



Canal &
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

Refreshing signage and rules for South East visitor moorings sites: boater consultation Jan-Feb 2013

Introduction

Over the past two years the South East (SE) waterway team has been consulting via its local user group meetings on proposals for refining time limits and improving facilities at its most popular visitor mooring sites. A priority list of 22 locations was developed and widely circulated. More recently, we have a new policy commitment from the Trust's new governance bodies on reducing overstaying on visitor moorings and improving compliance with rules for boats without a home mooring.

It is a priority for us to improve the chances of boaters finding space to tie up when they arrive at designated visitor moorings.

This paper takes as a starting point the proposals on which the SE team has already consulted with those represented at user group meetings. To these, it adds the new dimensions introduced in the [policy briefing](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/publication-scheme/legal-and-governance/council-papers) endorsed by Council and Trustees in September 2012 (this is downloadable from <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/publication-scheme/legal-and-governance/council-papers>). The scope of the consultation is also extended to reach directly as many boaters as possible who are likely to be affected.

We are aware there are more locations in SE where either existing visitor moorings need reviewing or new visitor moorings created. This is beyond the scope of this current consultation which needs to focus on testing the new time limits and processes at the sites already highlighted before extending the approach to other places. When the time comes to make changes at other SE sites, we will apply the principles and lessons learned from this consultation and subsequent implementation.

Increasingly, we are looking to the boating community to work with us to plan improvements to visitor mooring arrangements throughout the country, but ask for understanding that achieving agreement and implementing changes takes time and money and we have to prioritise.

We want to ensure that all boaters, and particularly those making regular use of visitor moorings in the area in question, have the opportunity of considering the proposals for the 22 sites (see below) and registering their comments. We are prepared to modify local proposals where a good case is made for change which is consistent with national policy. Where arguments are put forward that we cannot agree with, we will explain our reasoning.

Because of the already extended period of consultation with organised stakeholders, we are asking for feedback on the proposals before 1st March 2013. A pro forma is appended for written feedback - using it will reduce the amount of manpower needed to collate and digest responses.

We would like to start implementing the new arrangements in time for at least some of the sites to 'go live' soon after Easter 2013. We are planning for a phased approach, starting with Thrupp, Stoke Bruerne and Foxton, where detailed planning for the changes is underway. We will review the success of these within 6 months of implementation, and modify detail as needed in the light of lessons learned. We aim to establish a small working group of boaters to help us with this.

This consultation for the South East is the first in what we intend will be a series of local reviews eventually covering the whole of the network. We will learn from the feedback from this consultation, and hope that our new waterway partnerships will take an increasing role in further local reviews. We

welcome other suggestions for stimulating greater compliance with maximum stay times at visitor moorings and will consider testing these in other areas.

How we are advertising this consultation

It is published on the 'current consultations' page of our website and linked from the January issue of Boaters Updates which also reaches the waterways press. We hope news of it will spread by word of mouth on the towpath telegraph and virally via newsgroups.

We are sending the consultation direct to all licence holders who have registered an email address with us and whom we have either sighted moored along the SE towpath on multiple occasions during the past year, or who have home moorings in the SE.

How to respond

The job of digesting comments is made much easier if you use the feedback form, downloadable as a word document from www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/consultations. Please complete and email this to consultation@canalrivertrust.org.uk before 1st March 2013. Alternatively, you can post it to VM Consultations, Canal & River Trust, The Dock Office, Commercial Road, Gloucester, GL1 2EB.

We hope that feedback forms will be reviewed by volunteers (see below). If you wish to remain anonymous, then leave your name off the feedback form, but do include it if you are happy for a response reviewer to contact you if they need clarification of any of your points.

If you are discussing the consultation with friends within the boating community and you all reach the same conclusions, it would help us if you'd together submit a single response, mentioning if you wish that it represents the views of X boaters. This isn't really a numbers game - it's persuasive reasons for particular amendments to the proposals that we need, rather than the number of people suggesting a particular approach.

Considering the feedback

There are two volunteer opportunities:

1. We need a few people with Excel & Word skills willing to give up a bit of time to help collate the feedback. The job would need to be finished by mid-March. We can't say how much time will be involved because we don't know how many responses we will receive or when they will arrive. Hopefully there will be enough volunteers to share it around and make it just a small number of hours each.
2. If you are in the Milton Keynes area on 19th March and would like to volunteer to join a small workshop to review and discuss the feedback (once it has been collated), we would like to hear from you.

If you are interested in either or both of these opportunities, please drop a note to Damian.kemp@canalrivertrust.org.uk asap. **Please include 'SEVM volunteering' in the subject line of your email.** Reasonable travel costs will be refunded. Applications on first come first served basis.

We will publish a short report summarising the changes we have made to the proposals in the light of the consultation.

Overview of the new approach to management of overstaying at visitor moorings

The term "visitor mooring" is generally understood to be a site with some form of facilities – whether just a firmer edge with mooring rings or a more comprehensive range of services. Investment will have been made because of the specific location at a popular destination or access point. Passing boaters therefore need to be reasonably confident that space will be available when they arrive, as close as possible to the heart of the destination.

Where there is no sign, the default maximum stay is 14 days for any boat. It is some years since existing time limits at visitor moorings have been reviewed. As boat numbers have increased, so has the incidence of visitor moorings becoming full in some areas. Proposals are therefore designed to reduce average stay lengths at popular locations and to enable maximum possible turnover of visitors along lengths closest to the heart of the destination – e.g. close to the pub. For time limits to be effective, rules about frequency of return to the site are to be applied. For practical monitoring purposes, we are adopting the concept of a calendar-monthly ‘allowance’ for the total number of days that a boater may spend at a particular site.

Mooring Rangers will be engaged who, using electronic monitoring equipment linked to our licence database, will record daily sightings of all boats moored on the visitor moorings within the area. Information gathered will enable tailored communication with individual boaters to help them adhere to designated stay times. Extended stay charges of £25 will be invoiced to boaters mooring in a zone (see map) or area for longer than the time specified. In exceptional circumstances (and in accordance with our Schedule 2 of the licence conditions), we may give permission to a boater to stay longer and will give directions as to where in the area they should moor so that other boaters are not disadvantaged.

We will publish clear information for boaters on an area by area basis to make it as easy as possible to understand and comply with new rules. Mooring rangers will distribute leaflets, and signs at the relevant sites will be refreshed to reflect the new arrangements, including new totem tiles indicating the charges for extended stays. At some sites, new “Welcome Signs” will be provided to help visitors locate the different mooring zones.

Proposals

These are appended as follows:

- A schedule of visitor mooring sites detailing the proposed changes to stay times for each location
- Draft text for the Thrupp information leaflet, map and letters that would be used to implement the new arrangements. We have worked up this example for Thrupp covering a length of some 1.75kms from Br. 220 – 224 on the Oxford Canal. This will probably be the most complex scheme, with others covering similar or shorter distances but containing fewer time limit zones. We have started with this site because Thrupp Canal Cruising Club has kindly offered to trial our new electronic monitoring equipment and process.



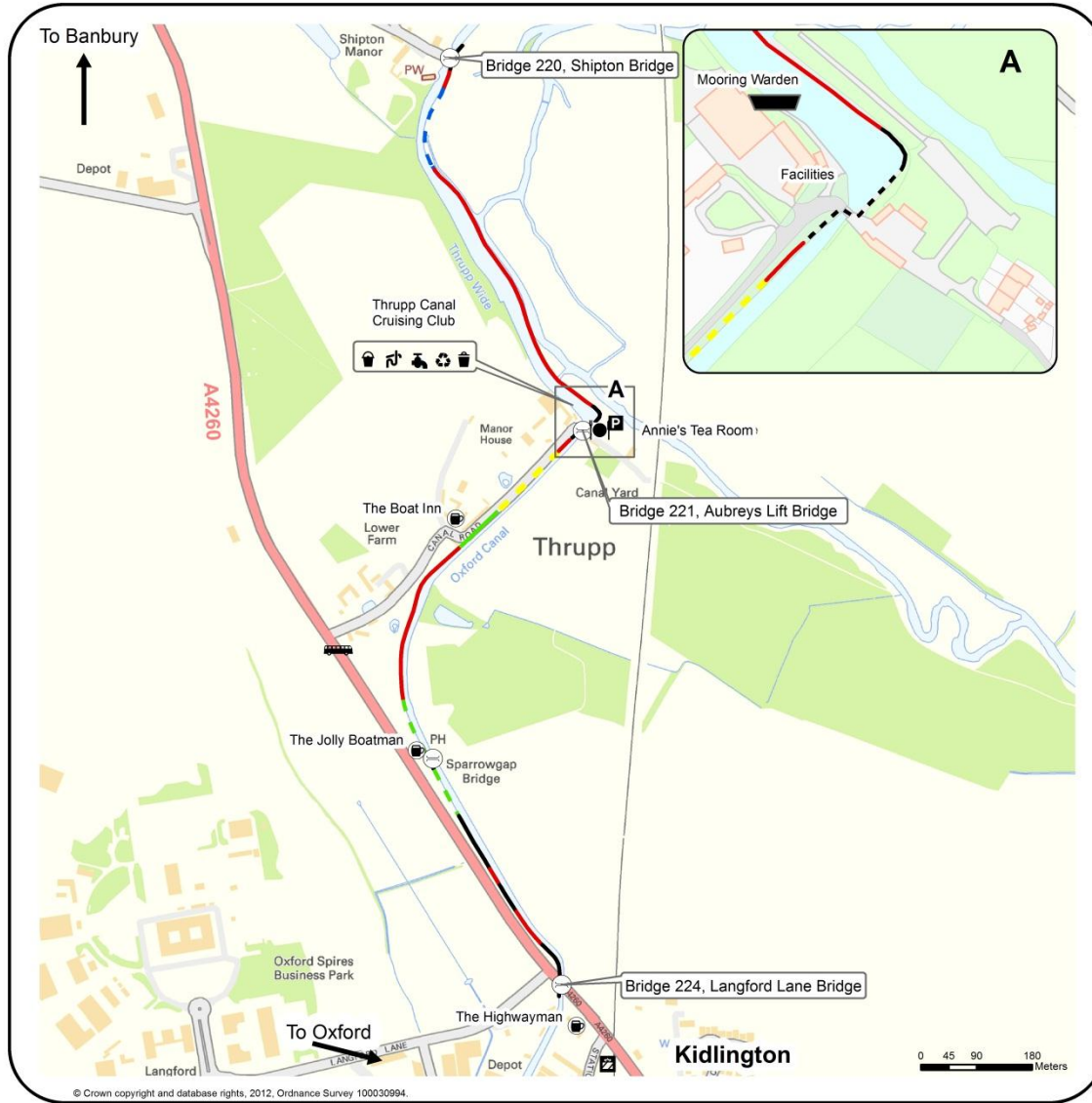
South East Visitor Moorings - proposed changes to maximum stay times

Target Implementation	Canal	Site Name	Visitor Mooring Area	Description	Maximum Stay Time in Area
April 2013	Oxford	Thrupp/Gunpowder	Br 220 to Br 224	South of Br 220 (Shipton Bridge), existing 14 day moorings to remain (to be monitored by Thrupp Canal Cruising Club) and to be used as winter moorings, if required. 7 days/winter moorings to remain, just south of Thrupp Wide lift bridge. Existing 2 days opposite cottages/Boat Inn to remain. Existing 14 days by Jolly Boatman to become 2 days; existing 2 days by Jolly Boatman to remain. South of Sparrowgap Bridge (Br 223): 85 m of 2 day mooring, then No Mooring along soft edge (Conservation Area) to private mooring at Gunpowder Wharf and Long Term mooring. No Mooring between the Long Term section and Bridge 224.	14 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month
April 2013	Grand Union	Stoke Bruerne	Blisworth Tunnel portal to south of Lock 20	Improve signage throughout. Keep 2 day mooring from south portal of Blisworth Tunnel to narrows. From narrows to disabled moorings, change to 1 day. Disabled moorings to remain at 2 days. No mooring between Lock 14 and Lock 15 (as now). Keep 1 day between Lock 15 and Lock 16. Below Lock 20, consider including 2 hr mooring adjacent to service mooring. South of towpath bridge 54b, extend existing 2 day mooring to approx. 125 metres.	2 days in any one visit; 8 days in any one month
April 2013	Grand Union Leicester Line & Market Harborough Arm	Foxton	Br 3 Market Harborough Arm to Br 63 GU Leics Line to Br 60 GU Leics Line	A mix of 7 day and 2 day moorings from Bridge 3 Market Harborough Arm, towards the Swing Bridge by Foxton Locks Inn. These could revert to 14 day during winter months. No mooring in the immediate vicinity of the Swing Bridge. Visitor moorings between Br 62 and the bottom lock (including adjacent to Foxton Locks Inn) to be restricted to 1 day all year. A mix of 2 day and 7 day moorings between Bridge 62 and Br 63, GU Leics Line. These could revert to 14 days during winter months. South of the Top Lock, Lock Queuing and Service Mooring Only and then 2 day mooring to Bridge 60, this could revert to 14 days during winter months.	7 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month
July 2013	Grand Union	Marsworth	Br 130 to Br 132	Leave as 14 days between Br 130 and Br 131. Between Br 131 and Br 132, change 14 days opposite junction to 2 days. Change 14 days opposite White Lion to 1 day. Change 14 days on the White Lion side to 1 day.	14 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month
July 2013	Grand Union	Cowroast	Br 136 to 200m south of Br 137	North of Br 136 and Lock 46 - service mooring and then 2 days to the marina entrance bridge (Br 136A). 7 days from the marina entrance to Br 136. South of Br 136/Lock 46 - 100m 2 days; 100m 7 days.	7 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month

Target Implementation	Canal	Site Name	Visitor Mooring Area	Description	Maximum Stay Time in Area
July 2013	Grand Union	Berkhamsted	Lock 52 to Br 143	2 days between Gas Lock (Lock 52) and footbridge (Br 140A). 2 days all the way South past Waitrose to Lower Kings Road (Br 140C). 2 days from Br 140C, past The Moor to Br 141. 2 days from Br 141 to Lock 54. No Mooring from Lock 54 to Br 142A footbridge. 7 days from footbridge to Br 143 (Rose Bridge). We may consider the opportunity for a 2 hour "shopping" mooring outside Waitrose.	7 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month
July 2013	Grand Union	Batchworth	Br 173 to Lock 82	South of Br 173, Batchworth Road, existing single berth long term mooring to remain. Change existing 14 day to 1 day mooring from here, south to timber footbridge (approx. 125m). 2 days from footbridge to Br 174. 7 days from Br 174 to Aquadrome car park entrance. 2 days from Aquadrome car park entrance to bend near Lock 82 Stockers Lock (approx. 250m). No mooring/Lock landing only from bend to Stockers Lock.	7 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month
September 2013	Oxford	Cropredy	Narrows north of Lock 25 to Br 154	2 days north of Lock 25 to old bridge narrows. Existing stay times to remain across whole of Cropredy village, south to Br 154, Cropredy Mill.	14 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month
September 2013	Oxford	Banbury	Br 163 to Tramway long term site, south of Br 168	North side: change to 7 days between Br 163, south to No Mooring section (may change to 14 days in winter months); then 2 days between No Mooring section and Tom Rolt Br 164 (may change to 14 days in winter months); 2 days from Tom Rolt to Tooleys Br 164B. Disabled and other moorings offside - 2 days. Tramway visitor moorings - change to 7 days from Br 166 (Albion) to Br 168 (Samuelson); keep as 14 days from Br 168 to service mooring at Tramway Long Term mooring site (approx. 150m).	14 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month
September 2013	Oxford	Lower Heyford	North of Br 205 to start of long term mooring south of Br 206	North of Br 206 to narrows - private mooring. 7 days between narrows and Br 205 (lift bridge). North of Br 205, 2 days along the new piling (length to be confirmed). South of Br 206, mix of 2 days and 7 days to start of long term mooring site.	7 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month
April 2014	Oxford	Brownsover	River Swift Aqueduct to 200m south Br 58	North of Br 58: service mooring, then approx. 100 m of 2 days, plus approx 125 m of 7 days north to the Aqueduct. South of Br 58: existing 1 day offside at the picnic area to remain. Approx. 200m of 2 day mooring on towpath side, southwards towards Br 59, Broughton Road. We may consider the opportunity for a 2 hour "shopping" mooring outside Tesco.	2 days in any one visit; 8 days in any one month
April 2014	Oxford	All Oaks Wood	Existing visitor moorings - area to be confirmed	Increase length of visitor moorings and review existing stay times.	To be confirmed
April 2014	Oxford	Hillmorton	From weir north of Locks 2/3 to approx 200m south of Locks 6/7	Change existing 14 day designated moorings between weir and waterpoint north of Locks 2/3 (approx. 100m) to 2 days. Change existing 14 day designated moorings between Locks 6/7 to start of Moors Lane Long Term moorings (approx. 200m) to 2 days.	2 days in any one visit; 8 days in any one month

Target Implementation	Canal	Site Name	Visitor Mooring Area	Description	Maximum Stay Time in Area
April 2014	Oxford	Oxford (centre)	To be confirmed	Review existing stay times and signage.	To be confirmed
April 2014	Grand Union Leicester Line	Yelvertoft	Br 19 to Br 20	Service mooring has been increased in length to allow two boats to use the existing two taps. Review signage.	14 days in any one visit; 14 days in any one month
April 2014	Grand Union	Bugbrooke	To be confirmed	Create designated moorings - various stay times - to be decided.	To be confirmed
April 2014	Grand Union	Thrupp Wharf	To be confirmed	Review stay times and signage	To be confirmed
April 2014	Grand Union	Black Horse	To be confirmed	Review stay times and signage	To be confirmed
April 2014	Grand Union	Globe Inn (south of Br 111)	To be confirmed	Create designated 1 day visitor moorings - length and position to be confirmed	1 day in any one visit; 4 days in any one month
April 2014	Grand Union	Leighton Buzzard	To be confirmed	Review existing stay times and signage.	To be confirmed
April 2014	Grand Union	Cassiobury Park	Br 168 to Lock 78	Extend the No Mooring section of the lock landing at Lock 78 by approx. 10 m (extent of wooden bollards). 2 days from lock landing to Br 168, excluding area of Service Mooring by water point.	2 days in any one visit; 8 days in any one month
April 2014	Wendover Arm	Wendover Arm	Br 1 to winding hole	No Mooring from Br 1 to Tringford Pumping Station Narrows. 2 day moorings from Pumping Station to the winding hole west of Br 3 (towpath side only). No Mooring offside from Pumping Station to beyond the winding hole. Improved visitor mooring information required at junction with Grand Union mainline.	2 days in any one visit; 8 days in any one month

THRUPP VISITOR MOORING AREA



KEY

	Elsan Point		Car Park
	Shop		Pump Out
	Bin		Recycling
	Bus Stop		Water Point
	Cafe		Pubs
			Bridges

Mooring Zones

- 2 day (Summer)
- 2 day
- 7 Day (Summer)
- 14 Day (Summer)
- Bridge Landing
- No Mooring
- Private Moorings

Information for boaters

- Time limits for each zone within this area are displayed on the mooring totem posts
- Maximum total stay in this area in any single visit is 14 days
- Return is allowed, but maximum total stay in this area in any one calendar month is 14 days
- If you stay longer, a charge of £25 per day will apply

EXAMPLE MAP FOR THRUPP SIGN AND LEAFLET

(subject to refinements)

DRAFT LETTER 1 – GREEN: To be printed with site map as A5 Welcome Leaflet
Welcome to Thrupp

Welcome to Thrupp. We hope you enjoy your stay.

The map in this leaflet shows the various mooring zones in Thrupp between Bridge 220 and Bridge 224. 2 days, 7 day or 14 day moorings are available – look for the signs on the towpath posts.

An **extended stay charge** of £25 per day applies if ...

- you do not move on after the maximum stay time within any one of the zones between bridges 220 and 224
- you stay longer than 14 consecutive days between bridges 220 and 224, or
- you spend more than 14 days between bridges 220 and 224 during any calendar month

The area is visited daily by a mooring ranger, working on behalf of the Canal & River Trust, who records your boat number. Extended stay charges will be invoiced monthly and recorded on your boat licence account.

The lengths marked as 'private moorings' are managed by Canal & River Trust, Thrupp Canal Cruising Club and Oxfordshire Narrowboats for boaters with long term permits.

Please respect the mooring zones; they are designed to ensure mooring space is shared fairly between all.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/thruppmoorings (not live during consultation period)

Useful Contact Numbers:

Canal & River Trust Out of Hours Emergencies: 0800 47 999 47

Your location is: Canal Road, Thrupp, near Kidlington, OX5 1JZ.

Canal & River Trust General Enquiries: 0303 040 4040

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk;

e-mail: customer.services@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Casual and Visitor Towpath Moorings in Thrupp – Summary Terms and Conditions:

The towpath between bridges 220 and 224 is divided into zones reflecting their relative popularity and proximity to local pubs and other services. Time limits are signed on totem posts along the towpath verge and explanatory signs including a map are located at either end of the length.

The signed time limits indicate the maximum length of stay within a zone during any one visit. Additionally, there is a limit to the total number of days your boat may spend within the area in any one visit and also in any one calendar month, without payment.

An extended stay charge of £25 per day applies if:

- your boat does not move on after the maximum stay time in a zone for a single visit, or
- your boat does not move on after 14 consecutive days in the mooring area, or
- it spends more than 14 days in total in the mooring area in any one calendar month.

This charge reflects our costs of keeping the visitor moorings available.

A Mooring Ranger records the index number, date, time and location of each moored boat on a daily basis. This information is the basis for the calculation of extended stay charges.

We will make reasonable efforts to contact the boat's licence holder to give warning and notification of extended stay charges. This may be by phone or text or a letter delivered to the boat. It is however your responsibility to keep track of the time limit and move on without waiting for a notification.

Extended stay charges will be invoiced monthly and recorded on your boat licence account. Your account must be paid in full within 28 days. Debts will be recovered through our normal processes which may include obtaining a County Court judgement.

For our full Terms and Conditions, please see:

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/thruppmoorings



Date:

Boat Name:

Boat Number:

Dear Boater

THRUPP VISITOR MOORINGS

We hope you are enjoying your stay in Thrupp. Just to remind you, the moorings between Bridge 220 and Bridge 224 are divided into zones with various stay times.

This letter is to let you know that today is your last day of free mooring and you need to move. If you are still here tomorrow when our mooring ranger visits, a charge of £25 per day will apply. Charges accrued are invoiced monthly and recorded on your boat licence account. The terms and conditions for mooring at Thrupp are printed overleaf and you will see that extended stays are charged at £25 per day if ...

- you do not move on after the maximum stay time within any one of the zones between bridges 220 and 224
- you stay longer than 14 consecutive days between bridges 220 and 224, or
- you spend more than 14 days between bridges 220 and 224 during any calendar month

These arrangements have been put in place so that as many people as possible can enjoy the Thrupp moorings.

Please telephone or email me if you have any queries.

Many thanks for your cooperation

P Fox
Boating Coordinator
Tel ... Email



Date:

DRAFT LETTER 3 - RED

Boat Name:

Boat Number:

Dear Boater

THRUPP VISITOR MOORINGS

We hope you have enjoyed your stay in Thrupp.

The moorings, between Bridge 220 and Bridge 224, are divided into zones with different maximum stay times. This letter is to remind you that you have now used up your free mooring allowance. You will now incur an extended stay charge of £25 per day until you move your boat to another location. Charges accrued will be invoiced monthly and recorded on your boat licence account.

The terms and conditions for mooring at Thrupp are printed overleaf and you will see that extended stays are charged at £25 per day if ...

- you do not move on after the maximum stay time within any one of the zones between bridges 220 and 224
- you stay longer than 14 consecutive days between bridges 220 and 224, or
- you spend more than 14 days between bridges 220 and 224 during any calendar month

These arrangements have been put in place so that as many people as possible can enjoy the Thrupp moorings.

Please telephone or email me if you have any queries.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

P Fox
Boating Coordinator
Tel ... Email

DRAFT FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS for use of casual and visitor towpath moorings in Thrupp, Oxford Canal

Purpose of the terms and conditions

To achieve fair sharing of limited mooring space and maximum benefit to the local community in this popular Oxfordshire village.

Overview of mooring arrangements

The towpath between bridges 220 and 224 is divided into zones reflecting their relative popularity and proximity to local pubs and other services. Following general principles, longer time limits have been allocated to zones on the outer edge of the area, whilst shorter time limits apply to zones where a greater turnaround of boats will deliver the most benefit. Time limits are signed on totem posts along the towpath verge and explanatory signs including a map are located at either end of the length.

The signed time limits indicate the maximum length of stay within a zone during any one visit. An extended stay charge of £25 per day applies if your boat does not move on after the maximum stay time in a zone for a single visit, or if your boat does not move on after 14 consecutive days in the mooring area, or if it spends more than 14 days in total in the mooring area in any one calendar month. This charge reflects our costs of keeping the visitor moorings available.

A mooring ranger records the index number, date, time and location of each moored boat on a daily basis. This information is the basis for the calculation of extended stay charges as detailed below. Information detailing the zones and time limits within the area is published in leaflet form, on local signs and on our website. We make reasonable efforts to contact the boat's licence holder to give warning and notification of extended stay charges. This may be by phone or text or a written communication delivered to the boat. It is however your responsibility to keep track of the time limit and move on without waiting for a notification.

In exceptional circumstances (and in accordance with Schedule 2 of the licence terms and conditions), we may give permission for a boat to stay in the visitor moorings area longer than the time allowed. You must contact either the ranger or the local Boating Co-Ordinator to apply for authorisation from the local Enforcement Officer. Extended stay charges may still apply.

Please note, these Terms and Conditions may be suspended during special events, but only by our express permission. In these cases, notices will be posted locally and on the Stoppages/Restrictions pages of our website.

Extended stay charges will be invoiced monthly and recorded on your boat licence account. Your account must be paid in full within 28 days. Debts will be recovered through our normal processes which may include obtaining a County Court judgement.

Definitions and clarifications

Area time limit: the maximum total number of days that a boat may spend anywhere in the visitor moorings area in any one visit

Arrival time: the arrival time is recorded as the time at which the ranger first records the boat within a zone.

Monthly time limit: the maximum total number of days that a boat may spend anywhere in the visitor moorings area in any one calendar month

Mooring ranger: the person whom we have trained and authorised to record boats moored along the length on a daily basis and to communicate reminders at our request. Ranger visits may take place at any time of the day.

Recorded stay time: is measured by the number of nights between the first and latest sighting. A boat recorded at any time on two consecutive days will be treated as having stayed for one whole day and a single sighting of a boat on one day only will also be recorded as a one day visit.

Summer - 1st April – 31st October

Thrupp area: Visitor moorings between Bridge 224 and Bridge 220 on the Oxford Canal

Visit: any period when the boat is tied up and not navigating.

We/ our: The Canal & River Trust

You/yours: the boat's licence holder, or person in charge of the boat with the licence holder's consent.

Zone time limit: the maximum number of days that a boat may spend within the zone on any one visit.

Zone: a length within the visitor mooring area with a specified time limit