



# OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WITNEY AREA) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 20\*\*

### STATEMENT OF REASONS

Oxfordshire County Council wants to make our built environments safer and more attractive places to walk and cycle. To enable this, 20mph speed restrictions are being used to help promote alternative modes of transport for local travel.

Streets are central to everyday life in Oxfordshire. They play a role in all transport journey's and are places where people shop, work and spend time. Improving the experience of being on Oxfordshire's streets will therefore improve people's local areas and their everyday lives. Improving streets to encourage active travel will also help to deliver further benefits for people in Oxfordshire. A wide range of people choosing to walk, and cycle will help to improve public health, reduce road noise, improve air quality and make local areas more relaxing. Furthermore, 20mph speed limits will help reduce casualty rates and improve road safety.

Oxfordshire County Council is therefore proposing to introduce a 20mph speed limit within Witney, expanding on the existing limits in the 'Cogges', 'Northeast' & 'Town Centre' areas that were introduced as part of the DfT Active Travel initiatives for walking & cycling. The proposals which have been put forward following road safety concerns raised by the Town Council, will see a reduction of the majority of the existing 30mph speed limits within the town to 20mph.

Accompanying the proposed 20mph limit, 30mph and 40mph speed limits will be introduced/adjusted on key routes – taking into account the road environment & traffic usage – and some lengths of 50mph limits will be reduced to 40mph.

The County Council continues its responsibility to consider the provision of convenient and safe movement of motor vehicles and other traffic, and the proposed measures are aimed at ensuring that danger is minimised whilst facilitating the effective and safe passage of traffic.

Date: 6 June 2022

Traffic & Road Safety Team  
for the Corporate Director for Environment & Place  
Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
New Road  
Oxford  
OX1 1ND