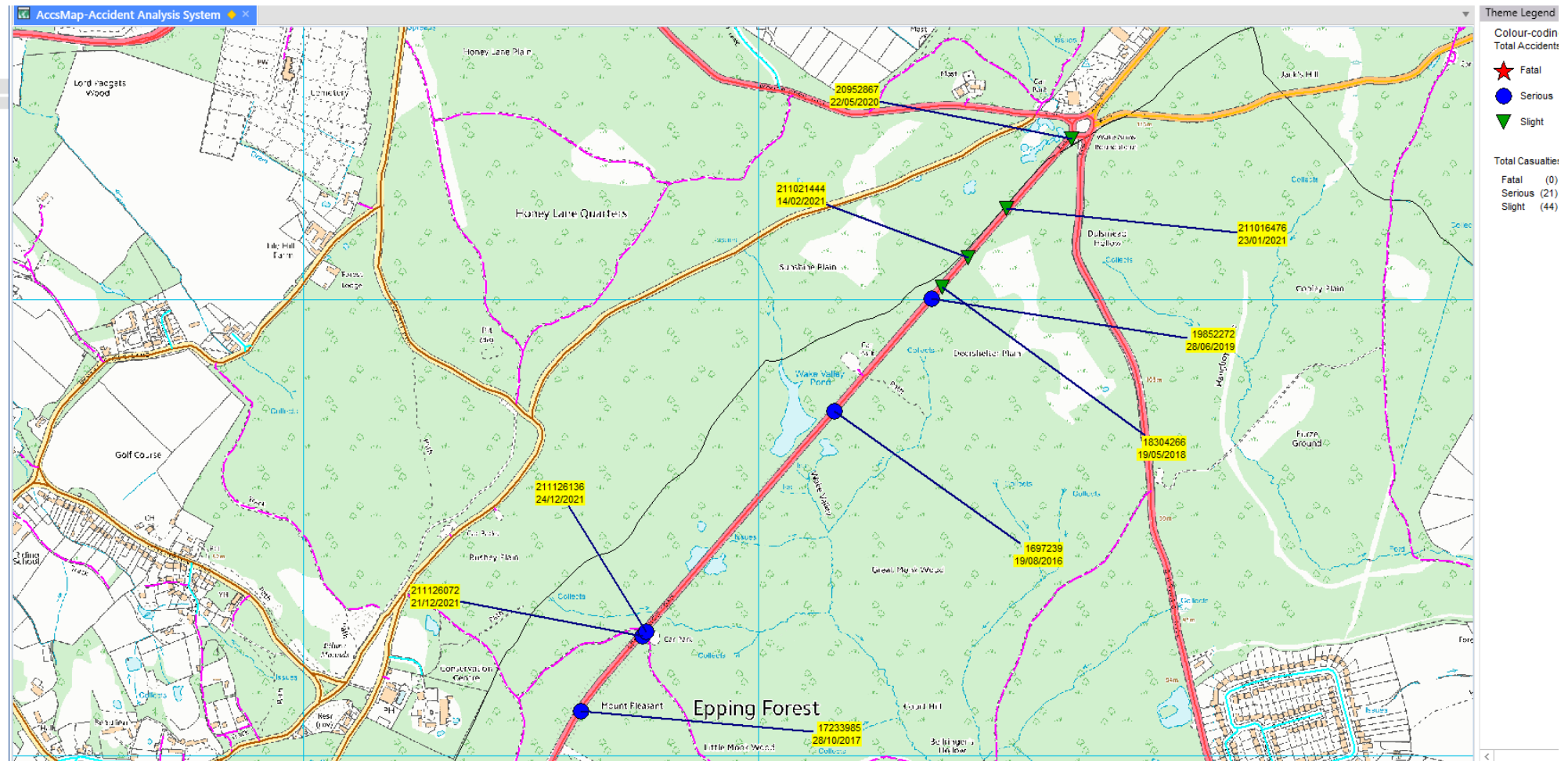
- Wake Valley Car Park
- Mount Pleasant Car Park
- Clay Ride
- Kates Cellar
- Robin Hood Roundabout
- Lincolns Lane car Park
- Warren Hill
- Manor Road
- Warren Hood Pub

Observations:

- More pedestrians cross the road than cyclists
- Mount Pleasant and Lincolns Lane car parks are the busiest locations for crossing the road
- Equestrian movements were recorded at Lincolns Lane (2 movements recorded) and Mount Pleasant (5 movements recorded)
- Robin Hood has a reasonably high number of crossing movements
- Manor Road has minimal crossing movements
- There are over 200 cyclists travelling along the carriageway to the north of Robin Hood Roundabout, however this increases to over 400 to the south of Robin Hood Roundabout

Accident data collected between January 2016 and September 2022.

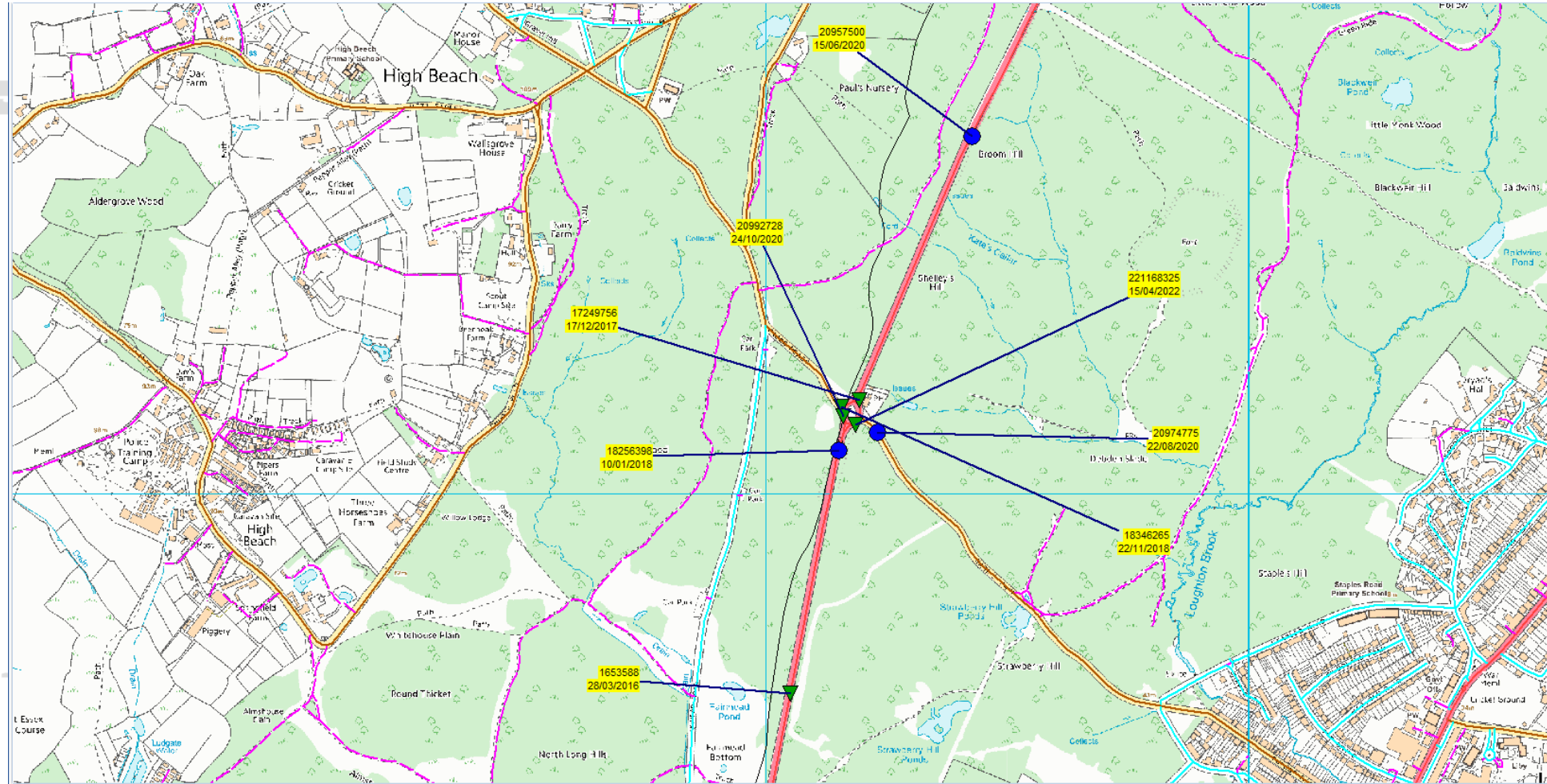
Wake Arms  
towards Robin  
Hood  
roundabout



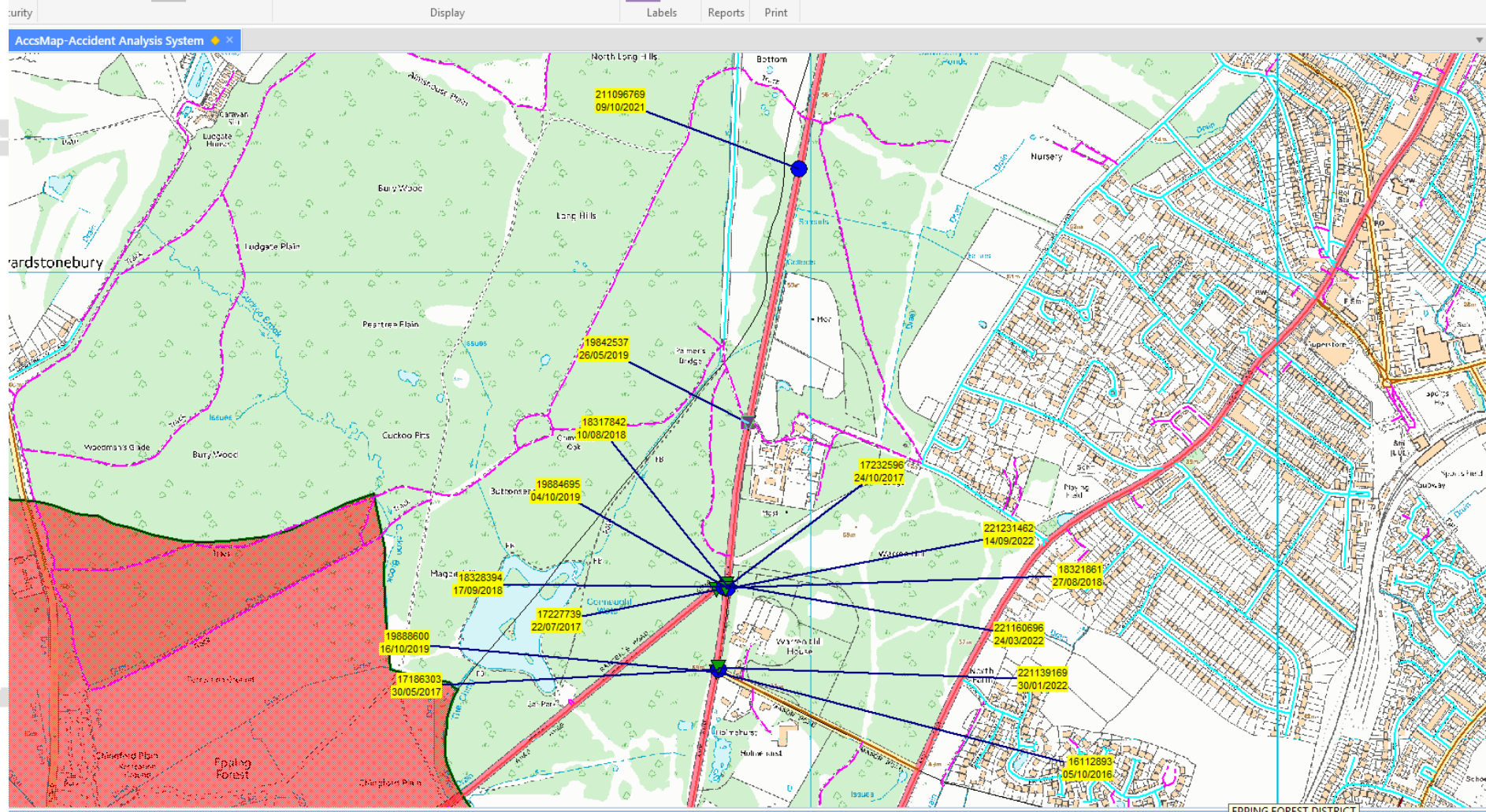


A104 Plot 2

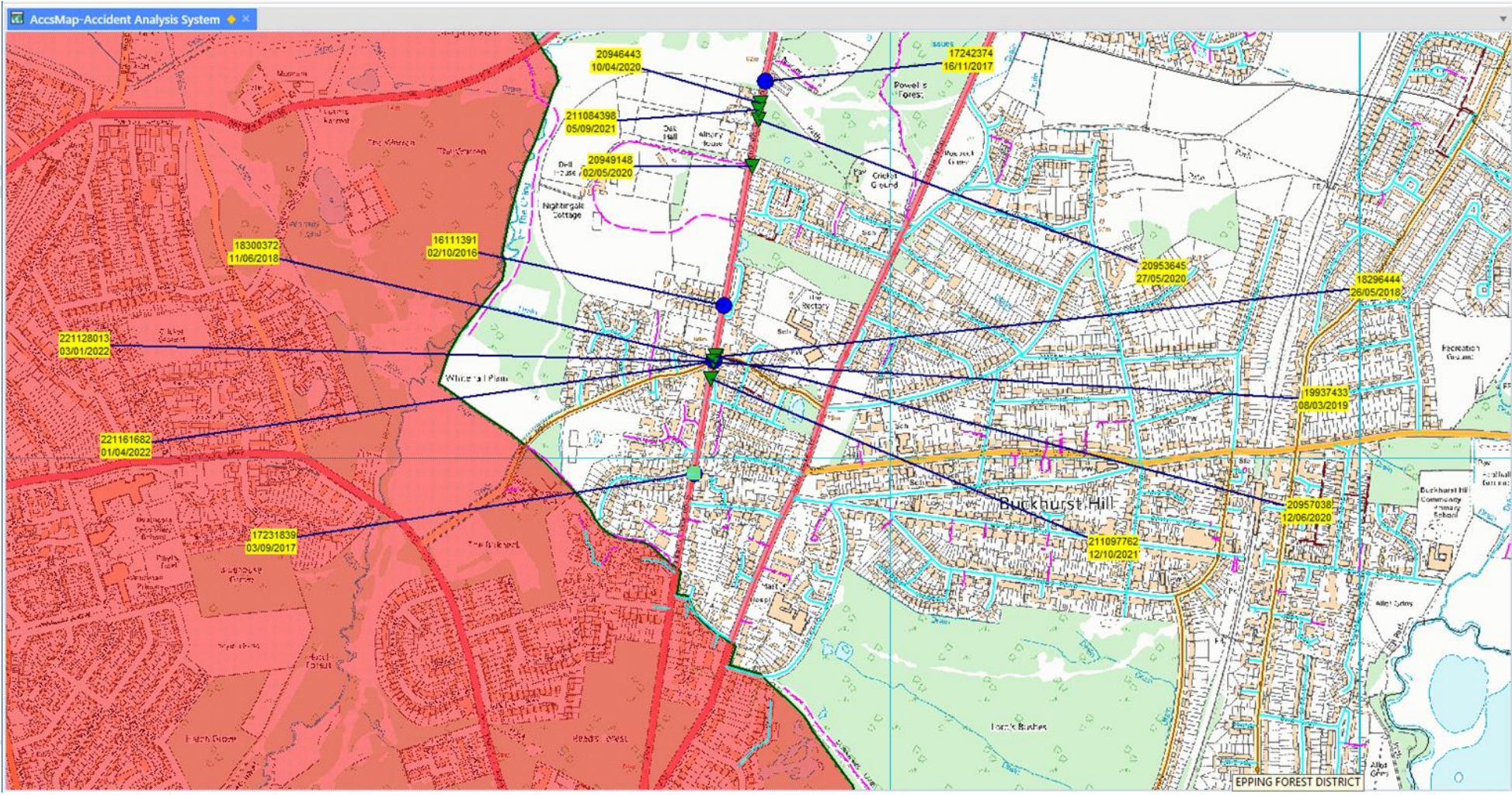
Robin Hood  
roundabout area



South of Robin Hood roundabout to Rangers Road



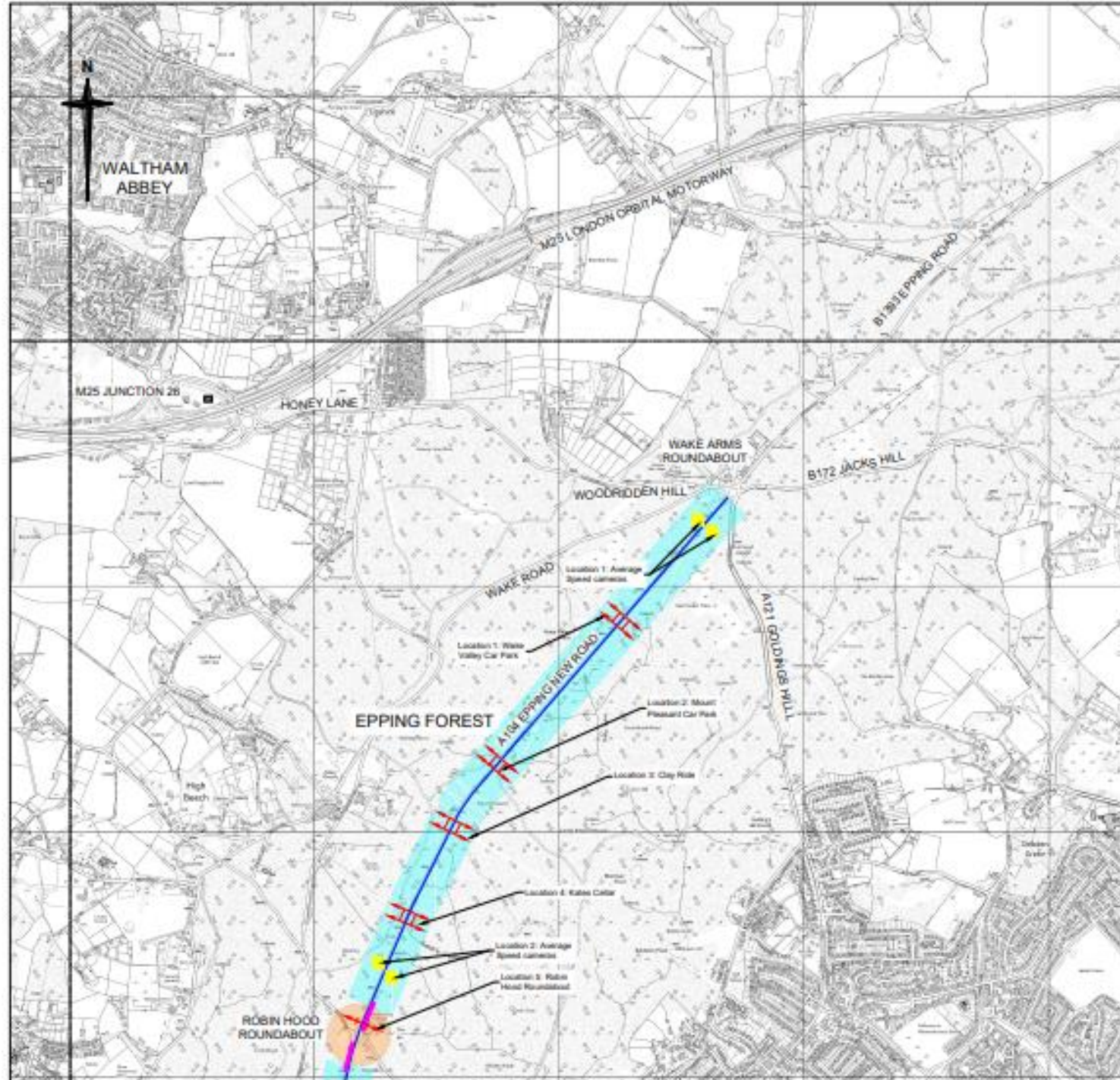
## Buckhurst Hill Section



# **Scheme Proposals**

## Scheme Proposals

- Extend the current 30mph speed limit from its current termination just to the north of Fernside northwards to Rangers Road.
- Average Speed Cameras along Epping New Road between Wake Arms Roundabout and the junction with Rangers Road to enforce the current 40mph speed limit
- Average Speed Cameras along Epping New Road between Rangers Road and the Essex / Redbridge County Boundary to enforce the extended 30mph speed limit
- Installation of kerbed central islands defining crossing points at multiple locations between Wake Arms Roundabout and Rangers Road. These will align with existing car parks and routes through the forest to encourage permeation of forest users across the road.
- Installation of central hatching along the length of Epping New Road to help define the carriageway and discourage unsafe overtaking and provide space for vehicles to safely pass cyclists
- Removal of the substandard advisory cycle routes along Epping New Road
- Safety improvements to Robin Hood Roundabout
- Review current signage alongside new requirements and undertake a decluttering exercise
- Remove sections of hardened verge where deemed unnecessary



- Scale**
1. Do not scale
- Key**
- Existing 30mph speed limit extents
  - Existing 30mph speed limit extents
  - Proposed change from existing 30mph to 30mph speed limit
  - Proposed provision of central hatching road markings and removal of existing advisory cycle lanes
  - Proposed uncontrolled crossing point with pedestrian refuge island in ghost island arrangement with associated kerb left to right, high mast keep left sign and buff coloured tactile sliver paving
  - Proposed society to be in with proposed uncontrolled crossing points
  - Proposed signs and road markings improvements
  - Proposed High Friction Surface (HFS) - approx. 120metres
  - Proposed speed camera (average / time over distance type)
  - Local Authority boundary



- Existing 40mph speed limit extents
- Existing 30mph speed limit extents
- Proposed change from existing 40mph to 30mph speed limit
- Proposed provision of central hatching road markings and removal of existing advisory cycle lanes
- Proposed uncontrolled crossing point with pedestrian refuge island in ghost island arrangement with associated loop left bollards, high mast keep left sign and buff coloured tactile slitter paving
- Proposed footway to be in with proposed uncontrolled crossing points
- Proposed signs and road markings improvements
- Proposed High Friction Surface (HFS) - approx. 120 metres
- Proposed speed camera (Average / time over distance type)
- Local Authority boundary

Rev	Date	Description of revision	Drawn	Checked	Reviewed	Approved

DRAWING STATUS: **PRELIMINARY**



Essex Highways, Seax House, Victoria Road South,  
Chelmsford, CM1 1QH.  
Tel: 0345 6037631  
© Essex County Council

SCHEME TITLE: **A104 EPPING NEW ROAD SAFER ROADS SCHEME**

DRAWING TITLE: **PROPOSED ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS WITH 30MPH SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION**

DESIGNED	DRAWN	CHECKED	REVIEWED	APPROVED
AR	AR	GCW	MPA	MPA
DATE MAY 23	DATE MAY 23	DATE MAY 23	DATE MAY 23	DATE MAY 23

DRAWING UNITS U.N.O. SCALE AT A1 (841X564mm)  
DIMENSIONS IN METRES 1:10,000

DRAWING No: **B3553T77-00-001** REV: -



# A127 Average Speed Camera Scheme

Examples of Average Speed Cameras located along the A127 in South Essex

- Older style camera on the right
- Newer camera on the right

Benefits of the scheme:

- Greater adherence to the speed limit (was reduced from 70mph to 50mph)
- Improved traffic flow
- Reduction of incidents at the Fortune of War Roundabout
- Possible Improvement in air quality





## Next Steps

### Ongoing to December 2023

- Progress with Preliminary design to confirm proposals are achievable
- Complete Level 1 construction cost estimate
- Start discussions with Camera supplier to agree equipment specification and locations
- Draft and advertise TRO for extended 30mph speed limit
- Integrate City of London car park works
- Engagement
- Carry out detailed design
- Complete level 2 construction cost estimate
- Produce Works Information documentation

### January 2024 – August 2024

- Tender and Award contract
- Construction Phase



