



Main picture View across Newtown Creek  
Inset Left: Yarmouth lifeboat Eric and Susan Hiscock  
Right: Yarmouth Town Hall

# Newtown Creek a haven for yachtsmen... and those in search of peace and tranquility

It was built in 1763 to replace a plain market house, during the reign of George III. The upper chamber was where the Town Corporation and Mayor met, and where they could decide who would be the two MPs for the town!

## The Town Hall

This has been the main hotel in Yarmouth for over 250 years and before that was the home of two Governors of the Isle of Wight. It is thought to have been built by Sir Robert Holmes in 1669. It became the George Inn in 1764, being named after George III.

## The George Hotel

In 1662, for security reasons, a cut through was made at the eastern end of Yarmouth, and so the town became an island with a drawbridge to the outer town gate. When this experiment ended, an embankment was built where the Mill is today. This sealed off the sea from the Thorley area and created the mill pond. The tidal mill was built in 1793.

## The Mill

The pier was built in 1876 as a landing point for the foot passengers brought by ferry from the mainland. Built entirely of wood, at 609 feet it is the longest completely wooden pier in England. A pier master's office was added in 1927.

## The Pier

Yarmouth Castle was commissioned by Henry VIII following two invasions by the French, firstly in 1377 and again in 1543. The square structure was built at the edge of the Solent and River Yar with a moat on the other two sides. The stone was sourced from the destruction of monasteries at Quar and Beaulieu. Guns were placed in a protruding bastion on the land side, but the castle had the desired deterrent effect and the guns were never needed.

## The Castle

In 1940 an anti-submarine boom and controlled minefield were laid across the Solent under Royal Navy supervision and rough concrete air defences constructed over the guns. Attempts by the Germans to bomb the battery during the Second World War have created three seasonal ponds caused by bomb craters. The site is now a scheduled ancient monument and a national nature reserve managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

necessary, destruction. The battery consisted of two 6-inch mark VII breach-loading guns, basic huts to provide accommodation and shelter, underground shell stores and magazines complete with electric lifts for the ammunition to be raised to the gun emplacements, and a battery observation post. The battery also had searchlight positions nearby and an indicator loop laid across the channel for submarine detection. This consisted of a submerged cable on the seabed, which would detect a magnetic current as the submarine passed over it.

# Solent Coast Ningwood to Yarmouth

**Description** A coastal walk overlooking Newtown estuary and the Solent. **Distance** Seven miles. **Start** Car park by Horse and Groom at Ningwood on A3054. No 7 bus stops here and at Yarmouth Harbour. **Access information** Mostly level, easy walking, but can be muddy after prolonged wet periods. **Refreshments** Horse and Groom pub or many places in Yarmouth. **Toilets** Patrons of pub or at Yarmouth. **Internet** All walks in this series can be downloaded from this website [www.iowramblers.com/page44.htm](http://www.iowramblers.com/page44.htm) or [www.islandbuses.info/things-do/rambles-bus/](http://www.islandbuses.info/things-do/rambles-bus/)

## Countryside Code Respect Protect Enjoy

- Respect other people*
- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
  - Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

- Protect the natural environment*
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
  - Keep dogs under effective control

- Enjoy the outdoors*
- Plan ahead and be prepared
  - Follow advice and local signs



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# Solent Coast Ningwood to Yarmouth

A linear walk beside enchanted wooded creeks beloved of yachtsmen in summer, and a bird watcher's paradise in winter.

Front cover Newtown Creek is a safe haven for all kinds of boatmen  
Main picture, this page Soft cliffs along the Solent coast are very prone to erosion  
Inset left Yarmouth Pier and Hurst Castle silhouetted in the afternoon sun  
Inset right Boardwalks allow safe passage along boggy stretches of the shore



# Solent Coast Ningwood to Yarmouth

**Information**  
 Bus times  
 0871 200 22 33  
calls from landlines cost 10p per minute  
 Web  
[www.islandbuses.info](http://www.islandbuses.info)  
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 01983 523831

**Key**  
 Tea rooms  
 Public house  
 Bus stop  
 Car park  
 Public footpaths  
 Walk route



Scan this code with your smart phone to access the Southern Vectis timetable applicable to this walk.

**Route** Take the sign posted S9 footpath beside the Horse and Groom car park. Follow the left hand side of the field cross three stiles and a footbridge. Turn right to follow a creek to the next stile. Follow this path to another stile. Follow the way-marked grass path right and then left, go over another stile into woodland and follow the meandering path to track S27 where you will turn left. You are now on the coastal path and you will be following the blue coastal path signs from now on to Yarmouth **2**.

Continue along the Coastal Path track ignoring a left turn at Pigeon Coo farm to reach a right turn sign posted to Hampstead. Proceed straight along this track past Creek farm and through a steel gate until you reach a jetty overlooking Newtown Bay **3**. After taking a break to enjoy the views, back track a short distance to rejoin the coastal path sign posted S3 on your right. Follow this path and board walks skirting the creek to reach a field. Walk up the left side of the field to reach a stile through the hedgerow on your left. Crossing the stile walk diagonally across a field until you reach the start of another board walk.



**Pictured, left to right**  
Yarmouth Pier; memorial to drowned boys at Hampstead shore; Yarmouth Mill

After the board walk the path passes between a field and woodland and then over a bank to reach the shingle shore line **4**. (Along the shore line set back in the hedgerow you will find a Celtic Cross stone memorial to two young men who drowned off Hampstead Ledge in 1932).

The path turns left to follow the shore line, then it rises and bears inland to Hampstead farm. After the farm follow the track to a junction where you take a right hand path next to a steel field gate **5**. Then cross a stile and follow the hedgerow on the left side of a field. At the next metal gate pass through an adjacent squeeze stile. Cross the next field to another stile. In the subsequent field follow the path keeping a conifer hedge on your right. Cross a private drive then take the path between wooden railings to join a track. At the next junction bear right along West Close, **6**, this is Cranmore.



Then take a footpath on your left through a wooded area. The path opens up with sea views on your right and the Bouldnor nature reserve on your left. Also on your left you will see the remains of a WW2 gun emplacement **7**. Follow the path across a boardwalk then close to the shoreline until you need to turn inland **8** along a track to join the Yarmouth Road. Turn right to follow the verge of the A3054 **9** until you reach a car park with views across the Solent. Follow the coastal path **10** along the promenade and across Yarmouth Green to join the end of Yarmouth High Street. Walk through the town to the bus stop next to the ferry terminal **11**.



The best way to see the Island

Ramblers by Bus