

# PRESS RELEASE

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## CANAL & RIVER TRUST SHARES STRUCTURE OF BOAT LICENCE PRICING

Following the [announcement on 19 September](#) about changes to future boat licensing, the Canal & River Trust is today giving further details about the increases in licence fees to be applied from 1 April 2024 for boats without a home mooring and for wide beam boats.

Licences for all boats on the Trust's waterways will increase above inflation for each of the next five years. The surcharges for boats without a home mooring and wide beam boats will be applied in addition to that.

The following licence pricing will be applied, starting from 1 April 2024 (with the surcharges for boats without a home mooring and for wide beam boats also summarised in the table beneath):

### All boats

- Standard licence fee: All boats will see an above-inflation increase in each of the next five years. This will be determined in November of the preceding year when the latest inflation forecasts are available from the Bank of England i.e. the increase to be applied from April 2024 will be announced next month.

### Boats without a home mooring

- Boats without a home mooring will see a total surcharge of 25% applied on top of the standard licence fee. It will be phased in, so that the surcharge in each year is as follows:
  - April 2023 (existing): Standard licence fee
  - April 2024: Standard licence fee + 5%
  - April 2025: Standard licence fee + 10%
  - April 2026: Standard licence fee + 15%
  - April 2027: Standard licence fee + 20%
  - April 2028: Standard licence fee + 25%

## Wide beam boats

- Wider boats will see an increase to the current surcharge.
  - Boats 2.16m/7ft 1" – 3.24m/10ft 7½" (Band 2) will see an increase from the existing 10% surcharge to a 25% surcharge. It will be phased in, so that the surcharge in each year is as follows:
    - April 2023 (existing): Standard licence fee +10%
    - April 2024: Standard licence fee +13%
    - April 2025: Standard licence fee +16%
    - April 2026: Standard licence fee +19%
    - April 2027: Standard licence fee +22%
    - April 2028: Standard licence fee +25%
  - Boats over 3.24m/10ft 7½" (Band 3) will see an increase from the existing 20% surcharge to a 50% surcharge. It will be phased in, so that the surcharge in each year is as follows:
    - April 2023 (existing): Standard licence fee +20%
    - April 2024: Standard licence fee +26%
    - April 2025: Standard licence fee +32%
    - April 2026: Standard licence fee +38%
    - April 2027: Standard licence fee +44%
    - April 2028: Standard licence fee +50%

## Wide beam boats without a home mooring

- Wider boats without a home mooring will see both surcharges combined.
  - Boats without home moorings over 2.16m/7ft 1" – 3.24m/10ft 7½" (Band 2) will see an increase from the existing 10% surcharge to a 50% surcharge. It will be phased in, so that the surcharge in each year is as follows:
    - April 2023 (existing): Standard licence fee +10%
    - April 2024: Standard licence fee +18%
    - April 2025: Standard licence fee +26%
    - April 2026: Standard licence fee +34%
    - April 2027: Standard licence fee +42%
    - April 2028: Standard licence fee +50%
  - Boats without home moorings over 3.24m/10ft 7½" (Band 3) will see an increase from the existing 20% surcharge to a 75% surcharge. It will be phased in, so that the surcharge in each year is as follows:
    - April 2023 (existing): Standard licence fee +20%
    - April 2024: Standard licence fee +31%
    - April 2025: Standard licence fee +42%
    - April 2026: Standard licence fee +53%
    - April 2027: Standard licence fee +64%
    - April 2028: Standard licence fee +75%

### Prompt and online payment

- There will be a reduction of the prompt payment discount from 2.5% to 2% and a reduction in the online payment discount from 2.5% to 0.5%.

Table: Annual increase for boats without a home mooring and for wide beam boats between 1 April 2024 and 1 April 2028:

	Narrowboat under 2.16m with a Home Mooring	Narrowboat under 2.16m without a Home Mooring	Wide Beam 2.16m to 3.24m (Band 2) with a Home Mooring	Wide Beam 2.16m to 3.24m (Band 2) without a Home Mooring	Wide Beam over 3.24m (Band 3) with a Home Mooring	Wide Beam over 3.24m (Band 3) without a Home Mooring
<b>2024</b>	Standard licence fee	Standard licence fee Plus 5%	Standard licence fee Plus 13%	Standard licence fee Plus 18% (5% + 13%)	Standard licence fee Plus 26%	Standard licence fee Plus 31% (5% + 26%)
<b>2025</b>	Standard licence fee	Standard licence fee Plus 10%	Standard licence fee Plus 16%	Standard licence fee Plus 26% (10% + 16%)	Standard licence fee Plus 32%	Standard licence fee Plus 42% (10% + 32%)
<b>2026</b>	Standard licence fee	Standard licence fee Plus 15%	Standard licence fee Plus 19%	Standard licence fee Plus 34% (15% + 19%)	Standard licence fee Plus 38%	Standard licence fee Plus 53% (15% + 38%)
<b>2027</b>	Standard licence fee	Standard licence fee Plus 20%	Standard licence fee Plus 22%	Standard licence fee Plus 42% (20% + 22%)	Standard licence fee Plus 44%	Standard licence fee Plus 64% (20% + 44%)
<b>2028</b>	Standard licence fee	Standard licence fee Plus 25%	Standard licence fee Plus 25%	Standard licence fee Plus 50% (25% + 25%)	Standard licence fee Plus 50%	Standard licence fee Plus 75% (25% + 50%)

The licence fee makes an important contribution to the Trust's income, accounting for 11% of revenue. Whilst the cost of the licence has largely kept pace with inflation since the Trust was formed, the increases being introduced from April 2024 will help with the increasing cost of looking after the ageing canal network – at a time when government has announced significant cuts to public funding.

Alongside the changes to boat licensing, the Trust continues to grow income from its property and non-property endowment, and from other commercial sources such as hosting utilities and water transfer. The Trust is targeting a step-change in income generation from towpath users and other supporters, with fundraising income projected to grow by 10% each year – whilst

other commercial waterways income, including from anglers, paddle sports and moorings, is also set to increase.

For more information on the changes to boat licensing including Frequently Asked Questions visit: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/national-consultations>

For more information on boat licensing, visit: [canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/licence-your-boat](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/licence-your-boat)

The Trust supports boaters who may be struggling to pay their licence fees on a case-by-case basis. This can include arranging flexible payment plans and signposting to relevant services, for example the Waterways Chaplaincy, local authorities and Citizens Advice. For more information visit: [canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/do-you-know-a-vulnerable-boater](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/do-you-know-a-vulnerable-boater)

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