



Driver & Vehicle
Standards
Agency



All in one drive

ALL IN ONE DRIVE DVSA-Approved 5-Day Professional Training & Confidence Course

"Building confident, safe, and responsible drivers."

"The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) has given permission for the reproduction of Crown copyright material. DVSA does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of the reproduction."

The signing system

There are three basic types of traffic sign: signs that give orders, signs that warn and signs that give information. Each type has a different shape. A further guide to the function of a sign is its colour. All triangular signs are red.



Circles
give orders



Triangles
warn



Rectangles
inform



Blue circles generally give a mandatory instruction, such as 'turn left', or indicate a route available only to particular classes of traffic, e.g. buses and cycles only



Red rings or circles tell you what you must not do, e.g. you must not exceed 30 mph, no vehicles over the height shown may proceed



Blue rectangles are used for information signs except on motorways, where blue is used for direction signs



Green rectangles are used for direction signs on primary routes



White rectangles are used for direction signs on non-primary routes, or for plates used in combination with warning and regulatory signs



There are a few exceptions to the shape and colour rules, to give certain signs greater prominence. Examples are the 'STOP' and 'GIVE WAY' signs

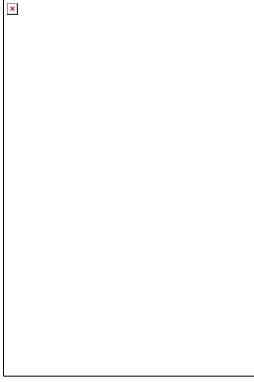
The words 'must' or 'must not', when used in the descriptions that follow, refer to legal requirements that have to be obeyed.

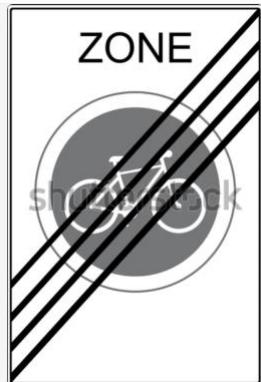
Sign Shape / Colour	Image Tag (Search Term)	Highway Code Category	Easy Explanation for Cyclists
 Riding of pedal cycles prohibited	Circular sign with red border and diagonal line over a bicycle silhouette	Prohibitory	"NO CYCLING" You MUST NOT ride your bicycle past this sign. You must dismount get off your bike and push it.
 Except cycles No entry for vehicular traffic except pedal cycles	Circular sign with thick red border and nothing inside (No Vehicles sign)]	Prohibitory	"NO VEHICLES!" This means no motor vehicles and usually no ridden cycles either. You often need to dismount and push.
 Shared route for pedal cycles and pedestrians only Separated track and path for pedal cycles and pedestrians Route for pedal cycles only Shared route for horses, pedestrians and pedal cycles only	Circular blue sign with a white bicycle silhouette inside]	Mandatory	"ROUTE FOR CYCLES ONLY!" This route is <i>reserved</i> for bicycles. Cyclists SHOULD use it when available.
Blue Circle (Bicycle & Pedestrian, Separated) second picture:	Circular blue sign with a white vertical line separating a bicycle and a	Segregated Route	"SHARED PATH, STAY IN YOUR LANE!" This is a shared path where cyclists MUST use the cycle

Sign Shape / Colour	Image Tag (Search Term)	Highway Code Category	Easy Explanation for Cyclists
	pedestrian silhouette]		side, and pedestrians use the other side.

 <p>Route for buses and pedal cycles only (older signs may include an 'Only' plate). Cycles not admitted when cycle symbol not shown</p>	Circular blue sign showing a bus silhouette and a bicycle silhouette side-by-side]	Mandatory	"BUS AND CYCLE LANE ONLY!" This specific lane is reserved for buses and bicycles. Other vehicles MUST NOT enter it.
---	---	------------------	---

Sign Shape / Colour	Image Tag (Search Term)	Highway Code Category	Easy Explanation for Cyclists
 Pedal cycle route crossing or joining the road ahead	Triangular warning sign with red border and a bicycle symbol	Warning	"WATCH OUT! Cyclists crossing or frequenting this area." This is usually seen by drivers to warn them of potential conflicts with cyclists.

Sign Shape / Colour	Image Tag (Search Term)	Highway Code Category	Easy Explanation for Cyclists
 Direction of a national cycle route	Rectangular blue sign with a white bicycle symbol and an arrow]	Informatory	"RECOMMENDED ROUTE." This path is suggested as the safest or best route for cyclists. You are not required to use it, but it is advised.
 Signs indicating the direction to a parking place for pedal cycles	Blue rectangular sign with a white bicycle symbol and a 'P' for parking	Informatory	"BICYCLE PARKING HERE." This sign directs you to a designated area where you can lock your bicycle.
	White rectangular supplementary plate that says "Except Cycles"	Supplementary Plate	"IGNORE THE MAIN SIGN!" This plate is placed <i>below</i> a main sign (like "No Entry"). It means the prohibition does not apply to cyclists , and you may proceed.

Sign Shape / Colour	Image Tag (Search Term)	Highway Code Category	Easy Explanation for Cyclists
	<p>Blue rectangular sign with a white stripe cutting through the bicycle symbol</p>	<p>Informatory</p>	<p>"END OF CYCLE PATH." The reserved cycle path is now ending. Cyclists MUST be prepared to merge back into the shared road.</p>

The Ultimate Hierarchy of UK Road Signs & Signals

Tier 1: Highest Authority (You MUST Obey Instantly)

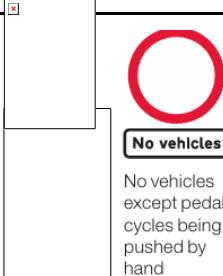
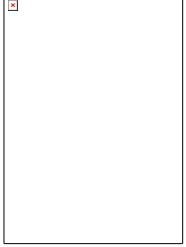
These signals override all permanent signs and lights because they relate to immediate safety and traffic management.

Rank	Authority/Sign Type	Shape/Colour Clue	Mandatory Action
1.	Police Officer or Traffic Warden	Hand signals, whistles, or directions.	MUST OBEY: The instructions given by a police officer or other authorised person (e.g., a school crossing patrol or a traffic warden) are the highest authority and override all road signs or traffic lights.
2.	Temporary Signals (Road Works)	Yellow/Red and Rectangular or temporary Red Circles .	MUST OBEY: Temporary signs used during road works (like a temporary speed limit or stop/go boards) take priority over any permanent signs in that section of road.

Tier 2: Orders & Prohibitions (The Law)

These signs are legally enforceable. They tell you what you **MUST** or **MUST NOT** do.

Rank	Sign Type	Shape/Colour Clue	Mandatory Action
3.	STOP  GIVE WAY	Octagonal (STOP) or Inverted Red Triangle (GIVE WAY).	MUST OBEY: These unique shapes denote critical priority rules. STOP means you must come to a complete stop. GIVE WAY means you must give way to traffic on the priority road.
4.	Regulatory Signs (Prohibitions)	Red Circle or Red Ring Speed Limit	MUST NOT DO: The red circle strictly prohibits an action (e.g., No Entry, No U-Turn) or sets a

Rank	Sign Type	Shape/Colour Clue	Mandatory Action
	 <p>No vehicles except pedal cycles being pushed by hand</p>		maximum legal limit (e.g., 30 mph). These are backed by law.
5.	Regulatory Signs (Mandatory) 	Blue Circle (usually white symbols inside).	MUST DO: These give a positive instruction that must be followed (e.g., Turn Left Ahead, Route for Cycles Only, Minimum Speed Limit).
6.	Traffic Light Signals	Red, Amber, Green Lights.	MUST OBEY: You must comply with the signal shown (Red = Stop, Green = Go, Amber = Stop if safe to do so).

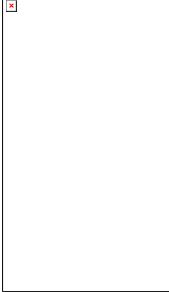
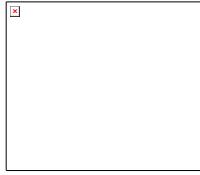
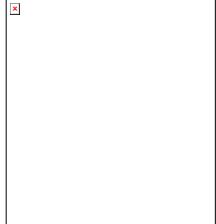
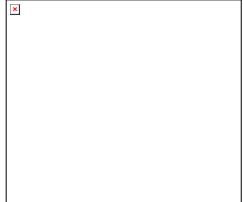
Tier 3: Warnings & Hazards (The Preparation)

These signs require you to adjust your speed, concentration, and actions because of a non-obvious hazard ahead.

Rank	Sign Type	Shape/Colour Clue	Mandatory Action
7.	Warning Signs  Pedal cycle route crossing or joining the road ahead	Red-Bordered Triangle (pointing up).	PREPARE TO ACT: These warn of a road layout change or permanent danger ahead (e.g., Sharp Bend, Slippery Road, Road Narrows, Traffic Lights Ahead). You should slow down and adjust your driving.
8.	Permanent Road Markings	White Lines, Yellow Boxes, Hatching.	MUST OBEY/GUIDANCE: Solid white lines (center or edge) must not be crossed. Yellow box junctions must be kept clear. These reinforce the regulatory signs and laws.

Tier 4: Information & Guidance

These signs provide helpful directions and information, but do not impose an immediate order or warning.

Rank	Sign Type	Shape/Colour Clue	Purpose/Action
9.	Direction Signs	Rectangular (Blue, Green, White, Brown).	<p>GUIDANCE: They tell you which way to go to reach a destination. Blue = Motorway/Information, Green = Primary Routes, White = Non-Primary/Local Routes, Brown = Tourist Attractions.</p>  <p>Junction ahead between two primary routes</p>    

Rank	Sign Type	Shape/Colour Clue	Purpose/Action
10.	Informatory Signs	Rectangular (usually blue or white with black text).	INFORMATION: They provide helpful facts (e.g., indicating a one-way street, where a bus lane starts, or advising on road conditions).