

EA-THAMES

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GUIDE TO RIVER THAMES LOCK & WEIR FISHING



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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THAMES REGION

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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This booklet is designed to provide all of the information you need to ensure full enjoyment of your Lock and Weir Fishing Permit. It contains detailed maps of the locations to which your permit entitles access, with directions on how to reach them and information on car parking and toilet availability. These sites are designated as areas where only Lock and Weir Fishing Permit holders may fish. We continue to improve the facilities at many of the sites and hope to provide more for the future. For the safety of yourself and others you should read carefully and act upon the instructions held within this booklet.



YOU ARE REMINDED THAT YOU ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO FISH AT THE SITES LISTED WITHIN THIS BOOKLET DURING THE HOURS OF DUTY OF THE LOCK STAFF AND SUBJECT TO THE RULES DESCRIBED WITHIN THIS BOOKLET. ANGLERS NOT COMPLYING WITH THESE RULES, AND IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY HOLD A PERMIT, SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE TRESPASSING.

It is anticipated that locks will be manned during the following hours but you are advised to check the notices displayed at each lock.

January	09.15 -	16.00
February	09.15 -	16.00
March	09.15 -	16.00*
April	09.00 -	17.30
May	09.00 -	18.30
June	09.00 -	19.00
July	09.00 -	19.00
August	09.00 -	19.00
September	09.00 -	18.00#
October	09.00 -	17.00
November	09.15 -	16.00
December	09.15 -	16.00

* *When Easter Falls in March:
09.00 - 17.30 Good Friday to Easter
Monday inclusive.*

09.00 - 18.30 Saturday and Sunday.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ROD LICENCES

An Environment Agency Rod Licence is required by all persons aged 12 and over fishing on any water within England and Wales. In the Thames Region of the Agency a licence entitles the holder to use up to 2 rods and line for coarse fish and eels but only 1 rod and line for salmonids. The licence is valid from the 1st April each year to the 31st March the following year. Licences are available from Post Offices and some other outlets. In case of difficulty contact the Environment Agency National Rod Licence Administration Centre, 01925 653999.

HOW TO USE YOUR LOCK AND WEIR FISHING PERMIT

Your Lock and Weir Permit must be used in conjunction with a valid Rod Licence. Because space is at a premium at some sites, your Permit entitles you to use 1 rod

and line only. No child

under the age of 14

years will be

permitted to go on to

any site unless

continuously

accompanied by an

adult and only then

if both adult and

child are in

possession of

current permits. Your

permit is not transferable.

Your fishing is still subject to the

normal close seasons.



Always take your permit with you when you visit the river. To help us to keep these sites exclusive to permit holders please ensure that you

ALWAYS report to the Lock Keeper on arrival. Show him your permit;

he will be able to advise on the way to get to the fishing site and give

you up to date information on river flows if appropriate. If access to the

fishing position is locked, you will be given a key in exchange for your

permit. This may then be collected on departure.

Some sites have limited numbers of swims and the Agency cannot guarantee that there will be room at any site on a given day. Fishing is

on a first come basis. Because at certain times some sites may be

unavailable to anglers either because of high river flows or other

demands on the site, it may be advisable to contact the Lock Keeper by

phone before leaving home. Telephone numbers are given in the

individual site entries.

EQUIPMENT

The height above the river of some of the weir walkways makes it necessary to possess either a drop net or a landing net with an exceptionally long handle. If you wish to fish such sites then you will need to acquire the appropriate equipment. Difficulties encountered when trying to land or return fish will not be accepted as an excuse for going onto unauthorised areas of land or prohibited parts of the weir structure.



SAFETY

The fast flowing waters of the weir pools which offer such exciting angling can also be hazardous places so great care must be taken when fishing in their vicinity.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN THIS BOOKLET AND DO NOT FISH OUTSIDE THOSE AREAS DESCRIBED WITHIN IT AND MARKED ON SITE.

Fishing from any bank upstream of a weir structure and all bullnoses (the concrete islands separating one section of the weir from another) is forbidden. The Lock Keeper may be obliged to confiscate the permits of anglers who ignore these instructions.



FISHING FROM MOLESEY WEIR OVERFALL

Although there is a railed enclosure from where you may fish at all times, under conditions of low flow, permit holders may also fish from a part of the weir overfall at Molesey Lock. It is essential that you follow both the instructions in this booklet and those given by the Lock Keeper on site. The part of the overfall available is indicated by markers installed on the weir walkway.

The flow of the Thames, which is constantly monitored by Environment Agency staff, is subject to rapid change. In certain river conditions fishing from the overfall becomes too hazardous. At such times the Lock Keeper will require anglers already on the overfall to come off and will prohibit anglers from going on until the flow has abated. **PLEASE CO-OPERATE WITH THE LOCK KEEPER.** Any actions which he takes will be for your own safety. When fishing from the overfall, boots with studded soles and a life jacket must be worn. Two lifejackets are held by Molesey lock keeper for temporary loan to permit holders.

OTHER RIVER USERS

Many people enjoy the river Thames and its banks for their recreation; at times, anglers fishing at permit sites will come into close proximity to some of them, in particular walkers using rights of way across weir walkways. Please ensure that your equipment causes no obstruction and that your fishing does not interfere with other river users.

CONSERVATION

It has been known for many years that discarded fishing tackle and other litter on the river bank is a hazard to wildlife as well as spoiling the enjoyment of everyone using the river. Therefore please:

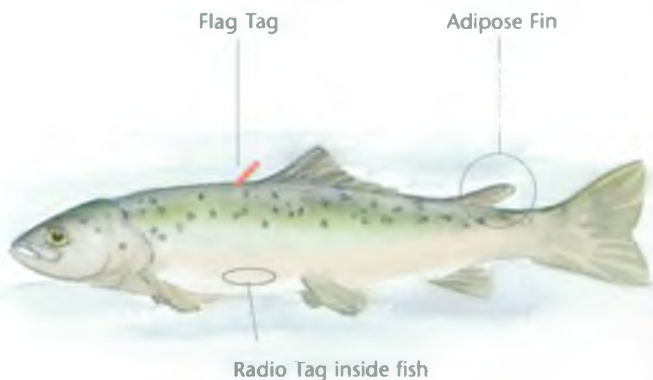
- do not leave unwanted or damaged tackle behind;
- take care when casting;
- take all rubbish home with you.

Remember that it is illegal to use lead weights between .06g (dust shot) and 28.35g (1oz). You are encouraged to use barbless or microbarbed hooks, or alternatively hooks with the barbs turned down.



SALMON AND SEA TROUT

It is a legal requirement to report the capture of any salmon or sea trout to the Agency before the 1st January each year. The details required are the date, number, length, weight and place of capture of the fish; a form will be found on the Salmon Licence. Because of our work to restore a salmon population to the Thames, we are particularly keen to receive prompt reports (ideally with a photo if possible) of any fish caught especially if they are bearing tags or which have had the adipose fin clipped off. These may have a microtag in the nose which will provide important information. A reward will be paid for the full reporting of such fish. Some fish are radio tagged and are particularly important to the salmon restoration scheme. Fish with red flag tags contain radio tags. All reports should include a sample of a few scales taken from the fish and should be sent to the address shown, or left at the lock office for later collection. Not more than two salmon or sea trout may be taken in any one day. The Agency encourages those with a Salmon Licence to release any captured fish. Those with a Coarse Fish and Trout Licence must return fish.



CAPTURE OR SIGHTINGS OF FISH:

Fisheries Central
Kings Meadow House,
Kings Meadow Road,
Reading, Berkshire. RG1 8DQ.
Tel. Reading (0118) 9535000 or 9535515



BUSCOT LOCK

BUSCOT, FARINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE. TELEPHONE 01367 252434



APPROACH ROUTES: Off the A417 (Lechlade to Faringdon road) into Buscot village.

CAR PARKING: At the National Trust Car Park in Buscot village approximately a quarter of a mile from the lock. **No parking at the lock.**

TOILETS AT THE LOCK: No.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: Along the Public Footpath from the village car park.

FISHING SITE: The Agency permit is for the banks of the new weir channel north of the lock between the weir and the bridge downstream. The weir gangway and the banks upstream of the weir are not available.

SPECIAL NOTES: The National Trust own a public picnic site by the old weir pool.

GRAFTON LOCK

CLANFIELD, OXFORDSHIRE, OX8 3RY. TELEPHONE: 01367 810251



APPROACH ROUTES: Off the B4449 (Lechlade to Clanfield Road)

CAR PARKING: In nearby Kelmscott, Grafton, or Radcot (in the meadow opposite the Swan Inn, by prior arrangement with the landlord). **No parking at the lock.**

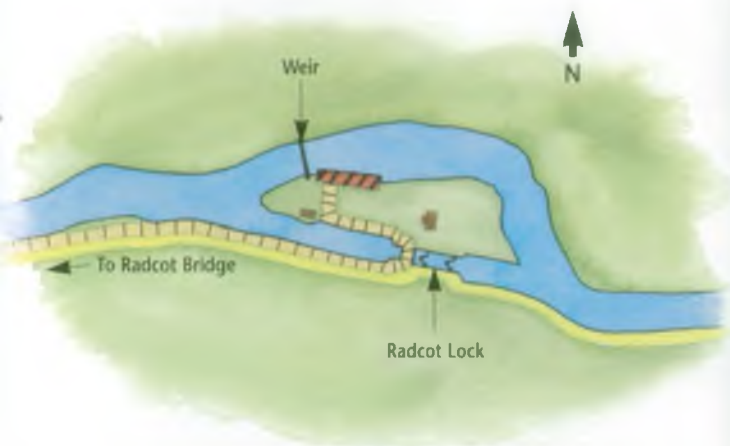
TOILETS AT THE LOCK: No

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: From Kelmscott along the towpath: approximately one and a half miles. From Radcot along the towpath: approximately one and a quarter miles. Along footpath from the B4449 at Grafton: two thirds of a mile.

FISHING SITE: Fishing from the walkway across the top of the weir structure only.

RADCOT LOCK

FARINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE. SN7 8JT. TELEPHONE: 01367 240676



APPROACH ROUTES: Along the towpath from the A4095 at Radcot.

CAR PARKING: In the meadow opposite the Swan Inn, Radcot Bridge (by prior arrangement with the landlord).

TOILETS AT THE LOCK: Urinal only.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: From Radcot Bridge along the towpath: approximately half a mile.

FISHING SITE: Fishing available along a short stretch of bank on the south side of the weir structure. Fishing is not permitted on the weir structure or the land on the far side of it. As space is strictly limited, fishing is on a first come basis.

RUSHEY LOCK

TADPOLE BRIDGE, BUCKLAND, NR. FARINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE. SN7 8RF
TELEPHONE 01367 870218



APPROACH ROUTES: Tadpole Bridge is reached from the A420 at Buckland, or off the A4095 at Bampton.

CAR PARKING: At Tadpole Bridge. **No parking at the lock.**

TOILETS AT THE LOCK: Urinal only.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: From Tadpole Bridge on foot along the lock access track: approximately three quarters of a mile.

FISHING SITE: Fishing available from the downstream gangway across the weir structure, and a small length of bank on the south side of the weir.

SPECIAL NOTES: *There is a permitted footpath across the weir gangway. Please ensure that passage for walkers is not obstructed.*

SHIFFORD LOCK

2 MILES EAST OF THE VILLAGE OF ASTON, OXFORDSHIRE.
TELEPHONE: 01367 870247



APPROACH ROUTES: From the B449 at Aston to the hamlet of Chimney.

CAR PARKING: Roadside parking in nearby villages. Careful parking is essential. Do not block gates or access routes.

TOILETS: No.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: Along the track from Chimney: approximately three quarters of a mile.

FISHING SITE: Main Weir - from the walkway across the weir structure only. House Weir - from short stretches of bank downstream on either side of the weir overfall.

EYNSHAM LOCK

EYNSHAM, OXFORDSHIRE. TELEPHONE: 01865 881324



APPROACH ROUTES: Off the B4044 Eynsham to Farmoor road at Swinford Toll Bridge.

CAR PARKING: Roadside parking only as local conditions permit. **No parking at the lock.**

TOILETS: Yes.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: From Swinford Toll Bridge along the towpath: approximately 250yds.

FISHING SITE: Fishing available from the walkway across the weir structure only.

SANDFORD LOCK

SANDFORD-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE. TELEPHONE: 01865 775889



APPROACH ROUTES: Off the A423 Oxford to Maidenhead road via Sandford-on-Thames or from Kennington via The Avenue and Sandford Lane to the public car park.

CAR PARKING: Public car park at the end of Sandford Lane. **No parking at the lock.**

TOILETS: No.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: A very short walk from Sandford village or across the footbridge from the car park to the Lock Island.

FISHING SITE: Sandford Weir - fishing available from the weir structure walkway and a small fenced enclosure at a lower level. The weir is fenced off and locked up. Obtain the key from the Lock Keeper.

WEIR STREAM - fishing available from short stretches of both banks of the weir stream upstream of the footbridge and a short stretch of bank downstream of the footbridge on the car park side.

SPECIAL NOTES: The extent of the weir stream bank sections available to permit holders is marked on the ground by wooden posts.

SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR COLOUR KEY TO LOCKS

CLIFTON LOCK

CLIFTON HAMPDEN, NR. ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE OX14 4NE.
TELEPHONE: 01865 407821



APPROACH ROUTES: Off the A415 Abingdon to
Dorchester road via Clifton Hampden.

CAR PARKING: Car park east of Clifton Hampden
Bridge near the Barley Mow Public House. **No parking at
the lock.**

TOILETS: No.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: Along the towpath
from Clifton Hampden Bridge: approximately half a mile.

FISHING SITE: Fishing is available between the signs
along the western bank of the lock cut

SPECIAL NOTES: This site is available strictly between 1st
November and 14th March only.

DAY'S LOCK

LITTLE WITTENHAM, OXFORDSHIRE. TELEPHONE: 01865 407768



APPROACH ROUTES: Follow footpaths across the fields from Dorchester on Thames or walk down from Little Wittenham.

CAR PARKING: Near the bridge in Dorchester on Thames or at Wittenham Clumps.

TOILETS: No.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: From the lock, walk across the weir walkway to the western bank of the Thames.

FISHING SITE: Fishing from the bank above the weirpool on the western bank of the river downstream of the weir.

SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR COLOUR KEY TO LOCKS

BENSON LOCK

PRESTON CROWMARSH, BENSON, OXFORDSHIRE
TELEPHONE: 01491 835255



B.B. Fishing allowed from eastern side of breakwater only.

APPROACH ROUTES: Off the A423, Oxford to Maidenhead Road near Preston Crowmarsh. Turn off to Preston Crowmarsh near Benson Pleasurecraft.

CAR PARKING: Roadside parking only as local conditions permit. **No parking at the lock.**

TOILETS: No.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: Through the gate adjacent to the private car park near the Mill, and across the Mill Stream footbridge and weir gangway to the lock.

FISHING SITE: Fishing available from the weir-stream side of the breakwater only.

SPECIAL NOTES: On occasion the breakwater may have to be used to moor barges so reducing space for fishing. It is advisable to ring the lock keeper for advice before travelling to the site.

SHIPLAKE LOCK

SHIPLAKE-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE. TELEPHONE: 0118 9403350



APPROACH ROUTES: Off the A4155 Reading to Henley road at Lower Shiplake.

CAR PARKING: In Lower Shiplake. **No parking at the lock.**

TOILETS: No.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: A short walk from the village.

FISHING SITE: Fishing available from weir walkway across westerly weir structure only. Between 1st November and 31st March fishing also permitted from the south bank of the camping island.

SPECIAL NOTES:

PLEASE NOTE:- The landing stages on the camping island are not built to Environment Agency safety standards and so cannot be relied upon. You should not use them.

MARSH LOCK

HENLEY-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE. TELEPHONE: 01491 572992



APPROACH ROUTES: Off the A4155 at Henley-on-Thames via Newtown.

CAR PARKING: In public car park in nearby Mill Lane.
No Parking at the lock.

TOILETS: No

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: Along Mill Lane from the car park: approximately 200 yards.

FISHING SITE: Fishing from the walkway across the main weir structure only.

HURLEY LOCK

NEAR MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE. TELEPHONE: 01628 824334



APPROACH ROUTES: From the south of the river through Hurley Village off the A423 Henley to Maidenhead road at Hurley Bottom.

CAR PARKING: In Hurley Village. **No parking at the lock.**

TOILETS: Yes.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: From the car park, follow the pedestrian signs for approximately 250 yards to the lock.

FISHING SITE: Fishing from the banks of the Camping Island.

SPECIAL NOTES: Available from 1st October to 31st March only. On occasion and without notice this site may not be available for individual days within this period.

BRAY LOCK

BRAY, MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE. SL6 0EE TELEPHONE: 01628 21650



APPROACH ROUTES: From the north bank of the river, off the A4 east of Maidenhead, turn south into Old Marsh Lane and then right into Amerden Lane.

CAR PARKING: Private car park close to the lock. Negotiations currently in hand to make it available for Thames fishermen. See Lock Keeper for current situation

TOILETS: Yes.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: A short distance from the car park beyond the lock.

FISHING SITE: Fishing from the walkway across the weir structure only.

SPECIAL NOTES: Bray Weir has a high walkway. Suitable equipment is required to land fish.

BELL WEIR LOCK

EGHAM, SURREY. TW20 0AA TELEPHONE: 01784 432333



APPROACH ROUTES: From the south side of the river, off the A308 Windsor to Staines road at Egham.

CAR PARKING: In Egham only. No parking at the lock or nearby.

TOILETS: Yes.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: By foot, down the footpath leading off the northbound slip-road running up to the M25 from the A30 roundabout.

FISHING SITE: Fishing from the stretch of bank behind the lock, immediately downstream of the weir overfall.

PENTON HOOK LOCK

THAMESIDE, STAINES, MIDDLESEX. TW18 2JA TELEPHONE: 01784 452657



APPROACH ROUTES: By public footpaths from the B376 Laleham to Shepperton road south of Staines and adjacent roads.

CAR PARKING: No parking at the lock or in Thameside Road and Beech Tree Lane which are private.

TOILETS: Urinal only.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: Across the lock gates and weir gangways onto the two islands.

FISHING SITE: Only certain stretches of bank on the two islands are available. These are marked by wooden posts.

SHEPPERTON LOCK

SHEPPERTON, MIDDLESEX. TELEPHONE: 01932 221840



APPROACH ROUTES: From the north side of the river, off the B375 Chertsey Road, via Ferry Lane.

CAR PARKING: At the roadside adjacent to the lock.

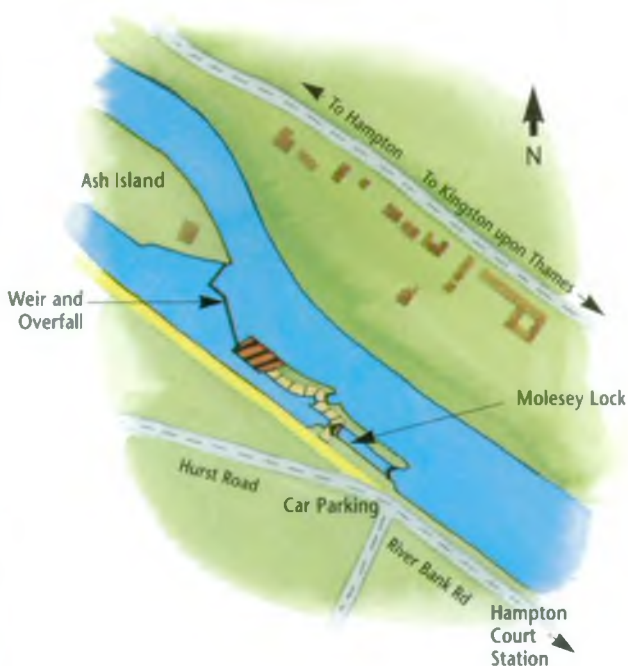
TOILETS: Yes.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: Beyond the lock across the lock gates.

FISHING SITE: Fishing from the walkway across the weir structure and from the marked section of bank downstream of the weir on its eastern side.

MOLESEY LOCK

MOLESEY, SURREY. KT8 9AW. TELEPHONE: 0181 979 4482



APPROACH ROUTE: From the south of the river off the A3050 (Hurst Road/River-Bank Road).

CAR PARKING: Local roadside parking. **No parking at the lock.**

TOILETS: Opposite the lock.

ACCESS TO FISHING SITE: Beyond the lock across the lock gates.

FISHING SITE: Fishing available from fenced area beside the weir overfall and downstream from marked section of the weir overfall only. Instructions on how to get onto the overfall from the Lock Keeper.

SEE ADDITIONAL NOTES ON FISHING AT MOLESEY LOCK.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

GENERAL ENQUIRIES:

For general enquiries about the operation of the Lock and Weir Fishing Permit contact:

The Recreation Manager

Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road,

Reading, Berkshire. RG1 8DQ Tel. 0118 9535000

POLLUTION/FISH MORTALITY

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY EMERGENCY HOTLINE 0800 80 70 60

FOR SITE SPECIFIC NAVIGATION ENQUIRIES:

Buscot, Grafton, Radcot, Rushey, Shifford, Eynsham, Sandford, Clifton, Day's and Benson Locks:

No. 1 NAVIGATION DISTRICT OFFICE

OSNEY LOCK, OXFORD. OX2 0AX. - Tel. 01865 721271

Shiplake, Marsh, and Hurley Locks:

No. 2 NAVIGATION DISTRICT OFFICE

KINGS MEADOW HOUSE, KINGS MEADOW ROAD,

READING, BERKSHIRE. RG1 8DQ. - Tel. 0118 9535533

Bray and Bell Weir Locks:

NAVIGATION OFFICE

BOULTER'S LOCK, MAIDENHEAD,

BERKSHIRE. SL6 8PE. - Tel. 01628 22491

Penton Hook, Shepperton and Molesey Locks:

AREA NAVIGATION OFFICE

RIVERSIDE WORKS, FORDBRIDGE ROAD,

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES. TW16 6AP. - Tel. 01932 781946

If you are alongside the River Thames and you have anything urgent to report, then any of the Lock Keepers will be pleased to pass on a message for you.

THAMES REGION ADDRESSES

REGIONAL OFFICE
Environment Agency
Kings Meadow House
Kings Meadow Road
Reading
Berkshire RG1 8DQ
Tel: 0118 953 5000
Fax: 0118 950 0388

NORTH EAST AREA
Environment Agency
Gade House
London Road
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 IRS
Tel: 01992 635 566
Fax: 01992 645 451

SOUTH EAST AREA
Environment Agency
Riverside Works
Fordbridge Road
Sunbury on Thames
Middlesex TW16 6AP
Tel: 01932 789 833
Fax: 01932 786 463

WEST AREA
Environment Agency
Isis House
Howbery Park
Wallingford
Oxfordshire OX10 8BD
Tel: 01491 832 801
Fax: 0118 953 3302



For general enquiries please call your local Environment Agency office. If you are unsure who to contact, or which is your local office, please call our general enquiry line.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE**

0645 333 111

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
EMERGENCY HOTLINE**

0800 80 70 60



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

KEY TO LOCKS



RIVER



PUBLIC FOOTPATHS OR
OTHER RIGHTS OF WAY



RECOMMENDED ACCESS
ROUTE TO SITE



ROAD



SECTION OF BANK OR WEIR
WHERE ANGLING IS PERMITTED



CAR PARK



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

KINGS MEADOW HOUSE, KINGS MEADOW ROAD, READING, BERKSHIRE RG1 8DQ
TELEPHONE: 0118 9535000

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, the Agency cannot accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions.