

Area 17: Westfield Common



Description

4.240 This small, distinctive coastal strip on a low cliff top has open maritime woodland, two small areas of pasture and a reedbed. Westfield Common is one of these small areas of pasture which is maintained as a small holding. The existing landform now bears little resemblance to the common land it is named after. This area is hemmed-in by the settlement of Hamble-Le-Rice and the Works on the northern side, but the varied pattern of the three different areas, the views out across Southampton Water and the section of cliff combine to make this area distinctive. The woodland lies on a narrow strip on the cliff top with an access track to the rear of it and towards the eastern edge.

Historic Features

4.241 There are no significant historic features in this landscape character area.

HCC Historic landscape type:

4.242 Historic landscapes types in this area are:

9.6 Post 1810 settlement (general).



Figure 48. Foreshore looking west












Designations and Constraints



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Scale
0 40 80 120 160 200 m



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			

Ecological Features

4.243 The mud/shale foreshore along Southampton water is designated a SAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSI for its importance to overwintering birds and related habitats. The ancient semi-natural woodland in the area is designated as a SINC.

Key Characteristics

4.244 The key characteristics for this area are:

- Windswept coastal woodland
- Strong contrasts between grassland, woodland and reedbeds

Landscape Type

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

- Coastal Plain Enclosed

Landscape Character Sensitivity

4.246 This area is maritime in character and is built-up on two edges. It is very distinctive with wildlife and amenity interest.

Visual Sensitivity

4.247 The area has wooded and open characteristics with many vantage points having prominent views over Southampton Water.

Key Issues

4.248 The key issues for this area are:

- The conflict between priorities of facilitating public access, nature conservation
- Uncharacteristic management of Westfield Common as small-holding.
- Foreshore pressure from rising sea level
- Poor continuity of footway along the foreshore
- Maintaining important views to and from the water
- Coastal erosion



Figure 49. Panorama west of Coach Road



Figure 49. Panorama west of Coach Road