

A534 From Junction of Cuckoo Lane/ Wrexham Rd to Ridley



1.0 Introduction

The A534 is a major road providing connectivity from Crewe, Middlewich, Winsford, Stoke on Trent and Stafford through to Wrexham and Beyond

It passes through the parishes of Burland, Brindley and Faddiley.

Over the last few years the Parish councils have faced an increasing number of issues raised by local residents along the route including

- Speeding
- Increased traffic volumes
- Dangerous driving
- High accident incident rate

This report reviews the route to highlight the issues and identify possible solutions.

A number of initiatives have already been implemented but have had little impact – these include

- Use of SIDs at various locations
- Speedwatch within Burland and Faddiley

The issues have been raised repeatedly over a number of years with the Ward councillor, Stan Davies, Local MP, Antoinette Sandbach and various people within Cheshire Police – again with no visible outcomes to date.

2.0 Speed Limits

The speed limit of the road varies along the length as indicated below:



This possibly creates confusion however signage is generally good and clear with adequate repeater signs.

One of the issues raised frequently is the position of the derestriction sign heading Westbound – this is currently at the end of a straight that passes through Burland village and is visible from well within the 30mph zone. This often encourages westbound drivers to overtake vehicles that are obeying the speed limit or to speed up before they exit the 30mph area.

The council have explored the possibility of inking the 30mph zone in Burland through to the 40mph zone in Faddiley however this would appear not to be possible as it does not currently fit the guidance issued by CEC Highways

3.0 SID's

A number of SIDs are utilised along the route – these are not maintained at fixed locations and as such the data they collect is difficult to analyse. However data is available for 2 periods (November 2016 and December 2017) for a device fitted in Burland monitoring westbound traffic

Traffic Report																
Sites:A534 Burland																
Dates:Tue Nov 1 2016 - Wed Nov 30 2016																
Directions:Westbound																
Vehicle Speed Classes (Mph)																
	<15	15 20	20 25	25 30	30 35	35 40	40 45	45 50	50 55	55 60	60 65	65 70	>70	Total	85th Percentile	
00:00	0	0	5	20	45	22	10	6	10	0	2	1	1	122	44.8	
01:00	1	1	0	4	17	11	9	3	3	1	0	0	0	50	43.5	
02:00	0	0	0	0	9	6	9	7	3	4	0	0	0	38	50.9	
03:00	1	0	7	16	18	13	7	3	3	5	0	0	1	74	46.7	
04:00	0	0	4	17	25	18	13	8	9	3	0	1	0	98	48.0	
05:00	0	2	2	38	66	67	49	23	8	3	5	1	0	264	44.1	
06:00	3	5	12	71	152	245	111	86	27	13	13	3	3	744	45.8	
07:00	9	11	55	180	554	270	99	32	16	5	1	1	0	1233	37.7	
08:00	12	2	53	284	476	187	68	32	10	2	1	0	0	1127	36.8	
09:00	13	14	64	319	489	225	48	21	16	3	0	0	0	1212	36.1	
10:00	12	16	61	324	732	209	63	23	4	2	1	2	0	1449	35.5	
11:00	18	18	76	387	693	239	84	30	5	3	2	0	0	1555	36.2	
12:00	24	21	67	365	654	213	70	31	14	6	2	0	0	1467	35.7	
13:00	19	12	60	328	641	277	78	25	22	6	3	2	0	1473	37.3	
14:00	13	11	64	349	571	226	60	25	7	3	2	1	0	1332	36.2	
15:00	19	7	63	350	636	269	78	24	18	6	1	2	0	1473	36.4	
16:00	20	17	72	356	640	342	74	35	9	6	1	0	0	1572	36.5	
17:00	13	12	43	225	619	380	102	42	16	2	2	4	0	1460	37.9	
18:00	11	11	48	217	484	265	105	38	14	11	2	1	0	1207	38.8	
19:00	13	4	26	152	279	207	85	61	13	15	8	3	0	866	41.7	
20:00	7	5	17	90	181	160	96	41	18	5	4	0	2	626	41.9	
21:00	2	7	17	76	157	114	83	38	12	7	0	0	0	513	42.4	
22:00	4	0	11	64	105	123	54	24	21	7	5	2	1	421	43.2	
23:00	0	4	6	30	43	64	18	11	5	2	2	1	0	186	41.3	
AM Total	69	69	339	1660	3276	1512	570	274	114	44	25	9	5			
PM Total	145	111	494	2602	5010	2640	903	395	169	76	32	16	3			
Total	214	180	833	4262	8286	4152	1473	669	283	120	57	25	8			
Percent	1.04%	0.88%	4.05%	20.73%	40.30%	20.19%	7.16%	3.25%	1.38%	0.58%	0.28%	0.12%	0.04%			
Total Vehicles : 20562																
30th Percentile : 29.4 MPH																
50th Percentile : 31.5 MPH																
85th Percentile : 38.2 MPH																
95th Percentile : 44.8 MPH																
Average Speed : 33.0 MPH																
Highest Speed : 79.0 MPH																
Total Over Speed Limit : 67.8 % (13932 / 20562)																

Burland, Brindley and Faddiley Parish Councils
Report an A534 Issues
November 2019

Traffic Report

Sites:A534 Burland
Dates:Thu Dec 1 2016 - Sun Jan 1 2017
Directions:Westbound

	Vehicle Speed Classes (Mph)													Total	85th Percentile
	<15	15 20	20 25	25 30	30 35	35 40	40 45	45 50	50 55	55 60	60 65	65 70	>70		
00:00	6	9	19	121	206	180	111	68	51	18	10	3	1	803	46.2
01:00	8	1	15	56	114	101	61	45	23	12	3	5	2	446	46.5
02:00	1	1	9	49	131	77	72	35	20	10	0	2	0	407	45.0
03:00	3	2	12	82	112	99	77	77	80	25	8	4	2	583	50.7
04:00	3	1	11	83	116	127	98	120	59	27	14	12	4	675	49.7
05:00	6	11	46	243	523	446	247	192	98	45	24	8	9	1898	46.4
06:00	31	41	96	389	1093	1338	698	389	180	75	34	14	6	4384	44.4
07:00	32	60	251	1006	3165	1699	530	242	83	29	13	6	4	7120	38.2
08:00	41	68	282	1528	3043	1297	436	188	108	30	17	3	4	7045	37.2
09:00	73	68	351	1921	3183	1237	401	160	79	24	9	1	4	7511	36.6
10:00	69	80	389	1934	3509	1225	351	127	41	27	10	2	5	7769	35.6
11:00	93	97	420	2099	3693	1174	347	114	43	19	4	4	2	8109	35.4
12:00	95	87	432	2054	3727	1097	349	149	64	17	6	4	2	8073	35.8
13:00	87	79	334	1917	3327	1197	319	159	50	27	8	6	1	7511	36.0
14:00	80	99	348	1912	3065	1060	361	145	51	23	14	2	2	7162	36.0
15:00	89	76	350	1835	3320	1229	406	151	71	40	15	3	2	7587	36.6
16:00	81	73	358	1742	3524	1554	466	175	65	20	8	4	2	8072	36.4
17:00	106	57	287	1489	3162	1669	534	189	86	26	20	2	1	7628	37.5
18:00	76	42	228	1168	2490	1412	458	249	78	46	6	2	3	6258	38.3
19:00	35	40	147	721	1632	1200	437	205	98	30	17	10	4	4576	40.0
20:00	39	23	101	514	1059	869	382	219	108	44	20	1	3	3382	42.0
21:00	23	26	84	408	811	655	276	152	82	51	19	8	6	2601	42.1
22:00	38	23	57	379	685	497	264	141	74	34	13	1	1	2207	42.6
23:00	6	7	33	192	365	300	189	108	56	23	11	6	0	1296	44.5
AM Total	366	439	1901	9511	18888	9000	3429	1757	865	341	146	64	43		
PM Total	755	632	2759	14331	27167	12739	4441	2042	873	381	157	49	27		
Total	1121	1071	4660	23842	46055	21739	7870	3799	1738	722	303	113	70		
Percent	0.99%	0.95%	4.12%	21.08%	40.72%	19.22%	6.96%	3.36%	1.54%	0.64%	0.27%	0.10%	0.06%		
Total Vehicles : 113103															
30th Percentile : 29.3 MPH															
50th Percentile : 31.4 MPH															
85th Percentile : 38.1 MPH															
95th Percentile : 45.2 MPH															
Average Speed : 32.9 MPH															
Highest Speed : 92.0 MPH															
Total Over Speed Limit : 66.7 % (75468 / 113103)															

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These confirm a significant number of vehicles passing along the route are exceeding the speed limit.

4.0 Accidents

Via a FOI request Cheshire Police provided details of accidents recorded through the Period 1st April 2016 to 27th August 2019 as summarised below – these indicate we believe an unacceptably high number of accidents resulting in serious / fatal injuries.

In addition to the accidents below the council are aware of a serious accident in October between Burland and Faddiley resulting in life threatening injuries to the 2 people involved.

Burland, Brindley and Faddiley Parish Councils
Report an A534 Issues
November 2019

Incident Date/Time	Collision Severity	First Road Name	First Road Class & Number	Second Road Name	Second Road Class & Number	Collision Description
08/08/2016	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 travelling towards Nantwich on A534 in dry conditions, crosses over double solid white lines colliding with V2 travelling in opposite direction causing this vehicle to swerve and end up in the NS hedge. V1 has then lost control and flipped onto its roof coming to rest on the wrong side of the road.
12/04/2017	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 travelling Eastbound along the A534 Wrexham Road towards Nantwich when approaches slight chicane bends, firstly taking slight right bend before then taking left hand bend. As left hand bend is taken driver has lost control of V1 which has rolled onto roof before becoming stationary upside down in ditch on opposite side of the road.
07/05/2017	Slight	Ridley	A49	Wrexham Road	A534	V1 traveling westbound and turning right from A534 onto A49 clips V2 traveling southbound on A49 causing minor damage to V2 and minor injury to rider of V2.
23/07/2017	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 travelling eastbound on A534 towards Nantwich, loses control on left hand bend and collides with oncoming V2 which was travelling in the opposite direction.
08/08/2017	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 travelling along west and winding A class Road in rural location. As V1 starts to negotiate tight right hand bend, trailer and cab overturn. V1 came to a stop on grass verge on its nearside.
14/08/2017	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 travelling east on A534 towards Nantwich, approaches right hand bend and loses control of vehicle. Vehicle leaves carriageway to nearside and HGV comes to rest on nearside in field adjacent to carriageway.
20/08/2017	Serious	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 travelling west on main road towards Wrexham. V2 travelling in opposite direction. Rider of V1 appears to lose control negotiating a left hand bend and crosses centre double solid white lines colliding with V2. V2 then loses control and veers onto opposite carriageway. V3 travelling behind V1 and in the same direction then collides with V2.
27/08/2017	Serious	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 is travelling on the A534 in the direction of Wrexham when on a left hand bend V1 crosses over onto the opposite carriageway and collides head on with V2 travelling in the opposite direction.
17/10/2017	Serious	Wrexham Road	A534	Cuckoo Lane	A534	V2 travelling along major A road approaching staggered cross roads. V1 travelling in opposite direction on the same road turns right across path of V2, colliding with same
22/11/2017	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534	Cuckoo Lane	A534	V2 travelling along A534 Monks Lane/Wrexham Road in the direction of Burland. V1 travelling along A534 Cuckoo Lane to the junction and has pulled out colliding with V2
08/02/2018	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534	Cuckoo Lane	A534	V1 was travelling north along Monks Lane, Nantwich and was indicating left, with the intention of turning left into Cuckoo Lane, heading towards the Burford traffic light/intersection. (V2) has been travelling along Monks Lane, Nantwich, but he was travelling towards Acton centre. V1 has collided with the V2 at the foot of the junction, with the off-side rear of her vehicle
09/07/2018	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 travelling along A534 Wrexham towards Nantwich when negotiating a left hand bend hits V2 and then V3.
30/08/2018	Fatal	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 travelling from the direction of the A49 along the A534 in the general direction of Nantwich. Whilst negotiating a left hand bend the rider of V1 has collided with V2 travelling in the opposite direction.
09/12/2018	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534			V1 was travelling along the A534 from Brindley through Faddiley. V1 entered a series of bends and lost control, leaving the carriageway and hitting a tree before coming to a rest on the verge.
24/01/2019	Slight	Wrexham Road	A534	Willbank Lane	U	V1 has been travelling on the Wrexham Road towards Wrexham away from Nantwich. It has lost control as it has gone to turn into Willbank Lane and collided with a fence.
03/07/2019	Slight	WREXHAM ROAD	A534			V1 has been trying travelling down the A534 in the direction of WREXHAM and has taken a corner too quickly causing him to veer into the other lane where he has come into contact with V2.
09/07/2019	Slight	WREXHAM ROAD	A534			V1 travelling south on main single carriageway has approached a right hand bend and clipped the kerb and tipped over into field

5.0 Cuckoo Lane / Tally Ho lane / Monks Lane / A534 Junction

At the Eastbound end of Burland village there is an 'awkward' junction between Wrexham Rd and Cuckoo lane – Westbound traffic on the A534 has to turn right to pass through Burland



Local traffic arrives at this junction from both Monks lane and Tally Ho Lane – often traffic heading Westbound on the A534 pull out in front of passing traffic and there are regular collisions in this location

6.0 Burland Village

Following a Fatal accident about 25 years ago traffic calming measures were introduced in Burland – these include interactive signage at both ends of the village and additional road markings



Initially the impact of these measures was dramatic – however over time many drivers are not driving within the speed limit. Reasons for this include

- Increased volumes of traffic
- Driver complacency
- Little or no Police enforcement
- Deterioration of road markings

Houses are located either side of the road and in addition to speeding issues residents have raised the fact that overtaking (at speed) takes place through the village and creates a significant risk to them accessing / egressing their properties.

There are no safe locations identified by Cheshire Police for them to park a mobile speed detection van. The local PCSO / Police Officer does use a hand held device on an ad hoc basis within the village.

7.0 Faddiley



The speed limit through Faddiley is restricted to 40mph. Similar issues exist in Faddiley as Burland including excessive speeding and dangerous overtaking on the straight past the common despite the presence of a crossroads.

Cheshire Police Have identified the layby adjacent to the common as a safe location for the mobile enforcement van to park. However the van is not allocated to this spot on a regular basis.



8.0 Ridley Bends

The bends within Ridley pose a number of issues. In this location the A534 is national speed limit. It is however narrow and passes through a number of bends.



When two oncoming HGVs meet on the bends there is little room to pass safely due to the narrow road width and the vehicles have to virtually stop. The verges are narrow and on the Eastbound side fall away steeply into the fields.

There have been multiple occurrences of HGV's overturning in this location. Recently an interactive sign has been added to the Eastbound carriageway on the approach to the bends but this appears to have had little impact.

9.0 Actions

In order to improve the safety of the road for users and local residents a number of actions for each of the problem areas are identified below – these have been split into:

Immediate - those that we believe to be relatively low cost and easy to implement with little or no planning required

Medium term – those that require a degree of planning and a greater level of capital cost

Long term – detailed planning and significant investment required

Cuckoo Lane / Tally Ho Lane / Monks Lane / A534 Junction – Immediate

- Improved road markings
- Improved Signage

Medium

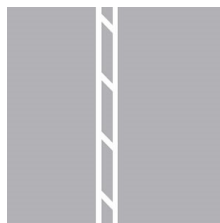
- None

Long term

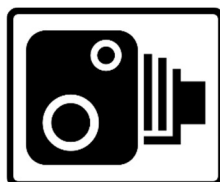
- Reconfigure junction of Wrexham Rd / Cuckoo Lane – possibly with a mini roundabout

Burland – Immediate

- Remark the road surface with the red bands and 30 mph markings
- Alter the centre line marking to a hatched solid line to discourage overtaking



- Install speed camera enforcement signs



- Agree regular attendance from Police with hand held speed gun

Medium

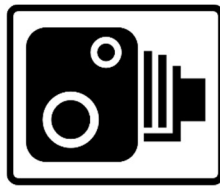
- Reposition derestriction signs at West end of 30mph zone further away from village
- Install GATSO digital camera speed detection both East and westbound
- Link 30mph zone in Burland to 40 mph zone in Faddiley

Long Term

- If speed restriction extended Westbound to tie up with Faddily (and Faddily restriction lowered to 30 mph) investigate the use of average speed control through the entire area.

Faddily – Immediate

- Alter the centre line marking to a solid double white line to discourage overtaking
- Install speed camera enforcement signs



- Agree regular attendance from Police with mobile enforcement van

Medium

- Install GATSO digital camera speed detection both East and westbound
- Link 40 mph zone in Faddiley to 30 mph zone in Burland and reduce 40mph to 30 mph

Long term

- None Identified

Ridley – Immediate

- Improved signage in both directions
- Add anti skid surfacing within the bends

Medium

- Improve verges and potentially add Armco barriers

Long term

- Road widening / realignment through the bends