



Beaulieu and Bucklers Hard

Two walks in one: an easy walk through heath and forest on well-marked cycle trails and woodland paths; a separate extension takes you to the ancient Bucklers Hard on the Beaulieu River

Essential Facts

- Route distance: 11.2 km (7.0 miles)
- Approximate time: 2 hours 45 mins
- Optional extension: 7.4 km (4.6 miles)
- Approx. total ascent: 143 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: SU 366 025
- GPS Ref: SU 36639 02514
- Recommended O.S. Map: OL 22
- Toughness Rating: Hampshire 2

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

Up For A
CHALLENGE ?

Take a Great Walk and HELP
your favourite charity with

A Donation

An Individual Walk
A Team Effort

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

Today's main walk begins at the Rans Wood car park, **S**. Turning away from the road, pass through the barrier onto the cycle trail, signed Brockerhurst. The walk follows the twisting gravel pathway through deciduous woodland before opening onto heathland.

Continue ahead to reach a five-bar gate taking you back into the trees. Crossing 'Worts Gutter' via the wooden bridge, keep to the easy to follow cycle trail, clearly route marked throughout your walk.

After 300 metres a footpath merges with the trail, **A**. Bear left. Keep ahead over the first junction, to shortly reach a second junction, **B**. Ignoring the cycle route ahead, turn left, to continue following the well-marked trail. Ignore any side paths as your route heads south to join a concrete track. Notice the strange brick structures to your left as you continue: perhaps the remnants of buildings once associated with the Second World War airfield ahead of you.

Emerging from Hawkhill Enclosure through a five-bar gate, carry on through the gorse and heather to reach the B3055. Cross to the cycle trail opposite. The views are spectacular; the hills of the Isle of Wight can be clearly seen in the distance.

The cycle trail joins part of the runway of the old airfield after 300 metres, **C**. Turn right along the tarmac passing through exposed, flat heathland before turning right again, **D**. Ignore the gravel track ahead of you. The trail heads west, then north to reach a cycle trail junction after 200 metres. Turning left here, head along the concrete track as it passes through expanses of summer flowering heather.

Emerging through a gate at the Hedge Corner junction, continue ahead as the path bears left. Your route passes the Bronze Age 'Pudding Barrow', to your right. Take a short detour to this well-documented site.

Turn abruptly right, **E**, ignoring the continuation of the track ahead. Aim towards the Lodge Heath camping area. On reaching the park pond, turn left, to shortly follow the access road. The open heath now gives way to woodland as you continue ahead to emerge at the B3055. Cross over, and take the tarmac route opposite, to 'New Cottage only'

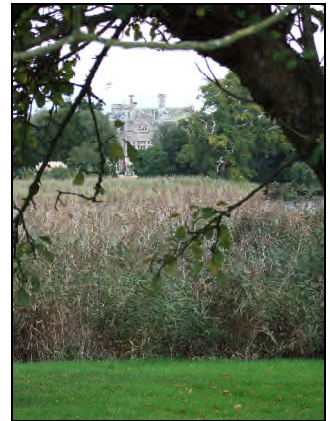
The tarmac gives way to gravel as the route continues ahead through New Copse Enclosure. Turn right at the trail junction, **F**, and ignoring any side paths, follow the route for 800 metres. Continue through the gate, turn left and carry on ahead. Ancient oak trees now surround you.

Leave this trail as it continues north, **G**. Your route turns right over a cattle grid and follows the cycle route, marked 'Woodfidley' and trail '40'. The easy walk continues for about 1 km. Ignore crossing paths as you are directed ahead towards Beaulieu at Frame Heath Enclosure. Reaching a major track junction, **H**, leave the dry gravel trail where it turns abruptly right at marker post '41'. Ignore the two tracks to the left, and take the unmarked woodland footpath adjacent to the cycle trail. Veering diagonally away in a south-easterly direction, head towards Frame Wood. The grassy pathway passes through woodland with an abundance of autumn fungi.

Pass through a fivebar gate, marked '27', keeping ahead to a further gate until you rejoin the cycle trail.



**The National Motor Museum
Beaulieu**



**Beaulieu palace
Through the Trees**



**New Forest Ponies
Taking Lunch**



Bucklers Hard Village

Your route leaves the woodland and continues onto open heath. Follow the path back to the car park, **S**.

After refreshments in Beaulieu, drive to Bucklers Hard for a separate walk extension, or sightseeing.

From the car park, **S**, walk through the village to the waterfront and the cruise jetty. Turn left along the gravel track, following the sign posted 'Solent Way'. The route is easy to follow, and you can terminate your walk at any time.

Follow the footpath marker to Beaulieu as the path swings away from the waterfront then meets a road, **A**. Cross, and following the footpath sign, veer right into the trees. As you continue ahead, to your right a sign invites you to view the wildlife from Keeping Marsh hide.

The path divides at a car park. Turn right, **B**, to follow the riverside walk for approximately 1.5km before returning to the main path at **C**, or continue along the Solent Way.

The main route passes through Keeping Copse – the timber was originally used for ship building at Bucklers Hard – then zigzags to a cottage at Baileys Hard, site of a brick-making industry in the eighteenth century.

Keep following the Solent Way ahead to Beaulieu village where a gate leads you onto a lane, shortly before reaching the Montague Arms and the village street. To return to Bucklers Hard after refreshments, retrace your steps to **S**.

Refreshment

Montagu Arms Hotel Restaurant – Bar & Brasserie Palace Lane, Beaulieu Tel: 01590 612324 Local ales, alfresco dining, afternoon teas & refreshments	Captain's Cabin Café Café Beaulieu Tel: 01590 616293 Light refreshments and drinks (summer season)
The Old Bakehouse Tearooms Tea Rooms (eighteenth- century bakehouse – original ovens) Beaulieu Tel: 01590 612777 Lunches, cream teas, pastries, tea & coffee	Fairweathers Garden Centre and Hungry Gardener Coffee Shop Beaulieu Tel: 01590 612307 Home-cooked food
Master Builders House Hotel Bar, Restaurant, Hotel Beaulieu Tel: 01590 616253 Meals & light bites, sandwiches, ploughman's	

LOCAL INFO

Twelve airfields were built in the New Forest during the Second World War. **Beaulieu Airfield**, to the west of the village, was one of these. Opened in 1942, anti U-boat patrol aircraft flew from the three runways. Prior to its closure in 1950, it became the site of experimental research.

Beaulieu village can trace its roots to the time of the Cistercian monks who were granted land here by King John in 1204. The Abbey stands on the site of a Royal Hunting Lodge. The graves of the wife of King John's son and the infant daughter of Edward I are located at the Abbey Church, formerly the monks' refectory. **Palace House**, the former gate house to the Abbey, has been the home of the Montagu family since the sixteenth century.

Beaulieu is also the home of the **National Motor Museum**, an extremely popular spin-off devised by Lord Montagu in the 1950s. Here you can see the development of the motor car throughout the twentieth century.

Bucklers Hard was originally intended to be developed as a port to import and refine sugar. Instead, it owes its existence to ship building in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Timber was readily available: many wooden ships were built of New Forest oak, including part of Nelson's fleet. The wide street between the village workers' cottages allowed for the rolling of large logs to the ship building site.

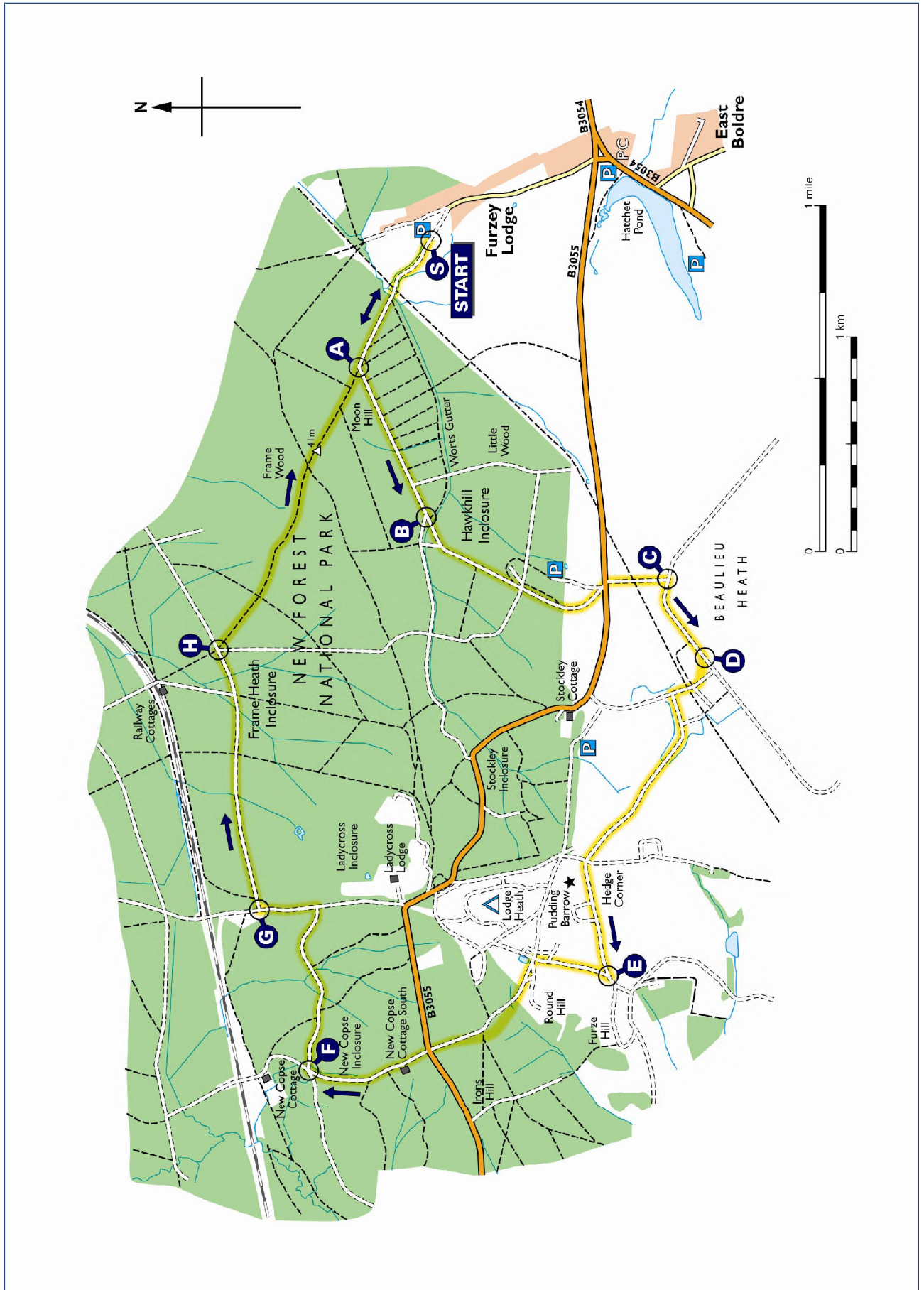
BEAULIEU G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF		CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
BEA S	S	SU	36639	02514	30
BEA A	A	SU	36036	02852	40
BEA B	B	SU	35376	02512	31
BEA C	C	SU	35045	01405	40
BEA D	D	SU	34620	01189	41
BEA E	E	SU	33211	01692	41
BEA F	F	SU	32773	03086	34
BEA G	G	SU	33520	03311	30
BEA H	H	SU	34733	03508	27

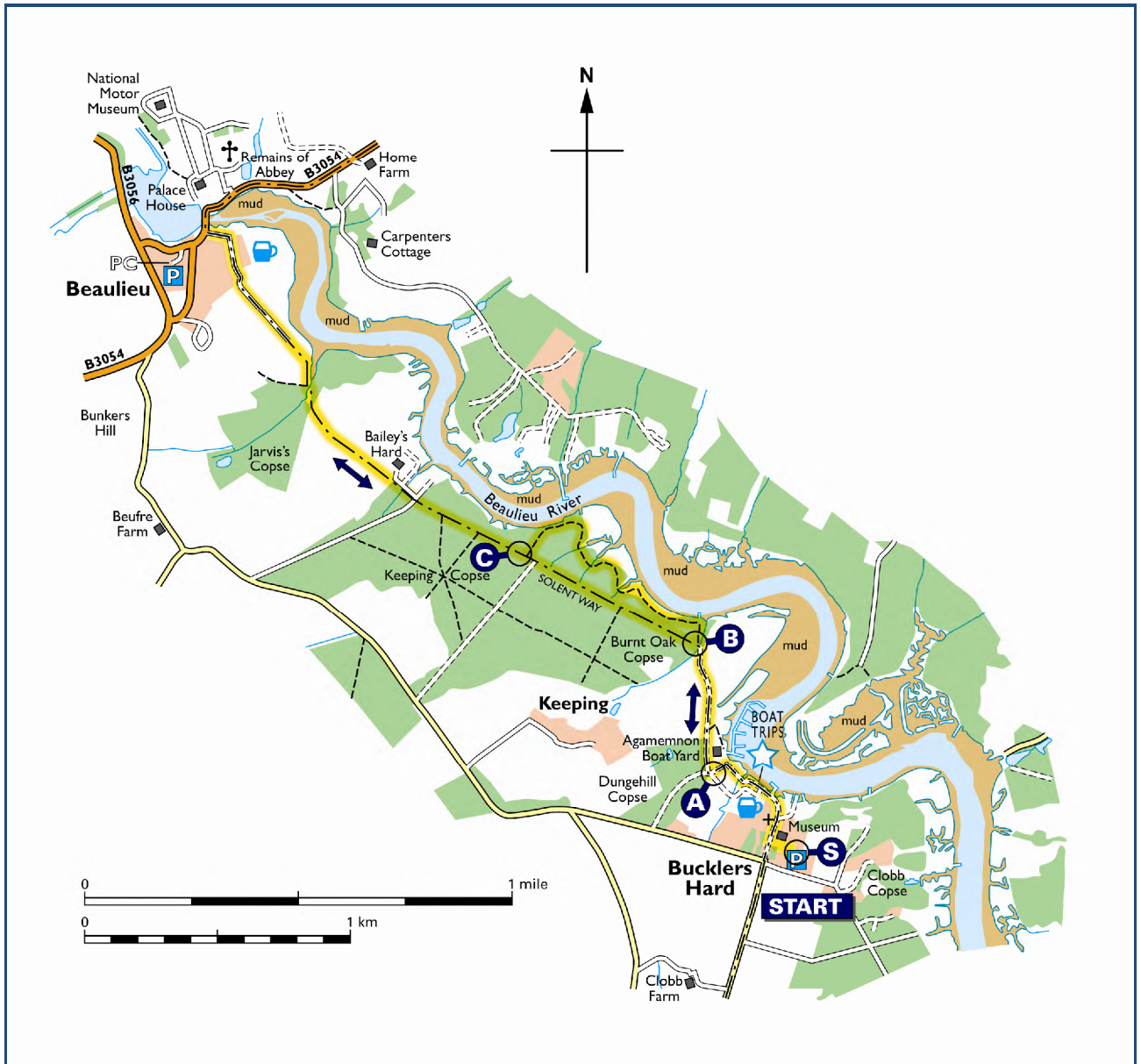
BUCKLERS HARD G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF		CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
BUH S	S	SZ	40967	99889	18
BUH A	A	SU	40645	00233	7
BUH B	B	SU	40605	00717	3
BUH C	C	SU	39953	01064	15

BEAULIEU



BUCKLERS HARD



**Great
Walks
IN BRITAIN**

Mapping is the copyright of Great Walk Guides Ltd 2008
Developed under License from The Ordnance Survey

Text & Pictures copyright Great Walk Guides Ltd 2008

MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Hampshire & New Forest** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Hampshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Brecon Beacons.