



Planning Guide for Boating Facilities *at a Glance*

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This guide provides a summary of recommendations and policies from the comprehensive “Planning Guide for Boating Facilities” document prepared by BMF and RYA.

This summary edition provides proposals that both safeguard and allow for the future development of marine businesses and voluntarily run clubs and is relevant to the following policy making bodies:

- Local Planning Authorities
- Regional Development Agencies
- Regional Assemblies
- Trust ports, Harbour and Navigation Authorities
- Environment Agency
- British Waterways
- Countryside Agency
- Sport England

The aim is for such organisations to plan ahead by providing a framework to enable demand for recreational boating facilities to be met across the UK’s inland and coastal waters on a structured and sustainable basis.

To achieve development or recreational boating facilities the challenge is to balance protection of the environment with demands for access to the water and related economic, social and tourism benefits.

“We very much hope that planning and policy makers from all the bodies who have responsibilities for the management of water and the provision of these facilities will find the guide useful”

Chris Corcoran, BMF’s planning consultant

SPORT AND RECREATION

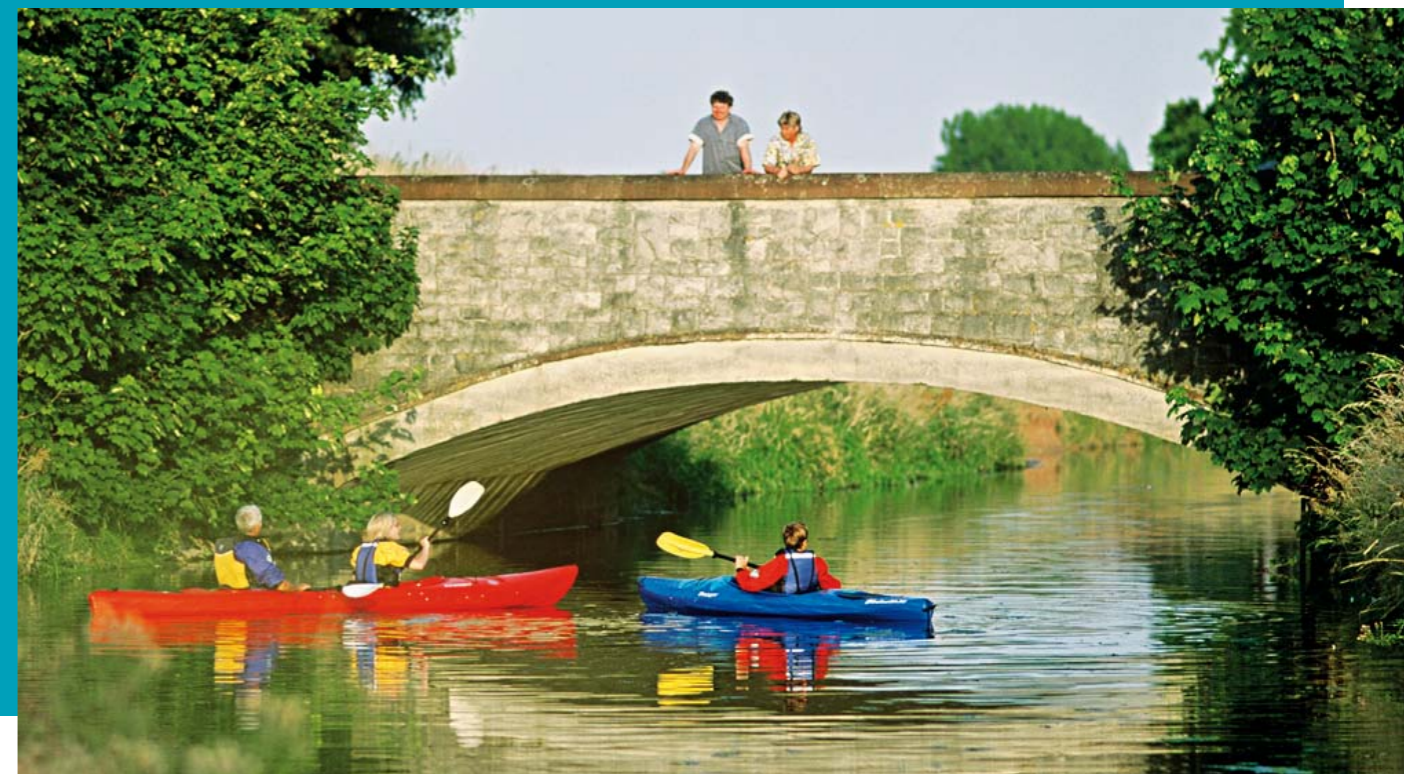
Up to 3.7 million British adults a year participate in boating and watersports on the coastal and inland waterways of our country¹

Recommendations

Policy makers to seek opportunities to protect existing and where appropriate increase provision of recreational boating facilities as follows:

- Provide networks of accessible, quality boating facilities in both urban and rural areas, taking into account national and regional demands and roles of the area.
- Look favourably on schemes to provide new boating facilities or to enhance and extend existing provision.
- Publish clear guidance on development criteria.
- Identify and protect waters of national, regional and local importance in the development of recreational boating as a sport and recreational activity.
- Encourage boating and the range of boating and watersport activities as a tool in achieving social inclusion.
- Ensure boating is included as a sporting activity in plans that cover health and lifestyle issues.

1. Watersports and Leisure Participation Report 2006 - BMF, MCA, RNLI and RYA (sponsored by Sunsail)



ROLE OF BOATING

Domestic tourism spending related to leisure boating is estimated at up to £2.2 billion per year, indirectly supporting up to 63,000 jobs²

Recommendations

Policy makers to:

- Identify the importance and potential of boating for the tourism industry within their areas
- Identify the facilities and activities on which it depends
- Ensure that policies are in place to safeguard those facilities and allow them to expand where appropriate
- Protect and expand existing boating facilities that service boats and associated facilities
- Permit marine companies that provide hire cruiser and charter services to maintain, improve and expand their facilities where necessary.
- Permit boating clubs to maintain, improve and expand their facilities where necessary

2. BMF economic benefits of the UK boating industry - 2005



MOORINGS PROVISION

There are in the region of 75,000 inland & 150,000 coastal moorings in the UK and in many areas demand exceeds supply³

Recommendations

Policy makers to:

- Recognise the vital importance of moorings
- Assess the scale of demand for and identify new locations for moorings.
- Where there is no additional capacity on the water, examine opportunities for increasing dry storage.
- Resist the net loss of moorings.
- Publish criteria for new mooring provision in plans and policy statements (including marinas).
- Review existing mooring areas and whether they can be extended or better managed to provide additional or different types of moorings.
- Encourage the provision of visitor moorings as a form of sustainable tourism.

3. BMF Inland and Coastal Marinas and Moorings Audit - 2003/4



PROTECTION OF WATERSIDE SITES

We need to conserve waterside locations for those activities that have specific requirements such as water-based activities. The loss of traditional boating related facilities (e.g. boatyards and boathouses) to other uses that do not require a waterside location should be discouraged⁴

Recommendations

Policy makers to:

- Recognise the vital importance of waterside sites for recreational boating and the marine industry.
- Carry out an assessment of waterside sites and audit of their use.
- Identify waterside sites for marine related businesses; protect existing, reserve future and seek to reuse disused.
- Resist the loss of sites with direct access to the water to uses which do not require a waterside location
- Allocate water areas and access points for joint or separate use.
- Consult with adjacent authorities and co-ordinate plans and policies on waterside developments, for instance, within coastal zone and estuary management plans.

4. PPG20 - Coastal Planning



ACCESS

In considering planning applications for development near water, local authorities should ensure that access for sport and recreational purposes is not restricted and should, where possible, be enhanced⁵

Recommendations

Policy makers to:

- Recognise the importance of providing access to the water for boating and related activities.
- Assess slipway provision to public navigable water in appropriate discrete areas, e.g. an estuary or stretch of river. Establish if public or private and the state of slipways.
- Permit the development of new facilities in areas of high demand and the maintenance or upgrading of existing facilities.
- Protect against the loss of and access to slipways, whether public or private.
- Provide toilets, showers, waste and recycling receptacles at well-used slipways or signs showing the location of the nearest facilities.
- Provide storage for boats on land adjacent to slipways.
- Ensure adequate car and trailer parking sites close to slipways or boat pounds.
- Identify and promote areas for windsurfing, provide parking and rigging areas, and washdown facilities. Provide toilets and showers at popular windsurfing sites.
- Enable access for informal recreation where there is limited risk

5. PPG17 Sport and Recreation



ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

The large majority of the UK's boating industry is comprised of small and medium sized companies, directly providing jobs for around 35,000 people and generating an annual turnover of at least £2.8 billion⁶

Recommendations

Policy makers to:

- Recognise the contribution made to the local economy by marine industries.
- Support measures taken by marine businesses to improve their facilities, sites and premises.
- Allow the expansion and redevelopment of existing businesses as they modernise and invest where appropriate.

6. BMF industry bulletin 2005-2006 (UK)



REGENERATION

The improvement of waterways and the redevelopment of disused and derelict waterside land produces many benefits: it removes a potentially dangerous eyesore; it creates a pleasant place in which to live, work and play; and it attracts private sector investment. Waterside businesses such as marinas, shops, pubs and restaurants create jobs and generate income from tourists and other visitors⁷

Recommendations

- Regional Spatial Strategies should include an objective to make best use of water space and frontage in regeneration projects.
- Regeneration schemes at the waterside should assess the existing use of the water space for recreational boating with the potential for increase to be explored and integrated into the scheme.
- Policy makers should use the provision of boating facilities as a tool to assist in the regeneration of waterside sites.

7. Waterways for Tomorrow, DEFRA June 2000



CONSTRAINTS ON RECREATIONAL BOATING

Key constraints on the leisure boating sector include insufficient space allocated both on land and water, lack of moorings, uncertainty in obtaining consents, finance and increasing costs of dredging⁸

Recommendations

Policy makers to:

- Take a strategic approach to water space management to ensure the best use of finite resources taking into account constraints competing uses, natural capital and new opportunities for provision of facilities.
- Consider the cumulative effects of planning policies arising from environmental designations on marine industries.
- Ensure that information demands for appropriate assessments are proportional to the scale of the proposals. Look to share and coordinate information provided by assessments.
- Publish clear criteria, which identifies areas and circumstances in which new development, and the expansion of existing facilities, may take place.
- Ensure existing boating facilities in designated areas are not disadvantaged by new or revised constraints.
- Ensure boating is not compromised by flooding or flood protection measures and opportunities for appropriate development within shoreline management plans and managed retreat sites are explored. Analyse the economic, social and environmental impacts of the competing activities.
- Identify potential conflicts between aquaculture and recreational use of the water.

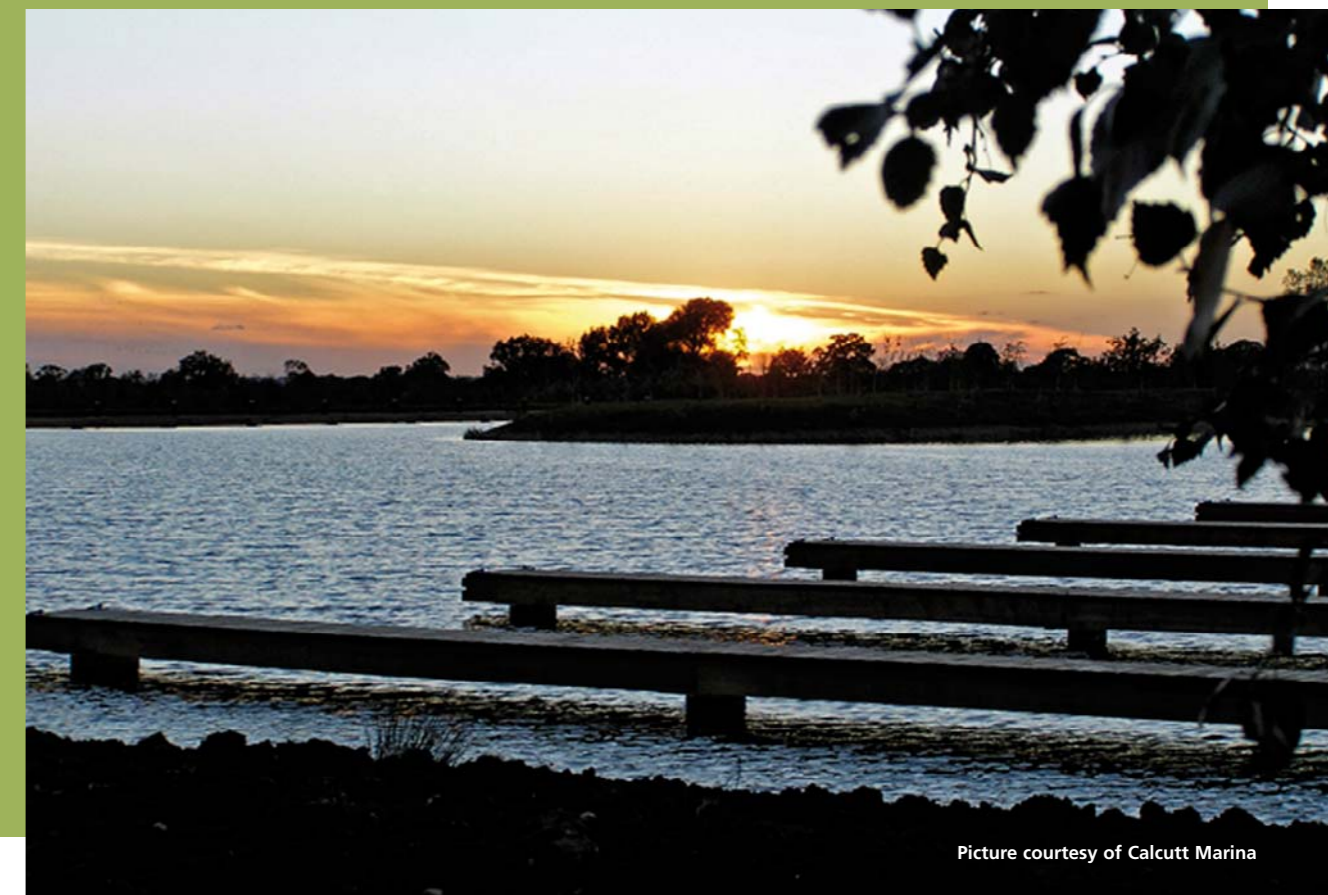
8. BMF Inland and Coastal Marinas and Moorings Audit – 2003/4)

CONCLUSION

This short guide covers a wide range of recommendations to be considered by local authorities and other policy makers when preparing or reviewing development plans. It is hoped that the information contained in this note will help in the formulation of more realistic policies and proposals related to marine industries and to recreational water based activities.

The BMF, RYA and their regional associations are keen to help local authorities by providing local knowledge of the current position and future requirements of boating industries and activities in their area. The Government has emphasised the need to involve fully other relevant bodies with an interest in the coast and our inland waterways.

BMF and the RYA are conscious of the roles that they and their members play, when contributing to the economic development and in helping to protect and enhance the environment. The success of our Environmental education programmes and the future sustainability of the recreational boating sector are in our view in part reliant on close co-operation with policy makers and the key contribution they are able to make.





ABOUT THE BRITISH MARINE FEDERATION

The British Marine Federation is the trade association for the UK leisure marine industry, working to promote the interests of individual member companies, that totals around 1600, and the industry as a whole. BMF through National Boat Shows also runs Southampton Boat Show and London Boat Show attracting large numbers of visitors from the UK and overseas. The range of member companies we support are well represented at the shows and include canoe and clothing manufacturers, boat builders, inland hire, insurance, in fact companies offering a range of products and services that enable the boating public to get out on the water. Our UK boat builders and the marine equipment supply chain that they support are a great British manufacturing success story.

FURTHER CONTACT

You can download the full planning guide from
www.britishmarine.co.uk/environment

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ABOUT THE RYA

The RYA is Britain's national body for all forms of boating, including dinghy and yacht racing, motor and sail cruising, RIBs and sports boats, powerboat racing, windsurfing, inland cruising and narrowboats, and personal watercraft. It has 103,000 personal members, 1,500 affiliated clubs and classes, and 2,250 RYA-accredited Training Centres worldwide.

RYA training is internationally renowned and used by the Royal Navy, RNLI, Coastguard, MoD, Police and Fire Service, as well as tens of thousands of recreational boaters. In competition, sailing was Britain's most successful sport at the last two Olympics and Britain is currently the World's No 1 sailing nation.

FURTHER CONTACT

You can download the full planning guide from
www.rya.org.uk/knowledgebase/environment

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