

INDURENT POINT, KNOWSLEY

STAGE 1 ROAD SAFETY AUDIT – DESIGNERS RESPONSE

1 Introduction

This Technical Note has been prepared by Sweco on behalf of Indurent Management Limited (the 'Applicant'), to provide a Designers Response to the Stage 1 Road Safety Audit (RSA) dated 12th November 2025 (document reference 65215060-SWE-GEN-ZZ-AS-PC-00001-P01).

The RSA was undertaken, at the request of Knowsley Council (KC) as the Local Highway Authority, to assess the design of the site access proposals and amendments within the public highway, identified as part of the proposed development off Alchemy Way, Knowsley.

This Designers Response is intended to be read in conjunction with the RSA report, as referenced above, and presents a response to each item raised within Section 3 of the RSA, point by point.

The RSA is based on the proposed site plan which was current at the date of the audit, (as included in the RSA report) and reflects the scheme, as submitted for planning.

2 Designers Responses

The following section presents a summary of the identified items presented within Section 3 of the RSA report and the associated auditor's recommendation to each item. For each item, a Designers Response has been provided.

Item 3.1. – Existing Bellmouth on Alchemy Way

Summary: The footway around the existing bellmouth on Alchemy Way does not feature dropped kerbs at the pedestrian desire-line, crossing the bellmouth for north-south journeys, resulting in potential for trips and falls.

Recommendation: Provide dropped kerbs and tactile pavements on the desire line crossing the bellmouth.

Designers Response: The bellmouth as it currently exists is intended as a future access to the parcel of land to the west of Alchemy Way. The scheme is consented and therefore expected to progress in due course. Once functional, the bellmouth will form a priority controlled junction with Alchemy Way as the major arm. At that stage, the pedestrian crossing will need to be set back from the channel line of Alchemy Way to ensure the minimal crossing distance of the minor arm and a safe setback from the give way line. This will be the responsibility of the developer of that site.

As part of the proposed Indurent Point scheme, the footways around the bellmouth will be re-instated to form a continuous link between the site and the existing footway network. The facilities will be immediately obvious to any pedestrians and only those choosing to deliberately deviate from the path will need to step down the kerb.

Given the intended use of the bellmouth feature and the future development of the related site, it is proposed that dropped kerbs are not installed at this time at the channel line of Alchemy Way.

Item 3.2. – Existing Bellmouth on Alchemy Way

Summary: The pavement surface within the extent of the bellmouth features spalling and is broken up, which may in turn result in loss of control issues.

Recommendation: Re-surface the bellmouth to remove level differences, 'bird baths', etc.

Designers Response: As noted above, the bellmouth forms part of the access strategy for the adjacent consented development, is unrelated to the Indurent site and will be subject to the agreement of any works with that developer which the Council considers appropriate (agreed via a S278 agreement for works in the highway) At the appropriate time, it is anticipated that the pavement finish will be improved to be consistent with the surrounding highway by the developer of the adjacent site.

In its current form, the bellmouth serves as a turning area where vehicle speeds are very low. Therefore, the risk of loss of control issues is considered highly unlikely. Furthermore, the Indurent scheme does not impact, on the use of the existing bellmouth area and the theoretical risks identified are not worsened by the proposals.

Item 3.3. – Existing Bellmouth on Alchemy Way

Summary: The pavement surface and gradient within the extent of the bellmouth may result in standing water which may in turn result in loss of control issues.

Recommendation: Ensure the side road stub can adequately drain rainwater.

Designers Response: The designers response is the same as noted for Item 3.2 above.

Item 3.4. – Existing Bellmouth on Alchemy Way

Summary: The bellmouth represents a wide crossing against the channel line of Alchemy Way. In the future layout where the stub is extended to provide access to the adjacent land, significant vehicle movements could result in difficulties crossing and potential collisions with pedestrians.

Recommendation: Provide a suitably sized pedestrian refuge in the side road stub, on the desire line, to enable pedestrians to cross the bellmouth in two movements.

Designers Response: Once the adjacent consented development extends the stub into the site from the bellmouth, suitable consideration for the amenity of pedestrians as well as other road users should be given by the respective designers and Knowsley Council as the Highway Authority.

In its existing state and with the additional measure of a new footway around the bellmouth, pedestrians will be able to safely negotiate the feature, irrespective of vehicular activity in the vicinity.

The provision of a pedestrian refuge is considered a positive design contribution to the future layout of the bellmouth and spine road into the adjacent site. However, it is not deemed necessary, nor required, until the development of that scheme comes forward, and should therefore be considered as part of the design to be progressed by the adjacent scheme.

Item 3.5. – Eastern Footway on Alchemy Way

Summary: The footway located on the eastern frontage of Alchemy Way, at its northerly end, is overgrown and the encroachment is limiting its effective width, with pedestrians potentially being forced close to the carriageway edge.

Recommendation: Cut back the vegetation to a point well beyond the back of the footway and maintain this width.

Designers Response: The recommendation is accepted. A S278 will be progressed as part of the works and it is proposed that verge clearance is included within the scope of works in that agreement.

Item 3.6. – Alchemy Way

Summary: There is a potential for shunts and side swipes on the full extent of Alchemy Way due to the presence of parked vehicles. Specifically, some vehicles were noted parking opposite existing accesses and side roads.

Recommendation: Implement an on-street parking strategy for the whole of Alchemy Way, with a view to providing parking restrictions throughout.

Should parking restrictions be implemented then wayfinding for drivers of large vehicles directing them to the closest appropriate 24-hour parking facilities should also be provided.

Designers Response: The recommendation is accepted. The applicant has been in liaison with Knowsley Council on this point and has offered funding, via a S106 agreement, to enable Knowsley Council to progress a TRO and road marking scheme to control parking on Alchemy Way. The requirement for HGV wayfinding should be considered within that process.