

Milford Area Preservation Group's Summer Newsletter 2025

Traffic Surveys on Manor Farm Road and on Milford Mill Road: Results

The two surveys took place in February. The reports are taken from information supplied to the MAPG by Paul Shaddock, Senior Engineer (Traffic Engineering) of Salisbury's Transportation Team

Milford Mill Road (MMR). The survey is being compared to that of 2021, which took place in July, arguably a period of higher-volume traffic.

The headline results are that the survey recorded a total of 26,813 vehicles using the road, an average of 3,742 vehicles per day. The average speed of vehicles was recorded to be 19.8mph with the 85th percentile speed of traffic recorded to be 23.6mph.

The 85th percentile figure is the speed at or below which 85% of the traffic is travelling and is the standard method of assessing traffic speed in the UK.

Speeding

Sign only 20mph speed limits (as already in place on the section of Milford Mill Road surveyed) can only be introduced where the average speed of traffic using a road is less than 24.0 mph.

The Police are responsible for enforcing speed limits and do so on the basis of the guidance provided by ACPO which recommends a threshold 10% of the limit plus 2mph. Where a road is subject to a 20mph speed limit a vehicle must therefore be travelling above 24mph to be considered as speeding.

In Wiltshire on a road subject to a 20mph speed limit the following criteria is applied:

- 85th percentile speed is between 20mph and 24mph = No Further Action
- 85th percentile speed is between 24.1mph and 38.9mph = Eligible for Community Speed Watch (CSW) or Deployment of Speed Indicator Device (SID)

- 85th percentile speed is over 39mph = Subject to Police enforcement or considered for traffic calming

The results of the survey on MMR indicate that overall, the 20mph speed limit remains appropriate and that a speeding problem is not considered to exist at the location surveyed. More generally the results paint a positive picture. The 2021 survey found the average speed of traffic to be 21.7mph with the 85th percentile speed of traffic recorded to be 26mph. A combination of the use of the SID, CSW and the presence of a number of parked vehicles appear to be controlling the speed of traffic.

Volume of Traffic

The results of the survey with respect to the volume of traffic using MMR appear to be encouraging. The survey recorded a total of 26,813 vehicles using the road, at an average of 3,742 vehicles per day. The 2021 survey recorded 36,393 vehicles using the road, at an average of 5199 per day. Thus, a significant reduction in traffic using Milford Mill Road during the past four years.

HGVs

The survey recorded that 1.3% of the overall volume of traffic using MMR to be HGVs. Again, this appears to be a positive result as HGVs represented 2.3 percent of the overall recorded volume of traffic in the 2021 survey.

Mr Shaddock made the point that just because HGVs are using MMR doesn't mean they are doing so illegally. The 7.5t weight restriction has exemptions for properties within the area to be serviced (i.e. deliveries, refuse collection etc.) which means some of the HGVs recorded will have been legitimately able to do so.

Manor Farm Road (MFR). This is the first traffic survey conducted on MFR and was conducted between February 20 – March 3.

41,738 vehicles were recorded as using the road in that period, at an average of 3,478 per day. 82% of vehicles exceeded the 20mph speed limit. The average speed was 24.11mph, and the 85th percentile was 28.4mph. 3% of vehicles were HGVs.

The rules and policy towards speeding vehicles are as described above.

Mr Shaddock says that for MFR: "In line with the Council's criteria the location is considered suitable for the deployment of a SID (Speed Indicator Device) or CSW (Community Speed Watch) to address the speeding issue identified in the survey." As MAPG has been unable to persuade any new volunteers to help run Speed Watch on MFR, the only option available to us is a SID. We will investigate the possibility of making the SID a permanent fixture.

As was agreed at the meeting in December between Wiltshire Highways Officers, MAPG and the three Councillors who attended, a further meeting - to include the Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Groups - will be held to discuss the results of both traffic surveys. In addition to the SID on MFR, in the light of a recent middle of the night increase in surreptitious HGV traffic, we hope the meeting will also agree to placing an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) on MMR.

The Best of Milford



Walks - Ghostly Tales & Meadowlands
The Milford Area Preservation Group

The Best of Milford

'The Best of Milford' is a book of 'Walks Through Time', terrifying tales of ghostly Milford, as well as articles on chalk streams, meadowlands, and the life of oak trees. Copies available for £5 from:

milfordpreservationgroup@gmail.com

News from St. Martin's School

Opening in September 2025, St. Martin's Nursery will offer a bespoke early years provision for children aged 2 to 4. Situated in a beautiful setting overlooking Salisbury Cathedral, our nursery benefits from the rich opportunities of both Salisbury City Centre and the surrounding countryside

Our curriculum, grounded in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, balances structured learning with the freedom to explore. Children develop prime skills in communication, personal and emotional development, and physical coordination. Outdoor learning is integral, with children exploring our nursery garden and wider outdoor spaces, fostering curiosity and confidence

We value strong partnerships with parents, maintaining an open-door policy and encouraging daily communication. Parents can engage through face-to-face conversations at drop-off and pick-up times, as well as via our online portal, Tapestry, sharing observations and milestones from their child's day

Our nursery will offer over 30 places for 2–4-year-old children year-round, with opening times from 8am to 6pm, including options for morning sessions, afternoon sessions, and full days

To register your interest or for further information, please contact our school office at 01722 554300 or email admin@stmartins.dsat.org.uk.



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AGM Report

Meeting held on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at the Laverstock and Ford Village Hall

The AGM was attended by over fifty members.

Key points

The annual Milfordian has been replaced by three newsletters: winter, summer and autumn. An MAPG book, 'The Best of Milford' has been published and will be on offer to MAPG members and friends during the July subs collection (see details on page 11).

MAPG has been concerned for many years about the amount of local traffic and the condition of our roads. Members heard that in response to MAPG lobbying, Wiltshire Highways conducted traffic surveys in February on Manor Farm Road and on Milford Mill Road. The results of these surveys are on pages 1-3

Action Days have included work on the River Bourne expertly led by Andy Howard, work in Milford Hollow led by Barbara Lovibond, and a number of very successful litter picks organised by Julie Eastaugh.

The Chair praised and thanked local councillors Charles McGrath and Ian McLellan who are both retiring. Members present showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

The Constitution. Committee member Peter Hicks explained that a new constitution had been drawn up in anticipation of MAPG becoming a charity. Because this did not happen, the constitution needed to be revised. Copies of a new draft had been placed on the website and were available in hard copy at the meeting. The area covered by MAPG has been made clearer. A 'member' is now defined as all adult members of a household in the defined area.

If MAPG closes, there would be a vote at its last meeting to decide where the funds would be allocated. An MAPG member then made some excellent observations and suggestions which will be reflected in the final draft of the constitution. Acceptance of the constitution as amended was proposed by Laura Jones, seconded by Charles McGrath and voted in by a show of hands.

Treasurer's Report. The end of year balance sheet had been made available. The treasurer reminded members that our financial year now runs from January to December. The balance sheet includes a donation of £500 to the Laverstock Village Hall. The auditor, John Perry, was thanked by the treasurer for his invaluable assistance. It was reiterated that MAPG had been set up originally to protect local land from development. To do this, a 'fighting fund' will be maintained.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Carol Taylor, seconded by Jo Boyers and approved by the members present by a show of hands.

Fundraising Report.

In the last year our trips have been to Exbury gardens, RHS Wisley, and Stourhead. The trips have been very successful, with the minibus filled each time. In November, a record 82 people attended our annual quiz night, which was a fantastic event. This year we are running a trip to Hampton Court Garden Festival in July. This outing is now fully booked. The Quiz Night will be on 22nd November – and once again we will be donating £500 to the Village Hall.

Speedwatch Report.

This MAPG initiative has been running for several years with varying degrees of success. In the last year, there has been a reduction in the speed of traffic due to parked cars on Milford Mill Road. The number of vehicles reported to the police has decreased slightly. Offenders receive a letter from the police, and those travelling at 30 mph and over have a police visit. Penny Perry and Jenny May were thanked for their hard work and dedication in conducting speedwatch on a weekly basis. We will review whether it is worth continuing with the project as it is a huge time commitment and is not necessarily efficacious.

The Website and Milford Hollow.

Members were encouraged to visit the website www.milfordpreservationgroup.com. As mentioned at the last AGM, Godolphin/United Learning own Milford Hollow and have continued to be supportive of our work. MAPG took part in their 'Volunteer Day' in July 2024 supervising a group of girls gardening in the Hollow, and then litter picking later in the day. In January, Godolphin's groundsman was quick to act when a tree was discovered to be leaning dangerously over the path. Within less than 24-hours it was felled and the area cleared. MAPG has planted a crab apple tree in its place. There was an action day of weeding and planting in March and volunteers were thanked for their hard work. Cecilia Marshall was particularly thanked for her donations of plants and gardening expertise.

Election of Officers

The Chair emphasised the point that all members of the committee had working roles. He thanked all members individually for their hard work and dedication. Two members of the committee have left this year, and Charles McGrath no longer wishes to stand. There are therefore vacancies and members present were encouraged to let the committee know if they are interested in joining. All current members of the committee are willing to stand again. Re-election was proposed by Peter Hicks, seconded by Laura Jones and voted in by a show of hands.

AOB

Members were warned about the rapid growth of hemlock in the area and the dangers that this poisonous plant presents.

The Guest Speaker.

Dr Phil Harding of Time Watch and of Wessex Archaeology was introduced and presented a fascinating talk about the archaeology of Milford Hill.



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Closure of Speed Watch

Following several years of dedicated service in all weathers by our four volunteers, we have reluctantly decided to close our Speed Watch activity.

On average, 50 hours a year were given to this project, and over 10,000 vehicles were monitored travelling east along Milford Mill Road (MMR). Nearly 600 drivers were reported for speeding - some for the second or even third time...

Unfortunately, we were unable to persuade any new volunteers to supplement our work on MMR or to extend it to include Manor Farm Road.

Also, the regular parking of several cars on MMR has had the effect of slowing traffic and making our efforts increasingly otiose.

We would like to record our particular thanks to Mrs Penny Perry and to Mrs Jennifer May.



You are invited to our
MAPG Summer Garden Party
Saturday 19th July 2025, at 3.30 pm
on the banks of the River Bourne in
Milford Park

The price of £10 per head will include a free drink upon arrival as well as a traditional afternoon tea.

A cash bar will be available.

Take part in our duck race.

Tickets and more information can be obtained from Laura Jones on Email:
lauraejones76@gmail.com

We are delighted to be able to donate all proceeds to the Stars Appeal





Milford Hollow

At the end of March a team of 'Hollowers' spent a busy Saturday morning weeding around the edges of the paths so that the ferns, wild garlic, bluebells and daffodils could thrive and be seen.

It is heartening to hear the positive comments, advice and suggestions from people who pass through the Hollow.

We are always very grateful for any donations of plants that are native to English.. Woodlands.

Please get in touch if you are able to help us in Milford Hollow:

milfordpreservationgroup@gmail.com

Councillor Contacts for Laverstock and for Milford Divisions

Cllr Alan Bayliss for Milford: ABayliss@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk and alan.bayliss@wiltshire.gov.uk M. 07898 919133

Cllr Nick Baker for Laverstock: nick.baker@wiltshire.gov.uk M. 07921 899396

Developer's Plan for Nearly 50 Houses on Church Road:

Latest News

The Wiltshire Council planning committee had said the proposal "constitutes unsuitable development in the open countryside." It is also contrary to the Laverstock and Ford Neighbourhood Plan, which identifies Laverstock as a "small village where development is limited to infill".

However, Cllr Nick Baker tells us: "I fear that we will soon have disappointing news from the planning inspectorate. I will continue to fight this as long as possible, but the previous Conservative administration's decision not to instruct a barrister to defend their own strategic Planning committee leaves us in a weak position. I will be investigating whether this decision can be reviewed in light of the changed administration, but the process may have moved on too far for that."

Forthcoming Events

Litter Pick. Sunday June 29th at 11am. Meet at the Black Barn, opposite Milford House Care Home.

Contact Julia on jupe.eastaugh@btinternet.com if you can help.

Garden Visit to Hampton Court Gardens. July 4th. ***Fully booked***

Garden Party. Saturday July 19th from 3.30pm in Milford Park. £10 per head to include an English Afternoon Tea and first drink. Duck racing (the plastic variety...).

All profits to the Stars Appeal

To book tickets please contact lauraejones76@googlemail.com

Return to the River. Saturday October 4th Our annual clean-up of the River Bourne. Meet at 10am at the medieval bridge on Milford Mill Road

Contact david@lovibondpr.com if you would like to help.

Quiz Night. Saturday November 22nd from 7.00pm for a 7.30 start at Laverstock Village Hall. £15 per head to include supper. Bar. Quality raffle. As last year, MAPG will make a £500 donation to the Village Hall fund. Also, bring a pound coin for 'Heads or Tails', in aid of the Stars Appeal.

To book tickets please contact lauraejones76@googlemail.com

MAPG Subs of £5 Are Now Due

Door-to-door collection will start soon. Should you wish to pay your 2025 subs (£5) by BACS the details are:

Acc name: Milford Area Preservation Group.

sort code: 30-99-50 Acc No: 25774860.

When paying, please use your address as a reference.

We are keen to build up our data base of contacts so that we can send news of events and voluntary activities to our members. If you would like to have your details added, please contact Barbara Lovibond on :

milfordpreservationgroup@gmail.com.



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