



# Fleet Bulletin

## Bridge Strikes



The following guidance should be followed by all Falkirk Council Fleet drivers when navigating low bridges.

### What is a bridge strike?

- A bridge strike is an incident in which a vehicle, its load or equipment collides with a bridge.
- Most bridge strikes occur where roads pass under railway bridges.
- Bridge strikes may also occur at bridges over public roads carrying footpaths, canals and other public roads.



### What are the potential consequences?

- A train derailment with possible catastrophic loss of life.
- Loss of life or injury to the vehicle driver or other road users.
- Traffic delays and congestion
- Train delays
- Prosecution
- Operators licence may be suspended, revoked or curtailed.
- Significant financial costs including costs for:
  - Examination of the bridge.
  - Inspection of roads infrastructure
  - Repair of damage to the bridge.
  - Repair of road surface.
  - Vehicle and load recovery.
  - Train delays which depending on location and length could exceed all other costs.
  - Damage to council and other road users vehicles.

### What are the reasons for bridge strikes?

- Driver not knowing vehicle height.

- Poor route planning
- Drivers not understanding signs.
- Poor information about low bridges when planning a route.
- Inadequate signage.
- Drivers not believing signs.

### How can bridge strikes be prevented?

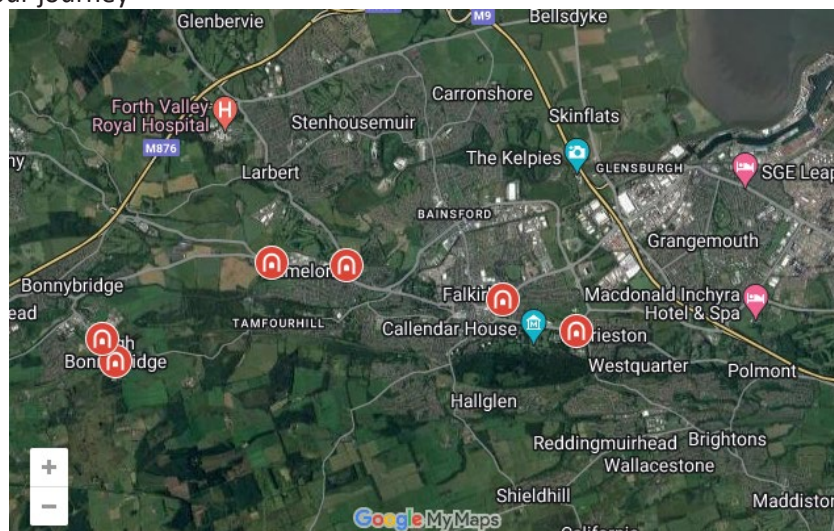
- Check the maximum height of the vehicle and its load before commencing a journey



- Check the measured height again if any alterations are made to the load.
- Advise managers if the measured height is different from the height shown on the headboard.
- Ensure that the correct height is displayed in the vehicle cab before each journey and after any alternations.



- Plan your journey



- Give special consideration arch bridges as the signed height is only for a specific part of the bridge.



- Pay attention to signs warning of low bridges and their

