

Enjoying the countryside

Hampshire boasts an extremely rich and diverse countryside and an extensive network of public paths which provide a range of opportunities for enjoying the great outdoors. Rights of way are linear routes, often ancient trackways through deep countryside; there are over 3,000 miles of these in Hampshire. The map in this leaflet may also show access to other areas of land, such as commons, woodland, recreation grounds or conservation areas, and your Parish Council may know of guided walks or events. Many people will be able to reach countryside within a few hundred yards of home and the plants, trees and views along the same paths often change dramatically through the seasons. We hope that this leaflet will encourage you to explore and enjoy your local countryside.

Using local paths

- Many rights of way cross private land, and we ask you to bear this in mind by keeping to the path and being responsible when using them. There are four types, as shown on the map key; please check which paths you are entitled to use (for example, cyclists cannot use footpaths). Wheelchairs, pushchairs and dogs are allowed on all types of right of way. Any permissive paths or areas marked are not rights of way, but the landowner has given permission for the public to use them.
- To ensure that the countryside is protected for future generations be sure to:
 - Be safe – wear suitable clothing and shoes and take care when crossing roads
 - Plan ahead and follow any signs
 - Leave gates and property as you find them and take your litter home
 - Protect plants and animals
 - Keep dogs under close control
 - Consider other people

Maintaining rights of way

Hampshire County Council:

- Ensures that rights of way are not obstructed
- Maintains the surface in a fit condition for its intended use
- Maintains some bridges
- Signposts and waymarks paths
- Authorises stiles and gates
- Keeps the definitive map up to date

Landowners:

- Keep back side growth and overhanging vegetation
- Reinstate paths across fields after ploughing or planting crops
- Maintain most stiles and gates
- Should not obstruct paths or deter use of them
- Should not plough paths at field edges
- Should not keep dangerous animals (including certain bulls) on paths

EXPLORING HAMBLE

Hamble-le-Rice, situated at the mouth of the River Hamble, now an important yachting Mecca, has been a significant maritime centre for centuries. In the 14th century it was a more important maritime centre than Portsmouth and was once famous for its crab and lobster trade.

The village has had important links with aviation since WWI and the US Navy prepared for the D-Day invasion from here. Hamble is the midpoint of the Solent Way, which stretches from Milford on Sea to Emsworth. This suggested walk of about 5 miles explores the village, the foreshore and Hamble Common and passes the former airfield en route. There are many rights of way displayed on an information panel near The Square car park.



Useful Contacts

Hamble Parish Council (023) 8045 3422
Memorial Hall, 2 High Street
Hamble-le-Rice
Southampton
SO31 4JE
Clerk: Kate Cullen, BA (Hons)
Email: clerk@hamblepc.org.uk

Further Information

St Andrew's Church -
 Father John Travers (023) 8045 2148

Women's Walking Network -
 Pippa Bewes (023) 8045 5198

Police – Non –Emergency 0845 045 4545

Public Houses near the walks

The Bugle (023) 8045 3000

The King & Queen (023) 8045 4247

The Victory (023) 8045 3105

The Waters Edge Bar & Restaurant (023) 8045 7220

Ye Olde Whyte Harte (023) 8045 2108

There are also several more pubs and restaurants around the village.

Public Transport

First Bus (currently using Route 16 & 16a) (023) 8022 4854

Traveline 0870 6082603

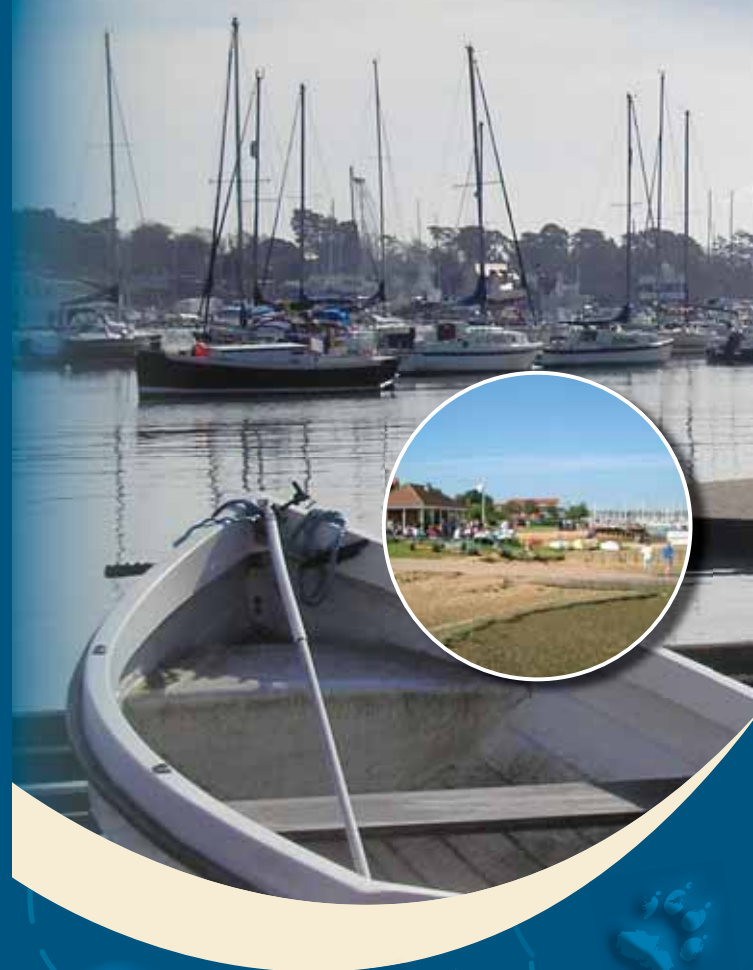
Tourist Information

Hampshire County Council
Information Centre 0800 028 0800

Disclaimer: Published by Hamble Parish Council and Hampshire County Council, through the Small Grants Scheme. The routes described have been put forward by the Parish Council. Whilst the County Council endeavours to maintain all rights of way to a high standard, additional resources are not allocated to routes promoted in this leaflet. Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this leaflet, Hampshire County Council is unable to accept any responsibility for accident or loss resulting from following the information contained within this leaflet.



Exploring Hamble



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From The Square to Hamble Village Green

One of the cottages in The Square has a male face carved into an inside beam, dated 1698! Copperhill Terrace, facing The Square, comprises eight 18th century cottages. Ye Olde House stands at the narrowest part of the High Street, a 17th century building timber framed with herringbone infilling on a rubble base and a half-tipped roof.

The Victory Inn on the left is 19th century, built of chequered brick with an old tile roof. An 18th century house also built of chequered brick stands next to the King & Queen public house with a well and a lead pump dated 1804 in its rear yard. Nos 1 & 2 Portland House, probably dating from around 1550, now form a single house with only the outside walls retained. Above the door is an old insurance plaque showing the house was insured against fire in the days before a public fire service.

Continue along the Hamble Foreshore, formed following reclamation work during World War II when US troops built a dock for D-Day landing craft, now commemorated by anchors and a plaque. St John's Hill leads you up to the Village Green and at the top, just before the Village Green itself, make your way along the driveway on the left, then follow the footpath into the wooded area to the right of Mere House.

Hamble Green – Foreshore

Coming out of the woods at the corner of Avery's Field, bear left towards the River Hamble and continue along the path beneath the oak trees, close to the river on your left. Follow the path around to the right through shrubs and trees and then turn left towards the creek and wooden walkway.

Keeping to the waters edge, make your way around the creek, skirting Hamble Common, then through a kissing gate on your right near Hamble Point Marina, the path will meet the road at the Marina entrance. Crossing the road to the car park you will see the World War II Bofors Gun facing Southampton Water, which was donated by the Ministry of Defence in 1988 to illustrate the military history of Hamble Common, which dates right back to Saxon times.

Beyond the gun emplacement the path runs between the shore and the Common. Remains of an Iron Age settlement have been found and the brickwork of a Napoleonic Gun Battery can clearly be seen. The remains of St Andrew's Castle, part of Henry VIII's coastal defences, lie just below the high water line and reformed pirate St Henry Maynwarding was one of its Governors.

Foreshore – Church of St Andrew

Towards the BP oil terminal and its jetty, a path branching slightly to the right leaves the waterside, coming to an open glade adjacent to BP. Continue across the clearing and join a wide path through the trees and, keeping the terminal to your left, look out for a dead tree carved into a totem pole.

Follow the path, turning left into Copse Lane and then turn right at the T junction into the High Street where you will soon see the Priory Church of St Andrew. The Church dates back to 1109 and many of the original Norman features still survive. Monks from the Abbey of Tiron in France were granted permission by the Bishop of Winchester to build a Priory in Hamble. The door to the Church is covered in knife marks, made by fishermen thanking God for a safe voyage, a downward cut before departure and a horizontal one to complete the cross on their return. Sir Edwin Alliot Verdon-Roe, the first Englishman to fly, has a memorial tablet in the Church.

Priory Church of St Andrew – Village Square via former airfield.

Opposite the Church, go along Hamble House Gardens and follow the public footpath at the top through the small recreation ground. Follow this path straight ahead, passing a right hand turn which shortens your walk by cutting through to Satchell Lane if you wish. If not, continue along the public footpath behind back gardens with playing fields and the former airfield on the left.

During World War I, Sir Verdon-Roe built a large aircraft factory and airfield. A second larger airfield to the north was needed and this was later taken over by Air Service Training (AST) subsequently becoming the College of Air Training (CAT). Many famous characters were connected with the airfield including Bert Hinkler and Neville Shute, and it featured in several of his novels. In 1984 the flying school ceased operating.

At the end of the footpath turn right into Satchell Lane, passing the entrance to Mercury Yacht Harbour and Riverside Park. You may take a detour through the Mercury Estate, into St Agatha's Close on your left, reaching the river via a path between the houses to the right in Mariners Close. Facing the river you will see the Training Ship Mercury Memorial which reads "Men are the Souls of Ships". TS Mercury trained cadets for the Royal and Merchant Navies and closed in 1968. Famous names connected to this school included C B Fry and W G Grace.

Take the footpath with the river on your left and follow it until you reach Satchell Lane near a red telephone kiosk, then turn left and follow Satchell Lane back to The Square.

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