

Helmdon Community Speed Watch (CSW) Report 2026

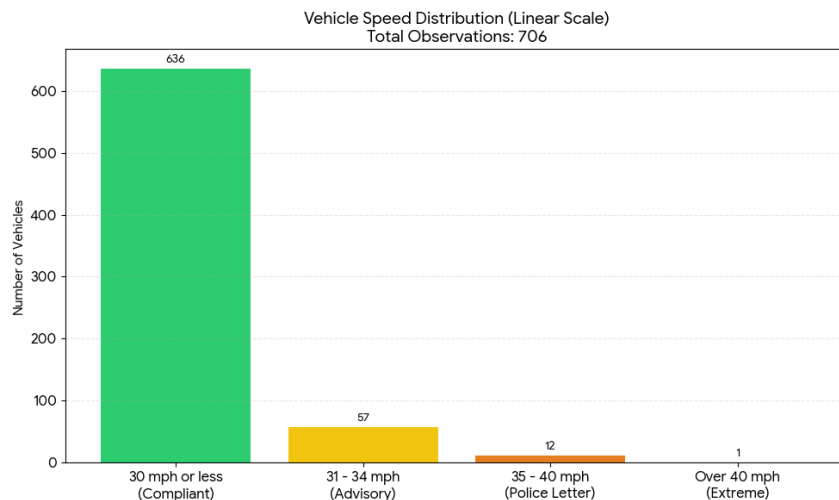
1. Executive Summary

The results of the 2026 Community Speed Watch sessions characterise Helmdon as a high-compliance village. With over 90% of monitored traffic adhering to the 30 mph speed limit, the data suggests that the current speed limit is viewed as appropriate and reasonable by the vast majority of motorists.

This report adopts a statistical, proportionate lens. By focusing on identifying specific hotspots and timing patterns, the Parish Council can address areas of concern effectively without mischaracterising the village-wide traffic as inherently unsafe.

2. Data Overview

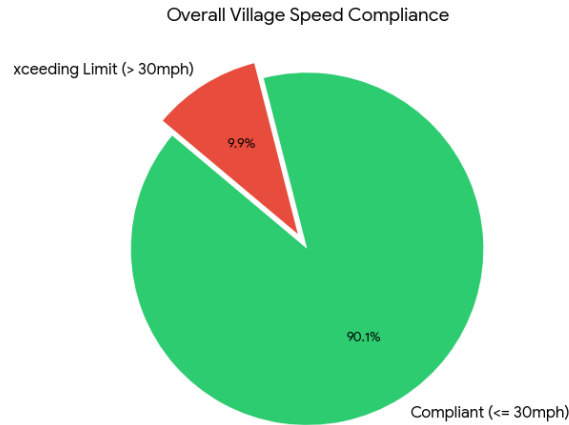
A total of 706 vehicles were monitored across the 2026 sessions.



Speed Category	Number of Vehicles	Status
30 mph or less	636 (90%)	Fully Compliant
31 - 34 mph	57 (8%)	Noted
35 - 40 mph	12 (1.7%)	Reported to Police
Over 40 mph	1 (0.1%)	Reported to Police

3. Overall Driver Compliance

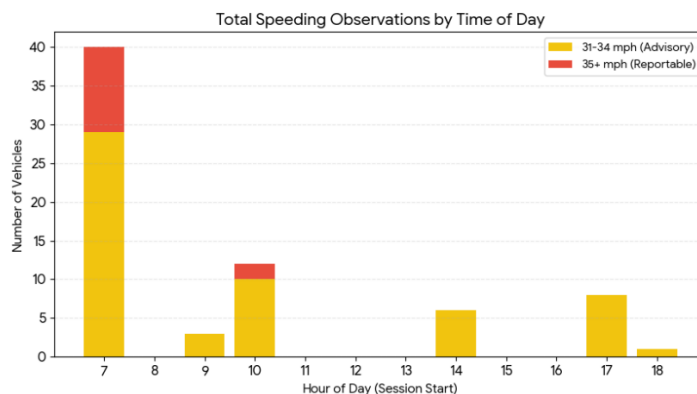
The data shows an excellent level of overall compliance.



- **Compliant:** 90.1% (636 vehicles)
- **Exceeding Limit:** 9.9% (70 vehicles)

4. Analysis of Speeding by Time of Day

To ensure volunteer resources are used effectively, the data has been analysed by "total counts" of speeding vehicles per hour. This approach provides a grounded view of when the highest number of incidents actually occurs, avoiding the statistical "noise" that can occur in very small data samples.



Key Findings:

- **The Morning Peak:** The 07:00–08:30 window is the most active period for speeding.
- **Concentrated Offenses:** 11 out of the 13 reportable (35+ mph) offenses occurred before 08:30 AM.
- **Afternoon Compliance:** Sessions held after 12:00 PM showed significantly higher compliance, with zero high-speed (35+ mph) incidents recorded in the later hours.

5. Severity and Police Reporting

Under the CSW scheme, only vehicles traveling at 35 mph or higher are reported to Northamptonshire Police for a warning letter.

- **Total Reported to Police:** 13 vehicles (1.8% of total traffic).
- **High-End Speeding (40+ mph):** Statistically rare, with only one vehicle recorded at 42 mph out of 706 observations.

This data suggests that while "speed creep" (driving at 31-34 mph) exists among a small minority, reckless or excessive speeding is not a widespread issue within the village.

6. Coordinator Remarks & Acknowledgements

This data-led approach is only possible due to the dedication of the CSW volunteers who give their time to stand at the roadside and collect this evidence. Their presence serves as both a deterrent and a vital tool for the Parish Council to understand village traffic patterns and advocate for the safety of our residents. A huge thank you to all the volunteers for their unwavering professionalism and good humour. Whether facing cold early mornings, baking heat, or afternoon showers they stepped up with alacrity and grace.