

OUT TO LUNCH – Fareham Quay

At the top of Portsmouth harbour life isn't as peaceful as we had hoped

Once past Hardway and the mothballed warships of our Navy the upper reaches are almost as congested as the Hamble but with little clear pattern: red and green markers are dotted between crowded moorings, some cardinal markers too, and rounding Bedenham Pier the conflicting Wicormarine berths to st'bd and RNSA moorings to port leave little room for a fairway. Then at HW you could meet a large dredger coming down from the aggregate wharf further up – it certainly made us to give way!



In the final stretch towards the town PME have a line of pontoons where we found varying depths, then Fareham Marina occupies more frontage, while in between, next to the waterside property of Fareham MBS Club, there is a public slipway and scrubbing piles with over two metres of water against the wall – and no-one calling to collect dues.



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Within sight The Castle in the Air is a friendly pub offering a wide selection of food. Not recommended is the Bird in Hand, a drinking establishment across the busy A32



Verdict: cheerful local hostelry

Tide on the day: HW Portsmouth 1125 ht 4.6m
Castle in the Air tel 02392 280320



The chart shows Fareham Creek becoming the Wallington River. What's there up there? Perhaps next time . . .