

SHARE WITH CARE

Top tips for **cyclists** & **pedestrians**
using shared pathways



BIRMINGHAM
CYCLE REVOLUTION



Birmingham
City Council

Shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists are a great way of getting out and about in Birmingham.

We've developed some top tips for both **cyclists** and **pedestrians** to help make journeys on shared paths safer and more pleasant for all.

Discover how to...

SHARE WITH CARE



WHAT IS A SHARED PATH?

A shared path is designed for all types of users including pedestrians, wheelchair users and cyclists. Some shared paths maybe identified by these types of signs:



If you come across shared paths with a dividing white line, segregating the cycle and pedestrian space, please keep to the correct side. Remember to always **Share with Care**.



TOP TIPS FOR CYCLISTS USING SHARED PATHS

Whether you use them for a family cycle ride in the great outdoors, or commute from A to B avoiding busy roads, shared paths are fantastic for cyclists.

Following our top tips for cyclists will ensure using shared paths is a positive experience for everyone.



» Put a bell on your bike!

Pedestrians welcome a polite warning of your approach. If you don't have a bell, use a friendly greeting instead and always do this in plenty of time so you don't surprise people or animals when approaching from behind.



Important! Don't ring your bell near horses, instead talk to the rider and check it is safe to pass.

» Take care when passing other path users and ride at an appropriate speed. If necessary wait to pass until there is enough room.

» Give way to pedestrians and wheelchair users, if you need to.



» Be aware that pedestrians may have **hearing impairments** or be wearing in-ear **headphones** so might not hear your bell, so **pass slowly** and **give as much space as possible**.

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» When cycling on segregated shared paths, always keep to your side of any dividing lines.

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» Say a quick '**thank you**' as you pass. Polite behaviour encourages others to share the space better.

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» **Keep to the left** when passing oncoming pedestrians or cyclists. **Overtake on the right** of any pedestrians and cyclists going the same way as you (like on the road). Again, do not ride too quickly. Think... if a pedestrian steps into your path could you stop in time?

» Be particularly careful at junctions, bends, entrances onto the path, or any other 'blind spots' where people or animals could appear without warning.

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» Groups of cyclists should ride in single file when approaching pedestrians on a shared pathway.

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» In dull and dark weather make sure you have bike lights on so you can be seen. It's also a good idea to wear hi-visibility clothing too.

! IMPORTANT! DON'T RIDE FAST WHEN PEDESTRIANS ARE AROUND. !



TOP TIPS FOR PEDESTRIANS USING SHARED PATHS

Whether it's a leisurely walk with the dog, a quick jog round the park, or a walk down the canal, shared paths are a safe and pleasant way to enjoy the great outdoors.

Following our **top tips for pedestrians** will ensure using shared paths is a positive experience for everyone.



» Make sure you are aware of your environment. A variety of people use shared paths and some may need **more space** than others.

» If another path user stops or waits for you to pass, **thank them** as this encourages everybody to share the space better.

THANK YOU

» **Keep dogs under control** - on a lead if necessary. Don't trail leads across the path causing an obstruction.

ALLOW ENOUGH SPACE



» If listening to music, try using **one earpiece instead of two** so you can hear cyclists or pedestrians approaching.



» If you're walking a dog, or have children with you, help them to **move over** when cyclists or horses are passing.

» Listen out for the sound of a bike bell or greeting, warning you that a cyclist is approaching and is looking for a safe place to pass.



» If a cyclist approaches, try to **acknowledge that you have seen or heard them** (ideally with eye contact), and if necessary make space for them to pass safely.



» Be careful not to step into the path of an oncoming cyclist, if you hear a bike bell it's best to **keep to your left**.



» **Keep to your side** of any dividing lines indicated on shared paths.

» Take care around horse-riders, **leave them plenty of room** especially when approaching from behind.



PLEASE REMEMBER: IF YOU ARE WALKING WITH A DOG AND IT ANSWERS THE 'CALL OF NATURE', ANY MESS NEEDS TO BE CLEARED UP AND PUT IN A DOG LITTER BIN OR TAKEN HOME WITH YOU.



Share the Space, Drop your Pace: Our Towpath Code



Canal &
River Trust

1. 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.



2. Drop your pace

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



3. It's a special place

Our waterways are living history, with boats, working locks and low bridges so please give way to waterway users and be extra careful where visibility is limited.



MAKE SURE YOUR BIKE IS ROADWORTHY WITH THE 'ABC' CHECK

It only takes a minute and should be done before every ride, ensuring your bike is safe and in good working order.

A = AIR

Are your tyres correctly inflated? Give them a squeeze for a quick check. It's worth finding out the minimum/maximum pressure in PSI or BAR (shown on the side wall of each tyre) and inflate accordingly. Even a non-punctured tyre will leak a small amount of air over time!



B = BRAKES

Stand by your bike and pull the front brake. If you push the bike forward the back wheel should lift off the ground. Now pull the back brake and pull the bike backwards, and the front wheel should lift off the ground. If not, your brakes need tightening!



C = CHAIN

Look for signs of rust or stiff links. The chain should make a regular clicking sound when you rotate the pedals backwards. Clean your chain (with degreaser) and re-oil it every now and then.





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Birmingham Cycle Revolution is part of the Birmingham Connected vision to reinvent the way people and goods move across the city. Find out more at www.birmingham.gov.uk/connected



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