

Harlaxton Parish Council Lincolnshire

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TRAFFIC REPORT HARLAXTON VILLAGE

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TRAFFIC ISSUES IN HARLAXTON VILLAGE

1 INTRODUCTION

This report has been compiled by Harlaxton Parish Council as part of its response to the many complaints received from residents about vehicles speeding through the village over recent years. The roads raising most concern are the A607 (50mph speed limit), The Drift, Swine Hill, High Street and, to a lesser degree, Rectory Lane (all 30mph speed limit).

There is particular concern about the safety of pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists, as well as people in vehicles, at the crossroads near The Gregory Arms. Vehicles and pedestrians crossing to and from The Drift and High Street must cross the A607 at this point. This junction is seen to be particularly hazardous at school drop off and pick up times when there is an increased number of vehicles using the junction.

Traffic congestion near the school on Swine Hill at pick up and drop off times is also problematic. Parking on the roadside narrows the carriageway considerably and the congestion is worsened by vehicles using the entrance to the doctor's surgery and field entrances further up Swine Hill to turn around.

The purpose of this report is to advise Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Police, who are responsible for road safety and enforcing speed limits, of the scale of the problem and ask for appropriate measures to be introduced to address the issues raised.

2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- A607
 - 12% of vehicles travelling east towards Grantham on the A607 were exceeding the 50mph speed limit. Average number of speeders /day = 441.
 - The highest speed recorded travelling east on the A607 was between 100mph and 105mph.
 - 15% of vehicles on the A607 travelling west towards Melton Mowbray in the centre of the village were exceeding the 50mph speed limit. Leaving the village to the west the number of vehicles exceeding the 50mph was 23%. Average number of speeders/day = 607.
 - The highest speed recorded travelling west on the A607 was between 110mph and 115mph.
 - Around 50% of vehicles are turning on/off or crossing the A607 at times of peak traffic flow coinciding with school drop off/pick up and commuting to/from work times.
- The Drift
 - 21% of vehicles travelling south on The Drift towards the A607 crossroads (uphill) were exceeding the 30mph speed limit. Average number of speeders /day = 93.
 - The highest speed recorded travelling south was 55mph
 - 39% of vehicles travelling north on The Drift towards Grantham Canal (downhill) were exceeding the 30mph speed limit. Average number of speeders/day = 165.
 - The highest speed recorded was between 70mph.
- High Street
 - 16% of vehicles travelling in both directions were exceeding the 30mph speed limit. Average number of speeders /day = 135.
 - The highest speed recorded travelling was between 50mph and 55mph.

- Swine Hill
 - 26% of vehicles were exceeding the speed limit travelling north into the village on Swine Hill (downhill) during school term time. Average number of speeders/day = 95.
 - 29% of vehicles were exceeding the speed limit travelling north into the village on Swine Hill (downhill) during school holidays. Average number of speeders/day = 131.
 - The highest speed recorded on Swine Hill was 60mph.

3 SPEEDING

To inform drivers of the need to slow down and quantify the speeding problem, the Parish Council purchased a Speed Indicator Device which has, to date, provided data for The Drift and Swine Hill. As the Speed Indicator Device cannot be used on the A607 due to the 50mph speed limit on that road, Nationwide Data Collection company were commissioned to conduct an automatic traffic count and speeding survey on the A607. (Data was also collected on the High Street and The Drift close to the A607 crossroads and this has provided information about the numbers, types and speed of vehicles using the 4-way junction).



Data Collection Points

Site 1 A607 - To the west of the village close to village sign.

Site 3 A607 - Near Gregory Arms close to the crossroads

Site 2 The Drift – South end

Site 4 High Street – Adjacent to No.23

Site 5 The Drift – Adjacent to No.12

Site 6 The Drift – Adjacent No.3

Site 7 Swine Hill – Adjacent to No.32

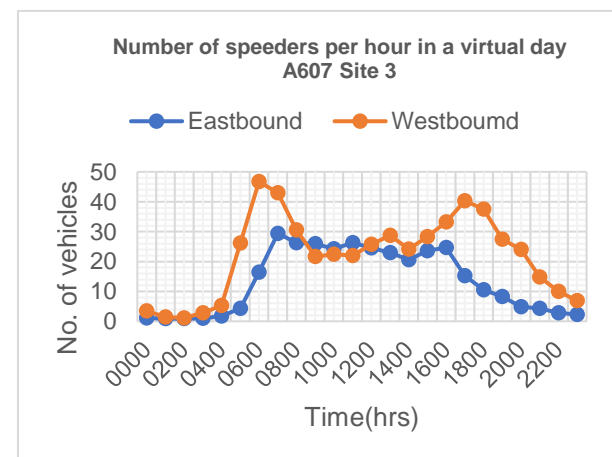
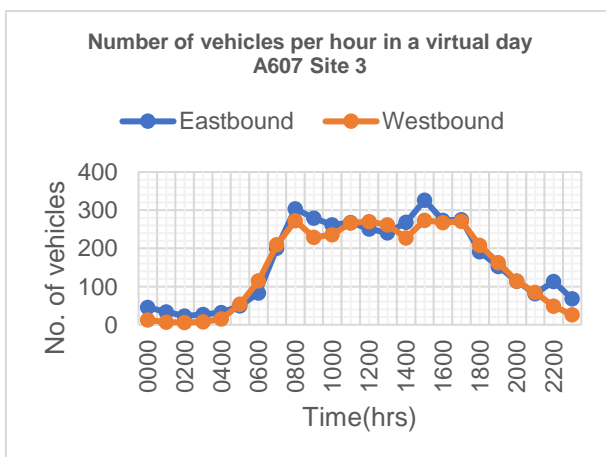
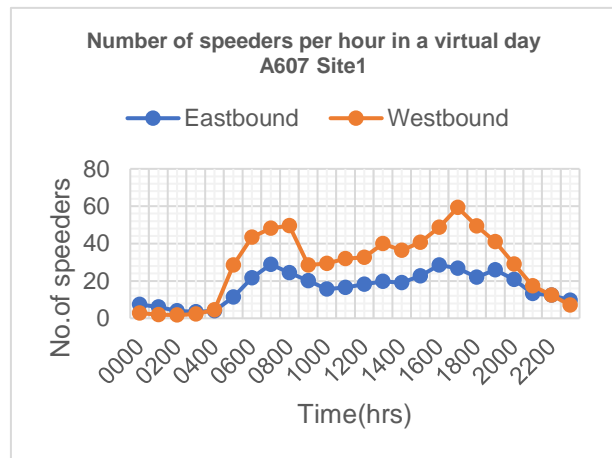
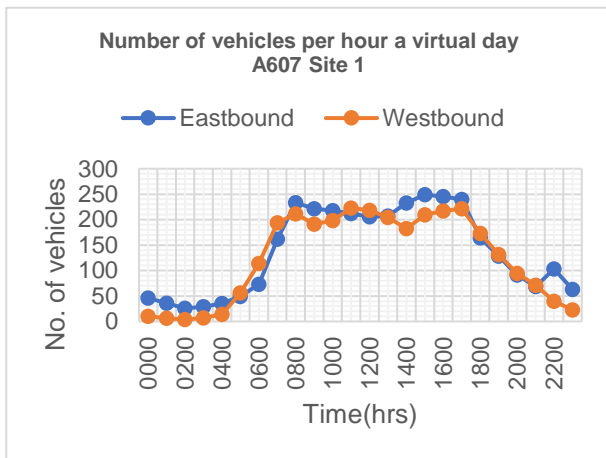
3.1 A607 (50mph) Sites 1&3– Results from Nationwide Data Collection ATC – Sites 1 & 3

Summary Chart A607

Location	Time period (7 days)	Number of vehicles in Sample	Average Number of Vehicles per day	Total Speeders > 50mph	Average Number of Speeders per day	% Speeding	Maximum Speed Recorded
A607 Site 1 Eastbound	12/07/22 - 18/07/22	23366	3338	2818	402	12%	90+mph
A607 Site1 Westbound	12/07/22 - 18/07/22	21105	3015	4804	687	23%	110+mph
A607 Site 2 Eastbound	12/07/22 - 18/07/22	27718	3960	3365	480	12%	100+mph
A607 Site 2 Westbound	12/07/22 - 18/07/22	25506	3865	3695	527	15%	80+mph

Note: This data includes an overnight diversion route in place from the 12th to 14th July that was directing northbound traffic along the A607 and through Harlaxton.

The data shows that at least 12% of vehicles travelling east through Harlaxton village on the A607 were exceeding the 50mph speed limit. 23% of vehicles travelling west from the direction of Grantham towards Melton Mowbray are travelling above 50mph. The average number of speeders per day on the A607 was 524.

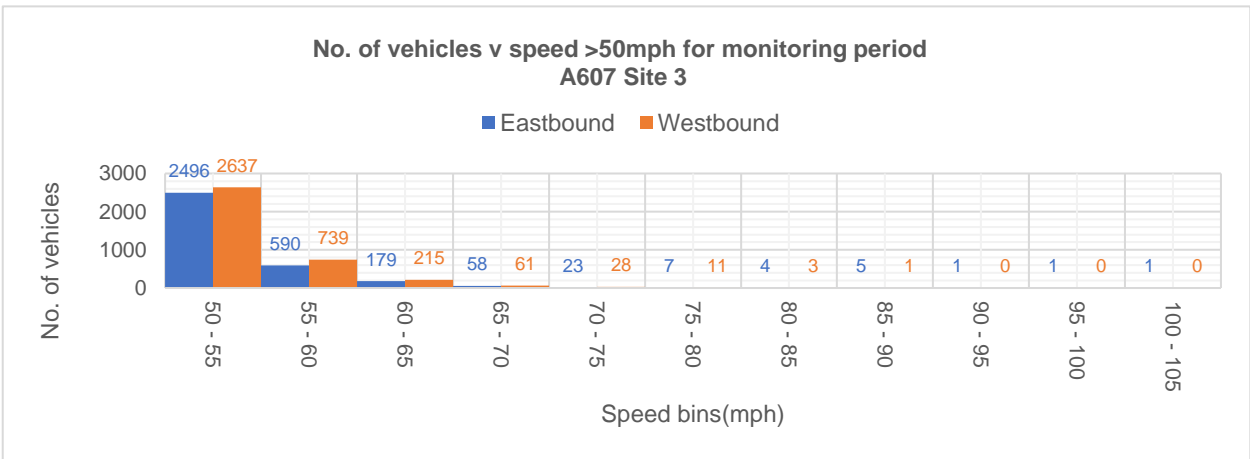
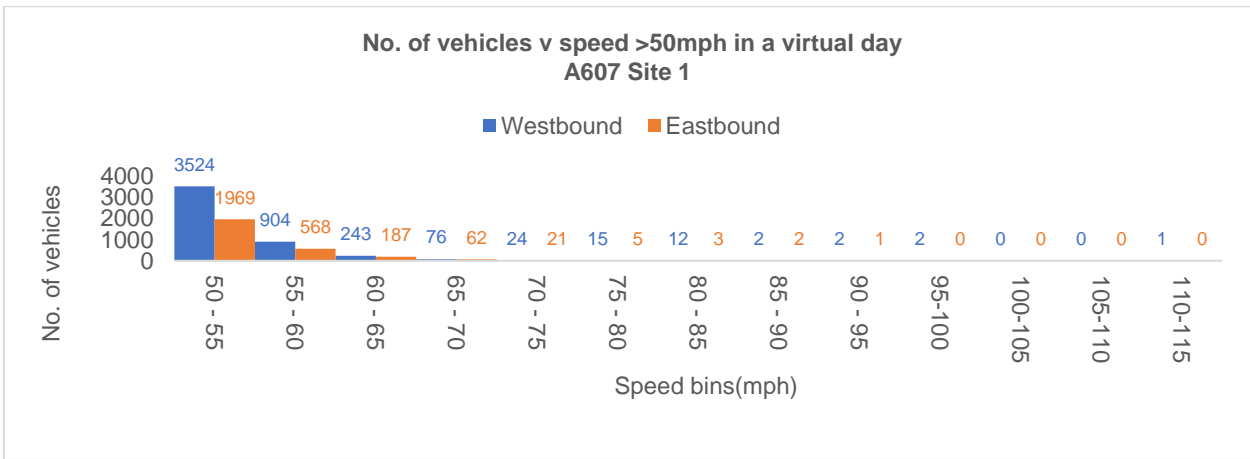


At site 1 A607, near the village sign to the west of Harlaxton, for vehicles travelling east towards Grantham the traffic flow is at its highest between 08.00hrs and 09.00hrs in the morning. In the afternoon peak traffic flow was fairly constant between 08.00hrs and 18.00hrs with slight peaked between 08.00hrs and 09.00hrs.

Speeding vehicle numbers peaked between 07.00hrs and 08.00hrs in the morning. In the afternoon at site 1, the total number of vehicles peaks between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs and the number of speeders peaks between 17.00hrs and 18.00hrs.

At site 3 A607, close to the Gregory Arms, the number of vehicles travelling in both directions peaked at between 08.00hrs and 09.00hrs in the morning. In the afternoon, peak traffic flow was between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs for vehicles travelling east towards Grantham. For vehicles travelling west towards Melton Mowbray, peak traffic flow was between 15.00hrs and 18.00hrs.

For vehicles travelling east at site 3, the number of speeders per hour was fairly constant between 07.00hrs and 17.00hrs. For vehicles travelling west at Site 3, the number of speeders peaked between 06.00hrs and 07.00hrs in the morning and between 17.00hrs and 18.00hrs in the afternoon



At site 1, out of 7622 speeders recorded, a total of 658 vehicles were exceeding 60mph on this single carriageway road in the 7day period of monitoring. of these, 90 were travelling at speeds >70mph, 25 at speeds >80mph, vehicles 3 >90mph and 1 >110mph. The daily average number of speeders exceeding 60mph was 94.

For the period sampled, the highest speed measured was between 110mph and 115mph on Tuesday July 12 between 18.00hrs and 19.00hrs travelling west towards Melton Mowbray.

At site 3, out of a total of 7060 speeders recorded, 598 vehicles were exceeding 60mph on this single carriageway road in the 7day period of monitoring. 85 of these were travelling at speeds >70mph, 16 at speeds >80mph, 3 vehicles >90mh and 1 >100mph. The daily average number of speeders exceeding 60mph was 85.

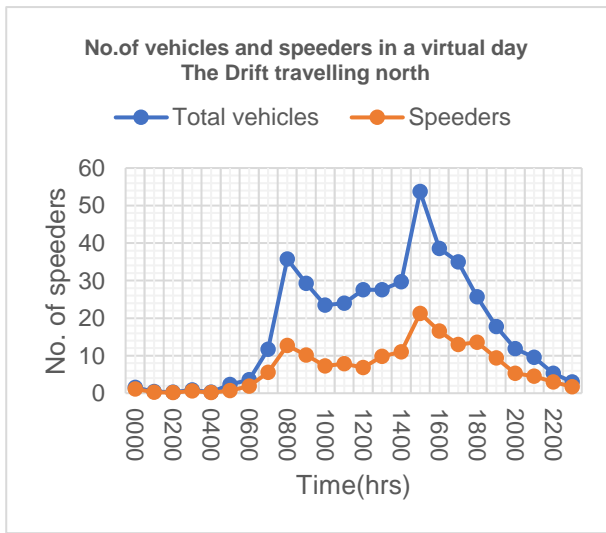
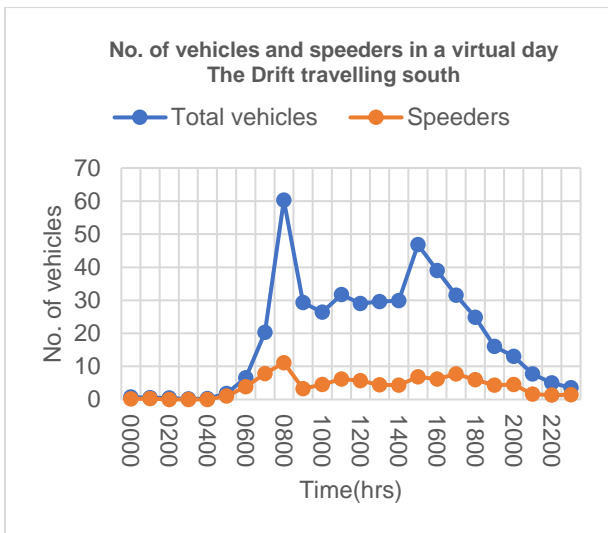
For the period sampled, the highest speed measured was between 100 mph and 105mph on Thursday July 14 between 20.00hrs and 21.00hrs travelling west towards Grantham.

3.2 The Drift (30mph) Sites 5&6 – Results from Harlaxton Parish Council Speed Indicator Device

Summary Chart – The Drift

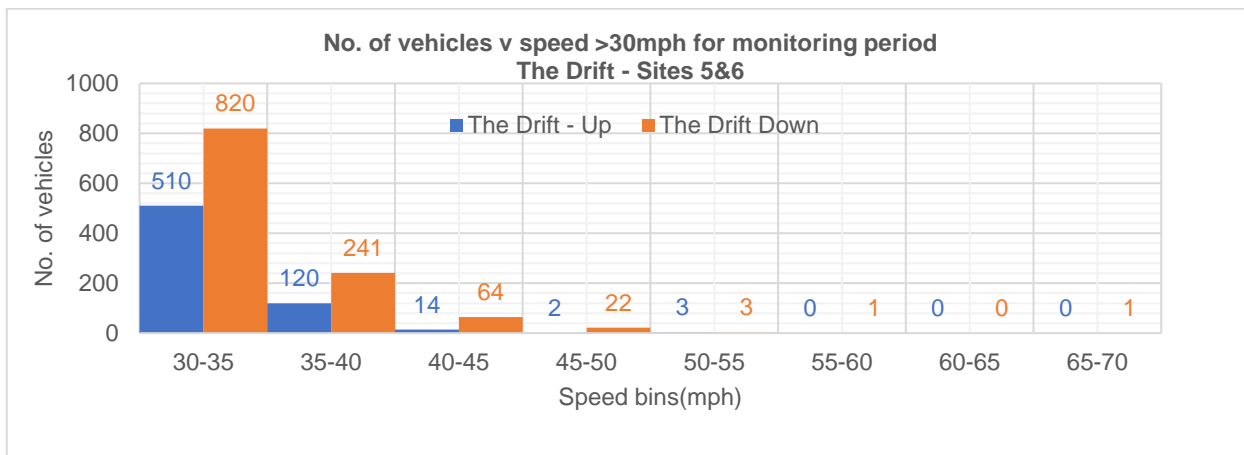
Location	Time Period	Number of Vehicles in Sample	Average Number of Vehicles per day	Total Speeders > 30mph	Average Number of Speeders per day	% Speeding	Maximum Speed Recorded
The Drift (Up) Site 3 Travelling South	10/05/22 - 16/05/22	3182	455	649	93	21%	55mph
The Drift (Down) Site 4 Travelling North	21/05/22 - 27/05/22	2931	419	1152	165	39%	70mph

The data shows that 39% of drivers exceeded the 30mph speed limit travelling down The Drift towards Grantham Canal over the 7day monitoring period. 21% of vehicles travelling up The Drift towards the crossroads with the A607 were exceeding the speed limit. The average number of speeders per day on The Drift was 129.



Travelling south up The Drift towards the A607 the number of vehicles and the number of speeders both peaked between 08.00hrs and 09.00hrs. In the afternoon, peak traffic flow was between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs and the number of speeders stayed fairly constant throughout the afternoon and evening.

Travelling north down The Drift towards Grantham Canal, the traffic flow and speeding numbers were highest between 08.00hrs and 09.00hrs and, in the afternoon, the total number of vehicles and speeders peaked between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs



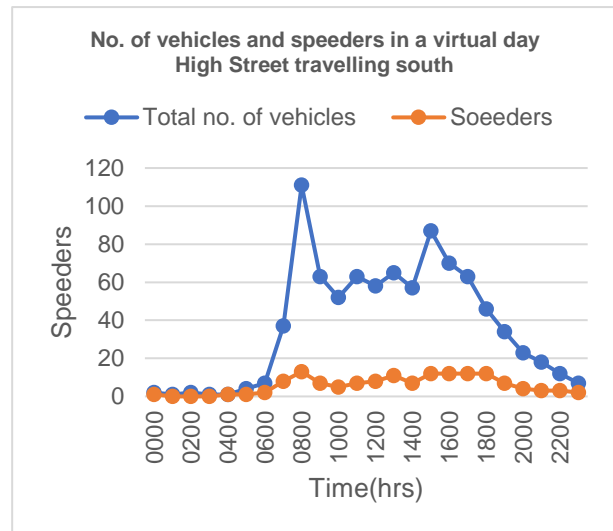
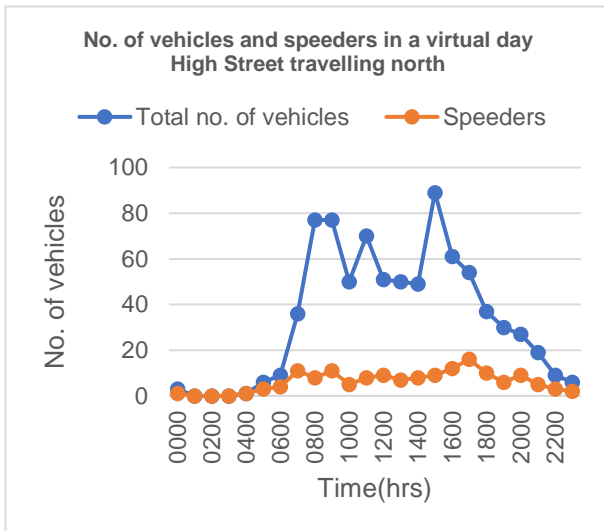
Out of a total of 1801 speeders recorded on The Drift a total of 472 vehicles were exceeding 35mph in the 7day period of monitoring. 32 of these were travelling at speeds >45mph, 1 at speeds >65mph. For the period sampled, the highest speed measured was between 65mph and 70mph on 24/06/22 at 18.55hrs

3.3 High St (30mph) Site 4 – Results from Nationwide Data Collection ATC

Summary Chart - High Street

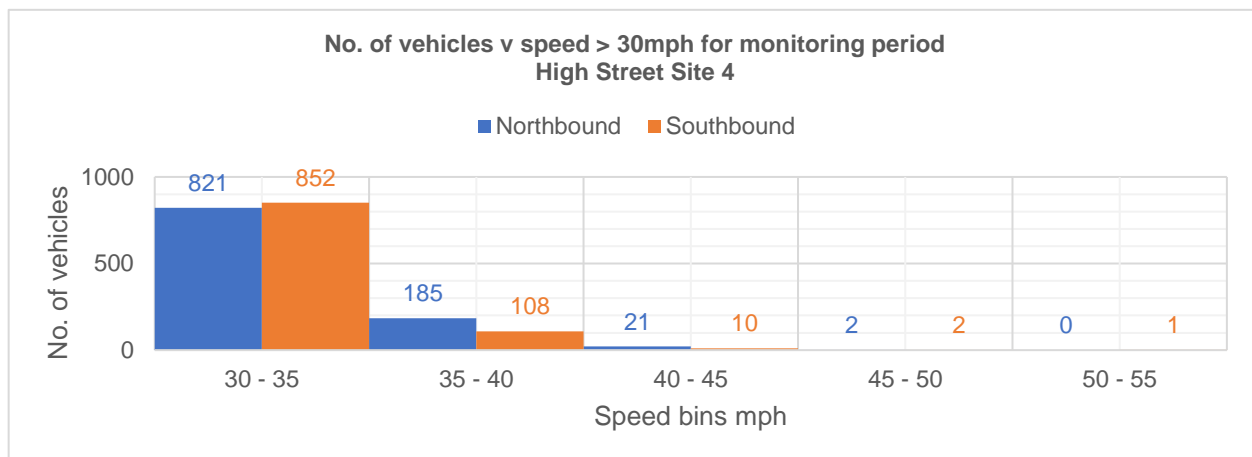
Location	Time Period	Number of Vehicles in Sample	Average Number of Vehicles per day	Total Speeders > 30mph	Average Number of Speeders per day	% Speeding	Maximum Speed Recorded
High St Travelling North	12/07/22 - 18/07/22	5695	814	915	131	16	45-50mph
High St Travelling South	12/07/22 - 18/07/22	6181	883	973	139	16	50-55mph

The data shows 16% of vehicles travelling on High Street exceeding the 30mph speed limit. The average number of speeders per day on High Street was 135



Travelling north up High Street towards the A607, the number of vehicles peaked from 08.00hrs to 10.00hrs in the morning and from 15.00hrs to 16.00hrs in the afternoon. The number of speeders in the morning peaked between 07.00hrs and 08.00hrs and again between 09.00hrs and 10.00hrs. In the afternoon, peak traffic was between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs and the number of speeders peaked from 17.00hrs and 18.00hrs

Travelling south down High Street into the village, the traffic flow and speeding numbers were highest between 08.00hrs and 09.00hrs in the morning. The afternoon, peak traffic flow was between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs and the number of speeders peaked from 15.00hrs and 19.00hrs.



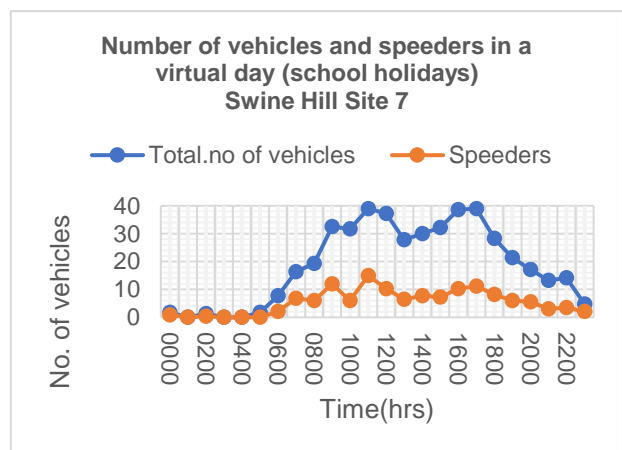
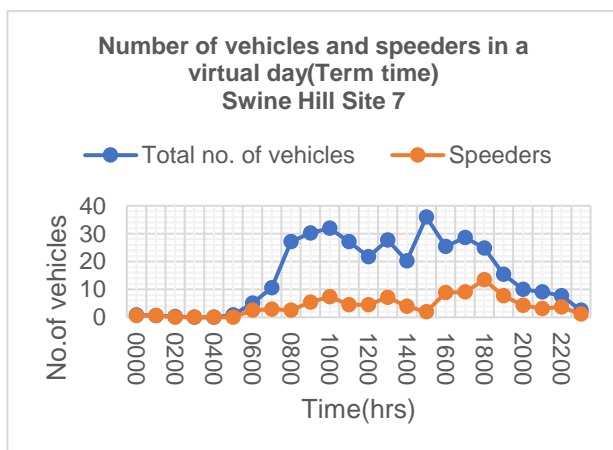
Out of a total of 1888 speeders recorded on High Street a total of 372 vehicles were exceeding 35mph in the 7day period of monitoring. 36 of these were travelling at speeds >45mph. For the period sampled, the highest speed measured was between 50mph and 55mph on 13/07/22 between 13.00hrs and 14.00hrs.

3.4 Swine Hill (30mph) Site 7 - Results from Harlaxton Parish Council Speed Indicator Device

Summary Chart – Swine Hill

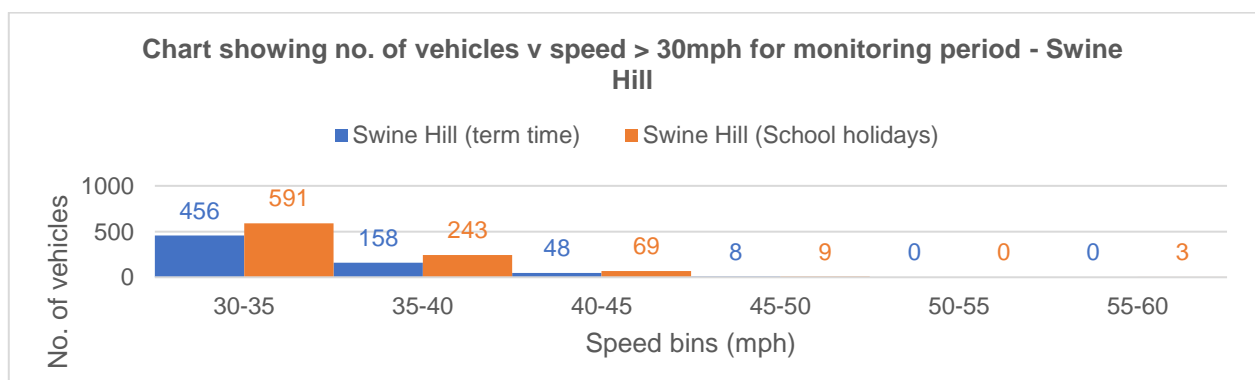
Location	Time Period	Number of Vehicles in Sample	Average Number of Vehicles per day	Total Speeders > 30mph	Average Number of Speeders per day	% Speeding	Maximum Speed Recorded
Swine Hill Travelling north (School Term)	21/06/22 – 27/06/22	2550	364	670	95	26%	50mph
Swine Hill Travelling north (School Holidays)	01/08/22 – 07/08/22	3186	455	915	131	29%	60mph

The data shows that, 26% of drivers exceeded the 30mph speed limit travelling north down Swine Hill into Harlaxton village over the 7day monitoring period during school term time. During the 7day period monitored in school holiday time, 29% of vehicles were exceeding the speed limit coming into the village on this road. The average number of speeders per day on in school term time is 95 and this increases to 131 per day in school holidays.



In school term time the number of vehicles and the number of speeders both peaked between 10.00hrs and 11.00hrs in the morning. In the afternoon, peak traffic flow was between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs and the number of speeders peaked between 18.00hrs and 19.00hrs.

In school holiday time the number of vehicles and the number of speeders both peaked between 11.00hrs and 12.00hrs in the morning. In the afternoon, peak traffic flow was between 16.00hrs and 18.00hrs and the number of speeders peaked at the same time.



During the 7day period of monitoring during term time, out of a total of 670 speeders recorded on Swine Hill, a total of 214 vehicles were exceeding 35mph. 8 of these were travelling at speeds >45mph. For the period sampled, the highest speed measured was 50mph on 27/06/22 at 17.25hrs

In the school holidays, 915 speeders were recorded and 342 vehicles were exceeding 35mph in the 7day period of monitoring. 12 of these were travelling at speeds >45mph. For the period sampled, the highest speed measured was 60mph on 06/08/22 at 21.10hrs

4 ISSUES AROUND CROSSROADS IN HARLAXTON

Safety at the crossroads where The Drift from the north and High Street from the south meet the A607 has been an area of concern to Harlaxton residents for many years and this issue has been raised with Lincolnshire Highways in the past. This is a busy junction where it is necessary for vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders to cross over the 50mph A607. Bearing in mind that 25% of the properties in the village lie to the North of the A607, this junction is seen to be particularly hazardous at times of peak traffic flow when parents and children are crossing the A607 to access the local school which lies in the southern part of the village. Pedestrians also cross close to this point to get/to from The Gregory Arms and Harlaxton Manor.

Nationwide Data Collection company were commissioned to conduct an automatic traffic count and speeding survey to assess speeds, numbers and types of vehicles on the A607, The Drift and High St at the 4-way junction.

Breakdown of vehicles turning on and off or crossing the A607

Time	No. of vehicles on A607	No. of vehicles turning or crossing	% of vehicles turning or crossing
0000	59	6	11%
0100	43	2	5%
0200	32	3	11%
0300	37	2	6%
0400	50	3	7%
0500	103	16	15%
0600	188	31	16%
0700	371	117	30%
0800	505	290	56%
0900	451	214	46%
1000	454	156	34%
1100	479	193	39%
1200	476	172	37%
1300	468	174	39%
1400	460	164	36%
1500	523	270	50%
1600	513	214	44%
1700	511	194	39%
1800	372	135	37%
1900	290	113	40%
2000	206	87	42%
2100	152	62	41%
2200	152	34	22%
2300	89	19	21%

At times of peak traffic flow, 08.00hrs to 09.00 hrs in the morning and 15.00 to 16.00hrs in the afternoon, 50% or more of the vehicles at the junction are turning on/off or crossing the A607. This coincides with school drop off and pick up times at the village school and there are likely to be more pedestrians (including a high proportion of children under 11 years old) crossing the A607 to and from The Drift and High Street.

Types of vehicles using A607 in a virtual Day

1 MCL	2 SV	3 SVT	4 TB2	5 TB3	6 T4	7 ART3	8 ART4	9 ART5	10 ART6
LIGHT			MEDIUM			HEAVY			
Very Short - Bicycle or Motorcycle	Short -Sedan, Wagon, 4WD, Utility, Light Van	Short Towing -Trailer, Caravan , Boat, etc.	Two axle truck or Bus	Three axle truck or Bus	Four axle truck	Three axle articulated vehicle or Rigid vehicle and trailer	Four axle articulated vehicle or Rigid vehicle and trailer	Five axle articulated vehicle or Rigid vehicle and trailer	Six (or more) axle articulated vehicle or Rigid vehicle and trailer
179	10725	37	874	32	10	1	13	2	3

Most vehicles using the A607 are classed as light vehicles. Currently, the number of heavy vehicles using the A607 through Harlaxton averages at around 19/day. This could increase by over 100% to 40 per day at certain times of the year if the current planning application for open storage of straw bales on Saltby airfield, which is currently being considered by Melton Borough Council (Ref: [21/01223/FUL](#)), is approved. These vehicles would be travelling from Saltby airfield to Sleaford. Harlaxton Parish Council are also aware that there will be additional traffic in this area if the plans for Harlaxton Manor Walled Gardens (SKDC planning Ref: [S22/1636](#) and [S22/1637](#) are approved and the number of visitors increases. These plans include a new exit onto the A607 to the east of the crossroads. Although any associated increase in vehicle numbers should be outside the morning and afternoon peak hours, the effect of any additional traffic movements in this area must be considered.

5 TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON SWINE HILL AND ADJACENT ROADS

At school drop of and pick up times Swine Hill is heavily congested because of the number of vehicles waiting to drop off/pick up children from school. Vehicles parking on Manor Drive and Pond Street at these times can also cause problems to local residents and other road users with traffic queuing along Swine Hill and vehicles blocking drives. These are narrow roads and, when traffic is reduced to single file due to parked and turning vehicles, there is little room for vehicles to manoeuvre in this area.

Whilst the nuisance parking and congestion is an issue, ironically it does appear to reduce the number of vehicles speeding down Swine Hill.

6 CONCLUSION

The data collected shows that there are significant numbers of vehicles speeding in and through Harlaxton and measures need to be introduced to deter speeders and enforce the speed limits.

Harlaxton Parish Council's Speed Indicator Device may have reduced the number of vehicles speeding on the 30mph roads where it has been used in the village, but it has certainly not solved the problem and effective deterrents are needed. The A607 has a number of "SLOW DOWN" and "50mph" reminders painted on the road through the village but these are obviously not sufficient to discourage speeding. Harlaxton Parish Council has joined the Community Speed Watch scheme and, through that scheme, high visibility 30mph reminder signs will be bought for location on The Drift, Swine Hill, High Street and Rectory Lane. The Parish Council can do nothing to deter speeding on the 50mph A607 and help and action from the Police and Lincolnshire CC Highways is needed.

With 25% of the residential properties in Harlaxton to the north of the A607 the vehicle interactions at the crossroads of the A607, The Drift and High Street have increased significantly. This, along with the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit on the A607 and the popularity of Harlaxton Primary School for parents of children in neighbouring villages, makes this a high risk location for accidents.

7 ACTION REQUIRED

Harlaxton Parish Council makes the following suggestions for action which could be introduced to address the traffic problems in Harlaxton:

- A607
 1. Reduction in speed limit to 40mph or less.
 2. Speed cameras both ways.
 3. Part time traffic lights at peak school drop off/pick up times to help reduce queueing on High Street access and reduce speeds on A607.

- 30mph zones
 1. Physical traffic calming measures e.g., speed table, humps chicanes.
 2. High visibility speed limit signs.
 3. Possible 20mph limit by the school.

This is not an exclusive list and the Parish Council are using this report to request advice and action from Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Police to help us to address these issues and make our roads less hazardous for all who use them.