

# Utilising the towpath as a sustainable route

Checklist Topics: Access, Legal, Sustainable

Outline application for a major mixed use urban extension. Located on the edge of a town centre with easy access to the canal that could be utilised as a sustainable walking/cycle route to town. The access point is shown on the map as an \* and the route with arrows. The Trust considered that as a result of the development there would be a major increase in pedestrian/cycle use along this stretch of canal where the towpath is narrow and largely grassed. The impact of this additional usage on the towpath surface needed to be mitigated to ensure that it could cope and to make the route attractive to users.

The Trust identified a specification of the works required and calculated site specific costs (including access arrangements, the length and width of the upgrade and other associated works) to deliver the necessary improvements to the towpath. This was provided to the LPA as part of our response to the planning application consultation. This resulted in negotiations with the developer, via the LPA, and the developer entered into a legal agreement. This ensured that at certain stages within the development of the site the Trust would receive monies for the upgrading works to the waterway edge and towpath.



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Have you considered that our waterways provide sustainable routes for developments or planning policies? How is it best to secure these improvements through the planning system?

E.g. the provision of off-site works through a legal agreement (S106) or by ensuring the land is within the application site area so that planning conditions will be appropriate.