

# Vulnerable Road Users: Cyclists

Cyclists may wobble because they are easily affected by side winds, which can also be generated when being overtaken. Leave a gap of at least 1.5m when overtaking cyclists in slow-moving traffic.

In heavy traffic cyclists may filter on either side. Always check your mirrors and blind spots before changing position or speed.

Cyclists may adjust their road positioning unexpectedly to avoid drains and uneven road surfaces. Anticipate this and prepare to adjust your position.

Leave a safe gap between yourself and the cyclist to give you enough room to stop safely if necessary.

Cyclists may be difficult to spot and are therefore vulnerable to other traffic, especially at roundabouts and junctions.

You can also help keep cyclists safe by:

- Allowing extra room when passing at higher speeds: be patient and only overtake when it is safe to do so.
- Not following too closely as this may be intimidating.
- Respecting cycle lanes and advance stop lines: allow cyclists time to move off safely as they may not move away as fast as you can.

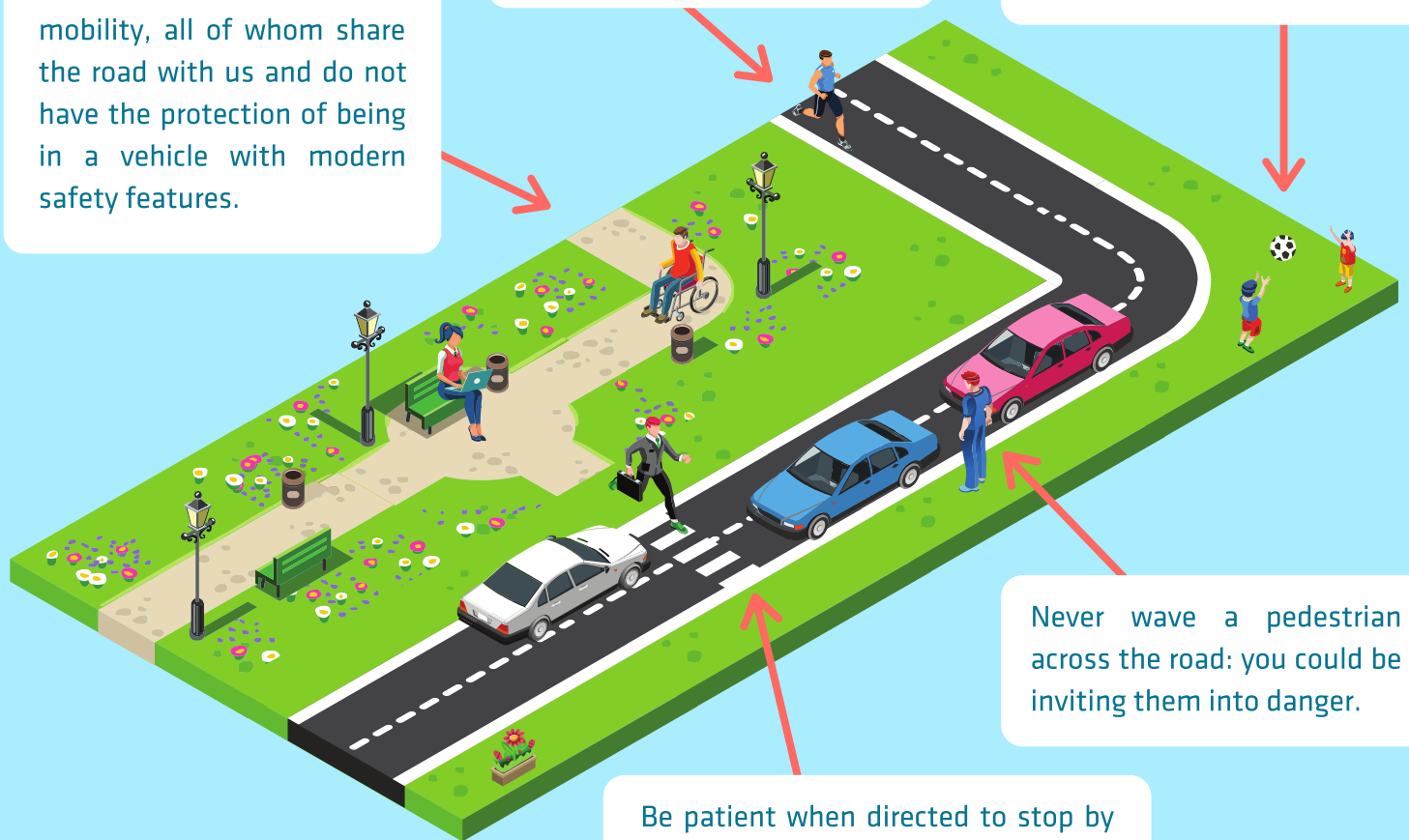
A vulnerable road user is someone who has very little or no protection around them. There are many types including: [Pedestrians](#), [Motorcyclists](#), [Horses](#) and [Cyclists](#)

# Vulnerable Road Users: Pedestrians

Pedestrians include all kinds of people e.g. children, the elderly, deaf or blind people and those with limited mobility, all of whom share the road with us and do not have the protection of being in a vehicle with modern safety features.

Pavements are usually the safest places for pedestrians. However, where there is no pavement for them to use, expect them to be in the road.

Children can be difficult to see when driving. They can also move quickly and do unexpected things like run into the road. Anticipate this and plan for it.



Never wave a pedestrian across the road: you could be inviting them into danger.

Be patient when directed to stop by a school crossing patrol or when stopping at pedestrian crossings.

You can also help keep pedestrians safe by:

- Parking considerately. Think about where you parked your vehicle: Is your vehicle blocking a dropped kerb? Does it restrict the view of other road users?
- Treating pedestrians the way you would want to be treated when out walking: keep them safe.
- Keeping your speed down in areas where you are likely to encounter pedestrians.

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# Vulnerable Road Users: Motorcyclists

Motorcyclists may avoid riding over drain covers and paint on the road as these can cause stability problems, especially in the wet.

Riders are especially affected by side winds when being overtaken or when in open areas.

A wet road surface may also cause them to alter their positioning on bends and roundabouts; be prepared to allow them extra space.

Motorcyclists are harder to see, especially at junctions. They may be in a blind spot created by your windscreen 'A' pillar.

Be aware of motorcyclists filtering either side of you, especially in heavy traffic or on the approach to junctions. They may also emerge from small gaps where you might not expect a vehicle to fit.

You can also help keep motorcyclists safe by:

- Thinking about where a motorcycle is likely to be. Have you checked in your mirrors or your blind spot?
- Being mindful that a motorcycle's headlight may be confused with those of a car behind it, and that even high-visibility clothing may sometimes blend into the background.
- Being aware that motorbike are often travelling faster than you perceive.

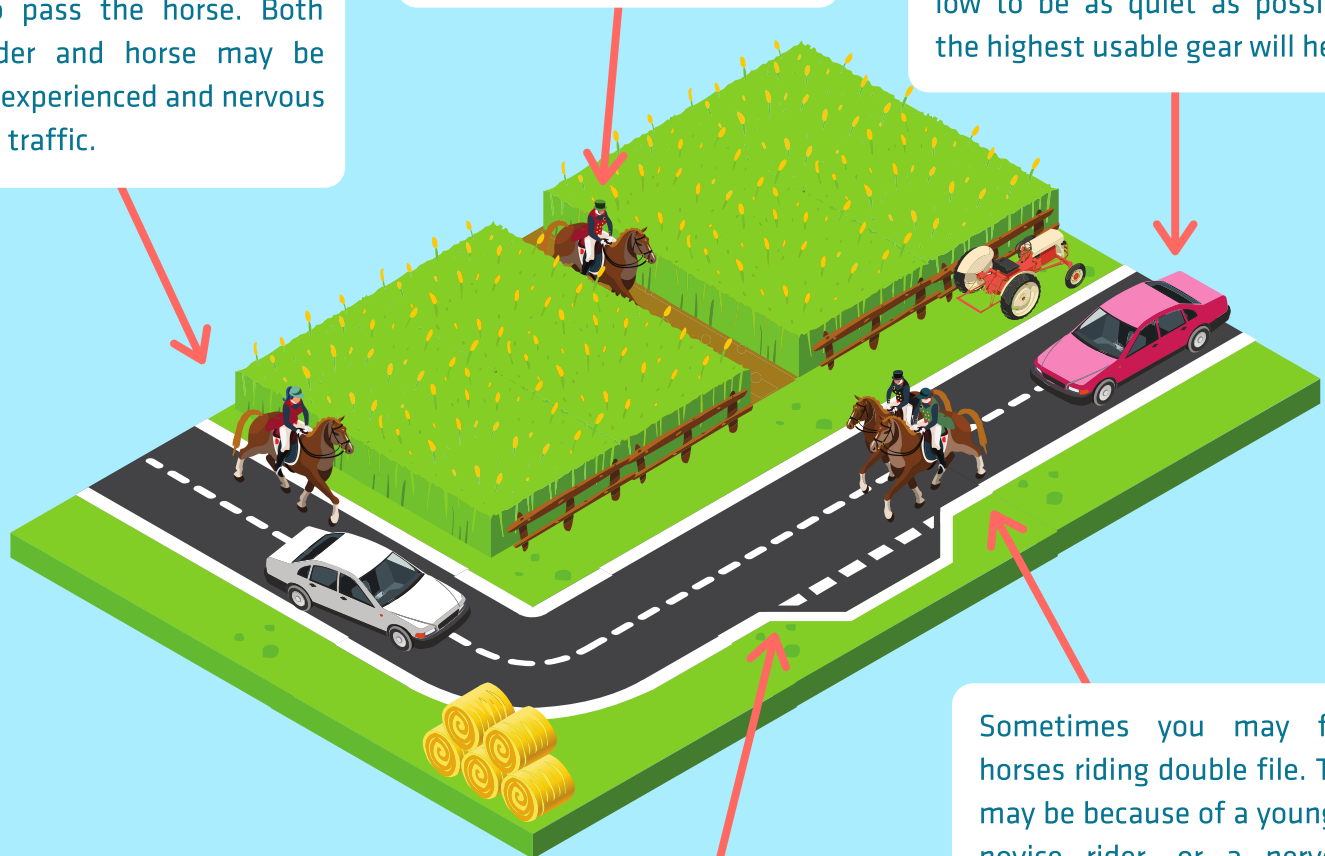
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# Vulnerable Road Users: Horse Riders

Always accelerate gently to pass the horse. Both rider and horse may be inexperienced and nervous in traffic.

Look out for horses emerging onto the road from bridleways and other off-road paths.

When you see a horse and rider, slow right down, give them plenty of room, turn the radio down and keep the engine revs low to be as quiet as possible; the highest usable gear will help.



If there's not enough room to manoeuvre around the horse, the rider may decide to trot towards the nearest layby or grass verge. Stay back and allow the rider to get to safety before overtaking.

Sometimes you may find horses riding double file. This may be because of a young or novice rider, or a nervous horse. Give them plenty of space and be patient.

You can also help keep horses and their riders safe by:

- Being aware that horses are normally ridden in rural areas, but you may also encounter them in towns.
- Keeping an eye on the rider. They may use hand signals to alert drivers of their intended movements, or to ask you to slow down or stop.
- Being prepared to completely stop to allow the horse and rider to pass you safely, if it is safe to do so.

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