

Update

Windermere Ferry

25 February 2019



Important Windermere Ferry Update

We're sorry but Windermere Ferry is being taken out of the water for its five-yearly refit and full inspection.

The ferry will be out of service from Monday 4 March 2019 for approximately three weeks. It is anticipated to be back in operation from Monday 25 March.

The inspection will be carried out by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) - the licencing body that provides the licence for the Windermere Ferry to run. This licence requires an out of water inspection to be carried out every five years. The inspection will include a review of the mechanical, electrical and operational records to ensure that the vessel (and the council as operator) is fit to continue providing the service.

The work will also include installing an emergency access platform to the side of the Mallard from the car deck. This would provide a safe means of evacuating passengers in an emergency as a direct cross-board to a vessel alongside. Additionally, the vessel will undergo a full re-paint, new graphics, rust treatment and the installation of a new PA system to improve the passenger experience.

Sadly this routine maintenance work was unable to be completed when the ferry was out of action following the engine fire last year - this was due to the timing that is required for the MCA inspection. The inspection and re-fit works will provide a new five year life for the Mallard without any further planned maintenance works.

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

The detail

The contract will begin on 25 February to prepare the slipway. The following is an indicative programme of work (but may be subject to some minor changes):

- Monday 4 March - prepare Mallard for removal from cables and tow to slipway.
- Tuesday 5 March - Tow to Lakeside and install on slipway.
- Main works period Midday 5 March until Wednesday 20 March (15 days).
- Thursday 21 March remove Mallard from slipway and tow back to Ferry Nab.
- Friday 22 March commissioning.
- Saturday 23 March handover to CCC.
- Sunday 24 March training with staff on the new Emergency Evacuation procedures using the Emergency Egress gate and a vessel alongside.

The main work to the ferry will include:

- Removal from the lake to the slipway at Lakeside.
- Hull inspection and proving of hull plating thickness.
- Power washing and painting of hull, deck and superstructure.
- Periodic maintenance of all mechanical components.
- Replacing of drive cables.
- Other maintenance.
- Safety improvements.

The above list comprises the minimum works to demonstrate to the MCA effective management and compliance of the Ferry vessel in line with their standards.

In addition we are also carrying out the following safety improvements:

- Install an Emergency Egress Gate from the car deck to improve safety.
- Install an additional life raft cage which will also improve safety of a vessel coming alongside for cross-boarding of passengers.



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.