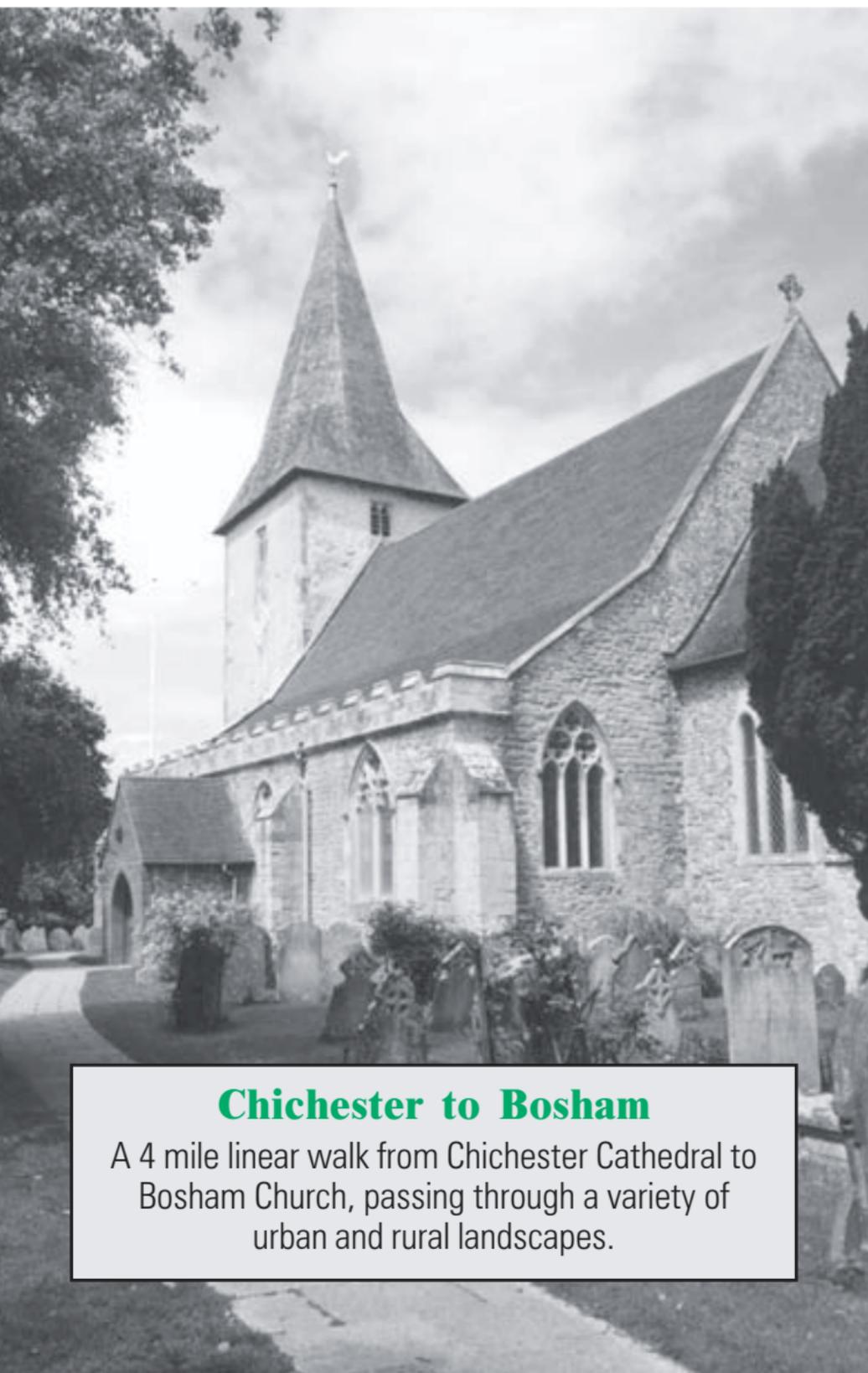

CHICHESTER HARBOUR CONSERVANCY

WALK No. 5
FROM THE CATHEDRAL
TO THE CHURCH



Chichester to Bosham

A 4 mile linear walk from Chichester Cathedral to Bosham Church, passing through a variety of urban and rural landscapes.

FROM THE CATHEDRAL TO THE CHURCH

This is a LINEAR walk of almost 4 miles from Chichester Cathedral to Bosham church, passing through many different urban and rural landscapes. A bus service from Bosham will take you back to the start.

The starting point is outside the Cathedral entrance (map ref. SU 858047).

We advise you to use these notes alongside the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 120 (Chichester).

PRE-WALK INFORMATION

Transport - It is possible to get to the start by bus, train or car. The Cathedral dominates West Street, one of the four main streets and is straightforward to find.

Parking - there are many car parks in Chichester, they are pay and display, and the cheaper ones are at Northgate, near the Festival Theatre, and the multi-storey in Avenue de Chartres, near the railway station. From either car park it would take about 10-15 minutes to walk to the start.

Return bus journey - the service from Bosham is hourly (two hourly on Sundays), and is the No.56, taking you straight back into Chichester. Telephone 01903 237661 for up to date information (for Bank Holidays phone to check first).

Toilets - situated in both of the car parks in Chichester, the railway station and in Tower Street, opposite the start point. Also, in the car park at Bosham.

Cafés - there are many cafés in Chichester and there are two in Bosham.

Pubs - plenty in Chichester (one opposite the start point is converted from a former church) and The Anchor Bleu in Bosham.

Tide times - must be consulted as one part of the walk floods at high spring tide. This is at the point just past Fishbourne Mill pond, where the route passes through the reedbeds. Avoid trying to walk this part of the route about one hour either side of a spring high tide. Phone Harbour Office (01243 512301) for tide information or see website (www.conservancy.co.uk).

Walk instructions - the green text is the detailed walk route, black text gives you some background information on the area you are walking.

START by locating yourself near the entrance to the Cathedral with the doors to your right. Ahead of you will be the entrance to Tower Street, the statue of St Richard and the pub (a former church, it still looks like one from outside!). Walk forward to meet the road and turn left to walk out of the city. At the end of West Street you will reach a roundabout, you need to go straight over and down the road with the pub called The Swan on your right.

Notice the attractive old terraced housing painted all different colours. Shortly you will be passing housing typical from the 1930s style of ribbon development along roads out of the towns.

After about 1/2 mile you will reach another roundabout. Go straight over.

This road is now a cul de sac but used to be the main route west out of the city.

You will be approaching a railway crossing.

Just before, on the right hand side, notice the entrance path to Centurion Way, a popular cycle path made from an old gravel-train track by the charity Sustrans.

When clear, cross over the railway line. Take the road straight on, do not turn left. After 1/4 mile the route passes under the main road the A27. It meets another road, the old A27 now called the A259. This is a busy road and you must cross it with care.

The best place to cross is to go slightly to the left after you emerge from the underpass.

Turn right and then follow the road round to the left. Do not go far, for just round the corner you should see a small kissing gate and a footpath sign to the left. Take this path, it has hedges on either side.

You have now left the urban landscape and are entering the tranquillity of the harbour countryside.

The path emerges into a field. Turn right and aim for the gateway in the corner.

These fields are leased by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy to manage as wet grassland, an uncommon habitat these days. In this field in May one can usually see Southern Marsh Orchid which grows only in these conditions. In the summer months you may see some cattle, grazing the fields to keep the prolific vegetation down which otherwise would take over. The grazing allows for the maximum number of wet pasture species to grow.

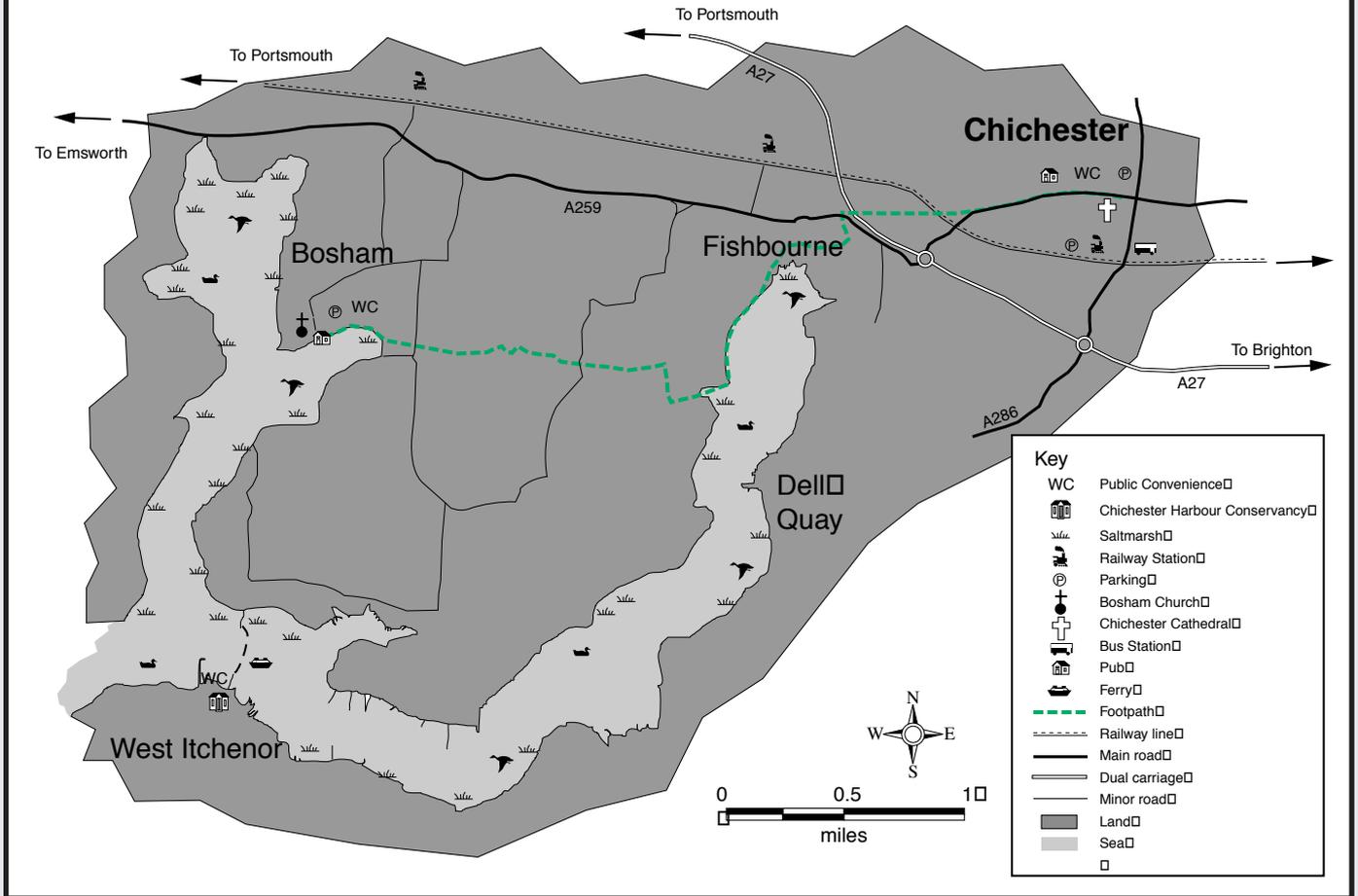
Pass through the gateway into another field.

You will see the reeds at the other end of this field.

Bear right and cross over a low bridge. You will reach a stream.

This stream is one of the few draining into Chichester Harbour. (The harbour, unusually, does not have a large river draining into it like most estuaries.) This small stream is full of aquatic life in the summer months. At this point it is freshwater. Further downstream it is brackish due to the occasional influx of high spring tides. Down further, among the reeds, the stream channel is fully tidal with the mix of

FROM THE CATHEDRAL TO THE CHURCH



Chichester Cathedral has been a centre of Christian worship and community life for 900 years, it is the site of the Shrine of St Richard and houses a collection of art from Romanesque stone carvings to twentieth century paintings, sculptures and tapestries. The Cathedral is open daily for visitors, though visiting may be restricted during services and concerts. The building of the cathedral began around 1076 under the Bishop of Selsey and was dedicated in 1108 by Bishop Luffa. During the 15th century, the detached bell tower (the only one of its kind remaining in England) was added. It houses a peal of eight bells. The spire, which is a focal point of the local countryside, was also added in this period. However, following years of neglect the spire collapsed in 1861 and the one we see today is a restoration by Sir George Gilbert Scott.

fresh stream water and sea water. Each location supports a different range of species.

Turn left along the stream and cross over the first bridge you see. Bear right and follow the path out of the field through a kissing gate onto a narrow path alongside a wide ditch. Shortly you go through another kissing gate and will emerge onto a quiet road by Fishbourne Mill Pond.

The spring feeding this pond emerges not far away. There is much discussion to the pond's importance in Roman times. These days it supports a large mix and match colony of ducks, helped by regular visitors bringing them snacks!

The building to your left was connected to the local milling industry and is now converted to flats. History suggests that there was a mill here as far back as during the Roman occupation.

Opposite the kissing gate you came through you will see a path leading ahead alongside the pond. Take this path, it then bears left and then takes you through the spectacular reed beds.

These reed beds are managed for nature conservation by the Chichester Harbour Wildfowlers' Association. In summer the reeds will be at their most luxurious; tall, willowy and giving one a real sense of adventure walking through them.

Follow this path, crossing bridges with care (they may be slippery) over a few creeks.

At high spring tides this is where the path may be flooded.

The path will climb a few steps at the far side of the reeds and go up and bear left onto an embankment.

On your right you will see another habitat, a brackish lagoon. This was formed a few years ago for two purposes, to help increase the area of reedbeds, and to use the earth which was dug out to rebuild the embankment the path runs along.

Follow this path, taking time to pause to view the harbour channel.

Look left and you may see the Cathedral spire in the distance. To the right you will be able to see the small harbour village of Dell Quay.

More evidence of the 'industrial' importance of Fishbourne can be seen over the harbour mudland. The remains of two tidal mill pond walls can still be seen, as there were, in addition to the mill building still standing, two tidal mills built on the harbour mudland.

The path becomes very narrow and you will have to watch your steps for some way, but at the end it will descend a few steps to join the saltmarsh. The path continues across the saltmarsh and then passes between some oak trees.

In times gone by, the harbour shoreline would have had these small oak trees growing all around. They are called scrub oaks, and are not a special variety, they grow small and compact in the harsh salty conditions! To your right you will come across a pond - look out for a flash of brilliant blue of a kingfisher.

Beyond these trees the path bears right and away from the shoreline.

There is no public access further along the shoreline at this point.

Follow the path inland. You will reach a T junction of paths. Take the one to the right and a 100 yards or so later, go left. Keep going and you will reach a quiet road. Cross this road with care and straight onto the path on the other side. The path now continues for a further mile, it detours an isolated house and joins a track (access to the house) for two hundred yards or so. When this track turns left, go right and over the small footbridge and left across the last field.

This field is known to be very old and has produced all sorts of wonderful artefacts for archaeologists such as pottery and coins.

You will reach a road and will need to descend a few steps. Take care crossing this road. You will need to go straight over and seem to walk into someone's property between the house and garage. This is correct! The footpath disappears over in the corner but the entrance is quite easy to see. Follow this path with gardens and hedges on either side. You are now in Bosham. The path comes out on another small road and you will see the picturesque creek ahead, called School Rythe. Take care crossing this road and follow over the few yards of grass to meet the path on the embankment.

To your left you will see a low building at the top of the creek, this used to be the school.

You will see the heart of the village to your right. Take the path towards the village. It runs along a sea wall known as The Trippet.

The Trippet is said to be built of old ballast stone left on the shoreline long ago when Bosham was a busy commercial port. The shoreline road is the famous tidal road which has shortened the working lives of many vehicles left by unsuspecting owners unaware of the encroaching tide or quite possibly losing track of time in the pub!

The path eventually comes out onto the High Street.

To your left is a cafe and to your right just up the road is Bosham Walk, the art and craft centre. The public toilets are in the car park opposite this centre.

Do not turn left or right but go straight over into the small side street. You will pass the cafe and then a pub to your left and then the road bears round to the right. Shortly you will reach the church.

It is said that Bosham Church lies on the first site of Christianity in Sussex. It has many historical connections as the church of King Canute, Earl Godwin and King Harold and it is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry.

To finish your walk you should take the opportunity to walk to the back of the church and out onto the small National Trust Common called Quay Meadow.

This is a lovely spot for a picnic.

You have now come to the end of your walk and will need to find the bus top which is on the entrance road to the car park, near the art and craft centre. Either retrace your steps back to the High Street or from Quay Meadow, walk over to Bosham Quay and turn left and back along to the High Street along the shoreline road - tide permitting!

This walk is one of a series of 10 walks around Chichester Harbour

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. East Head Circular | 6. Chidham Circular |
| 2. Itchenor Circular | 7. Two Villages and a Ferry |
| 3. Dell Quay Circular | 8. Thorney Island Circular |
| 4. Emsworth to Langstone | 9. Six Harbour Villages |
| 5. From the Cathedral to the Church | 10. From the City to the Sea |

This leaflet has been produced by Chichester Harbour Conservancy in association with the Countryside Agency.

Chichester Harbour is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is an internationally renowned area for nature conservation. The Harbour has 11 square miles of water, 11 square miles of land and 17 miles of navigable channels. The Conservancy works to maintain and protect this important environment. Further information on its work can be found on the website.

The Countryside Agency is the statutory body working to:

- conserve and enhance the countryside
- promote social equity and economic opportunity for the people who live there
- help everyone, wherever they live, to enjoy this national asset

It aims to achieve the very best for the English countryside, its people and places.



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