

River Thames – lock and river restrictions

Issues resulting from government coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions

Friday 22 May 2020 until further notice

In response to and in line with revised government coronavirus guidance, we are working hard to ensure that the non-tidal River Thames is safe for navigation, and that lock breakdowns and obstructions to navigation are now dealt with, as quickly as possible.

The pace at which we are able to do this will, in some cases, depend on the availability of specialist contractors.

We are carrying out surveys of each individual reach, to replace hazard marker buoys which were dragged out of position by the winter's flood flows, and to install marker buoys where we find new hazards in the main navigation channel. We are doing this as quickly as we can and as we are satisfied that each reach can again be navigated by all forms of vessel, we are also reinstating the public power facility at the relevant lock.

The current status of each reach (upstream of the lock) is set out below. Dates of planned surveys may change based on the availability of launches and crews.

St John's, Buscot, Grafton, Radcot, Rushey, Shifford	Surveys planned for Friday 22 May
Northmoor	Survey completed - all forms of boating can resume
Pinkhill, Eynsham	Surveys planned for Friday 22 May
Kings	Survey completed - all forms of boating can resume
Godstow, Osney	Surveys completed – all forms of boating can resume. <i>Public power system in operation at both locks</i>
Iffley	Survey completed - all forms of boating can resume. <i>Public power system in operation</i> Please be aware: a van has sunk mid-channel approximately 150 metres upstream of Folly Bridge. No attempt to navigate should be made in this area
Sandford, Abingdon, Culham, Clifton, Days, Benson, Cleeve	Surveys planned for Friday 22 May

Goring, Whitchurch, Mapledurham, Caversham	Surveys completed – all forms of boating can resume. <i>Public power system in operation at all locks</i>
Blakes, Sonning, Shiplake, Marsh	Surveys completed - all forms of boating can resume. <i>Public power system in operation at all locks (except Blakes, which is a manually operated beam lock)</i>
Hambleden*, Hurley, Temple, Marlow, Cookham*, Boulter's, Bray	Surveys planned for Friday 22 May Please be aware: a fallen tree is restricting the downstream lock cut at Temple Lock which should therefore be navigated with great care
Boveney, Romney, Old Windsor, Bell Weir*, Penton Hook, Chertsey	Surveys completed – all forms of boating can resume. <i>Public power system to be reinstated from 12pm on Friday 22 May</i>
Shepperton, Sunbury	Surveys planned for Friday 22 May. Please be aware: Sunbury Lock has 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
Molesey, Teddington*	Surveys completed - all forms of boating can resume. <i>Public power system NOT currently in operation at Molesey Lock due to a fault. We are working on this</i>

*Passage through these locks is currently by prior arrangement only and availability is limited. 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.

We are working to deal with all outstanding issues and to restore navigation for all vessels across the entire river as soon as we can.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

John Dutson
Acting Harbour Master
22 May 2020