

## Beaulieu - Buckler's Hard

Beaulieu Village contains a variety of shops, including a grocery store, newsagent, art gallery, gift shops, tea rooms, coffee shops, chocolate studio, garden centre, florist, hairdresser and the bookings office for New Forest Activities.

The 2¼ mile footpath between Buckler's Hard and Beaulieu passes through the heart of the Beaulieu Estate and forms part of the Solent Way.

The gradual transition from woodland through tidal river-edge grassland into saltmarsh is rare in England and supports a wide range of plant and bird species, particularly wintering waders and wildfowl.

### 1 Curtle Meadows

It was here that scenes for the film *A Man for All Seasons* were shot in 1966, as the unspoilt river looked as the Thames might have done in the 16th century.

### 2 Bailey's Hard

The tall red brick chimney is that of the old estate brickworks which drew on the local deposits of clay. Built in 1790, it last produced bricks in 1935 and is now a private residence. It was here that *Salisbury*, the first naval vessel to be built on the river, was completed in 1698.

### 3 Riverside Walk

This alternative route gives closer views over the river, all of which is a designated National Nature Reserve. The flat area you see is known as a 'salting'. Grass species such as *Spartina* have helped to stabilise the mud banks over time. The path passes some small creeks notable for plumed reeds, especially the Yellow Flag Iris in summer. Also look for Sea Lavender, Cord Grass and Sea Purslane.

### 4 Burnt Oak Copse

The trees here are predominantly Oak dating from the early 19th century. Later these were supplemented by Wild Service, Hazel, Scots Pine and Beech with Common Privet, Butcher's Broom, Holly and Hawthorn, providing shelter and food for game birds. Note the stunted tree growth at the river's edge, caused by poor drainage and the salt water from the river.

### 5 Keeping Marsh

An open expanse of various salt tolerant plants. This mud bank is the holding area for dredgings from the river but is quickly being colonised by indigenous plant and animal life, notably Shelduck, Canada Geese, Mallard, Oystercatchers, Redshank and Curlew. A public bird hide is also located here, accessible from the footpath and suitable for wheelchair users.

### 6 Agamemnon Boatyard

Hub of boating activity on the river of today.

### 7 Duke's Bath House

This small thatched cottage was built by George, Duke of Montagu, c1760 for his son who suffered from arthritis. Salt water was considered beneficial for sufferers of arthritis so a pond in the garden was filled with river water, in which people could bathe.

