

Spotlight on...

cycle safety

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The Considerate Constructors Scheme's 'Spotlight on...' initiative focuses on different areas associated with improving the image of construction, and raises awareness among registered sites, companies and suppliers about the issues and how to help.

Spotlight on... cycle safety

'Spotlight on... cycle safety' aims to raise awareness of the issue of cycle safety and to share best practice. Ultimately, this initiative seeks to raise standards where necessary and reduce and prevent fatalities and injuries resulting from accidents between cyclists and construction traffic.

Many construction sites are already taking action to reduce the risks to cyclists but the whole industry needs to come together and collectively address the issue.

It is the responsibility of every construction site to do what they can to ensure the safety of cyclists around construction activity.

Here are a few facts on cycling and cycling related accidents from the **Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' 2017 Policy Paper:**

- Around 18,500 cyclists are killed or injured in road accidents every year.
- Over 100 cyclists have been killed on the roads every year since 2006.
- HGVs are involved in around 20% of cyclist deaths despite comprising 5% of traffic.
- Human error is the main reason for road crashes, with the most common factor being 'failing to look properly'.

The issue of cycle safety has received, and will continue to receive, much attention as the UK's cities encourage the use of bicycles. Mayor Boris Johnson wants London to be a 'cyclised city', where people can ride their bikes safely in a pleasant environment.

With other cities following suit, it is important that the construction industry is seen to be taking a proactive approach, and leading the way in promoting safe cycling.

The industry's enthusiastic uptake of the Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS) initiative is a sign of how the industry is seeking to embed good practice and drive change in construction logistics to ensure the safety of our roads. However, cycling deaths are still too high and the Scheme would like to take this opportunity to ask the industry to consider how its activities may have an impact on cyclists.

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Law and legislation

Cycle safety is maintained through all road users following the law and legislation of road safety. The following law and legislation below highlights exactly how issues within this topic can cross over into a legal matter:

Highway Act 1980

Amongst other things, this act defines the duties owed by a local authority to keep road networks maintained and cycle ways in a proper state of repair.

Road Traffic Act 1988

Cyclists are permitted to use public roads and are therefore required to abide by the statutory regulations and laws that govern road users. This act outlines all the main motoring offences that apply to both motor vehicle users and cyclists.

Road Safety Act 2006

This act was designed to improve road safety and help achieve casualty reduction targets, making it a criminal offence to cause death by careless, or inconsiderate driving.

Highway Code

First issued under Section 45 of the Road Traffic Act 1930, providing guidance and instruction for road users, including cyclists.



External resources

There are a number of cycling safety campaigns currently running in the UK, with each one designed to raise awareness of the dangers of cycling on public roads. These campaigns provide information, resources and advice on cycle safety and ways of taking action to prevent accidents:

- **British Cycling** is the national governing body for cycling. British Cycling works hard to represent cyclists' interest at all levels, including campaigning on important issues including road safety. Petitions are set up for GO20 (20mph limit in all residential areas) and cycling awareness in driving tests.
- **Cycling Scotland** is a cycling organisation dedicated to creating an environment where people can cycle easily and safely. Their **Cycle Friendly Employer** award is an accreditation scheme supporting organisations wishing to encourage cycling to work.
- **The Department for Transport's** THINK! campaign provides road safety information for road users. Their aim is to encourage safer behaviour to reduce the number of people killed and injured on the UK's roads every year. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **The London Cycling Campaign** aims to transform London into a healthier, cleaner and happier place to live where people can cycle without fear. With regards to cycle safety, they run a successful programme in conjunction with TfL to promote cycling projects across Greater London, including a campaign for safer lorries
- **The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents** (RoSPA) publish a wealth of information regarding cycle safety advice and information which can be found [here](#).
 - RoSPA also publish a short video which highlights the dangers faced by cyclists on the road especially when in the vicinity of lorries. Click [here](#) to watch the video.
- **See Me Save Me** is a campaign website coordinated by RoadPeace, the national charity for road traffic crash victims, dedicated to reducing lorry danger and saving lives. One of their objectives includes reducing the threat posed by lorries to cyclists and pedestrians, with a focus on eliminating lorry blindspots.
- **Transport for London** (TfL), in partnership with Barclays Cycle Superhighways, are at the forefront of raising awareness and promoting cycle safety. They have developed a toolkit which offers practical advice to help minimise the risk of collisions between vehicles and vulnerable road users on the Capital's roads. However, this information is just as applicable for sites based outside of London and provides excellent advice on how to promote safer cycling. Please click [here](#) for more information on the toolkit.
 - TfL have also published a number of safety tips on their [website](#) for both drivers and cyclists.
 - TfL and University College London (UCL) have a Cycle Safety Ambassador Scheme promoting cycle safety at London universities. They offer free cycling support, training sessions and cycle checks.



What is currently being done by the industry?

The Scheme has seen many different initiatives which address the issue of cycle safety from a wide range of sites across the UK. Please see below for just some of the initiatives carried out by the construction industry.

- **BAM** organised its '**BAM bikes for Macmillan**' challenge where over 100 employees embarked on a nine-leg 900-mile cycling trip of the UK in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Not only did the challenge raise funds for the charity but also promoted the benefits of cycling to its workforce. BAM is a great supporter of cycling and offers a discounted cycle-to-work scheme on all of its construction projects.
- **Cemex** is committed to improving safety for cyclists. They have made numerous safety improvements to its fleet of vehicles. They have held open days for cyclists, to make them aware of how difficult it is for a cyclist to be seen from a driver's cab. They have organised training for HGV drivers which was delivered by CTC, the national cycling charity. Their campaign has been supported by key organisations such as TfL and the Metropolitan Police. All Cemex vehicles have been equipped with extra mirrors so the blind spot is now visible, as well as rear signage and sensors. Cemex works closely with RoadPeace and RoSPA. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS)** aims to achieve a visionary change in the way the construction industry manages work related road risk. CLOCS has developed the CLOCS Standard for construction logistics, a common standard for use by the construction logistics industry. Implemented by construction clients through contracts, it provides a framework that enables ownership in managing road risk which can be adhered to in a consistent way by fleet operators.
- **Crossrail** have undertaken a number of initiatives including training 3500 lorry drivers in cycle awareness; making additional safety equipment mandatory on all lorries and vans working on Crossrail; translating their road safety information into 18 different languages; organising safer cycling awareness events near their construction sites to help cyclists become more aware of the risks of cycling next to lorries and fitting road safety mirrors around their construction site. They have also produced 10 top tips for cycle safety aimed at cyclists. For more information, see [here](#).
 - Crossrail confirmed that they complied with safety demands when contractors started turning away companies whose lorries were not fitted with full safety features. They have written to local councils asking them to impose the same strict rules. Crossrail require their vehicles to meet strict safety standards and have cycle specific safety equipment, blind spot mirrors and detection equipment.
- **Institution of Civil Engineers** is committed to reducing the danger posed to cyclists, particularly by construction vehicles. They are CLOCS Champions and have established a Cycling Working Group to embed good practice and drive change. Read more [here](#).
- **The Mineral Products Association (MPA)** launched their **Cycle Safety Strategy** in June 2011. MPA's position is that there is joint responsibility for road safety. National and central government must ensure that roads and junctions are designed for safety and properly maintained, Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) operators and drivers must take action to minimize the risk of collisions and cyclists and other vulnerable road users must behave responsibly.

Examples of best practice

The Scheme aims to improve the image of construction through sharing best practice with the industry. Below are a number of best practice examples that have been witnessed by the Scheme's Monitors on their visits or submitted directly by registered sites, companies and suppliers:



- Raise awareness of construction related cycle safety through engagement with operatives, the supply chain, local community, schools, cycling groups etc.
- Make supply chain drivers more aware and impose requirements on standards of vehicles.
- Record data on road related accidents and near misses.
- Ensure the construction phase plan references off-site road safety.
- Promote cycle safety on hoardings.
- Have holding areas for lorries to inspect them for mandatory safety measures before allowing them access to site.
- Implement 'awareness of cyclists' training for all operatives.
- Establish a presence at known hot spots to ensure safe passage for cyclists and to manage large vehicles entering and exiting site.
- Make technical improvements to vehicles, including blindspot sensors, cameras etc.
- Hold open days for cyclists to allow them to liaise with the construction industry and work together to better understand the challenges and problems faced by each party.
- Develop a more detailed Traffic Management Plan which highlights cycling safety routes to and from site.

To view all Best Practice Hub entries relating to the 'Spotlight on... cycle safety' campaign click [here](#).

Case studies

The Scheme has received case studies from a number of contractors regarding how they raise awareness and promote safer cycling.



Longcross Construction's Castle Mill site supported their community through promoting the use of bicycles to operatives and put in place a safety measure to protect the public from construction vehicles.

For more information, please click [here](#).



Peter Norris (Haulage) Ltd has joined the TfL's Freight Operators Recognition Scheme (FORS) which offers practical advice and guidance to freight operators in London, to help them drive down costs and become safer and more environmentally-focussed drivers.

For more information, please click [here](#).



VolkerHighways are currently running their own safety awareness campaign in conjunction with the London Borough of Hackney.

For more information, please click [here](#).

What can you do?

It is vitally important that the industry recognises this issue and continues to take action, and that everyone working in construction considers how their site and its activities, such as deliveries, parking, unloading etc. may impact on cyclists.

You will find below some helpful advice on what can be done to be better prepared and better organised regarding cycle safety:

1. Develop a detailed Traffic Management Plan which highlights cycle safety routes to and from site

A Traffic Management Plan should be established during the planning phase of the project which considers both on-site and off-site activity. This should give particular reference to cycle routes, areas to avoid and delivery times. A traffic marshal should be present to regulate this plan, ensure a presence and respond to any incidents or safety hazards immediately.

2. Implement cycle safety and road awareness training for all operatives

Road safety training should be provided to all operatives as part of their induction. Even for employees that do not operate vehicles or use bicycles, it is still highly beneficial to understand how to maintain an awareness on and around roads and follow the guidelines. It is

highly recommended to visit the governmental initiative; Construction Logistics and Cycle Safety (CLOCS).

3. Raise awareness of cycle safety internally and externally on-site

Establish a visible presence within the site office and welfare facilities for employees as well as on hoarding for the general public and visitors. This can be promoted through posters, flyers, documentation and any other resources that provide useful information.

As well as the information above, it is also advised to use the resources provided in this campaign, which offer a plentiful amount of resources from other organisations and companies that cover the full spectrum of the topic.

The Scheme hopes that the information made available from those organisations listed in this article will help construction sites and companies implement initiatives which raise awareness of cycle safety, and ultimately help reduce the number of construction-related accidents.

It is important to remember that the onus of cycle safety does not rest solely on the actions of construction sites and their activities. It is also the responsibility of the cyclists and other road users to play their part in being safe and responsible around construction activity. The Scheme encourages the industry to engage with the cycling community and work together to understand each other's challenges.

The Scheme will continue to update this campaign as new initiatives and case studies are identified.

If you would like to share your efforts in raising awareness of cycle safety, please contact the Scheme by emailing enquiries@ccsbestpractice.org.uk

