

**Getting out on the water can be great fun. Across the Environment Agency Anglian Waterways there are lots of rivers where you can get started.**

### First things first

Rent or buy a canoe or paddleboard and get out on the water. The best way is to visit a local club as they can help you learn the basic skills and make sure you stay safe. Rowing is more specialised and a club will help you get started.

### Got the kit and know where to go – is there anything else?

Yes, you need a licence or registration – a bit like car tax for the waterways. If you are a member of British Canoeing or other club they will be able to advise what is needed. This can be annual or a short term visitor registration.

Check you have the correct registration for the water you are using. Although proof of insurance is not required to register with the Environment Agency, registering through British Canoeing, for example, means you can use our waterways and have the appropriate insurance.

Please visit our website for a list of locations that sell visitor registrations  
[www.visitanglianwaterways.org](http://www.visitanglianwaterways.org)

### Safety

It's fun getting out but the water can be dangerous.

#### The basics:

- Always wear a buoyancy aid or lifejacket.
- Stay within your capability, go out with a more experienced canoeist or paddle boarder if you are a beginner.
- Accountability. Tell someone where you are going and when to expect you back.
- Check the weather. Rain can increase river flows, so yesterday's rain can affect levels and flows tomorrow.
- Locks, weirs and sluices are dangerous for small craft due to strong currents and water flows. Use portages or carry your craft around.
- Consider taking an extra set of dry clothes with you. Waterproof your phone if you are taking it with you.

Also boats 'drive' on the right, so bear this in mind when passing boats and other river users.

**Cold water shock is serious and can affect even strong swimmers.**

## Non statutory navigation

These are all waterways that are not managed by a navigation authority. These are the property of the riparian landowner. A riparian landowner owns the land on either side of, or around the waterway and if you plan to paddle here you should seek their permission.

## Clubs and Associations

- British Canoeing can help you find your local club. [www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk)
- Go Paddling can provide starter sessions and basic courses. [www.gopaddling.info](http://www.gopaddling.info)
- British Rowing can help you find your local club. [www.britishrowing.org](http://www.britishrowing.org)



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## Useful Contacts and information

### Environment Agency Boat Registration

Tel 03708 506506

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/anglian-waterways-boat-registration-and-application-forms](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/anglian-waterways-boat-registration-and-application-forms)

### Canoeing – getting started

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canoeing-and-kayaking/starting-canoeing-or-kayaking](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canoeing-and-kayaking/starting-canoeing-or-kayaking)

### Paddle boarding – the basics

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canoeing-and-kayaking/paddle-boarding-the-basics](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canoeing-and-kayaking/paddle-boarding-the-basics)



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