

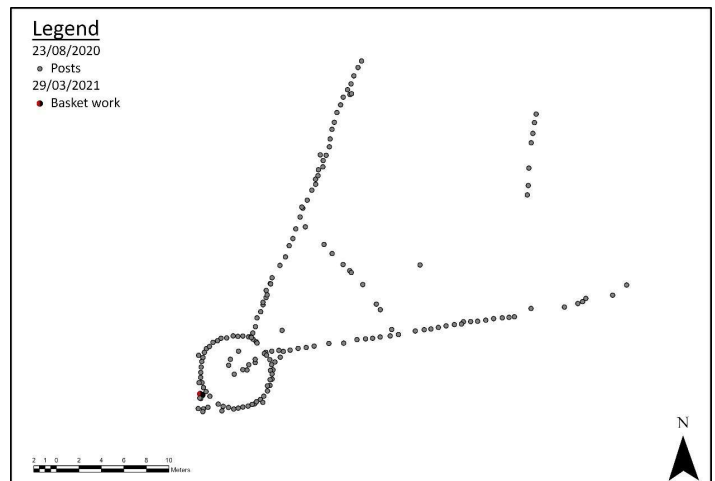
Fish Traps at East Head



Map showing location of the fish traps in the mouth of Chichester Harbour. Map prepared by Therese Kearns and Sam Griffiths from CITIZAN

Two arms formed of wattle supported by posts and facing northeast, would have trapped fish leaving the harbour as the tide ebbed. The round pond would have retained the trapped fish.

One of the fish traps at low tide.
Photo Peter King



Plan of fish trap showing arm and holding pond. Diagram prepared by Therese Kearns and Sam Griffiths from CITIZAN

Carbon dating techniques have securely dated the wood in both fish traps to the 16th century.

Already, the sand is returning, making these fish traps less easy to access.

These fish traps were a large investment, designed to catch fish on a huge scale. It is difficult to interpret how Emsworth fishermen would have reacted. They might have opposed its construction, if they thought the traps were harming their catches.