



R I V E R

Medway

a user's guide



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY



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Introduction

Background to the Environment Agency

The Environment Agency, formed in 1996, is the leading public body protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales.

Our “Environmental Vision” published in January 2001 sets out our aim: *To protect and improve the environment in England and Wales and contribute towards the delivery of sustainable development through the integrated management of air, land and water.*


The vision is supported by nine key themes, two of which are particularly relevant to our navigation and recreation responsibilities:

- We want to promote a better quality of life by offering people peace of mind from knowing that they live in a healthier environment, richer in wildlife and natural diversity – an environment they care for and can use, appreciate and enjoy.
- We aim to improve and protect inland and coastal waters, so that our rivers, lakes and coastal waters will be far cleaner. They will sustain diverse and healthy ecosystems, water sports and recreation such as boating, fishing and those uses needed by a healthy and thriving community.

Our Corporate Strategy “Making it Happen” (September 2002) includes our resolve to work co-operatively across all our activities, developing multifaceted projects where possible and delivering best value to the public. We will pursue Integrated River Basin Management to ensure an appropriate and balanced approach to the duties of the Agency.

The Environment Agency and the River Medway

The Agency is the Navigation Authority for the 31kms of inland navigation on the River Medway between Maidstone and Tonbridge. We also have a general recreation duty to promote and facilitate recreation, and enjoyment of water both inland and on the coast.



The River Medway offers excellent opportunities for the boating enthusiast but also for other water users, including fishing, walking and nature appreciation.

A partnership approach is important to achieving sustainable improvements along the river. The Agency works closely with the local and county councils and representatives of the river users. This is demonstrated through the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) supported by the Environment Agency, Kent County Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Maidstone Borough Council. The Partnership aims to maintain and enhance the Medway valley as a green corridor for the benefit of wildlife and people, through the promotion of community awareness and action.

With so many activities along the river it is important to follow the various regulations and guidance to ensure that it remains a pleasure to use for all those who enjoy its tranquillity and charm.

This booklet aims to help everybody conduct their own activity in safety and to foster good relations and a spirit of understanding between river users.

A river can be a dangerous place so please obey the signs and guidance provided for your and others safety. Enjoy your time on or by the river Medway and may it really **become** *Your River for Life*.

John Morgan

Kent Waterways Manager

June 2003

the Medway your river for life

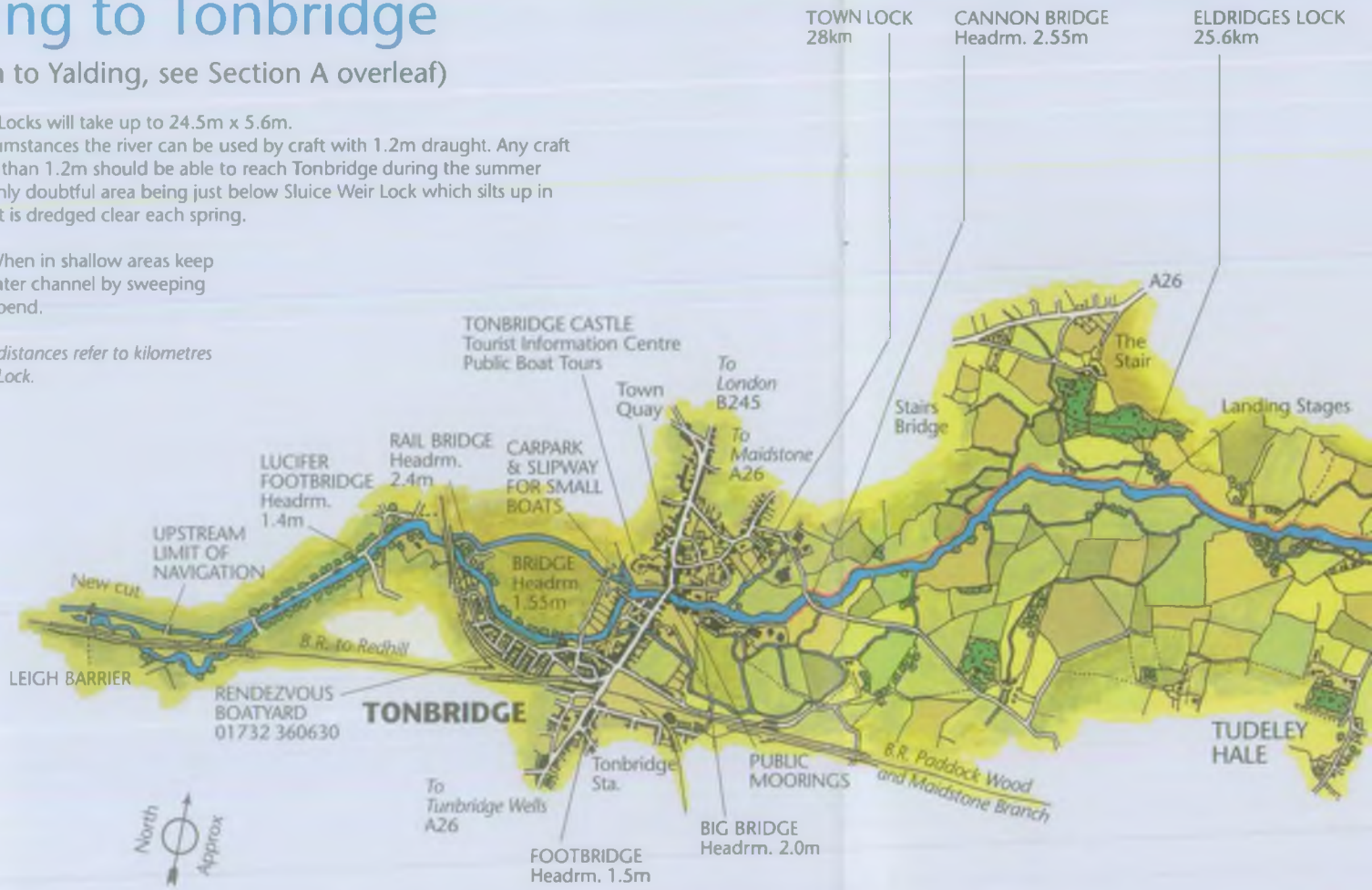
Yalding to Tonbridge

(Allington to Yalding, see Section A overleaf)

Size of Craft: Locks will take up to 24.5m x 5.6m.
In normal circumstances the river can be used by craft with 1.2m draught. Any craft drawing more than 1.2m should be able to reach Tonbridge during the summer months, the only doubtful area being just below Sluice Weir Lock which silts up in heavy rains but is dredged clear each spring.

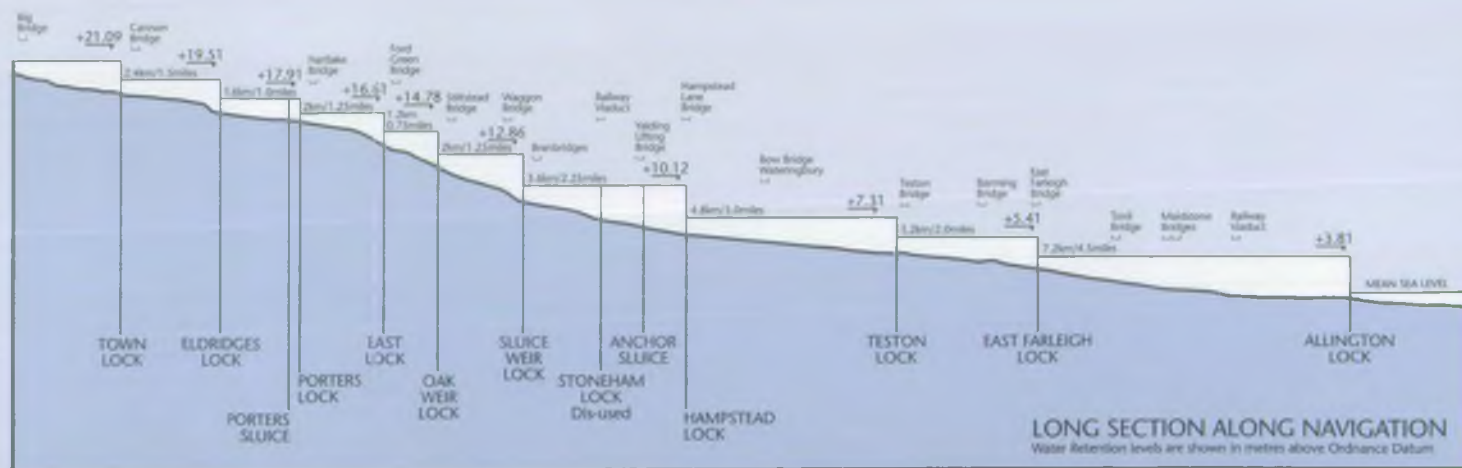
Navigation: When in shallow areas keep in the flood water channel by sweeping wide on each bend.

Please note all distances refer to kilometres from Allington Lock.



SPEED LIMIT – 5 KNOTS





Allington to Yalding

(Yalding to Tonbridge, see Section B Overleaf)

Size of Craft: Locks will take up to 24.5m x 5.6m.
In normal circumstances the river can be used by craft with the following draughts:
Allington to Maidstone 2.0m, Maidstone to Yalding 1.7m,
Yalding to Tonbridge 1.2m.

Please note all distances refer to kilometres from Allington Lock.

Sewage: Sewage disposal points are provided at Allington Lock, Yalding Lifting Bridge and Tonbridge Town Lock.
Refuse: Sacks are available from Allington Lock and Yalding Lifting Bridge.



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
ALLINGTON LOCK
(TIDAL LIMIT)
Access 3hrs before
to 2hrs after H.W.
01622 752864



Names and Addresses			
ROWING BOAT AND CANOE HIRE		MARINAS AND BOATYARDS	
Tonbridge Waterways		Maidstone	
Tonbridge 360630		Allington Marina Ltd, Allington	
PASSENGER OPERATIONS		752057	
Hire Cruisers (Maidstone Ltd)		Ford Wharf Boatyard, Allington	
Maidstone 753740		752918	
Tonbridge Waterways		T.S. Marine, Maidstone	
Tonbridge 360630		07778 954885	
Ford Wharf Boatyard		Maidstone 726165	
Maidstone 752918		Bridge Boat Service, East Farleigh	
		813927	
		Medway Wharf Marina, Maidstone	
		812802	
		Bow Bridge Marina, Wateringbury	
		812673	
		Hampstead Marina, Yalding	
		814158	
		Little Venice Country Park and Marina, Yalding	
		814378	
		Twyford Marina, Yalding	
		Tonbridge 360630	
		Rendezvous Boatyard, Tonbridge	

SPEED LIMIT – 5 KNOTS



Part 1

General Information and Notes for User's of the Navigation

Extent of the Navigation

The Medway Navigation gives access to 31km (19 miles) of the freshwater River Medway above its tidal limit.

Vessels wishing to approach the Navigation through the Medway Estuary have a public right of navigation through tidal waters, subject to the byelaws of Medway Ports. However, there are slipways and launching facilities at several points along the freshwater section giving smaller craft direct access to the river.

There are ten locks and associated sluices and weirs along the inland Navigation which starts at Allington Lock and extends to the footbridge immediately downstream of the Leigh flood regulating barrier just west of Tonbridge.

The locks divide the river into ten reaches, known locally as 'pens'. The lengths of the pens vary, the shortest being approximately 1.2km (0.75 miles) and the longest 7.2km (4.5 miles). Similarly the difference in water level at the locks varies between 2.8 metres (9ft 2in) and 1.3 metres (4ft 3in); the total fall from the head of Town Lock, Tonbridge to the head of Allington Lock being 17.28 metres (56ft 8in).

The locks are capable of accommodating craft up to 24.5 metres (80 feet) in length and up to 5.6 metres (18ft 5in) beam, and in normal circumstances the river can be used by craft of the following draughts.

Stretch of river	Draught
Allington Lock to Maidstone	2.0 metres / 6ft 6in
Maidstone to Yalding	1.7 metres / 5ft 6in
Yalding to Tonbridge	1.2 metres / 4ft



Heavy flooding causes shoals to develop in the river, particularly immediately downstream of the locks and although every effort is made to maintain these draughts, it is not always possible to clear the shoals before the boating season starts. Users of the Navigation should be aware that shoaling can also occur after flooding (high flows). Boaters should therefore proceed with caution in the early part of the season and at any time after flooding has occurred. Navigation Officers will give advice on the areas where shoaling has developed.

Gently does it

Learn about other river user's activities, by reading the whole of this booklet, so that you can appreciate their needs and help them if possible. Learn and watch out for the various signals indicating other river users' activities.

Show understanding to others especially when they are engaged in organised competition. For river activities to run smoothly, it is necessary to co-ordinate organised activities with those of other river users and to consult the Navigation Authority before any event.

Peace and quiet is one of the attractions of the river. Remember that sound carries well on water, particularly at night, and that excessive noise is a nuisance to others.

Please avoid pollution. Never throw litter into the water or leave it on the river banks.

If you see any pollution please call the Environment Agency Emergency Hotline 0800 80 70 60.

The river can be both fun and dangerous. Due account must be taken of prevailing river conditions. All river activities can be enjoyed with minimum risk if some simple guidelines on safety are followed. You will find some of these in the 'Guidance for Water Sports and Recreation' section of this booklet.

Obey the general rules of navigation and river. Part 3 of this booklet provides details of the byelaws of the Medway.

Moving craft should avoid collisions by normally keeping to the right hand side of the navigable channel.



Help conserve the environment – please be aware that excessive wash damages the riverbank, vegetation and wildlife. The river is a natural habitat and a wide range of animals depend upon it for their existence.

Always keep an eye on any children with you, ensuring they do not get into difficulties.

Follow the *Country Code*: shut gates, keep to footpaths, guard against fire and respect wildlife.

Keep a sharp lookout for anglers, who normally fish from the bank. Always try to keep a good distance from them, avoid their tackle and create as little disturbance as possible.

Registration

In order to meet a proportion of the day to day costs of operating the Navigation, the Agency raises revenue through a system of registration.

All vessels and houseboats used or kept on the Navigation, including those in marinas, must be registered with the Environment Agency and display a registration certificate. Vessels registered for the full year must also display their registration number in figures at least 5cm in height (approx 2.5 in) on both sides of the craft. Registration applies to powered or non-powered vessels, sailing craft and tenders to larger vessels, irrespective of whether the use of the vessel is commercial, educational or for recreation. Hired craft are charged at a higher rate. There is a separate single charge for Houseboats.

Short-term (daily, weekly and monthly) and annual certificates are all available, though only powered vessels are eligible for the daily licence. Short term certificates and application forms for certificates can be obtained at the Environment Agency offices at Allington Lock and Yalding. Other outlets are Allington Marina and the Dragon's Health Club in Maidstone, Bow Bridge and Medway Wharf Marinas at Watlingtonbury, and the Tourist Information Centre in the Castle at Tonbridge (see map).

Annual Certificates (April 1 to March 31) can only be obtained by sending a completed application form, together with the remittance, to the Environment Agency Area Office in Kent (cheques made payable to the Environment Agency). You should allow 10 clear days for the processing of



these applications. The application form itself can also be obtained from the Environment Agency Area Office in Kent.

In the case of special one day events such as charitable events or competitions, a general certificate may be issued at a concessionary rate from the same address. Discounts are available to clubs and organisations making block bookings for five or more craft. (Manually propelled craft only).

Operating the locks

Allington Lock, which provides passage to and from the tidal section, may only be operated by Environment Agency Navigation Officers who are available at the following times:


- (a) Between March 1 and October 31, three hours before high water and two hours after, where those hours fall between 7.00am and sunset.
- (b) On any other day between three hours before high water and two hours after where those hours fall between 8.00am and 4.00pm.

The lock may not be used outside these times unless at least 24 hours notice is given to the Navigation Officer and the notice is given within the above times.

Vessels approaching the Navigation from the Medway Estuary should take particular care in relation to tides. **Only registered vessels will be admitted to the navigation.** (Short-term registrations are available from the Navigation Officer).

The Duty Navigation Officer can be contacted by telephone during working hours on (01622) 752864.

The nine locks above Allington may be operated by the person in charge of the vessel, or crew, unless directed otherwise by a Navigation Officer. Lock handles to operate the winding shafts of the sluices can be purchased from local chandlers. The lock handle should have a square socket which fits properly on the spigots of the winding shafts which are 25.4 mm (1in) square.



Landing places for locking

Landing stages are provided at the downstream end of each lock on the Navigation so that boat owners may tie up to gain access to the lock for the purpose of locking the boat through. Mooring at the landing stages for other purposes is prohibited.

Negotiating the locks

River users with previous experience of inland navigations will have experience of operating locks, but for those who are discovering the appeal of inland waterways for the first time, the following tips are provided:-

- Locks should always be left with paddles in both sets of gates fully closed.
- Make sure you know exactly how to work a lock before you enter one.
- Check that your boat is completely inside the lock.
- When going upstream make sure your rudder cannot catch in the bottom gates.
- When going downstream make sure that the rear of the boat is not likely to sit on the cill.
- Make sure nobody is standing on the roof or foredeck when entering a lock; the bump of the boat against the side may throw them in the water.
- Do not leave lock handles on the spigot of the winding shafts.
- Be careful not to trap your fingers in any of the mechanisms.
- Never assume that the previous boat has left the lock mechanisms correctly.
- In narrow lock cuts, please remember that some pleasure craft draw up to four feet or more and might not be able to manoeuvre.
- Obey instructions given by the Navigation Officer and stop your engines once the craft is moored in the lock. Remember to loop head and stern warps to the posts. When the water is rising or falling in the lock, adjust your mooring lines to keep them fairly taut and make sure



your boat does not become caught up as the lock is emptying.
Turn off any radio, or other form of music and noise.

- If you have a dog on board, please keep it on the boat, or on a lead while passing through the locks.

Going upstream

Secure the boat in the lock by looping ropes round the bollards and posts or through the rings provided. Do not tie.

1. If the lock is full, check the paddles in the upper gates are closed.
2. Open the paddles in the lower gates to empty the lock.
3. Open the lower gates, enter the lock and close the paddles.
4. Close the bottom gates behind you and check the paddles are closed.
5. Open the top paddles to fill the lock.
6. Open the top gates and take your boat out.
7. Close the top gates behind you and lower the paddles.

Beware

- In narrow locks a boat tends to be drawn to the upper gate when the lock is filling.
- Do not use a lock at night, or in the dark, it is only too easy for someone to fall in the water and not be heard or seen.
- Please take care and do not fend off with hands, feet or boathook.
- Do not open fuel tanks or strike matches.
- Never dangle your arms or legs over the side of the boat, they may get broken or crushed between the boat and the lock.
- Do not let anyone play near locks, be it running around or jumping over gates etc. It is not worth the risk of them falling in.
- You should know exactly what to do if someone falls into the water. If this happens, close all the paddles immediately and throw a life-buoy. Then consider how to get them out.

Operating a lock – upstream



Operating a lock is simple if you work through the drill systematically, and **never hurry**.

Always share a lock with other boats (this saves water) and wait turns whenever possible.



Lock gates must be properly closed before slowly opening the sluices.

All locks are provided with hanging chains for vessels to hold onto. Particularly when using the larger docks, do not rely on just holding onto these chains but loop warps around the posts. The turbulence can be quite strong. There is a ladder in each lock chamber.



Going downstream

1. If the lock is empty of water close the bottom gates and check the paddles are closed.
2. Fill the lock by opening the upstream paddles.
3. Open the top gates and enter lock.
4. Close the top gates behind you and lower the paddles.
5. Open the bottom paddles to empty lock.
6. Open the bottom gates and take your boat out.
7. Lower the paddles but leave the bottom gates open – unlike canals rivers can silt if bottom gates are closed

If you encounter difficulties in operating a lock do not use excessive force but report the problem without delay to one of the Environment Agency's Navigation Officers:

Tonbridge Office
01732 838858

Outside Office Hours
0800 80 70 60

Lifting Bridge

At Yalding there is a lifting bridge over the Navigation

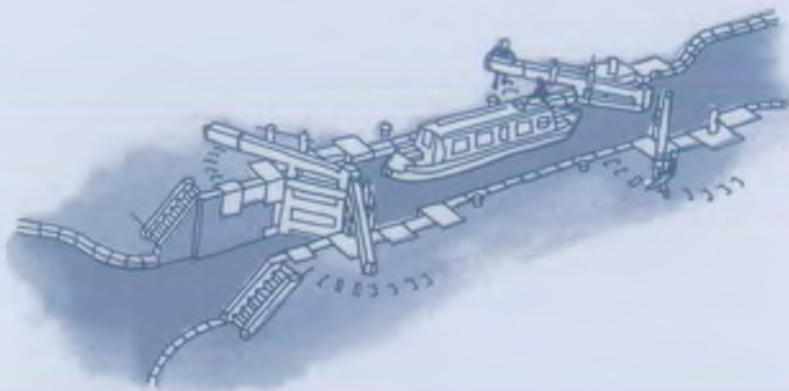
This lifting bridge can be operated by a boat owner, however if assistance is required, a Navigation Officer is on duty at the following times:-

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday: – 0900 hrs to 1300 hrs and 1400 hrs until 1600 hrs (only during the boating season – which generally extends from Easter to the end of September.)

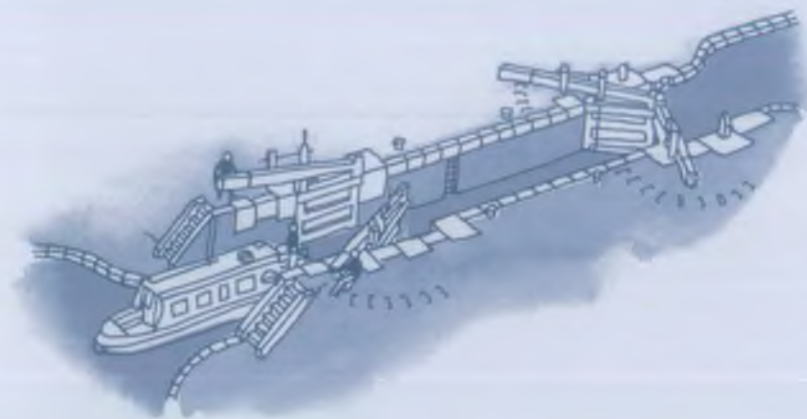
During the week, (if staff are available) a Navigation Officer will visit the lifting bridge daily at:-

0900 hrs 1200 hrs and 1500 hrs

Operating a lock – downstream



Always ensure that the upper gates and all paddles are closed after you leave the lock.



It is better to wait a few minutes and share the lock with another boat than to close the gates on an approaching boat. You could waste up to 250,000 gallons of water (or more).



Boat owners may operate the Yalding Lifting Bridge using a special key, which can be purchased (price also obtainable) from:-

Allington Lock
Allington
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 0LU
Tel: 01622 752864

In person only – cash or cheque

Orchard House
Endeavour Park
London Road
Addington
West Malling
Kent
ME19 5SH
Tel: 01732 223222


In person – office hours 0900 – 1700 Monday to Friday – cash or cheque
By post – make cheques payable to “The Environment Agency” and please write your name and address on the back of the cheque.

Keys can also be purchased from the Navigation Officer attending the lifting bridge.

Persons operating the Lifting Bridge and locks on the Navigation must be aware that the Agency accepts no responsibility for any injury sustained to such persons or others, or any damage to any boat arising out of the operation of the locks or bridge, other than as a result of its own negligence.

The Lifting Bridge at Yalding is provided with safety barriers for the protection of road users, these must be used.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY – PLEASE TELEPHONE 0800 80 70 60



Landing, anchoring and mooring

Unlike canals most of the tow path on the Medway is not owned by the Navigation authority, it is a public footpath.

In the interests of maintaining good relations between users of the river and landowners, remember that the right to navigate does not entitle you to moor up to private towpath property without the landowner's consent.

You may land or embark directly from a public footpath, but do not obstruct the towpath.

In addition to the short term landing places provided at each lock, there are free public landing places in Medway Wharf Road (Tonbridge) between Town lock and Big Bridge a few hundred yards from the High Street, and at Yalding upstream of the canal cut.

In general vessels have a right to anchor in the channel for up to 24 hours in any one place. You may need permission to moor to the bank. Place mooring stakes well back from the bank edge and take care they do not cause a hazard to passers-by.

Always respect private rights and when in doubt obtain permission from the owner of the bank before tying-up.

Dogs must be kept under strict control.

Do not leave litter, take it home or dispose of it at the sites provided by the Navigation Authority.

When stopping overnight, or leaving the launch for any appreciable time, do not moor in shallow water or with a tight rope or chain as water levels may fluctuate by as much as 60 – 90cm (2 or 3 feet) in a few hours. If the level drops and a craft is moored aground or in shallow water, it may be careened or damaged. If the level rises and mooring ropes or chains are tight, the launch may take on water, be pulled under, or even break free.

Always ensure there are over 60cm (2 feet) of water below your keel and at least 60cm (2 feet) of vertical play on any mooring rope or chain.



Short-Term Moorings

There are short-term moorings at:-

Allington Lock

Maidstone

East Farleigh

Bow Bridge

Yalding

Ford Green Bridge

Town Quay, Tonbridge

Sewage Pump Out Stations

Pump out stations can be found at:-

Yalding Lifting Bridge

Allington Lock

Town Lock, Tonbridge

Please note that the lifting bridge key is needed to operate the systems (see lifting bridge section for instructions on how to obtain a key).

Launching

The Environment Agency has a slipway at Hampstead Lock, Yalding, for which a small charge is payable to the Navigation Officer. There are also slipways and or/cranage facilities at various marinas at Allington, East Farleigh, Watlingtonbury and Yalding. The Dragon's Health Club supervises the slipway in Maidstone and there is a slipway for small craft above Big Bridge, Tonbridge.

Public Slipways

You may launch a boat at the sites listed below, but there is not necessarily a right to park a car or boat trailer:-

Hampstead Slipway

Tonbridge Castle slipway (small boats only)

Maidstone Slipway (Dragon's Health Club)

Guidance for water sports and recreation

Please read and understand the code of practice and safety rules of any activity before taking part. These are produced by governing bodies for each sport. Contact Sport England for further details on 01622 606850

Angling

Before going fishing:-

Check you are carrying a valid rod licence if you are over 12. These are obtainable from all post offices or from the Environment Agency, telephone sales 0870 166 2662 (8am – 8pm, 7 days a week, 9am – 5pm bank holidays). Calls are charged at standard rate. A small additional charge will be made. This service is available to credit and debit cardholders. Internet sales on www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish (additional charge 25p).

Check you have permission to fish:-

Possession of a rod licence does not give you the right to fish from the riverbank or a boat; you must have permission. Most of the fishing rights within the Medway Navigation are privately owned and it should not be assumed that the owners or lessees of fishing rights necessarily allow boat users to fish their waters. Some angling clubs sell day tickets for fishing.

On or By the River

Fishing from the lock side and landing platforms at any of the Agency's structures is not permitted.

Anglers should avoid weirs and be especially careful when fishing near the water's edge downstream of automatic sluices. These structures open without warning and, under certain conditions, a rapid rise in water level will occur below the sluice.

Fishing, except by rod and line (and auxiliary landing net) is not permitted without the Agency's written consent.

The annual close season on the Medway for fishing for coarse fish and eels is March 15 to June 15 (both dates inclusive).

Take care when casting and ground baiting and remember your hooks and lines and ledger weights can be dangerous. Look behind and in front to ensure the area is clear.

Beware of fishing near overhead electric cables. Contact or close proximity between cable and fishing rod may cause fatal injury.

Take your litter home, especially discarded tackle.

Fishing hooks and nylon line are dangerous to birds and animals. Wasted line should be taken home and burnt.

The use of lead shot (between the weights 0.06g and 28.35g) for fishing is now prohibited – use lead free alternatives.

If fishing at vacant mooring places, please be prepared to move if a vessel wishes to moor.

All craft have the right to navigate the full width of the river. Canoeists and sailing craft particularly tend to manoeuvre close to the bank. Although asked to take care, they can inadvertently carry away fishing tackle as it is often difficult to see the line. This often happens accidentally, when anglers are hidden from view by bankside vegetation and should not be regarded as a deliberate act to spoil your sport.

Take particular care when fishing from a boat. Wear a buoyancy aid or lifejacket and take care not to obstruct the main navigation channel.

You may not fish from a boat that is under power.

Canoeing

If a person belongs to British Canoe Union (BCU) they do not need an Environment Agency licence.

BCU members must display their membership sticker. Canoes belonging to non BCU members must be registered with the Environment Agency, Kent Area. Annual registration certificates usually expire on March 31, although short period certificates may be obtained. Obey the general rules of Navigation and know the rules for the avoidance of collisions.

Buoyancy aids or life jackets should be worn at all times. Canoeists should preferably have had formal instruction and be able to swim.

Do not canoe just above weirs or try to shoot weirs.

If on the water after sunset, an all-round white light should be displayed and canoeists should wear light coloured tops.

Keep a sharp lookout for anglers, who normally fish from the bank. Keep a good distance from them, avoid their tackle and create as little disturbance as possible.

Keep clear of sailing boats, motor cruisers and rowing craft (sculls, pairs, fours and eights) particularly when racing or coaching is taking place.

Do not get in the way of other craft by suddenly altering course, particularly when racing or coaching is taking place.

Remember it is difficult for rowing craft to see canoes.

Do not get in the way of other craft by suddenly altering course, particularly in narrow waters. Remember that larger boats are less manoeuvrable and canoes can use much shallower water than other craft.

Do not follow close astern of larger vessels.

It is safer for unpowered craft to remain at the back of a queue of traffic at a lock and to enter the lock last.

Rowing and Sculling

Rowing vessels must be currently registered with the Environment Agency, Kent Area. Annual registration certificates usually expire on March 31, although short period certificates may be obtained.

Obey the general rules of navigation and know the rules for avoidance of collisions.

Look out for others on and in the water and change speed and direction as necessary to avoid an incident.

Remember the cox is always in charge of the craft.

Remember when travelling faster than other craft that overtaking vessels must keep clear. Do not turn across the bows of oncoming craft, wait until it is safe.

Remember it is difficult for other users to see fast moving rowing craft, which lie low in the water.

When rowing for pleasure, ensure you do not interfere with other organised activities.



Coaching/rescue vehicles must watch their speed and wash.

When visiting stretches of the river other than those you use for training, ascertain and comply with the code of practice of local clubs before taking out any craft.

It is safer for unpowered craft to remain at the back of a queue of traffic at a lock and to enter the lock last.

If you choose to row in strong stream conditions stay away from weirs, obstructions and bridges especially when turning around. At such times a rescue boat should be in attendance.

If on the water at dusk, after sunset or in restricted visibility, rowers and scullers should wear a light coloured top and an all-round white light or two white lights covering 360 degrees must be displayed.

Swimming and Paddling

The Environment Agency strongly advises against swimming or bathing in all rivers and lakes, except where this is a properly organised event.

To most people the risks of drowning when swimming or bathing in water are clear. However, rivers, canals, lakes and ponds also contain hazards that may not be so obvious. These hidden dangers can affect even strong swimmers. For example:

- Sharp objects and weeds underwater can cause injury or drowning.
- Fast and dangerous currents can sweep bathers away.
- Bacteria and viruses in the water may cause serious illness such as Weils disease.
- Very cold water can cause cramp and shock.
- Boats can create unexpected waves or even collide with swimmers.
- Weirs, sluice gates and other machinery to control water levels can operate without warning.

If you wish to swim or bathe please use a swimming pool.

Please Remember:-

NEVER jump or dive into the river from any bridge, bank or craft. It is not only dangerous to those that do it but also to any vessel passing by.

NEVER swim near moving craft. Boats cannot stop dead and need room to manoeuvre. Propellers are very dangerous.

NEVER swim around moored craft, fallen logs or blind corners.

NEVER swim where there is a strong current.

NEVER swim in locks, lock cuts, narrow channels, cuttings or sluices.

NEVER attempt to swim across the river – it is wider than you think!

KEEP AWAY from weirs and weir pools.

If children are swimming or paddling, always watch them carefully as river depth varies suddenly and wash from boats can cause them to fall over. There may be broken glass or other sharp material on the river bed so it is advisable to wear bathing shoes.

The river temperature is likely to be much colder than expected. This may limit swimmers' ability to swim any distance.

Non-swimmers on airbeds or inflated rubber tubes can easily float or be blown into deep water where sudden loss of buoyancy could be disastrous.

Walking

The Medway Valley Walk follows the River Medway from Tonbridge to Rochester. The Medway Valley Walk guidebook is available for sale from the Recreation and Access Department at Kent County Council (KCC). Other leaflets detailing different walks can be found on KCC's website (see part 3 for details).

There are many rights of way in the river valley which should be used responsibly.

PLEASE:-

Prevent young children from wandering near the river's edge.

Close farm gates.

Always keep to the public right of way, and avoid walking on crops.

Keep your dog under close control and on a lead at locksides.

Clean up after your dog.

Take your litter home.

Camping and Picnicking

DO NOT:-

Camp or light fires without permission.

Throw rubbish into the river.

Light fires near to dried foliage.

Chop down trees for firewood.

PLEASE ALWAYS:-

Clean up the site before you leave.

Take your rubbish home or put it in a litter bin

Follow the *Country Code*.



Teston

Part 2

Passage Notes

General

Interruptions to Navigation

There are times when flood conditions make it inadvisable, if not impossible, to navigate the river. These conditions are more likely to occur in the winter, but there are occasions when navigation is temporarily interrupted by flood flows in the boating season.

The water level in a "pen" has sometimes to be drawn down to enable works to be undertaken, thus interfering with navigation. Usually this takes place outside the boating season, but occasionally, for example to meet an emergency, works may take place during the boating season. Every effort is made to give advance notice of the lowering of levels. Information on conditions can be obtained from the District Office at Tonbridge, Tel (01732) 838858.

Hazards when Navigating Downstream

As the Medway Navigation is a "live" river there are flood relief channels which allow excess river flows to by-pass the locks. The head is retained on these channels by weirs and automatic sluices.

For this reason when approaching locks from upstream, particularly when there is a following wind, take care to keep well over to the locked side of the river. **All directions relate to upstream passage.**

Avoid Pollution

It is an offence to cause or permit pollution to enter the Medway or deposit rubbish on the banks. Take special care with petrol when refuelling. Oil-contaminated bilge water is another potential source of pollution and must on no account be pumped into the river.

Approaching Allington Lock from the Medway Estuary

Description of the Stretch

Navigation through the Medway Estuary between Sheerness and Allington Lock is dependent upon tides. At low tide the river below the lock practically dries out and the lock itself is only open from three hours before to two hours after high tide. On short tides the lock may be accessible for less than 3 hours.

In the part of the river downstream of Allington Lock there is sufficient depth of water on suitable tides for craft drawing 2.1 metres (6ft 11in). The headroom beneath Aylesford Bridge on the tidal river below Allington Lock is 2.8 metres (9ft 2in) at MHWS. There are also overhead cables crossing the channel.

Craft approaching the lock from Aylesford and finding the gate closed should tie up on the starboard side between the lock and the road bridge. The head of water on the non-navigable channel alongside the lock is retained by large electrically operated sluices.

Place	Lat N	Lon E.	Time Differences High Water Low Water (Zone G.M.T)				Height differences (in Metres)			
							MH WS	MH WN	ML WN	ML WS
Sheerness	51 27	0 45	0200 and 1400	0800 and 2000	0200 and 1400	0700 and 1900	5.8	4.7	1.5	0.6
Allington Lock	51 17	0 30	+0050	+0035	No Data Avail- able	No Data Avail- able	-2.1	-2.2	-1.3	-0.4

Tidal differences on Sheerness

Medway Ports is the Harbour and Navigation Authority for the approaches to Allington.

Amenities and Places of Interest

The attractive village of Aylesford with its medieval bridge and rebuilt carmelite priory is reputed to be the oldest continuously occupied village in

England. The remains of a Neolithic burial chamber on the downs provide evidence of an early settlement. Three standing stones, crowned by a fourth are known as Kit's Coty House.

The Priory originally dates from 13th century but was lost to the friars as a result of the dissolution of the monasteries. The carmelites returned to Aylesford in 1949 and restored the priory which is now open to the public daily.

Aylesford was an important fording point on the Medway and marks the site of a great battle in 455 AD when the Britons were defeated by the Jutes.

Alfred the Great fought over the village in 839 AD. The bridge is an eight arch bridge built from Kentish ragstone in the 14th century. In the centre of the village is the smallest pub in Kent, the Little Gem which dates from 1105 AD.

Allington Lock to East Farleigh

Description of the Stretch



Allington Lock

Allington Lock is the first of the ten locks on the Medway Navigation and also the limit of the tidal waters. First built in 1792, the lock was enlarged in 1881 and the existing structure dates from 1939. New gates were fitted in 1991 and a refurbishment of the Lock was completed by Easter 1999.

Details of lock opening times are given on page 8. All vessels must be registered before being admitted to the Navigation but short term certificates and Lifting Bridge keys are available from the lock office.

The county town of Maidstone lies about 4km further up the river along a tree-lined stretch. The high level railway bridge marks the approach to the town. The first road bridge across the river has headroom of 4.0 metres

(13ft 1in) whilst the second bridge is only 2.55 metres (8ft 4in). Three new footbridges can be found along this stretch of the river at Maidstone. The two footbridges downstream of the railway bridge have a headroom of 5.50 metres (18ft) and the footbridge just upstream of the main road bridges has a headroom of 4.0 metres (13ft) (see map for details).

The river above Maidstone was improved in 1741 to accommodate the growing water borne traffic. In those days the commercial barges were drawn by men or horses and the towpath still exists. On the outskirts of Maidstone is a footbridge crossing the river at Tovil with a headroom of 3.7 metres (12ft). Four kilometres beyond Maidstone is East Farleigh Lock which comes into view just after passing Bydews Wood on the South bank. When approaching the lock, keep well into the middle of the river until nearly up to the lock and then head to the entrance. If the downstream gates are closed, craft should moor well back on the landing stage on the starboard side. This is because the water nearer the lock is shallow due to shoals being created by the flow from the weir and sluices.

Moorings and Marinas

The Environment Agency provides three overnight mooring berths at Allington Lock which can be used by arrangement with the Navigation Officer. One kilometre above Allington is Allington Marina providing moorings for a large number of boats. In addition T.S. Marine and Ford Wharf Boatyard near Maidstone also provide moorings. T.S. Marine has a dry dock.

There are many reasonably priced visitor moorings in Maidstone on both sides of the river. There are also moorings on both banks at East Farleigh belonging to the Bridge Boat service.

Facilities

There is a concrete slipway on the west bank of the river in Maidstone. It can be found on St. Peter's street under the Arch at the bottom of the hill. Fees are payable to the Dragon's Health Club at Maidstone.

Diesel and drinking water are available from a fuelling Wharf on the river frontage by Allington Marina. Toilets and crane facilities are also provided.

Rubbish sacks are provided by the Navigation Officer at Allington and can be disposed of at facilities provided at Allington Lock, Town Lock and Yalding. Maidstone Borough Council has provided refuse bins at the Market site at Lockmeadow.

There is a public toilet with washing facilities next to the river at Fairmeadow. A sewage disposal point is also provided at that location.

There is a supermarket and shopping precinct at Allington which is about 1km up Castle Lane.

Maidstone provides shopping facilities of all kinds within easy walking distance of the river. The Chequers Centre at the top

of the High Street on the East bank is a convenient precinct and there is a large cash and carry and supermarket just two minutes walk from the moorings on the West bank. The public market at Lock Meadow is also on this side of the river and is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays.



Archbishops Palace

Places of Interest

Allington Castle is no longer open to the public. On the North bank, immediately above the lock is the Malta Inn (1784) which has its own restaurant. The Feng Shui restaurant and the River Bar and Grill are both located in Maidstone.

Also on the North bank is the Cobtree Museum of Kent Life. This is an open air museum with a farmyard and live animals, an oast house, hop garden, herb garden and displays on traditional agriculture. It opens daily between 10.00a.m – 5.30 p.m (February Half Term – end of October) and weekends 10.00a.m to 3.00p.m in the winter (November to February Half Term). Cobtree Manor Park, just a short walk from the river features, nature trails, woodland walks and picnic areas.

The Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, based at 3 Lock Cottages works to improve the countryside recreation and wildlife habitats of the River Medway and surrounding countryside. Some of the leaflets listed in the back of this booklet are available from the Partnership.

The towpath between Allington and East Farleigh forms part of the Kent Millennium River Park, which opened in 2001. The section between

Allington and Tovil is surfaced. Approximately 1km from Allington lies Whatman Park, which is a new recreational area. The Park boasts a variety of special features including treetop walks, a nature trail, adventure playground, skateboard park and riverside arena for outside entertainment.



Allington path

The Archbishop's Palace, fronting the river on the East bank, dates from the 14th century, and is now a Registry Office. Adjacent to the Palace is All Saints' Church which is the largest in Kent and has one of the widest naves in England. Across the road in the 14th century stables of the Palace is the Carriage Museum which contains the TyrWhitt-Drake collection of carriages and accessories.

Maidstone Museum and Bently Art Gallery are in Chillington Manor House which is just a short walk northwards along the river bank, in St Faith's Street.

Just over a kilometre from the river is Mote Park which has beautiful walks, a lake, a pitch and putt course and a model railway.

There are two river bus services which provide regular round trips along the river from Maidstone to Allington. (Spring to Autumn only).

East Farleigh to Teston

Description of the Stretch

Situated beside the lock on the non-navigable channel are large electrically operated sluices.

Immediately above East Farleigh is the 14th Century Bridge. Although there is 2.55 metre (8ft 4in) headroom, the arch is quite narrow and care is needed when passing through as the approach from the lock is at an angle. Vessels are advised to give an audible warning.

There are 4km of river between East Farleigh and Teston which pass through beautiful Kentish scenery with orchards on the South bank. The East Barming Footbridge and Teston Bridge both have a headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4 in).

The riverside setting at Teston is one of the most attractive on the river with its weir, meadows, pastures, oast houses and the medieval ragstone bridge. This bridge is also narrow and care should be taken passing through. Immediately beyond, on the starboard side, is a landing stage at which crew can be disembarked during locking.



East Farleigh Lock and Sluice

Mooring and Facilities

The Bridge Boat service, which is on the left bank after East Farleigh Bridge, has several bankside moorings. There is a slipway and crane facilities, whilst diesel and gas are also available.

The Victory Inn, where the East Farleigh Cruising Club has its headquarters, is behind East Farleigh station on the North bank.

Teston village has a shop and post office. To reach Teston village, cross the railway line, turn left at the main road and take the first right.

Places of Interest

The Kent Millennium River Park continues along the towpath between East Farleigh and Teston


St Margaret's Church at Barming dates from the 12th Century though the



Teston Picnic site

six bell tower and porch are more recent. On the other bank, at West Farleigh, is the Norman church of All Saints'. A unique characteristic is the use of a pitted local freshwater limestone or Tufa around the windows.

At Teston the picnic site provided by Kent County Council covers 12 hectares of meadow. Overnight mooring is not permitted. Day ticket fishing is available.

A photograph showing a river scene. On the left, a person in a white shirt and blue jeans stands near a boat. In the center, a small boat with a green canopy is on the water. On the right, another boat is visible with people on board. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

Teston Lock to Hampstead Lock, Yalding

Description of the Stretch

There are 5km of attractive, winding river between Teston and Yalding. Wateringbury lies about halfway and river traffic between here and Yalding can be busy in peak season. The headroom at Bow Bridge, Wateringbury is 2.55m (8ft 4in).

Shortly after Nettlestead the channel divides, with the natural course of the river to port and the navigable cut to starboard. Craft can enter the port hand channel but there is no through route as the head of water on this channel is retained at automatic sluices. The River Beult and the River Teise join the Medway along this loop of river.

The starboard channel, Hampstead Cut, takes craft to Hampstead Lock. The approach is fairly narrow and there are always a number of moored boats in the channel. The landing platform at which crew can be disembarked for locking is on the starboard side just before the slipway. This lock is the deepest on the Navigation and it is advisable to operate the sluices slowly to avoid creating turbulence and to deploy bow and stern lines.

Moorings, Slipways and other Facilities

Medway Wharf Marina at Bow Bridge provides riverside moorings as well as river pontoon berths. There is a slipway and diesel and crane facilities. Toilets are provided for customers.

Bow Bridge Marina also located at Bow Bridge has a slipway and provides visitor moorings and crane facilities.

Meals are served at the Riverside Restaurant at Bow Bridge, Wateringbury.

The Environment Agency has a slipway on the navigable channel just before Hampstead Lock. Launching is by arrangement with the Navigation Officer who can be found at Yalding Lifting Bridge office, upstream from the lock. Only registered vessels may use the slipway.

Water, refuse and sewage facilities are available at the Environment Agency Depot by arrangement with the Navigation Officer.

Hampstead Marina, which is on the port side by the lock, provides ample pontoon moorings and has a crane facility.

Little Venice Country Park and Marina is on the main river channel of the Medway at Yalding and access to the marina itself is on the starboard side. Please note that this Marina only provides permanent moorings and customers have the use of a shower block. Diesel and water are available and there are crane facilities.

There are shops, a pub and a public telephone in Yalding village.

Places of Interest

Yalding village, which is a short walk across The Lees, is notable for its Georgian houses, old cottages and the quaint moated vicarage, Warde's Moat. Teapot island is a unique teapot museum with a teashop located at Tywford Bridge.

Yalding to Sluice Weir

Description of the Stretch

Vessels leaving Hampstead Lock pass through Hampstead Bridge which has a headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in). Yalding Lifting Bridge will then be seen some 500 metres ahead. Instructions for negotiating the Lifting Bridge are given on page 14. The lifting bridge office is on the port side immediately before the bridge. The Agency's dredger is sometimes moored at the wharf and restricts the width of the channel at this point.



The Anchor Inn is on the starboard side immediately after the Lifting Bridge where Hampstead Cut re-enters the natural river. Anchor sluice is on the port side and vessels must turn starboard to enter the upper Medway. The towpath is on the South bank all the way to East Lock.

Yalding Lifting Bridge



After Yalding the river winds through open countryside and just over 1km upstream passes through a derelict lock at Stoneham. The railway bridge beyond the old lock and the next bridge, Branbridges, both have headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in).

Between Branbridges and Sluice Weir lock the river narrows, gravel banks become very high and the depth of water diminishes. There are some sharp turns and generally speaking it is as well to keep to the outside of the centre line of the channel around the bends. In the channel alongside the lock are automatic radial sluices with a wide pool below them. Across the mouth of the pool is a sand bank and the narrow channel to the lock lies between this shoal and the river bank. When making the approach to the lock, keep as near as possible to the starboard side. If the lock is closed, use the landing platform provided.

Sluice Weir is the second deepest lock on the river and the top gates are well above the lower water level. Always have head and stern ropes looped to the posts and do not rely on holding onto chains along the walls as the swirl can be quite powerful.

Moorings, Marinas and Facilities.

Shortly after re-entering the Medway from the Cut, Twyford Bridge Marina is on the port side under the footbridge (headroom 2.55 metres (8ft 4in)). The boatyard has a slipway and showers. Diesel, calor gas and a dry dock are available. Immediately above the entrance to the Marina there are short-term moorings provided by the Environment Agency. The café on the port side opposite the Anchor Inn has both indoor and outside dining facilities.

East Peckham is only a short walk from Sluice Weir lock. There are a number of shops and a public telephone. The garage and pub are close to Branbridges.

Places of Interest

Snoll Hatch, to the north of the river, is a hamlet of much character which once had fourteen pubs. To the west is Little Mill, which has a 15th Century pub, 'Man of Kent', on the banks of the River Bourne.

Sluice Weir Lock to Oak Weir Lock

Description of the Stretch

The river flows through typical rolling Kentish countryside and woodland between here and Tonbridge. The River Bourne enters the River Medway from the north, just beyond Sluice Weir Lock. Between Sluice Weir and Oak Weir there are two road bridges, Waggon Bridge with a headroom of 2.6 metres (8ft 6in) and Stilstead Bridge with a headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in).

Moorings

There are no designated moorings along these rural reaches of the river but it is permissible to land on to the towpath or public footpath. Some landowners permit mooring alongside their meadows. When mooring, the consent of the landowner should be obtained.

Places Of Interest

The Man of Kent public house is within easy walking distance of Stilstead Bridge if a mooring can be found nearby.

Oak Weir Lock to East Lock

Description of Stretch

Just beyond Oak Weir is a short wooded stretch which then opens into meadowland. Ford Green Bridge has a headroom of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in). When approaching the lock take the port hand channel where a landing stage is provided for disembarking crew.

Moorings

The meadows on either side of Ford Green Bridge have low banks and are popular moorings.

East Lock to Porters Lock

Description of the Stretch

At East Lock the towpath changes from the South bank to the North bank. The river flows mainly through open arable and pasture land along this stretch. The next bridge, Hartlake Bridge has a clearance of 2.55 metres (8ft 4in). Do not attempt to moor at Hartlake Bridge as there is a cill below the bridge. The tower which can be seen to the south is May's Folly in Hadlow.

Facilities

The nearest village along this stretch is Golden Green which is over one kilometre from Hartlake Bridge. There is a pub and a public telephone.

Porters Lock to Eldridges Lock

Some fifty metres above the lock on the port side is an automatic radial gate sluice and a small weir. Vessels are advised to give this a wide berth. There are no bridges along this section.

Eldridges Lock to Town Lock, Tonbridge

Description of the Stretch

Like Porters Lock, Eldridges Lock has sluices upstream, this time on the port side. The river flows through meadows until Cannon Bridge is reached. This carries the Tonbridge ring road and has a headroom of 2.55metres (8ft 4in). Upstream from the bridge the river passes through an industrial area. Tonbridge Town Lock is just a short distance upstream. It is not prudent to moor to the wall by the lock as the height of the walls makes disembarking hazardous.

The landing stage downstream of the lock is situated on the starboard side of the lock structure.

Town Lock is the last lock on the Navigation. The adjacent channel has a large radial gate. This operates automatically and vessels should keep well clear.

Moorings and Facilities

There are several short stay Council moorings alongside Town Quay at Tonbridge which is a short distance upstream from the lock on the port side. Again it is not prudent to moor to the wall by the lock as the height of the walls makes disembarking hazardous.

There are sewage and refuse disposal facilities and a water point at Town Lock.

There is a public slipway for small boats close to the castle.

There are shops of all kinds, cafes and restaurants located in the High Street which is close to Town Lock.

Places of Interest

Across the Big Bridge (also known as Great Bridge), on the left hand side, is Tonbridge Castle which is set in landscaped gardens overlooking the river. The site is well interpreted and there are audio tours from the gatehouse. A pleasure boat operates from Castle Lawn providing 1 hour and 30 minute return trips down the river.

Tonbridge castle also includes the Tourist Information Office.



Castle and Boats



Rowing boats can be hired at the Big Bridge.

The Angel Centre, which is signposted at the southern end of the High Street, provides leisure and indoor sporting facilities. Behind the castle, there is a large sports ground which also has a putting green, miniature railway, paddling pool and playground. There is a heated outdoor swimming pool.

Tonbridge Town Lock to the Leigh Flood Barrier

Navigation beyond Big Bridge is only suitable for small craft. Big Bridge has a headroom of 2 metres (6ft 7in) and a footbridge upstream is even lower (1.5 metres, 4ft 11in). The Rendezvous boatyard is just upstream from Big Bridge offering permanent moorings, and a slipway.



Leigh Barrier

Part 3

Rules, References and Contacts

Facilities available at locks along the Medway

Lock	Facilities
Allington Lock	 + fee    
East Farleigh Lock	
Teston Lock	
Hampstead Lock	 
Sluice Weir Lock	
Oak Weir Lock	
East Lock	
Porters Lock	
Eldridges Lock	
Town Lock	   
Yalding Lifting Bridge	     + fee

Key



Moorings short stay



Refuse disposal



Sewage disposal



Slipway



Walking



Water cold

Navigation rules and hints

When underway obey the rules of navigation and byelaws. Steer on the right hand side (starboard) when it is safe and practical. Remember that even when you have the right of way you have an over-riding responsibility to avoid collision. Avoid turning vessels around near bridges, bends and lock approaches.

Keep a sharp lookout for other users and if in doubt, STOP.

In the vicinity of events, take advice from officials or marshalls. Motorised craft should be prepared to STOP and when clear proceed at a slow steady pace.

When rowing craft are near, remember that the crew of an uncoxed boat have a problem keeping a lookout ahead and even a cox has a limited field of vision.

Regulations and Byelaws

The Medway Navigation as defined below is regulated by the Environment Agency under the provisions of the Southern Water Authority Act 1982 and 1988, together with parts of earlier Navigation Acts still in force. Some of these provisions are detailed below.

Extent of the Navigation

DOWNSTREAM LIMIT – Allington Lock

UPSTREAM LIMIT – The concrete arch footbridge immediately downstream of the flood-regulating barrier at Leigh near the A21 Tonbridge Bypass.

Between these limits the Navigation includes the river, all canals and tributaries, and every lake, pond or marina or other substantially enclosed water adjacent to the Navigation and from which any vessel may be navigated whether through a lock or not, into the navigation.

Care in Navigation

SPEED LIMIT – 5 KNOTS

Bylaw No.14(a) requires that a person in charge of a boat shall navigate it with care and caution, at such speed and in such a manner as not:

to involve risk of accident to life, or damage to property, or to endanger the safety of, injure or cause damage to any other vessel or any person therein, or any moorings or to cause damage to the banks of the river.

Special care must be taken when passing another boat. Boats going up-river against the stream must give way to boats passing down-river.

Boats must not be used which are unfit for navigation.

Care in mooring

Boats must be securely moored and in such a way as not to obstruct other boats in their navigation of the river.

Do not “Beach” your craft into reed beds and vegetation.

Do not tie up, when mooring, to trees growing out from the bank edge. If a boat is moored against the bank, no mooring rope or chain must be placed across the public footpath.

A Navigation Officer, or other employee of the Agency can require a boat to be moved if it is moored at a place where it may cause obstruction, and she/he may take charge of a boat which he finds adrift or improperly moored and in that case the owner of the boat is liable to pay any expenses incurred.

Prohibition of vehicles on towpaths

The towpath is designated as a Public Footpath, as such users have a right of pedestrian access only. No horses or vehicles, motorised or not, may be used on a public footpath.

Instructions by Navigation Officers, etc.

A person in charge of a boat must comply with directions given by Navigation Officers or other employees of the Agency in regard to the navigation and mooring of the boat and its passage through a lock.

Notification of accidents

If a boat sinks or goes aground anywhere on the Navigation the person in charge must notify a Navigation Officer or an employee of the Agency as quickly as possible.

Use of firearms prohibited

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm on the Navigation, the towpath or any bank of the river.

Registration

- 1) It shall not be lawful without the consent of the Agency to keep, let for hire or, except in the case of emergency, use any vessel on the Medway Navigation, other than a vessel which is owned or used by the Agency unless a Registration Certificate in relation to the vessel is then in force.
- 2) Any person contravening subsection (1) above shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1000 and to a daily fine not exceeding £20.

The Environment Agency may, by written notice to the master of any vessel, revoke its registration upon failure to comply in respect of the vessel with the terms of any enactment relating to the Medway Navigation.

Right to Navigate

Although registration is **obligatory** before any type of vessel or houseboat is kept, hired or used on the Medway, the Agency does not guarantee that the whole of the navigation will be usable for a full year, and no refunds will be made in the event of any interruption of the navigation.

Every vessel registered shall, whilst on the Medway Navigation, have its name and number together with the number and mark (if any) assigned thereto by the Agency conspicuously painted or otherwise displayed on the outside in letters of such colour, character and size (not less than 5cm in height) as will be clearly legible.

Every vessel registered shall, whilst on the Medway Navigation, display its Registration Certificate so as to be clearly visible from the outside at all times.

Every tender registered shall have conspicuously painted or displayed in the same manner as a powered vessel the words "Tender to" followed by the name of the vessel to which it is the tender.

If any vessel registered or any tender is used on the Medway Navigation and any of the matters required to be displayed are not so displayed, the master of the vessel shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £500.

If any person knowingly causes or permits any of the said matters to be concealed whilst such a vessel or tender is on the Medway Navigation, he/she shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £500.

The Agency may at its discretion accept as sufficient compliance the display on a vessel in a manner approved by the Agency of such mark, name or number as may be so approved.

A person authorised by the Agency may, upon producing his/her authority if requested, require the master of a vessel or house boat on the Medway Navigation to state his/her name and address.

If the master or other person required to state his/her name and address fails to do so, he/she shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £500.



Allington Lock Gates

Useful Leaflets

Fishing in the South – Environment Agency, Southern Region

Environment Agency Navigations – Environment Agency

A Boaters guide to Navigation signs – Environment Agency

Medway Fact File – Environment Agency, Southern Region

The Boater's Handbook (Basic Boat handling and Safety) – British Waterways and Environment Agency. Also available on the Environment Agency's website.

River Thames – a User's guide – Environment Agency, Thames Region

Tide Tables for the River Medway and Estuary – Medway Ports Authority

Enjoy a visit to the River Medway – Medway Tourist Office

The River Medway from Allington to Tonbridge – Environment Agency and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Aylesford Downland Gateway leaflet (A guide to exploring the countryside near Aylesford, and the Kent Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.) Available from Medway Valley Countryside partnership

Medway Valley Walk – Available from Recreation and Access Department, Kent County Council

Maidstone Town and Country leaflet – Available from Maidstone Visitor Information Centre

Waterscape.com is a website providing information on all aspects of the waterways. Included is information on pubs and restaurants along the waterside, hiring a boat or enjoying other watersports.

Useful addresses and telephone numbers

Environment Agency Kent Area Office Orchard House, Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington, West Mailing, Kent ME19 5SH www.environment-agency.gov.uk	Tel 01732 875587
Tonbridge Office, Leigh	Tel 01732 838858
Environment Agency Navigation Officer, Allington Lock	Tel 01622 752864
Environment Agency Navigation Officer, Yalding	Tel 01622 814319
Environment Agency Emergency Contacts	Tel 0800 807060
Medway Ports Sheerness Docks, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1RS www.medwayports.com	Tel 01795 596596
Medway River Users' Association MRUA Membership Secretary 'Riverside', College Avenue, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6YJ E-mail: mrua@trilev.fslife.co.uk http://mysite.freemove.com/MRUA	Tel 01622 763435
National Association of Boat Owners Freepost (BM 8367) Birmingham B31 2BR E-mail: gen.sec@nabo.org.uk www.nabo.org.uk	Tel 07850 137487 or 0113 284 2046

Association of Inland Navigation Authorities

Willow Grange, Church Road

Watford WD17 4QA

www.aina.org.uk

Tel 01642 590257

Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council

City Road Lock, 38 Graham Street,

London N1 8JX

www.iwaac.org.uk

Tel 0207 253 1745

Inland Waterways Association

PO Box 114, Rickmansworth,

Hertfordshire WD3 1ZY

www.waterways.org.uk

Tel 01923 711114

British Waterways

Customer Service Centre

Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford,

Herts WD17 4QA

www.britishwaterways.co.uk

Tel 01923 201120

Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

Edgbaston Park, 353 Bristol Road, Edgbaston,

Birmingham B5 7ST

www.rosa.org.uk

Tel 0121 248 2000

Royal Life Saving Society

River House, High Street, Broom,

Warwickshire B50 4HN

www.lifesavers.org.uk

Tel 01789 773994

British Canoe Union

Adboldon Lane, West Bridgeford,

Nottingham NG2 5AS

www.bcu.org.uk


Tel 01159 821100

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership

3 Lock Cottages, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone,

Kent ME14 3AU

Tel 01622 683695



Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Centre Court, Knoll Rise, Orpington,
Kent BR6 0JA
www.mcga.gov.uk

Tel 01689 890400

Sport England
South East Region
Colman House, King Street, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1DN
www.sportengland.org

Tel 01622 606850

Tonbridge Tourist Information Centre
Tonbridge Castle, Castle Street, Tonbridge,
Kent TN9 1BG
www.leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk

Tel 01732 770929

Maidstone Town Hall Visitor Information Centre
Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1TF
www.tour-maidstone.com

Tel 01622 602169

Recreation and Access Department
Environmental Management
Strategic Planning Directorate
Kent County Council
Invicta House, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1XX
www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Tel 01622 221526



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &
INFORMATION SERVICE

SOUTHERN REGION

Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road,
Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1LD

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/navigation

*The Environment Agency's aim is to manage
the healthy growth of waterways for leisure,
business, for local communities and wildlife.*

SO-7/03-3k-C-BHJF