



Canal &
River Trust

CONSULTATION:

CENTRAL LONDON VISITOR MOORINGS PLAN

16 June 2014

1. Introduction

We are considering changes to visitor moorings in central London to help ensure these popular locations can be shared more fairly by a wide range of boaters. We have already consulted on mooring changes at Paddington Basin and Little Venice, and now wish to make changes at other visitor moorings in the central part of London between Kensal Green and Victoria Park.

The changes contained in this plan are consistent with national discussions on visitor moorings policy, and take account of feedback from the Paddington Basin & Little Venice Visitor Moorings consultation (February 2014) and a visitor moorings workshop held by the London Better Relationships Group (BRG) in January 2014. The plan has been amended further following feedback from the BRG's meeting on 29 May 2014.

We are inviting comments on the plan over the next three weeks, with the intention of implementing changes this summer.

Feedback should be submitted via an online survey by **9am on Monday 7th July** at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CentralLondonVMs>

2. Why are we proposing changes?

The London Waterways are becoming increasingly popular. We have seen a substantial growth in boat numbers over the last two years (62% since March 2012), with almost 3,000 boats now on the Trust's London waterways (including approximately 1,000 continuous cruisers).

There is a pressing need to address the challenges posed by this growth, so the Trust has been working with its London Better Relationships Group (BRG) over the last 18 months to develop solutions which strike the right balance between the often competing demands of different boater communities.

3. What else are we doing to address boating needs?

The plan is part of a strategy to address the challenges of boating in London, in the form of the Towpath Mooring Management Project. The substantial growth in boat numbers on London's waterways has led to increasing conflicts over fair sharing of this finite resource. The Trust's strategy for addressing these conflicts is to:

- improve the supply of long-term and short-term moorings

- improve enforcement and voluntary compliance with mooring rules to free up mooring capacity
- dampen the demand for live-aboard boating in London through better communication of the challenges
- Improve engagement between different waterway users to deliver fairer sharing

The Trust has been working with the BRG to identify priorities for action and to develop initiatives to address them. Progress includes:

- Moorings and management
 - New mooring rings installed at Little Venice (Delamere Terrace to Harrow Rd.); Broadway Market, and Victoria Park (Bonner Hall Bridge to Mare St.)
 - New mooring rings for approx. 32 boats being installed in Camden (Camley St.) and Haggerston (Acton's Lock)
 - New casual mooring sites being investigated
 - Guidance and systems being put in place to help organisations develop affordable moorings
 - Additional boater facilities points planned at new CRT moorings, at Acton's Lock and the Olympic Park
 - New water point being installed in Paddington Basin Approach
 - Two new London enforcement posts being recruited
- Communications and engagement
 - Two part-time mooring rangers recruited to manage towpath moorings and communicate mooring rules
 - Volunteer Caretaker Boaters at Islington Visitor Moorings, and new sites being considered
 - 'London Boating Information Pack' being produced
 - Bollards at lock landings and water points painted to indicate temporary mooring
 - Improved communications (new 'first contact enforcement letter', Boating Bulletin London, @CRTLondon Twitter account for boating announcements, London Waterway web pages)
 - Press and media campaign to highlight the challenges of live-aboard boating
 - Partnership funding secured with Islington Council for environmental pollution project
 - Boater-led voluntary projects supported (Operation Whistle Blower, Flotsam Flotilla)
 - Working with local authorities to improve waterways facilities

The Central London Visitor Mooring Plan is an important next step in this strategic approach to developing fairer sharing of the waterways.

4. Summary of the plan

The plan covers the following sites (proposed new Visitor Moorings are in **bold** below):

- Kensal Green (GU Paddington Arm)
- Little Venice (GU Paddington Arm)
- **Broadway Market, Hackney (Regent's)**
- Victoria Park, Old Ford (Regent's)

It is not proposed to make any changes to the Islington Visitor Moorings (which are subject to a separate management plan adopted in November 2013) or Camden Visitor Moorings. Changes to Paddington Basin Visitor Mooring (including changes at Rembrandt Gardens) were subject to a separate consultation in January 2014, which is being implemented separately. Details of Islington, Camden and Paddington Basin are, however, included below for completeness.

The key elements of the plan are as follows:

- A recognition that shorter than 14 day moorings are needed at four popular central London locations to cater for growing numbers of visitors
- Introducing a more consistent approach to stay times at central London visitor moorings; at sites signed as 14 days, reduce these partly or fully to 7 days (see plan detail below and on appended maps)
- Confirming extended stay charges at all central London visitor moorings, where new signs will be installed
- A new Visitor Mooring site at Broadway Market in Hackney
- Introducing an advance booking facility for two boat lengths at Rembrandt Gardens, Little Venice
- Recruitment of volunteer Caretaker Boaters at the most popular locations to welcome boaters and help the Trust manage site quality and relationships with neighbours

The proposals have been developed using analysis of boat sightings data at each visitor mooring in the last cruising season, from 1 April 2013 to 31 October 2013.

Changes are proposed where the analysis shows that the moorings have consistently been at or near to capacity. We define capacity as the number of boats that can moor on the designated visitor mooring in a single line, without the need to breast up.

Our assessment of capacity at each site is based on single-line mooring, although we accept that double-berthing of narrowboats is generally permitted, with the exception of the following sites: Islington Visitor Mooring (double mooring only permitted in winter); Camden Visitor Mooring (single berthing only); and Paddington Basin (currently single berthing only – subject to changes proposed in a separate consultation).

A number of options were considered in drawing up this plan, including further reducing stay times to 2 days and introducing 'no return' rules. We believe these steps are desirable but would require more monitoring than we can manage at present. The plan therefore focusses on realistic proposals that can be delivered effectively.

5. Visitor Mooring site proposals

i) Kensal Green

This is currently a 14 day visitor mooring.

It is proposed to change the stay time on the easternmost short length of the Visitor Mooring (45m) to 7 days, to accommodate two visitor mooring berths (double mooring of narrowboats permitted).

The remaining 321m of the mooring would remain as Visitor Mooring with a 14 day stay limit.

ii) Little Venice (Delamere Terrace)

This site is currently a 14 day visitor mooring.

We propose to change the stay time on the eastern half of the designated Visitor Mooring (124m), to 7 days (double mooring of narrowboats permitted).

The western half (124m) would remain as a visitor mooring with a 14 day stay limit.

One berth (located off the visitor mooring) will be reserved for a volunteer Caretaker Boater to help liaise with boaters and monitor the boater facilities.

iii) Broadway Market

This is currently 14 day casual mooring. The Trust installed 27 new mooring rings here in October 2013. As it has become a popular location over the last 2 years and is frequently at capacity, we intend to designate the western 3-4 berths (closest to Cat and Mutton Bridge) as a 7 day visitor mooring. Double mooring of narrowboats would be permitted.

To provide additional casual mooring capacity in the area, we are installing mooring rings on the towpath above Acton's Lock, up to Queensbridge Road. This will provide mooring for approximately 20 boats (double berthed). We also have planning permission to develop a new long-term mooring on the offside at Acton's Lock.

iv) Victoria Park

This is currently a 14 day visitor mooring.

It is proposed to shorten the stay times to 7 days along the whole visitor mooring (double mooring of narrowboats permitted).

One berth will be reserved for a volunteer Caretaker Boater to help liaise with boaters and monitor the boater facilities. This role may alternate between a location at Victoria Park and Broadway Market depending on demand.

A mooring reserved for community boats has previously been for agreed at this location.

A summary of the above proposals is appended as a table. In all cases, signs will be installed indicating that extended stay charges will apply.

6. Other Visitor Moorings

The following visitor moorings are not subject to this consultation, as they are already part of a separate management plan, or have been consulted upon elsewhere. We cover them here to give the complete picture.

Paddington Basin & Rembrandt Gardens, Little Venice Pool

The following changes are being introduced in Paddington Basin and Little Venice (Rembrandt Gardens) following the consultation carried out in January 2014:

Paddington Basin

There are currently several lengths of 7 day visitor mooring. We consulted on proposals in February 2014, including the introduction of some moorings for traders in front of Paddington Station; changes to casual moorings in the Basin Approach to provide a water point; and new visitor moorings at Rembrandt Gardens.

The Paddington Basin & Little Venice consultation suggested some support for trading berths outside the station, so we are introducing one trading berth. Tenders for this berth will be taken forward by our business boating team.

We are increasing the number of visitor mooring berths by permitting double mooring on the St.Mary's Hospital pontoon. We will closely monitor any impacts on neighbours as a result of this change during the period of the trial, and review this decision at a later date.

We will be introducing a water point in the Basin Approach, using existing plumbing, to provide a service mooring that is suitable for longer boats. This will be located just inside the Basin Approach after the bridge hole, and we will be re-designating one casual 14 day mooring to facilitate this. We will also be removing one mooring ring just past the bridge hole to promote clear access through the bridge hole for wide beam craft.

Rembrandt Gardens:

This site is currently used for the mooring of the Trust's workboats, and community boats. There was strong support for short stay moorings here, with stay times of less than 14 days to meet the needs of visiting boats. We are therefore introducing two additional berths to be offered on a daily permit basis at £10 per night, up to 7 consecutive nights max, purchasable in advance by phone from our national customer service team. Boats will be limited to a maximum of 15 nights per year at the site to avoid repeated booking by the same people. This price, relative to long term mooring fees, is considered reasonable for the benefit of guaranteeing a mooring in this popular location. No change is proposed for the community boat mooring, although management will be improved.

Camden

This site is currently a 7 day visitor mooring, where only single line mooring is permitted. No changes are proposed other than to confirm extended stay charges.

We are, however, installing new towpath mooring rings in the area between St.Pancras Lock and the Camden flight, providing casual mooring capacity for approximately 20 boats.

Islington

This site is currently a 7 day visitor mooring. Double mooring is only permitted in summer (1 April-30 September). No changes are proposed, other than to confirm extended stay charges.

7. Consultation & Implementation

The implementation of these proposals will include:

Signage

- All signage to be replaced to communicate the new stay times (using temporary solutions where feasible)
- New main sign identifying the site, stay times and extended stay charge notification
- New sign tiles on 'totem' posts indicating the start and end points of the moorings
- Boat number tags on relevant mooring rings to identify pre-booked berths at Rembrandt Gardens

Enforcement

- Daily sightings at all Visitor Moorings
- Warning letters and invoicing for extended stays

Volunteer Caretaker Boater scheme

- Existing scheme at Islington Visitor Mooring to be extended
- Caretaker Boaters to welcome moorers with information on local mooring rules (including stay times), and to manage site issues
- Initially extend scheme to Little Venice and Victoria Park

Information and Communications

- Mooring rangers to communicate proposed changes
- Disseminating information through social media, partner networks and the Trust's website
- Regular mooring ranger patrols of visitor moorings to reinforce new mooring rules

Consultation

We recognise the diverse range of interests in the boating community and are keen to engage users in the development of policy. However, we have to balance the divergent interests of different types of user and take appropriate actions as network operator to manage the waterway effectively.

We are inviting feedback on the proposals outlined in the first part of this plan.

The consultation will run until 7th July 2013, involving an internet survey, boater communications and pop-up open meetings on the towpath (please visit <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/boating-in-london>, our twitter accounts @CRTLONDON and @SorzCRT, and our boating Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/canalrivertrustboating?filter=2> for more information).

Subject to the results of the survey and consultation meetings, we would aim to introduce appropriate changes during August 2014.

CENTRAL LONDON VISITOR MOORINGS PLAN JUNE 2014 - SITE MAPS

Kensal Green

Mooring Name	Current time limit (days)	Current number of VM berths (approx)	Proposed time limit for designated length (days)	Proposed number of VM berths (approx)	Area affected
Kensal Green	14	20	7	2	45m (Eastern end of current length) changes to a 7-day limit. The remainder of the current visitor mooring stays at 14-days.



Kensal Green

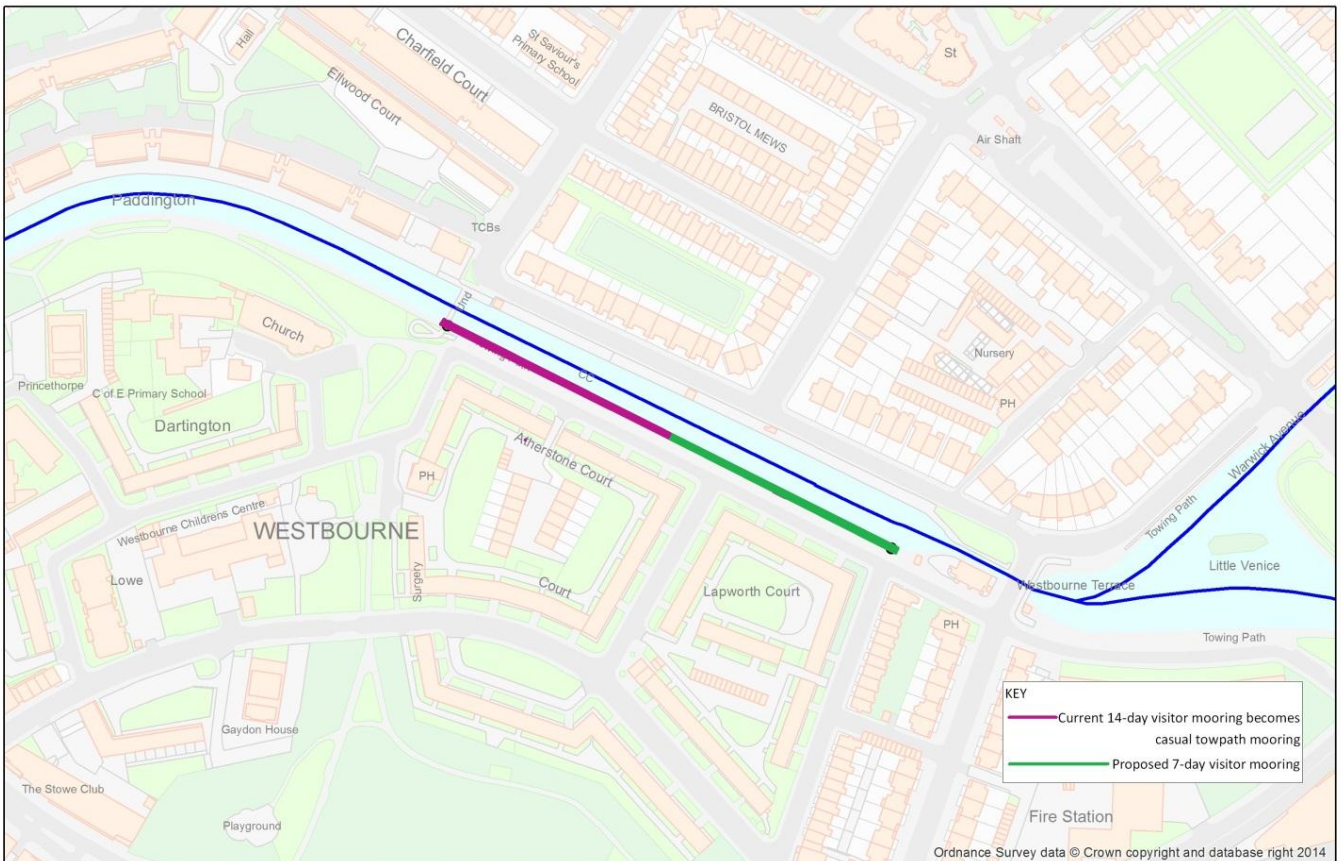
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CENTRAL LONDON VISITOR MOORINGS PLAN JUNE 2014 - SITE MAPS

Little Venice

Mooring Name	Current time limit (days)	Current number of VM berths (approx)	Proposed time limit for designated length (days)	Proposed number of VM berths (approx)	Area affected
Little Venice	14	14	7	7	124m (Eastern half of current length) changes to a 7-day limit. The remainder of the current visitor mooring stays at 14-days.



Little Venice

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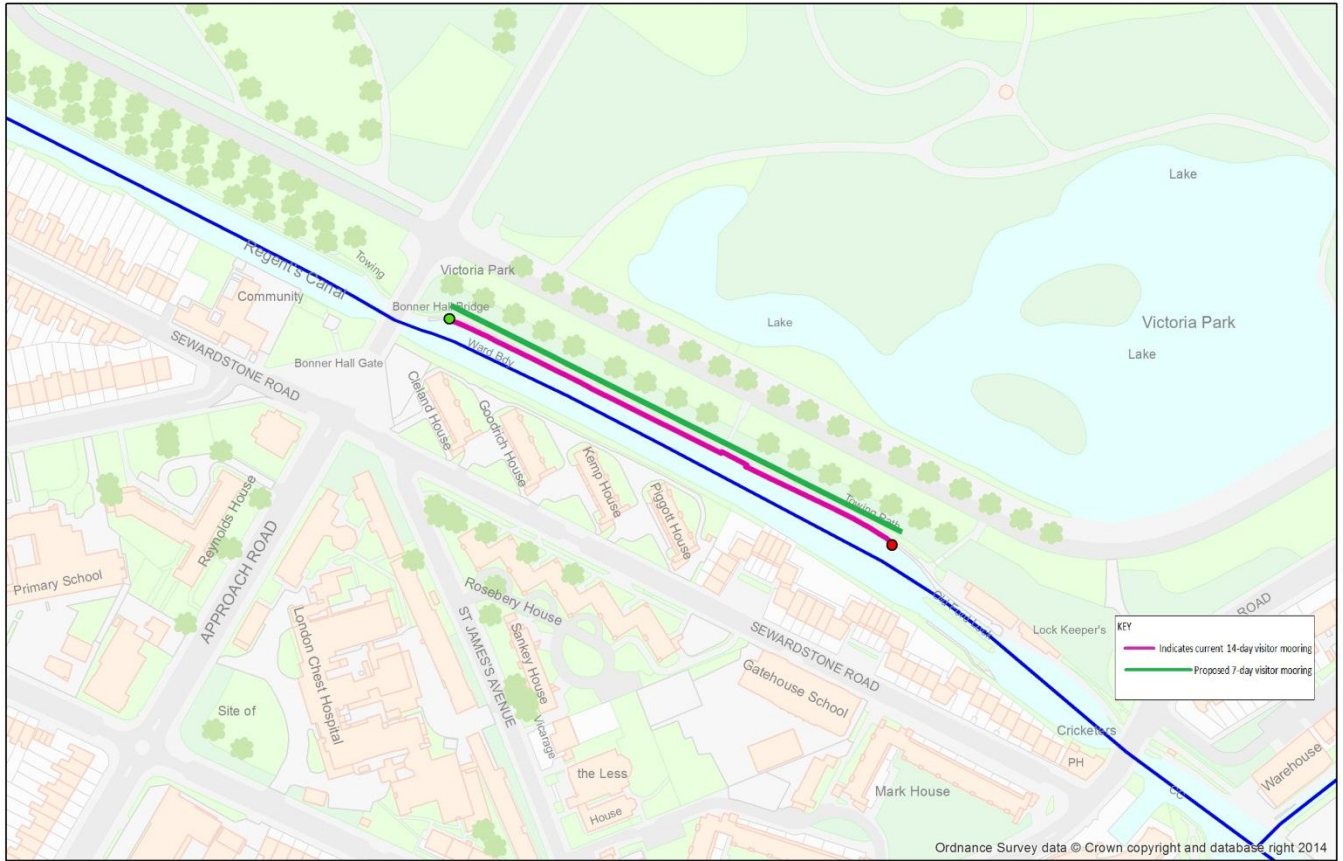


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Victoria Park

Mooring Name	Current time limit (days)	Current number of VM berths (approx)	Proposed time limit (days)	Proposed number of VM berths (approx)	Area affected
Victoria Park	14	12	7	12	Whole length



Victoria Park

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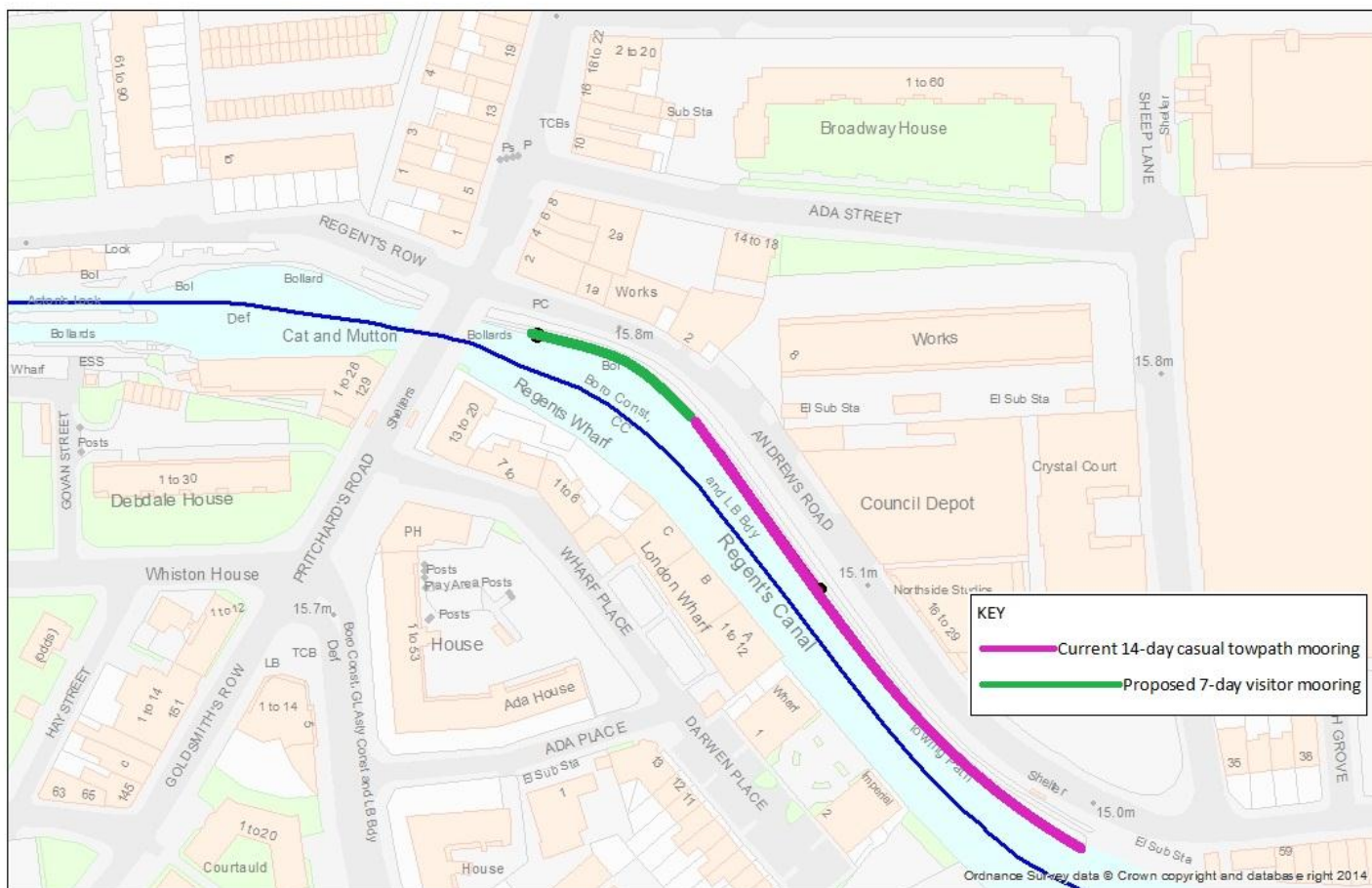


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Broadway Market

Mooring Name	Current time limit (days)	Current number of VM berths (approx)	Proposed time limit (days)	Proposed number of VM berths (approx)	Area affected
Broadway Market	14	n/a	7	3	54m (Western quarter of current length) becomes VM. Rest remains as casual towpath mooring.



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Broadway Market Mooring

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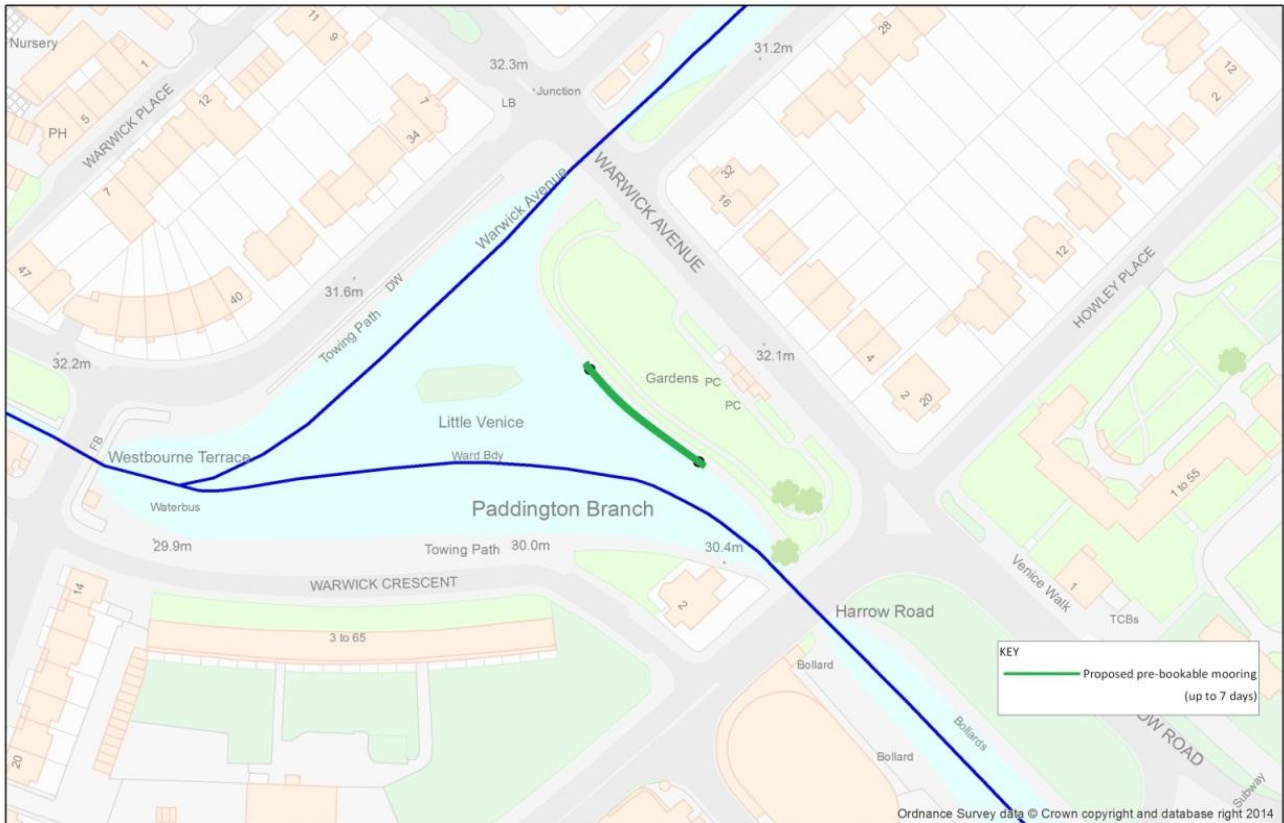
Confirmation of details for other central London sites – not part of the current consultation

Rembrandt Gardens

Maximum stay time: 7 days

Number of berths: 2

New site for visitors that have pre-booked



Rembrandt Gardens Visitor Mooring

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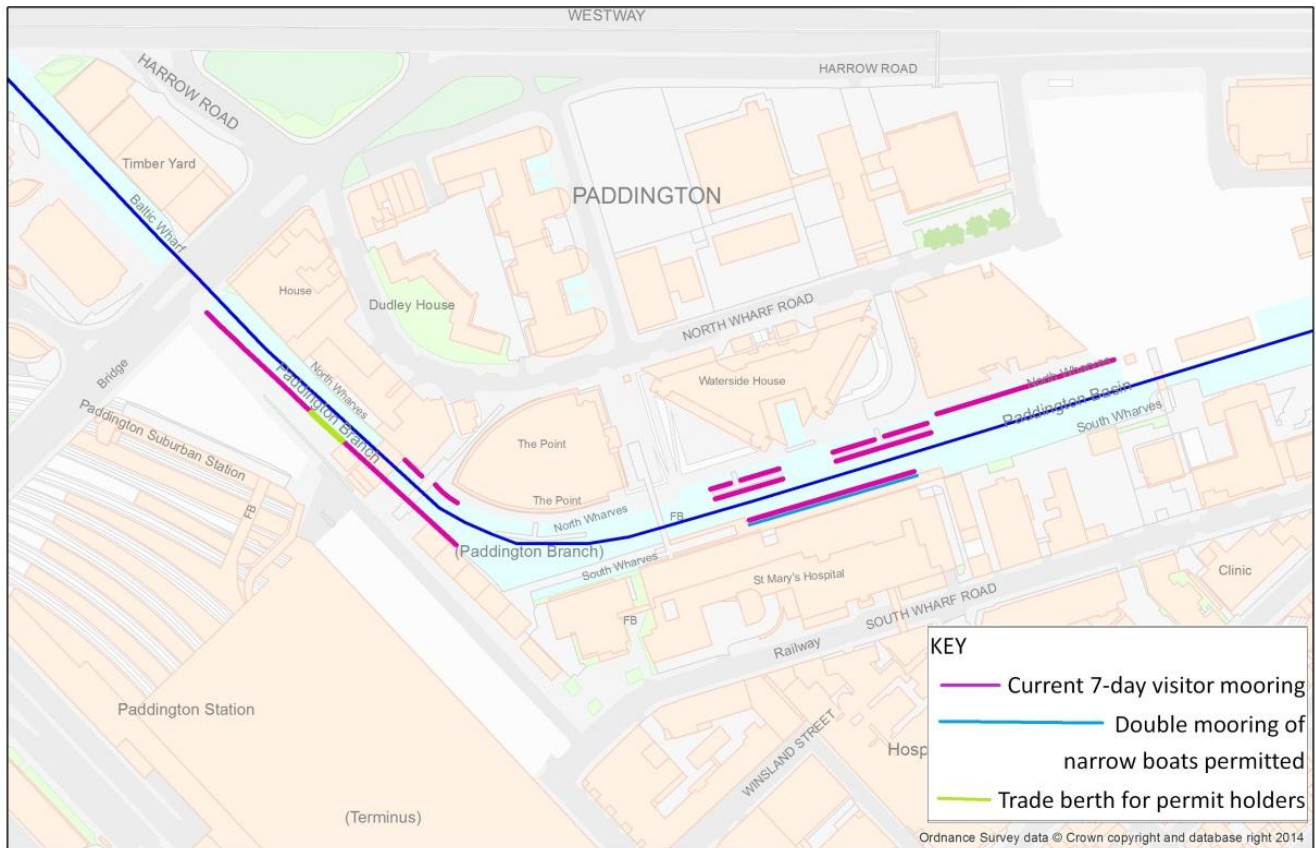
CENTRAL LONDON VISITOR MOORINGS PLAN JUNE 2014 - SITE MAPS

Paddington Basin

Maximum stay time: 7 days

Number of berths: 26

At the stretch outside St Mary's Hospital, double-mooring is permitted for narrowboats.
Outside Paddington station, 1 trade berth for permit-holders only.



Paddington Basin

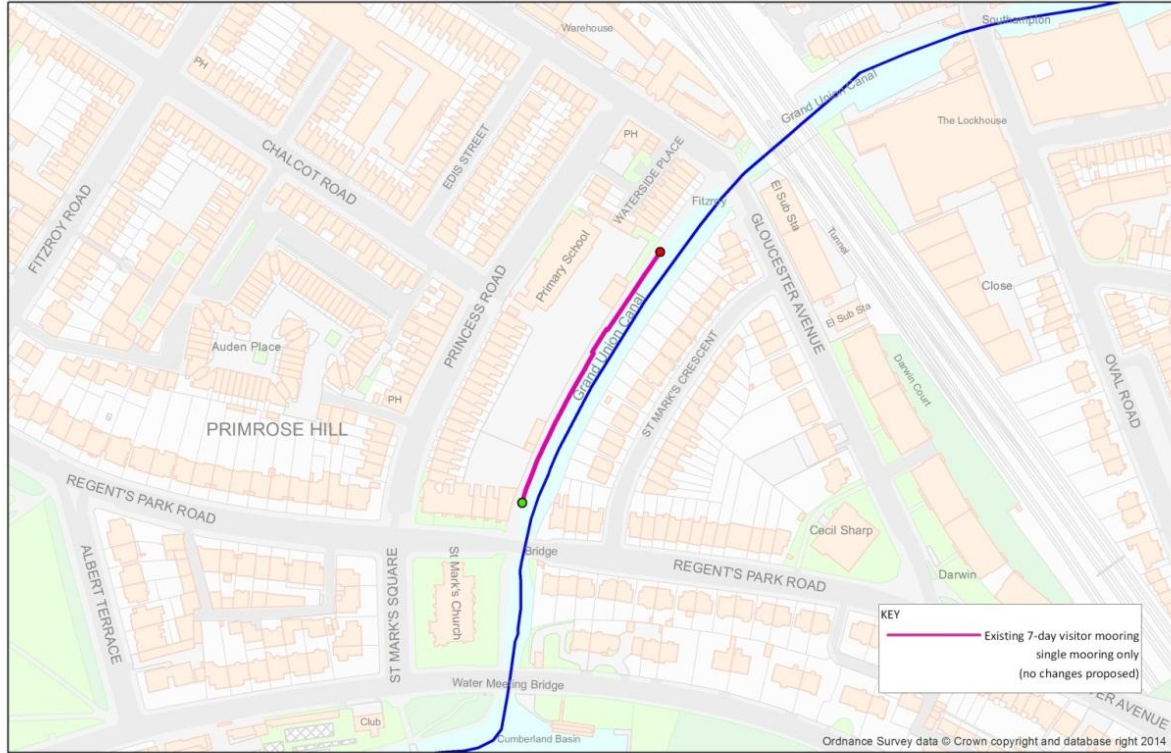
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CENTRAL LONDON VISITOR MOORINGS PLAN JUNE 2014 - SITE MAPS

Camden

Maximum stay time: 7 days
Number of berths: 8
Details: Single mooring only all year round



Camden

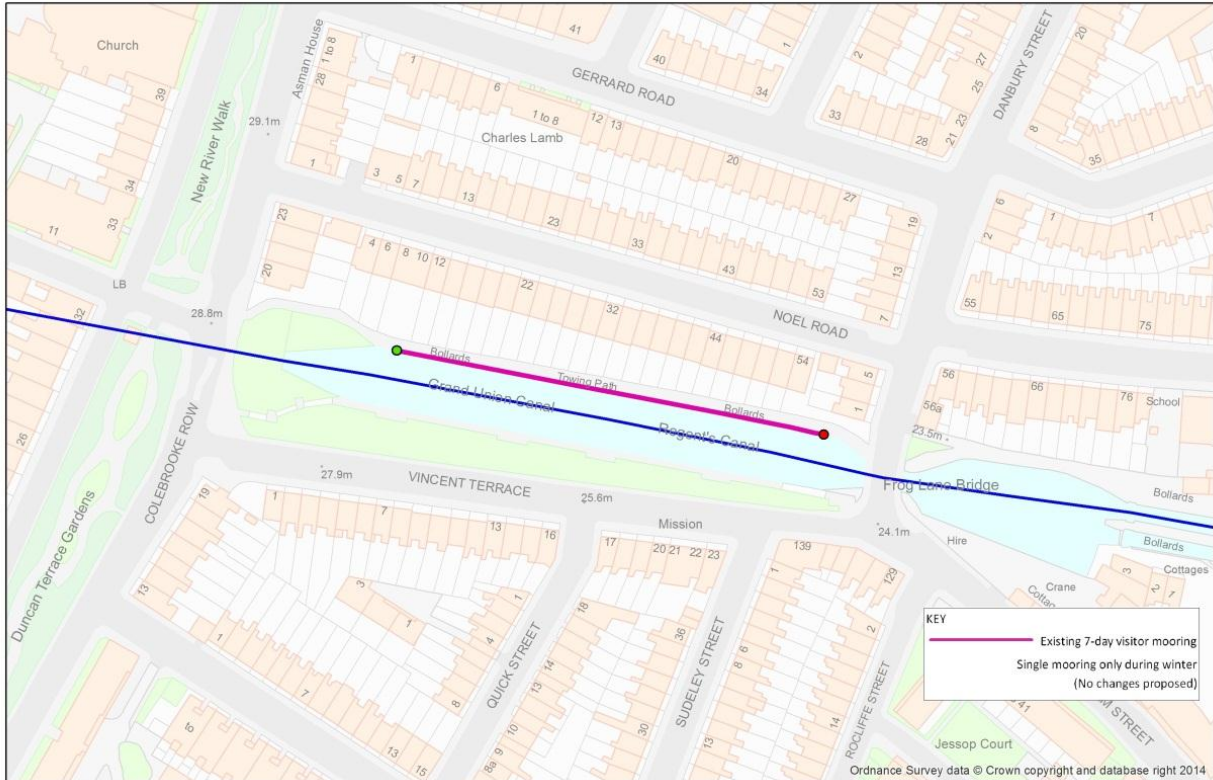
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CENTRAL LONDON VISITOR MOORINGS PLAN JUNE 2014 - SITE MAPS

Islington

Maximum stay time: 7 days
Number of berths: 7
Details: Single mooring only during winter



Islington Visitor Mooring

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