



# 03 ISLE OF WIGHT CULVER DOWN & BEMBRIDGE

▶ Distance: 9½ miles/15.1km ▶ Time: 5 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



Whitecliff Bay from the coast path.

PHOTO: FIONA BARTROP



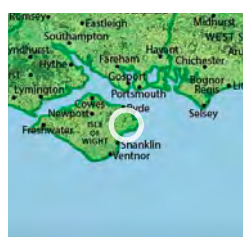
**CHOSEN BY...**  
**FIONA BARTROP**  
Following the coastal path from Sandown

Bay, this walk takes in the chalk cliffs of Culver Down and the village of Bembridge, as it loops round the eastern end of the Isle of Wight. Sea eagles were reintroduced here in 2019. Atop Culver Down, which affords fine views, stands the Yarborough Monument, the tallest on the Isle of Wight and a prominent feature on the skyline. The inland return leg from Bembridge Harbour passes the National Trust's Bembridge Windmill, the only one on the island, and takes in the RSPB's Brading Marshes Reserve, which covers most of the

valley of the lower River Yar (one of two with the same name on the island).

**1 Start**  
Head along esplanade towards cliffs and join Coastal Path ascending Red Cliff (formed of soft red sandstone and clay), part of the NT's Bembridge Down. Path leads up to chalk cliffs of Culver Down and then bears away L inland up to the Yarborough Monument. The large obelisk is a monument to the Earl of Yarborough who died in 1846. He inherited Appuldurcombe House, once the grandest house on the Isle of Wight, through marriage and was appointed the first Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes.

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Yaverland car park, PO36 8QB, grid ref SZ611850 or nearby Isle of Wight Zoo (at former Sandown Fort) car park. Or Culver Down car park if omitting initial coastal stretch

**Is it for me?** Much of route along coastal path – moderate ascent at start, then easy walking

**Stiles** 2

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Sandown

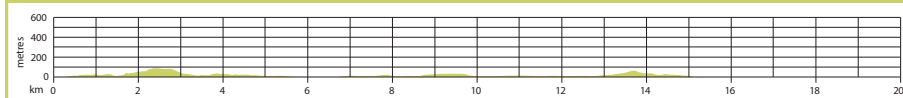
**Refreshments** Culver Haven Inn atop Culver Down; Crab & Lobster Inn & Pilot Boat Inn, Bembridge

**Public toilets** At start

**Public transport** Car Ferries; Portsmouth-Fishbourne & Lymington & Yarmouth, passenger-only catamaran; Portsmouth-Ryde. Buses 2, 3 & 8 to Sandown

**Maps** OS Explorer OL29; Landranger 196

## GRADIENT PROFILE



03 ISLE OF WIGHT  
CULVER DOWN & BEMBRIDGE▶ OS Explorer map OL29 ▶ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

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**2** 1½ miles/2.3km

Bear R along lane to end, where you'll find the Culver Battery, which was built in the early 20th century to guard the Solent. It was used in both World Wars and closed in 1956. L to car park and head to far L corner to follow footpath from there. Go through kissing gate and bend R to descend on Coastal Path. Pass caravan park above Whitecliff Bay and continue along fairly level path.

**3** 2½ miles/3.75km

At second footpath turn on L (signed for Jenny Street Lane and Hillway Road) there is a shortcut to Bembridge Windmill: follow path to Hillway Road, L then R to Sandown Road, continue on opposite side to join bridleway bearing R to windmill - pt 6. For main

route continue along coastal path to Crab & Lobster Inn. Coastal path is now waymarked inland, but better option if tide allows is to descend steps to seawall, walk along that to its end and continue along beach to Bembridge's offshore lifeboat station pier. Carry on along seawall then edge of beach to steps on L where CP signed inland. (Low tide shoreline option possible.) At intersection go R and follow CP signs which will lead you to Bembridge Point/Harbour.

**4** 5 miles/8km

Cross B3395 and follow Bembridge Trail, initially along Station Road then footpath, entering RSPB Nature Reserve. Follow path to road and turn R. As road bends L keep ahead to Bembridge Windmill.

**5** 5½ miles/9.4km

R and go through gate to follow Bembridge Trail/Yar Valley Trail down grassy slopes. Keep ahead to Great Sluice.

**6** 7½ miles/11.9km

L through gate (Gander Down) and continue along L edge of field to road. Continue across road to R, footpath signed 'Bembridge Down joining Coastal Path'. Optional detour L up to Bembridge Fort on the way. Retrace steps to start once back on coast. **CW**

DATE WALKED  
□ □ □ □ □ □TIME TAKEN  
□ □ □ □ □ □YOUR RATING  
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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