

REDUCING SPEEDS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

A new 50mph speed limit has been introduced on a stretch of the A127 to improve air quality and road safety.

Air quality is an issue across many areas of the UK, however congestion at busy junctions around the Basildon area of the A127 add to the problem.

Tests have shown that a section of the road between east and west Basildon exceeds national air quality safe limits for nitrogen dioxide.

The reduction in speed limit from 70mph to 50mph, which was implemented in January 2020, is expected to reduce nitrogen dioxide to safe levels by 2021.

How will it help?

Vehicles' engines work more efficiently at around 50mph than 70mph; producing fewer emissions from their exhausts. Reducing speeds from 70mph to 50mph can reduce harmful nitrogen oxide emissions by up to 20 per cent, as well as improving journey time reliability.

There is also evidence that the reduced speed limit with average speed enforcement is likely to result in a reduction in personal injury collisions on this stretch of the A127.

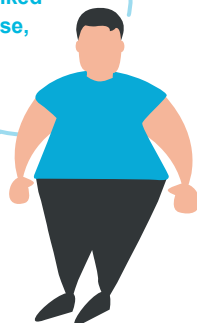
Did you know?



Health problems
resulting from exposure
to air pollution cost the
UK more than
£20 billion every year

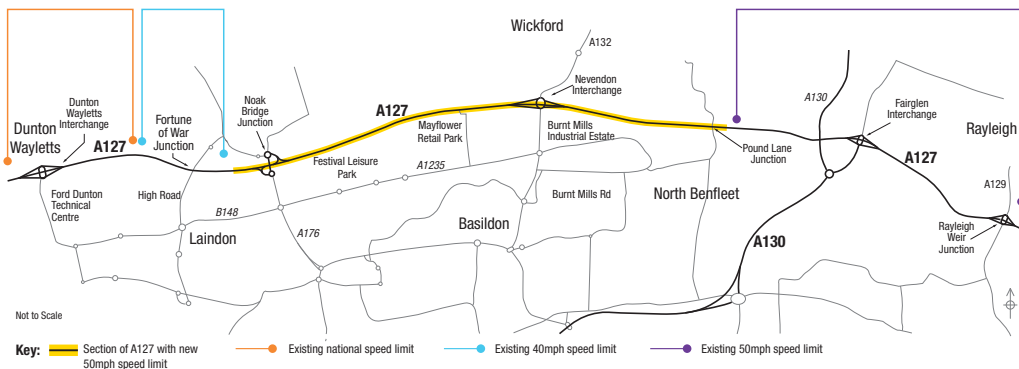
About
40,000 deaths a year

in the UK are attributable to outdoor
air pollution, which has been linked
to cancer, asthma, heart disease,
diabetes and obesity.



Drivers are exposed to
twice as much pollution
as pedestrians and nine times more
than a cyclist





Project overview

The new 50mph speed limit covers both carriageways between the existing 40mph speed limit near the Fortune of War roundabout and approximately 470m east of the Pound Lane (westbound)/Cranfield Park Road (eastbound) junctions. It is enforced by average speed cameras, operated by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership.

The new limit was introduced after Essex County Council and Basildon Borough Council were directed by the Government to improve air quality on the A127 as soon as possible.

Although traffic is often slower than 50mph on the A127 at peak times, having a consistently lower speed limit reduces heavy braking and the number of times vehicles have to stop and start again.

How else can you help?

We can all do our bit to improve roadside air quality by making small changes to the way we travel.

Could you **swap some of your car journeys to cycling, walking or public transport**, especially for short trips? Find out more about transport links and public transport options in Essex at: www.essex.gov.uk/travelsmart

Could you **consider a hybrid or electric vehicle** when next replacing your car? Find out more about Government grants and financial incentives at: www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants

If driving is your only viable option, the following steps will ensure you are driving in a more environmentally friendly way:

Switch off your engine
when your vehicle is stationary

Remove unused roof racks, roof boxes and any other extra weight
from your car

Change gears at lower revs

Drive at an appropriate speed

Avoid using air conditioning unless you really need it

Check your tyres are at the correct pressure



Find out more

For more information about the scheme, please visit www.essex.gov.uk/airquality

You can also follow us on Twitter [@essexhighways](https://twitter.com/essexhighways)

For general enquiries, contact the Essex County Council customer services team on **0345 603 7631**.