



SOLENT AREA MARK CHANGES 2024

❖ **NEW NAMES for existing yellow race marks:**

The 2-character codes and positions of these marks do not change, only the names are different.

Code	Name for 2024	Name Last year
2A	Embley School	Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa
2J	Zwerver	Sowley
2K	Greenings Fintech	Cowes Radio
24	Now Students	Hall Hunter
27	Adam Harding-Domeney	Generation
3B	MDL Marinas	Newtown East
3G	Cowes Week 2026	Greenings Payments
3S	TeamO	Tack Gybe Set
4N	Ben F Wood	YachtDataBank
40	Haven Knox Johnston Specialist	Howden Fastnet

❖ **DELETED MARKS: These former marks will not be laid in 2024:**

Code	Name in 2023	Latitude	Longitude
25	Caldwells Estate Agents	50 43.15	01 27.49
7E	Hythe 5	50 52.24	01 23.18

❖ **CONFIRMATION of position after some uncertainty in 2023:**

Code	Name	Latitude	Longitude
3T	CHS	50 46.10	01 18.87

❖ **Do not use old charts or lists!**

❖ **Main channel buoys #:** KHM Portsmouth and ABP Southampton have requested that **3R North East Gurnard, 3V West Bramble, 4A Reach, 4D Calshot, 4T Norris and 78 Hook** should not be used as rounding marks for racing, although they may be used as passing marks e.g. to keep boats out of a channel; and that use of other main channel marks should be minimised, with full consideration given to shipping needs. Mark **5Q Outer Spit** may only be used with prior consent from KHM Port Safety Team, only to be sought in weekday office hours.

❖ **Anchoring near 4R Darling Buoy and 4S Royal Southern marks:** there is no exclusion zone or prohibition on anchoring. Larger vessels should avoid anchoring directly over the cable, which is shown on the latest charts.

Peter Bateson
 For SCRA and CWL

05 February 2024

SOLENT AREA RACING MARK CODES & LIST

The list contains over 160 of the main marks in the Solent and adjacent waters. Each mark is described by a code containing two characters - one digit & one letter, or two digits. Only the code (instead of the name) should be used when courses are given on the radio, saving air time on busy channels.

The list shows marks that may be used for any suitable race. Other local marks in the Solent (e.g. off Lymington and Yarmouth, Portsmouth and Bembridge, Cowes and Gurnard) are intended for local use only and many are in shallow water. In many cases, the local clubs or associations who lay them do not want them used by "all and sundry" and are grateful for that to be respected.

The whole area has been divided into 9 Zones, numbered 1 to 6 from west to east, plus Zone 7 for Southampton Water and Zones 8 & 9 for "specials." The zones are:-

Zone 1 Western Approaches to the Solent	Zone 6 Eastern Approaches to the Solent
Zone 2 West Solent	Zone 7 Southampton Water
Zone 3 Mid-Solent (Western part)	Zone 8 Local Marks and Positions
Zone 4 Mid-Solent (Eastern part)	Zone 9 Laid Inflatable Marks
Zone 5 East Solent	

Each buoy within a Zone has a letter or number to identify it. The unique designation for each mark is made up of the Zone number plus the buoy letter or number. Some examples:

1F Needles Fairway	Western Approaches	47 Contessa 32 Class	Mid Solent (E)
26 Hamstead Ledge	West Solent	5E Stokes Bay East	East Solent
3G Cowes Week 2026	Mid Solent (W)	6E West Princessa	Eastern Approaches

Within each zone, the marks are normally in order of longitude from west to east, except for:

- Zone 2 West Solent - split into marks on the mainland side, marks in the middle, and marks on the Island side, to match the coding agreed between the Lymington and Yarmouth Clubs.
- Newer marks, added since the current system began in 2010, may have a code out of sequence or at the end of their Zone.

Zone 8 is for local use by Clubs to add marks and positions for their own use.

Zone 9 is for laid inflatable marks and starts by listing some commonly used ones, e.g. 9A for Windward Laid Mark or 9E for Leeward Gate. The buoy and/or its position may need to be described. There is further room in Zone 9 from 9P onwards to give positions where inflatable marks are often laid, so that only the buoy shape/colour needs to be announced.

The Solent Mark Codes list is published afresh each February, with changes for the year ahead. Normally, the designated code for each mark does not alter, even if the name changes or if a buoy is moved slightly. This removes the need for extensive annual re-programming of GPSs; and the inadvertent use of last year's codes will usually still allow boats to go to the intended mark.

We welcome feedback - to mary.scott-jackson@cowesweek.co.uk please.

Cowes Week Ltd and SCRA are grateful to all the sponsors. Without them, the racing marks could not be provided. **Enquiries about sponsoring buoys for future seasons are always welcome** and opportunities are usually available. Marks are often named by businesses, in memory of someone, or with a favourite boat name. Some Clubs and Classes who use the marks for racing but do not yet sponsor a mark, are invited to contribute. Individuals who would like to help Solent racing and the continued provision of these marks are invited to join SCRA as members and/or to sponsor a mark. Contact mary.scott-jackson@cowesweek.co.uk