

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) for 12 month local plan for the Kennet and Avon Canal between Bath and Foxhangers.

Why is there a 12 month local plan?

The large number of moored boats on this section of the canal, complaints about boats moored in one area for long periods of time, and concerns from boaters and other stakeholders about the continued growth in boat numbers, led the Trust to support the development of a local plan for this part of the network, developed by those local to the canal.

Who did you consult about the plan?

A consultation on the waterway partnership plan was carried out between August and December 2013. An invitation to take part in the consultation was sent to the registered owners of all boats sighted on the K&A in the 12 months to June 2013, boats with a home mooring, trade boat operators on the K&A, local councils, parish councils, boat clubs, angling clubs and other stakeholders. More than 430 responses to the consultation were received. These were considered by the Trust and discussed with the K&A partnership to inform the final 12 month local plan.

Who does the plan apply to?

All boaters on the western end of the K&A between Bath and Foxhangers are asked to follow the guidance in the 12 month local plan. The guidance on the website and printed leaflet set out what the plan means for boaters with and without a home mooring. If you're still not sure what this means to you, please email any queries or questions to kamooring@canalrivertrust.org.uk or call the customer service number 0303 040 4040 during normal working hours.

What if it is reasonable in the circumstances for a boater not to move?

If boaters believe that it is 'reasonable in the circumstances' that prevent them from following all the above terms then they should contact the enforcement team (via the customer service number or email KAMooring@canalrivertrust.org.uk) immediately to notify them of the circumstances and to discuss them. The Trust will consider reasonable circumstances compassionately

What about winter moorings?

Between November and March boaters may be able to purchase a winter mooring permit (subject to eligibility criteria and availability) that would allow them to remain moored in certain locations (depending on the type of winter mooring permit). A valid winter mooring permit would exempt boaters from the terms of the 12 month local plan for the period of their permit.

What happens at the end of the 12 month local plan period?

The purpose of the interim 12 month period is to enable those boaters without a home mooring based in this area a period of time to regularise their movement so that, after this, they can then comply with the relevant legislation and the Trust's Guidance.

When will the 12 month local plan start and how will it be evaluated?

The measures in the plan will begin on 1 May 2014. The Trust will collect monitoring information and publish a summary report every three months setting out how boaters are or are not complying with the plan.

What does neighbourhood mean?

The canal between Devizes and Bath has been divided in to 14 separate areas, these are now called 'neighbourhoods'. The reference to 'neighbourhoods' in the plan means these 14 areas. You can see a map of the neighbourhoods here (insert link).

What does 20km range mean?

The 20km range means the distance between two points. The range does not mean that boats only need to travel 20km, but rather that they can restrict their journey to travelling evenly between 'neighbourhoods' within a 20km section of the local plan area.

I have a home mooring, do I need to follow the local plan?

If you're away from your home mooring and visiting the local plan area (between Bath and Foxhangers) we ask that you follow this guidance until you leave the local plan area; or, if your home mooring is within the local plan area, you return there at the end of a journey.

What changes will be made to Visitor Moorings?

All Visitor Moorings on K&A canal between Bath and Foxhangers will become 48 hour from the 1st May. This will mean that the stay time on visitor moorings that were 72 hour will be reduced and those that were 24 hour will be increased. A new 7 maximum days in a calendar month at any visitor mooring will also be introduced. These stay times will apply to all boats with the exception that holiday hire boats will be exempt from the '7 days in a calendar month' rule.

What will happen to boaters who overstay on a visitor mooring?

Anyone exceeding the single visit or maximum days in a month stay time will be subject to a daily £25 extended stay charge for each additional day (24 hour period) moored.

How will visitor moorings be monitored?

Volunteer visitor mooring rangers will be recruited to support CRT staff in taking daily sightings of boats moored at the visitor mooring sites.

How will any extended stay charges be issues?

These will be sent to the address registered for the boat, but the Trust will contact the boat license holder by phone and/or email as well to inform you that an invoice has been issued.

The local plan states that a review of the length and location of visitor moorings will take place during the next 12 month, who will undertake this and

how will I be able to have a say?

This will be carried out by the Trust working with the K&A waterways partnership. We will consult on any changes proposed to visitor moorings before these are agreed or implemented.

The local plan says that I can request my own boats sighting data from the Trust, how do I do that?

You can request this information by contacting the Canal & River Trust customer service line on 0303 040 4040 during normal working hours. The Trust will endeavour to get this information to you within 15 days.

The local plan states that a short anonymised summary of boat movements between Bath and Foxhangers will be published on a quarterly basis. Where will this information be made available?

The quarterly report will be published on the K&A waterway partnership page of the Canal & River Trust website (insert link)

The plan asks boaters to leave space between boats to accommodate anglers and for fire safety reasons, what does this mean?

We're asking boaters to use their common sense and be considerate to the needs of anglers. The local plan does not require a specific distance to be left between boats, but rather that boater leave room for anglers where possible. In most cases we expect that boaters and anglers will be able to speak with one another to accommodate each other's needs amicably.