

Examples of Terminology relating to Limited Mobility and Mobility Aids

	Terminology	Descriptions	Note
1	Pedestrian	<p>The Highway Code, for the purposes of the Hierarchy of Road Users, defines a pedestrian at Rule H2: Pedestrians include wheelchair and mobility scooter users. See Highway Code Introduction</p> <p>However the Highway code goes on to give different sections for rules for cyclists, rules for users of powered wheelchairs and powered mobility scooters, and rules for pedestrians where they have different circumstances. The section on rules for pedestrians does not mention wheelchairs of any kind, or mobility scooters, though much of what this sections covers would apply to them too. See Highway Code Pedestrians rules 1-35</p>	The Highway Code structure demonstrates the importance of addressing the needs of users of powered wheelchairs and powered mobility scooters (together with manual wheelchairs) separately to those of walkers, and to those of cyclists.
2	Mobility aid	<p>Social Security (PIP) Regulations 2013 define an 'aid' as any device that improves, provides or replaces claimant's impaired physical or mental function - including prosthesis. See PIP Assessment Guide</p>	Examples of mobility aids include a walking stick, a rollator, a manual wheelchair, an all-terrain mobility scooter.
3	Walking	<p>Foot/pedestrian-based mobility that may incorporate the support of aids to mobility such as stick/s, cane/s, crutch/es, the arm of another person and/or assistance animal/s. See Wheels for Wellbeing Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Definition</p>	
4	Wheeling	<p>An equivalent alternative to foot/pedestrian-based mobility. Includes wheeled mobility aids such as manual self- or assistant-propelled wheelchairs, including wheelchairs with power attachments or all-terrain attachments (such as the "Freewheel"), powered wheelchairs, mobility scooters (three and four-wheeled) and rollators. See Wheels for Wellbeing Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Definition</p>	<p>Note that cycles cannot be ridden on pedestrian-only routes but can be pushed.</p> <p>Wheeling also refers to those pushing a pram or pushchair.</p>
5	Walking and wheeling	<p>Wheels for Wellbeing recommend never using "walking" on its own as it potentially reinforces ableist stereotypes and makes disabled people invisible. Instead, they recommend always using "walking, wheeling" together. Both words represent the action of moving at a</p>	When discussing the interaction between user types, and when designing paths, it is important, in some circumstances, to be

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		<p>pedestrian's pace, whether or not someone is standing or sitting, walking or wheeling unaided or using any kind of aid to mobility, including walking aids, wheeled aids, personal assistants or support animals.</p> <p>See Wheels for Wellbeing Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Definition</p>	<p>more specific and to separate out walking from wheeling where there are differing space requirements and differing needs.</p>
6	Cycling	<p>Those making journeys using a bicycle, tricycle or tandem.</p> <p>Some people rely on their cycle to move (at a pedestrian's pace) through pedestrianised environments when it is not physically possible to walk/push their cycle. However, this is not legal.</p> <p>Some people use their cycle as a walking aid, by leaning on it, some people use e-scooters (with or without a seat), to wheel/scoot through pedestrianised environment if they cannot walk unaided. However, the use of any e-scooter in a pedestrianised environment is illegal, and the use of private e-scooters other than with permission on private land is likely to be a criminal offence. See Wheels for Wellbeing Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Definition And Government Guidance on e-Scooters</p>	<p>Cycles are included here as some people with limited mobility use them as a mobility aid, however they cannot be ridden in pedestrian only areas. There are also hand cycles and recumbent cycles.</p>
7	All-terrain / Off-road	<p>'All terrain' and 'off-road' are terms used interchangeably to market some mobility scooters, powered wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs as having a degree of capability to be used on grass and rougher surfaces, as well as on pavements and, to an extent, on roads too.</p> <p>Many models are marketed this way, but as many have small wheels and very limited ground clearance they have very limited capability on rougher terrain. Manual wheelchairs may be fitted with more rugged tyres, and sometimes a powered adaptation too, but generally have fairly limited all-terrain capability.</p> <p>Very capable all-terrain mobility scooters are available (eg Tramper, TGA Supersport and Boma); they are large, rugged and reliable (see below). These may be ridden out from home, transported on a trailer, or carried inside a large vehicle to be used elsewhere. They can be found available to loan in public outdoor recreational areas such as those run by National Trust, English Heritage and National Parks. Often these are made available by Countryside Mobility in the south of England</p>	

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		or Outdoor Mobility in the north of England Because of their size, these models are seldom used indoors.	
8	Manual wheelchair (also called a wheelchair)	There is one Class of manual wheelchair (in law this is known as a Class 1 invalid carriage) See Highway Code Rules 36 to 46	Most operate on smooth flat surfaces, but some are designed to be all-terrain. Some are operated by hand levers. The legal terms 'invalid carriage' and Class 1 are very rarely used in current guidance, unless in reference to the law.
9	All-terrain manual wheelchair	A manual wheelchair with mountain bike type technology designed to be all-terrain (eg the manual Mountain Trike)	
10	Powered wheelchair (also called a powerchair)	Powered wheelchairs are single-seat vehicles with a battery. Class 2 powered wheelchairs have a maximum width of 0.85m, weigh less than 150kg and have a maximum speed of 4 mph. They can be used on pavements and other pedestrian areas and on cycle tracks, but not in cycle lanes. Class 3 powered wheelchairs have a maximum width of 0.85m, weigh less than 150kg and have a maximum speed of 8 mph. They can be used on pavements and other pedestrian areas (where they are restricted to max speed of 4mph) . They can be used on pavements and other pedestrian areas (where they are restricted to max speed of 4mph), cycle tracks and roads, but not in cycle lanes. See Government Rules on Mobility Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs Class 2 users should always use the pavement when it is available. When there is no pavement, you should use caution when on the road. See Highway Code Rules 36 to 46	Powered wheelchairs vary considerably in size and design regardless of the class they are in, They are generally large and heavy, but some are small and light such as the powered Mountain Trike . Some manual wheelchairs can be power assisted with an attachment eg Triride .
11	All-terrain powered wheelchair	A powered wheelchair built to have all-terrain capability. There are a few models available, usually very large and heavy, and operated with a joystick. They vary in design and can have an independent motor on each wheel, good suspension and tough 'off-road' tyres. They are	Examples see Mybility Four X and Optimus 2

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		often not as capable, as rugged or reliable as a good all-terrain mobility scooter.	
12	Mobility scooter (also called a scooter)	<p>Mobility scooters are single-seat vehicles with a battery.</p> <p>Class 2 mobility scooters have a maximum width of 0.85m, weight less than 150kg and have a maximum speed of 4 mph. They can be used on pavements and other pedestrian areas and on cycle tracks but not in cycle lanes.</p> <p>Class 3 mobility scooters have a maximum width of 0.85m, weigh less than 150kg and have a maximum speed of 8 mph. They can be used on pavements and other pedestrian areas (where they are restricted to max speed of 4mph), cycle tracks and roads, but not in cycle lanes.</p> <p>See Government Rules on Mobility Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs</p> <p>Class 2 users should always use the pavement when it is available. When there is no pavement, you should use caution when on the road.</p> <p>See Highway Code Rules 36 to 46</p>	<p>Mobility scooters are becoming increasingly common as the population ages and a great many models are available. They can be either 3 or 4 wheeled – both are popular. A few mobility scooters are driven with a joystick.</p> <p>They can be large or small, regardless of the Class they are in and regardless of the terrain they are designed to operate on. Some are collapsible and fit in a car boot.</p>
13	All-terrain mobility scooter	<p>A mobility scooter, built to have a degree of all-terrain capability.</p> <p>The best all-terrain mobility scooters are the most capable of all types of wheelchairs and scooters: they are the 4 x 4 of the mobility scooter. The best are very capable, tackling rough terrain with a ground clearance of up to 20cm, gradients up to 25%, a degree of mud and water up to 15cm deep.</p> <p>With basic lead-acid batteries, depending on the terrain and age of batteries, they generally run at least eight miles on one charge, very often 12 miles or more. Modern Lithium batteries are becoming more common now, and allow a range of up to 60 miles.</p>	<p>While some are smaller, most have the largest space envelope of all mobility vehicles.</p> <p>When developing routes for wheeling, the space requirements should therefore be based on large all-terrain mobility scooters eg Tramper, TGA Supersport and Boma</p>
14	Mobility vehicle	Term used generically for mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs See Government Rules on Mobility Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs	Check that the user is not referring to the vehicle used to carry mobility vehicles.

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15	Cycle lane	<p>Cycle lanes are painted on the road and run alongside where usual road traffic (like cars) go.</p> <p>Mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs in Class 2 and 3 cannot be used on cycle lanes. See Government Rules on Mobility Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs and images below.</p>	
16	Cycle track	<p>Cycle tracks are different from cycle lanes. Cycle tracks are separated from the road by barriers or distance.</p> <p>They may run alongside footpaths or pavements and be separated by a feature such as a change of material, a verge, a kerb or a white line.</p> <p>Mobility aids can be used on Cycle Tracks See Highway Code Section 62 and Government Rules on Mobility Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs and images below.</p>	
17	Shared use path	<p>A route , separate from the main carriageway, designated for use by a variety of users, as defined by signage, but not by motor vehicles.</p> <p>See images below.</p>	

Cycle Track, Cycle Path and Shared Use images.



Transitions from cycle lane on carriageway (green,) to brief cycle track off carriageway, to brief shared use path, to cycle track beside footway (York)



Cycle lane (Oxford)



Cycle track separated from footpath by white line (Selly Oak, Birmingham)



Two-way Cycle Track (Selly Oak, Birmingham).



Shared use path in urban setting (Bristol).



Shared use path in rural setting (Threlkeld).