



## **2020 Local Notices to Mariners for Exeter Port Authority**

### **Cancelled notice**

**Number:** 22/20 **Date:** 21 December 2020

Notice is given that the following local Notices to Mariners has now been cancelled:

- 21/20 – Number 7 buoy light has been reinstated and is back on station

### **Light on number 7 buoy is extinguished**

**Number:** 21/20 **Date:** 3 December 2020

Notice is hereby given that the light on number 7 buoy is extinguished. We will replace the light when the weather permits.

Mariners are advised to navigate with caution.

### **Notice 19/20 is cancelled**

**Number:** 20/20 **Date:** 1 December 2020

Notice is given that the following local Notices to Mariners has now been cancelled: -  
19/20 – Number 4 buoy has been reinstated and is back on station

### **Top pillar of no 4 (Q.R.) buoy is missing**

**Number:** 19/20 **Date:** 25 October 2020

Notice is hereby given that the top pillar of no 4 (Q.R.) buoy is missing. The base of the buoy is still in situ.

Attempts will be made as soon as is practically possible to change the buoy.

Mariners are advised to navigate through the approach channel with caution.

## **Changes to the marking of the gas pipeline crossing the river Exe**

**Number:** 18/20 **Date:** 5 October 2020

The marking of the gas pipeline that crosses the river Exe has been changed.

The post with the yellow cross locally known as the 'gas perch' has been removed and replaced with a 2 metre high yellow special mark buoy Q.FI.Y with four smaller special mark buoys to the North, South, East and West. The two marks on the North and East side are lit FI.Y and the two yellow special marks to the South and West unlit so as not to cause confusion when approaching Port hand lateral mark no 20 from the North or South.

The four smaller yellow special marks form a box shape around the main taller special mark and are clearly marked as GAS PIPE NO ANCHORING. All the buoys are fitted with a yellow cross top mark. These buoys indicate a boundary line covering the gas pipeline from the Eastern shore at Lypstone to the Western shore close to Starcross.

Mariners are reminded that anchoring is prohibited within the area of the pipeline. The transit markers on the East and West river banks remain unchanged.

The fixing post on the seabed for the old gas perch post is still in situ, and is due to be removed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.

Mariners are advised to keep clear of the area around all of the new marks.

## **Number 12 buoy light is now rectified**

**Number:** 17/20 **Date:** 4 September 2020

Notice is given that the following local Notices to Mariners has now been cancelled:  
- 16/20 –Number 12 buoy light is now rectified

## **Light on number 12 buoy is extinguished**

**Number:** 16/20 **Date:** 25 August 2020

Notice is hereby given that the light on number 12 buoy is extinguished. We will replace the light when the weather permits.

Mariners are advised to navigate with caution.

For further advice please contact the harbour office on;

Email: [epa@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:epa@exeter.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01395 223265

## Depths in the approach channel have changed

**Number:** 15/20 **Date:** 20 July 2020

Notice is hereby given that the depths in the approach channel have changed. The area has been surveyed and a new channel is being planned with the assistance of the UKHO.

We are working to move the channel within the next coming month, weather dependant.

Mariners are advised to navigate with extreme caution when entering/leaving the Estuary.

For further advice please contact the harbour office on;

Email: [epa@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:epa@exeter.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01395 223265

## Covid-19 Recreational boating update

**Number:** 14/20 **Date:** 2 July 2020

From Saturday 4th July 2020, Exeter Port Authority will be open to overnight berthing, for those wishing to stay on board. This is in line with recent Government guidance (published 23rd June 2020) that removes the previous restriction preventing overnight stays away from your own home.

Visitor moorings are available, please call us on VHF Channel 12, using the call sign "Exeter Port Authority", or ring Tel: 01395 223 265 when you have picked up a visitor mooring.

Please note: There are no formal visitors' landing points, visitors are encouraged to use the water taxi - call on VHF Channel: 37 or Tel: 07970 918418.

The Port Authority and Exeter City Council will continue to review Government guidance.

Please make every attempt to remain safe and plan ahead, therefore reducing the chance of requiring assistance and avoiding unnecessary contact with others. We appreciate your continued support in maintaining safe and efficient port operations, whilst being able to enjoy our beautiful estuary and canal.

Notice 11/20 is hereby cancelled

### **Cancelled notice**

**Number:** 13/20 **Date:** 2 July 2020

Notice is given that the following local Notices to Mariners has now been cancelled:

- 12/20 – Starboard lateral mark number 35 is now back in position.

### **35 starboard lateral mark**

**Number:** 12/20 **Date:** 26 June 2020

Until further notice

35 starboard lateral mark is off station for repairs.

Mariners are advised to navigate with caution.

Notice 11/20 is hereby cancelled.

### **COVID-19 Notice to all recreational vessels**

**Number:** 11/20 **Date:** 13 May 2020

Until further notice

We understand that the last 36 hours has been a one of conflicting advice for all. We have received updated information from the government this morning and have made the following decision to move forward with lifting restrictions on the River Exe.

From 00:01 on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 recreational boat owners (using any type of vessel, whether motorised or not) are permitted to use their boats in local waters for recreational purposes as part of their daily exercise and recreation away from their homes. **But not for overnight accommodation.** Boat skippers may only be accompanied by persons permanently residing at the same address or, where the vessel is sufficiently large to maintain social distancing, with one other person from a different household.

See the [DEFRA guidance on 13 May 2020](#).

In England you can leave your home to exercise and spend time outdoors for recreation.

You can now:

- Spend time outdoors, including exercise, alone, with your household, or with one person who is not in your household as long as you stay two metres apart exercise more than once a day
- Take part in other outdoor sports and activities, including fishing – on your own, with your household, or with one other person while adhering to social distancing rules
- Drive to outdoor open spaces, including beaches and beauty spots, irrespective of distance. You should travel in a private vehicle, alone or with members of your own household.
- You should check first if facilities, such as car parks, are open to receive visitors and, when in the countryside, continue to follow the Countryside Code by respecting the local community and protecting the natural environment
- Go swimming in either lakes or the sea as part of daily exercise provided that social distancing guidelines are observed – you cannot use public indoor and outdoor pools
- All forms of water sports practiced on open waterways, including sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, rowing, kayaking, surfing, paddle-boarding and the use of privately-owned motorised craft (in line with the guidance issued by the relevant navigation authority) are allowed. You can continue to use towpaths for walking, running and cycling, being mindful of other users and people living in boats along the water

There are no restrictions on how far you can travel to get to the countryside. However, **you cannot visit and stay overnight at a holiday home or second home.** Owing to some of the restrictions that remain in place, and reduced commercial activity, there is expected to be a far lower level of traffic density making reporting and response to any incident potentially far slower. Many vessels on the

river will not have been used for a considerable time. In order to minimise the need for our emergency services to be mobilised, potentially placing them and you at risk, the following conditions should apply:

- The latest weather forecast should be obtained and vessels are to be checked and inspected thoroughly before leaving the berth. This should include ensuring that all boat systems and engines are operating correctly and all equipment is in date and operating as it should.
- Lifejackets or buoyancy aids should be worn by all on-board for your own safety.
- Boat skippers are urged to exercise good seamanship, courtesy, patience and common sense as they begin to move around the river.
- The skipper and crew of all vessels are required to follow government guidance in relation to COVID-19 to protect themselves and others they may come into contact with.

### **Visiting Craft**

- We do not anticipate visiting vessels from sea overnighing as government guidance excludes overnight stays away from home.
- Exeter Port Authority visitor facilities remain closed for boats from outside the river, but we do expect river users to move boats to their annual residential moorings, including from other marinas and yards in the region.
- Vessels arriving into the Exe Estuary from sea should make contact with us in advance to clarify their situation and therefore the suitability of their travel. Rules on arrival from overseas are being reviewed.

Please note that the advice contained here is very new and Exeter Port Authority and other marine businesses around the river will need to adjust their routines and ensure that the risk from infection of Covid-19 can be reduced by maintenance of distancing guidelines.

Please be considerate and allow staff time to assess the level of service they are able to provide. This is for your safety and that of the emergency services and the NHS.

Exeter Port Authority will continue to review the situation and any new Government guidance. We appreciate your continued support in maintaining safe and efficient port operations whilst being able enjoy the benefits of getting afloat.

Notices 09/20 and 10/20 are hereby cancelled.

Any queries please contact the harbour office on 01395 223 265 or email [epa@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:epa@exeter.gov.uk)

### **COVID-19 Notice**

**Number:** 10/20 **Date:** 13 May 2020

Mariners are advised that Exeter Port Authority will begin to relax certain restrictions on the Exe Estuary.

Following from the latest guidance that we have received last evening;

From Wednesday 13th May 2020, kayaks, wind-surfers, kiteboards, fishing from shore, paddleboards (SUPs) and sailing dinghies will be permitted in the Exe Estuary and Exeter Ship Canal for recreational purposes on the grounds of exercising outdoors as with the Government's latest statement. Port users are reminded to ensure that equipment is of a sufficient standard and are used with proper conduct.

By using the estuary you are increasing the possibility of added strain to the RNLI, please think about this before undertaking your exercise. Port users must follow social distancing guidance.

Recreational use of PWCs, motorboats, sailing vessels and visiting vessels to the Exe Estuary is prohibited as we are awaiting further guidance from the Department of Transport and Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

This notice supersedes NTM 03/20.

## **COVID-19 Notice to all vessels**

**Number:** 09/20 **Date:** 12 May 2020

We have been following the Government's advice in respect of Coronavirus and are putting measures in place to limit risks to port users, our staff, emergency services and the public.

Although the Government is now easing certain aspects of the lockdown in England, there is not yet any specific advice on whether this is applicable to marine leisure activities. We are seeking clarification on this with the Government at national level. Specific guidance is expected shortly.

Until we have confirmation that marine leisure activities are permitted and any relevant restrictions on them, we are advising that they should not take place. The safety of our port users and reducing the strain on emergency services is paramount.

Therefore until further notice we have taken the decision to close the ski lane for all watersports activity. Anyone seen to be water skiing or engaged in similar activities within the River Exe limits will be in breach of Byelaw 5 of the River Exe and Exe Estuary Byelaws, 1976.

Furthermore, even when we are able to reopen our facilities, users should be aware that practices to preserve social distancing will be needed as is prescribed in

Government advice issued this week (and further specific guidance to be issued). This means that we may need a short period of time to assess risks and modify arrangements. In the meantime we thank you for your patience and understanding. We share your wish to see safe recreational marine activities again and to kick start the summer season as soon as is practically possible.

## **Starboard lateral mark, number 29**

**Number:** 08/20 **Date:** 1 May 2020

Notice is given that starboard lateral mark, number 29 is not in position.

We are working to get it back into position as soon as practicable.

Mariners are advised to navigate with caution.

For further information please contact the harbour office on email: [epa@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:epa@exeter.gov.uk) or phone 07864 958658.

## **Cancelled Notices**

**Number:** 07/20 **Date:** 9 April 2020

Notice is given that the following local Notices to Mariners have now been cancelled:

- 04/20 – Starboard lateral mark number 27 is now back in position
- 05/20 - Starboard lateral mark number 7 is now back in position
- 06/20 – Unexploded ordnance is now cleared

Mariners are also advised to follow NTM 03/20 – notice on COVID-19.

## **Unexploded ordnance**

**Number:** 06/20 **Date:** 30 March 2020

Notice is given that an unexploded ordnance is in the following position off Straight Point firing range; 50o 36.283N 003o 19.583W.

Mariners are advised to keep clear of this position until further notice.

UK Coastguard are coordinating with the Royal Navy EOD team. For further information please contact Solent Coastguard on 023 9255 2100 quoting GIN 6250.



## **Starboard lateral mark, number 7**

**Number:** 05/20 **Date:** 29 March 2020

Notice is given that starboard lateral mark, number 7 is not in position.

We are working to get it back into position as soon as practicable.

For further information please contact the harbour office on email: [epa@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:epa@exeter.gov.uk) or phone 07864 958658.

## **Starboard lateral mark, number 27**

**Number:** 04/20 **Date:** 28 March 2020

Notice is given that starboard lateral mark, number 27 has been moved to the wall near Powderham Castle.

We are working to get it back into position as soon as practicable.

For further information please contact the harbour office on email: [epa@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:epa@exeter.gov.uk) or phone 07864 958658.

## **COVID-19 Notice**

**Number:** 03/20 **Date:** 26 March 2020

Following on from latest government information we have all had to undertake steps to maintain our health and safety. We must detail what we feel constitutes a necessary journey or an essential waterborne activity in the River Exe and Exeter Canal.

Commercial activity (commercial fishing, for example) or isolated residents moving through Harbour property for necessary purposes such as shopping, obtaining medical necessities, we consider essential.

It is not appropriate at present for the Harbour/estuary estate to be used for leisure or exercise, despite the current fair weather. Using the Harbour/estuary for leisure purposes at this time could put you and our reduced staff at risk - as well as created avoidable pressure on the Emergency Services, should you require assistance. We will report anyone we feel are not engaged in necessary or essential activity within the River Exe or Exeter Canal.

If you believe your planned activity is necessary AND essential please contact by email so we can discuss your plans.

It is not our intention to make anyone's life more difficult than it already is, but we also do not want to increase unnecessary risk to our staff, our other customers and the residents around the river and canal.

We hope life will return to normal as soon as possible and we would like to see you all return fit and well.

**Stay home, protect the NHS, save lives.**

*Grahame Forshaw*

Harbour Master

Exeter Port Authority

## **Lateral mark, number 18**

**Number:** 02/20 **Date:** 18 March 2020

Notice is given that port lateral mark, number 18 has been moved to the following position; 50° 38.094N 003° 26.512W.

## **Safe Water Mark and Number 1 Buoy**

**Number:** 01/20 **Date:** 6 March 2020

The Safe Water Mark and Number 1 buoy have been returned to their original positions.

Notice 08/19 is hereby cancelled.