

This document provides the event information as it becomes available.

Document status:

Date	Changes	Who
15 th May 2015	Original draft	Nick Adnitt
22 nd May 2015	Course map, start/finish, portage diagrams	Nick Adnitt
25 th May 2015	Car parking, canoe drop off and getting to registration details, start area	Nick Adnitt

Hosts: **Reading Canoe Club – K4 10km event**

Contact: **Brian Greenham**

Date: **31st May 2015**

Location:

The Warren,
Caversham,
Berkshire,
RG4 7TH

Host web site: <http://www.reading-canoe.org.uk>

Organiser: Nick Adnitt nickadnitt@aol.com mob: 07824327725

Timings:

- Registration opens – 09:00 hrs
- Last sign-on time – 10:00 hrs
- First boat starts – 10:31 hrs

Advanced entries by: Friday 29th May 2015 to nickadnitt@aol.com

Entry form available at:

http://www.darksidecanoes.com/documents/National_Time_Trial_Series_Entry_Form_V1_0.docx

Note: All competitors MUST have current BCU membership and be able to prove it at sign-on. This ensures that paddlers and the event are insured and boats are licensed to use the river Thames. A day ticket cannot be issued for the event because it does not cover the river Thames.

Entry fee:

- Single seat - £6
- Double - £10

Registration: A registration desk will be located in the Reading Canoe Club next to the K4 race registration.

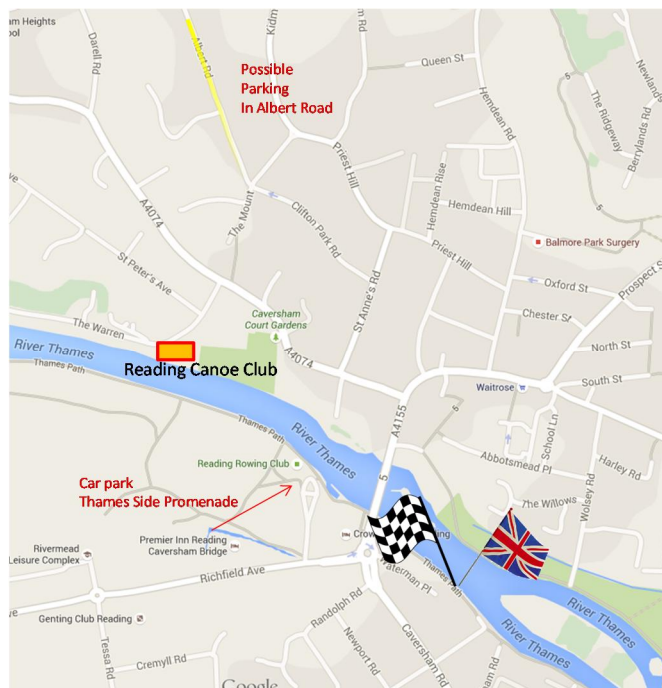
Please complete an entry form (one per paddler), read the briefing instructions and sign-on. Collect a number board.



Parking

Parking in Reading is sometimes quite a challenge. For the Reading Halser event, the club hire the use of the south bank of the Thames known as *The Thames Side Promenade*. However for their K4 event (which the time trial is being run in conjunction with) they are not doing so.

There is very little parking at Reading Canoe Club, but there is on-street parking available in the vicinity. However, the congregation of the local churches tend to get there around 09:30 hrs, so *“the early bird gets the worm”*, or in this case, the parking spaces.



Parking options

Boats can be unloaded at the canoe club first, and then park the vehicle.



Unloading area at Reading Canoe Club

The alternative is to use the Thames Side Promenade car park on the south side of the Thames. This means you will have to paddle across to the canoe club to register and sign-on, or go to the canoe club first, and then park.

The car park charges are quite reasonable, but it is Pay and Display, so don't forget!

Be careful if the height restriction barrier is in operation.



Pay and Display, height barrier



approach to car park (GPS coordinates - 51.465817, -0.979048)

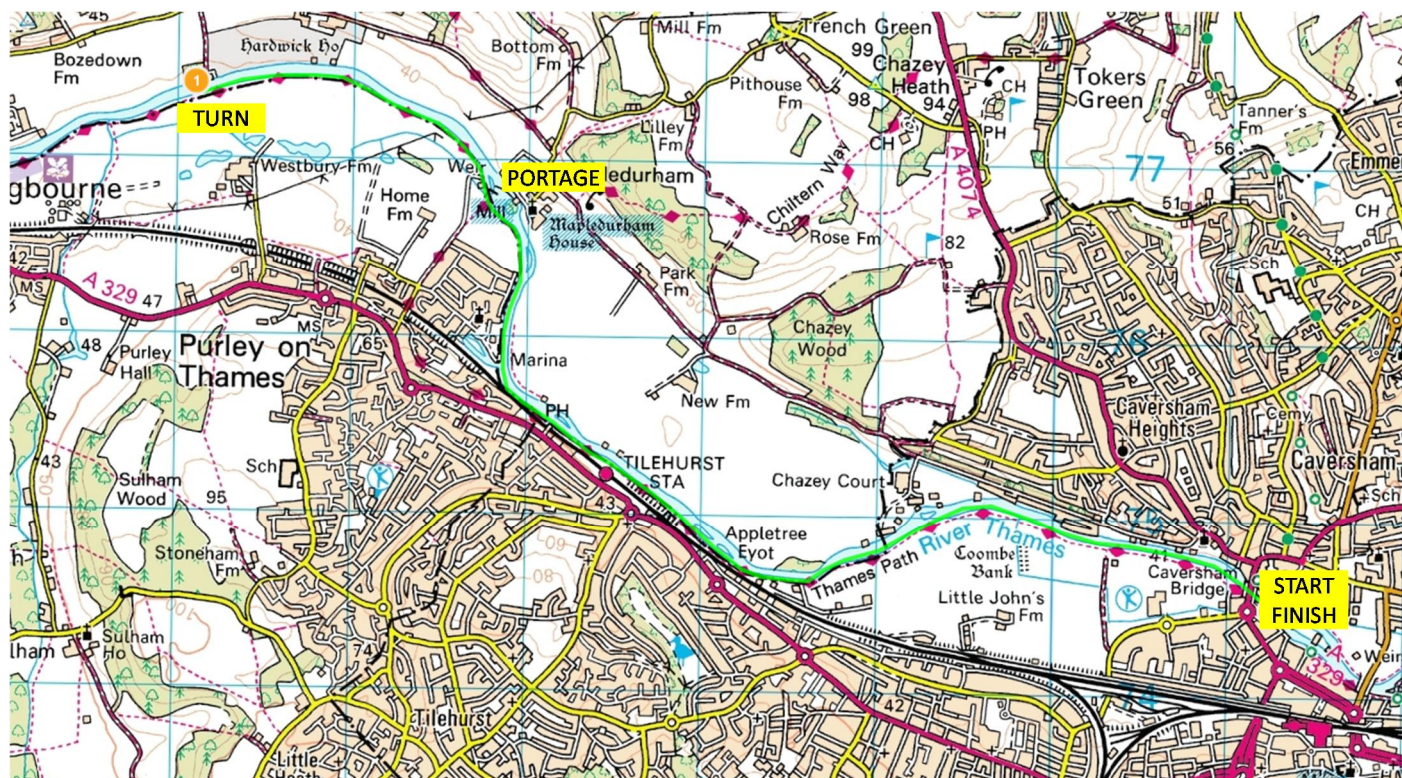
Course

The course is a ten mile there-and-back route. It starts on the south bank of the Thames just below Caversham Bridge. The start is donated by a union flag.

Proceed upstream past Reading Canoe Club to Mapledurham Lock at 4.5 miles. Portage the lock (see diagrams) and continue upstream to the turn at the Oratory school boat house at 5 miles.

Turn in an anticlockwise direction and return downstream back to Mapledurham Lock. Portage the lock and continue downstream to the finish, which is at the same place as the start.

It is wholly the responsibility of the paddler to know the course. Any deviation from the course will result in no time being given. There will be maps, course diagrams, Marshalls, signs and flags to show the course.



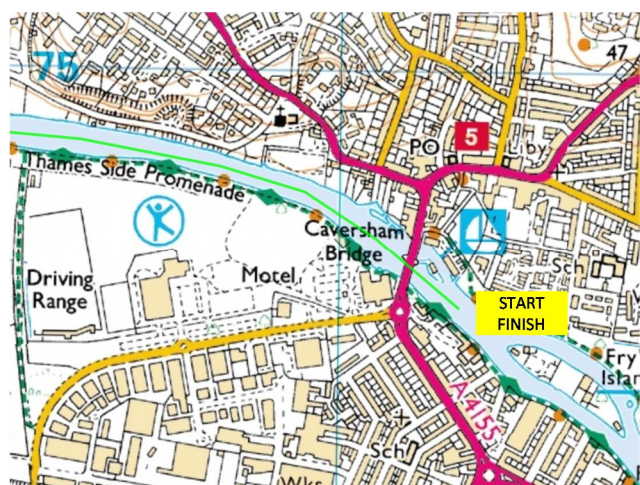
Canoe time trial – course map

Start

The start is downstream of Caversham Bridge on the south bank of the river. It is indicated by a union flag.

Ensure you leave enough time (about 10 minutes) to paddle from the canoe club to the start. Your start time is fixed.

You will be called forward by number, five minutes before your start time. With one minute to go, you will line up at the start. The stern of your boat will be held (if practical) and your start time will be counted down from 15, 10, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 seconds, and then go.



Canoe time trial – start and finish



Time Trial start (*looking downstream*)



Time Trial start (*looking upstream*)

Portage

The portage is at Mapledurham Lock. It is traversed once on the way to the turn going upstream, and once on the way back to the finish going downstream.

Care should be taken to portage the lock safely. Although the time trial is a race, canoeists must treat each other with respect and not force their way passed. Fast crews should call out to the crew being overtaken to alert them as to how, where and when they intend to pass. Slower crews should cooperate in a reasonable manner and not unduly hinder or deliberately hold-up a passing boat.

Marshalls will be at both ends of the portage to ensure safe and fair play.

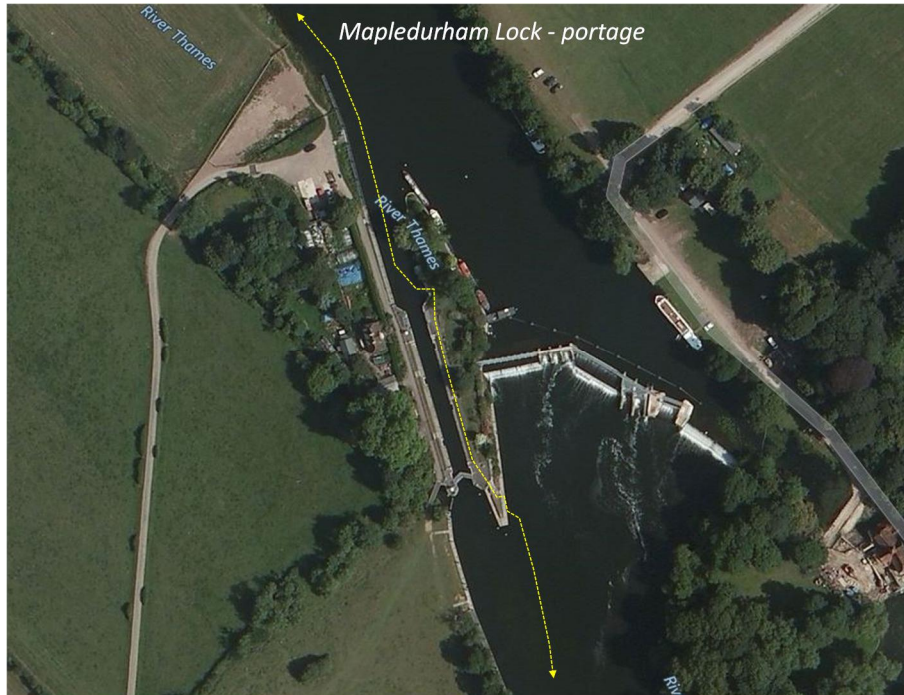
The portage is approached upstream towards the weir. There is a jetty to the right of the lock entrance. The get-out is both sides of this jetty, but the right side is safer as it is out of the way of the lock entrance.

Disembark, and carry your canoe up the steps and then up a concrete staircase. Continue along the side of the lock.

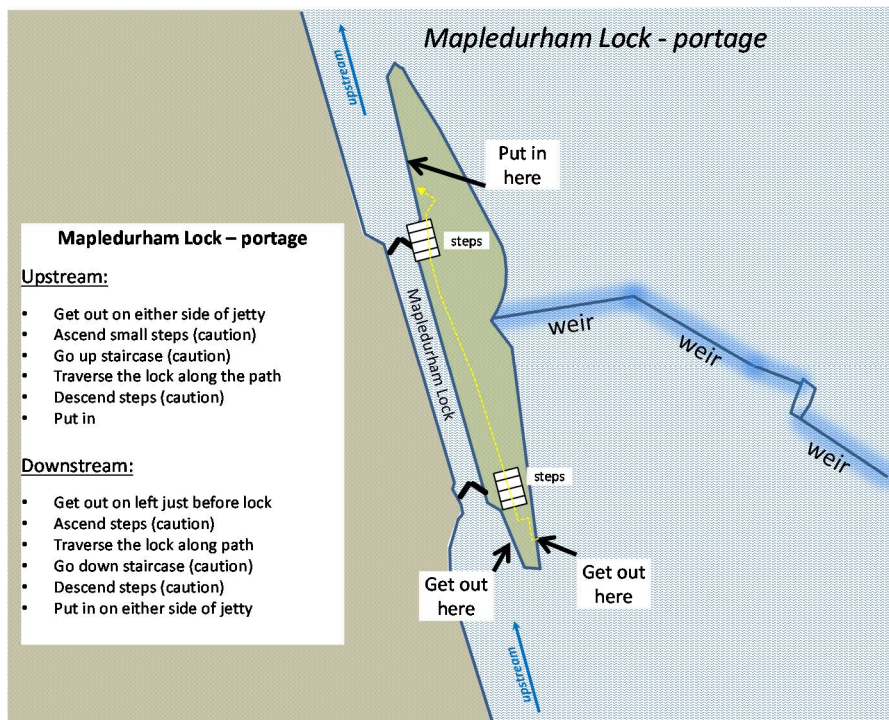
Be aware of other lock users.

There are some steps down to the put-in point on a concrete bankside. Embark here and continue upstream.

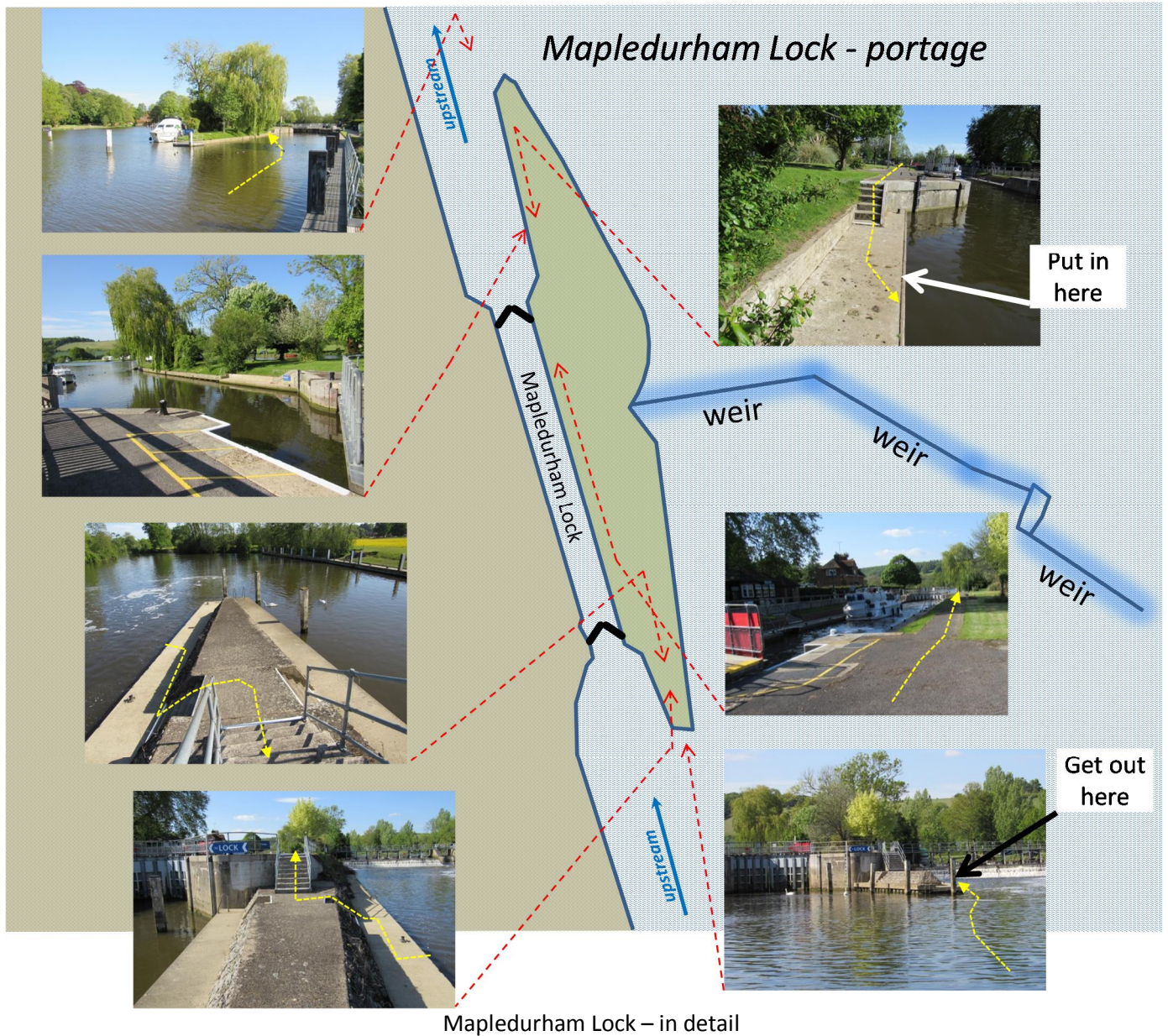
The downstream portage is the same route, in reverse. (No, you don't have to walk backwards!! 😊)



Mapledurham Lock - route

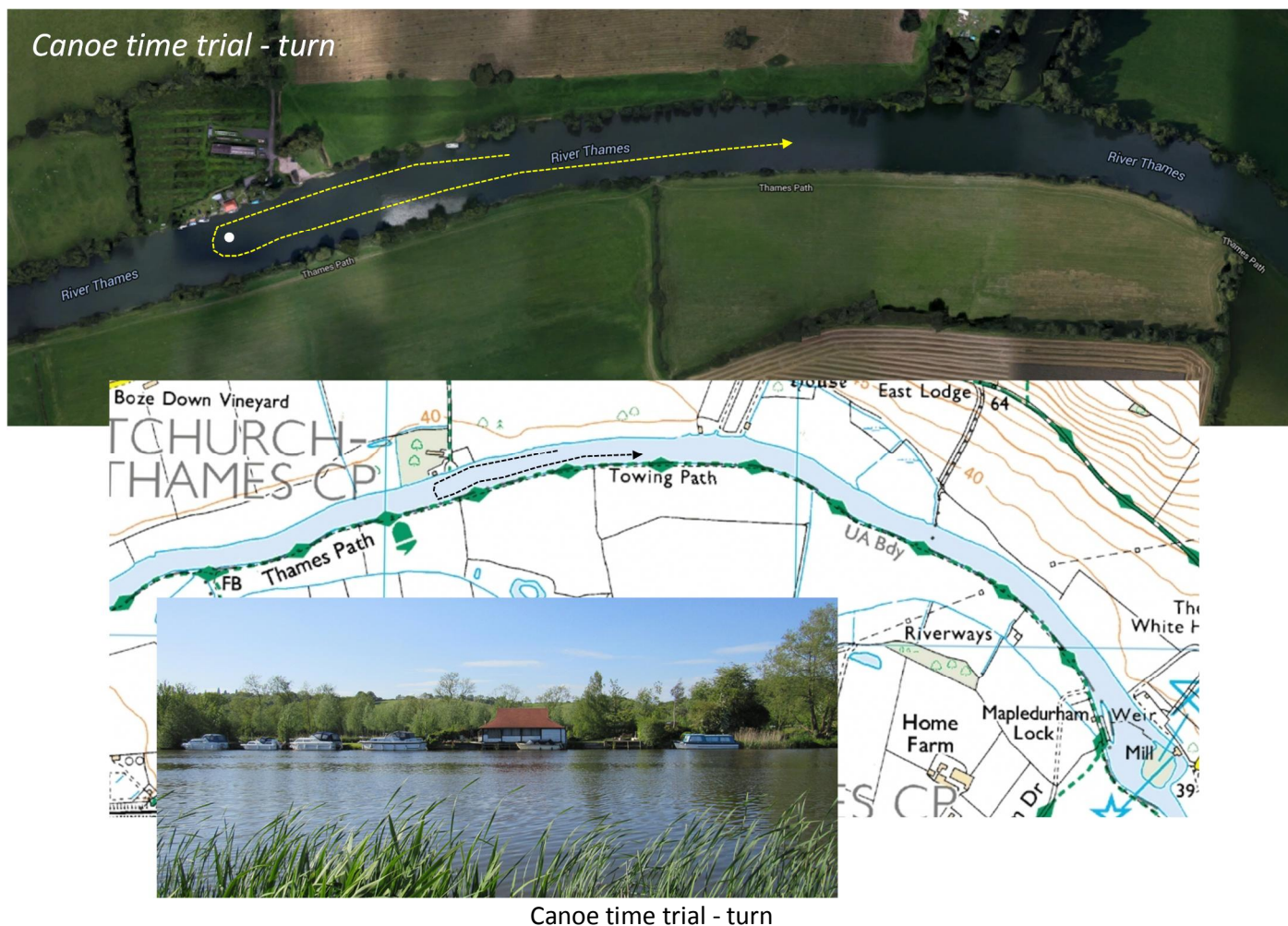


Mapledurham Lock – portage diagram



The Turn

The turn is half a mile upstream of Mapledurham Lock. It is just passed the end of Oratory school boat house which is a small, white building with a red roof. There will be a canoe and/or turn buoy (TBC) at this point. Turn in an anticlockwise direction and continue downstream back to the portage and onwards to the finish.



The Finish

The finish is on the right bank going downstream, just past Caversham Bridge. It is at the same place as the start. It is indicated by a chequered flag. A whistle will sound as each boat crosses the finish line.

Results

The results will be available at the canoe club when the last boat has finished. They will also be published on the web site.

Environmental responsibility

The Environment Agency has asked us to be aware of the risks of spreading invasive aquatic species throughout the British waterways, and would like to draw your attention to the message below.





STOP THE SPREAD

Are you unknowingly spreading invasive species on your water sports equipment and clothing?

Invasive species can affect fish and other wildlife, restrict navigation, clog up propellers and be costly to manage. You can help protect the water sports you love by following three simple steps when you leave the water.

- CHECK** Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.
- CLEAN** Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.
If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.
- DRY** Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions.
Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

For more information go to www.direct.gov.uk and search for Check Clean Dry

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