

Beaulieu Parish Council

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Vehicle Speed Compliance: Palace Lane Detailed Findings May 2025

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1. Introduction

- In 2024, the Beaulieu Parish Council collaborated with NFDC to discuss issues with vehicular access and possible speeding within the High St.
- One of the additional areas of concern was the hill on Palace Lane as it approaches the village from Hilltop and *vice versa*. It was agreed at the meeting that this was a different issue to the High St and was to be explored later.
- Nevertheless, as part of its continuous evaluation of speed compliance, the BPC agreed with NFDC to install a second Speed Data Recorder (SDR) on the hill to monitor traffic in both the eastward and westward directions. This is the stretch of the B3054 passing through the village that has the highest incidences of speeding and is subject to regular Community Speed Watch monitoring run with the local police.
- The SDR data was gathered by NFDC over two one-week periods: 11-18 March 2024 and 2-9 December 2024 (this was an additional request).
- This pack provides a summary of the combined data sets, evaluates options, and presents recommendations to council.

2. Summary

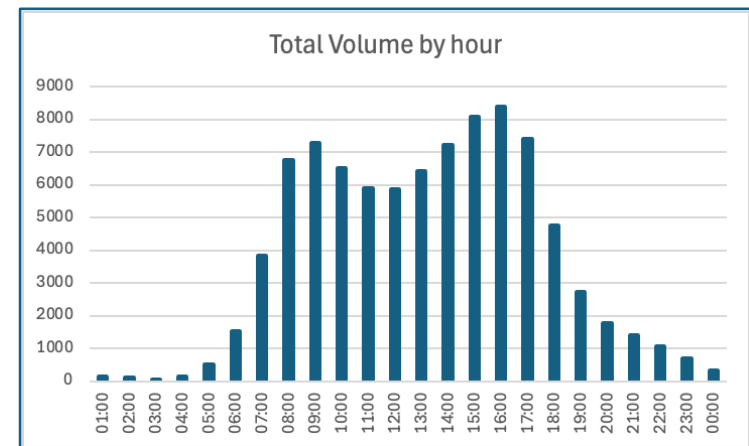
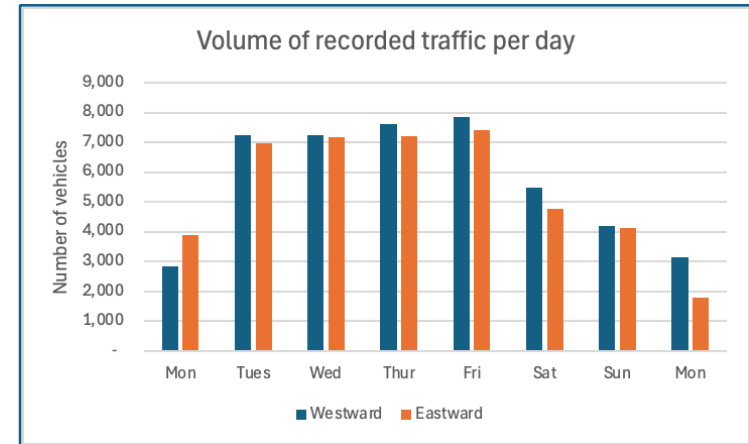
- The B3054 carries a variety of traffic including large vehicles such as articulated lorries, buses and farm vehicles. The route is essential for maintaining traffic flow from Lymington and nearby areas to Waterside and the M27 and *vice versa*. Whilst there have been motoring incidents on this stretch of road, there has been no major accident requiring investigation by HCC Highways.
- Over the two-week period of the SDR review, the speed of 88,978 vehicles was recorded, with an average of 12,884 per 24 hours¹. From the combined results of the two SDRs, 61,231 vehicles (68.8%) adhered to the 30 MPH speed limit.
- In total, 969 vehicles (1.1%) exceeded the speed limit by more than 10 MPH. This group includes 42 vehicles (0.05%) travelling at speeds between 51-61 MPH which, while not numerous, present a particularly high risk to people, animals, and property.
- The significant majority (91.3%) of recorded traffic was between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM with an estimated overall mean average speed of 29.0MPH. Over this period 70.4% of vehicles complied with the speed limit with 94.8% being less than 36MPH. 621 vehicles (0.8%) exceeded the speed limit by more than 10MPH.
- The [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) Vehicle Speed Compliance Statistics for 2023, published by the Department of Transport, indicate that 66% of cars nationally comply with a 30 MPH speed limit in ‘free flow traffic conditions,’ while 4% exceed it by more than 10 MPH.

2. Summary (cont'd)

- The results of the two SDRs are therefore better than the Department of Transport's evaluation of national vehicle speed compliance for 2023, particularly taking into account that westward bound traffic is de-accelerating out of a 40MPH speed limit.
- The number of vehicles per 24 hours on a typical 'A' road is 13,500 and on all other minor roads including 'B' roads is 1,500. Traffic volumes on the B3054 are therefore similar to an 'A' road and significantly higher than a typical 'B' road.
- These results demonstrate that, even with the high levels of traffic equivalent to an 'A' road, the 30 MPH speed limit is effective. This Community Speed Watch programme has been important as part of educating drivers with a view to improving driver behaviour.
- The results of these SDR reviews support the existing assessment that the volume of traffic on this segment of the B3054 poses a significant noise nuisance and pollution hazard, especially to the residents along this stretch of road. Whilst the risk of serious accident exists, especially with the very small proportion of vehicles being driven at high speed, based on previous experience the likelihood of a serious accident remains otherwise low.
- Council shall keep this under ongoing review.

3. Analysis of results

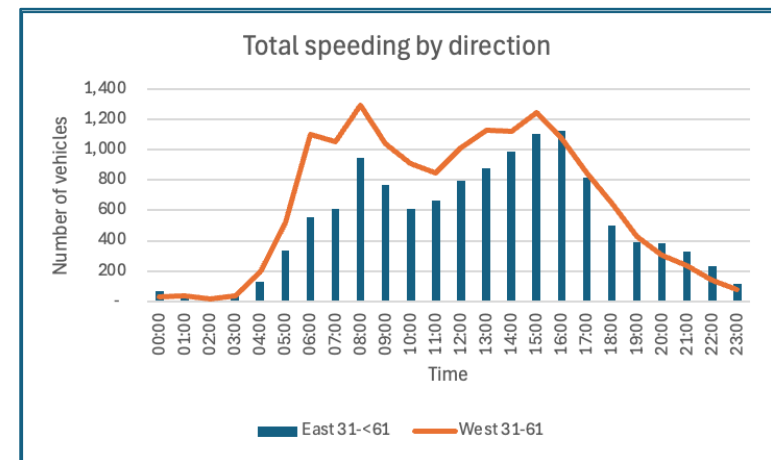
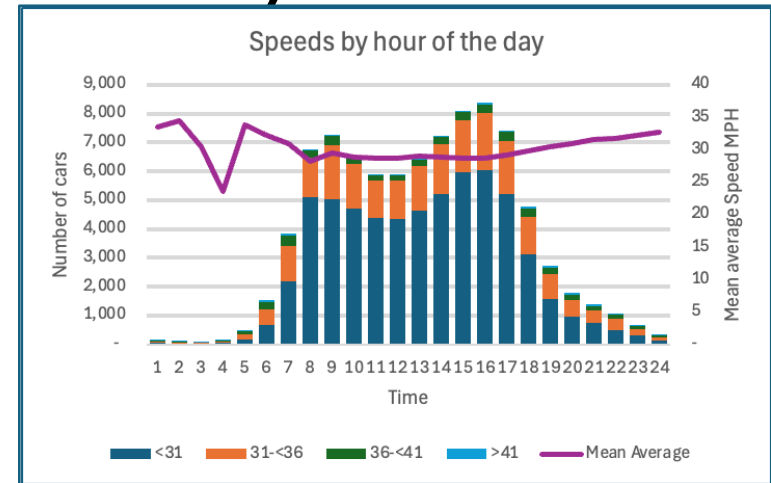
- A total of 88,978 vehicles were monitored during the two review periods¹, with a mean average speed of 29.3MPH. The average number of vehicles per 24 hours² was 12,884, with 51.3% travelling West and 48.7% East. The overall average speed was 29.3MPH.
- The highest levels of traffic were during weekdays, peaking on Friday with 15,262 vehicles. 43% of the total traffic was before midday and 57% afterwards. 91% of traffic was between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM.
- The greatest daily flow of traffic heading West occurred between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM, averaging 664 vehicles per hour, while the peak Eastward flow was recorded between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM, averaging 716 vehicles per hour per day.
- The number of vehicles per 24 hours on a typical A road is 13,500 and on all other minor roads including B roads is 1,500³. Traffic volumes on this stretch of the B3054 are therefore similar to an A road rather than a typical B road.



Note 1: Review periods were Monday 11 March (from 13:00hrs) to Monday 18 March (to 09:00hrs), and Monday, 2 December (from 13:00hrs) to Monday, 18 March (to 11:00hrs).
 Note 2: Based on full day recordings.
 Note 3: Source –GOV.UK Road traffic estimates in Great Britain in 2023.

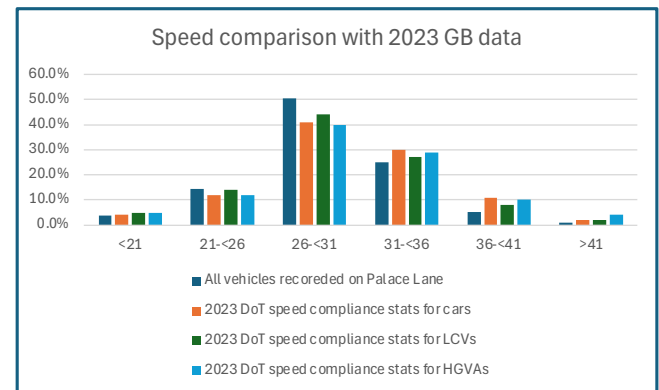
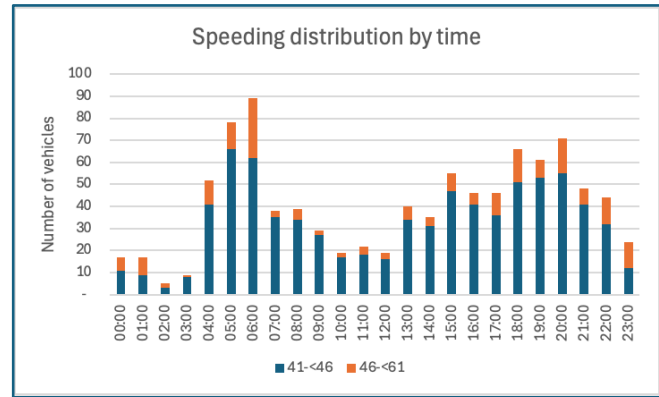
3. Analysis of results (cont'd)

- Out of all vehicles recorded, 61,231 (68.8%) complied with the speed limit, whereas 22,199 (24.9%) were recorded travelling at speeds between 31-<36 MPH; 4,579 (5.1%) ranged from 36-<41 MPH; and 969 (1.1%) went over 41 MPH.
- 42 vehicles (0.05%) travelled at speeds between 51-61 MPH which, while not numerous, present a particularly high risk to people, animals, and property.
- December saw a rise in speeding, with 33.2% of drivers going over the speed limit, compared to 29.3% in March. This pattern corresponds with a modest national increase noted in December.
- In terms of volume, speeding starts to build up at 06:00hrs and starts to subside at 18:00hrs with peaks at 08:00hrs and 15.00hrs. Speeding is highest in the Westward direction (55% of all speeding vehicles), predominately in the morning.



3. Analysis of results (cont'd)

- The significant majority (91.3%) of recorded traffic was between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM with an estimated overall mean average speed of 29.0MPH. Over this period 70.4% of vehicles complied with the speed limit with 94.8% being less than 36MPH. 621 vehicles (0.8%) exceeded the speed limit by more than 10MPH.
- There is a spike of vehicles travelling at high speed (41-<61MPH) during between 05:00hrs and 06:00hrs, and also between 18:00hrs and 20:00hrs
- The [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) Vehicle Speed Compliance Statistics for 2023, published by the Department of Transport⁴, indicate that 66% of cars nationally complied with a 30 MPH speed limit in ‘free flow traffic conditions,’ while 4% exceeded it by more than 10 MPH.
- The combined SDR traffic speed data shows that speed levels across all categories were lower compared to the Department of Transport's evaluation of national vehicle speed compliance in 2023.



Note 4: Vehicle speed compliance statistics for GB: 2023 published by DoT on 18 July 2024

4. Conclusion and recommendation

- The analysis confirms that the B3054 is a busy road, and that speeding is an important risk issue on this stretch of road. The significant majority (91.3%) of recorded traffic was between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM with an estimated overall mean average speed of 29.0MPH. Over this period 70.4% of vehicles complied with the speed limit with 94.8% being less than 36MPH.
- Taking all of these findings into account, the SDR review confirms that the 30 MPH speed limit remains effective. The existing Speedwatch programme on this stretch of road has been helpful and should if possible be maintained as part of an ongoing speed awareness programme; it is likely to have been an important contributory factor to the improved vehicle speeds compared to the national average.
- The results of these SDR reviews support the existing assessment by BPC that the flow of traffic on this segment of the B3054 poses a significant noise and pollution nuisance, especially to the residents along this stretch of road. Based on the outcome of this review and also previous experience, BPC currently concludes that, whilst the risk of serious accident exists especially with the very small proportion of vehicles being driven at high speed, the likelihood of a serious accident otherwise remains low.
- BPC shall keep this under ongoing review.

Annexes

A: Summary of March 2024 SDR data

Summary Table								
Eastwards: Mon 11 to Mon 18 March 2024								
	Total Volume	Mean Average	Volume of cars					
			<21	21-<26	26-<31	31-<36	36-<41	>41
01:00	33	32.3	1	4	8	12	6	2
02:00	18	33.5	-	1	6	8	-	3
03:00	15	22.2	-	1	8	4	1	1
04:00	38	28.3	-	-	9	14	12	3
05:00	140	33.5	-	7	38	53	32	10
06:00	411	32.2	2	21	152	162	59	15
07:00	745	30.4	15	72	346	246	55	11
08:00	1,230	27.8	104	264	557	270	32	3
09:00	1,211	29.0	61	182	596	306	58	8
10:00	1,402	27.7	119	290	693	261	38	1
11:00	1,453	27.3	84	396	749	201	20	3
12:00	1,589	27.8	84	370	814	295	20	6
13:00	1,578	28.0	76	353	844	275	27	3
14:00	1,999	27.8	95	451	1,106	316	28	3
15:00	2,535	27.7	147	590	1,341	408	47	2
16:00	2,509	27.8	189	484	1,305	464	57	10
17:00	2,097	29.4	47	264	1,130	558	88	10
18:00	992	29.6	31	130	493	274	58	6
19:00	561	29.8	17	57	292	154	35	6
20:00	403	30.1	13	62	170	114	30	14
21:00	448	30.7	5	41	222	126	41	13
22:00	288	30.8	9	31	109	97	39	3
23:00	155	33.0	1	12	47	52	31	12
00:00	64	32.2	1	2	25	23	11	2
Total	21,914	28.5	1,101	4,085	11,060	4,693	825	150
% of Total			5%	19%	50%	21%	4%	1%

Summary Table								
Westwards: Mon 11 to Mon 18 March 2024								
	Total Volume	Mean Average	Volume of cars					
			<21	21-<26	26-<31	31-<36	36-<41	>41
01:00	16	34.8	-	1	4	4	4	3
02:00	34	35.1	1	3	9	5	8	8
03:00	15	33.5	-	1	5	6	1	2
04:00	84	18.3	4	24	26	18	9	3
05:00	248	34.0	-	16	68	75	67	22
06:00	736	31.7	9	45	318	233	101	30
07:00	2,029	30.3	21	182	1,078	579	138	31
08:00	2,670	27.6	241	506	1,372	471	67	13
09:00	2,142	29.2	55	269	1,218	507	84	9
10:00	2,156	28.3	97	414	1,173	401	66	5
11:00	1,789	28.9	63	269	987	400	63	7
12:00	1,771	28.9	37	310	961	399	56	8
13:00	1,698	29.4	34	215	946	431	65	7
14:00	1,846	29.4	53	232	979	484	79	19
15:00	1,991	29.6	36	264	1,053	537	87	14
16:00	1,642	29.8	77	191	754	478	119	23
17:00	1,379	30.5	23	135	644	434	121	22
18:00	972	30.4	22	97	458	300	77	18
19:00	571	31.5	15	61	202	189	72	32
20:00	323	32.6	7	28	98	107	53	30
21:00	237	32.5	5	17	92	65	33	25
22:00	149	32.9	2	12	47	47	29	12
23:00	71	33.3	-	2	23	28	13	5
00:00	33	34.1	1	2	10	9	4	7
Total	24,602	30	803	3,296	12,525	6,207	1,416	355
% of Total			3%	13%	51%	25%	6%	1%

B: Summary of December 2024 SDR data

Summary Table								
Eastwards: Monday 2 Dec to Mon 9 Dec 2024								
	Total Volume	Mean Average	Volume of cars					>41
			<21	21-<26	26-<31	31-<36	36-<41	
01:00	70	33.1	1	6	16	28	13	6
02:00	26	34.7	-	1	7	8	8	2
03:00	20	31.0	-	4	6	6	4	-
04:00	17	35.6	-	2	3	1	8	3
05:00	43	35.6	-	2	6	15	12	8
06:00	151	32.9	1	11	40	60	31	8
07:00	424	31.9	2	26	150	185	53	8
08:00	889	29.0	67	145	374	230	62	11
09:00	1,422	30.0	56	132	659	465	100	10
10:00	1,201	29.5	72	147	516	394	65	7
11:00	1,129	29.1	66	148	528	326	57	4
12:00	1,192	28.8	85	124	638	295	48	2
13:00	1,572	29.0	82	204	799	414	67	6
14:00	1,794	28.8	89	288	887	455	67	8
15:00	2,027	28.4	131	329	1,036	461	62	8
16:00	2,503	28.2	127	481	1,320	520	46	9
17:00	2,534	27.7	153	518	1,398	424	38	3
18:00	1,763	28.8	76	280	928	395	79	5
19:00	824	29.8	28	108	382	245	48	13
20:00	563	30.3	20	46	265	178	50	4
21:00	399	31.2	8	31	159	156	34	11
22:00	378	31.3	8	25	156	137	39	13
23:00	291	31.0	9	21	121	101	34	5
00:00	162	32.0	-	12	71	49	21	9
Total	21,394	29.1	1,081	3,091	10,465	5,548	1,046	163
% of Total			5%	14%	49%	26%	5%	1%

Summary Table								
Westwards: Mon 2 Dec to Mon 9 Dec 2024								
	Total Volume	Mean Average	Volume of cars					>41
			<21	21-<26	26-<31	31-<36	36-<41	
01:00	28	34.9	-	2	9	7	4	6
02:00	25	34.3	1	2	5	7	6	4
03:00	11	36.7	1	-	1	1	6	2
04:00	10	30.5	-	3	2	3	2	-
05:00	72	32.6	-	8	33	10	9	12
06:00	238	33.9	-	5	81	72	55	25
07:00	645	32.5	1	25	266	225	89	39
08:00	1,970	29.1	53	262	1,154	417	73	11
09:00	2,506	29.4	26	284	1,504	589	91	12
10:00	1,767	29.7	35	176	987	471	82	16
11:00	1,524	29.3	31	198	858	366	66	5
12:00	1,313	29.4	21	169	741	327	49	6
13:00	1,583	29.4	40	201	835	447	57	3
14:00	1,589	29.8	23	196	826	455	79	10
15:00	1,535	29.6	32	180	837	395	80	11
16:00	1,726	29.6	46	254	804	522	87	13
17:00	1,403	29.9	27	146	733	398	88	11
18:00	1,041	30.9	6	82	501	340	95	17
19:00	775	31.0	10	59	352	264	75	15
20:00	487	31.3	5	38	204	167	60	13
21:00	324	32.3	7	19	119	103	54	22
22:00	251	32.7	2	16	87	88	38	20
23:00	166	33.2	2	11	57	50	24	22
00:00	79	33.9	2	5	16	27	23	6
Total	21,068	30.0	371	2,341	11,012	5,751	1,292	301
% of Total			2%	11%	52%	27%	6%	1%