

**Unclassified**

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# **Blandford Market Place Public Realm Enhancements**

## **Proposal Report**

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**DOCUMENT STATUS**

Blandford Market Place Public Realm Enhancements	
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## **Content**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Background**
- 3. Existing Situation**
- 4. Proposal**
- 5. Drawing Numbers**
- 6. Drawing Numbers**
- 7. Appendices**

## 1. Introduction

This proposal report has been produced by Dorset Council Highway Improvements Team to investigate provision of enhancements to the Public Realm Area in The Market Place, Blandford.

## 2. Background

The Market Place is a mixed-use space currently occupied by Pay and Display parking bays as well as a small section that is closed to traffic with bollards, located outside the Town Hall. This space gets used 2 or 3 times per week for the Market and occasionally for other civic activities. A desire has been expressed by local members that a Public Realm Enhancement in this area could have a positive impact on the Town Centre. It has been suggested that some adjustments to the existing parking could provide a large area of new Public Realm space, which could be used for outside seating, events, displays etc.

## 3. Existing Situation

- 3.1. This site is in the centre of Blandford, adjacent to the main through route, East Street. See image showing proposed area for the new Public Realm space. As seen from the west looking east. The pay and display parking can be seen on the left.



- 3.2. The speed restriction on East Street is 20 mph.
- 3.3. There are raised table uncontrolled pedestrian crossings with buff coloured tactile paving, on East Street, at either end of the Market Place.
- 3.4. There has been one recorded accident in The Marketplace within the last 5 years - a slight collision involving a pedestrian and a goods vehicle.

#### 4. Proposal

- 4.1. The options proposed in this report, are to remove the 9 Parking Bays to the west of the Town Hall and segregate the space created using either removable bollards or planters with removeable bollards interspersed between to prevent vehicles entering the space but keeping it accessible for the Market. Drawings of the two options may be found at the end of this report.
- 4.2. If planters are to be used, the Town Council will be expected to provide and maintain these, but if bollards are used Dorset Council would supply and install.
- 4.3. The proposal is for an initial experimental period of 6 months, which if successful can be extended for an extra 12 months or made permanent.
- 4.4. The space will remain Highway land, but the Town Council will be responsible for its' day-to-day operation.
- 4.5. Dorset Council will monitor the impact of the loss of the parking on revenue and, if necessary, identify means to support the operation of the scheme.
- 4.6. Dorset Council will pay for initial works, including removal of road markings and installation of Bollards.
- 4.7. Before a final agreement is made, Dorset Council will need to be satisfied that there is a plan in place to utilise the public space created.
- 4.8. Any proposal will undergo a road safety audit before being implemented.
- 4.9. Note: Designs are subject to feedback from the Town Council and Market operators.

#### 5. Drawing Numbers:

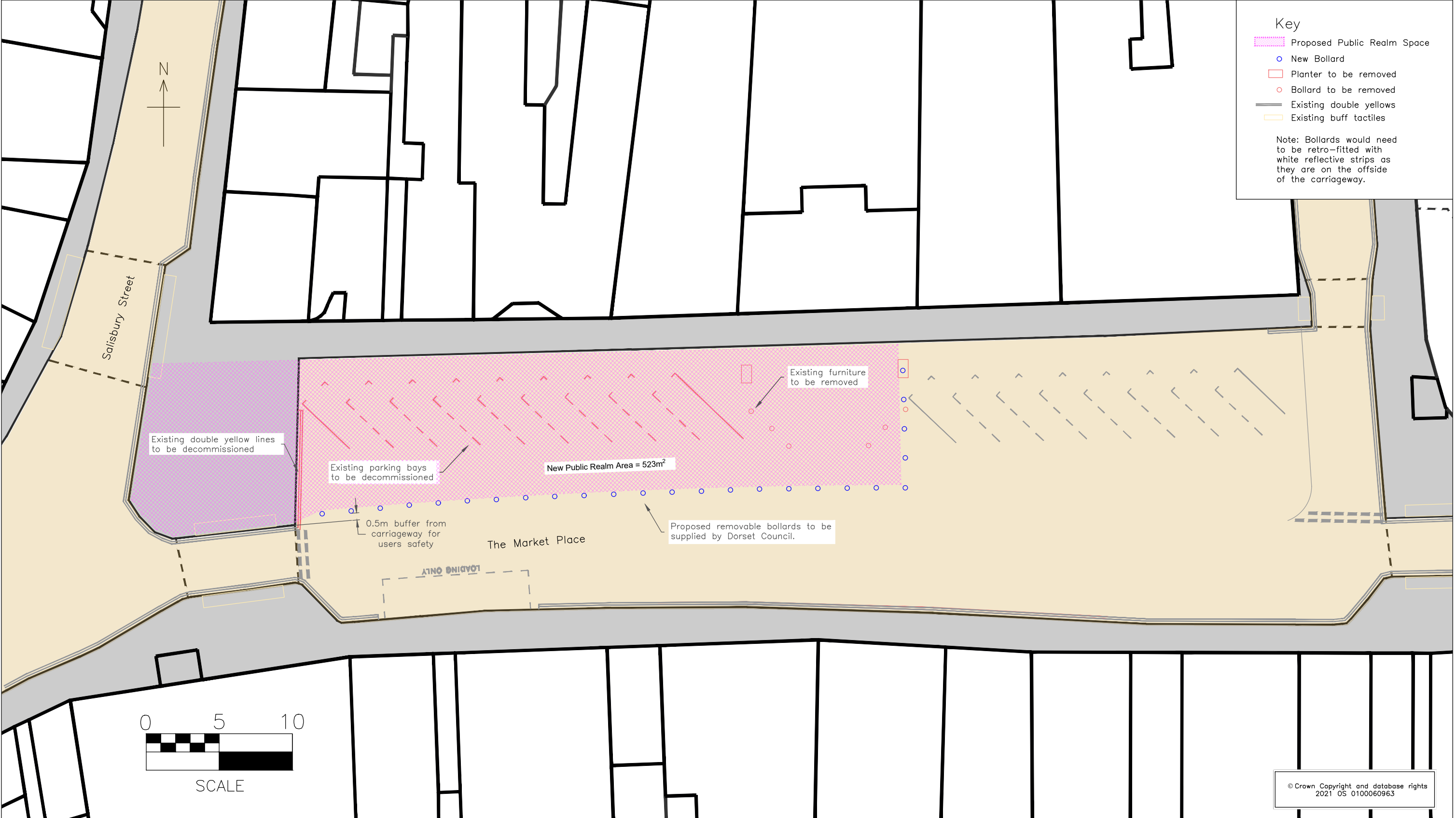
HI1305-201-01-A	Bollard Option
HI1305-201-02-B	Planter Option

#### 6. Estimates:

The estimated cost of installing 25 removeable bollards equates to around £14,000.

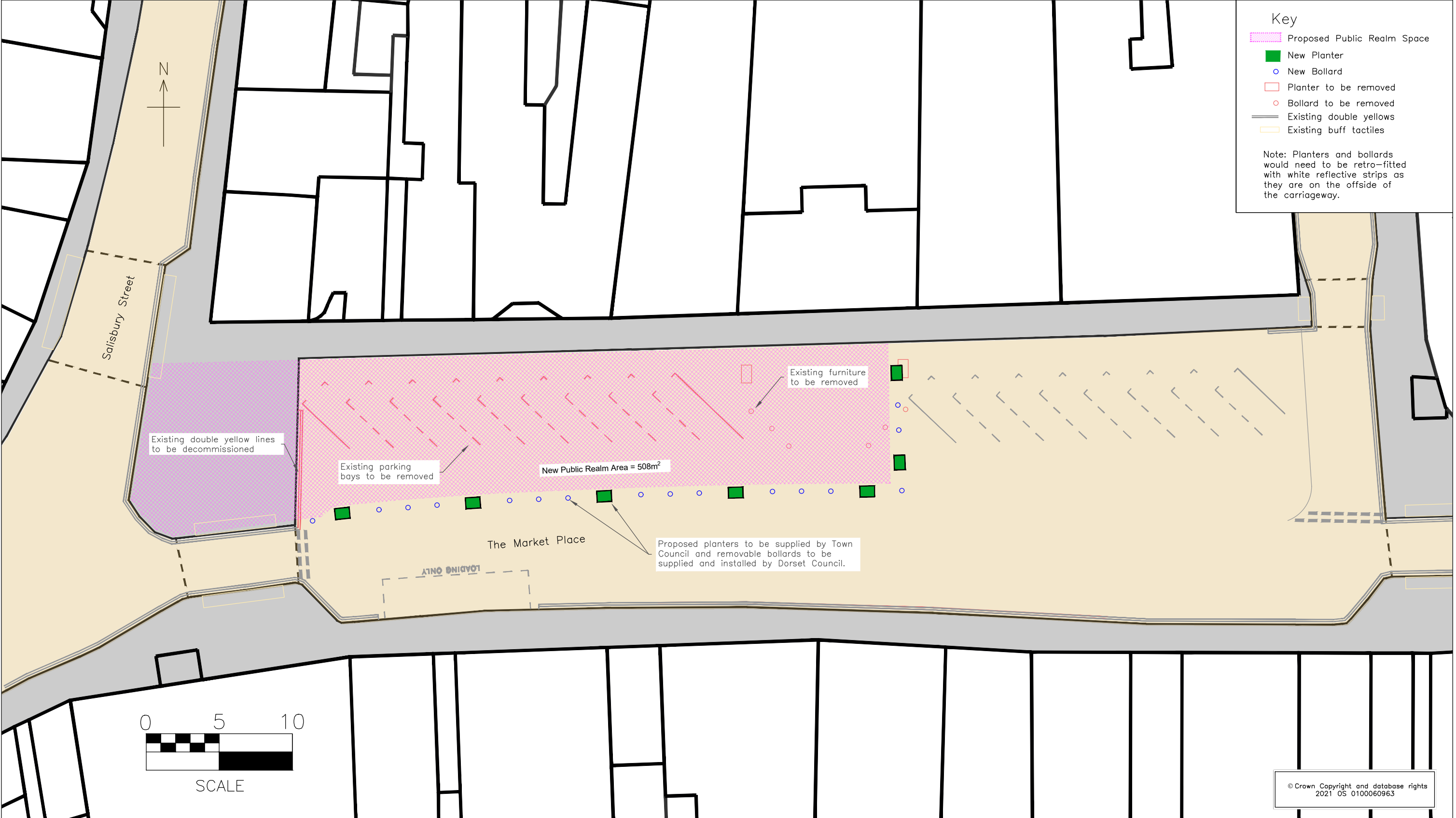
The estimated cost of installing 16 removeable bollards equates to around £9,000.

These costs would be covered by Dorset Council.



<div><div><div>DORSET HIGHWAYS</div><div>Matthew Piles</div><div>Economic Growth and Infrastructure</div></div></div>	Project Title				A Orig	17AUG23 10AUG23	General alterations —	SJB RJT
	BLANDFORD MARKET PLACE PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENTS							
	Drawing Title		Drawing Number					
BOLLARD OPTION		HI1305/201/01/A						
Scale (A3 Size)		Drawn	Date	Drawing Status		Rev	Date	Issue / Remarks
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	Drawing Title  PLANTER OPTION			Drawing Number  HI1305/201/02/B					
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