

Traffic signs

Signs giving orders

Signs with red circles are mostly prohibitive.

Plates below signs qualify their message.



Entry to
20 mph zone



End of
20 mph
zone



Maximum
speed



National speed
limit applies



School crossing
patrol



Stop and
give way



Give way to
traffic on
major road



Manually operated temporary
STOP and GO signs



GO



No entry for
vehicular traffic



No vehicles
except bicycles
being pushed



No cycling



No motor
vehicles



No buses
(over 8
passenger
seats)



No
overtaking



No
towed
caravans



No vehicles
carrying
explosives



No vehicle or
combination of vehicles
over length shown



No vehicles
over
height shown



No vehicles
over
width shown



Give priority to
vehicles from
opposite
direction



No right turn



No left turn



No
U-turns



No goods vehicles
over maximum
gross weight
shown (in tonnes)
except for loading
and unloading

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 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



Distance to
'STOP' line
ahead



Dual
carriageway
ends



Road narrows
on right (left if
symbol reversed)



Road
narrows on
both sides



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

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



Traffic signals



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



School crossing patrol ahead (some signs have amber lights which flash when crossings are in use)



Frail (or blind or disabled if shown) pedestrians likely to cross road ahead



Pedestrians in road ahead



Zebra crossing



Overhead electric cable; plate indicates maximum height of vehicles which can pass safely



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



Wording warning sign



Quayside or river bank



Risk of grounding

Direction signs

Mostly rectangular

Signs on motorways – blue backgrounds



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



On approaches to junctions (junction number on black background)



Route confirmatory sign after junction



Downward pointing arrows mean 'Get in lane'
The left-hand lane leads to a different destination from the other lanes.



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



On approaches to junctions



At the junction



Route confirmatory sign after junction



On approaches to junctions



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



On approaches to junctions

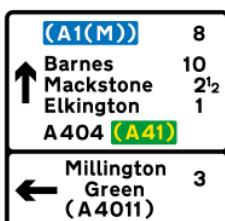


Primary route forming part of a ring road

Signs on non-primary and local routes – black borders



On approaches to junctions



At the junction



Direction to toilets with access for the disabled

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



Direction to a car park



Tourist attraction



Direction to camping and caravan site



Advisory route for lorries



Route for pedal cycles forming part of a network



Recommended route for pedal cycles to place shown



Route for pedestrians



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



Diversion route

Information signs

All rectangular



Entrance to controlled parking zone



Entrance to congestion charging zone



End of controlled parking zone



Advance warning of restriction or prohibition ahead



Parking place for solo motorcycles



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



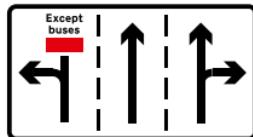
Vehicles permitted to use an HOV lane ahead



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



Traffic has priority over oncoming vehicles



Hospital ahead with Accident and Emergency facilities



Tourist information point



No through road for vehicles



Recommended route for pedal cycles



Home Zone Entry



Area in which cameras are used to enforce traffic regulations



Bus lane on road at junction ahead

Road works signs



Road works



Loose chippings



Temporary hazard at road works



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



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.



Lane restrictions at road works ahead



One lane crossover at contraflow road works