

Community Response: Local knowledge regarding layby usage: Laybys within a mile of j12 of M6.

Daytime

The busiest daytime usage of laybys is around lunchtime, by both HGVs and smaller vehicles.

But litter, noise and mess may be generated by those visits.

Longer stay, small vehicles are mainly residents, those visiting/working in the area, car sharing, fishermen or boat users etc. who do not cause a problem and alternative parking is usually available.

Bad weather and Motorway traffic jams are likely to modify when HGVs stop.

Nighttime

A5 laybys either side of junction 12 tend to be filled by HGVs each night from around 6pm (earlier with busy traffic, bad weather or winter; later with the converse).

The 11pm to midnight departure from local logistics depots generates stops also.

HGVs tend to leave around 5 to 6am which is commercial rush hour on M6.

HGV parking close to j12 is for easy continuation of journey; or to be near to the Hollies Truck Stop for access to facilities without paying for parking and they will usually be busy or full most week nights.

Monday is the busiest, then Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday. Saturdays and holidays are quietest.

A449 laybys either side of Gailey island will fill up in the same manner. Their onward journey is to j12, j13 or M54, Wolverhampton & Telford directions. Laybys adjacent to the M54 have parking controls.

Laybys towards Weston Park (A5) and towards Dunston (A449) are also likely to have overnight fly parking by HGVs. Often Irish registered trucks will use that route to or from the A41.

A layby filled by overnight fly parked HGVs ceases to be useful as a layby for the duration.

Other

There has been a significant increase in traffic over the last five years and layby usage has also increased although it is self-limiting by capacity. Typically four HGVs will fill a layby.

One layby on the A5 and one on the A449 are close to residences. There are no facilities available at any layby. Refrigerated vehicles or those running engines for heating may be a nuisance.

On a longer repeat schedule (especially bank holidays), foreign registered vehicles (usually Polish, Irish or east European) often try to park early Friday afternoon and stay till Monday or Tuesday to achieve the EU long rest periods. It is illegal in UK but authorities turn a blind eye, whereas it would generate a large fine in most EU countries).

Incidents of parking or blocking footpaths and verges occurs but not frequently.

Councils, Highways Agencies and the Police will ignore all such nuisances unless repeated complaints are made.

Usually there is at least one litter bin per layby, which get emptied several times per week unless they become overgrown. However a small percentage of HGV drivers (especially in the cold weather) will leave litter.

Detritus and beer cans thrown over the hedgerow into the field is a problem.

Conclusion

To the local community, laybys are generally a nuisance and their loss would not be missed.

Definitely there should never be laybys near to residences.

All laybys (existing and new) should be signed and controlled.

For HGVs there are at least three nearby Truck Stops, with facilities which should be used for overnight stays.

Whilst they are private, so are SRFIs, the Toll Road and Rail Freight.

Fly parking was discussed at length in parliament this year but Brexit commitments have delayed any resolution. However lorry parking is a regular feature in Hansard - with much accord but zero action.