

The Essex County Council (High Street, Colchester) (Prohibition of U-Turn) Order 201*

Statement of Reasons

To reduce the collision risk at the junction of the High Street and Lewis Gardens.

The eastbound road to the west of the junction is subject to a bus lane accessing Queen Street. To avoid this, drivers continue east and perform a U-turn at the junction of High Street and Lewis Gardens, and then head west before legally turning on to Queen Street avoiding the bus lane.

Turning vehicles have been involved in several accidents with cyclists and non-motorised users. There have been five Personal Injury Accidents in 4 years between 2016 and 2019. In addition, there have been several damage-only accidents between turning vehicles and parked cars at the Minories (the south-western corner of the High Street/Lewis Gardens junction).

Vehicles waiting to turn are causing congestion along East Hill/High Street, in both directions, which is having a further impact on buses and deliveries.

Vehicles are using the footway as additional carriageway to complete the U-turns. Two small islands have been installed to discourage the footway driving, however drivers are still looking to turn here in a single movement, using either the northern or southern footway to increase the effective width of the road.

The proposed U-turn ban will prevent drivers from turning at this location and from using the footway to turn. It may also have the additional effect of encouraging drivers to use the preferred route from Southway to East Hill, via Magdalen Street and Brook Street.