



ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Information Rights Team
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24th February 2026

Subject: Strategic Highway Assessments, Suitability, and Statutory Duty Compliance – Alkham Valley Road

To: Information Rights Team, Kent County Council

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I request the following recorded information held by Kent County Council (KCC) regarding the Alkham Valley Road (Unclassified) and the cumulative impacts of strategic regional development.

Scope of Request:

This request covers information held from 1 January 2018 to the date of this request. However, where any earlier modelling, assessments, Road Safety Audits (RSAs), internal briefings, or policy decisions continue to be relied upon—explicitly or implicitly—in current decision-making affecting Alkham Valley Road, please identify and provide those records regardless of date.

Requested Information

1. Road Suitability & HGV Assessment

- Any Swept Path Analysis (SPA), vehicle tracking models, or capacity assessments for Alkham Valley Road, specifically the pinch-point between The Marquis and Forstall Cottage.
- Technical modelling for 16.5m articulated vehicles, 12m rigid HGVs, or other heavy vehicle classes at this location.
- Internal assessments regarding two-way vehicle passability or “saturation flow” constraints within the village core.

2. HIP Technical Assessments & Safety Appraisals

- Any Technical Assessment Reports, Feasibility Studies, or Safety Appraisals undertaken by KCC Highways in response to the Alkham Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) requests for build-outs, speed reductions (20mph), and HGV weight limits.
- Internal documentation or correspondence (including emails between Highways Officers and the Scheme Planning & Delivery Team) detailing the technical or safety justifications for discounting these specific measures.
- If a formal Road Safety Audit (RSA) has not been commissioned, please provide any preliminary safety reviews or Collision Risk Assessments used to determine that the proposed HIP measures were "unsuitable" or "unachievable."
- Any "Departure from Standards" reports or internal memos discussing the 600m minimum length rule for speed limits in the context of the Alkham village core.

3. Traffic Data & HGV Signage Decisions

- Raw Automatic Traffic Counter (ATC) data used to justify the decision to install advisory HGV signage rather than a mandatory 7.5-tonne weight restriction.
- Internal reports, meeting minutes, or correspondence explaining why a mandatory Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was not progressed.

4. Strategic Traffic Modelling & Displacement

- Any SATURN, VISSIM, or equivalent modelling assessing the increase of traffic onto Alkham Valley Road arising from the Whitfield Urban Expansion (construction and operational phases).
- Cumulative impact assessments regarding the use of Alkham Valley Road as a "Strategic Relief Route" during congestion or closures on the A20/A2/A256 network.

5. Developer Contributions (Section 106 / Strategic Funding)

- A breakdown of Strategic Highway Contributions secured from Whitfield developers and any specific allocation (or recorded justification for non-allocation) to mitigation works in Alkham.

6. National Landscape (AONB) Duty Compliance

In light of the strengthened duty under Section 85(A1) of the CRow Act 2000 (as amended by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023), please provide:

- Evidence of how KCC has fulfilled its active duty to 'seek to further' the statutory purposes of the Kent Downs National Landscape.
- The 'transparent reasoning' used to justify decisions conflicting with AONB conservation (e.g., maintaining unrestricted HGV access), as required by recent 2025 High Court precedents (*New Forest* and *CPRE Kent*).
- Records showing if KCC assessed whether current policy leaves the AONB's special qualities (**tranquillity, dark skies, rural character**) 'unharmful'.

- Evidence that 'great weight' was given to the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and the Rural Streets and Lanes Design Handbook in these decisions.

7. Structural & Heritage Impact

- Any structural vibration assessments or correspondence between Highways officers and Conservation officers regarding HGV impacts on historic building frontages within the Alkham Conservation Area.

Public Interest Statement

This request concerns public safety, the protection of a National Landscape, and the transparency of statutory duty discharge under the Highways Act 1980, Vision Zero, and the Local Transport Plan.

I look forward to your response within 20 working days.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Bowie

Irene Bowie

Clerk to Alkham Parish Council