

NEW FOREST, HAMPSHIRE AND SOUTH DOWNS

Outstanding Circular Walks

Pathfinder® Guides



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guides

Coasting around Keyhaven

Start The Gun Inn, Keyhaven

Distance Pennington loop: 5¼ miles (8.5km) / Hurst Beach 2 miles (3.3km) each way

Height gain n/a

Approximate time 4 hours

Parking Keyhaven Pay and Display car park, opposite the pub. Limited free roadside parking nearby (4 hours maximum stay)

Route terrain Country tracks and exposed sea wall paths, with an optional ferry crossing – check www.hurstcastle.co.uk for timings, fares and castle opening hours

Dog friendly Dogs must be led near farm animals

Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 196 (The Solent & Isle of Wight), Explorer OL22 (New Forest)

GPS waypoints

-  SZ 306 914
-  SZ 308 916
-  SZ 311 931
-  SZ 317 935
-  SZ 322 936
-  SZ 327 933
-  SZ 299 908
-  SZ 317 898

With its coast and country, world class bird watching and stunning views of the Isle of Wight – not to mention a Tudor castle, two pubs, a café and optional ferry trip, this route can justly claim to have it all. It's a flexible walk, too, with two distinct sections that both start and finish at Keyhaven. You can do the whole route in a single day, or complete the Pennington loop in an afternoon and save Hurst Beach for another day. What's more, the little Hurst Castle ferry is a firm favourite with children.

Looking towards Hurst Castle



Pennington Marshes nature reserve is internationally important for the large numbers of seabirds – including common terns, black-headed gulls and oystercatchers – that breed and feed here. In winter thousands of Brent geese visit the marshes. The large creeks penetrating the salt marsh provide them with fish, and at low water wading birds like dunlin and

Warsash waterside and woodland

Start Passage Lane car park, Warsash

Distance 4 miles (6.3km)

Height gain 130 feet (40m)

Approximate time 2 hours

Parking At the start

Route terrain Mainly well-made coastal and woodland paths

Dog friendly Please lead dogs and scoop the poop in the woodland park and nature reserve

Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 196 (The Solent & Isle of Wight), Explorer OL3 (Meon Valley)

GPS waypoints

-  SU 489 062
-  A SU 489 075
-  B SU 489 084
-  C SU 497 081
-  D SU 497 078

This is a walk in two halves. Setting off from Warsash, the route follows the Solent Way along a narrow causeway between the lower reaches of the River Hamble and a series of tidal lagoons.

Turning inland, the walk threads its way past the lakes and waterfalls of Holly Hill Woodland Park, before cutting back through a local nature reserve to rejoin the Solent Way.

After the wide-open vistas of the Hamble with its seabirds, sailing yachts and characteristic moorings, the walk climbs gently up Crableck Lane to reach the woodland park. It was laid out in the 1880s by Quintin Hogg – grandfather of the eponymous Conservative

politician. George Winn, who built the privately owned Edwardian mansion near the main entrance to the park, later bought Holly Hill.

Do make time at the end of your walk to take the short ferry trip across the river to explore the village of Hamble-le-Rice; details of the service are posted at www.hambleferry.co.uk

Wrecked hull at Warsash



 Leave the car park by the gap next to the public toilets and turn right onto the Solent Way footpath. Pass the pink Hamble Ferry shelter and follow the winding causeway beside the River Hamble with

Hawkhill Inclosure and Beaulieu Heath

Start Hawkhill Inclosure Forestry England car park

Distance 4½ miles (6.8km)

Height gain 80 feet (25m)

Approximate time 2½ hours

Parking Hawkhill Inclosure FE car park, off B3055, west of Hatchet Pond between Brockenhurst and Beaulieu

Route terrain Good, gently undulating forest tracks; flat heath, pony paths and old aerodrome taxiway

Dog friendly Dogs must be led near grazing animals

Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 196 (The Solent & Isle of Wight), Explorer OL22 (New Forest)

GPS waypoints

-  SU 350 019
-  A SU 348 025
-  B SU 354 025
-  C SU 355 018
-  D SU 353 016
-  E SU 350 013
-  F SU 358 007
-  G SU 360 009

This is a lovely walk for high summer, when good numbers of woodland and heathland butterflies may be seen. The figure-of-eight route encounters two distinctive New Forest landscapes: the first half is in glorious mixed woodland of Scots pine, stands of oak and scattered birch with trackside drainage ditches, trickling streams, boggy pools and attendant dragonflies; the second half is across the heather-clad Beaulieu Heath (at its glorious best in August), the site of a former aerodrome where model aircraft regularly take to the skies.

Southern Hawker dragonfly





SCALE 1:25000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM

grassy ride continues straight ahead. Now the trail curves back to the right, and your way is barred by a set of wooden Inclosure gates across the track.

Hidden in the woods on your left at this point, the Victoria Tilery Cottage offers an interesting insight into life and property values in the mid-19th century. As part of the deal for its line through the New Forest, the Southampton and Dorchester Railway Company established a £12,000 compensation fund to finance drainage projects in the open forest. The Victoria Brick and Tile Works was founded at

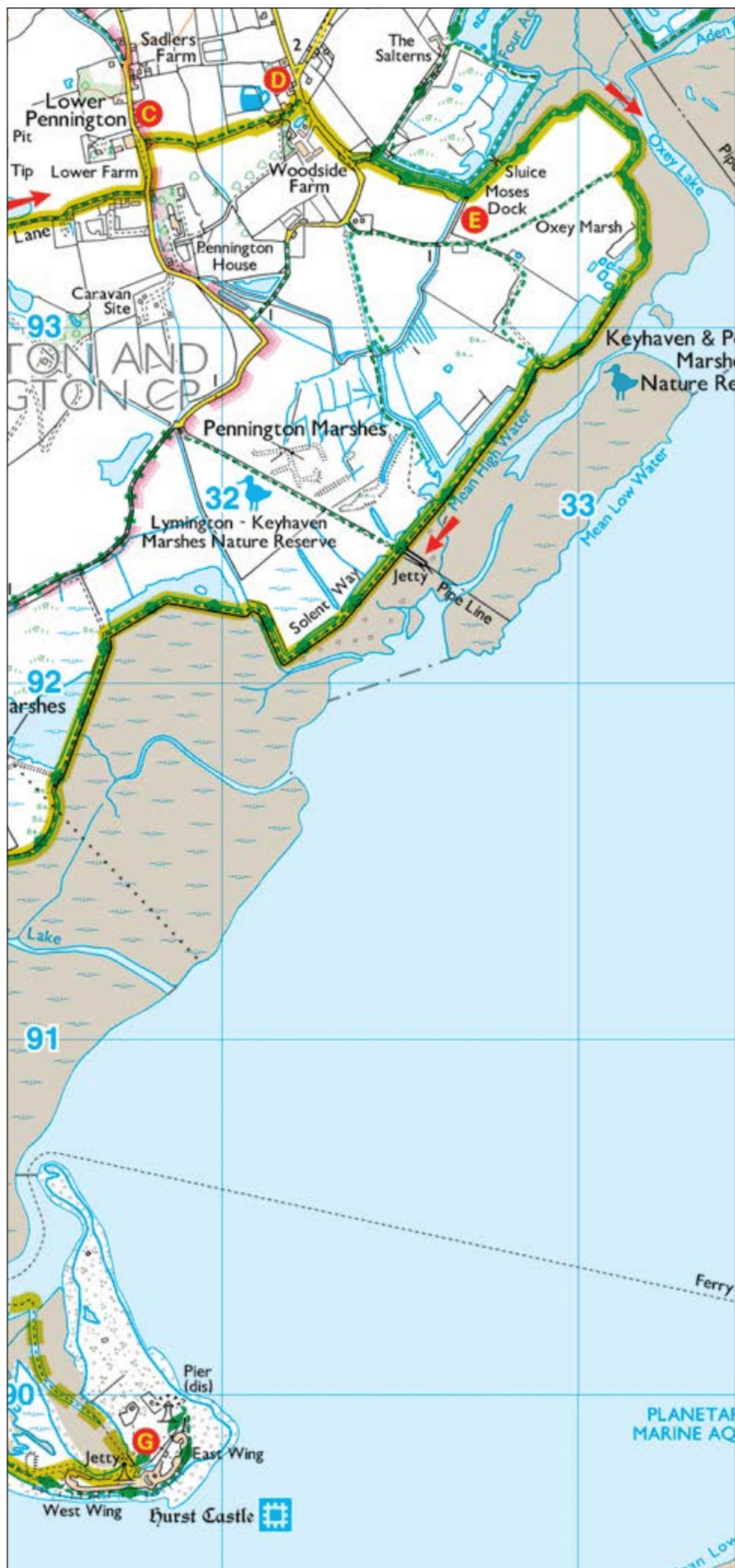
0 200 400 600 800 METRES 1 KILOMETRES
0 200 400 600 YARDS $\frac{1}{2}$ MILES

Pignal Hill at about the same time, and supplied some of the tiles used in this work. The company's accounts include reference to a cottage built by a Mr Waterman in the late 1840s for a cost of just £40. This may be the former manager's bungalow, now known as the Victoria Tilery Cottage.

Go through the pedestrian gate **H** and follow the track around to the left for the last 220 yards back to the car park.

crossing two more stiles before the path ends at Chequers Green. Continue along

0 200 400 600 800 METRES 1 KILOMETRES
0 200 400 600 YARDS $\frac{1}{2}$ MILES



the drive beside the cottages to join the village road at a letterbox **D**.

Just on your left, **The Chequers** makes a welcome break. To continue the walk, turn right along the lane; then, a few

paces beyond the drive to Creek Cottage, turn left onto the enclosed gravel path running parallel with the cottage drive. Bear right after 100 yards, just as you reach a former salt dock, and join the waymarked Solent Way along the bank of the dock with the water on your left. Turn left through a wicket gate **E**, then up the steps beside the sluice and keep ahead along the sea wall path.

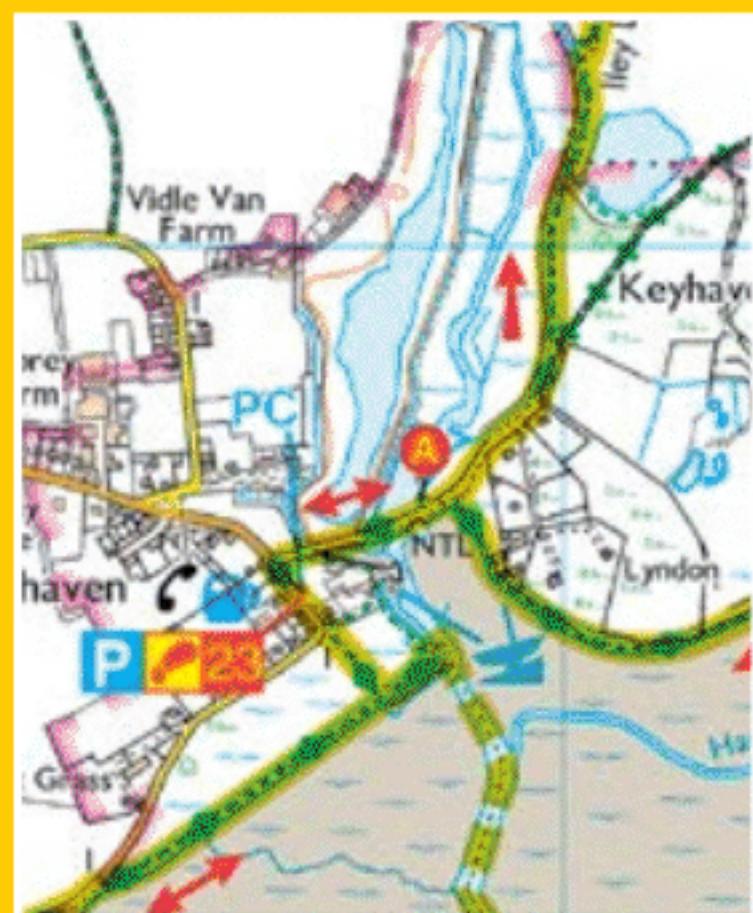
From here, route finding is as simple as following the sea wall back to Keyhaven, freeing you to admire the wildlife and breathtaking views. Hurst Castle stands out clearly in the foreground, and flotillas of small sailing craft plough the Solent in a constantly changing panorama that stretches from Newtown to the Needles.

On the landward side, large numbers of seabirds feed around the fringes of shallow

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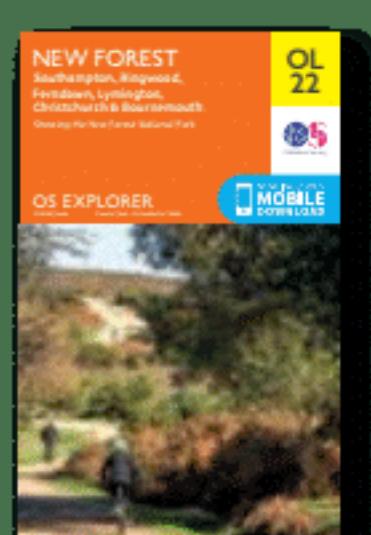
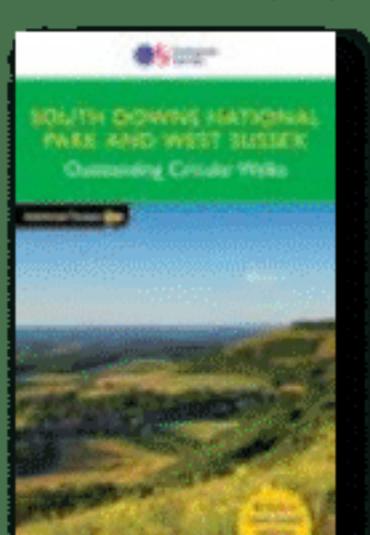
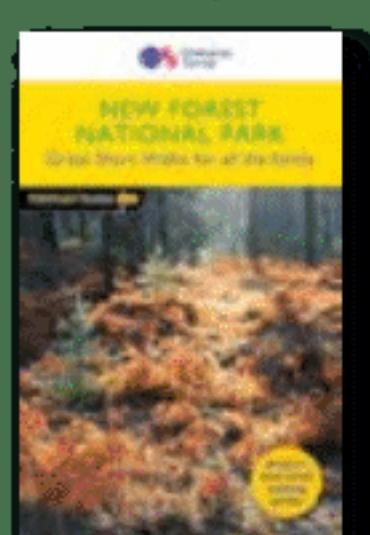
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