



ACCESS INFORMATION

River Thames users information

An update, comment and note on information available to users from the navigation authorities.

Lechlade to Teddington. An Environment Agency navigation, the Agency now posts the river flow status displayed at locks by stream warning boards at www.visitthames.co.uk/riverconditions. The information includes a likely forecast summary and explains the yellow and red boards system. There is also a link from the navigation pages of the Environment Agency web site www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

Updates will be made twice daily during changing river states, or more often if conditions dictate. Users can also sign up to receive emailed updates. The frequency for periods of stronger flows has noticeably increased and this service is welcomed.

Teddington to the sea (the Tideway). The Port of London Authority is responsible for navigation and issues a Recreational Users Guide, Rowing Code and Notices to Mariners, all as posted on the PLA web site www.pla.co.uk.

The Recreational Users Guide provides general information on navigation, plus detail of security zones on the river, sound signals and passage through the Thames Barrier.

The Rowing Code. Rowing activity can be intense between Teddington and Putney. Regular paddlers on this section of the river will be familiar with the local navigation rules that also apply to kayaks and canoes as vessels under oars. Notice to Mariners U15 of 2006 refers - <http://www.pla.co.uk/notice2mariners/index.cfm/flag/2/id/2656/site/navigation>.

Notices to Mariners give notification of river closures, operations, navigation changes and events. The listing of Permanent Notices should also be noted.

Events. Andy Gray, Paddlesport Development Officer for L&SE is liaising with the RYA and ARA to produce a grouping notice of events for minimising organiser's costs. Please contact Andy in the first instance if your organisation has a Tideway event as it may need to be included. Andy can be contacted at: andy.gray@bcu.org.uk or mobile 07894-396484

Canoe England is keen for all paddlers to be suitably equipped, able and familiar with this information before using the tidal Thames that is carrying increasing levels of commercial traffic. The tide varies in different places running up to 6 knots and conditions can be demanding especially in exposed reaches. Central London is particularly busy with fast passenger launch movements to require a sharp look out and an understanding of sound signals made by power driven vessels to indicate their intended actions to other vessels. The Local River Advisor for Putney to Erith is Westminster Boating Base email: enquiries@wesboat.com

For further information contact andy.green@bcu.org.uk