

Guidance to Boating Businesses

Please read the accompanying statement below (applies to England only)

	Step 1		Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
	8 th March	29 th March	12 th April	17 th May	21 st June
Hotel Boats	Not permitted.	Not permitted.	Single household bubble per booking <i>(must be self-contained accommodation, no sharing of facilities).</i>	6 people / 2 households per booking.	No restrictions <i>(subject to review).</i>
Self Drive Day Hire	Not permitted. *	6 people / 2 households per boat <i>(if vessel is open air).</i> Single household <i>(if vessel is enclosed).</i>	Same as Step 1.	No restrictions. <i>(if vessel is open air).</i> 6 people or 2 households per boat <i>(if vessel is enclosed).</i>	No restrictions <i>(subject to review).</i>
Self Drive Holiday Hire	Not permitted.	Not permitted.	Single household bubble per boat.	6 people / 2 households per boat.	No restrictions <i>(subject to review).</i>
Skipped Passenger Boats	Not permitted.	We have been advised, it is the discretion of each individual skipper/business whether their boat may operate compliantly under each step. Skippers/businesses should consider: - The social contact rules governing indoor and outdoor gathering which apply at each step. - Your ability to ensure appropriate social distancing between individuals/households at each step. N.B. the skipper does not count towards Rule of 6 or 2 household limits			No restrictions <i>(subject to review).</i>
Fixed Trading Boats	Takeaway only.	Takeaway only.	Outdoor table service. 6 people / 2 households per booking.	Up to 30 people per booking <i>(outdoors)</i> , 6 people / 2 households per booking <i>(indoors).</i>	No restrictions <i>(subject to review).</i>
Watersports Activity	Private watersports for exercise <i>(2 people / 1 household).</i>	Formal club activity and outdoor venues. Private groups of 6 people / 2 households.	Same as Step 1.	Private groups of up to 30 people <i>(outdoors).</i>	No restrictions <i>(subject to review).</i>

*DEFRA guidance permits day hire for local recreational purposes, but the Trust is asking boaters to restrict all non-essential boat movements until 29th March.

last updated 1st March 2021

Additional Government advice

- On 22 February, the Prime Minister announced the Government’s roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions in England. The design of the roadmap has been informed by the latest scientific evidence and seeks a balance between our key social and economic priorities, whilst preserving the health and safety of the country. The scientific evidence shows that opening too early or too quickly risks a further lockdown.
- The approach focuses on data, not dates. Each step has a “no earlier than” date, 5 weeks later than the previous step, to allow time to assess the impact of the previous step and provide a week’s notice before changes occur. The steps for easing restrictions will be taken at the same time across England in a national approach, in the absence of a significant regional disparity.
- At each step the Government will make an assessment against the following four tests:
 - The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
 - Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
 - Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
 - Our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.
- From 29 March, as part of the first step, Stay at Home restrictions will be lifted. The Government will continue to advise that people minimise travel up to and including Step 3. This means avoiding making unnecessary journeys, combining trips and avoiding travel at peak times where possible. People should avoid travelling further than is reasonably necessary to take part in their activity - for instance visiting shops or making use of services closer to home.
- All references to permitted activities in the table above assume that boats allow for social distancing rules to be adhered to. COVID-Secure guidance will also remain in place up to and including Step 3 (subject to a proposed review of social distancing rules ahead of Step 4).
- Businesses and boats must not cater for groups larger than the legal limits at each step unless meeting the conditions for a permitted organised gathering. These will be reintroduced at Step 2 for outdoor gatherings and Step 3 for indoor gatherings. These gatherings or events must be operated by a business, charity, public body or similar organisation and can be organised subject to specific conditions: that they comply with COVID-Secure guidance including taking reasonable steps to limit the risk of transmission, complete a related risk assessment; and ensure that those attending do not mix beyond what is permitted by the social contact limits (unless another exemption exists, such as for organised sport or exercise, supervised activities for children or a significant life event).
- The definition of indoor and outdoor is guided by the legislation on smoke free premises. A place is indoors if it would be considered to be enclosed or substantially enclosed, for the purposes of Section 2 of the Health Act 2006, under the Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006.