

From: Highways Operation Centre
Sent: 20 April 2021 16:11
To: wonstonpc@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Re: 24210356 - Oxford Road

Dear Ms Jenkins,

Your communications with my colleague Ray Gardner have been passed to me, as Sutton Scotney now comes under Hampshire Highways North's responsibility following a change in our Operating Model.

I believe that the desire line path seems to have appeared about 5 years ago when scrub was cleared and the area became a grass verge. It was not originally laid out for a path to be provided in that position but has just been eroded into the surface over time.

We have considered the gentleman's request, but we have concerns about the safety of this. Firstly, there is no visibility to the right if you were crossing from the 'path' towards the water treatment works. Given the traffic flows, I would have concern that someone stepping off the kerb here would not see/be seen by traffic coming from the Basingstoke direction and turning left to go through Sutton Scotney. Secondly, there is no pedestrian refuge in the centre of the road save for the area by the roundabout junction splitter island. This would be at a higher level and therefore cause problems for those with visual or mobility impairments. The cost to alter this splitter island would be significant and would still not resolve the visibility issue already mentioned.

Consequently, these safety concerns mean we do not wish to do anything that encourages pedestrians to think this is a safe location to cross the road at this position such as by the construction of a formalised path. As you noted in your original email there are other, far safer, places to cross Oxford Road to access the Post Office. Given this and the safety concerns with the request outlined, I am sorry but I do not feel it sensible to formalise this desire line pedestrian route.

I realise that this may not be the answer hoped for but I have tried to explain the safety related reasoning behind this.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Wood FIHE
Principal Engineer
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