

# Chichester Harbour **Site Management Plan**

## 2020-2030

### **Birdham Reserve**

Enjoying, Protecting, Enhancing



CHICHESTER  
HARBOUR  
CONSERVANCY

# Chichester Harbour Site Management Plan 2020-30

## Birdham Reserve

Birdham Reserve is within Chichester Harbour AONB. Following the development of the Greenacres and Westlands estate in the 1950s, a strip of land, which became known as Birdham Reserve, was left vacant. At the time, residents were concerned that it might one-day be developed, so they decided to purchase it.

In 1978 the Conservancy took over ownership of part of the land, with the rest of the site owned by the Church Commissioners. In 1982, a cottage that was on the site was demolished, along with an old railway carriage near the sewage pumping station.

There is farmland to the west of the site and intertidal saltmarsh to the north. The oaks are a focal point of Birdham Reserve and serve to screen the Greenacres development from the Harbour. The scrub, consisting of brambles,



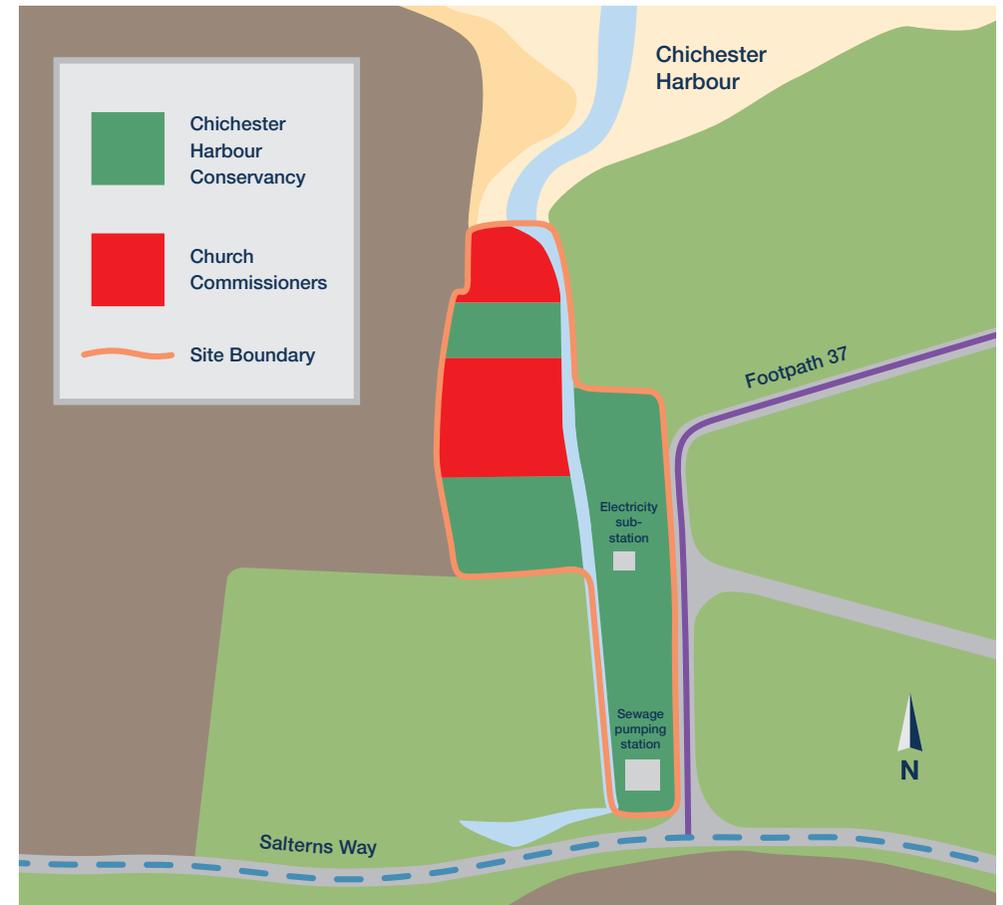
ivy and nettles, helps to restrict public access and provides a habitat for a variety of small mammals, such as foxes, rabbits, and squirrels, as well as a variety of birds. Domestic cats also explore the site.

Wren, photograph taken by Shirley Rushmer



Address	Greenacres, Birdham, PO20 7HL
Grid Reference	SU815005
Size	0.5 hectares
Local Authorities	Chichester District Council, West Sussex County Council
Landowner	Chichester Harbour Conservancy / Church Commissioners
Date Acquired	1978
Management	Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Designations	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

## Location Maps



## Management

There are two purposes for the management of the site:

- **To maintain and improve habitats for wildlife and landscape; and**
- **To maintain good relations with neighbouring property owners.**

Should the two management purposes ever be in conflict, the primary purpose will take precedence.

Management of Birdham Reserve requires minimal intervention. Occasional thinning of sycamore saplings may be necessary to ensure they do not become too dominant. Any cut vegetation generated by access and roadside hedge maintenance to be left to decompose on site.

The remains of the bridge across the stream will be dismantled and removed. Any large obstructions to the stream to be removed to ensure flow of water is not significantly impeded.

Management will only be carried out by Chichester Harbour Conservancy assisted by the Friends of Chichester Harbour.

## Woodland

The woodland is predominantly oak-ash-sycamore with the shrub layer of hawthorn, holly and elder. There are several mature oaks. The ground flora is dominated by ivy in many places, with bramble, bluebells, nettles, bracken, broom and honeysuckle also present in some areas. Butcher's broom, an ancient woodland indicator, is also found at Birdham Reserve. There is an interesting natural succession from woodland flora to intertidal Carex and Phragmites marsh on the northern boundary, intercut by a small steep-sided freshwater stream.

The woodland supports typical birds such as blackcap, great tit, wren and chaffinch, and mammals such as roe deer and wood mouse.

## Monitoring and Survey

Annual condition assessment. No specific surveys are necessary. Species records will be gathered on an ad-hoc basis through-out the year.



## Access and Community Engagement

- A Public Right of Way (Footpath 37) runs along the eastern boundary of the site.
- The Salterns Way cycle route runs along the southern boundary.
- Access to the Electricity Substation will be maintained.
- Access to the Sewage Pumping Station will be maintained.
- The roadside hedge will be annually trimmed during August.
- Quarterly site checks throughout the year by the Conservancy's Rangers.
- Since public access is prohibited, this Site Management Plan was not subject to a wider public consultation.
- For the purposes of clarity, any off-site garden waste, or general household litter, illegally disposed of at Birdham Reserve will be treated as fly-tipping and subject to prosecution.



Church Commissioners  
c/o Strutt & Parker  
Somerset House  
222 High Street, Guildford  
Surrey, GU1 3JD



Chichester Harbour Conservancy  
The Harbour Office  
Itchenor, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7AW  
T: 01243 512301  
E: [info@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:info@conservancy.co.uk)