



STROUD VALLEYS CANAL COMPANY

TOWPATH POLICY

Stroud Valleys Canal Company has, by kind permission, adopted the Canal and River Trust National Towpath Policy as its guide. This policy can be found at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/8535-national-towpath-policy.pdf>.

Stroud Valleys Canal Company is committed to providing a towpath available to all users of the canal, and to maintaining and improving the towpath to the best of our ability and resources.

Principles of Towpath use:

1. SVCC's towpaths are places for people to spend time safely for a variety of activities.
2. Everyday access to the towpaths will be free to everyone, although we reserve the right to charge for specific access such as special events.
3. Towpaths will be available to support both use of the water-space, and the towpaths themselves.
4. SVCC aims to improve towpaths to achieve a good towpath condition throughout its length, consistent with the character of the area in which the towpath is located.
5. SVCC wants to offer all users an enjoyable towpath experience and recognises that this is dependent on people being considerate, particularly to those who are not moving, are slower, or more vulnerable; in general priority should be given to the slowest and those using the waterway.
6. SVCC recognises the incorporation of towpaths as part of walking and cycling routes.
7. The Canal and River Trust's Towpath Design Guidance specifies physical characteristics of towpaths and also includes requirements for signage, recognising shared use and the historic waterside character.
8. Where there are concerns over towpath capacity or condition, we will seek opportunities to secure further external investment.
9. Where towpaths are unsuitable for some uses – too narrow or too heavily-used – we will seek to work with others to provide alternative routes.
10. Whilst SVCC is committed, within the above limitations, to providing a towpath, it reserves the right to close or restrict the use of the towpath at any time for maintenance purposes, and will aim to keep such disruption to a minimum.

Towpath Code

Share the space – towpaths are popular places to be enjoyed by everyone. Please be mindful of others, keep dogs under control, and clean up after them.

Drop your pace – pedestrians have priority on our towpaths so be ready to slow down; if you're in a hurry, consider using an alternative route for your journey.

It's a special place – our waterways are a living heritage with boats, working locks and low bridges so please give way to waterway users and be extra careful where visibility is limited.