

16. PROTECTION OF HISTORIC, DANGEROUS AND MILITARY WRECK SITES

Source: UK Hydrographic Office.

Former Notice 16/04 is cancelled. This is a repetition of the former notice.

The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973

The Protection of Wrecks Act, 1973, enables the Secretary of State to make orders to protect certain wreck sites in United Kingdom waters from unauthorised interference on account of either:

- a. their historic, archaeological or artistic importance, or
- b. their potentially dangerous condition.

In the case of historic wrecks as in (a) above, “unauthorised interference” includes tampering with, damaging or removing any part of a wreck within the area indicated, or carrying out diving or salvage operations within the area or depositing anything (i.e. anchoring) on the seabed within the area without a special licence issued by the Secretary of State. In the case of wrecks declared to be in a potentially dangerous condition as at (b) above, entry into the area is prohibited.

In Scottish waters the functions of the Secretary of State were transferred to the Scottish Ministers by the Scotland Act 1998.

In Welsh waters the functions of the Secretary of State were transferred to the National Assembly for Wales by the Transfer of Functions Order 1999.

The Isle of Man Wreck and Salvage (Ship and Aircraft) Act 1979 affords similar protection in the Isle of Man.

The following wrecks have been declared restricted areas under these Acts, due to their historical and archaeological importance. Positions in this list are referred to both Ordnance Survey (1936) Datum, Ordnance Survey (Ireland) Datum or European Datum 1950 as appropriate and to the World Geodetic System 1984. The wreck sites are shown in magenta on Admiralty Charts. The current Admiralty Chart Catalogue should be consulted to ascertain which charts are affected.

(1) England, East Coast, Thames Estuary, South Edinburgh Channel.

An area 100 metres radius around 51° 31′.745N., 1° 14′.895E. [OSGB36]; 51° 33′.777N., 1° 14′.792E. [WGS84].

(2) England, East Coast, Southwold, Dunwich Bank Westwards.

An area 100 metres radius around 52° 15′.142N., 1° 38′.533E. [OSGB36]; 52° 15′.170N., 1° 38′.425E. [WGS84].

(3) England, East Coast, Filey Bay.

An area 300 metres radius around 54° 11′.489N., 0° 13′.377W. [OSGB36]; 54° 11′.502N., 0° 13′.481W. [WGS84].

(4) England, East Coast, Tees Bay, Seaton Sands.

An area 100 metres radius around 54° 39′.500N., 1° 10′.710W. [OSGB36]; 54° 39′.508N., 1° 10′.808W. [WGS84].

(5) Scotland, East Coast, Firth of Forth, Burntisland Road.

(a) An area 100 metres radius around 56° 02′.407N., 3° 14′.856W. [OSGB36]; 56° 02′.403N., 3° 14′.941W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 150 metres radius around 56° 02′.408N., 3° 13′.412W. [OSGB36]; 56° 02′.404N., 3° 13′.497W. [WGS84].

(6) Scotland, North Coast, Shetland Islands, Out Skerries.

(a) An area 250 metres radius around 60° 25′.200N., 0° 45′.000W. [OSGB36]; 60° 25′.167N., 0° 45′.121W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 100 metres radius around 60° 25′.500N., 0° 43′.267W. [OSGB36]; 60° 25′.467N., 0° 43′.388W. [WGS84].

(7) Scotland, West Coast, North Minch, Loch Inchar Southward.

An area 300 metres radius around 58° 26′.213N., 5° 06′.430W. [OSGB36]; 58° 26′.189N., 5° 06′.507W. [WGS84].

(8) Scotland, West Coast, Morven Peninsula, Eilean Rubha an Ridire.

An area 50 metres radius around 56° 30′.192N., 5° 41′.950W. [OSGB36]; 56° 30′.181N., 5° 42′.015W. [WGS84].

(9) Scotland, West Coast, Island of Mull, Duart Point.

An area 75 metres radius around 56° 27′.450N., 5° 39′.327W. [OSGB36]; 56° 27′.440N., 5° 39′.382W. [WGS84].

(10) Scotland, West Coast, Island of Mull, Mingary Bay

An area 250 metres radius around 56° 41′.500N., 6° 04′.350W. [OSGB36]; 56° 41′.488N., 6° 04′.413W. [WGS84].

(11) Ireland, North Coast, County Antrim.

An area 300 metres radius around 55° 14′.85N., 6° 30′.05W. [OSI]; 55° 14′.85N., 6° 30′.11W. [WGS84].

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(12) Isle of Man, Castletown Bay.

An area 350 metres radius around 54° 03′.120N., 4° 37′.730W. [OSGB36]; 54° 03′.120N., 4° 37′.730W. [WGS84].

(13) Wales, North-West Coast, The Skerries off Anglesey.

An area 100 metres radius around 53° 25′.267N., 4° 36′.667W. [OSGB36]; 53° 25′.281N., 4° 36′.736W. [WGS84].

(14) Wales, North Coast, Menai Strait.

An area 150 metres radius around 53° 12′.767N., 4° 11′.717W. [OSGB36]; 53° 12′.783N., 4° 11′.788W. [WGS84].

(15) Wales, North Coast, Rhyl Flats.

An area 300 metres radius around 53° 23′.780N., 3° 33′.180W. [OSGB36]; 53° 23′.795N., 3° 33′.257W. [WGS84].

(16) Wales, West Coast, Cardigan Bay, Barmouth.

(a) An area 300 metres radius around 52° 46′.730N., 4° 07′.530W. [OSGB36]; 52° 46′.749N., 4° 07′.602W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 200 metres radius around 52° 46′.512N., 4° 10′.954W. [OSGB36]; 52° 46′.531N., 4° 11′.025W. [WGS84].

(17) Wales, West Coast, The Smalls.

An area 100 metres radius around 51° 43′.180N., 5° 40′.130W. [OSGB36]; 51° 43′.205N., 5° 40′.191W. [WGS84].

(18) England, West Coast, Bristol Channel, Lundy Island.

(a) An area 50 metres radius around 51° 11′.067N., 4° 38′.783W. [OSGB36]; 51° 11′.096N., 4° 38′.850W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 100 metres radius around 51° 11′.108N., 4° 39′.408W. [OSGB36]; 51° 11′.137N., 4° 39′.475W. [WGS84].

(19) England, West Coast, Bristol Channel, Cligga Head.

An area 250 metres radius around 50° 20′.075N., 5° 10′.823W. [OSGB36]; 50° 20′.109N., 5° 10′.885W. [WGS84].

(20) England, West Coast, Isles of Scilly, Tearing Ledge.

An area 200 metres radius around 49° 52′.200N., 6° 26′.483W. [OSGB36]; 49° 52′.236N., 6° 26′.537W. [WGS84].

(21) England, West Coast, Isles of Scilly, St. Mary's Sound.

(a) An area 100 metres radius around 49° 54′.267N., 6° 19′.833W. [OSGB36]; 49° 54′.303N., 6° 19′.888W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 300 metres radius around 49° 55′.435N., 6° 20′.451W. [OSGB36]; 49° 55′.471N., 6° 20′.505W. [WGS84].

(22) England, South Coast, The Lizard.

An area 100 metres radius around 49° 58′.517N., 5° 14′.445W. [OSGB36]; 49° 58′.553N., 5° 14′.506W. [WGS84].

(23) England, South Coast, Mounts Bay.

(a) An area 250 metres radius around 50° 03′.778N., 5° 17′.374W. [OSGB36]; 50° 03′.814N., 5° 17′.435W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 75 metres radius around 50° 03′.400N., 5° 17′.100W. [OSGB36]; 50° 03′.436N., 5° 17′.161W. [WGS84].

(c) An area 75 metres radius around 50° 02′.333N., 5° 16′.400W. [OSGB36]; 50° 02′.369N., 5° 16′.461W. [WGS84].

(24) England, South Coast, Lizard Point.

An area 100 metres radius around 49° 57′.450N., 5° 12′.933W. [OSGB36]; 49° 57′.486N., 5° 12′.995W. [WGS84].

(25) England, South Coast, Rame Head.

(a) An area 150 metres radius around 50° 18′.567N., 4° 11′.983W. [OSGB36]; 50° 18′.601N., 4° 12′.051W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 250 metres radius around 50° 18′.958N., 4° 11′.567W. [OSGB36]; 50° 18′.993N., 4° 11′.635W. [WGS84].

(26) England, South Coast, Plymouth, Cattewater.

An area 50 metres radius around 50° 21′.690N., 4° 07′.625W. [OSGB36]; 50° 21′.725N., 4° 07′.693W. [WGS84].

(27) England, South Coast, River Erme Estuary.

(a) An area 250 metres radius around 50° 18′.408N., 3° 57′.192W. [OSGB36]; 50° 18′.443N., 3° 57′.261W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 100 metres radius around 50° 18′.150N., 3° 57′.410W. [OSGB36]; 50° 18′.185N., 3° 57′.479W. [WGS84].

(28) England, South Coast, Prawle Point.

(a) An area 250 metres radius around 50° 12′.696N., 3° 44′.679W. [OSGB36]; 50° 12′.732N., 3° 44′.739W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 300 metres radius around 50° 12′.700N., 3° 44′.330W. [OSGB36]; 50° 12′.736N., 3° 44′.404W. [WGS84].

(29) England, South Coast, Teignmouth.

An area some 200 metres square bounded by:

50° 30′.962N., 3° 29′.231W. [OSGB36]; 50° 32′.996N., 3° 29′.304W. [WGS84],
 50° 32′.964N., 3° 29′.104W. [OSGB36]; 50° 32′.998N., 3° 29′.177W. [WGS84],
 50° 32′.865N., 3° 29′.228W. [OSGB36]; 50° 32′.899N., 3° 29′.301W. [WGS84],
 50° 32′.867N., 3° 29′.101W. [OSGB36]; 50° 32′.901N., 3° 29′.174W. [WGS84].

(30) Channel Islands, Alderney, The Grois Rocks Northeastwards & Casquets.

(a) An area 200 metres radius around 49° 44′.292N., 2° 09′.858W. [ED 50]; 40° 44′.236N., 2° 09′.942W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 1.25 miles radius around 49° 43′.400N., 2° 22′.292W. [ED 50]; 49° 43′.344N., 2° 22′.377W. [WGS84].

(31) England, South Coast, Studland Bay, Poole.

An area 75 metres radius around 50° 39′.667N., 1° 54′.792W. [OSGB36]; 50° 39′.701N., 1° 54′.874W. [WGS84].

(32) England, South Coast, Western Approaches to the Solent, The Needles.

An area 200 metres radius around 50° 39′.700N., 1° 35′.433W. [OSGB36]; 50° 39′.735N., 1° 35′.518W. [WGS84].

(33) England, South Coast, Isle of Wight, Yarmouth.

An area 50 metres radius around 50° 42′.520N., 1° 29′.597W. [OSGB36]; 50° 42′.554N., 1° 29′.682W. [WGS84].

(34) England, South Coast, The Hamble River.

An area 75 metres radius around 50° 53′.475N., 1° 17′.257W. [OSGB36]; 50° 53′.508N., 1° 17′.343W. [WGS84].

(35) England, South Coast, Portsmouth, Spithead.

An area 300 metres radius around 50° 45′.800N., 1° 06′.167W. [OSGB36]; 50° 45′.834N., 1° 06′.254W. [WGS84].

(36) England, South Coast, The Solent, Horse Tail.

An area 100 metres radius around 50° 44′.333N., 1° 02′.233W. [OSGB36]; 50° 44′.368N., 1° 02′.321W. [WGS84].

(37) England, South Coast, Bracklesham Bay.

(a) An area 100 metres radius around 50° 44′.520N., 0° 55′.190W. [OSGB36]; 50° 44′.555N., 0° 55′.278W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 100 metres radius around 50° 45′.100N., 0° 51′.467W. [OSGB36]; 50° 45′.135N., 0° 51′.555W. [WGS84].

(38) England, South Coast, Brighton.

An area some 200 metres by 150 metres bounded by:

50° 48′.650N., 0° 06′.405W. [OSGB36]; 50° 48′.685N., 0° 06′.499W. [WGS84],
 50° 48′.569N., 0° 06′.409W. [OSGB36]; 50° 48′.605N., 0° 06′.502W. [WGS84],
 50° 48′.572N., 0° 06′.579W. [OSGB36]; 50° 48′.607N., 0° 06′.672W. [WGS84],
 50° 48′.653N., 0° 06′.576W. [OSGB36]; 50° 48′.688N., 0° 06′.669W. [WGS84].

(39) England, South Coast, Hastings, Bulverhythe.

An area 100 metres radius around 50° 50′.700N., 0° 31′.550E. [OSGB36]; 50° 50′.735N., 0° 31′.453E. [WGS84].

(40) England, South Coast, Rye Bay.

An area 75 metres radius around 50° 53′.417N., 0° 41′.908E. [OSGB36]; 50° 53′.452N., 0° 41′.810E. [WGS84].

(41) England, South Coast, Dover.

An area 150 metres radius around 51° 07′.600N., 1° 20′.800E. [OSGB36]; 51° 07′.634N., 1° 20′.697E. [WGS84].

(42) England, South Coast, Goodwin Sands.

(a) An area 50 metres radius around 51° 16′.433N., 1° 30′.517E. [OSGB36]; 51° 16′.467N., 1° 30′.413E. [WGS84].

(b) An area 50 metres radius around 51° 15′.450N., 1° 30′.117E. [OSGB36]; 51° 15′.484N., 1° 30′.013E. [WGS84].

(c) An area 50 metres radius around 51° 15′.600N., 1° 30′.133E. [OSGB36]; 51° 15′.643N., 1° 30′.029E. [WGS84].

(d) An area 150 metres radius around 51° 12′.000N., 1° 30′.567E. [OSGB36]; 51° 12′.034N., 1° 30′.463E. [WGS84].

(43) Sheerness, Middle Sand.

The following wreck site has been declared a restricted area under the Act due to the potentially dangerous condition of the wreck:

An area round the stranded wreck of the “Richard Montgomery” enclosed by straight lines joining the following positions:

51° 28′.067N., 0° 47′.200E. [OSGB36]; 51° 28′.099N., 0° 47′.100E. [WGS84],

51° 27′.950N., 0° 47′.367E. [OSGB36]; 51° 27′.950N., 0° 47′.367E. [WGS84],

51° 27′.833N., 0° 47′.183E. [OSGB36]; 51° 27′.865N., 0° 47′.083E. [WGS84],

51° 27′.967N., 0° 47′.017E. [OSGB36]; 51° 27′.999N., 0° 46′.916E. [WGS84].

has been declared a prohibited area on account of explosives contained in the wreck which make it a potential danger to life and property. Four lighted special buoys laid due N., E., S., and W. of the wreck are shown on Admiralty Charts; these buoys mark the approximate positions of the corners of the rectangle described above.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 Scottish Ministers have a responsibility to compile and maintain a Schedule of ancient monuments of national importance. The definition of “monument” in the Act includes “any site comprising the remains of any vessel or part thereof.”

It is an offence under Section 2 of the Act if any person executes or causes or permits to be executed any works which affect a scheduled monument unless the works have received the prior consent of the Scottish Ministers, known as “scheduled consent.”

The following wrecks have been declared restricted areas under this Act, due to their historical and archaeological importance. Positions in this list are referred to both Ordnance Survey (1936) Datum and to the World Geodetic System 1984. The wreck sites are shown in magenta on Admiralty Charts. The current Admiralty Chart Catalogue should be consulted to ascertain which charts are affected.

Scotland, North Coast, Orkney Islands

(a) An area 250 metres radius around 58° 53′.223N., 3° 09′.087W. [OSGB36]; 58° 53′.198N., 3° 09′.181W. [WGS84].

(b) An area 250 metres radius around 58° 53′.647N., 3° 09′.810W. [OSGB36]; 58° 53′.622N., 3° 09′.904W. [WGS84].

(c) An area 250 metres radius around 58° 53′.500N., 3° 09′.916W. [OSGB36]; 58° 53′.475N., 3° 10′.010W. [WGS84].

(d) An area 250 metres radius around 58° 53′.840N., 3° 09′.112W. [OSGB36]; 58° 53′.815N., 3° 09′.207W. [WGS84].

(e) An area 250 metres radius around 58° 52′.968N., 3° 08′.360W. [OSGB36]; 58° 52′.943N., 3° 08′.455W. [WGS84].

(f) An area 250 metres radius around 58° 53′.375N., 3° 11′.258W. [OSGB36]; 58° 53′.350N., 3° 11′.352W. [WGS84].

(g) An area 250 metres radius around 58° 53′.855N., 3° 08′.455W. [OSGB36]; 58° 53′.830N., 3° 08′.550W. [WGS84].

The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 (Designation of Vessels and Controlled Sites) Order 2002.

The following areas have been declared controlled sites under this Act, due to their comprising the remains of, or a substantial part of, a vessel which sank less than two hundred years ago while in military service. A person who interferes with the remains of a vessel in a place which is part of a controlled site commits an offence unless he has a licence. Activities and operations are which are offences at a controlled site if conducted without the authority of a licence are at section 2 of the Principal Act. Positions in this list are referred to both Ordnance Survey (1936) Datum and European Datum 1950 as appropriate and to the World Geodetic System 1984. The wreck sites are shown in magenta on Admiralty Charts. The current catalogue should be consulted to ascertain which charts are affected.

Controlled Sites**(1) England, East Coast, River Medway**

An area 100 metres radius around 51° 25′.360N., 0° 39′.272E [OSGB36]; 51° 25′.392N., 0° 39′.172E [WGS84].

(2) Scotland, East Coast, Moray Firth

An area 750 metres radius around 58° 18′.488N., 2° 28′.839W. [OSGB36]; 58° 18′.467N., 2° 28′.938W. [WGS84].

(3) Scotland, East Coast, Cromarty Firth

An area 100 metres radius around 57° 41′.262N., 4° 05′.227W. [OSGB36]; 57° 41′.244N., 4° 05′.310W. [WGS84].

(4) Scotland, North Coast, Scapa Flow

An area 200 metres radius around 58° 55′.873N., 2° 58′.905W. [OSGB36]; 58° 55′.848N., 2° 59′.001W. [WGS84].

(5) Scotland, North Coast, Flotta Northwards

An area 200 metres radius around 58° 51'·425N., 3° 06'·310W. [OSGB36]; 58° 51'·400N., 3° 06'·405W. [WGS84].

(6) Scotland, Orkney Islands Westwards

An area 300 metres radius around 59° 07'·092N., 3° 23'·750W. [OSGB36]; 59° 07'·065N., 3° 23'·843W. [WGS84].

(7) Scotland, West Coast, Firth of Clyde

An area 200 metres radius around 55° 37'·750N., 5° 00'·883W. [OSGB36]; 55° 37'·747N., 5° 00'·953W. [WGS84].

(8) Wales, West Coast, Caernarfon Bay

An area 300 metres radius around 53° 05'·467N., 4° 41'·907W. [OSGB36]; 53° 05'·483N., 4° 41'·975W. [WGS84].

(9) England, South Coast, Rame Head Westwards

An area 200 metres radius around 50° 18'·483N., 4° 17'·917W. [OSGB36]; 50° 18'·518N., 4° 17'·984W. [WGS84].

(10) England, South Coast, Start Point Eastwards

An area 400 metres radius around 50° 13'·143N., 3° 03'·996W. [OSGB36]; 50° 13'·179N., 3° 04'·071W. [WGS84].

(11) Channel Islands, Alderney Northwestwards

An area 400 metres radius around 49° 50'·083N., 2° 34'·453W. [ED50]; 49° 50'·023N., 2° 34'·533W. [WGS84].

Designated Vessels

Each of the following vessels is designated as a vessel to which the Act applies due to their having sunk on or after 4th August 1914 while in military service. Unless a licence has been obtained, it is offence to contravene s2(2) of the Principal Act in any place where there is believed or there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the place comprises the remains of an aircraft or vessel to which the Principal Act applies.

- (a) The vessel known as the U-12, which sank on or about 5th October 1939.
- (b) The vessel known as HMS GLOUCESTER, which sank on or about 22nd May 1941.
- (c) The vessel known as HMS HOOD, which sank on or about 24th May 1941.
- (d) The vessel known as HMS PRINCE OF WALES, which sank on or about 10th December 1941.
- (e) The vessel known as HMS REPULSE, which sank on or about 10th December 1941.
- (f) The vessel known as RFA SIR GALAHAD, which sank on or about 25th June 1982.