

Wildlife and Chichester Harbour

Chichester Harbour is internationally important for its birdlife, attracting over 55,000 individual waders, wildfowl and seabirds each year, including breeding Terns.

Chichester Harbour, together with Langstone Harbour, is designated as a Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation for its important habitats and birdlife.

At high tide, waders leave the mud and saltmarsh for features above or adjacent to the water, such as grassy banks, jetties, shingle beaches and islands where they congregate together in their many thousands in order to rest, sleep and preen. These areas are known as "roosts". When people get too close to these roosts, or to birds feeding, it disturbs the birds who, in response, take flight. When this happens regularly across key sites in the Solent, it reduces the survival chances of waders such as Dunlin, Oystercatcher and Curlew, because they waste precious energy avoiding people rather than using it to find food or survive in challenging conditions. The protection of bird roosts and feeding areas from disturbance is therefore a priority for the Chichester Harbour Conservancy and other organisations around the country.

Harbour Seals feed in Chichester Harbour and rest, moult and give birth on exposed mudflats. When disturbed they will often enter the water, move away, or even approach closer to a vessel and this is a sign of stress rather than curiosity. This can adversely affect their health through an unnecessary expenditure of energy and stress.



Photo by Ed Rowsell



Photo by Ludi Loocher



Photo by Richard Porter



Photo by Meryl Mead-Briggs



The Harbour is enjoyed by several thousands of water users each year, and a large part of that enjoyment stems from the beauty of the natural surroundings and its diversity of wildlife.

Please purchase Harbour Dues before launching. Information on charges and how to pay can be found on our website - www.conservancy.co.uk.

For more information about looking after the environment when out paddling search for the following leaflet online ***You, Your Canoe and the Marine Environment***, published by the RSPB and British Canoeing.

Before going onto the water, we recommended reading ***Essential Safety in Chichester Harbour***. This free leaflet is available from Harbour Office, Itchenor.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy

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**Chichester
Harbour
Conservancy**

Enjoying Paddlesports

and protecting the environment

in Chichester Harbour

**Advice for users of
canoes, kayaks and
paddle boards**



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Enjoying Chichester Harbour

Kayaks, paddle boards and canoes are an excellent low impact, healthy and fun way of exploring the Harbour. However, when these craft get too close to birdlife and seals, they can cause disturbance, which can have negative consequences for their conservation.



Sensitive Wildlife Areas

In order to conserve the wildlife of this harbour while enjoying it at the same time, please follow the advice below;



- ✓ Keep a minimum distance of 50m between yourself and the sensitive areas highlighted on the map (unless there is a safety issue which would take priority) and remain quiet.
- ✓ Keep 100m from seals on the mud and a reasonable distance from flocks of birds throughout the Harbour. If birds take flight or seals move off the mud in reaction to your presence, move away from the area immediately.

- ✓ Take any litter home
- ✓ Use recognised launching points and avoid trampling saltmarsh by sticking to public footpaths
- ✓ If you have any questions or concerns please get in touch with Chichester Harbour Conservancy.



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