Cycling Safely
Whether you are an experienced or inexperienced cyclist you must obey the Highway Code – it applies to cyclists as much as to motorists. Below you will find an outline of some of the points illustrated in the code.

On-Road
You MUST obey all traffic signs and traffic light signals.

Bus lanes may be used by cyclists only if the signs include a cycle symbol. Be very careful when entering or leaving a bus lane as you will be entering a busier traffic flow.

Cycle Lanes are marked by a white line (which may be broken) along the carriageway. Follow both the law and your visible so that other road users can see you.

Advanced Stop Lines enable cyclists to position themselves ahead of other traffic at traffic signal junctions.

Off-Road
Cycle Tracks may segregate cyclists and pedestrians or they may share the same space (unsegregated). When using segregated tracks you MUST keep to the side intended for cyclists.

Footways may also permit cyclists to share the space with pedestrians and may be segregated by a white line or unsegregated. Do not cycle on a footway unless there are signs to indicate a shared footway.

Take care when passing pedestrians, especially children, elderly or disabled people and allow them plenty of room. Always be prepared to slow down and stop if necessary.

Junctions
Do not ride on the inside of vehicles signalling or slowing down to turn left.

Pay attention to long vehicles which need a lot of room to manoeuvre at corners. Do not be tempted to ride in the space between them and the kerb.

Cycle Routes in Central Reading

Roundabouts can be hazardous and should be approached with care.

You may feel safer either keeping to the left on the roundabout or dismounting and walking your cycle round on the pavement or verge.

Crossings
Do not ride across a pelican, puffin or zebra crossing. Dismount and wheel your cycle across.

Toucan crossings are light-controlled crossings which allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross at the same time. They are push button operated. Pedestrians and cyclists will see the green signal together.

Cyclists are permitted to ride across.

Cycle-Only Crossings. Cycle tracks on opposite sides of the road may be linked by signalled crossings. You may ride across but you MUST NOT cross until the green cycle symbol is showing.

Top Safety Tips

- Aim to be seen by other road users – wear bright or reflective clothing
- Wear a helmet that conforms to current regulations
- The law requires that you must have lights and reflectors when on the road between sunset and sunrise

More information on the Highway Code can be found at www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Highwaycode/
Bike and Train

Bicycles are carried on most trains operating on the National Rail network. However, each train operating company has its own rules. For full details go to www.nationalrail.co.uk/passenger-services/cyclists.html or call 0845 344 959. Compact folding bicycles are carried free of charge without restrictions.

OYBike

Don’t fancy taking your bike on the train? Why not rent a bike from OYBike, the on-street rental station network that allows you to hire and return a bicycle via your mobile phone. OYBike stations can be found at the following key locations in Reading:

- Reading Train Station
- Green Park, Longwater Avenue
- Green Park, South Oak Way

For more information go to www.oybike.com or call 0845 226 5571.

Lock it or Lose It

To Protect Your Bike From Theft with four simple practical steps:

- Do lock your bike to something solid
- Do use the many bike parks around the town
- Do invest in a good quality lock
- Do have your frame postcode formatted

But

- Don’t leave your bike obstructing a way used by pedestrians
- Don’t leave it unlocked, EVER, not even for a few seconds

The following cycle shops are sponsors of this map edition.

- AW CYCLES
- Reading CTC
- CyCLezone
- AW CYCLES

For more information go to www.westberks.gov.uk

Contacts

- Reading Borough Council 0118 397 3727 or www.reading.gov.uk
- Transport Strategy – for information about Bikeability etc. call 0118 932 4884 or www.reading-travelinfo.co.uk
- CyCle Development office – for information on Velothon programme or Bike Week call 0118 932 4689
- Potholes, highway maintenance, street lighting Freetel 0800 222 222
- West Berkshire Council 01635 432400 or www.westberks.gov.uk
- Wokingham Borough Council 0118 987 6000 or www.wokingham.gov.uk
- Reading CTC 0118 932 2762 or www.readingcycles.org.uk
- CTC - The UK’s national cycling organisation 0844 750 8500 (Direct line 01483 238 337) www.ctc.org.uk
- Reading Cycle Campaign 0845 330 2543 or www.readingcyclecampaign.org.uk

Developing Reading’s Networks

This map is part of implementing the vision of a cycle route network as set out in Reading’s Cycling Strategy 2008. The vision for signposting and promoting cycle routes in Reading is based on the national concepts of the Premier Route box network, improving and expanding cycling infrastructure and facilities including cycle lanes, safe junctions, and providing secure cycle parking along town routes. The network is promoted with colour coded route branding and signage.

The National Cycle Network

Reading is on the junctions of Route 4, Route 5 and Route 23 of the National Cycle Network. These offer quiet and pleasant alternatives for cyclists wishing to travel to and from Reading. The routes are shown on the map with the numbers above. For more information about the national network go to www.cyclingcoupons.org.uk or contact Sunbury on 0844 131 0060.

For further copies of this map please call 0118 937 4881 or go to www.reading.gov.uk/cycling