

CREEK AND COASTLINE

A circular walk to Woodside Beach



This project has been funded by the Local Heritage Initiative which is a national grant scheme that helps local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) provides the grant but the scheme is a partnership, administered by the Countryside Agency.

Local Heritage initiative



Walks about Wootton

Creek and Coastline

Welcome to Wootton Bridge. This leaflet is one in a series of five walks designed to help you explore some of our village's history and beautiful surroundings. Enjoy your walk.

Distance: Approximately 4 miles.

Timing: 2½ hours

Nearest car park: Brannon Way.

Bus routes: Ryde - Newport No. 9,

Ryde - East Cowes No 4.

Recommended: Bring your binoculars and bird book!

Not recommended for disabled.

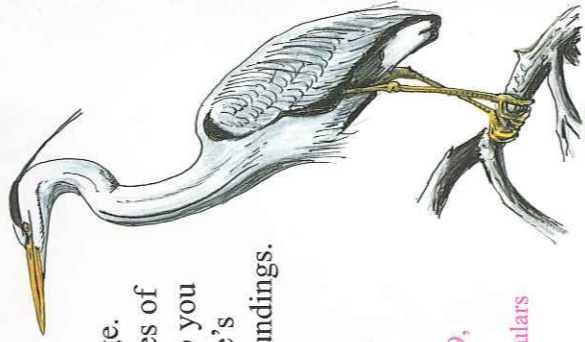
Start and finish: Outside The Sloop Inn, Mill Square.

Taken at a gentle pace this walk is fairly easy going partly along footpaths and gravelled byways. Wear sturdy shoes.

1. Outside the Sloop Inn, begin initially by taking the Coastal Footpath also signposted N190 New Road. After a few steps bear around to the right and follow the gravel road until you reach the metal gate.

Pass through the gate into the green, with the dinghy park on the right. Cross the green with Southern Water pumping house on the left. Pause and enjoy the view down towards the Solent, which is part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest by reason of its special fauna, flora and geological features.

Walk past the pumping station (on your left) and continue on round into Pump Lane and emerge onto New Road. Turn right and follow the road, keeping the Creek to your right.



2. Some stunning views of the Creek are obtained on this section. Pass the houseboats, Creek Gardens, and further along, Little Canada Activity Centre. Continue on until you reach the crossroads at the end of New Road.

3. The path to the shore is signposted N156 but if you wish to take a short diversion to have another look at the Creek, turn right into Woodside Road, passing Woodside Hall Nursing Home on the left. At the end of the road you will come to footpath N216 that at low tide gives you access to the shore.



4. The north shore on both sides of the **Creek** is of particular beauty and has Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation. You will see the Wightlink Fishbourne terminal on the opposite bank.

Retrace your steps back to the crossroads.

5. At the crossroads, footpath N156 takes you down to **Woodside Bay** and the beach. Depending on the tide it is possible to walk along the beach to the café and walk up the path to join the Lower Woodside Road.



6. Beside footpath (N156) is the site of the former Warner's Holiday Camp. This was once the site of Woodside House which later became a nudist colony that was eventually absorbed into Warner's Holiday Camp.

The old house was demolished. An amusing depiction of this is included in the Millennium Wall Hanging in the Community Centre, Brannon Way, showing two boys standing on their bike saddles peering over the fence!



The bottom of the hill brings you to journey's end at The Sloop Inn.

11. Proceed downhill and do look in the front garden of No. 80 High Street. On view is the Queen Victoria Jubilee fountain, originally erected in 1887 (further down the High Street). It was Wootton's first piped water supply.

10. After a few steps turn left to gain access to the recreation ground and the Doorstep Green. Follow the designated pathway and exit by turning left onto the High Street.



9. Continue along this path until reaching St Edmund's Church.

Turn left by the telephone masts and then take footpath N99 to the right.

8. Continue up to the T-junction. At this point stop and enjoy the view across the Solent to Lee-on-the-Solent and Portsmouth to the east, and Southampton Water to the west. You can also see the towers of Osborne House to the west, from this viewpoint. If you are lucky you may see a cruise ship such as Queen Mary 2 passing through the Solent.

When you are ready, return to Lower Woodside Road (immediate right hand turn if you come up from N156) and follow the Lane which eventually rises and bears round to the left near a woodland named **Wallishill Copse**, which is on your right.



An alternative route to the beach is to take the second road to the left, **Lower Woodside Road**, which follows the southern boundary hedge of the former Warner's Holiday Camp. The woodland to your right is all part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it is worth looking out for red squirrels along this part of the walk.

7. Keep going until you reach footpath N206 on the right hand side. Walk down the footpath past the café (limited opening hours) and onto the beach where you will obtain further views of the shoreline and Solent.



Woodside Bay

Woodside Bay needs a special mention, as it is a highly important area, which has 'SPA' and 'RAMSAR' designations. The SPA means a 'Special Protection Area' of wetland of international importance classified under the EU 'Birds Directive' to conserve the habitats of rare and migratory wild birds.

The 'RAMSAR' is a site identified by the signatory states to the International Convention at RAMSAR, Iran, in 1971 for the protection of internationally important wetlands and wildfowl habitats.

So it may be worth having a look through your binoculars to look for the birdlife, particularly at low tide.

You will also be able to see the many ships and yachts, which pass up and down the Solent.





- Walks About Wootton Footpath
- Unpaved footpaths/bridleways
- Wootton Station (Stream Railway to Havenstreet, Smallbrook Junction and Island Line)
- Wootton Bridge Help & Information Centre
- P Parking
- PO Post Office
- + Church
- PH Public House
- PC Public Convenience
- ▶ View Point

WOOTTON BRIDGE HELP AND INFORMATION CENTRE
 4 & 5 Joanne's Walk, Brannon Way, Telephone: 884 555
 Web address: www.woottonbridge.com
 Open: Mon - Fri 0900 - 1300 hours