

NOTICE TO MARINERS No.M71 of 2011

KINGS REACH

BLACKFRIARS RAIL AND ROAD BRIDGES

NO 3 ARCHES CLOSED TO NAVIGATION

Further to Notice to Mariners M4 2010 and M70 2011, contractors working on behalf of Network Rail will continue to work various craft at Blackfriars Rail and Road Bridges.

By 22:00 hours on the 30th of October 2011 the barges and equipment currently occupying No 2 arch of Blackfriars Road and Rail Bridges will be removed. However No 2 arch will remain closed and closed arch signs will continue to be displayed.

Hydrographical survey of No 2 arch and subsequent analysis of the data will then take place to determine if any changes to the depths have occurred. When it has been confirmed that it is safe to navigate, No 2 arch will be opened to navigation by the Harbour Master. This will be broadcast by London VTS on VHF channel 14 and the closed arch signs removed. This is anticipated to occur at approximately 18:00 hours on 31st October 2011.

After No 2 arch has been opened and subject to 2 hours notice also broadcast by London VTS, No 3 arch will be closed and closed arch signs will be exhibited. A number of other barges / craft will then occupy No 3 arch which will remain closed until on or about 29th February 2012.

During the night two navigable arch closures will continue only within the parameters described in Notice to Mariners M70 2011, Night Time Arch Closure to Navigation.

Arches closed to navigation will be marked on the downstream side of Blackfriars Rail Bridge and from the adjacent arch on the upstream side of Blackfriars Road Bridge in accordance with the Port of London Authority River Byelaws 1978 (as amended) namely:

- By day, three red discs 0.6 metres in diameter at the points of an equilateral triangle with the apex downwards and the base horizontal.
- By night, three red lights in similar positions to the discs displayed by day unless otherwise stated in M70 2011.
- Isophase lights in arch No.3 at Blackfriars Rail and Road bridges will not be operational throughout this period.

Construction barges will display the lights and shapes as prescribed in Rule 27 of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 namely:

- By day, three black shapes in a vertical line the highest and lowest of which are balls and the middle one a diamond.
- By night, three all-round lights in a vertical line the highest and lowest of which are red and the middle one white.

Because craft engaged in construction operations will be working within all arches, it is not always safe to suspend the Arch Closure Sign in the center of the Arch as set out in Byelaw 29. Instead, an arch closure sign will be displayed in such a position so as to be clearly visible to navigating craft.

Isophase lighting on No3 arches at Blackfriars rail and road bridges will not be operational for the period of this closure.

Additionally, safety boats will be in attendance and maintaining a continuous VHF watch on Channel 14.

Further details will be broadcast by London VTS on VHF Channel 14.

Persons in charge of vessels are to navigate with particular care and proceed at slow speed when passing the works.

12 October 2011

Port of London Authority
London River House
Royal Pier Road
Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2BG

**DAVID PHILLIPS
CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER**



EXPIRY DATE: March 2012
TO RECEIVE FUTURE NOTICES TO MARINERS BY E-MAIL,
PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE www.pla.co.uk

Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich.



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