

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Lowestoft – Gull Wing Construction – Temporary Suspension to Navigation – 5th Update – Gull Wing Channel Restriction Lifted + Operational Protocol

UTC BST

Mariners and Port Users are advised, that as of today, 28th March 2024, the temporary suspension to Navigation in Lake Lothing, imposed by Suffolk County Council under their principal powers (granted in the scheme Development Consent Order 2020), has been lifted. Navigation through the Gull Wing Construction site can be resumed, subject to vessels and leisure craft following strict protocol listed below.

Bridge Testing/Commissioning Phase Protocol

- Any vessel requesting to transit the Gull Wing Channel must provide a minimum of 40 minutes notice to Lowestoft Port Control on VHF 14. This is to allow the contractor to ensure the Bridge is in a safe condition to allow the transit to take place. This applies even when the Bridge is in the fully raised position.
- Vessels with a confirmed maximum air draft that does not exceed 10m will be permitted to pass under the bridge if it is closed.
- If a vessel air draft is over 10m, or if there is any doubt about the air draft exceeding 10m, then the Bridge will need to be in the fully raised position to allow the vessel transit.
- The bridge traffic lights will not be operational during the commissioning phase, so for the above scenarios, permission to transit the Gull Wing Channel will be subject to permission from Lowestoft Port Control on VHF Ch14.
- Published Small Boat opening times will be adhered to, but for vessels requiring both bridges to be raised for their transit there may be some deviation on the timings of the lift for one or both bridges, to allow for transit time between the Bridges.
- Under no circumstances will a vessel be permitted to transit the Gull Wing Bridge while it is being lowered or raised.

Bridge Testing/Commissioning Phase – Logistics

- Daily 1830hrs to 0730hrs the Bridge will be locked up/open in the fully raised position.
- Daily 0730hrs to 1830hrs the Bridge will be operated by the contractor for testing purposes. This may require for the Bridge to be lowered/raised on numerous occasions, or for the bridge to be in the lowered/closed position for unspecified durations.
- When Bridge transits are required, the contractor will need to first confirm that the Bridge is in a safe condition – lowered or raised – before Lowestoft Port Control can authorise the transit.

- The Contractor will monitor VHF Ch14, and will have marine craft spotters available during bridge lowering/raising operations to identify any vessels that have not communicated their requirements.
- For any small craft between the two bridges, that is waiting to transit the Bascule Bridge or the Gull Wing Bridge, the new waiting pontoon on the SW side of the Silo turning basin can be used.

If any works or testing on the Gull Wing Bridge are required between the hours of 1830hrs and 0730hrs, a NTM will be issued to advise of any specific details or requirements.

The commissioning/testing phase for the Gull Wing Bridge is expected to continue for a minimum of 5 weeks. Further updates will be provided once time scales are known.

Lowestoft NTM No.11 is hereby cancelled.

Please contact Lowestoft Port Control, VHF Ch14, Tel. 01502 572286 (Option 3) if further information is required.

Divisional Harbour Master East Anglia

28 March 2024

Notice to Mariners Currently in Force:

2006 No.5 **2007** No.13 **2009** No.19 **2011** No.7, No.10 **2012** No.3, **2013** No.17, No.19, **2015** No.24
2016 No.12 **2017** No.5, No.22, No.24, No.32 **2019** No.18 **2020** No.17, No.24, No.26, No.29, No.47,
No.50, **2021** No.40, No.51, No.54, **2022** No.2, No.25, No.26, **2023** No.1, No.50, No.55 **2024** No.1,
No.13

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