

Useful Information

Directions

All the walks were tested in 2013. Please note, however, 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 or telephone **0871 200 22 33** (10p per minute).

For the Selsey – Itchenor service see www.compass-travel.co.uk

Trains: Timetable information is at 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 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 or telephone **01243 775888**.

Hayling Island: 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 or from the local tourist offices.

Acknowledgements

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9

16km/10 miles

5 hours

Map Ref. SU 806 039 - Ordnance Survey Explorer 120

Walk 9

Two Villages and a Ferry

A 16km walk starting in the historic village of Bosham. Cutting across the peninsula, the route passes through reedbeds to a traditionally managed meadow. Heading down the Fishbourne Channel, the route takes in the tiny village of Dell Quay and passes through two marinas before arriving at Itchenor for the ferry crossing across the channel.

Start Point

Bosham pay & display car park.

Ferry

Please note the ferry is seasonal, to confirm the running times please call 07970 378350. Out of season you will not be able to complete this walk. Usually the ferry running times are 0900-1800, daily from mid-May to the end of September. Weekends and bank holidays only from April to mid-May and through October.

By Road

Turn south off the A259 towards Bosham. Follow the signs to the pay & display car park.

By Bus

Service 56 between Chichester and Bosham. This is an hourly service running Monday to Saturdays but not on bank holidays. Please check for up to date details. The bus stop is in the car park.

Refreshments

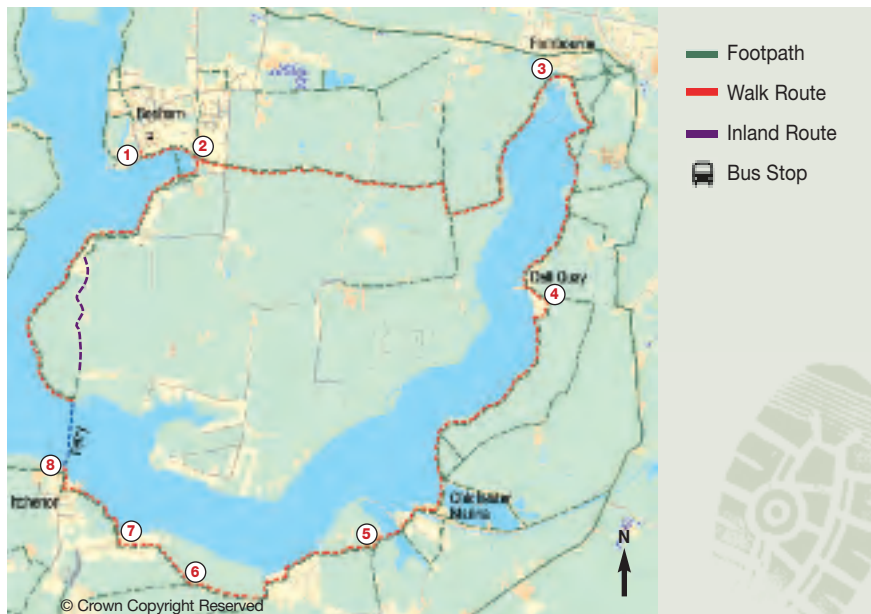
Tea shops and a pub in Bosham. The Crown & Anchor pub at Dell Quay, cafés at Chichester Marina and The Ship at Itchenor.

Toilets

In the car park at Bosham, side of the Harbour Office Itchenor and at Chichester Marina.

Tides

The path between the ferry and Bosham is tidal and floods when the tide is 4.7m or higher. The walk can be completed at high tide but you will need to take the inland route straight up from the ferry path to the road.



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Walk Directions

Walk out of Bosham car park and turn left. Just before the water take the path on the left between two houses 1 and continue on this path towards the head of the channel.

Pass Harbour Road on your left and a couple of houses to reach a grassy triangle. Bear left and take the footpath ahead of you 2 between two houses. (If you reach Old School House you have gone too far.)

Cross the road and continue straight ahead. The path turns right and then left and passes by an isolated house before reaching another road. Cross over and continue ahead.

At the end of the tree-lined path, turn right and then shortly left. Keep going and before long you will see Fishbourne Channel. As you head towards the shoreline bear left following the path through an area of oak trees. The path then goes up a couple of steps and continues on the field edge.



After a while you will reach some steps down to the reedbeds 3, eventually coming out by Fishbourne Mill Pond. Cross the road and carry on the path through the metal kissing gate.

At the meadows, bear right to cross a bridge and go through a kissing gate. Continue to the next footpath junction. Here you can either bear left or continue ahead which is a slightly longer route. Both paths join again at the other side of the field.

Please note

Chichester District Council have a Dogs on Lead by Direction Order covering the head of the Fishbourne Channel. This prevents disturbance to sensitive wildlife.

Continue along the path through a series of kissing gates to reach Dell Quay. The path comes out by The Crown and Anchor. If you want to explore the small quay turn right here.

Otherwise, turn left walking up the road away from the harbour. After a few houses there is a footpath on the right 4. Keep going along the field edge and then alongside a woodland to reach Chichester Marina.

Walk towards the Marina office and cross over the lock. If it is open, wait patiently and the lock keeper will close it for you to cross. Once across the lock, walk straight ahead, when you reach the canal turn right and then left to cross the old lock gates.



Continue through the narrow path, then turn right through another narrow path. At the road, cross over and continue ahead to Birdham Pool.

Once through the marina bear left and past a big house, take the footpath down a small lane on the right (5). The path bears left on the right hand side of a field and then in front of the gardens of some harbourside properties.

The path turns inland to reach a residential road. Turn right. At the road junction turn right and keep going down a concrete road towards Westlands Farm.



Before the farm buildings turn left and go through the gate on the right (6). Keep ahead across a couple of fields and alongside a small woodland to reach Spinney Lane. Turn left.

After about 300m there is a footpath (7) on the right taking you back to the shoreline. When you reach the sailing club, turn left. You will come out opposite The Ship.

Turn right and walk down to the Harbour Office. Turn left past the office and down the public jetty (8) to catch the ferry. The ferry is usually berthed on the left of the jetty head. If it is not there wait and it will be back shortly. As well as taking people across the water it takes people to and from their moored boats.

Once off the ferry, walk up to the footpath. If it is low tide turn left and continue around the shoreline route to a road.



If it is high tide, continue straight ahead up a small path and then bear left at the road which will come out at the same place as the shoreline walk.

Continue around the road, or there is a higher footpath if the tide is in, towards the head of the channel. If it is low tide you can shortcut across the Wadeway. Otherwise continue around the top of the channel and retrace your steps back to the car park or bus stop.



Extra Items of Interest

Fishbourne Reed Beds

Walking through the reeds that are taller than you and hearing the birds sing and the wind rustle the leaves is a magical experience. The reeds growing in this bed are the Common Reed. They are Britain's tallest native grass. The beds are an important habitat for Reed Warblers and Sedge Warblers that come here from Africa to breed.

Smuggling

Smuggling is reported to have been rife in the Dell Quay area. Goods were dropped off all around the harbour, in particular at Copperas Point. Contraband was stored in Salterns Copse to hide it from the Customs Officers, before it was collected and taken inland. The Sussex County Magazine in 1927 reports a 'perfectly true incident', which happened at the Quay in the early part of the 19th century. A French yacht with flag at half-mast arrived at the Quay and was met by a hearse and mourners. A weighty coffin was solemnly unloaded and was over the Downs before the Customs officers realised it was full of smuggled goods.

Taken from Chichester Harbour – A Reference Guide