



# YARMOUTH COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FLOOD PLAN (Revised 2022)

YARMOUTH PLAN CO-ORDINATOR: THE HARBOUR MASTER

Telephone (01983) 760321 (out of hours: 07909 524 277)

## AIM of PLAN

To help local people prepare for flooding and be resilient in times of flooding.

To produce a Plan dealing with the operational aspects of flooding: protecting life and property, and managing the flood.

## PLAN TEAM

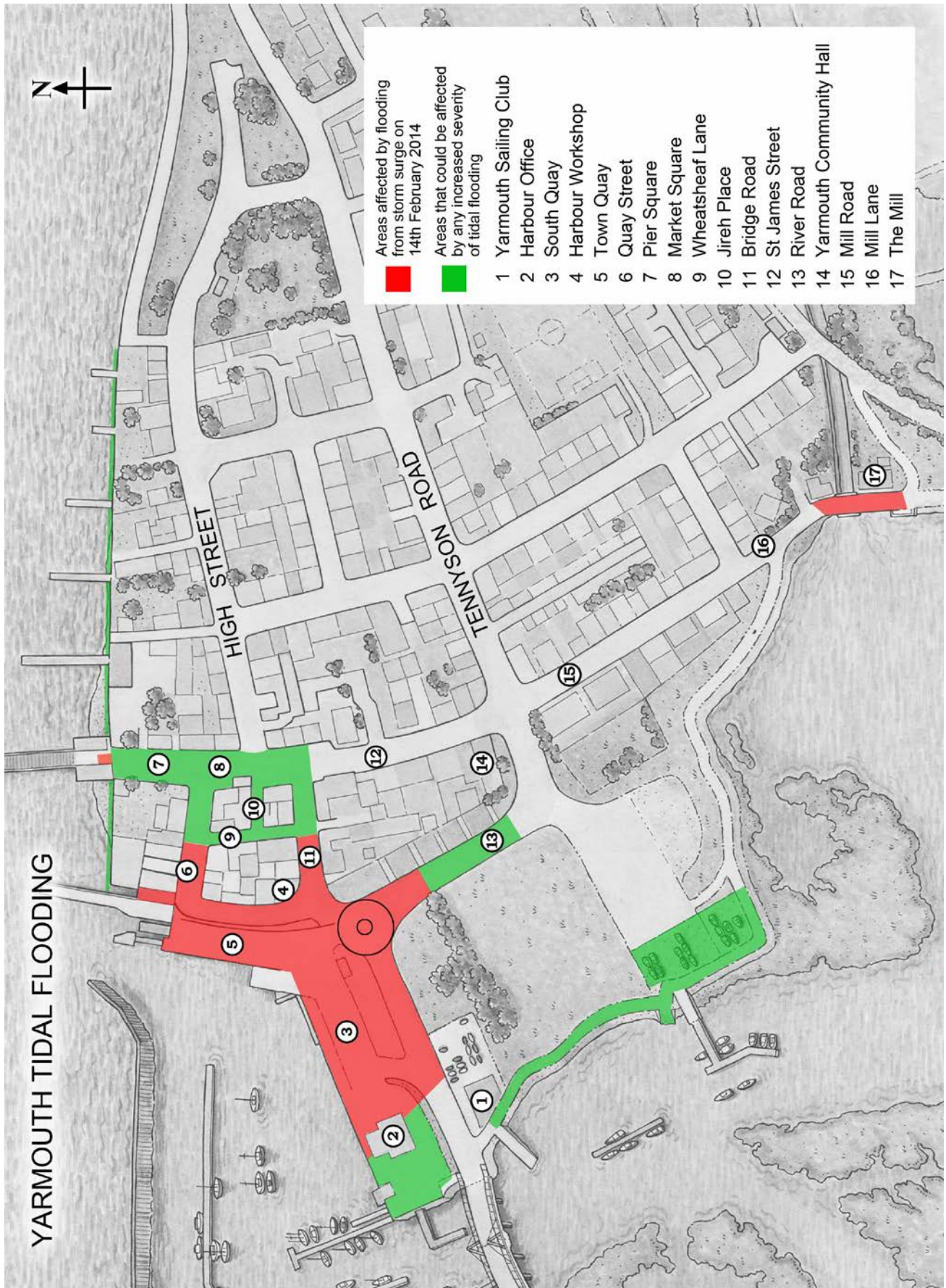
The initial Plan of 2013 was prepared by representatives of Yarmouth Town Council, Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners, and local residents. This revised Plan continues to be operated by such representatives, co-ordinated by Yarmouth Harbour Master.

The Plan deals with the present situation and will evolve and be revised in line with Yarmouth's future needs and developments.

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## MAP OF YARMOUTH TIDAL FLOODING



## ACTION PLAN IN ADVANCE OF TIDAL FLOODING INCIDENT

In recent decades Yarmouth tidal flooding has been caused by a storm surge coinciding with the highest tides of the year and low pressure. It is difficult to predict the frequency of storm surges in the decades to come. The winter 2013/14 was an exceptionally stormy season in the UK and in Yarmouth the frequency of major storm surges was much greater than had been experienced before (6 surges in 5 months but not all causing flooding due to lower tides and/or smaller surges). The previous major storm surge was in March 2008 but its effect was not as widespread in the town as that of February 2014.

The area coloured **RED** on the map on [page 2](#) has been affected in recent decades, the last serious incident occurred in 2014.

Predicted sea level rise (of even a fairly small rise of 10cm) could affect the area coloured **GREEN** in time.

### **Based on recent experience, owners of properties in both these areas are advised to:**

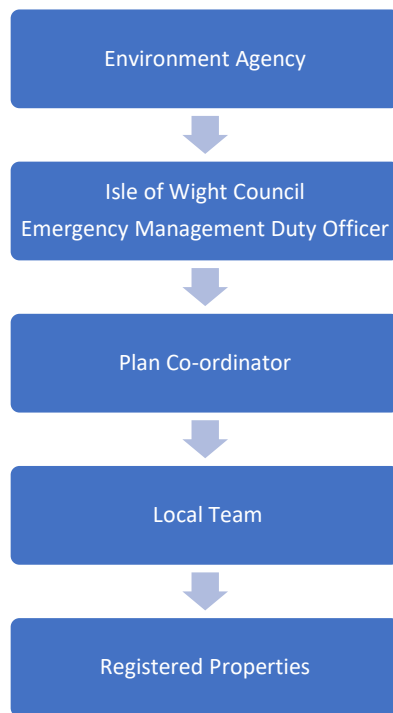
- register **NOW** to get a FREE automated phone message from the **Environment Agency's Floodline Alert/Warning** - call 0345 988 1188 OR go to <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>
- EA advice: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding>
- get a copy each year of the **Harbour Guide** from the Harbour Office to note from the Yarmouth Tide Tables the times of **Spring Tide High Water** (just after new and full moons when there is the greatest difference between high and low water). Times are in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) so **add one hour in BST** (British Summer Time) - which begins at 01.00 GMT on the last Sunday in March and ends at 01.00 GMT on the last Sunday in October. Copy on harbour website: [www.yarmouth-harbour.co.uk](http://www.yarmouth-harbour.co.uk) Ask at the Harbour if you do not understand the Tide Tables;
- be alert to the **weather forecasts** ([www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)) at those times – e.g. in March 2008 a storm surge was produced by an intense Low tracking west to east across the UK at about the latitude of Birmingham. It resulted in strong westerly winds in the Western Approaches and the English Channel which lasted for 24 hours or more. That drove the water into the Channel causing the surge experienced from Portland to Newhaven;
- **register email contact details NOW with the Yarmouth Community Emergency Flood Plan Team** so that you receive details relevant to Yarmouth when the Environment Agency warns of a likely surge.

New registrations are to be made by letter or email to the Harbour Master (The Quay, Yarmouth, PO41 0NT, [info@yarmouth-harbour.co.uk](mailto:info@yarmouth-harbour.co.uk)). Give email address (preferable) or telephone number.

## **B E P R E P A R E D**

**Resistance/Resilient measures for your property. [See page 5](#)**

## ACTION PLAN IN TIDAL FLOODING INCIDENT



### 1. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA): LIKELY TRIGGER FOR ACTION

Sends Automated Telephone message of Alert or Warning to EA registered property owners, instructs to dial 0345 988 1188, and gives a Quickdial number for Yarmouth information (at time of printing: Alert - 216098. Warning - 316127 ).

Website: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>

Sends an email, including warning of storm surges, in advance of flooding to the Plan Co-ordinator and Team who then take action (see below). The data given is often for Southampton or Cowes.

### 2. ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DUTY OFFICER

Liaises with the EA for more information for IW: such as how serious for each area e.g. Yarmouth, the expected time and surge height for Yarmouth.

Liaises with Yarmouth Plan Co-ordinator by confidential line: giving data for Yarmouth.

### 3. YARMOUTH PLAN CO-ORDINATOR: HARBOUR MASTER

If flooding in Yarmouth seems likely, the Co-ordinator sends an email to the Yarmouth Plan Team for forwarding to those registered, giving Yarmouth data and detail of sandbag delivery to River Road car park (2 barrows may be borrowed from the Harbour Workshop yard at the corner of Bridge Road and The Quay. Please return asap for others to use). Collect sandbags as soon as possible.

#### **IF FLOODING IS UNLIKELY, NO EMAIL WILL BE SENT TO REGISTERED PROPERTIES.**

Co-ordinator acts as a conduit between IW Emergency Services, the Team, Harbour staff, and Wightlink for: the evolving situation; any threat to life; any emergency situations with vulnerable people; any traffic management requirements; what utilities are affected; any resources needed such as shelter, blankets, food, contact with emergency responders; agreeing who takes the lead for any action to be taken.

### 4. THE LOCAL TEAM

Send the Co-ordinator's email to registered properties. Monitor on site the area likely to be flooded from before High Water and continue until tide and flooding recede. Transmit any needs to Co-ordinator. Make notes of what has happened to forward to the Co-ordinator who sends report to (1) & (2) above.

**IF LIFE IS AT RISK DIAL 999**

## RESISTANCE & RESILIENCE

**EA ADVICE** on how to prepare, act and survive during flood incidents: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding>

### **ACTION NOW FOR YOUR PROPERTY**

- Electricity outlets/computer equipment/telephone: raise from floor level to height safe from flooding.
- Know where to switch off gas, electricity, mains water supply.
- Know location of nearby manholes (lids may come off in floods).
- Fit valves against sewerage back-flow.

### **FLOOD DEFENCE EQUIPMENT**

The **National Flood Forum** gives useful advice, (tel. 01299 403 055). Website: [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk) has a link to their 'Blue Pages' directory of property flood products and services, including insurance advice. Some examples:

- Vent and airbrick easy to fit covers.
- Flood barriers – can be tailored to fit any type of opening – can fit into channels either side of a door – clip/seal against door frame with no permanent fixture. Or simple, less expensive door boards and tracks could be made locally.
- Bespoke flood gates.
- Sewage backflow prevention valves.
- Toilet pan seal – fitted in seconds.
- Lifting platform for a car – easily operated by mechanical jack – no permanent fixture needed – 4 feet ground clearance.

**PLEASE NOTE: If purchasing modern replacements for sandbags, it is important to check that they work well in sea water.**

### **OTHER MEASURES**

- List of useful telephone numbers ([page 8](#)) to be in a prominent place.
- Store valuable items and important documents (such as insurance papers) above areas liable to be flooded.
- Plan how to block airbricks at vulnerable heights.
- Silicone round entry pipes.
- Plan where to move your car to when Flood Alert given.
- Move garden equipment (which could be dangerous if below flood level) into shed.
- Consider how to safeguard any pets.
- Have a flood kit ready (or have a list ready): torch, warm and waterproof clothing, water, food, medication, rubber gloves, wellingtons, radio (battery).
- May be dangerous to walk in flooded area – manhole covers may come off in floods.

### **EA PUBLICATIONS**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-what-to-do-before-during-and-after-a-flood>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prepare-your-property-for-flooding>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-your-business-for-flooding>

**Insurance:** find lower cost home insurance through Flood Re if you are in a flood risk area –

<https://www.floodre.co.uk/can-flood-re-help-me/>

**Flood warning codes**

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**ONLINE FLOOD RISK FORECAST**

**Meaning**

Be aware.  
Keep an eye on the weather situation.

**General advice**

- Check weather conditions.
- Check for updated flood forecasts on the Environment Agency website.



**FLOOD ALERT**

**Meaning**

Flooding is possible  
Be prepared.

**General advice**

- Be prepared to act on your flood plan.
- Prepare a flood kit of essential items.
- Monitor local water levels and the flood forecast



**FLOOD WARNING**

**Meaning**

Flooding is expected.  
Immediate action required.

**General advice**

- Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place.
- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so.
- Put flood protection equipment in place.



**SEVERE FLOOD WARNING**

**Meaning**

Severe flooding.  
Danger to life.

**General advice**

- Stay in a safe place with a means of escape.
- Be ready should you need to evacuate.
- Co-operate with the emergency services.
- Call 999 if you are in immediate danger.

**WARNING NO LONGER IN FORCE**

**Meaning**

No further flooding is currently expected in your area.

**General advice**

- Be careful. Flood water may still be around for several days.
- If you've been flooded, ring your insurance company as soon as possible.

## POTENTIAL IMPACT OF TIDAL FLOODING

**Streets affected in recent incidents:** The Quay; Quay Street (part of), Ferry Terminal building and marshalling area; Harbour quays, parts of Bridge Road and River Road.

**Areas of closest proximity to those affected:** Harbour Office, Wheatsheaf Lane, Jireh Place, all Bridge Road & Quay Street, Coastguard Cottages, the 3 Squares, more of River Road, Sea Lanes and jetties / gardens along the Solent.

**Refuge Centre if needed:** Community Hall of Yarmouth and District (CHOYD), St James Street, Yarmouth, PO41 0NU.

### APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PROPERTIES PRESENTLY AT RISK

<b>At greatest risk:</b>	12 on The Quay	12 in Quay Street
<b>Next at risk:</b>	10 in Wheatsheaf Lane	16 in Jireh Place
	19 in Bridge Road including Coastguard Cottages and Harbour Office	
	19 in the Squares	Some Solent jetties/gardens

### LIST OF PEOPLE MOST VULNERABLE TO FLOODING

- **The Quay** – businesses and residents.
- **Quay Street** – clients and staff in hotel, pub, restaurants, shops and businesses.
- **Harbour** staff and lessee of former Board Room.
- **Crews** of boats moored in harbour.
- **Ferry** staff and clients – in cars and pedestrians.
- **Wheatsheaf Lane** – residents in flats and houses, businesses and pubs.
- **Squares** – shops/businesses, residents in flats and houses.
- **Jireh Place** – clients and staff in Guest House, shops, businesses and flats.
- **Bridge Road** – residents, including Coastguard Cottages, and restaurant.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Car parking areas in Squares; one-way traffic system; Bridge Road/River Road traffic island; ferry terminal, ferry linkspan, ferry traffic marshalling area; Harbour Office building and quays, harbour workshop, harbour facilities (e.g. crane), crew access to Lifeboat and Station, bus and coach station, all utilities.

### POSSIBLE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT NEEDS DURING A FLOODING INCIDENT

The Plan Co-ordinator will make use of the existing CCTV cameras (which cover the harbour, quays and adjacent roads) and also the thermal imaging cameras of the water in the main harbour, to assess the situation before phoning the IWC Emergency Duty Officer to give a situation report and make recommendations for support, based on previous experience. The Duty Officer will then contact Island Roads to request relevant actions, which may include but are not limited to:

- any road closures / diversions to prevent 'wave' flooding into properties of affected areas (The Quay, Quay Street, Wheatsheaf Lane, Bridge Road);
- a check on car parks in the Squares and the coach/bus station;
- dealing with the hazard of a submerged traffic island on A3054 Bridge Road/River Road;
- dealing with any manhole covers pushed off by water;

The Plan Co-ordinator will report the action being recommended to Yarmouth Mayor or Deputy Mayor. Wightlink will evaluate the safety of its own operations.

The Harbour Master will manage any access needed to the Lifeboat and crew parking.

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Organisation	Telephone (office hours)	Telephone (out of hours)	Emergency
EA Floodline Quickdial extension	0345 988 1188 Then 316127 for Yarmouth Quickdial	0345 988 1188 Then 316127 for Yarmouth Quickdial	
Environment Agency incident hotline	0800 807 060	0800 807 060	0800 807 060
Isle of Wight Council Island Roads	01983 822 440	01983 822 440	
Isle of Wight Council Emergency Management - Fire, Police, Ambulance	Yarmouth Co-ordinator will deal directly in floods by confidential line.	Confidential Line	
Fire and Rescue Control Centre	02031 620 063	02031 620 063	999
Police HQ	01962 841534 / 101	01962 841534 / 101	999
Ambulance Service	111 urgent (NHS)	111 urgent (NHS)	999
Yarmouth Lifeboat	01983 760 066		
Solent Coastguard	023 9255 2100	023 9255 2100	999
Southern Water	03303 030 368	03303 030 368	
S & Southern Electric	0345 026 2658	0345 026 2658	0800 072 7282
Southern Gas	0800 111 999	0800 111 999	
British Telecom	0800 800 151	0800 800 151	
Wightfibre	01983 240 240	01983 240 240	
Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners	01983 760 321	07909 524 277	07909 524 277
Wightlink	0333 999 7333		
Town Council	01983 527 093	07714 654331	07714 654331

## AGENCIES INVOLVED IN FLOOD INCIDENTS

### Environment Agency

- Issue flood alerts / warnings.
- Receive and record details of all flooding incidents.
- Monitor the situation and advise other organisations.
- Deal with emergency repairs and blockages on main rivers and own structures.
- Respond to pollution incidents.
- Advise on waste disposal issues.

### Isle of Wight Council / Island Roads

- Co-ordinate Council Emergency arrangements; support Fire & Rescue, Police, Ambulance.
- Maintain safe conditions on the roads/put flood warning signs on the highway/organise road closures and traffic diversions.
- Clear blockages on highway drainage systems.
- May take action to protect property from flooding by water from the highway where there is a failure of the highway drainage system (e.g. sandbags).
- Provide and manage humanitarian assistance.
- Act as point of contact between community groups and the emergency services in planning for and responding to emergencies (e.g. sandbag distribution).

### Police

- Take an overall co-ordination role during an incident.

### Fire and Rescue Service

- Rescue.
- Respond to all emergency incidents as required.
- Assist people where a need is identified and the use of Fire Service personnel and equipment is relevant.

### Southern Water

- Emergency overpumping or tankering at pumping stations.
- Clear blockages in public sewers.
- Repair burst sewage and water pumping mains.
- May take action to protect property from flooding by water from the public water mains or discharges from the public sewerage systems.
- Provision of fresh water.

### Electricity, gas and telecommunication companies

- Attend to emergencies relating to their service at properties where life is at risk as a result of flooding.
- Attend to flooding emergencies at their own service installations.

### Property owners/residents

- Move to a safe area if life is at risk.
- Prevent water from entering property if possible.
- Switch off electricity and gas supplies at mains.
- Move valuable possessions above floor areas liable to flood.
- Be a good neighbour – check on your neighbours' welfare and help those who may have difficulties.

### Yarmouth Town Council

- Prepare and update Yarmouth Community Emergency Flood Plan with Co-ordinator.

## OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

### WEBSITES

**Environment Agency:** <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>

View up-to-date flood warning information, monitor sea levels in your area, and check out the latest flood risk forecast.

**Met Office:** [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)

**National Flood Forum:** [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk)

**Isle of Wight Council:** <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Emergency-Management/Adverse-Weather-and-Flooding>

Contains updates from the Isle of Wight Council during emergencies.

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/isleofwightcouncil>

Contains updates from the Isle of Wight Council during emergencies.

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/iwight>

Contains updates from the Isle of Wight Council during emergencies.

### MEDIA

- TV and radio broadcast the Environment Agency warnings.
- BBC TV via the Red Button, then scroll to Weather/Weather Warnings.
- Isle of Wight Radio broadcast local warnings: 102.0 MHz and 107.0 MHz FM.
- Vectis Radio: [www.vectisradio.com](http://www.vectisradio.com)

## WEST WIGHT COASTAL FLOOD and EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016

[www.coastalwight.gov.uk](http://www.coastalwight.gov.uk)

This gives details of the Isle of Wight Council's strategy for West Wight (including Yarmouth) of defence improvements, adaptations needed, and how future coastal and flood defences will be funded. It was approved nationally and by the Isle of Wight Council in 2017.

There are 2 documents: Main Strategy and Summary Report.

Briefly:

1. The flood risk to commercial and residential properties is significant along the western side of Yarmouth, the Ferry Terminal and around the Harbour. In the future this flood risk is expected to increase in severity and extent due to climate change and sea level rise, which will also increase the risk of erosion along the Solent frontage if the current coastal structures are allowed to deteriorate and fail.
2. Even though Yarmouth has experienced a number of tidal flood events in recent years, the national government Grant in Aid monies available for a Yarmouth scheme are modest. A key reason that the case for a nationally funded flood and erosion relief scheme is not strong is that a large number of the properties at risk are commercial properties, shops and businesses, which do not attract the same level of Grant in Aid as residential properties. All schemes are now funded by a partnership approach with a proportion of government Grant in Aid funding and also a local contribution from a range of public and private sources, including landowners and those benefitting from the improved defences.
3. The Preferred Strategic Option for Yarmouth
  - To use Temporary Flood Barriers to manage and reduce flooding to areas at significant risk in the short to medium term. The Environment Agency is at present working to provide these to run from the harbour ferry terminal along The Quay road and east from the traffic island along River Road.
  - To prevent erosion to critical infrastructure serving the town and West Wight.
  - Continued maintenance or upgrading of private defences to be encouraged.
  - In the long term (from 2055) raise or implement new defences (raising quay walls, setback bunds, flood walls and flood gates) to manage long term increasing flood and erosion risk. Also, a refurbishment scheme for the existing defences to prevent erosion and protect the strategically important A3054, Bouldnor Road.
  - It was noted that the Harbour Commission wishes to continue to maintain and/or improve the existing breakwater which provides a contribution to reducing the town's tidal flood risk.

### Yarmouth Coastal Defence Working Group

This local group, set up by the Town Council and the Harbour in 2008, works to understand and to explain to local people the complexities of coastal defence and its funding process and also to raise the profile of Yarmouth with the decision makers at Island, regional and national levels. It was consulted by the IW Council in the preparation of its Shoreline Management Plan (2) in 2011 and the West Wight Coastal Flood & Erosion Risk Management Strategy (above). Link to see the Reports that the Group has issued:

[www.yarmouth-harbour.co.uk](http://www.yarmouth-harbour.co.uk) , click on Menu, then scroll to 'Coastal Defence Flooding'

- 'Adapting to Coastal Flooding in the Yarmouth Area in the 21<sup>st</sup> century' – 2010 Report
- '2014 Update to the 2010 Report 'Adapting to Coastal Flooding in the Yarmouth Area in the 21<sup>st</sup> century'
- 'Storm Surges in Yarmouth Harbour October 2013 – February 2014'