



TMBA Non-Tidal Thames Motor Boaters Survey 2021

Summary of Responses to the TMBA online survey conducted during October/November 2021.

This survey was open to all motorboaters based on or visiting the Environment Agency managed non-tidal Thames during 2021. The TMBA is grateful for the support received from river user organisations and other interested parties, particularly the Association of Thames Yacht Clubs (ATYC), DBA-The Barge Association (DBA), the Inland Waterways Association (IWA), the National Association of Boat Owners (NABO), and the Residential Boat Owners Association (RBOA).

Q1. Type of Boat

Cruiser	Narrow Boat	Wide Beam	Barge	Day Boat	Other
430	45	14	20	38	13
77.06%	8.06%	2.51%	3.58%	6.81%	2.33%

Q2. Type of Propulsion

Diesel	Petrol	Electric
435	106	19
77.96%	19.00%	3.41%

Q3. What Type of Registration

Annual Class N	Visitor	Gold Licence
490	47	23
87.81%	8.42%	4.12%

Q4. What did your registration fee cost in 2021 ?

Under £300	£300 to £600	£600 to £1000	£1000 to £1500	£1500 to £2000	Over £2000
85	156	221	77	8	7
15.34%	28.16%	39.89%	13.90%	1.44%	1.26%

Q5. Approximately how many days have you spent cruising in 2021 ?

Less than 10	10 to 25	25 to 50	50 to 100	100 to 150	Over 150
65	207	165	68	29	20
11.73%	37.36%	29.78%	12.27%	5.23%	3.61%

Q6. If permanently based on non tidal Thames where do you moor ?

Marina	EA Base Mooring	Bankside Mooring	Kept Ashore	Continuous Cruiser
359	11	141	15	36
64.34%	1.97%	25.27%	2.69%	6.45%

Q7. How would you describe your overall experience of using the waterway in 2021 ?

Very Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Very Unsatisfactory
35	261	202	63
6.27%	46.77%	36.20%	11.29%

Q8. How important do you consider availability of assisted passage at locks

Essential	Desirable	Nice to Have
292	202	66
52.33%	36.20%	11.83%

Q9. During 2021 were you delayed or inconvenienced by lock breakdowns ?

Once	More than once	Not at all
139	215	206
24.91%	38.53%	36.92%

Q10. Please indicate how satisfied you have been in 2021 in relation to the following

	Very Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Very Unsatisfactory
Lock Service	85	193	210	66
	15.34%	34.84%	37.91%	11.91%
Lock Reliability	71	268	165	50
	12.82%	48.38%	29.78%	9.03%
Water Depth	86	337	105	26
	15.52%	60.83%	18.95%	4.69%
Navigation Hazards, Trees etc.	25	155	224	150
	4.51%	27.98%	40.43%	27.08%
Moorings Availability	19	179	239	117
	3.43%	32.31%	43.14%	21.12%
Availability of Fresh Water, Pumpouts	16	196	197	145
	2.89%	35.38%	35.56%	26.17%
EA Communications with Boaters	26	279	164	85
	4.69%	50.36%	29.60%	15.34%
Enforcement	9	147	161	237
	1.62%	26.53%	29.06%	42.78%

Q11. Which of the following communications methods do you have available and prefer to use when afloat on the waterway?

	Access	No Access	Prefer
Mobile Phone	229	1	265
	46.26%	0.20%	53.54%
Tablet or Personal Computer	221	212	62
	44.65%	42.83%	12.53%
Email	314	37	144
	63.43%	7.47%	29.09%
EA River Conditions, Gov.UK etc.	356	78	62
	71.92%	15.76%	12.53%
Facebook	217	254	24
	43.84%	51.31%	4.85%
Twitter	104	382	9
	21.01%	77.17%	1.82%

Q12. During 2021 have you witnessed or been a victim of antisocial behaviour whilst using the river?

YES	NO
217	342
38.89%	61.29%

Q13. Do you belong to a boating club or river user association?

YES	NO
367	195
65.77%	34.95%

Note

This document summarises the responses received to the consultation which ran from 5th October to 30th November 2021. In addition to answering the above questions, respondents were also required to provide their name, email address and boat name, in accordance with the following assurance of privacy clearly displayed at the head of the survey form:

“Motor Boaters based on, or visiting, the Environment Agency managed non tidal Thames during 2021 are invited to participate in this survey. Personal data submitted via this form, specifically your name, email address and boat name, will be held only by the TMBA and will not be disclosed to third parties without your consent.”

A total of 585 responses were received of which 29 were considered invalid. This was mainly due to duplication in which case the latest entry was accepted.

The information received will be used, as appropriate, to inform engagement with the waterways authorities in matters affecting the interests of power boating activities. It is the TMBA’s intention to publish, in due course, a discussion paper exploring issues raised by the survey responses.

The TMBA acknowledges the assistance and support of the Association of Thames Yacht Clubs, DBA-The Barge Association, the Inland Waterways Association, the National Association of Boat Owners, and the Residential Boat Owners Association and other river based interested parties in promoting this survey to the power boating fraternity.

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