

The River Wey Navigations Information for canoeists

Welcome to the River Wey Navigations, Surrey's oldest waterway

Today, the leisurely pace of the Navigations contrasts with the speed of the railways and motorways that link London and Guildford. Much has changed since 1653 when the Wey Navigation opened as the new, easy route to London. The Wey Navigation runs northwards for 15½ miles from Guildford to the Thames at Weybridge. The Godalming Navigation, opened in 1764, extended the navigable waterway a further 4 miles south to Godalming.

The 20 miles of waterway provide an excellent way to discover Surrey's towns, villages and countryside. The Wey Navigations form a green corridor running through some of Surrey's most built-up areas. The changing scenery means that there is always plenty to see: the unique landscape of the Navigations contains a rich variety of wildlife habitats, while the historic locks and their pretty cottages add to the waterway's special character.

The National Trust as Navigation Authority

The waterway requires careful management to maintain its wildlife, landscape, historical and recreational value. The National Trust has owned and managed the Wey Navigation since 1964 and the Godalming Navigation since 1968. The Trust maintains the Navigations using traditional techniques and materials in order to preserve the spirit of this unique waterway. The income from licences helps to cover the cost of maintaining the Navigations.

The National Trust manages the Wey Navigations according to three guiding principles:

- To comply with the Acts of Parliament of 1670 and 1760 which established the responsibilities of the Commissioners for the Wey and Godalming Navigations, in particular to maintain the waterway in a navigable condition.
- In accordance with the general principles of the National Trust, to preserve the Wey and Godalming Navigations for the benefit of the nation, including the preservation of their natural aspect, features, animals and plant life, buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, and the promotion of access.
- To enable quiet and varied enjoyment of the waterway by the public.

A statement of policies for management of the Wey and Godalming Navigations was put together following a detailed consultation of users, neighbours, statutory authorities and representative bodies. Copies are available from the Navigations Office.

We hope that you will enjoy your visit and encourage you to read these notes for your safety and information.

Licences

- All craft on the River Wey and Godalming Navigations require a licence from the National Trust. Portable licences are issued to unpowered kayaks, canoes, rowboats, dinghies, punts and skiffs.
- Comprehensive BCU membership includes a licence fee for use on the Wey Navigations.
- Owners who fail to pay licence fees are subject to debt recovery through the courts. In addition, boat owners who make no attempt to register are not allowed on the waterway.
- Portable craft licences can be obtained from the Navigations Office at Dapdune Wharf in Guildford, from Thames Lock, Stoke Lock, Farncombe Boat House and from National Trust Lengthsmen.
- An events licence is required for activities involving ten or more people on the Navigations.
- **A current Navigations Licence or BCU membership document must be displayed on all craft.**

Shops and pubs on or near the Wey Navigations

LOCATION	SHOPS	PUBS
Thames Lock	Weybridge town centre ten minutes walk from lock. Shops, museum, library.	Old Crown (short walk) 01932 842844 The Minnow (short walk) 01932 831672 Other pubs and restaurants in town centre.
Town Lock	Short walk to Weybridge town centre.	Several pubs and restaurants in town centre.
Addlestone reach		Pelican 01932 843032
Newhaw Lock	Small newsagents and general store, petrol station, by roundabout next to lock.	White Hart Inn 01932 842927
Parvis Bridge	Ten minutes walk into Byfleet town centre.	Pubs and restaurants in Byfleet town centre.
Pyrford Lock	Pyrford Marina sells small chandlery items.	Anchor 01932 342507
Walsham Gates	20 minute walk to the pretty village of Ripley, small supermarket and other stores.	There are a number of pubs in Ripley village.
Newark Lock		Seven Stars (short walk) 01483 225128
Highbridge, Send	Short walk to Send village shops.	
Cartbridge, Send		New Inn 01483 762736
Triggs Lock		The Olive Tree (short walk upstream, over Warehams footbridge) 01483 772289
Woodbridge, Guildford		The Rowbarge 01483 573358
Guildford Town reach	Large shopping centre. Tourist Information Centre, Museum etc. Leaflet guide available from Thames Lock and Dapdune Wharf.	The White House 01483 302006 Scruffy Murphy's 01483 572160 Weyside 01483 568024 Many other pubs, restaurants and take-aways in the town centre.
Broadford Bridge		Parrot Inn (short walk over bridge) 01483 561400
St Catherine's Lock		The Seahorse (10 minutes walk along footpath to Shalford) 01483 514351
Trowers Bridge		Manor Inn (01483 427134)
Farncombe Boat House	Shop and tea room at boat house. Short walk down Catteshall Road into village which has a few stores and garage.	The Leathern Bottle (short walk into village) 01483 425642
Godalming Wharf	Sainsburys and Homebase next to Wharf, other superstores and shops in town centre.	Several pubs, restaurants and take-aways in town centre.

Maps and guidebooks

The National Trust has produced a book of circular walks from the river, priced at £3.00, available from Thames and Stoke Locks, Dapdune Wharf, Pyrford Basin, Guildford Boat House, Farncombe Boat House and Guildford Tourist Information Centre.

Safe canoeing

Please remember these rules of the river :

- Avoid weirs and regulating gates unless you are experienced and qualified to white water standards.
- Keep to the right and take extra care at bends.
- The speed limit is 8km per hour.
- Racing and time trials are not allowed.
- Make allowances for other types of craft.
- Do not paddle between sunset and sunrise.
- Canoeing when the river is in flood is only permitted with the prior agreement of the National Trust.

Hazards on the river:

- **Guildford Rowing Club**
Rowers use the stretch between Millmead Lock and St Catherine's Lock in Guildford.
- **The horse-drawn barge (Iona)**
In use from Easter to September between Godalming Wharf and Unstead Bridge – always pass on the non-towpath side.
- **Fishing**
When passing anglers generally stay in the mid-channel and proceed in single file – be prepared for requests to pass close to or away from the angler..
- **Watch your wash**
All kayaks and canoes are capable of creating a wash, particularly when in a group. Excessive wash can endanger people, damage banks and harm wildlife, damage moored vessels, and interfere with angling.



Sound signals

Please ensure that you are aware of the sound signals used by powered craft.

- Prolonged blast (10 seconds) means ATTENTION, to be used when a boat is about to get underway or is approaching a blind bend or bridge.
- 1 short blast indicates altering course to starboard (right).
- 2 short blasts indicate altering course to port (left)
- 3 short blasts indicate craft has engaged reverse gear
- 4 short blasts signals inability to manoeuvre
- 4 short blasts a gap then 1 short blast signals turning round to starboard (right)
- 4 short blasts a gap then 2 short blasts signals turning round to port (left)
- 5 or more short blasts can be used to alert other craft to what they are doing.

Please show general courtesy towards other river users and allow everyone to have an enjoyable experience.

Launch points

Suitable launch points are generally at or close to locks. Whilst there are a few other possible sites, these are not recommended.

Locks on the River Wey and Godalming Navigations:

Lock	Portage side	Distance from River Thames (miles)	Parking	Emergency contact number
Thames (ATTENDED)	West	0.1	None	01932 843106 07786 703836 (mobile)
Weybridge (Town)	North	0.8	Free	01932 841028 07786 703835 (mobile)
Coxes	East	1.5	No vehicular access	
New Haw	East	2.3	Free	
Pyrford	East	4.9	Free opposite Anchor pub	01483 725180 07786 703834 (mobile)
Walsham Gates*	West	5.9	None	
Newark	North	6.6	Newark Lane 500m from lock	
Papercourt	North west	7.3	No vehicular access	
Worsfold Gates*	East	8.9	No vehicular access	01483 761549 07786 703833 (mobile)
Triggs	West or east	9.7	None	
Bowers	East	11.9	Bowers Lane car park	01483 504939 07786 703832 (mobile)
Stoke	South east	13.0	By arrangement with NT	
Millmead	West	15.4	Pay & display car parks	01483 566565 07786 703831 (mobile)
St Catherine's	West	16.5	No vehicular access	
Unstead	West	17.8	No vehicular access	01483 416581 07786 703830 (mobile)
Catteshall	West	19.0	Limited on Catteshall Rd.	
Godalming Wharf	East	19.5	Pay & display in town	

*Walsham and Worsfold Gates are operated in times of flood only

GODALMING WHARF IS THE UPPER LIMIT OF NAVIGATION

Non-Navigation River Channels

River channels which are not part of the Navigations belong to private land owners, whose permission should be sought if access is required. Navigation rights must not be assumed.



Useful contact numbers:

- Navigations Office 01483 561389 (office hours)
- Thames Lock 01932 843106 / 07786 703836 (mobile)
- River Thames Information Service 01189 535520 (24hr answerphone)
- BCU 01159 821100 (office hours)
- Basingstoke Canal Authority 01252 370073
- Surrey Police 01483 571111