

Chichester
Harbour
Conservancy

Chichester Harbour

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Management Plan
2014 - 2019



for land, for water, for all

Chairman's Foreword

Chichester Harbour is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is a valuable resource for South East England, contributing to the health and quality of life for local people and visitors.



This Management Plan sets out a vision and framework to guide the future of Chichester Harbour AONB until 2019. It is a continuation of the foundations laid down by the last Management Plan, with the existing approach focussed on the place and the people that help to shape and look after this special landscape. The Management Plan challenges everyone to contribute towards safeguarding Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for years to come.

The Management Plan is a tool that will guide us through those challenges, from our use of the water, through to the way we manage the land, retaining and sustaining our strong and resilient communities, and stimulating rural economic growth. We are committed to the guiding principle of sustainable development that will help us to achieve our ambitions. It is this integrated approach that will ensure that this natural environment is well maintained for everyone who holds Chichester Harbour AONB so dear.

We undertook a very successful public consultation exercise between May and December 2013. Contributions were received from a wide range of partners that endorsed the existing framework and identified what the priorities for action should be. However, the resources available to Chichester Harbour Conservancy and its partners are slender. We will carefully consider how we can continue to protect this AONB, particularly in the current economic climate. AONBs are landscapes of change, and the Management Plan is vital in guiding that change in a positive direction.

On behalf of Chichester Harbour Conservancy, I would like to thank all those staff, partner organisations, volunteers, businesses and individuals who have contributed to the development of the Management Plan. We look forward to working with everyone towards its successful delivery.

Pieter Montyn

Chairman
Chichester Harbour Conservancy



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Acknowledgements

Chichester Harbour Conservancy has produced this Management Plan for Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2014-2019 on behalf of the Local Authorities of Hampshire, West Sussex, Havant and Chichester. This Management Plan follows the 2009-14 document which has been reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the CRoW Act (2000). The Conservancy wishes to thank the members of the Management Plan Steering Group for their time and support in overseeing the review process. In addition we wish to thank all partners and stakeholders who participated in the consultation process for their valuable feedback which was vital in ensuring the revised AONB Management Plan represents the needs of the Harbour and AONB community.

Introduction

Chichester Harbour and the AONB Management Plan

Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Chichester Harbour AONB was designated in 1964 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. In June 2000, Nick Raynsford (then Planning Minister), made a statement in the House of Commons confirming that AONBs are equivalent to National Parks in terms of their landscape quality, scenic beauty and planning.

The purpose of the AONB designation was defined by the Countryside Commission 1991 statement (CCP 356) and re-affirmed by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

- **The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.**

In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.

Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

At 74km², Chichester Harbour is the smallest AONB in the South East region, yet is one of the most intensively used and offers a unique mix of sea, coast and land. Chichester Harbour is of international importance for its wintering bird populations, marine and coastal habitats and species as designated under European Directives (Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation) and the Ramsar Convention. There are also extensive national and local designations for nature conservation – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and county-designated wildlife sites - Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs).

Chichester Harbour AONB has a rich cultural heritage, and boasts a proud history of boat building and sailing. It is a major recreational boating harbour, and each year 1.5 million people come to the AONB to enjoy activities both on and off the water. Many come just to walk and enjoy the peace and tranquillity the AONB has to offer.

The AONB is home to a wide range of businesses, from those directly linked to sailing to those providing services and facilities for visitors, and farming the high quality agricultural land.

Managing Chichester Harbour AONB

Chichester Harbour Conservancy was formed in 1971 by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act, and has the primary role in managing Chichester Harbour and the surrounding land. Since 1971 the Conservancy, together with its key AONB partner organisations, has taken on the role of the Advisory Committee with the consent of the Local Authorities, and now extends its management to the AONB boundary (see the Appendix for further information on the role of Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the management framework of Chichester Harbour AONB).

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is a unique organisation in England. It is the only public body that is both a Statutory Harbour Authority and an Advisory Committee for an AONB.

The 1971 Act lays down Chichester Harbour Conservancy's function as follows:

It shall be the function of the Conservancy subject to the provisions of this Act, to take such steps from time to time, to maintain and improve the Harbour:

- a) for the use of pleasure craft and such other vessels as may seek to use the same.**
- b) for the occupation of leisure and recreation and the conservation of nature and the facilities (including, in relation to the Harbour, navigational facilities) afforded respectively therein or in connection therewith.**

In the fulfilment of the function with which they are charged, the Conservancy shall have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside and of avoiding interference with fisheries.

The Management Plan must continue to identify the policies and actions which ensure the Conservancy discharges its statutory functions in the two principal areas of the Harbour outlined within the 1971 Act, namely the water-based activities, and the land based activities.

Overlaying and in many cases overlapping these traditional functions are the duties placed on Local Authorities and other relevant authorities by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. Part IV Section 85 of the Act places 'a duty on 'relevant authorities' when exercising or performing any function in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the AONB, to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB'. These duties are being delivered through the implementation of the Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan.

In addition to the CRoW Act, the AONB Management Plan aims to deliver the targets and policies held within a framework of national and international policy, including the National Planning Policy Framework; Biodiversity 2020; the Natural Environment White Paper, the European Landscape Convention, and European Habitats Regulations. The South Inshore Marine Plan is currently being produced by the Marine Management Organisation and will come into being during the course of this Management Plan.

This Management Plan is an integrated plan for use by all stakeholders in Chichester Harbour AONB.



Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan

Chichester Harbour Conservancy produces and reviews the Management Plan on behalf of Hampshire and West Sussex County Councils, Havant Borough Council, and Chichester District Council. The Plan fulfils the duty placed upon Local Authorities under Part IV of the CRoW Act 2000 and provides a framework for Chichester Harbour Conservancy and its partners to drive forward integrated and co-ordinated action for the management of this nationally and internationally important protected landscape over the next five years.

However, the Conservancy and the Local Authorities cannot act alone in their role to conserve and enhance Chichester Harbour AONB. The Conservancy and the Advisory Committee rely upon all partners and stakeholders to implement the Management Plan. It requires all those organisations, particularly those with a duty of regard for the AONB, to consider the policies and actions advocated and incorporate them into annual work programmes where appropriate.

The development of the first Management Plan in 2004 was informed through a series of eight consultation workshops. These helped shape the Vision for Chichester Harbour AONB 2024, identified the management issues which needed to be addressed and helped to develop the policies and actions needed to implement the plan. The management issues have been updated as part of the review process and new issues have been added where identified through the consultation process and from experience of the first ten years of delivering the AONB Management Plan.

The Management Plan (and its partner document the Delivery Plan) is intended to formulate the actions and future policy-setting of the Local Authorities and other relevant authorities and public bodies as part of their 'duty of regard' for the AONB. In addition, the Management Plan provides the central framework for other key documents, including the forthcoming Chichester Harbour AONB Planning Policies and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Business Plan.

The Management Plan covers the five year period from April 2014 to March 2019. An Annual Review is produced each year summarising the progress in implementing actions by all partners. Further details on the implementation of the Management Plan are given in Part 3.

The AONB Management Plan review process

S89 and S90 of the CRoW Act require Chichester Harbour Conservancy to carry out a review of the Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan every five years. The review is guided by a steering group with officers from Natural England, Hampshire and West Sussex County Councils, Havant Borough Council and Chichester District Council. The work is carried out in accordance with guidance published by Natural England. The 'light touch' review goes through two consultation stages with formal approval by the Conservancy and constituent local authorities.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment are carried out to demonstrate that no significant environmental impacts will arise as a result of the revised Plan. An Equality Impact Assessment is undertaken to ensure that the policies do not discriminate against any disadvantaged or vulnerable people.

The Management Plan Steering Group

The successful delivery of the Management Plan and Delivery Plan requires the active cooperation of a number of key partners.

Together, the Conservancy and Advisory Committee have a primary role in managing Chichester Harbour AONB and delivering the Management Plan.

Within the Conservancy and Advisory Committee are partners who have a specific role to play in managing the AONB and delivering the Management Plan, arising from the requirements of the CRoW Act 2000. These are listed below:

Chichester Harbour Conservancy Established in 1971 by an Act of Parliament, the Conservancy is the decision-making body for Chichester Harbour and provides the formal partnership between the local authorities and the local interest groups through meetings of the Conservancy and the Advisory Committee. These meetings provide the framework and policy for the integrated management of Chichester Harbour in terms of its role as the Harbour Authority and nature conservation steward.

www.conservancy.co.uk

Natural England The government's statutory advisor on landscape, with specific responsibilities for the designation and management of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Natural England has responsibility to ensure that England's unique natural environment, including its land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils are protected and improved, whilst also helping people to enjoy, understand and access the countryside.

www.naturalengland.org.uk





West Sussex and Hampshire County Councils The two County Councils are precepted to help fund the work of Chichester Harbour Conservancy. They are actively involved as highways authorities, planning authorities and coast protection authorities. They both work towards conserving and enhancing the landscape for the benefit of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

www.westsussex.gov.uk and www.hants.gov.uk

Chichester District Council and Havant Borough Council The District Council and the Borough Council are the local planning authorities and the coast protection authorities. They both work towards conserving and enhancing the landscape for the benefit of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

www.chichester.gov.uk and www.havant.gov.uk

Together, the steering group have signed a Memorandum of Agreement committing them to supporting the Management Plan.

Stakeholders

A number of key stakeholders help to deliver the Management Plan. Some of these organisations are represented on the Advisory Committee, as listed in the Appendix. It is acknowledged that there are many other supporting organisations and individuals that are valued stakeholders in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Funding the management of Chichester Harbour AONB

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is principally funded by:

- The Council Tax precept from West Sussex and Hampshire County Councils.
- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).
- Boat owners, who pay for core harbour management responsibilities through harbour dues.
- Licensing mooring sites, the hire of sites and maintained moorings.

Additional support is received from:

- The Friends of Chichester Harbour.
- External funding distributors.
- Ad-hoc contributions.

Proposals for working in partnership to deliver the Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan

- Engage with partners to develop a Delivery Plan to implement the Management Plan.
- Maintain and develop close working partnerships between stakeholders involved in Chichester Harbour AONB and to co-ordinate policy with the other agencies involved in coastal zone management.
- Identify and secure external funding opportunities where appropriate.
- Monitor the implementation of the Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan.



Key concepts

Chichester Harbour Conservancy and its partners have, since 1971, evolved a series of concepts to guide their management of Chichester Harbour AONB. These key concepts provide a framework to underpin the policies and actions contained within the current Management Plan.

1. Protecting and improving the special qualities of the AONB

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and historic character of Chichester Harbour AONB.
- Conserve and enhance the value of Chichester Harbour AONB for sailing, boating, quiet recreation and wildlife.
- Retain the quiet, undeveloped nature of parts of Chichester Harbour AONB through the sympathetic management of access and positive planning.

2. Sustainability and wise use

- Conserve, maintain and improve Chichester Harbour AONB and its associated facilities and marine industries for safe recreation where they are consistent with its landscape and nature conservation designations.
- Ensure the wise use and sustainable management of Chichester Harbour AONB for the benefit of present generations without compromising the needs of future generations.
- Maintain a balance between the various interests and user groups.

3. Increasing knowledge and understanding

- Increase public awareness, particularly among young people, of the value of Chichester Harbour AONB and the threats to its well-being.
- Increase community involvement, public participation and social inclusion in the management of Chichester Harbour AONB.
- Undertake or commission scientific research as the basis for sound environmental management of Chichester Harbour AONB.

4. Helping people to enjoy the AONB

- Manage the AONB to promote and aid the enjoyment of users of all ages, abilities and interests.

5. Supporting sustainable development

- Support sustainable forms of rural and marine industry and agricultural practices where they are consistent with Chichester Harbour AONB's landscape and nature conservation designations.
- Support the economic and social needs of the local communities where they are consistent with Chichester Harbour AONB's landscape and nature conservation designations.

6. Working in partnership

- Ensure that the delivery of the Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan is supported by all the partner organisations.
- Develop a close working relationship between all involved in Chichester Harbour AONB and to co-ordinate policy with the other agencies involved in coastal zone management.
- Raise the profile of Chichester Harbour AONB amongst decision makers at regional and national level.

Special Qualities of Chichester Harbour AONB

A combination of special qualities makes Chichester Harbour a unique landscape. It is a dynamic estuary that has evolved through the actions of wind, wave and tide. The fingers of the sea reach into the land, creating sheltered open water areas, contrasting with narrow channels. The meeting of land and water makes wide, flat mudlands and saltmarsh, supporting thousands of wintering waders and wildfowl. Chichester Harbour is designated under European Directives for its nature conservation value and part of the Management Plan process will be to maintain and improve this status. The area has a strong sense of wilderness, enhanced by the dunes and natural wooded shorelines fringing the waters around the Harbour. This is a paradise for birdwatchers and walkers and an invaluable resource for environmental education and activities. The network of footpaths gives access to areas much prized by visitors. Refreshed and shaped by the flow of the tide, Chichester Harbour is a rare example of an undisturbed natural coastline on the built-up south coast.





The AONB has a largely flat landscape with highly productive farmland. Farming has shaped the Harbour as land was claimed from the sea, creating coastal grazing marshes. These are now an important component of the landscape and a valuable habitat for nature conservation. The landscape has changed as farming moved from animals to arable, and more recently to horticulture. This has created a less diverse farmed area but classic features such as sunken lanes, field boundaries and small woodlands still remain.

The landscape is framed by the 'whale backed' South Downs, providing a picturesque backdrop to the land, sea and sky. This ever-changing scene is the setting for a busy Harbour, no longer for commercial shipping but one of the most important areas for water recreation in the country and an increasingly popular destination for tourists. Visitor numbers exceed 1.5 million annually and recreation and tourism together makes a very significant contribution to the regional and local economy.

Sailing and motor vessels of all types navigate the sheltered waters before venturing into the Solent and English Channel. Smaller boats move slowly down the channels to the sheltered anchorage of East Head, going ashore to enjoy its sandy beaches. Dinghies race, darting between buoys, with straining sails and billowing spinnakers driven by the wind and tide. The colours and movements of the boats add a lively dimension to the Harbour. This is a vital landscape, pleasing to the eye in its natural setting and animated recreation, bringing a sense of tranquillity and well-being to the visitor.

There are many links that set the landscape in a cultural and historic context. The villages have evolved over the centuries from clusters of houses and tidal mills identified in the Domesday Book.

The historic parts of these settlements are usually located on, or very close to, the harbourside and were involved with trading, fishing and shipbuilding. Many of the villages are now conservation areas and make a significant contribution to the character and value of the AONB. Protected landscapes such as AONBs are under great pressure for new residential development as they are sought after areas offering a better quality of life. Development control is essential to prevent any loss of the special qualities of the AONB through this process. The village communities of Chichester Harbour through their parish councils, specialist interest groups and support groups such as the Friends of Chichester Harbour have guided and supported the management of the AONB.

Special Qualities of Chichester Harbour AONB

The unique blend of land and sea - especially the combination of large open water areas, narrow inlets and intimate creeks.

Threatened by climate change, rising sea levels and inappropriate development.

The frequently wooded shoreline. These are narrow fringes sandwiched between rising sea levels and intensively farmed land; many roots already immersed in salt water have only a limited life left.

The flatness of the landform, unusual among AONBs, accentuates the significance of sea and tide and of distant landmarks across land and water. Inappropriate development can be seen from long distances and intrudes into the landscape, detracting from the historical features of interest.

The open water of the central area of the Harbour. A microcosm of the open sea beyond the harbour mouth, reflecting the clouds and sky, the wind and rain.

An overall sense of wilderness within the seascape. The naturalness that creates this sense is very dependent on maintaining natural processes and avoiding the dominance of man-made influences and structures.

Particularly strong historic character and associations. These links with our cultural heritage are not always properly understood and could be used to highlight the importance of protecting the landscape which provides their setting.

Picturesque harbourside settlements. Careful control of development is required if these harbourside villages are to retain their character. The trend towards large extensions and rebuilds creates a more urban feel to the landscape.

Wealth of flora and fauna, notably the vast flocks of wading birds, adds to the richness and diversity of the landscape. Chichester Harbour is internationally important for its many species and habitats and these must be given priority for protection. The health of the landscape can be measured by the biodiversity the Harbour offers. Surveys and monitoring of species and habitats form a vital part of ensuring the continued well-being of the AONB.

The unspoilt character and unobtrusive beauty. It is important that visitors to the Harbour understand and value its special qualities. The promotion of these special qualities should concentrate on raising visitors' awareness rather than attracting greater numbers.

The Harbour offers a very special sense of peace and tranquillity, largely engendered by the gentle way it is used and the closeness to nature that is experienced. People pressure, inappropriate development and pollution, particularly light and noise, can easily destroy this fragile value as can inappropriate activities.

The Vision for Chichester Harbour AONB

The 20-year Vision paints a picture of what Chichester Harbour AONB should look like in 2024. It has been developed from an understanding of the special qualities of the AONB, the need to adapt to change and support the local community and economy whilst ensuring that what is unique, valuable and outstanding about Chichester Harbour AONB is safe for the future.

Vision for Chichester Harbour AONB 2024

Chichester Harbour AONB is a blend of land and sea characterised by open waters, intimate creeks and natural shorelines that, in combination, are unique. The landscape is dynamic and able to adapt naturally to changes. The diversity of habitats and species also adapts to nature's continual evolution, retaining the Harbour's importance nationally and internationally for nature conservation.

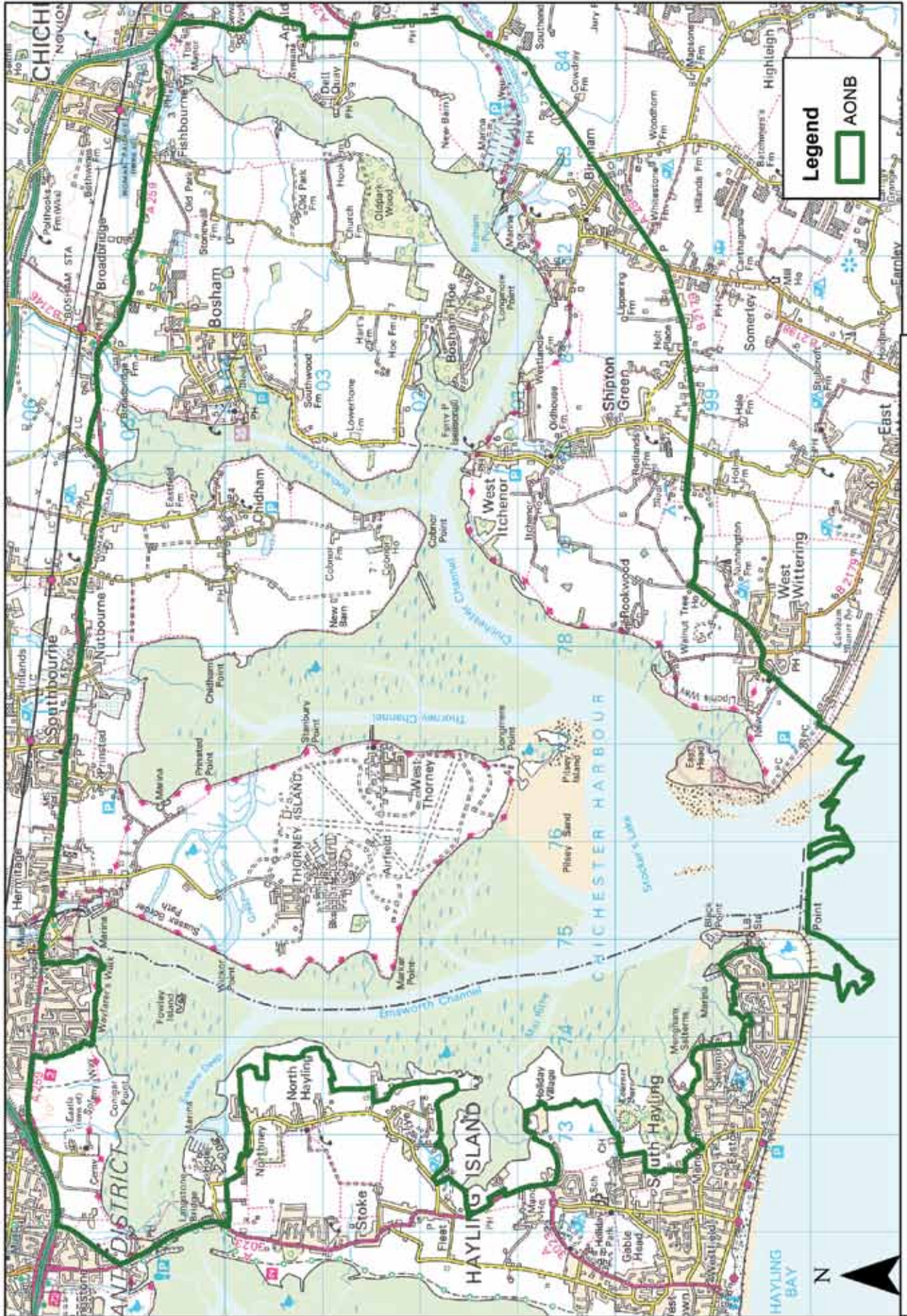
Ashore, sound land use planning and stewardship is practised, thus maintaining and improving the area's unique features and contributing to the innovative use of land, profitable and sustainable farming and the well-being of the community. Vulnerable land is acquired and safeguarded for the benefit of future generations.

The new blends sympathetically with the old, maintaining the landscape and improving diversity. Natural processes continue to define the shape of Chichester Harbour.

The open water is a thriving recreational harbour, well managed and providing enjoyment and employment through its associated maritime trades and interests. The Harbour's waters are safe and accessible for all to use. Free from pollutants, they are ideal for water based recreation and contribute to a sustainable fishery. Visitors and residents are able to enjoy the beauty, peace and tranquillity of the area choosing public transport, walking or cycling along an unobtrusive network of purpose built routes.

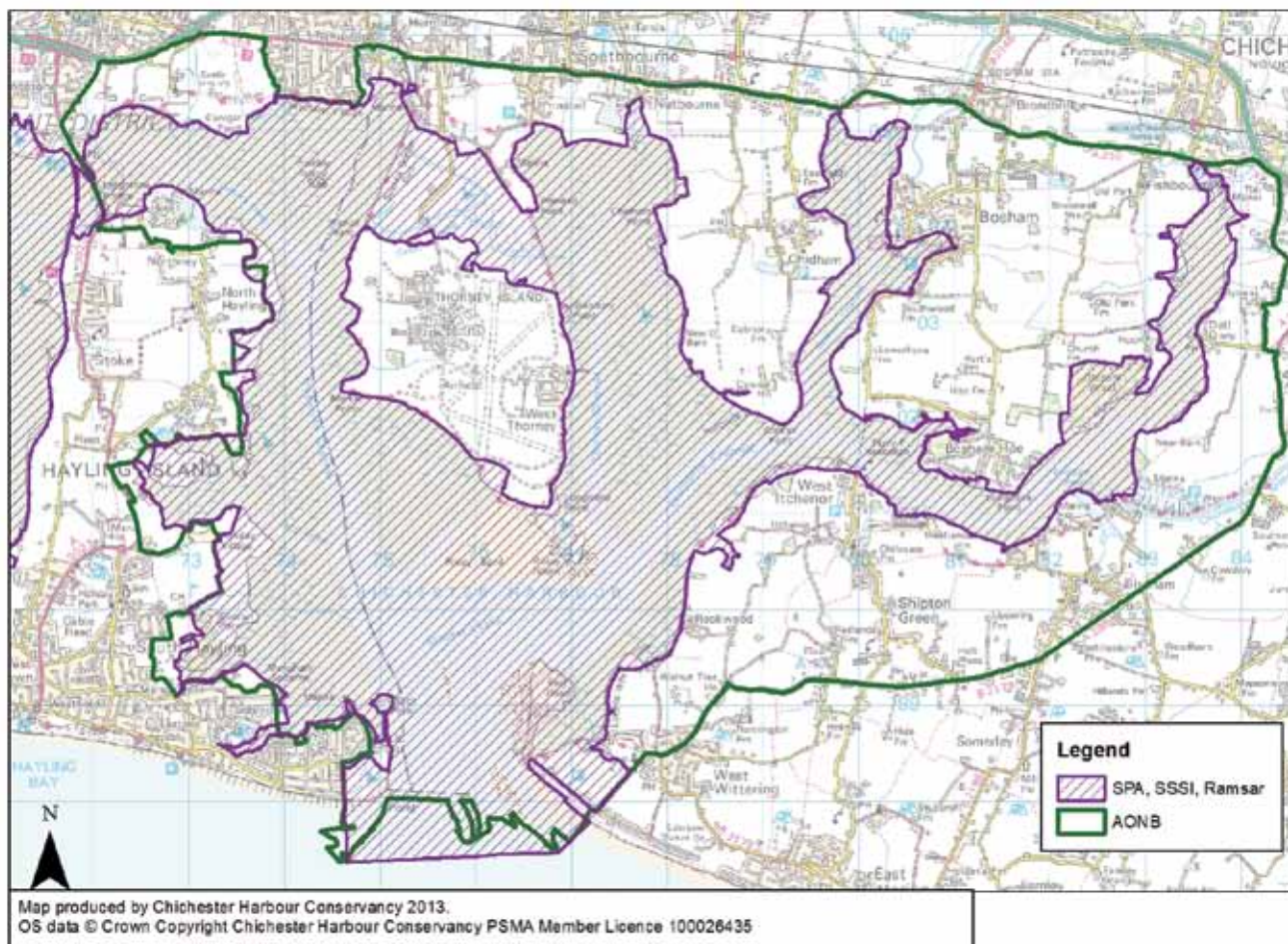
Through comprehensive programmes of activities and easily available information, people understand and value their surroundings. Organisations and individuals, representing all aspects of society, participate in decisions affecting Chichester Harbour AONB and work in partnership to deliver the vision, justifying its premier position in nationally protected landscapes and providing a role model for sustainable integrated coastal management.

Map 1: Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

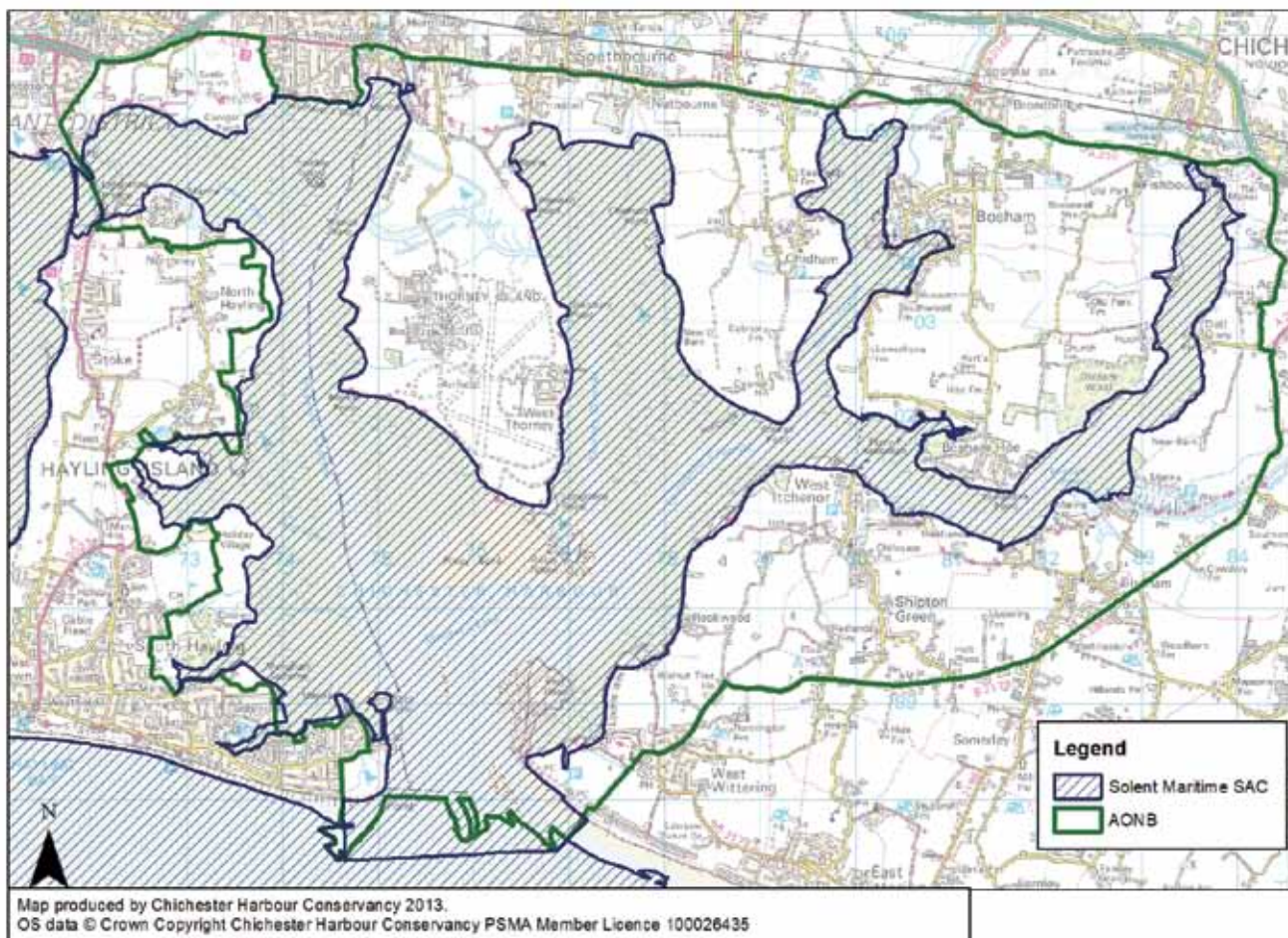


Map produced by Chichester Harbour Conservancy 2013.
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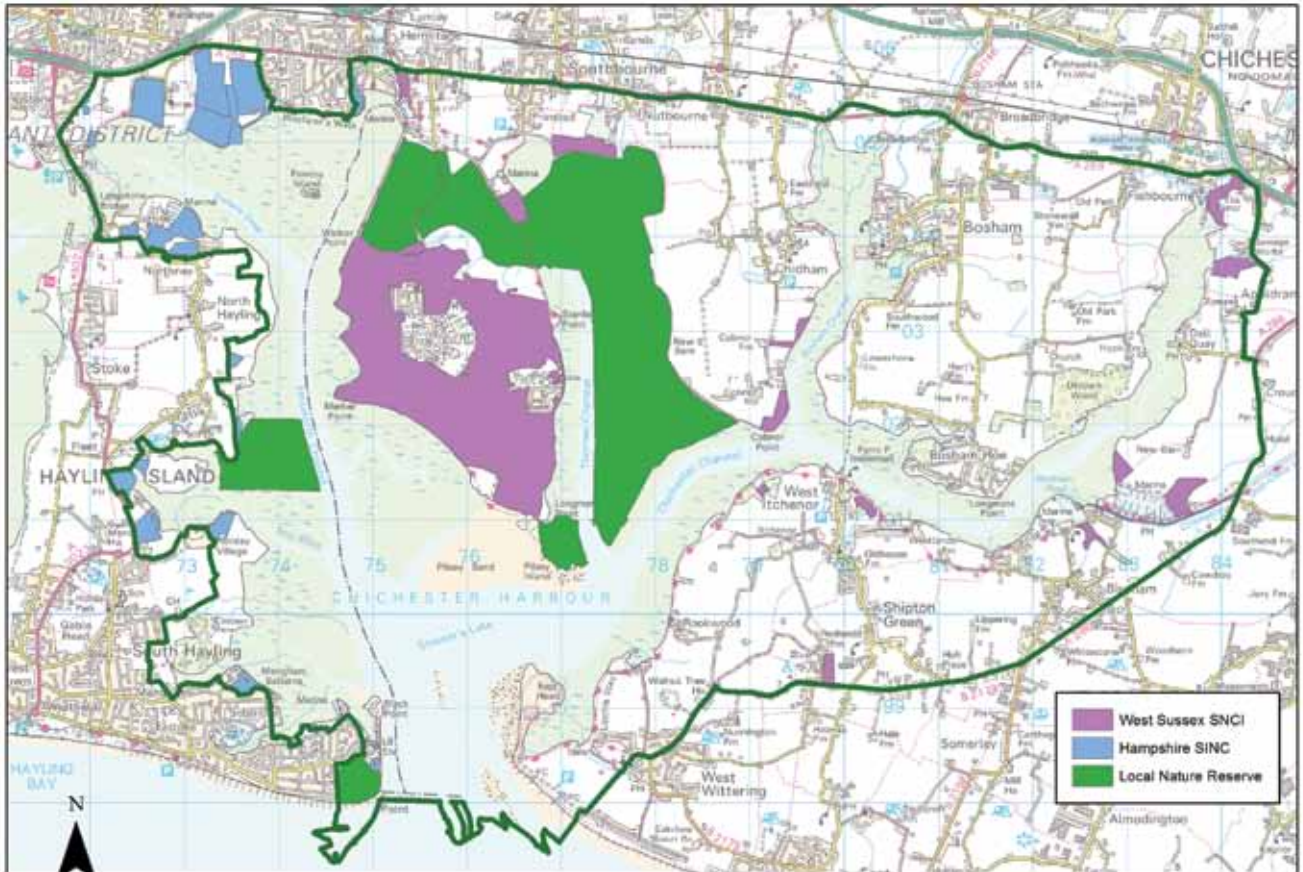
Map 2: Special Protection Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest and Ramsar designated area



Map 3: Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation designated area

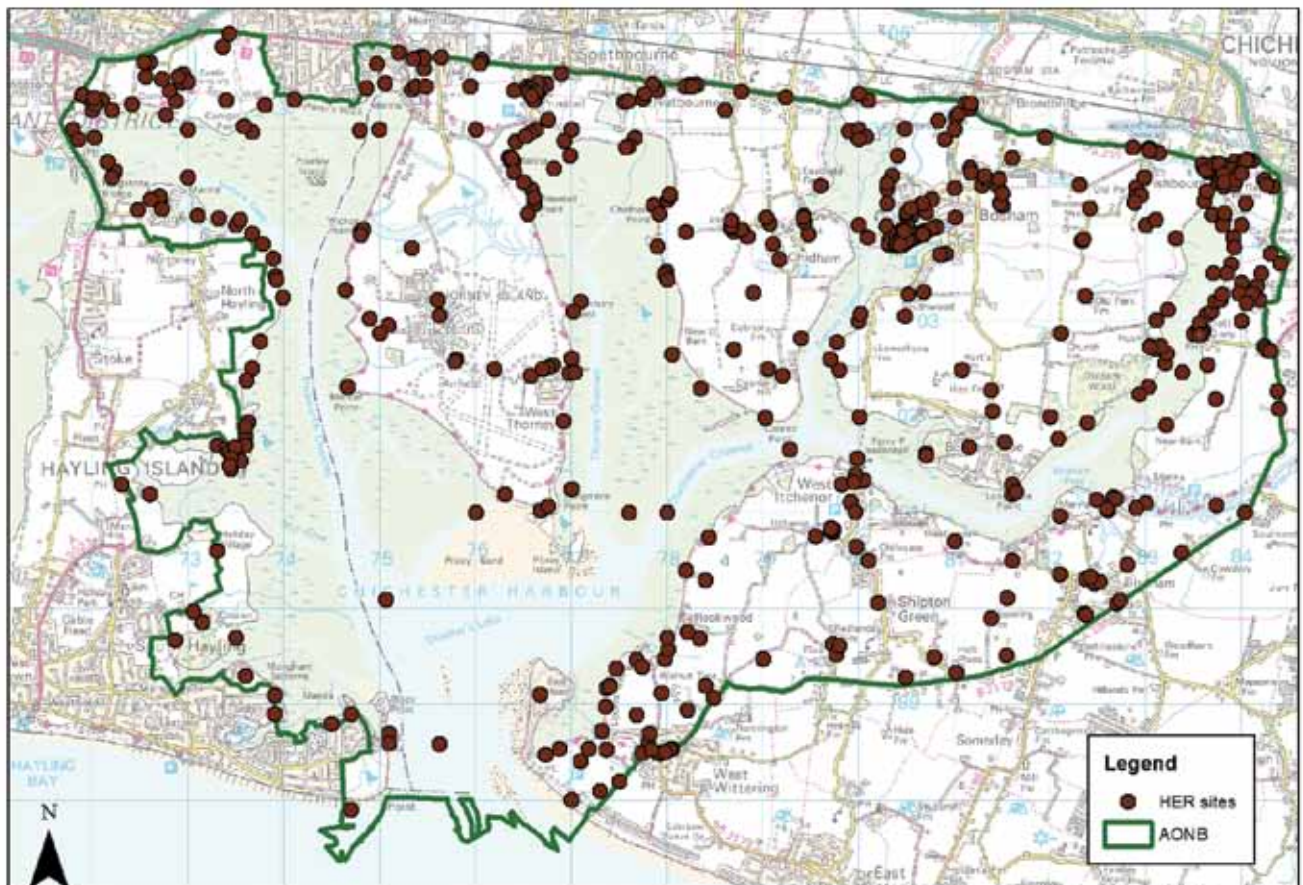


Map 4: Local nature conservation designations



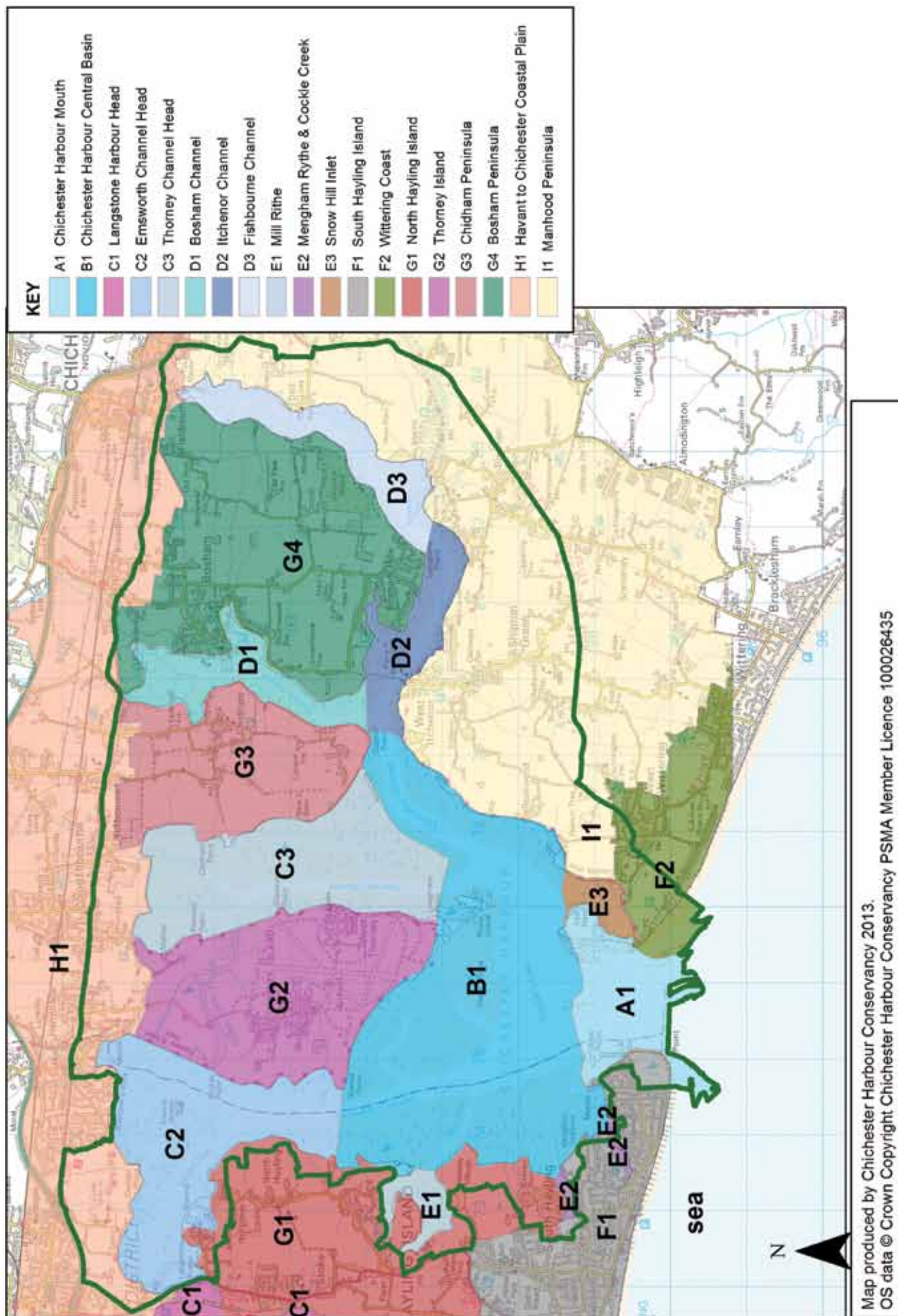
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Map 5: Historic Environment Record



Map produced by Chichester Harbour Conservancy 2013.
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Map 6: Landscape Character Types





Policies

1. The Role of the Harbour Authority



- Chichester Harbour is one of the largest recreational sailing harbours in the country, with 30km² of water, 27kms of well marked and lit channels and easy access to the sailing waters of the Solent.
- 12,305 boats are registered in Chichester Harbour¹, with over 5,200 moorings and marina berths, and 14 sailing clubs.
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy maintains a network of over 50 navigation beacons, markers and buoys.

Background

Chichester Harbour has a resident fleet of over 12,000 leisure vessels, representing about 25% of all the recreational craft in the Solent. Combined membership of the 14 sailing clubs amounts to 12,000 people and each year an estimated 25,000 come and enjoy the Harbour's waters for racing, cruising and fishing. In turn, Chichester Harbour supports a large number of marine related businesses, providing jobs and making a valuable contribution to the local economy. In 2009, the total value of marine businesses and vessels was estimated to be £523 million².

The management of Chichester Harbour is guided by the duties and powers laid upon Chichester Harbour Conservancy by the 1971 Act (see the Appendix for further details of the Act). These statutory duties require the Conservancy to take steps for, "The conservancy, maintenance and improvement of the Harbour for the use of pleasure craft and such other vessels as may seek to use the same."

The management of the harbour is largely prescribed by the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) which is a central government directive. The PMSC establishes a national standard for port marine safety and a measure by which Harbour Authorities can be held accountable for their legal powers and duties to run their harbours safely.

Management issues

- ▶ Danger to navigation caused by congestion and overcrowding on the water, particularly at weekends.
- ▶ Conflicts between different types of Harbour user which may also impact on safety of navigation, for example racing versus cruising, moorings versus navigation and the operation of fishing vessels.
- ▶ Balancing aspirations for growth by maritime business with Harbour Authority's responsibility for safety of navigation and the environmental requirements of the national and international nature conservation designations.
- ▶ In a Harbour with dynamic sediment movement patterns, balancing the need to conduct works and dredging, in order to maintain safe navigation and recreational use, with the conflicting requirements of the international and national nature conservation designations.
- ▶ Concern about the pollution, visual and navigation impacts of houseboats.

¹ Chichester Harbour AONB State of the AONB Report, LUC 2013

² Valuing Chichester Harbour, UE Associates 2009

Policies



- HA1** Undertake and regulate marine operations in a way that safeguards the Harbour, its users, the public and the environment, by implementing and demonstrating compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC).
- HA2** Maintain an organisation for delivering the PMSC, identifying accountability and responsibility within the organisation and directing how the PMSC is to be delivered.
- HA3** Maintain a Safety Management System based on the comprehensive risk assessment of hazards associated with harbour operations and the implementation of appropriate control measures involving all harbour organisations and outside agencies.
- HA4** Conserve the Harbour so that it is fit for use as a port and to ensure that users are provided with adequate information about conditions in the Harbour.
- HA5** Control and direct vessels so as to ensure the safe and peaceful use of the Harbour.
- HA6** Maintain a Chichester Harbour Emergency Plan and Maritime and Coastguard Agency approved Oil Spill Contingency Plan.
- HA7** Regulate all moorings in the Harbour and to maintain a fleet of suitable vessels to discharge conservancy, moorings and control of navigation roles.

Links to other plans and strategies

Port Marine Safety Code (revised 2012)

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) (1995)

Hampshire Coastal Oil and Chemical Pollution Plan

West Sussex County Council Coastal Pollution Plan (2005)

East Hampshire District Council and Havant Borough Council Emergency Response Plan (2011)

SOLFIRE Emergency Plan (2013)

Langstone Harbour Oil Spill Contingency Plan

Maritime and Coastguard Agency Codes of Practice for commercial vessels

The National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations (2006)

Marine Navigation Act (2013)

Solent Diffuse Water Pollution Plan (2010)



2. The Land and Seascape



- The land and seascape are characterised by open water, intertidal mud and sand, saltmarshes, shingle beaches, sand dunes, woodlands, meadows and grasslands, ponds and streams, coastal grazing marsh, reedbeds, hedgerows, hedgerow trees and ditches within the farmland³.
- Chichester Harbour is the smallest AONB in the south-east covering nearly 7,400 hectares, of which 41% is below mean high water springs.
- There is approximately 86km of shoreline within the AONB, of which approximately 24km is undefended and natural.
- There are 45 hectares of semi-natural ancient woodland within the AONB, including Old Park Wood and Salterns Copse.

Background

Chichester Harbour AONB is a tidal estuarine environment, framed by low-lying coastal plain against the backdrop of the South Downs National Park. The Harbour's coastline is characterised by distinctive tidal channels, leading to a maze of inlets and rithes that criss-cross expanses of saltmarsh and mudflats. The shoreline is fringed by wind-sculpted oaks and scrub, with open agricultural fields bounded by hedgerows. Historic coastal villages are defined by centuries of maritime association, and in the flat landscape, the vertical elements of church spires and old mills are an important part of its character.

In parts of the AONB the urban areas of Chichester, Havant and South Hayling have a strong influence on character. In other areas, settlements spread along main roads with clusters of glasshouses and light industrial units associated with agriculture and commercial activity.

The landscape character is shaped by the patterns of sea and land changing with the tide, weather and seasons. The Chichester Harbour AONB Landscape Character Assessment (2005) identified nine Landscape Character Types with common characteristics of geology, landform, vegetation, land use and settlement. From these, 19 Landscape and Seascape Character Areas have been identified which represent unique areas with a recognisable pattern of characteristics and are geographical areas of a particular Landscape Character Type.

The dynamic landscape of Chichester Harbour is constantly changing in response to natural processes and human activities. Agriculture has developed; settlements have changed in both their appearance and extent; roads and traffic have increased and the industries associated with the Harbour have changed. Natural events, such as Dutch Elm disease and storm events have also had a significant visual impact, with the loss of many of the characteristic, wind-shaped trees and woodlands.

³ Chichester Harbour AONB Landscape Character Assessment, Chris Blandford Associates 2005



Much of the Harbour's shoreline is fixed in place by hard sea defences, protecting the farmland behind. In some places this has allowed important coastal grazing marsh habitat to develop, but in others it has resulted in the loss of the natural shoreline habitats of saltmarsh and coastal woodland. The future impacts of climate change are likely to affect the harbour's landscape and this affects its current-day management.

Modern farming practices have led to larger fields and a loss of woodlands and hedgerows over time, creating a more open landscape than would have been found previously. The settlements within the AONB have also changed with the shift from rural farming and harbour-based fishing industries to residential areas and holiday occupation. This has an impact on the landscape, increasing the emphasis on the built environment.

This living, changing landscape is continuing to evolve; however, the pace of change is increasing. We need to respond to and manage change to ensure we do not lose those qualities that make the landscape special. In the long term, one of the best forms of protection can come from ownership and long-term stewardship.

Recent years have seen an increasing awareness of the role of the natural environment in contributing to health and well-being and to the economy.

Management issues

- ▶ The need to maintain and enhance the landscape character through woodland and hedgerow creation, improving the condition of existing hedgerows and planting coastal shelter belts to replace those at risk of coastal erosion
- ▶ The need to improve the quality and appearance of sea defences, and to provide compensation for the loss of intertidal habitat.
- ▶ A deterioration in landscape condition in some areas due to inappropriate or lack of management, for example relating to derelict marine industrial sites.
- ▶ The need to improve awareness of the landscape value and status of Chichester Harbour AONB.
- ▶ A reduction in tranquillity due to an increase in activities causing noise disturbance, particularly increased road traffic, bird scarers, paramotors and aerobatic flying.
- ▶ Incremental damage to the rural character of the AONB from residential development, including extensions, larger replacement dwellings (particularly in harbour-side plots), 'small' residential developments and infilling between houses.
- ▶ Pressure for new housing development and associated infrastructure within or close to the AONB boundary leading to a loss of rural character and setting.
- ▶ The need to balance support for renewable energy with the potential visual impact of these schemes on and offshore.

Policies

- LS1** Promote the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the AONB and its setting, and raise awareness of the AONB designation.
- LS2** Monitor landscape and seascape condition and identify change, particularly relating to development, land use and the impact of climate change.
- LS3** Identify opportunities to plan and deliver landscape enhancement projects within the AONB.
- LS4** Promote and protect the importance of tranquillity in the natural landscape of the AONB.
- LS5** Ensure that renewable energy installations of any scale do not have a long-term detrimental impact on the AONB and its setting.

Links to other plans and strategies

Chichester Harbour AONB Landscape Character Assessment (2005)
The European Landscape Convention (2000)
Chichester District Saved Local Plan Policies (1999) / Emerging Local Plan
Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011-2026)
West Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation (2010)
Chichester District Council Landscape Capacity Assessment (2011)



3. Nature Conservation



- Chichester Harbour is part of the Chichester and Langstone Harbour Special Protection Area and is internationally important for 15 non-breeding wader and wildfowl species, and three breeding bird species (including little tern). Chichester Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covers 3,695 hectares.
- A sub-tidal survey of habitats and species within the harbour identified 200 maritime taxa including invertebrates, algae and fish.
- The AONB is also important for mammal species, with a small resident Harbour Seal population and regular sightings of endangered Water Voles.

Background

The unique mixture of habitats which make up Chichester Harbour AONB make it a significant and important international, national and local resource for nature conservation. It encompasses a diverse suite of marine, intertidal and coastal habitats, together with farmland, hedgerows, woodland and a rich rural landscape lying within the coastal plain. At an international level, Chichester Harbour has been designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (1971) as it regularly holds 20,000 or more wildfowl and waders in winter, and has more than 1% of the international population of species such as Dark-bellied Brent Goose and Grey Plover. Under the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Directive 2009/147/EC) Chichester Harbour together with the neighbouring Langstone Harbour have been classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA). Chichester Harbour also makes up part of the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), designated under the EU Habitats Directive for its marine and coastal habitats including coastal lagoons, sand dunes, mudflats and *spartina* swards. See Maps 2 and 3 (page 15).



At a national level, Chichester Harbour was notified as a SSSI in 1970 for its extensive intertidal mudflats, unimproved permanent pasture, saltmarsh communities, shingle spits and islands, freshwater marshes, coastal scrub, semi-natural woodland and other associated habitats.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty upon every public authority “who must, in exercising their functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.” Furthermore, under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended by CROW Act), set out in Schedule 9 Section 28G(2), bodies ‘exercising their functions’ must take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authorities’ functions to further the conservation and enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interests (SSSIs). Therefore, the policies which appear in this section encompass the responsibilities placed on public bodies under the NERC and CROW Acts in the management of nature conservation.

There are also a number of local designations including five Local Nature Reserves



(LNRs), 15 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) in West Sussex and 28 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in Hampshire, including fields designated for use by Brent Geese. The land within the AONB that is not covered by designations is often as rich in nature conservation terms and can also act as a buffer and additional wildlife resource. These high quality habitats and important concentrations of species contribute significantly to natural beauty and landscape of the AONB, as well as enhancing the visitor experience and quality of life for residents. In Chichester Harbour, management for nature conservation is also guided through the Biodiversity 2020 strategy. Biodiversity 2020 priority species and habitats targets are a particular focus, as well as local targets, both at county and district level. Chichester Harbour AONB is therefore a complex area, both in terms of the wide diversity of habitats and species found within it, and also in terms of the statutory and non-statutory obligations placed on all partners in the delivery of the Management Plan. The AONB is also an integral and important component in the suite of internationally designated coastal and marine habitats of the southern coast. There is, however, an ever-increasing threat to these important coastal habitats and the species they support as sea levels rise and the coastal zone is 'squeezed' and reduced in extent.

Increasing development pressure and proposed housing targets raise concerns about the impact of recreational disturbance on the designated habitats and species. The Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project concluded that there is likely to be a significant effect arising from new residential development, which mitigation measures will need to account for. The capacity of sewage treatment works and the effect of outputs on water quality give rise for concern. Conversely, new opportunities for habitat creation and expansion may arise through managed re-alignment as the coastline of the Harbour changes in response to sea level rise.

Through the policies and actions contained within the Management Plan and its supporting documents, partners can help to deliver the Government's strategy to halt biodiversity loss, through Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services.

Management issues

- ▶ Understanding divisions of overlapping responsibilities and their resource implications.
- ▶ Limited staff and financial resources available for implementing research and conservation projects.
- ▶ Some locally important distinctive habitat types and species fall outside the protected designations.



Management issues

continued

- ▶ Disturbance to wildlife from recreational users, which is likely to increase with continued residential development pressure. There is an increase in novel recreational activities (e.g. paramotors) with unknown disturbance effects and limited regulatory control.
- ▶ An increasing threat to valuable habitats as a result of coastal squeeze, global warming and sea level rise.
- ▶ Improving water quality and the need to secure good ecological potential (for heavily modified water bodies) under the Water Framework Directive.
- ▶ A limited awareness of Chichester Harbour AONB's nature conservation designations and the duty to avoid harming these habitats and species.
- ▶ A need to engage communities to enhance biodiversity and conserve nature.
- ▶ Difficulty in analysing unexplained or inconsistent trends in wintering bird populations.

Policies

- NC1** Conserve and enhance habitats and species to achieve favourable condition of the SSSI and favourable conservation status of the European sites and species.
- NC2** Carry out a programme of monitoring and research for habitats and species of nature conservation importance in the AONB.
- NC3** Engage individuals and organisations improve knowledge and understanding of the wildlife and conservation importance of the AONB.
- NC4** Understand the impacts of climate change and seek opportunities for the creation of new habitats to allow adaptation.
- NC5** Minimise the impact of recreational disturbance on the designated habitats and species.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

- Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services. Defra (2011)
- Chichester District Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2011)
- Havant Biodiversity Action Plan (2011)
- A Single Scheme of Management (reviewed 2011) Solent European Marine Site Management Group
- Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (2010)
- Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Strategy (2013)
- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
- Chichester District Saved Local Plan Policies (1999) / Emerging Local Plan
- Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011-26)
- Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan, Natural England (2012)

4. Food and Farming



- The Harbour is dominated by arable production with 68% of the land under crops and 15 arable farms. 70% of the AONB farmland is Grade 1 (excellent) or Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land.
- 87% of the AONB's farmland (1,892 hectares) is entered into an Environmental Stewardship Scheme; a higher proportion than in surrounding areas.
- During the previous management plan period, over eight kilometres of new hedgerow was planted.
- Between 2009 and 2014, over 8kms of new hedgerow was planted. There are 162 hectares of mixed woodland in the AONB of which 70 hectares is classed as ancient woodland. The majority (89%) is broadleaved, with a small amount of shrubs and conifers.

Background

Chichester Harbour AONB is 74km², of which 41% is water at high tide. The remaining area provides some of the richest agricultural land found anywhere in the country. Agriculture is the single most important activity shaping the landscape. Farming and land use has evolved over the centuries in response to consumer demands and market forces and continues to do so today. The number and size of land holdings has changed, along with field sizes and cropping patterns. These factors directly affect the landscape character of the AONB.

Farming faces increasing challenges from changing economic conditions and the impact of climate change. The way that farming responds to these changes will inevitably impact upon the landscape and wildlife of the AONB. The Conservancy and its partners seek to support farmers and landowners by providing advice on environmental land management options (such as tree and hedgerow planting) potential sources of funding and promoting local produce. Farming subsidies now place greater emphasis on environmental stewardship rather than production output, through the Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Schemes. In addition, initiatives are underway to reduce diffuse pollution from farming through the Catchment Sensitive Farming capital grant scheme, and the Downs and Harbour Clean Water Partnership.

Farmers in the AONB have been looking at opportunities for diversifying the farm business through developing new products (e.g. dairy ice cream) and through converting farm buildings (e.g. for tearooms or self catering accommodation). Increasingly there has been a move towards promoting local produce, and local initiatives such as Three Harbours Beef have been well supported. Organic smallholdings have done well as people become increasingly interested in the provenance of their food.

There has been greater interest in making the link between food and farming, with farms in the AONB offering opportunities for school groups to discover more about where food comes from and how farming is important for the landscape.

Management issues



- ▶ Significant areas of the AONB are managed and influenced by farming practices and short-term funding sources, which are subject to change.
- ▶ Farmers are under increasing pressure to diversify, which can lead to a loss of the traditional land management practices and landscape character.
- ▶ Market forces and the challenging economic climate make it harder for farmers to manage land in a less intensive way.
- ▶ A lack of livestock farming and traditional farming practices have reduced the agricultural value and positive management of coastal grazing marshes.
- ▶ The conversion of redundant traditional farm buildings to residential or rural industrial use removes them from the farming infrastructure.
- ▶ A need to capture and build on the public interest in food and farming to promote a deeper understanding of how farming influences and supports the biodiversity and landscape of the AONB.
- ▶ The threat of nitrates and pesticides (diffuse pollution) impacting upon the water quality of the Harbour.

Policies

- FF1** Develop and support initiatives that encourage positive and appropriate agricultural land uses that benefit the landscape and biodiversity of the AONB.
- FF2** Support local farmers and land managers by providing appropriate advice, training and information.
- FF3** Increase public understanding of the importance of the role of farming within the AONB.
- FF4** Support and promote schemes which produce local food and market directly to the AONB community.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

Chichester Harbour AONB Landscape Character Assessment (2005)

Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2007)

West Sussex Rural Strategy (2007)

5. The Historic Environment



- Chichester Harbour AONB contains an archaeological record of continuous human occupancy from the Palaeolithic period (450,000-12,000 BC) to modern times.
- The evolving landscape has been shaped by human use, technology and culture, resulting in its character today.
- This rich heritage is reflected through 755 Historic Environment Record entries, recording historic buildings, findspots and monuments.
- There are 271 Listed Buildings within the AONB; 7 Grade I, 5 Grade II* and 259 Grade II.
- Four Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie wholly or partly within the AONB: Fishbourne Roman Palace; Tournerbury Hillfort; Warblington Castle; and the associated Black Barn.

Background

Chichester Harbour contains a wealth of evidence of human use and habitation dating back to prehistoric times. The Harbour's evolution has been shaped by glacial processes and during the last interglacial was part of an active shoreline. By the Mesolithic period (12,000-4,000 BC) the coast was 40km away and the landscape made up of valleys where people visited to hunt and fish. Finds of worked flints suggested the Harbour was important for people through the Neolithic period and into the Bronze Age. By the Iron Age, the Harbour was an important area for salt working, and a hillfort was constructed at Tournerbury, on Hayling Island.

Recently it has been argued that Chichester Harbour was one, if not the main, landing point for the Roman army in its conquest of Britain. Discoveries at the site of a Romano-British villa near Emsworth, and earlier findings at Fishbourne, show that trade was taking place with the Roman Empire before the invasion.





*Holy Trinity Church,
Bosham, as depicted in the
Bayeux Tapestry*

Many of the picturesque harbourside villages have their roots in the medieval period, as fishing, oyster farming and saltworking flourished. Industry thrived in the post-medieval period with important features remaining in the landscape including mills, brickworking sites, salterns and historic field systems.

Chichester Harbour had an important role in the defence of Britain during the Second World War, with many surviving features including airfields, pillboxes, and gun emplacements, particularly concentrated on Thorney Island.

This rich heritage reflects the processes, both natural and cultural, that have created the character of the AONB landscape and contributed to the unique sense of place. The policies within the Management Plan aim to protect and enhance the historic environment, to improve our understanding of our cultural heritage, and to promote the history of the harbour by those who use and visit it.

Work to achieve this is guided by the Chichester Harbour Archaeology Partnership, using the Archaeological Research Framework as a basis for further study. The ongoing AONB Condition Assessment programme monitors historic sites thought to be at risk, from either human or natural processes and the results are captured in the State of the AONB report.

Local communities are encouraged to take the lead in identifying and looking after the local built, natural, archaeological, cultural or historical heritage.

Management issues

- ▶ The need to understand, protect and enhance the AONB's historic environment.
- ▶ The need to communicate the significance of the AONB's cultural heritage to the public and wider community.
- ▶ The importance of maintaining a partnership of relevant organisations to oversee historical and archaeological research and conservation within the AONB.
- ▶ The importance of ongoing recording and monitoring of archaeological sites at risk to preserve an accurate record for the future, to address threats (e.g. coastal erosion) and promote sensitive management.
- ▶ There is a need to continue to encourage and support archaeological and historical research in the AONB so that it can be conserved.

Policies

- HE1** Ensure that the historic and archaeological resource of the AONB both on land and below the water is recorded, monitored, conserved and where possible enhanced.
- HE2** Continue to strengthen partnerships and contribute to the knowledge base for the management of the cultural heritage of the AONB.
- HE3** Raise public awareness of the historic and cultural value of the AONB, realising its full potential as a learning resource and economic asset to the local community, whilst encouraging participation in heritage events and research.
- HE4** Encourage and support archaeological and historical projects in the AONB.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
 National Heritage Protection Plan (2011-15)
 Historic Landscape Assessments for Hampshire (1999)
 West Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation (2010)
 Hampshire County Council Historic Environment Record (ongoing)
 West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (ongoing)
 Chichester District Historic Environment Record (ongoing)
 Chichester Harbour AONB Archaeological Research Synthesis (2007)
 Chichester District Saved Local Plan Policies (1999) / Emerging Local Plan
 Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011-26)
 A Strategy for English Heritage's Historic Environment Research in Protected Landscapes (2009)

Excavating the Romano-British site near Emsworth



6. Buildings and Development



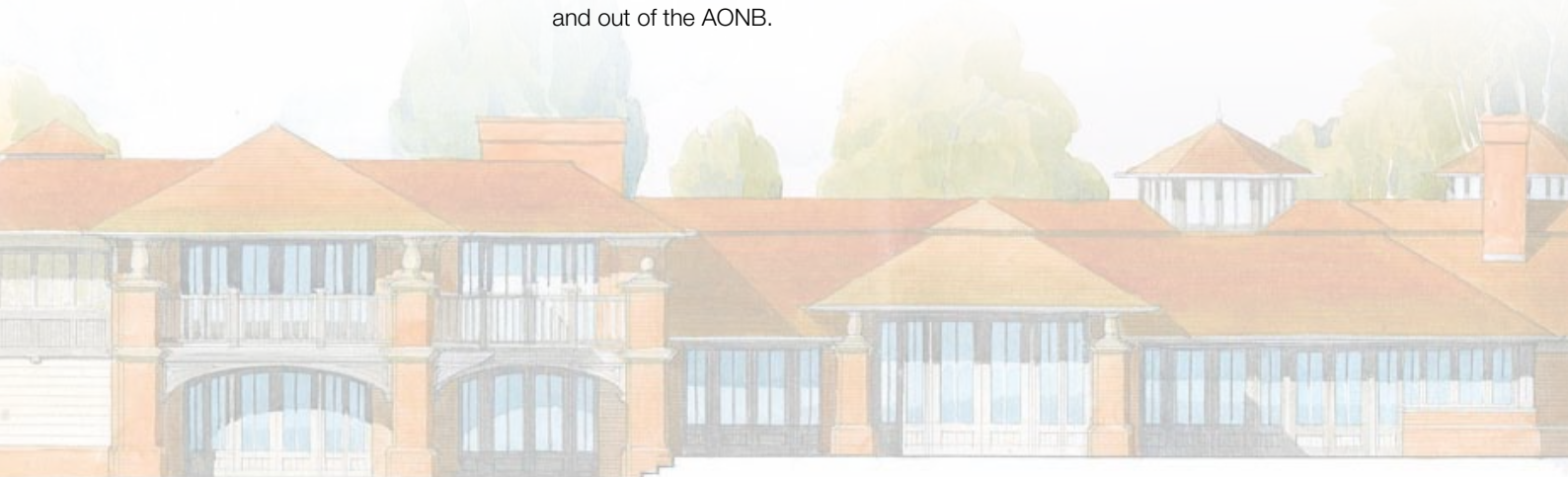
- The Conservancy considers over 300 planning applications for development within the AONB each year.
- Eight Conservation Areas are fully within the AONB and a further two partly in the boundary.
- Design guidance for new dwellings and extensions was published in 2010 by the Conservancy in partnership with the two local planning authorities.
- The population of the AONB is 10,502 with 5,069 dwellings. There has been a population increase of 25% since the 2001 census.

Background

Nationally protected landscapes have unique characteristics which make them attractive places to live, work and spend leisure time. This has led to pressure to increase the size of settlements, to in-fill within Settlement Policy Areas and, increasingly, to the construction of more substantial dwellings. This trend has become a dominant force in changing the landscape of the AONB. Chichester Harbour Conservancy and its partner authorities need to ensure that new development, traffic and visitor impacts do not erode the features that make Chichester Harbour AONB distinctive locally, regionally and nationally.

The relatively small size of the AONB has generally precluded any large new 'green-field' developments in the past, although the current Government is putting greater emphasis on growth including new housing on green-field sites, which means that the countryside is particularly vulnerable to new development. Today a large proportion of the planning applications are for larger replacement dwellings, infilling between existing housing and conversion of farm buildings. A further significant proportion of applications are for new housing developments within or close to the AONB.

Equal consideration should be given to development proposals on its borders which may have an impact on the AONB itself and its setting. Urban extensions around Chichester, Fishbourne, Southbourne, Emsworth, Havant and other settlements and villages could potentially lead to the loss of the distinctive identity of associated smaller settlements, the erosion of rural character and the loss of open views into and out of the AONB.





The Conservancy is a statutory consultee within the planning system. An established Planning Committee examines planning applications within or adjacent to the AONB on a regular basis. This Committee is informed by the Conservancy's Planning Policies. These guidelines seek to ensure that through the planning process a balance can be achieved between the protection of the landscape, nature conservation and recreation interests and support for the local economy.

Local communities also have a role to play in the planning process. Their involvement in the development of Village Design Statements and Parish Plans is seen as important in identifying local needs and local design and these documents offer useful guidance in the planning process within the AONB. The Itchenor, West Wittering, Bosham, Emsworth, Northney and Tye and Langstone Village Design Statements have been adopted as supplementary planning guidance. Several villages within the AONB have also started the process towards adopting Neighbourhood Plans which will have greater weight in the planning process than Village Design Statements and will specify locations for housing and guide local development.



The current Government emphasises the need for growth through development, of which new housing development is seen as an important component. The emerging Local Plans and Allocations Plans identify the need for substantial new housing and other development leading to pressure for new development sites, with their associated infrastructure. Future strategic development allocation on the edge of Chichester and within the settlements close to the AONB boundary are likely to affect the character of the AONB directly or indirectly, through increased disturbance, noise and light pollution, visual intrusion and loss of views, water quality issues and a loss of tranquillity and sense of wilderness. Particular concerns are raised at the ability of current waste water treatment facilities to cope with increased housing development, and of the impacts of increased recreational disturbance on the designated sites within the Harbour.

The 2012 National Planning Policy Framework places great emphasis on supporting sustainable development. It also recognises the importance of AONB's and that great weight should be given to conserving their landscape and scenic beauty. Furthermore it states that permission for major development should be refused in AONBs except in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated it would be in the public interest. Section 85 of the CRoW Act also places a duty on public bodies to have due regard to the purposes of the AONB and it is therefore imperative that the Conservancy reflects and applies national guidance at a local level in influencing both the strategic plan making work and individual planning applications to safeguard the purposes of AONB designation.

The provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act include proposals for a new marine spatial planning system. As yet it is unclear how this system will integrate with the existing land-based planning policy framework.

Management issues

- ▶ There is a need for greater acknowledgement and recognition of the importance of Chichester Harbour AONB in strategic planning issues, in particular input into the emerging Local Plans and Allocations Plans.
- ▶ An increasing number of planning applications are submitted and consented annually, leading to a potential loss of AONB rural character.
- ▶ Incremental damage to the rural character of the AONB from residential development, including extensions, 'small' developments, replacement houses and infilling between houses.
- ▶ Limited understanding by applicants of the landscape impacts of development on the AONB and its setting.
- ▶ The conversion of farm buildings to residential properties leading to a loss of rural character and the erosion of local economic activity.
- ▶ A lack of affordable housing for key workers in farming and marine industries, which is amplified by a high proportion of second home ownership.
- ▶ Regular review of the Chichester Harbour Landscape Character Assessment to monitor landscape change.
- ▶ Evidence of increasing recreational disturbance to nature conservation interests from housing development within and adjacent to the AONB.
- ▶ Concern over the ability of waste water treatment facilities to cope with current and future housing development.
- ▶ Increasing pressure for the redevelopment of existing or historic marine business sites with residential development, leading to a loss of character and the erosion of traditional industry and local employment.
- ▶ The need to balance support for green energy infrastructure without harmful visual impacts on the AONB.

The Conservancy's Design Guidance provides examples of sensitive design in the AONB.



Policies

- BD1** Ensure that all development is appropriate and conserves and enhances the landscape, wildlife and historic environment of the AONB.
- BD2** Ensure that development complies with the protective framework for sites designated for nature conservation and that where appropriate, mitigation measures are incorporated.
- BD3** Safeguard the socio-economic activities supporting the AONB and its communities.
- BD4** Influence the local spatial planning processes.
- BD5** Provide guidance and advice to home-owners, developers and businesses to ensure that development is appropriate within the AONB and its setting.
- BD6** Support local communities in developing planning-related documents and guidance.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

Chichester Harbour Conservancy's Planning Policies
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
Chichester District Saved Local Plan Policies (1999) / Emerging Local Plan
Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011-26)
North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (2010)
Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project: Towards and Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (2013)

7. Economic Growth



- There are 455 businesses in Chichester Harbour.
- The main employment areas are in manufacturing (17%), wholesale and retail trade and motor industries (16%), and accommodation and food services (13%).
- 75% of businesses in the harbour are micro-businesses, employing 45% of the workforce.
- Tourism businesses employ 310 people in the Harbour.

Background

Chichester Harbour is a living, working landscape, and commercial activities, both past and present, have helped formed the character of the AONB. Many businesses support the Harbour's use as a recreational destination, with employment in boatbuilding, services and visitor facilities.

Over time the nature of the boatbuilding and repair industry has changed with customer demands, but traditional methods are still used on wooden day boats, whilst new yachts are constructed at larger boatyards. In 2009 the value of maritime business was estimated to be £524m.

Chichester Harbour draws up to an estimated 1.5m visitors a year, supporting 50 tourism businesses. These include hotels, bed and breakfasts, caravan sites and pubs and restaurants which cater for visitors needs. The Conservancy and its partners support initiatives to engage with providers to promote sustainable tourism.





Water-specific businesses, such as the water taxi, boat trips and boat training and hire, are more specifically targeted at those who come to enjoy the Harbour. The combined value of tourist-related activities in the AONB is estimated at £44 million.

Not all the businesses within the AONB are tourism-focused or directly related to boating and yachting. Shops, offices and other commercial operations all provide services and employment to those who live and work within the AONB.

Management issues

- ▶ A loss of marine use sites through pressure to convert to residential development.
- ▶ Economic decline of traditional harbourside marine businesses and employment.
- ▶ A need to encourage appropriate training, skill development and apprenticeships within the agricultural and marine workforces and businesses around the Harbour.
- ▶ A loss of agricultural buildings through diversification projects.
- ▶ Congestion of roads and car parks at key 'honey pot' sites during the peak season.
- ▶ Lack of affordable housing for local employees.
- ▶ The need to promote the special qualities of the AONB by providing information to visitors and local businesses.
- ▶ The lack of a Chichester Harbour business association.

Policies

- EG1** Provide support and advice to local businesses which have a traditional association with the AONB, are consistent with the landscape and conservation interests and cater for a balance of users and local communities.
- EG2** Support and promote initiatives that develop local produce, encourage local distinctiveness, and enhance the experience of the AONB.
- EG3** Provide advice and guidance on planning and design to ensure developments of commercial sites are sympathetic within the AONB.
- EG4** Support and encourage marine related businesses through safeguarding marine sites and employment uses.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

- West Sussex Structure Plan (2001-2016)
- Chichester District Saved Local Plan Policies (1999) / Emerging Local Plan
- Havant Borough Core Strategy 2011-26
- Regional Tourism Strategy (2003) West Sussex Economic Strategy (2012-20)
- Emerging Three Harbours and a Coastal Plain Local Development Strategy

8. The Working Water - Fishing, Angling and Bait Digging



- During the oyster fishing season of 2012-13, 60 tonnes of oysters were harvested from Chichester Harbour with a value of approximately £180,000.
- Seven charter fishing boats operate within the Harbour generating an annual turnover in the region of £60,000.
- The total value of the Harbour to fishermen is estimated to be £750,000, including catches from the oyster, cuttlefish and other fleets.

Background

Historically oyster dredging, which operates during the winter months, has formed the basis of the fishing industry of Chichester Harbour AONB together with small amounts of net trawling for plaice and flounder. Generally, the oyster industry is relatively small, as is net trawling activity, with about half-a-dozen small (under 10m) vessels operating, increasing in number during the winter when a few boats from Selsey and the wider Solent join in the oyster dredging activity. The winter of 2012 was an exception with 38 vessels fishing on the first day of the season achieving substantial catches. Amateur anglers fish in the Harbour during the year from the shore and boats, including charter boats, and the AONB is the only estuary in Sussex that is a designated nursery for sea bass. This means that bait digging also is a common activity in the Harbour, which is, to a degree only, controlled by byelaws and requires close monitoring and control.





The following types of fishing activities are undertaken by vessels operating within Chichester Harbour: gill netting; cuttlefish trapping; oyster dredging; otter trawling; rod and line; drift netting; and whelk potting. In terms of value, the most important species landed in the harbour are whelks, lobsters, cuttlefish, oysters and sole. However a diverse range of species are landed, including gurnard, grey and red mullet, sharks and rays.

The Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act 1971 states that the Conservancy shall have 'regard to the desirability of avoiding interference with Fisheries' as part of its management of the Harbour and AONB. Consequently, it has sought to work closely with the Sussex and Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities, the Environment Agency and Defra to ensure observance of fishery regulations within the Harbour.

In recognition of the decline in the native Oyster fishery within the Harbour, a partnership was formed known as the Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative. These members have worked together to develop a recovery plan, that has included the creation of broodstock areas.

A survey of the fish population of Chichester Harbour in collaboration with Sussex IFCA has been carried out annually since 2010. So far, 40 species have been recorded, with Sprat, Common Gobies, Golden Grey Mullet and Bass forming the bulk of the samples. Other species including Black Bream and various species of Wrasse and Pipefish have also been identified. Several species, such as the Bass, Bream, Mullet, Sole and Plaice use the Harbour as a nursery area with a large percentage of juveniles making up the survey samples.

A subtidal survey of habitats and species within the Harbour by Sea-Scope in 2006 identified 220 maritime taxa including invertebrates, algae and fish. The most widely-recorded species include the slipper limpet, peacock worm and shore crab. It is essential that our knowledge of the subtidal communities and the species they support matches that of the terrestrial environment, to ensure potential conflict can be kept to a minimum.

The marine environment of Chichester Harbour AONB forms part of the Solent European Marine Site and is afforded protection through national and international designations. Closer scrutiny of the impact of activities such as oyster dredging and bait digging on the subtidal and intertidal biodiversity within the AONB may be required in future to determine the impact on favourable conservation status.

Management issues

- ▶ The need to monitor stocks of fish and shellfish within the Harbour and identify population trends.
- ▶ The impact of bait digging on intertidal habitats and collection of bait for commercial purposes.
- ▶ The lack of comprehensive knowledge of the impact of oyster dredging on the marine environment.
- ▶ The high expense of carrying out detailed marine habitat survey work with professionals.
- ▶ Illegal fishing activity for bass and dredging for clams.
- ▶ Poor water quality affecting shellfish beds classifications.



Policies

- WW1** Support responsible and sustainable commercial and recreational fishing that ensures healthy marine ecosystems and maintains the quality, diversity and availability of marine resources.
- WW2** Conserve, and where possible enhance and restore, marine biodiversity to ensure favourable conservation status of the European sites and favourable condition of the SSSI.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

Local Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities byelaws

Safeguarding our Seas: Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Development of our Marine Environment (2002)

A Single Scheme of Management (Reviewed 2012) Solent European Marine Site Management Group

Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative Management plan (2012)

*The historic Wadeway
at Langstone*



9. Water Quality and Waste Disposal



- Three waste water treatment works discharge into Chichester Harbour.
- The results of regular water quality testing at 11 sites within the Harbour are made available to the public by the Conservancy and Chichester District Council.
- Between 2008 and 2012, 1,294 bags of litter were collected from the harbour shoreline by volunteers as part of the Harbour Watch scheme.

Background

The water quality of Chichester Harbour affects the health of people, the environment and the plants and animals it supports, and it impacts on people's enjoyment of the AONB. A reduction in water quality can arise from excessive levels of bacteria, nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) and toxic substances (e.g. heavy metals) entering the Harbour. At certain times of the year, this can lead to eutrophication and cause excessive growth of algal weed which smothers intertidal habitats, blocks water cooling intakes on vessels, slows small dinghies trying to sail in inter-tidal areas and results in an unpleasant smell when it is washed up and starts decomposing on the strandline.

The Harbour receives inputs from several sources which can affect its water quality. These include diffuse sources such as natural and agricultural run-off, and point sources such as freshwater streams and inflow from the wider Solent. Diffuse pollution sources are being tackled by initiatives including the Solent Diffuse Water Pollution Plan, Catchment Sensitive Farming and Downs and Harbour Clean Water Partnership. Three Waste Water Treatment Works and eight combined outflows discharge into the harbour. Heavy rain and high groundwater conditions cause storm discharge events whereby sewage receiving only primary treatment is regularly discharged.

Water quality in Chichester Harbour is not statutorily assessed as bathing water and is therefore not monitored to European Bathing Water Directive standards by the regulator. However, discharging sewage into the Harbour may have environmental health implications particularly for people enjoying activities on the water such as sailing and kayaking. Chichester Harbour Conservancy, in partnership with Chichester District Council, undertakes a monitoring programme at 11 sites. The results are presented to allow the public to assess the level of risk. Chichester District Council, undertakes routine bacterial monitoring under the European Shellfish Waters Directive to ensure the safe harvesting of shellfish.



The Water Framework Directive aims to protect and improve the chemical and ecological quality of rivers, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwaters by 2015 in the first instance. Each water body will be required to reach Good Chemical Status, Good Ecological Status and where parameters for reaching these are affected by physical modifications within the water body, a reduced level of Good Ecological Potential will be required to be reached. Chichester Harbour has been designated as a Heavily Modified Water Body and some of the parameters identified to reach Good Ecological Status will be affected by the physically modified nature of the Harbour, or its use, and as such Good Ecological Potential will be appropriate. This, however, will not relate to nutrient levels or good chemical status, as these parameters are not affected by physical modification within the harbour or its navigational use. Catchment Management Planning processes are currently underway that seek to address Water Framework Directive issues and wider water environment benefits on a local scale, which will feed into the regional River Basin Management Plans.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy maintains an Oil Pollution Management Plan, a Harbour Waste Management Plan which conforms to the requirements of the Marpol Convention Annex V, and co-ordinates monthly collections of shoreline litter through the Harbour Watch volunteer scheme. A free pump-out facility has been installed at Itchenor for vessels needing to empty holding tanks.

Management issues

- ▶ The public health risk from poor water quality, especially affecting dinghy sailors. There is no statutory water quality designation with regard to the recreational use of the Harbour.
- ▶ High nutrient levels causing eutrophic conditions, with algal blooms presenting a hazard to navigation.
- ▶ Concern over the impacts of poor water quality on the Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation, Site of Special Scientific Interest and Ramsar qualifying habitats and species.
- ▶ A failure to control the main source of nutrient pollution entering the Harbour via the Solent.
- ▶ The smell and appearance of algal mats washed up along the strandline.
- ▶ Incidents of poor water quality following storm discharge events from the three Waste Water Treatment Works and eight combined outflows, with excessively long periods of storm discharges.
- ▶ High levels of bacteria in shellfish during prolonged periods of storm discharges.
- ▶ The impacts of the forthcoming Water Framework Directive remain uncertain.
- ▶ The factors creating poor water quality cross several administrative boundaries and organisational remits, which together with high costs makes tackling water quality issues difficult.
- ▶ Development pressure in the surrounding area will place an increasing burden on the Waste Water Treatment Works and combined outflows which are already operating at capacity.
- ▶ Unknown effect of private package treatment plants sited close to the Harbour.

Policies

- WQ1** Work with and lobby statutory authorities to ensure provision of water quality appropriate to the high conservation value and recreational use of the AONB.
- WQ2** Minimise maritime pollution and litter by ensuring that no pollution or littering results from the users of the Harbour and its facilities.
- WQ3** Ensure water quality information is available to the public.
- WQ4** Seek opportunities to reduce waste and promote recycling and re-use.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

Royal Yachting Association Green Blue initiative (ongoing)

Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations (2003)

Environment Agency Strategy: Creating a Better Place (2010-15)

West Sussex Environment Strategy (2008)

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) (1995)

Hampshire Coastal Oil and Chemical Pollution Plan (date unknown)

West Sussex County Council Coastal Pollution Plan (2005)

Solent Diffuse Water Pollution Plan (2010)

*Increased nutrient levels
lead to algal growth on
intertidal mudlands*



10. Coastal Defence and Sea Level Rise



- Of the 86km of shoreline in the AONB approximately 53km are defended by man-made defences.
- There are approximately 21.41km of natural shoreline or ancient embankment within the AONB.
- Environment Agency flood mapping indicates 1,331 hectares of low lying coastal land within the AONB may be at risk from flooding in the future. This represents 32% of the AONB land area.
- On the south coast, the projected sea level rise by 2050 is between 18.4cm and 25.8cm⁴. Accurate measurements from the tidal gauge at Portsmouth show that since 1991 sea level has risen by 11cm, an increase of 5.2mm a year.

Background

Sea level rise is inevitably worrying in a landscape where ground height differences are measured in only a few metres. Even relatively small increases will have an impact on the coastal communities, habitats and the species they support, how people currently use and manage the land, and how people access and enjoy the AONB.

The present shape of the Chichester Harbour shoreline has been fixed over recent centuries by the construction of embankments and sea defences that reclaimed some areas from the sea and protected other areas of low-lying land. Gradual sea level rise is likely to 'squeeze' the area of intertidal zone against the existing, hard sea defence structures. This may lead to a loss of these valuable habitats unless it is possible to realign or remove sea defences in order to allow the sea to inundate the low-lying land and establish new mudflat and saltmarsh habitats as sea levels rise.

The strategic framework is provided through the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, which is a non-statutory document providing guidance to assist coastal defence decision making for a defined length of coast over the next 100 years. It aims to identify sustainable coastal defence options based upon economic criteria, whilst having an overview of both the natural environment and the human and built environment. This feeds down to the next tier of strategies including the Portchester to Emsworth Coastal Defence Strategy, North Hayling Coastal Defence Strategy, Selsmore and Mengham Sectoral Strategy and Eastoke Sectoral Strategy.

Undoubtedly, the threat and implications of sea level rise around the coastline of Chichester Harbour will bring greater calls from local residents and business owners for increased and improved coastal defences to protect property and land. However, central government funding is unlikely to be forthcoming in the majority of cases. Any coastal engineering works that are undertaken will have an impact on the ability of internationally protected habitats to adapt to the changes arising from sea level rise, and in some cases they may be lost if other suitable locations cannot be found for their development. Difficult decisions lie ahead allocating limited funding and in striking a balance between human and environmental needs.

⁴ UKCIP09 projections



The management of East Head is an issue of special interest to local residents and boat owners. Proposals for the medium to long-term management of East Head are contained within the Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy and supported by the East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group. The strategy proposes a scheme of Adaptive Management that seeks to respond to change and to preserve the social, economic, environmental and amenity value of East Head for the 100 year life of the strategy. The emphasis will not necessarily be on trying to lock the feature into its present size, shape and orientation.

Most of the AONB's coastal footpath network is located along existing sea defences, embankments or the foreshore itself. Should significant changes occur then opportunities should be sought to relocate footpaths and other recreational resources inland, ensuring that the value of the resource or the special qualities of the AONB are not lessened in the process. Achieving this will be expensive and will require a long-term commitment of resources.

Sea level rise will require partners to work together to develop suitable solutions, to manage the consequential changes, and seek to identify habitat creation opportunities for the most threatened habitats, key landscape features and recreational resources of the AONB.

Some access routes are flooded at high spring tides



Management issues



- ▶ On-going positive management of East Head given the complexity of the site, multiple interested parties, public perception, environmental considerations and access to funding.
- ▶ The absence of a Coastal Defence Strategy for the eastern side of the Harbour from Emsworth to West Wittering.
- ▶ The uncertainty of the impact of sea level rise in terms of social, economic and the natural environment.
- ▶ The potential loss of important habitats, landscape features and recreational resources.
- ▶ Absence of government funding for the long-term management of strategic sea defences.
- ▶ Positive sea defence solutions are often complex and involve multiple organisations.
- ▶ The degradation of existing sea defences and the creation of unsightly structures through maintenance with unsuitable materials.
- ▶ The pressure for development within flood risk areas.
- ▶ Long-term sustainable solutions will take time to evolve.

Policies

- CD1** Ensure that responses to the impacts of sea level rise have full regard to the landscape, navigation, recreation and nature conservation interests of Chichester Harbour and balance the needs of residents and businesses.
- CD2** Explore the potential impacts of climate and sea level rise and provide advice to residents, businesses and users of the AONB.
- CD3** Seek opportunities to adapt to the impacts of sea level rise on the landscape, access and nature conservation interests of the AONB.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

- Portchester Castle to Emsworth Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy (Draft 2013)
- Eastoke Sectoral Strategy Study (2006) and Coastal Defence Study (2009)
- Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy (2008)
- North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (2010)
- Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011-26)
- Chichester District Saved Local Plan Policies (1999) / Emerging Local Plan
- Solent European Marine Site Management Scheme (2002) West Sussex Environment Strategy (2008)
- Hampshire County Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan (Draft 2013)

11. Enjoying Chichester Harbour on the Water



- 12,305 boats are registered in Chichester Harbour, with 10,540 boat owners.
- Chichester Harbour Federation membership consists of 16 RYA affiliated clubs, 13 boatyards and marinas, two sailing schools, and four other harbour organisations.
- The 2011 boating survey showed that over three quarters of boats in the Harbour are sailing vessels, 89% of people rated the harbour's facilities as "good", and the location and scenery are the main reasons for coming to Chichester Harbour.

Background

Chichester Harbour remains an unspoilt and peaceful estuary enjoyed by thousands of sailors each year. 43% of sailors list the scenic qualities of the Harbour as one of its main attractions, together with its location, sailing conditions and facilities. Many users are local, with 45% travelling less than 10 miles to sail in the Harbour.

There is a balance to maintain between encouraging people to enjoy the Harbour afloat, while preventing congestion and the safety dangers that come with it. Since its formation in 1971, the Conservancy has taken steps to manage the number of boats on the Harbour, to reduce conflict between different interest groups on the water and to improve the boating infrastructure.

This is achieved by using a prescriptive moorings policy to control the number of vessels; keeping areas of the Harbour clear for sailing; and supporting sailing clubs and boatyards. The Conservancy promotes the peaceful enjoyment by encouraging courtesy and good behaviour, rather than relying on rules and regulations to control vessels.



Management issues

- ▶ Congestion and overcrowding on the water, particularly at weekends in the summer.
- ▶ Conflict between different types of vessels and a lack of understanding and consideration of the needs of others.
- ▶ A need to continue to increase maritime awareness, knowledge and experience among harbour users.
- ▶ A need to understand and manage the impact of recreational boating and facilities on the designated sites and species policies.

Policies

- EW1** Maintain Chichester Harbour as a safe and peaceful estuary for the enjoyment of sailing and boating.
- EW2** Minimise the potential for conflict between different forms of water based recreation.
- EW3** Minimise the potential impact of recreational boating activities on the designated habitats and species.
- EW4** Support and improve the existing boating infrastructure and amenity value of the Harbour.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011-26)

Chichester District Saved Local Plan Policies (1999) / Emerging Local Plan

Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project: Towards an Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (2013)

Royal Yachting Association - Sea Sense Campaign (ongoing)

A Single Scheme of Management (2002) Solent European Marine Site Management Group

The Green Blue – joint RYA and BMF initiative to promote sustainable boating (ongoing)

Chichester Harbour Federation Code of Conduct (revised 2011)



12. Enjoying Chichester Harbour on the Land



- There are 91km of public footpaths within the AONB, with 12km of additional permissive routes.
- The Salterns Way is an 18km route for cyclists, linking Chichester with West Wittering and East Head.

Background

Chichester Harbour is a popular destination for residents and visitors to enjoy activities on the land, including walking, cycling, bird watching and photography. The Conservancy works in close partnership with local authorities to ensure that the best possible access is provided in the AONB, to people of all abilities. A dedicated cycle route and network of wheelchair-accessible paths have been secured by working with local landowners.

There are concerns over the visitor capacity of the AONB and its ability to accommodate additional visitors without damaging the special qualities, reducing tranquillity and impacting on the protected habitats and species. Therefore the focus is on promoting sustainable enjoyment of the Harbour by providing visitors and users with information on activities and access which have the least impact on the area.

As the local population continues to increase, there are concerns about the impacts of increased recreational pressure on the Harbour's designated habitats and species, which are vulnerable to disturbance by people, and particularly dogs, and have been the subject of the detailed Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project. The resulting strategy outlines measures to reduce the impact of increased recreational pressure from new housing developments on the designated site. The challenge for the future is to encourage people to leave their cars at home and visit the area through a network of cycle routes, footpaths and public transport. This will be achieved through partnership working and public engagement, and new funding sources for access initiatives will need to be found.





Public transport is provided by the railway line between Havant and Chichester, and bus services to the main settlements within the AONB. It is hoped that continued promotion of public transport links, cycle routes and the provision of cycle posts may encourage a move away from car use.

Many of the Harbour's footpaths run along the top of sea defences and are vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal erosion. Long term solutions and funding are needed to ensure that access is maintained into the future.

For the local authorities, Rights of Way Improvement Plans and Countryside Access Plans produced by Highway Authorities in conjunction with Local Access Forums (LAFs) will adopt a strategic partnership approach towards Rights of Way management. Currently there are no Bridleways in the AONB and there is an aspiration to improve provision for equestrians. Likewise there is an ambition to link AONB routes such as the Salterns Way with a wider access network, including the Green Links Around Medmerry project.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 set out plans for a continuous coastal path around England. The initiative is being delivered nationally by Natural England to create a National Trail with associated coastal margin ('spreading room') and the ability to 'roll back' where coastal erosion occurs. The timetable for delivery in Chichester Harbour has not yet been confirmed.

Management issues

- ▶ Concern over the impacts of increased recreational use on the designated sites, particularly relating to increasing housing development pressure.
- ▶ Coastal erosion and potential loss of the shoreline footpath, requiring alternative routes to be found with limited funding.
- ▶ The need for better public and sustainable transport options both to and within the AONB, together with providing increased opportunities for safe cycling to and within the AONB.
- ▶ The need to provide improved opportunities for wheelchair users and those with reduced mobility.
- ▶ The loss of tranquillity through the increased pursuit of noisy activities particularly paramotors and aerobatic flying.

Policies

- EL1** Promote opportunities for visitors to access the AONB sustainably through reduced car use and improved public transport and cycling links.
- EL2** Improve access for people with restricted mobility and socially excluded groups.
- EL3** Minimise potential conflict between all user groups.
- EL4** Ensure that public rights of way, permissive paths and wheelchair routes are maintained to the highest standard and are available in the long term.
- EL5** Minimise the impact of recreational disturbance on the designated habitats and species.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

- West Sussex Structure Plan (2001-2016)
- Chichester District Saved Local Plan Policies (1999) / Emerging Local Plan
- Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011-26)
- Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project: Towards an Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (2013)
- West Sussex Local Transport Plan (2006-16)
- Equality Act (2010)
- West Sussex County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ongoing)
- An Assessment of Green Infrastructure for Hampshire County (Draft 2013)
- Countryside Access Plan for Hampshire (ongoing)
- Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)



13. Activities and Information



- Over the past five years, the Conservancy's Activities Programme included an average of 76 events with 2,532 attendees each year.
- There are 39 interpretation boards located at key points throughout the AONB.
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy's website attracts 14,735 visits each month. About 35% are return visitors.

Background

All visitors, users and residents of Chichester Harbour AONB need to have the opportunity to learn about the special qualities of the AONB, to help foster greater awareness and appreciation. This is becoming ever more important as the local population increases through residential development and the pressure on the AONB becomes greater.

To achieve this, the Conservancy delivers a comprehensive programme of activities and information to engage with visitors and residents alike. The programme includes guided walks, themed events such as wildlife, history and art-based activities, with talks and family activities as well as trips onboard the solar-powered Solar Heritage and the vintage working boat Terror. The benefit of this work is enhanced by close partnership working with organisations including local authorities, the RSPB, the two Wildlife Trusts and the National Trust.

Information is provided to the public through a wide range of media, including a network of interpretation boards at key locations; publications including the annual Harbour News and Guide, and through a website and social media.





Regular eNewsletters including information on what's on, navigation news and nature news are sent to over 7,500 people. Twitter is widely used to keep people informed about day-to-day events in Chichester Harbour. A range of publications are available to provide information for people living in, visiting or using the AONB.

Regular Press Releases and contributing articles ensure good coverage in local newsletters and newspapers to raise awareness of the AONB and promote the work of the Conservancy and our partners.

Management issues

- ▶ Improve and sustain a high level of awareness of Chichester Harbour AONB's geographical boundaries and special qualities.
- ▶ Increase the understanding and awareness of management roles and activities within the AONB.
- ▶ Engage visitors and residents in understanding the impact of their activities on the AONB, particularly relating to recreational disturbance.
- ▶ Encourage people to experience the AONB in a positive and sustainable way, fostering a sense of ownership and care for future generations.
- ▶ Recognising the health and well-being benefits of experiencing activities in the natural environment.

Policies

- A11** Deliver and promote a diverse year-round programme of activities and events to enable people to understand and value the special qualities of Chichester Harbour AONB and to foster a sense of guardianship.
- A12** Provide information in a variety of media to enable people to understand and value the AONB and to raise awareness of the role of the Conservancy and partners in its management.
- A13** Ensure that the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of Chichester Harbour AONB is widely available.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

Hampshire County Council Cultural Strategy (2008)

Natural England's Our Natural Health Service: The Role of the Natural Environment in Maintaining Healthy Lives (2009)

Equality Act (2010)

14. Learning for All



- The number of educational field trips delivered by Chichester Harbour Conservancy increased by 20% between 2009 and 2013 to 10,157.
- The proportion of sessions for Special Educational Needs groups rose by 130% to 1,957 in 2011/12.

Background

The variety of habitats and its coastal location make Chichester Harbour AONB an ideal outdoor learning environment. The AONB enjoys a well-structured formal education programme open to students of all ages, devised and implemented by Chichester Harbour Conservancy working in close co-operation with Hampshire and West Sussex schools as well as those from beyond the AONB counties. This programme covers the complete range of educational establishments from primary to adult, and includes special education as well as interest groups. Currently over 10,000 pupil sessions are run each year. This figure includes field trips in several Harbour locations as well as afloat, using Solar Heritage. Many of these visits involve the use of the 'Learning Zone' classroom at Dell Quay, and the new facility at the Stables, Eames Farm. Activities include use of the online Learning Zone, a thriving art and photography programme, local history days, a gifted and talented maths workshop, and the Junior Conservancy citizenship workshops.

Visiting school groups learn about the environment of Chichester Harbour





Management issues

- ▶ Schools have limited resources for educational visits, particularly relating to transport and the availability of staff to cover for those on the visit.
- ▶ There is a perceived risk associated with outdoor activities, particularly in winter.
- ▶ A lack of opportunities for schools to get onto the water has concentrated activity on land-based issues.
- ▶ New coursework arrangements lessen the need for exam groups to undertake field work.

Policies

- LA1** Develop and promote an educational programme for school groups of all ages and abilities which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and engenders a sense of guardianship of the AONB.
- LA2** Provide and promote educational opportunities which are socially inclusive and support children who are disadvantaged or who have special educational needs.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

Hampshire and West Sussex County Council Regulations and Notes of Guidance for Offsite Activities (current)

The National Curriculum (current)

The Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto: Council for learning Outside the Classroom (2006)

15. Community Engagement



- 10,502 people live in the AONB, an increase of 25% since the 2001 census. 30% of the AONB population is over 65 years of age.
- The population density is low, with less than 3 people per hectare.
- The average household income is £38,570 (higher than the South East average).
- Between 2005 and 2014, the Chichester Harbour AONB Sustainable Development Fund has awarded £497,856 in grants, supporting 110 local projects with a total project value of £2.98m.
- 893 volunteer days were recorded during 2012/13, contributing a value of over £62,000.

Background

Chichester Harbour AONB is a largely rural community, with a growing population of just over 10,000 people. The profile is of an ageing population, with 57% of residents over 45 years of age and 30% over 65 (against the national average of 16.8%). The gender profile is evenly distributed with 49% male and 51% female residents. There has been significant population growth of 25% since the 2001 census.

The population is largely affluent, with incomes higher than the South East average. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (contained within the State of the AONB Report 2013) show that much of the AONB lies within the lowest deprivation percentiles, with the exception of parts of Hayling Island, which show higher levels of deprivation. Conversely, when looking at barriers to housing and services, the AONB rates poorly, with lack of access to affordable housing and local services.

It is important that people living in the AONB are aware of the designation and the implications of living in a nationally important landscape, and the need for management to maintain its special qualities. Chichester Harbour Conservancy run a Sustainable Development Fund, which is a valuable tool that empowers local people to test new and innovative ideas for projects that help to deliver the Management Plan.

Local people are key stakeholders in the AONB. It is important to engage with our communities through events and activities, volunteering schemes and working with Parish Councils and Residents Associations. The Friends of Chichester Harbour is an active charity with a membership of nearly 3,000 people which supports the work of the Conservancy in maintaining the special qualities of the AONB. Likewise the Chichester Harbour Trust fosters local support by raising funds to acquire, protect and positively manage land in the AONB.

Management issues

- ▶ Improve and sustain a greater awareness among the local population of the AONB designation and the need to protect its special qualities.
- ▶ Engage with local communities through events and activities, volunteering opportunities, and using social media.
- ▶ A need to provide opportunities for local residents to access and enjoy the AONB both on land and afloat, particularly those who are socially or physically disadvantaged.

Policies

- CE1** Develop initiatives and activities to help all members of the community, including young people, people with restricted mobility and those who are socially/economically disadvantaged, experience the AONB.
- CE2** Provide opportunities for local people to engage with the AONB and its management through talks, events, publications and electronic media.
- CE3** Provide support to voluntary, community and interest groups within the AONB.

Links to other relevant plans and strategies

Cultural Strategy for South Hampshire, PUSH (2009)
West Sussex Cultural Strategy, West Sussex County Council (2009-14)
Sustainable Community Strategy for West Sussex (2009-2020)
Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy (2008-18)
Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011-26)
Chichester District Saved Local Plan Policies (1999) / Emerging Local Plan





Implementation and Monitoring

The Delivery Plan

The Delivery Plan is a separate document which supports the Management Plan and sets out how the policies in each theme will be delivered through a series of actions. For each action, the role of the Conservancy and its partners is described, in addition to the timescale and output. Progress on implementation of the Delivery Plan is reported to the Advisory Committee and partners annually through the Annual Review process.

Monitoring

The State of the AONB report 2013 provides a baseline for AONB condition monitoring and sets out a suite of indicators under each character theme. The indicators relate to key characteristics and the available data sources and collectively capture what makes the AONB special, considering its landscape character, biodiversity, cultural heritage, socio-economic characteristics, and opportunities for enjoyment, understanding and involvement. The study will be repeated at five-year intervals to underpin the Management Plan review and assess the effectiveness of the Delivery Plan.

Monitoring indicators

THEME	INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE
Landscape Character		
Agricultural Landscape Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patterns of agricultural land use • Farm types • Livestock numbers and types • Expenditure and area under Environmental Stewardship • Environmental Stewardship option coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defra Agricultural survey data for AONBs • Natural England data for protected landscapes monitoring • Natural England GIS data on Environmental Stewardship agreements
Field patterns and boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of hedgerow planting • Length of boundaries under relevant Environmental Stewardship options • Field patterns • Field boundary condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England GIS data on Environmental Stewardship agreements • Hedgerow planting data • Aerial photographic interpretation (recommended) • Hedgerow survey data
Woodland cover and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent and type of woodland cover • Extent of recent woodland planting • Area of woodland under management schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England data for protected landscapes monitoring • Conservancy woodland planting data • Forestry Commission National Forest Inventory and English Woodland Grant Scheme • Natural England Ancient Woodland Inventory
Settlement pattern and vernacular styles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement pattern (partial baseline) • Number and type of dwellings • Number and area of Conservation Areas • Number and type of planning applications within the AONB • Views of local landmarks (no baseline available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuing Chichester Harbour 2009 • ONS 2011 Census • Local Planning Authorities • Conservancy Planning database • Aerial photography interpretation for settlement area monitoring (recommended) • Fixed point photography for local landmarks (recommended)
Perceptual qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of tranquillity • Levels of intrusion • Levels of light pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign for the Protection of Rural England Tranquillity, Intrusion and Night Blight maps
Biodiversity		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site of Special Scientific Interest condition • Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area conservation status • Presence/numbers of indicator species (birds, fish, invertebrates, plants) • Water body status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Record Centre habitat data • Natural England SSSI condition assessment data • SAC conservation status data • Seagrass survey data • Natural England protected sites GIS data • Wetland Bird Survey • Conservancy survey data • Conservancy and Sussex IFCA juvenile fish survey data

THEME	INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE
Cultural Heritage		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and location of nationally important heritage assets • Number of Listed Buildings • Number and location of locally important sites and features • Condition of heritage asset features • Management of archaeological sites/features under Environmental Stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Heritage Scheduled Monuments and Listed Building data • Historic Environment Record • Conservancy Archaeological Condition Assessment data • Natural England data for protected landscapes monitoring
Enjoyment, understanding and involvement		
Land-based activities and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile of recreational users in the AONB • Origin of recreational users • Recreational activities undertaken by visitors • Length of stay and accommodation type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservancy survey of land-based recreation
Water-based activities and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and type of boats based in Chichester Harbour • Profile of boat owners • Distance travelled for sailing purposes • Reasons for using Chichester Harbour as a sailing base • Attitudes and aspirations of recreational sailing users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservancy sailing and yachting survey • Conservancy Harbour Management System data
Education, engagement and involvement in the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of educational sessions held by the Conservancy • Number of events held by the Conservancy • Number of volunteer days contributed • Value of volunteer involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservancy annual education report • Conservancy volunteer contribution record
Access and rights of way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of public rights of way • Footpath condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public rights of way GIS data (Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council) • Harbour Watch scheme annual report
Socio-economic		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population trends • Patterns in employment • Levels of deprivation • Activity assisted by the Sustainable Development Fund • Number of Green Tourism Businesses • Average property values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester Harbour AONB Economic Profile, Defra Rural Statistics Unit • ONS Census • Index of Multiple Deprivation • Green Tourism Business Scheme

Appendix

Chichester Harbour AONB Management Framework

Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act, 1971

The complexity of Chichester Harbour, in terms of both its international and national conservation value and its importance and use as a major recreational boating Harbour led, in the late 1960s, to concerns that there was not an adequate system of management to deal with the potential conflicts. This was recognised by both Harbour users and the Local Authorities, and following a detailed study of the needs of Chichester Harbour in 1968 (the Chichester Harbour Study), an Act of Parliament was promoted by Hampshire County Council and West Sussex County Council.

The two county councils recognised that Chichester Harbour could not be managed in isolation from the surrounding land and, rather than the area being managed through its political boundaries, should have a precise geographic identity. This farsighted and innovative approach, which brought Chichester Harbour Conservancy into existence through the 1971 Act, is now widely recognised and identified as integrated coastal zone management, and forms the model for such an approach both in the UK and abroad.

The Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act (1971) is available in full on the Conservancy's website.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy

The Conservancy is the policy and decision-making body set up by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act 1971. The Conservancy is made up of 15 members:

Organisation	Number of appointed members
Hampshire County Council	4
West Sussex County Council	4
Chichester District Council	2
Havant Borough Council	2
Advisory Committee	3

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee provides expert guidance to the Conservancy and was set up by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act 1971. The Advisory Committee is made up of 17 members from a variety of special interest groups.

Organisation	Number of appointed members
Amateur Fishermen	1
Chichester District Association of Local Councils	1
Chichester Harbour Federation	4
Commercial Interests	1
Professional Boatman's Association	1
Naturalists	1
Natural England	1
Environment Agency	1
Residents in the Borough of Havant	1
Royal Yachting Association	1
Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	1
Wildfowlers	1
Other Interests in Chichester Harbour	2

While the Advisory Committee does not have any statutory responsibilities or duties, it must be consulted and support and encourage an active partnership between all the agencies involved to co-ordinate management of the AONB. The aim of the Advisory Committee is to ensure that the AONB is managed effectively; provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas; consider issues likely to affect the area adversely and agree action; and make recommendations for new initiatives.

Contributing Photographers

Chichester Harbour Conservancy would like to thank the following photographers for contributing pictures used in this Management Plan:

Andrew Filipinski (pg 4, 49, 50), Anne de Potier (pg 25), Clare Stent (pg 11 footpath sign, pg 44), David Steer (pg 8), George Spraggs (pg 11 birds), Jake Jacobs (inside front, pg 28), John Arnott (pg 24 oystercatchers), John Tweddell (pg 37 dinghies, pg 38), Ken Stanhope (pg 21 bluebells), Matt Simmons (pg 11 dinghy, pg 21 view, pg 36, 47, 51, 54 school group), Meryl Mead-Briggs (pg 11 seal, pg 25 seal), Paul Adams (front cover, pg 2, 10, 11 East Head, 19, 23, 39 angling, 41, 48, 49 East Head, 58), Paul Gonella (pg 55), Peter Arnold (pg 7, 24 brent goose, 25 boat, 27), Steve Trewella (pg 39 cuttlefish).

Chichester Harbour Conservancy



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