

# Isle of Wight Council Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan Guidance

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**MARCH 2023**



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## **DISCLAIMER**

Isle of Wight Council, as far as it can ascertain, acknowledges that the advice contained within the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan guidance is suitable for the purposes set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and the accompanying Planning Practice Guidance.

Flood Warning and Evacuation Plans are the sole responsibility of the applicant/property owner, and Isle of Wight Council cannot accept any responsibility for any omission or error in any such plan, or for any loss, damage or inconvenience which may result from such Plan's implementation.

Any subsequent approval does not impute any approval of those Plans from the Environment Agency or any of the Emergency Services. Flood Warning and Evacuation Plans must be reviewed on a regular basis – at least every three years or when information changes which requires it to be amended – to ensure that they are consistent with good practice.

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# Contents

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<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 Planning Policy</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 When will a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan be required?</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.3 What is a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan?</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>1.4 Evacuation and Safe Refuge, the Expected Approach.</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction, scope and objectives</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Summary of flood risk</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Flood warnings and associated actions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Evacuation procedure and Safe Refuge</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Evacuation procedure .....	8
Safe refuge .....	8
<b>Responding to flood warnings</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Role of the emergency services, local authority, Environment Agency and utility companies</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Hampshire Constabulary (Police): .....	10
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service: .....	10
Isle of Wight Council as the Local Authority: .....	10
The Environment Agency:.....	10
Utility Companies: .....	11
<b>Useful contacts</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Monitoring and review of the Plan</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Suggested appendices to the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Appendix A: Useful information .....	13
Appendix B: List of owner occupiers (OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: FOR MASTER COPY ONLY) .....	14

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# 1. Introduction

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The Isle of Wight Council's Emergency Management Team has produced this guidance document<sup>1</sup> to support developers and applicants who are required to produce and submit a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan as part of an application or a requirement of a planning condition or planning obligation.

This guidance document is intended for use by applicants and developers of both individual properties and larger premises, and for all types of development including new build and change of use.

The purpose of this guide is to:

- Set out when and why a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan is required in relation to the planning policy context
- Identify the aim and objectives of a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan
- Provide general guidance on the development of a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan
- Provide a template for the structure and content of a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan
- Provide additional sources of information to assist developers/applicants in developing a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan

## 1.1 Planning Policy

Paragraph 100 to 104 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012) set out the policies relating specifically to the management of flood risk. The main emphasis of the NPPF is to protect people and property by avoiding inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.

The National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance are available at <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

The Planning Practice Guidance (2014) that accompanies the NPPF requires developers and applicants to ensure that any new development is safe (including where there is a residual risk of flooding), and that adequate flood warnings and evacuation procedures are in place and available to people using the development, which can be achieved through the use of a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan.

## 1.2 When will a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan be required?

All development must be designed so that it is safe from flooding, including the consideration of residual risks, over its lifetime. Where a site would still be exposed to a flood hazard<sup>2</sup>, because it has been demonstrated that safe access and egress is not feasible, then it may be considered appropriate to rely

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<sup>1</sup> The council acknowledges the assistance from Southampton City Council's Emergency Planning Department in producing this guidance

<sup>2</sup> The potential flood hazard of a site consists of a combination of a number of factors such as flood velocities/depth/duration/flow routes. Reference should be made to the Environment Agency/Defra R&D Technical Report FD2320/TR2 which specifies the potential magnitudes associated flood depths and velocities would present and what is 'safe' to walk and/or drive through.

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on flood warning and evacuation procedures. In these circumstances it is expected that a draft flood warning and evacuation plan is submitted as part of the application process for consideration.

The considerations for determining whether reliance on flood warning and evacuation procedures are appropriate include:

- The potential flood hazard to the site from a design flood event at the end of the anticipated lifetime of the development and the potential frequency of any flooding at the site.
- Any well-developed proposals for future strategic flood defence schemes that could benefit the site.

Where the development proposals are considered appropriate from a flood risk perspective, we will always request a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan for developments (including change of use) that will be used for more vulnerable uses (as defined in the Planning Practice Guidance). We may request a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan for other developments, such as commercial, leisure or industrial premises, but these will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending upon factors including:

- The potential vulnerability and number of site users i.e. whether elderly or disabled persons or young children will be present at the site and may require additional support to evacuate safely.
- The proposed design of the development, including flood resistance and resilience measures.
- The potential flood hazard on the site over the lifetime of the development.

For any less vulnerable and water compatible developments where a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan has not been requested through a planning condition or planning obligation but a flood hazard exists at the site, it would be advised that the responsible owner/operator of the premises/operation develops a suitable flood evacuation procedure applicable to the future activities on the site which is communicated to staff and users so they are able to avoid being exposed to future flood hazards on the site.

### **1.3 What is a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan?**

A Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan does not remove the risk of flooding from a site. The objective of a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan is to provide a means by which those living/working at a development shall be made aware of the flood hazard, and to identify any procedures that will enable them to avoid being directly exposed to the hazard in any future flood events that may affect the site. Preparedness for future floods can help reduce the impact on people and property.

A Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan should:

- Raise awareness of the flood hazard at the location specified by the Plan.
- Define the flood warnings and estimated lead-in times available.
- Detail how, when and by who the Plan is triggered.
- Define the responsibilities of those participating in the Plan i.e. the site user/occupants.

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- Outline the evacuation procedure and the safe evacuation route away from the development and in the event that evacuation is not an option, identify the place of safe refuge,.
  - Establish the procedure for implementing, monitoring and maintaining the Plan.

## 1.4 Evacuation and Safe Refuge, the Expected Approach.

The council's preference is always (in circumstances where a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan would be required) to evacuate occupants before a flood event occurs, not during an event. Safe refuge (staying within the building – provided Finished Floor Levels are above the design flood event levels) should only be considered where dry access and egress from the building to an area/community building not at risk of flooding cannot be achieved.

However, in some circumstances safe refuge may provide a more achievable and potentially safer means of dealing with any flood risk. Justification and evidence should be used to highlight when and where these circumstances are acceptable and the Local Planning Authority will consider this in consultation with their Emergency Planners and the Emergency Services.

Where evacuation is proposed, wherever possible, safe access routes should be provided that are located above the design flood levels and avoiding known flow paths (i.e. dry access provided).

Evacuation during a flood event should only occur in exceptional circumstances where a Flood Warning has not reached either the occupants or relevant management company responsible for triggering the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan for a development in a flood risk area; and it is deemed safe to do so by the Emergency Services. It should not be left to the discretion of the occupants as to whether it is safe to evacuate during a flood event. The preference in this exceptional circumstance would be for the occupants to remain indoors and seek safe refuge at the upper level of the building and call the emergency services.

For the purposes of this guidance 'safe refuge' is an area of a development/property that provides a sanctuary from rising flood levels during a flood event. This would include areas of properties/developments that are above the predicted design flood event for the lifetime of the development in question.

A 'safe refuge' should consist of (but not exclusive to) an area that:

- Is above the design flood event level
- Has access to clean water
- Has medical equipment

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## 2. Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan: Structure and contents

This chapter provides a guide to the suggested structure and content of a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan. Sections should be modified and adapted to suit the nature and scale of the development. When developing a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan it should be pitched at those who may have limited local knowledge, and use language that is clear and easy to understand by the intended site users.

### Introduction, scope and objectives

*The opening chapter should set the context and emphasise the importance of the Plan, including information on the location of the site, who the plan is aimed at, why it has been prepared and who it has been prepared by.*

- State who has prepared the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan [e.g. the name of the landlord or management company], and the location/address of the development that the Plan refers to.
- Briefly describe the development e.g. residential unit above a commercial premises, 3 storey residential block, single residential dwelling.
- Provide a map showing the site location. Include local road names and clearly identify the site.
- State the objectives of the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan e.g. to raise awareness of the risk of flooding at the development location, provide detail on flood warnings and how to act on them, and the details of the evacuation procedure.
- Explain to the user the importance of the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan because the site (or part of the site) is located within a Flood Zone.

### Summary of flood risk

*This section should be used to inform the site occupants/users of the risk of flooding that exists at the site. It should draw on the information included within the Flood Risk Assessment carried out for the site, including details of the source of flooding, the potential frequency, duration and depth of flooding.*

- Outline the dominating source(s) of flooding and the Environment Agency Flood Zone that the site is within, and what this means in terms of the probability of flooding e.g. Flood Zone 3 is classed as land with a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding, or 1 in 200 year or greater tidal flooding etc. (See the Environment Agency flood maps to obtain this information: <https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>)
- Provide a clear map showing the development in relation to the Flood Zone(s). Highlight the development site on the map.
- Provide a brief explanation of the factors leading to flooding e.g. heavy rainfall, tidal flooding due to a storm surge, river (fluvial) flooding etc.

- Determine the estimated lead time between the Environment Agency sending out a flood warning and the time flooding might occur, and depending on the cause/type of flooding, flood velocity the estimated duration of flooding, and potential depth of flood waters.
- Provide details of any areas of the site that are low-lying or designed to flood e.g. ground level car parking and amenity areas – all site users must be made aware of this risk.

## Flood warnings and associated actions

*It is important that the site occupants(s)/user(s) are familiar with the warning system operated by the Environment Agency, including what the warnings mean, when they are issued and any associated actions that the user should take to respond.*

- Explain that the Environment Agency are the competent warning authority and operate a flood warning service covering all areas at risk of flooding from tidal and fluvial sources. More information is available from [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)
- Explain the Flood Warnings Direct service provided by the Environment Agency including the 24-hour Floodline service and the ability to use a quick-dial code to reach location specific information (to find the quick-dial area covering the site, please refer to the Environment Agency Flood Maps).
- Provide a map showing the flood warning areas in relation to the site.
- Provide a clear statement recommending that the site occupier(s)/user(s) sign up to receive flood warnings and how they can do this.
- Explain 'Flood Alert', 'Flood Warning', 'Severe Flood Warning' and 'Warnings no longer in force' (see the table on the next page for example text). The 'actions' will need to be tailored as these will be specific to each site.

### **Floodline quick-dial codes for Flood Warning Areas**



To use a quick-dial code, call Floodline (0345 988 1188), press 1 and when requested enter:

<b>Bembridge:</b> 316131	<b>Ryde:</b> 316130
<b>Carisbrooke and Hunny Hill on the Lukely Brook:</b> 316120	<b>Monktonmead Brook at St Johns (Ryde):</b> 316123
<b>Caulbourne, Newbridge &amp; Shalfleet:</b> 316166	<b>Monktonmead Brook at Simeon Street Rec Ground:</b> 316152
<b>Cowes, East Cowes &amp; Newport:</b> 316128	<b>Sandown:</b> 316132
<b>Freshwater on the Western Yar:</b> 316125	<b>Sandown, Brading and Bembridge on the Eastern Yar:</b> 316122
<b>Freshwater Bay:</b> 316153	<b>Seaview:</b> 316051
<b>Gurnard:</b> 316129	<b>Wootton:</b> 316050
<b>Gurnard on the Gurnard Luck:</b> 316124	<b>Yarmouth:</b> 316127
<b>Langbridge &amp; Alverstone:</b> 316121	<b>IW Coast Flood Alert:</b> 216098
<b>Newport on the River Medina:</b> 316119	

You should check with the Environment Agency about which warning area the site lies within to select the correct quick-





Flood warnings: example text

Warning	Meaning / Response Actions
<p data-bbox="177 600 336 629"><b>Flood Alert</b></p> 	<p><b>What it means:</b> Flooding is possible – be prepared.</p> <p><b>When it is used:</b> The Environment Agency will issue a Flood Alert status when flooding is possible. It is usually issued between 2 hours and 2 days in advance of flooding, dependant on the form and characteristics of the flood risk.</p> <p><b>Triggers:</b> Forecasts that indicate that flooding from rivers or the sea may be possible, when intense rainfall that may affect rivers with a rapid response rate, and forecasts of high tide, surges or strong winds.</p> <p><b>How is it issued:</b> This will be issued through the Environment Agency website and via the Flood Warnings Direct service, based upon weather and river conditions</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> When a Flood Alert is issued, residents should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be prepared to act on your Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan.</li> <li>• Prepare a flood kit<sup>3</sup> of essentials and have it ready if needed.</li> <li>• Monitor local water levels and forecasts on the Environment Agency website and on the Local TV/radio stations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further information:</b> Contact Floodline on 0345 988 1188, press option 1 and enter the quick-dial code [<i>insert relevant quick-dial code</i>] for the [<i>insert area e.g. Yarmouth</i>] and listen to the Environment Agency advice.</p>
<p data-bbox="153 1384 360 1413"><b>Flood Warning</b></p> 	<p><b>What it means:</b> Flooding expected – immediate action is required.</p> <p><b>When it is issued:</b> Flood Warnings will be issued when water levels are rising and further rain is expected. It is usually issued between 30 minutes to 1 day in advance of flooding.</p> <p><b>Triggers:</b> High tides and storm surges coupled with strong winds, heavy rainfall forecast to cause flash flooding of rivers and forecast flooding from rivers.</p> <p><b>How it is issued:</b> This will be issued through the Environment Agency website and via the Flood Warnings Direct service, based upon weather and river conditions.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> When a Flood Warning is issued, residents should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If necessary, move possessions, valuables and pets to a higher or safe place.</li> <li>• Locate keys to lock windows and tools to switch off gas and electricity supplies in the event evacuation is required.</li> <li>• If flood protection measures are available (e.g. flood gates and airbrick covers), put them in place.</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 4

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider moving any vehicles parked at ground level to a higher level or area outside of the Flood Zone.</li> <li>• Contact Isle of Wight Council to find out whether evacuation is considered necessary, and if so, where they are providing for evacuees.</li> <li>• If evacuation is required, switch off the gas and electricity supply before leaving the property (if safe to do so).</li> </ul> <p><b>Further information:</b> Contact Floodline on 0345 988 1188, press option 1 and enter the quick-dial code [<i>insert relevant quick-dial code</i>] for the [<i>insert area e.g. Yarmouth</i>] and listen to the Environment Agency advice.</p>
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<p><b>Severe Flood Warning</b></p> 	<p><b>What it means:</b> Severe flooding. Danger to life.</p> <p><b>When it is used:</b> When flooding poses a significant threat to life.</p> <p><b>Triggers:</b> Actual flooding where the conditions pose a significant risk to life and/or widespread disruption to communities, onsite observations from flooded locations or a breach in defences or failure of a barrier that is likely to cause significant risk to life.</p> <p><b>How it is issued:</b> This will be issued through their website and via the Flood Warnings Direct service based upon weather and river conditions.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> When a Severe Flood Warning is issued, residents should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay in a safe place with a means of escape.</li> <li>• Be ready should you need to evacuate the property.</li> <li>• Cooperate with the emergency services.</li> <li>• Call 999 if you are in immediate danger.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further information:</b> Contact Floodline on 0345 988 1188, press option 1 and enter the quick-dial code [<i>insert relevant quick-dial code</i>] for the [<i>insert area e.g. Yarmouth</i>] and listen to the Environment Agency advice.</p>
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<p><b>Warning no longer in force</b></p> 	<p><b>What it means:</b> No further flooding is currently expected in your area.</p> <p><b>When it is used:</b> When a Severe Flood Warning, Flood Warning or Flood Alert is no longer in force.</p> <p><b>Triggers:</b> The risk of flooding has passed, river/sea levels have dropped below the warning level and no further flooding is affected.</p> <p><b>How it is issued:</b> This will be issued through their website and local TV/radio stations and news bulletins.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> When a warnings no longer in force status is issued, residents should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If evacuation has occurred, check with Isle of Wight Council that it is safe to return to the property/building.</li> <li>• Be careful as flood water may still be around for a few days and could be contaminated.</li> </ul>
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If there has been flooding to the property contact your landlord/management company for advice (if applicable), take photographs of any damage and contact your insurance company. If you need to make an insurance claim do not throw anything away until the insurance company says so.</li></ul> |
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- Where the site is at risk of flooding but does not benefit from the coverage of the Environment Agency's Flood Warnings Direct service an alternative warning system should be utilised to assess the risk of flooding. This may include signing up to receive Met Office Weather Warnings, local weather service advice, TV weather updates, local radio station weather updates etc.

## Evacuation procedure and Safe Refuge

*This section is very important as it details the evacuation procedure including the route to take when leaving the building in order to avoid the flood hazard. It must be accurate and easy to understand by any recipients of the Plan. Persons with disabilities, mobility issues or limited local knowledge must be taken into consideration when developing this section.*

### Evacuation procedure

- State when the evacuation procedure should be implemented i.e. the circumstances that will trigger an evacuation.
- If applicable, state whether there is an alarm which will signal evacuation, signposts to follow or if there are any assembly points.
- Provide a clear map showing the safe route to and from the development, along with written step-by-step instructions detailing where to go. The safe route should avoid flood hazards and lead to a location outside of the Flood Zone.
- Provide details of how the welfare of people will be maintained should an evacuation be required e.g. people will be directed to the nearest rest centre.

### Safe refuge

- Give details of safe refuge onsite, or if this is not possible, where a person can find an area off site not at risk of flooding e.g. area of higher ground. State why the area is safe i.e. finished floor levels above the flood level, and whether this is permanent or temporary.
  - For onsite refuge to be considered 'safe', the place of refuge must be above the predicted flood level (with an allowance for freeboard) over the lifetime of the development.
- Provide the expected duration of flooding to the site.

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- Suggest that a flood kit or 'grab bag'<sup>4</sup> of essential items is kept onsite to support the expected duration of sheltering in the refuge and/or evacuation. Provide information on the basic items a flood kit should contain, either as an appendix to the Plan, or a link to further information on how to create one.

## Responding to flood warnings

*Once a flood warning has been issued, occupants/users need to know how to respond to them. This section needs to clearly outline the initial advice, such as when to evacuate, and knowing when to remain within the safe refuge area.*

- Provide a statement that this Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan will be overridden by any advice given by competent authorised staff including the Emergency Services or Local Authority responders on the ground in the event of a serious flood event.
- Provide information on the options following notification of a flood warning e.g., monitor the flood warning situation, evacuate prior to flooding, or remain within the area of safe refuge
- Provide information on the location of key service cut off points e.g. water, gas and electricity, and how to switch them on/off.
- If applicable, provide details of any flood mitigation measures in place and, if required, instructions on how to use them e.g. flood doors, flood boards, air brick covers etc.

## Role of the emergency services, local authority, Environment Agency and utility companies

*During a significant flood event, a number of organisations will be working together at a local level to ensure that people are kept safe. This section should inform the user of the roles of key authorities and their duties during a flood event. The text below can be copied straight from this template and incorporated into the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan to ensure consistency amongst other Flood Warning and Evacuation Plans being prepared.*

The response to a major flood event will involve a number of organisations working together at a local level, including the emergency services, local authority (the council), the Environment Agency and utility companies. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum (HIOW LRF) Multi Agency Flood Plan has been produced to provide relevant information and outline the response arrangements in place for a coordinated multi agency response.

The general roles of the main bodies in relation to a major flood event on the Isle of Wight are summarised below. It should be noted that this is a general list, and specific duties may vary between different bodies.

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<sup>4</sup> A 'flood kit' or 'grab bag' are prepared in advance of a flood event to include items such as a medical kit, torch/head lamp(s), a whistle to attract attention, warm and waterproof clothing, clothes, blankets, water, food, medication, toys for children and pets, rubber gloves and wellingtons.

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### **Hampshire Constabulary (Police):**

- Overall coordination of the multi-agency response at a major flood event.
- Coordinate any multi agency decision to evacuate in consultation with key partner agencies.
- Save life in cooperation with the other emergency services.

### **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service:**

- Assist with evacuation and search and rescue operations.
- Provide and/or obtain specialist advice and assistance where hazardous materials are involved.
- Assist other relevant agencies, particularly the local authority, to minimise the effects of major flooding on the community.

### **Isle of Wight Council as the Local Authority:**

- Provide a Temporary Place of Shelter capability for flood risk affected communities and activate staff and voluntary sector to support this.
- Provide emergency transport for people, equipment and materials, and if necessary evacuation.
- Provide advice and information to the public (websites, customer service centres, and social media) in accordance with the information provided in the HLOW LRF Multi Agency Flood Plan.
- Flood alleviation – for flood prevention, such as the placement of demountable flood barriers, clearing blocked culverts, for dealing with flooded roads and diversions (as carried out by Island Roads, the PFI Contractor) and for other assistance to the public such as drying-out facilities.
- Provision of sandbags - Island Roads, within the PFI contract, manage and maintain 3 strategic locations for sandbags in line with flood warning areas. The locations are; Well Road, East Cowes; Simeon Street Rec, Ryde; and St Mary's car park, Cowes. Information regarding the strategic locations will be issued through Island Roads' website and twitter account. Additional sandbag locations in line with flood warning areas, above those of the strategic locations and outside of the contract with Island Roads, will be identified based upon flood alerts and warnings issued by the Environment Agency. Information on the disposal of sandbags can be found in Appendix C 'Disposal of Sandbags'.
- Environmental health advice for action relating to environmental problems caused by flooding.
- Coordination of the voluntary sector during a response.

### **The Environment Agency:**

- Issue flood alerts/ warnings and/or Operational Messages using their Flood Warning services to warn and inform the public and partners.
- Responsibility for maintenance and operation of Environment Agency owned flood defences. Checking defences and undertaking essential repairs and maintenance on Environment Agency owned flood defences and advise other owners on their maintenance responsibilities.

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- Monitor water levels and flows, assessing the risk, clearing obstructions from known pinch points and advising the emergency services and the local authority.
  - Along with partners, deploy temporary flood defences (where available) where impacts can be mitigated.
  - Support the police and local authority by providing materials, equipment and manpower as far as resources and other duties permit, once own systems and flood defences are secure.

### Utility Companies:

- Maintain the safety and integrity of the electricity/ gas/ water supply system.
- Liaise with partner agencies and obtain pumps to maintain the supply at key locations.
- Repair services and seek alternative means of supply during any disruption and restore supplies as soon as possible.
- Implement Business Continuity Plans.

### Useful contacts

*Within the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan it is beneficial to provide the user with a directory of useful contact telephone numbers, and sources of information that can be used to get help or advice quickly. It is important that this section is reviewed and updated regularly, or when changes occur.*

- Include a table detailing useful contacts. Include the company/organisation name, telephone number and website (if applicable). Consider details for:
  - The Environment Agency Floodline number and relevant quick-dial code.
  - The landlord/site management.
  - The local authority including daytime and out of hours numbers.
  - Non-emergency police e.g. Hampshire Constabulary.
  - Non-emergency fire service e.g. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue.
  - Electricity, gas, water and telephone service providers for the site.
  - Insurance company or provider.
  - Local public transport e.g. bus and train companies, local travel news provider.
  - Local radio and television stations.

### Monitoring and review of the Plan

*It is important that the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan is kept up-to-date and accurate. It is the responsibility of the Plan owner to maintain and update the Plan at least every three years, when new information becomes available or a change in circumstances that may affect it occurs.*

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- Detail who is responsible for monitoring and the review of the Plan e.g. the name of the landlord, Management Company or site manager.
  - Provide contact details of the Plan owner (address, email and telephone number) where the user can send changes that may affect the Plan.
  - Include a table that can be filled in to record any changes made to the plan, the date and by whom.
  - Identify how often the plan should be reviewed.

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## Suggested appendices to the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan

### Appendix A: Useful information

*Including a list of links to further information will provide a starting point for the site user to find out more about flood risk in their area and how to prepare for flooding to avoid the risk. The list provided below contains links to generic information, however is not exhaustive and should be tailored to the site use, and updated as necessary.*

#### General advice

- Find out if your property is at risk of flooding - <https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>
- Sign up to receive flood warnings - <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>
- Monitoring flood warnings and river levels- <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings> and <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels>
- How to plan ahead for flooding (includes advice on making a flood plan) - <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding>
- What to do during and after a flood - <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/what-to-do-in-a-flood> and <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/recovering-after-a-flood>
- Advice on obtaining home insurance - <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood/get-insurance>
- local advice on severe weather events - <https://www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/severe-weather/>

#### Improving the resistance and resilience of your property

- Advice on how to protect your property <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/reducing-your-risk/protecting-your-property/>
- Blue Pages - directory of businesses providing flood resistance and resilience products - <http://www.bluepages.org.uk/>

#### Business/commercial premises specific advice

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

#### Emergency Planning Advice

- Emergencies: preparation, response and recovery - <https://www.gov.uk/topic/public-safety-emergencies/emergencies-preparation-response-recovery>
- UK Resilience - <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience.aspx>



## Appendix B: List of owner occupiers (OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: FOR MASTER COPY ONLY)

*A list identifying site occupiers/residents who may be more vulnerable and require additional help or support during times of flooding should be included. This section is confidential and should be included in the master copy only, with permission from the person identified.*

Property Number	Occupier name	Occupier contact telephone number	Details of vulnerability e.g. mobility or health concerns
<i>Example Flat A</i>	<i>Mr. J Smith</i>	<i>Landline: 01983 000000  Mobile: 070 0000 0000</i>	<i>Wheelchair user.</i>

## Appendix C: Disposal of Sandbags

*Where relevant to be included in the actions to be carried out after the flooding has occurred, as part of the recovery to be detailed under 'Responding to Flood Warnings'.*

Unused sandbags - Wherever possible, store full bags that have not come into contact with flood water in a dry shady place to use again if you need them in the future.

Sacking material is normally biodegradable and will perish if left in place for a long time. It is therefore advisable to empty sacks and keep them dry for re-use. Store the sand in your garden, or yard for future use.

If you do not want to store the sand or the bags, once empty the bags can be placed in your normal household waste and the sand dug into the garden if you have one or taken to your local Civic Amenity site.

Used sandbags - Sandbags tend to retain contaminants such as sewage and oils when they come into contact with floodwater. Ensure you wear gloves and wash hands thoroughly after handling.

If sandbags are contaminated by flood water, you should take them to your local Civic Amenity Site and inform the staff that they have been contaminated. Where this is not possible you should seek advice from your local authority as to whether any other options are available to dispose of the sandbags.

Do not place full sandbags or the sand in your household waste. Do not allow children to play with the sand or place it in sand pits due to the risks from possible contamination.

If in doubt, contact your local authority environmental health department for advice and the location of your nearest Civic Amenity Site.

The following classification guide should be used to identify whether or not they are contaminated.

Used Sandbag Classification 'Guide'

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Used sandbags are NOT classified as contaminated if:

- deployed to retain surface water / ground water, which has had no or short term and limited exposure to sewage.
- do not smell of sewage or oil.
- shows no visual signs of being contaminated by sewage or oil.

Used sandbags are to be classified as contaminated if:

- deployed to retain raw sewage
- deployed to protect / retain sources of oil
- deployed to retain surface water / ground water, which has had continual exposure to sewage or oils.
- smells of sewage or oil
- shows visual signs of being contaminated by sewage or oil

If there has been widespread flooding across the Island and large quantities of sandbags have been deployed, then the council may arrange for the collection of used sandbags from specific collection points. If this is the case then the council will provide details to the public on where and when collections will be undertaken.

Further information on the provision and disposal of sandbags can be found on the council's Emergency Management webpages, under the <https://www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/severe-weather/> section.