

New Bell Boating Limits

March 2021

Following recent guidance from British Canoeing, Bell Boats are restricted to operating at no more than 200 metres from the south shore of the loch. As it is impractical to mark this limit, it will be up to individual helms to judge where the 200-metre mark is, but it may be helpful to note that the loch is approximately 1000 metres wide at Invertrossachs, so the extent of the limit is approximately $\frac{1}{5}$ or 20% of the width of the loch.

However, **Experienced Helms** (i.e., those who have been the main permit holder in charge of a Bell Boat at least 10 times on Loch Venacher) will still have the opportunity to cross the loch provided strict conditions are met.

Provided that:

- the crew is of scout age or over,
- Wind conditions are no more than Force 2,
- All other safety measures are in place (radio/phone contact with shore, adult/youth ratios are met)

then an **Experienced Helm** can carry out a dynamic risk assessment on the spot and decide that it is safe to cross the loch for a short time. It is a decision not to be taken lightly and the helm must remain vigilant and respond quickly to any change in weather conditions.

Beaufort Scale of Wind Speeds

Force	Wind Speed	Description	Effects on Water
0	under 1 m.p.h.	Calm	Surface like a mirror
1	1 – 3 m.p.h.	Light Air	Ripples, but no crests
2	4 – 7 m.p.h.	Light Breeze	Wavelets, but still no breaking crests
3	8 – 12 m.p.h.	Gentle Breeze	Large wavelets, breaking crests and scattered whitecaps
4	13 – 17 m.p.h.	Moderate Breeze	Waves up to 1.0 m in height. Numerous whitecaps