

## Risk Assessment – Sailing Passage to Lymington Harbour

**Activity:** Supervised small craft passage (sailing cruiser / dayboat)

**Location:** St Denys Boat Club (River Itchen) to Lymington (East Solent)

**Activity Type:** Supervised club passage – skipper-led dynamic risk management

**Assessor:** James Wardle

**Reviewed by:** Andrew Ktenas

**Date last reviewed:** January 2026

**Version:** v1.0

### Scope and Context

This risk assessment covers a supervised sailing passage from St Denys Boat Club to Lymington Harbour via the Solent. The route includes busy leisure sailing areas, strong tidal streams, ferry operations, and a narrow dredged river channel with significant cross-set at the entrance.

### Participant Responsibilities

All crew are responsible for acting in a manner that supports their own safety and the safety of the vessel. Crew must follow the skipper’s instructions, wear lifejackets at all times on deck, assist with lookout duties, and be prepared to respond promptly to sail handling, anchoring, and emergency situations. Crew must report fatigue, seasickness, or uncertainty early and avoid distracting the helm during high-workload phases such as tidal gates, traffic-dense areas, and harbour approaches.

### Risk Assessment Table

| Hazard                          | Who Might Be Harmed | Risk                  | Control Measures (Port / Solent guidance aligned) | Risk Level | Further Actions |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---|------------|-----------------|
| Dense leisure traffic in Solent | All on board        | Collision; congestion | Maintain lookout; avoid racing fleets             | High       | Check events    |

|                               |              |                      |                                       |        |                   |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Wightlink ferry movements     | All on board | Collision; wash      | Avoid ferry path; monitor VHF         | High   | Identify schedule |
| Strong cross-tide at entrance | All on board | Set onto shallows    | Adjust heading; maintain speed        | High   | Brief helm        |
| Narrow dredged channel        | All on board | Grounding; collision | Stay central; low speed               | Medium | Assign lookout    |
| Strong tidal flow in river    | All on board | Loss of control      | Plan approach; use engine effectively | Medium | Pre-brief         |

### General Notes

- Passage planning must include tidal gates, weather margins, and clearly defined abort points.
- A float plan must be filed with a shore contact including route, crew list, and ETAs.
- VHF: monitor appropriate port and harbour working channels; Channel 16 for distress only.
- Review annually or following any incident, near miss, or significant route change.