



RCC Pilotage Foundation Isles of Scilly

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Further updates are available, as they come in, via the Cruising Notes page of the Pilotage Foundation website at <https://rccpf.org.uk/Pilotage-Notices>



Caution

Whilst the RCC 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 RCC 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safety of a vessel depends, ultimately, on the judgment of the skipper, who should access all information, published or unpublished. The information provided in this book may be out of date and may be changed or updated without notice.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 RCC Pilotage Foundation cannot accept liability for any error, omission or failure to update such information. To the extent permitted by law, the RCC 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**.

David Hackett is a retired cardiologist and has taken over as Editor in 2020 from Graham Adam. He first cruised to the Isles of Scilly as a teenager in 1970, and has taken his family holidays there every summer for the last 30 years. He lives near Falmouth in Cornwall, and has cruised to the Islands every year, often several times, in his own yacht since 2015.

Acknowledgements

I thank Tom Jackman of SMC Port Agents for help in providing some details for this supplement.

Page 21 Meteorology

Add **Exceptional summer storms**

Rarely, summer storms can develop very suddenly and with very strong winds. Storm Evert crossed Scilly on 29–30 July 2021, with wind gusts of 60kt (F11) recorded at St Mary's Airport. There were 22 emergency maritime calls on Scilly to HM Coastguard and the RNLI that night; several yachts broke from their moorings or dragged their anchors and went aground; several yacht crews were rescued by helicopter.

When cruising in Scilly, it is important to regularly review the weather forecast, and if a gale or storm is coming to consider the safest moorings or anchorages for the circumstances. Always use a good strong chain strop for attaching to mooring buoys, a rope strop is likely to chafe through with strong winds. If anchoring, ensure you have a good quality anchor with enough chain, as well as a reserve anchor. When dropping your anchor with an expected gale or storm, it can be useful to review a satellite image program (such as Google Earth) to find areas of sand or shingle free from rock and weed for good holding, and which are sheltered from the expected wind direction.

Page 23 Oceanography

Add **Depths and drying heights**

Recent survey information has shown that numerous depths and drying heights are less than charted between Round Island and Bishops Rock. Charts published since 2018 should have these corrections updated.

A full list of corrections was published by Admiralty Notices to Mariners (NtMs) relating to Admiralty Leisure Folio SC5603 Falmouth to Hartland Point, including the Isles of Scilly published on 2nd September 2021 is available at <https://msi.admiralty.co.uk/NoticesToMariners/Leisure>

Page 26 Navigational aids and safety

Add: Sector bearings are given from seaward.

Add:

St Anthony lighthouse (entrance to Falmouth Harbour):

50°08'·47N 05°00'·96W

Iso WR 15s 22m 12M

Horn (1) 30s

The nominal range of the main light white sector was permanently reduced to 12M in August 2022.

The nominal range of the main light red sector was permanently reduced to 9M in August 2022.

172°-W-022°

022°-R-003° Red sector over Manacle Rocks

003°-W-172°

Tater-du Lighthouse

50°03'·14N 05°34'·68W

Change Fl(3)15s34m20M to Fl(3)15s34m12M

The nominal range of the main navigation light was reduced from 20M to 12M in May 2022.

Change F.R.31m13M to F.R.31m9M

The nominal range of the red sector light was reduced from 13M to 9M in May 2022.

Pendeen

Delete Red hull, light-tower amidships

Correct Longships

189°-W-327°

189°-R-202° Red sector over Cape Cornwall and the Brisons Rocks

Add Runnel Stone Buoy (South Cardinal Mark):

50°01'·19N 05°40'·36W

Q(6)+LFl.15s

Bell

Page 29 Buoys:

6th line in table: Spanish Ledge

East Cardinal Buoy at the entrance to St Mary's Sound:

49°53'·94N 06°18'·86W

Currently unlit (February 2023).

Add line to table:

Wave Buoy	St Mary's Sound	Can	Y	49°53'·53N 06°18'·76W	FlY(5)20s
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Page 30 Hazards and restrictions:

Add

Floating seawater intake

A seasonal floating seawater intake pipe to supply a desalination plant is deployed in Pelistry Bay on the east side of St Mary's island from early April until late October each year. The pipe is of floating construction and is visible along its whole length. The seaward end is lit with an orange continuous flash every three to four seconds. The seaward end of the pipe is usually located approximately half-way between the eastern end of Toll's Island and the middle of Dry Ledge, and in line with the eastern end of Toll's Island and the eastern end of Gap Point. This is approximately at the 8m charted depth contour, and at approximately 49°55'·65N 06°16'·58W.

Add

Sea Defence works

Scilly is geologically sinking, and sea levels are rising. Several coastline areas are under threat from sea ingress. The Council of the Isles of Scilly has proposed various

works to shore up the coastline in these places. In some cases, this will involve delivering rock by barge onto the beaches. Further information is available on the Council's website:

<https://scilly.gov.uk/environment-transport/climate-emergency/climate-adaptation-scilly/climate-change-adaptation-action>

There are proposed works for

St Mary's:

Porth Hellick

Porthloo

Porthmellon

St Agnes:

Porth Killier

Porth Coose

Periglis

Bryher:

Kitchen Porth

Church Quay

Green Bay

Great Porth – South

Great Porth – North

Stinking Porth

Popplestone – South

Popplestone – North

St Martin's:

Lower Town Beach

Page 31 Hazards and restrictions (cont'd)

Ferries and cruise ships:

Scilly is an increasingly popular destination for large cruise ships with from 300 to 2,000 passengers. During 2023, there are about 27 planned ports of call in Scilly for cruise ships, an average of about one each week from April to September. Smaller cruise ships usually anchor in St Mary's Road, larger ships in Crow Sound east of St Mary's.

Page 34 Plan

Change **Runnelstone** light from Whis to Bell

Page 35

1st column, 2nd para, 6th line: Runnel Stone buoy (South Cardinal Mark): 50°01'·19N 05°40'·36W.

Wave actuated whistle replaced with a wave actuated bell.

Page 41 Add Events:

The following regular events in Scilly could affect yacht cruising plans:

The first week-end in May or last week-end in April (including holiday Monday) each year:

The World Pilot Gig Championships – typically 120 rowing gigs participate. St Mary's Harbour, and every pub, are extraordinarily busy!

www.wpgc.uk

The first Sunday in August each year:

The Scillonian Sailing Club's annual Round the Island race – Weather permitting, the race involves around 100 or more sailing craft of all types and sizes, starting during the morning off St Mary's Harbour, usually with a clockwise course around the east and south side of St Mary's, and finishing at Porth Conger on St Agnes. Porth Conger is usually very busy all day.

The first Sunday in June and the first week-end in September:

Swimming events – with teams swimming between various islands.

Page 43 Inner approaches via St Mary's Sound

Add St Mary's Sound wave buoy:

49°53'.53N 06°18'.76W

Part of the Regional Coastal Monitoring Wave Buoy Network.

The wave buoy has been deployed since 2014, is 0.9m in diameter and is painted yellow. The buoy is moored using a rotational and tidally influenced mooring design, with one 30m rubber bungee below the surface. Yellow flashing light on top of a 2m long HF aerial transmitter (flashing 5 times every 20 seconds). In addition, the buoy is equipped with radar reflectors. The words NO MOORING and Channel Coastal Observatory are displayed on the buoy.

Mariners are requested to:

Give 200m minimum clearance from the buoy to avoid the danger of vessel entanglement;

Do not moor to any part of the deployed mooring or buoy;

Refrain from deploying any fishing gear in the vicinity.

Page 44-45 plan

Add St Mary's Sound wave buoy:

49°53'.53N 06°18'.76W

Page 53 Final approaches

Buoys and beacons

Add

Light at seaward end of St Mary's Quay:

49°55'.12N 06°18'.98W

2F.G(vert)

Installed April 2019.

Page 54 St Mary's

Harbour:

St Mary's Harbour Quay is closed by order of the Harbourmaster when there are strong onshore winds, a large onshore swell is forecast, and combined with high spring tides.

Page 57 Porthcressa Bay

A 'No Mooring' yellow special mark in position 49°54'.70N 06°18'.90W indicates the Western Power Distribution power cable in Porthcressa Bay. Previously laid mooring buoys that were in Porthcressa have been removed.

Page 61 St Mary's

Facilities:

Add St Mary's Health Centre

King Edward Lane, St Marys

☎ 01720 422628

<https://www.scillyhealth.nhs.uk/>

Add Pharmacy: Isles of Scilly Pharmacy (Scilly Pharmacy), located in the Health Centre: King Edward Lane, St Marys ☎ 01720 422021.

Water (on the quay)

Cost £1 in the meter (or £1 token from HM Office) for 50 litres. Hose not provided.

Laundry

Launderette at Porth Cressa, add ☎ 01720 422431
enquiries@sibleysonscilly.com

Gas

Calor Gas is not available from Island Home Hardware on Garrison Lane. It should be available from Sibleys Fuel & Marine Services (as for other brands). Although shortages meant no stock of 4.5kg in July 2021.

Marine engineers

Delete Nike Engineering, Porth Mellon with telephone number. Business no longer operating.

Add Boatyard services

Isles of Scilly Boat Co, Porth Mellon.

General boatyard services including mechanical and electrical marine engineering services, and boat repair; associated with Falmouth Boat Company.

☎ 01720 423462

enquiries@iosboat.co.uk

www.iosboat.co.uk

Add Port Agent

SMC Port Agents in Hugh Town:) 01720 422124, VHF Channel 74

admin@scillonianmarine.co.uk

www.scillonianmarine.co.uk

Logistics, services and shore support, marine engineers.

Add Telephones

There is only one mobile phone mast on St Mary's at Telegraph Hill which all providers use. Reception is good if you have a line of sight to the phone mast. Reception is poor where this is obscured by hills, for example in parts of New Grimsby Harbour, parts of Old Grimsby Harbour, on the north coast of Tresco, north and east coasts of St Martin's and on the west side of St Agnes. In some anchorages, I have had no phone reception at low tide but some reception at high tide!

Banks

Barclays Bank closed in 2018, Lloyds Bank closed in 2022.

There are no available bank branches on Scilly since 2022.

There is a cash machine at the Lloyds Bank building.

Eating out

Delete Woodcock and Mumford's Deli, no longer trading.

Delete Blues Restaurant, no longer trading.

Delete Bishop and Wolf, no longer trading.

Add Jack's Micro Bar ☎ 07775 451649.

www.facebook.com/jacksmicrobar/

Add Hugh Street Cafe ☎ 01720 422734.

www.hughstreetcafe.co.uk

In Old Town

Add Old Town Store due to open in 2023.

www.oldtownstore.co.uk

Page 62 St Mary's

Changes in facilities (cont'd):

Island transport

Golf buggy hire:

Scilly Carts, Porthmellon Business Park, St Marys

☎ 01720 422121

www.scillycarts.com

mail@scillycarts.com

2, 4 and 6 seaters.

Page 72 Approach to New Grimsby Sound from between Bryher and Samson

Tresco leading lights

Leading Lights bearing approx 046° indicating the entry line into the Tresco Channel between Bryher and Samson located near Appletree Road on Tresco were not working in

summer 2021; I have been advised these were repaired in August 2021.

Page 82 Tresco Old Grimsby Sound

Tresco visitor moorings: In Old Grimsby, the number of visitor moorings has been reduced from 7 to 5 after Storm Evert in July 2021.

Page 85 Tresco

Showers and toilets

Since 2021 showers and swimming pool are no longer available at The New Inn. The swimming pool has been filled in to allow further seating areas.

A single small visitors shower is available in the disabled toilet in the laundry building close to the estate office on Tresco.

Page 86 Bryher

Boat hire

Bryher Boatyard was sold by Richard & Shiela Drew in summer 2022 to Ben Andrews. It is understood that no initial changes are planned to the various services being offered.