

KENNET AND AVON BOATING COMMUNITY

**RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY
IMPACTS OF
BRITISH WATERWAYS
POLICY ON BOAT
DWELLERS WITHOUT
MOORINGS**

INTERIM REPORT 10 OCTOBER 2011

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A: INTRODUCTION

Purpose of survey

Changes to mooring designations between Bath and Devizes were proposed by the Kennet and Avon Canal Local Mooring Strategy Steering Group in May 2011. The survey was carried out in order to assess the impact of the proposed changes on boat dwellers without moorings, on the Western end of the waterway. The results of the survey will form part of the unaffiliated boaters' submission to the Equality Impact Assessment of the Local Mooring Strategy proposals.

Methodology

A questionnaire was compiled following the example of a similar survey carried out by boaters facing similar restrictions on the Lee and Stort navigations. Paper questionnaires were delivered to all boats moored on the towpath between Bath and Devizes and to some boats between Devizes and Wootton Rivers, between 24 May and 21 June 2011. The paper questionnaire was also distributed at boaters' meetings in Bradford on Avon and Honey Street. It was uploaded to the Kennet and Avon Boating Community web site <http://kanda.boatingcommunity.org.uk> and sent by email to all the contacts on the email contact list of past boaters' meeting attendees.

Recipients were informed that the survey was being carried out by liveaboard boaters in order to compile the unaffiliated boaters' submission to the Equality Impact Assessment of the Local Mooring Strategy. All the recipients of the questionnaire were informed of the postal, in-person, email and online options to complete and return it. It was stressed that the questionnaire was anonymous; that respondents were not obliged to answer all of the questions and that the original response forms would not be disclosed to any outside party. Contact details (phone and email) were given on the forms in case of any queries from the recipients.

The questionnaire set out the proposed changes to mooring designations and time limits in detail but was not able to explain in full detail the proposed enforcement procedures or the proposed distance a boat without a mooring would be required to travel, since these decisions had not been finalised at the time the questionnaire was distributed. The questions required either yes/no or factual answers. The results were statistically analysed and distribution of responses noted, being presented with the appropriate question in Section B below as percentages of the overall sample.

Alongside the questionnaire, an audit of the current and proposed mooring designations along the towpath side of the canal between Bath and Devizes was carried out in order to quantify the effects of the proposed changes. The interim results are presented in Section C below.

Background and response rate

British Waterways figures for 2011 show that there are 37,259 boats on BW waterways of which 3,800 (10.19%) do not have a home mooring and 1,304 (3.48%) are unlicensed. According to Mark Stephens, the Kennet and Avon Canal Manager, there are 2,000 boats in total on the Kennet and Avon canal including those on permanent and marina moorings. Reportedly there are about 400 or so boats without moorings on the Kennet and Avon Canal at any one time and 175 are between Devizes and Bath. We believe that around 266 (66%)

of these are people's homes. Some 68 paper and 31 online questionnaires were returned. Some questionnaires were completed by more than one person. In total the respondents amounted to 135 adults with 37 dependent children living on 98 boats. Of the 135 adult respondents, 32 live alone, 102 live in couples and one lives in a household of 3 adults. This implies an average of 2.1 people (adults or children) living on each boat. Using this average, there are an estimated 559 adults and children living on 266 boats without moorings on the canal.

Therefore the estimated response rate for the questionnaire was 36.9 % of the population of boat dwellers without moorings on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Introduction to results

Around 83% of respondents reported that their boat was their only home and 82% stated that their boat was their only home. Some 53.6% respondents are male and 46.3% are female. Ages range from 23 to 71. The length of time living on their boat ranges from 2 months to 22 years. Some 23 families responded of whom 4 are single parent families. Only 14% of respondents reported that they receive welfare benefits; 72% do not claim benefits while 14% did not answer this question.

Significant risks of homelessness

Some 45% of respondents said that they would have to move off the waterways onto land and 41% said that they would have to move into rented accommodation as a result of the proposed mooring restrictions. Only 35% said that they would not be facing homelessness if the policy was brought to effect.

Travel to work and study locations

Some 42% of respondents said that they would or might be adversely affected by the policy in that they would be unable to get to work or place of study; only 17% said that their ability to travel to a place of work or education would not be affected.

Of the total population of 135 adult respondents, 80% work and 17% were engaged in full-time study. Some 71% said that they travelled to work. The following percentages of the total population travel to work or study either full-time or part-time in the following locations:

- 25.5% travel to Bath
- 8% travel to Bristol
- 6.5% travel to Bradford on Avon
- 2.9% travel to locations near Bath or Bradford on Avon
- 2.9% travel to Pewsey
- 2.1% travel to Devizes
- 2.1% travel to Trowbridge
- 2.1% travel to Chippenham.

Others reported that they travel to Cirencester, Erlestoke, Frome, Melksham, Radstock, Semington, Stroud, Swindon and Westbury. A minority travel further afield. Some 2.9% reported that they work or study in a variety of places.

Other key findings

- 68% of the sample have a postal address.
- 51% have annual income below £20,000, 40% are earning minimum wage or less. This is in stark contrast to society at large.
- 66% said that they are unable to afford the overstay charges proposed in the proposed mooring restrictions (with the implication that they would have to leave the waterways)
- Only 26% said that they did not face losing their boat as a result of enforcement action following the operation of the proposed mooring restrictions.
- 18% said that they would or might face bankruptcy as a consequence of the proposed mooring restrictions.
- Almost all of those studying said that they would have to end their studies as a result of the proposed mooring restrictions.
- 38% said that they would be unable to access healthcare services.

B: RESULTS OF SURVEY

The numeric responses to the survey questions are included below. These results have also been quantified into percentages. The narrative responses to questions and the additional comments from respondents have not yet been analysed. No significant correlations were found in the numeric responses.

**KANDA QUESTIONNAIRE
JULY 2011
ANALYSIS**

*(Note in this presentation some data is not included.
This data relates to questions for which a free-text response
was provided and the free-text has not yet been analysed)*

Number of records	99	
Number of live aboards	82	
Population	172	
Number of l/a boats on western K&A	175	estimate
Rate of response	<u>47%</u>	

Is your boat your only home?

	Count	
Yes	82	83%
No	5	5%
Unanswered	12	12%
	<u>99</u>	<u>100%</u>

Are you male or female?

	Count	
m	51	52%
f	44	44%
Unanswered	4	4%
	<u>99</u>	<u>100%</u>

How many adults live on your boat?

# adults	Count	pop	
1	32	32	23%
2	51	102	74%
3	1	3	2%
Unanswered	15	0	0%
	<u>99</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>100%</u>

Do you currently work?

	Count	
Yes	79	80%
No	10	10%
Unanswered	10	10%
	<u>99</u>	<u>100%</u>

Do you own your boat?

	Count	
Yes	81	82%
No	4	4%
Unanswered	14	14%
	<u>99</u>	<u>100%</u>

Are you employed? Full time or part-time?

	Count	
Yes	55	56%
No	2	2%
Unanswered	42	42%
	<u>99</u>	<u>100%</u>

Full time or part-time?

	Count	
Fulltime	35	35%
Part-time	16	16%
Unanswered	48	48%
	99	100%

How long have you lived on your boat?

	Count	
< 1 yr	3	3%
1 - 5 yrs	53	54%
6 - 10 yrs	17	17%
11 - 15 yrs	8	8%
16 - 20 yrs	3	3%
>20 yrs	3	3%
Unknown	2	2%
Unanswered	10	10%
	99	100%

Is your job permanent or temporary?

	Count	
Perm	55	57%
Temp	11	11%
Unanswered	31	32%
	97	100%

How long have you lived on the Kennet and Avon?

	Count	
< 1 yr	6	6%
1 - 5 yrs	50	51%
6 - 10 yrs	22	22%
11 - 15 yrs	6	6%
16 - 20 yrs	2	2%
>20 yrs	0	0%
Unknown	2	2%
Unanswered	11	11%
	99	100%

Are you self-employed?

	Count	
Yes	34	34%
No	16	16%
Unknown	2	2%
Unanswered	47	47%
	99	100%

Full time or part-time?

	Count	
Full-time	18	53%
Part-time	14	41%
Unanswered	2	6%
	34	100%

Do you have a land address?

	Count	
Yes	67	68%
No	17	17%
Unanswered	15	15%
	99	100%

Approx. what is your income per year?

	Count	
0 - 5k	8	8%
5k - 10k	10	10%
10k - 15k	22	22%
15k - 20k	11	11%
20k - 25k	7	7%
25k - 30k	5	5%
> 30k	5	5%
n/a	4	4%
Unanswered	27	27%
	99	100%

Are you registered to vote?

	Count	
Yes	53	54%
No	32	32%
Unanswered	14	14%
	99	100%

Are you currently studying?

	Count	
Yes	17	17%
No	58	59%
Unanswered	24	24%
	99	100%

Are you registered with a local GP?

	Count	
Yes	77	78%
No	8	8%
Unanswered	14	14%
	99	100%

Do you currently claim any benefits?

	Count	
Yes	14	14%
No	71	72%
Unanswered	14	14%
	99	100%

Do you currently claim any benefits?

How old are you?

	Count	
20 - 30	21	21%
30 - 40	26	26%
40 - 50	28	28%
50 - 60	17	17%
> 60	5	5%
Unanswered	2	2%
	99	100%

Do you have a recognised disability?

	Count	
Yes	7	7%
No	77	78%
Unanswered	15	15%
	99	100%

Are you restricted to working part time?

	Count	
Yes	14	14%
No	56	57%
n/a	6	6%
Unanswered	23	23%
	99	100%

If so why?

Do you work from your boat or travel to a place of work?

	Count	
Boat	7	7%
Travel	64	65%
both	7	7%
n/a	1	1%
Unanswered	20	20%
	99	100%

Which town or village do you work/ study in?

How do you travel to work/ college?

How will this journey be affected by the Local Mooring Strategy proposals?

Where on the canal is the furthest place from your work you can moor and still get to work?

Do you have children who are dependent on you?

# dep children	Count	
0	59	60%
1	10	10%
2	12	12%
3	1	1%
unspecified	17	17%
	99	100%

# dep children	pop	% of pop
0	0	0%
1	10	27%
2	24	65%
3	3	8%
unspecified	0	0%
	37	100%

Does your child/ children live on your boat full-time or part-time?

	Count	
full time	16	40%
part time	5	13%
other	2	5%
Unanswered	17	43%
	40	100%

Do you use local child care services? If so, in which town or village?

	Count	
Yes	9	9%
No	13	13%
n/a	40	40%
Unanswered	37	37%
	99	100%

Do you use local child care services? If so, in which town or village?

Does your child/ children go to school? If so, in which town or village?

	Count	
Yes	14	14%
No	8	8%
n/a	40	40%
Unanswered	37	37%
	99	100%

Does your child/ children go to school? If so, in which town or village?

Where on the canal is the furthest place from the school / childcare you can moor and still get your children there?

How would you be affected by these proposed mooring restrictions?

	Count	
Yes	18	18%
No	36	36%
Maybe	12	12%
Unanswered	33	33%
	99	100%

You would be unable to get to a place of work or study (too expensive/ too far/ no public transport)

	Count	
Yes	37	37%
No	17	17%
Don't know	1	1%
Maybe	6	6%
n/a	1	1%
Unanswered	37	37%
	99	100%

You would be unable to get your children to school or childcare

	Count	
Yes	10	10%
No	23	23%
Don't know	1	1%
Maybe	2	2%
n/a	14	14%
Unanswered	49	49%
	99	100%

You would have to drive extra miles per week

	Count	
Yes	26	26%
No	4	4%
Don't know	2	2%
Unanswered	67	68%
	99	100%

You would have to drive extra miles per week

	Count	
0 - 10	2	2%
>10	5	5%
>40	16	16%
n/a	3	3%
Don't know	1	1%
Unanswered	72	73%
	99	100%

You would be facing homelessness

	Count	
Yes	21	21%
No	35	35%
Maybe	5	5%
n/a	1	1%
Unanswered	37	37%
	99	100%

You would face losing your boat following BW enforcement

	Count	
Yes	29	29%
No	26	26%
Maybe	7	7%
Unanswered	37	37%
	99	100%

You would have to claim benefits

	Count	
Yes	28	28%
No	32	32%
Maybe	4	4%
Don't know	1	1%
Unanswered	34	34%
	99	100%

You would have to move into rented accommodation

	Count	
Yes	30	30%
No	29	29%
Maybe	11	11%
Don't know	1	1%
Unanswered	28	28%
	99	100%

You would have to move off the waterways onto land

	Count	
Yes	36	36%
No	22	22%
Maybe	9	9%
Don't know	2	2%
Unanswered	30	30%
	99	100%

You would be facing bankruptcy

	Count	
Yes	12	12%
No	41	41%
Maybe	6	6%
Unanswered	40	40%
	99	100%

You would be unable to continue studying

	Count	
Yes	17	17%
No	25	25%
n/a	10	10%
Unanswered	47	47%
	99	100%

You would have difficulty receiving mail

	Count	
Yes	24	24%
No	35	35%
n/a	1	1%
Unanswered	39	39%
	99	100%

You would have difficulty getting to your GP/
other health care

	Count	
Yes	38	38%
No	25	25%
Maybe	1	1%
Unanswered	35	35%
	99	100%

Other (please say)

How many patrol notices have you received in
the past year?

	Count	
0	45	45%
1	19	19%
2	8	8%
3	6	6%
4 - 9	4	4%
10 or more	1	1%
Unanswered	16	16%
	99	55%

How many CC1, CC2 or CC3 letters have you
received in the past year?

	Count	
0	73	74%
1	5	5%
2 or more	1	1%
Don't know	1	1%
Unanswered	19	19%
	99	26%

Have you been personally approached by BW staff?

	Count	
Yes	28	28%
No	54	55%
Unanswered	17	17%
	99	100%

Have you been asked for money by BW staff?

	Count	
Yes	1	1%
No	81	82%
Unanswered	17	17%
	99	100%

Have you been prevented from moving your boat because of: any of the following)

	Count	
Yes	20	20%
Unanswered	79	80%
	99	100%

Ice

	Count	
Yes	61	62%
Unanswered	38	38%
	99	100%

Weather

	Count	
Yes	28	28%
Unanswered	71	72%
	99	100%

Ill health

	Count	
Yes	29	29%
Unanswered	70	71%
	99	100%

Low water level

	Count	
Yes	40	40%
Unanswered	59	60%
	99	100%

Breakdown / awaiting repairs

	Count	
Yes	36	36%
Unanswered	63	64%
	99	100%

Other reason

	Count	
Yes	15	15%
Unanswered	84	85%
	99	100%

Reasons

How many times has this happened in one year?

	Count	
1	9	9%
2	17	17%
3	14	14%
4	13	13%
5	10	10%
> 5	12	12%
Don't know	5	5%
Unanswered	19	19%
	99	100%

Did you inform BW?

	Count	
Yes	56	57%
No	22	22%
Don't know	1	1%
Unanswered	20	20%
	99	100%

Did you inform BW?

	Count	
1 time	4	4%
2 times	2	2%
3 times	2	2%
4 times	3	3%
> 4 times	2	2%
Unanswered	86	87%
	99	100%

What length is your boat?

	Count	
30 - 35 ft	4	4%
36 - 40 ft	7	7%
40 - 45 ft	9	9%
46 - 50 ft	7	7%
50 - 55 ft	7	7%
56 - 60 ft	18	18%
60 - 65 ft	11	11%
66 - 70 ft	15	15%
> 70 ft	6	6%
Unanswered	15	15%
	99	100%

Do you have a permanent mooring for your boat?

	Count	
Yes	3	3%
No	81	82%
Unanswered	15	15%
	99	100%

Are you able to pay overstaying charges?

	Count	
Yes	10	10%
No	65	66%
Maybe	1	1%
n/a	2	2%
Unanswered	21	21%
	99	100%

What is your normal cruising range (eg Bath to Bradford on Avon)

Do you travel on the River Avon west of Bath?

	Count	
Yes	24	24%
No	58	59%
Unanswered	17	17%
	99	100%

Do you travel on the River Avon west of Bath?

C: RESULTS OF TOWPATH DESIGNATIONS AUDIT

Some 145 14-day mooring spaces will be lost. Some 92 24 to 72-hour mooring spaces will be gained. Some 49 permanent mooring spaces or "no mooring" spaces will be gained. A water tap with 4 mooring spaces will be gained. The vast majority of the loss of 14-day space and consequent gain of 24 to 72 hour, permanent or "no mooring" space will be located between Bath and Dundas.

Assumptions:

1. Average boat length 46 ft.
2. "No mooring" includes "no mooring for navigational reasons" and "no-mooring designation".
3. 14-day includes areas east of Hilperton in which the condition of the waterway means that utility runs at anything between 50% and 30% mooring capability.

APPENDIX A: SURVEY QUESTIONS

How long have you lived on your boat?

How long have you lived on the Kennet and Avon?

Is your boat your only home?

Do you own your boat? Yes No

Do you have a land address?

Are you male or female? Male Female

How old are you?

How many adults live on your boat?

How many children live on your boat?

Do you currently work? Yes No

Are you employed? Full time or part-time? Full time Part time

Is your job permanent or temporary?

Are you self-employed? Full-time or part-time? Full time Part time

Are you currently studying?

Approx. what is your income per year?

Are you registered to vote?

Are you registered with a local GP?

Do you currently claim any benefits?

Do you have a recognised disability?

Are you restricted to working part time? If so why?

Do you work from your boat or travel to a place of work?

Which town or village do you work/ study in?

How do you travel to work/ college?

How will this journey be affected by the Local Mooring Strategy proposals? Eg cost, method, distance or length of time to commute?

Where on the canal is the furthest place from your work you can moor and still get to work?

Do you have children who are dependent on you? If so, how many?

Does your child/ children live on your boat full-time or part-time?

Do you use local child care services? If so, in which town or village?

Does your child/ children go to school? If so, in which town or village?

Where on the canal is the furthest place from the school / childcare you can moor and still get your children there?

How would you be affected by these proposed mooring restrictions?

You would have to sell your boat Yes No

You would be unable to get to a place of work or study (too expensive/ too far/ no public transport) Yes No

You would be unable to get your children to school or childcare Yes No

You would have to drive _____ extra miles per week Yes No

You would be facing homelessness Yes No

You would face losing your boat following BW enforcement Yes No

You would have to claim benefits Yes No

You would have to move into rented accommodation Yes No

You would have to move off the waterways onto land Yes No

You would be facing bankruptcy Yes No

you would be unable to continue studying Yes No

You would have difficulty receiving mail Yes No

You would have difficulty getting to your GP/ other health care Yes No

Other (please say)

How many patrol notices have you received in the past year?

How many CC1, CC2 or CC3 letters have you received in the past year?

Have you been personally approached by BW staff? Yes No

Have you been asked for money by BW staff?

Have you been prevented from moving your boat because of: any of the following)

Ice

Weather

Ill health

Low water level

Breakdown/ awaiting repairs

Other reason

How many times has this happened in one year?

Did you inform BW? Yes No

What length is your boat?

Do you have a permanent mooring for your boat?

Are you able to pay overstaying charges? Yes No

What is your normal cruising range (eg Bath to Bradford on Avon)

Do you travel on the River Avon west of Bath?

Any other comments?

APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO MOORING DESIGNATIONS

Bath to Dundas

- Visitor moorings at Bath top lock to be 72 hours not 48.
- Make the stretch opposite Bath Narrowboats "No mooring" and the laybys in Sydney Gardens "No mooring".
- Extend the length of 72 hour moorings at Darlington Wharf by 210 metres towards Folly footbridge, losing 210 metres of 14 day space. Extend the length of 24 hour moorings at Darlington Wharf by 100 metres, losing 100 metres of 72 hour space.
- Change the 48 hour moorings opposite Kennet Park in Bathampton to 72 hours. Make Bathampton wharf (opposite the school) 24 hour mooring not 48.
- Remove the permanent moorings at Bathampton and make the space between the end of the wharf and the winding hole 72 hours.
- Make the stretch from the winding hole to Bathampton swing bridge 14 days (officially some of it was 48 hour but the signs had disappeared).
- Relocate the permanent moorings to the concrete stretch east of Bathampton swing bridge (opposite Jenks's), losing 245 metres of 14 day space.

- Make the 48 hour moorings at Claverton 72 hours and allow the Pumping Station to reserve 2 boat lengths on open days.
- Reduce the permit-holder moorings at Claverton by 90 metres and make this 72 hours.
- Make the stretch opposite Digger's moorings at Millbrook swing bridge (west of Dundas) "No mooring".
- Reduce the length of the 72 hour moorings west of the turnover bridge at Dundas by half and make the other half 14 days.
- Create 4 boat lengths of 24 hour moorings immediately west of the turnover bridge at Dundas, losing 4 boat lengths of 72 hour moorings.
- Dundas basin to stay 24 hours but increase the 48 hour moorings east of the aqueduct to 72 hours.

Dundas to Bradford on Avon

- Make two boat lengths by the bridge at Murhill (Easter Spot - bridge 174) 24 hours
- Change the 48 hour moorings to 14 days west of Avoncliff aqueduct, but the canal is very shallow here.
- Make the west corner of the aqueduct "no mooring" for safety reasons. Reduce the 24 hour moorings east of Avoncliff by 1 boat length and move the permit-holder moorings there west by 1 boat length, gaining 1 boat length of 14 day space.
- Put a water tap and 4 boat lengths of permanent moorings west of Meadows (Smelly) bridge (173).
- Make the 48 hour moorings above and below Bradford lock 72 hours and extend the 72 hour visitor moorings above the lock all the way to Sainsbury's bridge (171).

Bradford on Avon to Devizes

- Make the 48 hour moorings east of Bradford on Avon marina (the Street) and at Hilperton 72 hour.
- Extend the 24 hour moorings at Semington to 120 metres.
- It was also proposed to do away with all 48 hour moorings and make them either 24 or 72 hours.

Other restrictions and charges. There may be other restrictions such as:

- Setting a minimum distance that a boat without a mooring (ie a continuous cruiser) must travel before turning round.
- Limiting the time a boat without a mooring can stay in any one stretch of the canal per year and making a daily charge of around £20 to £40 to stay longer than this limit.
- A daily charge, around £20 to £40, for staying longer than the time limit on a visitor mooring, applicable to all boats.
- These daily charges to double from around £20 to around £40 if not paid on the spot on the day.
- Renewal of the boat licence to be refused unless outstanding charges are paid.