

About Harwich Haven Authority

As a trust port with statutory responsibilities for conservancy and safety of navigation we ensure that commercial and leisure users co-exist safely in the Haven. We do this by providing free services for recreational users, including navigational and traffic information via our Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and website.

Marker buoys, yacht channels and harbour patrols ensure the main channel is kept clear for commercial shipping. During the weekends of the summer months we patrol between 0800 and 1800.

We collaborate on a regular basis with local yacht clubs such as the Harwich Area Sailing Association (HASA) to make their members aware of the hazards of boating in our busy harbour.

Each year we welcome more than 10,000 leisure vessels of all shapes and sizes who visit the Haven from both the UK and Europe.

Whether you are visiting the area or are a local sailor we urge you to review the information contained within this guide, which will assist with safety and enhance your enjoyment of the Haven.

Manoeuvring and warning signals

- One prolonged blast
 - Leaving a dock, quay, or anchorage
- One short blast
 - Altering to starboard
- Two short blasts
 - Altering to port
- Three short blasts
 - My engines are going astern
- Five or more blasts
 - Your intentions are unclear
- Four short blasts followed by one short blast
 - Turning short round to starboard
- Four short blasts followed by two short blasts
 - Turning short round to port



Safety brief

Skippers should educate their crew about the safety equipment onboard the boat, where it is and when and how to use it.

- ✓ How to start the engine
- ✓ Location of first aid kit and book
- ✓ How to send a VHF/DSC distress alert and mayday
- ✓ Use of lifejackets, harnesses and jack-stays
- ✓ Location and use of flares and EPIRB
- ✓ MOB equipment and procedure
- ✓ Gas safety and use of cooker
- ✓ Location and use of AIS kit
- ✓ How to gain access to the engine space if there is no automatic system
- ✓ How to launch the life raft
- ✓ The danger zones where there is risk of injury from the boom or mainsheet in an accidental gybe

Further guidance is available within MGN 379 - use of Electronic Navigational Aids - www.gov.uk

The prudent mariner should never be overly reliant on the outputs of a single navigational aid.

Mayday

A mayday should only be sent if there is grave and imminent danger to vessel or person which requires immediate assistance.

A DSC distress alert will sound an alarm on all DSC sets within range, including ships and at Coastguard stations and will send the position of the boat if the set is interfaced with a GPS.

If it is urgent, but not life threatening, make a Pan Pan broadcast preceded by a DSC urgency alert. For advice contact the Coastguard by routine DSC or on VHF Channel 16.

DSC DISTRESS ALERT

Open the red cover, then press and hold the distress button through the countdown.

Use VHF Channel 16 on high power

MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY

THIS IS [vessel type and name, vessel name, vessel name] MMSI & call sign

MAYDAY THIS IS [vessel type & name] MMSI & call sign

IN POSITION [lat/long]

NATURE OF DISTRESS [fire, sinking, mob]

I REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION [number of persons abandoning to life raft or no life raft]

OVER

During the Mayday all the communication is likely to continue on VHF Channel 16 and it will be possible to talk to the lifeboat or helicopter once they are on scene and all vessels in the vicinity will be aware of your situation.

Do not rely on a mobile phone in an emergency at sea, it cannot perform the same function.

Collision awareness checklist

- A vessel of less than 20m in length or sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of vessels which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.
- A vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if it impedes the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within such channel or fairway. The latter vessel may use the sound signal prescribed in Rule 34(a) if in doubt as to the intention of the crossing vessel.
- A sailing vessel underway shall keep out of the way of:
 - A vessel not under command;
 - A vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre;
 - A vessel engaged in fishing;
 - A vessel not under command or a vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid impeding the safe passage of a vessel constrained by her draught, exhibiting the signals in Rule 28.

Find the Collision Regulations - www collisionregs.com

Navigation channels and speed restrictions

Channels

The main deep-water navigational channels within Harwich Harbour are well marked by buoys and lights. Yachts are advised to keep clear of the channels and use the recommended yacht tracks.

When main channels have to be crossed, this should be done as nearly as practicable at right angles. Avoid crossing the bows of on-coming commercial traffic. Large container ships, in particular, have very restricted visibility for quite a distance ahead when carrying a deck cargo of containers.

We request that sailors conduct themselves in a responsible way while using the Haven and adhere to Collision Regulations and best practice advice from RYA.

Speed limits

The speed limit for power boats, cruisers, or yachts is 8 knots within Harwich Harbour, the River Stour and the Walton Backwaters. The limit is 6 knots within the River Orwell.

Harwich Haven Authority Byelaws - www.hha.co.uk/operations/downloads

Ipswich Port Authority Byelaws - www.abports.co.uk/About_ABPABP_Byelaws/

Jet-ski guidance

The use of jet-skis is strictly prohibited in Harwich Harbour and the River Stour. Restrictions also apply to other types of water sports, including water-skiing.

Exclusion zones and permitted areas are clearly marked on the map.

For further information see our byelaws - www.hha.co.uk/operations

Paddling in the Haven

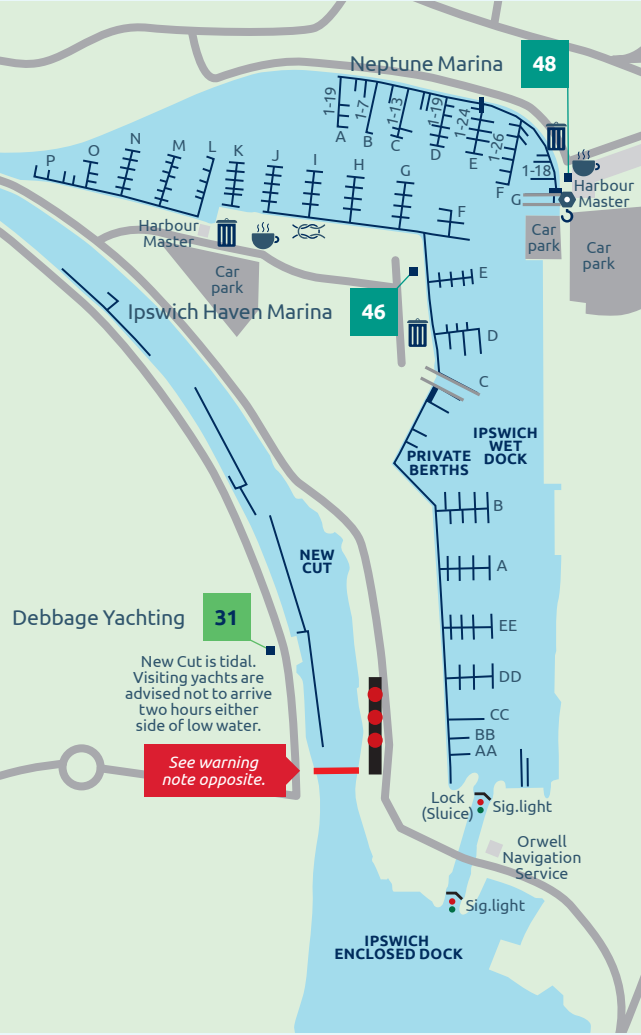
Canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding are extremely popular pastimes in the Haven. Paddlers should be vigilant at all times, avoid the navigation channel and follow the safety guidance below.

- Wear buoyancy aid/lifejacket
- Service equipment
- Get trained
- Make a plan
- Know your limits
- Carry a communication device
- Check the weather

Useful resources

www.bsupa.org.uk
www.britishcanoeing.org.uk
www.rnli.org/safety
www.rya.co.uk/knowledge
www.tenderingdc.gov.uk

@emilyscode



46 Ipswich Haven Marina
01473 236644
www.ipswichhavenmarina.co.uk

48 Neptune Marina
01473 215204
www.neptune-marina.com

@neptunemarina

Within the entrance to NEW CUT is a Tidal Barrier which is raised when required from the river bed. When raised the top of the structure may be just below the water level. Three vertical red lights, when lit, warn vessels that they MUST NOT PROCEED. During high tides the floodgates at Ipswich may be closed.

All inward bound leisure craft should contact Lock Control on VHF Ch 68 for up to date information on lock times.

ARRIVAL: It is accessible 24 hours through a lock entrance, at all states of the tide for vessels up to 2m draft. Vessels wishing to use the lock should contact Lock Control, VHF Channel 68 as they clear the Harbour Bridge. Once through the lock, contact either: Ipswich Haven Marina on VHF Channel 80 or 37 or Neptune Marina on VHF Channel 80 or 37 for allocation of a pontoon berth. Craft arriving early may use the layby pontoons. Visitors' berths are always available for even the largest yachts and non-commercial craft.

DEPARTURE: All vessels to call Lock Control prior to leaving the Marina berth. The duty officer will inform you when there is free flow or when you can lock out.

LOCK SIGNALS: Lights fixed at the river side of the lock entrance (for vessels arriving Wet Dock) and on the Orwell Navigation Service building (for vessels departing Wet Dock) indicate whether the lock is open or closed as follows:

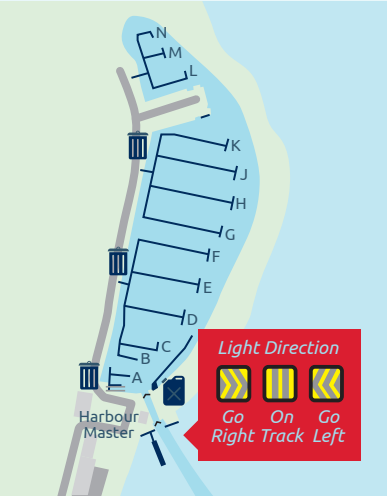
One red light - lock closed to vessels entry

One green light - lock open for vessels entry

The lock master will advise if there is a pontoon available for mooring or if a vessel is to secure to the lock side. Due to the strong turbulence which can be encountered, it is strongly advised to wear lifejackets in the lock.

The lock master will advise all vessels prior to the commencement of locking operations.

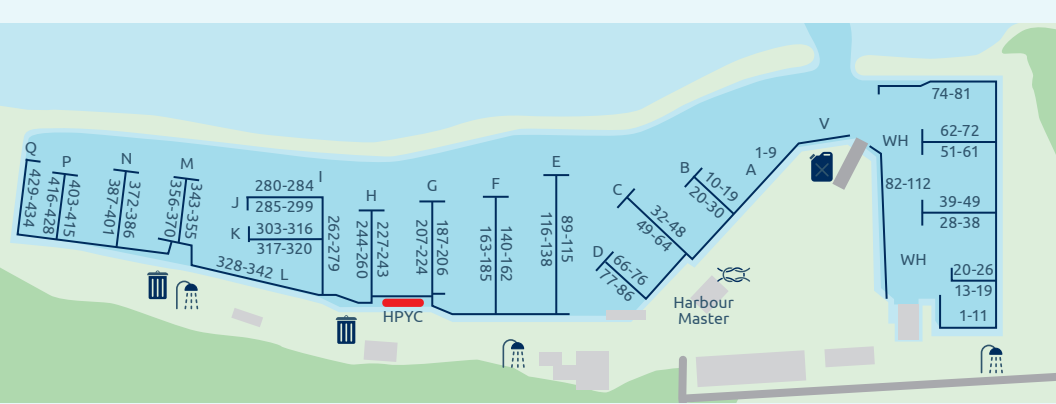
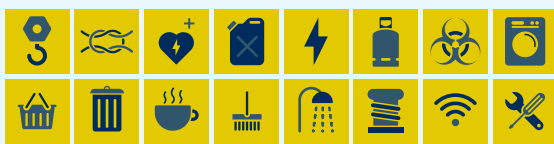
All yachts to monitor VHF Channel 68 whilst on the River Orwell.



49 Shotley Marina

Recommended yacht track from south of Shotley Spit buoy is parallel to deep water channel, passing close north of Ganges buoy to the marked approach channel leading to locked basin. Traffic lights at lock entrance (24hr) plus INOGON directional leading light, see drawing. Diesel is available 24hrs per day. VHF Ch 80 visitors' berths available. Yacht travel lift: approx 40 tons max. Channel dredged to 2m below CD.

01473 788982 | www.shotleymarina.co.uk



50 Suffolk Yacht Harbour

Entrance marked by channel. Dredged to 2.5 metres LWS. Visitors' berths available.

VHF Ch 80 | 01473 659465 | 01473 659240 | www.syharbour.co.uk



51 Tidemill Yacht Harbour

Entrance over a sill. Visitors' berths available. VHF Ch 80.

Note: To calculate entrance access - Height over sill = predicted HT off HHA

Guide minus (less) 1.5metres = HT over sill

01394 385745 | www.tidemillyachtharbour.co.uk



Pollution and dangerous goods

Prevention of Pollution by Garbage Regulations

The North Sea, including its Estuaries and Rivers, is designated a Special Area under Annex 5 of MARPOL. Within this area the disposal of all garbage is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Food waste may only be put overboard outside the 12 mile limit in compliance with the Regulations, otherwise all garbage must be retained on board until it can be deposited on shore in approved receptacles.

Dangerous Goods in Harbour Areas Regulations 2016 (DGHA)

A vessel alongside displaying an all-round red light by night or a red flag by day indicates that she is carrying dangerous substances. Under these Regulations an exclusion zone of up to 200m is to be enforced around any vessel loading or discharging explosives. Tankers alongside the oil jetties at Harwich, Felixstowe and Ipswich should also be given a wide berth.

Fog

Harwich VTS cannot undertake control of small craft in reduced visibility but our VTS team will provide assistance if possible. Listen in on VHF channel 71 and always carry a radar reflector, flares and suitable emergency equipment. If you do not have radar and intend crossing any shipping lane, and you are in serious doubt as to the commercial movements, call Harwich VTS on VHF channel 71 or Ipswich Port Radio Ch 68 whilst in the River Orwell. Carriage and use of an operational AIS is also encouraged. Remember your obligations under the prevention of collision regulations (see above), particularly the ability to make an efficient sound signal.

See www collisionregs.com for full Collision Regulations



Respect our special environment

So visitors can fully enjoy the Haven's surroundings, we work to preserve its environment by collaborating with groups including the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Natural England and RSPB to protect natural habitats.

In addition to being home to one of the UK's largest and busiest port clusters, Harwich Haven is also an area of high environmental protection, mainly due to the bird population that it supports.

Both estuaries are part of the European conservation sites known as Natura 2K, are recognised as important wetlands under international conventions (Ramsar) and are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and UK legislation. The shores and surrounding areas include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and local nature reserves.

Rivers Deben, Alder, Ore, Stour, Orwell and Hamford Water are recognised as Internationally Important Conservation sites and are designated Special Protection Areas. Considerate visitors are welcome but take care to avoid polluting the area and it is a criminal offence to damage the habitat or disturb wildlife.

Do not land in these areas from a boat unless in a recognised landing area.

Yacht owners should ensure that their anti-fouling paints used on their vessels comply with current regulations. Environment Agency advice on the approved paints can be obtained from the Marinas or direct from the Environment Agency (Guidance note: ING-309).

Report suspicious activity

If you see or hear anything unusual, REPORT IT. Even the smallest thing can be significant...

Call the Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 [Quote KRAKEN]



Key to facilities

Boat hoist & crane	Launching slip	Showers
Chandlery	Laundrette	Toilets
Defibrillator	LPG	VHF80
Diesel	Petrol	Visitor berths
Electricity	Provisions	Wifi
Gas (bottles)	Refuse	Workshop
Hazardous waste / oil	Restaurant / bar	
Holding tank pump-out	Scrubbing berth	

45 Fox's Marina & Boatyard

Entrance 100m upriver of No12 channel buoy, which is dredged to 2m below CD. Visitors' berths available.

Yacht travel lift: 70 tons. Club facilities available to visiting crews.

VHF Ch 80 | 01473 689111 | www.foxsmarina.com

@FoxsMarina @Foxs_Marina @foxsmarina



Harwich Haven Operation Channels

VHF Channel 68
Orwell Navigational service working channel.

VHF Channel 71
Harwich Vessel Traffic Services working channel. Monitor in Harwich Haven Authority waters. Only call Harwich VTS for urgent navigational safety information.

Vessels over 50 G.T. must report to Harwich VTS at designated reporting points (as per Admiralty Charts). Report also to Ipswich Port on VHF channel 68 on entry to River Orwell.

VHF Channel 16
The distress channel. Monitor this channel at all times. Use for routine calling only if there is no alternative, such as DSC or mobile phone.

VHF Channel 13
Used by ships for bridge to bridge communications on matters of navigational safety, useful to monitor in shipping areas.

VHF Channel 67
Used by HM Coastguard for safety communications. Vessels are requested not to use this channel for inter-ship traffic.

VHF Channel 80
The marina channel.

Harwich Haven Authority
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T +44 (0)1255 243030
E enquiries@hha.co.uk

www.hha.co.uk

Not for resale
Printed free of charge for stakeholders of the Harwich Haven.

Useful contact information

Harwich Harbour Master01255 243030
Harwich VTS01255 243000
Ipswich Harbour Master01473 211771
Ipswich Lock Control01473 213526
Orwell Navigation Service01473 211066

UK Border Force
National Yachtingline0300 123 2012
Regional Intelligence Team07000 054 435
Project Kraken101 & quote "KRAKEN"

HM Coastguard
Dover Coastguard01304 210008
MMSI VHF/DSC002320009
Coastguard in case of emergency999

Keeping up to date with Harwich Haven Authority

Using our own data we produce and distribute 20,000 tide table leaflets to marinas, businesses and retail outlets across Essex and Suffolk, which you can pick up FREE of charge.

Download from our website - www.hha.co.uk/leisure/downloads/

Sign up to receive Notice to Mariners and Port Information Notices - www.hha.co.uk/news/subscribe



@harwichhaven

This guide is produced by Harwich Haven Authority as a reference and safety guide only. It is NOT to be used for navigational purposes. All information correct at time of publication. Copies of this yachting guide can be obtained at local marinas, marina related outlets and the Harwich Haven Authority office. Additional copies can be obtained from enquiries@hha.co.uk or by calling 01255 243030.

River navigation maps available at Charity & Taylor, Charts & Publications Ltd. 01502 573938 | www.charityandaylor.com

Designed by www.trubuchetcreative.co.uk

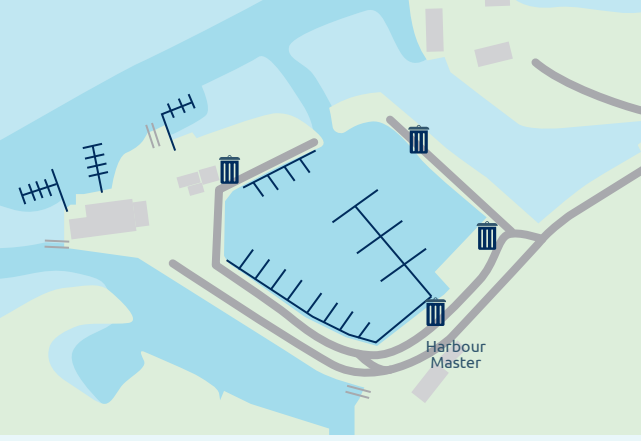


52 Titchmarsh Marina

Entrance 1.0m MLWS.

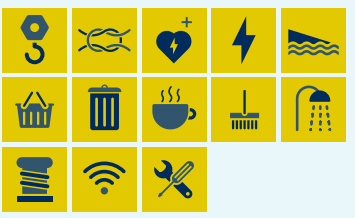
Visitors' berths available. Yacht travel lift 35 tons.

VHF Ch 80 | 01255 672185
01255 851899
www.titchmarshmarina.com



53 Walton Yacht Basin

VHF 80 | 01255 675873
07514 492815
www.waltonyachtbasin.co.uk
admin@waltonyachtbasin.co.uk



47 Mistley Marine

Please be aware that the berths can dry out.

VHF 80 | 07850 208918

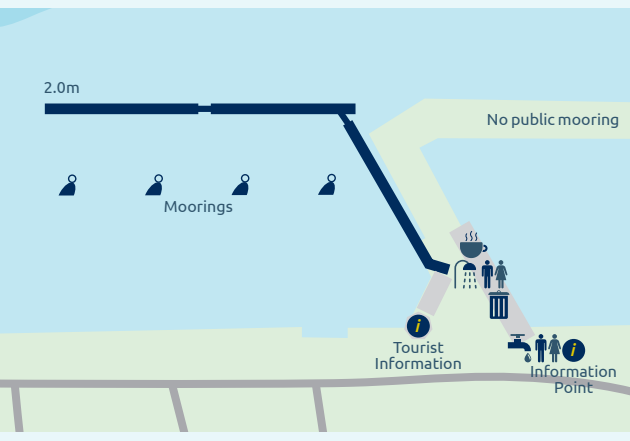


32 Ha'penny Pier yacht moorings

First come, first served. Charges made when staying between 1600 - 0900.

Pier master on duty between April and October. Out of season (November - March) please direct any enquiries to pier.masters@hha.co.uk

01255 243030 | 07748 154039 | pier.masters@hha.co.uk | hha.co.uk/leisure/mooring/



Mooring in Ha'penny Pier - Be aware that if the wind direction is NW, NNW or West to North there can be a strong swell. Pontoon bridges will be raised to the up position if conditions are not suitable for mooring. Please contact the Harwich Haven Authority pier master for further information - pier.masters@hha.co.uk

5 knots maximum speed limit.

Please be aware of swell one hour before and one hour after high and low water.



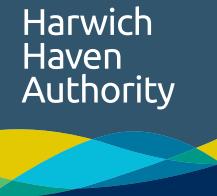
54 Woolverstone Marina

Continuous access. Visitors' berths. VHF Ch 80 | 01473 780206 | 01473 780354
www.woolverstonemarina.co.uk



13 Royal Harwich Yacht Club

Visiting yachts can lay on outer pontoons. 07742 145994
www.royalharwichyachtclub.co.uk



2023 Yachting Guide to Harwich Harbour and its Rivers



FREE OF CHARGE
NOT FOR RESALE

