

PRESS RELEASE

Dear Water User,

The floating pontoon on Coast Road, West Mersea, at low tide, has quite a serve tilt to it.

The seabed beneath the existing floating pontoon is being eroded on the front edge. As a result, at low tide the pontoon rests unevenly on the seabed and there are concerns that it will cause damage to the pontoon. We are shortly going to be undertaking works to the site. Piles will be inserted into the seabed and concrete panels inserted in between post. The wall is to be installed below the front face of the pontoon and the low areas are to be infilled with crushed rock. The aim of the wall is to prevent future erosion and to prolong the life of the pontoon.

To undertake this work, we will need to remove the hammerhead section out of its current position and moor it to the right-hand side of the pontoon looking out onto the water. We would look to keep the main stem part of the pontoon open through the duration of this work. The pontoon may need to be closed while the piling operation works are being undertaken.

I would ask that the adjacent moorings which are now empty of boats could be kept clear for the duration of work to aid the movement of the hammerhead section of the pontoon and for the works barge that is undertaking the work. This section is approximately 7m wide by 36m long.

We are looking to start the work **week commencing 13th February 2023**. The reason is that the piling can only be undertaken at low water, depending on the weather conditions, this may affect when works can be undertaken.

The works can only be undertaking at low tides which are: -

- 19 to 26 February
- 7 to 11 March
- 20 to 26 March
- 18 to 24 April

We are trying to complete the work by the end of March, but weather may affect the work. To undertake this work, we have had to apply for various licences from the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and Planning Permission from Colchester City Council, and permission to undertake the work over the winter period. There are several stipulations, in some periods of bad weather, we may have to stop work completely.

Please could I ask that all boats which are currently moored on the hammerhead of the pontoon and on the right-hand side of the pontoon to be removed by the evening of Sunday 12 February. Otherwise, the Council may have to make arrangements for the boats that are left to be moved.

This email has been sent to many waterside groups / businesses; please could I ask you to forward it to anyone associated with the water who uses the pontoon.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Stephen Collis, Colchester City Council.



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