



East Coast Rivers Cruising Companion

by Janet Harber

20th Edition

Update No. 4 – April 2021

CAUTION

These updates should only be used for navigation in conjunction with up-to-date charts, chart plotters and Notices to Mariners, etc. We accept no liability for any errors or omissions, or for any accidents or mishaps which may arise from the use of this (or any) update or the original publication.

Chapter 3 ORFORD RIVER

pp. 28, 29, 30: The Entrance

In early April 2021, following a Trinity House survey, the entrance buoys were laid in the following positions (liable to change):

Orford Haven SWM 52° 02'.00N 01°28'.20E

Oxley (port-hand) 52° 02'.02N 01° 27'.96E

Weir (s'board-hand) 52° 02'.22N 01° 27'.60E

For the latest position of these buoys check with the Orford Quaymaster Philip Attwood, who can be contacted on 07528 092635 or call *Chantry* on VHF Ch 08.

pp. 27 and 33 Orfordness Lighthouse

The decommissioned lighthouse on Orfordness was finally demolished in 2020, by which time the North Sea was encroaching its foundations.

Chapter 5 THE RIVER DEBEN

pp. 43, 44, 45, 46: Entrance

Please note that the Deben entrance in 2021 is considerably changed from previous years. Exiting the river is now potentially more difficult than entering.

On April 14th, after laying the entrance buoys in their 2021 positions, Harbourmaster John White gave this advice for those leaving the river:

“We moved the buoyage at the Deben entrance yesterday, the bar has moved to the south and to the west. This means that **when leaving the river you have no sight of the buoyage until you are well down past the rocks on the west side.** There is a beacon on the

beach about 100yds past the last of the rocks and there is a shallow patch of about 1metre LW springs when you get to be abreast of that. You may then head for the Mid Knoll buoy passing it on its correct side.

The bar is very shallow from the Knoll Spit until West Knoll at the moment, probably only 0.7metres.”

April 2021 positions of the Woodbridge Haven and three seasonal buoys (liable to be moved):

Woodbridge Haven

SWM 51° 57'.99N 01° 23'.63E

West Knoll 51° 58'.42N 01° 22'.10E

Knoll Spit 51° 58'.51N 01° 23'.14E

Mid Knoll 51° 58'.55N 01° 23'.20E



The three Knoll entrance buoys are very close to the beach this year. The Knoll Spit (port-hand) buoy and the Mid Knoll (starboard-hand buoy) can be seen in this photo, taken on April 23rd from the Cliff car park at Felixstowe.

John White's website: www.debenestuarypilot.co.uk has a very useful downloadable guidance map showing the above information in more detail. This site should always be consulted for the latest situation as the **position of these buoys is very liable to change at**

short notice. You can also contact John White on 07803 476621 or call *Odd Times* on VHF Ch 08.

closures for repairs. It may be useful to know that when either of these two bridges is out of action Qinetiq post status alerts on Twitter.

Chapter 8 THE RIVER STOUR

p. 82 Mistley, The Quay

The inhabitants of Mistley have won their 12-year battle to acquire ‘Village Green’ status for part of Mistley Quay. In February 2021 the Supreme Court ruled in their favour. Save The Quay say that ‘the fence on the edge of the Quay will not be removed as a consequence but it is now an unlawful obstruction on the Village Green and steps can, and will, be taken to remove it.’

Chapter 10 THE RIVER COLNE

pp. 94, 95, 96 and 97 Brightlingsea Creek and Port Guide

Showers and laundry facilities are now available at the Waterside Marina in the residential development.

Access code provided by the Harbour Office.

The Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners have produced a Visitor Guide for 2021. It contains advice and a chartlet for the entrance, water taxi details, local tide tables and other useful information.

The guide is downloadable from

www.brightlingseaharbour.org/visitors

p. 98 Ballast Quay Fingringhoe

Sadly coasters no longer take sand to London as the Prior fleet has recently ceased trading.

Chapter 11 THE RIVER BLACKWATER

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pp. 104 and 105 Nass Beacon, Mersea Quarters

As part of a Native Oyster Restoration project six spat collectors, marked by six yellow marker buoys (flashing yellow), have been deployed on the seabed just under a mile ENE of the Nass Beacon. They are on the edge of the flats, about 500 metres from the Mersea shore.

These underwater structures are known as the Blackwater Restoration Box.

Chapter 12 THE RIVER CROUCH

pp. 120 and 121 Wallasea

The spoil unloading jetty at Ringwood Point on the Wallasea shore has been removed, which presumably means that no more spoil will be shipped in for the RSPB’s Wallasea Island Wild Coast project.

Chapter 13 THE RIVER ROACH AND HAVENGORE

pp. 136, 137 and 138 Potton Creek and The Havengore Route

In the past few years Havengore Bridge, and occasionally Potton Bridge, (managed by the MOD/Qinetiq) have been beset by unscheduled