



Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation

Atlantic France

2nd Edition 2018
ISBN 978 184623 744 7



This replaces all previous supplements

Supplement No.4 March 2022

Further updates are available, as they come in at
<https://rccpf.org.uk/Pilotage-Notices>

Caution

Whilst the Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation, the author and the publishers have used reasonable endeavours to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this book, it contains selected information and thus is not definitive. It does not contain all known information on the subject in hand and should not be relied upon alone for navigational use: it should only be used in conjunction with official hydrographical data. This is particularly relevant to the plans, which should not be used for navigation. The Pilotage Foundation, the author and the publishers believe that the information which they have included is a useful aid to prudent navigation, but the safety of a vessel depends, ultimately, on the judgment of the skipper, who should access all information, published or unpublished. The information provided in this book may be out of date and may be changed or updated without notice. The Pilotage Foundation cannot accept liability for any error, omission or failure to update such information. To the extent permitted by law, the Pilotage Foundation, the author and the publishers do not accept liability for any loss and/or damage, howsoever caused, that may arise from reliance on information contained in these pages.

This supplement contains amendments and corrections sent in by a number of cruising yachtsmen and women, in addition to those culled from official sources such as Notices to Mariners.

Positions and waypoints

All positions and waypoints are to datum WGS84. They are included to help locating place, features and transits. Do not rely on them alone for safe navigation.

Bearings and lights

Any bearings are given in degrees True and from seaward. The characteristics of lights may be changed during the lifetime of this book and they should be checked against the latest edition of the UK Admiralty List of Lights.

Note Where lights have been modified in the text do please remember to alter them on the appropriate plan(s).

This supplement is cumulative and the latest information is marked in **blue**.

Given the ongoing uncertainties of Covid 19, as well as the impact of Brexit on regulations and paperwork for UK cruisers, readers are encouraged to seek updates from the websites of the OCC, Cruising Association, RYA or Noonsite.

Acknowledgements

Mike Redfern, Sarah McIlwaine, Nick Charman, Susan Watts, Stephanie Connor, Charles Arbuthnot, Stuart Davis, Antony Wells, Michael Gill, Richard Marsh, Jim Gorman, Sean McHugh, Paul Foddy, Nick Sexton, Doug MacArthur, Pierre Berglund, Stuart Davis, Martin Schaub, Pierre Berglund, James Grogono, Hamish Southby-Tailour.

Page 3 Introduction, Bridge and power line clearance

In the final paragraph, the penultimate sentence should read 'If the pressure is higher than 1013Mb, expect the water level to be one centimetre lower per Mb of pressure.'

Page 28 L'Aber-Ildut

The starboard hand beacon, Pierre de L'Aber, marking the channel into L'Aber-Ildut, has not seen any green paint for very many years. It is totally rusty! A new marina has been built which has 480 places and 20 are reserved for visitors. L'Aber-Ildut is worth a visit!

Page 31 Baie du Stiff, île d'Ouessant

The visitors' buoys do not appear to be properly maintained. It is recommended not to leave your boat unattended. Bike hire is good but appears to work only when the ferry arrives and departs.

Page 31 Lampaul

There is plenty of room to anchor beside the mooring buoys.

Page 36 Chenal du Four

Choice of routes – Chenal de la Helle or main channel Chenal du Four. Pilot gives clear guidance but be aware of mistaking the North Cardinal Le Faix 48°25'72N 004°53'90W for an unmarked East Cardinal at low water when the black base of the very large rock cardinal is exposed making it look from any distance like a BYB cardinal!

Page 51 Brest, Moulin Blanc

Good for overwintering, good walks, close airport and 30 min bus to Brest city centre.

Page 55 L'Aulne, Guily Glaz

The power lines above the viaduct at Guily Glaz have been removed.

Page 60 Camaret-sur-Mer

Under Facilities, delete last sentence. The bus to Le Fret and ferry to Brest cannot be relied upon. The fuel dock is now situated on the Fishing Pontoon and not on the Port Vauban wavebreaker.

Page 78 St Evette

Fuel is not available at St Evette. The facility was removed some years ago.

Page 108 Îles de Glenan, Anchorage No 4 La Chambre
The moorings in La Chambre are the new sea-bed friendly type and are reported to be in good condition.

Page 112 Port-La- Forêt

There is a highly recommended fish market, Les Viviers de La Forêt. To find it, turn left just across the causeway.

Page 138 Lorient, Locmiquelic (St Catherine's)
A drying rubber walkway and pontoons have been installed to the north of the Capitainerie.

Page 147 Locmaria, Île de Groix

There are now about 10 (not 20) mooring buoys outside Locmaria harbour.

Page 160 Le Palais, Belle Île

There are now some rubber walk ashore pontoons in the south corner of the Avant Port.

Page 169 Saint-Gildas, Île Houat

There are now showers available next to the Capitainerie.

Page 175 Port Haliguen

There are very significant improvements underway until 2020. The heavy machinery involved creates considerable noise and dirt during the working week. Visitors now seem to be directed to the east basin following the major refurbishment. There is a nice beach just outside the marina.

Page 184 Chart Golfe du Morbihan

Anchorage No 5 is shown on the chart in an incorrect position. It should be marked in a position 1M southwest of the position shown on the chart to a location off Pointe de Berchis at 47°34'·950N 2°54'·446W.

Page 186 Golfe du Morbihan

The large scale chart, SHOM 7137 is a brilliant chart for exploring the area.

Page 187 Central Morbihan Anchorage No 4

There is a very good public walk round the edge of Île Berder, with a low tide causeway and short walk into Larmor Barden, but the tide rises very quickly. The anchorage is good.

Page 187 Central Morbihan Anchorage No 6

Bike rental is available for low cost.

Page 187 Central Morbihan Anchorage No 8

No 23 Bus takes you to Vannes in 24 mins which is a great alternative if you do not have time to make it up the channel to Vannes marina. Bike rental available for a low cost. No deposit required and no locks provided (trust is high on the island!)

Page 188 Central Morbihan Anchorage No 10

This anchorage is excellent in heavy weather. There is a pleasant 30-minute walk to the Arradon waterfront and a good restaurant.

Page 188 Central Morbihan Anchorage No 11

Pontoon berths available on W side of small pier only. Beware of shallows on E side of pontoon. Note the structure of the pontoons differs from the Navionics chart.

Page 188 Morbihan

Good little anchorage in 2m SW of Île Brannec sheltered in NE wind.

Page 200 Pénerf

There is now only one visitors mooring near the isolated danger mark. There is a shower adjacent to the toilets next to the lifeboat station but it requires a card from the Capitainerie for access.

Page 208 La Vilaine, Cran Bridge

Jetty on south bank on the downstream side for boats waiting for the bridge to open. The get ready signal is one red and one green. The bridge is normally opened on demand subject to giving 24 hours notice. See details on www.lavilaine.com

Page 209 La Vilaine, Redon Marina

Visitors' pontoon is situated just outside the lock to the grand basin on the northwest side of the basin. Minimum depth in Redon Marina is reported to be 2m. Fuel berth is now situated outside the basin on the port side of the inlet channel next to a derelict tug. Self-service diesel available with payment by credit card.

Page 217 Le Croisic

Drying out against the wall on the outside at Port de Plaisance is not recommended due to the unevenness of the bottom.

Page 225 La Loire

The tidal strategy for pilotage from St Nazaire to Nantes is based on tide times for Nantes. To make this clearer in the pilot book please add 'Nantes' after low water in line 1 and again in line 6 when referring to high water.

Page 252 Bourgenay

Entrance channel has reduced depth. Stay close to north side of channel when entering between harbour walls after Port entry point.

Page 260 Marans

The bridge and lock open on demand and require 24 hours' notice. Telephone numbers are in the Information box under Communications.

Page 281 Rochefort

There is now only one lifting bridge which is between Bassin no 1 and Bassin No 2. The Capitainerie is situated adjacent to the cranes.

Page 301 La Gironde, Pass Sud (Passe de Grave)

~~It is reported that the Passe du Sud/de Grave is effectively closed. Apart from the landfall buoy (45°30'4N-01°15'5W) all the others have been removed. Storms have shifted the banks so the entrance is no longer viable even in benign conditions.~~

La Gironde, Passe Sud is open (subject to the usual caveats) and the buoyage is as per updated paper and digital charts. However, Passe Sud is not always open due to the shifting sand banks and care should be taken. Grande Passe de L'Ouest is a more reliable channel.

Page 307 Royan

Royan de-mast facilities include a 1·5 tonne crane but is limited to masts under 15m and under 300kg. Maximum engine weight lift is 1,000kg and maximum boat weight is 26 tonnes using a travel-lift.

Page 308 Port Médoc

De-mast facilities available through Tylan Accastillage who also run the local U Ship franchise at Port Medoc.

Page 315 Pauillac

Heavy silting occurs at the Visitors' pontoon. Reported depth in 2020 was 1.0m.

Page 321 Bordeaux

The waiting pontoon outside the entrance to Basin No 1 and Basin No 2 has been temporarily removed while the dockyard is being refurbished. Basin No 1 and No 2 are temporarily closed (Sep 2020). Berthing is possible at Lormet YC ☎ +33 (0) 6705 14515.

Demasted yachts, and motor boats with max air draft of 5.4m, may pass under the Pont Chaban Delmas when the bridge is down. There is a delightful 155m visitors' pontoon, the Ponton d'Honneur on the west bank just downstream of the Pont du Pierre. It is run by the Mairie (not the port). See bordeaux-metropole.fr for more details. Details of bridge lifting dates may be found at <https://sedeplacer.bordeaux-metropole.fr>

Page 326 Bassin d'Arcachon

ATT red-white safe water buoy reported (Sept 2020) to be in position at 44°34'.55N 01°18'.78W. Buoys may be moved as the channel between the sandbanks shifts after poor weather. Arcachon marina is expensive but offers two nights for the price of one.