

On shared paths...



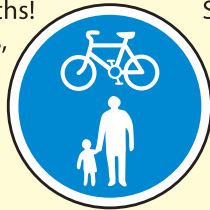
Photo: CityCycling Edinburgh.info

At Spokes we get letters and e-mails from walkers and cyclists unhappy about inconsiderate behaviour on shared paths. Two of the most common complaints are cycling speeds and dogs not under control. This leaflet sets out our ideas for ALL path users to get on well together.

Path or road? If you want to cycle fast you should consider using roads rather than paths. On shared paths, fast cyclists often scare people, problems with dogs are more likely, and blind entrances and hedges are also hazards. If speed matters to you, roads may also be more direct. And, for all cyclists, some paths may be inadvisable for cycling due to broken surfaces, poor visibility, lack of safe width, frequent steps, etc.

Footways (often referred to as 'pavements') are NOT shared paths! Cycling is not allowed on footways, except where they're signed for shared use, as shown here:

(The police normally show discretion towards younger children cycling on footways, and children under 12 are not criminally responsible.)



Access to all public open space in Scotland is regulated by the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC)**. The emphasis is on ALL users behaving responsibly. See the leaflet **'Know The Code Before You Go'** from Scottish Natural Heritage or visit www.snh.gov.uk

Busier paths need everyone to be even more aware of other users, but can also enhance feelings of safety at isolated places and times.

Maps To find traffic-free paths in Edinburgh and the Lothians you can't do better than to use a Spokes map. *(For details see our website)*



Campaigns Many new shared paths only came into existence because cyclist groups and other individuals campaigned for them. Join us in campaigning for more!



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(Find our Considerate Cycling web page at documents/advice)

Design & small photos: Tim Smith

Path users may be cyclists, walkers, joggers, people with disabilities or horse riders. Any one of us may, at times, use paths in different ways. The key to sharing paths successfully is for everyone to understand and be considerate towards one another. If you are **cycling** along a path think what it would be like to be **walking** there – and vice versa.

Some helpful suggestions:

Who's around?

▶ Many walkers and some cyclists use headphones or mobiles. Have they noticed you? If YOU use a phone, try to stay alert – are you aware of what's happening around you?

▶ Some people can't hear you because of deafness ... and every-one daydreams at times!

▶ Children (and adults!) may move unpredictably – whether walking, running or cycling. Be prepared! If cycling, go slowly enough to be able to stop.

▶ Dogs are even less predictable. If you're walking a dog, keep it on a short lead or under very close voice control. Some people are scared of dogs, and long leads are a big danger to cyclists.

On marked or unmarked paths

▶ If there's a dividing line, try to keep to your side. If in a group which strays on to both sides, be alert for anyone approaching from in front or behind.

▶ If there's NO dividing line, keep to the left as much as possible, except when passing someone going in the same direction.

Passing others

▶ When approaching someone from behind, or if they've not noticed you, say 'Excuse me'. If you're cycling, use your bell politely.

▶ If someone moves aside to let you pass, say 'Thanks'.

▶ If you're in a group using a lot of path width, move left if walkers or cyclists approach. On narrower paths, move into single file if necessary.

Canal bridges

▶ Be very careful at blind corners such as canal bridges. If you're on a bike, go slowly and use your bell in advance.

...let's share the path!