

Direction signs on all-purpose roads



Junction ahead between two primary routes



Junction ahead between two non-primary routes

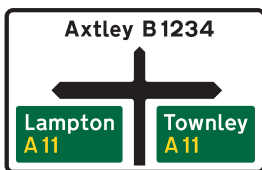
Roads other than motorways are referred to as all-purpose roads. Those of national and regional importance are called **primary routes**: they always have "A" numbers. Direction signs on these roads have **green backgrounds**, yellow route numbers and white lettering. Primary routes, together with motorways, form a national network of roads between major towns (primary destinations).

All other roads, including local roads with "A" numbers, are called **non-primary routes**. Direction signs on these roads have **white backgrounds**, with black route numbers and lettering. Most road maps show primary routes in green and use other colours to distinguish between non-primary "A" roads, "B" roads and local un-numbered roads. Maps may also indicate primary destinations. The colour coding of these maps and the colours of the traffic signs may help you to plan your journey, using primary routes wherever possible.

Where a primary route has a junction with a non-primary route, a coloured panel on the advance direction sign is used to indicate a route of different status. Blue panels are used to indicate motorways (see page 78), green panels indicate primary routes and white non-primary routes.



Sign on a primary route indicating a non-primary route



Sign on a non-primary route indicating a primary route

There are different types of sign that might be used on the approach to a junction. A "map-type" sign shows the junction layout and is commonly used for roundabouts, with a special symbol for mini-roundabouts. The width of each route symbol depends on the type of the road indicated: wide for primary routes and motorways, medium for "A" and "B" numbered non-primary routes and narrow for local roads without numbers.

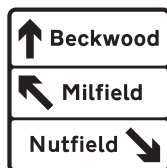
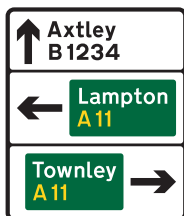


Map-type sign on primary route indicating a roundabout ahead



Map-type sign for a mini-roundabout

A stack-type sign shows directions at a junction ahead, but not the road layout. It can often be smaller than the equivalent map-type sign and is used for simple junctions (e.g. a crossroads) and where there might not be space for a larger sign, especially in urban areas.



Examples of stack-type signs. Arrows indicate the direction of exits from the junction ahead; each is shown on a separate part of the sign. The ahead direction may not be shown for a junction with a minor side road



A sign that indicates the appropriate lanes to use for turning movements at a junction ahead is sometimes used in conjunction with, or instead of, a map-type or stack-type sign.



Route numbers in brackets are roads that will be reached by following the route indicated. Where a primary route is reached by following a non-primary route, its route number in brackets is shown on a small green patch. However, non-primary routes reached along primary routes are not indicated on white

patches. "B 1234" in the example is a non-primary route. Signs indicating a route to a motorway include a blue patch with the motorway number in brackets.

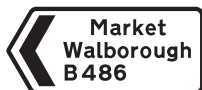


Flag-type sign indicating a primary route that leads to a motorway and to a non-primary route

Signs located at a junction and pointing along a road have chevrons rather than arrows. They are called "flag-type" signs. Some signs may be rectangular with upward-pointing arrows. These are used where the road divides, such as at an exit slip road or a forked junction. The background colour of a flag-type sign is that appropriate for the route indicated; coloured panels are not used where a primary route has a junction with a non-primary route. However, flag-type signs may include route number patches. A rectangular sign at the junction may have coloured panels, but only if it indicates more than one route.



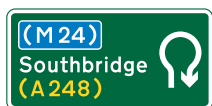
Rectangular sign at a junction, indicating both a primary and a non-primary route. The background colour of the main sign is that appropriate for the main road on which the sign is located



Flag-type sign indicating a non-primary route



Rectangular sign at a junction, indicating a non-primary route

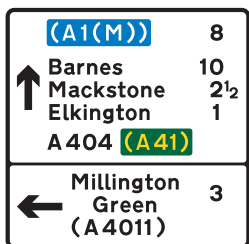


This sign indicates that a U-turn should be made at a roundabout ahead in order to follow the route to the destinations shown. It is normally located on a dual carriageway road.

direction signs on all-purpose roads



Where a turning movement is prohibited, signs may show an alternative route.



A sign may indicate the distance to a destination in miles. Fractions of a mile may be shown for distances less than 3 miles. Signs may be provided after a junction listing destinations and distances: these are known as route confirmatory signs.

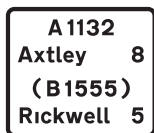
Direction sign showing distances to destinations



Route confirmatory sign



Route confirmatory sign including a regional destination (The SOUTH WEST) and the distance to a motorway



Route confirmatory sign: "Axtley" is on the current route; "Rickwell" is reached by turning onto the B 1555 at a junction ahead



Route confirmatory sign on a non-primary route leading to a primary route. "Lampton" is reached by turning onto the A 11 at a junction ahead

Some junctions on dual carriageway roads may be similar to those on motorways, where a slip road leaves the main carriageway via a deceleration lane or a lane drop. The first direction sign on the approach to the junction is usually located 1/2 mile in advance, although there may be an additional sign 1 mile before the junction. In some cases, these distances may be reduced, normally to 1/3 mile and 2/3 mile respectively. Another sign will be located where the deceleration lane starts or just before the left-hand lane leaves the main carriageway as a lane drop. The signs may be mounted at the side of the road or overhead.

Signs located at the side of the road where there is a deceleration lane. The number of lanes through the junction remains the same



Where the junction ahead is between two primary routes, any non-primary route at the same junction is not shown on a white panel. Signs on the exit slip road will have green backgrounds



The junction ahead is with a non-primary route only, with the destination shown in a white panel. The signs on the exit slip road will have white backgrounds



This sign is located at the start of the deceleration lane. In addition to the side destination, the sign shows the ahead destinations



Countdown markers indicate the distance to the start of the deceleration lane. Each bar represents about 100 yards. These signs may also be used on the approach to a roundabout or crossroads. On non-primary routes, the bars are black on a white background



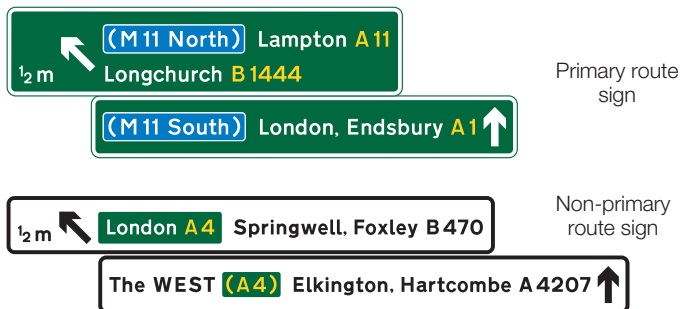
Signs on a non-primary route



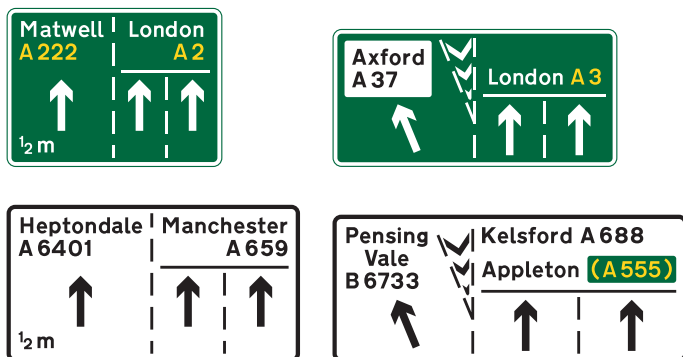
A final route direction sign is usually located where the exit slip road separates from the main carriageway

direction signs on all-purpose roads

Overhead signs for junctions with deceleration lanes and slip roads, where the number of lanes through the junction remains the same

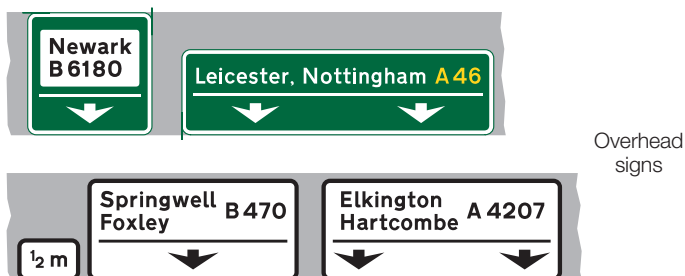


Signs for a junction where a lane leaves the main carriageway to become the exit slip road. Primary route signs have green backgrounds. Non-primary route signs have white backgrounds



Signs mounted at the side of the carriageway in advance of the junction

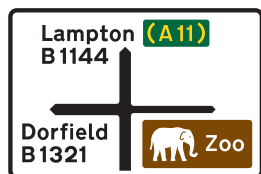
Signs mounted at the side of the carriageway just before the left-hand lane leaves the main carriageway



Signs for tourist destinations



Tourist destinations may be shown on separate signs with brown backgrounds, or on brown panels incorporated into other direction signs. See page 84 for tourist destination signs on motorways.



Symbols are often used to indicate the type of destination. These may be shown on road maps. Once the full name of a tourist destination and its symbol have been shown on a sign, subsequent signs may show only the associated symbol. Examples of symbols are shown below.



Tourist information



Castle



Historic house



National Trust



English Heritage



Theme park



Country park



Bird garden



Nature reserve



Farm park



Safari park



Beach



Museum (England)



Roman remains



Aviation museum

direction signs on all-purpose roads

There are also symbols for sports and leisure facilities.



Football ground



Cricket ground



Sports centre (England)



Motor sport



Golf course



Race course



Fishing



Cycle hire



Ten-pin bowling



Ski slope

See pages 103 and 104 for symbols and brown signs used for tourist facilities such as camp sites, restaurants and hotels. Some symbols are directional and face in the direction in which traffic turns at a junction. For ahead destinations, symbols generally face left. Some tourist attractions may use a general symbol, depending on whether they are in England, Scotland or Wales.



England



Scotland



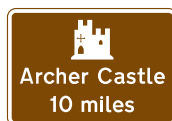
Wales



This sign is used in advance of a junction, advising drivers of the route to be followed where it is not practicable to sign a tourist destination at the junction itself



Direction signs may indicate a route through an area of special interest



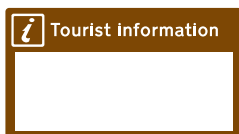
Signs showing the distance ahead to a tourist attraction



On the approach to a junction, a sign may indicate a town or geographical area with several tourist attractions.



Location of tourist information point or centre



Tourist information board (sign for pedestrians)



Direction to a tourist information point or centre



Direction to a parking place associated with a tourist attraction

Services signs

See page 86 for blue-background signs indicating motorway service areas located on all-purpose roads. Services grouped together at a single location on primary and non-primary routes may be signed where parking, toilets, fuel and refreshments are available at least between 8 am and 8 pm on every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Signs on non-primary routes have white backgrounds. Older signs on primary routes have green backgrounds, but are being replaced by white-background signs.



Distance to services



Direction to services

"not 24 hrs" may be varied to "Fuel only 24 hrs" or omitted if the services are open 24 hours every day. The cup symbol indicates that light refreshments are available. The wheelchair symbol denotes facilities for the disabled



The services may have a geographical name. The "LPG" symbol means LPG fuel is available, the spoon and fork symbol denotes a restaurant and the bed symbol indicates overnight accommodation. The lorry symbol indicates that the services are for goods vehicles only. Where the symbol has a red bar, services are not available for goods vehicles



Alternative signs indicating the entrance to services. May be used to indicate the direction to services at a road junction



Where individual facilities are available in a small town or village off the main route, signs at the junction indicate the direction in which they are located. If tourist facilities are available, the signs have a brown background and may include some of the symbols shown on pages 100 and 101.



Signs on the approach to the junction



Signs located where traffic turns at the junction

Brown signs may indicate establishments that provide restaurant facilities, light refreshments or overnight accommodation.



Licensed camping and caravan sites, youth hostels managed by the Youth Hostels Association or Scottish Youth Hostels Association, picnic areas, viewpoints and parking places with tourist information may also be indicated by brown signs.



Camping and caravan site: the tent or the caravan symbol may be omitted, depending on the facilities available. The name of the camp site may be shown



Youth hostel



Picnic area: may include a name



Distance to a parking place with toilets, tourist information, picnic area, telephone and viewpoint. The symbols may be varied as appropriate

Parking signs

Direction signs indicating parking places, such as off-street car parks, have white backgrounds, even on primary routes. Where the parking destination is incorporated into a primary route sign with a green background, it is shown on a white panel.



direction signs on all-purpose roads

The signs may include various details about the parking places.



Where parking places in different directions are shown on a sign in advance of a junction, the "P" symbol may be shown at the top of the sign only



Where a parking place is for a particular class of vehicle, this may be shown by the appropriate symbol. This sign indicates a lorry park that is reached by making a U-turn at a roundabout ahead



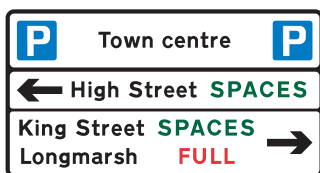
This map-type sign indicates the direction of routes to parking places from a double mini-roundabout ahead. The route to the right leads to a parking place for solo motor cycles only



Direction and distance to a multi-storey car park



Direction to a parking place that is available on certain days only



A variable message sign may indicate the availability of spaces at each parking place. Some signs may show the number of vacant spaces; these are updated at regular intervals throughout the day



Direction to a parking place that has been approved by the police under the Safer Parking Scheme



Sign showing the facilities available at a parking place ahead. The lorry symbol is omitted where there is no restriction on the class of vehicle

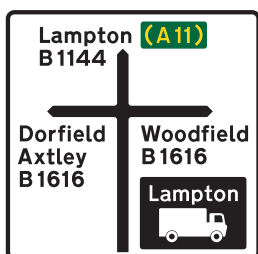


Direction to a parking place showing the total number of spaces



Signs may indicate the location of parking places associated with "Park and Ride" schemes. Where appropriate, the bus symbol is changed to another form of transport, e.g. tram, national railway or London Underground. The sign may include the name of the Park and Ride site or the place that it serves. It may also include the times of operation. Other direction signs may incorporate the blue "Park and Ride" panel.

Signs for drivers of goods vehicles



Routes recommended for goods vehicles have black signs with a white lorry symbol. Other direction signs may incorporate black lorry route panels. The most suitable route for lorries to a particular destination may be different from that for other vehicles. The lorry symbol faces in the direction in

which vehicles turn at a junction. For ahead destinations, the symbol generally faces left. Where route numbers for motorways and primary routes are shown, these are placed on blue and green patches respectively.



Direction sign at a junction



Direction signs on the approach to a junction



This sign is used in advance of a junction, advising drivers of goods vehicles of the route to be followed where it is not practicable to sign the route at the junction itself

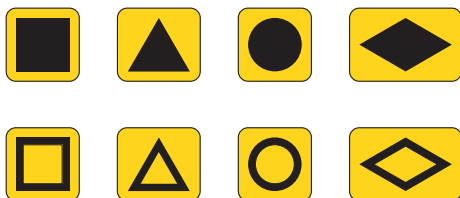
Signs for traffic diversions



The symbol on this sign may be replaced by route numbers

Where, in an emergency, it is necessary to close a section of motorway or other main road to traffic, a temporary sign may advise drivers to follow a diversion route. To help drivers navigate the route, black symbols on yellow patches may be permanently displayed on existing

direction signs, including motorway signs. On all-purpose roads, the symbols may be used on separate signs with yellow backgrounds.



Symbols that may be used to indicate a diversion route



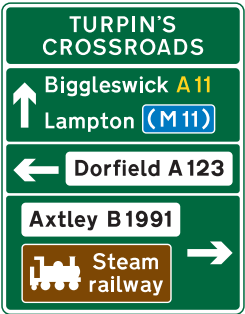
Signs incorporating a diversion route symbol that is shown alongside the road number of the route that drivers should follow

Separate signs indicating a diversion route (may be permanently displayed)

Temporary diversion signs may be required when a road is closed for reasons other than an emergency, e.g. to carry out works.



Examples of other direction signs



The name of the junction ahead may be shown at the top of the sign



Signs may incorporate hazard warning triangles. In this example there is an opening bridge on the road to the right



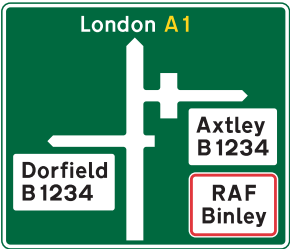
Signs may incorporate prohibitory roundels and indicate alternative routes



Direction signs at the junction may incorporate warning triangles or prohibitory roundels. A distance plate indicates that the hazard or restriction is not encountered immediately



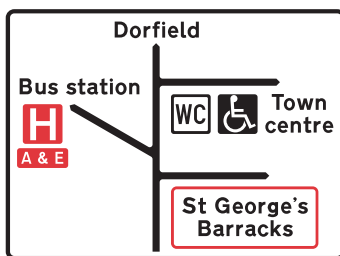
A road through a by-passed town or village leads back to the main route



Staggered crossroads on a dual carriageway road: the white panel with the red border indicates a Ministry of Defence establishment



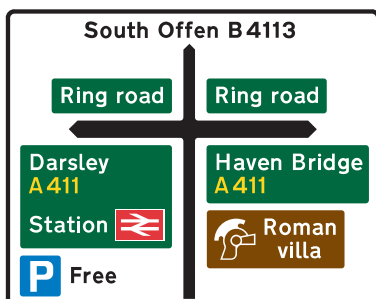
Ministry of Defence establishments may also be shown on separate signs with red borders, arrows and chevrons. The background colour is always white, even on a primary route



This sign shows a local road with three junctions ahead in close proximity. The "H" symbol on a red patch indicates a hospital with "A & E" facilities (if there is no "A & E", a blue patch is used). The "WC" and wheelchair symbols indicate toilets with facilities for disabled people



Local destinations, including a railway station and recycling centre, reached along a primary route



This sign shows both primary and local destinations that are reached along a primary route at a junction ahead. At some junctions, a separate sign might be used to indicate local destinations where this would avoid putting too much information on a single sign. In this example, the sign indicates that the primary route is a ring road



These signs are used where there are more destinations than can be accommodated on the signs at a junction. They are located in advance of the first sign for the junction and advise drivers of the routes to be followed for particular destinations



Signs may indicate an alternative route



Direction to an airport. The aircraft symbol usually points in the same direction as the arrow, as shown



Direction to a car ferry. The car symbols are replaced by the words "Pedestrian ferry" when the ferry is for foot passengers only



Direction to a vehicle ferry. The car symbol is replaced by a second lorry symbol when the ferry is for goods vehicles only



This primary route sign indicates the directions to a ferry and an airport. It also shows a road to which entry is prohibited



The route to the left has a priority lane that avoids the roundabout (see page 69 for road markings). The route to the right leads to town centre parking and a railway station



Direction to a London Underground station



Direction to a VOSA (Vehicle & Operator Services Agency) testing station for goods vehicles



Direction to a public telephone



Direction to public toilets with facilities for disabled people



Direction to a "Shopmobility" service for disabled people



A modern version of the traditional fingerpost may be used at some junctions on minor rural roads. The sign may have a square end and may include a distance in miles. More than one destination may be shown

direction signs on all-purpose roads



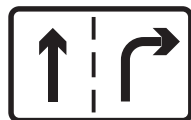
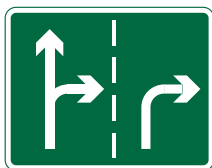
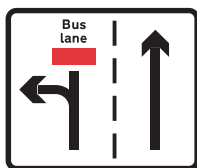
Signs indicating the direction to a new housing development may be left in place for up to six months after completion of the development



Signs with a light green background and yellow border are used to indicate the route for emergency vehicles to a permanent incident control point



Signs with a red background are used to indicate the route for emergency vehicles to a temporary incident control point



Signs that indicate the appropriate traffic lanes for turning movements at a junction ahead may be used alone or in addition to map-type or stack-type advance direction signs. Signs on primary routes have green backgrounds, and signs on non-primary routes have white backgrounds

These signs show how traffic lanes on a slip road join the main carriageway of a dual carriageway road at junctions. Signs on primary routes have green backgrounds, and signs on non-primary route have white backgrounds



Sign for drivers on slip road



Sign for drivers on main carriageway

The slip road joins the main carriageway as a lane gain to increase the number of lanes from two to three. A distance panel may be added



Sign for drivers on slip road



Sign for drivers on main carriageway

The right-hand lane of the slip road joins the main carriageway as a merge with an acceleration lane. This is followed by the left-hand lane, which joins the main carriageway as a lane gain. Chevron road markings normally separate the two lanes on the slip road. The distance may be omitted