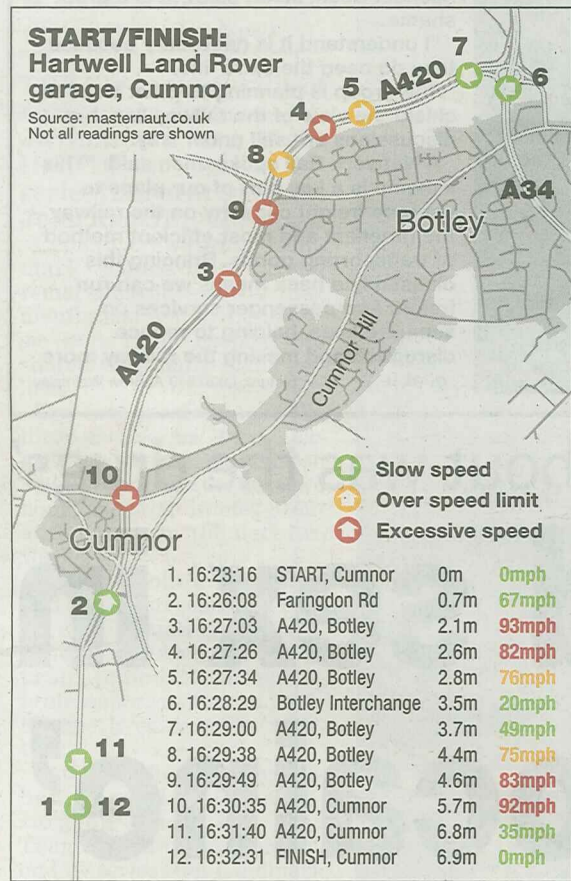


TRACKER: Vehicle in for repair clocked doing 93mph

Now that's what you call a speedy service



NOTIFIED: Paul Burt, finance director at Warburton Building Services, with his Range Rover, which a tracker recorded going at over 90mph while at Hartwell Garage in Cumnor. Picture: OX57226 Andrew Walmsley

IF YOU ever worried about what happened to your car when you left it with a garage, look away now.

When Ducklington resident Paul Burt dropped his Range Rover off at Hartwell Land Rover in Cumnor he had no idea it would end up hurtling along the A420 at more than 90mph.

But the 51-year-old was horrified when he received an email saying his company vehicle had been clocked breaking the speed limit while he thought it was being repaired.

Mr Burt took the vehicle to the firm in Faringdon Road to fix a faulty brake problem after it failed an MOT.

The car is owned by Farmoor-based Warburton Building Services and like every vehicle in the engineer-

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ing company's fleet has a tracker device on board.

Whenever a vehicle goes over 85mph it sends notification to the company of the time, place and speed.

The email then gives details of the entire journey.

The Range Rover Sport was recorded at 93mph on the A420 near Botley at 4.27pm on Wednesday, January 30.

It then slowed to 82mph before dropping below 70 three miles further on.

At 4.30pm on the same stretch of road the car was then clocked at 92mph and then 90mph before slowing as it approached a roundabout.

The car was tracked going over the 60mph speed limit of the road on seven occasions during the seven-mile drive.

Mr Burt said: "When I saw the reading I was gobsmacked."

"It's bad enough someone doing it in their own car, to do it in a customer's car is ridiculous."

"It doesn't bear thinking about what would have happened had it crashed."

"Because it had a brake problem they could quite easily say it had nothing to do with them."

"The dashboard indicating the fault has been lit up like a Christmas tree over the last few weeks."

"I can't believe it has gone in there and they have needed to take it to that speed to test it."

He added Land Rover had

When I saw the reading I was gobsmacked
- Paul Burt

now offered him a free service at another dealership.

Mark Scarlet, service manager at Hartwell Land Rover, said his colleague testing the car was concentrating on the warning lights on the dashboard. He said: "We did have a vehicle in for a particular problem. We drove it down the A420 and back up Cumnor Hill. The technician is 52 and very experienced. He did admit he took his eyes off the speed limit, because he was concentrating on fixing the light and seeing what was faulty."

"We need to replicate the conditions of the fault in order to fix the fault, which we did."

"The light didn't go on until a particular speed was reached, but as the technician admitted he was not watching the clock."

Thames Valley Police declined to comment.

IN BRIEF

Missing man's body on beach

OXFORD: A body which washed up on a Devon beach last year was yesterday confirmed as that of a missing Oxford man.



Police confirmed the identity of Clifford Thorne, 67, from DNA details placed on a missing persons database.

He was last seen at his home in the Jericho area of Oxford on January 27, 2012, when he told his family he was going to buy a newspaper. He body was found at Cockle Sands, Exmouth on July 18.

Anyone with information is asked to call Devon and Cornwall Police on 101 quoting reference KE/12/1669.

Trains delayed

OXFORD: Passengers faced major delays on trains between Oxford and London yesterday.

The issue was caused by a points failure on the track at Worcester Shrub Hill, reported to Network Rail in the early hours of the morning.

Network Rail had fixed the problem by 7.20am.

But First Great Western trains to London Paddington were delayed by 90 minutes during peak time.

Jazz festival to take one-year break

OXFORD'S annual celebration of jazz will not be held this year, it was announced last night.

The Oxford Jazz Festival is taking a one-year break but organisers have vowed to come back next year bigger and better.

Organiser Max Mason said: "I've just taken on my new business in Oxford Castle which is injecting a bit of life into

the quarter. But without giving it the right proportion of time we can't make the festival bigger and better than ever."

Mr Mason's Big Bang sausage restaurant reopened in October after it was forced to move from its former Walton Street site.

The Oxford Jazz Festival has been held every year in April for the past four

years, with the last event attracting a combined audience of 7,000 people.

Last year more than 30 performances took place across the city as part of the five-day festival. Venues included the Ashmolean Museum, the Oxford Playhouse and the Old Parsonage Hotel.

The festival is next scheduled to take place on April 14-19, 2014.

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