

## Useful Information

### Directions

All the walks were tested in 2007. However, please note that some footpaths may be diverted and buildings such as pubs may have changed their name since the walks were written. If you have any comments please send them to the Harbour Office to be considered for the next edition.

### Distances and Timings

All distances and timings are approximate.

### Maps

The maps provided are a guide and are not to scale. Please use OS Explorer Map 120 (Chichester).

### Map References

The reference given is for the start point of the walk.

### Public Transport

**Buses:** Stagecoach run most of the local buses. Timetable details are at [www.stagecoachbus.com/south](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/south) or telephone **0871 200 22 33** (10p per minute).

For the Selsey – Itchenor service see [www.compass-travel.co.uk](http://www.compass-travel.co.uk)

**Trains:** Timetable information is at [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or telephone **08457 48 49 50**.

### Stiles and Gates

Please note stiles are gradually being replaced with gates where appropriate. This may affect some of the walk directions and photos.

### Tides

Please note some paths are flooded at high tide. If you have misjudged the times, you usually only have to wait a short while before the path is clear enough to use. Tide times can be found at [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk) or from the Harbour Office, please note these are only a prediction and factors such as low pressure can make the tide higher than expected.

### Tourist Information

**Chichester:** [www.visitchichester.org](http://www.visitchichester.org) or telephone **01243 775888**.

**Hayling Island:** [www.visithavant.co.uk](http://www.visithavant.co.uk) or telephone **023 9246 7111**.

### Weather

Please check the weather before starting your walk and take the appropriate clothing. Weather forecasts can be found at [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk) or from the local tourist offices.

### Acknowledgements

All walks were written and photographed by Ali Beckett for Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Design work on the book was undertaken by Dan Vear and Graham Martin at Designline. The walks were tested by willing volunteers: Roger & Sheila Bleasby, Stella Briggs, Peter Cameron, Jan Colgate, Rodney & Jackie Dugga, Adrian & Josette Fox, Ken & Margaret Harry, Eric & Christine Hinkley, Ted & Ros Honeyman, Kerry Jackson, Jazmin Kelly, John Kendall, Joan Langhorne, Lesley Mann, Coralie Murphy, Roger Palmer, Patrick Pead, Tony Probert, Jill & Tony Radnor, Sally Rumfitt, Peter & Judy Stern, Peter Taylor, Jim & Ann Tice, Richard Tully, Bill Walker, Colin Webb, Bill Witts. Funding was generously provided by the Friends of Chichester Harbour, Chichester Harbour Trust and Chichester Harbour Sustainable Development Fund.



- **Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs**

Even when going out locally, it's best to get the latest information about where and when you go; for example, your rights to go onto some areas of open land may be restricted while work is carried out, for safety reasons or during breeding seasons. Follow advice and local signs, and be prepared for the unexpected.

- **Leave gates and property as you find them**

Please respect the working life of the countryside, as our actions can affect people's livelihoods, our heritage, and the safety and welfare of animals and ourselves.

- **Protect plants and animals and take your litter home**

We have a responsibility to protect our countryside, so make sure you don't harm animals, birds, plants or trees.

- **Keep dogs under control**

The countryside is a great place to exercise dogs, but it's every owner's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife or other people.

- **Consider other people**

Showing consideration and respect for other people makes the countryside a pleasant environment for everyone – at home, at work and at leisure.



2

6.5km/4 miles

2 hours

Map Ref. SU 788 054 - Ordnance Survey Explorer 120

## Walk 2

# Nutbourne Circular

This 6.5km walk starts at Chidham then crosses fields to reach the harbour shoreline. From the shoreline there are fine views across to Thorney Island and down the Thorney Channel. From Prinsted the walk wends its way back past a small orchard and across farmland.

### Start Point

The Barleycorn pub on the corner of Cot Lane, Chidham.

### By Road

Turn south off the A259 into Cot Lane. There is a small parking area at the top of Cot Lane.

### By Bus

Coastliner Service 700, ask for The Barleycorn stop.

### By Rail

Nutbourne Railway Station. Walk a few minutes south down Broad Road to reach the start point.

### Refreshments

The Barleycorn, Chidham.

### Toilets

No public toilets.

### Tides

The paths are non-tidal.

### Walk Directions

Walk down Cot Lane. Look out for the second footpath sign which is just off the road on the right. Turn right here. **1** This path is lined with tall Poplar trees and leads down to the shoreline.

At the field edge, bear right for a short way and then up a few steps to join the path on the sea wall.

Turn right onto the shoreline path and follow it around the head of the channel. The dark, low buildings on the opposite shore are part of the military buildings on Thorney Island. The marina across the channel is Thornham Marina. You may be able to spot the Spinnaker Tower in the distance.





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