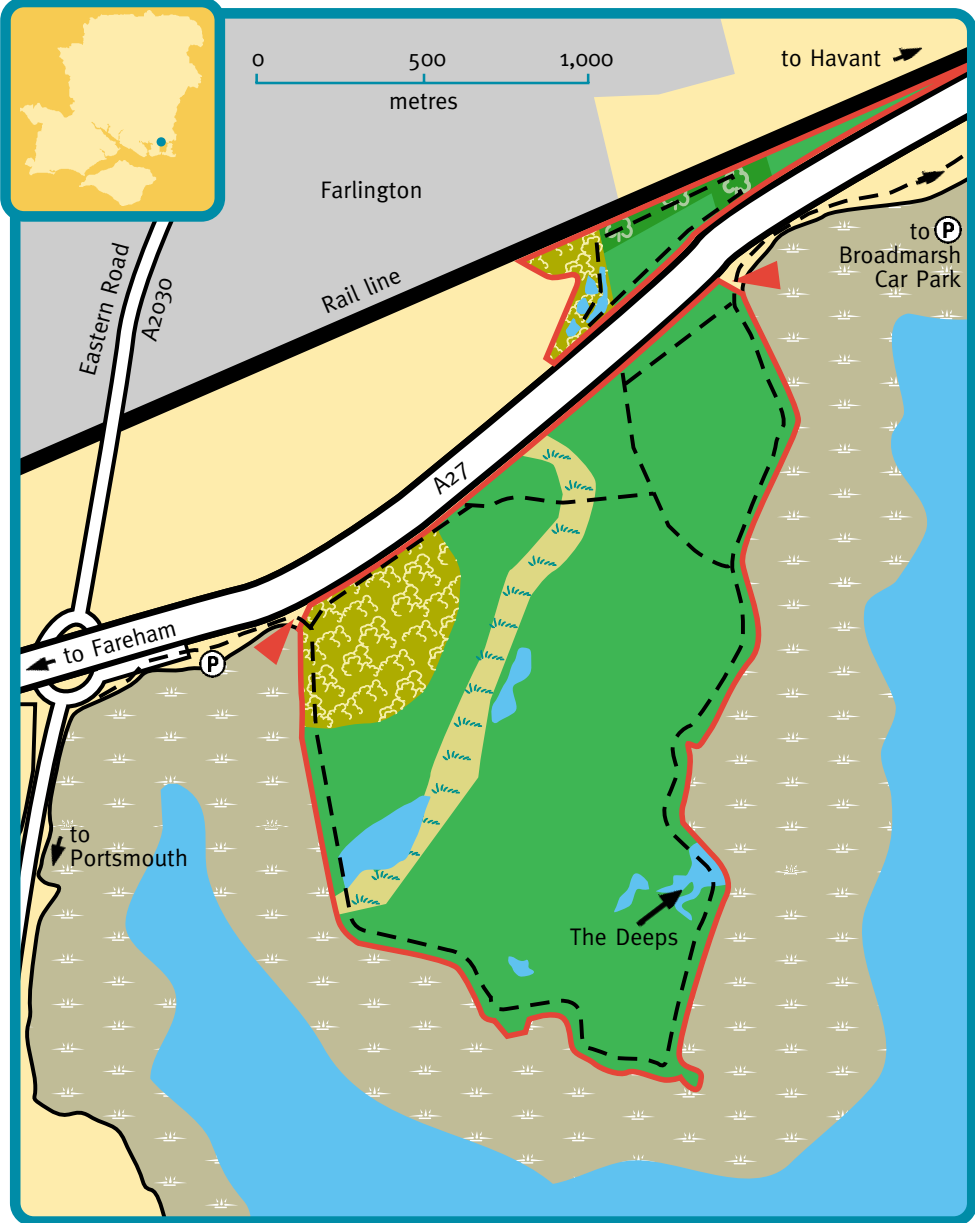








# Farlington Marshes

*A flower-rich grazing marsh of international importance for the wildfowl that it supports.*



<b>Habitat Type</b>	<i>Grazing marsh, saline lagoon</i>
<b>Size of Reserve</b>	<i>125 hectares / 308 acres</i>
<b>Special Features</b>	SSSI      
<b>OS Map Number</b>	<i>196 / 197</i>
<b>Grid Reference</b>	<i>SU 685 045</i>
<b>Nearest Town</b>	<i>Havant 2 miles</i>
<b>Nearest Rail Station</b>	<i>Hilsea 1 mile</i>
<b>Tourist Information</b>	<i>Havant 023 9248 0024 Portsmouth 023 9282 6722</i>
<b>Best Time to Visit</b>	<i>Winter - wildfowl Autumn / spring - migratory waders Summer - breeding birds, butterflies, dragonflies</i>

#### HOW TO GET THERE

The western car park of Farlington Marshes can be reached from the east Portsmouth A27 roundabout (signed for the A2030). The track leading to Farlington is a small lane between the A27 westbound exit and the A2030 exit leading to Portsmouth. Caution is required on rejoining the roundabout, as the traffic is fast moving.

The eastern access to Farlington can be reached by parking at the Broadmarsh Coastal Park and walking west along the coastal path. This car park is near the A27 Bedhampton exit. From the east, exit the A27 onto the A3(M). Take the first exit and follow signs for Broadmarsh Coastal Park.

There is a coastal path around Langstone Harbour, which passes through Farlington. A cycleway runs along the northern edge of the reserve on the south side of the A27.

#### ACCESS

The majority of the circular walk is on the sea wall, about 4km long in total (approximately 2.5 miles). Several areas of the reserve are open access. Please keep dogs on leads at all times. Wellingtons or sturdy boots may be needed if conditions are wet.

# Farlington Marshes continued

## DESCRIPTION

Farlington Marshes is the Trust's oldest reserve and a great favourite amongst the many visitors, who keep coming back to enjoy the internationally important wildlife and lovely views. Although Farlington is not far from Portsmouth there is a sense of being out in the wild as you walk out on the sea wall footpath with views inland over the reserve or out over Langstone Harbour. Farlington, reclaimed from the sea centuries ago, is internationally important for the bird populations that it supports, as well as being a blaze of colour in spring and summer with many flowers and butterflies. To make sure that Farlington stays as a haven for wildlife the open grassland is maintained by grazing cattle and scrub control is managed by the Reserves Officer. The marsh is grazed by cattle for most of the year, which helps to maintain it at the right length for Brent Geese to graze.

## WILDLIFE

- Many flowering plants have been recorded here including unusual species such as Sea Barley, Bulbous Foxtail, Slender Hare's-ear, Yellow-rattle, Grass Vetchling and Corky-fruited Water-dropwort.
- Internationally important populations of migratory birds, particularly large populations of Dark-bellied Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit, can be seen here. Thousands of waders can be seen on the lake at high tide especially in the Autumn, and the Deeps (see map) are particularly good for wildfowl. Looking out over the mudflats of the Harbour thousands of feeding waders can be seen in the winter. In summer islands in the harbour have large numbers of breeding gulls and terns.

## OTHER

- Farlington Marshes has ongoing bird research projects carried out by the Trust in partnership with other organisations (local and international). This important work not only helps us to better understand the behaviour of the birds on our reserve, but also the wider context which will help us to ensure their survival.
- Farlington Marshes was originally saltmarsh and mudflat, which was enclosed by a sea wall for pasture.
- The Reserves Officer at Farlington Marshes can be contacted on 01489 774 426

## NEARBY SITES OF INTEREST

**Southmoor Wildlife Reserve** - see page 122

A coastal grassland reserve providing grazing for wintering wildfowl.

**West Haying Local Nature Reserve.**

The RSPB island reserves in Langstone Harbour can be seen from Farlington Marshes.