

Oxford Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Code of Conduct for taxis and private hire vehicles when making journeys within low traffic neighbourhood streets

The purpose of LTNs is to create quieter streets to encourage more people to walk and cycle. However, as a balance we also recognise the needs of taxis and PHVs as part of the public transport system and provide the appropriate priority (similar to taxis and private hire vehicles being allowed to use bus lanes). In doing this we are asking more vulnerable road users to share the road with motor vehicles especially where we have ANPR with exemptions.

From 17 May 24, taxis and private hire vehicles, have exemption permissions allowing them to travel through automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera points for motor traffic restrictions on the following roads within the Cowley and east Oxford low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs):

- Littlemore Road
- Littlehay Road
- Crescent Road
- Magdalen Road
- Divinity Road
- James Street

It is crucial that drivers of exempted vehicles will be mindful that they are guests in the low traffic neighbourhood streets and drive accordingly.

We will expect drivers to:

- Be especially mindful that these are low traffic neighbourhood streets and are intended to be a safer and more comfortable environment for walking, wheeling and cycling. As such, it is reasonable for people living, visiting or travelling in these roads to expect a small level of motor vehicle access to properties in the street rather than a through route.
- It is essential to prioritise vulnerable road users and be mindful of pedestrians, cyclists and other active travel users. Be considerate also that some road users may choose to travel in these streets who feel less confident walking, wheeling or cycling in busier areas.
- Please be aware that, for safety reasons, some cyclists and other wheeled users will take their primary position on the road. In doing this, cyclists should not be intimidated by larger vehicles needing to pass.
- Please also expect pedestrians to be walking on the carriageway in the LTN streets. This will be particularly the case where footway widths are narrow for any reason. Be respectful when passing.
- Respect the stated expectations that taxis and private hire vehicles will be travelling through the cameras only where it is advisable to do so in performing professional

duties, and not use them as a general short-cut for personal or other journeys in the exempt vehicle.

- Follow the Highway Code, including all signs, parking regulations and speed limits.
- Ensure you allow suitable access past your vehicle in the event of an emergency service response vehicle needing to access the street.
- If you are concerned about criminal behaviour, this should be reported to Thames Valley Police.

It should also be noted that:

- All road users should treat each other with respect.
- Oxfordshire County Council view taxis and private hire vehicles as part of the public transport network and therefore as part of the solution. It is, therefore, important that all modes of transport are given higher priority can co-exist in a safe and courteous manner. We will work with our partners to ensure that other modes of transport also afforded priority are also aware of their responsibilities.
- Members of the public who are concerned about the conduct of a taxi or private hire vehicle can continue report this to the relevant licensing authority.
- Non-exempt vehicles passing through the ANPR cameras will be issued with an automatic penalty charge notice from Oxfordshire County Council. There is more about the penalty charge notices on the county council website:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/movingtraffic>

This exemption is subject to ongoing monitoring and review to ensure that our shared aims of safer streets, and our commitment to making residential streets more comfortable for walking, wheeling and cycling are prioritised in balance with an improved efficiency across our highways network. As it is subject to consistent monitoring, it may be necessary for Oxfordshire County Council to review exemptions at these locations.

eastoxfordltn@oxfordshire.gov.uk
activetraveloxfordcity@oxfordshire.gov.uk