OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

Who owns the barrier line

Winter markets are opening under vehicle restrictions. Agree who owns the line, the gaps and the emergency gate, and how people leave before the street reopens

Correct as of 10 November 2026

Name the gap first.

12 Nov

a Yorkshire market opens under a traffic order [3]



A gap in a barrier line is a planned opening, and someone must own it. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

The facts, as reported

12 Nov

a Yorkshire market opens under a traffic order [3]

18 Nov

a Cheshire city extends bollard hours [4]

15 Nov

full road closures for set up works due in a German city [6]

What was published

UK THIS MONTH

Yorkshire market opens 12 November [3]

Dispersal window before vehicles return [3]

Cheshire bollard hours from 18 November [4]

ON THE RECORD ELSEWHERE

Austria: extra patrols, no specific threat stated [1][2]

German city: full road closures for set up 15 November, opens 23 November [6]

Inquiry: diffusion of responsibility [8]

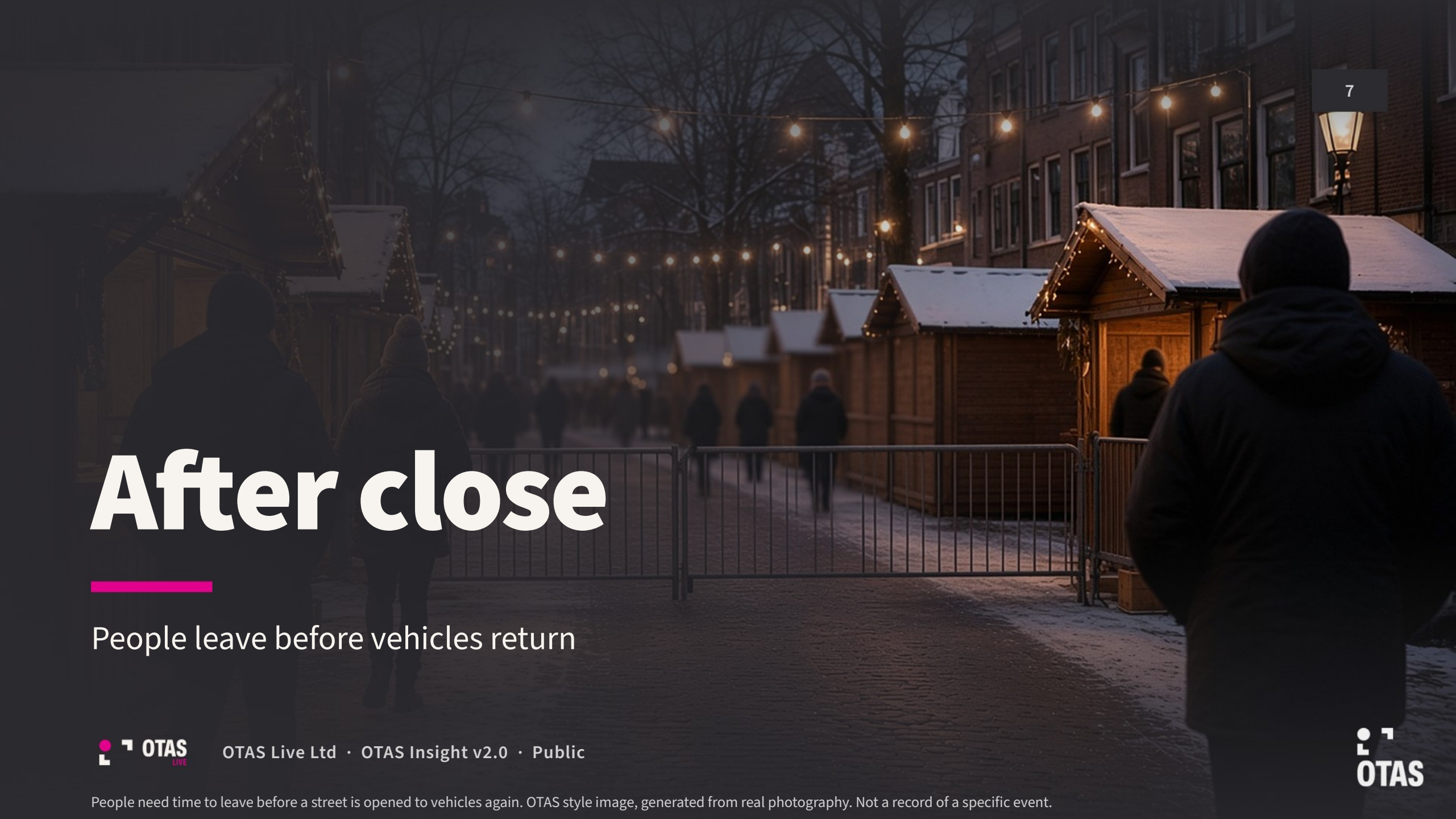
After it is placed

Walk the line again during the day

The line should be walked and checked after it is placed, and again during the day. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

What the guidance says

BARRIERS	YOUR DUTY
ProtectUK temporary barrier considerations [7]	Duty to people who are not employees [20]
NPSA hostile vehicle mitigation [9]	HSE event planning still applies [17]
Not a guarantee of protection	Agree it with police and the highway authority



After close

People leave before vehicles return

People need time to leave before a street is opened to vehicles again. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

03

In practice

THE SYSTEM	THE GAPS
The product and the layout	Emergency gate
The daily walk	Deliveries and Blue Badge
The reopen time	A name on every opening

Name the gap before you need it

1	2	3	4	5
Line is placed	Gaps are named	Line is walked	People leave	Street reopens

OTAS guidance.



The edge of the line

Walking aids and Blue Badge still need a way

The edge of the line must still work for people who use walking aids or a Blue Badge. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

Five things to agree

OWNERSHIP

- The line
- Every gap
- The emergency gate

THE CLOSE

- The walk
- The edge routes
- The dispersal window

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Signs your barrier plan will not hold

OTAS guidance, drawn from ProtectUK, NPSA and the inquiry lesson.

01 **Nobody owns the gap**

02 **No emergency gate drill**

03 **No daily walk**

04 **Reopen while people remain**

05 **The edge was an afterthought**

Five stages, from the line to the reopen



STAGE 1

The line

What it is for, and what it is not

STAGE 2

The gaps

Every opening has a named owner

STAGE 3

The walk

Check after install, and during the day

STAGE 4

The edge

Blue Badge, deliveries, walking aids

STAGE 5

Reopen

People leave, then vehicles return

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.

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The line chart

WATCH AND ACT	HOLD OR CLOSE
A delivery waiting at a gap	Close when the use ends
A request for the emergency gate	Open the rehearsed gate
A block that has moved	Staff the point until it is made good

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At close

PEOPLE FIRST	THEN THE STREET
Trading ends	Named person confirms it is clear
Help people leave	Then vehicles return [3]
Hold vehicles	

What to do at each level

Operational

Own your gap

Report a change

Help people leave

Tactical

Walk the line

Staff the gate

Hold the reopen

Strategic

Set the purpose

Name the owners

Agree the window

The checklist

BEFORE YOU OPEN

- Purpose agreed
- Gaps named
- Gate rehearsed
- Window written

ON THE DAY

- Walk the line
- Hold the reopen

“

The final report of a state parliament inquiry into an attack at that city's market in December 2024 found a diffusion of responsibility for concrete barriers.

From the final report of a state parliament inquiry, dated 3 June 2026 [8]. This Insight uses the finding as a lesson

Where the facts come from

1	The Local, report on Austrian plans for Christmas market safety, 9 November 2026	thelocal.at
2	Austria Interior Ministry, via OTS, security measures around Advent and Christmas markets, 7 November 2026	ots.at
3	City of York, city centre access for this year's Christmas market, 28 October 2026	york.gov.uk
4	Cheshire West and Chester, Chester Christmas security arrangements, 2026 bollard hours	cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
5	Deeside.com, Chester Christmas security measures, bollard closures and Blue Badge changes, 16 October 2026	deeside.com
6	City of Magdeburg, Christmas market 2026 traffic restrictions from 2 November	magdeburg.de
7	ProtectUK, Considerations for Temporary Vehicle Security Barriers, version 3.2	protectuk.police.uk

Where the facts come from

8	**Landtag Sachsen-Anhalt, final report of the 21st parliamentary inquiry committee, paper 8/7077, dated 3 June 2026** padoka.landtag.sachsen-anhalt.de
9	**NPSA, hostile vehicle mitigation** npsa.gov.uk
10	**ProtectUK, Considerations for Temporary Vehicle Security Barriers, version 3.2, PDF** protectuk.police.uk
11	**ProtectUK, home** protectuk.police.uk
12	**NPSA, crowded places guidance overview** npsa.gov.uk
13	**HSE, event safety, incidents and emergencies** hse.gov.uk
14	**HSE, event safety, outdoor equipment** hse.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

15	**HSE, event safety, venue and site design**	hse.gov.uk
16	**HSE, event safety, crowd management**	hse.gov.uk
17	**HSE, event safety, managing an event**	hse.gov.uk
18	**HSE, event safety**	hse.gov.uk
19	**The Purple Guide (subscription)**	thepurpleguide.co.uk
20	**Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, section 3**	legislation.gov.uk
21	**Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, article 5**	legislation.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

22	**NPSA, hostile vehicle mitigation, antiterrorism traffic regulation orders**	npsa.gov.uk
23	**National Protective Security Authority, home**	npsa.gov.uk
24	**ProtectUK, vehicle as a weapon advice landing**	protectuk.police.uk

Web sources opened 10 November 2026 and labelled by source type. Links are for checking only. Listing a source does not mean it endorses OTAS or has worked with us.

OVER TO YOU

If a gap in your barrier line is open at 16:00 on the first market day, who owns that gap, and who can close it?

If you need support agreeing ownership of a barrier line, the gaps and the reopen time for your market, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

OTAS LIVE