

# Avoid unnecessary keep left signs, use alternatives to yellow lines



Unightly, muddled and unsafe traffic signs



Unnecessary sign and guardrailing

## TOO MANY SIGNS TO COMPREHEND

Many traffic junctions are cluttered with unnecessary traffic signs on their approaches. This is a typical example of cognitive load. Drivers need to understand quickly which signs are important. The fewer signs they have to interpret, the more attention they can give to traffic conditions.

A traffic sign that is used far more often than is required by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) is the keep left sign. It is only needed if the highway authority has decided that without one, drivers would not understand the road ahead and there is a risk that they will pass to the wrong side of an obstruction such as a traffic island.

## KEEP LEFT SIGNS

Highway authorities can reduce clutter by dispensing with unnecessary signs without compromising safety. Although keep left signs are seen on many pedestrian refuges including at controlled crossings, there is no legal requirement for them to be installed in these situations.

If signs are considered by the highway authority to be helpful, they may be mounted on simple, elegant bollards, or be fixed directly to a structure.



Signal controlled crossing without a keep left sign



## YELLOW LINES

Yellow lines can be unsightly and out of character, particularly in historic settings. Where necessary they should be applied sensitively.

Variations to the width and the tint of the colour of the lines are allowed.

The standard width of yellow lines is 100mm, but narrower 50mm lines are permitted where the highway authority consider them to be suitable.

In a Restricted Parking Zone yellow lines are not required. The parking rules are explained to drivers by signs at the entrance to the zone.



Restricted Parking Zones effectively control parking but without ugly yellow lines

