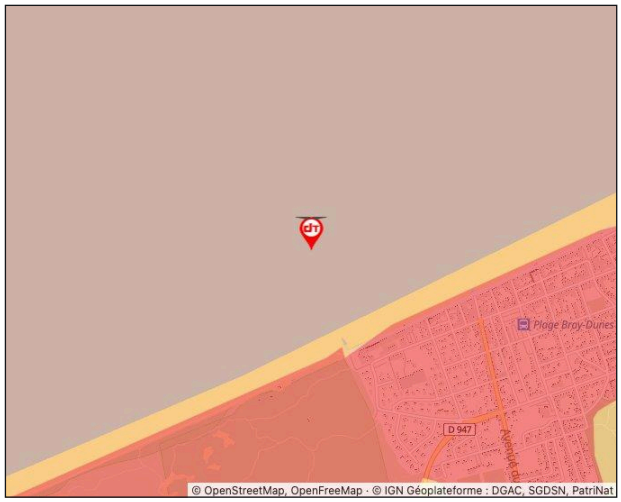
Wrecks in Bray-Dunes

Heritage · Nord

GPS coordinates	51.08034, 2.50509
Elevation	0 m
Maximum height	50 m max
Access	On foot < 1,000 m
Nearest aerodrome	Dunkerque – Les Moëres Airfield (LFAK) 5.4 km SE · same altitude as the spot
Spot reference	301658



Spot location and restrictions (Drone-Spot map image)

Sun (local times, UTC+01:00)

Day	Dawn	Sunrise	Sunset	Dusk	Day length	Golden hour
Mon 23 Nov	07:42	08:20	16:53	17:31	8 h 33	08:20–09:15 · 15:58–16:53
Tue 24 Nov	07:44	08:21	16:52	17:30	8 h 31	08:21–09:17 · 15:57–16:52
Wed 25 Nov	07:45	08:23	16:51	17:29	8 h 28	08:23–09:19 · 15:55–16:51

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Dunkerque – Les Moëres Airfield	Aerodrome	5.4 km SE	-1 m
Centre Hospitalier Heliport	Heliport	9.0 km SW	17 m
Koksijde Air Base	Airport	10 km E	6 m
Sint-Augustinus heliport	Heliport	12 km E	4 m

Description

Arranged along the beach for a distance of about 500 m, the three wrecks are visible at low tide, only the Denovia will be visible at high tide. These wrecks protrude a few dozen centimetres above the sand. Careful, these are places of memory... First wreck, the Crested Eagle, a 91.40m long paddlewheel steamer. Engaged in Operation Dynamo (an operation to recover British and French soldiers from Dunkirk), was destroyed on 28 May 1940 by bombing and fire. Second wreck, the Vonette, three 31m long wooden schooner masts. Stranded after a storm on December 24, 1929. Her cargo of salt was destroyed by the sea when she ran aground. Third wreck, the Devonia, a 74.68m long paddlewheel steamer. Engaged in Operation Dynamo, was damaged by a bombing raid, it deliberately failed on 30 May 1940. Unfortunately visible only at high tides.

Scan to open the up-to-date spot page: weather, map and restrictions.

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=301658

Before every flight: check the UAS zones map, NOTAMs and temporary areas, the weather and the Kp index.

Preparing the flight

Pre-flight Check-List

- ☐ Area checked: UAS zones, restrictions, protected areas
- ☐ NOTAMs and temporary areas checked
- ☐ Weather: wind, gusts, rain, visibility; Kp index
- ☐ Operator number displayed on the drone
- ☐ Training certificate or licence with me
- ☐ Third-party liability insurance checked
- ☐ Batteries charged: drone, controller, phone
- ☐ Propellers, motors and frame in good condition
- ☐ Memory card inserted and empty
- ☐ Software up to date, compass and IMU calibrated
- ☐ Return to home: home point and return height set
- ☐ Electronic signalling or remote ID active
- ☐ Take-off area clear, people informed and at a distance
- ☐ Observer present for FPV flights

Key rules of the open category

Recreational flying in France: European open-category rules, applied by the DGAC.

- Maximum height: 120 m above the ground, lower where a restriction requires it.
- Always keep the drone in sight; when flying FPV, an observer keeps it in sight next to you.
- Never fly over crowds and keep the distances of your subcategory (A1, A2 or A3).
- Respect UAS geographical zones: around aerodromes, prohibited or restricted areas, protected areas, sensitive sites.
- Register as an operator if the drone weighs 250 g or more or carries a camera (toys excepted), and display the number on the drone.
- Training: online A1/A3 certificate from 250 g or for a class C1 drone; A2 certificate to fly closer to people with a class C2 drone.
- Always give way to manned aircraft and land if one approaches.
- Respect privacy: no images that identify people without their consent; aerial photography is prohibited in some areas.
- Check your third-party liability insurance.
- In France: registration and training on AlphaTango (DGAC); a drone of 800 g or more must broadcast electronic signalling (or the remote ID of class-marked drones).

Non-exhaustive summary: rules change. Reference: the DGAC open-category guide and the country's regulations.

Useful links

UAS zones map around the spot : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/carte-uas.aspx?lat=51.08034&lon=2.50509
Drone pilot library : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/bibliotheque
DGAC open-category guide (French) : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/bibliotheque/guide-categorie-ouverte
Registration and training (AlphaTango) : https://alphatango.aviation-civile.gouv.fr
NOTAMs and temporary areas (SOFIA Briefing) : https://sofia-briefing.aviation-civile.gouv.fr

My flight notes

Information sheet generated by Drone-Spot from community data: it replaces neither official aeronautical information nor the regulations. The remote pilot remains responsible for the flight.