

An age old tradition of Wildfowling in the Harbour

Chichester Wildfowlers

Wildfowling has been carried out in Chichester Harbour since the eighteenth century and continues today. The need to venture out onto often dangerous marshes, and the challenges of understanding the ways of wild duck and geese sets it apart from other forms of shooting.

Pond clearance





Reed cutting



Sea wall maintenance

Chichester Wildfowlers Association (CWA) manages all shooting in the Harbour to ensure that restrictions are observed, and only qualified members participate. In order to become a member it's necessary to complete a probationary year accompanied by experienced wildfowlers, pass tests and participate in conservation activities. Those who follow this path are united in a love of wild places, their inhabitants and a desire to preserve them for future generations.

This ensures that every member has a clear understanding of the rules, is able to distinguish between different species, be safe, and act in a sympathetic manner to the habitat we all enjoy.

The range of a shotgun is limited, so a detailed understanding of the feeding, roosting and preening habits of wildfowl is essential.

Members must anticipate the flight lines that wildfowl take as they move around the Harbour, typically at dawn and dusk, in order to be in range. This experience combined with decades of conservation work, has built up a considerable body of knowledge amongst the members, which is put to good use maintaining the Harbour.



At Fishbourne there is a well-defined management plan developed by the Association for the area, which includes pond clearance, reed cutting, scrub clearance and the provision of nest boxes.

A schedule of conservation activities is organised each year and supported by members. Many of the members involved already work on the land and have specific skills and equipment to contribute.

The activities range from litter pickups to seawall maintenance and are organised on a regular basis, mainly away from breeding times. At Fishbourne there is a well-defined management plan developed by the Association for the area, which includes pond clearance, reed cutting, scrub clearance and the provision of nest boxes.

If you'd like to know more about the CWA and conservation activities visit:
www.chichesterwildfowlers.org