

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.



Figure 1: Credit - Swanage Town Council



Figure 2: Credit - Andy Lyons



Figure 3: Credit - Andy Lyons

What is the flood risk in Swanage

There is a long history of flooding in Swanage.

Parts of Swanage are vulnerable from fluvial (river) 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 to 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 are deployed in 3 locations, the Mowlem slipway, the Square and Lower High St slipway.

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 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.