

The Eastleigh Group of the



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22 NOVEMBER 2020

STATEMENT REGARDING POLICY HA2 OF THE PROPOSED EASTLEIGH LOCAL PLAN MERCURY MARINA AND RIVERSIDE CAMPING AND CARAVAN PARK

In its representations to Eastleigh Borough Council on the proposed Eastleigh Local Plan on 31 July 2018 in addition to stating that the Plan was not sound stated the Eastleigh Ramblers stated

Policy HA2, Mercury Marina and Riverside Camping and Caravan Park Requirement vi – Pages 172-173 – The provision of public rights of way and statutory Access Lands in this area should be a positive rather than optional requirement as this is one area of the frontage to the Hamble where public recreational access can be promoted and not just for river related uses.

This statement is submitted to the Local Plan Inquiry by way further explanation of the issues affecting access to the shores of the River Hamble. Reference should be made to the plan below where the only six points of public access as of right to the River Hamble are identified. At the northernmost point of access there is about 100 metres of river frontage available. The next two going south are points overlooking the marshes but give no river access. The next point of access going south is to a part of a marina. Most residents and visitors only get to access the River on the west bank (through lack of knowledge of the above) at the next point going south because that is the village river frontage and ferry point. The last point of access is the best giving access to a creek and there are additional permissive paths that add to the options. However, for the bulk of the River on its west side is inaccessible to the public as of right and such access as does exist is not secured for the future. The Eastleigh Ramblers therefore consider that if any landowner is to be given planning permission to enable them to exploit the commercial and residential development potential of this highly valued river it should come with the condition that permanent arrangements should be made and secured for public access to those parts of the river in their control.

The Eastleigh Ramblers therefore seek the following amendment to Policy HA2 (vi)

vi. (a) the Mound (the Mercury Marina Saltmarsh Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) adjoining the site is retained and managed to maintain and enhance its nature conservation interest, ~~including the provision if possible of public access subject to there being no adverse impact on nature conservation interests;~~ (b) Provision is made and secured for permanent public access on foot from Satchell Lane to the River Hamble frontage and along the whole of the site frontage to the River including the Mound to fulfil the need for more access for recreation and to enhance the tourism potential of the River Hamble.

Submitted on behalf of the Eastleigh Ramblers by

Richard C. Kenchington FRICS IRRV (Hons),
Footpath Secretary, EASTLEIGH RAMBLERS

The Group promotes rambling by organising 150 walks a year and protects rights of way and defends the beauty of the countryside within the Borough of Eastleigh. Registered Charity No 1093577, part of The Ramblers' Association, company limited by guarantee, registration number 4458492

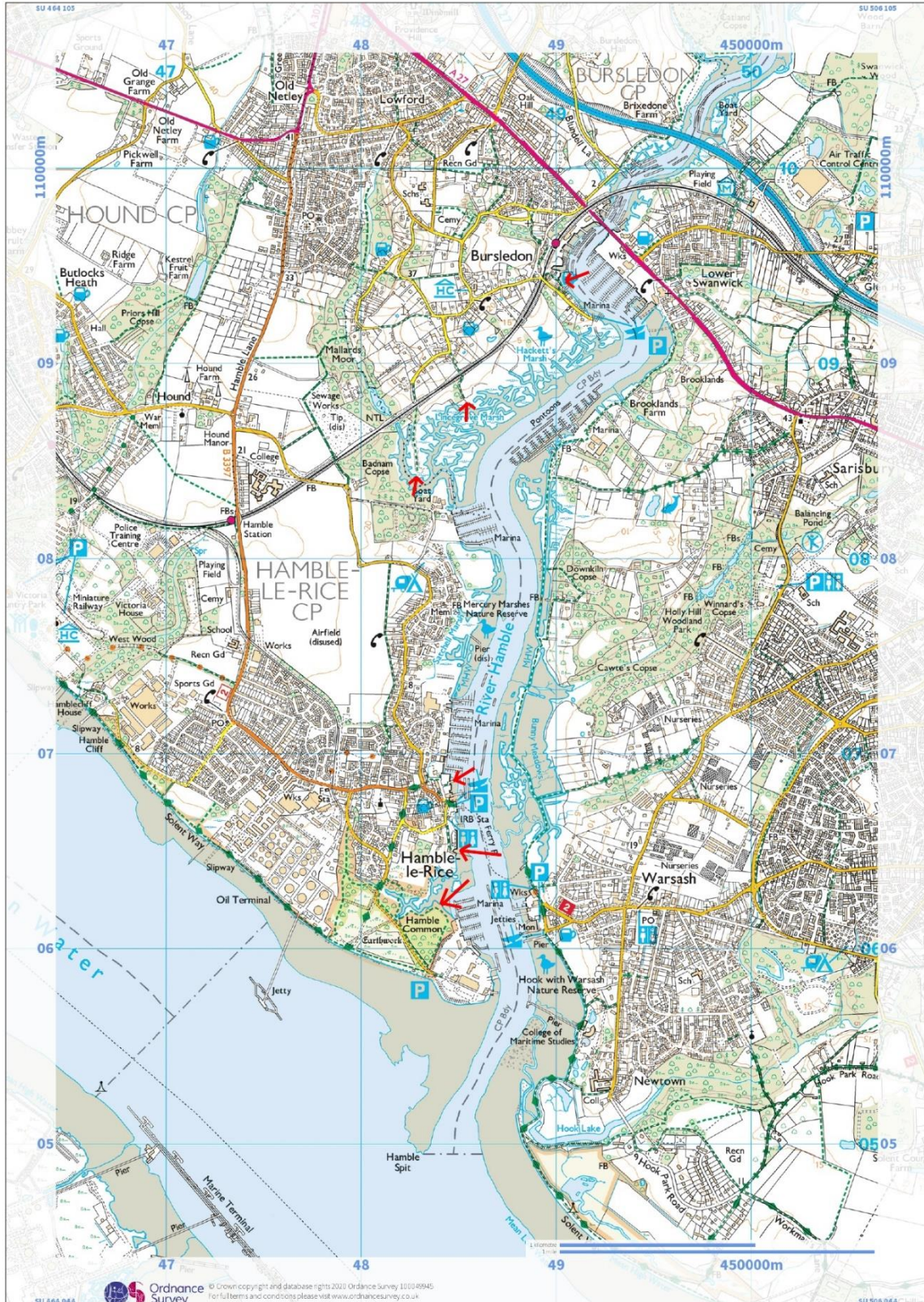
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ramblers
at the heart of walking

22/11/2020

OS Maps: online mapping and walking, running and cycling routes



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