

Drivers – watch your speed in Holyrood Park

✘ Historic Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council and Lothian and Borders Police have joined forces to raise drivers' awareness and reinforce measures to protect and preserve the natural beauty of Holyrood Park.

Historic Scotland has been working closely with Edinburgh City Council to provide more visible traffic signage on all routes into and through the Park to make drivers aware that these roads are for the sole use of non-commercial traffic and taxis.

During February, drivers travelling into and through the Park will be stopped and made aware of its traffic regulations.

Following the period of educational stops there will also be random spot checks by Lothian and Borders Police throughout the Park.

Drivers breaching the commercial vehicle restrictions or speed limit will be subject to a fixed £30 non-endorsable penalty notice under Section 75/76 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Martin Gray, Historic Scotland's Royal Parks Visitor Services Manager said:

“Holyrood Park is a unique green space in the heart of the city. The Park's location makes it very accessible and popular to visitors, but developments around the park have resulted in increasing levels of through-traffic, commercial vehicle misuse and speeding. Large and heavy vehicles cause accelerated wearing of roads surfaces and damage kerbs and traffic islands. They also pose a risk to park users and wildlife who enjoy the use of the Park.

“We are very grateful to the City of Edinburgh Council and Lothian and Borders Police for their assistance in helping us address these issues, which will help protect and preserve Holyrood Park for the enjoyment of present and future generations of visitors.”

Inspector Nadine Aliane from Lothian and Borders Police added: “Lothian and Borders Police is committed to working with local communities and partner agencies to improve quality of life throughout Edinburgh.

“We know that by enforcing these traffic regulations, we are helping preserve an area of natural beauty that can be enjoyed by people across the city, as well as easing traffic congestion for people who live in the vicinity of the park.

“We understand that this enforcement can’t come in isolation, so we will undertake a series of educational events to make sure people are fully aware of the law and aren’t unnecessarily penalised.”

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie, Edinburgh’s Transport Convener, said: “I welcome this joint initiative and the benefits that it will bring not only Holyrood Park but also to the residents in the surrounding areas.”