

Guide to Parking Restrictions and Enforcement in Cambridge

It is important that all road users familiarise themselves with The Highway Code. The Highway Code includes detailed explanations of national road signs and parking restrictions.

This guide gives a brief overview of those restrictions that are predominant in the City of Cambridge and any variations to enforcement that may be considered unique to the City. It is not an exhaustive guide to parking restrictions and the onus is still on the road user to familiarise themselves The Highway Code.

Bus layover bays

What do these signs mean?



These bays are for local scheduled bus services with the correct permit only. They are not pick up and set down points for coaches or other public service vehicles.

Other Vehicles

Any other type of vehicle or a bus without a permit may receive a Penalty Charge Notice when parked in a bus layover bay.

Blue Badge holders

Blue Badge holders may not park in a bus layover bay.

The sign does not have any days of operation

If the sign does not mention which days it is operational, this means that it applies every day of the week.

Coach bays

What do these signs mean?



Any sign using the coach symbol indicates that the bay is for coaches or buses only. Coach stands are there for coaches to pick up and set down passengers only, not parking. All coach bays operate every day of the week and on Bank Holidays. There may be additional restrictions outside the coach bay hours shown on smaller plates on the same board, as in the photo below.

Other Vehicles

Any other type of vehicle may receive a Penalty Charge Notice when parked in a coach bay.

Blue Badge holders

Blue Badge holders may not park in a coach bay.

What happens if I park slightly over the bay markings?

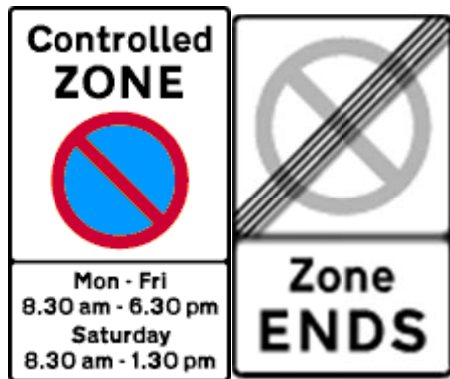
You must park completely inside the bay markings and you should not use the space unless all of your vehicle can fit inside the bay markings. Any vehicle parked with at least one wheel outside the bay markings may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.

The sign does not show any days of operation.

If any sign does not mention specific days, it means that it is in operation every day of the week.

Controlled Parking Zones

What does this mean?



Controlled Parking Zone signs are probably the most important signs to understand when parking, as they indicate a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ).

In a CPZ all parking is controlled. There are no unrestricted parking areas in a CPZ; every bay is reserved for a specific purpose.

When parking in a bay in a CPZ, always check for the sign or bay markings stating what parking is allowed in that bay.

The times on the CPZ sign indicate when parking regulations are in force. If the times in an individual bay are different, the times will be shown on the sign by the bay.

There may be different types of bays on the same street, so always check the signs or markings next to the bay you are occupying to see what type of bay you are in.

The CPZ includes all streets past the entry sign until you see a CPZ ends sign. As a rule of thumb, if there are resident parking bays or pay and display bay in a street, that street is inside a CPZ.

What happens if I park in a CPZ when the restrictions are in force?

The times on the sign show when single yellow lines and parking bays are enforced. If you park on single yellow lines within these times, or in a pay and display bay without making a payment etc., you may receive a Penalty Charge Notice.

All double yellow lines are enforced 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and some individual parking spaces, including resident bays, may have their own time plates indicating the hours of enforcement that are different from the CPZ hours. Always check signs when you park.

Cycle Lanes

Cycle lanes are designed to allow cyclists safer routes through Cambridge. Drivers should not park in a cycle lane.

Cycle lanes are depicted by road markings and signs. You must not drive or park in a cycle lane marked by a solid white line during its times of operation. Do not drive or park in a cycle lane marked by a broken white line unless it is unavoidable. You must not park in any cycle lane whilst waiting restrictions apply.

As the Traffic Regulation Orders in Cambridge currently stand, we cannot enforce these restrictions through our Civil Parking Enforcement. As these offences are considered very serious, they remain the responsibility of the Police so that appropriate penalties can be imposed, e.g penalty points on a driver's licence.

Disabled parking bays

What does this mean?

This is a parking space for Blue Badge holders. In Cambridge, you must display a Blue Badge to park in a disabled parking space.

What will happen if I do not display a valid Blue Badge?

If you stop in a disabled bay (even just to pick up or set down a passenger) and you do not display a valid Blue Badge, you may receive a Penalty Charge Notice. You may also receive a Penalty Charge Notice if you display your badge the wrong way round. You must display your badge with the expiry date and serial number visible from outside the vehicle. The photograph should never be visible.

Loading and Unloading

Unless a Blue Badge is displayed, loading and unloading is not allowed.

What happens if I park slightly over the bay markings?

You must park completely inside the bay markings and you should not use the space unless all of your vehicle can fit inside the bay markings. Any vehicle parked with at least one wheel outside the bay markings may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.

The sign does not show any days of operation.

If any sign does not mention specific days, it means that it is in operation every day of the week.

Doctors' bays

What does this mean?



This is a parking space for doctor permit holders. In Cambridge permits may be issued to doctors on the staff of health centres and medical practices where they need their vehicle for work. The relevant bay will be located near the premises.

What will happen if I do not display a valid doctor's permit?

If you park in a doctor's permit bay and you do not display a valid doctor's permit, you may receive a Penalty Charge Notice.

Blue Badge holders

Blue Badge holders may not park in a doctor's permit bay.

What happens if I park slightly over the bay markings?

You must park completely inside the bay markings and you should not use the space unless all of your vehicle can fit inside the bay markings. Any vehicle parked with at least one wheel outside the bay markings may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.

The sign does not show any days of operation.

If a sign does not mention specific days, it means that it is in operation every day of the week.

Dropped kerbs

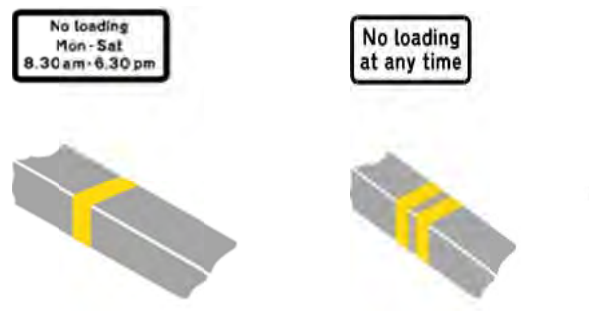
Parking in front of a Dropped Kerb is not allowed as it causes danger to pedestrians and obstructs vehicles from accessing property adjacent to the highway. The Police can enforce in these circumstances for obstruction.

The County Council Civil Enforcement Officers can also issue a Penalty Charge Notice to a vehicle parked on a dropped footway when the dropped kerb has been marked with a white Access Protection Marking ('H' marking).

Penalty Charge Notices will also be issued to vehicles that park against a dropped kerb which is adjacent to a tactile pavement surface.

Kerb markings

What do these markings mean?



These markings appear on pavement kerbs alongside single and double yellow lines to show that loading restrictions are in place.

When you see these markings check for a sign nearby that states when you are not allowed to load or unload.

Single yellow kerb markings mean loading or unloading is restricted during the time shown on the time plate.

Double yellow kerb markings mean no loading or unloading at any time.

Picking up and dropping off passengers

When picking up or dropping off you must stay with your vehicle at all times unless your passengers need help getting into or out of your vehicle.

Blue Badge holders

Your Blue Badge cannot be used when these loading restrictions are in place.

What happens if I park here?

Any vehicle parked when restrictions are in place may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice, or parking ticket. Because there are no permitted activities, no observation will be given and the Penalty Charge Notice will be issued immediately.

Loading bays

What does this mean?



This sign is found by loading bays. These are provided for areas where there is little or no alternative parking to allow loading and unloading to and from local businesses to take place. A Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) will observe your vehicle in a loading bay to see if any loading or unloading is taking place. If the CEO does not see anything, they issue a Penalty Charge Notice.

I was unloading but I still got a Penalty Charge Notice.

All this means is that the CEO did not see you loading or unloading before they issued the Penalty Charge Notice. You might be able to get this cancelled by providing an acceptable explanation why the vehicle was unattended for so long and a copy of any documents confirming that a delivery or collection was taking place.

Blue Badge Holders

Blue Badge holders may not park in a loading bay.

The sign does not show any days of operation.

If any sign does not mention specific days, it means that it is in operation every day of the week.

Motorcycle bays

On-street Parking

There are several on-street motorcycle parking bays in Cambridge. Parking in these bays is free of charge for an unlimited period of time. The bays are situated in the following streets:

- Boltoph Lane
- Chesterton Road
- Fitzroy Lane
- Free School Lane
- King Street
- Lensfield Road
- Occupation Road
- Park Terrace
- Silver Street
- Trumpington Street

You must pay the correct amount and display a valid ticket when parking a motorcycle in a pay-and-display bay.

Please ensure that you do not park in any non-designated areas or on pavements to avoid receiving a Penalty Charge Notice.

You must have a residential parking permit to park in a resident parking bay during restricted hours.

What happens if I park slightly over the bay markings?

You must park completely inside the bay markings and you should not use the space unless all of your vehicle can fit inside the bay markings. Any vehicle parked with at least one wheel outside the bay markings may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.

Other Vehicles

If any other type of vehicle is parked in these bays a Penalty Charge Notice may be issued.

Blue Badge holders

Blue Badge holders may not park in a motorcycle bay.

Motorcycle Bays in Car Parks

Cambridge City Council is responsible for car parks in Cambridge.

Park Street car park has 15 motorcycle parking bays on the ground floor on the right hand side of the entrance. There is a small slip road as you approach the entrance barrier large enough for a motorcycle to enter. To exit the car park drive round the exit barrier.

Queen Anne car park has 12 motorcycle bays on the left hand side as you enter the ground floor. To enter and exit the car park on your motorcycle please drive round the barriers.

Parking your motorcycle in a motorcycle bay in the above car parks is free of charge for an unlimited period. All of our car parks are open 24 hours a day.

Further spaces are anticipated in the near future at Park Street car park, together with the introduction of lockers next to motorcycle bays for the storage of helmets and clothing etc

Parking near schools

The roads near schools are places where a number of different priorities conflict. The overriding priority for Cambridgeshire County Council around schools is the safety of children on foot.

Picking up and dropping off children

There are no special arrangements allowing parents to set down and pick up school children in any location and any parents choosing to take their children to school by car must obey the parking regulations in place.

This is true for resident parking bays and pay and display parking bays as well as single and double yellow lines and the zig zag markings.

Drivers can stop to pick up or drop off children, but waiting for passengers is not permitted, unless in a correct parking place with the appropriate permit or payment.

When picking up or dropping off your children you must stay with your vehicle at all times unless your children need help getting into or out of your vehicle or the school will not allow them to leave except when handed over to an appropriate adult. The children must be ready to leave as soon as you arrive; otherwise you must move your vehicle to an appropriate parking place.

If you have to wait for the children to be released or a teacher wishes to speak to you, you must move your vehicle to a parking place and display the correct permit or ticket.

Pay and display bays

Pay and display bays are parking spaces with ticket machines for a rank of bays.

Full guidance regarding payment, the hours of operation and maximum stay periods are stated on the front of the machine. The time your vehicle can stay until is printed on the ticket.

The plate on the machine also details why a Penalty Charge Notice might be issued – for instance if you are parking outside the bay markings, failing to display a valid ticket, staying beyond the maximum time, purchasing a subsequent ticket (meter feeding) and returning within a given time.

Picking up and dropping off passengers

Drivers can stop in a pay and display bay to pick up or drop off passengers, but waiting for passengers is not permitted.

When picking up or dropping off you must stay with your vehicle at all times unless your passengers need help getting into or out of your vehicle.

Loading and unloading

Loading and unloading is not allowed without the purchase of a pay and display ticket.

Permit holders

There are no permits that are valid in pay and display bays (please note this includes resident and visitor permits) except a parking waiver issued under the circumstances outlined in section 4 regarding yellow lines.

What happens if I exceed my time limit?

If you do not return to move your vehicle before the expiry time displayed on the ticket, a Penalty Charge Notice may be issued. You cannot purchase further tickets unless you move your vehicle to a different street.

What happens if the pay and display machine is out of order?

An instruction sticker will usually be displayed on the front of an out of order pay and display machine. This will advise you to either use an adjacent machine, or that parking is free up to the maximum stay period. Please follow the instructions on the sticker.

If the machine goes out of order when you try to use it:

- You can call the number on the machine to report the fault. If you have lost any money in the machine the Parking Services team will give you a reference number and a time to display in your windscreen to allow you to park for the time that you have purchased. This will stop a Penalty Charge Notice being issued.
- You can purchase a ticket from another machine on the same street.

What happens if I park slightly over the bay markings?

You must park completely inside the bay markings and you should not use the space unless all of your vehicle can fit inside the bay markings. Any vehicle parked with at least one wheel outside the bay markings may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.

Pedestrian zone access



As in most large towns and cities, there is a section of Cambridge that restricts vehicle access during certain hours. The pedestrian zone provides a safe environment and vehicle-free shopping zone and protects the environment around the historic city centre.

In Cambridge, our pedestrian zone operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and access is further restricted between 10am and 4pm Monday to Saturday. In between these hours access for vehicles is prohibited unless the vehicle meets extremely strict requirements. Access to most parts of the pedestrian zone is blocked by the use of automatic bollards. Entry through the bollards is only given to those vehicles which have a transponder such as buses or emergency vehicles or to those drivers who are given a swipe card.

Unloading in the pedestrian zone

Legitimate loading and unloading of a vehicle can take place outside the 10am – 4pm restricted access hours. Within those hours the Pedestrian Zone has a no loading/no stopping at any time restriction. Vehicles found in the zone without permission will be issued with an instant Penalty Charge Notice. In addition a permit must be displayed while driving within the restricted hours of 10am – 4pm as a vehicle can be stopped and issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice by the Police. Vehicles that are loading or unloading must be out of the zone by 10am.

Yellow lines

What do these mean?



Single and double yellow lines indicate that parking restrictions are in place and no waiting is allowed. You can park on single yellow lines outside the hours of control, but you cannot park on double yellow lines at any time.

Both single and double yellow lines have the same restrictions for loading, unloading, picking up and dropping off passengers. Single and double yellow lines may also be accompanied by kerb markings, which indicate additional parking restrictions.

Please note that yellow lines apply from the centre of the road to the edge of the highway. This includes pavements and verges alongside the yellow lines. This means that you cannot park on the pavement or verge by a yellow line.

Although the pedestrian zone areas in Cambridge all have a restriction of no waiting at anytime, there are no yellow lines on the road. This is because vehicles are not allowed except in certain circumstances (so reducing the need to inform as there cannot be an expectation to park in an area where vehicles are not allowed) and to protect the historic nature of these streets.

Permission for this and the smaller low level signs alongside the streets was given by Government Office East on behalf of the Department for Transport. The signs at the entry points all show that the pedestrian zone as a whole is subject to a "no waiting at any time" restriction.

Single yellow lines

Are active for the times shown on the CPZ entry signs or the times shown on a time plate next to the line. Check the length of the line to see if there are any plates. If you cannot see a plate then the CPZ hours apply.

Double yellow lines

These are active 24 hours a day, every day.

Loading or Unloading

Loading and unloading is allowed where there are no kerb markings indicating a ban on loading. Loading and unloading is considered to be taking the items to and from the vehicle but does not cover packing, unpacking or assembly and stopping for a conversation. Stopping to go to the toilet is also not covered.

As soon as the last item is loaded or unloaded, then the vehicle must be moved to a parking place.

Picking up and dropping off passengers

Drivers can stop on yellow lines to pick up or drop off passengers, but waiting for passengers is not permitted. When picking up or dropping off you must stay with your vehicle at all times unless your passengers need help getting into or out of your vehicle.

Blue Badge holders

Blue Badge holders can park for up to three hours on single or double yellow lines when there are no loading restrictions in place. The Blue Badge must be displayed and the clock must be set to the time of arrival.

Waivers

A waiver for parking on single or double yellow lines, in pay and display bays or residents bays is only issued where the vehicle is absolutely necessary for the completion of the task at hand. To apply for a waiver, see the link to the left.

What happens if I park here during restricted times?

If a vehicle is parked on a single or double yellow lines and a Civil Enforcement Officer does not observe any of the above activities taking place, a Penalty Charge Notice will be issued.

Please note - only one wheel needs to be on the line (i.e the part of the wheel touching the road is on a yellow line) for this to count as parked on a yellow line.

Bank Holidays

Single yellow lines are not enforced during bank holidays, in Cambridge. Double yellow lines and those single yellow lines that have a timed 'no loading' ban remain in force at all times including Bank Holidays.

Resident parking bays

Residents of Cambridge can apply for a resident parking permit for the zone in which they live.

The permits are only valid for resident bays and cannot be used in any other type of bay, or in any other zone.

Many streets with resident bays also have other types of bays. Always check the sign next to the bay in which you are parked and do not assume that your bay is the same as the one in front or behind.

If any sign does not mention specific days or times, it means that it is in operation every day of the week.

Resident bays are not enforced on bank holidays, and Blue Badge holders can park for an unlimited time in a resident bay.

Displaying the parking permit

The permit should be displayed in the windscreen where it is easily visible from the pavement.

Visitors' permits should be completed in ink; any errors should be crossed through and the next space used. The expiry date, permit number, zone and vehicle registration number must always be visible, so always take a second to check this when leaving your vehicle.

Failure to follow these instructions may result in a Penalty Charge Notice being issued.

Picking up or dropping off passengers

Drivers can stop in a resident bay to pick up or drop off passengers. When picking up or dropping off you must stay with your vehicle at all times unless your passengers need help getting into or out of your vehicle.

Parking without a permit

If a vehicle is found in a resident bay during its hours of operation without displaying a valid resident permit for that zone, a Penalty Charge Notice will be issued.

This includes having a permit that is obscured or cannot be seen from outside the vehicle, visitor permits that have been altered and permits that have been completed in pencil.

Parking outside bay markings

You must park completely inside the bay markings and you should not use the space unless all of your vehicle can fit inside the bay markings.

Any vehicle parked with at least one wheel outside the bay markings can be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.

Taxi ranks

What does this sign mean?



This sign is placed alongside a taxi rank. A taxi rank is reserved for the use of Licenced Hackney Carriages only. No other vehicles can use these spaces (this includes private hire vehicles).

While a taxi is on the rank, the taxi cannot be left unattended. The rank can only be used when the taxi is available for hire - an unattended vehicle is not available for hire. Some taxi ranks operate on a part time basis i.e. a bay may be a taxi rank between certain hours but outside those hours it may have another use(s).

Blue Badge Holders

You cannot park on a taxi rank using a Blue Badge. If you do, a Penalty Charge Notice may be issued.

For further details on common questions please see our Taxi Driver FAQs document below under publications.