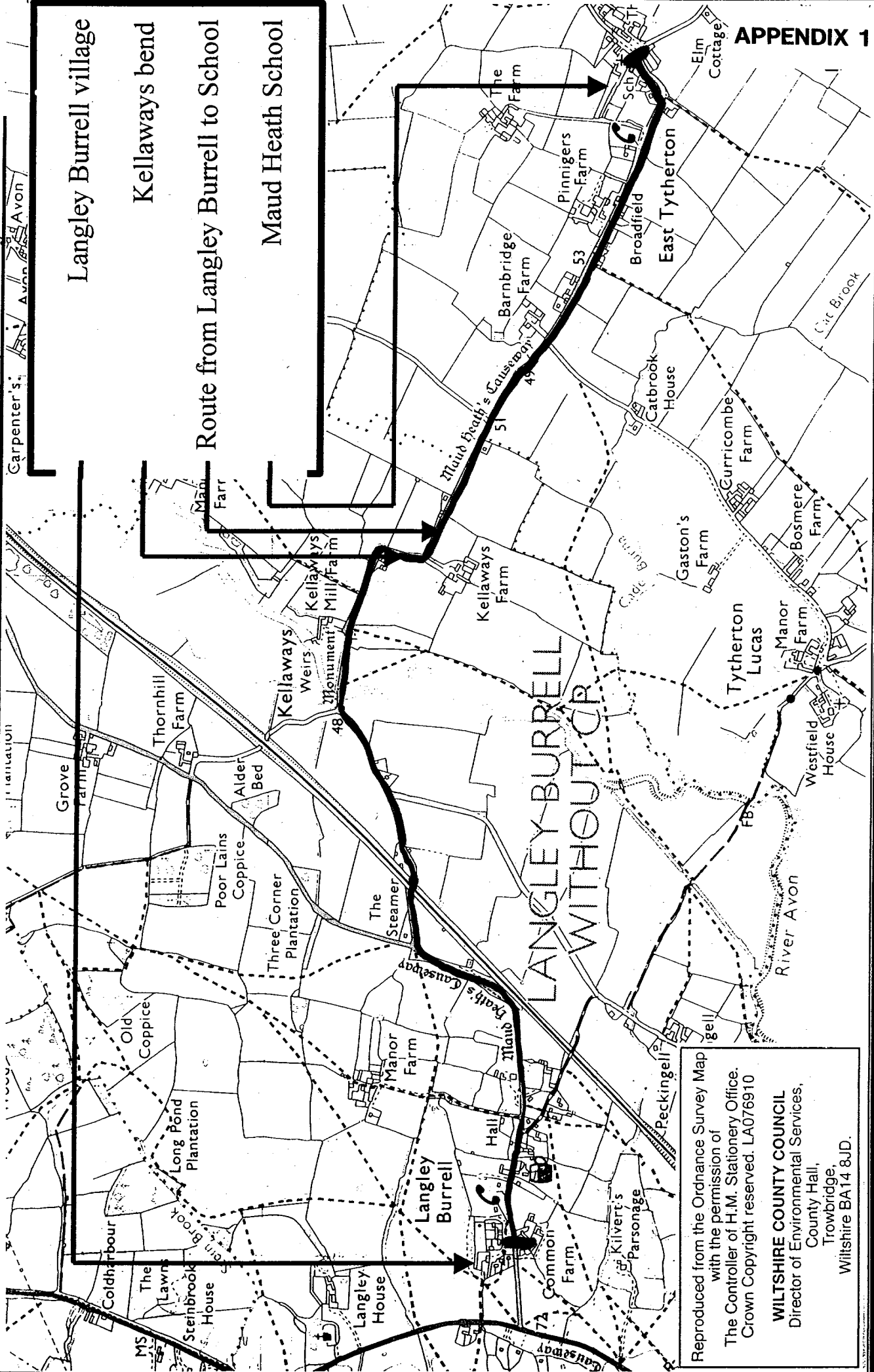


# Route from Langley Burrell to Maud Heath Primary School, East Tytherton



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**WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
 Director of Environmental Services,  
 County Hall,  
 Trowbridge,  
 Wiltshire BA14 8JD.

**SCHOOL TRANSPORT – ASSESSMENT OF ROUTE**

<b>Route:</b>	Langley Burrell to Maud Heath Primary, East Tytherton
<b>Date:</b>	25th March 2002
<b>Time:</b>	15.00 pm
<b>Weather:</b>	Dry and Sunny
<b>Assessed by:</b>	Noëlle Marsollier, Entitlement Assistant

**1. Details of the Route**

From Crossing Lane, which is a no-through road, turn right along Maud Heath's Causeway. There is a pavement on the right hand side, as you leave the village the speed restriction changes to 60 mph and the pavement continues on the right hand side, it is about  $\frac{2}{3}$  feet wide and there is a grass verge between the road and pavement apart from a very few places. The nature of the road means that traffic cannot travel too quickly.

The road is crossed over by the railway line and there is a pedestrian tunnel which is very short and easy to see through. The pavement is then raised over the River Avon.

At Kellaways farm there is a sharp left hand bend where the pavement ceases on the right hand side and recommences on the left hand side. Visibility is good and you can cross the road safely here from the right to the left. It is not a good crossing if you are coming from East Tytherton as you cannot see or hear the traffic coming round the corner from Langley Burrell due to the hedge and it is not safe to cross when coming from East Tytherton.

The pavement continues into East Tytherton where a 30 mph restriction comes into force. The pavement ceases on the left hand side and recommences on the right hand side but it is easy to cross the road, you then have to cross again to the left hand side and the pavement continues all the way to the school. There was only light traffic and pedestrians in the village.

Distance travelled = 2.5 miles

**2. Recommendations**

That free transport **should only** be provided in the **afternoons** as the route would be considered as **UNSAFE** for a primary aged child to walk along if accompanied by a responsible adult.

The route to school from Langley Burrell is safe accompanied for a primary aged child and therefore transport should not be provided for the morning journey into school.

**MAUD HEATH COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
EAST TYTHERTON  
CHIPPENHAM , WILTSHIRE  
SN15 4LT**

Clerk to the Governors    Miss Elizabeth Sexton  
Broadfield, East Tytherton  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire SN15 4LT

Mr Robert Wolfson  
Chief Education Officer  
Wiltshire County Council  
County Hall  
Bythesea Road  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire BA14 8JN

School Transport to Maud Heath Primary School

Dear Mr Wolfson,

At the meeting of the Governing Body, last Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, the letter sent to parents living in Langley Burrell re-assessing the safety case for free travel to school was discussed. (copy enclosed for your information).

The Governors resolved to appeal the decision and seek an urgent re-appraisal with a view to restoring free transport for the children of Langley Burrell. The reasons why the Governors felt the determination should be rescinded are as follows:-

- The two and a half mile journey will require four separate road crossings, the most dangerous of these being at the bend at Kellaways, it is our contention that this crossing is unsafe in either direction as the pavement is ill defined stopping short of the opposite pavement and merging with a private access drive. A direct crossing from pavement to pavement is not possible.
- The route to East Tytherton is frequently used at that time of the morning by cars 'rat running' between Chippenham and Calne, the road in many places is not wide enough to allow two cars to pass easily and cars do mount the pavement as the pavement is part of the ancient Maud Heath Causeway and the kerb line is ill defined.
- Maud Heath's Causeway at the point where it crosses the river Avon is an additional safety hazard not faced by a majority of children travelling to school due to the fact that it is a raised walkway one and a half metres above the road, is narrow and has no safety rail.

The Governing Body ask that you will look upon this appeal favourably

Yours Sincerely

*Elizabeth Sexton*

Clerk to the Governors

# Memorandum

**To:** Noelle Marsollier

**CC:**

**From:** Jackie Cripps, WCC Depot, Salisbury Road, Marlborough, SN8 4AE

**Date:** 20/06/02

**Re:** Langley Burrell to Maud Heath School

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I visited this site at 0815 on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2002. I agree with your assessment that the route is safe accompanied.

I considered the points raised by the Governors of the school;

1. The road has to be crossed four times but one of these is within the village of Langley Burrell, which has a 30 mph speed limit and the other is in the village of East Tytherton which also has a 30 mph speed limit. The crossing at Kellaways Farm has good visibility when going towards East Tytherton.
2. There was some traffic that morning and the majority of it goes towards Chippenham. I could find no evidence of cars having to mount the pavement to pass. The kerb is raised in many places and the lowest would appear to be in the village of East Tytherton where it is level with the road. Several stretches along the route the pavement is actually separated from the road by a grass verge.
3. Whilst the Cause is a raised walkway it is sufficiently wide enough for an adult to walk with a child.

The pavement has recently been resurfaced in some places and the vegetation has been cut back.

The worst surface is the part between Peckingell (?) and the pedestrian tunnel under the railway line. This would appear to be part of an old path as it is made up of sets rather than tarmac. This would make it difficult for anyone pushing a buggy. In other places, where the pavement is narrow there is a grass verge that would allow people to walk away from the traffic.

The Warren  
Kellaways  
CHIPPENHAM  
Wiltshire  
SN15 4LR

18 January 2003

Director of Environmental  
Wiltshire County Council  
County Hall  
TROWBRIDGE  
Wiltshire

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the Governors of Maud Heath School to appeal against the decision to approve the pathway between Langley Burrell and the school in East Tytherton (known locally as Maud Heath's Causeway) as a 'safe accompanied' route for children to take home from school. While the Governors accept that there is a made-up pathway along the entire route, we do not consider it a safe route and suggest that a single trip along it by one of your officers is an ineffective manner of assessing the route. As a resident on the route I believe I have significantly more experience of it and am therefore well qualified to comment.

I am sure that your assessment officer will have noted the heavy volume of traffic on the route for a small country road. Because of the inadequate road system in Chippenham for traffic approaching from the East wishing to join the M4 or to take the B4069 to Lyneham, many frequent users choose to use the route through Stanley and along Maud Heath's Causeway to Langley Burrell. This obviates the need to drive through Chippenham. Maud Heath's Causeway is also the main access route for local traffic to the East Tytherton area. As a result the high volume of small vehicle traffic meets a significant amount of heavy traffic delivering to premises in the area.

While the road is sufficient for two cars to pass relatively easily along most of its length, it is difficult for a heavy vehicle and a car to pass, especially when the speed of the cars tends to be high for the size of the road, an inevitable consequence of it being used as a short cut. Over the past few years the school bus, which uses the route, has been involved in a number of minor accidents and this shows the measure of inadequacy of the road for the level of traffic.

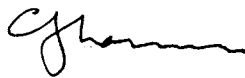
Along the great majority of Maud Heath's Causeway the pedestrian path is immediately adjacent to the road and is divided from it by large stones rather than the conventional modern concrete kerb in use on most roads. This is a reflection of the ancient nature of the Causeway and is encouraged by the Maud Heath Causeway Trust who fund the maintenance of the Causeway. The stone kerb is easy for vehicles to mount and it is common practice for motorists faced with a heavy vehicle to mount the kerb to allow each other to pass easily. This is often done at relatively high speed and is a significant hazard to pedestrians. Because pedestrian traffic volumes are extremely low there has never, to my knowledge, been an accident. However a significant increase in pedestrian traffic which this proposal would engender would undoubtedly result in a concomitant increase in risk.

I have over a number of years organised sponsored walks along Maud Heath's Causeway. During this process I have consulted the police about the suitability of the route for such activity. On no occasion have more than thirty walkers been involved. Police advice has always been that they consider the route unsuitable for any significant number of pedestrians because of the nature of the road even though my events have taken place on a Sunday when traffic volumes are considerably lower than on weekdays.

The Governors are therefore strongly of the view that the decision of your official is unsafe and stands a significant risk of injury to a child or accompanying parent. In addition, as this decision will apply only to the upper class of the school, transport will still be required for the younger children. It seems even more untenable to impose the requirement to walk when the transport has to run in any case. While you may argue that parents are free to pay, the income derived, after administration costs are taken into account, is unlikely to be significant. As the children involved come from a lower cost housing area the potential financial burden is likely to be significant and this may prove to be yet another nail in the coffin of a small rural school.

I would be grateful for your comments on this decision. I can only repeat that the Governors view it as unreasonable and will not accept it.

Yours sincerely,



C J Laurence QVRM TD BVSc MRCVS  
Chairman of Governors  
Maud Heath School