

# Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers



## February Newsletter - 2025 (edition 117)

### Almost Spring

It almost seems to be a theme of leaving this newsletter to the last minute. Maybe that is a reflection on a busy life and hoping that nothing untoward happens to cause me to miss the “deadline”.



I suspect this applies to my normal life too, if I am walking somewhere in town then I tend to know how long it will take, and I leave home with just enough time. That is all well and good until you bump into someone and have a chat. When I'm driving I try and allow a bit of extra time, as the roads can be very varied: the traffic lights may love you one day and the next they are determined to make you late the following day. If I'm travelling to an area that I don't know, I factor that in too, but who has considered the need to allow for getting stuck behind a slow-moving crane long the A31 at 0730 on a Saturday morning?

Still the sun is shining, even though we woke up to a frost, so fingers crossed for sunny and pleasant start to March. For me, the month is likely to consist of more running, as it's still too cold to be out on a bike! Needless to say, I use any form of exercise as suitable justification for eating some cake! Maybe I should turn into a biker and upgrade from cake to a bacon bap!

Stay safe & happy motoring,

*Matt Ames*  
*Membership and Newsletter Editor*  
*Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers*  
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### New Associate Members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group

We welcome the following new Associate members who have recently joined the Group. Observer allocations, where known are shown below:

|                      |   |           |
|----------------------|---|-----------|
| Christopher Ringrose | - | (pending) |
| David Carey          | - | (pending) |
| Gemma Cammidge       | - | (pending) |
| George Pitt          | - | (pending) |
| Keith Jackman        | - | (pending) |
| Nick Kennedy         | - | (pending) |
| Rhiannon Booth       | - | (pending) |

### IAM Test passes for the Group

Congratulations to our latest Full members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group who have recently passed their IAM RoadSmart test:

Bryan McKay                      Charles Pegman

Great driving and thanks to our Observer Team for helping you achieve your pass.

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### Forthcoming Social events

#### 6th March 2025

David Lane from Wessex National Flood Rescue will be talking to the Group about the vital work they carry out.

Time: 1900

#### 3rd April 2025

Clive Greenaway who is an accomplished Driving Instructor with over 50 years of experience will be talking to Group about his time in the passenger/instructor's seat.

Time: 1900

#### 1st May 2025

(tbc)

#### 5th June 2025

(tbc)

Venue: Sandford

Drinks can be purchased from the bar from 1900, talk starts at 1930. Accessing Wimborne Town football club can be a bit of a fine art. Recommended access is to follow Lonsdale Road (from the B3073) through the new housing estate, and then turn left onto Ainsley Road, and park in the ground's carpark on the right.

As always the latest information about Group Social evenings can be found on our website at: <https://www.bdiam.org.uk/social-events/>

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### Dorset Advanced Drivers - Membership

Matt Ames

As covered in our January Newsletter I've now emailed all members with lapsed members (and a few new members in error!) to remind you that your membership with the local group has now expired.

Incase you've overlooked these messages (which I hope not, as it takes quite a lot of effort!), then this will be your final chance to get in contact. For members who opt not to renew, then we hope you found your time with the Group useful and that you will put into practice your Advanced Driving skills every day and do your bit to make the roads safer for us all.

### Double white lines – if necessary

Martyn McCarthy

Remember as a child when grown-ups would say, 'You must not do that?' You learned, sometimes the hard way, to listen to those voices of experience. Lessons learned in childhood tend to be carried through in life.

If someone says you must not do something, especially if they are in authority, you're likely to comply without question or argument. For example, when learning to drive, reading the Highway Code was a chore! But being central to success at the DVSA driving test, common sense told you to buckle down, get to grips with the Rules and, prove to the authority figure of the examiner, you were safe behind the wheel to be allowed to throw away those L plates.

One of the Rules you would have come to grips with was Rule 129:

*Double white lines where the line nearer to you is solid. This means you MUST NOT cross or straddle it unless it is safe and you need to enter adjoining premises or a side road. You may cross the line, if necessary, provided the road is clear, to pass a stationary vehicle, or overtake a pedal cycle, horse or road maintenance vehicle, if they are travelling at 10 mph (16 km/h) or less.*

My father, who sat alongside and taught a much younger me to drive, simply and effectively, emphasised the Rule, telling me, 'Mart, paint on the road isn't free, it's put there at a cost for your safety. Unless necessary to do otherwise, treat a solid white line as if it's a wall'. My father's words, his 'white line safety mantra', has stood the test. Some 50-years later, it's still serving a now older me.

When an instruction in capital letters says, MUST NOT, isn't it common sense that you DO NOT? As a driver or rider, especially an Advanced driver or rider, when the instruction is, '... you MUST NOT cross or straddle a white line...', unless its necessary and an exception applies, surely, without question or argument, it's common sense that you DO NOT cross or staddle a white line?

Could I be missing something, is the MUST NOT instruction of Rule 129 ambiguous? If it wasn't ambig-

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uous, why would IAM RoadSmart's Chief Examiner, Richard Gladman, see it necessary to issue clarification as to what MUST NOT means in relation to the Rule:

*'Crossing or straddling a double white line system in accordance with the law must be done with complete safety as the primary objective. Our standpoint, based on legal advice, is that it is not legal to cross or straddle a solid white line to overtake stationary vehicles temporarily held in traffic. Accordingly, we coach, test, and assess to this standard to ensure everyone remains safe and legal.'*

Essentially, repeating the MUST NOT of Rule 129, Richard's clarification can't be faulted.

But is it necessary? Especially, given the very specific audience the guidance is addressed at, '... all IAM RoadSmart Members, Observers, Mentors and Examiners'. An audience that, without exception, has passed or, through a Recognised Qualification, deemed to have passed, the Advanced Driving Test. A requirement of which, amongst other things, is that the candidate demonstrates, '... a sound understanding of the Highway Code'.

The guidance suggests, amongst us, whether Observers, Mentors or, Examiners, there are some who selfishly see their progress trumps their safety and, worryingly, the safety of other road users.

If guidance is necessary, stripped of the superfluous legal opinion, I suggest this can be done more concisely centred on two words of Rule 129, 'if necessary'.

With respect to Richard, a more concise version of the guidance could be along the lines of:

*'While Rule 129 of the Highway Code details passing a stationary vehicle, or overtaking a pedal cycle, horse or road maintenance vehicle may be necessary, say, to ensure traffic flow, except, in the case of an emergency vehicle on a blue light call in controlled circumstances where progress is required, it can never be necessary to cross a white line and overtake stationary vehicles temporarily held in traffic. Accordingly, to ensure everyone remains safe and legal, we coach, test, and assess to this as our standard.'*

Setting aside the wanton commission of a criminal offence each time a solid white line has been crossed, those amongst us who selfishly see their progress trumping safety lack the key values that come with Membership of IAM RoadSmart; improving the standard of driving and, the promotion of road safety.

To reduce the need for further, arguably unnecessary, guidance, perhaps these individuals should consider their future as Members?

Martyn McCarthy  
December 2024

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### Digital driving licence coming this year

UK Government Press release

The UK government is launching a GOV.UK Wallet and App to simplify access to services and documents like digital driver's licences, alongside reforms to public sector technology to save £45 billion and drive efficiency and growth.

Brits will be given the option to use a digital version of their driver's licence from their phone to easily prove their age when buying age restricted items online and in person – as well as proving their right to drive.

A mobile driver's licence will be one of the first digital documents in a GOV.UK Wallet launched later this year and will ultimately allow people to prove their age from their phone in shops or online, the Science Secretary Peter Kyle announced today.

It comes alongside other new and improved ways for people to interact with government digitally, with an expansive blueprint for how the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), which will now be home to a revamped Government Digital Service (GDS), will use digital tools and data to transform public services and help the taxpayer benefit from £45 billion in efficiency savings – essential to delivering our Plan for Change.

The GOV.UK Wallet will allow users to securely store government-issued documents on their phone and use

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them easily when needed. The technology will make use of security features that are built into modern smart phones, including facial recognition checks similar to those used when people pay using a digital bank card. It means that digital documents will be more secure, even if a device is lost.

Showcasing the tool earlier today, the Science Secretary set out that by the end of 2027, the GOV.UK Wallet will include documents like Veteran Cards, DBS checks and every other credential issued by the government – for those who choose to use them, while traditional physical documents will remain available.

It comes alongside a planned summer 2025 launch of a GOV.UK App designed to make it even simpler for people to navigate the GOV.UK website, access government information and complete essential tasks from their phone. Crucially, the new GOV.UK App will remember users' activity to offer a more convenient, and personalised experience of interacting with government, with future additions also set to include an AI-powered chatbot, GOV.UK Chat, ways to make payments and receive timely notifications and reminders about services that matter to them.

Science Secretary Peter Kyle said:

“Along with CDs, the Walkman and flip phones, the overflowing drawer rammed with letters from the government and hours spent on hold to get a basic appointment will soon be consigned to history. GOV.UK Wallet will mean that every letter or identity document you receive from the government could be issued to you virtually.”

“For people who choose to use GOV.UK Wallet, they will find it easier to prove they're entitled to benefits or check their age when buying alcohol or DIY equipment, with more security and trust than ever before. Crucially, it also opens huge opportunities to make interacting with public services much easier by putting people in control of their own data.”

“We will be overhauling how the public sector uses technology which is essential to delivering our Plan for Change, and in combination with this new tech for people to use themselves, we are going to slash the time people waste dealing with annoying processes so they can focus on what matters to them.”

### GOV.UK Wallet

Digital documents held in the GOV.UK Wallet, like a driver's licence or someone's proof of benefits, will be able to be used just as physical documents are, if people choose to.

It will be available on i.OS and Android, with a Digital Veteran Card to be made available to former service personnel later this year. A mobile driver's licence will be piloted later in 2025, and all government services will have to offer a digital alternative alongside paper or card credentials by the end of 2027 under plans set out by the blueprint for digital government.

The GOV.UK Wallet will allow digital credentials to be accessed immediately after successful application, rather than waiting for them to arrive in the post, and avoid valuable documents being lost in house moves or behind filing cabinets.

The GOV.UK Wallet is underpinned by the security and identity verification measures of GOV.UK One Login, meaning users can be assured documents can only be accessed by the right person. Using a single sign on also means accessing government services will be much more straightforward, saving individuals and businesses money and hours of frustration so they can focus on what matters.

Transport Secretary, Heidi Alexander said:

This is a game changer for the millions of people who use their driving licence as ID.

The innovation puts power back in the hands of the people, making everyday interactions faster, easier, and more secure. We are delivering on the Plan for Change by making public services work for everyone.

Minister for Veterans and People Alistair Carns DSO OBE MC MP said:

“It is fantastic that former service personnel will become the first citizens to access the government's new digital wallet. Having access to their HM Armed Forces Veteran Card via their smartphone, will help make it even easier for them to verify their veteran status, and access the support and benefits they're entitled to. “

“This is a government committed to delivering for all those who serve and have served. We're turning words into action to improve life for every veteran.