

CRUISING NOTES- LOCAL HW & PASSAGE GUIDANCE

DIFFERENCES ON HIGH WATER HARWICH (from various sources)

NOTE All figures are approximate and may differ for Low Water. In addition, they vary with the date, ie the phase of the moon (springs to neaps), and may vary also with meteorological conditions, but are a useful guide

For accuracy refer to EAST COAST PILOT, a TIDAL ALMANAC or 'tides.willyweather.co.uk'

Lowestoft	-2.46 (hrs.mins)	Waldringfield	+0.20
Southwold	-1.45	Woodbridge	+0.45
Orford Bar	-0.25	Ipswich	+0.20
Orford Quay	+0.40	Mistley	+0.25
(The stream runs on for 45-50 minutes)		Hamford Water	+0.10
Slaughden Quay	+1.15	Brightlingsea	+0.15
Iken	+1.30	Bradwell	+0.20
Deben Bar	-0.15		

PASSAGES

Based on 5-6 knots through the water. Clearly wind direction, -running, reaching or beating- will make a difference. Calculate your own Passage time

Approximately

Orford Quay to Woodbridge/Melton

17 miles

Leave the mooring at HW bar -3 against the Flood to arrive at the bar at HW -2 to -1.30. After 4 miles to Deben Haven pass close to the outer Green Bouy into the channel at around local HW – 1. Then carry the Flood to Woodbridge

NB In onshore winds the seas build up on the bar. **It is unwise to attempt crossing in above around 16kts of Easterly wind**

Melton to Orford Quay

This cannot realistically be done by a yacht in one go. Either stay in the Tidemill overnight and leave as soon as you can cross the cill on the rising tide, or pick up a visitors buoy at Waldringfield or Ramsholt (tel Ian Moore). The aim should be to get to the Orford bar at HW. This gives you weak flood against you inshore and the flood still going up the river to the mooring

Orford Quay to Harwich or Pye End

13 miles + 3 to Hamford (add 5 from Levington)

Leave the mooring at HW bar -3 against the Flood to arrive at the bar at HW -2 to -1.30. The earlier you can cross the bar the better to carry remaining flood south. HW-2 on the Bar should take you as far as Harwich harbour before the tide changes. Levington is another 5 miles. Hamford (Oakley Creek) is 3 and Titchmarsh Marina 4 miles from the Pye End Buoy

Harwich or Pye End to Orford Quay (add for other departures as above)

To arrive at the Bar at local HWH as described above (from Woodbridge). passing Pye End around HWH –2 and making your way into the Felixstowe shore after passing the Platters bank. Then come out a bit to leave the Deben Channel Green buoy to Port Then proceeding north inshore again. This course escapes the worst of the tide.

Harwich to Brightlingsea/ Pyefleet/ Bradwell 20 miles

(add 5 for Levington and 5 for Bradwell)

Aim to arrive at Brightlingsea at HW (HWH +0.15) This enables you to cut across the sands on Colne point. As it's often a beat and the Wallet is known for short steep seas allow plenty of time in this event.

Bradwell is another 5 miles, but again you can cut across the Cocum Hills a bit to the north of the Inner Bench Head.

Brightlingsea/ Pyefleet/ Bradwell to Harwich 20miles

(add 5 miles from Levington and 5 to Bradwell)

Leave at about half an hour before HW to give you plenty of water over the sands (see above passage) and enter the Wallet. Depending on your speed over ground you will probably meet the ebb at Harwich still coming down the river.

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