

# Highway features – general principles

Highway features such as street furniture and telecommunication equipment are an integral part of the streetscape. If not carefully considered they can be both visually and physically intrusive and reduce the quality of the environment. Within any design proposals we will want to see a reduction in street clutter to achieve a safer and more attractive environment and reduce hazards for visually impaired people.

Street furniture should also be in keeping with the surroundings and preserve the quality of conservation areas.

Highway features can include:

- bollards,
- seating areas,
- planters,
- trees,
- above ground utilities.
- street lighting,
- electrical vehicle charging points,
- structures,
- advertising,
- phone boxes,
- cabinets or masts

The use of guard railing and barriers should be avoided unless a clear need for it has been identified. Alternatives should be found to guide pedestrians safely such as bench seating, cycle parking or kerbs.



**Fig 1: Street furniture**

## Design considerations

Minimum footway widths will be required to maintain pedestrian flows. Please refer to the Designing for Walking section for further information.

Where new highway features are proposed they should be located such that they:

- maintain appropriate footway widths according to their location, not to be located where they can obstruct flow of traffic or pedestrians
- are kept out of desire lines and crossing points - be placed in buildouts where practicable
- coordinate with existing furniture or replace poor quality street furniture
- are grouped to minimise clutter and make areas more accessible for blind and partially sighted users, and the mobility impaired

- are in line with other features
- are kept away from visibility splays
- are set back minimum 450mm from the edge of carriageway (street lighting should be set to the back edge of the footway)
- are placed to allow access for street cleaning
- are not placed over existing or proposed gullies or access covers
- do not obstruct access to private land, property or commercial premises
- avoid conflicts with existing and proposed utilities

When placing highway features such as street furniture on historic paving/material, extra care should be taken to not damage the surrounding material, to retain as much of the character as possible.

## Opportunities within design

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- highway features can be used to deter footway parking if placed to the carriageway edge of the footway
- features can be strategically placed to break up the visual impact of on-street parking- new street furniture could be located on build outs to reduce the impact on footway provision, providing they do not hinder visibility
- opportunities for decluttering should be taken - an audit could be carried out of existing highway features to ensure redundant furniture is removed prior to integrating features with newer street features