

Quiet Zones

What are Quiet Zones?

Quiet Zones are sections of the canal where boaters and other users are asked to keep noise to an absolute minimum and to refrain from activities that will disturb others nearby, for example not burning materials that cause smoke.

How are Quiet Zones enforced?

Quiet Zones are entirely voluntary, boaters and others are asked to abide by the guidance. The Trust does not have the powers to take action against those who ignore the 'Quiet Zone' guidance, only statutory agencies (local authorities, police etc) have the powers to take action against noise pollution and other disturbance. However by providing clear guidance about what is expected in a Quiet Zones we have found that most boaters respect this.

In extreme cases and the case of repeated disturbance the Trust can take action against a boater who breaks the following clause in their boat license agreement;

7.5. You must not do (or carelessly fail to do) anything which will cause damage or nuisance to us or any person or their property. You accept responsibility for any such damage or nuisance caused by you, other occupants of the Boat or your visitors. You will not be responsible for events that are outside your control.

What the Canal & River Trust will consider when requests are made for Quiet Zones

The following factors will be considered;

- Is the section of towpath close to residential properties?
- Is the section of towpath in a quiet, rural, setting or is it in a busier, urban, location?
- Is the section a visitor mooring or is it a general towpath mooring that is a popular place for boats to moor?
- Have there been reports of nuisance from noise in this place in the past?
- Are there other mooring places nearby that are away from residential moorings where noise from boats would be less likely to disturb neighbours?
- Would a Quiet Zone be supported by local residents, local or parish council?

How would people be informed that they are entering a Quiet Zone?

Quiet Zone signs should be installed at each entrance to the Quiet Zone and at regular intervals along the towpath within the zone.