

Port of Wisbech Authority – Nene Ports

16th November 2017

VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

In the absence of a formal VTS within the area of jurisdiction of the Port of Wisbech Authority (Nene Ports), the following standard operating and reporting procedures are to be followed by all in command of craft within Wisbech Port Authority Area of Jurisdiction.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE IN COMMAND OF CRAFT NAVIGATING THE TIDAL RIVER NENE AND ITS APPROACHES TO ENSURE SAFE PASSAGE AND TO COMPLY WITH THE I.R.P.C.S (COLREGS).

PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO RULES 9(b) and 9(d) CONCERNING MEETING LARGER VESSELS IN A CHANNEL OR FAIRWAY.

All vessels over 20m LOA are subject to compulsory pilotage and no commercial cargo ships have exemption.

Passage Planning.

Those in command of vessels must make themselves aware of any commercial shipping movements before commencing a passage.

Information in this regard can be obtained by:-

- a) a prior, listening watch on VHF 09
- b) enquiry of the Harbour Office on VHF 09 / 01945 588059 / 07860 576685

- N.B. i) Ship movements generally occur between HW less 2h 30m and HW.
ii) The pilot cutter in service can indicate ship impending movements.
iii) Beware ships and small craft to and from Wisbech transiting Cross Key Swing Bridge.
iv) Ships for Port Sutton Bridge often swing at the river mouth and proceed stern first to the port.

VHF Reporting - Standard Operating Procedure.

VHF REPORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO:-

1. HARBOUR OFFICE or
2. BROADCAST "All Stations River Nene....."

and according to the passage being undertaken as described below.

Sutton Bridge to / from Sea

Before, during and after vessel movements, reports, preceded by the vessel's name should be transmitted on VHF 09 as follows:-

1. Before leaving berth or mooring / in buoyed channel, including passage intentions.
2. When passing positions: a) EAST KNOCK LIGHT BUOY, b) BIG TOM P/H BEACON, inward or outward.
3. When secure alongside on berth or mooring.

Sutton Bridge to Wisbech.

1. Before leaving berth or mooring, including passage intentions.
2. On passing Cross Keys Swing Bridge. OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNALS.
3. When passing positions: a) Ferry Corner, b) Port Hand Beacon 'DRAKES'.
4. When approaching Wisbech Yacht Harbour or Crab Marsh Boatyard.

N.B. Make Wisbech mooring arrangements with the Harbour Office before making passage.

Wisbech to Sutton Bridge or to Sea.

1. Before leaving berth.
2. When passing positions: a) Ferry Corner, b) PYLONS.
3. On approach to Cross Keys Swing Bridge. OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNALS.
4. When secure on berth at Sutton Bridge or if to sea, when passing positions:
a) DOUBLE REDS, b) LIGHTHOUSES.

Meeting Ships.

Therefore, when encountering ships **Rule 9 - Narrow Channels**, contact with the pilot must be made, particularly if turning at the river end or turning basins. All vessels must stand to with a safe distance of 250m and await further instructions from the Pilot's.

If passing or if in **doubt** as to the ship's intentions the working channel remains VHF 09 contact should be made to pilots.

Similarly, contact can be made with harbour craft when on service. Pilot cutters are 'Nene Pilot' and 'Fenland Pilot', the tug 'Fenlander' and survey vessel 'Nene Surveyor'.

J HEMMING
Harbour Master
Port of Wisbech Authority (Nene Ports).
01945 588059