

POLICY: Mooring Vessels Policy
BOARD APPROVED: 19th September 2018
REVIEWED BY: E.M. Johnson
POSITION: Chief Engineer
DATE REVIEWED: 1st April 2024
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1st April 2027



1. Introduction

The following policy defines the boards position as a landowner in respect to a third party requesting permission to moor a vessel on land owned by the Board. This policy was approved and accepted by the Board at the meeting held on the 19th September 2018 and is detailed in the minutes of that meeting.

2. Board's Policy

This policy only applies where the Board owns the watercourse. On other watercourses the owner's permission is required for mooring. No Land Drainage Act or Byelaw consent is required for navigation or mooring.

The Board will only consider the mooring of vessels on its land subject to the full consideration of the following clauses:

Clause No.1

Mooring will only be permitted on watercourses owned by the Board, but the Board reserves the right to refuse or withdraw permission to moor at locations it considers unsuitable, for example where the adjoining bank is let.

Clause No.2

The Board does not commit to providing any minimum standard in respect to the use of the Board's watercourses for navigation and mooring including but not limited to access, depth of water, clearance of vegetation, or periods of navigation. The Board withholds the right to alter the water levels without notice.

Clause No.3

Vessels are defined as any form of floating craft.

Clause No.4

The Board will use their enforcement powers under the Land Drainage Act and associated Byelaws to control the use of vessels where necessary e.g. removal should the vessel be causing a nuisance.

Clause No.5

Users/owners of vessels are to comply with the Board's Byelaws (copy will be provided).

Clause No.6

Navigation and mooring of vessels are done so at the vessel user's/owner's risk.

Clause No.7

The Board accepts no responsibility or liability, nor do they offer any insurance for the protection of individuals, groups, organisations or spectators or others who may participate in the planned activities on the Board's land.

Clause No.8

Users/owners of vessels are not permitted to install any structure, platform, or similar or create hard-standings for vehicles or similar on the Board's property.

Clause No.9

Users/owners of vessels are responsible for the safety of the vessel, its crew and its passengers at all times both on the vessel and when boarding and disembarking the vessel.

Clause No.10

Users/owners can only moor vessels where the vessel can be accessed from public rights of way unless they have the permission of the land owner.

Clause No.11

Any vessel should be suitable for its intended purpose and safe to use.

Clause No.12

Any permission from the Board to moor a vessel does not confer any approval by the Board of the suitability or use of the vessel.

Clause No.13

Vessels must be removed before the 1st October each year and are not permitted to return until after 1st May each year.

Clause No.14

Officers of the Board may impose restrictions in respect to the extent of navigation e.g. in relation to proximity to pumping stations.

Clause No.15

Any permission to moor a vessel will be invalid at the expiry of 3 years from the date of issue of the permission at which point the vessel owner must re-apply for permission. The Board will keep a record of permissions given.

Clause No.16

Where the user/owner of the vessel fails to operate the vessel in accordance with the terms of any permission and/or the requirements of the Board's Byelaws, the Board has the right to terminate the permission giving 14 days' notice for the removal of the vessel(s) at which point the Board may remove the vessel and recover the costs from the owner. The Board accepts no responsibility for any damage to the vessel if removed by the Board.

Clause No.17

User/owners of vessels must sign a copy of any permission, agreeing to the conditions therein.