Welcome

While the Highway Code has never endorsed left-hooking cyclists, the new version is unequivocal. Rule H3 tells drivers: “You should not cut across cyclists going ahead when you are turning into or out of a junction just as you would not turn across the path of another motor vehicle... Do not turn at a junction if to do so would cause the cyclist going straight ahead to stop or swerve.”

The driver who passed a group of us on a late February club ride was unaware of this – and us. His sudden turn into a driveway was the worst left hook I’ve experienced.

Brakes were grabbed. Bikes were swerved. The front rider miraculously avoided diving through one of the nearside windows or sliding under the car’s wheels, instead clipping the rear bumper and coming to a halt. The rest of us managed not to pile into each other.

The driver, when he was urgently encouraged to wind down his window, wasn’t defensive or aggressive. He was oblivious.

Near misses like this, which we should perhaps call “near hits”, are enough to stop some people cycling. For others, the mere prospect of them is sufficient to stop them even considering riding on the road.

So it’s great that Highway Code now spells out how drivers should behave around cyclists and other vulnerable road users, and it’s a testament to your support for Cycling UK’s Highway Code campaign that the changes were made. The next battle is to make drivers aware of the rules and of the road.

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