

Milton Common:

Milton Common is a large area of grassland, scrub and ponds located on the west edge of Langstone Harbour. The site is predominantly reclaimed intertidal land used as a dump from 1962-1970. The grassland present ranges from amenity to rough sward. The rough grassland has developed a good diversity of species, with a strong coastal element. There is extensive dense and scattered scrub throughout the site, especially to the east. There are three ponds present, which provide some stands of reed-bed. The coastal edge of the site supports salt-marsh vegetation. Overall the species diversity is excellent, with nearly 200 species noted within the common. These include 3 acid/neutral grassland indicators and the Nationally Rare *Bupleurum tenuissimum* and *Lathyrus aphaca*, the Nationally Scarce *Medicago polymorpha*, and the County Scarce *Smyrniolum olusatrum* and *Linum bienne*. The conservation management value of the site is especially important due to the proximity to the internationally important Langstone/Chichester Harbours which are designated as SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites.

Management of the grassland is essential to maintain its structure, balance and diversity. Without management grassland becomes coarse and rank, loses both diversity and interest, and will eventually turn into scrub as it has over a large part of the Common.

The overriding factor in the grassland management of the Common is the topology of the site. Since the initial capping there has been a great deal of resettling of the surface and subsurface as the organic material has decomposed. This has left the surface very uneven and difficult to work especially with machinery. It has also resulted in the exposure of a certain amount of the old dumped material such as concrete blocks, metal reinforcing bars and much, much more.



Eastney Beach:

Eastney Beach is classified as 'Coastal Vegetated Shingle' a Priority Habitat as defined under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and a Habitat of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The site comprises areas of bare shingle, shingle vegetation and coastal grassland. There is an excellent diversity of shingle, sand dune and coastal species with approximately 100 species present. These include the County Scarce species *Rosa pimpinellifolia*, *Trifolium scabrum*, *Raphanus raphanistrum* ssp. *maritimum*, *Honkenya peploides*, *Glaucium flavum*, *Crithmum maritimum*, *Carex arenaria*, *Crambe maritima*, *Sedum anglicum* and *Atriplex glabriuscula*. The County Rare *Silene noctiflora* and the County of Interest *Medicago sativa* ssp. *falcata* are also present.

Ecological management of the site is limited to the control of invasive species and also the education of the many visitors that use the site. Portsmouth promotes itself as the 'Sea Front City' the ecological diversity of this site contributes to its social and natural feeling for visitors. Though it must also be mentioned that increased recreational pressure can result in the habitat degradation, especially around developments.



<i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>	Slender Hare's-Ear
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed Medick
<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax
<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>	Burnet Rose
<i>Trifolium scabrum</i> ,	Rough Clover
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum ssp maritimum</i>	Sea Radish
<i>Honkenya peploides</i>	Sea Sandwort
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-Poppy
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i> ,	Rock Samphire
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	Sand Sedge
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale
<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	English Stonecrop
<i>Atriplex glabriuscula</i>	Babington's orache
<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	Night-Flowering Catchfly
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly