

Is Left Best on the Bristol and Bath Railway Path?

Key findings from 'Left is best' trial, undertaken on the railway path in Bristol during 2022.

Key on route survey findings

97% of survey respondents were observed as "keeping left".

91% of survey respondents agreed that the sign stating "Left is Best" was a positive addition to the path.

84% agreed that the signs made the path work for everyone.

72% agreed that the signs reduce conflict between path users

62% agreed that the signs made them feel safe

Interaction analysis findings

Increase in people walking "Keeping left", from **95%** up to **98%**.

Increase in people jogging "Keeping left", from **94%** up to **96%**.

Increase in people cycling "Keeping left", from **90%** up to **97%**.

Across all modes of travel, **0** conflicts were recorded where route users were "required to suddenly manoeuvre" or any form of contact was made.

Demographics and Path Usage

Collected from 325 people who stopped to take part in route survey.

Gender

53% were male, **46%** were female, **1%** were non-binary / third gender

Disability

8% of respondents had their day-to-day life limited by a health problem or disability

Age

4% were 16-24years old, **21%** were 25-34years old, **26%** were 35-44years old, **22%** were 45-54years old, **17%** were 55-64years old, **10%** were 65+ years old

Ethnicity

87% white, **5%** mixed or multiple ethnic groups, **2%** Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British, **3%** African, Caribbean or Black, **2%** other.

Mode of travel

58% were walking, **36%** were cycling and **6%** were running

Trip purpose

48% were on a leisure trip, **45%** were getting somewhere and **7%** were dog walking
9% of all users were using the path with children.

Conclusions

1. Signs improve flow and reduce conflict on the path

- Increase in all modes "keeping left" on the path, from 92% up to 97%.
- Decrease in route users involved in any interaction from 8% down to 4%.
- Increase in interactions where "no response required" from 83% up to 86%

2. Signs improve how people feel when using the path

- 84% agree that the presence of the signs saying "Left is Best" help make this a path that works for everyone
- 72% agree that the presence of the signs saying "Left is Best" reduces conflict between path users
- 62% agree that the presence of the signs saying "Left is Best" makes them feel safe

3. The "Left is Best" sign was the most positively received.

- 91% agreed "Left is Best" is a positive addition to the path

4. Signs should be installed more permanently due to their positive impact on the path
