CHARTLET FOR THE DEBEN ENTRANCE 2024 PLEASE READ AND TAKE NOTE -

Imray's first 2024 chartlet for the Deben entrance follows on the next page of this PDF.

It was drawn from a Trinity House survey carried out in April 2024. As usual, Imray specifically produced this chartlet solely for 'East Coast Pilot' with the approval of Trinity House.

As ever, this entrance remains subject to change during periods of strong onshore winds, and the advice given here and indeed the chartlet may have to be updated again during the course of the summer.

The lines shown between buoys on the chartlet are simply bearing lines to assist buoy spotting, they are not recommended courses between buoys.

The buoyed route is similar to last year's but has narrowed further. Remember there will be a cross-tide affecting use of the entrance, (from right to left on entry on the flood tide) so special care is needed, looking ahead and behind and choosing some suitable objects in transit on the shore to help stay on track

Current comments from readers are along the lines of "If you follow the buoys and don't cut corners and go in or out within an hour and half of high water you'll have no trouble. Usual cautions about cross tides apply. The entrance is narrow."

For now, without first-hand experience yet, we suggest the best advice is to time your passage no more than 2½ hours either side of HW, and to avoid the entrance altogether in periods of strong onshore winds.

As ever, sound advice for this river entrance is 'do not take liberties with it'!

Skippers needing any further advice on the spot can call ECP's local Honorary Port Pilot, and Deben Harbourmaster, John White, either on VHF Ch 08 callsign 'Odd Times', or by phone on 07803 476621.

Many thanks to Deben-based ECP reader John Ranson for the aerial photo taken on May 8th at 0.4m over CD.

East Coast Pilot 21st May 2024



