

# CLIPPER 2025-26 RACE

## RACE FINISH AND FLEET ARRIVAL INFORMATION

### CLIPPER RACE FINISH AND FLEET ARRIVAL INFORMATION INTO GUNWHARF QUAYS, PORTSMOUTH – SATURDAY 25 JULY 2026

#### SUMMARY

Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth will be hosting the fleet of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race from 25 July until 27 July 2026 for the official Race Finish and homecoming ceremony at the end of the Clipper 2025-26 Race.

At 40,000 nautical miles, the event is the world's longest sailing race and will take the ten identical 70-foot ocean racing yachts almost a year to complete their circumnavigation of the globe. It's the only race in the world where the organisers supply the fleet of ten identical, 70-foot, stripped down racing yachts – each sponsored by a destination or corporation – and man them with a fully trained and professional Skipper and Mate on each yacht, employed to lead the crews safely around the world.

Gunwharf Quays and Clipper Ventures are working in partnership to host the arrival and homecoming of this race with the support of Portsmouth City Council. It is intended to be an atmospheric, colourful affair as family and friends, supporters and spectators welcome the teams back to Portsmouth after their 40,000nm race around the world.

There will be a Final Sprint Race for the Clipper Race Fleet (Diagram 1) that will conclude between 1130 – 1200 LT on a Finish Line outside Portsmouth Harbour, just off Southsea Castle. *This will be the final racing action of the Clipper 2025-26 Race but will NOT be points scoring. It is primarily a ceremonial race for crew and spectators.* Stage 13 Oban to Portsmouth will determine the overall finishing positions of the teams.

The exact location and details of the Final Sprint Race and any race marks are subject to weather conditions at the time and will be determined by the Race Director. All teams will be briefed in advance.

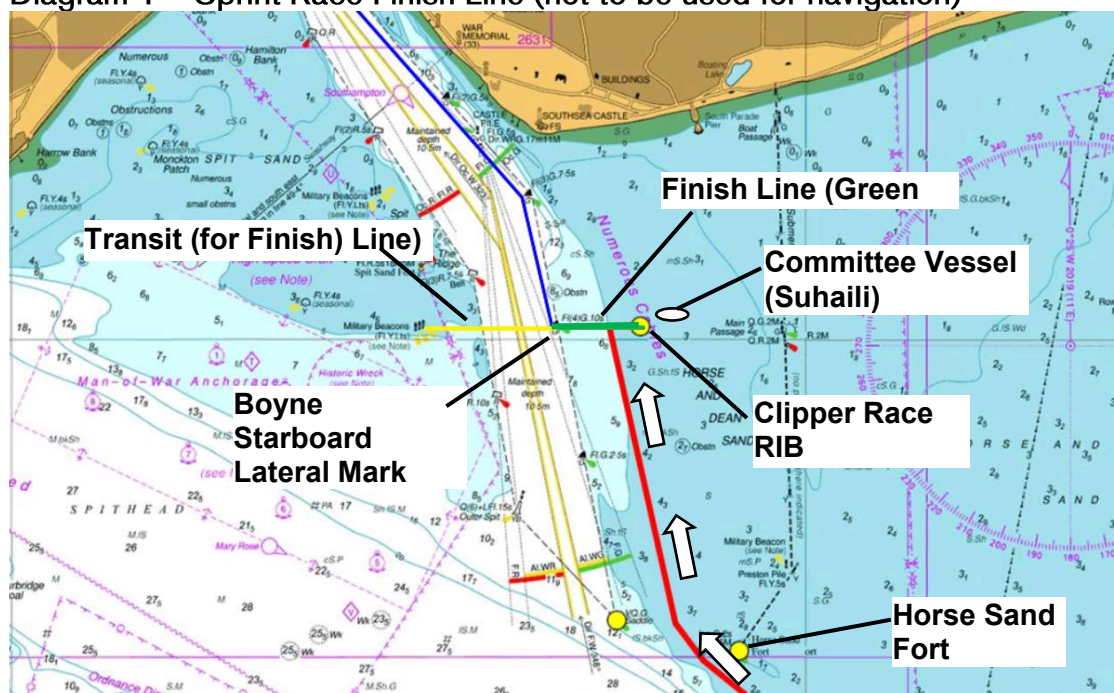
Any alterations to the proposed finish course shall be made on VHF CH 72.

The Clipper Race Committee reserves the right to change or adjust the starting procedures or race course and any aspect of the race course to ensure the overall objectives of the Clipper Race are achieved.

After a Fleet Parade into Portsmouth Harbour, the Clipper Race fleet will finally arrive and berth at Gunwharf Quays Marina on Saturday 25 July 2026 from 1400 LT.

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Diagram 1 – Sprint Race Finish Line (not to be used for navigation)



## CLIPPER RACE FINISH LINE

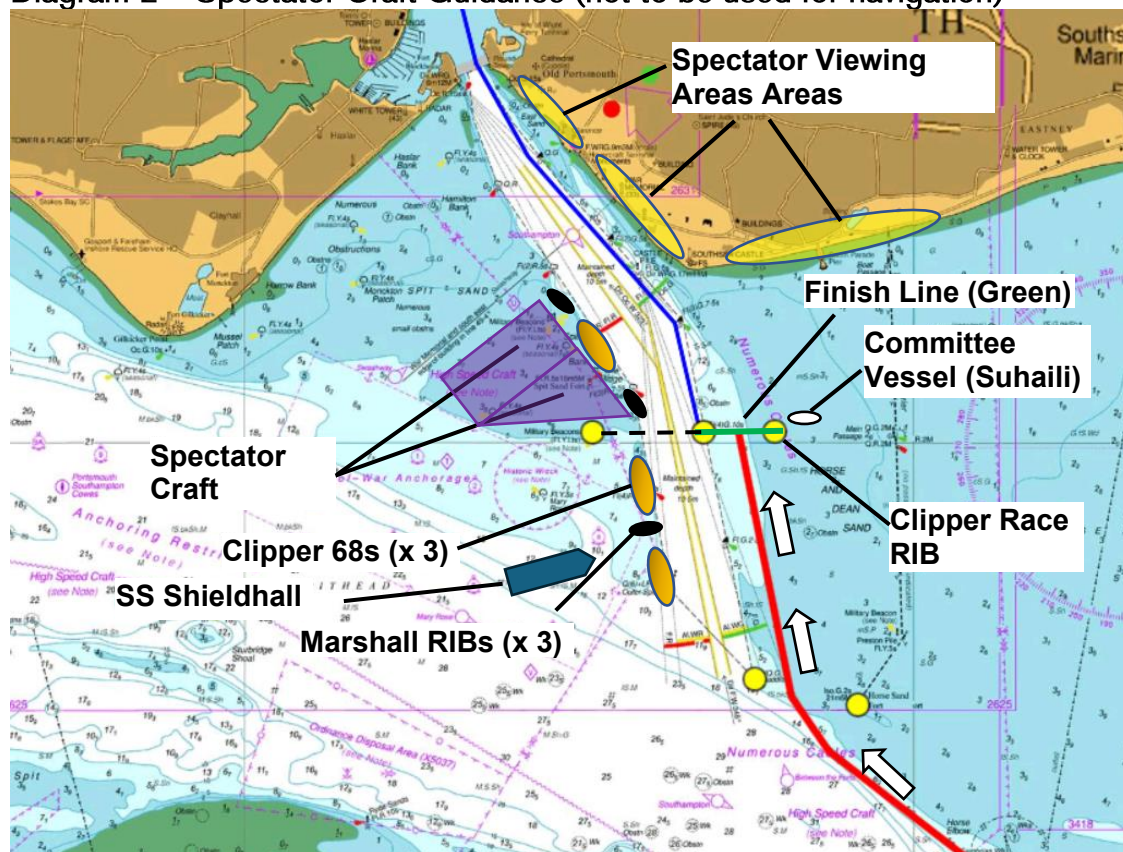
- The Finish Line is located outside Portsmouth Harbour in an area approx. 0.65nm due south of Southsea Castle.
- The Finish Line will be an extension (to the east) of a transit between:
  - The easternmost of the three Spit Sand Military Beacons South in position 50°46.040N, 001°05.924W
  - And,
  - Boyne Starboard Lateral Mark in approx. position 50°46.040N, 001°05.259W
- The western end of the Finish Line will be marked by Boyne Starboard Lateral Mark.
- The eastern end of the Finish Line will be marked by the Clipper Race RIB situated approx. 500m to the east of Boyne Starboard Lateral Mark along the transit extension (see Diagram 1 above).
- Each yacht will have deemed to have finished when crossing the Finish Line between Boyne Starboard Lateral Mark and the Clipper Race RIB.
- Suhaili will be the official Committee Vessel in the vicinity of the Finish Line and will give one cannon blast to signal the first yacht across the line. Suhaili will NOT be on the line.
- Any subsequent finishing signals will be made by air horn blast.
- The Finish Line is approx. 500m in length.
- The Finish Line shall be crossed in a South to North direction.
- The estimated finish time for the fleet will be between 1130 – 1200 LT on Saturday 25 July 2026.

- NOTE – ALL Clipper Race yachts shall remain east of the Main Portsmouth Entrance Channel when approaching the Finish Line.



## SPECTATOR CRAFT GUIDANCE

Diagram 2 – Spectator Craft Guidance (not to be used for navigation)



## SPECTATOR CRAFT GUIDANCE

- The Spectator Craft Area is in an area near to Spit Sand Fort and bounded by the main channel into Portsmouth Harbour, the Swashway, and an extension of the Finish Line (as shown above).
- ALL spectator craft should remain in the specific Spectator Craft Area (as detailed above) between 1100 and 1300 by which time the Clipper Race Fleet will have finished racing and started the Fleet Parade.
- Spectator Craft **MUST NOT** impede the Clipper Race Fleet when racing and should abide by instructions given by the official Race Marshal vessels.
- Race Marshals will be in attendance to keep spectator craft a safe distance away from the Clipper Race Fleet between 1100 – 1300 LT. All Race Marshal vessels will be identified by an orange marshal flag.
- Clipper Race Officials will be stationed on the water and will control the Finish Line and Clipper Race Fleet. All Clipper Race Officials are made up of experienced round the world yacht Skippers and Crew.
- Spectator Craft **MUST NOT** impede the Clipper Race Fleet during the Fleet Parade and should abide by instructions given by the official Race Marshal vessels.
- The finish course is subject to weather conditions on the day. The exact location of the finish course and any marks will be determined by the Race Director in the

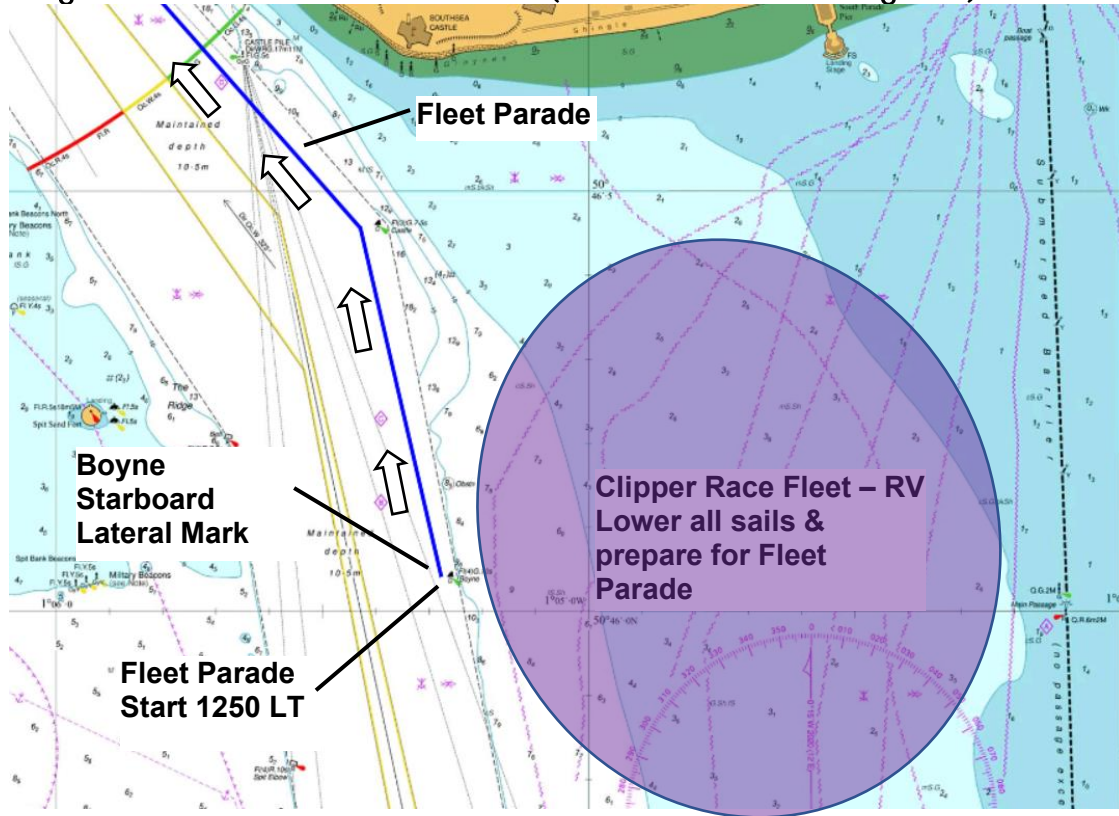
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- interests of general safety and in the best interests of the Clipper Race.
- The Clipper Race Committee reserves the right to change or adjust the finish course and any aspect of the race course to ensure the overall objectives of the Clipper Race are achieved.



## CLIPPER RACE FLEET PARADE

Diagram 3 – Fleet Parade Start 1250 (not to be used for navigation)



## CLIPPER RACE FLEET PARADE

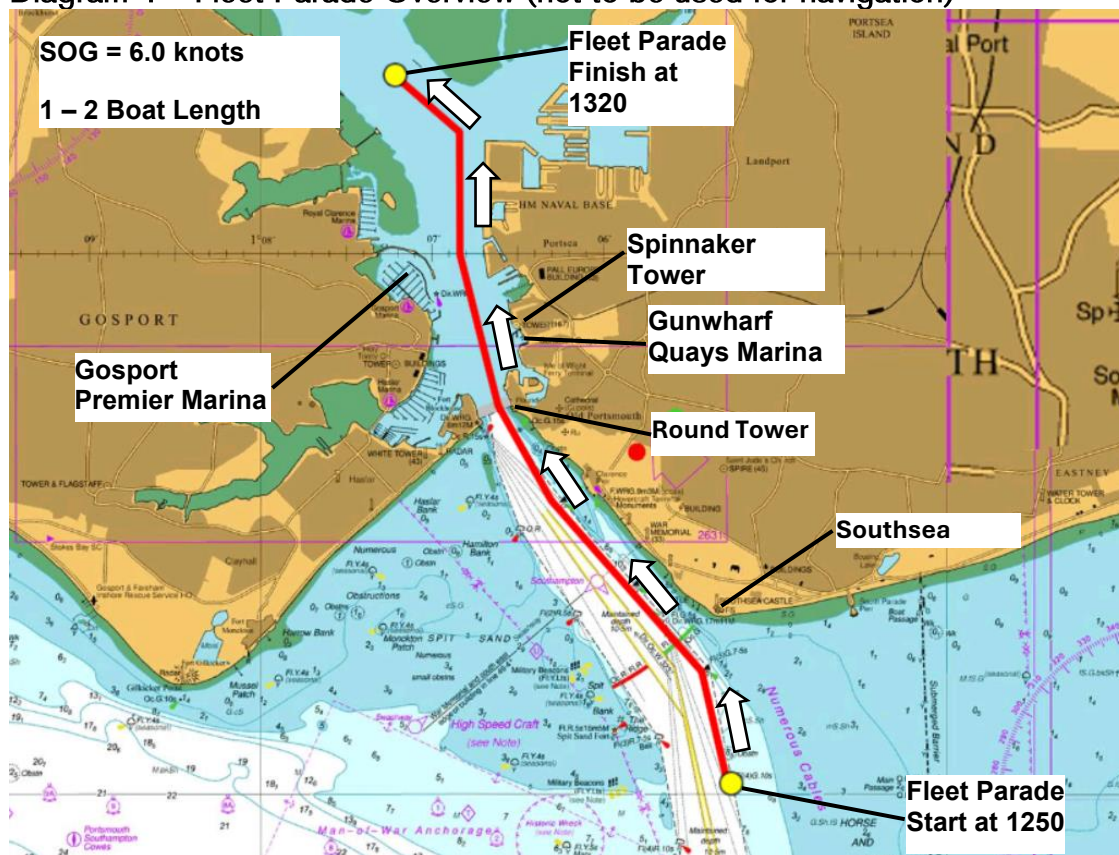
- The Clipper Race Fleet will complete a spectacular parade into Portsmouth Harbour past Gunwharf Quays and the Spinnaker Tower.
- The Fleet Parade will start at Boyne Starboard Lateral Mark at 1250 LT.
- The Clipper Race Fleet will be in a line astern formation with a two-boat length spacing between each yacht.
- The speed of the Fleet Parade will be approx. 6.0 knots.
- The Clipper Race Fleet will follow a cross-channel ferry, the SS Shieldhall and two Portsmouth International Port tugboats spraying water fountains.
- The distance of the Fleet Parade will be approx. 3.0nm and will take approx. 30 mins to complete.
- The Fleet Parade will finish at the Upper Harbour Ammunitioning Facility (UHAF) at approx. 1320 LT.
- The SS Shieldhall will make a U-turn to Starboard and exit Portsmouth Harbour. The cross-channel ferry and tugboats will head east to Portsmouth International Port.

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## CLIPPER RACE FLEET PARADE



Diagram 4 – Fleet Parade Overview (not to be used for navigation)



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Diagram 5 – Mont St Michel Ferry 1245 (not to be used for navigation)

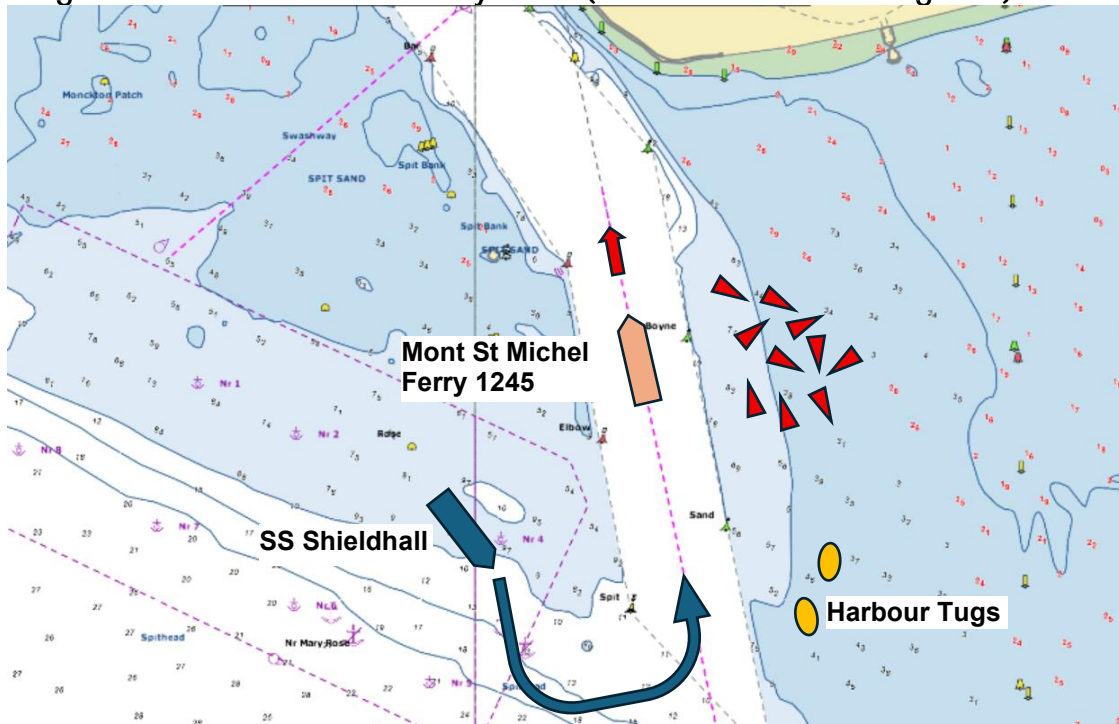


Diagram 6 – SS Shieldhall and Harbour Tug lead 1250 (not to be used for navigation)

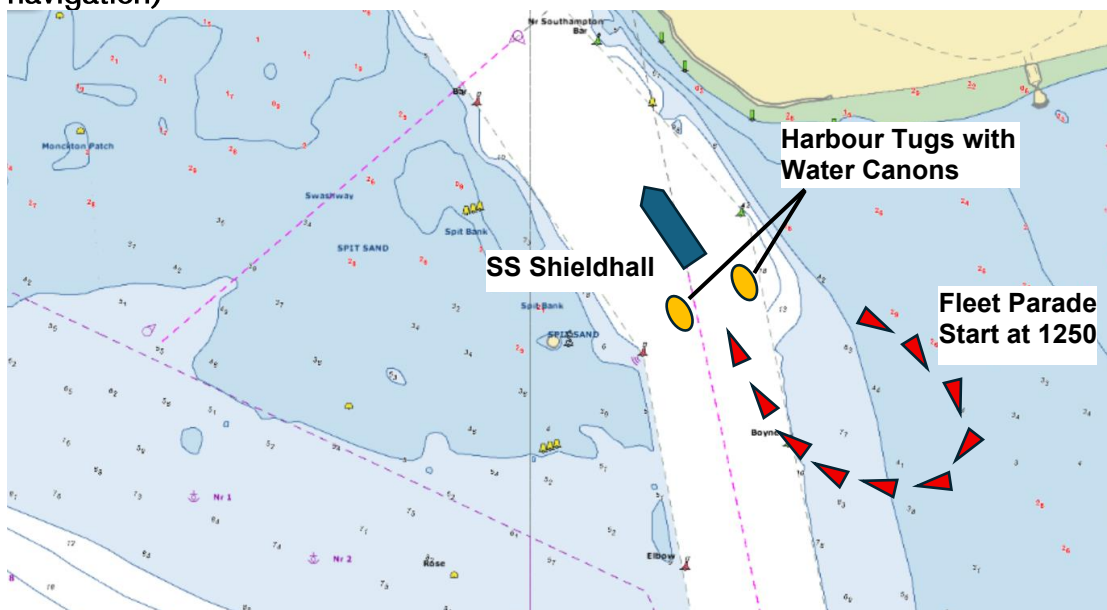
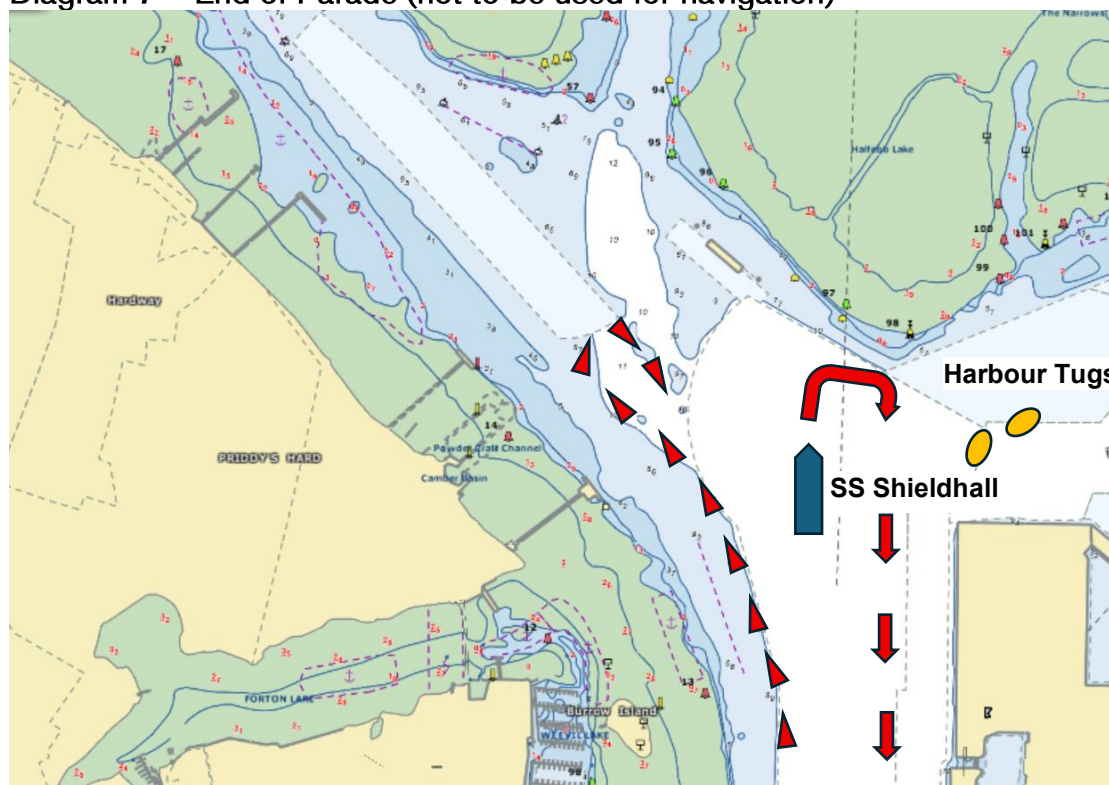


Diagram 7 – End of Parade (not to be used for navigation)



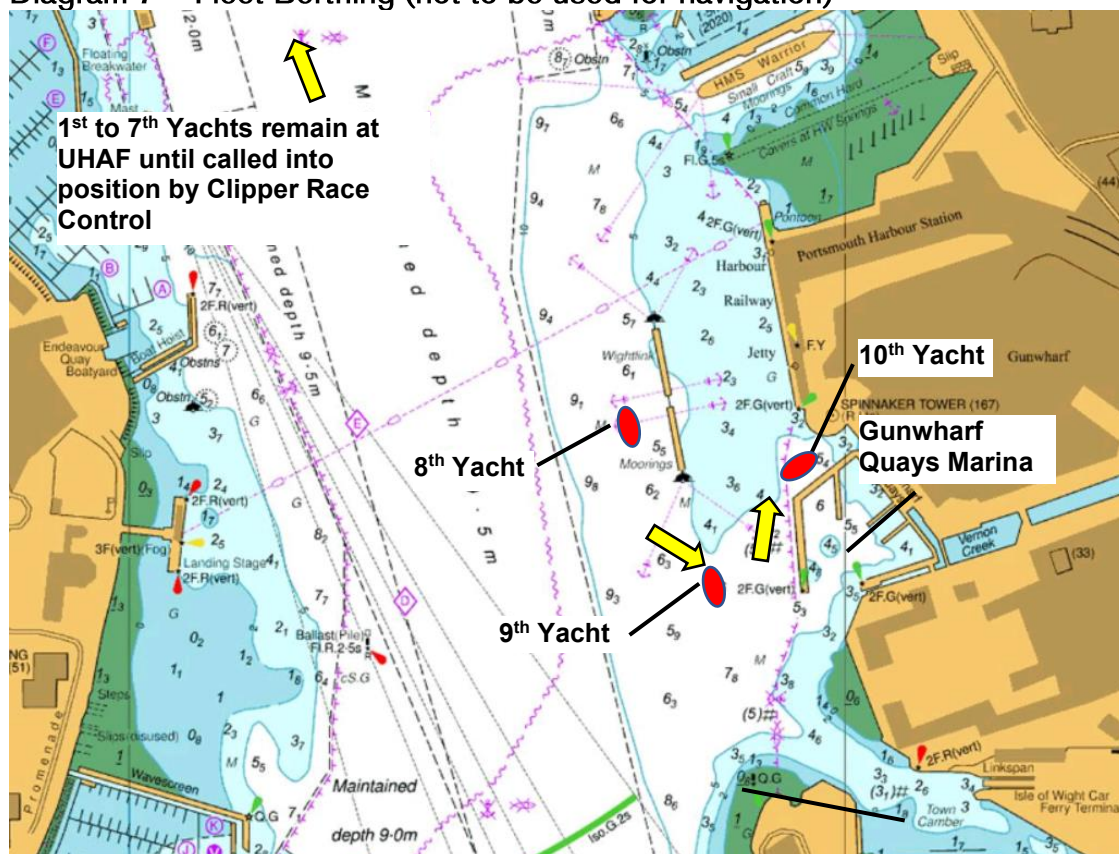
## CLIPPER RACE FLEET PARADE

- The Clipper Race Fleet will complete a spectacular parade into Portsmouth Harbour past Gunwharf Quays and the Spinnaker Tower.
- The timings for the Clipper Race Fleet Parade are as follows:
  - 1245 Ferry Mont St Michel enters the main channel
  - 1248 SS Shieldhall to follow at a safe distance with two Harbour Tugs on the Port and Starboard Quarters
  - 1250 SS Shieldhall passing Boyne Starboard Lateral Mark
  - 1250 Fleet Parade start at Boyne Starboard Lateral Mark
  - 1254 Parade passes Southsea Castle
  - 1305 Parade passes Round Tower
  - 1307 Parade passes Spinnaker Tower and Gunwharf Quays Marina
  - 1320 Parade finish at Upper Harbour Ammunitioning Facility (UHAF)
  - 1320 SS Shieldhall to do a U-turn to Stbd and exit Portsmouth Harbour
- Spectator Craft **MUST NOT** impede the Clipper Race Fleet during the Fleet Parade and should abide by instructions given by the official Race Marshal vessels.
- The Clipper Race fleet will keep a listening watch with KHM on VHF Ch 11 at all times, as well as VHF Ch 16. All Clipper Race Management communications will be made on VHF Ch 72.

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## CLIPPER RACE FLEET BERTHING

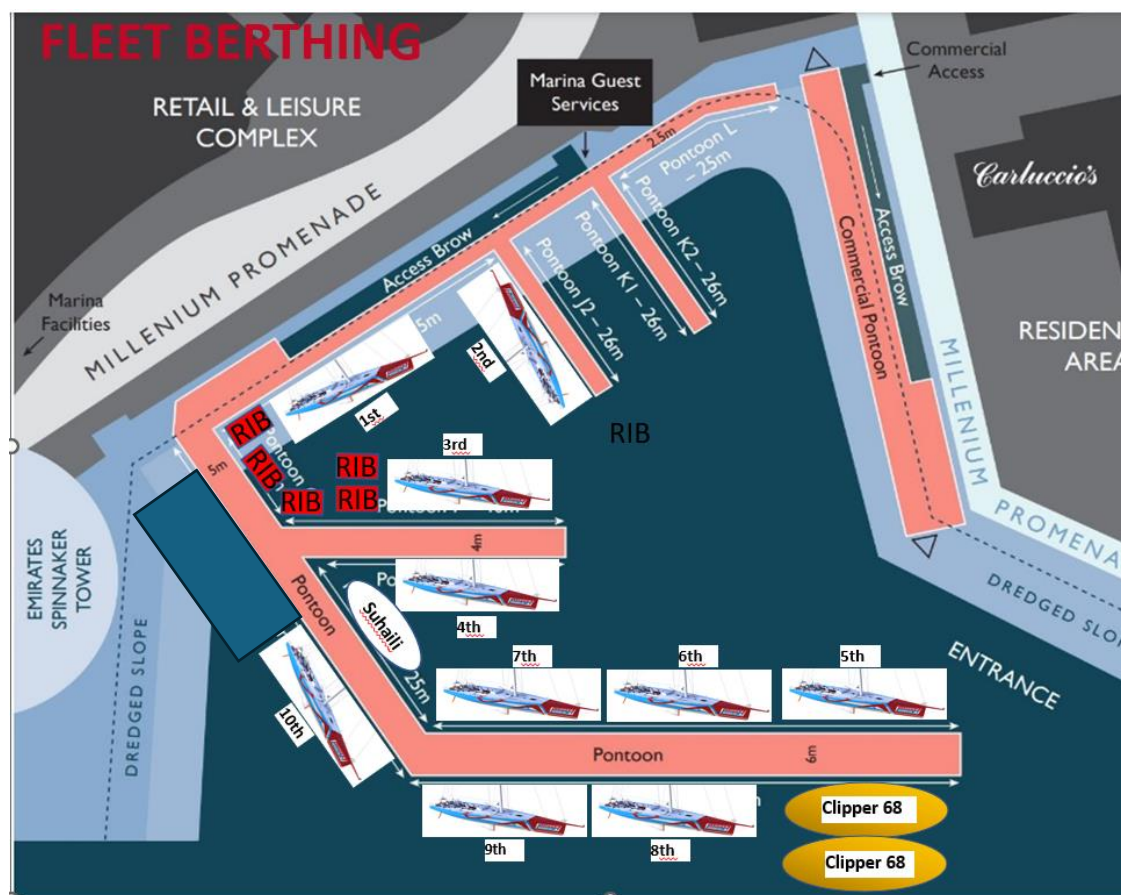
Diagram 7 – Fleet Berthing (not to be used for navigation)



## CLIPPER RACE FLEET BERTHING

- The Clipper Race Fleet will berth in Gunwharf Quays Marina in reverse finishing order (10<sup>th</sup> place first to berth and 1<sup>st</sup> place last to berth)
- Berthing will commence at 1400 LT.
- Yacht movements as follows:
  - At 1400 LT the 10<sup>th</sup> Yacht will be berthing in Gunwharf Quays Marina
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Yacht will hold outside Gunwharf Quays Marina
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Yacht will hold outside the Wightlink mooring pontoons
- Every 5 minutes Clipper Race Yachts will cycle into the new positions as follows:
  - At 1405 LT the 9<sup>th</sup> Yacht will be berthing in Gunwharf Quays Marina
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Yacht will hold outside Gunwharf Quays Marina
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Yacht will hold outside the Wightlink mooring pontoons
- This cycle of yacht movements will continue every 5 minutes until the Clipper Race Fleet are safely berthed in Gunwharf Quays Marina.

## CLIPPER RACE FLEET BERTHING



## CLIPPER RACE FLEET BERTHING

- Clipper Race Yachts will berth in Gunwharf Quays Marina at 5-minute intervals as follows:
  - 1400 10<sup>th</sup> place
  - 1405 9<sup>th</sup> place
  - 1410 8<sup>th</sup> place
  - 1415 7<sup>th</sup> place
  - 1420 6<sup>th</sup> place
  - 1425 5<sup>th</sup> place
  - 1430 4<sup>th</sup> place
  - 1435 3<sup>rd</sup> place
  - 1440 2<sup>nd</sup> place
  - 1445 1<sup>st</sup> place (Clipper 2025-26 Race - Overall Winners)
- Once all teams are safely berthed at Gunwharf Quays Marina the official prizegiving and team presentations will take place on stage.
- The Clipper Race Fleet will depart Gunwharf Quays Marina at approx. 1100 LT on Monday 27 July 2026.

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## HEAVY WEATHER PLAN

In the event of heavy weather, it is highly likely that the Final Sprint Race that finishes outside Portsmouth Harbour, will not take place. This decision will be made by the Clipper Race Director in conjunction with KHM. In this case, the Clipper Race Fleet will gather outside Portsmouth Harbour and complete the Fleet Parade (under engine) into the harbour and berth in Gunwharf Quays, as planned.

## ABANDONMENT PLAN

If for any reason (eg, adverse weather or shoreside security issue) the Race Finish or Fleet arrival ceremony needs to be abandoned then the Clipper Race fleet shall RV outside Portsmouth Harbour in line astern formation as directed by the Clipper Race Director. If an individual yacht has cause to abandon due to engine failure, collision, grounding, fire or crew injury then the rest of the fleet shall proceed as planned. The decision to abandon the event shall be made and communicated by the Clipper Race Director in consultation with KHM.

|                               |                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Event                         | Clipper 2025-26 Race Finish &                                                   |
| Arrival                       |                                                                                 |
| Organising Authority          | Clipper Ventures Plc                                                            |
| Race Director                 | Dale Smyth                                                                      |
| Operating area                | Portsmouth Harbour and Eastern                                                  |
| Solent                        |                                                                                 |
| VHF channels                  | 72 (back up channel 77)                                                         |
| Callsign                      | 'Clipper Race Control'                                                          |
| Contact Race Director         | 07817317919                                                                     |
| Supporting documents          | Clipper Race Departure Schedule                                                 |
| Date of event                 | Saturday 25 July 2026                                                           |
| Operating period              | 0900 to 1500 approx.                                                            |
| Website                       | <a href="http://www.clipperroundtheworld.com">www.clipperroundtheworld.com</a>  |
| Number of boats               | 10                                                                              |
| Authorities informed by email | KHM, Southampton VTS, Cowes Harbour Commission, Solent Coastguard, RNLI, GAFIRS |

Dale Smyth  
Race Director

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