

Boat Licensing Team, National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 4FW

**T 0303 040 4040** Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm, weekends & Bank Holidays 9am to 5pm. Calls charged at local rate.

**E** [customer.services@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:customer.services@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

[canalrivertrust.org.uk/licensing](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/licensing)

**f** [/canalrivertrustboating](https://www.facebook.com/canalrivertrustboating)



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A Gold Licence can be more economical than separate licences from the different navigation authorities, depending on the length of time you intend to spend away from your home navigation on any of the waterways covered by the licence.

## What is a Gold Licence?

The Gold Licence is for people who wish to spend time cruising on a combination of Canal & River Trust and Environment Agency (EA) navigations. EA navigations include the River Thames, Anglian waterways and Upper Medway: each of these areas has its own registration/licensing scheme.

The Gold Licence replaces the need for separate licences from the different authorities and covers all Canal & River Trust and EA navigations.

It is a twelve month licence and registration for powered craft only. It doesn't cover the tender to a boat – you need to register or license this separately with the individual authorities.

## How can I get a refund on my current, unexpired licence or registration?

Your home navigation may issue a pro-rata refund for any overlapping months unused, should you upgrade to a Gold Licence.

You may be eligible for a pro-rata refund for your licence if you have sold the boat, taken the boat permanently off the water or placed the boat which is still afloat onto a trade brokerage. Refunds are for full months remaining only and are subject to a £30 admin charge.

**Please note if you apply for a Gold Licence for the following year it will be required to start on 1 January.**

## What does it cost?

If your boat is less than 2.16 metres wide, the cost is upward from £827.34 depending on its length. The fee sheet for boats under 2.16m wide is printed on page 4.

## When is it available?

All Gold Licences run from 1 January and expire on 31 December, you may be eligible for a part year licence, these are only available for customers who have not previously held a Gold Licence and must be dated to start from the month the boat was entered in the water. If you have previously held a Gold Licence then your licence will be required to start on 1 January.

## Discounts

- Vessels which are powered solely by electricity: 25% discount.
- Canal & River Trust prompt payment discount is already deducted from the payment in full (see page 4).
- Historic boats on Canal & River Trust waterways claiming the 10% discount should contact Customer Services Centre who will calculate the value of your discount on your Gold Licence for you – it is a complicated formula as the 10% can only be applied to the Canal & River Trust element of your Gold Licence.

## Surcharges

- Continuous Cruisers incur a 10% surcharge.
- Boats with a beam over 2.16m but less than 3.24m 13% surcharge.
- Boats with a beam over 3.24m 26% surcharge.

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## Payment methods

- Visa, Mastercard
- Direct Debit

Instalments are split equally between the number of months requested. The prompt payment discount is not available for instalment payments, but is already included in the payment in full (see page 4).

- Cheques made payable to Canal & River Trust.

## What requirements are there?

- A valid Boat Safety Scheme Certificate or Declaration of Conformity with the Recreational Craft Directive. The latter must include the boat specifications and your declaration. If your boat is an open vessel powered solely by an outboard engine and it has no appliances for cooking, heating, refrigeration or lighting, it will probably be exempt from this requirement – ask us for an exemption form and enclose it with your Gold Licence application.
- Proof that you have third party liability insurance cover in place for a minimum of £2 million.
- Registration documents issued by relevant navigation authorities must be carried aboard your vessel.
- Once you have obtained your Gold Licence, whether it be by email or by post, you must display the discs on both sides of your vessel. Please remember to remove any old licence discs.

## Where can I use the Gold Licence?

A full list of waterways is printed (see page 3).

## What do I need to remember when I'm cruising?

First, and foremost: Enjoy the waterways! You'll also need to make sure you're keeping to the boat licence terms and conditions of Canal & River Trust (the Trust) or the requirements of the Environment Agency (EA) when you're on their waterways. This will be particularly relevant if you don't have a home mooring when on the Trust's waterways, where you'll need to meet the guidance for boaters without a home mooring. Cruising carried out on EA waterways will not be considered in your Trust licence review.

There is other helpful information on the Trust and EA ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)) websites.

## Access keys

A single key fits all Canal & River Trust sanitary facilities, locks & swing bridges, and a handcuff key is also required to open some of the locks on Canal & River Trust navigations.

They are available from Canal & River Trust Customer Services Centre, waterway offices, chandlers and on-line at [canalrivertrust.org.uk/shop](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/shop)

A separate key is needed for the EA's Anglian Waterways, available from the EA.

T 03708 506 506 (Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm).

## Safe and responsible boating

You must familiarise yourself with and follow the regulations set by each navigation authority. For a copy of the Boaters' Handbook, contact Canal & River Trust Customer Services Centre or any Canal & River Trust or EA office.

## Temporary restrictions

Please check [canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices) for stoppage information before travel. Canal & River Trust's main repair programme runs from October to April.

For Environment Agency waterways go to: [www.gov.uk/check-river-conditions-and-closures](https://www.gov.uk/check-river-conditions-and-closures)

The Gold Licence may be used on the following waterways.

#### Canal & River Trust

Aire & Calder Navigation

Ashby Canal

Ashton Canal

Birmingham & Fazeley Canal

Birmingham Canal Navigations

Bow Back Rivers

Bridgwater & Taunton Canal

Calder & Hebble Navigation

Chesterfield Canal

Coventry Canal

Erewash Canal

Fosdyke Navigation

Gloucester & Sharpness Canal

Grand Union Canal

Hertford Union Canal

Huddersfield Broad Canal

Huddersfield Narrow Canal

Kennet & Avon

Lancaster Canal

Lee Navigation

Leeds & Liverpool Canal

Limehouse Cut

Llangollen Canal

London Docklands

(a fee is charged for short term moorings)

Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

Montgomery Canal

New Junction Canal

Oxford Canal

Peak Forest Canal

Regent's Canal

Ripon Canal

River Avon (Hanham Lock to Bath)

River Ouse (Yorkshire)

River Severn

River Soar Navigation

River Ure

Rochdale Canal

Start Navigation

Sheffield & South Yorkshire Navigations

Shropshire Union Canal

Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal

Stainforth & Keadby Canal

Stourbridge Canal

Stratford-on-Avon Canal

Tees Navigation

Trent & Mersey Canal

Trent Navigation

Upper Trent Navigation  
(incl. the Nottingham and Beeston Canal)

Witham Navigation

Worcester & Birmingham

#### Environment Agency

River Thames

River Medway

River Nene

River Great Ouse System

River Ancholme

River Glen above Surfleet Sluice

River Welland above Spalding Lock

River Stour

#### Environment Agency Contact Details

Environment Agency, Boat Registration,

PO BOX 544, Rotherham S60 1 BY

**T 03708 506 506** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

**E [boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk)**

**W [www.gov.uk/register-a-boat](http://www.gov.uk/register-a-boat)**

## Gold licence fees for narrowboats and craft less than 2.16m wide, 2026 **20% VAT**

If your boat is wider than this, then a surcharge will be applied.

Fees include VAT where applicable. Price is the same for powered and unpowered craft.

Deduct 25% if your boat has a permanently fitted inboard electric motor.

NB – Continuous Cruiser will incur a 10% surcharge, boats more than 2.16 but less than


3.24m wide will incur 13% surcharge and if over 3.24m the surcharge is 26%

Overall length		Payment in full	Direct Debit instalments
metres	feet & inches	Gold	Gold DD
Up to - 5.09m	Up to - 16' 8"	£827.34	£930.73
5.10 - 5.49m	16' 9" - 18' 0"	£889.98	£1002.86
5.50 - 6.09m	18' 1" - 20' 0"	£889.98	£1002.86
6.10 - 6.49m	20' 1" - 21' 3"	£959.04	£1,081.67
6.50 - 7.09m	21' 4" - 23' 3"	£959.04	£1,081.67
7.10 - 7.49m	23' 4" - 24' 7"	£1,034.57	£1,165.52
7.50 - 8.09m	24' 8" - 26' 6"	£1,034.57	£1,165.52
8.10 - 8.49m	26' 7" - 27'10"	£1,102.04	£1,240.99
8.50 - 9.09m	27'11" - 29'10"	£1,102.04	£1,240.99
9.10 - 9.49m	29'11" - 31' 1"	£1,177.54	£1,328.20
9.50 - 10.09m	31' 2" - 33' 1"	£1,177.54	£1,328.20
10.10 - 10.49m	33' 2" - 34' 5"	£1,249.85	£1,412.04
10.50 - 11.09m	34' 6" - 36' 5"	£1,249.85	£1,412.04
11.10 - 11.49m	36' 6" - 37' 8"	£1,325.33	£1,494.22
11.50 - 12.09m	37' 9" - 39' 8"	£1,325.33	£1,494.22
12.10 - 12.49m	39' 9" - 41' 0"	£1,400.86	£1,578.05
12.50 - 13.09m	41' 1" - 42'11"	£1,400.86	£1,578.05
13.10 - 13.49m	43' 0" - 44' 3"	£1,469.93	£1,656.89
13.50 - 14.09m	44' 4" - 46' 3"	£1,469.93	£1,656.89
14.10 - 14.49m	46' 4" - 47' 6"	£1,540.63	£1,735.69
14.50 - 15.09m	47' 7" - 49' 6"	£1,540.63	£1,735.69
15.10 - 15.49m	49' 7" - 50'10"	£1,619.32	£1,826.26
15.50 - 16.09m	50'11" - 52' 9"	£1,619.32	£1,826.26
16.10 - 16.49m	52'10" - 54' 1"	£1,688.42	£1,903.40
16.50 - 17.09m	54' 2" - 56' 1"	£1,688.42	£1,903.40
17.10 - 17.49m	56' 2" - 57' 4"	£1,765.52	£1,990.61
17.50 - 18.09m	57' 5" - 59' 4"	£1,765.52	£1,990.61
18.10 - 18.49m	59' 5" - 60' 8"	£1,837.81	£2,072.78
18.50 - 19.09m	60' 9" - 62' 7"	£1,837.81	£2,072.78
19.10 - 19.49m	62' 8" - 63'11"	£1,908.48	£2,153.28
19.50 - 20.09m	64' 0" - 65'11"	£1,908.48	£2,153.28
20.10 - 20.49m	66' 0" - 67' 2"	£1,982.39	£2,235.44
20.50 - 21.09m	67' 3" - 68'11"	£1,982.39	£2,235.44
21.10 - 21.49m	69' 0" - 70' 6"	£2,061.12	£2,320.97
21.50 - 22.09m	70' 7" - 72' 2"	£2,061.12	£2,320.97
22.10 - 22.49m	72' 3" - 73' 9"	£2,163.92	£2,438.35
22.50 - 23.09m	73'10" - 75' 9"	£2,163.92	£2,438.35

### Data Protection Legislation

You can find our full privacy notice on our website at [canalrivertrust.org.uk/cookie-and-privacy-policy](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/cookie-and-privacy-policy)

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Please complete this form using **BLOCK CAPITALS** using black ink.

Where tick boxes are used, place a cross in the selected box. ☒

Please read the explanatory notes before filling in the form. **We will return your application if it is not fully complete with correct enclosures.**

Office use only

## 1. Owner details

Your Canal & River Trust index number and/or EA reg. number:

Your Canal & River Trust customer number:

Boat name:

Which is your current 'home' navigation area?

☐ Canal & River Trust ☐ EA Medway ☐ EA Thames ☐ EA Anglian ☐ Middle Levels Other

Title:  First names:  Surname:

House number/name:

Telephone

Street name:  Mobile:

Town:  Daytime:

County:  Evening:

Postcode:

Email:

Date of birth (may be used as a security check if you call us) (dd/mm/yyyy):

## 2. Boat details

Boat length:  Beam:  Draught:  Year of construction:  Hull material:

Boat makers name:  Model:

☐ Inboard diesel ☐ Outboard petrol ☐ Outboard diesel ☐ Inboard electric ☐ Outboard electric

Engine size(s):  No. of engines:  Other engines:

Where is your boat normally moored?

Home mooring site name

Canal or river name

If continuously cruising, please tick ☐

## 3. Insurance

My boat is insured by (enter name of insurer)

Policy number

Expires on (dd/mm/yyyy):



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## How to pay

### Direct Debit

- **NB** We can only operate Direct Debit from one bank account per customer. It is important that you read the section 'paying by Direct Debit' in your terms and conditions booklet.

### Direct Debit payment options

- All instalments will be split evenly between the number of payments selected and taken on the first available date of the following month. The prompt payment discount is not available for instalment payments.
- We will always notify you in advance of the payment dates and amounts.

### Payment Card

- (Visa, Mastercard, Maestro only)

### Cheque

- Please make cheques payable to Canal & River Trust and **write your customer number on the back**. Please do not send cash through the post. If you plan to offer the boat for hire or reward, you must have a business licence. Please ask for the special form.

## Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit



**Canal &  
River Trust**

Making life better by water

### Please fill in the whole form and send it to:

Boat Licensing Team, National Waterways Museum  
 Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port,  
 Cheshire, CH65 4FW



### Name and address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager	Bank/building society
Address	
Postcode	

### Name(s) of account holder(s)

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### Branch sort code

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### Bank/building society account number

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### Service user number

9	8	0	0	9	4
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### Reference

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### Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Canal & River Trust Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

I understand that this Instruction may remain with Canal & River Trust and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)
Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

**DDI5**

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Canal & River Trust will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Canal & River Trust to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Canal & River Trust or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Canal & River Trust asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

