

# TRAFFIC SIGNING IN THE UK



**Traffic signing in the UK conforms broadly to European norms, though a number of signs are unique to Britain. The current sign system, introduced on 1 January 1965, was developed in the late 1950s and early 1960s by the Anderson Committee, which established the motorway signing system, and by the Worboys Committee, which reformed signing for existing all-purpose roads.**

### **Anderson Committee**

**In 1957, a government committee was formed to design signs for the new motorway network. A system was needed that could be easily read at high speed. Colin Anderson was appointed chairman. Two graphic designers were commissioned to design the system of signage: Jock Kinneir and his assistant (and later business partner) Margaret Calvert. The new signs were first used in 1958.**

### **Worboys Committee**

**The UK government formed another committee in 1963 to review signage on all British roads. It was chaired by Sir Walter Worboys. The result was a document that defined traffic signing in Britain «Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions» . It was first introduced on 1 January 1965.**



# Language

**Signs are generally bilingual in all parts of Wales (English/Welsh or Welsh/English), and are beginning to be seen in parts of the Scottish Highlands (English/Scottish Gaelic).**

**One-way road sign in Wales**



**Place names in Gaelic are becoming increasingly common on road signs throughout the Scottish Highlands.**

# **Categorisation**

**Road signs in the United Kingdom may be categorised as:**

**Directional signs**

**Warning signs**

**Regulatory signs**

**Informational signs**

**Road works signs**

**Street name signs**

**Location identifiers**



# Directional signs

All types of directional signs may optionally have the junction name at the top of the sign in capital letters in a separate panel



**A typical roundabout sign on a primary road.**



**An old style fingerpost directional sign.**



# Warning signs

The importance of a warning sign is emphasised by the red border drawn around it and the mostly triangular shape.

This sign warns drivers that there may be a queue of traffic ahead, possibly hidden beyond a visual obstruction. →



← UK road sign warning of horses and riders ahead.



# Regulatory signs

**Signs in circular red borders are prohibitive, whether or not they also have a diagonal red line. Circular blue signs mainly give a positive instruction. Such circular signs may be accompanied by a rectangular plate that provides details of the prohibition or instruction; for example: waiting and loading plates and zone entry signs.**



**A British speed limit sign in a residential area.**

# Informational signs

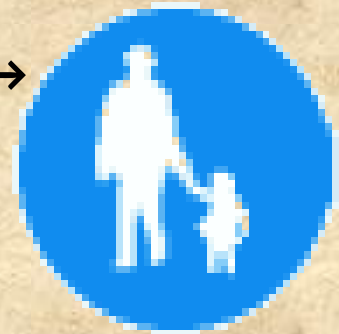
Informational signs are mainly rectangular but, strictly speaking, this category also covers directional signs. They are often coloured to match the directional signing for the status of road in question, but where this is not necessary they are generally blue with white text.



← Parking area



Footpath→





# Road works signs

Road works are normally signalled with a triangular, red-bordered warning format is used to indicate that there are works ahead. The graphic is of a man digging.





## **Street name signs**

**Legally these are not defined as traffic signs in the UK. This gives authorities flexibility on the design and placement of them. They can be fixed to a signpost, wall, lamp column, or building. The text is usually in the transport typeface used on road signs.**



# Location identifiers

**Numbered route markers of one type or another are used to identify specific locations along a road. However, for administrative purposes location marker posts are measured in kilometres.**







## Shape

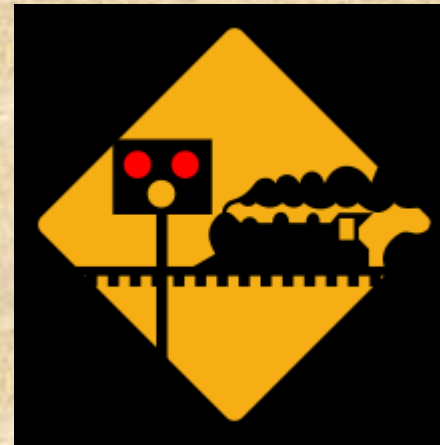
**Almost all signs have rounded corners. This is partly for aesthetic reasons. It is also safer for anyone coming into contact with a sign. But there are some other shapes, too.**





# Colours

Three colour combinations are used on direction signs depending upon the category of the route. A road may be a motorway (white on blue), a primary route (white on dark green with yellow route numbers), or a non-primary route (black on white).



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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