



## Hamble & The Solent Way

This shorter walk, follows the Solent Way and Strawberry Trail along the Solent coastline to the Royal Victoria Country Park from Hamble village

### Essential Facts

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Route distance:       | 8.5 km (5.3 miles) |
| ▪ Approximate time:     | 2 hours 15 mins    |
| ▪ Approx. total ascent: | 70 metres          |
| ▪ Start point Grid Ref: | SU 484 067         |
| ▪ GPS Ref:              | SU 48448 06734     |
| ▪ Recommended O.S. Map: | Explorer OL22      |
| ▪ Toughness Rating      | Hampshire 1        |

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

Up For A  
**CHALLENGE ?**

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Full Info from the Great Walks web site

## THE ROUTE

The walk starts by the river in Hamble village.

From the pay and display Quay-side car park, **S**, return to the road, turning left to join the marked Solent Way. Notice the large statue of Winston Churchill and Eisenhower on your right, its significance due to the part Hamble played in the D-Day landings.

Ignoring the footpath to the yacht club as you continue, swing right with the road. Carry on to the junction; turn left. Reaching the junction with Copse and School Lane, turn left again. Follow the road to the small car park on the left. At the entrance, **A**, take the marked footpath ahead to walk parallel with the road for 100 metres. The path emerges onto the lane, cross to the footpath opposite. The marked Solent Way continues through a kissing gate, to cross the common and emerge at the foreshore. To your left, notice the anti-aircraft gun in the distance, used to protect the oil terminals on Southampton Water during WWII, worth a short detour. Turn right.

Maintain direction along the path to shortly continue through the trees then veer left onto the shingle beach. Turn right. Continue up the steps to follow the raised flagstone path past the oil terminal. Large cruise liners birthed at Southampton, may be seen in the distance.

The Solent Way continues along the foreshore to **B**. Ignore the turning to the right to carry on along the Strawberry Trail. Follow the narrow gravel path behind the WWII pill box to continue up Hamble Cliff. Take care the uneven path may be slippery. Passing a small parking area, remain on the narrow footpath.

Your route passes the slipway and yacht club before turning right, **C**. The Chapel, all that remains of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital, can be seen as you carry on along the marked path. After about 100 metres, turn left to reach the building which now houses a shop, information centre and toilets. Free leaflets are available to guide you around the themed trails of the Country Park.

Carry on along the pathway; go through the wooden gate onto a tarmac drive. Turn right towards the Heritage Centre and Tea Rooms. Shortly, bear left, to follow the sign 'tea room deliveries and BBQ site'. Continue ahead, ignoring the left turn to the Officers Mess. At the red no-entry sign to the police training academy, turn left into the trees at **D**, to follow a lovely woodland path. Swinging right at the path junction, carry on. The route emerges through a metal kissing gate onto a Lane. Turn left.

After about 100 metres, leave the road, taking the marked Hamble Rail Trail through the gate to your right. The path travels parallel with the road for a short distance before turning right at **E**, along the narrow footpath beside the mainline railway. Keep left alongside the track and metal fence.

Reaching Hamble Station, ignore the steps to the platform; veer right to emerge onto Hamble Lane. Turn left. Crossing to the pavement opposite, follow the road to **F**. At the small post box, turn right taking the path past the school. Emerging onto Satchell Lane, turn right; carry on over the railway bridge. Follow the road for a further 800 metres to reach **G**. Turn right onto a narrow gravel path.

Your route passes fields as it continues between the hedgerows to reach the housing estates of Hamble Village. Keep ahead at all times.



Winston Churchill



Under Sail  
On The Hamble



Hamble Village

Emerging opposite the Norman Church, turn left down the High Street. Reaching the The Square car park, bear right to continue along the cobbled High Street, following the sign towards the toilets. Your route passes Marco's Tea Rooms and the Victory pub, amongst others nearby, before returning to the car park and quayside, **S**.

### Refreshment

The Bugle Pub High Street, Hamble Tel:02380 453000 Pub with snacks and meals	Marco's Tea Room and Restaurant High Street, Hamble Tel: 02380 455583 Breakfasts, lunch and snacks
Ye Olde Whyte Harte Pub High Street, Hamble Tel: 02380 452108 Pub since 1563, now serving lunches and snacks	



The Bugle

## LOCAL INFO

Situated on the River Hamble, the maritime village of Hamble-le-Rice has a long history dating from the Neolithic period. The 13<sup>th</sup> century saw Hamble develop as a boat building centre and 14<sup>th</sup> century as a trading centre to rival Portsmouth. Remnants of a castle built by Henry V111 can be seen at low tide off the Common.

Playing a vital role in the preparation for the D-Day landings, Hamble was also central to the training of WWII pilots. Today not only a yachting centre, the village has a flourishing aviation industry which stretches back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Royal Victoria Country Park was the location of a major Victorian Military hospital. Opened in 1863, it treated casualties from the Boer War and both world wars. Demolished in the 1970's, all that remains today is the Chapel.

### HAMBLE AND THE SOLENT WAY G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
HLR S	S	SU 48448 06734	2
HLR A	A	SU 48114 06341	6
HLR B	B	SU 46973 06795	3
HLR C	C	SU 46391 07453	4
HLR D	D	SU 46327 08082	20
HLR E	E	SU 46628 08329	18
HLR F	F	SU 47354 08533	22
HLR G	G	SU 48154 07983	16



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..