

The following is a further Thames specific up date issued by the EA at 16.36 on Friday 27th.

We cannot stress enough the need to avoid all but essential journeys on our waterways at the present time, and this applies to all vessels - powered, unpowered, recreational and commercial.

Please do heed our advice which is based on Government guidance and is solely intended to protect you, and others.

For boaters on the non-tidal Thames specifically, there are some additional important points to note:

- In order to protect our staff, all areas of our locksites which members of the public do not need to access to operate the lock or use facilities such as fresh water points, will be closed. This includes all campsites and lock and weir fishing sites.
- Customers wishing to use our pump-out facilities at Eynsham, Abingdon, Mapledurham, Shiplake and Boveney locks should email WaterwaysThames@environment-agency.gov.uk giving as much notice as possible, stating which lock they intend to visit, and provide a contact telephone. A member of our Waterways team will call them back to discuss how this will be arranged. Pump-out facilities at all other sites are currently unavailable and we apologise for this inconvenience. Please note: the WaterwaysThames email inbox is monitored during normal business hours from Monday to Friday. It is not monitored at weekends.
- To discourage non-essential movement of boats, all locks will be hand-wind only. As our locks at Hambleden and Cookham do not have hand-wind operation, these locks are closed until further notice. We will issue a Harbour Master's Notice to this effect shortly.
- As a result of the prolonged (and continuing) period of strong stream conditions, a considerable number of hazard marker buoys have been moved out of position. In addition, river and weather conditions may have created new hazards. We would normally carry out a survey of all reaches at the earliest opportunity once river conditions make it safe to do so, to reposition marker buoys and install them where we identify new hazards, until such time as we can deal with them. We cannot currently do this, or carry out operations to remove hazards. Therefore, not only should all movement be restricted to essential journeys only, such journeys must be carried out **with extreme caution**.
- We know that there are hazards blocking the navigation at Sunbury and Marsh locks, which are both closed until further notice.
- In addition, hazards are restricting use of both Temple Lock and Clifton Lock. More information on these can be found at <http://riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk/> where we will also post information on any further service issues.
- Teddington Lock is also closed, but we will consider providing a hand-wind service for short periods to enable **essential journeys** only. Any requests which we deem to be non-essential will be declined. Boaters requiring to transit Teddington Lock should email WaterwaysThames@environment-agency.gov.uk with their contact details. A member of our Teddington Lock team will then be in touch. We will issue a Harbour Master's Notice shortly. Please note: the WaterwaysThames email inbox is monitored during normal business hours from Monday to Friday. It is not monitored at weekends.

Thank you for support and understanding during these extraordinary and very challenging times.

River Thames Waterways Team