

Proposed renewal of Radcot and Northmoor weirs.

You may have heard that the weirs at Radcot and Northmoor are due to be replaced. Following a recent meeting with Adrian Swift of the EA I can give you more details of what is going to happen.

Work will begin the week after Easter. A coffer dam will be constructed to close off half of the weir so that work can go ahead on constructing the new modern weir. This means that control of the water levels in the Radcot and Northmoor reaches will be severely limited as they will be restricted to half the present weir!

The problems which are likely to arise will be mainly due to high levels rather than high flow rates. For example you may decide to take a weekend trip down river only to find the next day that the water above Radcot has gone 'out of banks' and you cannot get back under Radcot bridge. The same applies to Northmoor and Newbridge.

To try to minimise any problems Adrian is trying to organise an 'early warning system' by way of text messages via mobile phones. The system is not yet finalised but I will let you know as soon as it is.

Meanwhile, if you do get marooned away from home, the EA are allowing the use of any of their moorings FREE of charge for the duration of the high water levels. It would also be helpful if you let me know that you cannot get back to your mooring and where you are currently moored, I can let the EA via Adrian know and we may be able to assist. You can contact me by VHF on Channel 77 (Black Sapphire) or my mobile 07973638866

The work will go on for 2 seasons with half the weir being replaced this season and the other half next year.

Unfortunately this is work which has got to be done but rest assured that everyone is doing their best to minimise any problems so please don't moan too much to our Lock Keepers!

Dennis Hill