

## River Thames – river restriction

### Whitchurch Toll Bridge, between Whitchurch and Mapledurham Locks

1 April to September 2014

### Whitchurch Toll Bridge refurbishment

**The width of the navigation arch at Whitchurch Toll Bridge, between Whitchurch and Mapledurham Locks will be restricted between 1 April and September 2014.**

Whitchurch Toll Bridge was built in 1902 and has come to the end of its working life. It is currently being reconstructed. Oxfordshire County Council is managing this on behalf of the Whitchurch Bridge Company and has appointed Balfour Beatty as the main contractor. The main works, which were scheduled to take place during the five month river closure from November 2013 to March 2014, have been significantly delayed by the extreme river conditions experienced this winter.

From 1 April onwards the navigation channel will be open to river traffic. The width of navigation will be restricted to varying degrees throughout the ongoing works. The minimum navigation width will be 7.0 metres. When this is in operation, one-way river traffic will be managed by the contractors during lock keeper hours of duty. To permit safe navigation, a buoyed channel will be in place and this will be lit between sunset and sunrise.

Please follow directional signage, follow any directions given by the safety boat and/or officers of the Environment Agency and navigate slowly and with caution in the area of these works. River users are reminded that **boats going upstream must give way to boats coming downstream.**

**Note:** Some overnight and two full-day navigation closures will be required over the revised programme. This will permit works that cannot be carried out whilst the navigation is open. We will minimise the impact of these temporary closures by scheduling them at times when boat traffic is likely to be lightest. The dates of these closures are currently being scheduled now the contractors have been able to recommence work on the bridge this week. As soon as the dates of these short-period closures are known we will publicise them via Harbourmaster's Notices. There will not be any closures on weekends or bank holidays.

**Matt Carter**  
**Harbourmaster**  
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