

Thames 24 Hour Visitor Moorings Information

Following received from Environment Agency 31st January 2019

Dear TNUF Member,

We want to confirm the latest position on our management of our short-stay visitor moorings sites.

As you know, since 2013, we have trialled the use of external providers to manage the payment and enforcement arrangements at these sites. The last remaining contract with an external provider – with Thames Visitor Moorings (TVM) – expires today.

Along with District Enforcement and NSL who have also participated in the trial, TVM have performed well, as has the trial itself. A variety of benefits for both customers and ourselves as moorings provider have been identified. What is especially pleasing for us is that elements of our trial approach have been adopted by numerous private and corporate landowners and moorings site operators. This is helping to reduce abuse and free up more visitor mooring berths for responsible boat owners, maximising their time on, and enjoyment of, the non-tidal Thames.

We are now taking our learnings into discussions with our procurement specialists, to confirm the type and scope of support we need from any external contractor or contractors in future to provide the best level of service that we can. We will involve staff and staff union representatives in those discussions which will inform our way forward. We know we are behind where we wanted to be on this, but we now intend to move forward at pace and have allocated additional internal resource to ensure this is the case.

In the meantime, we will revert to managing our visitor moorings in-house, as we did before we rolled out the trial arrangements. All our staff have been briefed on this and we do not anticipate any disruption to service.

In summary, short-stay moorings at lock sites will be managed by lock staff with local charges applied. We have short-stay moorings available at the following locks:

- Lechlade
- Eynsham
- Kings
- Osney (East St moorings)
- Iffley
- Culham
- Abingdon
- Goring
- Sonning
- Marlow
- Cookham

Off-site visitor moorings will be free but can only be used for stays of 24 hours and no longer. Use of these sites will be monitored by patrol crews during routine patrols and any over stayers will be ordered to move on. If necessary, a Byelaw 58 Direction to Move Notice will be served and enforced against if required. Boat owners failing to comply are committing a criminal offence and which could result in prosecution. These moorings are available at the following locations:

- Reading (Scours Lane)
- Wargrave (Lashbrook moorings)
- Towpath opposite Queen's Eyot
- Boveney (opposite Andrews Boathouse)
- Egham
- Laleham
- Weybridge Towpath
- Tail of Desborough Island
- Walton towpath
- Walton Gridley Miskins
- Hurst Park
- Kingston Rail Wharf (upstream end)

The signage currently on display at visitor mooring sites is in the process of being removed and replaced to ensure users are aware of the change in arrangements. We are also reviewing the information on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Please share this information with your contacts.