

## Cowes Roads

### Summary Description

Adjacent to the main Solent channel, Cowes Roads is a busy shipping area, usually most associated with yachting. The delimited character area includes the Medina estuary, a sheltered waterway, and a seaward facing region that includes a large vessel turning zone and its associated navigational markers.

### Sea Surface

This area incorporates the estuary entrance and the Medina estuary, Egypt Point to Old Castle Point. The Medina estuary is a sheltered waterway which has narrow intertidal mudflats on either side of the middle and upper parts.

This area is dominated by shipping traffic heading for West and East Cowes or into the Medina Estuary. The main shipping channel is clearly marked by buoys and navigation markers. Both the Red Jet high speed ferry and the Car Ferry from Southampton dock at Cowes. There is a large vessel turning area off West Cowes to accommodate these vessels.

The Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes is a prominent building with view across the water. Numerous yacht races are undertaken in and around this area.

### Seabed Surface

Mudflats and salt marsh line the edges of the Medina estuary, particularly further up river away from the developed area of Cowes. There has been minimal past reclamation of tidal flats. There is a small amount of maintenance dredging within the marinas and in the main channel.

The seabed features a number of sandbanks which can be a hazard to shipping. The maritime archaeological resource of the area include 17 charted wrecks and obstructions, one of which is the *Lucilla* which wrecked in the area but is not a recreational dive site. There are many other historic records of vessel losses in the area.

### Seabed Subsurface

Submerged landscape features have been recorded around the estuary entrance. Peat layers, associated landscapes and human occupation evidence can be located here. These prehistoric landscape deposits are linked the development of the Old Solent river into a fully marine tidal waterway. Such deposits are revealing important evidence of sea level and climate change and the environment used by early human populations.

### Coastal

Prominent coastal buildings include the Royal Yacht Squadron which commands the entrance to harbour, and the adjacent parade which is a popular viewpoint. Osbourne House, Queen Victorias house built by Thomas Cubitt is located close to Cowes.

More modern industrial features include industrial buildings and sewage works.

### Archaeological Potential

There is a wealth of archaeological evidence that has been located in the surrounding coastal area. Offshore the archaeology of this area includes both the shipwreck resource and submerged prehistoric landscapes. These deposits can reveal important evidence of sea level and climate change and the development of Britain as an island. The potential to encounter the remains of crashed aircraft must also be considered, with many recorded losses which date to the Second World War.

### Links

Royal Yacht Squadron - <http://www.rys.org.uk/da/11572>

Cowes Online - <http://www.cowes.co.uk/cb/zone>

The East Cowes Heritage Centre - <http://www.eastcowesheritagecentre.org.uk/>

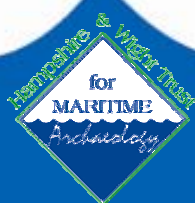
Cowes Week - <http://www.skandiacowesweek.co.uk/web/code/php/main.php?section=home>

English Heritage: Osborne House - <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConProperty.205>

Garden Visit Guide: Osborne House Garden - <http://www.gardenvisit.com/g/osb.htm>



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## Images



IoE number:	419053
Character Area:	Cowes Roads
Description:	Cowes – West Cowes Castle
Photographer:	Tim Belcher
Date Photographed:	23 July 2004
Date listed:	17 August 1951
Date of last amendment:	17 August 1951
Grade	II*



Reference:	HWTMA Photo Archive
Character Area:	Cowes Roads
Description:	Cowes Harbour
Photographer:	Gavin Stone
Date Photographed:	12 August 2006



Reference:	HWTMA Photo Archive
Character Area:	Cowes Roads
Description:	Cowes Harbour
Photographer:	Steve Campbell-Curtis
Date Photographed:	8 February 2005



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