

Tides and when the Gigs float



Below you will find some hints on how to find and interpret the tides in the River Hamble which will enable you to work out when it is easy to get the Gigs off the mud/moorings and when you can re-moor them, and whether to bring wellies with you. There are, also, hints on what the curves mean. If it is all very obvious to you it may not be to others.

When can we go rowing?

We can, usually, go rowing from about 3.5 hours before Bursledon HW to about 4 hours after Bursledon HW. This is when the tidal height is above 2.5m. On the Rowing Diary tidal times are, generally, Bursledon HW or LW. PLW or PHW refer to Portsmouth times, which are up to 30 minutes before Bursledon.

One needs the following tidal heights to reach certain points. These heights can vary by as much as .3m depending on high or low pressure. So the rise or fall happens at the expected time but the height may be different. Higher with low pressure, lower with high pressure.

Botley Mill Pool	4.1m
Botley Quay	4.0m
Horse & Jockey	4.0m
The Fork at Fairthorne	3.5m

To moor and unmoor the boats one needs the following tidal heights. For unmooring this assumes that one can pull them off just before they float even if the bow is on the mud. For mooring it assumes that one can moor them and pull them back to their normal position.

	Unmoor	Moor
Downstream outer mooring	2.8m	3.1m
Downstream inner mooring	2.5m	2.8m
Upstream mooring	2.8m	3.2m

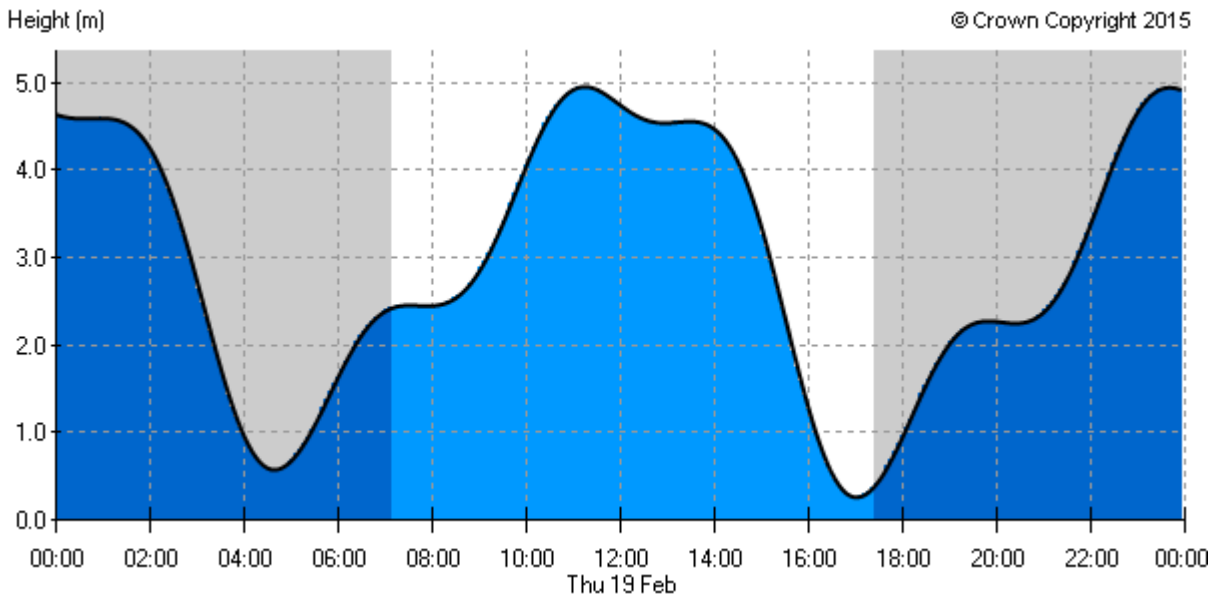
The jetty at the Jolly - One can get onto the last, downstream, outer corner of the jetty when the tidal height is 2.0m.

Understanding Tidal Curves for the River

The tides change with the moon, on a roughly 2 week cycle. Spring tides are when the tidal range will be highest, with the lowest low and the highest high. Neap tides are when the tidal range is smallest. The timings of high and low water progress to be later every day by about 40 minutes.

The highest tidal height we get in the River is about 5.0m and the lowest is about 0.3m. The speed of the incoming/outgoing tide can be as much as 3 knots in parts of the River, more at the double green posts below Hamble Point Marina and in the narrow channel above Bursledon Bridge. The ebb tide currents are faster than the flood tide currents. As a Gig has a maximum speed of about 5 knots you can see why we choose not to row against a stiff tide if we can help it.

On the next page you will see two tidal curves shown to illustrate various points.



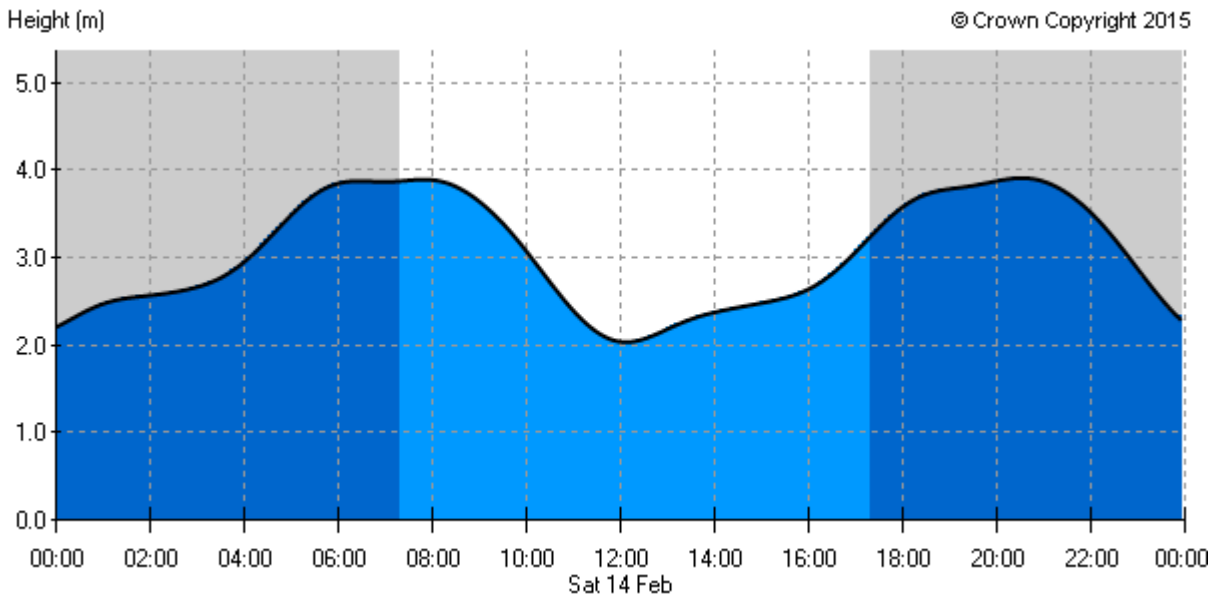
Thu 19 Feb		
HW	LW	HW
11:14	17:01	23:40
4.9 m	0.3 m	4.9 m

You will see, above, a curve for Bursledon on a Spring tide. It doesn't look like the normal sine wave you would expect because of the peculiar tides we get as water comes round both sides of the Isle of Wight.

Half way up the incoming tide you will see the Young tide stand, sometimes called the half tide stand. So it comes in and then stops. Unfortunately this stand is always at or below 2.5m and is why we sometimes have to wait on the pontoon for quite a long time, if we have come down during this stand.

You will see that there is little tide running from about 1030 to 1430. This is the High tide stand that we like to row on. You will also see that, on this day, the tide was coming in from about 0430 to 1100 (6.5 hours), standing until after 1400 and then all going out in 3 hours. The jetty would have been dry from about 1530 to about 1900. The morning young flood stand is at about 2.5m so we could have floated some Gigs at 0715 but, in the evening the young flood stand is at 2.3m so we would have had difficulty floating the Gigs before the stand was over at 2100.

On the next page you will see a curve for a Neap(ish) tide. You will see that the Low water is much higher at 2.0m and the High water much lower at 3.9m. The gradient of the curves is less steep which tells you that the tidal currents will not be as strong as at a Spring tide.



Sat 14 Feb		
HW	LW	HW
06:26	12:07	20:32
3.9 m	2.0 m	3.9 m

On the curve above you will see that the Young Flood stand is not as pronounced for Neap tides as for Springs. We could, probably, float the white Gigs off in the middle of the Young flood stand at about 1500. The High tide stand is, still, about 4 hours, but unusually the high at 20.32 is at the end of the High tide stand. It is, normally, at the beginning.

Finding these Tidal Curves for yourself

You can access these curves for yourself on Easytide the UK Hydrographic Office website by clicking on <http://www.ukho.gov.uk/easytide/EasyTide/SelectPrediction.aspx?PortID=0063B> This should take you to the Bursledon tides. (If not choose Bursledon on the map that may be displaye). It will show you, for free, the tidal curves for the next 7 days.

- Click on 'Predict'

On the right hand side there is a box with two items you can choose. In BST change the 'Daylight Saving' option to +1.

- Change the 'Max. Graph size' option from 7 days to 1 day

Scroll down through the graphs to the day you are interested in.

Read off the times when the Gigs will float and can be re-moored, and whether you will need wellies to push the boats off the mud.