



On Foot in Oxford

Report on 'clutter' in vicinity of Wayfinding signs

April 2012



Introduction

Following a test audit of Turl Street by the Oxford Civic Society, Gordon Reid, City Centre Manager, suggested that we might inspect city centre locations in the vicinity of the forthcoming Wayfinding signs to identify items of street furniture which might be removed. Specifically we were asked to identify items which are under the responsibility of the City Council.

The Oxford Civic Society, working with the Oxford Pedestrians Association, carried out inspections in late March. Our findings are listed below.

Findings

Specific findings

The table below lists the sign number in column 1 as taken from Wayfinding Stage 4 Location Report Draft 5.

The items listed in column 3 are those which we recommend are considered for removal immediately.

The items listed in column 4 are those which we recommend are considered at a future date. These either require more significant change rather than straight removal, or are items which belong to other authorities.

Sign no.	Site	Items to consider for immediate removal /change	Items for later consideration
1	The Plain	-	
2	Rose Lane/High St	-	
3	Merton St/High St	-	
4	High St/Queens Lane	-	
5	High St/Catte St	-	
6	Magpie Lane	-	
7	Oriel Sq	Remove empty pole with sticker 'No Bicycles' (see photo 3). Remove lone wooden bollard at south end of double yellow lines. Remove empty post on Bear Lane (N side).	Barriers hideous, spoils beautiful square, replace in due course (see photo 4).
8	K Edwards St	-	Can the 'out of style' bollard be removed (see photo 2)?
9	Turl/High	-	

10	Market St/Turl	Remove empty post on Market Street outside party shop.	Area dreadfully cluttered: could be improved by pairing things up (see photo 1). Extend bike racks in Brasenose Lane. Is the wooden bollard/gate at entry to Brasenose Lane needed as bikes prevent vehicle access?
11	Radcliffe Sq/Catte St	-	Harmonise bollards to same design/type. Ugly concrete bollards. Remove post outside Indian Inst, if possible (has traffic info).
12	New Coll Lane	-	Straighten bollards, harmonise types.
13	Clarendon Bldg	-	Messy posts outside Science Museum need replacing. Empty post outside Science Museum other than tourist bus-stop sign. Can this be removed? Remove traffic lights at junction Catte/Holywell/Broad St/Parks Rd.
14	Turl/Broad St	Remove empty post outside corner of music shop.	Opposite, outside Trinity, mess of hanging basket post, parking sign, litter bin. Needs rethink. Remove post outside Blackwell poster shop and put sign on nearby lamp post.
15	Cornmarket/Broad St jn	Remove bollard outside Debenhams - between litterbin and post so useless.	Remove traffic lights at this junction.
16	Cornmarket /Ship St	not done	
17	Cornmarket / Market St	not done	
18	Carfax	-	Not enough bike parking nearby.
19	St Giles/ Martyrs Memorial	Remove bollard by recycling bin (Randolph corner). Remove wooden bollard by Najjar's place.	Massive oppressive post holding traffic camera needs rethink. Tall post holding Traffic Camera Enforcement sign is much too tall and intrusive.
20	Lamb & Flag	-	

21	Museum/Parks RD	-	
22	Keble Road/Parks Rd	-	
23	Keble Rd/Banbury Rd	Remove second post (black) at bus stop by St Giles Church.	
24	L Clarendon St /Woodstock Rd	-	
25	L Clarendon St/ Wellington Sq	Remove empty post in Walton St, 10m S of junction with L Clarendon St.	
26	Gloucester St	-	Telephone box needs cleaning.
27	Gloucester St	-	
28	Glos Green Market	-	
29	St Georges Place (Odeon)	-	Generally extremely shabby area.
30	New Inn Hall St	-	
31	Glos Green	-	
32	Glos Green	-	
33	Jn George St/ Worc St	Remove two empty posts in Worcester St, one each side, N of pedestrian crossing (see photo 6).	
34	St Ebbes	-	Various redundant posts: opposite end of Brewer St, and at dead end of Turn Again Lane. (No Loading sign, hidden beside cottage end).
35	Bonn Sq/New Inn Hall St	-	One litter bin doesn't match the rest - looks bad.
36	New Rd/Castle	-	
37	St Aldates	-	
38	Pembroke St	<i>Not sure enough space for sign here. Would sign be better at corner of Pembroke Sq (where souvenir stall is).</i>	
39	St Ebbes/ Penny Farthing Pl		Use wall mounted parking signs on Cult Clothing to prevent parked bikes. Remove 4 posts (see photo 7).
40	St Aldates/ Speedwell St	-	
41	Christ Church Meadow entrance	-	
42	Thames St jn	-	Very cluttered with road signs. Difficult to know when to cross the road (no green man at opposite side of street).
43	Oxpens coach park	-	Too many posts/bollards in general.

44	By Oxpens crossing	Redundant lamp post on side by OCVC college.	
45	Corner Thames St		Opposite is a Cycling Prohibited sign which could be added to other signs and one post removed. Are concrete bollards opposite necessary?
46	Norfolk St	-	Whole area cluttered with traffic signs.
47	Castle St	-	
48	Paradise Sq	-	
49	Mill St Walk/ Woodins Way	-	This area nicely uncluttered; benches could be added.
50	Woodins Way	-	Pedestrian "guard rail" should go.
51	Mill St Walk	5 redundant posts in road outside 14 Abbey Place (see photo 5).	
52	Quaking Bridge	-	Agree life ring needs relocating. Waterway full of litter: needs regular clean - who does it?
53	New Rd corner of Nuffield	Remove redundant steel post opposite, beside Worcester St car park.	
54	Park End St		Straighten or remove bent sign outside Al Salam restaurant.
55	Hythe Br St	-	
56	Hythe Br St/U Fisher Row	-	Review this corner: untidy, some signs could be combined.
57	Station forecourt	-	Far too many posts and signs.
58	Business School	-	
59	Frideswide Sq/Park End	-	One tree on centre island has a metal cage - remove, ugly and tipped sideways.
60	Station exit to canal	-	
61	New College Lane	-	
62	Bulwarks Lane	Remove post at S end of Bell & Compass pub (see photo 8).	
63	Woodins Way	not inspected	
64	Hollybush Row	Remove wood attached to S end of planter. Redundant black post opposite White Walls estate agent/16-17 Hollybush Row.	GPO cement marker is broken.
65	Bulwarks Lane	<i>Wayfinding sign here could be wall mounted</i>	

66	Bulwarks Lane	Remove bollard at end of bike racks.	
67	Canal path by lock	-	
68	S of Folly Bridge	not inspected	

General findings

There are numerous posts, especially on High St, with 'No Stopping' or 'No Loading' signs, often with bicycles attached. Could these signs be placed on a wall, thus allowing removal of the post? We appreciate in some cases the owners of properties refuse permission for signs to be affixed to walls, in which case a post could hold two signs, allowing the removal of half the posts.

Utility boxes across city centre need a good clean and repaint.

There are inconsistent designs of litter bins, and they need lids or covers to stop litter blowing out.

Posts that carry hanging baskets should be altered so they can be removed when out of use: they accumulate parked bikes.



Photo 1: Sign 10



Photo 2: Sign 8



Photo 3: Sign 7





Photo 4: Sign 7



Photo 5: Sign 51



Photo 6: sign 33



Photo 7: post 39
Example of two posts which
could be removed if signs on wall



Photo 8: post 62