

HNA GLOSSARY OF CANAL AND BOAT TERMS

air draught	the height of the boat above the water line
barge	a non-powered boat, usually cargo-carrying, often used to refer to a horse-powered boat
barge pole	long (usually) wooden pole used to push the boat if required
beam	width of a boat
black water	waste water from the toilets
blacking	to repaint the hull of a boat with black bitumen or red oxide paint, to maintain its waterproofing
boat hook	shorter than a barge bole (q.v.) but with a metal hook on the end to enable items to be hooked
Bolinder	an (often) single cylinder hot bulb semi-diesel engine, relatively rare now
bow thruster	water jet system underneath the water line at the bow to enable manoeuvring. Can also be seen in stern thruster form.
bridge hole	the area under a bridge through which the canal travels
broad canal	a canal where the locks are 14 feet wide
butty	a non-powered boat, usually cargo-carrying, towed by a motor (q.v.)
cill	a step in a lock (q.v.) that accommodates the change in level in the canal
counter	the area on which the steerer stands
cruiser	a boat (usually plastic or aluminium), usually relatively short (10-15 feet) and used on the inland waterways; very popular on the Norfolk Broads
cruiser stern	a modern style of building for the stern of the boat; accommodates a lot of space
cut	the canal, so called because the navvies (q.v.) would cut the earth with their shovels to form the canal
draught	the depth of the boat beneath the water line
engine hole	an engine room or area of the boat in which the engine is housed
flight	a group of locks (q.v.) closely spaced together
galley	kitchen area
grey water	waste water from the shower and sinks

ground out	to come to a stop inadvertently on a shallow area of cut (q.v.)
gunwales	narrow platforms that run along the length of the boat to allow passage along the sides where necessary
head	toilet
joshier	a boat built by Fellows, Morton & Clayton, after Joshua Fellows, a well-known and respected canal figurehead
lock	fillable chamber of water that allows the canal to traverse gradients
lock gate	gate of (usually) wood, occasionally iron, steel or concrete that prohibits movement of water through a lock (q.v.)
long line	a single long rope used to tow a boat, perhaps a butty (q.v.) from a motor (q.v.) or a barge (q.v.) behind a horse
motor	a powered boat, often partly used for carrying cargo, sometimes towing a butty (q.v.)
narrow canal	a canal where the locks are 7 feet wide
narrowboat	any boat of between 7 and 14 feet beam (q.v.), used principally on the inland waterways
paddle	a mechanism in a lock gate (q.v.) that allows water to flow from one level to the next
pound	length of canal between two locks (q.v.)
range	a small stove heated by burning fuel (wood, coal, coke, oil, gas) used for heating and occasionally cooking
rudder	flat blade of (usually) metal that sits beneath the water line and directs water in the required direction
semi-trad stern	a relatively modern style of building for the stern of the boat; mixes the cruiser stern (q.v.) style with a traditional "trad" stern (q.v.) stern
short straps	short ropes used to tow a butty (q.v.) directly behind a motor (q.v.)
sluice	gate that can be adjusted to allow the continuous flow of water, to enable management of the water level in a pound (q.v.)
staircase	a group of locks (q.v.) where one lock flows directly into the next one
steerer's cabin	a cabin at the rear of a boat dedicated for use by the steerer and (historically) his family
stud	a short metal post around which a rope or line is tied or secured

swan neck	S-shaped metal pole that arises from the rudder
swim	the area at the back of the boat that tapers in to allow water to pass over the propellor
T-stud	a stud at the front of the boat in a t-shape – very useful for towing or securing a line with minimal effort
tiller	the pole (usually wood with a brass surround) attached to the top of the swan neck (q.v.) by which the steerer may turn the rudder
tiller pin	a pin (often ornate) used to hold the tiller (q.v.) to the swan neck (q.v.)
trad stern	an older style of building for the stern of the boat that allows room for the steerer and not many other persons
well deck	the deck at the front of the boat
wide beam	10-14 foot wide boat
winding	to turn the boat around in a winding hole (q.v.)
winding hole	wider area of cut (q.v.) used for winding the boat
windlass	a handle used to operate a paddle (q.v.)