

Otter Harbour & Barge Cove

CHS Chart No: 4277 – Great Bras d'Or, St Andrews Channel & St Anns Bay

Amenities:

None

Description:

A shallow indentation on the north-west shore of the Great Bras d'Or Channel forms Otter Harbour, though generally the area considered to be "the" Otter Harbour is the portion to the southwest of Harbour Point. The northern area has a number of rocks and reefs and should be entered with caution and a good lookout in fair weather. Barge Cove, a name coined by Roy Mac Keen, contains several sunken barges left from a quarrying operation at the head of the cove. This cove provides an alternative anchorage should "Otter Harbour" be overcrowded. The more intrepid may thread their way through the narrow channel around the sunken barges into the the head of the cove and anchor in 9 feet. The bottom in Otter Harbour is generally rocky, although good anchoring in mud can be found just off the entrance to the small creek on the western shore. Care should be taken in setting an anchor. The harbour provides good shelter under most conditions, and is a popular stop-over for boats proceeding to or from the Lakes.



The sector light, still shown on nautical charts and in some cruising guides, has been discontinued and the equipment removed. In July 2012 the islet (little more than a few small boulders) on which it stood still had a helipad extending northward into the harbour, and the small white shed which housed the equipment. A green port-hand day-mark on cribwork marks an isolated rock. There is adequate depth to pass between the day-mark and the islet.

There is a small private dock on the south side of Harbour Point.

Navigation:

A 12-foot winding, narrow channel exists between Otter Island and Otter Point, but should only be attempted in clear weather on calm days. Water on the north side of the island is deep and that is the recommended route into the cove.

