



Highways Act 1980

1980 CHAPTER 66

PART V

IMPROVEMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Widths

72 Widening of highways.

- (1) A highway authority may widen any highway for which they are the highway authority and may for that purpose agree with a person having power in that behalf for the dedication of adjoining land as part of a highway.
- (2) A council ^{F1} . . . have the like power to enter into a public path creation agreement under section 25 above, or to make a public path creation order under section 26 above, for the purpose of securing the widening of an existing footpath [^{F2}, bridleway or restricted byway] as they have for the purpose of securing the creation of a footpath [^{F2}, bridleway or restricted byway], and references in those sections to the dedication or creation of a footpath [^{F2}, bridleway or restricted byway] are to be construed accordingly.
- (3) The council of a parish or community have the like power to enter into an agreement under section 30 above for the purpose of securing the widening of an existing highway in the parish or community or an adjoining parish or community as they have for the purpose of securing the dedication of a highway, and references in that section to the dedication of a highway are to be construed accordingly.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F1** Words in s. 72(2) repealed (1.4.1997) by [1995 c. 25, s. 120\(3\)](#), [Sch.24](#) (with [ss. 7\(6\)](#), [115](#), [117](#)); [S.I. 1996/2560, art. 2, Sch.](#)
- F2** Words in s. 72(2) substituted (2.5.2006 for E. and 11.5.2006 for W.) by [The Restricted Byways \(Application and Consequential Amendment of Provisions\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1177\)](#), [regs.](#)

Changes to legislation: Highways Act 1980, Cross Heading: Widths is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 February 2018. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

1(2)(4), 2, **Sch. Pt. 1**; S.I. 2006/1172, **art. 2(a)-(d)** (with art. 3); S.I. 2006/1279, **art. 2(a)-(d)** (with art. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 72 applied (2.5.2006 for E. and 11.5.2006 for W.) by **The Restricted Byways (Application and Consequential Amendment of Provisions) Regulations 2006** (S.I. 2006/1177), arts. 1(2)(4), 2, **Sch. Pt. 1**; S.I. 2006/1172, art. 2; S.I. 2006/1279, art. 2
- C2** S. 72(2) extended by **Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988** (c. 4, SIF 81:1), ss. 2(5)(6), 23(2), 27(2), **Sch. 3 para. 47(1)**
S. 72(2) extended (with modifications) (19.9.1995) by 1995 c. 25, ss. 70, 125(2), **Sch. 9 para. 11(a)** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117, Sch. 8 para. 7).

73 Power to prescribe improvement line for widening street.

- (1) Where in the opinion of a highway authority—
- (a) a street which is a highway maintainable at the public expense by them is narrow or inconvenient, or without any sufficiently regular boundary line, or
 - (b) it is necessary or desirable that such a street should be widened,
- the authority may prescribe in relation to either one side or both sides of the street, or at or within a distance of 15 yards from any corner of the street, a line to which the street is to be widened (in this section referred to as an “improvement line”).
- (2) Where an improvement line prescribed under this section in relation to any street is in force, then, subject to subsections (3) and (4) below, no new building shall be erected, and no permanent excavation below the level of the street shall be made, nearer to the centre line of the street than the improvement line, except with the consent of the authority who prescribed the line, and the authority may give a consent for such period and subject to such conditions as they may deem expedient.
- (3) The prohibition imposed by subsection (2) above does not affect any right of statutory undertakers to make an excavation for the purpose of laying, altering, maintaining or renewing any main, [^{F3}sewer,] pipe, electric line, cable, duct or other work or apparatus.
- (4) Where an authority prescribe an improvement line under this section, a person aggrieved by the decision to prescribe the line or by the refusal of consent under subsection (2) above or by the period for which the consent is given or any conditions attached to it may appeal to the Crown Court.
- (5) A condition imposed in connection with the giving of a consent under subsection (2) above is binding on the successor in title to every owner, and on every lessee and every occupier, of any land to which it relates.
- (6) If a person contravenes the provisions of this section, or any condition imposed in connection with the giving of a consent under it, he is, without prejudice to any other proceedings which may be available against him, guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding [^{F4}level 1 on the standard scale]; and if the offence is continued after conviction he is guilty of a further offence and liable to a fine not exceeding £2 for each day on which the offence is so continued.
- (7) Where in the opinion of a highway authority an improvement line prescribed by them under this section, or any part of such a line, is no longer necessary or desirable and should be revoked, they may revoke the line or that part of it.

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- (8) Schedule 9 to this Act has effect in relation to the prescription of an improvement line under this section and to the revocation of such a line or any part of it.
- (9) Any person whose property is injuriously affected by the prescribing of an improvement line under this section is, subject to the following provisions thereof, entitled to recover from the authority who prescribed the line compensation for the injury sustained.
- (10) A person is not entitled to compensation on account of any building erected, contract made, or other thing done, after the date on which a plan showing the improvement line was deposited in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Schedule 9 to this Act, except as regards work done for the purpose of finishing a building the erection of which had begun before that date, or of carrying out a contract made before that date.
- (11) Nothing in this section applies to or affects, without the consent of the undertakers concerned—
- (a) any property occupied or used by railway undertakers for the purposes of a railway comprised in the railway undertaking; or
 - (b) any property belonging to any of the following undertakers and used by them for the following purposes respectively, that is to say, by canal undertakers for those of a canal comprised in the canal undertaking, by inland navigation undertakers for those of a navigation comprised in the inland navigation undertaking, by dock undertakers for those of a dock comprised in the dock undertaking, or by harbour undertakers for those of a harbour comprised in the harbour undertaking; or
 - (c) any land used by gas undertakers for the manufacture or storage of gas, by electricity undertakers for the generation of electricity, . . . ^{F5} by water undertakers as a pumping station or reservoir for water [^{F6}or by sewerage undertakers as a pumping station or sewage disposal works].

A consent required by this subsection shall not be unreasonably withheld, and any question whether the withholding of such a consent is unreasonable shall, except where the street in question is one for which the Minister is the highway authority, be determined by the Secretary of State.

- (12) In relation to any prohibition or restriction on the use of land or buildings imposed by the Minister by the prescription of an improvement line under this section or by virtue of any condition imposed by him in connection with the giving of a consent under subsection (2) above, section 1(1)(c) of the ^{M1}Local Land Charges Act 1975 shall have effect as if the references to the date of the commencement of that Act were omitted.
- (13) In this section “building” includes any erection however, and with whatever material, it is constructed and any part of a building, and “new building” includes any addition to an existing building.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F3 Word inserted by [Water Act 1989 \(c. 15, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), Sch. 25 para. 62(2)(a), Sch. 26 paras. 3(1)(2), 17, 40(4), 57(6), **58**

F4 Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. **46**

F5 Word repealed by [Water Act 1989 \(c. 15, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), Sch. 26 paras. 3(1)(2), 17, 40(4), 41(1), 57(6), **58** Sch. 27 Pt. I

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F6 Words inserted by Water Act 1989 (c. 15, SIF 130), ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), Sch. 25 para. 62(2)(b), Sch. 26 paras. 3(1)(2), 17, 40(4), 57(6), **58**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 73 functions made exercisable concurrently (3.3.2017) by The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (S.I. 2017/251), arts. 1(2)(b), **9(2)(i)(3)**
- C4** S. 73(11)(c) amended by Gas Act 1986 (c. 44, SIF 44:2), s. 67(1)(3), **Sch. 7 para. 2(2)(e)**, Sch. 8 para. 33
- C5** S. 73(11)(c) extended by Electricity Act 1989 (c. 29, SIF 44:1), s. 112(1)(3), Sch. 16 para. 1(4), Sch. 17 paras. 33, **35(1)**
S. 73(11)(c) amended (1.3.1996) by 1995 c. 45, s. 16(1), **Sch. 4 para. 2(2)(f)**; S.I. 1996/218, **art.2.**

Marginal Citations

M1 1975 c. 76.

74 Power to prescribe a building line.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a highway authority may prescribe, in relation to either one side or both sides of a highway maintainable at the public expense for which they are the highway authority, a frontage line for building (in this section referred to as a “building line”).
- (2) Where a building line prescribed under this section in relation to any highway is in force, no new building, other than a boundary wall or fence, shall be erected, and no permanent excavation below the level of the highway shall be made, nearer to the centre line of the highway than the building line, except with the consent of the authority who prescribed the line; and the authority may give a consent for such period and subject to such conditions as they deem expedient.
- (3) The prohibition imposed by subsection (2) above does not affect any right of light railway, tramway, electricity, gas [^{F7}water undertakers or sewerage undertakers] to make an excavation for the purpose of laying, altering, maintaining or renewing any main, [^{F8}sewer,] pipe, electric line, duct or other apparatus.
- (4) A condition imposed in connection with the giving of a consent under subsection (2) above is binding on the successor in title to every owner, and on every lessee and every occupier, of any land to which it relates.
- (5) If a person contravenes the provisions of this section, or any condition imposed in connection with the giving of a consent under it, he is, without prejudice to any other proceedings which may be available against him, guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding [^{F9}level 1 on the standard scale]; and if the offence is continued after conviction, he is guilty of a further offence and liable to a fine not exceeding £2 for each day on which the offence is so continued.
- (6) Where in the opinion of a highway authority a building line prescribed by them under this section, or any part of such a line, is no longer necessary or desirable and should be revoked, they may revoke the line or that part of it.
- (7) Schedule 9 to this Act has effect in relation to the prescription of a building line under this section and to the revocation of such line or any part of it.

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- (8) Any person whose property is injuriously affected by the prescribing of a building line under this section is entitled, subject to subsection (9) below, to recover from the authority who prescribed the line compensation for the injury sustained.
- (9) A person is not entitled to compensation under subsection (8) above—
- (a) unless he made a claim within 6 months from the date on which the building line was prescribed or, if the claimant is a person to whom a notice of the prescribing of the line was required to be given by paragraph 8 of Schedule 9 to this Act, within 6 months from the date on which such a notice was given to him; or
 - (b) on account of anything done by him after the date on which a notice of the proposal to prescribe the line was served on him, except so far as it was done for the purpose of finishing a building the erection of which had begun before that date, or of carrying out a contract made before that date.
- (10) Any two or more authorities on whom powers are conferred by this section may by agreement exercise those powers jointly, and the agreement may provide for the apportionment of any expenses incurred under it.
- (11) Nothing in this section applies to or affects, without the consent of the undertakers concerned—
- (a) any land belonging to any of the following undertakers, and held by them for the following purposes respectively, that is to say, by railway undertakers for those of a railway comprised in the railway undertaking, by canal undertakers for those of a canal comprised in the canal undertaking, by inland navigation undertakers for those of a navigation comprised in the inland navigation undertaking, by dock undertakers for those of a dock comprised in the dock undertaking, or by harbour undertakers for those of a harbour comprised in the harbour undertaking; or
 - (b) any land used by gas undertakers for the manufacture or storage of gas, by electricity undertakers for the generation of electricity, . . . ^{F10} by water undertakers as a pumping station or reservoir for water [^{F11} or by sewerage undertakers as a pumping station or sewage disposal works].

A consent required by this subsection shall not be unreasonably withheld, and any question whether the withholding of such a consent is unreasonable shall, except where the highway in question is one for which the Minister is the highway authority, be determined by the Minister.

- (12) In relation to any prohibition or restriction on the use of land or buildings imposed by the Minister by the prescription of a building line under this section or by virtue of any condition imposed by him in connection with the giving of a consent under subsection (2) above, section 1(1)(c) of the ^{M2}Local Land Charges Act 1975 has effect as if the reference to the date of the commencement of that Act were omitted.
- (13) In this section—
- “building” and “new building” have the same meaning respectively as in section 73 above; and
 - “light railway undertakers” means persons authorised by any enactment to carry on a light railway undertaking.

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Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F7** Words substituted by [Water Act 1989 \(c. 15, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), [Sch. 25 para. 62\(3\)\(a\)\(i\)](#), [Sch. 26 paras. 3\(1\)\(2\), 17, 40\(4\), 57\(6\)](#), **58**
- F8** Word inserted by [Water Act 1989 \(c. 15, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), [Sch. 25 para. 62\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#), [Sch. 26 paras. 3\(1\)\(2\), 17, 40\(4\), 57\(6\)](#), **58**
- F9** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 46**
- F10** Word repealed by [Water Act 1989 \(c. 15, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), [Sch. 26 paras. 3\(1\)\(2\), 17, 40\(4\), 41\(1\), 57\(6\), 58](#), **Sch 27 Pt. I**
- F11** Words inserted by [Water Act 1989 \(c. 15, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), [Sch. 25 para. 62\(3\)\(b\)](#), [Sch. 26 paras. 3\(1\)\(2\), 17, 40\(4\), 57\(6\)](#), **58**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C6** S. 74 functions made exercisable concurrently (3.3.2017) by [The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/251\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b), **9(2)(j)(3)**
- C7** S. 74(11)(b) amended by [Gas Act 1986 \(c. 44, SIF 44:2\)](#), s. 67(1)(3), **Sch. 7 para. 2(2)(e)**, [Sch. 8 para. 33](#)
S. 74(11)(b) amended (1.3.1996) by [1995 c. 45, s. 16\(1\)](#), **Sch. 4 para. 2(2)(f)**; [S.I. 1996/218, art.2.](#)
- C8** S. 74(11)(b) extended by [Electricity Act 1989 \(c. 29, SIF 44:1\)](#), s. 112(3)(1), [Sch. 16 para. 1\(4\)](#), [Sch. 17 paras. 33, 35\(1\)](#)

Marginal Citations

- M2** [1975 c. 76.](#)

75 Variation of widths of carriageways and footways.

- (1) Where a highway maintainable at the public expense comprises both a footway or footways and a carriageway, the highway authority may vary the relative widths of the carriageway and of any footway.
- (2) Where any part of a highway is carried by a bridge over a railway, canal, inland navigation, dock or harbour or forms the approaches to such a bridge, the powers conferred by this section shall not be exercised in relation to that part without the consent of the railway, canal, inland navigation, dock or harbour undertakers concerned.
- (3) A consent required by subsection (2) above shall not be unreasonably withheld, and any question whether the withholding of such consent is unreasonable shall be determined by the Minister.

Annotations:

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C9** S. 75 functions made exercisable concurrently (3.3.2017) by [The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/251\)](#), arts. 1(2)(b), **9(2)(k)(3)**

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 10(2)(a)(i) modified by S.I. 2018/103 reg. 12(a)(ii)
- s. 90B(1A) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 10 para. 15(3)
- s. 90C(2)(2A) substituted for s. 90C(2) by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 10 para. 16(3)
- s. 90FA inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 10 para. 20
- s. 118ZA(5)(a) words inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 25(3)
- s. 120(3ZA) inserted by 2000 c. 37 Sch. 6 para. 13(6)
- s. 121E(1A)(1B) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 23(5)
- s. 146(6) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 24(6)(d)
- s. 147(1A) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 24(3)
- s. 147(5A) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 24(5)
- s. 322(5)(ab) inserted by 2004 c. 18 s. 64(2)
- s. 325(2B) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 10 para. 21
- Sch. 6 para. 1(3ZA) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8(2)(b)
- Sch. 6 para. 2(2ZA)-(2ZE) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8(3)
- Sch. 6 para. 2(4) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8(4)
- Sch. 6 para. 2(5)(6) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8(5)
- Sch. 6 para. 2ZZA inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8(6)
- Sch. 6 para. 4A(2) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8(7)(c)
- Sch. 6 para. 5(ba) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8(8)
- Sch. 6 para. 4A(1) words renumbered as Sch. 6 para. 4A(1) by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8(7)(a)
- Sch. 6 para. 4A(1) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8(7)(b)