

Voluntary Codes for Coastal Users



Isle of Man Coastal Code

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**Isle of Man
Government**

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Isle of Man Coastal Code

Working to protect the coastal environment and marine wildlife

This resource is designed to provide guidelines for good practices around Isle of Man coastal areas.

What is the Code for?

The marine and coastal areas around the Isle of Man are used by many people for recreational activities. These areas are also highly valuable in terms of plants, animals, marine mammals and birds. The code has been established to help safeguard wildlife, while allowing locals and visitors to enjoy all coastal activities.

The code aims are:

- To reduce unintentional disturbance to the marine and bird wildlife.
- To encourage responsible use of the Manx coast and marine environment.
- To keep everyone safe from harm.

This resource includes information on:

- Coastal Code — guidelines for safety and leisure activities
- The Raad ny Foillan Coastal Walk: The Way of the Gull
- Local Marine Wildlife and Bird Life
- Harbours and Marinas
- Safe Bathing Areas
- Reference Maps (OS Maps are available as additional attachments)

Waypoint Markers

The waypoints supplied throughout this document are for information only and should not be used for navigation purposes without consulting the relevant maps.

Maps

The maps supplied with this resource are intended as a visual guide only and not as a navigational aid. An OS 25,000 Isle of Man official guide map is also supplied as a supporting tool in a jpeg downloadable file.



Castletown Harbour

Coastal Code - for all Coastal Users

Personal Safety

- Always inform someone of where you are going and what time you intend to return.
- Always check tide times before venturing out along coastal walks as some areas of the coastline can be cut off by the tide.
- Check bay signs for bye laws and other safety information
- Be aware that some rocks and slopes may be slippery due to algae.

Respect for Coastal Wildlife

- Try to leave everything as you found it or would expect to find it.
- Tread carefully as you manoeuvre around the coastline in order to minimise impact on coastal plant and marine wildlife.
- Be aware of nesting birds between March and October each year.
- Be aware of Basking Sharks especially between May and September each year.

Coastline Considerations

- Respect the rights of all users.
- Dispose of or take home any rubbish that you acquire.
- Do not block public access or rights of way and use official car parks where possible.
- Driving on the foreshore is only permitted to launch and recover a boat using a recognised access point. Organised events must seek prior permission.
- Barbeques must be positioned below the high water mark to prevent unwanted fires.

Use of Fast craft and Jet ski's

- Be considerate to other coastal/marine users especially swimmers and divers.
- Do not proceed into the Safe Bathing Areas.
- Wildlife: Keep activities such as launching and landings away from bird breeding grounds and roosts, and breeding and

haulout sites of the local seals.

- Observe the main safety guidelines around marine animals.
- Understand and follow the RNLI's Sea Safety Guidelines (for further information contact the Lifeboat Sea Safety Team, Gordon or Phil on 475979/416068)

Dog Walking Code

- Follow local dog bye laws, failure to do so could result in a fine. Dogs are prohibited from some beaches around the island during working hours throughout the tourist season.
- Try to avoid disturbing birds and take care not to let your dog chase birds along the beach.
- Clean up after your dog in order to help keep the beach clean for other coastal users.

Horse Riding Code

- Follow local horse riding bye laws, failure to do so could result in a fine.
- Always wear protective headwear and the appropriate riding gear for safety.
- Always check your tack for security and safety before you set off.



Maughold Lighthouse

Raad Ny Foillan Coastal Walk

The Way of The Gull

Laxey to Gansey: Area One

The walk from Laxey on the east coast to Gansey Point in the south measures a coastal distance of approximately 30 miles and passes through the coastal towns of Douglas and Castletown.

Laxey To Ganey Waypoints

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Laxey Harbour | WP1: SC 442 838 |
| Groudle Glen | WP2: SC 420 784 |
| Onchan Head | WP3: SC 417 778 |
| Douglas Head | WP4: SC 389 747 |
| Port Soderick | WP5: SC 346 726 |
| Port Grenaugh | WP6: SC 316 705 |
| Santon Gorge | WP7: SC 300 693 |
| Derbyhaven | WP8: SC 285 678 |
| Castletown Harbour | WP9: SC 266 675 |
| Scarlett Point | WP10: SC 258 664 |
| Gansey Point | WP11: SC 215 681 |

Gansey to Niarbyl: Area Two

The walk from Gansey on the south coast to Niarbyl in the south west measures a coastal distance of approximately 17 miles and passes through the coastal towns of Port St Mary and Port Erin.

Gansey to Niarbyl Waypoints

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Gansey Point | WP1: SC 215 681 |
| Perwick Bay | WP2: SC 207 671 |
| Chasms | WP3: SC 192 664 |
| Spanish Head | WP4: SC 182 659 |
| The Sound | WP5: SC 173 667 |
| Port Erin Harbour | WP6: SC 189 690 |
| Bradda Head | WP7: SC 185 698 |
| Fleshwick Bay | WP8: SC 201 713 |
| Cronk Ny Arrey Laa | WP9: SC 224 747 |
| Niarbyl Visitor Centre | WP10: SC 213 777 |

Niarbyl to Ballaugh: Area Three

The walk from Niarbyl on the south west coast to Ballaugh in the north west measures a coastal distance of approximately 17 miles and passes through the coastal town of Peel.

Niarbyl to Ballaugh Waypoints

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Niarbyl Visitor Centre | WP1: SC 213 777 |
| Glen Maye | WP2: SC 225 799 |
| Contrary Head | WP3: SC 229 827 |
| Peel Harbour | WP4: SC 242 843 |
| Glen Mooar | WP5: SC 304 893 |
| Glen Wyllin | WP6: SC 310 906 |
| Orrisdale | WP7: SC 318 929 |
| Ballaugh Cronk | WP8: SC 336 960 |

Ballaugh to Laxey: Area Four

The walk from Ballaugh on the north west coast to Laxey in the east measures a coastal distance of approximately 31 miles and passes through the coastal town of Ramsey.

Ballaugh to Laxey Waypoints

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Ballaugh Cronk | WP1: SC 336 960 |
| The Lhen | WP2: NX 378 016 |
| Blue Point | WP3: NX 393 025 |
| Rue Point | WP4: NX 407 033 |
| Ballaghennie | WP5: NX 435 038 |
| Point of Ayre | WP6: NX 467 048 |
| The Dog Mills | WP7: SC 453 978 |
| Port Lewaigue | WP8: SC 470 930 |
| Maughold Head | WP9: SC 498 914 |
| Port Cornaa | WP10: SC 472 879 |
| Dhoon Glen | WP11: SC 454 864 |
| Laxey Harbour | WP12: SC 442 838 |

Marine Wildlife - around the Isle of Man

Laxey to Gansey - AREA ONE

Sea Birds

Marine Drive is important for nesting Peregrine, Fulmar and Gulls whilst a Cormorant colony is often sited at Pistol Castle. Langness supports a range of wintering waders and wildfowl and high numbers of Oystercatchers. Chough and Raven nest all along this stretch of coast.

Seals

Seals are present in Manx waters all year round and are more sensitive to disturbance between September and November during their breeding season, especially when they have young.

Porpoises, Dolphins and Whales

Porpoises can be seen all year round and are more sensitive to disturbance in the summer months when they have young. Risso's Dolphins are sighted along the east coast in spring and the south coast in autumn, often in groups. Bottlenose Dolphins are less common but groups of 200 individuals have been seen off Douglas and Laxey in winter. Minke Whales are sighted along the east coast in autumn. They grow up to 10 metres in length and occasionally jump clear of the water, so keep your distance. Other species of Whales and Dolphins are also seen around the Manx coast.

Basking Sharks

Every summer, from May until September the Isle of Man is a hotspot for Basking Sharks. Keep a look out for Basking Sharks all around the Island. You may see their huge dorsal fin but they often swim just below the surface too. If one is visible, others may be close by.

Gansey to Niarbyl - AREA TWO

Sea Birds

Important breeding densities of Fulmar, Shag, Peregrine, Kittiwake, Gulls, Guillemot, Razorbill, Chough and Raven are found along the cliffs and rocky coast around the Chasms, Calf of Man, Bradda Head and Fleshwick and Guillemots and Razorbills form rafts on the sea. Gannets are frequently seen diving offshore for food between March and October.

Seals

Seals gather in large groups on rocks around the Calf & Kitterland to rest, breed and give birth. They are more sensitive to disturbance between September and November during their breeding season, especially when they have young.

Basking Sharks

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Porpoises, Dolphins and Whales

Porpoises can be seen all year round and are more sensitive to disturbance in the summer months when they have young. Risso's Dolphins are sighted along the east coast in spring and the south coast in autumn, often in groups. Bottlenose Dolphins are less common but groups of 200 individuals have been seen.

Minke Whales are sighted along the east coast in autumn and along the west coast in summer. They grow up to 10metres in length and occasionally jump clear of the water so keep your distance. Other species of whales and dolphins are also seen around the coast.



Two species of seals can be found in Manx waters

Marine Wildlife - around the Isle of Man

Niarbyl to Ballaugh - AREA THREE

Sea Birds

The Peel Hill cliffs have important nesting colonies of Fulmar, Kittiwake, Razorbill, Guillemot, Black Guillemot and Puffin; whilst significant numbers of Eider Duck often forage. A Cormorant breeding colony is found along this stretch of coast and Curlew and Oystercatcher have seasonal roosts.

Seals

Seals are commonly seen in Peel Bay and the harbour. They are more sensitive to disturbance between September and November during their breeding season, especially when they have young. Places where Seals haul out onto rocks are important all year round. The Calf & Kitterland area is an important site where seals gather in large groups.

Basking Sharks

Every summer, from May until September the Isle of Man is a hotspot for Basking Sharks. Keep a look out for Basking Sharks all around the Island. You may see their huge dorsal fin but they often swim just below the surface too. If one is visible, others may be close by.

Porpoises, Dolphins and Whales

Porpoises can be seen all year round and are more sensitive to disturbance in the summer months when they have young. Risso's Dolphins and Bottlenose Dolphins are occasionally sighted in Manx waters, sometimes in large groups.

Minke Whales are sighted along the west coast in summer and the east coast in the autumn. They grow up to 10 metres in length and occasionally jump clear of the water, so keep your distance. Other species of Whales and Dolphins are also seen around the Manx coast.

Ballaugh to Laxey - AREA FOUR

Sea Birds

The Ayres coast supports nesting colonies of Little and Arctic Tern on the beaches and mixed feeding flocks of Terns and Gannets offshore. Fulmar, Cormorant, Shag, Kittiwake, Guillemot, Black Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin all breed at Maughold Head.

Seals

Seals use the rocks and beaches at Port Mooar and Maughold to rest, breed and give birth. They are more sensitive to disturbance between September and November during their breeding season, especially when they have young.

Basking Sharks

Every summer, from May until September the Isle of Man is a hotspot for Basking Sharks. Keep a look out for Basking Sharks all around the Island. You may see their huge dorsal fin but they often swim just below the surface too. If one is visible, others may be close by.

Porpoises, Dolphins and Whales

Porpoises are often seen off the coast between Jurby and the Ayres. The animals are more sensitive to disturbance in the summer months when they have young. Risso's Dolphins and Bottlenose Dolphins are occasionally seen in Manx waters, sometimes in large groups.

Minke Whales are spotted along the east coast in autumn and the west coast in summer. They grow up to 10m in length and occasionally jump clear of the water, so keep your distance. Other species of Whales and Dolphins are also seen around the Manx coast.



Bottlenose Dolphins are occasionally sighted from the Manx Coastal Path, The Raad ny Foillan.

Isle of Man Harbours - information for Marine Users

There are seven working harbours situated around the Isle of Man. The following is a guide to the Safe bathing and Harbour/No Wake Zones for each of the Island's harbours.

Laxey to Gansey - AREA ONE

Laxey

No Wake Zone/Harbour Area: is bound by a line from the seaward end of the breakwaters.

Safe Bathing Area: is bound by a line from the end of the outer breakwater to Gob-y-Rheynn.

Douglas

No Wake Zone/Harbour Area: is bound by a line joining the seaward end of the breakwater to No 1 Green Buoy to the tower of refuge to the Connister Jetty.

Safe Bathing Area: is bound to seaward by a line joining the Jubilee Clock and Summerland. The Northern and Southern limits are lines extending seaward intersecting the seaward boundary at right angles. The northern limit extends from the War Memorial.

Castletown

No Wake Zone/Harbour Area: is bound by a line joining King Williams College Tower and the Bell Buoy and a line joining Castle Rushen Keep and the Bell Buoy and includes the harbour.

Safe Bathing Area: is north of a line extending eastwards from the harbour starboard end beacon to the tower of the hotel on Langness.

Bay Ny Carrickey (including Port St Mary)

No Wake Zone/Harbour Area: is north west of a line from the seaward end of the Alfred Pier to the daymark on the Carthure Rocks.

Safe Bathing Area 1: Chapel Bay, is bound by a line across the narrowest part of the entrance to the bay.

Safe Bathing Area 2: within a line joining Gansey Point, the daymark on the Carthure Rocks and a point 150 metres west of the slipway adjacent to the Shore Hotel. The eastern boundary is marked by a line of yellow buoys.

Gansey to Niarbyl - AREA TWO

Port Erin

No Wake / Harbour Area

The No Wake Zone is bounded by the line of the old breakwater to the Green Buoy, and a line from that buoy to the Yellow Buoy off the Raglan Pier to the end of the Harbour Slipway.

Safe Bathing Area

The Safe Bathing Area is shoreward of a line joining the Harbour Slip, the Yellow Buoy and the dome on Collinson House.



Douglas Harbour and Bay from Douglas Head

Isle of Man Harbours - information for Marine Users

Niarbyl to Ballaugh - AREA THREE

Peel Bay and Harbour

No Wake / Harbour Area

The No Wake Zone is bound by a line from the Outer End of The Breakwater and the Outer End of The Groyne.

Jet skis and other fast craft may use this area for launching and access as necessary, and must proceed at a safe and reasonable speed. As a guide, this should produce no appreciable wake behind the vessel.

In Case of Emergency: 999
To Report an Incident: 686627

Safe Bathing Area: Jet Ski and other fast craft are not permitted in this area. This area is for Bathing only!

No Wake/ Harbours Area: Jet skis and other fast craft may use this area for launching and must proceed at a safe and reasonable speed

When Launching or recovering craft in the Harbour Area proceed directly to or from the operating area at low speed

Do not cause a nuisance to other Harbour users

Bathers are warned that high speed water craft may be in operation outside of the designated Safe Bathing Areas

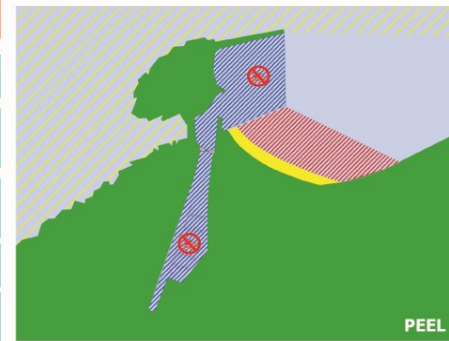
 No Swimming in the Harbour Areas

Life Jackets should be worn aboard vessels

Keep clear of the Hatched Area — Lifeboat Launching Area

Only persons engaged in Launching and Recovery are allowed on the Slipway

Department of Infrastructure



Key
 Safe Bathing Area
 No Wake/Harbour Area
 Marine Wildlife Caution Zone



isle of man harbours
purty'n vannin

Example of harbours information signage that can be around the harbours. Please consult before launching fast-craft.



View from Peel Castle

Safe Bathing Area

The Safe Bathing Area is enclosed by the line of The Groyne and a line joining the end of The Groyne to the northern end of The Promenade.

Jet skis and other fast craft are not permitted within this area. This area is for bathing only. craft.

Ballaugh to Laxey - AREA FOUR

Ramsey Bay and Harbour

Ramsey Harbour

Ramsey harbour is a commercial harbour handling coasters and fishing vessels, as well as being a major leisure harbour.

No Wake / Harbour Area

The No Wake Zone is bounded by a line joining the seaward ends of the North and South Piers and includes the Harbour.

Safe Bathing Area

The Safe Bathing Area is bound by a line from the seaward end of the South Pier to the seaward end of Queen's Pier to Gob Ny Rona.



Ramsey Harbour by night

Points to Remember

POINTS TO REMEMBER Harbours

- Advice on where to launch jet skis can be obtained from the local Harbour Offices.
- Safe Bathing Areas: Jet skis and other fast craft are not permitted within this area. This is for bathing only.
- The public are reminded that swimming is not permitted in the Harbour area.
- No Wake/Harbour Areas: Jet skis and other fast craft may use these areas for launching and must proceed at a safe and responsible speed.

POINTS TO REMEMBER Coastal Walks

- Check the weather forecast and tide times before venturing out to sea or around the coastline. Remember some of the areas around the coastline can be cut off by the tide.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you are likely to be back. Remember to let them know if you change your plans.
- Wear suitable clothing for the weather conditions and always carry a GPS or map and compass and know how to use them.
- If you get into difficulties around the coastline or at sea and require assistance dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard.
- For non emergencies contact the Marine Operations Centre (MOC) on 686627.

POINTS TO REMEMBER Wildlife

- Keep 100m away from nesting birds
- Keep 50m away from Seals, Do not approach Seal pups.
- Keep 100m away from Basking Sharks
- Keep 100m away from Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises.
- Always look out for marine wildlife and seabirds around the Isle of Man.
- Report your important wildlife sightings to the contacts on page 10



View across Niarbyl

Marine Users are asked to keep the recommended distance away from Marine wildlife and to follow guidelines.



Remember to keep your distance from Marine Wildlife and Birdlife

Useful Information

USEFUL CONTACTS

Isle Of Man Coastguard

Coastguard Headquarters
The Tongue Building
The Tongue
Douglas
IM1 2RF

Tel: 01624 611033
E-mail: coastguard@gov.im

Web: www.gov.im/infrastructure/harbours/coastguard

Marine Operations Centre

The Sea Terminal Building
Douglas
IM1 2RF

Tel: 01624 686628

Web: www.gov.im/infrastructure/harbours

Harbour Office Contact Details

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Douglas Harbour Office: | 450143/420540 |
| Castletown Harbour Office: | 823549/451503 |
| Port Erin Harbour Office: | 833206 |
| Port St Mary Harbour Office: | 833205/460096 |
| Peel Harbour Office: | 842338/495036 |
| Ramsey Harbour Office: | 812245/460304 |
| Laxey Harbour Office: | 861663/490743 |

Marine Biodiversity Officers, Fisheries Directorate

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Thie Slieau Whallian
Foxdale Road
St John's
Isle of Man, IM4 3AS

Tel: 01624 685835
E-mail: defa@gov.im

Web: www.gov.im/defa

The Welcome Centre—Isle of Man Tourism

The Sea Terminal
Douglas
IM1 2RG

Tel: 01624 686801
E-mail: tourism@gov.im

Web: www.visitisleofman.com

Police Wildlife Crime Officer

via Peel Police Station
Peel
Isle of Man
IM5 1HH

Tel: 01624 842208

E-mail: wildlifecrime@gov.im

Web: <http://www.gov.im/dha/police/wildlife.xml>

Useful Links

For Wildlife information:

Manx Whale & Dolphin Watch:
www.mwdw.net

Manx Basking Shark Watch: www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.com

Manx Birdlife: www.manxbirdlife.org.uk

Manx Wildlife Trust: www.manxwt.org.uk

For maritime safety information:

RNLI: www.rnli.org.uk

For bus and rail information:

www.iombusandrail.info