

## LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE CITATION

**Site ID:** C102

**Central Grid Reference:** SU752057

**Site Name:** Slipper Mill Pond & Peter Pond

**Area:** 4ha

**District or Borough:** Chichester

**Date Confirmed:** May 1997

**Parish:** Southbourne

**Date of Last Survey:** July 2021

**Protected Landscape:** Chichester Harbour AONB

### General Description

Slipper Mill Pond and Peter Pond Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is an example of a saline lagoon, an uncommon coastal habitat defined as a natural or artificial body of saline water that is partially separated from the adjacent sea, and which retains a proportion of its seawater at low tide. Peter Pond is fed by the Lumley Stream, a channel of the River Ems, which then flows into Slipper Mill Pond. The water is then held by a sluice and tidal gate at the southern end of Slipper Mill Pond, the gates only opening during spring tides. In addition to the saline lagoon the LWS also includes reedbed, Sea Club-rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus* swamp and saltmarsh habitats. Two notable invertebrate species, the Starlet Sea Anemone *Nematostella vectensis* and the Tentacled Lagoon-Worm *Alkmaria romijni*, have been recorded from the saline lagoon. The LWS provides an extension to the habitats of the adjacent Chichester Harbour, which is designated as a Ramsar site, and as an SAC, SPA and SSSI.

### Criteria

Sussex Criteria	Comments
NERC Section 41 Habitat or Sussex BAP Habitat	Saline lagoon is a NERC S41 habitat.
Supporting/relict population of internationally, nationally or locally rare species or assemblages (Red Data List, NERC Section 41, Sussex RSI or Sussex BAP)	A number of notable invertebrate species have been recorded from Slipper Mill Pond and Peter Pond, including Starlet Sea Anemone, which is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN red list, Tentacled Lagoon-Worm, Lagoon Cockle and Mouse-eared Snail. Water vole are also known to be present.
Mosaic habitat	The saline lagoon and other habitats within the LWS provide a significant and clearly identifiable extension to the habitats of Chichester Harbour, which is designated as a Ramsar site, SAC, SPA and SSSI.
Wildlife corridors	
Sandrock exposure	
Site expansion	



DEFRA Criteria	Comments
Size or extent	
Rare or exceptional feature (Annex 1, NERC Section 41, Birds of Conservation Concern Red or Amber)	A number of notable invertebrate species have been recorded from Slipper Mill Pond and Peter Pond, including Starlet Sea Anemone, Tentacled Lagoon-Worm, Lagoon Cockle and Mouse-eared Snail. Water vole are also known to be present from Peter Pond.
Diversity	In addition to the saline lagoon the LWS also contains a number of subsidiary habitats, including reedbed, swamp and saltmarsh, as well as woodland, hedgerow and grassland. The saline lagoon supports a diversity of invertebrate fauna, while the subsidiary habitats provide a greater range of habitat conditions that can support a greater number of floral and faunal species.
Fragility (including threats)	The brackish conditions within the saline lagoon must be maintained to ensure that it continues to support the notable invertebrate fauna.
Connectivity within the landscape	The saline lagoon at Slipper Mill Pond and Peter Pond forms part of the wider estuarine system of Chichester Harbour.
Recorded history and cultural association	The Slipper Mill Pond dates from 1760 and was constructed for the Slipper Mill. Peter Pond was constructed in 1805 as an extension to the pond.
Typicalness	
Value for appreciation of nature	Both Slipper Mill Pond and Peter Pond are surrounded by a network of public rights of way, allowing public access for the appreciation of nature.
Value for learning	
Naturalness (including processes as well as features)	

# LWS Boundary Map

## Slipper Mill Pond & Peter Pond

Site Code: C102



Sussex  
Biodiversity  
Record Centre



Local Wildlife Sites Initiative  
SUSSEX



475000  
1:3,108

475500

### Key to Map:

 Local Wildlife Site



### Notes on boundary digitising:

\*Boundaries for LWSs are digitised to match Ordnance Survey Mastermap features wherever these appropriately describe the site boundary.

\*\*When overlaid against other forms of mapping (as above), the LWS boundary may appear to overlap or mis-align with features such as roads and buildings. This does not represent an error in the LWS boundary: basemaps often distort the true size and exact location of such features in order to improve legibility.

Local Wildlife Site boundaries maintained by Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre on behalf of Sussex Local Wildlife Sites Initiative.

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