

Mooring your boat on the River Thames

The Environment Agency is the navigation authority for the non-tidal River Thames from Cricklade in Wiltshire to the tidal boundary at Teddington in Middlesex. It's our job to manage the waterway and ensure it can be enjoyed safely by as many people as possible, with consideration for the needs of others.

Whether you are looking for somewhere to keep your boat, spend the night or just stop for lunch – you need to know about mooring arrangements on the river.

Short-stay public / visitor mooring sites

The Environment Agency and other landowners (e.g. local authorities and town councils) provide these to encourage passing boats to stop for short periods to enjoy the peace of the waterside and use local amenities, and they are very popular.

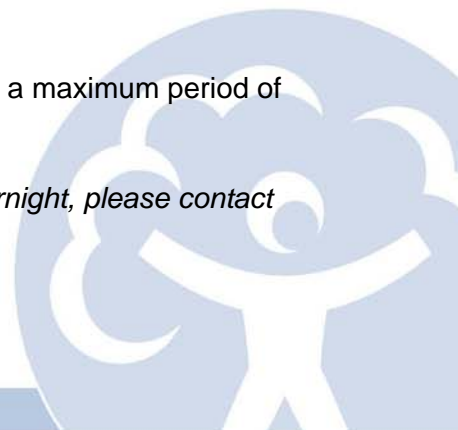
- Unless signs state otherwise, you are only allowed to moor for a **maximum period of 24 hours**.
- You may have to pay a charge at some sites, either for mooring at any time, or after an initial free period. Signage will usually show the charges payable and by mooring, you are agreeing to pay them.
- Please make the most of available space by moving along and closing any wasted gaps, also by mooring alongside other boats where you can, and encouraging other boats to moor alongside you. Always use the bollards or rings if they're provided.
- Please be careful not to damage the ground with barbecues and leave the area as you found it by taking your rubbish with you if there are no bins.

Short-stay mooring at other locations

There are many less formal areas (e.g. farm land) where you can moor your boat. However, please remember:-

- Most land along the River Thames is private. Please respect private rights and avoid any areas where you see 'no mooring' signs.
- Do not assume mooring is allowed just because there are no signs. If in doubt, ask permission from the owner of the river bank if you can. If you can't, please be prepared for them to ask you to leave.
- Unless the landowner tells you otherwise, you are only allowed to moor for a maximum period of 24 hours.

You may also be able to moor at some of our lock sites for short periods or overnight, please contact one of our local offices (details over the page) for more information.



Mooring for longer periods and permanent / base mooring

- If you keep, or mainly use, your boat on the River Thames you must have a proper base mooring (i.e. somewhere to put your boat when you are not cruising, such as a marina berth).
- If you live on your boat as your only place of residence, you need to have an approved residential mooring.
- If you are cruising but need to leave your boat for a longer period, please use a boatyard or marina where possible – do not take up short-stay moorings.

The British Marine Federation (Thames Valley Region) publishes a useful Cruising Guide to the River Thames and Connecting Waterways containing the contact details of boatyards and marinas that may provide permanent moorings. You can download a copy by going to our website www.visitthames.co.uk/publications

The Residential Boat Owners Association may be able to provide more information about finding a residential mooring, go to www.rboa.org.uk

Please remember...

It's important to follow this advice, so all boats using the river can find a short-stay mooring. Both the Environment Agency and other landowners take enforcement action against boaters that either overstay their welcome or moor without permission. Penalties may include:-

- Penalty charges
- Boat registration suspension
- Removal of boat under Court Order (at owner's expense)

For further local information, speak to one of our lock or patrol staff during duty hours or telephone our customer service line: 08708 506 506.

You will need to ask for the appropriate Waterway Office depending on the area of the river you are interested in:

West Thames Area - Upper (Cricklade Bridge to tail of Hurley lock)

West Thames Area - Lower (tail of Hurley lock to Teddington boundary)

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customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk