

## Quiet Zones

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### What are Quiet Zones?

Quiet Zones are sections of the canal where boaters and other users are asked to keep noise to an absolute minimum and to refrain from activities that will disturb others nearby, for example not burning materials that cause smoke.

### How are Quiet Zones enforced?

Quiet Zones are entirely voluntary, boaters and others are asked to abide by the guidance. The Trust does not have the powers to take action against those who ignore the 'Quiet Zone' guidance, only statutory agencies (local authorities, police etc) have the powers to take action against noise pollution and other disturbance. However by providing clear guidance about what is expected in a Quiet Zones we have found that most boaters respect this.

In extreme cases and the case of repeated disturbance the Trust can take action against a boater who breaks the following clause in their boat license agreement;

*10.9. Whilst the Boat is on the Waterway You must not do (or carelessly fail to do) or permit anything which will cause injury, damage or nuisance to Us or any person or their property. You accept responsibility for any such action caused or permitted by You or other occupants or users of the Boat. You will not be held responsible for events that are outside Your control if You have taken all reasonable steps to prevent such injury, damage or nuisance.*

### What the Canal & River Trust will consider when requests are made for Quiet Zones

The following factors will be considered;

- Is the section of towpath close to residential properties?
- Is the section of towpath in a quiet, rural, setting or is it in a busier, urban, location?
- Is the section a visitor mooring or is it a general towpath mooring that is a popular place for boats to moor?
- Have there been reports of nuisance from noise in this place in the past?
- Are there other mooring places nearby that are away from residential moorings where noise from boats would be less likely to disturb neighbours?
- Would a Quiet Zone be supported by local residents, local or parish council?

How would people be informed that they are entering a Quiet Zone?

Quiet Zone signs should be installed at each entrance to the Quiet Zone and at regular intervals along the towpath within the zone.