

Introduction

Burry Port HM tel 01554 835691 mob 07817395710

Burry Port lies about 5 miles into the shifting sands and the twisting channels of Burry Inlet. For those with shoal draft craft that can take the ground the large Marina could offer a useful stopping place. The Marina itself holds over 1.5 m of water, (though it can be less that in areas still to be dredged) held in by a raising cill, and the nearby town offers provisioning and railway station connected to Milford Haven and Swansea. The Inlet lies around 13 miles from Tenby and 22+ miles from Swansea.

NEW 2018 The marina has been bought by The Marine Group based in Cardiff. They now own five marinas in Wales and are planning a massive investment here at Burry Port. At this moment (Spring 2018) they are having the marina flap gate hydraulics refurbished and expect to have that fully functioning by the end of May. The objects noted in our members comments at the end of this article are, in fact, the components for the Marina storm gate which needs those blocks craning into position if really bad weather is forecast. They are also planning a major dredge both of the marina and the entry channel in from the Barrel Buoy which marks the beginning of the channel at the end of the pier.

I visited here at the end of September 2022. At the moment they are still battling the silting with their dredger as you can see from our images gallery. The problem is that the sludge that accumulated with previous years' of neglect has become very sticky sludge and the dredger finds it heavy work. Once they have broken the back of that things should improve a lot, though they will still have the problem that each flood tide brings in a little sand and silt, and the half gate keeps it there during the ebb. The computer controlling the cill is unserviceable at the moment which means that the occupants of the marina are sitting on the mud every tide. It looks forelorn but is a temporary situation and should be solved over the coming (2022/23) winter. The new RNLI accommodation has been built and is very handsome but, unfortunately, the company modifying their previous building went into administration so that work has come to a halt. It means that the HM is in a portakabin as are the toilets/showers (though they are spotless and comfortable). They hope to have this remedied by the 2023 season and will have new offices, toilets, showers and laundrette by then.

At the moment the Marina is home to a small fleet of charter fishing boats, local pleasure craft and shallow draught yachts. The Inlet is not a place for a large deep draft yachts to be searching for unbuoyed channels and shelter. Any visiting skipper would be well advised to contact the HM (Bob) before starting his run in to the harbour for advice and most certainly do not try the South Channel in. Their wish list here is unlimited and they are hoping to be able to provide all the frills that you would get at a mainline marina, including watersports courses etc.

Entry to west facing Burry Inlet should not be considered by strangers in any kind of onshore wind, and for a first visit, light offshore winds are ideal. The tidal stream runs hard (up to 4 kn) across the sand banks within the inlet, but a study of the chart will show that at around high water there will be plenty of depth everywhere for shallow draft craft in the approach.

Approach

Camarthen Bay shelves steadily towards the mouth of Burry Inlet. You should note that the old Burry Port Inlet chart has been discontinued

Although locals may come and go up to 2 1/2 hours either side of high water, strangers are recommended to make the 5 mile approach on a rising tide, aiming to arrive at the Marina entrance just before high water. You should consult local Notices to Mariners for any changes to the Middle Channel and not attempt an entry into through the Southern Channel. Remember that this is the Bristol Channel - the Spring range is 8.5 m and the Neaps range is

3.6 with plenty of water at HW

There are no plans to buoy the channel in from the Carmarthen Bay but the channel in from the Barrel buoy will be buoyed in the future.

Marina approach is now directly into towards the cill gate, following buoyage that commences in the reigon of a post (Barrel Post) in position 51:40'46N 004:15'01W (Close North of the "H" tidal diamond on the chart) Once there, traffic lights control entry and exit, with access times depending on the tidal height.

On the South bank of the inlet is the ruin of the old Whiteford Lighthouse which bears due South (T) of the peir head; it's unlit but very obvious in daylight and an ideal back bearing as you cross the tide towards the harbour. Strangers are advised not to explore the channels above Burry Port Marina.

One important point is that the whole of Burry Inlet is not a place to be in onshore winds. With stronger onshore winds seas break strongly across the entrance. Night time entry is not advised for strangers.

Berthing

There is a speed limit of 3 knts within the marina,

..... which can accomodate boats up to 12m/1.5m draft. The Harbour Master is in a cabin by the RNLI slip on the East Quay. (VHF Ch 16, Phone 01554 835691 and 07817 395710.)

The RNLI Boathouse will eventually house a new Harbour Office and marina amenities whilst the Lifeboat has been rehoused in a new building altogether. They are charging (2022) £2.25 pmpn

Facilities

Water, electricity, toilets and security gates are provided at the Marina. Town nearby, yacht club adjacent. <http://www.burryportyachtclub.co.uk/>

They have plans to take this marina into a new era with a bistro, cafe etc.

What To Do

History