This leaflet explains what a conservation area is and how it may affect you. It shows the boundary of one of the 32 conservation areas and points out some of the features which make it special.

Hythe

New
Forest
Conservation
Areas

The village of Hythe lies on the shores of Southampton Water and is the local shopping centre for a large area of surrounding housing. Its character is due mainly to its intimate scale. The conservation area covers the historic core of the village from West Street to Murray's Hotel in Shore Road including the 19th century iron pier. Groups of attractive 18th and 19th century buildings are to be found in Pylewell Road, The Marsh and School Road. There are more than 20 listed buildings and although few are outstanding architecturally, their grouping and informal relationship with each other and the unlisted buildings and spaces contribute to an interesting and varied street scene. The proximity of the waterside is one of the most valuable assets to the character and appearance of Hythe.

Hythe Pier

Hythe probably developed as a ferry stage between the Saxon manor of Fawley and Hamwic (Southampton) and today the ferry remains an important feature and amenity. Early sources suggest that there was a small creek through the area now known as The Marsh and flooding occurred there regularly up to recent times. Two groups of cottages, one centred on High Street, Prospect Place and Jones Lane and the other on the junction between St John's Street and South Street are linked by St John's Street which was fronted by houses with gardens running down to the water's front.

Boatbuilding and maintenance were important industries until the end of the Second World War. Small fast boats were built for the Navy and the RAF as well as luxury speed boats. During their heyday, commercial flying boats were based off Shore Road where nearly 900 people were employed until 1950. The last airworthy Sunderland flying boat flew into Southampton Water in the spring of 1989 and moored off Hythe Pier.

High Street