

Do I need a River Licence to launch a craft on the River Stour?

Different waterways are effectively managed by different bodies which can be a little confusing, especially when you only want to put your boat on the water and go for a leisurely paddle.

To help river users to understand what is required on the River Stour, we provide below some information about River Licences.

What is a river licence?

Officially it's a waterways licence. It permits the use of any craft, be it a kayak, canoe, stand up paddleboard (SUP), rowboat and/or inflatable, on most waterways in England and Wales. It's not like a driving licence, where you have to take a test to get one. Anyone can get a licence, and it's something you should buy if you intend to launch any craft on inland waterways in England and Wales.

Where can I get a river licence?

You have three options to register to use your craft on the River Stour

1. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

You can register *your craft* (powered/unpowered, private/commercial). Visit the 'Boating & Waterways' section of their website.

2. RIVER STOUR TRUST (RST)

Able to issue EA craft registrations for *unpowered, private craft* only. (Useful optional extras include River Stour Navigation Guide and EA Navigation Key).

3. BRITISH CANOEING (BC)

'On the Water' membership permits *the member* on certain navigations in England and other benefits. Membership covers the member and not the craft.

What will a river licence cost me?

Currently, The licence costs £45 for the year

Do I need to carry a waterways licence?

You will need to carry proof of your licence with you when you go on the River, to avoid a fine. (Obtaining a licence through British Canoeing includes a digital and physical card which you can take with you when you paddle, just in case you get asked to produce it!)