

Conditions of Use of Parish Staithe.

Why We Need Conditions of Use

Parishioners of Ormesby St. Michael have been at liberty to access the Trinity Broads from the parish staithe since it was given to the village through Government Enclosure Awards back in the early 19th Century.

The Parish Council takes seriously, its role as a guardian of the staithe, ensuring that it remains for the safe, responsible use and enjoyment of present and future generations of parishioners. At the same time, the Parish Council is also mindful of the conservation interest of the Trinity Broads and the classification of the area as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.). The broads are also important as a source of water for the public supply. The following conditions of use have been drawn up, with these factors in mind.

Some parts of the Trinity Broads have been identified as important for wintering wildfowl and classified as voluntary exclusion zones. We ask that parishioners familiarise themselves with these areas and give due consideration to their importance when navigating the system.

The Parish Council feels that although comprehensive, the following conditions of use are fair and straightforward.

If there is substantiated evidence that a parishioner has been deliberately ignoring the ‘Conditions of Use’ or behaving recklessly, then Ormesby St. Parish Council retains the right to refuse that person further use of the staithe. Any parishioner who is refused use of the staithe has a right to appeal the decision by presenting a written submission to the Parish Clerk within 30 days of receiving a prohibitive notice.

1. Number of Boats.

Historically, there has always been very ‘light’ use of the facility. Therefore, it is deemed unnecessary to place a number limitation on boats using the staithe at any one time. However, the Parish Council, reserves the right to impose a number limitation at any time in the future should a justified / proven need arise. This might, for example, be as a result of clear evidence that an excessive number of craft being launched from Ormesby St. Michael Staithe is having an adverse effect on wintering wildfowl or that the health & safety of the general public is being compromised.

2. Persons Authorised To Use The Staithe.

- a. The facility is available for the use of all persons whose names appear on the Electoral Roll for Ormesby St Michael.
- b. Friends and relatives not resident in the parish are NOT authorised to use the staithe, unless accompanied at all times, by an authorised parishioner.
- c. Children and young persons under 18 years of age must only use the staithe if accompanied by an authorised adult.
- d. Parishioners wishing to use the staithe are required, before doing so, to register their details with the parish councillor appointed to oversee the use of the facility. Upon production of suitable identification, authorisation will be granted.

3. Permitted Craft.

- a. Permitted craft are **open** rowing boats, propelled by oars or electric outboard, kayaks or Canadian style open canoes propelled by paddles or electric outboard.
- b. The Parish Council will not permit the launching of any inflatable craft from the staithe.
- c. The use of petrol or diesel outboard or inboard engines is not acceptable.
- d. Parishioners wishing to sail on the Trinity Broads should consider membership of Rollesby Broad Sailing Club that does have experienced personnel and rescue craft in attendance. Private sailing craft launched from the Ormesby St. Michael Parish Staithe would not have this backup and with safety in mind, the launching of sailing craft from the staithe will not be permitted.
- e. No craft should be left unattended at the site and should be removed from the broad and parish staithe at the end of each session.
- f. During such time when parishioners' boats are being used, trailers and launching trolleys should be left in such a position that the safety or convenience of visitors to the site is not compromised in any way.
- g. Craft that are used in other waters must be washed down before entering the Trinity Broads. This is particularly important to keep the system immune from invasive species of flora or fauna.
- h. If any craft has been antifouled, this must be with a type of underwater coating, compliant with Essex & Suffolk Water approval.

4. Some Polite Requests.

- a. Parishioners afloat on the broad are asked to remember the importance of the water quality for human use and as an ecosystem for diverse varieties of flora & fauna. This should also extend at all times to the reedbeds and wet woodland and as such, we request that parishioners do not deliberately force their craft into reed bed fringes.
- b. Please check the weather forecast before setting out, particularly during the winter months. Strong winds can turn the Trinity Broads into a very inhospitable environment and in such conditions, making headway can become impossible.
- c. Unless in a genuine emergency, please avoid landing anywhere else apart from the parish staithe unless prior permission has been granted to do so.
- d. If fishing, do remember that a current Environment Agency rod licence is required and that these waters are patrolled by Environment Agency appointed bailiffs. The close season is from 15th March to 14th June each year.
- e. The wearing of buoyancy aids, particularly by non-swimmers is recommended and should receive serious consideration. This is also considered particularly important for those parishioners using kayaks or Canadian canoes.
- f. Users should ensure that no boat is loaded beyond a safe capacity.
- g. It is the responsibility of parishioners using the staithe, to have due regard for their own health & safety and likewise, be mindful of the health & safety of all others using or visiting the site.
- h. Parishioners should report any misuse of the staithe to the parish council.
- i. Parishioners afloat on the broad are asked to respect other groups or individuals engaged in legitimate activities e.g. sailing, angling or conservation tasks.

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