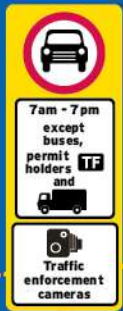


# Oxford traffic filters



# Briefing for OxPA

## 17 September 2024



# Why are traffic filters needed?

- Too much traffic and congestion
- Bus journeys often unreliable and slow
- Poor conditions for cyclists and pedestrians
- Vehicle dominated streets



# What is a traffic filter?

- An Oxford traffic filter is a camera enforced feature at a point on six roads in the city that limits only **private car** through-traffic.





# Traffic filter or bus gate?

## Traffic filters

- Yet to be implemented (as a trial)
- Camera-enforced points on six roads in Oxford that prohibit **private cars** unless they have a permit, but allow through all other vehicles
- Designed to reduce traffic on key roads right across the city



## Bus gates

- On the High Street since 1999
- A short section of street in which only buses and other authorised vehicles can go through – designed to remove all other traffic
- Focussed on key streets in the city centre

# Overview

- Approved as a **trial** by county council's cabinet in November 2022 following consultations in 2019, 2020 and 2022
- Scheme design influenced by feedback from consultations
- Due to start when Botley Road re-opens

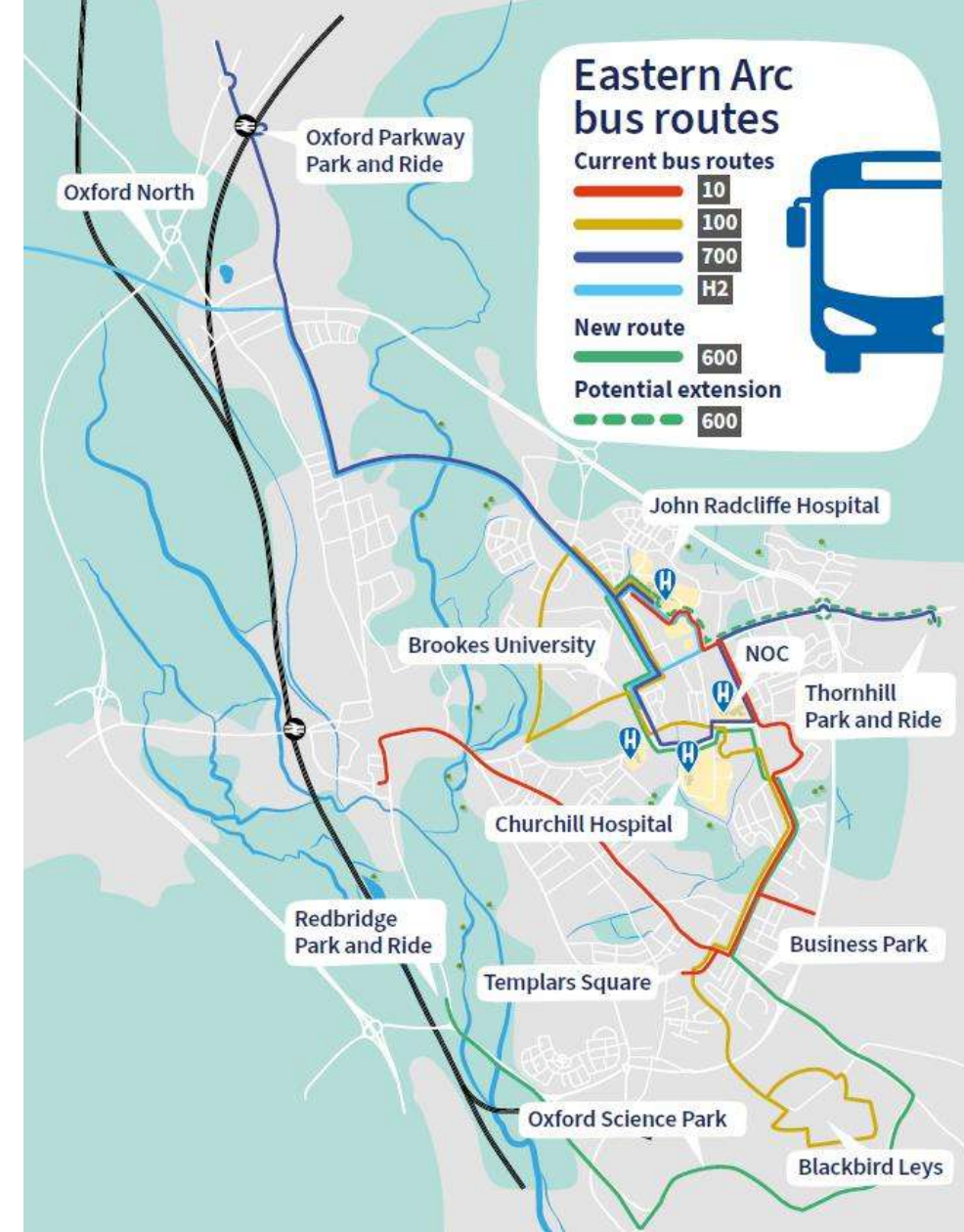
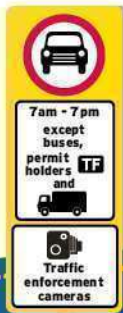




# Aims and objectives

Reduce traffic and congestion in the city, which will:

- make walking and cycling safer and more attractive
- make bus journeys quicker and more reliable
- enable new and improved bus routes
- support investment in modern buses
- reduce local air pollution, improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and help tackle climate change.

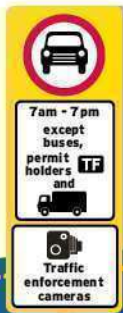




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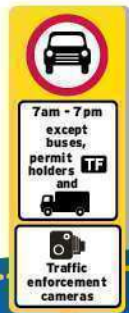
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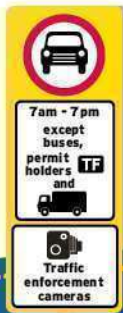
# Health benefits

- Active travel – cycling and walking – is one of the easiest and most affordable ways to add physical activity into your everyday life
- Regular physical activity can deliver cost savings for the health and care system and has wider social benefits for individuals and communities



# How they work

- A traffic filter limits through-traffic along a small section of a road when travelling by private car.
- The traffic filters will be camera-enforced
- There will be no physical barriers, and everywhere in Oxford will be accessible. If you drive a private car, you may need to take a different route or change how you travel if you don't have a permit to drive through the filter.
- Various permits will be available for cars





# Locations and timings

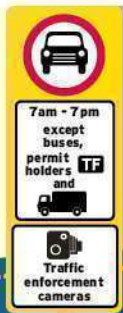
**7am – 7pm, 7 days a week**

Hythe Bridge Street  
Thames Street  
St Cross Road  
St Clements

**7-9am & 3-6pm\*, Monday – Saturday only**

Marston Ferry Road  
Hollow Way

*\*If monitoring suggests we should extend the traffic filter operating hours on Marston Ferry Road and Hollow Way to 7am to 7pm, this change can be made*





# Signage

**Authorised  
vehicles  
only  
7 am - 7 pm  
280 yds ahead**



**Traffic  
enforcement  
cameras**

**Authorised  
vehicles  
only  
7 am - 7 pm  
80 yds ahead**



**Traffic  
enforcement  
cameras**



**7 am - 7 pm  
Except buses,  
permit holders**

**TF  
and**



**Traffic  
enforcement  
cameras**



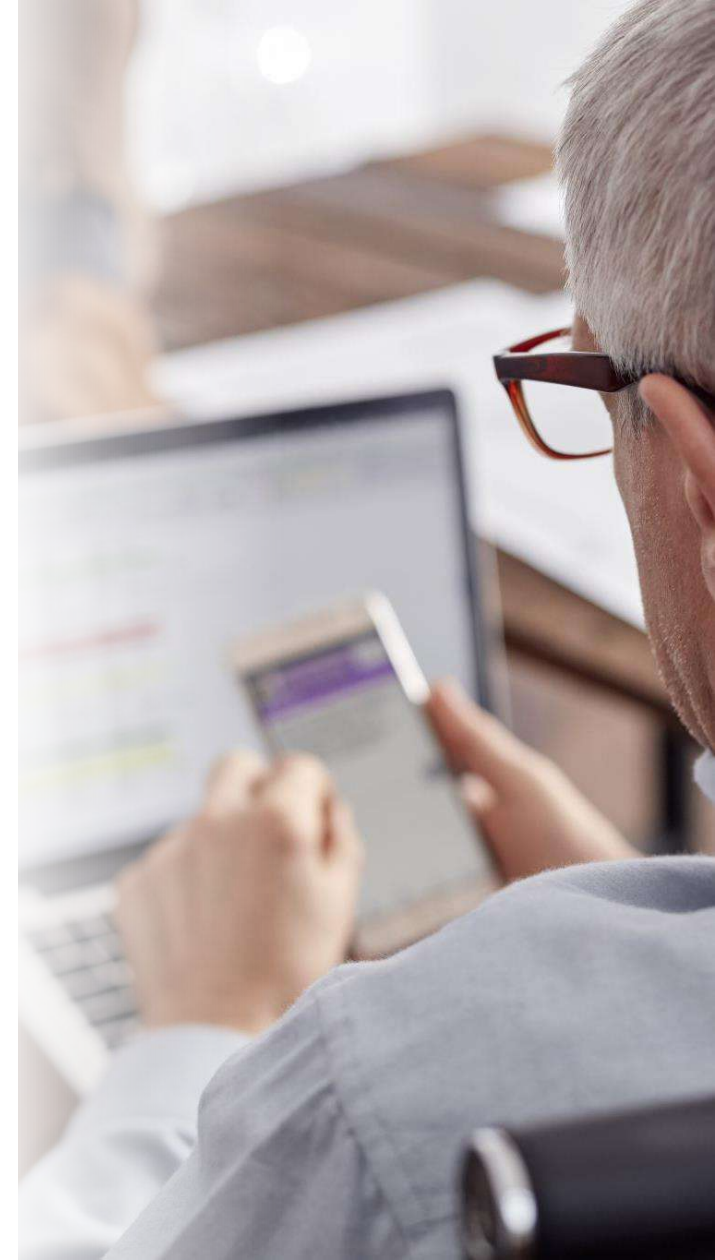
# Exemptions and permits

## Automatic exemptions

- ✓ Buses
- ✓ Minibuses
- ✓ Coaches
- ✓ Emergency services
- ✓ Mopeds and motorbikes
- ✓ Vans or light commercial vehicles
- ✓ HGVs

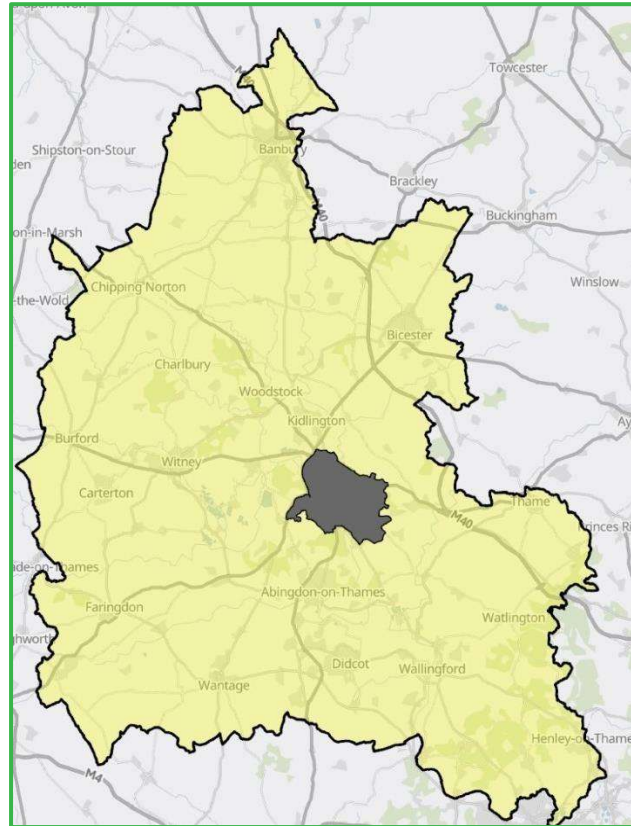
## Permits include:

- ✓ Taxis and private hire vehicles
- ✓ Residents in the Oxford and Oxfordshire [permit areas](#)
- ✓ Cars used as goods vehicles by businesses
- ✓ Blue Badge holders and disabled tax class vehicles
- ✓ Community health or care workers (for business journeys)
- ✓ Unpaid carers
- ✓ Firefighters (emergency response and business use)
- ✓ Patients receiving frequent hospital treatments
- ✓ Car club cars
- ✓ Approved driving instructors
- ✓ For a full list of permits, [see our website](#).

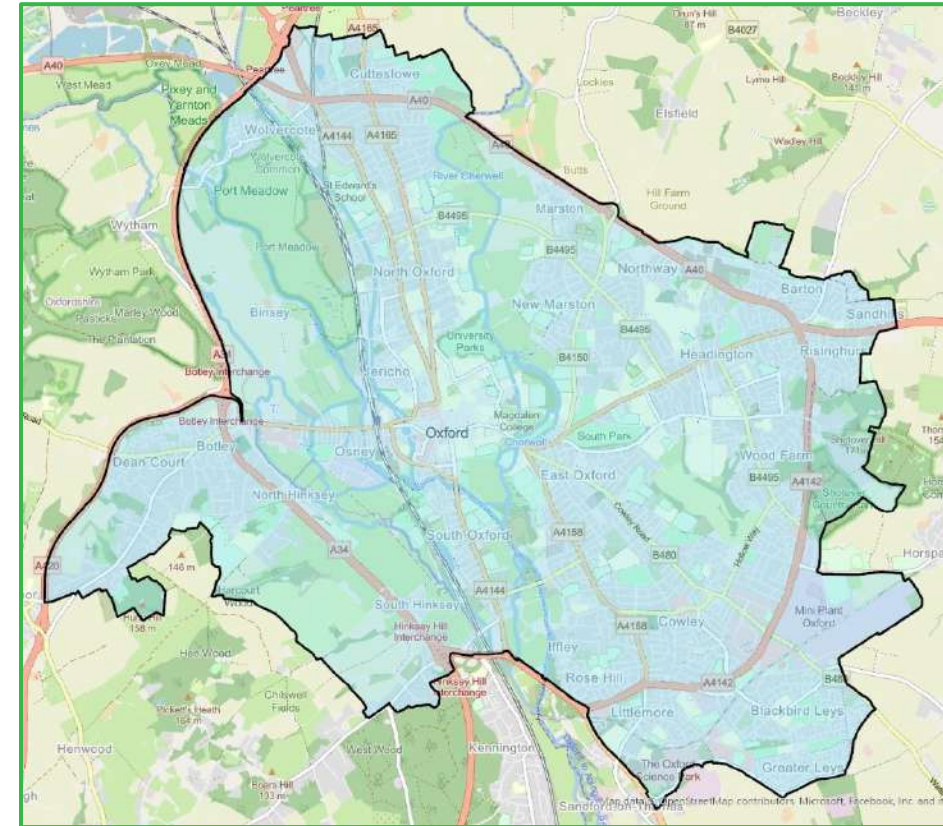




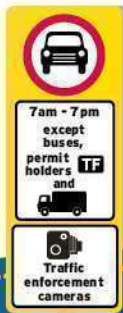
# Resident permit areas



Residents in the Oxfordshire permit area  
25 “day passes” per year per car  
Maximum one car per person  
Maximum two cars per household



Residents in the Oxford permit area  
100 “day passes” per year per car  
Maximum one car per person  
Maximum three cars per household





# Community health or care worker

You are eligible for this permit if your role requires you to

- provide health or care services at multiple locations in the [Oxford permit area](#) on the same day;
- urgently and at short notice travel to a location in the Oxford permit area to deal with any matter involving patient or staff welfare, building security or safety, or
- transport patients to or from any hospital or healthcare facility in the Oxford permit area.
- Includes voluntary workers.

The permit must not be used for commuting on days when no operational journeys are expected to be made.



# Frequent hospital patient

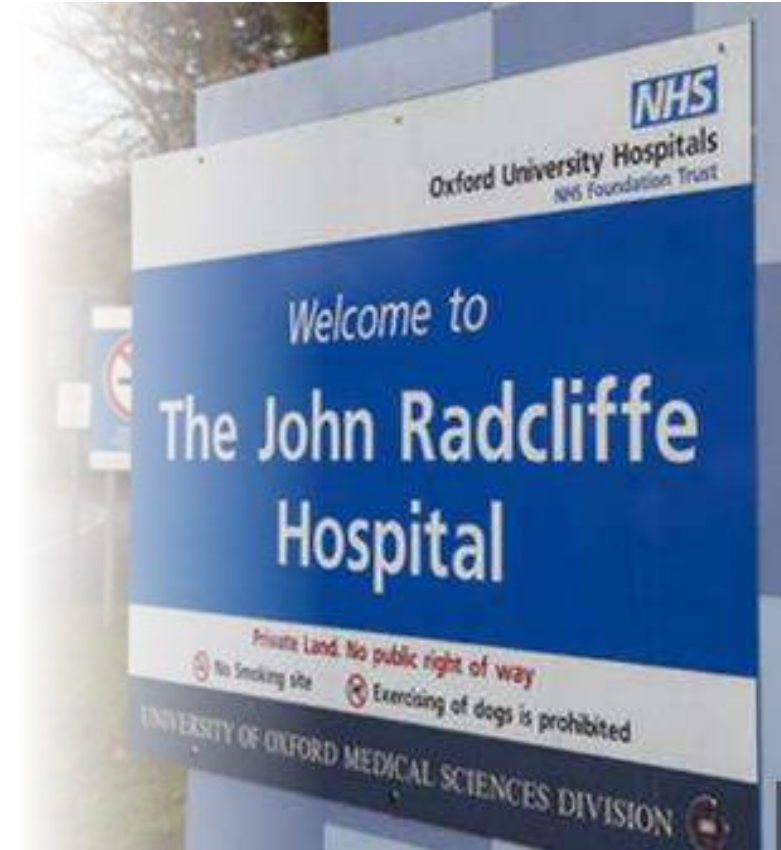
To qualify for this permit, you must meet the following criteria:

- You are regularly (at least monthly) attending a hospital in the Oxford permit area for planned medical appointments

The evidence you need to provide:

- A copy of your hospital appointment OR
- A patient parking permit confirmation

One permit per person, and maximum two cars per permit



# Blue Badge holder

To qualify for this permit, you must be UK Blue Badge holder or international equivalent

- Up to two cars may be nominated per permit. A nominated car may be driven through the filters only when being used for, or in connection with, the transport of a Blue Badge holder. The nominated cars can be changed as required.
- You can't apply for this permit if you already have a disability benefit claimant permit or a SEN school student permit.





# Business car used as goods vehicle

To qualify for this permit, you must meet the following criteria:

- You are business regularly operating in the [Oxford permit area](#).
- For business purposes only: for collecting, delivering or carrying goods or for carrying tools or equipment needed to carry out work for the business in question.
- The permit must not be used for commuting on days when no operational journeys are expected to be made.
- The car must be the registered to the business.

# Personal car used as goods vehicle

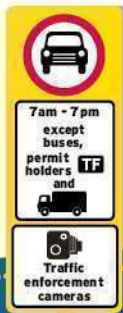
To qualify for this permit, you must meet the following criteria:

- You are an employee of business regularly operating in the [Oxford permit area](#).
- You are using your car for business purposes: collecting, delivering or carrying goods or for carrying tools or equipment needed to carry out work for the business in question.
- The permit must not be used for commuting on days when no operational journeys are expected to be made.
- The car must be registered at the home address of the applicant.



# Responding to concerns

- Cars without a permit will still be able to reach all parts of Oxford at any time
- The scheme is a genuine trial. The council will listen to views and monitor the scheme carefully before making decisions about its future
- The scheme should improve employee/customer/delivery and servicing access, not worsen it
- Exempt vehicles (and cars using permits) should find their journeys are quicker and more reliable. Business productivity should improve, particularly for mobile businesses and those relying on deliveries



# Next steps

- The trial won't start before Botley Road reopens.
- The trial will run for up to eighteen months allowing monitoring data, and feedback from the public and stakeholders to be collected
- During the trial there will be a six-month public consultation
- It's possible to make some changes to the filters in response to monitoring and feedback during the trial
- Ongoing communications and engagement
- Check our [website](#) for all the latest information





Thank you!