

A48 notes for Scrutiny Committee

5th March 2014

General

The A48 is a 24.5 mile long ex Trunk Road (de-trunked 2005-6) carrying traffic between the County Boundary just North of Chepstow up to the A40 Trunk Road at Highnam.

The 2010 County Flow Diagram shows the A48 carrying each day;

North of A4151 10,000 to 15,000 vehicles HGV's 100 to 200
South of A4151 6,000 to 10,000 vehicles HGV's 200 to 350

A report from GCC Transport Monitoring Team shows the impact of the charging on the Severn Bridges is particularly noticeable with the HGV flows – rather than a 50/50 split the A48 south of the A4151 has a 69/31 split.

Casualty History

A48 Casualty History from Highnam Roundabout to County Boundary

Year	Casualties			
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
2000	3	6	47	56
2001	3	8	76	87
2002	2	4	80	86
2003	3	8	56	67
2004	2	20	73	95
2005	5	9	74	88
2006	4	17	73	94
2007	4	8	67	79
2008	3	3	32	38
2009	1	4	53	58
2010	2	3	28	33
2011	0	3	28	31
2012	1	8	22	31
2013*	4	7	22	33

*still provisional figures

2013/14 Fatalities on A48

Date	Time	Lighting	Gender	Age	Road User	Road No	Location
16-Feb-13	15:08	Light	F	80-84	Car driver	A48	Minsterworth by Hampton Farm
13-Jul-13	19:05	Light	M	45-49	Motorcyclist	A48	Woolaston, 30m west of Woolaston Inn
27-Dec-13	15:40	Light	F	45-49	Car driver	A48	between Lydney and Blakeney at Lensbrook near Purlieu Farm
			M	25-29	Car Pass		
8-Jan-14	10:50	Light	M	30-34	Car Driver	A48	Between Lydney and Blakeney at Lensbrook Junction

Who is getting hurt 2009 to 2013?

Casualties				
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
Pedestrian	0	3	2	5
Pedal Cycle	0	0	2	2
MC 50cc -125cc	0	1	0	1
MC 125cc - 500cc	0	1	0	1
MC over 500cc	2	4	9	15
Car Driver	5	14	102	121
Car Passenger	1	2	33	36
Van	0	0	4	4
Goods	0	0	2	2

Total 8 25 154 187
All Severities

How old are they?

	Casualties									Total
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	
Pedestrian	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	5
Pedal Cycle	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
MC 50cc -125cc	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MC 125cc - 500cc	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
MC over 500cc	0	1	1	3	6	4	0	0	0	15
Car Driver	0	12	29	16	21	20	12	7	4	121
Car Passenger	4	7	12	1	2	3	2	4	1	36
Van	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
Goods	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2

All Severities

What are the causes of the collisions?

Main Causations from 2009-13
i.e. factors which have been reported more than 10 times

Description	Number
Slippery Road (due to weather)	12
Following too close	18
Sudden Breaking	12
Loss of Control	23
Poor Turn or Manoeuvre	24
Failed to look Properly	56
Failed to Judge Other Persons Path or Speed	31
Careless/Reckless/In a Hurry	28

All Severities

Collisions may attributed with more than one Causation Factor

Where are the casualties from?

Postcodes for casualties on A48 between 2009 and 2013.

Postcode	Number
GL15	58
GL14	40
NP16	14
GL16	8
GL2	8
GL5	7
GL17	6
GL4	4
Others areas	39
Unknown	3

The above would tend to suggest that road users from local postcodes are more likely to become casualties in collisions along the A48.

How does this rank against rest of Country/County? (Not yet including 2013 data)

The 2013 Euro RAP European Road Assessment Programme considered the risk of death or serious injury on Britain's Motorways and A roads – in their 2013 Results report 'Measuring to Manage' they give the A48 a 'low medium risk rating on their (based on 2007-2011 data).

RSP Annual Hotspot analysis

The 2013 RSP analysis used 2010 to 2012 data and also uses an assessment of traffic flow to estimate risk. Fatal and Serious Collisions are given additional weighting.

Other sites on the A48 appeared on the hotspot list as follows:

Lengths

- No. 85 A48 Broadoak to Westbury on Severn (treated with 2 casualty signs)
- No.105 A48 Blakeney to South of Newnham
- No.121 A48 Minsterworth to Junction with A40
- No.126 A48 Lydney Bypass to Nibley
- No.130 A48 Westbury on Severn to Walmore Hill
- No.140 A48 County Boundary to Brookend

Junctions

- No. 17 J/W B4228 Tutshill
- No. 60 A40/A48 Highnam Roundabout (Trunk Road)

Due to budget and time constraints only those sites appearing in the top 50 or so, can be taken forward for further investigation.

All lengths and junctions on the A and B road network will be reviewed in 2014 when the annual hotspot list will be compiled using 2011-2013 casualty data.

Recent Safety Improvements:

Due to a spate of fatal and serious collisions, the bend at the Severn Bore Public House was identified as a site in need of urgent remedial work; this was carried out between October 2010 and January 2011 and included:

- new road surface
- improved signing (bend and slippery road warning signs and chevrons)
- lining to narrow carriageway
- advisory 40mph limit
- countdown markings

In the three years before construction there were six injury collisions resulting in seven casualties, two of which were fatal. During the construction period another fatal collision occurred. Since the improvements were completed no injury collisions have been reported at this site.

2014/2015 Programme:

A48 junction with the B4228 at Tutshill is in the 2014/2015 provisional programme for improvements. This junction is at number 17 on the 2010-2012 hotspot list.

Enforcement

There are six fixed and at least one mobile camera enforcement sites located along the whole length of the A48.

Number of recorded offenders at enforcement sites.

	2011	2012	2013	Limit	2009 mean speed
Minsterworth Highbank	22	20	2	50	47.1
Minsterworth School	2	3	7	50	44.1
Walmore Hill	0	0	0	50	45.4
Woolaston	0	0	0	50	44.9
Chaxhill	40	19	0	50	42
Alvington	424	131	0	30	29.4

The 'flash' given to offending motorists is a valuable deterrent even if a camera isn't in operation.

Casualty Signs:

- Six permanent casualty signs installed September 2011
- Three eastbound and three westbound
- Area covered from Minsterworth side of railway bridge to just north of Elton Corner
- Showed figure of 39 in error, should have read 47
- February 2013 two further signs installed between Elton Corner and Broadoak
- Numbers updated along whole route to read 52 based on 2009-2011 data
- Signs to be updated once 2013 data complete, will read 43 (provisional) based on 2011-2013 figures.(there is a concern regarding displaying a lower figure after recent fatalities, although both were outside the scope of the scheme)

Possible Actions

Could consider – subject to available resources;

- Local communities could become involved in Community Campaign through the 'Speed Toolkit'.
- Roadside posters etc highlighting the issues and amended behaviours that drivers should consider. E.g. Route Aware / Fatal Four*
- Messages on Local Haulage and/or Public Transport Vehicles which frequently use all or part of the A48.
- Increased Police Profile along the route and publication of the enforcement results.
- Update Local Driver Trainers who have previously been keen supporters of road safety in the Forest – e.g. Time and Place.
- Consideration of further Mobile Speed Enforcement locations.
- Production of a Fact Sheet which could be distributed via Parish Council Newsletters.
- Wheeled Respect – a joint Police & Fire and Rescue, targeting particular driver behaviour.
- Local advanced driver groups could be asked to offer free better driving talks.
- Use of social media such as the Time and Place website 'Roadskill'.
- Links with the Welsh Assembly to explore initiatives on the approach to the South.
- Set up an A48 Campaign Project Team.

*Route Aware campaign is a campaign developed by the Road Safety Partnership in the Cotswolds which used roadside boards to convey messages to motorists based on actual collision causes.

*Fatal Four focuses on the top four causes of collisions and repeatedly reminds motorists along the route and through communities. It uses graphics to remind drivers about;

Seatbelts – Speeding – Mobile Phones - Distraction

