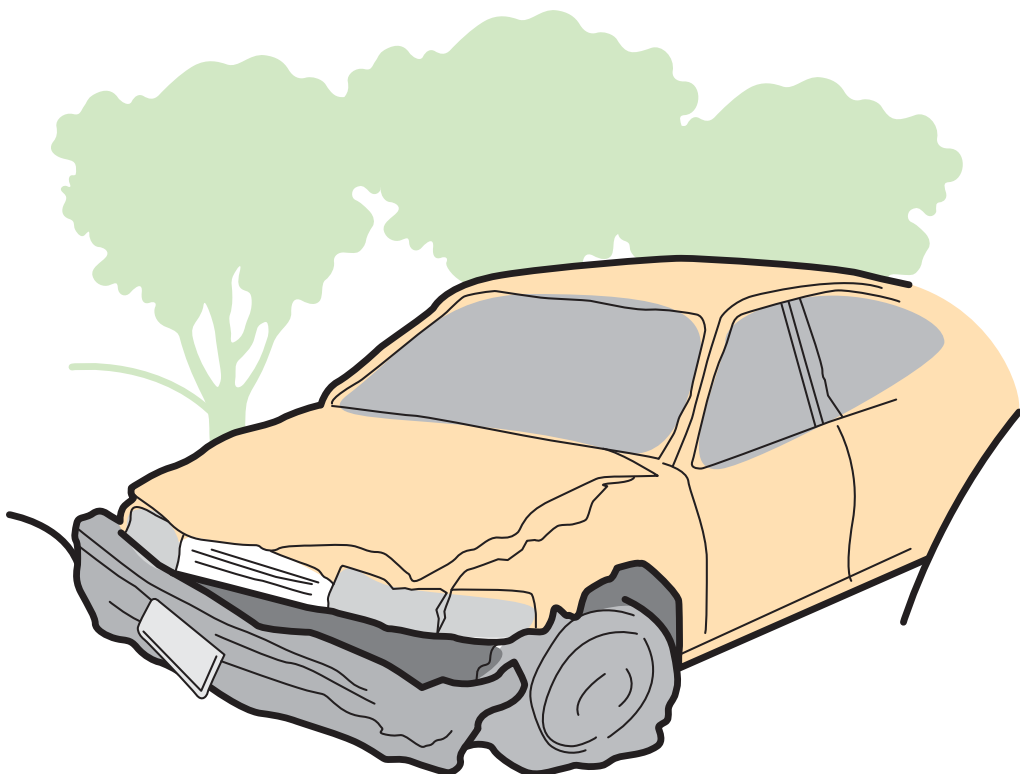


# Abandoned vehicles



## What is an Abandoned Vehicle?

There is no sole definition currently used. The Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 states that a vehicle is abandoned only “**where it appears to a local authority that a motor vehicle in their area is abandoned without lawful authority...**” As a result, a vehicle is deemed abandoned only when the authorised officer at the local authority decides that it is abandoned. The term “vehicle” in this context means any motor vehicle or trailer, or anything which forms part of a motor vehicle or trailer, including any item contained within it.

Abandoned vehicles can often get confused with nuisance vehicles. An abandoned vehicle is always a nuisance, but a nuisance vehicle is not always abandoned. A nuisance vehicle could be any of the following:

- Poorly parked;
- Causing an obstruction;
- Involved in residential parking disputes;
- Broken down;
- Untaxed.

These areas are dealt with, predominantly, by the Police.

Under the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 the Council has a duty to investigate any vehicle on the highway that is apparently abandoned. This does not mean that the vehicle will be removed.

The Council will assess the vehicle and if we believe the vehicle has been abandoned without lawful authority, and that it should be destroyed, we will implement our abandoned vehicle procedure.

**Note:** Untaxed vehicles are not necessarily abandoned. These are a matter for the Norfolk Police and/or DVLA.

## Identifying an Abandoned Vehicle

Abandoning a vehicle is a criminal offence under The Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978. The penalty on conviction is a maximum fine of £2,500, three months imprisonment or both.

The following points should be considered to determine if a vehicle is abandoned:

- Is the vehicle untaxed i.e. no tax disc present at all or past the expiry date? (The Council does not deal with taxed vehicles)
- The tyres are flat or wheels have been removed.
- There is litter and detritus (weeds/leaves) under and around the vehicle, indicating that it has not moved for some time.

# Abandoned vehicles

- Broken windows.
- Mould on inside or outside of the vehicle.
- Rubbish stored in the vehicle.
- Absence of number plates.
- Internal or external vandalism.
- The vehicle has recently appeared in the area, with no apparent owner e.g. the vehicle has been in the same spot for more than 10 days
- Vehicle is burnt out

## Untaxed Vehicles

Changes to the vehicle licensing system mean that the registered owner of a vehicle is legally responsible for it. If you are the registered keeper of an abandoned vehicle you are liable to prosecution for abandoning it, you will also be responsible for the costs incurred in removing and disposing of the vehicle. For more information on changes to road tax rules visit [www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk) or telephone 0870 240 0010.

## When will the Council remove an Abandoned Vehicle?

### Vehicles on the Highway

When the vehicle is reported to NNDC a registered keeper check is carried out with the DVLA to determine the registered keeper. The registered keeper is given 5 working days to contact us. At the end of this period if the vehicle is still in the location a 24 hour notice shall be affixed to the vehicle, and once expired the vehicle will then be removed and destroyed. It takes, on average, 10 working days from notification of the vehicle being present to it being removed.

In the case of a Burnt out vehicle or a vehicle with no registration details a 24 hour notice shall be served as soon as possible and the vehicle shall be removed and destroyed at the end of the notice period.

### Vehicles on Private Land

If NNDC receives a report of an abandoned vehicle on private land from any one other than the land owner, a 15 day notice will be served on the land owner or affixed to the vehicle to advise that NNDC is planning on removing the vehicle. Once expired, if the vehicle is still in that location, it will be removed and destroyed.

# Environmental Health



## Reporting an Abandoned Vehicle

If you would like to report an abandoned vehicle please complete the form below  
Before submitting the form, please use the checklist below to decide if the vehicle is actually abandoned.

When reporting a vehicle we require the following details:

- Make, model and colour of vehicle
- Location of Vehicle
- Registration Number
- Name and Address of owner (if known)

Vehicle Make:	<input type="text"/>	Vehicle Model:	<input type="text"/>
Vehicle Colour:	<input type="text"/>	Registration Number:	<input type="text"/>
Condition of Vehicle:	<input type="text"/>	Is there current taxed displayed?	<input type="text"/>
Location of Vehicle:	<input type="text"/>		
How long has vehicle been there?	<input type="text"/>		
Your Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Your Address:	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>		
Your Contact Number:	<input type="text"/>		

### Telephone, Fax and Email:

Tel: 01263 516085

fax: 01263 514627

email: [ep@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:ep@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

Our switchboard - 01263 513811 operates from:

8:30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday

8:30am to 4:30pm Friday

### Write to:

Environmental Protection Team

Environmental Health

North Norfolk District Council

Holt Road

Cromer

Norfolk NR27 9EN

[www.northnorfolk.org](http://www.northnorfolk.org)



If you would like this leaflet in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please call North Norfolk District Council on 01263 513811, and we will do our best to help.