

Summary of Current Policy (Highways Maintenance Plan)

Background

Flagged footways are a serious long-term maintenance liability. Where vehicles drive onto footways flags become broken and trip hazards occur. In other areas settlement can occur; particularly after utilities excavations.

Summary of Existing Policy

Flags will be replaced like for like in:

- In designated Conservation Areas
- In town centre areas of high pedestrian activity such as shopping centres

Outside these areas the normal standard will be bituminous surfacing. Flagged footways will only be retained where they remain in good condition with a low number of defects as set out below.

Stone flags

The cost of relaying stone flags is high, and replacements for broken flags need to be procured to match existing flags and often need to be cut to size.

Where relaying is necessary and more than 5% (1 in 20) of the flags need to be replaced, or where matching second hand flags are not available, then the damaged area will be renewed in bituminous materials.

Concrete flags

Where more than 10% (1 in 10) of the flags need be replaced, then the flags will be replaced by bituminous materials.

Clarification of use of the Policy in relation to defects which meet prescribed intervention levels

The Highway Operations service will determine on the grounds of cost effectiveness and efficiency, on a case by case basis, whether to rectify a defect by replacing or reinstating a flag or by removing it and replacing with bituminous material.

Subsequent reinstatement following defect rectification

Other than in designated conservation areas and in town centre areas of high pedestrian activity such as shopping centres, there will not be an automatic follow up reinstatement to match the existing modular paving. The trigger points identified above will be used as a 'rule of thumb' to determine how reinstatement will ultimately be implemented unless there are special circumstances which would be considered on a case by case basis.