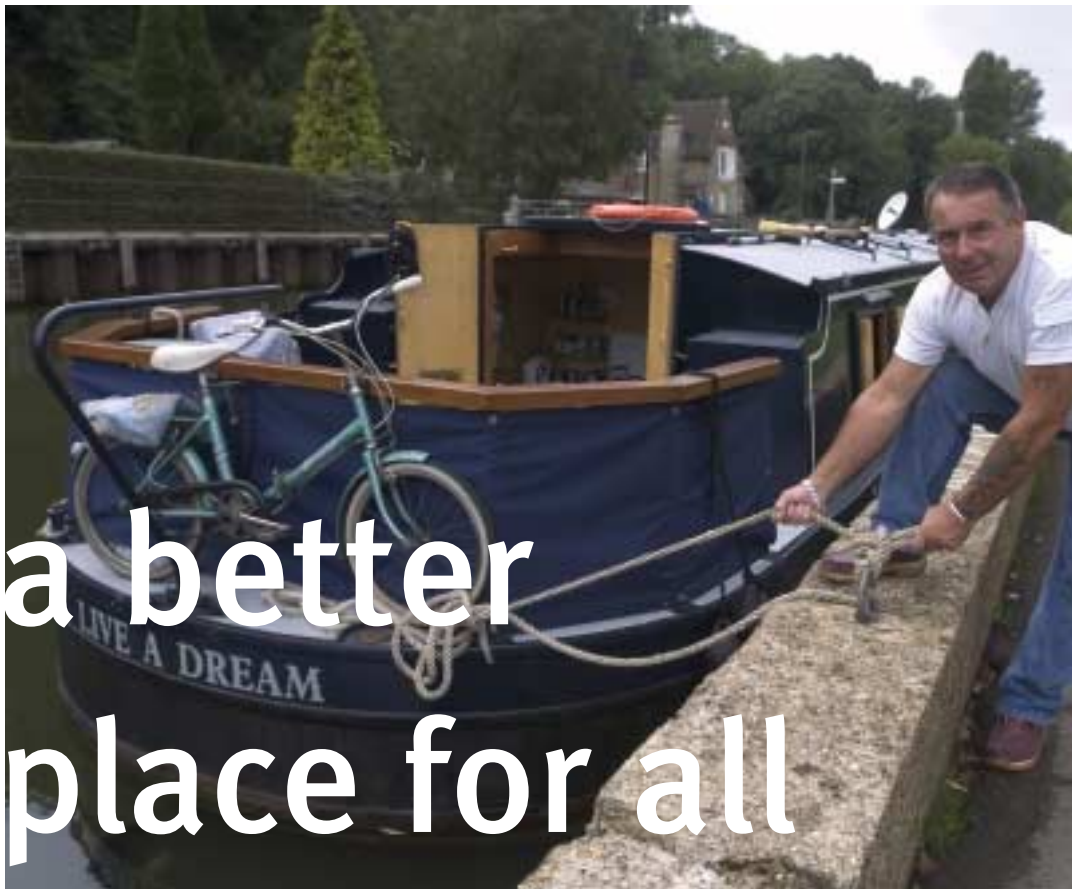


## River Medway

A user's guide



We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment and make it [a better place](#) for people and wildlife.

We operate at the place where environmental change has its greatest impact on people's lives. We reduce the risks to people and properties from flooding; make sure there is enough water for people and wildlife; protect and improve air, land and water quality and apply the environmental standards within which industry can operate.

Acting to reduce climate change and helping people and wildlife adapt to its consequences are at the heart of all that we do.

We cannot do this alone. We work closely with a wide range of partners including government, business, local authorities, other agencies, civil society groups and the communities we serve.

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The Environment Agency is the Navigation Authority for the 31kms of inland navigation on the River Medway between Maidstone and Tonbridge. We also have a general recreation duty to promote and facilitate recreation, and enjoyment of water both inland and on the coast.

The River Medway offers excellent opportunities for the boating enthusiast but also for other water users, including fishing, walking and nature appreciation.

A partnership approach is important to achieving sustainable improvements along the river. We work closely with the local and county councils and consult regularly with the Medway River Users' Association, which represents a broad spectrum of boaters. An example of this is the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) supported by the Environment Agency, Kent County Council, Tonbridge and Malling District Council and Maidstone Borough Council. The Partnership aims to maintain and enhance the Medway valley as a green corridor for the benefit of wildlife and people, through the promotion of community awareness and action.

With so many activities along the river it is important to follow the various regulations and guidance to ensure that it remains a pleasure to use for all those who enjoy its tranquillity and charm.

This booklet aims to help everybody conduct their own activity in safety and to foster good relations and a spirit of understanding between river users.

A river can be a dangerous place so please obey the signs and guidance provided for yours and others safety. Enjoy your time on or by the River Medway and may it really become a better place for all.

**John Morgan**

Kent Waterways Manager  
January 2006

Section A

# Allington to Yalding

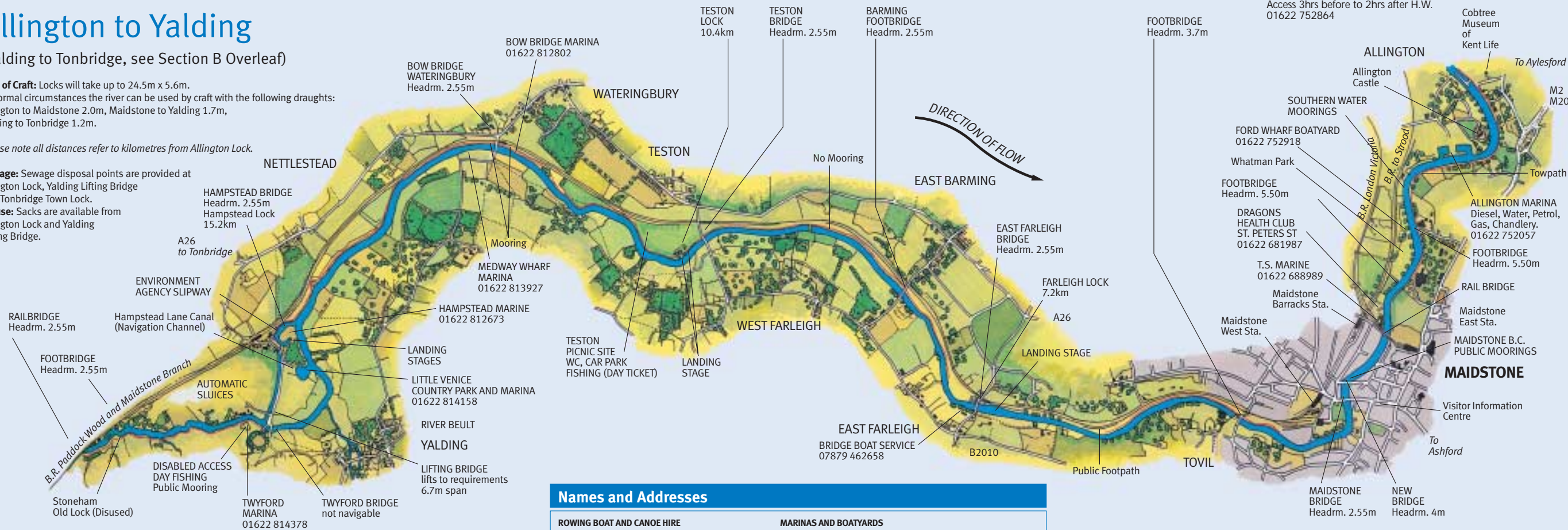
(Yalding to Tonbridge, see Section B Overleaf)

**Size of Craft:** Locks will take up to 24.5m x 5.6m.  
 In normal circumstances the river can be used by craft with the following draughts:  
 Allington to Maidstone 2.0m, Maidstone to Yalding 1.7m,  
 Yalding to Tonbridge 1.2m.

Please note all distances refer to kilometres from Allington Lock.

**Sewage:** Sewage disposal points are provided at Allington Lock, Yalding Lifting Bridge and Tonbridge Town Lock.

**Refuse:** Sacks are available from Allington Lock and Yalding Lifting Bridge.



## Names and Addresses

ROWING BOAT AND CANOE HIRE		MARINAS AND BOATYARDS	
Tonbridge Waterways	01732 360630	Allington Marina Ltd, Allington	01622 752057
		Ford Wharf Boatyard, Allington	01622 752918
		T.S. Marine, Maidstone	01622 688989
		Bridge Boat Service, East Farleigh	07879 462658
		Medway Wharf Marina, Maidstone	01622 813927
		Bow Bridge Marina, Wateringbury	01622 812802
		Hampstead Marine (Yalding Ltd), Yalding	01622 812673
		Little Venice Country Park and Marina, Yalding	01622 814158
		Twyford Marina, Yalding	01622 814378
		Tonbridge Waterways, Tonbridge	01732 360630
PASSENGER OPERATIONS			
Hire Cruisers (Maidstone Ltd)	01622 753740		
Tonbridge Waterways	01732 360630		
Ford Wharf Boatyard	01622 752918		

**SPEED LIMIT – 5 KNOTS**



## Section B

# Yalding to Tonbridge

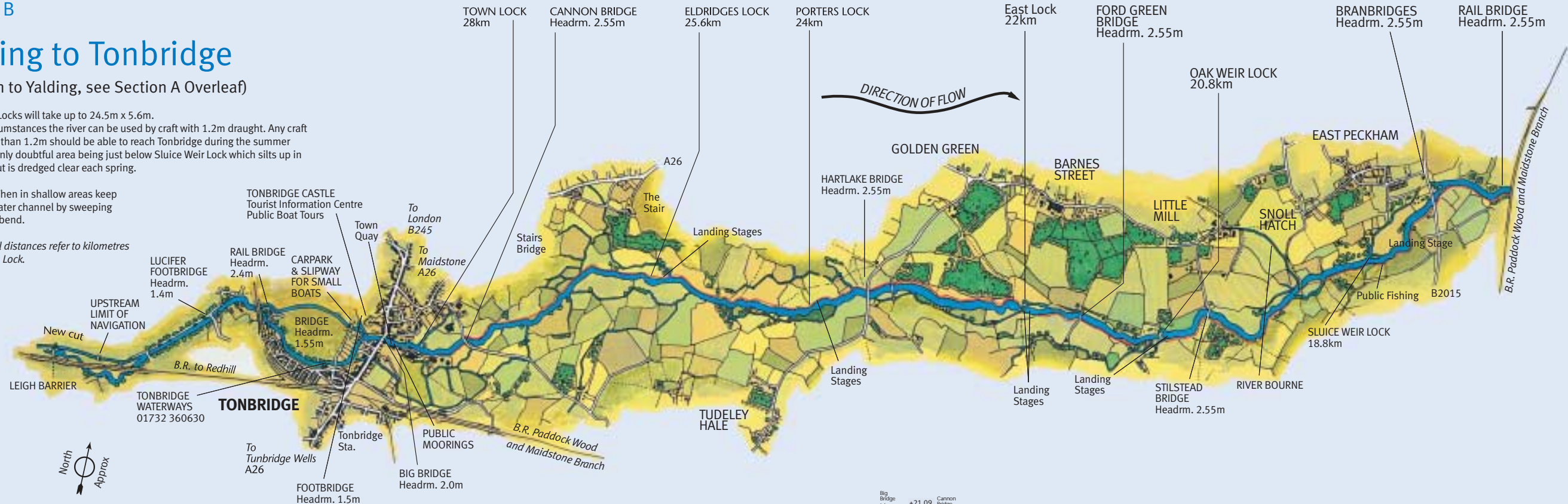
(Allington to Yalding, see Section A Overleaf)

**Size of Craft:** Locks will take up to 24.5m x 5.6m.

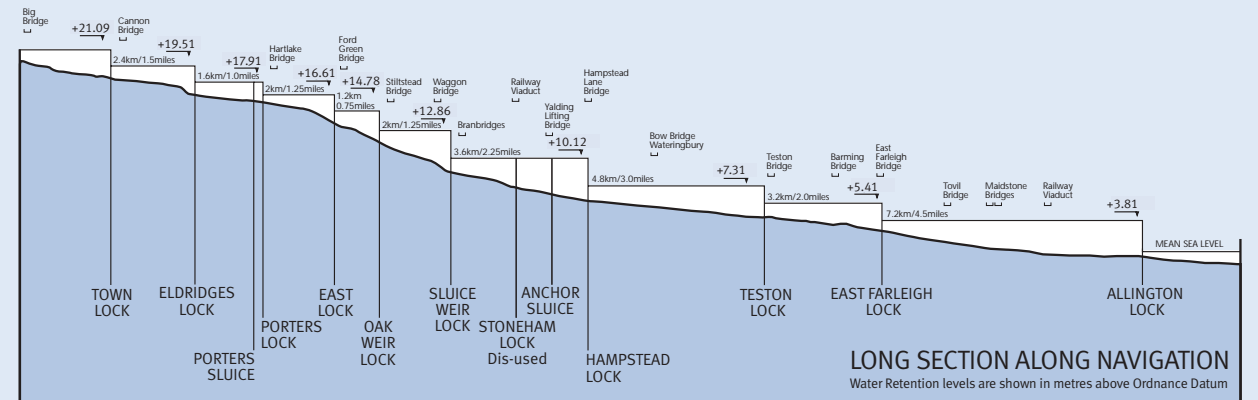
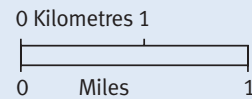
In normal circumstances the river can be used by craft with 1.2m draught. Any craft drawing more than 1.2m should be able to reach Tonbridge during the summer months, the only doubtful area being just below Sluice Weir Lock which silts up in heavy rains but is dredged clear each spring.

**Navigation:** When in shallow areas keep in the flood water channel by sweeping wide on each bend.

Please note all distances refer to kilometres from Allington Lock.



## SPEED LIMIT – 5 KNOTS





part 1

# general information and notes for users of the navigation

# Extent of the navigation

# Gently does it

The Medway navigation gives access to 31km (19 miles) of the freshwater River Medway above its tidal limit.

Learn about other river users' activities, by reading the whole of this booklet, so that you can appreciate their needs and help them if possible. Learn and watch out for the various signals indicating other river users' activities.

Vessels wishing to approach the navigation through the Medway Estuary have a public right of navigation through tidal waters, subject to the byelaws of Medway Ports. However, there are slipways and launching facilities at several points along the freshwater section giving smaller craft direct access to the river.

There are ten locks and associated sluices and weirs along the inland navigation, which starts at Allington Lock and extends to the footbridge immediately downstream of the Leigh flood-regulating barrier just west of Tonbridge.

The locks divide the river into ten reaches, known locally as 'pens'. The lengths of the pens vary, the shortest being approximately 1.2km (0.75 miles) and the longest 7.2km (4.5 miles). Similarly the difference in water level at the locks varies between 2.8 metres (9ft 2in) and 1.3 metres (4ft 3in); the total fall from the head of Town Lock, Tonbridge to the head of Allington Lock being 17.28 metres (56ft 8in).

The locks are capable of accommodating craft up to 24.5 metres (80 feet) in length and up to 5.6 metres (18ft 5in) beam, and in normal circumstances the river can be used by craft of the following draughts.

Stretch of river	Draught
Allington Lock to Maidstone	2.0 metres/ 6ft 6in
Maidstone to Yalding	1.7 metres/ 5ft 6in
Yalding to Tonbridge	1.2 metres/4ft

Heavy flooding causes shoals to develop in the river, particularly, immediately downstream of the locks and although every effort is made to maintain these draughts it is not always possible to clear the shoals before the boating season starts. Boaters should therefore proceed with caution in the early part of the season and at any time after flooding has occurred. Navigation officers will give advice on the areas where shoaling has developed.

Show understanding to others especially when they are engaged in organised competition.

For river activities to run smoothly, it is necessary to co-ordinate organised activities with those of other river users and to consult the Navigation Authority before any event.

Peace and quiet is one of the attractions of the river. Remember that sound carries well on water, particularly at night and that excessive noise is a nuisance to others.

Please avoid pollution. Never throw litter into the water or leave it on the riverbanks.

If you see any pollution please call the **Environment Agency incident hotline 0800 80 70 60**.

The river can be both fun and dangerous. Due account must be taken of prevailing river conditions. All river activities can be enjoyed with minimum risk if some simple guidelines on safety are followed. You will find some of these in the Guidance for water sports and recreation section of this booklet.

Obey the general rules of navigation and river. Part 3 of this booklet provides details of the byelaws of the Medway.

Moving craft should avoid collisions by normally keeping to the right hand side of the navigable channel.

Help conserve the environment. Please be aware that excessive wash damages the riverbank, vegetation and wildlife. The river is a natural habitat and a wide range of animals depend upon it for their existence.

Always keep an eye on any children with you, ensuring they do not get into difficulties.

Follow the *Country Code*: shut gates, keep to footpaths, guard against fire and respect wildlife.

Keep a sharp lookout for anglers, who normally fish from the bank. Always try to keep a good distance from them, avoid their tackle and create as little disturbance as possible.



# Registration

In order to meet a proportion of the day-to-day costs of operating the navigation, the Environment Agency raises revenue through a system of registration.

All vessels and houseboats used or kept on the navigation, including those in marinas, must be registered with the Environment Agency and display a registration certificate. Vessels registered for the full year must also display their registration number in figures at least 5cm in height (approx. 2.5 in) on both sides of the craft.

Registration applies to powered or non-powered vessels, sailing craft and tenders to larger vessels, irrespective of whether the use of the vessel is commercial, educational or for recreation. Hired craft are charged at a higher rate. There is a separate single charge for houseboats.

Short-term (daily, weekly and monthly) and annual certificates are all available, though only powered vessels are eligible for the daily licence. Short-term certificates and application forms for certificates can be obtained at the Environment Agency offices at Allington Lock and Yalding. Other outlets are Allington Marina and the Dragons Health Club in Maidstone, Bow Bridge and

Medway Wharf Marinas at Wateringbury, and the Tourist Information Centre in the Castle at Tonbridge (see map).

Annual certificates (April 1 to March 31) can only be obtained by sending a completed application form, together with payment, to the Environment Agency Area Office in Kent (cheques made payable to the Environment Agency). You should allow 10 clear days for the processing of these applications. The application form itself can also be obtained from the Environment Agency Area Office in Kent. The forms are also downloadable from the Environment Agency River Medway web pages at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rivermedway](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rivermedway).

In the case of special one day events such as charitable events or competitions, a general certificate may be issued at a concessionary rate from the same address. Discounts are available to clubs and organisations making block bookings for five or more craft. (Manually propelled craft only.)



## operating the locks

Allington Lock, which provides passage to and from the tidal section, may only be operated by Environment Agency navigation officers who are available at the following times:

- Between March 1 and October 31, three hours before high water and two hours after, where those hours fall between 7.00am and sunset.
- On any other day between three hours before high water and two hours after where those hours fall between 8.00am and 4.00pm.

The lock may not be used outside these times unless at least 24 hours notice is given to the navigation officer and the notice is given within the above times.

Vessels approaching the navigation from the Medway Estuary should take particular care in relation to tides.

**Only registered vessels will be admitted to the navigation.** (Short-term registrations are available from the navigation officer.)

The duty navigation officer can be contacted by telephone during working hours on 01622 752864.

The nine locks above Allington may be operated by the person in charge of the vessel, or crew, unless directed otherwise by a navigation officer. Lock handles to operate the winding shafts of the sluices can be purchased from local chandlers. The lock handle should have a square socket, which fits properly on the spigots of the winding shafts, which are 25.4 mm (1in) square.



## landing places for locking

Landing stages are provided at the downstream end of each lock on the navigation so that boat owners may tie up to gain access to the lock for the purpose of locking the boat through. Mooring at the landing stages for other purposes is prohibited.

# Negotiating the locks

River users with previous experience of inland navigations will have experience of operating locks, but for those who are discovering the appeal of inland waterways for the first time, the following tips are provided:



- Locks should always be left with paddles in both sets of gates fully closed.
- Make sure you know exactly how to work a lock before you enter one.
- Check that your boat is completely inside the lock.
- When going upstream make sure your rudder cannot catch in the bottom gates.
- When going downstream make sure that the rear of the boat is not likely to sit on the cill.
- Make sure nobody is standing on the roof or foredeck when entering a lock; the bump of the boat against the side may throw them in the water.
- Do not leave lock handles on the spigot of the winding shafts.
- Be careful not to trap your fingers in any of the mechanisms.
- Never assume that the previous boat has left the lock mechanisms correctly.
- In narrow lock cuts, please remember that some pleasure craft draw up to four feet or more and might not be able to manoeuvre.
- Obey instructions given by the navigation officer and stop your engines once the craft is moored in the lock. Remember to loop head and stern warps to the posts. When the water is rising or falling in the lock, adjust your mooring lines to keep them fairly taut and make sure your boat does not become caught up as the lock is emptying. Turn off any radio, or other form of music and noise.
- If you have a dog on board, please keep it on the boat, or on a lead while passing through the locks.



## Going upstream

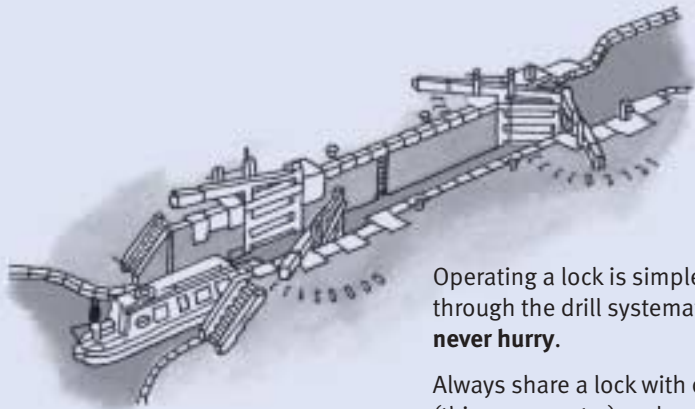
Secure the boat in the lock by looping ropes round the bollards and posts or through the rings provided. Do not tie.

1. If the lock is full, check that the paddles in the upper gates are closed.
2. Open the paddles in the lower gates to empty the lock.
3. Open the lower gates, enter the lock and close the paddles.
4. Close the bottom gates behind you and check that the paddles are closed.
5. Open the top paddles to fill the lock.
6. Open the top gates and take your boat out.
7. Close the top gates behind you and lower the paddles.

## Beware

- In narrow locks a boat tends to be drawn to the upper gate when the lock is filling.
- Do not use a lock at night, or in the dark, it is only too easy for someone to fall in the water and not be heard or seen.
- Please take care and do not fend off with hands, feet or boat hook.
- Do not open fuel tanks or strike matches.
- Never dangle your arms or legs over the side of the boat, they may get broken or crushed between the boat and the lock.
- Do not let anyone play near locks, be it running around or jumping over gates etc. It is not worth the risk of them falling in.
- You should know exactly what to do if someone falls into the water. If this happens, close all the paddles immediately and throw a life buoy. Then consider how to get them out.

## Operating a lock – upstream

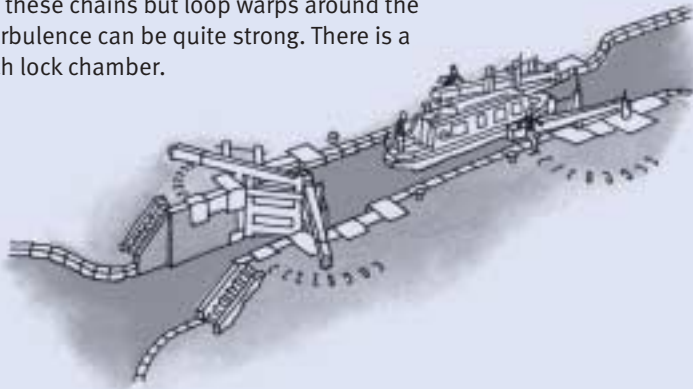


Operating a lock is simple if you work through the drill systematically and **never hurry**.

Always share a lock with other boats (this saves water) and wait turns whenever possible.

Lock gates must be properly closed before slowly opening the sluices.

All locks are provided with hanging chains for vessels to hold onto. When using the larger locks, do not rely on just holding onto these chains but loop warps around the posts. The turbulence can be quite strong. There is a ladder in each lock chamber.



## Going downstream

1. If the lock is empty of water close the bottom gates and check that the paddles are closed.
2. Fill the lock by opening the upstream paddles.
3. Open the top gates and enter the lock.
4. Close the top gates behind you and lower the paddles.
5. Open the bottom paddles to empty the lock.
6. Open the bottom gates and take your boat out.
7. Lower the paddles but leave the bottom gates open- unlike canals rivers can silt if bottom gates are closed.

If you encounter difficulties in operating a lock do not use excessive force but report the problem without delay to one of the Environment Agency's navigation officers on one of the following numbers:

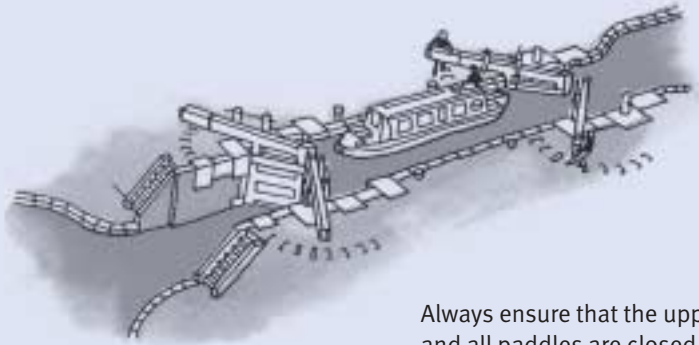
**Customer Contact Line**  
**08708 506 506**

**Outside office hours**  
**0800 80 70 60**



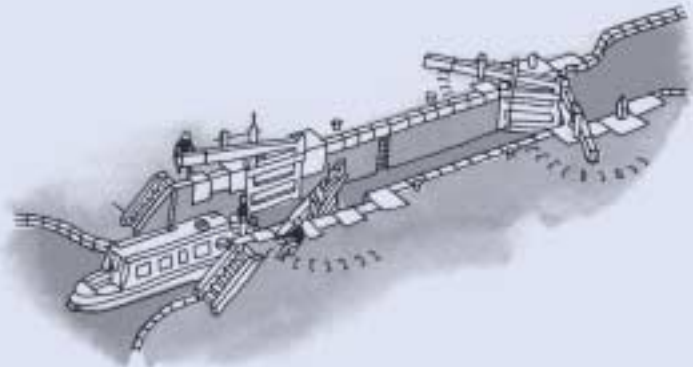


## Operating a lock – downstream



Always ensure that the upper gates and all paddles are closed after you leave the lock.

It is better to wait a few minutes and share the lock with another boat than to close the gates on an approaching boat. You could waste up to 250,000 gallons of water (or more).



## lifting bridge

At Yalding there is a lifting bridge over the navigation.

This lifting bridge can be operated by a boat owner, however if assistance is required, a navigation officer is on duty at the following times:

**0900 hrs 1200 hrs and 1500 hrs**

Boat owners may operate the Yalding lifting bridge using a special key, which can be purchased (price also obtainable) from:

Environment Agency  
Allington Lock, Allington  
Maidstone  
Kent ME16 0LU  
Tel: 01622 752864  
In person only - cash or cheque

Environment Agency  
(Kent Area Office)  
Orchard House, Endeavour Park  
London Road, Addington  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 5SH  
Tel: 01732 223222  
In person – office hours 0900 – 1700  
Monday to Friday – cash or cheque.

By post – make cheques payable to “The Environment Agency” and please write your name and address on the back of the cheque.

Keys can also be purchased from the navigation officer attending the lifting bridge. The lifting bridge is fully automatic, you should not try and remove your key until the bridge’s full operational cycle is complete.

Persons operating the lifting bridge and locks on the navigation must be aware that the Environment Agency accepts no responsibility for any injury sustained to such persons or others, or any damage to any boat arising out of the operation of the locks or bridge, other than as a result of its own negligence.

**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY –  
PLEASE TELEPHONE**

**0800 80 70 60**

# Landing, anchoring and mooring

Unlike canals most of the towpath on the Medway is not owned by the Navigation Authority, it is a public footpath.



In the interests of maintaining good relations between users of the river and landowners, remember that the right to navigate does not entitle you to moor up to private towpath property without the landowner's consent. You may land or embark directly from a public footpath, but do not obstruct the towpath.

There are free short-term mooring places for a distance of 130 metres from Town Lock towards the Big Bridge (Tonbridge High Street). This excludes the timber landing stages, which are for lock passage only.

In general vessels have a right to anchor in the channel for up to 24 hours in any one place. You may need permission to moor to the bank. Place mooring stakes well back from the bank edge and take care they do not cause a hazard to passers-by.

Always respect private rights and when in doubt obtain permission from the owner of the bank before tying-up.

Dogs must be kept under strict control.

Do not leave litter. Take it home or dispose of it at the sites provided by the Navigation Authority. There are also recycling points available at Yalding Station and at the Tonbridge Angel Centre.

When stopping overnight, or leaving your boat for any considerable amount of time, do not moor in shallow water or with a tight rope or chain as water levels may fluctuate by as much as 60 - 90cm (2 or 3 feet) in a few hours. If the level drops and a craft is moored aground or in shallow water, it may be lean over or be damaged. If the level rises and mooring ropes or chains are tight, the launch may take on water, be pulled under, or even break free. Always ensure there are over 60cm (2 feet) of water below your keel and a least 60cm (2 feet) of vertical play on any mooring rope or chain.

## Short-term moorings

There are short-term moorings at:

Maidstone  
East Farleigh  
Bow Bridge  
Yalding  
Ford Green Bridge  
Town Quay, Tonbridge

## Sewage pump-out stations

Pump out stations can be found at:

Yalding Lifting Bridge  
Allington Lock  
Town Lock, Tonbridge

Please note that the lifting bridge key is needed to operate the systems (see lifting bridge section for instructions on how to obtain a key).

## Launching

The Environment Agency has a slipway at Hampstead Lock, Yalding for which a small charge is payable to the navigation officer. There are also slipways and/or crange facilities at various marinas at Allington, East Farleigh, Wateringbury and Yalding. The Dragons Health Club supervises the slipway in Maidstone and there is a slipway for small craft above Big Bridge, Tonbridge.

## Public slipways

You may launch a boat at the sites listed below, but there is not necessarily a right to park a car or boat trailer:

Hampstead Slipway  
Tonbridge Castle slipway (small boats only)  
Maidstone Slipway (Dragons Health Club)



# guidance for water sports and recreation

Please read and understand the code of practice and safety rules of any activity before taking part. These are produced by governing bodies for each sport. Contact Sport England for further details on 08458 508508.

## Angling

Before going fishing:

Check you are carrying a valid rod licence if you are over 12. These are obtainable from all post offices or from the Environment Agency, telephone sales 0870 166 2662 (8am - 8pm, 7 days a week, 9am –5pm bank holidays). Calls are charged at standard rate. A small additional charge will be made. This service is available to credit and debit cardholders. Internet sales on [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish) (additional charge 25p).

Check you have permission to fish:

Possession of a rod licence does not give you the right to fish from the riverbank or a boat. You must have permission. Most of the fishing rights within the Medway navigation are privately owned and you should not assume that the owners or lessees of fishing rights allow boat users to fish their waters. Some angling clubs sell day tickets for fishing. Free fishing is available as long as you possess a rod licence on the following stretches of the river: East Farleigh Lock down to Unicomes Lane and Wharf Road Footbridge to Allington.

## On or by the river

Fishing from the lock side and landing platforms at any of the Environment Agency’s structures is not permitted.

Anglers should avoid weirs and be especially careful when fishing near the water’s edge downstream of automatic sluices. These structures open without warning and, under certain conditions, a rapid rise in water level will occur below the sluice.

Fishing, except by rod and line (and auxiliary landing net) is not permitted without the Environment Agency’s written consent.

The annual close season on the Medway for fishing for coarse fish and eels is March 15 to June 15 (both dates inclusive).

Take care when casting and ground baiting and remember your hooks and lines and ledger weights can be dangerous. Look behind and in front of you to ensure the area is clear.

Beware of fishing near overhead electric cables. Contact or close proximity between cable and fishing rod may cause fatal injury.

Take your litter home, especially discarded tackle.

Fishing hooks and nylon line are dangerous to birds and animals. Wasted line should be taken home and burnt.

*The use of lead shot (between the weights 0.06g and 28.35g) for fishing is now prohibited – use lead free alternatives.*

If fishing at vacant mooring places, please be prepared to move if a vessel wishes to moor.

All craft have the right to navigate the full width of the river. Canoeists and sailing craft particularly tend to manoeuvre close to the bank. Although asked to take care they can inadvertently carry away fishing tackle, as it is often difficult to see the line. This often happens accidentally, when anglers are hidden from view by bankside vegetation and should not be regarded as a deliberate act to spoil your sport.

Take particular care when fishing from a boat. Wear a buoyancy aid or lifejacket and take care not to obstruct the main navigation channel.

You may not fish from a boat that is under power.







## Canoeing

If a person belongs to the British Canoe Union (BCU) they do not need an Environment Agency licence.

BCU members must display their membership sticker.

Canoes belonging to non-BCU members must be registered with the Environment Agency, Kent Area. Annual registration certificates usually expire on March 31, although short period certificates may be obtained. Obey the general rules of navigation and know the rules for the avoidance of collisions.

Buoyancy aids or life jackets should be worn at all times. Canoeists should preferably have had formal instruction and be able to swim.

Do not canoe just above weirs or try to shoot weirs.

If on the water after sunset, an all-round white light should be displayed and canoeists should wear light coloured tops.

Keep a sharp lookout for anglers, who normally fish from the bank. Keep a good distance from them, avoid their tackle and create as little disturbance as possible.

Keep clear of sailing boats, motor cruisers and rowing craft (sculls, pairs, fours and eights) particularly when racing or coaching is taking place.

Do not get in the way of other craft by suddenly altering course, particularly when racing or coaching is taking place.

Remember it is difficult for rowing craft to see canoes.

Do not get in the way of other craft by suddenly altering course, particularly in narrow waters. Remember that larger boats are less manoeuvrable and canoes can use much shallower water than other craft.

Do not follow close astern of larger vessels.

It is safer for unpowered craft to remain at the back of a queue of traffic at a lock and to enter the lock last.

## Rowing and sculling

Rowing vessels must be currently registered with the Environment Agency, Kent Area. Annual registration certificates usually expire on March 31, although short period certificates may be obtained.

Obey the general rules of navigation and know the rules for avoidance of collisions.

Look out for others on and in the water and change speed and direction as necessary to avoid an incident.

Remember the cox is always in charge of the craft.

Remember overtaking vessels must keep clear. Do not turn across the bows of oncoming craft; wait until it is safe.

Remember it is difficult for other users to see fast moving rowing craft, which lie low in the water.

When rowing for pleasure, ensure you do not interfere with other organised activities.

Coaching/rescue vehicles must watch their speed and wash.

When visiting stretches of the river other than those you use for training, ascertain and comply with the code of practice of local clubs before taking out any craft.

It is safer for unpowered craft to remain at the back of a queue of traffic at a lock and to enter the lock last.

If you choose to row in strong stream conditions stay away from weirs, obstructions and bridges especially when turning around. At such times a rescue boat should be in attendance.

If on the water at dusk, after sunset or in restricted visibility, rowers and scullers should wear a light coloured top and an all-round white light or two white lights covering 360 degrees must be displayed.





## Swimming and paddling

To most people the risks of drowning when swimming or bathing in water are clear. However, rivers, canals, lakes and ponds also contain hazards that may not be so obvious. These hidden dangers can affect even strong swimmers. For example:

- Sharp objects and weeds underwater can cause injury or drowning.
- Fast and dangerous currents can sweep bathers away.
- Bacteria and viruses in the water may cause serious illness such as Weils disease.
- Very cold water can cause cramp and shock.
- Boats can create unexpected waves or even collide with swimmers.
- Weirs, sluice gates and other machinery to control water levels can operate without warning.

**If you wish to swim or bathe please use a swimming pool.**

Please remember

- NEVER jump or dive into the river from any bridge, bank or craft. It is not only dangerous to those that do it but also to any vessel passing by.
- NEVER swim near moving craft. Boats cannot stop dead and need room to manoeuvre. Propellers are very dangerous.
- NEVER swim around moored craft, fallen logs or blind corners.
- NEVER swim where there is a strong current.
- NEVER swim in locks, lock cuts, narrow channels, cuttings or sluices.
- NEVER attempt to swim across the river – it is wider than you think!
- Keep away from weirs and weir pools.

If children are swimming or paddling, always watch them carefully as river depth varies suddenly and wash from boats can cause them to fall over. There may be broken glass or other sharp material on the riverbed so it is advisable to wear bathing shoes.

The river temperature is likely to be much colder than expected. This may limit swimmers' ability to swim any distance.

Non-swimmers on airbeds or inflated rubber tubes can easily float or be blown into deep water where sudden loss of buoyancy could be disastrous.

## Walking

The Medway Valley Walk follows the River Medway from Tonbridge to Rochester. The Medway Valley Walk guidebook is available for sale from the Countryside Access Group at Kent County Council (KCC). Other leaflets detailing different walks can be found on their website (see part 3 for details).

There are many rights of way in the river valley, which should be used responsibly.

PLEASE:

- prevent young children from wandering near the river's edge;
- close farm gates;
- always keep to the public right of way, and avoid walking on crops;
- keep your dog under close control and on a lead at locksides;
- clean up after your dog;
- take your litter home.



## Camping and picnicking

DO NOT:

- camp or light fires without permission;
- throw rubbish into the river;
- light fires near to dried foliage;
- chop down trees for firewood;

PLEASE ALWAYS:

- clean up the site before you leave;
- take your rubbish home or put it in a litter bin;
- follow the *Country Code*.



part 2

## passage notes

## General



### Interruptions to navigation

There are times when flood conditions make it inadvisable, if not impossible to navigate the river. These conditions are more likely to occur in the winter, but there are occasions when navigation is temporarily interrupted by flood flows in the boating season.

The water level in a “pen” has sometimes to be drawn down to enable works to be undertaken, thus interfering with navigation. Usually this takes place outside the boating season, but occasionally, for example to meet an emergency, works may take place during the boating season. Every effort is made to give advance notice of the lowering of levels. Information on conditions can be obtained from the District Office at Tonbridge, ring the Customer Contact Line on: 08708 506 506. Information regarding navigation restrictions is also available on the Environment Agency River Medway dedicated web pages at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rivermedway](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rivermedway).

### Hazards when navigating downstream

As the Medway navigation is a “live” river there are flood relief channels which allow excess river flows to bypass the locks. The head is retained on these channels by weirs and automatic sluices.

For this reason when approaching locks from upstream, particularly when there is a following wind, take care to keep well over to the locked side of the river. All directions relate to upstream passage.

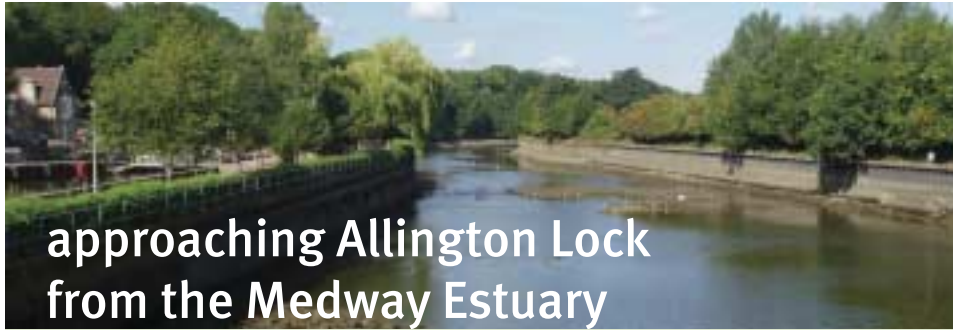






## avoid pollution

It is an offence to cause or permit pollution to enter the Medway or deposit rubbish on the banks. Take special care with petrol when refuelling. Oil-contaminated bilge water is another potential source of pollution and must on no account be pumped into the river.



# approaching Allington Lock from the Medway Estuary

## Description of the stretch

Navigation through the Medway Estuary between Sheerness and Allington Lock is dependent upon tides. At low tide the river below the lock practically dries out and the lock itself is only open from three hours before to two hours after high tide. On short tides the lock may be accessible for less than 3 hours.

In the part of the river downstream of Allington Lock there is sufficient depth of water on suitable tides for craft drawing 2.1 metres (6ft 11in). The

headroom beneath Aylesford Bridge on the tidal river below Allington Lock is 2.8 metres (9ft 2in) at MHWS. There are also overhead cables crossing the channel.

If craft approaching the lock from Aylesford find the gate closed they should tie up on the starboard side between the lock and the road bridge. The head of water on the non-navigable channel alongside the lock is retained by large electrically operated sluices.

### Tidal differences on Sheerness

Place	Lat N	Lon E	Time Differences High Water Low Water (Zone G.M.T)				Height differences (in Metres)			
			MH WS	MH WN	ML WN	ML WS	MH WS	MH WN	ML WN	ML WS
Sheerness	51 27	0 45	0200 and 1400	0800 and 2000	0200 and 1400	0700 and 1900	5.8	4.7	1.5	0.6
Allington lock	51 17	0 30	+0050	+0035	No Data Avail able	No Data Avail able	-2.1	-2.2	-1.3	-0.4

Medway Ports Authority is the Harbour and Navigation Authority for the approaches to Allington.

## Amenities and places of interest

The attractive village of Aylesford with its medieval bridge and rebuilt Carmelite priory is reputed to be the oldest continuously occupied village in England. The remains of a Neolithic burial chamber on the downs provide evidence of an early settlement. Three standing stones, crowned by a fourth are known as Kit's Coty House.

The priory originally dates from thirteenth century but was lost to the

friars as a result of the dissolution of the monasteries. The Carmelites returned to Aylesford in 1949 and restored the priory, which is now open to the public daily.

Aylesford was an important fording point on the Medway and marks the site of a great battle in 455 AD when the Britons were defeated by the Jutes. Alfred the Great fought over the village in 839 AD. The bridge is an eight arch bridge built from Kentish ragstone in the fourteenth century. In the centre of the village is the smallest pub in Kent, the Little Gem which dates from 1105 AD.







## Allington lock to East Farleigh

### Description of the stretch

Allington Lock is the first of the ten locks on the Medway navigation and also the limit of the tidal waters. First built in 1792, the lock was enlarged in 1881 and the existing structure dates from 1939. New gates were fitted in 1991 and a refurbishment of the Lock was completed by Easter 1999.

Details of lock opening times are given on page 11. All vessels must be registered before being admitted to the navigation but short-term certificates and lifting bridge keys are available from the lock.

The county town of Maidstone lies about 4km further up the river along a tree-lined stretch. The high-level railway bridge marks the approach to the town. The first road bridge across the river has headroom of 4.0 metres

(13ft 1in) whilst the second bridge is only 2.55 metres (8ft 4in). Three new footbridges can be found along this stretch of the river at Maidstone. The two footbridges downstream of the railway bridge have a headroom of 5.50m (18ft) and the footbridge just upstream of the main road bridges has a headroom of 4.0 (13ft 1in) metres (see map for details).

The river above Maidstone was improved in 1741 to accommodate the growing water borne traffic. In those days, the commercial barges were drawn by men or horses and the towpath still exists. On the outskirts of Maidstone is a footbridge crossing the river at Tovil with headroom of 3.7 metres (12ft). Four kilometres beyond Maidstone is East Farleigh Lock, which

comes into view just after passing Bydews Wood on the south bank. When approaching the lock, keep well into the middle of the river until nearly up to the lock and then head to the entrance. If the downstream gates are closed, craft should moor well back on the landing stage on the starboard side. This is because the water nearer the lock is shallow due to shoals being created by the flow from the weir and sluices.

### Moorings and marinas

One kilometre above Allington is Allington Marina providing moorings for a large number of boats. In addition T.S. Marine and Ford Wharf Boatyard near Maidstone also provide moorings. T.S. Marine has a dry dock.

There are many reasonably priced visitor moorings in Maidstone on both sides of the river. There are also moorings on both banks at East Farleigh belonging to the Bridge Boat Service.

### Facilities

There is a concrete slipway on the west bank of the river in Maidstone. It can be found on St. Peter's street under the arch at the bottom of the hill. Fees are payable to the Dragons Health Club, Maidstone.

Diesel and drinking water are available from a fuelling Wharf on the river frontage by Allington Marina. Toilets and crane facilities are also provided.

Rubbish sacks are provided by the navigation officer at Allington and can be disposed of at facilities provided at Allington Lock, Town Lock and Yalding. Maidstone Borough Council has provided refuse bins at the Market site at Lockmeadow.

There is a public toilet with washing facilities and a sewage disposal point next to the Maidstone Borough Council moorings at Fairmeadow. Public toilets are also located by the Dragons Health Club at the entrance to Whatman Park. There is a supermarket and shopping precinct at Allington, which is about 1km up Castle Lane. Maidstone provides shopping facilities of all kinds within easy walking distance of the river. There are two large shopping precincts, the Chequers Centre at the top of the High Street and Fremlin Walk by the riverside on the east bank. On the west bank there is a large supermarket just five minutes walk from the moorings. The public market at Lockmeadow is also on this side of the river and is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

## Places of interest

Allington Castle is no longer open to the public. On the north bank, immediately above the lock is the Malta Inn (1784) which has its own restaurant. The Feng Shui restaurant and the River Bar and Grill are both located in Maidstone.

Also on the north bank is the Cobtree Museum of Kent Life. This is an open-air museum with a farmyard and live animals, an oast house, hop garden, herb garden and displays on traditional agriculture. It opens daily between 10.00a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (February Half Term to the end of October) and weekends 10.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. in the winter (November to February Half Term). Cobtree Manor Park, just a short walk from the river, features nature trails, woodland walks and picnic areas.

The Medway Valley Countryside Partnership based at 3 Lock Cottages works to improve the countryside recreation and wildlife habitats of the River Medway and surrounding countryside. Some of the leaflets listed in the back of this booklet are available from the Partnership.

The towpath between Allington and East Farleigh forms part of the Kent Millennium River Park, which opened in 2001. The section between Allington and Tovil is surfaced.

Approximately 1km from Allington lies Whatman Park, which is a new recreational area. The park boasts a variety of special features including treetop walks, a nature trail, adventure playground, skateboard park and riverside arena for outside entertainment.

The Archbishop's Palace fronting the river on the east bank, dates from the fourteenth century, and is now a Registry Office. Adjacent to the Palace is All Saints' Church which is the largest in Kent and has one of the widest naves in England. Across the road in the fourteenth century stables of the palace, is the Carriage Museum, which contains the TyrWhitt-Drake collection of carriages and accessories.

Maidstone Museum and Bentlif Art Gallery are in Chillington Manor House, which is just a short walk northward along the riverbank, in St Faith's Street.

Just over a kilometre from the river is Mote Park, which has beautiful walks, a lake, a pitch and putt course and a model railway.

There are two river bus services (spring to autumn only) and a paddle steamer which provide regular round trips along the river from Maidstone to Allington.



## East Farleigh to Teston Lock

### Description of the stretch

Situated beside the lock on the non-navigable channel are large electrically operated sluices.

Immediately above East Farleigh is the fourteenth century bridge. Although there is 2.55 metre (8ft 4in) headroom, the arch is quite narrow and care is needed when passing through as the approach from the lock is at an angle. Vessels are advised to give an audible warning.

There are 4km of river between East Farleigh and Teston, which pass through beautiful Kentish scenery with orchards on the south bank. The East Barming Footbridge and Teston Bridge both have a headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4 in).

The riverside setting at Teston is one of the most attractive on the river with

its weir, meadows, pastures, oast houses and the medieval ragstone bridge. This bridge is also narrow and care should be taken passing through. Immediately beyond, on the starboard side, is a landing stage at which crew can be disembarked during locking.

### Mooring and facilities

The Bridge Boat Service, which is on the left bank after East Farleigh Bridge, has several bankside moorings. There is a slipway and crane facilities and diesel and gas are also available.

The Victory Inn, where the East Farleigh Cruising Club has its headquarters, is behind East Farleigh station on the north bank.

Teston village has a shop and post office. To reach Teston village, cross the railway line, turn left at the main road and take the first right.

## Places of interest

The Kent Millennium River Park continues along the towpath between East Farleigh and Teston.

St Margaret's Church at Barming dates from the twelfth century though the six-bell tower and porch are more recent. On the other bank, at West Farleigh, is the Norman church of All Saints'.

A unique characteristic is the use of a pitted local freshwater limestone or tufa around the windows.

At Teston the picnic site provided by Kent County Council covers 12 hectares of meadow, there are picnic tables available and public toilets. Overnight mooring is not permitted. Day ticket fishing is available.

# Teston Lock to Hampstead Lock, Yalding

## Description of the stretch

There are 5km of attractive, winding river between Teston and Yalding. Wateringbury lies about halfway and river traffic between here and Yalding can be busy in peak season. The headroom at Bow Bridge, Wateringbury is 2.55m (8ft 4in).

Shortly after Nettlestead the channel divides, with the natural course of the river to port and the navigable cut to starboard. Craft can enter the port

hand channel but there is no through route as the head of water on this channel is retained at automatic sluices. The River Beult and the River Teise join the Medway along this loop of river.

The starboard channel, Hampstead Cut, takes craft to Hampstead Lock. The approach is fairly narrow and there are always a number of moored boats in the channel. The landing

platform at which crew can be disembarked for locking is on the starboard side just before the slipway. This lock is the deepest on the navigation and it is advisable to operate the sluices slowly to avoid creating turbulence and to deploy bow and stern lines.

## Moorings, slipways and other facilities

Medway Wharf Marina at Bow Bridge provides riverside moorings as well as river pontoon berths. There is a slipway and diesel and crana facilities. Toilets are provided for customers.

Bow Bridge Marina, also located at Bow Bridge, has a slipway and provides visitor moorings and crana facilities.

Meals are served at the Riverside restaurant at Bow Bridge, Wateringbury.

The Environment Agency has a slipway on the navigable channel just before Hampstead Lock. Launching is by arrangement with the navigation officer who can be found at Yalding Lifting Bridge office, upstream from the lock. Only registered vessels may use the slipway.

Water, refuse and sewage facilities are available at the Environment Agency depot by arrangement with the navigation officer.

Hampstead Marina, which is on the port side by the lock, provides ample pontoon moorings and has a crana facility.

Little Venice Country Park and Marina is on the main river channel of the Medway at Yalding and access to the marina itself is on the starboard side. Please note that this marina only provides permanent moorings and customers have the use of a shower block. Diesel and water are available and there are crana facilities.

There are shops, a pub, a medical centre and a public telephone in Yalding village.

## Places of interest

Yalding village, which is a short walk across The Lees, is notable for its georgian houses, old cottages and the quaint moated vicarage, Warde's Moat. Teapot island is a unique teapot museum with a teashop located at Twyford Bridge.







## Yalding to Sluice Weir

### Description of the stretch

Vessels leaving Hampstead Lock pass through Hampstead Bridge which has a headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in). Yalding Lifting Bridge will then be seen some 500 metres ahead. Instructions for negotiating the lifting bridge are given on page 19. The lifting bridge office is on the port side immediately before the bridge. The Environment Agency's dredger is sometimes moored at the wharf and restricts the width of the channel at this point.

The Anchor Inn is on the starboard side immediately after the lifting bridge where Hampstead Cut re-enters the natural river. Anchor Sluice is on the port side and vessels must turn starboard to enter the upper Medway. The towpath is on the south bank all the way to East Lock.

After Yalding the river winds through open countryside and just over 1km upstream passes through a derelict lock at Stoneham. The railway bridge beyond the old lock and the next bridge, Branbridges, both have headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in).

Between Branbridges and Sluice Weir Lock the river narrows, gravel banks become very high and the depth of water diminishes. There are some sharp turns and generally speaking it is as well to keep to the outside of the centre line of the channel around the bends. In the channel alongside the lock are automatic radial sluices with a wide pool below them. Across the mouth of the pool is a sandbank and the narrow channel to the lock lies between this shoal and the riverbank.

When making the approach to the lock, keep as near as possible to the starboard side. If the lock is closed, use the landing platform provided.

Sluice Weir is the second deepest lock on the river and the top gates are well above the lower water level. Always have head and stern ropes looped to the posts and do not rely on holding onto chains along the walls, as the swirl can be quite powerful.

### Moorings, marinas and facilities

Shortly after re-entering the Medway from the cut, Twyford Bridge Marina is on the port side under the footbridge, headroom 2.55 metres (8ft 4in). The boatyard has a slipway and showers. Diesel, Calor Gas and a dry dock are

available. Immediately above the entrance to the Marina there are short-term moorings provided by the Environment Agency. The café on the port side opposite the Anchor Inn has both indoor and outside dining facilities.

East Peckham is only a short walk from Sluice Weir Lock. There are a number of shops and a public telephone. The garage and pub are close to Branbridges.

### Places of interest

Snoll Hatch, to the north of the river, is a hamlet of much character, which once had fourteen pubs. To the west is Little Mill, which has a fifteenth century pub, 'Man of Kent', on the banks of the River Bourne.







## Sluice Weir Lock to Oak Weir Lock

### Description of the stretch

The river flows through typical rolling Kentish countryside and woodland between here and Tonbridge. The River Bourne enters the River Medway from the north, just beyond Sluice Weir Lock. Between Sluice Weir and Oak Weir there are two road bridges, Waggon Bridge with a headroom of 2.6 metres (8ft 6in) and Stilstead Bridge with a headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in).

### Moorings

There are no designated moorings along these rural reaches of the river but it is permissible to land on to the towpath or public footpath. Some landowners permit mooring alongside

their meadows. When mooring, the consent of the landowner should be obtained.

### Places of interest

The Man of Kent public house is within easy walking distance of Stilstead Bridge if a mooring can be found nearby.

## Oak Weir Lock to East Weir

### Description of the stretch

Just beyond Oak Weir is a short wooded stretch, which then opens into meadowland. Ford Green Bridge has a headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in). When approaching the lock take the port hand channel where a landing stage is provided for disembarking crew.

### Moorings

The meadows on either side of Ford Green Bridge have low banks and are popular moorings.

## East Lock to Porters Lock

### Description of the stretch

At East Lock the towpath changes from the south bank to the north bank. The river flows mainly through open arable and pastureland along this stretch. The next bridge, Hartlake Bridge has a clearance of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in). Do not attempt to moor at Hartlake Bridge, as there is a cill below the bridge. The tower, which can be seen to the south, is May's Folly in Hadlow.

### Facilities

The nearest village along this stretch is Golden Green, which is over one kilometre from Hartlake Bridge. There is a pub and a public telephone.

## Porters Lock to Eldridges Lock

### Description of the stretch

Some fifty metres above the lock on the port side is an automatic radial gate sluice and a small weir. Vessels

are advised to give this a wide berth. There are no bridges along this section.

## Eldridges Lock to Town Lock, Tonbridge

The Environment Agency intends to rebuild Eldridges Lock and Sluice. In the meantime the operation of Eldridges Lock will be restricted to Environment Agency staff only from the 1st April 2006.

Environment Agency staff will attend Eldridges Lock at 10:00, 13:00 and 15:30 daily to lock through waiting craft.

Boaters that require to lock through at times different to the above should phone Allington Lock on 01622 752864 between 08:00 and 18:00 hours giving 24 hours notice of planned passage. Arrangements can then be made for Environment Agency staff to attend the site.

In an emergency, boaters can phone the incident hotline on 0800 807060.

### Description of the stretch

Like Porters Lock, Eldridges Lock has sluices upstream, this time on the port side. The river flows through meadows until Cannon Bridge is reached. This carries the Tonbridge ring road and has a headroom of 2.55metres (8ft 4in). Upstream from the bridge the river passes through an industrial area. Tonbridge Town Lock is just a short distance upstream. The landing stage downstream of the lock is situated on the starboard side of the lock structure.

Town Lock is the last lock on the navigation. The adjacent channel has a large radial gate. This operates automatically and vessels should keep well clear.

### Moorings and facilities

There are several short stay council moorings alongside Town Quay at Tonbridge, which is a short distance upstream from the lock on the port side. It is not advisable to moor to the wall by the lock as the height of the walls makes disembarking hazardous.

There are sewage and refuse disposal facilities and a water point at Town Lock.

There are public toilets and a public slipway for small boats close to the castle.

There are shops of all kinds, cafes and restaurants located in the High Street, which is close to Town Lock.

### Places of interest

Across the Big Bridge (also known as Great Bridge), on the left hand side,

is Tonbridge Castle which is set in landscaped gardens overlooking the river. The site is well interpreted and there are audio tours from the gatehouse. A pleasure boat operates from Castle Lawn providing 1 hour and 30 minute return trips down the river.

Tonbridge Castle also includes the Tourist Information Office.

Rowing boats can be hired at the Big Bridge.

The Angel Centre, which is signposted at the southern end of the High Street, provides leisure and indoor sporting facilities. Behind the castle, there is a large sports ground, which also has a putting green, miniature railway, paddling pool and playground. There is a heated outdoor swimming pool.

## Tonbridge Town Lock to the Leigh Flood Barrier

Navigation beyond Big Bridge is only suitable for small craft. Big Bridge has a headroom of 2 metres (6ft 7in) and a footbridge upstream is even lower (1.5 metres, 4ft 11in). Tonbridge Waterways is just upstream from Big Bridge offering permanent moorings, and a slipway.





part 3

## rules, references and contacts

## facilities available at locks along the Medway

Lock	Facilities
Allington Lock	
East Farleigh Lock	
Teston Lock	
Hampstead Lock	
Sluice Weir Lock	
Oak Weir Lock	
East Lock	
Porters Lock	
Eldridges Lock	
Town Lock	
Yalding Lifting Bridge	+ fee

### Key

- Moorings short stay
- Refuse disposal
- Sewage disposal
- Slipway
- Walking
- Water cold





## navigation rules and hints

When underway obey the rules of navigation and byelaws. Steer on the right hand side (starboard) when it is safe and practical. Remember that even when you have the right of way you have an over-riding responsibility to avoid collision. Avoid turning vessels around near bridges, bends and lock approaches.

Keep a sharp lookout for other river users and if in doubt, STOP.

In the vicinity of events, take advice from officials or marshals. Motorised craft should be prepared to STOP and when clear proceed at a slow steady pace.

When rowing craft are near, remember that the crew of an uncoxed boat have a problem keeping a lookout ahead and even a cox has a limited field of vision.



# Regulations and byelaws

The Medway navigation as defined below is regulated by the Environment Agency under the provisions of the Southern Water Authority Act 1982 and 1988, together with parts of earlier Navigation Acts still in force. Some of these provisions are detailed below.

## Extent of the navigation

DOWNSTREAM LIMIT – Allington Lock

UPSTREAM LIMIT – The concrete arch footbridge immediately downstream of the flood-regulating barrier at Leigh near the A21 Tonbridge Bypass.

Between these limits the navigation includes the river, all canals and tributaries, and every lake, pond or marina or other substantially enclosed water adjacent to the navigation and from which any vessel may be navigated whether through a lock or not, into the navigation.

## Care in navigation

### SPEED LIMIT – 5 KNOTS

Bylaw No.14 (a) requires that a person in charge of a boat shall navigate it with care and caution, at such speed and in such a manner as not to involve risk of accident to life, or damage to property, or to endanger the safety of, injure or cause damage to any other vessel or any person therein, or any moorings or to cause damage to the banks of the river.

Special care must be taken when passing another boat. Boats going up-river against the stream must give way to boats passing down-river.

Boats must not be used which are unfit for navigation.

### Care in mooring

Boats must be securely moored and in such a way as not to obstruct other boats in their navigation of the river.

Do not “Beach” your craft into reed beds and vegetation.

Do not tie up, when mooring, to trees growing out from the bank edge. If a boat is moored against the bank, no mooring rope or chain must be placed across the public footpath.

A navigation officer, or other employee of the Environment Agency, can require a boat to be moved if it is moored at a place where it may cause obstruction, and he may take charge of a boat which he finds adrift or improperly moored and in that case the owner of the boat is liable to pay any expenses incurred.

## Prohibition of vehicles on towpaths

The towpath is designated as a public footpath, as such users have a right of pedestrian access only. No horses or vehicles, motorised or not, may be used on a public footpath.

## Instructions by navigation officers, etc.

A person in charge of a boat must comply with directions given by navigation officers or other employees of the Environment Agency in regard to the navigation and mooring of the boat and its passage through a lock.

## Notification of accidents

If a boat sinks or goes aground anywhere on the navigation the person in charge must notify a navigation officer or an employee of the Environment Agency as quickly as possible.

## Use of firearms prohibited

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm on the navigation, the towpath or any bank of the river.

## Registration

- 1) It shall not be lawful without the consent of the Environment Agency to keep, let for hire or, except in the case of emergency use any vessel on the Medway navigation, other than a vessel which is owned or used by the Environment Agency unless a Registration Certificate in relation to the vessel is then in force.
- 2) Any person contravening (1) above shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1000 and to a daily fine not exceeding £20.

The Environment Agency may, by written notice to the master of any vessel, revoke its registration upon failure to comply in respect of the vessel within the terms of any enactment relating to the Medway navigation.

## Right to navigate

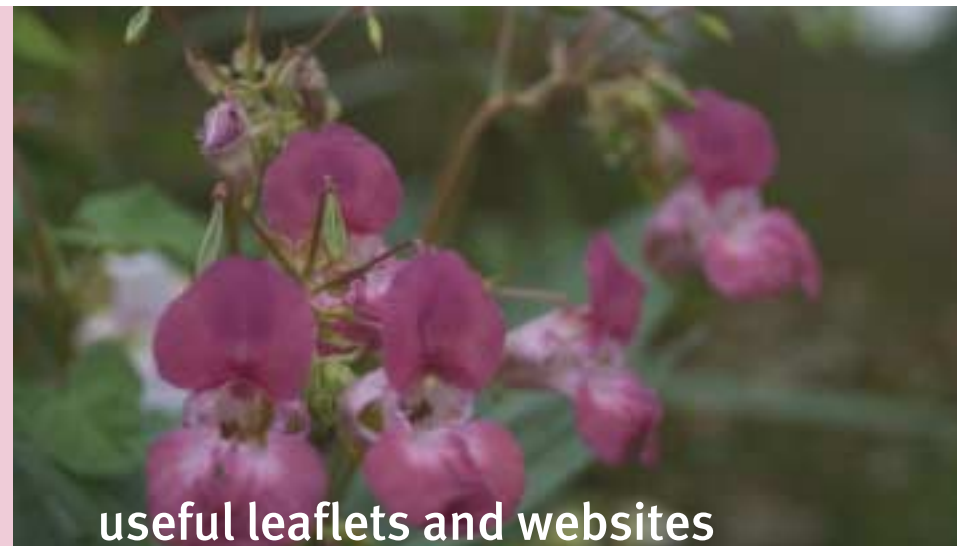
Although registration is obligatory before any type of vessel or houseboat is kept, hired or used on the Medway, the Environment Agency

does not guarantee that the whole of the navigation will be usable for a full year, and no refunds will be made in the event of any interruption of the navigation.

Every vessel registered shall, whilst on the Medway navigation, have its name and number together with the number and mark (if any) assigned thereto by the Environment Agency conspicuously painted or otherwise displayed on the outside in letters of such colour, character and size (not less than 5cm in height) as will be clearly legible. Every vessel registered shall, whilst on the Medway navigation, display its Registration Certificate so as to be clearly visible from the outside at all times.



This booklet is for your guidance only. Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information, but the Environment Agency cannot accept responsibility for any error or omission.



## useful leaflets and websites

For a comprehensive list of all available Environment Agency publications please visit our website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk), and enter our publications catalogue.

***The Boater's Handbook*** (Basic Boat handling and Safety) – British Waterways and Environment Agency. Also available on the Environment Agency's website.

***Aylesford Downland Gateway*** (A guide to exploring the countryside near Aylesford, and the Kent Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Available from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

***Looking after the River Medway*** Available from the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

***Medway Valley Walk*** Available from Countryside Access Group, Kent County Council.

**[www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com)** is a website providing information on all aspects of the waterways. Included is information on pubs and restaurants along the waterside, hiring a boat or enjoying other watersports.

**[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rivermedway](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rivermedway)** is where you can find the Environment Agency's River Medway dedicated web pages, which provide a comprehensive resource of information about the river and the facilities available.



## useful addresses and phone numbers

### Environment Agency Kent Area Office

Orchard House  
Endeavour Park  
London Road  
Addington  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 5SH

### Environment Agency Tonbridge Office

Medway House  
Powdermill Lane  
Leigh  
Tonbridge  
Kent TN11 9AS

### Environment Agency customer contact line

**Tel: 08708 506 506**

### Environment Agency incident hotline

**Tel: 0800 80 70 60**

### Environment Agency

Navigation officer, Allington Lock

**Tel: 01622 752864**

### Environment Agency

Navigation officer, Yalding

**Tel 01622 814319**

**Website: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)**

**[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rivermedway](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rivermedway)**

### Association of Inland Navigation Authorities

Fearn's Wharf, Neptune Street, Leeds LS9 8PB

Tel: 0113 2433125

Email: [info@aina.org.uk](mailto:info@aina.org.uk)

Website: [www.aina.org.uk](http://www.aina.org.uk)

### British Canoe Union HQ

John Dudderidge House, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford

Nottingham NG2 5AS

Tel: 0115 982 1100

Email: [info@bcu.org.uk](mailto:info@bcu.org.uk)

Website: [www.bcu.org.uk](http://www.bcu.org.uk)

### British Waterways

Customer Service Centre, Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford,

Herts WD17 4QA

Tel: 01923 201120

Email: [enquiries.hq@britishwaterways.co.uk](mailto:enquiries.hq@britishwaterways.co.uk)

Website: [www.britishwaterways.co.uk](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk)

### Countryside Access Group

Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX

Tel: 0845 3450210

Email: [pro@kent.gov.uk](mailto:pro@kent.gov.uk)

### Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council

City Road Lock, 38 Graham Street London N1 8JX

Tel: 020 7253 1745

Email: [iwaac@btinternet.com](mailto:iwaac@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.iwaac.org](http://www.iwaac.org)

### Kent Fisheries Consultative Association

Secretary – Dennis Hammond

82 Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4LD

Tel: 01474 534212

### **Maidstone Town Hall Visitor Information Centre**

Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TF  
Tel: 01622 602169 Email: [tourism@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@maidstone.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.tour-maidstone.com](http://www.tour-maidstone.com)

### **Maritime and Coastguard Agency**

MCA Infoline  
Tutt Head, Mumbles, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA3 4HW  
Tel: 0870 6006505 Email: [infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)

### **Medway Ports**

Sheerness Dock, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1RS  
Website: [www.medwayports.com](http://www.medwayports.com)

### **Medway River Users Association**

Membership Secretary  
68 Halstead Walk, Allington, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0DA  
Email: [themrua@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:themrua@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Medway Valley Countryside Partnership**

3 Lock Cottages, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3AU  
Tel: 01622 683695 or 01622 768573  
Email: [medwayvalley@kent.gov.uk](mailto:medwayvalley@kent.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.medwayvalley.org](http://www.medwayvalley.org)

### **National Association of Boat Owners**

Freepost (BM 8367), Birmingham B31 2BR  
Email: [gen.sec@nabo.org.uk](mailto:gen.sec@nabo.org.uk) (General Secretary)  
[mem.sec@nabo.org.uk](mailto:mem.sec@nabo.org.uk) (Membership Secretary)  
[south.sec@nabo.org.uk](mailto:south.sec@nabo.org.uk) (Southern Region Secretary)

### **Royal Life Saving Society**

River House, High Street, Broom, Warwickshire B50 4HN  
Tel: 01789 773994 Email: [lifesavers@rlss.org.uk](mailto:lifesavers@rlss.org.uk)  
Website: [www.lifesavers.org.uk](http://www.lifesavers.org.uk)

### **Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents**

Head Office, ROSPA House, Edgbaston Park, 353 Bristol Road,  
Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7ST  
Tel: 0121 248 2000 Email: [help@rospa.com](mailto:help@rospa.com)  
[www.rospa.com](http://www.rospa.com)

### **Sport England**

South East Region, 51a Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX  
Tel: 08458 508508 Website: [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)

### **Tonbridge Tourist Information Centre**

Tonbridge Castle, Castle Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1BG  
Tel: 01732 770929 Email: [tonbridgecastle@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:tonbridgecastle@tmbc.gov.uk)





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