

# 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



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.



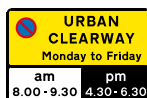
No vehicles  
over maximum  
gross weight  
shown  
(in tonnes)



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



**STOP**  
100 yds

Distance to  
'STOP' line  
ahead



Dual  
carriageway  
ends



Road narrows  
on right (left 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

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



**Patrol**

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



**No footway for 400 yds**

Pedestrians in road ahead



**Zebra crossing**



**Safe height 16'6" (5.0 m)**

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



**Ice**

Risk of ice



**Queues likely**

Traffic queues likely ahead



**Humps for 1/2 mile**

Distance over which road humps extend



**Hidden dip**

Other danger; plate indicates nature of danger



**Soft verges for 2 miles**

Soft verges



Side winds



Hump bridge



Worded 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

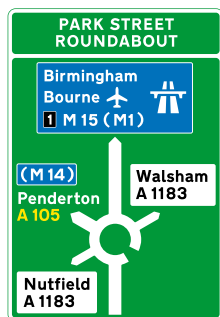


Downward pointing arrows mean 'Get in lane'  
The left-hand lane leads to a different destination from the other lanes.



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



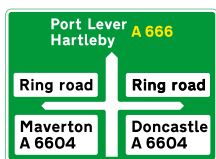
On approaches to junctions



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

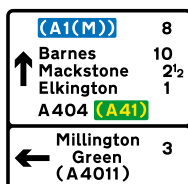


Primary route forming part of a ring road

## 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



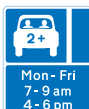
Advance warning of restriction or prohibition ahead



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



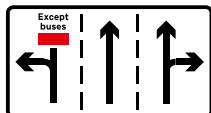
Vehicles permitted to use an HOV lane ahead



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



Variable speed limit with camera enforcement sign



'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**

**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**

**Stay in lane**

**One lane crossover at contraflow road works**