

INVERARAY AND LOCH FYNE

Berth 1 - (Grid Ref 094-048)

Berth 2 - (Grid Ref 105-084)

Associated Maps

Admiralty Chart No.2382

OS Map No.55 & 56

Military purpose of berth

Admiralty Marine Technology Establishment (AMTE) underwater noise range 'primarily for routine measurement of noise emitted by naval vessels and submarines, but.....also used for other acoustic purposes.' On the south shore of Loch Fyne, near St Margarets, is a shore facility which is believed to be the control centre for the passive sonar arrays under the loch. The admiralty mooring buoys further down Loch Fyne, south of Ardrishaig, may be connected with the AMTE range, or could be earmarked as a wartime dispersal mooring for the US Navy SSBN 'mother ship' from the Holy Loch.

There are two berths here. One is in Loch Shira, Inveraray, the other being to the south in Loch Fyne. There are two towns here, Inveraray with a population of 1100 and Strachur with a population of 650 people. It should also be remembered that during the summer the population in the area can increase.

ROTHESAY AND LOCH STRIVEN

Berth 1 - (Grid Ref 096-667)

Berth 2 - (Grid Ref 092-668)

Berth 3 - (Grid Ref 085-738)

Associated Maps

Admiralty Chart No.1867 & 1907

OS Map No.63

There are two berths within a two kilometres of Rothesay and within a kilometre of Port Bannatyne. The other is at the entrance to Loch Striven. The population at Rothesay is approximately 6,300 and at Port Bannatyne 1,400. These figures can be increased six-fold during the summer months.

Military purpose of berth

A large square area of sea-bed off Brackley Point is used for naval trials, with an undersea cable link to the east shore of the loch at Brackley Point. This is believed to be another Admiralty Marine Technology Establishment noise range. There is also a NATO petroleum, oil and lubricants depot built 1960-63 at a cost of £3 million, with NATO infrastructure programme funds. Used for refuelling of a wide range of NATO surface ships and diesel powered subs. The oil storage tanks cover around 100 acres.

SKYE

- Berth 1 - Portree (Grid Ref 513-441)
- Berth 2 - Raasay 'A' (Broadford Bay) (Grid Ref 654-272)
- Berth 3 - Raasay 'B' (Grid Ref 642-427)
- Berth 4 - Raasay 'C' (Grid Ref 709-634)
- Berth 5 - a new one, unknown location

Associated Maps

Admiralty Chart No.3146

OS Map No.19

Military purpose of berth

At the Kyle of Lochalsh, Wester Ross there is the British Underwater Trials and Evaluation Centre (BUTECH), the main trials range for torpedoes and other undersea warfare equipment in Britain. The range area covers about 10 square miles of the Inner Sound of Raasay, while the danger area extends to about 130 square miles. Submarines account for about 95 per cent of the firings at BUTECH.

There are five submarine berths scattered around the Isle of Skye. The first is 3.5km from the town of Portree, with a population of 2000. The second is in Broadford Bay, 5km from the town of Broadford with a population of 900. The third is between Raasay and Applecross and the fourth is at the mouth of Loch Torridon. The population on the Island can increase considerably during the summer. All of the berths around Skye are connected with BUTECH.

LOCH EWE

Berth 1 - NATO Pier (Grid Ref 872-876)

Berth 2 - 'A' Buoy (Grid Ref 850-903)

Associated Maps

Admiralty Chart No.3146

OS Map No.19

There are two berths in the loch, with 1100 people living within a 9 km radius of them. This number can treble during the summer months.

Military purpose of berth

Aultbea is a NATO petroleum, oil and lubricants depot. The depot was built in 1966 to refuel Royal Fleet Auxiliary and other military tankers and warships, mainly during NATO naval exercises off the north of Scotland. Aultbea was built as a wartime facility; the funds used in its construction are solely for wartime operational facilities. Heavy fuel oil is stored in underground tanks in a 200-acre area behind the pier, with stocks being removed every few months to refineries in Holland and Spain for recycling. In 1981, due to future use of Aultbea by combined fuel and explosives supply ships, the MoD announced it wanted to ban all construction or new development within 900 metres of the pier and to have the right of veto over any developments within 2.3 km (encompassing the whole of Aultbea village), due to an enlarged safety zone, because of the increased danger of an explosion. The new vessels are expected to visit Aultbea about nine times a year.

DOUGLAS PIER, LOCH GOIL

Berth 1 - NATO Pier (Grid Ref 872-876)
Berth 2 - 'A' Buoy (Grid Ref 850-903)

Associated Maps
Admiralty Chart No.1994
OS Map No.56

The nearest major population centre is Lochgoilhead and Carrick, with a population of 500, just over 4 kms away.

Military purpose of berth

Admiralty Marine Technology Establishment outstation used for trials of torpedoes and underwater test vehicles on the noise range in Loch Goil, which is 'primarily for the routine measurement of noise emitted by naval vessels and submarines, but..... also used for other acoustic purposes.' Loch Goil has been used for sonar research since 1942.

CAMPBELTOWN

- Berth 1 - NATO Fuelling Jetty (Grid Ref 740-196)
- Berth 2 - (Grid Ref 766-194)
- Berth 3 - (Grid Ref 742-198)
- Berth 4 - (Grid Ref 735-199)

Associated Maps

Admiralty Chart No.1864

OS Map No.68

There are four berths near to the town of Campbeltown, with a population of around 8,000 people, which increases considerably during the summer months.

Military purpose of berth

Near to the town there is a NATO petroleum, oil and lubricants depot, used by a wide variety of NATO ships, diesel submarines, Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels and other military tankers, particularly during major NATO exercises.