

*Space to live, space to play*



## A RECREATION STRATEGY FOR THE RIVER THAMES

APPENDICES



## ***National Rivers Authority***

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# *A* P P E N D I X 1

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## P L A N N I N G R E S P O N S I B I L I T I E S O N T H E T H A M E S





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## PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE THAMES

### a) Local Government on the Thames

There are currently 6 riparian counties on the Thames within the study area:

Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey.

There are a total of 37 riparian District and Borough Councils on the Thames, in the study area, including 14 London Boroughs:

Cotswold District Council  
West Oxfordshire District Council  
Thamesdown Borough Council  
North Wiltshire District Council  
Vale of White Horse District Council  
Oxford City Council  
Cherwell District Council  
South Oxfordshire District Council  
Reading Borough Council  
Newbury District Council  
Wokingham District Council  
Windsor and Maidenhead District Council  
South Buckinghamshire District Council  
Wycombe District Council  
Spelthorne Borough Council  
Runnymede Borough Council  
Elmbridge Borough Council

#### Thames Riparian London Boroughs

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames  
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames  
London Borough of Hounslow  
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
London Borough of Wandsworth  
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham  
City of Westminster  
Corporation of London  
London Borough of Lambeth  
London Borough of Southwark  
London Borough of Lewisham  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
London Borough of Newham  
London Borough of Greenwich



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**b) NRA Initiatives and Studies Relevant to Thames Recreation Strategy**

1. *Thames 21 - A Planning Perspective and a Sustainable Strategy for Thames Region.*  
The consultation draft published in September 1994 presented an overview of land use planning and water-related issues in Thames Region. A final report to be published in Summer 1995 will develop key sustainability issues for the region and ways of addressing problems likely to arise in development pressure points, in order to provide a strategic planning and sustainability framework for the Catchment Planning process.
2. *Tidal Thames Landscape Assessment and Design Guidance.*  
This study covers the area from Teddington to Aveley and Crayford Marshes, investigating and advising on aspects of urban design, accessibility, important views along and across the river, riverside green spaces, ecology, habitats and the nature of the river channel and its banks.
3. *River Corridor and Ornithological Survey of the Tidal Thames covering the area from Putney Bridge to Erith.*  
The survey findings will be available in mid 1995 and will provide valuable information on the foreshore of this stretch of the River Thames.

**c) Timetable for NRA River Thames Catchment Management Plans (CMP)**

Upper Thames CMP	Consultation Draft published in February 1995
Thames (Buscot to Eynsham) CMP	To commence February 1996
Thames (Eynsham to Benson) CMP	To commence June 1997
Thames (Benson to Hurley) CMP	To commence October 1995
Thames (Hurley to Teddington) CMP	To commence October 1995
Thames Tideway CMP	Will be integrated with the Thames Estuary Management Plan, due to be completed in 1996.





# A

P P E N D I X 2

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R E S U L T S   O F  
T H A M E S   C L U B  
S U R V E Y







## RESULTS OF THAMES CLUB SURVEY

To find out more about club-based activities on the Thames, a large sample of clubs (257) were sent a questionnaire in April 1993 (full questionnaire in Appendix 2). A total of 175 clubs responded, ie 68%. The response from angling clubs was much less than the others, so much so that without them the response rate increases to 76% - see Table 1.

### Geographical Spread of Activities

From the source to the estuary, the Thames passes through a full spectrum of geographical features and changes from a shallow stream meandering through agricultural flood plains in Gloucestershire, to the full flow of the tidal Thames through concrete embankments in central London. Obviously the type and scale of recreation on and along the river varies as the landscape changes. To analyse this change and to give river managers in different areas more specific information, the results of the surveys are divided into 4 distinct areas:

1. The Source to Goring: 92 miles
2. Goring to Staines: 49 miles
3. Staines to Teddington: 17.5 miles
4. Teddington to the Thames Barrier: 26 miles

Table 2 presents the full breakdown of which activities take place in which area. In short the river becomes busier as it moves downstream:

Area 1: 23% of all clubs are based in this area which makes it the least busy for all activities except angling, for which it is one of the most popular areas.

Area 2: 21% of all clubs are based in this area, with angling and rowing predominating.

Area 3: 20% of all clubs are based in this area, with angling dropping off substantially. It is the most popular area for sailing and cruising.

Area 4: 36% of all clubs are in the tidal Thames making it the busiest in terms of club use. The vast majority of these are upstream of Putney bridge with very few clubs in the central London reaches. Half of all rowing clubs on the Thames are in this area.



Table 1 - The Ratio of Recreation Clubs which responded to the Questionnaire

Activity	Questionnaire Respondents %	Clubs on the Thames %
Canoeing	29	9
Rowing	29	39
Sailing	23	9
Angling	22	24
Motor Cruising	17	15
Rambling	16	not known
Skiff & Punting	2	1
Others (scuba, power boating, etc)	2	not known

Base: a) 175 who completed questionnaire; b) 373 clubs on the Thames.

**Table 2 - The Number of Recreation Clubs using the River Thames**  
(Data given for different geographic areas of the river.)

Geographic Areas	AN	RW	SA	MC	CA	SK	SC
Thames Head to Goring	25	46*	4	4	5	-	2
Goring to Staines	22	22	9	11	7	-	6
Staines to Teddington	12	19	13	19	9	1	2
Teddington to the Barrier	30	61	7	21	12	1	3
TOTAL: Number	89	148	33	55	33	2	13
Percentage %	24%	39%	9%	15%	9%	1%	3%

AN: angling; RW: rowing; SA: sailing; MC: motor cruising; CA: canoeing;  
SK: skiff and punting; SC: sea cadets and education centres.

\* Of the 46 rowing clubs in Area 1, 37 are Oxford University College clubs.

In addition there are 42 schools' rowing clubs which use the Thames.

Base: 373 Clubs on the Thames

#### Total Number of Clubs in each Area

Area 1: Thames Head to Goring  
86 clubs, 23% of the total

Area 2: Goring to Staines  
77 clubs, 21% of the total

Area 3: Staines to Teddington  
75 clubs, 20% of the total

Area 4: Teddington to the Barrier  
135 clubs, 36% of the total

#### Club Size and Membership Trends

See Table 3

The largest clubs using the Thames are  
rambling clubs with an average

membership of 382 in 1993. They are the  
only clubs which have grown  
significantly over the last 5 years, and  
their suggested optimum membership is  
less than the current average.

Of all the other activities only sailing and  
rowing have more members now than  
they had in 1988, and this increase is  
only marginal. Canoeing, cruising and  
angling clubs have seen a decrease in  
the average membership, and they  
suggest optimum membership well  
beyond existing membership levels.

**Table 3 - The Number of Members within Recreation Clubs, 1988 - 1992**

Activity	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Average optimum number
Canoeing	154	147	149	139	147	176
Rowing	157	151	151	146	165	171
Sailing	161	159	170	172	175	274
Angling	216	224	226	233	229	259
Motor Cruising	140	134	134	135	136	177
Rambling	356	371	348	355	384	365

Base: 175 All Respondents

### Composition of Club Membership: Age and Gender

See Tables 4 & 5

All the clubs have a dominance of male members, with angling clubs having only 14% female membership. Walking clubs have most females with 42%, while of the boating-based activities, sailing has the largest female representation, 38%.

In terms of youth membership canoeing has a significant 36% of members under 16 years, while rowing has only 13%.

Rambling clubs are very much dominated by older generations, with only 4% under 16 yrs.

Related to the number of young members are the club facilities for training novices. Over 90% of canoe, sailing and rowing clubs do offer a facility for training. Many cruising clubs also offer training-83%, and 71% of angling clubs have some form of training available.

**Table 4 - The Ratio of Males, Females and those under 16 years in Recreation Clubs**

Activity	Males %	Females %	Under 16'S %
Canoeing	65	35	36
Rowing	78	22	13
Sailing	62	38	27
Angling	86	14	14
Motor Cruising	64	36	12
Rambling	58	42	4

Base: 175 All Respondents

**Table 5 - The Availability of Training for Novices**

Activity	Availability of Training Facilities %
Canoeing	98
Rowing	92
Sailing	90
Angling	71
Motor Cruising	83
Rambling	N/A

Base: 175 All Respondents



### Facilities Available to Clubs

See Tables 6a, 6b & 7.

The clubs on the Thames have a full spectrum of facilities, ranging from launching sites and a few moorings, to a large clubhouse with bar and changing facilities. In general clubs in Area 4, downstream of Teddington, are more likely to have better facilities than those based upstream of Teddington. The only exception is boathouses which are more common to clubs in the Upper Thames above Goring. Taking each facility individually:

**Boathouse:** Half of all the clubs on the Thames either own or lease a boathouse. The figure for rowing clubs is 92% making them the most likely by far to have boat houses. For canoe clubs this drops to 64%, and for sailing 53%.

**Clubhouse:** The figures for clubhouse, bar and changing facilities follow a similar pattern with 44% of all clubs having a clubhouse and 32% having a bar. Again these facilities are most common to rowing and sailing clubs. The main difference with motor cruising clubs is that their facilities are more likely to be leased than owned.

**Boats:** 57% of all clubs have boats and the vast majority of these are owned rather than leased. Only 26% of clubs have moorings and as expected, most of these are motor cruiser clubs, 50% of which have moorings. Again most of these are leased. Rowing and sailing clubs are more likely to own their moorings.

**Landing Stage and Slipways:** 44% of clubs have a landing stage and 28% have a slipway. Sailing clubs are more likely to have these facilities than any other club, although in terms of ownership rowing clubs have most assets.

Several of the clubs have additional facilities which include: gymnasium or weight training equipment; classrooms or teaching areas; boat compound; campsite; marquee for summer events; rescue boats. In general the older, long established clubs such as some of the rowing clubs, are more likely to have additional facilities, which they own, than the clubs which are recently established.



Table 6a) - The Facilities Available to Clubs

Activity	Boathouse		Clubhouse		Bar		Changing Facilities %	
	% own	% lease	% own	% lease	% own	% lease	own	lease
Canoeing	42	22	30	12	8	4	38	20
Rowing	60	32	50	20	40	18	66	24
Sailing	35	18	40	30	30	23	53	33
Angling	-	-	11	5	3	5	10	5
Motor Cruising	17	13	17	30	13	30	23	30
Rambling			7	4	4	0	18	4
TOTAL	59		43		30		60	

Base: 175 All Respondents

**Table 6b) - The Facilities Available to Clubs**

Activity	Boats		Moorings		Landing Stage		Slipway	
	own %	lease %	own %	lease %	own %	lease %	own %	lease %
Canoeing	64	8	18	14	38	22	20	12
Rowing	88	6	24	12	50	12	24	16
Sailing	70	8	23	25	43	30	38	25
Angling	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor Cruising	47	3	13	37	20	27	17	13
Rambling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	57		26		44		28	

Base: 175 All Respondents

**Table 7 - The Facilities Available to Clubs by Geographic Location**

Facility	Source to Goring %	Goring to Staines %	Staines to Teddington %	Teddington to the Barrier %
Boathouse	50	40	37	45
Clubhouse	26	35	46	56
Bar	15	20	35	45
Changing Facilities	46	41	46	46
Boats	35	46	41	51
Moorings	12	22	28	25
Landing Stage	33	37	40	31
Slipway	15	17	19	30
Boat Repair	15	14	16	19

Base: 175 All Respondents



### Club Use of the Thames: - Months, Days and Times of Activity

See Tables 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d.

The sportsmen and women who use the Thames are very resilient to the weather, so although there is a definite peak in activity during the spring and summer months, the river is used all year round, by rowers and canoeists in particular. 74% of rowers are still active in January. The only substantial drop off in activity is by anglers during the closed season in April and May.

Overall the busiest month is July, with 70% of clubs saying this is their month of peak activity. Rambling clubs continue to be active throughout the year with almost 30% citing the winter months as the busiest time.

Motor cruising clubs are much less active in winter with the majority staying off the Thames between November and March.

There is substantial use of the river during the week, but this is concentrated in the evenings. The most significant of weekday users are rowers, some of whom are out on the river early in the morning. Friday is the quietest day on the Thames with 33% of clubs on the water.

Weekend use is concentrated on Sunday, which is by far the busiest day with 85% of clubs using the Thames. Not only is it the most popular time for clubs, but also for the casual boater and sportsman.

In terms of geography, the Upper Thames and the Tidal Thames are much busier in the winter than the central reaches, primarily due to the predominance of rowing clubs in these areas.

**Table 8a) - The Months when Clubs are using the River Thames**

Months	CN %	RW %	SA %	AN %	MC %	WK %	Total %
Jan	68	74	38	84	27	71	64
Feb	70	76	38	84	27	71	65
March	78	80	65	76	73	79	75
April	94	90	95	11	90	79	71
May	92	94	98	11	90	75	71
June	94	94	100	82	97	79	88
July	86	92	100	82	93	79	85
August	86	92	100	87	93	75	86
Sept	88	92	95	95	90	75	87
Oct	84	90	93	92	83	79	86
Nov	72	80	70	82	47	71	74
Dec	68	72	60	82	43	71	69

Base: 175 All Respondents

CN: Canoeing; RW: Rowing; SA: Sailing; AN: Angling; MC: Cruising; WK: Walking.



**Table 8b) - The Months of Peak Activity**

Activity	CN %	RW %	SA %	AN %	MC %	Wk %	Total %
Jan	8	20	3	21	3	29	18
Feb	8	22	5	26	7	29	20
March	16	36	20	21	13	36	26
April	40	58	40	5	33	46	33
May	68	68	70	8	67	50	50
June	78	82	85	53	77	46	69
July	78	82	93	63	80	50	70
August	60	60	70	63	63	36	58
Sept	58	56	75	71	57	43	57
Oct	40	42	53	53	37	39	42
Nov	14	20	15	39	10	25	26
Dec	8	12	3	21	7	25	15

Base: 175 All Respondents

**Table 8c) - Activity Times: Days of the Week**

Days	CN %	RW %	SA %	AN %	MC %	WK %	Total %
Mon	46	82	42	24	47	25	38
Tues	46	82	40	29	37	18	41
Wed	60	78	70	26	47	43	52
Thurs	40	78	35	24	30	25	37
Fri	42	52	40	21	63	29	33
Sat	62	82	60	47	83	61	65
Sun	86	88	87	87	90	71	85

Base: All Respondents

**Table 8d) - Months of Peak Activity in each of the 4 Geographic Areas**

Months	Source to Goring %	Goring to Staines %	Staines to Teddington %	Teddington to the Barrier %
Jan	26	15	13	20
Feb	32	17	15	24
March	32	25	20	27
April	21	32	20	34
May	35	51	39	52
June	59	68	63	69
July	65	68	67	72
Aug	47	56	59	61
Sept	59	56	63	59
Oct	38	41	46	48
Nov	32	25	28	28
Dec	18	14	15	20

Base: 175 All Respondents



## Issues Affecting Recreation on the Thames

See Tables 9 - 15

When asked about the key issues affecting their activity on the Thames the majority felt that although there were many problems, none of them was so serious that they had to stop their activity. The most common problem cited by 47% of the clubs is sharing the river with other recreational users. A related issue is the number of people on the river, with 40% saying that overcrowding is a problem. Although lack of bank space is not a problem in general, poor parking facilities were mentioned by 31% of the clubs.



**Table 9 - Issues Affecting Recreation Participation on the Thames: - ALL ACTIVITIES**

Issues	Issues Affecting Participation %					
	Not a Problem					Serious Problem
	1	2	3	4	5	No Answer
River too Crowded	20	15	20	13	7	35
Poor Access	31	14	11	9	5	30
Other Rec. users	17	12	25	9	13	24
Other Comm. users	31	13	10	9	8	29
Lack of Bank space	43	8	8	8	5	28
Poor parking	29	15	11	12	8	25

Base: 175 All Respondents

### Individual Issues

#### Canoeing (Table 10):

- lack of parking is the most common problem cited by 46% of canoe clubs;
- although only 14% of clubs feel other recreational users are a problem, 38% feel that the river is too crowded;
- poor access to and from the river is another issue cited by 32% of canoe clubs.

#### Rowing (Table 11):

- other recreational users are a problem for 58% of rowing clubs;
- overcrowding is cited by 50% of clubs;
- commercial users are seen as a problem for 36%.

#### Sailing (Table 12):

- 49% of sailing clubs feel that other recreational users are a problem;
- 48% feel the river is overcrowded;
- 36% have a problem with parking;
- 33% cite commercial users a problem.

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**Angling (Table 13):**

- 60% of angling clubs have a problem with other recreational users;
- 56% feel the river is too crowded;
- 49% have a problem with lack of parking space;
- 31% find poor access a problem;
- 30% also feel commercial users to be a problem.

**Motor Cruising (Table 14):**

- lack of space on the bank is the most common problem for motor cruising clubs, 50%;
- 46% have a problem with other recreational users;
- 33% feel the river is too crowded.

**Walking (Table 15):**

- poor availability of parking is the main problem for Rambling clubs, 28%;
- other recreational users are a problem for 26% for ramblers;
- the issues of overcrowding and lack of bank space are not perceived to adversely affect participation for many clubs.

In general anglers have more problems on the Thames than other recreational user. Most of these problems stem from their perception that the river is overcrowded. As a bankside activity which uses water space, angling is not very compatible with boating, in particular the large vessels now seen on the Thames which create substantial wash. Comments from angling clubs illustrate the problems:

*"...The biggest problem facing anglers is excessive boating. Not that there are too many boats but that the majority are unsuitable for the Thames and that most exceed the speed limit. This has led to bank erosion, the loss of most of the rush and reed beds for which the Thames was once famous.....and boats creating large*

*bow waves which aggravate anglers, some to such an extent that they will not fish this river...."*

*"Once we could fish many of the Thames streams but now because of neglect, silting, fallen trees and low flows there will soon be no streams left..."*

Obviously other activities have problems of incompatibility and other issues affect their activity. These issues include: safe weirs for canoeing, ie anti-scour features removed; control of wildfowl, canada geese in particular; ease of purchase of short term licences at locks; lack of portage facilities at locks; clearance of overhanging trees; poor lay-bys at some locks; intrusion of long carbon fibre fishing poles; lack of dredging along banks; lack of good slipways; speeding boats.

It is generally recognised that many of these problems could be alleviated by better education among river users and the availability of information. The following comments from clubs illustrate the issues:

*"If the Thames is to be used increasingly for recreation by all groups, there must be an increase in the education of all sportsmen....."*

*"Educate all recreational users of the river on the needs of other users, ie anglers should be made more aware of the needs of canoeists; canoeists should be aware of rowers, etc, etc and vice versa....."*

*"...It seems little is being done in the area we sail to improve the navigation .....recreation is an important part of the river these days and the management of it is essential for the benefit of all users. The NRA should take a more active part in not only preserving a national asset*

*but creating an important leisure facility for the future."*

*"...Another problem when navigating the river is the hostility to yachts shown by the pleasure crafts and tugs. They need to appreciate that the river has changed*

*and they must learn to share it with the amateurs....."*

A key part of this Recreation Strategy will be to try find solutions to these issues, or at least to minimise their effects for the future.

**Table 10 - Issues Affecting Recreation Participation on the Thames: Canoeing**

Issues	Issues Affecting Participation %					
	Not a Problem					Serious Problem
	1	2	3	4	5	No Answer
River too Crowded	26	12	24	10	4	24
Poor Access	28	16	14	16	2	24
Other Rec. users	22	18	26	4	10	20
Other Comm. users	44	14	2	6	4	30
Lack of Bank space	58	8	6	4	0	24
Poor parking	30	10	12	16	18	14

Base: 50, Canoeing Respondents

**Table 11 - Issues Affecting Participation: Rowing**

Issues	Issues Affecting Participation %					
	Not a Problem					Serious Problem
	1	2	3	4	5	No Answer
River too Crowded	14	26	24	14	16	6
Poor Access	48	14	8	14	4	12
Other Rec. users	18	18	28	10	20	6
Other Comm. users	34	16	8	16	12	14
Lack of Bank space	60	12	10	2	6	10
Poor parking	44	20	8	14	4	10

Base: 50, Rowing Respondents

**Table 12 - Issues Affecting Participation: Sailing**

ISSUES	Issues Affecting Participation %					
	Not a Problem					Serious Problem
	1	2	3	4	5	No Answer
River too Crowded	20	18	25	20	3	14
Poor Access	33	20	5	10	8	24
Other Rec. users	8	25	33	8	8	18
Other Comm. users	23	25	13	10	10	19
Lack of Bank space	38	20	8	10	3	21
Poor parking	30	18	8	15	13	16

Base: 40, Sailing Respondents

**Table 13 - Issues Affecting Participation: Angling**

Issues	Issues Affecting Participation %					
	Not a Problem					Serious Problem
	1	2	3	4	5	No Answer
River too Crowded	21	5	32	16	8	18
Poor Access	26	16	18	8	5	27
Other Rec. users	13	18	26	16	18	9
Other Comm. users	32	16	16	3	11	22
Lack of Bank space	45	13	11	5	3	22
Poor parking	24	16	18	18	13	11

Base: 38 Angling Respondents

**Table 14 - Issues Affecting Participation: Motor Cruising**

ISSUES	ISSUES AFFECTING PARTICIPATION %					
	Not a Problem					Serious Problem
	1	2	3	4	5	No Answer
River too Crowded	27	23	20	13	0	17
Poor Access	37	20	7	7	3	26
Other Rec. users	13	13	33	0	13	28
Other Comm. users	27	27	7	10	10	19
Lack of Bank space	23	10	17	23	13	14
Poor parking	27	27	13	7	0	26

Base: 30 Motor Cruising Respondents

**Table 15 - Issues Affecting Participation: - Walking**

Issues	Issues Affecting Participation %					
	Not a Problem					Serious Problem
	1	2	3	4	5	No Answer
River too Crowded	25	4	7	7	4	53
Poor Access	21	11	7	0	11	50
Other Rec. users	18	4	11	4	11	52
Other Comm. users	36	7	4	0	0	53
Lack of Bank space	36	0	7	0	4	53
Poor parking	18	7	7	7	14	47

Base: 28 Rambling Club Respondents

### Attitudes to the River User Groups (RUGs)

See Table 16

The 9 River User Groups on the Thames were formed as a result of the 1980 River Thames Leisure Strategy and are supported by the NRA. They vary in style and some are better supported by river users than others. When asked in the survey 71% of the clubs said they were aware of the RUG's existence and just over half attend the RUG meetings on a reasonably regular basis. In terms of whether they are worthwhile, only 32% of all the clubs feel they are effective.

The awareness of RUGs varies depending on the activity. Sailing clubs have most knowledge of their existence and 80% attend on a regular basis. There is less awareness among canoe clubs (64%) but most of those that know about them attend the meetings. Although 66% of angling clubs are aware of RUGs, only 40% ever attend meetings, and only 29% believe them to be effective. 77% of motor cruiser clubs attend RUG meetings on a regular basis and they are more satisfied with their effectiveness than any of the other activities.

Rowing clubs have less faith in the effectiveness of the RUGs than any of the other activities, despite the fact that 60% of the clubs attend meetings.

The following comments illustrate the feelings among the clubs about the River User Groups:

*"RUG meetings have been beneficial to Oxford Rowing generally. They have enabled other Thames users to understand oarsmen needs and at the same time oarsmen are much more aware that rivers must be shared with all users having equal rights of use."*

*"We feel a presence at such groups is necessary to enable our voice to be heard, should it be required."*

*"They are very useful in promoting mutual understanding between various river users and with various authorities such as the police, NRA and PLA."*

*"....They are getting better with more NRA involvement."*

*"They are not well publicised - we would attend if we had better notice"*

*".. the views of the minority seem to prevail.... there should be better representation from a wider section of river users"*

These mixed reactions reflect the differences in the River User Groups. As with voluntary groups they depend on the time available and the personality of the organisers. Some of the RUGs are more effective than others and this is reflected in the progress that they make.

It is obvious that the User Groups provide a useful function, and they have the potential to be more effective, more productive and more proactive in terms of education and information.



### The Future Demand for Club-Based Activities on the Thames

See Table 17

When asked about trends in demand for their activity on the Thames, 63% overall felt that demand was growing. This prediction of growth was felt most by canoe clubs (70%), and least by sailing clubs (48%), 28% of whom felt demand was static. Angling clubs were less optimistic about their future with 18% saying that demand for angling on the Thames was diminishing.

Overall 10% of clubs felt that demand was declining and so therefore was the growth of recreation activity. A further 15% feel that current demand is static, although given more positive conditions this could change in the next few years.

The following comments describe the activity levels of different sports:

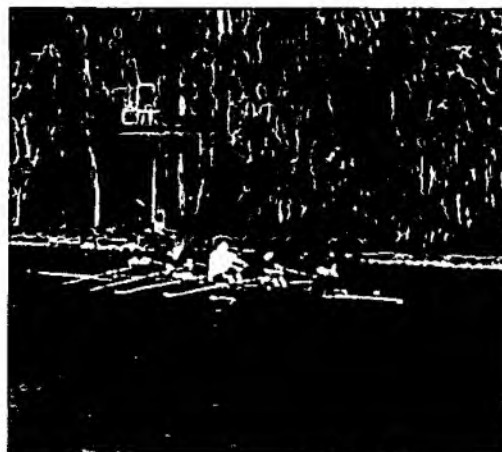
*"There is a desperate need for angling waters of all kinds, especially by small clubs. The huge increases in rents on still waters and smaller rivers makes the Thames a much needed angling water"*

*"There is a decline in club (angling) members due to increasing costs. Many anglers are leaving clubs to go individual, and not travelling so far afield, thus increasing demand for local fisheries."*

*"The river Thames was a river we could fish. Alas the boat traffic in time will drive anglers to look elsewhere for peace and quiet."*

*"We believe there is an untapped corps of potential small boat sailors if we can overcome the belief among some people that sailing is in some way elitist....."*

*"The demand in rambling is definitely growing - and its official recognition as a*



*National Trail - the Thames Path - will bring more walkers".*

*"There is a growing demand for canoeing but less people seem to be joining clubs."*

*"Rowing is becoming increasingly popular after Olympic successes.....demand increasing especially from women and young people....."*

*"For cruising the long term trend is one of growth, but demand is currently diminishing as a result of the recession.....Increasing costs have driven a lot of people off the river.....The problem with the Thames is the lack of places to moor, or anchor. The banks are largely sterile (tidal Thames). Once you leave your own mooring going down river there is nowhere to stop."*

*"As fuel costs increase more divers are requesting river diving as we then do not have to travel to the south coast".*

Although some of the clubs have a growing membership, the general trend appears to have been less activity on the river in the past few years. There is a feeling among some activities that there is latent demand which a recovery in the economy will release, together with promotional campaigns which some clubs are planning.



**Table 16 - Attitude of Clubs to the River User Groups (RUGS)**

Activity	Awareness of RUGS %	Attend Meetings %		Work Effectively %	
		Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Sometimes
Canoeing	64	30	20	22	10
Rowing	82	34	26	24	12
Sailing	90	50	30	38	10
Angling	66	32	8	24	5
Motor Cruising	87	67	10	40	13
Walking	57	21	4	11	14
TOTAL	71	34	21	23	9

Base: 175 All Respondents

**Table 17 - Future Demand for Recreation on the Thames**

Activity	Growing Demand %	Static Growth %	Diminishing Growth %
Canoeing	70	16	6
Rowing	68	20	2
Sailing	48	28	13
Angling	58	13	18
Motor Cruising	60	17	13
Walking	57	4	-
TOTAL	63	15	10

Base: 175 All Respondents (12% did not respond to the question).



NOTE: Similar survey sent  
to clubs for other activities

## RECREATION ON THE RIVER THAMES

### Questionnaire for Thames Based Angling Clubs

Name of Club/Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Membership Details:-

- a) Please give the approximate number of individual members in your club in the years listed below:-

INDIVIDUALS: 1988 \_\_\_\_\_ 1989 \_\_\_\_\_ 1990 \_\_\_\_\_ 1991 \_\_\_\_\_ 1992 \_\_\_\_\_ 1993 \_\_\_\_\_

1993: TOTAL MALES: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL FEMALES: \_\_\_\_\_ THOSE UNDER 16 YRS \_\_\_\_\_

- b) What is the optimum number of members for your club? \_\_\_\_\_

- c) Do you offer training facility for novices (if appropriate)?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

- d) Do you feel that there is a growing or a diminishing demand for facilities for angling on the Thames? Please comment:-

### 2. Region of Activity

What areas of the Thames does your club use for angling eg, Godstow to Kings lock:-

Area(s) used most frequently:-

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) used occasionally

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Seasons of Activity

a) In which months of the year does your club use the River Thames? (Please tick)

January \_\_\_\_\_ February \_\_\_\_\_ March \_\_\_\_\_ April (closed season)

May (closed season) June \_\_\_\_\_ July \_\_\_\_\_ August \_\_\_\_\_

September \_\_\_\_\_ October \_\_\_\_\_ November \_\_\_\_\_ December \_\_\_\_\_

b) What is the month(s) of peak activity: \_\_\_\_\_

4. On what days and times does your club use the Thames:-

	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
MONDAY			
TUESDAY			
WEDNESDAY			
THURSDAY			
FRIDAY			
SATURDAY			
SUNDAY			

**5. Which of the following facilities on the Thames does your club**

a) Own

b) Lease

FACILITIES	OWN	LEASE
River Bank		
Clubhouse		
Licensed Bar		

c) Do you have any other club equipment or facilities existing or planned:-

[illegible]

**6. Are any of the following factors problems which affect participation in your activity? (Please tick as appropriate)**

FACTORS AFFECTING PARTICIPATION	Not a Problem					Serious Problem				
	1	2	3	4	5					
Lack of space on the bank										
River too crowded										
Poor access										
Other Recreational users										
Other Commercial users										
Inadequate Parking										
OTHERS (please list below)										

**7. Are you aware of the existence of River User Groups along the Thames?**

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_

b) If yes, does your club attend meetings?

YES        NO       

SOMETIMES \_\_\_\_\_

c) Do you feel that they work effectively:- (Please comment)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

1

**Please return this questionnaire to Eileen McKeever, Recreation Planning Officer,  
NRA Thames Region, Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road, Reading, Berks  
RG1 8DQ.**

20

# A

P P E N D I X 3

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NUMBER OF  
MOORINGS  
ON THE  
THAMES



# A

## P P E N D I X 3

### APPENDIX 3o -

Table 18 - Number of Moorings on the Thames - Source to Goring

Lock & Reach	No. of Main Channel Moorings	No. Backstream Moorings	No. Marina Moorings	Total
CRICKLADE TO ST JOHNS LOCK	50		82	132
TO BUSCOT	21	27		21
TO GRAFTON	8	103		35
TO RADCOT	16			119
TO RUSHEY	0			0
TO SHIFFORD	28			28
TO NORTHMOOR	54			54
TO PINKHILL	82			82
TO EYNHAM	57			57
TO KINGS	1			1
TO GODSTOW	14			14
TO OSNEY	54	101	88	243
TO IFFLEY	31			31
TO SANDFORD	74	31		105
TO ABINGDON	5		40	45
TO CULHAM	121			121
TO CLIFTON HAMPDEN	4			4
TO DAYS	109			109
TO BENSON	102			102
TO CLEEVE	113			113
TO GORING	20			20
TOTAL	964	262	210	1436





**APPENDIX 3b -****Table 19 - Number of Moorings on the Thames (1993): Goring to Staines**

<b>Lock &amp; Reach</b>	<b>No. of Main Channel Moorings</b>	<b>No. Backstream Moorings</b>	<b>No. Marina Moorings</b>	<b>Total</b>
GORING TO WHITCHURCH	86			86
TO MAPLEDURHAM	9			9
TO CAVERSHAM	159		75	234
TO SONNING	88	13	670	771
TO SHIPLAKE	20			20
TO MARSH	241	55	50	346
TO HAMBLEDEN	252		80	332
TO HURLEY	168			168
TO TEMPLE	53	118	335	506
TO MARLOW	134			134
TO COOKHAM	209		130	339
TO BOULTERS	31			31
TO BRAY	225			225
TO BOVENEY	83		587	670
TO ROMNEY	52			52
TO OLD WINDSOR	33			33
TO BELL WEIR	292			292
TOTAL	2135	186	1927	4248

**APPENDIX 3c -****Table 20 - Number of Moorings on the Thames - Staines to Teddington**

<b>Lock &amp; Reach</b>	<b>No. of Main Channel Moorings</b>	<b>No. Backstream Moorings</b>	<b>No. Marina Moorings</b>	<b>Total</b>
BELL WEIR TO	248		643	891
PENTON HOOK	151			151
TO CHERTSEY	198		151	349
TO SHEPPERTON	267	156	412	835
TO SUNBURY	412	293		705
TO MOLESEY	662		70	732
TO TEDDINGTON	1938	449	1276	3663

# A

P P E N D I X 4

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W H O B O A T S  
O N T H E  
T H A M E S ?







## WHO BOATS ON THE THAMES?

**W**hen preparing a Recreation Strategy it is important to talk to existing users to find out their usage patterns, their likes and dislikes and their views on future developments. To this end a survey was carried out during a six week period in the summer of 1993. Over 300 'boaters' were interviewed, using a comprehensive questionnaire, at 17 different points on the Thames between Lechlade and Teddington. The primary target of the survey was those in cruisers, although those in other boats were interviewed when they were available. As many of the interviews were carried out in the morning and evening when boats were moored, there is a bias towards those on holiday rather than day trips. This section summarises the results, and the conclusions have been used to help formulate future plans for the river.

### Profile of Thames 'Boaters'

A total of 302 questionnaires were completed by the skipper of each boat. Of these 74.5% owned the boats and 22.5% had hired them. The rest were borrowed or club boats.

- In 80% of cases the respondent to the questionnaire was male and the majority were over 35 years of age (88%: see table 21)

**Table 21: Age of Respondent - Skipper of Craft**

Age (Yrs)	%
17-25	5%
26-35	11%
36-50	44%
51-60	22%
60+	18%

Base: 302, All Respondents

- The vast majority were married, 87%, and 71% did not have children under 16 years (see Tables 22, 23).
- In terms of social class the vast majority (64%) were in the ABC1 social groups, ie professional, managerial and 'white collar' workers. In other words earning in the higher salary brackets (see table 24).
- The majority live 'locally' ie within the Home Counties and Greater London area (69%). 3% had come from overseas (see table 25).

**Table 22: Number of Adults**

Number of Adults on Board	%
1 adult	4%
2 adults	67%
3 adults	11%
4 adults	10%
more than 4 adults	8%

Base: 302, All Respondents

**Table 23: Children Under 16 Years on Board**

Number of Children > 16 years	%
No children	71%
1 child	10%
2 children	14%
3 children	4%
4 or more children	1%

Base: 302, All Respondents



**Table 24: Social Class of Boaters**

<b>Social Class</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>Retired</b>
<b>%</b>	39%	25%	16%	1%	2%	17%

Base: 302, All Respondents

**Table 25: Where Boaters come from**

<b>Where From</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
Hants/Kent/Sussex	27%
Berks/Bucks/Oxon	24%
Greater London	18%
Beds/Essex/Northants	11%
West Country	6%
Midlands	5%
N. England	3%
Scotland/Wales/NI	1%
Overseas	3%

Base: 302, All Respondents

#### **Patterns of Use**

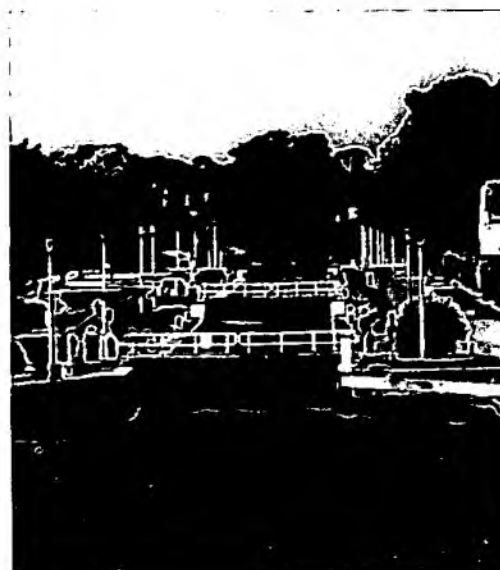
The majority (83%) of all those interviewed were in motor cruisers, with 15% in narrow boats and the rest in sailing boats and small inflatables (see Table 26).

For most (56%) the trip was their main holiday, although this figure rose to 71% for those in hire boats. For 30% it was a second holiday with only a small number being on a weekend or day trip and these were almost exclusively boat owners (see Table 26).

Week-long trips are the most popular (37%), with owners of boats more able and interested in taking longer trips than hirers, 85% of whom were on 7 day trips (see Table 28).

The majority of boaters were with their families (74%), with almost all of the remaining being with friends. Most were with their partner (67%), with only 6% having more than four adults on board.

There were also relatively few children, only 29% had anyone under 16 on board, and there were very few children under 6 years of age (see Table 29).



**Table 26 - Type of Boat**

Type of Boat	Number	Percentage
Cruiser	250	83
Narrow boat	44	14
Sailing Boat	4	1
Dingy/Inflatable	2	1
Other	2	1

Base: 302, All Respondents

Boat Owned: - 74%

Boat Hired: - 23%

Other: - 3%

**Table 27 - Reason For Trip**

Reason for Trip	Percentage %
Main Holiday	56%
Extra Holiday	30%
Weekend trip	6%
Day trip	2%
Other	6%

Base: 302, All Respondents

**Table 28 - Length of Trip**

Length of Trip	Percentage %
Less than half day	1%
1 day	2%
2-3 days	5%
4-7 days	37%
8-14 days	31%
more than 14 days	24%

Base: 302, All Respondents

**Table 29 - Type of Group on Board**

Group Type	Percentage %
Family	74%
Friends	17%
Mixed family/friends	7%
Other	2%

Base: 302, All Respondents

### Where People like to Moor/Stop

The majority of boaters travel between 4 and 6 hours per day (76%). When they moor for the evening the preference of site is divided between being close to a pub (35% prefer) and finding a remote site (39% prefer). Only 11% wanted to be close to a town (see Table 30).

When asked where they had stopped on this trip the most frequent response

83%, was to go shopping; 72% had stopped for water and fuel and 58% had stopped at a pub. Local attractions featured as visits for 42%. About a third had stopped for a barbecue (BBQ) and a similar number had stopped to go for a walk (see Table 31).

**Table 30: Where Boaters Prefer to Moor Overnight**

Preferred Over Night Mooring	Percentage %
Remote site	39%
Close to a pub	35%
Close to a town	11%
At a good BBQ site	7%
At a pump out	3%
Other	5%

Base: 302, All Respondents

**Table 31: Where Boaters had stopped while on the Thames**

Where Stopped	Percentage %
Shop	83%
Water/fuel	72%
Pub	58%
Local attraction	42%
To have a walk	33%
BBQ	32%
To meet friends	29%
Other reasons	8%

Base: All Respondents, 302. Multiple answers given.





### Quality of the Service on the Thames

When asked about temporary mooring sites 76% gave them at least a 'fair' rating, with a similar rating from owners about their permanent moorings.

Lock sites were rated very highly with 77% saying they were good.

Facilities and services along the Thames were not rated very well, especially petrol refuelling points as 42% felt that they were poor. Water and sanitary on the other hand were rated much better, with 78% giving at least a 'fair' rating.

Chandleries were felt to be poor by 27% of boaters, and even though most of

these boaters had not used a slipway on this trip, 40% felt that the provision of launching sites on the Thames for smaller boats was poor.

One the lowest ratings went to the lack of availability of local tourist information which was felt to be poor by 43% of boaters. Those in hire craft mentioned this more than owners who are in general more familiar with the geography of the area (see Table 32).

Table 32 - Quality of Facilities/Services on the Thames

	V. Poor % 1	Poor % 2	Fair % 3	Good % 4	V. Good % 5
Overnight mooring sites	4	17	36	33	10
Permanent mooring	8	16	33	35	8
Lock sites	2	4	18	40	36
Refuelling sites	17	25	31	24	3
Sanitary and water stations	7	17	33	36	10
Chandleries	7	20	45	26	2
Local Tourist Information	13	30	32	21	4
Launching sites and slipways	13	27	44	15	1

Base: All Respondents, 302

### Likes and Dislikes

When asked what they particularly liked about boating on the Thames, tranquillity and being out of the rat race was the most common response (26%), especially from those in middle age. The beauty of the river and the number of sites to see are also important. 14% of boaters actually mentioned lock staff as something which they liked as they added to the character of the river.

On the negative side there were a number of 'dislikes', the most common

being overnight mooring fees. These were particularly disliked by older boaters who remember the days of free mooring.

The other 'dislikes' were mostly related to the lack of facilities such as showers, toilets, bins, and fuel points. Queues at locks were mentioned by 9%, most of these being boat owners rather than hirers. Those in hire craft in general have less complaints (see Table 33).

**Table 33 - Likes and Dislikes about Boating on the Thames**

Likes	Percentage %	Dislikes	Percentage %
Tranquillity	26%	Mooring Fees	24%
Sites to see	21%	Other users	21%
Beauty of river	21%	No dislikes	14%
Lock staff	14%	Lack of toilets/showers	11%
Out of rat race	13%	Queues at locks	9%
Meeting people	3%	Lack of water/refuse bins	8%
Other likes	3%	Lack of tourist information	3%
		Lack of river shops	3%
		Increase in licence fees	3%
		Lack of petrol points	2%
		Other dislikes	3%

Base: 302, All Respondents

### Spending while Boating on the Thames

To find out how much boaters contribute to the riverside economy, each 'skipper' was asked how much had been spent in total per trip ie per boat, not including the hire charge. The average spend per boat is £280, with hirers, who are normally on week long trips, spending an average of £347, and owners spending £263.

When broken down further these spending figures become:

Weekend trip:	£87
Day trip:	£48
Main Holiday:	£341
Extra Holiday:	£247

### Boat Owners

Those who owned their boats were asked specific questions which included how long they had owned a boat. A very significant 47% had owned a boat for more than 10 years, with only 26% newcomers to boating ie, less than 3

years. Half of the owners are members of a boat club (see Table 34).

### Frequency of Use

As expected the majority only use their boats in summer (59%), but this summer use is frequent with 43% using their boat at least once a week and a further 25% using it once every 2-3 weeks. About 15% use their boats once a year or less. As expected the Thames is the only river used by most of these craft with only 38% taking their craft elsewhere. For those who do venture to other waters the canals are favourite (16%). 9% of boaters considered going onto the tideway as 'other' waters (see Table 35).

### Where Boats are Kept

The majority of owners keep their boats in the water on the Thames (94%). Marinas account for 36% of moorings, with 31% of owners having their own private mooring. The remaining 27% are housed in boat yards or on rented riverside moorings (see Table 36).

**Table 34: Number of Years of Boat Ownership Boat Owners (74% of sample)**

Years of Ownership	Percentage %
Less than 1 year	9%
2-3 years	17%
4-6 years	14%
7-10 years	13%
10+ years	47%

Base: 225 boat owners.

Members of Boat Clubs: 51%

Use of Boat on Other Waters: 38% (16% canals; 13% other rivers; 9% tideway)

**Table 35 - Frequency of Boat Use**

Frequency	Summer %	Winter %
Once a week or more	43%	8%
Once every 2-3 weeks	25%	8%
Once a month	7%	14%
Once every 2-3 months	5%	14%
Once every 6 months	4%	4%
Once a year	7%	3%
Less than once a year	9%	7%
Don't use	-	42%

Base: 225 boat owners

**Table 36 - Where Boats are Stored**

Where Stored	Percentage %
Marina	36%
Private Mooring	31%
Boatyard/rented berth	27%
Trailer	2%
Other	4%

Base: 225 boat owners.

### Hire Craft

Those respondents in hire craft (22.5%) were asked a separate set of questions to find out how they felt about hiring craft on the Thames.

- For just under half (42%) this was the first time they had hired a boat on the Thames. Of those who had hired a craft before, over 50% had done so several times.
- The most common source of information about hire craft was from family and friends who had previous

experience (38%). Another 19% had just seen the hire boats on the river, 16% had seen an advert in a newspaper and 14% had found information from their travel agent.

- The vast majority were positive about hiring and 86% said they would hire a craft on the Thames again. (see Table 37).

Hired Craft (25% of sample)

Percentage of first time hirers: 58%

Percentage who would hire again: 86%

**Table 37 - Where Hirers found out about this type of Holiday**

Information Source	Percentage %
Family/friends	38%
Saw boats on the river	19%
Newspaper	16%
Travel Agents	14%
Direct Mail	5%
Other sources	8%

Base: 77 boat hirers

## RIVER USER SURVEY RECREATIONAL BOATING

The NRA are in the process of preparing a Leisure Strategy for the River Thames. As part of this work we are consulting river users and would be very grateful if you would help by completing the following questionnaire.

All responses will be in strict confidence. Please tick or complete as appropriate. Many thanks for your help.

**Q1. a)** What type of boat are you using?

CRAFT	TICK
Cruiser	
Narrow Boat	
Sailing Boat	
Dinghy/Inflatable	
Canoe	
Other (Specify)	

**b)** What is the length of the craft (approx) ..... ft

**Q2.** What is the purpose of your trip?

Main Holiday	
Additional Holiday	
Weekend Trip	
Day Trip	
Other (Specify)	

**Q3.** How long will this boat trip be?

Less than 1/2 day	
1 Day	
2-3 Days	
4-7 Days	
8-14 Days	
More than 2 weeks	

**Q4.** How many people are on the boat today?

- a) Total number of adults .....
- b) Total number of children (Under 16) .....

Ages of Children (yrs)	Number
0 - 2	
3 - 5	
6 - 10	
11 -16	

**Q5.** Who are you travelling with on this trip?

Family	
Friends	
Both	
Other (Specify)	

**Q6.** Do you own this boat or is it hired?

Owned	
Hired	
Other (Specify)	

**Q7. a)** If this boat is hired by you, is this the first time you have hired a boat on the Thames?

Yes ..... No .....

**b)** If **No**, how many times have you hired a boat in the past?

Once before	
On 2-5 occasions	
On 6-10 occasions	
More than 10 occasions	

**c)** Would you hire a boat on the Thames again?

Yes ..... No .....

If not, why not? .....  
.....

**Q8.** From where did you first hear about hiring boats on the Thames?

Friends/Family	
Newspaper advertisement	
Travel Agent	
Direct mail from hire company	
Saw boats on the river while on the bank	
Other (Specify)	

**FOR HIRED BOATS PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 14**

**FOR BOAT OWNERS ONLY**

**Q9.** How long have you owned a boat?

	<b>Less than 1 year</b>
Less than 1 year	
2 - 3 years	
4 - 6 years	
7 - 10 years	
11 - 20 years	
More than 20 years	

**Q10.** On average how often do you use your boat on the Thames?

	IN SUMMER	IN WINTER
Once a week or more		
Once every 2-3 weeks		
Once a month		
Once every 2-3 months		
Once every 6 months		
Once a year		
Less than once a year		

**Q11.** If you use your boat on other rivers/canals/lakes please state where

.....

**Q12. a)** Where is your boat usually based?

Private mooring	
Marina	
Boatyard/rented mooring	
On a trailer	
Other	

**b)** If your boat is kept on a trailer where do you usually launch it?

.....

.....

**Q13.** Are you a member of a boat club?

Yes ..... No .....



**Q14.** On average, how many hours do you cruise per day?

Hours .....

**Q15.** What influences your choice of overnight mooring locations?

Please choose two of the following which are most important to you:

	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE
Close to a pub/restaurant		
Close to a busy town centre		
Availability of pumpout/toilets		
Good picnic/BBQ site		
Peace & quietness of a remote area		
Others: please specify		

**Q16.** What stops have you made on this trip so far other than at lock sites?

Pubs/Restaurant	
For a picnic/BBQ	
To go shopping	
At a pumpout/water supply/for fuel	
To visit a local attraction	
To go walking	
To meet friends	
Other: please specify	

**Q17.** What is your opinion of the provision of facilities on the River Thames? Please rate on a scale of 1 = very poor, 5 = very good

	<b>V.Poor 1</b>	<b>Poor 2</b>	<b>Fair 3</b>	<b>Good 4</b>	<b>V.Good 5</b>
Overnight mooring sites					
Permanent mooring					
Lock sites					
Refuelling sites					
Sanitary and water stations					
Chandleries					
Local Tourist Information					
Launching sites/and slipways					

**Q18.** Approximately how much have/will you spend in total on this boat trip (not including boat hire)?

Total spend for this trip (as a group) £.....



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**Q19.** What do you particularly a) like, b) dislike about boating on the River Thames?  
Please include specific sites you liked or disliked.

a) Likes

b) Dislikes

**ANY OTHER COMMENTS**

Now we would like to ask a few questions about yourself.  
(Please tick where appropriate)

**Q20.** Are you:      Male .....      Female .....

**Q21.** Which age group do you fall into?

17-25 yrs      .....

26-35 yrs      .....

36-50 yrs      .....

51-60 yrs      .....

Over 60 years      .....

**Q22.** Are you Married/Cohabiting      .....

Single      .....

Divorced/Widowed      .....

---

**Q23.** Do you have any children?

Yes ..... No ..... If yes, how many?

AGE	NUMBER
Under 16 years	
Over 16 years	

**Q24.** What is your occupation? .....

**Q25.** Where do you live?

Specify County .....

If outside UK, please specify Country .....

**Q26.** Approximately how far is it in miles from your home to where you began your boat trip?

Distance in miles: .....

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION**





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COMMERCIAL  
OPERATORS  
SURVEY:  
RESULTS AND  
ANALYSIS

SERVICES  
PROVIDED BY  
COMMERCIAL  
OPERATORS  
ON THE  
THAMES





**COMMERCIAL OPERATORS SURVEY: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS****SERVICES PROVIDED BY COMMERCIAL OPERATORS ON THE THAMES****Table 38 - Facilities and Services provided by Commercial Operators.**

Facilities	Total %	Area 1 %	Area 2 %	Area 3 %	Area 4 %
Moorings	90	83	88	100	88
Water	82	83	88	92	69
Boatbuilders	73	83	82	92	44
Toilets	59	50	65	58	56
Slipway	57	67	35	75	63
Sewage Disposal	55	67	65	67	31
Refuse Collection	49	33	59	58	38
Chandlers	45	67	53	67	13
Fuel	41	67	59	42	13
Pump Out	39	67	53	50	6
Showers	31	33	29	42	25
Marina	31	0	29	42	38
Cafe	18	33	12	17	19
Provisions shop	14	33	18	17	0
Boat Sales	14	17	12	25	6
Crane	10	0	12	17	6

Base: 51 - All Respondents

Other facilities mentioned by less than 10% of respondents include the following:  
laundry; car park; gantry hire; trailer hire; telephone; visitor berths; marine  
engineers.

Area 1: Source to Goring; Area 2: Goring to Staines; Area 3: Staines to Teddington

Area 4: Teddington to the Barrier

**Moorings**

Moorings are the most common of all the facilities provided by commercial operators on the Thames - 90% of all operators offer them. For those who have considerable riparian ownership, and the relevant planning permission, moorings are the bedrock of their

business. Although there have been several large marinas built in recent years, there are still a large number of smaller mooring developments on the main channel. Some operators provide hard standing/dry dock facilities, for which there is great demand during the winter months.

**Table 39 - The Number of Moorings provided by Commercial Companies**

Table 39 shows the average number of moorings: a) for the whole river; b) for each of the 4 areas.

AREA	Average No. of moorings	Average No. of Private craft	Average No. of Hire craft
AREA 1	51	30	16
AREA 2	73	66	4
AREA 3	118	111	2
AREA 4	58	58	0
ALL RIVER AVERAGE	77	70	4

Base: All Respondents, 51.

**Table 40 - The Average Number of Moorings Operated by each Company**

Number of Moorings	Total (all areas) %	Area 1 %	Area 2 %	Area 3 %	Area 4 %
Less than 50	60	67	60	50	57
50 - 100	20	17	18	16	25
100 - 150	12	17	12	8	6
Over 150	10	0	12	17	6

Base: All Respondents, 51.

#### **Future Demand for Moorings**

In 1992 35% of the operators on the Thames had empty moorings, although 41% said they had received enquiries from potential customers. Demand was much greater in the lower reaches of the river, ie downstream of Staines.

The issue of demand for moorings is complicated. With strict planning controls by most of the riparian Local Authorities

it is very difficult to obtain permission for new moorings, yet there always seems to be demand. There does appear to be a mis-match between what and where the customer wants in terms of moorings and their availability. One operator commented that *"there are insufficient moorings on the Thames at reasonable rates"*.

**Table 41 - Demand for Moorings**

	Average (all areas) %	Area 1 %	Area 2 %	Area 3 %	Area 4 %
% of Companies with empty moorings (1992)	35	33	29	42	37
% of Companies who had enquiries for moorings (1992)	41	33	12	58	62

Base: All Respondents, 51.

### **Boat Building**

Despite the decline in the boat-building industry along the Thames, 73% of operators provide boat-building and repair. The tidal Thames is the only exception, where only 44% of operators provide this service. Just over half of the operators have a slipway, although this drops to 35% for those in Area 2 between Goring and Staines, yet rises to 75% in Area 3 between Staines and Teddington. The lack of good slipways has been identified as a problem on the Thames. There may be scope for improving public access to commercial slipways.

### **Waste Disposal**

Waste disposal is an important service for those cruising on the Thames, and although the NRA provides various refuse points and sanitary stations at lock sites, it is important that these are supplemented by the commercially provided facilities. Throughout the Thames approximately 50% of operators do provide waste disposal, although this figure drops to 30% in the tidal Thames where the availability of facilities is in general much less frequent.

### **Fuel**

Fuel provision has been a controversial issue on the Thames. From the survey it seems that 41% of all operators on the Thames provide fuel, although again this drops to 13% in the tidal Thames, and rises to 67% upstream of Goring. The real problem lies with petrol supplies. New regulations on the standard of equipment necessary for the sale of petrol has severely restricted the number of outlets where it is available, especially upstream of Abingdon where petrol sales are not felt to be commercially viable.

### **Other Services**

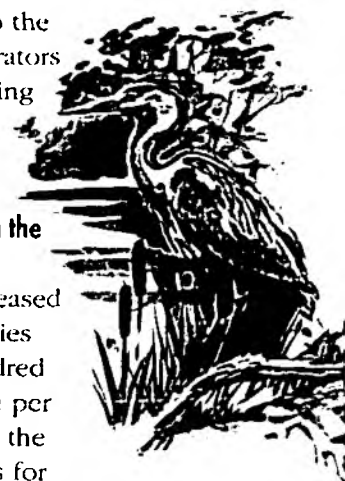
Chandleries, coffee shops, toilets and showers, trailer hire and other customer services are available at some of the riverside centres. Although the core market for many of these is the boating customer, there are opportunities to serve a wider market of visitors to the river. Surprisingly only 6% of operators said they provided berths for visiting boats.

### **The Scale of Commercial Operators on the Thames**

The amount of bankside owned/leased by business along the Thames varies from a few metres to several hundred metres. The average river frontage per operator over the whole length of the river is 180 metres, with 85 metres for backwater/side channel. Geographically operators with most frontage tend to be located in the tidal Thames.

The primary use of river frontage by riverside operators is for moorings, with the average number of moorings per operator being 77. On the whole, mooring operations are relatively small scale - 60% of operators have less than 50 moorings, and only 20% have more than 100 moorings. The majority of these larger developments are in Area 3, between Staines and Teddington, where the average number of moorings per operator is 118 (see Table 42).

Overall, 65% of moorings are along the main channel, with 43% of operators having backwater moorings. Only 25% have basins/marinas, and these are much more commonly found downstream of Goring (see Table 43).



**Table 42 - Average Length of River Bank owned/operated by Leisure Companies**

	Length of main river frontage(m)	Length of backwater (m)
<b>Area 1: Source to Goring</b>	151 m	17 m
<b>Area 2: Goring to Staines</b>	178 m	155 m
<b>Area 3: Staines to Teddington</b>	132 m	27 m
<b>Area 4: Teddington to Barrier</b>	230 m	81 m

Base: 51, All Respondents.

Total average length of main river frontage: 180 metres

Total Average Length of Backwater: 85 metres

**Table 43 - Location of Moorings**

LOCATION OF MOORINGS	Average (all areas) %	Area 1 %	Area 2 %	Area 3 %	Area 4 %
<b>Main Channel</b>	65	83	71	58	56
<b>Basin/Marina</b>	25	17	18	33	31
<b>Backwater</b>	43	50	53	50	25

Base: 51, All Respondents.

Moorings do not add to 100 as many operators have both main channel and backwater locations.

### **The Hire Craft Industry**

Moorings on the Thames are occupied primarily by privately owned cruisers, rather than hire craft. The number of hire craft has decreased dramatically since its peak of 1063 in 1979. In 1992 there were 562 hire craft available on the Thames (see Table 41: these figures include day craft and larger cruisers). Overall only 24% of operators have cruisers available for hire, although 37% offer day hire, mostly of smaller boats.

Geographically the Upper Thames is more popular as a destination for holiday makers in hire craft, who want to explore the peaceful rural landscapes. This is reflected in the two thirds of the

operators located above Goring who offer hire boats, whereas none of the respondents located in the tidal Thames provides hire cruisers. Obviously the tidal Thames is more hazardous and requires additional navigation information and boating skills. Hire craft provide one of the only access routes to boating on the river for the majority of people who do not have their own boat. There is obvious concern that with too many hire craft the river will become more busy, having a detrimental effect on both existing users and the environment. This is an issue that needs to be discussed by this recreation strategy.



**Table 44 - The Number of Companies who operate Hire Boats %**

	Average (all areas) %	Area 1 %	Area 2 %	Area 3 %	Area 4 %
Hire Cruisers	24	66	29	25	0
Day Hire Craft	37	66	29	42	31

Base: 51, All Respondents.

#### **The Factors Affecting Commercial Operators on the Thames**

A combination of factors has caused a downturn in the fortunes of commercial operations on the Thames in recent years. When asked which factors caused most difficulty, the economic climate was considered a serious problem by 62% of operators. This was most strongly felt in Area 3, Staines to Teddington, where 83% of operators cited the economy as a serious problem.

The other key issue is planning controls which were cited as a problem for 40%

of operators. This seems to be particularly acute in Area 2, from Goring to Staines, where 53% cite 'planning' as a problem.

It has been perceived that recreational users are a problem for the commercial traffic, but in the survey only 16% overall felt they were a serious problem.

However, 26% of commercial operators who use the area between Teddington and Central London feel that recreational users are a problem.

(See Tables 45 - 49).

**Table 45 - The Factors Affecting the Success of Commercial Operators on the Thames From Source to Barrier (%)**

Factors Affecting Business %	Not a Problem			Serious Problem		No Answer
	1	2	3	4	5	
Economic Climate	6	4	22	25	37	6
Changes in Holiday Patterns	31	14	24	8	4	19
Planning Controls	28	12	10	22	18	10
Recreational Users	38	22	10	10	6	14
Other Commercial Users	52	12	2	10	8	16
Changes in Cruising Activity	25	25	26	2	4	18

Base: 50, All Respondents.

**Table 46 - The Factors Affecting the Success of Commercial Operators on the Thames:**  
**Area 1 - From Source to Goring (%)**

Factors Affecting Business %	Not a Problem			Serious Problem		No Answer
	1	2	3	4	5	
Economic Climate	0	0	17	17	33	33
Changes in Holiday Patterns	0	17	33	17	0	33
Planning Controls	17	17	50	16	0	0
Recreational Users	0	67	0	17	0	16
Other Commercial Users	50	33	0	0	0	17
Changes in Cruising Activity	17	50	17	0	0	16

Base: 51, All Respondents.

**Table 47 - The Factors Affecting the Success of Commercial Operators on the Thames**  
**Area 2 - From Goring to Staines (%)**

Factors Affecting Business %	Not a Problem			Serious Problem		No Answer
	1	2	3	4	5	
Economic Climate	6	0	18	29	47	0
Changes in Holiday Patterns	29	0	41	6	6	18
Planning Controls	18	12	6	24	29	11
Recreational Users	24	18	29	12	0	17
Other Commercial Users	47	6	0	29	6	12
Changes in Cruising Activity	29	18	29	0	12	12

Base: 51, All Respondents.

**Table 48 - The Factors Affecting the Success of Commercial Operators on the Thames  
Area 3 - From Staines to Teddington (%)**

Factors Affecting Business %	Not a Problem					No Answer.
	1	2	3	4	5	
Economic Climate	0	8	8	33	50	0
Changes in Holiday Patterns	42	17	17	8	8	8
Planning Controls	33	17	0	33	8	8
Recreational Users	67	17	0	0	8	8
Other Commercial Users	67	8	0	0	17	8
Changes in Cruising Activity	8	33	42	8	0	8

Base: 51, All Respondents.

**Table 49 - The Factors Affecting the Success of Commercial Operators on the Thames  
Area 4 - From Teddington to Barrier (%)**

Factors Affecting Business %	Not a Problem					No Answer.
	1	2	3	4	5	
Economic Climate	13	6	38	19	19	5
Changes in Holiday Patterns	38	25	6	6	0	25
Planning Controls	44	6	6	13	19	12
Recreational Users	50	13	0	13	13	11
Other Commercial Users	50	13	6	0	6	25
Changes in Cruising Activity	38	19	13	0	0	30

Base: 51, All Respondents.



**Questionnaire for Thames-based Marinas, Boatyards and Hire Cruiser Operators.**  
**ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.**

Name of company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**PREMISES**

**1. Where are your facilities located?**

**LOCATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REACH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What is the length in metres of:**

a) Your main river frontage:

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Your side channel/backwater frontage:

\_\_\_\_\_

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE**

**3. Please tick those facilities which you have available:**

<b>FACILITIES</b>	<b>FACILITIES</b>	
marina	laundry	
boatbuilders/repairs	showers	
moorings	chandlery	
slipway	provisions shop	
fuel (petrol/diesel)	cafe/restaurant	
water	refuse collection	
sewage disposal (elso)	others: (specify)	
pump out		
toilets		

**4a. Where are your facilities located?**

b) Please indicate the number of moorings in each category:

CATEGORY OF CRAFT	NUMBER OF MOORINGS
Private craft	
Hire cruisers	
Day Hire Boats	

**5. How many of these moorings/berths are located in the following areas:**

LOCATION	NUMBER OF MOORINGS
On the main channel	
In a basin/marina	
In a backwater/side channel	

**6. Please indicate the demand for base moorings/berths by completing the following:**

DEMAND FOR MOORINGS	NUMBER OF MOORINGS
Moorings currently empty	
Enquiries for moorings in 1992	
Enquiries for moorings which you have been unable to satisfy	

Other comments on moorings:

[illegible]

**7. Are any of the following factors problems which affect your business?**  
(Please tick as appropriate using the scale)

FACTORS AFFECTING PARTICIPATION	Not a Problem			Serious Problem	
	1	2	3	4	5
ECONOMIC CLIMATE					
CHANGES IN HOLIDAY PATTERNS					
PLANNING CONTROLS					
RECREATIONAL USERS eg: rowers					
OTHER COMMERCIAL USERS					
CHANGES IN CRUISING ACTIVITY					

Please list any other factors affecting your business: (specify particular problems or user groups)

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

1. **Introduction:** The study aims to investigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of healthcare workers.

2. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional survey was conducted among healthcare workers in various hospitals and clinics. The survey included a demographic questionnaire and a validated mental health assessment tool.

3. **Results:** The study found that a significant proportion of healthcare workers reported symptoms of anxiety, depression, and stress. The severity of these symptoms was correlated with factors such as the duration of the pandemic, the intensity of the workload, and the availability of social support.

4. **Conclusion:** The findings highlight the need for mental health support and intervention for healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Further research is needed to explore the long-term effects and to develop effective strategies for mental health care.

Please return this questionnaire to Eileen McKeever, Recreation Planning Officer, NRA Thames Region, Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road, Reading, Berkshire. RG1 8DQ

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# A

## P P E N D I X 6

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### R I V E R T H A M E S : R E L E V A N T O R G A N I S A T I O N S









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## RIVER THAMES: RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS

### **Amateur Rowing Association (ARA)**

The ARA is the governing body representing rowing in England. There are various Rowing Councils which operate in different regions. The Thames Rowing Council is divided into two areas for the Upper and Lower Thames. They represent the interests of the rowing clubs on the Thames.

*Contact:*

ARA HQ  
6 Lower Mall  
Hammersmith  
London. W6 9DJ  
Tel: 0181 748 3632

### **Association of Thames Yacht Clubs (ATYC)**

Founded in 1949, the ATYC has 53 member clubs which represent over 5500 yachtsmen. Its aims are to promote and protect the interests of private boat owners on the Thames and to develop good fellowship between clubs and members. The ATYC is affiliated to the RYA.

*Contact:*

ATYC Honorary Secretary  
Creek House  
Hamm Court  
Weybridge  
Surrey. KT13 8YB

### **Association of Thames Valley Sailing Clubs**

This is an association of sailing clubs from the Pool of London to Oxford. It is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association.

*Contact:*

Association of Thames Valley Sailing Clubs  
Chairman  
25 Sheephouse Green  
Wotton  
Dorking  
Surrey. RH5 6QW  
Tel: 01306 889771

### **British Canoe Union (BCU)**

The BCU is the governing body representing canoeing in the UK, covering both competitive and casual canoeing. There are over 16 000 members in England represented by regional committees throughout the country.

*Contact:*

British Canoe Union  
John Dudderidge House  
Adbolton Lane  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham. NG2 5AS  
Tel: 01159 821100

### **British Cycling Federation**

#### **British Mountain Bike Federation**

Governing bodies representing mountain biking and cycling.

*Contact:*

British Cycling Federation  
36 Rockingham Rd.  
Kettering  
Northants. NN16 8HG  
Tel: 01536 412211.

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**British Marine Industries Federation (BMIF)**

The BMIF is the trade association representing almost 1300 firms in the pleasure boating industry, together with firms who make small work boats and commercial craft. On the Thames they are interested in promoting pleasure cruising and representing the interests of the boat industry on the river.

*Contact:*

British Marine Industries Federation  
Meadlake Place  
Thorpe Lea Road  
Egham, Surrey. TW20 8HE  
Tel: 01784 439678

**British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC)**

BSAC is one of the UK governing bodies for scuba diving. It represents the interests of divers, advises on training and safety and lobbies for support. Each region of the country has representatives who are members of local clubs. These representatives can be contacted via BSAC HQ.

*Contact:*

BSAC  
Telfords Quay  
Ellsmere Port  
South Wirral  
Cheshire L65 4SY.  
Tel: 0151 357 1951

**British Waterways (BW)**

British Waterways own and manage many of the canals throughout the UK. The primary use of these waterways is for recreational pursuits. Several BW canals meet the Thames; the Oxford Canal, Kennet and Avon Canal, Regents Canal, Grand Union Canal.

*Contact:*

British Waterways  
Willow Grange  
Church Road  
Watford  
Hertfordshire. WD1 3QA  
Tel: 01923 226422

**Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR)**

Formed in 1935, the CCPR is a voluntary forum for the promotion and protection of the interests of the 246 national bodies which it collectively represents. It acts as a consultative and advisory body to the Sports Council and the government, with six divisions, one of which represents Water Recreation.

*Contact:*

CCPR  
Francis House  
Francis Street  
London. SW1P 1DE  
Tel: 0171 828 3163

**Central Southern Tourist Board (CSTB)**

The CSTB was born out of an amalgamation of the former Thames and Chiltern Tourist Board and the Southern Tourist Board. The CSTB are an agency, funded primarily by government, whose role it is to promote their geographic area as a tourist destination. The CSTB area includes part of the Thames. 'The Royal Thames' was included within the 1994 Central Southern holiday brochure.

*Contact:*

The Central Southern Tourist Board  
40 Chamberlayne Road  
Eastleigh  
Hants. SO5 5JH  
Tel: 01703 620555

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### **Cotswold Canals Trust**

A Charitable trust set up to preserve the line of the Thames and Severn Canal and Stroudwater Navigation (shortform title Cotswold Canals) linking the Rivers Severn and Thames, and to promote restoration of the complete 36 mile track of the former canals, including their towing path as a long distance right of way. Much of the restoration work is carried out by volunteers and members of the Trust.

*Contact:*

Cotswold Canals Trust  
The Flat Offices  
Cotswold District Council Depot  
Chesterton Lane  
Cirencester. GL7 1YE  
Tel: 01285 643440  
Fax: 01285 643440

### **Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)**

Formed in 1926, the CPRE is an independent environmental group working for the better planning and management of the countryside. It has 46 000 members.

*Contact:*

The CPRE  
25 Buckingham Palace Road  
London. SW1W 0PP  
Tel: 0171 976 6433

### **The Countryside Commission (CoCo)**

The Countryside Commission are a government agency which works to conserve and enhance the beauty of the countryside, and to help people to enjoy it. They are currently funding and implementing the Thames Path National Trail.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission.  
South East Regional Office.  
4th Floor  
71 Kingsway  
London WC2B 6ST  
Tel: 0171 831 3510

### **English Nature**

Created in 1991 from its predecessor the Nature Conservancy Council, English Nature is a government agency whose role is to protect the natural environment.

They designate and manage many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs). At a local level English Nature has regional offices. As part of their Estuaries Projects they are currently preparing an Estuary Plan for the Thames: Tower Bridge to the sea.

*Contact:*

English Nature HQ  
Northminster House,  
Peterborough. PE1 1UA  
Tel: 01733 340345

### **Inland Waterways Association (IWA)**

The IWA campaigns for the restoration, retention and development of inland waterways in the British Isles.

*Contact:*

The IWA (HQ)  
114 Regent's Park Road  
London. NW1 8UQ  
Tel: 0171 586 2510



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**London Rivers Association (LRA)**

Established in 1987 the LRA is a forum which represents all the interests of the Thames in London, including statutory authorities, recreational and tourist interest groups, and commercial interests. Meetings are held on an eight-weekly cycle. The LRA also carries out studies and acts as a source of information and advice on the Thames in London, which are detailed in their publications list.

*Contact:*

London Rivers Association  
Support Unit  
24/31 Greenwich Market  
Greenwich  
SE10 9HZ  
Tel: 0181 293 9275

**London Tourist Board and Convention Bureau (LTBCB)**

The LTBCB is the regional tourist board for London. It works to promote London as a visitor destination for both tourist and business travel. This includes promoting the Thames as a destination within London. The first major campaign was with London Underground in 1991, 'Take to the River by Underground'. They also offer a telephone information line specifically on the Thames - the 'river line'.

*Contact:*

London Tourist and Convention Board  
26 Grosvenor Gardens  
London. SW1 ODU.  
Tel: 0171 730 3450

**National Federation of Anglers**

The NFA represents the interests of an estimated 2 million coarse anglers. They have regional committees which look after local interests. The Thames is covered by the South and South East regions.

*Contact:*

NFA HQ  
Halliday House  
Egginton Junction  
Derbyshire  
DE65 6GU.  
Tel: 01332 362000

**National Rivers Authority (Thames Region)**

The NRA (Thames Region) is the Navigation Authority for the River Thames between Cricklade and Teddington. There are Navigation offices in Oxford, Reading, Maidenhead, and Sunbury.

*Contact:*

*For general information:*  
Navigation and Recreation Manager  
Kings Meadow House  
Kings Meadow Road  
Reading  
Berks. RG1 8DQ.  
Tel: 01734 535000.

*Cricklade to Benson Lock*

Navigation Inspector  
Osney Lock  
Oxford. OX2 0AX  
Tel: 01865 721 271

*Benson Lock to Hurley Lock*

Navigation Inspector  
Caversham Lock Island  
Kings Meadow House  
Kings Meadow Road  
Reading  
Berks. RG1 8DQ  
Tel: 01734 535533



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***Hurley Lock to Bell Weir***

Navigation Inspector  
Boulter's Lock  
Maidenhead  
Berks. SL6 8PE

***Bell Weir to Teddington***

Navigation Inspector  
Riverside Works  
Fordbridge Road  
Sunbury on Thames  
Middx. TW16 6AP  
Tel: 01932 781946

**National Trust (NT)**

The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty was founded in 1985 as a public company not trading for profit, with powers to acquire and preserve beautiful and historic places. It now owns more than 230 000 ha. of land and property. Its primary objective is to preserve but much of its property is available for recreation. National Trust ownership on the Thames: Buscot and Coleshill Estates, Cockmarsh, Cliveden Estate, Runnymede, and the Wey Navigation.

***Contact:***

National Trust (Southern Region)  
Hughenden Manor  
Hughenden  
High Wycombe  
Bucks. HP14 4LA  
Tel: 01494 528051

**Port of London Authority (PLA)**

The PLA are the Navigation Authority for the River Thames downstream of Teddington.

***Contact:***

Chief Harbour Master  
London River House  
Royal Pier Road  
Gravesend  
Kent. DA12 2BG.  
Tel: 01474 562200

**Ramblers Association**

Founded in 1935, the Ramblers Association promotes rambling, protects rights of way, campaigns for access to open country and defends the beauty of the countryside. There are 350 local Ramblers' groups representing over 90 000 members.

***Contact:***

The Ramblers Association  
1/5 Wandsworth Rd.  
London. SW8 2XX  
Tel: 0171 582 6878.

**River Thames Society (RTS)**

The RTS is a charitable organisation with a membership who have a keen interest in the River Thames and its surrounds. There are seven branches covering the river from source to the sea. They organise meetings, comment on planning applications, and operate a volunteer River Warden scheme which reports maintenance problems along the river bank. They publish the journal 'Thames Tributaries' on a regular basis.

***Contact:***

River Thames Society  
Side House  
Middle Assendon  
Henley on Thames, Oxon. RG9 6AP  
Tel: 01491 571476

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### **River User Groups (RUGs)**

A recommendation in the River Thames Leisure Policy in 1980 led to the formation of River User Groups, ie a forum where users of the river get together on a regular basis to discuss issues, problems and the management of their various activities on the river. There are 9 groups throughout the River and they meet three times a year. All clubs, commercial operators and other relevant organisations are invited.

*Contact: (For initial enquiries)*

National Rivers Authority  
Amenity and Recreation Section  
Kings Meadow House  
Kings Meadow Rd.  
Reading Berks. RG1 8DQ  
Tel: 01734 535000

### **Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)**

RoSPA is a charity which provides information, advice and consultancy on matters of occupational and public safety, including water safety. RoSPA has carried out safety audits along specific areas of the Thames for Local Authorities and the London Docklands Development Corporation.

*Contact:*

RoSPA  
Cannon House  
The Priory Queensway  
Birmingham B4 6BS.  
Tel: 0121 200 2461

### **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**

The RSPB is Europe largest wildlife conservation charity, protecting wild birds through a variety of campaigns and management projects. Regional officers work with other groups to protect sensitive areas of the Thames, and to educate and inform the public.

*Contact:*

RSPB (Central Office)  
46 The Green  
South Bank  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire. OX16 9AB  
Tel: 01295 253330

RSPB (S.E. Office)  
8 Church Street  
Shoreham-by-Sea  
Sussex  
BN4 5DQ  
Tel: 01273 463642

### **Royal Yachting Association (RYA)**

The RYA is the UK governing body representing the sports of motor boating, sailing, power boating, and windsurfing. The Thames is represented by the Thames Valley region of the RYA.

*Contact:*

Royal Yachting Association  
RYA House  
Romsey Rd.  
Eastleigh  
Hampshire. SO5 4YA.  
Tel: 01703 629962

### **Salmon and Trout Association**

Founded in 1903, the Salmon and Trout Association represents approximately 14 000 individual and club game anglers. There are local branches in Wessex, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Surrey and London.

*Contact:*

The Director  
Salmon and Trout Association  
Fishmongers Hall  
London Bridge  
London. EC4R 9EL  
Tel: 0171 283 5838

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### **Thames Explorer Trust**

The Thames Explorer Trust is a charity which aims to provide educational materials on the River Thames and its environment. Based on the Thames in Hounslow, the Trust's main activity is educating school children about the river. This includes resource packs, presentations and site visits. At present most of the work is limited to the London area. Initial funding came from the Local Authorities in west London and the Thames Heritage Trust. It is hoped to provide a visitor resource centre at some time in the future.

The Richmond Venturer is another educational project, based on a barge which has been converted into an residential, educational facility, with a key emphasis on ecology. It is currently moored within the London Borough of Richmond, who own the craft.

#### *Contact:*

Thames Explorer Trust  
Reliance  
Church Wharf  
Corney Road  
Chiswick  
London. W4 2RA  
Tel: 0181 994 7468

### **Thames Fisheries Consultative Council (TFCC)**

The TFCC is an independent organisation, drawn from local consultatives and angling clubs, whose role is to promote and protect fishery and angling interests in the Thames Region of the NRA.

#### *Contact:*

The Honorary Secretary  
Thames Fisheries Consultative Council  
10 Claremount Terrace  
Portsmouth Road  
Thames Ditton  
Surrey. KT7 OXP  
Tel: 0181 398 9955

### **Thames Heritage Trust**

Founded in 1980, the Trust is a charity which sponsors specific projects that will promote greater understanding and enjoyment of the Thames. It currently has 35 members, and other benefactors. A key project funded by the Trust is the Thames Explorer Trust.

#### *Contact:*

Thames Heritage Trust  
141 Uxbridge Rd.  
Hampton Hill  
Middlesex. TW12 1BL  
Tel: 0181 941 8808

### **Thames Hire Cruiser Association (THCA)**

The THCA is an association of 15 companies who offer a hire boat service on the Thames. They work together on issues of mutual interest, including the provision of information to the public.

#### *Contact:*

Thames Hire Cruiser Association  
19 Acre End Street  
Eynsham  
Oxford. OX8 1PE  
Tel: 01865 880107





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**Thames Passenger Services Federation (TPSF)**

The TPSF is a federation representing the interests of the passenger services which operate on the tidal Thames in London. There are 18 river-related companies who are members of the Federation. TPSF acts as a lobby group and network service.

*Contact:*

TPSF  
135 Rotherhithe Street  
London. SE16 4NF  
Tel: 0171 231 7122

**Thames Valley Police: Marine Division****Metropolitan Police: River Division**

The Thames has its own policing service which is carried out by divisions of the Thames Valley and the Metropolitan police forces.

*Contact:*

Thames Valley Police - Marine Division  
Police Training Centre  
Sulhamstead  
Reading, Berks. RG7 4DU  
Tel: 01734 303770

Metropolitan Police  
Thames Division  
98 Wapping High Street  
London E1  
Tel: 0171 488 5291

**Thames Water Utilities Limited**

Thames Water is the largest water company in the UK, supplying over 2,600 million litres of drinking water to more than 7 million people who live and work in the Thames region.

*Contact:*

Thames Water Utilities Limited  
Nugent House  
Vastern Road  
Reading, Berkshire  
Tel: 01734 591159

**Upper Thames Passenger Boat Federation (UTPBF)**

A federation of 26 companies and individuals who operate passenger services on the non-tidal Thames. Although competitors in business, they come together to work on issues of mutual interest.

*Current Contact:*

Thames River Cruise  
D&T Scenic Ltd  
Pipers Island  
Caversham Bridge  
Reading, Berks. RG4 8HA  
Tel: 01734 461495

**Wilts and Berks Canal Amenity Group**

This group was formed in 1977 with the aim of promoting, protecting, preserving and improving the Wilts and Berks Canal and its branches for the benefit of the public and the environment, with the ultimate goal of restoring a continuous navigable waterway linking the Kennet and Avon Canal, the Thames & Severn Canal and the River Thames.

*Contact:*

Paul Pennycook  
Mountcrest  
Whiteway Bank  
Horsley  
Stroud  
Gloucestershire. GL6 0PF  
Tel: 01453 833590

# *A* P P E N D I X 7

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## WATER SPORTS CENTRES ON THE THAMES







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## WATER SPORTS CENTRES ON THE THAMES

### ***The Riverside Centre***

Donnington Bridge  
Oxford. OX4 4AZ  
Tel: 01865 248673

Owned and managed by Oxfordshire County Council Education Dept., the Centre's primary function is as a youth facility, but over the years it has developed more as a community centre. The key market is 14 to 25 year olds, but they do take younger children from 8yrs, and older adults.

**Management:** the Centre is managed by a committee composed of representatives of the County and City Councils, staff and user groups. There are 2 full-time and 32 part-time staff.

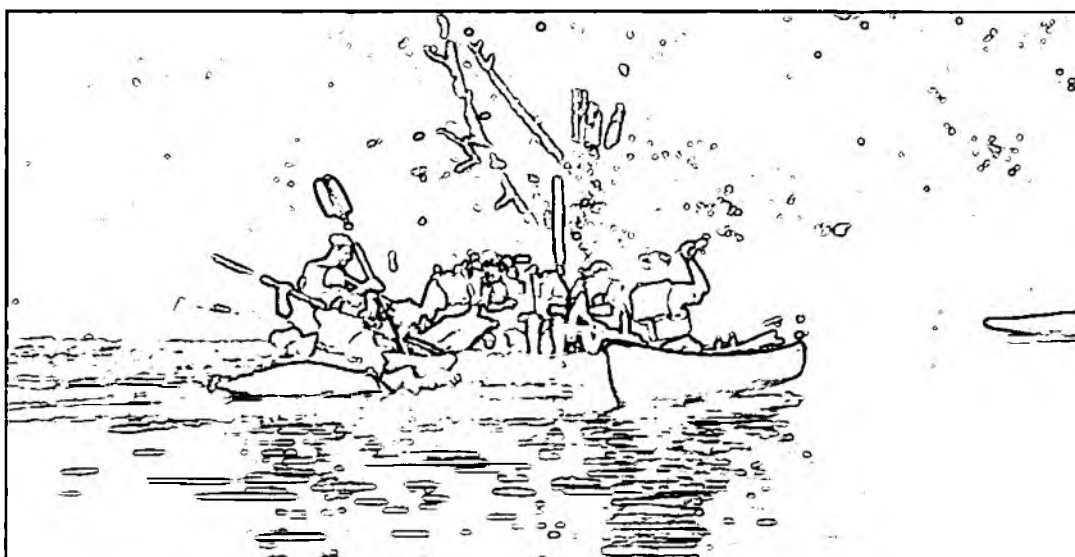
**Facilities:** a centre on the river bank with changing areas and club room, equipment, access to a slipway for which the public can buy a key, land to the river with BBQ, limited car parking (public car park close by), and a shop.

**Main Activity:** canoeing, both via training courses and on a club basis.

**Other Activities:** mountain biking; climbing; running; dog training.

**Key Issues:** The Centre is based on a very busy stretch of river so there is conflict with other users. There are problems with vandalism and bridge jumpers. The Centre coordinates the Donnington Bridge Users Group to try to overcome any problems in the area. They do not take an active part in the River User Group 1/2.

**Opportunities:** to expand the market for the Centre, making it less of a club and more open to individuals who wish to learn to canoe; build a better relationship with RUG 1/2; develop a relationship with the NRA Navigation staff.



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***The County River Centre***

Dolphin House  
Whitchurch Road  
Pangbourne  
Reading, Berks. RG8 0AL  
Tel: 01734 843162

The Centre is owned and operated by Berkshire County Council Youth and Community Service, with the land leased from Pangbourne Parish Council. Primary market is young people but they do take adults.

*Management:* the centre is managed by the owners, Berkshire County Council, with three full-time staff (including a manager), and numerous part-time volunteers.

*Facilities:* a centre on the river bank with club room facilities, changing and storage for equipment. They also use a barge called 'Baycraft' which is owned by the Berkshire Association of Young People and is moored in Henley.

*Main Activity:* canoeing (local centre of excellence). In 1992 4750 people attended 6 week-long training courses at the centre. In the evening the Centre reaches capacity in terms of equipment. Other activities: sailing and windsurfing on local gravel pits; also offer management development courses using outdoor activities.

*Key Issues:* the need for residential facilities in order to develop their business, campsites and more permanent facilities.

*Opportunities:* improved facilities would increase the market for the centre in terms of residential courses. As well as catering for those taking part in water sports, it could be used by those walking the Thames Path, and also casual visitors to the river.



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***Longridge Scout Boating Centre***

Quarry Wood Road

Marlow

Bucks. SL7 1RE

Tel: 01628 483252

Owned by the National Scout and Guides Movement since 1956, the Longridge Centre is leased to the County Scout Movement representing Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Greater London North West, known as the Thames Valley Consortium. It is located on the south bank of the Thames downstream of Marlow.

The centre is open to all groups, not just Scouts.

*Management:* the Centre is operated by three full-time and 1 part-time employees, including a manager. An additional 4 instructors are employed in summer. Much of the maintenance work is carried out by more than 200 volunteers from the Scout and Guides Movement.

*Facilities:* the Centre is on a ten-acre riverside site, including Sherriffs Island. They have several buildings with office, kitchen, changing facilities, classrooms, accommodation for 30 people and numerous areas for camping. Other facilities include boats and equipment, moorings, assault course, climbing wall and playing fields.

*Main Activities:* canoeing, sailing, motor boating.

Other Activities: dragon boating, climbing, shooting, and multi-activity weekends. Fishing rights are let to a local club.

In the summer months the site reaches capacity with up to 300 campers per

week, 350 at weekends and up to 170 on the water at any one time.

*Key Issues:* funding required to undertake bank repairs and replacement of old buildings.

*Opportunities:* to increase usage at off peak times by local groups, adults as well as youth groups; to work with Sports Development Officers to utilise the centre for non-scouting training schemes; to develop the centre for outdoor management training courses, which would help raise funds for the upkeep of the centre.

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***Raven's Ait***

Portsmouth Rd.  
Surbiton  
Surrey. KT6 4HN  
0181 390 3554.

A former Inner London Education Authority sailing centre, owned by the London Borough of Kingston since 1990, and based on an island between Thames Ditton and Kingston.

*Management:* the Centre is managed by Contemporary Leisure for the London Borough of Kingston.

*Facilities:* a club building with changing areas, catering facilities, bar, meeting and conference rooms; boating equipment; moorings; slipway; and ferry to Kingston bank.

*Main Activities:* sailing, canoeing and power boating.

*Other Activities:* functions, including conferences, meetings, weddings, parties and public bar.

*Key Issues:* financial difficulties due to loss of business from schools, and the need to operate without much public funding. The lack of a bridge to the island is seen as a major drawback.

*Opportunities:* to expand the programme of activities away from schools and children to including more adult courses, and training courses using outdoor skills development.

***Other Centres in the Non-Tidal Thames:***

*Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre* offer training courses and facilities on the Thames for canoeing and sailing.

*Albany Park Sailing Base* in Kingston is funded by the Surrey County Council Education Department and provides novice sailing courses.

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**Thames Young Mariners Outdoor  
Education Centre**

Ham Fields  
Riverside Drive  
Nr. Richmond  
Surrey.  
TW10 7RX  
0181 940 5550

Thames Young Mariners is located close to the Thames, between Richmond and Kingston, on 25 acres owned by Surrey County Council. Its primary function is as a watersports training centre for young people (11-24 yrs).

**Management:** most of the funding for the centre currently comes from Surrey County Council's Youth Service and the London Borough of Richmond. Income is generated from courses which contributes to approximately 50% of the operational costs. There are 3 full-time and several part-time employees, although much of the coaching work is carried out by volunteers.

**Facilities:** the most important facility is the enclosed 10 acre lake, which has access to the Thames. Clubhouse facilities include a large hall, lounge areas, lecture rooms, changing and ancillary facilities, campsite, and boating equipment.  
Maximum capacity is 250.

**Main Activities:** sailing, canoeing, windsurfing, power boating.  
Other Activities include: orienteering, camping, and management training courses.

**Key Issues:** the funding of the centre is under threat and it is becoming more and more dependent on fund raising and volunteer support. The buildings are in need of refurbishment, but funds are not available. School use of the centre is important, but again is under threat through lack of funds.

**Opportunities:** to develop the reputation of Thames Young Mariners as a Centre of Excellence for Instructor Training. With its enclosed lake the TYM provides excellent novice training facilities and there is scope to widen the market to include adults.





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***Barn Elms Water Sports Centre***

Queen Elizabeth Walk  
Barnes  
London  
SW13

A former ILEA Outdoor Centre, used by schools from all over London. The Water Sports Centre is just part of a 52 acre sports facility.

*Management:* when ILEA was disbanded the Education Department of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham took over the management of the Centre, appointing a new Director to develop its use.

*Facilities:* the main facility at the Water Sports Centre is a large boathouse with male and female changing, and a rowing tank which is also used by local clubs for training. They have numerous rowing boats and a dragon boat, with a large slipway onto to the Thames.

*Main Activity:* rowing.

Other Activities: dragon boating, occasional camping.

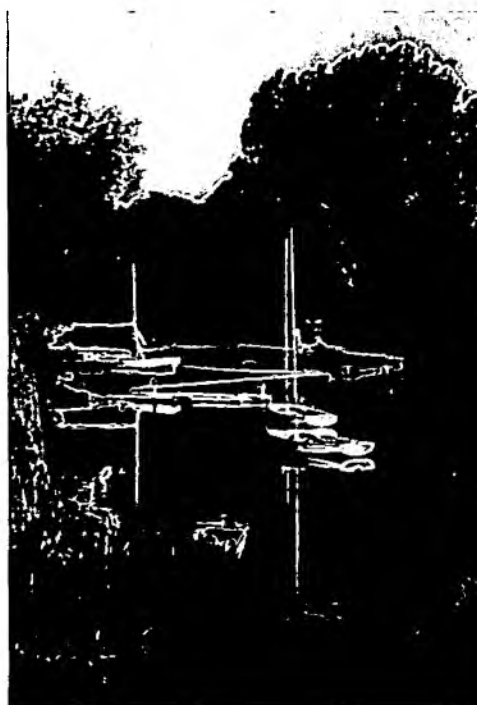
The Centre has its own workshop for repair and maintenance work.

The majority of users are local schools who use the centre between 9am and 4pm in term time.

*Key Issues:* as the Centre has been operating for schools the current staffing structure does not encourage the provision of evening courses, so there is little community use of the Centre.

*Opportunities:* to increase community use through the provision of additional novice training courses, possibly working with Sports Development Officers:

- to set up a new club, or locate an existing club on the site;
- to work more closely with the sailing club which is adjacent to the Centre.



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**Westminster Boating Base**

Dinorvic Wharf  
136 Grosvenor Road  
London  
SW1V 3JY  
0171 821 7389

A former ILEA facility which passed to Westminster City Council. A group of people worked together to raise funds to build the current centre which opened in 1976, with the aim of training young people in the skills of water sports.

*Management:* the Base is managed by a charitable Trust which raises its funds from a variety of sources, including Westminster City Council. Approximately one third of the operational costs are covered by income generated from the courses which are offered. The Base has 3 full time staff and numerous part-time and voluntary workers.

*Facilities:* the base has changing facilities, kitchen and several large function rooms, pier, sailing boats, canoes and rescue craft.

*Main Activity:* sailing and canoeing.  
*Other Activities:* the Base has become a popular venue for functions - conferences, dinners and meetings. This is an important source of revenue.

*Key Issues:* funding is always an issue as grant applications are made on an annual basis. There is also an element of conflict with some of the commercial users of the river.

*Opportunities:* to extend community use to a wider adult market, and from this generate additional income to enable the continued provision of low-cost training for young people.

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### **Water Sports Centres in the Docks**

Several of the redeveloped dock areas are now the sites of Water Sports Centres, providing safe enclosed water for novice training and club-based activities.

They include:

- The Royal Victoria Dock Water Sports Centre, which is the largest sailing centre in London. It also offers courses in canoeing, rowing and power boating on 83 acres of water. Formerly owned by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), it is now a charitable trust grant aided by the London Borough of Newham and the LDDC.
- Shadwell Basin Water Sports Centre provides 7.5 acres of water which is used for training young people in the skills of sailing.
- Surrey Docks is home to a former ILEA owned Water Sports Centre, now funded jointly by the Sports Council and the LDDC. It is currently managed by the London Borough of Southwark. Activities include sailing, windsurfing, sub-aqua and fishing.

- Some of the docks are privately owned and used for waterskiing and jet biking.



# *A* P P E N D I X 8

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## POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR RECREATION PROJECTS ON THE THAMES





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## POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR RECREATION PROJECTS ON THE THAMES

### \* European Agricultural Guarantee and Guidance Fund (EAGGF)

- Assists in part financing national agricultural aid schemes and in developing and diversifying the Community's rural area.

#### *Contact:*

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food  
Rural Structures & Grants Division  
Room 729, Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London. SW1P 3HX  
Tel: 0171-238-5651

### \* European Social Fund

- Has the task of improving employment prospects in the Community.

#### *Contact:*

The European Social Fund Unit  
Dept of Employment  
236 Grays Inn Road  
London. WC1X 8HZ  
Tel: 0171-211-4740

### \* European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

- Aims to reduce the gaps in development between the Community's regions.

#### *Contact:*

Dept of the Environment  
Regional Policy Division  
2 Marsham Street  
London. SW1P 3EB  
Tel: 0171-276-3812

### \* Financial Instruments for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG)

- Will assist in the restructuring of the fisheries sector.

#### *Contact:*

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food  
Rural Structures and Grants Division  
Room 729, Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London. SW1P 3HX  
Tel: 0171-238-5651

### \* Research Development & Demonstration Funds

- Funding for R&D in areas designed to strengthen the scientific and technological base of European industry.

#### *Contact:*

Dept of the Environment  
A319 Romney House  
42 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 3PY  
Tel: 0171-276-8365

## UK FUNDING

### \* Single Regeneration Budget

- The Budget is a fund of public money which will complement or attract other resources - public, private or voluntary. It will help to improve local areas and enhance the quality of life of local people by tackling need, stimulating wealth creation and improving competitiveness.

*Contact:*

Government Office for London  
Room 2606, Millbank Tower  
21/24 Millbank  
London. SW1P 4QU  
Tel: 0171-217-4657

Government Office for SE  
Room 518D, Charles House  
375 Kensington High Street  
London W14 8QH  
Tel: 0171-605-9021

**\* Environmental Action Fund (EAF)**

- The fund assists voluntary organisations in England which pursue the Government's environmental policies as set out in the 1990 White Paper, 'This Common Inheritance'.

The EAF is only available to voluntary organisations.

*Contact:*

Ms S A Dart  
Room A130  
Romney House  
43 Marsham Street  
London. SW1 3PY

**\* Local Projects Fund**

- To encourage and support practical environmental action by local voluntary groups in England.

*Contact:*

Local Funds Project Manager  
Civic Trust  
Design House  
5 Fazakerley Street  
Liverpool. L3 9DL  
Tel: 0151-227-3434

**\* The Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme**

- Designed to help farmers maintain efficient farming systems and meet the cost of combating pollution and conserving the countryside and its wildlife.

*Contact:*

MAFF (South East Region)  
Regional Service Centre  
Block A, Government Buildings  
Coley Park  
Reading, Berks. RG1 6DT  
Tel: 01734-581222

**\* Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme**

- Encourages farmers to adopt agricultural practices that will help to protect and enhance the environment.

*Contact:*

MAFF (South East Region)  
Regional Service Centre  
Block A, Government Buildings  
Coley Park  
Reading, Berks. RG1 6DT  
Tel: 01734-581222

**\* Groundwork**

- Funds specifically allocated to support public and private sector projects that serve to enhance the environment on the urban fringes, or exceptionally in the countryside.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission South East  
Regional Office  
4th Floor, 71 Kingsway  
London. WC2B 6ST  
Tel: 0171-831-3510

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**\* Grants for Training**

- available to organisations that wish to run a programme of countryside training courses and events.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission (headquarters)  
John Dower House  
Crescent Place  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire. GL50 3RA

**\* Volunteer Action Grants**

- available where a Rural Action network does not operate, or where proposals are not appropriate for such funding.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission (headquarters)  
John Dower House  
Crescent Place  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire. GL50 3RA

**\* Grants available to encourage enjoyment of the countryside**

- The Countryside Commission supports activities and services that ensure people are aware of the many opportunities to enjoy the countryside, and have the confidence, ability and understanding to enjoy it in a considerate way.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission South East  
Regional Office  
4th Floor, 71 Kingsway  
London. WC2B 6ST  
Tel: 0171-831-3510

**\* Grants for National Trails**

- available towards the development costs associated with the creation of a National Trail, together with subsequent maintenance and, where necessary, any future restoration costs, should they arise. In addition, support can be given for the provision of associated services, eg. accommodation, car parking, specific public transport schemes and the development of circular walks based on the Trail.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission South East  
Regional Office  
4th Floor, 71 Kingsway  
London. WC2B 6ST  
Tel: 0171-831-3510

**\* Grants for Public Rights of Way**

- In areas where the Parish Paths Partnership has not been established, grants may still be available for right of way work.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission South East,  
Regional Office  
4th Floor, 71 Kingsway  
London. WC2B 6ST  
Tel: 0171-831-3510

**\* Parish Paths Partnership**

- Designed to use the knowledge and enthusiasm of local people in improving the rights of way network in their area.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission South East  
Regional Office  
4th Floor, 71 Kingsway  
London. WC2B 6ST  
Tel: 0171-831-3510

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**\* Countryside Management Projects**

- Grant aid may be available for Countryside Management Projects. Mainly operated by local authorities, these entail a small practical team, led by a project officer, that helps to undertake small-scale conservation and visitor management tasks within a defined area of countryside.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission South East  
Regional Office  
4th Floor, 71 Kingsway  
London. WC2B 6ST  
Tel: 0171-831-3510

**\* Land Acquisitions Grant**

- In certain circumstances the Commission can provide grant aid to voluntary bodies, and sometimes public authorities, to bring land of high landscape quality or high recreational value under protective ownership.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission South East  
Regional Office  
4th Floor, 71 Kingsway  
London. WC2B 6ST  
Tel: 0171-831-3510

**\* Countryside Stewardship**

- Aims to conserve key areas of countryside and improve opportunities for public enjoyment.

*Contact:*

Countryside Commission South East  
Regional Office  
4th Floor, 71 Kingsway  
London. WC2B 6ST  
Tel: 0171-831-3510

**\* Community Action for Wildlife**

- Applications are welcome for projects which:  
Gain ground for wildlife and wild places for enjoyment and understanding.

*Contact:*

HQ Grants Section  
English Nature  
Northminster House  
Peterborough. PE1 1UA  
Tel: 01733-340345

**\* Conservation Area Grants**

- Grants are given to help preserve or improve the character and appearance of some 400 of the country's 7 500 designated conservation areas.

*Contact:*

London Grants Branch  
English Heritage  
Chesham House  
Warwick Street  
London. W1R 5RD

**\* Support for Sport**

- The Sports Council has 4 main aims:
  - \* to increase participation in sport and physical recreation;
  - \* to increase the provision and quality of new sports facilities and stimulate fuller use of existing facilities to serve the needs of the local community;
  - \* to raise the standards of performance from grass roots to international level;
  - \* to provide information and promote a general understanding of the social importance and value of sport in our society.



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*Contact:*

Sports Council (London Region)  
PO Box 480  
Crystal Palace NSC  
Ledrington Road  
London. SE19 2BQ  
Tel: 0181-778-8600

**\* National Lottery Funds**

- The Distributing bodies are required under the National Lotteries Act to ensure that:
  - \* money is spent mainly on capital projects;
  - \* partnership funding is secured from other sources;
  - \* money is distributed for projects which are of benefit to the general public or charity purposes;
  - \* projects are financially viable with resources available to pay for running and maintenance costs in the future

*Contact:*

National Heritage Memorial Fund  
Tel: 0171-930-0963

The Millennium Commission  
Tel: 0171-340-2001

National Lotteries Charities Board  
Tel: 0171-388-1277

The Sports Council  
Tel: 0171-388-1277

Arts Council for England  
Tel: 0171-333-0100

**\* Project Grants for the Environment**

- Project grants can be provided as funds and/or payment for technical assistance to: benefit wildlife conservation; promote landscape conservation and enjoyment of the countryside; and/or support environmental action as a means of strengthening communities.

*Contact:*

Rural Action  
National Development Team  
Somerford Court  
Somerford Road  
Cirencester  
Glos. GL7 1TW

**\* English Partnerships**

- The objective of English Partnerships is: "the promotion of the regeneration of areas of need through the reclamation, development or redevelopment of land and buildings."

*Contact:*

English Partnerships  
16-18 Old Queen street  
London. SW1H 9HP  
Tel: 0171-976-7070

