

Proposed Weight Limit on Station Road Westbury

Network Rail (NR) commissioned consultants to undertake assessments on Station Road Railway Bridge to determine the load bearing capacity of the bridge. In light of these assessments, it has been agreed with NR that a 3T structural weight limit should be imposed on the Station Road overbridge. The structural weight restriction would result in all vehicles over 3t being unable to cross the Station Road overbridge even for access to the surrounding areas. The limits of the 3T structural weight limit, the position of the induction loops, variable message signs and weight limit signage in the immediate vicinity are shown on the accompanying drawing 748615-027B. It is anticipated that the weight restriction would be required to be implemented prior to the construction of the Westbury Bypass.

The weight restriction would also require assessment of suitability of the bridge for public service vehicles (PSV's) as up to 6 buses per hour presently use the route and would have to divert to an alternative route. The assessment of PSV's is anticipated to be favourable due to their long wheelbase and the weight distribution throughout their length.

Enforcement of the weight restriction would be undertaken by the Wiltshire Constabulary and this will be discussed prior to the installation of the weight limit. Enforcement of weight restrictions can be difficult, however as the weight restriction does not allow access, enforcement becomes more simple.

It must also be noted that, as part of a package of measures to improve walking and cycling facilities within the town, it is Wiltshire County Council's aim to implement a shuttle working scheme on the Station Road overbridge in order to allow a shared use cycle lane to be constructed linking to the West Wilts Trading Estate. This would result in alternate single lane working, controlled by traffic signals, on the bridge.

Westbury SATURN Model allocates all vehicles over 3.5T as heavy goods vehicles, which results in the HGV ban on Station Road within the model removing all vehicles over 3.5T from that route. The following page shows the predicted HGV and all vehicle flows with and without proposed HGV ban on Station Road overbridge.

A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would be required for the implementation of a weight restriction. There are strict procedures that are required to be adhered to and the following is an approximate timescale, supplied by Wiltshire County Council (WCC) Traffic Services for the making of a TRO:-

Draft Paperwork	2 Weeks
PM approval	1
Date and issue to press etc	2
Advert	3
Data Protection Act checks	1
Consider and discuss objections	2
Prepare technical appendix and write report	1
Chief Officer approval and circulation	2
Committee and await minutes	1
Agree implementation dates and instruct	1
Date papers and seal	1
Issue to press for advert	2
Implement	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>20 Weeks</u>