

## Welcome

Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Your answers will remain anonymous unless you wish to include your name at the end of the survey.

You can move backwards and forwards through the survey, but once you click DONE on the last page you will not be able to re-enter the survey.

By clicking NEXT below you confirm that you are aged 16 years or over.

## The principles of towpath use

The consultation document sets out nine principles of towpath use. For each of these principles listed over the next few pages please indicate using the scale how important you think each of them is. There is also space for any additional comments you may have.

### 1. How important to you is the principle that:

**Towpaths have established uses in supporting boating, angling, walking and other water based activities, to be balanced with their role in connecting places.**

- Very important
- Important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Not important

Please add in any other comments below

## 2. How important to you is the principle that:

**The Canal & River Trust and its stakeholders will ensure canal and river environments are safeguarded as havens for people and wildlife.**

- Very important
- Important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Not important

Please add in any other comments below

### 3. How important to you is the principle that:

**Towpaths should be free to access for all users who wish to walk, run, fish, cycle etc. and who are committed to behave considerately to other users of the towpaths who are slower or more vulnerable than themselves.**

- Very important
- Important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Not important

Please add in any other comments below

#### 4. How important to you is the principle that:

**Towpaths should be improved where needed, to accommodate increased visits safely and to improve disabled access. Improvements should benefit a wide range of users and enhance the waterway setting.**

- Very important
- Important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Not important

Please add in any other comments below

**5. How important to you is the principle that:**

**Towpaths should be a distinct category in cycle or other route design standards, recognising their shared use and historic waterside character.**

- Very important
- Important
- Neither important not unimportant
- Not important

Please add in any other comments below

**6. How important to you is the principle that:**

**Visitors will continue to recognise they are entering a slower space shared by pedestrians, cyclists, boaters, joggers and anglers.**

- Very important
- Important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Not important

Please add in any other comments below

**7. How important to you is the principle that:**

**Routes along canals and rivers will be branded in the names of these historic waterways.**

- Very important
- Important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Not important

Please add in any other comments below



**8. How important to you is the principle that:**

**The tradition of horse boating is part of the heritage of our waterways and improvements made should follow the guidance for horse boating. Towpaths although built for horses are now predominantly used by people and (except where designated as bridleways) use for horse riding requires specific permission or alternative routes may be developed.**

- Very important
- Important
- Neither important not unimportant
- Not important

Please add in any other comments below

## 9. How important to you is the principle that:

**Where there are concerns over capacity or underlying condition, towpaths will not be promoted as part of a wider route network, but alternative routes along roads will be sought.**

- Very important
- Important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Not important

Please add in any other comments below

**10. Do you think there is anything missing that should be included as part of the principles?**

- Yes
- No

If yes, please give details of what you think is missing

**11. The Canal & River Trust has summarised the things it can do for towpath sharing as being – ‘better infrastructure, better signage and encouraging better behaviours’. How important do you see each of these components?**

	Very important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not important
Better infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encouraging better behaviours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

**12. What else, if anything, do you think the Canal & River Trust should do to encourage better sharing of towpaths?**

**13. What, if anything, do you think visitors should do differently in order to help all visitors share the towpath?**

**14. Some visitors have said that displaying clear guidelines on expected behaviours when sharing towpaths can encourage better behaviour. To what extent do you agree or disagree that such a Towpath Code will improve your visitor experience?**

- Agree strongly
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Disagree strongly

Please add any comments below

**15. What do you use a towpath for? In the first column please indicate which of the activities represents your main reason for using a towpath, and in the second column any others that apply.**

	Most often	Other activities
Boating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Canoeing or other non-powered craft	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Angling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cycling for leisure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cycling to work (during commuting hours)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cycling as a route somewhere else e.g. to go shopping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walk for leisure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walk to work (during commuting hours)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walk as a route somewhere else e.g. to get to go shopping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking a dog	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Run or jog for leisure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To visit a canal-side place e.g. a pub or café	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To sit and relax by the water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeding the birds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horse riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If other please write in below

**16. Thinking about the activities you do along the towpath, is there anything about these activities that you think other visitors should be made aware of in order to encourage safer and more harmonious sharing of the towpath?**

**Please enter your response in the box below.**

## Proposed Towpath Code

The proposed Towpath Code includes:

1. Share the space - consider other people and the local environment whenever you're on a towpath. Remember some people may move less predictably, for example young children or those with visual or mobility impairments.
2. Drop your pace - considerate sharing of the limited towpath space is the key. Jogging and cycling are welcome, but drop your pace in good time and let people know you are approaching by ringing a bell or politely calling out before waiting to pass slowly.
3. Pedestrians have priority - towpaths are shared spaces where pedestrians have priority and vehicles, except bicycles and mobility aids, are generally excluded.
4. Be courteous to others – a smile can go a long way. Abusive or threatening behaviour is not acceptable and should be reported to the Police.
5. Follow signs and obey local bye-laws - they are there for the safety of everyone. Cyclists should dismount where required and use common sense in busy or restricted areas, recognising that pedestrians have priority.
6. Give way to oncoming people beneath bridges whether they are on foot or bike and be extra careful at bends and entrances where visibility is limited.
7. Give way and use common sense when traveling in large groups, especially if you are running or cycling.
8. Avoid wearing headphones as this makes you less aware of your surroundings, possible hazards and others sharing the same space.
9. Keep dogs under control ideally using a short lead on busy towpaths and clean-up after them. Dog fouling is unpleasant for other towpath users and is a health hazard.
10. At all times, keep children close to you and encourage them to learn and follow the Towpath Code.



## Proposed Towpath Code

### 17. Do you think there is anything missing from the Towpath Code?

### 18. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Towpath Code relates to:

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly
You and how you use the towpath	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your local area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any other comments below

**19. How would you expect the code of conduct to be promoted?**

**Please tick as many as apply**

- Signs
- People – e.g. volunteers / ambassadors
- Leaflets
- Events
- Social Media
- Other

If other, please specify below

**20. There are around 300 million visits to the 2,000 miles of towpaths each year in England & Wales. Please tell us about your towpath experience. Is your experience mainly**

- Excellent
- Good
- Okay
- Poor
- Very poor

Please can you explain your answer below

**21. Have you ever had an unpleasant experience with another towpath visitor?**

- Yes
- No

**22. If you answered yes above, how often has this happened?**

- Only once
- Rarely
- Occasionally
- Frequently
- Always

Please can you tell us a little more about what you have experienced?

**23. And again if yes above, did you report the incident to the Canal & River Trust (or British Waterways prior to 2012) or the Police?**

- Yes
- No

If no, why didn't you report the incident?

Please answer the final questions below to help us understand if and how opinions vary between different groups of people.

**24. How often do you visit a towpath?**

- Every day
- 2-5 times a week
- About once a week
- About once a fortnight
- About once a month
- Once every 2-3 months
- About once every six months
- About once a year
- Not visited in past 12 months
- Never

**25. Please can you tell us the stretch of canal you most often visit? Please give us the name of the nearest village, town or city or other identifying landmarks.**

**26. Are you...**

- Male
- Female

**27. How old are you?**

- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

**28. Do you have any long term illness, health problem, disability or infirmity that limits your activities in any way?**

- Yes
- No

**29. If you would like to give us your name please enter this below.**

**30. We would like to contact you to find out more about journeys people make that include sections on towpaths and where you start and end your journey. If you would be happy for us to contact you in the future about your towpath journey, please enter your email address below.**



## Thank you

Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Your views will help us shape our future plans.