

## 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.

5

7.5km/4.5 miles

2.5 hours

Map Ref. SZ 780 985 - Ordnance Survey Explorer 120

## Walk 5

# West Wittering to Itchenor Circular

This walk starts in the pretty village of West Wittering, following a little used lane down to the shoreline. From the shoreside footpath there are fine views across to Bosham and the South Downs. The second half of the walk passes through a farm and across fields to complete the circuit. The walk is 7.5km or if you take the extended route into Itchenor it is 8.5km.

## Start Point

Old House at Home pub, Pound Road, West Wittering PO20 8AD.

## By Road

Take the A286 towards Witterings and follow signs for West Wittering Beach. Park in Rookwood Road near the Old House at Home pub.

## By Bus

Service 53 Chichester to the Witterings. Bus stops on both sides of the road near the Old House at Home.

## Refreshments

Cafés and a pub at West Wittering or if you take the extended walk, The Ship Inn at Itchenor.

## Toilets

In Pound Road, West Wittering or at Itchenor for the extended walk.

## Tides

The path between points 2 and 3 floods if the tide is higher than 4.5m. Start the walk at least an hour before or after high tide.

## Walk Directions

From the Old House at Home in Rookwood Road, look for the large brown signs to West Wittering Beach on the corner of Pound Road. Turn into Pound Road and take the first right – Ellanore Lane (1). This is a little used lane which leads down to the shoreline.





At the end of the lane go through the gate **2** straight ahead of you and bear right onto the shoreline path.

After a while the path turns inland, then left through a small area of housing. Follow the footpath signs and then through a kissing gate **3** to take you back to the shoreline.

Continue along the path, looking out for the Spinnaker Tower at Portsmouth and further along Bosham Church in the distance. Eventually you will pass a pond on your right – Horse Pond. Keep going for a few more minutes, as you come into a wooded area, take the footpath to your right **4** through a squeeze gate.



## Extended Route

*If you want to continue into Itchenor then instead of turning right keep following the shoreline, crossing the boatyard and then coming out by the Harbour Office. Turn right up the road, passing The Ship Inn.*

*Continue up the road, watching out for traffic. As you approach the village hall, turn right through the white gates and then take the footpath immediately to your left. Continue the route from \*.*

At the end of the path, go through another squeeze gate and bear left up the track which becomes a concrete road.

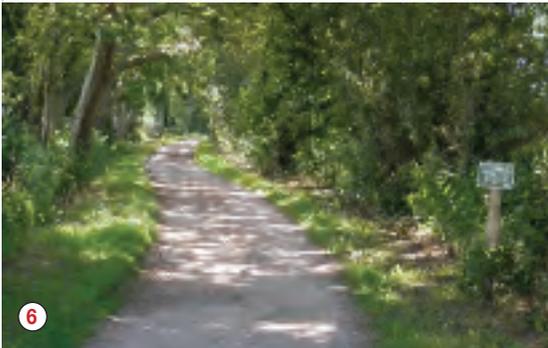


Just before you reach the farm buildings, turn right following the footpath over a stile, with a low cobbled barn on your left. The path then bears left through a gap in the wall. Continue on and then left at the crossroads.

*(\*Extended route – rejoin here)*

Just before the white gates turn right to pick up the footpath. If you reach the village hall you have gone too far.

Follow this path across fields until you reach the farm road. The path to your left is the Salterns Way cycle route.



Cross over the farm road and follow the footpath over two fields (5), this section can be very muddy, until you come out onto Sheepwash Lane (6). Turn right and keep going until you come to Rookwood Road. Note this section of Sheepwash Lane is shared with the Salterns Way cycle route.

At Rookwood Road turn right. If you are getting the bus back, you will shortly see bus stops on both sides of the road. If not continue along, taking care as it can be a busy road. You will pass some shops and the village hall and then you are back at your car.

## Extra Items of Interest

### Saltmarsh

If you are walking with the tide partially out you will see saltmarsh especially when you first come onto the shoreline from Ellanore Lane. Saltmarsh is found on the upper part of the intertidal area. It is made up of plants that can cope with being regularly under saltwater. Different types of plants grow at different levels. Nearer the deepwater channel there is Glasswort and Common Cordgrass. Towards the land, Saltmarsh Grass and the purple flowered Thrift and Sea Lavender grow. The saltmarsh is at its most colourful between June–August.

### Measured Half Mile

Walking along the shore look out for two tall posts in the water with a cross on top. These are one end of the 'measured half mile'. Out of season, motorboats can get permission to test their engines in this area of the harbour. When they line up the crosses on the two posts they are at the start of the half mile which finishes when they pass the second set of lined up posts.