

CC9 Derbyshire County Council Code of Practice for Boaters

This Code of Practice relates to all boats on the Derbyshire County Council owned section of the Chesterfield Canal only. You must comply with its provisions during your use of the Canal.

1. All boats will be watertight and fit for navigation, i.e. able to get out of the way of a powered boat and remain afloat in the wash of a passing boat.
2. The person in charge of the boat will, for every day the craft is in the water, display a valid licence, which should not in any way be altered or defaced.
3. Every pleasure boat on the Canal will have ready for immediate use proper fenders of suitable material and in good condition, and they shall be used whenever there is a risk of a boat striking against any other boat or structure
4. Every boat will have nothing except necessary fenders projecting over the sides, that might cause injury to another boat, structure or person. Any equipment shall be secured so that no part can fall into the Canal
5. All flammable liquids will be stored appropriately and all boats shall carry appropriate fire fighting equipment.
6. For safe navigation all boats shall display appropriate light for navigation during the evening or low visibility conditions and shall carry an efficient whistle, and use it accordingly.
7. Every boat on the Canal shall be navigated with care and reasonable consideration for all persons using the Canal or the banks of the Canal. They will not obstruct the passage of any other vessel or endanger the safety of other vessels or cause damage to other vessels, banks of the Canal or other parts of DCC property.
8. No person shall navigate any power-driven boat on the Canal at a speed over the bed of the Canal greater than a speed of 4 miles per hour.
9. No person shall use any pole, boat hook or other instrument in such a manner as to cause injury or damage to any person, property, wildlife or place of shelter.
10. All overtaking and passing shall be done with care and appropriately.
11. Boats turning in or into the Canal shall do so in such a manner as not to cause any obstruction or interference to any other boat. To avoid bank erosion all persons will be required to access the Canal at specific points. These are either side of Locks, the slipway on Lockoford Lane and at Mill Green bridge.

12. The master of any boat approaching , entering, passing through or leaving any lock shall navigate in a controlled manner and at a speed as not to strike, imperil, damage, obstruct or run foul of the lock or any part thereof or any other boat in the vicinity. (Lock includes sluice, weir or flood gate).
13. Any person operating a lock shall do so, following the appropriate procedure. No lock is to be operated during the hours of darkness. All lock gates and paddles should be left closed unless otherwise instructed by DCC staff. Any person being unsure how to use a lock, ask staff at Tapton Lock Visitor Centre for assistance
14. Any moored boat shall be securely moored with good and sufficient ropes or other apparatus, in such a way as not to cause obstruction to the navigation of other boats. All mooring shall be on the towpath side of the Canal, except either side of locks.
15. No mooring rope shall be affixed to any sluice lockgate, bridge or other structure that DCC have not provided for the purpose of mooring.
16. No boat on the Canal shall without the permission of DCC be used as a club, shop, store, workshop, dwelling or houseboat.
17. No person shall wilfully or negligently suffer any boat to run aground or sink in the Canal. The master or user of any vessel in difficulty shall inform DCC and any other boat in the vicinity.
18. No person shall turn any vessel adrift upon the Canal or shall unnecessarily cast off, cut loose or interfere with any mooring or rope or fastening of any boat.
19. No person shall commit any nuisance in or on the Canal
20. No person shall throw or discharge into or on the Canal any animal (alive or dead) or any rubbish, stones or other material of any kind whatsoever or deposits such materials so as to be washed or carried into the Canal by floods or other means.
21. No person shall pollute the Canal with fuel, oil, sewage or waste water. In the event of any act of pollution you must report it to a member of staff at the first available opportunity.
22. No person unless authorised by DCC shall:
 - bathe in the Canal
 - take water from the Canal or permit any discharge from any pipe, culvert or drain onto any property of DCC
 - connect any pipe, culvert or drain to the Canal
 - dredge or remove any material from the Canal
23. No person shall assault, resist, obstruct or impede any officer of DCC in the execution of their duty, or disobey their lawful orders.

24. No person shall navigate any boat on the Canal or take any part on the navigation, mooring or handling of any boat on the Canal whilst under the influence of drink to such an extent as to be incapable of having proper control of the boat.
25. No person, unless authorised by DCC shall execute any works of construction, maintenance or repair on the Canal
26. The master or user of any boat using the Canal shall be responsible for the safety and security of the boat and its moorings and shall be answerable to DCC for any damage done by such a boat or the master to the Canal or property of DCC.
27. Vehicles may only be left at designated parking sites, with permission of DCC staff and only for the period necessary.
28. No person shall drop litter or leave litter even if it is not their own
29. No persons shall use the toilets at Tapton Lock Visitor Centre as a changing room.
30. Relationships with the Canal and its environment.
 - All persons shall avoid disturbance to wildlife or place of shelter particularly at nesting time
 - All persons shall avoid excessive noise and engine revving,
 - Gathering of groups of boats are not permitted in the Bluebank proposed Local Nature Reserve area.
 - All persons must report any incidents or injuries to wildlife or place of shelter to DCC at Tapton Lock Visitor Centre.
 - No persons shall attempt to restrain an injured bird by a line it may be caught in.
 - All persons shall carry portable boats over grassed areas not drag.
 - All persons shall follow the Country Code, and will leave the Canal as they wish to find it and let others enjoy it too.
31. Relationships with other users: The DCC owned section of the Chesterfield Canal is a local resource and is available to all sectors of the local community.

Anglers:

- Anglers should give way to boaters, but boaters must pay heed to local signs concerning angling matches.
- All persons when passing anglers shall keep to the centre of the channel and avoid the bank opposite the angler (it is a favourite spot to catch fish).
- All persons shall pass in single file and be aware of the waves their passage may create (they erode banks and disturb fish).
- All persons shall not slow down as they pass anglers but maintain a steady speed below the limit.
- No persons shall moor opposite anglers, where they are already established, but will try to find a more suitable spot at least 50 feet away or moor at recognised marked points.

Towpath Users:

- Where mooring stakes are used in the absence of bollards, no persons shall obstruct pedestrians or cyclists and shall ensure stakes are as close to the water as possible.
- No persons shall obstruct the towpath or picnic tables with equipment.

Model Boaters:

- Model Boating is at present limited to the section of Canal between Tapton Mill Bridge and Tapton Lock, model boaters will give way to powered craft but all persons shall be aware of their use of the Canal.

31. Relationships between users of different boats

Unpowered Boats

- All persons shall give way to powered boats

Powered Boats

- All persons shall give way to narrow boats

Any conflict situations must be raised with DCC staff members and not taken up by the individuals themselves.

Additional information is available in the British Waterways Code for Boaters available from Tapton Lock Visitor Centre, or on the Internet: www.britishwaterways.co.uk.