

Social paddling out of the harbour



Who we are

- Part of Highcliffe Sailing club, we are a group of paddlers looking to have safe trips in addition to our harbour paddles to further our experience and enjoyment of paddling in new areas.
- We welcome anyone who is competent at paddling whether you be kayak, canoe, SUP or other to join in group trips to explore parts of our rich nearby water resources; rivers, bays, harbours etc.
- We plan to arrange monthly trips with confirmation a day before as trips will be weather dependent. Also weather conditions may need to change the planned location depending on suitability.

Mudford Harbour – and Christchurch Loop

Overview.

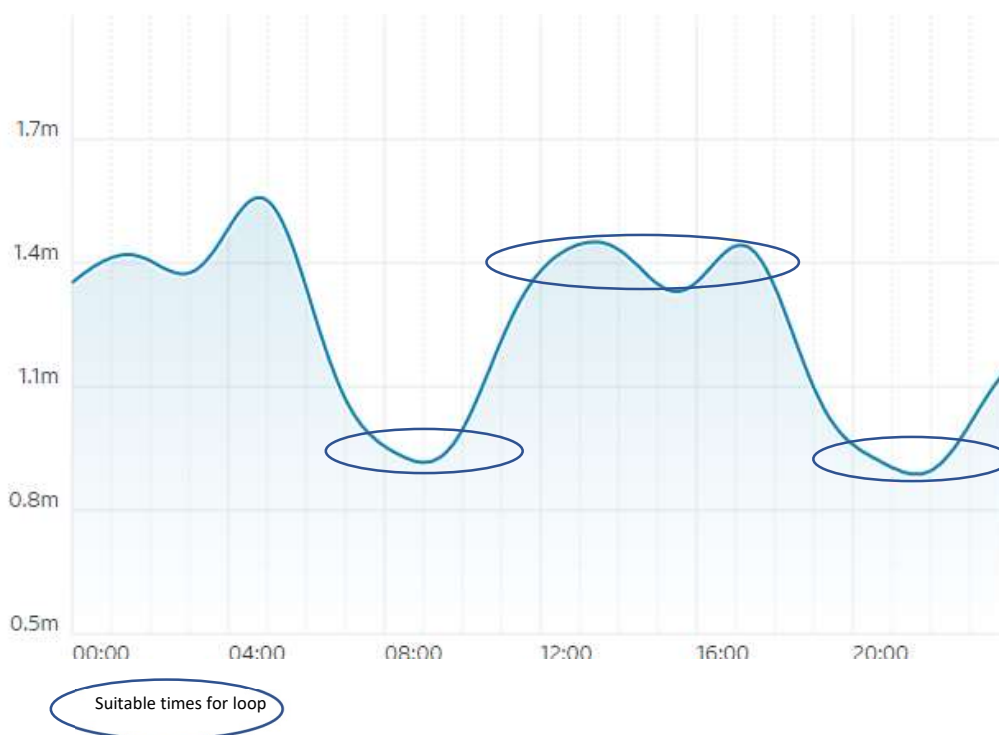
It is likely that most of our paddlers have already been on this route, but for new recruits, here are some notes that may help.

Location: From club

Launch and head over to the river entrance towards Christchurch. Note the best time to attempt this is around the change of tide to avoid fast water paddling against the tide. Just before Christchurch Quay there is a small river way to right, go down there and follow to a split. That is the start of the loop. Go either way around and you end up back at the split. You will go under 2 bridges; the one by the Priory often has people fishing from a small boat – stay well left of these people

Look at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/coast-and-sea/tide-tables/8/38a#2022-10-31>



Trip duration: 1-1.5 hours. The harbour dries out at low tide, so best paddling is around high tide times in the harbour.

Eye Bridge, Near Wimborne

Overview

EYE BRIDGE TO CORFE MULLEN

A gentle paddle upstream from the foot bridge at Eye Bridge suitable for beginners up to the weir adjacent to the Coventry Arms near Corfe Mullen. There are some shallow bits but they are easily negotiated. Wildlife abounds, the Kingfisher sightings record so far is 17. See also swans, egrets, water voles and much else.



LOCATION

Waterway : River Stour
OS Ref: 399342, 100078
(ST993001)

what3words

cooks.tonight.fermented

Nearest Postcode : BH21 4EL

There is parking at the start point and an easy walk to the river where there is a gentle slip way for easy launching. Turn right (upriver) under the bridge and enjoy. Calm waters but against the flow, so harder going than coming back. There is a pub after a couple of miles which is a great place to stop for a coffee/drink/lunch, followed by an easier paddle back.

Keyhaven/Hurst Castle

Overview

A sea paddle in a very protected area behind a large mile long spit to Hurst Castle;. Only accessible at 3 hours either side of high tide, or its very muddy. Lovely paddle up to Hurst Castle and around the waterways. Coffee stop at Hurst Castle if desired.



Location

Either at Keyhaven:

OS Ref: 430620, 91540 (SZ306915)

what3words : ///primary.motoring.slope

Nearest Postcode : SO41 0TP

Or Keyhaven marshes

Waterway : Keyhaven Marshes

OS Ref: 429876, 90912 (SZ299909)

what3words : ///expensive.curving.factories

Nearest Postcode : SO41 0TQ

Best paddled on a rising spring tide, Hurst spit gives some shelter from the south-westerly wind for paddles round to Keyhaven over the flooded marshes or to follow the channel out to Hurst castle.

Saltgrass lane floods at spring high tide, limited roadside parking in New lane. You will likl be charged fee form harbour master at Keyhaven.

Alternative launch site ais at the bottom of New Road next to the bridge. You need to check tides as you need min of 2m depth on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/coast-and-sea/tide-tables/8/39> to be bale to paddle away and to the road.

Example paddle <https://connect.garmin.com/modern/activity/10056188073>

Old Harry's Rock

Overview

Located in Studland Bay which can be driven to either around Poole, or via the Studland Chain Ferry from Sandbanks.

National Trust car park with cafe, toilets and cold outdoor showers at Knoll Beach.



Parking is quite close to the water.

Old Harry's Rock is around to right hand of bay. Bay is shallow and calm in low wind conditions, but should only be paddled in either very low wind or onshore winds. The bay is quite shallow so good for playing in.

A sea paddle to the fascinating cliffs, stacks, arches and caves around Foreland Point.

Requires good weather, relevant sea experience and a good understanding of wind and tides, as there are tide races at certain points in the tide, unusual currents and funnelled wind.

Location

OS Ref: 403305, 83639 (SZ033836)

what3words : ///think.occur.unwraps

Nearest Postcode : BH19 3AH

This is a sea paddle so should only be attempted by people confident of sea conditions. Never go out in an offshore wind.

River Beaulieu, New Forest, Hampshire

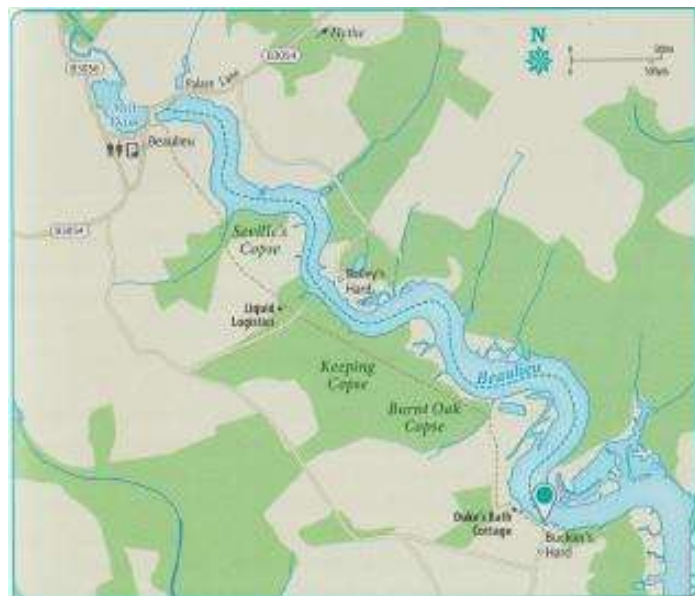
Description

Launch from the pontoon at Buckler's Hard quay (launch fee due see below) . The marina here was built in the 18th century to serve the West Indian sugar trade. Sailboats on stilts flank the waterway, and the harbour bobs with boats that require weaving between, especially in summer.

As you paddle north, past a meander, you'll soon see the thatched roof of Duke's Bath Cottage. This was built by George, the first Duke of Montagu, in 1790 to help him with his arthritis. As salt was considered to alleviate suffering, the duke's garden pond was linked to the river and transformed into a saltwater bathing spot.

Continuing, you pass small creeks and indents that create the perfect conditions for the growth of plumed reeds. While these all add to create an idyllic river scene, take care. If you choose to explore these nooks and crannies, be careful of catching your fin - a problem I experience frequently on quieter waterways.

Next you will come to two ancient woodlots - first Burnt Oak Copse, then Keeping Copse - on the river's southern shore. These adjacent wooded pastures provide a real connection to the forest, despite you being on the water.



Continue north, rounding two meanders. Continuing broadly northwest as the river twists and turns through fine Hampshire countryside, including grassland and saltmarsh, you will spot Bailey's Hard. This is a significant maritime landmark, once being used for shipbuilding. HMS Salisbury, the very first naval vessel to be built on the Beaulieu, was completed here in 1698.

By now the paddle may be getting rather tough, but the thicket of Seville's Copse on the south shore is a sure sign that you are nearing the turnaround point. Indeed, the village of Beaulieu soon comes into view and, beyond it, Mill Dam, which powered Beaulieu's tidal mill until 1945.

Talking of hydro-power, now that you have reached the midpoint of the route, it is time to take advantage of it. Given that breaking the journey by getting out on the riverbanks is not permitted here, simply turn round so you are facing downstream... and literally go with the flow. It may be 8km (5 miles) away, but - as long as there is no headwind-the end of the paddle (back at Buckler's Hard) comes upon you surprisingly quickly. Were you to continue downstream, you'd reach the Solent and then Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

Once ashore, you're due a treat. Follow the short walkway from the pontoon and a small ice-cream shack stares you in the face. If that's not a sign from above then what is? Or perhaps you are after something a little stronger? If so, take a left at the pontoon and ascend a short, grassy incline. The red doorway on the right with the picnic tables outside is, in fact, a little pub called The Master Builder's.

There are a few important points to note. First, the Beaulieu River and its banks are privately owned by Lord Montagu, so you need to buy a £5 permit from Beaulieu Estate Office (01590 614621; estate@beaulieu.co.uk) before you can paddle. You also need to stay on the water, rather than coming to shore in Beaulieu,

Location

From junction 2 of the M27, follow the A326 southeast to Hythe, where you turn southwest on the B3056 to Beaulieu village. Just south of Beaulieu village turn left (south) along a minor road for 3km (13/4 miles) to reach Buckler's Hard. Use the car park (95Z409998). Nearest train station is Beaulieu Road 8km (5 miles) north, from where you will need to take a taxi, although there are more regular services to Brockenhurst 10km (6 miles) west, from where you can take bus 483.

River Stour – Iford Bridge to Christchurch

Description

Launch next to the towpath downstream of Iford Bridge and take a moment to admire the stonework arches of the bridge itself. It dates back to the 12th century - possibly earlier.

Paddling downstream, you will notice a small caravan park on the left (east) which signals a bastion of the rural resisting the onwards march of urban Bournemouth that has already swallowed the area around your starting point at Iford Bridge. Don't expect true remoteness, however: there are more isolated and peaceful waterways in this book. Nevertheless, there's something to be said for the opportunity to peer (respectfully, without jeopardising the privacy of residents) at the perfectly manicured gardens and private moorings of Grand Designs-style properties gracing the edges of the Stour River.

The river meanders peacefully for 3km (1.8 miles) through flat countryside with open fields separated by lines of trees, before gliding into the bustling seaside town of Christchurch, as signalled by the B3059 roadbridge. Fortunately, most of the town is set back from the Stour, so you won't be faced with too much brick.

Then either head to the club and sort your car out later, or back to where you came.



Swanage

Overview

A beautiful Bay and I've always wanted to paddle here. The bay is perfect on a calm day – avoid easterly wind.

Park along the front and launch off the beach at any point. A nice paddle to the end to Swanage Pier and all along the bay. Loads of cafes for after.



Location

OS Ref: 403268, 78762 (SZ033788)
what3words : ///force.beaten.droplet
Nearest Postcode : BH19 2AQ

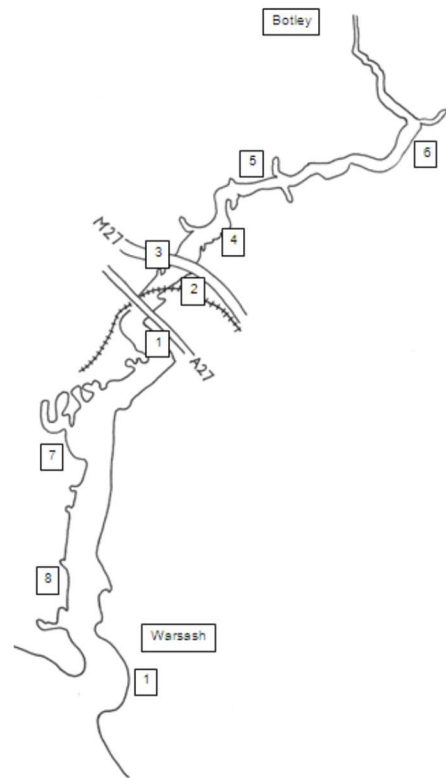
HAMBLE RIVER PADDLE

Overview - Known as being the home of British yachting the tidal Hamble River can be a very busy but is navigable at high tide by kayak or SUP all the way up to Botley. At all points of access it can be very muddy at low tide, which is to be avoided at all costs! Total round paddle distance is approximately 6 miles and should take about 3 hours excluding stops. Map courtesy of Canoe Britain.



Access Points - There are a number of slipways and marinas which offer access with pay & display parking but Lower Swanwick opposite the famous Jolly Sailor is most popular with paddlers. At the time of writing parking charges apply between 10am and 6pm, at an hourly charge of £1 and a maximum day rate of £6.

Paddle Summary - This is a round trip, starting from Lower Swanwick (1), meandering up the River Hamble taking in the views, before stopping for a break at the Horse and Jockey pub in Curbridge. After a stop we can go and explore Botley from the water before being floated back downstream to Swanwick by the falling tide. This paddle would be planned so that we can use the tide to make our paddling easier. We may have time also for a stop at the Jolly Sailor or explore the lower section of river, Hamble (8) and Warsash.



Mayors Mead Carpark, Christchurch to Iford Bridge

Overview

Lovely paddle upstream, easy for beginners. Takes around 45 min to an hour to get to Iford bridge, and then 20 minutes back with the flow.

Park in car park. Slipway at end. Turn right (upstream) you pass Tucton tea rooms after 10 mins or so, and go under Tucton Bridge. Keep going, beneath railway bridge. Although partially through Christchurch, its very peaceful and scenic – worth a paddle. At low tide, the river gets quite fast at Iford Bridge.



Location

OS Ref: 415643, 092310 (SZ156923)

what3words : ///weds.object.accent

Nearest Postcode : BH23 1NY

PADDLERS - BRIEF GUIDE FOR YOUR SAFETY

- Members and guests have a duty of care for themselves and others.
- Always check the conditions of the weather, wind strength and tides before launching.
- Plan your route and timing.
- Inform some one ashore where and how you intend to paddle.
- Take a mobile telephone with you (fully Charged) and in a waterproof case that you can use without opening.
- Ensure you know the contact details of the emergency services (Coastguard, RNLI etc).
- Always endeavour to paddle with a buddy.
- Check your equipment and craft before setting out.
- Take opportunities to improve your skills and training.
- Carry tow lines and safety equipment.
- Wear suitable clothing for the weather and time of year.
- It is club policy that buoyancy aids must be worn at all times when on or near the water.

Disclaimer

Everyone wants to be safe, but it is your responsibility to be capable of joining these paddles. We will paddle in some inland, and coastal areas. You need to be able to self-rescue in case of emergency. There will always be people around to help, but we are all responsible for our own safety.

Pre requisites.

You understand and agree that the description of the area we are going to is within your capability.

You have a buoyancy aid and a mobile phone in waterproof case and will wear it for the duration of the trip.

You have provided emergency contact details.

Paddlers need to be capable of transporting their own water craft, although many paddlers will be able to help out and take multiple craft with them, but it is your responsibility to make these arrangements.

Paddlers with inflatable craft will easily cope, but solid kayaks can be an issue. I have an inflatable roof rack which works really well and fits any car/van – here is a link for your info.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Universal-Automatic-Inflatable-Heavy-duty-Surfboard/dp/B083J18MJL/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?crid=3OD6Y40VC80SA&keywords=inflatable+roof+rack&qid=1666863984&qu=eyJxc2MiOiI0LjM5IiwicXNhIjoieMy41MCIslInFzcCI6IjMuMzcfQ%3D%3D&sprefix=inflatable+roof+rac k%2Caps%2C74&sr=8-2-spons&psc=1

Feel free to contact us with additional venues, comment on existing ones, and help clarify/enhance any descriptions we have of areas. We want to publish a varied list of relatively local paddling areas to share the buzz.

We intend to arrange one remote paddle a month from April/May time. I will spend this winter paddling and exploring to make sure documentation is as accurate as we need. If anyone wants to join me, let me know. Any corrections/additions and suggestions – pls send to Mark Anderson at markand@sky.com