

The 2013 Tidal Surge was the highest in Woodbridge since 1953!

At Ferry Quay near the Charter Marine Engineering entrance, you will see the wall marked with the levels of the 1953, 2004 and 2013 tidal surges. It may surprise you that the 2013 surge was the highest of those in this part of Woodbridge.

Who is in control?

- **Area Incident Room** at Ipswich is one of 16 in England.

Area Based Controller reports to an **Area Duty Manager** reporting to a:

- **National Incident Room** in Bristol.

Managed by a **National Base Controller** and **National Duty Manager** reporting to:

- **Whitehall**, in big incidents the **Cabinet Office Briefing Room**.

Triggers for opening and staffing the AIR are based on the weather forecast.

What happened on the night of 5th December 2013?

A major storm surge was predicted for the United Kingdom as part of **Storm "Xaver"**.

The Environment Agency was on high alert at its Area Incident Room in Ipswich and put in place important measures to limit the damage caused:

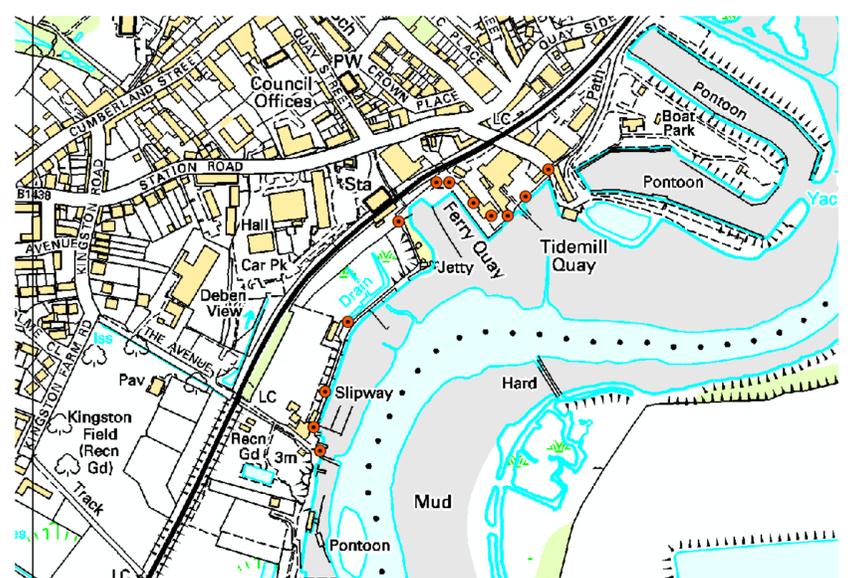
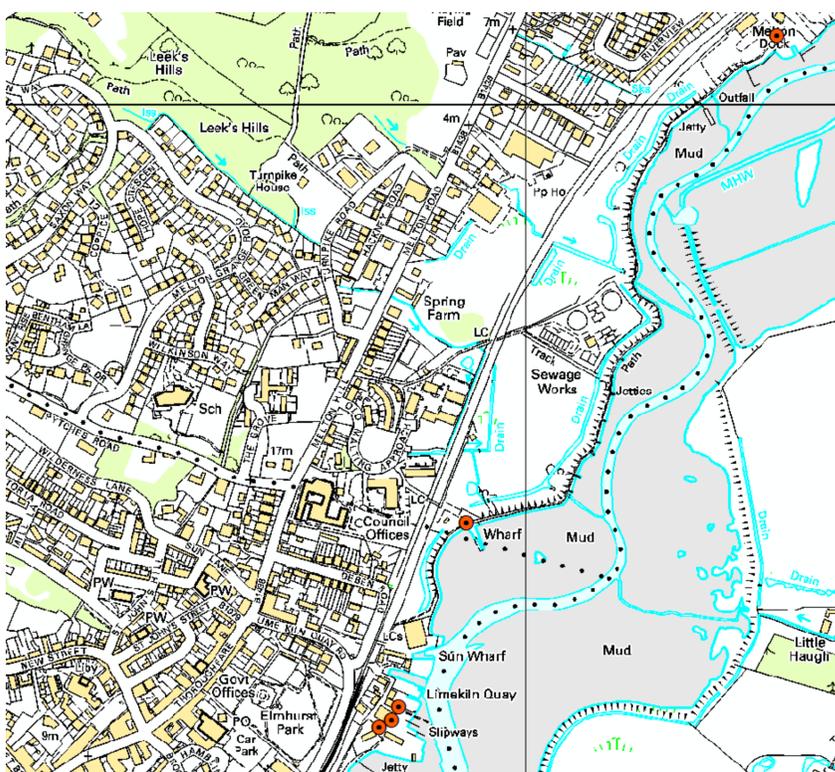
- Flood warnings were issued and the government and press briefed.
- Flood barriers were closed and pumps made ready.
- Emergency services were put on alert to assist with evacuating people if necessary, controlling flooded roads and providing medical assistance.
- People at risk were warned via mobile phones, email and local radio to prepare for severe flooding.

As a result of new flood walls and the measures taken by the Environment Agency and emergency services, there was no loss of human life.



Flood barriers along the Deben

Since 1953, river walls have been built around populated areas along the River Deben and many have flood barriers that must be closed by hand in a flood alert. The Environment Agency is responsible for closing all but one of the Woodbridge flood gates marked as red dots on the maps. The boards for the barrier near Kingston Field are inserted by the Woodbridge Boatyard using their crane. The huge glass gate just outside the Longshed at Whisstocks Place is not on the maps, as closure is the responsibility of Woodbridge Town Council acting on the Environment Agency's advice.



Question

How many flood barriers have to be closed between Kingston Playing Fields and Melton Dock in a flood alert?

There are 18 flood barriers to be closed.
17 by the Environment Agency &
1 by Woodbridge Town Council