

# NEW FOREST, HAMPSHIRE AND SOUTH DOWNS









## Outstanding Circular Walks

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# Coasting around Keyhaven

<b>Start</b>	The Gun Inn, Keyhaven	<b>GPS waypoints</b>  SZ 306 914  SZ 308 916  SZ 311 931  SZ 317 935  SZ 322 936  SZ 327 933  SZ 299 908  SZ 317 898
<b>Distance</b>	Pennington loop: 5¼ miles (8.5km) / Hurst Beach 2 miles (3.3km) each way	
<b>Height gain</b>	n/a	
<b>Approximate time</b>	4 hours	
<b>Parking</b>	Keyhaven Pay and Display car park, opposite the pub. Limited free roadside parking nearby (4 hours maximum stay)	
<b>Route terrain</b>	Country tracks and exposed sea wall paths, with an optional ferry crossing – check <a href="http://www.hurstcastle.co.uk">www.hurstcastle.co.uk</a> for timings, fares and castle opening hours	
<b>Dog friendly</b>	Dogs must be led near farm animals	
<b>Ordnance Survey maps</b>	Landranger 196 (The Solent & Isle of Wight), Explorer OL22 (New Forest)	

*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

<b>Start</b>	Passage Lane car park, Warsash	<b>GPS waypoints</b> <div><div> SU 489 062</div><div> SU 489 075</div><div> SU 489 084</div><div> SU 497 081</div><div> SU 497 078</div></div>
<b>Distance</b>	4 miles (6.3km)	
<b>Height gain</b>	130 feet (40m)	
<b>Approximate time</b>	2 hours	
<b>Parking</b>	At the start	
<b>Route terrain</b>	Mainly well-made coastal and woodland paths	
<b>Dog friendly</b>	Please lead dogs and scoop the poop in the woodland park and nature reserve	
<b>Ordnance Survey maps</b>	Landranger 196 (The Solent & Isle of Wight), Explorer OL3 (Meon Valley)	

*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](http://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

<b>Start</b>	Hawkhill Inclosure Forestry England car park	<b>GPS waypoints</b>  SU 350 019  SU 348 025  SU 354 025  SU 355 018  SU 353 016  SU 350 013  SU 358 007  SU 360 009
<b>Distance</b>	4¼ miles (6.8km)	
<b>Height gain</b>	80 feet (25m)	
<b>Approximate time</b>	2½ hours	
<b>Parking</b>	Hawkhill Inclosure FE car park, off B3055, west of Hatchet Pond between Brockenhurst and Beaulieu	
<b>Route terrain</b>	Good, gently undulating forest tracks; flat heath, pony paths and old aerodrome taxiway	
<b>Dog friendly</b>	Dogs must be led near grazing animals	
<b>Ordnance Survey maps</b>	Landranger 196 (The Solent & Isle of Wight), Explorer OL22 (New Forest)	

*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



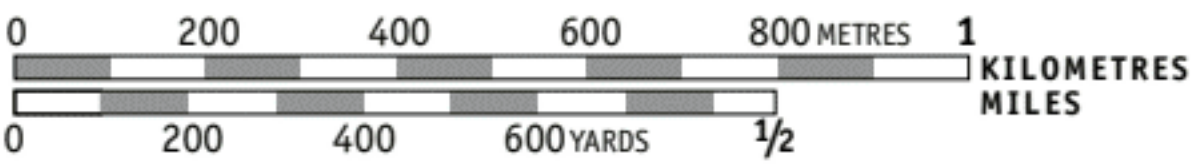




SCALE 1:25000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM

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



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.

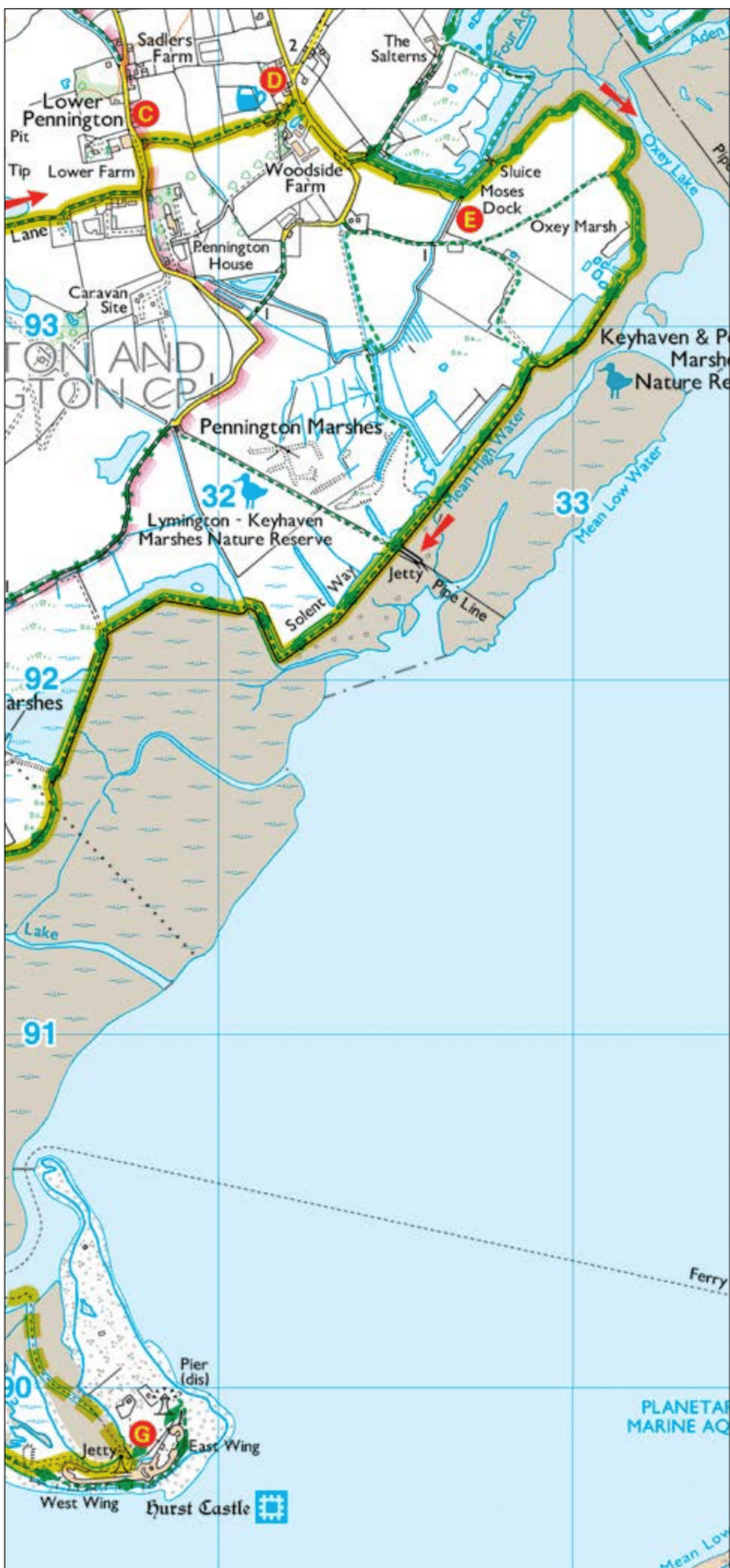




Just on your left, **The Chequers** makes a welcome break. To continue the walk, turn right along the lane; then, a few

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

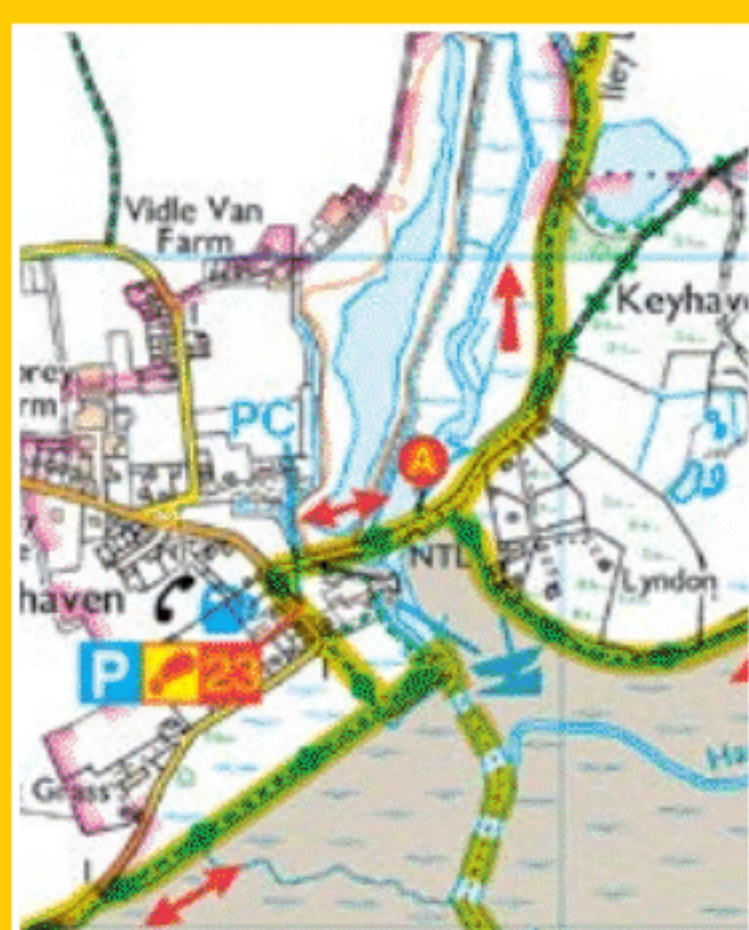




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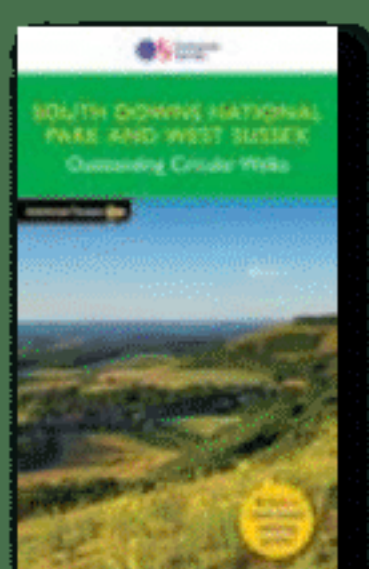
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