



How To Read Road Signs

Table of Contents

- Introduction 3
- General Road signs..... 3
 - Red Circles are giving orders and are mostly prohibitive 3
 - Size Matters 3
 - No Circle means recommendation of speed 4
 - Red Triangles are warning signs..... 4
- National speed limit applies..... 6
 - Rule 123 6
 - Single Carriageway examples..... 8
 - Dual Carriageway examples 9
 - Zones..... 10
- Background colour on direction signs..... 10
 - White Background 10
 - Blue Background 10
 - Green Background 10
 - Brown Background..... 10
- We always approach from the bottom..... 11
- Look at the floor as well..... 12
- We drive on the left!!!!!! 13
 - Rule 268 13
- Road numbers..... 14
- Brackets..... 15
 - Future road 15
 - Road classification..... 15
 - Direction of travel 16
- Little yellow symbols..... 16
- Roundabouts..... 17
 - The roundabout is the main road 17
 - The terminology used 18





Left	18
Ahead	19
Right	19
The possible exceptions.....	20
They spread destinations over multiple signs	21
Bypass or filter lanes.....	22
Red rectangles.....	22
Pointy bits = Text relationship	23
Green and Blue signs show entrances and exits.....	24
Mind the gap.....	25
Use defaults unless lane markings say otherwise.....	25
Road signs are riddled with errors	26
Roundabout arrows are weird	27
Get in your lane!!!!	28
Examples of following road signs.....	29
Follow signs for Reading	29
Following signs to Guildford from the test centre.....	35
Following signs to Farnborough from Ash Vale	41



Introduction

Most people think that reading road signs is easy. In my experience there is more going on than meets the eye. This document hopes to help you understand what is going on and so you will find getting around becomes much easier.

I do not intend this document to explain what each individual road sign means, it is designed to explain common misconceptions or problems people experience when learning to drive; you should therefore still read:

The Highway Code <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/traffic-signs>
and

Know Your Traffic Signs (free download on my website) or
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/know-your-traffic-signs>

Please note that most of these pictures in this document are taken from Google Maps and so some are slightly distorted due to how they overlay the images.

If you see HC, I am referring to the Highway Code, if you see KYTS I am referring to Know Your Road Signs.

General Road signs

Red Circles are giving orders and are mostly prohibitive



You must not exceed 40mph from this sign onwards until advised otherwise. That's an order soldier!!!

Size Matters

KYTS states: A larger sign indicates the start of a speed limit. Smaller repeater signs act as reminders. Repeater signs for a 30 mph limit are used only on roads with no street lighting. Repeater signs for the national speed limit are used only on roads with street lighting (other than motorways).

No Circle means recommendation of speed



Maximum speed advised, in miles per hour, through road works



Maximum speed advised, in miles per hour, on a road that has loose chippings

You will often see this second road sign when they have been resurfacing. If you don't have a red circle then it isn't a new speed limit – use your judgement on what would be an appropriate speed (subject to the actual speed limit of course).

Red Triangles are warning signs

Remember that a triangular road sign is a warning and is there to warn you about something coming up that is different to your current situation; take the following road sign for example:



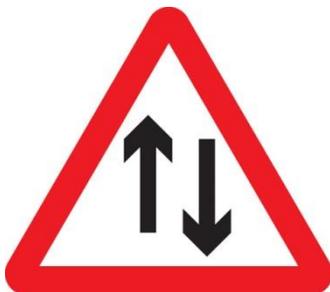
This means two way traffic crosses one-way road. Now without knowing what it actually means you can work it out.

Remember, arrows that point:

- UP - traffic flows ahead
- DOWN - traffic travelling to where you've just come from
- LEFT – traffic travelling to the left
- RIGHT – traffic travelling to the right

If I was already in a two way road, I could reasonably expect that the road I'm turning into would also be a two way road; I would not need to be warned about it.

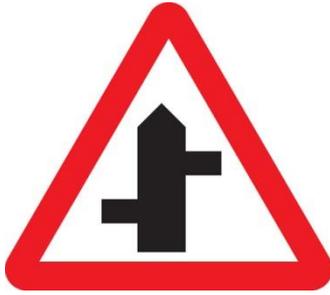
If I was in a one-way road however, I can use the right hand lane to turn right because there's no oncoming traffic to stay on the left for. If I can drive on the right then it would be useful to be warned that I can't do that anymore in the new road I enter, hence why there's a warning triangle.



Two way traffic ahead. Imagine that you are driving on a two lane dual carriageway late at night. You're tired and not quite at your most alert. You've been driving on the left and just overtaking vehicles by moving into the right hand lane as required. Of course there's a central reservation separating you from oncoming traffic but you've sort of zoned out from that information.

The dual-carriageway goes back to a single carriageway.

You still have two lanes in front of you so you go to overtake the car in front and meet an oncoming vehicle. The road sign was there to alert you up to a potentially fatal situation SO WAKE UP!!!!



This is a staggered junction and warns us of side roads on the left and then on the right. This should alert you to thinking that overtaking would be a very bad idea because vehicles could be turning in or out of junctions and they may be obscured by the vehicle that you want to overtake.

This sign would be on a road where you can currently overtake safely.



Falling or fallen rocks? Where? There aren't any here..... Oh hang on, that's why they've put the road sign up so that I can drive a bit more cautiously. Jolly well done Highways Agency; thanks for the heads up!

National speed limit applies



KYTS: The national speed limit for the type of road and class of traffic applies.

I felt that this needed its own mention as most people driving on our roads misunderstand what it means. Most people think that it's the number of lanes on each road but this is RUBBISH!!!! It's the number of carriageways (i.e. strips of tarmac), not number of lanes.

There are 2 national speed limits and 3 speeds in England.

You have in-town and out-of-town and the distinction is street lighting.

KYTS: Remember that in areas of street lighting (other than on motorways) a 30mph limit applies **unless** another limit is specifically signed.

Outside of town where there are no street lights, the speed limit varies based on road layout.

IMPORTANT BIT PEOPLE!!!! HC: A dual carriageway is a road which has a central reservation to separate the carriageways.

This means that any road that separates oncoming traffic with just paint is a single carriageway i.e. one road but two way traffic. It can have any number of lanes on it going in either direction but paint won't stop you hitting oncoming traffic therefore you have a reduced speed limit (60mph for a car).

A road that has two physical strips of tarmac (like a grass verge or kerb between roads) is a dual carriageway. It does not matter how many lanes there are on each carriageway. Because of the reduced chance of death, the speed limit can be higher (70mph for cars).

Rule 123

Type of vehicle	Built-up areas mph (km/h)	Single carriageways mph (km/h)	Dual carriageways mph (km/h)	Motorways mph (km/h)
Cars, motorcycles, car-derived vans and dual-purpose vehicles	30 (48)	60 (96)	70 (112)	70 (112)
Cars, motorcycles, car-derived vans and dual-purpose vehicles when towing caravans or trailers	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Motorhomes or motor caravans (not more than 3.05 tonnes maximum unladen weight)	30 (48)	60 (96)	70 (112)	70 (112)

Type of vehicle	Built-up areas mph (km/h)	Single carriageways mph (km/h)	Dual carriageways mph (km/h)	Motorways mph (km/h)
Motorhomes or motor caravans (more than 3.05 tonnes maximum unladen weight)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112)
Buses, coaches and minibuses (not more than 12 metres overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112)
Buses, coaches and minibuses (more than 12 metres overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Goods vehicles (not more than 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112) 60 (96) if articulated or towing a trailer
Goods vehicles (more than 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) in England and Wales	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Goods vehicles (more than 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) in Scotland	30 (48)	40 (64)	50 (80)	60 (96)

*The 30 mph limit usually applies to all traffic on all roads with street lighting unless signs show otherwise.

†60 mph (96 km/h) if articulated or towing a trailer.

Now we all know that the public at large are generally stupid. If we put the national speed limit sign up in the town centre, everyone would drive around at 60mph. We therefore use the 30mph sign to remind people of the limit but because it's the default speed limit in town, they don't repeat the sign unless you leave a different speed limit or there are no street lights.

No speed limit signs in town – assume 30mph.

No speed limit signs out of town – assume 60mph or 70mph depending on the number of strips of tarmac.

Single Carriageway examples

One strip of tarmac, only paint separating oncoming traffic.

Doesn't matter how many lanes there are in each direction, it's the number of roads.



Dual Carriageway examples

Two strips of tarmac separated by a central island.

Doesn't matter how many lanes there are in each direction, it's the number of roads.



Zones

I'll just point out another thing regarding speed limits and that is 'zones':



There are quite a few Zones near tests centres and these behave like national speeds in that they don't appear to repeat speed limit signs. They do often draw the speed limit on the road to remind you so keep an eye out for those.

You should assume that once you're in a zone, that speed limit applies until you see another sign but it won't always be repeated.

Background colour on direction signs



White Background

Means normal A,B,C and D roads and should be thought of as the usual roads you find in towns. Their designation just implies the traffic densities with A being the heaviest traffic.



Blue Background

Means motorway classified roads with supporting crash protection and MUST be avoided if you are on a provisional licence (the law is changing at some point in 2018 to allow Approved Driving Instructors (ADI's) to take learners on motorways if they have dual controls fitted).

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Green Background

Means Primary A-road and should be thought of as a dual carriageway with central reservations and crash protection just like a mini motorway.



Brown Background

Means tourist attractions.

We always approach from the bottom



The first thing to remember is that we are always approaching from the line that's at the bottom of the sign. If there are 2 lines going up then we are the one that is nearest to the bottom; you then follow the line to the second roundabout and pretend that line is from the bottom.

So using the first picture as an example, if we were going to Farnborough, we would be going left and then ahead, like this:



Look at the floor as well



Learners make this mistake a lot.

There is a lot of information out there if you just look for it. This information can just as easily be on the floor as on a sign.

You need to look at the signs then look on the floor as you approach a junction to see if

you are being advised to do something contrary to the defaults.

In this example, to go ahead would normally be done in the left hand lane but the road markings say to use the right hand lane. **If you go contrary to road markings on your driving test, you will fail.**



Did you know for instance that this 'arrow' is actually a painted representation of the Give Way sign. The Give Way sign is the only triangle that points down and this is painted version of that sign.

A lot of learners say it's an arrow pointing the wrong way – weirdly. You lot are weird; why would someone go around painting arrows the wrong way at every junction?

We drive on the left!!!!

We drive on the left in England. I'll just point that out as so many people think that you use the right hand lane to go ahead – this is wrong!!!

Think of using a dual carriageway. We drive on the left and any subsequent lanes are for overtaking or turning right (you can get roads that cut across the middle on dual carriageways but you can't on motorways). Once you have overtaken we go back to the left which is why the Police now fine people for middle lane hogging on motorways!

The issue is that in free flowing traffic, the Highway Code recommends that you should only overtake on the right; so if 'Person A' drives in the right hand lane for no reason, 'Person B' shouldn't pass on the left and physically can't drive through 'Person A', therefore 'Person A' is driving in two lanes; which is greedy frankly.

Note: You can pass someone on the left when: 1) in a one way street, 2) in traffic where the left hand lane is travelling faster than the right hand lane, 3) the person in the right hand lane is indicating right to turn.

Rule 268

Do not overtake on the left or move to a lane on your left to overtake. In congested conditions, where adjacent lanes of traffic are moving at similar speeds, traffic in left-hand lanes may sometimes be moving faster than traffic to the right. In these conditions you may keep up with the traffic in your lane even if this means passing traffic in the lane to your right. Do not weave in and out of lanes to overtake.

Notice that HWC Rule 268 states 'Do not' which is a recommendation, if it said 'Must not' then that would be a law and prosecution could ensue. Therefore, technically you can pass on the left but if something went wrong like the person did a lane change into you then you might be held partly to blame.



Always use the default settings until you are advised to do something else by a road sign, road marking or the person giving directions (such as me or an examiner).

Turning left? – left lane
Going ahead? – left lane
Turning right? – right lane

Take a look at this road sign.



If numbered from left to right, I would use the lanes like this:

Lane 1 to go ahead or left.

Lane 2 to go right or to overtake a queue of traffic in lane 1.

Lane 3 to overtake the traffic in lane 2 when turning right or if I'm doing a U-turn at a roundabout.

So if I have two lanes going to the same place, I use the left by default or the right to overtake.

Road numbers

Where there is a road number, you should take note of it.



This road sign shows that by turning left you will be on the A325; you would be travelling towards the M3 motorway, Camberley, Frimley and the railway stations.

(The brackets around the M3 in this instance mean a future road.)

If you didn't take a note of the number then you wouldn't know where to go

at the next sign:



This sign then tells us which lane we need to get into.

If I was going to Camberley for instance, I would now lane change to the right hand lane because the previous sign told me that Camberley was on the A325.

Brackets

Brackets mean:

Future road



This picture shows that by going down the road you could get to (among other places) Guildford and Farnham.

The road you would be driving on immediately would be the A331 but you need to look for signs for the A31.

Further down the road you would see this sign and road markings



You would now know that Guildford was left onto the A31 and Farnham is ahead onto the A31 going in the opposite direction.

Road classification

This road sign is telling me that to go ahead I would go onto a motorway classified road called the A329(M) and it would take me to Reading or the M4. This should be treated the same as a motorway.

If I took the slip road on the left, I would get to the junction where the Wokingham bound A329 met the Binfield bound B3408.



Direction of travel



In this instance, the brackets are clarifying which direction each lane goes in.

This sign is telling us that there are four lanes, two will take you south bound and two will take you north bound. Because we drive on the left by default, if you get two lanes that go to the same place, you should pick the left most lane of those two. So I would pick lane 1 go to south bound and lane 3 for north bound.

When you have two lanes however, you can use the right one to overtake the people in the left, so if there was a queue in lane 1, I could use lane 2 to get to the same place and overtake everyone making sure I return to lane 1 when safe.

Note that the sign shows two different ways of displaying this information; they can display the name over each lane or just write it above two lanes and join them with an underscore.



If you get two lanes that go to the same place, you use the left lane by default!!

Little yellow symbols



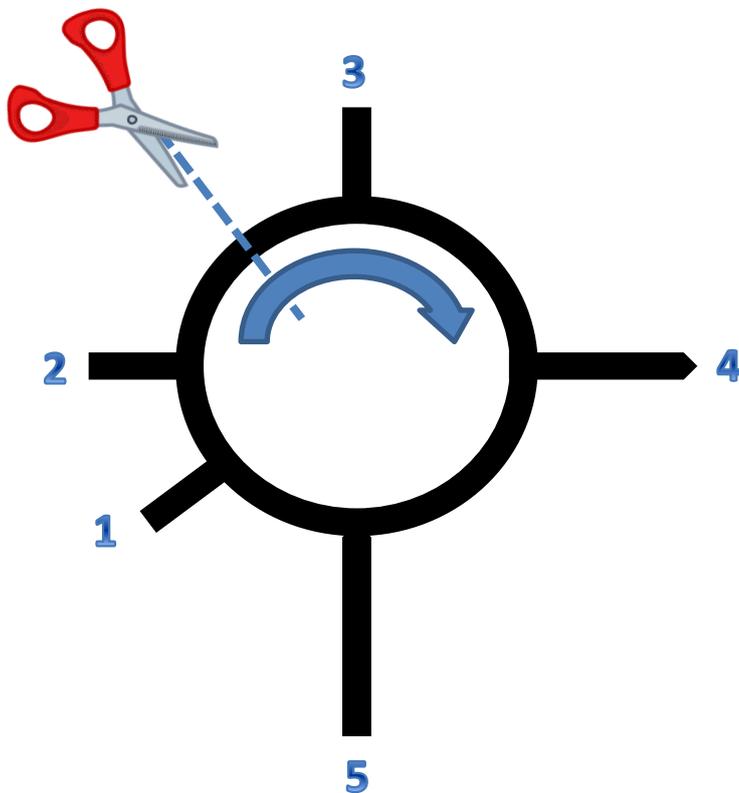
These are emergency diversion routes and should only be followed if a sign tells you to; like 'Road ahead closed follow (insert shape here)'. If you haven't been diverted then ignore them.

Roundabouts

The roundabout is the main road

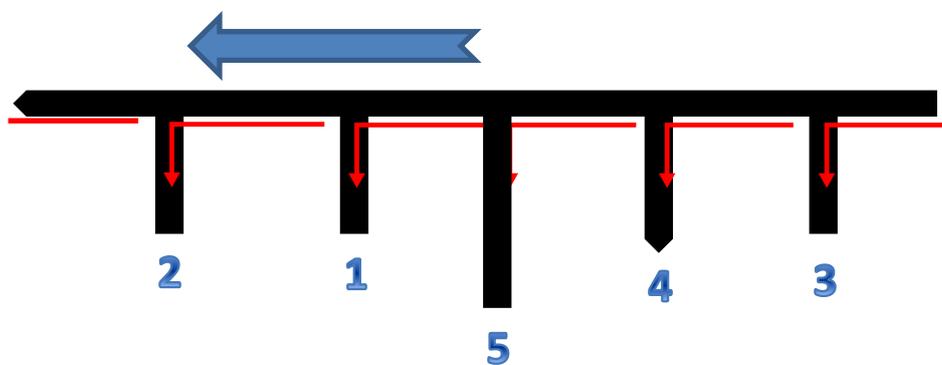
The roundabout is the main road and all joining roads are side roads. It's basically a one-way street with side roads on the left. You can also get things in the middle of roundabouts like a carpark; this should be thought of as a side road on the right.

You will be used to approaching the end of a road at a T-junction (a road approaching another and there's a Give-Way sign at the end). You can only cross the line at the end if you are happy that you won't hit the car on the main road.



Again, just thinking of a normal main road, you only indicate left as you approach the side road you will be entering; otherwise you'd give a misleading signal and potentially have someone pull out in front of you.

Here we have a 5 exit roundabout going around in the usual clockwise direction. Imagine that you have cut it and straighten it out like it was metal.



To get this:

Now the roundabout looks like a one-way street with 5 side roads. You should now treat it just like you would any other main-road/side-road meeting situation and only indicate (red

line) left when you have passed the previous exit or are approaching the road you intend to enter.

The terminology used

At roundabouts we use terms such as “left first”, “ahead second”, “right fourth” and so on. This terminology is broken into two pieces of information; how to treat the junction and what exit number you need to aim for.



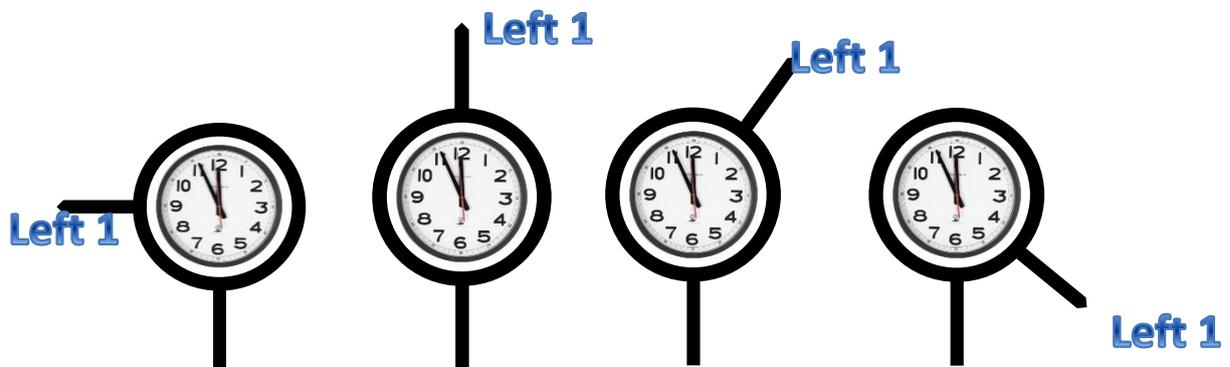
We say **Left**, not because it's on the left but because you should treat it like it's on the left.

This means, left lane, left indicator.

You will need to note the position of the exit and the order at which you find it; assume a clock face is superimposed onto the roundabout sign; you are approaching from 6 o'clock.

Left

Left means, exit number 1 on the outside of the roundabout; doesn't matter where it is on the roundabout. You should be thinking left lane and left indicator.

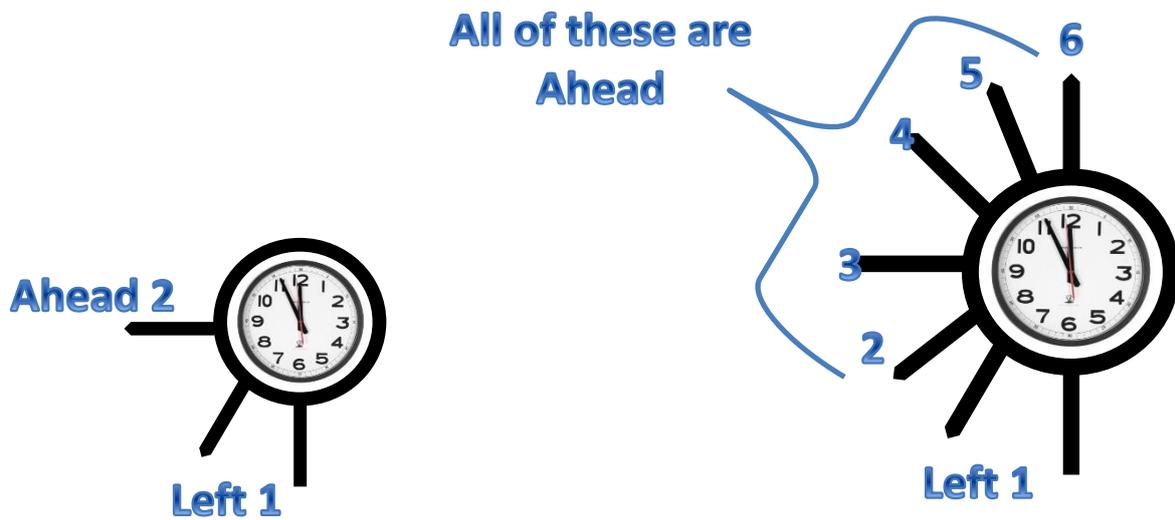


Please note that indicating left is mainly for the benefit of the person approaching the roundabout in that exit. This is because that person would like to know that you are entering their road and so they do not need to wait for you. If there is no one approaching in that road then no-one else benefits from an indicator and so you could decide not to indicate if you so choose.

Also note that approaching in the left hand lane will put you on the outside of the roundabout so that you do not cut across the path of anyone when leaving. You can see that the only difference in the above 4 roundabouts is that that you just travel further between the entrance and exits.

Ahead

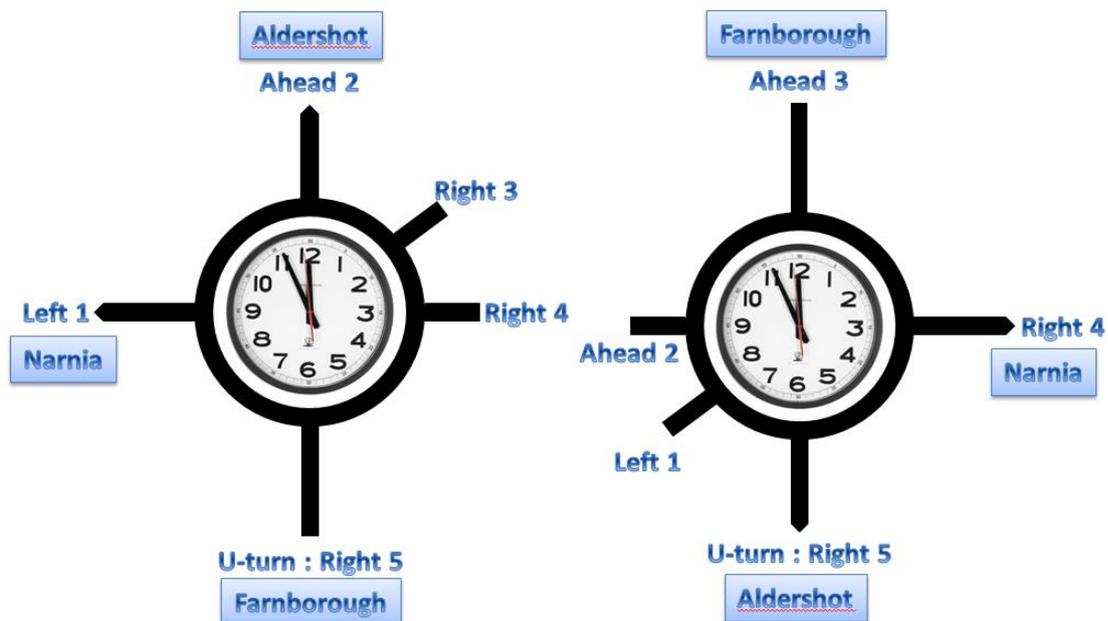
Ahead means, exit number greater than 1 and positioned somewhere between 6 and 12 o'clock inclusive. You should be thinking left lane, no indicator.



Right

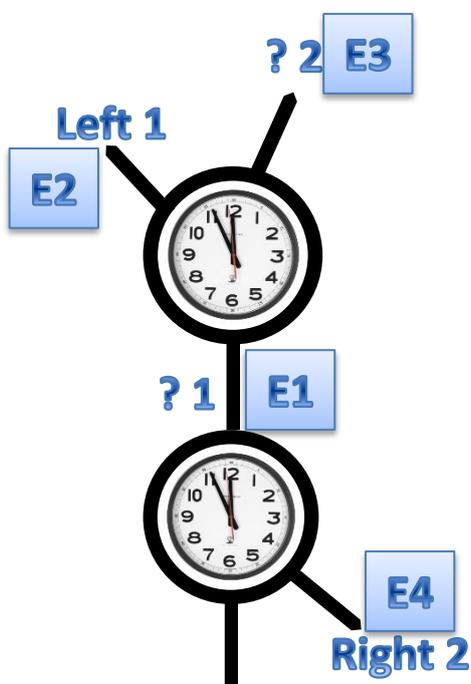
Right means, exit number greater than 1 and positioned after 12 o'clock. You should be thinking right lane, right indicator.

The number is purely the number of the exit in the order that you find them.



The possible exceptions

Here's a good one and it concerns indicator usage. I have marked the diagram with exits (E1,E2, etc) and how they should be treated but questions remain.....



When it comes to indicators you ask two questions:

1. Could it be misleading?
2. Does it benefit anyone?

If it's misleading then don't indicate; if it's not misleading but no one is there to benefit from it then you can choose not to indicate.

Regarding this diagram, I intend to approach from the bottom and go to E3.

E1 is clearly a 'left 1', however, leaving a left indicator on as you enter the road that's joining the roundabouts, might make it look like you're going to E2 and someone could pull into your path from E2.

You're clearly not turning right to E4 otherwise you'd have a right indicator going.

You could argue that no indicator is the correct course of action at this point to avoid confusion, but if there are people entering the roundabout at E1 then they would like to know that you are leaving the roundabout at E1.

Personally, I would indicate left on approach with the intention of immediately switching the indicator off as soon as I have left the first roundabout.

Now to the second roundabout! E3 is clearly a 'right 2' but as it is very close to being an 'ahead 2', if you indicated right then people in E3 might think that you're doing a u-turn; afterall, why tell someone you intend to come in front of them if you don't actually intend to do so?

People in E2 will assume that you're travelling in front of them unless you indicate left (and I've made sure I'm not doing that), so they're happy.

So, this journey looks like it will be 'left 1','right 2', but I would personally treat it like 'left 1','ahead 2'; equally you could argue that it would treat it like 'ahead 1','ahead2' and not indicate at all. You will have to decide on the day how you feel you look to others and what will help people the most.

They spread destinations over multiple signs

This sign is for long distance things like towns and motorways but in the distance you can see another sign that looks similar....



And here it is.... the local stuff.



The first sign shows places where lots of people go and the later one shows more local destinations. They spread places over multiple signs so that each sign doesn't become too busy to read. You will often find multiple signs of the same shape but each one talking about a different place; therefore don't worry if you don't see what you're looking for at the first sign.



This sign is the newer version of the one at the top of the page and as you can see, they have added more information.

Bypass or filter lanes



This sign shows that a road exists that basically misses out the roundabout.

You can still use the roundabout to turn left if you want to, but with the additional lane, you can miss the roundabout altogether.

There may or may not be a Giveaway sign at the end of the filter lane as sometimes traffic will just merge. It means that you won't need to stop at the roundabout though – cool huh!



This picture shows that the filter lane just goes around the corner; you can see the Giveaway line for the roundabout on the right.



This picture shows that although you do miss out the roundabout, in this instance there is still a Giveaway line.

Always look for the line and just proceed if there isn't one; lots of people fail the driving test for stopping when there isn't a Giveaway line, so be vigilant!

Red rectangles

The red rectangle on the above roundabout sign means dead-end or no through road and helps when your satnav tells you to go that way. It is still a valid exit from a roundabout and should be counted as such; it might go to a trading estate for instance! You will be coming back again if you go down there though.

So in the roundabout sign at the top, Aldershot is the third exit.

Pointy bits = Text relationship



The point on the end of lines purely means that text nearby is talking about that road. Any road on a sign without an arrow is just not being talked about on that sign.

Note that the road without an arrow is still a perfectly valid road and should be counted as such.

The second image below shows a sign that is further down the road from the first one. It is the same roundabout but you can now see more squared off ends because this sign simply isn't talking about them.

In the first image, Guildford is therefore 'Ahead 2nd exit'. IT IS NOT LEFT 2nd EXIT!!!!!!

With regards to these two signs; they are showing an extra level of complexity which is explained next.



Green and Blue signs show entrances and exits

So here's something that supplies additional confusion to everyone. Whenever they are talking about a motorway or dual carriageway (blue or green signs) they are likely to show entrances and exits to the roundabout, not just exits.



This is an exit from the roundabout onto a dual carriageway (the point on the road shows that the green box relates to it and because it's green, it's a dual carriageway)

and

because this line is the same width, this is the entrance onto the roundabout from the dual carriageway.

So the fat short roads should be ignored as exits from a roundabout.

So this roundabout sign is actually saying this:

Left 1st is not being talked about on this road sign. It is a perfectly valid exit, maybe there's a second sign that tells you it leads to shops?

Ahead 2nd is a dual carriageway called the A331. You can get to Guildford and Farnham if you subsequently get on to the A31. You can additionally get to Birdworld this way.

Ahead 3rd is a normal road called the A323 and you can get to Fleet or Aldershot this way.

Right 4th is a dual carriageway called the A331. You can get to the M3 and Reading this way.

Right 5th is a U-turn and would bring you back to where you had just come from.

Mind the gap



Roundabout signs have a gap between the entrance and the last exit.

This is only to make it easier for us to spot the last exit before coming back on ourselves.

Use defaults unless lane markings say otherwise



This road sign shows that the Aerospace Centre is right 3rd exit.

The image below shows that there are 3 lanes and lanes 2 and 3 go to the A325(S); equally, the A3011 is the left lane.

Frankly, WHO CARES??? I haven't been told to follow the A325 or A3011 so I will therefore get into lane 3 as that is the default lane to turn right.

If I was told to follow the A325 I would use lane 2 to turn right. (See 'Roundabout arrows are weird' later in this document).



Road signs are riddled with errors

Here are examples of errors; you need to keep your wits about you.

Fleet is shown as going left 1st, we get onto the A327 (not in brackets) and then get on to the A327 – wait, what???? I'm already on the A327!!!

This should actually say A323 just like the sign after it says:



This sign shows a roundabout with 6 roads joining it (5 exits, 1 entrance) but the sign on the other side of the same roundabout (coming from Ash Vale) only shows 5 roads!! They have joined the two roads after the Guildford exit together on the second sign – useful! Not...



Roundabout arrows are weird

There are different arrow markings for traffic light controlled roundabouts from non-traffic light controlled roundabouts – well of course there would be; why make life simple? Let me explain:



This roundabout doesn't have any traffic lights on it.

The arrows on the floor show that you can turn left from the left lane, go ahead from the centre lane and right from the right hand lane.

Basically you are told where each lane will take you.



This roundabout has traffic lights controlling it (you can see the stop line at the light).

The left hand lane goes left but apparently all the other lanes go ahead. In this instance they are telling you to go ahead at the traffic light, they are not telling you where you each lane will go.

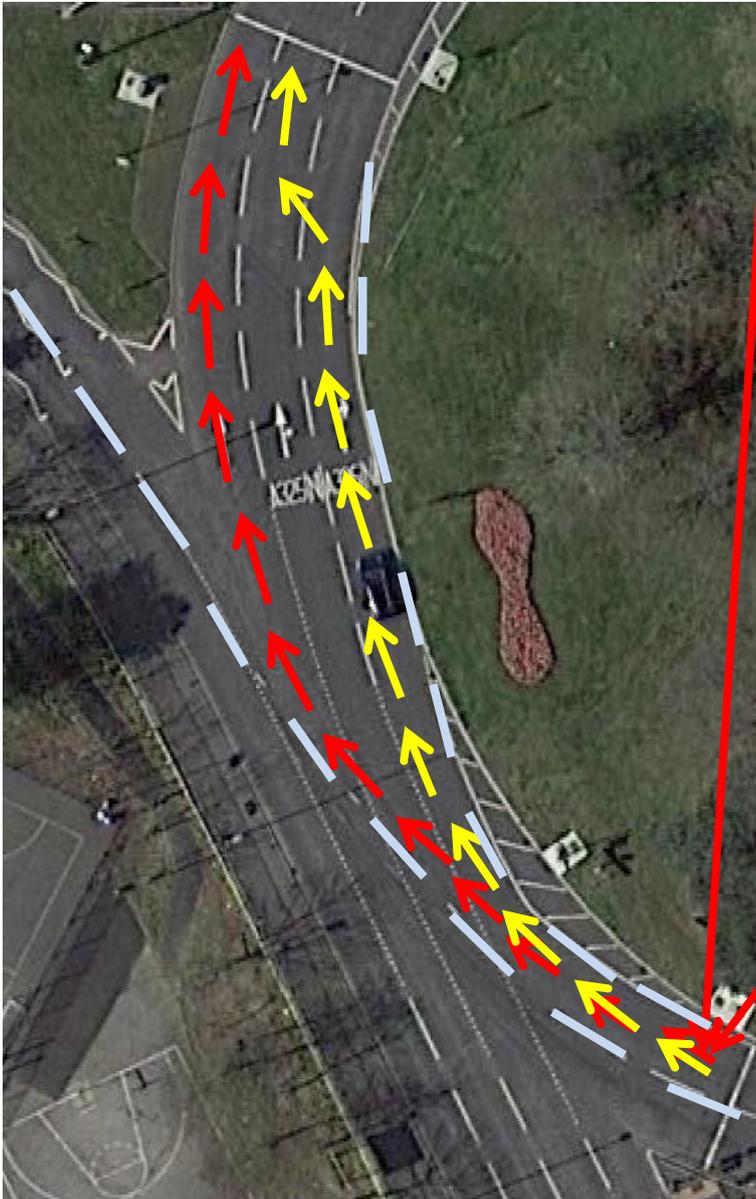
The markings after the traffic light show where the lanes go:



You must therefore ensure that you look ahead onto the signs and markings on the roundabout itself to see where each lane goes and not just rely on the signage on the approach to traffic lights.

Get In your lane!!!!

From time to time lanes split from one to any number of lanes. It is your job to read the signs, pick a lane and get in the lane immediately – don't delay, if you need the left lane, get in the left lane.



Starting from here turning right,

You see this sign telling you the Business park is the left lane:



Get in the correct lane by staying on the left and turning when your newly created lane starts, like this (red line):

The yellow shows usual learner behaviour and THIS IS WRONG!!!

The light blue line shows the left and right hand sides of your lane, you are

therefore not doing a lane change but obviously it is beneficial to check on your left as you move over.

Examples of following road signs

In Farnborough, the examiner can often ask you to follow signs; so cop a load of this to find out how to follow signs to various places!!

Follow signs for Reading

Sign



Where?

On the approach to the roundabout

What's it say?

Reading is 'Left 1' on the A327

Therefore:

Left Lane, Left Indicator

Sign



Where?

Leaving the first roundabout

What's it say?

Reading is this way on the A327

Therefore:

Leave roundabout here and unless told otherwise, drive in the left lane

Sign



Where?

On road side

What's it say?

For the A327 you need the left lane

Therefore:

Stay in the left lane

Sign



Where?
On the approach to the roundabout

What's it say?
Reading is 'Ahead 2' on the A327

Therefore:
Left Lane, no Indicator

Sign



Where?
Immediately after the previous one

What's it say?
Talking about local stuff

Therefore:
Ignore it

Floor



Where?
Just next to exit 1 on the roundabout

What's it say?
A327 is the left lane

Therefore:
Use the left lane



Where?

Just prior to exit 2 on the roundabout

What's it say?

A327 is the left lane

Therefore:

Use the left lane

Sign



Where?

As you leave at exit 2 on the roundabout

What's it say?

A327 is on the left

Therefore:

Take this exit

Sign



Where?

On the approach to another roundabout

What's it say?

Reading is Right 3 on the A327

Therefore:

Right hand lane indicate right

Sign



Where?
Immediately after the previous sign

What's it say?
Other local stuff

Therefore:
Ignore it

Floor



Where?
Just prior to entering roundabout

What's it say?
A327 is the left lane

Therefore:
Use the left lane BUT as you are turning right 3, I would still have the right indicator going. You could argue that the markings on the road show that you should treat this as an ahead. Earlier (Page 19) I said that there are exceptions on when you might indicate contrary to defaults and I think that in this case, treating it like ahead might look like I'm going to exit 2. Indicating right says I am going around the roundabout (which I am) but I'm using the left lane so I am complying with the markings.

On the driving test I have seen some examiners tell students to treat it as right 3, others have said ahead 3; both are acceptable. Personally, I prefer right 3, but it's your decision at the time of driving it. Do whatever you think makes it the clearest to other road users.

Sign



Where?

As you leave the roundabout

What's it say?

Reading is this way on the A327

Therefore:

Take the exit

Sign



Where?

On approach to roundabout

What's it say?

Reading is right 3 on the A327

Therefore:

Approach in the right hand lane with the right indicator

Floor



Where?

Just prior to entering roundabout

What's it say?

Right hand lane only for turning right (therefore using the right lane to go ahead is forbidden)

Therefore:

Use the right lane, indicating right and go to the 3rd exit

Sign



Where?
On roundabout exit

What's it say?
This way to Reading on the A327

Therefore:
Exit the roundabout and if there are two lanes, use the left

Sign



Where?
On roundabout approach

What's it say?
Roundabout ahead

Therefore:
As we haven't been told to do anything different, just follow the road ahead at the roundabout

Sign



Where?
On roundabout exit

What's it say?
Reading is this way on the A327- phew! We were ok to go ahead

Therefore:
Continue ahead

Following signs to Guildford from the test centre

From the test centre you will be asked given instructions and then follow signs to Guildford, so here goes!

Follow the road ahead at the traffic lights and ahead 2 at the roundabout



Where?

At traffic lights

What's it say?

2 lanes to be used as defaults

Therefore:

Continue ahead in the left lane

Sign and road markings on approach to traffic light controlled roundabout



Where?

Just prior to entering roundabout

What's it say?

Left hand lane goes left and ahead. Well left must be exit 1, therefore the up arrow must be to exit 2. It also says that A325(N) is on the left and A325(S) is on the right, therefore the road ahead must be the A3011.

Therefore:

Get in the left lane immediately with no indicator going.



Remember that we indicate on a roundabout to tell people who might pull out in front of us that we are proceeding around it.

On a traffic light controlled roundabout, those same people have been stopped by the traffic lights.

You therefore do not need to indicate because your lane choice shows the people behind where you are going and everyone else shouldn't pull in front of you because of the lights.

You only indicate on a light controlled roundabout if you wish to lane change (providing you have checked your blind spot of course).

Sign and road markings



Where?
On roundabout

What's it say?
Lanes 1 and 2 go ahead on the A3011, lanes 2 and 3 can be used to follow the A325(S)

Therefore:



Continue ahead in the left lane

Sign



Where?
On roundabout exit

What's it say?
Guildford is this way on the A3011

Therefore:
Take the exit

Sign



Where?
On roundabout approach

What's it say?
Wavell School requires you to do a u-turn (right 5)

Therefore:
Ignore it; we're not going to school.

Sign



Where?
Still on roundabout approach

What's it say?
Guildford is right 3 on the A3011. You can also get to the M3, the A331 and Camberley

Therefore:
Approach in the right hand lane indicating right.

Sign



Where?
And yet more on roundabout approach

What's it say?
Various local things. You can park your car to go shopping at ahead 2 or right 4 and Ash Vale and the station is right 3 if you fancy it!

Therefore:
Ignore it all, stick with the original plan of right 3.

Floor



Where?
At roundabout entrance

What's it say?
Right hand lane goes to the A331! Handy;

that's in the direction we're going in

Therefore:
Use the right hand lane and go to exit 3 as planned.

Sign

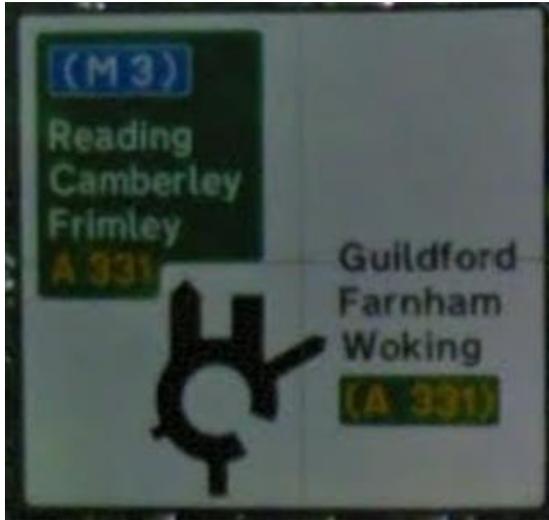


Where?
At exit of exit 3

What's it say?
The M3, Guildford and Camberley are this way on the A3011; not forgetting Ash Vale and the station of course.

Therefore:
Happy days! We're going the correct way.

Sign



Where?

On roundabout approach

What's it say?

The M3, Reading, Camberley and Frimley are ahead 2 onto a dual carriageway called the A331.

Guildford, Farnham and Woking are right 3; you can also get to the A331 dual carriageway (so that must be heading in the opposite direction to the M3).

Therefore:

Right hand lane, right indicator by default.

Sign



Where?

On roundabout approach immediately after the previous one

What's it say?

Ash Vale is right 3. (Ignore the 2nd fat line as it's the entrance from the dual carriageway).

Use lane 1 to go left or ahead onto the A331 north bound.

Lane 2 goes ahead onto the north bound A331 and right onto the A331 south bound.

Lane 3 also goes right and should be used to get to North Camp station and Mytchett.

If I was going to Ash Vale, I would use lane 2 because there are two lanes going right so I use the left of the two by default.

If doing a u-turn, you always use the right most lane.

Therefore:

Lane 2 because Guildford was show as right 3 towards the A331, indicating right.

Sign and road markings



Where?
On roundabout exit 3

What's it say?
Guildford and Farnham are this exit on the A331 but then look out for the A31.

Ash Vale is also this exit but look for the B3411.
Keep going around for North Camp shopping centre.

Therefore:

It's looking good; get off at this exit in what should be the left hand lane.



Sign



Where?
On roundabout approach

What's it say?
Guildford and Farnham are left 1 onto a dual carriageway called the A331 but look out for signs to the A31 to finish the journey.
Ash Vale is right 3 (ignore the fat stubby line).
Station is right 4.

Therefore:
Left hand lane, left indicator.

Following signs to Farnborough from Ash Vale

Sign



Where?

On roundabout approach

What's it say?

Farnborough and Camberley are left 1 on the B3166 but to get to Camberley you need to look out for the dual carriageway A331.

Frimley and Mytchett are ahead 2 on the B3411

Therefore:

Left hand lane, left indicator.

Sign



Where?

On roundabout approach

What's it say?

Farnborough and the station are left 1 on the A3011.

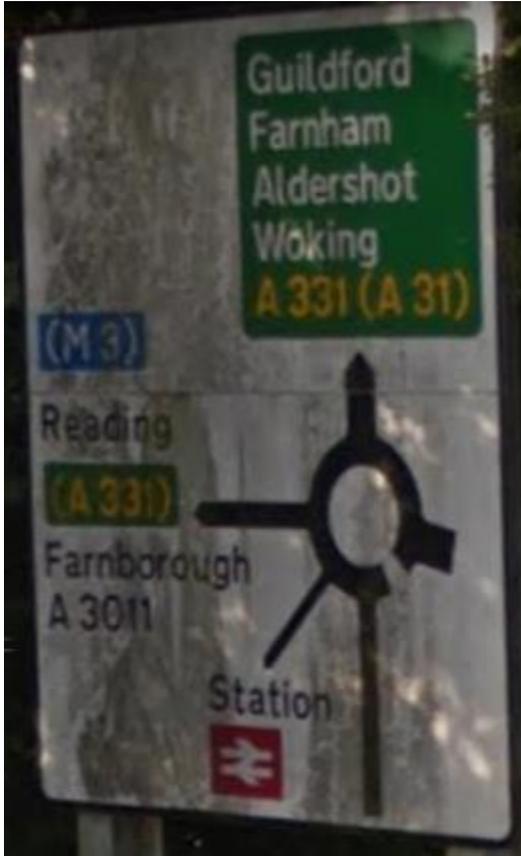
Mytchett is right 2 and look for signs for the future road B3411.

There's a third exit not being talked about on this sign.

Therefore:

Don't indicate until after the side turning THEN left hand lane, left indicator as you approach the roundabout.

Sign



Where?

On roundabout approach

What's it say?

Station is left 1.

The (future road) M3 and Reading can be got to via the future dual carriageway A331. These places and Farnborough are therefore ahead 2 on the A3011. Guildford, Farnham, Aldershot and Woking are ahead 3 on the dual carriageway A331 but look out for the future road of A31 to get to some of these places. There is a right 4 which looks to be the exit from a dual carriageway.

Therefore:

Don't indicate on the approach as you are going ahead 2. Once passed the first exit, then indicate left on the approach to exit 2 and get off in the left lane by default.



Indicate left here

No indicator going

Sign



Where?

At roundabout exit

What's it say?

Aldershot military town north left.

Farnborough left on the A3011.

North Camp shopping Centre left.

Therefore:

Go left in the left lane.

Road Markings



Where?

On road between the previous and next roundabouts

What's it say?

Left lane will go to the future road A325.

Right lane will go to the future road A331(N).

Therefore:

Just stay on the left, we want neither of these so you can ignore them.

Sign



Where?

On roundabout approach

What's it say?

Left 1 for Farnborough, Aldershot on the A3011 but look for the A325.

Left 1 for North Camp Shops and the exhibition centre.

Ahead 2 to somewhere not being talked about.

Right 3 for the M3, Reading, Camberley and Frimley all on the dual carriageway A331.

Therefore:

Just stay on the left and put your left indicator on.

Road markings



Where?

At roundabout entrance

What's it say?

Left lane is for people turning left and will go to the A325.

Right lane for going ahead or right and can take you to the A331(N).

Therefore:

Just stay on the left, with your left indicator going as we were told to follow the A325. You can see it splits into 2 lanes, just use the left one.

Signs and road markings



Where?

The road generally

What's it say?

There is a turning on our right. That road is a 20mph area. There is a sign saying 'no right turn' and road markings saying that you must only go ahead at the junction.

Therefore:

Just follow the road ahead and ignore the 20mph sign as we aren't entering that side road. The 'no right turn' also appears again at the next turning (near the red car up the road).

Signs and road markings



Where?

The road generally

What's it say?

Warning of cycles around and in the distance there's a pedestrian crossing (probably a toucan crossing as we're being warned of cycles).

Therefore:

Approach the traffic lights using the technique described in my document about pedestrian crossings (also on my website).

Sign



Where?
Roundabout approach

What's it say?
Car parking for 156 cars and Aldershot Centre for Health is left 1.
Farnborough and Aldershot are ahead 2 on the A3011 but look for the A325.
Aerospace Centre and The Wavell School are also ahead 2.
There's a right 3 not being talked about.
Right 4 goes to more parking for 115 cars.

Therefore:
Ahead 2 is left lane, no indicator by default unless told otherwise, therefore do defaults for the moment.

Road markings

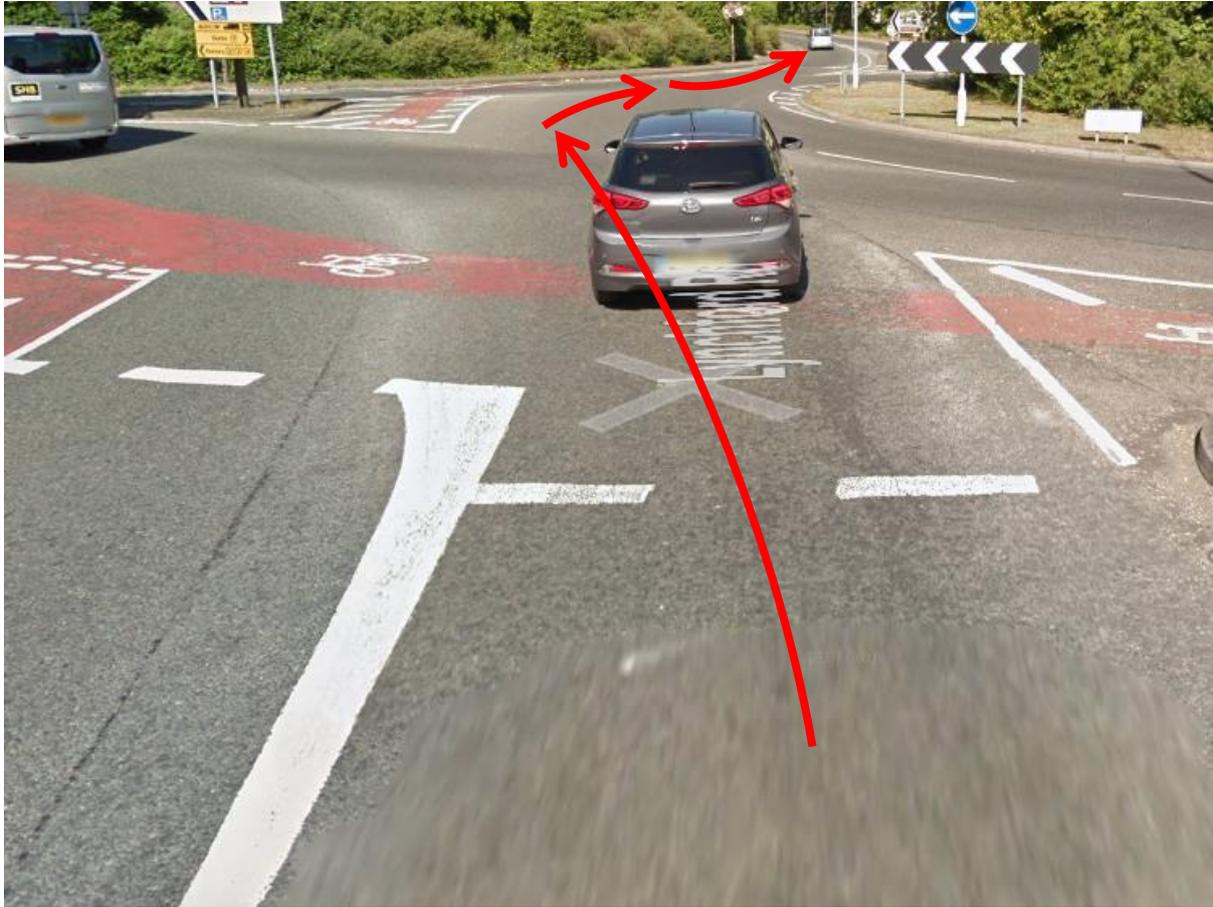


Where?
Roundabout approach

What's it say?
The lane you approached in is being filtered into the right hand lane of two lanes. The left lane is for turning left only.

Therefore:
Follow the lane into the right hand lane and go ahead 2 with no indicator until you are passed the first exit when you indicate left.

Road markings



Where?

The road generally

What's it say?

The roundabout has 2 lanes on it and the second exit is ahead.

Therefore:

Approach in the right hand lane with no indicator going.

As you go out, do a blind spot check on your left to make sure that the people on your left have actually gone that way. If they have gone left then move to the outside of the roundabout so that you are approaching the second exit in the correct lane.

Indicate left just after you have passed exit 1.

Road markings and lights



Where?

The road generally

What's it say?

Fire station on your left. If the lights start to flash then you must stop by the stop line near the lights.

There is a massive area in front of the station saying 'Keep Clear Fire Station'.

In the distance there are traffic lights.

Therefore:

Make sure you do not block this area in any way. In rush hour with loads of traffic, let the traffic move across before you move across. You do not want to be in a queue outside the entrance if the fire service is called into action.

Signs and road markings



Where?

Roundabout approach

What's it say?

Left 1 to Farnham and Aldershot on the A325.

Ahead 2 to Aerospace Centre.

Right 3 to Farnborough, Farnborough College of Technology and Farnborough Business Park also on the A325.

Therefore:

Get in the right hand lane and look for the A325 going right. Notice that ahead the roundabout is traffic light controlled. This means that the arrows on the approach will be telling you where to go at the traffic light, not where the lane goes.

You can see the second road sign is displaying 2 lanes go left and 3 lanes go ahead. This means that the 2 lanes directly ahead (picture above) will break into multiple lanes (picture below).



If the A325 goes left and right, then Farnborough must be on the A325(N). A325(N) is lanes 3 and 4 so by default you would get into lane 3. Notice that if you have been placed into a lane on a traffic light controlled roundabout, you only need to indicate to do a lane change, not to navigate around the roundabout.

Floor



Get in lane 3 and follow it ahead (ignore all lanes that cut across)



Ignore, but count your exits; that's number one on your left, you're heading for exit 3.



Lanes two and three are marked as the A325(N). Because we take the left of the two by default, take lane two to exit 3.



Ignore, just follow lane two to exit 3. Notice that lane 3 breaks into two lanes itself thus creating four lanes.



Your lane two just continues round the roundabout. There's exit 2 on your left; don't take it; you're going to exit 3.



Eh voila! You are now approaching exit 3 in the left lane and it's marked as the A325(N)- fabulous! Just stay on the left, near the kerb and you will find yourself in Farnborough.