

PRINCE MICHAEL INTERNATIONAL ROAD SAFETY AWARDS WINNERS OF SAFER ROADS CATEGORY

BRITAIN'S MOST IMPROVED ROAD

Summary

For nearly a decade, Britain has been among pathfinding nations in seeking to measure systematically the risk posed to road users from road infrastructure. Since 2002, the Road Safety Foundation (RSF) has been mapping the rate of death and serious injury on Britain's roads annually applying the protocols developed through the European and International Road Assessment Programmes (EuroRAP in Europe). During this time improvements have been tracked; particularly progress in eliminating very high-risk road sections.

Risk mapping of death and serious injury and the tracking of performance is now done annually for 44,500km of motorways and 'A' roads. The results published on 21st November 2017 revealed that only 1% of this network in Britain showed a significant reduction in fatal and serious crashes between 2010-12 and 2013-15.

During the last year there have been some encouraging developments. Highways England continues to take a proactive approach to reducing risk across the Strategic Road Network, and DfT's innovative £175 million Safer Roads Fund has provided an opportunity for local authorities to prepare plans to improve the safety of 50 of the highest risk local 'A' roads that will be implemented over the next 3 years. HRH's award recognises those authorities that continue to tackle road safety in a systematic and proactive manner.

This year, RSF would like to nominate Gloucestershire County Council for an award for the substantial reduction in fatal and series casualties achieved on the A4151 as this year's 'most improved road'.

Route information

The most improved route is the A4151 between Elton Corner (A48) and Steam Mills (A4136) in Gloucestershire.

The route characteristics are:

- 2-lane single carriageway, corridor length 7.9km
- Speed varies from 20mph in the Town Centre (Cinderford) and 30 mph through the village of Littledean to 50mph on the rural sections a stretch of 60 between Littledean and Cinderford and 40 between Cinderford and Nailbridge at Steam Mills
- The route is approximately 70% rural and 30% urban
- Junctions are all at-grade priority junctions with mini roundabouts within Cinderford and Littledean
- The route carries approximately 8000 vehicles a day with a normal HGV presence for an 'A' class road
- Footways are present through built up areas and rural villages
- Good quality signing/lining throughout including edge lines and road studs
- Double white centre lining used in rural sections where forward visibility is limited

Statistics

The route had 8 crashes that caused death or serious injury between 2010 and 2012 which reduced significantly to 1 crash between 2013 and 2015. The route has experienced an 87% reduction in fatal and serious crashes between the two periods compared to a 4% reduction

on the GB EuroRAP network as a whole. This single carriageway road section has become a low-medium risk (yellow) route in 2013-15 from a medium-high risk (red) route in 2010-12.

Measures undertaken

Gloucestershire County Council undertakes an annual hotspot analysis programme and identified this section as requiring intervention through this analysis. The measures implemented included:

- Safety scheme of revised road markings, signing and marker posts at hazardous locations and bends
- Carriageway resurfacing
- New pedestrian crossing in Littledean
- Introduction of 20mph limit in Cinderford Town Centre
- Regular routine maintenance of traffic signs and road markings including pedestrian crossings and central hatching
- Road safety education and training programme with key audiences including young pedestrians and cyclists, young drivers and motorcyclists