

River Thames – river closure

Osney Reach Port Meadow (Oxford)

Saturday 8 August 2020 - 10am to midday

Unconsented ‘End Sewage Pollution’ Protest

Directions for navigation and general information during this event:

- The River Thames at Port Meadow, Oxford has an unconsented protest taking place that plans to have large numbers of swimmers in the water which could close the navigation.
- Be aware of any swimmers in this area even outside of posted times.
- Mooring and anchoring at all authorised public, commercial or domestic moorings is permitted provided that any additional directions given by our Waterway Officers are followed.
- Those in charge of all boats must observe any directions given by our Waterways Officers.
- Those in charge of boats should also be aware that they are responsible for avoiding collision and should use all available means appropriate to the circumstances and conditions to decide if there is a risk of immediate danger and avoid it.
- Please find additional information overleaf.

**Maria Herlihy
Harbour Master
7 August 2020**

Nothing contained in these directions shall supersede those parts of the Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993 and the UK Merchant Shipping (Distress Signals and Prevention of Collisions) Regulations 1996 as may be relevant. Particular attention should be paid to byelaws 24-42 of the Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993, Steering Sailing and Speed.

And Notice is hereby given, that it is provided by Byelaw 52 of the Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993 that:

The master of any vessel shall except in an emergency not pass any boat-race regatta public procession or gathering for the launch of a vessel or any other event or function which may cause a crowd to assemble on or by the river nor station his vessel thereon in such a manner as would risk obstructing impeding or interfering with such boat-race regatta procession launching event or function or endangering the safety of persons assembling on the river or preventing or interfering with the maintenance of order thereon.

The maximum penalty for breach of the Byelaws is £1,000

Environment Agency, Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 8DQ

The Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993 can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-thames-navigation-licensing-and-general-byelaws-1993>