

ELMBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

Update on the River Thames Navigation

November 2023

Welcome to the Environment Agency Waterways up-date for the Elmbridge Borough. This newsletter brings you up-to-date with what is currently happening on the navigation. As this is the first newsletter we have included some information on our roles and responsibilities as the navigation authority, and links to useful information.

The River Thames forms the northern boundary of Elmbridge Borough Council, which includes Shepperton, Sunbury and Molesey Locks and Weirs which we own and operate.

Within this area we operate the following short stay visitor moorings:

1. Weybridge - opposite Shepperton Lock island (Weybridge Point)
2. Shepperton - downstream end of Desborough Island on old river
3. Walton - opposite Shepperton Marina
4. Walton - opposite Beasley's Ait (Gridley Miskin)
5. Molesey - Hurst Park

For a list of all Environment Agency moorings on the non-Tidal Thames please visit;

[River Thames: locks and facilities for boaters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-moorings)

Unless signs state otherwise, you are allowed to moor for up to 24 hours at these moorings. You may have to pay a fee at some sites, either for mooring at any time, or after an initial free period. Signs will usually show any applicable conditions and charges payable. By mooring, you are agreeing to them.

We also own other parcels of land on the non-tidal Thames, within the Elmbridge borough, that are not designated moorings.

In Elmbridge Borough we are responsible for the management of the above five moorings and the land that we own, and carry out compliance and enforcement activity in line with our published Compliance and Enforcement Plan - [River Thames: enforcement plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-enforcement-plan).

We also work with Elmbridge Borough Council to address the issues of unauthorised moorings in the Borough, and you can find more information about how they are tackling this issue;

[Unauthorised moorings | Elmbridge Borough Council](https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/unauthorised-moorings)

Environment Agency activities

Over the last three months our team has been carrying out patrols on the River Thames both on foot and by Patrol Boat, with a key focus on increasing vessel registration levels and ensuring the effective management of our moorings. During these patrols we have engaged with a range of partners, including marinas, boatyards, hire companies, leaseholders, estate managers, cruise companies, and local residents.

Our intelligence-led approach directed us to specific locations where non-compliance was suspected. Notable areas included Sadlers Ride and Desborough Cut, where we, in collaboration with our partners, issued notices to several large vessels. These operations emphasise our commitment to ensuring compliance and maintaining the safety of the river.



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Improvements in Boat Registration numbers and mooring compliance have been noted in the area. We remain dedicated to routinely inspecting our moorings and riverbanks along the entire stretch from Teddington to Shepperton. This continuous effort is essential in preserving the navigational safety and environmental health of the Thames.

The patrols have been well-received by both boaters and residents. Our presence not only ensures safe navigation but also helps in reinforcing crucial messages. It is vital for all river users to understand their boat registration requirements and the application of mooring fees after the initial free 24-hour period on most Environment Agency moorings.

Looking ahead to 2024, our team is committed to maintaining these efforts and enhancing our engagement with all stakeholders. The goal is to ensure that the Thames remains a safe, enjoyable, and environmentally sound waterway for everyone.

Environment Agency activity over the last three months: August to October

- 24 Patrols
- 809 Vessels checked for boat registration
- 16 moorings checked
- 70 "Directions to Move" notices issued
- 38 "Unregistered" notices issued
- 7 "No name" notices issued
- 1 "Speed & Wash" notice issued
- 6 notices for trespass issued

Our next newsletter will be issued in February 2024



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