



# Roads (Scotland) Act 1984

## 1984 CHAPTER 54

### PART XIII

#### GENERAL

##### *Interpretation*

#### **151 Interpretation.**

(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“approaches”, in relation to a bridge or tunnel, includes the facings of any embankment or cutting adjacent to the bridge or tunnel;

<sup>F1</sup> .....

“building” includes any erection, however, and with whatever material, it is constructed and any part of a building;

“carriageway” shall be construed in accordance with subsection (2) below;

“cattle-grid” has the meaning given by section 41(6) of this Act;

“classified road” shall be construed in accordance with section 11 of this Act;

“common” has the same meaning as in the <sup>M1</sup>Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947;

<sup>F2</sup> [“consultation bodies” means—

(a) the appropriate planning authority where the proposed project is likely to affect land in their area;

(aa) <sup>F3</sup> [the National Park authority for any National Park where the proposed project is likely to affect land in the National Park;]

(b) Scottish Natural Heritage;

(c) the Scottish Environment Protection Agency established under section 20 of the Environment Act 1995; <sup>F4</sup> ...

(d) [<sup>F5</sup>Historic Environment Scotland;]<sup>F6</sup>[<sup>F7</sup>...

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(e) other bodies designated by statutory provision as having specific environmental responsibilities;]

(f) [<sup>F8</sup>any other public body which the Scottish Ministers consider is likely to have an interest in the proposed project by reason of that body’s specific environmental responsibilities or local and regional competencies;]

“cycle track” shall be construed in accordance with subsection (2) below;

“days” means clear days;

[<sup>F9</sup>“driver information system” has the same meaning as in Part II of the Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989, and references to an “operator” of a driver information system are references to an operator licensed under that Part of that Act;]

“enactment” includes an enactment in this Act or in a local or private Act and a provision of an order, a scheme, regulations or any other instrument made under or confirmed by a public general, local or private Act;

[<sup>F10</sup>“environmental impact assessment” means an assessment carried out in accordance with section 20B of this Act;]

[<sup>F11</sup>“environmental information” means—

(a) any EIA report required under section 20C(6) or (as the case may be) section 55A(6);

(b) any supplementary information obtained under section 20C(13) or (as the case may be) section 55A(13);

(c) any representations made by any body required under this Act to be given notice of, or to be invited to express an opinion on, a project for which an environmental impact assessment is required following on from a determination under section 20C(1) or (as the case may be) section 55A(1); and

(d) any representations duly made by any other person about the environmental effects of the project which is the subject of that environmental impact assessment;]

[<sup>F12</sup>“EIA report” means an environmental impact assessment report prepared in accordance with section 20C or 55A of this Act;]

“footpath” shall be construed in accordance with subsections (2) and (3)(a) and (b), and “footway” in accordance with subsection (2), below;

“frontager”, in relation to a road or proposed road, means the owner of any land fronting or abutting it;

“improvement”, in relation to a road, means the doing of anything for the benefit of road users, or any class of road users, beyond that which is essential to placing the road in a proper state of repair, and includes the improvement of the amenity—

(a) of the road; and

(b) of land abutting on, or adjacent to, the road;

“local authority” means a [<sup>F13</sup>council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994];

“local roads authority” has the meaning given by paragraph (a) of the definition of “roads authority” in this subsection;

“maintenance” includes—

(a) repair; and

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(b) watering to allay dust but, without prejudice to subsection (1) of section 25 of the <sup>M2</sup>Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act 1982 (restriction of powers of local authorities as regards street cleansing), not such cleansing as [<sup>F14</sup>a local authority] are required by subsections (1) and (3) of that section to undertake;

“navigation authority” means persons authorised by any enactment to work, maintain, conserve, improve or control any canal or other inland navigation, navigable river, estuary, harbour or dock;

“notice” means notice in writing;

“obstruction” includes obstruction of view;

“occupier” means the person in occupation or having the charge, management or control of land, either on his own account or as the agent of another person;

“open space” has the same meaning as in the <sup>M3</sup>Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947;

<sup>F15</sup> ...

“owner”—

(a) in relation to land means, subject to paragraph (b) below, the person for the time being entitled to receive, or who would, if the same were let, be entitled to receive, the rents of the land, and includes a trustee, factor, tutor or curator, and in the case of public or municipal property applies to the persons to whom the management thereof is entrusted; and

(b) in relation to special roads (whether existing or proposed) includes any person who under the Lands Clauses Acts would be entitled to sell and convey the land to promoters of an undertaking and also includes a lessee under a lease the unexpired portion of which exceeds three years;

“pedal cycle” means a cycle whose motive power is provided solely by the legs of its rider or riders or which complies with the requirements specified in Regulation 4 of the <sup>M4</sup>Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles Regulations 1983;

“private road” means any road other than a public road;

“proposed road” means (without prejudice to the definition in this subsection of “proposed public road”) a new road in course of construction, or proposed to be constructed, by or on behalf of any person;

“proposed public road” means either—

(a) a new road in course of construction, or proposed to be constructed, by or on behalf of a roads authority; or

(b) an existing road which is a prospective public road within the meaning of the [<sup>F16</sup>Part IV of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991];

“public road” means a road which a roads authority have a duty to maintain;

“railway undertakers” means persons authorised by any enactment to carry on a railway undertaking;

“road” means, subject to subsection (3) below, any way (other than a waterway) over which there is a public right of passage (by whatever means [<sup>F17</sup>and whether subject to a toll or not]) and includes the road’s verge, and any bridge (whether permanent or temporary) over which, or tunnel through which, the road passes; and any reference to a road includes a part thereof;

“roads authority” means—

(a) in relation to a road or proposed road other than any such as is mentioned in paragraph (b) of this definition, the [<sup>F18</sup>council constituted under

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section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994] within whose area the road is (such [<sup>F18</sup>local authority] being in this Act referred to as a “local roads authority”); and

- (b) [<sup>F19</sup>as respects functions relating to the matters reserved by paragraph (c) of Section E1 of Part II of Schedule 5 to the Scotland Act 1998 and exercisable]in relation to a trunk road (whether existing or in course of construction) or, without prejudice to section 4 of this Act, to a special road provided by him under section 7(5) (or to be provided by him under section 7(5)(a) or (b)) or to any other road constructed (or to be constructed) by him under section 19(1) of this Act, the Secretary of State [<sup>F20</sup>and as respects any other functions exercisable in relation to any such roads, the Scottish Ministers]; and references to “they” in relation to a roads authority shall [<sup>F21</sup>, where the authority is the Secretary of State,]be taken to relate also to [<sup>F22</sup>him];

<sup>F23</sup>

.....  
“special road authority” has the meaning given by section 7(4) of this Act;  
“special road” means a road provided or to be provided in accordance with a scheme under section 7 of this Act;

“statutory undertakers” has the same meaning as in [<sup>F24</sup>section 214 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997] except that it includes

- (a) <sup>F25</sup>the Post Office  
(b) <sup>F26</sup>except in sections 133 and 140(4) of this Act, the operator of any [<sup>F27</sup>electronic communications code network][<sup>F28</sup>and  
(c) except in section 140(4) of this Act, the operator of any driver information system;]

“swing bridge” includes any opening bridge operated by mechanical means;

<sup>F15</sup>

.....  
“tidal waters” has the same meaning as in section 35(1) of the <sup>M5</sup>Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) (Scotland) Act 1951;

“traffic” includes pedestrians and animals;

“traffic sign” has the same meaning as in section 64(1) of the <sup>M6</sup>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984;

“trunk road” means a road which is a trunk road by virtue of section 5 of this Act or of an order or direction under that section or [<sup>F29</sup>section 202(3) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997][<sup>F30</sup> or by virtue of section 12 of the Forth Crossing Act 2011 (asp 2)][<sup>F31</sup> or by virtue of section 1 of the Forth Road Bridge Act 2013 (asp 8) ] ;

“use”, in relation to a road, includes crossing;

“vehicle” means a vehicle of any description and includes a machine or implement of any kind drawn or propelled along roads (whether or not by mechanical power);

<sup>F32</sup>

.....; and

“works”, as regards any road, includes—

- (a) making an alteration to it;  
(b) breaking up or opening it;  
(c) constructing or laying anything under it;  
(d) building anything into it; and  
(e) carrying out any other operations of a like nature;

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and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly.

- [<sup>F33</sup>(1A) A way to which the public has access (by whatever means and whether subject to a toll or not) which passes over a bridge constructed in pursuance of powers conferred by, or by an order made under or confirmed by, a private Act shall, for the purposes of the definition of “road” in subsection (1) above, be treated as if there were a public right of passage over it.]
- (2) For the purpose of this Act, where over a road the public right of passage referred to in the definition of “road” in subsection (1) above—
- (a) is by foot only, the road is—
    - (i) where it is associated with a carriageway, a “footway”; and
    - (ii) where it is not so associated, a “footpath”;
  - (b) is by pedal cycle only, or by pedal cycle and foot only, the road is a “cycle track”;
  - (c) includes such a right by vehicle, other than a right by pedal cycle only, the road is a “carriageway”.
- (3) This Act does not confer any power or impose any duty as regards a road or proposed road which—
- (a) being a footpath only, is a public path created under section 30 of the <sup>M7</sup>Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 (power of planning authority to create public paths by agreement);
  - (b) being a footpath only, forms part of a long-distance route the proposals for which have been approved by the Secretary of State under section 40(1) of that Act (approval of proposals relating to a long-distance route); or
  - (c) forms part of land owned or managed by [<sup>F34</sup>a local authority] and used by them for the provision of facilities for recreational, sporting, cultural or social activities in the discharge of their duties under section 14 of the <sup>M8</sup>Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act 1982.
- (4) Any reference in this Act to apparatus belonging to statutory undertakers shall, in relation to the operator of [<sup>F35</sup>an electronic communications code network], have effect as a reference to [<sup>F36</sup>electronic communications apparatus] kept installed for the purposes of that [<sup>F37</sup>network].

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** It is provided that the definition of “appropriate environmental body” in s. 151 shall be deleted (1.8.1999) by [S.S.I. 1999/1, reg. 51\(a\)](#)
- F2** Definition of “consultation bodies” in s. 151 inserted (1.8.1999) by [S.S.I. 1999/1, reg. 51\(a\)](#)
- F3** S. 151(1): para.(aa) in definition of "consultation bodies" inserted (8.9.2000) by [2000 asp 10, s. 36, Sch. 5 para. 12](#) (with s. 32); [S.S.I. 2000/312, art. 2](#)
- F4** Word in s. 151(1) omitted (1.2.2007) by virtue of [The Environmental Impact Assessment \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2006 \(S.S.I. 2006/614\), regs. 1, 6\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- F5** Words in s. 151(1) substituted (1.10.2015) by [The Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 \(Ancillary Provision\) Order 2015 \(S.S.I. 2015/271\), arts. 1, 2\(3\)](#)
- F6** Word in s. 151(1) omitted (16.5.2017) by virtue of [The Roads \(Scotland\) Act 1984 \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) Regulations 2017 \(S.S.I. 2017/137\), regs. 1, 8\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- F7** Words in s. 151(1) inserted (1.2.2007) by [The Environmental Impact Assessment \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2006 \(S.S.I. 2006/614\), regs. 1, 6\(4\)\(a\)](#)

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- F8** S. 151(1)(f) inserted (16.5.2017) by The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (S.S.I. 2017/137), regs. 1, **8(a)(ii)**
- F9** Definition inserted by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c. 22, SIF 107:1), s. 13(1), **Sch. 4 para. 5(1)(3)(a)**
- F10** Words in s. 151(1) substituted (16.5.2017) by The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (S.S.I. 2017/137), regs. 1, **8(b)**
- F11** Words in s. 151(1) inserted (16.5.2017) by The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (S.S.I. 2017/137), regs. 1, **8(c)**
- F12** Words in s. 151(1) substituted (16.5.2017) by The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (S.S.I. 2017/137), regs. 1, **8(d)**
- F13** Words in definition of “local authority” in s. 151(1) substituted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 39, s. 180(1), **Sch. 13 para. 135(10)(a)(i)**; S.I. 1996/323, **art. 4(c)**
- F14** Words in para. b in definition of “maintenance” in s. 151(1) substituted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 39, s. 180(1), **Sch. 13 para. 135(10)(a)(ii)**; S.I. 1996/323, **art. 4(1)(c)**
- F15** Words in s. 151(1) repealed (17.9.2003) by The Communications Act 2003 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/2155), art. 1(1), **Sch. 2** Table 1
- F16** Words in s. 151(1) in the definition of “proposed public road” substituted (1.1.1993) by New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (c. 22, SIF 59, 108), s. 168(1), **Sch. 8 para. 94(a)**; S.I. 1992/2990, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**
- F17** Words in s. 151(1) in the definition of “road” inserted (21.10.1991) by New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (c. 22, SIF 59, 108), s. 168(1), **Sch. 8 para. 94(b)**; S.I. 1991/2286, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F18** Words in definition of “roads authority” in s. 151(1) substituted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 39, s. 180(1), **Sch. 13 para. 135(10)(a)(iii)**; S.I. 1996/323, **art. 4(1)(c)**
- F19** S. 151(1): words in para. (b) in the definition of “roads authority” inserted (6.4.2001) by S.I. 2001/1400, art. 2, **Sch. para. 2(1)(2)**
- F20** S. 151(1): words in para. (b) in the definition of “roads authority” inserted (6.4.2001) by S.I. 2001/1400, art. 2, **Sch. para. 2(1)(3)**
- F21** S. 151(1): words in para. (b) in the definition of “roads authority” inserted (6.4.2001) by S.I. 2001/1400, art. 2, **Sch. para. 2(1)(4)**
- F22** S. 151(1): words in para. (b) in the definition of “roads authority” substituted (6.4.2001) by S.I. 2001/1400, **art. 2 Sch. para. 2(1)(5)**
- F23** S. 151(1): definition of “sewerage authority” repealed (1.4.2002) by Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 3), s. 71(2), **Sch. 7 para. 14(5)** (with s. 67); S.S.I 2002/118, {art. 2(3)}
- F24** Words in definition of “statutory undertakers” in s.151(1) substituted (27.5.1997) by 1997 c. 11, ss. 4, 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 38(15)(a)**
- F25** “(a)” inserted by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c. 22, SIF 107:1), s. 13(1), **Sch. 4 para. 5(1)(3)(b)**
- F26** “(b)” substituted by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c. 22, SIF 107:1), s. 13(1), **Sch. 4 para. 5(1)(3)(b)**
- F27** Words in s. 151(1) substituted (17.9.2003) by The Communications Act 2003 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/2155), art. 1(1), **Sch. 1 para. 10(3)**
- F28** Words added by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c. 22, SIF 107:1), s. 13(1), **Sch. 4 para. 5(1)(3)(b)**
- F29** Words in definition of “trunk road” in s. 151(1) substituted (27.5.1997) by 1997 c. 11, ss. 4, 6(2), **Sch. 2 para. 38(15)(b)**
- F30** Words in s. 151(1) inserted (18.3.2011) by Forth Crossing Act 2011 (asp 2), **ss. 12(7)**, 80(2) (with ss. 12(6), 69, 78); S.S.I. 2011/38, art. 2, sch.
- F31** Words in s. 151(1) inserted (1.6.2015) by Forth Road Bridge Act 2013 (asp 8), **ss. 1(4)**, 7; S.S.I. 2015/190, art. 2
- F32** S. 151(1): definition of “water authority” repealed (1.4.2002) by Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 3), s. 71(2), **Sch. 7 para. 14(5)** (with s. 67); S.S.I 2002/118, {art. 2(3)}
- F33** S. 151(1A) inserted (4.1.1995) by 1994 c. 39, s. 146; S.I. 1994/2850, art. 3(a), **Sch. 2**

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- F34** Words in s. 151(3)(c) substituted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 39, s. 180(1), **Sch. 135(10)(b)**; S.I. 1996/323, **art. 4(1)(c)**
- F35** Words in s. 151(4) substituted (17.9.2003) by The Communications Act 2003 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/2155), art. 1(1), Sch. 1 para. 10(1)(e)(2)(c)
- F36** Words in s. 151(4) substituted (17.9.2003) by The Communications Act 2003 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/2155), art. 1(1), Sch. 1 para. 10(1)(e)(2)(b)
- F37** Word in s. 151(4) substituted (17.9.2003) by The Communications Act 2003 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/2155), art. 1(1), Sch. 1 para. 10(1)(e)(2)(d)

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#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 151(1): definitions of "trunk road" and "classified road" applied (1.1.1993) by New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (c. 22, SIF 59, 108), **s. 136(3)** (with saving in s. 167(4)(5)); S.I. 1992/2990, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**
- C2** S. 151(1): definition of "improvement" applied (14.7.1992) by New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (c. 22, SIF 59, 108), **s. 145(2)(b)** (with saving s. 167(4)(5)); S.I. 1992/1671, art. 2, **Sch.**
- C3** S. 151(1): definitions of "roads authority" and "local roads authority" applied (14.7.1992) by New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (c. 22, SIF 59, 108), **s. 145(1)** (with saving in s. 167(4)(5)); S.I. 1992/1671, art. 2, **Sch.**
- C4** S. 151(1): definition of "roads authority" extended (1.4.2002) by The Forth Estuary Transport Authority Order 2002 (S.S.I. 2002/178), **art. 9**
- C5** S. 151(2) applied (1.6.2010) by The Network Rail (Waverley Steps) Order 2010 (S.S.I. 2010/188), arts. 1, **13(8)**

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#### **Marginal Citations**

- M1** 1947 c. 42.
- M2** 1982 c. 43.
- M3** 1947 c. 42.
- M4** S.I. 1983/1168.
- M5** 1951 c. 66
- M6** 1984 c. 27.
- M7** 1967 c. 86.
- M8** 1982 c. 43.

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 151(4) words substituted by [S.I. 2003/2155 Sch. 1 para. 10\(1\)\(e\)](#)[para. 10\(2\)\(a\)](#)

**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. 152(3)(3ZA) substituted for s. 152(3) by [2019 asp 17 s. 124\(2\)](#)