

STATEMENT OF REASONS

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (A423 SOUTHAM BYPASS) (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2025

1. Background

The proposed S278 scheme is developer funded and includes carriageway widening, new footway and cycle track construction, installing street lighting, new traffic signs, new road markings, new gullies, retaining walls, a new Toucan crossing, new drainage and new boundary fencing. The proposals also include a reduction of the existing national speed limit on the A423 Southam Bypass to 50mph, on the length of road described in Schedule 1 below.

The S278 works are required to provide a new access / egress from the proposed Aldi food store which is to be constructed on land off the A423 Southam Bypass. The carriageway widening is designed to provide additional horizontal carriageway width, so a ghost island right turn lane can be provided for vehicles accessing the store from the south (travelling north on the A423 Southam Bypass). In addition to this, an auxiliary lane will be provided off the A423 Southam Bypass southbound carriageway to allow vehicles to access the store from the north. Both of these measures will provide a safe means of access to the new Aldi store, by allowing vehicles to decelerate whilst not affecting traffic flow on the mainline A423 Southam Bypass.

The proposed speed limit reduction from National Speed Limit to 50mph is recommended following Road Safety Audits (RSA1 & RSA2). The Road Safety Audits recommended reducing the speed limit to 40mph due to an increase in the number of vehicles decelerating on approach to the new store access, together with the increase in the number of pedestrians and cyclists accessing the new store via the new shared footway / cycleway, which is proposed to be constructed on the A423 Southam Bypass. The 40mph speed limit however was not supported due to the current 85th percentile speeds being excess of 45mph, therefore if a 40mph speed limit was to be introduced with no other traffic calming measures, compliance levels with the 40mph speed limit would be low, leading to a higher risk of collisions.

Consultation Plan	Location
19030-TRO-002-B	A423 Southam Bypass, Southam

2. Statement of Reasons

National Speed Limit Reduction to 50mph – A423 Southam Bypass, Southam

It is proposed that the existing National Speed Limit on the A423 Southam Bypass will be reduced to 50mph on the length of road described in Schedule 1 below.

The carriageway referred to in Schedule 1 below, for a length of 828 metres lends itself to a 50mph for this stretch and it would enhance vehicle safety, due to the construction of a new junction providing access to the new Aldi store located off the A423 Southam Bypass, which will introduce a new hazard to users travelling on the A423 Southam Bypass.

A new system of streetlighting will be installed on the A423 Southam Bypass, which will not only cover the S278 extents, but will also mean that the entire A423 Southam Bypass will become

illuminated. This carriageway illumination will assist in improving safety of the A423 Southam Bypass between the A425 Leamington Road / A423 Southam Bypass Roundabout and the A423 Southam Bypass / A425 Daventry Road Roundabout, further reducing the risk of collisions at this location.

The S278 scheme and the proposed speed limit reduction has been designed to provide a safe means of access / egress from the new Aldi store being constructed off the A423 Southam Bypass southbound carriageway.

The proposals are in line with the Department for Transport Circular 01/2013, revised in March 2024, in that the current mean 85th percentile vehicle speeds are between 45-50mph, so the introduction of the 50mph speed limit will not interfere with traffic flow on the A423 Southam Bypass.

In addition to the above, a 50mph speed limit is considered appropriate on higher-quality urban roads, where there is little or no roadside development and a reduced speed can be achieved safely. Roads most suited to higher urban speed limits, are those with segregated junctions or pedestrian facilities. It is proposed, the A423 Southam Bypass will have pedestrian and cycle facilities once the S278 shared use footway cycle track facilities are constructed as part of providing a new access to the Aldi store.

The A423 Southam Bypass is currently partially built up, with minimal roadside development, hence it is considered that a 50mph speed limit is appropriate.

3. Schedules

Schedule 1

Proposed National Speed Limit to 50mph Speed Limit

A423 Southam Bypass, Southam

From a point 78 metres from the centre of the A423 / A425 Banbury Road Roundabout, to a point 104 metres from the centre of the A423 / A425 Daventry Road Roundabout, a total distance of 828 metres.

4. Existing orders to be varied

None

5. Priority

Urgent