



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WITNEY, A40 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY) (ASTHALL, MINSTER LOVELL AND CURBRIDGE PARISHES) PROHIBITION OF HORSES & HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGES) ORDER 20**

STATEMENT OF REASONS

As a result of concerns raised by members of the public and Thames Valley Police (TVP) over reports of persons using 'pony & trap carriages' on the A40 dual carriageway Witney bypass, West Oxfordshire District Council are undertaking a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of a 'Public Space Protection Order' (PSPO) to prohibit such use between the Burford Road (Asthall) roundabout & (Curbridge) Downs Road roundabout.

Since 2020, Thames Valley Police and local Councils have received numerous reports of 'pony & trap' racing along the A40, primarily occurring on weekends. These races are unannounced, unregulated, and pose serious public safety risks. This activity is also accompanied by the congregation of numerous persons, horses, vehicles, and horseboxes at a dangerous location on double bends on the B4477 close to side roads with limited view which endangers those attending and passing traffic.

Oxfordshire County Council – following discussion with TVP – plans to complement the proposed 'PSPO' by also prohibiting Horses & Horse-drawn carriages from using the same stretch of the A40. By doing so, OCC will ensure that enforcement of the proposed restriction will be practically & legally robust, as the current activity causes major disruption to the road network and endangers both road users and the animals involved.

The County Council continues its responsibility to consider the provision of convenient and ¹ safe movement of motor vehicles and other traffic, ensuring that danger is minimised ² whilst facilitating the effective passage of traffic, and ³ preventing the use on the roads of vehicles which by their manner are unsuitable having regards to the character of the road.

Detailed documents accompany this form.

Date: 20 November 2025.

Traffic Regulation Order & Schemes, for the
Director of Environment & Highways
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

¹ Section 1 (1) (a) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

² Section 1 (1) (c) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

³ Section 1 (1) (d) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984