



Enjoy safe cruising in the Upper Severn Estuary

The unique characteristics of the upper estuary offer interesting and sometimes challenging opportunities for navigation by recreational craft, whether under sail or power.

Popular destinations include the ports of Lydney and Sharpness (for access to Gloucester) and the facilities offered by sailing clubs at Oldbury and Lydney.

As summer approaches we would like to take this opportunity to remind visitors to the area of some simple points which should help to make your visit memorable – for all the right reasons!

Passage Planning

Though most harbour users are competent and navigate responsibly, some recreational boaters get into trouble because they have not planned adequately with reference to up-to-date official charts of the area, do not understand the significance of the aids to navigation and have failed to appreciate the effects of tide, tide levels and the clearance over the natural features which exist beyond the marked navigable channel.

The Gloucester Harbour Trustees, Canal & River Trust and the Environment Agency provide a great deal of safety information which may be accessed on their respective websites:

<https://gloucesterharbourtrustees.org.uk/new-leisure-craft/>
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/lydney-harbour-information-for-boaters>
[Sharpness Port | Taking your boat through the port | Canal & River Trust](#)
[\(\[canalrivertrust.org.uk\]\(https://canalrivertrust.org.uk\)\)](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Be aware that local cruising guides may not always contain the correct or up-to-date information and reference to the relevant, current nautical publications is essential to inform your passage plan.

The Admiralty Chart for the upper estuary between Avonmouth and Hock Cliff is 1166, a new edition of which was issued in November 2020.

In all cases remember that large commercial vessels may be encountered and should be given a wide berth (COLREGS Rule 9).

In summary

If planning to visit Sharpness:

- Make sure that you have given the required notice to the port
- Contact the Pierhead office on 01453 511968
- Communicate with “Sharpness Radio” on VHF ch. 13
- Plan your arrival at the dock entrance to be no sooner than 30m before HW Sharpness
- Plan to pass beneath the M48 Severn Road Bridge no sooner than 2h before HW Sharpness

If planning to visit Oldbury Pill:

- Make sure that you have given the required notice to the sailing club
- Plan your arrival at Oldbury Pill to be no sooner than 1 hour before HW (HW Oldbury is approximately HW Avonmouth +20 min)
- Plan to pass beneath the M48 Severn Road Bridge no sooner than 1h 30m before HW Oldbury

If planning to visit Lydney Dock:

- Make sure that you have given the required notice to the port
- Contact the Harbour Master on 07768 861282
- Communicate with “Lydney Dock Radio” on VHF ch. 37
- Plan your arrival at the dock entrance to be no sooner than 20m before HW (HW Lydney is approximately HW Sharpness -10m)
- Plan to pass beneath the M48 Severn Road Bridge no sooner than 2h before HW Sharpness



For further information please contact Gloucester Harbour Trustees
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