

Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Chichester Harbour
Conservancy manages the
Area of Outstanding Natural
Beauty.

We hope you enjoy your visit
to this beautiful area. To find
out more please see our
website:

www.conservancy.co.uk



Chichester
Harbour
Conservancy



10

8km/5 miles

2.5 hours

Map Ref. SU 794 035 - Ordnance Survey Explorer 120

Walk 10

Chidham Circular

An 8km circular walk with some of the best panoramic views of the harbour. There is always something to watch on the water, whether it is groups of young people learning to sail or kayak, or birds diving for fish.

Start Point

Cobnor Farm Amenity car park.

By Road

From the A259 turn south onto Chidham Lane. Keep on this road signposted towards Chidham East. After a mile turn left into the Amenity car park. If you reach the sign for Cobnor House you have gone too far.

Refreshments

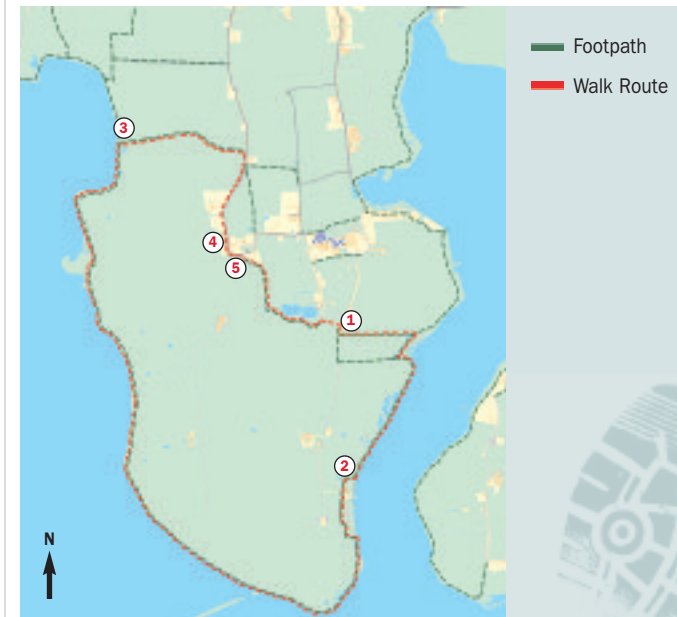
The Old House at Home

Tides

The shoreline section to the southwest floods when the tide is 4.5m or higher. Aim to reach it two hours before or after high tide.

Walk Directions

Take the first path on the left out of the car park. Going up a few steps you can see Bosham Church in the distance (1). Turn to the right and then left along the field edge, heading towards the shoreline.





2

At the shoreline path, turn right and keep going. Just before you reach the big accommodation boat for Christian Youth Enterprises (2), the path turns inland.

Carefully follow the footpath signs around the buildings and activity fields of the two sailing centres. You will shortly come onto a hard surfaced path through a dinghy park.



3

The path then turns left towards the shoreline. This section is suitable for wheelchairs. It was opened in 1988 on land kindly donated by Martin Beale, whose family still live at Cobnor House.

Keep on the path, there are a number of benches along this route for a break and to enjoy the view. The path eventually leads down a few steps to the shoreline. Turn right along the shore.

As you round the corner, look for the steps on the right taking you back up to the path on the seawall.

Note: this section of shoreline is being realigned. A new path will be opened in 2008, until then use the old path which is rough in places.

Whichever path you use they will both arrive at the same point. After the paths converge, look out for the footpath sign to the right (3). The path goes down a few steps and turns back on itself. Turn left at the field edge to walk inland across fields.



4



5

At the road, turn right. You will shortly come to some houses and then the Old House at Home pub (4). Past the pub the road bears to the left. Just before the church there is a footpath on the right (5).

Keep on this wide grassy path as it wiggles around fields. On the straight section with electricity poles look out for the small unsigned path on the left (6) leading back to the road.

Turn right to return to the car park.



6

Extra Items of Interest

Cobnor Activities Centre and Christian Youth Enterprises (CYE)

These are the two sailing centres you pass near the start of the walk. Cobnor Activities Centre is an independent Charitable Trust supported by The Friends Of Cobnor and West Sussex County Council. They aim to help educate young people in West Sussex, to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities. To that end the Centre provides facilities for education in environmental studies and training on land and water. Look out for their sailing dinghies which have bright yellow sails.

Visitors to CYE stay aboard the old naval minesweeper 'Gerald Daniel'. This large grey boat is a landmark in the harbour. The Centre provides activities both on the water and the land for young people and their families. Most of their sailing dinghies have dark brown sails.

Coastal Realignment

For many years the eastern shoreline of Chidham has suffered from erosion. This made the footpath difficult to maintain and threatened the fertile farmland.

An ambitious project was undertaken in 2006 to create a new inter-tidal habitat. A secondary sea wall was built slightly inland. Channels have been cut in the old sea wall so that the land behind it can flood at high tide. This will have the effect over the next few years of creating new saltmarsh, which is essential for the wildlife. An added benefit of the scheme is that the new sea wall will both defend the farmland and provide a stable surface for the rerouted footpath.