

# theorytest**WEB**.co.uk

## Disclaimer:

This document is based on content from **The Highway Code** and is provided for information and educational purposes only. It is **NOT** the official version of The Highway Code.

For the most accurate, complete and up-to-date guidance, always refer to the official UK Government website: 

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>

For practice tests, revision materials, mock exams, and helpful YouTube lessons, visit:

 **theorytestWEB.co.uk:** <https://www.theorytestweb.co.uk>

 **YouTube Channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@drivingtheorytests>

These resources are designed to support your learning and preparation for the UK Driving Theory Test.

# Summary

The Highway Code is essential reading for all road users, including pedestrians, mobility scooter users, cyclists, horse riders, drivers and motorcyclists.

**\*Applies to England, Scotland and Wales**

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Traffic signs

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Vehicle markings

## Introduction

Who The Highway Code is for, how it's worded, the consequences of not following the rules, self-driving vehicles, and the hierarchy of road users (Rules H1 to H3).

This Highway Code applies to England, Scotland and Wales.  
The Highway Code is essential reading for everyone.

The aim of The Highway Code is to promote safety on the road, whilst also supporting a healthy, sustainable and efficient transport system.

## Traffic signs

👉 Start Practice →

<https://www.theorytestweb.co.uk/traffic-signs/>

Traffic signs used, including signs giving orders, warning signs, direction signs, information signs and road works signs.

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.

## **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



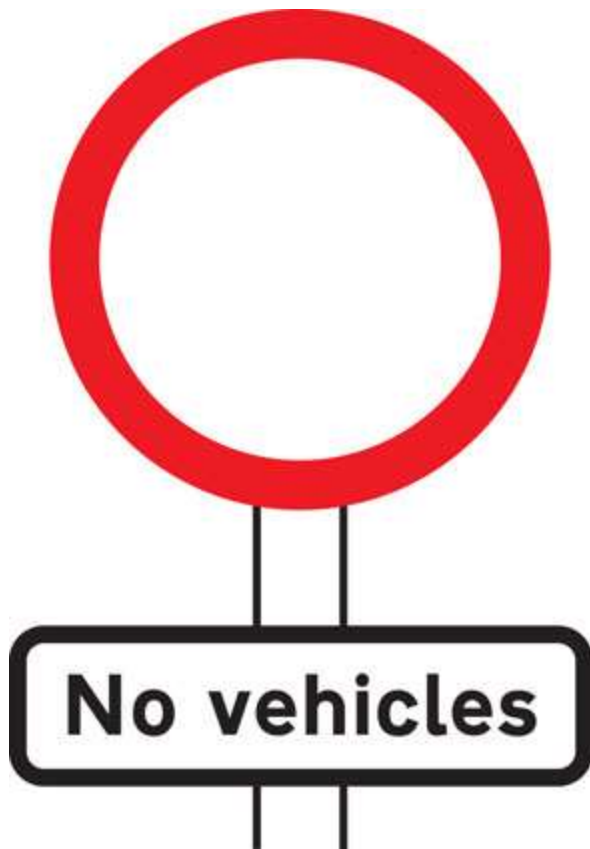
Manually operated temporary STOP and GO signs



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 vehicles over maximum gross weight shown (in tonnes)



Parking restricted to permit holders



**RED ROUTE**

**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.**



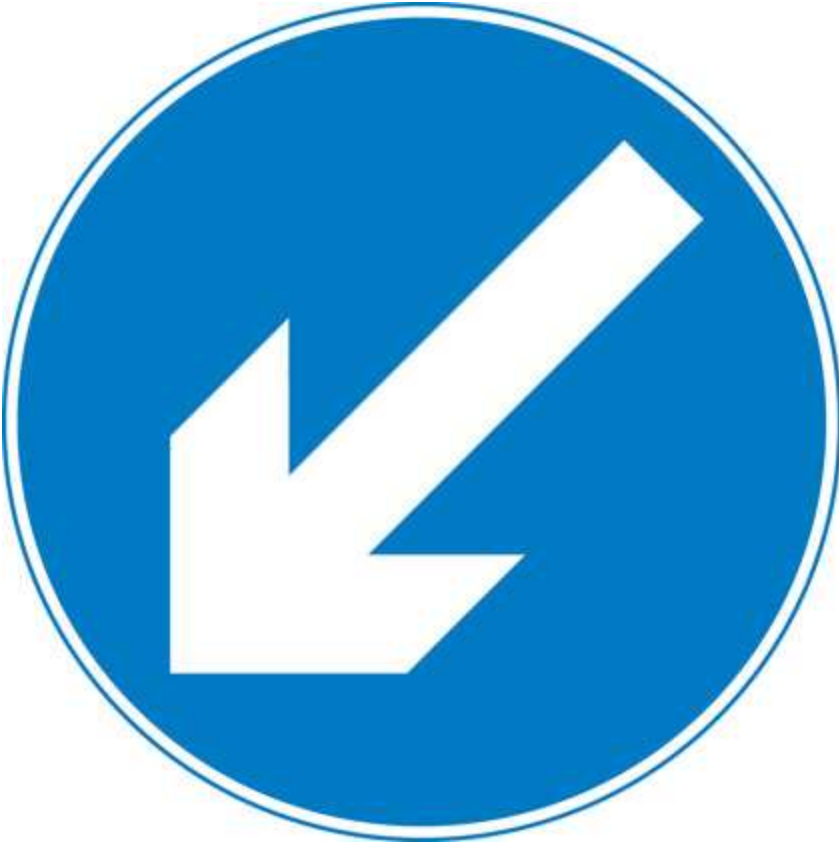
Ahead only



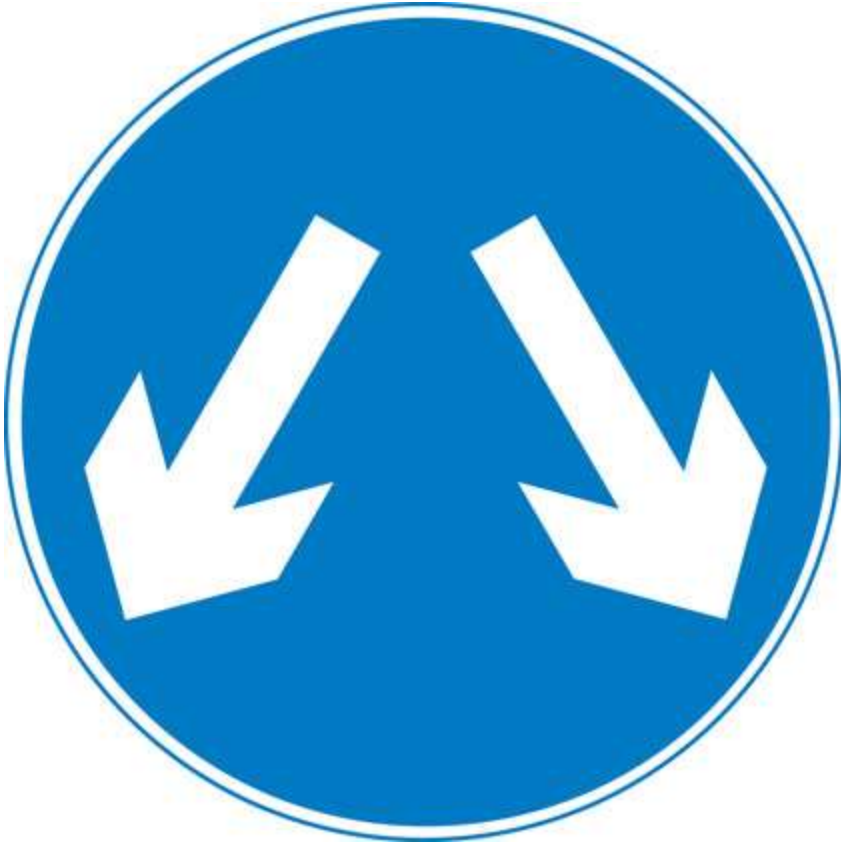
Turn left ahead (right if symbol reversed)



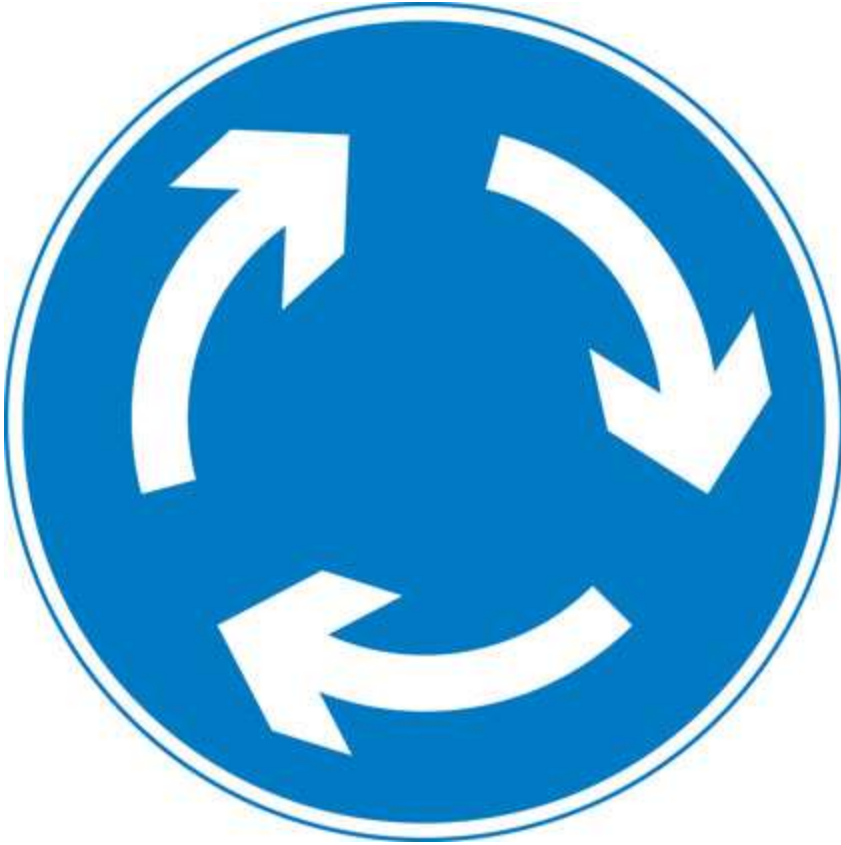
Turn left (right if symbol reversed)



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



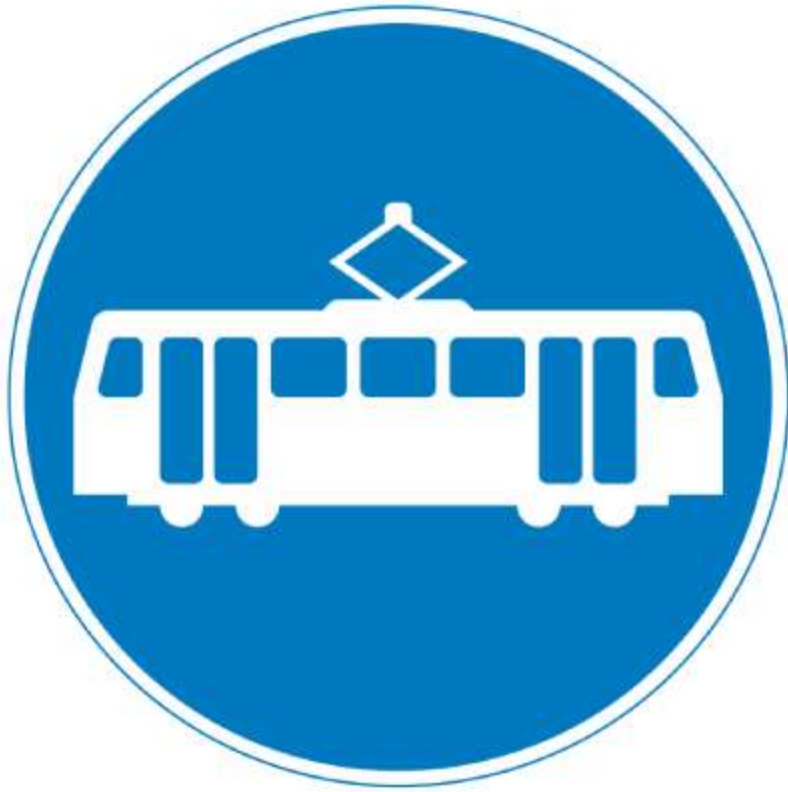
Minimum speed



End of minimum speed



Buses and cycles only



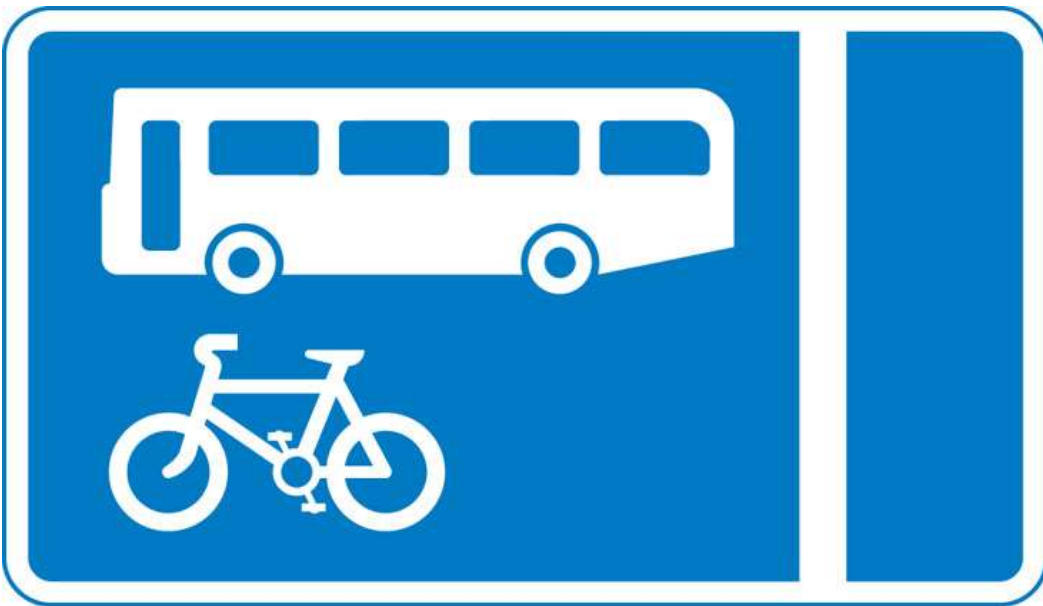
Trams only



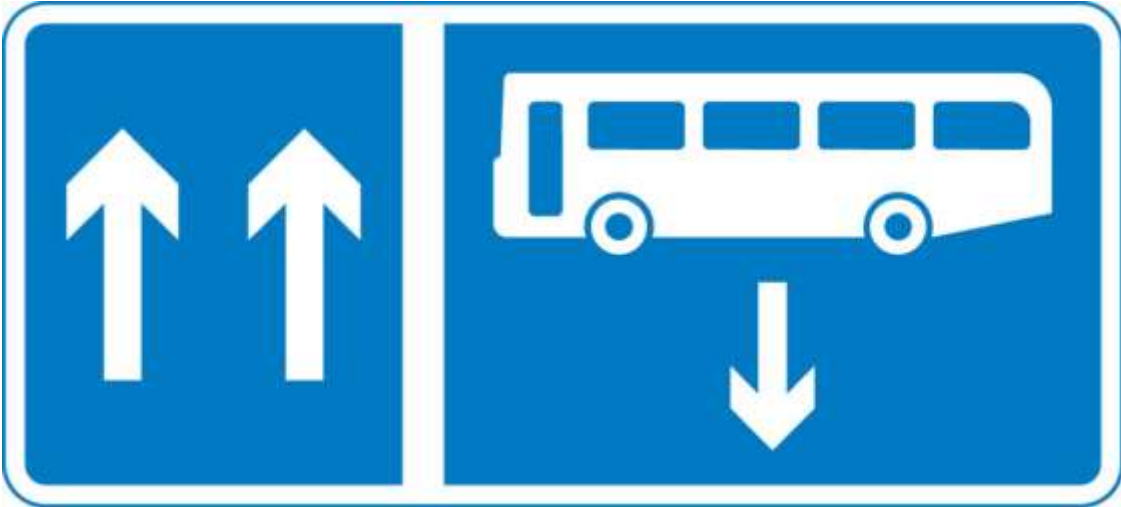
Pedestrian crossing point over tramway



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

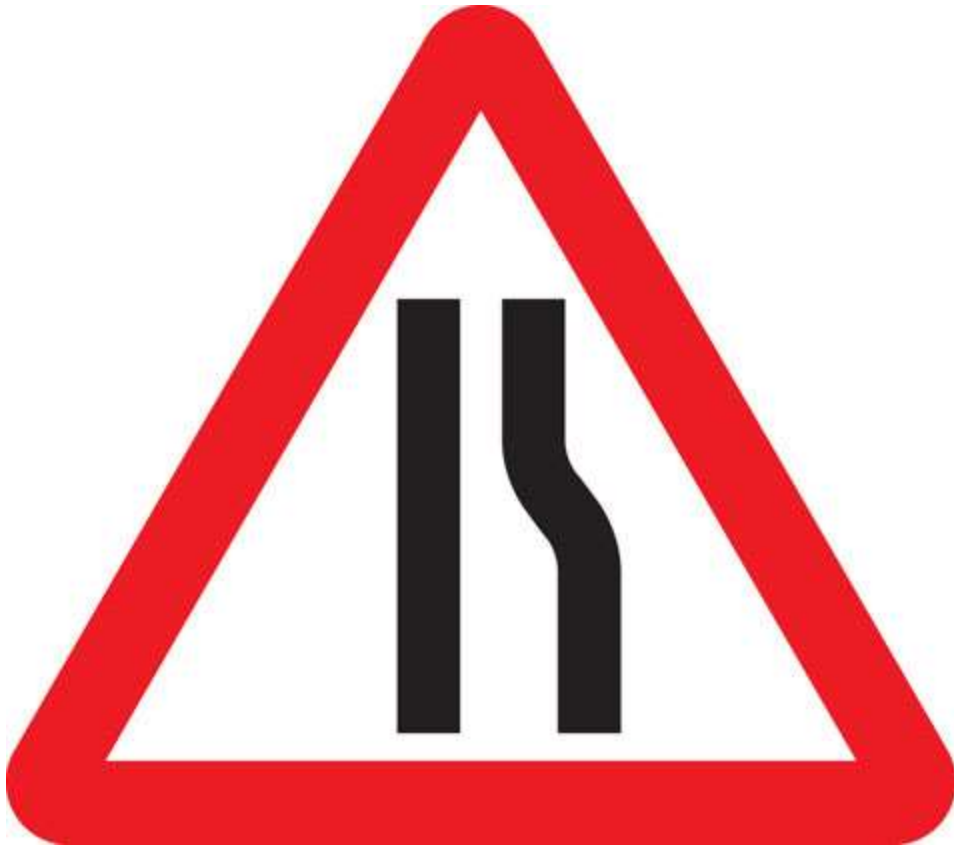
Mostly triangular



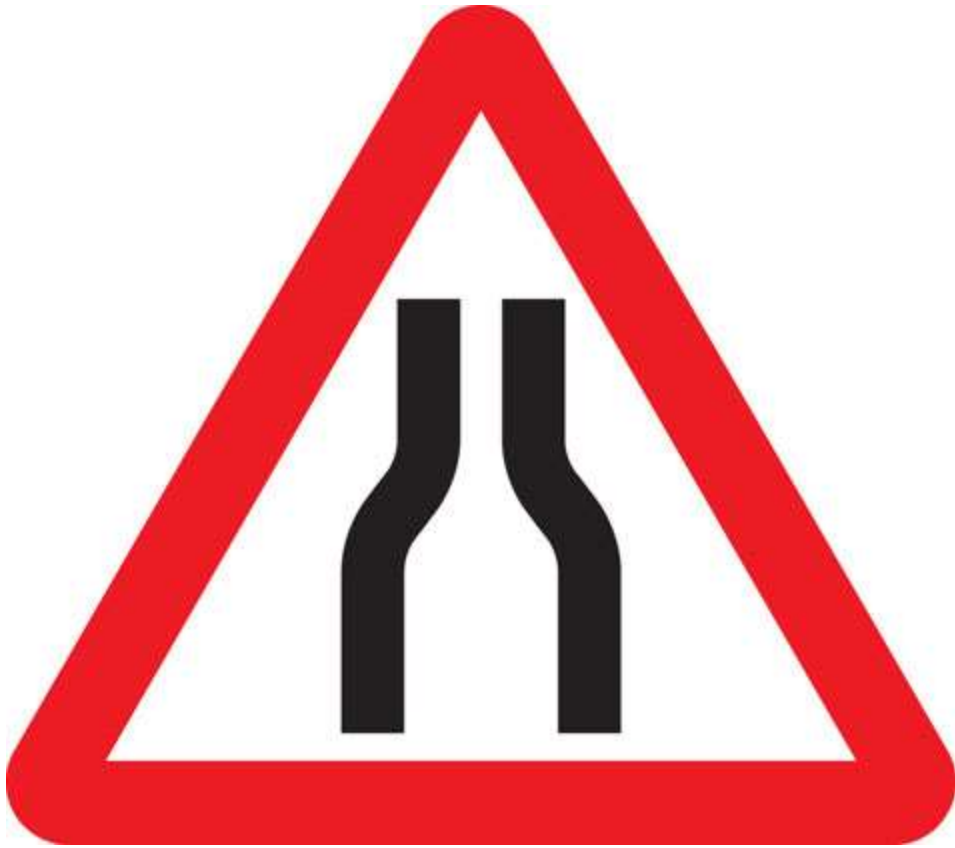
Distance to 'STOP' line ahead



Dual carriageway ends



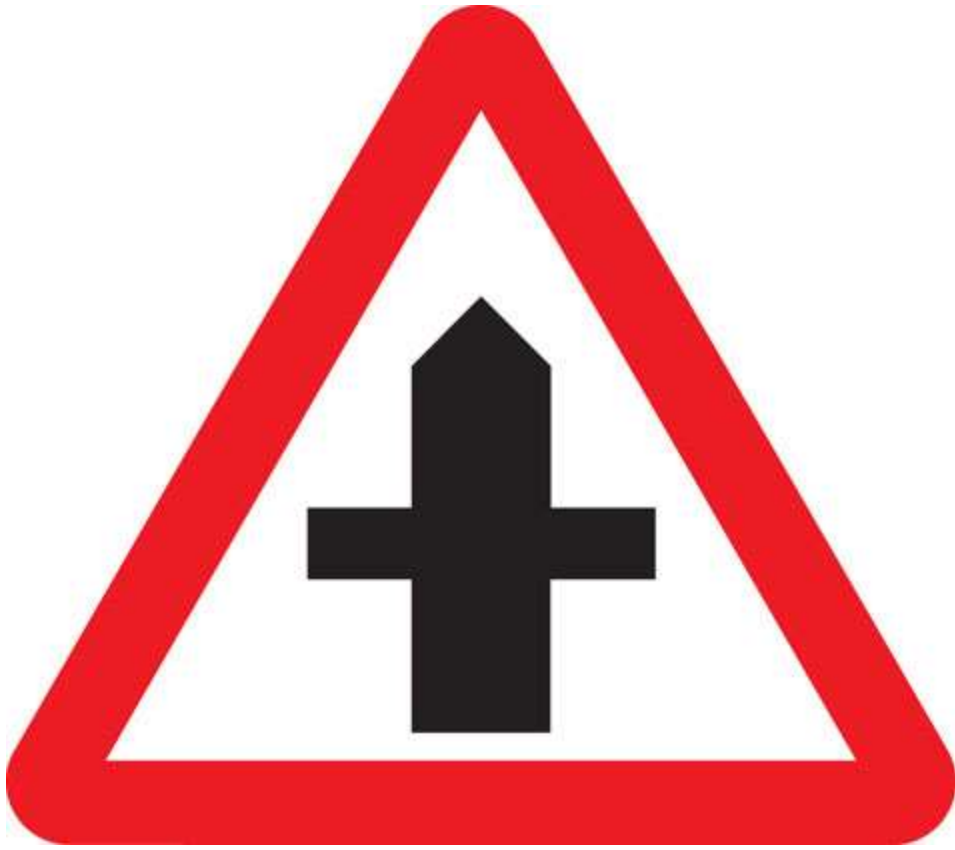
Road narrows on right (left if symbol reversed)



Road narrows on both sides



Distance to 'Give Way' line ahead



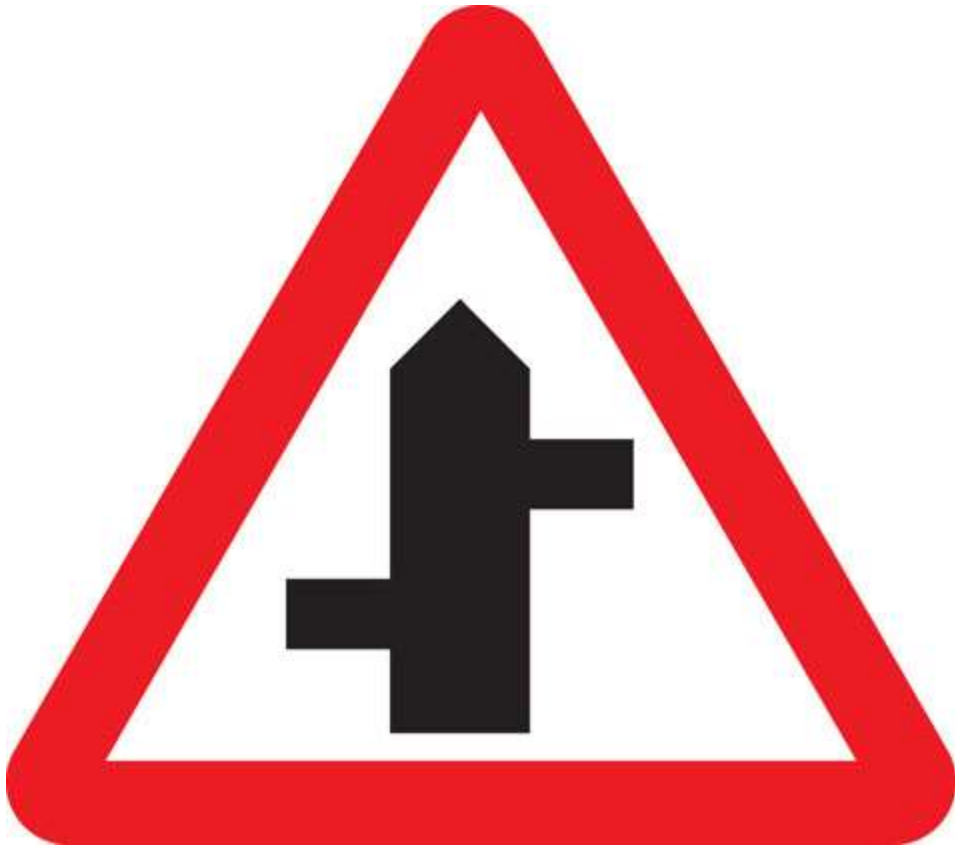
Crossroads



Junction on bend ahead



T-junction with priority over vehicles from the right



Staggered junction



Traffic merging from left ahead

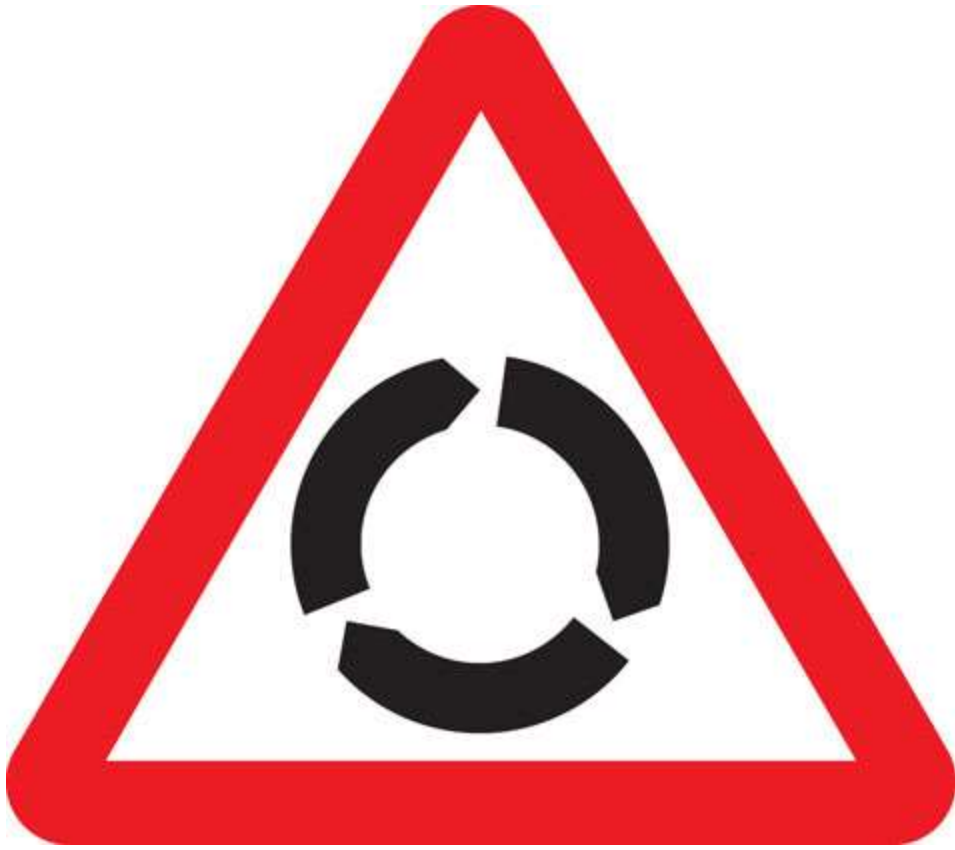
**The priority through route is indicated by the broader line.**



Double bend first to left (symbol may be reversed)



Bend to right (or left if symbol reversed)



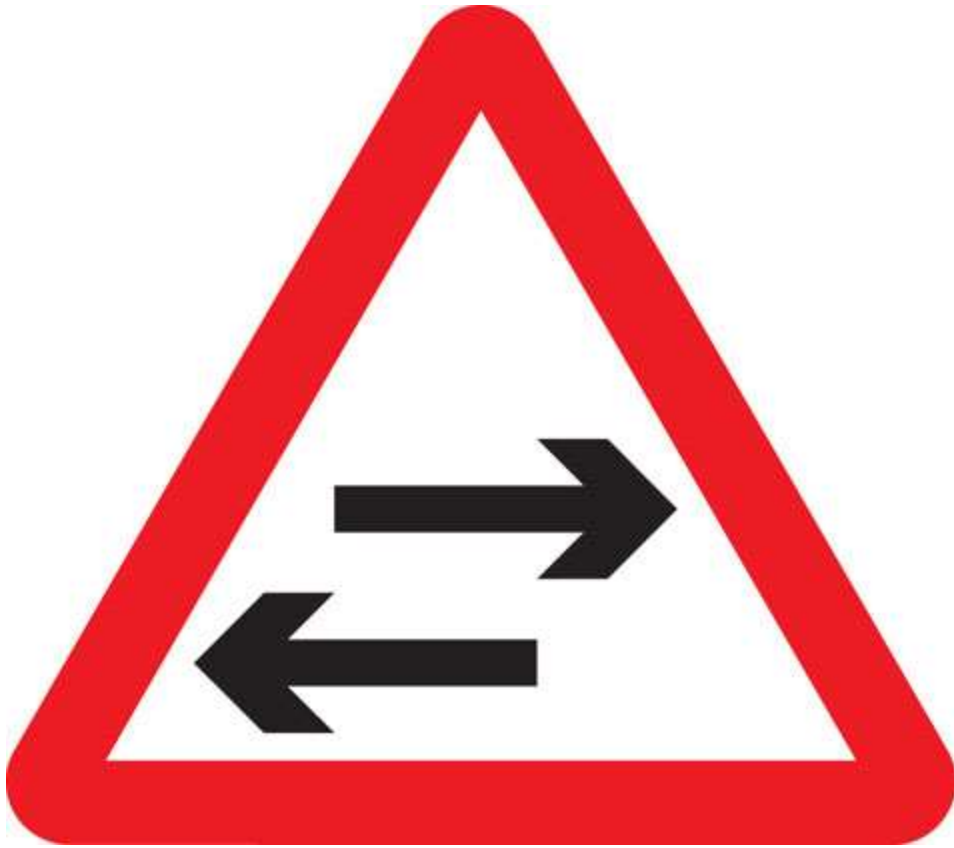
Roundabout



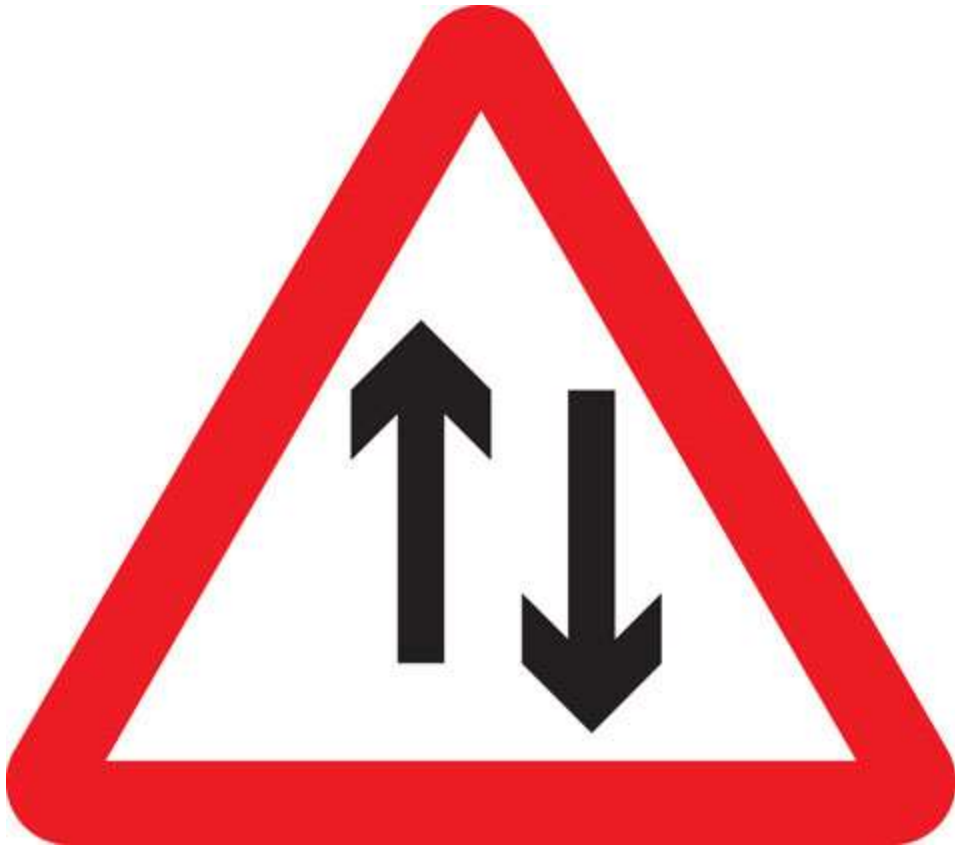
Uneven road



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



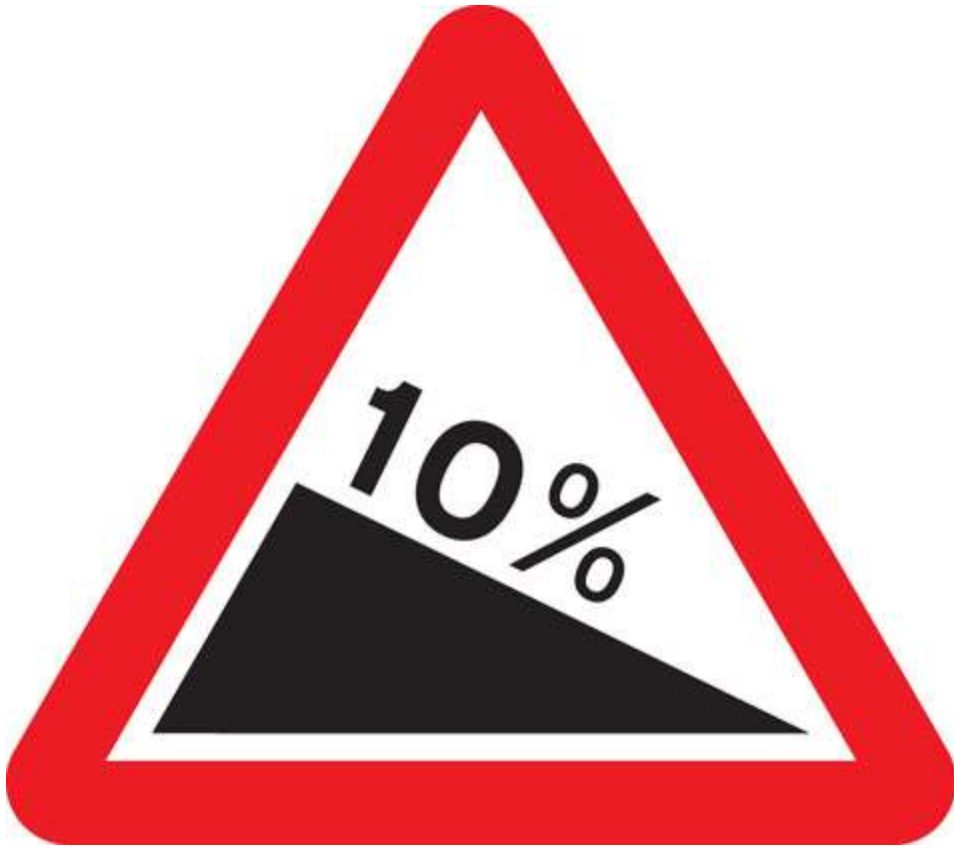
Traffic signals not in use



Traffic signals



Slippery road



Steep hill downwards

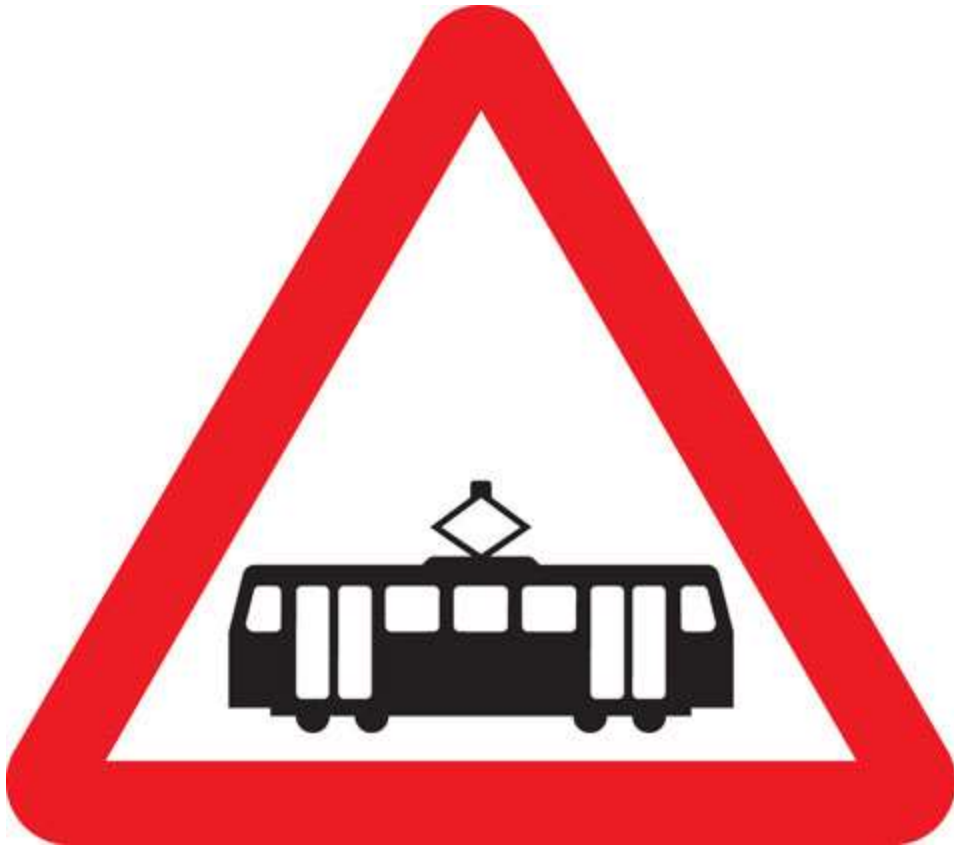


Steep hill upwards

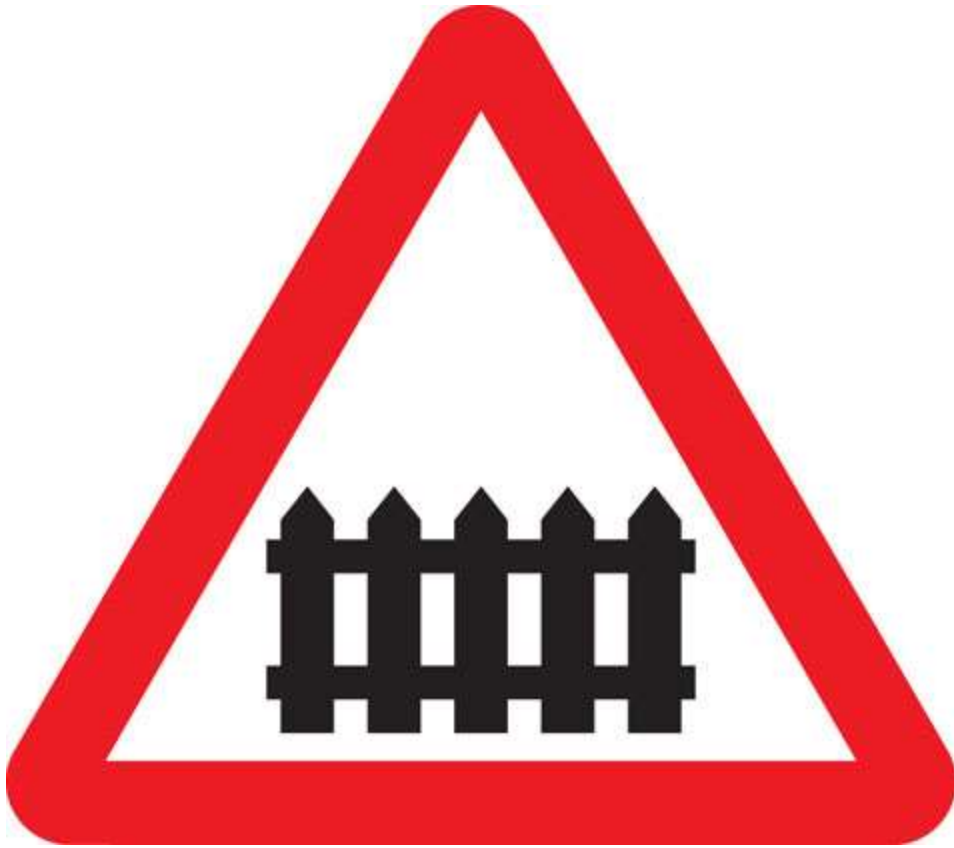
**Gradients may be shown as a ratio i.e.  $20\% = 1:5$**



Tunnel ahead



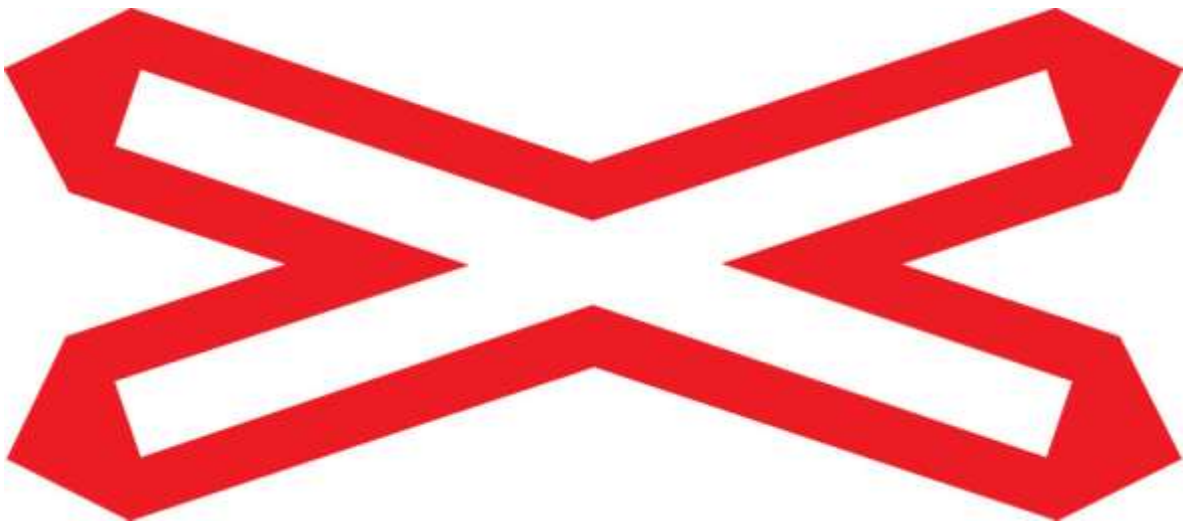
Trams crossing ahead



Level crossing with barrier or gate ahead



Level crossing without barrier or gate ahead



Level crossing without barrier



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



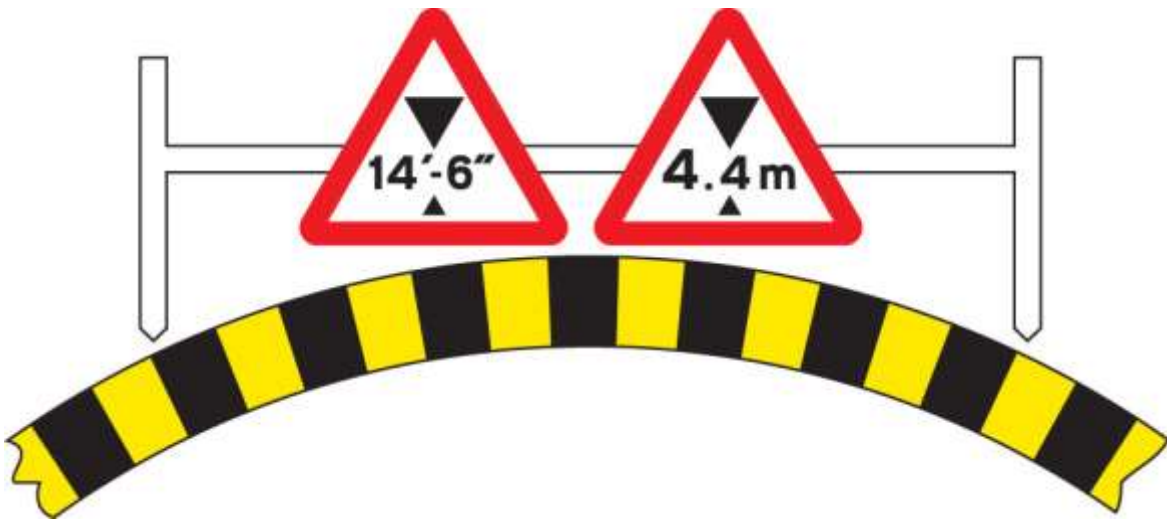
Pedestrians in road ahead



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**

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.



On approaches to junctions



At the junction



Route confirmatory sign after junction



On approaches to junctions



On approach to a junction in Wales (bilingual)



Primary route forming part of a ring road



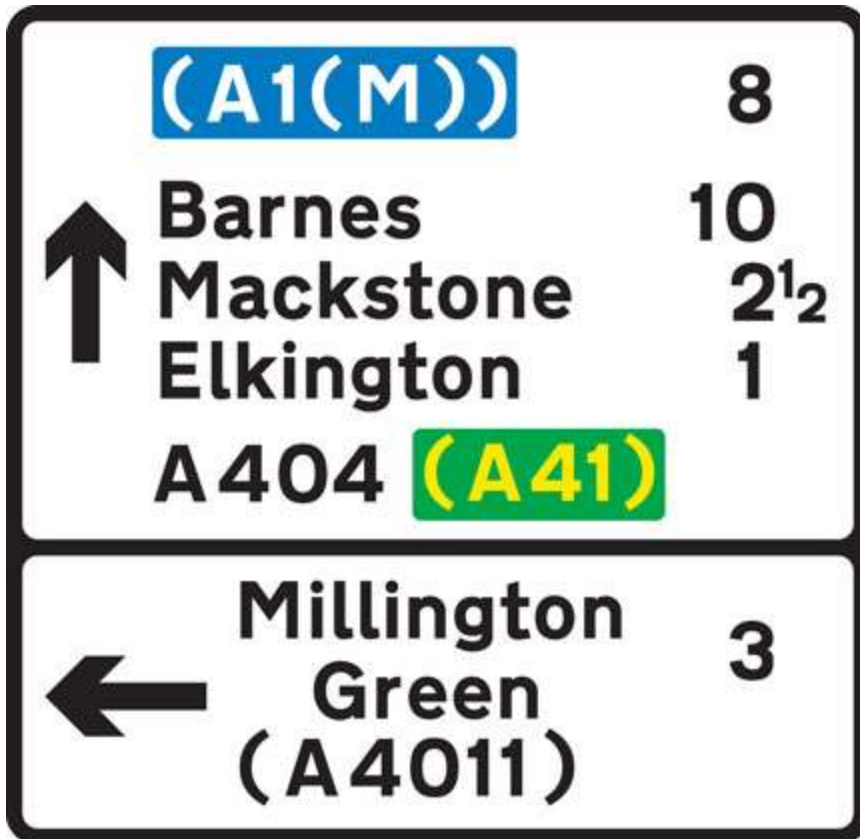
Primary route forming part of a ring road

### **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.



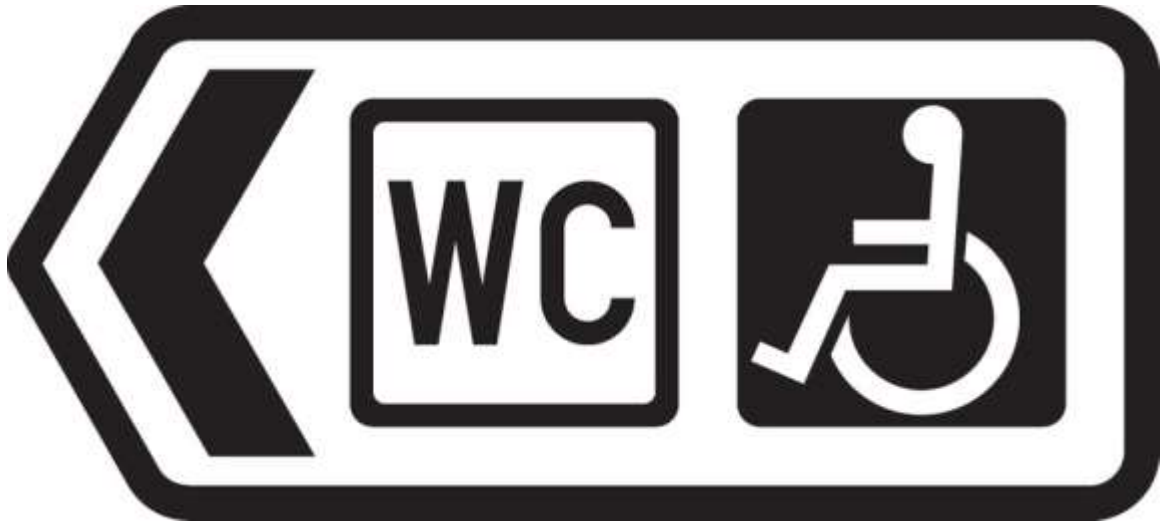
On approaches to junctions



On approaches to junctions



At the junction



Direction to toilets with access for the disabled

### Other direction signs



Picnic site



Ancient monument in the care of English Heritage



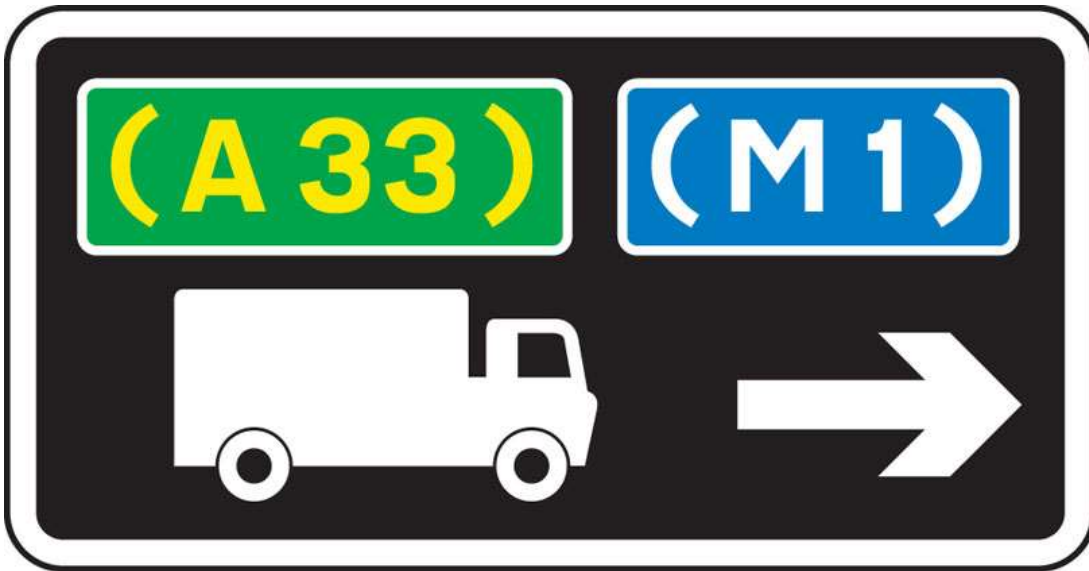
Direction to a car park



Tourist attraction



Direction to camping and caravan site



Advisory route for lorries



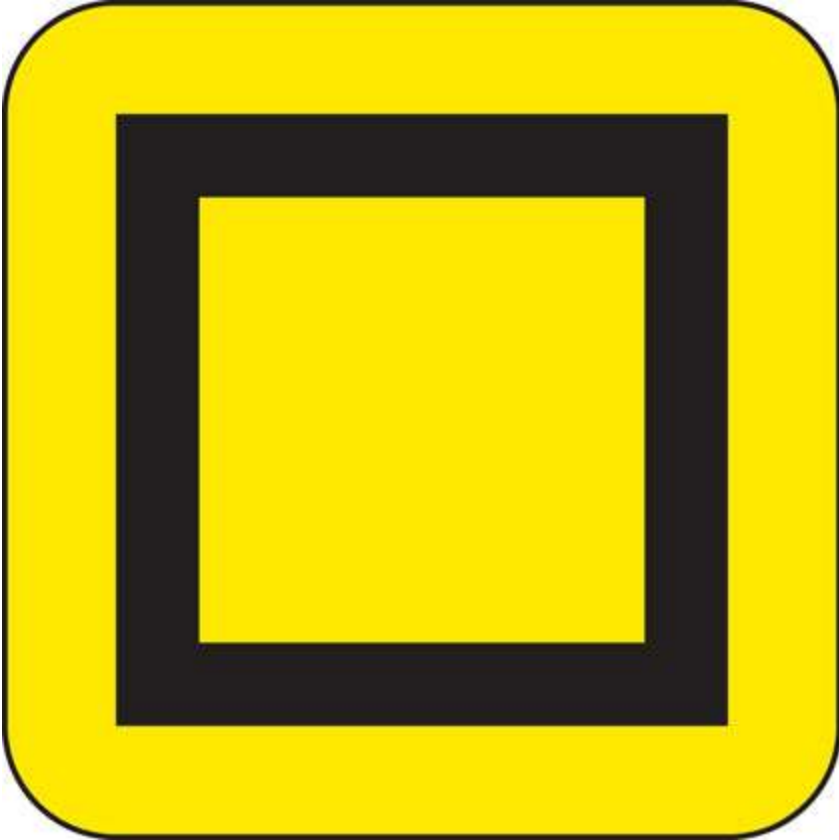
Route for pedal cycles forming part of a network



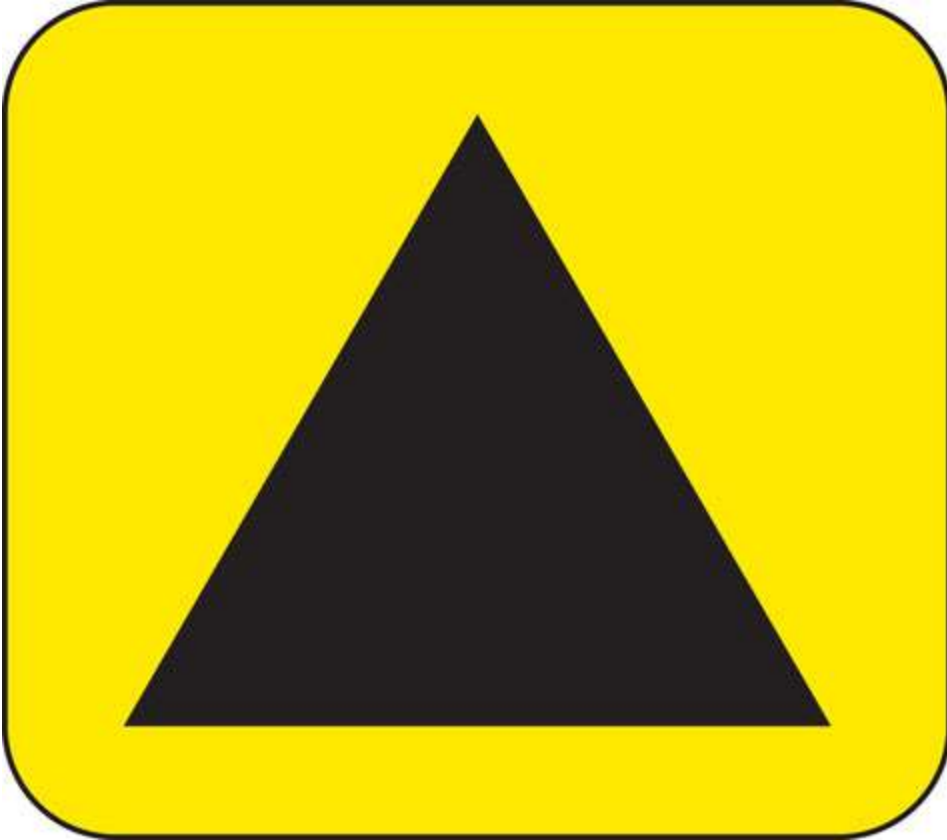
Recommended route for pedal cycles to place shown



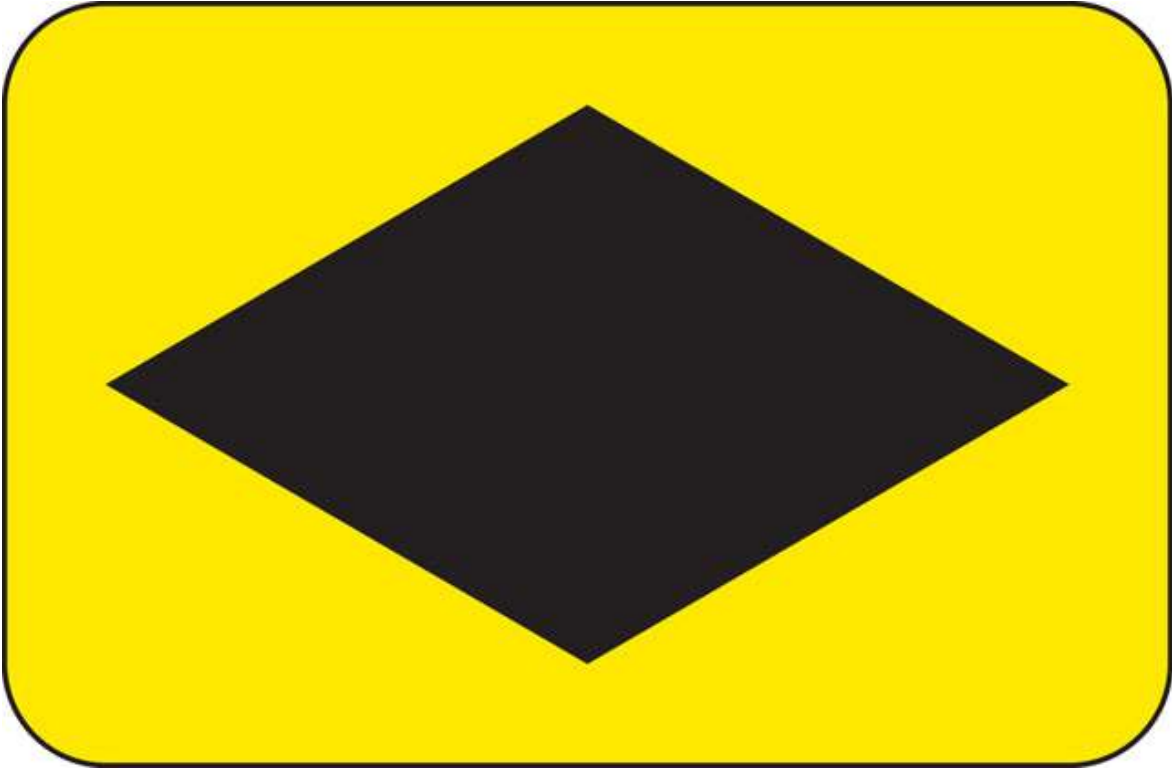
Route for pedestrians



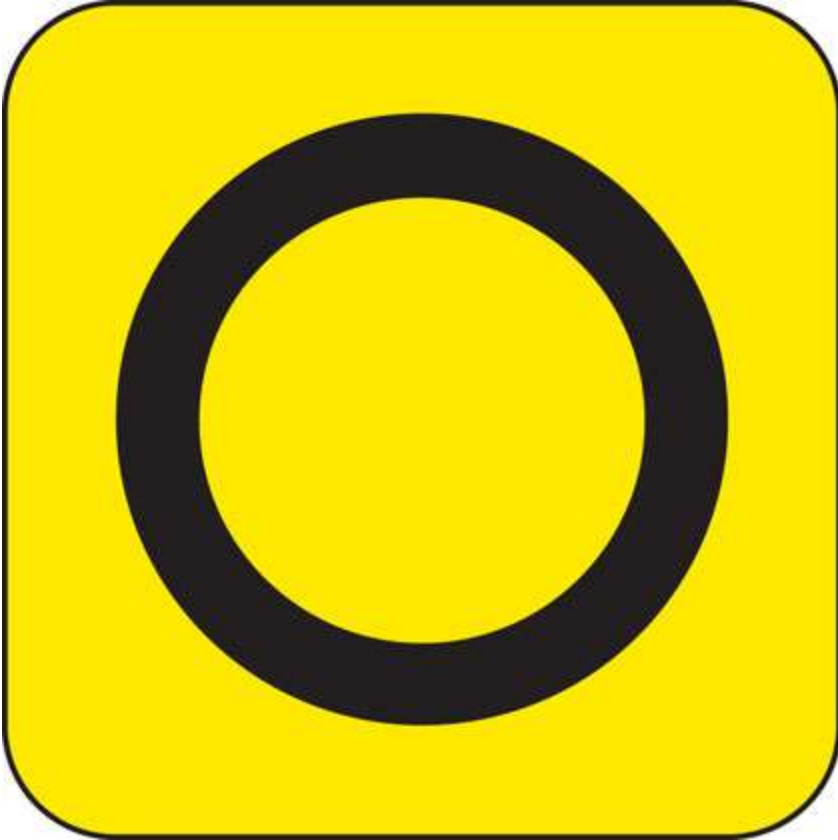
Symbols showing emergency diversion route for motorway  
and other main road traffic



Symbols showing emergency diversion route for motorway  
and other main road traffic



Symbols showing emergency diversion route for motorway  
and other main road traffic



Symbols showing emergency diversion route for motorway and other main road traffic



Diversion route

## Information signs

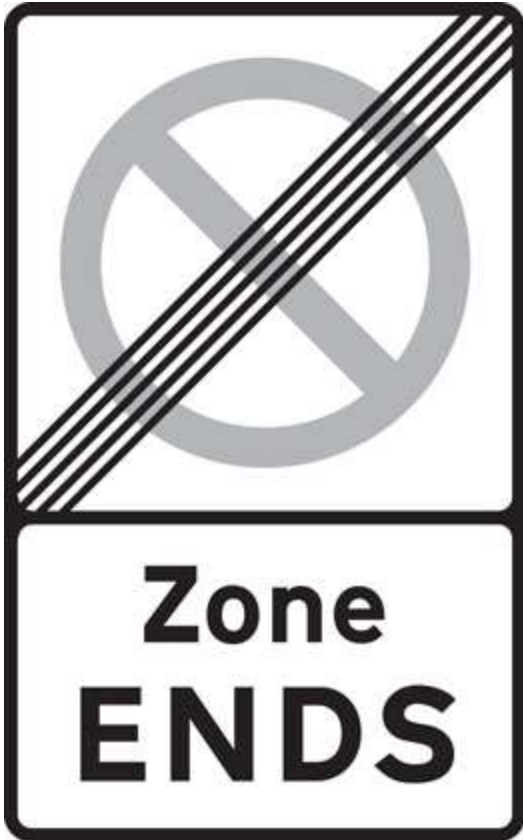
All rectangular



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](#)



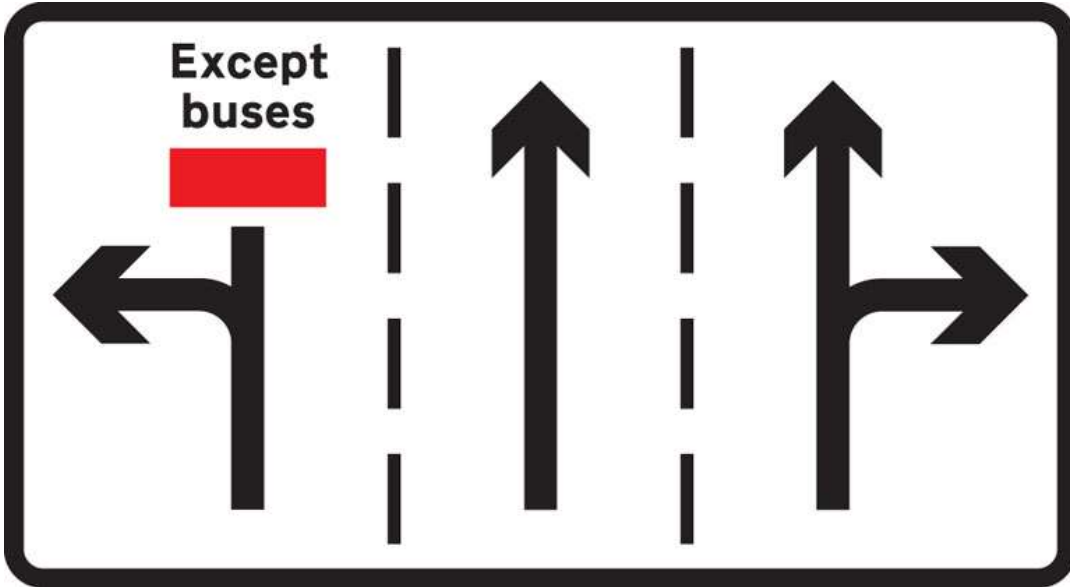
Vehicles permitted to use an HOV lane ahead



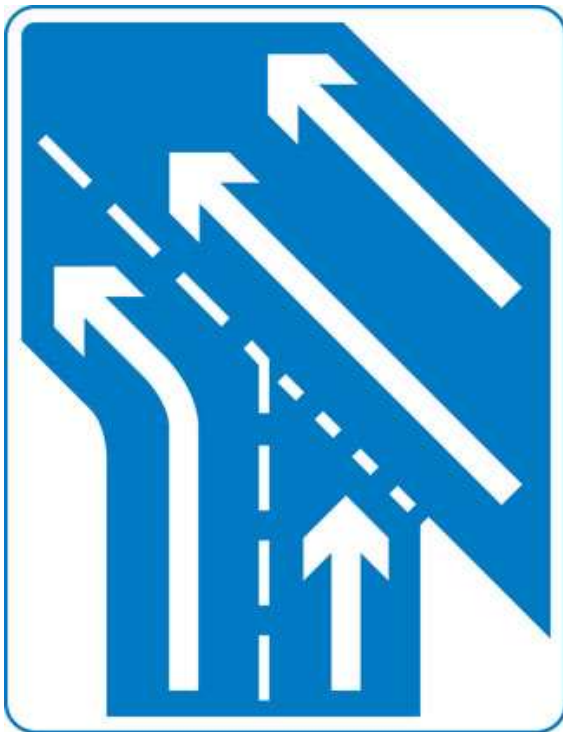
End of motorway



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



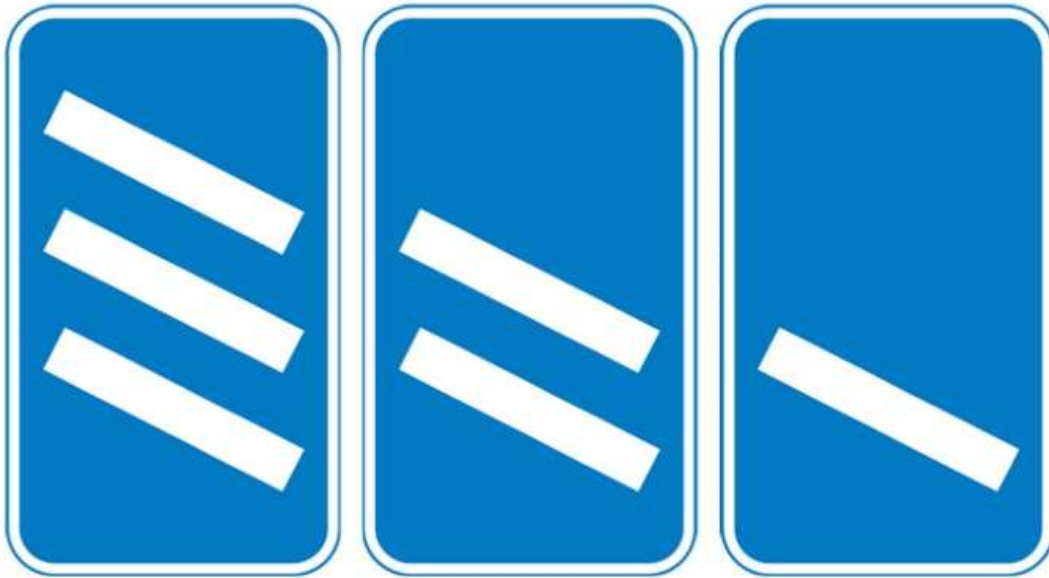
Additional traffic joining from left ahead. Traffic on main carriageway has priority over joining traffic from right hand lane of slip road



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



Traffic has priority over oncoming vehicles



Hospital ahead with Accident and Emergency facilities



Tourist information point



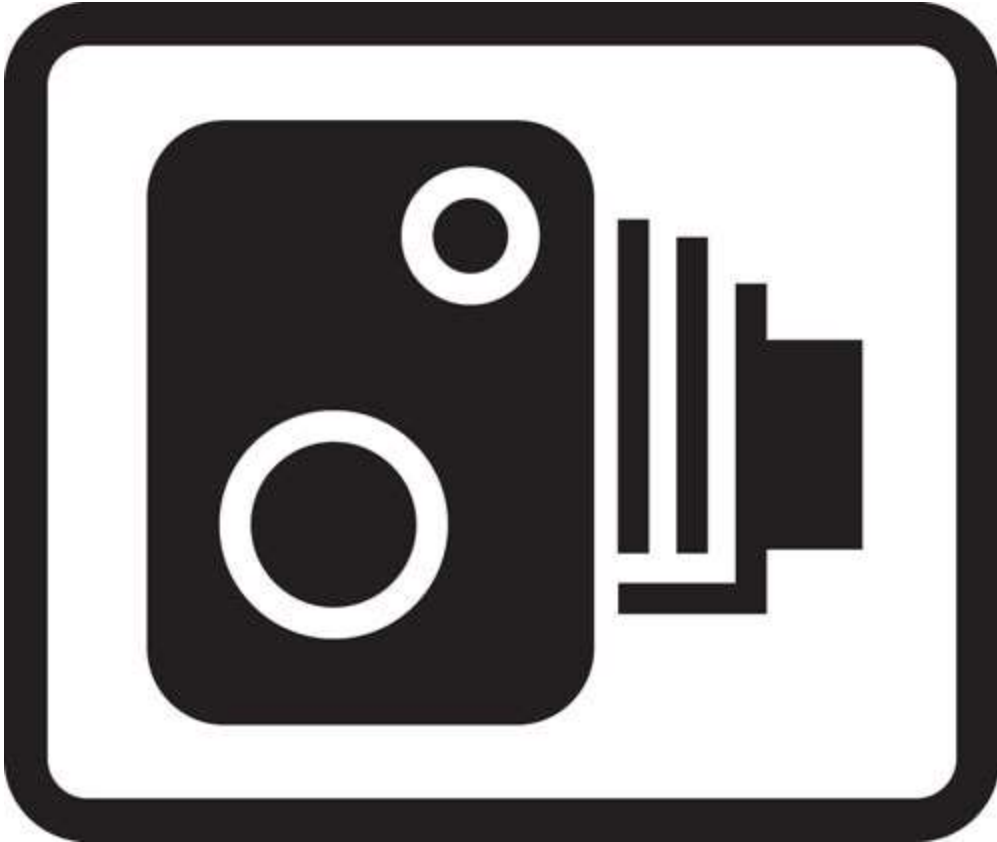
No through road for vehicles



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 work signs



Road works



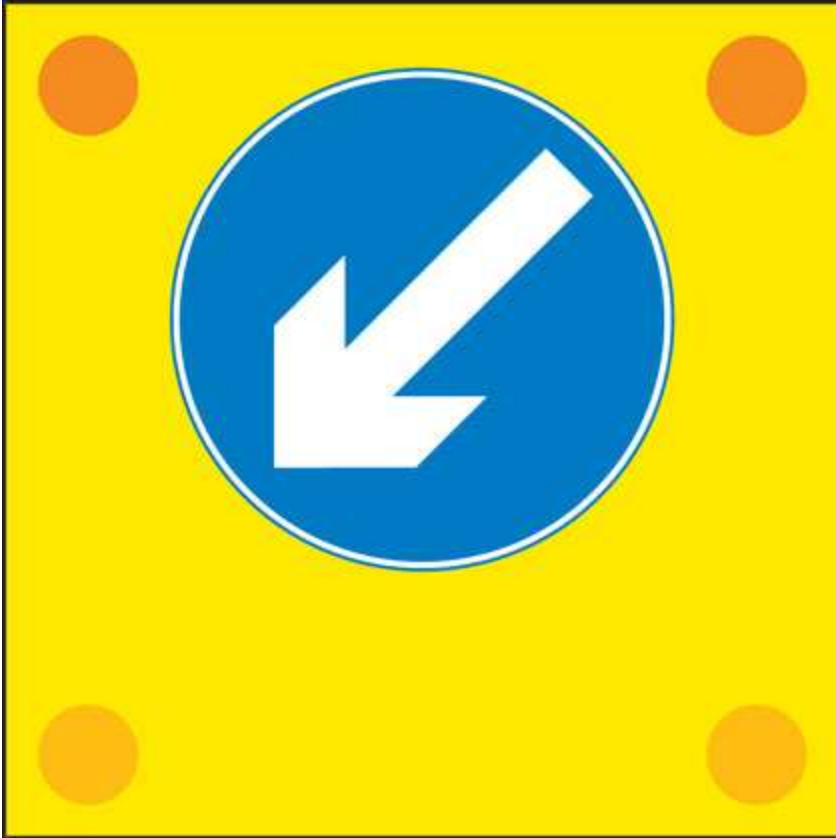
Loose chippings



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.



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

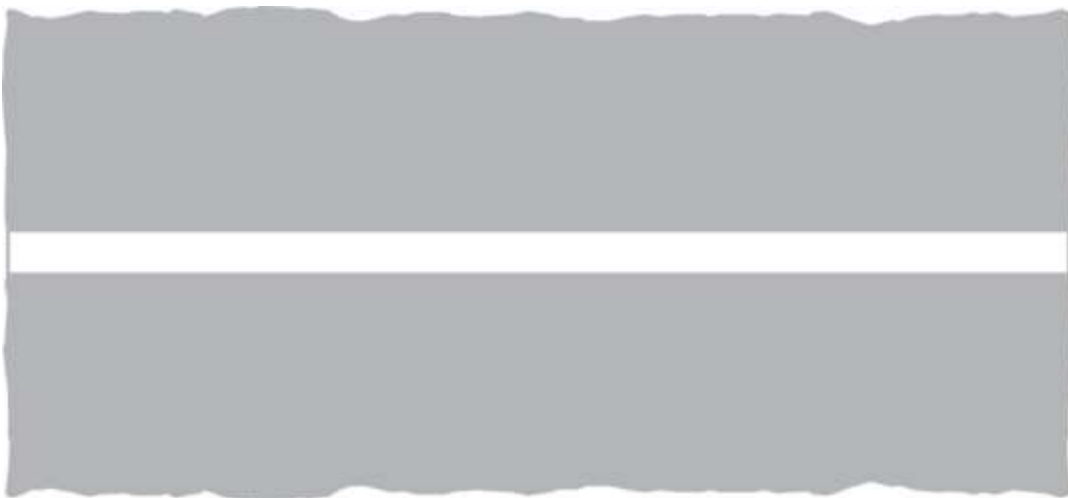
# Road markings

👉 Start Practice 

<https://www.theorytestweb.co.uk/traffic-signs/>

Road markings used, including those across the carriageway, along the carriageway, along the edge of the carriageway, on the kerb or at the edge of the carriageway and other road markings.

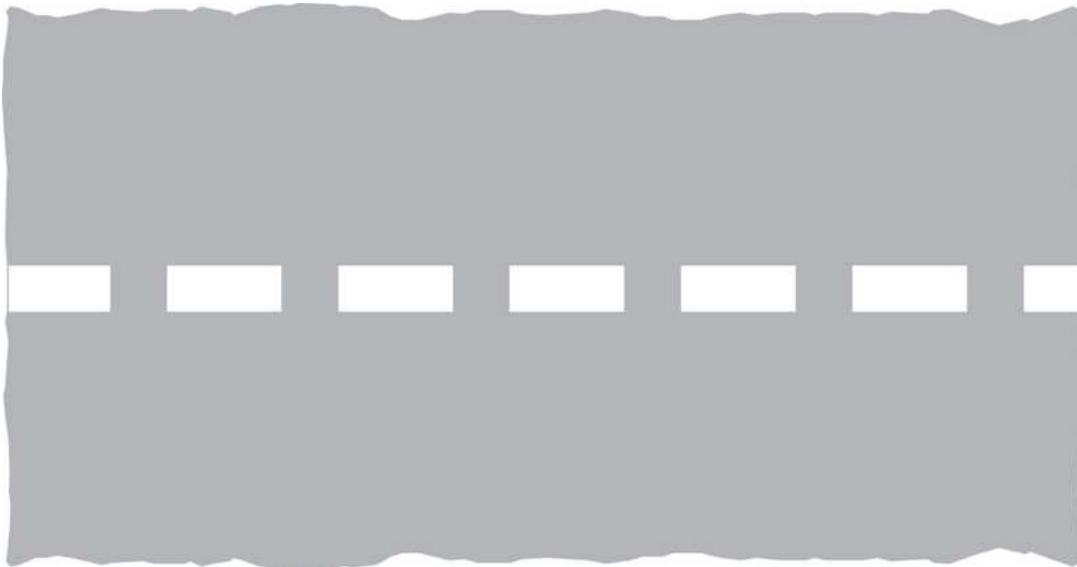
## Across the carriageway



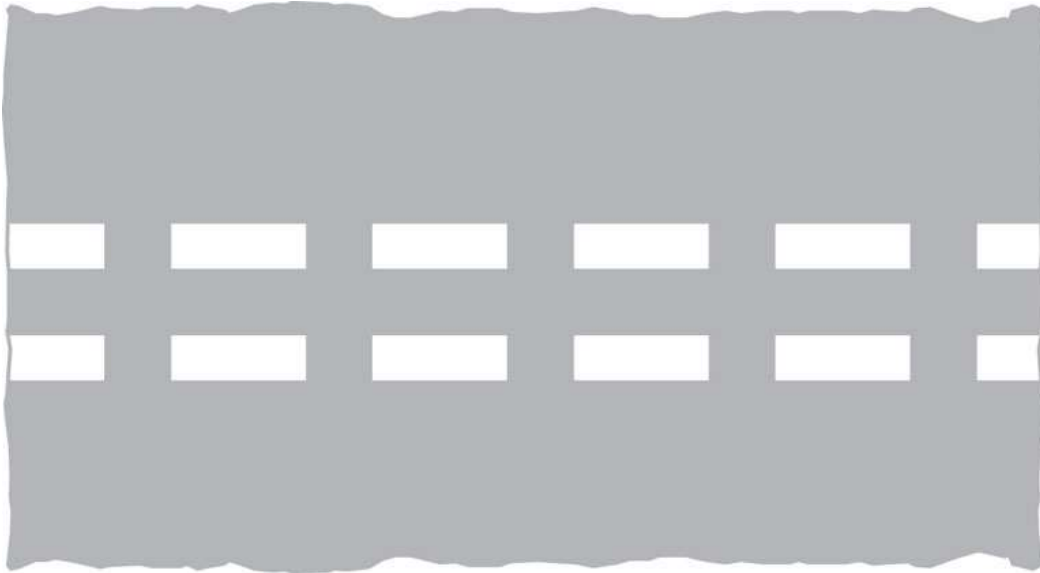
Stop line at signals or police control



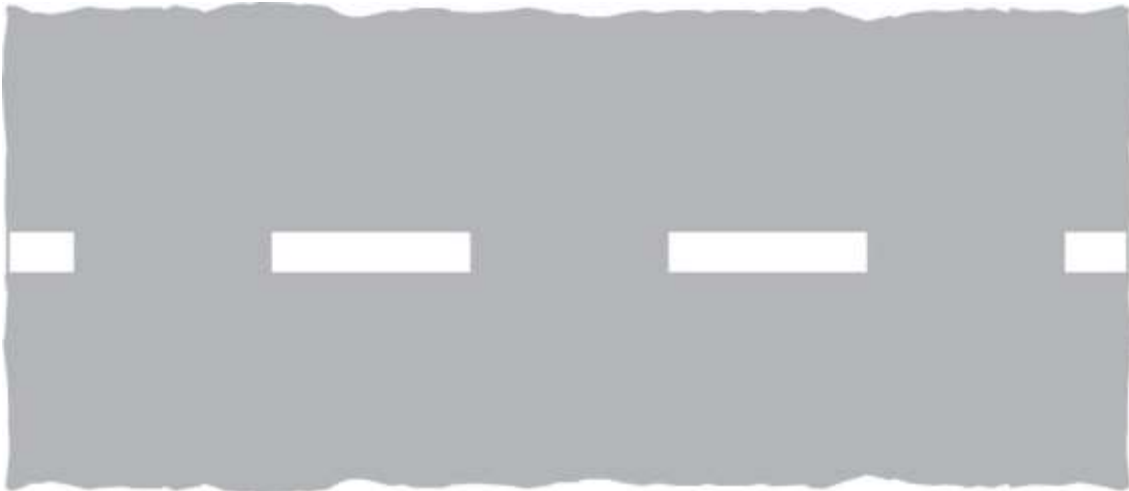
Stop line at 'Stop' sign



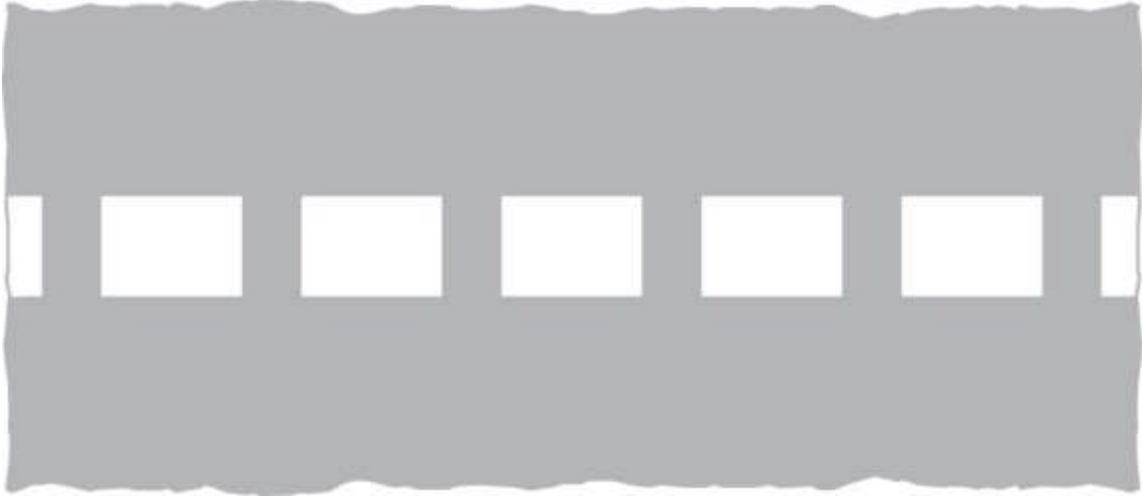
Stop line for pedestrians at a level crossing



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](#)



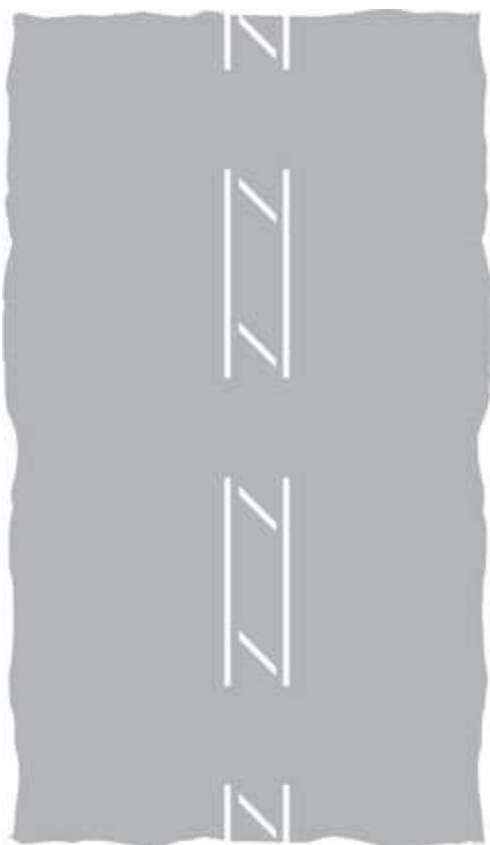
Hazard warning line [See Rule 127](#)



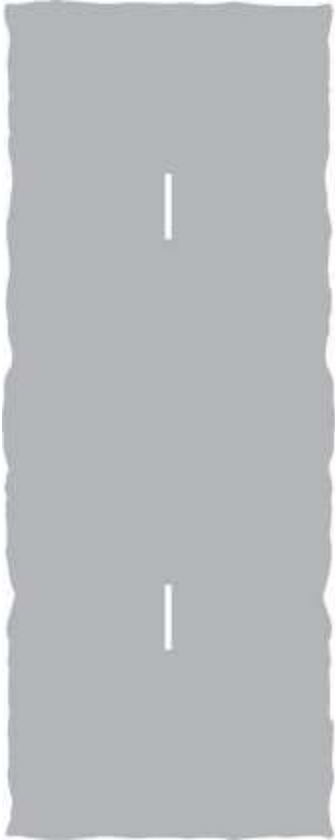
Double white lines See Rules [128](#) and [129](#)



Double white lines See Rules [128](#) and [129](#)



See [Rule 130](#)



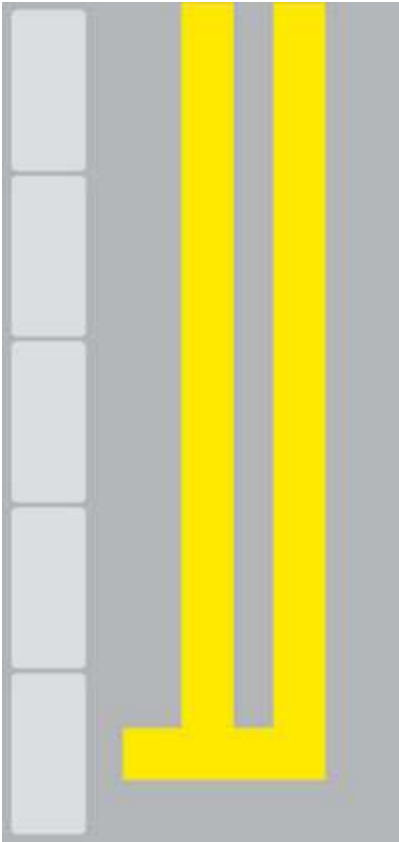
Lane line See [Rule 131](#)

## Along the edge of the carriageway

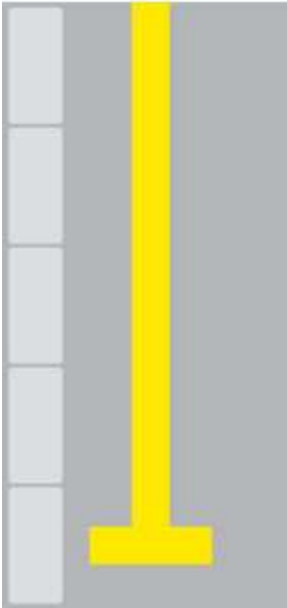
### **Waiting restrictions**

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.

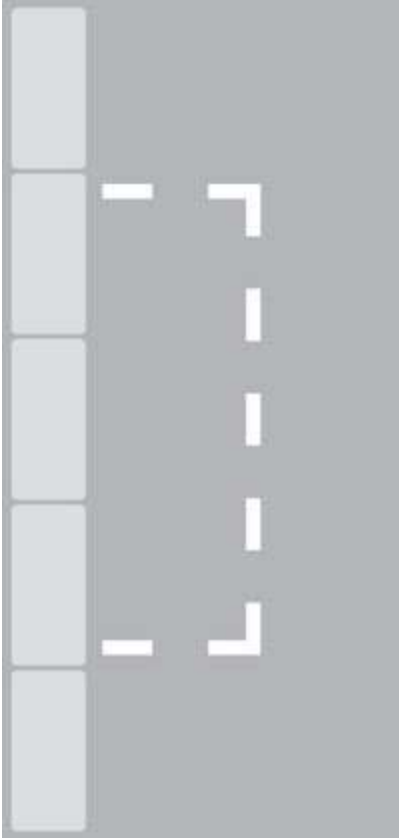


No waiting at any time



No waiting during times shown on sign





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

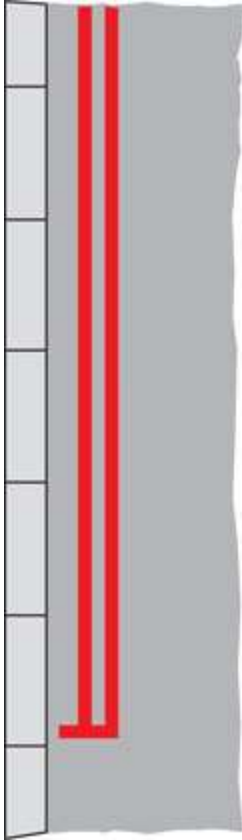
## **Red Route stopping controls**

Red lines are used on some roads instead of yellow lines. The double and single red lines used on Red Routes indicate that stopping to park, load/unload or to board and alight from a vehicle (except 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 and duration 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.

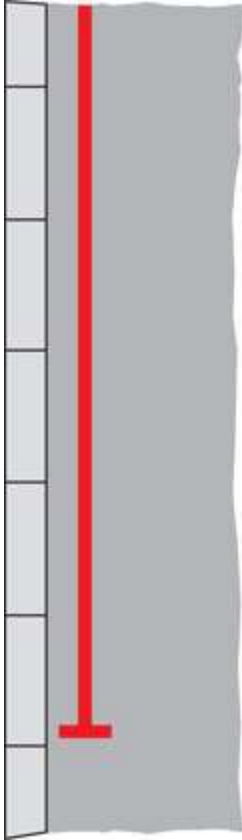
RED AND SINGLE YELLOW LINES CAN ONLY GIVE A GUIDE TO THE RESTRICTIONS AND CONTROLS IN FORCE AND SIGNS, NEARBY OR AT A ZONE ENTRY, MUST BE CONSULTED.





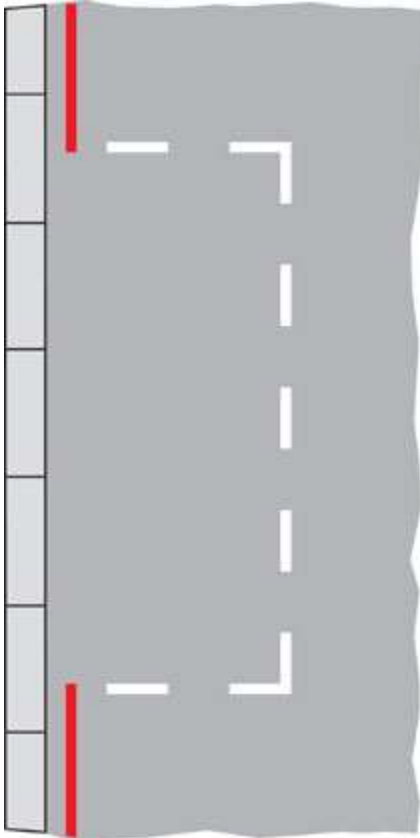
No stopping at any time





No stopping during times shown on sign





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





# On the kerb or at the edge of the carriageway

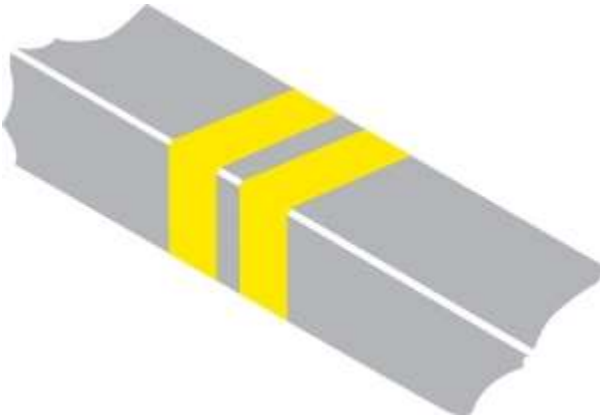
## Loading restrictions on roads other than Red Routes

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.**

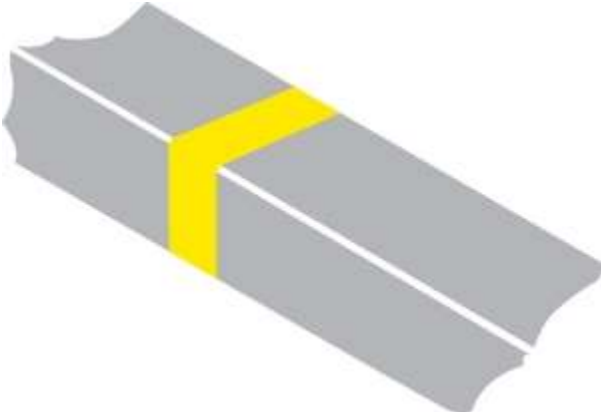
Lengths of road reserved for vehicles loading and unloading are indicated by a white 'bay' marking with the words 'Loading Only' and a sign with the white on blue 'trolley' symbol. This sign also shows whether loading and unloading is restricted to goods vehicles and the times at which the bay can be 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

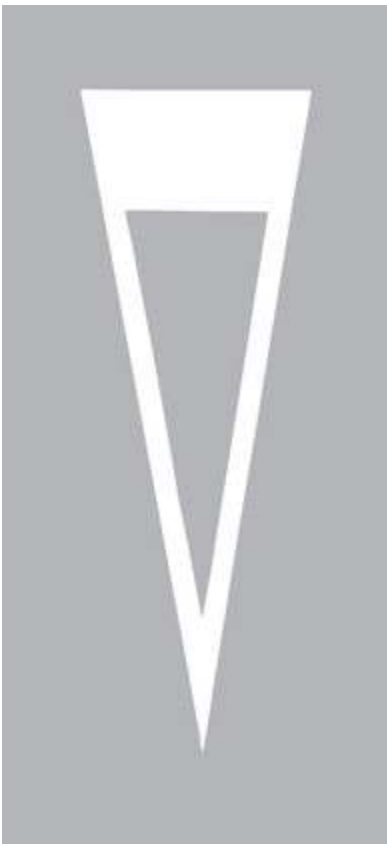


Loading bay

## Other road markings



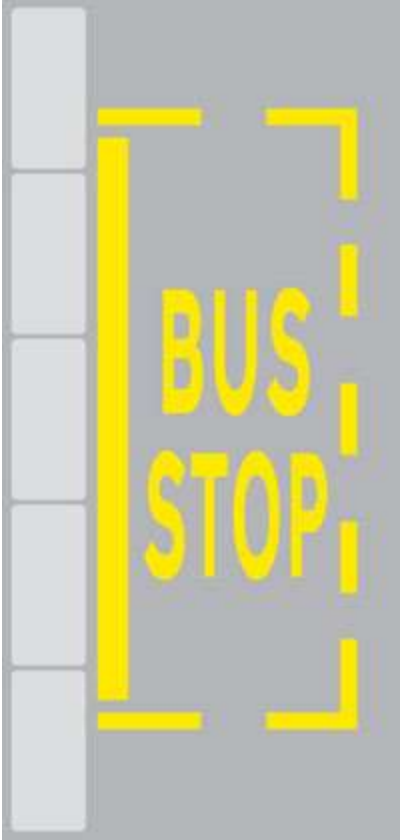
Keep entrance clear of stationary vehicles, even if picking up or setting down children



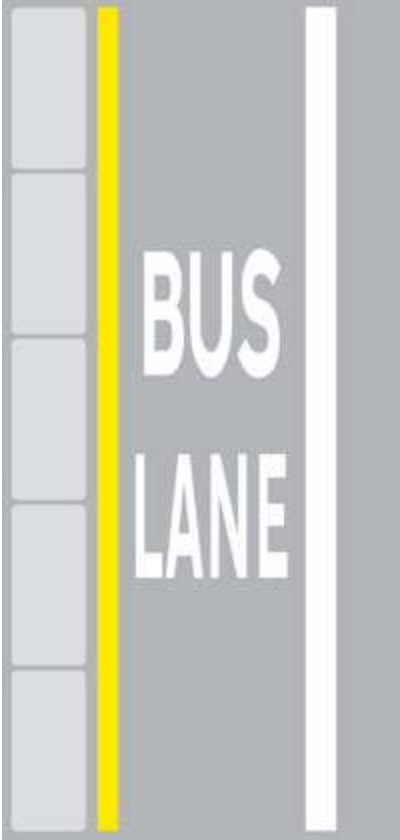
Warning of 'Give Way' just ahead



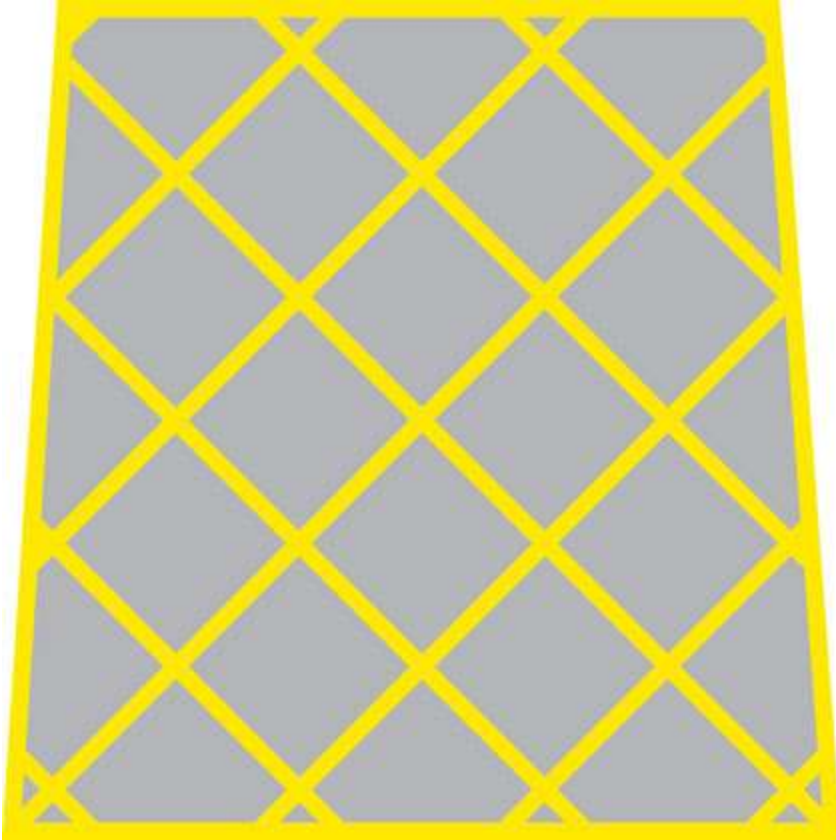
Parking space reserved for vehicles named



See [Rule 243](#)



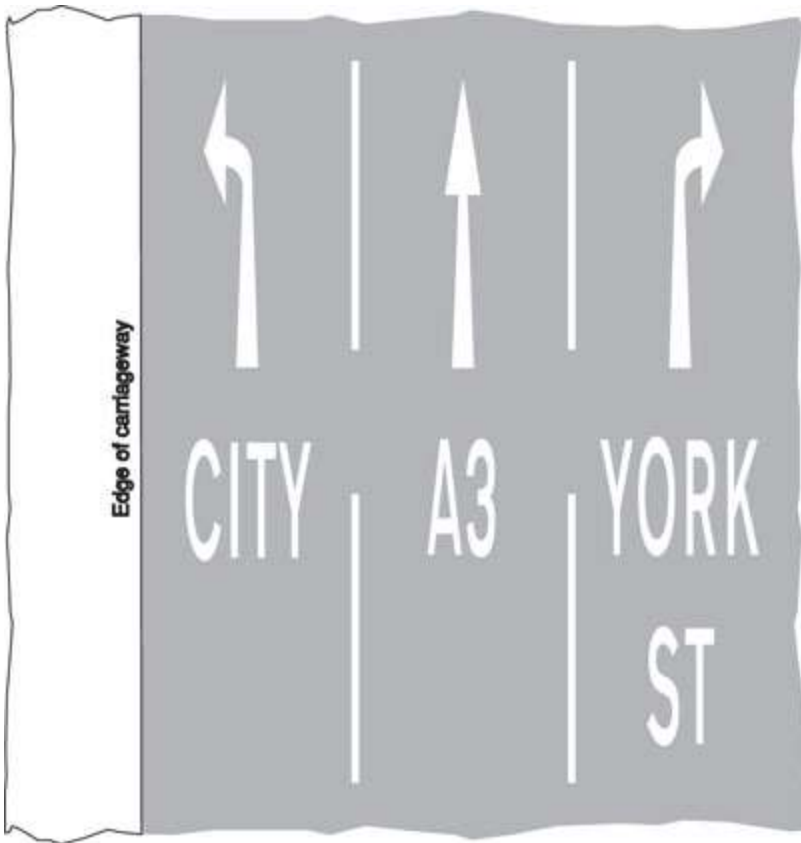
See [Rule 141](#)



Box junction - See [Rule 174](#)



Do not block that part of the carriageway indicated



Indication of traffic lanes

# Vehicle markings

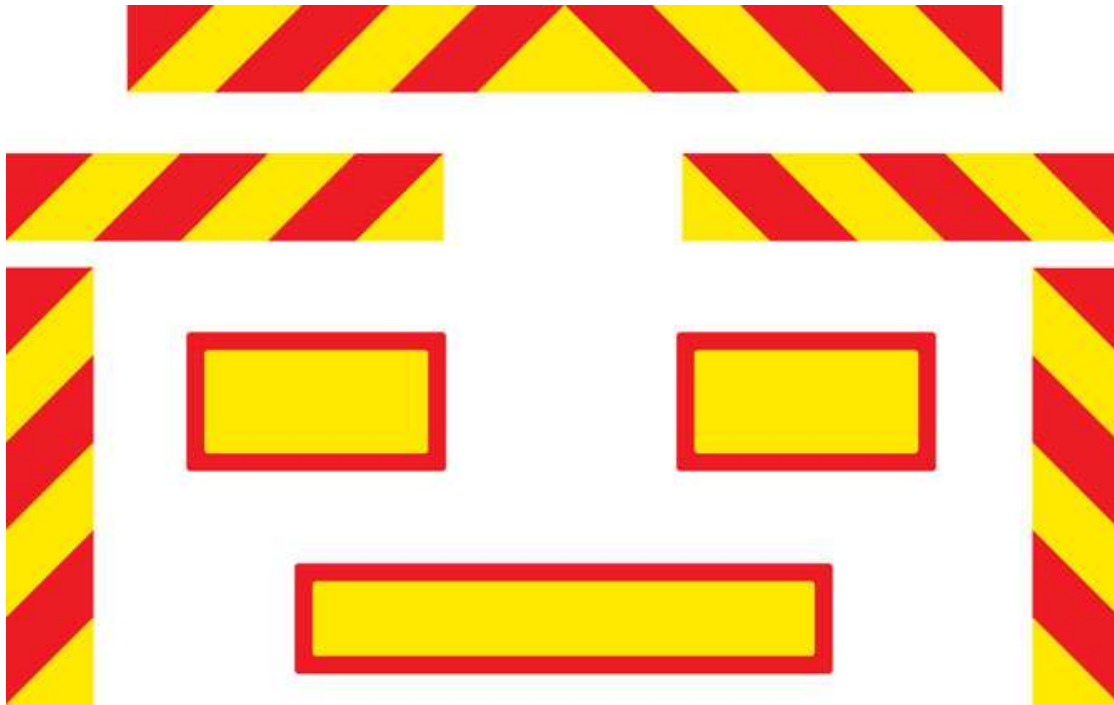
👉 Start Practice 

<https://www.theorytestweb.co.uk/traffic-signs/>

Vehicle markings used, including large goods vehicle rear markings, hazard warning plates, projection markers and other markings.

## **Large goods vehicle rear markings**

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



Left - Central - Right

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:



The above panel will be displayed by vehicles carrying certain dangerous goods in packages



Toxic substance



Oxidizing substance



Non-flammable compressed gas



Radioactive substance



Spontaneously combustible substance

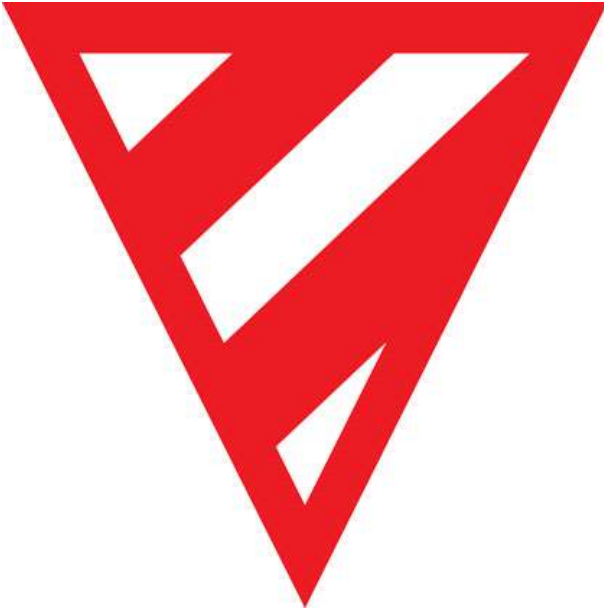


Corrosive substance

## Projections markers



Side marker



End marker

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).