## Traffic signs

### Signs giving orders

Signs with red circles are mostly prohibitive. Plates below signs qualify their message.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign Description</th>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry to 20 mph zone</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="20 mph Zone Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of 20 mph zone</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="20 mph Zone Ends Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum speed</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Speed Limit Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National speed limit applies</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="National Speed Limit Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School crossing patrol</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="School Crossing Patrol Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop and give way</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Stop and Give Way Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give way to traffic on major road</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Give Way Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manually operated temporary STOP and GO signs</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Manual STOP and GO Signs" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No entry for vehicular traffic</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Entry Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No vehicles</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Vehicles Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No cycling</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Cycling Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No motor vehicles</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Motor Vehicles Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No buses (over 8 passenger seats)</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Buses Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No overtaking</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Overtaking Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No towed caravans</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Towed Caravans Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No vehicles carrying explosives</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Vehicles Carrying Explosives Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No vehicle or combination of vehicles over length shown</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Vehicles Over Length Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No vehicles over height shown</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Vehicles Over Height Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No vehicles over width shown</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Vehicles Over Width Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give way to vehicles from opposite direction</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Give Way to Vehicles Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No right turn</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Right Turn Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No left turn</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Left Turn Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No U-turns</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No U-turns Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No goods vehicles over maximum gross weight shown (in tonnes) except for loading and unloading</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Goods Vehicles Sign" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 at any time except buses

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/stop.png" alt="STOP" /></td>
<td>Distance to ‘STOP’ line ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/give-way.png" alt="Give Way" /></td>
<td>Distance to ‘Give Way’ line ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/crossroads.png" alt="Crossroads" /></td>
<td>Crossroads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/junction-on-bend.png" alt="Junction on bend ahead" /></td>
<td>Junction on bend ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/t-junction.png" alt="T-junction with priority over vehicles from the right" /></td>
<td>T-junction with priority over vehicles from the right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/staggered-junction.png" alt="Staggered junction" /></td>
<td>Staggered junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/traffic-merging.png" alt="Traffic merging from left ahead" /></td>
<td>Traffic merging from left ahead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The priority through route is indicated by the broader line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/double-bend.png" alt="Double bend first to left (symbol may be reversed)" /></td>
<td>Double bend first to left (symbol may be reversed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/bend-to-right.png" alt="Bend to right (or left if symbol reversed)" /></td>
<td>Bend to right (or left if symbol reversed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/roundabout.png" alt="Roundabout" /></td>
<td>Roundabout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/uneven-road.png" alt="Uneven road" /></td>
<td>Uneven road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/plate-below.png" alt="Plate below some signs" /></td>
<td>Plate below some signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/two-way.png" alt="Two-way traffic crosses one-way road" /></td>
<td>Two-way traffic crosses one-way road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/two-way-straight.png" alt="Two-way traffic straight ahead" /></td>
<td>Two-way traffic straight ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/opening.png" alt="Opening or swing bridge ahead" /></td>
<td>Opening or swing bridge ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/low-flying.png" alt="Low-flying aircraft or sudden aircraft noise" /></td>
<td>Low-flying aircraft or sudden aircraft noise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/falling.png" alt="Falling or fallen rocks" /></td>
<td>Falling or fallen rocks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other signs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/traffic-signals.png" alt="Traffic signals not in use" /></td>
<td>Traffic signals not in use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/slippery-road.png" alt="Slippery road" /></td>
<td>Slippery road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/steep-hill-downwards.png" alt="Steep hill downwards" /></td>
<td>Steep hill downwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/steep-hill-upwards.png" alt="Steep hill upwards" /></td>
<td>Steep hill upwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/gradient.png" alt="Gradients may be shown as a ratio i.e. 20% = 1:5" /></td>
<td>Gradients may be shown as a ratio i.e. 20% = 1:5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/tunnel.png" alt="Tunnel ahead" /></td>
<td>Tunnel ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/trams.png" alt="Trams crossing ahead" /></td>
<td>Trams crossing ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/level-crossing.png" alt="Level crossing with barrier or gate ahead" /></td>
<td>Level crossing with barrier or gate ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/level-crossing-no-barrier.png" alt="Level crossing without barrier or gate ahead" /></td>
<td>Level crossing without barrier or gate ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com/level-crossing-no-barrier.png" alt="Level crossing without barrier" /></td>
<td>Level crossing without barrier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Image links are placeholders.*

---

*Gradients may be shown as a ratio i.e. 20% = 1:5.*
**Warning signs - continued**

- **School crossing patrol ahead** (some signs have amber lights which flash when crossings are in use)
- **Sharp deviation of route to left (or right if chevrons reversed)**
- **Frail (or blind or disabled if shown) pedestrians likely to cross road ahead**
- **Pedestrians in road ahead**
- **Traffic queues likely ahead**
- **Cycle route ahead**
- **Cattle**
- **Wild animals**
- **Wild horses or ponies**
- **Accompanied horses or ponies**
- **Cycle route ahead**
- **Risk of ice**
- **Queues likely**
- **Humps for 1/2 mile**
- **Hidden dip**
- **Soft verges for 2 miles**
- **Side winds**
- **Hump bridge**
- **Warded warning sign**
- **Quayside or river bank**
- **Risk of grounding**

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

**Available width of headroom indicated**

**Light signals ahead at level crossing, airfield or bridge**

**Miniature warning lights at level crossings**

**If NO LIGHT - PHONE CROSSING OPERATOR**
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

At the junction

On approaches to junctions

Route confirmatory sign after junction

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

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**
Traffic has priority over oncoming vehicles

Recommended route for pedal cycles

Home Zone Entry

Hospital ahead with Accident and Emergency facilities

Tourist information point

Area in which cameras are used to enforce traffic regulations

No through road for vehicles

Bus lane on road at junction ahead

Information signs - continued

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

Slow-moving or stationary works vehicle 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