

CYCLOPEDIA

Questions answered, subjects explained – Cyclopedia is your bimonthly cycling reference guide

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Q & A

Legal

Case closed

Q What's the advice and legality regarding temporary road closures for cyclists? If the closure is with bollards, experience shows that 90% of the time cyclists and pedestrians can get through safely. If there's a metal fence across the road it's pretty clear it's closed to all users. I had a ticking off from a council guy after scooting between cones at a 'road closed' sign.

Dave Rowell

A While I can see a certain practical logic in what you say, I am sure that unless the sign were qualified in some way, one has to accept it at face value or face potential consequences.

The Highway Code features a circular white sign with a red border, under which is notice that reads 'No vehicles'. The interpretation is given as 'no vehicles except bicycles being pushed'. But that probably wasn't the sign that confronted you.

When might the meaning be tested? Most likely in a civil court if some misfortune had befallen you. It's not immediately clear precisely what argument could be advanced if, for example, you had dropped your bike on some spilled slippery substance, sustaining injury. The council would point to the sign and bollards and invite a judge to consider

Your Experts



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the reasonable road user's interpretation, which I am confident would not include an implied exception for cyclists.

Wearing my Bikeability instructor's hat, it would not be acceptable to permit students to apply their own interpretation.

Paul Darlington

Technical

Suspended load

Q I'm thinking of buying a FreeQence stem (cyclinguk.org/freeqence-stem) but I have one question. At present I have a KlickFix bar bag mounting bracket. This has a cable going over the handlebar and under the stem. Not sure if this would still work? If not, maybe the cable could go through one of the hinge pins if they are hollow? Be interesting to know if you think this is possible before I buy the stem.

Jonathan Smith

A The FreeQence stem has been returned so I can't make a direct examination, but I suspect the cable would rub against the pivot plates. It might be possible to pass the cable through the hollow pins but this would result in four sharp bends, which may prevent the cable from tightening properly. The obvious solution if you wish to use a bar bag in combination with a suspension stem is to opt for one of the other stem options in the review (Redshift Shockstop or TransX Antishock), either of which will happily accept the KlickFix cable.

Richard Hallett

