

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.

Lymington



New
Forest
Conservation
Areas

This is the most important urban conservation area in the District. There are many interesting buildings and important conservation issues but in the space available we can only draw your attention to a few of them.

The conservation area covers the medieval centre of this historic Solent town and contains over 270 listed structures, ranging from the Parish Church of St Thomas through dwellings of every size to walls, iron railings and lamps. The core of the town is characterised by the wide straight High Street running east-west from the Quay up the hill to the church where it joins St Thomas's Street. The views out of the town are impressive. On both sides of the street the frontages were divided into long narrow tenements known as "burgage plots" which although diminished are still a distinctive feature of the area. A wealth of earlier building history is hidden beneath Georgian facades. Behind the High Street plots a network of lanes and footpaths is bounded by high brick walls including the unusual serpentine or "crinkle-crankle" style.



Stanford Row

The first recorded mention of the town is in the Domesday Book as "Lentune" - a name of Celtic and Saxon origins which suggests an earlier settlement. The "New Borough" - based on the High Street - was one of the earliest planned settlements of the post-Conquest period, created by Charter some time between 1184 and 1216. Like many ports it was a centre for piracy and smuggling with hideouts in many of the 45 inns in the town. Lymington was a major centre for the salt industry until the end of the 18th century when it was overtaken by competition from Cheshire rock salt. Over the centuries there have been six Town Halls, two of which occupied sites in the middle of the High Street roadway. The market was first mentioned in a charter of the 1250's and still continues on Saturdays bringing crowds of visitors. Today Lymington is a ferry port for the Isle of Wight and is a popular tourist centre as well as a mecca for yachtsmen.