

# Useful Information

## Directions

All the walks were tested in 2013. Please note, however, that some footpaths may be diverted and buildings such as pubs may have changed their name since the walks were written. If you have any comments please send them to the Harbour Office to be considered for the next edition.

## Distances and Timings

All distances and timings are approximate.

## Maps

The maps provided are a guide and are not to scale. Please use OS Explorer Map 120 (Chichester).

## Map References

The reference given is for the start point of the walk.

## Public Transport

**Buses:** Stagecoach run most of the local buses. Timetable details are at [www.stagecoachbus.com/south](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/south) or telephone **0871 200 22 33** (10p per minute).

For the Selsey – Itchenor service see [www.compass-travel.co.uk](http://www.compass-travel.co.uk)

**Trains:** Timetable information is at [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or telephone **08457 48 49 50**.

## Stiles and Gates

Please note stiles are gradually being replaced with gates where appropriate. This may affect some of the walk directions and photos.

## Tides

Please note some paths are flooded at high tide. If you have misjudged the times, you usually only have to wait a short while before the path is clear enough to use. Tide times can be found at [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk) or from the Harbour Office; please note these are only a prediction and factors such as low pressure can make the tide higher than expected.

## Tourist Information

**Chichester:** [www.visitchichester.org](http://www.visitchichester.org) or telephone **01243 775888**.

**Hayling Island:** [www.visithavant.co.uk](http://www.visithavant.co.uk) or telephone **023 9246 7111**.

## Weather

Please check the weather before starting your walk and take the appropriate clothing. Weather forecasts can be found at [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk) or from the local tourist offices.

## Acknowledgements

All walks were written and photographed by Ali Beckett for Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Design work on the book was undertaken by Neil Pafford at Pafford Design. Funding was generously provided by the Friends of Chichester Harbour.

12

10km/6 miles

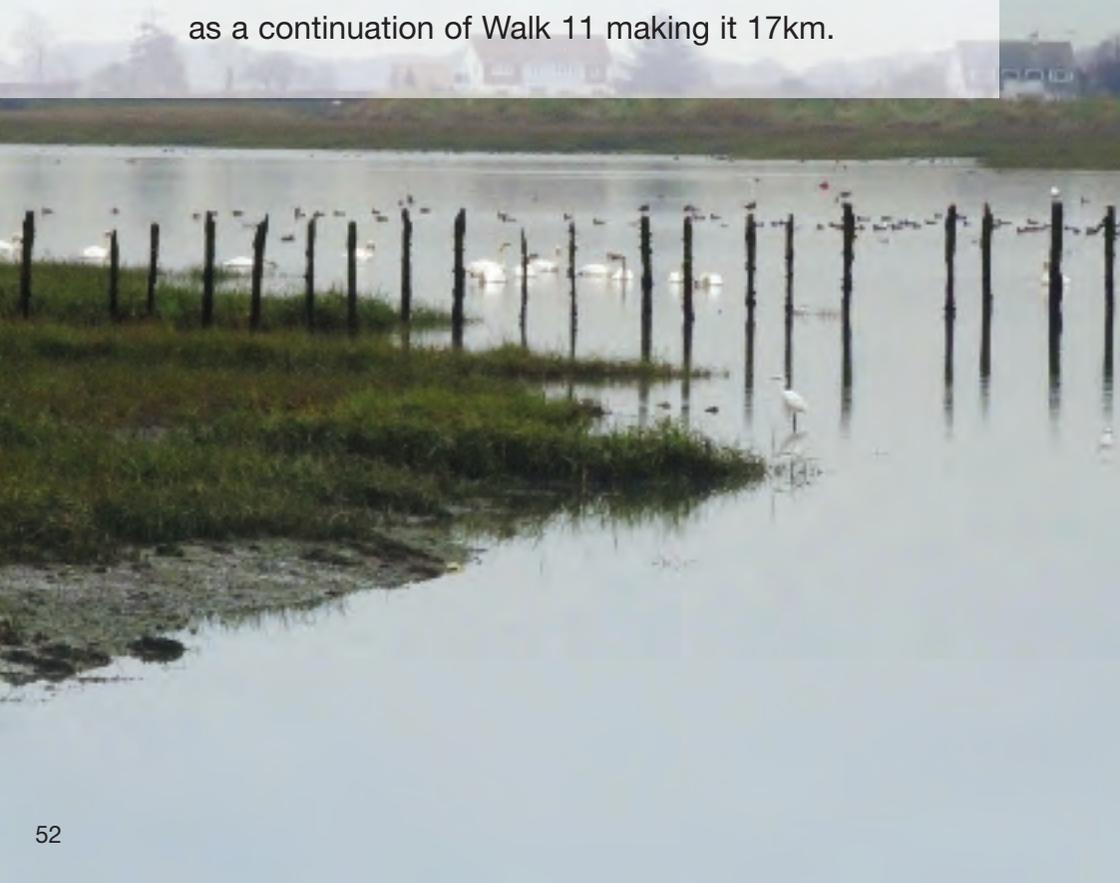
2.5 hours

Map Ref. SU 806 039 - Ordnance Survey Explorer 120

## Walk 12

# Across the Harbour

A one way walk across the top of the harbour channels giving fine views throughout. Ending in the vibrant village of Emsworth there are plenty of places for a welcome drink and a train or bus that will take you back to Bosham. Alternatively this walk can be done as a continuation of Walk 11 making it 17km.



## Start Point

Bosham pay & display car park.

## By Road

Turn south off the A259 towards Bosham. Follow the signs to the pay & display car park.

## By Bus

Service 56 between Chichester and Bosham. This is an hourly service running Monday to Saturdays but not on bank holidays. Please check for up to date details. The bus stop is in the car park. The 700 Coastliner between Emsworth and Chichester stops on the A259 at the White Swan. Walk south down Delling Lane and then right into Bosham Lane. Start the walk at the Millstream Hotel.

## By Rail

Bosham railway station is about a 20 minute walk from the start point. Walk south down Station Road, cross the A259 and continue as per the 700 Coastliner directions above. The Emsworth railway station is a 10 minute walk from the end point. Walk north from Emsworth Square, crossing the main road at the underpass and then walking up North Street to the station.

## Refreshments

Lots of pubs, restaurants and cafés in Emsworth.  
In Bosham there are two tearooms and a pub.

## Toilets

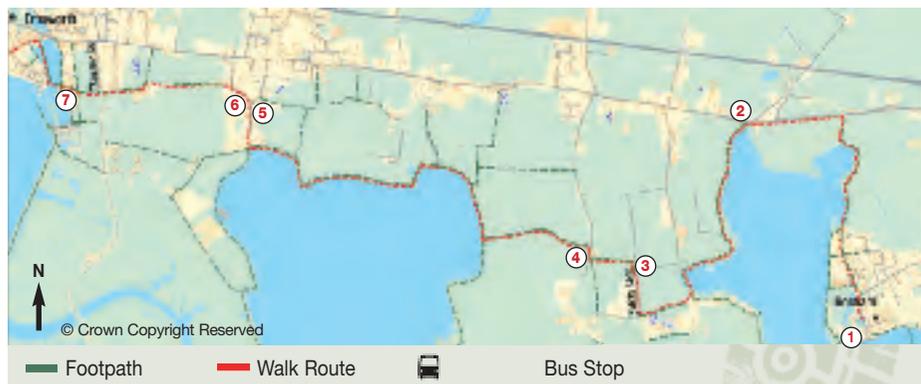
In Bosham car park and in Emsworth South Street car park.

## Tides

The paths are non-tidal.

## Walk Directions

From the car park walk to the road, Bosham Lane. Turn right. Just before the Millstream Hotel turn left into Moreton Road (1). On the corner of Windward Road take the footpath straight ahead between gardens. At the end of this path, continue ahead through the gap in the hedgerows and onto the gravel lane. Follow the footpath signs to reach the shoreline then bear right along the field edge. The path eventually reaches the top of the channel.





After a few minutes take the footpath to the right and walk up to the main road. Turn left. Take the first footpath to the left (2) to rejoin the shoreline (do not take the steps by Snowgoose).

The path continues around fields usually full of neat rows of vegetables. Go round onto the seawall path which then drops down onto the road.

Pass Harbour Way on your left and take the footpath on the right. This path crosses fields and passes large glasshouses, then goes down a gravel path to the road.

Turn right up Steels Lane and on the bend take the footpath straight ahead (3). Look out for the footpath on the left just before the 'Private Keep Out' sign. Follow the path across the fields. At the end of the field turn right to reach the road.

If you want a pub stop, at the road turn left for The Old House at Home or right for The Barleycorn.



To continue the walk, turn right at the road and then almost immediately take the footpath on the left by the row of Poplar trees (4). Follow the path across fields heading for the shoreline. Just before the shoreline, the path turns right and then shortly left to go up onto the seawall path. (Do not be tempted to shortcut across the muddy ditch.)

At the seawall path turn right and continue around the head of the channel until you come to an area with lots of benches. This is a good opportunity for a rest and to enjoy the view down the Thorney Channel.

Behind you is the Southbourne Sea Scouts building. Take the road to the right of it and walk up to the Square.

Turn left (5), on the bend of the road, take the footpath on the left (6), continue through the gate by the farmyard.



Keep following the footpath signs straight ahead over a number of footpath junctions. Cross straight over Thorney Road and continue on the path. When you reach the tarmac road follow it round to pick up the footpath **(7)** round the Slipper Mill Pond. (If the tide is very high then continue up Slipper Road to the main road. Turn left and then left again into Queen Street.)

Continue through the flats, then turn left into Queen Street. Follow the road into High Street to reach the village centre of Emsworth.



For the bus stop continue along High Street, bearing right. Go through the underpass and the bus stop is on the right. For the train station go through the underpass and continue up North Street.



## Extra Items of Interest

### Managing Chichester Harbour

Chichester Harbour was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1964. In 1971 the Conservancy was set up by Act of Parliament to manage both the harbour and the AONB. This makes the Conservancy a unique organisation within the UK. The task of managing the harbour to satisfy the needs of all users can be a tough challenge.

The sheltered waters of the harbour make it ideal for racing and day sailing. Over 10,000 boats use the harbour each year and the 17 sailing clubs have over 11,000 members. Other popular activities are angling, birdwatching, walking, wildfowling, painting and photography.

Chichester Harbour is nationally and internationally designated to recognise its importance for nature conservation. It is particularly significant for wintering wildfowl and waders, of which five species reach numbers which are internationally important. Farming, fishing, marine businesses and tourism are the main businesses within the AONB.

The Conservancy strives to maintain a balance between the various interest groups so that everyone, including wildlife can continue to enjoy the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### Birds of Chichester Harbour

Thousands of birds flock to Chichester Harbour each year. They come here because of the abundant source of food in the mudflats, saltmarsh and surrounding farmland. Around the harbour there is little pollution or disturbance making it an ideal site for birdlife.

Whatever time of year you are out you are sure to spot some birds. At low tide waders such as Curlew and Redshanks will be searching through the mud with their long beaks. Brent Geese and Wigeon eat plants such as Eelgrass that can be found growing in the mud. Fish-eating birds such as Terns and Cormorants will dive into the water for food whilst Herons and Little Egrets stand and fish in the shallows.

As the tide comes in and covers the mud, the birds take the opportunity to go elsewhere to rest and preen. Waders fly to nearby fields or onto area of high shingle. Ducks and Geese rest on the water surface or ashore.



Photo by Ludi Lochner