

# 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.

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6km/4 miles

2 hours

Map Ref. SU 799 013 - Ordnance Survey Explorer 120

## Walk 4

# Itchenor Circular

This is a 6km walk encircling the harbourside village of Itchenor (also known as West Itchenor). The walk passes through farmland, attractive housing and along the shoreline path with splendid views of the harbour.

## Start Point

Bus stop in The Street, Itchenor. This is opposite The Ship Inn and about 100m from the water's edge.

## By Road

From the A27 take the A286 south of Chichester towards the Witterings. After about 5 miles, at the small roundabout, continue straight on towards West Wittering. After half a mile take the right hand turn signposted Itchenor. Follow this road for about 2 miles until you see a sign on the left to a pay and display car park. From the car park turn right and then left. You will see the bus stop which is the start point of the walk.

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## By Bus

Service 150 from Bracklesham and Selsey arrives in Itchenor three times a week. Check the timetable with Compass Travel. Service 53 from Chichester, ask the driver to drop you at the Itchenor Crossroads. You can start the walk at Itchenor Park Farm ④ about 1 mile from the Crossroads bus stop

## Refreshments

The Ship Inn, Itchenor.

## Toilets

Located at the side of the Harbour Office.

## Tides

The shoreline path between point 6 and Itchenor occasionally floods if the tide is higher than 5m.

## Walk Directions

From the bus stop opposite the Ship Inn you are almost on the corner of Club Lane ①, walk down the lane to the shoreline.





At the shoreline turn right and continue along the path which eventually turns inland between a wall and a hedge before joining Spinney Lane. Turn left along Spinney Lane and walk to the end of the road. Just past a small turning area, take the footpath to your right through a gate (2).

To your right is an open field and on the left a small woodland which gives way to an open field with views to the water.

Walk to the field edge then turn right, almost back on yourself (3), following the footpath sign to walk along the field boundary. The hedge is on your left.

Keep following the path between two fields heading towards some farm buildings.

Pass the buildings and keep going straight ahead with a fence on your right and then over a plank bridge to the road.

At the road, turn right. Watch out for traffic on this section. You will pass the village pond on your left and a church on your right.



Shortly after the church take the road on your left signposted to Itchenor Park House and Farm (4).

After a short way turn right following the sign 'All Farm Traffic'. After a few yards the footpath goes behind the cobbled wall (5).

Continue along the path, over the stile and then turn left. Keep straight on along the concrete road passing a cricket field on your left.



## Extra Items of Interest

### Little Egrets

These bright white birds look like small herons. They only started coming here in the 1990s, previously they spent most of their time further south in Mediterranean countries. Chichester Harbour now has the second largest colony of Little Egrets in the UK with over 250 in 2006. In the harbour they can be seen on marshy fields near the shoreline as well as on the intertidal area.



Photo by George Spraggs

### Itchenor Park Farm

Look out for the red brick farm building. This was originally the carriage house to the country house called Itchenor Park. One of Charles II's descendants, Charles Lennox, Duke of Richmond, bought Itchenor Park and established a farm here. Evidence of this can be seen by the Royal coat of arms on two of the farm buildings. The first you may see is dated 1783 and the second, dated 1778, is closest to the farm wall. Charles II gave Itchenor House to one of his mistresses. Charles also had other, more nautical connections with Itchenor. His Royal Yacht, Fubs, (also reputed to be the nickname of his mistress), was based at Itchenor.

### Chichester Harbour Conservancy

At the end of the walk you will pass the Harbour Office, the base for Chichester Harbour Conservancy. The Conservancy was established in 1971. It is in the unique position of being both the harbour authority and responsible for managing the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The road becomes a mud track. Keep going until you see a squeeze gate in the fence on your right **6**.

This path takes you back to Itchenor. There are a number of benches on this path to rest and enjoy the views.

Along the path are ancient oak trees. This type of wooded shoreline is typical of Chichester Harbour. After a while on your right is a marshy area where you are likely to see Little Egrets.



**6**

You will come to a section of metalled path which has been laid for wheelchair users to have access to a harbour viewpoint.

Just before the boatyard, there is a footpath on the right signposted to The Car Park **7**. This will take you directly back to your car. Alternatively, continue straight ahead crossing the boatyard and take the small path ahead of you which will come out at Haines Boatyard and the Harbour Office. From here turn right to take you back to the start point.



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