

# 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](http://www.conservancy.co.uk)



Chichester  
Harbour  
Conservancy







You will eventually come to an open area with lots of benches. Leave the shoreline here to turn inland and take the road to the right of the Southbourne Sea Scouts building. **2**

At The Square **3**, bear right and look carefully for a footpath sign on your right. There is a small wall to climb over. **4**



Keep straight ahead on the footpath which shortly opens out to some fields. After the fields go through the wooden gate, the path continues around the edge of a small orchard.



Continue along this path, for a short way it becomes a farm track, then returns to a footpath alongside a brick wall. At the end of this section you will come out into a small area of housing. You are now in Farm Lane.

Continue along the road, take the footpath on the right alongside a wall **5**. When you come to a field, continue ahead to the shoreline.



At the shoreline path turn left. Take the next footpath on the left **6**. You will shortly come to another footpath sign, turn right.

Keep straight ahead to rejoin Cot Lane. At Cot Lane turn left to return to The Barleycorn.

### Sea Defences

As you walk around the head of the channel you will notice piles of large rocks that have been put in place by the Environment Agency as sea defences.

About 53km of the harbour shoreline are protected by a variety of artificial structures. These include concrete and masonry seawalls, timber planks and piles, rock armour, groynes, earth embankments and rubble mounds. All of these have been constructed to reduce the exposure to flooding or to prevent the shoreline from receding due to wave erosion. These are all examples of 'hard' defences.

However, it is becoming apparent that 'hard' defences are not sustainable over the long term. The shoreline is dynamic and needs space to adapt, therefore alternative approaches such as managed retreat or setback which are called 'soft' defences may well be used more in the future. This approach is more flexible and has less negative impact on the natural environment.

*(Taken from Chichester Harbour – A Reference Guide, 2006)*



### Extra Items of Interest

#### Birds

If you are walking at low tide, look out for these wading birds on the mud.



#### Curlew

A large wader with very long legs and a down-curved beak. Some arrive in July, stay here until September then travel on. Others stay through the winter months leaving in March.



#### Oystercatcher

A large black and white bird with bright red legs and beak and a noisy piping call. They don't eat oysters but do feed on shellfish and worms. Usually seen September to February.



#### Redshank

A delicate-looking wader. Although it is brown, it can be distinguished by its red legs. Nearly 2,000 visit the harbour during the winter months.

Bird photos by George Spraggs