

Annex 1 - Opening Procedure Guidance for Passage of Vessels under Bridge

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General Notes

A. Opening Procedure for the Passage of Vessels under Herring Bridge

- I. This guidance document (“Opening Procedures Guidance” or “Guidance”) sets out the opening procedure for the passage of vessels under Herring Bridge, Great Yarmouth, and constitutes a scheme of operation pursuant to article 43 of, and Schedule 10 to, the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020 (“the Order”).
- II. References in the Order to “the new bridge” are, for the purposes of this Guidance, references to Herring Bridge, Great Yarmouth.

B. Passage of Vessels under Herring Bridge

- I. Vessels must not pass under the bridge without prior consent from both the Herring Bridge Control (see paragraph (c) below) and from the Harbour Master (see (d) below). Consent from Herring Bridge Control must be obtained in accordance with the process set out in this Opening Procedures Guidance.

Note: This obligation applies to all vessels wishing to pass under the bridge regardless of their size or height. Herring Bridge Control will confirm whether the bridge requires opening for individual vessels and will direct them accordingly.

- II. Movements of all vessels within the waterway below the bridge must comply with;
 - This Guidance; and
 - All requirements of the Great Yarmouth Port Authority (‘GYPA’); and
 - All directions and requirements of the Harbour Master (Contact via Peel Ports).

C. Herring Bridge Control Contact Details

The operators of the bridge will be referred to in this Guidance as ‘Herring Bridge Control’ or ‘Bridge Control’ and are located in the control tower of the bridge. The Norfolk County Council Bridge Reference Number is TG5015.

Herring Bridge Control can be contacted via the following options:

- Port’s operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (Call sign ‘Herring Bridge’)
- Telephone on **01493 448448**
- E-mail on Bookings@Herringbridge.com
- Postal Address:
 - Herring Bridge Control Tower,
 - Southtown Road,
 - Great Yarmouth,
 - NR31 0LA
- Customer Web Portal at: [Herring Bridge \(Third River Crossing\)](#)

D. Definitions

This Guidance may refer to the following expressions with the following meanings:

“**peak hours**” means the periods between 08:00 to 09:00 on any day and between 16:30 and 17:30 on any day;

“**emergency vessel**” means a vessel used to respond to an emergency whether operated by the GYPA, a recognised emergency service or deputised provider;

“**excessive wind condition**” means greater than 20m/s or 38.8 knots wind speed (10 minute average);

“**GYPA**” means Great Yarmouth Port Authority and includes any person or body authorised by the Authority to act on its behalf;

“**Harbour Master**” means any person appointed by GYPA under section 51 of the Harbour, Dock or Pier Clauses Act 1847(c) and includes that person’s authorised deputies and assistants (Contact via Peel Ports);

“**inbound vessel**” means any vessel approaching Herring Bridge from the mouth of the River Yare intending to transit the bridge in a northerly direction towards the Haven Bridge;

“**large vessel**” means any vessel to which a pilotage direction for Great Yarmouth Port made under section 7 (pilotage direction) of the Pilotage Act 1987 applies;

“**opening request**” means a request given in respect of a vessel specifying the opening time that it requires the bridge to be open;

“**opening request revision**” means a request for an amendment to the vessel’s planned passage (which may include a port passage plan) and to the opening time specified in an opening request;

“**opening time**” means the time when the vessel requires the bridge to be open as specified in an opening request;

“**outbound vessel**” means any vessel approaching Herring Bridge from the Haven Bridge intending to transit the bridge in a southerly direction towards the mouth of the River Yare;

“**port**” means Great Yarmouth Port;

“**port passage plan**” means the plan agreed with or directed by GYPA for the passage of a large vessel through the port.

“**recreational vessel**” means any vessel being used solely for leisure purposes at the time of its passage through the port and includes any commercially operated hire vessel when used or rented for leisure purposes; and

“specified event” means—

- I. an emergency (either marine or landside and includes a road traffic accident on or close to the bridge);
- II. excessive wind conditions or other adverse weather conditions such as affects the safe operation of the Herring Bridge;
- III. a vessel colliding with Herring Bridge;
- IV. a power failure, hydraulic failure or mechanical failure; or
- V. any other circumstance beyond the reasonable control of Bridge Control.

E. Mooring

Vessels must not moor to any part of Herring Bridge or its infrastructure without the prior consent of Herring Bridge Control and the Harbour Master.

F. Observation of Signals and Communications

River traffic control signal lights are located upstream and downstream of the bridge. These are operated by Herring Bridge Control. All vessels must observe and comply not only with the marine signal lights from Bridge Control but also any instructions from the Harbour Master.

Vessels approaching or departing Herring Bridge must make every reasonable effort to maintain contact with Bridge Control on port’s operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com). Specific contact times and contact points are set out in this Guidance and are shown on the Great Yarmouth Port Map (appendix 2).

Vessels awaiting passage under Herring Bridge must give other transiting vessels sufficient room to manoeuvre and ensure that their vessel does not advance beyond the outer edge of the bridge vessel impact protection systems until allowed to proceed by Bridge Control.

Vessels must not exceed a speed of 7 knots (8 MPH) when approaching and passing under the bridge. (Note this does not apply when a vessel is being used for a rescue operation, fire-fighting or for police or port operations).

G. Collision with Herring Bridge

Any vessel involved in a collision with the bridge structure, or any element of its infrastructure must, as soon as reasonably practicable, report the occurrence to Herring Bridge Control and the Harbour Master and thereafter provide details of the collision in writing.

H. Fixed penalty fines

These may be applicable if the requirements of paragraphs b, e, f, & g above are not adhered to in accordance with Part VA of the Great Yarmouth Port Authority Navigation (Haven) Byelaws 1997 as set out in article 51(5) of the Development Consent Order.

I. Navigational envelope

The space beneath the bridge for vessels to pass is called the navigational envelope. The navigational envelope dimensions are:

When the bridge is in the lowered position:

- 50m width between the front faces of the fenders.
- The clearance under the bridge will change with tidal movements. Air draft boards at the bridge show the maximum clear height. The navigational envelope allows 4.5m clearance between River Yare water level and the underside of the bridge deck at mean high-water springs (MHWS) level.

When the bridge is in the raised position:

- 50m width between the front faces of the fenders.
- An infinite air draught over the River Yare water level.

J. Co-ordination of multiple Great Yarmouth bridge openings

If a vessel requires openings of multiple Great Yarmouth bridges as part of its passage through the port, it is strongly advised that bookings for Haven Bridge and Breydon Bridge openings are obtained from Peel Ports ahead of contacting Herring Bridge Control.

1.0 Inbound Vessels Opening Requests

Definition: Any vessel approaching Herring Bridge from the south and the mouth of the River Yare intending to transit the bridge in a northerly direction;

- 1.1 Vessels are to contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com or via [Herring Bridge Online Booking Form](#)) and make an **opening request** as soon as practically possible and no later than **120 minutes** (2 hours) prior to the required opening time.

The request must contain the following information—

- 1.1.1 the name of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 1.1.2 the required bridge opening time (time which the vessel intends to commence its transit through the bridge) and (when approaching from the open sea) the time the vessel intends to pass the piers at the mouth of the River Yare;
 - 1.1.3 the overall length, draught and beam of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 1.1.4 the presence of any superstructure, cargo, or structure which overhangs the designed beam of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 1.1.5 the air draught of the vessel; and
 - 1.1.6 for a tug and tow, or vessel being escorted by a tug or tugs;
 - I. the names and number of tugs;
 - II. the overall length of the tow;
 - III. the maximum beam of the tow or towed object.
 - 1.1.7 if available, confirmation of alternative emergency contact method (i.e. an alternative method to the method by which the original opening request was made), being either via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12, or a designated emergency phone contact number, or other method as agreed with Herring Bridge Control.
- 1.2 Once Bridge Control has received the opening request it will carry out the following:
 - 1.2.1. acknowledge the opening request, by the same means as it was given, within 10 minutes of receiving the request;
 - 1.2.2. provide a confirmation of approval or refusal of the requested opening time within 10 minutes of acknowledging the request;
 - 1.2.3. where an opening request is refused, provide the following information;
 - I. a reason for refusing the request; and
 - II. except in the case of exceptional circumstances, an alternative time for the vessel to transit the bridge.

1.3 Vessels must **reconfirm** the approved opening time with Bridge Control via VHF Radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com) no later than **60 minutes** (1 hour) prior to the approved opening time.

1.4 Once Bridge Control has received the opening request reconfirmation, it will carry out the following:

1.4.1. acknowledge the opening request **reconfirmation** within 10 minutes and reconfirm approval or refusal (as the case may be) in accordance with 1.2 above.

1.5 Opening Request Waypoint

1.5.1. The bridge will commence its opening sequence 5 minutes prior to the opening time specified in the opening request or opening request revision. If the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening prior to this time they must contact Bridge Control via VHF Radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448). This contact must be done in advance of the time at which the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening to ensure the bridge is fully open when the vessel reaches its last safe abort point. The opening request waypoint and the timing of the contact with Bridge Control should be determined by the vessel master or pilot taking account of the vessels expected speed over ground, the prevailing river conditions and any other factors affecting passage.

1.6 Inbound Vessels - Requirements additional to Opening Request above:

1.6.1 Vessels entering the port from the open sea must contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior to passing the piers at the mouth of the River Yare, reconfirming the approved opening time for transiting the bridge.

1.6.2 Vessels approaching from below the pilot station, situated at Berth 42, must conduct a further marine VHF call (Channel 12 or by phone 01439 448448) with Herring Bridge Control on passing abeam of the pilot station, reconfirming the approved opening time for transiting the bridge.

1.6.3 Vessels departing a berth within the River Yare to the south of the bridge and intending to conduct a transit through the bridge are to contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior letting go all lines, reconfirming the approved opening time for transiting the bridge.

1.7 Inbound Vessels acting as a group

Vessels acting as a group and wishing to transit the bridge as a group may request a bridge opening in accordance with the procedures in paragraph 1.0 provided that—

1.7.1 the opening request is made by the group leader;

1.7.2 all vessels included in the group are listed in the opening request; and

1.7.3 the number of vessels is such that the anticipated transit time through the bridge from the passage of the first vessel to the passage of the last vessel is no greater than 15 minutes.

1.8 Opening Request Revisions

1.8.1 Should a vessel need to revise a previously approved opening time, it must contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com) as soon as practically possible and no later than **30 minutes** prior to the previously requested opening time.

1.8.2 The Opening Request Revisions must contain and reconfirm the following information—

1.8.2.1 The name of the vessel requesting passage;

1.8.2.2 The required bridge opening time (time which the vessel intends to commence its transit through the bridge) and (when approaching from the open sea) the time the vessel intends to pass the piers at the mouth of the River Yare

1.8.2.3 The overall length, draught and beam of the vessel requesting passage;

1.8.2.4 The presence of any superstructure, cargo, or structure which overhangs the designed beam of the vessel requesting passage;

1.8.2.5 The air draught of the vessel; and

1.8.2.6 For a tug and tow, or vessel being escorted by a tug or tugs

I The names and number of tugs;

II The overall length of the tow;

III The maximum beam of the tow or towed object.

1.8.2.7 If available, confirmation of an alternative emergency contact method (i.e. an alternative method to the method by which the original opening request was made), being either via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12, or a designated emergency phone contact number, or other method as agreed with Herring Bridge Control.

1.8.3 Where revision is made through written communications, the first line of text must read "opening request revision".

1.8.4 Once Bridge Control has received the opening request revision it will carry out the following:

1.8.4.1. Acknowledge the opening request revision, by the same means as it was given, within 10 minutes of receiving the request;

- 1.8.4.2. Provide a confirmation of approval or refusal of the requested opening time within 10 minutes of acknowledging the request;
- 1.8.4.3. Where an opening request revision is refused, provide the following information—
 - I. A reason for refusing the request; and
 - II. Except in the case of exceptional circumstances, an alternative time for the vessel to transit the bridge.

1.9 Emergency Cancellation of Scheduled Bridge Lift

- 1.9.1 Following a request for a bridge opening, if a subsequent emergency or unforeseen adverse event arises (including adverse weather conditions) which prevents or is likely to prevent the safe operation of the bridge opening, Herring Bridge Control will contact affected vessels immediately via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or via the vessels designated emergency contact method/phone) to advise that opening/s have been cancelled/aborted.
- 1.9.2 In such an occurrence the vessel/s should immediately slow or halt (if safe to do so) their approach to the bridge and contact the Harbour Master (LPS) via port's operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 (or by phone on 01493 335511) to advise their current location and, where appropriate, arrange a temporary berth or agree to depart the port until an alternative opening time is available.
- 1.9.3 Once the emergency or unforeseen event has been resolved, Herring Bridge Control will contact the vessel/s at the earliest opportunity via port's operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 or via the vessels designated phone contact (as appropriate) to advise and arrange a revised opening time.

2.0 Outbound Vessels Opening Requests

Definition: Any vessel approaching Herring Bridge from the north intending to transit the bridge in a southerly direction towards the harbour mouth and open sea.

- 2.1 Vessels are to contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com or via [Herring Bridge Online Booking Form](#)) and make an **opening request** as soon as practically possible and no later than **120 minutes** (2 hours) prior to the required opening time.

The request must contain the following information—

- 2.1.1 The name of the vessel requesting passage;
- 2.1.2 The required opening time (time at which the vessel intends to commence its transit through the bridge);
- 2.1.3 The overall length, draught and beam of the vessel requesting passage;
- 2.1.4 The presence of any superstructure, cargo, or structure which overhangs the designed beam of the vessel requesting passage;
- 2.1.5 The air draught of the vessel; and
- 2.1.6 For a tug and tow, or vessel being escorted by a tug or tugs;
 - I. the names and number of tugs;
 - II. the overall length of the tow;
 - III. the maximum beam of the tow or towed object.
- 2.1.7 If available, confirmation of an alternative emergency contact method (i.e. an alternative method to the method by which the original opening request was made), being either via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12, or a designated emergency phone contact number, or other method as agreed with Herring Bridge Control.

- 2.2 Once Bridge Control has received the opening request it will carry out the following:

- 2.2.1 acknowledge the opening request, by the same means as it was given, within 10 minutes of receiving the request;
- 2.2.2 provide a confirmation of approval or refusal of the requested opening time within 10 minutes of acknowledging the request; and
- 2.2.3 Where an opening request is refused, provide the following information;
 - I. A reason for refusing the request; and
 - II. Except in the case of exceptional circumstances, an alternative time for the vessel to transit the bridge.

2.3 Vessels must **reconfirm** the approved opening time with Bridge Control via VHF Radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com) no later than **60 minutes** (1 hour) prior to the approved opening time.

2.4 Once Bridge Control has received the opening request reconfirmation, it will carry out the following:

2.4.1. Acknowledge the opening request reconfirmation within 10 minutes and reconfirm approval or refusal (as the case may be) in accordance with 2.2 above.

2.5 Opening Request Waypoint

2.5.1. The bridge will commence its opening sequence 5 minutes prior to the opening time specified in the opening request or opening request revision. If the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening prior to this time they must contact Bridge Control via VHF Radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448). This contact must be done in advance of the time at which the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening to ensure the bridge is fully open when the vessel reaches its last safe abort point. The opening request waypoint and the timing of the contact with Bridge Control should be determined by the vessel master or pilot taking account of the vessels expected speed over ground, the prevailing river conditions and any other factors affecting passage.

2.6 Outbound Vessels - Requirements additional to Opening Request above.

2.6.1. Vessels entering the port **from the north** (heading south) must contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior to passing the Haven Bridge, reconfirming the intended time of transiting Herring Bridge.

2.6.2. Vessels **departing a berth within the River Yare** to the north of the bridge and intending to conduct a transit through the bridge are to contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior letting go all lines.

2.7 Outbound Vessels acting as a group.

Vessels acting as a group and wishing to transit the bridge as a group may request a bridge opening in accordance with the procedures in paragraph 2.0 above provided that—

2.7.1. the opening request is made by the group leader;

2.7.2. all vessels included in the group are listed in the opening request; and

2.7.3. the number of vessels is such that the anticipated transit time through the bridge from the passage of the first vessel to the passage of the last vessel is no greater than 15 minutes.

2.8 Opening Request Revisions

- 2.8.1 Should a vessel need to revise a previously approved opening time, it must contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com) as soon as practically possible and no later than **30 minutes** prior to the previously requested opening time.
- 2.8.2 The Opening Request Revisions must contain and reconfirm the following information—
- 2.8.2.1 The name of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 2.8.2.2 The required opening time (time which the vessel intends to commence its transit through the bridge);
 - 2.8.2.3 The overall length, draught and beam of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 2.8.2.4 The presence of any superstructure, cargo, or structure which overhangs the designed beam of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 2.8.2.5 The air draught of the vessel; and
 - 2.8.2.6 For a tug and tow, or vessel being escorted by a tug or tugs;
 - I. the names and number of tugs;
 - II. the overall length of the tow
 - III. the maximum beam of the tow or towed object.
 - 2.8.2.7 If available, confirmation of an alternative emergency contact method (i.e. an alternative method to the method by which the original opening request was made), being either via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12, or a designated emergency phone contact number, or other method as agreed with Herring Bridge Control.
- 2.8.3 Where it is made through written communications, the first line of text must read "opening request revision".
- 2.8.4 Once Bridge Control has received the opening request revision it will carry out the following:
- 2.8.4.1 Acknowledge the opening request revision, by the same means as it was given, within 10 minutes of receiving the request;
 - 2.8.4.2 Provide a confirmation of approval or refusal of the requested opening time within 10 minutes of acknowledging the request;
 - 2.8.4.3 Where an opening request revision is refused, provide the following information—
 - I. A reason for refusing the request; and
 - II. Except in the case of exceptional circumstances, an alternative time for the vessel to transit the bridge.

2.9 Emergency Cancellation of Scheduled Bridge Lift

- 2.9.1. Following a request for a bridge opening, if a subsequent emergency or unforeseen adverse event arises (including adverse weather conditions) which prevents or is likely to prevent the safe operation of the bridge opening, Herring Bridge Control will contact affected vessels immediately via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or via the vessel's designated emergency contact method/phone) to advise that opening/s have been cancelled/aborted.
- 2.9.2. In such an occurrence the vessel/s should immediately slow or halt (if safe to do so) their approach to the bridge and contact the Harbour Master(LPS) via port's operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 (or by phone on 01493 335511) to advise their current location and, where appropriate, arrange a temporary berth or agree to depart the port until an alternative opening time is available.
- 2.9.3. Once the emergency or unforeseen event has been resolved, Herring Bridge Control will contact the vessel/s at the earliest opportunity via port's operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 or via the vessel's designated phone contact (as appropriate) to advise and arrange a revised opening time.

3.0 Large Vessel Opening Request.

Definition: Any vessel to which a pilotage direction for Great Yarmouth Port made under section 7 (pilotage direction) of the Pilotage Act 1987 applies.

3.1 Prior to any large vessel entering Great Yarmouth Port and prior to contacting Herring Bridge Control, the vessel master, owner, agent, pilot or operator must contact the great Yarmouth Port Harbour Master to agree a port passage plan. As part of this mandatory port planning procedure, the following must be confirmed:

- I. In the event that the bridge does not open to allow safe transit of the vessel, what safe alternative manoeuvre would be practical for the vessel: and
- II. Whether GYPA can identify a suitable emergency berth for the vessel as part of the port passage plan.

If the harbour master considers that no safe alternative manoeuvres are practical and if GYPA is unable to identify a suitable emergency berth, then Herring Bridge Control will plan for the bridge to be opened before the vessel passes the piers at the entrance to the harbour and the mouth of the River Yare.

3.2 **Once the harbour master has confirmed/agreed** the above with the vessel master, owner, agent, pilot or operator, the large vessel is to contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com or via [Herring Bridge Online Booking Form](#)) and make an **opening request** as soon as practically possible and no later than **120 minutes** (2 hours) prior to the required opening time.

The request must contain the following information—

- 3.2.1. The name of the vessel requesting passage;
- 3.2.2. Confirm that vessel is considered a large vessel in accordance with the definition above and/or the Harbour Master's assessment;
- 3.2.3. Confirm whether or not the harbour master considers a safe alternative manoeuvre is practical and/or whether or not GYPA has identified a suitable emergency berth and if so, confirm location of the designated emergency berth;
- 3.2.4. Confirm whether or not, with the agreement of the Harbour Master, it is considered necessary, as part of the port passage plan, to open the bridge before the vessel passes the piers at the mouth of the River Yare;
- 3.2.5. The required bridge opening time (i.e. the time at which the vessel intends to commence its transit through the bridge) and (when approaching from the open sea) the time the vessel intends to pass the piers at the mouth of the River Yare;
- 3.2.6. The overall length, draught and beam of the vessel requesting passage;
- 3.2.7. The presence of any superstructure, cargo, or structure which overhangs the designed beam of the vessel requesting passage;
- 3.2.8. The air draught of the vessel; and
- 3.2.9. For a tug and tow, or vessel being escorted by a tug or tugs;
 - I. The names and number of tugs;

- II. The overall length of the tow;
- III. The maximum beam of the tow or towed object.

3.2.10. If available, confirmation of an alternative emergency contact method (i.e. an alternative method to the method by which the original opening request was made), being either via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12, or a designated emergency phone contact number, or other method as agreed with Herring Bridge Control.

3.3 Once Bridge Control has received the opening request it will carry out the following:

- 3.3.1. Acknowledge the opening request, by the same means as it was given, within 10 minutes of receiving the request;
- 3.3.2. Provide a confirmation of approval or refusal of the requested opening time within 10 minutes of acknowledging the request and;
- 3.3.3. Where an opening request is refused, provide the following information;
 - I. a reason for refusing the request; and
 - II. except in the case of exceptional circumstances, an alternative time for the vessel to transit the bridge.

3.4 Vessels must **reconfirm** the approved opening time with Bridge Control via VHF Radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com) no later than **60 minutes** (1 hour) prior to the approved opening time.

3.5 Once Bridge Control has received the opening request reconfirmation, it will carry out the following:

- 3.5.1. acknowledge the opening request **reconfirmation** within 10 minutes and reconfirm approval or refusal (as the case may be) in accordance with 3.2 above.

3.6 Opening Request Waypoint

- 3.6.1. The bridge will commence its opening sequence 5 minutes prior to the opening time specified in the opening request or opening request revision. If the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening prior to this time they must contact Bridge Control via VHF Radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448). This contact must be done in advance of the time at which the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening to ensure the bridge is fully open when the vessel reaches its last safe abort point. The opening request waypoint and the timing of the contact with Bridge Control should be determined by the vessel master or pilot taking account of the vessels expected speed over ground, the prevailing river conditions and any other factors affecting passage.

3.7 Large Vessels - Requirements additional to Opening Request above.

- 3.7.1. Vessels entering the port **from the open sea** must contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior

to passing the piers at the mouth of the River Yare, reconfirming the approved opening time for transiting the bridge.

- 3.7.2. Vessels approaching **from below the pilot station**, situated at Berth 42, must conduct a further marine VHF call (Channel 12 or by phone 01493 448448) with Herring Bridge Control on passing abeam of the pilot station and again reconfirm the approved opening time for transiting the bridge.
- 3.7.3. Vessels entering the port **from the north** (heading south) must contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior to passing through Haven Bridge, reconfirming the intended time of transiting Herring Bridge.
- 3.7.4. Vessels **departing a berth within the River Yare** to the north or south of the bridge and intending to conduct a transit through the bridge are to contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior letting go all lines.

3.8 Opening Request Revisions

- 3.8.1. Should a large vessel need to revise a previously approved opening time, it must contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone **01493 448448** or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com) as soon as practically possible and no later than **30 minutes** prior to the previously requested opening time.
- 3.8.2. The Opening Request Revisions must contain and reconfirm the following information—
 - 3.8.2.1. The name of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 3.8.2.2. confirmation that the vessel is considered a large vessel in accordance with the definition above and/or the Harbour Master's assessment;
 - 3.8.2.3. confirmation whether or not the harbour master considers a safe alternative manoeuvre is practical and/or whether or not GYPA has identified a suitable emergency berth and if so, confirm location of the designated emergency berth;
 - 3.8.2.4. confirmation of whether or not, with the agreement of the Harbour Master, it is considered necessary to open the bridge before the vessel passes the piers at the mouth of the port.
 - 3.8.2.5. The required bridge opening time (time at which the vessel intends to commence its transit through the bridge) and (when approaching from the open sea) the time the vessel intends to pass the piers at the mouth of the River Yare;
 - 3.8.2.6. The overall length, draught and beam of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 3.8.2.7. The presence of any superstructure, cargo, or structure which overhangs the designed beam of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 3.8.2.8. The air draught of the vessel; and
 - 3.8.2.9. For a tug and tow, or vessel being escorted by a tug or tugs;

- I. The names and number of tugs;
 - II. The overall length of the tow;
 - III. The maximum beam of the tow or towed object.
- 3.8.2.10. If available, confirmation of an alternative emergency contact method (i.e. an alternative method to the method by which the original opening request was made), being either via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12, or a designated emergency phone contact number, or other method as agreed with Herring Bridge Control.
- 3.8.3. Where it is made through written communications, the first line of text must read "opening request revision".
- 3.8.4. Once Bridge Control has received the opening request revision it will carry out the following:
- 3.8.4.1. Acknowledge the opening request revision, by the same means as it was given, within 10 minutes of receiving the request;
 - 3.8.4.2. Provide a confirmation of approval or refusal of the requested opening time within 10 minutes of acknowledging the request;
 - 3.8.4.3. Where an opening request revision is refused, provide the following information—
 - I. A reason for refusing the request; and
 - II. Except in the case of exceptional circumstances, an alternative time for the vessel to transit the bridge.

3.9 Emergency Cancellation of Scheduled Bridge Lift

- 3.9.1. Following a request for a bridge opening, if a subsequent emergency or unforeseen adverse event arises (including adverse weather conditions) which prevents or is likely to prevent the safe operation of the bridge opening, Herring Bridge Control will contact affected vessels immediately via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or via the vessel's designated emergency contact method/phone) to advise that opening/s have been cancelled/aborted.
- 3.9.2. In such an occurrence the vessel/s should immediately slow or halt (if safe to do so) their approach to the bridge and contact the Harbour Master (LPS) via port's operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 (or by phone on 01493 335511) to advise their current location and, where appropriate, arrange a temporary berth or agree to depart the port until an alternative opening time is available.
- 3.9.3. Once the emergency or unforeseen event has been resolved, Herring Bridge Control will contact the vessel/s at the earliest opportunity via port's operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 or via the vessel's designated phone contact (as appropriate) to advise and arrange a revised opening time.

4.0 Recreational Vessels

Definition: any vessel being used solely for leisure purposes at the time the vessel transits through Great Yarmouth Port including any commercially operated hire vessel when used or rented for leisure purposes.

General Information:

- I Herring Bridge will be opened to allow the passage of any recreational vessel in accordance with this Guidance and at such times as Bridge Control reasonably determines it practical and/or appropriate to open the bridge. This may exclude opening during peak hours or other circumstances.
- II Dedicated recreational vessel waiting facilities (pontoons) are provided on the western bank adjacent to the Herring Bridge both upstream and downstream. Where Bridge Control determines it is not practical and/or appropriate to open the bridge, recreational vessels must either use these waiting facilities or depart the port to wait for the next recreational opening.
- III Maximum single size and specification of vessel that can be accommodated at the recreational vessel waiting facility is: overall length of 26m, beam 10m, draught 1.98m and displacement of 300T.
- IV If the vessel waiting facilities become full and another recreational vessel requests passage, the bridge will open on request.
- V There is no public access to or from the quayside from the waiting facilities.

4.1. Recreational vessels are to contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com or via [Herring Bridge Online Booking Form](#)) and make an **opening request** as soon as practically possible and no later than **120 minutes** (2 hours) prior to the required opening time.

The request must contain the following information—

- 4.1.1. The name of the vessel requesting passage
- 4.1.2. The required opening time (time which the vessel intends to commence its transit through the bridge) and (when approaching from the open sea) the time the vessel intends to pass the piers at the mouth of the River Yare;
- 4.1.3. The overall length, draught and beam of the vessel requesting passage;
- 4.1.4. The presence of any superstructure or structure which overhangs the designed beam of the vessel requesting passage;
- 4.1.5. The air draught of the vessel; and
- 4.1.6. For a tug and tow, or vessel being escorted by a tug or tugs;
 - I. The names and number of tugs;

- II. The overall length of the tow;
- III. The maximum beam of the tow or towed object.

4.1.7. If available, confirmation of an alternative emergency contact method (i.e. an alternative method to the method by which the original opening request was made), being either via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12, or a designated emergency phone contact number, or other method as agreed with Herring Bridge Control.

4.2. Once Herring Bridge Control has received the opening request it will carry out the following:

- 4.2.1. acknowledge the opening request, by the same means as it was given, within 10 minutes of receiving the request;
- 4.2.2. provide a confirmation of approval or refusal of the requested opening time within 10 minutes of acknowledging the request; and
- 4.2.3. where an opening request is refused or where an opening is not required for smaller vessels, provide the following information;
 - I. confirmation that the vessel may pass under the bridge without the requirement for it to open and confirmation of any additional requirements and information regarding the navigation control lights or other relevant navigational information;
 - II. confirmation of the reason for refusing the request and, except in the case of exceptional circumstances, confirmation of an alternative time for the vessel to transit the bridge.
 - III. if an opening request is refused, confirmation as to whether the waiting facilities adjacent to the bridge are full.

4.3. Recreational vessels must **reconfirm** the approved opening time with Bridge Control via VHF Radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com) no later than **60 minutes** (1 hour) prior to the approved opening time.

4.4. Once Bridge Control has received the opening request reconfirmation, it will carry out the following:

- 4.4.1. acknowledge the opening request **reconfirmation** within 10 minutes and reconfirm approval or refusal (as the case may be) in accordance with 4.2 above.

4.5. Opening Request Waypoint

- 4.5.1. The bridge will commence its opening sequence 5 minutes prior to the opening time specified in the opening request or opening request revision. If the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening prior to this time they must contact Bridge Control via VHF Radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448). This contact must be done in advance of the time at which the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening to ensure the bridge is fully open when the vessel reaches its last safe abort point. The opening request waypoint and the timing of the contact with Bridge Control should be determined by the vessel master or

pilot taking account of the vessels expected speed over ground, the prevailing river conditions and any other factors affecting passage.

4.6. Recreational Vessels - Additional Guidance and Requirements additional to Opening Request above.

4.6.1. Where the bridge has been opened for a vessel, other than a recreational vessel, a recreational vessel may transit the bridge with the express permission of Bridge Control, and provided that no direction to the contrary has been given by the Harbour Master for reasons related to safety or navigation purposes.

4.6.1.1 Bridge Control will inform recreational vessels waiting at the vessel waiting facilities (pontoons), via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone **01493 448448**) of any appropriate opening times as they become available and will confirm the procedure and timing for recreational vessels to transit the bridge.

4.6.2. Recreational vessels entering the port from the **open sea** must contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior to passing the piers at the mouth of the River Yare, reconfirming the approved opening time for transiting the bridge.

4.6.3. Recreational vessels approaching **from below the pilot station**, situated at Berth 42, must conduct a further marine VHF call (Channel 12 or by phone 01493 448448) with Herring Bridge Control on passing abeam of the pilot station and again reconfirm the approved opening time for transiting the bridge.

4.6.4. Recreational vessels **entering the port from the north** (heading south) must contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior to passing the Haven Bridge, reconfirming the intended time of transiting Herring Bridge.

4.6.5. Recreational vessels **departing a berth within the River Yare** to the north or south of the bridge (including the pontoon waiting facilities) and intending to conduct a transit through the bridge are to contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior letting go all lines.

4.7. Recreational Vessels acting as a group

Recreational vessels acting as a group and wishing to transit the bridge as a group may request a bridge opening in accordance with the procedures in paragraph 4.0 provided that

4.7.1.1 The opening request is made by the group leader;

4.7.2.1 All vessels included in the group are listed in the opening request; and

4.7.3.1 The number of vessels is such that the anticipated transit time through the bridge from the passage of the first vessel to the passage of the last vessel is no greater than 15 minutes.

4.8. Opening Request Revisions

4.8.1. Should a recreational vessel need to revise a previously approved opening time, it must contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio

channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448 or via e-mail Bookings@Herringbridge.com) as soon as practically possible and no later than **30 minutes** prior to the previously approved opening time.

4.8.2. The Opening Request Revisions must contain and reconfirm the following information—

4.8.2.1. The name of the vessel requesting passage;

4.8.2.2. The required bridge opening time (time at which the vessel intends to commence its transit through the bridge) and (when approaching from the open sea) the time the vessel intends to pass the piers at the mouth of the River Yare;

4.8.2.3. The overall length, draught and beam of the vessel requesting passage;

4.8.2.4. The presence of any superstructure, cargo, or structure which overhangs the designed beam of the vessel requesting passage;

4.8.2.5. The air draught of the vessel; and

4.8.2.6. For a tug and tow, or vessel being escorted by a tug or tugs;

I. The names and number of tugs;

II. The overall length of the tow;

III. The maximum beam of the tow or towed object.

4.8.2.7. If available, confirmation of an alternative emergency contact method (i.e. an alternative method to the method by which the original opening request was made), being either via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12, or a designated emergency phone contact number, or other method as agreed with Herring Bridge Control.

4.8.3. Where a revision is made through written communications, the first line of text must read "opening request revision".

4.8.4. Once Bridge Control has received the opening request revision it will carry out the following

4.8.4.1. Acknowledge the opening request revision, by the same means as it was given, within 10 minutes of receiving the request;

4.8.4.2. Provide a confirmation of approval or refusal of the requested opening time within 10 minutes of acknowledging the request;

4.8.4.3. Where an opening request revision is refused, provide the following information—

I. A reason for refusing the request; and

II. Except in the case of exceptional circumstances, an alternative time for the vessel to transit the bridge.

4.9. Emergency Cancellation of Scheduled Bridge Lift

4.9.1. Following a previous request for a bridge opening, if a subsequent emergency or unforeseen adverse event arises (including adverse weather conditions) which

prevents or is likely to prevent the safe operation of the bridge opening, Herring Bridge Control will contact affected vessels immediately via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or via the vessel's designated emergency contact method/phone) to advise that opening/s have been cancelled/aborted.

- 4.9.2. In such an occurrence the vessel/s should immediately slow or halt (if safe to do so) their approach to the bridge and contact the Harbour Master (LPS) via port's operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 (or by phone on 01493 335511) to advise their current location and, where appropriate, arrange a temporary berth or agree to depart the port until an alternative opening time is available.
- 4.9.3. Once the emergency or unforeseen event has been resolved, Herring Bridge Control will contact the vessel/s at the earliest opportunity via port's operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 or via the vessel's designated phone contact (as appropriate) to advise and arrange a revised opening time.

5.0 Emergency Vessels

Definition: emergency vessels responding to an emergency (whether operated by the Great Yarmouth Port Authority, or a recognised emergency service or deputised provider) and wishing to transit the bridge (and accordingly the master, owner, agent or operator of such vessels must comply with any obligation expressed by reference to an emergency vessel).

- 5.1. The provisions of sections 1 to 4 (regarding bridge opening requests) of this Opening Procedures Guidance do not apply to the emergency vessel.
- 5.2. When conducting an emergency opening request communication with Herring Bridge Control, vessels are to contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) and the communication must start with the phrase;

'This is an emergency call requesting an emergency transit through the bridge.'

- 5.3. An Emergency Opening Request must **provide as much notice as possible** of its required opening of the bridge and must contain the following information—
 - 5.3.1. the name of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 5.3.2. the nature of the emergency and the reason for requiring transit
 - 5.3.3. confirmation of whether or not other emergency service assistance has been requested independently or if other emergency assistance is required;
 - 5.3.4. the required opening time (time which the vessel intends to commence its transit through the bridge);
 - 5.3.5. the overall length, draught and beam of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 5.3.6. the presence of any superstructure, cargo, or structure which overhangs the designed beam of the vessel requesting passage;
 - 5.3.7. the air draught of the vessel; and
 - 5.3.8. for a tug and tow, or vessel being escorted by a tug or tugs;
 - I. The names and number of tugs;
 - II. The overall length of the tow;
 - III. The maximum beam of the tow or towed object.
 - 5.3.9. If available, confirmation of an alternative emergency contact method (i.e. an alternative method to the method by which the original opening request was made), being either via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12, or a designated emergency phone contact number, or other method as agreed with Herring Bridge Control.

5.4. Opening Request Waypoint

- 2.5.1. The bridge will commence its opening sequence 5 minutes prior to the opening time requested. If the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening prior to this time they must confirm this with Bridge Control via VHF Radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448). This contact must be done in advance of the time at which the vessel requires the bridge to commence opening to ensure the bridge

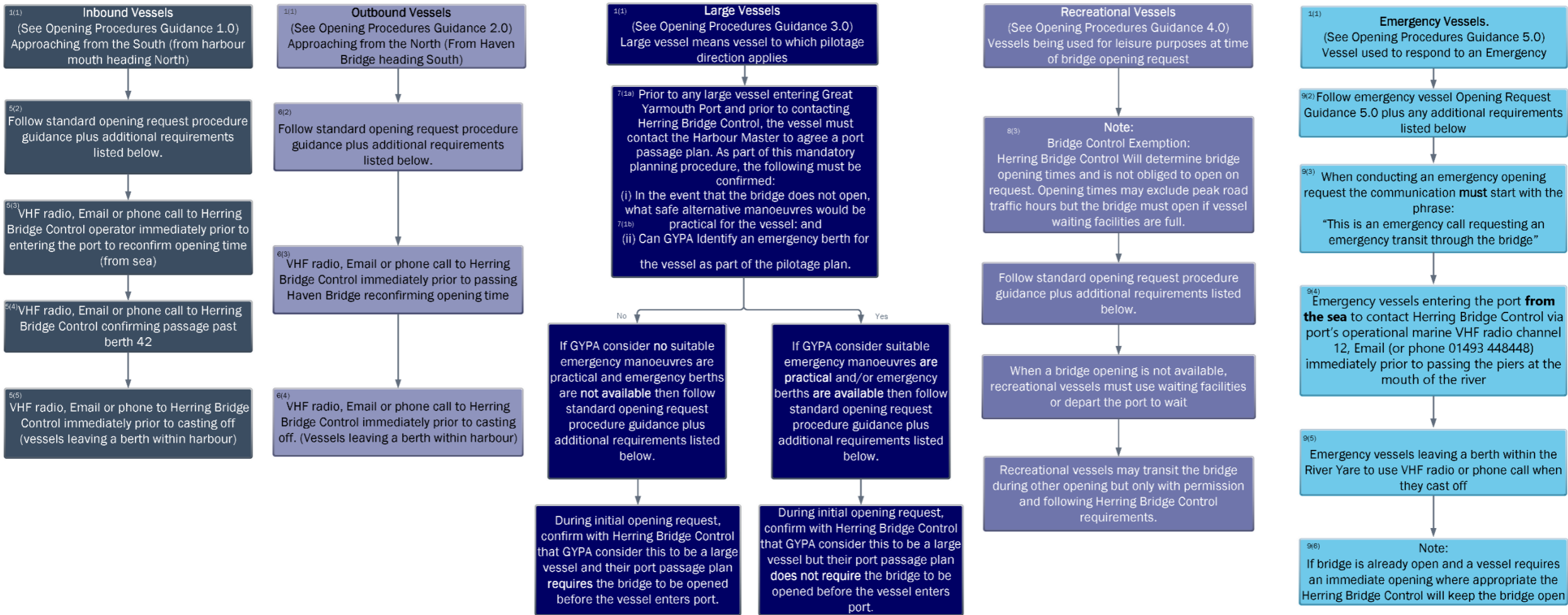
is fully open when the vessel reaches its last safe abort point. The opening request waypoint and the timing of the contact with Bridge Control should be determined by the vessel master or pilot taking account of the vessels expected speed over ground, the prevailing river conditions and any other factors affecting passage.

- 5.5. Emergency vessels entering the port from the **open sea** and intending to conduct an emergency transit through the bridge are to contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior to passing the piers at the mouth of the river Yare, reconfirming the time of transiting Herring Bridge.
 - 5.6. Emergency vessels entering the port **from the north** (heading south) and intending to conduct an emergency transit through the bridge must contact Herring Bridge Control via VHF marine radio Channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior to passing the Haven Bridge, reconfirming the time of transiting Herring Bridge.
 - 5.7. Emergency vessels approaching from the south below the pilot station, situated at Berth 42, must conduct a further marine VHF call (Channel 12 or by phone 01439 448448) with Herring Bridge Control on passing abeam of the pilot station, reconfirming the approved opening time for transiting the bridge.
 - 5.8. Emergency vessels departing **a berth within the river Yare** and intending to conduct an emergency transit through the bridge are to contact Herring Bridge Control via port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or by phone 01493 448448) immediately prior letting go all lines, reconfirming the time of transiting Herring Bridge.
 - 5.9. Should an emergency vessel request an **immediate bridge opening** whilst the bridge is already open to conduct a scheduled bridge opening, Herring Bridge Control will, where appropriate, ensure the bridge remains open until the emergency vessel has completed its transit and is past and clear.
- 5.10. Emergency Cancellation of Scheduled Bridge Lift**
- 5.10.1. Following a request for a bridge opening, if a subsequent emergency or unforeseen adverse event arises (including adverse weather conditions) which prevents or is likely to prevent the safe operation of the bridge opening, Herring Bridge Control will contact affected vessels immediately via the port's operational marine VHF radio channel 12 (or via the vessel's designated emergency contact method/phone) to advise that opening/s have been cancelled/aborted.
 - 5.10.2. In such an occurrence the vessel/s should immediately slow or halt (if safe to do so) their approach to the bridge and contact the Harbour Master (LPS) via port's operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 (or by phone on 01493 335511) to advise their current location and, where appropriate, arrange a temporary berth or agree to depart the port until an alternative opening time is available.
 - 5.10.3. Once the emergency or unforeseen event has been resolved, Herring Bridge Control will contact the vessel/s at the earliest opportunity via port's

operational marine VHF radio Channel 12 or via the vessel's designated phone contact (as appropriate) to advise and arrange a revised opening time.

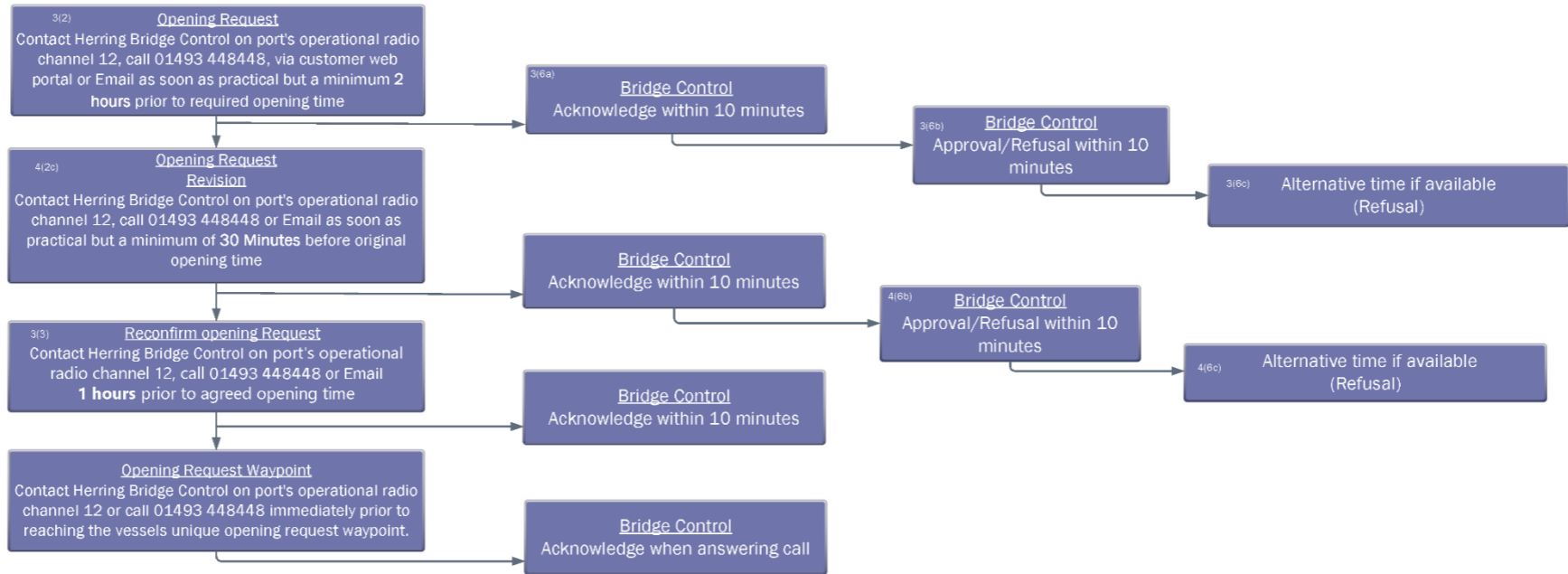
Appendix 1
Opening Request Procedure - Flow Diagram

Vessel Categories and Opening Request Procedure
 Vessels must not pass under the bridge without prior consent from the Herring Bridge Control. Consent is gained by following the Opening Procedures Guidance below. This obligation applies to all vessels wishing to pass under the bridge regardless of size. Herring Bridge Control will confirm if the bridge requires opening for individual vessels and will direct them accordingly.



Standard Opening Request Procedure Guidance (All Vessel Categories)

Contact information for Herring Bridge:
Telephone:
 01493 448448
E-mail :
 Bookings@Herringbridge.com
Postal address:
 Herring Bridge
 Southtown Road
 Great Yarmouth
 NR31 0LA
Customer Web Portal:
 Herring Bridge (Third River Crossing)
Port Operational Marine Radio Channel 12 (Call sign 'Herring Bridge')



Appendix 2
Great Yarmouth Port Map

