

Division(s) affected: *Kidlington East*

## **DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT**

**04 SEPTEMBER 2025**

### **GOSFORD: WATER EATON LANE – PROPOSED ‘NO WAITING AT ANY TIME’ PARKING RESTRICTITONS**

**Report by Director of Environment and Highways**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) Approve the introduction of the following new ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ (double yellow lines), as advertised:
  - i. Water Eaton Lane – east side, extend the existing DYLS east of the junction with Bicester Road, southwards to its junction with the access to ‘Northfield Farm’, and west Side, from the southern kerb line of Beagles Close, southwards for approx. 200 metres,
  - ii. Beagles Close – both sides, from its junction with Water Eaton Lane, westwards for 15 metres, and
  - iii. Access to ‘Northfield Farm’ – both sides, from its junction with Water Eaton Lane, eastwards for 2 metres.

## **Executive Summary**

1. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on proposals to introduce new ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ (double yellow lines) parking prohibitions along Water Eaton Lane in Gosford (near Kidlington), as shown in **Annex 1**.
2. Additionally, on the western side of Water Eaton Lane between its junction with Bicester Road & Beagles Close, intermittent ‘White Access Protection’ (WAP) markings are proposed to be introduced across residential driveways, and some areas of unrestricted parking retained.
3. These proposals follow a public consultation on the suggested ‘No Waiting Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm’ (single yellow lines) on both sides of Water Eaton Lane that was undertaken in June 2021 – but the Cabinet Members decision in July 2021 was deferred to allow for further investigation by Officers, resulting in these new proposals

## **Sustainability Implications**

4. The proposals will help to prevent obstruction and ensure free access to residences and public footpaths at the end of Water Eaton Lane, also access for larger vehicles to Northfield Farm – in anticipation of the upcoming residential development 'PR7a' to the west of Water Eaton Lane.

## **Financial Implications**

5. Funding for consultation on the proposals (and implementation if approved) has been provided by the County Council's Accessibility & Road Safety budget.

## **Legal Implications**

6. The consultation that has been undertaken complies with the consultation requirements for the various elements as required by law including under the Highways Act 1980, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and any other relevant legislation.
7. The scheme has been promoted by Oxfordshire County Council as the Highway Authority and Traffic Authority under the Highways Act 1980, and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Comments checked by:

*Jennifer Crouch (Head of Law - Environmental)*

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## **Equalities and Inclusion Implications**

8. No negative implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals. If required, Blue-badge holders can apply to have a bay provided near to their homes, and are also allowed to park on double yellow lines (providing a loading/unloading ban is not in force) for up to a maximum of three hours.

## **Formal Consultation**

9. Formal consultation was carried out between 12 June and 11 July 2025. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper, and an email was sent to statutory consultees & key-stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport/access & disabled peoples user groups, Cherwell District Council, local District Cllr's, Gosford & Water Eaton, and Kidlington Parish Councils, and the local County Councillor representing the Kidlington East division.

10. Letters were sent directly to approx. 110 properties in the immediate vicinity, and public notices were also placed on site adjacent to the proposals.
11. Relevant parish/town councils, and local Cllrs (including County, District, Parish, Town) were also encouraged to use the consultation documents provided to publicise the proposals amongst local residents as necessary
12. 18 responses were received via the online survey during the course of the formal consultation, comprising of three objections, five partially supporting, and ten in support.
13. Additionally, a further two emails were received directly, with Thames Valley Police not objecting, and a local resident offering their support.
14. The full responses are shown in **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors. Any comments received that Officers identify as containing personal abuse and/or other personal information will be redacted as appropriate.

### **Officer Response to Objections/Concerns**

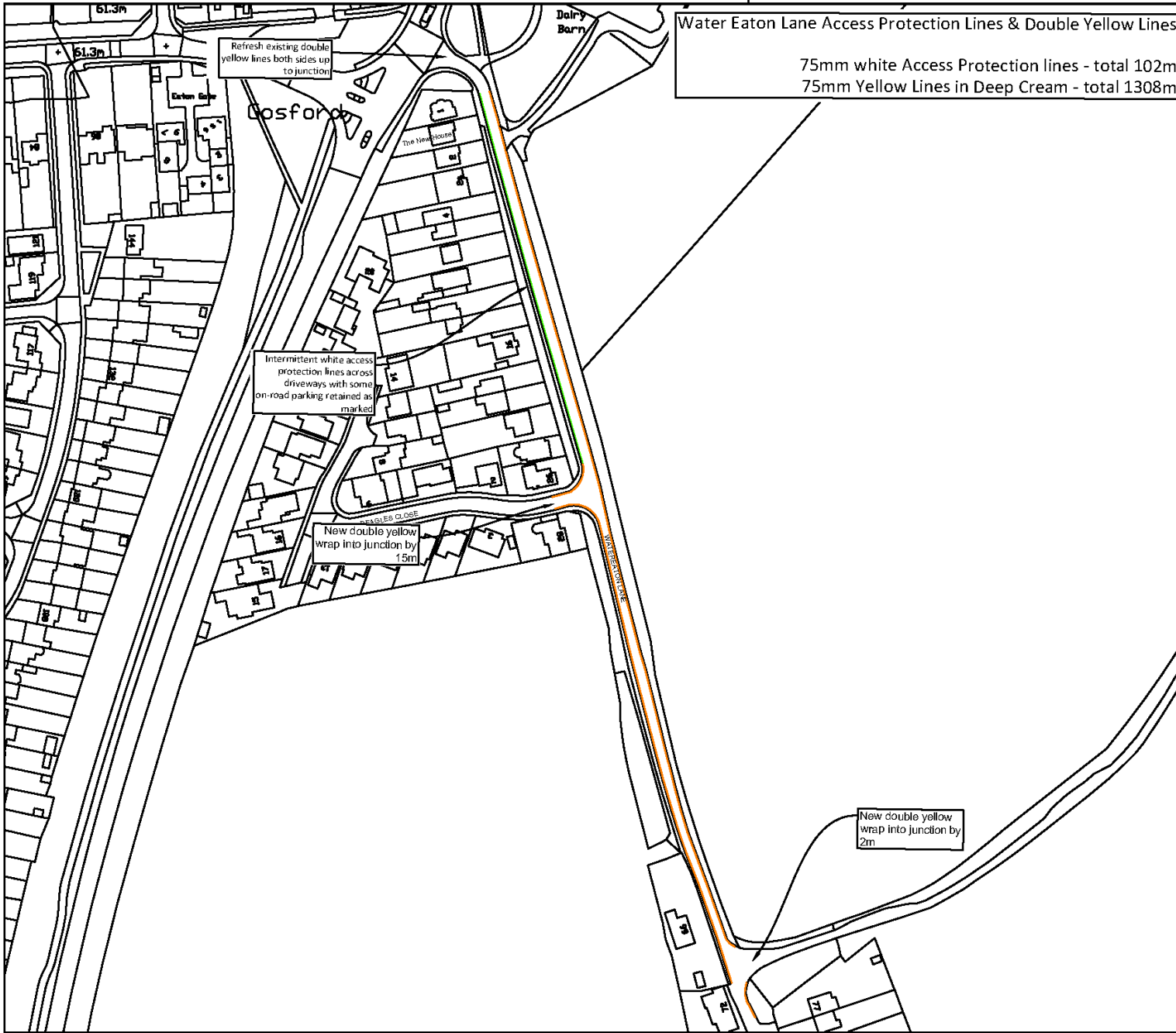
15. Concerns raised regarding the proposed amount of double yellow lines in Beagles Close, and the suggestion of additional access protection lines are noted – Officers confirm that driver behaviours will be monitored, which will help determine whether additional measures may be required at a later date.
16. Concerns raised relating to the possible displacement of parking into Bramley Close are noted, but Officers can confirm that there will still be some parking available in Water Eaton Lane – specifically at locations that do not cause a hazard or obstruction, so the risk of displacement is deemed likely to be minimal.
17. The proposed ‘intermittent’ access protection lines on Water Eaton Lane have been negotiated during site meetings with residents and councillors, so that it will remain possible for residents and their visitors to park outside those properties if needed.
18. The request for double yellow lines to be extended to the bottom of Water Eaton Lane is acknowledged, but Officers feel that this would then leave no parking at all for users of the public rights of way – even on the verges, as this would then also be illegal. Currently there is a modest amount of parking available where road width allows, both for visitors and walkers, and residents have off-street parking. The suggestion of an additional parking area for walkers relates to land that is not part of the highway, and as such – being outside the scope of these proposal – would need to be pursued separately.

**Paul Fermer**  
**Director of Environment and Highways**

Annexes                      Annex 1: Consultation Plan  
                                    Annex 2: Consultation responses

Contact Officers:            Dave Catling (Senior Officer – Traffic & Road Safety)  
                                    Lee Turner (Team Leader – Traffic & Road Safety)

September 2025





Water Eaton Lane Access Protection Lines & Double Yellow Lines

75mm white Access Protection lines - total 102m  
75mm Yellow Lines in Deep Cream - total 1308m


Drawing No. \_\_\_\_\_

### KEY TO RESTRICTION

 Intermittent white access protection lines across driveways with some on-road parking retained as marked on site

 No Waiting (Double Yellow Line)


ALL RESTRICTIONS ARE NEW UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED



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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved



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Project title

Proposed new No waiting

Drawing title

Kidlington - Water Eaton Lane

Drawing Status

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NTS	LN	DC	
	Date drawn 23/05/2025	Date checked 23/05/2025	Date approved

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Drawing No.	Revision

## A. Email responses:

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(e1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<b>No objection</b>
(e2) Local resident, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)	<p><b>Support</b> – I feel the time has come for some parking restrictions as quite often cars are parked in the lane at 8 in the morning and not picked up until 5p.m.</p> <p>I think double yellow lines on both sides of the lane and seven days a week would be an advantage for the following reasons:</p> <p>1) The farmer from Northfield farm, who uses tractors and large machinery, works 7 days a week and parked cars everywhere make it difficult for him to get up and down the lane. We also have several large lorries daily.</p> <p>2) The O.U. Stadium will eventually come to Kidlington and will cause supporters to park anywhere that they can. Without the seven day restriction that could lead to chaos in the lane.</p> <p>The wrap around on Beagles Close may need to be longer or they will end up with cars parked everywhere. As for the residents of Watereaton Lane we all have driveways for any visitors or tradesmen to be able to park off the lane, so double yellow lines would not be such a problem for us.</p>

*B. Online responses:*

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(o1) Local resident, (Gosford, Beagles Close)	<b>Object</b> – As a resident in Beagles close the double yellow lines do not go far enough into the close. Lots of people park on or just after the corner of Beagles close. These cars are not easily visible when turning into the close. If there are cars parked drivers are forced into the middle of the road and so more likely to hit someone turning into the close. The people who park here are typically dog walkers and commuters into Oxford and not locals who know cars block the safe view of the junction.
(o2) Local resident, (Gosford, Bramley Close)	<b>Object</b> – People, I imagine park there from the local housing association estate (Sanctuary). As the people in these properties are only allocated one space (many households have multiple cars). The sanctuary housing spaces are not policed (by the Housing association)...so there are already problems with tenants having too many cars for their properties, double yellow lines in Water Eaton Lane will just push more traffic into the close.
(o3) Local resident, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)	<b>Object</b> – Unnecessary, parked cars are not an issue in the lane.
(o4) Local resident, (Gosford, Beagles Close)	<b>Partially support</b> – Extending lines further into Beagles Close. At present the proposal is for extending the double yellow lines for a short distance into Beagles Close. This would not prevent most of the parked cars at present. By extending the lines into the Close up to the first driveways on either side there would be better control
(o5) Local resident, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)	<b>Partially support</b> – The problem of parking on the west side of Water Eaton Lane between Beagles Close and Bicester Road is only partially addressed. Vehicles park on the west side, often on the footpath, and this will be allowed to continue unless a stronger restriction is applied.
(o6) Local resident, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)	<b>Partially support</b> – Concerned that displacement of cars for walkers will move further up the lane beyond the turning to Northfield farm. There needs to be a provision for cars to park. Ideal would be the piece of land at the end of the farm lane that unfortunately has been planted with a hedge row by the farmer. Suggest gravel it over as a public access parking area. Need to remove newly planted hedge row

<p>(o7) Local resident, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)</p>	<p><b>Partially support</b> – I agree with Beagles close proposal as people do park on the corner now the farm has stoped parking</p> <p>I don't agree with the rest as I have lived in the lane over 25 years and never seen or experienced a problem this proposal is driven by the farm</p> <p>I believe there could be better use of funds than this</p>
<p>(o8) Local resident, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)</p>	<p><b>Partially support</b> – I support the 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions (double yellow lines) on Water Eaton Lane &amp; Beagles Close, Gosford, but want to ensure that the same restrictions continue until the end of Water Eaton Lane. If the double yellow lines stop at the entrance to the Northfield Farm entrance, than all the people who want to park and walk on the bridle way will come and park in front of the fourplex residences # 82, 84, 86 and 88 on the grass verge. This grass verge is the only space wide enough to park on this part of the lane until the very end where cars can turn around. This grass verge gets very muddy and is really ugly if cars park on it anytime it rains. Therefore, if this is the only place to park along the entire lane, it will be unfair to the people who reside at the fourplex to have a muddy 'parking lot' in front of the windows.</p> <p>Please extend the double yellow lines all the way to the end of the lane as all residents have ample parking spaces....NO residents park on the street on this part of the lane. A solution to this situation would be for the farmer/owner of Northfield Farm to remove the hedging he only planted a couple of years ago at the entrance to the farm....and create approximately 6 parking bays specifically for walkers on the bridle way. This was suggested to him about 3 years ago, but he opted to put in a hedge there and now the space behind the hedge is just unused. Let's make this proposed action fair to EVERYONE on Water Eaton Lane.</p>
<p>(o9) As a business, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – We rely totally on uninterrupted access over Water Eaton Lane to fulfil our farming business at Northfield Farm. To run the business throughout the year we use a variety of vehicles including tractors equipped with wide machinery and lorries collecting grain. They all have to use Water Eaton Lane to gain access to the farm. Parked cars/vans have at times proved both an obstacle and a hindrance to this access. This delay can be extremely frustrating at busy times of the year when harvest is in full swing and we are weather dependant. The positioning of double yellow lines as requested would certainly help to alleviate this problem.</p>

(o10) Local resident, (Gosford, Bicester Road)	<p><b>Support</b> – I live at on Bicester Road, opposite Water Eaton Lane and am impacted by the proposed changes as the only location that I can park is in the layby opposite. I would ask therefore for consideration that these changes do not just push more cars competing for space in the layby for free park and ride, or park and cycle services as they currently try to do and then use Water Eaton Lane when the layby is full.</p> <p>There have already been reductions in this layby due to housing development taking spaces for driveways, so if there is any possibility to create permit parking in the layby it would enable residents to park near their house that has no off road parking.</p>
(o11) As a business, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)	<p><b>Support</b> – I am supportive of these parking restrictions because they will prevent vehicles parking in inappropriate locations along Water Eaton Lane, which frequently restricts access along the highway in large vehicles; particularly lorries and farm machinery. Although I don't have direct experience of it, the same would apply to large emergency vehicles such as fire engines.</p>
(o12) Local resident, (Kidlington, Beagles Close)	<p><b>Support</b> – We reside in Beagles Close, near the junction with Water Eaton Lane, and we appreciate the steps being taken to improve safety in our area. However, we believe that the proposed 15 metres of double yellow lines wrapping into the junction is not sufficient. Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Beagles Close has become a popular parking spot for those accessing the path to Northfield Farm for walking. Residents have already complained to the Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council in this regard, as the situation was becoming hazardous for cars and pedestrians exiting Beagles Close. In particular, one resident who uses a mobility scooter could not see the junction clearly to safely cross.</p> <p>Therefore, we would like to suggest an addition of 3 metres to the 15 metres already proposed, making it a total of 18 metres. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are happy to discuss this further if needed</p> <p>We are aware of the potential parking challenges for supporters once the new Oxford United stadium is built. Supporters may prefer to use their own vehicles as the current local bus services have limited capacity on the Kidlington route. Therefore, they are very likely to seek parking in residential streets which is a major concern to us.</p>
(o13) Local resident, (Kidlington, Beagles Close)	<p><b>Support</b> – People do not park sensibly along the lane, making it difficult to navigate. And the business units at the farm need access. The farm need to be able to access the lane and the entrance to the farm too. Farm machinery</p>

	<p>often struggles to get through where people have parked on the lane. I am pleased the proposal includes the entrance to Beagles Close too (where I live) as people leaving cars on the entrance makes it difficult for us residents. I hope these proposals will stop people leaving their cars along the lane and then going into the city centre or parkway as well. An increasingly common problem. We know which cars are residents cars, and so frequently the ones left or parked selfishly are not associated with anyone who lives here.</p>
<p>(o14) Local resident, (Kidlington, Beagles Close)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – It is often difficult for larger vehicles and farm vehicles to traverse the Watereaton lane and Beagles Close so I totally agree to the proposals except for the following caveats:</p> <p>re the yellow lines into Beagles Close, I believe these should be 30 metres distance. When non residents inconsiderately leave their vehicles just by the junction, with the curved angle of the road, it is difficult to see if the road is clear. There have been a number of near misses, especially with delivery vans.</p> <p>Also, whilst Beagles Close is a public road we often see non residents parking two or more cars at a time, be it as a place to park while they cycle to work in Oxford or have a group 'dog walk', which also frequently involves them parking half on the road and half on the pavement making it difficult for disabled residents to move along the footpath and from time to time obstruct residents ability to pull into driveways. I would therefore ask for consideration to be given to: a) residents only parking signs on each side of Beagles Close and if this is not possible, to provide white access protection lines across the driveways to 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10.</p>
<p>(o15) Local resident, (Kidlington, Water Eaton Lane)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I am supporting the proposal. This is a narrow lane with farm vehicles using the road. Non residents parking outside properties on the road limit exiting driveways in larger vehicles. Most of the vehicles park with half their vehicle on the pathway, we have local residents with walking aides and wheelchairs that have to go on the road to get by as the path is blocked. The lane is being used as a free park and ride by people parking for the day, unloading their bike and cycling to work or catching the bus</p>
<p>(o16) Local resident, (Kidlington, Water Eaton Lane)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I feel in time Watereaton Lane will become a parking lot especially when the new football ground opens. Double yellow lines need to be in place for seven days a week as farmers work seven days a week not five and they need to move their tractors freely up and down the Lane without having to deal with parked vehicles. I make these comments as a concerned resident of Watereaton Lane who has noticed over time the increased parking</p>

(o17) As a business, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)	<b>Support</b> – Essential to maintain access to business with machinery. Inappropriate parking makes access almost impossible.
(o18) Local resident, (Gosford, Water Eaton Lane)	<b>Support</b> – Too often cars park on the side of the road forcing other traffic onto the verges, thus eroding the verges, especially in winter