

The Essex County Council (A131 Mount Hill and Oak Road, Halstead) (Restricted Road & 50MPH Speed Limit) Order 201*

Statement of Reasons

Following advice from the Road Safety Engineering Team, it was determined that although the existing national speed limit could still be appropriate for the new road layout; it was advised that to ensure adequate visibility, a national speed limit would require existing established trees to be removed. Whereas a speed reduction to 50mph would be suitable for the current environment without any additional changes and eliminating the need for tree removal. It is also important that a sufficient splay of visibility is achieved in accordance with the planning consent, which will be provided by the reduction in speed.

The proposed speed reduction is on the approach into Halstead and therefore will promote reduction in vehicle speeds and greater compliance once reaching Halstead town

The proposed 50mph speed limit is based on DMRB guidance for a design speed on A131 of 85kph (which equates to 53mph). This is on the basis of the 85th percentile speeds measured on the A131 (as presented in the Transport Assessment) of 51.2mph (Eastbound) and 47.1mph (Westbound).

Speed limits of 50mph in rural areas are considered applicable for A and B roads with lower geometric standards which have a relatively high number of bends, junctions or accesses. They can also be considered where mean average speeds are below 50mph, so lower limit does not interfere with traffic flow.