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SIGNPOSTS

News and views from Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling group
Issue 4

THE END OF CHICANES AND THE DOUBLE ROUNDABOUT IN HADDENHAM?

I am pleased to report that progress on the Streetscape project continues – on 22nd June, feedback on the initial ideas was presented by Annabel Keegan of PJA¹ at an event arranged by the Village Society². Views have generally been very positive, and this was reflected at the meeting, which also saw strong support for a village-wide 20 mph limit.

The consultants showed they are willing to adapt their designs according to public feedback, so it's really important that as many villagers as possible respond, whether you have practical concerns over the impact of changes, don't feel they go far enough, or anywhere in between. As Annabel demonstrated when fielding questions, however, PJA have a huge wealth of experience and analysis to back up their approach. So, when it comes to concerns over the removal of white lines for instance, they will be coming back with more information to show how this has a positive impact on driver behaviour.

¹ Annabel is Associate Director at PJA (previously known as Phil Jones Associates) and is the lead consultant on the Streetscape project.

² The full recording is available on the Haddenham.net Facebook page and is well worth watching if you couldn't attend: if not already a member of the private Facebook group for Haddenham.net, join at



With this in mind, the key date is 13th July³, when a second public exhibition will showcase revised plans for the three initial areas considered (Fort End, Church End and the double roundabout), alongside new designs for Thame Road, access to the Station, EV charging bays at the Village Hall, Stanbridge Road and Rudds Lane / Rosemary Lane. We hope to see large numbers there.

Alan Thawley

Chair, Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling group (HaddSWAC)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/haddenhamdotnet>; then go to <https://www.facebook.com/100002215396723/videos/406781921403193/>. Fast forward 14 minutes to the start of the presentation.

³ In the conference room at Haddenham Village Hall, afternoon and early evening.

CREEPING UNWILLINGLY TO SCHOOL ...



To school, *past* school and *away* from school ... Traffic at drop-off and pick-up times at Haddenham's schools produces a chaotic cocktail of disruption, fumes and danger. And not just for children and parents. For everyone.

This isn't Haddenham's problem alone. Here are some solutions tried elsewhere:

'Ride-and-Stride'

Cars park at some distance from school, so children to complete the journey on foot. Many teachers advocate this, even to the extent of a ten-minute walk - to get those endorphins humming. The problem is finding dedicated parking space, otherwise the chaos is merely moved round the corner. Parking land is expensive, but wouldn't it be worth it? For the whole village?

'School Streets'

Two types:

- a) A reduced speed limit at critical periods – useful if speed, not congestion, is the problem.
- b) Closing a school street for, say, an hour at each end of the day. There would be obtrusive signage, and probable confusion for village visitors. It might work at Woodways, but what about St Mary's? Another nut for the Streetscape consultants to crack?

With less traffic chaos more children would, hopefully, walk or cycle to school. How to encourage them? Recognized safe routes marked on village maps? Walking Taxis and Trains, which 'passengers' join and leave as they move through the village? Yes, schools can and do incentivise pupils, but schools can't solve the problem. To some extent it's over to Mum and Dad. But above all it's a designed response on the ground that's needed. For all our sakes!

BA

UNEXPECTED PEACE IN HEART OF VILLAGE



In April we tentatively proposed a radical plan for [‘the Heart of the Village’](#)⁴. Fort End to Banks Road would become an agreeable ‘shared space’ with traffic speed limited to little more than walking pace. We assumed that most traffic, other than shoppers and nearby residents, would choose other routes, leaving this central area for villagers to enjoy at ease.

Some readers were sceptical, but little did we know that the following days were to bring an unexpected demonstration of what could be possible. Thames Water suddenly dug up the road and closed the thoroughfare completely for nearly a week.

Chaos and rage did not ensue. Slightly more traffic was observed in Churchway, Willis Road and Rudds Lane/Dollicott. Re-routed buses continued to stop in Woodways and at Thame Road/Sheerstock. Apart from two tearaway drivers observed squeezing their cars along the Banks Road footway, complaints were few and drowned out by fulsome praise for the

unexpected peace in the heart of the village and the sudden realisation of what could be.

These traffic effects are based on informal observation and not systematic study, the opportunity for such being so unexpected. But it is nevertheless clear that much regular traffic simply melted away and that for many drivers who regularly use Banks Road, the route through Haddenham is far from essential for their journey.

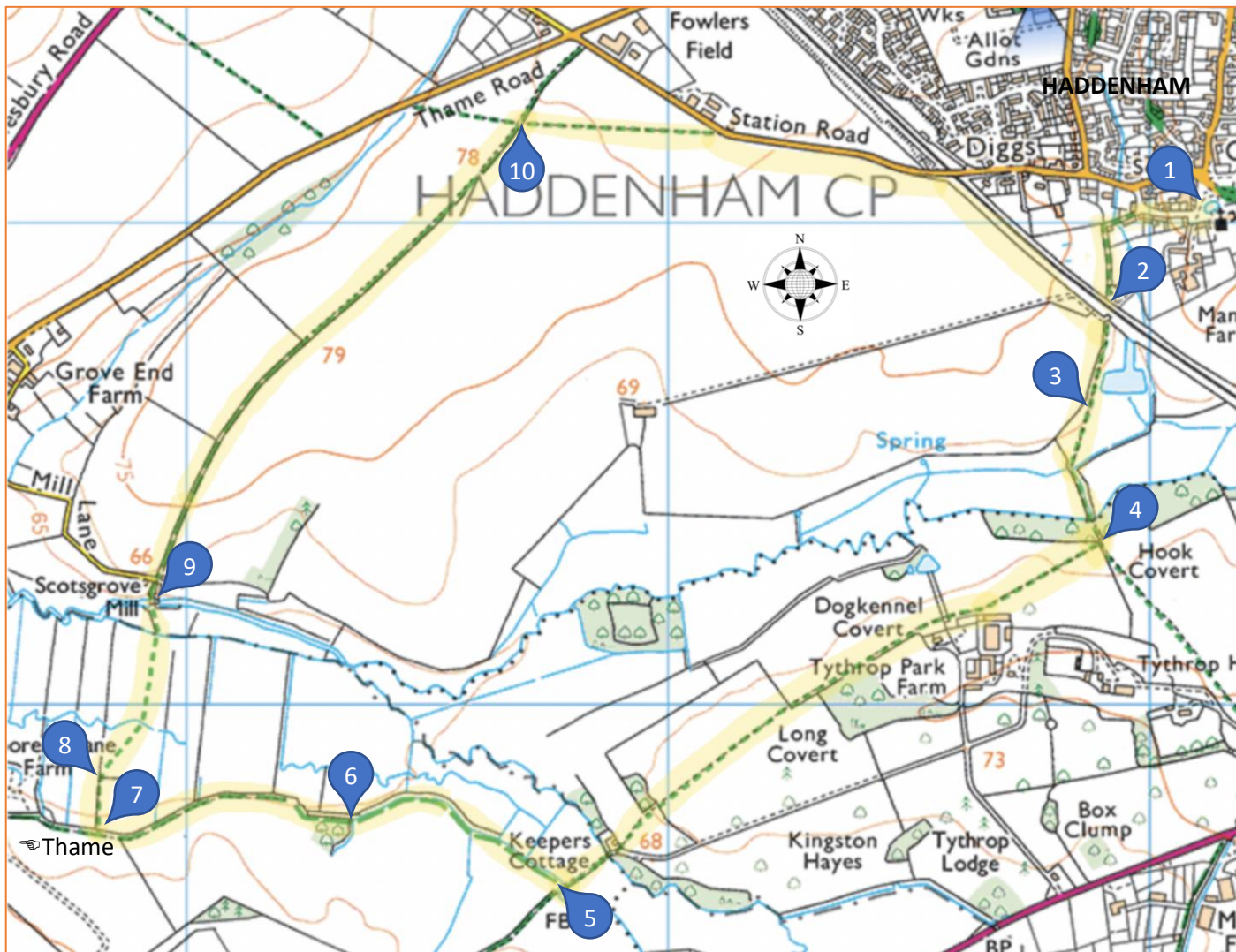
The elimination of through traffic, whether by regulation or persuasion, could transform the village street environment.

Drivers today are anonymous and could be anybody. Take out those passing through and they are us – our neighbours and people working here. You will meet them again. Smiles and courtesy both ways.

AG

⁴ SIGNPOSTS Issue 2, page 2:
<https://www.villagesociety.org/doc/issue-02-D642926.pdf#page=2>

THE WALK



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Summary

This is the first in an occasional series of walks starting in Haddenham, using parts of the [Wychert Way](#)⁶ and the proposed 'Round Haddenham Path'. This first circular walk takes you nearly to Thame, including along the way a war-time refuge and the site of a nine-hundred-year-old mill.

4 miles - 2 hours - two stiles - boots when wet.

SUBJECT TO FLOODING IN WINTER.

⁵ Map by kind permission: © Crown copyright 2022 Ordnance Survey. Media 048/22. Licence valid until 31 December 2022.

⁶ For a guide to the full 12-mile length of Wychert Way, see: <https://www.wychert.org.uk>.

Directions and Points of Interest⁷⁸

Start on Haddenham Green.

With the War Memorial behind you and St Mary's Church in front ①, set off rightish to Flint Street. At the right-hand bend in Flint Street take the footpath on the left. Reach a kissing gate and go under a railway bridge (*built 1901, now carrying the Chiltern line*) ②.

Go straight. Hedge on right. Go past Ponnie Pond (*possibly a medieval quarry used to build St Mary's Church, though doubted by some*⁹). Pass a kissing gate in the hedge to your right ③, then head slightly leftwards down the incline, through a kissing gate. Follow a path over Scotsgrove Brook (*like the other brook you cross on this walk, it flows into the River Thame and so, later, into the Thames at Dorchester*).

At the far side of the wood ④ go diagonally right, past Tythrop House behind some trees on your left (*built in 16th and 17th Centuries, home to Basque children fleeing Spain before World War II, and then to refugees from the Nazis*).

Go through a kissing gate past farm buildings. Then through another kissing gate. Keep straight on past trees on your left and across a large field. Another kissing gate. Pass a large shed recently converted into a house and 'Keeper's Cottage'. Cross bridge over 'Kingsey Cuttle Brook' (*curiously, not the same Cuttle Brook that runs through Thame's nature reserve*).

Proceed straight on (*following the course of the old private road between Thame and the Tythrop estate, needed before this part of the new road between Thame and Princes Risborough was opened in 1830*).

At two stiles, turn right ⑤ (*straight on would take you to Chinnor Rugby Club, on the eastern outskirts of Thame*). Later fork right ⑥ to go through a wood. (*This can be muddy*.) Keep going on the track. Shortly after a metal fence on your left, look for a signed path to Haddenham going right. Take this ⑦. (*Or, continue into Thame centre for pubs, cafés, etc.*)

Keep left to a small gated bridge ⑧. Go rightish, across the next field to a bigger bridge. Here be floods in winter! If too wet, walk back to Haddenham as you came, or go into Thame and get the bus back (*bus number 280 costs £2.60 single*).

Onwards to a gate in the edge of the woods ahead. Cross another bridge, over Scotsgrove Brook (*which is joined by the Kingsey Cuttle Brook near this point*) and pass Scotsgrove Mill (*included in the Domesday Book, 1086; the mill was used commercially until 1967*) ⑨.

Up a slight slope keep straight on Miller's Way, and eventually you come to a crossing with the [Wychert Way](#). Turn right ⑩. Cross a field, continuing alongside a hedge on your left. (*In May – the time of writing – stunning wild flowers. Here larks feast on insects. The permissive path was agreed by and is a tribute to the late local farmer Tom Bucknell.*)

Go under the railway bridge ② and re-join the path to Church—**End**.

BB

⁷ The written directions for this walk were checked for accuracy on 2nd June 2022. It remains walkers' responsibility to keep to footpaths. Walkers should follow the [Countryside Code](#), which can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/247cfnrn>.

⁸ Some of the points of interest are taken from Diana and Peter Gulland's self-published "Walking from Haddenham" (2002) – although highly recommended for its commentary, now out of print.

⁹ See Alan Rose's interesting recent article 'Ponnie' in *The Haddenham Chronicles 19* (2022), published by and available at Haddenham Museum, available at Haddenham Community Library and for purchase from Blooming Fruity, Haddenham.

AND FINALLY ...

NEWS IN BRIEF

FOOTPATH CLOSED

After statutory consultation, Buckinghamshire Council has granted developers permission to close the popular footpath off Rosemary Lane (Haddenham) “for a period not exceeding six months [granted from 1st June 2022 according to the formal [notice](#)] or until the said works have been completed *whichever is the earlier* [our emphasis]”. An alternative route will be provided.

INVITATION

Haddenham Safe Walking & Cycling group’s next meeting will be at 7:30pm on 6th July 2022.

Please email HaddSWAC@gmail.com if you would like to come along and influence our thinking or get involved in our projects.

You can be first to hear the news: just email HaddSWAC@gmail.com asking to subscribe, free.
Or scan the following to save some typing!



SCAN ME

We shall only use your email address for newsletter details and you can unsubscribe at any time.

We also welcome your feedback and ideas, to the same email address please.

Please, do share this newsletter with your friends, colleagues and family!

Previous issues are available at <https://www.villagesociety.org/haddswac.html>.

¹⁰ Footpath closure: For the formal notice from Buckinghamshire Council (as circulated by the Parish Council) see <https://v6-5admin.visionict.com/Sites/2478/UserFiles/Files/Temporary%20Closure%20Public%20Footpath%2019.pdf>; for all footpath temporary closures see Buckinghamshire Council’s website at <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/changes-to-public-rights-of-way/temporary-traffic-regulation-orders/>.