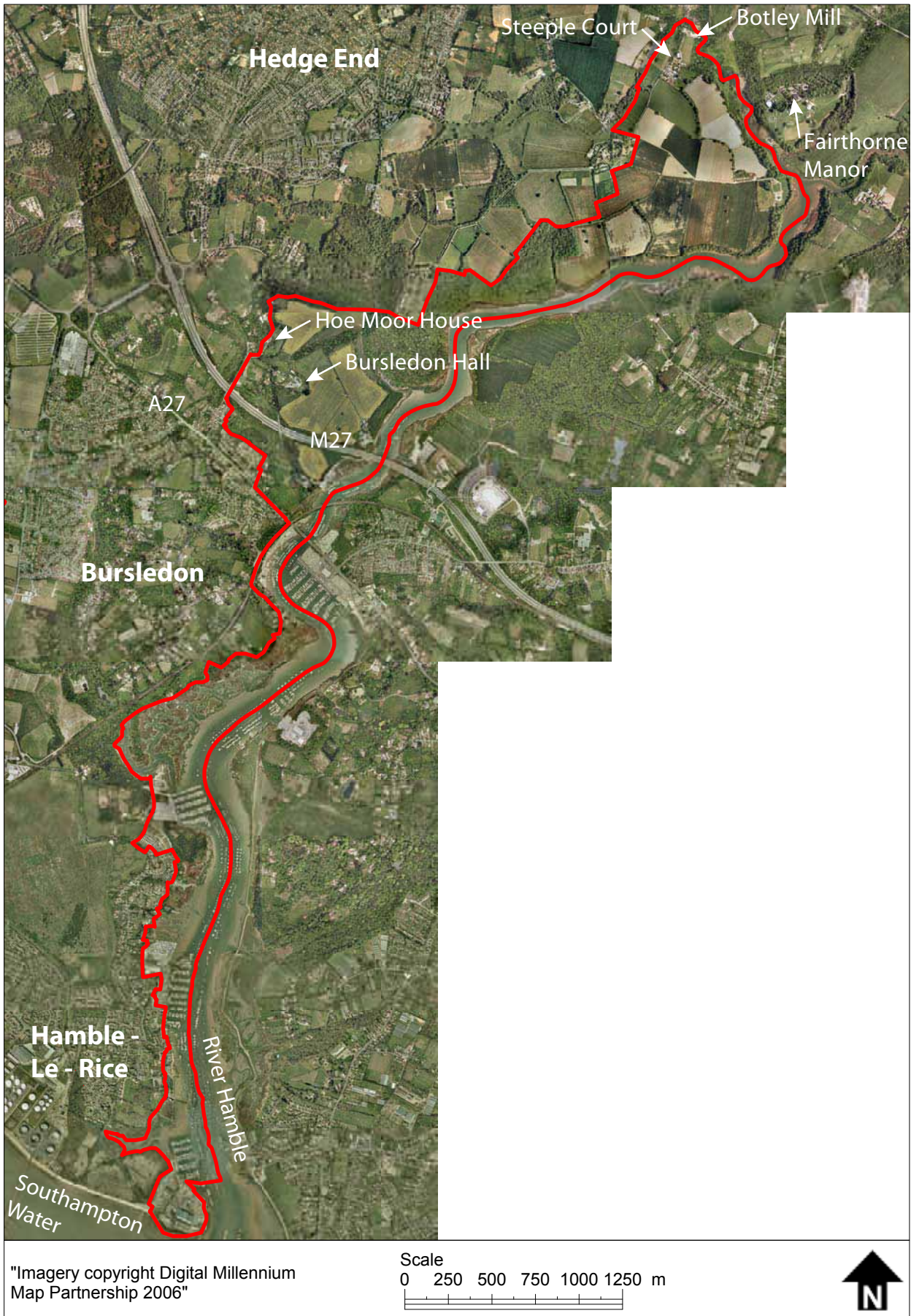


Area 19: Hamble Valley



Description

- 4.262 In the borough, the Hamble Valley consists of three elements - the river itself, the saltmarshes and marinas that lie alongside it and the valley sides rising at moderately steep gradients.
- 4.263 From its mouth to the M27 the river has quite wide fringes of saltmarshes and marinas, with the ancient settlements of Hamble and Bursledon on the top of the valley side and connected by narrow lanes to the saltmarshes and old quaysides.
- 4.264 The landscape is much more remote north of the motorway and is generally accessible only along footpaths. There are narrow bands of woodland running down to saltmarsh. The river broadens out below the point where the Curbridge creek joins it on the eastern side outside the borough boundary. Above this point, the river remains tidal as far as Botley Mill but narrows very considerably and is dominated by the adjacent landscape character. Apart from the saltmarsh and woodland extending down to it, one of the most characteristic features is the views of substantial manor houses such as Steeple Court and Fairthorne Manor along its banks.
- 4.265 The industrial history and associations with the ship-building industry are strong. Mills are still in evidence and the quayside character is retained at the river frontages of Bursledon and Botley, where ancient wrecks can still be seen at low tide.

Historic Features

- 4.266 There are several areas of land in this landscape character area that have been recorded on the Hampshire historic parks and gardens register:
- 4.267 Maidenstone – “Formal garden; 1923 Bishop of Winchester owned manor.”
- 4.268 Free Hills/ Hoe Moor House – “Parkland, walled garden, network of paths through park, formal garden.”
- 4.269 Manor Farm/Upper Hamble Country Park – “162ha; farmland and ancient woodland beside Hamble River with 15th century farm buildings; now managed by HCC.”
- 4.270 A small part of the Scheduled Monument on Hamble Common also falls within the character area:
- 4.271 Promontory Defined By An Iron Age Linear Earthwork, St Andrew’s Castle And Additional Remains On Hamble Common (Monument no. 24323)
- 4.272 As this landscape character area runs along the Hamble estuary it therefore encompasses parts of Hamble, Old Bursledon and Botley Conservation Areas. The listed buildings that fall within the character area can be found in Old Bursledon conservation area.

HCC Historic Landscape Types:

4.273 Historic landscapes types in this area are:

- 1.4 Regular assarts with straight boundaries
- 1.6 Medium to large regular fields with wavy boundaries (late medieval to 17th/18th Century Enclosure)
- 1.9 Small regular fields with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 1.10 Medium regular fields with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 1.16 Small rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries
- 4.1 Assarted pre-1810 woodland
- 4.3 Other pre-1810 woodland
- 4.4 Replanted other pre-1810 woodland
- 4.5 19th century plantations (general)
- 7.1 Miscellaneous valley floor fields and pasture
- 7.2 Valley floor woodland
- 7.3 Marsh and rough grazing
- 7.4 Water meadows
- 7.5 Unimproved hey meadows or pasture
- 7.7 Fishponds, hatchery complexes, natural ponds and lakes
- 8.7 Mud Flats
- 9.2 Scattered settlement with paddocks (post 1810 extent)
- 9.6 Post 1810 settlement (general).
- 9.7 Village or hamlet 1810 extent
- 10.3 Deer parks
- 11.2 Golf Course
- 11.3 Major sports fields and complexes



Figure 52. Panorama of shoreline near at Manor Farm Country Park

12.2 Active and disused gravel workings

13.3 Airfield

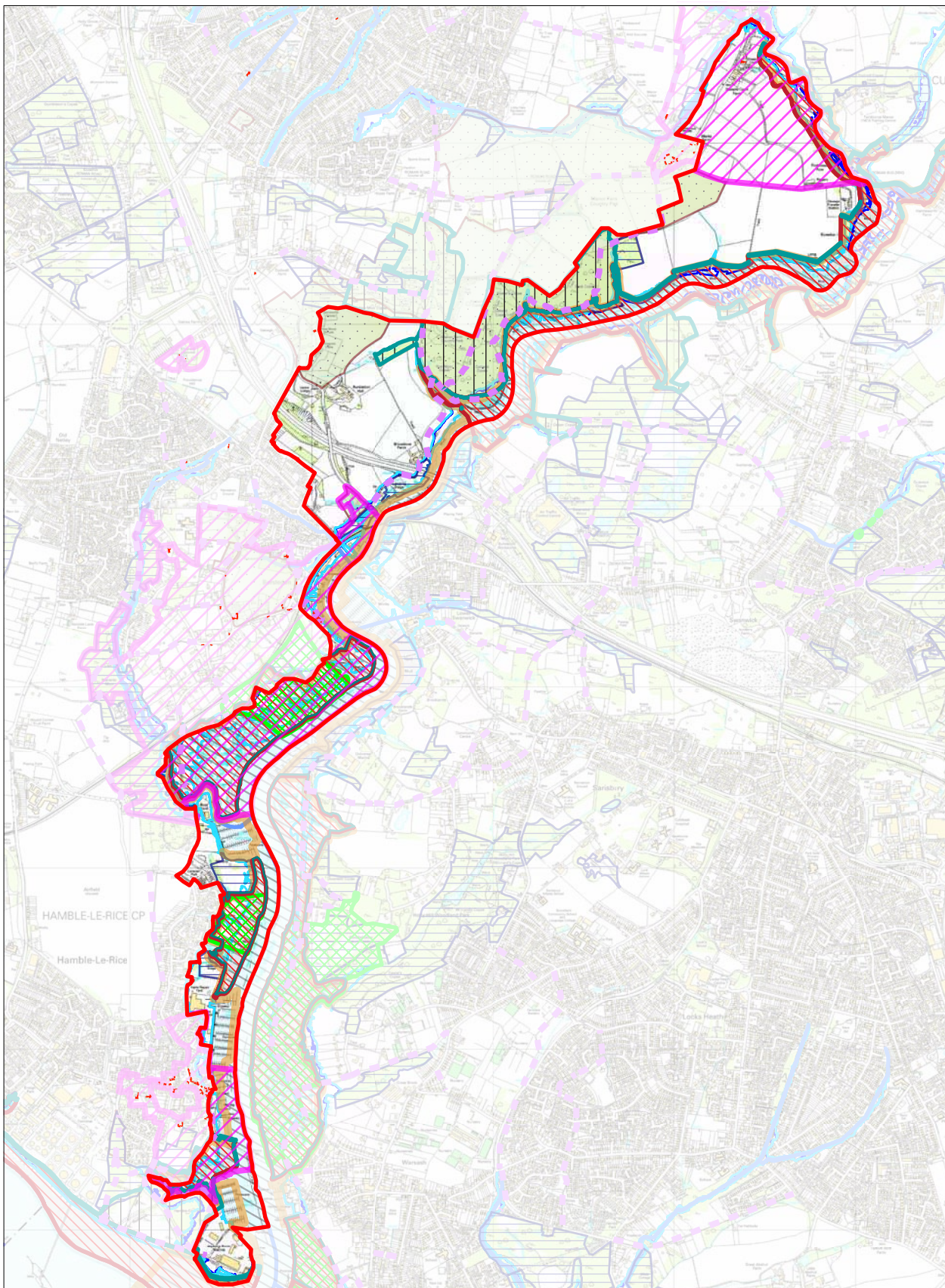
Ecological Features

- 4.274 This character area runs the length of the Hamble estuary, along the River Hamble. As a result of the proximity of the river, the character area has a number of nature conservation designations for water-related habitats and wet woodlands.
- 4.275 The area falls within the Solent Coast and Hamble Estuary Priority Area. Habitats and species associated with the coast are influenced, to different extents, by the saltwater of the sea. Where the effects of the tides are felt, mudflats can be found, which support a wide range of invertebrates. These are exploited as a food source by waders and wildfowl and the mud/shale foreshore along Southampton water is designated a SAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSI for its importance to overwintering birds and related habitats.
- 4.276 Landward of the mudflats, saltmarshes have formed in mud which is exposed to air for a greater length of time and therefore colonised by plants. Saltmarsh is found along the shore of Hamble river, with the largest expanses at Hacketts, Lincegrove and Mercury Marshes.
- 4.277 At Manor Farm Country Park and Badnam Copse on the edge of the river Hamble, the flanking saltmarsh grades to reedbed and then to ancient semi-natural woodland. The woodlands are some of the most ecologically diverse in central southern Britain, harbouring localized species such as the Small-leaved Lime and the Wild-service Tree.

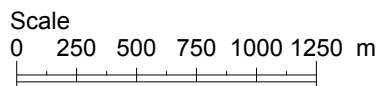











Figure 52. Panorama of shoreline near at Manor Farm Country Park

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 | | | |

Key Characteristics

4.278 The key characteristics for this area are:

- Saltmarsh and tidal character
- Marinas and past and present maritime associations
- Contrasting busy marina landscape with remote, inaccessible hinterland
- Manor houses overlooking the valley
- Views from the river across the verdant settlements of Hamble and Bursledon
- Woodland at water/saltmarsh edge for stretches of the river
- Steep wooded slopes contrasting with flat saltmarsh

Landscape Types

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

- Coastal Plain Enclosed
- Estuary

- Intertidal Estuary and harbour
- Lowland Mosaic, Heath Associated
- Lowland Mosaic, Medium Scale
- Lowland Mosaic, Open

Landscape Character Sensitivity

4.280 The lower river is dominated by marinas and has a maritime feel with the upstream tidal reaches characterised by woodland running down to the edge of salt marshes. The few detractors are associated with busy maritime industries that are generally in keeping with the marinas.

Visual Sensitivity

4.281 The river's meandering course limit views along its length but as a popular maritime destination the view from the river is important. The nature of the valley gently sloping to the waters edge means that views of the river are frequent from countryside, woods or settlements. The river itself provides opportunity of users of the waterway to view the development and open landscape along its banks.



Figure 53. Panorama of jetty at Hamble-Le-Rice

Key Issues

4.282 The key issues for this area are:

- The conflict between priorities of facilitating public access, nature conservation
- Foreshore pressure from rising sea level
- Poor continuity of footway along the foreshore
- Poor public access to foreshore
- Inconsistent management practices of farmland and paddocks
- The relationship between adjoining land uses and the water environment
- Maintaining important views to and from the water
- Development pressures north of Bridge Road, west of Blundell Lane and the M27 as identified in the draft Local Plan proposals



Figure 53. Panorama of jetty at Hamble-Le-Rice