

A brief guide for cyclists – UK road signs and rules

The UK has a strong commitment to improving and extending cycling and cycle routes. See the links page on <http://www.devonbybike.co.uk/events.htm> for some of the organisations involved.

Cycling on road – obey the same rules as apply to cars and other vehicles.

- STOP at traffic lights when red.
- Indicate (arm out right or left), before you turn.
- Be courteous to other road users – give way if appropriate.
- Let pedestrians cross at zebra crossings etc.
- If you have to cross a busy main road, it is usually safer to walk and push your bike across.
- Also, if cycling 'two a breast', go into single file to let other vehicles pass.




Cycling on pavements is not allowed in the UK, unless you are a child (under 10 yrs old), or see the appropriate signs, see below, which indicate a pavement designated for cyclists, (usually shared with pedestrians).




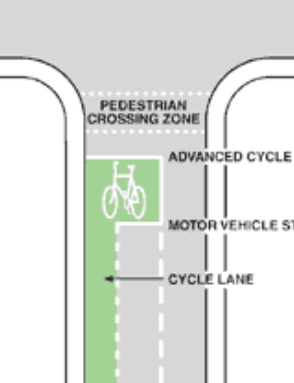






If you do cycle on the pavement, it is unusual to get challenged/stopped (particularly with young children), but it is still strictly against the law to cycle on pavements.

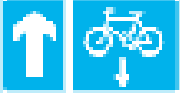



Footpaths

The UK has several categories of 'footpath'. You cannot cycle on an ordinary footpath. However, you are entitled to cycle on a designated Bridleway, or Byway Open to All Traffic.

Here are some of the signs you will see:

Sign	What it means
 	<p>These signs indicate a national route, with its route number and are really useful if you want to follow cycle-friendly roads and suggested routes. These routes are usually on minor roads, or on traffic-free cycle routes.</p> <p>Sometimes, the signs are quite small, on lampposts etc. so watch out for them!</p>
	<p>A shared use path, often on a pavement, can be used by cyclists as well as pedestrians. On such paths, cyclists must give way to pedestrians.</p>

	<p>Segregated shared use path. A segregated shared use path is one which usually has a white line painted on the path to separate cyclist and pedestrian areas. Take care, though, as not all pedestrians will keep to their side of the path.</p>
	<p>Used mostly where the roads are very narrow or at roundabouts where there is insufficient width. This sign is to instruct cyclists to get off their bicycles and walk the designated path and follow the sign until it is safe to start cycling again.</p>
	<p>If you do cycle in built up areas, you may see designated bus lanes. Cyclists are allowed to use these lanes unless signed "Bus Only".</p> <p>Other users of bus lanes may include Taxis and motobikes.</p>
	<p>In built up areas, you may also see coloured road markings which indicate a bike lane on a road. These are usually green but some are still red. It is common at junctions to designate an 'advanced stop line box'. This is a marked and signed area, like a box in front of the stop line of traffic signals, which gives cyclists a safe, visible area to wait, separated from other traffic. It allows cyclists to move ahead before other vehicles, making it safer for cyclists to turn left or right.</p>
	<p>This road sign is a warning to motorists and pedestrians that cyclists may be in the area. (A red triangle, in the UK road signs, denotes caution – see below for red circular signs.)</p>
<p>This sign is usually found on roads where cyclists regularly cross, or join at the end of a cycle lane/route.</p>	
	<p>This sign means 'No Cycling' - usually found at junctions onto motorways, or other high speed roads.</p>
	<p>Cycle route for use by cyclists only.</p>
	<p>Advisory route for cyclists to use (usually on road with no provisions for cyclists).</p>
	<p>Cycle lane on the road ahead.</p>
	<p>Cycle lane on the road for use by cyclists in the same direction as the other traffic..</p>

	<p>Cycle lane on the road for use by cyclists in the opposite direction to the other traffic (usually on one-way roads).</p>
	<p>Warning sign for pedestrians that there is a cycle lane ahead or that there is a cycleway crossing the road ahead.</p>
	<p>Traffic signals for cyclists where cycleways cross the road (where a shared use crossing is provided, it is advisable to push your bike rather than ride it to cross the road).</p>
	<p>Cycling in pedestrianised town centres is generally not allowed. Regulation varies depending where you are. The best advice is to push your bike in these areas to avoid getting a fine.</p>