

Replacement of Godstow Trout Weir, Oxfordshire (River Thames)

February 2022



*Visualisation of planned weir replacement
Source: Environment Agency*

Works starting in March 2022

We are now in the final stages of planning the construction works at Godstow. The weir will take approximately six months to build. The new weir structure will include a channel for fish and eels (to travel upstream) and a new access walkway for our staff.

In March we will establish the construction site close to the weir. As part of this we will conduct environmental and archaeological surveys to check for any protected species and record what is on site. We will start to remove the Victorian garden features on the Trout Inn island (for safekeeping) and begin making a route across the Trout island, by laying stone. After this we will dam the weir stream and start to build elements of the new weir and remove sections of the old weir.

While we work our site compound will be located in the Godstow Nunnery site.

Throughout construction most of our deliveries will be routed through Wytham from the A34 to our site. During this time, we expect local businesses to remain open, including the Trout Inn.

Impact on Navigation

Due to the enclosed nature of our site, we will have to bring machinery and materials across the navigable channel. We are working with our Waterways colleagues to limit disruption to the boating community. Whilst establishing the works site, there will be a few days where we will require a river closure of up to 6 hours. Dates will be published here, via our Harbour Master's Notices and on the River Restrictions page on gov.uk.

After this there will be restrictions in place, to allow us to move materials across the river. This will mean that through this short stretch of river, we will use a traffic light and one lane system at Godstow Bridge. Boats may need to wait temporarily to navigate through the bridge.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

As we progress into the construction, there will be times when we are pumping concrete across the channel, we expect this to have limited impact on navigation.

Throughout the week (Mon-Fri) the navigating upstream arch will be closed. At weekend both arches will be open. We ask all boaters to exercise caution when navigating the river at this time due to obstructions on Godstow reach.

Smaller boats can avoid this section of the River Thames by using the Osney to King's section of the Oxford Canal.

Thames Path

We have applied for a short footpath diversion around our compound, to ensure the safety of walkers on the Thames Path. Please follow signage on site.

Contact us

If you would like to know more, please contact nicola.shorter@environment-agency.gov.uk or call 03708 506 506. Or visit the Trout Inn and have a look at our information boards on the terrace.