

The Environment Agency

National Navigation Boat Charging scheme

2022

PART 1

1. Title and Commencement

1.1 This National Navigation Boat Charging Scheme ("the Scheme") is made by the Environment Agency ("the Agency") by virtue of the powers vested in it -

for the River Thames, under section 6 Thames Conservancy Act 1966.

for the Medway Navigation, under sections 35, 42 and 46 Southern Water Authority Act 1982

for the Anglian Waterways, under section 17 Anglian Water Authority Act 1977

and under Article 23 Environment Agency (Inland Waterways) Order 2010

1.2 The Scheme relates to charging for the registration of boats, the payment of tolls and other charges for charging periods commencing on or after 1 January 2022.

1.3 The Scheme shall be referred to as the Environment Agency National Navigation Boat Charging Scheme and comes into force as set out in Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 for the waterways covered by those Parts and shall remain in force until revoked.

1.4 All charges under the Scheme shall increase by 4% on 1 January 2023 for the River Thames and on 1 April 2023 for the Medway navigation and the Anglian waterways.

2. Interpretation

In this Scheme -

"administration fee" means a fee payable when amendments to, or cancellations of, registrations are requested by the boat owner;

"Anglian waterways" means the waterways as defined in section 3 of, and described and listed in Schedule 1 to, the Anglian Water Authority Act 1977 as amended by the Environment Agency (Inland Waterways) Order 2010 as well as that part of the River Little Ouse between Brandon Staunch and Brandon Bridge, the Great Ouse Flood Relief Channel between the Head sluice lock at Denver and the Tail sluice at Saddlebrow and the Black Sluice (South Forty Foot Drain) from Donington Bridge (TF 17 4 356) to Black Sluice Lock, Boston (TF 326 429);

"annual charge period" means the twelve month period from the start date defined in the Scheme;

"annual registration" means a registration that is valid for the whole annual registration period;

"area charge" means a charge based on the area of a boat. This charge consists of a base charge, plus an initial charge/sqm up to and including a defined boat area, plus a charge/sqm area charged for the remaining area of the boat;

"boat" means any pleasure boat, launch, vessel, maintenance workboat, tender;

"boat area" means the length excluding movable items such as rudders or outboard motors (to the nearest 0.1m) of the boat x beam measured at the widest part of the hull (to the nearest 0.1m) of the boat. This area is rounded down to the nearest full square metre;

"boat solely used for the carriage of goods;" means on the River Thames a boat used solely for the transportation of goods on the River Thames;

"business boat" means a boat kept or used on a waterway which is not kept or used solely as a private boat;

"carriage of goods" means the transportation of goods by boat on a waterway;

"coaching boat" means a boat used solely for coaching and training during supervised boating activities aboard other registered boats.

"daily charge" means a charge to keep or use a boat for 24 hours from the time of issue, or where issued in advance valid for 24 hours from the time requested at application.

"daily registration" means a registration that is valid for 24 hours from the time it is issued, or where issued in advance valid for 24 hours from the time requested at application.

"electrically powered" means the power to propel the boat is solely from an electric motor;

"emergency services" means the police, fire, ambulance, RNLI and Coastguard services

"event registration charges" means charges for registering boats taking part in an organised event on any waterway;

"existing owner" means someone who is not a new owner;

"explorer registration charge " means a registration charge of a private unpowered open boat that is valid for 15 days within the annual period but that period does not have to be consecutive days.

"houseboat" means for River Thames, any pleasure boat which is not a launch and which is decked or otherwise structurally covered in where this is built within or on a navigable hull and which is or is capable of being used as a place of habitation (whether by day and night or the one or the other) or as a place for accommodating or receiving persons for purposes of shelter, recreation, entertainment or refreshment or of witnessing regattas or other events or as club premises or as offices or as a kitchen pantry or store place; for Medway navigation, any craft or any part thereof, whether or not the same is or may be used for human habitation where this is built within or on a navigable hull, but does not include any vessel (a) which is bona fide used for navigation, or (b) which is on the Medway navigation with the written consent of the Agency for the purpose of being broken up or disposed of, or (c) which consists of a floating or fixed pier or jetty which serves vessels bona fide used in navigation; for Anglian waterways, any type of private domestic or commercial space, whether used for accommodation or not, built within or upon a navigable hull originally intended to be towed by a tug, whether or not it is still towed or is permanently moored (e.g. a converted dumb barge, lighter, butty etc.), or any type of private domestic or commercial space, whether used for accommodation or not, built within or upon a navigable hull but either not originally fitted with a means of propulsion or with the means of propulsion removed or permanently disabled (e.g. Dutch barge, Humber Keel barge, wide beam or narrowboat)

"junior only boats" means unpowered open boats registered by a club or organisation to be solely used by people aged up to and including 18 years old;

"launch" means a mechanically propelled vessel not being used solely as a tug or for the carriage of goods;

"Lincolnshire waterways" means the New River Ancholme from Ferriby Sluice in the Parish of South Ferriby in the District of Glanford and the County of Humberside to Bishops Bridge formerly known as Bishops Briggs in the Parish of Glentham in the District of West Lindsey in the County of Lincolnshire. the River Welland from Fosdyke Bridge in the Parish of Fosdyke in the District of Boston in the County of Lincolnshire to National Grid reference point TF 350345; the River Welland from Hudd's Mill in the Parish of Stamford in the District of South Kesteven in the County of Lincolnshire to Fosdyke Bridge in the said Parish of Fosdyke and the River Glen from Tongue End in the Parish of Bourne in the District of South Holland in the County of Lincolnshire to its confluence with the River Welland in the Parish of Surfleet in the same district;

"maintenance work boat" means a boat that is solely used to undertake maintenance on and about the waterway and its banks and structures;

"mechanically propelled" means propelled by a combustion engine, steam engine or electric motor, whether this is the main or auxiliary engine;

"Medway navigation" [the waterway as defined in section 32 Southern Water Authority Act 1982];

"monthly charge" means a charge to keep or use a boat from the date of issue or where purchased in advance from the date requested at application;

"monthly registration charge" means a registration that is valid for 31 days from the date of issue, or where issued in advance valid from the date requested at application;

"new owner" means someone who is bringing a boat onto the waterway for the first time for the first time, or someone who has not brought a boat onto the waterway in the current or previous annual charge periods;

"new part year registration" means the registration of a boat for the first time on the waterway, or by a new owner following the purchase of a previously registered boat, or a boat which has not been kept or used on the waterway by the existing owner for the previous annual registration period;

"not for profit organisation or charity boat" means a boat owned or operated by not-for-profit organisations or charities solely used to encourage participation by providing access to the waterways for sport, recreation or education;

"Ouse waterways" means those waters listed as part of the River Great Ouse system in paragraph 5 of Part 3 of Schedule 1 to Anglian Water Authority Act 1977 and the River Little Ouse between Brandon Staunch and Brandon Bridge;

"passenger steamers" means

"permanently disabled engine" means an engine that has been mechanically altered so that it cannot be started or operated. This does not include where the means of cranking the engine has been temporarily disconnected from the engine or the cranking power source; or the removal or failure of a component that can be replaced. Temporary removal of an outboard engine is not considered permanently disabling a boat,

"permanently removed boat" means an annually registered boat that is removed from the waterway and will not return to the waterway during the current annual registration period and the next annual registration period;

"pleasure boat" includes any yacht, launch, houseboat, randan, wherry, skiff, gig, dinghy, shallop, punt, canoe, float or other ship, boat or craft (including amphibious craft) but does not include a vessel being used solely as a tug or for the carriage of goods;

"private boat" means any boat that is kept and used on a waterway solely for private leisure purposes, and not for the purposes of generating income for any organisation or business or for providing a service to others;

"powered boat" means a boat which is mechanically propelled;

"powered maintenance work boat" means a maintenance work boat that is mechanically propelled;

"River Nene" means the River Nene Navigation from the outfall of the Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal at Cotton End in the Parish, District and County of Northampton to Bevis Hall in the Parish of Wisbech St. Mary in the District of Fenland in the County of Cambridgeshire;

"River Stour" means the River Stour from Brundon Mill in the Parish of Sudbury in the District of Babergh in the County of Suffolk to the Cattawade Barrage partly in the Parish of Brantham in the same District and partly in the Parish of Lawford in the District of Tendring in the County of Essex;

"River Thames" means [the river as defined in section 4 Thames Conservancy Act 1932]

"safety or rescue boat" means a boat owned by a not for profit organisation or charity used solely to carry out safety and rescue activity on the waterway for which it is registered;

"self-drive day hire" means a boat that is hired to members of the public without a skipper or crew, has no sleeping accommodation and is let out solely for periods up to 1 day, returning to the operating base each day;

"temporary transit registration " means a registration for boats moving on the waterway solely for winter storage, repair, delivery and trial trip/demonstration, including boats under tow, and not operating for private leisure or business purposes;

"tender" means for River Thames a pleasure boat (other than a launch exceeding 20 feet [6 metres] in length or a houseboat) which is used solely as the only tender to a launch in the same ownership as the tender {and which is permanently marked with the words "Tender to" and the name of such launch}; for Anglian waterways and Medway navigation, a vessel which is used solely as the only tender to a vessel in the same ownership as the tender;

"trade plate" means

"trade exemption" means

"tug" means a powered boat kept or used on the waterway to push or pull other boats or floating structures or for carrying out maintenance work on the waterway;.....

"unpowered boat" means a boat that is not mechanically propelled;

"unpowered enclosed boat" means a boat that is not mechanically propelled, or the machinery that propels the boat has been removed or permanently disabled and is fully or partially structurally covered with enclosed or decked accommodation space (including houseboats as defined, butty boats);

"unpowered maintenance work boat" means a maintenance work boat that is not mechanically propelled;

"unpowered open boat" means a boat that is not mechanically propelled; and is either open to the elements with no enclosed or decked accommodation space (including a rowing boat, dragon boat, punt, dinghy with or without sail, canoe, paddle board, light inflatable) or the occupants are only protected by a spray deck (including a kayak);

"vessel" means for River Thames, any ship, boat, lighter, or craft whatsoever however propelled or navigated and (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing description) includes also any amphibious craft; for Medway navigation, every description of craft used or designed for use in navigation however intended to be navigated, propelled or moved and includes a hovercraft (as defined in the Hovercraft Act 1968), a hydrofoil vessel (being a vessel designed to be supported on foils) and anything constructed or used to carry persons or goods by water; for Anglian waterways, any ship, lighter, keel, barge, boat, , tug, hovercraft, hydrofoil and craft of any kind howsoever navigated, propelled or moved and any seaplane on the surface of the water;

"waterway" means the River Thames, the Medway navigation or the Anglian waterways;

"weekly charge" means a charge for the use or keeping of a boat from the date of issue for 7 consecutive days or where registration is issued in advance from the date the requested on application;

"weekly registration" mean a registration that is valid from the date of registration for 7 consecutive days, or where issued in advance from the date the registration stipulates.

Provisions relating to all waterways

3.The annual charges for a boat shall be due at the start of the annual charge period for that waterway. When registering the boat the owner is responsible to pay the full annual charge.

4. The minimum charge to be paid shall be the larger of the charge due or £11.

5. When a new part year registration occurs after the start of the annual charge period the charge payable shall be calculated as follows;

$$\text{Charge} = \text{annual charge} \times (1 + \text{remaining full months in annual registration period}) / 12$$

6. Permanent removal of a boat from a waterway

6.1 Where an annually registered boat is permanently removed from a waterway a refund will be calculated as follows. $\text{Refund} = \text{annual charge paid} \times (\text{remaining full months}) / (\text{months registered for}) - \text{£15 administration charge}$

6.2 Where a permanently removed boat returns to the waterway with the same owner during the same annual registration period then the full annual charge is payable taking into account any charge already paid.

6.3 Where a permanently removed boat returns to the waterway with the same owner in the following annual registration period after it was permanently removed, then the full annual charge is payable for the previous annual registration period when the boat was permanently removed, and the current annual registration period that the boat returns to the waterway, taking into account any charge already paid.

7. Where a replacement registration plate is requested a charge of £xx shall be payable

8. Where a change of boat name is requested after first registration or during the annual registration period, a charge of £xx shall be payable

9. The charges for boats specified in tables below shall be payable on all the waterways

9.1 Unpowered open boats shall pay the charge as set out in table 1.1

Table 1.1 Unpowered open boats	
Registration Type	Charge (£)
Annual	
Monthly	
Weekly	
Daily	
Explorer	

9.2 Unpowered tenders shall pay the charge as set out in table 1.2 for each waterway where the boat is kept or used.

Table 1.2 Unpowered tenders	
Registration type	Charge (£)
Annual	
Monthly	
Weekly	
Daily	

9.3 Powered tender less than 3m long shall pay the charge as set out in table 1.3 for each waterway where the boat is kept or used.

Table 1.3 Powered tenders <3m in length		
Registration type	Powered (£)	Electrically powered (£)

Annual		
Monthly		
Weekly		
Daily		

9.4 Powered tender with length between 3m and less than 6m shall pay the charge as set out in table 1.4 for each waterway where the boat is kept or used.

Table 1.4 Powered tenders between 3m and less than 6m in length		
Registration type	Powered (£)	Electrically powered (£)
Annual		
Monthly		
Weekly		
Daily		

9.5 Powered tender greater than 6m in length shall pay the charge as set out in paragraph 4.1 or 4.2 of Part 2, Part 3 or Part 4 of this scheme for each waterway where the boat is kept or used.

9.6 Powered maintenance work boats shall pay the charge as set out in table 1.5 for each waterway where the boat is kept or used.

Table 1.5 Powered maintenance work boat	
Registration type	Charge (£)
Annual	
Monthly	
Weekly	
Daily	

9.7 Unpowered maintenance work boats shall pay the charge set out in table 1.6 for each waterway where the boat is kept or used.

Table 1.6 Unpowered maintenance work boat	
Registration type	Charge (£)
Annual	
Monthly	
Weekly	
Daily	

9.8 Tugs shall pay the charges as set out in table 1.7 for each waterway where the boat is kept or used.

Table 1.7 powered maintenance work boat	
Charge type	Charge (£)
Annual	
Monthly	
Weekly	
Daily	

9.9 Temporary transit registration of a powered boat shall pay the charge as set out in table 1.8

Table 1.8 Temporary transit registration			
Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 80sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Daily	£x	£x	£x

9.10 Business boats operating on the waterways shall pay the relevant boat charge set out in this Part, Part 2, Part 3 and Part 4 and the business charges set out in the table 1.9 below

Table 1.9 Business charges				
Business Boat Charge Category	Business Charge (£)			
	Annual	monthly	Weekly	Daily
Unpowered Open Business Boat				
Unpowered Enclosed Business Boat				
Unpowered Business Tender				
Unpowered Maintenance Business Workboat				
Powered Business Boat, other than those covered elsewhere in this table				
Powered self-drive Day Hire Business Boat				
Powered Business Tender				
Powered Maintenance Business Workboat				
Powered Business Tug				

9.11 For not for profit organisation or charity boats the annual charges apply as set out in table 1.10 below

Table 1.10 Not for profit organisation or charity boat charges	
Type of annual registration	Charge (£)
Junior Only unpowered open Boats	
Other unpowered open boats	
Coaching boats	
Powered boat	Base charge £ + Charge for boat area up to and including XXsqm (£/sqm) + Charge for remaining boat area

9.12 For unpowered open boats the following event registration charges apply as set out in table 1.11

Table 1.11 event registration charges	
Number of Boats to be registered	Total charge (£)
1 to 10	
11 to 25	
26 to 50	
51-100	
101 to 200	
Over 200	

9.13 The charge to apply for a new Trade Plate is £xxx.

9.14 The charge to apply for a new trade exemption is £xxx

9.15 The annual charge for a Trade Plate is £xxx.

9.16 The annual charge for a trade exemption is £xxx

9.17 The annual charge for registering a passenger boat as "Out of Service" is £xxx.

10. The following types of boats are exempt from paying charges to be kept on or use the waterways: safety or rescue boats, emergency services boats, Highways Authority boats, boats owned or operated by, or operated on behalf of, the Environment Agency and, on the River Thames only, boats owned or operated by freemen of the Watermen's Company.

PART 2

River Thames charges

1. The charges for the River Thames come into force on 1 January 2022.
2. All boats, kept, used or let for hire on the River Thames from 1 January 2022 shall pay the registration and other charges set out below in addition to the relevant charges specified in Part 1 above.
- 3 The annual charge period for all boats kept, used or let for hire on the River Thames shall start on the 1 January of each year.
4. The charges for boats specified in tables below shall be payable
 - 4.1 Powered boats shall pay the relevant area charge as set out in table 1.1

Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 80sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

- 4.2 Electrically powered boats shall pay the relevant area charge as set out in table 1.2.

Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 80sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

- 4.3 Unpowered enclosed boats shall pay the relevant area charge as set out in table 1.3.

Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 80sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

- 4.4 Boats solely used for the carriage of goods shall pay the charges as set out in table 1.4.

Table 1.4 Charges for boats solely used for the carriage of goods	
Registration type	Charge (£)
Annual	
Monthly	
Weekly	
Daily	

5.1 Passenger steamers based on the tidal Thames shall pay the charges set out in table 1.5

Table 1.5 Thames: Passenger steamer charges	
Type of annual registration	Charge (£)
Using Teddington Lock Only	£x
Using Teddington lock plus other locks	£x

5.2. For every passenger steamer currently certified by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to carry 12 or more passengers and currently registered for passage through Teddington lock only the charge for each passage through each lock other than Teddington Lock shall be £30

6. For any unregistered vessel which is being used and worked for hire by a freeman of the Waterman's Company or by the widow of any such freeman and which at the time of such user may be required to be and is registered with and licensed by the Port of London Authority under the provisions of the Port of London (Consolidation) Act, 1920, relating to watermen and lightermen and is marked in accordance with such last mentioned provisions the charge for each passage through each lock shall be £30

PART 3

Medway Navigation Boat Registration charges

1. The charges for the Medway come into force on 1 April 2022.
2. All boats, kept, used or let for hire on the Medway navigation from 1 April 2022 shall pay the registration and other charges set out below in addition to the relevant charges specified in Part 1 above.
3. The annual charge period for all boats kept, used or let for hire on the Medway navigation shall start on the 1 April of each year.
4. The charges for boats specified in tables below shall be payable
 - 4.1 Powered boats shall pay the relevant area charge based on the charges set out in table 1.1

Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

- 4.2 Electrically powered boats shall pay the relevant area charge as set out in table 1.2.

Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

- 4.3 Unpowered enclosed boats shall pay the area charge as set out in table 1.3.

Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

PART 4

Anglian waterways boat registration charges

1. The charges for the Anglian waterways come into force on 1 April 2022.
 2. All boats, kept, used or let for hire on the Anglian waterways from 1 April 2022 shall pay the registration and other charges set out below in addition to the relevant charges specified in Part 1 above.
 3. The annual charge period for all boats kept, used or let for hire on the Anglian waterways shall start on the 1 April of each year.
 4. The charges for boats specified in tables below shall be payable
- 4.1 Powered boats shall pay the relevant area charge based on the charges set out in table 1.1.1, table 1.1.2, or table 1.1.3

Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

4.2 Electrically powered boats shall pay the relevant area charge as set out in Table 1.2.1, Table 1.2.2 or Table 1.2.3.

Table 1.2.1 Ouse waterways and River Nene: electric powered boat charge			
Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

Table 1.2.2 Lincolnshire waterways: electric powered boat charge			
Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

Table 1.2.3 River Stour: electric powered boat charge			
Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

4.3 Unpowered enclosed boats shall pay the area charge as set out in. Table 1.3.1, Table 1.3.2 or Table 1.3.3.

Table 1.3.1 Ouse and Nene: unpowered enclosed boat charge			
Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

Table 1.3.2 Lincolnshire waterways: unpowered enclosed boat charge			
Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

Table 1.3.3 River Stour: unpowered enclosed boat charge			
Registration Type	Base charge (£)	Charge for boat area up to and including 35sqm (£/sqm)	Charge for the remaining boat area (£/sqm)
Annual	£x	£x	£x
Monthly			
Weekly			
Daily			

4.4 Boats moored on Tidal part of the rivers Welland & Glen will pay the following annual fixed charge of £xx.