

### Key Information

**Start and Finish:**

Bucklers Hard,  
Beaulieu, New Forest,  
SO42 7XB

**Portages: 0****Time:** 1.5 - 3 hours**Distance:** 6 Miles**OS Map:** Explorer 22 New Forest

Beaulieu River Harbour Master can be contacted on 01590 616200 email [river@beaulieu.co.uk](mailto:river@beaulieu.co.uk) You must visit the Harbour Master office, to pay your access fee and arrange parking, before launching on this route.



For more information scan the QR code or visit <https://rb.gy/3lxke>



Take a paddle through smugglers paradise, all the while heading towards the witches, ghosts and ghouls of Beaulieu. Will you make it there and back?!

**Note: This is a tidal trail. Check tide times before you set out. The harbour master will provide you with a map and tide table when you pay your launch fee.**

1. Setting off from Buckler's Hard, turn left and make your way up the river towards Beaulieu. Take care especially around the Harbour and stay out of the main channel in so far as possible. As you leave this historic launch point do you hear the creaking timbers of Nelson's war ships, built here in times gone by?

2. The river may seem peaceful but this was once a lucrative smuggling route. The notorious mudflats of the river were an extra aid for their illegal activities; trapping unsuspecting revenue men. Listen hard and you may hear their cries for help as they helplessly face the incoming tide.

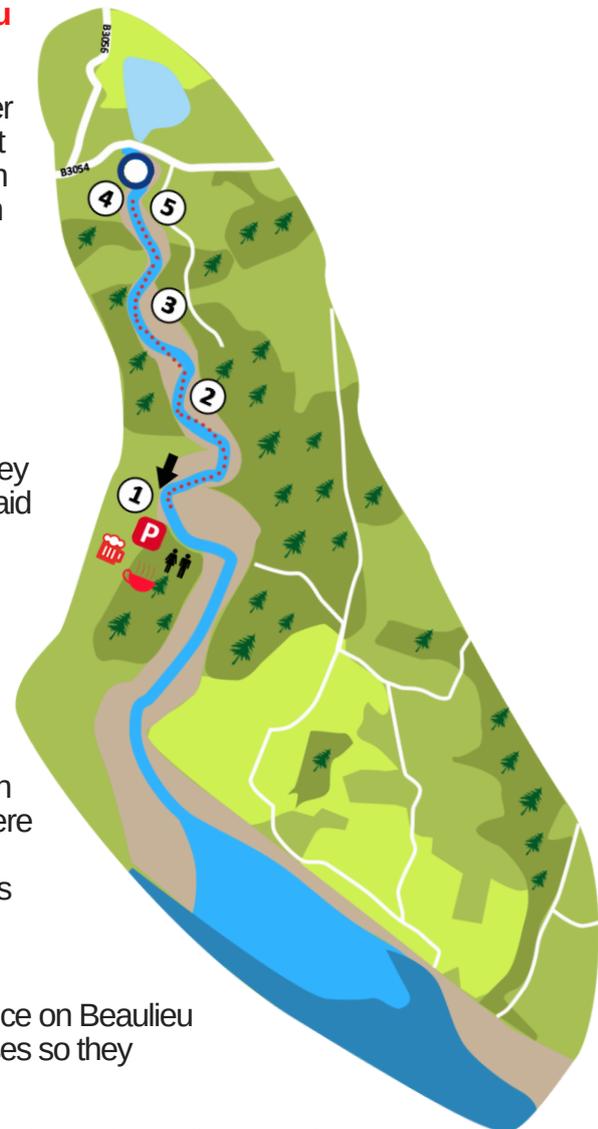
3. As you come towards Beaulieu the grounds of Beaulieu House & Abbey are on your right. Isabella, Countess of Beaulieu died here in 1787 & is said to still pass through the walls of the house still wearing her beautiful blue dress.

4. Reaching Beaulieu, you can stop and rest, but this is not a launching or landing site. It is, however, one of the most haunted places in the UK, so keep a wary eye out while you're here. **Please do not paddle on the river above the road no matter how inviting the pond looks.**

5. A house in Palace Lane, which crosses the river in front of you, is often subject to spooky goings on. Could the loud whispers which are heard here be the shade of one of Beaulieu's famous witches? Witchy White and Mary Dore were both well known in the area. Mary was known to transform herself into an animal and Witchy specialised in love magic - bringing unlikely couples together.

6. As you turn for your return journey watch for the Colt Pixie in the distance on Beaulieu Heath. This horse like pixie loves to play pranks and call out to other horses so they become lost.

7. Now wave goodbye to the ghostly monks at Beaulieu Abbey and brave those dastardly smugglers on your return journey!



Find out more information at: [gopaddling.info](http://gopaddling.info)

The Beaulieu is a tidal river and along with the Solent has the advantage of a double high tide this corresponds to the ebb being quicker than it may otherwise have been especially at springs. The section above Bailey's Hard is not a nice paddle at low tides and may become impassable at the top end of the river.

The Beaulieu River has several areas that are designated SSSI please do not land unless you are sure of authorised access. The river is unusual in that it is one of very few private rivers in the world, with the ownership having been given to the Monks of Beaulieu Abbey back in the mists of time. The rights have now passed to the Montagu family and their stewardship has ensured that its development has been largely controlled, keeping this a haven. Salt pans were widely used in the area to reclaim the sea and harvest salt. Many are now nature reserves and important areas for many wild birds.

There are many boats and jetties on the river care should be taken to avoid these, also the river is used by fishermen please avoid their lines. When on springs the tide can drop very quickly, and can either carry you further than you want or trap you against obstacles.

Buckler's Hard has been essential to boat production for hundreds of years. Liquid Logistics run canoe and kayak courses and trips from here. The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu houses one of the world's finest collections of cars.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

- [www.gopaddling.info](http://www.gopaddling.info)
- [www.beaulieuriver.co.uk](http://www.beaulieuriver.co.uk)
- [www.bucklershard.co.uk](http://www.bucklershard.co.uk)



## Licence

We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.

### Paddle Safe. Be prepared and take the right kit:

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and / or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & suncream!

### Paddle Responsibly. Respect the natural environment and other users:

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

**Licences:** The waterways on this trail don't require you to have a licence to paddle on them. However if you paddle regularly you should consider becoming a member of British Canoeing. A British Canoeing membership gives you a whole range of benefits including a licence to paddle on 4500km of Britain's waterways and Civil Liability Insurance, worth up to £10 Million. Not only will membership help save you money, it will give you peace of mind when out on the waterways. For more information on British Canoeing membership please [click here](#).

**New to  
paddling?**

[Check out the  
Paddle Awards!](#)