

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Village Hall, Barrack Hill, Coleshill HP7 0LN

Speeding in Coleshill: Results from Speed Tube readings

Two sets of speed tubes were laid in Village Road on March 10th; one set outside Cedar House/Robert Shaw Trust field, the other alongside the pond. Readings were taken from both in both directions over seven days – 14th to 21st March. The 24 hour day was split into hours and the speeds into 5 mph segments between below 16 (11-16) and up to 71 (66-71).

It is possible for traffic to generate no reading using Tower Road and New Road, Magpie Lane, Chalk Hill and Barrack Hill e.g. a Winchmore Hill resident travelling to the school would not generate a reading.

The first striking point of note is that over seven days there were 915 readings at Cedar House but only 616 at the pond! This significant difference could possibly be explained by school visitors, the majority of whom will make four runs per day or twenty per week. Is the school demographic markedly skewed to the north of the village and further north, with Winchmore Hill children not triggering readings? A difference of 300 over a five day week is 60 per day so, it might be possible for 15 school 'mums' to account for the difference. I asked Jenny Earp at the school whether she could shed some light on this conjecture. She replied "...we have 61 pupils at the school, 47 of whom live in Coleshill, Winchmore Hill, Penn Street or Mop End. The remainder live in Holtspur or the Amersham area". So if we were to assume three of the remaining fourteen live in Holtspur then we might have found eleven of those fifteen and, therefore, explained much of the imbalance.

A further feature of the data is that showing the peak morning and afternoon/evening traffic. At Cedar House the peak a.m. volume is 95 at 08:00¹ while that for the pond is 44 at the same time. At Cedar House the peak p.m. volume is 86 at 17:00 while that for the pond is 73 at the same time. I would suggest that the differences might be attributable to commuters heading for and from Amersham station.

Observations:

- Speeding would appear not to be a problem possibly suggesting that pedestrians' perception of speed is over-estimated. The mean average of readings at Cedar House was 28 mph and at the pond 26 mph
- However, the data also shows speeds at the 85th percentile. The operators of the equipment define these as "the speeds at or below which 85% of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions past a nominated point". These are also referred to as the operating speed(s) of the road. The 24 hour reading at Cedar House was 34; that at the pond was 33. These figures, the average over seven days, suggest that there may be a speeding problem and legally that has to be the case.
- At Cedar House the 85th percentile reading was highest at 37, taken during the hours beginning 06:00. Then there were readings of 36 at 07:00 and at 17:00.
- Similarly, at the pond the 85th percentile reading was highest at 35 which reading was taken during the hours beginning 07:00 and 17:00 suggesting that rush hour traffic, perhaps unsurprisingly, is the faster.
- The tubes do not appear to have led to lower speeds after day one
- At Cedar House:
 - There were 917 readings (131 per day); 423 one way 494 the other
 - 72.1% of the readings were of speeds below 31 mph and 92.3% below 36 mph
 - 7.5% or 7.7% (rounding error) of the readings were at speeds above 36mph
 - There was no reading above the 41-46 mph bucket
 - There were three readings in the 46-51 bracket and one in the 51-56 bracket
 - Of the four readings above 45 the total shows these numbers but there are no readings in the hourly breakdown so it is unclear whether these are rogue readings or there is a defect in the way the machine allocates results
 - The mean average of all readings was 28
 - The data gives readings at the 85th percentile between the hours of 06:00 and 22:00, the average of which is 34 with 06:00 and 07:00 and 17:00 and 18:00 being marked with readings between 35 and 37.
- At the Pond:
 - There were 616 readings; 345 one way; 271 the other
 - 79.9% of the readings were of speeds below 31 mph and 94.6% below 36 mph
 - 5.4% of the readings were at speeds above 36mph

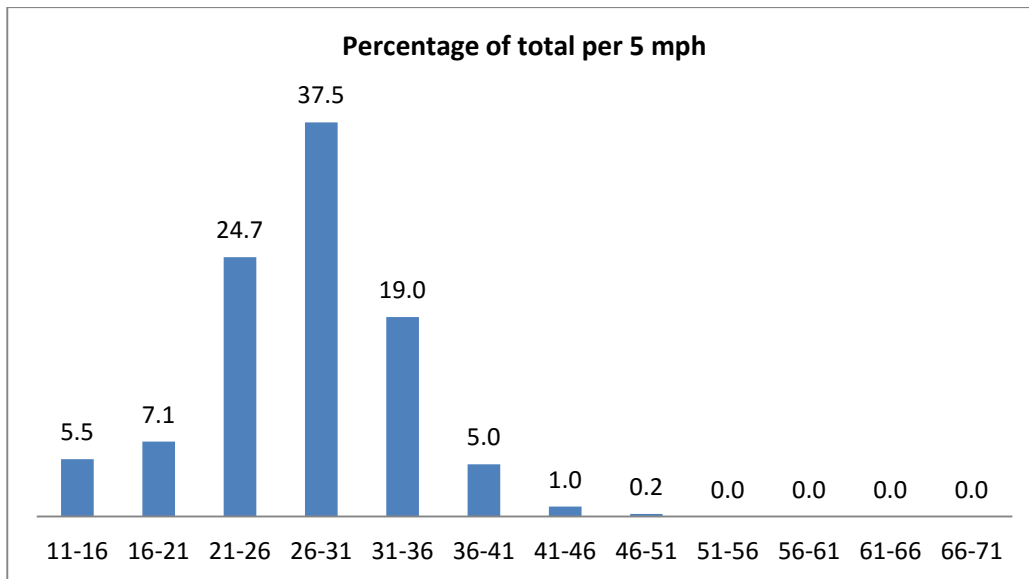
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- There was one reading in the 46-51mph bucket which was taken at 17:00. But the total for that speed bucket shows zero so there has to be uncertainty as to the veracity of this reading.
- There were two readings in the 46-51 bracket and one in the 51-56 bracket
- Of the three readings above 45 the total shows these numbers but there are no readings in the hourly breakdown as with the Cedar House data so, again, there is some doubt as to the accuracy of the machine
- The mean average of all readings was 26
- The readings at the 85th percentile between the hours of 07:00 and 21:00, the average of which is 33 with 07:00 and 17:00 being marked with readings of 35.
- The lack of consistency in the readings between the weekly totals of each speed bucket and the hourly totals of higher speeds has been noted above. It is also worth mentioning that there were only ten readings above the 41-46 mph bucket or 0.7% of the total sample.

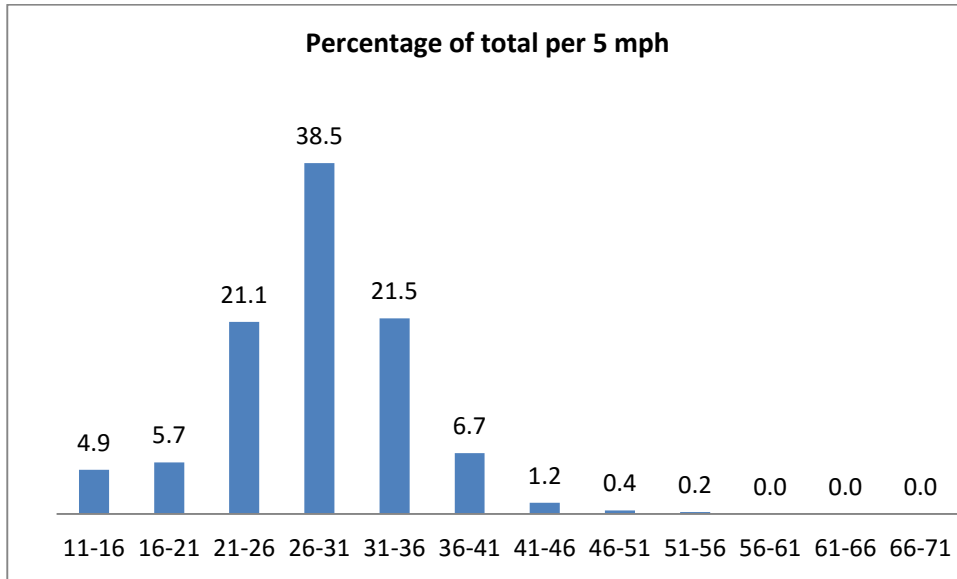
¹ Each hourly bucket contains data for an hour starting at the hour shown i.e. 17:00 is 17:00 to 18:00. I have created six graphs from the data: both sites each way and the totals. The graphs below show the data as percentages.

Cedar House; south easterly (421)

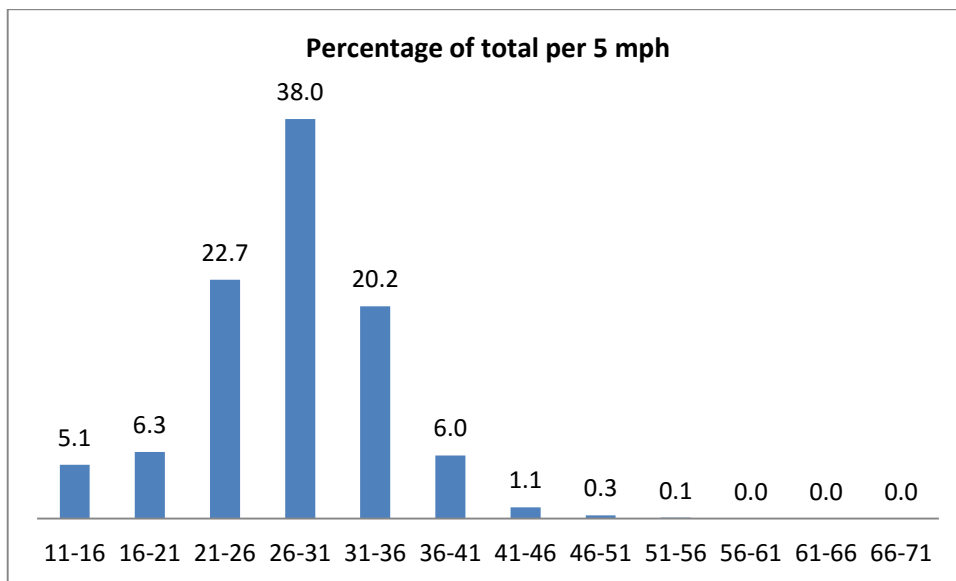


Cedar House: north westerly (494)

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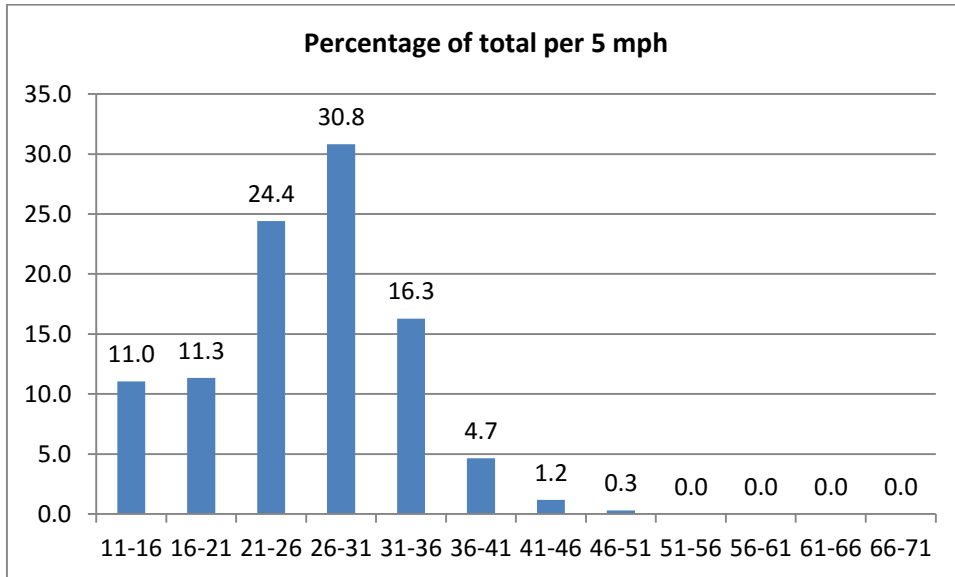


Cedar House: total readings (915)

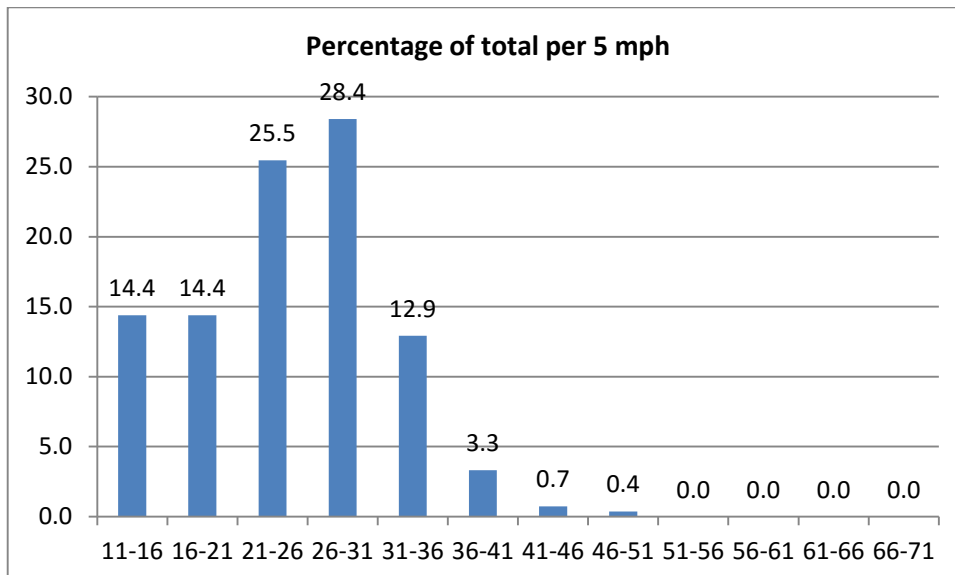


The Pond: southbound (345)

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The Pond: northbound (271)



The Pond: both directions (616)

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