

## Sharing the water

Rowing boats and canoes behave very differently. By understanding these differences, and agreeing and following some basic guidelines, rowers and canoeists can happily share the same piece of water. These are the major differences:



Relatively fast  
Poor view ahead - Good view astern  
Not very manoeuvrable  
Wide (up to 7 m blade tip to blade tip)



Relatively slow  
Poor view astern - Good view ahead  
Very manoeuvrable  
Narrow (~1 m including paddle)

### Rules of the road

Unless there is an agreed circulation plan that specifies otherwise you should always **navigate on the right-hand side of the waterway.**

When Overtaking, the overtaking boat should keep clear, move towards the middle of the waterway, pass as quickly as possible and once clear steer back towards the right-hand side.

The boat being overtaken should move to its right then hold its course.

### How to communicate with other types of boat – how to warn them of danger

If in doubt, then SHOUT, several times. It does not really matter what you shout, just warn the other crew of your presence. Shouting “**Take a look**” or “**Look Ahead**”, early and loud, usually works.

### Better understanding can be achieved by...

- Organising joint social events so that their members can get to know each other.
- Working together to develop a local agreement on the use of the waterway.
  - Developing an agreed circulation plan
  - If appropriate, agreeing times for the use of the water
- Sharing contact details

For more information, please see:

<https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/safety/>

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about-canoeing/safety-guidance/>

**Together we can all enjoy sharing the same stretch of water**