

River Great Ouse - Speed Exemption

BASIC PRECAUTIONS TO BE OBSERVED BY APPLICANTS HOLDING A SPEED EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

1. The vessel being navigated under a speed exemption certificate may only exceed the byelaw speed limit in designated areas agreed with the Environment Agency.
2. The vessel must not unreasonably impede the rights of other river users such as fishermen, boats in transit and boats on their moorings. Addresses for the relevant angling and boat clubs for the area concerned are available from the Agency.
3. The vessel must slow down past moored vessels and when possible remain in the centre of the navigation channel so that wash may dissipate, reducing the potential for bank erosion. The Environment Agency encourages the use of low-wake vessels.
4. The vessel must take extra care in areas used by fishermen. Fishermen are often difficult to see. Keeping away from the river margins should reduce the risk of vessels becoming ensnared in fishing tackle and will provide fishermen adequate time to retract their rods from the channel.
5. The vessel must carry a copy of the Speed Exemption certificate on board at all times so that it may be produced when requested to do so by an Officer of the Environment Agency.
6. The Environment Agency reserves the right to restrict the use of the speed exemption for reasons of health and safety when other conflicting events are taking place on the river, such as regattas and fishing matches. The Environment Agency will provide adequate notice of the date and time of such events.
7. The speed exemption certificate is renewable on an annual basis and the Environment Agency may re-issue the application form for completion each year. The speed exemption certificate is free but it is allocated on the understanding that the owner of the vessel has paid the annual licence fee to the Environment Agency. If you have any questions about registering your boats please contact us by phone on 03708 506 506 or by email: boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk
8. River users should be aware that river conditions are changeable, and may at times become hazardous for navigation, for example at times of high flow. At such times, the Agency encourages river users to contact their nearest Environment Agency office to receive a report on the status of the river from one of its Officers (contact address below). Those using the Vessel should have appropriate qualifications and be able to deal with any reasonably foreseeable emergency situations.
9. The Environment Agency and its officers accept no liability for accidents resulting in the death or personal injury to users of the vessel and other river users as a result of navigating under speed exemption certificate. Similarly, the Environment Agency and its officers accept no responsibility for loss or damage to the property of persons as a result of the use of the vessel that has been granted a speed exemption.
10. The Environment Agency reserves the right to revoke the Speed Exemption Certificate if its Officers believe that these precautions are not being observed by the user of the Vessel.

These precautions are based on experience throughout our Region. They are designed to ensure that boating is conducted in a safe and reasonable manner for the benefit of all river users. They are published for public information and guidance purposes.

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.

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.