

MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS

Moorings Policy



General

1. The erection of moorings requires the consent of the Commissioners as flood defence and navigation authority and of the landowner, in addition to any other consents, eg planning permission, that may be required. The Commissioners are themselves owners of a large part of the Middle Level waterway system. The Applicant for consent must obtain all necessary consents.

Nene-Ouse – Link Route

2. The Commissioners would in principle be prepared to allow the construction of individual landing stages (save as set out in 2 below) and the mooring of vessels on the Nene-Ouse Link Route (Kings Dyke – Whittlesey Dyke – Old River Nene – Well Creek) provided that these complemented the use, usage and environment of the watercourses and did not cause any prejudice to the operations and functions of the Commissioners or obstruction to the Navigation.
3. Any applications for multiple landing stages or individual landing stages greater than 10 metres in length would need to be considered on individual merit and would be subject to impact assessments, covering flood risk, navigation and environmental (including Water Framework Directive) impacts. It would be the applicant's responsibility to provide such assessments.

Other Middle Level navigable waters

4. The Commissioners' policy is to encourage off-line moorings, whether in marinas or elsewhere. The on-line construction of landing stages and the mooring of vessels would therefore only be permitted where the overriding merits of the case justified a departure from this policy. In such cases, the assessments referred to in paragraph 3 above will have to be prepared for the Commissioners' consideration.

General

5. No construction of landing stages or mooring of vessels on narrow channel sections, tight bends or within 30 metres of the junction of 2 (or more) watercourses or of an inlet or outfall structure or of a bridge will be permitted.
6. Except for such stages constructed for mooring in connection with the proper passage of vessels through a Lock, and for mooring in the course of such passage, no construction of landing stages or the mooring of vessels within 30 metres of a Lock or of a Lock landing stage will be permitted.
7. A landing stage the construction of which requires a flood bank to be cut into or otherwise undermined will not be permitted.
8. The Commissioners' policy is not to permit on-line moorings for the residential use of boats.
9. The Commissioners' byelaws prohibit excavations within 20 metres of a watercourse or the landward toe of a flood bank without the prior approval of the Commissioners. ALL landing stages therefore require the permission of the Commissioners PRIOR to any work being implemented. The Commissioners can require the removal of any unauthorised work at the perpetrator's expense. Planning permission is also likely to be required for any landing stages.
10. The mooring of two or more vessels abreast is prohibited by the Commissioners' byelaws as is mooring which impedes or incommodes the passage of other vessels.