**Why cycle?**

**It's good for your health:**
Cycling can be easily incorporated into your daily routine and brings you and your family closer to recommended daily activity targets.

**It's good for your wallet:**
With the cost of motoring rising ever higher, think how much you'll save if you make some journeys by bike.

**It's good for the environment:**
Cycling is almost carbon neutral, so there's no need to worry about the impact your journeys are having on the environment.

**It's good for the town:**
Cycling helps to reduce congestion, one car space could provide parking for 5-10 bikes. Cyclists also tend to visit local shops more frequently than motorists, which helps to support the local economy.

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**Cyclists’ training**

Cyclist Training is available throughout the county to a wide range of ages and abilities.

Essex County Council provides training through the Bikeability Scheme, which is offered to all primary and secondary schools. Bikeability is cycling proficiency for the 21st Century, designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads.

Training is also available for adults and can be focused around your needs; we can help you find a provider in your local area.

If you are interested in finding out more about the training that is available please contact RoadSafety@essexhighways.org

Or for more information about Bikeability visit www.dft.gov.uk/bikeability

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**Common road signs**

A few signs you may see when out cycling, and what they mean...

- **Cycle route**
- **Shared route for pedestrians / cyclists**
- **Segregated route for pedestrians / cyclists**
- **Bus Lane (bicycles allowed)**
- **No entry (including bicycles)**
- **No cycling**

Always cycle safely and respect other road and path users.

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**Why not cycle to...**

**Heybridge Basin**

Located at the end of the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation and contains the sea lock which joins the canal to the Blackwater estuary. The basin was dug out of the marsh to enable sea going vessels to enter the canal and unload their cargoes onto the barges for transportation inland to Chelmsford.

Here you can sit and relax with a drink and a meal whilst taking in the splendid views of the Blackwater, take a cruise on a canal boat or hire a rowing boat to explore the canal at your own pace.

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**Be Safe, Be Seen**

Ensure you are visible to others. Wear fluorescent items in the daytime and reflective at night. The extra visibility given by these materials can give other road users a few extra seconds of 'reaction time'.

When cycling at night you must have a white front light, red back light and red reflector – all in good working order. Aside from the safety risks, it is an offence to cycle at night without lights and reflectors.

Keep all lights and reflectors clean and clear of obstruction. You can also use spoke and pedal reflectors with most types of wheels and pedals.

Road position can also make a huge difference to your visibility whilst cycling, ride at least one metre from the kerb and consider taking the primary position (in the centre of the lane) at junctions and pinch points, especially in low light conditions.

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**Share the space**

Whether you cycle on the road or on designated cycle paths you will have to share the space.

**On shared off-road facilities please remember:**
- Pedestrians are more vulnerable than a cyclist
- Keep an appropriate speed for the type of route you are using and the number of other users
- Lights are required at night, even on cycle paths – other users need to see you and you need to see where you are going.

**On the road:**
- We all have an equal right to the road space whether on two wheels or four
- Be decisive and hold your line
- Cycling and cyclists benefit everybody by reducing congestion and maximising road capacity
- Jumping red traffic lights and riding on pavements is not only illegal it is also dangerous and reinforces negative attitudes about cycling
- Advance stop lines and cycle lanes are for cyclists' safety
- As a driver, look out for cyclists and give them lots of room
- Cyclists should take extra care around large vehicles – do not undertake on the inside; they may not see you.

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Image courtesy of Transport for London