

BIP Interface Mapping Project

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This list of barriers includes all those structures identified by the NIO specifically as security fences or 'peacelines'. A recent NIO document (published 01.12.2003) formally identified 37 barriers in Northern Ireland: 27 in Belfast, five in Portadown, one in Lurgan and four in Derry Londonderry. However, a second section of the same document identified 44 barriers in Belfast alone.

As a result of this discrepancy it was decided to document all the existing NIO authorised barriers in Belfast. The mapping exercise involved visiting each of the 44 sites in Belfast identified in the full NIO document and attempting to make a clear determination about the number of distinct barriers. As a result of this exercise we believe it is reasonable to identify 41 distinct barriers in Belfast.

The differences between our figures and the two sets of NIO figures is largely due to our decision to identify those barriers which form a continuous and connected division as a single barrier rather than as multiple barriers, while barriers which are discontinuous, even if they are close together are treated as distinct and separate barriers. We have also treated gates across roads, which may be opened and closed, as separate and distinct barriers.

This classification affects the following areas:

- We have treated the Springmartin Road and Upper Ballygomartin Road barriers as a single barrier.
- The barrier between the Falls and Shankill from Workman Avenue to North Howard Street is treated as five separate barriers, this includes two sections of wall/fence plus three gates.
- We have treated the barriers at Beverley Street/Percy Street and Ardmoulin Street as a single barrier.
- We have identified two separate and distinct barriers between the White City and Whitewell areas.
- We have treated the barriers at Mountainview Parade and Mountainview Park as a single barrier.
- We have treated the barrier that runs from Oldpark Road along Rosapenna Street, Rosevale Street to Clifton Park Avenue as a single barrier instead of two barriers.
- We have classified the barriers between Ligoniel and Squires Hill as two distinct clusters of barriers.

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The one exception to this approach is that we have grouped the numerous walls and fences along the length of Duncairn Gardens into two single but discontinuous barriers, one on the Tigers Bay side of the Gardens the other on the New Lodge side. There are two distinct sections to the Tigers Bay barrier and six sections to the New Lodge barrier.

A further discrepancy is that the NIO list of 27 Belfast barriers does not list any in Suffolk, whereas the list of 44 barriers identifies five in the Suffolk area. However:

- We have included only 4 barriers in the Suffolk area.
- We have excluded Blacks Road from the list of 44 barriers because, as is noted in the NIO document, there is no physical structure present. It is thereby simply one of many interfaces without any formal boundary marker.

Although this list of 41 barriers is based on NIO data, we would not regard this as a definitive figure for the number of such security structures in Belfast. There are numerous other barriers, fences and walls across Belfast, which have been built by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and other bodies and which also serve to divide, separate and protect but which are not formally recognised as 'security barriers'. We hope to be able to document these at a later date.

This list identifies four barriers in South West Belfast, twelve barriers in West Belfast, five barriers in East Belfast and twenty barriers in North Belfast. The text also provides a date for the construction of each of barriers. The dates are those given in the NIO source document. In some cases the document gives only a decade for the construction, in other cases the two dates given serve to indicate the date of the original construction and the date of any subsequent rebuilding or extension to the barrier. It should be noted that no date was given for the erection of the barrier at Henry Street (No 25).

The dating of the construction of the various barriers indicates that nine of the barriers have been erected since the ceasefires of 1994, while a further eleven have been heightened, lengthened or otherwise extended since 1994.

South West Belfast NIO Barriers

The barriers in South West Belfast surround the unionist Suffolk estate and separate it from Twinbrook, Lenadoon, nationalist Suffolk and Ladybrook.

- 1. Carnanmore Park, Suffolk (1980s):** A 2 metre high steel fence runs from the junction of Stewartstown Road between rear of houses in Carnanmore Park and the Glen River. The fence ends abruptly while adjacent path continues.
- 2. Stewartstown Road, Suffolk (1970s):** A short section of fence at the rear of Carnanmore Park and Donegore Gardens. The fence runs from Stewartstown Road (opposite Suffolk Road) to the junction with Blacks Road.
- 3. Oranmore Drive – Malinmore Park, Suffolk (1970s-1996):** A steel fence runs from Blacks Road parallel to Oranmore Drive to the junction with Willowvale Avenue. A second fence runs parallel to this at the rear of Brook Drive and Brook Close and then turns 90 degrees at rear of River Close. A double fence cuts across Willowvale Avenue, across the end of Suffolk Drive to join a fence surrounding the Lidl supermarket on Stewartstown Road.
- 4. Kells Avenue, Suffolk (1970s-2000):** A wall and gates close off the junction of Kells Avenue with Stewartstown Road. The barrier has two pedestrian gates and one vehicle gate. This is effectively a continuation of the Oranmore Drive barrier. There is a further security fence along the face of Stewartstown Road in front of two portacabins used by Suffolk Community Services Group, while a wooden fence runs at the rear of the properties on Ringford Crescent. Further security walls and fences protect properties in Lenadoon on the opposite side of Stewartstown Road from close to the Woodburn PSNI station to opposite the library.

West Belfast NIO Barriers

The barriers in West Belfast broadly separate the Moyard area from Springmartin and divide the lower Falls and the Shankill. The other barriers are at Springhill and at Roden Street /Westlink.

5. Moyard (1991): A steel fence c3 metre high runs from the rear of Moyard Parade, across the rear of Moyard Crescent. It continues across the head of Springfield Park and at the rear of houses at Springfield Heights. The fence separates the various properties from rough hillside and grazing land.

6. Springmartin Road - Upper Ballygomartin Road (1990 + 1994): A 5 metre high wall and fence runs from the junction of Springfield Road and Springmartin Road, parallel with Springmartin Road until c50 metres from the junction with Ballygomartin Road. There is a substantial buffer zone on either side of the wall. A short return fence runs at right angles to the end of the main barrier, and continues at the rear of houses at Springfield Park as a continuation of the main Springmartin barrier.

7. Springhill Avenue (1989): A wall with a steel fence in front closes off Springhill Avenue at the junction with Springfield Road, facing New Barnsley PSNI station. The security wall continues the length of Springhill Avenue at the rear of Springhill Heights, Gardens and Close and the rear of Westrock Court. In the other direction from Springhill Avenue a low security wall continues along Springfield Road at the rear of properties on Springhill Crescent.

8. Workman Avenue (1990): A gate with a pedestrian entrance closes off access to Workman Avenue from Springfield Road.

9. Springfield Road/Workman Avenue (1988-2003): A security wall, with fencing above, runs from Workman Avenue to Lanark Way. It cuts off Woodvale Avenue, Bainesmore Drive, Mountcashel Street and Ainsworth Avenue from Springfield Road.

10. Lanark Way (1988): Electronically controlled gates at Lanark Way, between Springfield Road and Merkland Place, can be used to restrict access at certain times.

11. Cupar Way (1969): A multi-level fence runs from Lanark Way to the rear of properties at Cupar Street and cuts off access between Cupar Street and Cupar Way. It then runs parallel with Cupar Way to the junction with North Howard Street. The barrier cuts access with Conway Street.

12. North Howard Street (1970s): Security gates at North Howard Street are used to restrict access at certain times.

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13. Northumberland Street (1970s): Security gates are used to restrict access at certain times. The area between North Howard Street and Northumberland Street is secured by the boundary walls of the Twin Spires Industrial Estate. The area between Northumberland Street and Percy Street is secured by industrial buildings.

14. Percy Street – Boundary Way (1970s): A barrier closes off Percy Street, it continues at the rear of Ardmoulin Avenue, cuts off the end of Beverley Street, Dover Street and Boundary Street and continues to the junction with Townsend Enterprise Park on the Shankill Road side. It runs at the rear of properties in Finn Square and Finn Court off the Falls Road.

15. Townsend Street (1992): Security gates close to junction with Cargill Street are used to restrict access at certain times.

16. Roden Street (1985): A wall and fence create a barrier between Roden Street and the Westlink near the junction with Mulhouse Road. The barrier continues parallel with the Westlink to close off the junction with Distillery Street.

East Belfast NIO Barriers

The barriers in East Belfast largely surround the nationalist Short Strand area and separate it from Albertbridge Road, Cluan Place, Templemore Avenue and Lower Newtownards Road.

17. Bryson Street (1970s-2003): A brick wall with a fence above runs the length of Bryson Street from the junction of Lower Newtownards Road to Madrid Street.

18. Madrid Street (2002): Gates have been installed used to restrict access along Madrid Street at the junction with Bryson Street.

19. Clandeboye Gardens and Langtry Court (1970s-2003): A wall with fencing above runs from the rear of a property on Madrid Street between Clandeboye Gardens and Langtry Court. The barrier abuts the wall of a commercial property near Albertbridge Road.

20. Clandeboye Gardens/Cluan Place (1970s-2003): A wall with fencing above runs between Clandeboye Gardens/Clandeboye Drive and Cluan Place and across end of Cluan Place, cutting off Cluan Place from Mountpottinger Road. The wall ends at the junction of Mountpottinger Road and Albertbridge Road.

21. Strand Walk (1980s-2003): A brick wall runs between Strand Walk and Lower Newtownards Road. The wall runs from the chapel grounds and follows the line of the road into Short Strand. The barrier cuts off vehicle access between Mountpottinger Road and Bridge End, but pedestrian access remains.

North Belfast NIO Barriers

There are two main groups of barriers in North Belfast: One group is between Antrim Road and York Road where a number of physically close but separate barriers restrict contacts between the New Lodge, Tigers Bay, Parkside and Mountcollyer areas. Another number of barriers separate various areas between Cliftonville Road and Crumlin Road. The remaining barriers are further out in the Ligoniel / Squires Hill and White City / Whitewell areas.

The length of Duncairn Gardens from Halliday's Road to North Queen Street is an interface between New Lodge and Tigers Bay. There are a number of barriers along both sides of the road linked by a variety of fences, walls and buildings, which effectively create two 'peacelines'. The NIO built sections of the barriers are:

22. Duncairn Gardens – New Lodge (1970s): There are six sections of security fence on the New Lodge side of Duncairn Gardens.

- (i) The New Lodge section of Halliday's Road is closed by a wall and fence structure; access is restricted to a pedestrian gate.
- (ii) Properties between 164 and 188 Duncairn Gardens have been demolished and the gap is secured by a sheet steel fence.
- (iii) The entrance to Edlingham Street has been partially built over on the New Lodge side, while the remainder is blocked by a double steel gated fence, which is permanently closed.
- (iv) Access between Lepper Street and Duncairn Gardens is restricted to pedestrians by a steel and brick barrier. This is a similar structure to the one across Halliday's Road.
- (v) Houses between 52 and 88 Duncairn Gardens have been demolished; the majority of this space is secured by a sheet steel fence. Pedestrian access is available to the New Lodge area.
- (vi) There is a section of sheet steel fence atop the wall at the rear of the car park of the North City Business Centre.

23. Duncairn Gardens – Tigers Bay (1970s): There are two sections of fencing on the Tigers Bay side of Duncairn Gardens.

- (i) Access between Halliday's Road and Duncairn Gardens is restricted by a brick wall. A metal gate provides pedestrian access.
- (ii) A section of steel fencing runs across the gap between number 171-179 Duncairn Gardens and number 161-163. This fencing is at the rear of Syringa Street.

The remainder of the Tigers Bay side of Duncairn Gardens has various walls protecting commercial properties along its length. The only point of entry is via Edlingham Street.

24. Adam Street (1990s): Access between Adam Street and Duncairn Gardens is restricted by a metal gate.

25. Henry Street – Westlink: A low gate barrier is permanently locked to restrict vehicle access between Henry Street and York Street, while a short section of steel fence separates Henry Street from the Westlink.

26. Newington Street (1980s-2000): A steel fence with mesh above runs from Limestone Road to Duncairn Gardens along the back of properties on Newington Street and Newington Avenue separating them from properties in Halliday's Road in Tigers Bay. There is a further short section of steel mesh and fence between the first two properties on the corner of Limestone Road.

27. Mountcollyer – Parkend Street (1994-2001): A mixture of brick wall and fencing divides Mountcollyer Street from Parkside Gardens.

28. Alexandra Park (1994): A steel fence runs across Alexandra Park from Parkside Gardens to the rear of the recycling depot on Alexandra Park Avenue. This is effectively a continuation of the barrier between Mountcollyer and Parkend Street.

29. White City – Whitewell (1999): A steel and mesh fence runs from Gunnell Hill to Serpentine Road at the rear of properties in Serpentine Gardens.

30. Navarra Place (1999): A steel fence, with a pedestrian access gate, closes off Navarra Place from Serpentine Road.

31. Longlands – Whitewell (1998): A section of steel palisade fence closes off an entry and adjacent land at Arthur's Bridge.

32. Oldpark Road - Rosapenna Street - Rosevale Street - Manor Street (1970s): A barrier runs from the junction of Beechpark Street (which is closed off by the barrier) and Oldpark Road. It then turns 90 degrees and runs behind properties in Rosapenna Street, turns 90 degrees again and runs behind properties in Rosevale Street, divides Manor Street and continues along the line of Roe Street to Cliftonpark Avenue.

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- 33. Torrens - Wyndham Street (1980s):** A section of wall with mesh fencing above runs along side of property on Elimgrove Street, turns 90 degrees and continues along the rear of houses on Wyndham Street. It ends at junction of Wyndham Drive and Torrens Crescent; the barrier closes off access to Wyndham Drive from Torrens Crescent.
- 34. Torrens - Oldpark Road (1990s):** A section of wall runs from the junction of Torrens Avenue and Oldpark Road to abut terrace near junction with Oldpark Avenue.
- 35. Oldpark Avenue (1990s):** A brick wall runs along the rear of properties on Oldpark Avenue to Cliftonville Road.
- 36. Crumlin Road - Flax Street (1994):** A steel fence closes off Flax Street close to the junction with Crumlin Road.
- 37. Woodvale - Holy Cross (1980s):** A short section of steel fence at the end of Woodvale Road restricts the line of sight between Twaddell Avenue and Brompton Park. The wall of the adjacent Holy Cross Church on Woodvale Road is heightened by a metre high wire fence.
- 38. Mountainview Park - Mountainview Parade (1997-2002):** A steel mesh fence runs at the rear of properties between Mountainview Park and Donaldson Crescent, turns 90 degrees and runs along the rear of properties the length of Mountainview Parade.
- 39. Alliance Avenue (1991-2002):** A five metre high barrier runs along the rear of properties on Alliance Avenue from Ardoyne Road to Deerpark Road, dividing Alliance Avenue from the Glenbryn estate.
- 40. Wolfend Drive - Squires Hill (1993-2003):** A metal fence runs across the end of Wolfend Drive and Greenhill Lane in Ligoniel. Below this a short length of fence cuts across the end of Squires Hill Crescent.
- 41. Brookmill Way – Squires Hill (1993-2003):** A double fence runs along the edge of Brookmill Way and Hazelbrook Drive in Ligoniel restricting access to a new development at Squires View. A short length of fence cuts across the end of Squires Hill Road.