

Chichester Harbour Entrance Navigational Improvements 2008

Useful Information

- ▶ A **weather station** on the West Pole Beacon provides current wind speed, wind direction and height of tide readings; this information can be accessed through www.chimet.co.uk.
- ▶ **VHF Radio** – Chichester Harbour Radio Channel 14, or contact patrol vessels directly call sign Chichester Harbour Patrol.
- ▶ **Local Notice to Mariners** can be viewed on the Conservancy's website. Please register on the website for the eNewsletter to receive future LNTM's directly.
- ▶ Harbour **speed limit** is 8 knots; please mind your wash.
- ▶ For more detailed **advice** please refer to www.conservancy.co.uk, or contact the Harbour Office, details below.



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Harbour Office, Itchenor,
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Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Navigation Notes

The entrance to Chichester Harbour is low lying and indistinct and is flanked on either side by banks of sand and shingle that extend for more than one mile offshore. These shoal areas, West Pole, and East Pole Sands merge together to form Chichester Bar a little over half a mile offshore. The Bar is dredged every five years or so to achieve a depth of 1.5 metres below Chart Datum, but please note that between dredges the Bar gradually becomes shallower with spot heights ultimately as little as 0.8m below Chart Datum.

During the spring of 2008 the navigational beacons marking the safest route into Chichester Harbour have been replaced and repositioned. The new outer mark **WEST POLE BEACON** has been established in position: 50° 45'.45 N, 00° 56'.59 W. This is a substantial tripod structure topped with a red can and is designated as a port hand mark. The navigational light is an all round red set at a height of 14 metres above MHWS and is visible from seven miles flashing once every five seconds. The new inner mark **BAR BEACON** has been established in position: 50° 46'.023 N, 00° 56'.380 W. This is a single pole topped with a red can and is also designated as a port hand mark. The light is an all round red set at a height of 10 metres and is visible from four miles group flashing two every 10 seconds.

These beacons mark the western side of the deep-water channel into Chichester Harbour, which is less than 200 metres wide in the vicinity of the Bar. Vessels on, or close to the east of a transit line passing through West Pole Beacon and the Bar Beacon will keep clear of West Pole and avoid the shingle spit that periodically extends into the harbour north of Eastoke Point Beacon. When entering or leaving the harbour care must be taken not to drift west of the transit and onto West Pole, or to navigate more than 150 metres to the east of the transit in the vicinity of the Bar.

Vessels approaching from the west are advised to shape a course for West Pole Beacon. On rounding the Beacon aim to pass between Eastoke Point Beacon and West Winner Beacon, keeping the Bar Beacon close to port. When approaching from the east, mariners are advised not to cross the 5-metre contour until West Pole Beacon bears 310°T. On reaching the beacon shape a course for the harbour entrance keeping the Bar Beacon close to port.

Mariners should be aware that ebb tides in the entrance to the harbour can attain a rate of up to six knots on springs. With a falling tide and strong winds from a southerly sector a dangerous sea may be encountered. In these conditions it is advisable to exercise caution and cross the bar between three hours before and one hour after HW springs.

