

Paddlesports Safety Checklist

- ✓ Buoyancy aid/Personal Flotation Device and suitable clothing.
- ✓ Do you know where you are going?
- ✓ Have you checked the weather, wind and tide?
- ✓ VHF radio or mobile phone.
- ✓ Have you told someone where you are going and when you will be back?



Where to paddle

Entry and exit

- Plan your route and choose a wildlife friendly entry and exit point. Use the online map to find the most wildlife friendly areas.
- Keep kit at the top of the beach when not in use. Mud, marsh and the water's edge are feeding areas for birds; shingle beaches are resting and nesting areas.
- Carry or float equipment in and out. Dragging equipment can damage habitats such as saltmarsh and seagrass beds as well as your craft.



Harbour Dues:

All vessels including kayaks, canoes and paddleboards must pay harbour dues. Register online to pay annually, or scan here for a daily payment.



Scan for interactive watersports map

Chichester Harbour Conservancy
The Harbour Office
Itchenor
Chichester
West Sussex PO20 7AW
01243 512301
www.conservancy.co.uk

001PS2604

A Guide to Paddlesports in Chichester Harbour

Wildlife Aware Watersports

www.conservancy.co.uk



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HARBOUR
CONSERVANCY



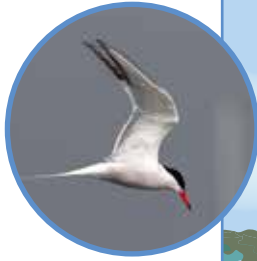
Produced in collaboration with Bird Aware Solent
www.birdaware.org/solent

Chichester Harbour – a Haven for Wildlife

With internationally important coastal birds and two species of seal, Chichester Harbour is a haven for wildlife. Follow these tips to avoid disturbance and be wildlife aware as you paddle.

Protect sensitive spaces:

- ✓ Islands, spits, mud and saltmarsh are vital habitats for our wildlife – avoid landing and keep your distance.
- ✓ Never land at a seal haul-out site.
- ✓ Avoid landing at Stakes Island, Pilsey Island, Ella Nore Spit and Gutner Point – these are highly sensitive bird resting and breeding sites.
- ✓ Stick to the main channels – small creeks are perfect hiding spots for wildlife sensitive to disturbance.



Tip for kayakers and canoers:

Keep a low paddle angle near wildlife



Watch out, wildlife about!

Seals need space to rest, give birth and moult. Birds need space to rest, feed and breed. Disturbing the wildlife uses vital energy supplies and affects their survival chances.

Keep your distance – avoid getting within 100m of hauled-out seals and flocks of feeding or resting birds.

Shhhhhh – stay wildlife-friendly by keeping quiet and avoiding sudden changes in direction.

Always allow seals an escape route – avoid boxing them in or blocking narrow channels.

If you see a seal in the water - slow down (no-wake) and keep a steady course with no sudden movements. Please don't steer towards it.



How do you know if you are disturbing a seal?



If it's looking directly at you, the seal's fight or flight response has been activated – remain quiet and move away.

If it's moving from a resting position the seal's stress levels have increased and it's already wasting precious energy – move away slowly and quietly.

If it is making for the water the seal is fleeing in panic – move away immediately.

Tip for paddleboarders:

Keep a low profile: get onto your knees near wildlife

