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



No waiting



No stopping (Clearway)



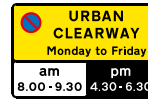
No vehicles over maximum gross weight shown (in tonnes)



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

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

Not all road signs will be found in our content of the Highway code, as this is intended to refresh your knowledge only. Signs included do not represent their variations in scale, along with other road signs that refer to older designs still used on roads along with bilingual versions including Welsh.

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



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



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



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

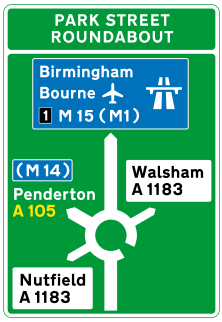


Downward pointing arrows mean 'Get in lane'
The left-hand lane leads to a different destination from the other lanes.



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



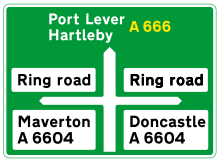
Route confirmatory sign after junction



On approaches to junctions



On approach to a junction in Wales (bilingual)



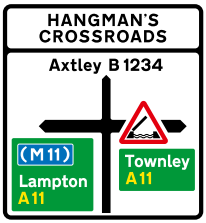
On approaches to junctions

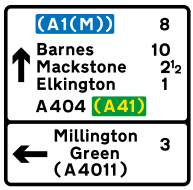


Primary route forming part of a ring road

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.

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



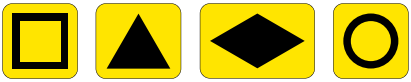
Route for pedal cycles forming part of a network



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



End of motorway



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



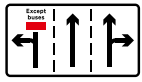
Recommended route for pedal cycles



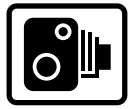
Bus lane on road at junction ahead



Start of motorway and point from which motorway regulations apply



Appropriate traffic lanes at junction ahead



Area in which cameras are used to enforce traffic regulations



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



Traffic has priority over oncoming vehicles



Hospital ahead with Accident and Emergency facilities



Tourist information point



No through road for vehicles



Home Zone Entry

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

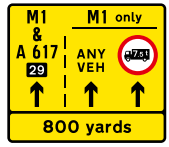


End of road works and any temporary restrictions including speed limits





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

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Signs with blue circles but no red border mostly give positive instruction.

The priority through route is indicated by the broader line.

Signs on primary routes – green backgrounds

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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.

Signs on non-primary and local routes – black borders

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.