

# CDALC Feb 2022

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CHICHESTER  
HARBOUR  
CONSERVANCY



# Terns have many problems in breeding season!

- Few available nesting sites (many developed)
- Tidal flooding (many sites now too low)
- Natural processes not creating new sites
- Predation (foxes, gulls)
- Human disturbance (e.g. East Head)

# Intervention

- Replace lost intertidal habitats through realignments
- Design realignments carefully to ensure they have bird nesting site available (islands)
- Deploy rafts and artificial measures (fencing) for breeding sites
- Recharge existing sites with dredged sediment
- Reduce disturbance through signage and education



29.90 inHg - 21°C ( 06/17/2020 04:37PM CAMERA 1





# Tern rafts (Thorney Deeps)

	No of rafts	Common tern pairs	Fledged young	Young per pair	Black-headed gull pairs	Fledged young	Young per pair
2019	1	9	20	2.22	0	0	
2020	2	33 (33-37)	48 (48-52)	1.45	2	5	2.5
2021	3	34	15	0.44	18	20	1.11



# Chichester and Langstone seal surveys

- Monthly (May-Sept) at LW neaps
- Coordinated with LHB
- Carried out in RIB or patrol cat'
- All main haul-outs covered
- 2 observers
- attempt to age and photograph all seals
- Peak counts
- Generates robust data inc breeding success

# Chichester -Langstone seal survey (peak counts 2015-2021)

	1999	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018 (Chi only)	2019	2020	2021
Hbr seals	8	17	30	39	46	38	47	48	57
Grey seals	?	1	5	5	8	11	20	18	20
Hbr seal pups	?	?	8	10	11	9	8	7	7

NB. 1999-2010 shore-based counts



# Thorney Island wetland enhancements (2019-2020)

- Small scale habitat improvements
- MoD funded the work (c.£5k each year)
- MoD ecologist arranged land-owner permissions and services search
- CHC ecologist arranged NE consent and designed 'scrapes'
- project managed and monitored by CHC
- Work carried out by tenant farmer

# Thorney Island wetland enhancements (2019-2020)

- Significant increase in shallow water on fields in winter and spring
- Breeding lapwings and redshank using the pools in April and May 2020
- Brent geese and wigeon using the new wet areas in winter 2020-21
- At least 7 pairs of lapwings in spring 2021













# Thorney Island realignment project

- EA (project managers) and MoD (landowners)
- JBA are main contractors
- Currently conducting ground investigations/analysis
- Planning permission and MMO/NE consent required
- Construction phase planned for 2024/25
- Potential to create 20-30ha of intertidal habitat and supporting features



Havant

A27

Emsworth

Southbourne

A27

Langstone

Nutbourne

Hayling Island

Bosham

Stoke

Thorney Island

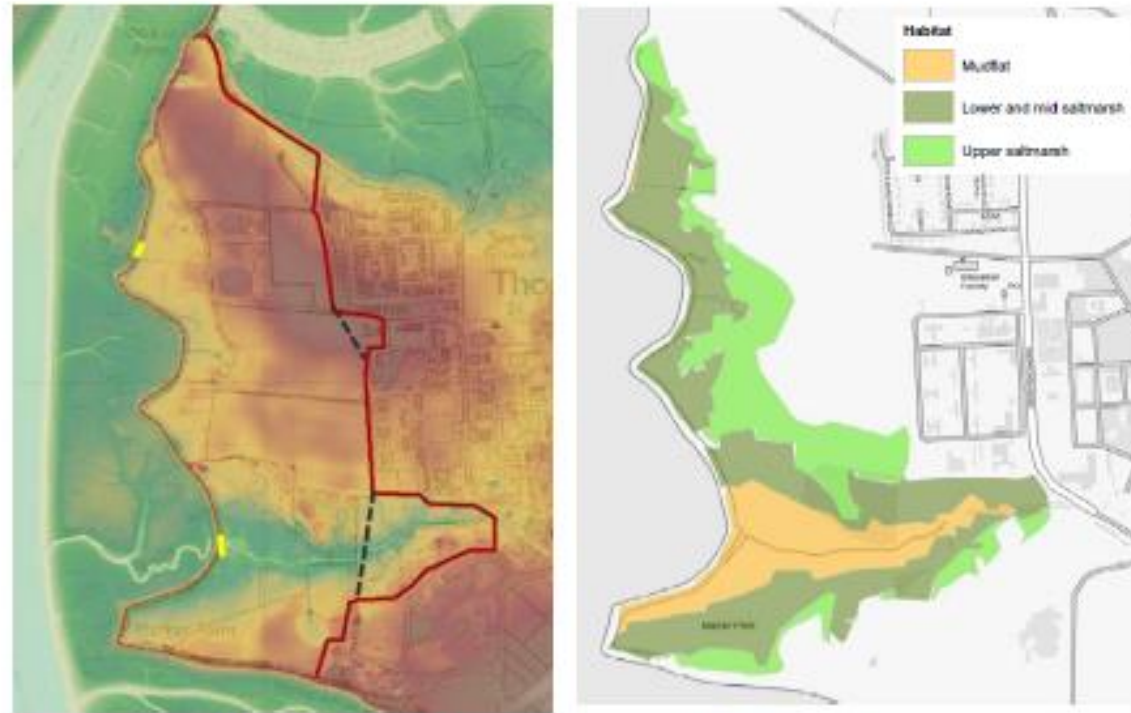
Chichester Harbour AONB

Itchenor

Google Earth

The project team are investigating the alignment of the set-back defence and what the defence will look like. Figure 4 shows indicative options for the location of the new set-back defence which are being investigated. There are a number of factors that will inform the design, including:

- ground conditions
- natural topography
- proximity to MOD infrastructure
- landowner requirements
- protected species and important terrestrial habitats
- known and unknown Heritage assets



*Figure 4: (L) Indicative locations of the set-back defence. A number of alignments are being investigated as shown by the red and dotted black lines. The yellow lines indicate the locations of the potential breaches.  
(R) Preliminary modelling of the site to determine the type of habitat to be created based on Highest Astronomical Tide.*











