

Basingstoke Canal

Boating Information pack



www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk



Hampshire
County Council

Updated April 2013

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Canal
Authority



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Thank you for requesting information about boating on the Basingstoke Canal. We hope the following information will help you to plan an enjoyable visit...

Why do we sell licences?

The Basingstoke Canal is an independent waterway owned and operated by Surrey and Hampshire County Councils. All craft wanting to use the navigation are required to have a licence issued by the Basingstoke Canal. The funds generated from the licences are used to help operate and maintain the Canal.

To use your boat on the Canal...

Simply complete the application form and return it to us with your payment. We will then issue you with a boat licence. If your boat is powered it is also a requirement for us to see a current Certificate of Insurance and, where applicable, a Boat Safety Certificate.

If you are visiting from the River Wey you may decide to keep this information with you and hand it to one of our Rangers at Lock 1 on the Canal so that a licence can be issued to you then. If you would like to do this please contact us by 1pm on the day before you intend to arrive.

Before going any further please check...

Dimensions of your boat

Maximum length 22m or 72ft, width 3.96m or 13ft, draft 0.91m or 3ft and height above waterline 1.7m or 5ft 10in.

Engine Size

Outboard engines that are less than 2.5hp per metre length of boat may be used. For example the maximum engine size for a boat of 6 metres (approx 20 ft) would be 15 hp.

Water Shortage

The Canal has suffered from limited water supply since it was built in the 1790's. Unfortunately, this mean the Deepcut and Brookwood flights are liable to closure when a lack of rainfall creates a shortage, usually in the Summer. Except in a true draught the remainder of the Canal (Woodham, St Johns, Mytchett pound – Greywell) is usually open for navigation year round. It is best to either telephone the Canal Centre or check our website for an update before setting off.

Which licence and how much ?

Current prices for all visiting licences are shown below. To make a booking please contact the Office on 01252 370073.

Visiting Boats	1 day	1 week (max 9 days)	2 weeks (max 16 days)	1 month
Powered boats	-	£40.00	£60.00	£90.00
Powered trail boats	-	£40.00	£60.00	-
Powered trail boat explorer tickets (30 day non-consecutive tickets over 12 month period)	-	-	-	£90.00
Retention powered boat licence scheme	£15 annual admin fee - £3 day rate			
Unpowered boats	£3.00	£12.00	-	-

Credit or debit card payments over the phone and cash and card payments at the Canal Visitor Centre in Mytchett.

Annual Navigation and mooring fees

Mooring fees are charged per metre of boat as is the case on most waterways, and is not tied to navigation licence charges.

Navigation licence charges consist of a standing charge and a lock use fee. The standing charge is determined depending on which pound your boat has it's permanent "home" mooring – and as a result how many lockless miles of navigation you have available without passing through one of the controlled sets of locks.

For lock usage there are two options, the first is an annual fee of £100 for unlimited (subject to availability) lock usage. The second option is 'pay as you go'.

For further information and prices please contact the Office on 01252 370073 or email info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk

To help you with your visit...

Using the locks

As the Canal doesn't have a major water source, there is a need to conserve water which means that we have to monitor lock usage. This includes setting opening and closing times so that gates can be sealed after the last boat has gone through each day.

Unless another boat is clearly waiting to use the lock we ask you to leave locks empty with the lower gates closed, and upper paddles shut. This is done to conserve water, and enable us to caulk the upper gates at the end of the day.

Ash lock (lock 29) please leave the lock full if heading up, or empty if heading down.

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Locks are opened by appointment only at the times set out below. To book a passage simply call the Canal Centre on (01252) 370073 by 1.00pm on the working day before you intend to go through.

Lock opening days and times

Boats need to clear Thames Lock on the River Wey by 5.00pm (2.00pm in Winter) the day before the planned entry onto the Basingstoke Canal.

Locks	Days the flights are operational	Boats can enter	Boats to be clear by
Woodham Flight Locks 1 – 6	Saturday and Sunday	Between 9.30am and 11.30am	1.30pm
St. Johns Flight Locks 7 – 11	Saturday and Sunday	Between 9.00am and 1.30pm	3.00pm
Brookwood Flight Locks 12 – 14	Friday and Monday	Between 9.00am and 2.00pm	3.00pm
Deepcut Flight Locks 15 – 28	Friday and Monday	Between 9.30am and 12.00 pm	3.00pm
Ash Lock 29	Always open (subject to water levels)		

Any boats arriving after the locking times will have to wait until the next open day.

Planned maintenance

We try and plan our maintenance work through the Winter months, however, it may be necessary to close navigation during the main season to allow for essential works to be carried out. For the latest information please contact the office on 01252 370073 or visit our website www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @TheBCATeam.

Visiting boating rules & guidance

Below are some basic rules to follow that make boating on the Canal enjoyable and safe for everyone. These form part of the Basingstoke Canal Bye-Laws and should be read by all boaters.

Speed limit

- Boats must not exceed **4 miles per hour** (i.e. walking pace).

SLOW DOWN Don't make waves!!

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Wash from boats is a major cause of bank erosion and damages bankside vegetation.

Passing craft

- Please do not overtake or pass another craft on any part of the canal without taking due precautions to avoid danger or risk to craft, the canal, any other property, persons or works.
- Please keep to the right when passing a boat.

Lock operation

- Boaters passing through locks shall be responsible for the operation of the lock and for the action taken by any other persons assisting. Where a number of craft are in a lock together their owners shall be jointly responsible for the operation of that lock.
- The gates and paddles behind the craft in a lock shall all be closed before the paddles and gates ahead of the craft are opened.
- No craft may moor in a lock chamber, but must be secured by lines held by crew members when filling or emptying the lock.
- Do not operate any lock paddles until all lock gates are closed, nor attempt to close or open any gate or paddles before the water is level on both sides of the gates to be opened.
- Please close paddles before opening lock gates, to ensure debris is not forced into the paddles holes.
- Please do not remain in a lock any longer than necessary.
- Unless another craft is intending to use the lock please leave it empty.
- Please ensure the boat is secured to the mooring bollard.
- Unpowered leisure craft, RIBS or inflatables are not allowed to go through any locks, and must be portaged around.
- Do not put ropes around the jackheads.

Moorings

- Visiting boats can moor on the towpath side of the canal for a maximum of 72 hours in any one place, then must move a minimum of one mile to a new site.
- Residential moorings are not allowed on the Basingstoke Canal. Exceptions to this are the existing houseboat moorings between Locks 1 and 3 at Woodham. These are houseboat moorings only, i.e. not for cruising boats. There may be vacancies for these, which are administered by Surrey County Council. Contact Surrey County Council Estates department.
- Annual boat licences are only available for boats with a permanent mooring on the Canal.
- Moored vessels should not be further than 4 feet from the bank nor extend beyond the centre line of the Canal.

Moorings cont..

- Vessels should not be moored in any position that would reduce the turning space in a winding hole to less than 26 metre diameter circle.
- Officers of the Basingstoke Canal may in an emergency or if other circumstances require adjust mooring lines or move a boat to another convenient mooring for as long as the Basingstoke Canal consider it necessary. If the period during which the boat is away from its normal mooring exceeds twelve hours, the owner shall be notified of the move and of the expected duration of that move.

Windlasses and paddle gear

- Only operate paddle gear with a properly constructed lock key (windlass). A Canal and River Trust type windlass can be used and the Canal Centre may have a small supply for sale.
- Always stand back from edge whilst winding up the paddle gear.
- Do not lean over the edge, stretch or reach for dropped or floating items whilst lock chamber is filling and paddle is up!
- Locking devices are in place on some paddle gear due to vandalism, these will be removed by the Ranger or Lock Keeper.

Fuel storage

- No low flash point fuel (e.g. fuel) tank or other low flash point fuel storage container shall be opened or manipulated whilst the boat is in or waiting to enter any lock chamber.

Angling

- Please slow down when approaching anglers and pass them carefully and with due regard for the position of the anglers' lines.
- Angling is not allowed from boats. Anybody wishing to fish on the Basingstoke Canal must do so from the towpath only and must be in possession of a Basingstoke Canal Angling Permit. These are available from the Canal Centre.

Water safety

- All non-swimmers are advised to use buoyancy aids while a boat is in operation.
- Swimming in the Canal is strictly prohibited.
- Ensure children are accompanied at all times.

Sound signals

- Motorised vessels shall be furnished with an efficient horn that is audible at a distance of 200 metres.

Night cruising

- Boats should avoid navigating after sundown, but where unavoidable all boats including unpowered boats must have a headlight. Navigation lights are advisable.

Swing bridges

- All swing bridges are locked by British waterways key. Please ensure that the bridge is locked once you have passed.

Drinking water, sewage & rubbish disposal

Location	Water taps	Rubbish disposal	Elsan	Pump out
Odiham Wharf	✓			✓ (Galleon Marine)
Barley Mow	✓			
Ash Lock	✓	✓		
Mytchett	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bridge Barn	✓		✓	

Public toilets

- Public toilets will be found * half mile north of Reading Road Bridge in Fleet shopping centre, *200 yards south of Ash Wharf Bridge, *Frimley Lodge Park, *300 yards south of St. Johns Locks, Woking. Toilets are also available during working hours at the Canal Centre, Mytchett.

*=Toilets include facilities for people with disabilities.

Slipways, swing bridges and water point

- Slipways are available for use with associated car parks free of charge at Barley Mow Bridge, Winchfield, Farnborough Road Aldershot, and Potters Pub Mytchett (restricted hours only).
- A standard British Waterway padlock key is needed to open water points, swing and lift bridges and slipway barriers, which can be purchased from the Canal Centre for a small charge.

Navigational map

- You should have received a free leaflet with a basic map. A more detailed map of the Canal can be purchased at the Canal Centre.

Dry dock hire

- Dry dock facilities are available at Lock 28. For more information contact the Canal Centre.

Reception Opening Hours:

April – September
10.30 – 4.45pm Tuesday – Sunday

October – March
10.30 – 4pm Tuesday – Thursday 3.45pm Friday

Boat booking hours:

April – September
9am – 4.45pm Monday – Sunday

October – March
9am - 4.45pm Monday – Thursday 3.45pm Friday

To book a passage simply call the Canal Centre on (01252) 370073 by 1.00pm on the working day before you intend to go through.

Basingstoke Canal Canal Centre
Mytchett Place Road
Mytchett
Surrey
GU16 6DD
T - 01252 370073 F – 01252 371758
Email info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk
Website www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk

Emergency contact
Basingstoke Canal Duty Ranger 07894425588 (24hr Emergency callout only)

Other useful contacts

River Wey – 01483 561389

Canal and River Trust Boat licence team – 0303 040 4040

Environment Agency – 03708 506 506

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