

Statement of Reasons

Proposed 50mph Speed Limits – Bath Road (A430/A38/B4008), Parishes of Hardwicke, Hunts Grove, Haresfield and Standish in the Stroud District

Proposal

The proposal is to reduce the existing 60mph/National speed limits on various parts of Bath Road (encompassing the A430/A38/B4008 sections) to a 50mph speed limit.

Reasons

In 2019, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Major Projects Team carried out an improvement scheme at the Cross Keys Roundabout where Bath Road (A430/A38) joins. The design was based on the speed limit of feeder roads being reduced to 50mph.

During the design process, a Road Restraint Risk Assessment Process (RRRAP) was carried out on the safety barrier along Bath Road (A38) on the approach to the Cross Keys Roundabout from the M5 Junction 12 direction and some recommendations were raised in conjunction with the reduction of the speed limit to 50mph.

It was envisaged that the whole of the Bath Road (A430/A38/B4008) would be subject to a 50mph speed limit from the Cross Keys Roundabout to the existing 50mph speed limit on the B4008 in Standish on the recommendation of the GCC Road Safety Manager due to 10 slight and 3 serious collisions in the past 5 years along the B4008 section. However, a shorter extent of the existing National Speed Limit will remain either side, and across, the M5 bridge at Junction 12, as it would be difficult to erect speed limit signs on the Strategic Road Network (SRN), which is managed by National Highways, at the tops of the exit slip roads at Junction 12. As this is an existing de-restricted part of the road it does not require a traffic order.

The proposed 50mph speed limit will, therefore, start again on Bath Road (B4008) at its junction with Mount Farm Lane and continue in a southerly direction to the existing 50mph speed limit in Standish. Reducing the speed limit along this length will help to improve safety along the route.

As part of the assessment for the proposed speed limit reductions, Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) surveys were undertaken in order to ascertain whether the reduction in speed limits would be enforceable and complied with by drivers. The surveys demonstrated that all existing mean vehicle speeds were within the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guideline intervention level of 56mph. As such the police have been consulted and have raised no objections to the proposals.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

GCC are proposing to implement the 50mph speed limit order under Section 84 and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA).

More specifically, according to the RTRA, it is the duty of a highway authority to 'manage their road network' and 'to improve road safety'. Section 122 of the RTRA states that local authorities must, so far as is practicable, exercise their functions under the RTRA so as to 'secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic'.

Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016

All of the associated signing will be in accordance with traffic signs regulations and general directions 2016.

Equality Act 2010

Thorough consideration was given to the equalities duty of the County Council under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.