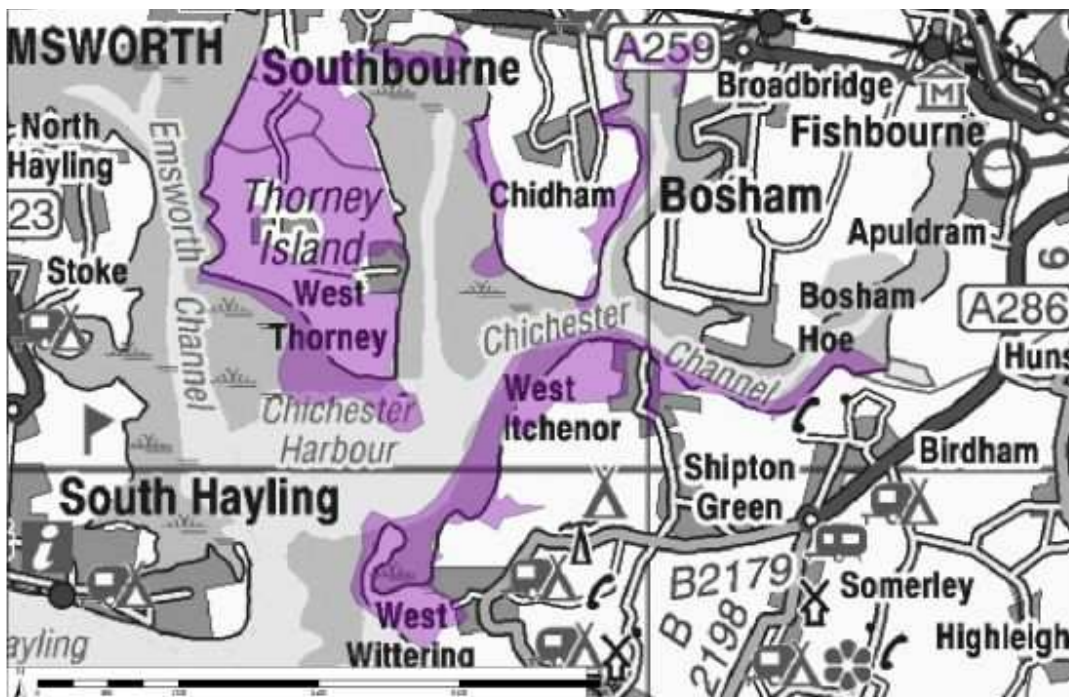


Chichester Harbour Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Coastal Plain

Geology The northern half of the Thorney Island part of the site consists of chalk bedrock, with clay, silt and sand to the south. Superficial deposits of sand, silt, clay and gravel. The West Itchenor part of the site sits on bedrock of clay, silt and sand, with clay, silt, sand and gravel superficial deposits.



The Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) are the regional priority areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats. They are a spatial representation of BAP targets and are areas of opportunity, not constraint. The BOAs are the property of the South East England Biodiversity Forum www.sebiodiversity.org.uk. Contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2010

Chichester Harbour has been recognised as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) as it represents a priority area for the delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets. It is one of 75 such areas across Sussex. The BOA covers approximately 1197 hectares.

These areas of Chichester Harbour are deemed to have the best opportunity for biodiversity on account of the current thinking on sea level influence and sea wall maintenance. They are based on elevation and existing land use. The areas contain all known eel grass beds and some important areas for Brent Geese and wading birds.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Coastal saltmarsh

Coastal sand dunes

Coastal vegetated shingle

Intertidal mudflats

Maritime cliff and slope

Reedbed

Saline lagoon

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 77 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	Mosaic of tall and short vegetation, sedge beds, herb-rich areas, often on edge of reedbed
Knot Grass <i>Acrionicta rumicis</i>	Meadows, gardens and hedgerows, larvae feed on a range of herbs
Garden Tiger <i>Arctia caja</i>	River valleys, hedgerows, gardens and parks
Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	Lakes, bogs and rivers, estuaries
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Wet reedbed and marshland
Minor Shoulder-Knot <i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	Damp woodland, hedgerows, heathland and fens, Willow
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Scrub, rough grassland, fens, reedbed and wet woodland, dense ground vegetation or litter, ponds, large water bodies, hedgerows
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
Divided Sedge <i>Carex divisa</i>	Vegetated shingle, grazing marsh, ditches, tidal rivers, brackish, no tidal inundation
True Fox-sedge <i>Carex vulpina</i>	River banks, ditch sides and damp meadows, standing water, open conditions are required
Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Dry grassland, heathlands, short turf, parks and gardens
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Black-throated Diver <i>Gavia arctica</i>	Breeds on freshwater, winters around sheltered coasts and occasionally at inland freshwater
Small Emerald <i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	Chalk downland, hedgerows, woodland edges, larvae feed on Traveller's-joy
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Mainly on the ground in open woodland, farmland, occasionally seen in gardens
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	South and east coasts of the UK, perch prominently on bushes, hedgerows, fence posts, lowland heathland, lowland meadow
Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Open farmland and grassland, habitat mosaic
Grasshopper Warbler	Scrub, thick grassland, reedbeds, forestry and gravel pits

<i>Locustella naevia</i>	
Stag Beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Broadleaved woodland, parkland, hedgerows, gardens, dead and decaying wood
Grass-poly <i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	Bare or disturbed ground subject to seasonal flooding, temporary ponds and areas disturbed by waterfowl
Lackey <i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Gardens, hedgerows, Hawthorn, Blackthorn
Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Breed around mesotrophic waters, blanket bog and heathland, winters around inshore waters
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Shoulder-striped Wainscot <i>Mythimna comma</i>	Gardens, damp habitats, marshes and fens, Cock's-foot.
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Reedbeds, estuaries, damp grassland, heathland, mosaic of tall vegetation for nesting with short vegetation and open habitats for feeding
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	Farmland, woodland edges, hedgerows with mature trees, wetland edges
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	Farmland, rush pastures, moors, mosaics of bare ground and cover, hedgerows, uncultivated margins
White-letter Hairstreak <i>Satyrium w-album</i>	A butterfly found most commonly in association with Elm, both mature trees and young suckers in hedgerows. Larvae feed on Elm particularly the flowers. Colonisation of new sites can be slow.
Shepherd's Needle	Disturbed ground such as arable margins, prefers calcareous soils and winter-sown land
White Ermine <i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Gardens and hedgerows
Arctic Skua <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Breeds on coastal moorland, winters at sea
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Short grassy areas
Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Meadows, wasteland, road verges and downland
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects

Invasive Non-native Species six species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Three-cornered Leek *Allium triquetrum*

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*

Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*

Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*

Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Designated Sites

Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA, Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar site, Solent Maritime SAC are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive mud and sand flats exposed at low tide. The site has particular significance for wintering wildfowl

and waders. Solent Maritime SAC is unique due to its double tides and the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present.

Chichester Harbour SSSI designated on account of its ornithological interest and the wide range of habitats and important plant communities including unimproved pasture, sand dunes and salt marsh.

Chalkdock Marsh SNCI a small area of derelict coastal grazing marsh adjacent to Chichester Harbour SSSI. The site is relatively species poor, however Marsh-mallow is scattered throughout making this an important site.

Cobnor Cottage Nature Reserve SNCI supports over 80 species of birds and is predominantly a grazing marsh with several brackish pools and a reedbed.

Cobnor Marsh SNCI a small area of diverse wetland habitats which lies adjacent to Chichester Harbour SSSI. It consists of coastal grazing marsh, small brackish pools, a freshwater pool and small amounts of saltmarsh and is quite rich in uncommon plants.

East Itchenor Coastal Marsh SNCI consists of coastal grassland including a patch of the nationally scarce Divided Sedge, and a derelict ditch has shown signs of Water Vole use.

Nutborne Pastures SNCI an area of grazing fields at the northern end of Chichester Harbour; it consists of semi-improved grassland and is intersected by drainage ditches. The site has value to overwintering wildfowl and waders as a roosting and feeding site.

Thorney Island SNCI a site of national and international importance for wildfowl and wading birds, and there is also Lepidoptera and botanical interest, with two rare annuals found in an arable field on the site.

Thornham Point SNCI a developing saltmarsh site, with several nationally and locally significant species of plant and insects, immediately adjacent to Chichester Harbour SSSI.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Coastal habitat management, restoration and creation
- Flood alleviation
- Pollution
- Policy integration
- Ecological networks
- Landowner advisory