

**Wiltshire Council**

**2017 Boaters Survey**

**Final Report**

**May 2018**

Wiltshire Council

Spatial Planning Service

Economic Development and Planning

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Appendix 1 – Survey results

Appendix 2 – Survey publication material

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In the summer of 2017 Wiltshire Council undertook a snapshot survey of the boating community on the Kennet and Avon Canal with the aim to collect information about the communities' accommodation needs. The key findings are that additional residential moorings are needed on the Canal. In addition the community would like to see infrastructure improvements to the Canal and its surroundings.
- 1.2 The findings of this survey will complement the evidence base for the Local Plan review currently underway.

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1 According to Wiltshire Council's records<sup>1</sup>, 559 people lived on a boat on the Kennet and Avon Canal either permanently or temporarily in 2013/14. Any boat that is licensed by the Navigation Authority (Canal & River Trust) may lawfully moor on the towpath for 14 days. There are up to approximately 500 permanent moorings mainly on the offside of the Canal or in marinas which although designated for leisure use have a significant percentage of residential occupation. There are currently 2 permanent moorings on the Canal in Wiltshire that have planning consent for residential mooring.
- 2.2 Section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 inserted a new Section into the Housing Act 1985 requiring that Local Authorities assess the accommodation needs of persons residing in houseboats within their district. The Government published draft guidance<sup>2</sup> in March 2016 to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs (caravans and houseboats). The Government recommends in its guidance that the local housing authority or partnership conduct a specialist survey and / or qualitative research to obtain this information.
- 2.3 The Council's Traveller Strategy Action Plan contains an action to gain intelligence and develop a better understanding of the cross-border boater community and issues in conjunction with neighbouring Local Authorities in order to inform Council policy. In order to deliver on this action and in response to the new legislative requirements Wiltshire Council has therefore undertaken a survey amongst the boating community in its area in the summer of 2017 and its results are presented in this report. They will inform the Council's work on the Local Plan and delivering its Traveller Strategy, and more specifically, planning for the needs of the boating community in its area. Consultation on the emerging Local Plan is scheduled for autumn 2018 in the published Local Development Scheme.

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<sup>1</sup> Wiltshire Council (2014): Wiltshire JSA for Health and Wellbeing

<sup>2</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government: Draft guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs - Caravans and Houseboats (March 2017)

- 2.4 This report will also be used to inform further cooperation with neighbouring local authorities who share a section of the Kennet and Avon Canal, namely: Bristol City Council; Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANES), West Berkshire Council and Reading Borough Council. Planning for the accommodation needs of boaters will also require close cooperation with the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) who controls the immediate towpath along the Canal; stakeholders such as environmental agencies; local landowners, the boating community, and others through formal and informal consultation.
- 2.5 The draft guidance states that additional information can be used in the assessments such as information on private authorised sites and moorings – numbers permitted on each site; type of planning permission; restrictions on occupancy; information from recent applications, whether successful or unsuccessful, or enforcement action; data from other service providers – e.g. health and education; information gathered by traveller groups or representative bodies.. This report focuses purely on the survey undertaken in summer 2017.

### **3. Survey scope and methodology**

- 3.1 In preparation for the survey, council officers held several meetings with neighbouring authorities and the Canal and Rivers Trust in the spring of 2017. The CRT helpfully shared the questionnaire for a survey it undertook amongst the boating community in London in 2016/7. Work undertaken by neighbouring B&NES Council also informed the development of the survey questionnaire:
- 3.2 Through the Water Space Project B&NES has been working in Partnership with the Canal & River Trust, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency to get a better understanding of the needs and requirements of live-aboard boaters in B&NES area<sup>3</sup>. Further to this B&NES undertook a Boater Survey<sup>4</sup> – 102 responses were received.
- 3.3 The questionnaire was also reviewed by the Council's New Housing Team before it went live.
- 3.4 The survey questionnaire was built to capture the essential information on need for additional moorings. However in addition it allowed for the return of general information on household demographics, type of boat used etc. A marked up copy of the questionnaire is provided at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The Wiltshire questionnaire was available online and details were made available via the boating community online network, social media, Canal & River Trust, and Wiltshire Council online publicity. It was also made available as hard copy at local libraries, health centres and surgeries to capture households with no or intermittent access to the internet. Copies were provided to the Kennet and Avon Boating

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<sup>3</sup> A project scope is included on [www.waterspacebath.org.uk](http://www.waterspacebath.org.uk)

<sup>4</sup> See the headline findings and questionnaire here:

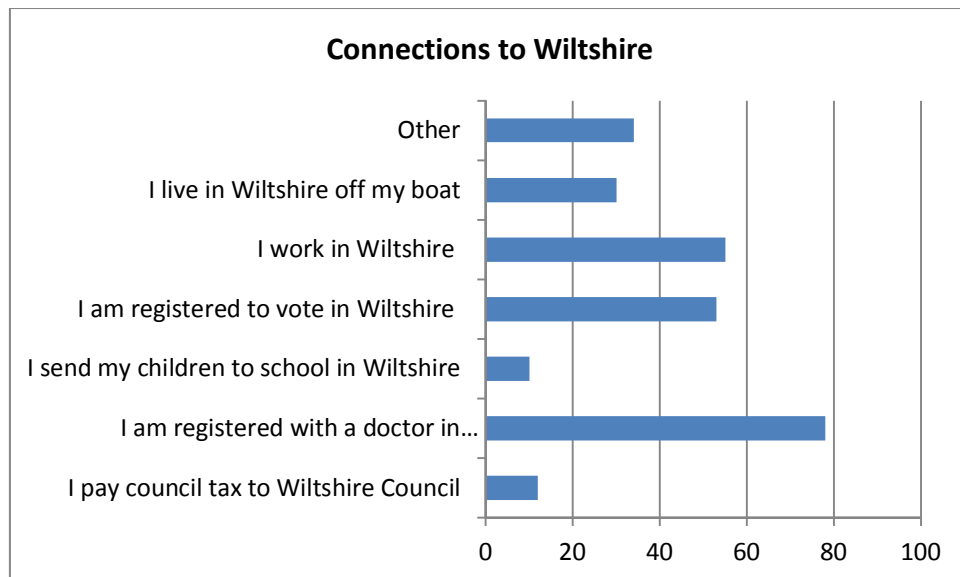
<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/river-and-canal/boater-survey-2016>

Community Group and the Julian House Travelling Community Support Service to increase survey penetration. The survey was also advertised on CRT notice boards. Selected publication material is appended to this report at Appendix 2. The survey ran during July to September 2017.

- 3.6 The survey results and responses received by letter were collected as raw data by the Council's Communities and Communication Team. Further statistical work was then undertaken by council officers. All individual survey returns remain anonymous.

## 4. Survey results

- 4.1 In total, 137 responses were received. There are approximately 500 boats used for residential purpose in Wiltshire and in 2013/14, 559 people were estimated living on a boat in the county, so this is overall a good response rate.
- 4.2 The majority of respondents stated that they use their boat as their primary home (117). 94 stated that they are continuous cruisers who live aboard most of the year. Out of the 137 respondents, 33 live on their boat with a home mooring. 97 respondents stated that they spend 365 nights on their boat and a further 20 stated that they spend approximately three quarters of the year (275 nights) on their boat. 65 respondents confirmed that they have been living over 5 years on their boat; and 39 stated between 2 and 5 years.
- 4.3 The majority of people who live on their boat the majority of the time are over 16, with the biggest age groups being those aged 45-54 (37), followed by 35-44 (36), and 55-64 (32). Only 24 people are 16 years old or younger. There were only two households who stated that 3 people lived on their boat, so the majority of households consist of only 1 or 2 people.
- 4.4 The majority of respondents stated that they have a narrow boat (100), being of 7 ft width or under (99). Most boats are of 50-70 ft length (86), whereas 40 are of 30-50 ft length. The majority of boats have 1 bedroom (75) or two bedrooms (39).
- 4.5 110 respondents own their boat outright. Only 14 respondents stated that they own their boat with a mortgage or loan; and 9 boats are in shared ownership. Only 1 respondent stated that they rent their boat privately.
- 4.6 Given their transient way of life the survey sought to find out more about respondent's local connection. More than one answer could be provided and the answers with the highest total were 'registered with a doctor in Wiltshire' (78), 'work in Wiltshire' (55), or 'registered to vote in the county' (53). The low number of respondents sending their children to school in Wiltshire (10) is roughly consistent with the low number of children who live on boats the majority of the year and are of 16 years of age or younger, as confirmed above (24).

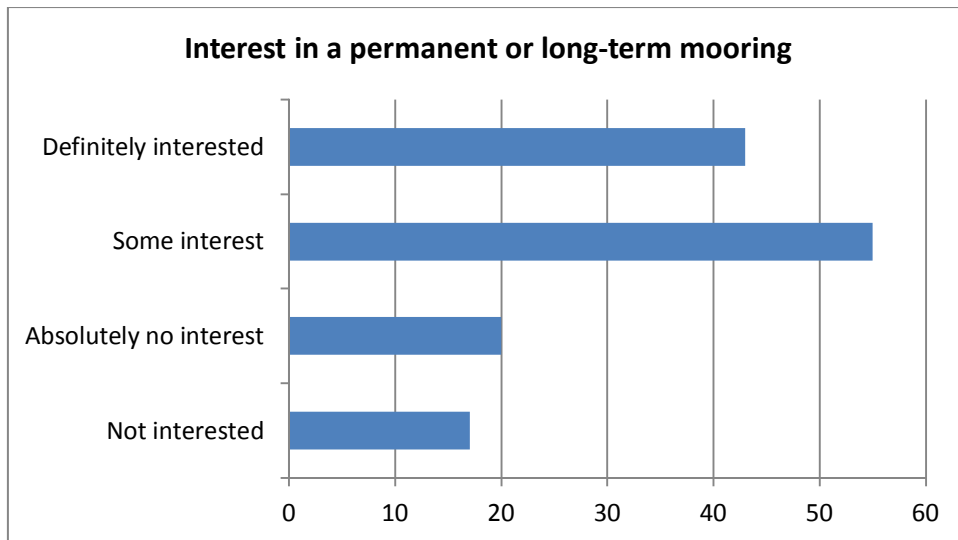


4.7 The main motivations for living on a boat were 'being attracted to the waterway environment' (114), 'sustainable low-impact living' (94), 'alternative to mainstream living' (82) and 'being part of the waterway community' (78). Living and working from a boat was only stated 23 times closely behind 'personal and family reasons' (25).

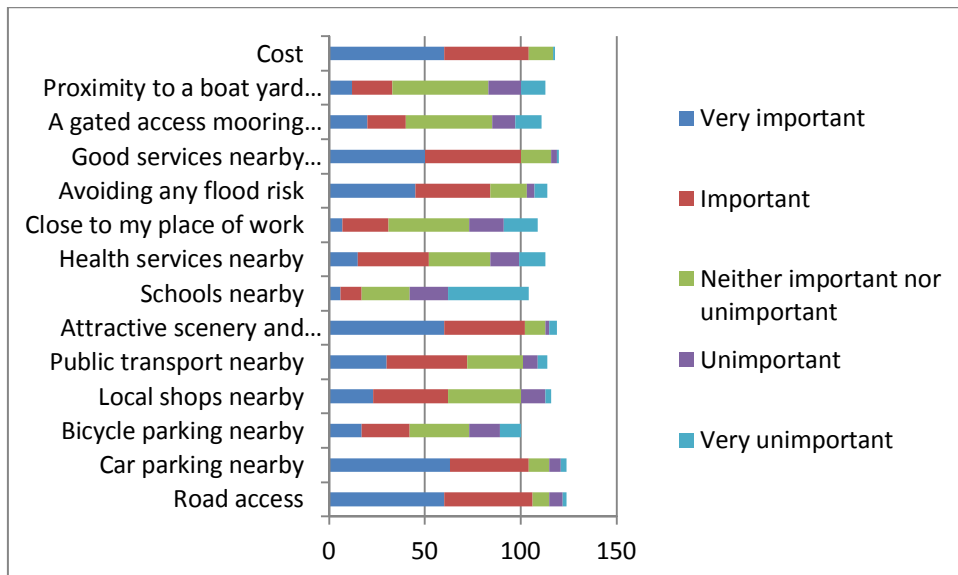
4.8 Asked if lower costs of living is a major reason for living on a boat 38 respondents neither agreed nor disagreed, but 36 agreed and 25 strongly agreed. Only 28 disagreed and 9 strongly disagreed.

4.9 Out of 137 respondents, 49 found it difficult to find access to facilities in the Wiltshire waterway area to carry out maintenance on their boat. 43 stated that it was neither easy nor difficult, and 28 said it was easy. 9 respondents stated it was very easy and 6 stated they found it was very difficult.

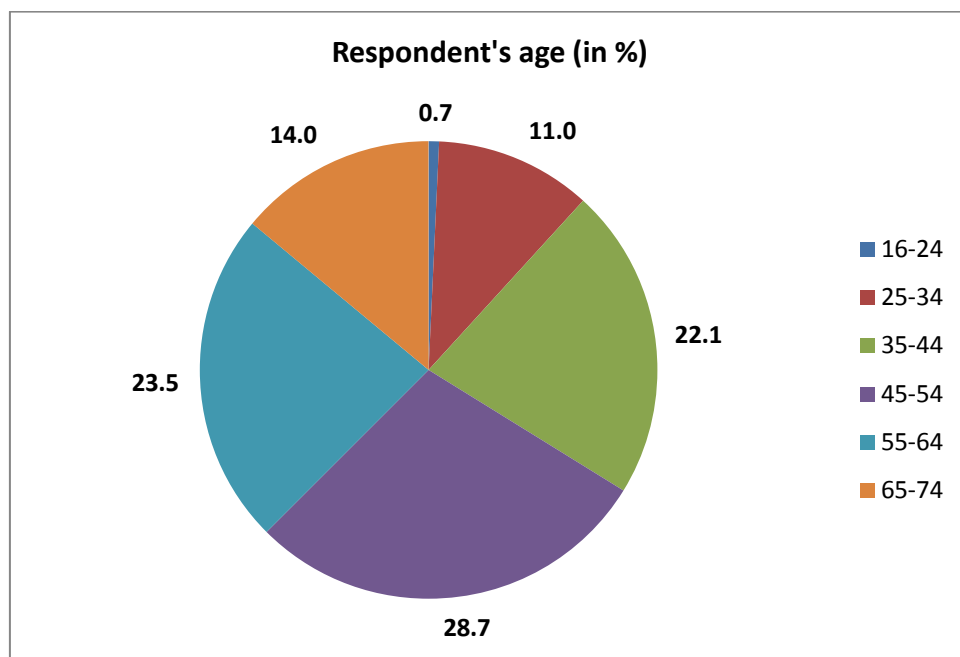
4.10 Only 37 respondents stated that they had no interest in a permanent mooring on the Canal if they were more readily available. 55 respondents said they have some interest and 43 are absolutely interested in a permanent mooring.



4.11 Households were asked which factors they would score important if they were choosing a permanent mooring with more than 1 answer possible. The highest scores went to 'car parking nearby' (63), 'road access' (60) and 'attractive scenery and surroundings' (60) which respondents deemed 'very important'. Cost (60) and good services nearby for example sewage and rubbish disposal (50) were also deemed very important or important; and so was avoiding any flood risk (45 and 39 respectively). Access to schools was mainly deemed very unimportant (42) which is consistent with the low number of children of school age living on boats. Access to health services was rated important (37) but was also rated neither important nor unimportant (32).



- 4.12 Asked which type of mooring respondents would consider taking if they wanted to move or change their current location, the most popular choice was 'a permanent mooring on the non-towpath side of the main canal with full services' (83) closely followed by 'a permanent mooring on the non-towpath side of the main canal with no services' (72) and 'a permanent mooring in a small off line canal basin or lay-by with full services' (68). Choices of permanent moorings in a marina with either no or full services were less popular (12 and 33 ticks respectively).
- 4.13 Following on from this boaters were asked which type of provider they would consider taking a mooring from. A not for profit operator, for example an RSL or community-run provider, was the option mostly preferred (101) followed by Wiltshire Council (98), a private operator (78) or the CRT (74). 31 respondents stated that they had no preference.
- 4.14 Boaters were also asked what one thing they would like to see improved on the Canal. All responses to this question can be viewed at Appendix 1. The majority of respondents would like to see more facilities like water supply and rubbish disposal; car parking; maintenance to the canal, locks and towpath; more moorings; and reduction in the number of hire boats. Asked if there were particular locations where boaters would like to see improvements, responses indicate that the entire canal should be improved. Particular locations mentioned were Bradford on Avon; and the section between Devizes-Pewsey-Hungerford.
- 4.15 Lastly boaters were asked about their gender, age and ethnicity. Out of 137 respondents, 74 stated they were male and 54 female. 6 preferred not to say. The majority of respondents were 45-55 of age (39), 55-64 (32), 35-44 (30). 19 respondents were of age 65-74; and 15 were between 25 and 34 years old.





- 4.16 Almost all respondents stated that they were of white British ethnicity (126). Out of 137 respondents, 11 considered themselves to be gypsy or traveller; 13 new traveller/new age traveller; 31 bargee; 1 fairground or circus family; and the majority of respondents stated they were none of the above.
- 4.17 Forty-five respondents stated that they were full-time employed (30 hours or more per week); employed part time (18) or self-employed (31). 26 respondents were retirees. A small number of respondents were unemployed or involved in voluntary work or carers.

#### *Selected cross-tabulation analysis*

- 4.18 In addition to the direct responses to questions it was important to look more specifically at the issue of mooring provision and whether there were correlations between responses. The findings are summarised below.
- 4.19 Ninety-eight respondents in total have some interest or a strong interest in a permanent mooring on the Canal. In terms of the types of permanent/long-term mooring considered, 58% of those who considered Wiltshire Council to be a possible provider also preferred a non-towpath mooring with full services, or, secondly, an off-line or layby with full services (51%). Cross tabulation also revealed that those who considered a not-for-profit-operator would also prefer a non-towpath mooring with full services (66 %). Unsurprisingly, 76% of 89 respondents who call their boat the primary residence and are continuous cruisers are also interested in a permanent mooring.
- 4.20 It was not possible to arrive at a definite number of moorings required to meet immediate need. While 98 respondents stated that they had some interest or a definite interest in a permanent mooring this does not necessarily translate into an immediate need for 98 moorings. As most boater households consist of 1-2 persons it could be that in a two person household both individuals responded to the survey. This cannot be verified however.

## **5. Summary of findings**

- 5.1 This survey was intended to provide information on the accommodation needs of boaters on the Kennet & Avon Canal in Wiltshire in the summer of 2017. A total of 137 responses were received. The survey was accessible online and by way of hard copy. The results suggest that living on a boat is a lifestyle choice made by people of adult age. Only a small number of those who live on a boat are of an age below 16. For this reason, household interviews may not be the most appropriate way of projecting future need. Rather, the historic net number of boats on the Canal (year on year) may point towards future need; and the findings of other studies locally and nationally, that look at houseboats as a form of affordable housing.

5.2 The key findings are that there is a need for additional moorings on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Only 33 out of 137 respondents confirmed that they have a home mooring. 98 respondents expressed some or a definite interest in a permanent mooring on the Canal although this does not necessarily translate into an immediate need for 98 moorings. Nonetheless it does indicate that additional moorings should be provided. Respondents preferred non-for-profit organisations or Wiltshire Council as a provider.

5.3 The survey also provided useful information regarding improvements the community would like to see at or in the vicinity of the Canal. In land-use planning terms, provision of moorings, road access and car parks, and points for water supply, foul water disposal, and refuse disposal/recycling points were listed as the most important improvements. Other requests for improvements are directed at the CRT who manages the waterway and immediate towpath; for example dredging and general maintenance of canal infrastructure.

5.4 Taking together this strongly indicates a need for additional moorings and improvement of infrastructure at the Kennet and Avon Canal based on what boaters said in response to the survey.

## **6. Next Steps**

The results of this survey suggest the following actions:

- Invite the Kennet and Avon Boating Community and the Canals and Rivers Trust to comment on the draft report and proposed actions.
- Discuss with neighbouring authorities how, using these findings, a better understanding of this growing population through regular, coordinated monitoring can be developed
- Publish the final report as evidence to the Wiltshire Local Plan Review.
- Develop, through the review of the Wiltshire Local Plan, a strategy for the facilities needed to support the boating community referenced in this report
- Research best practice in providing and managing permanent accommodation on the canal
- Through the Traveller Reference Group at Wiltshire review the wider role of Wiltshire Council in supporting the boating community e.g. health and social needs.

# A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

This report was generated on 10/10/17. Overall 137 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

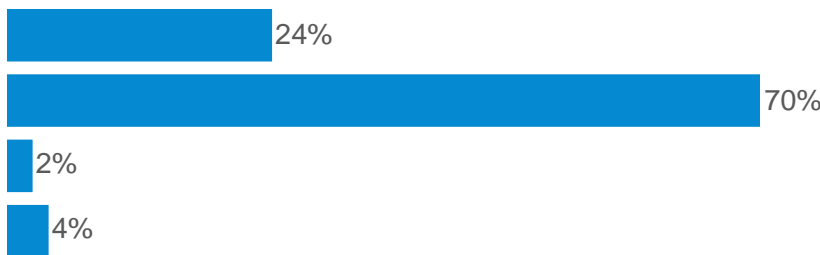
## Which of the following options best describes how you use your boat most of the time?



### (If other please say)

We spend three months in winter abroad

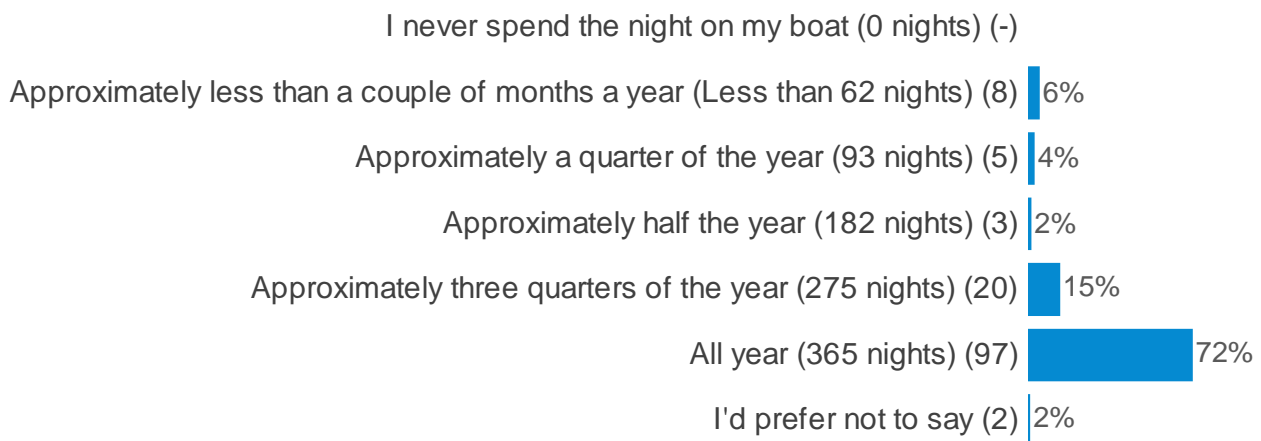
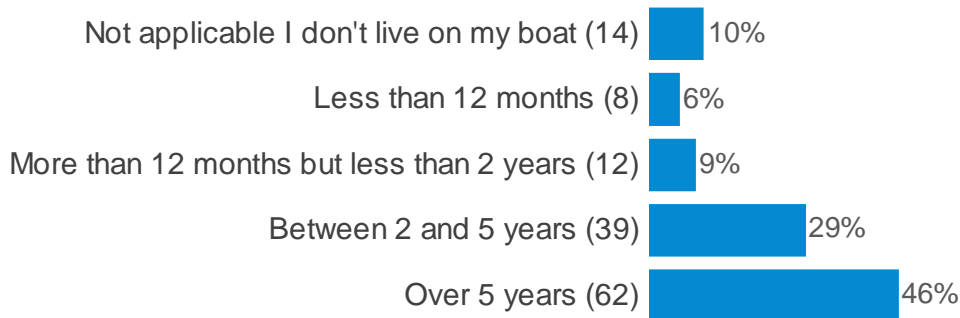
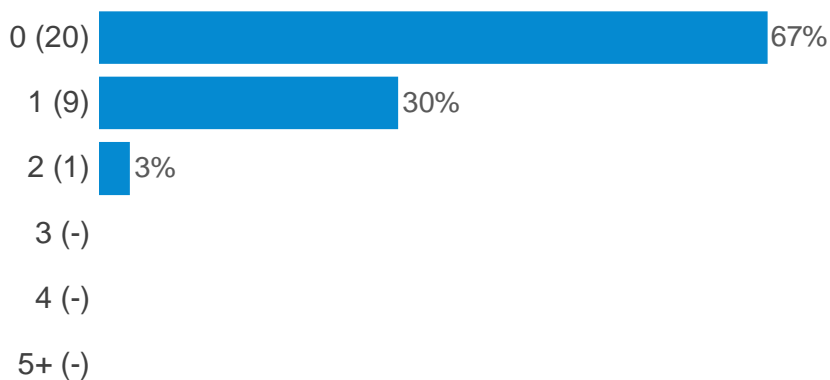
## What type of boater are you?



### (If other please say)

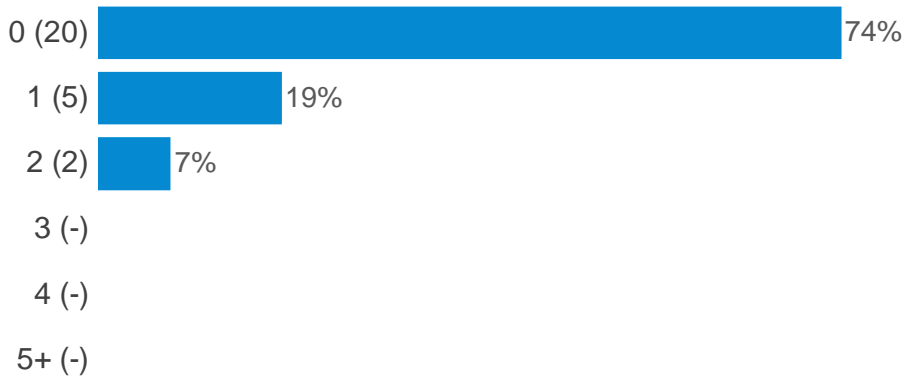
- Full time liveaboard boater without a home mooring
- continuous cruiser living aboard all year round
- a ontinuous cruiser (who lives aboard All of the year - the boat is my only residence)
- Both, I cruis in the summer and home moor in the winter
- We continues cruise except winter where we like to pull into a marina
- Cruised from Liverpool towards Devizes, winters (Oct to Mar) in marinas.
- A boat dweller without a home mooring. The term 'continuous cruiser' is offensive and inaccurate.

A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

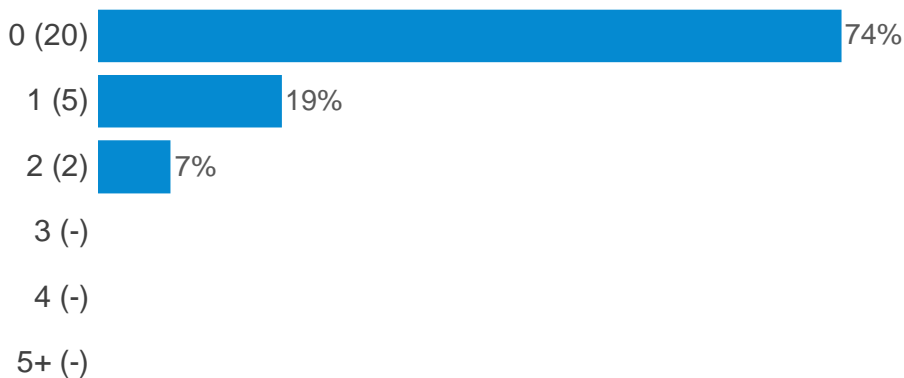
**How many nights a year do you usually spend on your boat?****If you live on your boat can you tell us how long you have been living aboard?****How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?  
(\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
(Aged 0-5)**

A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

**How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?  
(\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
(Aged 5-11)**



**How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?  
(\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
(Aged 11-16)**

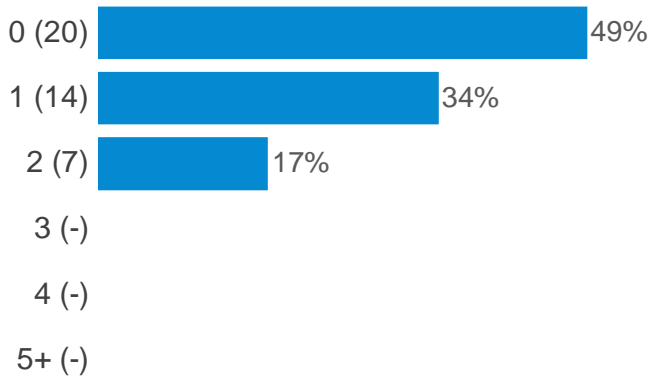


**How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?  
(\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
(Aged 16-24)**

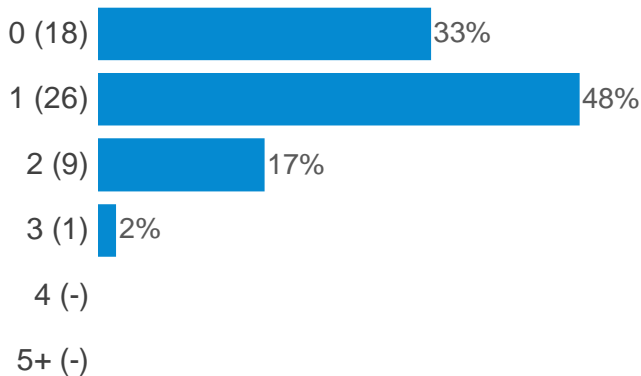


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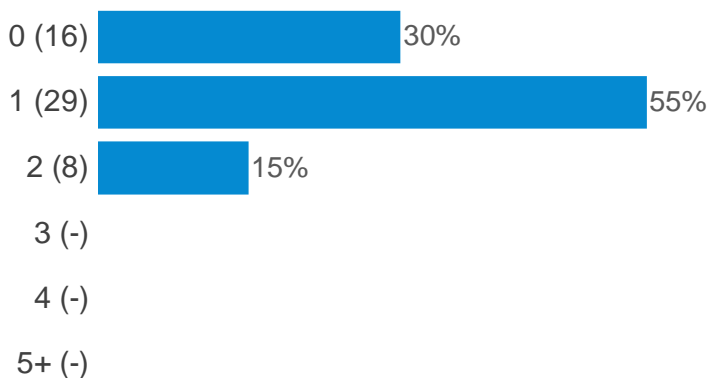
**How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?**  
 (\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
**(Aged 25-34)**



**How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?**  
 (\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
**(Aged 35-44)**

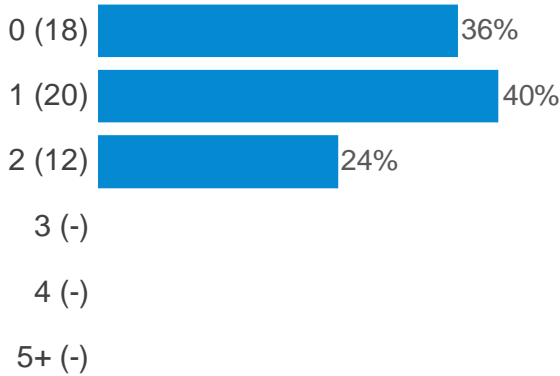


**How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?**  
 (\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
**(Aged 45-54)**

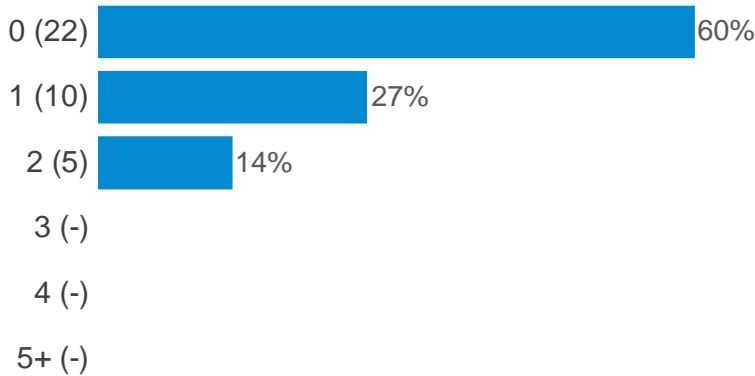


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**How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?  
(\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
(Aged 55-64)**



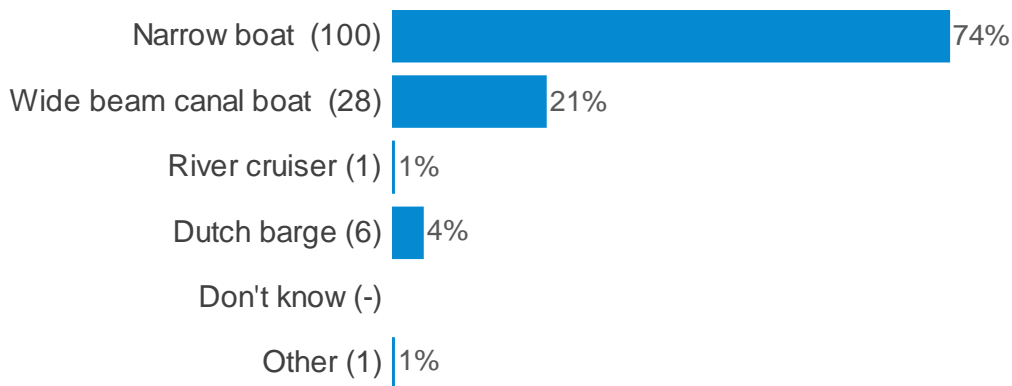
**How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?  
(\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
(Aged 65-74)**



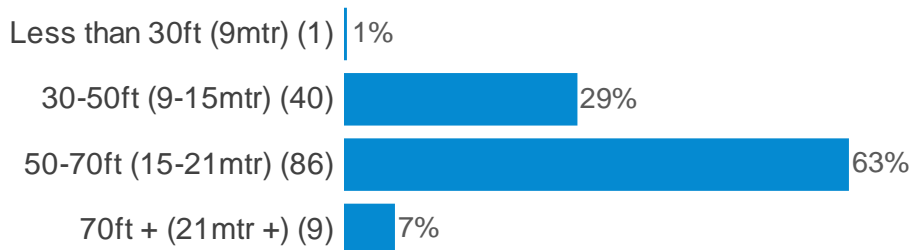
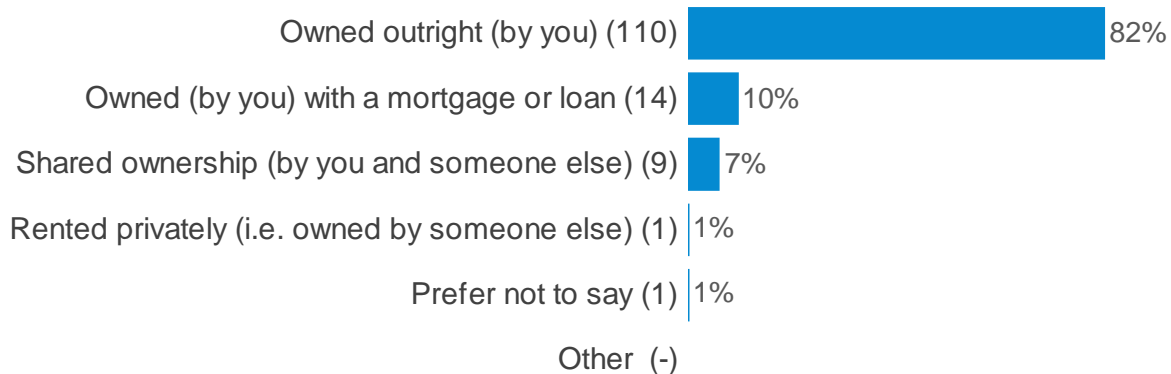
**How many people in each of the following age brackets live\* on your boat?  
(\* this is the place that is their primary home where they live the majority of the time)  
(Aged 75+)**



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**What type of boat do you have?****(If other please say)**

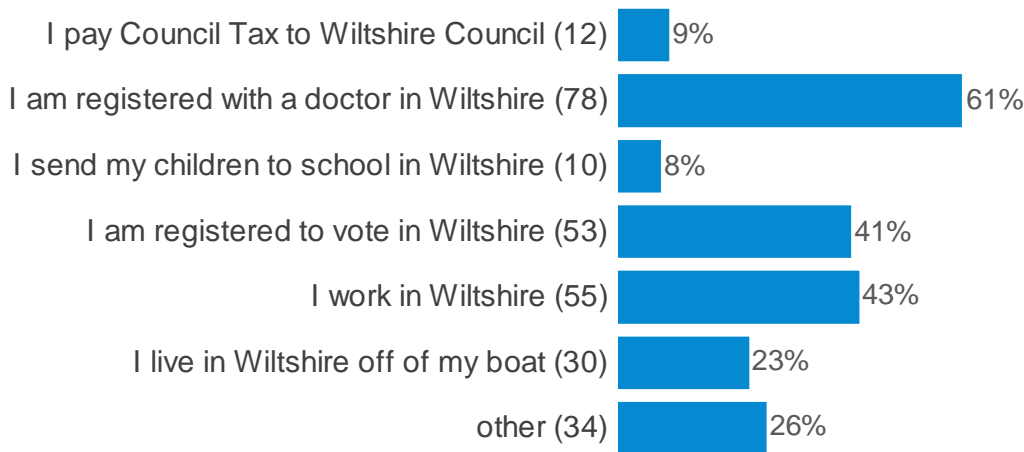
Converted British Waterways Barge

**How wide is your boat?****How long is your boat?****Is your boat?**

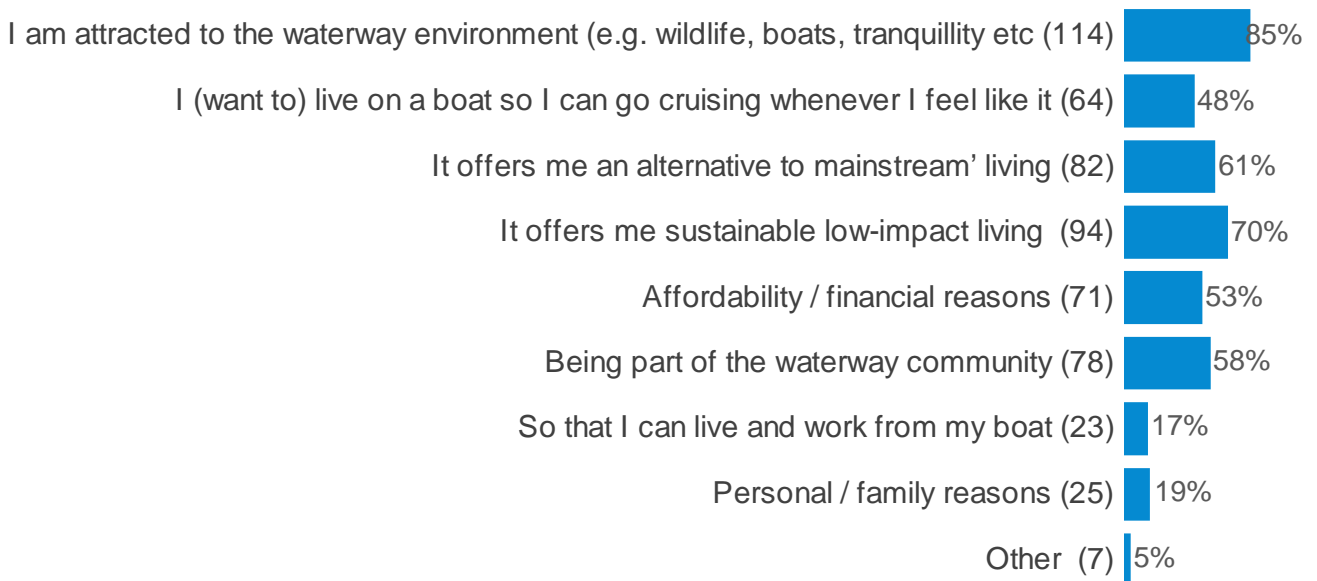


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**To help us understand if you have connections to Wiltshire can you please say which of the following apply? (you may tick more than one answer)**



**What are your main motivations for living on a boat whether that is permanently, semi permanently or just for leisure use? (you may tick more than one answer)**



**(If other please say)**

- we can't afford to rent or buy and there seems little alternative if we wanted to.

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- Have an interest in narrowboats

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- I lived permanently and full time on my boat from 991 - 2006. I have kept it as a second base since

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- Its great

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- A connection to the past and living a life more integrated with neighbours, environment and history.

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- it keeps me healthy

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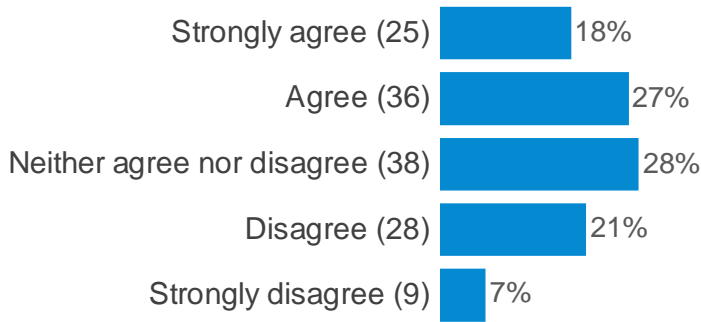
- I have always loved boats and boating and wanted my own boat - the only way to afford this is to liv

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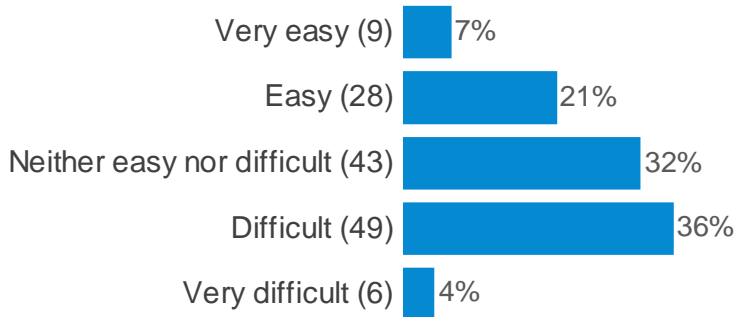
- I like boats and canals especially the history and heritage of the canals and those who worked boats

A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

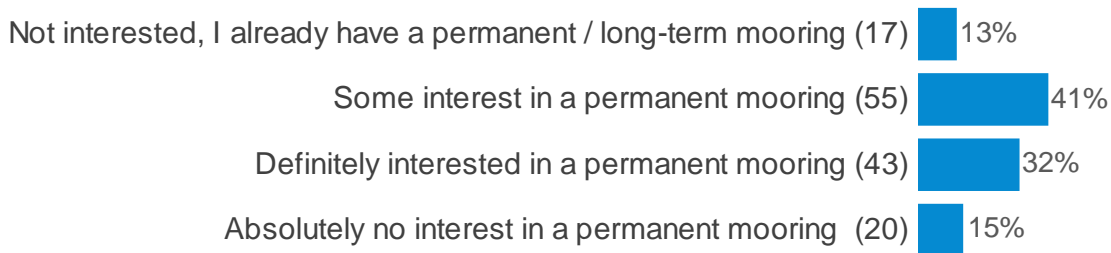
**Do you agree or disagree that a lower cost of living is a major reason for living on a boat?**



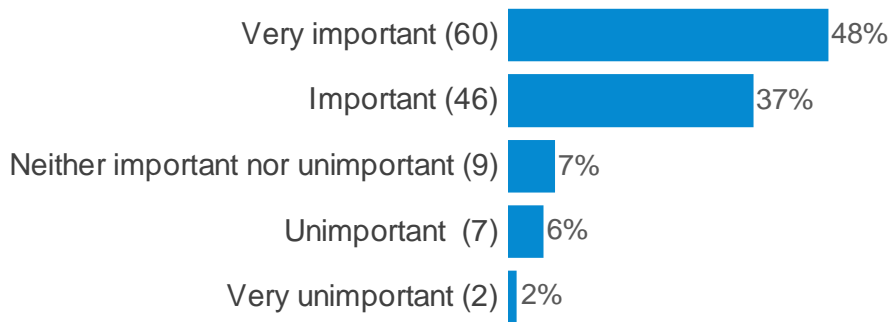
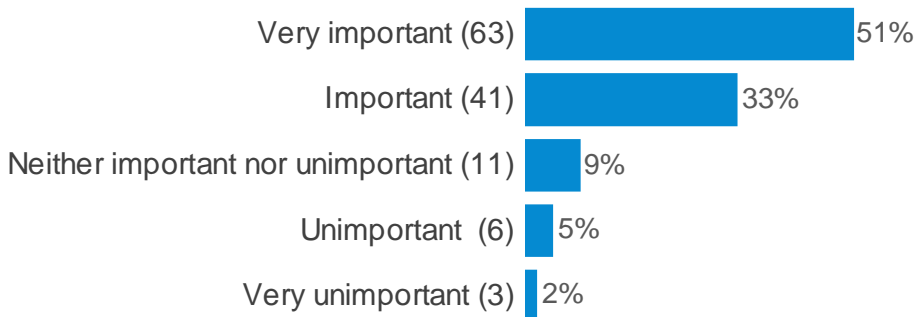
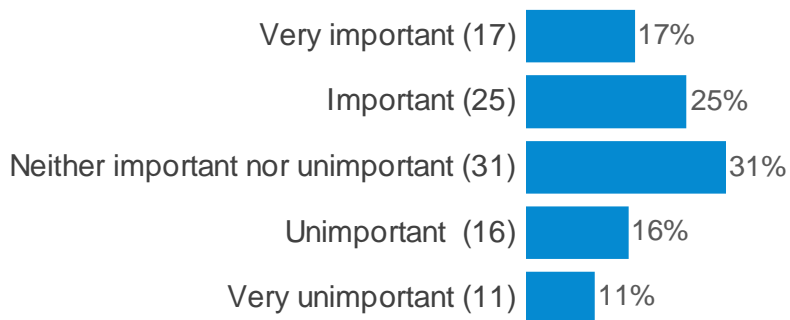
**How easy have you found it to access facilities/services in the Wiltshire waterway area to carry out maintenance on your boat?**



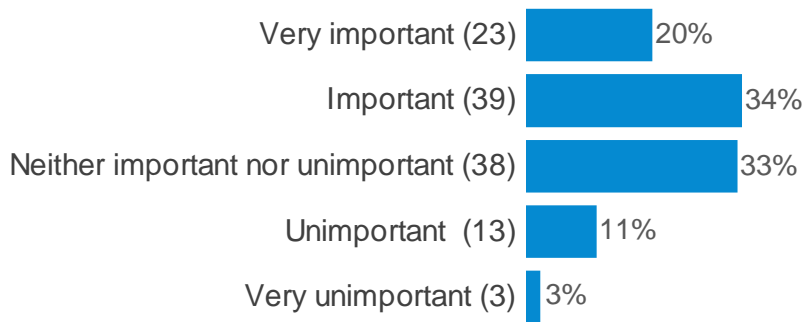
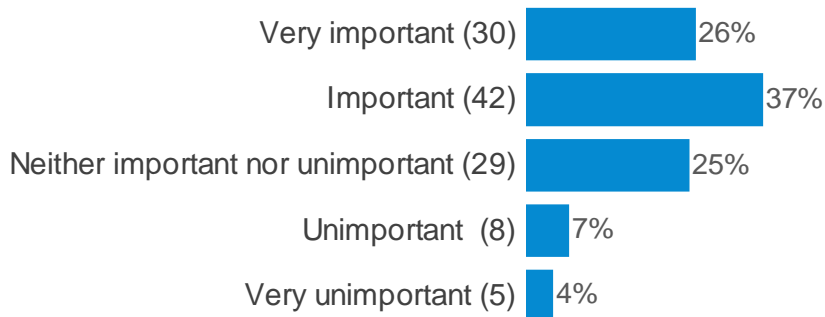
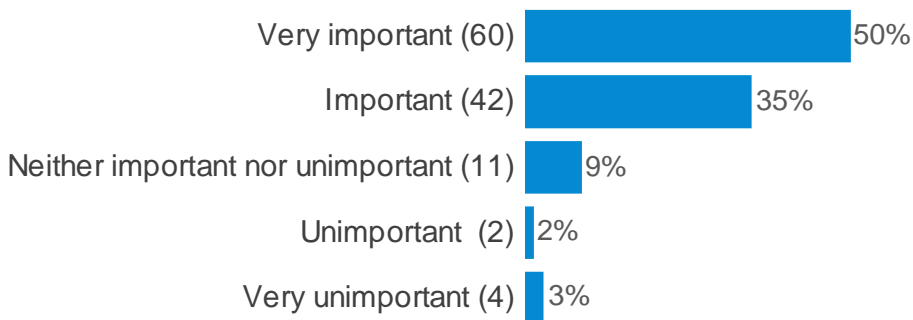
**If permanent / long-term moorings were more readily available on the K&A Canal how interested would be in taking one?**



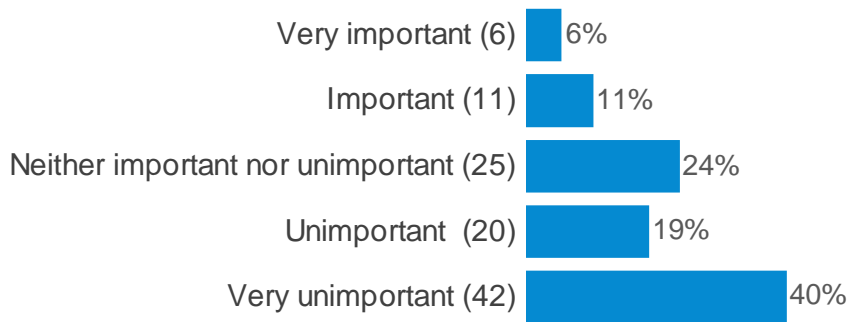
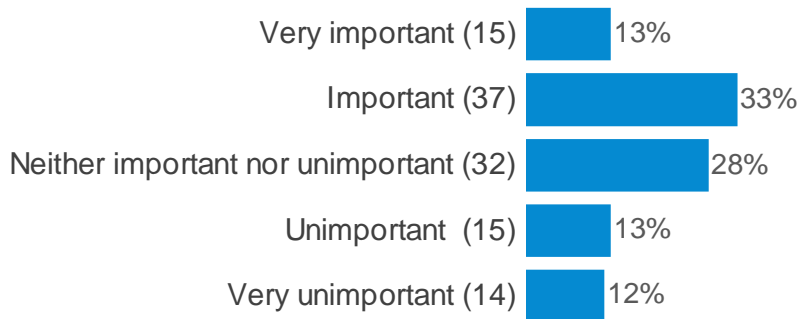
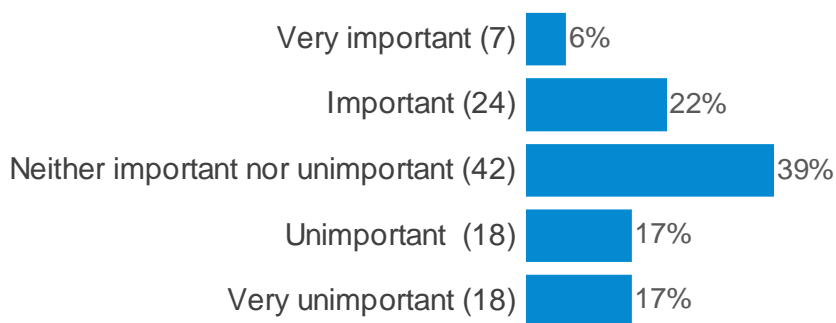
A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

**If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Road access)****If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Car parking nearby)****If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Bicycle parking nearby)**

A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

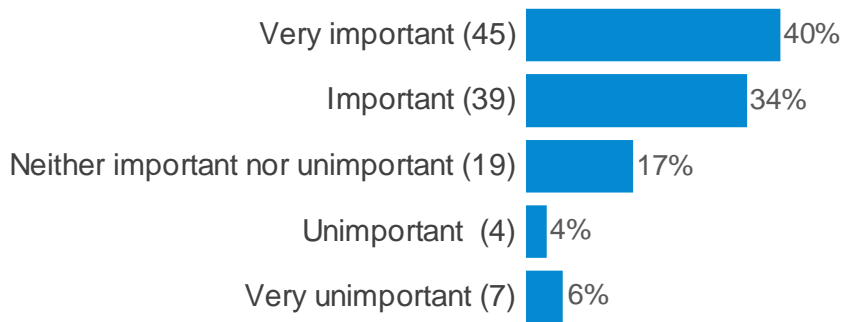
**If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Local shops nearby)****If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Public transport nearby)****If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Attractive scenery and surroundings)**

A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

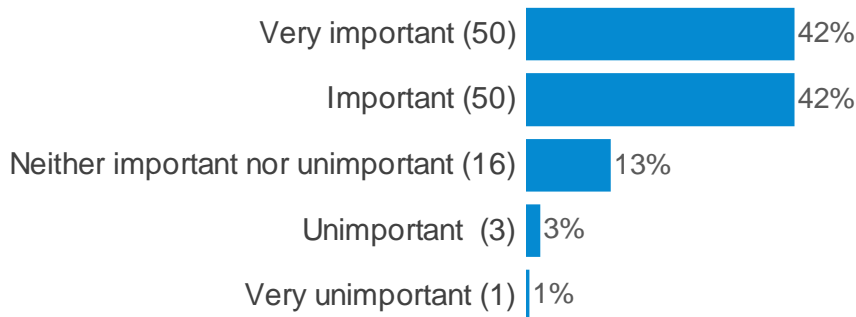
**If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Schools nearby)****If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Health services nearby)****If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Close to my place of work)**

A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

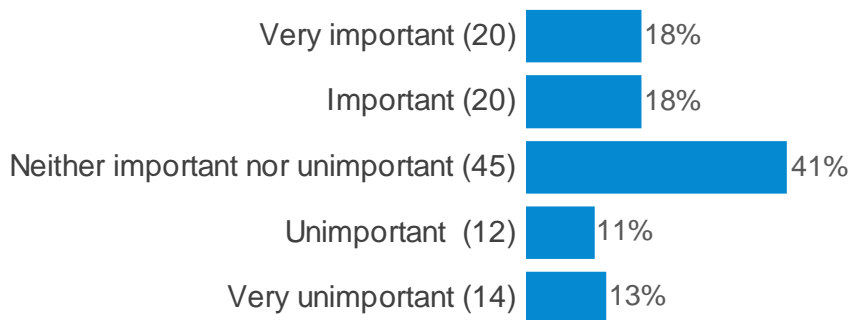
**If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Avoiding any flood risk)**



**If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Good services nearby(sewage and rubbish etc.))**

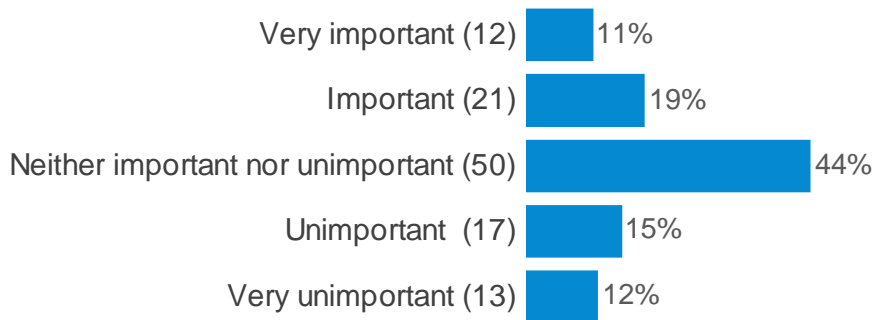


**If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (A gated access mooring for security)**

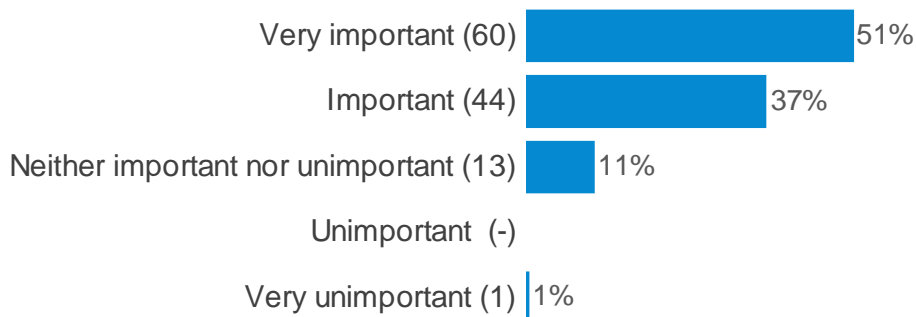


## A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

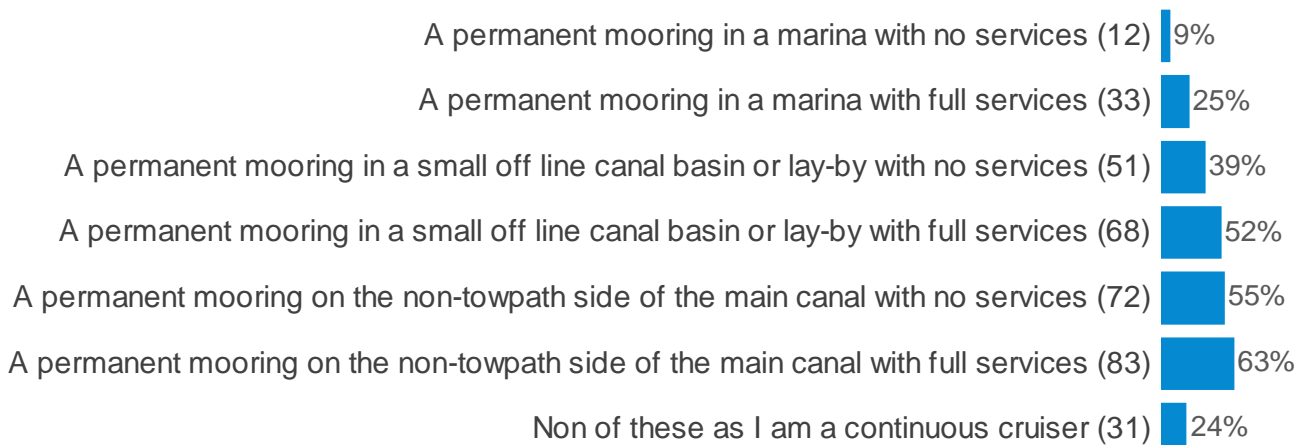
**If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Proximity to a boat yard or place I can carry out maintenance on my boat)**



**If you were choosing a permanent / long-term mooring please score how important to you are the following factors? (Cost)**

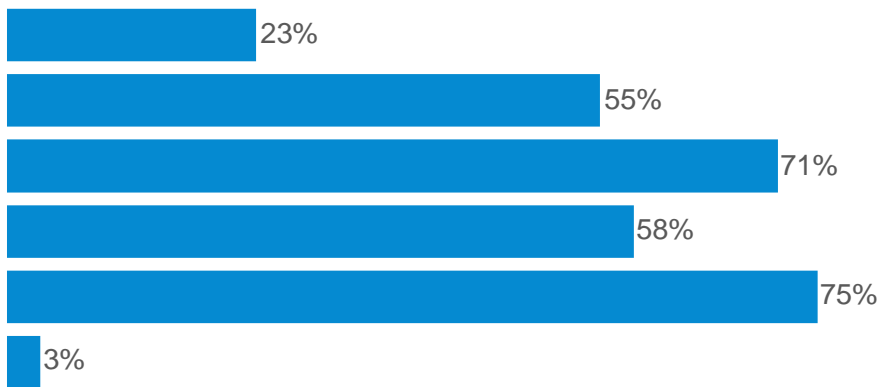


**Which type of mooring would you consider taking if you wanted to move or change your current location? You may tick more than one option**



A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

## Which type of provider would you consider taking a mooring from? You may tick more than one option



### (If other please say)

a private landowner

Options to buy a mooring or canal side plot.

We want winter mooring, cruise in the summer

I would only really consider a permanent mooring if it was owned by myself or co-owned with friends  
definitely NOT CRT

## What one thing would you like to see improved on the Kennet and Avon canal?

dredging of the sides of the canal to allow getting the boat closer to the bank for easier mooring. this also increases mooring availability

The towpath edges are very poor in many places the towpath is crumbling away. Other canals have much better, metal edges which provide more mooring spaces. The canal is very shallow and some places are not possible to moor safely as water levels change.

Facilities and parking

Water / refuse / elsan points

Lock leaks repaired, less out of control hire boats, anti social behaviour.

More water/Elsan points.

More considerate behaviour from C&RT towards live aboard boaters.

Tow path - crumbling away in places making mooring very difficult and squeezing boats together putting more pressure on the banks.

more water points

Lock and swing bridge maintenance

Maintenance to locks and servicing points.

Sort the locks out and regularly do maintenance on them

dredging of silted banks

CRT to stop making boaters constantly move further, this is making it much busier unnecessarily

That the cc actually move and don't clog up the moorings

More moorings

Dedicated parking at regular intervals

Cut back the overhanging vegetation & dredging



## A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

**What one thing would you like to see improved on the Kennet and Avon canal?**

The total disregard for the canal community and the environment by the increasing number of stag parties on hire boats, not all but most are drunk, abusive, lecherous and rude. They are drunk in charge of a 20+tonne vehicle and an accident eating to happen, does someone have to DIE before something

services - rubbish/water/elson

dredgeing and de weeding of off line basins so we could make more use of them

More water facilities

Removal of antisocial people who have no intention of following the rules.

The relationship between the boating community and CRT

Maintenance, facilities, and if wiltshire council could wrestle it off of the corrupt CRT 'Charity'

More and better maintained Elson points

Better water level maintenance. Continual cruisers with small 'territories' given simple moorings.

Tighter control of casual boat hirers - stag and hen parties particularly.

More (working) elsan points ,more parking areas.

Maintenance of infrastructure

More recycling and water points

Maintaines to locks, towpaths and parking

Ease to moor, i.e. Dredging of the canal and decent banks

Car parking near suitable mooring places

More car parking, most boaters work and this has become a serious problem

Limit the number of licences canal is becoming overcrowded

The treatment of boaters by CRT

More water points!

More service areas for water and rubbish and sewage disposal. More car parking close to the canal.

More excessable 14 day moorings

Dredging so I could have more places to moor. Not just dredging in the centre of the canal.

availability of longer term moorings for continuous criers

Increase In boat numbers has not been met with an increase in CRT services nor any increase in maintenance. Both need drastic improving.

More service areas and car parking at more regular intervals

Speed restrictions for both cyclists and boats mostly hire boats

Much tighter restrictions on hireboat companies including an enforceable upper limit on numbers.

Recycling and better facilities

Dredging

More official moorings on the river. There is a real lack of! In Wilture I would say dredge the canal so I can moor easier and not scratch the paint of which is expensive/ hard to add. The removal will cause my boat to decay

For CRT to stop prioritising the canal as a business over the liveaboards. A water point at Semington. Restrict cyclist speed. They are a danger to all others.

Less/slower bikes

More legitimacy. Uncertainty around CRT's vague policies causes a lot of stress for many boaters

Water and Sewage facilities - currently appalling! CRT have more or less used not maintaining the facilities as a tool to drive liveaboard boaters and their families off the canal.

## A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

**What one thing would you like to see improved on the Kennet and Avon canal?**

---

Parking for motor vehicles

---

All types of mooring

---

Reduce the number of speeding cyclists

---

Facilities. We need more water, rubbish and sewage points. We need more parking.

---

more recycling/water/sewage disposal

---

Crt and boater relationships

---

Services and facilities - recycling.

---

improved/more service facilities that is water points, elsan points and rubbish and recycling bins that are not overflowing

---

Reduced speed of cycling on the towpath

---

Services like water pionts bins and more elsan pionts

---

The number of main line ' constant cruisers' that don't seem to move from month to month reduced

---

Better mooring facilities

---

Moorings

---

Towpath improvement for mooring and walking

---

More private Moorings available. More amenities i.e rubbish, elsen points, water.

---

Increase provision of places for maintenance

---

People going more slowly on canal and towpath

---

. Improved maintenance of locks many of which are currently difficult to operate. Removal of boats with no licence, or safety certificate. More offline moorings for continuous cruisers who do not travel too far staying in the same small geographical area.

---

More offline moorings to uncluttered canal. Crt should not have to deal with social housing problem

---

More places to park legally and without fear of local residents complaining.

---

Dredging and bank maintenance to allow more accessible mooring

---

Permanent moorings

---

Only that local councils stop removing free parking spots. We cannot buy permits for every little place on the canal as a house dweller can, and as we move most people need a vehicle for work.

---

More mooring rings to aviod useing pegs that destroy the banks

---

Enforcement of the requirements for continuous cruising.

---

Improved moorings, e.g. poles / siding where the bank is crumbling away; fixing the shallow sides.

---

More facilities, water, rubbish disposal, elsan points, laundry, showers/toilets

---

Services

---

More closely spaced water points and sewage disposal facilities

---

Maintenance also more available mooring for those who want it

---

Dredging so we can moor closer to the bank

---

Towpath bank rebuilding with mooring rings/

---

banks being repaired ,thus making it easier to moor up

---

More dog mess bins, horrible sight seeing the bags hanging from the trees

---

For CRT to end its punitive, draconian and unlawful policy of requiring boaters without home moorings to travel a range of 15-20/ 20+ miles in the licence period in order to avoid losing their homes. Wiltshire Council should be taking action to prevent CRT from imposing this policy as it is destroyi

---

**What one thing would you like to see improved on the Kennet and Avon canal?**

More refuse and water point. preplanned parking and accessibility for boat owners in sections where there is little or none which otherwise forces longer cruises to new location

I would like to see proper dredging done to enable the historical boats (as wells others) to move around as they were designed for. I own an old BW work boat and most days I struggle to cruise as the canals appear to be too shallow for my boat that was designed for them

More facilities regularly installed and inspected and maintained to a very high standard of quality

Residential moorings

Towpath resurfaced

reduction in the amount of hire boats on western end of the navigation

Rubbish and recycling facilities

A reduction in the appalling backlog of infrastructure maintenance

Towpath moorings & dredging

stop the enforcement of 20 mile distance - its ruining people's lives, they are doing it on purpose to get rid of us, its not legal, distance not featured in the law only 14 days in one place that should be the only thing that they enforce. Get rid of totally callous CRT altogether, bring back BW.

bank improvements

improved maintenance of locks especially paddles. Increased shuttering to reduce erosian and for eas eof mooring

More lock maintenance including paddles. Better shuttering to aid mooring and stop erosian

**Is there a particular location where you would like to see these improvements?**

Along the whole of the canal

Devizes to Pewsey

Between Devizes and Pewsey..

Who canal

Bath area

Top of flight to Reading

Throughout

All of the Kennet and Avon could do with regular maintenance/improvements/upkeep. But specifically the bank is terribly eroded at Whaddon lane. The lock at BOA is very leaky. We can't moor anywhere between Avoncliff West and Limply Stock due to the structure of the canal.

All along the k and a please

All over.

All the K&A

All over tbh!

All along towpath as getting to be a problem now

Problem is everywhere.

Between sells green and Bradford on Avon

All Cannings/Bishops Cannings

The section of towpath near bath narrow boats and large stretches from Trowbridge to Sells green

All the Kennet and Avon canal

Between Devizes and Hungerford

All of it.

## A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

**Is there a particular location where you would like to see these improvements?**

---

Semington

---

Long Pound and to the East of Pewsey.

---

towpaths

---

Wilton onwards

---

Throughout the K & A

---

The whole kennet and avon

---

devizes town centre

---

Between Foxhangers and Bath

---

Between Devizes and Bath

---

The whole length

---

the entire length of the canal

---

Devizes to Bath is really bad

---

no

---

General

---

Everywhere

---

Pretty self Explanatory really... CRT are evicting boat owners from their homes often illegally. Are enforcing unfair distance rules, Failing to provide a decent level of repair on the canal causing some very dangerous conditions.

---

All along the k&a but Bradford on avon to bath is shockingly under provided for.

---

Mot particularly. But I think there are people all along who are moving just the minimum who really need to be allocated some space.

---

Devizes to Bath

---

The Long Pound

---

Long pound

---

The K&A needs this all the way along, it is far behind every other canal I have travelled on

---

Mostly from west of Bradford lock, all the way to Bath. But the whole way along really, never enough space

---

Everywhere

---

Canal network, they are fascists.

---

between Dundas and Bathampton

---

Between Bradford on Avon and Pewsey

---

Everywhere.

---

Trowbridge area

---

No. They should be evenly spread to facilitate cruising

---

Full length of the canal

---

Everywhere

---

Between Dundas basin and Semington.

---

River- Between the edge of bath (Weston lock) and Bristol. Wiltshire- everywhere

---

Stop double yellow lining all road side parking for boaters everywhere please. Seend and Claverton plus Bradford on Avon.

---

Between Bradford on Avon and Bath

---

Bradford on Avaon

---

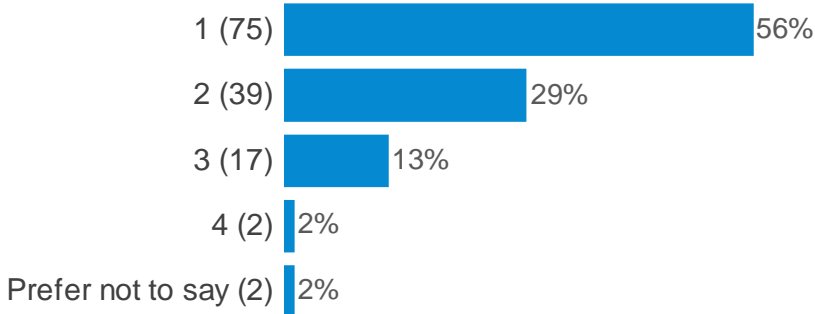
**Is there a particular location where you would like to see these improvements?**

- The 15 mile long pound between Devizes and Wooton Rivers.
- between Devizes and Hungerford
- Bradford on avon
- Hungerford and westwards.
- recycling at every disposal point. A disposal point at Honeystreet. A water point at All Cannings and an elsan disposal. A water point and elsan disposal at Semington
- Western end, Bath through to Semington.
- Devize to bath
- Everywhere
- No - pretty much along the length of the canal
- anywhere between Pewsey and Hungerford
- No
- Tween Hungerford and Pewsey
- All along the canal but particularly west of Semmington to Bath
- Between Hilperton and Bath
- Wilton wide water could be a place to stay for three months cheap rate, max.
- All over the canal in Wiltshire.
- Most of the canal
- Between Hanham and Bathampton
- I think it's a problem along the entire length. Double yellows are put in places where previously only boat dwellers would have any use to park their cars. The only reason for this would seem to be to appease a nearby household, but this forces us to park in cul-de-sacs etc outside more houses.
- Right along the canal - the present situation is totally out of control and unfair to those of us who are willing to pay our fair share of the costs
- Bradford on Avon; Avoncliff
- every 5 miles would be good
- Between Crofton and Devises
- Semington springs to mind, and everywhere there is more than two hours cruising time to reach a current facility.
- Bradford on Avon and Hilperton
- all along the canal....CRT are not maintaining the canal properly
- Everywhere on CRT waters and please provide more space for the answers to this questionnaire
- Between bridge Inn and Pewsey
- Particularly bad between Limply Stoke and Avoncliff.
- Bradford on Avon service points
- Widbrook/Bradford on Avon/Avoncliffe/Muir-hill
- Wiltshire
- Caen Hill to Bath
- Applies to all stretches.
- the whole of CRT waterways
- no
- The whole length of the canal

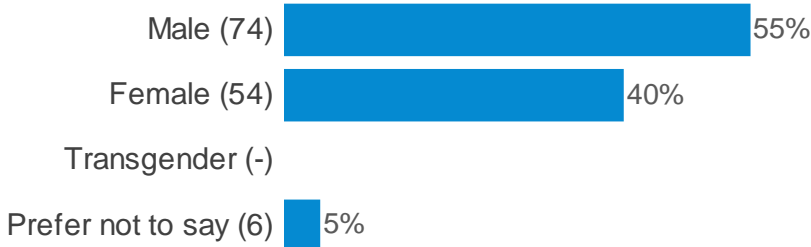
## Is there a particular location where you would like to see these improvements?

All the way along

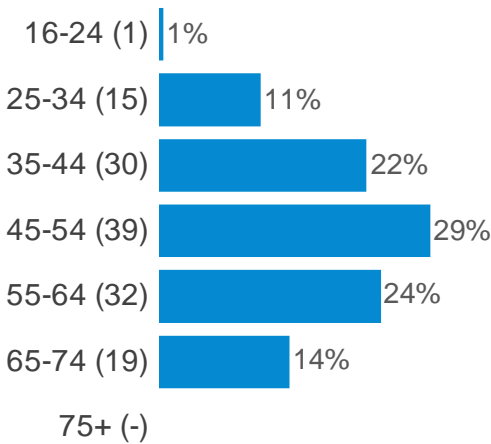
### How many bedrooms does your boat have?



### How do you define your gender?

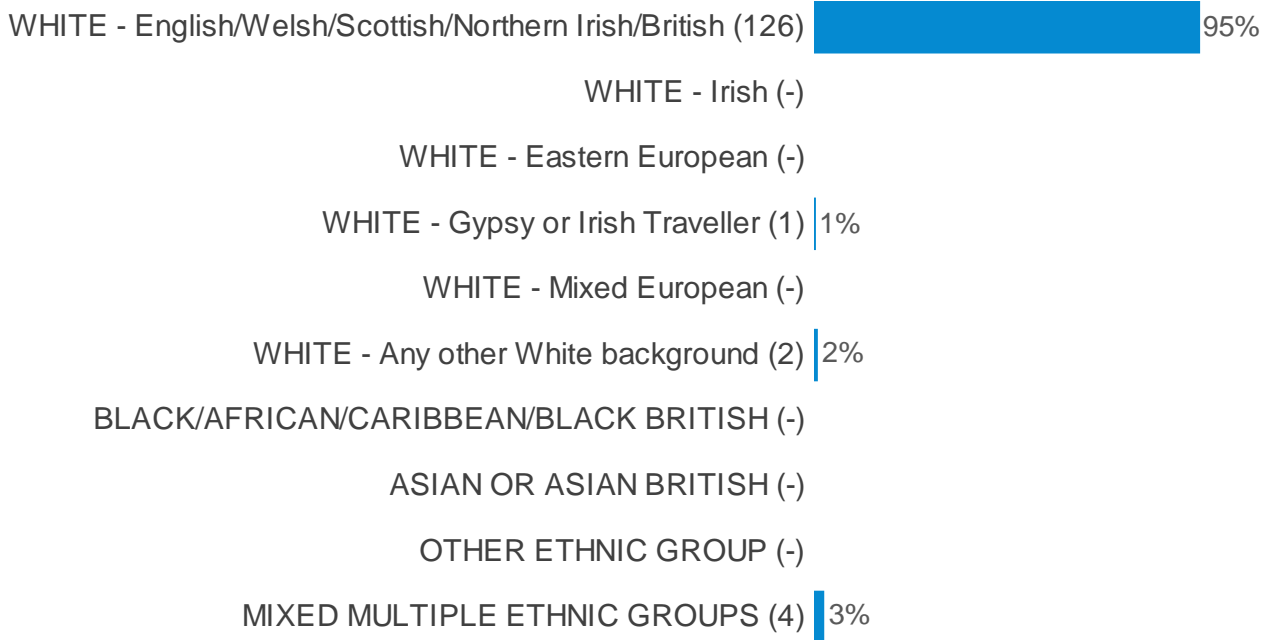


### What is your age range

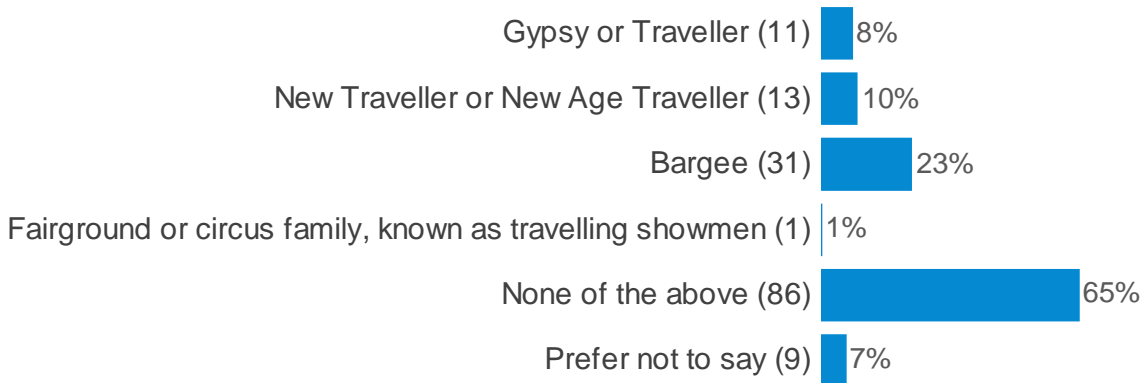


A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

**How would you define your ethnic group?**

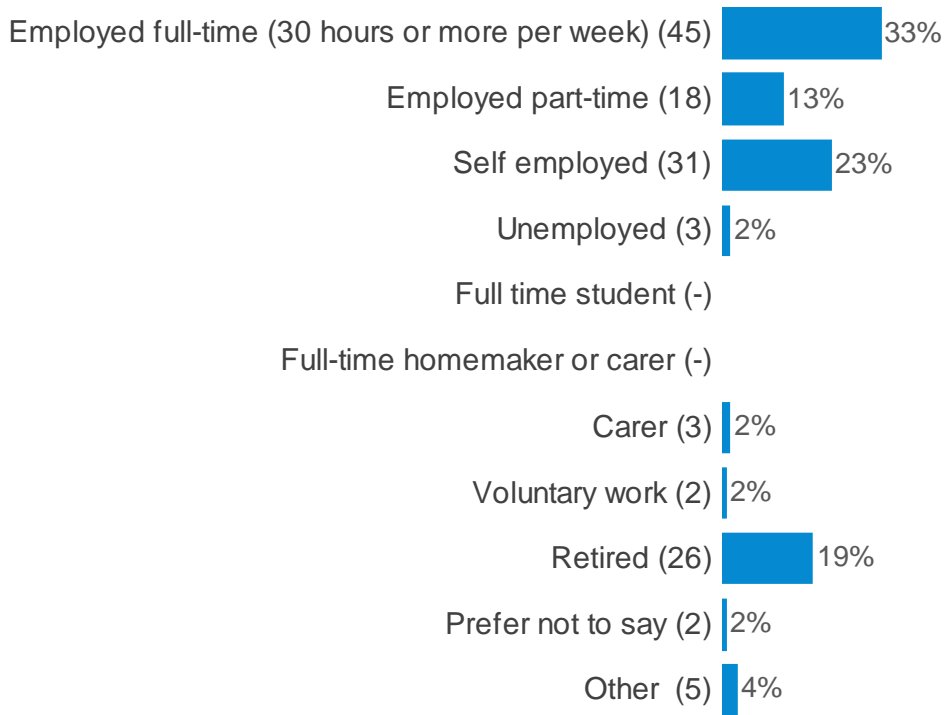


**Do you consider yourself to be any of the following? (select any that apply)**



A survey of Wiltshire inland boat owners

**Please indicate which of the following options best describes your current status?**





## APPENDIX 2

### Survey Publication Material

#### Email

“I would be grateful if you could publicise this in any way you think will help us get a meaningful result. The copy we are using is:

Wiltshire Council has been asked by Government to assess the housing needs of those who use a boat as their primary residence and is inviting boat dwellers in Wiltshire to complete an online survey:

Wiltshire Inland waterways

survey (<https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=150088600215>)

The survey will be open until 30<sup>th</sup> September and will help the Authority to have a clearer view of the needs of those living on the Kennet & Avon Canal.

For further information email: [canals@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:canals@wiltshire.gov.uk)”

Sent to:

Canal & River Trust; BANES Council; Julian House

Via Wiltshire Council Website



The screenshot shows the Wiltshire Council website with a dark green header. The navigation menu includes Home, Pay, Report, Apply, Services, News, and Consultations. The page title is 'NEWS' and the breadcrumb trail is 'Home > News > Residential boaters survey'. The main content area features a date of '09 August 2017' and social sharing icons for Facebook (1), Twitter (0), LinkedIn (0), and Email (1). The headline is 'Residential boaters survey'. Below the headline is a photograph of a green and red narrowboat on a canal, with a person standing on the deck. The text below the image states: 'We are assessing the housing needs of those who use a boat as their primary residence and are inviting boat dwellers in Wiltshire to complete an **online survey**. The survey will be open until Saturday 30 September and will help us have a clearer view of the needs of those living on the Kennet & Avon Canal. For further information email [canals@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:canals@wiltshire.gov.uk). Last updated: 9 August 2017 | Last reviewed: 9 August 2017'. On the right side, there is a 'News Categories' sidebar with a list of categories: Bradford on Avon, Calne, Campuses, Chippenham, Corsham, Devizes, Economic Development, Health and Social Care, Highways and Transport, Leisure, Libraries, Marlborough, Melksham, Planning, Royal Wootton Bassett, Rubbish and Recycling, Salisbury, Schools and Learning, and Trowbridge.

# Kennet and Avon Boating Community Website

A resource for all boaters who live on and visit the Western end of the Kennet and Avon Canal

## Wiltshire boat dwellers survey available on paper

Paper copies of the Wiltshire Council boat dwellers survey are available for those who need them. You can collect a copy from Bradford on Avon, Devizes or Pewsey libraries. They will also be available on the Boaters' Cafe Club outreach boat run by Julian House Gypsy, Traveller, Boater & Roma Community Support Service, which will be at Bradford Lower Wharf next Tuesday 5th September 12pm to 4pm. There may also be some distributed from boats in the Long Pound. Please pass this news on to anyone you know who might need it.



Wiltshire Council is carrying out an assessment of the housing needs of people who use a boat as their main home and is inviting boat dwellers both with and without a home mooring in Wiltshire to complete a survey. If you are permanently or temporarily in Wiltshire, or you travel through Wiltshire please take part. The survey is online and the Council is also going to make paper copies available. We will publicise how you can get a paper copy as soon as possible.

The survey is anonymous, so you will not be asked for any personal details or for your mooring location if you have one.

The survey will be open until 30th September and will help the Council to have a clearer view of the needs of those living on the Kennet & Avon Canal, 40 miles of which are in the county.

If you want to complete the survey online it is here  
<https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=150088600215>

For more information see  
<http://kanda.boatingcommunity.org.uk/wiltshire-council-to-assess-housing-needs-of-boat-dwellers-please-complete-survey-by-30th-september/>

Tags: Accommodation Needs Assessment, Boats with home moorings., Housing and Planning Act 2016, housing needs, liveaboards, survey, traveller's rights, Wiltshire, Wiltshire County

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### Recent Posts

- 🔍 Licence review outcome threatens return of discredited local mooring strategies
- 🔍 Gypsy, Traveller and Boater Outreach Job at Julian House: closing date Tuesday 20th March
- 🔍 Boaters invited to community defibrillator training, Bedwyn, 15th March
- 🔍 Boat Fire Safety Talk, Bathampton, 12th March
- 🔍 Outreach boat at Darlington Wharf, 6th March – come and fix your bike with help from Julian House bike workshop
- 🔍 CRT making contingency plans for "second dry winter" as ground water levels only just recover

### Pages

- 🔍 Welcome
- 🔍 So what's this website about?
- 🔍 Latest Posts in Brief
- 🔍 K&A Boaters' Code of Conduct
- 🔍 Log your hire boat complaints here
- 🔍 Trusted Tradespeople
- 🔍 Useful Contacts

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- 🔍 Community (302)
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  - 🔍 Events (72)
  - 🔍 Lifestyle (92)
    - 🔍 Boating (8)
    - 🔍 Health (22)
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- 🔍 CRT (252)
  - 🔍 BW Policy News and FOI Act Requests (111)
  - 🔍 CRT Policy News (74)
  - 🔍 FOI Act requests (11)
  - 🔍 Letters to BW and others (64)
- 🔍 Mooring (256)
  - 🔍 Continuous Cruisers (190)
  - 🔍 Mooring Strategy Committee (34)
  - 🔍 Moorings Consultation (78)
- 🔍 News (541)
  - 🔍 Opinion (38)
  - 🔍 The Law (89)
  - 🔍 The Politick (44)