



SPECS Speed Enforcement – Northamptonshire



Overview

Northamptonshire has been operating the SPECS average speed enforcement system since 2001, as one of the first ‘Safety Camera Partnerships’ to implement average speed enforcement technology. The SPECS systems are used to reduce casualties and improve traffic flow on two of the county’s Red-Routes.

Customer

Northamptonshire Safety Camera Partnership.

The partnership consists of Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire County Council, the Highways Agency, Northamptonshire NHS Health Authority and Northamptonshire Magistrates Court.

Problem

A 4km section of the A43 Lumbertubs Way was one of the county’s most hazardous Red-Routes, with 63 Personal Injury Collisions (PIC) and 11 Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) in the three years prior to installation. In addition, as a heavily-used primary road, the A43 Red-Route required a solution that would maintain traffic flow volumes whilst ensuring compliance with the speed limit.

SCS Solution

SPECS cameras have been used on the A43 since October 2001. Following their success, a further system was installed on the A428 in 2004. SPECS uses linked digital video cameras which continuously capture images of vehicles as they pass through the cameras’ view. Using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) the number plates are read and the average speed of the vehicle is calculated between the two cameras. If this exceeds the Police threshold an offence record is created.

Results

KSI figures have reduced by 60% on the A43 Lumbertubs Way. KSI figures have reduced by 85% on the A428.

(comparing figures from the three years prior to installation with the three years+ post installation)



Speed Check Services
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Technology Overview



The SPECS cameras are clearly positioned on distinctive double-armed columns in the central reservation; this allows both directions of traffic flow to be monitored.

Signs have been erected along Lumbertubs Way warning motorists of speed enforcement taking place encouraging them to comply with the 50mph speed limit for the whole route.

SPECS Ticket Processing

Northamptonshire Police wanted to make use of their available IT infrastructure whilst keeping the ticketing process as streamlined as possible. Speed Check Services designed an effective system that integrated different back-office technologies in order to meet their requirements.

The digital nature of the SPECS system significantly reduces the labour time required to process violations, compared to wet film processing. A Write Once Read Many (WORM) disk is used by the Central Ticket Office (CTO) for the processing of violations.

Solution Benefits

The Northamptonshire Safety Camera Partnership introduced the SPECS system to the A428 and A43 to “reduce speeds and cut collisions, casualties and the associated cost and suffering to the community that results from crashes”. The post-installation statistics prove that the SPECS solution has proved extremely effective in this regard. In addition to these reductions in accidents and injuries, the reduced speed profile on the road has not affected the traffic flow volumes – a key benefit for a Red-Route.



A428	Casualties			4km
Annual Average	Killed	Serious Injury	KSI Total	% Change
Before*	2.9	3.6	6.5	
After**	0.24	0.72	0.96	
* Annual average 50 months prior to installation ** Annual average 50 months post installation				-85.2%

SCS Overview

SCS was created in 1999 to bring the SPECS safety camera system to the road safety market. Today, SCS is the global leader in average speed enforcement solutions and one of the UK’s foremost providers of intelligent transport solutions for the road traffic market sector.

Working in partnership with clients from a range of disciplines, we deliver turnkey projects and provide ongoing support and maintenance throughout the life of a contract.



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