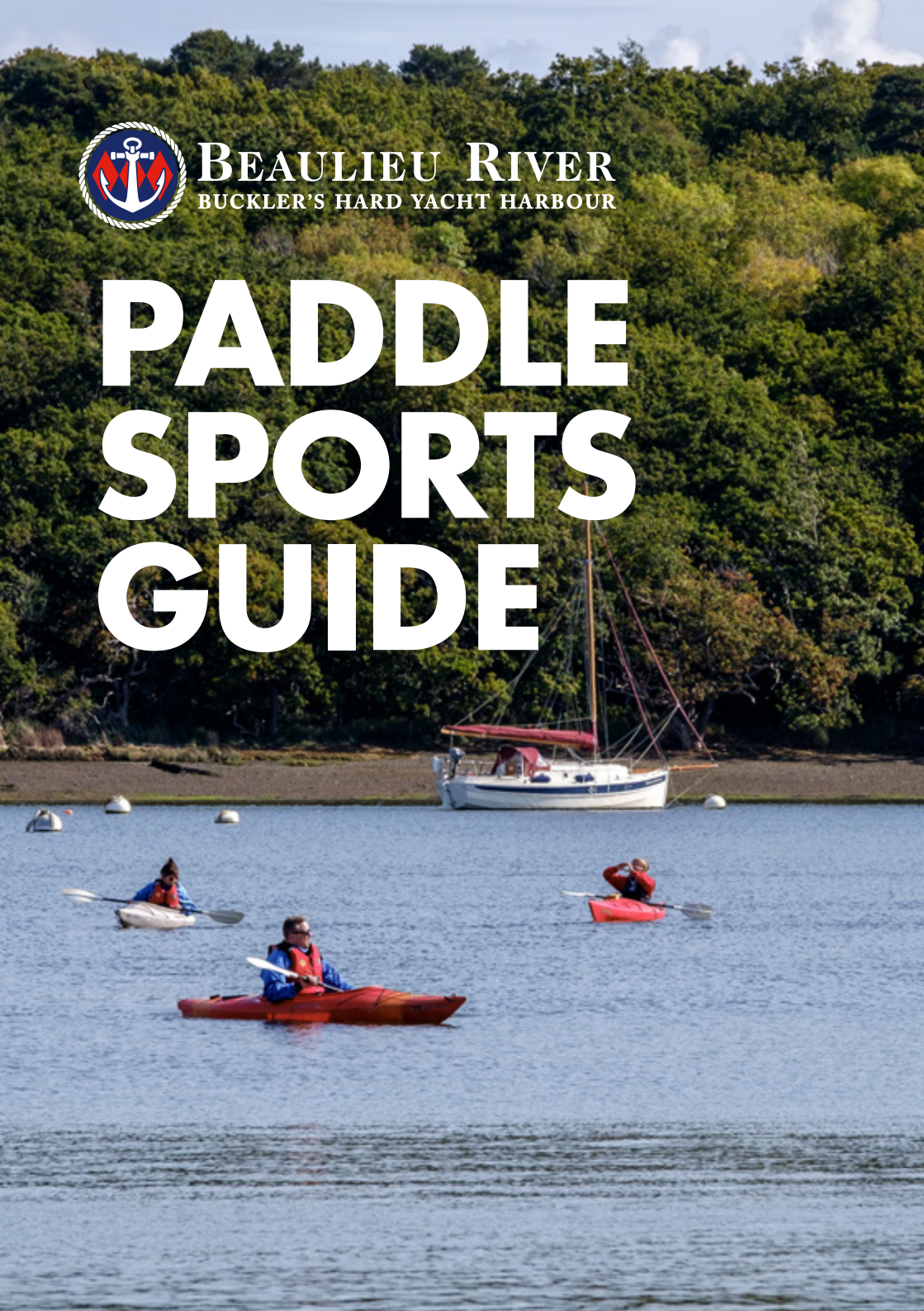




**BEAULIEU RIVER**  
BUCKLER'S HARD YACHT HARBOUR

# PADDLE SPORTS GUIDE



# **The Beaulieu River is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and home to a remarkable variety of wildlife. Please help to maintain the natural beauty of this environment by proceeding with caution and consideration.**

You may only access the Beaulieu River with permission from the Harbour Master from the slipway at Buckler's Hard Yacht Harbour.

Please report to the Harbour Office to pay for access and parking prior to launching.

Please note that launching and landing elsewhere on the Beaulieu River is prohibited.

## **Paddle Safely & Responsibly:**

- Check local weather forecasts and tidal predictions—tidal currents can be hazardous. Remember that the upper reaches of the river do dry out and that the ebb tide is stronger.
- Carry your craft to the water. Dragging it can damage important fragile habitats like mud and marsh.
- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid.
- Ensure you have a mobile phone or VHF radio in case of emergency.
- Bring a whistle to attract attention in case of emergency.
- Respect other river users and remember you are not always visible to other vessels.

### **#sharethespace**

- Ensure you have the correct licence if required.
- Do not secure children or dogs to your canoe, kayak or paddleboard.
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space.
- Do not drink alcohol and paddle.
- Please take all litter home, including all food waste. Report any concerns to the Harbour Office, including sightings of litter or pollution on the water.

## The Solent Forum's Natural Environment Group has produced these guidelines to help reduce the disturbance of birds from paddle sports.

- Look, slow down, keep your distance then move on when watching birds. Take binoculars to get a better view.
- Please avoid the shoreline except when accessing or leaving the water. Do not enter any of the creeks located on the river. You may also accidentally erode the seabed or damage underwater plants.
- Keep your distance from birds that are resting or feeding. At least 50 metres is advisable.
- It can be difficult to know how close is "too close". Signs that show you are too close to birds are if they start looking in your direction, they begin to call, or they fly or move away. If this happens please withdraw as safely and quickly as possible.
- Quietly does it, for the best view of birds please keep noise to a minimum. Noise can startle and disturb birds.
- Please do not feed birds or other wildlife.
- Please report notable marine wildlife sighting to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's marine sightings page at [www.hiwwt.org.uk/marine-sightings](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/marine-sightings) with date, time, location and a photo if possible.
- Report bird sightings on the Solent Birds app. See [www.solentbirds.org.uk](http://www.solentbirds.org.uk)



