

[www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath](http://www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath)

NATURAL  
ENGLAND

# Assessment of England Coast Path proposals between **Calshot and Gosport** on sites and features of nature conservation concern





## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

---

### About this document

This document should be read in conjunction with the published Reports for the Calshot to Gosport Stretch and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

The Coastal Access Reports contain a full description of the access proposals, including any additional mitigation measures that have been included. These Reports can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-calshot-to-gosport-comment-on-proposals>

An HRA is required for European sites (SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites). The HRA is published alongside the Coastal Access Reports.

This document, the Nature Conservation Assessment (NCA), covers all other aspects (including SSSIs, MCZs and undesignated but locally important sites and features) **in so far as any HRA does not already address the issue for the sites and feature(s) in question.**

The NCA is arranged site by site. Map A shows designated sites along this stretch of coast.

See Annex 1 for an index to designated sites and features for this stretch of coast, including features that have been considered within any HRA.



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

---

### Contents

Introduction .....	4
Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI .....	5
North Solent SSSI Units 15 and 35.....	9
New Forest SSSI Units 181, 182 and 183 .....	13
Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI .....	18
Calshot Marshes Local Nature Reserve .....	23
Hythe Spartina Marshes Nature Reserve .....	24
Hook-With-Warsash Local Nature Reserve .....	25
Conclusion .....	26
Map A. Designated sites .....	26
Annex 1. Index to designated sites and features .....	28
Annex 2. Notified Features within SSSIs .....	33



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

---

### Introduction

This stretch begins on Calshot Spit along a permissive footpath heading northwest towards the decommissioned Fawley power station with an optional alternative route available in case of waterlogging along the main path. The alignment continues to Ashlett before turning landwards around the Fawley oil refinery then along Shore Road into Hythe. Path users can ride the Hythe ferry to Southampton Town Quay.

The route aligns eastwards through Southampton across the landmark Itchen Bridge and then through Woolston, Netley and the Royal Victoria Country Park. It continues to the village of Hamble, a popular yachting location, where a short ferry ride is taken on the Hamble-Warsash Ferry (aka the 'Pink Ferry') across the River Hamble.

The route aligns close to the shore through the Hook-with-Warsash Local Nature Reserve and landwards around the Solent Breezes Holiday Village. At Hill Head the path aligns along Hill Head Road before re-joining the coastal promenade to Monks Hill Car Park. The Fareham Borough Council boundary marks the end of this stretch.

The stretch is divided into three lengths:

- Length One: Calshot to Itchen bridge
- Length Two: Itchen bridge to Hamble-Warsash Ferry (Pink Ferry)
- Length Three: Hamble-Warsash Ferry (Pink Ferry) to Fareham/Gosport Borough Council boundary

The Dibden Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located on the west bank of Southampton water. It is not included within this report because the alignment does not pass near to this site and instead the Hythe Ferry will transport walkers across the Southampton Water Southwards of this SSSI. The alignment is closest at the Hythe Ferry Terminal, approximately 650m away. Urban developments including the Hythe Marina Village lie between the alignment and this SSSI and therefore we do not consider that the path will impact this SSSI in any way.

The Titchfield Haven SSSI is present towards the east end of this stretch, wholly landwards of the alignment along Cliff Road. This road is relatively busy with a pavement for walkers, the Titchfield Haven visitor centre with tea rooms, Hill Head Sailing Club and car park. Due to the nature of this location we do not consider that the alignment of the coast path will impact the Titchfield Haven SSSI.





## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

### Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI

*Is this site also part of a European site?*

Yes, the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar, and Solent Maritime SAC

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European sites are omitted from this assessment:

<b>Notified Features for the Hythe To Calshot Marshes SSSI assessed with the HRA</b>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Brent Goose (Dark-bellied), <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Ringed Plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>
Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds)

Table 1: Notified features for the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI that are omitted from consideration within this document.

Non-breeding black-tailed godwit, Brent goose, and teal are assessed as individual features within the HRA. Assemblages of non-breeding waterbirds are assessed, the main components of which are black-tailed godwit, ringed plover, teal and dark-bellied Brent goose.

‘Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds)’ are discussed within the coastal wetland habitat feature group of the HRA.

<b>Notified Features for the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI to be assessed</b>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>
SM13a - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> saltmarsh, <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> dominant sub-community
SM16a - <i>Festuca rubra</i> saltmarsh <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> sub-community
SM6 - <i>Spartina anglica</i> saltmarsh
SM8 - Annual <i>Salicornia</i> saltmarsh
SM9 - <i>Suaeda maritima</i> saltmarsh

Table 2: Notified features for the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI to be assessed

The five saltmarsh features above may fall within the ‘coastal wetland habitat’ feature group of the HRA. However a conservative approach has been adopted and these features are assessed within this document.

### **Current situation**

This SSSI is within seaward coastal margin of the proposed path alignment which is along permissive paths and rights of way that are very popular with walkers and dog walkers. The proximity to the visitor facilities at Calshot Spit and the pub at Ashlett are attractors to this stretch of coast.

As this SSSI is predominantly a marsh habitat the levels of current access by walkers is very low. Dogs may be able to cross parts of this area on foot at low tide. During site visits dogs have been seen swimming in this area. Part of this SSSI is overlain by the Calshot Marshes Local Nature Reserve (LNR) upon which dogs are not permitted although there is no apparent signage on the ground to reinforce this.

The proposed Coast Path is aligned inland of the Fawley Refinery before returning seawards towards Hythe. The route is aligned on a pavement on the inland side of Shore Road, which during site visits was seen to be well used by walkers and dog-walkers.



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

Part of the SSSI is overlain by the Hythe Spartina Marshes Nature Reserve and a small sign advises walkers of this fact. This sign is located seawards of Shore Road near the level crossing. A log has been placed across an informal walked path towards the water to discourage access.

The proposed Coastal Path continues along Shore Road into Hythe and the Hythe Ferry Terminal. Hythe is a busy urban area with sea walls preventing access to the water in many places.

The current condition of the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI is 'unfavourable- recovering' with five of the six units assessed as such by Natural England in 2018, covering 529ha. A 'high' condition threat risk is noted as the habitat is affected significantly by sea level rise and 'coastal squeeze'. "Birds numbers, as with elsewhere in the wider Solent, are declining for reasons which are unclear. The issue is under investigation through the Solent Bird Disturbance Project" (previous 2010 condition assessment).

The Calshot Marshes LNR unit (63ha) is assessed as 'unfavourable-no change' with a 'medium' condition threat level as a result of coastal squeeze.

### Risk analysis

Risk	Consideration	Consideration
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>	Disturbance to foraging or resting non-breeding water birds, following changes to recreational activity, leads to reduced fitness and reduction in population and/or contraction in the distribution of qualifying features within the site.	At the start of the route, adjacent to Tom Tiddlers field, the Coast Path will be aligned as far inland as possible in order to prevent inundation from the incoming tide, however, especially during the winter, the entire area will frequently flood and provide difficult terrain for users. An Optional Alternative Route north of Tom Tiddler's field will avoid this flooded area.
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>		
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>		
		Access provisions along the majority of this SSSI will be unchanged as a result of the promotion of the coast path. No new coastal access will be proposed due to a Section 25A restriction on the mudflat and saltmarsh.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Consideration</b>
SM13a - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> saltmarsh, <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> dominant sub-community	Would be vulnerable where the coast path created or improved access to these habitat areas.  Section 25A restrictions will prevent access to sensitive areas within intertidal areas within the coastal margin.	No appreciable effect because the features section 25A restrictions will cover all features present within the intertidal areas of coastal margin.  The identified condition threat is due to coastal squeeze which are not relevant to the coast path proposals.
SM16a - <i>Festuca rubra</i> saltmarsh <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> sub-community		
SM6 - <i>Spartina anglica</i> saltmarsh		
SM8 - Annual <i>Salicornia</i> saltmarsh		
SM9 - <i>Suaeda maritima</i> saltmarsh		

Table 3: Risk analysis table for the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI

### **Establishment works**

*Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works?*

Yes. Two Coast Path waymarkers to be placed at decision points along the well-walked path north of the Fawley Power Station and south of Ashlett.

Where necessary, the access authorities will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

As detailed in the HRA, three interpretation panels are proposed along this part of the stretch although these will be located adjacent to and not on designated land. The panels will be located at the start of the stretch, at the joining point between the optional alternative route and the main route, and at the entrance to the open access land at Ashlett.



## North Solent SSSI Units 15 and 35

*Is this site also part of a European site?*

Yes, the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar.

The North Solent SSSI covers a large area (1,186ha) mostly westwards of this stretch and has been assessed as part of the adjacent England Coast Path stretch from Highcliffe to Calshot.

This report considers reportable features of units of relevance this stretch, namely SSSI units 15 and 35. These lie partially within coastal margin at the start of this stretch as indicated in figure 1.

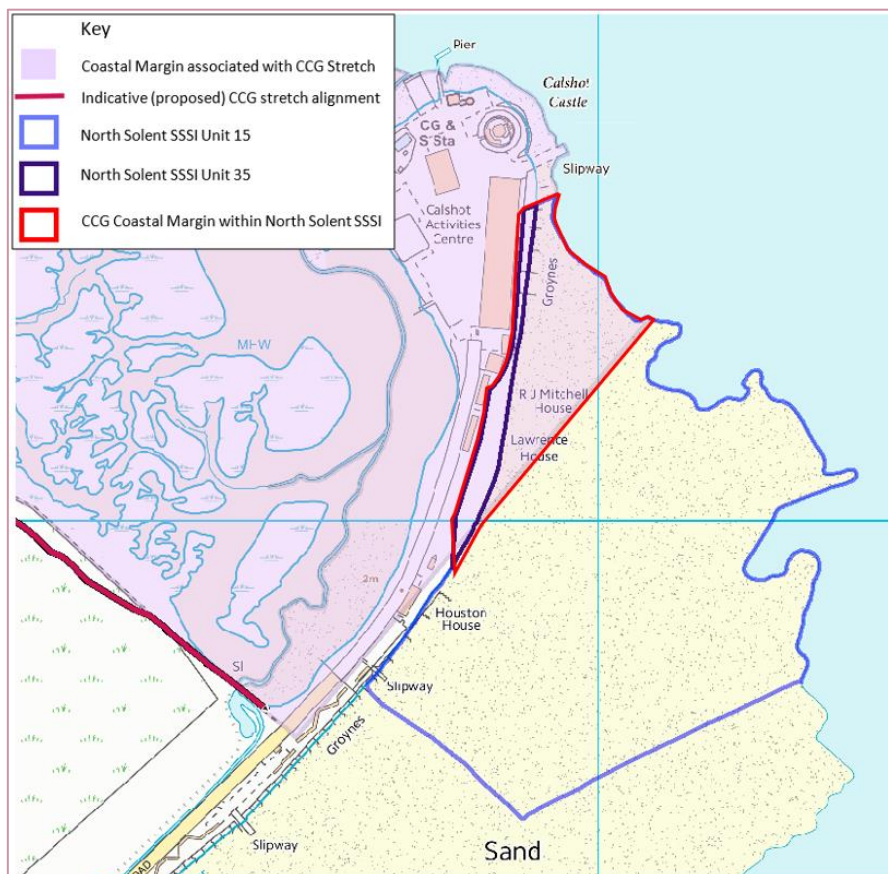


Figure 1. Map outlining in red the extent of the North Solent SSSI which falls within the coastal margin for the Calshot to Gosport stretch.

Some features of this SSSI are not reportable for units 15 or 35 and therefore have not been considered within this assessment. For a full list of notified features for this SSSI please see Annex 2.

The following notified features of this SSSI are reportable features for units 15 and 35 and therefore will be assessed in relation to this stretch:

Unit and Reportable Feature	Notified SSSI Feature	Assessed in HRA
Unit 15- Littoral sediment	Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds)	Yes
Unit 35- EC - Quaternary of South Central England	EC - Quaternary of South Central England	No
Unit 35- Coastal vegetated shingle (SD1-3)	SD1 - <i>Rumex crispus</i> - <i>Glaucium flavum shingle</i> community	No
	SD2 - <i>Cakile maritima-Honkenya peploides</i> strandline community	No
	SD3 - <i>Matricaria maritima</i> - <i>Galium aparine</i> strandline community	No

Table 4: Reportable and notified features for the North Solent units 15 and 35

The reportable feature 'littoral sediment' and notified feature 'sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds)' are assessed in the HRA within the feature group 'coastal wetland habitat'. Please refer to the HRA for further information about this feature. They will not be assessed further within this report.

Therefore the following features are assessed within this report:

Notified Features for the North Solent SSSI Units 15 and 35 to be assessed
EC - Quaternary of South Central England
SD1 - <i>Rumex crispus</i> - <i>Glaucium flavum shingle</i> community
SD2 - <i>Cakile maritima-Honkenya peploides</i> strandline community
SD3 - <i>Matricaria maritima</i> - <i>Galium aparine</i> strandline community

Table 5: Notified features to be assessed for the North Solent units 15 and 35



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

---

### Current situation

Calshot spit is well accessed and heavily used for recreation. At the end of the spit are the Calshot Activities centre which offers water sports instruction and facilities including an indoor climbing wall, dry ski slope and velodrome. It has its own large car park and visitor facilities including a café. In addition the National Coastwatch Institution Tower (NCI), RNLI, Calshot Castle and boat storage facilities all attract traffic along Jack Maynard road to the far end of the spit.

Along the spit itself are public car parks, beach huts, a sailing club and public facilities which contribute to this area's popularity as a day trip and walking destination. It is within driving distance of Southampton and the New Forest, for example only twenty minutes' drive from Beaulieu.

Unit 35 is a 'vegetated coast' unit which contains reportable features 'coastal vegetated shingle (SD1-3)' and 'Quaternary geology'. It runs to the east of (ie behind) the Calshot Activities Centre and other buildings upon shingle. A site visit showed evidence that this area is well walked upon, likely in part due to the uninterrupted sea views offered to walkers visiting the end of the spit. A low wooden barrier present above the high tide mark offers some shelter for vegetation including sea beet, which also grows immediately next to the buildings. However the main shingle path is free of vegetation. The current condition assessment of this unit is 'favourable' with a 'high' threat risk to this status (2008 condition assessment). This threat is due to land management practices with a lack of grazing and scrub management on the unit. However unit 35 is split into multiple parts with the majority located to the west at Lepe country park. Remediation plans for the scrub management reference the watercourse at Lepe named Dark water indicating that this condition threat may be less applicable to Calshot.

Unit 15 is an 'open coast' unit and contains littoral sediment as a reportable feature. It is on sand and shingle (subangular loose flint gravel) which is partially submerged at high tide. The Calshot Sailing Club slipway lies within this Unit and site visits indicated that this land is regularly used by dog walkers and visitors to the coast. Its current condition assessment is 'unfavourable- recovering' with no identified condition threats (2010 condition assessment).

## Risk analysis

Feature (or group of features)	Consideration	Conclusion
EC - Quaternary of South Central England (unit 35)	Cliffs and associated geological features have good resistance to most levels of recreational access.	These features are not likely to be impacted by the England Coast Path proposals.
SD1 - <i>Rumex crispus</i> - <i>Glaucium flavum</i> shingle community	Coastal vegetation is sensitive to trampling, as evidenced by the lack of vegetation within the walked shingle path of unit 35.	Due to the level of existing use at the site we do not consider that formalising access rights here will have any significant additional effect on this feature.
SD2 - <i>Cakile maritima</i> - <i>Honkenya peploides</i> strandline community	Coastal vegetation is sensitive to trampling, as evidenced by the lack of vegetation within the walked shingle path of unit 35.	Due to the level of existing use at the site we do not consider that formalising access rights here will have any significant additional effect on this feature.
SD3 - <i>Matricaria maritima</i> - <i>Galium aparine</i> strandline community (unit 35)	Coastal vegetation is sensitive to trampling, as evidenced by the lack of vegetation within the walked shingle path of unit 35.	Due to the level of existing use at the site we do not consider that formalising access rights here will have any significant additional effect on this feature.

Table 6: Risk analysis table for the North Solent SSSI units 15 and 35

## Establishment works

*Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works?*

No. Units 15 and 35 are in coastal margin with no proposed works with no proposed infrastructure.

In conclusion, there is existing access along Calshot Spit and across both units 15 and 35, with well walked paths above the high tide mark. The intertidal is regularly walked upon when not submerged. Due to the nature of existing access at the site, establishment of the coastal margin will not have an appreciable effect on these units of the SSSI and these are ruled out of further consideration.



## New Forest SSSI Units 181, 182 and 183

*Is this site also part of a European site? No*

The New Forest SSSI covers a large area (28,925ha) mostly westwards of this stretch which has been assessed as part of the adjacent England Coast Path stretch from Highcliffe to Calshot.

Within this report we have considered the reportable features of units in the vicinity of this stretch, namely parts of units 181, 182 and 183 (Holbury Mire). These lie seawards of the path alignment and within coastal margin near Hardley as show in Figure 2.

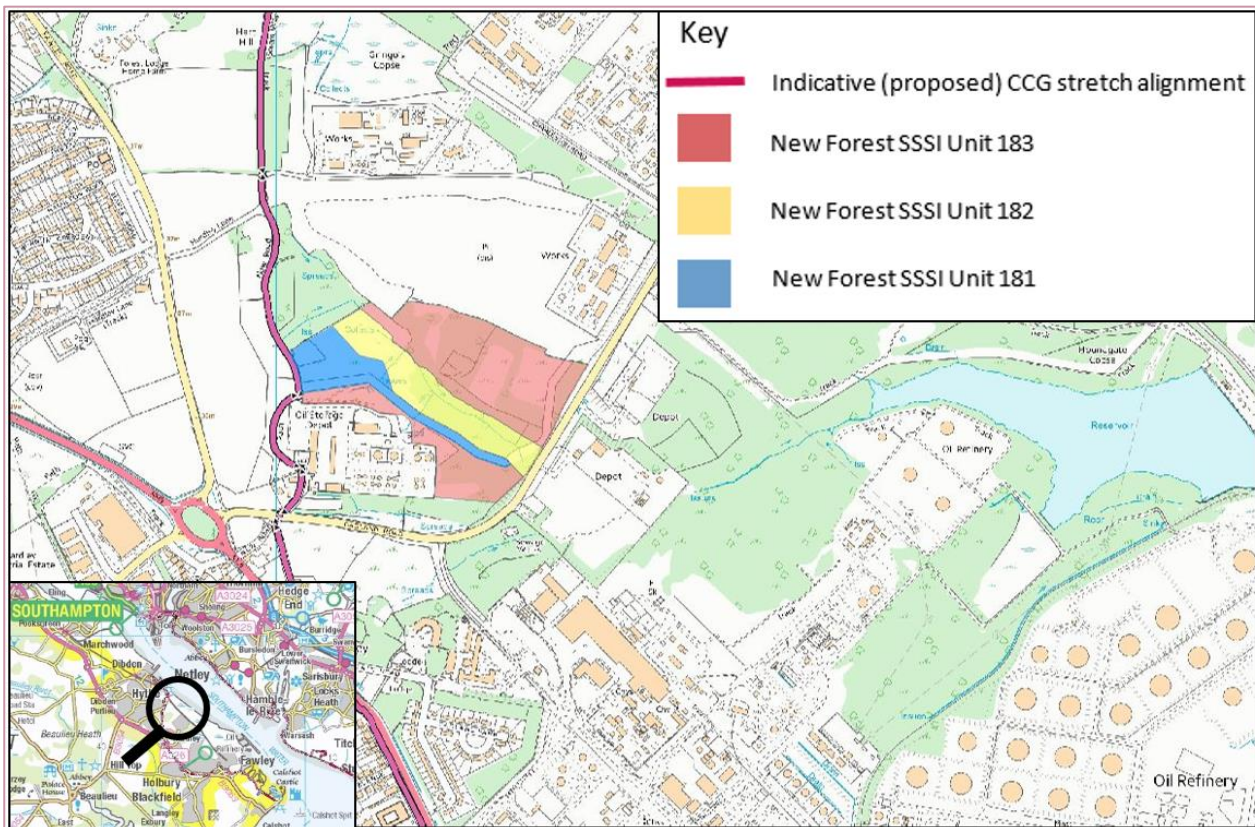


Figure 2. Units of the New Forest SSSI within coastal margin.

Some features of the SSSI are not reportable for units 181 to 183 and therefore have not been considered within this assessment. For a full list of notified features please see Annex 2.

The following notified features are present as reportable features within units 181 to 183, of which none are assessed in the HRA. These features will be assessed further within this document:



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

Features to be Assessed	
Unit and Reportable Feature	Notified SSSI Feature
Unit 181 - Lowland dry heath	Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland heath (Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Woodlark)
Unit 181 - Lowland dry heath	H2 - <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Ulex minor</i> heath
Unit 181 - Lowland dry heath	H3 - <i>Ulex minor</i> - <i>Agrostis curtisii</i> heath
Unit 181 - Lowland neutral grassland MG5	MG5 - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland
Unit 182 – Bryophyte assemblage	Combinations of species - Bryophytes
Unit 182 - Lowland wetland including basin fen, ballen fen, floodplain fen, water fringe fen, spring/flush fen and raised bog lagg	M1 - <i>Sphagnum auriculatum</i> bog pool community
Unit 182 - Lowland wetland including basin fen, ballen fen, floodplain fen, water fringe fen, spring/flush fen and raised bog lagg	M10 - <i>Carex dioica</i> - <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i> mire
Unit 182 - Lowland wetland including basin fen, ballen fen, floodplain fen, water fringe fen, spring/flush fen and raised bog lagg	M14 - <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> - <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> mire
Unit 182 - Lowland wetland including basin fen, ballen fen, floodplain fen, water fringe fen, spring/flush fen and raised bog lagg	M21 - <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> - <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i> mire
Unit 182 - Lowland wetland including basin fen, ballen fen, floodplain fen, water fringe fen, spring/flush fen and raised bog lagg	M6 - <i>Carex echinata</i> - <i>Sphagnum recurvum (fallax) /auriculatum (denticulatum)</i> mire
Unit 182 - Lowland wetland including basin fen, ballen fen, floodplain fen, water fringe fen, spring/flush fen and raised bog lagg	M9 - <i>Carex rostrata</i> - <i>Calliergon cuspidatum/giganteum (Calliergonella cuspidata/Calliergon giganteum)</i> mire
Unit 183 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	W10 - <i>Quercus robur</i> - <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> woodland
Unit 183 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	W14 - <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> woodland

Features to be Assessed	
Unit and Reportable Feature	Notified SSSI Feature
Unit 183 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	W15 - <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> - <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> woodland
Unit 183 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	W16 - <i>Quercus</i> spp.- <i>Betula</i> spp.- <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> woodland
Unit 183 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	W4 - <i>Betula pubescens</i> - <i>Molinia caerulea</i> woodland
Unit 183 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	W8 - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> - <i>Acer campestre</i> - <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> woodland
Unit 182 - Invertebrate assemblage W313 moss and tussock fen	Invertebrate assemblage
Unit 183 - Invertebrate assemblage A1 arboreal canopy	Invertebrate assemblage

Table 7: Reportable and notified features for the New Forest SSSI units 181 to 183

For clarity the features which will be assessed within this document can be grouped into the following:

- Lowland dry heath
- Bryophytes
- Lowland neutral grassland
- Lowland Wetland (includes W313 invertebrate assemblage)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (includes A1 invertebrate assemblage)

## Current situation

The proposed Coast Path aligns along New Road immediately adjacent this SSSI land. However a site visit in November 2018 confirmed the presence of a barbed wire fence and several signs prohibiting access onto this land. The wide gravel path takes a direct route and does not present any obstacles to walkers.

Unit 181 was assessed by Natural England in 2019 as ‘unfavourable, no change’ with the description: “Grassland present is a poor, but closest fit, to MG5.... As a result of the lack of grazing there is too much litter and very little bare ground. The feature, MG5, is unfavourable no change due to lack of grazing and tree/scrub/bracken encroachment..... No lowland heath was observed at the time of the survey and for many years it appears that there has been no evidence for the presence of this feature within this unit. At the time of writing it has not been possible to



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

locate any unit specific historic evidence to support or negate the presence of Lowland Heathland. If historic record are found, suggesting lowland heath was present at the time of notification this feature would be unfavourable declining.”<sup>1</sup>

Unit 182 was assessed by Natural England in 2019 as ‘unfavourable, declining’ with the description: “Since the previous survey there has been a clear loss of extent of lowland wetland to dense young willow scrub. It is likely that this entire unit would have been open fen and mire at the time of notification.... Although the unit was assessed as unfavourable recovering in 2013 due to the creation and implementation of a management plan, and despite limited scrub clearance a number of years ago, this feature has continued to decline, and is now unfavourable declining. There are signs of nutrient enrichment flowing down from the industrial complex to the south-west and into the mire. This urgently needs investigation and remediation.”<sup>2</sup>

Unit 183 is a woodland unit in ‘favourable’ condition, as assessed in 2019 with the description: “Overall there is a good age structure and plenty of fallen and standing deadwood. The reintroduction of grazing to the site would not adversely affect woodland condition.”<sup>3</sup>

### Risk analysis

Feature (or group of features)	Consideration	Conclusion
Lowland dry heath	The 2019 site assessment by Natural England concluded that no lowland heath was present on this site and no historic evidence for lowland heathland found at the time of the assessment.	These features are not assessed as being present on the site. In addition, visitors to the site are separated from the features by an existing fence and therefore these features will not be impacted.
Bryophytes	Ground level bryophytes are sensitive to trampling from walkers and dogs.	Visitors to the site are separated from the features by an existing fence and therefore these features will not be impacted.

<sup>1</sup> Holbury Mire Unit 181 assessment webpage. Accessed 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1019741&SiteCode=s1003036&SiteName=&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=>

<sup>2</sup> Holbury Mire Unit 182 assessment webpage. Accessed 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1024166&SiteCode=s1003036&SiteName=&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=>

<sup>3</sup> Holbury Mire Unit 183 assessment webpage. Accessed 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1024070&SiteCode=s1003036&SiteName=&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=>

<b>Feature</b> (or group of features)	<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
Lowland neutral grassland	Potentially sensitive to trampling by walkers and dogs.	Visitors to the site are separated from the features by an existing fence and therefore these features will not be impacted.
Lowland wetland	Potentially sensitive to trampling by walkers and dogs.	The nature of a wetland would discourage walkers.  Visitors to the site are separated from the features by an existing fence and therefore these features will not be impacted.
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (includes A1 invertebrate assemblage)	Ground flora and fauna potentially sensitive to trampling by walkers and dogs.	Visitors to the site are separated from the features by an existing fence and therefore these features will not be impacted.

Table 8: Risk analysis table for the New Forest SSSI units 181 to 183

### **Establishment works**

*Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works?*

No. This unit falls within coastal margin with no proposed works.

## Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI

*Is this site also part of a European site?*

Yes - The Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar, and Solent Maritime SAC.

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European sites are omitted from this assessment:

<b>Notified Features for the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI assessed within the HRA</b>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Brent Goose (Dark-bellied), <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Ringed Plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>

Table 9: Notified features to be assessed for the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI

Non-breeding black-tailed godwit, Brent goose, and teal are assessed as individual features within the HRA. Assemblages of non-breeding waterbirds are also assessed in the HRA, the main components of which are black-tailed godwit, ringed plover, teal and dark-bellied Brent goose.



The following notified features are assessed within this document:

<b>Notified Features for the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI to be assessed</b>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Great crested Grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>
Vascular plant assemblage
EC - Aves
EC - Mesozoic - Tertiary Fish/Amphibia
EC - Quaternary of South Central England

Table 10: Notified features for the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI to be assessed

**Individual designated Special Interest Features from the Favourable Condition Table:**

<b>Coastal and river cliffs (EC)</b>
<p>Brownwich cliffs</p> <p>The terrace gravel deposits at Brownwich cliffs provide important exposures laid down by the old Solent River at the confluence with the River Test. The presence of numerous Palaeolithic implements is also of great importance.</p>
<b>Foreshore exposures (EF)</b>
<p>The Foreshore at Lee-on-the Solent</p> <p>Important exposures of the Selsey Sand of the Bracklesham Group. Extremely fossiliferous with a rich assemblage of avian, marine molluscs and diverse fish fauna including sharks unique to the area.</p>

Table 11: Individual designated Special Interest Features for the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

---

### Current situation

This SSSI is present seawards of the alignment throughout the entirety of lengths two and three of this stretch, from just south of the Itchen Bridge to beyond the eastern extent of this stretch. The majority of the alignment for these lengths is along the existing Solent Way.

The SSSI citation states: 'The cliffs north of Hillhead provide important exposures in terrace gravels of the former Solent river system, in the area of its confluence with the tributary Test valley. These cliffs are also important as a rich source of Palaeolithic artefacts. They allow the study of gravel sedimentology over a large continuous exposure and, in conjunction with other sites along the Solent coast, provide a cross-section through the 'staircase' of Solent terraces. This adds significantly to the understanding of this geomorphological and geological phenomenon. The avifauna includes type material for five species.'

A Natural England condition assessment of unit 25, the Lee-on-Solent Foreshore, in 2006 included a visual estimate that around 50% of the SSSI area is covered by shingle, with the majority of remaining lower foreshore within the SSSI covered by silt/sand probably derived from the beach recharged material. To re-expose the foreshore would require major work including the use of heavy machinery and therefore this unit was recorded as in unfavourable condition.

The Brownwich cliffs contain Pleistocene periglacial river gravels overlying Middle Eocene, Bracklesham Group sandy clays (Selsey Formation).

The summary condition for this SSSI shows that twenty of the twenty seven units are currently assessed as being in favourable condition (covering 430ha) and the remaining seven units are 'unfavourable – no change' (covering 156ha). Identified condition threats across the units include the impacts of water pollution and shellfish dredging. Recreational pressure was noted as a potential threat in several units including at Weston Shore, Netley Foreshore, Hamble Spit and Hamble Common North, identified by the Solent Disturbance Mitigation Project as being associated with housing allocations along the Solent and the resulting recreational pressure.

### Risk analysis

Feature (or group of features)	Consideration	Conclusion
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>	Disturbance to foraging or resting non-breeding water birds, following changes to recreational activity, leads to reduced fitness and reduction in population and/or contraction in the distribution of qualifying features within the site.	Access provisions will be unchanged as a result of the promotion of the coast path. The coast path will be aligned on the existing Solent Way.  No new coastal access will be proposed due to a Section 25A restriction on the mudflat and saltmarsh. This restricts users to the existing Solent Way and will not significantly increase disturbance to non-breeding birds on the reserve.
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Great crested Grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>		
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>		
Vascular plant assemblage	<p>The SSSI citation names several coastal vascular plant species including sea kale. These are considered within the HRA under the 'coastal wetland habitat' feature group.</p> <p>The citation also describes 'a mosaic of acidic grassland and wet heath found on Hamble Common' which is considered here.</p>	<p>Hamble Common is a registered common and open access land, and access permissions over Hamble Common will be unchanged by the proposals. Modest improvements to the quality of the path around the common are proposed that are likely to encourage use of this route by current and future visitors to the common.</p> <p>Wet heath habitat in particular is unlikely to attract walkers especially when clear paths are available.</p> <p>Given the existing usage of the site and the factors above we do not consider that our proposals will pose a significant risk to the vascular plant assemblages at this site.</p>

Feature (or group of features)	Consideration	Conclusion
EC - Aves	Cliffs and associated geological features have good resistance to most levels of recreational access. Furthermore, the vast majority of the SSSI along this stretch will be covered by a proposed S25 restriction to exclude access as it is unsuitable for access.	These features are not likely to be impacted by the England Coast Path proposals.
EC - Mesozoic - Tertiary Fish/Amphibia		
EC - Quaternary of South Central England		

Table 12: Risk analysis for the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI

### Establishment works

*Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works?*

*Yes, details below:*

- One replacement wooden bollard with a multi-finger post at the Pink Ferry jetty, east of the Hamble.
- One new interpretation panel at the base of Hook Spit.
- One new multi-finger post near the eastern edge of the Hook-with-Warsash Local Nature Reserve.

All three establishment works are on land covered by European protected sites; the first two by the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, the Solent Maritime SAC and the Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar. The third is covered by the SPA and Ramsar but not the SAC. Potential risks to designated features are assessed within the HRA for this stretch.

Where necessary, the access authorities will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

---

### Calshot Marshes Local Nature Reserve

Is this site or feature also part of a European site?

Yes. This Local Nature Reserve forms part of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, the Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar and the Solent Maritime SAC. It also forms part of the nationally designated Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI.

#### Current situation

This Local Nature Reserve is a protected area of saltmarsh and mud used by coastal birds and protected due to the 'immense industrial pressures that surround it' (Hantsweb, 2018<sup>4</sup>). These features are qualifying features of the European site and are fully considered within the associated HRA.

Dogs are not permitted onto this area although there is no signage, fencing or other measures to prevent dogs entering the site.

#### Risk analysis

The Calshot Marshes LNR unit (63ha) of the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI is assessed as 'unfavourable-no change' with a 'medium' condition threat level as a result of coastal squeeze.

Potential risks to this site are assessed fully within the HRA, as individual qualifying features or within the non-breeding waterbird assemblage feature.

This site falls within the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI which has been assessed above. No significant effects to the bird population or vegetation are considered likely as a result of our proposals.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryside/finder/calshotmarshes> accessed 2.5.19





## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

---

### Hythe Spartina Marshes Nature Reserve

Is this site or feature also part of a European site?

Yes. This Local Nature Reserve forms part of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, the Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar and the Solent Maritime SAC. It also forms part of the nationally designated Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI.

#### Current situation

This Nature Reserve is managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIIWT) for its bird and vegetation interest. A car park is located on the inland side of Shore Road opposite to the reserve although the reserve itself is unsuitable for access on foot. Some evidence of informal tracks can be seen on aerial imagery although these are not signposted on the ground. The proposed Coast Path alignment is along pavement on the landwards side of Shore Road.

#### Risk analysis

Potential risks to this site are assessed fully within the HRA under the feature groups of 'non-breeding waterbirds' and 'coastal wetland habitat', the latter includes Spartina swards.

This site falls within the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI which has been assessed above. No significant effects to the bird population or vegetation are considered likely as a result of our proposals.



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

### Hook-With-Warsash Local Nature Reserve

Is this site or feature also part of a European site?

Yes. The Solent & Southampton Water SPA, the Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar, and the western part lies within the Solent Maritime SAC. It also forms part of the nationally designated Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI.

#### Current situation

This Local Nature Reserve covers a variety of coastal habitats including shingle, grassland, wetland and woodland. Hook Spit is used by birds including turnstones and ringed plovers and the shingle is host to sea kale, sea beet and yellow-horned poppy. Existing management involves the installation of seasonal fencing and signage across the spit which prevents access during the summer months.

The Coast Path aligns along the existing Solent Way past the base of Hook Spit and eastwards parallel to the shoreline. The local nature reserve landwards of the path is separated by a fence, ditch and some scrub which prevents access from walkers into the reserve.

#### Risk analysis

Potential risks to this site are assessed fully within the HRA under the feature groups of 'non-breeding waterbirds' and 'coastal wetland habitat'. Please also see the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary section above.

This site falls within the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI which has been assessed above. No significant effects to the bird population or underlying geological features are considered likely as a result of our proposals.

The vegetated shingle along Hook Spit is protected from trampling during summer months by the existing management practises in place at the site, whereby a seasonal fence is erected across the spit with a 'keep out' sign, primarily to protect any birds attempting to nest on the spit.

Clear waymarking along the alignment southeast of the spit will encourage walkers to use a single route across this vegetated shingle, thereby minimising trampling.



## Conclusion

We, Natural England, are satisfied that our proposals to improve access to the English coast between Calshot and Gosport are fully compatible with our duty to further the conservation and enhancement of the notified features of the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI, North Solent SSSI Units 15 & 35, New Forest SSSI Units 181, 182 and 183 and the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI, consistent with the proper exercise of our functions<sup>5</sup>.

In respect of the Calshot Marshes Local Nature Reserve, Hythe Spartina Marshes Nature Reserve and the Hook-with Warsash Local Nature Reserve we are satisfied that in developing the new access proposals the appropriate balance has been struck between Natural England’s conservation and access objectives, duties and purposes.

See also, where relevant, the conclusions of the separate HRA relating to common features.

The conclusions of this assessment have been checked by:

<p>Mary Andrew</p> 	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019</p>	<p>On behalf of the Coastal Access Programme Team</p>
<p>Graham Horton</p> 	<p>1<sup>st</sup> July 2019</p>	<p>Senior Officer with responsibility for protected sites</p>

## Map A. Designated sites


(Overleaf)


<sup>5</sup> Natural England’s functions includes its balanced general purposes for access, nature conservation and landscape under the NERC Act 2006, any specific statutory duties it may have to deliver specific improvements to public access, and the access-related policies and priorities it periodically agrees with Defra.




# Coastal Access - Calshot to Gosport


## Nature Conservation Assessment Sites


 Nature Reserve


 Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Extent of proposals 

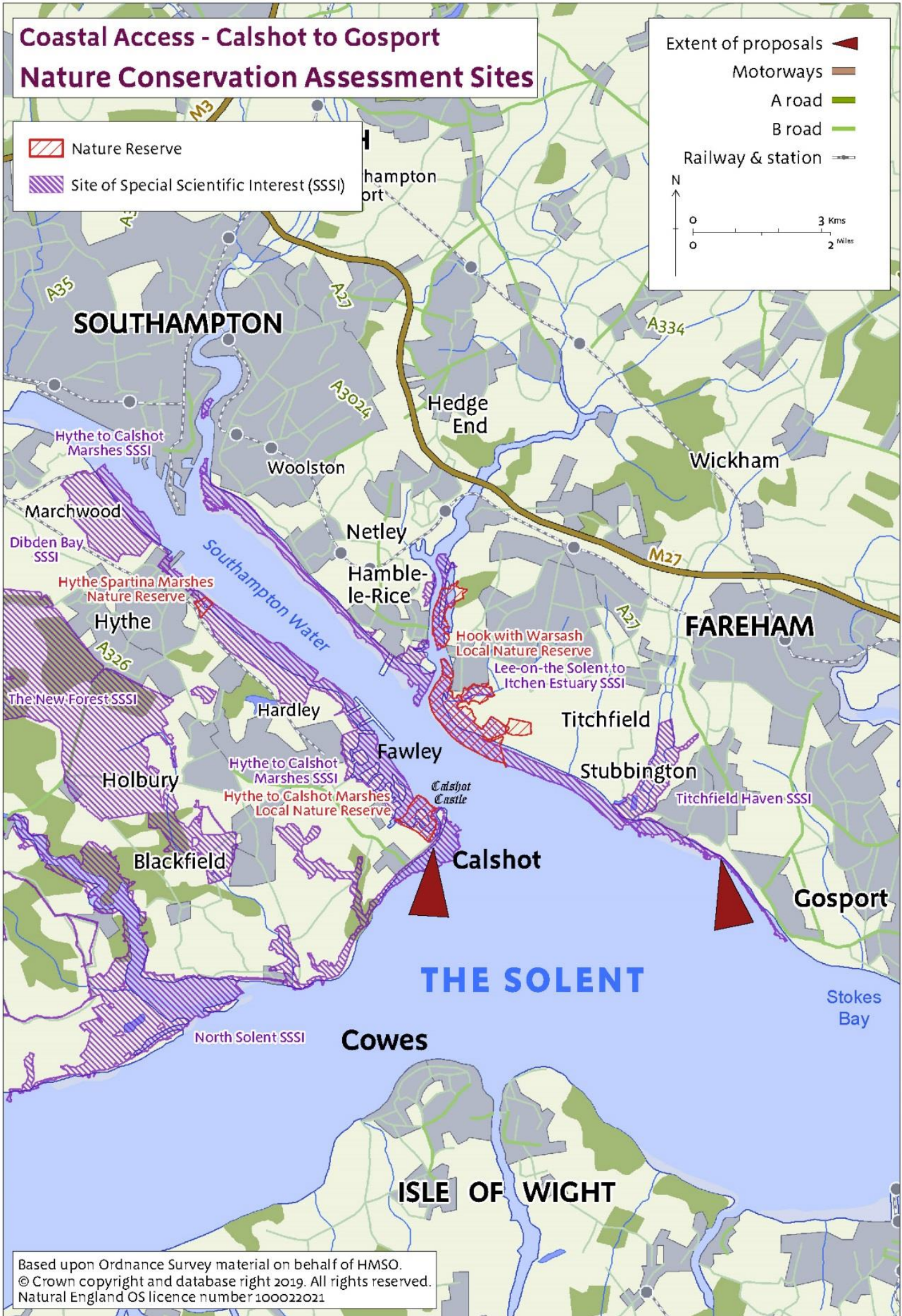
Motorways 

A road 

B road 

Railway & station 

N



Based upon Ordnance Survey material on behalf of HMSO.  
 © Crown copyright and database right 2019. All rights reserved.  
 Natural England OS licence number 100022021

## Annex 1. Index to designated sites and features

Qualifying feature	Solent & Southampton Water SPA	Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar	Solent Maritime SAC	Solent & Dorset Coast pSPA	Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI	North Solent SSSI (units 15 and 35)	New Forest SSSI (units 181, 182 ,	Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary
A156 Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Non-breeding)	✓	✓			✓			✓
A046a Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Non-breeding)	✓	✓			✓			✓
A193 Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Breeding)	✓			✓				
A195 Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Breeding)	✓			✓				
A176 Mediterranean gull <i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i> (Breeding)	✓							
A137 Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Non-breeding)	✓	✓			✓			✓
A192 Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> (Breeding)	✓							
A191 Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Breeding)	✓			✓				
A052 Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> (Non-breeding)	✓	✓			✓			✓
Waterbird assemblage (Non-breeding) <sup>1</sup>	✓	✓						
Annual vegetation of drift lines			✓					
1330 Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>			✓					



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

Qualifying feature	Solent & Southampton Water SPA	Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar	Solent Maritime SAC	Solent & Dorset Coast pSPA	Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI	North Solent SSSI (units 15 and 35)	New Forest SSSI (units 181, 182 ,	Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary
Coastal lagoons			✓					
1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>			✓					
Estuaries			✓					
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide			✓					
Perennial vegetation of stony banks			✓					
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand			✓					
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time			✓					
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("White dunes")			✓					
1320 Spartina Swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i>			✓					
Wetland invertebrate assemblage		✓						
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>					✓			✓
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					✓			✓



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

Qualifying feature	Solent & Southampton Water SPA	Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar	Solent Maritime SAC	Solent & Dorset Coast pSPA	Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI	North Solent SSSI (units 15 and 35)	New Forest SSSI (units 181, 182 ,	Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>					✓			✓
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>					✓			✓
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Great crested Grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>								✓
Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds)					✓	✓		
SM13a - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> saltmarsh, <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> dominant sub-community					✓			
SM16a - <i>Festuca rubra</i> saltmarsh <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> sub-community					✓			
SM6 - <i>Spartina anglica</i> saltmarsh					✓			
SM8 - Annual <i>Salicornia</i> saltmarsh					✓			
SM9 - <i>Suaeda maritima</i> saltmarsh					✓			
SD3 - <i>Matricaria maritima</i> - <i>Galium aparine</i> strandline community						✓		
EC- Aves								✓
EC- Mesozoic- Tertiary Fish/Amphibia								✓
EC- Quaternary of South Central England						✓		✓

## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

Qualifying feature	Solent & Southampton Water SPA	Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar	Solent Maritime SAC	Solent & Dorset Coast pSPA	Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI	North Solent SSSI (units 15 and 35)	New Forest SSSI (units 181, 182 ,	Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary
Vascular plant assemblage								✓
Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland heath (Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Woodlark)							✓	
H2 - <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Ulex minor</i> heath							✓	
H3 - <i>Ulex minor</i> - <i>Agrostis curtisii</i> heath							✓	
Combinations of species - Bryophytes							✓	
MG5 – Lowland <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland							✓	
M1 - <i>Sphagnum auriculatum</i> bog pool community							✓	
M10 - <i>Carex dioica</i> - <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i> mire							✓	
M14 - <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> - <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> mire							✓	
M21 - <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> - <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i> mire							✓	
M6 - <i>Carex echinata</i> - <i>Sphagnum recurvum</i> ( <i>fallax</i> ) / <i>auriculatum</i> ( <i>denticulatum</i> ) mire							✓	
M9 - <i>Carex rostrata</i> - <i>Calliergon cuspidatum/giganteum</i> ( <i>Calliergonella cuspidata/Calliergon giganteum</i> ) mire							✓	

## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

Qualifying feature	Solent & Southampton Water SPA	Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar	Solent Maritime SAC	Solent & Dorset Coast pSPA	Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI	North Solent SSSI (units 15 and 35)	New Forest SSSI (units 181, 182 ,	Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary
W10 - <i>Quercus robur</i> - <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> woodland							✓	
W14 - <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> woodland							✓	
W15 - <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> - <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> woodland							✓	
W16 - <i>Quercus</i> spp.- <i>Betula</i> spp.- <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> woodland							✓	
W4 - <i>Betula pubescens</i> - <i>Molinia caerulea</i> woodland							✓	
W8 - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> - <i>Acer campestre</i> - <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> woodland							✓	
Invertebrate assemblage							✓	

## Annex 2. Notified Features within SSSIs

### Hythe To Calshot Marshes SSSI

Full list of notified features:

Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI Notified Features
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Brent Goose (Dark-bellied), <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Ringed Plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>
Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds)
SM13a - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> saltmarsh, <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> dominant sub-community
SM16a - <i>Festuca rubra</i> saltmarsh <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> sub-community
SM6 - <i>Spartina anglica</i> saltmarsh
SM8 - <i>Annual Salicornia</i> saltmarsh
SM9 - <i>Suaeda maritima</i> saltmarsh

## Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI

Full list of notified features:

Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI Notified Features
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Brent Goose (Dark-bellied), <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Great crested Grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Ringed Plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>
EC - Aves
EC - Mesozoic - Tertiary Fish/Amphibia
EC - Quaternary of South Central England
Vascular plant assemblage

## The North Solent SSSI

Full list of Notified Features (across all units. Only units 15 and 35 are relevant for this stretch. Annex 1 indicates those features relevant to units 15 and 35)

The North Solent SSSI Notified Features
Aggregations of breeding birds - Little Tern, <i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Brent Goose (Dark-bellied), <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Ringed Plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland damp grasslands
Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland open waters and their margins
Assemblages of breeding birds - Sand-dunes and saltmarshes
EC - Quaternary of South Central England
H2 - <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Ulex minor</i> heath
H3 - <i>Ulex minor</i> - <i>Agrostis curtisii</i> heath
Invertebrate assemblage
Isolated bird colony - Common tern, <i>Sterna hirunda</i>
Isolated bird colony - Sandwich tern, <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
M22 - <i>Juncus subnodulosus</i> - <i>Cirsium palustre</i> fen meadow
M23 - <i>Juncus effusus/acutiflorus</i> - <i>Galium palustre</i> rush pasture



The North Solent SSSI Notified Features
M25 - <i>Molinia caerulea</i> - <i>Potentilla erecta</i> mire
MG11 - <i>Festuca rubra</i> - <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> - <i>Potentilla anserina</i> grassland
MG5 - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland
MG8 - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Caltha palustris</i> grassland
S12 - <i>Typha latifolia</i> swamp
S21 - <i>Scirpus maritimus</i> Swamp
S3 - <i>Carex paniculata</i> swamp
S4 - <i>Phragmites australis</i> swamp and reed-beds
SD1 - <i>Rumex crispus</i> - <i>Glaucium flavum</i> shingle community
SD2 - <i>Cakile maritima</i> - <i>Honkenya peploides</i> strandline community
SD3 - <i>Matricaria maritima</i> - <i>Galium aparine</i> strandline community
SD8 - <i>Festuca rubra</i> - <i>Galium verum</i> fixed dune grassland
Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds)
SM1 - <i>Zostera</i> communities
SM10 - Transitional low marsh vegetation with <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> , annual <i>Salicornia</i> species and <i>Suaeda maritima</i>
SM14 - <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> saltmarsh
SM15 - <i>Juncus maritimus</i> - <i>Triglochin maritima</i> saltmarsh
SM16a - <i>Festuca rubra</i> saltmarsh <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> sub-community
SM18 - <i>Juncus maritimus</i> saltmarsh
SM23 - <i>Spergularia marina</i> - <i>Puccinellia distans</i> saltmarsh
SM24 - <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> saltmarsh
SM25 - <i>Suaeda vera</i> drift-line
SM6 - <i>Spartina anglica</i> saltmarsh

**The North Solent SSSI Notified Features**

SM8 - *Annual Salicornia* saltmarsh

SM9 - *Suaeda maritima* saltmarsh

U1 b,c,d,f - *Festuca ovina* - *Agrostis capillaris* - *Rumex acetosella* grassland

Vascular plant assemblage

W10 - *Quercus robur* - *Pteridium aquilinum* - *Rubus fruticosus* woodland

W2 - *Salix cinerea* - *Betula pubescens* - *Phragmites australis* woodland

W21 - *Crataegus monogyna* - *Hedra helix* scrub

W4 - *Betula pubescens* - *Molinia caerulea* woodland

W5 - *Alnus glutinosa* - *Carex paniculata* woodland

W7 - *Alnus glutinosa* - *Fraxinus excelsior* - *Lysimachia nemorum* woodland

W8 - *Fraxinus excelsior* - *Acer campestre* - *Mercurialis perennis* woodland

## The New Forest SSSI

Full list of Notified Features (across all units. Only units 181,182 and 183 are relevant to this stretch. Annex 1 indicates those features relevant to units 181, 182 and 183)

The New Forest SSSI Notified Features
Aggregations of breeding birds - Dartford Warbler, <i>Sylvia undata</i>
Aggregations of breeding birds - Nightjar, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
Aggregations of breeding birds - Woodlark, <i>Lullula arborea</i>
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Hen Harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Amphibian assemblage
Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland damp grasslands
Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland heath
Butterflies which have experienced substantial declines - <i>Argynnis paphia</i> , Silver-washed Fritillary
Butterflies which have experienced substantial declines - <i>Limenitis camilla</i> , White Admiral
Combinations of species - Bryophytes
Combinations of species - Lichens
Combinations of species - other groups (fungi and algae)
ED - Quaternary of South Central England
EO - Palaeogene
Flowing waters - Type VIII: rivers common throughout western Britain over hard rocks
FM - Quaternary of South Central England
Great crested newt, <i>Triturus cristatus</i>
H2 - <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Ulex minor</i> heath
H3 - <i>Ulex minor</i> - <i>Agrostis curtisii</i> heath
IA - Fluvial Geomorphology
Invertebrate assemblage
M1 - <i>Sphagnum auriculatum</i> bog pool community
M10 - <i>Carex dioica</i> - <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i> mire
M14 - <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> - <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> mire
M16 - <i>Erica tetralix</i> - <i>Sphagnum compactum</i> wet heath
M21 - <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> - <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i> mire
M23 - <i>Juncus effusus/acutiflorus</i> - <i>Galium palustre</i> rush pasture

The New Forest SSSI Notified Features
M24 - <i>Molinia caerulea</i> - <i>Cirsium dissectum</i> fen meadow
M25 - <i>Molinia caerulea</i> - <i>Potentilla erecta</i> mire
M29 - <i>Hypericum elodes</i> - <i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i> soakway
M6 - <i>Carex echinata</i> - <i>Sphagnum recurvum</i> ( <i>fallax</i> ) / <i>auriculatum</i> ( <i>denticulatum</i> ) mire
M9 - <i>Carex rostrata</i> - <i>Calliergon cuspidatum/giganteum</i> ( <i>Calliergonella cuspidata/Calliergon giganteum</i> ) mire
Maternity colonies of bats - Bechstein's bat, <i>Myotis Bechsteinii</i>
MG5 - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland
Nationally rare and scarce dragonfly species - <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> , Southern Damselfly
Population of RDB plant - <i>Galium constrictum</i> , Slender Bedstraw
Population of RDB plant - <i>Lobelia urens</i> , Heath Lobelia
Population of RDB plant - <i>Ludwigia palustris</i> , Hampshire Purslane
Population of Schedule 5 beetle - <i>Lucanus cervus</i> , Stag Beetle
Population of Schedule 5 crustacean - <i>Chirocephalus diaphanus</i> , a freshwater fairy shrimp
Population of Schedule 5 crustacean - <i>Triops cancriformis</i> , Tadpole Shrimp
Population of Schedule 8 fungi - <i>Hericium erinaceum</i> , Hedgehog fungus
Population of Schedule 8 fungi - <i>Hericium erinaceus</i> , Bearded tooth fungus
Population of Schedule 8 lichen - <i>Catillaria laureri</i> , Laurer's Catillaria
Population of Schedule 8 lichen - <i>Parmelia minarum</i> , New Forest Parmelia
Population of Schedule 8 plant - <i>Eriophorum gracile</i> , Slender Cottongrass
Population of Schedule 8 plant - <i>Gladiolus illyricus</i> , Wild Gladiolus
Population of Schedule 8 plant - <i>Mentha pulegium</i> , Pennyroyal
Population of Schedule 8 plant - <i>Pulicaria vulgaris</i> , Lesser Fleabane
Reptile assemblage
Standing waters
U1 b,c,d,f - <i>Festuca ovina</i> - <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> - <i>Rumex acetosella</i> grassland
U3 - <i>Agrostis curtisii</i> grassland
U4 - <i>Festuca ovina</i> - <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> - <i>Galium saxatile</i> grassland
Vascular plant assemblage
W10 - <i>Quercus robur</i> - <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> woodland
W14 - <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> woodland



## Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Calshot and Gosport

### The New Forest SSSI Notified Features

W15 - *Fagus sylvatica* - *Deschampsia flexuosa* woodland

W16 - *Quercus* spp.-*Betula* spp.-*Deschampsia flexuosa* woodland

W4 - *Betula pubescens* - *Molinia caerulea* woodland

W5 - *Alnus glutinosa* - *Carex paniculata* woodland

W7 - *Alnus glutinosa* - *Fraxinus excelsior* - *Lysimachia nemorum* woodland

W8 - *Fraxinus excelsior* - *Acer campestre* - *Mercurialis perennis* woodland