



Advanced Driving Manual

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Advanced Driving

In order to progress to Grade 1, you must be able to demonstrate that you can consistently apply the System of Car Control (“System”) when negotiating hazards. Generally, your driving has been limited to the National Speed Limit that applies to non-motorway or dual carriageway roads. You will now have to demonstrate that you can consistently apply the System at higher speeds.

Before you can participate in Advanced Driving sessions you must have:

- Participated in a Skid Pan Course organised by the Club. These are usually held at Castle Combe
- Hold a current First Aid Certificate, which must be less than 3 years old. First Aid Courses are organised by the Club, usually at Castle Combe. A First Aid Certificate issued by a reputable organisation, for example St John’s Ambulance, would be accepted, provided that it is current.
- Attend, with your Associate who will be your tutor in the Advanced Driving sessions, a Speed Awareness Classroom session. This will also review the Club Rules that apply to Advanced Driving.

The above sections of your Grade 1 Standard Sheet must be completed before Advanced Driving can be undertaken.

Before you start your Advanced Driving, it is important that you have **read** and **revised** the information contained in the following chapters and appendices of Roadcraft, which are referenced in ***bold red italics***.

Pre-drive checks are set out in the ***Appendices: “Are you fit to drive” and “Is your vehicle fit to drive”***

Chapter 1: Becoming a better driver

Chapter 3: Information, observation and anticipation

Chapter 5: Acceleration, using gears, braking & steering

Note special attention should be paid to the overlapping of braking and gear selection. Refer to ***Chapter 2: The system of car control***; the section Overlapping braking and gear changing in specific circumstances. Please carefully note the first paragraph of this section.



Chapter 7: Maintaining vehicle stability

Chapter 9: Positioning

Chapter 10: Cornering

Chapter 11: Overtaking

What are you going to learn through these sessions?

Almost nothing new!

You have already demonstrated that you can apply the System **consistently** to attain Grade 2. Now you have to demonstrate that you can apply it on approach to every hazard and at speeds higher than you have previously been able or permitted to drive at. At certain venues you will learn how to safely maintain stability of the car and negotiate bends at high speed.

You will have attended a skid pan course at which you will have learnt what it is like to skid in both front wheel and rear wheel drive vehicles. You will now be driving within the limitations of both you and your car, so the question of a skid developing should not enter into the equation of Advanced Driving. However, in the unlikely event that something did not go according to plan, you have the knowledge of how to deal with it.

Before you can be cleared to drive AD with just your Associate in the car, you must be able to describe to your AD Instructor the **Active Safety Systems**, also known as **Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)**, that are fitted to the car that you are driving, and what impact they may have on your car if they were activated. This would normally be your own car. This would be part of the Pre-drive checks (POWDERY). You will find the description of these in your car's owner's manual. Also refer to Roadcraft *Chapter 7: Maintaining Vehicle Stability*.



Advanced Driving Rules

Advanced Driving Preparation - It is a requirement, if you wish to participate in the Advanced Driving session, that:

- You **must** have completed the Advanced Driving sign-on sheet before the start of the lunchtime break. Please indicate the nature of the instruction required, if any.
- You must help to clear and prepare the circuit. All cones must be in the cone shed before the gates to the pit lane will be opened.
- POWDERY checks are required prior to Advanced Driving Sessions.

These checks are set out in **Roadcraft** in the Appendices “**Are you fit to drive**” and “**Is your vehicle fit to drive**”

- Check that loose items in the vehicle are in the boot or are secured in the car. If any rear seats are not being occupied, you should connect the rear seatbelts to safeguard anything that may be in the boot of the car from coming through into the cabin area at any time.
- At all times the car used for Advanced Driving must comply with Club Rules.
- Special cars - If you have been given the opportunity to drive a different car from your usual vehicle, such as a family friend or member who has allowed you to drive their fast sports car, **you will need permission from the Chief Instructor, Advanced Driving Controller or their nominee.** Depending upon your normal vehicle and experience, we will do our best to facilitate your request. We may insist that an AD Instructor goes out with you due to the type of vehicle and your level of experience. If you are Grade 1 or Grade X you will be allowed to drive solo in the vehicle or with an associate/family friend etc. **You must be able to describe to an AD Instructor, or Examiner, the Active Safety Systems, also known as Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), that are fitted to this particular car and what impact they may have on the car if they were activated.**
- As you can understand, driving a Ferrari or Subaru WRX etc. is vastly different from a Nissan Micra, Astra etc. We encourage the opportunity for you to drive different vehicles and will do our best to accommodate you safely.
- **Chief Instructor, Advanced Driving Controller or their nominee will make decisions on suitability where necessary. Their decision will be final.**



Advanced Driving at Castle Combe

You **must** park in the pit lane area, where directed by the Advanced Driving Controller or Marshals.

When participating in an Advanced Driving session, without an AD Instructor in the car, your Associate **MUST** be seated in the front passenger seat.

Laps - The maximum number of laps in one drive will be 5. The number of drives in any one Advanced Driving session will depend upon the number of vehicles present at the time. A chequered flag shown at the pit wall indicates you must leave the circuit at the next opportunity. A black flag indicates you must reduce speed and leave the circuit and report to the Advanced Driving Controller. Members under instruction will not be limited to 5 laps, the number being determined by the AD Instructor in the vehicle.

Lights – Dipped Headlights must be used by Members when accompanied by an AD Instructor. This lets the Advanced Driving Controller and Marshals know that you have an Instructor in the car with you. Under normal driving conditions you must NOT use headlights, if permanent daylight running lights are fitted to your car, switch to parking light position unless an AD Instructor is in the vehicle. The only exception to this is when the weather conditions dictate that all vehicles should display headlights. Fog lights must only be used in accordance with the Highway Code.

Speed - The Advanced Driving Controller or Chief Instructor determines the maximum speed limit on the day. Different speed limits may be applied for Grade 2's that have been cleared to drive with their Associate from that of Grade 1's or X's.

Marshals - The Marshals' prime responsibility is to warn and inform you and the drivers of a problem ahead. Normal club rules for obeying Marshals' instructions will apply. In addition, any Marshal's vehicle displaying an amber flashing light indicates a hazard ahead. Your speed must be significantly reduced, and **NO** overtaking is permitted until the hazard is passed and the Marshal's amber flashing light has been turned off. Should you come upon a Marshal's vehicle on the circuit with its amber light flashing **YOU MUST FOLLOW THAT CAR AND YOU MUST NOT OVERTAKE IT OR ANY OTHER VEHICLE**. Marshals immediately adjacent to a hazard may wave a yellow flag.

Instruction – There is only one new driving technique that you will learn. In order to achieve the higher speeds required at Castle Combe, the Advanced Driving (AD) Instructors will teach you how to use the whole width of the circuit in order to safely negotiate the bends, while at the same time maintaining a controlled higher speed through the bends. This may not apply at other Club venues.

When under instruction, you **MUST** have your dipped headlights on at all times so that the Advanced Driving Controller and Marshals know that you have an Instructor in the car with you. The only exception to this is when the weather conditions dictate that all vehicles should display headlights. Vehicles that have daytime running lights should be



switched to parking lights unless an Instructor is in the vehicle. The instruction sessions should be with the Associate that you intend to be supervised with after clearance. Remarks about each session should be recorded in the comments/remarks area in your progress manual. The Instructor has the right to cancel the session if you do not have your Members Grading and Progress Manual with you.



Overtaking

For the car planning to overtake:

AS THE CAR DOING THE OVERTAKING, IT IS **SOLELY** YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OVERTAKE SAFELY AND SENSIBLY.

The correct procedure for overtaking is described in **Roadcraft, Chapter 11: Overtaking**. THIS MUST BE STUDIED AND UNDERSTOOD BEFORE YOU UNDERTAKE AN ADVANCED DRIVING SESSION. If you have any doubt about how an overtake manoeuvre should be executed, please contact the **Chief Instructor**, who will allocate an **AD Instructor** to demonstrate and coach you in that technique.

Overtaking is only to be carried out if it is safe to do so. It must be executed on the straight only, never on a corner, and there must be sufficient space before the corner for you to return to the correct line without cutting in on the car being overtaken. No overtake manoeuvre should be undertaken if it is likely to cause another car to alter speed or direction. If the driver in front of you is overtaking a slower moving car, wait until they complete the manoeuvre before committing yourself to your planned overtake.

For cars who may be overtaken. As a general rule you should expect and prepare to be overtaken, you should be aware of vehicles behind, as you should be using your mirrors very frequently. Remember that Members under instruction (with headlights on) may have a higher speed limit set than the general limit for the session.

If a car has caught you or has followed you at a constant gap through several corners, then you should look for an opportunity to let the following car overtake. When an opportunity presents itself, stay left, ease off the throttle and let the car overtake. (as per Rule 168 of the Highway Code). Do not accelerate or try to “race” the overtaking car. (This may earn you an “Interview without coffee”!)

Flags

During Advanced Driving at Castle Combe, we use a system of flags, you must learn these as they are used regularly and you **MUST** obey them at all times, failure to do so is likely to mean that your session will be cut short, and you will be suspended for the rest of the Advanced Driving session that day.



Chequered (*displayed from the Pit area*)

This is your last lap; leave the Circuit at the designated exit slip road



Yellow (*Waved by Marshal(s) or from the Pit area*)

There is a hazard ahead, slow down to 40mph until the flags have been withdrawn.



Red

(**Held** by Marshal(s) or from the Pit area)

Slow down to 30mph and leave the circuit at the designated exit slip road.

(**Waved** by Marshal(s) or from the Pit area)

Stop immediately on the grass in a safe place.



Black (*Waved from the Pit area*)

Return to the Pits at the end of the current lap, leaving by the designated exit slip road. Report to the Advanced Driving Controller as could be problems with your driving or your car.

FAILURE TO REPORT TO THEM MAY RESULT IN A BAN FROM FURTHER ADVANCED DRIVING SESSIONS



AD at Seighford

Seighford is a much smaller venue than Castle Combe and therefore has a number of additional restrictions.

- **NO OVERTAKING** - The track is not big enough to allow a safe overtake. Back off and let the slower car get ahead. If you are feeling frustrated, come into the pits and contemplate the Y in POWDERY.
- **NO SIGN OFF** - Sign off for AD without an instructor in the car cannot be done at Seighford as the track does not allow you to demonstrate all the skills needed to be able to drive at Castle Combe.



Advanced Driving at Bovington AWDC

Please Note: This section is currently under review and may be updated shortly to reflect current AD practice at Bovington

The following detail applies to Advanced Driving sessions conducted at the Bovington AWDC. The AWDC is normally a testing and instruction track for military vehicles and unlike Castle Combe has no run off areas or Armco barriers. The AWDC is much more like the public road in that it has undulations, junctions, kerbs, signs and trees close to the edge of the track. At Bovington the Advanced Driving session will be driven to replicate normal road speeds and conditions. It can best be described as a progressive drive in much the same way as an IAM or ROSPA candidate would demonstrate.

- Due to the level of difficulty of Advanced Driving at Bovington it is always an Instructor led session. There is no Associate led driving activity. The Instructors will be current Grade 1 examiners and observers can be those Instructors under development to Grade 1 examiner, or any other observer approved by the Chief Instructor. Associates are invited to remain in the car during these sessions.
- Sessions will be by invitation only at the discretion of the Chief Instructor. The session will be open to Grade X, 1 & 2 members and those achieving the age of 17 during that membership year. The Instruction Coordinator will identify members accordingly.
- The Advanced Driving circuit will be closed to all other traffic during the session with Marshal hard road closures in position. The Chief Marshal shall declare the circuit safe and ready for the session to the participants held at the muster point and The Venue Controller. After the session the Chief Marshal shall close the circuit to Advanced Driving activity and direct participants back to the normal parking and briefing area. The Chief Marshall shall then inform The Venue Controller that the circuit is ready for normal driving.
- The session will consist of a number of laps in either direction of the circuit as directed by the Chief Instructor.
- The objective of the session is to understand ‘making progress’ in a safe controlled environment with emphasis on driving for vision (limit point driving), road positioning, balancing the car, and developing commentary driving.
- You will only drive on the left hand side of the circuit exactly as you would drive on a public road. There is ample opportunity to demonstrate ‘positioning’ within the width of your own side of the track. Cars will circulate in one direction only as directed by the Chief Instructor.
- A safe distance **must** be maintained between each vehicle. Overtaking will be permitted, if it is safe to do so and the speed limit in force is not exceeded.
- No corners or junctions will be cut, the normal rules of the road apply and all signage such as ‘give way’ or ‘stop’ will be adhered to.



- No coarse acceleration or last minute harsh braking will be permitted; progressive drivers always plan their drive giving that one essential element to safe driving which is ‘time to react.’
- The national speed limit of 60 mph will normally apply but can be varied at the discretion of the Chief Instructor.
- The Marshals will **NOT** be using the “Flags” normally used at Castle Combe.
- Should you come upon a Marshal’s car on the circuit with its amber light flashing **YOU MUST FOLLOW THAT CAR AND YOU MUST NOT OVERTAKE IT OR ANY OTHER VEHICLE.**