

**Subject:** Managing short stay moorings at Environment Agency-owned locations on the non-tidal River Thames

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**Date:** 28/04/2021, 16:46

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Dear non-tidal Thames boater

If you received a 2021 boat registration renewal reminder from us, you will be aware from the accompanying newsletter that we appointed District Enforcement Ltd (DE) to help us manage vessels moored in locations where we are the landowner, between our locks, along the non-tidal River Thames.

DE were to implement management arrangements on our behalf based on contract law and setting terms and conditions of use designed to considerably reduce the number of boaters mooring for longer than we gave them permission, and preventing other boaters from enjoying our facilities.

Due to Coronavirus, the introduction of those new arrangements was put on hold.

In the meantime, we have worked with DE to refine the arrangements in response to feedback from boaters and colleagues, and have made some changes to those that previously outlined.

Those revised arrangements are being rolled out to sites this week.

Please note that existing arrangements for short stay moorings at our locks, which are managed by lock and weir keepers, remain the same.

## **What has changed?**

The main change is that we have decided to remove the

requirement that boats register on arrival at any of our sites. Stays of up to 24 hours can be enjoyed at each location without any further action required.

## **What arrangements will now be in place?**

The arrangements will be set out in full on signage at all the locations that DE will be managing on our behalf. By mooring, boaters are agreeing to the conditions, and the associated fees and charges.

The arrangements differ slightly between designated short stay mooring sites, and wild mooring sites. The key points are as follows.

**Designated short stay mooring sites:**

Between our locks, we maintain designated short stay mooring sites at 17 different locations, providing a combined total of more than 3km of safe mooring space. We encourage mooring in these locations, and provide some infrastructure to facilitate it. These sites are listed at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-locks-and-facilities-for-boaters](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-locks-and-facilities-for-boaters)

Here, mooring will be permitted for up to 24 hours without fee, and for up to 2 additional days for a fee of just £5 per day. Payments for stays of 2-3 days must be made in advance. By far the easiest way to do this will be via DE's dedicated moorings website: [www.where2moor.co.uk](http://www.where2moor.co.uk). Payments can also be made by phone if it is not possible to access the website for any reason – the number to call is given on the on-site signage. Cash payment is not possible. No return will be permitted within 24 hours.

**Wild mooring sites:**

We also own other sections of riverbank where we do not encourage mooring, but allow it for a limited period of time, as part of the public right of navigation.

These 'wild mooring' sites are often areas of naturalised riverbank. We do not provide any infrastructure to facilitate mooring, and boaters moor in these locations entirely at their own risk.

Mooring here will be permitted for up to 24 hours only, without fee.

No return will be permitted within 72 hours.

Over time and where we consider it appropriate, we hope to develop some wild mooring sites and allow stays of up to 3 days – for a fee – at those locations too.

Monitoring compliance:

Trained, uniformed DE employees will carry out regular checks at these sites, recording the presence of boats and evidence of any non-compliance using body-worn cameras to support the application and recovery of any appropriate charges. Users who are in breach of any of the conditions will be charged an additional £150 by DE. DE will send a Mooring Charge Notice (MCN), setting out the amount due and the reasons why. The MCN will also explain how the recipient can pay reduced charges (by paying promptly) or appeal against the notice should they choose to do so.

Conditions and any associated fees and charges will not apply within any reach where strong stream warnings are displayed on <http://riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk>.

If you are unable to move from one of our mooring sites for any other reason, you must make DE aware and request an extension to your stay. Failure to do so will result in mooring charges being applied with any extenuating circumstances only being considered by DE if you choose to appeal.

Requests for limited extended stays will be considered by ourselves or DE depending on the circumstances.

However, boaters should have contingency plans in place so that their vessel can be returned to its base mooring, or an appropriate alternative location, if they are not able to navigate it themselves. If vessels remain beyond any permitted extended period, in addition to mooring charges being applied, we, or DE, may remove it to an alternative location and seek to recover all associated costs from the owner.

## **Thank you for your support**

Our fundamental driver for introducing these new arrangements is

to ensure that all responsible boaters are able to use our mooring sites in the way we intend them to be used, and the way responsible boaters themselves want to use them – to stay for a short period of time at a particular location, to enjoy the attractions on offer locally, before moving on to do the same at another location, freeing up the berth for someone else to use.

We feel they strike a good balance between our twin goals of supporting all types of boating on the non-tidal Thames, and preventing misuse of our facilities by an inconsiderate minority. We hope you agree.

## **More information**

More information is available on our River Thames Waterways Team Facebook page, or email [WaterwaysThames@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:WaterwaysThames@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Thank you,  
River Thames Waterways Team