


17. Using roundabouts

National Standard reference: 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2, 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.2.1, 4.2.2

Instructing points

- On seeing the roundabout up ahead, look behind.
- Move into the primary position as you approach the roundabout.
- When approaching any junction, you should be prepared to brake and have your fingers covering your brakes. Choose the most appropriate gear (if present) and speed as you approach the junction.
- If necessary, signal in the direction you plan to leave the roundabout (riding straight ahead does not require a signal).
- Give way to people already on the roundabout coming from the right, and to those about to enter it on your right.
- When it's clear, move on to the roundabout using the primary position.
- Avoid going over the middle of a mini-roundabout. Ride centrally in the lane instead.
- Check the entry roads to the roundabout as you pass them, making eye contact with people wishing to enter the roundabout. Where possible, pedal as you go past to communicate that you have priority.
- Look behind just before you exit the roundabout in primary position.
- Soon after leaving the roundabout, look behind again to see what's behind you.
- Use a suitable riding position to continue your journey.

Additional resources

 **Video – Single-lane roundabout**

Activity ideas

On arriving at the roundabout, ask the riders which road is the major road (the roundabout road itself) and what road users must do when they approach it. Use other road users as examples for this. Discuss these issues of priority before you (or your co-instructor) give a demonstration.

Consider demonstrating how to move through the roundabout from different directions. Where possible, discuss the key coaching points at the same time as riders observe the demonstration, using the four key skills to frame the learning.

Consider asking riders to partner up for their first attempts, or even (when working with a co-instructor) splitting the group into two with an instructor supporting each group (normally riding behind them).

Activity ideas (continued)

Ensure the riders start the activity far enough away from the roundabout so they have time to look, signal, check and move ahead of reaching the roundabout.

The riders should always be visible to at least one instructor. An instructor should normally stand at the entrance to the roundabout with the rest of the group where they can observe and review.

If you are working with a co-instructor, you would normally position them at or near to the exit of the roundabout.

Sample questions to check understanding

- Q. Where is the major road?
- Q. Who has priority on a roundabout?
- Q. Why is it important to ride in the primary position on roundabouts?
- Q. Which direction do you check before joining the roundabout?
- Q. When should you signal to tell others where you're going?
- Q. When is it appropriate not to signal?

Differentiation

Inclusion

Riders using specialist wider cycles may need to take care when negotiating smaller mini-roundabouts that have a raised central section.

Extension

Simplify

You can 'buddy ride' with nervous riders or have them cycle with a partner.

Challenge

Ask riders to approach the roundabout from different directions. They could also do a U-turn on the road they exited on, before returning and finishing opposite where they started.

Consider splitting a group into two and have an instructor riding behind each group of riders (dynamically moving up alongside them if necessary) to carry out flowing circuits of the roundabout. Switch the order of the riders to give them all the opportunity to 'lead' the group.

Risk benefit assessment

Risk

A rider is confused regarding the priority rules for roundabouts. On their first attempt, they do not check properly and start riding onto the roundabout even though it is not clear.

Mitigation

You intervene with a clear verbal instruction, so that the rider stops. You then ensure the rider observes the others before their next attempt, which they carry out with a partner.

Benefits

The rider develops their understanding regarding priorities and the routine for negotiating mini-roundabouts. With more practice, they can complete the activity on their own.