

PORT OF LOWESTOFT HARBOUR DIRECTIONS

These Harbour Directions are given by Associated British Ports, Harbour Authority for the port of Lowestoft

Explanatory provisions

A) Status

- a) These Harbour Directions are made in accordance article 41 of the Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020, for the purpose of imposing the relevant requirements of the Scheme of Operation for Lake Lothing Third Crossing on the Masters of vessels.
- b) These Harbour Directions are given the force of law by statute and by virtue of the Harbour Authority having been designated a harbour authority with the power to give harbour directions pursuant to the Harbours Act 1964 as amended by the Marine Navigation Act 2013.
- c) These Harbour Directions are complimented by the requirements set out in the Lowestoft Harbour Byelaws 1993, as amended by the Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020 and in the statutory provisions from which the Harbour Authority derives its authority. Further information about the new bridge, to be known as the Gull Wing Bridge, and details of how to communicate with the LTTC operator can be found in appropriate marine publications, including Admiralty List of Radio Signals Volume 6.
- d) In construing and complying with these Harbour Directions, regard should be had to relevant Notices to Mariners and Pilotage Directions applicable for the Port as updated from time to time.

B) Compliance and enforcement

- e) It is the responsibility of the Master of a Ship to ensure compliance with these Harbour Directions to the full extent that they concern the Master's Ship.
- f) Compliance with these Harbour Directions is not required to the extent required otherwise by a Special Direction.
- g) Failure to ensure compliance with these Harbour Directions without reasonable excuse is an offence for which the Master of a Ship may be prosecuted by the Harbour Authority.
- h) Compliance with these Harbour Directions may be excused by a Harbour Master if the Master or Pilot of a Ship reasonably believes that compliance with these Harbour Directions would endanger safety of life, significant property including their own Ship or another vessel, or the environment. Where such reasonable belief exists, the Master or Pilot shall seek immediate guidance in advance from the Harbour Master (or his/her Deputy, as applicable), such requirement to seek immediate guidance in advance only being waived where, due to the extreme urgency of the situation, it is not possible to seek advance guidance from the Harbour Master.

Part 1 - Definitions and interpretation:

- 1)** In these Harbour Directions words and expressions have the following meanings:
 - i. **“Commercial Ship”** – means any Ship which is not a Recreational Craft;
 - ii. **“the council”** – means Suffolk County Council of Constantine House, 5 Constantine Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2DH;

- iii. **“the Gull Wing Bridge”** means the bridge authorised as the Lake Lothing Third Crossing by the Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020;
- iv. **“the Gull Wing Bridge Channel”** means the navigation channel running between the two piers supporting the Gull Wing Bridge;
- v. **“the Gull Wing Bridge Operator”** – means the person appointed, from time to time, by the Council to operate the Gull Wing Bridge;
- vi. **“Harbour”** – means the port of Lowestoft over which the Harbour Authority has jurisdiction within the limits shown on the attached plan;
- vii. **“Harbour Authority”** – means Associated British Ports, in which are invested under an Act of Parliament, or an order or other instrument made under such an Act, powers or duties of improving, maintaining and managing the Harbour;
- viii. **“Harbour Master”** – means any person appointed as such by the Harbour Authority, including the deputies and assistants of the person so appointed, and any other person or employee of the Harbour for the time being authorised by the Harbour Authority to act, either generally or for a specific purpose, in the capacity of Harbour Master;
- ix. **“LPS”** – means the local port service acting on behalf of the Harbour Master to improve port safety and co-ordination of port services by dissemination of port information to Ships and berth or terminal operators within the Harbour;
- x. **“Recreational Craft”** – means a Ship of less than 24 metres in length overall which, regardless of its means of propulsion, is intended for sports or leisure purposes;
- xi. **“Scheme of Operation”** - means the document of that description as referenced in Schedule 14 of the Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020 certified by the Secretary of State as the scheme of operation for the purposes of the Order, or any variation to or replacement of that scheme approved by the harbour authority or the undertaker under article 41(2) of the Order, or by the Secretary of State under article 41(5), as the case may be;
- xii. **“Ship”** – includes every description of vessel used in navigation, seaplanes on the surface of the water and hovercraft within the meaning of the Hovercraft Act 1968;
- xiii. **“Small Ship”** – means a Commercial Ship of less than 24 metres in length overall.

Part 2 - General

2) Commencement

These harbour directions come into force on 5th September 2024

3) Application

These Harbour Directions apply to all Ships when entering and leaving the Harbour and when within the Harbour.

4) Harbour Master Communications

- a) Unless stated otherwise, any communication with the Harbour Master required by any of these Harbour Directions may be made by VHF radio or by any other appropriate means. Contact details for the Harbour Master are as follows:

Lowestoft: Bridge Control Building, Station Square, Lowestoft, NR32 1BA, Tel. 01502 572286, VHF Channel 14 (as may be amended by the Harbour Master from time to time)

- b) Unless stated otherwise, LPS acts with the full authority of the Harbour Master and any communication to, from or with LPS is deemed to be a communication to, from or with the Harbour Master.

Part 3 - Requirements in accordance with the Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020

5) Navigation through the Gull Wing Bridge Channel

Ships, other than those which have been permitted under Direction 7(b)(iv) to pass under the Gull Wing Bridge without a bridge opening, must not pass through the Gull Wing Bridge Channel until—

- a) the Gull Wing Bridge is fully opened, and
- b) the Gull Wing Bridge traffic signal system signifies with green / white / green lights that it is safe to pass through the Gull Wing Bridge Channel, and
- c) permission for the transit has been given by the Gull Wing Bridge Operator.

and in approaching and passing through the Gull Wing Bridge Channel must observe any navigational marks provided by the Harbour Authority.

6) Flotillas

- a) The Harbour Master may direct Small Ships and Recreational Craft which intend to pass under the Gull Wing Bridge to proceed in a flotilla formation.
- b) The following Direction 6(c) and 6(d) apply to all Small Ships and Recreational Craft proceeding in a flotilla formation through the Gull Wing Bridge Channel.
- c) All such Ships must make every effort to-
 - i. co-ordinate their requirements with LPS;
 - ii. proceed in close formation; and
 - iii. ensure that the time taken to pass through the Gull Wing Bridge Channel is reasonable, safe and kept to the minimum.
- d) If the Gull Wing Bridge traffic signal system continues to display three red lights a Ship must not proceed until instructed by the Gull Wing Bridge Operator, keeping clear of vessels using the Gull Wing Bridge Channel and the approaches to it.

7) Passage of Ships under the new bridge

- a) This Direction applies to Ships passing under the Gull Wing Bridge without a bridge opening.
- b) Prior to passing under the Gull Wing Bridge all ships must-
 - i. where it is safe and practicable to do so, lower any masts and aerials;

- ii. have regard to the real time air draft display boards and advice provided by the Gull Wing Bridge Operator to ensure adequate air draft clearance is available between the ship and the Gull Wing Bridge;
- iii. provide the Gull Wing Bridge Operator with confirmation of the air draft of the Ship;
and
- iv. obtain permission form the Gull Wing Bridge Operator to pass under the Gull Wing Bridge.

ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS - PORT OF LOWESTOFT HARBOUR DIRECTIONS, 15th August 2024.