

Highways Safety Fencing and Barriers Policy

1. Oxfordshire County Council, as the Highway Authority, is responsible for ensuring the safety of highway users is maintained across the road network throughout Oxfordshire excluding motorways and trunk roads.
2. The term safety barrier is used as a generic term for all these assets within this Policy, unless otherwise stated
3. An effective Safety barrier policy can contribute significantly to maintaining effective traffic control
4. This policy applies to all vehicle restraint systems (VRS) and pedestrian guard rails.
5. Parapets on structures are excluded from this policy and are included within the Oxfordshire Structures Policy.
6. Static objects on or near to the road can present a significant hazard to the road user and there is a clear need to ensure that they are reasonably protected. Examples of such objects would be structures, large signs, lamp columns or where there is a large difference in level near to the road edge or risk of incursion onto other mode of transport corridors such as rivers or rail lines.

Policy: HSFP1

Oxfordshire County Council will provide and maintain adequate and appropriate vehicle restraint systems and pedestrian barriers to ensure safe passage of users within the highway network.

Policy: HSP2

Oxfordshire County Council will carry out cyclical visual checks to make sure safety fences and barriers are in a safe condition, in accordance with Oxfordshire's Safety Fences and Barriers Procedure and the Highways Safety Inspection Policy.

Policy: HSP3

Oxfordshire County Council will repair defects identified as a safety defect following any inspection or incident within the timescales indicated within the Safety Inspection Policy.

Policy: HSP4

Oxfordshire County Council will carry out joint inspections with private landowners, Highways England, Network Rail and the Environment Agency, where there is an interface between the highway safety barrier and their asset where there is an identified risk of incursion.

Policy: HSP5

Oxfordshire County Council will recover all costs incurred in repairing sections of accident damaged fencing or barrier, where practicable.

Policy: HSP6

Oxfordshire County Council will remove redundant or obsolete safety barriers to reduce long term maintenance costs.

Service Aims

1. Inspect all safety barriers at intervals set out within, the Safety Fences and Barriers Procedure and our Highway Safety Inspection Policy.
2. Maintain Safety Barriers in a safe condition and in a manner appropriate to its use and location.
3. Reduce the amount of unnecessary safety barriers on the network.
4. Provide new safety barriers studs only where necessary on road safety grounds.

Reference & Supporting Documents

- Safety Fences and Barriers Procedure
- Highway Safety Inspection Policy
- Highways Structures Policy
- OCC Highways Asset Management Plan
- [Managing accidental rail obstructions by road vehicles \(TAL 06/03\)](#)
- [Provision of Road Restraint Systems for Local Authorities](#)
- [The Road Restraints Risk Assessment Process \(RRRAP\)](#)
- [LTN 2/09 Pedestrian Guard Railing](#)