

HISTORIC BOATS LICENCE DISCOUNT: GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

The concession is available to older craft which meet three qualifying criteria. These notes give some guidance on the those qualifying criteria, and how you might judge whether they are being met.

1. Pre - 1948

The basic structure of the craft to have been built before 1 Jan 1948 (when most inland waterways were nationalised).

There are many publications which illustrate or describe most of the older craft still existent. Boat owners could provide documentary or photographic evidence. The materials and methods of construction are often indicative of the period of manufacture, eg: virtually all riveted iron/steel construction occurred before 1948.

2. Relevance to inland waterways' heritage

The craft to remain in a substantially authentic structural condition.

There are old boats and there are historic old boats. A craft built before 1948 is likely to be of historic value if its structure is either original, or an accurate reproduction in the same material as the original, using the same methods as the original. It should not have had **substantial** modifications made to the hull, the cabin exterior, the cabin interior, to any functional original equipment, or (on powered craft) to the engine. Modifications made early in the life of a boat are less significant than changes made in recent years.

Judgement will need to be exercised when evaluating modified and converted craft. A boat should continue, to a large extent, to "look the part". A traditional 1930's narrowboat, for instance, with a 3m cabin extension, an under-canvas conversion, and perhaps an engine of 1950's vintage, may be acceptable. A similar craft with a full length steel cabin would not.

"Inland waterways" does include older craft traditionally found on all navigations managed by BW. It also includes inland waterway craft from canals and rivers managed by other UK navigation authorities, and other UK estuary and coastal craft traditionally common on BW waterways, subject to the definition:

Craft built for the purpose of travelling on or maintaining the navigable Inland Waterways of Great Britain.

Craft built for waterways of other countries do not generally qualify

3. Well maintained condition

The external appearance of the craft to be reasonable.

The appearance should reflect the history of the craft. The paintwork should be traditional and the craft should be presented in a good state of repair. Local knowledge of individual craft will be of considerable benefit; in other cases supporting evidence might be requested from the boat owner.