

Severn Canoe Trail Partnership

Collaborative Agreement – Draft

The Severn Canoe Trail Partnership is a collaborative group of individuals, organisations, local authorities, riparian land owners and businesses who have agreed to work together to create, develop and manage a canoe trail along the River Severn through Shropshire.

The partners involved will work together to develop and deliver activities that will support a high quality outdoor leisure environment on the River Severn for residents and visitors to the area. It will also help balance the needs of the many users of the river.

The Severn Canoe Trail is not just for canoeists but will include many forms of self-powered craft such as paddle boarding and kayaking. The canoe trail will also advocate safe, responsible, exploration of the natural environment of the river through relevant interpretation and media. The river is a shared resource, for wildlife and people. Therefore, the canoe trail has an important role to encourage mutual respect between various users and care of the river as well as its waters and dependant wildlife.

The Severn Canoe Trail is comprised of many parts including but not exclusively the following activities:

- Effective liaison with all river users – The partners have agreed to work together to share and include the views and needs of all users and stakeholders in the development and management of the Severn Canoe Trail.
- Website- Online based information in the form of a website which will host the Severn Canoe Trail guide – partners will work together to ensure this is up-to date and accurate – focussing on river safety and legal access. Our aim is to provide high-quality information for the local user and visiting paddler.
- Physical access improvement programme – Utilising joint funding packages the partnership will work together to improve locations along the river to enhance access, make ingress/egress safer and provide better facilities.
- On river/bankside interpretation – Partners will work together to ensure signage and physical on-site information is clear, accurate and helpful.
- Code of conduct – Partners will work together to ensure river code is accurately and clearly stipulated to create a conflict free user environment.
- Economic development – The partners recognise the economic dimension of developing the Severn Canoe Trail and will work together to ensure economic potential is realised with sensitivity to the natural environment of the river and in a sustainable fashion.
- Quality experience – The partners have agreed to work together to ensure they support the provision of high quality information, river access and visitor experience, utilising approaches such as a Quality Mark for commercial canoe operators and close collaboration with British Canoeing and other pertinent organisations.

The Severn Canoe Trail Partnership will be co-ordinated and facilitated by the Rivers Team at Shropshire Wildlife Trust for the first year of project delivery under the first tranche of funding from Sport England and The Canoe Foundation.

Future governance will be determined by consensus of the partners.

The formation of the partnership does not constitute a legal partnership but is a voluntary arrangement to enable the creation of the Severn Canoe Trail.

All partners agree to the use of their organisational logo for the furtherance of the limited objective of developing the trail, delivering the first phase of investment and to support the pursuit of future funding.

Membership of the Severn Canoe Trail is open to all organisations and individuals who have a clear interest in the development of the canoe trail along the Severn through Shropshire from Llandrino to Arley.

17/07/19