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HMS ASTUTE



Whilst the waters round Pabay are surprisingly busy you do not often wake up one morning and see a large submarine aground! The HMS Astute ran aground on a muddy, shingle bar near the Skye Bridge. Pabay has issued a stamp to record the incident as it is once in a lifetime event (We hope). Knowing the waters around the island well we are not going to make any comment on the unfortunate occurrence. We are glad to report that there were no casualties and the craft was eventually towed to deeper waters.

The photo on the stamp was taken using a telephoto lens and shows HMS Astute being towed off the bank by the Coastguard tug Anglia Prince. It was later reported that the tug actually caused some damage to the sub! You can clearly see the eastern end of Pabay on the left hand side of the stamp.

Some facts about HMS Astute

She is 318 feet long and is a third longer than any previous submarine and her nuclear engines provide forward speed of 20 knots.

The crew of 98 will be served by a plant that converts sea water into fresh water and oxygen.

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