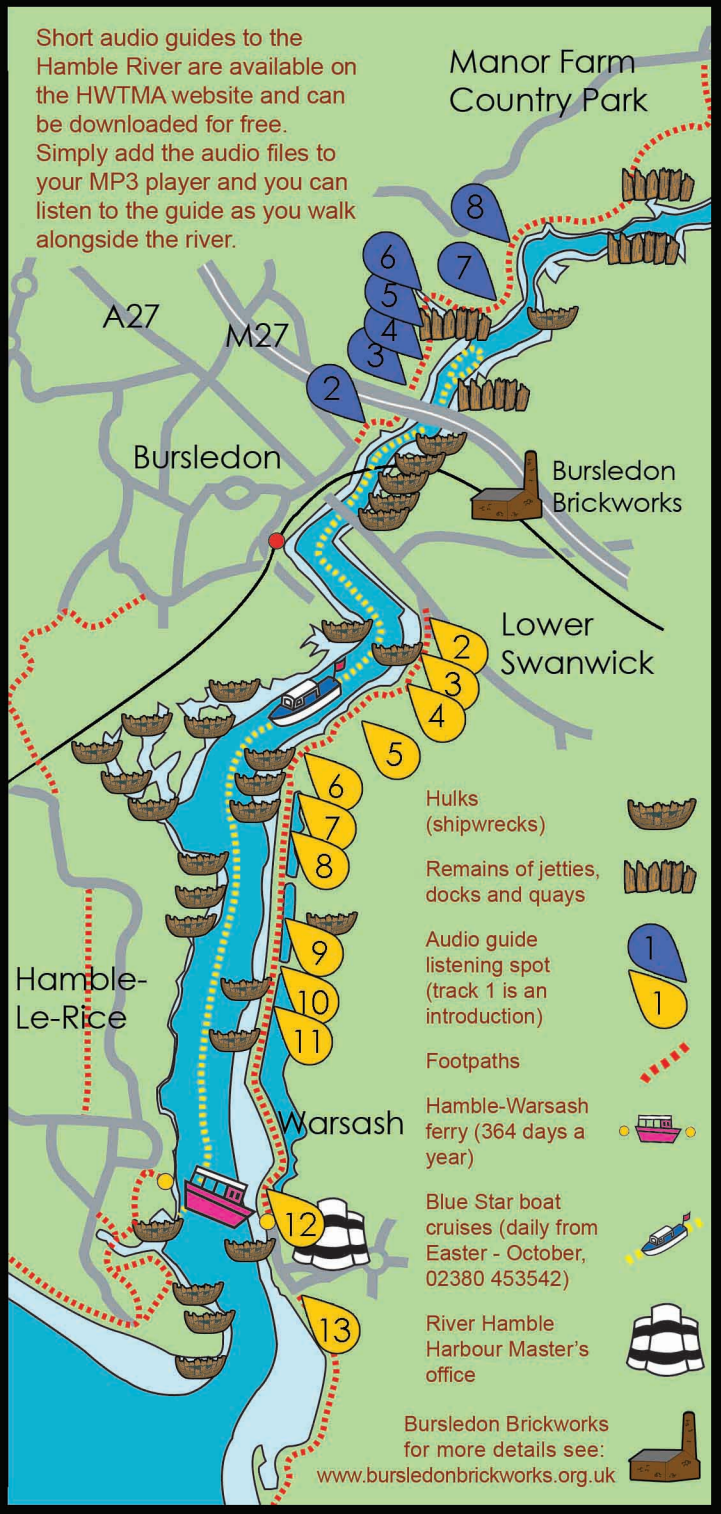
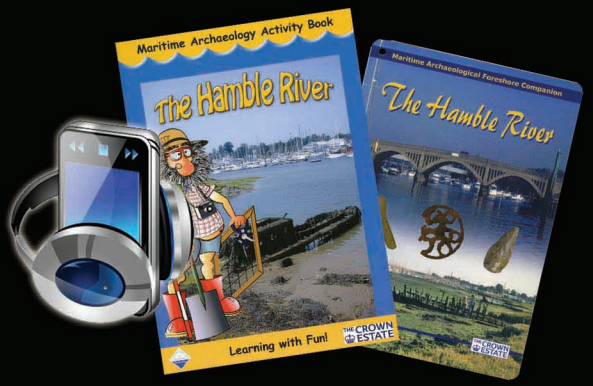
Short audio guides to the Hamble River are available on the HWTMA website and can be downloaded for free. Simply add the audio files to your MP3 player and you can listen to the guide as you walk alongside the river.



The Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology promotes research and knowledge of maritime archaeology and heritage in Great Britain, with core activities concentrated on the South Coast.



If you want to find out more about the Hamble River there is a wealth of information available on the HWTMA website, as well as a free audio guide that you can listen to as you walk along the riverbank. You can also buy publications about the river and the research that has taken place there.

www.hwtma.org.uk

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Hampshire & Wight Trust for MARITIME Archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ATLAS OF THE 2 SEAS MERS ZEEËN

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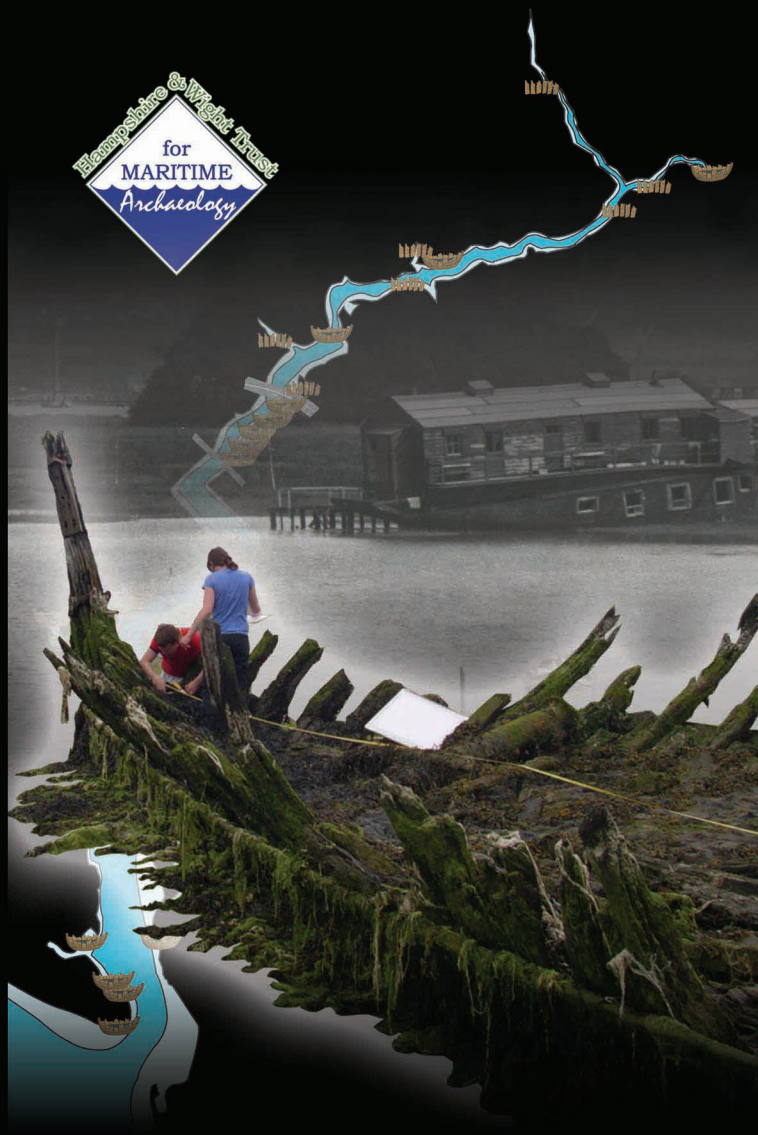
Archaeology of the Hamble River



A portal into your past!

Hamble's History

People have been using the Hamble River for millennia. Over time, a variety of vessels have been abandoned and wrecked along its banks and many of them are left as remains along the foreshore. The earliest vessel discovered on the river is a Saxon log boat found at Fairthorne Manor, that dates from between AD 668-704.

The River Hamble was extremely important to the local economy because it was used by traders as a highway to transport their wares. Over time many structures have been built along the river banks where an array of goods could be collected and delivered.

Lightermen taking coal to Botley Quay. Image courtesy of Ian Underdown

The Hamble also has a distinguished military history. During the 15th century it was an important anchorage for Henry V's fleet. Today the remains of his flagship, the *Grace Dieu*, lie in the riverbed north of the M27. During the Second World War a camp called HMS *Cricket* was built in the woods behind Hoe Moor Creek. Landing craft were moored at timber docks in the creek, where men trained for D-Day.

Today the Hamble is a centre for leisure and recreation. Hoe Moor Creek and the site of HMS *Cricket* are within Manor Farm Country Park, and Bursledon Brickworks is a popular heritage attraction.

Above: Fortuna *and* Flash *in use as hospital ships (image courtesy of Ian Underdown)*
Right: *The hulk of* Flash *at Satchell Marsh*

Hamble's Hulks

On the shore walk between Swanwick and Warsash there is a hulk of which only the keel and two sections of superstructure remain. After investigations by HWTMA staff and volunteers, several features identified it as a Barnett Class Lifeboat. These were built from the 1920s and some were still in use in the early 1980s. This site shows the extent to which a boat can degrade in the river mud.

The hulk between Swanwick and Warsash

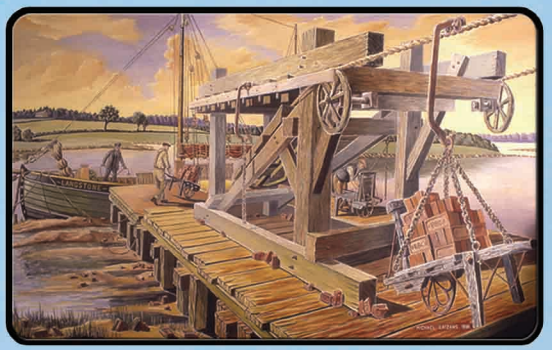
A Barnett Class Lifeboat in Chatham Dockyard

In 1892 the Training Ship *Mercury*, a school that trained boys for life at sea, came to the Hamble. With it came a small fleet of craft, including *Fortuna* and *Flash,* believed to be two former North Sea trawlers that were converted into hospital ships some time prior to 1913.

These ships survive as hulks on the western bank of the Hamble at Satchell Marsh. HWTMA uses these vessels to teach maritime archaeological survey to hundreds of local people and students.

Hamble's Harbours

In the late 1800s, timber docks were built at Hoe Moor Creek to collect bricks produced at a nearby brickworks. In 1897 Bursledon Brickworks opened on the other side of the river. The new works were much bigger and could produce 20 million bricks a year. Large quantities of these were transported by water and were moved to the river using an overhead ropeway, where they were loaded onto boats and lighters.



Painting by Michael Laizen

Posts and bracing timbers near Burridge Farm are the remains of a wharf and boat berth. Local residents' memories of a horse and cart track and historic maps showing quarrying nearby, probably relate to this site.

HWTMA staff and local volunteers surveying Burridge Hard in 2007

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