

OPERATING GREAT CORNARD LOCK

- The principle of the lock operation is identical to that of locks on other waterways and the mechanism is similar to those on British waterways canals. A particular feature is the inclusion of a locking device, opened by a key, which prevents unauthorised use of the lock. Lock operators should be in possession of a British Waterways (BW) padlock key (for the anti-vandal padlocks on the gate paddles) and a windlass to operate the paddles.
- If possible try to share the lock for the most economical use of water.
- Ensure lock windlass handle and lock padlock keys are onboard your vessel.
- Please stay alert when navigating the lock in either direction as there may be a need to shut/open paddles in an emergency e.g. if a boat gets “hung up” or jammed under the lower gate.
- The lock gates will only open if the water level is exactly the same either side of the gates.

Procedure for lock operation going downstream

- Approach and moor at jetty (not in front of lock gates).
- When disembarking to go ashore, please ensure all passengers are aware of the danger of slippery jetty surfaces or grass, safety of children, etc.
- Open padlock on upper gate link.
- Open both upper gates fully. Unlock padlocks on paddles in case they are needed to refill lock in an emergency.
- Bring the boat into the lock, controlling its position by using rope around bollards
- DO NOT TIE THE ROPE TO BOLLARDS!
- Close upper gates.
- Remove padlock from lower gate paddles then open both lower paddles.
- Do not leave windlasses on paddles or lock beams and be ready to close paddles.
- Open both lower gates when water level permits.
- Exit the lock and bring boat to wooden jetty (weir side) just below lower gates for any passengers that had previously disembarked to board the boat.
- Close lower paddles and close gates.
- Refill lock, fit all padlocks and rejoin boat.

Lock Operation when cruising upstream

- Bring boat to jetty nearest to weir and secure.
- Disembark to empty lock using lower paddles (once padlocks removed) and open lower gate.
- Boat can now be taken into the lock chamber with rope to be used around the bollard to control its position.
- DO NOT TIE THE ROPE TO BOLLARDS!
- Close lower gates fully and check that paddles are fully closed.
- Unlock top paddles. Open one paddle (on same side as boat) half way, slowly; open other paddle slowly half way. Once the water in the lock chamber has covered the gate paddles return to the first paddle to open it fully -this will cause the boat less turbulence in the lock chamber.
- Open upper gates when level permits.
- Close upper paddles fully and fit all padlocks.
- When boat has exited the lock chamber, close upper gates, then fit gate padlock.
- Complete final check to ensure that lock is being left as it should be.

N.B. After use the lock chamber should be left full.