

## PERSISTENTLY HIGHER RISK ROADS

Persistently higher risk roads are those rated as high (black) and medium-high (red) risk in both data periods (2002-2004 and 2005-2007), and shown little or no change in the number of fatal or serious collisions over time. The top ten are listed in Table 2.

The majority are concentrated in the North and the Midlands, due in part to the nature of routes in these areas: rural single carriageway, challenging roads, with hidden dangers such as blind corners and sweeping bends. Lighter traffic allows higher speeds and more opportunities for, often dangerous, overtaking.

All of those listed are single carriageway. Risk on single carriageways is twice that of dual carriageways and 6 times that of motorways. Seventeen per cent of single carriageway roads are rated in the highest risk categories (black and red), compared with 3% of dual carriageways and 0% of motorways.

The road topping the persistently higher risk list is the A537 Macclesfield to Buxton, well known as the 'Cat and Fiddle'. This challenging single carriageway spanning 12km across the Peak District National Park has seen collisions rise by over 40% in the last 3 years, with 2 deaths or serious injuries for every kilometre. Bounded by dry stone walls or rock face for almost all of its length, the road is characterised by severe bends, uphill climbs and steep falls from the carriageway. Because of the road's elevation, weather conditions can change quickly and dramatically.

**Table 2. Britain's persistently higher risk roads (2002-2004 & 2005-2007)**

Road No.	Description	Region/country	km	Road type <sup>1</sup>	No. F&S collisions 2002-04	EuroRAP Risk Rating <sup>2</sup> 2002-04	No. F&S collisions 2005-07	EuroRAP Risk Rating <sup>2</sup> 2005-07	% change in no. F&S collisions	% contribution of collision types (2005-07) <sup>3</sup>				
										Junctions	Head-ons	Run-offs	Pedestrians/cyclists	Other
A537	Macclesfield - Buxton (A54)	NW	12	Single	19	301.72	27	464.01	+42	22	11	7	4	56
A686	Penrith - Haydon Bridge	NE /NW	58	Single	35	330.21	35	327.42	0	14	26	37	6	17
A5012	A515 - A6	EM	15	Single	14	288.87	14	251.23	0	21	21	14	14	29
A621	A619 - Totley	EM	9	Single	17	299.96	12	235.60	-29	42	33	17	0	8
A5004	Whaley Bridge (A6) - Buxton	EM	12	Single	13	214.39	15	224.56	+15	20	13	33	0	33
A54	Congleton - Buxton (A53)	NW	24	Single	19	179.77	20	199.74	+5	15	25	20	20	20
A62	M62 J27 - A6110	Y&H	5	Single	10	153.03	9	198.20	-10	44	0	22	0	33
A255	Margate - Ramsgate	SE	8	Single	14	149.58	18	186.61	+29	22	6	0	61	11
A285	A27 - Petworth	SE	19	Single	23	223.05	18	166.49	-22	22	39	22	6	11
A675	M65 J3 - Bolton	NW	13	Single	24	253.75	17	159.74	-29	18	35	29	6	12

Ranked by EuroRAP Risk Rating 2005-07; no significant reduction in the number of F&S collisions between data periods; section lengths are greater than 5km; minimum of 8 F&S collisions in 2002-04, 7 in 2005-07; minimum collision density of 1/mile in both periods; EuroRAP Risk Rating above average of the medium-high (red) category or high risk (black) in both periods; <sup>1</sup> Road type accounting for at least 80% of the road section; <sup>2</sup> EuroRAP Risk Rating based on the number of F&S collisions/billion vehicle kms travelled; <sup>3</sup> Percentages may not sum due to rounding