

River Hamble Hampshire Moderate to Challenging Trail

Route Summary

Known as being the home of British yachting the Hamble can be a very busy and exciting paddle or it can be a very restful glide through beautiful countryside, a river of two halves. If you are starting at Low tide then do the lower half first. It is important to check tide times and to know where you are at which point of the tide. Also check for weather conditions as windy conditions will have a bearing on timings and flow.

Nearest Town - Southampton

O.S. Sheets - Landranger No. 196 – The Solent and Isle of Wight

Start - Lower Swanwick car park, Swanwick Shore Road, SU 495093

Finish – Same

Waterways Travelled – The tidal R. Hamble, which is an arm of the Solent at the southern end of Southampton Water, both upstream, and then downstream

Type of Water - Tidal water, at times fast-moving

Distance – 10 miles

Licence Information – No licence requires, tidal water

Local Facilities – In Lower Swanwick

Vehicle Shuttle Required - No

Portages and Locks - None

Description

Starting from Swanwick slipway you turn left beyond the end of the shipyard passing the Sailors Mecca the Jolly Sailor Inn. As you go round the next corner you need to be aware of very strong tidal currents when the tide is filling.

As you go under the Rail bridge you will see on your left the rotting remains of some Thames Barges. On the Left there is a Motor Torpedo Boat that is used as a houseboat and points to the military past of the River.

The M27 Motorway Bridge follows, with the channel is to the left of the river. Manor Farm Country Park opposite the pontoon is the remains of HMS Grace Dieu one of Henry V's warships they can be seen at very low tides.

We have taken great care to ensure the currency, accuracy and reliability of this information. We cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions but where such are brought to our attention, the information will be amended accordingly. Users should be aware that environmental conditions outside of our control can change the nature of the Trail within a short space of time. It is recommended that weather and water conditions are checked beforehand, and tide timetables where applicable.

As you paddle around the next corner look for numerous rectangular shapes cut into the river bank these are the remnants of where the landing boats for the D Day landings were stationed at HMS Cricket although the base was decommissioned after the war the Scout Campsite here is still called Cricket.

http://www.lhi.org.uk/projects_directory/projects_by_region/south_east/hampshire/hms_cricketcricket_camp_heritage_initiative/index.html

You now paddle through the very tranquil country park up to Spinsters Lake where the river splits you can either paddle past YMCA Fairthorne Manor a large outdoor centre and on to Botley or up the right hand fork to the Horse and Jockey Pub a gentle paddle back to the start.

Going downstream from Swanwick slipway, there is a long straight leading to Mercury Marina, this is on the site of TS Mercury a Sea Scout school that was decommissioned in the late 60s, there is also in the Water an observation tower from a First World War battleship.

Hamble Le Rice is the yachting home, with good landing and facilities. It is also known for being an aircraft training centre during the Second World War.

On the right you can now see the life raft launching pier of Warsash Maritime College, now part of Solent University; here merchant sailors from around the world are trained. Beyond this is the river mouth and the exit out into Southampton Water. Directly opposite you can see Calshot Activity Centre before you turn and return to Swanwick

Hazards

The Hamble is extremely busy with commercial and leisure shipping all of which are bigger than you! Stay to the right of any channel and where possible stay out of the shipping channel completely. Be aware of other water users.

The Estuary, by definition, is tidal please ensure that you will have enough water to get back (or be prepared for a muddy wade). At times the tide moves with great speed so be aware of objects that you could become trapped against. Check the tide times and weather conditions before you set out.

Useful Information

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/history/ships/grace-dieu-1420/>

<http://www.warsashacademy.co.uk/home.aspx>

[\(http://www.hants.gov.uk/calshot/](http://www.hants.gov.uk/calshot/)

Recommended Next Trail

If you have enjoyed this trail why not try out one of the many trails available.

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Safety Information

Spending an afternoon canoeing can be a fun way to experience nature, get a great workout and spend time with family and friends. However, it can also be a dangerous journey, if safety guidelines are overlooked. Always follow these basic rules and comply with navigation rules- keep to the right of on-coming boats. Please be careful at points along the trail where there are sharp bends on the waterway and keep a look out at these points for oncoming traffic.

Wear appropriate clothing

Always wear shoes. Rocks, rough terrain and river beds present serious hazards to boaters without the proper attire. Nearly 90per cent of all boating injuries are attributed to lack of proper footwear. Other canoe safe clothing includes hats, additional dry clothing towels, and layered items which can easily be removed.

Be sure to

- Know the weather forecast before you set out canoeing.
 - Familiarise yourself with the local area, it's sensitive places and protected areas.
 - Leave the environment as you found it. Please read [You, Your Canoe and the environment](#)
 - Take your litter home with you.
 - Follow the navigation rules for the waterway you are on.
 - Keep noise to a minimum.
 - Do not damage bank side vegetation when launching or landing. (No Seal Launching)
 - Where possible keep to any designated paths or launching points.
 - Canoe a safe distance away from wildlife.
 - Check your equipment.
 - Observe the navigation rules for this waterway.
 - Check to see if there are any events on the waterways when you wish to travel.
- Use the checklist below to make sure you have everything you need.

Checklist:

1. Boat
2. Paddle
3. Buoyancy Aid
4. Bailer/sponge
5. Small First Aid Kit
6. Penknife
7. Mobile telephone (in a waterproof bag....Please note that in some areas due to the location mobile telephone reception might be nonexistent)
8. Fresh drinking water
9. Sun cream, hat and sunglasses
10. Light waterproof jacket
11. Footwear

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12. Licence

ALWAYS be certain to let others know where you're going and when you're expected to return.

Specific Environmental Information:

Please ensure you don't remove or damage any plants or animals from the waterway as they may be protected or harmful if transferred to other catchments.

Canoeists and kayakers take very seriously environmental concerns and already follow existing voluntary environmental codes of conduct, including Canoe England's own guidance notes outlined in the "You your canoe and the environment" publication.

By following the simple steps below you can ensure your presence is not detrimental to the freshwater environment, minimize and avoid accidentally disturbing wildlife and their habitats.

- Find out about the area before you go, noting its sensitive places, species and breeding seasons.
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home with you.
- When clearing litter left by others, handle it with care.
- Leave the environment as you find it
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Do not "seal" launch or drag boats to avoid wearing away natural banks. Float your canoe for launching, lift out when landing and carry it to and from the water.
- Do not damage bank side vegetation when launching or landing.
- Where possible keep to any designated paths or launching points.
- On rivers, avoid paddling over gravel banks in low water conditions – they may contain fish spawn.
- Constantly assess wildlife. If you see signs of disturbance move away quietly.

Be the eyes and ears on the water. Report pollution, wildlife problems, damage, incidents etc to the relevant authorities.

Canal & River Trust - Emergencies- Telephone 0800 47 999 47

RSPCA for wildlife and animals in distress – Telephone 0990 55 59 99 (24 hours)

Environment Agency - Telephone 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)

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