

Crime summary

Analysis of police crime database NICHE: incidents relating to the waterways: 1st April 2014 - 31 October 2015

Incident locations included boats, canal and tow paths, boat houses and waterways facilities.

Count of Occurrence Id	Column Labels												
Row Labels	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Arson			1		1			1	1				4
Assault			1			1	2	3	1	2		1	11
Burglary				3		1	6	1	1	2	1		15
Criminal damage	1		1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4			13
Dogs									1				1
Drugs					1								1
Public order			1	2		2				1			6
Sexual offence				1									1
Theft		2	1	4	8	6	5	7	4	6			43
Grand Total	1	2	5	11	11	12	14	13	9	15	1	1	95

ASB incidents not included in the following sections.

1029 13/04/15	Christchurch Meadow	Male sitting on far bank being aggressive and shouting abuse at passers-by.
495 29/05/15	Christchurch Meadow	Agitated, possibly homeless, male walking around shouting abuse at passers-by.
862 25/06/15	Abbey Road	Just over Rainbow Bridge a male is riding a moto scooter along towpath
1701 29/06/15	Abbey Road	Males out on 2 boats causing disturbance shouting
1402 02/10/15	Wolvercote Green	Male under A34 next to Canal in Wolvercote shouting his head off and swearing lots.
1508 13/11/15	Oxford Canal	Male got of a boat and was very aggressive to passer-by.
135 11/11/15	Oxford canal	Male is yelling and threw something at callers boat




Alcohol

Date	Location	Details
768 12/01/14	Folly Bridge	Report to the police: Drunken ,male staggering around on bank opposite Folly restaurant
13/06/2014	All areas	Disgraceful behaviour along the tow path, not only by 'the drunks' but the rudeness of bike users. By its name 'path' had to walk in single file and watch my back all the time.
July 2014	Shirelake Close	Resident's association report into anti-social behaviour in the area. Photographic evidence of alcohol consumption on the river bank and the associate urination on walls and pathways.
21/08/2014	Folly Bridge	We, along with many other boaters we speak to, are now finding it increasingly difficult to find a mooring space anywhere along the stretch of the River Thames close to Folly Bridge. A-number of the boats that are there are obviously not moving very often, looking at the poor state and mess, and the owners seem to be invisible. This stretch of the river is where alcohols spend part of most days. Nobody minds anyone coming by river to oxford for a few days, but longer than that makes it very difficult for other people to moor.
06/10/2014	Folly Bridge to Donnington	It seems there are some major issues impacting upon the safety of rowers, for the most part between Donnington Bridge and Iffley Lock. The people residing in these boats have been responsible for litter, but have also been chaotic, starting drinking very early (and spilling out onto the towpath), verbally abusing passers-by, and on one occasion actually threatening one of the people involved with a ground spike.
9/10/2014	Folly Bridge	I went for a cycle along the river this evening, and found my path blocked by a group of drunk men enjoying some cans of special brew. They offered some banter and then gave my bike a good shove (in the right direction). I wasn't particularly bothered (though it was an unpredictable situation) but I think many people would have found it very intimidating.
702 23/01/15	Christchurch Meadow	Report to the police: 4 males drunks sat on path
795 30/01/15	Shirelake Close	Report to the police: Two foul mothed drunks in neighbours doorway (On River path)
517 24/04/15	Shirelake Close	Report to the police: 4-5 lads in no drinking zone passing unspecified items out of rucksack
897	Christchurch	Report to the police: Drunk male on riverbank screaming and shouting

Alcohol

07/06/15	Meadow	
1379 30/09/15	Folly Bridge	Report to the police: Male kayaking got caught on hook when drunk male cast fishing line. He was with another 2 drunk males and words were exchanged
937 01/10/15	Christchurch Meadow	Report to the police: 4 males drinking, letting off fireworks and chasing geese
961 03/10/15	Shirelake Close	Report to the police: 4 Men and woman smoking and drinking by the life buoy on the footpath by the Thames
468 05/01/16	Folly Bridge	Report to the police: Drunk male from street drinking community worse for wear
20/12/15	Folly Bridge	Two male street drinkers with cans in their hands were stood talking to the drinker on bench shown on the above photograph. This would have been very intimidating for anyone trying to pass them on this narrow towpath. It would have been too provocative to photograph them all stood together so I photographed the seated drinker as the other two males walked away.

Destruction of property and habitat

Date	Location	Details
16/11/12	Long Bridges	Two signs and their posts have been taken from Long Bridges - not sure if this is metal theft or disgruntled boaters. Police informed.
07/12/12	Oxpens	More of the new mooring signs have been taken, this time at Oxpens.
02/09/2014	Iffley lock	[OCC officer] went out Friday and met with an EA volunteer. [We] walked the towpath and he showed me the boat in question. My involvement was debris and fly tip (which had been left as a result of the numerous sinking's. This appeared to have been cleared. This morning I spoke with XXX who confirmed there were two large piles of debris which has been cleared.
26/06/15	Castle Mill Stream Jericho	 <p data-bbox="1111 563 2058 820">An extensive area of boat owner structures and debris, completely obscuring and damaging the riverbank habitat.</p>
7/12/15	Long Bridges	 <p data-bbox="1111 820 2058 1062">Lifebelts are frequently missing from their stations, often thrown in the river like this in an act of pointless vandalism</p>
7/12/15	Towpath just south of Osney Lock	 <p data-bbox="1111 1062 2058 1311">Heavily graffiti'ed lifebelt station and signage creating blight along the river towpath.</p>


Destruction of property and habitat

7/12/15	Osney Lock		A graffiti'ed sign creating blight and obscuring information for users of the towpath and river.
20/12/15	Hythe Bridge		Fencing and traffic cone thrown in to the river from Hythe Bridge
23/12/15	Riverbank behind Abbey Road		Recently restored area of riverbank damaged after unlawfully moored boaters erected fencing alongside their boats and scraped off the topsoil.

Noise and smoke

Date	Location	Details
10/09/12	Castle Mill Stream Jericho	There has been no change in the situation nor any further threats from XX. My immediate neighbour has reported some late night disturbances around our shared building, and called the Police ... my neighbours don't know who the person / people were.
09/10/12	Towpath near Isis Farmhouse Tavern	The problem has not gone away since I emailed you. There are now seven or eight permanently moored boats, which have not moved for months, and the anti-social behaviour and nuisance associated with them is continuing. This evening, walking home along the towpath, my husband and I had to pass the resident on the boat nearest Donnington Bridge who was standing on the towpath shouting and swearing continually - he was talking about his "crack habit" which he said he had had for years. Our fear of encountering this kind of behaviour is preventing us using the towpath after dark. The back yard of our property ... is also now being used as a loo by the boat residents - either the humans or the dogs or (most likely) both.
08/04/13	River towpath behind Abbey Road	I wish to raise a matter of ongoing concern regarding a barge, presumably moored legally, at end of Abbey Road... The barge has been moored in this location for at least a month, and in that time the resident of the barge, has persisted in burning solid fuels throughout the day and well into the night. This results in a very heavy and unpleasant tar-like smell which lingers in the air and permeates throughout our house... I do not wish to sound overly dramatic, however the situation does not seem to be changing and I'm curious as to whether anything can be done about it.

Noise and smoke

<p>Autumn 2015</p>	<p>Aristotle Lane</p>	 <p>Stationary boat emitting both diesel fumes and smoke at the same time (above)</p> <p>On the left is the pollution it produces as a result – the playground is immediately behind the trees, and adjacent is the walking route to [a nursery]... The towpath is a busy walking/cycling route to the station at that time of the morning</p>
------------------------	-----------------------	--

Noise and smoke

Autumn
2015

Aristotle Lane



Permanently moored boat emitting smoke (left),
and the resultant pollution on St Edward's school
playing fields (below)

Noise and smoke



75

Autumn 2015	Aristotle Lane		Diesel fumes polluting the tow path (right)
22/01/2016 10:06	Aristotle Lane	There's dreadful smoke coming from boat called xxx at the moment. I can smell it right at the top of the garden 100 feet away.	

Dog control

Date	Location	Details
09/10/12	Towpath near Isis Farmhouse Tavern	<p>The problem has not gone away since I emailed you. There are now seven or eight permanently moored boats, which have not moved for months, and the anti-social behaviour and nuisance associated with them is continuing. This evening, walking home along the towpath, my husband and I had to pass the resident on the boat nearest Donnington Bridge who was standing on the towpath shouting and swearing continually - he was talking about his "crack habit" which he said he had had for years. Our fear of encountering this kind of behaviour is preventing us using the towpath after dark. The back yard of our property ... is also now being used as a loo by the boat residents - either the humans or the dogs or (most likely) both.</p>

Obstruction of the pathways


Date	Location	Details
05/06/2012	Canal towpath, North Oxford	 <p data-bbox="1182 304 1883 339">Mooring rope across the towpath in North Oxford</p>
10/05/13	Towpath behind Abbey Rd	 <p data-bbox="1742 679 2047 1098">I wish to object most vehemently about the erection of the fencing on the towpath behind what was Avis [erected by boaters]. This is an extremely dangerous and intrusive piece off vandalism on the</p> <p data-bbox="689 1107 1957 1142">bank side that the council spent many tens of thousands of pounds repairing just recently.</p> <p data-bbox="689 1177 2047 1382">I was walking with my grandchildren along the towpath and we were nearly mown down twice by cyclists as we could not move to the side by the river as it has been, I believe, illegally fenced off. Furthermore the bank was repaired in such a way as to attract wild life and make it picturesque for all to enjoy. Also most off these boats have not moved in many months so where is their effluent going? I look forward to your response.</p>

Obstruction of the pathways

05/09/14	Jericho	Some [people] have put a rope the whole length of the towpath here with notes claiming the land for the Oxford Boaters Soviet or so such. Doesn't mean anything but the rope is pulling the plantings down and there's a real risk of people tripping over and going into the river.
----------	---------	--



Store items or erect structures

79

Date	Location	Details
15/03/12	River Towpath along Sidelings Island	 <p data-bbox="1335 341 2029 411">Boat owner debris just along the towpath when a boat moved on.</p>
14/04/2014	Jericho footbridge	<p data-bbox="622 722 1995 866">If you go over the footbridge from Jericho to the canal towpath, the grassy area at the end of the footbridge has two unlawfully moored boats and various kinds of rubbish, including a huge pile of logs and bits and pieces of other things, with several old doors on top of it. It has been like that for years. It is a real eyesore and I get lots of complaints about it.</p>
25/03/2015	Castle Mill Stream Jericho	<p data-bbox="622 906 2018 976">The area adjacent to the bridge across the canal from the tow path to the north end of Canal street is still occupied, and to be frank is a real mess.</p> <p data-bbox="622 1018 2047 1272">William Lucy Way Residents Association: "It was discussed about the campaign (we have observed) to claim some form of ownership over the strip of land along the riverbank to the west of the canal path that runs from here into town. This campaign appears to be co-ordinated by a self-appointed group of people ... connected, it seems, with a legitimate desire to safeguard spaces for mooring boats. It also raises a question more generally about ownership of land where (by custom) certain people use it for their own purposes while mooring boats nearby."</p>


Store items or erect structures

80

			
28/12/15	Canal towpath just north of Elizabeth Jennings Way.		Large quantities of boat owner debris (some of which has been abandoned) scattered along an extensive area of the canal towpath.


Mooring consent

81

Date	Location	Details
24/4/2013	Sidelings Island	 <p data-bbox="1135 619 1323 651">Sunken boat</p>
25/03/2014	Castle Mill Stream	<p data-bbox="674 659 2047 798">“XXX” along with another Narrow boat without a name. As we know this Narrow boat is a problem. Both Boats as far as I can see are unlicensed and will be dealt with accordingly. “YYY” which is a very run down boat which has no license and is slowly sinking. This is opposite the Rewley road town houses</p>
13/06/2014	All areas	<p data-bbox="674 810 2024 1061">Are you the department that looks after the tow path and the mooring sites? If so, what a disappointment and disgrace to a City so iconic. No moorings to speak of for visitors as they seem to be taken by 'live aboards'. Visitors as you know bring 'money' into the City, how are visitors supposed to moor when no regulation seems to exist to move craft on after 'x' number if days. I visit to Abingdon might be worthwhile! Disgraceful behaviour along the tow path, not only by 'the drunks' but the rudeness of bike users. By its name 'path' had to walk in single file and watch my back all the time.</p> <p data-bbox="674 1102 1720 1134">Not impressed with this fine City. Have needed to moor over a mile away.</p>
17/09/2014	Iffley lock	<p data-bbox="674 1145 2007 1249">I have just had a call from [the Environment Agency]. He is looking to serve notice to move all the boats causing an obstruction near the lock, including the one which keeps sinking. He had some technical questions which require OCC input.</p>
06/10/2014	Folly Bridge to Donnington	<p data-bbox="674 1257 1973 1321">It seems there are some major issues impacting upon the safety of rowers, for the most part between Donnington Bridge and Iffley Lock.</p> <p data-bbox="674 1329 2047 1393">The single biggest problem is presented by unauthorised moorings on this stretch of river. By way of context: there are some 40 different rowing clubs using a narrow stretch of river, including</p>



Mooring consent

82

		<p>many youngsters and many more inexperienced rowers. The people residing in these boats have been responsible for litter, but have also been chaotic, starting drinking very early (and spilling out onto the towpath), verbally abusing passers-by, and on one occasion actually threatening one of the people involved with a ground spike.</p> <p>Their parking is sometimes chaotic, for instance with boats double-parking or at least jutting out onto the main waterway (which at this stretch is quite narrow). A particular problem is presented by two large Dutch barges.</p> <p>These issues present major safety concerns for the rowers: on several fronts. First, many feel intimidated by the behaviour, and of course the towpath can become obstructed by chaotic antics. Second (and more significantly), unexpected boats jutting out on a narrow stretch of river present a navigational hazard. Third (and perhaps most important), in places the boats can no longer be seen from the river bank (which is an essential part of their safety, when they are being accompanied by an experienced coach), nor could anyone enter the river to undertake a rescue. There is a rule that rescue is undertaken by ropes, not a launch, and it would be severely impeded by some of these boats.</p> <p>A particular problem is presented by a boat called "Otta". It frequently half-sinks, and then is refloated. Diesel has repeatedly leaked, and been topped up (obviously polluting the river), and it is moved on a few hundred yards by the owner. If and when it completely sinks, it will present a very significant navigational hazard (as it will be partly concealed but be a dangerous object).</p>
30/05/15	Landing stage	 <p>House boat ... has been moored illegally at City of Oxford RC. The boat was subject to a Harbour Master Order issued by the EA in conjunction with OCC to be enforced last Wednesday 22nd May for the College Summer Eights event. When the EA went to enforce the order they found the boat had been moved from its mooring to City of Oxford RC. Nobody seems to know who moved the boat, but this meant the EA could not enforce the order. It now represents a danger to navigation, but my greatest concern is that we have a large group</p>

Mooring consent

83

		of Juniors and Vulnerable Adults who are exposed to the dangers this represents. The landing stage is in use most days and over the weekends.
23/07/2015	Donnington Bridge	<p>URN relates to a member of the public calling in as approx. 7.30am a rower got quite close to a boat on Donnington Bridge. The owner of the boat started leaning out of the window and was shouting and throwing eggs at the caller and rowers. He threatened to kick their faces in if they come near his boat again.</p> <p>The male was spoken to by the Police and admitted throwing eggs and confirmed boat is called ...</p>
		 <p>Unfortunately ... owned by ... has now just moved across the river to Port Meadow side. I have spoken to him today and pointed out that there is no mooring on the meadow but he refuses to cooperate.</p> <p>Despite the importance of this site it is not covered by any byelaws or other legislation that will allow me to force him to move on.</p>
01/02/2016	Abbey Road	 <p>Boats moored on land owned by Oxford City Council were requested to leave the area. Letters of notification of trespass action issued in Autumn 2015. Agreement by owners to remove their boats once safe to do so. Two boats slipped their moorings and sunk in the Thames. Environment Agency and Fire and Rescue Service called to re-float and secure the boats:</p> <p>http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/14245259.UPD_ATE_Canal_boat_capsizes_after_two_crash_into_Botley_bridge/</p>

Mooring consent

30/11/2015	Iffley lock	<p>The very large cruiser Tethys appears to have come adrift overnight, and is now (Monday afternoon) lodged on the east bank of the Thames, 200m upstream of Iffley lock. I cannot see anything (when I look from the towpath on the west bank) tethering it to land.</p> <p>If the wind changes in speed or direction, or rain falls and increases stream speed, it will move into the centre of the stream, causing a hazard to other river users, or downstream onto piles or sluices, causing a flood hazard.</p> <p>Of note, this boat has come 'adrift' several times in the last year or two. By implication, it is not being secured properly when it is left unattended, causing a hazard to others.</p>
------------	-------------	--