

Statement of Reasons

Proposed 50mph & 60mph Speed Limits on A38 Southern Connector & Revocation of existing 40mph Speed Limit on B4008 Bristol Road, Hardwicke, Huntsgrove & Quedgeley

Proposal

This is a proposal to:

1. introduce the speed limits detailed in Schedules 1&2 below; and
2. revoke the existing 40mph speed limit on Bristol Road (B4008) on the section of carriageway between Green Lane & the Crosskeys Roundabout to enable this section of road to become a 30mph speed limit by virtue of street lighting (restricted road).

Schedule 1 **50mph Speed Limit**

Road Name & Number	Description
A38 Crosskeys Roundabout (A38)	For its entire length
Southern Connector (A38) (Northbound)	From its junction with the A38 Crosskeys Roundabout (A38) to a point approximately 116m south-west of the southernmost kerb line of the A38 roundabout junction (with Waterwells Drive (482652)).
Southern Connector (A38) (Southbound)	From a point approximately 116m south-west of the southernmost kerb line of the A38 roundabout junction (with Waterwells Drive (482652)) to its junction with the A38 Crosskeys Roundabout (A38).
Bristol Road (B4008) Northbound slip road	From its junction with the Southern Connector (A38) for a distance of 120m in a north-easterly direction

Schedule 2 **60mph Speed Limit**

Road Name & Number	Description
Southern Connector (A38) (Northbound)	From a point approximately 116m south-west of the southernmost kerb line of the A38 roundabout junction (with Waterwells Drive (482652)) to the existing 30mph speed limit on the Southern Connector (A38) south of Slip Road from Tuffley Lane Roundabout to Southern Connector (C8010) (Known as Greenhill Drive).
Southern Connector (A38) (Southbound)	From the existing 30mph speed limit on the Southern Connector (A38) south of Slip Road from Tuffley Lane Roundabout to Southern Connector (C8010) (Known as Greenhill Drive) to a point approximately 116m south-west of the southernmost kerb line of the A38 roundabout junction (with Waterwells Drive (482652)).

Reasons

In 2020, Gloucestershire County Council advertised a number of Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) proposals associated with the Hunts Grove development (planning reference S.18/2782/OUT). However, construction works relating to some of these proposals were not completed within the statutory period prescribed by The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, which require that a TRO be made within two years of first being advertised. As a result, those proposals expired and need to be re-advertised.

As part of the Hunts Grove development, a new signalised junction was constructed at the A38/B4008 junction. To facilitate the safe operation of this junction and the associated highway network at the opening of the new junction, the signed speed limits on the A38 & B4008 were reduced. As a result, there is currently a discrepancy between the speed limits signed on-site and the extents currently prescribed within the relevant Traffic Orders. Therefore, it is necessary to re-advertise the affected speed limit proposals to ensure that the signed limits are supported by the appropriate legal Traffic Orders and that the extents of those Orders accurately reflect the existing highway layout.

The proposed 50mph speed limit on the A38 Southern Connector is required to support the safe operation of the new signalised junction serving the Hunts Grove development. The reduction in vehicle speeds will improve driver awareness of the junction, provide increased opportunity for drivers to react to changing traffic conditions, and contribute to the overall safety of all road users.

In addition, the revocation of the existing 40mph speed limit is proposed to allow these sections of highway to become subject to a 30mph speed limit by virtue of the system of street lighting. These roads will function as local access routes serving residential neighbourhoods, businesses and community facilities associated with the development. The proposed speed limit arrangements are considered appropriate to the character and function of the roads, helping to improve road safety, accessibility and connectivity for all users while supporting the continued development of the area.

The proposed 60mph speed limits included within this package are an admin exercise to ensure they align with the new proposed 50mph speed limit extents.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

The Council is proposing to implement the 30mph, 50mph & 60mph speed limits under Sections 81-84 and Part IV or 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'.

The proposals therefore accord with the RTRA.

Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016

The associated signing and lining will be in accordance with Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 and Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 3.

Equality Act 2010

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