

Roads and Infrastructure	Members briefing note		October 2019
Prepared by	HUB team	Approved by	
Lining work			

Road markings are an essential aid to assist road safety and improve traffic flow to the road user. The Council arranges for external contractors to undertake lining work across Argyll and Bute's 1400 mile road network.

Road Markings are covered by legislation, Statutory Instrument 'The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions' sets out all the road markings and road signs that are available for use by the council as roads authority. The Highway Code <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code> provides information on some of the rules associated with road markings as well as providing examples of types of road markings.

Capital projects which include inlay, overlay, surface dressing, edge strengthening and re-tread will be funded via the capital budget, while the maintenance of existing road markings and safety issues will be covered by the revenue budget.

Yellow lines are provided where there is a need to restrict parking to help maintain traffic flow.

There are two types of yellow lines used to control parking:

- Double yellow lines which signify no waiting (except for loading); and
- Single yellow lines which indicate different time periods of restrictions.

Other means of parking restrictions can also be covered by yellow markings on kerbs, bus stops, zigzag lines and yellow wording on the road surface itself.

White lines on the carriageway are provided for safety.

Why have there previously been delays with the lining work?

Due to the rural locations within Argyll, we have previously found it difficult to recruit contractors to carry out this work. Working in partnership with BEAR Scotland, who maintain the trunk roads in Argyll and Bute, we have now secured a joint contract for this work to be completed. By working together we are able to both offer a more attractive single contract to contractors, as well as allowing both organisations to realise economies of scale.

Why do we employ a contractor to complete the lining work?

The comparison between the capital outlay in cost to employ a lining contractor is much less than buying our own machines and training staff. It is therefore more efficient financially to continue using contractors to complete the lining works. Even though we have 1400 miles of road we do not have enough road markings to make it economically viable to have our own dedicated machine.

Are white lining works weather dependent?

Yes. Like a lot of roads activities, white lining is largely weather dependent – you can't properly apply paint to wet roads or when de-icing salt is on the road surface, so it can only be done in periods of fair weather.

Why is the lining work not completed at the same time as the surface dressing work?

Once surface dressing is completed sites have an initial sweep of the loose chips and then a final sweep 25 – 30 days after laying. It is only after this that the surface becomes available for lining.

When are disabled bays/give ways signs re-lined?

Small scale hand applied road markings are applied using a different crew. In most cases it is not economical to be done on an individual basis. To ensure efficiency there is a separate programme of work issued at regular times throughout the year to capture any outstanding works.

Can the public request lining work to allow better access to their property?

If access being blocked becomes a regular occurrence then a request can be made for a white line road marking at the access to your property. This will help to alert unfamiliar drivers that access is required. You can request this by contacting our Traffic Management team via our contact centre on 01546 605514 or making an enquiry online:

https://argyllandbute.custhelp.com/app/AS/Parking_Enquiry

The case will then be picked up by the relevant officer and progressed.

What to do if people ignore the road access marking?

Although the road access marking (sometimes called an I-bar) has no legal significance, if an access has been obstructed preventing you from leaving your property then you should contact your local police who are able to carry out enforcement action against the owner of the vehicle.