

Notice to Mariners - 3 of 2021 – Capital Works Update

The Environment Agency is currently investing significant funds along the Upper Medway, securing the future use of Navigation. Our aim is to improve our customers experience along the river as well as helping the river environment. Over the winter we have been carrying out maintenance and capital works to some of our Locks. We have been posting regular updates on our social media and on our website <http://www.allingtonlock.co.uk>.

It has been a challenging year for everyone with the pandemic affecting our normal delivery of work. This, paired with the exceptionally cold and wet winter we have just had means the work at the following locks has been delayed.

Allington Lock

We are currently carrying out extensive repairs to the gates and civil elements of the lock. The hydraulic and electrical systems which help to operate the lock are being fully replaced. These works will improve asset resilience and site safety, reduce water loss and extend the life of the asset. This will secure the long-term use of our gateway lock. A detailed breakdown of the work our contractors are doing to the lock is available [here](#).

The work was programmed to be completed over the winter months to reduce disruption to the navigation. Unfortunately, the following unexpected issues were found after dewatering the lock which has delayed the locks reopening;

- The pintles and shoes were found to be in a poorer condition than expected,
- The pintles were worn and some of the anchors were broken,
- The centre gates required further remedial works, and
- The centre cill needed a replacement design.

The revised completion date for the opening of Allington Lock is now **3rd June 2021**.

Anchor Sluice and Sluice Weir Sluice

Over the winter work at Anchor Sluice and Sluice Weir Sluice has been progressing to carry out essential refurbishments to the sluice control valves, and to ensure that the appropriate water levels for navigation can be maintained throughout the year.

Unfortunately, this winter has been exceptionally wet, and despite our best efforts to keep levels low, the River Medway has been in strong stream for sustained periods, which has delayed the completion of these works.

The revised completion date for Anchor Sluice is **30th April 2021** and for Sluice Weir Sluice **31st March 2021**. The pens will be down until the completion dates.

Other Navigation Issues

- Due to a build-up of silt from the high flows over winter, East Farleigh lock is currently blocked. The team will have this clear and back in operation by **19th March 2021**.
- Multiple fallen trees have been cleared from the river over the winter, any further obstacles to navigation will be marked with buoys until we can get to them.
- The annual river maintenance draw down programme has been completed and featured on BBC South East News.
- The COVID roadmap to restarting navigation was published earlier this week, please click on this [link](#) to view the important dates and information.

I apologise for any disruption the delays may cause. If you have a genuine need to use the affected parts of the navigation before the works are complete and would like to discuss it further, please call our project lead James Kennedy to discuss;

Mobile	07767 338940
E-Mail	james.kennedy@environment-agency.gov.uk

Yours Sincerely,



Jason Adams
Waterways Operations Manager, Upper Medway Navigation
12th March 2021

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**

