LOWESTOFT HARBOUR

International Collision Regulations apply to all craft, who are requested to make contact with Harbour Control on VHF Channel 14 or by phone 01502 572286. Sailing vessels and (if under 20m) other vessels must not impede larger vessels only able to navigate within a narrow channel. All vessels must observe the International Port Traffic Signals located on the South Pier extension and in the Yacht Marina – three vertical red lights: vessels shall not proceed; green, white, green vertical lights: vessels may proceed with specific consent; this applies to both entering and leaving harbour. See the port’s Notices to Mariners on its website www.abpmarine.co.uk/Marine/Short_Sea_Ports/Lowestoft/Notices_to_Mariners/ (see opposite for view of harbour).

Visitor moorings are available at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club Marina. All vessels entering and leaving should proceed with extreme caution, due to restricted visibility, and obey the light signals and permissions described above. No craft should attempt to leave the Marina without first obtaining clearance from Harbour control, and must obey the exit signals on the east side of the Marina entrance.

Lowestoft Harbour Bridge Small craft passing under the bridge have a clearance at mean high water springs of 2.2m at the centre of the arch. This road bridge will not open during rush hours and prior arrangement is required with Lowestoft Harbour Control on VHF Channel 14. There is a Waiting Pontoon in the Trawl Dock. Pleasure craft may be required to form ‘flotillas’ to pass under the bridge.

Bridge openings may take place at 10 specified times (11 at weekends) every 24 hour-period, subject to 20 minutes notice. Navigation in the bridge channel is controlled on Channel 14 and by red and green-white-green lights on the bridge. General port details are available from plans D and E on Admiralty chart 1535 and see www.lowestofthavenmarina.co.uk/navigation for further details regarding transit.

MUTFORD LOCK

Mutford Lock, connecting Oulton Broad with Lowestoft Inner Harbour (Lake Lothing) and the North Sea, is operated by Sentinel Leisure Trust staff on behalf of the Broads Authority.

The lock, which is not available to hire craft, has safe usable dimensions of 22m x 6.5m.

Vessels up to 2m draught will be able to cross Lake Lothing and enter the lock at mean low water springs, but craft drawing in excess of 1.5m may find difficulty in crossing Oulton Broad near low water. Account should be taken of the Oulton Broad tide which is approximately four hours after Great Yarmouth with a mean range of 0.7m.

Advance notice is required for passage through the lock and, if necessary, the lifting of the adjacent Mutford road bridge and swinging of the Carlton rail bridge located close eastward (clearance 2.39m and 4.57m at mean high water springs respectively); as much notice as possible in the case of the lock and preferably 24 hours in the case of the bridges.

Vessels seeking to transit the lock should contact lock control by telephone 01502 531778 or the Oulton Broad Yacht Station on 01502 574946. VHF Channel 73 is the working frequency for both with callsigns ‘Mutford’ and ‘Oulton’ respectively. VHF Channel 14 is monitored on an occasional basis when the lock is staffed during the following times:

April – October:
- Monday-Friday: 08.00-12.00 and 13.00-17.30
- Weekends and Bank Holidays: 08.00-12.00 and 13.00-19.30

November – March:
- 08.00-11.00 except Dec 25-26 and Jan 1 (closed)
- If any vessel gives notice by VHF/telephone before 16.00 on Sats/Suns/Public Hols (May-Sept) that it requires to use the lock, staff will remain until 19:30, enabling an inbound craft transiting the Lowestoft Harbour Bridge on a booked lift at 18.00 on those days to pass through Mutford Lock that evening.

The lock keeper will arrange for the opening of the adjacent bridges if necessary.

Craft entering from seaward may moor at the floating pontoon outside the lock and await instructions from the lock keeper. A charge of £13 per vessel is levied for each lock transit or day return. In addition, Broads Authority tolls are payable on the inward transit, the amount depending on the size of the vessel and the length of the stay. Short Visit Tolls for 7, 14, 21 and 28 days are available from Oulton Broad Yacht Station.

The Mutford Lock transit charge also covers visiting vessels for use of Oulton Broad (only) on the day of entry and up to midnight on the day following. For longer stays or to cruise further into the system a Short Visit Toll remains payable. Craft entering the Broads via Mutford Lock with a fixed air draught will be confined by fixed bridges at Haddiscoe (7.32m clearance), St Olaves (2.44m clearance) and Beccles (3.66m clearance); clearance given is at mean high water springs.