

Notice to Mariners 10 of 2020: Issues resulting from government coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions

Monday 1st June 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 Medway can continue to be used by all types of vessel. Additional signage with guidance has been placed at every lock complex and EA boating facility.

I am pleased to inform you that assisted passage is available from today, Monday 1st June at Allington Lock. We have put additional measures in place to maintain social distancing and hygiene requirements in line with government guidelines. Ensure you follow the advice and guidance provided by the lockkeeper when using the lock. All vessels will be expected to have a current boat safety certificate and licence to use the waterway.

All other EA boating facilities, moorings, slipways and car parks are now fully operational. Please note we will only be accepting payments by card.

We have had several reports of speeding vessels, may I remind you of the mandatory speed limit of 5 knots for all types of vessel for the entire length of the Upper Medway. Please be considerate of other river users and keep within the speed limit. Failure to do so can result in a criminal prosecution and penalty charge.

We have now completed our surveys of every reach, marking all identified obstructions in the main navigation channel with marker buoys. The markers are arranged following the IALA system A (international Association of Lighthouse Authorities). Please proceed with extreme caution and at slow speed in all these locations. We are working as fast as possible to address the highlighted channel restrictions but it will take time to remove all the shoals.

Porters Lock – East Lock

Between Hartlake Bridge and Porters Lock

PASSABLE WITH CAUTION – marker buoys in place

River depths are currently below published depths so mariners are advised to pass carefully and at slow speed.

Hampstead Lock – Sluice Weir Lock

Between Branbridges Bridge and downstream of Sluice Weir Lock

PASSABLE WITH CAUTION - marker buoys in place

River depths are currently below published depths so mariners are advised to pass carefully and at slow speed.

Sluice Weir Lock - Oak Weir Lock

At Stilstead Bridge

PASSABLE WITH CAUTION - marker buoys in place

River depths are currently below published depths so mariners are advised to pass carefully on the starboard side proceeding upstream at low speed.

Please stay alert and safe as we continue to respond to the challenges of coronavirus.

Yours sincerely



Jason Adams

Waterways Operations Manager, Upper Medway Navigation

1st June 2020

Please contact joshua.roots@environment-agency.gov.uk if you no longer wish to receive these notices.

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for people and wildlife**

