

Maximum Craft Dimensions

CENTRAL SHIRES WATERWAYS

ASHBY CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 6ins (1.98m)	N/A

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS (INCL. BIRMINGHAM & FAZELEY CANAL)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	70ft (21.34m)	71ft 6ins (21.79m)
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 6ins (1.98m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Headroom on Birmingham & Fazeley Canal is limited to 6ft 3ins (1.91m) at Caters Bridge.
2. Headroom through Dudley Tunnel is considerably restricted, contact Waterway Office for further information.

GRAND UNION CANAL

Braunston to head of Camp Hill Top Lock

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	78ft (23.77m)
Beam:	12ft 6ins (3.81m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 6ins (1.98m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Boats up to 14ft (4.27m) beam may be able to navigate this section, but some bridges have low arches and may not be passable, depending on cabin profile.
2. Locks are more than 14ft (4.27m) wide so two narrowboats can safely share.

OXFORD CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 9ins (2.07m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Occasionally craft of 7ft (2.13m) beam may experience difficulty in Marston Doles Top, Claydon Middle and Shut Bridge Locks. These problems are being rectified as time and finance permit.

STAFFORDSHIRE & WORCESTERSHIRE CANAL

River Severn into Stourport Basins only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	75ft (22.86m)	N/A
Beam:	15ft (4.57m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	15ft 7ins (4.77m)	N/A

Stourport to Great Haywood

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft (1.82m)	N/A

COVENTRY CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 6ins (1.98m)	N/A

Maximum Craft Dimensions

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CANAL

River Avon into Stratford Basin

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	70ft (21.34m)	N/A
Beam:	15ft (4.57m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Narrowboats up to 71ft 6ins (21.79m) can pass through this lock with care, but may not be able to share with other boats.

Stratford Basin to Lapworth

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	70ft (21.34m)	71ft 6ins (21.79m)
Beam:	6ft 10ins (2.08m)	7ft (2.13m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft (1.83m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

- Boats of 7ft (2.13m) beam may encounter difficulties in Lock 44 & 50. Also lock 47 is short and care is required by boats over 70ft (21.34m)

Lapworth to Kings Norton (including Kingswood Branch)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 3ins (2.1m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Lock 16 is tight for boats over 70ft (21.34m) and care is required in this lock.

TRENT & MERSEY CANAL

Shardlow to Derwent Mouth

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	81ft (24.89m)
Beam:	14ft 9ins (4.5m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

- The width pinch point between Shardlow Locks and Derwent Mouth is the Environment Agency's flood gates at Shardlow which are 14ft 9ins (4.5m) wide. Below for information, we show the dimensions of Derwent Mouth and Shardlow Locks.

Shardlow Locks

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	80ft 8ins (24.6m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 2ins (4.32m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

Derwent Mouth Lock

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	97ft 1ins (29.6m)	N/A
Beam:	15ft ½ins (4.89m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

WORCESTER & BIRMINGHAM CANAL

River Severn into Diglis Basin only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	75ft (22.86m)
Beam:	18ft 6ins (5.64m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Diglis Basin to Birmingham

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.43m)	N/A

Maximum Craft Dimensions

EAST MIDLANDS WATERWAYS

CHESTERFIELD CANAL

River Trent into West Stockwith Basin only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	16ft (4.87m)	N/A
Draught:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Headroom:	Unlimited	N/A

West Stockwith Basin to tail of Morse Lock

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	6ft 10 ½ins (2.10m)	N/A
Draught:	2ft 6ins (0.762m)	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 1ins (2.15m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Locks up to Retford are 15ft (4.57m) wide but navigation for broad beam craft is restricted due to the width 8ft 6ins (2.59m) at Manor Farm Bridge, Walkeringham.

Tail of Morse Lock to Shireoaks

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	6ft 10ins (2.08m)	N/A
Draught:	2ft 6ins (0.762m)	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 1ins (2.15m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Some locks are only just 7ft (2.13m) wide and passage for some craft up to 7ft beam may be possible.

EREWASH CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 3ins (4.34m)	N/A
Draught:	2ft 6ins (0.762m)	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 4ins (2.23m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Beam is limited by low arched bridges; wider beam up to about 13ft may be possible depending on the headroom required
- Locks are more than 14ft (4.27m) wide and will therefore take two narrowboats.
- Details regarding craft beam width more than 10ft 6ins (3.2m) and headroom is reduced from Hallamfields Turnover Bridge upstream. Additional information is available from the Waterways Office.

FOSSDYKE NAVIGATION

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	75ft (22.86m)	N/A
Beam:	15ft 3ins (4.65m)	N/A
Draught:	5ft (1.52m)	N/A
Headroom:	11ft 6ins (3.5m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Torksey Lock – the maximum craft length is 147ft 7ins (44.98m). This length of craft may not be able to pass along the navigation to Lincoln.

Maximum Craft Dimensions

RIVER WITHAM NAVIGATION

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	75ft (22.86m)	N/A
Beam:	15ft 3ins (4.65m)	N/A
Draught:	5ft (1.52m)	N/A
Headroom:	9ft 2ins (2.79m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Passage of craft over 72ft (21.95m) through Stamp End Lock is limited to 2ft 6ins (0.76m) draught by the depth of the top cill
2. Boston Grand Sluice is limited to 59ft (17.98m) but longer craft can pass through when the tide makes a level.
3. Draught is 5ft (1.52m) at the top of the cill.

RIVER SOAR

River Soar from tail of Kings Locks at Leicester to the River Trent

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	N/A
Draught:		N/A
Headroom:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Headroom is especially limited for boats approaching the maximum beam, and will need to proceed with extreme caution.
2. Headroom maybe limited on the Loughborough Cut for boats approaching maximum beam.

TRENT NAVIGATION (including Beeston Cut & Nottingham Canal)

Shardlow to tail of Meadow Lane Lock, Nottingham

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	81ft (24.89m)
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	14ft 6ins (4.42m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Nottingham to tail of Cromwell Lock

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	145ft (44.2m)	N/A
Beam:	18ft (5.49m)	N/A
Draught:	6ft (1.83m)	N/A
Headroom:	12ft (6.7m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Larger craft may be accommodated; for further advice contact the Waterway Office. The limiting factors are the bend above Newark Nether lock and Newark Town Bridge, not the lock chambers.

Tail of Cromwell Lock to Gainsborough

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	185ft (56.4m)	N/A
Beam:	19ft (5.8m)	N/A
Draught:	5ft 6ins (1.70m)	N/A
Headroom:	22ft (6.7m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Larger craft may be accommodated, depending on tidal conditions; for further advice contact the Waterway Office.

BRITISH WATERWAYS LONDON

GRAND UNION CANAL

River Thames into Limehouse Basin only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	91ft (28m)	N/A
Beam:	24ft (7.5m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

Regents Canal

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	76ft (23.16m)
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	14ft 5ins (4.40m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	9ft 2ins (2.79m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Hertford Union Canal

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	76ft (23.16m)
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	14ft 5ins (4.40m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 6ins (2.59m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

RIVER STORT

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	85ft (25.9m)	N/A
Beam:	13ft (3.96m)	N/A
Draught:		N/A
Headroom:	6ft 9ins (2.05m)	N/A

River Thames into Brentford Basin only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	75ft (22.87m)	83ft 4ins (25.4m)
Beam:	16ft 5ins (5.02m)	18ft 6ins (5.66m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Duplicated locks; one lock is larger than the other is.

Brentford Basin to Berkhamsted

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	76ft (23.16m)
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	14ft 3ins (4.34m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 2ins (2.49m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

RIVER LEE

River Thames to tail of Old Ford Locks

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	88ft (26.82m)	N/A
Beam:	19ft (5.79m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 7ins (2.35m)	N/A

Tail of Old Ford Locks to Ponders End

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	88ft (26.82m)	N/A
Beam:	18ft (5.49m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 7ins (2.35m)	N/A

Ponders End to Hertford

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	85ft (25.9m)	N/A
Beam:	15ft 9ins (4.8m)	N/A
Draught:		N/A
Headroom:	6ft 9ins (2.05m)	N/A

Slough Arm

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	76ft (23.16m)
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	14ft 3ins (4.34m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 5ins (2.58m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

1. The channel is currently only dredged to narrow canal profile, therefore broad beam craft will have difficulty passing other craft.

London Docklands (West India Dock)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	584ft (178m)	N/A
Beam:	80ft (24.4m)	N/A
Draught:	29ft 6ins (9m)	N/A
Headroom:	Unlimited	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Maximum draught is subject to dock and / or tide levels.

Maximum Craft Dimensions

NORTH WEST WATERWAYS

ASHTON CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	71ft 6ins (21.79m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 3ins (1.0m)	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 5ins (1.96m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Boats over 3ft (0.9m) draught should seek assistance from the Waterway Office, as the cill depth at Lock 9 gives only minimal clearance.

HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	6ft 10ins (2.08m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 6ins (1.05m)	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 2ins (1.88m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Many craft over 6ft 10ins beam are currently experiencing problems in some locks between Uppermill and Slaithwaite which were restored prior to the millennium restoration.

LANCASTER CANAL

Main Line & Glasson Branch

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	70ft (21.34m)	72ft (21.95m)
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	14ft 6ins (4.42m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.43m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

From the sea into Glasson Basin only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	87ft (26.52m)	N/A
Beam:	25ft (7.62m)	N/A
Draught:	14ft (4.27m)	N/A
Headroom:	unlimited	N/A

LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL

Liverpool to Wigan (junction with Leigh Branch)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.94m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 3ins (4.34m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

Wigan to Leeds

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	62ft (18.9m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 3ins (4.34m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

Narrow lock is 60ft (18.28m)

Additional Cruising notes:

- Some caution maybe needed for boats with fenders that extend beyond the 62ft length.

Leigh Branch

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.94m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 3ins (4.34)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

Maximum Craft Dimensions

Rufford Branch

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	62ft (18.9m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 3ins (4.34m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

PEAK FOREST CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 2ins (2.20m)	N/A

ROCHDALE CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	13ft 6ins (4.11m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 11ins (1.19m)	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 6ins (2.28m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Some locks have proved to be narrower than 14ft and the worst ones are scheduled to be rectified in the short-term. Local staff will advise which locks cannot accommodate two narrowboats.
2. Until Locks 25, 40, 41 and 48 are rebuilt to original width the beam of craft able to navigate is 13ft 6ins.
3. 72ft is the maximum length that we believe can navigate the canal bearing in mind the reduction in lock length due to the cills.

RIBBLE LINK

Max. Boat Width (ft)	Maximum Water Draught (ft)			
	2ft	2ft 6ins	3ft	3ft 9ins
6ft	72'	72'	72'	72'
7ft	72'	72'	72'	65'
8ft	72'	72'	62'	60'
9ft	72'	62'	56'	52'
10ft	62'	56'	50'	45'
12ft	50'	42'	30'	N/A
14ft	30'	N/a	N/a	N/a

Max. Boat Width (m)	Maximum Water Draught (m)			
	0.6	0.75	0.9	1.15
1.8	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.6
2.1	21.6	21.6	21.6	19.5
2.4	21.6	21.6	18.6	18
2.7	21.6	18.6	16.8	15.6
3	18.6	16.8	15	13.5
3.6	15	12.6	9	N/a
4.2	9	N/a	N/a	N/a

Additional Cruising notes:

1. High restrictions Ribble Link, link contracted throughout at 4ft (1.2m)
2. Tom Benson way first bridge after Lock Flight, water draught 4ft (1.2m), air draught 7ft 8ins (94ins)
3. Foot bridge Lock 8 – Water draught 9ft 6ins (3m), air draught 9ft (108ins)
4. Sewer pipe, treatment works: Water draught 9ft 6ins (3m), air draught 9ft 8ins (112ins)
5. Anything up to 10ft is the recommended maximum dimension, due to restrictions at the Sewer Pipe. All lengths could be lowered if required, although this would be dependent on per inspection by Operational Staff.

BRITISH WATERWAYS SCOTLAND
CALEDONIAN CANAL
From the Sea into Corpach Basin only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	203ft (61.87m)	N/A
Beam:	35ft (10.67m)	N/A
Draught:	13ft 6ins (4.11m)	N/A
Headroom:	Unlimited	N/A

Corpach to Inverness

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	150ft (45.72m)	N/A
Beam:	35ft (10.67m)	N/A
Draught:	13ft 6ins (4.11m)	N/A
Headroom:	114ft 8ins (35m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Headroom at Kessock Bridge, Inverness (on tideway beyond canal) is 89ft 8ins (27.33m)

CRINAN CANAL
From the Sea into Crinan and Ardrishaig Basins only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	105ft (32m)	N/A
Beam:	25ft (7.62m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	unlimited	N/A

Crinan to Ardrishaig

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	88ft (26.82m)	N/A
Beam:	20ft (6.10m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	95ft (28.5m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:
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- The width available depends on water levels and draught of craft. For further details contact the Waterway Office.

FORTH & CLYDE CANAL
From the Sea into Bowling Basin only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	85ft 3ins (26m)	N/A
Beam:	21ft (6.4m)	N/A
Draught:	8ft 6ins (2.6m)	N/A
Headroom:	unlimited	N/A

Bowling Basin to Grangemouth

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	68ft 6ins (20.88m)	N/A
Beam:	19ft 8ins (6m)	N/A
Draught:	6ft (1.83m)	N/A
Headroom:	9ft 10ins (3m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Further advice should be sought from the Waterway Office for craft approaching any of the limiting dimensions.

GLASGOW & EDINBURGH UNION CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	70ft (21.33m)	N/A
Beam:	12ft 6ins (3.81m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 6ins (1.06m)	N/A
Headroom:	9ft (2.74m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- The available depth through the Golden Jubilee Lock into the Falkirk Wheel basin is 4ft 11ins (1.5m)

Maximum Craft Dimensions

SOUTH EAST WATERWAYS

GRAND UNION CANAL

Brentford Basin to Berkhamsted (lock 54)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	76ft (23.16m)
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	14ft 3ins (4.34m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 2ins (2.49m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Berkhamsted (above lock 54) – Braunston

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	76ft (23.16m)
Beam:	12ft 6ins (3.81m)	13ft 8ins (4.16m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 10ins (2.38m)	

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

- Craft up to 14ft 3ins (4.34m) beam may be able to navigate this section, but some bridges (or former bridges) are restricted in width below water level.
- Locks are at least 14ft 3ins (4.34m) wide so two narrowboats can safely share.
- Boats over 7ft (2.13m) beam must make special arrangements for passage of Blisworth and Braunston tunnels. Contact the relevant Waterway Office for details.

Norton Junction to Foxton Junction (including Welford Arm)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 3ins (2.52m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Occasionally craft of 7ft (2.13m) beam may experience difficulty in Foxton Locks.

Market Harborough Arm

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	11ft 9ins (3.6m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 9ins (2.05m)	N/A

Foxton Junction to the tail of Kings Lock

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Headroom is more limited for boats more than 10ft 6ins (3.2m) beam, and especially so approaching the maximum beam. It will be necessary for such boats to proceed with extreme caution.
- The channel width is restricted in some places on the canal section (Foxton to Leicester) and broad beam boats may have difficulty passing other boats.

Wendover Arm

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Wendover Arm is being restored as a broad waterway; awaiting confirmation of maximum beam.
- A full length winding hold beyond Tringford Pumping station is due to be available from 2005.

Aylesbury Arm

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A

Maximum Craft Dimensions

Headroom:	8ft 4ins (2.54m)	N/A
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Additional Cruising notes:

1. Slightly wider beam may be possible; awaiting confirmation from Waterway Office.

Northampton Arm

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 5ins (2.54m)	N/A

OXFORD CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 9ins (2.07m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Occasionally craft of 7ft (2.13m) beam may experience difficulty in Marston Doles Top, Claydon Middle and Shut Bridge Locks. These problems are being rectified as time and finance permit.

Maximum Craft Dimensions

SOUTH WEST WATERWAYS

BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	51ft 10ins (15.8m)	N/A
Beam:	13ft 7ins (4.14m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 1ins (2.15m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Locks are 14ft 6ins (4.42m) wide; beam is restricted by bridges

GLOUCESTER & SHARPNESS

River Severn into Sharpness Docks only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	300ft (91.44m)	N/A
Beam:	55ft (16.76m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

Sharpness Docks to Gloucester Docks

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	240ft (73.15m)	N/A
Beam:	30ft (9.14m)	N/A
Draught:	10ft (3.04m)	N/A
Headroom:	105ft (32m)	N/A

Gloucester Docks to River Severn through Gloucester Lock

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	135ft (41.15m)	N/A
Beam:	21ft (6.4m)	N/A
Draught:	6ft (1.83m)	N/A
Headroom:	24ft 6ins (7.5m)	N/A

KENNET & AVON CANAL

Reading to Newbury (River Kennet Section)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	70ft (21.34m)	72ft (21.95m)
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	7ft (2.13m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 8ins (2.4m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

- Narrowboats over 70ft (21.34m) long can only pass through Burghfield and Sulhamstead locks diagonally and should not share with other boats. These locks are to be rebuilt when finances allow, to admit boats up to 72ft (21.95m) x 14ft (4.27m)

Newbury to Bath (Canal section)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	70ft (21.34m)	72ft (21.95m)
Beam:	13ft 6ins (4.12m)	7ft (2.13m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.4m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

- The chambers of most locks are at least 14ft (4.27m) wide and can therefore accommodate two narrowboats, but in some instances the gates do not open fully; also a few in Caen Hill flight are slightly narrow and the lock keeper will advise where this is a problem. Crofton Lock 61 is short and narrowboats over 70ft (21.34m) long may not be able to share with other boats.

Maximum Craft Dimensions

Bath to tail of Hanham Lock (River Avon Bristol section)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	75ft (22.86m)	N/A
Beam:	16ft (4.88m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 9ins (2.67m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Two craft will fit into Woolhamton Lock but it is difficult to take a working pair into the lock as a single unit. The recommendation is to take one vessel at a time into the chamber.
- Most of the canal has been dredged to create the minimum water depth 3ft 0.7ins (1.1m). Regular dredging works are undertaken each winter to maintain the standard depth, however, actual available depth will be dependant upon adequate water supplies during dry summers.
- Owners of deep draught vessels should contact the local waterways office for an update.

RIVER SEVERN

River Severn into Stourport Basins only

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	75ft (22.86m)	N/A
Beam:	15ft (4.57m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	15ft 7ins (4.77m)	N/A

Gloucester to Worcester

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	135ft (41.15m)	N/A
Beam:	21ft (6.4m)	N/A
Draught:	6ft (1.83m)	N/A
Headroom:	24ft 6ins (7.5m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Draught can be less than 5ft in periods of low rainfall during the summer.

Worcester to Stourport

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	90ft (27.43m)	N/A
Beam:	19ft (5.79m)	N/A
Draught:	6ft (1.83m)	N/A
Headroom:	20ft (6.1m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Draught can be less than 5ft in periods of low rainfall during the summer.

River Severn into Diglis Basin

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	75ft (22.86m)
Beam:	18ft 6ins (5.64m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

YORKSHIRE WATERWAYS

AIRE & CALDER

Goole to tail of Leeds Lock

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	200ft (61m)	N/A
Beam:	20ft (6.1m)	N/A
Draught:	8ft 2ins (2.5m)	N/A
Headroom:	11ft 9ins (3.6m)	N/A

Tail of Leeds Lock to tail of River Lock

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	141ft (43m)	N/A
Beam:	17ft 9ins (5.4m)	N/A
Draught:	7ft 7ins (2.3m)	N/A
Headroom:	11ft 9ins (3.6m)	N/A

Wakefield Branch

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	141ft (43m)	N/A
Beam:	17ft 9ins (5.4m)	N/A
Draught:	7ft 7ins (2.3m)	N/A
Headroom:	12ft 10ins (3.88m)	N/A

From River Ouse into Selby Basin Only

Maximum Craft Dimensions

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	78ft 6ins (23.92m)	N/A
Beam:	18ft (5.49m)	N/A
Draught:	6ft 6ins (2m)	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Draught depends on tide

CALDER & HEBBLE NAVIGATION

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	54ft 9ins (16.75m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 2ins (4.32m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 6ins (1.07m)	N/A
Headroom:	9ft 4ins (2.85m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. There is currently a temporary restriction of maximum beam at Ganny Lock of 13ft 9ins (4.25m). This restriction will be in place until November 2004.
2. Locks from Wakefield to Broadcut were lengthened to 120ft (36.5m) but the extra set of gates are no longer operable.

SHOULD THIS BE A NOTE EUGENE
Narrowboats can navigate, but diagonally, BW will not recommend this practice.

HUDDERSFIELD BROAD CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	57ft 5ins (17.5m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 2ins (4.32m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 6ins (1.07m)	N/A
Headroom:	9ft 4ins (2.85m)	N/A

Maximum Craft Dimensions

HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	6ft 10ins (2.08m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 6ins (1.05m)	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 2ins (1.88m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Many craft over 6ft 10ins (2.08m) beam are currently experiencing problems in some locks between Uppermill and Slaithwaite which were restored prior to the millennium restoration.

HULL MARINA

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	130ft (39.6m)	N/A
Beam:	29ft 6ins (9m)	N/A
Draught:	9ft 10ins (3m)	N/A
Headroom:	Unlimited	N/A

LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL

Wigan to Leeds

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	62ft (18.9m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 3ins (4.35m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 6ins (1.06m)	N/A
Headroom:	7ft 6ins (2.28m)	N/A

Narrow lock is 60ft (18.28m)

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Some caution maybe needed for boats with fenders that extend beyond the 62ft (18.8m) length

RIVER AIRE

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	78ft 6ins (23.92m)	N/A
Beam:	16ft 6ins (5.03m)	N/A
Draught:	4ft (1.22m)	N/A
Headroom:	9ft 10ins (3.0m)	N/A

RIVER OUSE (Yorkshire)

Goole to tail of Naburn Locks

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	134ft (40.8m)	N/A
Beam:	24ft 6ins (7.47m)	N/A
Draught:	Tidal	N/A
Headroom:	59ft 11ins	N/A

Naburn Locks to Scarborough Bridge

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	134ft (40.85m)	N/A
Beam:	24ft 6ins (7.46m)	N/A
Draught:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A
Headroom:	21ft 6ins (6.55m)	N/A

Scarborough Bridge to Swale Nab

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	57ft 6ins (17.5m)	N/A
Beam:	15ft 3ins (4.66m)	N/A
Draught:		N/A
Headroom:	19ft 6ins (5.94m)	N/A

Maximum Craft Dimensions

POCKLINGTON CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	56ft 9ins (17.3m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 9ins (1.14m)	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

RIPON CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	57ft (17.37m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 3ins (4.34m)	N/A
Draught:	3ft 6ins (1.07m)	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 6ins (2.59m)	N/A

SELBY CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	78ft 6ins (23.92m)	N/A
Beam:	16ft 6ins (5.03m)	N/A
Draught:	4ft (1.22m)	N/A
Headroom:	9ft 10ins (3.0m)	N/A

SHEFFIELD & SOUTH YORKSHIRE NAVIGATION

Bramwith to Rotherham Turning Basin plus New Junction Canal

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	229ft 8ins (70m)	N/A
Beam:	20ft (6.1m)	N/A
Draught:	8ft 2ins (2.5m)	N/A
Headroom:	10ft 10ins (3.3m)	N/A

Rotherham to Sheffield

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	56ft 5ins (17.2m)	61ft 6ins (18.74m)
Beam:	15ft 3ins (4.65m)	N/A
Draught:	4ft 6ins (1.37m)	N/A
Headroom:	10ft (3.05m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

- Locks from Rotherham to tail of Tinsley flight are longer and will pass narrow boats up to about 70ft.
- The cill and channel depth from Tinsley Bottom Lock to Sheffield Basin is only 4ft 6ins maximum draught 4ft.

STAINFORTH & KEADBY CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	61ft 8ins (18.79m)	N/A
Beam:	17ft (5.2m)	N/A
Draught:	7ft 3ins (2.2m)	N/A
Headroom:	10ft 10ins (3.3m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Through passage is limited by Thorne Lock. For the Bramwith to Thorne section, dimensions are as for the main line to Rotherham. Passage from River Trent to Thorne is limited by Keadby Lock 77ft 8ins x 22ft 6ins (23.67m x 6.86m) although longer craft can be admitted when the tide makes a level.
- Narrowboats up to about 61ft 8ins can pass through Throne Lock diagonally.

TEES NAVIGATION

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (22m)	N/A
Beam:	19ft 6ins (6m)	N/A
Draught:	10ft 4ins (3.15m)	N/A
Headroom:	18ft (5.5m)	N/A

Maximum Craft Dimensions

RIVER URE

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	57ft 6ins (17.9m)	N/A
Beam:	15ft (4.57m)	N/A
Draught:		N/A
Headroom:	10ft (3.05m)	N/A

Maximum Craft Dimensions

WALES & BORDER COUNTIES WATERWAYS

LLANGOLLEN CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	6ft 10ins (2.08m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Many boats up to 7ft (2.13m) beam are able to navigate this canal, but several of the locks are very tight at this beam.

MACCLESFIELD CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 2ins (2.49m)	N/A

MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON CANAL

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	55ft (16.76m)	N/A
Beam:	8ft 6ins (2.59m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	5ft 11ins (1.8m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Ashford Tunnel limits cabin profile, e.g. 5ft 6ins (1.67m) height at 6ft 10ins (2.08m) width. Contact Waterways Office for further detail.
- The maximum length has been given as 55ft (16.76m); this is dependent on location. Please contact the local waterways office for further advice.

MONTGOMERY CANAL

Frankton Junction to Maesbury

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft (1.83m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- The lock keeper controls navigation through Frankton Locks; passage should be booked through the waterway office.
- The canal is also navigable for trailed boats on the isolated section between Ardleen and Berriew. Slipways are situated at Welshpool car park and at the Wern.

RIVER WEAVER

Weston Point Dock to Weston Marsh Lock

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	213ft (65m)	N/A
Beam:	36ft (11m)	N/A
Draught:	10ft 6ins (3.2m)	N/A
Headroom:	Unlimited	N/A

Weston Marsh Lock to Anderton

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	213ft (65m)	N/A
Beam:	37ft 6ins (11.5m)	N/A
Draught:	10ft 6ins (3.2m)	N/A
Headroom:	59ft (18m)	N/A

Maximum Craft Dimensions

Anderton to Winsford

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	196ft (60m)	N/A
Beam:	35ft (10.7m)	N/A
Draught:	9ft 6ins (2.9m)	N/A
Headroom:	29ft 6ins (9m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

- Due to the winding nature of the river, craft of the maximum size may not be able to reach Winsford. It is therefore not recommended that craft longer than 155ft 8ins (47.5m) should proceed above Vale Royal locks.

Anderton Lift Branch

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 4ins (4.36m)	N/A
Draught:	4ft 7ins (1.4m)	N/A
Headroom:	8ft 2ins (2.48m)	N/A

SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL

From Manchester Ship Canal into Ellesmere Port Basins

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	75ft 2ins (22.91m)
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	14ft 3ins (4.42m)
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	N/A	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

- Unlimited headroom to lower basin. There is also a larger ship lock (which is not the responsibility of British Waterways) giving access from the Ship Canal to the lower basin.

Ellesmere Port to Nantwich

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	75ft 2ins (22.91m)
Beam:	9ft 8ins (2.95m)+	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

+ See notes 3-5

Additional Cruising notes:

- Broad boats up to about 13ft 6ins (4.1m) beam can access this section via the River Dee Branch but cannot pass through the M53 crossing into Ellesmere Port
- All locks except Beeston Iron are at least 14ft (4.27m) wide. Beeston Iron Lock is distorted and tow narrowboats can only share this lock provided they keep well back from the bottom gates. It is generally unsafe for two boats to share due to lock wall distortion.
- The M53 bridges 146a and 147a, the narrowest point is 10ft 1ins (3.32m)
- The Dee Branch limiting dimension is 14ft 6ins (4.45m)
- The Iron Lock at Beeston is 13ft 5ins (4.13m)

Nantwich to Autherley Junction

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

River Dee Branch

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	65ft 6ins (19.96m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft 3ins (4.34m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

Middlewich Branch

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

TRENT & MERSEY CANAL

Preston Brook to Horninglow Basin, Burton-upon-Trent

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	5ft 9ins (1.75m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Craft up to 9ft 6ins (2.90m) beam can access the Preston Brook to Croxton Aqueduct section from the Bridgewater Canal, but note that the tunnel will need extreme care at this beam. Needs some caution. A craft with a superstructure at this width would not pass through the tunnel.
2. Craft up to 12ft 6ins (3.81m) beam can access the Anderton to Croxton Aqueduct section via Anderton Lift, but considerable care is needed, as the channel is narrow in places.
3. Lock 54 & 61. It is acknowledged that these locks are slightly narrow (left hand side). The locks are paired and so craft that are of the widest sizes should use the right hand locks.

WBC CONFUSED NOT LOCK 71, BUT 70 –
AWAITING DAVID TO COME BACK TO AMANDA

4. **Lock 71. I am not aware of previous comments that this lock has a narrowing. -**

CALDON CANAL (including Leek Branch)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 8ins (2.05m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

Maximum Craft Dimensions

1. Headroom through Froghall Tunnel considerably restricted to 6ft 8ins (2.03m) beam and 5ft (1.52m) headroom. Contact Waterway Office for further information.

Maximum Craft Dimensions

WEST MIDLANDS WATERWAYS

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS (including Birmingham & Fazeley Canal)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	70ft (21.34m)	71ft 6ins (21.79m)
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft 6ins (1.98m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Headroom on Birmingham & Fazeley Canal limited to 6ft 3ins (1.91m) at Caters Bridge. Headroom through Dudley Tunnel is considerably restricted, contact Waterways Office for further information.

SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL

Nantwich to Autherley Junction

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	8ft (2.44m)	N/A

STAFFORDSHIRE & WORCESTERSHIRE CANAL

Stourport to Great Haywood

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft (1.82m)	N/A

STOURBRIDGE CANAL (including Stourbridge Branch)

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum*
Length:	70ft (21.34m)	71ft 6ins (21.79m)
Beam:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	6ft (1.83m)	N/A

*Consult local waterway office

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Occasionally craft of 7ft (2.13m) beam may experience difficulty in these locks.

TRENT & MERSEY CANAL

Horninglow Basin, Burton-upon-Trent to Shardlow

	Maximum dimension	Absolute maximum
Length:	72ft (21.95m)	N/A
Beam:	14ft (4.27m)	N/A
Draught:	N/A	N/A
Headroom:	7ft (2.13m)	N/A

Additional Cruising notes:

1. Stenson Lock is very tight to 14ft (4.27m) beam, and Weston Lock is tight for 72ft (21.95m) length.