

Sharing the road with buses

Buses and cycles share the same road space, especially on designated bus and cycle lanes.

Can you use that bus lane?

Markings on the road and road-side signs will indicate whether it is designated for cyclists.

Buses have priority

If a bus needs to move out (from a stop or to change lanes), you should always give way to it, provided it is safe to do so.

Buses have a blind spot

Bus drivers might not be able to see you in their mirrors because you are in the vehicle's blind spot. Assume you have not been seen.

Look for bus stops ahead of you

If a bus is behind you, be aware that it may attempt to overtake and stop in front of you, when it may not be safe for it to do so.

The cycle lane is not obligatory

You do not have to use the bus lanes or cycle lanes if you do not want to. If you feel safer cycling on the road and away from the buses, you may do so.



Cycling tips

Always be aware, pay attention and concentrate.

Read the Highway Code

The Highway Code has rules especially for cyclists.

Look behind you

Always look behind you before making a manoeuvre and especially when turning right.

When traffic is stationary

If you are not on a designated cycle lane try to overtake rather than undertake - you will be much more visible that way.

Signal clearly

Be sure other road users see your intended moves before you manoeuvre by making clear hand signals.

Never go through red lights

It is unsafe to do so, it is illegal and it gives cycling a bad image.

Look out for obstacles in the road

Look ahead for any debris, grids or potholes and gently steer around them. Avoid having to swerve erratically to go round them.



You and your bike

It should always be roadworthy and in good condition.

Seat height

You should be able to touch the ground with the balls of your feet.

Maintain your bicycle

Regularly check your bike and tighten nuts and bolts.

High-visibility clothing

Wear brightly-coloured clothes in the daytime, and high visibility and reflective gear at night.

Lights and reflectors

Your bicycle must have a rear facing reflector at all times. If you use it during hours of darkness it must also have front and rear lights and reflectors on the pedals. Other reflectors are optional.

Brakes

Test these before you set off and adjust them if necessary.

Inspect your tyres regularly

Check your tyres are correctly inflated, in a good condition with sufficient tread.



Practice and training

If you are a beginner or if you have not ridden a bicycle for a long time, it is important to practice your skills. Try to build up your confidence and roadcraft gradually.

Read the Highway Code

The Highway Code has rules especially for cyclists.

Practice in a car-free place

Find a quiet side street or empty car park to practice.

Explore car-free cycle routes

Car-free cycle routes are a good place to get used to your bike and to learn safe cycling.

Build up your cycling skills

Cycle on side roads at quiet times of day, before going on busy roads, roundabouts and junctions.

Training courses

Many cycle training courses are available from Local Authorities and other organisations such as bikeright.co.uk



Cycling tips

Always be aware, pay attention and concentrate.

Ride approximately one metre from the kerb

This will avoid obstacles and make you more visible to other road users.

Consider wearing a helmet

They're not compulsory - but offer some protection.

Never tailgate another vehicle

Keep your distance from the vehicle in front and do not tailgate them, especially buses and lorries - other road users might not see you.

Do not use a phone or wear headphones

You need to concentrate and hear what is happening around you.

Cycling in a group or family

It is recommended that you ride in single file, especially on narrow roads. Never ride with more than two bikes abreast.

Take the safe option

If you feel in danger on the road or in traffic, stop and work out a safer option.



Other road users

Be considerate to others.

Do not cycle on the pavement

Unless it has been designated as a cycle lane or shared route with pedestrians, it is against the law to ride your bicycle on the pavement. You may push your bike on the pavement.

Use your bell

All new bikes have a bell - use it. If you do not have a bell, fit one.

Do not cross pedestrian crossings on red

Always stop.

Subways, walkways and footbridges

If you need to use a subway, walkway or foot bridge, get off your bike and push it unless there are signs allowing cycling.

Look, signal, manoeuvre

Always look before you make a move and signal clearly to other road users.



Road signs for cyclists

The Highway Code has a range of signs relating to cycling. You should learn their meanings and obey them.



Route to be used by pedal cycles only



Cycle route ahead



No cycling



Shared route for pedal cycles and pedestrians only



Contra-flow pedal cycle lane



With-flow bus and pedal cycle lane



More road signs for cyclists



Recommended route for pedal cycles



With-flow cycle lane ahead (may also be designated for bus and taxi use)



With-flow pedal cycle lane



Segregated pedal cycle and pedestrian route



Parking place for pedal cycles



Get off your bicycle and push it



Things to look out for

Spot the potential dangers.

Drivers misjudging your speed

Drivers often underestimate a bicycle's speed and pull out in front of you.

Left hand side streets

Be aware of traffic pulling out from left hand side streets and into your path. The driver may not see you, so be prepared to brake.

Parked car door opening

When you pass a parked car, leave space of more than a door's width between you and the car.

The blind spot

Vehicles, especially buses and lorries, may not be able to see you. Assume they cannot.

Vehicle overtakes you approaching junction

Be aware that the vehicle might try to turn left in front of you.

Narrowing of the road ahead of you

If the road narrows, try to move to the middle of the lane. Do not squeeze to the kerb as you will be inviting vehicles to pass when there isn't enough room.



Cycling is fun, healthy, cheap and often the quickest option.

If you follow a few basic rules, it is also safe.

Please take a few minutes to read this leaflet and follow the advice.

You can find more at loveyourbike.org



A pocket guide to cycling

northernrail.org



Bikes on trains

Northern Rail is strongly committed to promoting cycling as a sustainable and healthy means of transport that complements our train service. Our vision is to 'connect people to opportunities by the most sustainable means' and cycling has an important role to play.

Bikes are carried free of charge at any time and you don't need to make reservations.

The cycle space on trains is clearly marked, both internally and externally. Space is allocated on a first come, first served basis.

We can only carry a maximum of two bikes per train but conductors have responsibility for the safety of their train and have the right to refuse entry if the train is busy.

Visit our website, northernrail.org for more information.

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