



Project Aim

"Restoring nature, protecting the coast and creating space for wildlife and people in western Thorney Island"

What's been happening?

Welcome to the Thorney Island Habitat Creation Project newsletter! This is an opportunity to update you on progress and topics of interest. The team would like to share our new logo (see above). We feel this represents the project and our aims more clearly, by showing how the project area may look in the future.

Accessibility

After reviewing accessibility guidance, changes have been made to this newsletter to make it easier to read. If you still find it hard to read, please contact us using the **"Stay in contact"** section overleaf.

Project Update

The project aims to bring many ecological benefits to Chichester Harbour. We have been working with Natural England and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy to utilise their expertise on environmental aspects of the project area along the coastline.

We recently completed our outline business case that explains why the project is needed and how it could work. We will soon draw up detailed engineering designs and complete work needed for our planning application. Our key partners are helping us make sure the plans and design is robust to ensure we use the land to create the best possible habitat.

This business case was scrutinised by Environment Agency national teams. After feedback, the project team are planning more environmental assessments to help with the next project stage. Soon, we will sign contracts between the Environment Agency, the consultants and contractors to begin this exciting design stage before submitting final business case.

Meet the Team

Project Senior Users (Environment Agency)



Hello! We represent the voice of our organisation on the project team. We strive to ensure the project vision becomes reality and helps us achieve our legal environmental obligations.

Our job is very varied, from working closely with the landowner (the Ministry of Defence) to better understand and combine their needs with ours, to creating larger information events for the public. We also work closely together in our supportive project group, making collective decisions on how to progress the project.

In our free time we enjoy exploring West Sussex by bike and play badminton. One of us has recently adopted two guinea pigs. We look forward to meeting you in the future!



Spotlight on Species

As the Thorney Island Project aims to support and benefit numerous habitats and wildlife in the area, we are highlighting a different species each month. This month's species is a **Brent Goose**.



Brent Goose- Sourced from Chichester Harbour Conservancy, 2025

Brent Geese visit the UK in the winter from October to March/April. The size of population that seasonally migrate is very dependent on the success rate of breeding in the Arctic, which can vary each year. This goose is rather small in comparison to other goose species. They have a dark underbelly and neck with a white collar and white undertail. The Brent Goose often feeds on vegetation found on the intertidal habitat and grasslands in Chichester Harbour. This can range from seaweed to grass. The geese can be seen all over the Harbour in large flocks (Chichester Harbour Conservancy, 2025).

Circular Path Update

Following flooding caused by heavy rainfall and spring tides in 2023, an inspection was carried out on the eastern sluice gate of the Great Deep.

The Environment Agency, worked with Southern Water Ltd and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to undertake repairs to strengthen the structure and reduce future flood risk. During these works, the adjacent public right of way was found to be unsafe. In agreement with West Sussex County Council, public access was suspended to allow for safe restoration.

The MOD's estate specialists from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation worked with West Sussex County Council to deliver a new crossing, completed in summer 2025. This improvement has reinstated access to the 13km circular walk, ensuring it is safe and accessible for all.



New bridge at Thorney Island – Sourced from [sussexexpress.co.uk](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk), 2025

Stay in contact

We have a new webpage that is currently under construction and will be made available shortly. It will include frequently asked questions, more information about the project and team! In the meantime, please use our email below to contact us.



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Website link will follow shortly.