

Traffic calming

Traffic calming is the term used to describe physical features provided along a road to encourage drivers to reduce speed. These features are introduced for the safety of all road users, particularly pedestrians and cyclists. Traffic calming schemes can employ a variety of measures, including road humps and narrowings. Warning signs often indicate the type of measure to be expected. There may be an entry sign at the boundary of an area that has traffic calming features.



Entrance to a traffic-calmed area. The name of the area may be shown. The sign may also be used in advance of the area and show a distance. Where the traffic-calmed area is reached by turning into a side road, the sign will include an arrow

Road humps

Road humps may have a flat or round top, extending across the width of the road or covering a whole junction. They may also be in the form of a "cushion", covering only part of a traffic lane and designed to allow buses and large emergency vehicles to straddle them, whilst slowing other vehicles. Except in a 20 mph zone, warning signs are erected at the beginning of the road where a hump or series of humps is installed.



**Humps for
1/2 mile**

Road humps for distance shown. May be varied to "Hump" with distance omitted

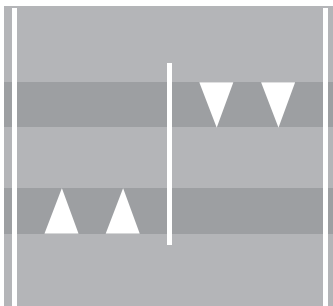
**Alternative plates used with
"road hump" sign**



Road humps for distance shown and in direction indicated



Road hump for distance shown and in direction indicated



A road hump is normally marked with white triangle and edge line markings.

Zebra and signal-controlled pedestrian crossings are sometimes located on flat-top humps. These may be indicated by advance warning signs.



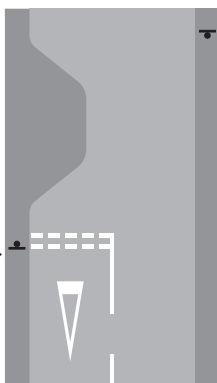
Zebra crossing on a road hump



Signal-controlled pedestrian crossing on a road hump

Road narrowings

Roads may be reduced in width by the use of build-outs on one or both sides. When placed on both sides, they may be opposite each other or staggered. Priority through the narrowing may be controlled by signs and "give way" markings. It is essential that you obey signs indicating priority to vehicles coming from the opposite direction.



If priority is not given to either direction at a road narrowing, you should ensure that you can pass through without endangering occupants in vehicles approaching from the other direction. Do not accelerate on the approach to a narrowing, but maintain a slow steady speed and be prepared to give way to approaching traffic. Let any cyclists proceed ahead of you.



Road narrows on left (right if symbol reversed)



Road narrows on both sides

Warning signs indicating which side the narrowing occurs may be used in advance, especially where priority signs and markings are not provided.

20 mph zones



Entrance to a 20 mph zone



End of 20 mph zone and start of 30 mph speed limit

Some traffic-calmed areas are indicated by the 20 mph zone entry sign. This sign, as well as indicating a 20 mph speed limit, warns drivers that they are entering an area with traffic calming features, such as road humps and road narrowings. These features may not be individually signed, nor are there likely to

be 20 mph speed limit repeater signs. In these areas, it is important that you adopt a steady low speed and avoid repeated acceleration and deceleration.

Home Zones



Entrance to a Home Zone

Home Zones are residential areas with streets designed to be places for people as well as for motor traffic. The road space is shared among drivers and other road users. People could be using the

whole of the space for a range of activities. You should drive slowly and carefully and be prepared to stop to allow people extra time to make room for you to pass them in safety.



End of
Home Zone

Quiet Lanes

Some minor rural roads may be designated as Quiet Lanes. These are appropriate for shared use by walkers, cyclists, horse



Start of designated
Quiet Lane



End of Quiet
Lane

riders and motor vehicles. You should drive slowly and carefully and be prepared to stop to allow people extra time to make room for you to pass them in safety.

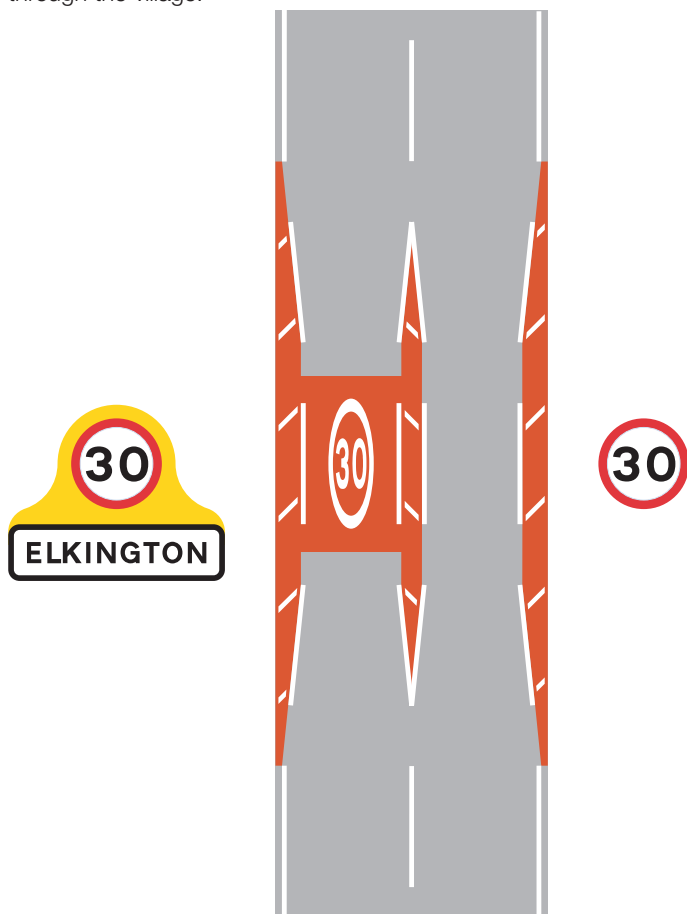
Other features



Rumble devices across the road, either in the form of strips or larger areas, may be used to provide a visual, audible and vibratory effect, often in rural locations. The intention is to alert drivers to a hazard ahead, usually a bend or road junction, and encourage them to

reduce speed. A warning sign may be used in association with a rumble device to identify the hazard, but the device itself is not the hazard and is not usually specifically signed.

Gateways into villages may be formed from the combination of speed limit signs, yellow backing boards and village name plates. Central hatched markings or islands may also be used to separate opposing traffic. Drivers approaching the gateways should reduce speed and observe the speed limit all the way through the village.



Example of a village gateway

Some parts of the carriageway may have a coloured surface to emphasise the road markings.

More information on Directgov

You can find related information on roads and traffic on Directgov. Click on the link or use the web address underneath.

www.direct.gov.uk/trafficcalming