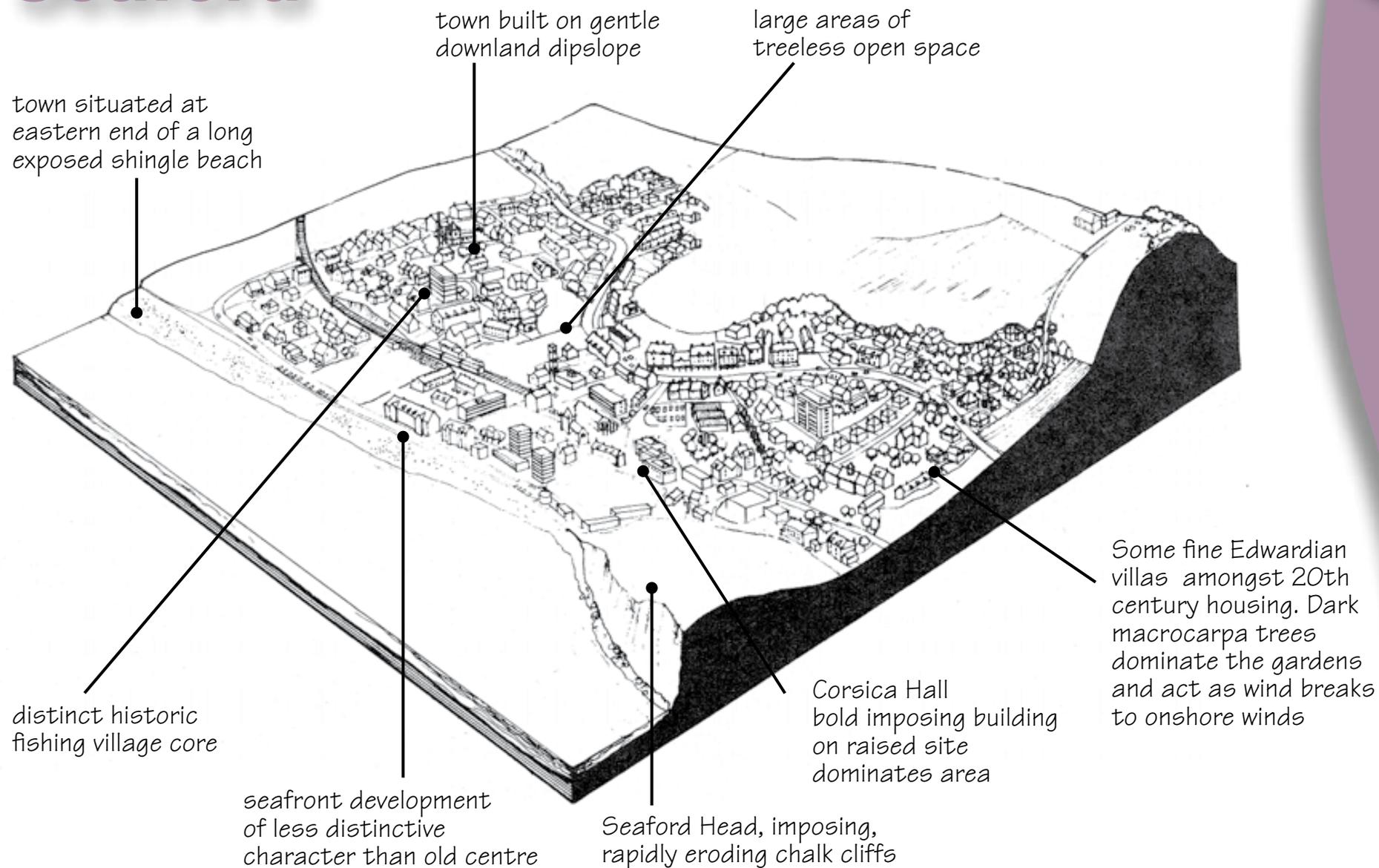


Seaford



Seaford

Built on a gentle downland dip slope, Seaford is at the eastern end of the long, exposed shingle beach of Seaford Bay. The town has a distinct core of an old fishing village, built away from the beach, with shops, flint-walled cottages and church. To the north and east of the town are fine villas on large gardens.

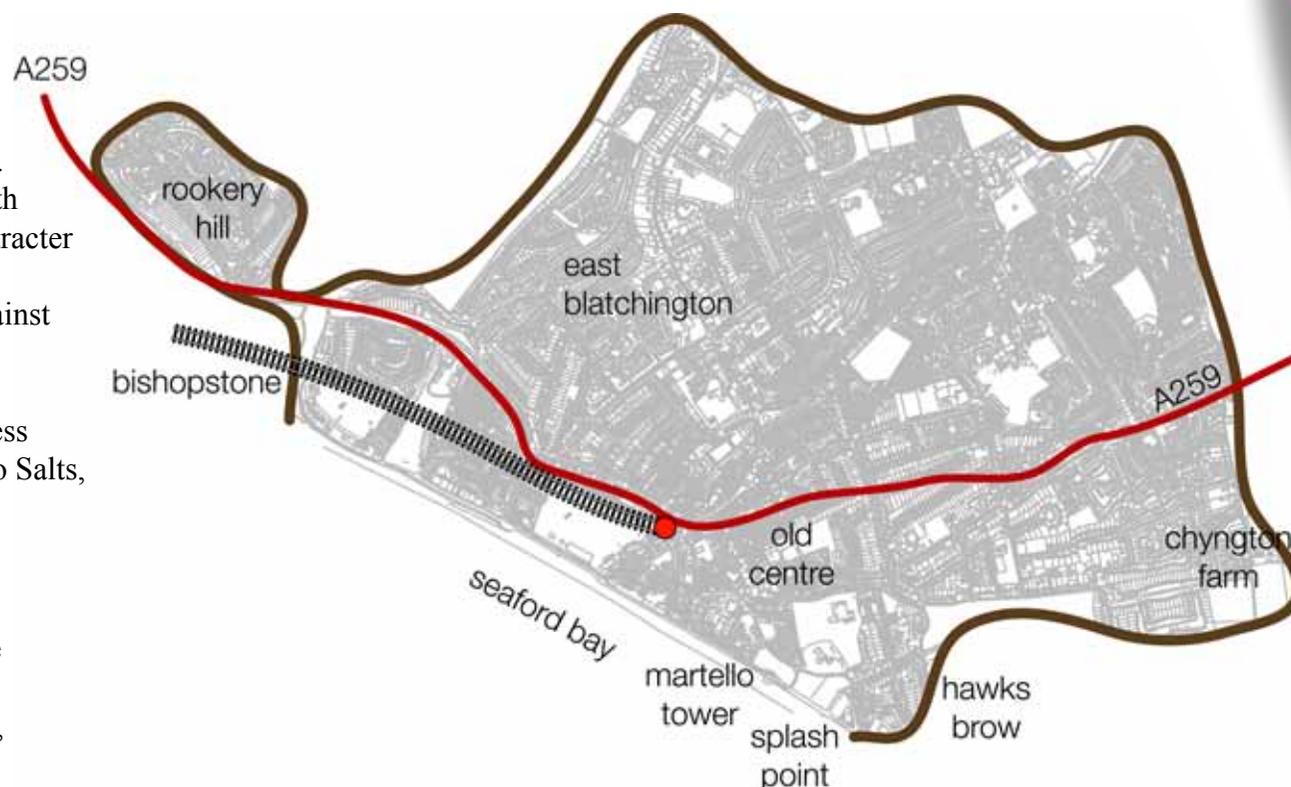


Characteristics

- Historic village core with flint walls, many of rounded, uncut flint.
- Later seafront development and 20th century villas, lacking the local character of the core.
- From the west, the town is seen against the chalk cliffs of Splash Point and Seaford Head.
- The town has many large and treeless open green spaces, such as Martello Salts, Hawks Brow, and the Salts.

Special features

- A Martello Tower, now housing the town museum.
- Corsica Hall, an imposing building, dominates the Martello salts area.
- The historic village centre.
- The cliffs at Splash Point.



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Seaford

Problems, pressures, detracting features

- The seafront lacks architectural distinctiveness.
- The undistinguished main approach to the town from the west, past the station.
- Post war suburban housing developments
- Open development edges onto the Downs, particularly at Bishopstone and near Seaford Head.

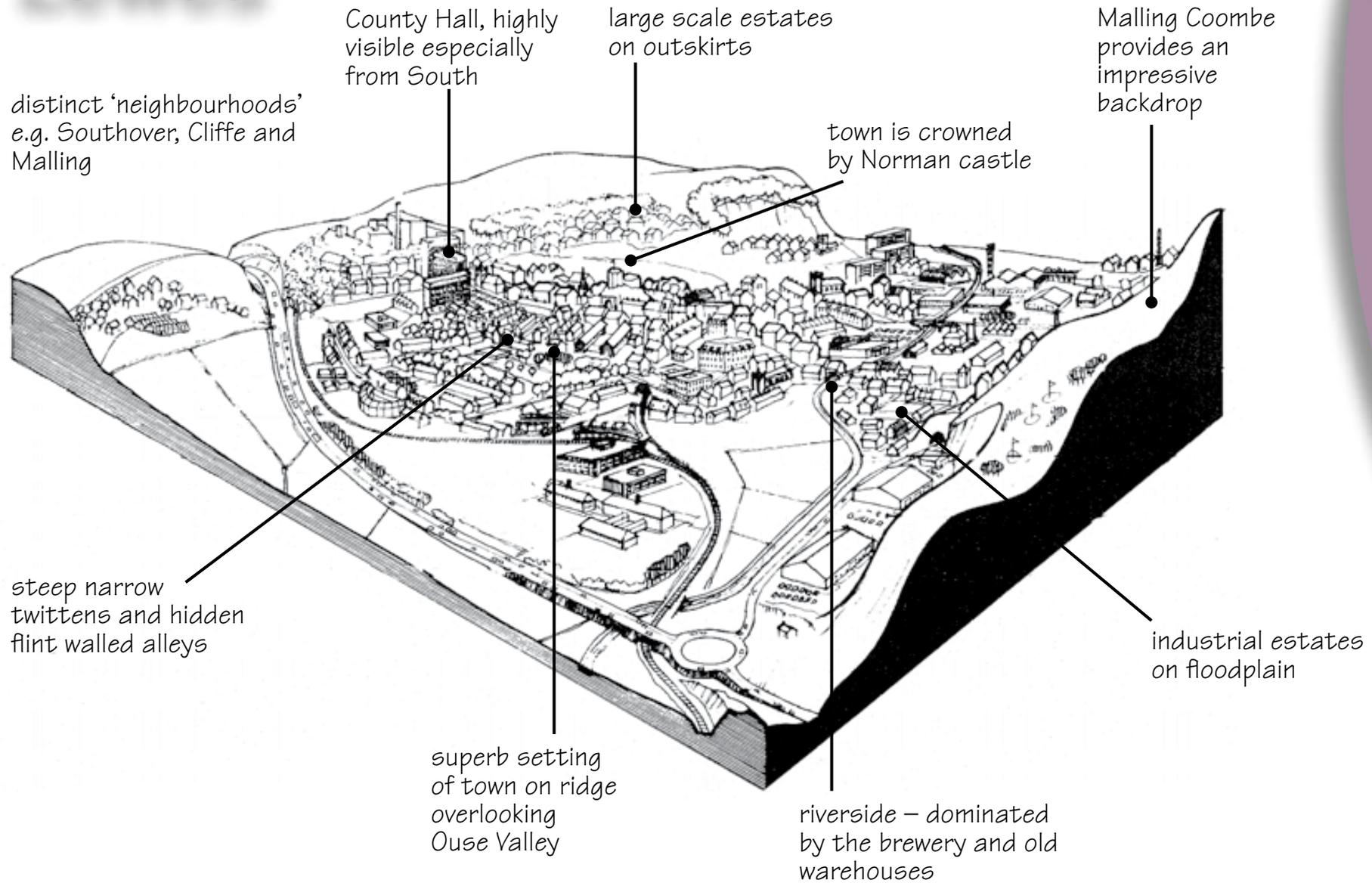
Vision

A town with a distinctive downland and coastal character, noted for its 'old village' core, flint pebble walls, mature elm trees, Corsican pines and sycamores. An improved seafront with its fine backdrop and strengthened links with the 'old village'.

Landscape action priorities

- Consider ways of enhancing the seafront, particularly by softening the built-up edges with appropriate planting.
- Create a stronger, more attractive pedestrian and visual link between the town centre/old village and seafront.
- Prepare a tree strategy for the town, to conserve and augment its distinctive tree cover, improve its edges against the Downs and strengthen neighbourhood identity.
- A conservation and replacement programme for mature street trees, notably the elms.
- Consider ways of integrating the old village and town centre so that the latter more closely mirrors the distinctive character of the former, using street design, traffic management and co-ordinated signage.
- Carry out an environmental improvement to the western approach, including tree planting in streets and open spaces and a possible gateway feature.

Lewes



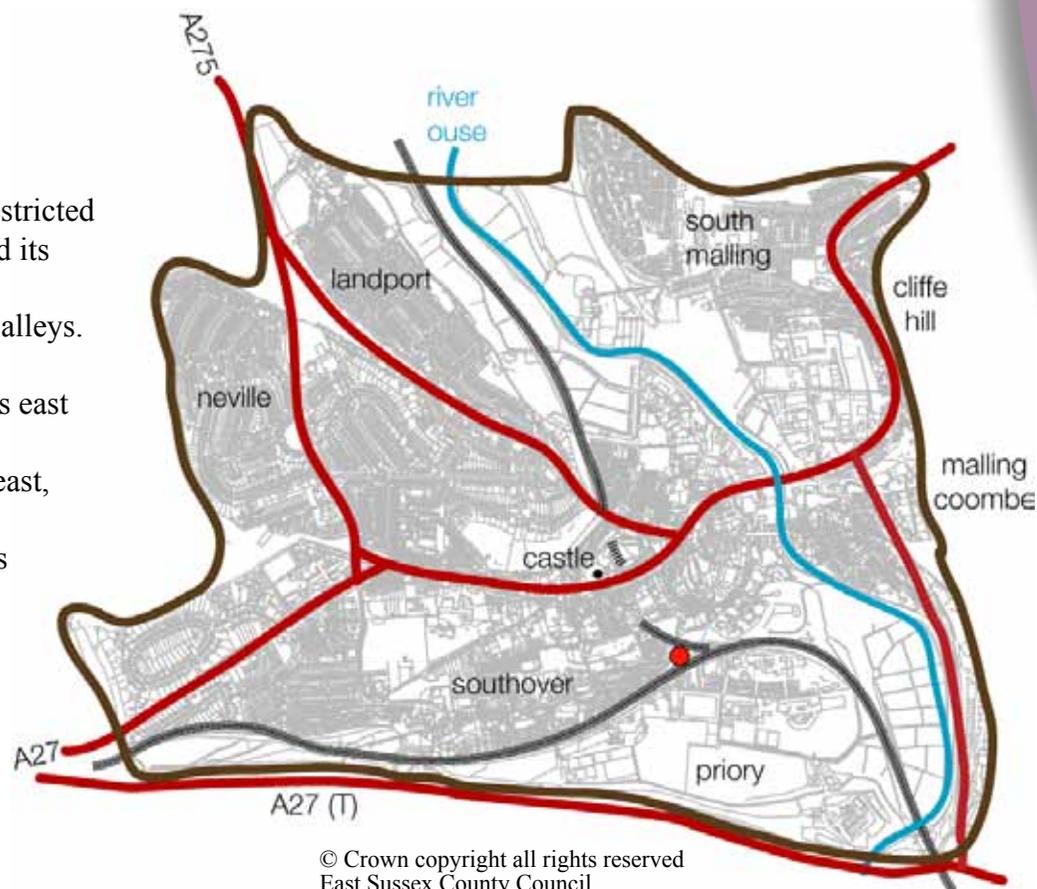
Lewes

The medieval County Town of East Sussex, Lewes lies at the navigable head of the River Ouse. It has a superb setting in a gap that the river has carved through the Downs. The chalk scarps of Cliff Hill and Malling Coombe provide impressive backdrops. The place is crowned by its Norman castle, sitting on a grassy mound above the rest of the town.



Characteristics

- The town's character owes much to the downland that surrounds it and the river that runs through its heart.
- The Downs and the river flood plain have historically restricted the growth of Lewes, and the centre of town has retained its intimate character and a tight urban grain.
- Lewes has long, narrow twittens and hidden flintwalled alleys.
- Views from the town to the Downs and the Castle.
- The ancient, steep High Street, built on School Hill, falls east to the river and has views to Malling Coombe
- The town has industrial estates in the flood plain to the east, and large housing estates on the outskirts.
- The town has a wonderful architectural heritage, in parts dating from the fifteenth century, of two and three-storey timber-framed, and flint, buildings.
- The original stone from the substantially destroyed great religious buildings in Lewes has been widely recycled in later historic periods.
- The town abounds in special building materials, such as mathematical tiling, tiles made to look like bricks, and dressed, square-cut flint.



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Lewes

Special features

- ‘Villages’ within the town, such as Southover, and Cliffe, have their own character and centres.
- The evocative ruined Priory and grounds lie to the south.
- The old but still productive Harveys Brewery sits against the river in the centre of the town

Problems, pressures, detracting features

- County Hall, Medwyn House and some other 1960's buildings challenge the Castle's skyline dominance.
- Intrusive industrial estates with little or no landscape mitigation.
- Housing estates on rising ground which have a hard urban edge to the downland.
- Traffic and parking in the narrow streets.

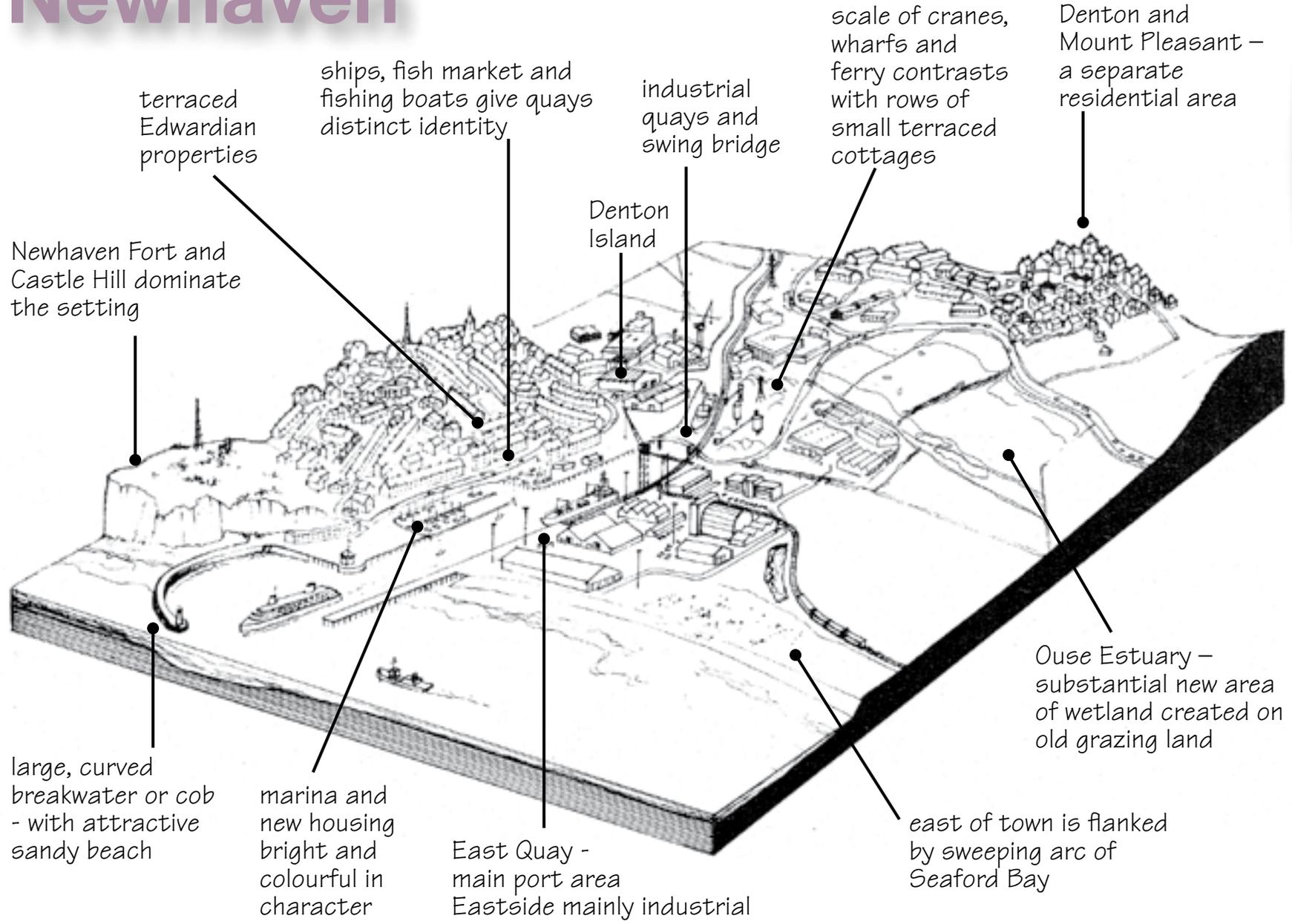
Vision

An unspoiled county town of pedestrian scale, with a strong sense of history and neighbourhood identity, a rich diversity of buildings and spaces, a pleasant riverside, and a unique downland setting which is readily accessible from the town.

Landscape action priorities

- Continue to enhance the riverside as a character focus for the lower part of the town, with continuous walkways on both sides.
- Continued efforts to manage and calm traffic.
- Undertake environmental improvement of housing and industrial estates to strengthen town and neighbourhood identity.
- Improve pedestrian and cycle access to the countryside, especially from the Malling area.

Newhaven



Newhaven

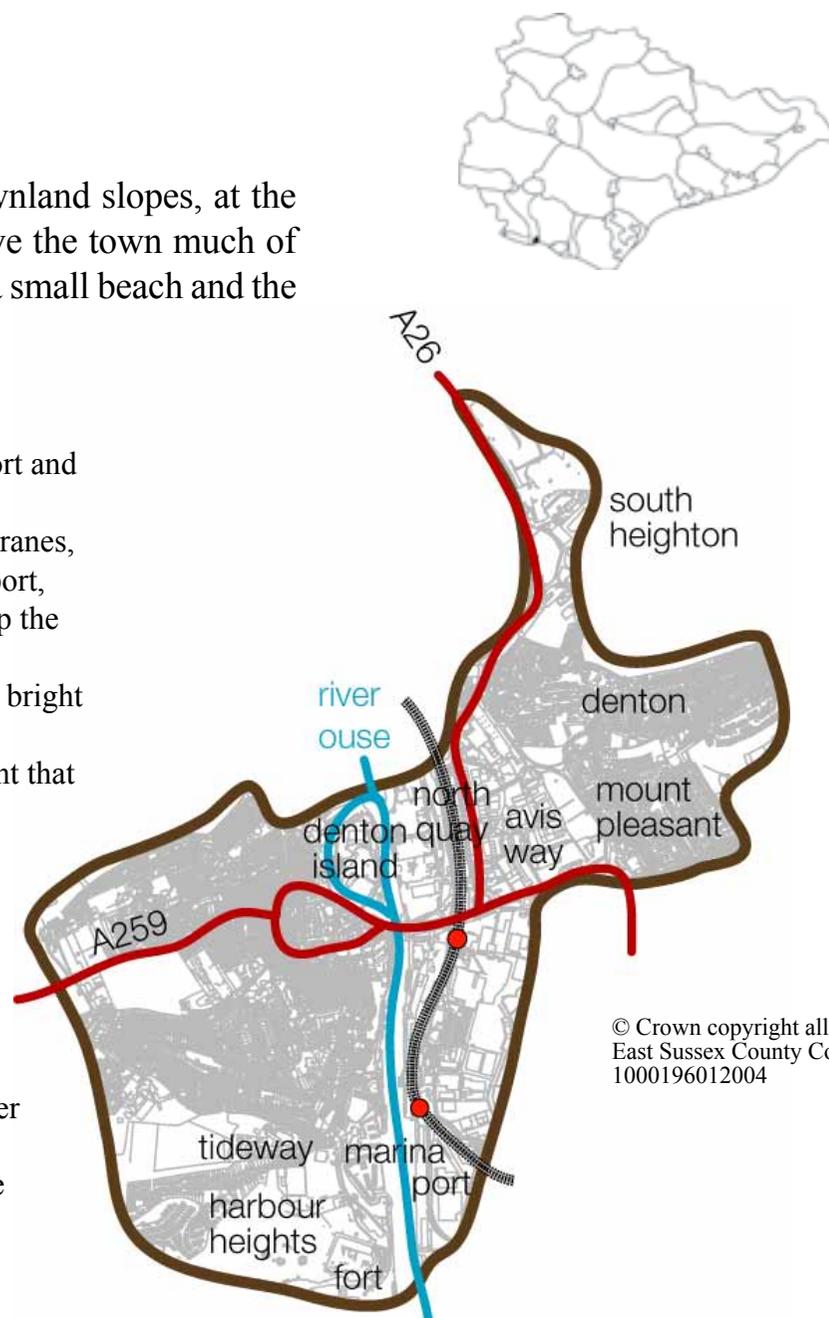
This historic port and fishing town was built on downland slopes, at the mouth of the River Ouse. The sea and the river give the town much of its character. Newhaven Fort on Castle Hill rises above a small beach and the large crescent of the Breakwater.

Characteristics

- The town has a salty, maritime flavour, as befits a working port and gateway to Europe.
- The scale of the heavy industry on the riverbanks, towering cranes, huge timbered wharfs and the size of the ferry, when it is in port, contrasts with the rows of small terraced cottages clustered up the hillsides
- The marina and new housing on the west side of the river are bright jaunty and colourful in character
- The boats, the fish market and the jumble of fishing equipment that litters the quaysides gives the quays a distinct identity.
- The town centre is circled by the main through-routes, cutting it off somewhat from the rest of the town.

Special features

- Newhaven Fort has a rich history and from its entrance there are dramatic views across the town.
- The swing bridge punctuates the flow of traffic across the river
- Features of the working port are retained, such as the fishing boats moored in the creek beside Denton Island, and the huge grey timbered quays intensify the character of the town.



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Newhaven

Problems, pressures, detracting features

- Industrial clutter at North Quay.
- Modern housing estates blanketing valley sides at Valley Road and Gibbon Road, also at Denton across the valley.
- Harsh, open edges to valley levels to east.
- Bleak horizontal white buildings on ridge crest on east side including Tideways School.
- Meeching Quarry.
- Dauntingly dreary underpasses below the ring road to access the centre of the town.
- The severance impact of the ring road

Vision

A small, robustly attractive port town providing a welcoming introduction to the county for visitors and making the most of its dramatic setting.

Landscape action priorities

- Produce an environmental design strategy for the town centre.
- Further environmental improvement of High Street/town centre area to give it more distinctive local character.
- Continued improvements to housing estates, including tree planting; perhaps as part of town Tree Strategy.
- Enhance Avis Way area with bold, massed planting and improved pedestrian routes.
- Environmental improvements to port/ferry approaches as gateway to Sussex.
- Continued environmental improvements and management plans for the beach - Fort - Castle Hill area.
- Strengthened pedestrian links between town centre, riverside and Fort/Castle Hill areas.
- Traffic management to reduce the severance effect of the ring road.