

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 or telephone **0871 200 22 33** (10p per minute).

For the Selsey – Itchenor service see www.compass-travel.co.uk

Trains: Timetable information is at 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 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 or telephone **01243 775888**.

Hayling Island: 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 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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7.5km/4.5 miles

2 hours

Map Ref. SU 719 047 - Ordnance Survey Explorer 120

Walk 7

Northney Explorer

Having crossed the busy bridge onto Hayling Island you soon reach the tranquillity of Northney. The 12th century church with its pretty churchyard makes a pleasant midway resting spot before continuing through farmland for a short stretch along the shoreline.

Start Point

The Ship pub, Langstone PO9 1RD.

By Road

There is a free public car park at The Ship which is on the left just before the bridge onto Hayling Island.

By Bus

Service 30/31 from Havant to Hayling Island stops at The Ship.

Refreshments

The Ship and The Royal Oak, Langstone and Northney Farm Tea Rooms.

Toilets

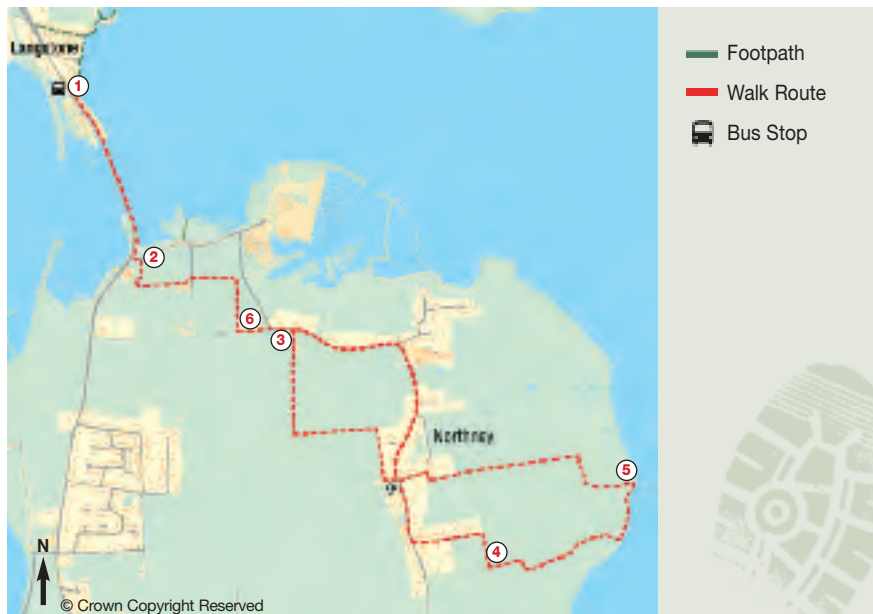
In the car park at Langstone.

Tides

The paths are non-tidal.

Walk Directions

Cross the bridge onto Hayling Island ^①. Although this is a busy and noisy start to the walk it is the only place with views across both Langstone and Chichester Harbours. Please watch out for cyclists on this section.





Turn left into Northney Road and then immediately right onto the footpath towards the petrol station. Keep alongside the hedge which brings you out at a small parking area. Look for the footpath on the left and go over the stile (2).

Keep straight ahead following the footpath as it turns left, eventually coming out at the road.

Turn right onto the road and watch out for traffic on this short stretch. You will soon see a footpath to the right (3). This is just before the recreation ground and opposite the village name sign.

Take this path, it turns left and then right before coming out at St Peters Church. There are a couple of benches here if you want a rest.

Continue straight across the churchyard and through a wooden gate. The path passes behind some houses and then reaches the road. Turn right and then shortly left into St Peters Avenue.



At the end of the Avenue, turn right and after a few minutes take the footpath on your left. (4)

Turn right and follow the field edge to the shoreline. This is private land opened to the public by the landowner. Please keep dogs under close control on this section.

At the shoreline take time to enjoy the views. To your right is the Harbour entrance, opposite is Thorney Island and to the left Emsworth backed by the South Downs.

Turn right along the path and when you reach the wooden fence across the path, turn left down the steps (5) leaving the Harbour behind you.

Continue ahead around the field edge, then through a wooden gate and onto a wide track. This comes out at Church Lane with its pretty cottages and houses. You will come out opposite the church.



Here you can either retrace your steps by walking to the far right of the church car park to pick up the footpath, to go to Northney Farm Tea Rooms, turn right and continue along the road. The tea rooms are on the right. Once you are refreshed continue along the road which bears left and becomes Northney Road.

When the road bends to the right, take the track straight ahead (6) and then retrace your steps back to Langstone.

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Extra Items of Interest

Church of St Peter's

The church of St Peter's was built by monks of the Abbey of Jumieges, Normandy, in 1140, close to the site of an Iron Age shrine, later the site of a Roman temple. Some of St Peter's interior pillars stand on roughly hewn stones taken from the Roman temple. The delightful church interior, little

changed since 1250, is best appreciated sitting quietly in

the back pew, some say in the peaceful presence of the ghost of a sailor, drowned whilst crossing the Wadeway in a storm. A 21st century extension, tacked on to the west door in the shape of an upturned boat, sits in surprising harmony with the remainder of the church. Princess Catherine Yourievsky is buried to the right of the path leading to the 13th century north door. An escapee from the Bolshevik revolution, she found peace in Northney for the latter part of her life.

Martin Rhodes



Coastal Grazing Marsh

The fields by the shoreline are an increasingly rare habitat – coastal grazing marsh. Historically grazing animals have been used to manage land close to the harbour. However, in recent years beef cattle numbers have been declining as the cost of production increases and the financial returns fall. This farm is in the 'Three Harbours Beef' Scheme. All the animals in the scheme are reared on either Hampshire or Sussex coastal plains. They are reared on their mother's milk and grass for the first six months and then spend two summers on the flower-rich grazing marshes.

Keeping the marshes grazed is essential for internationally important species of birds such as Lapwings, Redshank and Brent Geese. In addition it encourages the growth of Southern Marsh orchids. The beef is sold through local farmshops and direct to the public.

See www.threeharboursbeef.co.uk