

Modern road travel can be a tiring business. Traffic levels have reached such proportions that parts of the road network are permanently under pressure. It is almost a certainty that if you travel by road you will experience traffic congestion at some point on your journey.

The key to keeping out of trouble as far as possible is *GOOD INFORMATION* about your route, and about traffic conditions. There is a great deal of detailed route and other information on road signs. There may be information there of which you are not aware. The panel below will enable you to understand the significance of the different types of road signs.

Signs of the Times

A GUIDE TO ROAD SIGNS IN DEVON

DEVON ROAD NETWORK 1992

Devon has developed a highly effective system to ensure that the limited funds available for road maintenance are used to best effect. It relies on grading the road network into different categories, depending on the suitability of each route.

The different grades of road are distinguished by a unique signing system which is shown here in detail. Using the most suitable routes will get you to your destination more safely and quickly and save on road maintenance costs.

The map shows the more important roads in the county divided into the categories shown in the key.

KEY

- Motorway
- Primary Routes
- Primary County Routes
- Secondary County Routes
- Local Distributors
- Collector Roads



DEVON'S MINOR ROUTE SIGNING

Many of the roads in Devon are winding, hilly and very narrow. To help you choose the best way to your destination the County Council has identified a network of roads varying from main roads down to those which are only suitable for cars or essential delivery vehicles. Once you have decided where you want to go, simply use the highest class of road available, only using the lower classes when you are near to your destination and a more suitable route is not available.



White sign with blue border and blue chevron. This indicates a route suited to MEDIUM sized vehicles.

Whimble 1

White sign with brown border and brown chevron. This indicates a route suitable only for cars and other small vehicles.



Butterleigh 3



White sign with no border and open chevron. This indicates a route to a local destination only.

Woodtown 12



A place name within a box indicates that the destination is reached via a lower standard route as indicated by the colour of the border.

On minor roads, the signs are more often than not traditional fingerposts which incorporate junction names and the 'Devon' logo on the top. These modern style fingerposts are reflective so as to be more effective at night.

At some locations the old style fingerposts have been retained if of historic or other interest.

In the Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks wooden posts have been used.

Whiddon Down
Okehampton
Exeter
A382
Chagford



Public rights of way, ie footpaths, bridleways and byways, are signed from metalled roads using white on green signs.

Please remember, what the signs don't tell you is that when travelling on a minor road you will have to cope with all manner of unexpected hazards such as stray animals unaware of the green cross code, sightseers driving at the pace of a horse and trap, larger vehicles gaining access to properties, bends and hills and finally a lot of other cars all having to encounter the same potential hazards as you!

To make the best use of the new signs plan your journey using a map and remember

"NEVER USE A LOWER GRADE ROAD WHEN A HIGHER GRADE ROAD WOULD DO".

and always adjust your driving to the conditions.

NATIONAL SIGNING



The Midlands
Taunton
Bristol

Cullompton
B3181

28



The following signs are those with which most drivers will be familiar as they are to be seen throughout the country.

Motorway Signs

Motorway signs have a blue background with a white border.

The only other direction signs to appear on motorways are the brown tourism signs or the yellow alternative route signs (see overleaf).

The approaching junction number appears bottom left of the sign.

Primary Route Signs

Green signs with a white border are used on through roads known as primary routes.



Both the blue motorway signs and the green primary route signs indicate national through routes which are suited to all vehicles.

Other Main Roads

Totnes
Dartmouth
Kingsbridge
A384 (A381)

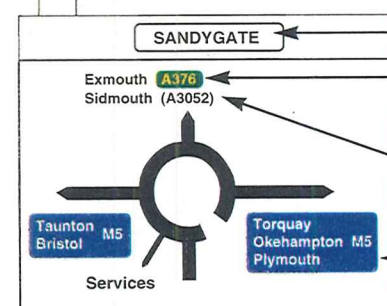
B'fastleigh
Buckfast

These signs are used on other 'A' and 'B' roads. They are white with a black border and black chevron and indicate roads suited to most types of traffic.

Chudleigh
B3344



Boxes and Brackets - what they mean!



- Junction name
- Green panel indicating a primary route ahead.
- Other connecting route indicated by brackets.
- Blue panel indicating a motorway.



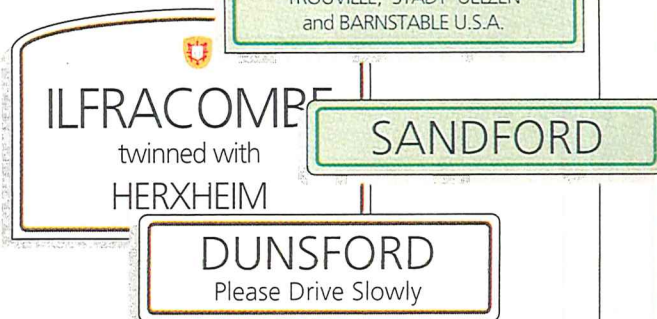
Published by

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
ENGINEERING & PLANNING

County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon

PLACE NAME SIGNS

Distinctive signs for towns and villages can be seen throughout Devon.



They can be chosen by parish or town councils from the different styles and colours available. They are designed to support Devon's reputation as a first class holiday and tourist area which cares for both its natural and man made environment.

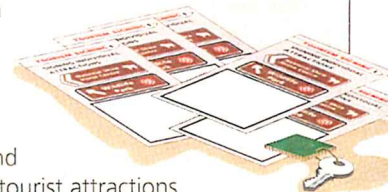


Details of the signs are available from the Engineering and Planning Department.

TOURISM

A Day Out in Devon

If you're on a day's outing in Devon, follow the white on brown tourist signs and discover the county's tourist attractions. The symbols will show what the attractions are in general terms. Further detailed information will be available from a local tourist information point. Look for the "i" symbol.



Many of Devon's attractions are now signed in this way.

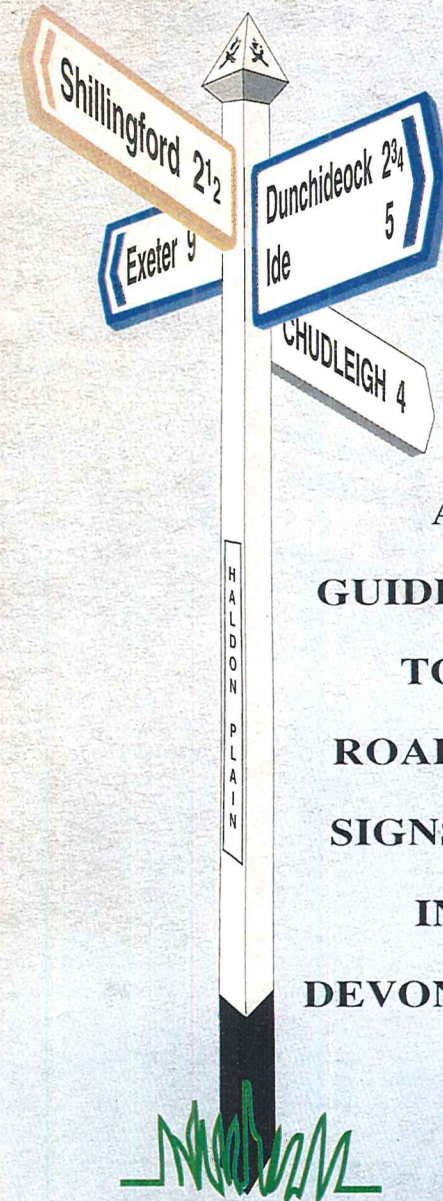
SYMBOLS USED ON TOURIST ATTRACTION SIGNS



Published by
Engineering and Planning Department,
Devon County Council.
County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
February 1992



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ENGINEERING & PLANNING



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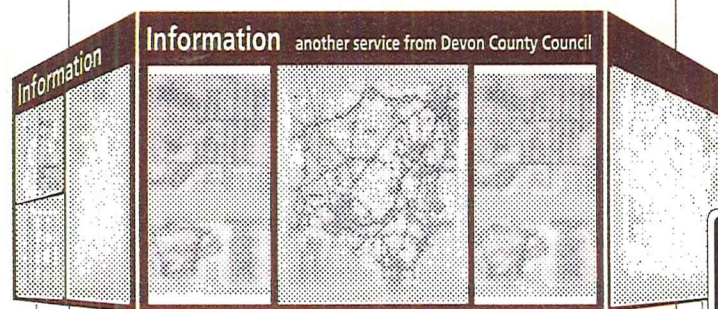
Signs of the Times

INTRODUCTION

Devon has more miles of road than any other county - 9,100 miles - anything from a motorway to the narrow, winding Devon lanes that criss cross the rural areas of the county. Coping with the maintenance of this wide variety of roads poses its own special problems. The lanes are a vital element of the Devon landscape but many are really only suitable for farm vehicles, sheep and cattle - this has been the case for centuries.

Until recently, there was no way of telling whether the minor roads shown on a map were suited to the journey to be undertaken. That is why all the roads in Devon have been put into categories according to the purpose they serve. To give the categories some real practical purpose, a new signing system has been introduced which shows road users at a glance the sort of road they are about to use. This is one element of a number of signing innovations that have taken place in the county. This leaflet gives a clearer understanding of many of the changes.

TOURIST INFORMATION POINTS



The County Council has erected some 50 tourist information boards in roadside laybys and picnic areas. The boards have been strategically located on main traffic/tourist routes both into and within the county to give information on an area wide basis. Advance signs are positioned to inform the motorists of the presence of the boards. The boards, which are made up of three panels, display information such as maps, street plans, local places of interest, accommodation, useful addresses and telephone numbers e.g. hospitals, tourist offices, motoring organisations and local radio stations. Space is made available for advertisements related to tourism for which a modest charge is made. By improving visitor information, the boards help avoid a proliferation of signs, particularly those off the highway.

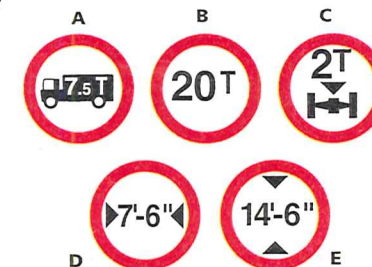
LORRIES

There are special reasons why lorry drivers need to be aware of road signing. Getting stuck in a narrow lane, or on a very steep gradient is a situation that most drivers will avoid if they can. Devon's new direction signs give a far better idea of the type of road to use, and of course, there are road signs aimed particularly at the HGV driver. Some of these are shown below.



Indicates a route for goods vehicles.

- A Maximum gross weight limit.
- B Laden weight limit.
- C Axle weight limit
- D Width limit
- E Height limit



MOTORWAY DIVERSION ROUTES

Diversionary or alternative routes are necessary if a motorway is closed for emergency reasons. To rejoin the motorway past the closure, the route to follow is indicated at the point of departure. Frequently the details of the diversion are too complex to fit onto a single sign and symbols are used to mark the alternative route. Here are some examples of the symbols used.

