



# How To Read Road Signs - Examples

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## Introduction

By now you should have read the document(s) about general rules to read signs and about how to deal with roundabouts.

This document shows examples of following road signs and if there's anything in here that you are unsure about then you should refer to the other documents.

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.



## Examples of following road signs

In Farnborough, the examiner can often ask you to follow signs; so get 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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?

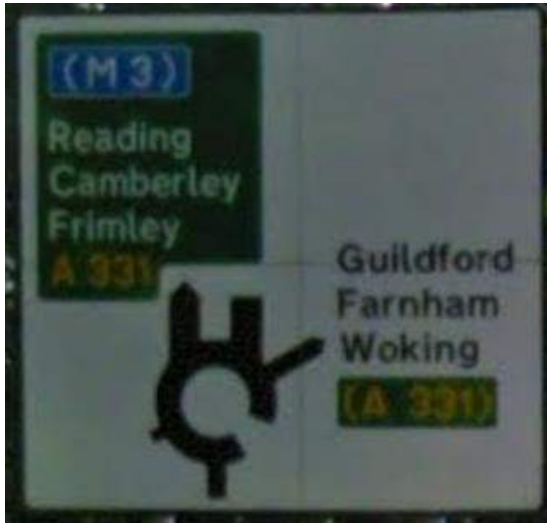
The M3, Guildford and Camberley are this way on the A3011; not forgetting Ash Vale and the station of course.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

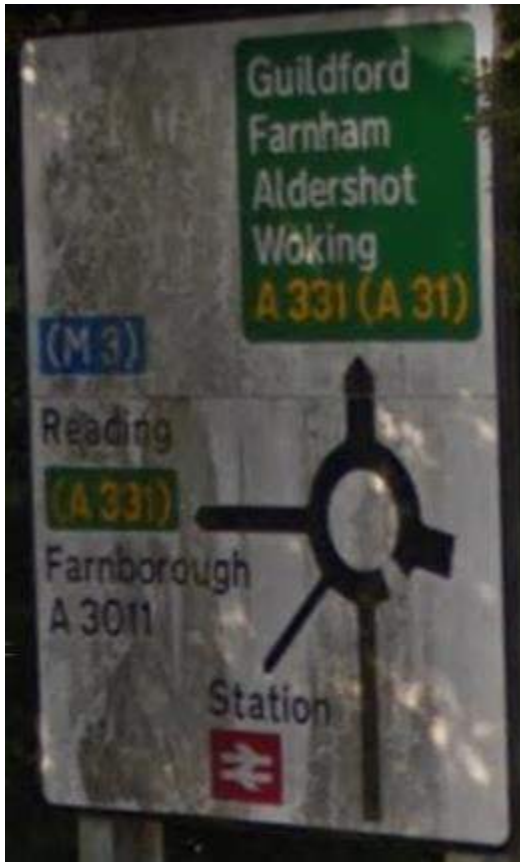
Mytchett is right 2 and look for signs for the future road B3411.

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

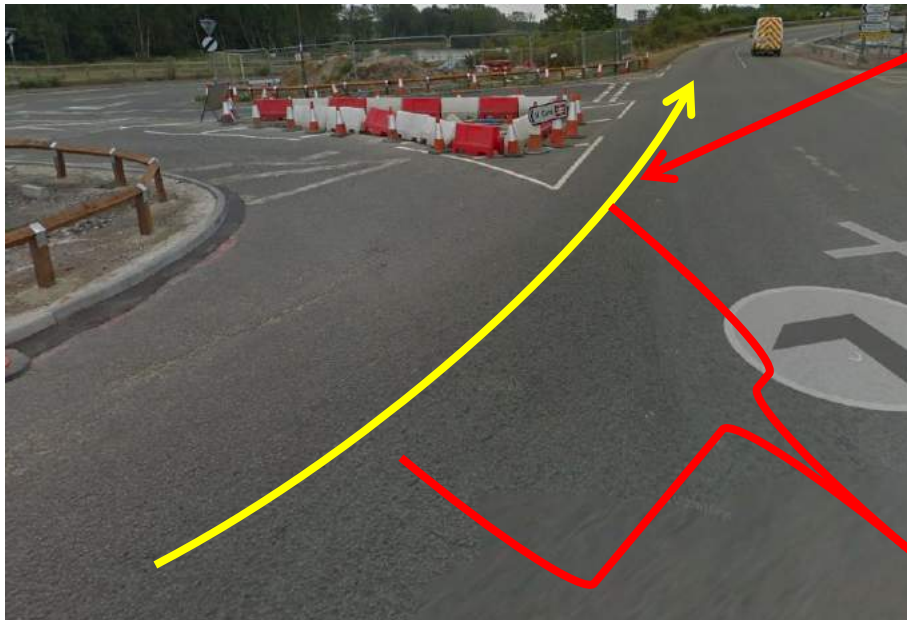
What's it say?

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



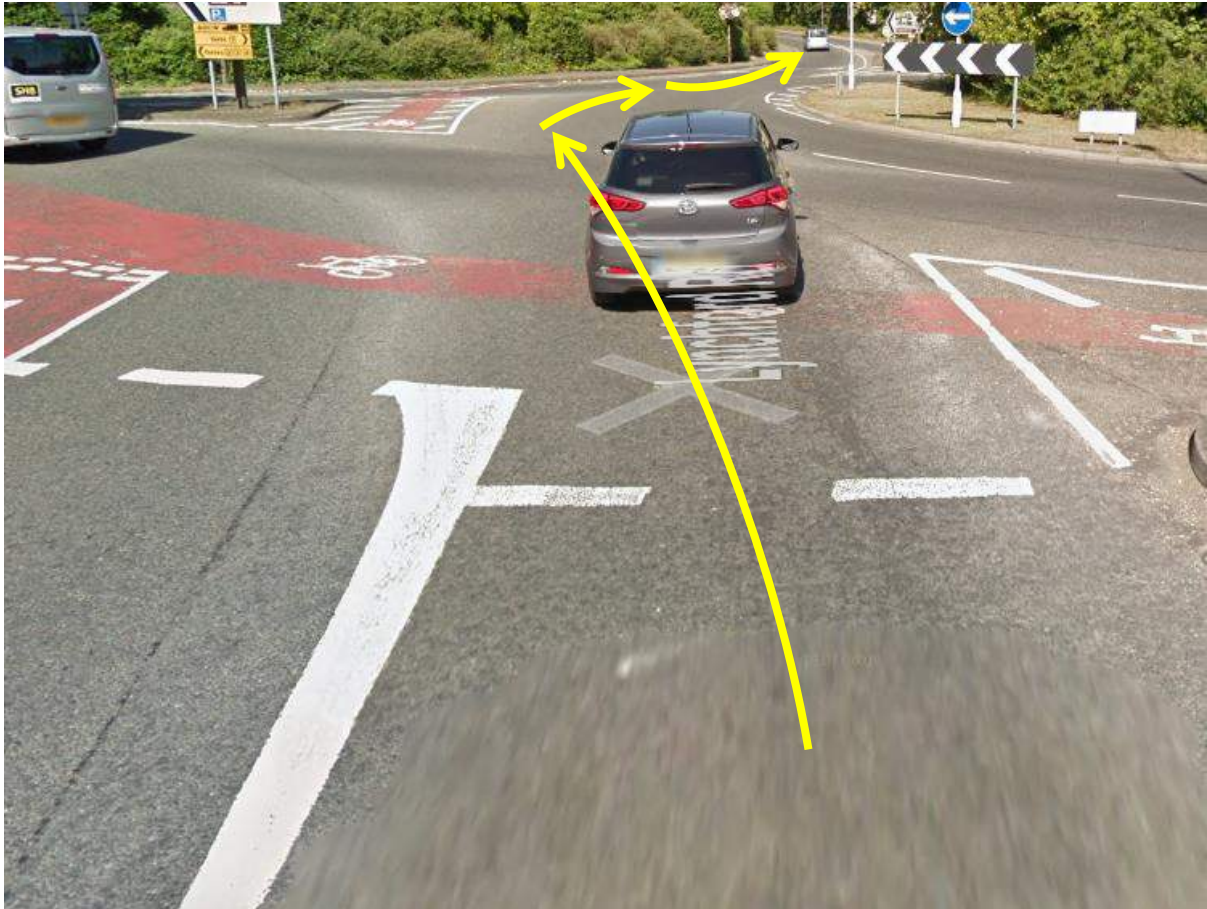
Where?  
Roundabout approach

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



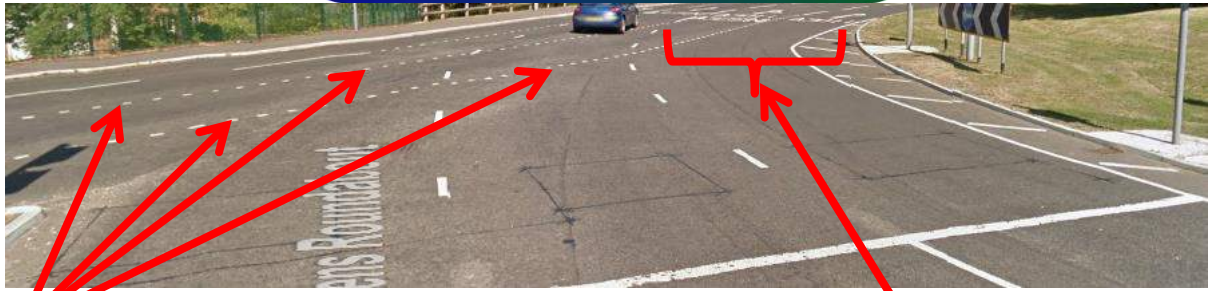
Get in lane 3 and follow it ahead (ignore all lanes that cut across)



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.