



Ecology Strategy

A long-term strategy to mitigate adverse effects on ecology and provide net gains for biodiversity will be implemented through the lifetime of the development, based on an up to date understanding of the ecological constraints.

This strategy will include measures to retain and protect key features of ecological value such as the hedgerow network (identified at the Outline planning stage) and the creation and management of new habitats of ecological value including; broadleaved woodland, native hedgerows, flower-rich grassland and wetlands. The design and layout of new and compensatory habitats has been closely integrated with environmental objectives.

Retained and created habitats will be subject to long term management for biodiversity value in accordance with an agreed Management Plan.

Bat Mitigation

A detailed mitigation strategy to ensure that the integrity of Hestercombe House SAC lesser horseshoe bat population will be maintained has been developed and agreed with Somerset County Council and Natural England. The northern buffer planting and further planting belts along the Back Stream corridor will provide 8.83ha of enhanced habitat for lesser horseshoe bats. A detailed lighting strategy will be developed to minimise impacts from the scheme on foraging/commuting bats. The strategy will maintain appropriate low light levels for lesser horseshoe bats within the enhanced habitat areas along the northern buffer and Back Stream. In addition to the replacement habitat, a new purpose built 'bat house' will be constructed within the northern buffer planting. This will provide a range of additional roosting opportunities for lesser horseshoe and other species of bats.

Hazel Dormouse Mitigation

The retained hedgerows will be protected throughout the scheme and will be buffered from adjacent development. Habitat creation including additional native hedgerow, shrub and broadleaved woodland will incorporate species of known value for dormice. The new and retained habitats will be subject to long term management to provide optimal habitat for dormice.



Bird Boxes

A range of bird boxes will be incorporated into new dwellings and installed on suitable retained mature trees, providing nesting opportunities for new and existing bird populations.

Other Considerations

Pre-construction and construction phase measures will be implemented to mitigate risk to amphibians, nesting birds, bats and badgers during site clearance and construction. The proposed habitat creation and management measures will also provide new and enhanced habitats for these species. Details of measures to protect these and other wildlife during the construction period will be included in an Ecological Construction Method Statement prepared prior to commencement.

Placemaking Approach to Highway Design

Staplegrove West Garden Town New Neighbourhood



Placemaking Approach to Highway Design

Based on a series of design workshops with Somerset Council Officers, and independent highway design specialists, innovative highway design principles were established to provide guidance to street design.

As a result of this consultation, the movement strategy sets out an updated street hierarchy, improved strategic pedestrian and cycle movements, a range of car parking strategies and public transport provision.

The overarching design aim is to deliver safe travel routes including segregated cycle lanes and pedestrian footpaths through parklands and tree lined streets that provide connectivity from your home to the wider Taunton cycle and pedestrian network.

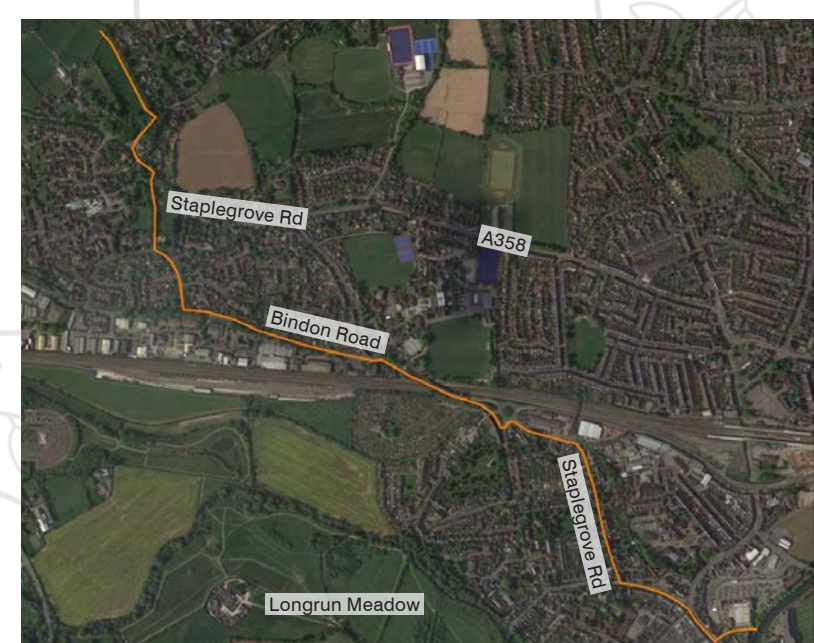
“Well-designed places should be accessible and easy to move around. This can be achieved through a connected network of streets, good public transport, the promotion of walking and cycling and well-considered parking and servicing.”

- National Model Design Code

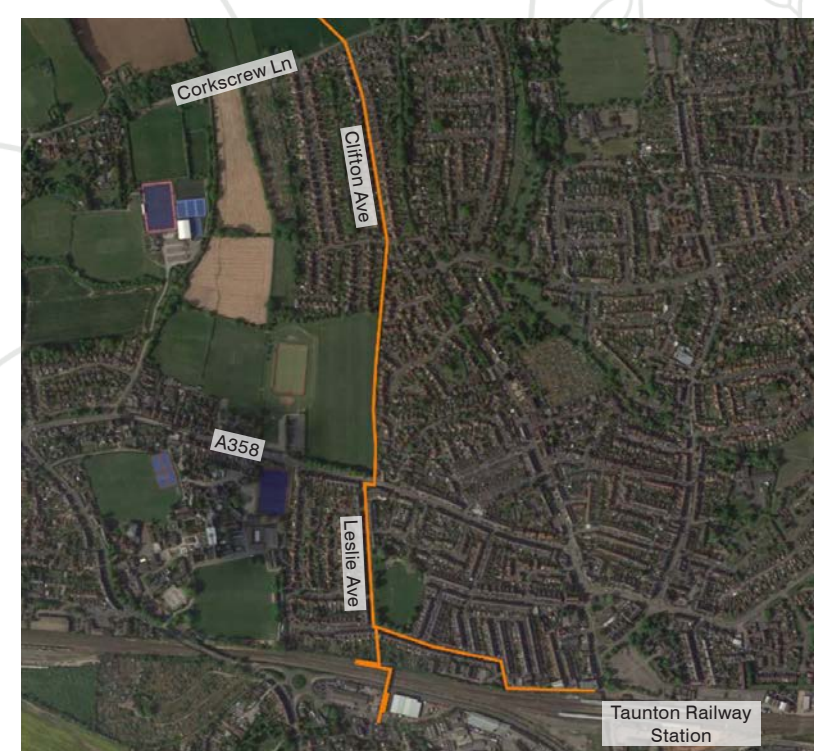
Connecting our Garden Communities

The ‘Connecting our Garden Communities’ plan aims to create a network of paths for walking, wheeling, and cycling in Taunton. This network is designed to serve the needs of new residents and workers in the new developments (Garden Communities) and to improve connections for people already living in the town.

Bloor will contribute £3.2 million to allow Somerset to deliver ‘Connecting Our Garden Communities’ ‘Route 1’ and partially ‘Route 3’.

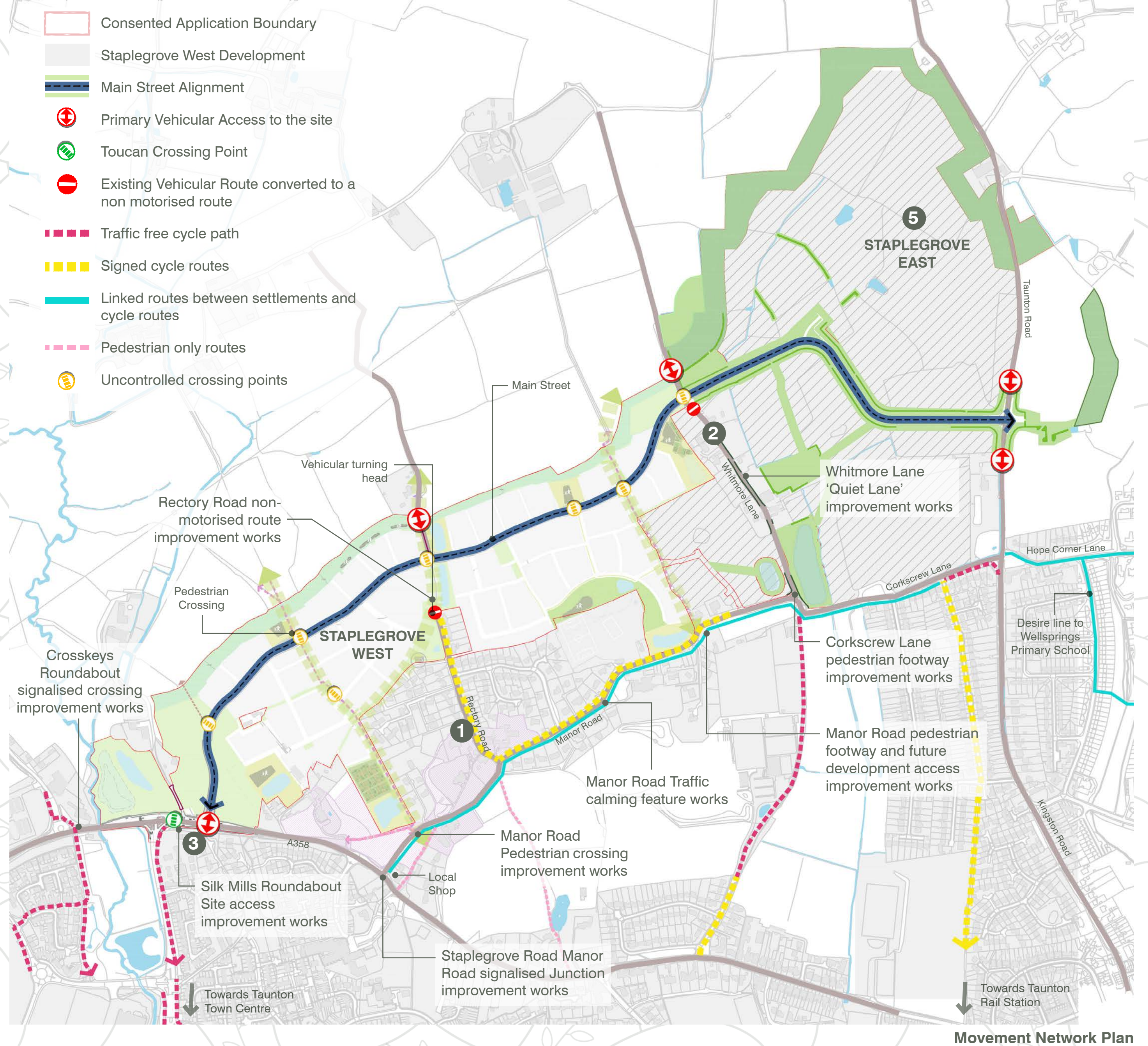


Route 1
Staplegrove -
Bindon Road -
Town Centre



Route 3
Staplegrove -
Clifford Ave -
Taunton Station

Extracts from Appendix B - Connecting
Garden Communities Appendix B



Movement Network Plan

Wider Movement Network

Existing Road Network

1 Rectory Road

Rectory Road will have a vehicular turning head located north of Hillhead Cottages to provide active travel links only to the Main Street.

2 Whitmore Lane

Whitmore Lane will also have a vehicular turning head to provide active travel links only to the Main Street. However, vehicles will be able to turn north from the Main Street into the existing vehicular network.

Proposed Vehicle Access Points

3 Silk Mills Junction

Primary vehicular access will be taken from a new signalised junction off the A358. Further works will be undertaken to convert the existing roundabout into a signalised junction.

4 Kingston Road

There is a proposed roundabout connecting the Main Street to Kingston Road, allowing for a link south with primary infrastructure.

5 Staplegrove East

Main Street alignment and associated works have been carried out for Staplegrove East.

6 Manor Road

A series of footway improvement, traffic calming and junction improvement works proposed along Manor Road to improve pedestrian/cycle connectivity from the development to the wider Staplegrove and Taunton area.

7 Crosskeys Roundabout

Improvements to the existing Crosskeys roundabout to provide a signalised pedestrian crossing to improve pedestrian cycle connectivity to the west of the development.