



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

VOLUME 9

MISCELLANEOUS HIGHWAY FUNCTIONS

Including:

Sweeping and Street Cleansing

Weed Control

Verges and Open Spaces

Trees

Grass Cutting

Public Rights of Way

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HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Volume 7: Traffic & Transport (incl Traffic Management & Road Safety)

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Including:

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HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

VOLUME 9 - MISCELLANEOUS HIGHWAY FUNCTIONS

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1. SWEEPING AND STREET CLEANSING

1.1 Objective

Sweeping and street cleansing service two main purposes:

- (a) To remove litter & detritus from the channels (edge of the carriageway) in order to prevent surface water ponding and an excess of litter & detritus being washed into gullies.
- (b) To remove litter & detritus or other deposits which could present a hazard to highway users.

1.2 Policy

To meet the Council's obligations as the Highway & Waste Collection/Disposal Authority within the "Key Principals" & "Specification" of the Street Cleansing Contract.

1.3 Standards

Cleanse & monitor all channels and footways in line with the schedules laid down in the Street Cleansing Contract to deliver clean & safe environment.

Emergency sweeping and cleansing to be undertaken only when immediate action is required to remove deposits or spillages which are the responsibility of the Highway Authority.

The Council will carry out its duties to clear litter on the roads as imposed by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and as laid out in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, published in 1999 by the then Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

A list of frequencies for each road is held and maintained by Waste Services.

2. WEED CONTROL

2.1 Object

To inhibit the growth or remove various plants (as listed in the Injurious Weeds Act 1959) on the highway and to eradicate significant plant growth on paved areas to prevent structural damage to the fabric of the highway.

2.2 Policy

Materials to be used for weed spraying can adversely affect the environment. All weed spraying will be carried out in accordance with the Control of Pesticides

Regulations 1986. Only approved pesticides will be used, these are chemicals listed in the “Blue Book”, entitled "Pesticides Approved Under the Control of Pesticides Regulation 1986".

2.3 Standards

- (i) Weed growth in adopted areas will be treated 3 times a year between April and October.
- (ii) Noxious weeds to be dealt with as necessary on an ad-hoc basis.

3. VERGES AND OPEN SPACES

3.1 Trees

All trees within and adjoining the highway will be examined as set out in Volume 2 of the HMMP (Highway Network Maintenance).

Additionally, regular proactive inspections of highway trees will be carried out by an arboricultural officer based on risk assessment.

Provision for inspection of high risk highway trees following an extreme weather event will be set out in HMMP Vol. 5 (Severe Weather Plan).

3.2 Grass Cutting

Object

The object is to ensure that the length of the grass on areas of highway does not become such that it obstructs sight lines. In urban areas grass will need to be cut more frequently so that it does not conceal potentially dangerous debris and so that the cuttings do not block gullies. Where possible verges will be managed to encourage the growth of wild flowers and provide wildlife habitat.

Policy

To undertake the minimum number of cuts commensurate with achieving the objective.

Standards

- (i) In urban areas the whole width of all adopted highway verges to be cut a minimum of eight times per year.
- (ii) In rural areas a single swathe width to be cut a minimum of twice per year on all rural verges except at sites designated as having wild flower or wildlife value. An additional cut to be undertaken at visibility splays and lines of sight.

- (iii) A register of sites designated as having wild flower and wildlife value will be maintained and an appropriate management regime adopted for each site.
- (iv) Visibility splays and lines of sight to be cut a minimum once per year.
- (v) An additional cut of visibility splays and lines of sight will be undertaken if a safety hazard is identified.

4. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

4.1 Object

To maintain the surface of the right of way to enable the reasonable passage of users at all times of the year, to assert and protect the rights of the public to use the highway (s.130 Highways Act 1980). To encourage greater use of the Public Rights of Way (as set out in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan - ROWIP 2009).

4.2 Policy

To ensure that all defects of a safety or hazardous nature are repaired, made safe or otherwise resolved as soon as is reasonably practicable according to the Authority's Statement of Priorities for the maintenance of public rights of way.

4.3 Standards

- (i) All rights of way will be kept in such a state as to be safe and fit to cater for the level of public use being made of them
- (ii) The 143 mile rights of way network will be inspected every two years using the criteria set out in the ROWIP.
- (iii) Bridges crossed by rights of way are inspected as part of the Highway Structures Standards
- (iv) A programme of works is set out as a result of inspections and complaints according to the Statement of Priorities which takes into account: level of use, level of danger to the public, benefit to the public once resolved, cost effectiveness of resolution and potential for deterioration.
- (v) Vegetation cutting takes place between April and September, whereby two cuts are made to all relevant paths throughout the Borough. Priority is given to Public Rights of Way which are routes to schools, amenities and transport links, as set out in ROWIP.
- (vi) Hedgerow cutting takes place between August and February annually in accordance with bird nesting season (s.1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981).
- (vii) Enforcement action of non-compliance with the Rights of Way Act 1990 with respect to ploughing of the surface of rights of way will be taken in accordance with the Statement of Priorities i.e. level of complaint and cost

effectiveness of resolution. Letters will be sent to relevant land owners prior to action taken against persistent offenders.

- (viii) Prosecution under Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980 will also be taken with reference to our Statement of Priorities.
- (ix) The Council will oversee the maintenance of and requests for new gates and stiles on public paths under Section 146 and 147 of the Highways Act 1980. Gates on bridleways should be capable of being opened from a mounted horse. New stiles or gates can be authorised where the land is to be used for agriculture or forestry and to prevent the ingress or egress of animals on both footpaths and bridleways but to ensure that stiles where applicable are replaced preferably by gaps and if not, gates to encourage access for all in accordance with SOA4 of the Statement of Action (ROWIP).
- (x) Barriers, rails and fences may also be provided to safeguard people using footpaths, Highways Act 1980 Section 66(3).
- (xi) The standard of maintenance may be variable for the rights of way network. There are no national standards for the maintenance of rights of way. Priority is given to ensure safe condition and accessibility for users.
- (xii) Seek where possible for the upgrade to a higher specification of prows which link to schools, amenities or public transport from S.106 contributions from the planning process.
- (xiii) The design of signs and way marks must be approved by the Council.
- (xiv) In general, signs will be provided at appropriate roadside locations whereas way marks will be more suitable along the routes. An exception could be at the junction of several routes where signs would be provided on one pole so that a large number of way marks could be avoided.