

Chichester Harbour **Site Management Plan** 2020-2030 **Ella Nore Spit and Shingle Bank**



Enjoying, Protecting, Enhancing



CHICHESTER
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CONSERVANCY

Chichester Harbour

Site Management Plan 2020-30

Ella Nore Spit and Shingle Bank

Ella Nore Spit and Shingle Bank is within Chichester Harbour AONB. It is a natural feature consisting of vegetated shingle and saltmarsh. The saltmarsh shows typical transition from mid-lower to mid-upper saltmarsh, with small unmodified creeks. The site is part of the wider SSSI, SPA, and SAC.

Historically, it is one of the few places in Chichester Harbour where little terns have nested during the summer, although in recent years the success rate has declined. Year-round, it is an important high tide roost for non-breeding waders and wildfowl, particularly for oystercatchers, dunlin, ringed plover and bar-tailed godwits.

Breeding and roosting birds are largely restricted to the northern end of the Spit. There are two Public Rights of Way near the site. Footpath 1 straddles the southern boundary and is a popular walking route. Footpath 28 is a short historic loop that crosses the saltmarsh and the Spit. Access along Footpath 28 is ill-advised since the path is difficult to traverse and walkers may erode the saltmarsh habitat. The nesting and roosting birds are also vulnerable to occasional disturbance from personal watercraft users (typically kayakers and paddle-boarders).

Winter storms annually re-shape and occasionally over-top the Spit, re-setting the successional state of the shingle.

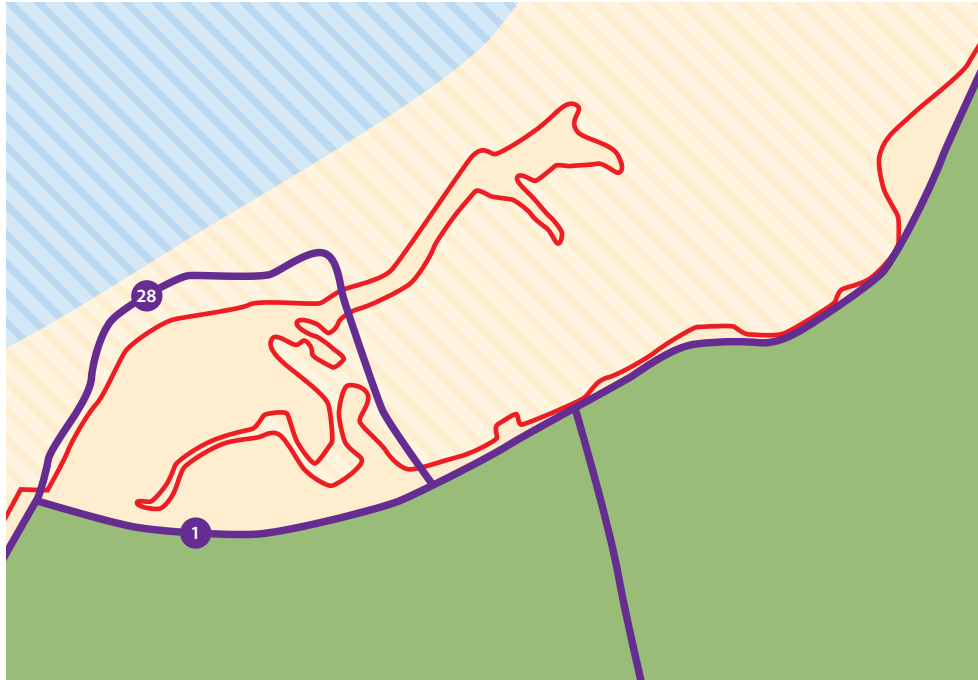
Cover: View looking north of Ella Nore Spit and Shingle Bank.



Address	Ellanore Road, West Wittering, PO20 8AN
Grid Reference	SZ776995
Size	5.25 hectares
Local Authority	Chichester District Council
Ward	The Witterings
Landowner	Chichester Harbour Trust (under lease)
Date Acquired	2011
Management	Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Designations	Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Unit 31 Special Protection Area (SPA) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Ramsar Site Bass Nursery Area

Location Maps

- The site boundary is outlined in red.
- Footpaths 1 and 28 are outlined in purple.



Management

There is one purpose for the management of the site:

- **To conserve and enhance nature.**

Public access to Ella Nore Spit and Shingle Bank is confined to the Public Rights of Way.

The overall aim of the Site Management Plan is for Ella Nore Spit and Shingle Bank to remain a naturally evolving vegetated shingle formation and saltmarsh suitable as a high tide roost for non-breeding water birds and a site for breeding terns and waders.

It is to be protected from human disturbance to ensure the important features of the site are maintained in-perpetuity.

Management will only be carried out by Chichester Harbour Conservancy assisted by the Friends of Chichester Harbour. Occasional small scale removal of coarse grass species may be carried out in the winter from the north-eastern end of the Spit to improve habitat for breeding waders and terns. A seasonal electric fence may be installed during the spring and summer months to prevent access by foxes. Buoyancy markers may also be deployed to deter disturbance from personal watercraft users. These measures will help to protect the nesting birds.

Vegetated Shingle and Saltmarsh

The vegetated shingle has formed a narrow spit, with transition to saltmarsh. Historically, terns have successfully nested here. There is some evidence of recreational pressure.

There is a low diversity of the vegetated shingle species. Only sea beet, *Beta vulgaris*, is abundant, with spear-leaved orache, *Atriplex prostrata*, sea campion, *Silene uniflora*, sea mayweed, *Tripleurospermum maritimum*, and sea kale, *Crambe maritima*, occasional.

On the saltmarsh, cordgrass, *Spartina*, is dominant within the range of mid upper/mid-lower saltmarsh. There is a good range of typical flowering plants including sea lavender, *Limonium vulgare*, golden-samphire, *Inula crithmoides* and thrift, *Armeria maritima*. Other species present, include sea-purslane, greater sea-spurrey and glasswort.



Monitoring and Survey

An annual survey to be carried out by the Conservancy's Ecologist to monitor the vegetated shingle and saltmarsh.

Monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts will be completed.

The Conservancy may deploy remote cameras as required to monitor breeding birds.

Access and Community Engagement

- Ella Nore Spit and Shingle Bank is in private ownership with a long-term lease to Chichester Harbour Trust.
- There are two Public Rights of Way: Footpath 1 straddles the southern boundary of the site; Footpath 28 cross the saltmarsh habitat and the Spit.
- Public access to Ella Nore Spit and Shingle Bank is restricted by a fence on the land side, and signage from the water side, for the benefit of personal watercraft users.
- The Conservancy will install and maintain signage.
- For safety and conservation reasons, during the course of this Site Management Plan the Conservancy will seek to revoke Footpath 28.



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