STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

# 2011 No. 851

# ROAD TRAFFIC

## The A303 Trunk Road (Countess Roundabout, Amesbury, Wiltshire) (40 mph Speed Limit) Order 2011

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| *Made - - - -* | *10 March 2011* |
| *Coming into force - -* | *21 April 2011* |

The Secretary of State for Transport, in exercise of powers conferred by section 84(1)(a) and (2) of, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984(**a**), makes the following Order:-

**1.** This Order may be cited as the A303 Trunk Road (Countess Roundabout, Amesbury, Wiltshire) (40 mph Speed Limit) Order 2011 and shall come into force on 21 April 2011.

**2.** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to be driven at a speed exceeding 40 miles per hour on lengths of the A303 Trunk Road at Countess Roundabout, Amesbury, in the District of Salisbury in the County of Wiltshire from: a) a point on the eastbound carriageway 452 metres west of the centre of Countess Roundabout to the junction with western edge of that roundabout, a distance of 395 metres; b) the eastern edge of the junction with Countess Roundabout eastbound to a point 220 metres east of the centre of that roundabout, a distance of 164 metres, together with the slip road spur to Countess Services, having a length of 20 metres; c) a point on the westbound carriageway 460 metres east of the centre of Countess Roundabout to the junction with the eastern edge of that roundabout, a distance of 411 metres; d) the junction with the western edge of Countess Roundabout westbound to a point 85 metres west of the centre of that roundabout, a distance of 30 metres; and e) the circulatory carriageway of Countess Roundabout.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State
For Transport

*David Sledge*
An Area Performance Manager
in the Highways Agency

10 March 2011

(**a**) 1984 c.27; section 84(1) was substituted by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c.40), section 45(2) and section 84(2) was substituted by the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (c.22), section 168 and Schedule 8, paragraph 61.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This does not form part of the Order)

The proposed Order would impose a 40 mph speed limit on the A303 at Countess Roundabout, Amesbury, including lengths leading to and from the roundabout and the slip road to Countess Services.

Countess Roundabout is large and well lit with straight approach roads. It currently has a 70mph speed. The size of the roundabout allows vehicles to travel at a high speed and tends to makes it difficult for drivers approaching the roundabout to assess the speed of vehicles using the roundabout. This can lead to hesitation and 'shunt' accidents. The straight approach roads also encourage high speeds.

A number of roundabouts on the A303 have high concentrations of accidents and Countess Roundabout has the second worst record. A study has shown that the majority are 'shunt' type accidents on the entries to the roundabout resulting from excessive approach speeds and the roundabout geometry.

At Podimore Roundabout, further west on the A303, modifications, including traffic signals, have resulted in a dramatic decrease in recorded accidents, it is believed that this was due to the reduced speeds at the roundabout.

To improve safety at Countess Roundabout the reduced speed limit proposal would be combined with the use of traffic signals and widening of the approaches to 3 lanes.