

## Nature Conservation

The harbour is of national and international importance for nature conservation. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a wetland of international importance, a Special Protection Area for wild birds and a candidate Special Area of Conservation. The harbour is of particular significance for wintering wildfowl and waders of which 6 species reach numbers which are internationally important.

## Economic

The harbour and its surrounding are commercially important for:

**Farming** – the farmland is of particularly high quality and agriculture is the main land use.

**Fishing** – the harbour has had an oyster fishery for centuries and local fishermen continue to earn their livings from and within the harbour.

**Boatyards** – which build, repair and maintain vessels and provide moorings, chandlery and other services.

**Tourism** – the recreational value of the harbour is a vital factor in the local tourism industry.

## CHICHESTER HARBOUR CONSERVANCY

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## MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

### The importance of balance

The challenges of managing an area of such importance with so many potential conflicts are clear. The Conservancy bases its management of the harbour and the amenity area on four principles:

Sustainable stewardship

The integration of land and water

Positive rather than reactive management

A balance between the various interests

### Where the money comes from

The Conservancy's income is from three main sources:

**Harbour dues** - which are paid by all craft using the harbour.

**Mooring charges** - which are paid by those who hire Conservancy moorings or mooring sites.

A **precept** on the two County Councils.

In addition, bodies such as English Nature and the Countryside Agency regularly give grants to the Conservancy for specific projects.

### And where it goes

Harbour dues paid by yachtsmen meet the cost of running the harbour, maintaining the navigation marks, controlling works and dredging and enforcing the byelaws.

Mooring charges meet the cost of maintaining and administering Conservancy moorings and mooring sites and contribute to the cost of running the harbour.

The precept pays for environmental work such as tree planting, recording and surveying wildlife, footpath maintenance and providing information about the area.

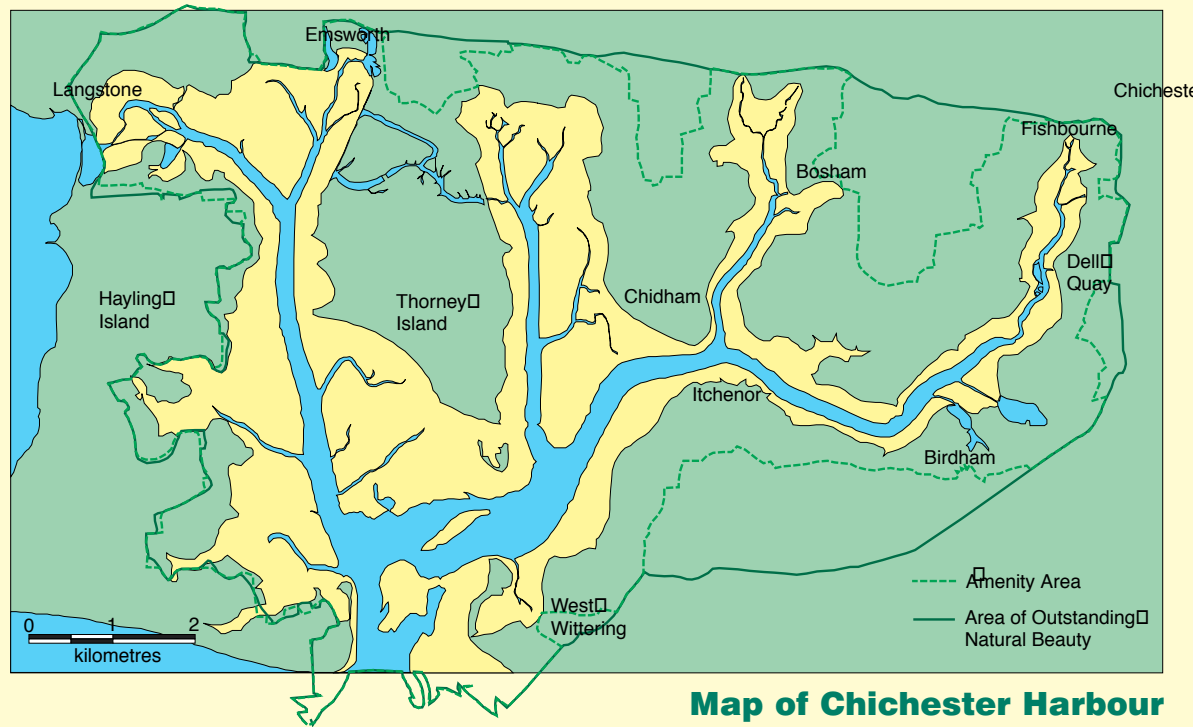
# CHICHESTER H A R B O U R CONSERVANCY



The Conservancy was established by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act 1971. Its duty is the conservancy, maintenance and improvement of the Harbour and the Amenity Area for recreation and leisure, nature conservation and the natural beauty. The Amenity Area is the land surrounding and including the harbour, as defined in the Act.

CHICHESTER  
H A R B O U R  
Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty





### WHAT IT DOES

The Conservancy is the statutory harbour authority and is responsible for the safety of navigation, the regulation of moorings, works and dredging, enforcement of harbour byelaws and the collection of dues and charges.

In addition, the Conservancy has a range of powers under countryside legislation relating to such matters as nature reserves, tree planting, access agreements, car parks, camping, picnic sites and byelaws.

The Conservancy acts as the Joint Advisory Committee for the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is consulted on planning policies affecting the AONB.

### HOW IS IT MANAGED?

The Conservancy consists of 15 members appointed by West Sussex and Hampshire County Councils, Chichester District and Havant Borough Councils and the Conservancy's Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee includes representatives of harbour and Amenity Area users, such as sailing, fishing, nature conservation, residents, farmers and commercial interests. The Conservancy must consult the Advisory Committee on the management of the harbour and the Amenity Area.

### WHY THE HARBOUR IS IMPORTANT

#### Recreation and leisure

The sheltered waters of the harbour are ideal for racing and day sailing and its channels offer secure moorings for cruising vessels. Over 10,000 craft use the harbour and there are some 5,500 moorings and 14 sailing clubs with over 11,000 members. Other popular activities include angling, birdwatching, walking, wildfowling, painting and photography.

#### Landscape

The landscape of the harbour was formally recognised as being of national importance in 1964 when it was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).