

Cattle and Deer Grid Policy



Roads and Infrastructure
Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

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Approval

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. A cattle grid, as defined in the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Part IV, Section 41, is “a device designed to prevent the passage of animals, but to allow the passage of all or some other traffic, and includes any fence, by-pass or other works necessary for securing the efficient operation of the said device”. Any reference in this policy to ‘grids’ will also include deer grids.
- 1.2. The Highland Council has responsibility for regulating and managing the installation of all grids on those roads for which it is the Roads Authority. All applications for cattle and deer grids must be made to, and approved by, The Highland Council. All grids on adopted roads shall be adopted and maintained as part of the road network.
- 1.3. This policy ensures that where a grid is permitted it is installed, managed and maintained to an acceptable and consistent standard which minimises unreasonable nuisance and safety risk to road users.
- 1.4. The Highland Council’s document ‘Cattle and Deer Grids Manual’ contains more detailed direction on the assessment and provision of grids.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy shall apply to all adopted and prospectively adoptable roads for which The Highland Council is Roads Authority.
- 2.2. All grids and necessary by-passes on adopted roads shall be adopted and maintained as part of the road network.

3. Policy

- 3.1. Where grids on adopted roads are requested by private parties for their own benefit, the application shall be considered by the relevant Area Roads Operations Manager. Grids should only be provided where alternative measures, such as gates, have been investigated and found unsuitable.
- 3.2. The Highland Council will display a notice in the locus for a statutory period of not less than 28 days, and publish said notice in two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers for objections and representations to be made by other affected residents and road users. The applicant will be responsible for the costs for this and the process won’t start until the applicant has paid the required amount in full.
- 3.3. If no objection is duly made, or every objection so made is withdrawn, The Highland Council may proceed to consider the application. Where a representation is duly made during the consultation period and not withdrawn, the application will be subject to the procedures set out in the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Schedule 4(3).
- 3.4. The Highland Council may grant permission for construction of grids on its public roads. The proposed location of the grid will be subject to approval by The Highland Council, taking into consideration the current traffic movements and future traffic requirements of the road.

- 3.5. The Highland Council requires that all grids on public roads are installed to adequately meet technical requirements including minimum width, load bearing capacity, materials, signage, and visibility markings.
- 3.6. The applicant must provide design details for the structure, including the by-pass, and have a design certified by a Structural Engineer. A number of companies manufacture prefabricated grid units. Subject to their design specifications being reviewed and approved by The Highland Council, such units will be approved for use. The applicant shall construct drainage under the grid to ensure that no damming or ponding of water run-off occurs on the carriageway and adjacent areas.
- 3.7. Details of the grid structure, foundations, abutments, approaches, and horizontal and vertical alignment shall be submitted with the application for a grid and shall be sufficient to guarantee, under normal circumstances, the safe transit of vehicles and other road users and shall not interfere with the natural drainage of the area.
- 3.8. If the application is approved, an agreement must be signed by the applicant agreeing to full responsibility for all costs associated with the construction of the grid. Any land required for a by-pass will be made available at no cost to The Highland Council.
- 3.9. Under Section 47 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, approved applications will be subject to a single charge for future maintenance during the life of the grid. The amount of this single charge will be published in the Schedule of Charges.
- 3.10. At the end of its service life, or where it appears to The Highland Council that a grid is no longer required, The Highland Council will remove the grid and any gate or other works which have been provided for use in connection with it, making good the site thereof. This will be after consultation with local landowners, the local Area Committee and Grazer's Committee.
- 3.11. If, after the removal of a grid and reinstatement of the road, a new grid is requested by a private party, the process will be as per paragraphs 3.1 to 3.6.