

## 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	Surveys planned for Saturday 23 May
<b>Rushey, Shifford, Northmoor, Pinkhill, Eynsham, Kings</b>	<b>Surveys completed – all types of vessel may navigate</b>
<b>Godstow, Osney, Iffley, Sandford, Abingdon, Culham, Clifton</b>	<b>Surveys completed – all types of vessel may navigate</b> <i>Public power system in operation at all locks</i>  Please be aware: 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.
Days	Surveys planned for Saturday 23 May
<b>Benson, Cleeve, Goring, Whitchurch, Mapledurham, Caversham, Blakes, Sonning, Shiplake, Marsh, Hambleden, Hurley, Temple, Marlow</b>	<b>Surveys completed – all types of vessel may navigate</b> <i>Public power system in operation at all locks except:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mapledurham and Marsh, which have faults (we are working to resolve this)</i></li> <li>• <i>Blakes, which is a manually operated beam lock</i></li> <li>• <i>Marlow, which will remain on hand wind until the Cookham reach has been surveyed and all hazards marked</i></li> </ul> Please be aware: a fallen tree is restricting the downstream lock cut at <b>Temple Lock</b> which should therefore be navigated with great care

Cookham*, Boulters, Bray	Surveys planned for Saturday 23 May
<b>Boveney, Romney, Old Windsor, Bell Weir*, Penton Hook, Chertsey, Shepperton, Sunbury, Molesey, Teddington*</b>	<p><b>Surveys completed – all types of vessel may navigate</b></p> <p><i>Public power system in operation at all locks except:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Old Windsor, which has a fault (we are working to resolve this)</i></li> <li>• <i>Bell Weir – see note below</i></li> <li>• <i>Sunbury, which is closed due to the 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.</i></li> <li>• <i>Teddington – see note below</i></li> </ul>

\*Passage through **Cookham, 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. We are also allowing limited use on lock keeper power at Cookham Lock which has no hand wind capability. Teddington Lock has no public power system. If you need to use these locks please email us at [WaterwaysThames@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto: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**