LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE:
Open Coastal Shore

SIMILAR AND ASSOCIATED TYPES HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT AND BOROUGH LEVEL ASSESSMENTS	
Basingstoke:	n/a
East Hampshire	n/a
Eastleigh	The Coastline
Fareham	Cliff Coastline, Open Estuary
Gosport	Browndown Coastal Strip, Stokes Bay, Lee on the Solent – Seafront (extend further inland than the HCC type)
Hart	n/a
Havant	Lowland Open Coastal Plain
New Forest	Coastal Fringe
Rushmoor	n/a
Test Valley	n/a
Winchester	n/a
SIMILAR AND ASSOCIATED TYPES IN NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITY ASSESSMENTS	
Dorset	
West Berkshire	n/a
West Sussex	Coastal Margins
Wiltshire	n/a

KEY IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS AND BOUNDARY DEFINITIONS

- This coastal shoreline landscape type can be formed on sand, shingle or mud, is above the mean low water mark and can extend in land to include cliff faces, creeks, salt marsh, grazing saltmarsh, (rather than coastal grazing marsh) beaches and sand dunes
- Adjoins the more open coastal waters of the Solent rather than the estuaries and harbour shores.
- Predominantly comprised of muds and shingle – the profile and sediment content affected by sea defences such as groynes.
- The Hampshire coast is rich in depositional features such as spits and bars.
- Often associated with internationally important designations such as the Solent marine SAC.
- Includes shingle, saltmarsh, sand dune and cliff habitats
- The more sheltered areas were historically important for salt production – the remains of the salterns are a distinctive feature such as at Lymington and Pennington.
- Sand dunes are rare – occurring only on Hayling Island.
- Artificial beech replenishment to help protect the coast is an integral part of the coast management.
- The shingle beaches are historically a focus for holidaymakers and integral to the establishment of Victorian beach related development of villas and tall terraces overlooking these areas.

PHYSICAL

GEOLOGY, LANDFORM, ELEVATION:

Bedrock and Superficial Geology: A landscape of sand silt and clay bedrock geology. The New Forest Coast is predominantly formed from the Headon and Osbourne beds and Becton and Charma sand formation. The south Hampshire coast, from the Barton Clay formation and the Wittering formation on south Hayling. There are storm beach deposits, in more exposed coastal headlands and tidal flat deposits especially where rivers and creeks flow into the sea.
Landform and Elevation: Generally less than 2m AOD. Except where shingle coastal features are found and cliff faces south of Chilling and Brownwich Coastal Plain and the New Forest coast. Open and exposed to the elements, the coastline is subject to a continual process of erosion, deposition and change. This type reflects areas where there has been a history of coastal deposition (e.g. sand dunes) and where small natural cliffs occur or where there are manmade defence systems. The type includes low cliff faces where they occur behind beaches. The Hampshire coast is very varied, the broad pattern of coastal processes is as follows; erosion west of Hurst spit, depositional along the rest of the New Forest coast, erosion along Warsash to Gosport and deposition along the Hayling coastline. There is a predominant long shore drift from west to east. This is moderated by coastal defences such as sea walls and groynes and there are seasonal beech replenishment operations in some locations. At Milford and Barton on Sea areas of accumulated slump debris occur at the base of the low eroding cliffs.

SOILS TYPES:

Typical soil type pattern: Sand, shingle and muds in varying extents depending on depositional processes. Patterns of extent have varied over time

FUNCTIONS:

Hydrological function: Generally falls outside the groundwater vulnerability zones and source protection zones

Food and Biomass: Not productive for humans, (but muds are extremely rich as a food source in ecological terms).

Biodiversity potential: No formal analysis available.

LANDCOVER AND LAND USE PATTERN:

A variety of landcover primarily biodiversity and recreational functions. Devoid of tall vegetation and trees. In the largely open coastal setting facilities and buildings associated with recreation and military use are prominent in the landscape. Sea defence structures, kiosks, beach huts, are other characteristic built forms. Marinas present in more sheltered locations. Coastal grazing marsh most extensive off the New Forest coast – otherwise of non agricultural use.

HYDROLOGY:

Mean low water mark forms the southern boundary of this type. Coastal marine processes of deposition and erosion have been fundamental in creating this landscape type, with sea defences modifying natural processes in areas associated with coastal recreation and settlement protection.

EXPERIENTIAL

ACCESS AND TRANSPORT ROUTES:

Extent of access tide dependent but very popular and able to accommodate wide range of users and uses – although access for certain users may be seasonally restricted. Beaches serviced by large carparks. Coastal recreation is diverse. The beaches remain a popular summer tourist destination, water-sports popularity over the last 20 years has seen a dramatic increase, including windsurfing, kitesurfing and jet skiing. Public slipways and carparks are honey pot locations for the starting off point of these activities. Low impact coastal pursuits associated with walking and wildlife interest are popular. With diversity of recreational opportunities comes tension between users' interests which has to be carefully managed.

TRANQUILLITY:

Seasonally very variable, more tranquil in winter generally and often tends to be higher than land immediately adjoining to the north on the CPRE 2007 mapping.

BIODIVERSITY

The Open Coastal Shore landscape character type is an intertidal/littoral coastal landscape comprising associated habitats, with transitionary characteristics associated with the adjacent inland habitats.

Shingle above high water and intertidal shingle dominate in places, with continuous and scattered saltmarshes often associated, particularly where the Open Coastal Shore landscape character type exists at harbour entrances. The Open Coastal Shore landscape character type also contains maritime cliffs and sand dunes, which usually occur in association with shingle habitats, adjacent to the shore. Further inland, as the coastal influence begins to reduce, habitats include coastal grazing marsh, arable and improved grasslands, mixed woodland and

parkland with small patches such as ponds, swamps and tall marginal vegetation associated with freshwater. Shingle can support a range of specialist species, many of which are rare. Below and near to the high water mark, shingle tends to be impoverished and only supports a few pioneer and annual species. As shingle becomes more fixed it becomes more biodiverse and complex, supporting patches of habitats such as permanent grasslands, heath and scrub communities. Vegetated shingle can support rare and specialist species such as sea kale and yellow horned poppy.

Saltmarsh exists in sheltered areas within this type where fine, coastal sediments accrete to form saltmarsh. Saltmarshes can support specialist halophytic species capable of immersion along with associated invertebrates, algae and birds. Saltmarsh are often dominated by *Spartina anglica*, a hybrid cordgrass. Other species include saltmarsh grasses, glasswort, sea lavenders, sea aster and sea purslane. Saltmarshes provide sheltered nursery grounds for several fish species and consequently provide important feeding grounds to a number of sea birds.

Maritime cliffs exist to the west of the Open Coastal Shore landscape character type. The soft cliffs which exist in Hampshire are constantly eroding and thus represent an important source of sediment to the adjacent coastal habitats. The softness of the cliff tops also ensures that they provide an important habitat for ephemeral maritime plants and invertebrates, including nationally rare burrowing bees and wasps and the glanville fritillary butterfly. The turfs on the tops of the cliffs can support bryophytes, lichens and southern maritime species, some of which are at the extremes of their range here.

Sand dunes in Hampshire tend to be low with limited vegetation and therefore low biodiversity. The most significant area is on Hayling Island where there are a good range of dune types and an associated rich fixed-dune flora, supporting unusual grasses and clovers. Transition to mobile dunes and low wet dune slacks can support extensive dune heaths: sandy areas supporting heath associated species such as heather and lichens.

A number of BOAs exist within this landscape character type:

- The New Forest Coast BOA identifies opportunities for coastal grazing marsh, coastal marsh and purple moor grass and rush pastures habitat creation and enhancement;
- The Solent BOA identifies opportunities for coastal grazing saltmarsh and coastal saltmarsh habitat creation and enhancement;
- The Meon Valley BOA identifies opportunities for purple moor grass and rush pastures, wet woodland, lowland meadow, reedbed and lowland fen habitat creation and enhancement;
- Chichester/ Langstone Harbours and Hayling Island BOA identifies opportunities for coastal grazing marsh, purple moor grass and rush pastures, coastal saltmarsh habitat creation and enhancement;
- Portsmouth Harbour BOA identifies opportunities for coastal grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh and purple moor grass and rush pastures habitat creation and enhancement.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT *(leave to Historic. Specialist)*

ARCHAEOLOGY

Where there are mud flats there may be evidence of fish traps, and it is likely that the archaeology of coastal fishing is resource is greater than currently understood. It seems likely that a certain times of the tide these areas would have been exploited by canoe for the wild fowl. It is also an area which will have archaeological evidence of boats and hulks, lost or abandoned in the intertidal areas. Around Lymington there is extensive evidence of post medieval, industrial scale salterns

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER
n/a

HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT
Settlement types by form: n/a
Building materials and type: Colourful weather board beach huts line some of the upper beaches along the traditional Solent seaside resorts such as Hayling, Stokes Bay and Calshot. Includes slipways and sea defences and timber groynes.

VISIBILITY

Prominency: Although very low lying with little height variation, can be seen from higher land further north and from the sea.
Enclosure: Open views across the Solent with the backdrop of the Isle of Wight. Typically very little enclosure landward. Dunes, beaches backed by cliffs and where enclosed coastal plain type adjoins this landscape type the sea are the exceptions. Long views parallel to the shoreline enhance the sense of openness.
Public perceptions: A particularly important aspect where there are publically accessible beaches.