



# STROUD VALLEYS CANAL COMPANY

## Very important notice to all towpath users

SVCC owns and manages the canal and its towpaths as well as many pieces of land either side of it and for the benefit of the local community, residents, and businesses.

The canal towpath from Eastington to Bourne Mill at Brimscombe is a designated footpath with permissive use for cyclists. The intention of Stroud Valleys Canal Company and Stroud District Council has been and remains to be that the existing towpath and any new sections added as the canal is extended to Saul Junction should be suitable for multiple users – pedestrians, runners, people walking dogs on leads, cyclists, wheelchair users, mobility scooters, buggies and prams.

Sadly, in recent months there have been several accidents and near misses involving pedestrians and canal volunteers with both cyclists and dogs off leads, as well as between cars and cyclists.

We are reviewing towpath safety signage.

We plead with cyclists to slow down and if necessary stop and look for vehicles before they cross any roads that cross the towpath next to bridges.

Cyclists must slow or stop if they meet pedestrians (canal volunteers are pedestrians) on the towpath or near bridges. Please ring your bells to make sure, and only pass if safe. Allow plenty of social distance and clearance between you and the pedestrians. We further remind dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead and under control at all times on the towpath, and to clear up after them.

### Reminders:

- **Please note that cyclists do *not* have priority over non-cyclists at any point on the canal towpath.**
- **Please note that vehicles crossing canal bridges have priority over cyclists and pedestrians using the towpath.**
- **Dogs should be on their leads along the towpath and under control, and we expect owners to clear up after their dogs. Please be aware of cyclists and runners needing to pass close to you and your dog. It is an offence not to clear up – not doing so could cost you up to £1,000. To report dog mess: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/report/report-dog-mess-or-fouling-problems>**

[www.stroudvalleyscanal.co.uk](http://www.stroudvalleyscanal.co.uk)

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