



CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM
Clayhithe Office, Horningsea, Cambridge, CB25 9JB
Tel: 01223 863785
www.camconservancy.org

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION 2015/16
River Cam Conservancy Act 1922 and byelaws

1. Definitions

Cam Conservancy Area: The River Cam between King's Mill and Newnham Mill Ponds, and Bottisham Lock, including connected backwaters, as more particularly defined in Section 13 of the River Cam Conservancy Act 1922.

Conservancy Based Vessel: Any power driven vessel which is kept in the Cam Conservancy Area when not being used for cruising and shall include

(a) any power driven vessel in respect of which there is a right or licence to moor in the Cam Conservancy Area for a period or periods exceeding ninety days, or

(b) any power driven vessel which has been present in the Cam Conservancy Area for a period or periods exceeding ninety days during the twelve months immediately preceding the registration year for which registration is sought except where the owner declares that the vessel is now based elsewhere and the vessel is in fact so based.

Houseboats: A 'houseboat' is defined in the Byelaws as 'a vessel (including any power driven vessel from which the means of propulsion has been removed) which is decked or otherwise structurally covered in and which is primarily intended not as a means of transport but as a place of habitation (whether by day and night or one or the other) or as a place for accommodation or receiving persons for the purpose of shelter, recreation, entertainment, or of witnessing regattas or other events, or as club premises, or as an office or as a kitchen, pantry or store place.' Therefore if a boat has an engine, whether or not it is in working order, it is not a houseboat and the registration category will be that which refers to the length of the boat and the size of the engine.

Owner: The Byelaws define "Owner" as 'the person whose name appears in the registration records of the Conservators for such craft or should have appeared there had the vessel been registered with the Conservators'.

The word "owner" shall have that meaning wherever it appears in any Conservancy documents.

Recognised Member Organisation (RMO or Class A) when applied to a vessel, means a vessel which is owned and operated by a 'Recognised Member Organisation' and used exclusively and solely by its members or its or their non-paying guests. 'Recognised Member Organisation' means the University of Cambridge, its Colleges, and such clubs or other not-for-profit organisations as the Conservators formally recognise for this purpose.

Recognised Member Organisation Hire (RMOH or Class B) when applied to a vessel, means a vessel which is owned or operated by a 'Recognised Member Organisation' but which is not a Class A vessel.

Private (or Class C) when applied to a vessel, means a vessel which is not a Class A or Class B vessel and which:

a) is not at any time used or operated by the owner, operator or master with a view to profit or other financial gain, either directly or indirectly from such use or operation; or

b) is not at any time used or operated by the owner, operator or master with a view to profit or other financial gain from any related transaction

Commercial (or Class D) when applied to a vessel, means any vessel which is not a Class A, B or C vessel. Any vessel which is not registered as a Class D or a Class B vessel and which is at any time used or operated with a view to profit or other financial gain, either directly or

indirectly, from such use or operation or from any related transaction shall be considered unregistered under the Byelaws.

Tender: a small boat or dinghy, towed or carried by another vessel, and, if powered, with an engine of no more than 4 horsepower. It should be registered at the same time as the parent vessel to qualify for the 50% discount.

2. Registration

- a) **Application forms.** Application forms for registration are available from the office address above. Applications for registration can also be made online on the Conservators' website.
- b) **General.** All vessels kept or used in the Cam Conservancy Area must be registered with the Conservators and be appropriately insured and certificated. Registration must be obtained before the beginning of the registration year (1st April) or before the vessel is brought into the Cam Conservancy Area. Failure to register a vessel while it remains in the Conservancy Area is an offence which may lead to legal action being taken. Only one person or organisation may be registered as the owner. Applications by boat clubs, societies or limited companies may be signed by a director, secretary or a duly authorised person.
- c) **Conservancy based vessels.** The owners of all Conservancy based vessels must purchase a full annual licence from the Conservancy. The licence will allow all power driven vessels to use Environment Agency (Anglian Region) waters.
- d) **Discounted annual licenses:** Private powered vessels which become a Conservancy based vessel after 1 October will qualify for a discounted annual registration fee of 50% of the full annual fee.
- e) **Visiting Craft.** The owner of any vessel which is not registered with the Conservancy may purchase an annual visitor licence in order to visit the Cam Conservancy Area. An annual visitor licence is valid for up to 90 days in any registration year, and it can be purchased from either the Conservators or in the case of vessels registered with the Environment Agency, from the Agency.
Visiting craft owners holding a Gold Licence must register with the Conservators and purchase an annual visitor licence.
Members of Canoe England are permitted access without payment of additional fees under the terms of a block licence. Canoe England members must produce a valid Membership Card when requested to do so by an authorised officer of the Conservators.
- f) **Punts.** Punts falling into Class A, B or D must abide by the Code of Conduct for Commercial Punt Operators.
- g) **Commercial Vessels.** Commercial punts can only operate from one of six recognised punt stations with the permission of the land owner or occupier.
All "wide-beam" punts (i.e. punts over 1.0m in width) must be registered as Commercial, or Class D vessels and will not be accepted for registration as Private, or Class C vessels.
No punt over 1.95m in beam will be accepted for registration.
An owner of a vessel which is a Limited Company or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) may only register such vessel as a Commercial (Class D) vessel notwithstanding that there may be a Private (Class C) tariff for that class of vessel.
If a vessel is registered to a Limited Company or a Limited Liability partnership (LLP), and that Company or LLP is dissolved, the vessel shall thereafter be unregistered.

3. Insurance

All vessel owners must hold public/third party liability insurance in respect of their vessels to a limit of not less than £1,000,000 (one million pounds). Owners of commercial vessels must hold public/third party liability cover of not less than £3,000,000 (three million pounds).

All applications for registration must be accompanied by a copy of a valid certificate of insurance for each vessel for which registration is sought and must provide evidence that the required level of public/third party liability insurance is in force at the start of the registration period. If a copy of a certificate cannot be produced, then a letter on official stationery from the insurer or broker may be accepted, provided that the letter identifies the start and finish dates of cover, the name of the insured party, and the name of the insurer or broker. The insured party must be the same as the owner. The requirement to produce proof on insurance does not apply to those vessels registered under a Block (or Club) Licence or to applicants for annual visitor licences.

4. Identification

All craft (except punts) must display current annual registration licence discs, Registration numbers issued or recognised by the Conservators must be marked on both sides of the hull so that they are clearly legible at a minimum distance of 15 metres. British Rowing codes and registration numbers issued by the Environment Agency are accepted in lieu of a Conservancy-issued registration number.

5. Construction and safety standards.

Where the size of an engine or its presence is not immediately obvious, the category requiring the higher payment for the size of vessel will apply, unless it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of Conservators that a lower registration category should apply.

All power vessels (other than a private, open, outboard powered vessel), and any vessel that has any form of enclosed accommodation or which is decked over the greater part of the hull, or open vessels which carry cooking, heating, lighting or refrigeration appliances, must have a valid Boat Safety Scheme Certificate, or, for vessels less than four years old, a valid Declaration of Conformity under the Recreational Craft Directive.

A private, open, outboard-powered vessel is one that is propelled solely by an outboard engine, without a fixed fuel system. The vessel must also not be carrying, or fitted with, domestic cooking, heating, refrigerating or lighting appliances, or other permanent electrical systems.

Steamboats must have a current inspection certificate, issued by a competent boiler inspector. For open vessels only, this inspection certificate will be accepted in place of a certificate issued by the Boat Safety Scheme.

Powered hire craft operators must provide a copy of a valid passenger certificate issued by the MCA.

6. Prohibited Craft and Activities

Personal water craft (water scooter, Jet Ski, wave runner, water bike, sea doo, or other such devices) are not permitted on the navigation. Water skiing, aquaplaning, kiting or parachute towing are not permitted.

7. Trade plates

Commercial boatyards and marinas may apply for trade plates. These may only be used for delivery, for repairs or for *bona fide* trials.

8. Moorings

Mooring is prohibited in certain areas for navigational reasons. Mooring is not permitted within 36 metres of any lock, sluice, weir or water intake. For details of the zones where mooring is permitted or prohibited see the Conservators' website. There are visitors' moorings above the bridge at Clayhithe and at Jesus Lock.

9. Reporting of Accidents

Any accident involving injury to persons or significant damage to property that occurs during boating or other activities in the Cam Conservancy Area must be reported to the Conservancy. Those accidents involving injuries to persons should be reported within 24 hours and significant property damage reported within 48 hours.

Damage to rowing craft taking part in Bumping Races that does not result in injuries to persons need not be reported.

10. Events and navigational restrictions

At certain times, approved events such as rowing regattas and races take place on the navigation. It is a byelaw offence to interfere with any of these events. A calendar of events is published on the Conservancy noticeboards and on the Conservators' website. It is the responsibility of boaters to plan their movements around these events.

Suspensions (closures) of navigation are advertised a minimum of 14 days in advance in the local press, on Conservancy notice boards and on the Conservators' website. Emergency closures may occur without notice. The Conservators reserve the right to move any vessel which is obstructing river maintenance or dredging works following service of notice upon that vessel.

Use of Jesus Lock is by appointment only, there is a seasonal prohibition on powered craft navigating above Jesus Lock to the head of navigation (i.e. the College Backs) from 1 April to 30 September inclusive.

We do not make provision for night navigation, however night navigation is permitted at own risk. Vessels must carry appropriate lights in accordance with the byelaws.

11. Sewage, litter and water.

The discharge of sewage or effluent or the discarding of litter into the river are byelaw offences. A sanitary station is provided by Cambridge City Council below Jesus Lock.

A water point is provided by Cambridge City Council below Jesus Lock and also at the upstream end of Stourbridge Common.

12. Useless, derelict or abandoned craft

If a vessel is beyond economic repair, the owner should contact the Conservators' office to arrange for its removal (charges apply). If a boat sinks at its mooring or is deemed to be a hazard, the full cost of its eventual removal, storage and disposal will be charged to the owner, unless the owner personally arranges for removal.

Vessels found adrift or abandoned by the Conservators, or deemed derelict, may be recovered and retained under the byelaws. Craft recovery fees are twice the relevant full annual registration fee with a minimum charge of £50 and subsequent storage charge of 25% of the registration fee per week with a minimum of £15 or by agreement with the Conservators.

Where a sunken boat is recovered the charge will be 'at cost' with a minimum charge of £250.

13. Payments

Payments are accepted by cheque (payable to Conservators of the River Cam), by debit/credit card at the office address above, or online for applications made online. You may make stage payments (ten payments in total, payable monthly from April to January) by standing order only. It is a condition of our agreeing to payment in instalments that if one payment is more than one month in arrears then the full amount of the balance owing becomes payable immediately. Payment by instalments is only available if registration fees for the previous year have been paid in full. Where payment is made in instalments, registration of the vessel is conditional on full payment being

made, and in the event of default in any payment, the vessel shall become unregistered and the owner liable to prosecution.

14. The Data Protection Act 1998

The Conservators of the River Cam are the statutory navigation authority with responsibility for the Cam Conservancy Area. The information provided on any registration application form, including the name and address of the owner and particulars of the vessel, will be entered on the Conservators' database, and used by the Conservators to process the application, and to monitor compliance with the registration conditions and/or byelaws and to process renewals.

The information provided in this application may be disclosed to Cambridge City Council, the Environment Agency and other government departments. We, or our agents, may use this information to contact you about safety, navigation and environmental matters.

15. Own Risk

Persons bringing craft onto the navigation do so at their own risk.