

The County of Dorset (Prohibition of Driving) (St Alban Street, Weymouth)

Experimental Order 2019

Statement of Reasons

St Alban Street is narrow road (carriageway width around 3m) in the historic Town Centre of Weymouth with high levels of pedestrian traffic. The western section including Lower St Alban Street, from Maiden Street to Thomas Street is a Pedestrian Zone, with a Prohibition of Driving that applies at any time (except for taxis and loading between 5.30pm and 10.30am).

Although the eastern section of St Alban Street from Maiden Street to Esplanade is treated by road users as being part of the Pedestrian Zone, this is by virtue of usage rather than regulation, which currently only restricts vehicle movement westbound.

Dorset Council in making this Experimental Order is seeking to formalise the current arrangement, by extending the Pedestrian Zone to include the two eastern sections of St Alban Street from Maiden Street to East Street and East Street to Esplanade, with a prohibition of driving from 10.30am to 5.30pm. East Street will remain a through street (northbound).

The reasons for making this Order are road safety and to preserve the amenity of the area during the day when pedestrian traffic is high. Allowing vehicle access at other times reflects a balance of the needs of visitors, local residents and businesses, as required under S122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order has been introduced on an experimental basis to allow the Council to review its operation to assess whether it meets these objectives.