

Windermere Ferry



Important Windermere Ferry Update

Local Contractor NuMech

The Maintenance and Inspection works to Windermere Ferry have begun. We are pleased to be working with NuMech (Nuclear and Mechanical Engineering Services), a Cumbrian firm based in Workington, who will be the main contractor. The initial work has been to prepare the only slipway on Windermere for Mallard and for the contractor, NuMech to prepare for the works ahead.

Works done this week

The initial works underway have been focussed on preparing the slipway at Lakeside. This slipway is used by Windermere Lake Cruisers and the first task is to reconfigure the slipway bogies to take the very different hull shape of Mallard. Special beams have been collected from our Lillyhall depot and transported to Lakeside.

The Coming Week

From Monday 4 March the Ferry will be out of service and be handed over to the Contractor.

Work will then commence at Ferry Nab, Bowness side; Ferry House, Sawrey side and continue at Lakeside slipway.

The main task of towing Mallard down to the slipway is likely to take place on Wednesday morning. This operation involves using two of Windermere Lake Cruisers vessels either side of Mallard to manoeuvre and move Mallard down to the southern end of the lake.

Once installed on the slipway the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) will visit to begin the inspection works while the main contractor begins work on the key mechanical components.

Contact karl.melville@cumbria.gov.uk or check our website for further updates
cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/windermereferry.asp

FAQs

Why is the work needed?

The maintenance and inspection work is a requirement of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) to comply with the operator's licence.

Could the work be done at any other time of year?

The Operators Licence needs to be renewed by May 2019. The Inspection for the operators licence must be carried out within 3 months of this date. We have arranged the Maintenance and Inspection to be carried out in early March rather than May, as this is before the school holidays commence, and is at a time within the 3 months when the usage of the ferry is traditionally lower than at other times of the year.

What does the work involve?

The work involves the physical inspection of the hull; survey of the hull plate thickness and periodic maintenance of all the mechanical components (drive shaft, gearbox, hydraulic systems and engine).

Why wasn't the work done last year?

The work was unable to be completed last year this is because the inspection for the Operators Licence needs to be carried out within three months of May 2019. The slipway owner does not hire out the slipway during the summer for commercial priorities for their own vessels.

Why does the work take so long?

The service interruption is planned for 3 weeks. It takes a minimum of 2 days to remove Mallard from Ferry Nab and install on the slipway and 3 days minimum to return Mallard from the slipway back in to full service. This leaves the contractor with around 16 days (including weekends) to carry out the works.

What work will be done?

- The main shafts will be removed and all bearings and seals checked or replaced.
- The gearbox needs to be replaced with the spare unit
- Engine 2 requires a replacement cylinder head and "top end" rebuild.
- Engine 1 requires a 1000 hour service (tapets/valve adjustment, etc).
- The wheelhouse requires a new ceiling and floor coverings.
- Alterations to the PA system.
- Addition of a new Emergency Egress Gate off the main car deck.
- Installation of an additional self inflating life raft on the Northern side.
- Repainting of the whole vessel.
- Repairs to the Eastern lap board hinges.

Wasn't the engine replaced last year?

Yes one engine is a new engine but this has now reached its first major service interval (1000 hours)

Why is the work being done now?

Mallard is approaching 30 years old and has always been maintained on a 5 yearly major Inspection and maintenance frequency. The last inspection was in 2014.