

Burns Point

Dive Site Map and Emergency Assistance Plan

Divemaster: Aimee Lee Houde
Buddy credits: Ahmed Nassrat
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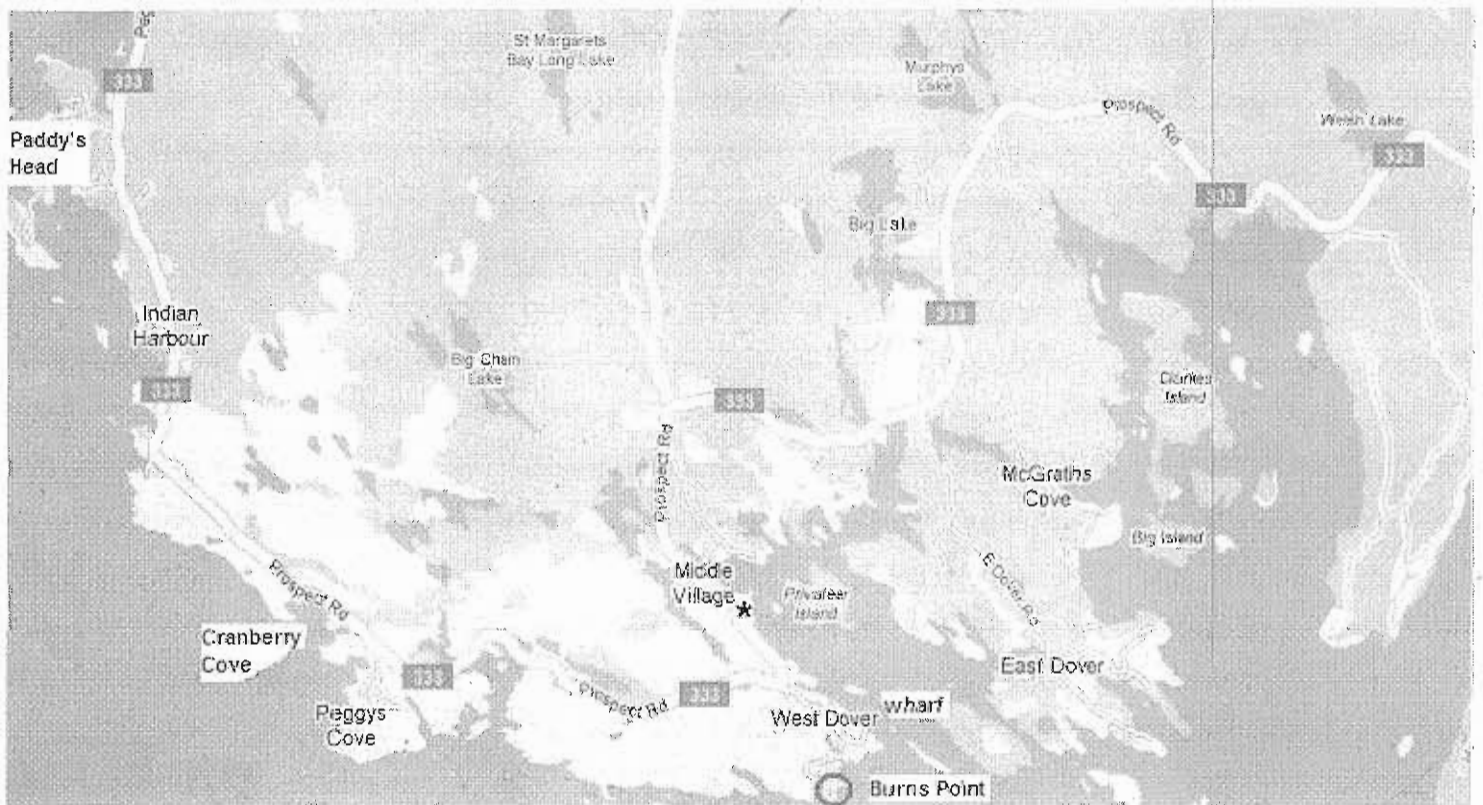


Figure 1: Burns Point off Prospect Road in West Dover. Star represents the closest public bathroom in Shaw's Landing restaurant in West Dover.

Dana Sylliboy

Dive Site Map

Overview

Burns Point is located in West Dover and is very near the West Dover Government Wharf and other dive sites in St. Margarets Bay (Figure 1). It is a very sheltered site because it is surrounded by several islands. A gravel road leads to this site, so this site may not be accessible to all vehicles especially during the winter or other periods where the ground may be wet or unstable. Also, the entry/exit may be a little awkward because of exposed kelp, so this site would be best visited during high tide.

The depth profile at Burns Point can be divided into two areas (shallow and deep) which would both be of interest to beginner as well as experienced divers. Beginner divers may wish to remain in the shallow area at 6-9m (20-40ft) along the coast where they can see lots of kelps, large rock formations, marine animals, and small debris from boats. Experienced divers may wish to venture further off the coast to the deep area at 12-18m (40-60ft) where they can see sand dollars, anemones, a few scallops, and larger debris from boats.

Directions

GPS (decimal degrees):	44.488524, -63.871944
GPS (degrees minutes second):	44° 29' 18.6858", -63° 52' 18.9978"

From Torpedo Rays SCUBA Adventures in Dartmouth (approximately 50 minutes):

- Right turn onto Windmill Road
- Continue straight pass the intersection onto HW322 (Victoria Road) and take exit Halifax MacKay Bridge
- Take the MacKay Bridge (toll bridge, 75¢ one way for light cars and trucks)
- Stay in Left lane on bridge for Bedford/ Windsor Street exit
- Switch to Right lane for Bedford Highway (on Kempt Road)
- Switch to Right lane and take Joseph Howe Drive Exit (on Kempt Road)
- Stay in Right lane on Joseph Howe Road
- Turn Right onto HW102 (Truro/South Shore/Annapolis Valley) at intersection
- Take Exit 1A onto HW103 (Peggy's Cove/South Shore/Yarmouth)
- Take Exit 2B onto HW3/St. Margarets Bay Road (Halifax/Peggy's Cove/Ragged Lake)
- Take Exit for HW333/Prospect Road (Peggy's Cove/Prospect/Ragged Lake)
- Proceed West on HW333/Prospect Road until you reach West Dover (32.3 km from Exit for HW333)
- Turn Left onto West Dover Road
- Turn Right onto West Dover Branch Road (a gravel road).
- At the end of the gravel road, there is a short path that leads to the entry/exit

From Torpedo Rays SCUBA Adventures in Halifax (approximately 40 minutes):

- Turn Left onto Chain Lake Drive

- Turn Left onto Lakelands Boulevard
- Turn Left onto HW3/St. Margarets Bay Road at intersection
- Take Right lane onto HW333/Prospect Road (Peggy's Cove/Prospect/Ragged Lake)
- Proceed West on HW333/Prospect Road until you reach West Dover (32.3 km from Exit for HW333)
- Turn Left onto West Dover Road
- Turn Right onto West Dover Branch Road (a gravel road).
- At the end of the gravel road, there is a short path that leads to the entry/exit

Parking

Vehicles should be parked near the end of the gravel road on the right side where there is a clearing in the grass (Figure 2 and 3). NOTE: the gravel road can be followed to the end if you are not in a large group with several vehicles, but there is steep hill at the end of the road that may be difficult for some vehicles to make it back uphill.

Facilities

Bathroom: None on site. Closest public bathroom is the nearby restaurant Shaw's Landing in West Dover (head east on Prospect Road for 2.1 km)

Gas station: Irving in Goodwood (head east on Prospect Road for 30.9 km)

Automotive service station: ESSO in Hatchet's Lake on HW333 (head east on Prospect Road for 22.8 km)

Hazards and Safety

Out of water

- Poor gravel road conditions. Do not attempt to get to this site if the are poor gravel road conditions because your vehicle since you may get stuck.
- Path to the entry/exit (Figure 2 and 4). The path is a steep incline with rocks and some lose dirt. Please be careful of slipping especially when the rocks and ground are wet.
- Exposed kelps near the entry/exit. Kelps may be slippery.

In water

- Boats overhead. There is a government wharf and other wharfs nearby. Please bring a dive flag.
- Lobster traps during lobster season (last Monday of November until May 31). Beware of entanglement and boats nearby. NOTE: residents and lobster fishermen are concerned about lobster poaching and may ask questions. Please be friendly and explain that you have non-poaching intentions for this dive.
- Fishing line. Fishing line and other fibrous debris left behind by boaters may cause entanglement. Please carry a dive knife.

Site Entry/Exit

The entry/exit is at the rocks (Figure 2 and 5). It maybe easier to enter and exit at high tide since the slippery kelps will be less exposed.

Bottom Composition and Depth

Burns Point has two distinct areas: shallow □ 6-9m (20-40ft) and deep □ 12-18m (40-60ft) (Figure 6 and 7). There are two high gradient slopes with large drops in depths at 6-9m (20-30ft) and 15-18m (50-60ft). Bottom composition of the shallow area is mostly kelp and rock with some sandy areas. Bottom composition for the deep area is mostly silt with some sand and a few kelps.

Points of Interest

Debris from boats can be found in both areas with smaller debris (metal parts, plastics, etc.) found in the shallow area and larger debris (old rope line, wood, etc.) found in the deeper area. Specific to the shallow area there are: lots of kelps, large rock formations, patches of eelgrass, snails, cunner, and crabs. Specific to the deep area there are: sand dollars, anemones, silt covered algae, jelly fish, and a few scallops.

Visibility

Visibility is great and around 9-12m (30-40ft) in the shallow area, but drops significantly in the deep area due to a greater amount of silt. Visibility is around 6m (20 ft) in the deep area if you do not stir up the bottom. Expect reduced visibility during periods of high water run-off, winds, surge and swell. Also expect reduced visibility during periods of plankton blooms.

Post-Dive Entertainment

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE GARBAGE!

On-site attractions

Look out point (end of the gravel road). Scenic view of the islands and ocean.
Trails (behind the parking lot). Hike along the rocky coastline.

Close-by attractions

Peggy's Cove (head west on Prospect Road for 5.7 km)
SwissAir Flight 111 Memorial (head west on Prospect Road for 6.6 km)

Restaurants

Shaw's Landing in West Dover (head east on Prospect Road for 2.1 km)
Big Lakes Lodge & Restaurant (head east on Prospect Road for 3.2 km)
Ocean's Inn, 181 Berringer Road (head east on Prospect Road and turn onto Berringer Road, 3.8 km)
Sou'wester in Peggy's Cove (head west on Prospect Road for 5.7 km)

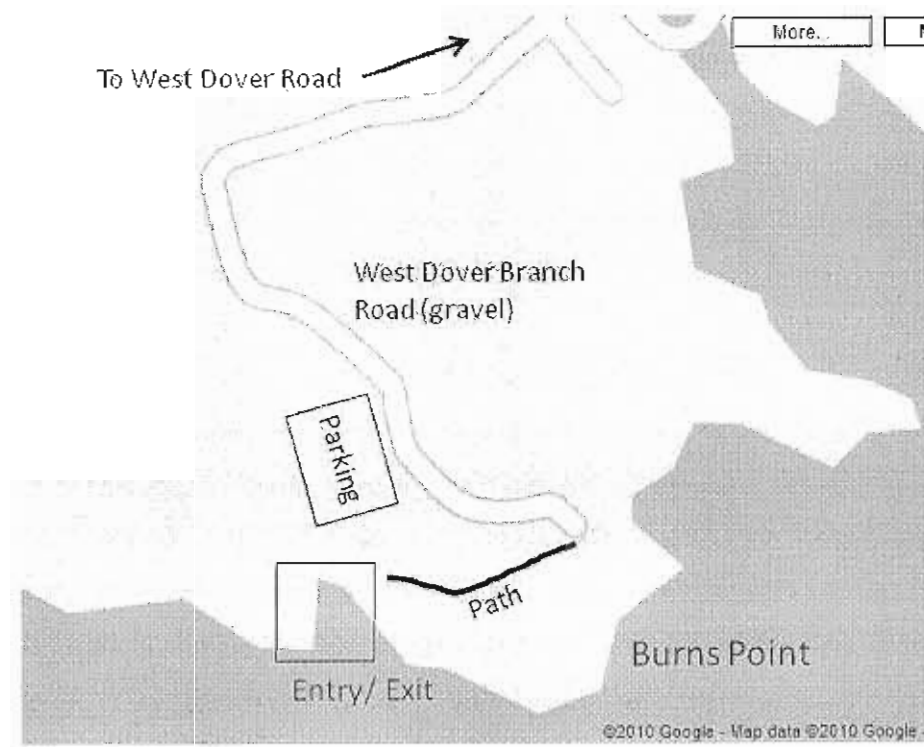


Figure 2: Burns Point off West Dover Road



Figure 3: Parking area at Burns Point. Displayed is a clearing near the end of the gravel road.



Figure 4: Path to entry/exit at the end of the gravel road



Figure 5: Entry/exit at Burns Point. NOTE: beware of exposed slippery rocks and kelp when not visiting the site at high tide.

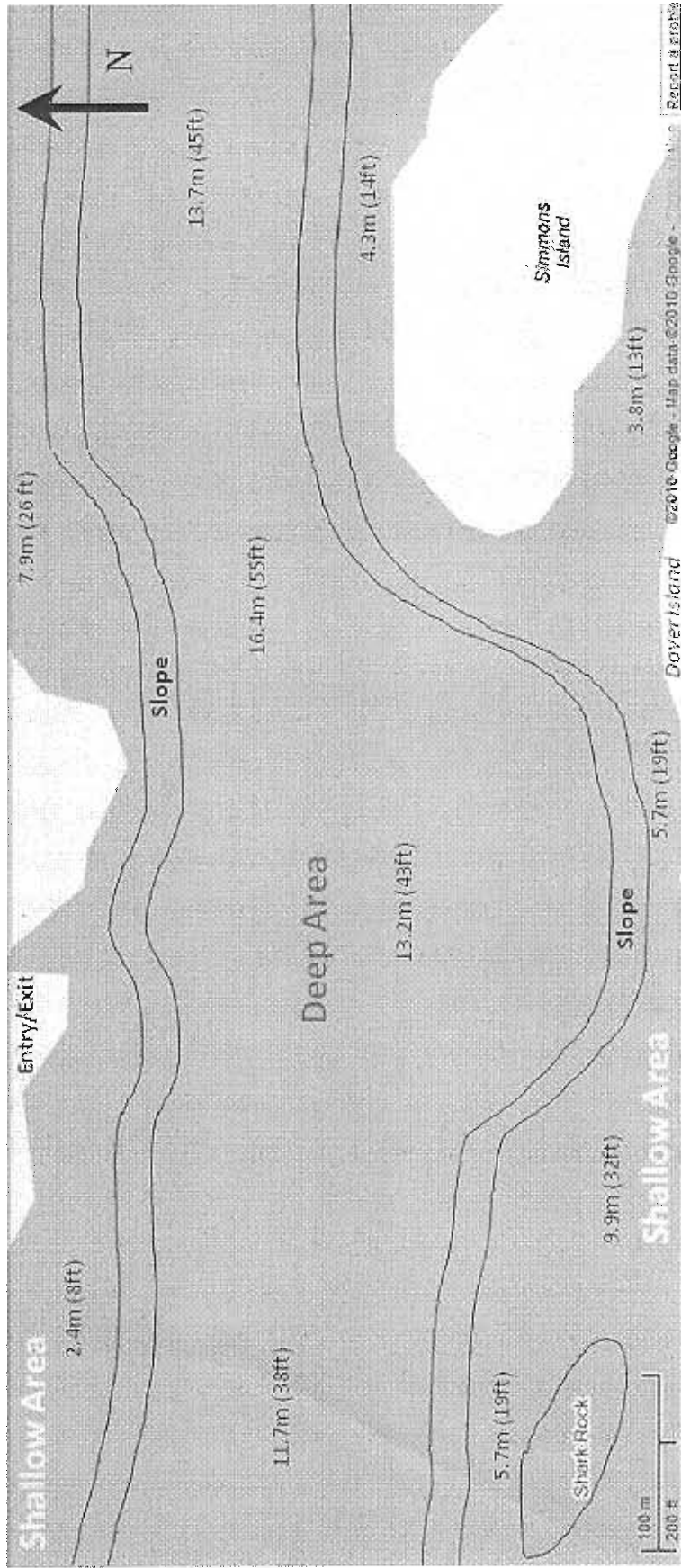


Figure 6: Burns Point with depths taken at low tide from Nautical Chart #4386 (St. Margarets Bay). North is straight up. Shallow area is 6-9m (20-40ft) which is mostly composed of rocks and kelp. Deep area is 12-18m (40-60ft) which is mostly composed of silt and sand with reduced visibility.

Emergency Assistance Plan

It is recommended to have a cell phone on site. Most cell phone providers have reception in the area. If you do not have a cell phone or cell phone service, the closest residents live near West Dover Road.

ALL EMERGENCIES IN NOVA SCOTIA CAN BE HANDLED BY PHONING **911**.

Emergency phone numbers on land

Rescue/Medical/Fire/Police	911
Direct line to Search and Rescue	1-800-565-1582

Emergency radio channel on a boat

VHF channel	16
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Diving medical information

Divers Alert Network (DAN)	call collect: 1-919-684-9111
Closest Recompression Chamber (QEII, VG site)	1-902-473-2220

Non-emergency phone numbers

Divers Alert Network (DAN), M-F 8:30-17:00 ET	1-800-446-2671
West Dover Harbour Authority	1-902-823-3197
Police	1-902-490-5020
General Inquiries (Police/Fire)	1-902-490-5016