

Chichester Harbour AONB

State of the AONB Report 2018

Prepared by LUC for Chichester Harbour Conservancy
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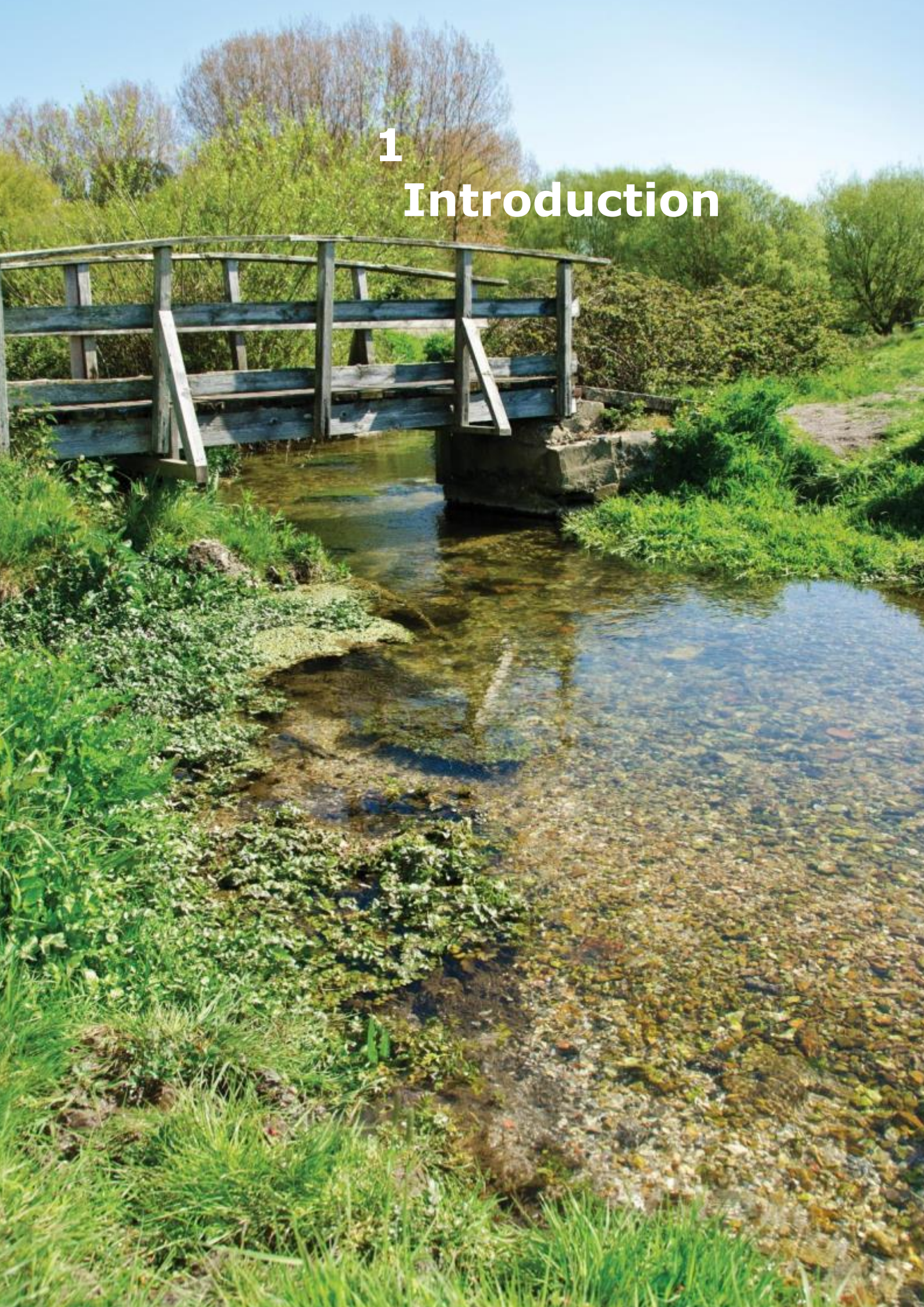
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Introduction



1 Introduction

Chichester Harbour AONB: A nationally important landscape

- 1.1 Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1964 and covers an area of 74km² comprising land, sea and intertidal habitat. It is managed by Chichester Harbour Conservancy ('The Conservancy'), which acts as the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) on behalf of four local authorities. The JAC has a statutory responsibility to publish a Management Plan for Chichester Harbour every five years, with annual reviews sent to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and other interested partners.
- 1.2 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. It also acts as the statutory Harbour Authority, responsible for the safety of navigation, the regulation of moorings, works and dredging, enforcement of harbour byelaws and the collection of dues and charges.
- 1.3 A map and aerial photograph of the AONB is shown in **Figure 1.1** and **Figure 1.2**. It straddles the two counties of Hampshire and West Sussex, and falls within the remit of Havant Borough and Chichester District local planning authorities.

Purpose of the State of the AONB Report

- 1.4 The management framework for the AONB is provided by the Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan 2014-2019¹. The Management Plan provides a vision to 2050 and is reviewed at five year intervals, with the new Plan due to be published in 2019 to cover the period up to 2024. A State of the AONB Report was produced in 2013 to provide evidence to underpin and support the current Management Plan.
- 1.5 The aim of this State of the AONB Report is to draw upon all available data sources to produce an evidence base to underpin the new AONB Management Plan. It provides an updated baseline for future AONB condition monitoring and enables trends since the publication of the 2013 Report to be analysed and reasons behind trends to be explored.

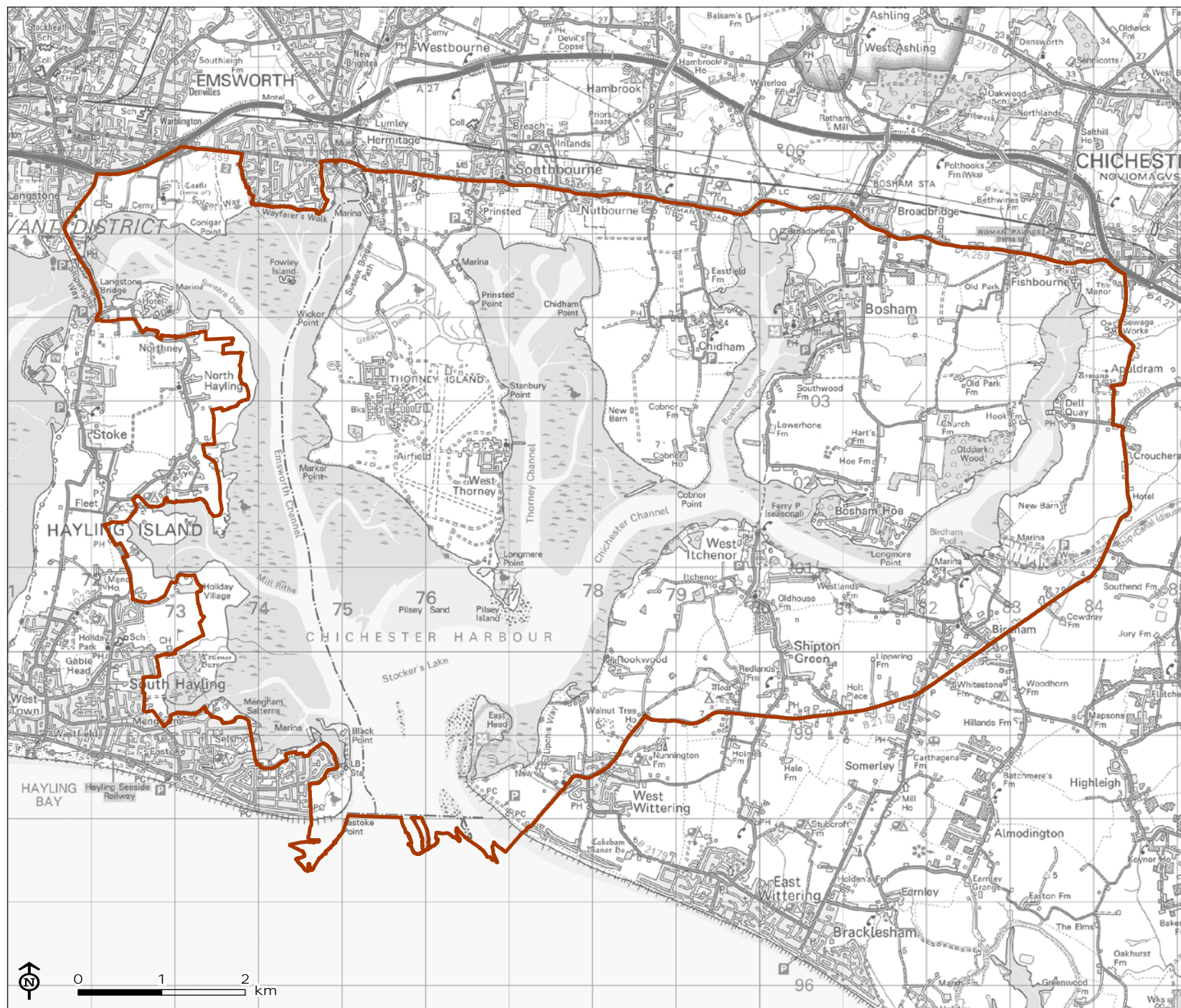
Structure of this report

- 1.6 The report is structured as follows:
 - Chapter 2 sets out the methodology used to produce the report.
 - Chapter 3 is titled 'A landscape for habitats and wildlife' and includes the themes 'Landscape character', 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and 'Water quality'.
 - Chapter 4 is titled 'A landscape for leisure and recreation' and includes the themes 'Activities and recreation', 'Water-based activities and recreation' and 'Access and rights of way'.
 - Chapter 5 is titled 'A landscape for communities and businesses' and includes the themes 'Education, engagement and involvement in the AONB', 'Cultural heritage' and 'Socio-economic profile of the AONB'.
 - Chapter 6 sets out the summary headlines from each chapter and also outlines the next steps for monitoring within the AONB.

¹ Accessible at <http://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/management-plan/307/>

Figure 1.1: **Location
and extent of**
Chichester Harbour
AONB

 Chichester Harbour AONB



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Figure 1.2: Chichester
Harbour AONB - **Aerial
context**

 Chichester Harbour AONB

Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



2 Method



2 Method

- 2.1 The methodology used to produce this 2018 State of the AONB report consisted of three main stages:

Stage 1: Reviewing and identifying monitoring indicators

- 2.2 The indicators used in the 2013 State of the AONB Report were developed to understand and respond to two key elements: a) the key characteristics/special qualities of the protected landscape that underpin AONB designation; b) whether data or information exists to lay down a baseline for monitoring condition against these.
- 2.3 The information on key characteristics and special qualities was gleaned from the Chichester Harbour AONB Landscape Character Assessment (2005), an earlier landscape assessment for the AONB undertaken in 1992, and the current AONB Management Plan.
- 2.4 The initial stages of this 2018 State of the AONB project involved a thorough review of the indicators used by the 2013 study, exploring whether these indicators were still appropriate (i.e. reflecting the forces for change impacting upon the AONB landscape in 2018) and if updated data exists to review against the baseline. For example, many indicators were based on data from the 2011 Census, which has not been updated since the production of the 2013 report.
- 2.5 This stage of the method also identified potential new indicators based on the availability of new data and its potential usefulness to inform the current picture of AONB condition (e.g. information on water quality). New indicators used to form a baseline are clearly labelled within this report at the beginning of the section for each theme.

Stage 2: Obtaining and processing available data and information

- 2.6 The second stage of the method involved compiling the relevant data from various sources, which are referenced at the end of each theme section. A variety of GIS data, documents and survey data has been used to inform the reporting.
- 2.7 Where possible, equivalent data was collected to allow direct comparison with the baseline laid down in the 2013 State of the AONB Report.
- 2.8 It is important to note that where 2011 Census data has been used (predominantly in Chapter 5), the proportion of each census area (Middle Output Area, Lower Super Output Area or Output Area) within the AONB has been calculated and used to give approximate figures for an indicator. For example, if a Census Output Area has 25% of its area within the AONB, the data figures have been multiplied by 0.25.

Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

- 2.9 The majority of the data and information used in this report has been obtained from existing sources. The exception to this is the new Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey, undertaken in early 2018 to feed directly into this report. The objective of this survey was to provide an update and consolidation of separate surveys undertaken previously; the *Survey of Land Based Recreation* in 2007/08 and the *Sailing and Boating Activity on Chichester Harbour Survey* in 2010/11 – both of which were referred to in the 2013 State of the AONB Report.
- 2.10 The refined 2018 survey was undertaken entirely online, administered by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and hosted on SurveyMonkey. The survey comprised a total of 20 questions, aimed at both land- and water-based users of Chichester Harbour. A number of the questions were repeated from the previous surveys to allow for direct comparisons to be made. Other questions

were new and developed in order to understand user perceptions to current issues such as recreational disturbance and the development of the England Coast Path².

- 2.11 A full list of the questions from the survey is included in **Appendix 1**. On average, the survey took respondents seven minutes to complete.
- 2.12 The survey ran from the 19th February 2018 to the 3rd April 2018, with a total of 1,076 respondents (an increase from 703 responses to the 2010/2011 Sailing and Boating Survey and 500 responses for the 2007/08 Land Based Recreation Survey). It was promoted through the Parishes, residents' associations, social media and email bulletins sent out by the Conservancy. The results of the survey are presented and analysed in Chapter 4.

Stage 3: Analysis and reporting

- 2.13 As previously noted, wherever possible the data collated for this report has been compared with the analysis presented in the 2013 report to enable an analysis of any trends and changes.
- 2.14 The results of the analysis are reported in the following themed chapters, which will align with the structure of the 2019-2024 Management Plan. These chapters also comprise a number of sub-themes to logically present the relevant analyses:
 - **A landscape for habitats and wildlife**
 - Landscape character
 - Biodiversity and geodiversity
 - Water quality
 - **A landscape for leisure and recreation**
 - Activities and recreation
 - Water-based activities and recreation
 - Access and rights of way
 - **A landscape for communities and businesses**
 - Education, engagement and involvement in the AONB
 - Cultural heritage
 - Socio-economic profile of the AONB

² For further information please see <https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path>

3

**A landscape for
habitats and
wildlife**



3 A landscape for habitats and wildlife

Structure of this Chapter

- 3.1 This chapter is divided into three main sections:
- Landscape Character
 - Biodiversity and geodiversity
 - Water quality (new indicators)
- 3.2 Landscape character is influenced by a number of different components. It has therefore been split into a number of sub-themes as follows:
- Agricultural landscape character
 - Field patterns and boundaries
 - Woodland cover and management
 - Settlement pattern and vernacular
 - Perceptual qualities

Agricultural Landscape Character

- 3.3 The vast majority of land within the AONB is used for agriculture, and changes in land use and management within the AONB can alter the landscape characteristics of Chichester Harbour. The latest results of the Defra June Agricultural Survey 2016 available are from 2016.

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- Variety of land uses: salt marsh and coastal grassland fringing the harbour, backed by a mixture of large-scale arable farmland, market gardening, small paddocks and orchards.

Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- 3.4 The following monitoring indicators have been selected for the 'Agricultural Landscape Character' sub-theme:
- Patterns of agricultural land use and farm types
 - Livestock numbers and types
 - Area of land under agri-environment schemes

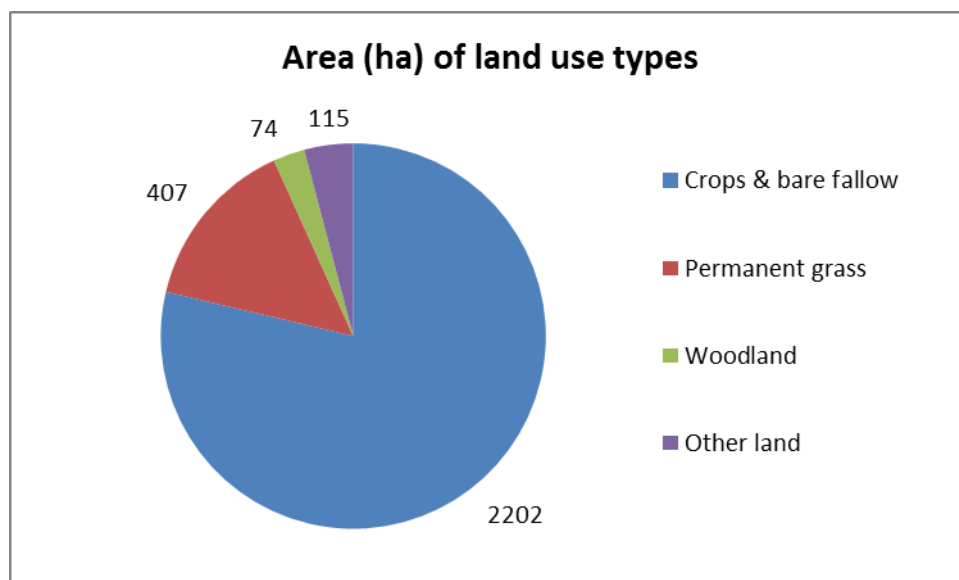
Summary headlines

- The farmed land in the AONB is dominated by arable farming which comprises 78.7% of agricultural land. The area of land used for cereal cropping has increased to 2,202 hectares in 2016. While the total amount of farmland has increased, the total number of holdings has fallen to 30 (2016), demonstrating a trend towards larger holdings.
- The amount of land managed under agri-environment schemes (Environmental Stewardship or Countryside Stewardship) has declined by 64.8% from 1,892 hectares in 2013 to 666 hectares in 2018. This is because many of the Environmental Stewardship Schemes within the AONB have come to an end since the 2013 report and total coverage is now 427.2 hectares. There are two Countryside Stewardship Schemes within the AONB, covering a total area of 238.9 hectares.
- Livestock numbers in the AONB have declined significantly since 2009. The number of farms with grazing livestock has decreased from nine (2009) to three (2016). In depth analysis for other types of livestock is not possible as the number of all livestock except cattle is suppressed to prevent the identification of individual holdings.
- Cattle numbers increased significantly between 2009 and 2013, before dropping by 23.9% to 445 in 2016.
- 70% of farming land within the AONB is within Grades 1 (excellent) and 2 (very good), reflecting the highly fertile land which is suited to arable cropping and cereal growing.

Analysis of indicator: Patterns of agricultural land use and farm types

- 3.5 The chart at **Figure 3.1** displays the area of land under various land use types in 2016 (the most recent information available). This data illustrates that the vast majority (78.7%) of farmed land is used for crops or bare fallow. This has increased in terms of proportion of cover year on year since 2009 (as reported in the 2013 report). Much of the increase in this type of land is for cereal growing, which corresponds with other trends (e.g. larger farm holdings and a decrease in livestock numbers).

Figure 3.1: Area of agricultural land use types within the AONB

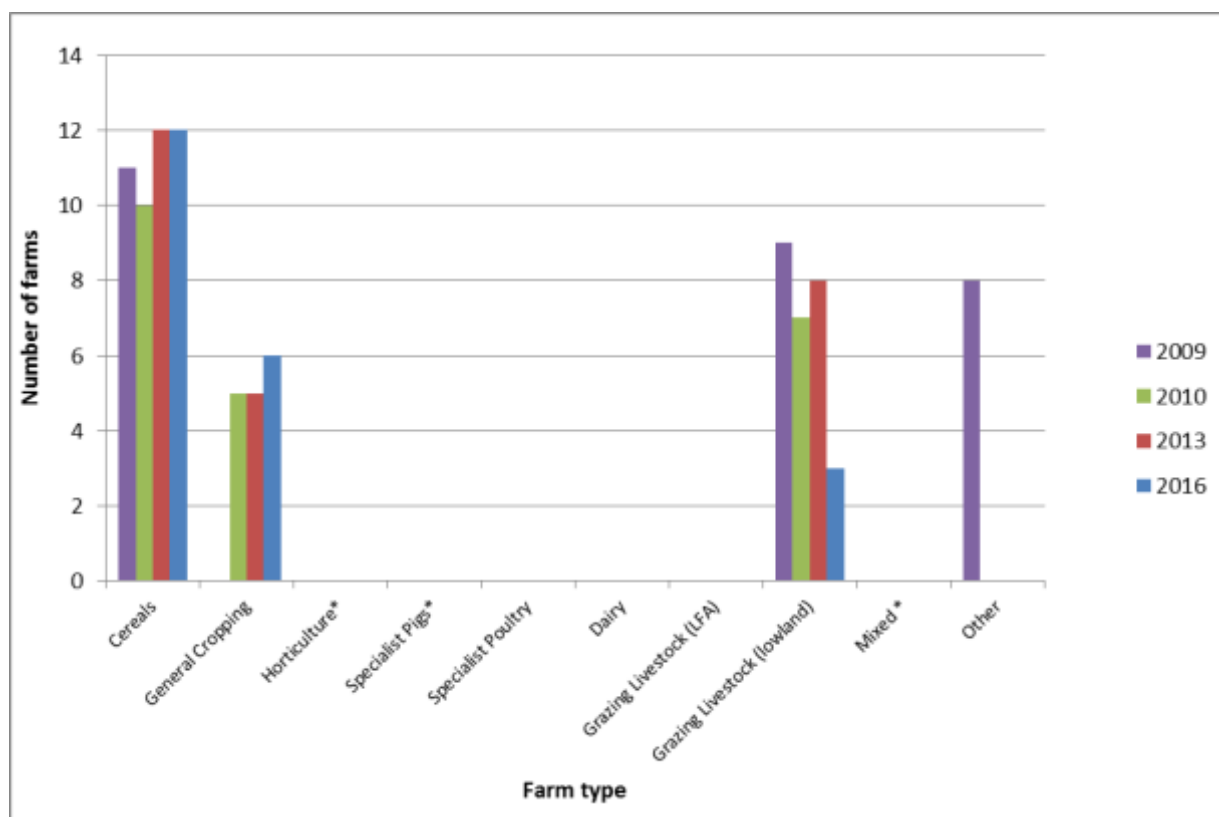


Source: Defra June Agricultural Survey 2016

- 3.6 **Figure 3.2** shows that total holdings in the AONB have decreased from 38 in 2009 to 30 in 2016, although the total amount of land used for agriculture has increased since this time, demonstrating a trend towards larger farm complexes.

- 3.7 The chart shows that the number of grazing livestock (lowland) farms has decreased from nine in 2009 to three in 2016. This reflects the impact of loss of grazing land to arable agriculture. Since 2009, there has been a noted decline in farms keeping livestock (reflected in the trend towards lower numbers of livestock as shown in **Table 3.1** below).

Figure 3.2: Number of farm holdings for each farm type within the AONB



*Numbers have been suppressed to prevent disclosure of information on individual holdings.

Source: Defra June Agricultural Survey 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2016









- 3.8 The map in **Figure 3.3** overleaf shows the distribution of land within the different Grades of the Agricultural Land Classification. 70% is within Grades 1 (excellent) and 2 (very good), reflecting the highly fertile land which is suited to arable cropping and cereal growing. This compares with 10% Grade 1 or 2 land in West Sussex as a whole, and just over 5% in Hampshire.

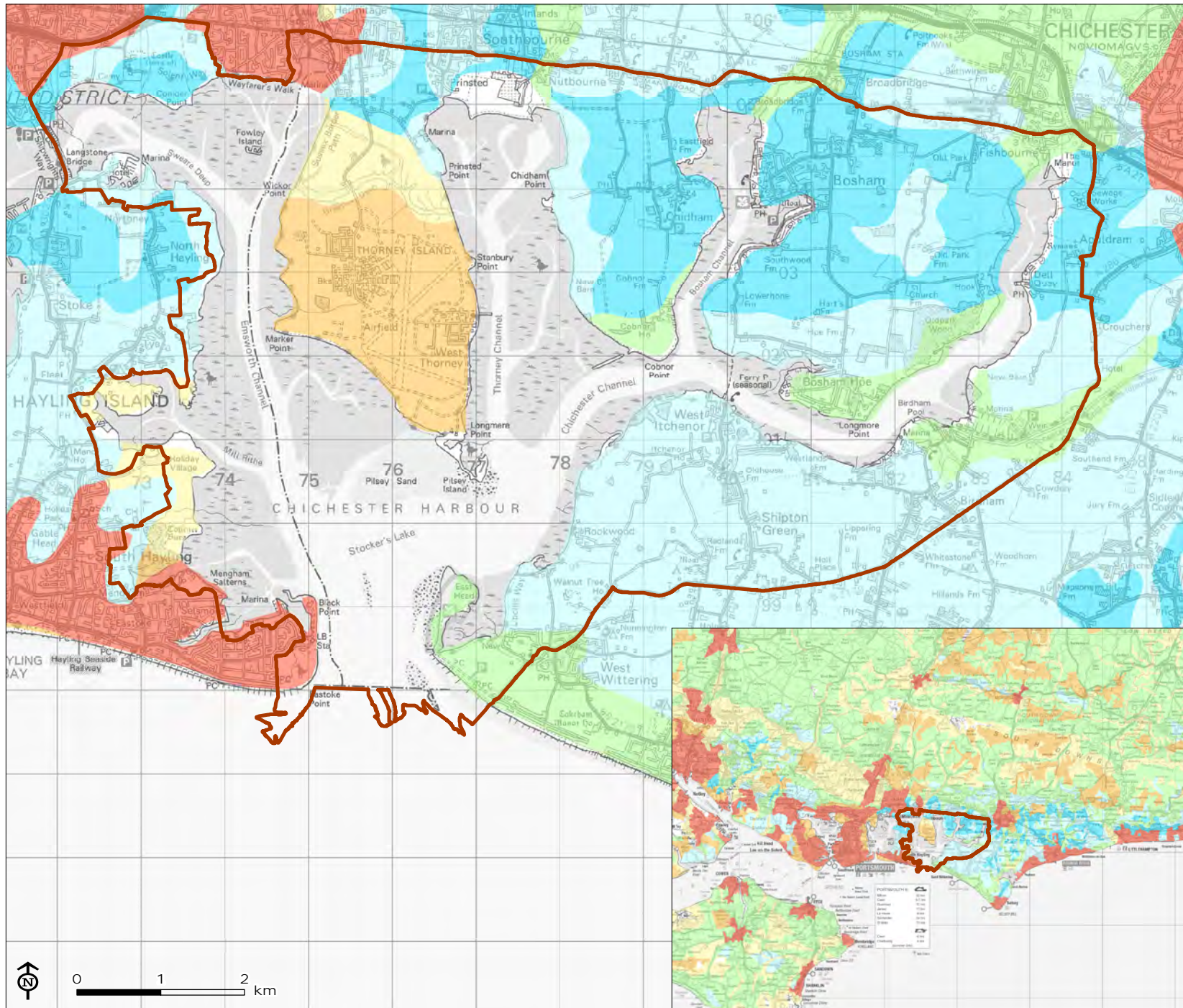
Analysis of indicator: Livestock numbers and types

- 3.9 This indicator examines livestock types and numbers within the AONB from 2009 to 2016, when the latest figures from Defra's June Agricultural Survey were released.
- 3.10 The data for this indicator is displayed below in **Table 3.1** and is also shown in the chart at **Figure 3.4**. In the 2016 Survey, the data for the numbers of pigs, sheep, poultry, goats and horses are all suppressed, which indicates low numbers of the types of livestock.

Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.3: Agricultural Land Classification

-  Chichester Harbour AONB
- Agricultural Land Classification**
-  Grade 1
 -  Grade 2
 -  Grade 3
 -  Grade 4
 -  Grade 5
 -  Non Agricultural
 -  Urban



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000

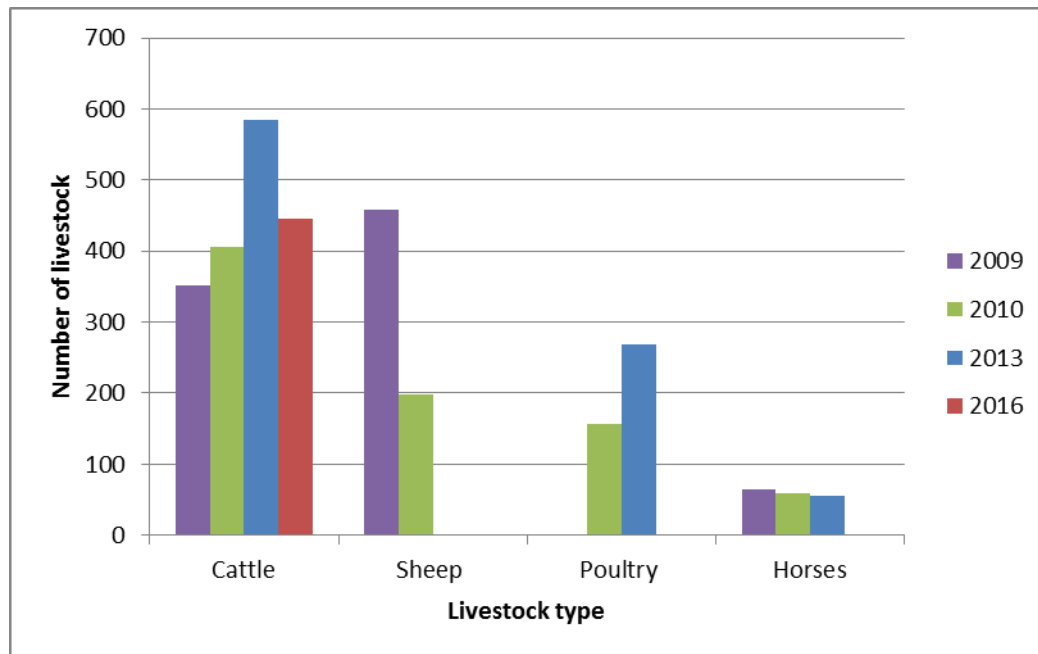


Table 3.1: Livestock types and numbers in the AONB (2009-2016)

Livestock Type	2009	2010	2013	2016
Cattle	352	407	585	445
Sheep	457	198	#	#
Poultry	#	156	268	#
Horses	65	58	55	#

data are suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

Source: Defra June Agricultural Survey 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2016

Figure 3.4: Livestock types and numbers in the AONB (2009-2016)

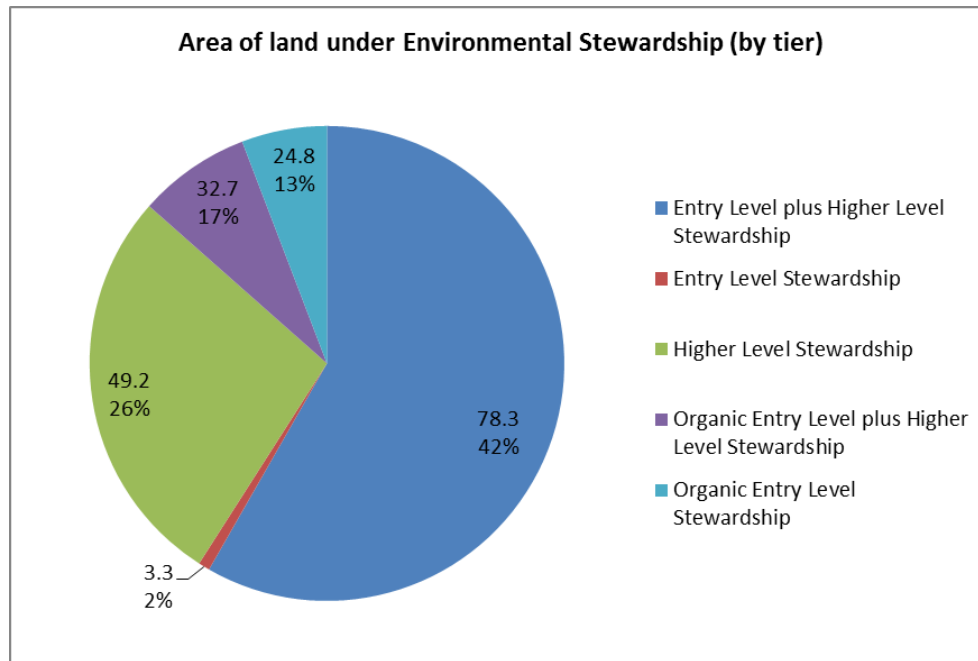
Source: Defra June Agricultural Survey 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2016

- 3.11 Since 2009 there has been a steep decline in the number of sheep kept in the AONB, with numbers reducing from 457 to 198 between 2009 and 2010. Numbers of sheep in 2013 and 2016 have been suppressed and are not available.
- 3.12 The amount of cattle kept within the AONB saw a steady increase between 2009 and 2013, before dropping by 23.9% to a total of 445 in 2016.

Analysis of indicator: Area of land under agri-environment schemes

- 3.13 **Figure 3.5** shows that the largest proportion of land under current Environmental Stewardship agreements are within Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship (ELS plus HLS), covering 78.3 hectares (42%). 26% or 49.2 hectares fall within HLS, while only 2% is within ELS only. This is likely to reflect the important environmental qualities and significant coverage of nature conservation designations within the AONB.

Figure 3.5: Area of land under Environmental Stewardship (by tier)



Source: Natural England GIS Data (downloaded 2018)

- 3.14 The amount of land under Environmental Stewardship has declined sharply since 2013, as the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme was launched by Natural England in 2015 and many Environmental Stewardship Agreements have since come to an end. The spatial coverage of Environmental Stewardship agreements is mapped in **Figure 3.6**. Mapped data for Countryside Stewardship is not currently available – so its take-up within the AONB over the next few years will be important to monitor. However, the future of the current scheme as it stands now will also change as Britain leaves the EU and agri-environment schemes are reviewed by Defra.
- 3.15 There are two Countryside Stewardship Agreements (one Middle Tier, one Higher Tier) within the AONB, covering a total of 238.9 hectares. Total coverage by agri-environment schemes has fallen from 1,892 hectares in 2013 to 666 hectares in 2018, a reduction of 64.7%. At the time of this report, mapped data for Countryside Stewardship is not available

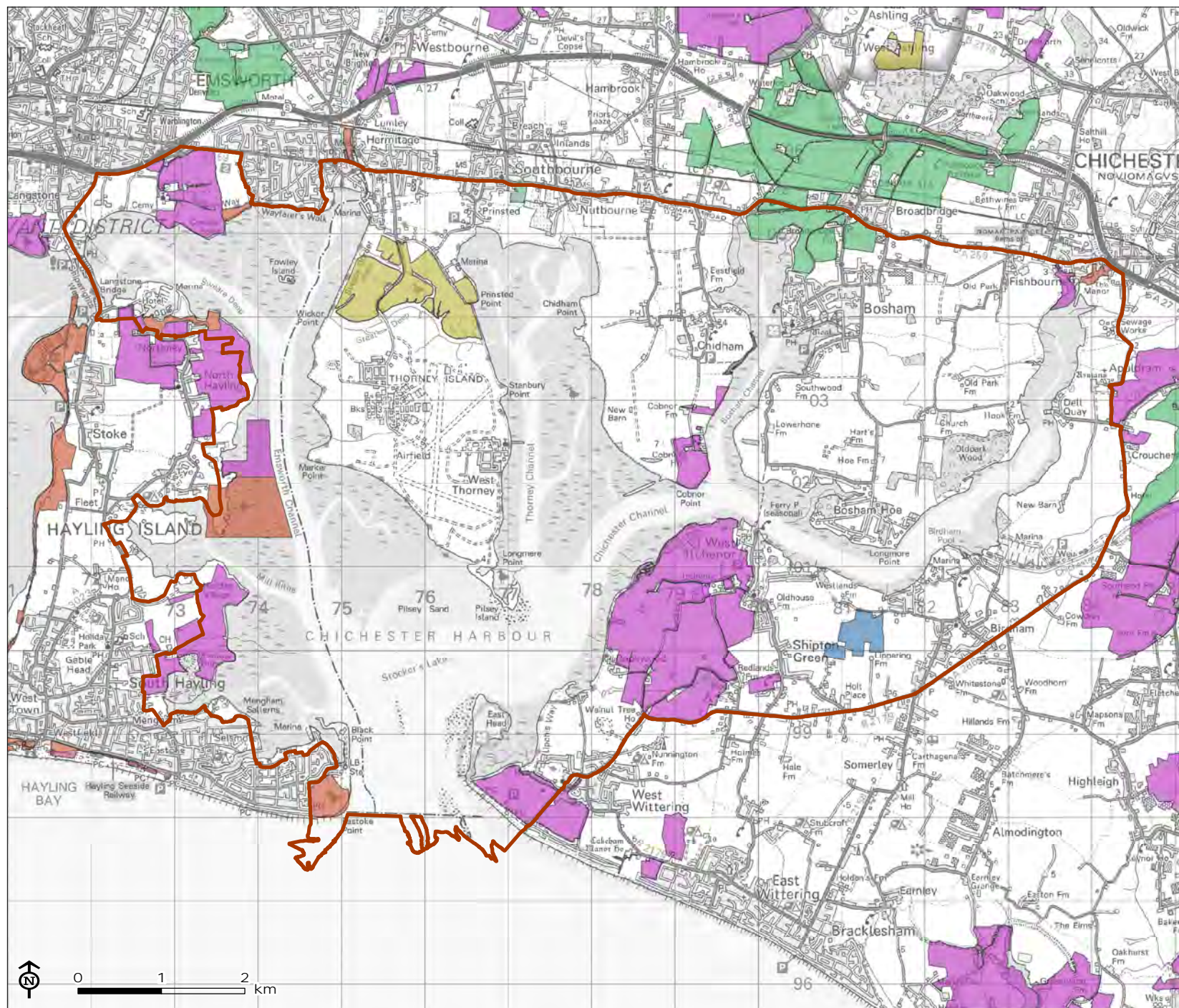
Data sources

- Natural England Environmental Stewardship data (downloaded 2018)
- Natural England Protected Landscapes Monitoring Data (2018)
- Defra June Agricultural Survey Data (2009, 2010, 2013 and 2016)

Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.6: Environmental Stewardship Schemes

- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Environmental Stewardship Schemes
 - Entry Level Stewardship
 - Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
 - Higher Level Stewardship
 - Organic Entry Level Stewardship
 - Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Recommendations for future monitoring

- 3.16 It is recommended that these indicators are revisited every five years to monitor trends within the agricultural environment.
- 3.17 It is hoped that more in-depth information on the cost, spatial coverage and options of Countryside Stewardship Schemes will be available when these indicators are revisited for the next State of the AONB Report in 2023/24, although by this time a post-Brexit agri-environment scheme is likely to be in place to include in the analysis. Given this period of uncertainty and the importance of appropriate agricultural land management in the AONB's high quality environment, this is a key 'force for change' for the AONB to continue to monitor.

Field patterns and boundaries

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- Hedgerows/trees/shelterbelts are the dominant field boundary type, with small hedged paddocks and pastures forming important historic features (particularly adjacent to West Itchenor, Birdham and West Wittering).
- Species-rich hedgerows lining lanes.

Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- 3.18 The following monitoring indicators have been selected for the 'Field patterns and boundaries' sub-theme:
- Field patterns
 - Field boundary condition (no available baseline information)
 - Extent of recent hedgerow planting (no updated data available)

Summary headlines

- Comparison of aerial photography from 2008 and 2016 reveals that there have been few changes to field patterns over this time period.
- No baseline information is available on the condition of field boundaries to monitor change against – this was not included in the 2013 report and no data has been gathered since.

Analysis of indicator: Field patterns

- 3.19 **Figure 3.7** shows a comparison of aerial photography from 2016 and 2008 within five 1km² areas within the AONB. There is little visible change in the landscape over this eight year period, and field patterns have remained much the same. This is interesting as there is evidence of changing ownership of land and a trend towards larger farms (see paragraph 3.6), however this is not visible as significant physical change in the landscape.

Figure 3.7: Comparison of aerial photographs from 2008 and 2016



There have been no major changes to the field pattern between 2008 and 2016.



There have been no major changes to the field pattern between 2008 and 2016.



There have been no major changes to the field pattern between 2008 and 2016.



There have been no major changes to the field pattern between 2008 and 2016.



There have been no major changes to the field pattern between 2008 and 2016. A field in the centre of the view was being grazed by livestock in 2008 and was used for arable growing in 2016.

3.20 From top to bottom, the locations of these aerial photographs are as follows:

- 1: South-west of West Itchenor
- 2: South-east of Bosham
- 3: South of Chidham
- 4: South of Dell Quay
- 5: West Thorney Island

Analysis of indicator: Field boundary condition

3.21 No baseline was established for this indicator as part of the 2013 State of the AONB Report. No new information has become available since 2013 with which to establish a baseline.

3.22 However, current data on Environmental Stewardship indicates that there is no hedgerow or in-field trees managed as part of agreement options, as discussed in paragraph 3.75.

Analysis of indicator: Extent of recent hedgerow planting

3.23 The extent of recent hedgerow planting within the AONB was included as an indicator in the 2013 State of the AONB report, although updated information is not available for this report.

Data sources

- Chichester Harbour Conservancy 2008 Aerial photography.
- Aerial photography from ESRI and the GIS User community.

Recommendations for future monitoring

- 3.24 There is no baseline data available on the presence and condition of field boundaries, which was highlighted in the 2013 report. The AONB could commission a survey of selected field boundaries, which could be repeated every five years to monitor changes in condition.
- 3.25 It is recommended that the AONB collect information on the location and extent of hedgerow planting on an annual basis, so that this indicator can be updated.
- 3.26 The Conservancy and other partners should make use of aerial photography to monitor changes in field patterns, land cover and boundaries every five years.
- 3.27 It is hoped that in the future more accurate data on Countryside Stewardship schemes will be available in future. This may include the ability to see the location of options which focus of the management of field boundaries.

Woodland cover and management

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- The AONB is defined by its open character; with woodland/tree cover generally limited hedges and shelterbelts, wind-swept individual trees and small mixed plantations.
- Remnant lines and clumps of woodland (often with submerged roots) along the shoreline.
- Valued ancient semi-natural oak woodland remaining at Old Park Wood and Salterns Copse.

Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- 3.28 The following monitoring indicators have been selected for the 'Woodland cover and management' sub-theme:
- Extent and type of woodland cover
 - Extent of recent woodland planting
 - Woodland management

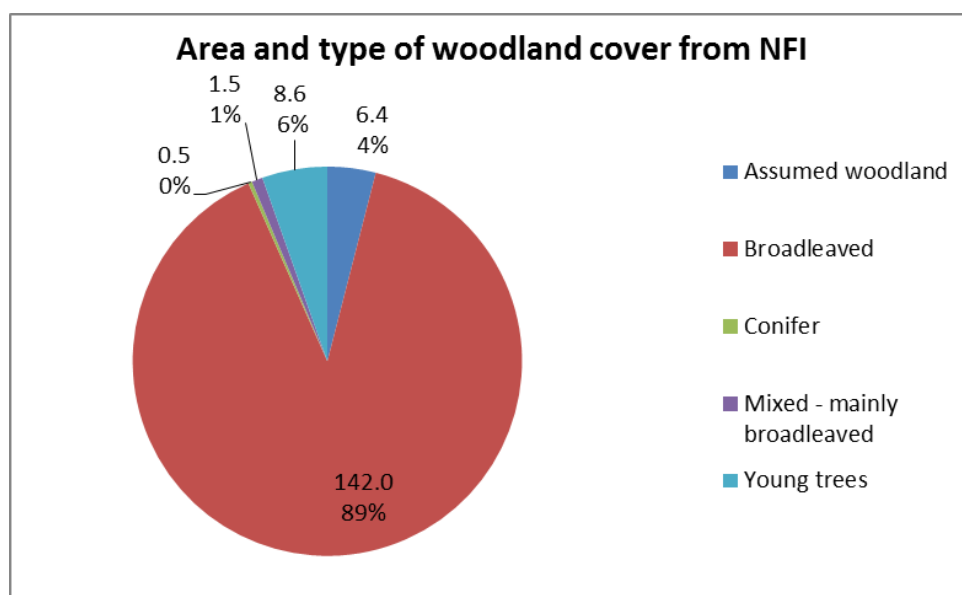
Summary headlines

- Woodland covers a total of 158.9 hectares or 2.2% of the AONB. The majority of this woodland is broadleaved (89% or 142 hectares). The amount of young woodland within the AONB has increased since 2013 from 3.9 hectares to 8.6 hectares.
- 29% of woodland in the AONB is actively managed according to the Forestry Commission's *England Managed Woodland Headline Performance Indicator*. This percentage is among the lowest of AONBs in England. Nine hectares of woodland is being managed as part of Environmental Stewardship Schemes.

Analysis of indicator: Extent and type of woodland cover

- 3.29 The pie chart at **Figure 3.8** below shows the area and type of woodland within the AONB. This information is also displayed spatially in **Figure 3.9**. Total woodland cover in the AONB is 158.9 hectares. The majority of woodland cover within the AONB is broadleaved (89%), which covers a total of 142 hectares. The amount of broadleaved woodland has remained approximately the same since 2013. However, young trees now comprise 6% of woodland cover, which has doubled in the last five years.
- 3.30 Ancient and semi-natural woodland covers 71 hectares (or 1%) of the AONB. This has not changed since 2013.

Figure 3.8: Area and type of woodland cover in the AONB (National Forest Inventory)



Source: Forestry Commission National Forest Inventory GIS Data (downloaded 2018)

Analysis of indicator: Extent of recent woodland planting

- 3.31 Mapped information on the extent of recent woodland planting is not available; however the Conservancy records the number and location of trees planted as part of their Annual Reporting. Information from 2014 to 2017 is shown in **Table 3.2** below. These figures show that in 2016 there was a marked increase in planting (with 3,464 trees planted in total), although this trend has not continued into 2017.

Table 3.2: Woodland planning in the AONB

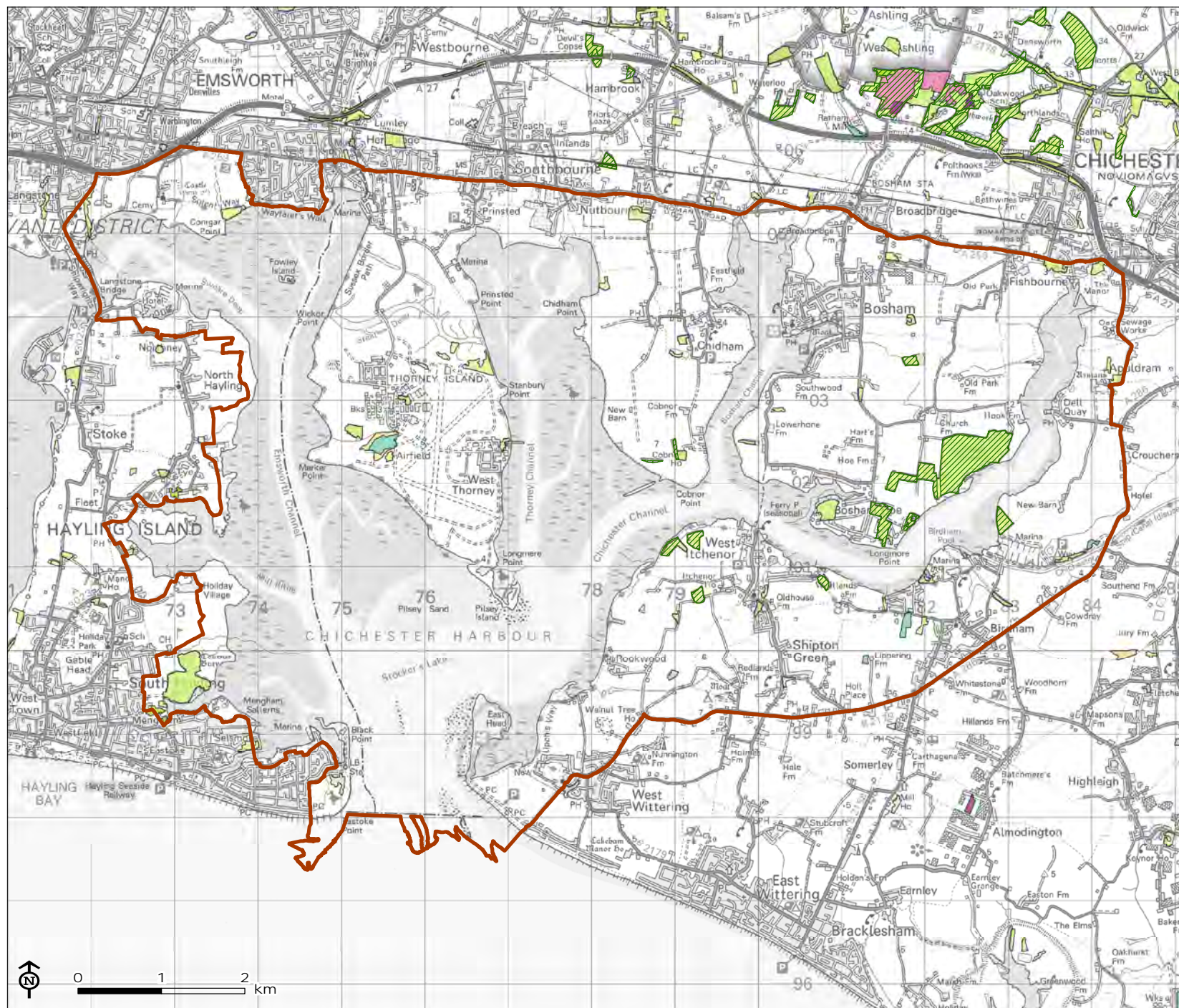
2014	2015	2016	2017
Maybush Copse – 301 Trees	Itchenor Park Farm – 400 Trees	Old Park Farm – 1735 Trees	Old Park Farm – 867 Trees
Rectory Farm – 400 Trees	Northeny Marina – 400 Trees	Nore barn Woods – 125 Trees	Steels Lane Bosham – 405 Trees
Tournebury Farm – 200 Trees	Itchenor Caravan Park – 150 Trees	Eames Farm – 102 Trees	
West Chidham – 535 Trees	CHC Manor Farm – 50 Trees	Cobnor Activity Centre – 75 Trees	
Bosham Foreshore – 300 Trees	Cobnor Activity Centre – 150 Trees	East Field Farm – 1 Tree	
	Great Barn, Chidham – 50 Trees	Maybush Copse – 1 Tree	
	East Field Farm – 238 Trees	Nutbourne Farm – 575 Trees	
	Gutner Point – 810	Rectory Farm – 800 Trees	
	Cobnor Farm – 400	Cobnor Estates – 50 Trees	
1,201	2,648	3,464	1,272

Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy (2018)

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Figure 3.9: Woodland

- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Assumed woodland
- Broadleaved
- Mixed mainly broadleaved
- Conifer
- Mixed mainly conifer
- Felled
- Young trees
- Ancient woodland

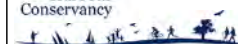


Source: NE, FC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000

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Harbour
Conservancy



Analysis of indicator: Woodland Management

- 3.32 According to the Forestry Commission's *England Managed Woodland Headline Performance Indicator*, 29% of woodland within Chichester Harbour (46 hectares) is actively managed. This figure is among the lowest of the AONBs in England. Please note that many of the woodlands in the AONB undergo some form of management, and this may not be recorded within the Forestry Commission's methodology for this performance indicator.
- 3.33 Nine hectares of woodland is being managed and restored under Environmental Stewardship options - six hectares under option HC7: Maintenance of woodland, while three hectares are under option HC8: Restoration of woodland.

Data sources

- National Forest Inventory GIS data (downloaded 2018)
- Forestry Commission England Managed Woodland Headline Performance Indicator (2017)
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy Annual Reports (2014-2017)
- Natural England Monitoring for Protected Landscapes Data (2018)

Recommendations

- 3.34 Data presented for the indicators under this sub-theme should be revisited every five years to gain a picture of any key changes in woodland cover and condition.
- 3.35 The Conservancy should also explore collecting precise spatial data on tree planting undertaken in the AONB, to allow for it to be mapped and analysed against other information.

Settlement pattern and vernacular styles

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- Properties clustered in villages such as Bosham, Itchenor, Emsworth and Northney.
- Picturesque harbourside villages with historic links to the water's edge.
- Traditional local vernacular of clay bricks and tiles, in combination with timber frames and flint infill panels.
- Prominent towers of Bosham Church and Chichester Cathedral form important landmarks.
- Unspoilt character and unobtrusive beauty.

Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- 3.36 The following monitoring indicators have been selected for the 'Settlement pattern and vernacular styles' sub-theme:
- Number and type of dwellings
 - Number and area of Conservation Areas
 - Rural gaps between settlements
 - Number and type of planning applications considered by the Conservancy

Summary headlines

- Census data from 2011 indicates that there are a total of 5,069 dwellings within the AONB. Approximately half of the housing stock comprises detached properties.
- There are ten Conservation Areas in the AONB, which cover a total of 136.1 hectares.
- The Conservancy is asked to comment on around 300 planning applications per year. The majority of planning applications were for extensions and alterations. Since 2013, the Conservancy has averaged a 92% accordance rate with the Local Authorities.
- Since 2013, applications for renewable energy projects have dropped to less than 1% of applications, a reverse of the trends reported in 2013.

Analysis of indicator: Number and type of dwellings

- 3.37 In 2006 it was estimated that there were a total of 4,186 dwellings in the AONB (based on 2001 data), with the average number of rooms per dwelling being five. UK Census 2011³ data indicates that there are a total of 5,069 dwellings in the AONB. These are broken down into different dwelling types in **Table 3.3** below. Detached dwellings account for just under half of the AONB's total housing stock.
- 3.38 No updated information for this indicator is available for the 2018 State of the AONB report (as it is based on census data which is updated every 10 years).

Table 3.3: Number and type of dwellings in the AONB

Property Type	2006	2006 %	2011	2011 %
Detached	2,064	49	2,604	51
Semi-detached	1,011	24	1,103	22
Terraced	595	14	913	8
Maisonette	516	12	448	9
Total	4,186		5,069	

Source: Valuing Chichester Harbour (2009) and ONS UK Census (2011)

Analysis of indicator: Number and area of Conservation Areas

- 3.39 **Table 3.4** shows the ten Conservation Areas that are wholly or partially within Chichester Harbour AONB. These are also mapped in **Figure 3.10**. These have changed marginally since 2013, although this is due to the redrawing of boundaries in GIS rather than boundary alterations.

Table 3.4: Conservation Areas within the AONB

Conservation Area	Area within AONB (ha)	Area outside of AONB (ha)
Bosham	17.8	
Dell Quay	3.7	
Emsworth	26.5	3.7
Fishbourne	14.2	2.2
Langstone	7.3	
Prinsted	4.0	
Wade Court	4.7	
Warblington	38.4	

³ Where an Output area straddles the AONB boundary, a proportion of the Output Area total has been included as being within the AONB, based on land areas.

West Itchenor	16.4	
West Wittering	3.1	13.4
Total	136.10	19.32

Source: Chichester District Council and Havant Borough Council GIS data (2018)

Figure 3.10: Location of
Conservation Areas in the
AONB

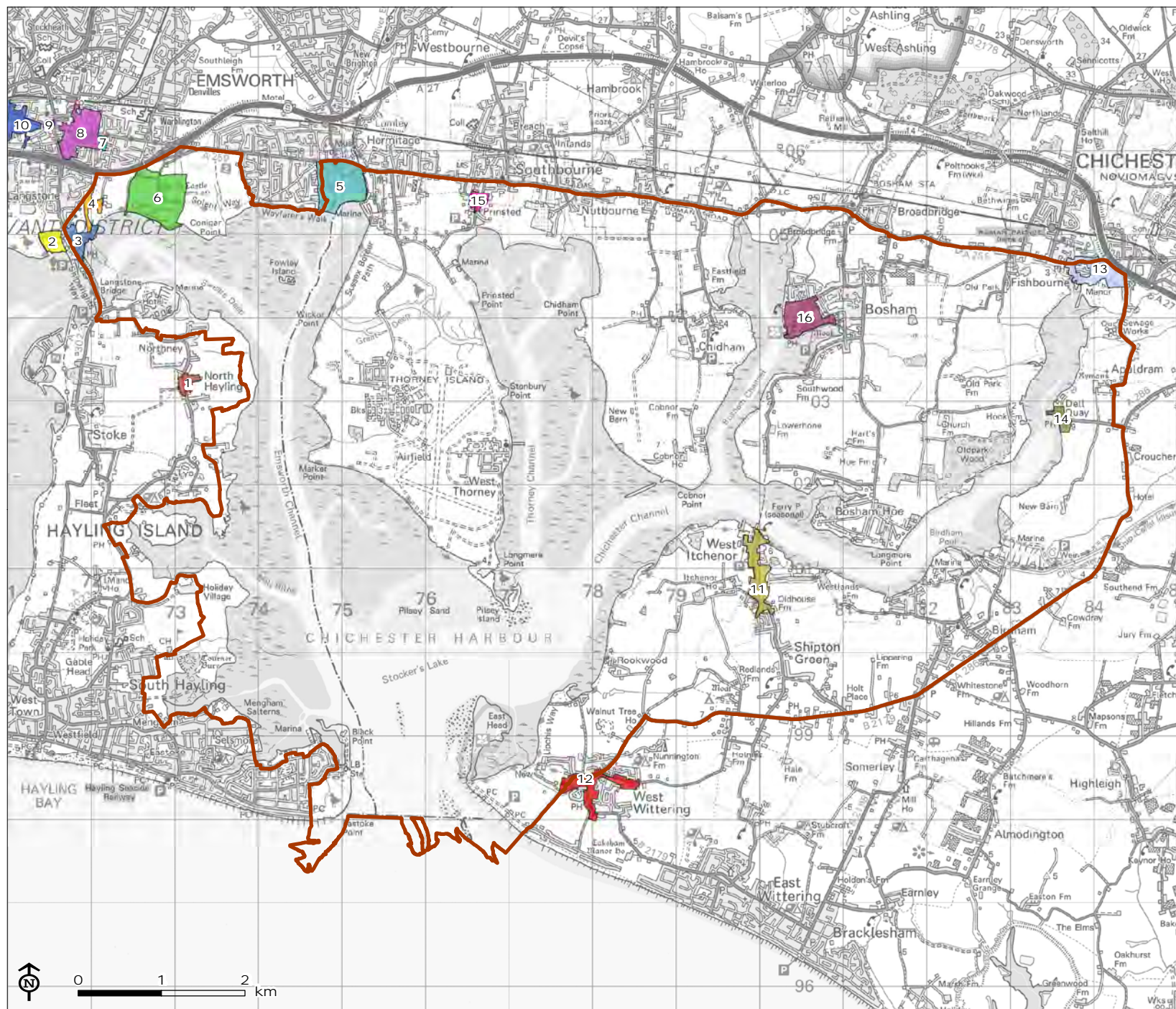
Chichester Harbour AONB

Conservation area

- 1, St Peter's
- 2, Mill Lane
- 3, Langstone
- 4, Wade Court
- 5, Emsworth
- 6, Warblington
- 7, Lymbourn Road
- 8, St Faith's
- 9, The Black Dog
- 10, Brockhampton
- 11, West Itchenor
- 12, West Wittering
- 13, Fishbourne
- 14, Dell Quay
- 15, Prinsted
- 16, Bosham

Source: CDC, NE, HBC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Analysis of indicator: Rural gaps between settlements

- 3.40 Historically, the Local Plans for Chichester and Havant have contained Strategic Gap policies with the aim of retaining the identity and amenity of settlements and protecting the undeveloped coastline from continuous urban development. Defined spatial gaps are no longer included within the Local Plans, however both the Chichester Local Plan and the Havant Local Plan contain policies which aim to preserve the identity of separate settlements.
- 3.41 The Draft Havant Borough Local Plan 2036 (Consultation version January 2018) includes the following statement within Policy E10 Landscape and Townscape:
- 'a. Planning permission will be granted for development which*
- o i. **Contributes positively to local identity by maintaining or enhancing the distinctiveness of landscapes and settlements***
 - o ii. Incorporates any key landmarks and natural features on the site into the design of the scheme and protects them from destruction or deterioration*
 - o iii. Integrates successfully with the local landscape surrounding the site*
 - o iv. Protects key views of important landmarks and landscapes*
 - o v. Protects or enhances existing rights of way and, where possible, facilitates access to nature and undeveloped areas for recreation'*
- 3.42 The Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 contains the following statement within Policy 47: Heritage and Design:
- 'The Local Planning Authority will continue to conserve and enhance the historic environment through the preparation of conservation area character appraisals and management plans and other strategies, and new development which recognises, respects and enhances the local distinctiveness and character of the area, landscape and heritage assets will be supported. Planning permission will be granted where it can be demonstrated that all the following criteria have been met and supporting guidance followed:*
- 1. The proposal conserves and enhances the special interest and settings of designated and non-designated heritage assets including:*
 - o Monuments, sites and areas of archaeological potential or importance;*
 - o Listed buildings including buildings or structures forming part of the curtilage of the listed building;*
 - o Buildings of local importance, including locally listed and positive buildings;*
 - o Historic buildings or structures/features of local distinctiveness and character;*
 - o **Conservation Areas;** and*
 - o Historic Parks or Gardens, both registered or of local importance and historic landscapes.*
 - 2. Development respects distinctive local character and sensitively contributes to creating places of a high architectural and built quality;*
 - 3. Development respects existing designed or natural landscapes; and*
 - 4. The **individual identity of settlements is maintained**, and the integrity of predominantly open and undeveloped character of the area, including the openness of the views in and around Chichester and Pagham Harbours, towards the city, the Cathedral, local landmarks and the South Downs National Park, is not undermined.'*

Analysis of indicator: Number and type of planning applications considered by the Conservancy

- 3.43 Annually since 2013, the Conservancy has received an average of 295 planning applications to comment on, for proposed developments within or in close proximity to the AONB - or for major developments further afield but that might be considered to have an impact on the protected landscape. The most recent complete year of planning data (from 2016), showed a total of 311 applications, as can be seen in Table 3.5
- 3.44 Table 3.5. The yearly accordance rate has dropped on average by 3%, from the mean of the 2009-2012 data sets presented in the 2013 report. However, applications still remain typically in

line with the Conservancy's and the Local Planning Authority recommendations, as shown by the high accordance rate.

Table 3.5: Number of planning applications consulted on and accordance rates

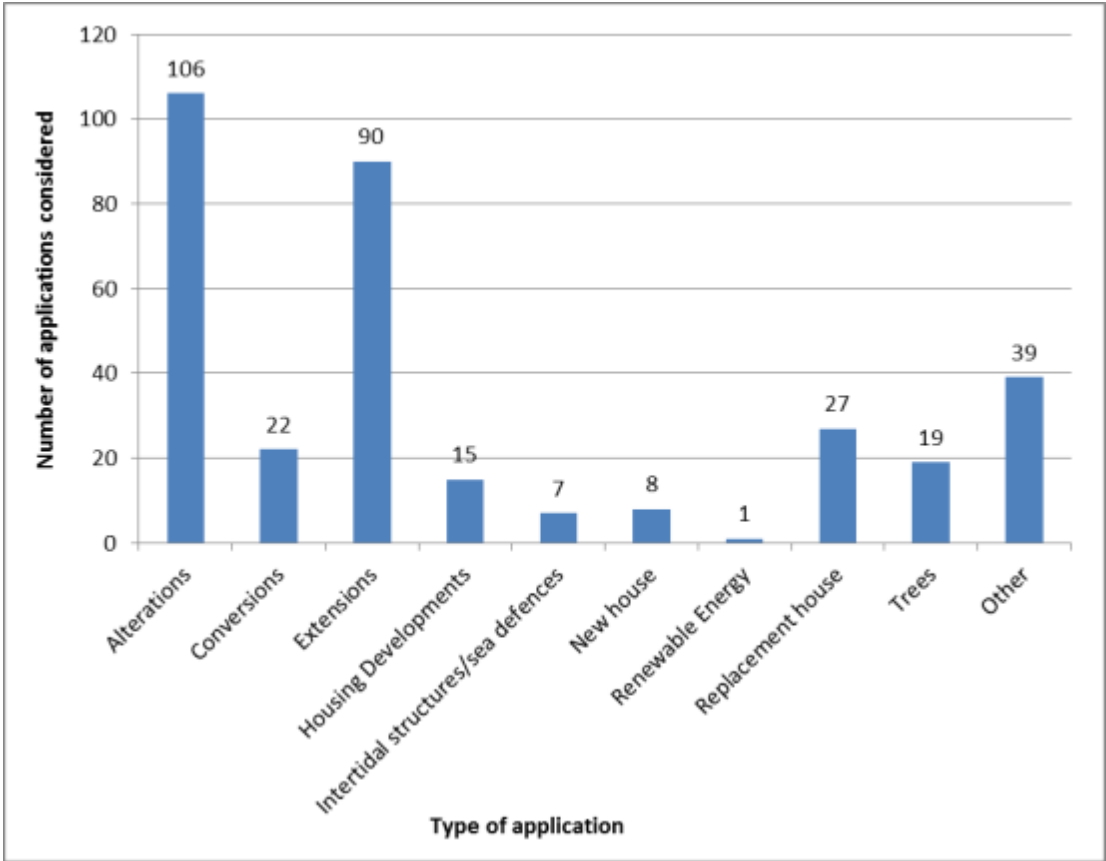
Year	Number of applications consulted on	Accordance rate
2013	324	93.5%
2014	278	94.2%
2015	266	88.0%
2016	311	91.3%

Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy Planning Applications Database (2018)

- 3.45 The different types of applications the Conservancy were consulted on in 2016 are grouped in the chart at **Figure 3.11**. The most frequent applications were for alterations, making up 32% of applications. This was closely followed by extensions (27%). Alterations applications have increased by 20% since the 2013 data, whilst extension applications have dropped slightly (by 16%)⁴. Conversions and replacement houses made up 7% and 8% of applications respectively.
- 3.46 Very few renewable energy projects were put forward in 2016 (less than 1%), representing a 5% drop from the number of 2012 applications. This is a reverse of trends noted in the 2013 State of the AONB Report, and may be as a result of changes to the feed-in tariff.
- 3.47 Despite the proportions of different application types remaining similar to previous years, 2016 saw more planning applications to those preceding it (shown in **Figure 3.12**), with 66 more applications than the average for the preceding years.

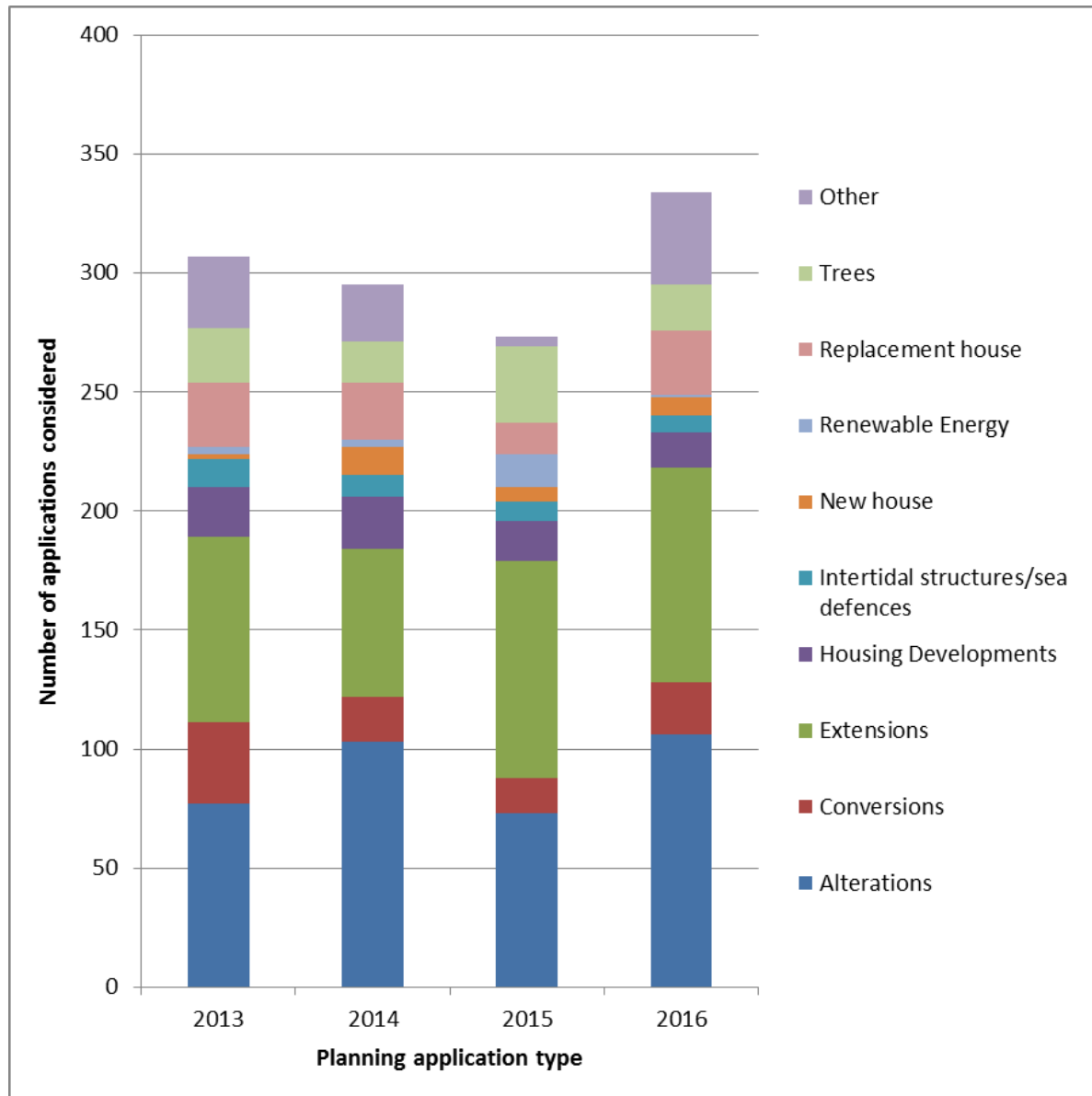
⁴ Please note, some of these changes may be due to differences in how planning applications were categorised, in particular alterations and extensions.

Figure 3.11: Number of planning applications in each category (2016)



Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy Planning Applications Database (2018)

Figure 3.12: Number of planning applications advised on by the Conservancy, by type and year



Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy Planning Applications Database (2018)

Data sources

- Chichester Harbour Conservancy Planning Applications database (2018)
- Draft Havant Borough Local Plan 2036 (Consultation Version January 2018)
- The Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029
- Valuing Chichester Harbour (2009)
- ONS UK Census (2011)

Recommendations

- 3.48 Data on total number of dwellings, dwelling type and average number of rooms per house should be revisited every 10 years following the release of census data from the Office for National Statistics. The area and number of Conservation Areas defined by constituent local authorities should be monitored every five years in line with AONB Management Plan reviews.

- 3.49 The Conservancy should continue to monitor the number and type of planning applications it is consulted on, on an annual basis. A review of this information should be conducted at least every five years through State of the AONB reporting.
- 3.50 As also outlined in the 2013 report, potential methods for collecting further information for 'Settlement Pattern', and establishing baseline monitoring information for 'Local vernacular styles' and 'Views of local landmarks' are as follows:
- *Settlement pattern indicator*: Using Mastermap data to ascertain changes in the extent of settlements.
 - *Local vernacular styles indicator*: Monitoring planning applications for the inclusion of conditions relating to vernacular building styles/materials.
 - *Views of local landmarks indicator*: Fixed point photography (monitoring key views of church towers/other landmark features important in views within or beyond the AONB).
- 3.51 Once a baseline has been set, this information should be monitored every ten years.

Perceptual qualities

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- Overall sense of wildness and naturalness.
- Sense of peace and tranquillity.

Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- 3.52 The following monitoring indicators have been selected for the 'Perceptual qualities' sub-theme:
- Levels of tranquillity
 - Levels of intrusion
 - Dark night skies

Summary headlines



- The AONB is a haven for tranquillity, particularly in the wider context of the developed coast of the South East region. These qualities decline on the fringes of the AONB, in close proximity to surrounding urban areas.
- Recent updates to national light pollution maps show that Chichester Harbour continues to be an area with valued dark night skies, particularly within the wider context of the heavily developed south coast. Three Dark Sky Discovery Sites have been designated, further demonstrating the value of AONB in this regard.

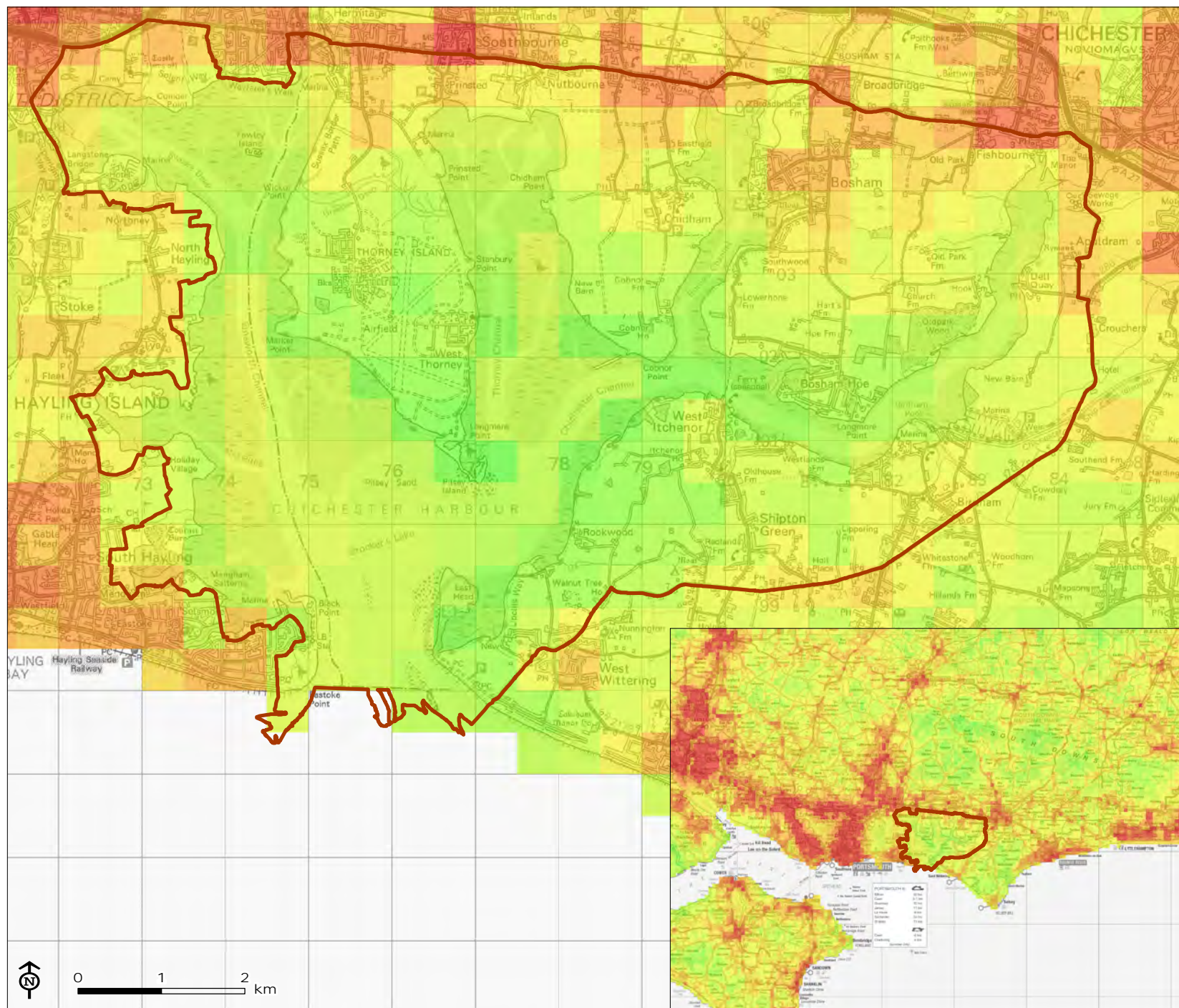
Analysis of indicator: Tranquillity

- 3.53 **Figure 3.13** depicts levels of tranquillity across the AONB and in the context of the South East region (CPRE, 2006). This clearly shows that Chichester Harbour is one of the region's havens of tranquillity, with a large proportion falling at the upper end of the tranquillity spectrum nationally. Levels of tranquillity decline along the northern fringes of the AONB, where the landscape is in close proximity to the settlements of Chichester, Southbourne, Emsworth and Havant. In the south-west, levels of tranquillity on the edges of the protected landscape also reduce, due to the closeness of development at South Hayling and Portsmouth. As this data is now relatively old and has not been updated since 2006, caution should be taken when drawing conclusions from the data.

Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.13: Tranquillity

 Chichester Harbour AONB
National tranquillity scale
 Most tranquil
Least tranquil



Source: CPRE, NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:750,000



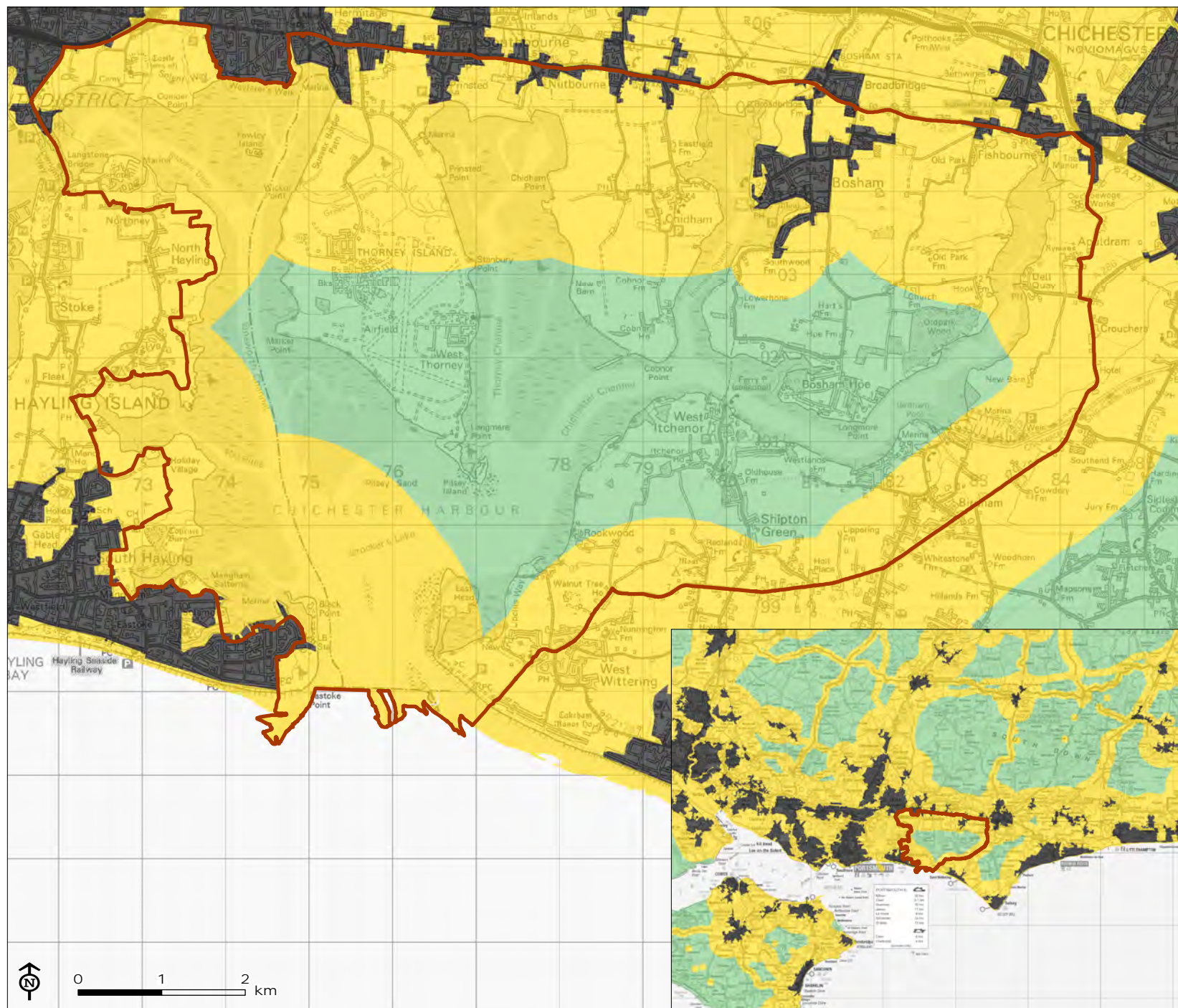
Levels of intrusion

- 3.54 The intrusion map at **Figure 3.14** (CPRE, 2007) largely echoes that of the tranquillity map, showing that the central part of the harbour, and land fringing the water's edge, is largely free from intrusions. This undisturbed land accounts for around a third of the AONB's land area. The remaining parts are to some extent affected by noise and visual disturbance, largely from the roads and areas of development that lie within the protected landscape, as well as its proximity to adjacent urban areas.
- 3.55 As with tranquillity, looking in the context of the South East region and particularly the south coast, the central part of Chichester Harbour stands out as being one of the least intruded parts of the wider landscape. As this data is now relatively old and has not been updated since 2007, caution should be taken when drawing conclusions from the data.

Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.14: Intrusion Levels

- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Undisturbed areas
- Areas disturbed by noise & visual disturbance*
- Urban areas



Source: CPRE, NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:750,000



Dark night skies

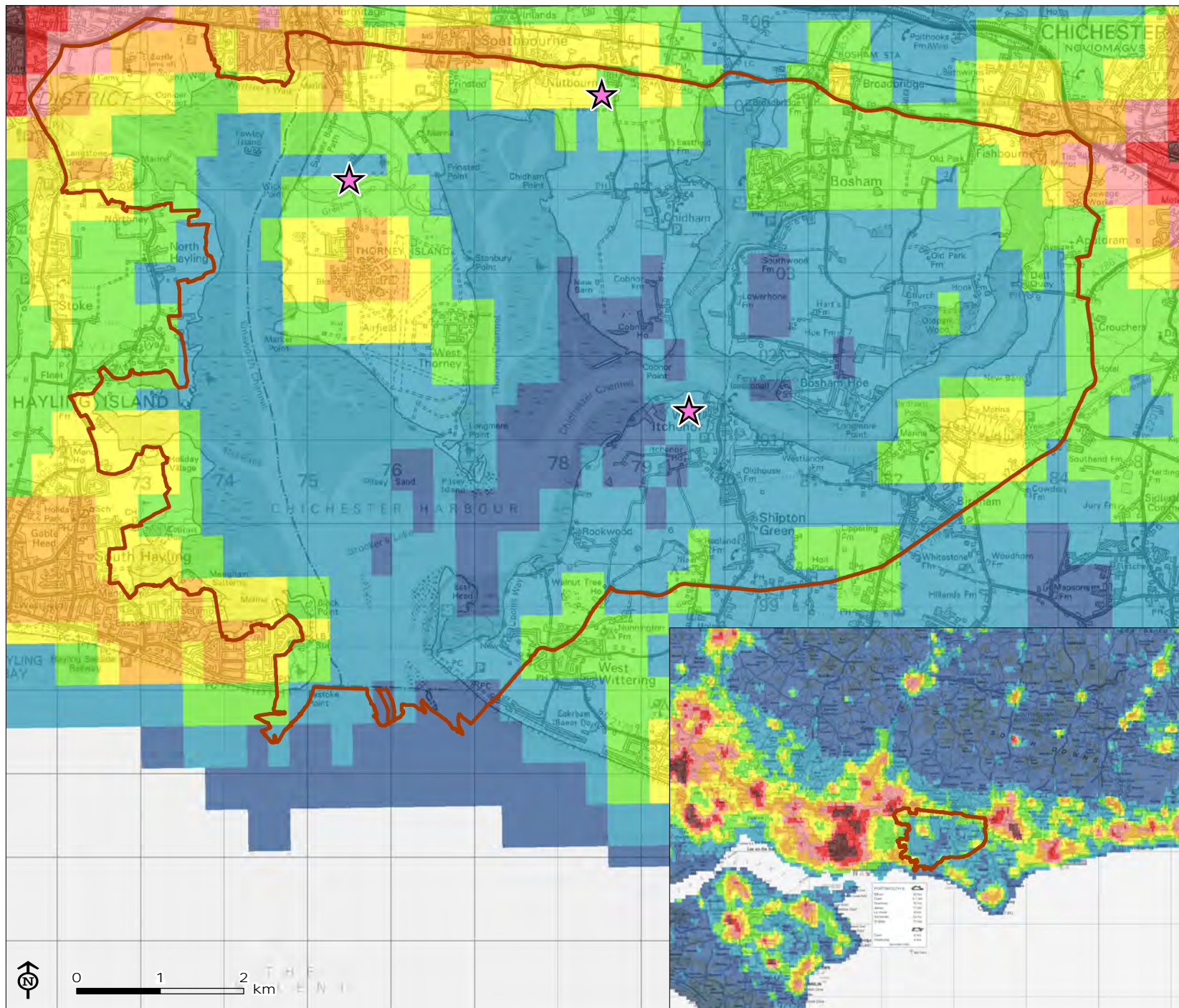
- 3.56 **Figure 3.15** shows very recent data on the extent of light pollution within the AONB. Most light pollution is concentrated around the edges of the AONB and the darkest areas are in the centre of the site over the estuary. However, the map shows that there is also some light pollution over Thorney Island, closer to the centre of the site which is likely as a result of the military buildings present in this area. Of the 34 AONBs in England, Chichester Harbour AONB ranks 32nd, meaning it has some of the highest levels of light pollution of all AONBs. This is due to its location among dense urban development and does not diminish the importance of the dark night skies in the context of the highly developed south coast.
- 3.57 Advances in technology and software mean that the recent update of the dark night skies mapping is more fine-grained than the data used in the 2013 report, allowing for more in-depth analysis and subtle changes between different areas to be seen.
- 3.58 There are three Dark Sky Discovery Sites in the AONB (indicated by stars on the map in **Figure 3.15**):
- Eames Farm
 - Maybush Copse
 - North of John Q. Davis Footpath
- 3.59 These are all 'Milky Way' class sites, indicating darker skies where the Milky Way is visible to the naked eye. Observation events are also hosted at these sites by the South Downs Astronomical Society in partnership with Chichester Harbour Conservancy.
- 3.60 There are few other Dark Sky Discovery Sites in the wider area surrounding the AONB. Therefore those within are particularly valued in the context of the southern coast of England which has many urban areas which produce light pollution.

Data sources

- 3.61 The data sources used for this sub-theme are as follows:
- CPRE Tranquillity Maps (2006)
 - CPRE Intrusion Maps (2007)
 - CPRE Light Pollution and Dark Skies Maps (2016)

Recommendations for future monitoring

- 3.62 It is hoped that new tranquillity mapping will be available nationally before the next State of the AONB report five years, as there is appetite within CPRE and others to re-visit this information. Modern techniques and better data availability will hopefully allow for more in-depth analysis and trends over time to be seen in greater detail.
- 3.63 In addition, we suggest the following additional data collection to inform this indicator:
- Recording annual events and attendance to the three Dark Sky Discovery Sites to give an indication of their value to residents and visitors to the AONB.



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Figure 3.15: Light pollution and Dark Sky Discovery Sites

Chichester Harbour AONB

Dark sky discovery site

Light pollution
(NanoWatts / cm² /sr)

> 32 (high)
 16 - 32
 8 - 16
 4 - 8
 2 - 4
 1 - 2
 0.5 - 1
 0.25 - 0.5
 < 0.25 (low)

Source: CPRE, NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Biodiversity and geodiversity

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- Wealth of flora and fauna, notably the vast flocks of wading birds.
- Habitats protected by national and international designations - SSSI, Ramsar, SAC and SPA.
- Varied wetland habitats include expansive mudflats, open water, salt marshes, shingle beaches, sand dunes and coastal grazing marsh.
- Inland habitats include unimproved meadows and pastures, tidal millponds, hedgerows and occasional woodlands.
- Subtidal habitats and species which form part of the Solent European Marine Site.

Indicators selected for this theme

3.64 The following indicators have been selected for biodiversity monitoring:

- Habitat extent and condition
- Presence/numbers of birds (including waders and Brent Geese)
- Presence/numbers of fish
- Presence/number of common seals (new indicator)
- Extent and condition of geological features (new indicator)

Summary headlines

- Nearly 50% of the AONB is internationally/nationally designated for its nature conservation importance. There have been no new nature conservation designations since the 2013 State of the AONB Report.
- Since 2013, overall BAP Priority habitat coverage has increased by 266 hectares to a total of 3,301.8 hectares, although it is likely this is due to more accurate mapped data. Mud flats cover the largest area; comprising 1,983 hectares (60% of all BAP Priority Habitat coverage within the AONB).
- The condition of several SSSI units within the AONB has declined over the past five years. The condition of the Nutborne Farm area of Chichester Harbour SSSI has improved due to a new management regime, going from 'unfavourable – no change' to 'unfavourable recovering'.
- Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit numbers have increased in recent years, while numbers of Dunlin have seen a sharp decrease.
- The most common fish species recorded within the AONB waters in 2016 are bass, goby, sand smelt and sprat.
- Common seals have been recorded breeding in the AONB for the first time, raising to eight pups in 2015 and ten in 2016.
- Two SSSI units in the AONB are nationally designated for their geological importance. East Head is currently in 'Unfavourable –Recovering' condition and East of Langstone has not been assessed.

Analysis of indicator: habitat extent and condition

Designated nature conservation sites

3.65 The AONB contains extensive semi-natural habitats of international, national and local importance. In particular, it is renowned for its extensive wetland areas which provide habitat for a number of valued species including wading birds.

3.66 **Table 3.6** shows details of the designated nature conservation sites within the AONB. The spatial extent of these sites can also be seen on the map at **Figure 3.16**.

Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.16: Nature Conservation Designations

-  Chichester Harbour AONB
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Special Protection Area
-  Potential Special Protection Area
-  Ramsar
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Ancient woodland
-  Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
-  Ancient Replanted Woodland

Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000

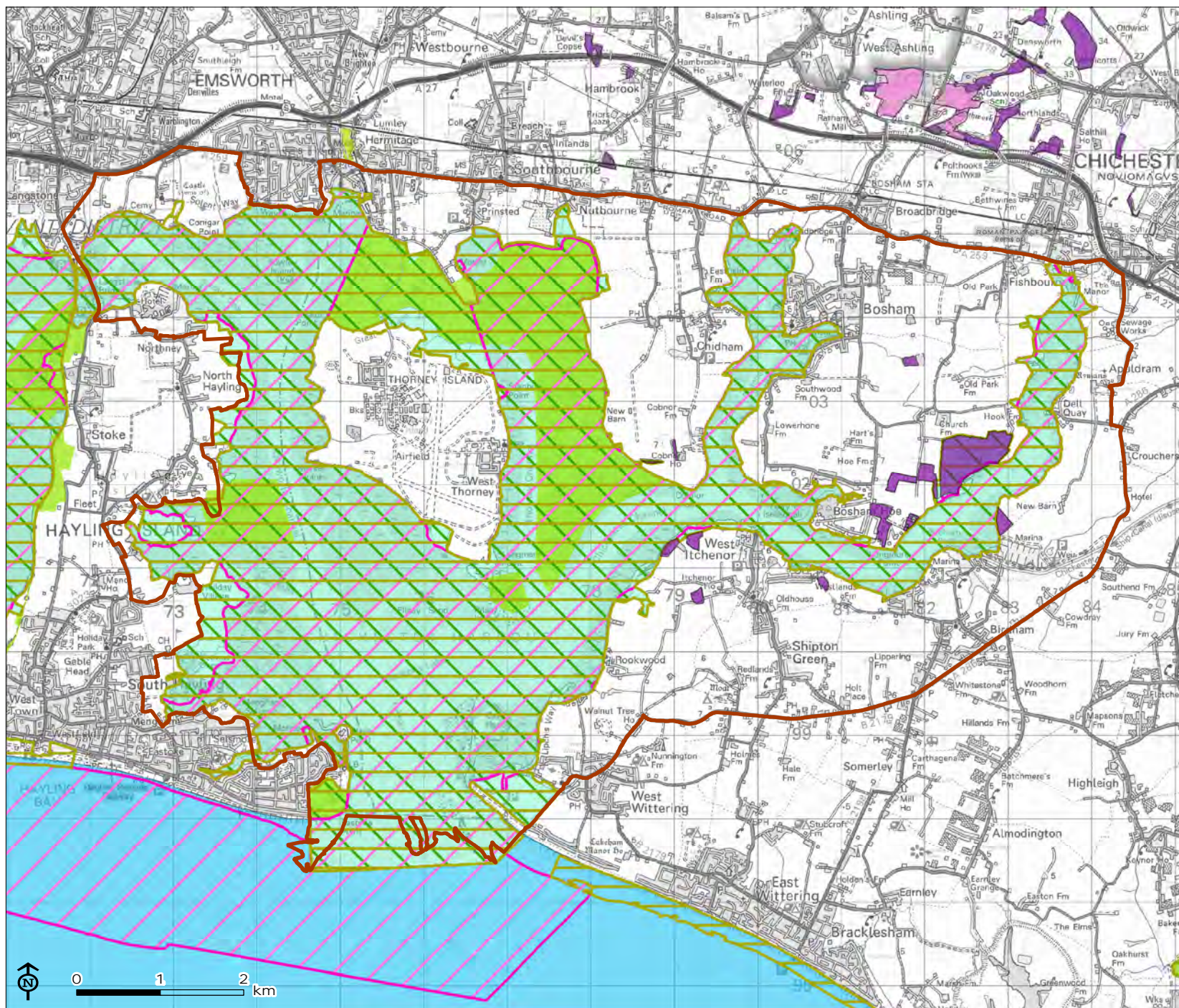


Table 3.6: Details of designated conservation sites in the AONB

Designation	Name	Total area (ha)	Area in AONB (ha)	% of site within AONB	% of AONB within designation
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Solent Maritime	6662.8	3201.9	48%	44%
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	3733.6	3618.1	97%	49%
Ramsar	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	3733.6	3618.1	97%	49%
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Chichester Harbour	3733.6	3617.8	97%	49%
SSSI	Warbling Meadow	3.9	3.9	100%	0.1%
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Eames Farm	132.5	132.5	100%	2%
LNR	Gutner Point	69.0	64.5	93.5%	1%
LNR	Pilsey Island	17.8	17.8	100%	0.2%
LNR	Nutborne Marshes	386.9	386.9	100%	5%
LNR	Sandy Point	18.3	18.3	100%	0.3%

Source: Natural England (downloaded 2018)

- 3.67 International and national designations cover approximately half of the AONB, and are focused on the wetland and intertidal areas of Chichester Harbour.
- 3.68 While there have been no new sites designated since the 2013 State of the AONB Report, some of the boundaries of the designated areas have been revised, resulting in an increase in coverage. This applies to the Solent Maritime SAC, the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar sites and Chichester Harbour SSSI have all been extended by 43 hectares to include areas within the offshore part of the AONB.

Coverage of BAP Priority habitats

- 3.69 **Table 3.7** shows the coverage of various BAP Priority Habitats within the AONB. These are also shown spatially in the map at **Figure 3.17**. Overall there has been an increase in the total area of priority habitat of 266 hectares since 2013. Mudflats are the most extensive category present within the AONB making up 60% of all BAP Priority Habitat recorded. This represents an increase of 47% since 2013, although much of this increase is as a result of more accurate mapped data. Other habitat types with high levels of coverage include good quality semi-improved grassland (11%), coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (9%) and coastal saltmarsh (9%). Other BAP Priority Habitats have seen an increase in coverage. This includes an additional 283 hectares of coastal saltmarsh, 362 hectares of good quality semi-improved grassland and 12.2 hectares of traditional

orchards. There has also been an increase of deciduous woodland cover (20%) and mudflats (47%). Some of these increases are probably attributable to more accurate GIS data.

- 3.70 The coverage of several habitat types has declined since 2013. Fens (which previously covered 0.2 hectares) have been lost completely. There has also a reduction of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh cover (by 24%), coastal sand dunes (by 52%) and reedbeds (by 89%). The reduced cover of these coastal habitats should be monitored closely, with a view to introducing land management regimes that will conserve, enhance and create important semi-natural habitats that are integral to the character of Chichester Harbour. It is important to note that some of these changes may not be a loss of habitat, rather a reclassification of habitats into different types.
- 3.71 Since the publication of the 2013 State of the AONB Report, there have been some changes in how the BAP Priority Habitats are classified. The 'undetermined grassland' habitat is no longer used, which in 2013, accounted for 931 hectares of the AONB. The 'No main habitat but additional habitats present' category has since been introduced, covering areas where no main habitat can be identified within a polygon but fragmented priority habitats remain.

Table 3.7: BAP Priority habitat coverage within the AONB

BAP Priority Habitat type	Area within AONB		
	Total area (ha)	Area in West Sussex portion of AONB(ha)	Area in Hampshire portion of AONB(ha)
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	285.3	195.3	90.0
Coastal saltmarsh	282.6	195.3	87.4
Coastal sand dunes	13.8	5.8	8.1
Coastal vegetated shingle	4.0	2.1	1.8
Deciduous woodland	133.6	106.0	27.6
Good quality semi-improved grassland	362.2	345.1	17.1
Lowland dry acid grassland	10.3	7.4	2.9
Lowland heathland	5.1	0.0	5.1
Lowland meadows	38.7	34.8	3.9
Maritime cliff and slope	1.9	1.9	0.0
Mudflats	1982.9	1339.9	642.8
No main habitat but additional habitats present	112.3	75.8	36.6
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	16.1	16.1	0.0
Reedbeds	13.9	13.4	0.6
Saline lagoons	26.7	22.6	4.0
Traditional orchard	12.2	12.2	0.0

Source: Natural England (downloaded 2018)

Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.17: **BAP** Priority Habitat Coverage in the AONB

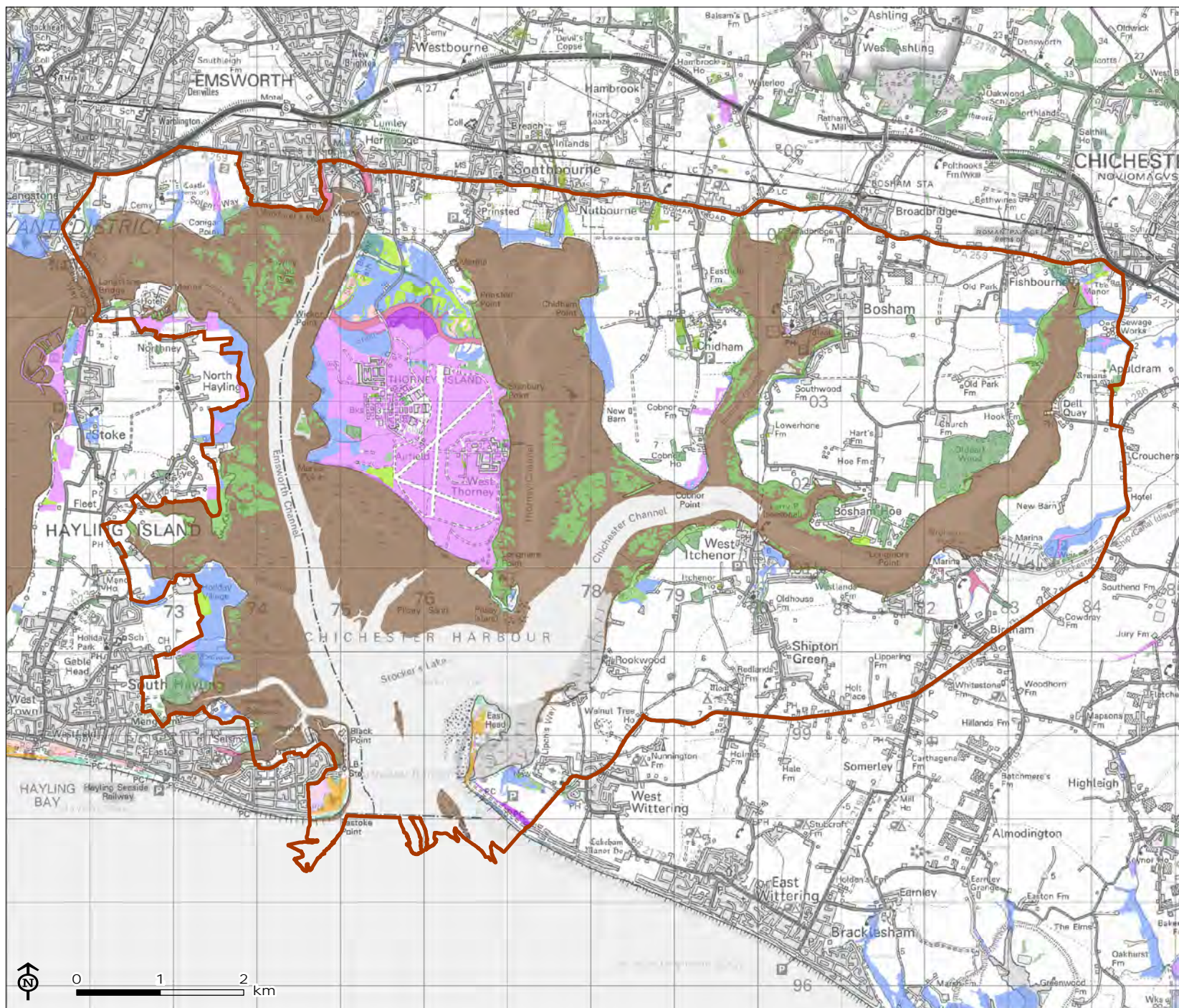
 Chichester Harbour AONB

BAP Priority habitat

-  Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
-  Coastal saltmarsh
-  Coastal sand dunes
-  Coastal vegetated shingle
-  Deciduous woodland
-  Good quality semi-improved grassland
-  Lowland calcareous grassland
-  Lowland dry acid grassland
-  Lowland fens
-  Lowland heathland
-  Lowland meadows
-  Maritime cliff and slope
-  Mudflats
-  Purple moor grass and rush pastures
-  Reedbeds
-  Saline lagoons
-  Traditional orchard

Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Condition of SSSIs

- 3.72 The map at **Figure 3.18** shows the condition of the units within the two Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) found within the AONB.
- 3.73 In general, most SSSI land within the AONB has remained stable in terms of its condition since 2013. However, for the six units which the condition categories have changed, almost all have declined in condition. The most notable change is in Oldpark Wood; a broadleaved, mixed and yew lowland woodland. In 2012 the unit was categorised as in a 'favourable' condition, but that has since been downgraded to the opposite end of the scale at 'unfavourable declining' (shown in red in **Figure 3.18**^{Error! Reference source not found.}). The condition assessment notes that this is due to a lack of coppicing and grazing by deer, as well as the presence of Rhododendron. Verner Common (the orange site to the south west) and North Hayling (the orange site to the west), have also declined in condition in this time period from 'favourable' to 'unfavourable no change', although reasons for this are not available on the Natural England website.
- 3.74 Ella Nore and Copperas Point have also declined in condition from 'favourable' to 'unfavourable recovering', due to recreational pressure, excessive algal weed and diffuse pollution, although Natural England state that these impacts are being addressed. The only unit within the AONB to have improved in condition is Nutborne Farm, which is now being actively managed through cattle grazing as part of a Countryside Stewardship agreement, changing from 'unfavourable no change' to 'unfavourable recovering' since 2013.

Analysis of indicator: Area of semi-natural habitat managed under agri-environment schemes

- 3.75 As discussed in paragraph 3.15, the amount of land managed under Environmental Stewardship has decreased significantly due to many agreements coming to an end. Headline findings based on remaining coverage shows that:
- No hedgerow or in-field trees are managed as part of Environmental Stewardship agreements.
 - 56 hectares of lowinput grassland habitat is being managed, restored or created.
- 3.76 Equivalent data of areas of semi-natural habitat managed as part of Countryside Stewardship agreements is not currently available.

Analysis of indicator: Presence/numbers of indicator species (birds)

Numbers of wetland birds

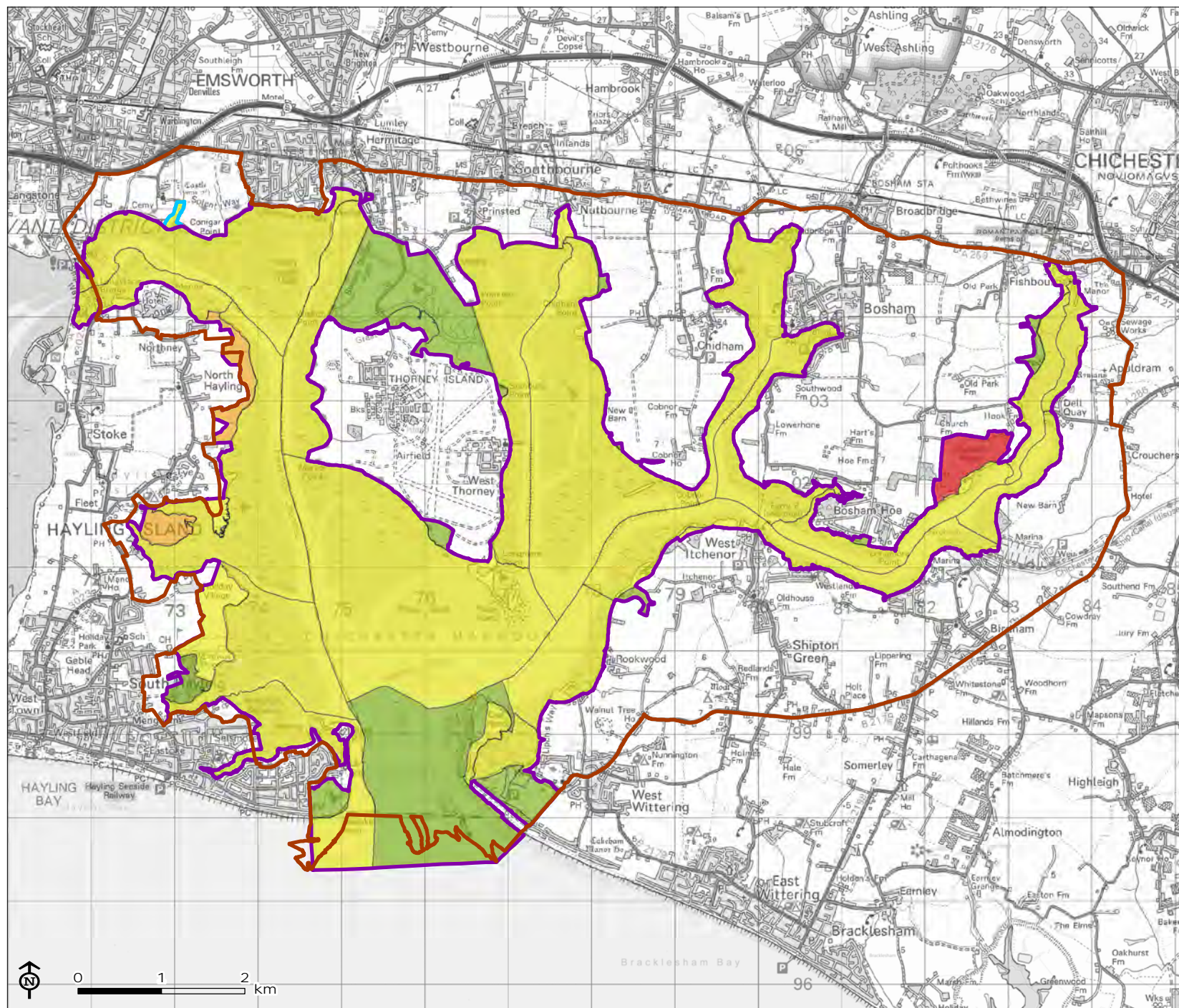
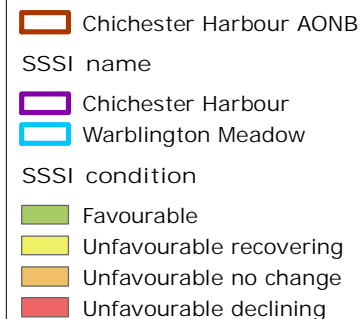
- 3.77 There are three internationally important species in the AONB: Brent Goose, Black-tailed Godwit and Dunlin. These birds, as well as Article 4.2⁵ species found in the AONB's Special Protection Area (SPA), are monitored by the national Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), undertaken by British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) volunteers⁶. The results from the 2015-2016 surveys are shown in Table 3.8.
- 3.78 Total species observed each year as part of the survey ranges between 75 and 65. In 2015-16 the lowest numbers were observed in the AONB.
- 3.79 Data since 2008 paints a mixed picture of the status of birds within the AONB. Peak counts of several species have seen a marked increase, including Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit. Dunlin numbers have decreased by 62.5% from a peak of 26,311 (in 2008-09) to 9,853 and are no longer the most populous wetland bird species within the AONB.

⁵ Regular migratory species within Special Protection Areas (SPA), as listed in Article 4.2 of the EU Birds Directive

⁶ <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs/data/overview-data>

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Figure 3.18: Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Table 3.8: Wetland Bird Survey data (2015-2016)

Species	Peak count	International Importance	Article 4.2 species?
Dunlin	9,853	Y	Y
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	14,260	Y	Y
Wigeon	2,938	N	Y
Redshank	1,649	N	Y
Curlew	1,125	N	Y
Grey Plover	1,667	N	Y
Ringed Plover	254	N	Y
Black-tailed Godwit	807	Y	N
Pintail	117	N	Y
Red-breasted Merganser	76	N	Y
Shelduck	340	N	Y

Source: The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)

Numbers of breeding seabirds

- 3.80 **Table 3.9** provides counts for the number of breeding seabirds and their young in the AONB from 2013 to 2017. The survey demonstrates a large year-on-year variation.
- 3.81 Since 2013, a number of eggs and fledglings have been lost to tidal flooding and predation. Numbers of Sandwich Tern have declined in recent years with none sighted in the AONB since 2014. However, 2015 was a very successful year for the Little Tern and Common Tern, with 17 and 15 fledglings raised respectively.

Table 3.9: 5-year summary of breeding seabirds 2013-2017

Species		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Little Tern	Pairs	2	0	13	16	7
	Young	0	0	17	1	0
Common Tern	Pairs	12	0	24	45	12
	Young	0	0	15	0	0
Sandwich Tern	Pairs	71	8	0	0	0
	Young	0	0	0	0	0

Black-headed Gull	Pairs	158	No data	No data	40	24
	Young	11	No data	No data	0	5
Mediterranean Gull	Pairs	6	No data	No data	No data	0
	Young	0	No data	No data	No data	0

Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy Annual Reports

Sites used by Waders and Brent Geese

- 3.82 An update of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy was published in 2018. This document was prepared by a partnership of statutory and non-statutory bodies to set out recommendations for managing and enhancing the Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites of the Solent coast – of which the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar forms part of the valued network. **Figure 3.19** illustrates the current use of the AONB's roost sites by internationally important waders and Brent Geese.
- 3.83 The methodology used for this study has changed since the 2010 Strategy reported on in 2013. It now focuses on core sites used by the birds (used by 1,000 or more birds), and the primary and secondary sites which also support waders and Brent Geese, albeit in fewer numbers than the core sites.
- 3.84 **Figure 3.19** shows that many of the core sites in the AONB are in the Chidham and Boshma areas of the AONB. Core sites are also located on Thorney Island, near West Itchenor and adjacent to Fishbourne Channel, Chichester Channel, Mill Rithe and Emsworth Channel.

Analysis of indicator: Presence/numbers of indicator species (fish)

- 3.85 The data from the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Fish Survey 2016 (**Figure 3.20**) shows that Bass, Goby, Sand Smelt and Sprat are the most numerous species within the AONB waters. Some notable differences from the 2013 Survey is the decline in Bream, Herring and Mullet numbers. However, caution should be taken with interpretation of these figures, as data collected from in situ surveys can vary widely depending on external conditions.

Analysis of indicator: Presence/numbers of indicator species (common seals – new indicator)

- 3.86 In recent years, common seals have been recorded breeding in the Harbour for the first time. There were 22 adults and eight pups in 2015 and ten pups in summer 2016. Five adult grey seals were also been recorded in summer 2016.



Common seals hauled out on mudflats within the AONB

Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.19: Solent Waders and Brent Goose Network

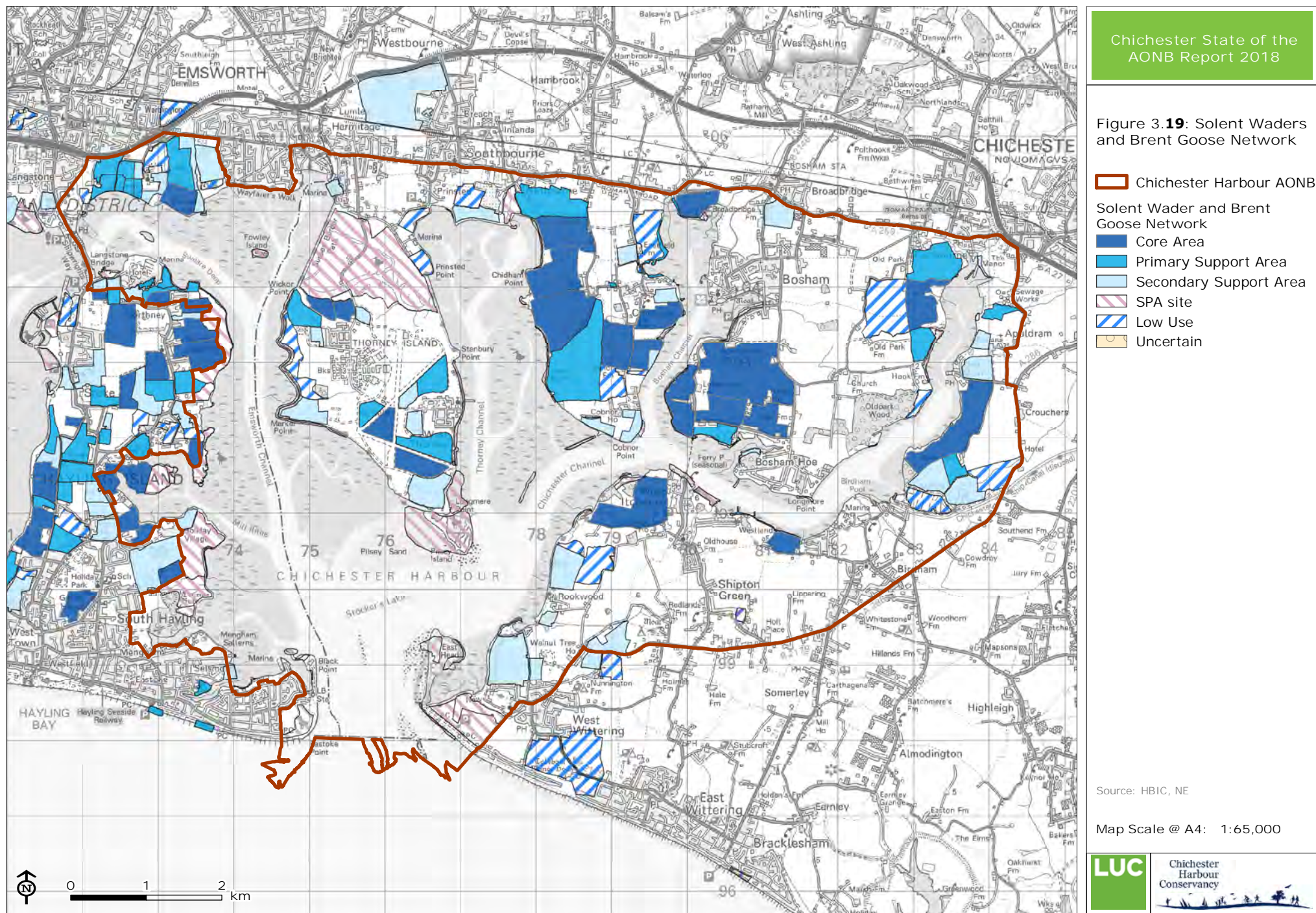
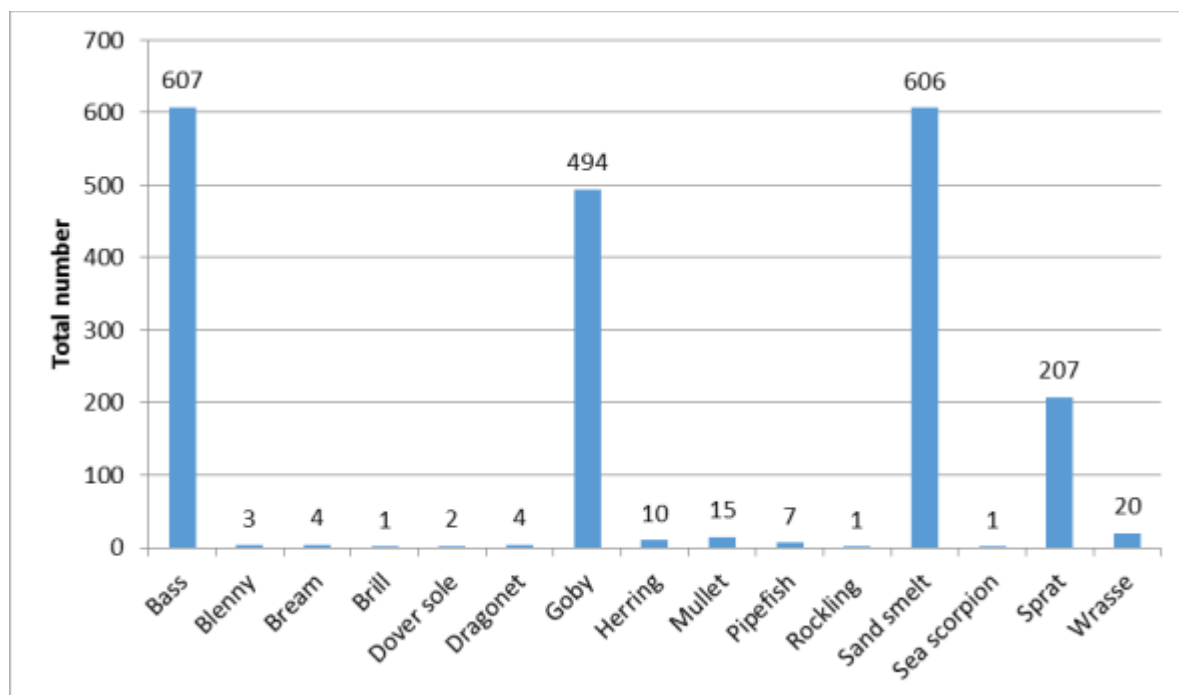


Figure 3.20: Number of fish counted in the 2016 Chichester Harbour fish survey



Source: Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Fish Survey (2016)

Analysis of indicator: Extent and condition of geological features (new indicator)

3.87 There are two geological SSSI units within the AONB:

- East of Langstone there is a low cliff line at high water mark which exhibits a complex of Brickearth and Coombe Rock deposits.
- At East Head there is a sizeable sand dune and shingle system.

3.88 Both are active geomorphological features. East Head is currently in 'Unfavourable –Recovering' condition and East of Langstone has not been assessed. The condition of these features has remained unchanged since 2013.

Data sources

- Wetland Bird Survey 2015-2016
- Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority 2016
- Natural England Monitoring for Protected Landscapes Data 2018
- Natural England GIS Data (Downloaded 2018)
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy Annual Monitoring Reports (2014-2018)

Recommendations for future monitoring

3.89 National and local data held by the Conservancy should continue to be collected and analysed every five years through State of the AONB reporting. This will allow for change over time to be monitored for the headline indicators.

3.90 Up-to-date information on invertebrates and rare flowering plants is not available; this data was previously collected by the Conservancy and was used to inform the 2013 State of the AONB report. The Conservancy should work to collect this information on a regular basis to inform these indicators from the previous survey.

Water quality

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- Large areas of open water at high tide.
- Broad inlets sometimes with large branching inlet heads and long, narrow, enclosed inlets with winding channels.

Indicators selected for this theme

- Water quality in Chichester Harbour (new indicator)
- Bathing site water quality (new indicator)
- Water Framework Directive Ecological Status (new indicator)

- 3.91 These are new indicators for the 2018 State of the AONB Report. As a large proportion of the AONB comprises water or intertidal areas, the quality of the water environment is a key component of the condition of the AONB. Chichester Harbour is one of the most intensively used recreational waters in the UK. It is used by a large number of small boats and is extensively used for sail training. There is also considerable harvesting of shellfish within the harbour.

Summary headlines

- The designated bathing site at West Wittering has had 'Excellent' water quality since at least 2014.
- None of the eleven water quality testing areas within Chichester harbour have been non-compliant against the EU Bathing Water Directive since August 2016.

Analysis of indicator: Water quality in Chichester Harbour (new indicator)

- 3.92 Although not a statutory requirement (as Chichester Harbour is not a designated bathing water site), eleven locations within Chichester Harbour are sampled for water quality against the bacteriological standards in the EU Bathing Water Directive. No areas in the harbour have been recorded as non-compliant since August 2016.

Analysis of indicator: Bathing site water quality (new indicator)

- 3.93 A designated bathing site is located at West Wittering. It has been deemed to have 'Excellent' water quality since 2014.

Analysis of indicator: Water Framework Directive Ecological Status (new indicator)

- 3.94 The data within for this indicator has been derived from Natural England Monitoring for Protected Landscapes data. As well as the current status, this data also contains Ecological Objectives which aim to improve waterbodies' status against the Water Framework Directive.

Rivers

- 3.95 Within the AONB, there are 2.71 kilometres of river which are monitored under the Water Framework Directive. 1.59 kilometres are classed as moderate status and 1.11 kilometres are classed as poor status.
- 3.96 The Ecological Objectives for the rivers are as follows: 0.15 kilometres should be 'good' status by 2021, while 2.55 kilometres should be 'good' status by 2027.

Coastal water

- 3.97 There are four coastal/transitional waterbodies within the AONB which are monitored under the Water Framework Directive. Two are currently 'good' status and two are 'moderate' status. The Ecological Objectives state that one of the 'moderate' status sites should improve to 'good' status by 2027.

Data sources

3.98 The data sources used for this sub-theme are as follows:

- Chichester District Council and Chichester Harbour Conservancy Water Quality Data⁷
- Natural England Monitoring for Protected Landscapes Data (2018)

Recommendations for future monitoring

3.99 The AONB should monitor all of the indicators under the 'Water Quality' theme every five years. As all of these indicators are new, they form a baseline for future reporting to compare against. For future State of the AONB monitoring, shellfish classification could also be used as an indicator of water quality in Chichester Harbour.

⁷ Accessed at <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/pollutioncontrolwaterquality>

4

A landscape for leisure and recreation



4 A landscape for leisure and recreation

Structure of this Chapter

4.1 This chapter comprises three sections as follows:

- Profile of recreational users and nature of visits
- Water-based activities and recreation
- Access and rights of way

Profile of recreational users and nature of visits

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- The AONB is a popular destination for both land-based and water-based recreation, with the colour and movements of the boats framed by a network of attractive shoreline paths.
- It is estimated that visitor numbers exceed 1.5 million annually.

Indicators selected for this sub-theme

4.2 The indicators selected for this sub-theme are as follows:

- Profile of recreational users in the AONB
- Reasons for visiting the AONB and frequency of visits
- Origin of visitors/recreational users in the AONB (including distance travelled and mode of transport)
- Recreational activities undertaken by visitors to the AONB
- Length of stay and accommodation type
- Attendance of activities organised by the Conservancy

4.3 The following data is derived from the results of the 2018 Residents and Visitors Survey and compared to data from previous surveys where possible. A summary explaining how the survey was undertaken is set out in paragraph 2.9.

Summary headlines

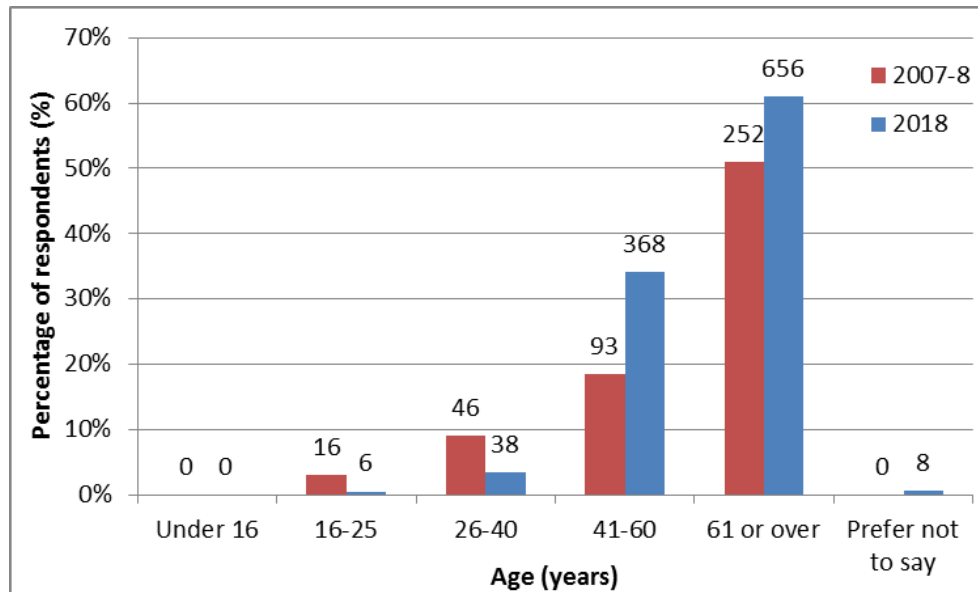
- The majority of those in the AONB who responded to the survey were over the age of 61 and more than two thirds of respondents were male.
- Most respondents (56%) live within 5 miles of the AONB. Most surveys were completed by day visitors (41%) and permanent residents (41%).
- Private motor vehicles were the most commonly used to travel to the harbour, used by 62% of respondents.
- 85% of people who completed the survey stated that they came to the AONB to appreciate the scenery and views. Other popular reasons for visiting included 'boating or sailing', 'visiting pubs or tea shops', and 'walking (without a dog)'.
- For non-residents, short, 1-2 day visits are the most common. The most frequent type of accommodation for non-residents was staying on a boat.
- Solar Heritage trips are the most frequently attended activity organised by the Conservancy.

Analysis of indicator: Profile of recreational users in the AONB

Age of recreational users

- 4.4 **Figure 4.1** shows the age profile of the survey respondents. More than half of the respondents (61%) were aged 61 or over. Each subsequent age group younger than this had respectively less participants, with less than 1% of responses coming from those under 25 year old. Ages of participants varied from the 2007-8 survey with a far greater proportion of respondents in the in all age groups aged 41 or over. In the 2018 survey the 41-60 age bracket was divided into two categories (with 41-50 year olds making up 10% of respondents and 51-60 making up 24% of respondents); these have been grouped in **Figure 4.1** to make the results comparable.

Figure 4.1: Ages of survey respondents

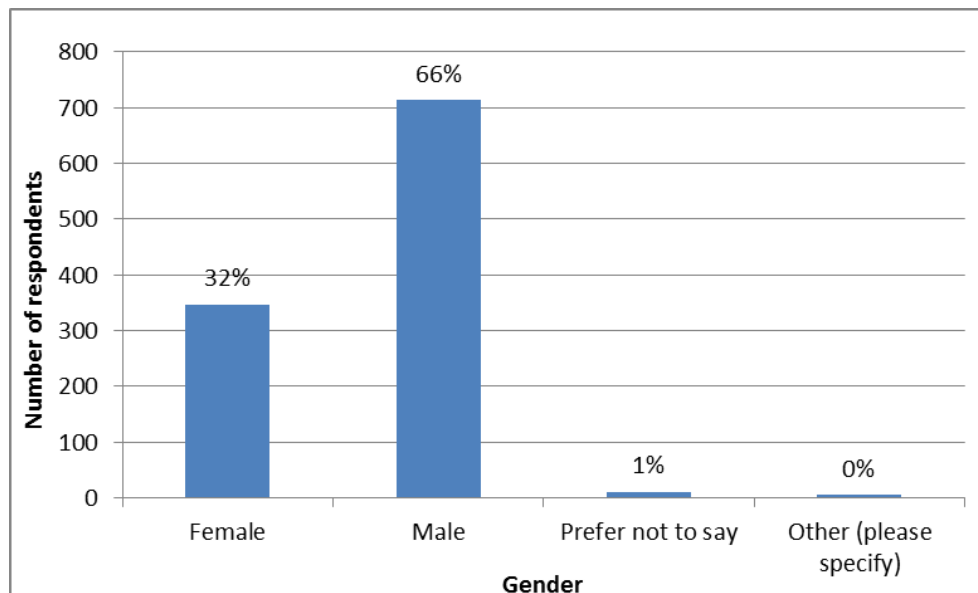


Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Gender of recreational users

- 4.5 **Figure 4.2** shows the gender of the survey respondents. The gender ratio was skewed towards male respondents, with more than twice as many men (66%) than women (32%). This has changed since the 2007-8 survey when the proportion of male to female responses was relatively equal, with 49% male and 51% female.

Figure 4.2: Gender of 2018 survey respondents

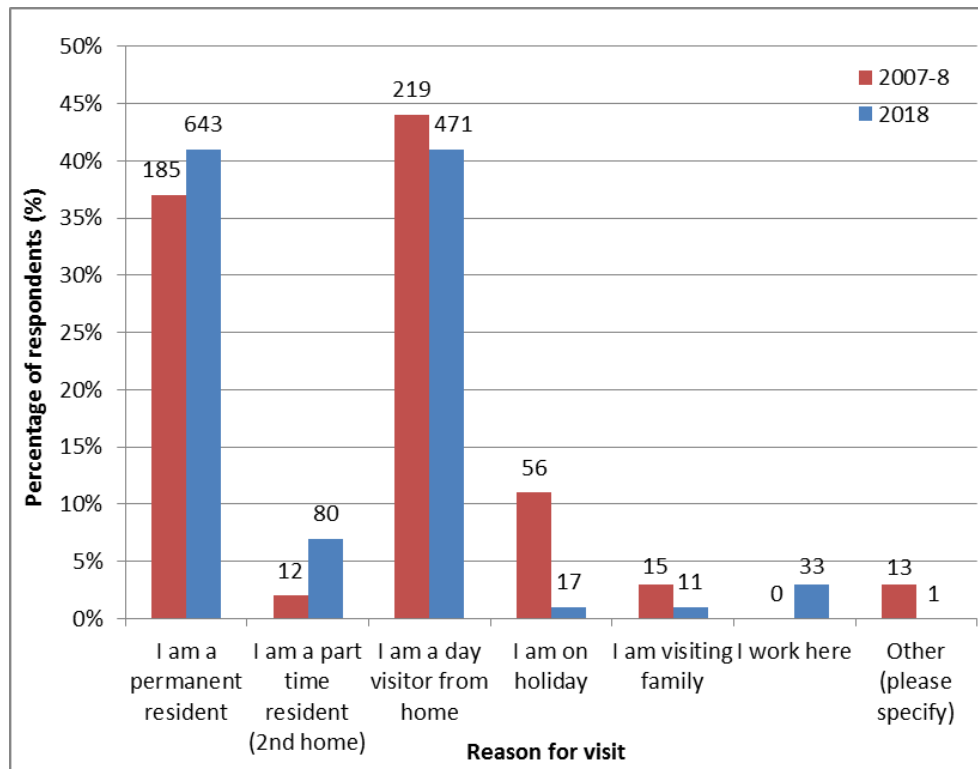


Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Analysis of indicator: Reasons for visiting the AONB and frequency of visits

- 4.6 The most common reasons for survey respondents to visit the AONB are that they are a permanent resident (43%) or that they are a day visitor (43.7%). The proportion of people who live in the AONB part-time (second home owners) has also increased for this survey to 7.4%. Conversely, the number of people on holiday who completed the survey has decreased markedly (from 11% to 1.6%). This may be due to the time of year the survey was undertaken (February to April), being outside of the main holiday season. The results for this question are shown in **Figure 4.3**.

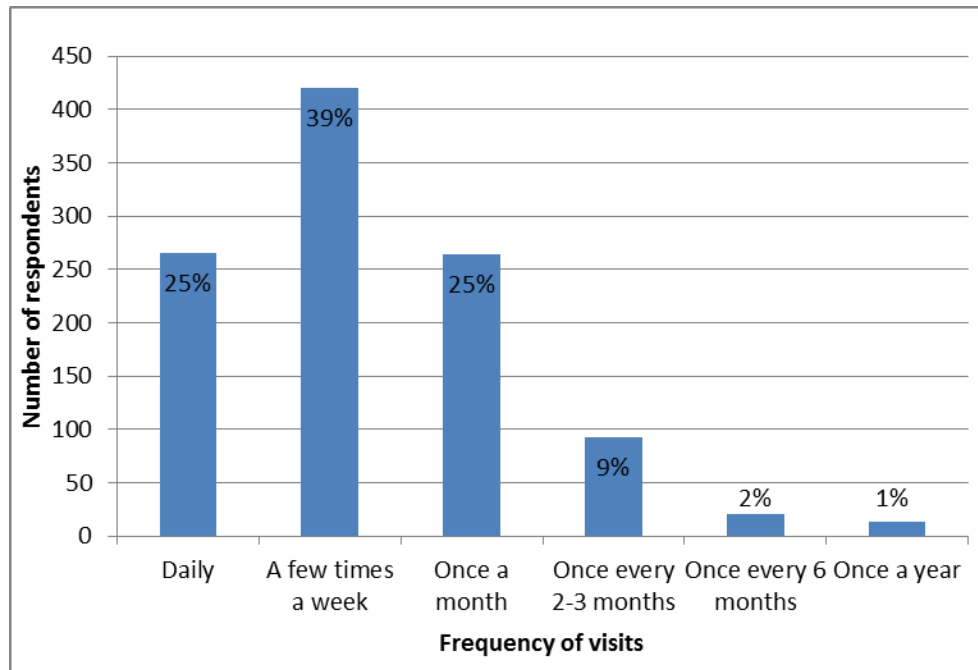
Figure 4.3: Reason for visiting the AONB



Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

- 4.7 **Figure 4.2** shows that the majority of respondents visit Chichester Harbour relatively frequently, with most visiting 'a few times a week' (39%). The following most common response was jointly 'daily' and 'once a month' visits (25%). Far fewer respondents visited infrequently, with only 1% returning to Chichester Harbour only once a year.

Figure 4.4: Frequency of visits to the AONB

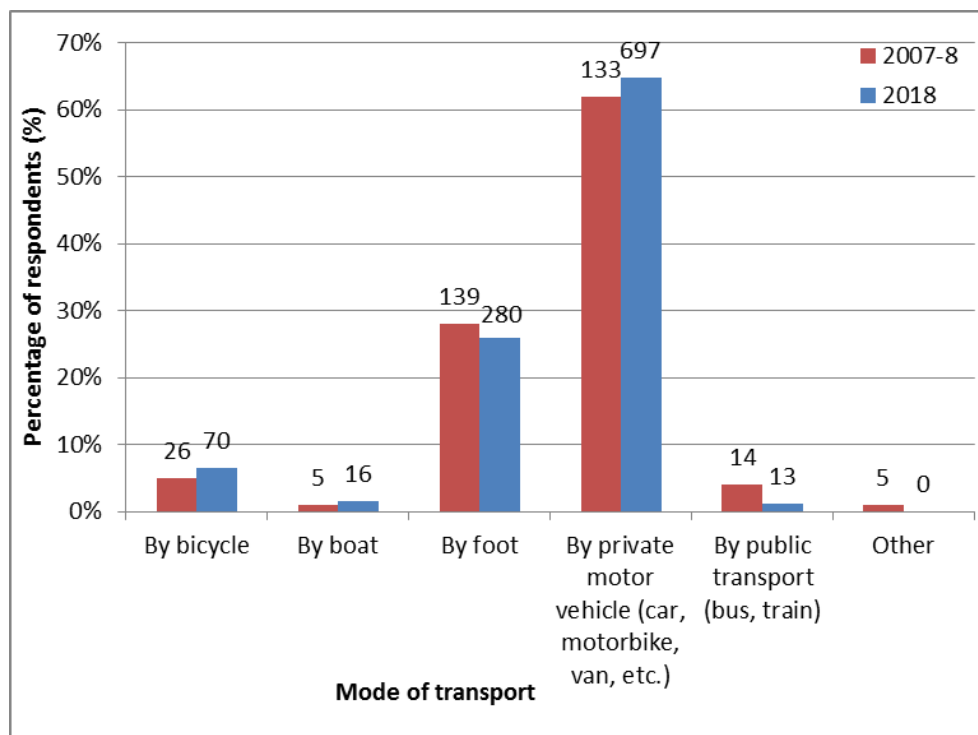


Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Analysis of indicator: Origin of visitors/recreational users in the AONB (including distance travelled and mode of transport)

- 4.8 **Figure 4.5** indicates that the popularity of different transport types have not dramatically changed since the 2007-8 survey. The majority of respondents still drive to Chichester harbour (65%), a slight increase from the 2007-8 results (61%). The second most common mode of transport recorded was by foot (26%), this is likely to be due to the large proportion respondents that are local residents (43%) as seen in (**Figure 4.6** distance travelled). Only 1% of respondents visit the site by public transport or boat.

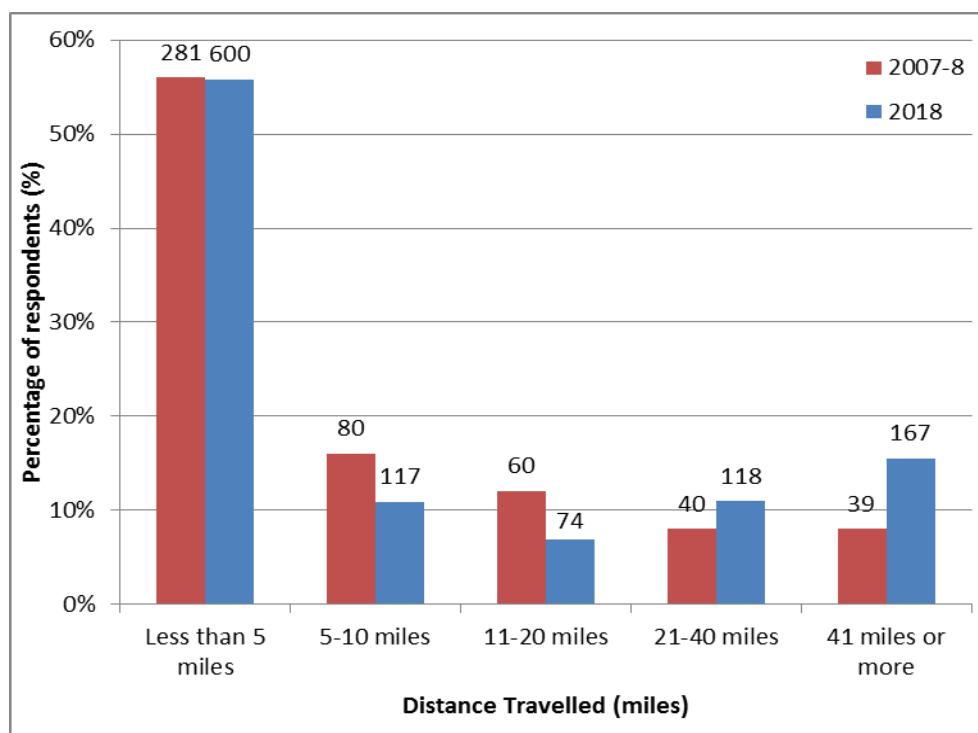
Figure 4.5: Modes of transport used to travel to the AONB



Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

- 4.9 The overall trend in distance travelled to Chichester Harbour has not changed greatly since the 2007-8 survey, as can be seen in **Figure 4.6**. Most regular visitors to the harbour travel less than five miles (56%), this is three times greater than the amount who visit from the next most popular distance (41 miles or more (16%)). The number of respondents visiting from further than five miles up to 40 miles did not differ greatly between categories ranging from 11% to 7% in each.

Figure 4.6: Distance travelled to the AONB

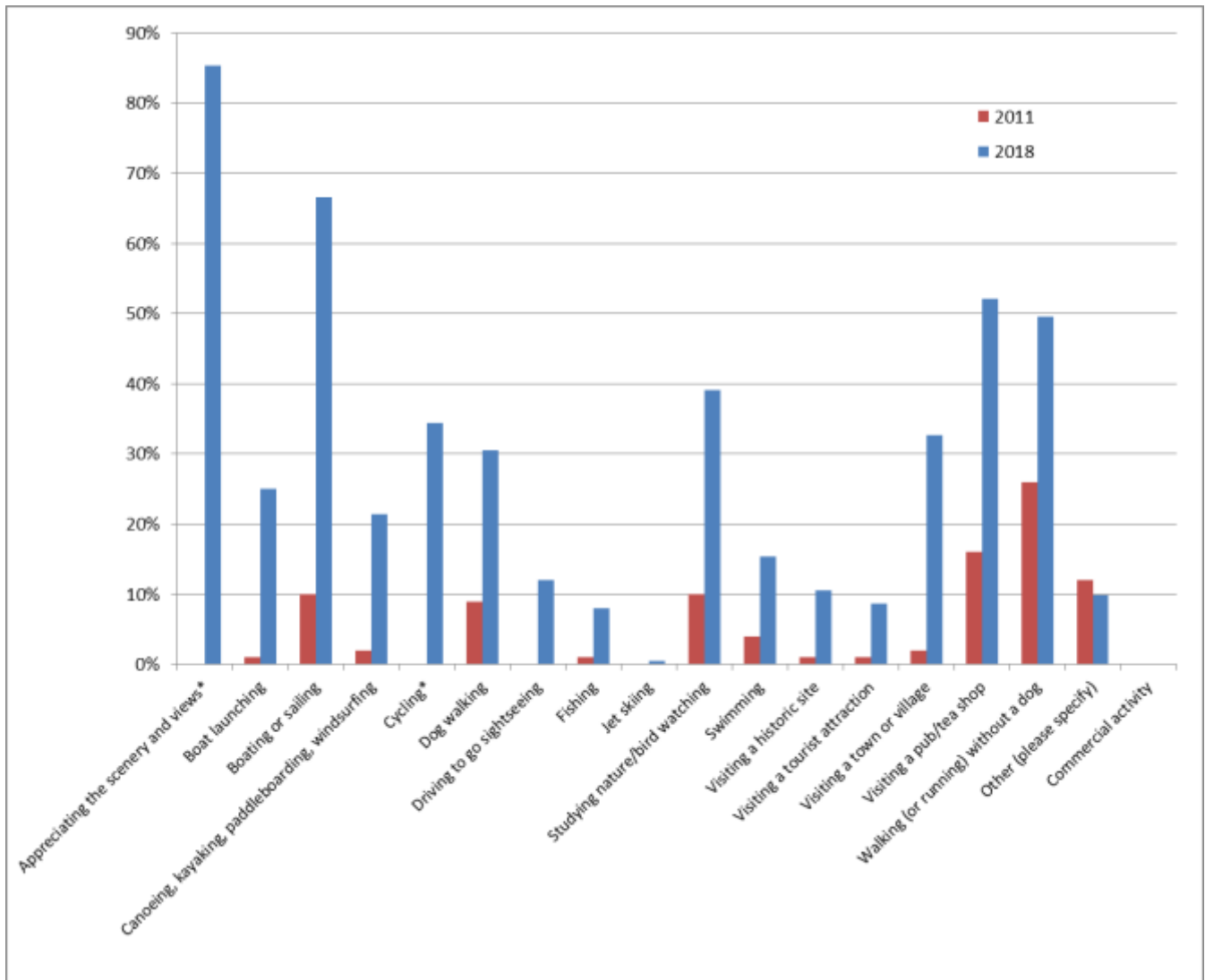


Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Analysis of indicator: Recreational activities undertaken by visitors to the AONB

- 4.10 It should be noted that for the 2018 Survey, respondents were able to select more than one answer to this question. The options marked by asterisks were not included in the previous 2011 Survey. All responses (excepting 'other') saw a large increase in frequency, which is likely as a result of being able to select more than one answer. Residents in particular are likely to use the AONB for a wide range of activities.
- 4.11 85% of people selected 'Appreciating the scenery and views'. This was the most popular answer to this question and is testament to the value of the natural beauty and visual qualities of the nationally designated landscape and seascape. As shown on **Figure 4.7**, other popular answers were 'boating or sailing', 'visiting pubs or tea shops', and 'walking (without a dog)' (67%, 52%, 50% respectively). The natural environment also forms an important part of recreation in the AONB, with 39% of people using the harbour for 'studying nature/bird watching'.
- 4.12 Fewer visitors used the site for jet skiing (<1%), to fish (8%) or to see tourist attractions (9%).

Figure 4.7: Recreational activities undertaken by visitors to the AONB



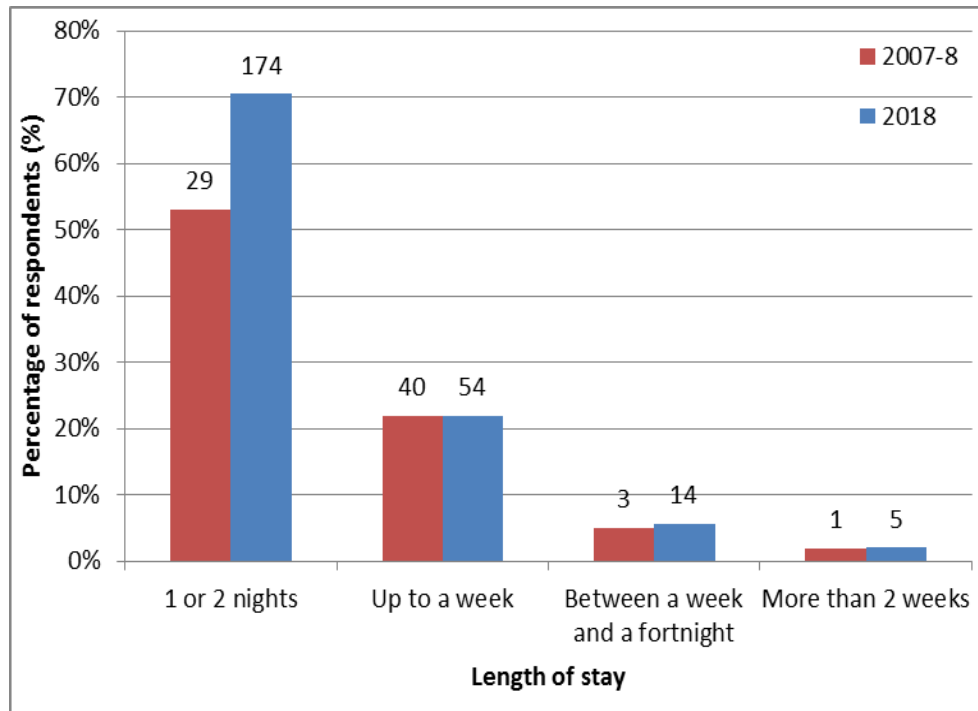
Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Note: The options marked by asterisks were not included in the previous 2011 Survey.

Analysis of indicator: Length of stay and accommodation type

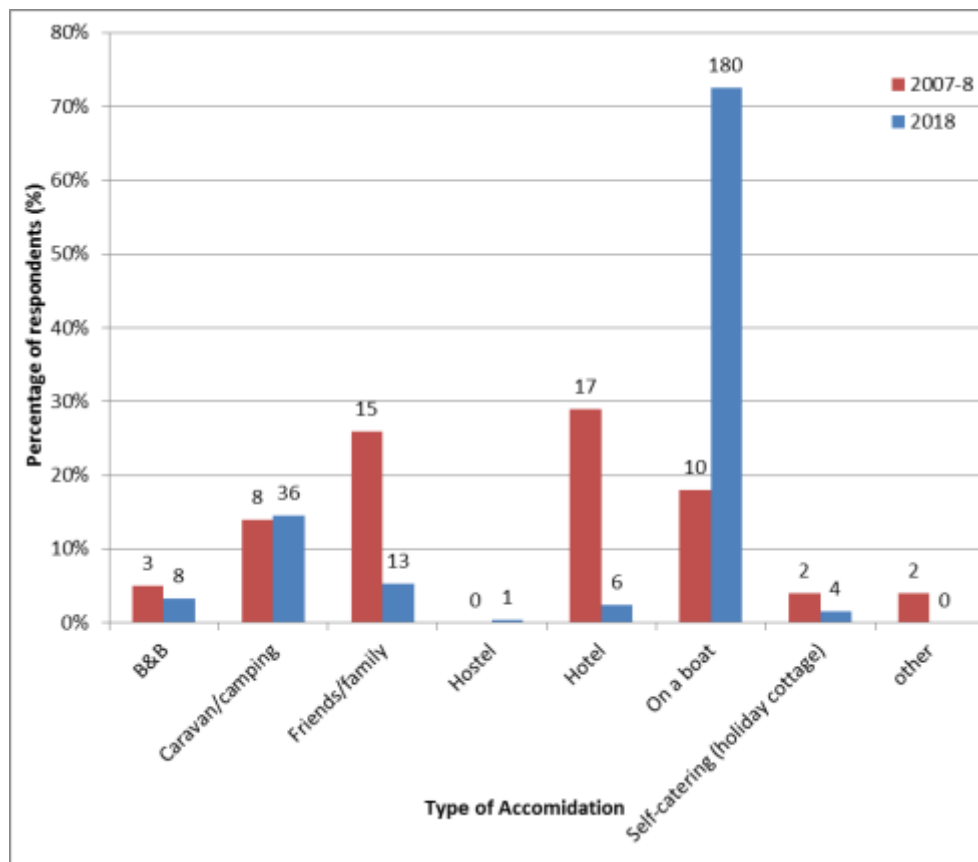
- 4.13 As can be seen in **Figure 4.8**, out of the 247 respondents that were not local residents, the majority (70%) only stayed for 1-2 nights. This is a greater proportion than the 53% that stayed for 1-2 nights in the 2007-8 survey. Only 2% of respondents prolong their visit for more than 2 weeks.
- 4.14 **Figure 4.9** displays the types of accommodation used by non-residents when they stay in Chichester Harbour. One of the most marked changes is the rise in respondents who stay on boats in the AONB to over 72% of the responses. This is a significant increase from the responses in the 2007-2008 recreation survey, when 18% of people were staying on a boat. Some of this change is likely to be a result of the consolidation of the two separate land-based and water-based recreation surveys.
- 4.15 Fewer people were staying with friends or family (5.2%) or in a hotel (2.4%). These were the most frequent types of accommodation in the 2007-2008 survey. Some of these differences may be explained by the change in methodology to an online based survey and the time of year the survey was undertaken (outside of the main holiday season).

Figure 4.8: Length of stay for non-resident visitors



Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Figure 4.9: Type of accommodation for non-resident visitors



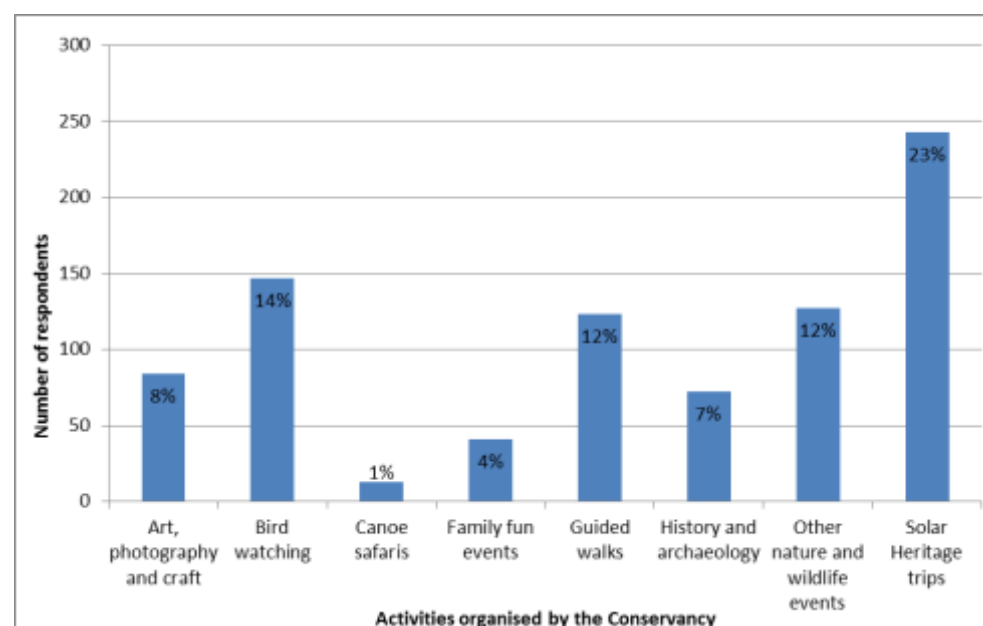
Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Analysis of indicator: Attendance of activities organised by the Conservancy

- 4.16 Out of the respondents, 38% of people partook in activities organised by the Conservancy, their activity preferences are shown in **Figure 4.10**. The most popular organised activity was *Solar*

Heritage trips, in which 22% all respondents participated. The least popular activity organised by the Conservancy was canoe safaris with only 1% of respondents attending. Family fun events also had comparatively low attendance (4%), however this may be due to the older demographic of survey participants with 61% of respondents aged 61 and over.

Figure 4.10: Attendance of activities organised by the Conservancy



Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Recommendations for future monitoring

- 4.17 It is recommended that the Residents and Visitors Survey is repeated at intervals of no more than five years to feed into the State of the AONB reporting cycle.
- 4.18 The 'age of respondents' question should be revised to be more statistically sound, by having equal age groups (e.g. of ten years). The experiences of a 65 year old person are likely to differ to those of an 85+ year old person. The current survey places this range in the same group. Efforts should be made to adapt or promote the survey to a youth audience to get a better understanding of how the AONB is used by younger visitors and residents.

Water-based activities and recreation

Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- 4.19 The indicators selected for this sub-theme are as follows:
- Number and type of boats based in Chichester Harbour
 - Reasons for sailing from Chichester Harbour
 - Opinion of sailing and boating facilities in Chichester Harbour
 - Attitudes towards Harbour Dues
 - Locations of water-based recreation activity (new indicator)
- 4.20 The following data is derived from the results of the 2018 Residents and Visitors Survey and compared to data from previous surveys where possible. A summary explaining how the survey was undertaken is set out in paragraph 2.9. It should be noted that many of the indicators within this sub-theme were previously derived from a Sailing and Boating Survey undertaken in 2010-2011. Elements of this survey have been consolidated into the 2018 Survey.

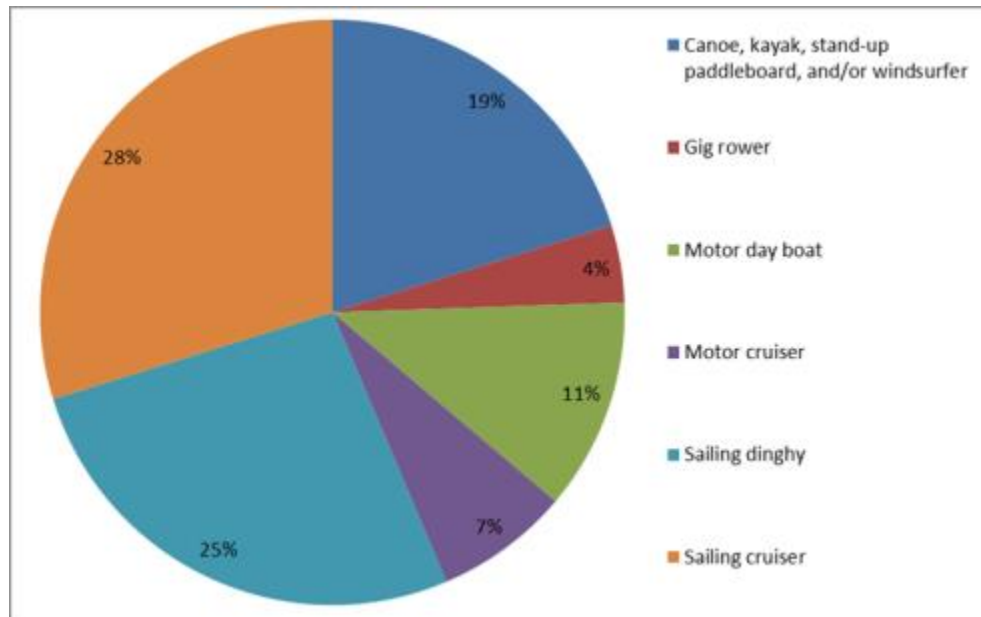
Summary headlines

- Sailing cruisers (28%) and sailing dinghies (25%) are the most common types of boats based in Chichester Harbour. Canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and windsurfers are also popular (19%).
- The most popular reasons for people to sail in Chichester Harbour were due to it being close to home (18%), the landscape and scenery (17%) and the sailing conditions (15%).
- Most sailors (87%) thought that the sailing and boating facilities at Chichester Harbour were good. Less than 1% thought that the facilities were poor.
- Most sailors (89%) thought that Harbour Dues represented good value for money.
- The majority of water-based recreation recorded by Strava (an app used to track sporting activity) was focused around West Wittering, West Itchenor, South Hayling and Northney.

Analysis of indicator: Number and type of boats based in Chichester Harbour

- 4.21 From the 992 participants to the survey who used vessels on the harbour, the most popular types of vessel were sailing cruisers and sailing dinghies, with 28% of those who sail using (at least one) sailing cruiser and 25% of sailors using (at least one) sailing dinghy. Sailing cruisers remain the most popular vessel type since the 2010-11 survey, however the percentage of respondents using them has dropped by 28%. Vessel types used less frequently in the Chichester Harbour included motor cruisers (7% of sailors used at least one compared to 8% in the 2010-11 survey) and Gig rowers (4% of sailors used at least one – this was not an option in the previous survey). The percentage of sailors who use different vessel types is shown in the pie chart (**Figure 4.11**).

Figure 4.11: Types of boats based in Chichester Harbour

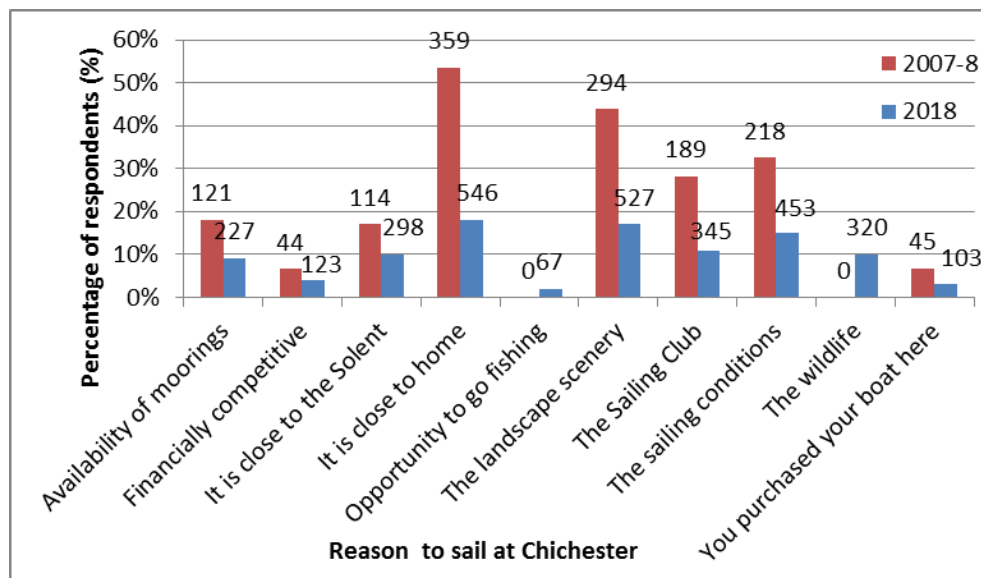


Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Analysis of indicator: Reasons for using Chichester Harbour as a sailing base

- 4.22 Out of the 1,076 respondents to the survey as a whole, 758 of them sailed, with only 30% selecting the response 'Not applicable- I'm not a sailor' for this question. From those who did sail the most popular reasons to do so in Chichester Harbour were due to it being close to home (18%), the landscape and scenery (17%) and the sailing conditions (15%). Far fewer people used the site to sail because of its fishing opportunities (2%) or because their boat was purchased there (3%), as can be seen in **Figure 4.12**.

Figure 4.12: Reasons for using the harbour as a base

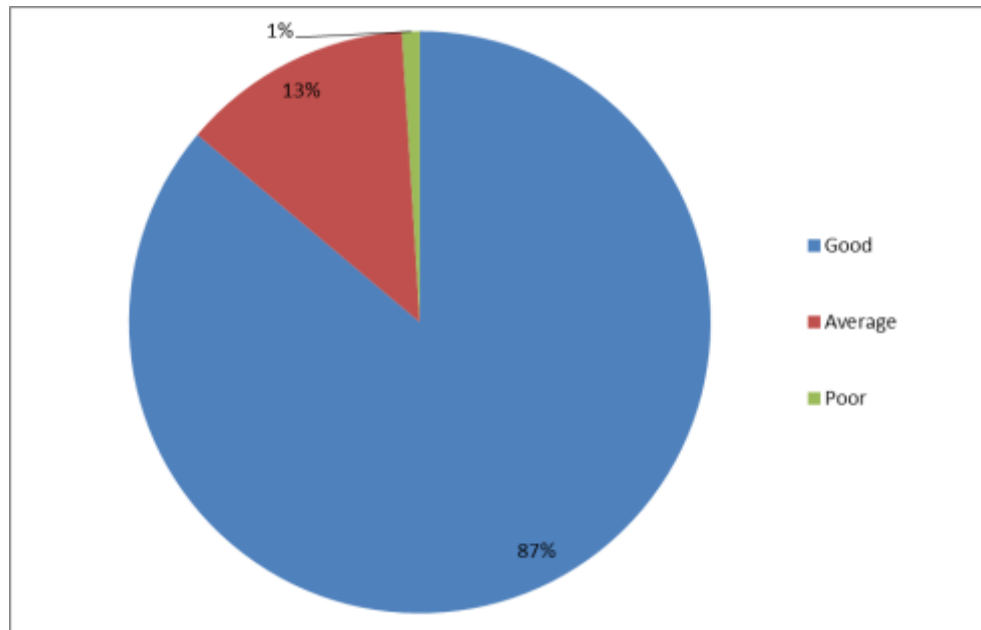


Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Analysis of indicator: Opinion of sailing and boating facilities in Chichester Harbour

- 4.23 Opinions of the sailing and boating facilities at Chichester Harbour remained positive overall with 61% selecting good, 9% selecting average and less than 1% selecting poor. This is a very similar distribution of opinion to the results of the 2007-8 survey. These results are shown in the chart at **Figure 4.13** below.

Figure 4.13: Opinion of sailing and boating facilities

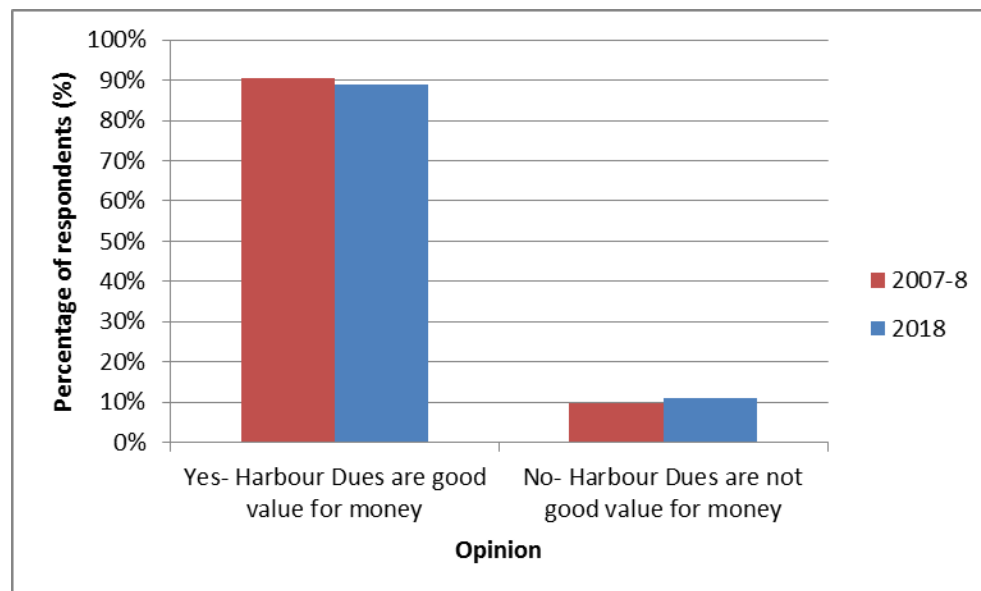


Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Analysis of indicator: Attitudes towards Harbour Dues

- 4.24 Out of the 727 sailors who paid Harbour Dues, 89% thought they were good value for money. This has slightly dropped since the 2007-8 survey in which 90% believed the Harbour Dues were good value for money. Overall people are slightly more negative towards Harbour Dues compared to 2007-8. However, only 11% disagreed that the Dues were not good value for money, as shown in **Figure 4.14**.

Figure 4.14: Attitudes of sailors to Harbour Dues

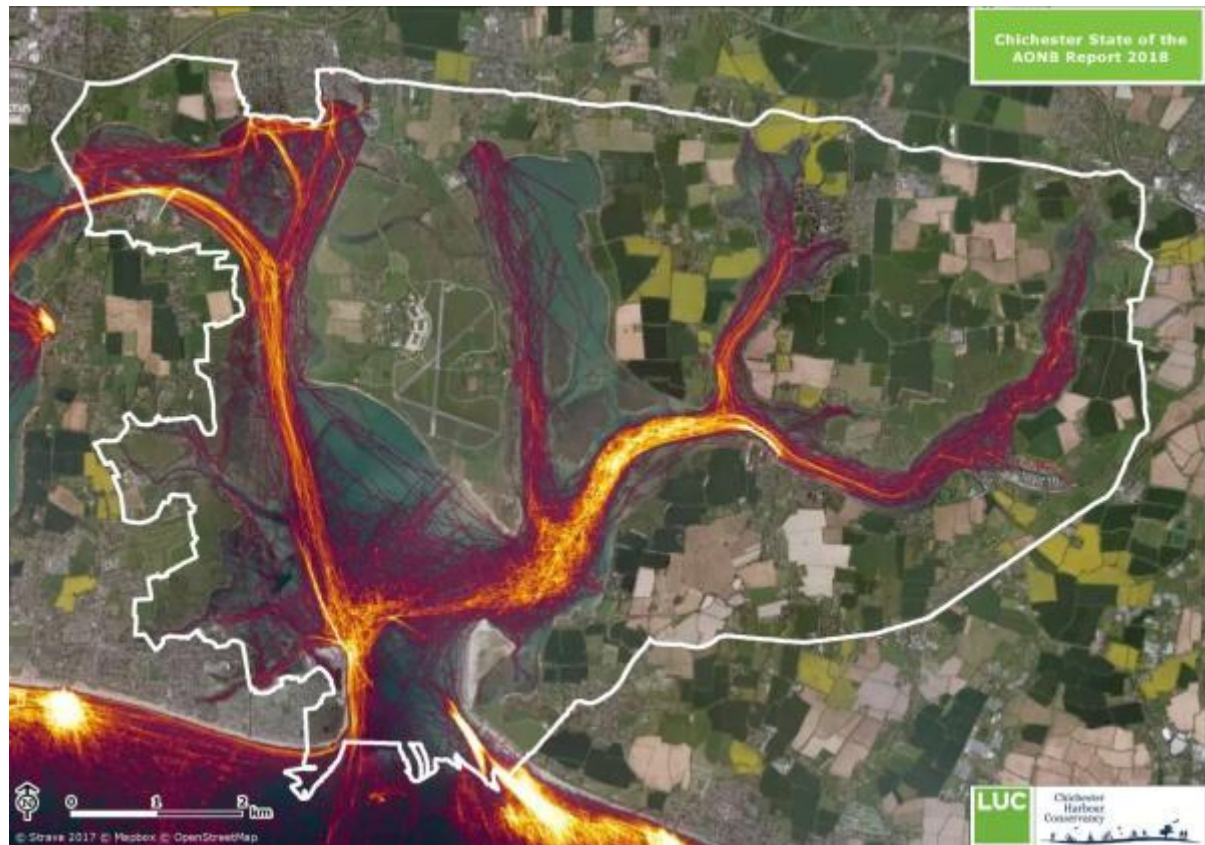


Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Analysis of indicator: Locations of water based recreation activity in the AONB (new indicator)

- 4.25 **Figure 4.15** shows a heat map produced using data from the Strava app, specifically showing activity on the water. It shows that activity is concentrated around West Wittering, West Itchenor, South Hayling and Northney. Chichester Channel and Emsworth Channel are popular routes. This data is from March 2018 and it should be noted that the weather was unseasonably cold, likely resulting in a reduction in some water-based activities.

Figure 4.15: Strava heat map showing levels of activity within the AONB



Data sources

4.26 The data sources used for this sub-theme are as follows:

- Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018
- Strava Heat Map data (April 2018)

Recommendations for future monitoring

- 4.27 It is recommended that the Residents and Visitors Survey is repeated at intervals of no more than five years to tie in with State of the AONB reporting. It would be beneficial to plan the survey for the peak season rather than winter/spring months, where numbers of visitors are likely to be fewer. This would enable a greater diversity of visitor types to be surveyed.
- 4.28 During the 2018 survey, many people put a response in 'other' category for the question on the type of vessel they used. It is recommended that Keelboat, RIB and Rowing Boat are added as options for this question when the survey is repeated.
- 4.29 The Conservancy could undertake regular analysis of Strava data at different times of year to see if any seasonal patterns or differences arise.

Access and rights of way

Indicators selected for this sub-theme

4.30 The indicators selected for this sub-theme are as follows:

- Location and total length of public rights of way
- Footpath condition
- Attitudes to the England Coast Path (new indicator)

Summary headlines

- The majority (81%) of people surveyed in 2018 were aware of the new England Coast Path National Trail which will pass through the AONB. Most people questioned were supportive of the concept of the trail, with 52% being 'fully supportive' and 26% being 'quite supportive'.
- There is less support for the actual route the England Coast Path will take around Chichester Harbour, primarily because many people are not aware of the route.

Analysis of indicator: Location and total length of public rights of way

4.31 A map of rights of way in the AONB is shown at **Figure 4.16**.

4.32 The total length of public rights of way in the AONB is approximately 101 kilometres. These are shown in **Table 4.1**. These have remained generally unchanged since 2013. Up-to-date information for permissive paths is not available.

Table 4.1: Public Rights of Way in the AONB

	Havant District	Chichester District
Footpath (km)	7.7	83.8
Bridleway (km)	0.97	0.0
Total	8.67	83.8

Source: Hampshire County Council and West Sussex County Council GIS Data (2018)

Analysis of indicator: Footpath condition

4.33 In 2013, the results of a 2011 survey of the 'Coastal Condition of Footpaths' conducted by Worthing Borough Council informed this indicator. Although this survey has not been repeated, information on footpath improvements and repairs is contained within the Annual Reports released by the Conservancy. Recent works include:

2014/15:

- Carried out essential repair work to footpaths at Chalkdock Marshes, Thorney Island, and Cobnor Point, and repaired the footbridge at Thornam Point, following the winter storms.
- Delivered two footpath improvement projects at Ella Nore.
- Improved the footpath and signage along the Bosham foreshore.

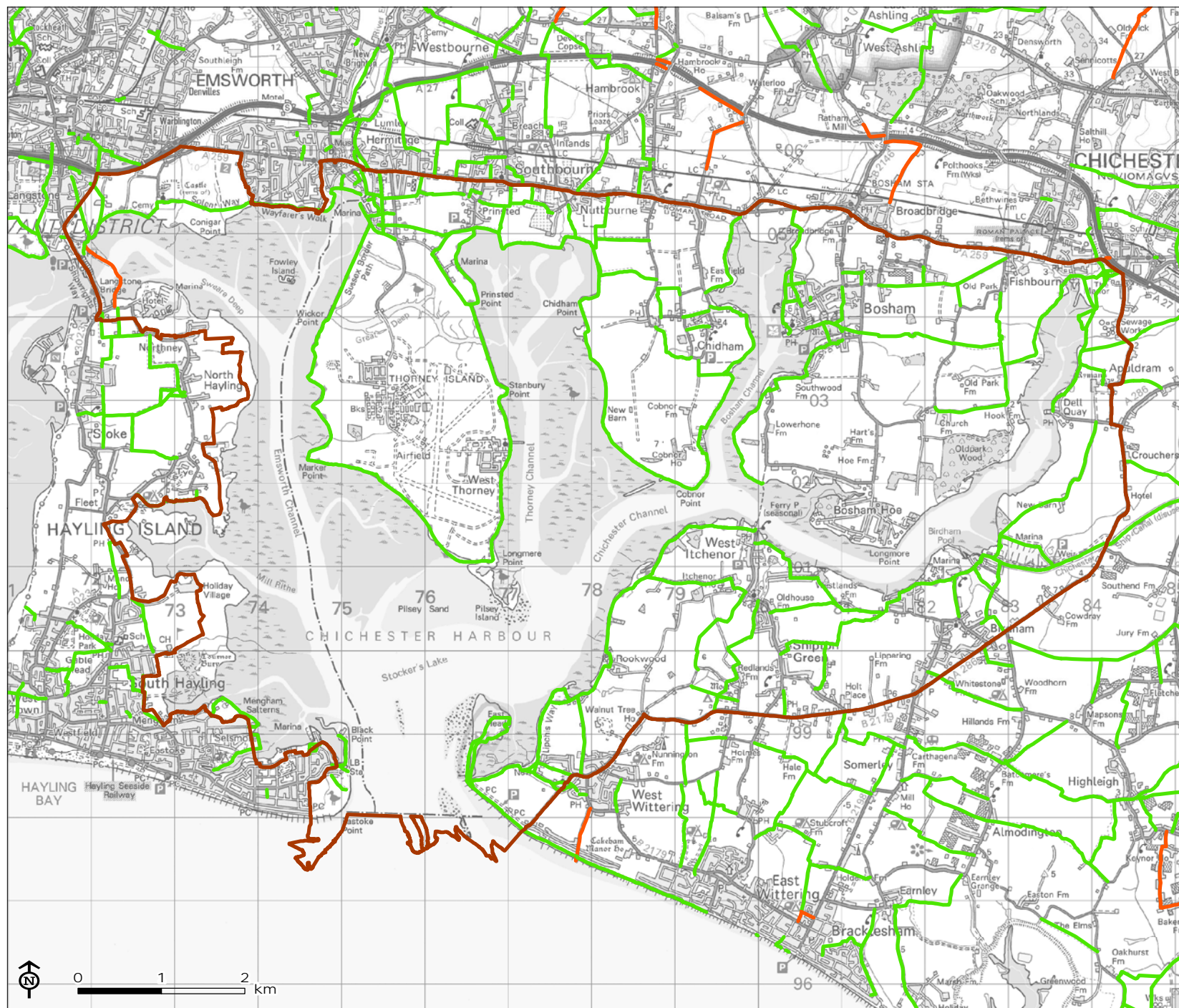
2015/16:

- Carried out a coastal path improvement project at East Chidham.
- Restored the North Common wheelchair path to its original condition.
- Repaired a worn section of the Salterns Way between Salterns Copse and Dell Quay.
- Carried out repairs to secure a section of coastal path at Prinsted.

4.34 The 2018 Residents and Visitors Survey asked for respondents' opinions on how well the Conservancy undertakes maintenance on footpaths and cycle paths. As shown in **Figure 4.17**, the majority (80%) of responses were positive.

Figure 4.16: Rights of Way
in the AONB

- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Bridleway
- Footpath

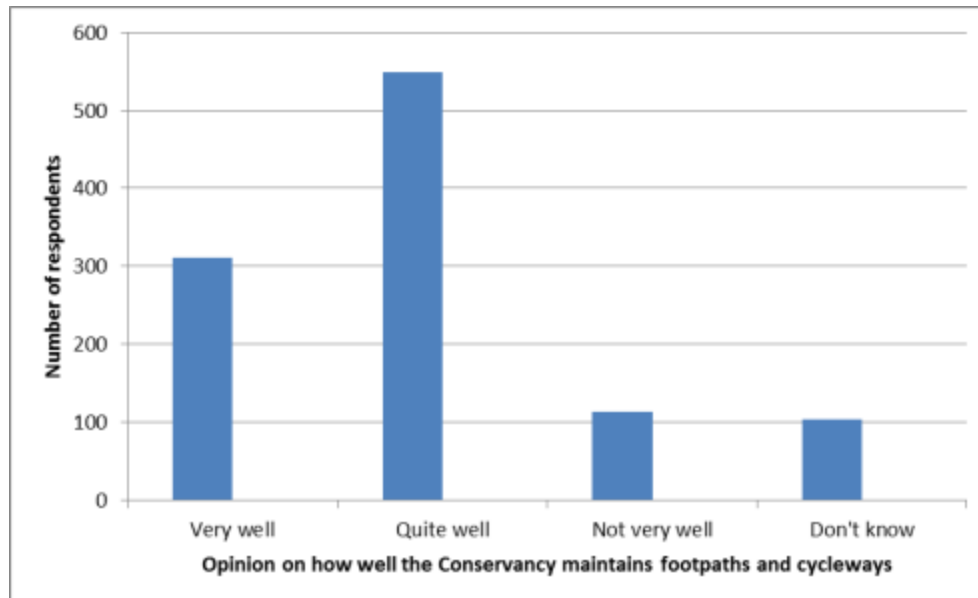


Source: HCC, NE, WSCC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Figure 4.17: Opinions on foot and cycle path maintenance in the AONB

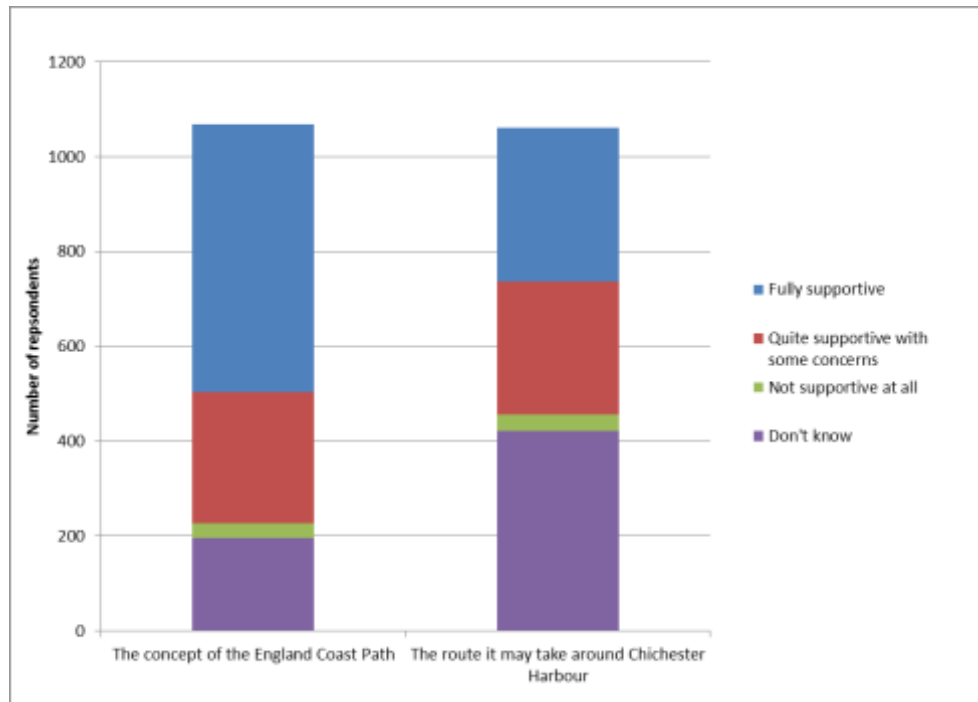


Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Analysis of indicator: Attitudes to the England Coast Path (new indicator)

- 4.35 The England Coast Path is a proposed long-distance National Trail which will trace the coast of England and be 4,500 kilometres in length once complete. The England Coast Path is due to be completed in 2020. The trail will cross through Chichester Harbour AONB.
- 4.36 In the 2018 Survey, 81% of the response group were aware of the new England Coast Path National Trail and 60% were aware of the proposed route. The large majority of responses were supportive as can be seen in **Figure 4.18**, with 52% being 'fully supportive' and 26% being 'quite supportive'. Only 3% of respondents were 'not supportive at all' for the concept of the coast path and its route.
- 4.37 Issues that people highlighted during the survey included:
- A lack of awareness of the proposed route.
 - Lack of information on how the path will be maintained.
 - Whether or not there will be provision for cyclists.
 - The potential for disturbance to wildlife and privacy concerns.
 - The opinion that the Harbour is already too busy.

Figure 4.18: Attitudes to the England Coast Path



Source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Data sources

- Chichester Harbour Conservancy Annual Reports 2014-2018.
- Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Recommendations for future monitoring

- 4.38 Up-to-date information on the condition of paths is not available. Footpaths along the coast are heavily used, and also prone to wear and tear from environmental conditions/flooding, so this is a current knowledge gap for this theme.
- 4.39 The Conservancy could use volunteers/citizen science to monitor condition of paths, potentially through the use of an app (e.g. the Big Pathwatch project conducted by the Ramblers charity). The Conservancy might also consider working with Worthing Borough Council to repeat the coastal footpath condition survey undertaken in 2011 to assess the rate of change due to rising sea levels and coastal erosion, and to continue to monitor the overall condition of AONB footpaths.
- 4.40 There should be regular engagement with people about the England Coast Path to provide an opportunity for their concerns to be raised and addressed and to raise awareness of the route.

5

A landscape for communities and businesses



5 A landscape for communities and businesses

Structure of this Chapter

5.1 This chapter is divided into three main sections as follows:

- Education, engagement and involvement in the AONB
- Cultural heritage
- Socio-economic profile of the AONB

Education, engagement and involvement in the AONB

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- The AONB is a popular destination for both land-based and water-based recreation, with the colour and movements of the boats framed by a network of attractive shoreline paths.
- It is estimated that visitor numbers exceed 1.5 million annually.

Summary headlines

- The number of education sessions given per year is consistently over 10,000.
- Volunteers within the AONB have contributed approximately 2,000 hours of time on an annual basis.
- There are approximately 200 education events held by the Conservancy every year, mostly based out of their Education Centre at Dell Quay.
- Over 30,000 copies of the Chichester Harbour News and Guide are published and distributed annually.

Indicators selected for this theme

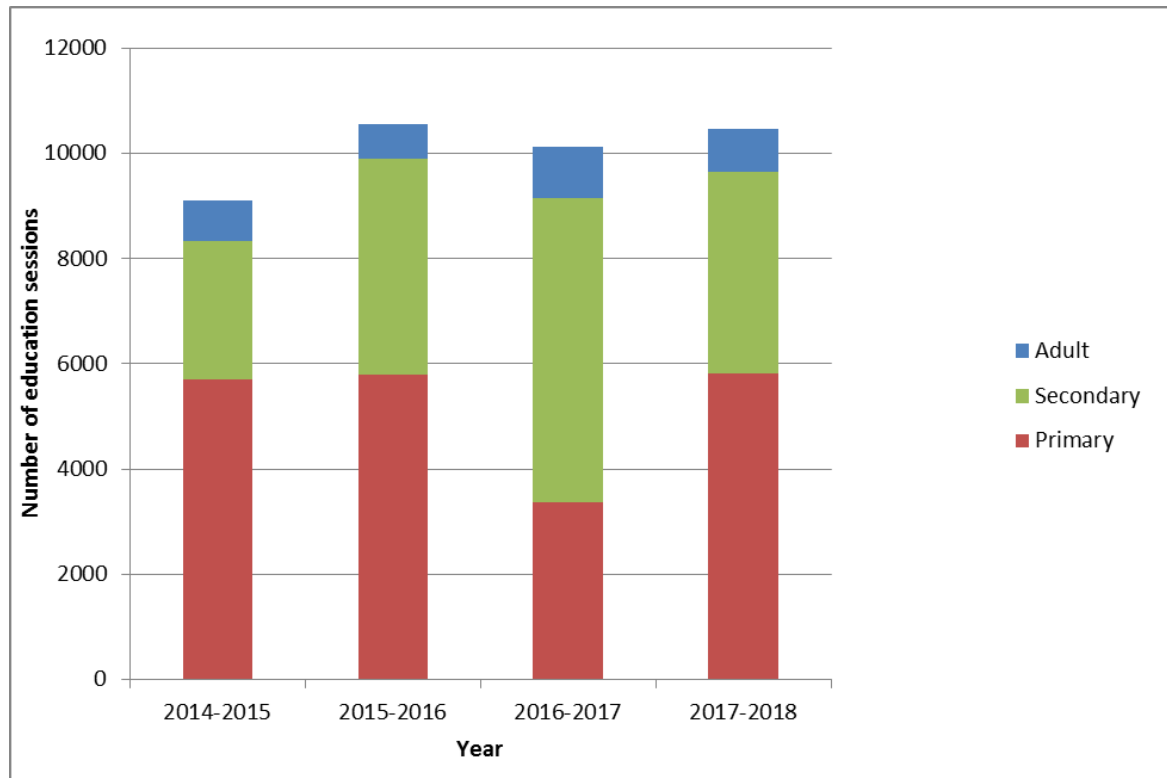
5.2 The indicators selected for this theme are as follows:

- Number of education sessions delivered by the Conservancy
- Number of education events carried out by the Conservancy
- Number of other events organised and delivered by the Conservancy
- Number of volunteer hours contributed to the work of the Conservancy
- Outreach activity of the Conservancy
- Awareness of the local organisations helping to manage Chichester Harbour

Analysis of indicator: Number of education sessions carried out by the Conservancy

5.3 An education session is half a day learning experience per person. As shown in **Figure 5.1**, there have been over 10,000 education sessions for several years in a row. Please note, from 2014 to 2016, figures were based on academic years from September to August. Since April 2016, figures have been recorded for financial years, from April- March. Therefore, there is some double counting for 2016.

Figure 5.1: Number of education sessions per year⁸



Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy Annual Reports.

Analysis of indicator: Number of education events carried out by the Conservancy⁸

- 5.4 The Chichester Harbour Education Centre is based at Dell Quay, hosting many of the education sessions analysed above. The number of education events hosted by the Conservancy each year is listed below, starting with the most recent. 2015-16 was the only recent year where there were fewer than 200 education events. This was primarily due to a number of significant customers of the Education Centre reducing or stopping their visits due to their own financial constraints. Numbers of education events have since increased; it should also be noted that more of the education sessions are delivered by Education Centre staff, as opposed to groups simply hiring the space. Since 2014 there has been a 30% increase in visits which are planned and led by the Education Centre staff.

- April 2017 – March 2018: 215 education events.
- April 2016 - March 2017: 206 education events.
- September 2015- August 2016: 197 education events.
- September 2014 - August 2015: 229 education events.

Analysis of indicator: Number of other events organised and delivered by the Conservancy

- 5.5 For the year 2017-18, the Conservancy held 38 guided walks, eight family events, six photography/art events, seven community talks and events and five talks to the public.
- 5.6 In 2016-17, the Conservancy held 48 events; 37 guided walks and 11 family events. This compares to 49 guided walks, 24 family events and 18 photography and art sessions for 2015-2016 and 55 guided walks, 30 family events and 24 photography and art sessions in 2014-2015.

⁸ Please note, from 2014 to 2016, figures were based on academic years from September to August. Since April 2016, figures have been recorded for financial years, from April- March. Therefore, there is some double counting for 2016.

- 5.7 The Conservancy also leads boat trips on *Solar Heritage*, the Conservancy's solar powered catamaran. *Terror*, a Victorian oyster catcher, also hosts boat trips from Emsworth, operated by the Friends of Chichester Harbour. In 2014-15, there were 56 trips on the *Terror*.
- 5.8 As shown in **Figure 4.10**, trips on *Solar Heritage* are popular among users of the AONB. The number of annual trips on *Solar Heritage* is listed below. For the year 2017-18, there has been a significant increase in the number of trips on *Solar Heritage*, compared to previous years.
- 2017-18: 140 *Solar Heritage* Trips.
 - 2016-17: 51 public trips on *Solar Heritage* and 40 private trips.
 - 2015-16: 82 *Solar Heritage* Trips.
 - 2014-15: 94 public trips on *Solar Heritage* and 35 private trips.

Analysis of indicator: Number of volunteer hours contributed to the work of the Conservancy

- 5.9 The number of hours contributed by volunteers to the work of The Conservancy is estimated on an annual basis within the Annual Reports, and are summarised below by year.
- 2017-2018: 1,800 hours
 - 2016-2017: 1,800 hours
 - 2015-2016: 2,000 hours
 - 2014-2015: 2,000 hours

Analysis of indicator: Outreach activity of the Conservancy (new indicator)

- 5.10 The Annual Reports also contain information on the various outreach activities and community engagement undertaken throughout the year by the Conservancy.
- 5.11 A new website for Chichester Harbour Conservancy was launched in March 2018. The Annual reports record how many unique users have accessed the website, as listed below:
- 2016-2017: 82,631 unique users
 - 2015-2016: 83,330 unique users
 - 2014-2015: 97,014 unique users
- 5.12 Since 2014, over 30,000 copies of the *Chichester Harbour News and Guide* have been published and distributed annually.

Analysis of indicator: Awareness of the local organisations helping to manage Chichester Harbour (new indicator)

- 5.13 The Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey (2018) asked respondents about their awareness of the organisations which help to manage Chichester Harbour.
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – 98% of survey respondents were aware of the Conservancy, which deals with everyone involved in the AONB as customers.
 - Friends of Chichester Harbour – The Friends are the membership body within the AONB. 75% of people were aware of this organisation.
 - Chichester Harbour Trust – The Trust's work is mostly in partnership with high net worth individuals, rather than organisations and the general public. Awareness of the Trust in the survey was 35%
 - Chichester Harbour Federation – The Federation deal with organisations rather than individuals. 41% of survey respondents were aware of the Chichester Harbour Federation.

Data sources

- Chichester Harbour Conservancy Annual Reports (2014-2018)
- Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018

Recommendations for future monitoring

- 5.14 The indicators within this chapter should be revisited and updated every five years. The Conservancy should aim to collect data in a standardised format every year to enable trends to be analysed accurately. Volunteer hours contributed to the work of the Conservancy should be accurately recorded, rather than estimated as they have been in recent years.
- 5.15 Data on engagement activities which are not organised by the Conservancy (e.g. local nature or history interest groups) could also be collected.

Cultural heritage

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- Range of archaeological sites and features from the Neolithic period onwards- particularly reflecting the AONB's importance for trade, fishing, the shipbuilding industry and the process of land reclamation from the 19th century.
- Tide mills and mill ponds add interest to the harbourside settlements and are key features of the AONB landscape.

Summary headlines

- There are four Scheduled Monuments, 271 Listed Buildings and 1,000 Historic Environment Record (HER) sites within the AONB. No new heritage assets have been designated in the AONB since the 2013 Report.
- The Grade I Listed Church of St Nicholas in West Thorney has been added to the Heritage at Risk Register since 2013, due its poor structural condition.

Indicators selected for this theme

5.16 The indicators selected for monitoring the 'Cultural Heritage' theme are as follows:

- Number and area covered by Scheduled Monuments
- Number and classification of Listed Buildings
- Number and location of locally important archaeological sites/features listed on the HER
- Condition of archaeological features
- Management of archaeological/historic features through agri-environment schemes

5.17 Please note that there are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens in the AONB, hence these designations are not included in the above indicators.

Analysis of indicator: Number and area covered by Scheduled Monuments

- 5.18 There are four Scheduled Monuments wholly or partly within the AONB. These are listed in **Table 5.1** below and shown spatially on the map at **Figure 5.2**. The largest site is part of the wider Fishbourne Roman Palace – home to the largest collection of in-situ mosaics, palace remains and the earliest designed gardens in Britain. Tournerbury Iron Age hillfort also covers over four hectares, occupying a raised tongue of land extending between two former tidal inlets on Hayling Island. It is thought to be associated with early salt workings; its location also providing good water-based transport links to the harbour's channels.
- 5.19 The other two Scheduled Monuments found within the AONB are both located on the north-western shores of the AONB, south of Warblington. These are the 18th century Black Barn, and the remains of the 16th century Warblington Castle – originally a fortified brick-built manor house surrounded by a moat.

Table 5.1: Name and area of Scheduled Monuments within the AONB

Name of Scheduled Monument	Description	Area within AONB (ha)
Black Barn, Warblington	18th century barn	0.04
Warblington Castle	Medieval manor ruin	0.03
Tournier Bury, Hayling Island, South Hayling	Iron Age hillfort	4.32
Fishbourne Roman site	Roman palace	4.75

Source: Historic England data (downloaded 2018)

Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 5.2: Heritage Designations

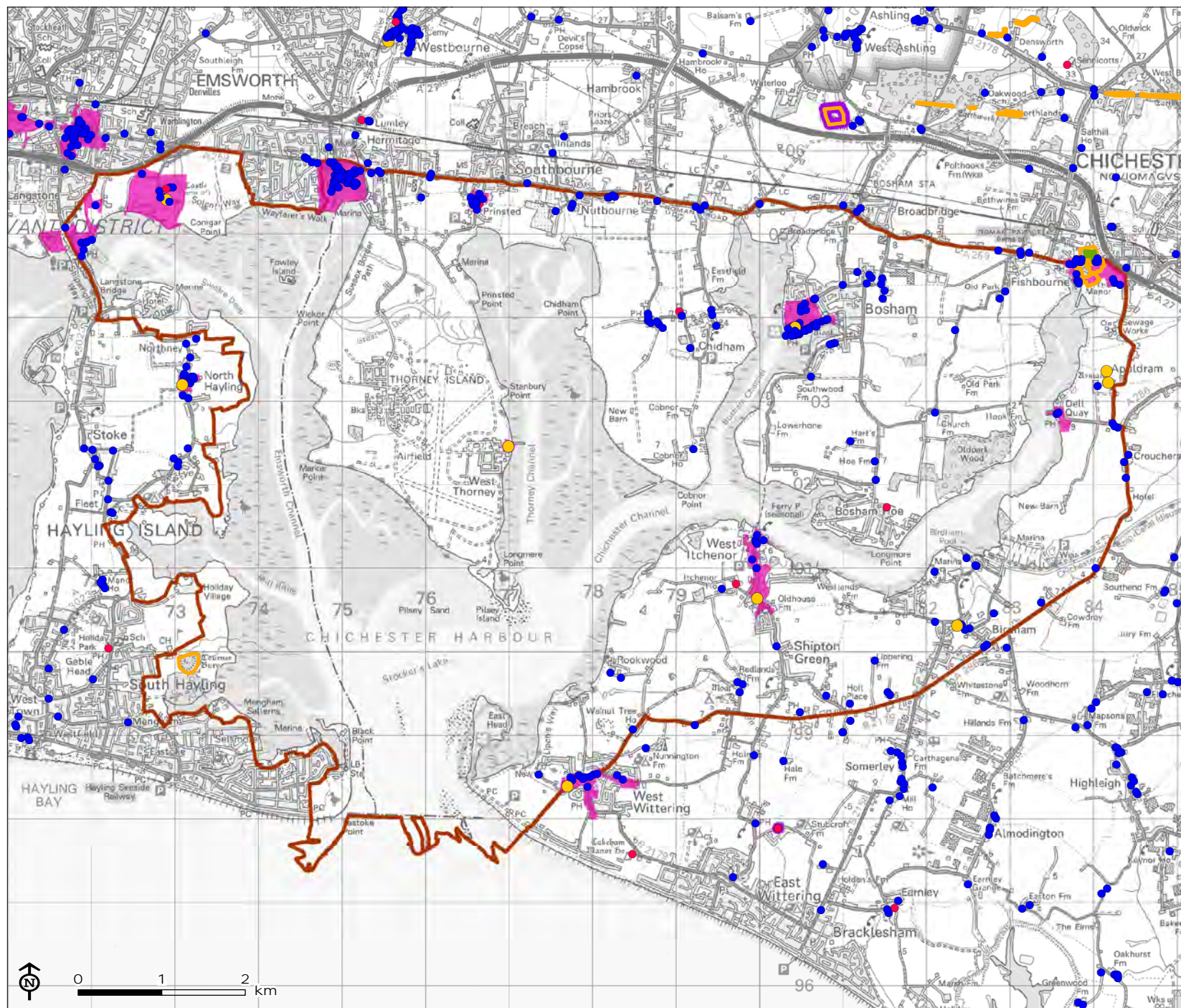
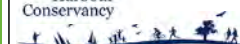
- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Conservation Area
- Registered Park and Garden
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Buildings
- Grade
- I
- II*
- II

Source: CDC, HBC, HE, NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000

LUC

Chichester
Harbour
Conservancy



Analysis of indicator: Number of Listed Buildings

- 5.20 There are a total of 271 Listed Buildings within the AONB. Seven are listed as Grade I, five as Grade II* and 259 as Grade II. Particular clusters are associated with the historic cores of the AONB's distinctive harbour side settlements, including within Conservation Areas at Emsworth, Warblington, Bosham and West Itchenor (see paragraph 3.39). These can be seen in the map of designated heritage assets at **Figure 5.2**.
- 5.21 No new buildings have been listed since the previous State of the AONB report in 2013.

Analysis of indicator: Number and location of locally important archaeological sites/features listed on the HER

- 5.22 **Figure 5.3** displays the sites contained within the Historic Environment Record (HER) in Havant (Hampshire HER) and Chichester (West Sussex HER). The number of entries for each category of HER is shown below in **Table 5.2**. There are three new categories of HER which were not used at the time of the 2013 Report; Place, Maritime and Parks and Gardens. There are a total of 1,000 entries in the HER within Chichester AONB.
- 5.23 Like for Listed Buildings, HER Buildings tend to be clustered around the historic settlements within the AONB, in particular Langstone, Emsworth, Bosham and Fishbourne. Note that in some cases, HER records overlap with other designations including Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings.
- 5.24 Thorney Island has a high concentration of HER Monuments, including a number from the Second World War. Most of the Maritime features are focused around Hayling Island. These include a number of wrecks and an aircraft crash site.

Table 5.2: Number of features in the AONB within each HER category

HER category	Number
Building	350
Ecosite	1
Findspot	168
Monument	460
Place	3
Maritime	15
Parks and Gardens	3

Source: West Sussex Historic Environment Record and Hampshire Historic Environment Record (2018 data)

Analysis of indicator: Condition of archaeological features

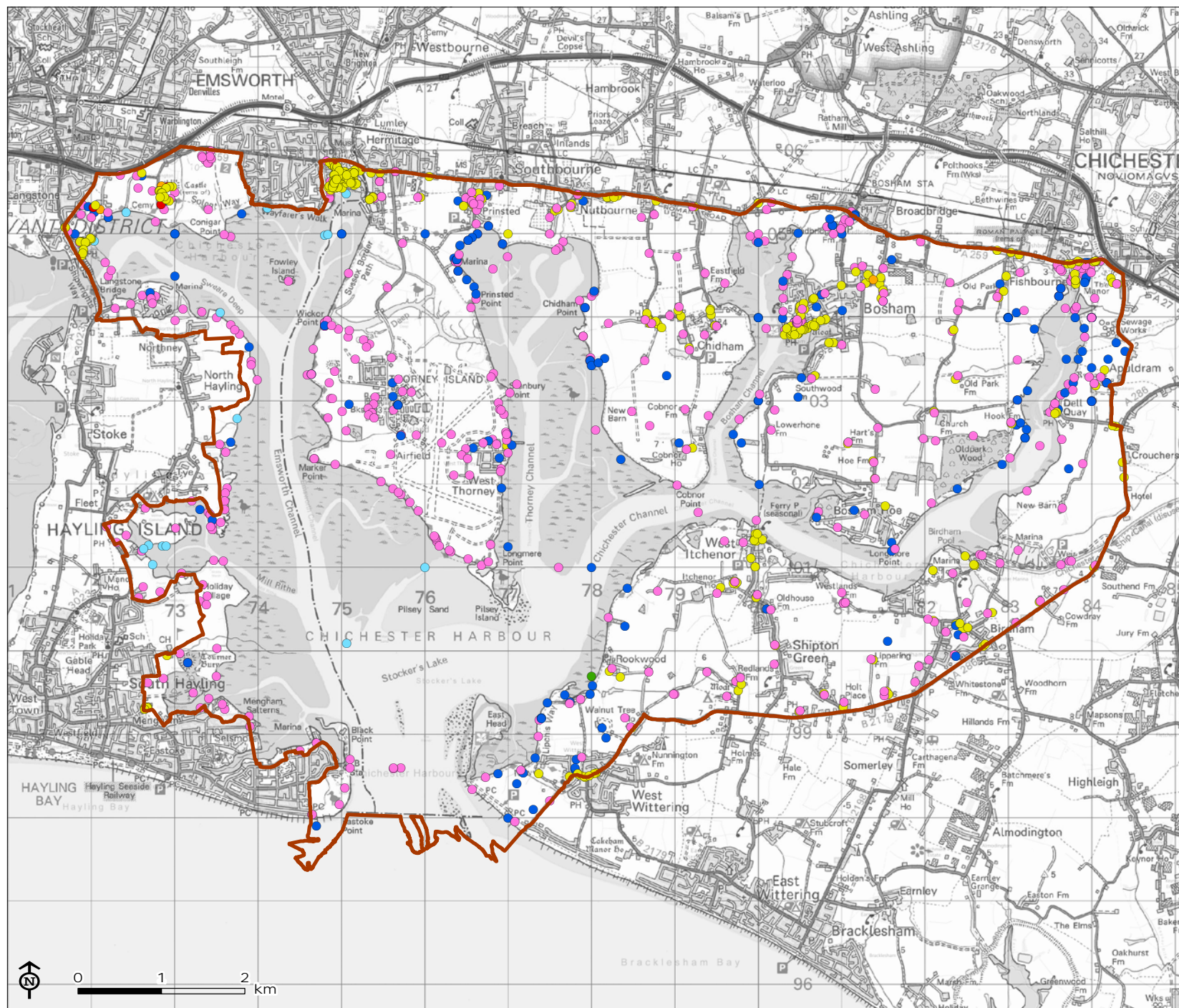
- 5.25 In the 2013 State of the AONB Report, this indicator was informed through an Archaeological Condition Assessment administered by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and carried out by volunteers from the Chichester and District Archaeology Society in 2012. An updated assessment is not available to inform this report.
- 5.26 The Grade I Listed 12th century Church of St Nicholas in West Thorney is on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register and has been assessed as being in poor condition. This structure has been added to the Register (since 2013) due to structural problems with the east wall to the chancel. A grant has been accepted to develop a project to address these issues under the Heritage Lottery Fund Grants for Places of Worship scheme, in addition to previous grant aided repairs undertaken on the tower, spire and main roofs. No other nationally designated heritage assets within the AONB are on the Register.

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Figure 5.3: Historic Environment Record Features

Chichester Harbour AONB HER

- Building
- Ecosite
- Findspot
- Monument
- Place
- Maritime
- Parks and gardens



Source: CDC, NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Analysis of indicator: Management of archaeological/historic features through agri-environment schemes

- 5.27 No archaeological or historic features are currently managed under specific Environmental Stewardship options. In 2013, 5.3 hectares of the AONB was being managed under option ED5: Management of archaeological features on grassland. It is likely the agreements that contained this management option have come to an end. Equivalent data for the new Countryside Stewardship Schemes was not available at the time of reporting.

Data sources

- Historic England GIS data (downloaded 2018) and Heritage at Risk Register
- Natural England Monitoring for Protected Landscapes (2018)
- Hampshire County Council Historic Environment Record (2018)
- West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (2018)

Recommendations for future monitoring

- 5.28 The national and local data should be collected every five years, with trends over time monitored and analysed from the original 2013 baseline.
- 5.29 Up-to-date information on the condition of locally recognised heritage features listed on the HER is not available, as the Archaeological Condition Assessment (2012) used a data source in 2013 has not been updated. The Conservancy should aim to work with interested partners (e.g. the Chichester and District Archaeology Society) to undertake condition monitoring of locally important heritage features. The Conservancy should also consider commissioning condition surveys of specific types of archaeological feature of key importance to the AONB – an example could be the landscape's characteristic tide mills and mill ponds. Surveys could involve volunteers from local communities.

Socio-economic profile of the AONB

Relevant key characteristics/special qualities

- Within 10km of the AONB boundary is a population of almost half a million people.
- The AONB is a working environment, made up of maritime businesses, farming, and a thriving visitor economy.

Summary headlines

- The population of the AONB has increased from 10,502 to 10,585 between 2011 and 2016.
- Levels of overall deprivation are generally amongst the lowest in England. The most deprived areas within the AONB are located at Hayling Island.
- Conversely, levels of deprivation against the 'Barriers to Housing and Services' indicator are among the most deprived in the country. This is likely to be a result of high property prices.
- The most common type of businesses in the AONB are professional, scientific and technical services (19%) and wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (16%).
- Manufacturing (17%), wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (16%) and service of accommodation and food (13%) employ the greatest number of people.
- Average property values are £392,897, 5.3% higher than those across the south east region, which average £373,100.

Indicators selected for this theme

5.30 The indicators selected for monitoring the socio-economic characteristics of the AONB are as follows:

- Population trends
- Patterns in employment and types of businesses
- Levels of deprivation
- Average property values and second home ownership

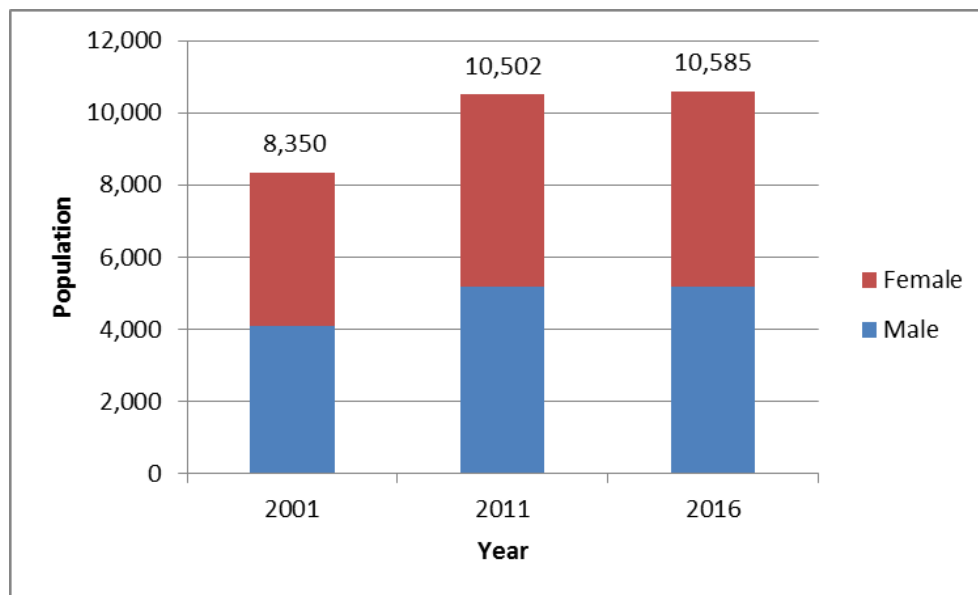
5.31 Please note that as much of the analysis for the above indicators is based on national Census Data (which is only updated every 10 years), some of the findings are unchanged from the 2013 State of the AONB report.

Analysis of indicator: Population trends

Total population size and gender split

5.32 According to ONS Population Estimates from Mid-2016, the current population of the AONB is 10,585. The split by gender is relatively equal at 49% male and 51% female, which is proportionally the same as the figures from the 2011 Census data. This is displayed in the chart below at **Figure 5.4**. Population has risen with each Census dataset although the rate has slowed with only a 0.8% increase between 2011 and 2016.

Figure 5.4: AONB population split by gender (2001-2016)



Source: ONS Population Estimates (2016)

Population density

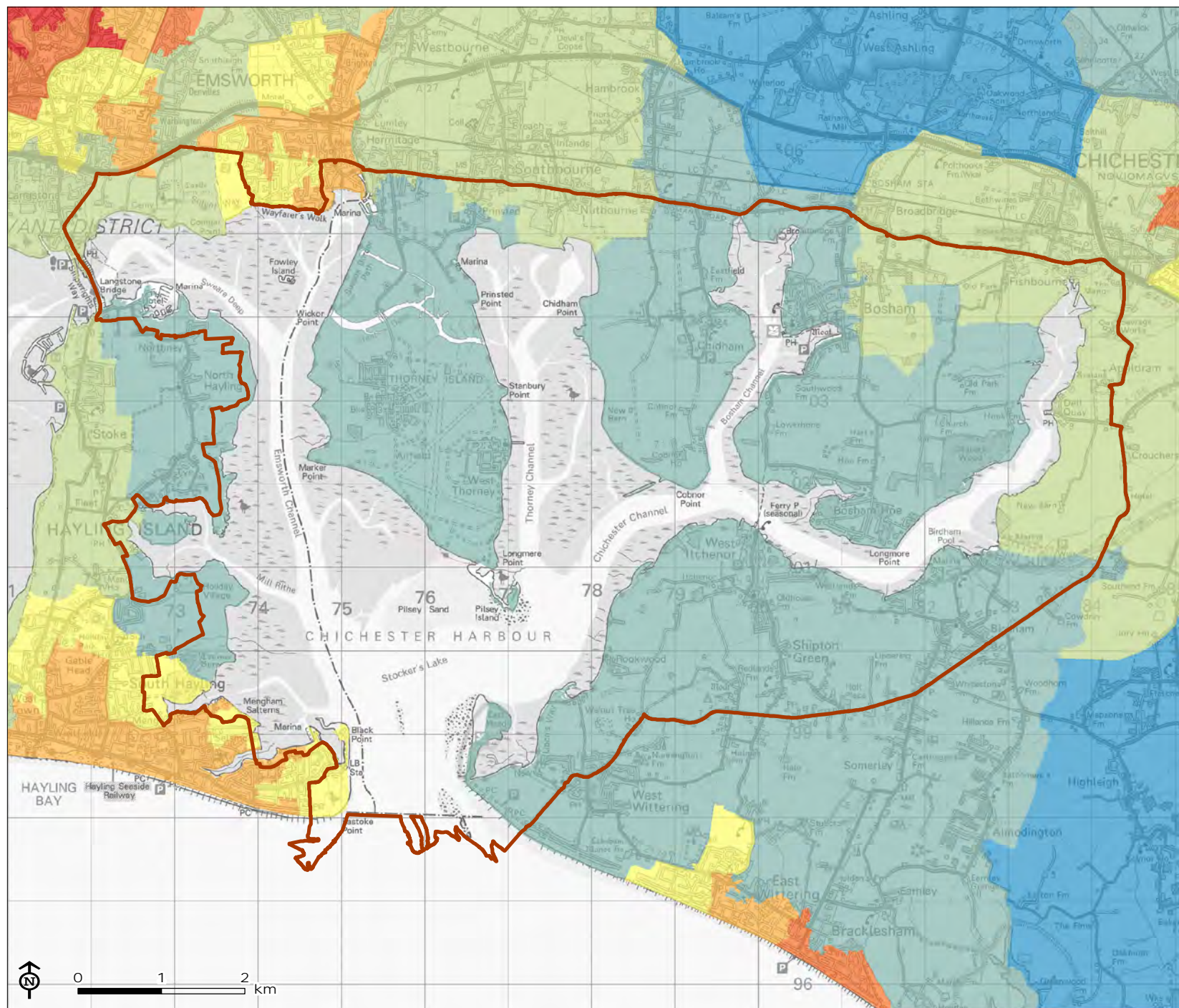
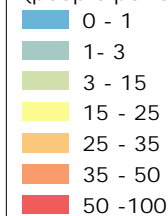
5.33 **Figure 5.5** shows the population density within the AONB, showing that the majority has a low density, with one to three people per square kilometre. As could be expected, the highest population densities are found around the larger settlements in Chichester Harbour, particularly Emsworth and South Hayling.

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Figure 5.5: Population Density

Chichester Harbour AONB

Population density
(people per square km)



Source: NE, ONS

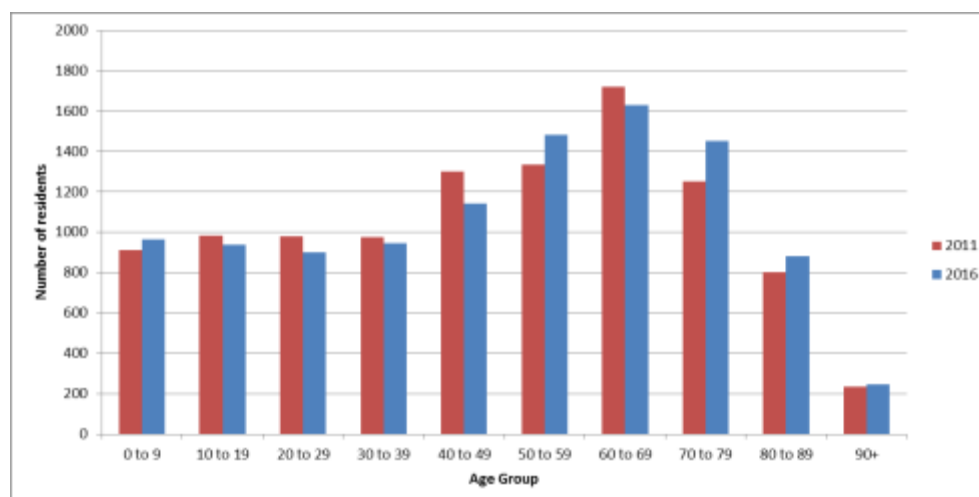
Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Age profile

- 5.34 The chart at **Figure 5.6** illustrates the number of people within each age bracket in the AONB. The age group with the greatest number of people is those aged 60 to 69, illustrating the continued trend towards an ageing population within the AONB. There are a relatively low number of those within age bracket 20 to 29, reflecting the likelihood that many young adults move for education or for job opportunities.

Figure 5.6: Age of AONB Residents (2016)



Source: ONS Population Estimates (2016)

- 5.35 The distribution of people in different age ranges has altered slightly, as can also be seen in **Figure 5.6**. Overall trends suggest an aging population, with substantially more people in the 70 plus age brackets in 2016 when compared to 2011 (with increases of 16% aged 70-79 and 10% aged 80-89). Conversely the number of people aged 30-39 and 40-49 has decreased.

Analysis of indicator: Patterns in employment and types of businesses

- 5.36 There are no figures for unemployment levels within the AONB, suggesting levels are very low or non-existent. Based on ONS data from 2010, employment levels were at 45%, which is low compared to the South East region as a whole (61%). However, the proportion of retired people within the AONB was higher (31% compared to 21%) which is likely to partially explain this trend.

Table 5.3: Employment status of the AONB's working age population (as at 2010)

Employment status	Number of people
Employed	3,500 (45%)
Unemployed	~
Retired	2,400 (31%)
Other Economically Inactive	~
Total Working Age Population	7,800

~ Data has been suppressed to avoid disclosure of information where the number of observations is low.
Source: Labour Force Survey (2010, Office for National Statistics)

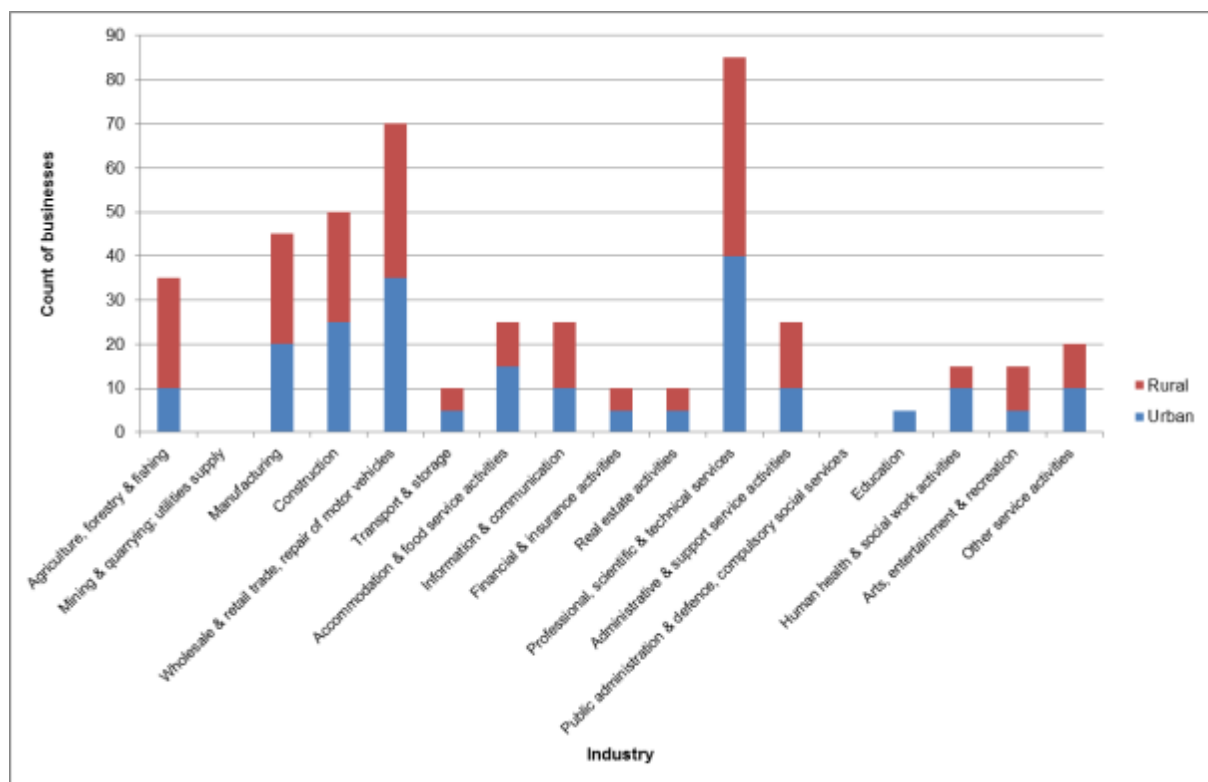
Types of businesses in the AONB

- 5.37 The information in this section is from the 2013 State of the AONB Report and is also based on data from 2010.
- 5.38 This showed that there were a total of 455 businesses in the AONB. As illustrated in **Figure 5.7**, the most common industries in the AONB in 2010 were professional, scientific and technical

services (19%) and wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (16%). These businesses showed a fairly equal divide between urban and rural areas, a pattern consistent with the rest of the South East. Primary and secondary industries such as agriculture (7%), manufacturing (9%) and construction (11%) were other common business types found in the AONB.

- 5.39 A further breakdown is provided in **Table 5.4** below (please note this does not include sectors where the numbers of employees are too low to report). Despite the most common industry being professional, scientific and technical services in 2010, this sector was not the major employer, employing only 11% of people in the AONB. Manufacturing (17%), wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles (16%) and service of accommodation and food (13%) are the main areas of employment for people working within the protected landscape.

Figure 5.7: Types of businesses within the AONB



Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, 2010/11, Enterprise level

Table 5.4: Business activity – total employment, split by industry

Employment status	Number of people
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	120 (6%)
Manufacturing	355 (17%)
Construction	135 (6%)
Wholesale & retail trade, repair of motor vehicles	335 (16%)
Accommodation & food service activities	270 (13%)
Information & communication	75 (4%)
Professional, scientific & technical services	240 (11%)
Administrative & support service activities	75 (4%)

Micro-businesses in the AONB

- 5.40 Micro businesses are very significant employers within the AONB, particularly when compared with the rest of the South East. In both areas, micro businesses account for around three-quarters of businesses, but they provide 45% of employment within the AONB, compared to 17% in the wider South East area. Interestingly, urban microbusinesses employ 23% more people than rural ones in the AONB, whilst in the South East rural microbusinesses employ more people. This information is from the previous State of the AONB Report as updated information is not available.

Table 5.5: Micro-businesses in the AONB

Analysis of micro-business make-up in the AONB	AONB total	Urban	Rural
Number of Micro Businesses	340	170	170
Percentage of businesses that are micro	75%	79%	71%
Total employment in Micro Businesses	960	530	430
Percentage of employment in Micro Businesses	45%	58%	35%

Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, 2010/11, Enterprise level.

Analysis of indicator: Levels of deprivation

- 5.41 **Figure 5.8** shows the overall levels of deprivation within Chichester Harbour AONB, as recorded in the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Compared to the IMD data from the 2013 report, there has been a reduction in the overall levels of deprivation within the AONB. The most deprived areas within the AONB continue to be focused around Hayling Island.
- 5.42 **Figure 5.9** shows the IMD for barrier to housing and services in the AONB. Compared to the overall IMD, this map illustrates relatively high levels of deprivation across the AONB. This outcome reflects the high house prices and limited accommodation in the area.

Average property values and second home ownership

- 5.43 Average property values in the AONB are £392,897, 5.3% higher than those across the south east region, which average £373,100.
- 5.44 It should be noted that this data has been obtained from postcode analysis and is not directly comparable with data used in the 2013 report, which was obtained from Land Registry sales data 2011. An urban/rural split is also not available for this data.
- 5.45 As stated in the 2013 State of the AONB Report, Chichester District and Havant Borough as a whole have a significant number of second home owners, totalling 10,649. Most second home owners are aged between 16 and 64 years old.

Data sources

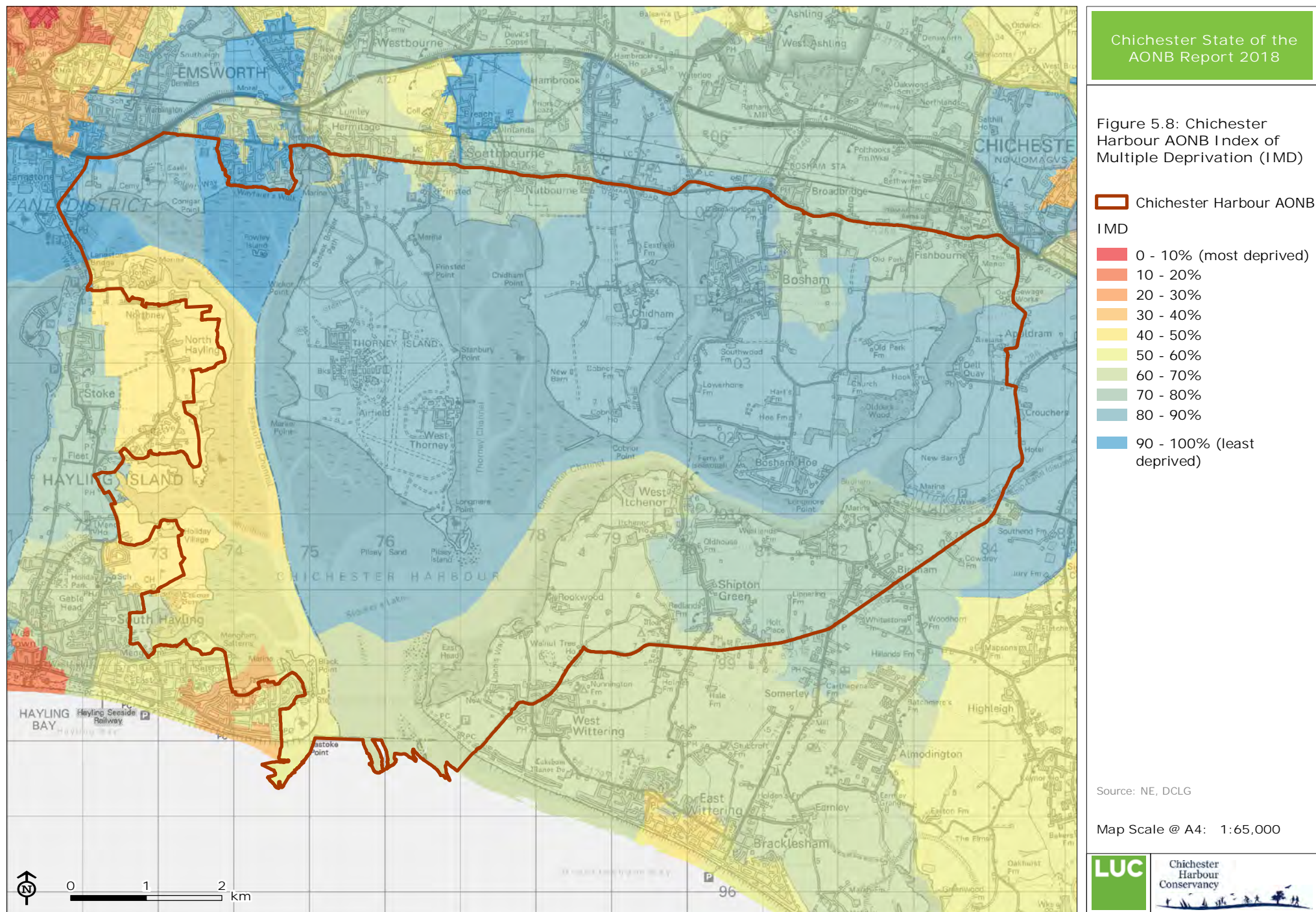
- Communities and Local Government Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015
- ONS Population Estimates (2016)
- ONS Census 2011
- Inter-Departmental Business Register, 2010/11
- Her Majesty's Land Registry data (2017/2018)

Recommendations for future monitoring

- 5.46 As the national census is only repeated on a 10-year basis, it has not been possible to update a number of indicators which are based on census data. It is envisaged that for the next State of the AONB Report, data from the 2021 census will be available and it will be possible to update these indicators and make direct comparisons to the data collected in 2011 and 2001.

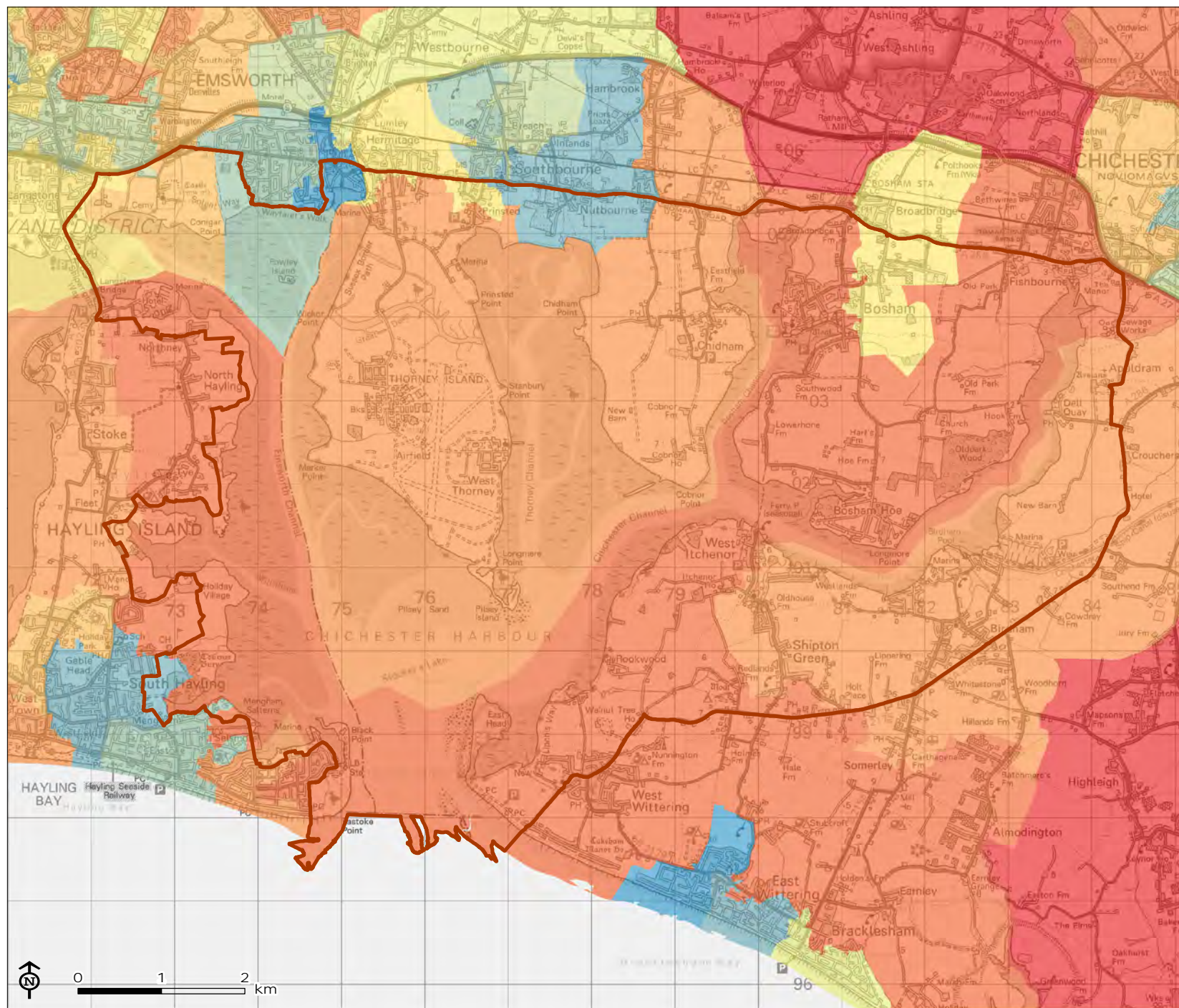
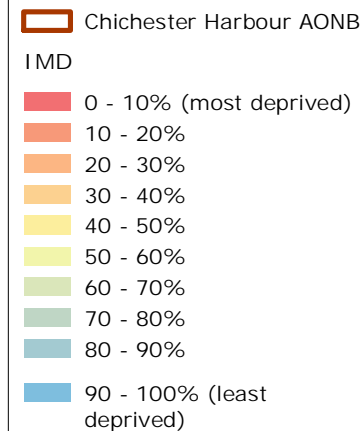
Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 5.8: Chichester Harbour AONB Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)



Chichester State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 5.9: Chichester Harbour AONB Barriers to Housing and Services
Deprivation Indicator



Source: NE, DCLG

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



6

Headline findings and next steps



6 Headline findings and next steps

Headline findings

- 6.1 A summary of headline findings for each of the themes/sub-themes will be included here, along with recommendations for future monitoring.

A landscape for habitats and wildlife

Agricultural Landscape Character

- The farmed land in the AONB is dominated by arable farming which comprises 78.7% of agricultural land. The area of land used for cereal cropping has increased to 2,202 hectares in 2016. While the total amount of farmland has increased, the total number of holdings has fallen to 30 (2016), demonstrating a trend towards larger holdings.
- The amount of land managed under agri-environment schemes (Environmental Stewardship or Countryside Stewardship) has declined by 64.8% from 1,892 hectares in 2013 to 666 hectares in 2018. This is because many of the Environmental Stewardship Schemes within the AONB have come to an end since the 2013 report and total coverage is now 427.2 hectares. There are two Countryside Stewardship Schemes within the AONB, covering a total area of 238.9 hectares.
- Livestock numbers in the AONB have declined significantly since 2009. The number of farms with grazing livestock has decreased from nine (2009) to three (2016). In depth analysis for other types of livestock is not possible as the number of all livestock except cattle is suppressed to prevent the identification of individual holdings.
- Cattle numbers increased significantly between 2009 and 2013, before dropping by 23.9% to 445 in 2016.
- 70% of farming land within the AONB is within Grades 1 (excellent) and 2 (very good), reflecting the highly fertile land which is suited to arable cropping and cereal growing.

Field patterns and boundaries

- Comparison of aerial photography from 2008 and 2016 reveals that there have been few changes to field patterns over this time period.
- No baseline information is available on the condition of field boundaries to monitor change against – this was not included in the 2013 report and no data has been gathered since.

Woodland cover and management

- Woodland covers a total of 158.9 hectares or 2.2% of the AONB. The majority of this woodland is broadleaved (89% or 142 hectares). The amount of young woodland within the AONB has increased since 2013 from 3.9 hectares to 8.6 hectares.
- 29% of woodland in the AONB is actively managed according to the Forestry Commission's *England Managed Woodland Headline Performance Indicator*. This percentage is among the lowest of AONBs in England. Nine hectares of woodland is being managed as part of Environmental Stewardship Schemes.

Settlement pattern and vernacular styles

- Census data from 2011 indicates that there are a total of 5,069 dwellings within the AONB. Approximately half of the housing stock comprises detached properties.
- There are ten Conservation Areas in the AONB, which cover a total of 136.1 hectares.
- The Conservancy is asked comment on around 300 planning applications per year. The majority of planning applications were for extensions and alterations. Since 2013, the Conservancy has averaged a 92% accordance rate with the Local Authorities.
- Since 2013, applications for renewable energy projects have dropped to less than 1% of applications, a reverse of the trends reported in 2013.

Perceptual qualities

- The AONB is a haven for tranquillity, particularly in the wider context of the developed coast of the South East region. These qualities decline on the fringes of the AONB, in close proximity to surrounding urban areas.
- Recent updates to national light pollution maps show that Chichester Harbour continues to be an area with valued dark night skies, particularly within the wider context of the heavily developed south coast. Three Dark Sky Discovery Sites have been designated, further demonstrating the value of AONB in this regard.

Biodiversity and geodiversity

- Nearly 50% of the AONB is internationally/nationally designated for its nature conservation importance. There have been no new nature conservation designations since the 2013 State of the AONB Report.
- Since 2013, overall BAP Priority habitat coverage has increased by 266 hectares to a total of 3,301.8 hectares, although it is likely this is due to more accurate mapped data. Mud flats cover the largest area; comprising 1,983 hectares (60% of all BAP Priority Habitat coverage within the AONB).
- The condition of several SSSI units within the AONB has declined over the past five years. The condition of the Nutborne Farm area of Chichester Harbour SSSI has improved due to a new management regime, going from 'unfavourable – no change' to 'unfavourable recovering'.
- Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit numbers have increased in recent years, while numbers of Dunlin have seen a sharp decrease.
- The most common fish species recorded within the AONB waters in 2016 are bass, goby, sand smelt and sprat.
- Common seals have been recorded breeding in the AONB for the first time, raising eight pups in 2015 and ten in 2016.
- Two SSSI units in the AONB are nationally designated for their geological importance. East Head is currently in 'Unfavourable –Recovering' condition and East of Langstone has not been assessed.

Water quality

- The designated bathing site at West Wittering has had 'Excellent' water quality since at least 2014.
- None of the eleven water quality testing areas within Chichester harbour have been non-compliant against the EU Bathing Water Directive since August 2016.

A landscape for leisure and recreation

Profile of recreational users and nature of visits

- The majority of those in the AONB who responded to the survey were over the age of 61 and more than two thirds of respondents were male.
- Most respondents (56%) live within 5 miles of the AONB. Most surveys were completed by day visitors (41%) and permanent residents (41%).
- Private motor vehicles were the most commonly used to travel to the harbour, used by 62% of respondents.
- 85% of people who completed the survey stated that they came to the AONB to appreciate the scenery and views. Other popular reasons for visiting included 'boating or sailing', 'visiting pubs or tea shops', and 'walking (without a dog)'.
- For non-residents, short, 1-2 day visits are the most common. The most frequent type of accommodation for non-residents was staying on a boat.
- Solar Heritage trips are the most frequently attended activity organised by the Conservancy.

Water-based activities and recreation

- Sailing cruisers (28%) and sailing dinghies (25%) are the most common types of boats based in Chichester Harbour. Canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and windsurfers are also popular (19%).
- The most popular reasons for people to sail in Chichester Harbour were due to it being close to home (18%), the landscape and scenery (17%) and the sailing conditions (15%).
- Most sailors (87%) thought that the sailing and boating facilities at Chichester Harbour were good. Less than 1% thought that the facilities were poor.
- Most sailors (89%) thought that Harbour Dues represented good value for money.
- The majority of water-based recreation recorded by Strava (an app used to track sporting activity) was focused around West Wittering, West Itchenor, South Hayling and Northney.

Access and rights of way

- The majority (81%) of people surveyed in 2018 were aware of the new England Coast Path National Trail which will pass through the AONB. Most people questioned were supportive of the concept of the trail, with 52% being 'fully supportive' and 26% being 'quite supportive'.
- There is less support for the actual route the England Coast Path will take around Chichester Harbour, primarily because many people are not aware of the route.

A landscape for communities and businesses

Education, engagement and involvement in the AONB

- The number of education sessions given per year is consistently over 10,000.
- Volunteers within the AONB have contributed approximately 2,000 hours of time on an annual basis.
- There are approximately 200 education events held by the Conservancy every year, mostly based out of their Education Centre at Dell Quay.
- Over 30,000 copies of the Chichester Harbour News and Guide are published and distributed annually.

Cultural Heritage

- There are four Scheduled Monuments, 271 Listed Buildings and 1,000 Historic Environment Record (HER) sites within the AONB. No new heritage assets have been designated in the AONB since the 2013 Report.
- The Grade I Listed Church of St Nicholas in West Thorney has been added to the Heritage at Risk Register since 2013, due its poor structural condition.

Socio-economic profile of the AONB

- The population of the AONB has increased from 10,502 to 10,585 between 2011 and 2016.
- Levels of overall deprivation are generally amongst the lowest in England. The most deprived areas within the AONB are located at Hayling Island.
- Conversely, levels of deprivation against the 'Barriers to Housing and Services' indicator are among the most deprived in the country. This is likely to be a result of high property prices.
- The most common type of businesses in the AONB are professional, scientific and technical services (19%) and wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (16%).
- Manufacturing (17%), wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (16%) and service of accommodation and food (13%) employ the greatest number of people.
- Average property values are £392,897, 5.3% higher than those across the south east region, which average £373,100.

Next steps

- 6.2 The dynamic and ever-changing character of the AONB landscape presents a challenge for its management, particularly in light of increasing environmental (including climate change), social and economic pressures. Its high scenic qualities and the recreational opportunities it provides are likely to continue to spur further demand for housing and other developments, pressure on recreational sites and further house price increases (in what is already one of the most expensive locations in the region) – with linked challenges with regard to affordable housing and farm diversification.
- 6.3 Changes in agricultural land management, spurred on by uncertain economic conditions (not least relating to Britain's withdrawal from the EU), a changing climate and an ageing population of farmers present a key challenge for the future. This will be particularly acute in the more marginal areas of the AONB, which are also the most significant in terms of nature conservation importance, where the viability of land management is already an issue.
- 6.4 This document sets out a series of recommendations for monitoring between the five-yearly State of the AONB reporting cycles. It is hoped that the Conservancy can work together with its strong network of volunteers, through its links to local communities and its programme of education events to involve local people in monitoring changes affecting the AONB. While so doing this will raise awareness of the special, dynamic character of Chichester Harbour's nationally designated landscapes and seascapes to conserve and strengthen them for future generations to enjoy.

Appendix 1

Visitor Survey Questions 2018

Question 1: How often do you visit Chichester Harbour?

- Daily
- A few times a week
- Once a month
- Once every 6 months
- Once a year

Question 2: What brings you to Chichester Harbour?

- I am visiting family
- I am on holiday
- I work here
- I am a part time resident (2nd home)
- Other (please specify)
- I am a day visitor from home, living outside the green boundary on the above map
- I am a permanent resident

Question 3: How do you usually travel to Chichester Harbour?

- By bicycle
- By boat
- By foot
- By private motor vehicle (car, motorbike, van, etc.)
- By public transport (bus, train)

Question 4: How far do you usually travel to get to Chichester Harbour?

- Less than 5 miles
- 5-10 miles
- 11-20 miles
- 21-40 miles
- 41 miles or more

Question 5: What activities do you enjoy doing in Chichester Harbour? Please tick as many answers as you like.

- Appreciating the scenery and views
- Boat launching
- Boating or sailing
- Canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and/or windsurfing
- Cycling
- Dog walking
- Driving to go sightseeing
- Fishing
- Jet skiing
- Studying nature/bird watching
- Swimming
- Visiting a historic site
- Visiting a tourist attraction
- Visiting a town or village
- Visiting a pub/tea shop
- Walking (or running) without a dog
- Other (please specify) others specified in responses;
Children, painting, beach, shooting, conservancy, Bosham, walking, cycling, harbour, work parties, club, Solar, gig rowing, activities, photography, taking photographs, boat, camping, bird watching, eating, volunteering, rubbish, running, business and wildfowling.

Question 6: How long do you usually stay for?

- 1 or 2 nights
- Up to a week
- Between a week and a fortnight
- More than 2 weeks
- Not applicable

Question 7: What type of accommodation do you usually stay in?

- B&B
- Caravan/camping
- Friends/family
- Hostel
- Hotel
- On a boat
- Self-catering (holiday cottage)
- Not applicable

Question 8: What especially attracts you to sail in Chichester Harbour? Please tick as many answers as you like.

- Availability of moorings
- Financially competitive
- It is close to the Solent
- It is close to home
- Opportunity to go fishing
- The landscape scenery
- The Sailing Club
- The sailing conditions
- The wildlife
- You purchased your boat here
- Not applicable - I'm not a sailor

Question 9: How do you rate the sailing and boating facilities in Chichester Harbour?

- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Not applicable- I am not a sailor

Question 10: What type(s) of vessel do you use? Please tick as many answers as you like.

- Canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboard, and/or windsurfer
- Gig rower
- Motor day boat
- Motor cruiser
- Sailing dinghy
- Sailing cruiser
- Not applicable
- Other (please specify) Others specified in responses;
Dayboat, solent, tender, launch, sailing, harbour, rib, sunbeam,
boat, vessel, racing, retired, rowing and solar Heritage.

Question 11: Do you think you get good value for money from Harbour Dues?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable- I do not sail

Question 12: How well do you think the Conservancy does the following?

- Activities (guided walks, events, boat trips, etc.)
- Communications (website, newsletters, advertising, etc.)
- Community engagement (talks, consultations, etc.)
- Conservation (site management, wildlife etc.)
- Education service (based at Dell Quay)
- Footpath and cycle way maintenance (signage, surface, etc.)
- Harbour Patrol (on the water)
- Mooring maintenance
- Navigation mark maintenance
- Planning service (pre-app advice, commenting on applications, etc.)
 - Very well
 - Quite well
 - Not very well
 - Don't know

Question 13: Do you attend any activities organised by the Conservancy, and if so, which ones? Please tick as many answers as you like or mark 'not applicable' if the question doesn't apply to you.

- Art, photography and craft
- Bird watching
- Canoe safaris
- Family fun events
- Guided walks
- History and archaeology
- Other nature and wildlife events
- Solar Heritage trips
- Not applicable - I do not attend any activities organised by the Conservancy

Question 14: Recreational disturbance is when human behaviour causes wildlife to temporarily move, adversely react, or to permanently relocate elsewhere. It is a recognised problem in Chichester Harbour, particularly when certain activities take place too close to our overwintering birds making them fly. If you have ever witnessed recreational disturbance in Chichester Harbour, what was the cause? Please tick as many answers as you like or mark 'not applicable' if the question doesn't apply to you.

- Aggravating one-off human behaviour (e.g. building works, partying, playing, setting off fireworks)
- Bait digging
- Canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and/or windsurfing
- Cycling
- Dog walking
- Fishing
- Jet skiing
- Sailing
- Shots from a gun (wildfowling, game shooting, etc.)
- Using a remote control aircraft or drone
- Walking (or running) without a dog
- Not applicable - I have never witnessed recreational disturbance

Question 15: Since 2016, Natural England have been speaking to local people about the new England Coast Path National Trail around Chichester Harbour. Which of these answers best describes your view on this national project?

- The concept of the England Coast Path
- The route it may take around Chichester Harbour
 - Fully supportive
 - Quite supportive with some concerns
 - Not supportive at all
 - Don't know

Question 16: Chichester Harbour has been awarded the following environmental designations. Please tick all the ones you are aware of.

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Dark Sky Discovery Sites
- Local Nature Reserves
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Natura 2000 Site
- Ramsar Site
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Not applicable - I am not aware of any of these designations

Question 17: Are you aware of the following local organisations and what they do? Tick as many answers as you like.

- Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the principal management body for the area
- Chichester Harbour Federation, representing the majority of Harbour users, Sailing Clubs, marine businesses, etc.
- The Friends of Chichester Harbour, a membership organisation for individuals and organisations
- Chichester Harbour Trust, set-up to acquire land thereby safeguarding it for future generations

Question 18: When thinking about Chichester Harbour, which THREE issues are the most important to you?

- Development pressure and its implications
- Flooding from severe weather
- Footpath erosion
- Future changes to regulations or funding
- Noise pollution
- Road traffic congestion
- Sea level rise
- Water pollution
- Other (please specify) others specified in responses;
Jet, public, houses, environment, silting, AONB, sailing, long term, access, climate change, water, motor, wildlife, foreshore, harbour, paths, dogs, excessive speed, boats, cyclists, erosion, maintaining, pollution, itchenor, waste, species, aircraft and sewage.

Question 19: Please state your age range.

- Under 16
- 16-25
- 26-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61 and over
- Prefer not to say

Please state your gender.

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify) others specified in responses;
Husband and wife