

E-scooters and e-bikes Policy

Purpose

This policy sets out the University's position on the use of e-scooters and e-bikes on its campuses. It summarises relevant guidance from other University policies into one coherent policy.

The use of sustainable methods of travel are encouraged wherever possible by students, staff, tenants and visitors, whilst needing to ensure that the safety and comfort of its community is fully considered.

Scope

This policy covers the University's 3 UK teaching campuses, of Whiteknights, London Road, and Greenlands Henley Business School, plus the University's farms. It is not intended to replace wider campus usage policies, rather it seeks to provide a specific policy for a growing transport technology solution.

Definitions

- **E-scooters:** 2-wheeled stand-on scooters propelled by a motor, as well as/instead of being manually propelled. This term is used as shorthand in this policy to cover all powered transporters
- **E-bikes:** bicycles which are propelled by a motor, as well as/instead of being manually propelled
- **Powered transporters:** the Government uses this term to cover a variety of novel personal transport devices which are propelled by a motor, as well as/instead of being manually propelled. It includes e-scooters, Segways, hoverboards, go-peds (combustion engine-powered kick-scooters), powered unicycles, and u-wheels
- **Mobility scooters:** seated 3- or 4-wheel motor-propelled scooters designed to support users with additional mobility needs
- **Manual scooters:** manually propelled 2-wheel scooters

Legal position

E-scooters

E-scooters fall within the legal definition of a "motor vehicle" therefore the laws that apply to motor vehicles also apply to e-scooters. **It is illegal to use an e-scooter**¹:

- on private land without the permission of the landowner
- on a public road without complying with a number of legal requirements, which potential users will find very difficult
- in spaces that are set aside for use by pedestrians, cyclists, and horse-riders; this includes on the pavement and in cycle lanes
- Any person who uses a powered transporter on a public road or other prohibited space in breach of the law is committing a criminal offence and can be prosecuted.

Trial schemes are running in specific areas in the UK for the use of approved rental e-scooters only. The rules for private e-scooters and other powered transporters have not changed, and in any event, Reading is not part of such a trial.

¹ Source: [Powered transporters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/powerful-transporters)

The University's campuses are private land. **The University does not grant permission for the use of e-scooters on its campuses.**

E-bikes

Unlike e-scooters, there are specific existing regulations governing the allowable use of e-bikes in the UK on public roads.²

The University therefore **permits the use of e-bikes on its campuses**, providing the general principles detailed below are complied with.

General principles

- Our campuses are shared by pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. To keep everyone safe, all users should be considerate towards other road and path users
- Pedestrians have priority over cycles and scooters on all footpaths
- Cycles and manual scooters may use the footpaths, except where there is an immediate alternative road route
- Cycles and scooters must use lights between dusk and dawn so that you can see and be clearly seen
- Whilst e-bikes are permitted, the electrical assistance should not be used when travelling on footpaths. E-scooters are not permitted, to align with them being illegal external to campus
- Mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs used by a disabled person are allowed on campus and within buildings and have priority over cycles and scooters
- Cycles and scooters, whether powered or not, are not permitted to be brought into University buildings unless folded away. They must remain folded away and not create a health and safety hazard (e.g. trip hazard).
- Users should familiarise themselves and comply with wider University campus use guidelines:
- [Use of Campus Roads and Paths A Code of Behaviour](#)
- [Campus Principles and Exclusions Procedure](#)
- [Guidance for Visitors](#)

Charging of e-scooters and e-bikes

- Due to the additional fire safety risks associated with the batteries in e-scooters and e-bikes, the charging of these items in University buildings and UPP Halls of Residence is strictly prohibited.
- The University will investigate the feasibility of introducing charging points for e-bikes in the future.
- More generally, the University recommends that users carefully follow the manufacturer's guidance for charging their devices, since there are many reported incidents of these batteries catching fire.

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² Source: [Electrically assisted pedal cycles \(EAPCs\) in Great Britain: information sheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)