



A joint environmental programme

# The Inland Waterways Code for Boaters

The Inland Waterways Code has been developed by The Green Blue to mirror the Countryside Code, the widely known and respected guidelines for countryside activities.

Boaters can sign up to a “Boater Pledge”, committing to abiding by the Code, and obtain a pennant from The Green Blue to declare their support. To sign the pledge, please go to The Green Blue’s website, [www.thegreenblue.org.uk/pledge](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/pledge)

## Respect

- Keep to speed limits.
- Minimise wash, especially around sensitive habitats, other water users and moored boats.
- Minimise noise, especially when around others.
- Don’t throw anything overboard.

## Protect



- Avoid damaging sensitive riverbed habitats by choosing your anchoring location wisely, and use available moorings whenever possible.
- Keep your boat’s bottom clean to maximise efficiency.
- Take care when handling fuels, oils, paints and blacking.
- Don’t discharge black and grey water, even in tidal areas.
- Follow the Check, Clean, Dry guidance to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- Observe wildlife from a distance, and don’t directly approach if at all possible.

## Enjoy

- Research your destination to get the most out of your visit.
- Plan your route taking proper account of weather and, when on rivers and estuaries, tides.
- Take relevant training to enhance your confidence and enjoyment.
- Plan your clothing choices for bad weather – this is the UK after all!
- Make the most of the UK’s amazing inland waterways!