

Public Bike Share Signing Guidance

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Introduction

Even with the arrival of dockless, infrastructure-free bike share, many operators and local authorities are opting for a hub based approach to bike parking. In this model bikes can be left anywhere in the operational area but will be redistributed back to stations through incentives or staff rebalancing.

Hubs may have no visible marking (and rely on geo-fencing), some are marked out as a parking space and others opt for the use of Sheffield stands or similar means for something to lock the bike. The question then arises of how best to identify this area and what are the legal options open to authorities.

Operators recommend minimising signage to allow the flexibility of moving hubs as a scheme emerges.

However, where signage is required the DfT signs team have offered advice towards the following guidance notes.

Parking Strategy

There are a number of different approaches being adopted by local authorities to suit local needs:

- combining bike share and private bike parking
- creating bike share parking only which restricts private bike parking (and visa versa)
- allowing multiple operators to park in a shared hub

In the first of these cases the standard blue P and bike symbol is adequate.

Where private parking isn't allowed in the hub, The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD)

permit a parking place sign to include a type of user e.g. "Cycle share only". Below is an example of cycle parking and an amended example of a cycle share only sign.



Markings the legend "CYCLE HIRE ONLY" can be used without seeking permission, with a broken white bay line around the area. It may also be possible to use "CYCLE SHARE ONLY" but not without an authorisation from DfT as a permitted variant. (Permission isn't required for the sign)



Advertising Operators

It is not permissible to include operator logos or advertising on an official parking traffic sign. However, it is possible to place a separate notice on the same post which could display terms and conditions, contact details and may include a logo. This would be placed under planning legislation as an advertisement. The notice must not have the appearance or nature of a traffic sign.

Dedicated Bike Share Symbol

If there is a demand to add a generic approved symbol for bike share to be used in conjunction with the parking “P”, the DfT have said they would be happy to consider proposals. The advantage of a symbol might be to raise the profile and understanding of public bike share. If you are interested in this option, please let us know and Bikeplus will facilitate consultation as we did with the car club sign. Below is an example of the car club symbol on a sign and the bike version we currently use on our website. Other options for generic symbols would be explored.

