

River Thames – lock and river restrictions

Issues resulting from government coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions

Saturday 23 May 2020 until further notice

In response to and in line with revised government coronavirus guidance, we have been working hard to ensure that the non-tidal River Thames can once more be used by all types of vessel.

We have now completed our surveys of every reach, marking all identified obstructions in the main navigation channel and can confirm that boating by all types of vessel can resume.

Please be aware:

- When travelling upstream keep red obstruction marker buoys on your left, and green buoys on your right
- When travelling downstream, keep red buoys on your right, and green buoys on your left
- Single yellow marker buoys can be passed on either side.

In all cases, pass well clear of marker buoys, and take care.

You should also exercise caution in the margins of the river, and around bends, where river and weather conditions have resulted in tree debris collecting and some shallows forming.

All locks are self-service until further notice, but public power functionality has been restored at all locks that have it installed (Godstow to Molesey except Blakes), apart from those where the system has faults. We are working to resolve these as quickly as we can. In the meantime, the locks are still in service on hand wind operation, but please consider the extra time and effort this takes when planning your journey.

These and other issues boaters need to be aware of (all of which we are working to resolve as soon as possible) are set out below.

Iffley reach (upstream of Iffley Lock)	A van has sunk mid-channel approximately 150 metres upstream of Folly Bridge. Navigation is possible by smaller vessels but should be carried out with extreme caution.
Mapledurham Lock	One of the tail gates is stuck in the closed position. The lock is in service on public power but can currently only be used by vessels less than 10' wide. (Issue escalated and awaiting attendance by fitters.)
Marsh Lock	Public power system temporarily out of service – hand wind operation only (Issue escalated and awaiting attendance by fitters.)
Temple Lock	A fallen tree is restricting the downstream lock cut which should therefore be navigated with great care.

Old Windsor Lock	Public power system temporarily out of service – hand wind operation only. (Issue escalated and awaiting attendance by fitters.)
Bell Weir Lock	See note below
Sunbury Lock	Lock closed due to a sunken boat in the main channel above the upstream lock cut. No attempt should be made to navigate in this area. We are currently reviewing the safe removal of this boat and will update with a time frame on Tuesday 26 May.
Teddington Lock	See note below

Passage through **Bell Weir** and **Teddington** locks is currently by prior arrangement only and availability is limited.

At Bell Weir Lock, this is due to debris jammed in one of the tail gates. Until the issue is resolved, we are allowing limited use on lock keeper power to avoid damage to the gate which could take the lock out of operation completely.

Teddington Lock has no public power system. If you need to use these locks please email us at WaterwaysThames@environment-agency.gov.uk or telephone 03708 506 506 during normal business hours from Monday to Friday.

Thank you,

John Dutson
Acting Harbour Master
23 May 2020