

**The Essex County Council (Various Roads, Thorrington)
(Combined Speed Limits) Order 202***

STATEMENT OF REASONS:

Following approval of the expansion of land used for car sales/auto breaking under planning appeal reference APP/Z1585/W/22/3301961, it has been agreed that the existing bell mouth access will be relocated to a location approximately 70 metres from the junction of Great Bentley Road and Frating Road. The works will be developer funded.

The scheme is situated in a rural location on a PR2 road, with a 40mph/national speed limit terminal sign approximately 55 metres northeast of the junction of Great Bentley Road and Frating Road. The bell mouth will be used by users of the auto-break site, and there is a planning condition which restricts the number of vehicles with a gross weight of 7.5 tonnes or more to no more than two movements a day (1 in and 1 out).

As the access to the development has been moved further away from the junction of Great Bentley Road and Frating Road and is located partially outside of the existing 40mph speed limit, it has been proposed to relocate the speed terminal signs approximately 100 metres further northeast, to ensure the proposed bell mouth and a suitable length of approach is within a 40mph speed limit.

Extending the 40mph speed limit will improve road safety for users, in particular Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV's) requiring greater visibility and lower vehicle speeds to carry out safe manoeuvres.

The proposal will also benefit the wider highway area. When the nearby level crossing is in operation queues can form for some length on Great Bentley Road. Therefore, extending the 40mph speed limit should be seen as a safety improvement for vehicles approaching traffic queues.

This proposal will also implement a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on a section of Great Bentley Road where the 40mph TRO is currently missing.