

From: @environment-agency.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 April 2022 13:07
To: Clerk; Assistant Clerk
Subject: Goring Lock and Thames Path works

Dear Sir or Madam

I am Project Manager for planned works at Goring Lock this year, including:

- Refurbishment of areas on the Lock Island
- Repairs to the banks leading to the Paddle and Rymer Weir
- Resurfacing of the Thames Path and the 24 hours moorings downstream of the lock - 200m section of Thames Path running from the lock downstream to grassy area leading to Ferry Lane.

I had written earlier this year, but it appears we had the wrong address on our records, and I have now referred to the council website for the addresses used in this email.

Our works are planned to start on Monday 9th May, and in particular I am writing to you today in particular regards the Thames Path resurfacing, which we forecast to take 4-5 weeks..

We have arranged a path closure with the county council, and I attach our planned diversion route which I believe is typically used for other works and when the path is flooded.

Today it has come to my attention that the Goring Gap Run is scheduled to take place on Sunday 15th May, and I am corresponding with the Thames Path Manager and race organiser to capture their opinions. A delay by a week is not unfeasible to allow the run to continue on its planned route, but there are a few wider considerations so we can make sure we choose the appropriate option for reputational management on all sides. Aside from checking with our contractor on cost implications, these include:

- If starting on the 9th, and conditions and progress were good, we may be able to re-open the path by Jubilee weekend, so benefitting boaters and locals. This is unlikely if delayed by a week.
- A reason for replacing the path surface is its poor condition and that it is known to get slippery when wet. If weather conditions are poor, the diversion could be safer for runners
- An issue with the diversion is more road/pavement travel and so that may provide more disturbance for residents and traffic, and potentially reduce safety of runners

Please could the appropriate councillor(s) provide any thoughts regards diverting the run, and/or any requirements they would like in place for a diversion be it for the run and/or for the general public. We will of course make sure appropriate signage is in place, but would be grateful for any additional advice and recommendations.

A call and/or site meeting involving our project team and external stakeholders may be useful and I will be happy to arrange that for a suitable time.

I should also mention, we are aware of the disruption the closure may cause to boaters who planned mooring there, and so are looking at completing the work in the quickest possible time.

I would also like to share with you our proposed plans for the path, to make sure you are happy with our proposals. Our detailed design is in progress, but outlined at the moment is the following:

- Key specifications are non-slip, low-carbon, and able to withstand annual flooding
- The proposed material is Aggregate Industries Super Low (link here <https://www.aggregate.com/superlow>)
- Our planned colour is asphalt black/grey, so it would look similar to the car park surface below. The county council's countryside access officer was happy with this proposal, but please let me know your thoughts too

- For note, while we will be improving the ground around the benches along the route, including for wheelchairs, we will not be removing or affecting the benches (I am aware some benches have arm rests missing, but there is concern over ongoing liability if we were to take on the repair)

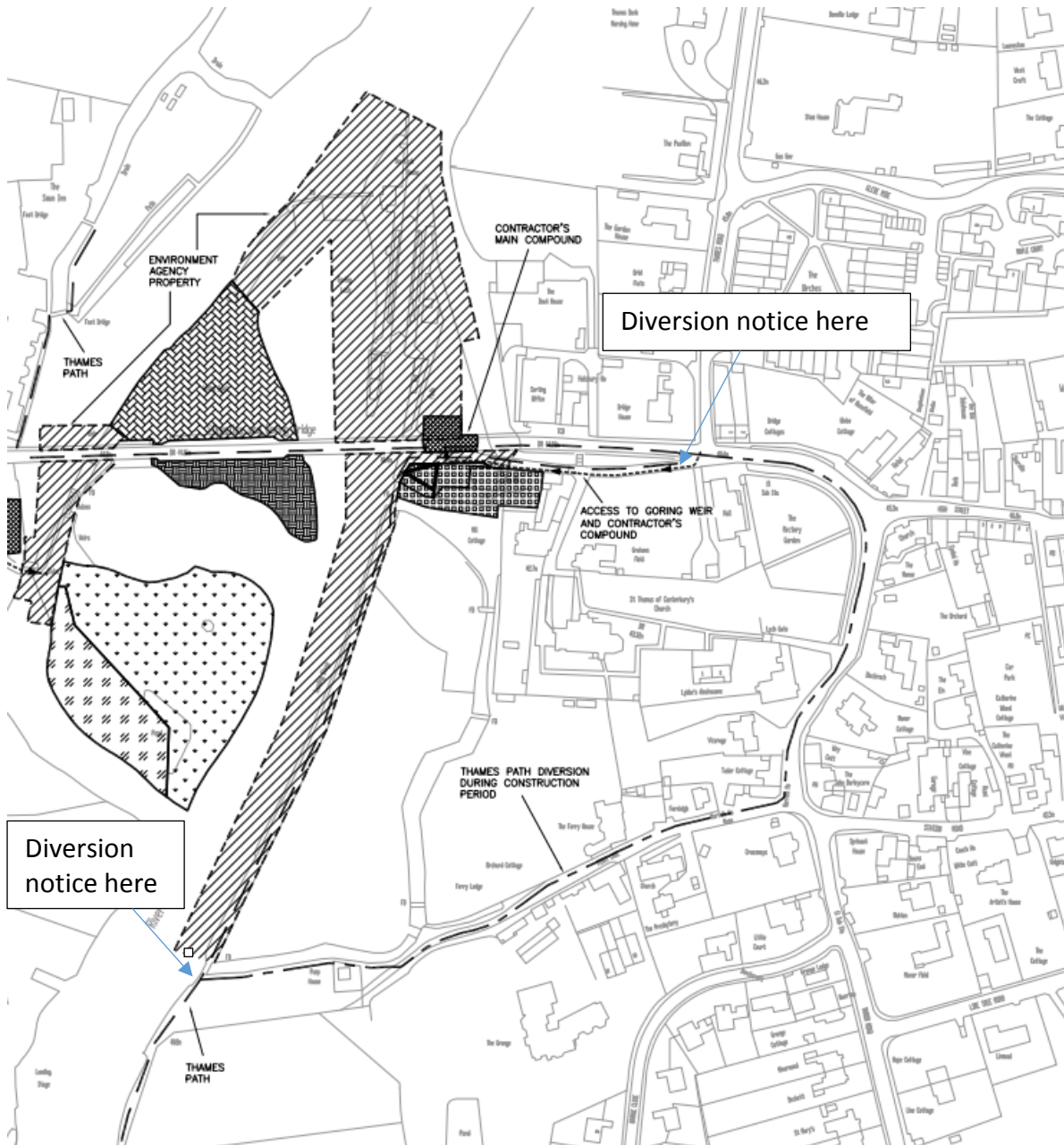
Please let me know if you have any comments or queries regarding this or any aspect of the works to be undertaken.



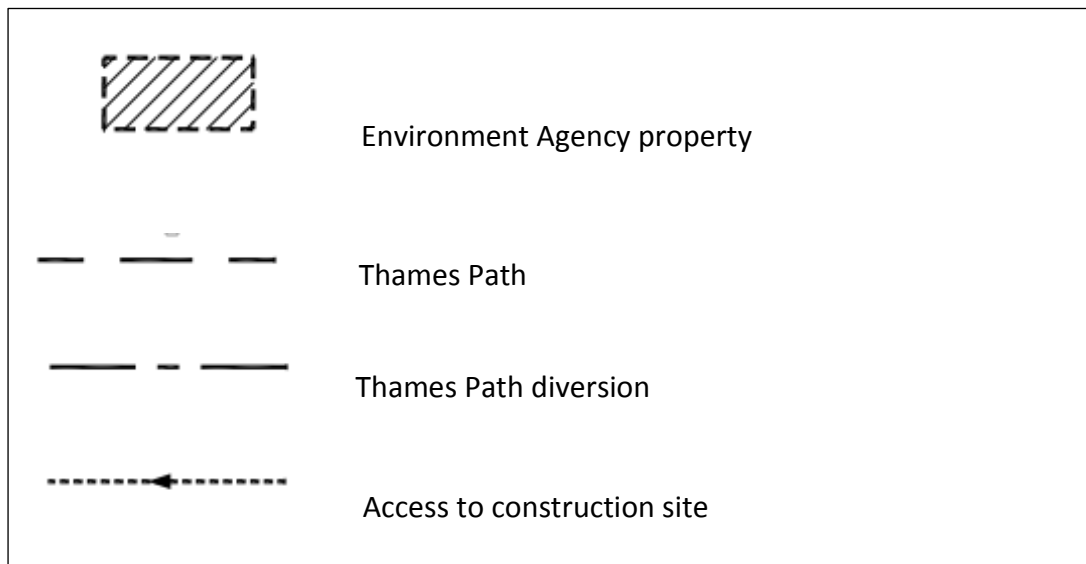
Many thanks

Environment Agency
@environment-agency.gov.uk
External: - Internal:
Mobile :

Goring Lock downstream towpath replacement – Thames Path diversion plan



Legend



- The Thames Path diversion will remain in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for approx 4 weeks. Start/finish date dependent on approval of application.
- In addition to at either end of the diversion, notices will be at numerous suitable locations along the diverted route to direct the public.
- Prior to works, notices will be displayed at the lock site advising the public of forthcoming closure.
- Residents requiring access for on the construction site access route will not be impacted, and be advised in advance of works.
- The diversion is along a public footpath/route. This is a recognised diversion previously used by the public when lock works have been undertaken and/or the Thames Path is flooded.