

- All fish caught must be returned alive, fishing is only allowed with rod and line and no live fish should be removed from or introduced to the water.

Horse riding

- Some sections of the canal towpath are unsuitable for equestrian access – understand your route before you venture out and check with the local Scottish Canals’ office if in doubt.
- Towpaths are always unsuitable for faster riding. Please give way to more vulnerable users.
- If you are a carriage driver you must be able to turn, reverse or unhitch if you meet an obstacle.
- Please clear up any horse dung.



Wildlife

Discover wildflowers and grasses, water-loving plants, insects, fish, birds and mammals as you explore the Scottish canals. To report birds or animals in distress please contact the Scottish SPCA on 03000 999 999.

BE SAFE – Stay Away From the Edge

- Never dive into or swim in the canal. Obstacles can lurk just below the surface and even experienced swimmers can easily get into difficulties.
- If the water appears frozen, **never** trust the ice to take your weight.
- Always keep young children under supervision.
- Watch out for uneven towpaths, concealed mooring pins and ropes.

General rights and responsibilities

Unauthorised vehicles, motorcycles, quad bikes, scramblers etc are strictly prohibited. All non-motorised users, including walkers, joggers, cyclists and mobility scooters, have the right to use and enjoy the canal towpath provided they act responsibly. Your rights and responsibilities, as set out in the Land Reform Act (Scotland) 2003, are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Please follow instructions given by Scottish Canals staff. They are there to help you. Please respect their right to carry out their duties without fear of intimidation, threatening behaviour, actions or harassment.

Volunteering

If you have an enquiry regarding the canals or would like to volunteer to help look after the canals, please drop us an email at enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk or call us on 0141 332 6936.



Share a Great Space

Towpath Code of Conduct

Towpath Code of Conduct

Scotland's canal towpaths are there for everyone to enjoy - walkers, cyclists, runners and users with disabilities. This relies on everyone:

- Being considerate towards each other
- Taking responsibility for their own actions
- Caring for the environment

All users

- When joining the towpath give way to users already on it
- Mobiles and headphones can distract you – stay alert for other users of the path.

Share the space, drop your pace

Considerate cyclists are welcome on the towpath. However, the towpath is not suitable for cycling fast. Fast cyclists often scare people, problems with dogs are more likely and blind corners are also hazards. If speed matters to you, you should use other routes.

Cycling

- When approaching other users:
 - Please give pedestrians priority
 - **Ting-ting.** Slow down and make yourself heard with a bell ring or a friendly voice to warn of your approach
 - Be aware that not all users will be able to hear a bell or call
 - Pass at a slow speed giving plenty of space to the other user
 - Be polite and say “thank you”



- On approach to blind corners, such as under bridges
 - Slow down and make yourself heard in a friendly voice or bell ring to warn of your approach
 - Be prepared to stop
 - Dismount where the towpath is uneven or very narrow
- Be aware that other users, particularly dogs and children, may move unpredictably. Always cycle slowly enough that you can stop if necessary.

Walking or Jogging

- Stay alert for passing cyclists.
- On hearing a bicycle bell or cautionary voice:
 - Move to the side of the towpath
 - Allow cyclists to pass
- When joining the towpath give way to users already on it
- Big groups and those pushing buggies should make way for other towpath users to pass by

Dog Walking

- Ensure your dog is under close control - walking to heel and responding to all commands - or on a short lead
- Clean up after your dog. Dog fouling is illegal, very unpleasant and is a health hazard. **Bag it and bin it.**



Litter

- Take away all your litter
- Take particular care not to drop things like bottles, cans or plastic bags which can harm wild animals and entangle in boat propellers.



Angling

Only members of the Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling are permitted to fish from the towpaths on the Forth & Clyde and Union canals.

- Discarded hooks and lines, bottles and tins can kill or injure wildlife. Gather them up and take them away with you.
- Make sure the towpath is passable for other users.
- Don't fish within 30m of overhead power lines, near to moored boats, locks or bridges, or in marinas.



Thanks to the following partners for their assistance in producing this leaflet:

