

NOTICE TO MARINERS

№24 - 2019

HARBOUR AND PORT OF MANCHESTER

ROPE-ACCESS INSPECTION OF ACTON GRANGE VIADUCT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, with effect from 21 April 2019, a rope-access inspection of Acton Grange Viaduct will be undertaken.

Supported by the safety boat **ST05**, which will maintain a listening watch on VHF Ch.14 whilst on station, the inspection works will entail rope-access rigging being suspended underneath the Viaduct.

During the daily working period of 0800 to 1700, which will be confirmed to Eastham Port Control by the rope-access team, vessels must establish VHF contact with **ST05** on VHF Ch.14 at the following locations to notify their approach to the Viaduct and confirm their aircraft:

Inward Bound: On clearing the Mersey Gateway Bridge

Outward Bound: Prior to departure from Latchford Locks

If the vessel's aircraft is 16.94m or less, the rope-access team will ascend into the Viaduct structure, and their rigging will be hauled-up to a level not exceeding 2.5m below the soffit level of the Viaduct. The safety boat will take up a position close to the Canal bank immediately upstream of Guiding Light №230 whilst the vessel passes.

However, if the vessel's aircraft exceeds 16.94m, the rope-access team will descend from the Viaduct into the safety boat, and their rigging will be hauled-up to a level not exceeding 0.3m below the soffit level of the Viaduct. The safety

boat will take up a position alongside the Canal bank immediately upstream of Guiding Light N^o230 whilst the vessel passes.

Outside of the daily working periods, the rigging will be secured at a level not exceeding 0.3m below the soffit level of the Viaduct.

Whilst the inspection works are taking place, Mariners must navigate in the vicinity of Acton Grange Viaduct with all due care and caution and at dead slow speed through the water.

The inspection works are expected to last for up to four weeks. Upon completion of the works, a further Notice will be issued.