
Strategic Environmental
Assessment Report for
the Chichester Harbour
National Landscape
Management Plan 2025-
2030 incorporating the
Amenity Area and
Harbour.

Chichester Harbour
Conservancy

Craggatak Consulting
18th February 2026



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Acknowledgements

Craggatak Consulting prepared this report with the close support of staff from the Chichester Harbour Conservation Team.



Figure 1: Location of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape



Figure 2: Outline map of Chichester Harbour National Landscape

Strategic Environmental Assessment Non-Technical Summary

Prepared for the Chichester Harbour Conservancy by Craggatak Consulting, February 2026

Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

Designation of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape (NL) as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was in 1964. Although AONB is still the legal name of the designation, it was rebranded as a 'National Landscape' for most purposes in June 2020. It is a thriving recreational Harbour and National Landscape extending over 68 square kilometres, internationally recognised for rare habitats and protected species.

There are four relevant local authorities for the Chichester Harbour NL. They are Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council, Havant Borough Council and Chichester District Council. They have a legal duty to prepare and publish a Management Plan. Chichester Harbour Conservancy, as the principal management body, is the de facto National Landscape Committee for Chichester Harbour National Landscape, working on behalf of the local authorities. The duties and powers of Chichester Harbour Conservancy are set out and explained in the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act 1971. These form the basis of the four Policy Aims of the Management Plan that are addressed through 16 policies.

The purpose of this report

This report (known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report) describes the likely environmental effects of implementing the National Landscape Management Plan. The assessment helps to find, describe and evaluate any significant environmental effects arising from applying the Management Plan's policies. It highlights any significant beneficial effects and records any remaining negative effects considering any measures that will make them less harmful.

Scope of the assessment

There was a scoping process during November and December 2025 to help ensure the assessment covered the key environmental and sustainability issues relevant to the National Landscape and its setting. The main bodies with environmental responsibilities were engaged in the scoping process. These were Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency, and their responses helped to shape the assessment framework.

A review of other plans and programmes helped develop a wider understanding of the issues and priorities relevant to the Harbour, the Amenity Area and its setting. There is wide recognition of the importance of the natural, cultural and built environment of the area. The Management Plan seeks to address six key issues driving change within the National Landscape:

1. Climate change and sea-level rise - Climate change is happening, and its impacts are unavoidable. There is already experience of the impacts of a rapidly heating climate and

this threatens many of the defining characteristics and Special Qualities of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape.

2. Sea rising and coastal squeeze - Sea levels are rising. In a natural environment coastal habitats naturally migrate landwards to adapt to these changing conditions. But man-made constructions like sea walls stop this natural process. This means the habitats are squeezed or drowned out, resulting in the loss of valuable life-sustaining ecosystems including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, beaches, sand dunes and lagoons. This effect is known as coastal squeeze.
3. Nature's decline and the Ecological Crisis - Wildlife loss is well documented and understood. Climate change is threatening the loss of already diminished wildlife at an even greater scale and pace. There is a need to create a robust and resilient nature recovery network - a landscape rich in joined up and well managed habitats. The need for action is urgent to avoid a mass extinction event.
4. Water quality and marine pollution - The release of untreated sewage is the most-publicised of the pollution sources impacting Chichester Harbour. The outdated wastewater infrastructure means that rainwater drains from buildings and roads into wastewater treatment works alongside wastewater. During heavy rainfall the system becomes overwhelmed and untreated sewage is released into the harbour via Combined Storm Overflows (CSOs).
5. Development - Development maintains economic viability, sustains the population and supports those who manage the land. The National Landscape covers several administrative areas. There is a need to coordinate policy to make sure that it is consistent across the area. The allocation of land for new development within and adjacent to the area is not always preceded by a proper consideration of its effects on landscape character and visual amenity.
6. Recreation and enjoyment - The Chichester Harbour area has long been valued for its wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation and quiet enjoyment. Tourists have flocked here to 'take to the waters'

Environmental baseline information

Baseline environmental information describes the current state of the environment and predicts how the conditions would progress if there is no management plan in place. It also highlights any existing relevant environmental problems in the area. The assessment uses nine Environmental Objectives to stand for the local environmental issues. They test whether the Management Plan policies (or their absence) create adverse effects on the special qualities of the National Landscape.

Summary of the appraisal

The proposed policies are well-matched. There are no tensions or sensitivities arising from where two or more policies interact. The proposed policy cascade has a beneficial, and in parts a significantly beneficial, effect on the Environmental Objectives. There are no adverse effects on the Environmental Objectives so there is no need to consider measures to increase

the beneficial effects, but opportunities exist to do so. There is no recommendation for changing actions.

Monitoring

The regulations require monitoring measures for all the significant effects, both positive and negative, shown in the assessment. The assessment of the draft management plan has found no significant negative effects that are likely to arise from the implementation of management plan. Some significant positive effects are likely to arise from the implementation of the plan. The overall assessment of the current baseline data is that it is adequate. There are opportunities to strengthen it, but this is limited by the need to source and secure data on cultural heritage.

Consultation

The Scoping Report went out for consultation during November and December 2025. Both Historic England and Natural England said that they were happy with the comprehensive approach and that the right plans, policies and guidance were included. The Environment Agency chose not to comment.

The Environmental Report went out for consultation in January and February 2026. The Agencies all conform that they have no additional comments to make.

Conclusion

There is nothing in the management plan that will undermine the special qualities of Chichester Harbour. Implementation of the proposed Management Plan will have environmental and sustainability benefits for the National Landscape.

A full version of this version of the SEA Environmental Report is available from the Chichester Harbour Conservation Team.

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1. Background

- 1.1 This Environmental Report has been prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape (NL) Management Plan Review. A National Landscape is the everyday name for what is set out in legislation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 1.2 Both Historic England and Natural England stated that they were happy with the comprehensive approach and that the right plans, policies and guidance were included.
- 1.3 The Environment Agency chose not to comment on the draft Scoping Report. It has confidence that the approach follows the regulations.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment is a statutory requirement¹ to ensure that land-use plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects on the environment are the subject of a strategic assessment of options and alternative courses of action during plan preparation to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects. The plans and programmes that fall under this statutory requirement are those:
 - subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and
 - required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.
- 1.5 There is Government guidance for the SEA Directive² that sets out a process for determining ('screening') which plans and programmes require SEA. There is no need to complete an environmental assessment for plans that are a minor modification to a plan or programme already assessed. The Conservancy has concluded that SEA is prudent because the special qualities and Policy Aims were revised and updated in 2025.
- 1.6 The Conservancy requires a light-touch assessment, as part of the review and revision of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape Management Plan. This will follow the disciplines of the formal SA/SEA regulations but not the full process. There is to be no consideration of alternative policies or a testing of baseline data. But it does test the sustainability and logic of the emerging policy cascade.
- 1.7 The statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) have agreed the scope and level of detail required for this Environmental Report.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment". Transposed into law by Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the "SEA Regulations"), <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2004/sch1>

² ODPM, 2005: A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM, London

- 1.8.** To integrate fully the SEA process with the production of the Management Plan there is close collaboration with the review team. There are five stages to a Strategic Environmental Assessment:

Stage A: Scoping and consultation with Environmental Bodies

Stage B: Assessment of plan content and analysis of alternatives

Stage C: Preparation of an Environmental Report

Stage D: Consultation and consideration of the SEA findings by the decision maker; and

Stage E: Monitoring the performance of the plan against the SEA findings.

- 1.9.** This report supports Stages B and C. The SEA Scoping Report consultation responses have been considered and used to inform relevant sections of the SEA Environmental Report (this document).

Purpose of the Environmental Report

- 1.10.** This Environmental Report sets out the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Management Plan review. Its primary purpose is to identify, describe and evaluate any significant environmental effects arising from implementing the management plan, or any reasonable alternatives. Any significant beneficial effects are highlighted, as well as recording any residual negative effects once mitigating measures are considered.
- 1.11.** This assessment follows the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The methodology used follows the guidance set out in paragraph **1.4**.

Chichester Harbour National Landscape

- 1.12.** Designation of the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was in 1964 covering over 74km². It is a thriving recreational Harbour and National Landscape, internationally recognised for rare habitats and protected species.
- 1.13.** Within Chichester Harbour, there is a mosaic of different types of habitat, ranging from deep sea channels to woodland, supporting a vast array of wildlife from microorganisms and plankton to seals and birds. There are very few other Harbours of this size that support such diverse habitats.
- 1.14.** As well as being home to a wide variety of animals and mammals, this small pocket of West Sussex and Hampshire includes several hundred businesses and farms, as well as over 5,000 houses. It is home to 8,709 residents. The Harbour community is close knit and a significant number of the businesses are intrinsically linked to Harbour life – supporting the fishing, tourism and boating sectors.
- 1.15.** With over 500 historic sites, more than 5,000 moorings, almost 100km of public rights of way, 14 sailing clubs and 12,000 boats Chichester Harbour welcomes around 1.8 million visitors a year from across the UK and beyond. The most popular past time is walking,

but the dark night skies and general tranquillity make this area the perfect location for rest and relaxation.

1.16. Ten special qualities define what is distinctive and significant about Chichester Harbour:

- A natural harbour. The unique blend of land and sea with expanses of open water and winding sheltered inlets. Beneath the surface is a diversity of marine wildlife. The oysters, crabs, fish, seals and the seagrass meadows, are all part of the precious underwater ecosystem.
- The intertidal zone. Where the land meets the sea, the intertidal zone is exposed by the falling tide. Habitats include reedbeds, saltmarshes and mudflats, all vital to wildlife, forming a natural sea defence and capturing carbon. The shingle banks and sand dunes above mean high water complement the intertidal habitats.
- The wooded shoreline. Contributing to the natural harbour, the often treelined shore with fragments of ancient woodland naturally stabilises the coast and softens the visual impact of coastal development.
- The harbourside heritage. Picturesque harbourside settlements with historic buildings and monuments are built on a long history of human habitation. This rich cultural heritage was borne out of the intensive utilisation of the natural resources of the coastal zone.
- The accessible open spaces. Sheltered inlets and open water provide unrivalled opportunities for sailing, boating and paddle sports. The footpaths are close to coastal habitats, enabling educational opportunities for all ages to better understand the natural and cultural environment. Whether enjoyed on the water or on land, the harbour is important for health and wellbeing.
- The farmed landscape. With fertile, sheltered soils and a mild climate, the diverse patchwork of farmland is vital for food production, wildlife and long distance views.
- The flora and fauna. Plants and animals are essential for the health of the harbour. Flora includes trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, ferns, mosses, all shaped by the local climate, soil and topography. Fauna includes mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects and other invertebrates. Biodiversity adapts and evolves to suit this specific coastal environment.
- The internationally important birdlife. Vast numbers of wetland birds overwinter within the harbour, flocking across the skies and providing a dramatic soundscape. In the summer seabirds like terns and gulls breed here.
- The functioning water catchment. The river catchment connects to the harbour. Critical to the health of the harbour, these rivers and streams provide a connection with the wider landscape delivering valuable freshwater input to the estuary.
- The wildlife interconnectivity. The Strategic Wildlife Corridors to the north and north-east of Chichester Harbour National Landscape will become functioning habitats for a variety of species, including bats and water voles. New green corridors to the neighbouring harbours of Langstone to the west, and Pagham, to the east, are to be explored and strengthened to help facilitate the movement of wildlife.

Management Plan review

- 1.17.** Section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 establishes the primary purpose of AONB/NL designation as the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. Section 85 of the CROW Act (as amended by section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023) places a duty on all public bodies (other than a devolved Welsh authority) to 'seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty'. Under section 89, the relevant local

authorities must prepare and publish a Management Plan for each NL; and keep it under review. A plan under section 89 relating to an NL in England must further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of that area.

- 1.18. The Management Plan is a statutory document. It provides a policy framework that brings together partners to help them design, resource and implement the priorities set out specifically for the AONB/NL designation. It guides and informs all other plans and activities that may affect the NL so that they can contribute to the continued conservation and enhancement of the NL designation.
- 1.19. Chichester Harbour Conservancy was set up by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act 1971. The Act recognised the Harbour is a single estuary and brought together its management through a Statutory Advisory Committee, made-up of local stakeholders, and a Statutory Board, made-up of local councillors and representatives of the Statutory Advisory Committee. There are four relevant local authorities for the Chichester Harbour NL. They are Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council, Havant Borough Council and Chichester District Council.
- 1.20. Chichester Harbour Conservancy is a unique organisation. It is the only Statutory Harbour Authority with responsibilities around navigation, leisure, recreation and the conservation of nature. The duties and powers of Chichester Harbour Conservancy are set out and explained in the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act 1971. These form the basis of the Policy Aims of the Management Plan. Chichester Harbour Conservancy, as the principal management body, is the de facto National Landscape Committee for Chichester Harbour National Landscape.

Relationships with other assessments

Habitat Regulation Assessment

- 1.21. The EU Natura 2000 network provides ecological infrastructure for the protection of sites that are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the European Community. These sites, known as European sites, consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Offshore Marine Sites. It is common practice to treat RAMSAR sites (Internationally Important Wetlands) as if they were European sites. The guidance recommends taking into consideration any European site that may be affected by the implantation of the plan or programme. Initial analysis suggests that the following sites could be considered:
 - Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA / RAMSAR
 - Pagham Harbour SPA / RAMSAR
 - Portsmouth SPA / RAMSAR
 - Solent and Dorset Coast SPA
 - Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC
 - Solent and Southampton SPA / RAMSAR
 - Solent Maritime SAC
 - South Wight Maritime SAC

Marine Conservation Zone Assessment

1.22. There are three Marine Conservation Zones:

- Bembridge MCZ
- Selsey Bill and the Hounds MCZ
- Utopia MCZ

Relationship to other policies, plans and programmes

1.23. A key element in the SEA process is to review relevant international, national, regional and local policy guidance, plans and strategies, to:

- Ensure the Management Plan proposals and the SEA are consistent with and comply with the requirements of relevant plans and policies, especially where they refer to environmental priorities;
- Identify environmental objectives, key targets and indicators that should be reflected in the SEA;
- Provide evidence for the SEA rationale.

1.24. The selection criteria were:

- International documents having the status of a plan, policy or programme
- National documents having the status of a national strategy or a White Paper outlining intended policy
- Regional and local documents having the status of strategy or policy
- Other documents not having a statutory status but policy documents published by the statutory bodies

Appendix 2 list the documents under review. This review informs the SEA.

Legislation, Conventions and national advice

1.25. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a statutory landscape designation. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as modified by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, provides the primary legislation for the designation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. From the Acts, a particular set of objectives emerge³:

- The primary purpose of designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.
- In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.
- Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

³ Countryside Agency (2006), Guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans, CA221, Cheltenham, August 2006

- 1.26.** The duties and powers of Chichester Harbour Conservancy are set out and explained in the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act 1971 Section 21 -
- 1) It shall be the function of the Conservancy, subject to the provisions of this Act, to take such steps from time to time as to them seem meet for the conservancy, maintenance and improvement of –
 - a. The harbour, for the use of pleasure craft and such other vessels as may seek to use the same;
 - b. The amenity area, for the occupation of leisure and recreation and the conservation of nature;and the facilities (including, in relation to the harbour, navigational facilities) afforded respectively therein or in connection therewith.
 - 2) In the fulfilment of the function with which they are charged by subsection (1) of this section, the Conservancy shall have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside and of avoiding interference with fisheries.
- 1.27.** Ratification of the European Landscape Convention by the UK was in November 2006; and became binding on the 1 March 2007. The Convention aims to ensure the proper protection, management and planning of landscapes across Europe and aims to bring all countries up to the standard of the best.
- 1.28.** Following the passing of the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017, the UK left the European Union on the 31st January 2020 (there followed a 12-month transition period. The new Management Plan takes account of the changed relationship between the UK and the EU. The natural environment of the Chichester Harbour has benefited from some support from EU budgets, particularly for research and academic cooperation. That support is very likely to stop unless the UK government gives a clear undertaking to match any existing funding. There could be a period of inertia whilst building new resources and structures.
- 1.29.** In 2018, Defra launched its 25-year plan for the environment⁴ that set out the vision for a quarter-of-a century of action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. Defra undertook to refresh the plan every 5 years. The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP), published in January 2023 is the first five-year refresh of the government's 25-Year Environment Plan⁵. It is one of the core drivers of a Management Plan. Some of the goals and targets established in the EIP are reflected in a new Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. The framework includes 10 target indicators for the NL.
- 1.30.** A general election took place on Thursday 4 July 2024. The new secretary of state for the environment, food and rural affairs unveiled 5 core priorities for Defra:
- to clean up rivers, lakes and seas;
 - create a roadmap to move Britain to a zero-waste economy;

⁴ Defra (2018) *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*, HMSO

⁵ Defra (2023) *Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan*, HMSO

- to boost food security;
- to ensure nature's recovery and
- protect communities from the dangers of flooding.

1.31. The National Planning Policy Framework (2024) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how to apply them. Paragraph 189 says that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. It goes on to state that the conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas.

Local Authorities

- 1.32.** The NL lies within the bounds of four local authorities. They are Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council, Havant Borough Council and Chichester District Council. The County Councils have many responsibilities but two have a direct effect on the Chichester Harbour. As the minerals and waste authorities, they produce minerals and waste local plans. They also deal with local transport, highways and tourism. The District Councils must produce local plans to guide spatial change and growth within their areas. These plans set out the framework for future development in their area. They address needs and opportunities in relation to the economy, housing, community facilities and infrastructure; as well as provide a basis for safeguarding the environment (including the National Landscape), adapting to climate change and securing good design.
- 1.33.** The local authorities have established Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities as joint to work with stakeholder groups to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in its district. They seek to achieve sustainable inshore fisheries and secure the conservation objectives of the Marine Conservation Zones.

Government Agencies

- 1.34.** There is a range of Government Agencies whose actions impact upon the Chichester Harbour. Their strategies set high-level policy and generally cover the whole of the country. Any mention of a particular site, such as the Chichester Harbour, within these policies shows the high national importance of the topic.
- 1.35.** Natural England's purpose is to help conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. For 2025/26 it has six priorities:
- 1) Drive Nature recovery at a greater scale and faster pace than before, by supporting largescale projects and making it easier for landowners to get permissions for Nature-positive change.
 - 2) Tackle the root causes of Nature's decline, working with Defra partners to ensure cleaner air, clean and plentiful water, healthier soils and rich, productive seas.
 - 3) Partner with planners and developers on 'high nature; low carbon' houses, energy and transport infrastructure and introduce strategic solutions so development can also protect and restore Nature.

- 4) Support food security and sustainable farming, forestry and fishing through targeted advice and the right mix of public and private finance.
- 5) Shape better places for people to work and live by providing clear evidence and advice to our partners, using spatial plans for Nature as a framework for investment and joined up action.
- 6) Connect communities with Nature and create Nature close to people's homes, ensuring everyone gains from the health benefits Nature can bring.

It is directly responsible for the management of the national sites and prepares plans to ensure that these sites reach a favourable ecological condition. The Targets and Outcomes Framework establishes a core, shared set of indicators for Protected Landscapes. Natural England will supply data to Protected Landscapes on these indicators, undertaking a significant part of the data gathering and processing effort for Protected Landscapes. The Targets and Outcomes Framework replaces the Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes data, supplied by Natural England since 2012.

1.36. Historic England is the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. It does this by:

- championing historic places;
- identifying and protecting our heritage;
- supporting change;
- understanding historic places; and
- providing expertise at a local level.

1.37. It is the Environment Agency's duty to protect and improve the environment. In England it regulates major industry and waste, and the treatment of contaminated land. It handles water quality, resources and fisheries; inland river, estuary and harbour navigations; and conservation and ecology. It is also responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea.

1.38. The purpose of the Marine Management Organisation is to protect and enhance the marine environment and support UK economic growth by enabling sustainable marine activities and development. Delivery is through six core services:

- Enabling sustainable marine development
- Delivering sustainable fishing opportunities
- Protecting marine habitats and wildlife
- Administering marine support funds
- Providing regulatory support and assurance
- Supporting global marine protection.

2. Environmental and sustainability baseline information

Key local environmental trends

- 2.1. The SEA Directive requires detailed baseline information to be gathered as part of the assessment process. Information must be gathered on “relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan” and the “environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected” (Annex I (b) & (c)).
- 2.2. The baseline data is also required to highlight “any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)” (Annex I (c)).
- 2.3. The assessment of impacts of a plan must be based on the current state of the environment, the ‘baseline’. The source of baseline information will be in line with the Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations. We use Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) Reports, Natural England’s SSSI condition review⁶ and State of the Environment (South West) Report, Natural England’s National Chichester Harbour Character Area Profile and the evidence-base attached to the preparation of the local authority Local Plans. The baseline is, therefore, informed by factual data and professional judgement based on survey. The data is set out in Appendix 7.
- 2.4. The Scoping Report set out six key issues driving change within the National Landscape:
 7. Climate change and sea-level rise - Climate change is happening, and its impacts are unavoidable. There is already experience of the impacts of a rapidly heating climate and this threatens many of the defining characteristics and Special Qualities of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape.
 8. Sea rising and coastal squeeze - Sea levels are rising. In a natural environment coastal habitats naturally migrate landwards to adapt to these changing conditions. But man-made constructions like sea walls stop this natural process. This means the habitats are squeezed or drowned out, resulting in the loss of valuable life-sustaining ecosystems including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, beaches, sand dunes and lagoons. This effect is known as coastal squeeze.
 9. Nature’s decline and the Ecological Crisis - Wildlife loss is well documented and understood. Climate change is threatening the loss of already diminished wildlife at an even greater scale and pace. There is a need to create a robust and resilient nature recovery network – a landscape rich in joined up and well managed habitats. The need for action is urgent to avoid a mass extinction event.

⁶ Bardsley, L., Brooksbank, J., Giacomelli G., Marlow, A., and Webster E. 2020. Review of Chichester Harbour sites: intertidal, subtidal and bird features. Natural England Research Report, Number 090.

10. **Water quality and marine pollution** - The release of untreated sewage is the most-publicised of the pollution sources impacting Chichester Harbour. The outdated wastewater infrastructure means that rainwater drains from buildings and roads into wastewater treatment works alongside wastewater. During heavy rainfall the system becomes overwhelmed and untreated sewage is released into the harbour via Combined Storm Overflows (CSOs).
11. **Development** - Development maintains economic viability, sustains the population and supports those who manage the land. The National Landscape covers several administrative areas. There is a need to coordinate policy to make sure that it is consistent across the area. The allocation of land for new development within and adjacent to the area is not always preceded by a proper consideration of its effects on landscape character and visual amenity.
12. **Recreation and enjoyment** - The Chichester Harbour area has long been valued for its wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation and quiet enjoyment. Tourists have flocked here to 'take to the waters'

The key issues associated with the environmental trends within the Harbour and the likely outcomes if no action is taken are shown in Appendix 3.

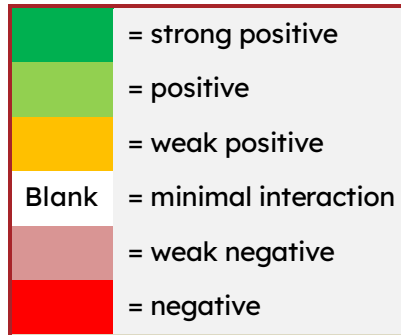
Environmental appraisal framework

- 2.5. The Natural England Guidance sets out a generic list of SEA Objectives. For the SEA Assessment, we use 9 SEA Environmental Objectives. These ensure that the Objectives and accompanying issues and criteria are appropriate for this SEA. Appendix 4 presents the SEA Environmental Objectives, complete with key sustainability issues arising from the scoping exercise. The key issues will help ensure that the SEA is as locally specific as possible.
- 2.6. We also set out indicators that link the SEA Objectives to data and provide the basis for monitoring. The Scoping Report sets out 32 Key Indicators thought to be useful when undertaking the SEA assessment. Monitoring also occurs through other programmes and we show additional indicators for which data may be available.

3. Environmental assessment

Methodology

- 3.1 Step 1 is to consider the Management Plan draft text and test the compatibility of its policies and objectives. The intent is to identify potential tensions or sensitivities where two or more interventions interact. We collect the findings in a **Compatibility Matrix** and summarise them in a chart.
- 3.2 Using professional judgement, each relationship is plotted as:



A commentary develops the findings to take account of the varying environmental sensitivities of the different topic areas. The consideration of the compatibility of the vision for the NL and the defined attributes of the site is a part of this stage. We will express this as a **Policy Cascade** supported by the commentary.

- 3.3 Step 2 will check each objective against the full range of SEA Objectives, as identified in the SEA Scoping Report. The intent is to measure the significance of the effect in terms of:
- Beneficial or adverse effects;
 - Magnitude of the effects;
 - Direct and indirect effects;
 - Cumulative effects; and
 - Reversible or irreversible effects.
- 3.4 The findings will emerge in a **Consistency Matrix** for each objective area and summary tables and charts present the combined effects of the objectives and their policies. A plot of each relationship will use the same discipline as for the Compatibility Matrix.
- 3.5 Finally, we draw and present our **Conclusions**.

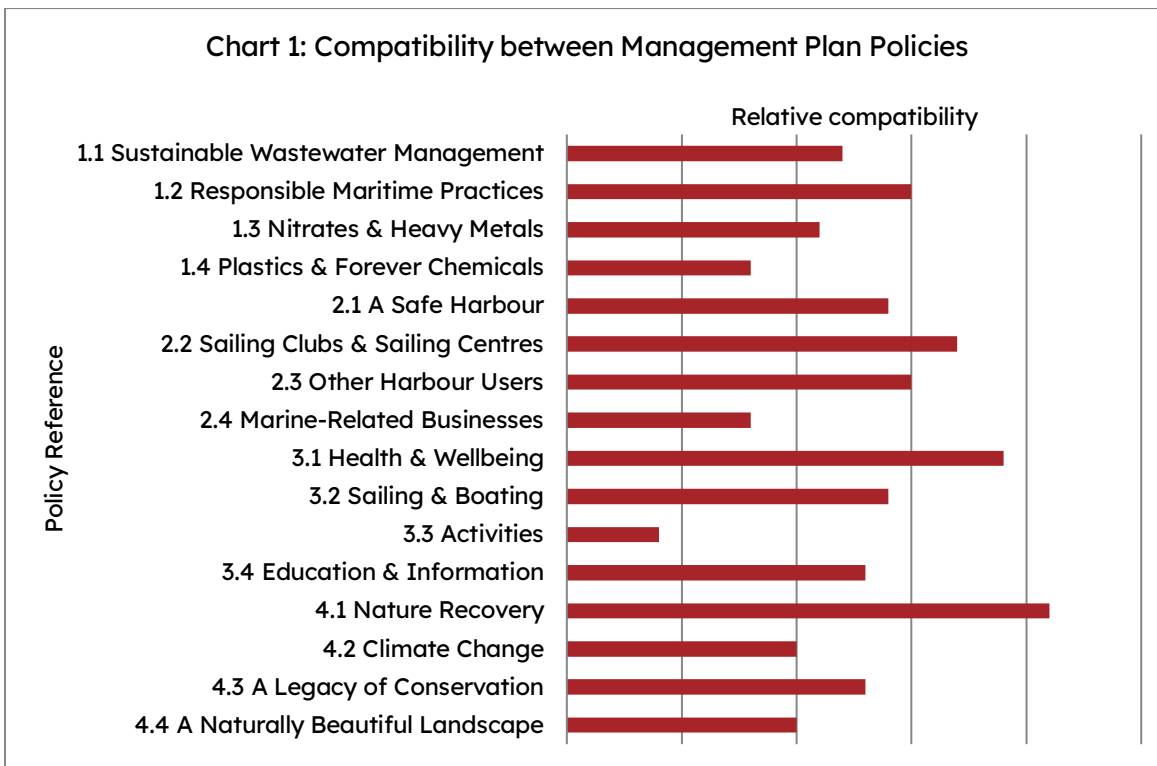
Compatibility between Management Plan policies

- 3.6 The first task was to check each policy of the Management Plan against each other in **Compatibility Matrix** to see whether there were any potential tensions or sensitivities arising where two or more interact. The full policy cascade is set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.7 The findings are set out in Table 1. The policies run both horizontally and vertically, so each interaction appears twice (appearing either side of the diagonal grey band). The grey squares are where each separate policy meets and are not a part of the assessment.

Table 1: Compatibility between Management Plan Policies

Policy	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	
1.1 Sustainable Wastewater Management	Grey	Green	Green	White	Yellow	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Green	White	White	White
1.2 Responsible Maritime Practices	Green	Grey	White	White	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	White	White	White	White	Green	Green	White	White	White
1.3 Nitrates & Heavy Metals	Green	White	Grey	White	Yellow	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Green	Green	White	White	Green
1.4 Plastics & Forever Chemicals	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Green	Yellow	White	White	White	White	White	Green	Green	White	White	White
2.1 A Safe Harbour	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Green	Green	Yellow	White	Green	White	White	Yellow	White	White	White	White
2.2 Sailing Clubs & Sailing Centres	Green	Green	White	White	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
2.3 Other Harbour Users	White	Green	White	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	Green
2.4 Marine-Related Businesses	White	Yellow	White	White	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	White	Green	White	White	White	White	White	Green	White
3.1 Health & Wellbeing	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	White	Green	Green	Green	White	Grey	Green	Green	White	Green	Yellow	Green	White	White
3.2 Sailing & Boating	White	White	White	White	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
3.3 Activities	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Green	White	White	White	Yellow	White	White	White	White
3.4 Education & Information	White	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	White	White	White	Yellow	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green
4.1 Nature Recovery	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	Green	Green	White	White	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4.2 Climate Change	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Yellow	Yellow	White	White	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4.3 A Legacy of Conservation	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Green	Green	White	White	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4.4 A Naturally Beautiful Landscape	White	White	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey

- 3.8. No negative relationships are shown; no policy works against any other. Squares close to the grey band represent policies that lie together in the plan. There are many minimal interactions (white squares). This is not surprising as the policies are generally quite specific in their intent. There is very little duplication of actions. However, there is a large cluster of green in the bottom right-hand corner of the table. This suggests that there are strong interactions between the nature conservation suite of policies.
- 3.9. It is important to consider the strong positive relationships. These are what will focus the plan. This is clearer in Chart 1; a chart showing the indicative strengths of each policy.



- 3.10. No policies work in isolation. The policies with the strongest positive relationships with other policies are 4.1 Nature Recovery (this supports Defra's call for national landscape management plans to give priority to nature recovery⁷), 3.1 Health & Wellbeing, and 2.2 Sailing Clubs & Sailing Centres.
- 3.11. The policy with the weakest relationships with other policies is 3.3 Activities. This policy relates to terrestrial activities and is very narrow in intent. Two other policies show few interactions with the other policies. These are 1.4 Plastics & Forever Chemicals and 2.4 Marine-Related Businesses. Again, these are narrowly defined policies.

Findings

- 3.12. The findings are that there is compatibility between all the policies, there is no need to consider measures to reduce any tensions or sensitivities.

Consistency with SEA Objectives

- 3.13. The next task is to check the proposed intentions of the Management Plan against the SEA Environmental Objectives in a **Consistency Matrix**. This was to see whether there were any significant beneficial or adverse effects; and to gauge the size of that effect. Where appropriate, there is consideration as to whether the effect is reversible.
- 3.14. A brief commentary on this analysis is set out in Appendix 5 where we test the Management Plan Policies against the SEA Objectives. Table 2 summarises this analysis and shows that there are no negative interactions between the SEA Objectives and Management Plan policies. Where there are links between the SEA Objectives and Management Plan policies, all are positive and only a few are weak (yellow squares).
- 3.15. There are many minimal interactions (white squares), especially for the Management Plan Policies 2.1 A Safe Harbour, 3.2. Sailing & Boating and 3.3 Activities, and SEA Objectives E5 Cultural Heritage and E6 Local distinctiveness.
- 3.16. It is useful to consider the material in Table 2 in two ways. Firstly, to study the interactions of each plan policy against the combination of the SEA Objectives (Chart 2); and then of the combination of the policies against each SEA Objective (Chart 3).

⁷ Defra (2023): Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan, page 16, HMSO

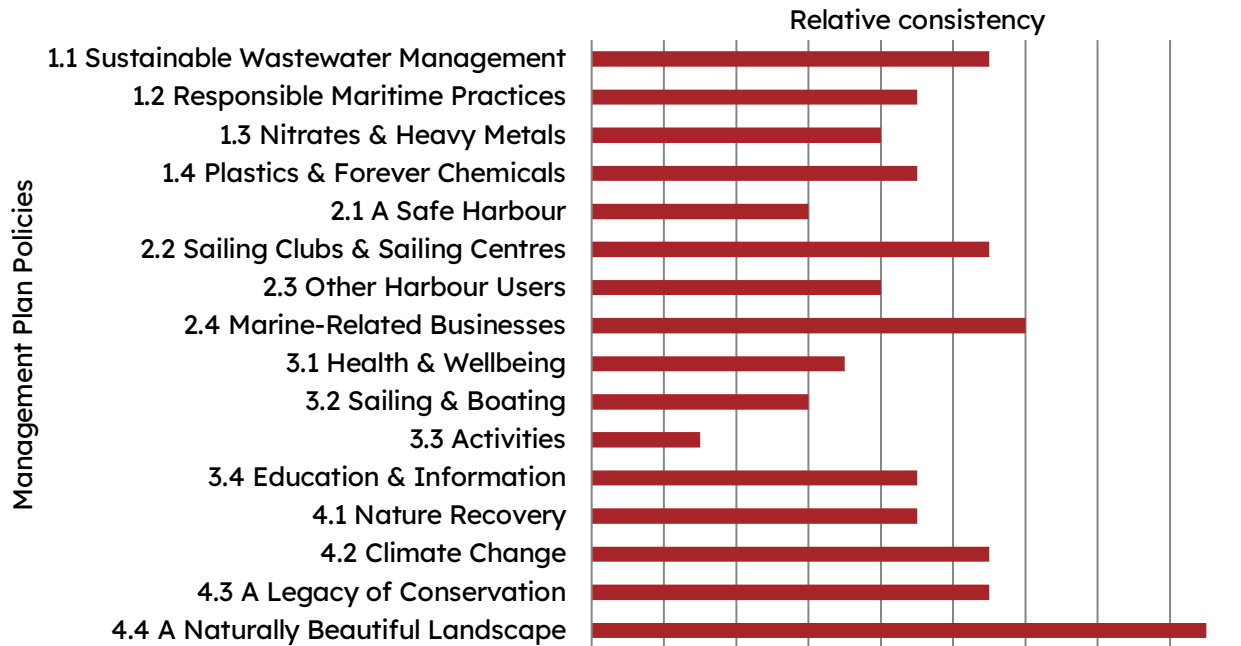
Table 2: Consistency between SEA Objectives & Management Plan Policies

Management Plan Policies	SEA Objectives								
	E1 Climate change	E2 Soils, air & water	E3 Biodiversity, habitats & species	E4 Landscape	E5 Cultural heritage	E6 Local distinctiveness	E7 Quality of life	E8 Local economy	E9 Sustainable resources
1.1 Sustainable Wastewater Management		Green	Green				Green		Green
1.2 Responsible Maritime Practices		Green	Green				Green		
1.3 Nitrates & Heavy Metals		Green	Green					Yellow	Yellow
1.4 Plastics & Forever Chemicals	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow					Green
2.1 A Safe Harbour							Green	Green	
2.2 Sailing Clubs & Sailing Centres	Green	Green	Green				Green		
2.3 Other Harbour Users		Green				Yellow	Green	Green	
2.4 Marine-Related Businesses			Green		Green	Yellow	Green	Green	
3.1 Health & Wellbeing			Yellow	Green			Green	Green	
3.2 Sailing & Boating							Green	Green	
3.3 Activities							Green		
3.4 Education & Information	Green	Green	Green				Yellow	Green	
4.1 Nature Recovery	Green	Green	Green	Green					
4.2 Climate Change	Green	Green	Green					Green	Yellow
4.3 A Legacy of Conservation			Green	Yellow	Green		Green	Yellow	
4.4 A Naturally Beautiful Landscape	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green		Yellow	Green

Consistency of Management Plan Policies with combined SEA Objectives

3.17. Chart 2 shows that all the Management Plan Policies show consistency with at least one SEA Objective. Policy 4.4 A Naturally Beautiful Landscape shows the greatest consistency with the SEA Objectives. It supports seven of the nine objectives but there are no links to E7 Quality of life and E8 Local economy. The policy is wide in scope and underpins several of the Management Plan’s aims. Policy 3.3 Activities shows the least consistency with the SEA Objectives, it only supports E7 Quality of life. This reflects the very narrow intention of this policy.

Chart 2: Consistency of Management Plan Policies with combined SEA Objectives



Consistency of combined Management Plan Policies with SEA Objectives

3.18. Each SEA Objective gains support from the Management Plan policies operating in combination (see **Chart 3**). The greatest support is given to E7 Quality of life and E3 Biodiversity, habitats & species. These are followed closely by E2 Soils, air & water. This suggests strong support for people’s enjoyment of the Harbour’s prime resources as reflected in the Chichester Harbour Vision for 2050:

The Chichester Harbour Vision for 2050

The natural environment has returned to favourable condition. Clean water supports the conservation of nature, the diversity of wildlife and a mosaic of habitats.

It is an exceptional place for leisure and recreation, whether sailing and boating, or enjoying the coastal footpaths and cycle routes.

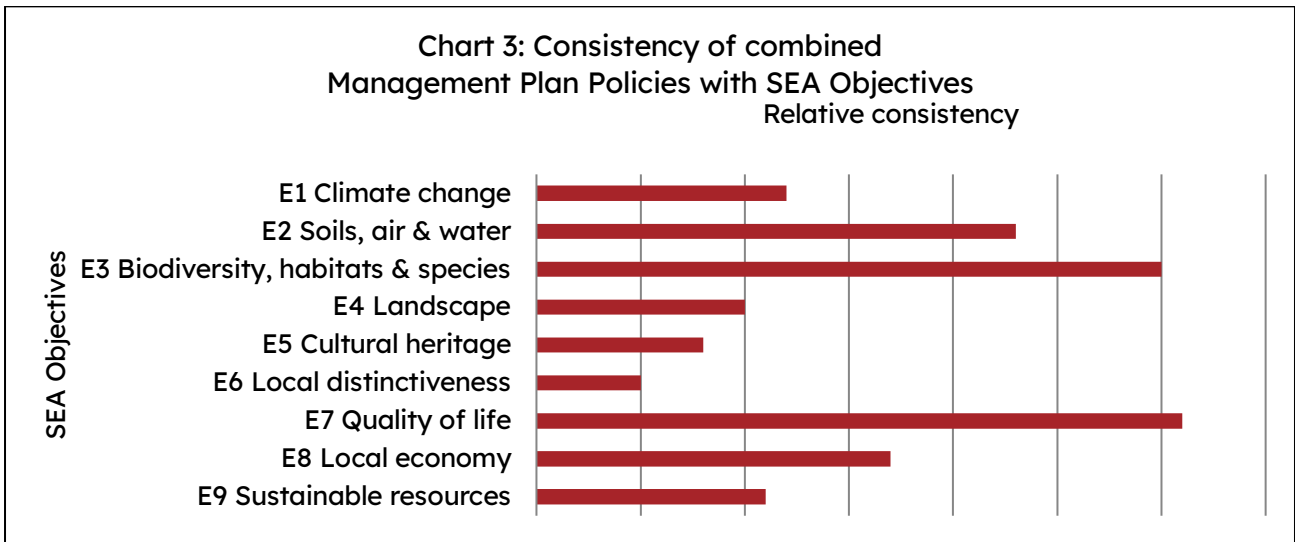
Businesses are thriving, with sustainable growth, innovation and strong environmental credentials.

All stakeholders are committed to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty for the benefit of future generations.

There is a high level of preparedness for climate change, which is projected to accelerate through the second half of the 21st Century.

3.19. The SEA Objective interacting least with the combined Management Plan policies is E6 Local distinctiveness. This is to be expected as E6 links to the application of development policies that are the responsibility of the local planning authorities. It is not the business of the Management Plan to present planning policies but rather to set out guidance. However, both SEA Objectives E5 Cultural Heritage and E4 Landscape receive relatively

low support from the Management Plan Policies. As these two topics do link closely to the purpose of designation, it is important to explore the reason.



3.20. The Management Plan is framed in four topic areas. The first two topics relate to the business of running a safe and effective harbour. SEA topics E4 and E5 have little in common with these aims (though E5 Culture heritage is strongly consistent with 2.4 Marine-related businesses). Their strongest support comes from the remaining two topics that relate to leisure, recreation and the conservation of nature. These two topics are more closely related to the purpose of National Landscape designation.

Findings

3.21. There are no adverse effects and some significant beneficial effects. There is no need to consider measures to increase the beneficial effects of the Management Plan policies

4. Monitoring

Monitoring of significant environmental effects

- 4.1. The SEA Regulations require monitoring measures for all the significant effects, both positive and negative, identified in the assessment. The SEA of the draft management plan has identified no significant adverse effects that are likely to arise from the implementation of management plan. Some significant positive effects are likely to arise from the implementation of the plan. The assessment has also identified some areas of uncertainty over the significance of some of the predicted effects and monitoring will cover these effects as well.
- 4.2. There are likely to be several benefits in monitoring any environmental effects arising from the implementation of the management plan, including:
- Identifying when action should be taken to reduce or offset any potential environmental effects of the plan;
 - Enhancing understanding of how the environment is changing in the National Landscape;
 - Tracking whether the plan has had any unforeseen environmental effects; and
 - Providing baseline data for future SEAs.

The advice is to incorporate the monitoring requirements of the SEA Regulations into a State of the AONB Report.

Monitoring Measures

- 4.3. The SEA Scoping Report identified 32 potential indicators to monitor the environmental effects of implementing the Management Plan. After further consultation this was reduced to 30⁸; these are described Appendices 4 and 6.

Data limitations

- 4.4. There were some difficulties in securing all the data necessary for this assessment. This relates to the time available to search and secure data. There was only time to use existing data, it was not feasible to commission any new studies.
- 4.5. The assessment uses a combination of quantitative information from many sources (e.g. National Statistics and commissioned studies) and qualitative assessment using considered judgement. The qualitative approach is robust, given the strategic nature of the Management Plan. Detailed quantitative information relating to the effects of the plan is likely only to be available at a later stage.
- 4.6. Monitoring data are often subject to changes in methodology or reporting that may prevent the establishment of trend data from a known baseline date. Trend data and targets are the significant data gaps and these affect certain topics; in particular,

⁸ Deleted 'Number of the area's defined special qualities monitored' because change is monitored under landscape and '% of development decisions against Partnership advice' because effects of actions are random.

effective and up-to-date reporting on the natural environment⁹. Pollution emission trends and aspects of air, soil (including contaminated land) and water quality are lacking. Consequently, the effects of diffuse pollution and other environmental impacts, such as recreation damage, are often difficult to ascertain.

- 4.7. Natural England's advice is to develop bespoke indicators to reflect the outcomes of National Landscape management decisions. The responsible authority agrees but it will take time to develop effective base-line data. Defra has produced a suite of national targets for protected landscapes. These cover the three key areas of climate, nature and people. A monitoring framework, developed by Natural England, supports these targets. Targets and indicators from the PLTOF, along with additional local indicators, are integrated into the 2025 plan.
- 4.8. Census statistics help paint a picture of the nation and how we live. They provide a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics and underpin funding allocation to provide public services. There was a Census in 2021.

⁹ Defra, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency, provide data cut to national landscape boundaries each year through the June Survey of Agriculture and the 'Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework' (PLTOF).

5. Technical review

5.1 The prime purpose of the SEA process is to review the potential impacts of the Management Plan on the key environmental aspects of the National Landscape. There is also a requirement, however, to monitor the implementation of the Management Plan and its impact on the environment over time. The baseline indicators (Appendix 4) were selected with this in mind. They are expected to be a part of the State of the NL reporting; many are already a part of this reporting. The National Landscape Partnership must confirm its monitoring programme for the management plan, once adopted; and ensure that there is a collection programme to fully inform the next State of the NL report.

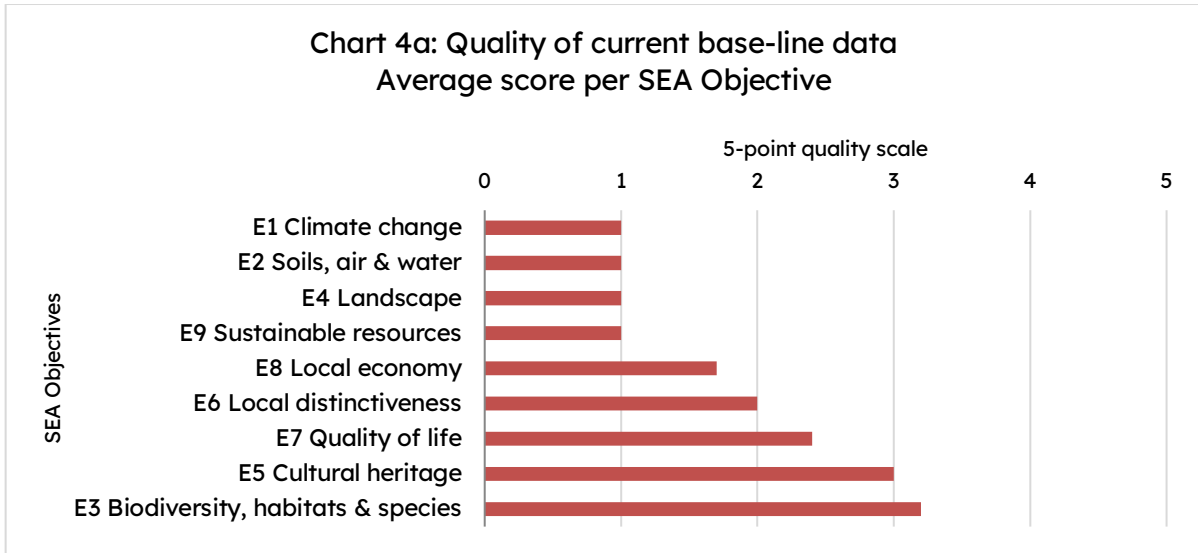
Quality of existing baseline data

5.2 The assessment of the 30 SEA indicators is by a five-point quality scale. The analysis identifies where required data is weak or absent, so providing a framework for future data collection.

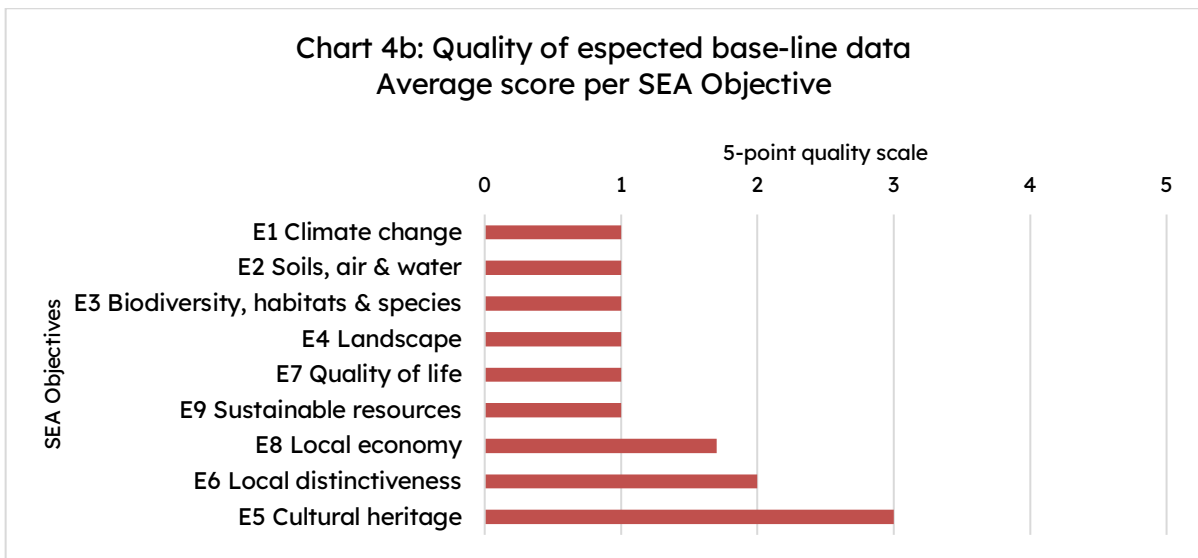
Indicator 5-point quality scale		<i>Comment</i>
1	Fit for purpose	
2	Adequate	Some minor improvements desirable
3	Indicative only	Not considered accurate
4	Inadequate	Little relevance to the AONB
5	Absent	No available data

5.3 The full assessment of each indicator against the nine SEA Objectives is set out in Appendix 7. Six indicators are absent. This is because there is a delay in receiving five Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework data sets from Defra (but these will arrive) and the absence of Rights of Way condition data.

5.4 Considering the data currently available, 60% are 'fit for purpose' (18 indicators) and 17% are 'adequate' (5 indicators). Of the remaining indicators, 3% (1 indicator) are indicative, and 20% (6 indicators) are absent. Chart 4a shows the assessment for each of the SEA Objectives using the data currently available.



- 5.5. Monitoring measures have weaknesses. Climate change (E1), Soils, air & water (E2), Landscape (E4), Sustainable resources (E9), Local economy (E8), and Local distinctiveness are adequate, or better. But Biodiversity (E3), Defra’s highest priority, is showing as indicative. This is because some Defra data is missing. There are two Cultural heritage (E5) indicators; one is fit for purpose but the other is absent. The data for the absent indicator is held by the local authorities, but it is not collated for the NL.
- 5.6. Once the missing Defra data sets are available, 90% will be ‘fit for purpose’ (27 indicators) and 3.3% remain ‘adequate’ (1 indicator). Of the remaining indicators, 3.3% (1 indicator) remains indicative, and 3.3% (1 indicator) will still be absent. Chart 4b shows the assessment for each of the SEA Objectives using the expected data.



- 5.7. Monitoring measures are stronger but there is still one weakness, cultural heritage.

Findings

- 5.8. The current baseline data is adequate. There are opportunities to strengthen it, but this is limited by the need to source and secure data on cultural heritage. The current indicators will deliver an effective monitoring framework once all data is sourced and secured.

6. Response to Environmental bodies comments

- 6.1 The statutory consultation bodies are Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. The SEA Environmental Report went out for consultation between the 19th of January to the 5th of February 2026. A précis of the responses is set out in Appendix 7.
- 6.2 The Agencies all confirm that they have no more comments to add.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The proposed Management Plan has a cascade of 4 policy aims addressed through 16 policies. The proposed policies are compatible. There are no tensions or sensitivities arising from where two or more interact. The proposed policy cascade has a beneficial, and in parts, a significantly beneficial, effect on the SEA Environmental Objectives.
- 7.2 Each SEA Objective gains support from the Management Plan Policies operating in combination, there are no weak relationships. The greatest interaction is with SEA Objective E7 (Quality of life), closely followed by E3 (Protect and enhance biodiversity habitats and species). This suggests that the Management Plan has taken on board the call to support nature recovery and make national landscapes more inclusive and diverse. Given the requirement of the Management Plan to support the management of the harbour, it is no surprise that strong support is given to the SEA Objective E2 (Soils, Air and Water). E4 (Protect and enhance the landscape), E5 (Sustain and enhance cultural heritage, including heritage assets and their settings) and E6 (Local distinctiveness) receive relatively less support from the plan. This may reflect the need to concentrate on harbour matters when the local authorities are better placed to deal with the wider environment.
- 7.3 There are no adverse effects on the SEA Environmental Objectives so there is no need to consider measures to increase the beneficial effects. There is no recommendation for mitigating actions.
- 7.4 The overall assessment of the current baseline data is that it is adequate. The current indicators will deliver an effective monitoring framework once all data is sourced and secured.
- 7.5 **In conclusion:** There is nothing in the management plan that will undermine the special qualities of the National Landscape, Amenity Area and Harbour. Implementation of the proposed Management Plan will have environmental and sustainability benefits for the National Landscape.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Chichester Harbour National Landscape Management Plan policy framework

Vision	
<p>The Chichester Harbour Vision for 2050</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural environment has returned to favourable condition. Clean water supports the conservation of nature, the diversity of wildlife and a mosaic of habitats. • It is an exceptional place for leisure and recreation, whether sailing and boating, or enjoying the coastal footpaths and cycle routes. • Businesses are thriving, with sustainable growth, innovation and strong environmental credentials. • All stakeholders are committed to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty for the benefit of future generations. • There is a high level of preparedness for climate change, which is projected to accelerate through the second half of the 21st Century. 	
Policies	
<p>Policy Aim 1: Improvement of the Harbour</p>	
<p>1.1 Sustainable Wastewater Management</p>	<p>Storm overflow incidents in Chichester Harbour need to significantly reduce and eventually be eliminated. They should not be a feature of a modern protected landscape.</p>
<p>1.2 Responsible Maritime Practices</p>	<p>Black water discharges from vessels in Chichester Harbour will be vigorously discouraged until such time as they are prohibited. All wash-down facilities for boat maintenance will need to be fully contained in the coming years to better prevent any antifouling waste from entering the harbour.</p>
<p>1.3 Nitrates & Heavy Metals</p>	<p>The application of fertiliser in the Chichester Harbour catchment causes high levels of nitrates in the harbour waters, which results in excessive opportunistic levels of macroalgal weed. The presence of heavy metals in the harbour is also a by-product of outdated farming practices. Efforts to reduce runoff from farmland will be accelerated.</p>
<p>1.4 Plastics & Forever Chemicals</p>	<p>Many of the chemicals used in plastic products are ‘forever chemicals’ that resist degradation and can remain in the environment for centuries, posing risks to health and ecosystems. Examples include plastic bottles, straws, cutlery, polystyrene and wear from tyre particles. Work will continue to reduce plastic pollution and minimise the presence of forever chemicals.</p>
<p>Policy Aim 2: Use of Pleasure Craft & Other Such Vessels</p>	
<p>2.1 A Safe Harbour</p>	<p>Chichester Harbour will continue to be a safe harbour that complies with the Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC), in the spirit of continual improvement and the pursuit of best practice. The moratorium on new moorings will be maintained.</p>
<p>2.2 Sailing Clubs & Sailing Centres</p>	<p>Sailing clubs and sailing centres are recognised as key stakeholders that advise on navigational matters and further the long term environmental interests around Chichester Harbour. They are represented on Chichester Harbour Conservancy by the Chichester Harbour Federation. Positive working relationships with sailing clubs and sailing centres are to be maintained.</p>

2.3 Other Harbour Users	Chichester Harbour attracts short-term visitors, for sailing and boating, paddle sports, using personal watercraft and swimming. Chichester Harbour will have modern and welcoming marine facilities.
2.4 Marine-Related Businesses	Marinas, boatyards and other marine-related businesses will continue to be protected for their cultural heritage and economic value, notwithstanding the need to meet modern standards, whilst retaining the overall maritime use.
Policy Aim 3: Leisure & Recreation	
3.1 Health & Wellbeing	Chichester Harbour will be promoted as an enjoyable place where people can benefit from the mental and physical wellbeing opportunities afforded by spending time in a National Landscape.
3.2 Sailing & Boating	Chichester Harbour is the ideal place where to learn to sail. Those that participate can find opportunities for peaceful relaxation, a sense of freedom, physical exercise and the pursuit of sporting excellence.
3.3 Activities	For the benefit of walkers, the King Charles III England Coast Path, and the wider Public Rights of Way network, will be maintained with clear directional signage, interpretation panels and benches. Support for the Salterns Way cycle route between the City of Chichester and West Wittering, will continue, with the possibility of new cycle routes to be explored. Other leisure and recreational activities are also available to experience in the National Landscape.
3.4 Education & Information	People of all ages will be engaged and inspired with educational opportunities at Chichester Harbour National Landscape, with a focus on schools and academic institutions throughout Hampshire and West Sussex. Information publications and specialist training sessions will also help raise awareness, for instance around recreational disturbance.
Policy Aim 4: Conservation of Nature	
4.1 Nature Recovery	Saltmarsh, seagrass and wildflower meadows are to be created, conserved, and enhanced, complemented by new shingle recharges, new Tern rafts, and new sites for high tide roosts. The flora and fauna that contribute to the natural beauty will be protected for its intrinsic value.
4.2 Climate Change	Through nature-based solutions, Chichester Harbour National Landscape will be prepared for an increase in the frequencies of stormy weather conditions, rising sea levels, and warmer temperatures.
4.3 A Legacy of Conservation	As natural processes unfold, they can reveal new historical finds, which further add to the interest and value of the National Landscape. Many local people take action for the benefit of the environment, whether volunteering on practical conservation projects or crowd funding new land acquisitions. The historic environment, volunteering opportunities and philanthropic support will continue to be valued as intrinsically important to the future of Chichester Harbour.
4.4 A Naturally Beautiful Landscape	As is the purpose of the designation, the natural beauty of Chichester Harbour National Landscape will be conserved and enhanced. This will be achieved through landscape-scale projects and nature friendly farming practices, with excellence in planning and placemaking practices.
Supported by 7 Planning Principles	
These promote and reinforce local distinctiveness in the National Landscape and offer those seeking planning permission greater certainty on which to make their decisions.	
PP01 Great Weight for a Nationally Important Landscape	

PP02 Safeguarding Marine Enterprise
PP03 Residential & Householder Development
PP04 New Tourist / Commercial / Agricultural Development within the Rural Area
PP05 Dark Skies & Light Pollution
PP06 Conversion of Buildings within the Rural Area
PP07 Development Near the National Landscape Boundary

Appendix 2: Other plans & policies

INTERNATIONAL

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971)

www.ramsar.org

Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) (came into force on 1 June 1982)

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_en.asp

Paris Agreement United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)

http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

EUROPEAN

The Birds Directive (Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds) (79/409/EEC) (Adopted 1979)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) Council of Europe (121) 1985

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=121&CM=1&CL=ENG>

European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised 1985)

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm>

Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) (1991)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1991:375:0001:0008:EN:PDF>

The Habitats Directive (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora) (Directive 92/43/EC) (1992)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) (1999)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (2000)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) (2001)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:197:0030:0037:EN:PDF>

The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) (2002)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm>

The Landscape Convention 20 October 2000 (ratified by UK in November 2006)

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default_en.asp

Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2006)

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10917.en06.pdf>

Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, European Commission (2011)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf

NATIONAL

Legislation

Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/49/contents>

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended)

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/pdfs/ukpga_19900009_en.pdf

The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994 SI 1381

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/1381/contents/made>

Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents

Planning Act 2008

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

Climate Change Act 2008

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

Localism Act 2011

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents

The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (Habitats Regulation) as amended in 1997, 2000 (in England only) and 2017 (SI 1012)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/9/pdfs/ukpga_20170009_en.pdf

National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC 2023)

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Appendix 3: Outline of future trends in the National Landscape

Key Issues	Outcomes without mitigating actions
<p>Climate change and sea-level rise</p> <p>Climate change is happening, and its impacts are unavoidable. There is already experience of the impacts of a rapidly heating climate and this threatens many of the defining characteristics and Special Qualities of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape.</p>	<p>Unplanned or controlled mitigation actions could negatively impact on the special qualities, landscape, biodiversity and the economy.</p> <p>Climate change may result in the migration of new species moving north. This could see species diversity maintained but there is a risk of new plant and animal pests and diseases.</p> <p>Warmer winters could promote increased tree growth, as well as the suitability of new non-native species or native species of a different provenance.</p> <p>Droughts may cause rivers, streams and ponds to dry up, which will affect wildlife, agriculture and tourism.</p> <p>Heavier rainfall may lead to an increase in surface water flooding and soil erosion.</p>
<p>Sea rising and coastal squeeze</p> <p>Sea levels are rising. In a natural environment coastal habitats naturally migrate landwards to adapt to these changing conditions. But man-made constructions like sea walls stop this natural process. This means the habitats are squeezed or drowned out, resulting in the loss of valuable life-sustaining ecosystems including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, beaches, sand dunes and lagoons. This effect is known as coastal squeeze.</p> <p>Chichester Harbour has seen a dramatic loss in saltmarsh habitat: 58.8% of the historic extent of the saltmarsh in 1946 has been lost, with 46.5% of the saltmarsh being lost since designation as a Site of Scientific Interest in 1970. It estimates that on average 2.54 hectares of saltmarsh is still being lost every year across Chichester Harbour.</p>	<p>As sea level rises, man-made constructions like sea walls stop natural processes. This means the habitats are squeezed or drowned out, resulting in the loss of valuable life-sustaining ecosystems including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, beaches, sand dunes and lagoons.</p>
<p>Nature's decline and the Ecological Crisis</p> <p>Wildlife loss is well documented and understood. Climate change is threatening the loss of already diminished wildlife at an even greater scale and pace. There is a need to create a robust and resilient nature recovery network – a landscape rich in joined up and well managed habitats. The need for action is urgent to avoid a mass extinction event.</p> <p>This loss of habitat is also impacting dramatically on some wetland bird populations, through loss of high tide roosting sites, nesting sites and changes to food supply and feeding conditions. This is highlighted in particular by the decline in nesting tern</p>	<p>Habitats will remain isolated with no 'corridors' to allow species to adjust naturally to climate change by moving northwards to a new ecological niche. Some populations will become too small to remain viable and species will be unable to adapt by adjusting to new climatic conditions without large and varied sites.</p> <p>Non-native seaweeds and marine animals will flourish - found in the marine environment including in ports and marinas, on boat hulls, on fishing gear and on natural shores. Non-native species can threaten native species through competition for the natural environment, predation and disease.</p>

<p>populations but affects other important bird species too.</p>	<p>Degraded ecosystems will not deliver benefits to people (ecosystem services). These services are critically important to the wellbeing and economy of people living in and around the Chichester Harbour. For example, they deliver good quality water and food, spiritual refreshment and a sense of history and cultural heritage.</p>
<p>Water quality and marine pollution</p> <p>The release of untreated sewage is the most-publicised of the pollution sources impacting Chichester Harbour. The outdated wastewater infrastructure means that rainwater drains from buildings and roads into wastewater treatment works alongside wastewater. During heavy rainfall the system becomes overwhelmed and untreated sewage is released into the harbour via Combined Storm Overflows (CSOs).</p> <p>Boating and sailing can have a detrimental effect on water quality by the release of sewage from onboard toilets, to the “antifoul” chemicals used on vessel hulls, oils and fuels and plastics in the hulls of many boats.</p> <p>Food production is of vital importance, and farmers often use nitrates and phosphates as fertilisers as well as approved pesticides and herbicides to grow crops. When it rains, excess fertiliser leaches into the ground or is washed into the waterways. The catchment for Chichester Harbour stretches to the South Downs. The chalk of the South Downs acts as an aquifer, storing water but also pollutants from agriculture for decades that gradually filter into the harbour.</p>	<p>An increase in pollutants, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteria, a concern for human health. • Excess nutrients causing eutrophication (causing the bloom of macroalgae weed). • Microplastics from laundering man-made fibres like polyester and nylon also enter the water through our wastewater. • Chemicals and pharmaceuticals including household cleaning products, prescription and illegal drugs. • Nitrates (bringing excess nutrients causing eutrophication). • Herbicides and pesticides. • Antifoul – The heavy metals and biocides in most antifoul treatments are toxic to marine life and can leach into the water. Antifoul chemicals often enter the water when scraped or removed without due care. • Plastics can enter the water through routine maintenance of plastic and GRP-hulled vessels.
<p>Development</p> <p>Development maintains economic viability, sustains the population and supports those who manage the land. The National Landscape covers several administrative areas. There is a need to coordinate policy to make sure that it is consistent across the area. The allocation of land for new development within and adjacent to the area is not always preceded by a proper consideration of its effects on landscape character and visual amenity.</p> <p>There is a need to provide more homes and employment for local people. Achieving suitable infrastructure is a challenge due to the requirements to conserve and enhance the special nature of the environment. There is a need to retain the best and most versatile agricultural land.</p>	<p>Negative visual impacts on the landscape from proposed developments.</p> <p>Changes to air quality, arising from traffic and industry.</p> <p>Negative impacts on key ecosystem services and ecological functioning of proposed development sites.</p> <p>Missed opportunities to reach net zero if sustainable building solutions are not incorporated into the design of developments.</p> <p>Reduction in the tranquillity that can be experienced in the area (for instance dark night skies) and growing numbers of recreational users, putting pressure on its natural environment.</p> <p>Low availability of owner-occupied housing and limited access to affordable housing leading to reduced social mobility impacting on people’s</p>

<p>The contribution of setting to the significance of the area is often expressed by reference to views. Poorly presented development or change may harm people’s enjoyment of the area. Inappropriate development adjacent to the National Landscape can influence landscape character within the designation, for example through associated noise and disturbance.</p>	<p>health and wellbeing and the potential for sustainable economic growth.</p>
<p>Recreation and enjoyment The Chichester Harbour area has long been valued for its wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation and quiet enjoyment. Tourists have flocked here to ‘take to the waters’</p>	<p>Chichester Harbour is affected by noise pollution from accumulative Harbourside building works, occasional social events and displays, and by recreational activities.</p> <p>As the local population rises, there may be more people and dogs. This can lead to a range of impacts on the land and the wildlife it supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • erosion of paths • creation of new ‘desire lines’ • disturbance to ground nesting birds • accumulation of litter, and • reduced peace and tranquillity.

Appendix 4: SEA Objectives and baseline data

N°	Environmental Objectives	Will the plan help to?	Headline indicators (30)
E1	<p>Climate change</p> <p>Address the causes and consequences of climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce greenhouse gas emissions • Increase greenhouse gas capture and storage through land management • increase cycling and walking • maximise the role of soil as a carbon store • increase the renewable energy capacity • ensure tourism is compatible with the climate change agenda • improve energy efficiency • improve public transport • deliver a more sustainable pattern of transport 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes (PLTOF TI 6) 2. Carbon stored by habitats
E2	<p>Soils, Air and Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce soil compaction • reduce leaching of nutrients and organic matter • prevent soil erosion • increase soil organic matter and carbon storage • avoid soil sealing, prevent soil contamination, improve water quality • maintain and enhance air quality • meet national air quality standards • promote sustainable water resource management • encourage a catchment-based approach to addressing water issues • maintain natural river geomorphologies • reduce nutrient-rich run-off • protect drinking water • manage flood risk • increase use of sustainable drainage systems • improve efficiency in use of water 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. WFD quality of the water environment data (PLTOF AS 5) 4. Bathing site water quality 5. Area at risk from flooding (Environment Agency)

E3	Protect and enhance biodiversity habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent loss of key species • prevent loss of habitat • Increase area and connectivity of habitat • improve management, linkage and condition of designated and undesignated habitats • maintain integrity of current ecological networks • create opportunities to enhance biodiversity • safeguard options for future habitat connectivity • prevent pollution • maintain and enhance access to sites whilst avoiding and reducing adverse impacts • support agricultural activities whilst avoiding and reducing adverse impacts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored outside of protected sites (PLTOF TI 1) 7. Percentage of SSSIs in favourable condition (PLTOF TI 2) 8. Percentage of SSSIs assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition (PLTOF TI 3) 9. Extent of priority habitat, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes (PLTOF TI 4) 10. Presence and numbers of priority species 11. Percentage of land managers adopting nature friendly farming on a percentage of their land (PLTOF TI 5)
E4	Protect and enhance the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve and enhance visual amenity • conserve and enhance landscape character • conserve and enhance townscape character • conserve geodiversity • avoid the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land • ensure the sustainable use of mineral resources including the use of recycled and secondary aggregates 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Changes to the landscape via drone flyover survey
E5	Sustain and enhance cultural heritage, including heritage assets and their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve and enhance architectural heritage • conserve and enhance archaeological heritage (including unknown) • conserve and enhance cultural heritage • reduce risks to heritage • improve access to historic places for residents and visitors • enhance local distinctiveness 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk (TI 10) 14. Number and location of locally important archaeological sites/features listed on the HER
E6	Local Distinctiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure any new developments or redevelopments are in keeping with local character 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Number of planning authorities with vernacular

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take account of the environment in design and construction 	design guidance mentioning the Chichester Harbour
E7	Quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce and avoid noise pollution • reduce and avoid light pollution • avoid impacts on the quality and extent of existing green infrastructure as a recreational asset • support the provision of affordable housing • improve access to services • improve access to employment • improve access for outdoor recreation • retain and enhance sustainable transport to and from market towns • promote art, craft and cultural interests • improve safety 	<p>16. Light pollution maps</p> <p>17. Road noise maps</p> <p>18. Metres of accessible path as a % of total path (PLTOF TI 9a)</p> <p>19. % Public Rights of Way in good condition</p> <p>20. Locations of water-based recreation activity</p> <p>21. Number of disability accessible parking spaces (PLTOF TI 9c)</p> <p>22. Number of accessible gates and gaps (PLTOF TI 9d)</p> <p>23. Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved PLTOF TI 9h)</p> <p>24. Deprivation statistics (PLTOF AS 23)</p> <p>25. Housing affordability (PLTOF AS 21)</p>
E8	To support a locally embedded economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid the loss of local jobs and local services • promote economic activity that adds value to local products and helps support the conservation of the area's special qualities • increase availability of locally sourced food • support the long-term viability of commercial activities, including agriculture and tourism • promote a career in land-based and traditional building skills • encourage apprenticeships and training 	<p>26. Number and origins of visitors</p> <p>27. Number and type of boats based in Chichester Harbour</p> <p>28. Number of local units of registered businesses by industry type (PLTOF AS 22)</p>
E9	To support a more sustainable means of production and use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase recycling and composting • promote sustainable timber production • improve efficiency and effectiveness of sewerage system 	<p>29. Number of sewerage leakages</p> <p>30. Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes (PLTOF TI 8)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure the efficient use of developed land• ensure the sustainable use of mineral resources• increase local food production	
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Appendix 5: Commentary on interactions between the Management Plan and SEA objectives

Management Plan Policies		Interaction with the SEA Objectives <i>(in Appendix 4)</i>
Policy Aim 1: Improvement of the Harbour		
1.1 Sustainable Wastewater Management	Storm overflow incidents in Chichester Harbour need to significantly reduce and eventually be eliminated. They should not be a feature of a modern protected landscape.	Strongly supports E2, E7 and E9, and helps E3 by improving water quality and reduce the leaching of nutrients; and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of sewerage systems. Will promote sustainable water resource management. This will avoid impacts on the quality and extent of existing blue infrastructure as a recreational asset.
1.2 Responsible Maritime Practices	Black water discharges from vessels in Chichester Harbour will be prohibited and enforced, with unfiltered wash-down facilities for boat maintenance phased out.	Strongly supports E2, E3 and E7 by improving water quality and preventing pollution. This will improve the integrity of current ecological networks and avoid impacts on the quality and extent of existing blue infrastructure as a recreational asset.
1.3 Nitrates & Heavy Metals	The application of fertiliser in the Chichester Harbour catchment causes high levels of nitrates in the harbour waters, which results in excessive opportunistic levels of macroalgal weed. The presence of heavy metals in the harbour are also a by-product of outdated farming practices.	Strongly supports E2 and E3 by reducing soil contamination, preventing soil erosion and improving water quality. This will support agricultural activities whilst avoiding and reducing adverse impacts. It will create opportunities to enhance biodiversity. It may support E8 by promoting economic activity that adds value to local products and helps support the conservation of the area's special qualities; and E9 by

		increasing local food production.
1.4 Plastics & Forever Chemicals	Many of the chemicals used in plastic products are 'forever chemicals' that resist degradation and can remain in the environment for centuries, posing risks to health and ecosystems. Examples include plastic bottles, straws, cutlery, polystyrene, and wear from tyre particles.	Strongly supports E9 by increasing recycling. Supports E1 by seeking to eliminate single-use plastics can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Some support is given to E2, E3 and E4 by removing litter and reducing the introduction of plastics into the sea.
Policy Aim 2: Use of Pleasure Craft & Other Such Vessels		
2.1 A Safe Harbour	Chichester Harbour will continue to be a safe harbour that complies with the Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC), in the spirit of continual improvement and the pursuit of best practice. The moratorium on new moorings will be maintained.	Strongly supports E7 by improving safety and E8 by supporting the long-term viability of commercial activities.
2.2 Sailing Clubs & Sailing Centres	Sailing clubs and sailing centres are recognised as key stakeholders that advise on navigational matters and further the long term environmental interests around Chichester Harbour. They are represented on Chichester Harbour Conservancy by the Chichester Harbour Federation.	Supports E1 and E2 by encouraging the environmental responsibilities of the clubs and centres. Strongly supports E3 by highlighting the responsibilities for nature recovery and E7 by improving access for outdoor recreation.
2.3 Other Harbour Users	Chichester Harbour attracts short-term visitors, for sailing and boating, paddle sports, using personal watercraft and swimming. Chichester Harbour will have modern and welcoming marine facilities.	Strongly supports E7 by improve access to services and outdoor recreation. Supports E2 and E8 by seeking more pump-out stations that will prevent water pollution and supports the long-term viability of tourism. Some support to E6 by looking to modernise the visitor welcome. This may take account of the environment in design and construction.
2.4 Marine-Related Businesses	Marinas, boatyards and other marine-related businesses will continue to be protected for their cultural heritage and economic value, notwithstanding the need to meet modern standards, whilst retaining the overall maritime use.	Strongly supports E5, E7 and E8 by acknowledging their cultural heritage, improving access to employment, and avoiding the loss of local

		jobs and services. Some support to E6 by looking to modernise the visitor welcome. This may take account of the environment in design and construction. Supports E3 by seeking funds for nature recovery projects.
Policy Aim 3: Leisure & Recreation		
3.1 Health & Wellbeing	Chichester Harbour will be promoted as an enjoyable place where people can benefit from the mental and physical wellbeing opportunities afforded by spending time in a National Landscape.	Strongly supports E4 and E7 by conserving and enhancing landscape character through tranquillity and avoiding light pollution. Some support is given to E3 by seeking a reduction in light pollution, this will enhance biodiversity.
3.2 Sailing & Boating	Chichester Harbour is the ideal place where to learn to sail. Those that participate can find opportunities for peaceful relaxation, a sense of freedom, physical exercise and the pursuit of sporting excellence.	Strongly supports E7 and E8 by improving access for outdoor recreation and promoting economic activity that adds value to local products and helps support the conservation of the area's special qualities.
3.3 Activities	The King Charles III England Coast Path, and the wider Public Rights of Way network, will be maintained with clear directional signage, interpretation panels and benches. Support for the Salterns Way cycle route between the City of Chichester and West Wittering, will continue, with the possibility of new cycle routes to be explored.	Strongly supports E7 by improving access for outdoor recreation.
3.4 Education & Information	People of all ages will be engaged and inspired with educational opportunities at Chichester Harbour National Landscape, with a focus on schools and academic institutions throughout Hampshire and West Sussex. Information publications and specialist training sessions will also help raise awareness, for instance around recreational disturbance.	Supports E1, E2 and E3 by raising awareness of the issues affecting Chichester Harbour and remedial actions. Some support to E7 by ensuring access to educational services and E8 by encouraging training.
Policy Aim 4: Conservation of Nature		
4.1 Nature Recovery	Saltmarsh, seagrass and wildflower meadows are to be created, conserved, and enhanced, complemented by new shingle recharges, new Tern rafts, and new sites for	Will support E1, E2 and E4, and strongly supports E3 through habitat creation and


	high tide roosts. The flora and fauna that contribute to the natural beauty will be protected for its intrinsic value.	maintenance. This will help mitigate climate change, stabilise soils, improve water quality and prevent the loss of key habitats and species, helping to maintain landscape character.
4.2 Climate Change	Through nature-based solutions, Chichester Harbour National Landscape will be prepared for an increase in the frequencies of stormy weather conditions, rising sea levels, and warmer temperatures.	Strongly supports E1 and E3 by sequestering carbon in the saltmarshes, seagrass meadows, mudflats, soils, and trees. This will enhance habitats. E2 also gains through the good management of soils, and E8 is supported by ensuring the long-term viability of commercial activities. There may be some support to E9 through an increase in recycling.
4.3 A Legacy of Conservation	As natural processes unfold, they can reveal new historical finds, which further add to the interest and value of the National Landscape. Many local people take action to the benefit of the environment of Chichester Harbour, whether volunteering on practical conservation projects or crowd funding new land acquisitions.	Strong support given to E3, E5 and E7 by creating opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and cultural heritage; and promoting cultural interests. Some support could be given to E4 by conserving geodiversity and E8 by supporting training opportunities through volunteering.
4.4 A Naturally Beautiful Landscape	As is the purpose of the designation, the natural beauty of Chichester Harbour National Landscape will be conserved and enhanced. This will be achieved through landscape-scale projects and nature friendly farming practices, with excellence in planning and placemaking practices.	Strongly supports E3 and E4 by creating habitats, increasing connectivity and avoiding the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land. And E9 by promoting planning principles that will ensure the efficient use of developed land and the sustainable use of mineral resources. Supports E5 by promoting the planning principles; this may reduce risks to heritage. Offers some support to

		E1 and E2 by encouraging regenerative farming.
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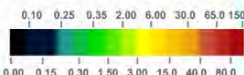
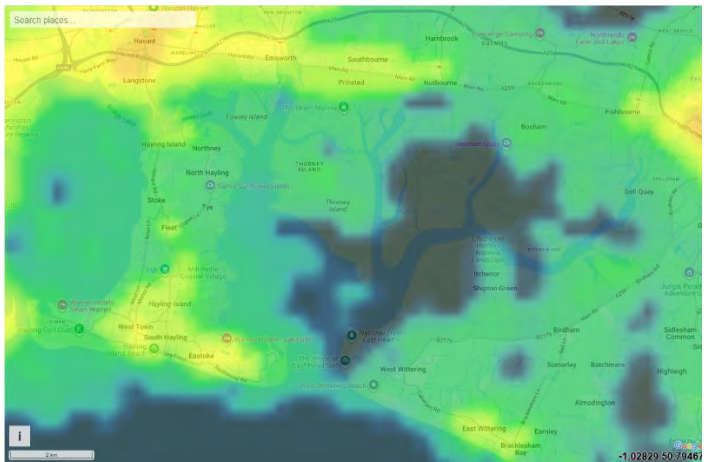
Appendix 6: SEA Objectives and links to data monitoring



Indicator 5-point quality scale				
Score	Comment			
1	Fit for purpose			
2	Adequate	Some minor improvements desirable		
3	Indicative only	Not considered accurate		
4	Inadequate	Little relevance to the National Landscape		
5	Absent	No available data		

N°	Environmental Objectives	SEA indicators	Quality	Commentary
E1	Climate change Address the causes and consequences of climate change	1. Level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes	1	Total emissions in 2023 46.1 Kt CO ₂ e (down from 53.6 in 2019 & 88.5 in 2005) UK Protected Landscapes greenhouse gas emissions statistics: 2005-2023 (DfES&NZ)
		2. Carbon stored by habitats	1	55,820 tonnes carbon stored above ground (vegetation) (= 8 t/ha), 1,008,801 tonnes stored below ground (soils) (= 138 t/ha). Sequestration (carbon capture) = -1.0 t co ² equivalent/ha. (PLTOF TI 7) Natural England & Cranfield University (NSRI) 2024
E2	Soils, Air and Water	3. WFD quality of the water environment data	1	0% of rivers & surface waters with high or good status 25% of Transitional and Coastal Waters with high or good status 40% of groundwater with high or good status 0% of catchments with high or good status (PLTOF AS 5) Environment Agency 2024
		4. Bathing site water quality	1	The bathing water is situated on the south coast at the eastern side of Chichester Harbour entrance in West Sussex West Wittering) – designated 1998. Classified as excellent 2022-2025 Environment Agency 2025
		5. Area at risk from flooding	1	Up-to-date maps readily available

		(Environment Agency)		
E3	Protect and enhance biodiversity habitats and species	6. Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored outside of protected sites	5	Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (PLTOF TI 1 not yet available)
		7. Percentage of SSSI features in favourable condition	1	Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042 39.3% - Average for NLs is 41.3% (PLTOF TI 2) Natural England
		8. Percentage of SSSIs assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition	1	For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028. 35.7% - Average for NLs is 15.3% (PLTOF TI 3) Natural England
		9. Extent of priority habitat, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes	5	Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042. (PLTOF TI 4 Defra data not yet available)

				Chichester Harbour supports 15 priority habitats (out of the UK's list of 56 habitats). The combined extent of the 15 priority habitats covers 40.4 % of the National Landscape. Most of the priority habitats lie within protected areas for biodiversity. However, some lie outside such areas, and are unprotected. (PLTOF AS1)
		10. Presence and numbers of priority species	2	The four core work areas of The Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature (CHaPRoN) partnership are: Coastal resilience and saltmarshes Seagrass meadows Coastal birds Water quality
		11. Percentage of land managers adopting nature friendly farming on a percentage of their land	5	Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030. (PLTOF TI 5 awaiting publication by Defra)
E4	Protect and enhance the landscape	12. Changes to the landscape via drone flyover survey	1	One flight per management plan period
E5	Sustain and enhance cultural heritage, including heritage assets and their settings	13. Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk	1	Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes. There are no nationally designated heritage assets deemed to be at risk. (PLTOF TI 10) Historic England
		14. Number and location of locally important archaeological sites/features listed on the HER	5	The data is held by the local authorities but not collected by the NL

E6	Local Distinctiveness	15. Number of planning authorities with vernacular design guidance mentioning the Chichester Harbour (local survey)	2	<p>On 16 May 2017, Council adopted the Joint Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning document. This SPD expands on the vision, objectives and policies of the adopted Development Plan Documents for Chichester District Council and Havant Borough Council.</p> <p>Chichester District Council produces guidance on external alterations to listed buildings in a Development Advice Note and Shopfront and Advertisement Design Guidance Note. Havant Borough Council produces a Borough Design Guide SPD</p> <p>There is no specific reference to the Harbour.</p>
E7	Quality of life	16. Light pollution maps	1	<p>Map shows energy radiating from the surface ($nW/cm^2 \cdot sr = \text{watts} / \text{steradian} / cm^2$)</p> <p>2024 - mainly dark in the harbour, Bosham shows as $0.99 nW/cm^2 \cdot sr$, and $5.01 nW/cm^2 \cdot sr$ along the boundaries, a lot of surrounding light spillage.</p> <p>Can compare annually from 2012. www.lightpollutionmap.info showing NASA Earth Data</p>
		<p>Radiance $10^{-9} W / cm^2 \cdot sr$</p> 		
		<p>Three Dark Sky Discovery Sites were designated in Chichester Harbour in 2017:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North of the John Q. Davis footpath in West Itchenor 2. Maybush Copse in Chidham 3. Eames Farm on Thorney Island 		

	<p>17. Road noise maps</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The NL is quiet but surrounded by traffic noise Defra – Road Noise – Lden – England Round 4 (2022) – use as a baseline, cannot compare to earlier rounds as metric changed.</p>
			
	<p>18. Metres of accessible path as a % of total path</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>(PLTOF TI 9a awaiting publication by Defra)</p>
	<p>19. % Public Rights of Way in good condition</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>There are over 56 miles of public footpaths. Data not collected. The Highway Authorities have not agreed a measure of ‘good condition’.</p>
	<p>20. Locations of water-based recreation activity</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Conservancy holds full data</p> 
	<p>21. Number of disability accessible parking spaces</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>(PLTOF TI 9c awaiting publication by Defra)</p>
	<p>22. Number of accessible gates and gaps</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>(PLTOF TI 9d awaiting publication by Defra)</p>
	<p>23. Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>(PLTOF TI 9h awaiting publication by Defra)</p>

		24. Deprivation statistics	1	Average decile is 8 All NLs is 6 & and all rural England is 6 (PLTOF AS 23)
		25. Housing affordability	1	Affordability index is 13 (need to spend 13 times annual income to buy an average house). All NLs is 11 & and all rural England is 9 (PLTOF AS 21) Ratios represent the mean house purchase price to mean gross annual household income.
E8	To support a locally embedded economy	26. Number and origins of visitors	3	On web site - each year more than 1.8 million people visit. No data on origin.
		27. Number and type of boats based in Chichester Harbour	1	On the water Chichester Harbour has more than 3,200 moorings, 2,000 berths in six marinas, 16 sailing clubs, and over 9,000 vessels.
		28. Number of local units of registered businesses by industry type (PLTOF AS 22)	1	770 local units Professional, scientific & technical services @ 155, Construction @ 110, and Wholesale & retail trade, repair of motor vehicles @ 105 = 48% of all business units. Accommodation & food services @ 65 = 8% all business units.
E9	To support a more sustainable means of production and use of resources	29. Number of sewerage leakages	1	Southern water report 65 sewerage storm overflow spills at Bosham in 2024
		30. Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes	1	Total area of woodland from the NFI 2022 = 159.5 ha Total area of trees outside woodland 2022 = 308.8 ha Percentage total indicative tree cover of the total land area = 11.1% (PLTOF TI 8) Forestry Commission

Appendix 7: Consultation responses

Historic England

19th January 2026

Thanks for sharing the final draft. I have no more comments to add.

Dr. A. de Vareilles, ACIfA
Science Advisor for the South East Region
Investigative Science Team | National Specialist Services Department

Environment Agency

3rd February 2026

Thanks for sharing the SEA Environmental Report. Having now reviewed this, I can confirm there are no comments from the EA.

Richard O'Callaghan
Environment Planning & Engagement Manager
Solent & South Downs Area

Natural England

12th February 2026

We do not have the capacity to review the document to provide comments, so we are happy for you to proceed.

Sussex & Kent Area Team