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## RYA Guide to the Lynher / St Germans River



I was as guilty as the next skipper of mooring up in a Plymouth marina and not venturing upstream and exploring the rivers.

But explore them once and you'll be back time and time again as they are some of the prettiest rivers in the South West.

Here we look at the River Lynher or St Germans River running up to Dandy Hole anchorage and St Germans Quay. The river offers stunning natural beauty, wildlife, secluded anchorages and a tranquil finishing point at St Germans Quay.

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## The Hamoaze

Our journey starts in the Hamoaze, the stretch of water running past Devonport Royal Dockyard and the convergence of the Rivers Lynher and Tamar.

The Port of Plymouth is under the jurisdiction of the Queens Harbour Master so it is worth keeping a listening watch on VHF channel 13 or 14.



Devonport Royal Dockyard and the Hamoaze, the gateway to the River Lynher. (Chart point 1)

As the dockyard finishes and Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge comes into view the entrance to the River Lynher forks off to the West.

The white day mark on Henn Point is a useful point to steer to as you close the river entrance.



View from Beggars Island of the Tamar and Royal Albert Bridges joining Devon to Cornwall. Lynher red buoy and white day mark of Henn Point visible (left). (Chart point 2)

## The Lynher/St Germans River

Looking West the Lynher buoy marks the start of the Lynher and St Germans River. Initially, small craft moorings line the Northern side of the River and port hand marks keep you clear of the prominent 'Beggars Island'.

Deep water then favours the Southern side past Sand Acre Point as the channel snakes past small craft moorings to Jupiter Point. Anchorage is possible on the Northern side of Sand Acre Bay.



Lynher buoy with Jupiter Point (centre) and Passage Point (right) (Chart point 3)

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## Jupiter Point

Jupiter Point is part of HMS Raliegh, the Royal Navy training centre.



Jupiter Point (Chart point 4)

HMS Brecon is moored midstream, a Falkland war veteran now a Navy training ship giving new recruits their first taste of life at sea and experiencing what it is like to live and sleep on a warship afloat.



HMS Brecon (Chart point 4)

Just inland from Jupiter Point is Antony House, the setting for Tim Burton's, Alice in Wonderland.

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## Antony Passage

The picturesque, Forder Lake and Antony Passage are on the Northern Bank facing Jupiter Point.

Anchorage is possible just outside the lake and also to the West. Trematon Castle peeks out of the hills and was mentioned in the Domesday Book.

It was the storage place for Sir Francis Drakes' hordes of treasure, when he returned from his circumnavigation in 1580.



Forder Lake at Antony Passage. Trematon Castle (above the first arch of the bridge) (Chart point 5)

The river heads South West, widens and deeper water stays closer to the Northern bank.

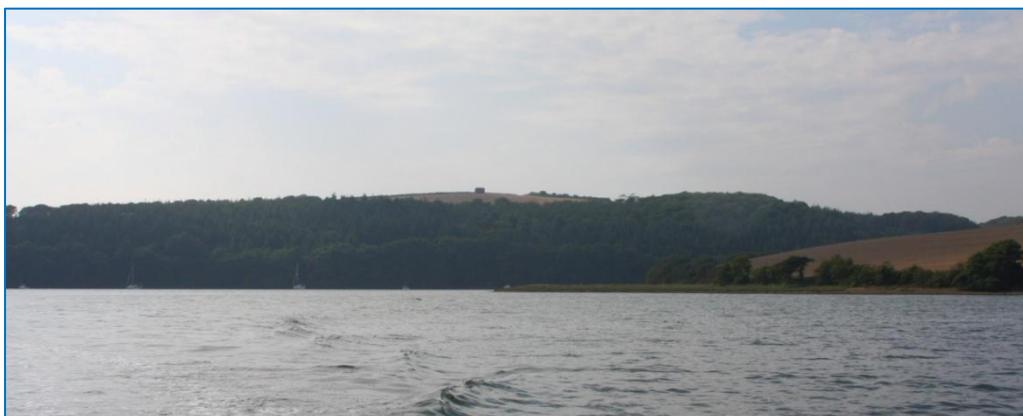
From Ince Castle the river shallows and a few metres of tidal height is required to carry on (+ - 2 ½hrs LW = 2.5m).

On approaching Black Rock, stay close to the green buoy as a sand bank (dries 0.4) sits in mid-channel.



Black Rock (Chart point 6)

## Dandy Hole



Redshank point coming down of Erth Hill (right) and Dandy Hole (left) (Chart point 7)

From Black Rock the channel increasingly heads South West past a conspicuous red buoy towards one of the top anchorages, 'Dandy Hole'.

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Dandy Hole Anchorage is a small haven of deep water that sweeps around the tree lined bend between Warren Point and Redshank Point.

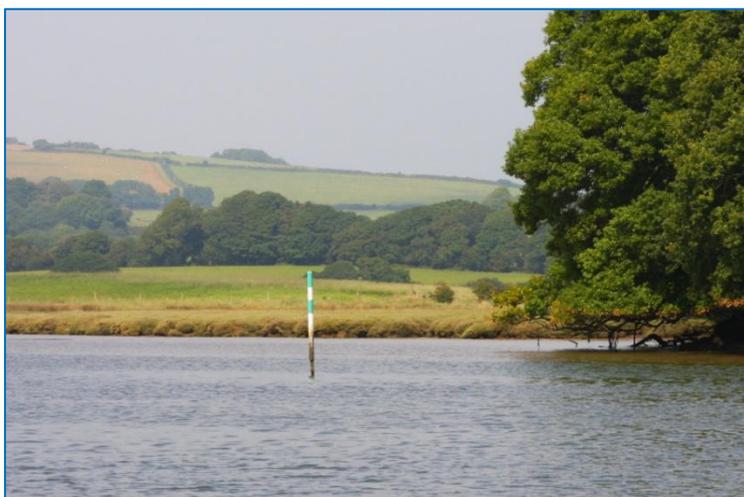


Vessels anchored in Dandy Hole (Chart point 8)

## Up river to St Germans

Upstream from Dandy Hole the channel is marked by posts as the channel curves its way up towards St Germans Quay.

Past Erth Island the River Lynher heads off North and St Germans Quay is clearly visible to the North West.



Posts marking the channel above Erth Quay (Chart point 9)

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## St Germans Quay

Tranquillity reigns... St Germans Quay is the home to the friendly Quay Sailing Club which has a pontoon and mooring by arrangement.

Dandy Hole anchorage is only 1.5 miles away and is good for a dinghy ride to the quay or to come up to on the rising tide.

Ashore, there's the clubhouse and in the village a shop and pub, the Eliot Arms, 10 minutes' walk away.

Port Eliot House and Estate is ½ mile further up the River Tiddy, under the viaduct. The house and grounds are occasionally open to visitors and is home to the Port Eliot Festival.



## Fact file

### Web

Quay Sailing Club	<a href="http://www.quaysailingclub.co.uk">www.quaysailingclub.co.uk</a>
Antony House	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-antony">www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-antony</a>
Port Eliot	<a href="http://www.porteliot.co.uk">www.porteliot.co.uk</a>
Queens Harbourmaster	<a href="http://www.qhmplymouth.org.uk">www.qhmplymouth.org.uk</a>

### VHF

QHM	Call Long room	Ch.13 or 14
Marinas	Ch.80	

### Tides

Location		Range	Heights		
Devonport	Spring	4.7m	MHWS 5.5	MLWS 0.8	
	Neap	2.2m	MHWN 4.4	MLWN 2.2	
St Germans	Spring	4.2m	MHWS 5.2	MLWS 1.0	
	Neap	2.1m	MHWN 4.3	MLWN 2.2	

### Rough guide – tidal heights

#### To Dandy Hole

From Ince Point the river shallows and a few metres of tidal height is required to carry on upstream. However there is 2.5m of tide 2½hrs either side of LW.

#### To St Germans

A charted drying 2m contour is the final approach to St Germans Quay. A minimum 1.5m of water (3.5m rise) is available in the channel from 2½hrs either side of HW.

#### Anchorage

Anchorage is possible on the Northern side of Sand Acre Bay inside the Lynher entrance. North West of Jupiter point – keep clear of the well-marked cables.

Between Shillingham Point. and Ince Castle – beware the pipeline off Shillingham Point.  
Dandy Hole

## Charts

Imray C14  
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BA 871

## Thanks

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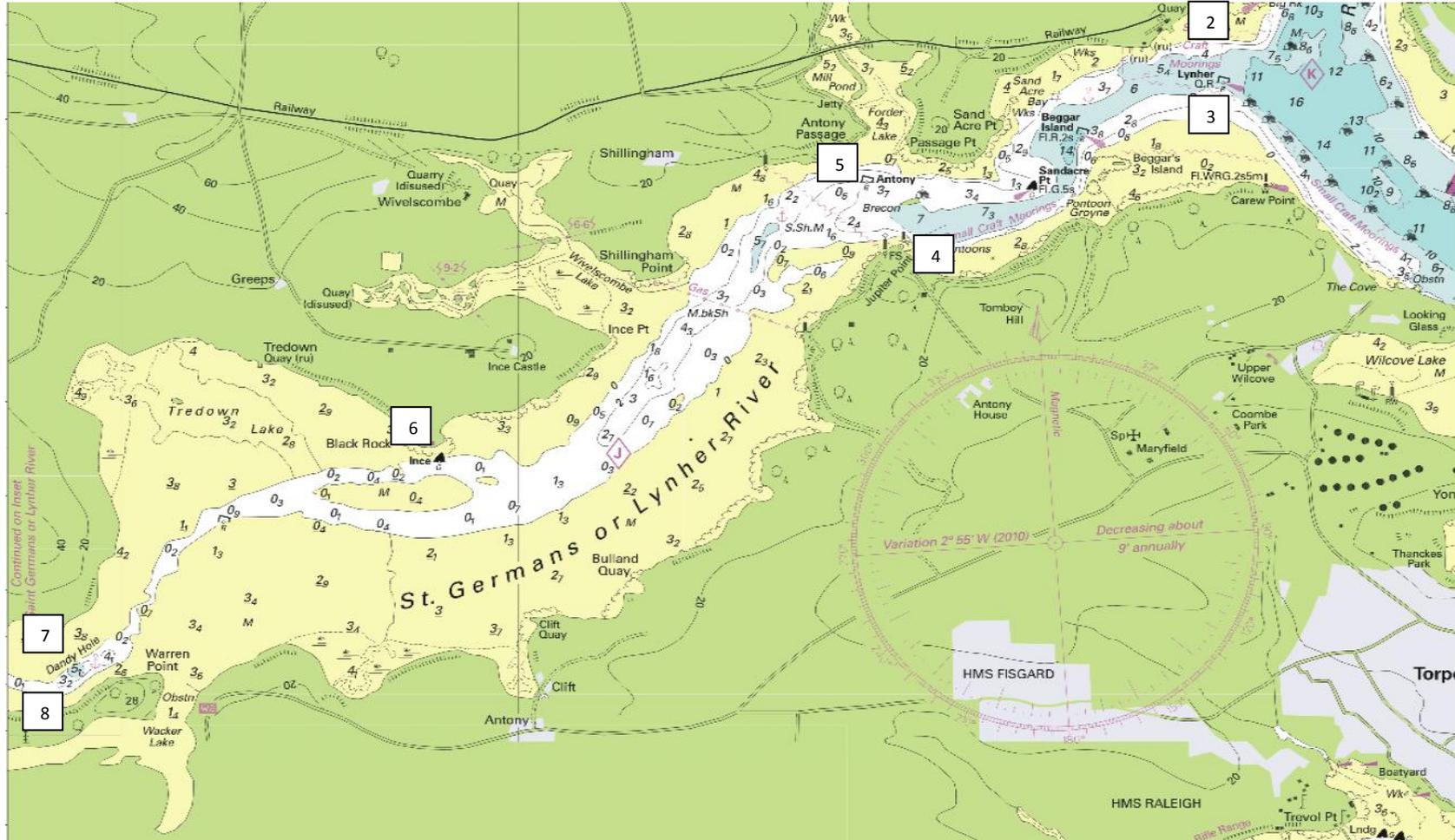
Many thanks to Richard Brown at Plymouth Sailing School for his kindness in providing a boat for the making of this article.

[www.plymouthsailingschool.com](http://www.plymouthsailingschool.com)

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