

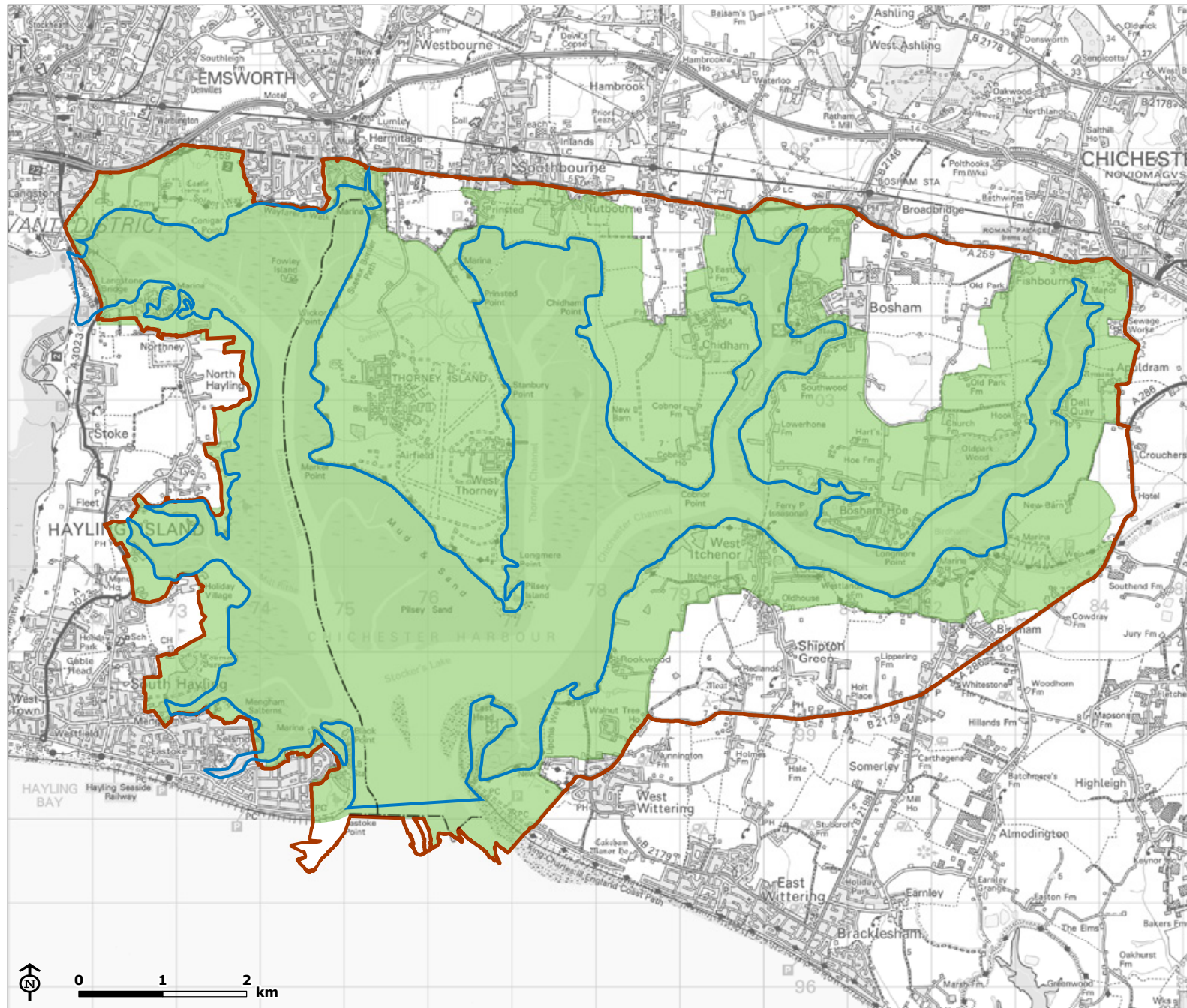


Chichester Harbour National Landscape

Management Plan

2025 - 2030

Incorporating the
Amenity Area & Harbour





Chichester Harbour

 Chichester Harbour National Landscape, designated in 1964

 County Boundary

The jurisdiction of **Chichester Harbour Conservancy** as defined in the 1971 Act extends to:

 The Amenity Area

 The Limits of the Harbour

- The National Landscape covers 73.15km², (28.2 miles², 7,315 hectares).
- At high tide, 42.2% of the National Landscape is water (30.9km²).
- 17.9% of the National Landscape is in Hampshire (13.1km²), 81.5% in West Sussex (59.6km²), and 0.6% sea (0.45km²).
- The Amenity Area covers 62.58km² (24.16 miles², 6,258 hectares).
- 21.4% of the Amenity Area is in Hampshire (13.4km²), 78.0% in West Sussex (48.8km²), and 0.6% sea (0.38km²).
- 14.9% of the National Landscape is outside of the Amenity Area.

Source: LUC

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000



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Foreword



East Head © Paul Adams



It is a pleasure to introduce the Chichester Harbour National Landscape Management Plan for 2025-2030 Incorporating the Amenity Area & Harbour. This comes at a critical time, with its successful implementation more important than ever.

Natural England's Condition Review of Chichester Harbour Sites, published in 2021, reinforced what we already knew – we are living through a biodiversity crisis and a climate emergency. I am thankful to the team of researchers that undertook this stark work because only when we understand the true extent of the problem, can we seek solutions. The impacts of climate change, the deteriorating water quality, and the loss of the precious saltmarsh habitat were highlighted as factors for the decline of the natural environment. It also rightly notes the unprecedented level of development pressure and the unequivocal damage that hard sea defences are causing in this natural estuary.

However, I remain heartened and positive about the future since I have witnessed a renewed sense of urgency to tackle nature recovery and to prepare for the impacts of climate change. This gives me great optimism that with the right interventions Chichester Harbour can be restored and protected for the long term.

On the water, as the statutory harbour authority, Chichester Harbour Conservancy continues our commitment to meeting the requirements of the Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code. This is the framework for operating a safe harbour. Our approach is not so much to be compliant, more to strive for excellence. This way of working has served us well for many years and it will continue to do so.

Chichester Harbour has always been a place where people come to relax, reflect and enjoy the surroundings. Our efforts have one overall purpose – to try and keep it that way no matter whether you are here to sail, boat, walk, live, run a business, visit or otherwise. It is quite rightly a National Landscape, designated and protected for the nation's benefit.

I would like to thank everyone who is helping to conserve, enhance, and protect Chichester Harbour.

Cllr Pieter Montyn
Chairman
Chichester Harbour Conservancy

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View From Kingley Vale, West Stoke © Paul Adams



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Section 1 A Protected National Landscape

Special Qualities

Chichester Harbour was designated in recognition of its natural beauty in 1964. These special qualities, when considered in combination, collectively define what is distinctive about Chichester Harbour **National Landscape**. The list of special qualities was refreshed in 2025.

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. The wooded shoreline.** Contributing to the natural harbour, the often tree-lined shore with fragments of ancient woodland naturally stabilises the coast and softens the visual impact of coastal development.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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 the land, the harbour is important for health and wellbeing.
- 6. 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.
- 7. The flora and fauna.** Plants and animals are essential for the health of the harbour. Flora includes trees, shrubs, grasses and 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. The functioning water catchment.** The river catchment connects to the harbour. Critical to the health of the harbour, these rivers and streams provide an attachment with the wider landscape delivering valuable freshwater input to the estuary.
- 10. 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.

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.

Why do we have a Management Plan and who will deliver it?

The four local authorities have a joint statutory duty to prepare a Chichester Harbour National Landscape Management Plan every 5 years. It is a material planning consideration and an agreed partnership document that many organisations help to deliver with expertise, funding, guidance and project delivery.

Below are some of the partners at Chichester Harbour National Landscape:

- Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership
- Bird Aware Solent
- Blue Marine Foundation
- British Marine
- The British Trust for Ornithology
- Chichester & District Archaeology Society
- Chichester District Council
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- Chichester Harbour Federation
- Chichester Harbour Friends
- Chichester Harbour Heritage Partnership
- Chichester Harbour Trust
- Coastal Partners
- The Crown Commissioners
- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- The Department for Transport (DfT)
- East Hampshire Catchment Partnership
- The Environment Agency
- EUROPARC Atlantic Isles
- Hampshire County Council
- Havant Borough Council
- Historic England
- The Manhood Farmers Cluster Group
- The Manhood Peninsula Partnership
- The Manor of Bosham & The Hundred Ltd.
- The Marine Management Organisation
- The Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- National Farmers Union (NFU)
- The National Landscapes Association (NLA)
- National Trails
- Natural England
- The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- The Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
- Solent Forum
- The Solent & Southern Harbour Masters Association (SASHMA)
- Southern Water
- Sussex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (IFCA)
- The Three Harbours Partnership
- The Two Harbours Farmers Ltd.
- The UK Harbour Masters' Association
- West Sussex County Council

Who is it for?

The Management Plan is **for everyone**, including businesses, educational organisations, farmers, funders, landowners and land managers, residents, the sailing community and visitors. The Management Plan sets the overall direction of travel for the next 5 years with a set of agreed **Policy Aims** and an accompanying **Delivery Plan**.

Sunrise at Chichester Harbour © Shirley Rushmer



Section 2 Chichester Harbour in Legislation

A National Landscape

On 4th February 1964, Chichester Harbour was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), with the Government issuing a press notice the following day, titled “Beauty of Chichester Harbour to be Protected.” The first meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) was convened the following month. The JAC continued to meet until 16th November 1971 when, with the agreement of the Local Authorities, their duties transferred to the councillors that were also appointed to Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

In 2023 all AONBs were rebranded as National Landscapes to better reflect their national importance.

The primary purpose of the National Landscape designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty. In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. 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 insofar as it is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971

On 5th August 1971, Chichester Harbour Conservancy was established by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act. The Act recognised a single estuary, incorporating what was formerly Emsworth Harbour in Hampshire, with the Port of Chichester in West Sussex.

The duties and powers of Chichester Harbour Conservancy are set out and explained in the Act, spelt out in Part IV, Section 21, which forms the basis of the Policy Aims of the Management Plan.

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.



Chidham © Clare Stent

Defra recognises Chichester Harbour Conservancy as the principal management body for the area. The appointed councillors continue to be the JAC for the National Landscape.

Countryside & Rights of Way Act of 2000

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act of 2000 require local authorities to publish a joint statutory Management Plan for the National Landscape at five-year intervals. Each Plan fulfils the duty placed upon these local authorities under Part IV of the CRoW Act, providing a framework to drive forward integrated and co-ordinated action for the management of the nationally important protected landscape.

The CRoW Act also placed a duty on local authorities (as amended by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act in 2023).

When exercising or performing any function in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the National Landscape, to seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape (Section 85).

Turnstone © Paul Adams





Harbour Seals and Grey Seals © Paul Adams

Applying the Section 85 Duty

Section 85 of CRow Act of 2000 (as amended in 2023) requires 'relevant authorities', in exercising or performing any function that affect National Landscapes in England, to 'seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape.'

- The use of the word 'duty' in the legislation means that it is something all 'relevant authorities' must do; it is not discretionary.
- The duty is considered to be a strengthening of the previous s.85 'duty of regard' and seeks positive outcomes for the natural beauty, in its holistic sense, of the National Landscapes.
- Within the planning context, relevant authorities are the local planning authorities, the Planning Inspectorate, and the Secretary of State (e.g. for called-in decisions), along with communities producing and publishing neighbourhood plans. The duty applies to all aspects of the development management process and the plan-making process, including, but not limited to, planning application decisions, enforcement, and decisions relating to planning policies and site allocations in Local Plans.
- The duty is considered to require a pro-active approach by the decision-maker; relevant authorities are expected to be able to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the duty, and how compliance with the duty has been embedded in the plan-making and decision-making process. Natural England have advised that relevant authorities must take all reasonable steps to explore how the statutory purposes of the protected landscape can be furthered.
- The duty applies to plan-making and decision-making in relation to land in, and within the setting of, a National Landscape.
- It is important to ensure that 'to conserve and enhance' is treated as a singular purpose. Both parts are to be considered together, in every relevant decision.
- The statutory duty needs to be considered in tandem with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular paragraphs 11 (footnote 7), 189 and 190.
- Paragraph 189 of the NPPF (2024) sets out that 'great weight' should be given to conserving and enhancing the landscape and scenic beauty in a National Landscape, whereas conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations.



- However, 'natural beauty' is holistic. Natural beauty is not just the look of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, plants and animals, landscape features and the rich history of human settlement over the centuries. It includes landscape and scenic quality, natural heritage (species, habitats, geology and physical geography), wildness, tranquillity and dark skies and cultural heritage (including cultural traditions and the historic and other built environment that makes the area unique). Historic England state that the historic environment is fundamental to the distinctive character, sense of place and natural beauty of each National Landscape. A Joint Statement on the Historic Environment, between Historic England, the National Landscapes Association, and the 34 English National Landscapes, was signed on 16th November 2022 and is available on the website for Chichester Harbour Conservancy.
- It is the conservation and enhancement of all this natural beauty that is the primary purpose of designation, and that local planning authorities must consider in discharging their duty under CRoW Act (2000) s.85.
- Local planning authorities are advised to ensure internal legal teams are aware of the s.85 duty.

Use of the National Landscape Management Plan

- The Management Plan for the specific National Landscape is a statutory document, which will have been adopted by the local authorities and which 'formulates their policy for the management of the area and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it'. It is the principal vehicle for ensuring that the statutory purposes of the National Landscape are met, and is a material consideration in the planning process.
- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the specific National Landscape will normally mean, as a minimum:
 - › Conserving and enhancing the special qualities identified in the Management Plan, and the landscape character components.
 - › Adhering to the Management Plan Policy Aims.
 - › Supporting the accompanying Management Plan Delivery Plan.

Warblington Castle © Paul Adams

Consenting Framework

As a protected landscape, many policies regulate development in Chichester Harbour. Consenting organisations may offer a pre-application advice service to help applicants navigate the consenting framework and thereby enable development consistent with the designations. The main consenting statutory organisations at Chichester Harbour are as follows.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Chichester Harbour Conservancy will consider all aspects of a works licence application, including any interference with public rights of navigation, leisure, recreation and the conservation of nature. A Works Licence must be obtained for all construction works below Mean High Water Springs.

Environment Agency

Permission is required to do work on or near a river, flood defence or sea defence.

Historic England

Permission is required to do work on a site of historical importance.

Local Planning Authority

The local planning authority will consider the various impacts of a proposed development on the National Landscape. Planning consent is usually required for most types of works.

Marine Management Organisation

The Marine Management Organisation will ensure that works adhere to the latest national marine planning policies. A marine licence must be obtained for all construction works below Mean High Water Springs.

Natural England

Natural England will consider the potential impacts of a project on the conservation designations.

Sussex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (IFCA)

Sussex IFCA has the power to prosecute for breaches of fisheries legislation. Other enforcement options such as warnings or financial penalties are available and may be used instead of prosecution, depending on the case's severity and the public interest.



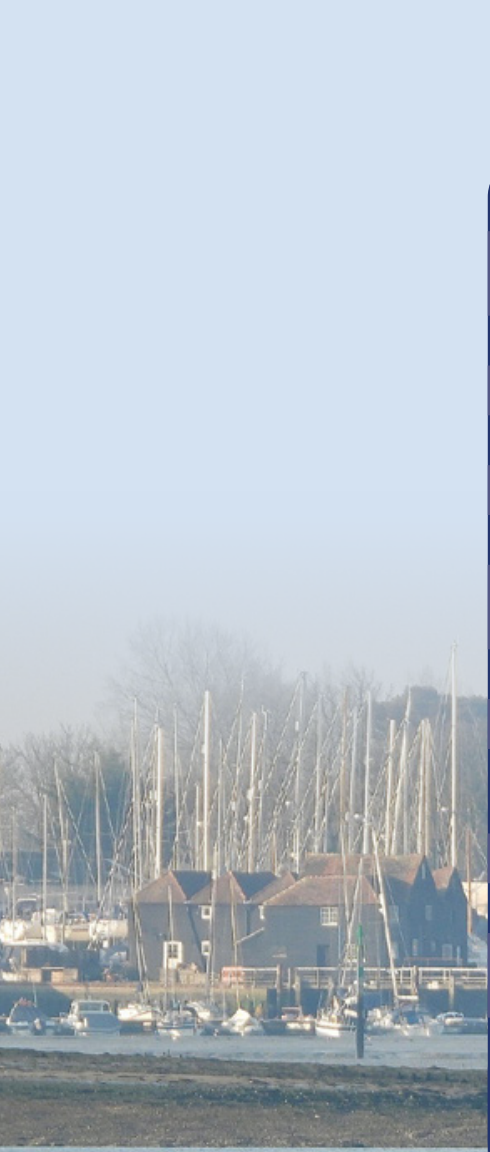
Chichester Harbour Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): Operations Requiring Natural England Consent

Name: Chichester Harbour OLD1003245

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are the finest sites for wildlife and natural features in England, supporting many characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features.

1. Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2. The introduction of grazing and changes in the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).
3. The introduction of stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice.
4. The introduction of mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation and changes in the mowing or cutting regime (including hay making to silage and cessation).
5. Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6. Application of pesticides and herbicides (weedkillers).
7. Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8. Burning.
9. The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animal*, plant or seed.
10. The killing or removal of any wild animal*, including pest control.
11. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf-mould and turf.
12. The introduction of tree and/or woodland management+ and changes in tree and/or woodland management+.
- 13a. Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or artificial drains).
- 13b. Modification of the structure of watercourses (e.g. rivers, streams, springs, ditches, dykes and drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading and dredging.
14. The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).





15. Infilling of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits and dune slacks.
 - 16a. The introduction of freshwater fishery production and/or management and changes in freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling.
 - 16b. Coastal fishing or fisheries management and seafood or marine life collection, including the use of traps or fish cages.
 17. Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.
 18. Bait digging in intertidal areas.
 19. Erection of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or landslip drainage or stabilisation measures.
 20. Extraction of minerals, including shingle, sand and gravel, topsoil, shells and spoil.
 21. Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
 22. Storage of materials.
 23. Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
 24. Modification of natural or man-made features, clearance of boulders, large stones or loose rock and battering, buttressing or grading rock faces and cuttings, infilling of pits, quarries and re-grading of dune and beach land forms.
 26. Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
 27. Recreational or other activities likely to damage features of interest including sand dune and beach land forms.
 28. The introduction of game or waterfowl management and changes in game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.
- * 'animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.
- + Including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition, cessation of management.

Chichester Channel © Shirley Rushmer





Enforcement in a Nationally and Internationally Important Landscape

The rules and regulations of activities and development are laid down by UK law.

Unauthorised developments and activities require swift and effective enforcement action from the relevant statutory organisation due to the environmental sensitivities of this nationally and internationally important landscape. The precautionary principle should always be applied whereby if a development or activity is causing suspected environmental harm, it should immediately stop to enable full scrutiny of the case.

- Evidence of harm will be collated and used as evidence to support any prospective prosecutions.
- Wherever possible, Chichester Harbour Conservancy will support statutory partner organisations in bringing enforcement action against alleged unauthorised developments or activities.
- If anyone is concerned about possible unauthorised developments or activities, they should report the matter to the relevant statutory organisation as soon as possible to enable an investigation.

Harbour Patrol © Paul Adams



Condition Review of Chichester Harbour Sites, 2021

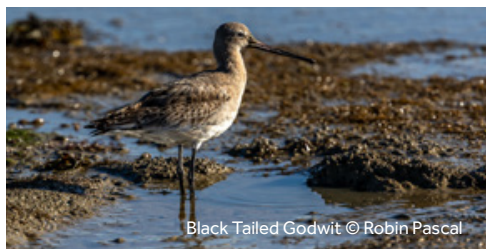
In 2021 Natural England published its Condition Review of Chichester Harbour Sites: Intertidal, Subtidal and Bird Features (NERR090). Overall, the Review found that saltmarsh was in rapid state of decline, bird populations are decreasing, and the nutrient-rich harbour causes excessive and opportunistic macroalgal weed. The main water body of Chichester Harbour was downgraded to 'unfavourable declining' condition.



Intertidal Zone © Paul Adams



Little Tern © Paul Adams

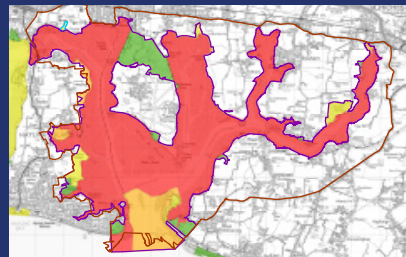


Black Tailed Godwit © Robin Pascal

- Between 1946 and 2016, 58% of saltmarsh was lost overall, with almost half of that since 1970, which was when the habitat received greater legal protection. On average, 2.54 hectares (the equivalent of more than 3 football pitches in area) of saltmarsh is being lost every year across Chichester Harbour. At the current rate of decline, Chichester Harbour could lose all its remaining saltmarsh habitat by the middle of the next century. The main cause of saltmarsh decline is coastal squeeze, where hard sea defences prevent intertidal habitats gradually moving inland. Nature based solutions support a healthy ecosystem.
- The wintering populations of birds in Chichester Harbour vary in their trends over time but on average the assemblage is in unfavourable condition as numbers of many species have declined, some species dramatically so (more than 70% long term). There are additional site-specific factors affecting these and the other bird species, including disturbance, pressures on high tide roosts and poor quality of habitat. Nesting Terns are in unfavourable declining condition because nesting Sandwich Tern numbers have declined to zero, Little Tern numbers have declined dramatically and the number of their chicks per nest successfully fledging is at or close to zero. A range of complex factors including predation (both mammalian and avian), habitat changes and climate change (sea level rise and increased storminess) are the causes, despite concerted conservation actions to reverse the trend.
- Excessive opportunistic macroalgae weed indicates nutrient enrichment of the water courses and main water body. Although coverage varies from year to year, depending on the weather, most of the harbour has too much opportunistic macroalgae weed. The main cause of this is the nitrate run-off from fertiliser used across farms within the catchment, which is further enriched by nitrate contributions derived from the wastewater treatment works.

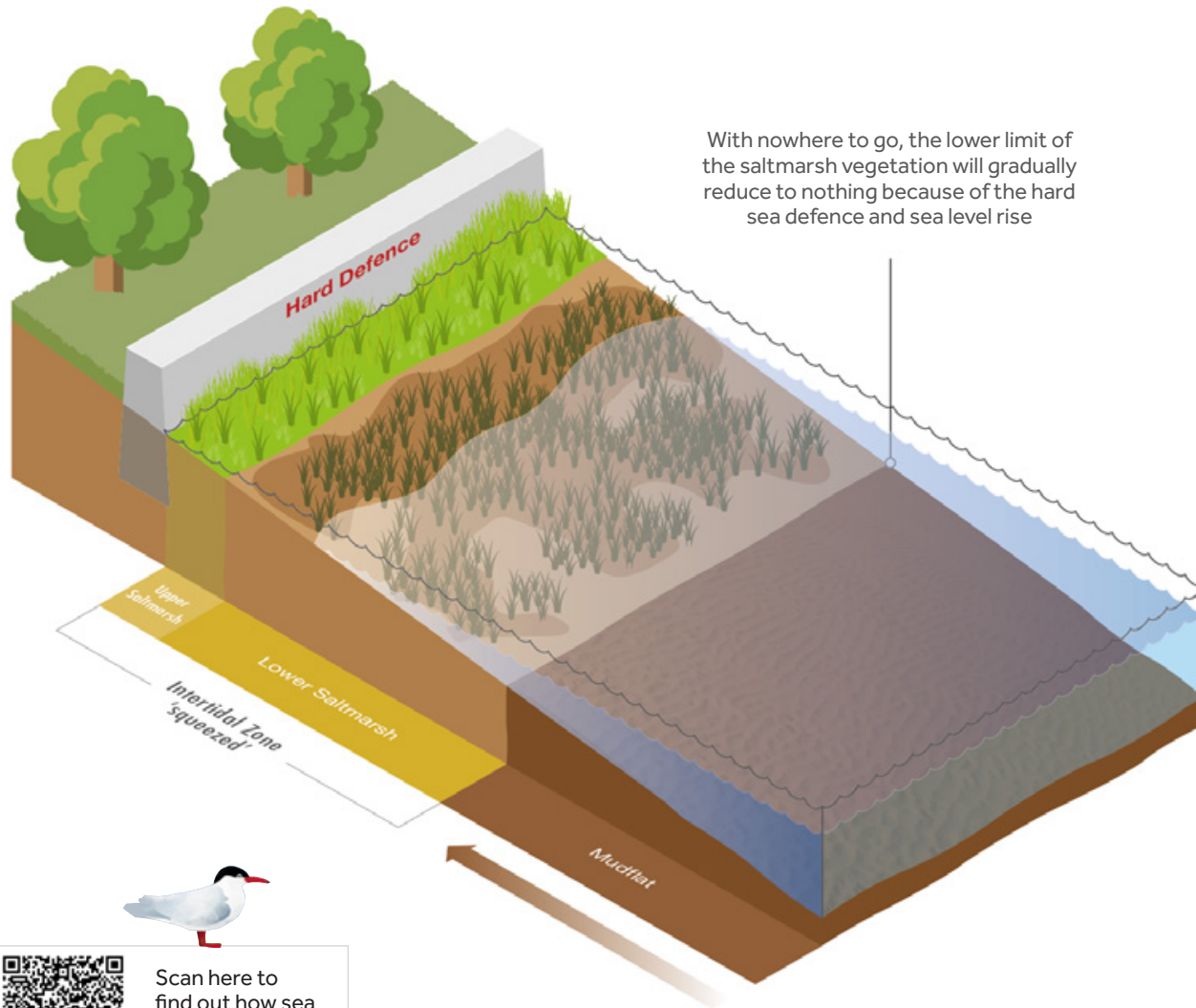


Scan here to download Natural England's Condition Review of Chichester Harbour Sites.



See Map C - page 50

Understanding Coastal Squeeze: Damaging Hard Sea Defences



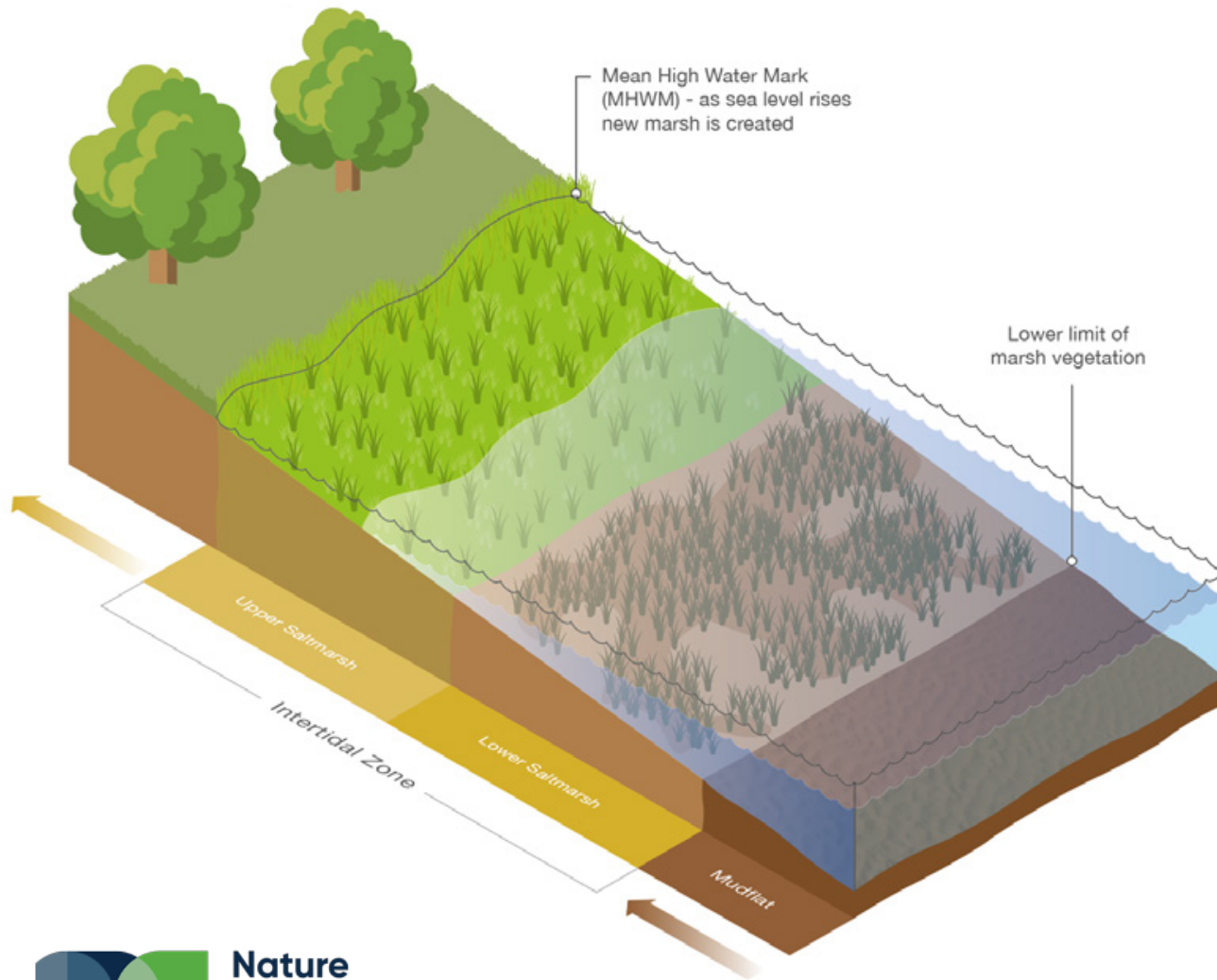
Scan here to find out how sea level rise affects coastal habitats.

Hard Sea Defences © Julia Dobson Design & Illustration



Emsworth (top), Thorney Island (middle), Bosham (bottom)
© Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Understanding Coastal Squeeze: Healthy Natural Sea Defences



Natural Sea Defences © Julia Dobson Design & Illustration





Section 3 Management Policy Aims

The Policy Aims constitute the drivers for change over the next five years. Each Policy Aim has four areas which are linked to the accompanying Delivery Plan. This will be kept under review for the duration of the Management Plan.

Policy Aim 1: Improvement of the Harbour

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Policy Aim 2: Use of Pleasure Craft & Other Such Vessels

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Policy Aim 3: Leisure & Recreation

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Policy Aim 4: Conservation of Nature

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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.

1.2 Responsible Maritime Practices

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.

Chichester Harbour Waves © Paul Adams



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 is also a by-product of outdated farming practices. Efforts to reduce run-off from farmland will be accelerated.

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. Work will continue to reduce plastic pollution and minimise the presence of forever chemicals.

Ploughing © Peter Arnold



Water Quality

Good water quality sustains ecological processes that support native fish and invertebrate populations, vegetation, wetlands and birdlife. In addition, many people rely on good water quality for leisure and recreational use. Nationally, public perceptions of the need for clean water are arguably more heightened than ever.

Wastewater

Storm discharges (technically referred to as combined sewer overflows) occur when wastewater treatment works are overwhelmed by incoming water, which itself is a combination of sewage and freshwater (rainfall and groundwater). These discharges usually occur during periods of wet weather. Storm overflows are designed to act as relief valves when the sewerage system is at risk of being overwhelmed, such as during heavy downpours when a lot of rainwater runs into drains and the sewerage system in a short space of time. If the system gets overwhelmed it can cause localised instances of flooding.

To prevent that happening, storm overflows release excess rainwater and wastewater into Chichester Harbour and its catchment. Spills can also come from storm overflows in emergency situations, for example, if there are sewer blockages or equipment failures at wastewater treatment works.

Macroalgae Weed © Paul Adams

The general public perception is that national government policy is self-defeating around Chichester Harbour. With the wastewater treatment works unable to cope with the existing demands of residents, it seems nonsensical to be simultaneously accelerating the building of new dwellings, which will place further pressure on the infrastructure once they are occupied. Furthermore, it is unclear if the current programme of upgrading the wastewater treatment works will future-proof against new dwellings, or whether the capability of the facilities will constantly lag behind the rate of new connections.

Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals

Meanwhile, pharmaceuticals and household chemicals primarily enter Chichester Harbour through the wastewater treatment works. Many of these chemicals are used in commonplace, over-the-counter drugs, cosmetics or household items. Evidence of recreational drugs have also been found in the harbour, which will have originated on land and then entered the sewage system, just as household chemicals are poured down the drain after use. The wastewater treatment works are not designed to filter chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Though the full impact of these chemicals is not fully understood, academic evidence suggests they disrupt the functioning of many organisms and reduce the resilience of marine ecosystems.



German Shorthaired Pointer © Shirley Rushmer



Scrubbing Piles © Paul Adams



Pump-out Facility © Ian Crossley

There needs to be greater understanding that pharmaceuticals and chemicals detrimentally impact the natural environment. Furthermore, powerful insecticides that are banned due to their harm to the environment are still found in 'spot-on' flea treatment products used on cats and dogs. These chemicals pose significant risks to aquatic wildlife, whether from a dog swimming in the water, or indirectly when washing hands or pet bedding.

Black Water & Antifouling

Pollution from recreational boating activities comes from several sources. Black water is a term used to describe toilet waste. Vessels fitted with wastewater holding tanks can access pump out facilities around Chichester Harbour to empty them. Vessels without holding tanks should use a portable toilet, to be emptied at a chemical disposal point, rather than overboard.

When a vessel is treated with antifouling paint it usually follows a high-pressure freshwater wash to remove previous paint and its chemical treatment. Unless the run-off is captured, this waste usually drains into Chichester Harbour, and with thousands of craft to maintain every year, the potential cumulative negative impact on water quality is substantial.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the sailing clubs, sailing centres, boatyards and marinas, all have a responsibility to encourage best practice so that all harbour users understand how they can minimise their impact on water quality.

Agriculture

Clean water is vital to human health and to natural ecosystems. Excess nutrients from agricultural sources is one of the main causes of water pollution in Chichester Harbour. Nitrates and organic nitrogen compounds from fertiliser and manure enter groundwater through leaching and reach surface water through runoff from agricultural fields. There is an excessive amount of nitrate run-off from farms in Chichester Harbour and within the wider catchment, causing opportunistic levels of macroalgal weed. Although nitrates also come from wastewater treatments works and atmospheric deposition, the main source is from farming practices.

Traditional farming practices that leach nitrates into Chichester Harbour need to modernise. Land managers should reassess the cost/value benefits of applying fertiliser given that much of the low lying land is already highly fertile. The application of historic and expensive levels of fertiliser may not significantly increase the annual yield. Where it is necessary to apply fertiliser, farmers should leave a buffer zone of at least five metres (greater if the land is subject to leaching) along the watercourses and sow winter cover crops. The use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to prevent double-spraying of crops is also encouraged.



Not all farmers are polluting Chichester Harbour. New farm cluster groups are pursuing best practice and leading by example, with many genuine nature-friendly farming practices. This modern approach needs to become embedded across the catchment. The farmers already moving in this direction are to be applauded.

Plastics

Plastics are inexpensive and durable, making them very adaptable for different uses. Sources of plastic pollution include litter, wear and tear from car tyres, factory waste (nurdles), and clothing fibres. The chemical structure of plastics renders them resistant to many natural processes of degradation, so they never entirely disappear, presenting a long-term environmental problem. Global plastic production rose from 1.5 million tons in the 1950s to 380 million tons in 2025, resulting in concerns about their release from landfills into the natural environment. Today, plastics have been categorised as mega (largest), macro, meso, micro and nano (smallest). Living organisms, particularly marine animals, can be harmed either by mechanical effects such as entanglement in plastic objects, problems related to ingestion of plastic waste, or through exposure to chemicals within plastics that interfere with their physiology. Degraded plastic waste can directly affect humans through direct consumption.

In summary, water quality is a complicated picture. To achieve clean water in Chichester Harbour, it will require multiple efforts across society to make a difference, which will take many years. However, with the right interventions genuine change is possible.



Scan here to find out what is affecting water quality.



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.

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. Positive working relationships with sailing clubs and sailing centres are to be maintained.

Thornham Marina © Shirley Rushmer



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.

Emsworth Yacht Harbour © Paul Adams



A Dynamic Estuary

Chichester Harbour is enjoyed by around 25,000 sailors each year. It is a dynamic estuary shaped by the action of wind, wave and tide. The vast shingle and sand banks of the Winner and Pilsley are always in a state of flux and beach levels can change significantly in short order. Ebb tides reaching 6.4 knots in the entrance ensure a steady supply of material to Chichester Bar, with regular monitoring and dredging optimising safety and access to the harbour. With a large tidal range, revealing areas of mudland at low-water, there is a focus on aids to navigation necessitating 35 main lights, 39 day marks and over 200 withies, to mark the 17 miles of navigable channels.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy

There is a balance to maintain between encouraging people to enjoy the harbour afloat, while also preventing congestion and the dangers that come with it. Since 1971, Chichester Harbour Conservancy has managed the number of boats using the harbour, to reduce conflict between different interest groups on the water and to improve the boating infrastructure. This is achieved by using a prescriptive moorings policy

to control the number of vessels, keeping areas of the harbour clear for sailing and supporting sailing clubs and boatyards. Chichester Harbour encourages courtesy and good behaviour, rather than sole reliance on rules and regulations to control vessels.

The powers and duties of Chichester Harbour Conservancy are laid down in the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971 and by a range of harbour and merchant shipping legislation, detailed in the published Safety Plan and Marine Safety Management System. Other harbour legislation is in place to manage safety, including the powers to make byelaws and Harbour Directions.

Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code

Complementing these duties and powers and providing a national standard for marine safety in ports and harbours is the Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC), introduced in 2000. It was developed to improve safety in the port marine environment and to enable organisations to manage their marine operations to nationally agreed standards. It is primarily intended for the 'Duty Holder' which at Chichester Harbour, is the collective responsibility of the appointed Conservancy Members.



Department
for Transport



Maritime and
Coastguard Agency

The Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code comprises the following 10 measures:

1. **Duty Holder.** Whose Members are, individually and collectively, accountable for compliance and their organisation's performance in ensuring safe marine operations.
2. **Designated Person.** Provides independent assurance about the operation of the organisation's Marine Safety Management System and must have direct access to the Duty Holder.
3. **Legislation.** The Duty Holder must be aware of and review the organisation's legal powers, duties and responsibilities based on applicable local and national legislation and seek additional powers if necessary to improve marine safety.
4. **Duties & Powers.** Organisations must comply with any statutory duties and responsibilities they have.
5. **Risk Assessment.** Organisations must ensure that risks are formally assessed and are eliminated or reduced to the lowest possible level, so far as is reasonably practicable, in accordance with good practice.
6. **Marine Safety Management System.** Organisations must operate an effective marine safety management system which is based on formal risk assessment.
7. **Review & Audit.** Organisations must review and audit performance against applicable requirements.
8. **Competence.** Organisations must use people who are appropriately trained, qualified and experienced to manage marine safety.
9. **Marine Safety Plan.** Organisations must publish a Marine Safety Plan showing how the standards will be met and produce a report assessing performance against that plan at least every three years.
10. **Conservancy Duty.** Organisations must ensure their facilities are fit for purpose and have a duty of reasonable care to ensure that any vessel can utilise them safely.

Racing Dinghies © Paul Adams



Sailing and Boating

Chichester Harbour is a vibrant centre for recreational boating with 14 sailing clubs and two sailing centres. The harbour is also popular with larger cruising vessels that take advantage of easy access to the Solent and Channel ports and picturesque deep-water anchorages. The harbour provides 2,000 marina berths and 3,200 swinging moorings to accommodate these vessels. The complement of harbour vessels also includes a small commercial fishing fleet, charter anglers, visiting workboats and dredgers and an array of other small craft including kayaks, pilot gigs, rowing boats, foiling craft, personal watercraft and stand-up paddleboards. There are around 10,500 craft in all, along with a dedicated small contingent of year-round swimmers.

Harbour users require a comprehensive mix of facilities to support their activities and these are met through a combination of marinas, boatyards and mooring providers. Additionally, Chichester Harbour Conservancy provides infrastructure and services that support recreation opportunities for all sections of the marine community.

Marine Businesses

Chichester Harbour Conservancy understands that the prosperity of marine businesses is cyclical. Once sites are lost from marine-related use, it is extremely unlikely that they will be replaced by new ones. It is therefore vital that sufficient marine site capacity is retained for the long term viability of the harbour's marine infrastructure and the boats and businesses that depend on them.

Chichester Harbour National Landscape is a popular destination for tourists with an estimated 1.8 million visitors per year, which despite its comparatively small size at 28.2 square miles, exceeds the visitor numbers at some National Parks. Whilst this is positive for the local economy, it does result in congestion during the summer months. In light of the biodiversity crisis and climate emergency, Chichester Harbour Conservancy will look to new visitors to help fund the long term protection of the environment. For instance, if each visitor donated just £1 per year to nature recovery, it would significantly boost the ambitions to return the Sites of Special Scientific Interest to favourable condition.

Chichester Channel © Paul Adams



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 will continue to be 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.

Racing Keel Boats © Paul Adams



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.

Education Service © Paul Gonella

Health Benefits

The health benefits of spending time in the countryside are well established and there are a range of outdoor activities available at Chichester Harbour.

Natural surroundings can help to reduce stress and tension and aid the recovery from some illnesses by boosting mental wellbeing. Whether gently relaxing out on the water or competing at high speeds, sailing and boating can boost fitness with mental and physical challenges, such as strengthening muscles, improved concentration and better spatial awareness. Paddle sports, like kayaking, canoeing and rowing are increasingly popular pursuits.

Chichester Harbour Federation

Arguably the best way to experience Chichester Harbour is by water, which brings a sense of peace and tranquillity, with the long distance views offering a respite from the busy pressures of everyday life. Founded by four sailing clubs in 1924, the Chichester Harbour Federation aims to promote sailing and boating, co-ordinate race activities and act as a collective voice for the marine community. Around 40 organisations are members of the Federation, representing harbour users and marine industries. The Federation runs Chichester Harbour Race Week, one of the most popular dinghy regatta weeks in the summer.

Solar Heritage

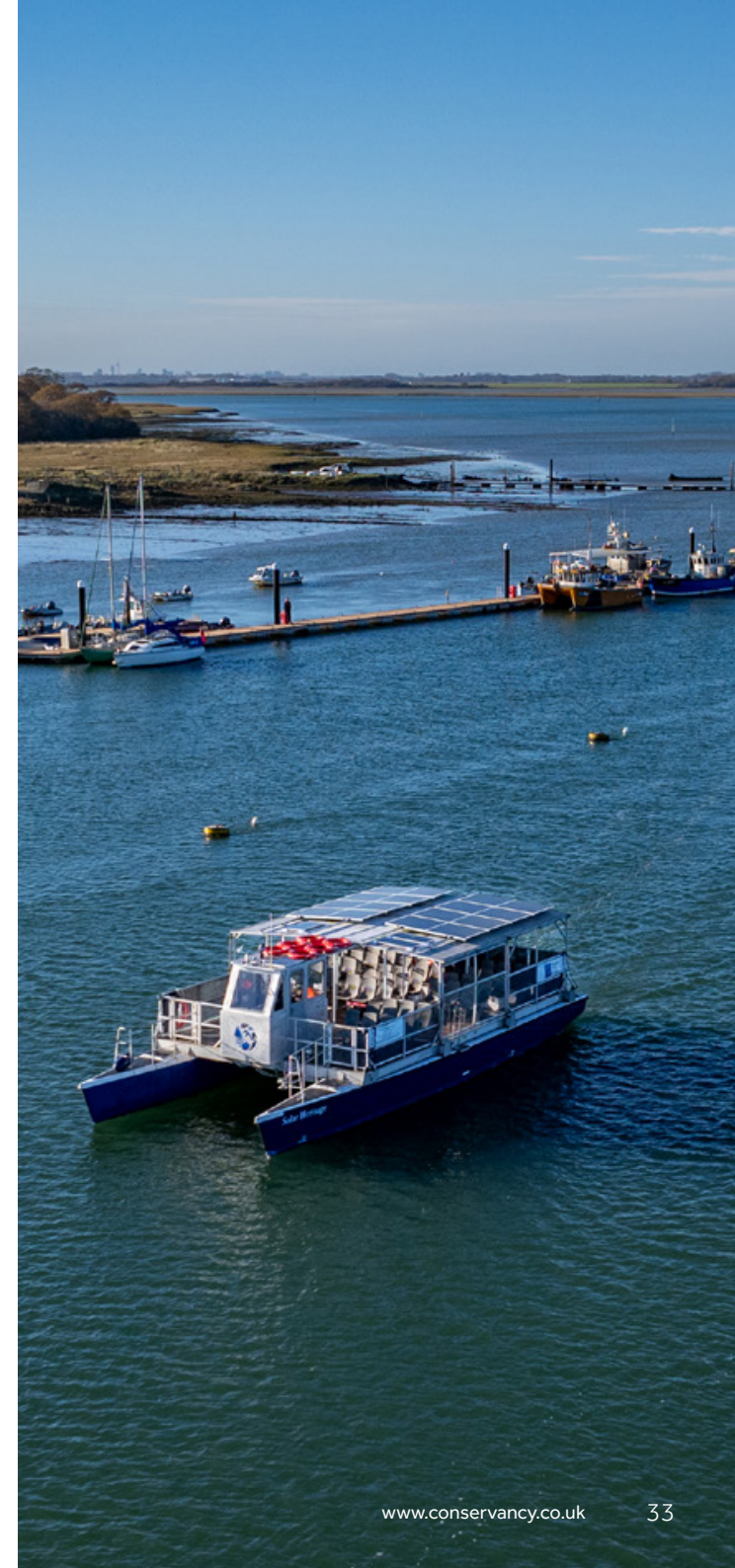
For those seeking a more leisurely experience, Chichester Harbour Conservancy operates *Solar Heritage*, a solar powered catamaran, with space for up to 50 passengers. The vessel takes trips around Chichester Harbour all year round, with conservation commentary from experienced guides.

Solar Heritage welcomes wheelchair users. The electric engines are virtually silent, so when gliding along, passengers can admire the view and see the habitats and wildlife relatively close-up.

Terror

The Chichester Harbour Friends, in partnership with Emsworth Yacht Harbour, operate an oysterboat called *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. Today, *Terror* is a six-person passenger vessel offering a memorable close-to-the-water experience around the Harbour.

Solar Heritage © Brian Bracher



Walking & Cycling

The King Charles III England Coast Path affords spectacular views across the estuary. In total, there are 63 miles of footpaths within Chichester Harbour National Landscape. The Solent Way is one of the most picturesque walks in Hampshire, running 60 miles from Milford-on-Sea to Emsworth. Walking, jogging and running are simple, free, and some of the easiest ways to be active.

Cycling is excellent for cardiovascular fitness and it is also good for the environment as a low impact form of transport. In West Sussex, the Salterns Way is a dedicated cycling route of 7.5 miles, providing a mostly off-road link between the City of Chichester and West Wittering. After 20 years of operation, the Salterns Way is a popular route for residents and visitors, with some sections also wheelchair accessible. The Salterns Way straddles the boundary between the Amenity Area and the National Landscape.

Other Leisure & Recreational Activities

There are many other leisure and recreational activities that people can participate in at Chichester Harbour. These include amateur fishing, bird watching, educational activities, exploring nature trails, family events, model boating, painting, photography, picnicking, sightseeing, visiting the harbour villages and wildfowling (where permitted). A variety of social events, specialist talks, fêtes and shows are organised throughout the year around Chichester Harbour by a range of dedicated local clubs and societies.

Chichester Harbour Education Centre

Chichester Harbour Conservancy established its Education Centre in 1999. Today, an average of 9,000 people per year use the service, from across Hampshire and West Sussex. The Education Centre is a base from which to explore the natural and cultural environment. One of the programmes offered by the Education Service is Junior Conservancy, a citizenship initiative. These sessions give children the chance to discuss and debate real life issues, including a session in a Council's Chamber, which serves as an introduction to governance and politics.

Information

Chichester Harbour Conservancy provides information to the public through a wide range of media, including the annual Harbour Life magazine, a network of interpretation and information boards at key locations, as well as a website, email newsletters, local press and social media.

An example of a campaign run by Chichester Harbour Conservancy is around recreational disturbance, which remains a serious issue. This refers to the impact of human recreational activities on wildlife and their habitats. If wildlife is alerted to a potential threat, animals can rapidly change their behaviour, such as fleeing their territory, abandoning nests, or showing signs of heightened anxiety. This can lead to unnecessary energy expenditure, reduced breeding success and even death. Activities like walking, dog walking, off-roading, flying drones, shooting and paddle sports can all contribute to recreational disturbance. Bird Aware Solent helps people to understand the importance of keeping a safe distance from coastal birdlife. Their funding is drawn from a levy on all new developments within 5.6km of the Solent's Special Protection Areas.

Recreational Disturbance © Chichester Harbour Conservancy





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.

Cobnor © Chichester Harbour Conservancy

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.

Bosham © Pete Ayling



Nature Recovery

Chichester Harbour is in a biodiversity crisis. 80% of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), covering 3,003 hectares, was downgraded to 'unfavourable declining' condition in 2021 by Natural England, meaning that as each year passes the state of nature is getting worse, not better.

CHaPRoN

The Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature (CHaPRoN) partnership set itself the ambition to return the entire SSSI to favourable condition by 2050. The partnership comprises Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Coastal Partners, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the RSPB, Sussex IFCA, Southern Water and the Three Harbours Partnership. Success will entail significant investment and many habitat improvements across Chichester Harbour.

Saltmarshes

Saltmarshes have been in severe decline in Chichester Harbour since 1946. Yet they have multiple benefits, supporting plant, insect and bird life, and they are a nursery for young fish and shellfish, providing a sheltered environment for them to safely grow. They absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a natural sponge, filtering chemicals that run-off from the land (e.g. herbicides, pesticides, and heavy metals). Aesthetically, saltmarshes are an example of natural beauty and are a nature based solution to sea level rise, acting as a natural sea defence.

Seagrass

Chichester Harbour has seagrass meadows that can store huge amounts of dissolved carbon

making the habitat one of the most important natural solutions to the climate crisis. Seagrass stabilises the sediment in which it grows. Long leaves slow down water currents, absorbing excessive nutrients and chemicals, leading to improved water quality. Like saltmarshes, seagrass mitigates damage from rising sea levels and protects shorelines by reducing wave energy. Seagrass oxygenates the water and contributes to combating climate change by storing carbon in the seafloor. Seagrass meadows are biodiverse. They are a nursery to young fish, a home for seahorses, crabs, anemones and molluscs.

Tern Rafts

Opportunities to enhance and create new shingle banks should be sought over the course of this Management Plan. Although the Tern rafts at Thorney Deeps have proved successful with Common Terns, their use is only due to the deficit of shingle banks on the water's edge, and the rafts only support that variety of bird (other seabirds are also in decline). Finding new sites for high tide roosts will benefit a greater array of birdlife.

Wildflowers

Wildflower meadows offer a habitat of perennial grasses and wildflowers, created by managing land with little or no fertiliser to encourage native species. These meadows provide essential food and shelter for a wide range of wildlife, including pollinators like bees and butterflies, and support intricate ecosystems from insects to birds and small mammals. Since 1946, the UK has lost 97% of its wildflower meadows. New and permanent sites for pollinators must be identified around the National Landscape.

Spiny Seahorse © Martin Davies





Climate Change

The single biggest threat to the future of Chichester Harbour is the climate emergency.

With sea level rise projected to be between 28cm and 1.6 metres by 2100, the interface between land and water will look very different in years to come. The effects of climate change will be diverse, from hotter, drier summers, with greater instances of droughts and wildfires, to warmer and wetter winters, with increased rainfall and more flood events. In the short term, inclement weather is likely to put added pressure on the communities in and around Chichester Harbour.

To keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C, as called for in the 2016 Paris Agreement, emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. Net zero means producing only a small amount of residual carbon emissions, which can be absorbed and durably stored by nature and other carbon dioxide removal measures.

Mitigation

Climate change mitigation involves actions to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions from human activities. Mitigation efforts include transitioning to renewable energy sources, becoming more energy efficient, adopting best practice agricultural processes, protecting and restoring critical ecosystems and planting trees.

Sequestration

Carbon sequestration is the process of removing carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere. The ecosystem services provided by saltmarshes, seagrass beds and woodlands are to be safeguarded as they collectively act as carbon sinks, helping to mitigate and slowdown the rate of climate change.

Adaptation

Climate change adaptation seeks to reduce the risks posed by climate change, from resilient infrastructure, to planting crop varieties which are more resistant to droughts and better preparing for floods. As the impacts of climate change accelerate, including more extreme weather and sea level rise, it is increasingly urgent that communities adapt.

Chichester Harbour Friends

Established in 1987, the Chichester Harbour Friends is an independent registered charity with around 2,000 members. They fund conservation, access and education projects, as well as providing grants to other local good causes. Their volunteers support conservation work parties, which are open for anyone to attend, and with various events and activities. The Chichester Harbour Friends have prioritised nature recovery as their main ambition for the coming years and are pivotal with positive community engagement.

Chichester Harbour Trust

Chichester Harbour Trust was formed in 2002 in recognition that the most effective way to protect the landscape is to have direct control of the land, either through purchases or long leases. The Trust was established as an independent registered charity with the objective of acquiring sites within Chichester Harbour National Landscape and its surrounding areas for the purpose of conserving, protecting and improving the natural beauty and wildlife for public benefit.

As of 2025 the Trust holds 15 sites covering 375 acres (152 hectares). The Trust will have an increasingly key role in years to come, in terms of assisting Chichester Harbour Conservancy with its nature recovery ambitions.

Historic Environment

As sea level rise exposes the coastline, erosion has the potential to reveal more about our past. Finds of worked flint suggest that Chichester Harbour was important through the Neolithic period and into the Bronze Age. By the Iron Age, it was important for salt working, and by AD43 served as a landing point for the Claudian arrival



Scan here to find out why coastal habitats are being restored.

by the Romans. In later years, legend has it that King Canute ordered the tide to go back from Bosham, and the same village also features on the Bayeux Tapestry.

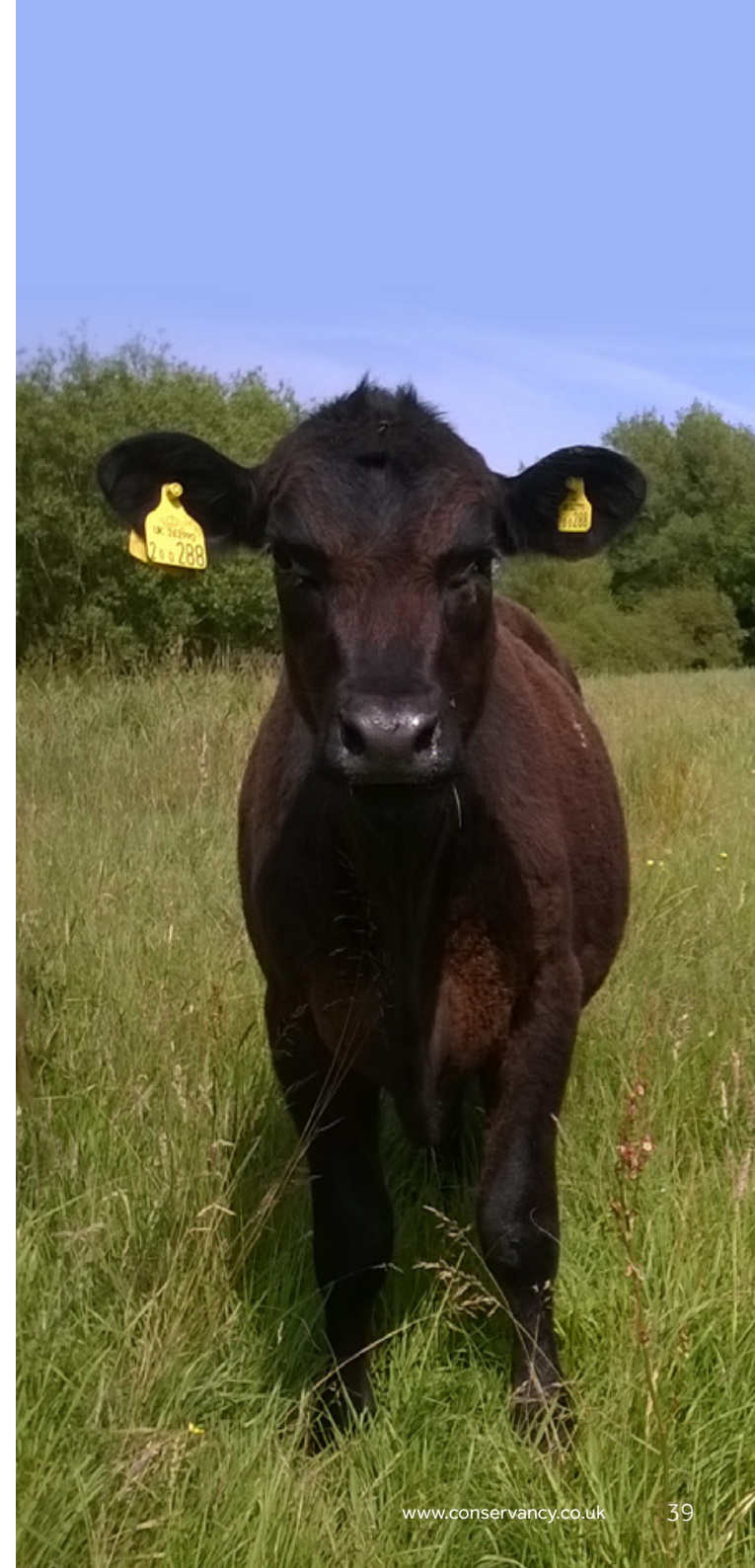
Thorney Island Airfield opened in 1938, and there are many surviving features of the Second World War in Chichester Harbour, including pillboxes and gun emplacements.

With such a rich history, it is necessary to be alert to coastal change. The eroding embankments are likely to expose new finds of historical importance.

Farming in Protected Landscapes

Since 2021, the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme has been a success story at Chichester Harbour National Landscape. Funding has been used to help nature recover, reduce the impacts of climate change, protect and enhance cultural heritage, improve access and support the enjoyment of the beautiful landscape.

Regenerative farming refers to any form of farming that at the same time improves the environment. All the farms within the catchment of Langstone, Chichester and Pagham Harbours are to be encouraged to embrace farming that will reap long-term environmental benefits. The Grade 1 agricultural land around Chichester Harbour, classed as 'Excellent', yields consistently high crops with few limitations to its use. The Grade 2 agricultural land, which is 'Very Good', is also high yielding, but generally has minor limitations to its use. Grades 1 and 2 land are to be kept for cultivation as they will be required for future food production.





Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

National Targets

As part of the UK Government's drive to address the national biodiversity crisis, Defra has set the following targets.

1. To restore or create more than 66.6 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats in Chichester Harbour National Landscape.

Identified habitat creation sites:

- Thorney Island, Project Marker, 31 hectares
- West Chidham, 25.6 hectares
- West Itchenor, Horse Pond, 5 hectares
- Fishbourne Footpath to Nature Recovery, 5 hectares

2. To increase tree canopy cover at a rate of a minimum of 1 hectare per year. This equates to planting at least 1,000 trees, or hedgerow trees, per year.

Old Park Wood © Chichester Harbour Conservancy



Planning Principles

To help interpret the adopted development management policies of the relevant local planning authority, Chichester Harbour Conservancy has prepared seven Planning Principles, which can be used by anyone. These promote and reinforce local distinctiveness in the National Landscape and offer those seeking planning permission greater certainty on which to make their decisions. It is anticipated that this clarity will strengthen relationships between the local planning authorities, the Planning Inspectorate, developers, voluntary organisations and the general public, which in turn will strengthen the delivery of the Management Plan, a material planning consideration.

The Adopted Joint Supplementary Planning Document for Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now known as a National Landscape) provides design guidance and further detail in addition to these Planning Principles. Applicants and respondents to any given planning application are advised to cite, if applicable and relevant, the policy or policies in the adopted Local Plan and its Supplementary Planning Document, and the Chichester Harbour National Landscape Management (in terms of how the proposed development will further the Policy Aims and meet the Planning Principles). An adopted Neighbourhood Plan, Village Design Statement, and Conservation Area Character Appraisal, and any other associated planning materials, should also be given consideration in the context of preparing written representation over any given case.

PP01

Great Weight for a Nationally Important Landscape

1. Chichester Harbour National Landscape has the statutory primary purpose to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. Great weight is to be given to the protection of the National Landscape and its setting, its special qualities, and the policy aims.
2. All development inside and affecting the National Landscape must seek to further the natural beauty of the National Landscape, and be consistent with the Policy Aims of the Management Plan.
3. Development within the coastal margin will be very carefully scrutinised, particularly in the intertidal area of the National Landscape, which is extremely sensitive to all forms of development.
4. The significance and amenity value of trees will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and the loss of trees and shrubs should be avoided. Native tree and shrub species typical of the National Landscape should always be used.
5. All new developments for a net increase in dwellings within the National Landscape or its setting are to be within existing settlement boundaries.



PP02

Safeguarding Marine Enterprise

1. Marine businesses are part of the cultural heritage of the National Landscape, significantly contributing to the local economy. Once a marine business diversifies away from its original function it is unlikely to revert back to marine use. Existing boatyards, marinas, sailing clubs and sailing centres are therefore to be retained.
2. If a marine site becomes financially unviable, the preference will be to retain the marine use with a revised business model.
3. A change of use should be avoided. Where this is sought, the marketing requirements set out in the adopted Local Plan should be followed and this should be part of a planning application.

PP03

Residential & Householder Development

Those seeking to replace or extend their dwellings should follow the guidance below.

1. As a general principle, any increase in size and/or mass should not exceed 50% of the footprint and 25% to the elevation silhouette of the original dwelling where this is known from the site's planning history.
2. The openness and rural character of the National Landscape and its setting when seen from public vantage points (including public footpaths, the water, the foreshore, roads, views across open countryside) are to be retained.
3. The spatial pattern surrounding the development site, and the spaces between existing buildings, is to be respected.
4. A replacement dwelling or extension must have a sympathetic design and materials which reinforces the local distinctiveness of the National Landscape, having regard to local design guidance including but not limited to:
 - a. Made Neighbourhood Plans
 - b. Conservation Area Character Appraisals
 - c. Landscape Character Assessments
 - d. Adopted Joint Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Supplementary Planning Document
 - e. Village Design Statements



PP04

New Tourist / Commercial / Agricultural Development within the Rural Area

1. New tourism, commercial or agricultural development will be supported where it is demonstrated there will be no harm from visual intrusion, noise, increased activity nor erosion of rural character.
2. New buildings are sited adjacent to existing buildings, or where this is not possible, screened by existing mature planting.

PP05

Dark Skies & Light Pollution

1. All development proposals should aspire to reduce the adverse impact of artificial light in Chichester Harbour National Landscape. The Institution of Lighting Professionals has published best practice guidance.
2. A statement outlining where the light will shine; when the light will shine; how much light will shine; the possible ecological impact and a series of mitigation measures, if appropriate, should accompany a relevant planning application. Roof lights should be kept to a minimum and where proposed, should incorporate internal automatic dusk 'til dawn blinds to minimise upwards light pollution. Garden lights should also be kept to a minimum.
3. The lighting proposals are to be the minimum needed for security and/or working purposes. The best practice includes that security lights will be fitted with passive infra-red detectors and/or timing devices so as to minimise nuisance to neighbours. These should be set so that they are not triggered by movement outside the site.
4. Smooth, reflective building materials, including large horizontal expanses of glass, particularly near the edge of the water, are to be avoided as they have the potential to change natural light and thereby create polarised light pollution detrimentally affecting wildlife and the landscape.

PP06

Conversion of Buildings within the Rural Area

The conversion of buildings outside of defined settlements/urban areas to an alternative use will be supported provided the following are demonstrated.

1. The building is no longer required for its original purpose.
2. A structural survey indicates that the building is structurally sound.
3. Protected species and priority habitats are not detrimentally affected.
4. An alternative employment, tourism or community use is first evaluated for the building and shown by the applicant to be unviable, before dwellings within Class C3 of the Town and Country Planning (Uses Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) are proposed.
5. Where a Class C3 dwelling is proposed, the residential curtilage should be clearly defined and proportionate to the size of dwelling.
6. The design of any alterations and materials used are sympathetic to the character of the existing building and its rural location.

PP07

Development Near the National Landscape Boundary

1. The boundary of the National Landscape acts as a visual buffer zone, protecting it from development and safeguarding its setting. The long-distance northerly views to and from Chichester Harbour National Landscape are to be maintained. The landscape and setting of Chichester Harbour National Landscape is of national importance.
2. The Strategic Wildlife Corridors to the north and north-east of Chichester Harbour National Landscape serve an important ecological function and any development within them must be severely restricted.
3. New residential or commercial development add pressure on the wastewater treatment works, which can result in increased storm overflows into Chichester Harbour during inclement weather. This ultimately affects water quality, the state of nature, and the recreational value of these harbours. New development should only proceed where there is sufficient capacity at wastewater treatment works and the application demonstrates nutrient neutrality.
4. Where an application proposes an on-site wastewater treatment facility, the applicant should set out how this will be drained and wastewater dealt with as well as how the facility will be maintained.

View From The Trundle, Chichester © Paul Adams



Section 4 Locally Designated Sites

These Locally Designated Sites are mapped in Section 5.



Conservation Areas are designated in recognition of special architectural and historic interest.

| Conservation Area | Local Planning Authority |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Bosham | Chichester |
| Dell Quay | Chichester |
| Fishbourne | Chichester |
| Prinsted | Chichester |
| West Itchenor | Chichester |
| West Wittering | Chichester |
| Emsworth | Havant |
| Langstone | Havant |
| Wade Court | Havant |
| Warblington | Havant |



Dark Sky Discovery Sites are places that are away from light pollution, provide excellent sightlines of the sky and have good public access, including firm ground for wheelchair access.

| Dark Sky Discovery Site | Local Planning Authority |
|--|--------------------------|
| Eames Farm, Thorney Island | Chichester |
| Maybush Copse, Chidham | Chichester |
| North of the John Q. Davis Footpath, West Itchenor | Chichester |





Local Nature Reserves are locally important and are designated for their educational value and to be protected from development.

Local Nature Reserve

- Eames Farm, Thorney Island
- Pilsey Island, Thorney Island
- Nutbourne Marshes, Nutbourne
- Gutner Point, Hayling Island
- Sandy Point, Hayling Island

Local Planning Authority

- Chichester
- Chichester
- Chichester
- Havant
- Havant



In Hampshire, **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)** are managed for their wildlife interest. In West Sussex, they are called **Local Wildlife Sites**.

Hampshire SINCs

- Boatyard Patch
- Brook Farm B
- Chichester Road Meadow
- Conigar Point Meadows
- East of St Peters Road A
- Emsworth Millpond
- Fields of Saltmarsh South of Copse Lane
- Gutner Farm
- Gutner Lane Meadow
- Land East of Sandy Point
- Langstone Mill Pond
- Lifeboat Station Heath
- Lifeboat Station Saltmarsh
- Mengham Salterns
- Mill Rythe Holiday Village
- Mill Rythe Lane Saltmarsh
- Mill Rythe Pound Marsh B
- Nore Grassland & Saltmarsh
- North Common & Saltmarsh
- North of Northney Road
- Verner Common West
- Wade Court Park
- Warblington Castle Farm East D
- Warblington Castle Farm East E
- Warblington Castle Farm West

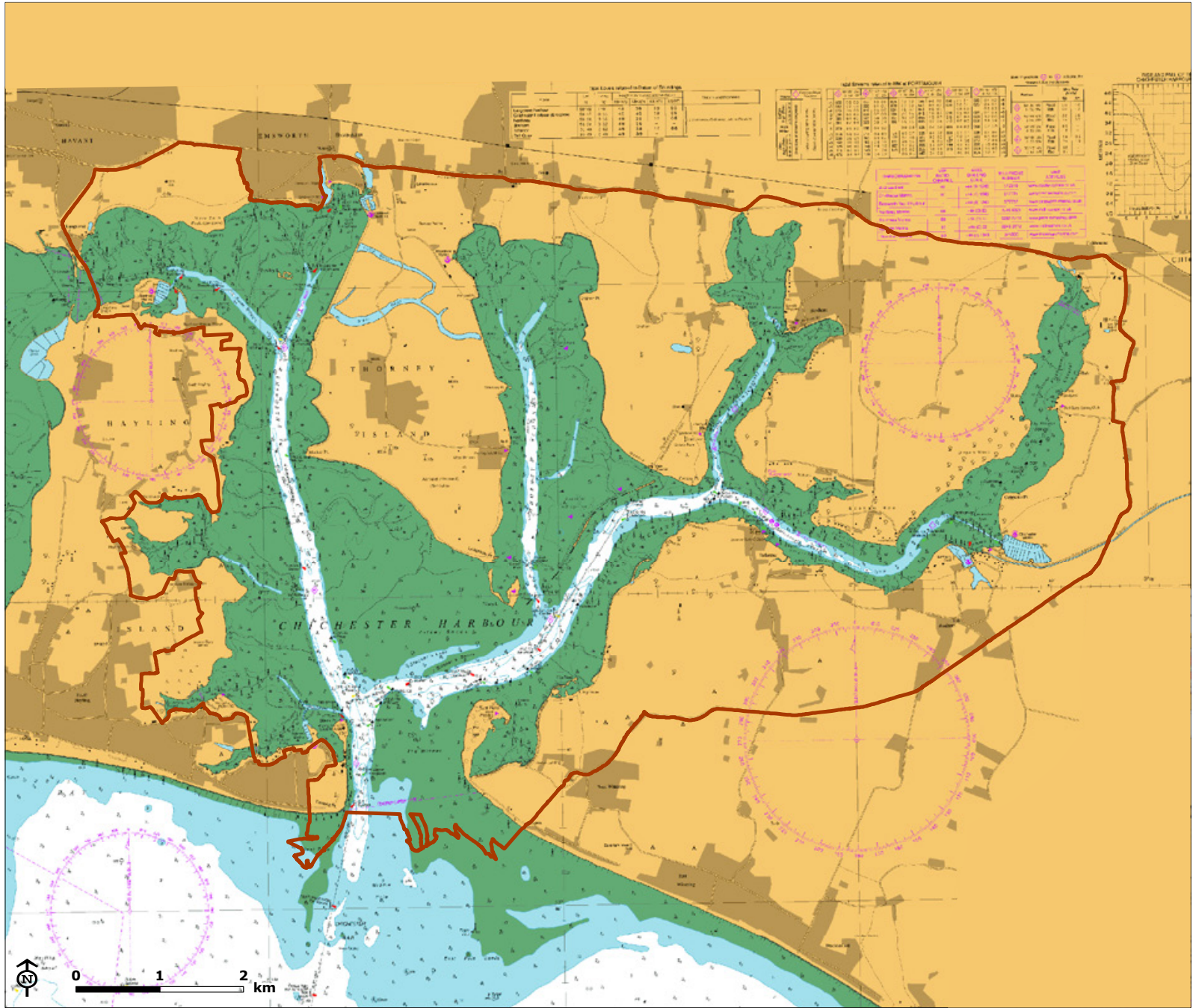
West Sussex Local Wildlife Sites

- Birdham Pool
- Chalkdock Marsh
- Chichester Canal
- Chichester Yacht Basin Meadow and Pool
- Cobnor Cottage Nature Reserve
- Cobnor Marsh
- East Itchenor Coastal Marsh
- Fishbourne Meadows
- Nutbourne Pastures
- Redlands Meadow
- River Lavant Marsh
- Salterns Copse
- Slipper Mill Pond and Peter Pond
- Thorney Island
- Thornham Point
- West Wittering Beach






Section 5 Maps



Map A

Admiralty Chart

 Chichester Harbour National Landscape

An **Admiralty Chart** is a nautical chart published by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, providing detailed information about the seabed and coastal areas for safe navigation. They are used by commercial shipping, ports, and harbours, as well as leisure mariners. They come in both paper and electronic formats, with a range of scales to suit different navigation needs.

Not to be used for navigation.

Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000







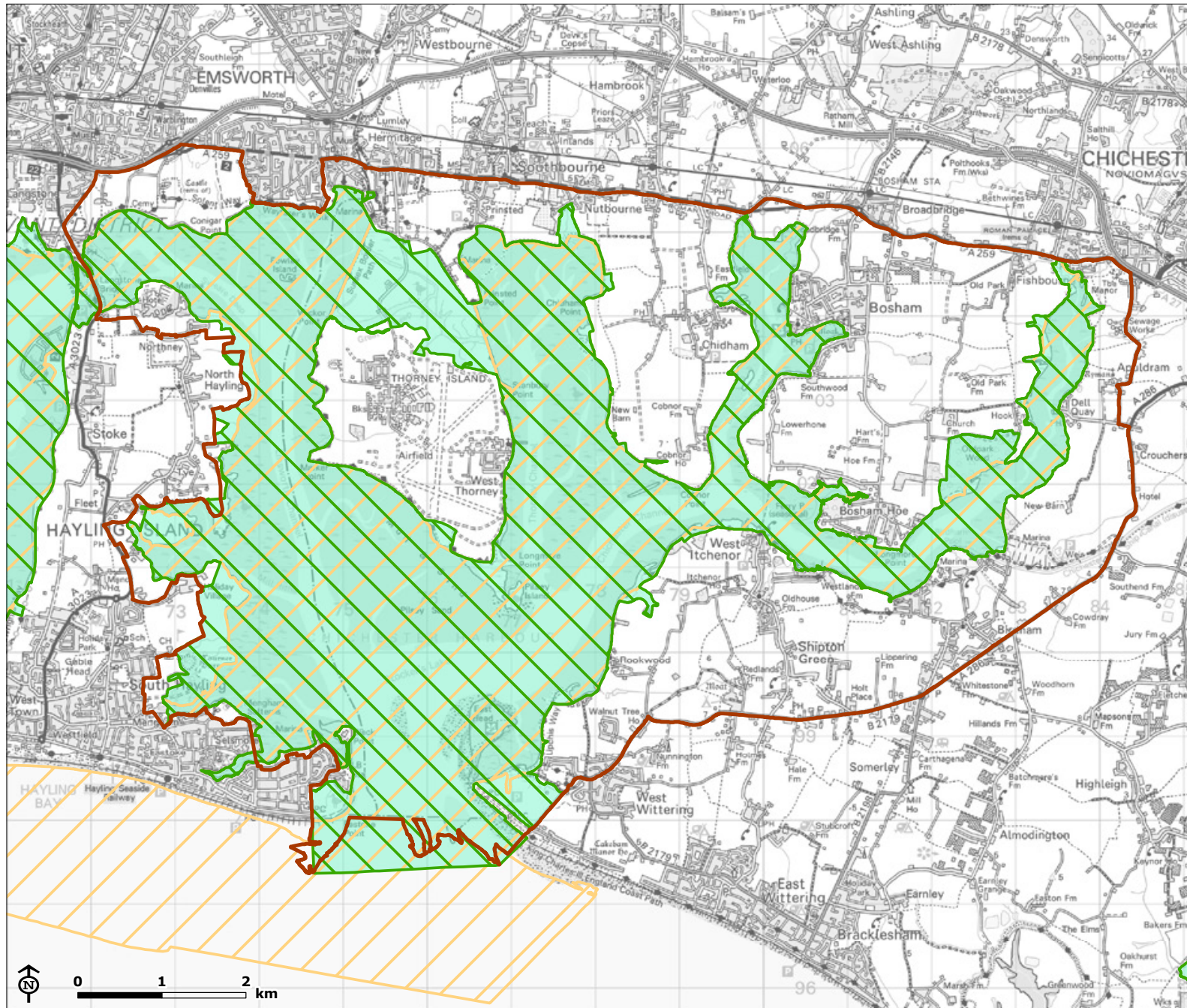
Chichester Harbour National Landscape

CB:KH EB:Horton_K LUC 12695_Map_B_Admiralty_Chart_A4L 17/12/2023

Map B

Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation, & Ramsar Site

-  Chichester Harbour National Landscape
-  Special Area of Conservation, designated in 1994 and internationally important for threatened habitats and species
-  Special Protection Area, designated in 1979 under the Birds Directive
-  Ramsar, designated in 1987 as a wetland of international importance

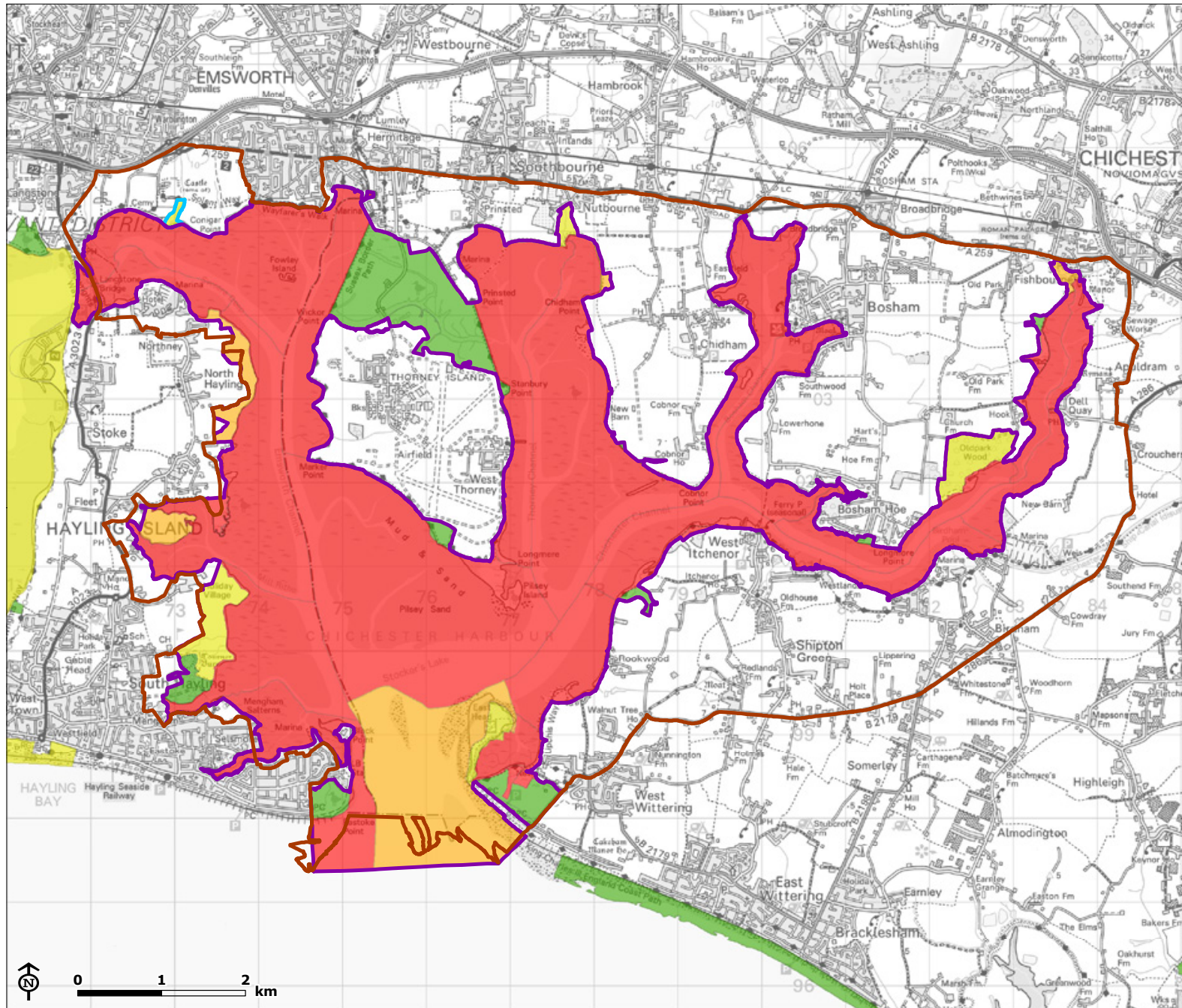


Source: Natural England

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000



Map C



Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Chichester Harbour National Landscape

SSSI Name

Chichester Harbour
 Warblington

SSSI Condition

Favourable
 Unfavourable recovering
 Unfavourable no change
 Unfavourable declining

Favourable, 253 hectares (7%)
 Unfavourable Recovering, 116 hectares (3%)
 Unfavourable No Change, 362 hectares (10%)
 Unfavourable Declining, 3,003 hectares (80%)

Chichester Harbour Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) were designated in 1970 for their flora, fauna, geological, physiographical and geomorphological interest.

SSSI Units are divisions based on habitat, tenure and management, and are the basis for recording all information on condition and management.

Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Natural England





Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000



Chichester Harbour National Landscape

Map D

Nature Sites

-  Chichester Harbour National Landscape
-  Local Wildlife Sites, of county importance and managed in West Sussex for their wildlife interest
-  Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, of county importance and managed in Hampshire for their wildlife interest
-  Local Nature Reserves, locally important and designated for their educational value and to protect them from development

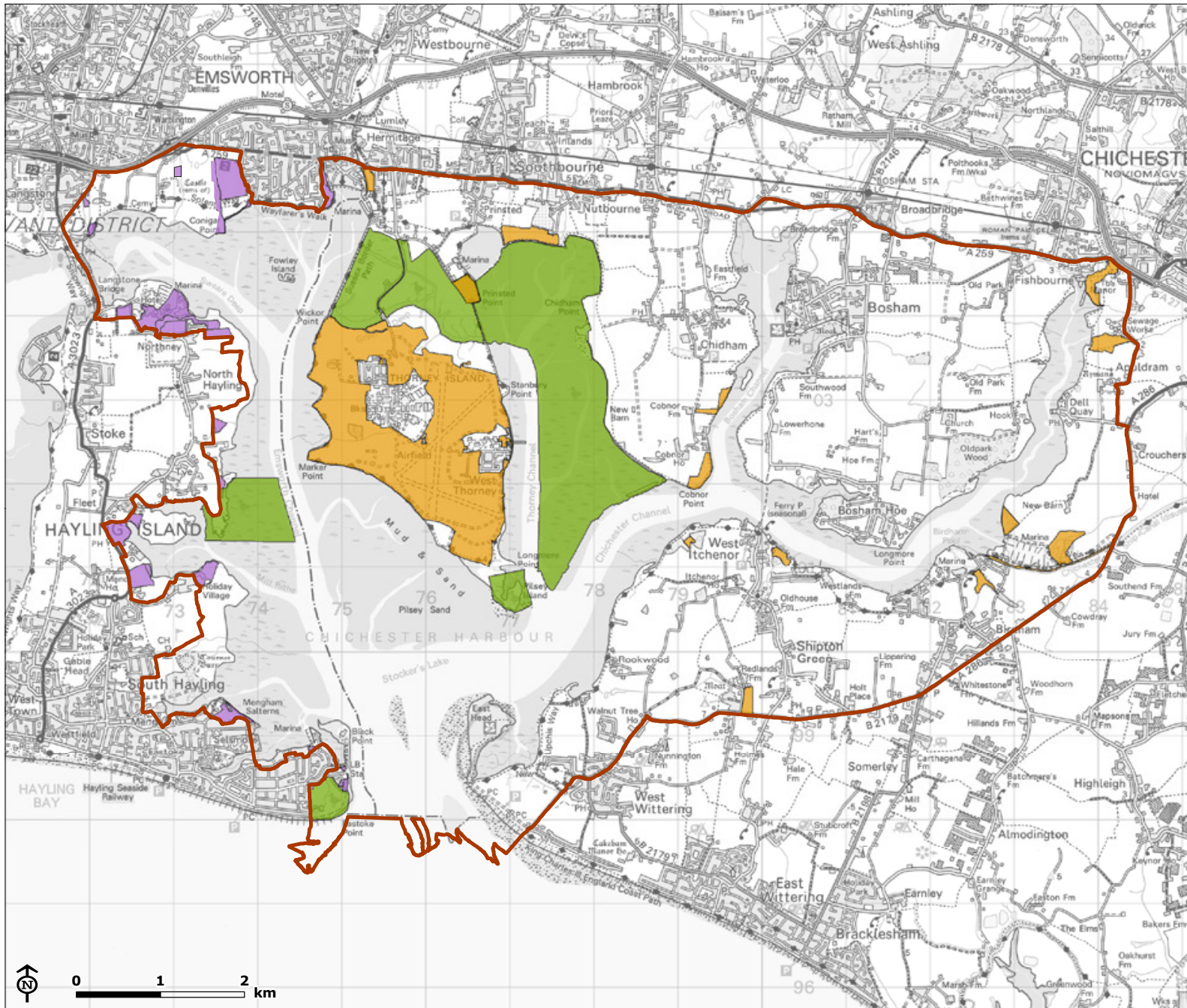
Source: Chichester District Council, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

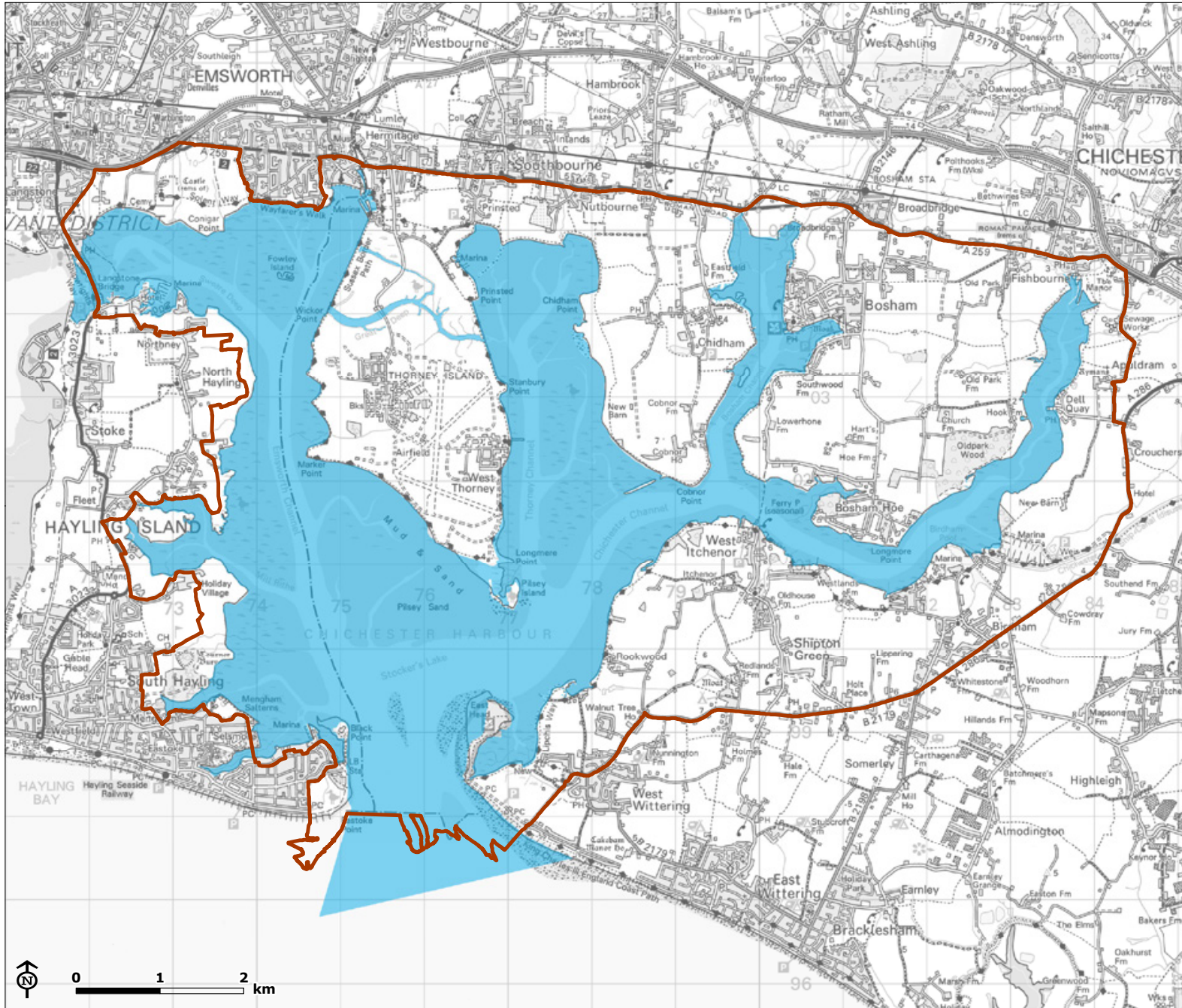
Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000



Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Chichester Harbour National Landscape





Map E

Bass Nursery Area

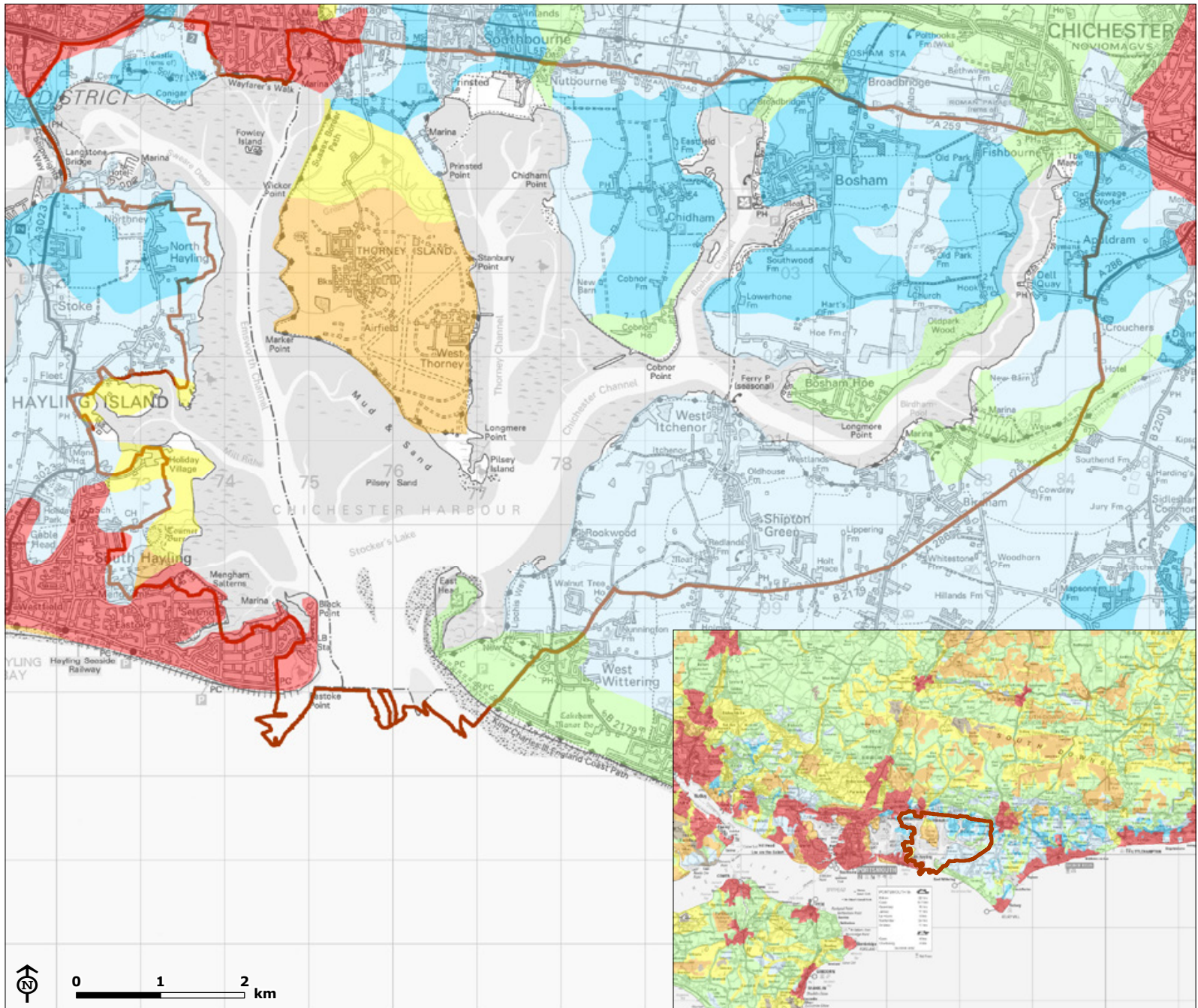
-  Chichester Harbour National Landscape
-  Bass Nursery Area

A **Bass Nursery Area** is a designated zone where juvenile sea bass are known to congregate, primarily in estuaries, harbours and river mouths. These areas provide a protected environment where young bass can grow and develop before entering the adult population. Bass Nursery Areas were initially designated in England to reduce fishing pressure on immature sea bass.

Source: Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000





Map F

Agricultural Land Classification

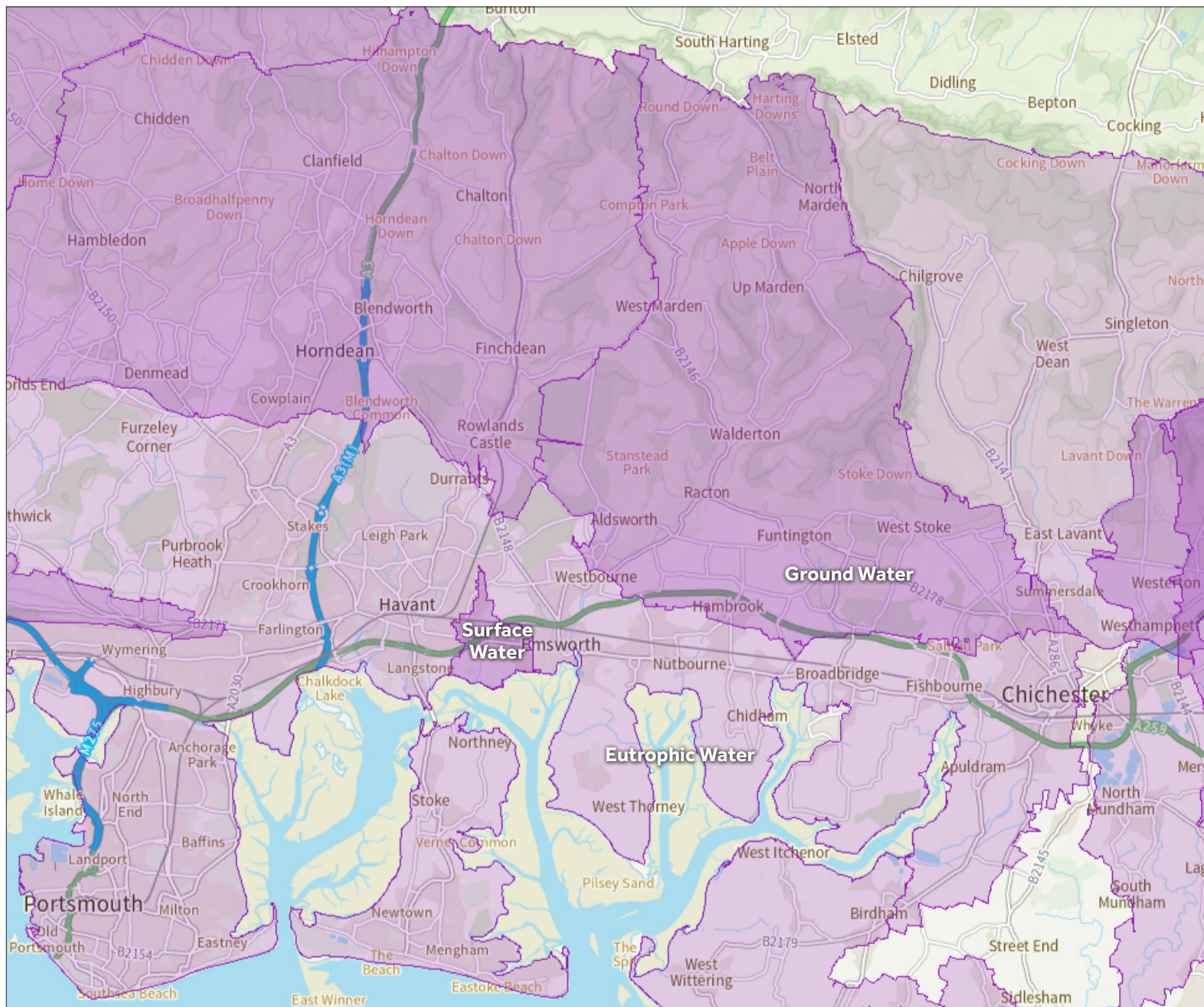
- Chichester Harbour National Landscape
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Non Agricultural
- Urban

Agricultural Land Classification is a system that assesses the quality of land for agricultural purposes, categorising it into grades based on its suitability for growing crops and other agricultural activities. This classification helps determine how land can be used and protected, influencing planning decisions and development projects.

Source: Natural England

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000





Map G

Nitrate Vulnerable Zone

 Nitrate Vulnerable Zone

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) are areas designated as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. They include about 55% of land in England. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) reviews NVZs every 4 years to account for changes in nitrate concentrations.

Source: DEFRA, Natural England


Map Scale @ A4:
1:150,000

 Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs


 Chichester Harbour National Landscape

Map H


Water Catchment

 Chichester Harbour National Landscape

Catchment feeding Chichester Harbour

 Bosham Stream


 Ems


 Lavant (Sussex)

 Hampshire

 West Sussex

Catchment Partnership

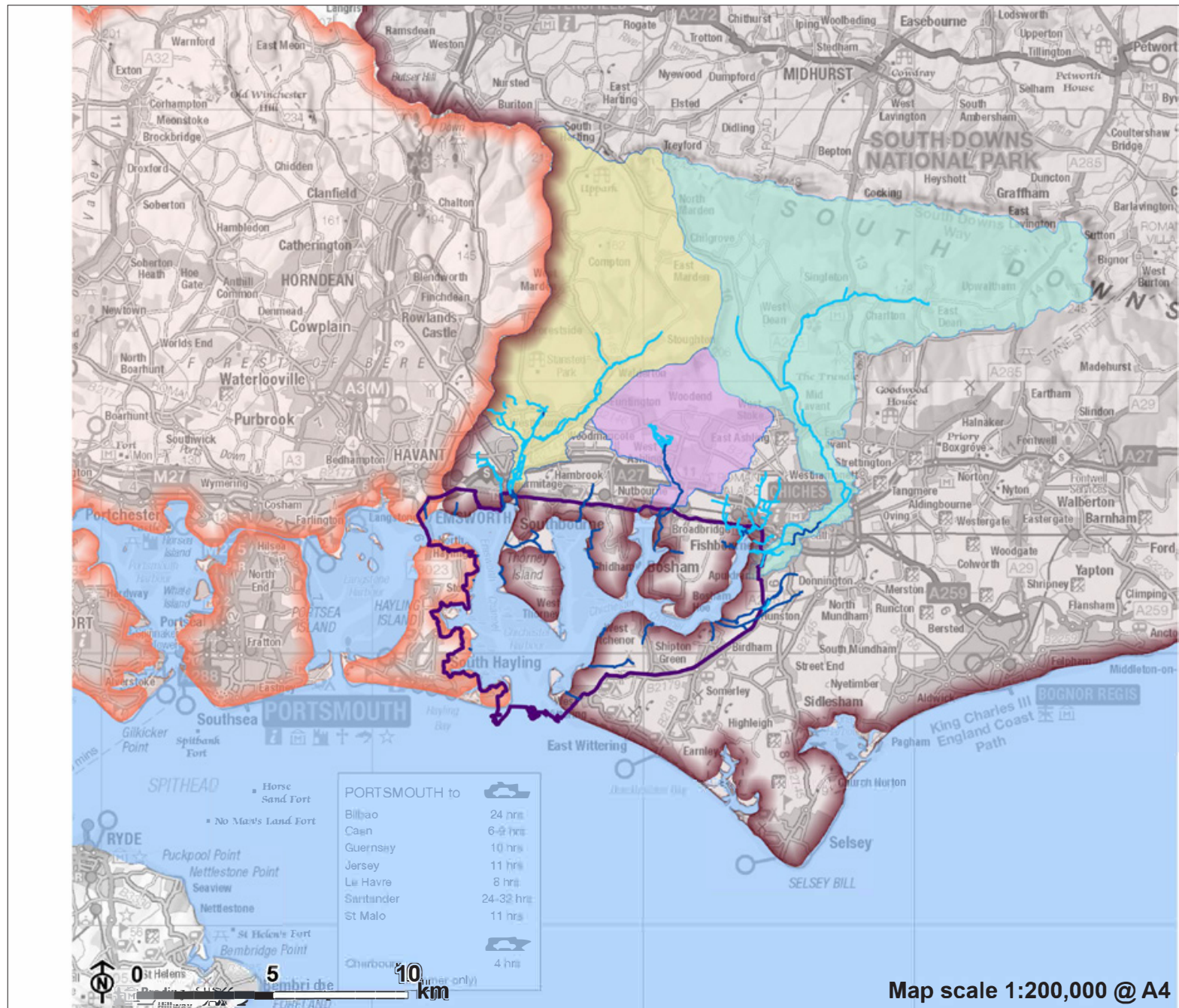
 Arun and Western Streams, hosted by West Sussex Rivers Trust

 East Hampshire, hosted by Groundwork

- 34 waterways flow into Chichester Harbour
- From these, 3 are chalk streams
- The chalk streams are 45 miles long (73km) (light blue)
- The other water ways are 20 miles long (32km) (dark blue)



Chichester Harbour National Landscape



Map scale 1:200,000 @ A4

Map I

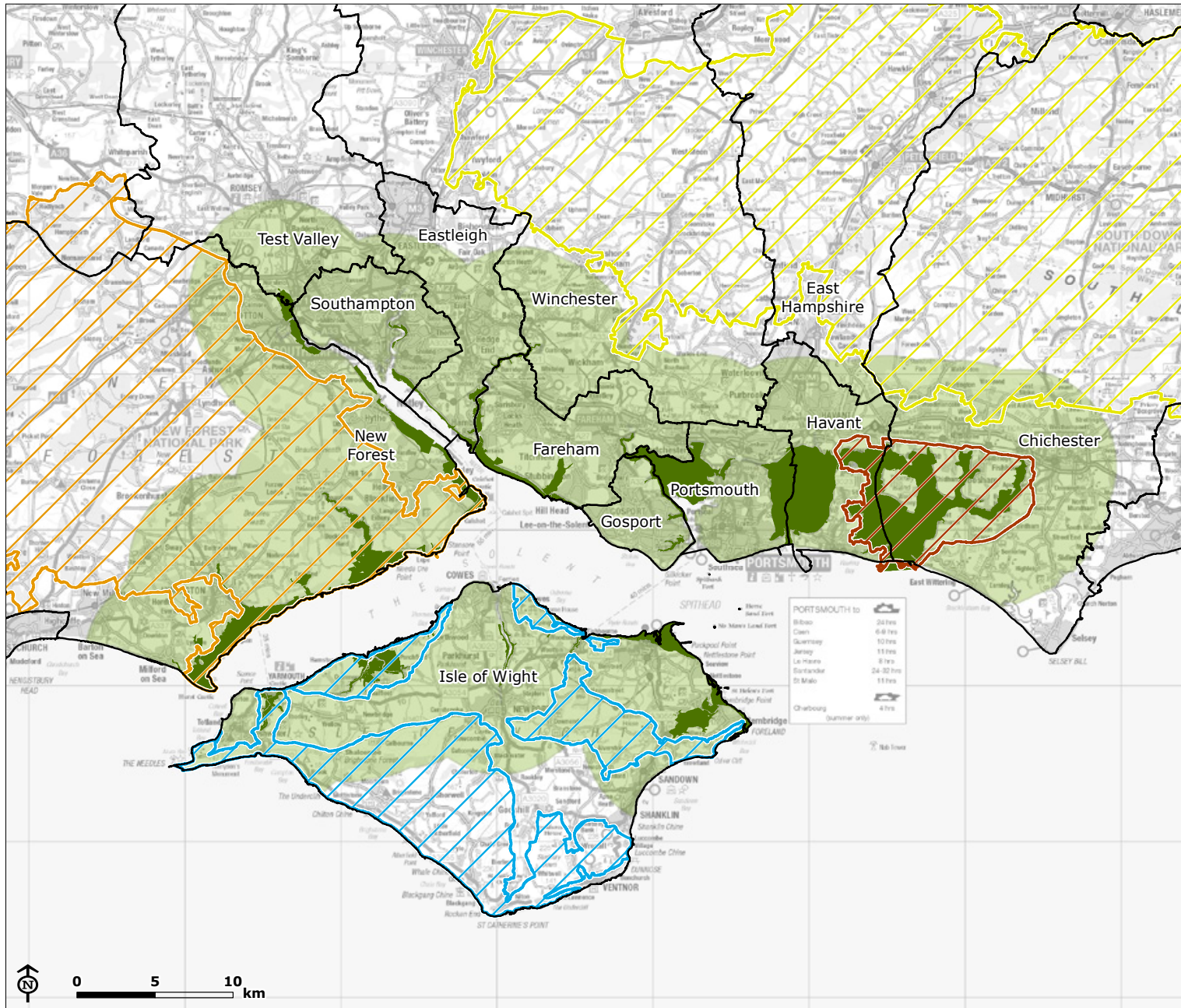
Bird Aware Solent

-  Solent Special Protection Area
-  5.6 km Zone of Influence
-  Local Authority
-  Chichester Harbour National Landscape
-  Isle of Wight National Landscape
-  New Forest National Park
-  South Downs National Park

The developers of all new dwellings built within 5.6 kilometres of the Special Protection Area must pay a levy to **Bird Aware Solent** to offset recreational disturbance.








Source: Bird Aware Solent, Natural England

Map Scale @ A4:
1:350,000



Map J

Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy

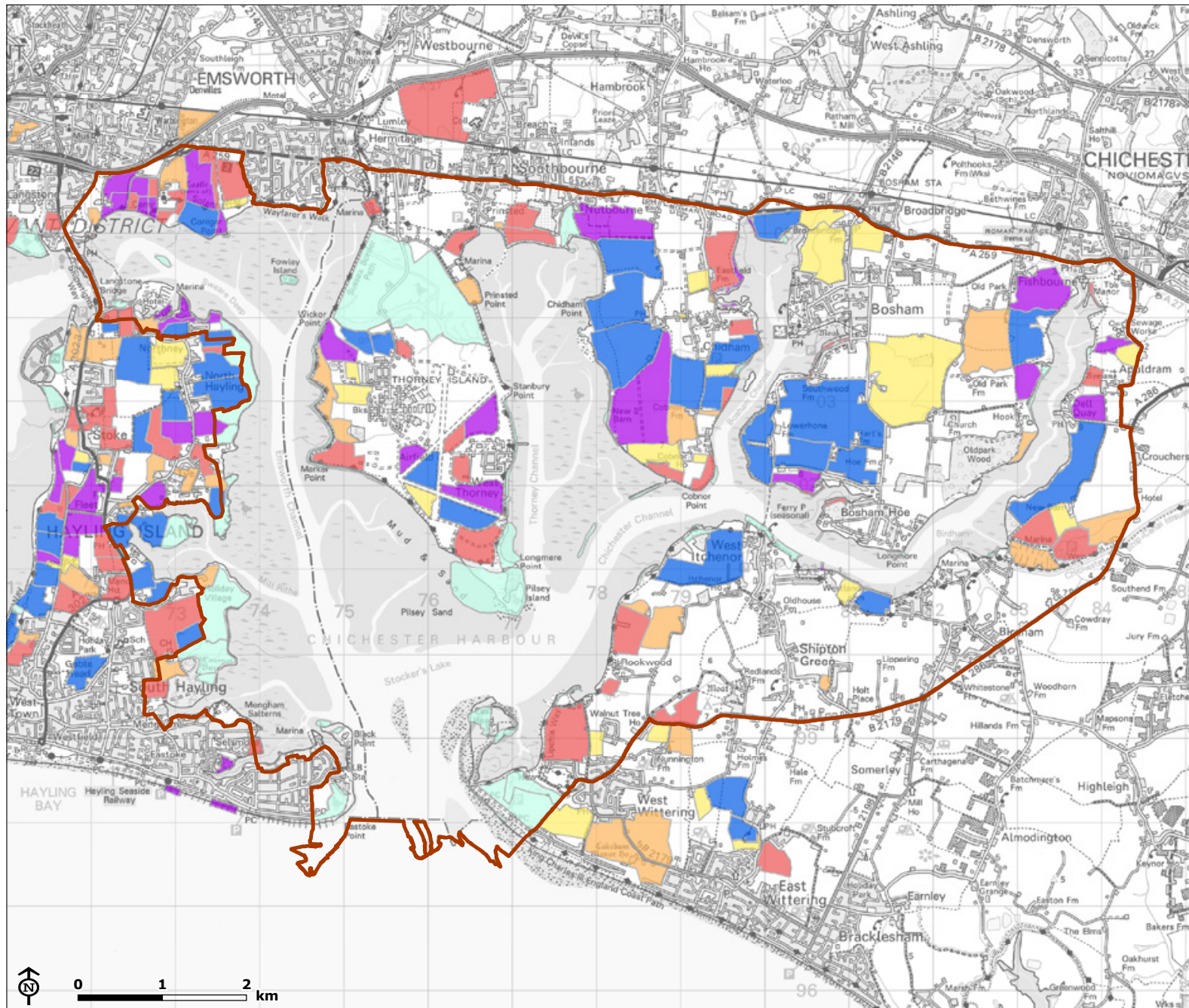
-  Chichester Harbour National Landscape
-  Core Area
-  Primary Support Area
-  Secondary Support Area
-  Low Use Site
-  Candidate Site
-  SPA Site

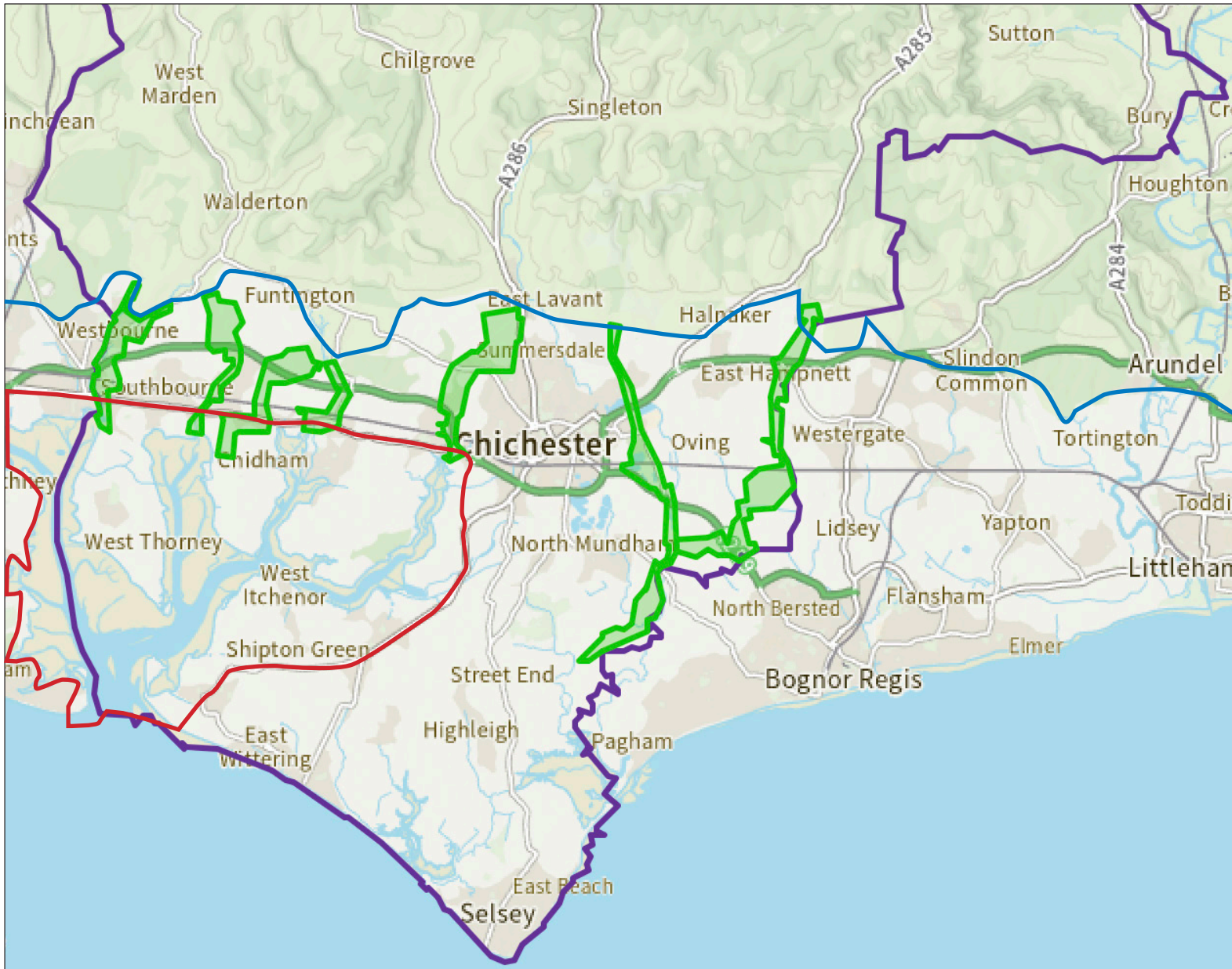
The **Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy** relates to internationally important Brent Goose and wading bird populations within and around the Special Protection Areas and Ramsar wetlands of the Solent Coast (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, and West Sussex). The underlying principle of the Strategy is to wherever possible conserve extant sites, and to create new sites, enhancing the quality and extent of the feeding and roosting resource.

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000







Chichester Harbour National Landscape





Map K

Strategic Wildlife Corridors

-  Strategic Wildlife Corridors
-  Chichester District Administrative Boundary
-  South Downs National Park
-  Chichester Harbour National Landscape

The **Strategic Wildlife Corridors** were adopted in the Chichester Local Plan in 2025.



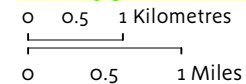
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Map L

King Charles III England Coast Path

- National Trail
- Alternative Route
- A road
- B road
- Minor road
- Railway & station
- County Boundary
- Salterns Way
- Cycle Route



The **King Charles III England Coast Path** is a National Trail. Some sections of the route are inaccessible at high tide, and the link between West Itchenor and Bosham Hoe uses the ferry. Whenever the main Path is inaccessible, shown in orange, the Alternative Route, shown in yellow, is there to ensure continuity for walkers enjoying the Chichester Harbour National Landscape stretch.



Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000










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Natural England. OS licence number 100022021

Map M

Population Density

-  Chichester Harbour National Landscape
-  Chichester Harbour Conservancy Amenity Area

Population density (people per hectare)

-  0 - 1
-  1 - 3
-  3 - 15
-  15 - 25
-  25 - 35
-  35 - 50
-  50 - 100

The population density map shows how many people live in each square hectare in and around Chichester Harbour. Please note that in urban areas population densities are higher than 100 people per hectare.

2022 Census Data Estimates

The population of the Amenity Area was 7,767 people.

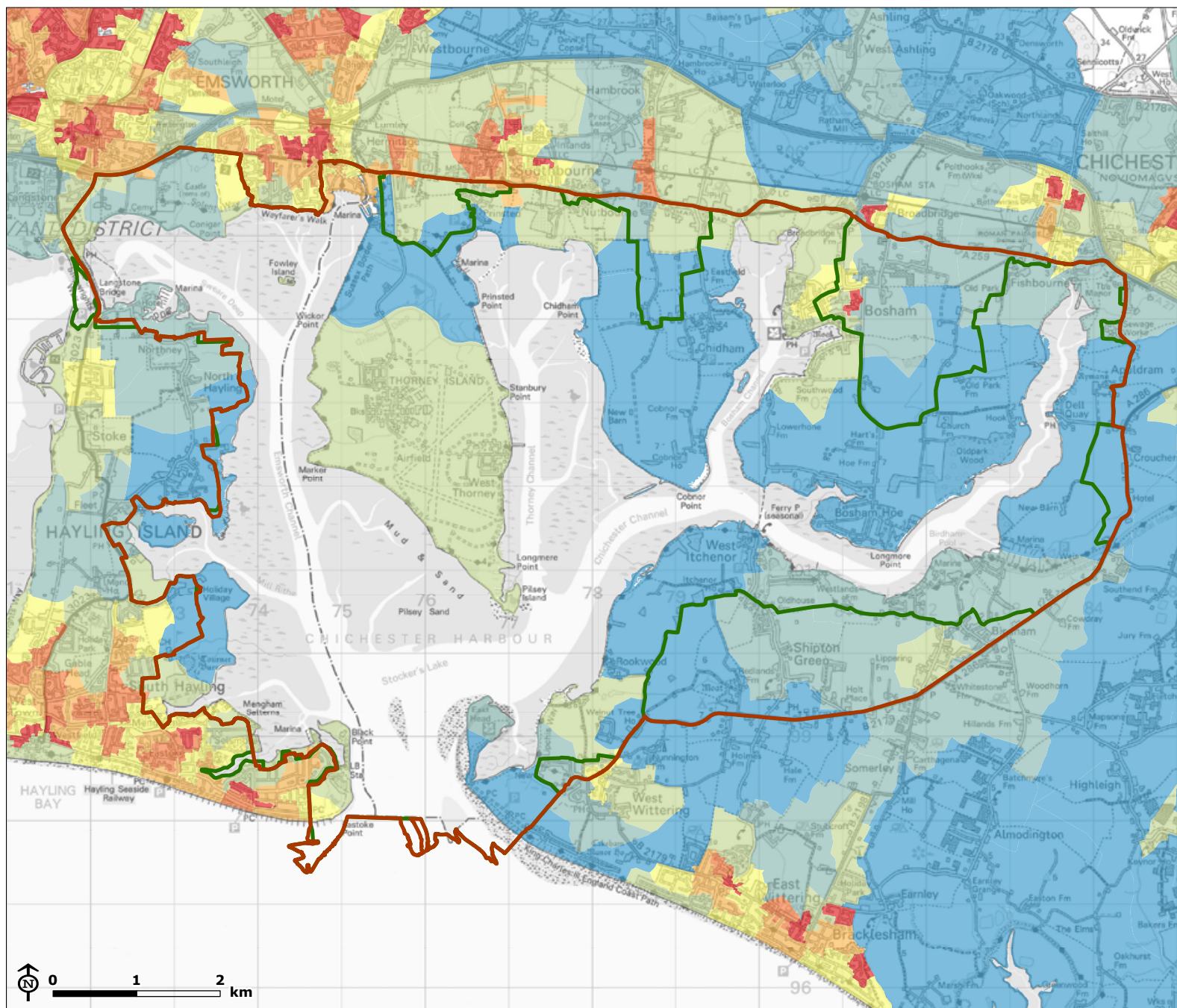
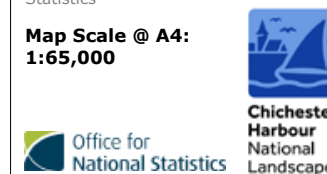
The population of the National Landscape was 8,709 people.

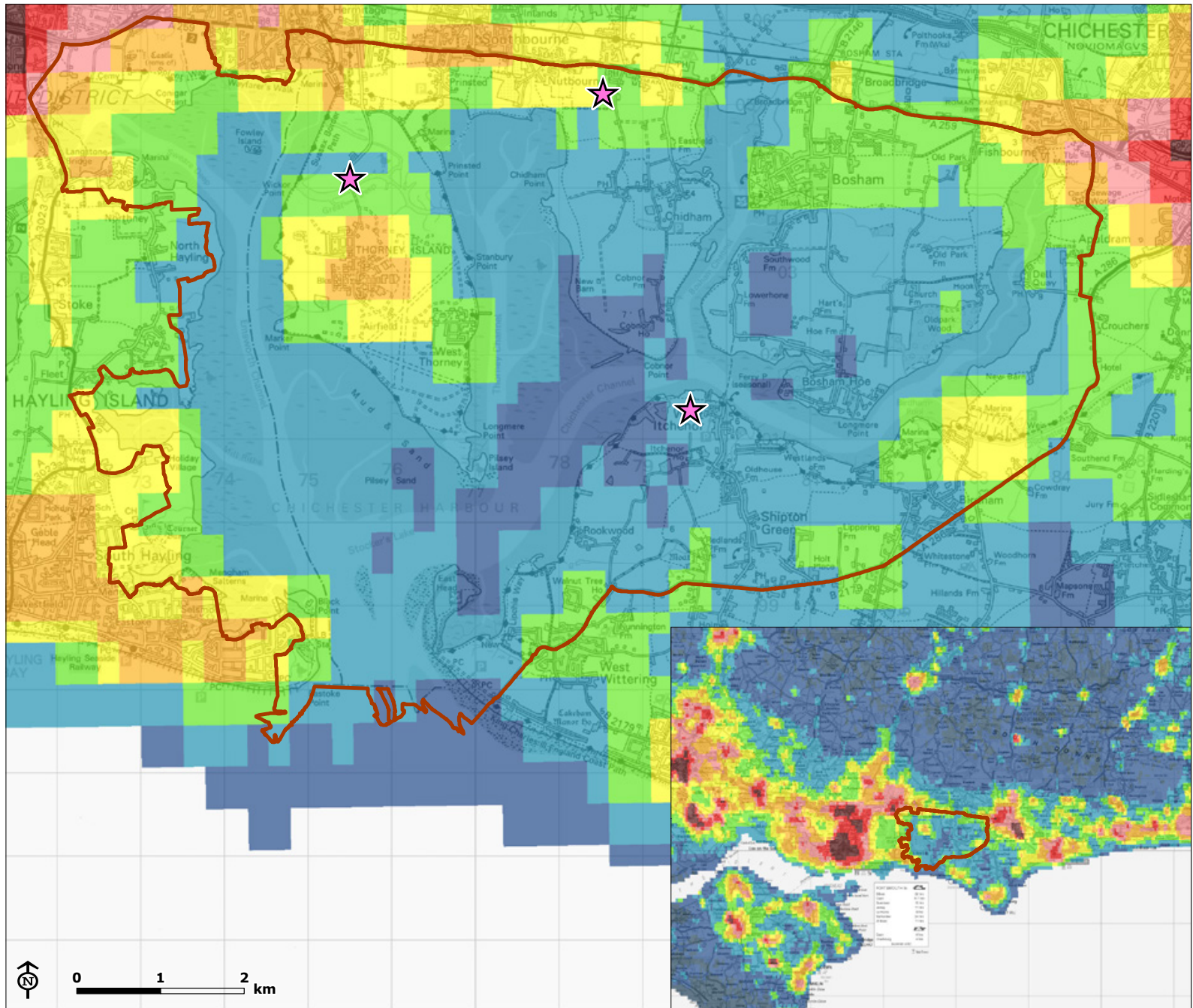
The population that lives in and within:

- 1km of the National Landscape is 46,883 people.
- 5km of the National Landscape is 185,396 people.
- 10km of the National Landscape is 513,742 people.

Source: Office for National Statistics

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000





Map N

Light Pollution

- Chichester Harbour National Landscape
- Dark Sky Discovery Site

Light Pollution (NanoWatts / cm2 /sr)

- >32
- 16 - 32
- 8 - 16
- 4 - 8
- 2 - 4
- 1 - 2
- 0.5 - 1
- 0.25 - 0.5
- < 0.25

Dark skies are important for nocturnal animals, for healthy sleeping patterns for humans, for astronomy and our understanding of the universe, for astro-tourism, and they complement the range of other environmental designations.

Source: Campaign to Protect Rural England

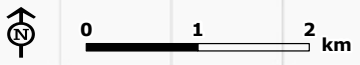
Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000



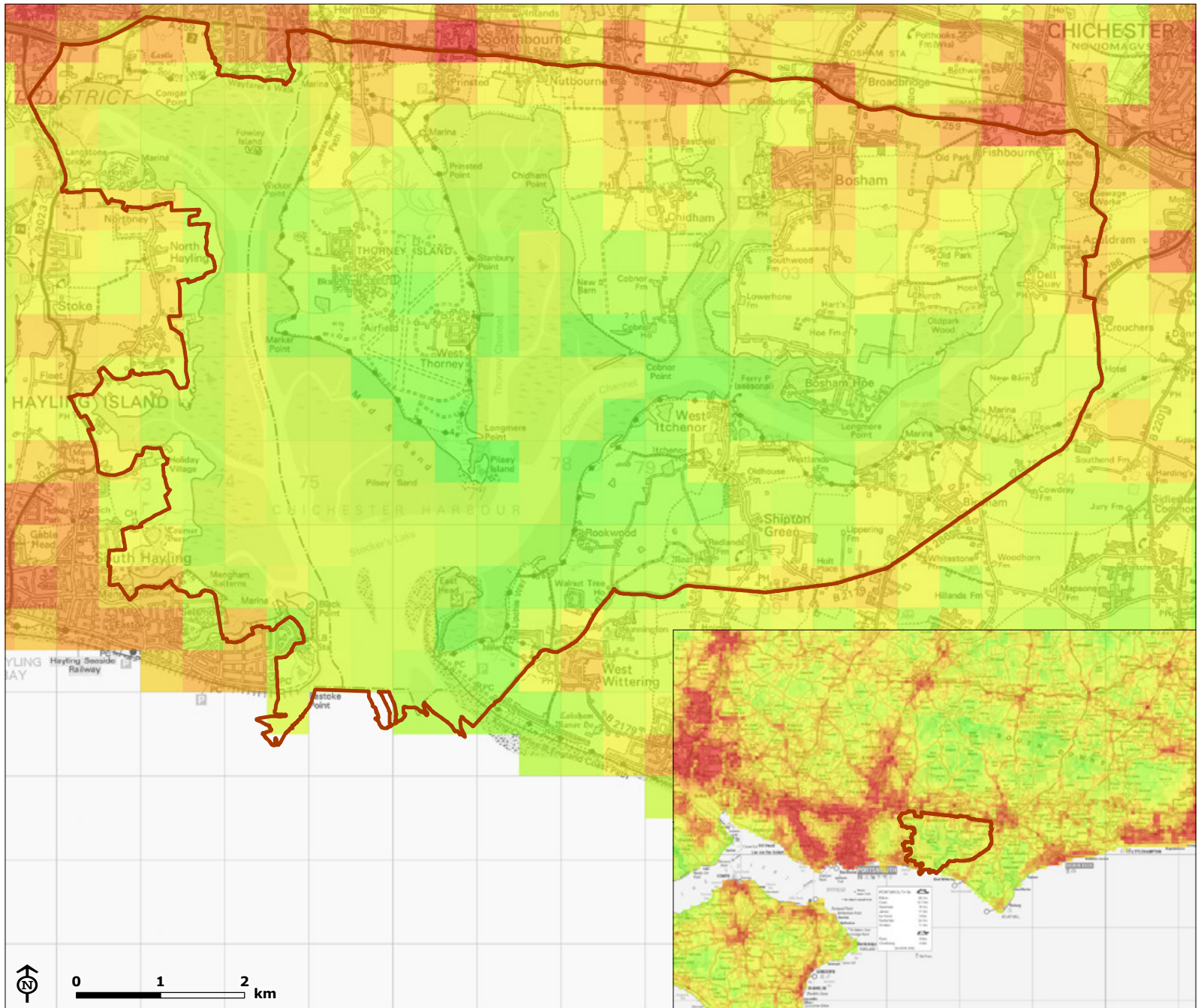
The countryside charity



Chichester Harbour National Landscape




National Tranquillity Mapping Data 2007 developed for the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Natural England by Northumbria University. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2023. © Natural England copyright 2023. Ordnance Survey 0100031673 CB:KH EB:Horton_K LUC 12695_Map_M_Darkskies_A4L 18/12/2023

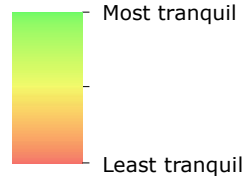


Map O

Tranquillity

 Chichester Harbour National Landscape

National tranquillity scale



Tranquillity, meaning a state of calm and quietude, is important for both individual well-being and the environment. It supports mental health by reducing stress and anxiety and can be a key contributor to quality of life, particularly in natural environments. Conserving tranquillity also helps protect wildlife and habitats.

Source: Campaign to Protect Rural England

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000



National Tranquillity Mapping Data 2007 developed for the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Natural England by Northumbria University. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2023. © Natural England copyright 2023. Ordnance Survey

CB:KH EB:Horton_K LUC 12695_Map_N_Tranquillity_A4L 18/12/2023

Map P

Historic Environment Record

-  Chichester Harbour National Landscape
-  Building
-  Ecosite
-  Findspot
-  Monument
-  Place
-  Maritime
-  Parks and Gardens

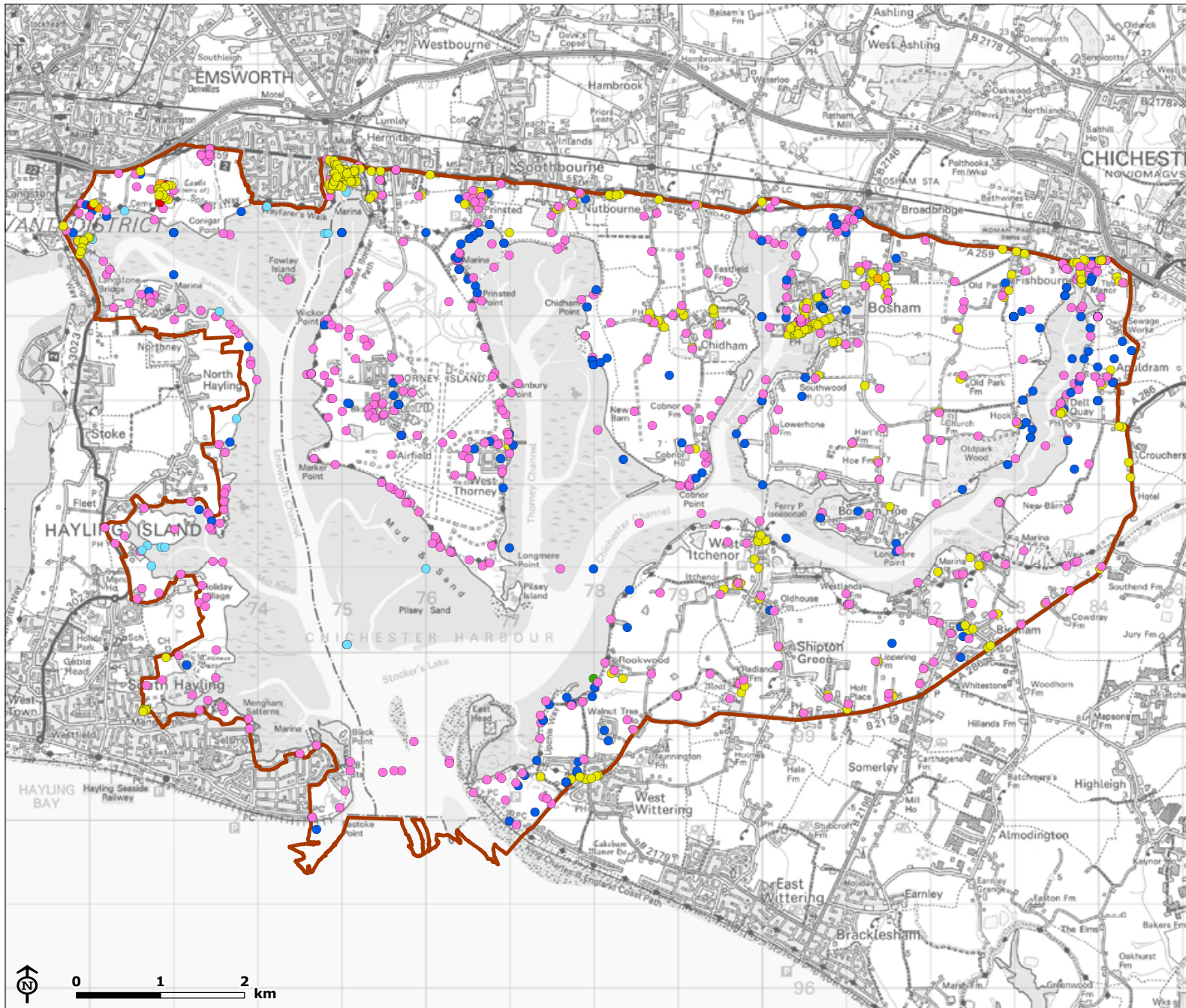
The **Historic Environment Record** is a database of recorded archaeological and historic landscapes, monuments, structures, deposits, buildings, finds and investigations. It provides the most up to date record of the historic environment of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape, including both designated and non-designated assets, and is principally used as the evidence-base for the mitigation of harmful effects of development. It is maintained by the relevant local authorities.

Source: Chichester District Council, Havant Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000




Chichester Harbour National Landscape








Map Q

Designated Heritage Assets

 Chichester Harbour National Landscape

Listed Building

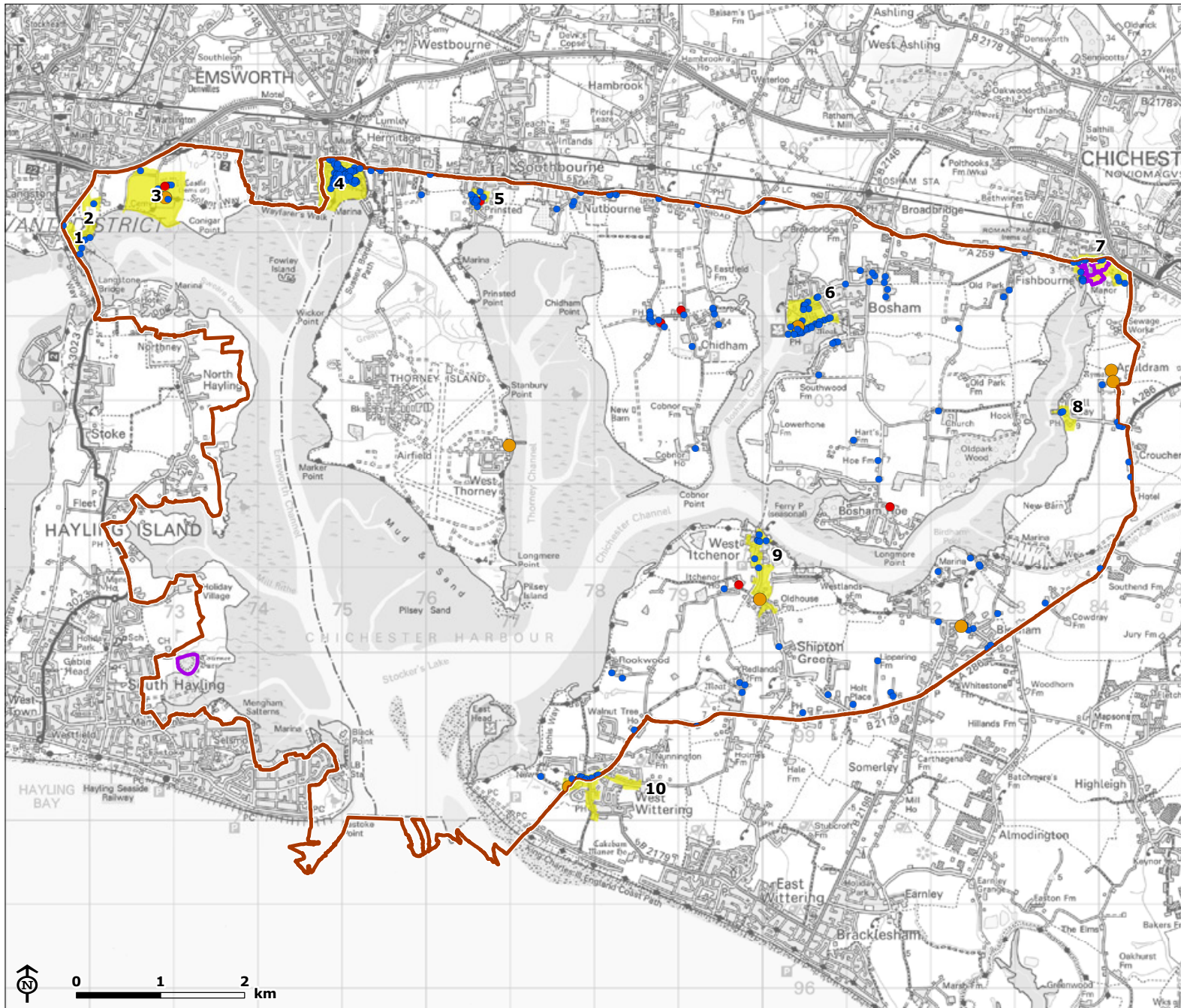
-  Grade I
-  Grade II*
-  Grade II
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Conservation Area

- 1: Langstone
- 2: Wade Court
- 3: Warblington
- 4: Emsworth
- 5: Prinsted
- 6: Bosham
- 7: Fishbourne
- 8: Dell Quay
- 9: West Itchenor
- 10: West Wittering

The most important **heritage assets** are officially designated and legally protected. Within the Chichester Harbour National Landscape these include nationally designated Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, recorded in the National Heritage List for England, and Conservation Areas, which are designated against local and regional criteria. National planning policy gives particular protection to designated heritage assets.


Source: Chichester District Council, Havant Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000

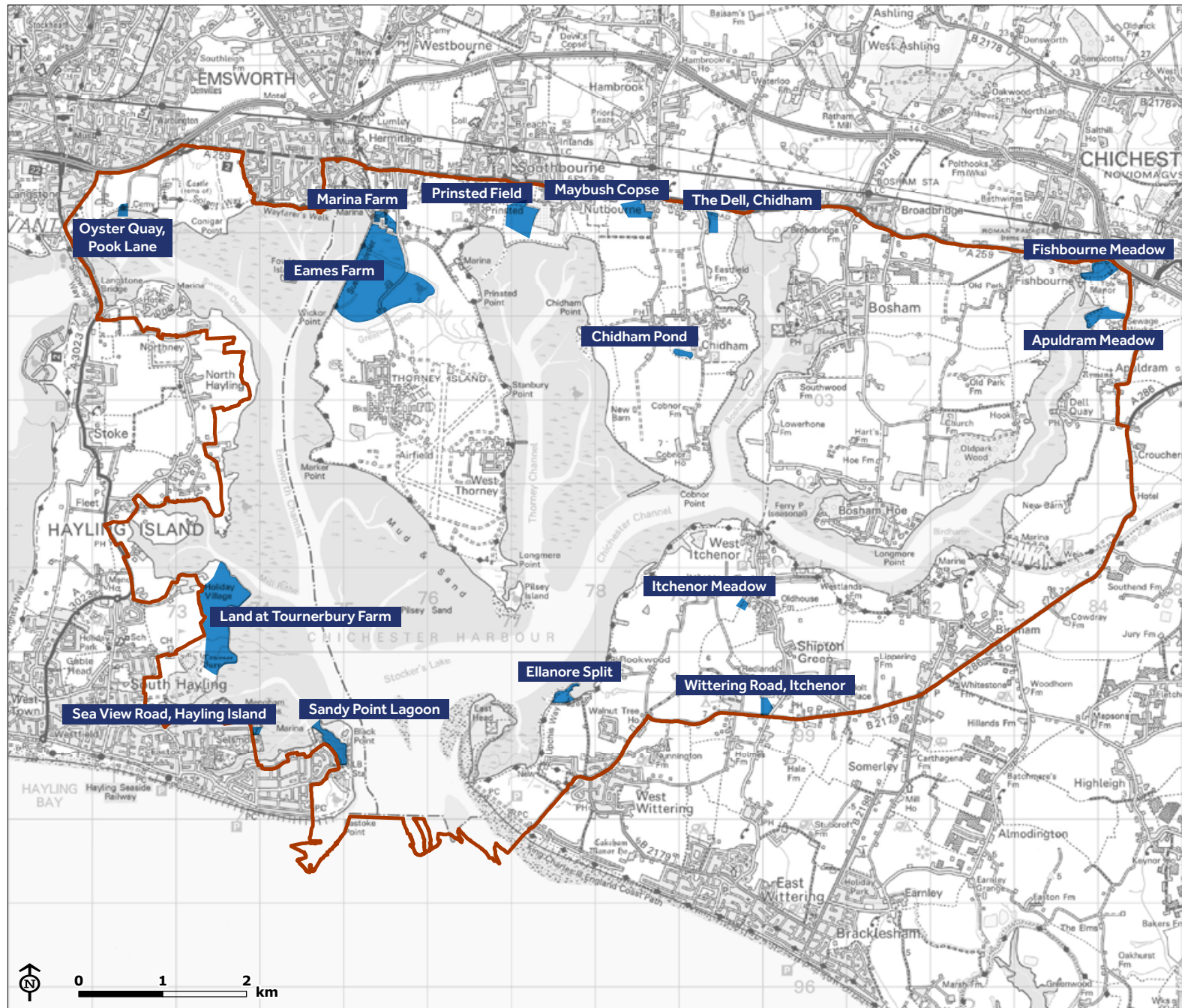


Map R

Chichester Harbour Trust Sites

 Chichester Harbour National Landscape


The sites owned or leased by **Chichester Harbour Trust**, correct as of 2025. Further sites will be added to their portfolio during this Management Plan.





Map S

Satellite Image 1

 Chichester Harbour National Landscape

Satellite images can be used to track changes to the landscape surface over time. For example, satellite images can be used to monitor the growth of urban areas, or gradual changes in landform, like at East Head Spit.


Map Scale @ A4:
1:65,000





Map T

Satellite Image 2

 Chichester Harbour National Landscape

Satellite images can be used to track changes to the landscape surface over time. For example, here you can see the natural estuary of Chichester Harbour in the context of the surrounding urban centres of Portsmouth, Havant, Chichester, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton.

Chichester Harbour National Landscape is a naturally beautiful outdoor space, accessible to these communities and more for generations. It is vital that this landscape continues to be highly protected.

Map Scale @ A4:
1:250,000



Chichester Harbour National Landscape



Map U

England's Protected Landscapes



- National Parks and the Broads
- NATIONAL LANDSCAPE
- CANDIDATE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

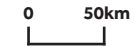
The **National Landscapes Association** provides a strong voice for its members, the UK's 46 National Landscapes, of which 34 are in England. As a national charity, they bring local teams and partnerships together, creating greater collaboration, and unlocking progress towards a shared vision, 'Beautiful landscapes where nature and people thrive together'.

National Parks England is the collective voice for the 10 English National Park Authorities.



Map V

England's Ports

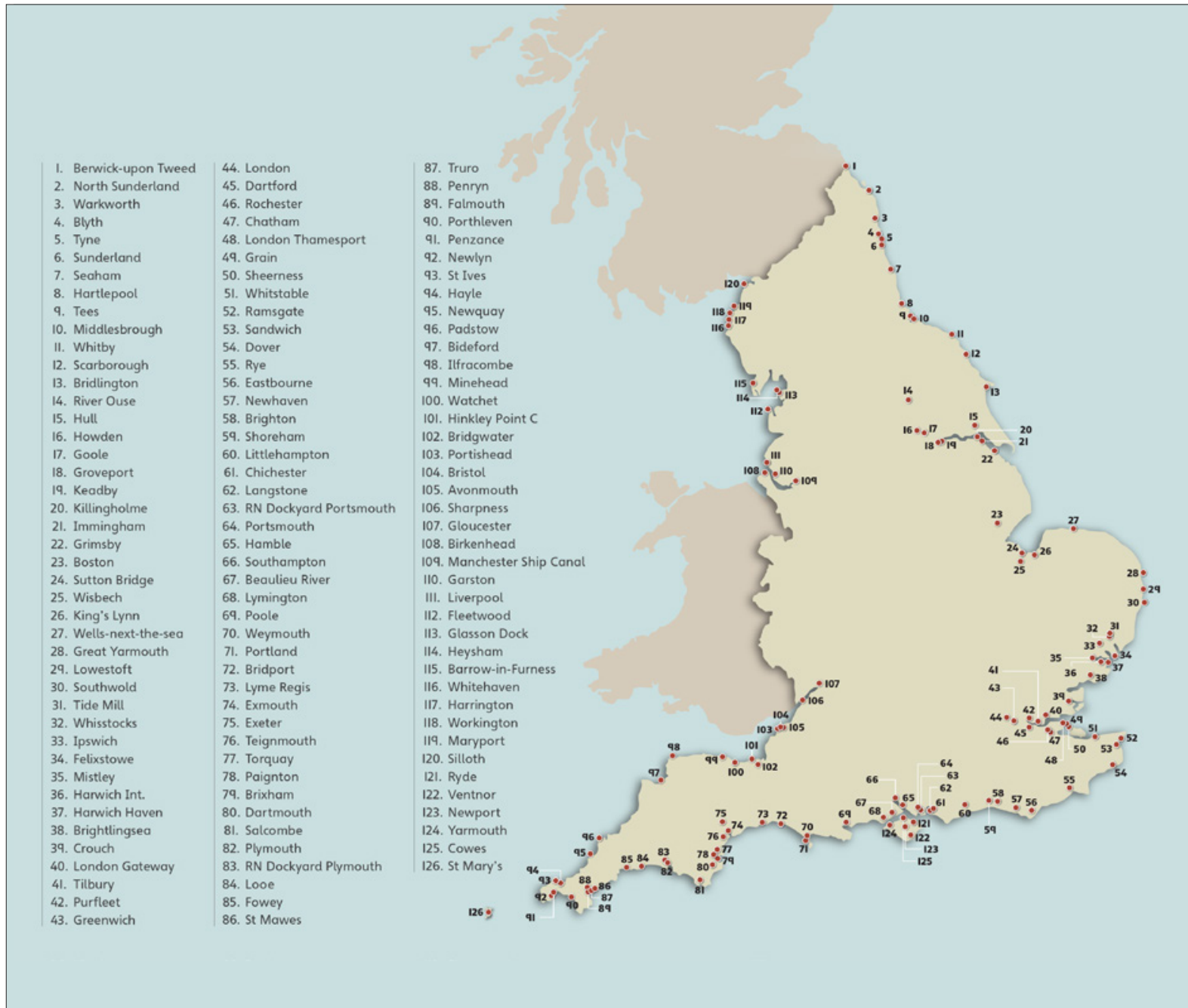


The **British Ports Association** is a national membership body for ports. They represent the interests of operators that handle 86% of all UK port traffic, to Westminster and devolved Governments, and other national and international bodies.

They are an inclusive and progressive association, open to all and committed to supporting Government to deliver a policy framework that enables all ports to thrive.



Chichester Harbour
National Landscape



- 1. Berwick-upon Tweed
- 2. North Sunderland
- 3. Warkworth
- 4. Blyth
- 5. Tyne
- 6. Sunderland
- 7. Seaham
- 8. Hartlepool
- 9. Tees
- 10. Middlesbrough
- 11. Whitby
- 12. Scarborough
- 13. Bridlington
- 14. River Ouse
- 15. Hull
- 16. Howden
- 17. Goole
- 18. Groveport
- 19. Keadby
- 20. Killingholme
- 21. Immingham
- 22. Grimsby
- 23. Boston
- 24. Sutton Bridge
- 25. Wisbech
- 26. King's Lynn
- 27. Wells-next-the-sea
- 28. Great Yarmouth
- 29. Lowestoft
- 30. Southwold
- 31. Tide Mill
- 32. Whisstocks
- 33. Ipswich
- 34. Felixstowe
- 35. Mistley
- 36. Harwich Int.
- 37. Harwich Haven
- 38. Brightlingsea
- 39. Crouch
- 40. London Gateway
- 41. Tilbury
- 42. Purfleet
- 43. Greenwich
- 44. London
- 45. Dartford
- 46. Rochester
- 47. Chatham
- 48. London Thamesport
- 49. Grain
- 50. Sheerness
- 51. Whitstable
- 52. Ramsgate
- 53. Sandwich
- 54. Dover
- 55. Rye
- 56. Eastbourne
- 57. Newhaven
- 58. Brighton
- 59. Shoreham
- 60. Littlehampton
- 61. Chichester
- 62. Langstone
- 63. RN Dockyard Portsmouth
- 64. Portsmouth
- 65. Hamble
- 66. Southampton
- 67. Beaulieu River
- 68. Lymington
- 69. Poole
- 70. Weymouth
- 71. Portland
- 72. Bridport
- 73. Lyme Regis
- 74. Exmouth
- 75. Exeter
- 76. Teignmouth
- 77. Torquay
- 78. Paignton
- 79. Brixham
- 80. Dartmouth
- 81. Salcombe
- 82. Plymouth
- 83. RN Dockyard Plymouth
- 84. Looe
- 85. Fowey
- 86. St Mawes

- 87. Truro
- 88. Penryn
- 89. Falmouth
- 90. Porthleven
- 91. Penzance
- 92. Newlyn
- 93. St Ives
- 94. Hayle
- 95. Newquay
- 96. Padstow
- 97. Bideford
- 98. Ilfracombe
- 99. Minehead
- 100. Watchet
- 101. Hinkley Point C
- 102. Bridgwater
- 103. Portishead
- 104. Bristol
- 105. Avonmouth
- 106. Sharpness
- 107. Gloucester
- 108. Birkenhead
- 109. Manchester Ship Canal
- 110. Garston
- 111. Liverpool
- 112. Fleetwood
- 113. Glasson Dock
- 114. Heysham
- 115. Barrow-in-Furness
- 116. Whitehaven
- 117. Harrington
- 118. Workington
- 119. Maryport
- 120. Silloth
- 121. Ryde
- 122. Ventnor
- 123. Newport
- 124. Yarmouth
- 125. Cowes
- 126. St Mary's

Map W

EUROPARC Atlantic Isles

EUROPARC Atlantic Isles

EUROPARC Atlantic Isles unites protected areas across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland. It promotes good practice in protected area management and training through networking and ensures the continued relationship with the wider European network of protected landscapes. EUROPARC Atlantic Isles aligns with the wider EUROPARC strategy while tailoring initiatives to its unique coastal and island landscapes.

The EUROPARC strategy is driven by the collective aspiration of EUROPARC members to see **Sustainable Nature** that is **Valued by People**. Their strategy shapes and guides efforts to improve and champion the policy and practice of protected areas, ensuring that the natural and cultural heritage is protected and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is a member of EUROPARC Atlantic Isles.

EUROPARC SECTIONS

- Nordic-Baltic
- Atlantic Isles
- Central and Eastern Europe
- Low Countries
- Germany
- France
- Italy
- Spain



Chichester
Harbour
National
Landscape



Section 6 Management Plan Public Consultation Response Summary

Chichester Harbour Conservancy undertook a Residents and Visitors Survey in 2024, which was completed by 824 people. The results helped to inform the preparation of this Management Plan. This was subject to a public consultation between 22 May 2025 and 30 June 2025. 65 people participated with the online survey, with a further 17 written responses, sent separately.

The main changes made because of the consultation were as follows.

- **List of Partners.** Refreshed and updated following feedback.
- **Reordering.** Some sections have been reorganised for ease of reading.
- **Special Qualities.** A series of tweaks, including the re-instatement of flora and fauna.
- **Statement of Significance.** Respondents felt it did not add value to document, so it was deleted.
- **SSSI Condition Review of 2021.** Many felt this text was too technical, so it was further summarised and re-written in plain English.
- **Policies.** Respondents wanted to see more of a balance between land and water, with a closer alignment to the functions of Chichester Harbour Conservancy. The policies have been reworked accordingly.
- **Water Quality.** Respondents asked for a specific policy on water, which is now included.
- **Indicative Actions.** People wanted to know how the policies were going to be delivered. Indicative actions will be prepared and published in the accompanying Delivery Plan in 2026.
- **Planning Principles.** At the request of multiple parish councils, these have been reinstated into the Management Plan.
- **National Targets.** These were streamlined to the targets that only affect Chichester Harbour National Landscape.
- **Maps.** Several maps have been amended for clarity and factual purposes. A Chichester Harbour Trust Sites map is included.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy would like to thank everyone that engaged in the process of preparing this Management Plan.



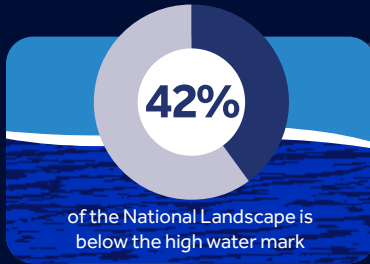
Sunset at Chichester Harbour © Shirley Rushmer



Chichester Harbour National Landscape

28.2 sq miles

Chichester Harbour is the largest natural estuary in southeast England



42% of the National Landscape is below the high water mark

International and National Designations and Protections

- National Landscape
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar Site



5,069 dwellings



63 miles of footpaths including the King Charles III England Coast Path



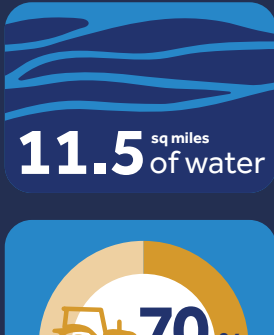
14 sailing clubs



15 internationally and nationally important bird species



41 locally important wildlife sites



11.5 sq miles of water



For moorings, the largest recreational boating harbour in Europe



2 species of Tern breed here



296 hectares of saltmarsh, but... Since 1946, 58% of saltmarsh has been lost

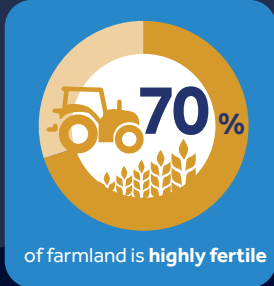
58%



5 Nature Reserves



53 miles of shoreline, of which just 15 miles is natural



70% of farmland is highly fertile



271 Listed Buildings



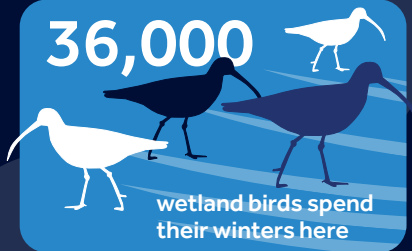
160 hectares of trees



5,200 moorings and marina berths



8,709 residents



36,000 wetland birds spend their winters here



60 Harbour Seals

20 Grey Seals



10 Conservation Areas



3 Dark Sky Discovery Sites



10,500 vessels



Over 1.8 million visitors per year



513,742 people live within 10km (6.2 miles)

Designated in 1964.



Chichester Harbour Conservancy

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Chichester Harbour Management Plan, 2025-2030, Incorporating the Amenity Area & Harbour © Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council, Havant Borough Council, and Chichester District Council, 2025 (Fourth Review). Prepared by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Red Pixel Creative. The Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment, and Habitat Regulation Assessment, were prepared by Craggatak Consulting. Photographs by Brian Bracher (Compass Photography Services), Martin Davies (Indepth Photography), Paul Adams (Harbour Images), and Paul Gonella (Strong Island Media). All contributing photographs taken by volunteers are appreciated. Last revision: 08/04/2026.