

Updated Maids Moreton Traffic Survey

Conducted on
7 November and 19 December 2019



St Edmund's Church, Maids Moreton

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Table of Contents

1	Background.....	1
2	Results	1
2.1	Main St / Manor Park Junction	1
2.2	Mill Lane / Church St Junction	1
2.3	Effect of School Holidays.....	2
3	Discussion.....	2
Annex 1.	Traffic Flow Diagrams	3
Figure 1	15 October 2019 – 0800 to 0900.....	3
Figure 2	7 November 2019 – 0800 to 0900.....	3
Figure 3	7 November 2019 – 1700 to 1800.....	4
Figure 4	19 December 2019 – 0800 to 0900	5
Annex 2.	Traffic Flow Figures.....	6
Table 1	Comparative Flows 6 December 2018 and 7 November 2019 - 0800 to 0900.....	6
Table 2	Comparative Flows 6 December 2018 and 7 November 2019 - 1700 to 1800.....	6
Table 3	Comparative Flows 7 November and 19 December 2019 - 0800 to 0900	6
Annex 3.	Graphical representations of the survey data	7
Figure 5	Maids Moreton Traffic Surveys - 6 Dec 2019 and 7 Dec 2019 - 0800 to 0900	7
Figure 6	Maids Moreton Traffic Surveys - 6 Dec 2019 and 7 Dec 2019 - 1700 to 1800	7
Figure 7	Maids Moreton Traffic Surveys - 7 Nov 2019 and 19 Dec 2019 - 0800 to 0900.....	8

1 Background

1. Discussing continued concerns about the level of traffic flows within Maids Moreton, it was felt that traffic levels had increased compared with those recorded in December 2018. To check whether this impression was correct, a pilot sample was undertaken on 15 October 2019 at the Main St / Manor Park junction between 0800 and 0900. This indicated that traffic had increased.
2. Consequently, more comprehensive traffic counts were undertaken at two key junctions that provide a good overview of traffic levels within the village. These two junctions are Main St / Manor Park and Mill Lane / Church St. In order to make the data as comparable as possible with that from 2018, the same recording periods, 0800 to 0900 and 1700 to 1800 were used.

2 Results

3. Figure 1 in Annex 1 below summarises the traffic flow recorded in the pilot survey between 0800 and 0900 on 15 October 2019. The overall number of vehicles recorded compared with the figure recorded on 6 December 2018 rose from 223 to 246, just over 10%. The largest and most notable increase was in vehicles travelling down Main St from Towcester Rd to Foscoote Rd, which rose from 39 to 66, some 69%. Interestingly the figures for traffic travelling in the other direction was more or less stable, with 147 being recorded compared with 152 in December 2018.
4. The changes were sufficiently large to justify a more comprehensive traffic survey at both key junctions and at both survey periods. This survey was conducted on 7 November 2019 and is discussed in detail below in comparison with the figures recorded on 6 December 2018. Figure 2 and Figure 3 in Annex 1 below show diagrammatically vehicle flows for the morning and evening periods respectively. Table 1 and Table 2 in Annex 2 below present the data in tabular format.

2.1 Main St / Manor Park Junction

5. Between 0800 and 0900, the total number of vehicles recorded increased from 223 to 258, some 16%. Most of this was due to the increase in vehicles travelling along Main St from Towcester Rd to Foscoote Rd, with the traffic in the other direction being unchanged at 152 vehicles. This is very similar to the results from the pilot survey on 15 October.
6. Between 1700 and 1800, a similar pattern emerged. The overall number of vehicles recorded increased from 149 to 190, some 34%, much higher than in the morning survey period. Again, the main driver of this increase was traffic travelling down Main St from Towcester Rd to Foscoote Rd, which rose from 46 to 84, some 83%.

2.2 Mill Lane / Church St Junction

7. Between 0800 and 0900, the total number of vehicles recorded passing the junction was slightly less than on 6 December 2018, 355 compared with 374, a reduction of 5%. Most of this change was the result of many fewer vehicles, 12 instead of 31, travelling from Avenue Rd towards Foscoote Rd.
8. Between 1700 and 1800, the total number of vehicles recorded was 257 compared with 262 recorded on 6 December 2018. Within this total, more traffic was coming up Mill Lane from A422, 159 rather than 149 but with 5 fewer coming from Avenue Rd and 10 fewer from Foscoote Rd. Unlike the figures from the Manor Park / Main St survey point, there was no single traffic flow with a clear and large increase.

2.3 Effect of School Holidays

9. It was observed that quite a lot of vehicles recorded at both survey points appeared to be engaged in the school run. Traffic coming from places such as Chackmore to and from Maids Moreton Infant School would be unlikely to have been recorded as such vehicles would use Towcester Rd and Avenue Rd. The most likely destination would be Akeley Wood School.

10. To try and elucidate whether this observation was correct, the survey was repeated at both survey points for the 0800 to 0900 period on 19 December 2019, after Akeley Wood school but not most state schools, had broken up for the Christmas vacation. The results of this survey are presented diagrammatically in Figure 4 in Annex 1 below and in Table 3 in Annex 2 below.

11. It is very evident that the traffic flow coming up Mill Lane from A422 and then along Main St towards Towcester Rd was much reduced after Akeley Wood school had closed. There was a similar clear reduction in traffic coming in the reverse direction. Table 3 in Annex 2 below and Figure 7 in Annex 3 below shows this very clearly. The decrease is between 40% and 50% in these traffic flows.

3 Discussion

12. The clearly apparent increase recorded in 2019 in traffic coming from Towcester Rd along Main St towards Foscoote Rd is not easy to explain. It does not fit the general pattern of change since 2018 observed at other junctions. It may reflect through traffic that then goes towards Milton Keynes using Foscoote Rd but without a detailed survey it is impossible to be sure. If a more detailed survey is done, then it will be important to include measurements from the Manor Park / Foscoote Rd junction in addition to the other junctions recorded in 2018.

13. The amount of through traffic that appears to be related to the Akeley Wood School run is a matter of concern. The school does operate bus services and encourages parents to make use of these but obviously not all do so.

14. As well as traffic flows, there are also widely expressed concerns about speeding vehicles. While there have been few accidents and fortunately no fatalities, the apparent policy of Thames Valley Police based on “No serious injuries or fatalities equals no problem” fails to recognise the effect that traffic driving at inappropriate speed through the village has on quality of life.

15. BCC updated their document on Managing Speed on 2 January 2020; <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/road-safety/managing-speed/> This recognises the issue as important yet in respect of the Walnut Dr development of 170 houses, the request for a 20mph speed limit in Maids Moreton as part of the S106 agreement was given short shrift by AVDC Planning. It would be good to see some joined-up thinking on this issue.

16. While, given their limited resources, it is clearly understood why TVP does not want to take on a commitment to enforce a 20mph speed limit within villages such as Maids Moreton, the obduracy of BCC Highways is less readily understood. In neither case does the policy and strategy of these two public sector agencies even remotely come within the scope of addressing the interests of village communities and their residents.

17. It is not easy to judge the speed of vehicles by eye. Nevertheless, the number of times people driving at 20mph along Main St, or 25mph through the bends at the part of Mill Lane past the church, are aggressively tailgated suggests that there is a serious issue here. In the later part of the evening, vehicles travelling in excess of 40mph coming along Avenue Rd and South Hall and then turning down Mill Lane or *vice versa* are not unusual.

18. There would seem to be a strong case for conducting a further complete traffic survey at all the junctions surveyed in December 2018 plus the Manor Park / Foscoote Rd junction. Such a survey should be complemented with a one-week speed survey at key points on Avenue Rd, South Hall, Main St and Towcester Rd.

Annex 1. Traffic Flow Diagrams

Figure 1 15 October 2019 – 0800 to 0900

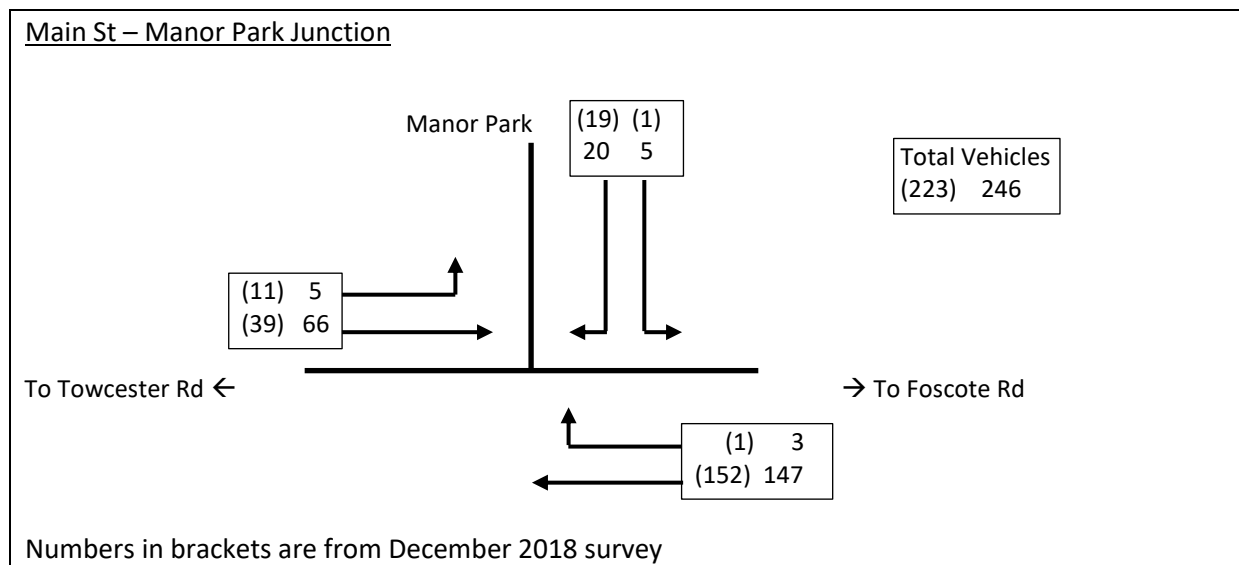


Figure 2 7 November 2019 – 0800 to 0900

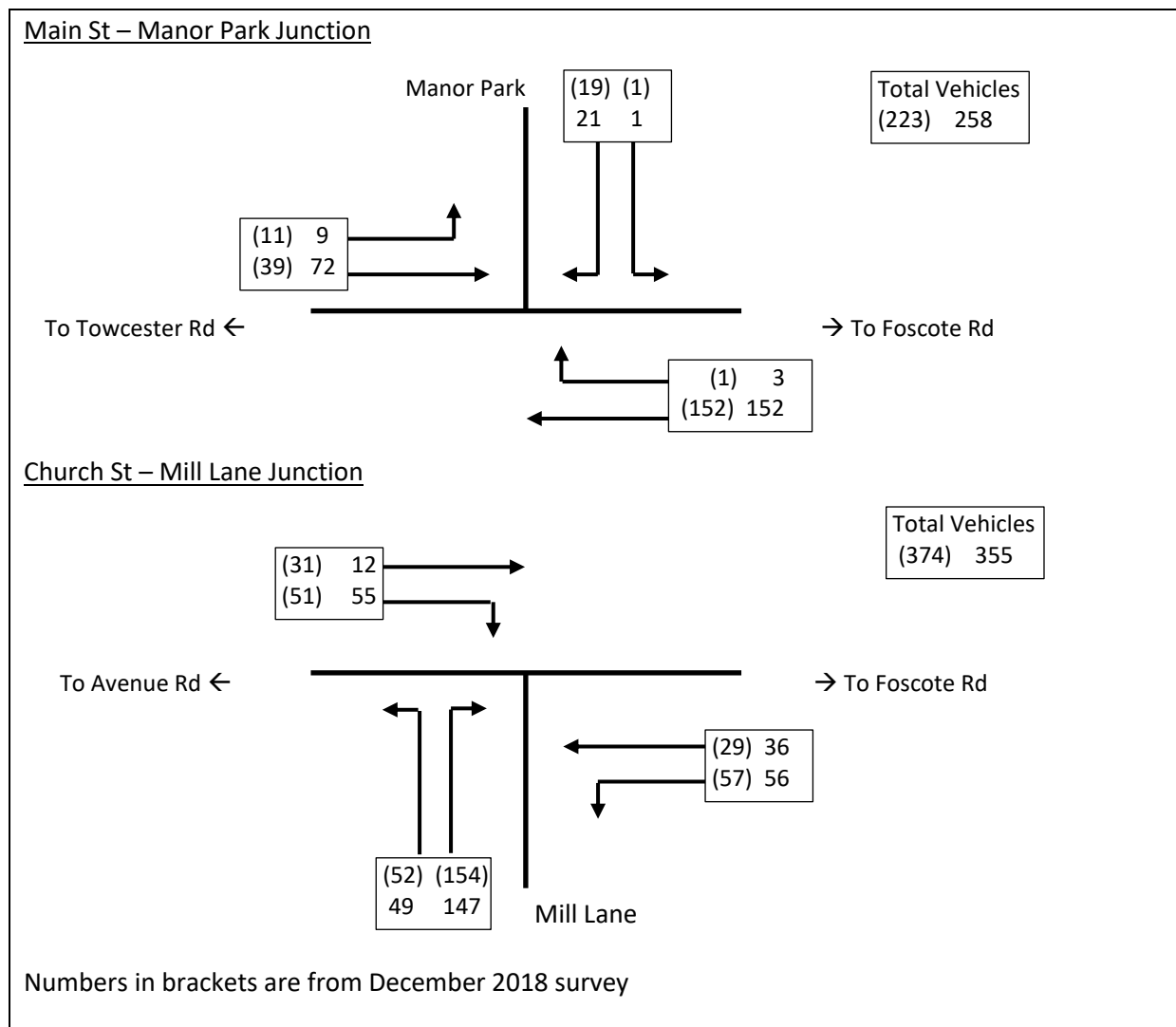


Figure 3 7 November 2019 – 1700 to 1800

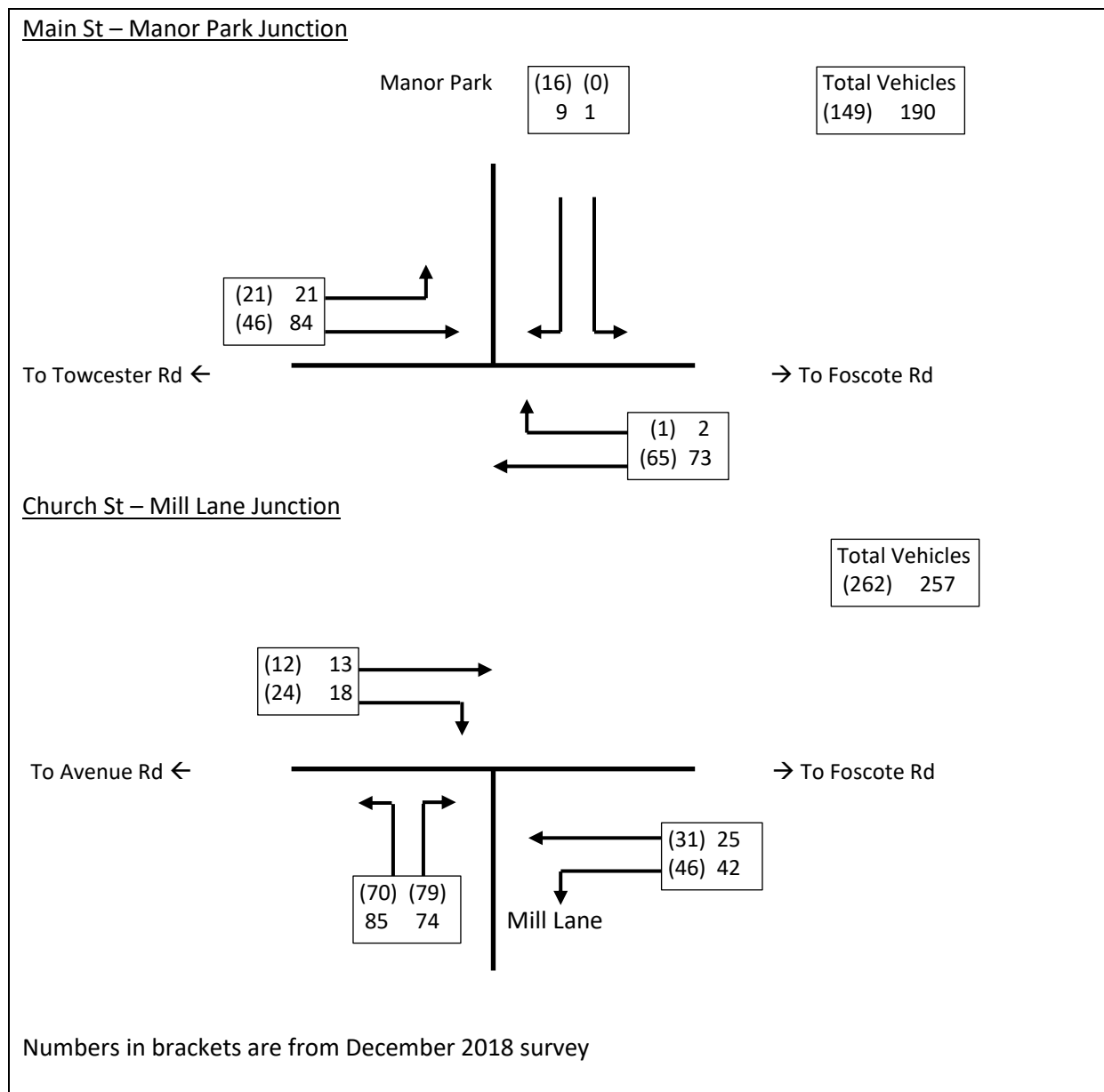
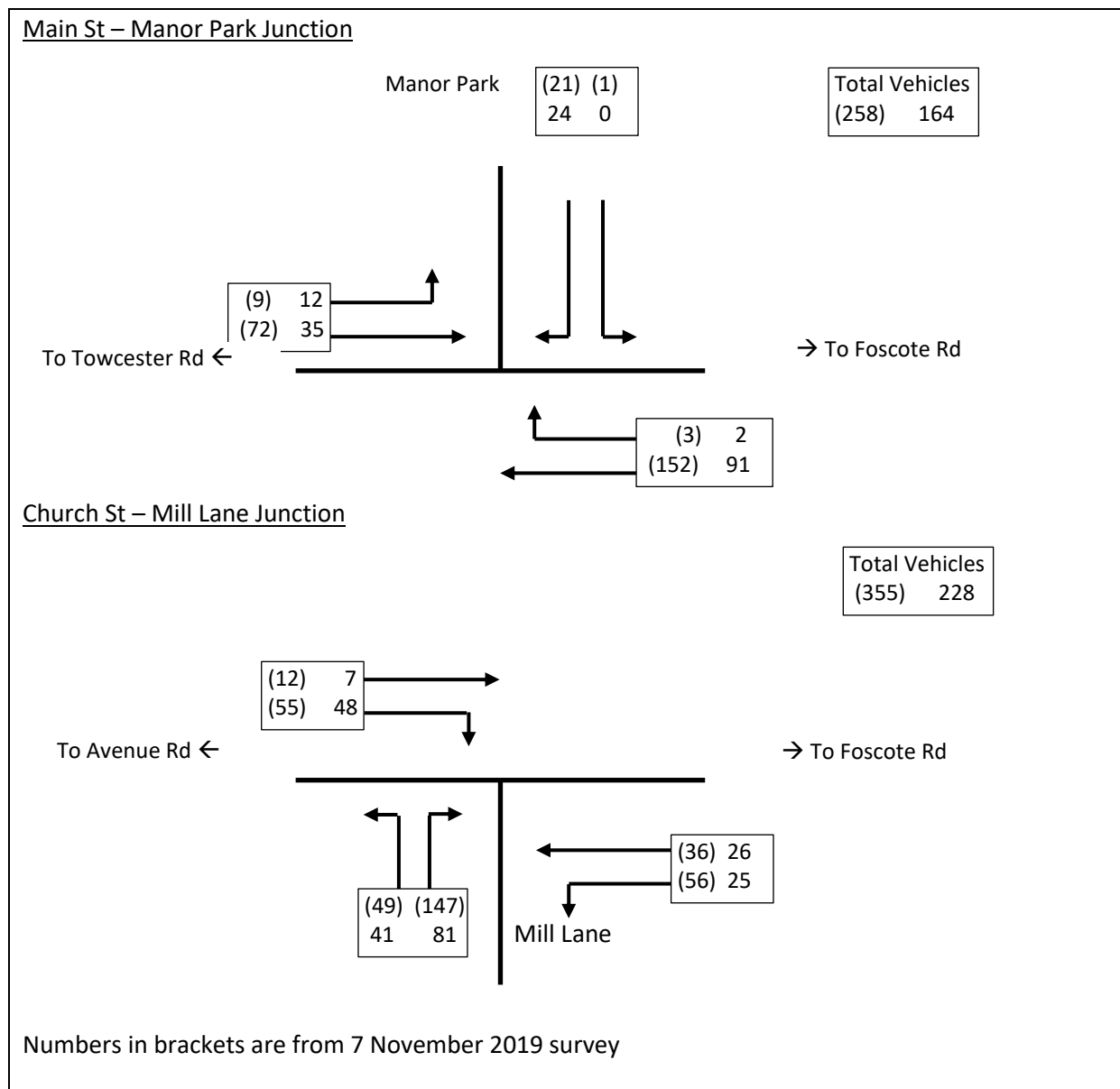


Figure 4 19 December 2019 – 0800 to 0900



Annex 2. Traffic Flow Figures

Table 1 Comparative Flows 6 December 2018 and 7 November 2019 - 0800 to 0900

Traffic flow	6 Dec 2018	7 Nov 2019	Change
Towcester Rd to Foscoote Rd	39	72	85%
Towcester Rd to Manor Park	11	9	-18%
Manor Park to Towcester Rd	19	21	11%
Manor Park to Foscoote Rd	1	1	0%
Foscoote Rd to Manor Park	1	3	200%
Foscoote Rd to Towcester Rd	152	152	0%
Avenue Rd to Church St	31	12	-61%
Avenue Rd to Mill Lane	51	55	8%
Mill Lane to Avenue Rd	52	49	-6%
Mill Lane to Foscoote Rd	154	147	-5%
Foscoote Rd to Avenue Rd	29	36	24%
Foscoote Rd to Mill Lane	57	56	-2%
Total Manor Park junction	223	258	16%
Total Mill Lane junction	374	355	-5%

Table 2 Comparative Flows 6 December 2018 and 7 November 2019 - 1700 to 1800

Traffic flow	6 Dec 2018	7 Nov 2019	Change
Towcester Rd to Foscoote Rd	46	84	83%
Towcester Rd to Manor Park	21	21	0%
Manor Park to Towcester Rd	16	9	-44%
Manor Park to Foscoote Rd	0	1	n.a.
Foscoote Rd to Manor Park	1	2	100%
Foscoote Rd to Towcester Rd	65	73	12%
Avenue Rd to Church St	12	13	8%
Avenue Rd to Mill Lane	24	18	-25%
Mill Lane to Avenue Rd	70	85	21%
Mill Lane to Foscoote Rd	79	74	-6%
Foscoote Rd to Avenue Rd	31	25	-19%
Foscoote Rd to Mill Lane	46	42	-9%
Total Manor Park junction	149	190	28%
Total Mill Lane junction	262	257	-2%

Table 3 Comparative Flows 7 November and 19 December 2019 - 0800 to 0900

Traffic flow	7 Nov 2019	19 Dec 2019	Change
<i>Towcester Rd to Foscoote Rd</i>	72	35	-51%
Towcester Rd to Manor Park	9	12	33%
Manor Park to Towcester Rd	21	24	14%
Manor Park to Foscoote Rd	1	0	-100%
Foscoote Rd to Manor Park	3	2	-33%
<i>Foscoote Rd to Towcester Rd</i>	152	91	-40%
Avenue Rd to Church St	12	7	-42%
Avenue Rd to Mill Lane	55	48	-13%
Mill Lane to Avenue Rd	49	41	-16%
<i>Mill Lane to Foscoote Rd</i>	147	81	-45%
Foscoote Rd to Avenue Rd	36	26	-28%
<i>Foscoote Rd to Mill Lane</i>	56	25	-55%
Total Manor Park junction	258	164	-36%
Total Mill Lane junction	355	228	-36%

Italicised figures are through traffic using Mill Lane and Main St

Annex 3. Graphical representations of the survey data

Figure 5 Maids Moreton Traffic Surveys - 6 Dec 2019 and 7 Dec 2019 - 0800 to 0900

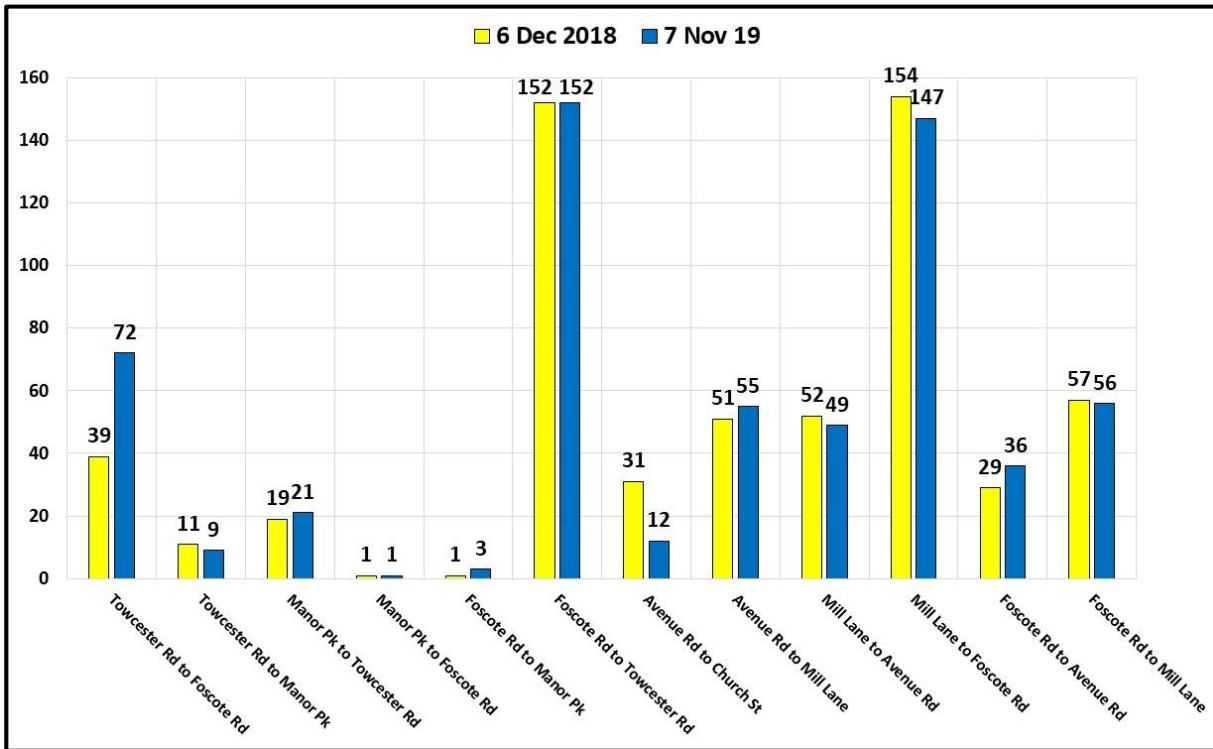


Figure 6 Maids Moreton Traffic Surveys - 6 Dec 2019 and 7 Dec 2019 - 1700 to 1800

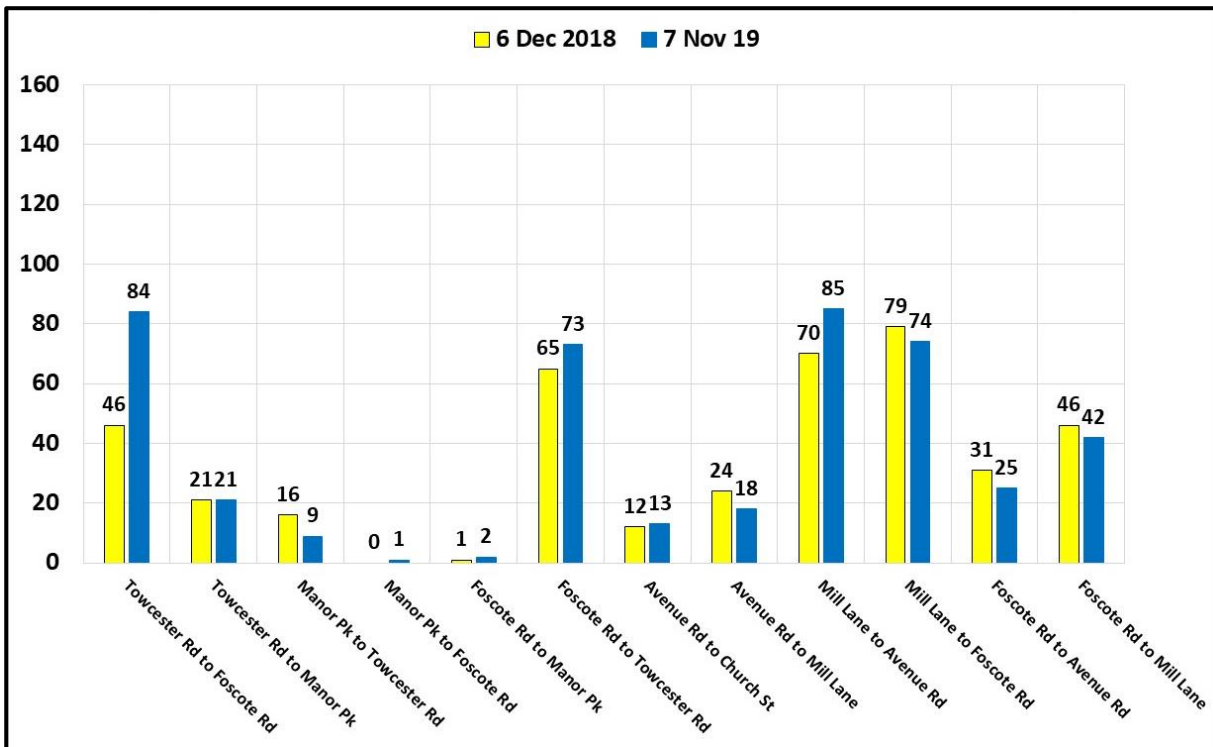


Figure 7 Maids Moreton Traffic Surveys - 7 Nov 2019 and 19 Dec 2019 - 0800 to 0900

