

## THE HARLEYFORD ESTATE

### INLAND MARINA ON THE RIVER THAMES

Walcon Marine has supplied the pontoons and walkways for a newly excavated marina basin on the River Thames. It is situated within the Harleyford Estate in southern England, some 30 miles west of central London.

The new infrastructure provides 146 berths for boats between 6 and 18 metres in length. The new basin joins an existing, Five Gold Anchor facility that has been in operation since 1970 with berths for 267 boats.



Planning for the new marina began in 2002, but obtaining the necessary permissions was a lengthy process. This was then followed by the excavation of the basin which was undertaken as a commercial enterprise involving the removal and sale of the underlying gravel.

So it was not until August 2016 that principal contractor Greenford Ltd arrived on site to undertake the installation and groundworks. The marina uses floating Walcon System 2000 pontoons, the majority of which are held in place by piles.





While the stretch of the Thames on which the marina lies is between two locks, the water level can still vary by up to a metre and flooding can occur.

Floating pontoons therefore give a margin of safety in the event of fluctuating water levels. They are also easier to maintain than the fixed berthing facilities often found on inland waterways. Power and water are available throughout.

Walcon worked closely with Estate Manager Mark Pearce to design a marina that took into account both the river environment and the need to use the available space efficiently.

In addition to the standard floating pontoons, ten articulated finger pontoons have also been installed. The articulation allows them rise and fall within a limited range, and by removing the need for a rear walkway they can be fitted in areas of limited space.

Four 'herringbone' finger berths were also specified for barges and narrowboats up to 18 metres long. By coming off the rear walkway at a 45° angle the distance that each protrudes into the basin is substantially reduced and the configuration also aids the boats with manoeuvring in and out of the basin.

Mark Pearce, Marina Manager at the Harleyford Estate, commented: "We are very pleased with the layout and new pontoons that Walcon has supplied. Our new berth holders are very impressed with the quality and space found in the new Lagoon. Walcon and Harleyford Estate have worked hard to ensure that the layout works well for boats from 6 metres up to 21 metre barges."

To view a time-lapse video of the marina being constructed, go to <https://youtu.be/glx43GI50Ys>



Pictured above, the original basin at Harleyford

### About the Harleyford Estate



*Located near Marlow in the county of Buckinghamshire, the Harleyford Estate is regarded as one of the most beautiful private country estates in the South of England. At the heart of the estate lies an 18th century grade 1 Listed Georgian manor house restored to an award winning standard in 1989. Parts of the grounds are attributed to the renowned 18th century landscape designer Capability Brown and have been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.*

*The marina lies within the grounds along with a number of riverside moorings, luxurious holiday homes, residential properties and a championship golf course. It has been owned by the same family since 1952.*

Founded in 1963, Walcon Marine is the market leader in the design, construction and installation of marinas, yacht harbours and berthing facilities around the world. As probably the longest established and most experienced company in its field, Walcon Marine is a global organisation with manufacturing facilities in the UK, Australia and Dubai. Its pontoons are now installed in over 30 different countries on five continents, and recent projects include the marina built at Portland on the south coast for England for the 2012 Olympics.

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