

Useful Information

Directions

All the walks were tested in 2007. However, please note that some footpaths may be diverted and buildings such as pubs may have changed their name since the walks were written. If you have any comments please send them to the Harbour Office to be considered for the next edition.

Distances and Timings

All distances and timings are approximate.

Maps

The maps provided are a guide and are not to scale. Please use OS Explorer Map 120 (Chichester).

Map References

The reference given is for the start point of the walk.

Public Transport

Buses: Stagecoach run most of the local buses. Timetable details are at www.stagecoachbus.com/south or telephone **0871 200 22 33** (10p per minute).

For the Selsey – Itchenor service see www.compass-travel.co.uk

Trains: Timetable information is at www.nationalrail.co.uk or telephone **08457 48 49 50**.

Stiles and Gates

Please note stiles are gradually being replaced with gates where appropriate. This may affect some of the walk directions and photos.

Tides

Please note some paths are flooded at high tide. If you have misjudged the times, you usually only have to wait a short while before the path is clear enough to use. Tide times can be found at www.conservancy.co.uk or from the Harbour Office, please note these are only a prediction and factors such as low pressure can make the tide higher than expected.

Tourist Information

Chichester: www.visitchichester.org or telephone **01243 775888**.

Hayling Island: www.visithavant.co.uk or telephone **023 9246 7111**.

Weather

Please check the weather before starting your walk and take the appropriate clothing. Weather forecasts can be found at www.conservancy.co.uk or from the local tourist offices.

Acknowledgements

All walks were written and photographed by Ali Beckett for Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Design work on the book was undertaken by Dan Vear and Graham Martin at Designline. The walks were tested by willing volunteers: Roger & Sheila Bleasby, Stella Briggs, Peter Cameron, Jan Colgate, Rodney & Jackie Dugga, Adrian & Josette Fox, Ken & Margaret Harry, Eric & Christine Hinkley, Ted & Ros Honeyman, Kerry Jackson, Jazmin Kelly, John Kendall, Joan Langhorne, Lesley Mann, Coralie Murphy, Roger Palmer, Patrick Pead, Tony Probert, Jill & Tony Radnor, Sally Rumfitt, Peter & Judy Stern, Peter Taylor, Jim & Ann Tice, Richard Tully, Bill Walker, Colin Webb, Bill Witts. Funding was generously provided by the Friends of Chichester Harbour, Chichester Harbour Trust and Chichester Harbour Sustainable Development Fund.



- **Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs**

Even when going out locally, it's best to get the latest information about where and when you go; for example, your rights to go onto some areas of open land may be restricted while work is carried out, for safety reasons or during breeding seasons. Follow advice and local signs, and be prepared for the unexpected.

- **Leave gates and property as you find them**

Please respect the working life of the countryside, as our actions can affect people's livelihoods, our heritage, and the safety and welfare of animals and ourselves.

- **Protect plants and animals and take your litter home**

We have a responsibility to protect our countryside, so make sure you don't harm animals, birds, plants or trees.

- **Keep dogs under control**

The countryside is a great place to exercise dogs, but it's every owner's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife or other people.

- **Consider other people**

Showing consideration and respect for other people makes the countryside a pleasant environment for everyone – at home, at work and at leisure.



7

7.5km/4.5 miles

2 hours

Map Ref. SU 719 047 - Ordnance Survey Explorer 120

Walk 7

Northney Explorer

Having crossed the busy bridge onto Hayling Island you soon reach the tranquillity of Northney. The 12th Century church with its pretty churchyard makes a pleasant midway resting spot before continuing through farmland for a short stretch along the shoreline.

Start Point

The Ship pub, Langstone.

By Road

There is a free public car park at The Ship which is on the left just before the bridge onto Hayling Island.

By Bus

Service 30/31 from Havant to Hayling Island stops at The Ship.

Refreshments

The Ship and The Royal Oak, Langstone.

Toilets

In the car park at Langstone.

Tides

The paths are non-tidal.

Walk Directions

Cross the bridge onto Hayling Island (1). Although this is a busy and noisy start to the walk it is the only place with views across both Langstone and Chichester Harbours. Please watch out for cyclists on this section.





Turn left into Northney Road and then immediately right onto the footpath to the Petrol Station. Bear left across the forecourt to again pick up the footpath **2**.

Cross over two stiles, after about 200m the path turns left. Keep going over another stile until you reach the road.

Turn right onto the road and watch out for traffic on this short stretch. You will soon see a footpath to the right through a wooden squeeze gate **3**. This is just before the recreation ground and opposite the village name sign.

Take this path, it turns left and then right before coming out at St Peters Church. There are a couple of benches here if you want a rest.

Coming out of the churchyard, cross the road and walk down Church Lane. You will pass a couple of picture postcard houses, the road then becomes a farm track.

Keep going along this track as it heads towards the shoreline. This is private land open to the public by the landowner. Please keep dogs under close control on this section.

When you reach the three metal gates, take the small gate on the right **4**. Follow the path which bends to the left to reach the shoreline. Go up a few steps and then turn right onto the shoreline path.

When this path ends, there are steps to the right going back down to the fields. Walk inland towards the row of big evergreen trees, bearing right in front of them.



You will then come out onto a shingle path **5**, turn right and then left at the road. At the end of St Peters Avenue turn right and walk back to the Church.

Walk to the far right of the church car park to pick up the footpath and retrace your steps back to the start.



Extra Items of Interest

Church of St Peter's

The church of St Peter's was built by monks of the Abbey of Jumieges, Normandy, in 1140, close to the site of an Iron Age shrine, later the site of a Roman temple. Some of St Peter's interior pillars stand on roughly hewn stones taken from the Roman temple. The delightful church interior, little changed since 1250, is best appreciated sitting quietly in the back pew, some say in the peaceful presence of the ghost of a sailor, drowned whilst crossing the Wadeway in a storm. A 21st century extension, tacked on to the west door in the shape of an upturned boat, sits in surprising harmony with the remainder of the church. Princess Catherine Yourievsky is buried to the right of the path leading to the 13th century north door. An escapee from the Bolshevik revolution, she found peace in Northney for the latter part of her life.

Martin Rhodes



Coastal Grazing Marsh

The fields by the shoreline are an increasingly rare habitat – coastal grazing marsh. Historically grazing animals have been used to manage land close to the harbour. However, in recent years beef cattle numbers have been declining as the cost of production increases and the financial returns fall. This farm has now come into the 'Three Harbours Beef' Scheme. All the animals in the scheme are reared on either Hampshire or Sussex coastal plains. They are reared on their mother's milk and grass for the first six months and then spend two summers on the flower-rich grazing marshes. Keeping the marshes grazed is essential for internationally important species of birds such as Lapwings, Redshank and Brent Geese. In addition it encourages the growth of Southern Marsh orchids. The beef is sold through local farmshops and direct to the public.

See www.threeharboursbeef.co.uk