



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

Short-term mooring Framework

The Canal & River Trust policy for short-term moorings

The purpose of this policy is to enable regional directors to effectively manage and make decisions about short-stay moorings in their regions for the benefit of all waterway users. This may include altering, removing or creating new short-term moorings.

This policy falls under the online mooring policy.

Short Term Moorings - Definitions

Short Term moorings are all lawful towpath and offside moorings managed by the Canal & River Trust which are not designated as a long-term mooring site. The default maximum period that you can stay in the same place is 14 days. Types of short term mooring are:

Visitor mooring

A length of bank that has been designated for periods of less than 14 days. They tend to be at popular locations and time limits are designed to enable as many different boaters as possible to enjoy the use of the mooring during a cruise.

Service mooring

Locations adjacent to services (e.g. water, sewage and refuse disposal points) and local amenities (e.g. supermarket, pub or attraction). These are for use only while craft are using the facilities and short time limits apply. This may also include temporary or permanent restrictions for a specific purpose, such as a trip boat stop.

Casual mooring

Mooring up alongside the towpath during the course of a journey. These can be anywhere else along the towpath which is unsigned and where the maximum stay time is 14 days.

Accessible Moorings

A number of moorings that are generally accessible and suitable for customers with limited mobility are located sporadically around the canal network. The Canal & River Trust does not operate a disabled badge scheme for boaters. Signed accessible moorings are only advisory as the Trust does not have the powers or resources to enforce eligibility for visitors to moor at these moorings. However the Trust is committed to ensuring that accessible moorings are available across the canal network. If a disabled boater seeks to have reasonable adjustments to moor longer at short-term moorings then please refer the customer to the local licence support officer.

Business Craft

Business craft are not subject to any relaxation to the short-term mooring stay times and thus those applied to all other boating users will also be applied to business craft accordingly. If a business craft makes a request to overstay for welfare reasons, refer the customer to the local licence support officer who will follow the national process. If a change is needed to a current or new mooring to provide a permanent business mooring, then this will be dealt with by the business boating team in conjunction with the regional waterway team.

As set out in the Trust's [Online Moorings Policy](#) short term moorings will generally be free but charges may apply at some sites and advanced booking may be required.

Seasonality

In order to ensure the provision of short term moorings reflects the demand and time of year, in most case visitor short term moorings during the winter period should revert to 14 day maximum stay unless there is a clear safety or customer need for them to stay short term all year. Those that remain short term all year should be clearly signed on site. NB: For the purposes of this framework Summer = 1 April to 31 October, Winter = 1 November to 31 March

Maintaining safe navigation

The Trust has a duty to ensure that safe navigation is maintained. If the Trust deems that towpath mooring in a location are unsafe or they cause a risk to navigating craft the regional director may implement restrictions without recourse to the Framework, however they should be able to explain the reasoning for the restriction and restrictions must be clearly displayed with towpath signage.

Making changes to existing or creating new short-term moorings

Regional directors are responsible for decisions about short-term moorings in their area. If there is a proposal to change an existing, or create a new short-term mooring then answers to the following questions should be provided;

- What is the proposed change?
- Why is the change needed?
- Who will be affected by the proposed changes?
- What (if any) action will take place to mitigate the impact of the change on others?
- How will the impact of the change be reviewed?
- How have/will the views of relevant stakeholders on the proposals be/been gathered?

With the exception of any immediate changes required to maintain the safety of our navigation or associated infrastructure, the above information should be published by the regional director at least six weeks before any changes are made.

Implementing change

Changes to moorings should be published on the Trusts online notices system and signed on the towpath to inform visitors what the stay time is and to what extent the short-term moorings extend. If existing short-term moorings are being removed then old signage should be removed, but a temporary sign explaining the change and the reason for it should be erected. Changes should also be recorded on SAP so that they appear in online maps and other information drawn from this database. If a new short-term mooring is being created a new location specific code will need to be created.

Any change to an existing short-term mooring or the creation of a new short-term mooring should be trialled for a period of not less than 6 months (including a period when demand for moorings are generally greater). Notices should be placed on the Trust's website and on site (preferably in notice boards) informing customers of the changes along with details of how they can give their feedback.

The impact of any changes can be reviewed and can include;

- The usage of the short term mooring during the trial period
- Customer feedback (including complaints and compliments about the changes)
- Any knock-on impact (positive or negative) in the vicinity where the changes have taken place

At the end of the trial period the regional director should consider the above information and decide whether the changes are to remain permanently.

Mooring change process

What?	By who?	How?	When?
Proposal for changes to existing or the creation of new short-term moorings published	Boating and Customer Services Manager	On the Trust website (regional page) and onsite at the location where changes are proposed	Six weeks before any changes are implemented.
Views of relevant stakeholders are gathered	Boating and Customer Service Manager	Via direct contact with relevant stakeholders and notices at location of proposed changes including details of how people can submit their views on the proposals	Six weeks before any changes are implemented (concurrent with the period from when proposals published).
Proposals shared with the Trust's Mooring Navigation Advisory Sub-Group	National Leisure Boating Manager	Via email	Six weeks before any changes are implemented (concurrent period from when proposal published).
Changes trialled	Regional waterway team	Signage installed on site, onsite information advising how people can give their feedback on the trial, information updated in the Trust's SAP system	Trials should be for a period of not less than six months and should include at least part of a period when demand for moorings is generally higher.
Trial period reviewed	Boating and Customer Services Manager	Usage of the moorings, customer feedback Knock-on impact on adjacent areas	Not less than six months
Final decision made	Regional Director	After considering the findings from the trial period	Not more than six weeks after the end of the trial period.

Policy to be reviewed after 12 months (October 2020)

