

Junction Analysis – Woodplumpton Parish Council

Date of assessment: - 5/04/24 Time of first assessment 0850

Vehicle Type: - Tractive unit with attached tandem axle semi-trailer (Artic) - part loaded.

Vehicle Dimensions: - Width 2.5 m/ 8'2" (mirrors project further) Length 16.5 m/ 54'

Weather: - Daylight, overcast.

Road conditions: - Wet surface due to frequent showers. Relatively light traffic volumes, Woodplumpton St Anne's CE Primary School was closed for Easter. 20mph Speed limit in Woodplumpton Road.

Three assessments conducted by driver with over 30 years' experience. Currently driver trainer, formerly a Driving test examiner with DVSA.

Turning left from B5269 Newsham Hall Lane into Woodplumpton Road

On approach, I had to position vehicle on the "wrong" side of the road taking up approximately 75% of the available width for oncoming traffic, or traffic emerging from Woodplumpton Road. The view ahead is restricted due to hedgerow and the bend in the road.

On turning into Woodplumpton Road, again, I had to position fully on "wrong" side of the road for some distance to ensure nearside trailer wheels did not mount the verge/kerb. In addition, there is no view of traffic approaching the junction from Woodplumpton Road till at the point of turn, at which time the position of my vehicle could not be changed.

Turning right from Woodplumpton Road into Ambrose Hall Lane

Restricted width on entry due to nearside hedge with telegraph pole set in and protruding tree on offside. Had to position well forward for this manoeuvre to make a 90 degree turn in an attempt to take the trailer in as straight as possible. Trailer headboard was in close proximity to telegraph pole during turn. Additional hazard - bend in road ahead; not much time to react if oncoming traffic appears, especially if they are exceeding the speed limit.

Turning left from Ambrose Hall Lane into Woodplumpton Road

Restricted view to both sides. I had to go fully across the junction almost into Whittle Hill to make the turn, again having to use all of the "wrong" side of the road for some distance to make sure the trailer did not contact hedge/wall/verge of nearside property.

Turning right from Woodplumpton Road into Newsham Hall Lane

Had to use full road width, even then, the trailer cut across severely to "wrong" side of road in Woodplumpton Road and remained on "wrong" side of Newsham Hall Lane for some distance.

On the second assessment and already positioned for the left turn into Woodplumpton Road, a 7.5 ton Royal mail vehicle appeared at the junction indicating to turn right towards me. I could not change my position so stopped and waited. The other driver emerged towards me, stopped and reversed back some distance in Newsham Hall lane to allow me room to turn. Before I could start the turn, another 7.5 ton unmarked vehicle arrived at the same junction- stalemate. This second driver then reversed a considerable distance in Woodplumpton Road allowing me, finally, to make the turn.

Turning left from Woodplumpton Road into Newsham Hall Lane

This turn was a little easier but still required full use of the "wrong" side of the road in Newsham Hall Lane to clear new chicane/bollards.

Turning right from Newsham Hall Lane into Woodplumpton Road

On turning into Woodplumpton road for third assessment trailer was fully on "wrong" side of road for a short distance.

Local residents in Woodplumpton Road appeared to be filming me on their smartphones during second and third assessments.

In summary, I believe these turns require the courtesy, awareness and patience of any other road user to complete them safely. Further, the conditions today were benign. In less favourable conditions- darkness, heavier traffic, more pedestrians and rain, the turns would be even more hazardous. Widening the junction of Newsham Hall Lane/Woodplumpton Road, or "rounding it off" so it is not such a sharp turn, would help in my view.



John Griffiths