






**Welcome to the Isle of Wight Coastal Trail!**

There are 12 different locations around the coast of the island to explore. The resources in the pack will allow you to learn a little about the geography of each location, and there are activities incorporated into each to help you to experience and enjoy what each location has to offer.






Location	Overview	Number
<b>VENTNOR &amp; BONCHURCH</b>	 <p>Learn about the geography of Ventnor and its unique microclimate. Explore the beach and seafront by completing a quiz!</p>	<p>107 613</p>
	<p>Learn about the largest urban landslide complex in north-western Europe; why is it so unstable, and what does this mean for people?</p>	<p>107 612</p>
<b>CHINES</b>	 <p>Learn what a Chine is, how they are created and what they look like. Discover their fascinating history of smuggling and shipwrecks, and their role in the war.</p>	<p>107 611</p>
<b>COMPTON BAY &amp; HANOVER POINT</b>	 <p>Discover how the geology here means that this is one of the fastest eroding stretches of coastline in the UK. Hunt for fossils exposed by the rapidly eroding cliffs and see what you can find in the wave-cut-platform rock pools at low tide!</p>	<p>107 606</p>
<b>FRESHWATER BAY &amp; TENNYSON DOWN</b>	 <p>Find out how Freshwater Bay formed, what 'Stag' and 'Mermaid' Rocks are and how they formed, and how the threat of coastal flooding is being tackled. Discover the famous faces that have lived and/or visited Freshwater, and once made up the 'Freshwater Circle'.</p>	<p>107 605</p>
<b>ALUM BAY &amp; THE NEEDLES</b>	 <p>Learn about the geology of Alum Bay. Look at tectonic and climatic processes that have led to the structure/planform of this stretch of coastline. See evidence for processes of erosion and mass movement taking place today, including erosional landforms (the Needles).</p>	<p>107 604</p>

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Location	Overview	Number
<p><b>HURST SPIT</b></p> 	<p>How did Hurst Spit form and what are its main features?</p> <p>You will be able to explore the spit and the saltmarshes behind, discovering the birds, plants and butterflies that thrive here.</p> <p>You will have the opportunity to discover the nooks and crannies of the castle itself, and find out how it is all being protected from the ravages of the sea.</p>	<p>107 603</p>
<p><b>HAMSTEAD / NEWTOWN</b></p> 	<p>Once the main port on the island, Newtown is now little more than a Hamlet.</p> <p>However, much of its medieval buildings and plots remain for you to discover, and the natural habitats here are a stunning and peaceful place to investigate and learn about.</p>	<p>107 602</p>
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<p><b>RYDE</b></p> 	<p>Ryde is the largest town on the island and this resource allows you to find out more about its importance as a transport and tourism centre, as well as how it is being protected from the risk of flooding.</p>	<p>107 616</p>
<p><b>SEAVIEW</b></p> 	<p>Ryde's smaller neighbour, Seaview is a charming location for a seaside stroll and some relaxation slightly away from the hub-bub of Ryde.</p> <p>This resource informs you about its past, as well as what it is like today.</p>	<p>107 615</p>
<p><b>ST HELENS DUVER &amp; BEMBRIDGE HARBOUR</b></p> 	<p>Learn what a Duver actually is!</p> <p>The development of sand dune ecosystems is explained and some of the weird and wonderful creatures that live here too.</p> <p>A feature-finder activity helps you to explore all that the Duver has to offer.</p> <p>What might you find?</p>	<p>107 614</p>



## Ventnor & Bonchurch

Ventnor is located on the south coast of the Isle of Wight and has earned itself a bit of a reputation over the years as rather a healthy and Mediterranean-like resort. Once a humble fishing hamlet, Ventnor is now a thriving seaside resort. The quiz will help you to learn about some of the attractions and features along the seafront, how Ventnor has changed over time, and even what a famous visitor once said about the town!



## The Undercliff

The Undercliff is a narrow tract of land which extends for about 12km along the southern coast

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Access to The Undercliff is restricted and, a 'Undercliff Drive' coastal road remains closed following a land slide in February 2014.

The resource for this location is not focused on one specific part of The Undercliff; instead, it is suggested that you explore a few locations along its length and there is information on the highlights of each location:

1. **Bonchurch/The landslip** – the coastal path from Bonchurch Shore runs along the lower slopes of the landslip. There is also a car park at the top of the landslip, alongside the Smuggler's Haven tea rooms.
2. **Niton Undercliff.** Past the Buddle Inn in Niton, the road reaches a dead-end but you can continue to walk down towards St Catherine's Lighthouse and view the Undercliff here.



3. **Viewpoint above Blackgang Chine** – just above Blackgang Chine there is a large car park and a short walk takes you to a small area on the cliff top, where you can look down towards the amusement park and the far western end of the Undercliff. This is a small area with steep cliffs so great care should be taken!





### Chines

There are currently a total of 22 chines around the coast of the Isle of Wight and they are one of the most fascinating features that the island has to offer.

From Whale Chine, with its gorge-like canyon appearance, to the combined Grange and Marsh Chine; the largest on the island, each has its own unique character. It is well worth exploring a few to get a sense of this. The map shows the locations of the IOW Chines.

You will be able to discover what a chine is, how they are created, and find out how they vary. You will

also learn about their history, including tales of smuggling and shipwrecks!



### Compton Bay/Hanover Point

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and erosion you can see in the cliffs here.

Low tide is the best time to visit as there is a lot more beach to explore and, you never know, you may well discover a dinosaur footprint, or find fossil bones or dinosaur teeth! Also, the wave-cut-platform at Hanover Point is exposed at low tide and the resource informs you about how this was created, and about the shipwreck you may be able to walk right out to if the tide is very low when you visit!

### Freshwater Bay/Tennyson Down

Freshwater Bay, a small, semi-circular bay on the south-western side of the island, has been created by the action of both the sea and the River Western Yar. You will learn about, and explore, the physical geography of the Bay, and learn about how 'Stag' and 'Mermaid' Rocks were created.

You will also learn about the human geography of the Bay; the flood risk and what is being done about protecting the people and property here. Also, the Bay has seen many famous faces over the years. In the middle of the 19th Century, it was a stylish and popular retreat for a host of artists, photographers and writers. You will discover who some of these famous people were, and what the 'freshwater Circle' was.

A 10-question quiz will allow you to find out all about what it is like, and what it has to offer!





## Alum Bay/The Needles

The multi-coloured cliffs of Alum Bay are well-known and are one of the most-visited places on the Island. The Needles Park, above the Bay, provides extensive parking and other facilities and attractions if desired. The Needles Landmark Attraction website at <http://www.theneedles.co.uk/> gives information about visiting the site, as well as the landmarks that you will see.

One can access the beach either by walking, or by taking the cable-car, and you will be able to explore the cliffs from here. The resource provides information about the geology here, and explains the structure and colours of the cliffs. A colour hunt and treasure hunt then allow you to explore the cliffs and beach for yourself.



Afterwards, it is possible to either walk or take a bus up to

the Needles themselves and explore the chalk headland. The formation of the Needles is explained and, from the viewpoint at the headland, you will be able to see them up close. It is

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## Hurst Spit

A sudden change in the direction of the south coast of England has allowed long-shore drift to build up a 2km long shingle spit; Hurst spit. There are ferries from Yarmouth, which leave from beside the Wightlink slipway. Further information about times and fares can be found at <http://www.hurstcastle.co.uk/ferries/>.



The formation of the spit is explained and you will be able to explore it and recognise its main features. Keyhaven Marshes, which have developed over time in the sheltered waters behind the spit, are very valuable, both in terms of their conservation value and also as a recreational resource. You will learn how they formed in the first place, and you will be able to discover some of the birds, butterflies and plants that have made this their home.

The spit is extremely vulnerable to storms and the erosion that constant battering from the sea causes. Various measures help to protect the spit and you will see these at the far end protecting the castle.

The castle itself is owned and operated by English heritage and is a fascinating place to explore if you wish. Information about the castle can be found here: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/hurst-castle/>.



### Hamstead/Newtown

Once the main port on the island, the original inhabitants of the town of Newtown had high hopes of its successes and potential riches. Nowadays, Newtown is a little Hamlet and is a fascinating place to explore. A trail guides you from the car park near the Old Town Hall and down the main street towards the meadows and marshes. Some of the highlights are described; see if you can find them along the way!

Newtown Nature Reserve has a wide array of different habitats and you will explore some of them in your time here. From bird-spotting in the hide, to a walk around the banks of the saltmarsh and old salt pans, this is a peaceful and beautiful location to while away an afternoon. The resource



will help you to discover what the reserve has to offer, but the National Trust Centre at the Car Park also contains a wealth of information.

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of the river by the 'floating bridge' chain ferry.

This resource will help you to get to know the harbour at West Cowes – a very busy place! See how many different types of vessel you can spot, and find out about the variety of sailing events that take place here. You will also discover what changes are taking place in the harbour.

The largest permanent image of the Union Jack flag in the world can be seen here. Find out about the many different uses of the building on whose doors it is painted.

### Ryde

Once a straggling fishing village strung out along a narrow belt of land between a steep bank and the sea, Ryde is now the largest town on the Isle of Wight and a thriving tourist resort.

This resource tells you about the importance of Ryde as a transport hub for the island, and for travel from the mainland, and you will explore the variety of tourist facilities on offer. Ryde has had its share of trouble in the past though, and you can learn about the issue of flooding and how it is being tackled. The pumping station helps to alleviate flood risk after heavy or persistent rainfall and also has a wealth of information boards to help you to appreciate how important Ryde is for wildlife.



It is a great place to 'vessel-watch' and sitting watching the Solent for a while will demonstrate how busy a stretch of water it really is, and you will understand how tragedy sometimes strikes here. The resource tells you the story of The Royal George, which sunk here in 1782.







### Seaview

Seaview is a small Edwardian resort, popular with tourists as it is only a short drive from the cross-Solent travel links at Ryde.

Much smaller and quieter than Ryde, one can take a stroll along the seafront, the nature reserve, and around the small town centre and take in the sights and atmosphere.

The resource for this location tells you a little about Seaview's past and what it was once like. There is then a focus on what it is like today; you will learn about why the sea defences were needed, and how an artist/sculptor was employed to assist with their design.

You will be able to give your opinion and decide whether you think the artist was successful in making the engineering works 'blend in' a



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### St Helen's Duver/Bembridge Harbour

Pronounced to rhyme with 'cover', a Duver is the local name for an area of sand dunes. St Helen's Duver, on the edge of Bembridge Harbour is the island's most extensive and best example of sand dunes. There is a large car park on the seafront, and another slightly behind the front.

This resource tells you how the sand dunes formed, and how a sand dune develops over time into the complex ecosystem that you see before you at the Duver. There are several strange creatures that lurk here, and you will see if you can find any!

The 'feature finder' activity will allow you to explore the Duver and see its main features.

