

Dear Valued Stakeholders,

We hope this message finds you well. As the Environment Agency we are committed to ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all who use our waterways. In our ongoing duty to maintain and safeguard these natural resources and navigation, we must highlight several important considerations that have arisen due to recent environmental conditions.

Over the last months, we have experienced prolonged periods of elevated river flows, and challenging conditions. These have unfortunately precluded our ability to conduct some checks and usual maintenance works. Strong stream advises in place meant that ad hoc updates from our boaters have not been to an extent as perhaps it would be expected in other years. This has resulted in a delay in identifying and addressing potential hazards that may pose risks to waterway users, such as:

- **Debris:** Fallen, overhanging or submerged trees, sunken boats, and other obstacles may be present in the rivers,
- **Navigation Marks:** Buoys and other markers could be missing or displaced,
- Build-up of **silts deposits**,
- **Signage:** Warning and directional signs may be missing or damaged,
- **Assets:** Infrastructure such as lock laybys, short stay moorings, and facilities could be obstructed, damaged or under maintenance.

As river conditions begin to moderate and more reaches potentially come off Strong Stream Warnings, we anticipate an increase in boating activity. We urge all waterway users, especially those who are new to boating, hiring boats or navigating our rivers for the first time since October, to exercise heightened caution.



Your Safety is Our Priority

To mitigate these risks, we offer the following advice until our teams can fully assess and rectify any issues:

- **Proceed with Caution:** When navigating the waterways, please do so carefully and be vigilant for any unexpected hazards.
- **Stay Informed:** Regularly check updates on local waterway sections of GOV.UK and our social media channels for the latest navigation advice and safety warnings.
- **Report Hazards:** If you encounter any debris, missing navigation markers, or other dangers, please report them to us as soon as possible to help us address these issues more swiftly. To do this please call: 0800 80 70 60.

It is our intention for local teams to patrol their reaches and conduct comprehensive safety assessments as soon as river conditions and resources allow. This is a vital part of our commitment to ensuring the Anglian Waterways remains a safe and enjoyable waterway for everyone.

Stay Connected

- For ongoing updates on our rivers levels and flows you can register for a free messaging service at [River Advice for Boaters \(RAB\) | Anglianwaterways \(visitanglianwaterways.org\)](https://www.gov.uk/river-advice-for-boaters).
- Please visit our website for latest navigation notices for Anglian Waterways [Visit Anglian Waterways: boating, moorings, navigation notices](#).
- Please also follow us on our social media channel [Visit Anglian Waterways EA | Peterborough | Facebook](#) and visit the local waterway sections on [Anglian waterways: river conditions, closures and restrictions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work diligently to address these challenges and maintain the beauty and safety of our waterways.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing support. Together, we can ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all Anglian Waterways users.

Best Regards,

Katherine Briscoombe

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