

Other information

Metric conversions

The conversions given throughout The Highway Code are rounded but a detailed conversion chart is shown below.

Miles	Kilometres	Miles	Kilometres
1.00	1.61	40.00	64.37
5.00	8.05	45.00	72.42
10.00	16.09	50.00	80.47
15.00	24.14	55.00	88.51
20.00	32.19	60.00	96.56
25.00	40.23	95.00	104.60
30.00	48.28	70.00	112.65
35.00	56.33		

Useful websites

St John Ambulance

St Andrew's Ambulance Association

British Red Cross

Department for Transport

Transport Office

Highways Agency - traffic information (England)

LARSOA - road safety

Collision Reporting

Police - Frequently asked questions (England and Wales)

National Parking Adjudication Service - parking appeals (outside London)

Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (inside London)

Further reading

Best practice

Further information about good driving and riding practice can be found in the Driving Standards Agency books 'The Official DSA Guide to Driving - the essential skills' and 'The Official DSA Guide to Riding - the essential skills'. Information specifically for drivers of large vehicles can be found in 'The Official DSA Guide to Driving Goods Vehicles' and 'The Official DSA Guide to Driving Buses and Coaches'.

The Blue Badge Scheme

Information on this scheme can be found on the Department for Transport Website

Code of Practice for Horse-Drawn Vehicles

The Code of Practice is available from the Department for Transport, Transport Technology and Standards Division 6, 2nd Floor, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR. Tel 0207 944 2078

Road works

A leaflet giving further information on driving through road works can be obtained from Highways Agency Publications, tel 0870 1226 236, quoting reference number HA113/04. For general Highways Agency information, tel 08457 504030 or email ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Signs and markings

Light signals controlling traffic

Traffic Light Signals



RED means 'Stop'. Wait behind the stop line on the carriageway



RED AND AMBER also means 'Stop'. Do not pass through or start until GREEN shows



GREEN means you may go on if the way is clear. Take special care if you intend to turn left or right and give way to pedestrians who are crossing



AMBER means 'Stop' at the stop line. You may go on only if the AMBER appears after you have crossed the stop line or are so close to it that to pull up might cause an accident



A GREEN ARROW may be provided in addition to the full green signal if movement in a certain direction is allowed before or after the full green phase. If the way is clear you may go but only in the direction shown by the arrow. You may do this whatever other lights may be showing. White light signals may be provided for trams

Flashing red lights

Alternately flashing red lights mean **YOU MUST STOP**

At level crossings, lifting bridges, airfields, fire stations, etc.



Motorway signals



You **MUST NOT** proceed further in this lane



Change lane



Reduced visibility ahead



Lane ahead closed



Temporary maximum speed advised and information message



Leave motorway at next exit



Temporary maximum speed advised



End of restriction

Lane control signals



Signals to other road users

Direction indicator signals



I intend to move out to the right or turn right



I intend to move in to the left or turn left or stop on the left



Brake light signals



I am applying the brakes



Reversing light signals



I intend to reverse

These signals should not be used except for the purposes described.

Arm signals

For use when direction indicator signals are not used, or when necessary to reinforce direction indicator signals and stop lights. **Also for use by pedal cyclists and those in charge of horses.**



I intend to move in to the left or turn left



I intend to move out to the right or turn right



I intend to slow down or stop



Signals by authorised persons

Police officers

Stop



Traffic approaching from the front



Traffic approaching from both front and behind



Traffic approaching from behind

To beckon traffic on



From the side



From the front



From behind*

Arm signals to persons controlling traffic



I want to go straight on



I want to turn left; use either hand



I want to turn right

* In Wales, bilingual signs appear on emergency services vehicles and clothing

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and Highways Agency Traffic Officers



Highways Agency Traffic Officer



VOSA Traffic Officer

These officers now have new powers to stop/direct vehicles and will be using hand signals and light signals similar to those used by police. You **MUST** obey any signals given (see Rules 107 and 108).

School Crossing Patrols



Not ready to cross pedestrians



Barrier to stop pedestrians crossing



Ready to cross pedestrians, vehicles must be prepared to stop



All vehicles must stop

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



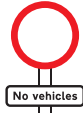
Give way to traffic on major road



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



Except for loading
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 waiting



No stopping during period indicated except for buses



No stopping (Clearway)



No stopping during times shown except for as long as necessary to set down or pick up passengers

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



Only
Buses and cycles only



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"

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



Available width of headroom indicated



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; which road nature of danger



Soft verges for 2 miles

Soft verges



Side winds



Hump bridge



Ford

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

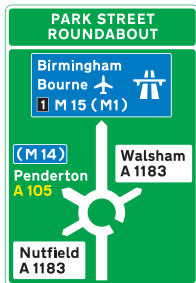


Downward pointing arrows mean 'Get in lane'
The left-hand lane leads to a different destination from the other lanes.



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



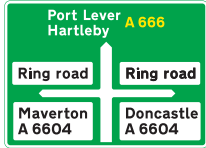
On approaches to junctions



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



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



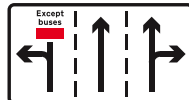
Vehicles permitted to use an HOV lane ahead



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



Priority over oncoming vehicles

Traffic has priority over oncoming vehicles



Hospital ahead with Accident and Emergency facilities



Tourist information point



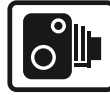
No through road for vehicles



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



One lane crossover at contraflow road works

Road markings

Across the carriageway



Stop line at signals or police control



Stop line at 'Stop' sign



Stop line for pedestrians at a level crossing



Give way to traffic on major road (can also be used at mini roundabouts)



Give way to traffic from the right at a roundabout



Give way to traffic from the right at a mini-roundabout

Along the carriageway



Edge line



Centre line See Rule 127



Hazard warning line See Rule 127



Double white lines See Rules 128 and 129



See Rule 130



Lane line See Rule 131

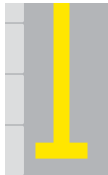
Along the edge of the carriageway

Waiting restrictions

Waiting restrictions indicated by yellow lines apply to the carriageway, pavement and verge. You may stop to load or unload (unless there are also loading restrictions as described below) or while passengers board or alight. Double yellow lines mean no waiting at any time, unless there are signs that specifically indicate seasonal restrictions. The times at which the restrictions apply for other road markings are shown on nearby plates or on entry signs to controlled parking zones. If no days are shown on the signs, the restrictions are in force every day including Sundays and Bank Holidays. White bay markings and upright signs (see below) indicate where parking is allowed.



No waiting at any time



No waiting during times shown on sign

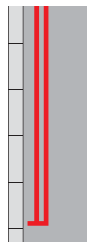


Waiting is limited to the duration specified during the days and times shown

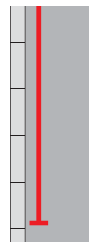
Red Route stopping controls

Red lines are used on some roads instead of yellow lines. In London the double and single red lines (except on Red Routes indicate that stopping to park, load/unload or to board and alight from a vehicle (used for a licensed taxi or if you hold a Blue Badge) is prohibited. The red lines apply to the carriageway, pavement and verge. The times that the red line prohibitions apply are shown on nearby signs, but the double red line ALWAYS means no stopping at any time. On Red Routes you may stop to park, load/unload in specially marked boxes and adjacent signs specify the times and purposes allowed. A box MARKED IN RED indicates that it may only be available for the purpose specified for part of the day (eg between busy peak periods). A box MARKED IN WHITE means that it is available throughout the day.

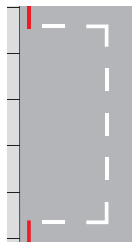
RED AND SINGLE YELLOW LINES CAN ONLY GIVE A GUIDE TO THE RESTRICTIONS AND CONTROLS IN FORCE AND SIGNS, NEARBY OR AT A ZONE ENTRY, MUST BE CONSULTED.



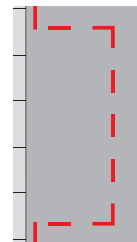
No stopping at any time



No stopping during times shown on sign



Parking is limited to the duration specified during the days and times shown



Only loading may take place at the times shown for up to a maximum duration of 20 mins

On the kerb or at the edge of the carriageway

Loading restrictions on roads other than Red Routes

Yellow marks on the kerb or at the edge of the carriageway indicate that loading or unloading is prohibited at the times shown on the nearby black and white plates. You may stop while passengers board or alight. If no days are indicated on the signs the restrictions are in force every day including Sundays and Bank Holidays.

ALWAYS CHECK THE TIMES SHOWN ON THE PLATES.

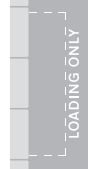
Lengths of road reserved for vehicles loading and unloading are indicated by a white 'bay' marking with the words 'Loading Only' and a sign with the white on blue 'trolley' symbol. This sign also shows whether loading and unloading is restricted to goods vehicles and the times at which the bay can be used. If no times or days are shown it may be used at any time. Vehicles may not park here if they are not loading or unloading.



No loading or unloading at any time



No loading or unloading at the times shown



Loading bay

Other road markings



Keep entrance clear of stationary vehicles, even if picking up or setting down children



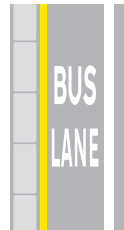
Warning of 'Give Way' just ahead



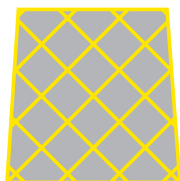
Parking space reserved for vehicles named



See Rule 243



See Rule 141



Box junction - See Rule 174



Do not block that part of the carriageway indicated

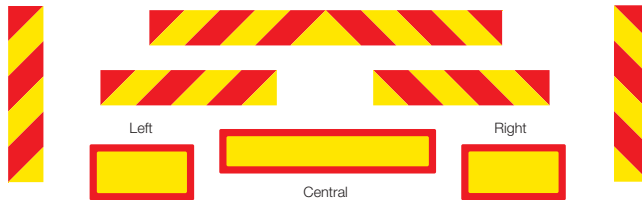


Indication of traffic lanes

Vehicle markings

Large goods vehicle rear markings

Motor vehicles over 7500 kilograms maximum gross weight and trailers over 3500 kilograms maximum gross weight



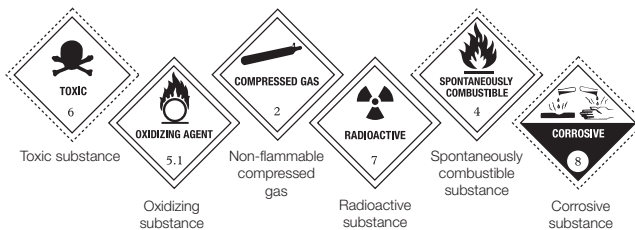
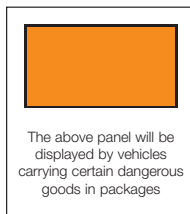
The vertical markings are also required to be fitted to builders' skips placed in the road, commercial vehicles or combinations longer than 13 metres (optional on combinations between 11 and 13 metres)

Hazard warning plates

Certain tank vehicles carrying dangerous goods must display hazard information panels



The panel illustrated is for flammable liquid. Diamond symbols indicating other risks include:



Projection markers



Both required when load or equipment (eg crane jib) overhangs front or rear by more than two metres

Other



School bus
(displayed in front or rear window of bus or coach)