

# **Ovni Pottering**

**Digest of Ovni Spots  
visit by Ovni 32 Rosi**

**Alderney  
to  
La Noirmoutier**

Colin Palmer December 2019

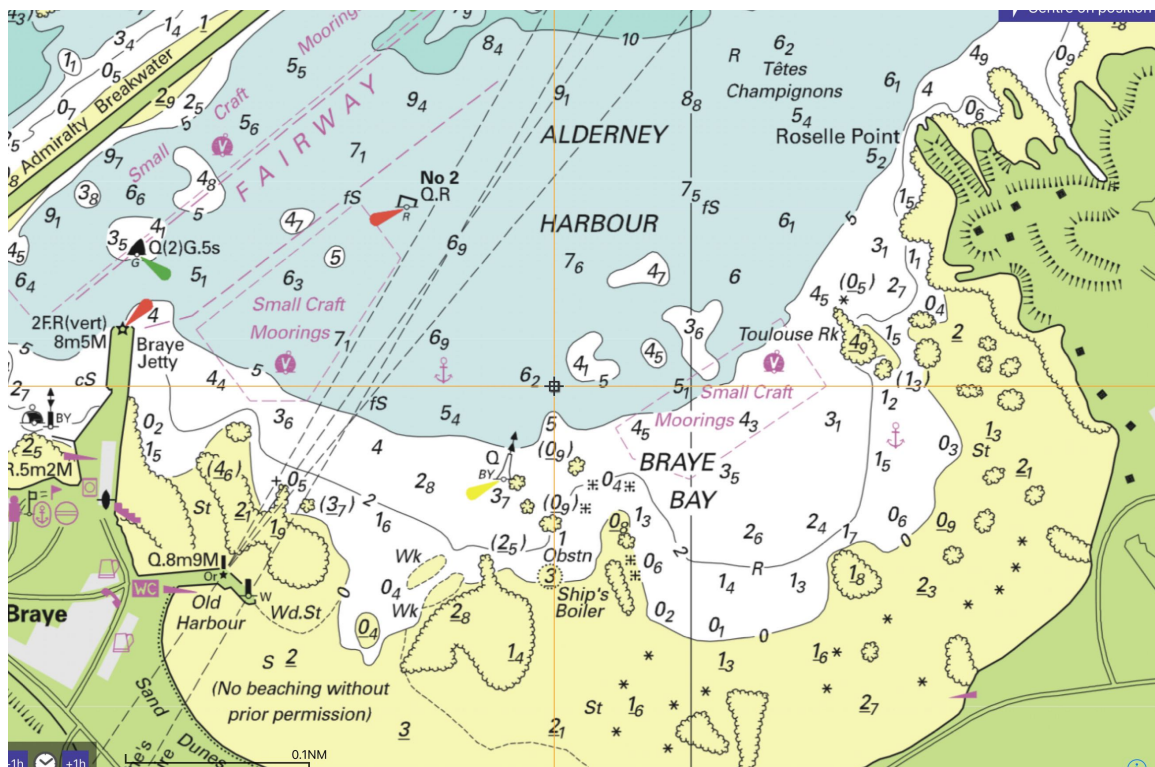


# Alderney Braye Harbour

Braye Harbour is always a welcome sight after what for me have always been somewhat bumpy passages round Alderney. I have a feeling there is tidal set as on one occasion the rocks off to port seems to have a magnetic attraction for Rosi.

Once inside the welcoming embrace of the harbour wall there is plenty of space to recover your wits, drop sails and generally check the place out.

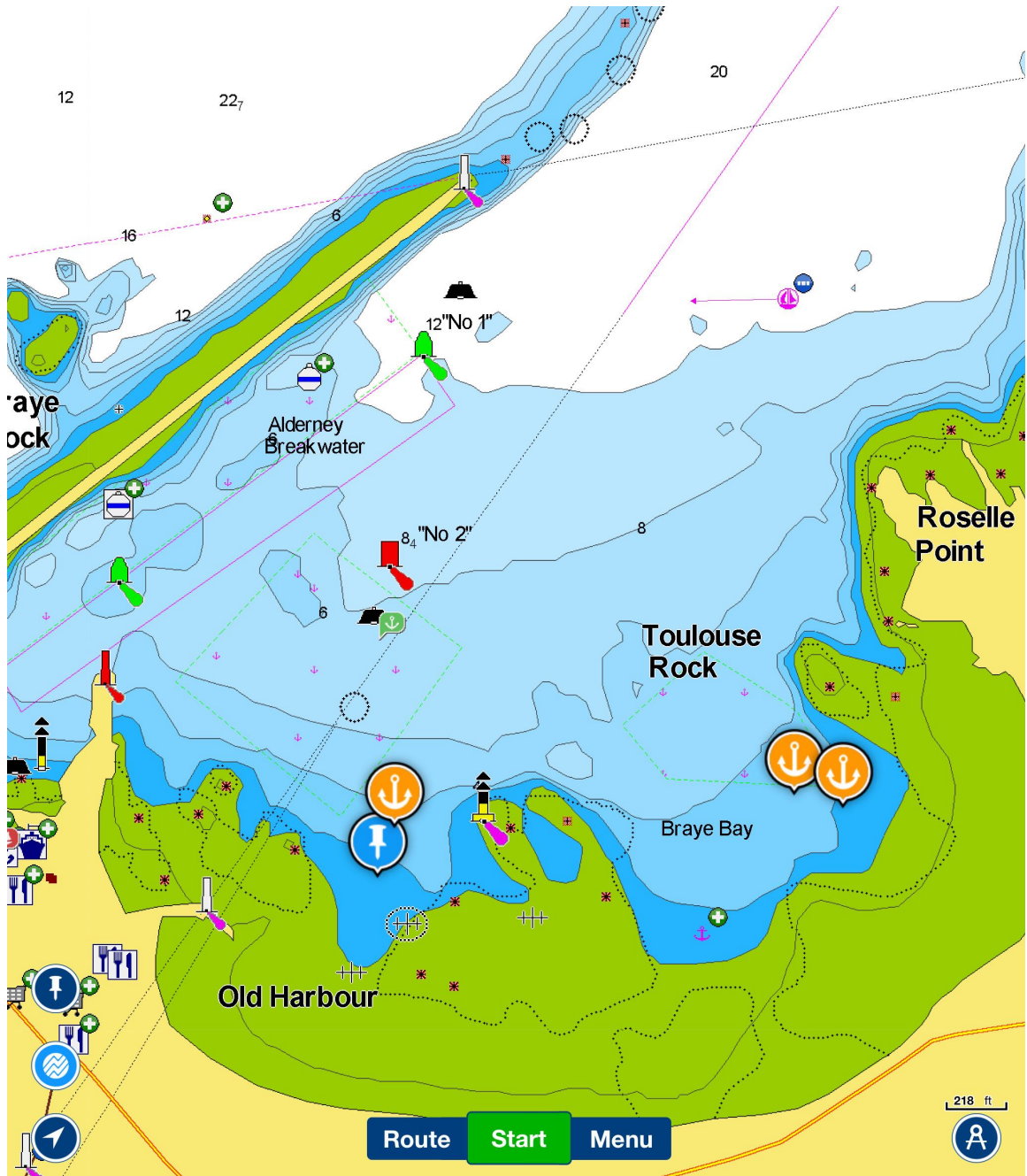
I love Alderney for its walking and wildness. Also some good places to eat around the harbour - my favourite is in the distinctive terrace of houses close by the old harbour wall. Also a Waitrose for those in need of middle class civilisation.



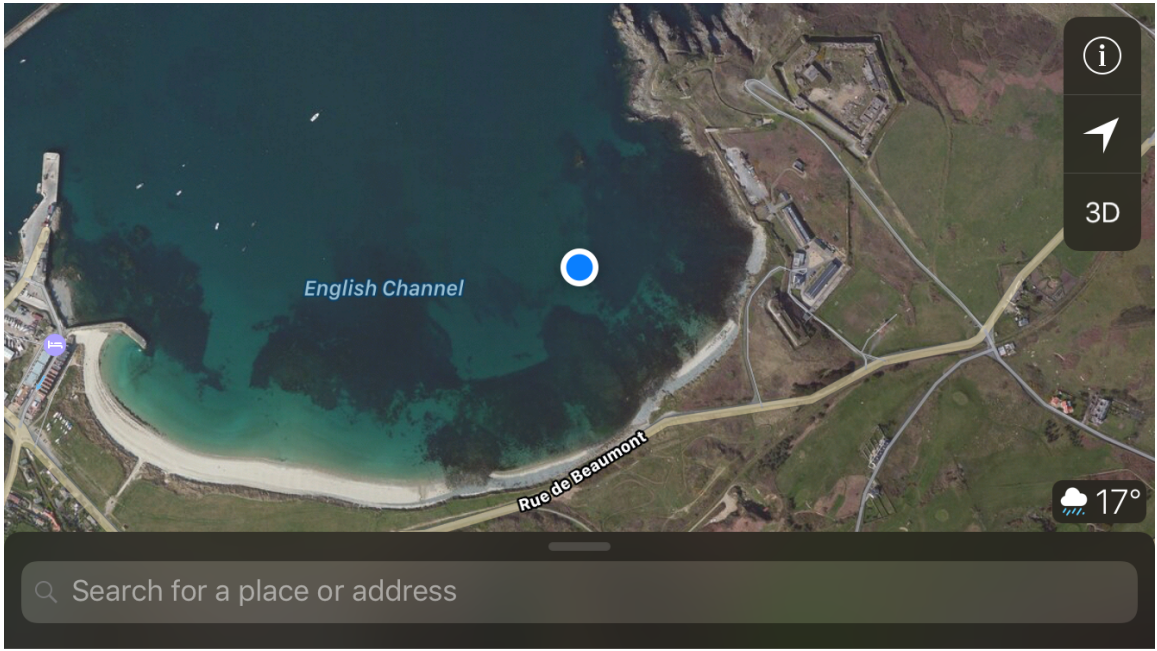
The Imray chart shows a good spot to the south of Toulouse Rock. In an Ovni you can get further in than shown, well clear of the moorings. See my screenshots below.

An advantage of this spot is that it provides some protection from the north/northeast. I sat out a near gale from that direction without excessive motions, when boats further out were having a pretty tough time on the visitor's buoys.

The chart below also shows another nice spot near the old harbour, but it gets popular, so I have only been able to use it once.







Rosi is on the extreme left, Toulouse Rock to the right.

# Jersey

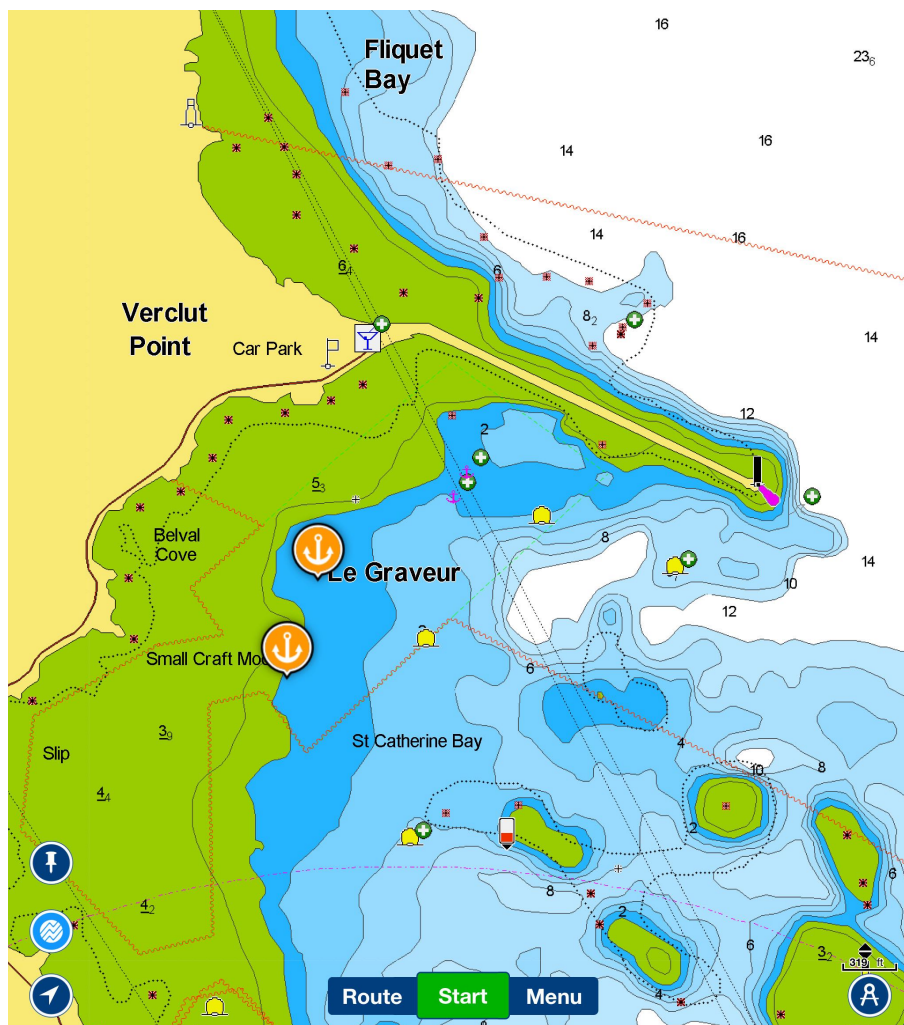
There are two “Ovni spots” I have used on Jersey. One is St Catherine Bay, which I have used several times as a passage stop, the other is Gorey, which repays a longer visit.

St Catherine is an open bay, so access is straightforward. The issue seems to be that there are cables on the seabed, so the anchorage area is limited. I have used the two spots shown by the anchors without cutting off Jersey from Internet or electricity or being chased away. There is landing at the root of the massive mole (the remains of an ill-fated attempt to build a harbour to rival Portland) but the cafe there is dismal.

Gorey is also pretty easy to enter, so long as you don't hit Azicot Rock which lies to the south east of the end of the pier. But in practice, if there is enough water to get far enough up the harbour to find a decent drying spot, an Ovni is likely to clear Azicot with ease. A smart holiday town with watering holes that won't disappoint.

It was my port of entry to I dutifully flew my yellow flag. The harbour master was polite, but said that they don't worry about such things....

## St Catherine Bay





**Gorey - well up the harbour**



**Gorey - further out.** There are a few isolated rocks, so check over the side before you touch down.



# Herm

Not so difficult at high water, but the reef to the north of the southern anchorage spot rewards respect.

I had a trying incident here. I like to anchor with a mix of chain and nylon rope to give some flex and thus reduce snatch loads. The problem that I had not foreseen is that the nylon warp is neutrally buoyant, so comes to the surface when a strong current changes direction. It did that and caught itself behind the partly retracted centre plate, so Rosi ended up lying beam on to a very energetic ebb! I Managed to free it with some brute force motoring, but it took a while. If the wind had been building and it was time to get out, I would have had to cut the line.

Now I put a weight on the line in similar conditions. You live and learn.

I did not go ashore, so nothing to say, but the beach looked lovely.

The anchors are the spots I used. Sorry, but I cannot recall what the pins are. Rocks?

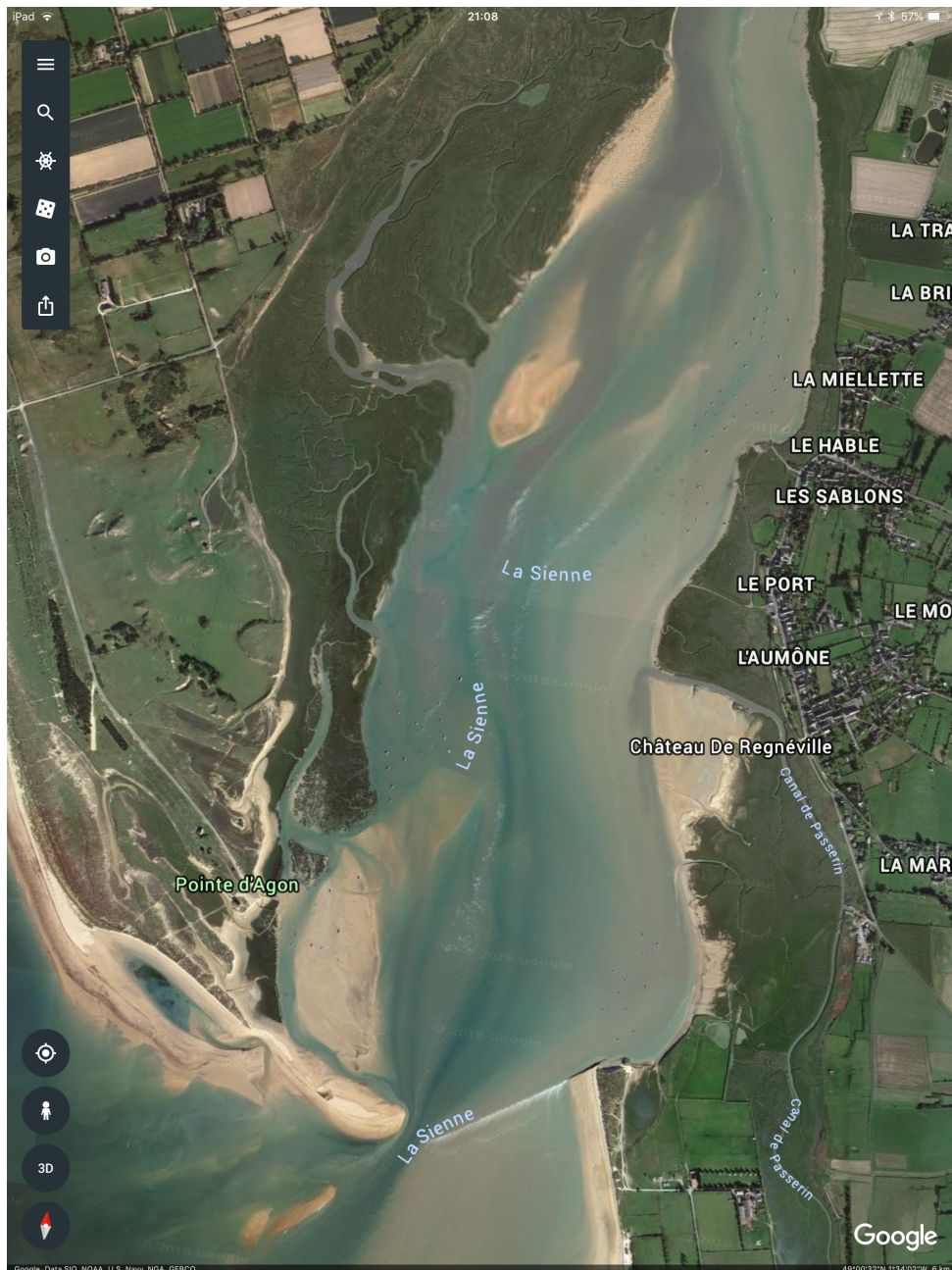


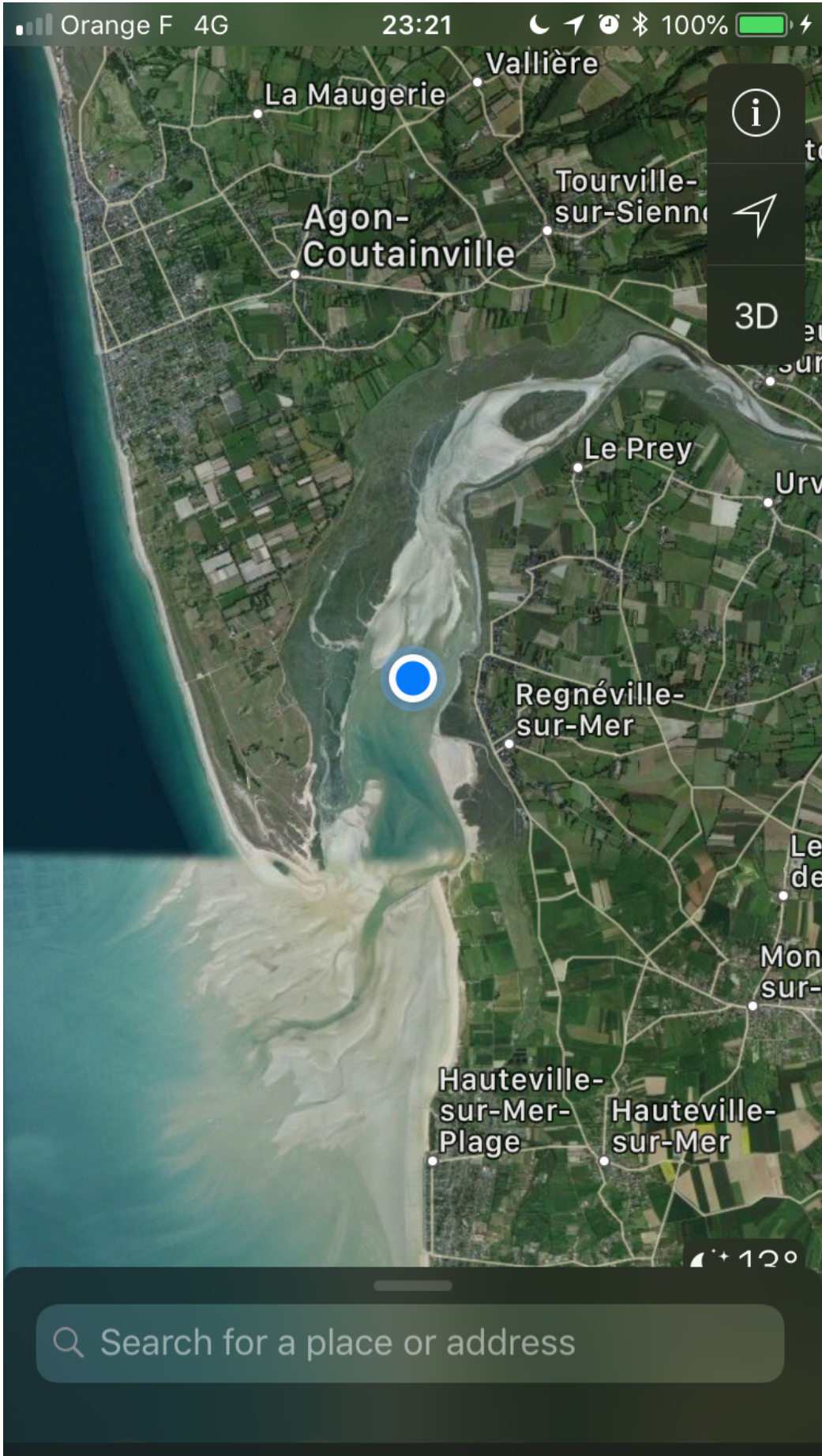


# Regneville

Take care and make sure you have lots of water. The place is not only tide bound, but also tidal range bound, by which I mean that for first timers it is only really practical on biggish springs. I went in on what I thought was a flat calm day, but near the entrance the swell started to pile up. Not a lot, but unexpected and worrying with only a couple of meters on the depth sounder. Also I am pretty sure the buoys were out of place. All in all, only a place to approach in calm conditions on a sizeable, rising tide.

Then you have the problem that because it is springs, the current runs fast. Actually most noticeable on the food, when Rosi was thrown around by the incoming water. It also means that the sandy bottom is a bit irregular. Not tip-you-over irregular, but if you are unlucky, sleeping could be difficult.

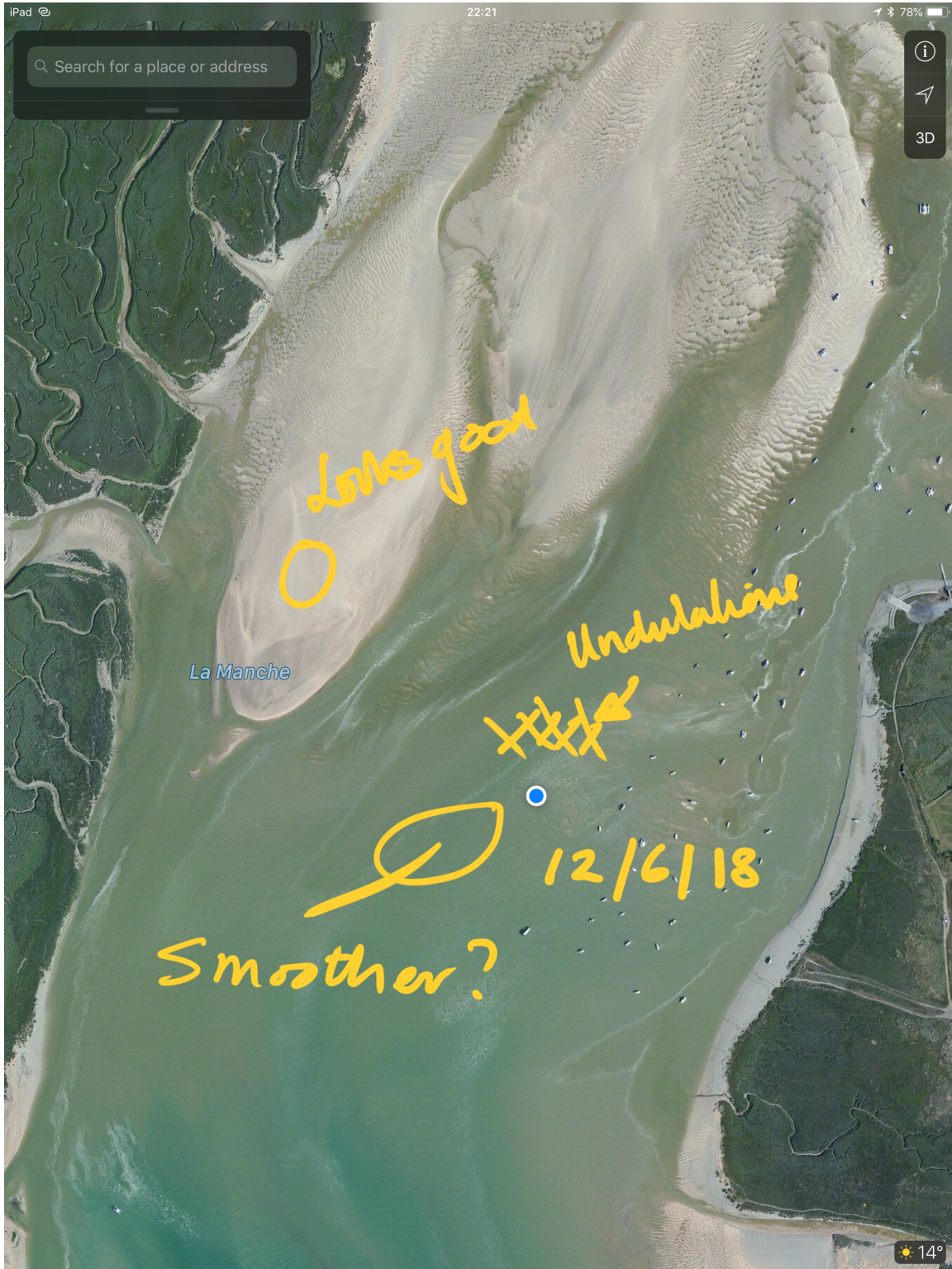






I only stopped overnight, so cannot say much except that the sand was hard enough for a nice stroll around the boat.

The blue dot was my spot. Reasonably smooth as it happened, but a not far from a rougher bottom. Still hard sand, so safe enough, but not flat.







# Iles Chausey

This is a place for a rising tide, calm weather and a good 3G signal on your phone. Rock dodging with google maps is the way to go - but beware the time lag.

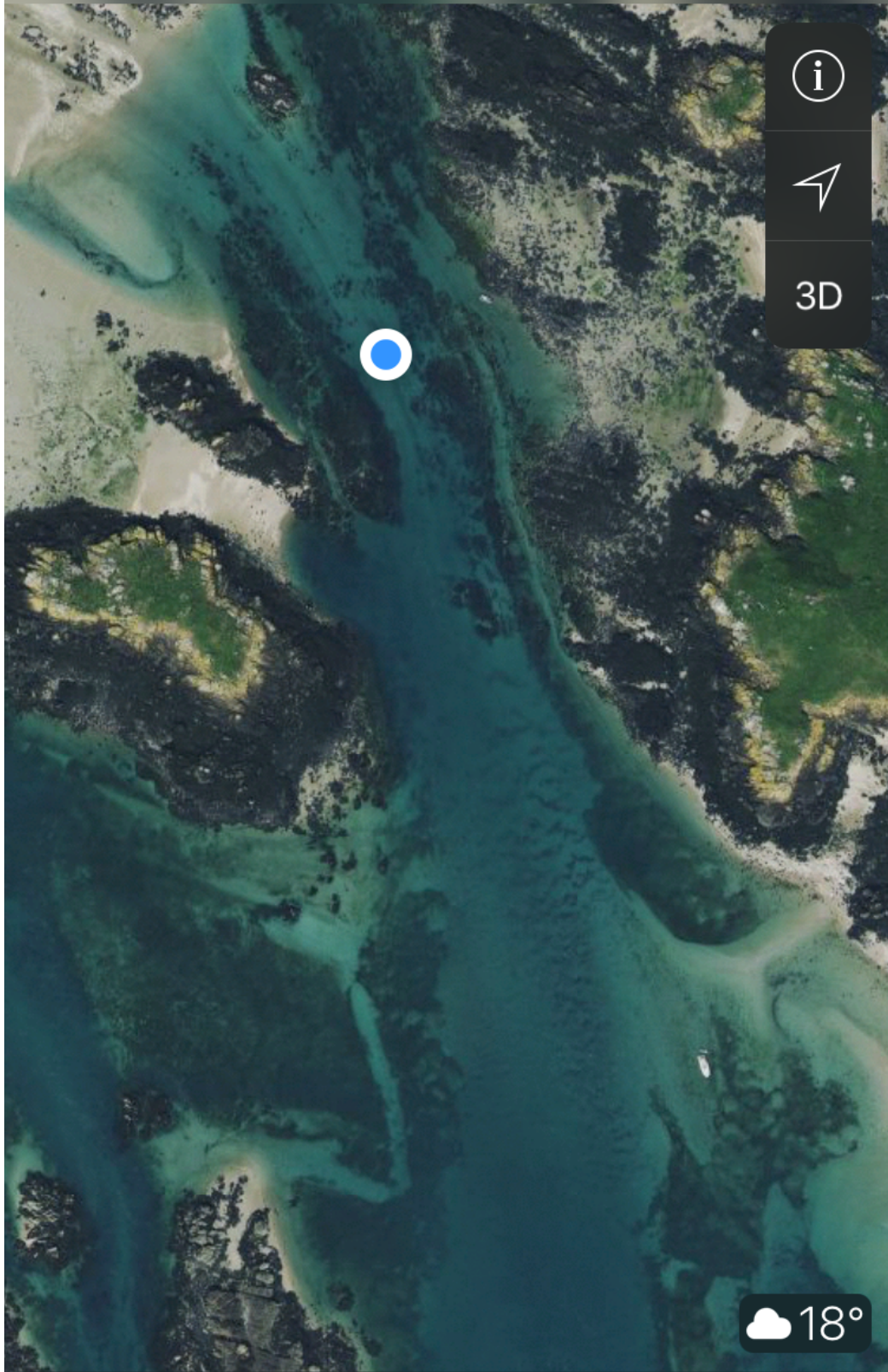
There are all manner of nice spots that look like this or similar.

There are some shops and a decent restaurant on the main island, otherwise just rocks, sand, seaweed and seabirds.

A magical spot that draws you back.



Chausey is a very popular day trip from Granville, so like as not if you stay overnight you will have to tough it out with many other yachts during the day, but find yourself more or less alone come the evening.

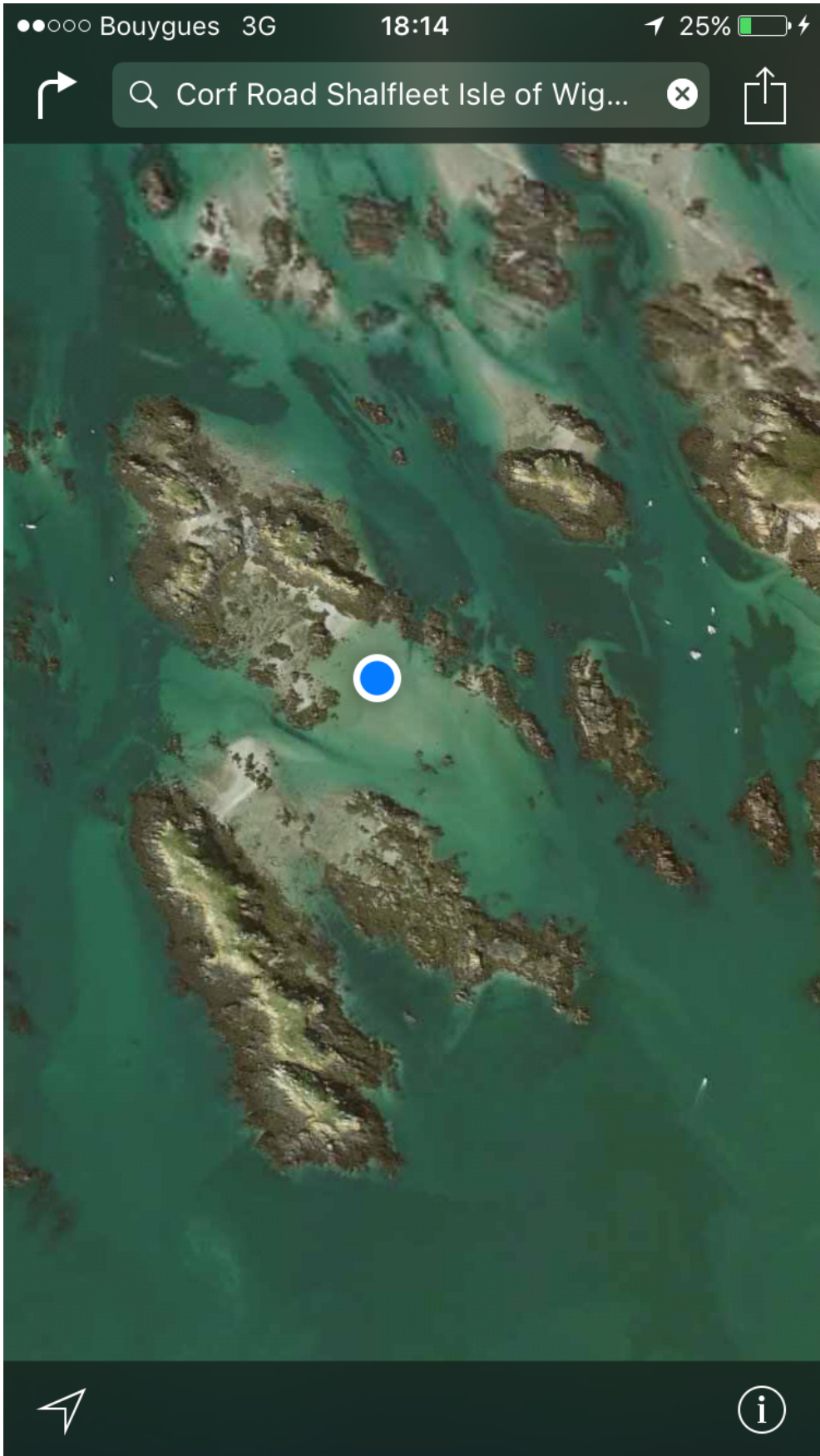


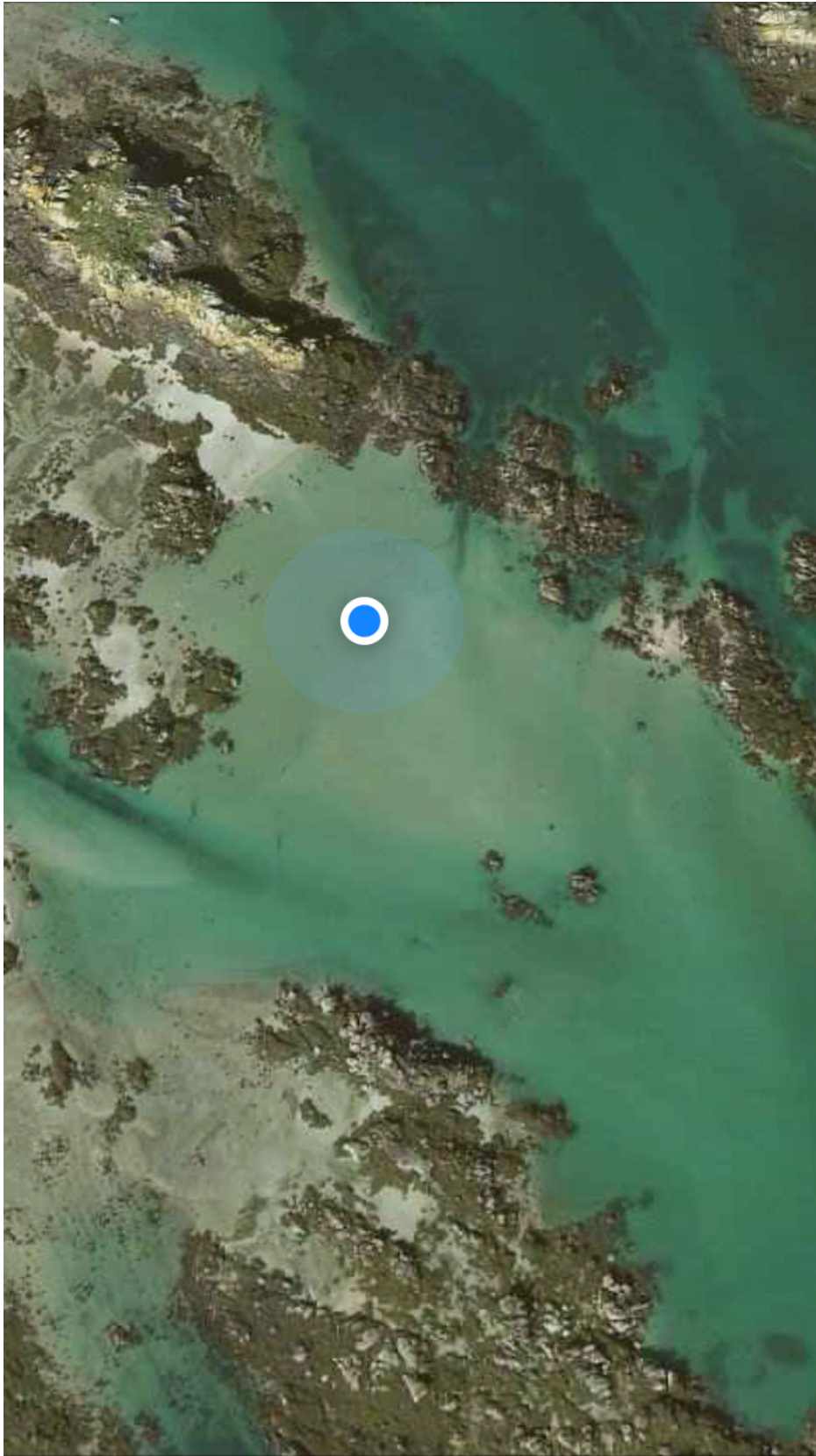
Information icon (i)  
Navigation arrow icon  
3D

18°

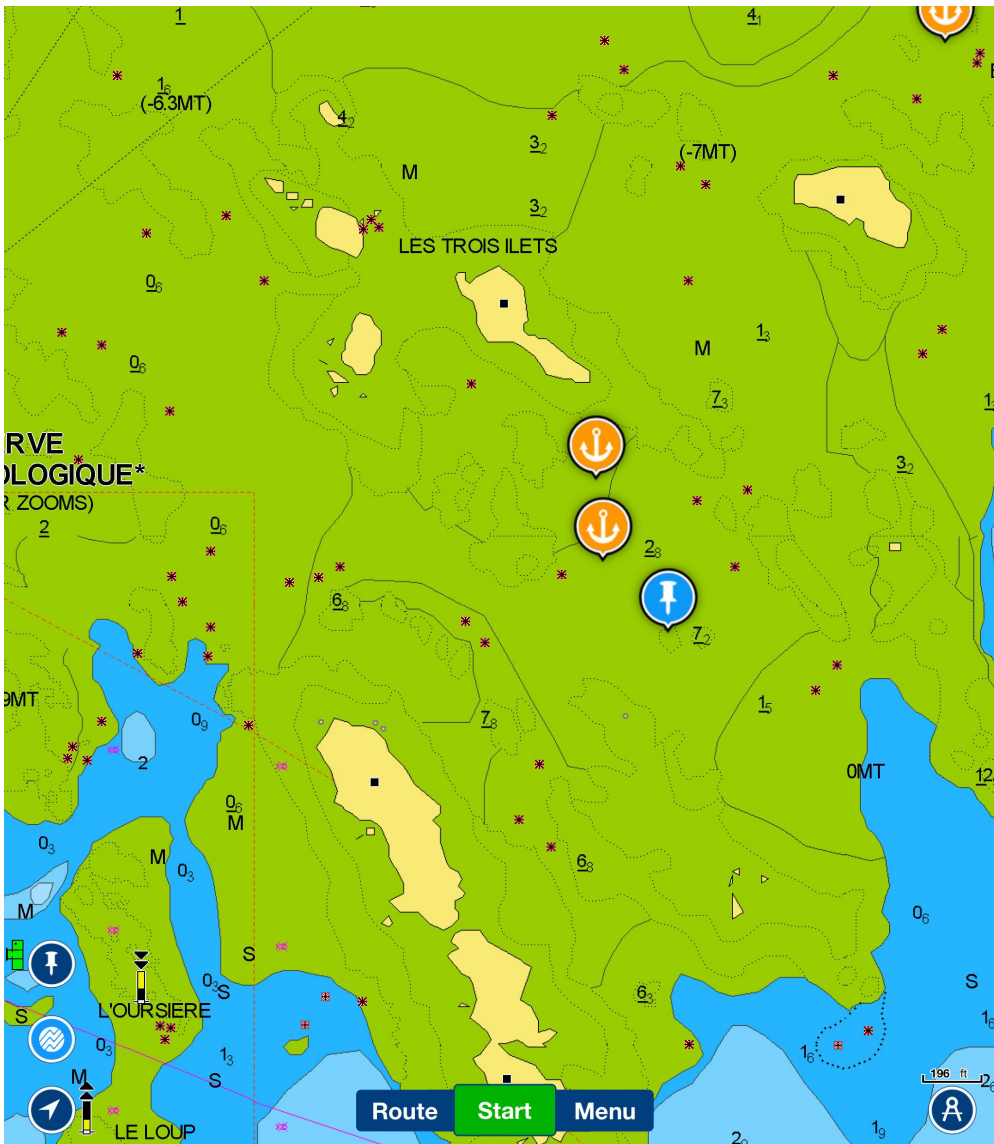
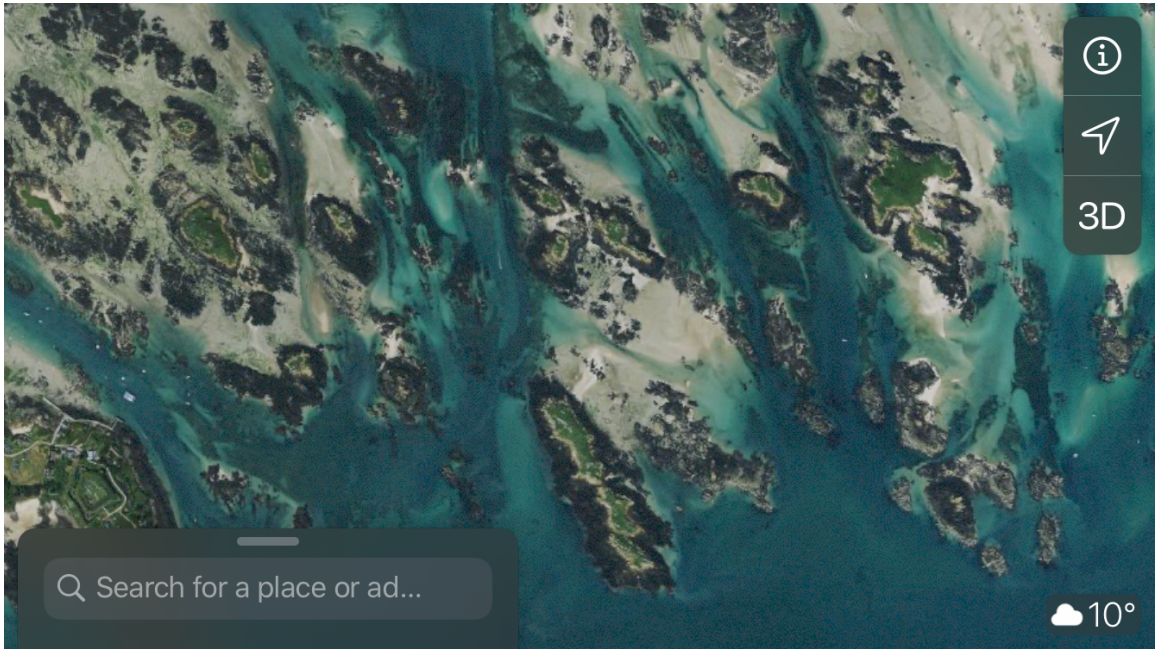
Search for a place or address

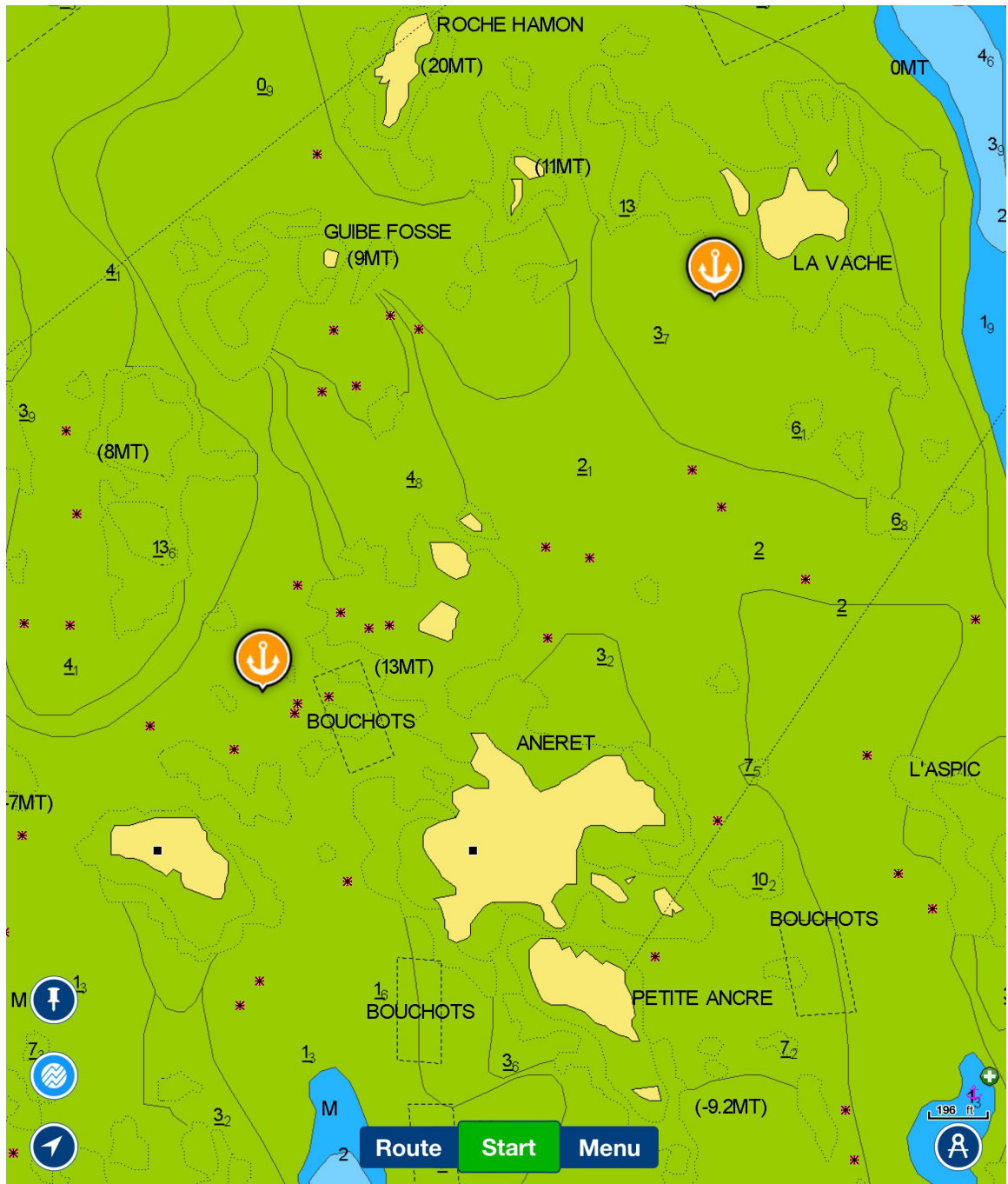














These last images show Port Marie on the main island. We stayed there unmolested but I have read somewhere that that authorities are “discouraging” its use. The cynic in me says it is so they can maximise revenue from the visitors moorings in the main channel, which are subject to very strong tidal streams and by repute, get very cosy in the season.

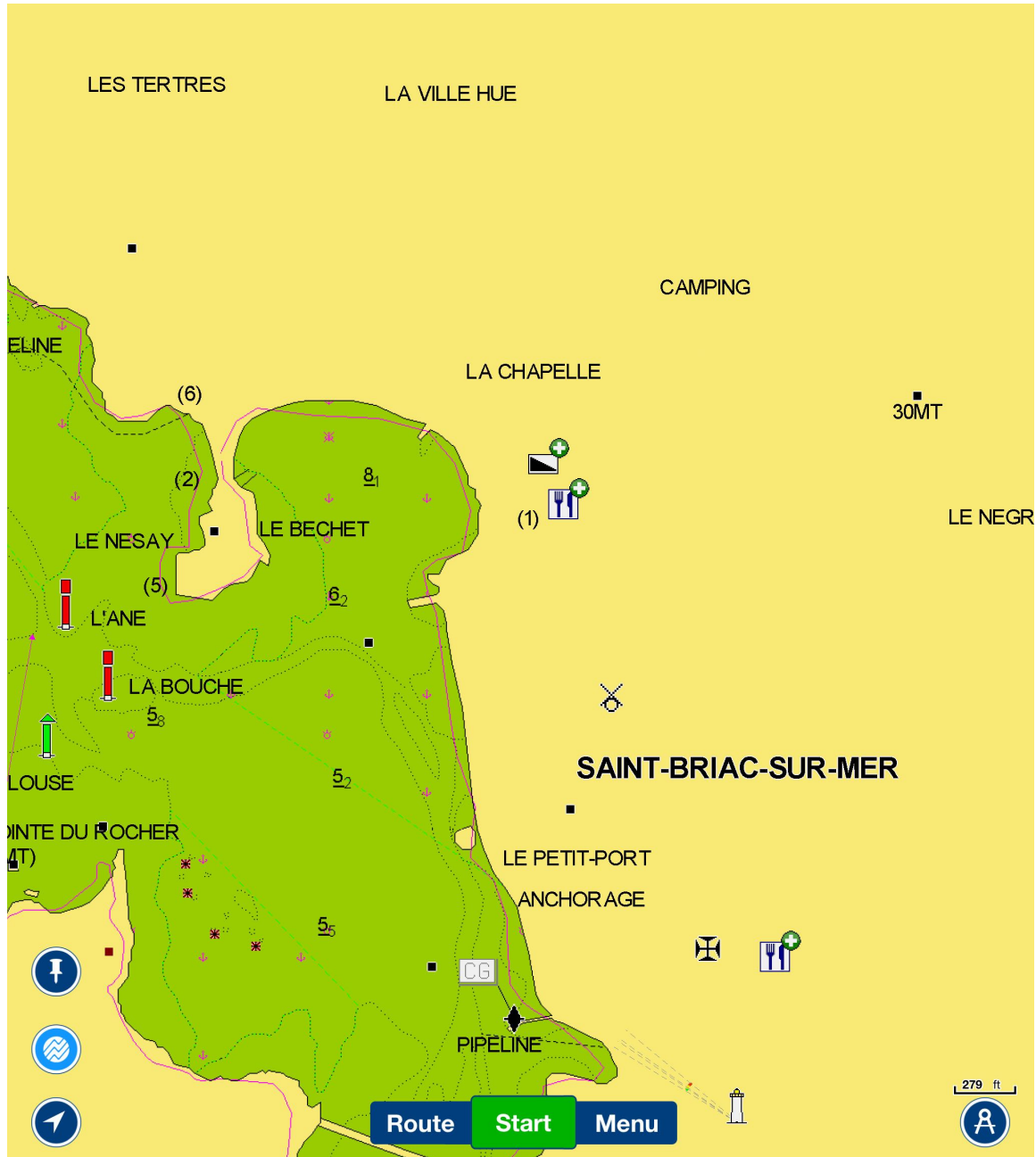




# St Briac

It is a good while since we were there, so I cannot recall the details of finding our way in. The whole area dries so obviously best done on a rising tide.

A pretty French holiday town. The usual good choice of places to eat of course.







We anchored north of the moorings, right on the beach. No one seemed to mind and it was just a short walk to the town.







# Rotheneuf

No off lying dangers, but a well marked rock right in the entrance. A delightful spot. Close by are the fascinating carved rocks ([https://www.gardenvisit.com/gardens/rochers\\_sculptes\\_rotheneuf](https://www.gardenvisit.com/gardens/rochers_sculptes_rotheneuf)).

First off we dried out in the middle of the bay on hard sand. Local people who were wandering around the boat warned us that a swell could come in, with rather bumpy consequences. It is instructive to compare the satellite images below, from different sources. The upper one shows a nice empty, sandy beach, but the second one shows the swell working in. I had not seen this when we arrived.

So, heeding the warnings, we moved to the north east of the bay. But beware, the bottom becomes muddy, cut by shallow, but steep sided channels. I was not alert enough (wine and sunshine if I'm honest) as we dried and Rosi started to heel..... and heel more. She ended up over at 30 degrees or more. Not dangerous, but totally uninhabitable. Still at least we could walk ashore for more wine and sunshine.









Search bar





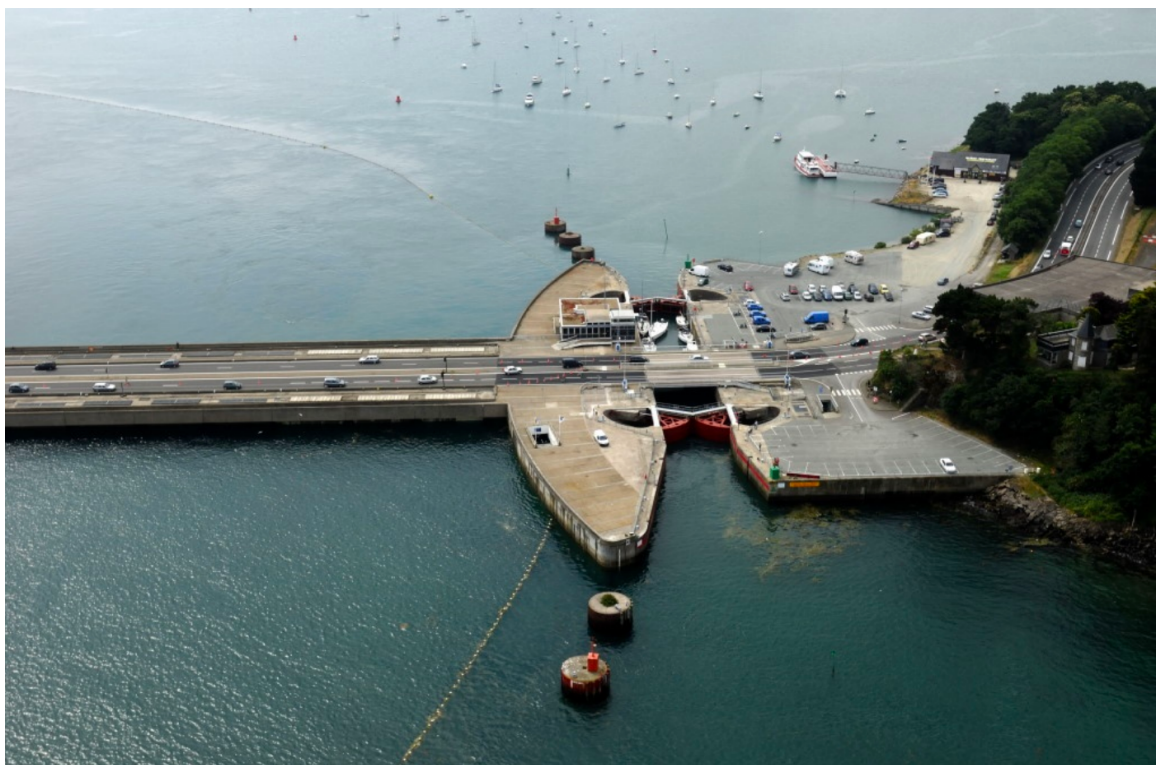


# Rance

We had planned a gentle potter along the coast, west from St Malo, only to be greeted by forecasts of strong northerlies. Best laid plans and all that, so decided to pop into the Rance to shelter for a day or so. That turned into a two week cruise.

Getting in is easy enough and well marked on the charts. The lock was efficient and there are ample holding buoys around the entrance. This is a useful guide: <https://www.digimap.gg/marine/marinas/river-rance/>. Also <http://rancedotedemeraude.fr/>

We anchored off the pier you can see in the photo and since it was pouring with rain decided on a trip to La Rance Barrage visitor centre. Fascinating and a very instructive experience. As someone who works in renewable energy, I have many times been asked why “they” don’t build more tidal power stations like La Rance. The massive, 700m long structure has a maximum power rating of 240MW and produces 500GWh of energy per year. The same amount of power can be produced by just ten of the latest offshore wind turbines at a fraction of the cost!

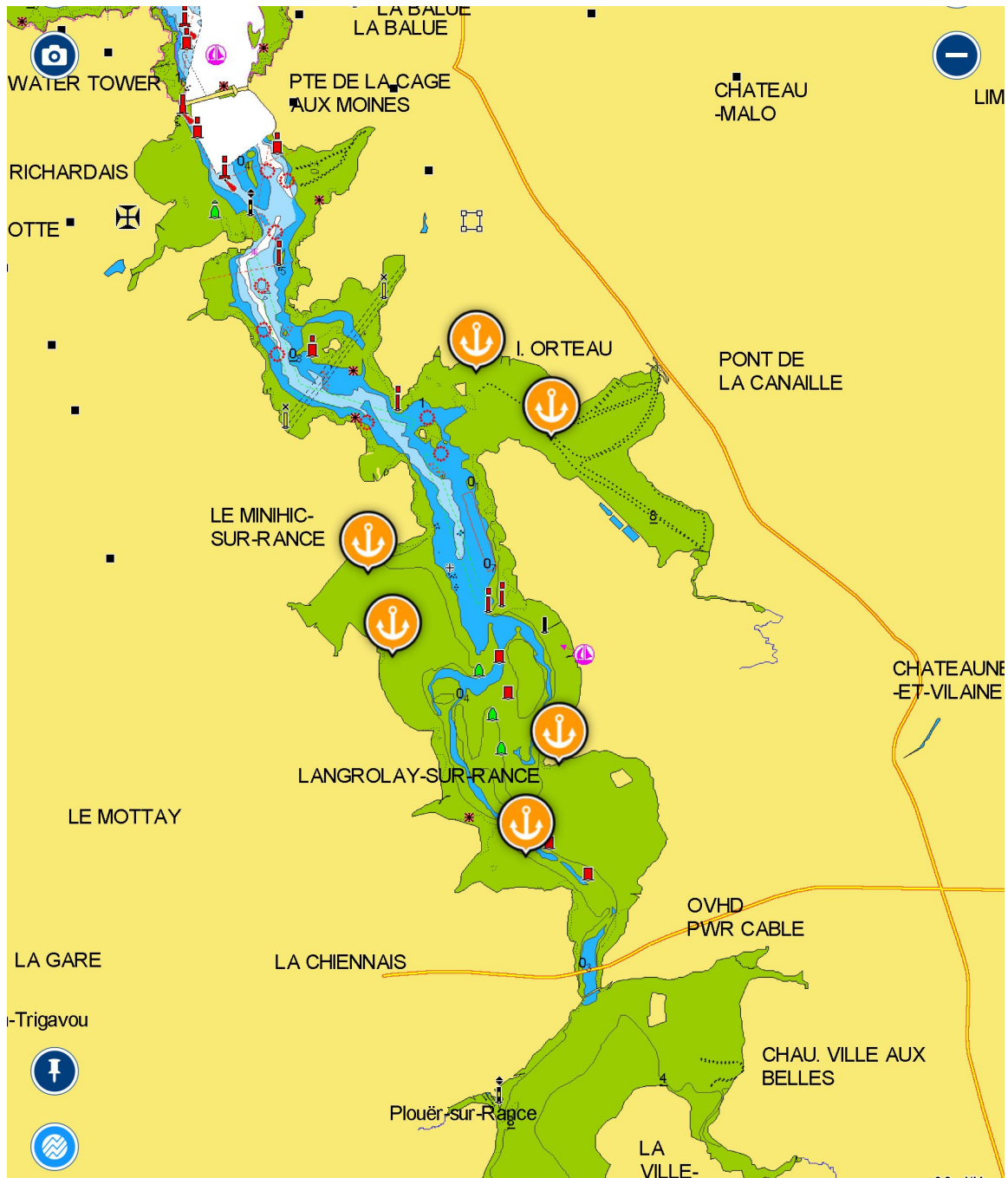


The biggest challenge we found was figuring out the tides. They are only distant relatives of what goes on outside in the sea and seem to depend somewhat on the whims of the EDF engineers. The actual tidal charts are hard to find, but are here <https://www.edf.fr/groupe-edf/nos-energies/energies-renouvelables/hydraulique/hydraulique-bretagne-normandie/l-usine-maremotrice-de-la-rance/marees-en-rance> and accessed from here: <http://rancedotedemeraude.fr/index.php?page=niveaux-d-eau>

The estuary is well marked and navigation was pretty straightforward. Given the limited fetch in most places, there are numerous places to anchor, so I will only list "Ovni specials" where we dried out or sat in very shallow water.

We also made the trip right down to Dinan, which was beautiful and a lovely town to explore.

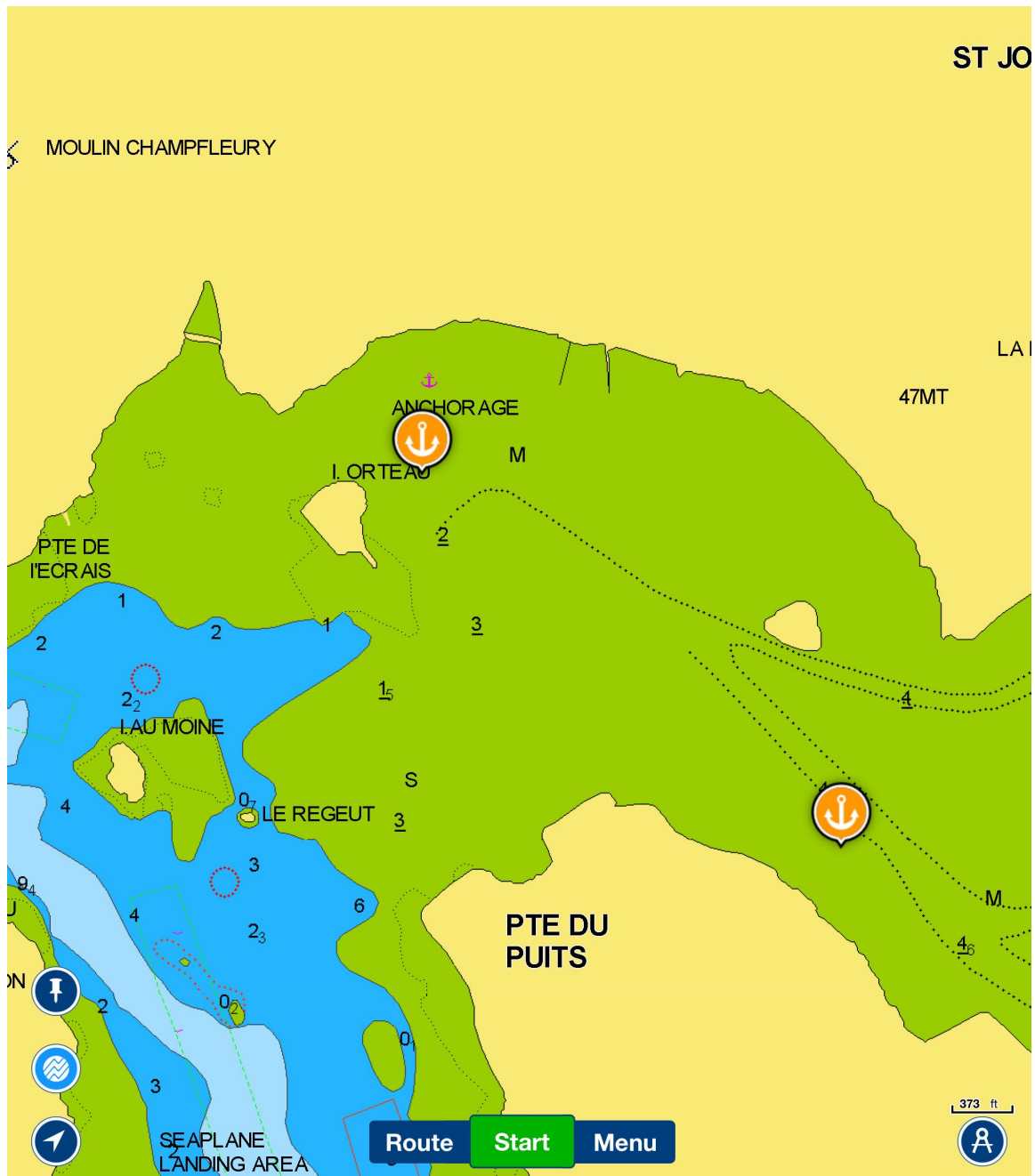
The chart below is an overview of the Ovni spots.



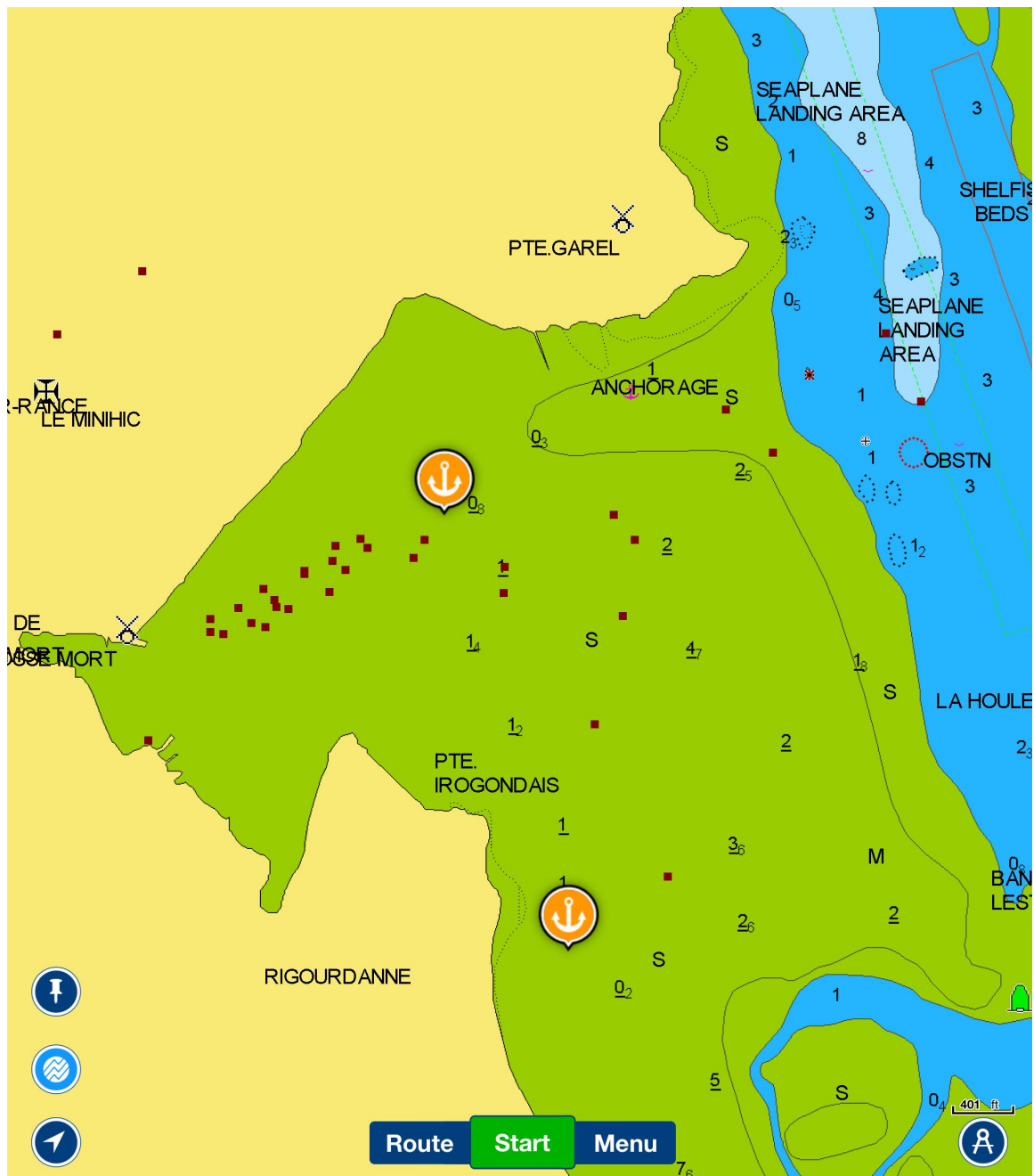
These two are near St Suliac. The one to the south east is really tucked away, but the bottom is a bit steep, so meant we ended up having to sleep the wrong way round. Otherwise excellent. St Suliac is a typical Breton holiday orientated village but worth a visit.



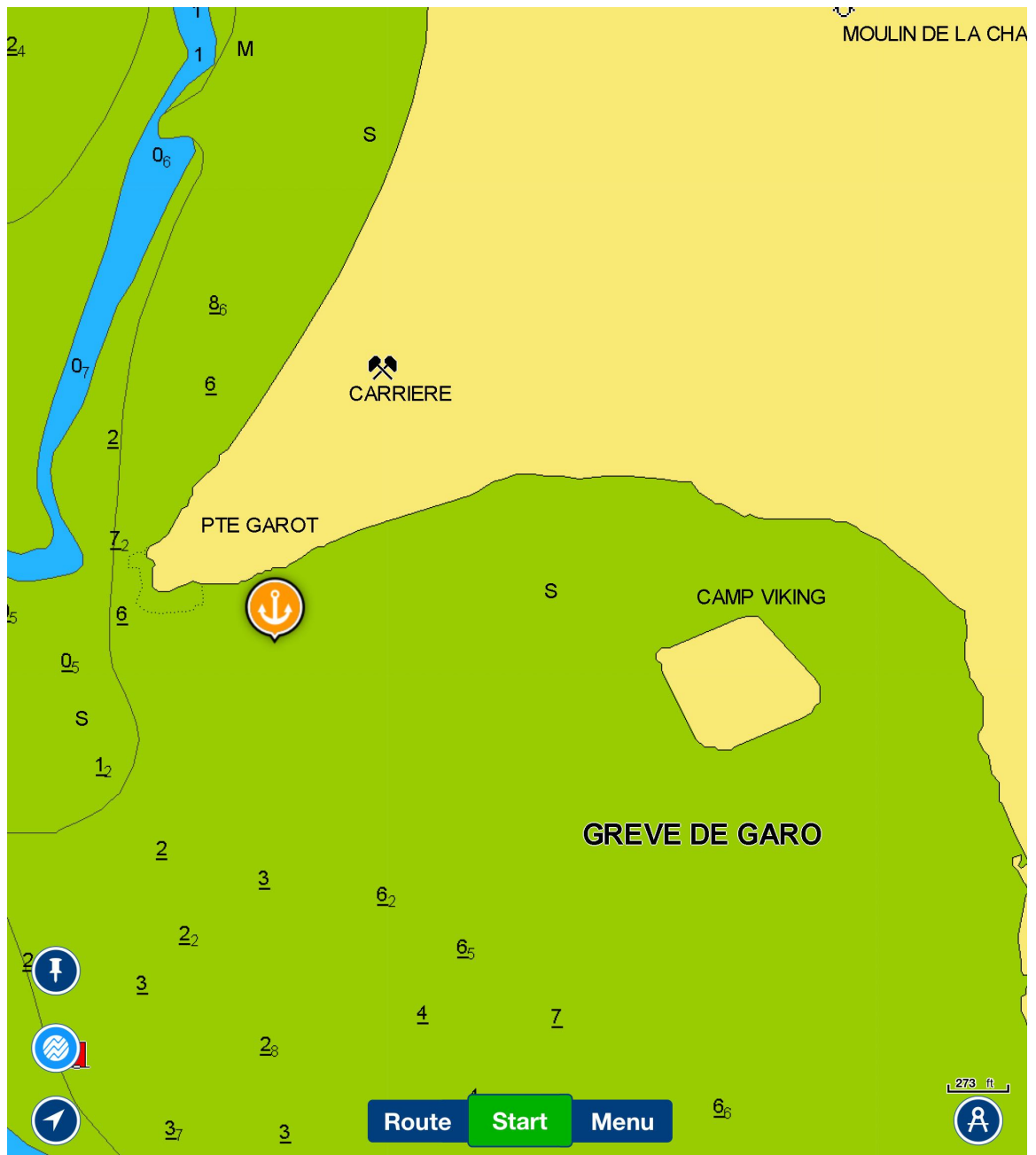
La Landrias across the other side is more mixed and has an interesting old dry dock and a useful boatyard.



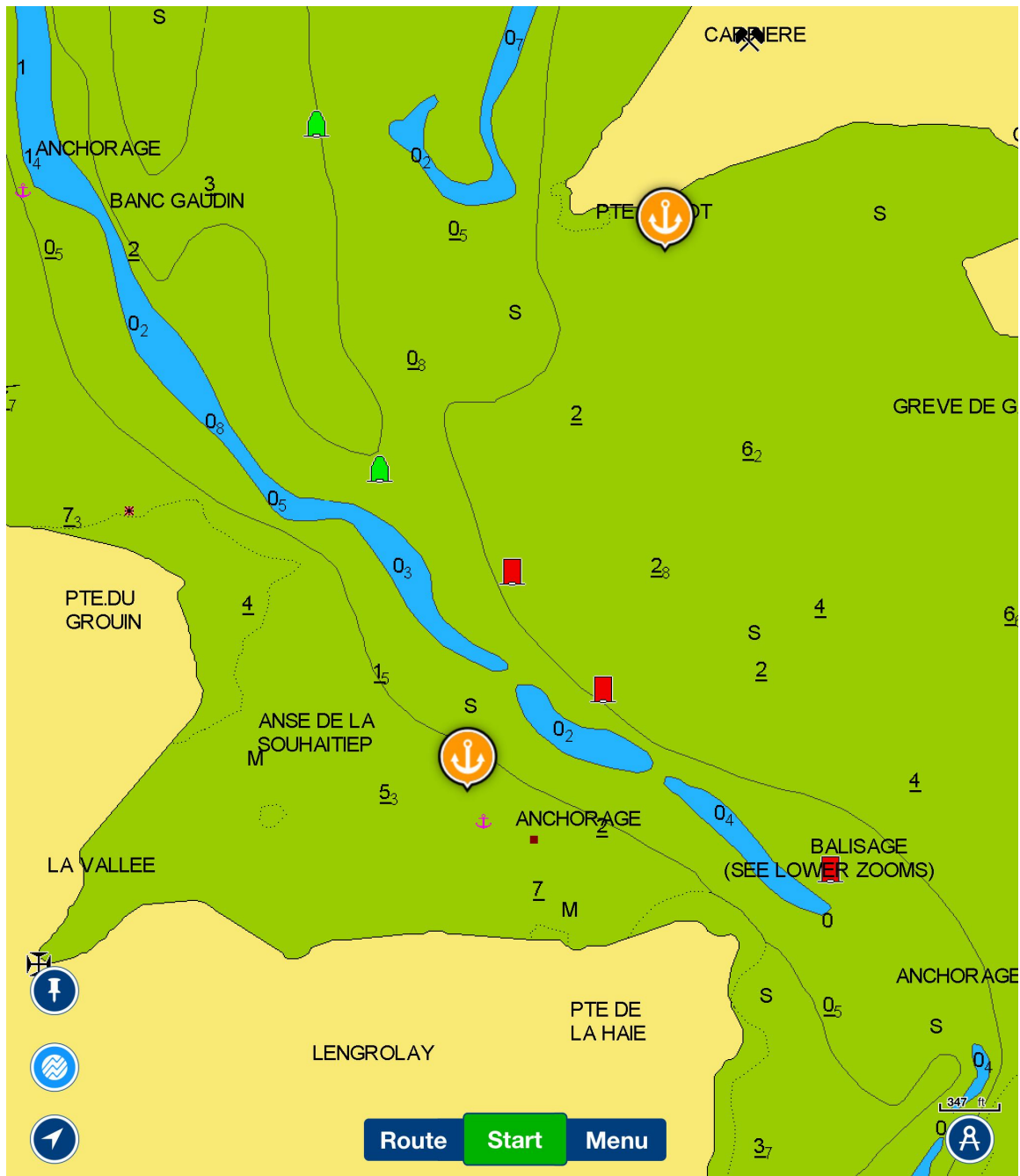
A little further south, off the west side of the river, which gave us good shelter from the west/north west winds that keep blowing.



This was a lovely spot, sheltered under the headland and close to a sand bank stuffed with cockles. Also an old Viking camp to explore by dinghy, yes, really! <https://www.saint-malo-tourisme.co.uk/explore/local-history/archaeological-treasures> and <http://www.saint-suliac.fr/monuments-lieux-remarquables-C6.html>



The spot to the south was a somewhat open bay, so the wind howled, but holding was fine.



And finally the fleshpots of Dinan.





# Ile de Batz

I worked my way in from the east at low water as I recall, easy enough I think.

I did not go ashore, as I was on passage.

I anchored at the spot shown on the chart. It was very restless - during the day a constant procession of vedettes that seems to delight in coming close by and throwing a huge wake. Overnight the wind increased from the west against a strong current and Rosi banged around on her anchor. Not a quiet night, but I needed to get away in the morning, so did not want to dry out. A French lifting keel yacht had a very quiet night tucked up in the bay to the north east of where I stopped (shown on the satellite image).





# Anse de Pen Hir

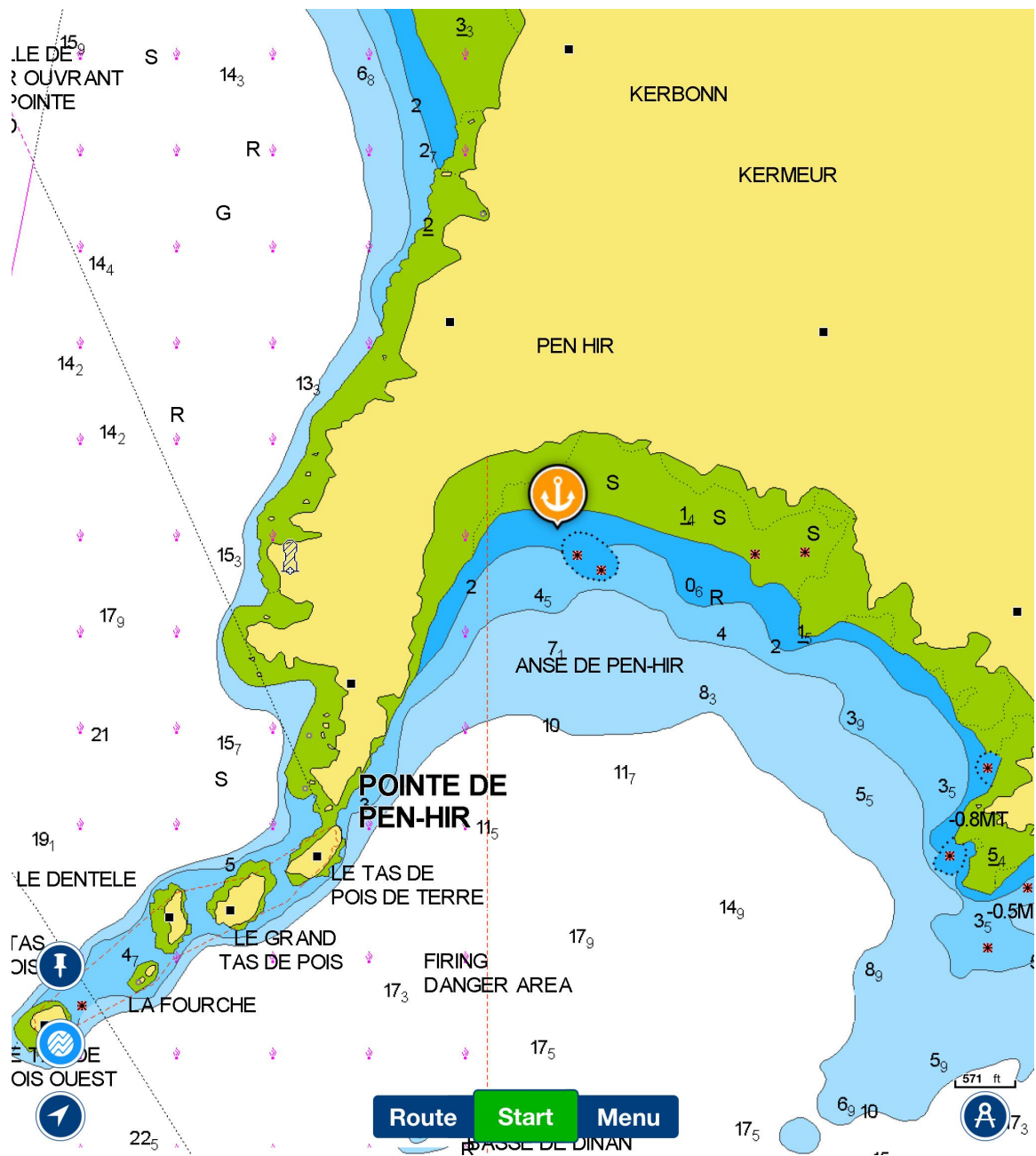
This is not really a classic Ovni spot, but it is such a beautiful anchorage that I cannot resist it. At least with an Ovni you can get closer to the beach, so it is less of a row to the great beach restaurant.

The entrance from anywhere north round to west is spectacular. The Tas de Pois (large rock pinnacles trailing south south west from the point) are very prominent and I guess if you are brave enough there is passage between some of them, but that was not for me. I came down in a brisk north westerly yet by the time I was past the last of the pinnacles, peace descended and the lovely bay opened up. The chart shows a few rocks, but an Ovni can anchor inside them on a firm sandy bottom.



If geology is your thing, the cliffs towards the east of the bay are rewarding, and if you are into more recent stuff, the menhirs at Lagatjar, a few km inland are worth a trip. You can also take in the heavy duty German defences that litter the roadside. A walk to the point is also good.





# Loctudy

Well marked and I don't recall any traumas. I avoided the marina and headed up the left fork in the river, towards Ile aux Rats. From there you can take the well marked channel all the way up to the town of Pont L'Abbe. It is pretty shallow and dries at the top so pick your time.

I did not get a chance to sample Loctudy, but Pont L'Abbe is a nice very French sort of town, with good shops. The trip up the river is lovely and the town is pretty, well worth an explore.

I found a good deepish water spot off Ile aux Rats and then dried out alongside the quay in Pont L'Abbe. There are boats up there but they look mainly local and many are rather tatty and don't look much used. The bottom was clean, soft mud.











# Port Louis

The main entrance channel is the same as for Lorient, so clear big buoys for big ships.

It starts to get trickier when you want to turn right into the lagoon. I would recommend going around the long way the first time - leaving Les Soeurs to port and giving Le Cabon a wide berth. Then leave Ile aux Souris reasonably close to starboard and look for the red mark on the end of a quay. The current runs fast here, so be prepared. Once you are past the green and red Grand Beloroch markers everything calms down and the numerous moorings indicate deep(ish) water.

I really liked this place. There is a little harbour at Locmalo where you can leave a dinghy and there are shops and restaurants in town (Port Louis). Further up, the lagoon shallows and becomes wilder, so well worth an explore. I have a sense there is a lot of history there, but did not have much time to find out. There is by repute a good museum in the fort at Port Louis.

Across the water is the little holiday town of Gâvres, which has a small marina. I did not use that but instead dried out on the convenient sand bank outside and walked into town when the water went away.

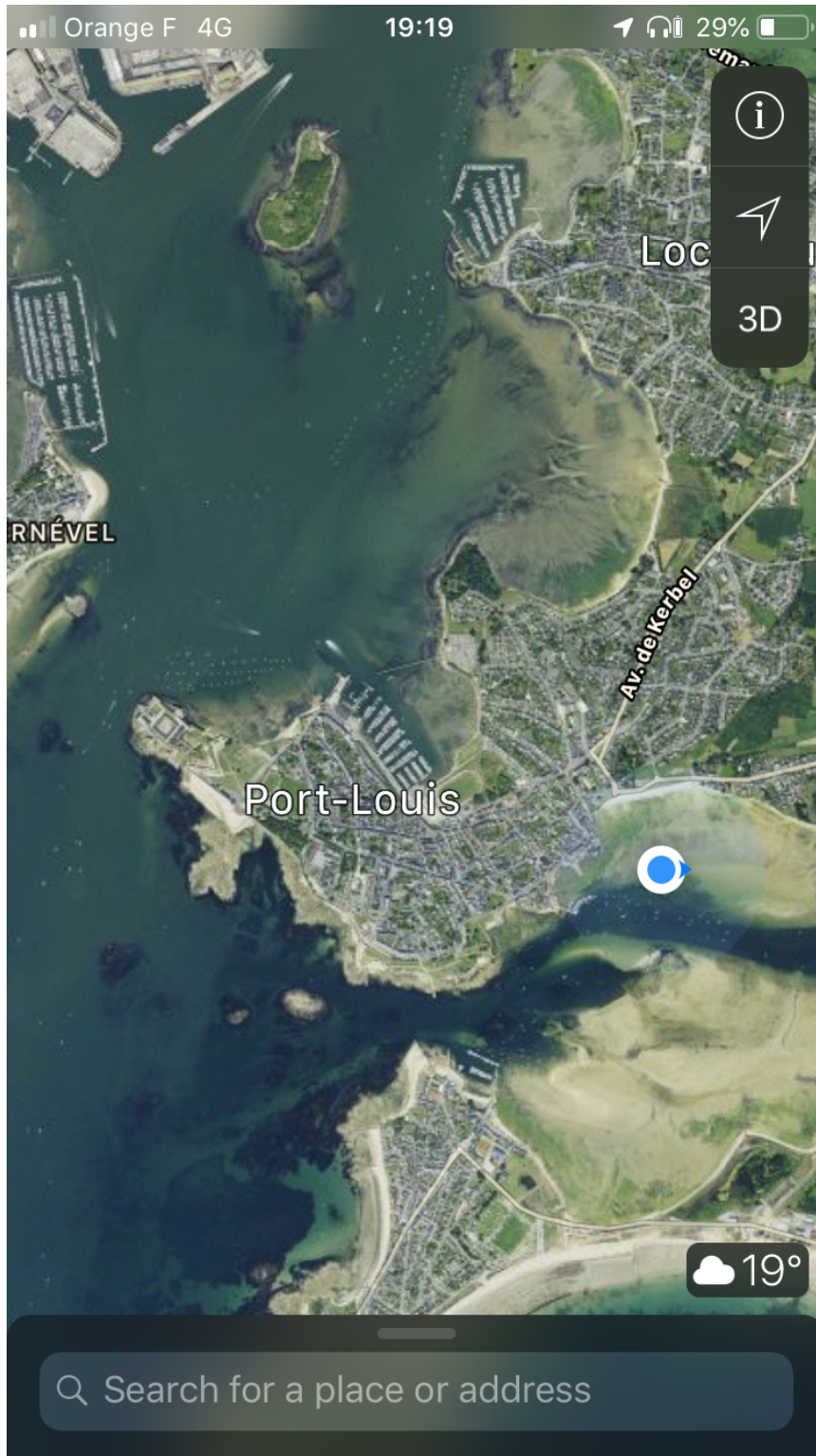
These are the spots where I stopped. As you go east there is less and less clean sand, so beware. That is why the easternmost is in the blue - I did not want to risk drying out as I suspect the bottom was rocky.



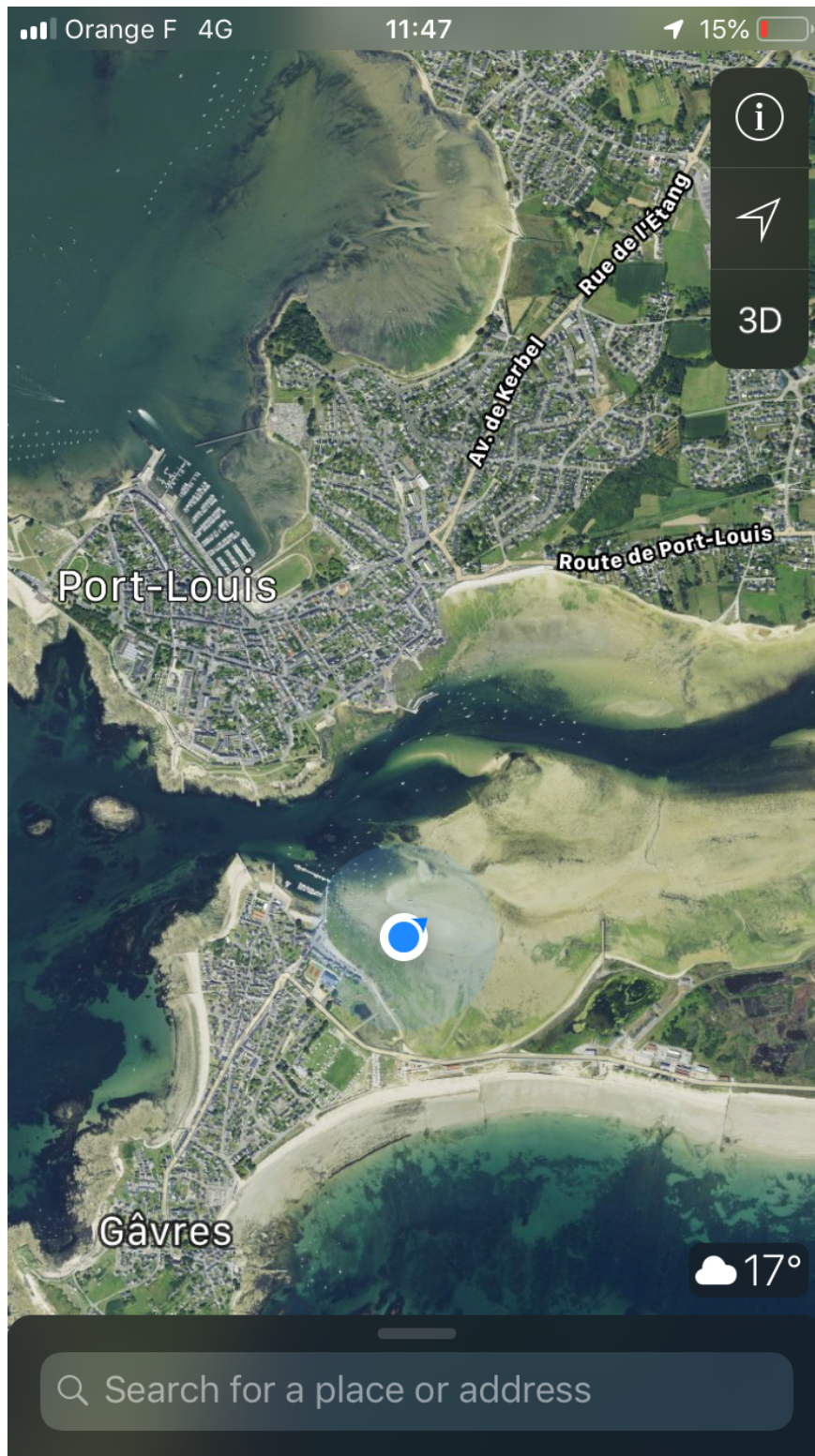


I used this spot to dry out the first day. A cautionary tale. The bottom looked clean, but it turned out that what I took for isolated patches of weed were actually weed attached to rocks, and one of them was a pyramid shaped block of granite protruding at least 30cm out of the sand. Even an Ovni would have been uncomfortable on that! I could not shift it, so reset the anchor and shortened up on the next tide.

The moral is always try to look at the bottom. A good excuse for a swim around with a mask, which is what I did on the next tide.



The bottom is cleaner across the other side off Gâvres.









People wandered past, intent on pêche à pied.





# Carnac/Colomban

The main worry was the plethora of buoys across the mouth of the bay, no doubt linked to the warning on the chart about aquaculture. So far as I could see they were not marking actual obstacles, so keeping clear of tangling up with them was all that mattered. Not an approach to be undertaken at night. Which might have some bearing on decisions to enter, because leaving at night would also be tricky.

Once round the headland there are a couple of piles of rocks off the beach to be avoided.

The sandy bay is a popular spot for families and there is a wind surf school there. I rented a board for a few hours and discovered I could still make rather wobbly progress.

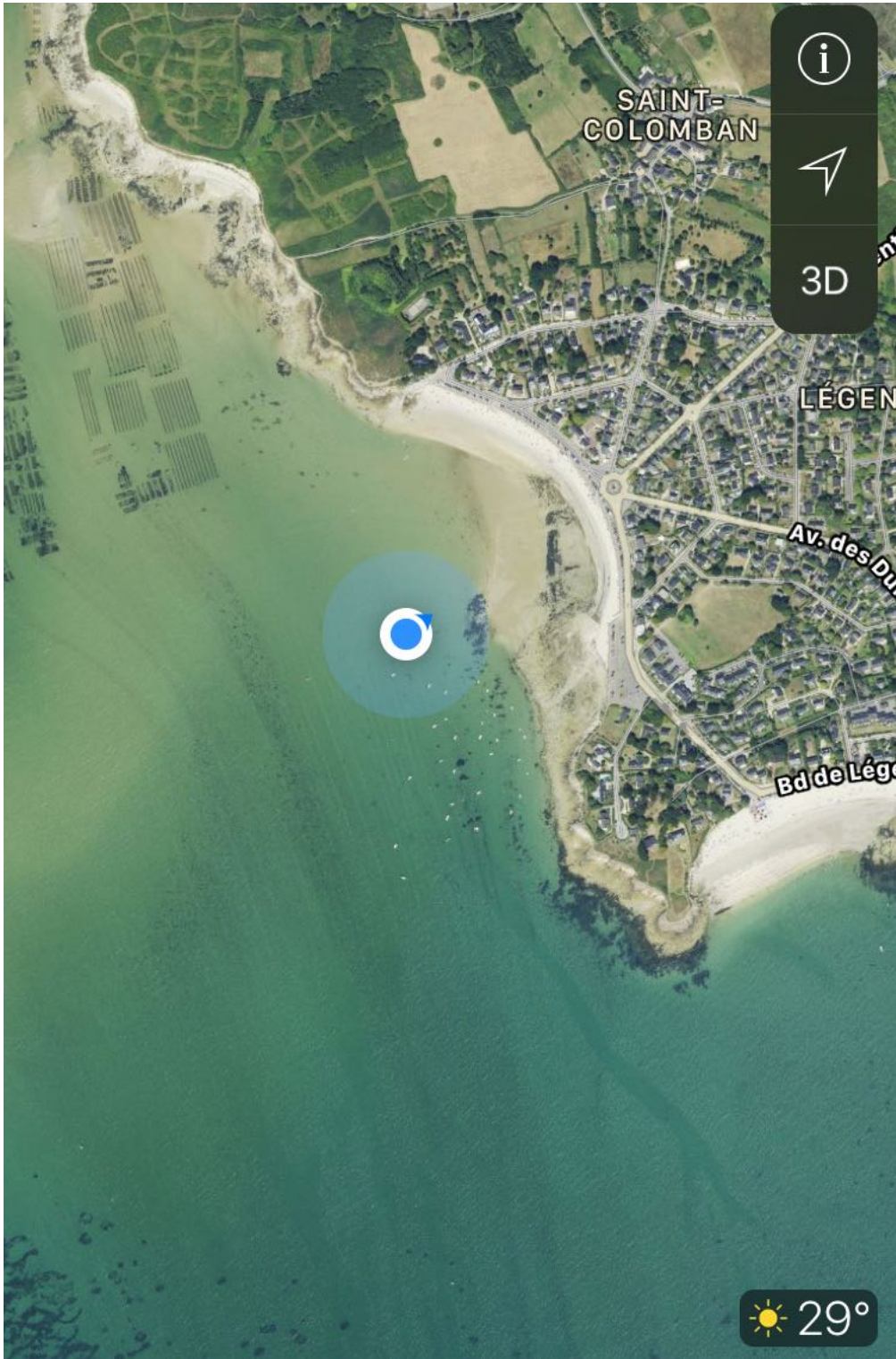
It is not far from the extraordinary Carnac alignments, but I was saving those for when I could visit later in the year with my wife.

Up river exploring on GoogleEarth showed an interesting looking quay. A trip in the dinghy threaded through the oyster beds near low water, revealing no obvious nasties. Problem was that the quay was full of local boats on the sheltered east side. The more exposed west side was clear and the bottom clean.

Next day I spoke with a woman whose boat I had seen on the quay. Neither of us were very good at the other's language, but I got the impression that the place is very much a working port and the locals do not encourage yachts. Still, she had been there in her boat (a Kelt 8.50, a type I know well). Worth a try sometime perhaps? The area around is given over to oyster culture. It has an almost overwhelming working feeling, though beside the quay there is a very pricey restaurant.

I spent several days around neaps off Plage St Colomban. Bottom is sand on mud so likely good holding. I did not dry as the place is a bit exposed, but in very settled weather it should be fine. The local boats on moorings must dry out on big springs, so I guess they survive.







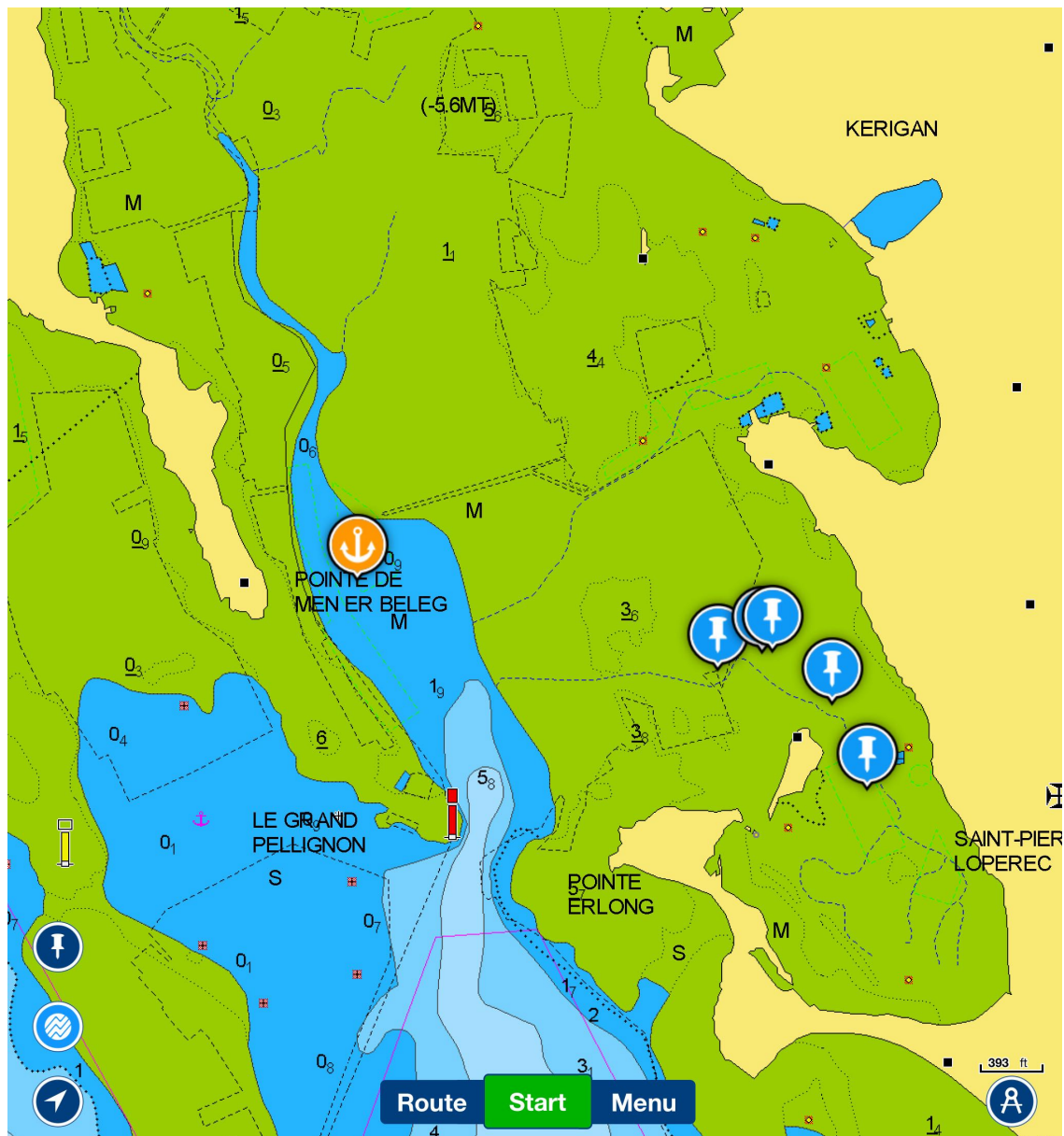
# Kerigan (St Philibert)

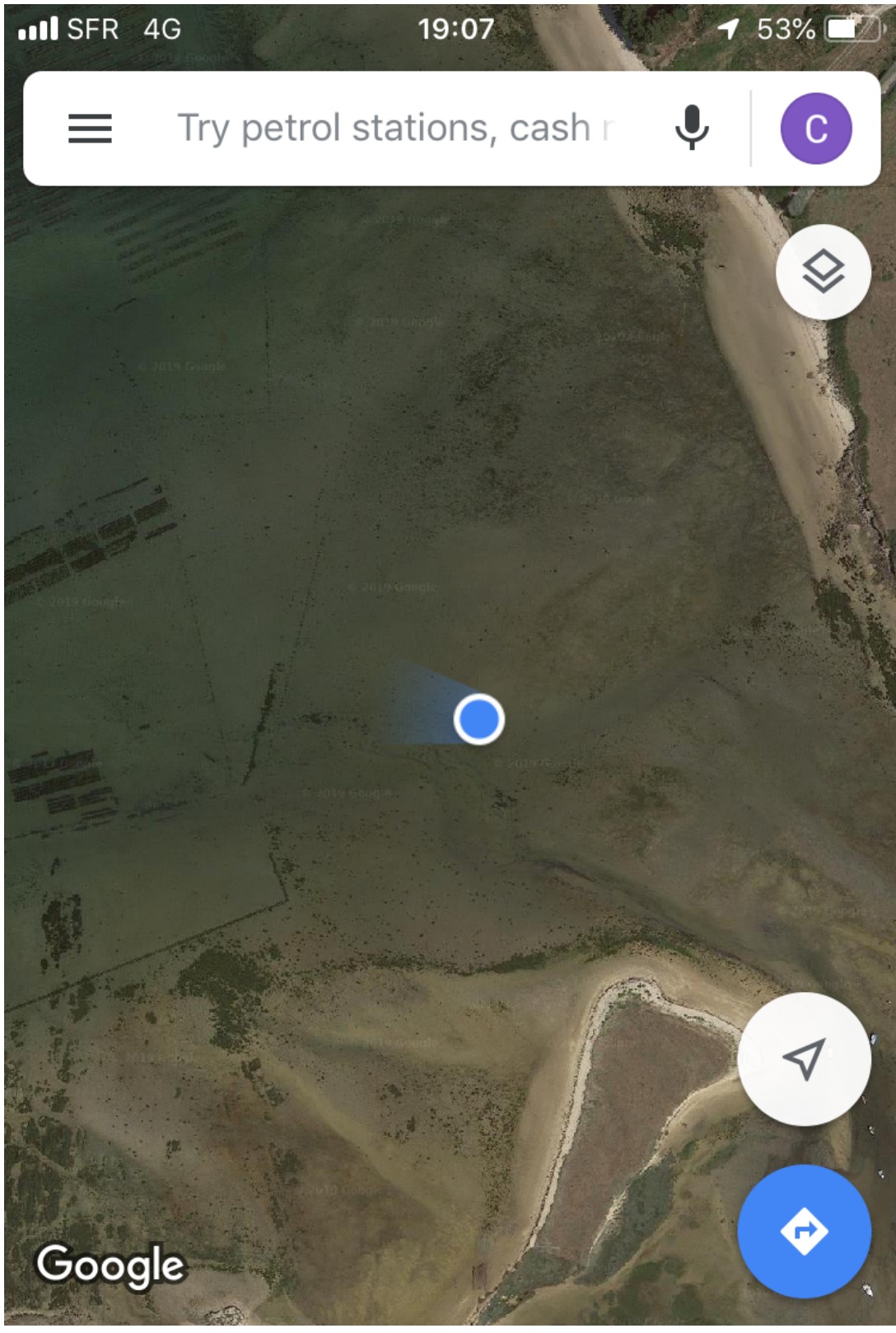
I have to thank Peter Cumberlidge and Secret Anchorages of Brittany for pointing out this fine spot. Entrance is fairly easy once you work out the location of the red beacon on the end of a spit of rocks. A bit like Sept Iles, but much larger so the aquaculture has left room for mooring and anchoring.

I had a pleasant stroll along the headland to the west of the anchorage. The bay to the west has a restaurant in season.

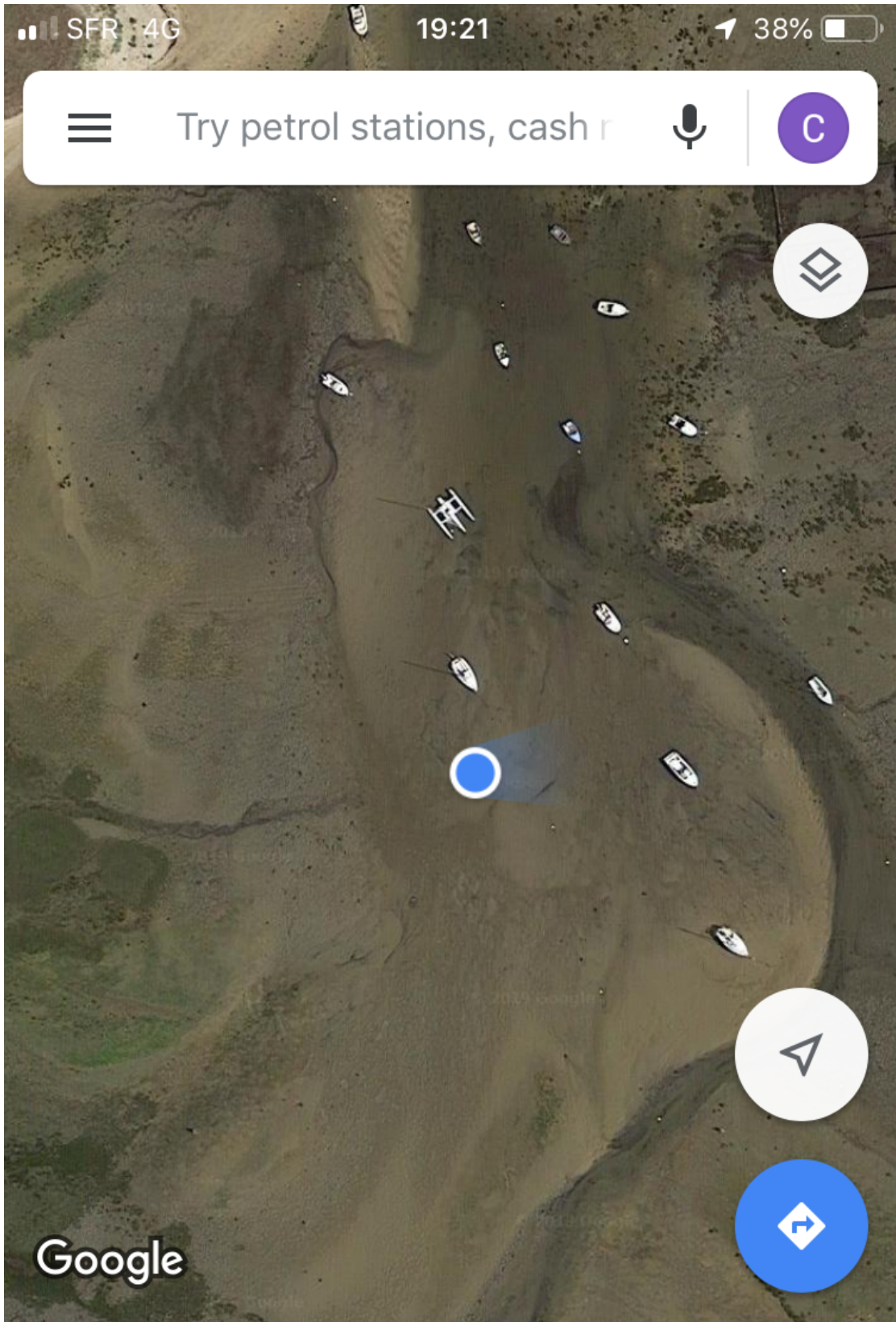
The anchor shows the spot there I stopped on a couple of occasions. The blue pins the route in to what I think would be a lovely drying spot, but did not actually do it. The photos show more of this, done on my phone when exploring on foot. There are bouchots to clear, so do have a look at low water before attempting entry.

Once in, you will be very snug and Ovni smug.









# Locmariaquer

This is a great spot if you are too late to enter the Morbihan, or just fancy a place that is more “traditional France” than tourist France.

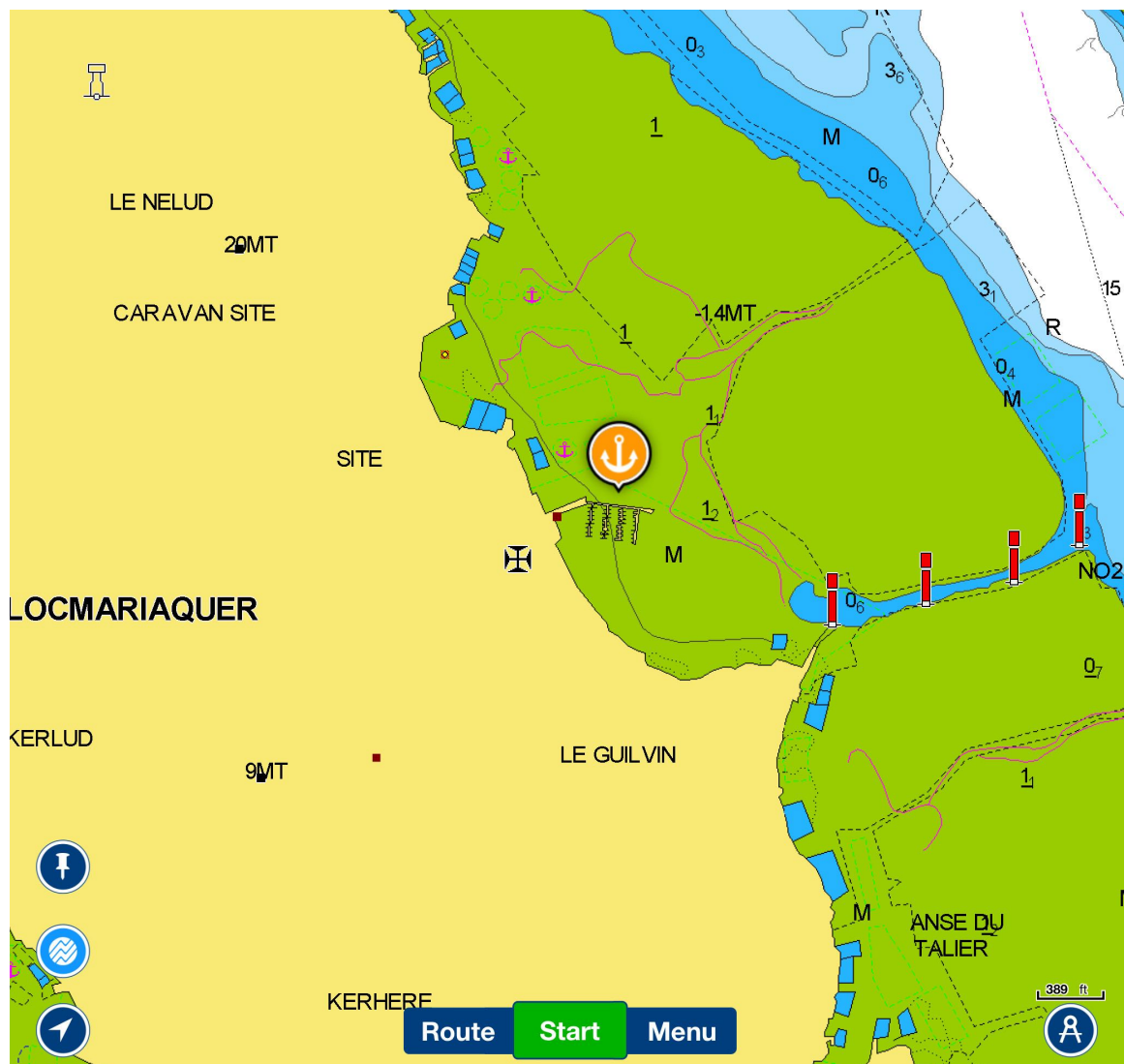
Just follow the big red poles from the main channel. Keep close to them as there are shellfish racks outside the channel. When you get to the last pole, keep outside the moorings and head for the marina. We generally found spots on the east facing outside pontoon, but there is also space on the northern side.

The harbour staff welcome visitors and are very laid back about charges.

I love this town. It has a boulangerie to die for and a well stocked Spar, where we got both food and gas refills. Nearby are some worth-visiting menhirs and ancient sites.

A walk around the headland to the south is delightful. Saw a waterspout there - never seen one before.

Alongside in the drying marina. Very civilised.







# Sept Iles (Anse de Baden)

Almost opposite Locmariaquer, on the way up to Auray. Entrance was easy enough but not much space once you are inside - the bay is given over largely to aquaculture.

It was pouring with rain while we were there, so stayed on board and watched the rain.

This was the rather tight anchorage we found. We did not totally dry and some sort of reef/disused shellfish structure appeared awash closer to the east of us than I liked. All in all, not recommended. That said, I could see a few yachts dried out on the muddy beach to the north west of where we anchored, so in nicer weather and a desire to stay for more than a tide, maybe I could have checked that out in the dinghy.





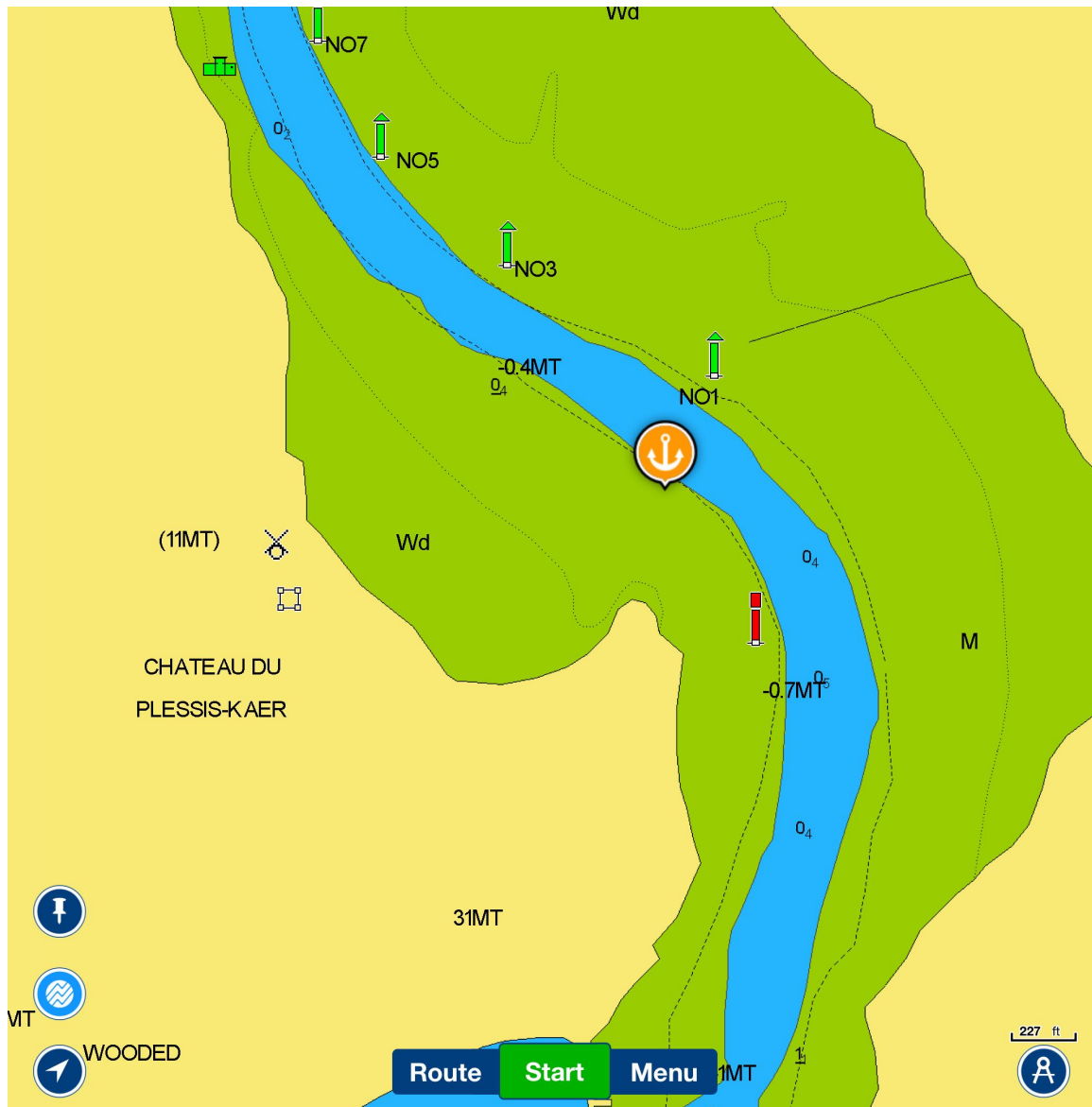
# Auray

It is an easy trip up the well marked river.

Auray itself is very crowded and busy, even out of peak season when we were there. The visitor's mooring off the town were fore and aft buoys, very close together. I am glad we did not try them.

Lovely old town, but we had very grim galettes in a place on the quay. Even in France the tourist traps can degrade standards.

We stopped a bit downstream of the road bridge and took the dinghy into town.



Chateau du Plessis-Kaer is mainly a ruin and very romantic. The mudbank where we stopped was level and clean.





# The Morbihan

As the books say, beware the tidal streams. They are seriously strong. We arrived earlier than I had planned so I should have hung around for an hour. However, I saw another Ovni going in, so that was a challenge. Of course, he was probably a local and now I have done it a few times, I would not wait for slack water.

At times we must have been doing 10 knots over the ground as we shot through the gap to the north of Port Navalo. The streams are much weaker in the northern entrance (north of Grand Vezi) but it is shallower, though mostly over 1m at datum, so assuming you are going in near high water, not a problem. But even this way, you will be hit by a very strong current as you come south past Gavrinis.

My plan was to go around the south of Hent Teen, which proved challenging. The wind was about 15kts from the south west, so as we turned south the effect of the current was to add at least 5 knots to boat speed, so suddenly we were hardening up into 20+knots apparent with full sail up and Ile de la Jument as a lee shore. A tense few moments until we were able to bear away into the channel to the south of Ile de la Jument.

The moral is keep it simple the first time. In fact the channel (as the books say...) is actually almost straight from Port Navalo to the northern end of Ile de la Jument. Just count off the islands as they fly by.

Once you are further in there are a few other spots with strongish flows, but they tend to be much more limited in extent.

The real problem with the Morbihan is that it is very crowded, with moorings and fishing structures. Ovni type anchoring options are relatively limited. OK, given the short fetch pretty much everywhere, you could in theory anchor well out from the coasts and islands, but if you want to be tucked up in some shelter and with easy dinghy distance from the shore, it is a different matter.

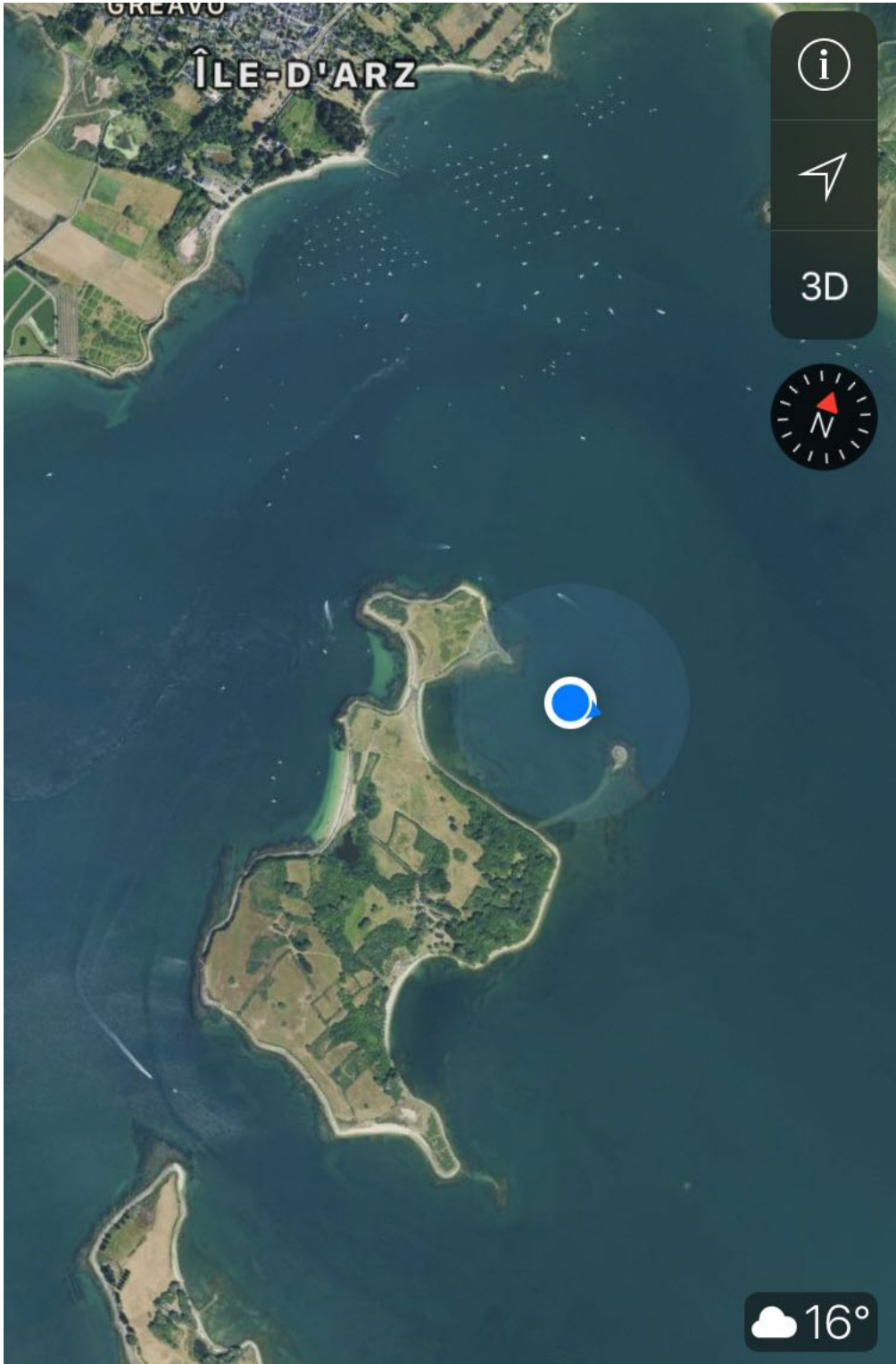
A number of the islands are private and by repute, the big island, Ile aux Moines is very touristy. We explored Ile d'Arz, which was quiet and pretty, and Ile Illur, which has been purchased by a charity and is run as a nature reserve. Lovely walking and there is an interpretation centre and some evidence of various nature based activities.

But then there is Vannes. What a lovely city with friendly marina staff.

I will cover these separately. Ile Illur, Ile D'Arz, and Near Vannes.



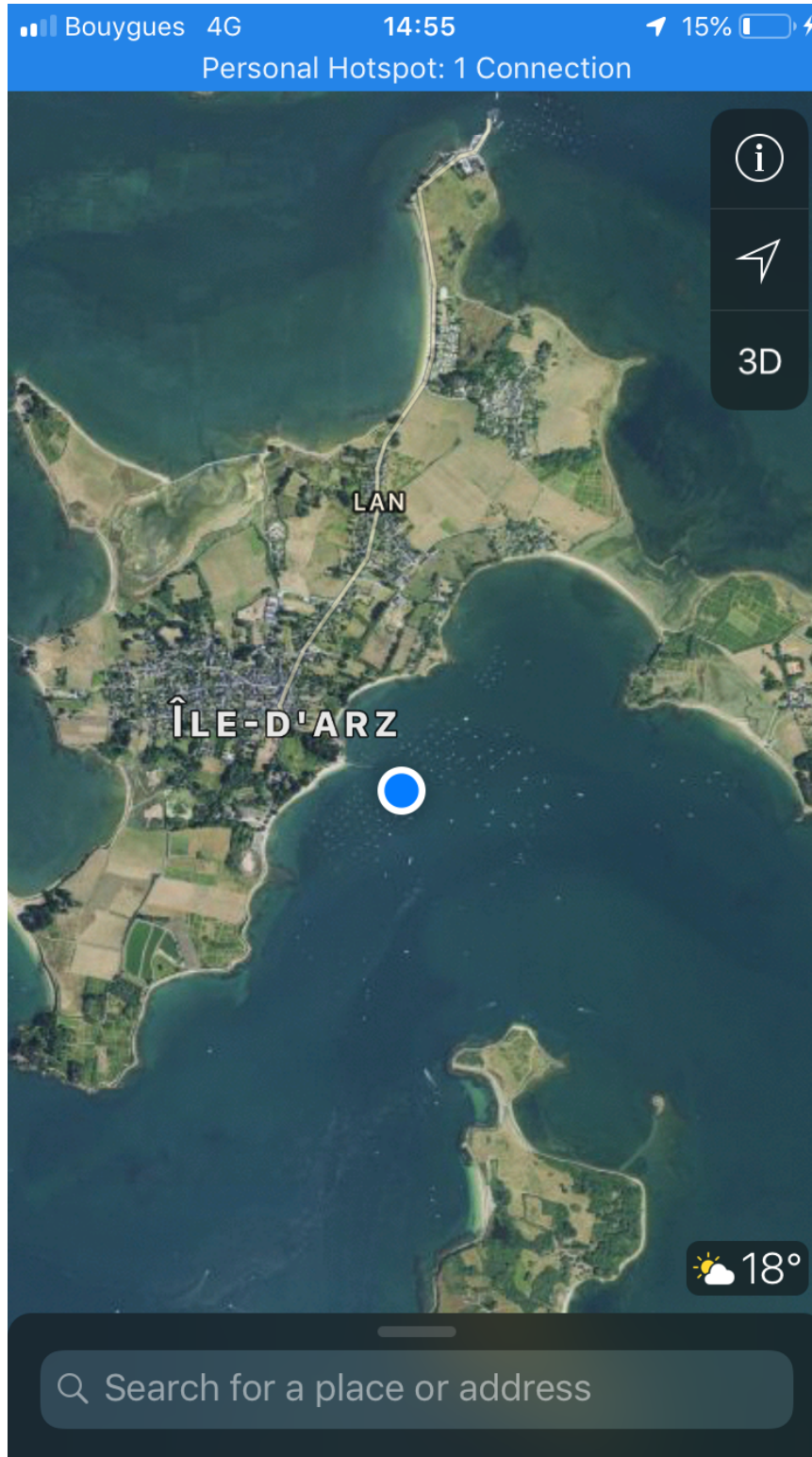




# Ile D'Arz

No great issues, just a lot of moorings to negotiate.

Pretty villages and good places to eat.





# Ile de Lern

I managed to find shelter from a stiff south westerly, somewhere around the yellow circle. I did not record the actual spot on the plotter.

I got the strong impression this island is Private and did not venture ashore.



# Near Vannes

The channel up to Vannes is reasonably well marked and described in pilot books. The creeks are mostly stuffed with moorings, so anchoring is difficult until you get to area by the sharp left turn north to the straight channel into Vannes. Here it is much more open and a soft mud bottom.

We just watched the sounder as we headed south east from the main channel and kept going (on a falling tide) until the plate started to drag in the mud. I checked the bottom with the lead and boathook - soft squidgy mud, so we dropped the hook and had a lovely quiet night before going up to Vannes the next day.

No exploring from the anchorage - you are surrounded by a sea of soft mud. But of course Vannes has all you could want from a Breton city, and the welcoming marina is at the heart of things.





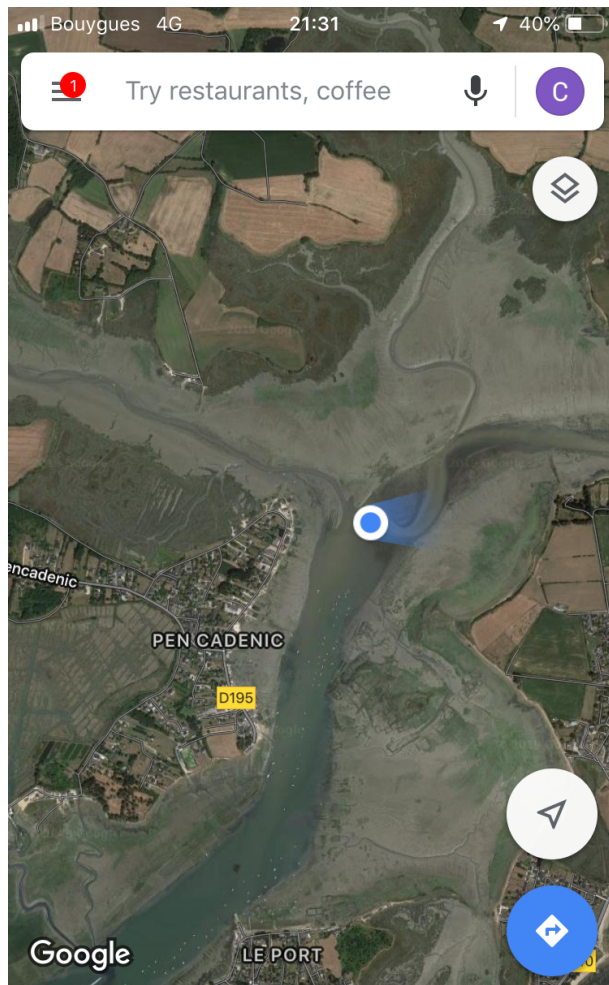
# Penerf

The North Biscay Pilot makes this place sound rather intimidating, but we found it easy enough. It is well marked and at dead low water, when we entered, the rocks were obvious. With more water they quickly submerge but the red Le Pignon is very prominent and enables you to keep your bearings. I guess without a plotter and GPS it would be rather more traumatic. The pilot book describes a transit involving a church spire - which now seems to be hidden by trees. Once through the entrance the river is wide and well marked by navigation marks and moored boats. The ebb runs strongly and with wind against tide it gets bumpy. The moral is to go well up the river.

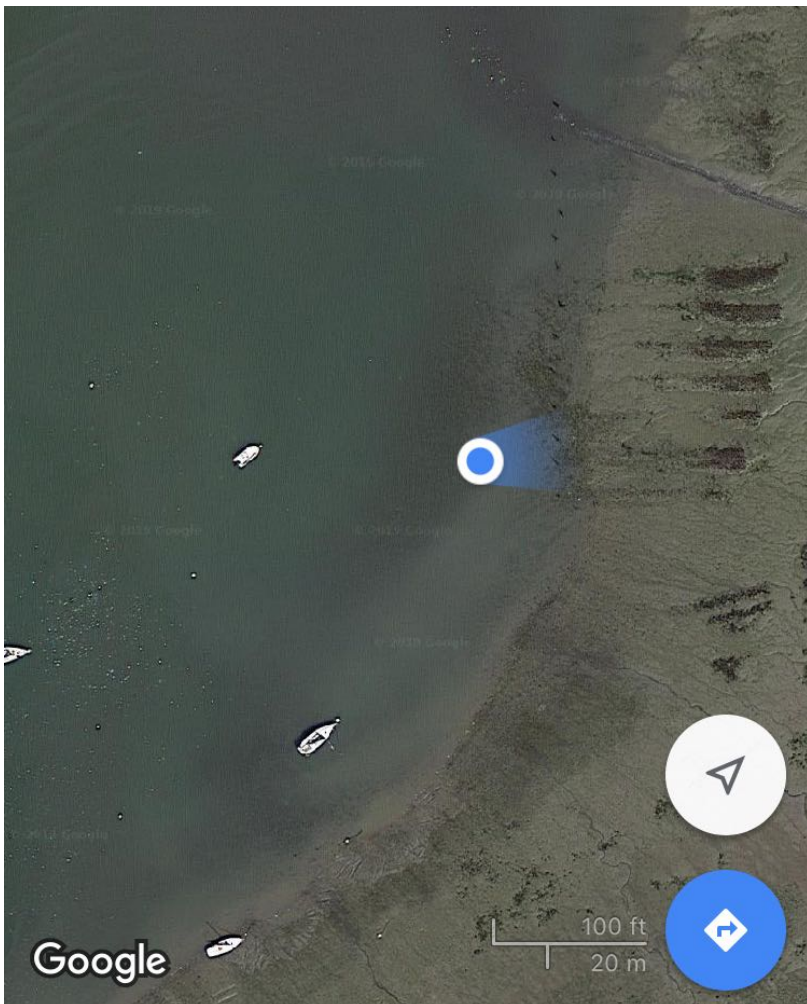
Pen Cadenic is very much a working village, given over to the shellfish trade. However, the cafe on the quay did a good simple lunch. Pénerf is prettier, more of a holiday town with cafés in the square.

I have anchored in two spots. One north of Pen Cadenic, which did not quite dry but had an even bottom of very squidgy mud. A trickier spot was off Pénerf where I managed to get very close to the stakes of the oyster farm, but they were actually never nearer than 20m away, though they looked closer. I had to check the calibration of my rangefinder before I could relax.

Pen Cadenic



Penerf - a bit too close to the oyster farm stakes, which actually show on the satellite image.





In chart below, pin shows a safer place to stop.



# Billiers

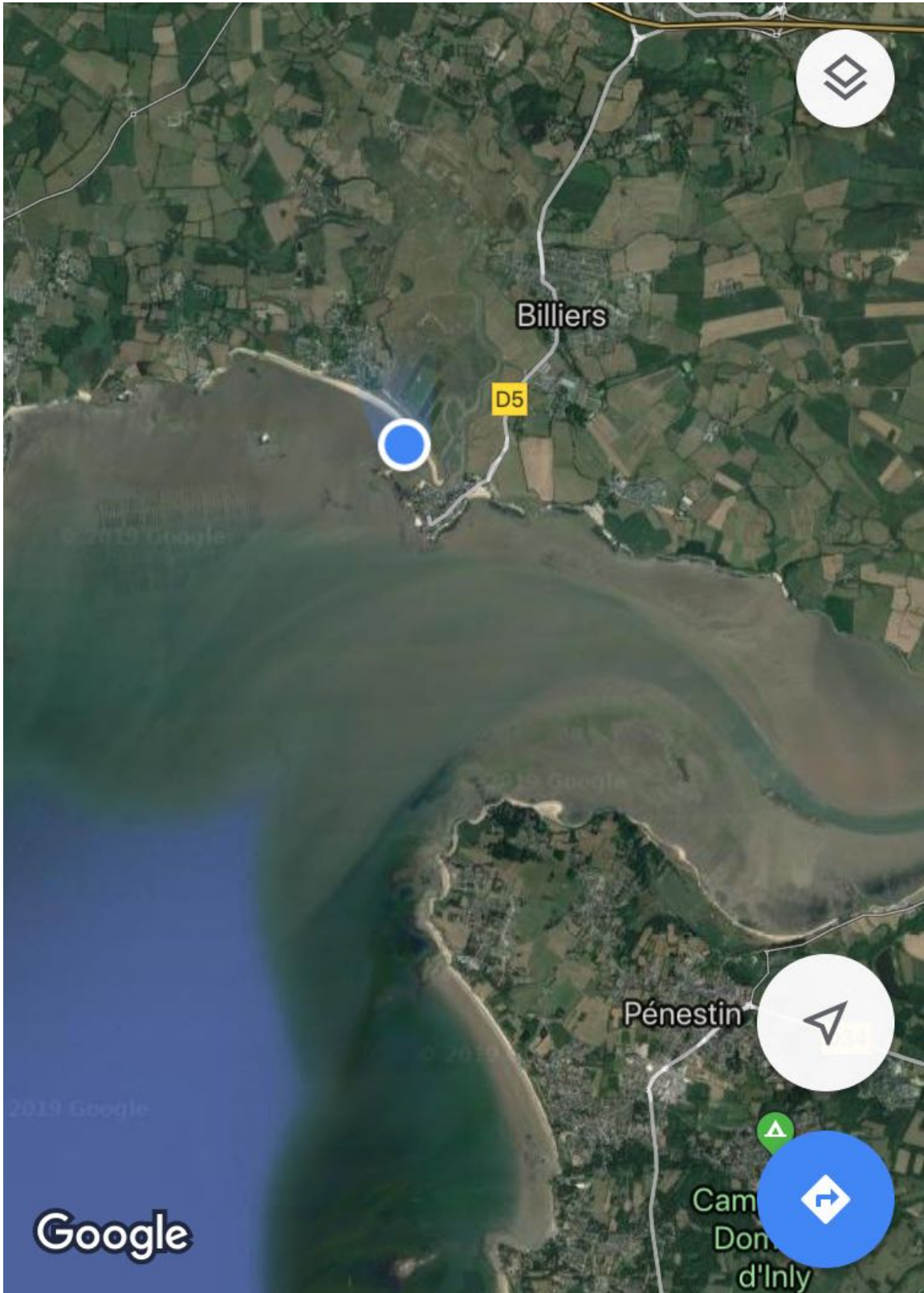
I bumped my way in a while after low water - about 3.0m above datum. The big rocks in the entrance were easy enough to miss and then the channel was marked. I got to the second starboard hand marker and turned off to port towards the beach and carried on until we came to a halt. Bottom was flat sandy mud so a good spot to stop

The actual harbour is small and tricky. Pilot books say you can dry out alongside the quay, but the bottom looked very uneven and littered with oyster shell. Guess it would be OK in extremis. The river is narrow with steep sides. It should be possible to anchor up towards Billiers, clear of the moorings, but would need fore and aft anchoring so as to dry in the middle. There would not be much of a view due to the high banks and getting ashore would be difficult, so not really worth the effort.

Drying spots on the beach on port side of the channel. A few isolated rocks and obstacles (marked with the pins) - one being a wheelie bin! Close in to the point the shelter would be good from north round to south, through east and probably safe to dry since the reefs in the bay should break up any swell towards low water. Not so sure about winds with any west in them. When I was there the winds were settled NE so no swell and perfect for drying out. Bottom is sand on mud so excellent holding and firm enough to walk ashore.









Billiers quay with Rosi in background



The quay at low water. Bottom is rough and uneven.





Aground at Billiers



Anchored at Billiers



# Sauzon

The entrance was pretty straightforward. I approached from the northwest and recall that the entrance did not show up until later than I expected. It was not long after low water when I arrived, so I just drove at the entrance to the drying part of the harbour and bumped up with the flood.

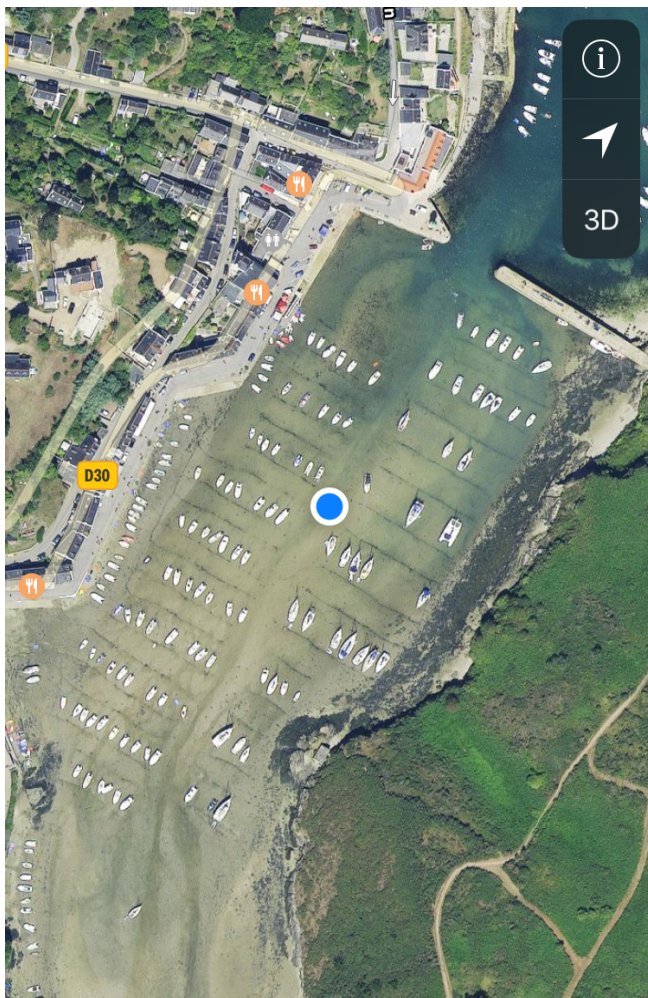
The mooring buoys (port hand on the way in for visitors) are close together and access could be interesting when the harbour is crowded, especially if there was a cross wind. For me it was easy as there were only a few other boats there - two of them Ovnis.

Very much a holiday place, so I struggled to buy groceries, but there were good places to eat on the quay. As the harbour completely dries there are long periods when you can simply walk ashore across the hard sand bottom.

I picked up one of the pairs of visitors moorings, made easier by the fact that I was dragging the keel through the sand and it anchored Rosi while I fiddled about in the dinghy with ropes.

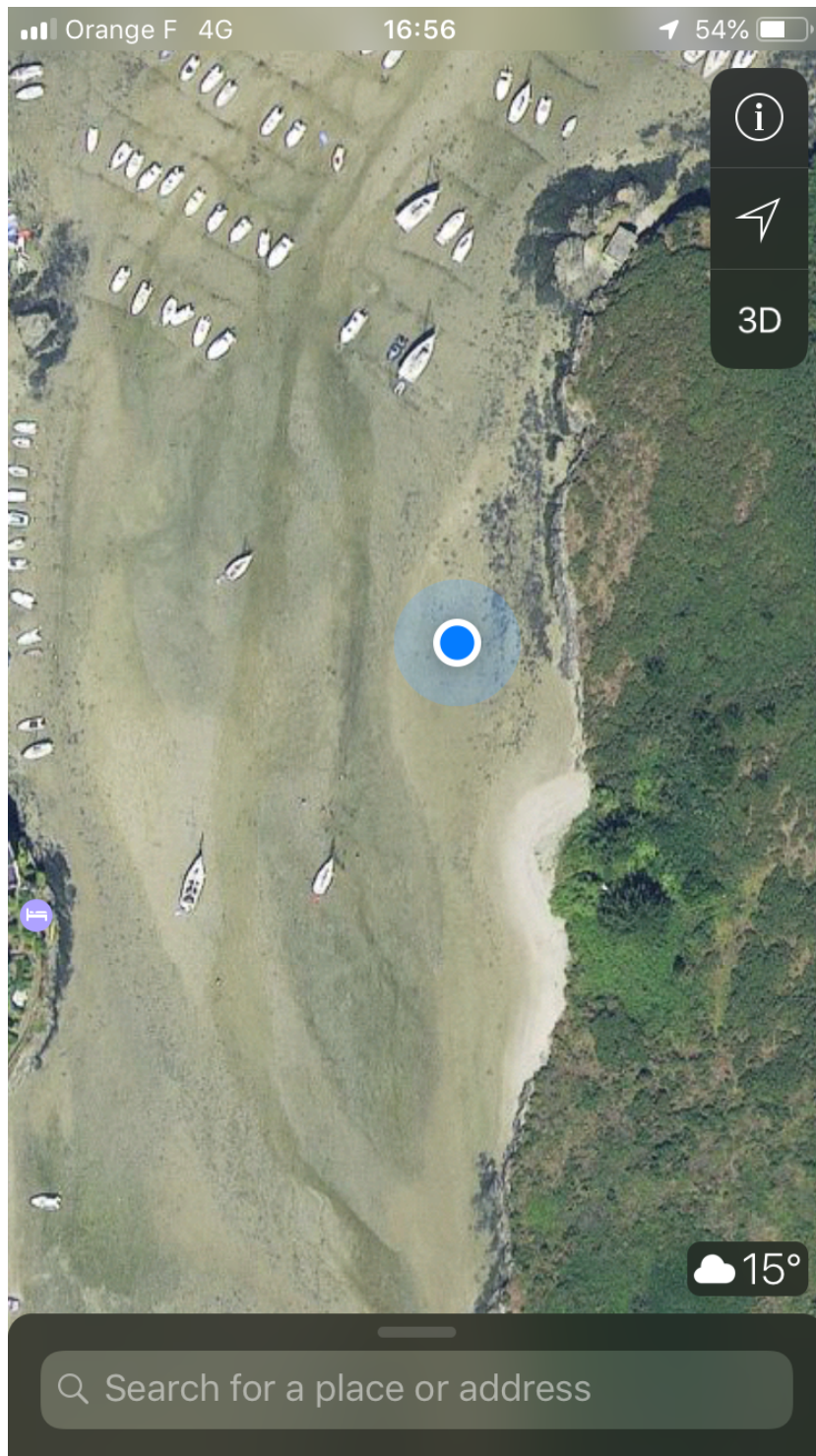
The harbour charges a modest fee (sorry cannot recall how much) for the use of their buoys, but drying out to an anchor further uptake harbour is free.

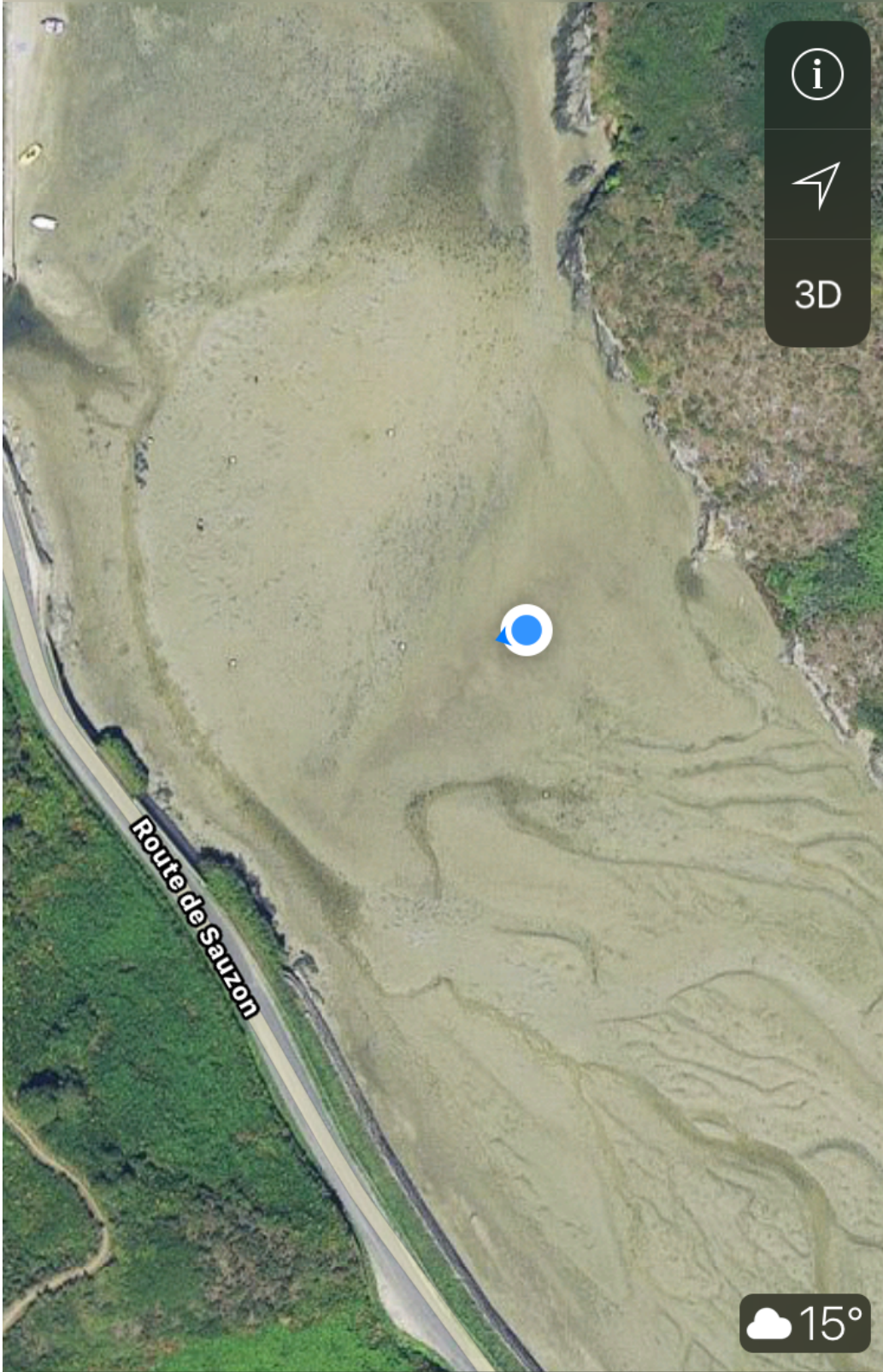
This was the spot where I stopped.





I checked out the two spots below on foot and they looked OK - clean and level. There are some undulations in the bottom, so be careful.





Information icon (i)  
Location pin icon  
3D

Weather icon (cloud) 15°

Search for a place or address



# Port de Morin (Noirmoutier)

The harbour dries. The charts do not give a drying height, but it dried right out with just a dribble at the entrance when I was there in a tide with 1.0m at low water. Better to assume 2m drying height to be safe. In the offing there are a few lumps and bumps drying to around 2m, so if there is enough water to get in, they are not much of a threat and are marked by buoys.

The marina is reasonably spacious, so going in and having a look around for a spot to stop is not too nerve wracking. Everyone very welcoming.

The bottom is thick, gloopy, smelly black mud. It heavily stained the anti-fouling.



I found the island enchanting. The building style must be very strictly controlled, all low rise, white houses, mainly with blue shutters and red tile roofs. Lots of cycle paths and good shops. The marina is a bit sparse, but the cafe closest to the harbour office is very friendly and the limited menu was good food.

Historically it has been a salt producing place - with extensive slat flats still in evidence behind the marina. The are worked by hand and shops sell the expensive, exclusive result.

The chart shows an anchorage in 0.3m on sand outside the harbour. It is probably fine though I did not use it as I was in need of a shower and also wanted to get my bike ashore to explore, which is much easier from a pontoon.

One thing I did discover is that on the beach close to the east of the harbour entrance (where I was initially thinking of anchoring) there are patches of rocks. These are not shown

on the charts, but appear in the sketch chart in the harbour office. So, to be on the safe side, better to anchor outside the drying line. The alternative, if you want to go further in, is to have a swim around once you are anchored (something I generally try to do even if the bottom looks very clean - see Port Louis for a cautionary tale.)

Port Morin as on the chart. Beach appears clean to east of harbour entrance.

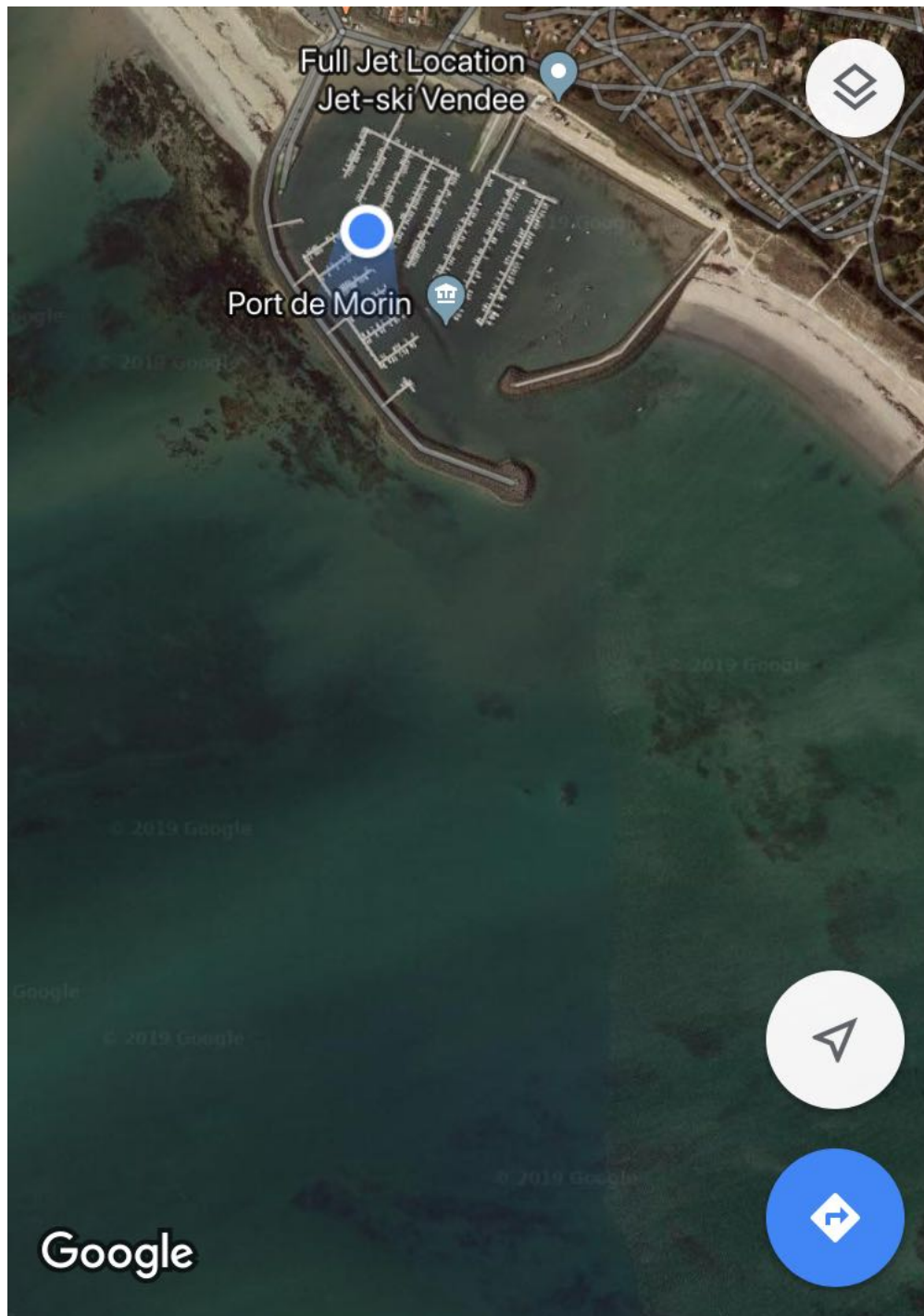




But the chart in the marina office shows Les Nourrauds rocks.



Les Nourrauds are also visible on Google Earth





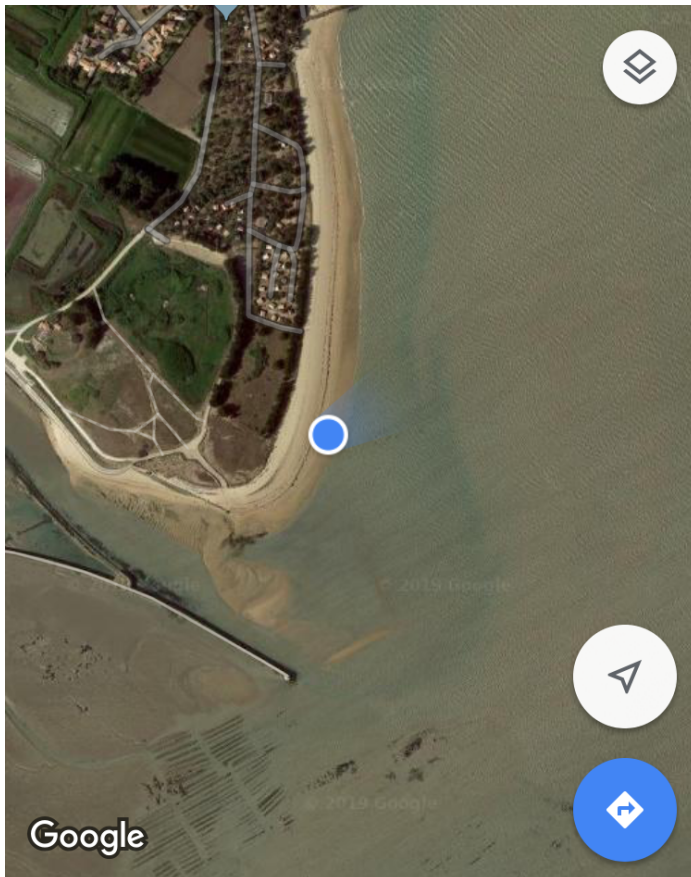
# Nourmoutier en L'île

I did not actually use this place, so these are just reconnaissance thoughts.

A fine town with lost of eating choices.



There is very organised pêche à pied at the mouth of the river. Bottom is hard sand, so would be safe enough to dry out on in settled weather.





The channel up to the town ends in a muddy creek with steepish sides in places. These spots look like possibilities.







# Portz Carnaquis (Houat)

The wind was forecast to be from the north east, so I did not fancy the main anchorage at Houat (the big open bay at the east end of the island. Lovely in the right weather....)

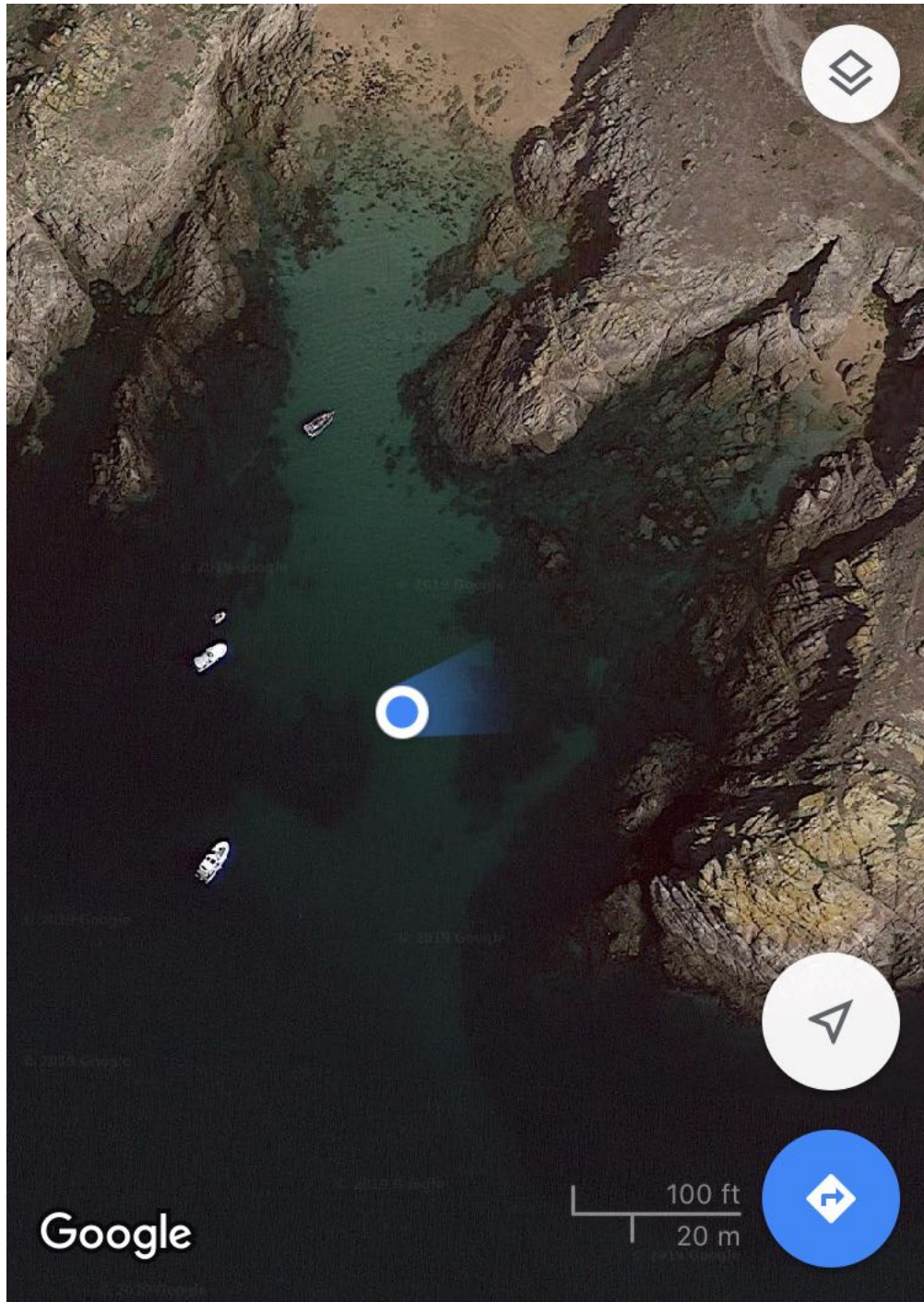
The bay on the other side of the peninsular was heaving with yachts that clearly had the same idea, so I headed further west, thinking to anchor in one of the sandy bays, but they too were busy. Then I spotted Portz Carnaquis on Google Earth so decided to give it a try. The satellite image showed a clean bottom if entered from due south, and that did work, but there was not a lot of space given the tidal range and my need for 5:1 scope if I am going to have a decent sleep. Lovely walking along the coast.

The anchorage was tricky. Here is what Navionics made of where I ended up.





And on my phone.





From ashore there seemed to be more space, but in a shifting, gusty wind I ended up much too close to those rocks in the foreground for comfort. It was time to put out the stern anchor to keep Rosi in place. That worked fine.

Not truly an Ovni spot in that it was not a drying anchorage, but got down to only a couple of metre or so under the hull at low water.

