

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (GIPSY LANE, NUNEATON)
(18 TONNE WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2023

THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (GIPSY LANE, NUNEATON)
(PROHIBITION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES OF OVER 7.5 TONNES) ORDER 2023

STATEMENT OF REASONS

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In August 2023, a Consultation was carried out to revoke a 7.5tonnes Structural Weight Limit from the Gipsy Lane Canal Bridge as this bridge is now rated to 40tonnes. At the same time apply a 26tonne weight limit to the Wem Brook Bridge as this is now rated to 26tonne on Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton. The proposed Order was named: THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (GIPSY LANE, NUNEATON) (26 TONNE WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2023.
- 1.1 This proposal resulted in 30 Objections and three Petitions totalling 140 signatures; the Petitions were organised via the local Residents' Association.
- 1.2 The main focus of the Residents' concern was the opening up of Gipsy Lane to HGVs etc of 26tonne along a route with two schools. The previous 7.5tonne Structural Weight Limit had previously prevented the use of this route by vehicles heavier than this.
- 1.3 From higher management meetings within Warwickshire County Council and in consideration of the objections received the 26tonne weight limit proposal has been abandoned it was decided to put forward an alternate scheme and advertise new proposals as follows:
- (a) Revoke, as before, the 7.5tonne Weight Limit to Gipsy Lane Canal Bridge, and the part of the road that carries it, as the bridge has recently been rated to carry 40tonnes so the 7.5tonne limit is no longer appropriate.

(b) Introduce an 18tonne Structural Weight limit on the Wem Brook Bridge , and the part of the road that carries it, – bridge location as described in schedule 1 below, as this reduces the stress on the bridge from 100% if crossed by a 26tonne Heavy Commercial Vehicles to 75% if crossed by a 18tonne Heavy Commercial Vehicles.

(c) Introduce a new proposed 7.5tonne Environmental Weight Limit on Gipsy Lane from its junction with Marston Lane, west, to the first junction on the new estate – as described in schedule 2 below (except for access/exemptions apply).

Consultation Drawing Ref.	Location
PTRO23 005 01a PTRO12 005 02	D1454 Gipsy Lane, Yew Tree Farm, Nuneaton

2. STATEMENT OF REASONS

2.1 D1454 Gipsy Lane, Yew Tree Farm, Nuneaton.

Housing development of land and the recent strengthening of the Wem Brook Bridge on Gipsy Lane on the southern side of Nuneaton, has led to a proposal to change the weight limit restriction in that locale.

Currently, there is a 7.5tonne Weak Bridge Order in place on the Gipsy Lane Canal Bridge, this is to be revoked as the bridge is rated to a 40tonne loading, so the current Weight Limit is no longer appropriate.

Similar for the Wem Brook Bridge which is rated to 26tonne. However, to have a 26tonne vehicle going over the bridge would stress it to 100% of capability, not including the built in safety margin. Reducing to 18tonne would mean a stress figure of 75% which would increase its longevity and reduce maintenance over the long term.

The proposal to impose an 18-tonne structural weight limit on Wem Brook Bridge, (location of bridge described in the Schedule 1 below) is for the purposes of:-

-preventing damage to the bridge; and

-preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which is unsuitable.

The proposed 7.5tonne Environmental Weight Limit on the length Gipsy Lane (location described in the Schedule 2 below) (except for access/exemptions apply) will:

- prevent the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property, or
- preserve the amenities of the area through which the road runs

The road layout in the area is such that Commercial vehicles would be tempted to travel along Gipsy Lane from either Bulkington Road or Lutterworth Road towards the A444 and vice versa, thus avoiding travel though Attleborough along the more suitable B4114 and the A4254 to the A444. Gipsy Lane is predominantly residential in nature but also has two schools along this route.

Strategically placing the 7.5t Environmental Weight Limit along a short length of Gipsy Lane protects the schools, residential areas and access to/from the local parkland amenity of Marston Lane Meadows for the residents and its overuse by Commercial vehicles. However, it also allows legitimate access for deliveries to properties to the existing properties off Marston Lane and also the new housing development.

Heavy Commercial Vehicle access in/out to the existing Quarry and the new Housing Estate is expected to continue as in previous years, from Coventry Road junction at the western end of Gipsy Lane.

3. SCHEDULE 1

Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton - Proposed 18 tonne Structural Weight Limit Proposed

(i) that length of Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton, which is carried by the bridge known as Wem Brook Bridge, over Wem Brook- (location of bridge approximately from a point 18m west of the entry point to Gipsy Lane on the western side of the existing traffic island junction with Marston Lane, then in a westerly direction for a distance of 10 metres.)

4. SCHEDULE 2

Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton Proposed 7.5t Environmental Weight Limit

(i) From the entry point to Gipsy Lane on the western side of the existing traffic island junction with Marston Lane, in a westerly direction for a distance of 290 metres .

5. Existing Order to be revoked.

5.1 The Warwickshire County Council (Gypsy Lane Canal Bridge, Nuneaton) (Weight Restriction) Order 1995.

5.2 WCC reference No 294/1995

5.3 Plan Ref. PTRO23 005 01a and PTRO23 005 02

Ends.