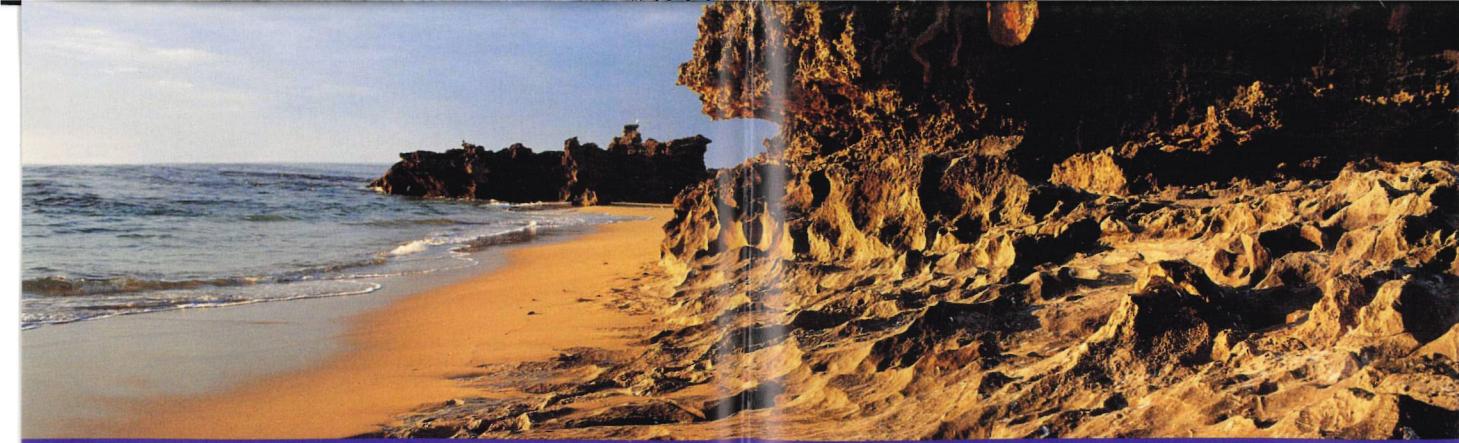


LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



Protecting WA's marine areas

Western Australia's marine areas are globally significant. The State's coastal waters are considered to be among the least disturbed in the world.

The Western Australian coast boasts a big area of biogeographic overlap, between the tropical north (north of North West Cape) and the temperate south (east of Cape Leeuwin), where tropical and temperate species co-exist. The Indian Ocean is also the only ocean in the world that has an eastern boundary current (the Leeuwin Current) that transports warm waters from the equator to the southern coast of a continent.

Our coastal waters are valued by Western Australians. The wide range of environmental, cultural, commercial and recreational values they offer generate employment and revenue and provide people with a source of pleasure and recreation.

The Western Australian government is committed to conserving our marine environment and the sustainable use of our natural resources. A major component of the State Government's marine conservation and management strategy is the establishment of a statewide system of marine parks and reserves. Approximately 12 per cent of State waters are currently included in marine parks and reserves, and about 2.4 per cent of State waters are in sanctuary ('no take') areas.

The conservation and sustainable use of Western Australia's marine environment is everyone's responsibility. By working together to reduce human impacts on the marine environment we can pass it on to future generations in similar condition to what it is in today.

2008309 08-2M

Further information

Department of Environment and Conservation

Swan Coastal District Office

5 Dundebar Road

Wanneroo WA 6065

Ph (08) 9405 0700

www.naturebase.net

DEC rangers are stationed on Penguin Island and at Mersey Point in Rockingham, from which the ferry leaves

Department of Fisheries District Office

Suite 4, Commerce House

Benjamin Way

Rockingham WA 6168

Ph (08) 9527 3699 Fax (08) 9527 9776

www.fish.wa.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology

www.bom.gov.au/weather/wa/forecasts

Weather call 1900 926 150

Rockingham Sea Rescue (VN6KC)

Ph (08) 9528 2222

Radio Frequencies:

27 MHz Ch 90 – Working and calling frequency

Ch 88 – Emergency calling

Ch 86 – Alternate emergency calling

VHF Ch 73 – Working and calling frequency

Ch 16 – Emergency calling

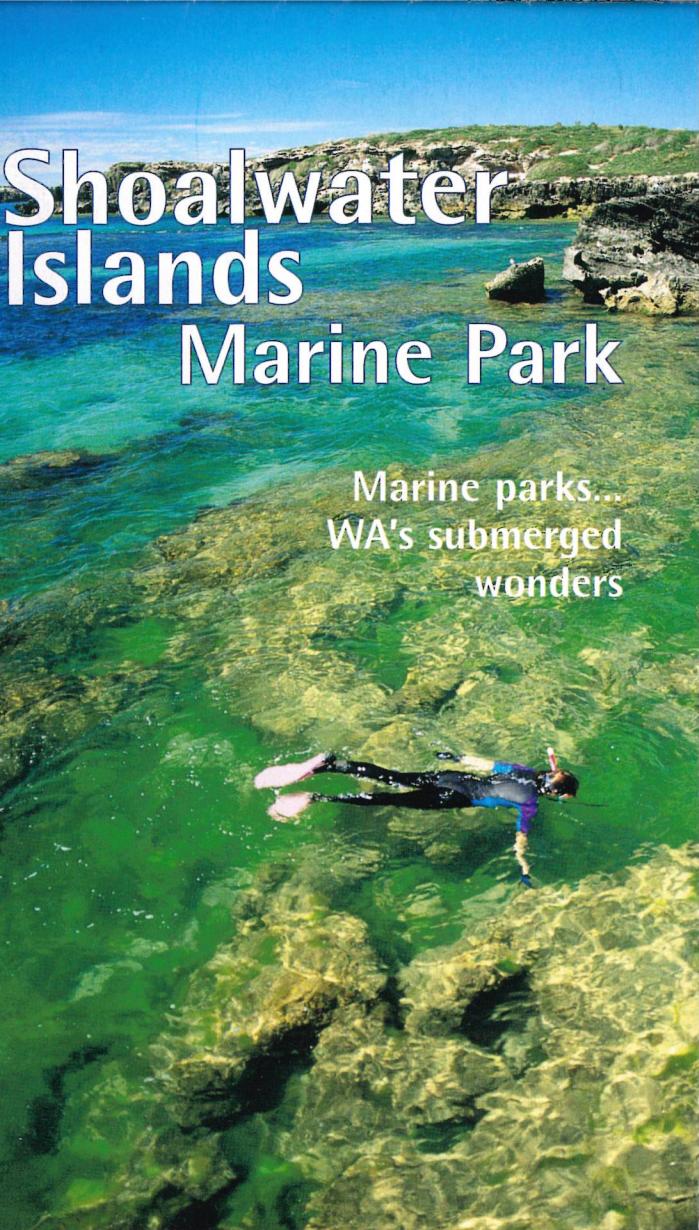
HF 4125 KHz – Working and emergency calling



Department of
Environment and Conservation
Department of Fisheries



PAM02399



Shoalwater Islands Marine Park

Marine parks...
WA's submerged
wonders

Information guide



Department of
Environment and Conservation
Department of Fisheries



PLEASE Please return unwanted brochures to distribution points

In 1939, when John Septimus Roe surveyed and charted the coast and offshore islands of what is now Rockingham he called the bay south of Cape Peron 'Shoal Water' (a shoal is an area of shallow water). Despite its proximity to Perth, it is one of the most unique marine environments in the State, a place where penguins, sea lions, dolphins, seagrass and shipwrecks converge.

Picturesque submerged reefs inhabited by diverse plant and animal life form part of this remarkable ecosystem, now protected in the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. The reef areas support a variety of temperate and subtropical invertebrates, including sea stars, urchins and shellfish, as well as numerous fish species. Bottlenose dolphins are extremely common in the park's waters. The marine park surrounds a chain of limestone islands such as the delightful Penguin Island, which is less than 700 metres offshore. The park includes Shoalwater Bay, Warnbro Sound and the waters off Cape Peron.

Seabird haven

The islands of Shoalwater Bay are nature reserves and abound with seabirds, many of which are seldom seen on the mainland. They are important seabird breeding sites. Sixteen species use the islands for courtship, nesting, feeding and roosting. Within the marine park there are breeding colonies

of silver gulls, pied cormorants, fairy terns, bridled terns and Caspian terns. Crested terns are commonly seen, but don't usually breed on the islands.

The penguins that nest on Penguin Island feed in the adjacent marine park. The scientific name of the little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) means 'little diver' and these birds are adept in the water. The little penguin is the smallest of the world's 17 penguin species. Adults stand about 40 centimetres tall and weigh about a kilogram, but birds in the Shoalwater area are larger than those elsewhere in Australia.

Sea lions and seagrass

Australian sea lions haul out on Seal Island for most of the year and often fish and swim in nearby waters. The Australian sea lion is one of the rarest species of sea lion in the world and is specially protected. Although they are one of our most attractive and interesting sea creatures, sea lions can deliver a nasty bite if aggravated, so swimming with them is not a good idea (it is also prohibited) even though they are curious and may approach your boat. To avoid disturbing the animals, which are territorial, people may not land on the island.

Extensive areas of the seafloor are dominated by seagrass. These important areas provide nursery habitat for juvenile fish. The seagrass beds also help to stabilise the sandy floor.



Enjoying the marine park

Ferry tours operate from Mersey Point from mid-September to early June and feature a cruise around the waters and islands of Shoalwater Bay, with an opportunity to view the sea lions lazing on Seal Island, and to stroll around Penguin Island's network of boardwalks and walkways.

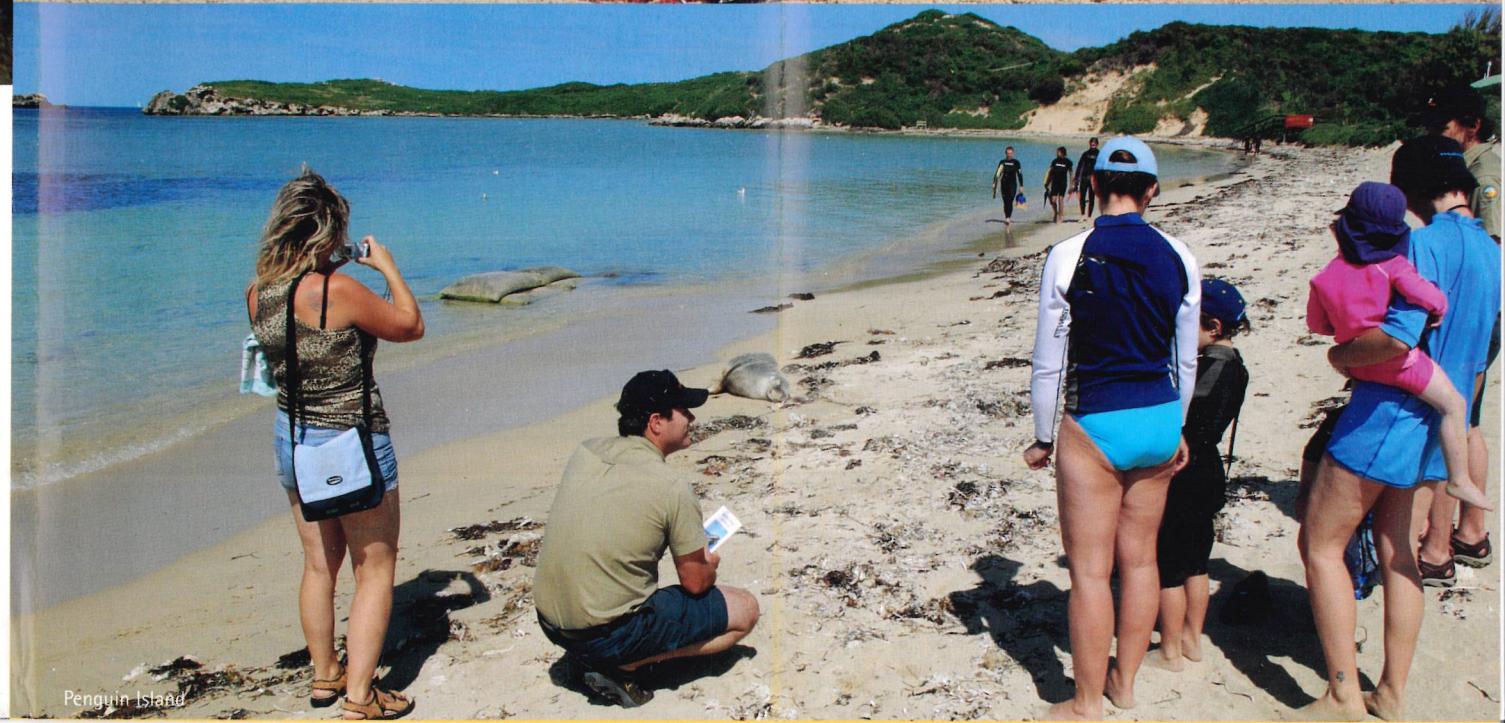
The cavernous reefs around the islands provide good snorkelling and diving opportunities. A shallow (2 to 5 metre deep), fairly protected area at South Penguin Island is ideal for exploring interesting underwater ledges and overhangs, lumps, low broken reef and seagrass areas. The Sisters, a series of limestone reefs at the southern end of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, offer snorkellers and scuba divers opportunities to experience areas rich in marine life. First Rock, the first large rock to the south of Penguin Island, is almost completely surrounded by reef undercut by ledges and caves, but should only be dived in good weather conditions. For more information on these and other dive sites in the marine park see DEC's book *Dive and Snorkel Sites in Western Australia*.

You are welcome to fish or catch crabs in most areas within the marine park (those outside sanctuary and scientific reference zones – see map) but make sure you first check the latest size, season and bag limits with the Department of Fisheries. Spearfishing (breath hold only) is permitted only in the general use zone. Recreational boating, swimming, and windsurfing are other popular activities. The west side of Penguin Island provides good surfing.

You can see little penguins feeding and frolicking in the water at The Penguin Experience – Island Discovery Centre. Entry into the centre is included in the cost of the ferry ride or tour, which leaves regularly from the mainland.

A gazetted water ski area within Shoalwater Bay will be phased out by 1 July 2008. After this date, waterskiing will only be permitted in the water ski area within Warnbro Sound.





Zoning

Like most other marine parks and reserves in Western Australia, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park is a multiple use reserve that caters for a wide range of activities. Multiple use reserves reflect a balanced approach to conserving the environment by providing a management framework to ensure human use does not cause significant or long-term damage.

Zoning is an important part of the management framework in multiple use marine parks and reserves. In some areas, fishing activities are partially or totally restricted. These zones provide reference areas that help us measure the impact of human activity on the environment as well as protect habitats and the wildlife in them.

Know your zones: please ensure you are familiar with the zones and the permitted uses in them.

Penguin Island



Management zones

Sanctuary zones

Sanctuary zones provide for total protection for marine life. They allow visitors to observe marine life in its unexploited state. They are an important part of an integrated approach to marine ecosystem management which includes marine park and reserve zoning and fisheries management regulations.

General use zone

This zone makes up most of the marine park. While this zone still has high conservation values, it does not require special protection given existing levels of use and threats.

Special purpose zones

These zones protect specific features or habitats. There are two types of special purpose zones in the marine park.

- **Scientific reference**

These zones provide areas primarily free of extractive activities to research and monitor ecological processes, species and habitats.

- **Wildlife conservation**

Areas where protecting the significant wildlife conservation values is the priority purpose. An eight knot speed limit will apply in the Wildlife Conservation Zone and Seal Island Sanctuary Zone.

Non-motorised craft are also encouraged to comply with this speed limit.

Zone markers

Sanctuary and special purpose zones are marked by yellow buoys that extend about one metre above water level. The markers can be used as a guide to line up the zone boundary. The markers have a colour coded top that also acts as a radar reflector for commercial users.

Green = sanctuary zones

Purple = special purpose zones

The buoys are not designed to be used as moorings and it is an offence to do so.

Where you can fish

For complete lists of activities see [matrix on map](#).

For bag and size limits see the [Recreational Fishing Guide for the West Coast Region](#).

Line fishing

In general use and wildlife conservation zones.

Rock lobster

Everywhere except sanctuary zones.

Netting and spearfishing (breath hold)

Only in the general use zone.

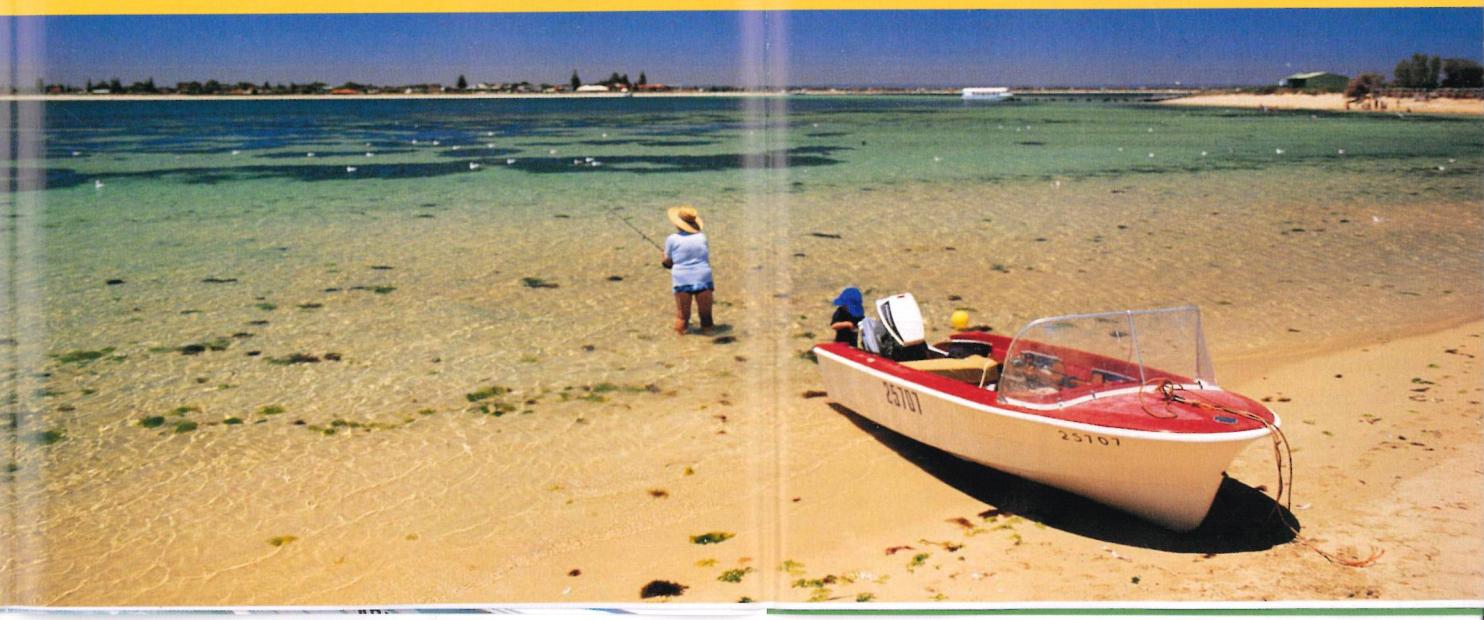
Spearfishing using underwater breathing apparatus, such as SCUBA or hookah, is not permitted.

Abalone fishing and crabbing

In general use and wildlife conservation zones.

Caring for the marine environment

- Know marine park zone boundaries and permitted activities.
- Fish for the future. Observe size, bag and possession limits.
- Quickly return undersize and unwanted fish to the water. Use wet hands or a wet cloth when handling fish and avoid placing on hot, dry surfaces.
- Dispose of litter thoughtfully, especially plastics and fishing line.
- Anchor in sand to protect fragile reef and seagrass communities.
- Stay at least 100 metres from whales. Approach whales parallel to their direction of travel or move more than 300 metres ahead and allow them to come to you.
- The islands within the marine park provide important nesting habitat for several species of seabirds such as little penguins, wedge-tailed shearwaters, pied cormorants, pied oystercatchers and Caspian, bridled and crested terns. Visitors should stay clear of these nesting areas to avoid disturbing the birds. If the adult birds leave their nests unprotected there is a strong chance their eggs will be taken by predators.



Legend

- General use zone
- Sanctuary zone
- Special purpose zone (Scientific Reference)
- Special purpose zone (Wildlife Conservation)
- L.W.M. Low water mark
- H.W.M. High water mark

The coordinates shown on this brochure are referenced to the Geocentric Datum of Australia (1994) and will differ by approximately 200 metres from the same points shown on charts referenced to the Australian Geodetic Datum 1984 (AGD84).

This map is for illustration purposes and not for navigation.

32°15.66'
115°40.086'

Garden Island

32°14.83'
115°42.09'

Cape Peron

32°16.27'
115°41.124'

Snorkel Trail

White Rock

Bird Island

Gull Rock

Shoalwater Bay

32°17.483'
115°41.298'

Seal Island

32°17.833'
115°41.298'

Shoalwater
Special Purpose
Zone

32°17.833'
115°41.928'

Penguin Island

32°18.727'
115°41.37'

First Rock

32°18.933'
115°41.394'

Second Rock

32°19.233'
115°41.394'

Third Rocks

Passage Rock

32°21.333'
115°40.68'

Murray Reef
Special Purpose
Zone

32°22.133'
115°40.68'

32°22.133'
115°41.394'

32°21.333'
115°42.498'

32°22.133'
115°42.498'

32°22.163'
115°43.086'

32°22.593'
115°43.302'

32°21.693'
115°43.086'

32°21.71'
115°43.884'

32°21.949'
115°43.884'

CAUSEWAY

Cockburn
Sound

Mangles Bay

ROCKINGHAM

SHOALWATER

SAFETY BAY

WAIKIKI

WARNBRO

Warnbro Sound

Shoalwater Islands Marine Park

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre

Mooring Area

L.W.M.

H.W.M.

Restricted Area

Saxon Ranger dive wreck

Boundary extends to H.W.M.

Visitor Centre