

Drainage Policy

1. Oxfordshire County Council, as the Highway Authority, is responsible for the provision and maintenance of drainage assets on the road network throughout Oxfordshire excluding motorways and trunk roads.
2. The Highways Act 1980 empowers highway authorities to construct and maintain drainage systems to remove surface water from the highway.
3. This policy encompasses the Oxfordshire County Council's role, responsibilities and duties with respect to the provision and maintenance of the county's drainage assets and its roles and responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010
4. Oxfordshire County Council seeks to proactively maintain the highway drainage asset to deliver a highway drainage service that follows a prioritised, risk-based approach.
5. Oxfordshire County Council, as the Lead Flood Authority is responsible for flood risk management.
6. An effective drainage procedure can contribute significantly to the following:
 - To aid road safety and reduce the risk of flooding;
 - To effectively manage our ditches and gullies;
 - To contribute to our obligations of Local Lead Flood Authority, (LLFA) responsibilities

Policy: DP1

Oxfordshire County Council will provide safe and efficiently maintained highway drainage systems to ensure safe passage to users of the highway network.

Policy: DP2

Oxfordshire County Council will accurately define and record location and condition of the Highway Drainage Asset

Policy: DP3

Oxfordshire County Council will make safe any defects identified as a safety defect following any inspection or incident within the timescales indicated within the Safety Inspection Policy

Policy: DP4

Oxfordshire County Council will continue to deal with flooding incidents on a reactive basis and as part of any investigations into the cause of a flood, the Council will investigate, record the case and feed into a risk based approach of prioritisation leading to a forward works programme

Policy: DP5

Oxfordshire County Council will undertake the duties and responsibilities of the Flood and Water Management Act as the Lead Local Flood Authority for Oxfordshire

Policy: DP6

Oxfordshire County Council will update the council's Flood Risk Management Plan and Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

Policy: DP7

Oxfordshire County Council will promote and use Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Flood Water Management Act

Policy: DP8

Oxfordshire County Council will assist individuals and stakeholders in identifying their flood risk and how to respond to the threat of flooding if it should occur as detailed in the [Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit](#) .

Service Aims

1. We will investigate all reports of highway flooding and damaged/blocked highway drains and take appropriate measures to remove water from the highway, alleviate or mitigate flooding as appropriate.
2. We will collect condition data on all gullies to facilitate repairs and to also inform future changes to gully emptying frequencies.
3. We will carry out a programme of known grip cleaning and cutting.
4. We will facilitate ditch maintenance by adjacent landowners and if necessary take appropriate action to cleanse and recover costs from those landowners not fulfilling their obligations.

Reference & Supporting Documents

- Drainage Procedure
- [Highway Safety Inspection Policy](#)
- [OCC Highways Asset Management Plan](#)
- [Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit](#)
- [Design Manual for Roads & Bridges \(DMRB\): Volume 4, Section 2 – DRAINAGE](#)