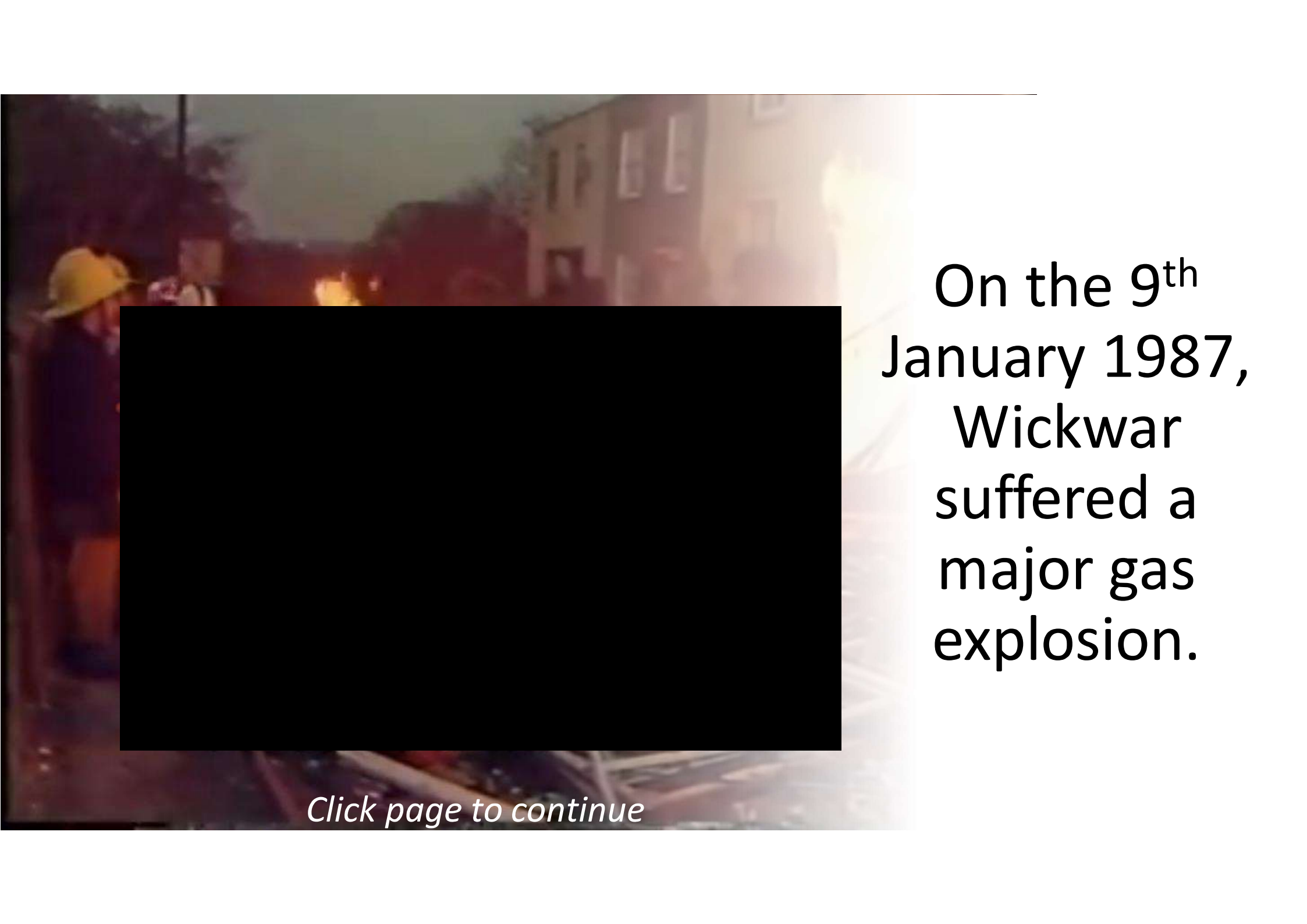




Wickwar



Limit?

A grainy, low-quality photograph showing a large fire or explosion in an urban setting. In the foreground on the left, a person wearing a yellow hard hat and dark clothing is partially visible. The background features a multi-story brick building with several windows. A large, bright fire is burning in the middle ground, with smoke rising from it. The overall scene is chaotic and suggests a major disaster.

On the 9th
January 1987,
Wickwar
suffered a
major gas
explosion.

Click page to continue



Thankfully and unbelievably, there were no casualties.

The cause of the explosion was attributed to constant HGV traffic rupturing the gas main.



Introduction

My name is Jon Kingswood and I have been a High Street resident of Wickwar for 45 years – *I remember being woken by the explosion.*

It was as a result of this explosion that Wickwar had an 18T weight limit introduced to prevent HGVs using Wickwar as a short cut between M4 and M5 motorways.

In recent years, this 18T weight limit is being constantly ignored by many HGV drivers.

This presentation details the work we have been doing behind the scenes to reduce the ever-increasing flow of HGV traffic

Click page to continue

This map displays the route that HGVs should be using: -

Official HGV Route M4 J18 to M5 J14

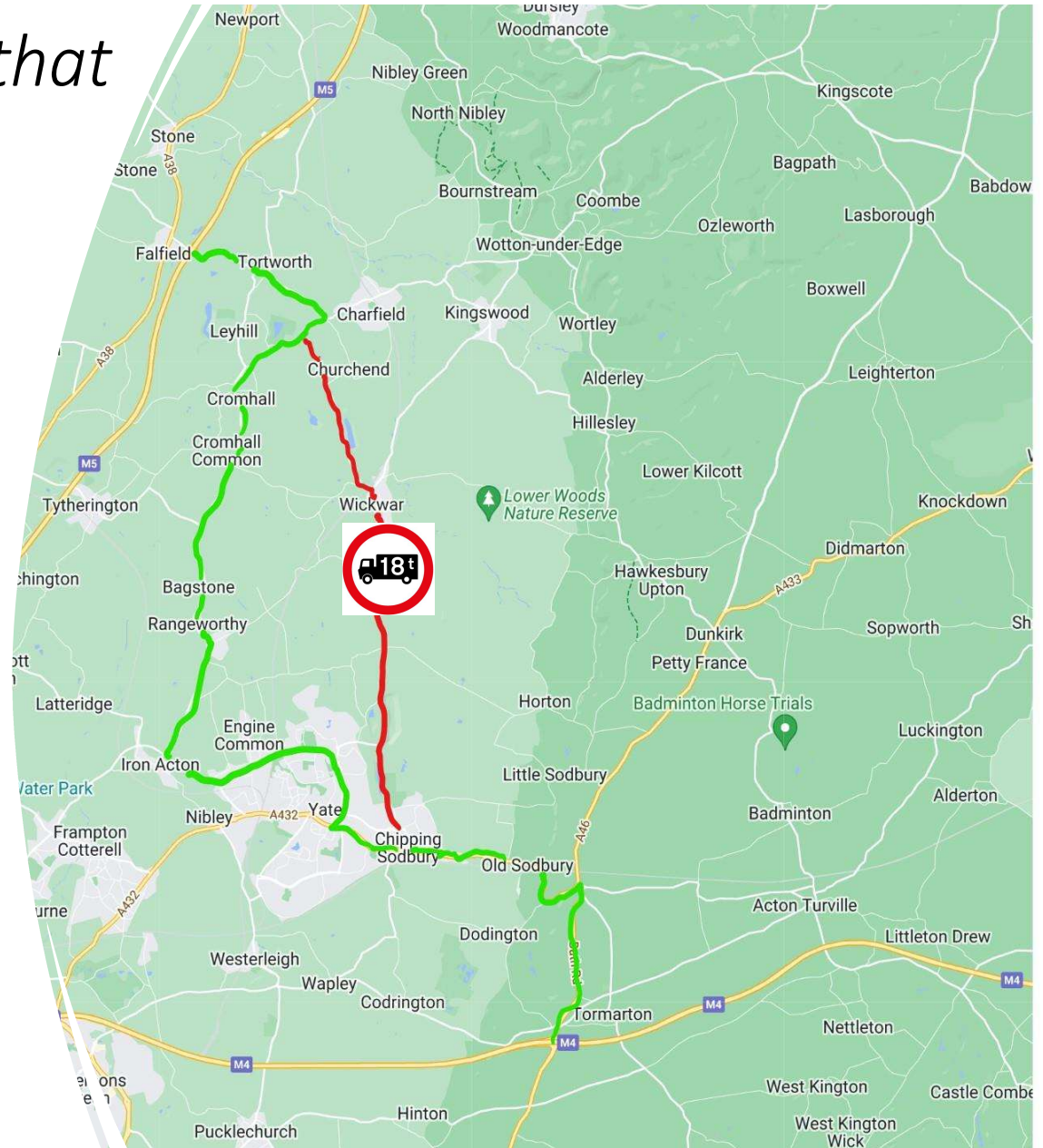
- 19 Miles
- 42 Minutes

Illegal HGV Route M4 J18 to M5 J14 (via Wickwar)

- 14 Miles
- 28 Minutes

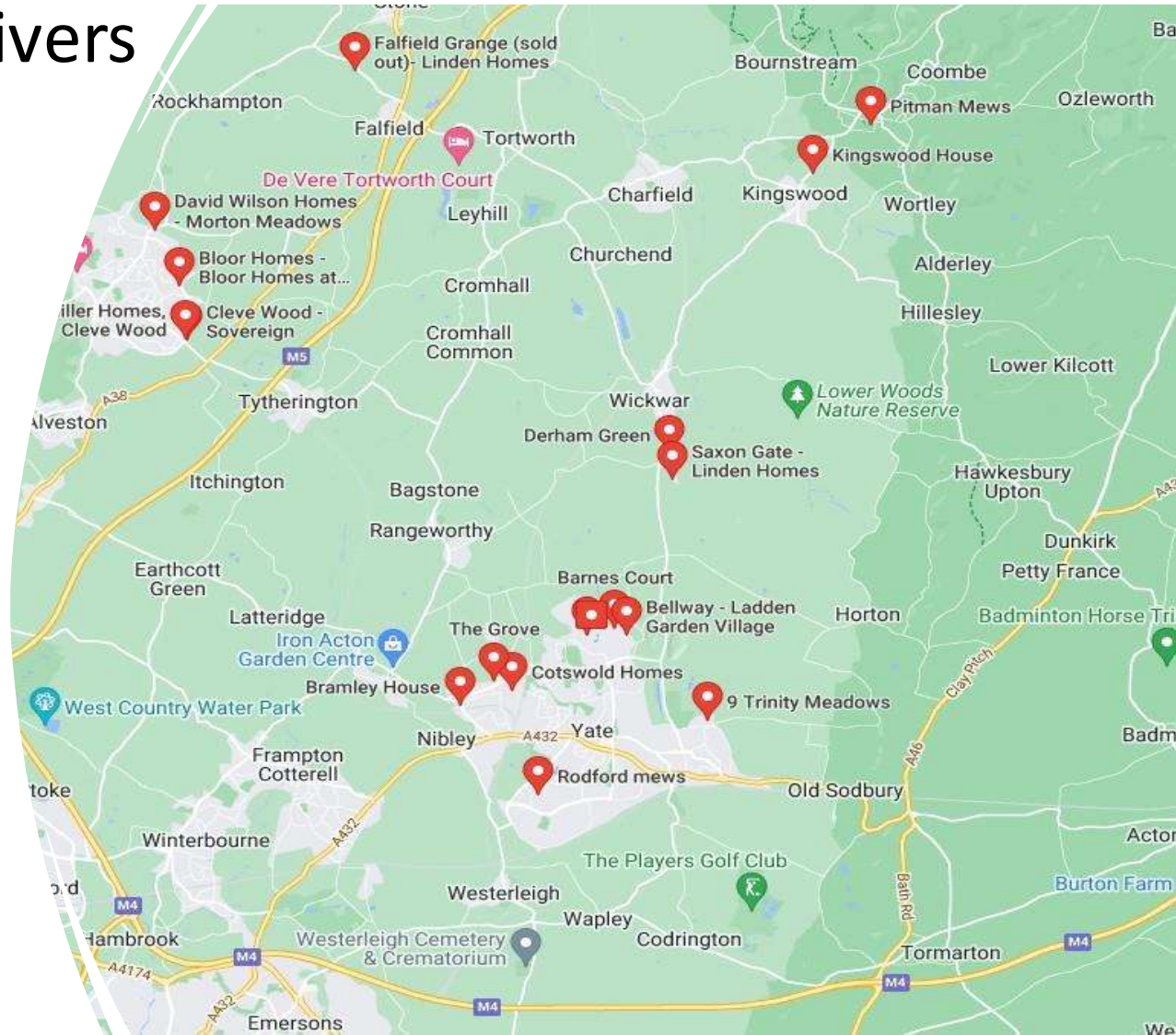
Official Route

Approx. 15 minutes + 5 miles longer



So why are so many HGV drivers ignoring the 18T Limit??

- Increase in local housing developments causing increase in HGV site traffic.
- Inadequate signage
- To save time / costs
- Incorrect Sat Nav instructions
- No consequences to using Wickwar as a shortcut.



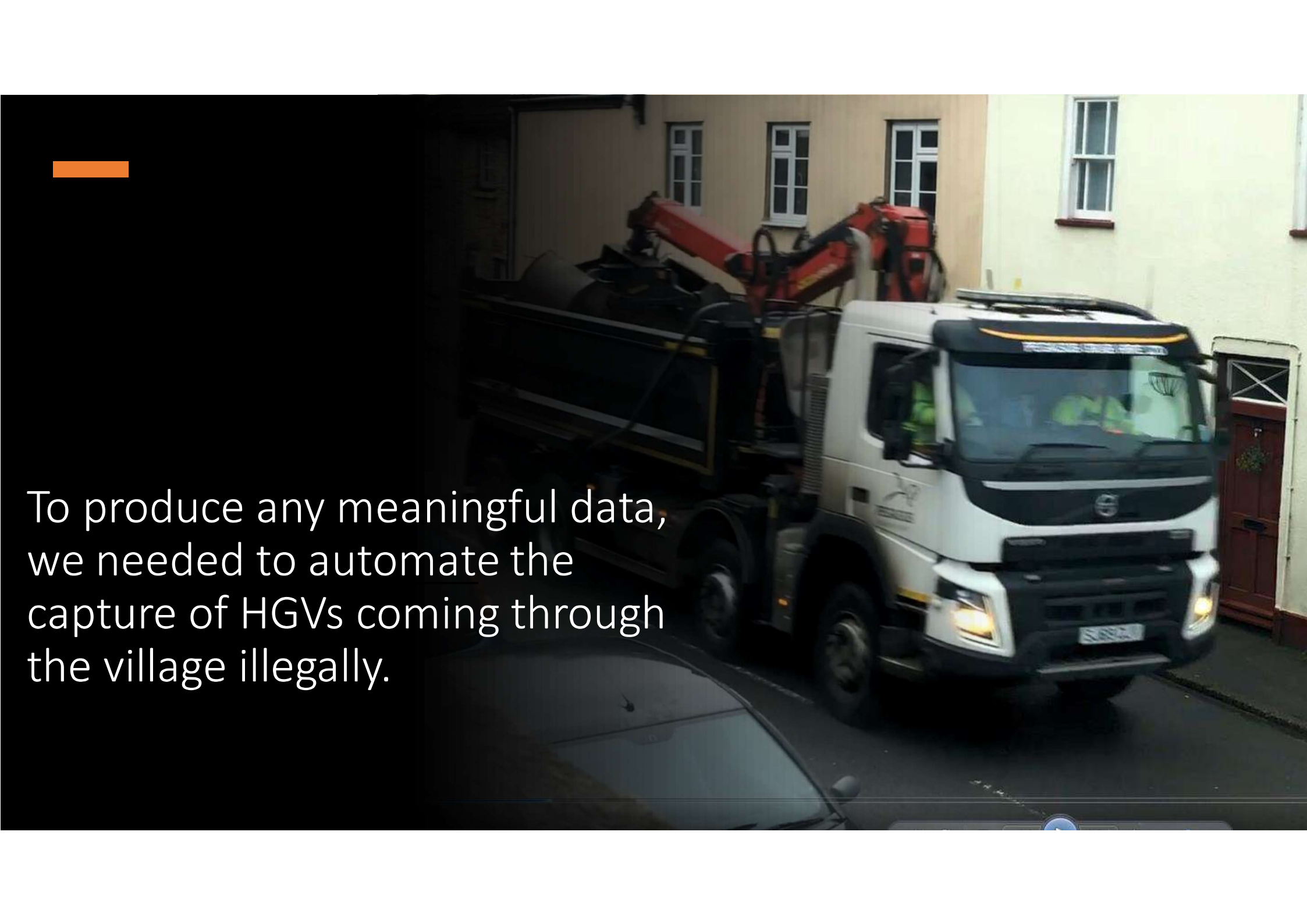


Taking Action

- Local residents are becoming increasingly upset by the significant increase in HGV traffic through the village.
- The local Facebook “Wickwar Village Forum” has seen the topic become a regular feature.
- Over the past few years, residents have started posting photos of offending HGVs and begun reporting them to various authorities, all of which either do nothing or pass the buck.



Not all HGV drivers appreciate having their traffic offences captured.

A white Volvo truck with a red crane arm is parked on a street. The truck is facing right, and its headlights are on. It is parked in front of a yellow building with several windows. A red door is visible on the right side of the building. The truck's license plate is visible. The text "To produce any meaningful data, we needed to automate the capture of HGVs coming through the village illegally." is overlaid on the left side of the image.

To produce any meaningful data,
we needed to automate the
capture of HGVs coming through
the village illegally.

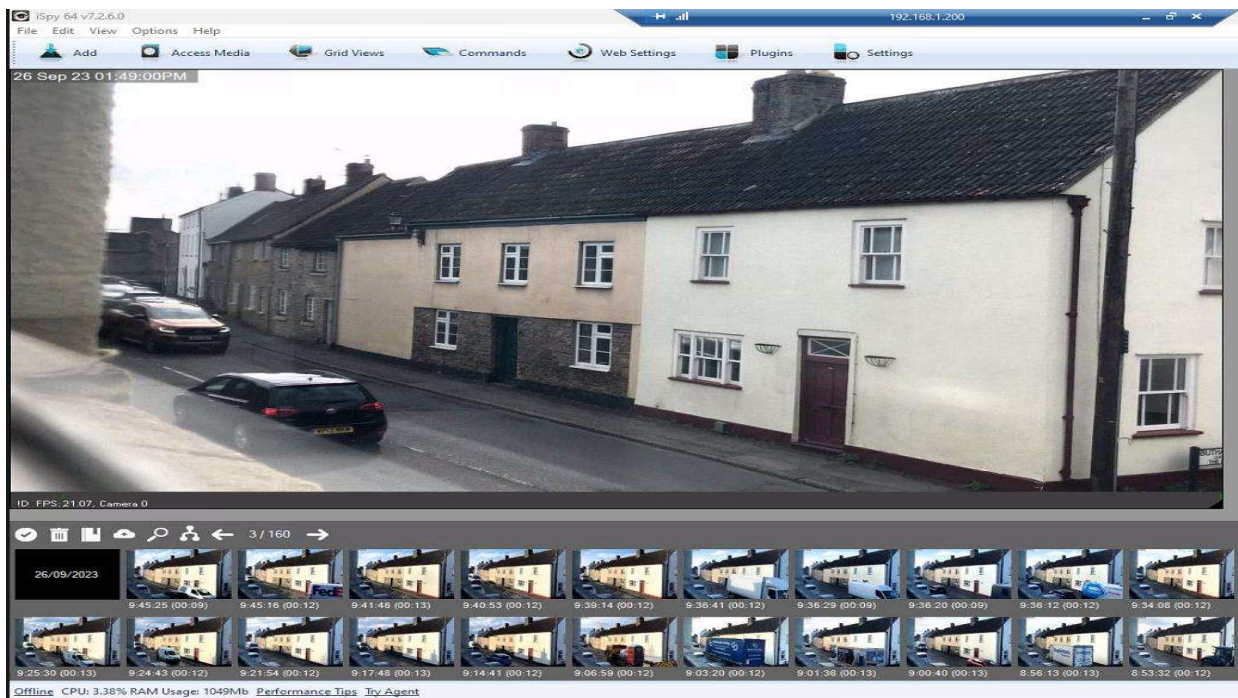


Using a Video Surveillance Software we record offending HGVs by setting a capture zone that is only activated by larger vehicles

HGV traffic is recorded in high resolution meaning that we generally have a clear 8 second video of the offending vehicles, company livery and their number plate.



Capture Zones



The data capture is not an exact science, other larger permitted vehicles do get captured, but we do not log them.

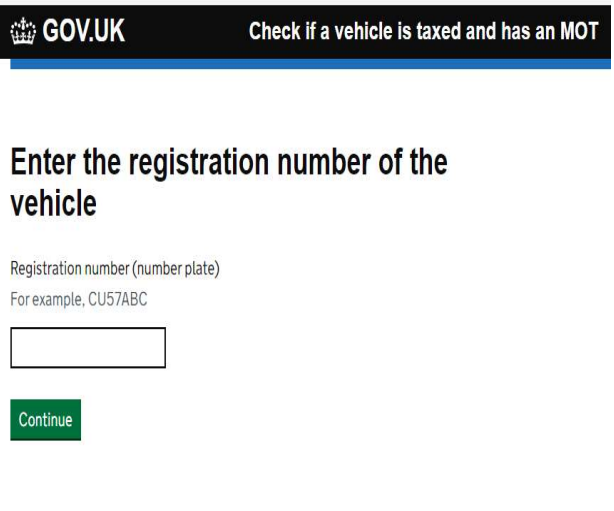
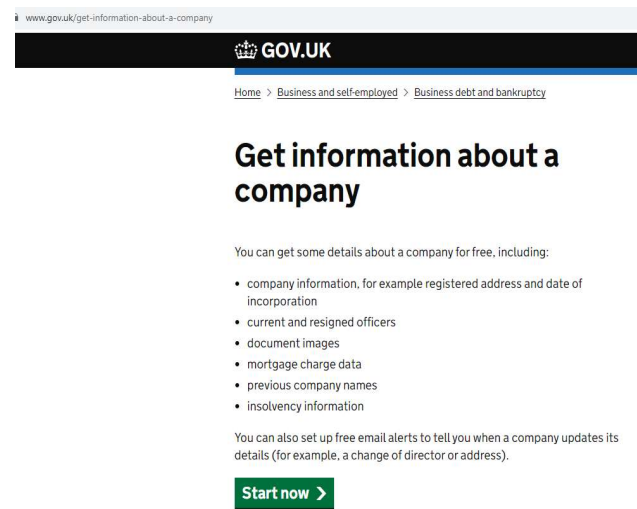

The information from the video clips is recorded to a database.



COMPANY	REG	MAKE	Weight	BODY TYPE	HEADING	DATE	Month	Day	Time
PLANT SPEED	WX18 GSZ	MERCEDES	44T	7 axle artic + Skyrailler	S/Bound	11/10/2021	Oct-21	Mon	13:16:00
PLANTFORCE	WX18 YPT	VOLVO	32T	4 axle flatbed	N/bound	16/05/2023	May-23	Tue	10:56:39
PLANTSPEED	WX68 AZD	MERCEDES	44T	7 axle empty	S/Bound	04/07/2022	Jul-22	Mon	11:20:00
PLANTSPEED	WX68 AZD	MERCEDES	44T	7 axle plant load	N/bound	04/07/2022	Jul-22	Mon	12:12:00
PLANTSPEED	WU19 YCF	MERCEDES	32T	4 axle rigid	N/bound	04/07/2022	Jul-22	Mon	15:47:00
PLATTS ANIMAL FEED	PO15XBH	VOLVO	26T	3 axle full	S/Bound	19/08/2022	Aug-22	Fri	11:13:00
PLATTS ANIMAL FEED	PO15XBH	VOLVO	26T	3 axle full	N/bound	19/08/2022	Aug-22	Fri	12:37:00
PLATTS ANIMAL FEED		VOLVO	26T	3 axle box	S/bound	12/01/2023	Jan-23	Thu	15:19:00
PLATTS ANIMAL FEED		VOLVO	26T	3 axle box	N/bound	12/01/2023	Jan-23	Thu	16:22:00
PLATTS ANIMAL FEED	PO15XBH	VOLVO	26T	3 axle full	S/Bound	11/09/2023	Sep-23	Mon	11:29:39
PLATTS ANIMAL FEED	PO15XBH	VOLVO	26T	3 axle full	N/bound	11/09/2023	Sep-23	Mon	12:22:59

Using the information captured on video, we aim to lookup as much information on the offending vehicles as possible. The researched information allows us to contact the offending companies.

- DVLA lookup using number plate (if captured)
- Companies House for names of directors and CEOs
- Research of company website for information and email contacts.
- Email the company ensuring Ken Hill (Avon & Som Police) and others are on CC



The image displays two screenshots of the GOV.UK website. The left screenshot shows the 'Get information about a company' page, which includes a list of details that can be viewed for free, such as company information, current and resigned officers, document images, mortgage charge data, previous company names, and insolvency information. The right screenshot shows the 'Enter the registration number of the vehicle' page, which includes a text input field for the registration number and a 'Continue' button.

Examples of the
offending
vehicles





Selection of daily
44T offenders





Selection of daily 32T offenders



Selection of daily 26T offenders

Recorded Data



The captured results: -

- We are averaging over 120 illegal HGVs passing through the 18T limit every month.

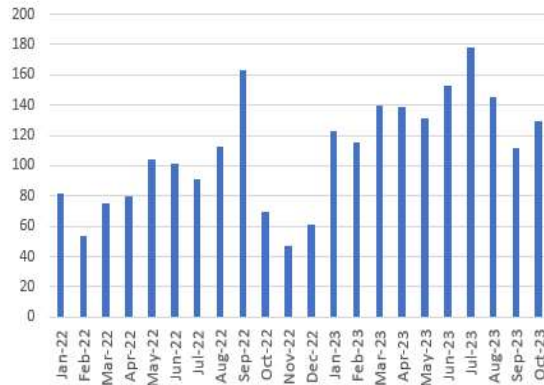
- The recorded data shows that the village suffers from illegal overweight HGVs from 6am through to 9pm.

- We can see anywhere between 5 and 30 HGVs illegally passing through Wickwar in a single day.

- Thankfully, not all HGV drivers choose to ignore the 18T limit, otherwise the village would be gridlocked.

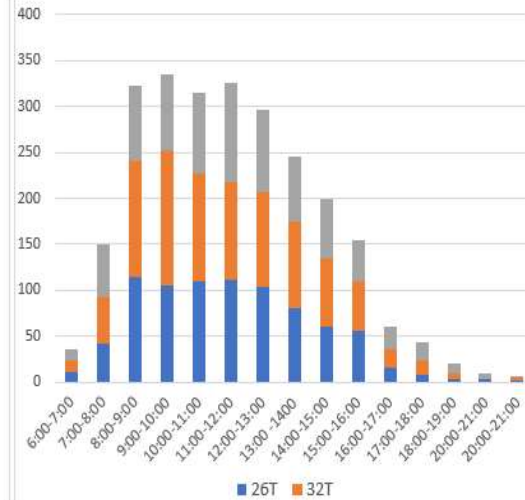
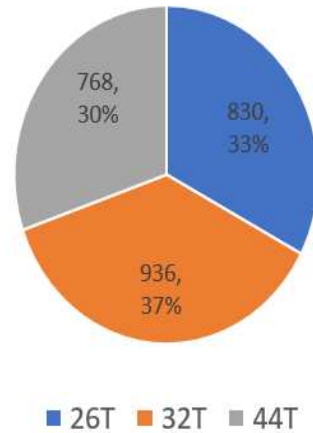
Please consider that this data does not display all HGV traffic. The monitoring software and camera have many outages and can often not record for days at a time.

Monthly Overweight Lorries

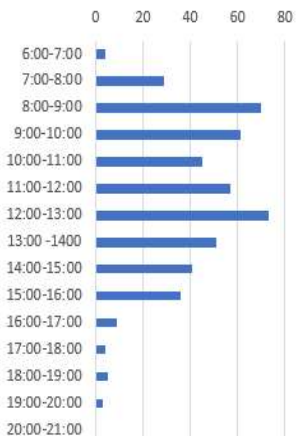


Weight

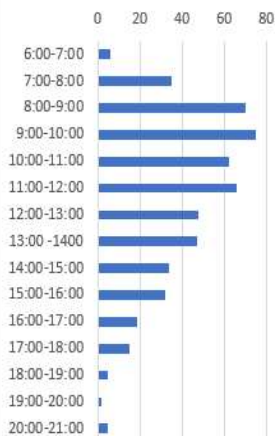
Total
2534



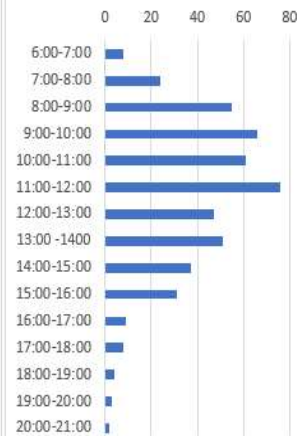
Mon



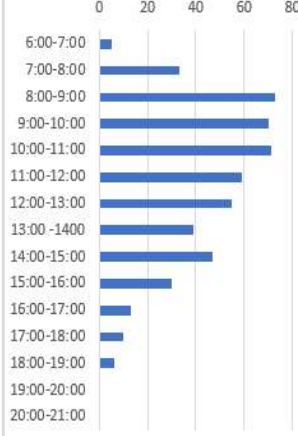
Tue



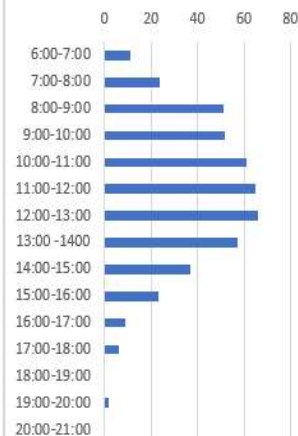
Wed



Thu



Fri



Positive company responses that have led to a reduction in HGV traffic.

22-02-17_12-16-18





Response from Hanson Operations Director

".....I totally agree, this is most unacceptable"

"....driver is crystal clear regarding my feelings, as is his employer"

"....any further breaches will result in the termination of the haulier's contract with us"

"This will not happen again"





Positive email response from Owens group

“...drivers dealt with under our disciplinary procedure”

“...I have set up a geofence alert on our tracking system”

“...I can deal with offending drivers immediately”

“...we are dealing with the issue”



Since Owens group implemented their “Geo Fence” for Wickwar – We have not seen any of their vehicles



THE SAT-NAV LIES, USE YOUR EYES!

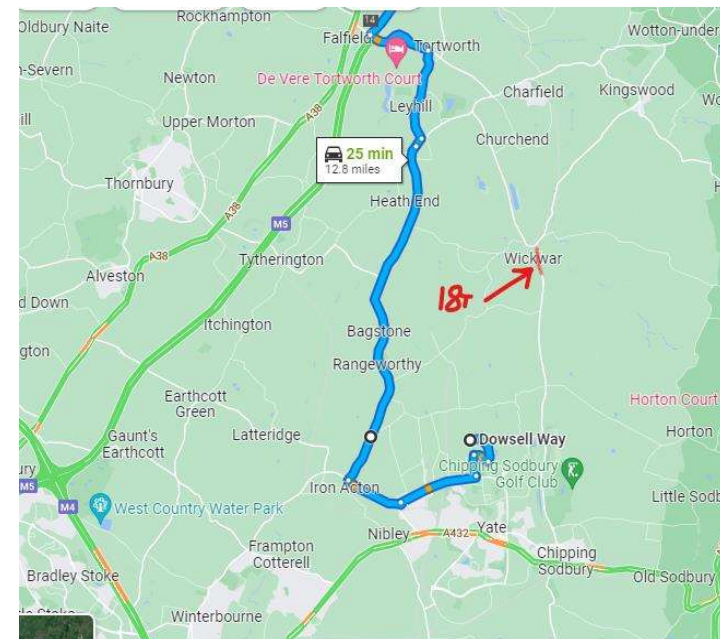
WICKWAR Nr YATE 18t weight limit

Important note if delivering to **Barrett Homes, off Randolph Way, Yate.**

There is a 18t weight limit in the village of Wickwar, just North of Yate. The local people are policing this. Photographing vehicles and reporting them to the authorities. This may lead to prosecution!

The best route North to the M5 from Chipping Sodbury or Yate or Westerleigh areas is currently as follows

If heading for the M5 at J14 the designated lorry route from the M4, A46, Chipping Sodbury or Yate areas is to pick up the **B4059** to Iron Acton where the **B4058** will lead straight to the M5. If heading for Station Rd Wickwar, the B4509 must be taken to access Station Road. Route planners please note. **The B4060 is not suitable.**



“... driver is given signed-for attached note/route plan”

“...I will make sure does not happen again”

“... each driver is now debriefed”

Response from Mathew Haines (Director) – Not seen S&J Vehicles since this email

MB Scaffolding



- 56 contraventions Jan – April 2023 with 2 x 26T flatbeds.
- Equated to 8.5% of all over-weights for that period

SCAFFOLD

TOOL BOX TALK

SUBJECT: 18T Route
Through Wicklow

GIVEN BY: _____


Date: 2-5-23

Name (Please Print)	Signature
Simon Huckle	<i>[Signature]</i>
Michael Lal	<i>[Signature]</i>
Gary Hopkins	<i>[Signature]</i>

Both Questions answered and understood by all	
<u>Question 1</u> Do you understand. The email.	YES

Both Questions answered and understood by all	
<u>Question 1</u> Do you understand. The email.	YES

Following their “Toolbox Talk” 02/05/23 we no longer see any of their vehicles.



The excuses for
contravening the
18T limit.





Archers Transport



“I was just following the Sat Nav”



- “...the driver said he was following truckers satnav and it says – except for loading/unloading” (sic)
- “...thought it was permitted”

**DAVID G. DAVIES
& SONS LTD**



NOT SEEN SINCE

“I only carry Polystyrene”

“...I know how much my vehicle ways (sic) and how much the load ways...” (sic)

“All my drivers have up to date CPC Driver Qualification Cards”.

“With everything happening in the world at the minute I think it puts things in prospective (sic)...”

- “...the vehicle as you have stated is revenue to carry 44t” (sic)
- “...however, the vehicle and trailer empty weighs in at 15”
- “...our specific work is carrying Polystyrene”
- “...when loaded it weighs off at 17t”
- “...makes this below the 18T limit specified”



Following Sat Nav
TomTom does not
show limit!!

“...absolutely no excuse to travel through”

“...embarrassing”

“...drove past so many signs”

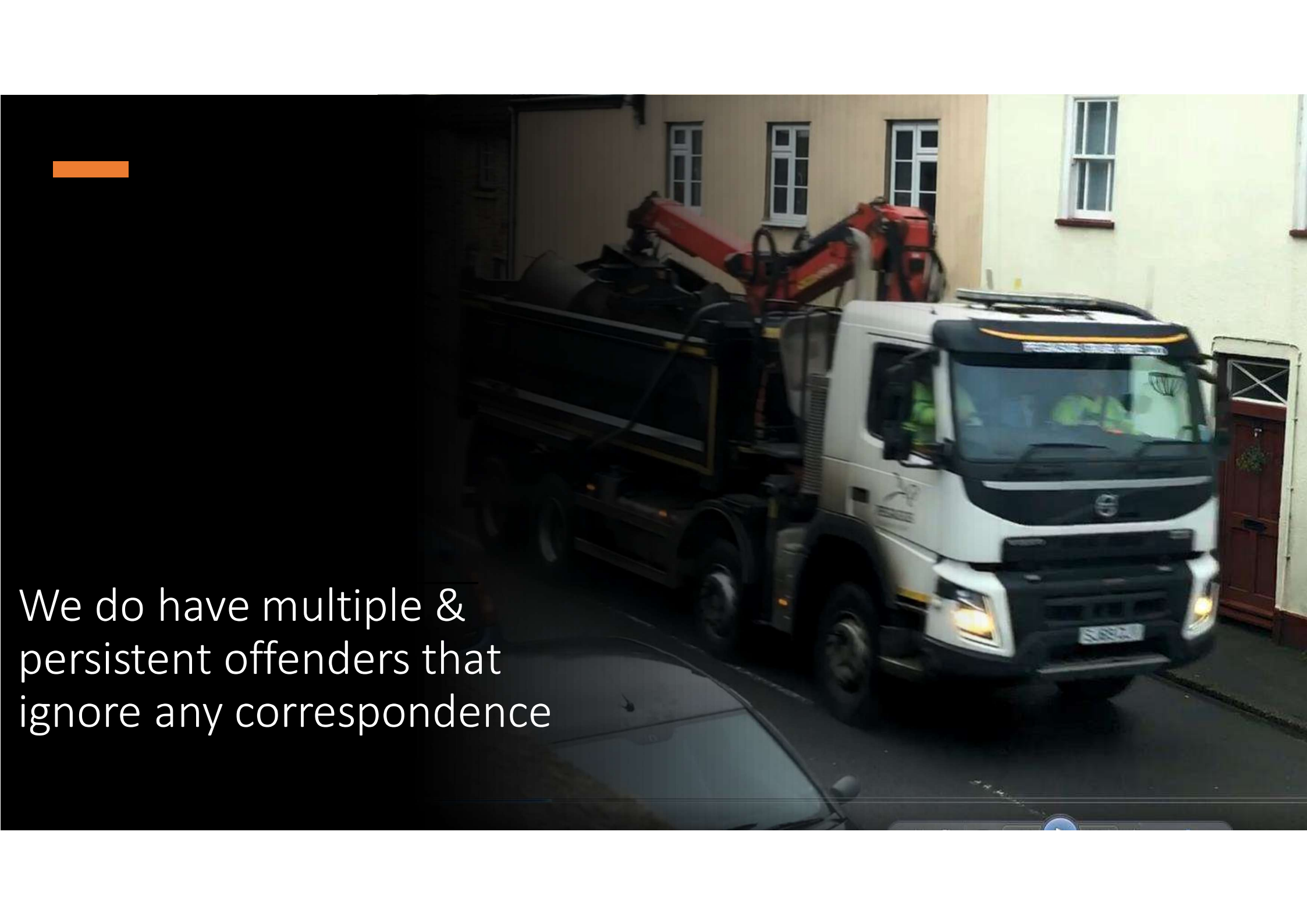
“...his sat nav directed through the village”

“...wrongly assuming delivery inside restriction”

“...updated TomTom – still sends through village”

“...have reported to TomTom”

- NOT SEEN SINCE

A white Volvo truck with a red crane arm is parked on a street. The truck is facing right, and its headlights are on. It is parked next to a yellow building with several windows. A red door is visible on the right side of the building. The truck's license plate is visible. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting a street scene. An orange rectangle is visible in the top left corner of the image.

We do have multiple &
persistent offenders that
ignore any correspondence

M4 Freight were captured **19 times within**
a 4-hour period in one day



Muldoon were captured **13 times in 6 hours**
on a single day



Pegasus Grab Hire have been recorded **56 times** since we started capturing data. We have seen their vehicles every month this year





Unmarked HGVs
account for 20% of all
HGV traffic through
Wickwar.



We are powerless to stop
these vehicles as we
have no one to contact.

Wickwar High Street
is not suitable for
HGVs.

2023-09-15_12-53-53



Forced Reverse



Blocking the
road and
having to use
the pavement



Junction B4060 – B4509

- This junction is not suitable for articulated HGVs.
- Highways Agency has confirmed the junction has exceeded its designed flow rate.
- This example shows B4060 Northbound traffic being forced left onto the B4509 to clear the way for the HGV to continue its illegal passage through the 18T section of road.



—
Signage

Approaching Wickwar from
the M5 Motorway.

(Southbound)



Sign 1



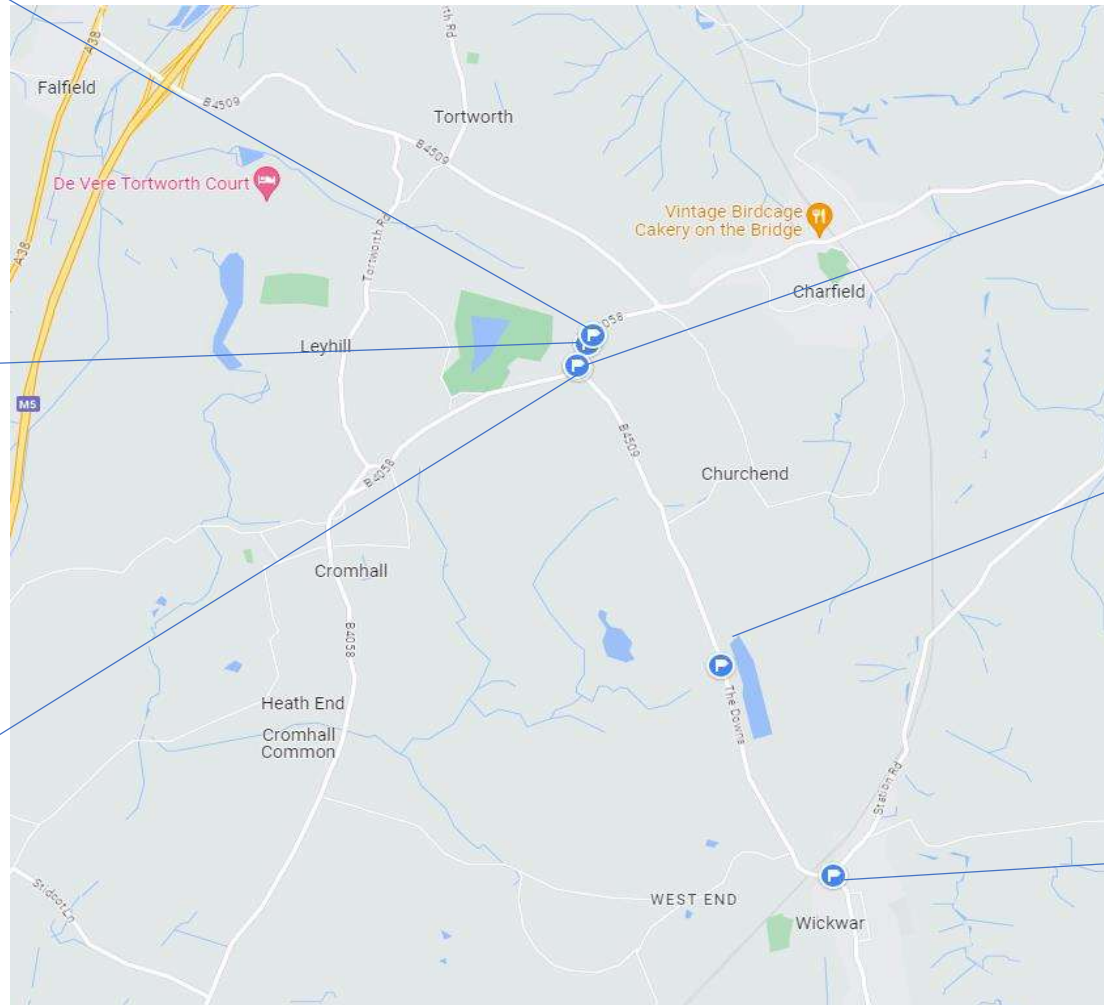
Sign 2



Sign 3



Inadequate Southbound 18T Signage!



Sign 4



Sign 5



Sign 6



Sign 1



This is a direction sign, not a warning sign.

(18T limit could be 8 miles away according to this sign)

Sign 2



Sign is very unclear.

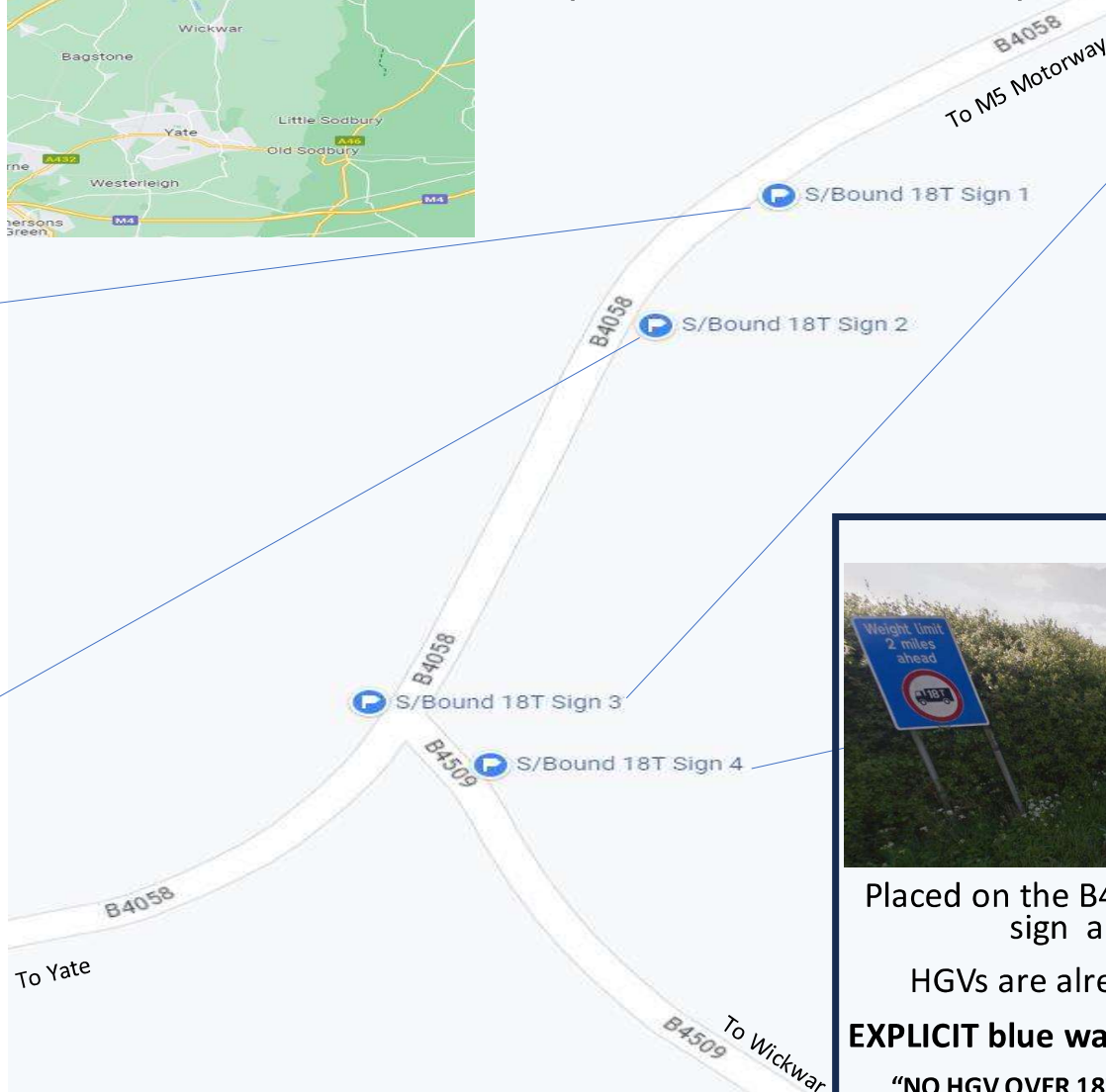
Suggests a low bridge in 2 miles.

Should state that there is

"NO 18T HGV THROUGH WICKWAR ON B4060"



Existing Southbound 18T Signage (B4058 / B4509 Junction)



Sign 3



Unclear - Too small – Wrong Position on RHS of B4058 on the B4509 junction.

Drivers are already turning left onto B4509 and do not see it.

Again....should state that there is:

"NO over 18T HGV THROUGH WICKWAR ON B4060"

Sign 4

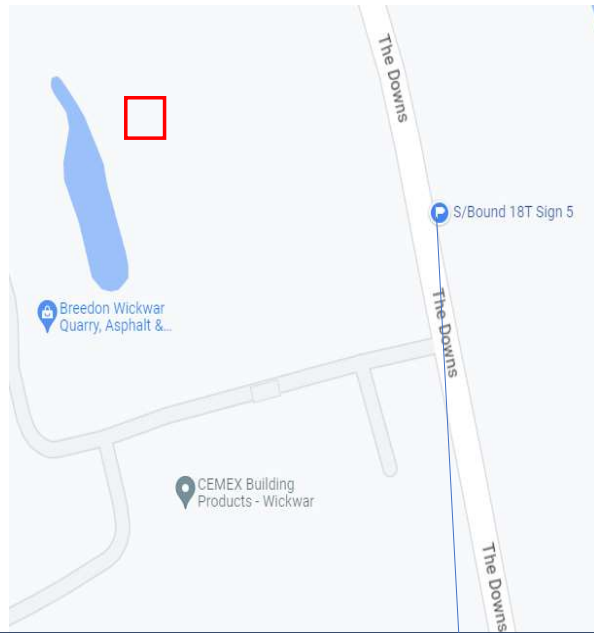


Placed on the B4509. This is the 1st blue WARNING sign and is positioned too late.

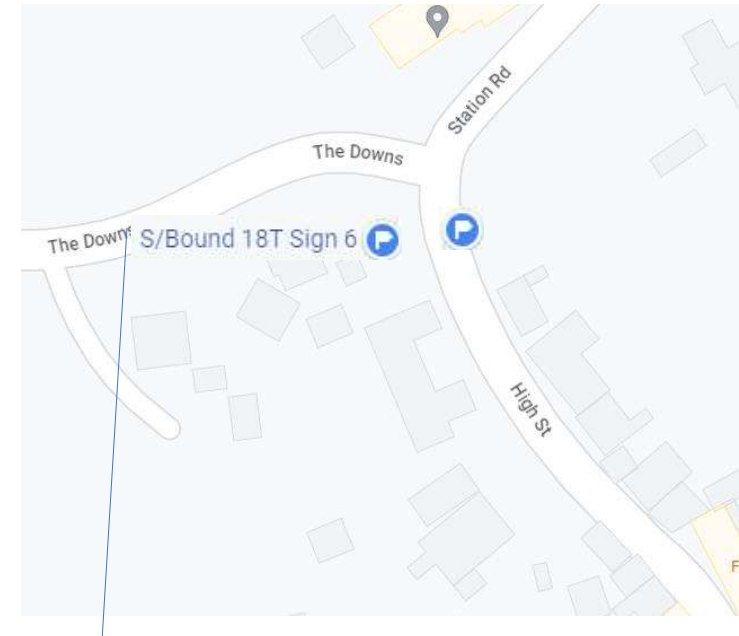
HGVs are already on the B4509 at this point.

EXPLICIT blue warning signs should be on the B4058

"NO HGV OVER 18T SOUTH THROUGH WICKWAR ON B4060"



Existing Southbound 18T Signage (The Downs into Wickwar)



Sign 5

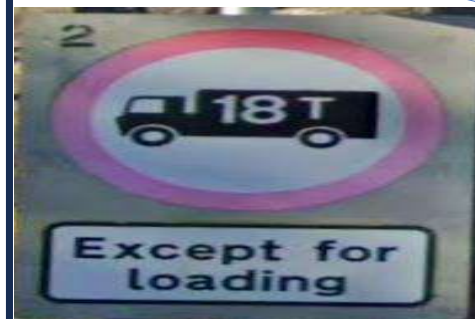


This is on B4509 just before Breedon quarry.

Needs to warn of no access to B4060 at Wickwar.

Extra sign required - "ACCESS ONLY FOR BREEDON QUARRY,
ARNOLDSFIELD TRADING ESTATE + STATION ROAD"

Sign 6



HGV Drivers claim they don't know how far the "Except for loading" limit lasts and use this as an excuse for contravening the 18T Limit.

The "Except for loading" plate needs removing

No HGV could deliver to the few properties within this section because they would block the road completely.



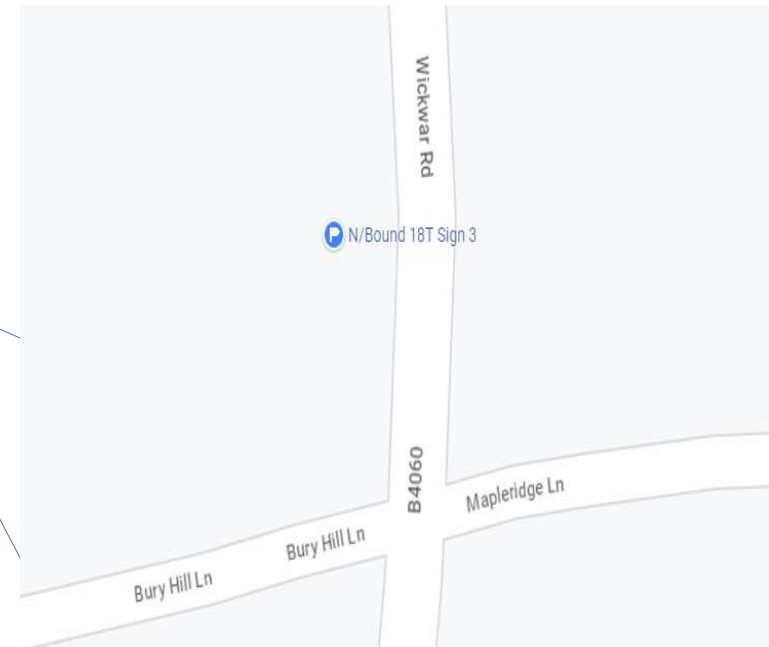
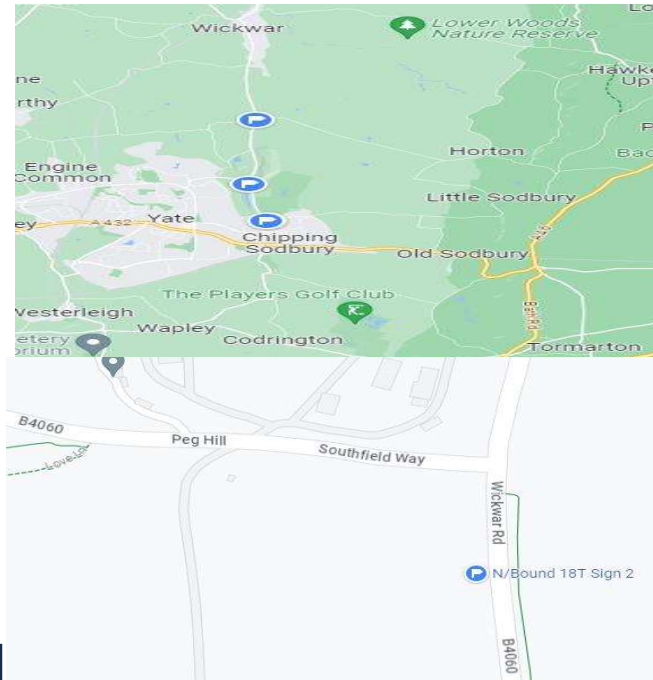
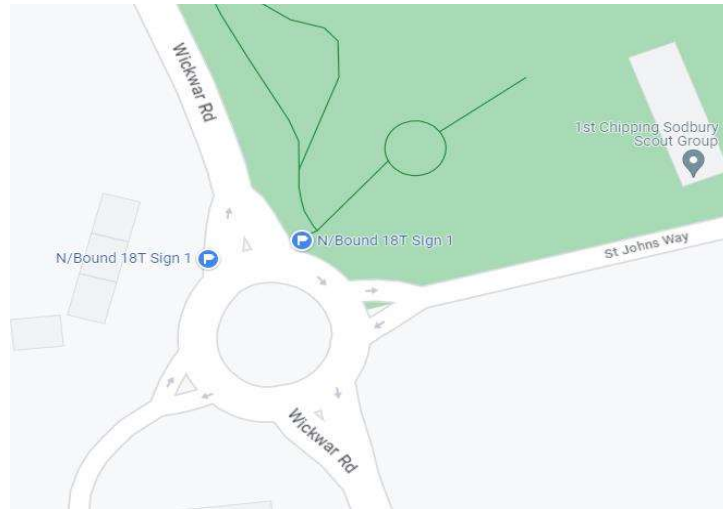
Signage

Approaching Wickwar from
the M4 Motorway (Yate)

(Northbound)



Existing Northbound 18T Signage (B4060)



Sign 1



Warning sign - does not state where limit is.

Extra sign required: -

“NO HGV over 18T through Wickwar(B4060)
HGV to follow B4059 for Yate”

Sign 2



This is a direction sign. Roundel does not state where limit is in relation to distance to village.

Blue Warning sign required: -

“HGVs over 18T - NO ACCESS TO M5, STATION RD,
ARNOLDSFIELD TRADING EST WICKWAR or BREEDON
QUARRY - **USE marked B4059 for Yate**”

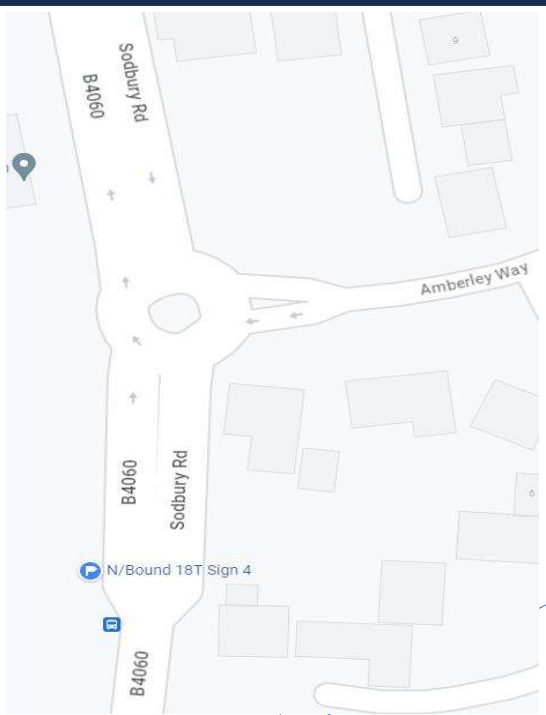
Sign 3



Too small – No roundel - Does not say where limit is in relation to the village.

Extra sign required: -

“NO HGVs over 18T ACCESS TO M5, STATION RD,
ARNOLDSFIELD TRADING EST WICKWAR or BREEDON QUARRY”



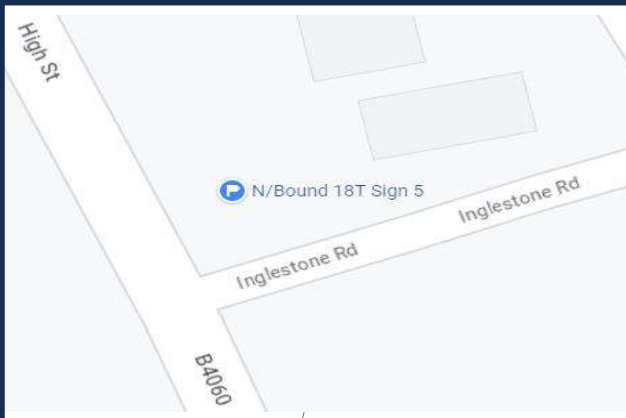
Sign 4



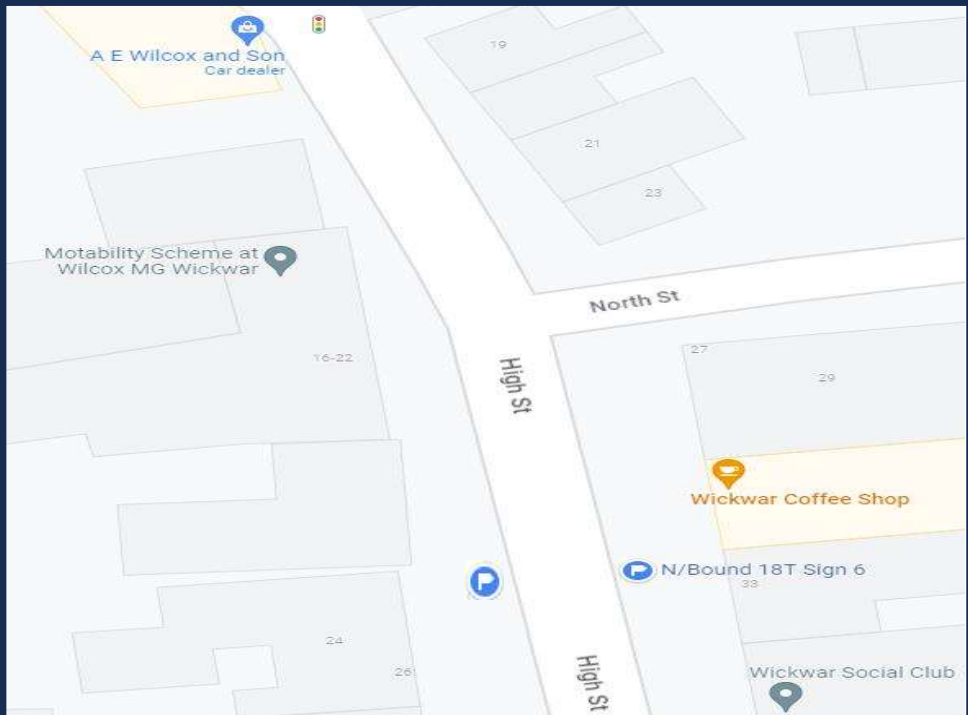
Final warning!
 Maybe additional sign: -
 "ANPR CAMERAS AHEAD"



Sign 5



Final warning!
 Maybe additional sign: -
 "ANPR CAMERAS AHEAD"



Sign 6



The "Except for loading" plate needs removing.
 Often used as an excuse for contravening the limit



- HGV Drivers know that they can pass through Wickwar consequence free.

- Whilst we are pushing forward with the potential option of ANPR cameras, can we advertise the fact we already have them??

- Signage of this nature will certainly make HGV drivers think twice!

HGV drivers
always seem to
see the signs
that have
consequences!





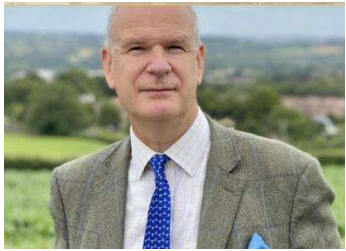
Where do we go
next for
support??



Cllr Becky Romaine has been very supportive to our cause since taking her position as South Glos Councillor.

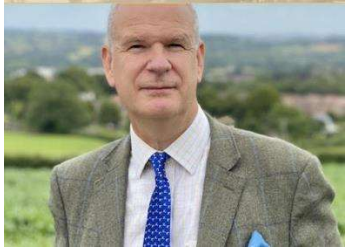
She has now involved Avon & Somerset Crime Commissioner, Mark Shelford

The commissioner visited Wickwar at the end of September when we presented our findings to them both.



Key notes from September meeting with Commissioner Mark Shelford

- The meeting in September with Commissioner Mark Shelford and Councilor Becky Romaine resulted in their unilateral support.
- The commissioner has agreed to investigate the possibility of ANPR weight cameras being installed at the traffic lights.
- He is also in discussion with a supplier of new type speed cameras to see if they can be adapted (which he thought possible). He will also check the price which he thought was in the region of £500 each.
- Implementing such a solution can be slow! The commissioner warned that delays are usually with the council having to erect posts and install an electricity supply.
- My suggestion was that they could be installed on top of the current traffic lights which already have poles and electricity – therefore a lower-cost, faster implementation.
- There was agreement that ANPR cameras could solve the problem overnight. It doesn't take long for word to get around the trucking fraternity.
- The commissioner has advised that grants of £5000 are available every two years to help fund the installation / ongoing costs – details need to be investigated.
- Signage would have to be revised to include the camera warnings, but police presence and police contact with offenders would not be required as we assume fines would be automatic, thereby saving valuable manpower.
- Any other associated problems such as noise, congestion, using the pavement and additional damage to an already damaged road would disappear once the HGVs stopped passing through.
- The commissioner requested access to the details on this presentation to share with the necessary agencies, hence why this presentation is now available in the cloud for download.



Information required: -

This is our one and only chance to embrace the Crime Commissioner's time, resources and influence for the good of Wickwar!

We have been asked how we would prioritise the next steps for Wickwar?

- 1 - ANPR cameras to be fitted so offenders are prosecuted. *(A proven solution but at what cost?)*
- 2 - Signage to be improved immeasurably by the council / Highways
- 3 - Sat Nav providers forced to include Wickwar's 18T limit on their maps.
- 4 - In the absence of ANPR cameras, a random weekly police presence to catch offenders. *(Mobile camera vans can be used to catch HGVs over 18T)*
- 5 - Support from the police in contacting companies that have been caught by our own monitoring of the traffic.

ANPR Cameras and accurate signage Work!!

Successful ANPR implementations in other regions: -

- The use of ANPR cameras in Wickwar would follow the recent example set in Bath on the Cleveland Bridge which now has ANPR cameras monitoring over-18T HGVs.
- Another ANPR installation in Oxfordshire reduced over-18T throughput from 90 per month, down to 24.
- I would expect to see an even better reduction if we can include signage that advises Wickwar is a “No Through Route for over-18T HGVs”
- Contrary to information provided to us from Highways, these signs ARE available!!



Thank-you for your time

If you have any feedback or queries,
please feel free to contact me.

jon@bitsbristol.co.uk