# Improvement Works to the A2(T)/A258 Guston Roundabout Junction, Dover.

A report by the Divisional Manager to the Dover Joint Transportation Board on 18 September 2006

#### Introduction

- As part of the consideration of a Planning Application for the development of White Cliffs Business Park Phase 2, Kent Highway Services (KHS) has been working closely with the Highways Agency to ensure that satisfactory and sustainable transport provision is being made for the additional trip generation and people movement that will result from buildout.
- 2. A major factor in this is the operational performance of the A2(T)/A258 Guston Roundabout located to the east of the development site. Additional traffic from the development will have exacerbated the existing poor operational performance experienced particularly during the morning peak period and more especially on the A258 approach from Deal. Consequently a condition was imposed as part of the Planning permission granted in May 2006 by Dover District Council requiring 'works to the junction' prior to the commencement of the development (see Appendix A).
- 3. This report is to inform Members of the position reached with fulfilling that planning condition and implementing an improvement scheme at the A2(T)/A258 Guston Roundabout.

### **Scheme Progression:**

- 4. Consultants White Young Green acting on behalf of the developer AMEC, have been progressing a scheme design to satisfy the operational requirements of both Kent Highway Services and the Highways Agency representing the local and strategic highway authorities respectively. An acceptable scheme that caters for the additional development traffic has now been arrived at. Discussions and procedures are being put in place to facilitate construction works at the earliest possible opportunity thus maximising the benefit to the road user.
- 5. The scheme proposal as illustrated in Appendix B (developer drawing number A020100-002 rev C) involves local widening within the highway boundary, on the A258 approach to the roundabout junction from Deal, for which the County Council is the managing and responsible highway authority. This will make use of advanced works to increase the entry width already undertaken as part of a County Council reconditioning scheme completed in January 2006.
- 6. For ease of progression the County Council is entering into a Section 4 (of the Highways Act 1980) Agreement to temporarily transfer powers to the Highways Agency [acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport] in order for their Contractor to undertake the proposed works. This has been viewed as the most efficient way to progress the improvement scheme, as the roundabout junction is an integral part of the national road network. There are associated signing works to be undertaken on the Trunk Road (the A2) so only one Section 278 Agreement is then needed and that would be with the Highways Agency. InterRoute as the Highway Agency's approved contractor, would then carry out all of the necessary works for the developer on behalf of both highway authorities.

7. Although temporarily transferring powers for construction, KHS has retained involvement and responsibility for the Technical Approval of the scheme. Representatives have been party to the entire liaison necessary to ensure that appropriate works schedules, notification, publicity and operational restrictions are in place to minimise and manage the impact of construction.

### **Programme:**

- 8. If all procedural and legal aspects are satisfactorily concluded a start to construction is scheduled in early October. The work is likely to be completed within a 2 3 week period.
- 9. It is to be noted that as part of the investigation and progression of the developer's scheme a renewed focus has been bought to the current poor operational performance of the junction, particularly in road safety terms. Consequently InterRoute are also preparing a bid for study funding to enable them to undertake further assessment work and report to the Highways Agency on the potential need for wider short term improvement works to the roundabout. This is again likely to focus on the potential for remedial measures within the existing highway boundary and thus may preclude the consideration of wider initiatives at this stage, such as a segregated left turn 'filter' lane from the A258 Deal Road onto Jubilee Way (which would require land acquisition). As yet the terms of reference for the study are unknown.

#### Conclusion:

- 10. KHS is working closely with the Highways Agency to ensure that a necessary condition of the White Cliffs Business Park Phase 2 planning application is satisfactorily fulfilled.
- 11. The implementation of these works should result in some short term operational improvements on the A258 approach from Deal at the A2(T) roundabout junction.
- 12. This notification is being made in advance of construction works commencing to assist general awareness of the imminent action about to be undertaken on site.

#### Recommendation:

- 13. Confirmatory approval is sought to the progression of this improvement proposal by the Highways Agency through an agreement using Section 4 of the Highways Act 1980.
- 14. As part of the procedural progression of this scheme the opportunity is taken to formally register with the Highways Agency Route Manager that:
  - both the County and District Councils endorse the need for the Highways Agency to undertake further study work of this junction to improve road safety in the short term and to consider more expansive improvements to cater with future operational demands in the long term.

#### Contact Officer`1:

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## **APPENDIX A**

**The Relevant Planning Conditions.** 

#### APPLICATION NUMBER DOV/05/00519.

Planning Permission was granted by Dover District Council on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and the following relevant conditions specified:

Planning Condition 52 to the full planning permission for access into Phase 2 site from the A2, together with Stage One of the internal Spine Road, which runs from the A2 to internal roundabouts to link with Honeywood Parkway.

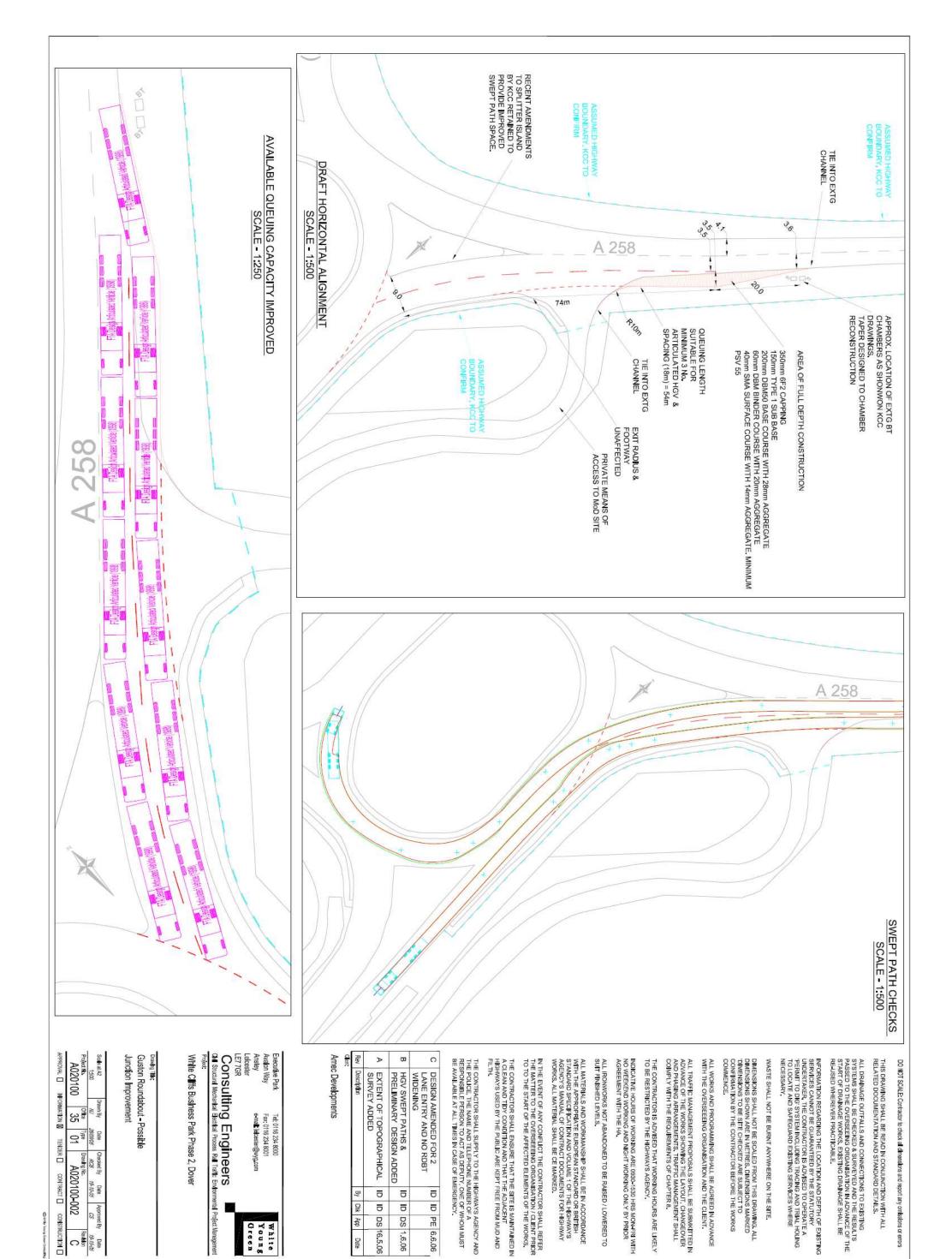
Planning Condition 88 to the outline planning permission for the construction of approximately 65,000 square metres (gross) of employment development (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8).

"No part of the approved development shall be occupied unless and until the works to the junction shown on the White Young Green Drawing No: A020100-002, dated 20 October 2005 submitted as part of the Transport Assessment Addendum, or other such works as may be reasonably agreed by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Secretary of State for Transport, have been completed and opened to traffic.

Reason: To enable the A2 Trunk Road to continue to be an effective part of the national system of routes for through traffic in accordance with Section 10 (2) of the Highways Act 1980 and to satisfy the reasonable requirements of road safety."

## **APPENDIX B**

The Scheme Drawing.
[Not to scale]



Date 19-10-05

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