

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 09 of 2023

27th April Update on Traffic Restrictions during Jack Up Barge Operations within Harbour Entrance

MARINERS ARE ADVISED that current traffic restrictions during riverbed investigation works have been extended until approximately Friday 5th May. Local Notice to Mariners 08 of 2023 (dated 19th April) is hereby cancelled and replaced by this notice. The works have been extended for two reasons: (1) unseasonable easterly breezes have prevented safe movements of the barge more often than anticipated and (2) drilling contractors have identified conditions requiring further investigation before demobilisation.

The works continue to be undertaken from an 18-metre-long and 14-metre-wide Jack Up Barge and include a programme of drilling riverbed boreholes to inform the design of a 40-metre length of the harbour's western wall due for urgent replacement after the Summer (addressing the current issue in the area of the "shoal bank" described in [Local Notice 03 of 2023](#)). These works are causing some disruption to navigation but are considered critical to maintaining an open port for all harbour users. These works are taking place alongside shoreside boreholes on West Beach and other separate construction and maintenance works during April and May as Phase 1 of the Harbour Entrance Renewal Scheme continues (more info at www.littlehampton.org.uk/harbour-entrance).



The following traffic restrictions are in force from 27th April. Listen VHF CH71 for updates.

- **The harbour entrance including "the narrows" (between the Black Shed and the Entrance Beacons) will be briefly closed during the remaining four movements of the barge:**
 - Approximately 7am on Saturday 29th April for 15 mins
 - Approximately 10pm Monday 1st May for 15 mins
 - Approximately 11pm on Tuesday 2nd May for 15 mins
 - TBC demobilisation approximately 5th May for 45 mins subject to weather and progress

Moves of Jack Up Barge HAVEN SEAJACK 4 are under pilotage in a composite tow arrangement with harbour vessels ERICA and WINDSONG (total length overall 32 metres and beam 14.5 metres). The tow is Restricted in its Ability to Manoeuvre (RAM) and displays the appropriate lights and shapes.

Sécurité broadcasts will be made on channels 16 and 71 at the time these closures are implemented and lifted. Timings could vary slightly dependent on tidal and weather conditions so, when within an hour of the above times, harbour users are recommended not to depart moorings or approach the harbour entrance from sea until they have checked via Channel 71 if the harbour entrance will be open by the time they get there. If no response is received (e.g. outside of typical

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working hours and not during a scheduled barge move), it can be safely assumed the reduced harbour entrance is open. Mariners are also reminded to observe radio silence on Ch71 during the closures except in emergency so the pilot can communicate efficiently with support vessels.

- **At other times, a reduced (20 metres wide) channel is available between the Barge and the East Training Wall for experienced masters of leisure and commercial craft up to 15m in length.**
 - Masters choosing to transit the reduced entrance must consider if they have the right level of experience and take utmost caution including planning for tidal flows, wind and other traffic. A visit to either beach to assess the current situation before going to sea is recommended.
 - Mariners must only pass the east side of the barge at minimum speed required to maintain safe steerage. Overtaking or passing must be avoided in this area as per standing guidance in Notices 02 of 2023 and 03 of 2023.
 - Those navigating against the tide must, as always, give way to those choosing to navigate with the tide in this narrower area. Vessels over 10m in length are encouraged to contact the Harbour Office during working hours for advice before finalising their passage plan.



A safety boat will be in attendance during the day from Saturday 29th April until demobilisation (approx. 5th May) and can be contacted for advice regarding current tidal flows and other traffic via channel 71.

The barge will be unattended outside of working hours (except during the scheduled moves mentioned above). The barge is marked with short range flashing orange lights and masthead RAM lights. Under no circumstances should any vessel transit beneath the elevated working platform due to underhanging ladders and drilling equipment.

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the Masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

This Local Notice to Mariners will be replaced by a final notice giving timelines for the barge's demobilisation via the Tarmac Shipping Wharves (now expected around 5th May). Any questions can be directed to the Harbour Office via VHF Ch71, 01903 721 215 or harbour@littlehampton.org.uk.

Harry Gregory
Harbour Master
27th April 2023