

**SCHOOL TRANSPORT – ASSESSMENT OF ROUTE**

**Route:** Nook House, Rowde to Devizes School.  
**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2003  
**Time:** PM  
**Weather:** Dry and sunny  
**Assessed by:** Helen Sims, Education Transport

**1. Background**

A request for transport from the site to the school has been received. Transport has previously been refused as the route is considered safe but there is not an assessment on file.

**2. The Route**

Rowde – A342 Devizes Road, Devizes to Devizes School.

**3. Details of the Route**

From the garage there is a pavement on either side, there is room to cross at the point opposite the garage. Or can continue past the junction of Bunnies Lane and alongside the pub where there is a wide parking area, which can be walked along. On the left the pavement narrows around the bend opposite Bunnies Lane but then widens again. On the right hand side the Pavement commences just before the Marsh Lane Jct. The pavement then continues on both sides. After the next junction the pavement only continues on the left-hand side. There is street lighting through out the route.

Upon entering Devizes a 40m.p.h limit applies. Travelling uphill past the Queens Head pub the pavement continues. At the top of the hill the speed limit is 30 m.p.h.

At the jct of Dunkirk Hill into Bath Road there is pavement both sides and lighting. At the mini-roundabout into New Park Street there is a refuge for crossing however it is easier to use the Zebra crossing before the mini-roundabout to cross and then continue on the pavement on the right-hand side.

The pavement continues through the town centre and there are pedestrian crossings available.

There are many routes that can be taken through Devizes to the school, the distance measured by car today was 2.9 but this would be considerably shorter when making a short cut through the town and also along the common ground outside the school.

**4. Recommendations**

That free transport SHOULD NOT be provided as the route would be considered as safe for a secondary aged child to walk along if accompanied by a responsible adult.

# Memorandum

RECEIVED  
- 5 OCT 2004

**To:** Taz Tamin  
**From:** Jackie Cripps, Senior Road Safety Officer  
**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004  
**Re:** Route; Bunnies Lane, Rowde to Devizes School

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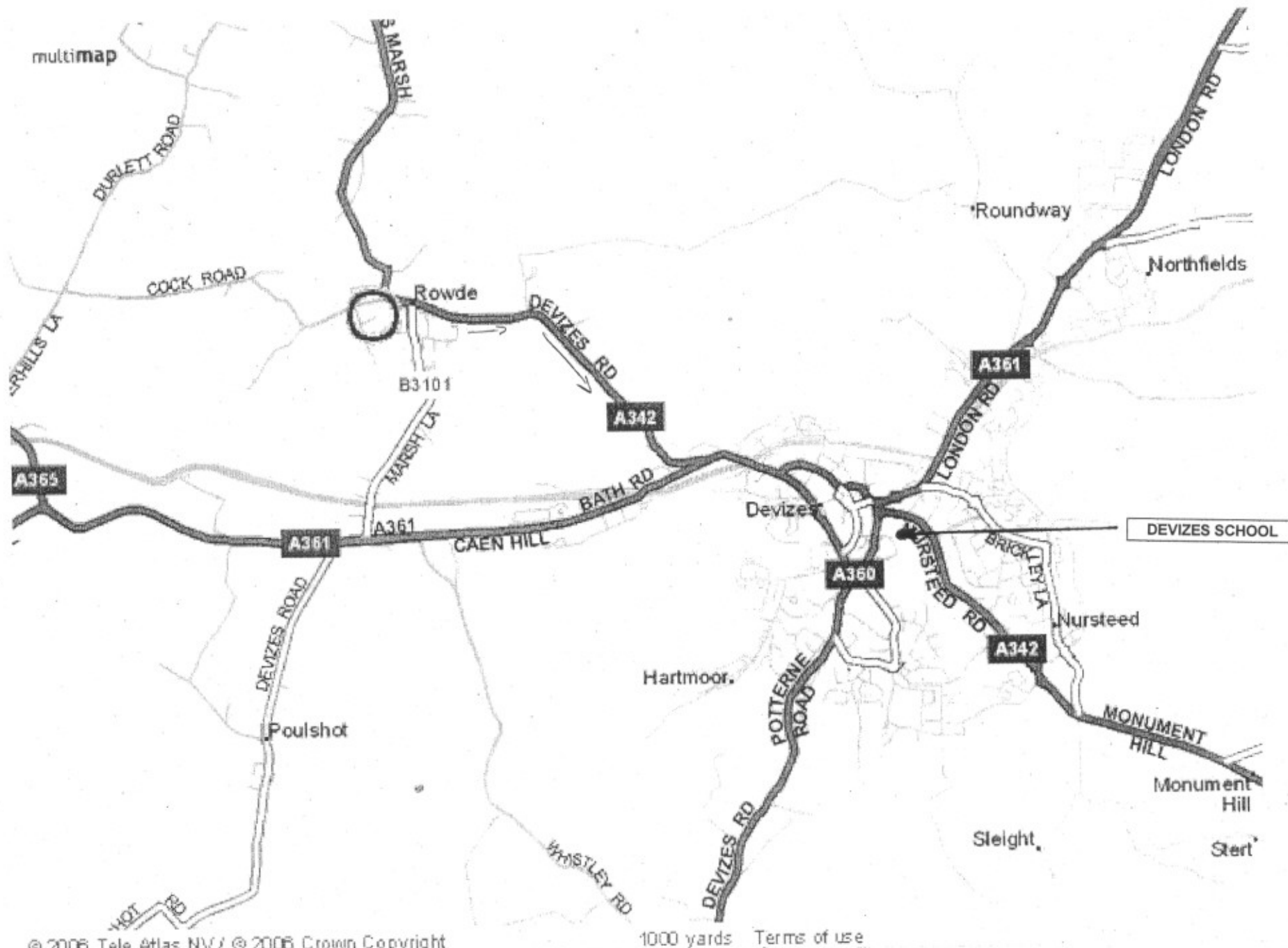
I visited this site on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004 at 8.20a.m. and walked from Rowde into Devizes. There is a footway all through the village and up Dunkirk Hill into Devizes from where there is footway all the way to Devizes School with pedestrian crossings.

From Bunnies Lane the route is across the main road but the visibility at the bend is not good so it would be necessary for anyone to walk towards Marsh Lane and then cross prior to this junction and this is what some residents were doing whilst I was there.

In places the footway does have some cracks with small weeds such as groundsel growing. There is a short distance just prior to Lakeside where the vegetation is encroaching onto the pavement and there are one or two places where the surface is broken but even with this I consider that it is a safe route for a child accompanied by an adult.

Jackie Cripps

email sent ~ 6.10.04 to Clarence.



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REGULATORY COMMITTEE	DATE	17 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2007
APPEAL FOR FREE TRANSPORT ON GROUNDS OF ROUTE SAFETY FROM ROWDE TO DEVIZES SCHOOL		
WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Director of Environmental Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JD		

**FILE NOTE**

**Route Safety Assessment from Marsh Lane Rowde to Devizes School**

Date: 2.45pm to 3.15pm Wednesday 9 July 2003

Weather: bright, dry, warm

Assessed by: Helen Sims and Tazril Tamin, Passenger Transport Unit

**Detail**

Marsh Lane connects the A342 (Chippenham to Devizes road) and A361 (Trowbridge to Devizes road).

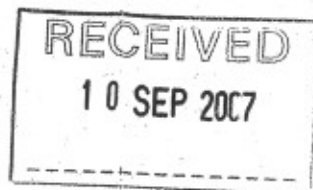
Mrs. Pye lives approximately halfway along the road at 19 Marsh Lane and her son is due to attend Devizes School from September 2003. Devizes can be entered by travelling north along Marsh Lane and joining the A342 or travelling south and joining the A361.

There is no pavement in either direction when leaving no.19 Marsh Lane. When travelling north a pavement becomes available after 0.2 miles and the speed limit reduces from 40mph(?) to 30mph. When travelling south, a pavement becomes available only on entering the A361 and this continues all the way into Devizes.

It would appear that Marsh Lane is used as a cut-through for traffic travelling towards Calne or Poulshot. The lack of pavement for much of the lane makes it un-negotiable by pedestrians as traffic speeds are in excess of 40mph and there is little refuge from oncoming vehicles.

**Recommendation**

There is no safe walking route from 19 Marsh Lane to Devizes School even for an accompanied child. Therefore, free transport should be provided in this instance for this child's attendance at the school from years 7 to 11 only.



Dear Mr Tamin,

As you requested after our phone conversation today 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007 my daughter Amy Clarke and I are writing to ask if we can join you and any of your colleagues on re-assessing the walk to school route from Rowde to Devizes School. We know you and your department have looked at this case in the past without a favourable outcome for the children of Rowde. Which we have always disagreed with.

Amy has walked the route in the past and found it to be very frightening, her main concerns are the width of the path, the condition of the path, speed of the traffic and the lack of lighting. (Even more so now the school starts at eight thirty am.)

We know you are only interested in the safety aspect but Amy would like to take this opportunity to demonstrate what the walk feels like carrying all her school items she has to take to school, she feels the only way you can get a proper judgement for this situation is to walk the route at the time pupils would be walking it and also walk the route back from school, which she says is more frightening due to the on coming traffic facing you.

We will be contacting head teacher Mr Irons from Devizes School and also county councillor Pat Rug who we hope will be supporting Amy on trying to prove the children of Rowde might deserve a more favourable outcome.

There are approx forty five children who live in Rowde who go to Devizes School.

We both look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. R. Dale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Rug". The signature is written in a cursive style.



The Green, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 3AG  
**Headteacher: Malcolm Irons B.Sc (Hons)**  
 Deputies: Mark Knighton and Julie Reeves

Tel: 01380 724886 Fax: 01380 720955  
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*active body, active mind*



**DEVIZES  
 SCHOOL**  
 A SPORTS COLLEGE

MGI/GMW

Mr P Grocock  
 Bus Network Manager  
 County Hall  
 Bythesea Road  
 Trowbridge  
 BA14 8JB



7th September 2007

Dear Mr Grocock

Re: Transport from Rowde to Devizes School

I have been made aware of some serious concerns regarding the transport arrangements for pupils in Rowde travelling to Devizes School this year. Several parents have expressed concerns regarding the dramatic increase in fares being imposed by the APL bus company and their ongoing concerns relating to the safety of pupils expected to walk the route from Rowde to Devizes School.

As I understand it the weekly cost for an '11 journey' ticket has risen from £5.50 last year to £7.50 this year. This is a colossal 36% rise and one that surely cannot be allowed if there is any sort of regulatory control exercised by the local authority. The annual cost per pupil is now £300. Several families living in Rowde have more than one child attending Devizes School and this expense is causing many of them to consider allowing their children to walk the 2½ miles to school.

This brings me to the other aspect of my concerns. I am aware that the transport section at County Hall have previously undertaken assessments of the route from Rowde to Devizes School, and that their conclusions were that it posed no problems for pupils as pedestrians. I am familiar with the route and, as there is a significant section of the route from Rowde to the bottom of Dunkirk Hill that has a national speed limit and no lighting, I would disagree with this assessment.

I remain very concerned therefore that due to the excessive increase in the bus company's charges more pupils will be forced to negotiate a dangerous and unacceptable pedestrian route to school each day. I would urge you therefore to exert any pressure you can on the bus company to reduce their fares for this route and to reconsider the designation of the route from Rowde to Devizes School for our pupils.

Yours sincerely

*MGI/mw*

**Malcolm Irons**  
 Headteacher