

## River Great Ouse - guidance for event organisers

### General advice and information

On our navigations any vessel on the water will need to be registered, even if you do not use it. This requirement extends to all parts of our waterways, including backwaters and marinas, even if on a private mooring. If you have any questions about registering your vessels please contact us by phone on 03708 506 506 or by email: [boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk)

For more essential information to help you plan your event safely including river conditions, closures and restrictions, boat registration and publications, please go to <http://www.gov.uk/check-river-conditions-and-closures>

A minimum of six weeks prior notification of the event is required. Applicants are also required to fill in the event form attached. Please send completed forms by email or post to: Environment Agency, Waterways Department, Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, PE2 5ZR  
Email: [fay.summers@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:fay.summers@environment-agency.gov.uk) Tel: 02084748829

You are responsible for making adequate, suitable arrangements for the safety of event participants, spectators and members of the public.

- a) We recommend you undertake a risk assessment of the particular location and nature of your event. You should remind participants of their responsibilities for their own safety and that of others. Advice on risk assessment for water-related events is normally available from the governing bodies for the sports and activities, e.g. British Rowing, British Canoe Union, Royal Yachting Association etc.
- b) We invite you to send a copy of your risk assessment to the appropriate River Inspector in case we can provide you with additional safety information.
- c) We advise you to provide an adequate number of safety vessels suitable for rescue, manned by competent personnel, along with a sufficient number of marshals throughout the area of the event, to be alert to potential risks.
- d) We advise in the event of extreme river conditions or other circumstances, the event be suspended, cancelled or postponed in the interests of safety. Your local River Inspector will be pleased to offer guidance or advice in this event. (Contact details overleaf.)
- e) We advise you hold an event only during the hours of daylight and in good visibility conditions.
- f) We advise you the event takes place entirely at your own risk and responsibility.

The Environment Agency is neither organising nor supervising the event and therefore the Environment Agency and its Officers accept no responsibility for any accidents resulting in death or personal injury to persons entering, associated with, or in the vicinity of, the event. Similarly, the Environment Agency and its Officers accept no responsibility for the loss or damage to the property of persons entering, associated with, or in the vicinity of, the event.

We recommend you place notices advising all river users the event is taking place – ideally upstream and downstream of the event site.

If you wish to place marker buoys or floating notices in the river, you must contact your local River Inspector and discuss your plans because there may be requirements as to where and when you can place them to avoid causing an obstruction to river traffic. Please note if you wish to lay a buoyed channel or install other structures in the river, you need our formal consent and this may include action, or support, that is chargeable.

We recommend you tell local river-based clubs about your plans for the event and discuss any concerns they may have. In making the arrangements, Organisers should ensure that competitors do not unreasonably impede the rights of other river users, such as fishermen or boats in transit. Please contact the relevant angling and boat clubs for the area concerned. The Organisers must liaise with these clubs to inform them about the event and erect signs and notices, as deemed appropriate by the clubs, to inform club members, (and others), of the event.

If you need up-to-date information, or to report an incident on the river during your event, you can telephone us using the numbers below. Please provide us with the name and telephone number of the person in charge (preferably who will be 'on site') during the event. It would help us if you could provide this information during office hours before the day of the event. It is important for us to have the correct details during your event so we can contact somebody if necessary.

The details will also be available to our patrol crews if we are providing patrol coverage in support of your event. Environment Agency telephone numbers:

River Inspector - Upper Great Ouse - 07768 171256

River Inspector - Middle Great Ouse - 07717 423512

River Inspector - Ely Ouse - 07889 111829

(Mon – Fri 8am-4pm)

Incident and emergency hotline - 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)

River conditions information - 0845 988 1188 (when prompted press 1, followed by 033211)

#### Our aim

We aim to minimise risk and maximise the success of your river event, through effective communication and support. If you have any related queries, or require any further information, please contact us and we will be glad to help you.