

TOWPATH

CODE OF CONDUCT

***two
tings***

ring your bell twice..



pass slowly, be nice!

Code of conduct for cyclists

→ Ring with Two Tings

Use a bell, giving **Two Tings** when approaching pedestrians to let them know you are there. (Please note that ringing with **Two Tings** is not an order to pedestrians to get out of the way.)

Be aware that some people may have visual or hearing impairments and might not hear your **Two Tings**.

→ Pass people slowly, give people space

Slow down when approaching pedestrians and only pass when it is safe to do so. Extra care must be taken when passing children, less able people and animals.

Be especially aware that dogs and other animals are unpredictable and unlikely to react positively to **Two Tings**. Take extra care and be prepared to stop or take evasive action.

Try to pass on the water side of the path. Pedestrians will tend to move to the back edge of the towpath to allow you to pass.

Be patient and courteous to pedestrians. Saying “thank you” to pedestrians who move to let you pass will make them more likely to move next time.

→ Ride at a sensible speed for the towpath conditions

The towpath is never suitable for cycling fast as there are many other users, low bridges and narrow sections. If you are in a hurry, do not use the towpath, please use the road.

Overtaking other cyclists on the towpath is not recommended. If you must overtake, use a bell to give **Two Tings**, ensure that the other cyclist has acknowledged your intentions then overtake safely and smartly.

Code of conduct for pedestrians

→ Listen for Two Tings

Two Tings is not an order for you to move out of the way. It is to make you aware that cyclists are looking for a safe opportunity to pass.

→ Allow cyclists to pass

Allow cyclists to pass you when it is safe. Remember that cyclists need room to brake and stop. If a cyclist stops or waits for you to pass, thank them and they will be more likely to stop next time.

→ Dog walkers

Please clear up after your dog, keep your dog under control at all times and don't allow your dog to swim in the water.

Code of conduct for all users

→ Pedestrians have priority over cyclists on the towpath

→ Considerate cycling is permitted,

provided this code of conduct is followed.

→ Give way to oncoming users at bridges

Give way to other users who have already started their passage.

Some bridges have poor visibility so check (using the mirrors, if available) that someone isn't already coming through.

Cyclists should slow down, ring with **Two Tings** and let other users through the bridge before continuing. Never pass a pedestrian or another cyclist underneath a bridge – there is not room to do so safely.

Pedestrians should listen for the **Two Tings** warning from cyclists.

→ Be extra careful at bends and entrances

Cyclists should be prepared to slow down, stop or dismount, if necessary.

→ Consider other users and the local environment

Earphones/headphones should not be worn, particularly at peak times, to enable users to hear warnings from others.

The waterways and towpaths have many important wildlife habitats and historic structures for people to enjoy.

Reporting incidents and maintainance

British Waterways London strives to provide a safe environment for everyone who uses and visits its canals and rivers. If you are involved in an incident please report it by filling in the form online at: www.britishwaterways.co.uk/listening-to-you/visitor-information/visitor-incident-reporting or by telephone on **020 7985 7200**.

Freepost forms are also available on request.

If you come across instances where maintenance is required, please contact **British Waterways London** by telephone or email enquiries.london@britishwaterways.co.uk giving details and the location of the problem.



Contact the
Towpath Ranger for
London via phone
on 07899 837612
or
follow the Towpath
Ranger on Twitter:
[www.twitter.com/
towpathranger](https://www.twitter.com/towpathranger)

**Grand Union Canal
Main Line**
(to Birmingham and the North)



**The London
Waterways map**

Towpaths form part of a network of off-road routes, sometimes referred to as 'shared-use greenways'. They connect people to facilities and open spaces in and around towns and the countryside and are used by millions of people each day. In most cases towpaths are not public rights of way but routes that can be used by the public with the permission of the landowner.

Permission to use the towpaths is given to walkers and cyclists on a long-term basis by British Waterways, but we may have to close the towpath from time to time for maintenance work.

Find out more about activity on canals and rivers at

waterscape.com