

## Solent Foreshore (6¼ miles: Moderate) – map overleaf

Allow 4 hours. Some road walking, and paths in the swampy woodland near the Solent may be rather muddy. Several stiles.

**1** Turn left from the pub into Monument Lane and follow the lane for half a mile to the Burrard Monument. **2** Take the footpath to the right of the monument, which leads down the side of the wood. At the bottom, turn left along a side road that reduces to a track leading to Undershore Road. **3** Cross and turn left along the pavement, passing the Pier Garage and the Isle of Wight ferry terminal. **4** When Monument Lane joins from the left, cross and continue along the main road using the pavement on the left. **5** Return to the right-hand side of the road when the pavement runs out, and pass the Macdonald Elmers Court Hotel. **6** Turn right into Lisle Court Road and walk past some houses, keeping straight on at a junction. **7** Continue beyond Lisle Court Farm until the road bends suddenly left; turn right here into a rough driveway, passing a few houses to a gateway. **8** Continue along the hedged track beyond, which leads towards the Solent. **9** In front of a gate and stile, turn left through another gate onto a permitted path (the path ahead beyond the stile offers a potentially muddy short there-and-back detour to the Solent foreshore). **10** Follow the permitted path across a field, then in the next field bear slightly left to a gap in the far left-hand corner. **11** Turn right and skirt the right-hand side of the next field (a seasonal campsite), passing above a lagoon to a stile into woodland in the far corner. **12** Follow the woodland path beyond (wet in parts) with a fence on your left. **13** After a stile, cross the bottom of a narrow grassy area and then continue alternately through wooded and grassy areas to another stile with a distant view left to Pylewell House. **14** Beyond this, turn right through a gate onto the foreshore and turn left along the narrow strip of grassy shingle. **15** Shortly afterwards, cross the outlet of a creek via a wooden footbridge and continue along the shore until you reach the small parking area at the bottom of Tanners Lane. **16** Turn away from the sea and follow the lane inland for half a mile, passing a few cottages on your right. **17** At a T-junction, bear left. **18** Pass a private road into the Pylewell estate on your left, then bear left at a triangular junction, crossing a cattle grid. **19** When the road bends right beyond a farm, take a driveway straight ahead. **20** When the driveway swings right, cross the stile ahead of you and follow the subsequent path to a footbridge. **21** Cross to overlook a fishing lake, where you turn right. **22** Leave the lakeshore along a narrow path on the right, which leads past a gate and a waymark, then runs along an avenue of lime trees and below a cricket pitch to a kissing gate into the track servicing it. **23** Turn right and follow the track to the main entrance drive of Pylewell Park. **24** Pass through the kissing gate opposite and continue along the bottom edge of two fields separated by a stile (and with more views to Pylewell House to your left). **25** The wooded field edge bears right to a crossing of another track, where you head straight on along a grassy track. **26** At a kissing gate leading into a public road, turn right along the lane. **27** Go straight on at a crossroads by an entrance lodge. **28** After 150 yards, turn left into a farm track that

crosses the former RAF Lymington airfield. **29** Pass the buildings of Snooks Farm at the other end and continue to the road. **30** Turn left for 50 yards, then turn right through a gate into a signposted footpath in the wood. **31** After running along a garden fence on the left, and then the edge of a golf course on the right, the path emerges into fruit fields. Follow the hedge ahead of you, then cross a farm road and skirt to the left of a wooden hut (a farm shop) and continue along the track ahead. **32** Cross the service road for the golf club and look half right to find a narrow path that continues ahead, with the golf course to the right. **33** This path emerges into a gravel driveway by a bungalow; follow the driveway out to the road. **34** Turn right along the lane to the Monument. **35** Bear right and then left along the lane to retrace your steps to the Walhampton Arms.

## Beaulieu Heath and Hatchet Pond

9¼ miles: Fairly strenuous

Allow 5–6 hours, starting from Norleywood car park (a 1½-mile drive from the Walhampton Arms). Occasional boggy spots and rough paths on the heathland. A good sense of direction (or a GPS!) is useful on the heaths and in the woods.

**By car:** Turn right out of the pub car park and follow the B3054 for 1½ miles. Not long after a cattle grid, turn right at a crossroads into Norley Wood Road, then very soon turn left into the car park.

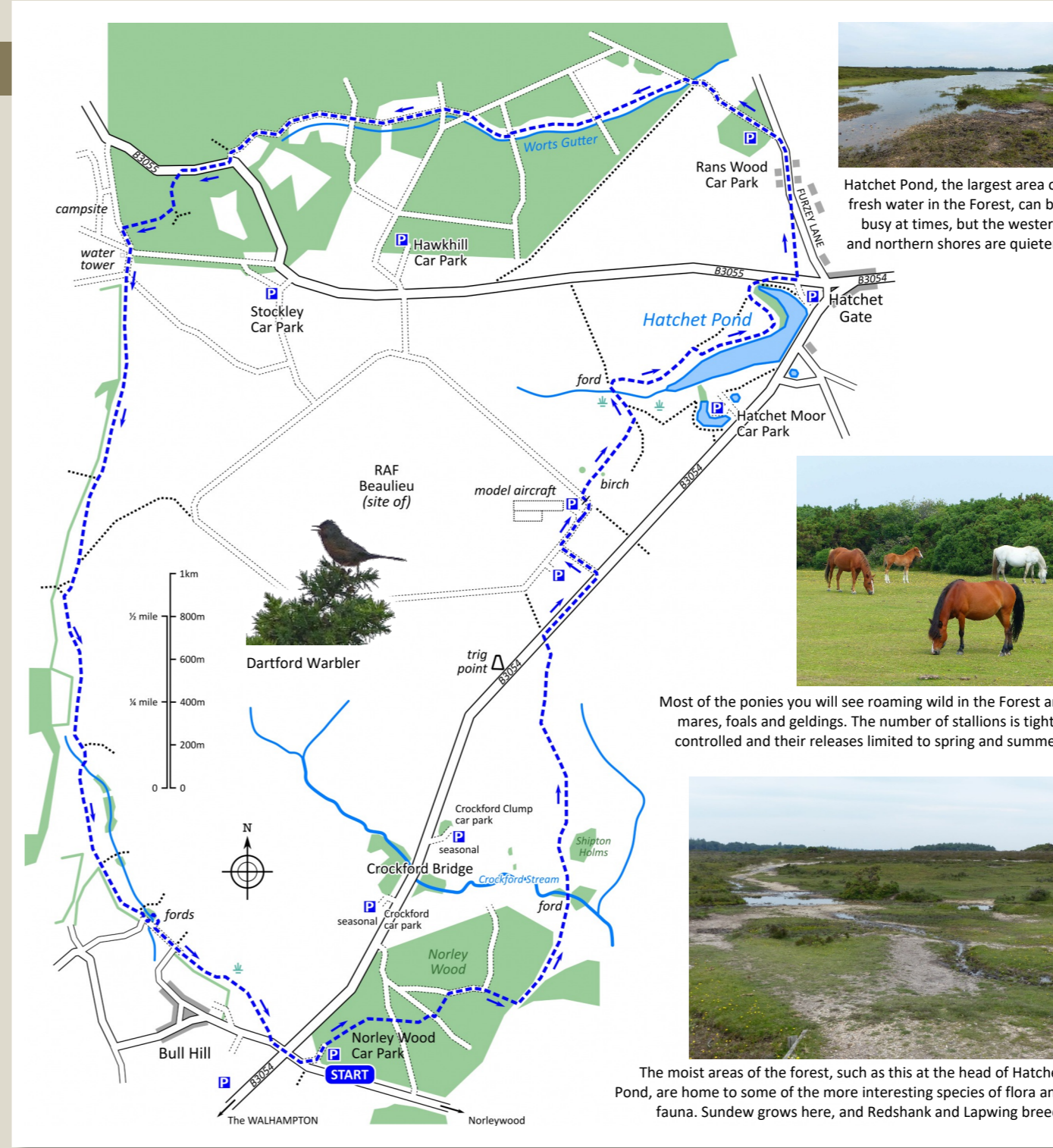
**1** At the rear of the car park, pass through a wooden gate into the woods. **2** Follow the path to your left, which then follows a ride between the trees. **3** The path bends slightly right and crosses a wider track. **4** Continue to another broad, stony track and again cross and continue straight on, this time onto an unsurfaced track with deep ruts. **5** At a junction bear right, along a similar rutted track with tall pines on either side that shrinks almost to a mere path. **6** When this bends left, take a slightly obscure grassy path ahead that leads through birches to a gate. **7** Turn left along the edge of the wood in a widening wedge of open land. **8** At the corner of the wood, carry straight on along a scant stone-studded track that descends to cross the Crockford Stream. **9** Ford the shallow gravelly stream and climb the bank opposite, aiming just left of Shipton Holms, a small wood. **10** The path becomes indistinct; bear right beyond the wood to meet a slightly more obvious grassy track running from behind the wood and joining from your right; turn left through the gorse. **11** At a slight fork, keep right on the more obvious track. **12** Eventually the track meets the B3054 road; turn right. **13** After 400 yards, turn left along the entrance road to Beaulieu Heath car park. **14** Turn right at a junction after 250 yards and follow the track to the car park. **15** Cross the grassy area at the end of a former runway of RAF Beaulieu and pick up the metalled road beyond. **16** Before the gorse bushes close in on either side of the track, 70 yards or so after the barrier, turn right across the grass to pick up an indistinct path leading through the gorse towards an isolated mature birch tree. **17** The path becomes more distinct as it continues parallel to the road and Hatchet Pond comes distantly into view. **18** The path descends slightly to meet a

wider path; turn left and descend (boggy in places) to the bottom of the shallow valley above Hatchet Pond. **19** Cross the stream and turn right at a path junction, towards the pond. **20** At the next junction, turn right to follow a path parallel to the shore of Hatchet Pond. **21** Follow the wooded shore as it curves left, then bear right, round the top of the pond, to join the B3055. **22** Follow the road to the car park entrance and then cross over; a path leads across the grassy heath, gradually approaching Furzey Lane, the minor road that serves the houses on your right. **23** Turn left and follow the road between the cottages. **24** Turn left along the gravelly track to Rans Wood Car Park. **25** Beyond a barrier, follow the track as it descends into the shallow valley of Worts Gutter. **26** Beyond a gate, cross the stream and after a few paces turn left, off the track, onto a green path across rushy ground with the small stream on your left. **27** The path meets a perpendicular track after 500 yards; cross and carry on along the valley with the stream still on your left. **28** At the next crossing track, the path continues from the bridge, right next to the stream, but becomes narrower and less distinct as it winds through open birch woodland. **29** Eventually you meet a wide gravelled track at a fork; take the track ahead of you, passing a post numbered 337. **30** Ignore a grassy track on the left with a ford, continuing along the main track. **31** Cross a perpendicular track below post number 332. **32** The track now winds straightforwardly to a gate onto the B3055. **33** Turn right and follow the road for 250 yards, then cross to a gate after a right-hand bend. **34** The track ahead winds into the wood; after 200 yards, turn right (if you meet a fork, you've gone too far). **35** This path leads along the left-hand side of a vague clearing and eventually emerges at a gate into Roundhill Campsite. **36** Walk out to the service road and turn left, passing to the left of the water tower (a surviving remnant of RAF Beaulieu). **37** Cross another service road and follow the track ahead, beyond a wooden barrier. **38** This path continues straightforwardly along the edge of the open heath, with farmland behind the hedge on your right. **39** After nearly a mile, past the buildings of Little Dilton Farm to the right, the path follows power lines then bears left, before turning right over a slow-flowing stream and then bearing left to resume its former direction. **40** Two tree-lined field corners project towards you; keep to the left of both (ignoring a gravelly track that fords the stream on your left). **41** As you meet a junction of tracks at a wooden barrier, ignore the ford on your left and the road leading off to the right, taking the track leading ahead past a house on the right. A footbridge on the left bypasses a second ford. **42** Keep on along the track to another barrier and pass more buildings to the end of another road. **43** Continue past a third barrier; the path becomes indistinct and muddy in places, but keep aiming for Norley Wood and eventually cross a level bracken area to meet the road on your right. **44** Follow it to a crossroads and go straight over to return to the Norleywood car park entrance on your left.



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[www.walksfromthedoort.co.uk](http://www.walksfromthedoort.co.uk)



Hatchet Pond, the largest area of fresh water in the Forest, can be busy at times, but the western and northern shores are quieter.



Most of the ponies you will see roaming wild in the Forest are mares, foals and geldings. The number of stallions is tightly controlled and their releases limited to spring and summer.



The moist areas of the forest, such as this at the head of Hatchet Pond, are home to some of the more interesting species of flora and fauna. Sundew grows here, and Redshank and Lapwing breed.

five circular walks from the



**WALHAMPTON**  
ARMS Pub & Dining • Lymington



Lymington Reedbed & Monument  
2¼ (or 2¼) miles: fairly easy

Keyhaven Marshes  
3 miles: easy

Normandy & Pennington  
5½ miles: fairly easy

Solent Foreshore  
6¼ miles: moderate

Beaulieu Heath & Hatchet Pond  
9¼ miles: fairly strenuous

## Lymington Reedbed and the Burrard Monument

2¼ (or 2½) miles: Fairly easy

This route can be shortened by omitting the monument loop. The woodland and riverside sections can be rather muddy. No stiles. Allow up to 1½ hours for the main (longer) route.

**1** Leave the car park and turn right along the B3054, passing the entrance to Walhampton School. **2** When the road bends right, take the track leading straight on, beyond a metal gate. **3** At a gate into a farm compound, take the narrow path on the right. **4** Level with the end of a barn you reach a junction – in all but the driest conditions you are advised to turn right, as the path ahead can be very muddy. **5** Whichever path you take, when you reach a lane, turn left and follow the lane between houses and gardens to a triangular junction with a road on the left, where you carry straight on. **6** Pass the entrance to Southlands School on a right-hand bend and take the driveway ahead, with a sign for Vicars Hill Farm. **7** The surfaced drive descends to the farm; take a grassy path straight ahead between the buildings that leads down to the valley bottom. **8** Turn left along a narrow path, close to the river at first and then with a large reedbed to your right, sometimes in the open but often among trees. Pass a wooden gate partway along. **9** After 600 yards you meet a road (Undershore); turn right and follow the road for half a mile, still with the reedbed behind the hedge to your right, until you reach the junction with the B3054. **10** (For a slightly shorter walk, turn left just before the junction, through a metal gate, onto a permitted path that leads parallel to the B-road back to step 2, where you can turn right to return to the Walhampton Arms.) For the longer walk via the Burrard Monument, turn right along the main road. **11** When the road bends right to cross the Lymington River, take Undershore Road, straight ahead, with the wide river basin on your right. **12** Follow the pavement until you reach a house on the right overlooking the river, where you cross to the left-hand side and join a side road. **13** Ignore the gravelly private road on the left, then turn left between a New Forest boundary marker and a notice welcoming you to the Walhampton Monument site. **14** Follow the footpath up the edge of the wood to the obelisk. **15** Turn left along Monument Lane (past a small parking area) then follow the road round a left-hand bend and back to the Walhampton Arms.

## Keyhaven Marshes (3 miles: Easy)

Allow 1½ hours plus time for wildlife-watching, starting from the car park at the end of Lower Pennington Lane, a 3-mile drive from the Walhampton Arms. Level paths throughout, without stiles; follow the red Brent Trail markers.

**By car:** Turn left out of the pub and follow the B3054 down the hill and across the river into Lymington. Cross the railway at a level crossing, then turn left at a mini-roundabout (signposted 'Town centre'). Turn right at the bottom of the High Street and drive uphill through the town centre, passing the parish church. On meeting the

A337, keep left (one way) and stay in the left-hand lane. Bear left (signposted Christchurch) and continue to a roundabout. Take the first exit (signposted 'Riverside, Marinas'), then turn immediately right into Lower Pennington Lane. Follow the lane to a small car park at its end, after a winding 1½ miles.

**1** From the car park at the end of Lower Pennington Lane, take the wide gravelled path leading straight ahead, beyond a gate (not the path off towards the shore on the left, which is our return route). **2** Pass to the left of a large pond and follow the combined cycle- and footway for almost a mile, ignoring turnings to left and right. **3** Shortly after a path joins obliquely from the right, you meet a metalled lane beyond a gate. **4** Follow the lane, keeping straight on at a junction with a private road, until you reach the harbour at Keyhaven. **5** At the near end of the car park, turn left onto a path running along the sea wall with the harbour on your right. **6** Follow the path along the shoreline as it curves left, with views to Hurst Castle and the Needles beyond. **7** After half a mile you reach a lagoon on your left, where you can either continue past a gate and along the embankment or follow a lower path to the left. **8** The embankment swings left then right and, after another lagoon, crosses a drain (where a path leading off to the left provides a shortcut back to the start). **9** Swing right, then sharp left past two more lagoons to reach a concrete jetty. **10** Turn left here to leave the seawall and follow a straight path (which divides into two parallel strands partway along) for 750 yards back to the car park.

## Normandy and Pennington Marshes

5½ miles: Fairly easy

Allow 2–3 hours starting from the Riverside car park in Lymington, a one-mile walk or drive from the Walhampton Arms. A level walk on gravel paths and quiet lanes after an urban start, with no stiles. This walk can be combined with the Keyhaven Marshes route (above) for a comprehensive 7¼-mile exploration of the wetland complex.

**By car:** Turn left out of the pub car park and follow the B3054 down the hill and across the river into Lymington. Cross the railway at a level crossing, then turn left at a mini-roundabout (signposted 'Town centre'). Continue straight on (technically a left turn) at the foot of the High Street past the Kings Head Inn. Swing left into Nelson Place and then right into Bath Road. Pass the Berthon boatyard and a park on the the left to reach the Riverside car park.

**On foot:** Turn left from the pub car park into Monument Lane and follow it for half a mile, following the lane round a right-hand bend to the monument. Follow the footpath to the right of the monument down to Undershore Road and the river basin; turn right to the B3054 then left over the bridge. Cross the railway at a level crossing then turn left into Waterloo Road. Carry straight on into Mill Lane beyond the station. At the end of Mill Lane, turn left round the Fishermans Quay apartments to reach the Town Quay. Pass the long-stay car park and continue along Bath Road at the end of Quay

Road. Continue past the Berthon boatyard and then cross Bath Road Recreation Ground on your left to reach the Riverside car park.

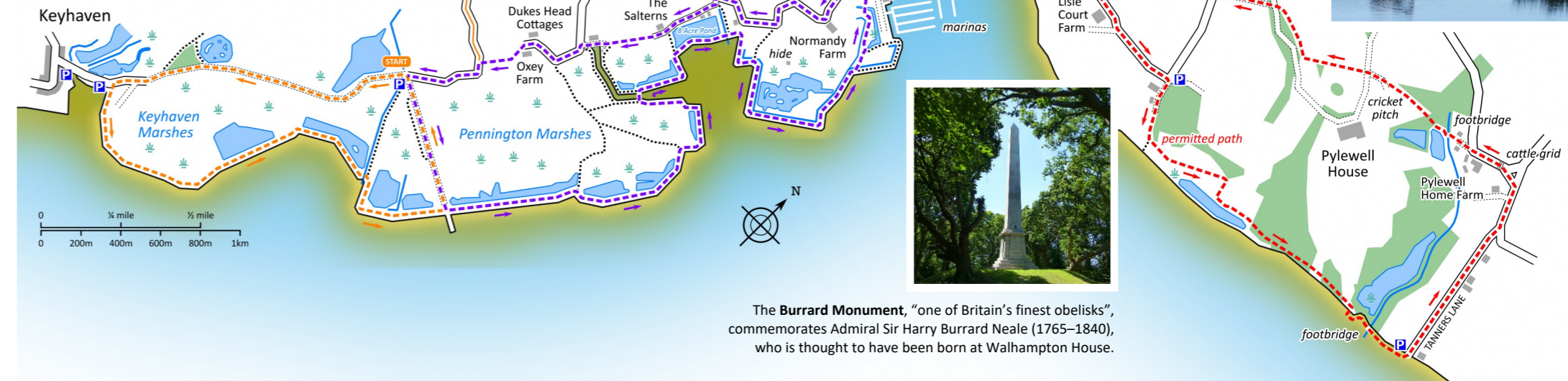
**1** From the Riverside car park, walk between the brick Royal Lymington Yacht Club building (left) and the RNLI Lifeboat Station (right). Take the path on the left with a sign for the Lymington Sea Water Baths and follow it as it winds round to the left of the baths, with yacht moorings on your left. **2** Cross the car park of the Haven Bar and then turn right, and shortly right again onto a gravel path that squeezes between two units to reach King's Saltern Road. **3** Turn left to the Haven entrance and follow a short signposted public footpath that leads between reedbeds to Normandy Lane. **4** Turn left, then follow the lane when it bends right at Normandy Farmhouse. After a couple of left-hand bends, stay on the lane as it bends right by a gate, ignoring a path on the left. **5** After a couple more bends, pass Lea House on your right, then turn left into another metalled lane. **6** Ignore a path on the left, instead following the road round to the right past Maiden Cottage. **7** Continue to a large house, The Salters (ignoring a path on the left), and follow the gravel path beyond. **8** The path runs between hedges and then passes some old brick barns on the left and in front of a house that looks down a narrow creek; continue ahead to the road, ignoring paths off to the left on either side of the creek. **9** On reaching the road, turn left and follow the lane round to the right past a no-through-road sign. **10** Pass Dukes Head Cottages on your right and Oxey Farmhouse on your left, and continue past a gate at the end of the lane onto a path. **11** This path leads between hedges to Lower Pennington Lane, where you turn left; follow the lane round to the right, eventually reaching a small car park at the end. This is the starting point of the Keyhaven Marshes walk – to combine the two routes, follow steps 1–9 of that walk and skip to step 15 below. **12** For the 5½-mile walk, turn left through a gate into the Lymington–Keyhaven Nature Reserve. **13** Follow the obvious track curving to the left ahead of you, which then heads directly towards the shore (splitting shortly into two parallel strands; follow either). **14** On reaching the shoreline embankment by a concrete jetty, turn left. **15** Follow the embankment past a long thin lagoon on your left, then curve right round a second lagoon (ignoring the path between them). **16** Follow the embankment as it winds round a broad inlet to the Moses Dock sluice, where you cross the creek and turn right. **17** Keep along the embankment as it turns left then right to pass between Eight Acre Pond on your left and the muddy bay on your right. **18** Beyond the pond, the path turns right after crossing a creek to skirt the wader scrapes of Normandy Marsh, overlooked by a tall bird hide. **19** By a bench, the embankment turns left towards the masts of Lymington Marina, and then left again by another bench. **20** When it next turns right, drop down some steps on your left onto a gravel path leading away from the shore to another set of steps. **21** Turn left and follow this path along a reedy creek below the perimeter fence of the Haven boatyard. **22** Turn right over the creek and follow the indicated right of way between the boats. **23** Turn right to the Haven Bar, and retrace your earlier steps left and around the Sea Water Baths to the Riverside car park.



The marshes between Keyhaven and Lymington, many of them formed from the remnants of former salt pans, comprise one of the best birdwatching areas on the south coast. Key species include Avocet, Spoonbill, Marsh Harrier and Dartford Warbler. The whole area is an SSSI.



Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes offer good views of Hurst Castle, built by Henry VIII, and the north coast of the Isle of Wight, including the famous Needles rocks and lighthouse.



The oldest open-air lido in Britain, and also one of the largest, the Lymington Sea Water Baths are Grade II listed.

Parking at the Walhampton Arms is for patrons only. Dogs are welcome in the hard-floored areas.



Reed Warblers and the rarer Cetti's Warbler can be heard along the River Lymington.



The Solent foreshore and Isle of Wight

The Burrard Monument, "one of Britain's finest obelisks", commemorates Admiral Sir Harry Burrard Neale (1765–1840), who is thought to have been born at Walhampton House.