

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 19 of 2023

Autumn to Spring Channel Closure at Arundel

MARINERS ARE ADVISED that the Environment Agency are shortly commencing essential flood defence works on the river's walls at Arundel. There will be some disruption to navigation during mobilisation in the second half of August 2023 and then subsequently **the works will cause a FULL CLOSURE TO ALL CRAFT of the channel at Arundel between the A27 Bridge and Queens St Bridge from 8th Sept 2023 until Spring 2024 (for safety reasons this also includes paddlecraft).**

A 40-metre stretch of river wall of brick construction at Tarrant Wharf requires urgent replacement with a new steel sheet pile wall to prevent tidal flooding, potential risk to life and risk to navigation in the river. Tarrant Wharf is located on the river's western bank (North side at Arundel), half-way between the two bridges (A27 and Queens Street). Piling works are to be undertaken by VolkerStevin. Marine operations including all barge movements are to be undertaken by Mackley who also completed the previous phase of the works starting in 2019.



These critical works and the associated channel closure are undertaken on the authority of the Environment Agency who understand this will prevent access to Littlehampton Harbour Limits from areas up-river of Arundel's Queens St Bridge and vice versa. **If you would like to discuss any concerns about this closure, contact the Environment Agency's Project Liaison Officer (Michael Carleysmith)** by calling 03708 506 506, by emailing ArundelTidalWalls@environment-agency.gov.uk, or post: Environment Agency, Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, BN11 1LD.

Until 15th August: A 6-metre-wide Exclusion Zone around the fragile wall was implemented from March 2022 to ensure river users' safety. This remains in place and is marked by yellow special marker buoys (flashing yellow at 5s intervals). All craft must continue to stay to the river's East Bank (south side at Arundel) when passing these buoys. Due to swift tidal flows at Arundel and slightly reduced channel widths, vessels navigating against the tide must give way to vessels navigating with the tide. Vessels are also asked to their reduce speed to minimum for safe steerage when passing this area so that their wash does not put any further undue strain on this very fragile brick wall.



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From 16th August to 7th September: 2x modular support barges and 3x support vessels will be working within in another wider Exclusion Zone (the Mobilisation Area) just upriver. Here they will be used to support the assembly of the larger 18m-wide Jack Up Barge which was last seen in this area for the works concluding 2020. The river's East Bank side (south at Arundel) will remain open to careful navigation during this period except during brief critical operations such as barge movements which will only occur on weekdays and be kept as short as possible. Masters planning to transit the area during working hours between 16th August and 7th September are advised to confirm timings of critical operations (on the previous working day) via 07966 068 359 or Lawrence.Rogers@mackley.co.uk. Masters wishing to transit the area when critical operations are not underway may proceed, keeping to the east side of all barges and their speed to a minimum for safe steerage. An orange Mackley safety boat will be available (and listening VHF Ch71) during working hours to advise, direct or assist traffic as necessary. **The narrowest part of the passing area will be alongside the 18m x 18m Jack Up Barge, which will leave a 5-metre-wide space at low water and (up to) 8 metres at high water.**



From 8th September until further notice: The fragile wall buoys will be removed and the Jack Up Barge will be moved downriver into position for piling operations. No navigation through the area will be possible because the channel will be fully obstructed. Unlike the works starting 2019, the barge is both in a narrower part of the river and, due to the unstable nature of the existing wall, must also be placed further out into the river for safety reasons. It is not possible for the works to be undertaken from a narrower barge or for the barge to be relocated frequently to allow navigation. Therefore, the river will remain closed to all vessels (including paddlecraft) at all times from the 8th September until Spring.



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 notice replaces LNTM 16 of 2023 and will remain in force until replaced.

Harry Gregory
Harbour Master
22nd July 2023