

Chichester Harbour in Facts and Figures

The purpose of a State of the AONB Report, which is a separate and accompanying document to the Management Plan, is to collate the latest available facts and figures to assist with the development of policies. The first two Chichester Harbour AONB State of the AONB Reports were prepared and published by Land Use Consultants (LUC), firstly in 2013 and then updated in 2018. Both are available to download from Chichester Harbour Conservancy's website.

Biodiversity

- 51% of Chichester Harbour AONB is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), covering 3,965 hectares.
- There are 3 internationally Important Birds that use the Harbour: dunlin, dark-bellied brent geese and black-tailed godwit.
- There are 8 nationally Important Birds that use the Harbour: redshank, curlew, grey plover, bar-tailed godwit, ringed plover, little egret, red breasted merganser, and greenshank.
- There are approximately 40 harbour (common) seals and 10 grey seals.
- There are approximately 200 maritime taxa including invertebrates, algae and fish.

Business

- There are 455 businesses in Chichester Harbour.
- The most common type of businesses in the AONB are professional, scientific and technical services (19%) and wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (16%).
- Manufacturing (17%), wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (16%) and service of accommodation and food (13%) employ the greatest number of people.
- 7,800 people are within employment age, of which 45% (3,500) are employed, compared to 61% in the South East. This is explained by high number of retired people living in Chichester Harbour, 31%, compared to 21% in the South East.
- Primary and secondary industries such as agriculture (7%), manufacturing (9%) and construction (11%) are other common business types found in the Harbour.

- Micro businesses are very significant employers within the Harbour, particularly when compared with the rest of the South East. In both areas, micro businesses account for around 75% of businesses, but they provide 45% of employment within the Harbour compared to 17% in the wider South East area.
- 1.5 million people visit Chichester Harbour every year, of which over 500,000 visit the West Wittering Estate and/or East Head.
- In 2009 the total value of Chichester Harbour was estimated to be £2.78 billion, made-up from maritime businesses (£524 million), residential property (£2,151 million), tourism (£44 million), land values (£52 million) and recreation (£1.2 million).

Farming

- 70% of farming land within Chichester Harbour is within Grades 1 (excellent) and 2 (very good), reflecting the highly fertile land which is suited to arable cropping and cereal growing.
- The farmed land around Chichester Harbour is dominated by arable farming which comprises 78.7% of agricultural land. The area of land used for cereal cropping has increased to 2,202 hectares in 2016. While the total amount of farmland has increased, the total number of holdings has fallen in recent years, demonstrating a trend towards larger holdings.
- The amount of land managed under agri-environment schemes (Environmental Stewardship or Countryside Stewardship) has declined by 64.8% from 1,892 hectares in 2013 to 666 hectares in 2018. This is because many of the Environmental Stewardship Schemes within Chichester Harbour have come to an end.
- Livestock numbers have declined significantly since 2009. The number of farms with grazing livestock has decreased from nine (2009) to three (2016).

Historic Environment and Heritage Assets

- There are 4 Scheduled Monuments, at Fishbourne Roman Palace, Tournerbury Hillfort, Warblington Castle, and Black Barn.
- There are 271 Listed Buildings, comprising 7 Grade 1, 5 Grade 2* and 259 Grade 2.
- There are 1,000 Historic Environment Record (HER) sites.
- There are 10 Conservation Areas, all with up-to-date Conservation Character Area Appraisals.

Landscape Character

- The AONB covers 7,400 hectares (29 square miles) of which 41% is below mean high water springs
- There are 9 Landscape Character Types.
- There are 16 Landscape Character Areas.
- There are 86 kilometres (53 miles) of shoreline of which 24 kilometres (15 miles) are undefended and natural.
- According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 1,331 hectares of lowland may be at risk of flooding by 2100, 32% of Chichester Harbour.

Population and Housing

- The population of Chichester Harbour has increased from 10,502 to 10,585 between 2011 and 2016.
- There are 5,069 dwellings.
- Levels of overall deprivation are generally amongst the lowest in England.
- Conversely, levels of deprivation against the 'Barriers to Housing and Services' indicator are among the most deprived in the country. This is likely to be a result of high property prices.
- Average property values in Chichester Harbour are £392,897, 5.3% higher than those across the South East region, which average £373,100.
- Chichester District and Havant Borough as a whole have a significant number of second home owners, totalling 10,649.
- There has been no affordable housing built in Chichester Harbour for many years.

Public Rights of Way, Permissive Paths, Bridleways and Cycle Routes

- There are 91.5 kilometres of Public Rights of Way (56.5 miles).
- There are 12 kilometres of Permissive Paths (7.5 miles).
- There are 5 kilometres (3 miles) of the Solent Way in Chichester Harbour (total length is 60 miles, 97 kilometres).
- There are 12 kilometres of dedicated cycle route, the Salterns Way (7.5 miles).
- There is 1 kilometre of bridleway (0.6 of a mile).
- There are over 40 interpretation panels around Chichester Harbour.

Sailing & Boating

- There are 30 square kilometres of water (11.5 square miles).
- There are 27 kilometres of well-lit channels (17 miles).
- There are 10,500 registered vessels.
- There are 5,200 moorings and marina berths.
- There are 14 sailing clubs.
- Every year 25,000 people enjoy the Harbour's waters for racing, cruising and fishing.

Transport and Services

- All settlements within Chichester Harbour can access online grocery delivery.
- There are 5 schools, 11 churches, 2 GPs and 2 post offices.
- Chichester Harbour is generally well serviced with bus service along the main roads. Several rural roads, up to 2 miles from the main road, either do not have a bus route or it only operates on an occasional basis.

Trees and Woodlands

- Total woodland cover in the AONB is 158.9 hectares. The majority of woodland cover within the AONB is broadleaved (89%), which covers a total of 142 hectares. The amount of broadleaved woodland has remained approximately the same since 2013. However, young trees now comprise 6% of woodland cover; this figure has doubled in the last five years.
- Ancient and semi-natural woodland covers 71 hectares (or 1%) of Chichester Harbour. This has not changed since 2013.
- Between 2014 and 2017, Chichester Harbour Conservancy planted 8,585 trees, in partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour.

Water Quality

- The designated bathing site at West Wittering Beach has had an 'Excellent' water quality rating since 2014.
- Between 2016 and 2019, all of the 11 water quality testing areas within Chichester Harbour were compliant when measured against the EU Bathing Water Directive.