

# reciprocal

licensing

# arrangement

for

**BOATERS**



**British Waterways**



**ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY**

# reciprocal

licensing

# arrangement

for boaters

The Environment Agency and British Waterways have agreed a new reciprocal licensing arrangement. It offers boaters who hold a private annual licence with one authority the opportunity to use the other's canals and rivers free, for up to 15 days a year. We want the arrangement to be as 'user friendly' as possible. However, all boaters need to observe the licensing conditions of any waterway they are using. This booklet provides information on how the agreement will work and gives advice to boaters cruising on rivers for the first time.

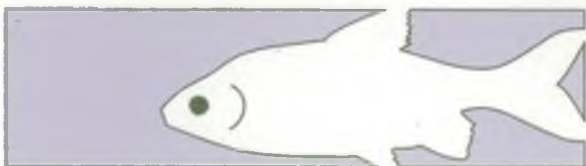


visiting

# British Waterways'

canals and rivers

British Waterways  
Willow Grange  
Church Road  
Watford  
Herts WD1 3QA  
Customer Services  
Tel 01923 201120



If you hold an Environment Agency private annual licence to use the River Thames, River Medway or Anglian Region rivers you can use British Waterways' canals and rivers free for up to 15 days in a year. The days need not be consecutive. All you need to do is make sure your Environment Agency licence is displayed. For further information about cruising on British Waterways' canals and rivers contact Customer Services. If you have never used British Waterways' canals and rivers before we advise you to contact us first.

# British Waterways and the Manchester Ship Canal Company

If you hold a private annual licence to use the Bridgewater Canal you can travel free for up to 7 days in a year on these parts of the following British Waterways' canals.

Leeds & Liverpool Canal

Leigh Branch, Wigan to Burscough and Wigan to the bottom of Blackburn Locks

Trent & Mersey Canal

Preston Brook to Harecastle Tunnel

Shropshire Union Canal

Middlewich Branch from Middlewich to Barbridge Junction

Boaters need to make sure they display their Bridgewater Canal licence.

If you hold an annual licence to use the Bridgewater Canal you can also buy an annual licence to use British Waterways' canals and rivers at the normal price for a 3 month licence. The licence will last from January to December each year. You should contact: The Manchester Ship Canal Company, 7th Floor, Quay West, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1HH. Tel 0161 872 2411.

If you hold a British Waterways annual licence you can use the Bridgewater Canal free for up to 7 days in a year. All you need to do is make sure your British Waterways licence is displayed.



visiting

# Environment Agency's

rivers

## River Thames

Environment Agency  
Thames Region  
Kings Meadow House  
Kings Meadow Road  
Reading RG1 8DQ  
Tel 0118 9535000

Craft Registration  
PO Box 214  
Reading RG1 8HQ  
Tel 0118 9535650



If you hold a British Waterways private annual licence you can visit the River Thames free for up to 15 days in a year. Please remember when using the reciprocal licence to visit the Thames:

### **1** You are required to register your boat

You can register either on arrival, at any of the Thames entry point locks during staff hours or in advance from Thames Region, Craft Registration Department. When you have registered you will be given a free visitors licence plate which you must display in your boat.

### **2** You can only use your reciprocal licence to visit the River Thames for 15 consecutive days or individual days up to a maximum of six, free of charge.

The free 15 consecutive day visit can be extended by buying a further 15 day licence. An extension of this visit is not available for those using the six individual days arrangement, because of legislation restrictions specific to the River Thames.

## Using the locks

Stop your engines once your boat is moored in Thames locks. Turn off any radio, or other form of noise and pay careful attention to the lock keeper's instructions.

Table showing manning hours of duty for Thames Locks

<b>January</b>	9.15 – 16.00	<b>July</b>	9.00 – 19.00
<b>February</b>	9.15 – 16.00	<b>August</b>	9.00 – 19.00
<b>March</b>	9.15 – 16.00	<b>September</b>	9.00 – 18.00
<b>April</b>	9.00 – 17.30	<b>October</b>	9.00 – 17.00
<b>May</b>	9.00 – 18.30	<b>November</b>	9.15 – 16.00
<b>June</b>	9.00 – 19.00	<b>December</b>	9.15 – 16.00

\*Teddington Lock – 24 hour attendance.

For further information: Ring the Navigation Information Line on 0118 9535520.

## Connecting waterways

**The Kennet and Avon Navigation** – consisting of the River Kennet, Kennet and Avon Canal and the River Avon, it extends from the River Kennet in Reading to the Port of Bristol.

**The Oxford Canal** – gives access to the Midlands and the rest of the waterways system.

**The Grand Union Canal** – can be entered from the tidal Thames at Brentford or Limehouse via the Regents Canal.





## Anglian Region's rivers

Environment Agency

Anglian Region

Kingfisher House

Goldhay Way

Orton Goldhay

Peterborough

Cambs PE2 5ZR

Tel 01733 371811

River Stour

Ipswich office

Tel 01473 727712

Great Ouse

Brampton office

Tel 01408 414581

River Nene, Welland

Glen and Ancholme

Lincoln office

Tel 01522 513100

If you hold a British Waterways private annual licence you can visit Anglian Region's rivers, free for up to 15 days in a year. The days need not be consecutive.

As a visitor you need **to fill in a form and maintain a log during your visit** to assist us monitor the use of the reciprocal licence. Enclosed with the form and log, you will receive a visitor's licence disc which you should display. You can obtain the combined form and log on arrival, from agents on the Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal, or in advance from the Anglian Regional office.



If you are visiting the **River Nene** the majority of locks have steel pointing doors at the upstream end and vertical steel gates at the lower end. The vertical gates are normally locked and keys are therefore required. You can buy them, price £4, from the following agents on the Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal, the River Nene or in advance from the Anglian Regional office (allow two weeks).

Blisworth Tunnel Boats, Northampton	01604 858868
Grand Junction Boat Co, Northampton	01604 858043
Alvechurch Boats, Gayton Marina, Northampton	01604 858685
Ken Yates Marine Sales, Billing Aquadrome, Northampton	01604 408312
Peterborough Boating Centre, Stanground, Peterborough	01733 66688
Mike Wright, Dog-in-a-Doublet Sluice Bungalow, Peterborough	01733 202219
Anchor Cottage Crafts, Long Buckby	01327 842140
Environment Agency, Denver Complex, Sluice Road, Denver	01366 382013

If you are visiting the **River Great Ouse**, the majority of locks are unattended and can only be operated by the use of a windlass lock handle. These can be purchased from most marinas and chandlers.



### **Connecting waterways**

**River Nene – Grand Union Canal (Northampton Arm).**

**River Nene to the River Great Ouse and its accompanying system** – it is possible to navigate from the River Nene to the River Great Ouse via the Middle Level Navigation.

**River Cam** – the Agency has an agreement with the Cam Conservators for the River Cam above Bottisham Lock, where the Cam Conservators recognise Agency boaters using mechanically powered boats.

All other navigations can be entered from their tidal reaches.



## River Medway

Environment Agency  
Southern Region  
Guildbourne House  
Chatsworth Road  
Worthing  
Sussex BN11 1LD  
Tel 01903 832000

Kent Area office  
Orchard House  
Endeavour Park  
London Road  
Addington, West Mailing  
Kent TN11 9AS  
Tel 01738 875587

Allington Lock  
Tel 01622 752864

Yalding Lifting Bridge  
Tel 01622 814319

If you hold a British Waterways private annual licence you can visit the River Medway, free for up to 15 days in a year. The days need not be consecutive.

As a visitor you need **to fill in a form and maintain a log during your visit** to assist us monitor the use of the reciprocal licence. Enclosed with the form and log, you will receive a visitor's licence disc which you should display. You can obtain the combined form and log on arrival, at Allington Lock, or in advance from the Southern Regional office or Kent Area office.

Allington Lock which provides passage to and from the tidal section is open up to 3 hours before and 2 hours after high water. During the period 31st March to 31st October Agency staff will be available between 7.00am and sunset to operate the lock. For high tides outside these times Agency staff require 24 hours' notice of intended passage.



The nine locks above Allington are not manned. Lock handles to operate the winding shafts of the sluices can be purchased from local chandlers. The lock handle should have a square socket which fits properly on the spigots of the winding shafts which are 25.4mm (1in) square.

At Yalding there is a lifting bridge. This is operated by Agency staff on weekends and public bank holidays, during the boating season which extends from Easter until the end of September. You can operate the Yalding lifting bridge using a special key which can be purchased at Allington lock, price £4, or in advance from the Southern Regional office.

the

Environment

Agency and

inter-regional arrangements

If you currently hold a private annual licence (powered and unpowered) for Thames, Anglian or Southern rivers you can apply for a free 15 consecutive day visitor's licence to visit each of the other Region's waterways. You can obtain your free licence on arrival, at entry point locks during staff hours or in Anglian Region, from agents on the Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal and the River Nene. Alternatively apply two weeks in advance to the relevant Regional Craft Registration Departments.



general

# advice

about using river

## navigations

If you have not been on a river before, you need to read carefully the following information.

### River currents

These will affect the handling of your boat and will increase and decrease according to flow conditions. They will also be strongest above and below weirs.

When approaching locks take note of directional signs and warnings of weirs. Take care when approaching a lock from upstream and keep over to the side of the river where the lock is positioned and keep well clear of the weir.

### Warning boards (River Thames)

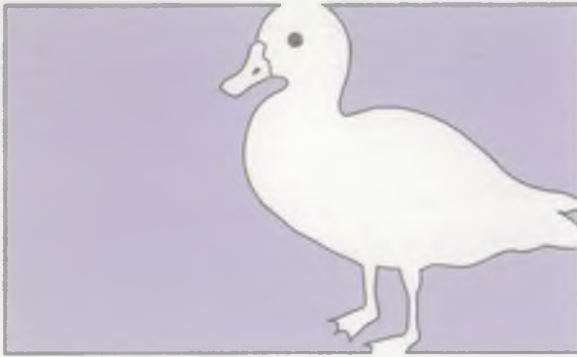
When large yellow CAUTION STREAM INCREASING/ DECREASING warning signs are displayed at locks, all unpowered boats are advised to moor up until the stream abates.

When INCREASING stream is indicated, powered boats are advised to seek safe mooring.

When DECREASING stream is indicated, powered boats may proceed with caution.

When large red CAUTION STRONG STREAM warning signs are displayed at locks, all boats are advised not to navigate until the stream abates.





## Warning Systems (British Waterways)

There are two main types of flood warning systems in operation: Traffic lights operating red and green lights.

Red – it is dangerous to proceed beyond this point.

Green – it is safe to proceed.

Indicator boards (generally located on the lock wall) act as a gauge to measure the water level.

This gauge is marked off in different coloured bands:

Red – do not proceed beyond this point, the flood gates below are closed.

Amber – proceed with great care beyond this point.

Green – it is safe to proceed.

In addition to the above, there are local flood warning systems in operation. Contact the local British Waterways office for advice.

## Mooring

Always moor with the front of your boat facing upstream (ie. against the current). If you are heading downstream, you need to overshoot the mooring, turn round and approach against the current. When stopping overnight, or leaving the boat for any appreciable time, do not moor in shallow water or with a tight rope or chain as water levels may fluctuate by as much as 2 or 3 feet in a few hours. If the level drops and a boat is beached or moored in shallow water, it may be damaged. If the level rises, and mooring ropes or chains are tight, the boat may take on water, be pulled under or even break free.

further

## information

### Telephone numbers:

#### Environment Agency

Environment Agency Emergency Hotline 0800 807060

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water.



General Enquiry Line 0645 333111

For general enquiries please call your local Environment Agency office. If you are unsure who to contact, or which is your local office, please call our general enquiry line.

#### British Waterways

Customer Services 01923 201120

**FREEPHONE CANALS** – This is available if you need help from British Waterways' operational staff outside normal office hours on weekdays and throughout weekends. Simply dial 100 and ask for Freephone canals. This service is free of charge. If you are phoning on the Vodaphone or Cellnet system please dial 01384 215785. You should give details of your problem and location so that we can help you as quickly as possible. During normal office hours, please contact the appropriate British Waterways office addresses.

**CANALPHONE** – Canalphone North 01923 201401 and Canalphone South 01923 201402. This provides the latest information on unscheduled and emergency stoppages on a 24 hour recorded information service.

#### Literature:

Navigation guides and leaflets are available for most canals and rivers. Please contact your local British Waterways or Environment Agency office for further information.

