



Welcome

While the Highway Code has never endorsed left-hooking cyclists, the new version is unequivocal. Rule H3 tells drivers: "You should not cut across cyclists going ahead when you are turning into or out of a junction just as you would not turn across the path of another motor vehicle... Do not turn at a junction if to do so would cause the cyclist going straight ahead to stop or swerve."

The driver who passed a group of us on a late February club ride was unaware of this – and us. His sudden turn into a driveway was the worst left hook I've experienced.

Brakes were grabbed. Bikes were swerved. The front rider miraculously avoided diving through one of the nearside windows or sliding under the car's wheels, instead clipping the rear bumper and coming to a halt. The rest of us managed not to pile into each other.

The driver, when he was urgently encouraged to wind down his window, wasn't defensive or aggressive. He was oblivious.

Near misses like this, which we should perhaps call "near hits", are enough to stop some people cycling. For others, the mere prospect of them is sufficient to stop them even considering riding on the road.

So it's great that Highway Code now spells out how drivers should behave around cyclists and other vulnerable road users, and it's a testament to your support for Cycling UK's Highway Code campaign that the changes were made. The next battle is to make drivers aware: of the rules and of the road.

DAN JOYCE
Cycle Editor

Coronavirus
For updated advice regarding the Covid-19 outbreak, visit: cyclinguk.org/coronavirus

CONTENTS



On the cover
Cyclists in Surrey demonstrably not holding up traffic. Photo by Robert Spanring

Features

32 End to End game

2,000km on/off-road from Land's End to John o' Groats

38 A new code

How the Highway Code has changed to protect vulnerable road users

47 Push bikes

Campaigning for cycling ahead of May's elections

50 Sardinian journey

A post-lockdown ride across the Italian island

Products

18 Shop Window

New products coming soon

20 Gear up

Components, accessories, and books

60 Rigid rides

Surly Krampus and Jones Plus LWB on test

66 Light Blue Parkside 5spd

£650 roadster with Sturmey-Archer gears

69 Tight-tyre tools

Technology for stubborn tyres

Regulars

04 Freewheeling

Bits and pieces from the bike world

07 This is Cycling UK

Cycling UK's upcoming projects; the new Cantii Way in Kent; Shoreham cycle lane victory; new kit from Stolen Goat; and more

16 You are Cycling UK

Three Peaks Challenge record holder Saoirse Pottie

29 Letters

Your feedback on Cycle and cycling

44 Weekender

52-mile gravel ride in Norfolk

54 Cyclopedia

Questions answered, topics explained

73 Travellers' Tales

Cycling UK members' ride reports

we are cycling
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Founded in 1878

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