

River Thames: restrictions and closures

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Navigation on the River Thames may be restricted or closed in certain areas. Find out where and when these restrictions and closures are.

Before boating on the River Thames, you should check the current river conditions.

Navigation issues: updated 19 March 2026

When	Where	What's happening
5 March 2026 until further notice	Caversham reach	Fallen tree obstructing navigation at Poplar Island, what3words:///employ.data.waving. All vessels should navigate with extreme caution.
9 February 2026 until further notice	Bell Weir reach	To facilitate Bell Weir refurbishment, contractors will be setting up equipment around Runnymede Pleasure Grounds. Boaters to maintain lookout for ad hoc restrictions to navigation channel and navigate with caution in Bell Weir reach.
24 January 2026 until further notice	Hurley Lock	Vessels navigating in the weir stream towards Hurley Weir should exercise extreme caution. Unsecured chain from Harleyford Manor chain ferry potentially impacting over half of the navigation channel.
25 July 2025 until further notice	Marlow Lock	Marlow Lock upstream canoe portage closed for repairs until further notice.
1 May 2025 until further notice	Pinkhill reach	Crashed vehicle forming navigation hazard approximately 30 to 50 metres downstream of Ferryman Pub at Bablock Hythe.
3 February 2025 until further notice	Osney reach	East Street moorings, Oxford, are closed for public safety purposes, both waterside and landside. No alternative moorings are available.
4 January 2025 until further notice	Osney reach	Sunken narrowboat causing obstruction 50 metres upstream of Sheepwash junction route to Isis Lock on Oxford Canal. Boaters should navigate with extreme caution.
22 June 2024 until further notice	Benson Lock	Shoal reported downstream of lock. When navigating upstream the shoal is on the right hand side of the navigation channel. Boaters should navigate with caution when entering or exiting the tail gates.
23 April 2024 until further notice	Caversham reach	Submerged boat tied to left hand bank looking upstream, just upstream of St Mary's Island. Boaters should navigate with caution.
20 April 2024 Until further notice	Whitchurch head lock cut	Obstruction to navigation above head gates. Boaters should navigate with caution when entering or exiting the upstream lock cut.
1 October 2023 until further notice	Teddington Launch Lock	Lock is closed for repairs to lock walls, gate ram trench and areas of the lock side. Teddington Barge Lock is fully operational.
Until further notice	Clifton weir stream	Shoal reported downstream of The Plough public house. Boaters are advised not to navigate up Clifton weir stream.

When	Where	What's happening
Until further notice	Canal Bridge, Radcot	A vehicle has damaged Canal Bridge, where Radcot Road A4095 crosses the River Thames. Please be cautious of falling debris if navigating near the bridge.
Until further notice	Boulter's Lock	Gates on the pedestal side do not open fully. Width of the tail gates is restricted to no more than 5.1 metres (17'). Please use caution when entering and exiting the lock.
Until further notice	Botley Road Bridge, Oxford	Obstruction to navigation 50 metres upstream of Botley Bridge. Boaters should navigate with extreme caution.

River closures: updated 24 March 2026

There are no upcoming river closures.

River restrictions: updated 7 April 2026

When	Where	What's happening
Monday 30 March to Friday 19 June 2026	Hambleton reach	Henley Royal Regatta course construction 2026: all boats travelling downstream should navigate on the left, Berkshire/Remenham side of the river within the regatta course. All boats travelling upstream should navigate on the right, Buckinghamshire/Fawley Court side of the river.
Sunday 12 April 2026	Hambleton reach	Henley Winter Series 2025: there will be no racing channel. Competitors will navigate the river correctly and safely whilst being aware of other river users.
Sunday 12 April 2026 8am to 6pm	Culham reach	Abingdon Spring Head Regatta 2026: the navigation channel will be on the west, Abingdon Marina, left side of the river.
Sunday 19 April 2026 8am to 1pm	Hambleton reach	Phyllis Court Club Spring Time Trials 2026: the navigation channel will be in the centre of the river.
Saturday 2 May 2026 8am to 7pm	Marlow reach	Marlow Spring Regatta 2026: the navigation channel will be on the Berkshire, left side of the river.
Sunday 3 May 2026	Iffley reach	Isis Winter League 2025: in between races a clear navigation channel will be in place along the centre of the river.
Saturday 16 May 2026 7am to 8pm	Teddington reach	Thames Ditton Regatta 2026: the navigation channel will be on the right, Hampton Court, Middlesex side of the river.
Saturday 30 May 2026 9:30am to 4:30pm	Sunbury reach	Sunbury Skiff Club Head and Desborough Challenge 2026: the navigation channel will be around the old river channel at Shepperton.

Planned lock closures: updated 1 April 2026

The Environment Agency carries out a programme of works on the River Thames every year between October and the end of March. This results in the closure of a number of locks sometimes for relatively long periods.

The first issue of the programme is published 10 weeks in advance of the first planned lock closure. This is so that river users can plan their winter cruising and boat movements well in advance.

This programme of work is subject to change, due to weather and other circumstances. To stay updated with any changes to the programme, please subscribe to updates by selecting 'get emails'.

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<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-restrictions-and-closures>