

# Swanage wave barrier deployment

**The Environment Agency deploys seasonal wave barriers to reduce the coastal flood risk in Swanage.**

Approximately 120 concrete 'legato blocks' are deployed in Swanage every year to help reduce the risk of coastal flooding in Swanage.

These blocks are set out in the Autumn and stay in place throughout the winter months to reduce the risk of flooding from winter storms. They are then removed in the Spring.

The seasonal blocks are required due to the challenges of accurately forecasting coastal flood events and the current lack of any formal coastal defences to reduce the risk of flooding at this location.



## What is the flood risk in Swanage?

There is a long history of flooding in Swanage.

Parts of Swanage are vulnerable from fluvial flooding, surface water flooding and flooding from the sea.

Easterly storms and long period waves from the southwest carry the most risk to properties along the sea frontage in Swanage. With no formal coastal flood defences, these properties remain at flood risk, especially during the winter when Easterly storms and large waves are most common.

## How do the wave barriers reduce the risk of flooding in Swanage?

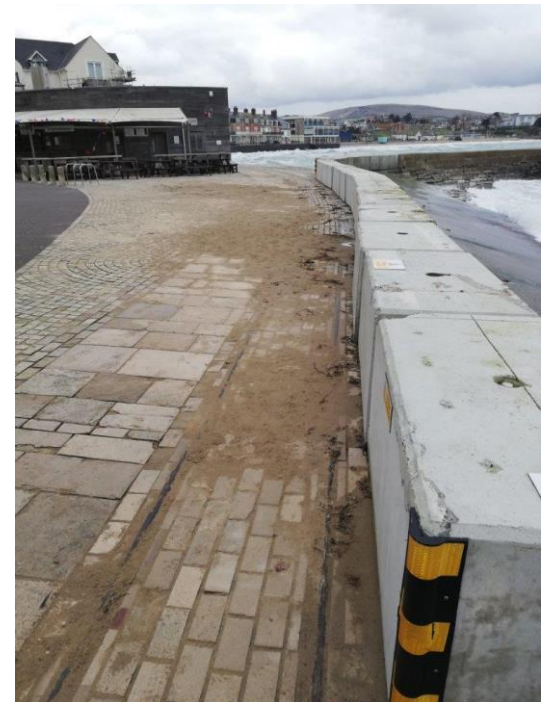
The wave barriers are deployed along vulnerable parts of the coastal frontage in Swanage where wave overtopping is most common, to reduce the amount of wave overtopping that could pose as a flood risk to properties.

The barrier deployment is a temporary feature and the alignment has been designed to offer the maximum flood risk benefit to people and property.

## Where are the wave barriers deployed in Swanage?

The wave barriers have previously been deployed in 4 locations, the Mowlem slipway, the Square, Lower High St slipway and Monkey Beach slipway.

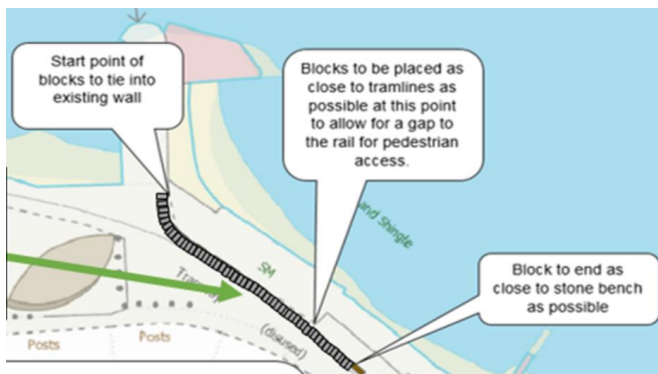
Future deployments will focus on the first 3 of these locations, with no further deployments planned for Monkey Beach opposite the Pier Head.



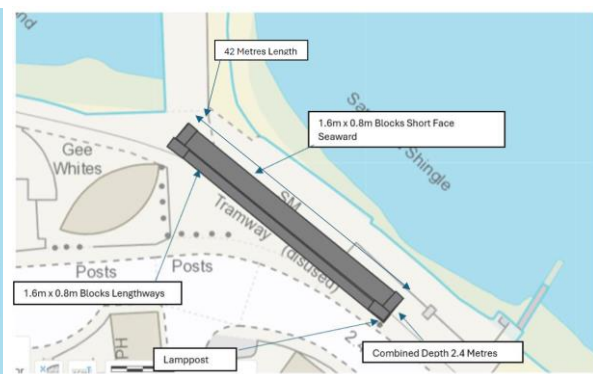
## Why is the deployment changing?

The alignment of the legato blocks at the Lower High Street slipway has changed to allow better access to the slipway and to ensure that the barriers offer the maximum flood risk benefit whilst they are in place. The new design is set back from the slipway to reduce the effects of direct wave impact and includes an additional row of concrete blocks, both aim to reduce movement and maximise the flood risk benefit. This new layout is not feasible to deploy at Monkey Beach due to the available space and there is no adverse effect on flood risk to Swanage Town Centre as a result.

Old layout



New layout



## What do you need to do?

We strongly advise that people continue to prepare and take action to reduce the impact of flooding to their homes and businesses. There are a number of things you can do to prepare for flooding to keep yourself and your family safe.

Find out if your home is at flood risk, sign up for flood alerts and flood warnings and be ready to take action.

Write a personal or community flood plan to help you prepare.

For more information visit [www.gov.uk/flood](http://www.gov.uk/flood) or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

You can check river and sea levels in England <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels>

Visit the Met Office website for local forecasts at [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk).

**customer service line 03706 506 506**

**floodline 03459 88 11 88**

**incident hotline 0800 80 70 60**

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If you require any more information, please email:

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[wessexenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:wessexenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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