
LCA41 South Moor and Broadmarsh Coastal Park

Introduction

The area contains one landscape character type: Open Lower Harbour Plain LCT H. A full description of the characteristics common to this type is set out in Section 4. The area is composed of ten historic landscape character types; Small Regular Fields with Straight Boundaries (Parliamentary Type) (1.9); Medium Regular Fields with Straight Boundaries (Parliamentary Type) (1.10); Reclaimed land (8.4); Shingle and Dunes (8.6); Mudflats (8.7); Navigation Channel (8.9); Late 20th Century Residential (9.6.7); Small Farmsteads (9.13); Railway (13.5.1); and Road (13.6) (Figure 1).

Location

LCA41 covers the open area of land to the west and south of Brockhampton industrial estate. Langstone lies to the east, with Langstone Harbour to the south and Brockhampton to the north. The LCA includes the junction of the A3 (M) with the A27 (T).

Relationship to adjacent character areas

LCA12 Portsdown Hill: Open views across and up to Portsdown Hill. Contrasting fertile agricultural plain within LCA41 with the downland grassland of LCA12. No connecting landscape features.

LCA13 Historic Bedhampton: Screened views from this area to LCA41 due to the intervening roadside vegetation and the road embankment of the A27 (T). Thin agricultural hedgerows enclosing regular field shapes contrast with the wide woodland belts and rounded areas of grassland found within the coastal park of LCA41.

LCA27 Langstone: Views from the western edge of Langstone, to the adjacent open arable landscape, although an intervening hedgerow then screens views to South Moor and beyond. Views from LCA27 across into the open landscape of LCA41. The open undeveloped harbour plain landscape adjacent LCA27 provides an important setting and contrast to the tight knit harbour development of Langstone.

LCA28 Brockhampton industrial area: The large scale buildings at Brockhampton industrial estate visually intrude on the eastern side of South Moor and the Coastal Park. Contrasting landscapes with few connecting elements.

LCA32 Langstone Harbour: An artificial shoreline has been created along the Harbour edge. There are a number of car parks where there are views of the harbour from this manmade shoreline. Contrasting landscapes.

Beyond the Borough boundary: Harbour plain continues and connects to the west into Farlington Marshes, outside the Borough. The open fertile agricultural plain changes to small enclosed hedged fields to the west adjacent the urban area of Farlington.

Historic development

The area of Broadmarsh, to the west of the Brockhampton stream, appears to have been, during the prehistoric period, an area of raised shingle beaches, where Bronze Age pottery has been recovered. A number of small hearths and finds dating to the Iron Age suggest that this was a salt production site during that period. The existing landform is therefore reclaimed.

Historically an area of marsh and farmland, the South Moor area was crossed by a number of small watercourses, and was also used for growing watercress in the 19th century. Towards the western end of the LCA, a small quay known as Chalk Dock, immediately to the south of Forty Acre Farm, was used for the export of chalk and lime from the small quarries on Camp Down to the north.

The area has become a transport corridor, with the railway and the improved A27 (T) running just to the north of the coast.

Key characteristics of *South Moor and Broadmarsh Coastal Park*

Physical: landform, soils and land cover

- Part of a flat coastal plain, although there are artificial areas of elevated land south of Harts Farm Way and around Southmoor Hill which have been created from imported fill
- The junction of the A3 (M) and A27 (T) creates a large artificial form on the flat harbour plain, although roadside tree planting has partly reduced its visual dominance
- Artificial harbour shoreline to the south of the Coastal Park and artificial bunding adjacent to Budds Farm produces a reminder of its history as part manmade landform
- An underlying geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation, Culver Formation and Portsdown Chalk Formation, with overlying geology of river terrace deposits, alluvium and raised beach deposits
- The land to the west is Grade 1 Agricultural land and is under intensive market gardening production. Other areas of Grade 1 Agricultural land are found to the east adjacent to Langstone and are presently under arable production.
- Surface drainage includes the tidal section of the Hermitage Stream which forks into a narrow inlet and a drainage channel west of Langstone. These are both fed by a number of adjacent streams and man made ditches
- From the east a harbour side sequence of fields includes an area of arable land, rough pasture, amenity grassland with pockets of arable land which forms the Broadmarsh Coastal Park and an area used for market gardening to the north of the A27 (T)
- Intermittent thick hedgerows separate the fields to the east, while the areas of amenity grassland are surrounded by tree belts.

Biodiversity

- The southern border of this landscape character area is covered by the Langstone Harbour SSSI; it is also designated as a SPA, SAC and Ramsar site
- This landscape character area consists of a series of habitat mosaics separated from each other by roads and urban areas
- The habitat mosaic in the west of the area to the north of the road consists of a strip of coastal grazing marsh abutted to the west by a small patch of broadleaved woodland and to the north west by an area of arable land and an area of horticulture and nurseries towards the north east; these two arable areas are of a similar size

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- To the south of this mosaic is a patch of scattered scrub which is also isolated from other habitats by roads
 - On the north east border of the area there is a small habitat mosaic associated with LCA 12, this consists of arable land, improved grassland and a thin strip of dense scrub
 - There is a further mosaic in the south of the area, consisting of semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered scrub, improved grassland and dense scrub. This mosaic is surrounded on the southern edge by an engineered coastal feature which separates it in the east from a strip of intertidal mud and sand including algal beds
 - In the south eastern corner of the landscape character area there is a mosaic consisting of a large patch of improved grassland which runs between this character area and LCA 28
 - To the east of this grassland there is a site which used to be a quarry or landfill site and is now restored
 - A strip of semi-improved neutral grassland runs around the south and east of the improved grassland and is adjoined in the east by a large patch of coastal grazing marsh, there is a pond in the south east of the grazing marsh and above it is a smaller patch of improved grassland
 - Above the improved grassland is an equal sized patch of marshy grassland which adjoins broadleaved woodland and amenity grassland that exist in the landscape character area to the north.

Historic and built environment

- The western half of the LCA is historically characterised by medium regular sized fields with straight boundaries. This area has been subdivided into separate land parcels with little evidence of the survival of the defined historic landscape character
- There is an isolated group of farm buildings at Forty Acre Farm
- The large junction of the A3 (M) and A27 (T) covers an extensive area adjacent to Langstone Harbour edge
- The railway line aligns to the north of this traffic artery
- Semi detached two storey dwellings at Farlington
- A small area of semi-detached two storey dwellings at the extreme west end of the LCA are a continuation of the suburban area of Farlington
- The open marshland of South Moor is seriously compromised by the large industrial sheds to its north, and the electricity pylons which cross it, also affecting the setting of the historic Langstone mill house.

Experiential: tranquillity, visual perceptions and access

- The visual impact of the highway degrades the northern end of Langstone Harbour
- The Brockhampton industrial estate is visually intrusive
- Constant traffic noise from the A27 (T) and the A3 (M) and to the east from the A3023
- Good pedestrian access to the harbour edge with the Solent Way and Wayfarers Walk, both leading and providing access back into Havant.

Additionally there are two car parks adjacent to the waters edge; both lead off from Harts Farm Way

- Poor access to South Moor, where the car park at Budds Wall is presently closed.

Visual: openness/enclosure, prominence and visibility

- Areas of enclosure especially within the wooded Coastal Park contrasts with a strong sense of openness adjacent to the harbour side
- Artificial bunding to harbour edge is prominent
- From the A27 (T), views across Langstone Harbour are extensive
- From the Coastal Park there are long open views from the harbour edge out across Langstone harbour
- Views of parts of Brockhampton industrial estate are seen protruding above the intervening tree line.

Specific local key issues

- The site is viewed by itinerant travellers as an attractive location for caravans and camping, this has led to a number of physical deterrents which degrade the area
- The approach through Brockhampton degrades the experience at the harbour edge
- Poor pedestrian access to South Moor, especially from the eastern part of Langstone
- Visual impact of A3 (M) and A27 (T) junction as well as constant traffic noise
- Visual impact of the adjacent Brockhampton Industrial Estate
- Further extension of the industrial estate would further degrade the setting of Langstone Mill house
- Climate change may lead to sea level rises which could impact upon the coastal habitats
- Changes in agricultural subsidies could impact on the management of agricultural land; this could have a wider impact on habitats in an associated mosaic.

Designations

Chichester and Langstone Harbours RAMSAR site

Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA

Solent Maritime SAC

Chichester Harbour SSSI

Farlington Marshes Grassland (NE) SINC

Broadmarshes Playing Field SINC

Forty Acres Farm B SINC

Southmoor Reserve SINC

Southmoor Big Field SINC

Landscape and built form strategy and guidelines

The landscape strategy is to *restore* the local character. The following guidelines apply:

Land management

- Although the planting within the Coastal Park is good, substantial planting could be extended to further to reduce the adjacent visual impact of the A3 (M) and A27 (T) junction on this area
- Ensure compliance with the Broadmarsh Landscape Strategy February 2002, which provides a landscape strategy to create an attractive environment, linking business development (as located within LCA28), recreational open space and wildlife habitat into one cohesive whole
- Manage scrub to prevent encroachment
- Encourage the use of field margins for the benefit of biodiversity
- Maintain and enhance broadleaved woodland.

Built form and development

- Development adjacent to the harbour edge should be restricted to maintain as far as possible the natural development free harbour edge character of Langstone Harbour
- Flood defences adjacent to the harbour edge should also be designed to be sympathetic with the natural environment of Langstone Harbour. Where poor quality sea defences have been constructed these should be restored as far as possible to create a natural harbour shoreline.