

NARROWBOATS - GENERAL GUIDE

Cruising

- ❑ Most canals are saucer shaped, being deepest in the middle.
- ❑ Few canals have more than 3-4 ft of water and many have much less.
- ❑ Keep to the centre of the channel except on bends, where the deepest is on the outside of the bend.
- ❑ When you meet another boat, keep to the right, slow down, and aim to miss the oncoming boat by about 2 meters (2 yards - 6feet)
- ❑ When overtaking, keep the other boat on you right side (overtake on left).
- ❑ If you meet a loaded commercial boat, keep out of its way and be prepared to follow instructions.

Speed

- ❑ There is no need for speed on a canal. General speed limit is 4mph.
- ❑ If your wash is breaking against the bank - slow down.
- ❑ When passing moored craft - slow down.
- ❑ When passing anglers on the bank - slow down. Be courteous.
- ❑ When there is a lot of rubbish on the surface, drift over it in neutral.

Mooring

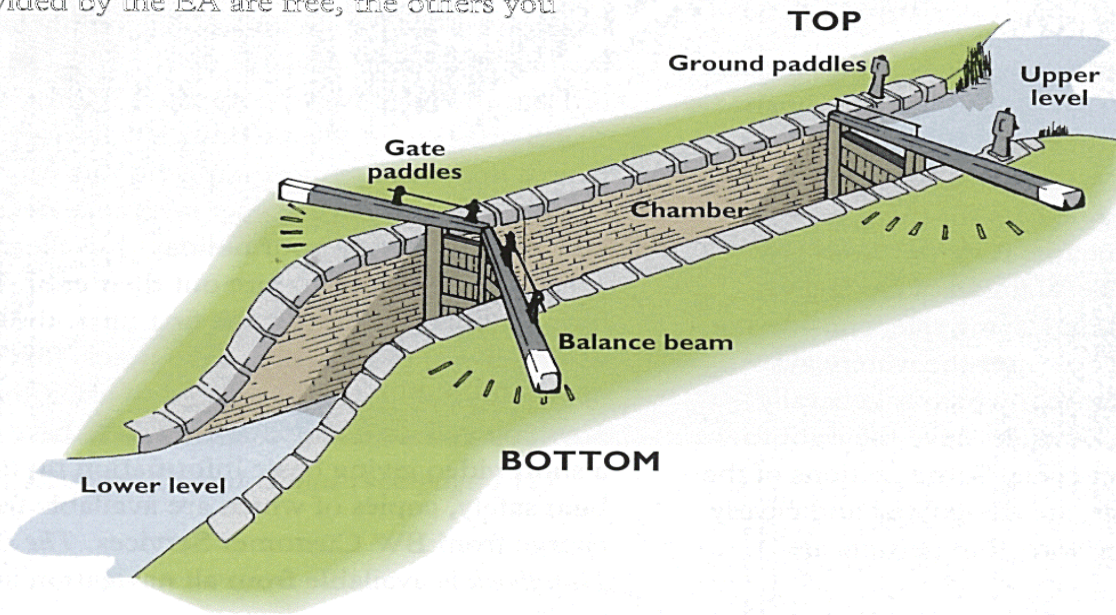
- ❑ Generally speaking you may moor where you wish on British Waterways property - so long as you do not cause an obstruction.
- ❑ Do not stretch mooring ropes across footpaths. Use the steel pins provided on your boat to anchor.

Bridges

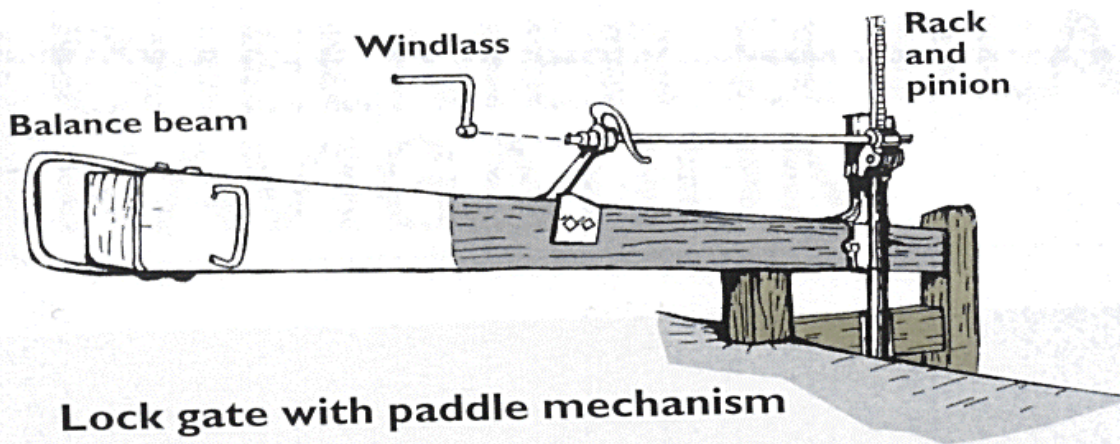
- ❑ On narrow canals aim to miss one side (normally the tow-path side) by about 9 inches. Keep everyone inboard when passing under bridges.

Safety

- ❑ Do not leap about the boat, especially the decks. No running.
- ❑ Do not run about the roof of the narrowboat, especially in locks.
- ❑ When walking the side of the boat, hang on securely to the handrails.
- ❑ Non swimmers and young children should wear life jackets.



LOCK GATES



Lock gate with paddle mechanism

LOCK GATE PADDLES

General Tips

- ❑ Never open the paddles at one end without ensuring that those at the other end are closed.
- ❑ Never DROP the paddles - ALWAYS WIND RACK & PINION DOWN GENTLY.
- ❑ Keep to the landward side of the balance beam when opening and closing gates.
- ❑ Never leave your windlass slotted onto the paddle - it will be dangerous if anything slips.
- ❑ Keep your boat away from the top and bottom gates to prevent it getting caught on the gates or CILL. The cill is a concrete step just inside of the gates and is normally marked on the wall for safety.
- ❑ Be wary of fierce top gate paddles, especially in wide locks. Operate them slowly.
- ❑ Always follow the narrowboat leader's instructions.
- ❑ In wide locks allow other boats to join you before closing gates.