Signs giving orders

Signs with red circles are mostly prohibitive. Plates below signs qualify their message.

Note: Although The Highway Code shows many of the signs commonly in use, a comprehensive explanation of our signing system is given in the Department’s booklet Know Your Traffic Signs, which is on sale at booksellers. The booklet also illustrates and explains the vast majority of signs the road user is likely to encounter. The signs illustrated in The Highway Code are not all drawn to the same scale. In Wales, bilingual versions of some signs are used including Welsh and English versions of place names. Some older designs of signs may still be seen on the roads.
No vehicles over maximum gross weight shown (in tonnes)

Parking restricted to permit holders

No stopping at any time except for buses

No stopping during period indicated except for buses

No stopping during times shown except for as long as necessary to set down or pick up passengers

No waiting

No stopping (Clearway)

Parking restricted to permit holders

No stopping at any time except for buses

No stopping during period indicated except for buses

No stopping during times shown except for as long as necessary to set down or pick up passengers

No waiting

No stopping (Clearway)

No stopping at any time except for buses

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No stopping (Clearway)

No stopping at any time except for buses

No stopping during period indicated except for buses

No stopping during times shown except for as long as necessary to set down or pick up passengers

No waiting

No stopping (Clearway)

Signs with blue circles but no red border mostly give positive instruction.

Ahead only

Turn left ahead (right if symbol reversed)

Turn left (right if symbol reversed)

Keep left (right if symbol reversed)

Vehicles may pass either side to reach same destination

Mini-roundabout (roundabout circulation - give way to vehicles from the immediate right)

Route to be used by pedal cycles only

Segregated pedal cycle and pedestrian route

Minimum speed

End of minimum speed

Buses and cycles only

Trams only

Pedestrian crossing point over tramway

One-way traffic (note: compare circular ‘Ahead only’ sign)

With-flow bus and cycle lane

Contra-flow bus lane

With-flow pedal cycle lane
### Warning signs

#### Mostly triangular

- **STOP** 100 yds
  - Distance to ‘STOP’ line ahead

- Dual carriageway ends

- Road narrows on right (if symbol reversed)

- Road narrows on both sides

- **GIVE WAY** 50 yds
  - Distance to ‘Give Way’ line ahead

- Crossroads

- Junction on bend ahead

- T-junction with priority over vehicles from the right

- Staggered junction

- Traffic merging from left ahead

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**The priority through route is indicated by the broader line.**

- Double bend first to left (symbol may be reversed)

- Bend to right (or left if symbol reversed)

- Roundabout

- Uneven road

- Plate below some signs

- Two-way traffic crosses one-way road

- Two-way traffic straight ahead

- Opening or swing bridge ahead

- Low-flying aircraft or sudden aircraft noise

- Falling or fallen rocks

- Traffic signals not in use

- Slippery road

- Steep hill downwards

- Steep hill upwards

- Gradients may be shown as a ratio i.e. 20% = 1:5

- Tunnel ahead

- Trams crossing ahead

- Level crossing with barrier or gate ahead

- Level crossing without barrier or gate ahead

- Level crossing without barrier
Warning signs - continued

- **Frayed (or blind or disabled if shown)** pedestrians likely to cross road ahead
- **Pedestrians in road ahead**
- **Zebra crossing**
- **School crossing patrol ahead** (some signs have amber lights which flash when crossings are in use)
- **Overhead electric cable; plate indicates maximum height of vehicles which can pass safely**
- **Available width of headroom indicated**
- **Sharp deviation of route to left (or right if chevrons reversed)**
- **Light signals ahead at level crossing, airfield or bridge**
- **Miniature warning lights at level crossings**
- **Cattle**
- **Wild animals**
- **Wild horses or ponies**
- **Accompanied horses or ponies**
- **Cycle route ahead**
- **Risk of ice**
- **Traffic queues likely ahead**
- **Distance over which road humps extend**
- **Other danger; plate indicates nature of danger**
- **Soft verges**
- **Side winds**
- **Hump bridge**
- **Warded warning sign**
- **Quayside or river bank**
- **Risk of grounding**
**Direction signs**

**Mostly rectangular**

**Signs on motorways - blue backgrounds**

- **Nottingham**
  - At a junction leading directly into a motorway (junction number may be shown on a black background)

- **Nottingham**
  - On approaches to junctions (junction number on black background)

- **M1**
  - Route confirmatory sign after junction

- **A 404 Marlow**
  - Downward pointing arrows mean ‘Get in lane’
  - The left-hand lane leads to a different destination from the other lanes.

- **A 46 (M 69) Leicester, Coventry (E)**
  - The panel with the inclined arrow indicates the destinations which can be reached by leaving the motorway at the next junction

**Signs on primary routes - green backgrounds**

- **PARK STREET ROUNDABOUT**
  - On approaches to junctions

- **Lampton A 11**
  - Route confirmatory sign after junction

- **TURPIN’S CROSSROADS**
  - On approaches to junctions

- **Swansea Abertawe A 463**
  - On approach to a junction in Wales (bilingual)

Blue panels indicate that the motorway starts at the junction ahead.
Motorways shown in brackets can also be reached along the route indicated.
White panels indicate local or non-primary routes leading from the junction ahead.
Brown panels show the route to tourist attractions.
The name of the junction may be shown at the top of the sign.
The aircraft symbol indicates the route to an airport.
A symbol may be included to warn of a hazard or restriction along that route.
Green background signs - continued

Primary route forming part of a ring road

Signs on non-primary and local routes - black borders

On approaches to junctions

Green panels indicate that the primary route starts at the junction ahead. Route numbers on a blue background show the direction to a motorway. Route numbers on a green background show the direction to a primary route.

Other direction signs

Picnic site

Ancient monument in the care of English Heritage

Tourist attraction

Direction to camping and caravan site

Route for pedal cycles forming part of a network

Recommended route for pedal cycles to place shown

Symbols showing emergency diversion route for motorway and other main road traffic

Diversion route
Information signs

All rectangular

Entrance to controlled parking zone

End of controlled parking zone

Advance warning of restriction or prohibition ahead

Entrance to congestion charging zone

End of congestion charging zone

With-flow bus lane ahead which pedal cycles and taxis may also use

Lane designated for use by high occupancy vehicles (HOV) - see rule 142

Parking place for solo motorcycles

Vehicles permitted to use an HOV lane ahead

End of motorway

Start of motorway and point from which motorway regulations apply

Appropriate traffic lanes at junction ahead

Traffic on the main carriageway coming from right has priority over joining traffic

Additional traffic joining from left ahead. Traffic on main carriageway has priority over joining traffic from right hand lane of slip road

Traffic in right hand lane of slip road joining the main carriageway has priority over left hand lane

‘Countdown’ markers at exit from motorway (each bar represents 100 yards to the exit). Green-backed markers may be used on primary routes and white-backed markers with black bars on other routes. At approaches to concealed level crossings white-backed markers with red bars may be used. Although these will be erected at equal distances the bars do not represent 100 yard intervals.

Motorway service area sign showing the operator’s name
Information signs - continued

- **Priority over oncoming vehicles**: Traffic has priority over oncoming vehicles.
- **Hospital ahead with Accident and Emergency facilities**: Hospital ahead with Accident and Emergency facilities.
- **Tourist information point**: Area in which cameras are used to enforce traffic regulations.
- **No through road for vehicles**: No through road for vehicles.
- **Bus lane on road at junction ahead**: Bus lane on road at junction ahead.
- **Recommended route for pedal cycles**: Recommended route for pedal cycles.
- **Home Zone Entry**: Home Zone Entry.

Road works signs

- **Road works**: Road works.
- **Loose chippings**: Loose chippings.
- **SLOW WET TAR**: Temporary hazard at road works.
- **800 yards**: Temporary lane closure (the number and position of arrows and red bars may be varied according to lanes open and closed).
- **50 ½ mile ahead**: Mandatory speed limit ahead.
- **Mandatory speed limit ahead**: Road works 1 mile ahead.
- **End of road works and any temporary restrictions including speed limits**: End of road works and any temporary restrictions including speed limits.
- **Slow-moving or stationary works vehicle blocking a traffic lane. Pass in the direction shown by the arrow.**: Slow-moving or stationary works vehicle blocking a traffic lane. Pass in the direction shown by the arrow.
- **Lane restrictions at road works ahead**: Lane restrictions at road works ahead.
- **STAY IN LANE**: One lane crossover at contraflow road works.
- **800 yards**: Signs used on the back of slow-moving or stationary vehicles warning of a lane closed ahead by a works vehicle. There are no cones on the road.
**Road works signs**

- **Road works**
- **Loose chippings**
- **SLOW WET TAR**: Temporary hazard at road works
- **800 yards**: Temporary lane closure (the number and position of arrows and red bars may be varied according to lanes open and closed)

- **Slow-moving or stationary works vehicle blocking a traffic lane. Pass in the direction shown by the arrow.**
- **Mandatory speed limit ahead**
- **Road works 1 mile ahead**
- **End of road works and any temporary restrictions including speed limits**

- **800 yrs**: Signs used on the back of slow-moving or stationary vehicles warning of a lane closed ahead by a works vehicle. There are no cones on the road.
- **450 yrs**: Lane restrictions at road works ahead
- **M1 only**: One lane crossover at contraflow road works