



YOUR RIGHTS ON A BIKE

When you ride a bike on the road you have rights and responsibilities. These are some of the most important.

The Highway Code (HC) says:

- You have the same right to use the road as every other road user. All road users (including drivers) should show each other consideration. *[HC introduction]*
- You have the right to at least as much space on the road as a car. *[HC 163]*
- As a “vulnerable road user”, you have the right to “careful and considerate” treatment from drivers. *[HC intro, 146, 147, 160, 204, 211, 212, 213]*
- Cycle lanes are for cycles. Cars must not drive or park in a cycle lane marked by a solid white line during its times of operation. *[HC 140]*
- The use of cycle lanes is not compulsory. They are there for your safety and convenience. *[HC 61,63]*

Cyclox says:

- Be confident, be courteous.
- Ride with pride; cycling is part of the solution, not part of the problem.

You have responsibilities too: see overleaf.





CYCLING IN OXFORDSHIRE YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Misconceptions around cycling can be the cause of considerable tension on our roads. This document, agreed by all campaign partners, aims to help all road users better understand the rights and responsibilities of cyclists. We hope that this will contribute to making cycling safer and more enjoyable as well as promoting greater tolerance and understanding between road users.

No single road user has priority over another to use our roads. It is not based on tax.

All road users have a duty of care to be considerate to others and to obey the law.

Cyclist rights

- Cyclists and vehicle drivers have an equal right to use the roads. Payment of Vehicle Excise Duty does not confer preferential status.
- Drivers must treat cyclists just as they would another car at road junctions.
- Cyclists have a right to respect from other road users; verbal abuse or threatening behaviour is not acceptable.
- Cyclists should be given at least as much space on the road as a car.
- The Advanced Stop Line at traffic lights makes a safe space for cyclists; other vehicles should not enter it after the lights have turned red.
- Cyclists have a right to feel safe within a bicycle lane: cars must not enter or park in them during their time of operation. Vehicles should not enter or park in broken white line cycle lanes unless it is unavoidable.
- Where there are parked cars on both sides of the road vehicles should keep to the left if there is an on-coming cyclist.
- Parked Vehicle users should take care of cyclists when opening doors.

Cyclist responsibilities

- Cyclists on roads must obey the Highway Code.
- Cyclists must stop at all red lights and not cycle on the pavement.
- Cyclists should look out for pedestrians, particularly on shared use paths, and in towns where they may step off the pavement at any time.
- Your bicycle must be in good working order - especially the brakes!
- Cyclists need to be seen and must have working lights at night; fluorescent clothing is a useful optional extra.
- Cyclists need to be aware of other road users - it is not good practice to wear headphones.
- Helmets are a personal choice but can reduce the severity of head injuries in an accident.
- The use of cycle lanes is not compulsory, they are there for your safety and convenience.
- Cyclists are legally allowed to cycle two abreast and in groups but should be considerate to other road users. It may be easier and quicker to overtake a short group of cyclists two abreast than a longer line riding in single file.
- Cyclists should be particularly careful in the vicinity of large vehicles which have large blind spots on all sides where the driver can't see you.

There is a hierarchy of harm. The more likely you are to cause harm to others by carelessness or inconsiderate behaviour the more you have a duty of care.

Be safe. Be considerate. Be happy. And be alert.



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