

Discovering Dinosaurs

Information
 Bus times
 0871 200 22 33
calls from landlines cost 10p per minute
 Web
www.islandbuses.info
www.iowramblers.com
facebook.com/southernvectis
facebook.com/RamblersIOW
twitter.com/southernvectis
 Email
talk2us@southernvectis.com
 Lost property
 01983 523831

Key
 Tea rooms
 Public house
 Bus stop
 Car park
 Island Coaster bus
 Public footpaths
 Walk route
 Cowes East Cowes
 Fishbourne
 Ryde
 Sandown
 Ventnor
 Yarmouth
 Newport
 Freshwater



Scan this code with your smart phone to access the Southern Vectis timetable applicable to this walk.

In season the hop-on, hop-off Island Coaster bus follows the coast between Ryde and Yarmouth. There is also a regular bus service at Brook and Compton Bay (no 12) as well as at Chale (no 6).

With planning, it is possible to walk a short or long route and have time to explore the dinosaur beaches. Access to the beach is possible at some of the chines (clefts in the cliff) when tides permit, and several footpaths lead to the Military Road where bus stops are

located. Great care should be taken when the weather is wet and windy.

Erosion causes the Island to shrink a little each day as rain turns soft rocks into mud and the sea gnaws away at the cliffs. This is good news for collectors as cliff falls reveal fossils: shells, bits of trees, even fragments of dinosaur bones. Occasionally, a large part of a skeleton is found, perhaps a series of vertebrae (backbones), together with a few ribs – all that has survived after

millions of years of burial and erosion. Very much rarer is the discovery of a scientifically-important dinosaur fossil, but it is surprising how many great finds have been made on this small island.

The Isle of Wight's south west coast has yielded the richest collection of early Cretaceous dinosaurs in the world with at least 20 different species already recorded. The area is highly valued for its tranquillity and unspoilt coastal landscapes.



Pictured, left to right Hanover Point; a new chine, Churchill's Chine, appears to be forming in Brook Bay; soft sandstones and clays form much of the cliffs on the south-west coast.