

AINA CASE STUDY

TOURISM AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

River Thames: Wallingford moorings



The new moorings have been built next to mature trees by Wallingford's popular riverside meadows

New moorings bring economic benefit to a riverside town

New moorings have been installed by the local authority at the attractive market town of Wallingford on the River Thames and have encouraged boaters to visit the town rather than heading further up-river to Abingdon.

On-site facilities include waste and recycling facilities and a stand pipe for water. Showers are provided at the nearby camp site and moorings are free until 4pm each day when overnight charges apply. The moorings are managed by the company responsible for looking after the leisure centres and sports facilities in South Oxfordshire District Council.

The 136 metre moorings cost £221,500, following a campaign by river enthusiasts and local people. Costs rose when contractors hit solid concrete when driving six metre steel piles into the riverbed, and strong currents also meant work had to be postponed for several days. Boaters stressed that the moorings needed to lower than originally planned and their comments resulted in a more successful scheme.

As well as being used by private boats, cruise trips are now able to make better use of the Thames and the Rivertime Boat Trust, who run a boat specially adapted for disabled users, are also be able to use the moorings. In addition, the project included works to the riverside meadows to create new wildlife habitats and enhance biodiversity.

Traders and river users have hailed the new moorings as a success and say they have brought more shoppers and tourists into the town. The chairman of the River Thames User Group has estimated that the moorings might be bringing up to £10,000 a week into Wallingford: "One trader told me they had been in the town since 1974 and they have never felt so buoyant about economic prospects."