

Analysis of the Base Point Traffic Survey Data
Collected November 2013 and January 2014

P D Hardcastle
Maids Moreton Parish Council

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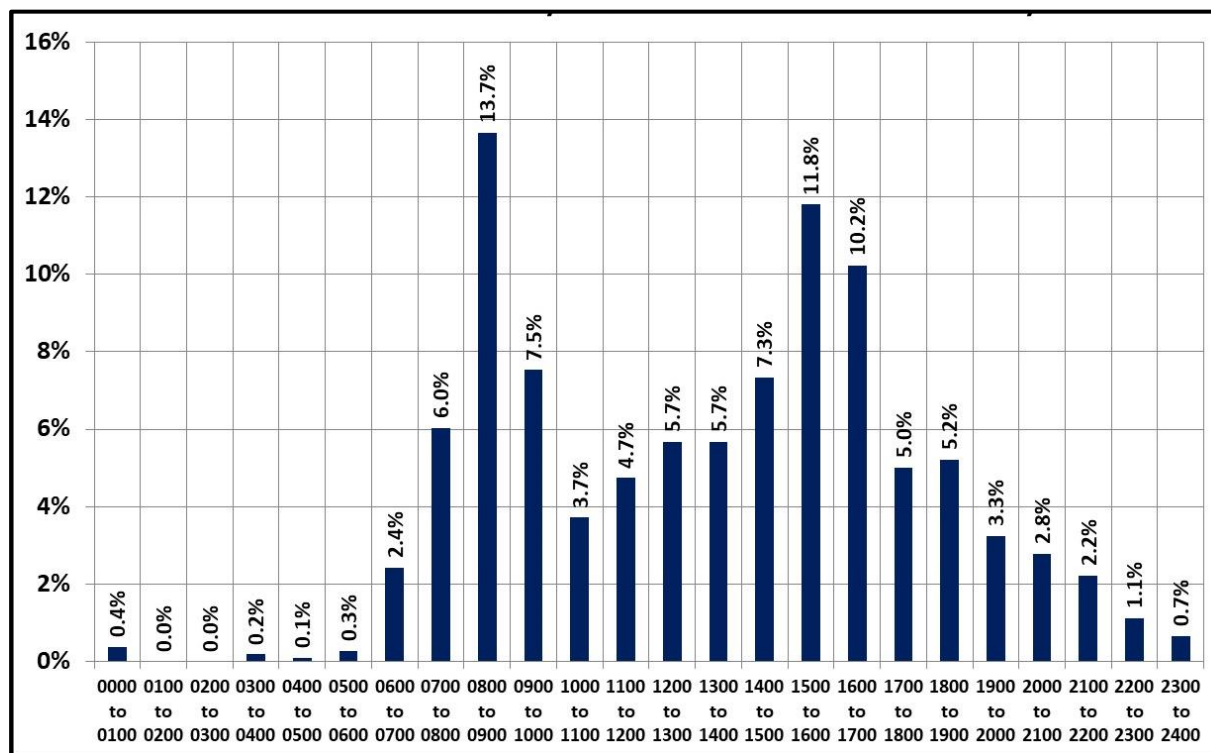
Review of the Base Point Data Traffic Surveys

This survey, commissioned by MMPC, was primarily concerned with speed. The recording locations are only known from what residents can recall. The original data was located with the help of the late Ian Smith, formerly chair of MMPC. The main value of this data is now as a baseline for the later traffic surveys conducted in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Base Point Data appears to have done its count for seven days from Tuesday 19 November 2013 to Monday 25 November 2013 at five survey points: Duck Lake, Main St, Avenue Rd, Foscoote Rd and Mill Lane. The data we have from Base Point comprises a summary of the total vehicles passing in each direction at each survey point over the full 24 hours in each day of their survey, average and 85%ile speed, the number of vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit and exceeding 45mph.

There is also a summary of traffic (I assume it is Main St as it states Westbound and Eastbound) with a graph for the proportion of vehicles in speed categories of 0 – 30mph and 31 – 45mph for each day from Wed 22 January 2014 to Tuesday 28 January 2014. This suggests that Sunday traffic tends to speed a little more than other days. However, it also gives a table of traffic in speed categories for each hour of the day. Unfortunately, it does not state which day or whether it is the average figure! I have used this information to summarise the proportion of the daily traffic in each of the 24 hours shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 Base Point Data – Main St Traffic Survey Jan 2014 - % of Total Traffic Flow by Hour



These percentage figures were then used to give an estimate the traffic flow from 0800 to 0900 and 1700 to 1800 from the weekday average figure for 24 hour traffic flow recorded by Base Point Data at their five survey points. This assumes that the relative traffic flow in each hour is similar at all locations, which may be quite a stretch! I then added the Croft data and the results from the recent traffic survey for each of these five points. The result is shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 Total Traffic Figures from 3 Traffic Surveys at 5 Points for 2 Time Periods

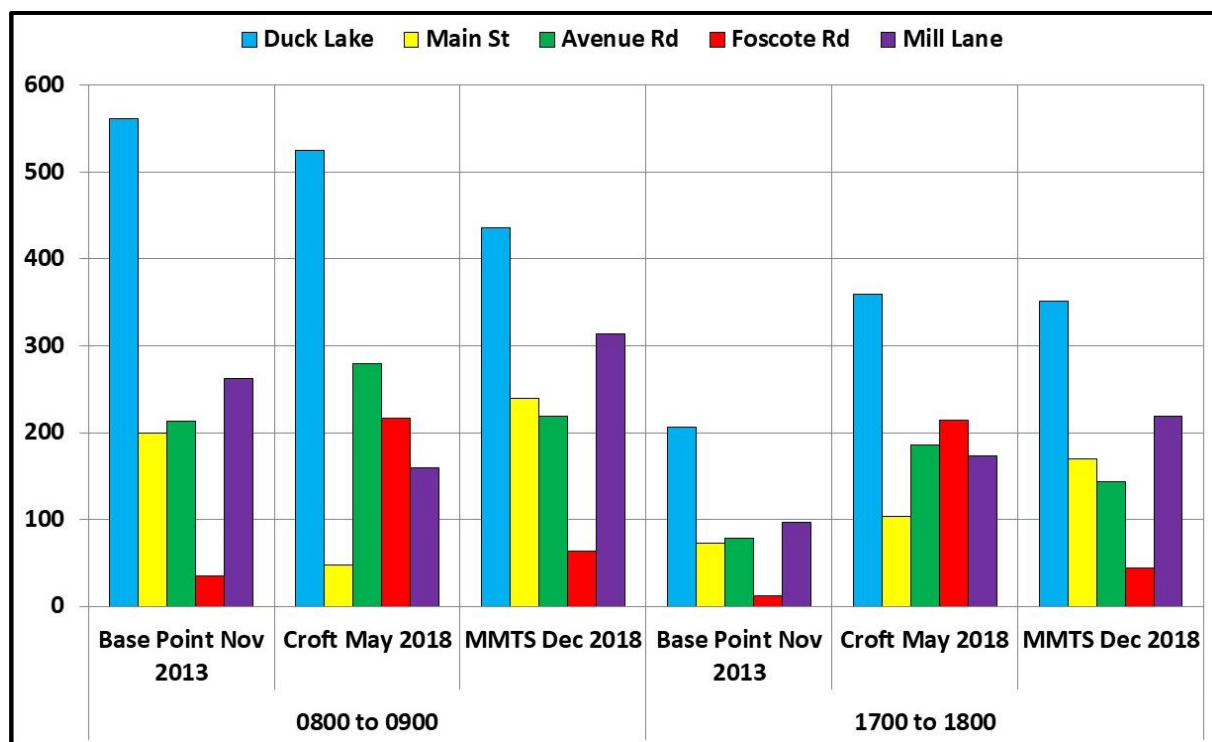


Figure 2 above shows very clearly that the Croft figures for traffic flow on Foscote Rd are very high compared with both the recent MMPC Traffic Survey and the 2013 Base Point Data traffic survey. The total flow recorded by Croft in both directions for the morning and afternoon survey periods combined is 431 vehicles. The Base Point Data survey recorded an average total flow for the whole 24 hour period of 253 on weekdays. The MMPC Traffic Survey total for the two recording periods was 108. It is evident that the Croft figures for Foscote Rd traffic need, at least, further clarification.

It is also clear that traffic on Main St has increased very substantially between 2013 and 2018 and that the Croft figures for Main St do not fit as would be expected with the results from the other two surveys. A similar divergence from the pattern is observable for Mill Lane, with the MMPC Traffic Survey showing a clear increase over the Base Point Data results while the Croft figure is lower than would be expected.

While it is accepted that the stretching of the Base Point Data information can at best only be a guide for all five survey points, it is interesting to note in Figure 1 above that the morning rush hour traffic is fairly concentrated into the 0800 to 0900 time period whereas the heavier afternoon traffic is spread more widely over a longer period from 1500 and perhaps a little before this. This suggests that school traffic is a substantial part of the overall flow.

Croft only conducted counts between 0800 and 0900 and 1700 and 1800. The MMPC Traffic Survey included further recording between 1500 and 1700 for traffic on Main St. Figure 3 below illustrates the total vehicle flow along Main St from all three surveys for 0800 to 0900, 1500 to 1600, 1600 to 1700 and 1700 to 1800; Croft did not present any data for the middle two time periods. Despite this gap, it is again quite clear from the Base Point Data and MMPC Traffic Survey results that traffic flow increased very substantially between 2013 and 2018.

Given the substantial mid-afternoon traffic flow, which is presumably related to school traffic and possibly also flexible working hours, any future traffic surveys will need to cover more time periods than simply 0800 to 0900 and 1700 to 1800 to provide really useful traffic information.

Figure 3 Main St Total Traffic Flows at Rush Hours