



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# 20 mph speed limits

will make Welsh streets safer and healthier

Welsh Government is planning to introduce a new 20mph national speed limit on 'restricted' roads – residential roads that currently have 30mph speed limits, generally distinguished by the presence of street lighting. The new 20mph limits will improve safety and help make Welsh streets a more welcoming place for everyone, including children, pedestrians and cyclists.

## Phase 1

Eight locations across Wales are adopting 20mph limits early to pilot ways to make the transition work smoothly. These cover a cross-section of settings across Wales, including villages, towns and cities and different types of roads: **Abergavenny and Severnside in Monmouthshire, Central North Cardiff, Buckley in Flintshire, Cilfriw Village in Neath and Port Talbot, St Dogmaels in Pembrokeshire, St Brides Major in Vale of Glamorgan and Llanelli North in Carmarthenshire.**

The focus of this first phase is around ensuring effective community engagement so that there is local appreciation of how reduced speeds will improve the streets where people live and create safer healthier communities.

### **Reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph will:**

- » Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured
- » Give more people the chance to walk or cycle to local destinations without feeling threatened by traffic danger

- » Improve health and wellbeing by enabling active travel and reducing traffic pollution
- » Safeguard and improve our environment locally and globally.

Lower speeds mean that more people feel able to walk and cycle, with more children are able to safely walk to school, and more older people able to travel independently and safely. There is evidence from across the world that vehicle speeds are the main reason why people do not walk or cycle or do not allow their children to walk or cycle to school.

Research shows that the majority of Welsh people are supportive of a 20mph limit.

## Nationwide roll-out in September 2023

The 20mph speed limit will be introduced across Wales in autumn 2023. From the date of implementation, where there is street lighting on a road, with no speed limit signs, drivers will be able to assume that the speed limit is 20mph. Because 20mph is the new 'default' speed limit, 20mph signs will only remain at the boundaries to 20mph limits.

Parts of the road network that retain a 30mph speed limit will have new signs installed. Which roads will stay at 30mph has been determined using an 'exceptions' process, based on criteria such as lower density of housing, absence of schools and hospitals, and other local factors.

The Welsh Government is working closely with GoSafe and the Police to ensure that the new speed limits are respected and driver behaviour change is supported.

## How can I find out more?



You can find out more about this scheme by scanning this QR code or visit [gov.wales/introducing-20mph-speed-limits](https://gov.wales/introducing-20mph-speed-limits)

