



This guide is designed to assist you in planning an enjoyable, safe trip on the River Trent. It covers the tidal section of the Trent from Cromwell to Keadby Lock and the non-tidal section from Trent Bridge to Cromwell Lock.

The tidal locks are staffed by lock keepers throughout the year, and the non-tidal locks are staffed from Good Friday to the end of British Summer Time. The lock keepers will be happy to provide you with advice before and during your trip. The instructions in this guide are guidelines only and do not override the advice of the lock keepers.

## EMERGENCIES

In case of emergency, British Waterways can be contacted out of office hours on 0800 4799947. For assistance during office hours please call your local BW office. If you do not have this number, please call BW Watford on 01923 201120 or 0800 4799947.

However, if life is at risk, call 999 immediately or, on tidal/coastal water, use a MayDay call on GMDSS system and/or channel 16 on your radio.

## OTHER USEFUL LITERATURE

### The Boaters Handbook.

Available from BW offices and the Environment Agency.

### Tide Table.

Available from Newark office and lock sites. Cost £1

### The Boating Association - Trent Chart Series. Chart No1 - The non-tidal Trent.

Available from Newark office and lock sites. Cost £4.50

### The Boating Association - Trent Chart Series. Chart No2 - The tidal Trent.

Available from Newark office and lock sites. Cost £4.50.

### Waterways Guide: Chesterfield Canal, River Trent, Fossdyke & Witham Navigations.

Available from lock sites and Newark office.

### West Stockwith Lock - A Guide for Boaters.

Available from Cromwell, Torksey and West Stockwith Lock and the Newark office.

### Waterways Guide: Aire & Calder Navigations, Leeds & Liverpool, North Yorkshire Navigations, Sheffield & South Yorkshire.

Available from Yorkshire office.

### The Boaters Guides.

Available on [www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com)

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### British Waterways

East Midlands Waterways, The Kiln, Mather Road,  
Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1FB  
Tel: 01636 704 481

Email: [Enquiries.emidlands@britishwaterways.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries.emidlands@britishwaterways.co.uk)

### British Waterways

Yorkshire Waterways, Lock Lane, Castleford,  
West Yorkshire, WF10 2LH  
Tel: 01977 554351

Email: [Enquiries.yorkshire@britishwaterways.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries.yorkshire@britishwaterways.co.uk)

Web: [www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com)



### The Boating Association:

Email: [info@theboatingassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@theboatingassociation.co.uk)

Web: [www.theboatingassociation.co.uk](http://www.theboatingassociation.co.uk)

### Environment Agency Hotline:

(to report any pollution, illegal dumping or fish in distress)

Tel: 0800 80 70 60



# THE RIVER TRENT

## A GUIDE FOR BOATERS



Discover the  
[waterscape.com](http://waterscape.com)

## LOCK GUIDE MAP

### a Holme Lock

Office: 0115 981 1197  
Mobile: 07887 787 353

### b Stoke Lock

Office: 0115 987 8563  
Mobile: 07887 787 350

### c Gunthorpe Lock

Office: 0115 966 3821  
Mobile: 07887 787 351

### d Hazleford Lock

Office: 01636 830 312  
Mobile: 07887 787 352

### e Newark Town Lock

Office: 01636 702 226  
Mobile: 07887 754 487

### f Newark Nether Lock

Office: 01636 703 830  
Mobile: 07887 754 486

### g Cromwell Lock

Office: 01636 821 213  
Mobile: 07887 754 485

### h Torksey Lock

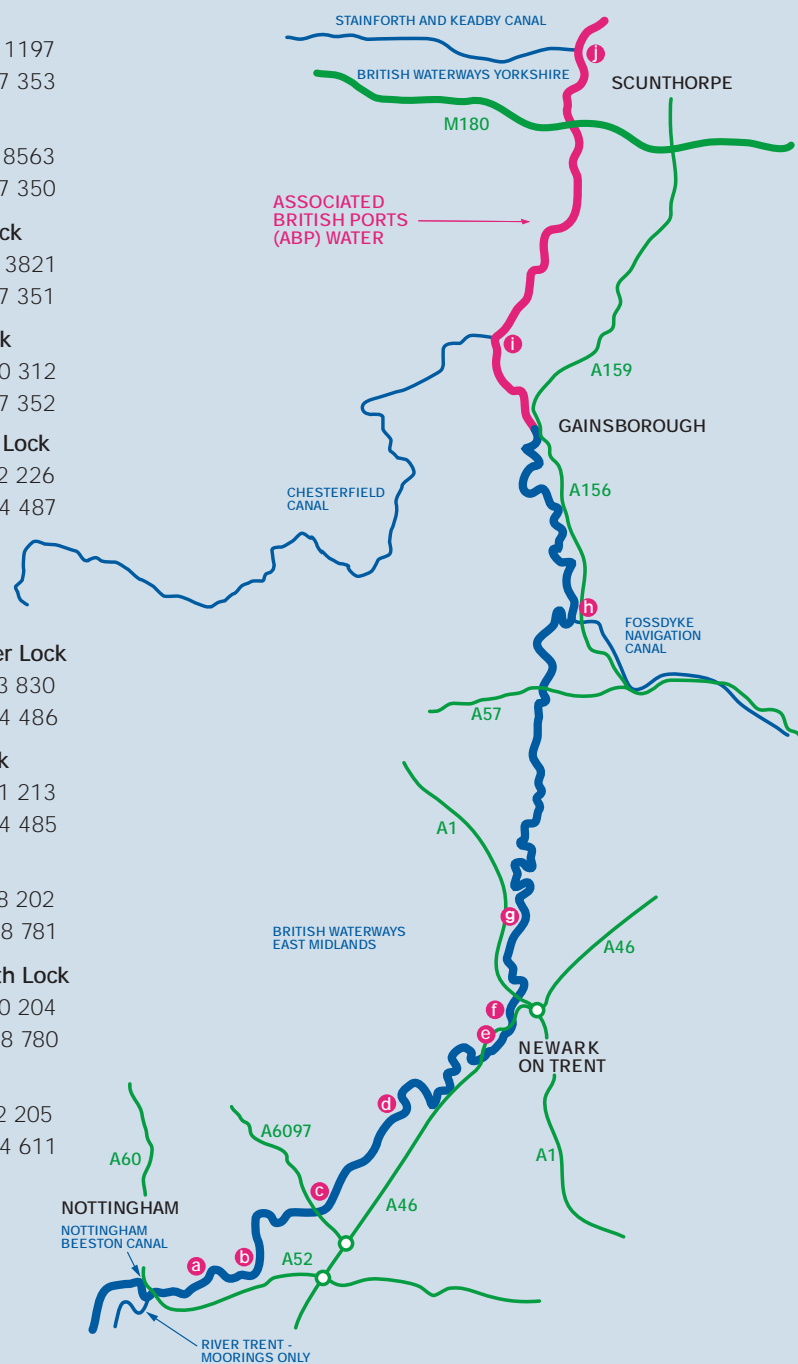
Office: 01427 718 202  
Mobile: 07884 238 781

### i West Stockwith Lock

Office: 01427 890 204  
Mobile: 07884 238 780

### j Keadby Lock

Office: 01724 782 205  
Mobile: 07733 124 611



## BEFORE YOUR TRIP

Ensure that your craft is properly licensed, has insurance, and a valid Boat Safety Scheme Certificate. For information on licences call 01636 704 481.

Check your fuel supply, engine, propeller and steering gear. Check the stern gland for leaks. Obtain a navigation chart for the River Trent (details on back of this leaflet).

### Ensure your boat is equipped with:

- A Marine Band Radio. If you do not have one, then you should carry a mobile phone with you, however you should be aware that network coverage may not be available.
- Lifejackets for you and your crew.
- A lifebuoy.
- An anchor.
- Two ropes at least 15 metres long.
- A boat hook.

## BOOKING PASSAGE

You should always book your passage through the tidal locks 24 hours in advance.

The lock keeper will be able to advise on journey times which will be dependent on the tide and weather conditions.

Lock operation hours can be found at lock sites, on [www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com), by calling 01636 704 481 or by contacting the lock keeper via the telephone numbers shown on the map to left.

## MARINE BAND RADIO

Lock keepers will use channel 74 on tidal and non-tidal sections. Freight traffic will use channel 74 on the non-tidal section, changing to 6 on tidal sections, and 17 below Keadby Bridge.

It is recommended that you monitor the frequencies used by the freight operators and switch to channel 74 to speak with the lock keeper.

## STOPPAGES

Information on stoppages is available from [www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com).

Sign up to receive email notifications of stoppages by calling 01636 704 481.

## LOCKS

### Please obey the traffic lights at the locks:

Red = Stop.

Red & Green = Standby and wait for green light.

Green = Proceed with care.

Amber = Self operation (at non-tidal locks only).

### To ensure the safe passage of all craft, all boaters must:

- Switch off your engine/s while locking through (except where there is a risk of damaging engine/s)
- Secure a rope to slidelines or bollards front and back while locking through
- Not switch your engine/s on again until gates are opened or it is your turn to proceed.

## WEIRS

Usually a lock is accompanied by a weir. Weirs are dangerous, particularly when travelling downstream, and should not be approached, particularly under flood conditions. For your own safety please observe the relevant signage.

## COMMERCIAL CRAFT

### Follow these tips to help you deal with commercial craft confidently and safely:

- Commercial craft will be much less manoeuvrable than your boat.
- They may draw maximum draught and so may use the centre of the channel.
- Commercial craft will usually be given priority for lock passage
- It might not always be possible to pass port to port. You should contact the vessel by radio and agree the appropriate course of action to pass them.
- If radio contact cannot be made, keep visual contact so that you can identify the action they wish to take.
- Commercial craft may approach in front or behind your boat. They may also be moving quicker and so create more wash. Take waves head on wherever possible.

- Commercial craft operate in poor weather conditions when deemed safe to do so. In poor weather conditions or limited visibility it is advised that you do not proceed. You should moor at a designated mooring site. Always seek advice from the lock keeper who can advise on weather conditions and safety.

## UNPOWERED CRAFT

On the non-tidal section you may encounter significant numbers of unpowered craft e.g. canoes, sculling craft. Please pass these craft giving as wide a berth as possible and proceed with caution at slow speed.

Unpowered craft do not have to obey the speed limits and may overtake powered craft; slow down and let them pass as quickly as possible.

## WATER SKIING

There are designated, marked, zones on the non-tidal Trent at Hazleford, Farndon and Gunthorpe and on the tidal Trent at Marnham and Laneham where you may find water skiing in progress.

Water skiers are not subject to speed limits and are likely to approach or overtake you at high speed. Please pass these craft giving as wide a berth as possible and proceed with caution through these zones.

## KEADBY AND WEST STOCKWITH LOCK

Contact the lock keeper for advice about the best way to enter these locks depending on the tide conditions.

### Pick up a copy of 'West Stockwith Lock:

A Guide for Boaters' from the East Midlands office, from Cromwell or Torksey Lock or by calling 01636 704 481.

## RIVER CONDITIONS

The River Trent is liable to flood at any time of year, in such circumstances the lock keepers will give advice on the River conditions both before and during your journey.

Make sure your boat has enough power to cope with the strength of the stream or tide. Generally speaking, your boat should be capable of making headway against currents of as much as 4 to 5 m.p.h. (3.5 to 4.5 knots).

## TIDES

Extra care should be taken when using the tidal section due to varying water levels and tides. A tidal bore, known as 'The Aegir', may be met between Keadby and Torksey. This is a tidal wave of between a few centimetres and 1.5 metres high, breaking along the riverbanks. Boaters are strongly advised to enquire from lock keepers whether an Aegir is expected.

Tidal locks operate at different hours dependent on the tide. Staffing schedules are available from BW offices and lock sites. The tide may affect your journey times; contact the lock keeper for advice about journey times and the best times to leave.

## DIMENSIONS

	Metres	Feet
Length	42.67	140
Beam	5.72	18.76
Static Draught	1.83	6
Superstructure Width	3.51	11.51
Superstructure Height	3.96	13

## SPEED LIMITS

These speed limits only refer to British Waterways waters from Nottingham to Gainsborough Bridge. Please note the flow may be faster moving on a spring tide or during flood conditions, however you should look behind you and avoid making a breaking wash where possible as this adversely affects wildlife and other river users e.g. anglers.

Speed Over Ground (S.O.G.)	Mph	Kmph	Knots
Upstream	6	10	5
Between Averham Weir & Winthorpe on the Newark Dyke	4	6.5	3.5
Downstream	8	13	7