

a wide beach at low tide, ideal for graminig, rockpovling and family barbecues

Bembridge Hedge



Dinosaur Isle
Dinosaur Isle is Britain's first purpose-built dinosaur museum and visitor attraction.

The Island's diverse geology contains a wealth of fossils. These tell us much about the past and give clues to the effects of possible future environmental changes. Starting around 126 million years ago, the rocks contain the best exposures of dinosaur material in Europe. Many dinosaur finds have been made in the cliffs at Sandown.

The castle was finally demolished in the time of Charles I, before the present-day town of Sandown was established. Its site is now the Sandham Grounds public park, between Fort Street and Culver Parade, and it is said that some of its remains are still visible at low tide.

Although Sandown Castle was never attacked, in 1545 it was the scene of a desperate battle with French invaders who had landed at Whitecliff Bay and made their way over Culver Down amid heavy skirmishing. They were repulsed.

Henrician Castles, these were a network of coastal defences intended to defend against the threat of the French and Spanish after Henry's break from the Roman Catholic Church.

Isle of Wight Zoo
The Island's first zoo was established here during the 1950s. Known locally as Sandown Zoo, it was built within the walls of the existing Victorian fort.

Tigers were introduced at the end of the 1970s and the zoo enjoyed several tiger births. By the early 1990s, there was a range of animals, including leopards. Today, the Isle of Wight Zoo has established itself as a serious centre for wild animal conservation.

Whitecliff Bay and Culver Cliff
The cliffs at Whitecliff Bay are soft clays and sands, which are constantly crumbling and slipping. This process is important for wildlife as it allows for a constantly renewed habitat.

There are some remarkable geological formations. At Bembridge, the rocks are relatively young, being 1.8 million years old whereas the upper chalk layers at Culver Cliff are 65 million years old. At low tide, some of the best rockpools in England are exposed where there are seaweeds, anemones, and other coastal wildlife.

Sandown Castle
Sandown Castle was one of Henry VIII's Device Forts, which were built from 1544 onwards. Also known as

Culver Battery
Built in 1906, this is one of many fortifications created to defend the sea approaches to Portsmouth. It was manned during both world wars. There were two gun emplacements and underground bunkers where shells were stored. All the guns were removed in 1956 and the emplacements filled in.

Later, he bought a smaller vessel *The Kestrel*, but died on board suddenly, in 1846. The Royal Yacht Squadron Committee paid for the monument which was originally placed further west of its current position, but was moved when Prime Minister Palmerston built a moated fort in 1867.

In 1825 he was appointed first Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes. During this time, yachting flourished and the club grew in numbers and reputation. Lord Yarborough was passionate about the sea and sailing – his most famous ship was the full-rigged *Falcon*. In 1825 he was appointed first Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes. During this time, yachting flourished and the club grew in numbers and reputation.

Sandown to Bembridge

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Description A linear coastal walk along very good paths suitable for families, with a monument and sea fortifications to explore at Culver Down.

Distance 4.7 miles. **Start** Bus stop, Victoria Road, Sandown. **Access information** There are no stiles, but a hill to climb to get to Culver. Most of the paths are suitable for families with buggies.

Refreshments Sandown and Bembridge pubs and cafés. **Toilets** Patrons of pubs and cafés. **Internet** All walks in this series can be downloaded from this website www.iowramblers.com/page44.htm or www.islandbuses.info/things-do/rambles-bus/

Countryside Code

Respect Protect Enjoy

- Respect other people*
- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
 - Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available
- Protect the natural environment*
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
 - Keep dogs under effective control
- Enjoy the outdoors*
- Plan ahead and be prepared
 - Follow advice and local signs

Leave the car at home – take a Southern Vectis bus to the Isle of Wight's most inspiring walks. Just use the handy QR code inside to find your bus route



Sandown to Bembridge

A linear walk over chalk cliffs at the extreme eastern end of the Island, featuring geology, dinosaurs – and tigers...

Sandown to Bembridge

Information

Bus times 0871 200 22 33
calls from landlines cost 10p per minute

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Key

- Tea rooms
- Public house
- Bus stop
- Car park
- Public footpaths
- Walk route



Scan this code with your smart phone to access the Southern Vectis timetable applicable to this walk.

Route From the bus stop at Sandown **1** take the pathway around the mini-roundabout, towards the coast and join the esplanade **2**. Go left here and follow the esplanade, passing the canoe lake, Dinosaur Isle museum, Brown's Golf Course and Isle of Wight Zoo. Join the grassy coastal path **3**. Follow the path

uphill, bearing left, and head towards the tall Lord Yarborough Monument **4**. Go right along the lane, passing tea rooms and the Culver Haven pub, to reach an information board describing Culver Battery. Go left to find a car park and head to the far left corner where a narrow footpath can be found **5**. Go along the path

to a gate. Here turn right and descend on the coastal path. Go by a holiday park and then pass part of Ryde School. Go through a gate to a car park **6**. Go left and continue along a road, Forelands Field Road. Go left and then turn right into Egerton Road. Turn left into Crossway to find the bus stop **7**.



Pictured, clockwise from top left Brown's Golf on Sandown seafront; The Lord Yarborough Monument; gun emplacement at Culver Battery; Isle of Wight Zoo; a beacon on Culver Down; goats graze the down above Sandown Bay

