

## Area 15: Netley Abbey Coastland



## Description

- 4.211 This area at the borough boundary between the built-up area of Netley and the edge of Southampton has quite a mixed character but is dominated by its coastal setting, its wooded edges and the ruins and associated earthworks of Netley Abbey. The dense woodland of Westwood lies along the western edge and extends as more open woodland across the southern part of the area. It includes the planted parkland around Netley Castle and abundant tree cover around the large detached houses along Victoria Road. The coastal edge is punctuated by scattered pines giving a coastal heath character similar to that found further east. There are important views from the coastal area across Southampton Water.
- 4.212 Netley Abbey's extensive ruins are screened in a wooded hollow with ponds and an aqueduct that extends inland. Open pasture and a triangle of open woodland make the transition to Hound Plain at the northern edge.
- 4.213 To the southwest of the railway line, which forms part of the northern boundary of the area, is a fairly high, open hill on a former landfill site which offers views across to the city tower blocks of Newtown. The southeast boundary is formed by the settlement edge of Netley.

## Historic Features

- 4.214 Netley Abbey was established by Cistercian Monks in 1239 and dissolved in the reformation. The Abbey was plundered for materials for other buildings including the nearby Netley Castle. Both of these structures are designated as Scheduled Monuments. Some evidence of the monks' use of the local landscape remains with earthworks for aqueducts, fish ponds and excavation of a moat. Netley Abbey and its surrounding earthworks are listed as Scheduled Monuments:

Eastern Aqueduct and the Water Catchment Area Of A Western Aqueduct, At Netley Abbey (Monument No. 24325)

Western Aqueduct Near Netley Abbey (Monument No. 24324)

Netley Abbey (Monument No. Ha5)

Netley Abbey; Precinct Wall And Moat (Monument No. Ha5a)

Netley Castle (Monument No. Ha233)

- 4.215 A Netley Abbey conservation area was designated in 1981, to encompass the Abbey, the Castle and surrounding development. The listed buildings in this character area fall inside of the conservation area.
- 4.216 Also within the conservation area are two Hampshire-registered historic parks and gardens:
- Netley Abbey – “Abbey dissolved during the dissolution of the monasteries, remnants of Tudor house gardens. Alexander Pope visited when derelict.”



- Netley Castle – “Early C20 seat of Sir Henry Crichton KCB, DL, JP;1870s had tree lined approach drive; walled garden; lodge; park occupied a large section parallel to shoreline; land now divided-part now recreation area, boat park, house ex convalescent home now private apartments.”

### HCC Historic Landscape Types:

4.217 Historic landscapes types in this area are:

4.1 Assorted pre-1810 woodland

8.7 Mud Flats

9.6 Post 1810 settlement (general)

12.2 Active and disused gravel workings

### Ecological Features

4.218 The mud/shale foreshore along Southampton Water is designated a SPA, Ramsar, SAC and SSSI for its importance to overwintering birds.



Figure 39. West Wood, Netley

4.219 The woodland behind the foreshore runs along the valley that divides Eastleigh Borough from Southampton and continues onto the restored land on top of the landfill area. It is designated a SINC. The grassland on the landfill area is also designated a SINC, due to the material used to cap the landfill which has created habitat for grasses.

### Key Characteristics

4.220 The key characteristics for this area are:

- Coastal Views
- Woodland Character
- Historic interest of Netley Abbey and fish ponds

### Landscape Type

4.221 Landscape types as set out in the Hampshire County Council Integrated Character Assessment 2011 for this area are:

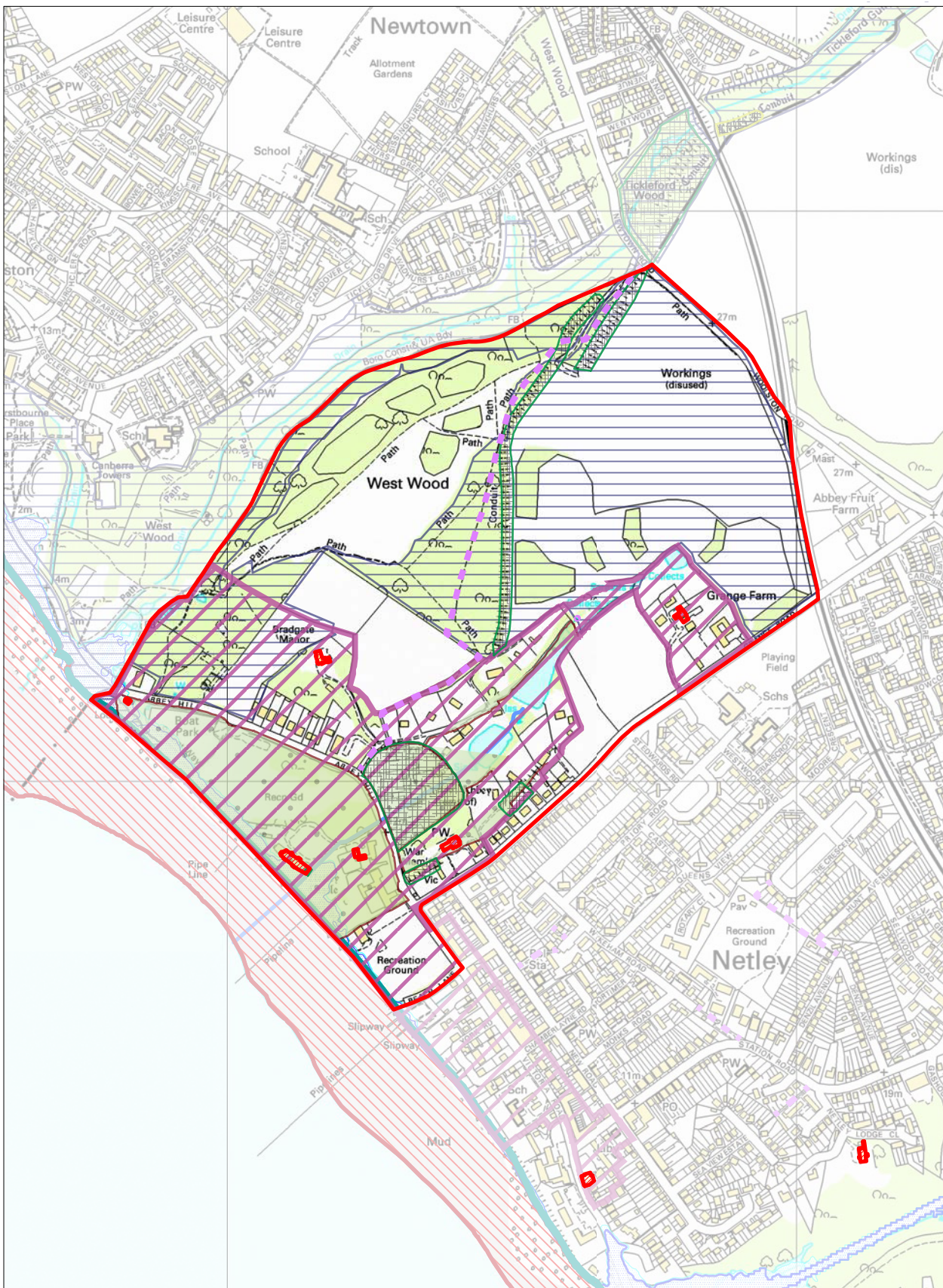
- Coastal Plain Open
- Coastal Plain Enclosed



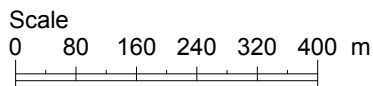
Figure 40. Top of disused gravel workings

















### Designations and Constraints



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Key for Designation & Constraints:			
	Character Area Boundary		Main River
	Area designated Ramsar, SPA* & SSSI Area		Floodzone 2
	SAC - Special Area of Conservation		Floodzone 3
	SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest		Right of Way
	SINC - Site of Important Nature Conservation		
	LNR - Local Nature Reserve		
	Historic Parks and Gardens		
	Conservation Area		
	Scheduled Ancient Monument		
	Listed Building		
*SPA - Special Protection Area			

### Landscape Character Sensitivity

4.222 With the area's distinctive wooded character buildings tend to be set in woodland or verdant curtilage. This includes the historically important Netley Abbey whose grounds are publicly accessible and the privately owned Netley Castle. Much of the area is a conservation area and generally there are few detracting features.

### Visual Sensitivity

4.223 This area is formed by a mixture of built-up land, woodland and open areas. The open areas tend to be visually prominent with views over Southampton Water.





Figure 41. Recreation Ground



Figure 42. Panorama of foreshore in front of Netley Castle

## Key Issues

4.224 The key issues for this area are:

- The conflict between priorities of facilitating public access and nature conservation
- Damage to woodland and listed buildings from vandalism
- Poor intervisibility between the Abbey and its surroundings as a result of the boundary treatment
- Foreshore pressure from rising sea level
- Poor continuity of footway along the foreshore
- Narrow gap between Netley and Southampton vulnerable to development and recreational pressures
- Potential for greater recreational use of Westwood
- Maintianing important views to and from the water



Figure 42. Panorama of foreshore in front of Netley Castle