

Policy 15 Historic Environment and Heritage Assets

The landscape of Chichester Harbour reflects its history. The historic environment and heritage assets of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will continue to be conserved and enhanced in keeping with its inherent value, with increased opportunities to access, better understand and appreciate the past.

In many ways the landscape of Chichester Harbour reflects its history, with archaeological finds showing how the estuary was used thousands of years ago. Today, **historic features are a reminder of our past**, part of the landscape, and landmarks in their own right. They contribute to economic development by attracting tourism. There are many sites in and around Chichester Harbour registered on the Historic Environment Record.

There is a wealth of evidence of human use and habitation dating back to prehistoric times. The Harbour's evolution has been shaped by glacial processes and during the last interglacial period it was part of an active shoreline. By the Mesolithic period (12,000-4,000 BC) the coast was 40 kilometres away and the landscape was made-up of valleys where people visited to hunt and fish. Finds of worked flints suggested the Harbour was important for people through the Neolithic period and into the Bronze Age. By the Iron Age, the Harbour was an important area for salt working, and a hillfort was constructed at Tournerbury, on Hayling Island.



Chichester Harbour was one landing point for the Claudian arrival of AD43 in Rome's conquest of Britain. Discoveries at the site of a Romano-British villa in Warblington, and earlier findings at Fishbourne, shows there was trade with the Roman Empire before the invasion. In later years, legend has it that King Canute ordered the waves to go back from Bosham, and the same village also featured on the Bayeux Tapestry. Meanwhile, underneath Bosham is an ancient mill-stream that once served the medieval core of this settlement. Today, it is ecologically valuable.

Many of the Chichester Harbour churches have stood for hundreds of years, including: St Peter and St Paul's Church, West Wittering; St Nicholas' Church, West Itchenor; St James' Church, Birdham; St Peter's and St Mary's Church, Fishbourne; Holy Trinity Church, Bosham; St. Mary's Church, Chidham; St Nicholas' Church, Thorney Island; St Thomas' Church, Warblington; and St Mary's Church, Hayling Island.

Several of the picturesque harbourside villages have their roots in the medieval period, as fishing, oyster farming and salt working flourished. Industry thrived in the post-medieval period with important features remaining in the landscape including mills, brick working sites, salterns and historic field systems.

The Friends of Chichester Harbour, in partnership with Emsworth Yacht Harbour, operate oysterboat *Terror*. *Terror* was originally built by Foster's Boatyard in Emsworth in about 1890, to support the 20 or so large ketches that dredged for oysters. Boats like *Terror*, (known as lighters) would collect the catch from the larger oyster merchants' vessels and transport them back to the shore. From there the oysters went straight to the busy fish markets in London, or they were stored in lays on the foreshore. About 100,000 oysters were shipped to the London markets each week.

Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2006, *Terror* was lovingly restored at Dolphin Quay Boatyard in Emsworth over a two-year period. She was re-launched as a passenger vessel and can give up to six participants a memorable close-to-the-water experience as she sails around the Harbour.

Chichester Harbour had an important role in the defence of Britain during the Second World War. Thorney Island Airfield opened in 1938, with permanent accommodation for 4,144 people by 1944. Today, it remains in the ownership of the Ministry of Defence and is known as Baker Barracks, named after Field Marshal Sir Geoffrey Harding Baker. Between 1943 and 1945, a temporary airfield was also created on agricultural land at Apuldram. Overall, there are many surviving features of the Second World War in Chichester Harbour, including pillboxes and gun emplacements, particularly found around the coastline of Thorney Island and Hayling Island.

This rich heritage reflects the processes, both natural and historic, that have created the character of the landscape and contributed to the unique sense of place. Although not explicitly referred to as an AONB purpose, the historic environment and heritage assets are a key factor of the landscape.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the condition of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments. Undertaking practical conservation works at historic sites. Raising the profile of the importance of the historic environment. Extending the archaeologically-based Condition Assessment programme to the Grade 2 listed buildings within the AONB. Climate change and sea level rise are revealing and exposing hidden assets, hastening their deterioration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chichester and District Archaeology Society Chichester Harbour Conservancy Chichester Harbour Federation Chichester Harbour Heritage Partnership Chichester Ship Canal Trust Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network (CITiZAN) Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust Emsworth Museum Fishbourne Roman Palace Friends of Chichester Harbour Historic England Local Authorities Museum of London Archaeology National Lottery's Heritage Fund Thorney Island Conservation Group Universities

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 15.1 To continue to provide secretarial support for the Chichester Harbour Heritage Partnership
- 15.2 To continue to support the Friends of Chichester Harbour with the operation of oysterboat *Terror*.
- 15.3 To support and manage Chichester and District Archaeology Society Conservation Work Parties to conserve Second World War pillboxes and gun emplacements on Thorney Island.



Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 15.4 To continue to monitor the condition of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments and encourage general public participation to update their condition on Historic England's List.
- 15.5 To continue with archaeological fieldwork within Chichester Harbour, subject to properly defined research objectives and with reference to the relevant museum's collection development policy.
- 15.6 To publicise archaeological sites and finds of interest and arrange for displays in local museums including Emsworth Museum and Fishbourne Roman Palace.
- 15.7 To utilise archaeological discoveries from the surrounding area as the basis to search for similar discoveries within the AONB – for example, the recent Bronze Age discoveries at Medmerry and in the South Downs National Park suggest there should be more evidence of Bronze Age activity within Chichester Harbour.
- 15.8 To react to changes in the physiographical appearance of Chichester Harbour to undertake new surveys in the changed ground.
- 15.9 To utilise new publicly available data such as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) or aerial photography to generate new surveys of areas where new archaeology might be discovered.
- 15.10 To search for the probable Roman site on Thorney Island as evidenced by the discoveries displayed in St Nicholas' Church. This search will need to be prompted by new evidence.
- 15.11 To devise and implement a robust Condition Assessment Programme for monitoring Heritage at Risk in the AONB.
- 15.12 To develop relationships with local historical societies to enable a team of volunteers to be recruited to carry out a Grade 2 listed buildings monitoring programme.
- 15.13 To encourage the publication of articles in local and national journals about heritage issues.
- 15.14 To increase the use of social media to engage people with the historic environment.
- 15.15 To keep the Historic Environment Record (HER) up-to-date.