

River Thames – lock and river restrictions

Issues resulting from government coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions

Wednesday 20 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 soon as we are satisfied that each reach can again be navigated by all forms of vessel, we will confirm this via an update to this notice. We will also reinstate the public power facility at locks, as each reach survey is completed.

The current status of each reach (upstream of the lock) is set out below. Where reach surveys are shown as completed, we aim restore the public power facility at the lock by 12pm on Thursday 21 May, once appropriate system checks have been carried out. Dates of planned surveys may change based on the availability of launches and crews.

St John's, Buscot	Surveys planned for Friday 22 May
Grafton, Radcot, Rushey, Shifford	Surveys planned for Thursday 21 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 planned for Thursday 21 May
Iffley	Survey completed - all forms of boating can resume 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	Survey planned for Thursday 21 May
Abingdon, Culham, Clifton	Surveys planned for Friday 22 May
Days, Benson, Cleeve	Surveys planned for Saturday 23 May

Goring, Whitchurch, Mapledurham, Caversham	Surveys planned for Thursday 21 May
Blakes, Sonning, Shiplake, Marsh	Surveys completed - all forms of boating can resume The fallen tree that was obstructing the tail cut and preventing use of Marsh Lock has now been removed.
Hambleden*, Hurley, Temple, Marlow	Surveys planned for Sunday 24 May Please be aware: a fallen tree is restricting the downstream lock cut at Temple Lock which should therefore be navigated with great care
Cookham*, Boulters, Bray, Boveney, Romney	Surveys planned for Monday 25 May
Old Windsor, Bell Weir*, Penton Hook	Surveys planned for Friday 22 May
Chertsey, Shepperton, Sunbury	Surveys planned for Thursday 21 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 these areas.
Molesey, Teddington*	Surveys completed - all forms of boating can resume

*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
20 May 2020