

ISLE OF WIGHT

Fine fortifications trail at Bembridge and Culver Downs

Although peaceful today, Bembridge and Culver Downs were once a scene of much military activity. Follow this easy circular walk along the top of the downs to gain insight into the Isle of Wight's role in wartime defence and intelligence, and to look out over Sandown Bay, Whitecliff Bay and Brading Haven.



Information

Address: Bembridge Fort National Trust car park, Culver Down Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8QY.

OS map: Landranger 196; Explorer OL29

Activity: Walking

Easy: Mostly flat, on grassy or tarmac. paths. Suitable for most powered wheelchairs and pushchairs. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs are welcome, but please take your dog waste home or use the bin provided in the car park next to the Culver Haven Inn. Dogs are welcome across the downs. Please keep your dog on a short lead around livestock and under close control at all other times.

Full trail: Miles: 1.8 (km: 2.88)

Access: Easy

Duration: 1 hour - 1 hour 30 mins

Terrain

Total ascent is 60m (200ft). This is a mostly flat walk with one gate on the route and the paths are all grassy or tarmac. It is suitable for most powered wheelchairs and pushchairs, but in wet seasons we suggest you use the road rather than the paths or take the car to the car park at Culver Battery.

Total steps: 5

Start point: Bembridge Fort National Trust car park, Bembridge Down, Isle of Wight PO36 8QY. Grid ref: SZ625859

1. From the car park, return to Bembridge Fort by following the road. You can view the fort from the outside.
2. On leaving the fort, turn left in the direction of the car park, but follow the grassy path running alongside the road on its left as far as you can. At the field boundary the path cuts through the hedge back onto the road. Cross straight over the road, go through the opposite hedge and turn left, following the grassy path that runs parallel to the road on its right. This path rejoins the road at a cattle grid just before the Culver Haven Inn. Go through the gate to the side of the cattle grid and follow the tarmac road past the inn to the car park, marking the site of the old signal station, where there is an information panel.
3. Continue along the road to the start of the one-way system and follow it left, down to the car park with views to Whitecliff Bay and Brading Haven. Carry on to Culver Battery where there is another information panel.
4. Continue along the road to meet the outward route. Retrace your steps along the road past the inn. You'll see the War Department boundary stones and perhaps some rusting metal rings set in concrete, which used to support the wartime radar masts.
5. Go through the gate alongside the cattle grid then leave the road on the left and follow the grassy ridge-top path that you came along, keeping the hedge and the road on your immediate right. Don't cross the road this time but continue directly ahead and back to the car park.

End point: Bembridge Fort National Trust car park, Bembridge Down, Isle of Wight PO36 8QY. Grid ref: SZ625859, what3words: ///sculpting.corner.softest
