

Sandown Bay

Summary Description

This sheltered area on the SE coast of the Isle of Wight is a popular tourist area. The local beaches, pier and amusement arcades are frequently visited. The area also looks out over the Eastern Approaches to the Solent and has played a role in the defence of the area.

Sea Surface

The sheltered nature of the bays on this side of the island means they are popular for bathing and a variety of yachts and recreational craft.

The marine zone is utilised as a fishery zone and is also designated as a military practice area. Modern charts indicate areas suitable for small craft moorings and a range of navigational markers.

Further offshore the area includes the edge of the active modern shipping channel, which hosts a dense variety of commercial, military and ferry vessels.

Seabed Surface

The adjacent shoreline consists of cliffs and intertidal areas. Features close to shore and in the intertidal zone include a range of shoreline defences. The bay was once a military battery and still shows of the 'Dragons Teeth' anti-tank block on Luccombe beach.

In the marine zone there are a range of sandbanks along this coast forming hazards to navigation. Not surprisingly these have helped contribute to a rich shipwreck resource. There are eight recorded wrecks and obstructions directly within this area, these include the popular dive sites of the *Highland Brigade*, *HMS Boxer* and *Hauler*. These sites are likely to indicate only a small proportion of the actual number of wrecks in the area, these charted examples are often recorded as they now form a hazard to navigation.

Seabed Subsurface

There is nothing charted or recorded within the currently available marine datasets for the seabed subsurface. However, recent research into the development of the English Channel is beginning to reveal evidence for the potential for survival of submerged prehistoric landscape deposits within the seabed.

Coastal

The bay area stretches from Luccombe Bay in the south to Sandown and incorporates the main coastal areas of: Yellow Ledge, Horse Ledge, Appley Steps and Shanklin Chine. The Chine contains a relic of World War Two a section of PLUTO, the pipeline under the ocean the pipeline that was used to pump fuel across the floor of the channel during the Normandy Landings.

It features two piers, Sandown Pier and Shanklin Pier and other beach amusement facilities. The Battery Gardens, once a fortress provide spectacular cliff top views.

An extensive sewage treatment complex is located at Sandown near the shore in addition to reservoir and water pumping operations.



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Archaeological Potential

The coastal archaeological resource of the area shows a particularly dense and diverse range of sites and periods. Adjacent to the study area finds include a Palaeolithic hand axe at Adgestone, prehistoric flint working sites at Shanklin, late Neolithic occupation evidence and Iron-Age pot sherds found on Sandown cliffs.

In the historic period Sandown Bay has been fortified to defend against invasion and guard the shipping routes through the Eastern Solent. This is reflected in an extensive series of defensive works.

Offshore the archaeology of this area is dominated by the shipwreck resource. However, the potential for the survival of submerged prehistoric landscapes should be highlighted. Such 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.

References

Jones, Jack D. *The building of a fort at Sandown, Isle of Wight, 1632-1636*. [Newport] : Isle of Wight Natural History & Archaeological Society, 1970.

Scammell, Hilary. *Past and present Sandown & Shanklin*. Newport : Isle of Wight County Library, 1980.

Links

Dinosaur Isle - <http://www.dinosaurisle.com/>

Sandown Carnival - <http://www.sandowncarnival.com/>

Isle of Wight Zoo - <http://www.isleofwightzoo.com/>

Sandown Historical Society Museum - http://www.sandown.us/historical%20society/museum_main.htm

Shanklin Town Council - <http://www.shanklintowncouncil.gov.uk/>

Shanklin Chine - <http://www.shanklinchine.co.uk/>

Visit Shanklin - <http://www.visitshanklin.co.uk/>



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Images



Reference:	HWTMA Photo Archive
Character Area	Sandown Bay Area
Description	Across Culver Bay to Sandown
Photographer:	15 September 2006
Date Photographed:	Gavin Stone



IoE number:	310249
Character Area:	Sandown Bay Area
Description:	Shanklin – clock tower
Photographer:	Mr A. B. Cooke
Date Photographed:	26 June 2003
Date listed:	14 February 1992
Date of last amendment:	14 February 1992
Grade	II



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