

# Registration

## AND LICENSING

The legislation which gives the NRA its various navigation responsibilities also gives the NRA powers to charge vessels using its' waters.

The NRA does this by a system of registration and licensing. Classes and categories exist for every type of vessel; powered craft, unpowered craft - canoes, kayaks and dinghies, houseboats, and also for commercial craft.

Most craft pay an annual fee, but for visitors or occasional use a range of short term licences are available.

For historical reasons the registration/licensing schemes differ in each NRA Region and every vessel must be registered with the appropriate Region of the NRA. Failure to do so may result in prosecution and a fine.

Income raised from craft registration, together with Government Grant-in-Aid (GIA) is spent on improving and maintaining the navigation fairway and lock structures, and providing facilities such as sewage disposal, water points and electricity charging points.

There are other rules of the river which a vessel must adhere to; these can include the speed of your boat and how you must display your licence. It is advisable to become familiar with the local byelaws governing each navigation. These are available from the appropriate NRA Regional Office.

Similar registration/licensing schemes exist on other rivers and canals which are not controlled by the NRA and advice should be sought as to who controls the navigation and their licensing requirements.

# The NRA Navigations



Awarded for excellence.

**NRA EMERGENCY HOTLINE**  
**0800 80 70 60**  
 24 hour free emergency telephone line

Help the National Rivers Authority to protect the water environment

**NRA HEAD OFFICE**  
 Rivers House  
 Waterside Drive  
 Aztec West  
 Almondsbury  
 Bristol  
 BS12 4UD  
 Tel: 01454 624400  
 24409

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

**NATIONAL LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICE**

**SOUTHERN REGION**  
 Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road,  
 Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1LD

**NRA THAMES**  
 Kings Meadow House  
 Kings Meadow Road  
 Reading  
 RG1 8DQ  
 Tel: 01734 531  
 Fax: 01734 50

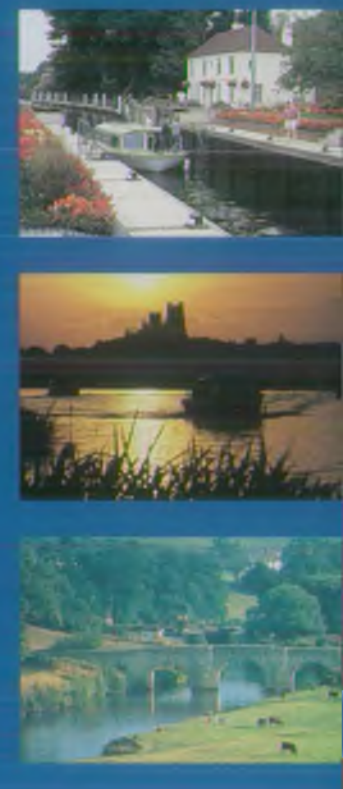
**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**  

 045471

Printed on Consort Osprey Silk, a 50% recycled chlorine free paper.

NRA-RECREATION  
 & Navigation

Thames  
 Anglian  
 Southern



THE NRA

# navigations



National Rivers Authority

Waterway photographs by David Hunt

# Navigation

AND THE NRA

The NRA holds various legal responsibilities for inland river, estuary, and harbour navigations in England and Wales as a result of the Water Resources Act 1991 which superseded the Water Act 1989.

The aim of the NRA's Navigation function is to improve and maintain inland waterways and their facilities for use by the public in the areas where the NRA is the navigation authority. The NRA is a navigation authority in its' Thames, Anglian and Southern regions. In total, over 800km of Britain's finest river navigations are managed by the NRA and there are approximately 44,000 boats holding NRA licences.

The rivers under the NRA's management contrast greatly, ranging from the remote fenland rivers in East Anglia to the grandeur of the River Thames which stretches from the Cotswolds to the City of London. Steeped in history and winding their way through some of England's most beautiful countryside, these rivers provide a host of recreational activities for all to enjoy. Activities range from quiet riverside walks, watching boats travelling through locks, ferry trips and fishing to the more active pursuits of canoeing, rowing and boating. The river corridors are also important habitats for many types of fish, animals, birds and plants.

FACTS

The Thames navigation extends from the Town Bridge at Cricklade to the boundary obelisk approximately 230 yards downstream at Teddington lock, a distance of 135 miles (229km). In addition, the navigation extends up the River Kennet from its junction with the Thames to a point 70 yards

REGION

## Thames

On its course from the edge of the Cotswolds to the nation's capital, the Thames passes through beautiful countryside, picturesque villages and historic towns. It passes numerous country mansions set in spacious parks, while Windsor Castle, Hampton Court and Runnymede are just three of the many locations with royal connections. The river has played an important part in the nation's history and has been an inspiration to writer, composers, and artists.

The river is popular for both cruising and hire boats. The Thames is famed for its rowing; clubs are found all along the river from Oxford, and the internationally renowned Henley Regatta is held on the Thames. There are canoe clubs in most towns along the river and some of the weirs are used for white water events. The lower reaches of the river support a number of sailing clubs. There are a number of stretches of riverbank



downstream of the High Bridge at Reading. The NRA own forty four lock and weir sites on the River Thames and one lock on the River Kennet. There are seventy five lock keepers and fifteen patrol launches. Approximately 35,000 craft are registered on the Thames per year.

Windsor Castle

University town of Oxford

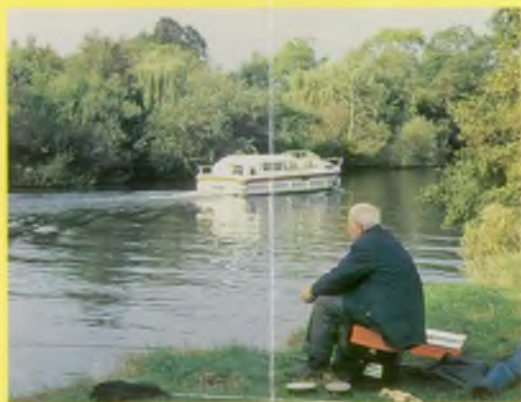
University Boat Race - Oxford (Isis)



## VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

Henley Regatta

Canoe rodeo and slalom events



where free fishing is allowed. At a number of NRA sites anglers may buy a permit and have exclusive access to fishing in the vicinity of a weir. All anglers in England & Wales fishing for freshwater fish and eels require an NRA Rod Licence.

There is a towpath along the River Thames which provides superb walking. A new National Trail, The Thames Path, is soon to be opened which follows the river from its source near Kemble in Gloucestershire to the Thames Barrier. Many of the locks provide an attractive settings in where visitors can relax by the riverside, enjoy a picnic, or simply watch the boats go by.

## FURTHER READING

The River Thames Handbook

Locks and Weirs on the River Thames

Navigation Levels of Service

## FACTS

The Medway navigation gives access to 19 miles (31km) of the freshwater River Medway, above its tidal limit at Allington. There are ten locks and associated sluices and weirs, and a lifting bridge at Yalding. The upstream limit of Navigation is the

footbridge immediately downstream of the Leigh flood regulating barrier, just west of Tonbridge. Approximately 2,000 boats are licensed on the Medway per year. Lock keepers operate the tidal lock at Allington, and staff are available to operate the lifting bridge.

Aylesford Priory

The Malta Inn, Allington Lock

Cobtree Museum of Kent Life

Archbishop's Palace, Maidstone

## VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

14th Century Bridge, Teston

Yalding village (including Georgian houses, working forge, moated vicarage, Warde's moat)

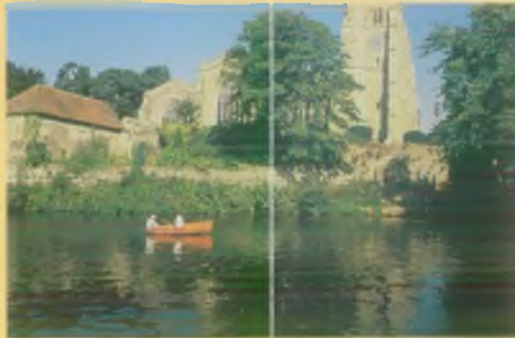
Tonbridge and Tonbridge Castle

Haysden Country Park



# Southern

The River Medway was opened to navigation some 250 years ago when water-borne transport was in its heyday. Today, the river between Maidstone and Tonbridge is maintained as a public right of navigation, enabling water users to experience the delightful scenery of the Garden of England. The navigation is supported by a well maintained and signposted footpath network which allows visitors unique access through beautiful Kentish scenery of hop fields and orchards. Much of the towpath between Allington Lock and the Leigh Barrier has been re-established by the Medway River Project. The project is a partnership between the NRA, Countryside Commission, local authorities and industry. The river is popular with canoeists and anglers and trips can be taken on the river by pleasure boat or under your own power in a rowing boat.



There are opportunities to visit the locks or parks near the river and enjoy the views of weirs, meadows, pastures, medieval bridges and oast houses. There are several villages on, or close to, the river which provide ample occasion for the traveller to explore and take refreshment.

## FURTHER READING

River Medway leaflet

Guide to the Medway Navigation

## FACTS

The NRA has navigational responsibility on the rivers Ancholme, Welland/Glen, Nene, Great Ouse (and its accompanying system) and Stour, covering 293 miles (507km) of navigable waterways. The region registers approximately 6,000 vessels per year.

REGION

# Anglian

The Rivers Ancholme, Welland, Glen, Stour, Nene, and the Great Ouse system form an important part of a navigable river network in the Eastern counties. The rivers of this region are uncrowded and flow through miles of rural tranquillity bringing the individual directly in touch with some of the most unspoilt and naturally rich water environments in Britain. These rivers have a great deal to offer the discerning visitor. As well as outstanding architecture, the area is rich in historical connections stretching back into Roman times.

The unique nature of this area, with vast expanses of artificially drained land reclaimed from its natural marsh state, offers the visitor an unusual choice of various types of activity encompassing angling, birdwatching and visiting towns and villages with strong historical and cultural associations.

The NRA owns 69 lock structures. All operational activities associated with maintenance of the navigation system are combined with those of flood defence and carried out by District Engineers and their staff.



Market towns - Northampton, Bedford, Brigg, Market Rasen, Market Harborough, Stamford

## VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

Remains of a Roman canal

Dutch style of water front architecture in Wisbech (River Nene)

River Nene linked to Grand Union Canal and Middle Level

Cathedral town of Peterborough

Famous Denver land drainage sluice

Cardington Canoe Slalom



There are over 250 miles of cruising available on these East Anglian rivers, yet this delightful area is probably the least known of our inland waterways. The rivers are quiet and relaxing with many charming waterside Inns to provide traditional English food and ale.

## FURTHER READING

Navigation - the Anglian Experience

The River Nene Navigation Guide

A brief history of the River Stour Navigation, 1705-present day

NRA Navigations in the Anglian Region

Navigation Notes - Advice to Boat Owners