

ANTARES CHARTS – CAUTIONS ARISING FROM OUR 2013 SURVEYS

The following cautions concern issues we have identified so far during the course of our 2013 survey work. They will be reflected in charts to be published in 2014 but meanwhile are described here and are subject to the Conditions posted on this website:

Caution 2013.7

Loch Thurnaig, Loch Ewe

This is not so much a caution as advice and in the context of much comment about 'poor holding' in the bight in the SW corner of the loch. UKHO chart 3146 'suggests' that one should pass south of the rocky spit projecting down from the north shore and then turn up to the NW to anchor, as do the sailing directions. We found, however, that the deepest water and best holding continues in a wide channel to the SW – the 1.4m sounding is misleading and instead the UKHO pale blue should continue at a similar width almost all the way to the western shoreline. If you turn to the north once pass the reef you will find a little less depth than implied and a bottom with a lot of rocky outcrops. We also take issue with the UKHO and OS cartography, believing that they have 'shrunk' the loch by moving in both the south and western shorelines by some 20m, enough to show up on plotters.

Caution 2013.6

Camas Glas, Loch Ewe (main anchorage for Inverewe Gardens)

Those wishing to visit the gardens at Inverewe may well go ashore at the jetty, having anchored off it. The area of Camas Glas in which one might anchor seemed reasonably clean apart from one isolated rock with least depth of 1.5m in an area that is otherwise about 2.5m. This is some 70m NE of the jetty at 57deg 46.63N 005deg 36.45W.

Caution 2013.5

Craro Bay, Gigha

If you are not familiar with this delightful spot we suggest you wait for our new chart, which will cover most of the bay, including the western part marked on UKHO chart 2475 as 'Not Sounded'. If you have been there before you have probably stuck to the central area that looks fairly clean on the UKHO chart. There is, however, a largish rock at 55deg 40.01N, 005deg 46.11W with least depth that we provisionally put at 1.9m. We anchored in 8m and got quite a surprise when we found it well within our swinging arc!

Caution 2013.4

Loch Drumbuie, Loch Sunart

- (i) A very popular and much used anchorage but people tend to congregate in the SW corner. The NE end is very attractive and has water of much more suitable depth for anchoring but UKHO chart 2394 shows a jumble of rocks, which is off-putting. The shallowest rock we found was 2.0m roughly where the 2.7m rock is shown on the UKHO chart. The 3.4m rock is not, we believe, where it is shown but rather at the bottom end of the anchor symbol – hence our view has the anchor symbol and 3.4m rock exchanging places. There is then plenty of room to anchor on, say, the 4m or 5m contour with good holding.
- (ii) The sailing directions advise keeping to the north side of the entrance channel. This is particularly good advice for deep draught boats, not just to avoid the rock they mention but also two rocks of 2.1m. Both are in the very centre of the channel, one at the narrowest

point – i.e. towards the eastern end - and the other just as the loch starts to open out, roughly where shown on chart 2394 but with plenty of room to the north of it.

Caution 2013.3

Bagh an t-Strathaidh, Plockton, Inner Sound

We have extended our 2011 survey to enable coverage of the approaches to this very pleasant and useful anchorage. Unfortunately we found some significant rocks not shown on UKHO chart 2498 and just off the area of coverage of our current chart 5719A, edition 1, some of which dry almost a metre. We suggest avoiding the area for the time being – the full picture will be in our 2014 chart set.

Caution 2013.2

Loch an Eisg-Brachaidh, Enard Bay

This caution could be argued as splitting hairs but we think it important enough to mention. The attractive bay offers good shelter and good holding. It has an isolated rock marked on UKHO charts 2501 and 2504 with an asterisk symbol surrounded by a dotted circle, rather than by a green craggy feature depicting its actual location and shape. The symbol is located slightly differently on these two charts, which are at the same scale (1:25,000). As the bay is in the very top corner of 2501, navigators are more likely to be using 2504 but the rock is more realistically depicted on 2501. In reality, there is significantly more open water to the south of the rock than to the north. One should only pass to the north with very great care, although there is a good spot to anchor inside it. The highest point of the rock dries about 3.8m but is towards its southern extremity: the northern side dries well over 2m.

Caution 2013.1

Tanera Beg, Summer Isles

- (i) UKHO chart 2501, Summer Isles, has an anchor symbol in the main anchorage in the pool between Tanera Beg and Eilean Flada Mor. In fact this symbol almost exactly defines the size and shape of a rock that stands 3-5m proud of the surrounding sediment! You should therefore anchor almost anywhere other than where the anchor symbol is, although the narrow neck of shallow water between Tanera Beg and the group of un-named islets is also rocky, with a lot of kelp.
- (ii) North of the pool with the anchor symbol, quite close to the Eilean Fada Mor shore, UKHO chart 2501 shows a cross to represent a permanently covered rock. We have yet to refine our vertical datum but provisionally we believe this is just drying: in either case it should be taken very seriously.

NB The 2010, 2011 and 2012 chart sets have been superseded by the 2013 set and should not be used.

NB Hydrographic surveying and cartography are not precise sciences. There will be errors and misleading representations on our charts as well as those published by others. Do read the sections on 'Making the charts', 'Using the charts' and the 'Conditions'. Take great care at all times but especially if away from the routes described by the pilot books.

Last updated 5 August 2013