

# ELMBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

## Update on the River Thames Navigation

February 2024

Welcome to the Environment Agency Waterways up-date for the Elmbridge Borough. This newsletter brings you up to date with what is currently happening on the River Thames navigation.

Since our last edition, the trend for wet weather across the southeast of England has continued. Over the last 18-months, the Thames catchment has experienced above average rainfall almost every month, with the period 1st October to 31 December 2023, receiving 170% of the long-term average rainfall. This culminated in the devastating floods that we experienced on the River Thames and its tributaries in the first few weeks of 2024. Many of our local navigation staff took part in the multi-agency response to this incident, and on-going recovery.

This prolonged period of wet weather has meant that we have had to issue strong stream advice on the River Thames, for much of this autumn and winter, with either Red or Yellow boards warning boats against navigating ([River Thames: current river conditions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/river-thames-current-conditions) - what the warnings mean).

### Summary of vessels moored on the River Thames in Elmbridge (as of 25 January '24):

**Desborough Cut:** following our action in October, 17 vessels have left the area with 23 continuing to be moored.

**Sunbury Lock and Weybridge Point (Shepperton):** 51 vessels moored to the bank, mooring walls and temporary moorings.

**Sunbury Lock and Molesey Lock:** 58 vessels were moored at various points along the river, with

- 18 vessels on private moorings
- 12 to the west of Hurst Park
- 28 spread along the riverbank between the two locks.

This is a total of 132 vessels moored on the River Thames in Elmbridge.

Due to the strong stream conditions our activities have been restricted throughout December and January with further enforcement action across the whole River Thames being suspended until it is safe to resume. However, below is a summary of what we have undertaken over the last two months.

Activity	Number
Foot patrols	6
Vessels checked for boat registration	0
Mooring checks	13

Our next newsletter will be issued in May 2024

