

NAVIGATION ADVISORY NOTICE



RIVER STOUR

DATE: 31 May 2018 – Until Further Notice

LOCATION: River Stour - Flows

DETAILS:

Please be aware that from the end of May 2018 flows in the River Stour will reduce significantly as the water transfer, via the Ely Ouse to Essex Transfer Scheme (EOETS) is reduced from 85 megalitres per day (MI/d) to 25 MI/d (a 55 MI/d reduction or the equivalent of 22 Olympic sized swimming pools of water less per day) This is because more water needs to be transferred to the Blackwater system via the EOETS to meet demand in Hanningfield reservoir for municipal water supplies.

This may result in fluctuating water levels and levels could also lower significantly at times in some river reaches. The Environment Agency will monitor the situation and sondes remain in place to monitor water quality. The 25 MI/d that will still be entering the Stour via the EOETS will supplement the natural flows of the River Stour. However please also be advised that due to essential maintenance works at the Kennett pumping station there will be no flow support for the Stour from the EOETS in August. The river will be monitored and groundwater support boreholes switched on as needed to support flows. River users are advised to anticipate changes in river flows and levels over the period of this notice and should navigate with caution. Boats could come into contact with the river bed or bottom out in places, especially larger or deeper drafted vessels on the navigation. When underway it is recommended to use the centreline of the channel where possible, avoiding the shallower channel margins. When mooring please allow sufficient slackness in lines to accommodate any fluctuating river levels and check on your craft regularly. We will rescind this notice once conditions have returned back to a more normal state.

For more details regarding this notice please contact Peter Willett, Specialist, Hydrology at peter.willett@environment-agency.gov.uk

The Environment Agency apologises for any inconvenience caused.

Irven Forbes, Waterways Manager, 31 May 2018

www.gov.uk/environment-agency
For further information please call the Environment Agency on 03708 506506 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday and ask for the Great Ouse Waterways team.