

# ELMBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

## Update on the River Thames Navigation

July 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. We had originally intended for this newsletter to be published by the end of May but the announcement of the General Election, and subsequent restrictions on what the Environment Agency could publish, had resulted in its delay until now.

### Court Success

In early April we successfully brought civil trespass proceedings against a number of boaters who have moored continuously on the River Thames at West Molesey for several years. This has deprived other boat-owners of their rights to be able to moor for short periods in the same location. Full details of the case are in our press release:

[Judge rules against boat-owners flouting Thames mooring rules - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

On the 16 April 2024, the High Court rejected an appeal against conviction from a man fined for blocking part of the River Thames with his two barges. The High Court dismissed all of Alistair Trotman's arguments in relation to the original court verdict, labelling many of his challenges about the wording and validity of the Environment Agency's case as "misconceived." Full details of the case are in our press release:

[High Court throws out appeal against River Thames conviction - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

On the 4 June 2024, we successfully prosecuted the owner of HUI, which is moored at West Molesey for failing to register their vessel for 2023 and for failure to obey a direction to unmoor from the land. Full details of the case are in our press release:

[Boaters told to pay River Thames registration fees or risk fine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

We are now considering our next steps in the above cases to ensure that the Thames riverside can be enjoyed by all.

### Summary of vessels moored on the River Thames in Elmbridge (as of 2 July '24):

1. Overall number of vessels moored in Elmbridge:
  - On EA Land:
    - 55 at Hurst Park
    - 35 at Desborough Cut
    - 30 at the River Bank, West Molesey
    - 15 at Waterside Walk
  - On Third Party & unregistered land:
    - 20 at Cigarette Island inc. Hampton Court Bridge
  - **Total: 155**
2. Environment Agency enforcement activity carried out on Thames in Elmbridge:
  - Directions to move: 19
  - Unregistered notices: 9



Strong stream conditions have limited our activities at the beginning of this year, with our enforcement work being restricted until our strong stream conditions were lifted in May. With the number of boats moored in the Elmbridge area continuing to rise, we are developing a bespoke enforcement plan for the area to complement our published [Regulation and Enforcement Plan for the non-tidal Thames](#). This plan will be supported with some additional resources and funding to remove boats where necessary.

We will also be looking to work with our professional partners in Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey Police to address some of the root causes of the increase in people living on boats and also any anti-social behaviour identified.

We are optimistic that this plan will deliver noticeable results over the next few months.

Our next newsletter will be issued by the end of October 2024

