

East Hampshire District Council

# Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011 - 2028



Part 2 - Supporting Information  
July 2013

## **Acknowledgements**

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Cover photos courtesy of East Hampshire District Council, Environment X Change, South Downs National Park Authority. Left to right, Alice Holt woodland ride, Alice Holt Visitor Centre, River Wey, heathland near Whitehill & Bordon, downland scarp slope, Whitehill & Bordon.

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# Developing the East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

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## Introduction

This document forms Part 2 of the East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011-2028.

Part 1, the Main Report, provides a summary strategy document and outlines:

- Strategic Aims and Priorities for green infrastructure in East Hampshire;
- Potential Priority Actions for delivery.

This document provides information that supports the findings and recommendations of the strategy's Part 1: Main Report. It includes the information used and the approach and methodology applied to analysing data and developing the proposals.

Together the documents provide evidence in support of the East Hampshire and South Downs National Park Authority Joint Core Strategy.

Alongside earlier studies,<sup>1</sup> the East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy provides the framework for a planned, high quality, well-connected and multifunctional green infrastructure network for East Hampshire.

This document is targeted at planners and developers, and should be read alongside the Main Report to guide and support the planning and development of green infrastructure in both new developments and existing areas.

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<sup>1</sup> UE Associates (2011), Green Infrastructure Study for East Hampshire; Whitehill & Bordon Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010; Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010

## Methodology and Approach

The strategy area includes the district of East Hampshire and an adjoining zone of 10km into all neighbouring authority areas. The strategy is focused on the areas between and joining with the district's settlements and looks outside the district boundary in analysing green infrastructure provision and opportunities for improvement.

In developing the strategy, the following tasks were carried out:

- 1 Review national policy and local strategies as they relate to green infrastructure;
- 2 Sourcing and proofing information, including mapping;
- 3 A baseline review and update of information on East Hampshire's green infrastructure assets, taking account of plans of neighbouring authorities and considering green infrastructure at a landscape scale and across political boundaries;
- 4 Using thematic and spatial analyses to identify deficiencies in provision and opportunities that will provide multifunctional benefits and enhance connectivity and in particular:
  - a) Highlighting issues for existing green infrastructure assets posed by housing growth;
  - b) Proposing measures to enhance and protect existing green infrastructure assets;
- 5 Setting out themes, strategic aims and high-level priorities to guide the planning and prioritising of green infrastructure;
- 6 Proposing a strategic multifunctional green infrastructure network;
- 7 Running workshop sessions for district Councillors and Key Stakeholders to inform the development of strategic priorities.

The structure of this document broadly follows these tasks.

The Strategy was developed considering good practice in planning and in delivering green infrastructure. Further information on key green infrastructure concepts and best practice is also provided, along with a glossary of green infrastructure terminology.

## Policy and Strategy Review

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This section summarises the national, regional and local policies that act as drivers for green infrastructure and should help inform policy development for inclusion in the East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy.

### National Policies

The recent shift towards spatial planning within a statutory framework offers an unprecedented opportunity to take a more strategic and proactive approach to green infrastructure planning.

This strategy seeks to respond to existing and emerging national policy by:

- Raising awareness of how green infrastructure can improve health, quality of life and resilience to climate change in East Hampshire;
- Enabling local communities and partnerships to take local action through the consideration of the guiding principles and priorities in this strategy; helping to inform planning at a local level, e.g. through Neighbourhood Plans;
- Promoting a consistent approach to green infrastructure throughout the district, including the use of common definitions and standards;
- Providing the basis for a consistent policy position on green infrastructure in Local Plan-making.
- Supporting a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of GI at a local level.

Green infrastructure is an important component of sustainable development. Emerging Government planning policy calls for planning authorities to recognise green assets that already deliver benefits, so that they can be protected from development and where necessary improved and extended.

### The Natural Environment White Paper

The Government recognises the functions that green infrastructure delivers and its role in underpinning individual and community health and well-being. These functions include: conserving and enhancing the natural environment; providing wildlife corridors; reducing noise and air pollution; providing access routes and providing a wide range of opportunities for engagement and active citizenship, sport, recreation and children's play.<sup>2</sup>

The Government's Natural Environment White Paper, 'The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature', recognises the benefits of a healthy, functioning, natural environment and supports putting nature at the heart of decision making.

The White Paper is informed by the findings of the National Ecosystem Assessment,<sup>3</sup> which showed that over 30% of the services provided by the natural environment are in decline along with a reduction in the quality and quantity of urban greenspaces and by the 'Lawton

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<sup>2</sup> More information on green infrastructure functions is included on page 73.

<sup>3</sup> UK-NEA (2011) The UK National Ecosystem Assessment: Synthesis of the Key Findings. Cambridge: UK National Ecosystem Assessment.

Review' report, 'Making Space for Nature'.<sup>4</sup> The White Paper supports the need for ecological networks in an approach that aims to halt biodiversity loss; and refers to green infrastructure as completing 'the links in our national ecological network' and 'one of the most effective tools available to us in managing environmental risks such as flooding and heat waves'.

The White Paper introduced a number of policies and initiatives, including:

- **Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs)** work at a strategic scale for a better natural environment. The LNPs are encouraged to work closely with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Health and Well-being Boards to, among other things, contribute to local plan- and decision-making.
- **Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)** are intended to enhance and reconnect nature on a significant scale, where the opportunities and benefits justify such action. They provide bigger, more connected places for nature to live in and adapt to climate change with a fund of £7.5 million to support the first 12 areas. NIAs are established through partnerships of local authorities, local communities, landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations, based on a local assessment of opportunities for restoring and connecting nature. The White Paper states that 'local authorities will be able to use local planning to support Nature Improvement Areas, including identifying them in their local plans where they choose, while not deterring sustainable development'.

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<sup>4</sup> J. Lawton et al. (2010) Making Space for Nature: a Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network. Report to Defra. London: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

- **Biodiversity Offsets** are designed to deliver biodiversity benefits in compensation for losses arising from development, through compensatory habitat expansion or restoration elsewhere.

## The Biodiversity Strategy for England

The Biodiversity Strategy for England, 'Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services', published by the Government in August 2011,<sup>5</sup> builds on the Natural Environment White Paper. It sets out how international and European Union commitments are to be implemented and achieved. The reform of the planning system is identified as key to reducing environmental pressure from planning and development, by taking 'a strategic approach to planning for nature' and by retaining 'the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system'. Priority action 3.4 of the Biodiversity Strategy sets out how the approach of the planning system will guide development to the best location, encourage greener design and enhance natural networks.

The UK is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is committed to the new biodiversity goals and targets 'the Aichi Targets' agreed in 2010 and set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.<sup>6</sup> The UK is committed to developing and using a set of indicators to report on progress towards these international goals and targets.

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<sup>5</sup> Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services. London: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

<sup>6</sup> Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 Including Aichi Biodiversity Targets

## The Localism Act 2011

The Localism Act 2011 was one of the most far-reaching reforms of the planning system since 1947 and is bringing changes to all levels of planning:

- Strategic level: The Localism Act introduced the Duty to Co-operate, which requires local planning authorities to co-operate strategically on plan-making issues that cross administrative boundaries. Strategic planning matters can also be addressed through joint planning boards using existing powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, whereby local planning authorities can agree to prepare joint Development Plan Documents;
- Local level: The basic structure of local planning remains unchanged, but the content of Local Plans will be shaped by the content of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- Neighbourhood level: The Localism Act introduced a new voluntary neighbourhood planning process, including Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) and Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs). Such Plans and Orders have to be initiated by a Parish Council or a Neighbourhood Forum and once approved by a referendum they can be adopted as part of the Local Plan. A Local Greenspace designation was also introduced.

## The National Planning Policy Framework

The National Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>7</sup> consolidates and streamlines previous national planning guidance, which allows local authorities to have more control of planning, within the parameters of the NPPF.

The importance of green infrastructure is firmly embedded in the NPPF and states:

*'Local planning authorities should: set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure'.*

The NPPF clearly supports the objectives set out in the Natural Environment White Paper by stressing a proactive and strategic approach to planning for the natural environment. The NPPF requires local authorities to *'plan for biodiversity at a landscape scale across local authority boundaries'* and *'identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation'*.<sup>8</sup>

The NPPF makes it clear<sup>9</sup> that *'Plans should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value'* when practical and while having regard to other policies in the NPPF.

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<sup>7</sup> Department of Communities and Local Government (2012) The National Planning Policy Framework

<sup>8</sup> Paragraph 117

<sup>9</sup> Paragraph 110

The NPPF also states<sup>10</sup> that local planning authorities should develop criteria-based policies setting out how developments on, or affecting, protected wildlife sites should be judged, making distinctions between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites. Planning policies and decision-making should seek to protect and enhance natural and heritage assets appropriate to their significance. Policies and decisions should also encourage multiple benefits from land use, recognising benefits such as wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage and food production.

The NPPF also states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

*'Minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures'.*

The NPPF identifies sustainable development as the purpose of the planning system and conserving and enhancing the natural environment as a *'core planning principle'*. While specific policies on conserving and enhancing the natural environment are addressed in the NPPF, these should not be considered in isolation, as other natural environment related policies and their consideration in plan- and decision-making, can be found throughout the document, specifically in relation to GI and evidence-gathering. The objectives for the natural environment within the planning system are set out and state that the *'planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by'*:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;
- Recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;
- Minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- Preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability;
- Remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

### Healthy Lives, Healthy People White Paper

The White Paper, 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People (2010): Our strategy for public health in England', also recognises that the quality of the environment, including the availability of greenspace and the influence of poor air quality and noise, affects health and well-being. The "utilisation of greenspace for exercise and health reasons" is referenced as an indicator in the Department of Health's, 'A public health outcomes framework for England, 2013-2016'.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Paragraph 113

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<sup>11</sup> Department of Health (2012) - A public health outcomes framework for England, 2013-2016

## Report of the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives Implementation Review March 2012<sup>12</sup>

The Government strongly supports the aims of the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives<sup>13</sup> to protect our rarest and most threatened habitats and species, which contribute to the economic value of our natural environment. This Government review aims to reduce burdens on business while maintaining the integrity of the purpose of the Directives.

Under this review, a new process allows developers of nationally significant infrastructure projects in England to agree evidence plans<sup>14</sup> with relevant statutory nature conservation bodies.

## Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013

This Act received Royal Assent on the 25th April 2013. It aims to reduce the bureaucratic barriers that delay and discourage business investment, housing development, new infrastructure and job creation. In relation to green infrastructure the Act will affect the provision of town and village greens.

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<sup>12</sup> Defra (2012) Report of the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives Implementation Review (together with a summary of measures)

<sup>13</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. The Habitats Directive is primarily transposed in England under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and in the offshore marine area by the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 2007

<sup>14</sup> An evidence plan is a formal mechanism to agree the information required of a developer to supply to the Planning Inspectorate as part of a Development Consent Order application to help ensure compliance with the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives. The guidance published explains the new evidence plan process.

## Local Plans and Policies

### East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy

The significant role of green infrastructure is recognised in the submitted Joint Core Strategy. Green infrastructure is required to be maintained and enhanced on new developments and the avoidance and mitigation measures set out in the Joint Core Strategy's Habitats Regulations Assessment are to be followed. Account will also need to be taken of other relevant Joint Core Strategy policies such as landscape, biodiversity, flood risk and design. New green infrastructure must be provided either through on-site provision or financial contributions. The size of contribution will be linked to the scale of the development and the resulting new green infrastructure must be located as close as possible to the development it is intended to serve.

Given the importance of green infrastructure, the district and the South Downs National Park Authority are including a policy in their Joint Core Strategy (Policy CP26); helping to set priorities for green infrastructure for East Hampshire into the future.

### South Downs National Park Management Plan (working draft)

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) covers 57% of East Hampshire District.

Paragraphs 52 and 201 of the 2010 National 'Vision and Circular' for National Parks specifically reference green infrastructure and the importance of strategic greenspace networks.

The authority is currently collating evidence to support its Management Plan (currently in working draft and due to be published later in 2013) and its Local Plan, to be published in 2015. The SDNPA recognises the need for effective policies that will enhance green infrastructure provision and its long term management. This Green Infrastructure Strategy reflects the ambitions of the Management Plan and is consistent with its draft policies.

### East Hampshire District Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026

The Sustainable Community Strategy<sup>15</sup> sets out the vision for the district and policies or outcomes that all local organisations should work toward in the future. The priorities for the strategy reflect the challenges that the district will face in the future, including an ageing population, obesity, climate change and consumption of natural resources. The measures proposed include improvements to the quality and provision of green infrastructure as essential to achieving a sustainable future for the district.

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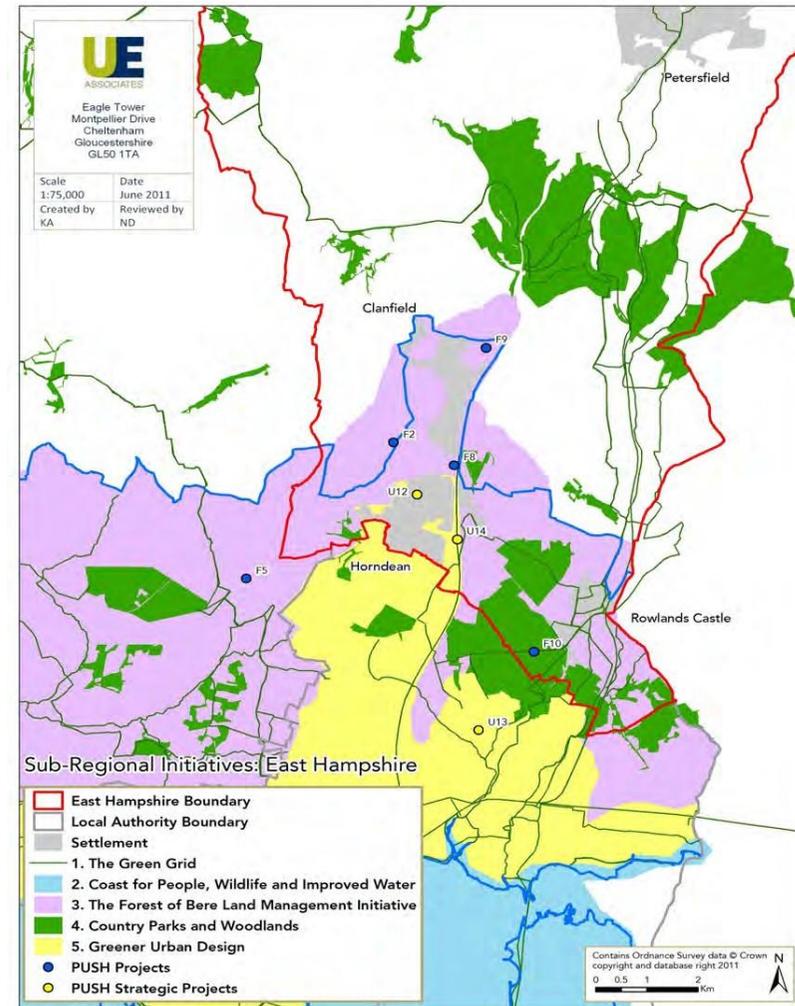
<sup>15</sup> East Hampshire Community Partnership - East Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026

## The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) has developed a Strategy for Green Infrastructure (June 2010) that sets out a comprehensive plan, identifying the existing green infrastructure resource in South Hampshire and proposing enhancements to create a strategic network of greenspaces to meet the needs of the growing sub-region. The southern part of the East Hampshire district lies within the PUSH study area, see Plan 1.<sup>16</sup>

An Implementation Framework has identified a number of key strategic projects that are relevant to East Hampshire:

- Forest of Bere;
- Havant Thicket;
- The Strategic Countryside Recreation Network;
- Woodfuel Renewable Energy Project;
- Local Sustainable Food Production.



Plan 1 - PUSH Area and Initiatives within East Hampshire

<sup>16</sup> Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010

## A Green Infrastructure Study for East Hampshire

An earlier green infrastructure study was commissioned for the Joint Core Strategy (UE Associates, 2011) and concentrated on the nine settlements in the District. The study sought to identify the green infrastructure network at these settlements, recognise the services it provided and establish a framework for delivering a series of interventions and actions to strengthen and enhance the network.

## The Whitehill & Bordon Green Infrastructure Strategy

A Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011) and a Framework for the Long-term Management and Maintenance of Green Infrastructure (2012) have been developed for the planned Eco-town at Whitehill & Bordon within East Hampshire District. Their proposals define a vision for how the greenspace network of Whitehill & Bordon will deliver a range of benefits to the local community. A range of strategic priorities will deliver long-term management objectives, relating to connectivity of greenspaces, biodiversity, water resources, landscape character and a need for greenspaces to 'pay for themselves' wherever possible. The management plan provides a framework for the long-term maintenance and management of green infrastructure with the Eco-town, which identifies bespoke green infrastructure management models to reflect the local landscape character and the Eco-town vision.

## Plans and Policies of Neighbouring Authorities

The study area of this strategy extends by 10km into each of the surrounding local authority areas. The green infrastructure strategies and plans of the surrounding authorities were sourced to provide a more complete picture of aspirations and to help in the development of the Strategy. Some of the authorities have produced green infrastructure strategies, whilst others have developed policies or are in the process of developing their plans.

The available plans and policies are set out below:

- [Basingstoke and Deane BC \(2012\)](#): Towards a Green Infrastructure strategy for Basingstoke and Deane;
- [Winchester City Council \(2010\)](#): Green Infrastructure Study;
- [Havant Borough Council \(2012\)](#): Green Infrastructure Study;
- [Gosport Borough Local Plan \(2011-2029\)](#): Green Infrastructure and Open Space Background Paper (December 2012);
- Hart District Council references include Core Strategy policy CP6 and a section in their Infrastructure Delivery Plan 3.9;
- [Rushmoor Borough Council](#): green infrastructure plans are evidenced in their Infrastructure Plan Update (October 2012), notably the authority falls within a 5km zone of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and as such all new dwellings must provide appropriate mitigation.

## Biodiversity Action Plan for East Hampshire

The East Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2009 (BAP) provides a vision and framework for future action to preserve and enhance biodiversity in East Hampshire. It is recognised by the District Council as an evidence based document, and provides an overview of the district's local biodiversity resources, as well as guidance on how these might best be protected and improved. The BAP provides evidence based biodiversity information to feed into the Local Plan. Alongside the Hampshire BAP and locally identified targets, it offers a framework to guide the future targeting of resources.

The BAP has a role in raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity, promoting a range of biodiversity conservation measures and identifying resources required for action and working towards best practice.

## Sourcing and Proofing Information

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### Sourcing and Collecting Data

Reports and mapping were sourced from a range of organisations, including East Hampshire District Council, the South Downs National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council, among others.

Alongside existing information, new data sets were created where information was either missing or was considered to be out of date.

### Data proofing

All data sets have been checked to verify that data is as current and correct as possible.

Data on Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) was derived from an earlier pilot study report<sup>17</sup> and at that time was verified by local authority officers both in East Hampshire District and neighbouring local authorities. The data were re-checked by officers for this strategy.

Data from open space assessments, including PPG17, were sourced from the local authority owners, where available. Similarly, data on proposed major housing developments both within East Hampshire and in neighbouring areas were sourced direct from the relevant local planning authority.

### Mapping

Mapping was produced to identify green infrastructure assets, areas of deficit and potential opportunities for improvement across East Hampshire. The maps provide a picture of the current green infrastructure network, information on designated and environmentally significant areas, the public rights of way network, rivers and streams, landscape character, woodland coverage, heritage and socio-economic issues, including health and deprivation.

The area of mapping includes a 10km buffer around East Hampshire in order to identify potential cross border priorities and opportunities.

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<sup>17</sup> Sheils Flynn (2011), Access Network Mapping, South Downs National Park and Adjacent districts

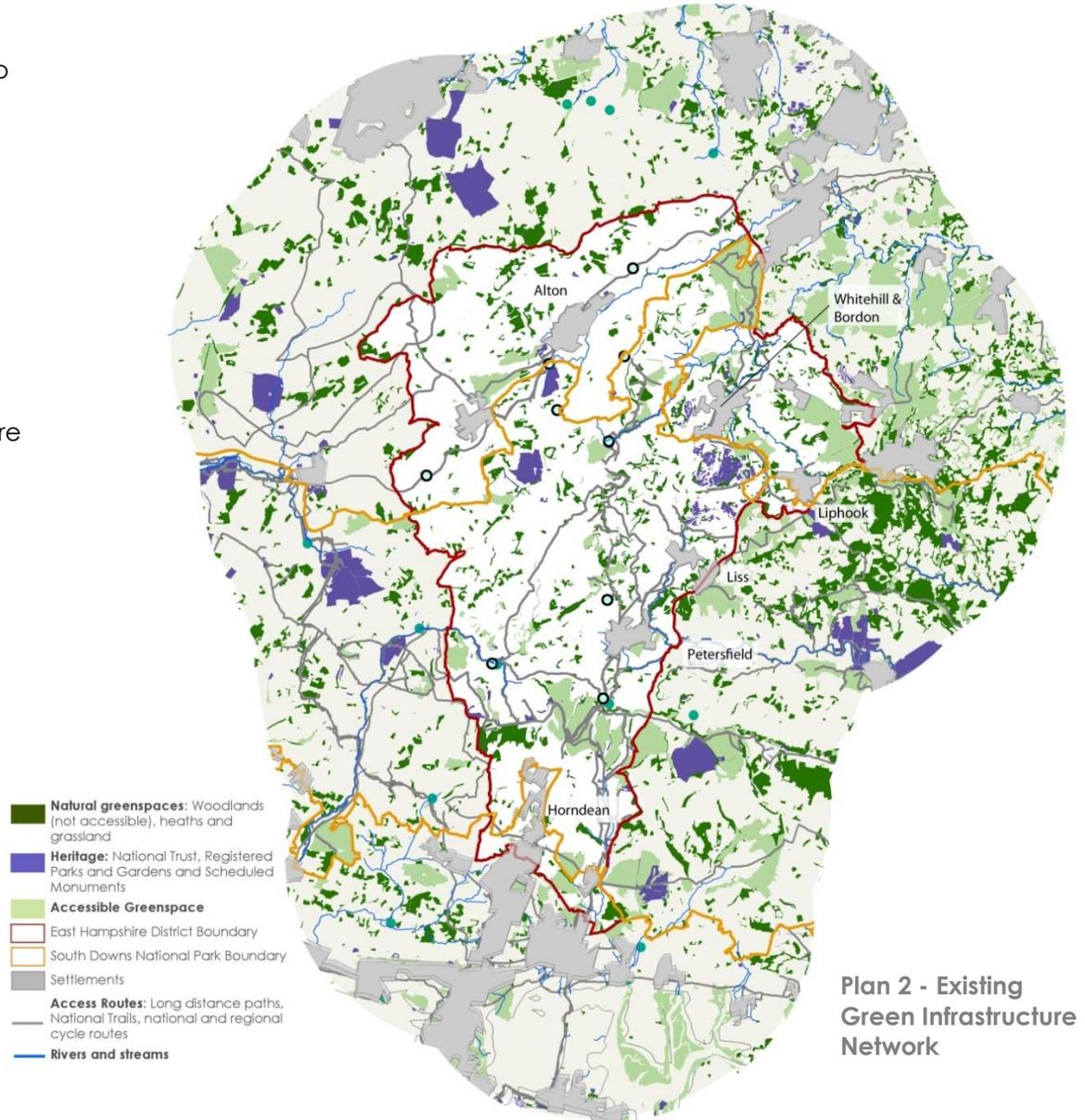
# Baseline Review of East Hampshire's Green Infrastructure

Mapped and documented information provide an up to date picture of the current green infrastructure resource within East Hampshire and its neighbouring areas.

The following maps provide a baseline review of the existing green infrastructure resource of East Hampshire, arranged under a series of themes.

## The Existing Green Infrastructure Network

Plan 2 shows East Hampshire's existing green infrastructure network. It shows the extent of accessible greenspace and natural greenspaces, areas recognised for their heritage interest, key long-distance walking and cycling routes and the rivers and streams of East Hampshire.



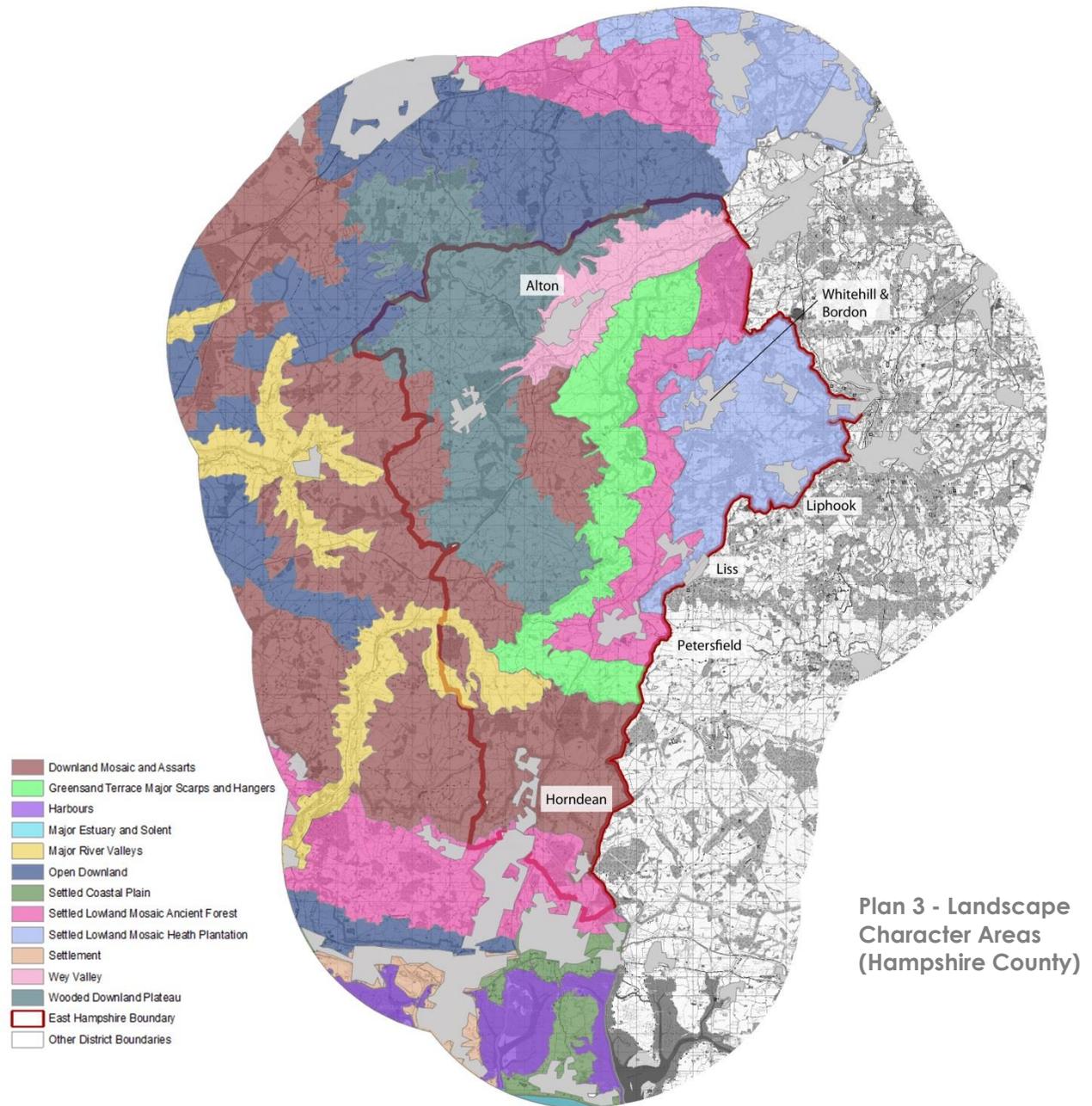
## Landscape Character

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is important in helping to define the East Hampshire landscape and the 'sense of place'. The character is made up from a combination of factors including underlying geology, soil types, human changes over time, vegetation cover and perception.

The landscape of East Hampshire ranges across a number of different character areas, see Plan 3, each one supporting its own type of natural and semi-natural vegetation such as chalk grassland, broad-leaved woodland or heathland.

The Landscape Character Mapping helps to build a picture of where areas are most suitable for particular vegetation cover (e.g. woodlands, grassland and heaths) and other interventions.

Landscape Character Areas cross boundaries into other authorities. The following summary descriptions of LCAs are focused on the qualities of the East Hampshire landscape and the forces for change, both of which have informed the development of this Strategy.



**Plan 3 - Landscape Character Areas (Hampshire County)**

## East Hampshire Lowland Mosaic

**Key Qualities:** A clay vale landscape of scenic beauty with views to the adjoining wooded hangers and Weald with a fairly dense lane and track network becoming increasingly peaceful moving northward. A predominantly farmed and grazed landscape where the biodiversity interest is limited to semi natural and ancient woodland of wood pasture origin, particularly in the north and small stream valley floor wetland habitats of the Wey and Rother.

### Forces for Change:

- New small scale development within and on the fringes of settlements;
- Farm conversion to residential;
- Loss of grazing land management practices;
- Pressure for urban fringe use related activities;
- Climate change;
- Forestry and woodland management change;
- Mineral extraction particularly on the eastern side.

## Meon Valley

A small part of this Character Area lies within the central western area of East Hampshire.

**Key Qualities:** A chalk stream valley with varied settings from wooded lowland to the Down, combining natural beauty in harmony with the cultural heritage of the settlements and surrounding landscape, surviving influences of water meadows and strong connection with the higher surrounding land through valley side drove routes.

### Forces for Change:

- Recreation pressures and increase visitor draw due to designation of the National Park.

## East Hampshire Wooded Downland Plateau

**Key Qualities:** This area has a remote tranquil character formed by the mosaic of pasture, arable and woodland in an elevated downland landscape, with occasional long distance views, quiet lanes and sparse settlement but with good opportunities for access. There are small nucleated settlements in elevated positions with prominent church spires above the tree line. The area includes a number of woodland sites, including several of ancient origin and several large areas of plantation woodland often well connected by wooded hedgerows, with a mosaic of permanent pasture.

### Forces for Change:

- Potential pressure for new small scale development within and on the fringes of villages;
- Farm conversion to residential and possible loss of grazing land management practices to gardens and paddocks;
- Climate change - storm frequency and intensity and changes in crop choice;
- Uncertainty of grant funding for woodland management, particularly coppice management, and balancing the nature conservation interest (of potential reversion to ancient woodland) against the recreational and amenity value of accessible plantation woodland.

## South East Hampshire Downs

**Key Qualities:** A wide variety of historic landscapes which are distinctly visible as a series of east-west bands from open downland to enclosures and areas of surviving former drove routes which give the fieldscape a structure based on ancient countryside. Predominantly arable farmland, but with significant areas of semi-natural habitat including semi natural ancient woodland and downland. These habitats tend to be in visually prominent locations (steep areas and higher ground) increasing the perception that the landscape appears to have a high semi-natural content.

### Forces for Change:

- New small scale development within and on the fringes of settlement particularly in the south east of the area;
- Farm conversion to residential and possible loss of grazing land management practices;
- Pressure for urban fringe related activities and recreational pressures on open access and country park/countryside service sites;
- Climate change - storm and winterbourne frequency and intensity and changes in crop choice;
- Need to increase take up of land management grant schemes; Increases in traffic and recreation pressure resulting from the South Downs National Park designation.

## Western Weald Forest and Farmland Heath

**Key Qualities:** This area has a high density of dispersed small settlements in wooded settings, which is important in maintaining rural and tranquil character. There are distinctive vernacular building materials of carrstone and red brick and tile hanging. This landscape represents the western extremity of the Wealden heaths and is notable for its rich interlinking deciduous semi natural ancient woodland, acid ponds and heathland assemblages, in particular Woolmer Forest. It is a predominantly high quality landscape of perceived natural beauty and remoteness provided by extensive and rich semi natural habitats and tracts of accessible heath and woodland common.

### Forces for Change:

- New large scale urban extensions associated with the Whitehill & Bordon Eco-town, with a change from rural to suburban character;
- Farm conversion to residential and loss of traditional land management practices;
- Pressure for urban fringe use related activities;
- Climate change on semi natural habitats;
- Forestry and woodland management change;
- Mineral extraction potential in the west.

## East Hampshire Hangers and Greensand Terrace

**Key Qualities:** The hangers and scarp downland mosaic represent some of the most extensive unenclosed chalk landscape in Hampshire while the greensand terrace comprises a distinctive and intact ancient landscape pattern. The use of malmstone as a building material and the presence of oast houses and kilns are particularly concentrated in this area. The ancient hanger woodland is internationally important, comprising a range of uncommon woodland types and a rich ground flora. The scarp hangers are traversed by long distance paths, narrow and sunken lanes and open access land on former common and downland providing a focus for visits and providing extensive views over the South Downs landscape.

### Forces for Change:

- Likely pressure for new small scale development within and on the fringes of villages;
- Farm conversion to residential and possible loss of grazing land management practices to gardens and paddocks;
- Climate change - storm frequency and intensity and changes in crop choice;
- Uncertainty of grant funding streams for woodland management and in particular coppice management;
- Balancing nature conservation interest of the hanger woodland with recreational pressures.

## Forest of Bere (East)

In East Hampshire this area includes Havant Thicket and Southleigh Forest.

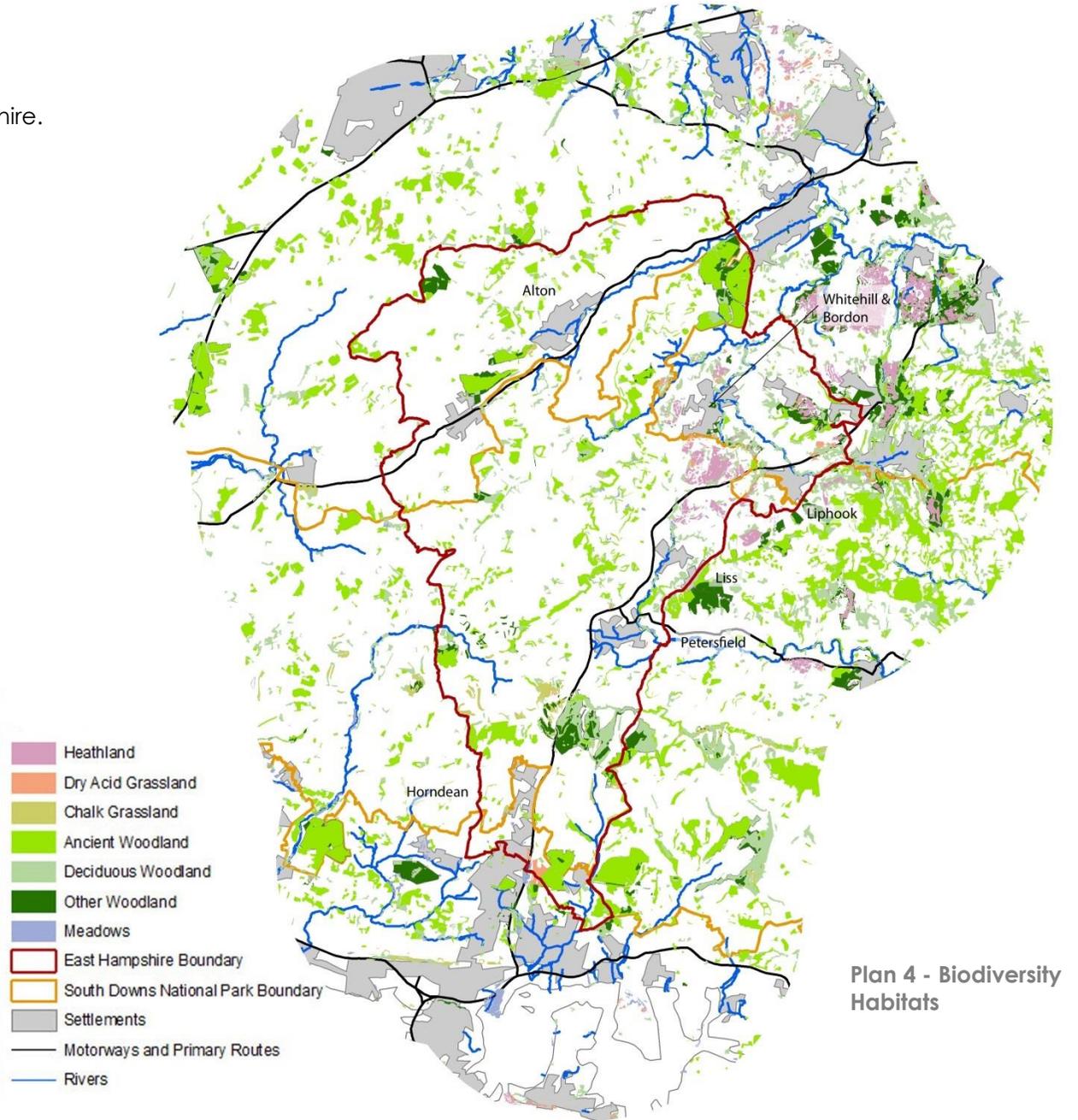
**Key Qualities:** This area includes remnant islands of former Forest landscapes with 19th century enclosures on the fringes resulting in a well wooded landscape and thick hedgerow network with mature even age oaks. There are traditionally dispersed small settlements on the Forest edge. The area has a high proportion of semi natural habitats, many of which have SINC designations, especially ancient woodland, wet woodland, wood pasture, wooded common and hedge, unimproved grassland and islands of heath and acid soil related habitat. Commons and Forestry Commission managed sites provide local countryside to large centres of population, visually separated by Portsdown Hill.

### Forces for Change:

- New large scale urban extensions;
- Farm conversion to residential and loss of traditional land management practices;
- Pressure for urban fringe use related activities;
- Enabling greater access opportunities for local people with the potential for conflicting land uses;
- Climate change on semi natural habitats; Forestry and woodland management change.

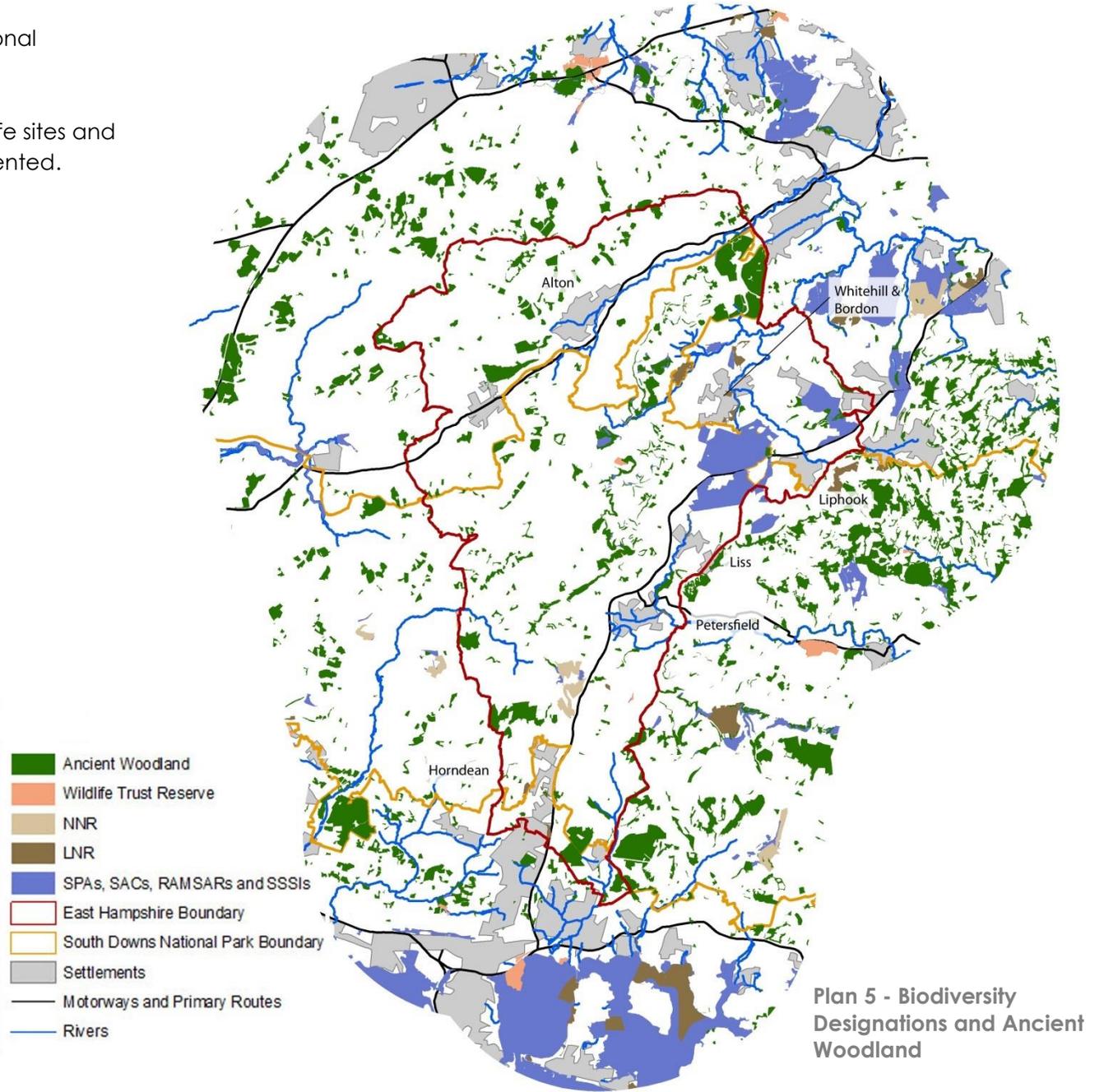
# Biodiversity

Plans 4 shows the habitat types across East Hampshire.



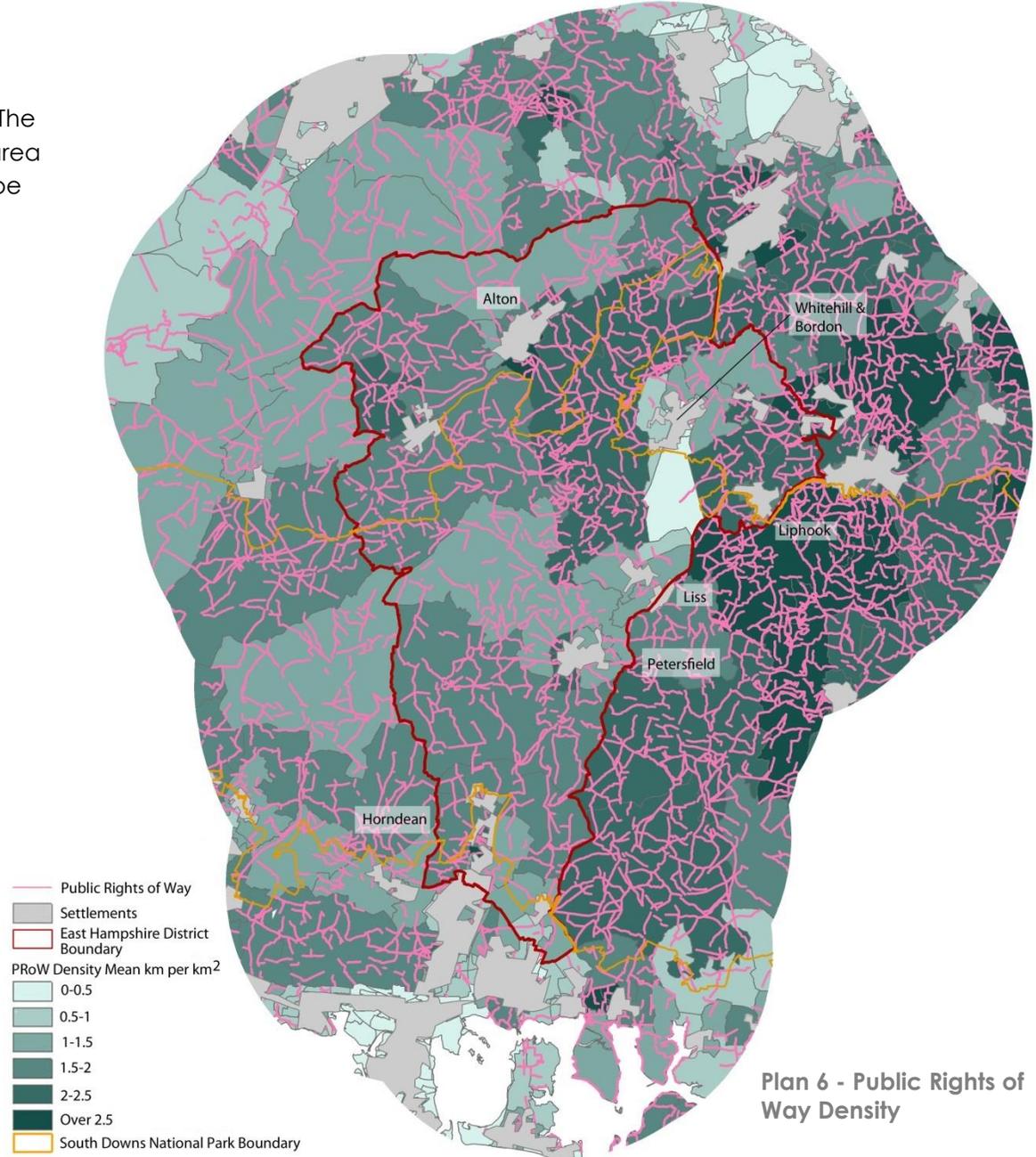
Plan 5 shows the local, national and international designations, as well as ancient woodland.

These maps show the range of valuable wildlife sites and highlight areas where sites are small or fragmented.



## Access and Recreation - Routes

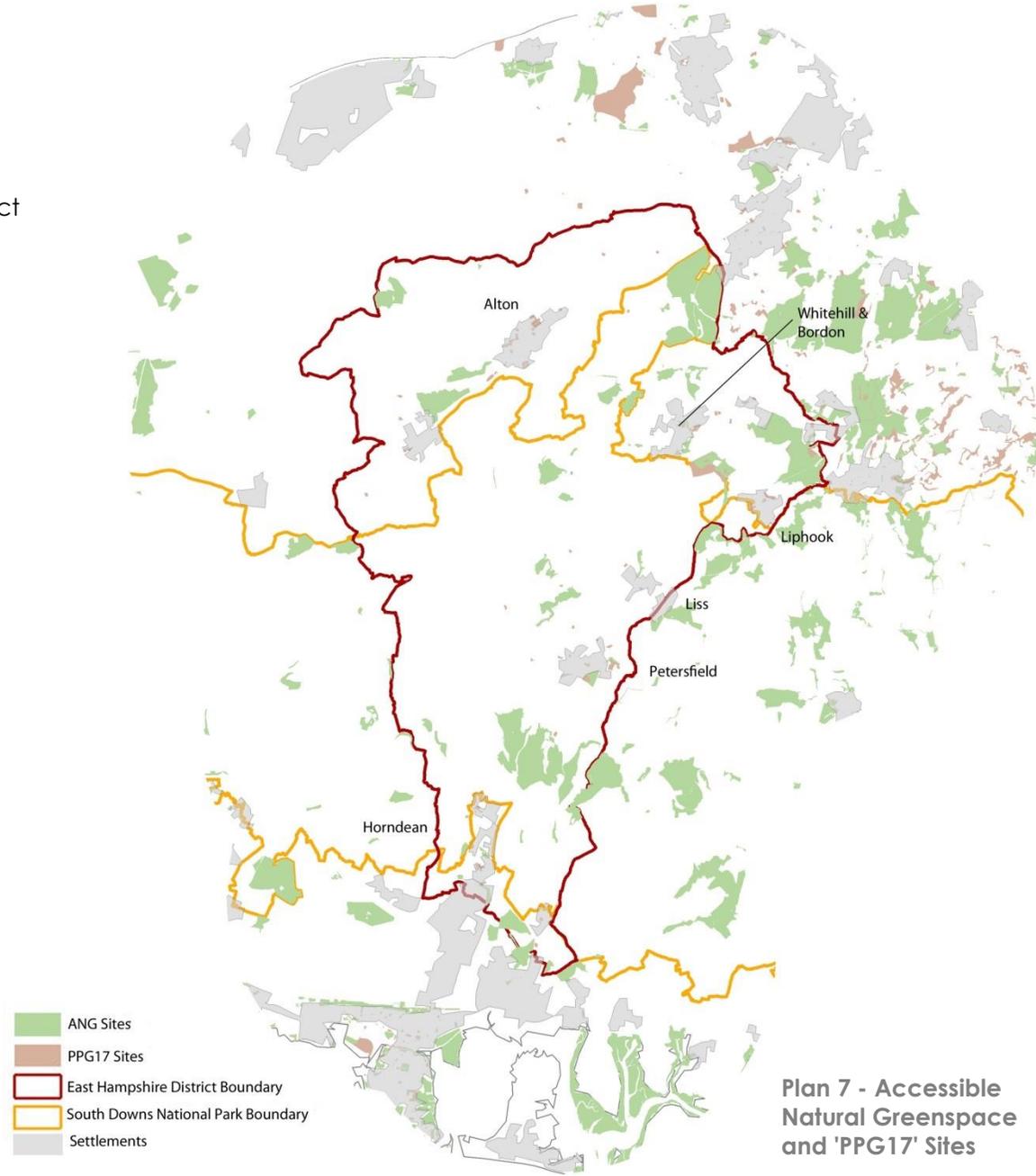
Plan 6 shows the extent of the rights of way network. The shading denotes the density of routes in a particular area and provides a guide to where improvements could be made to the network.



## Access and Recreation - Open Spaces

Areas of Accessible Natural Greenspace and open spaces, assessed in the district's East Hampshire District Council Open Spaces Report (2008) as part of their PPG 17 assessment, were updated and mapped.

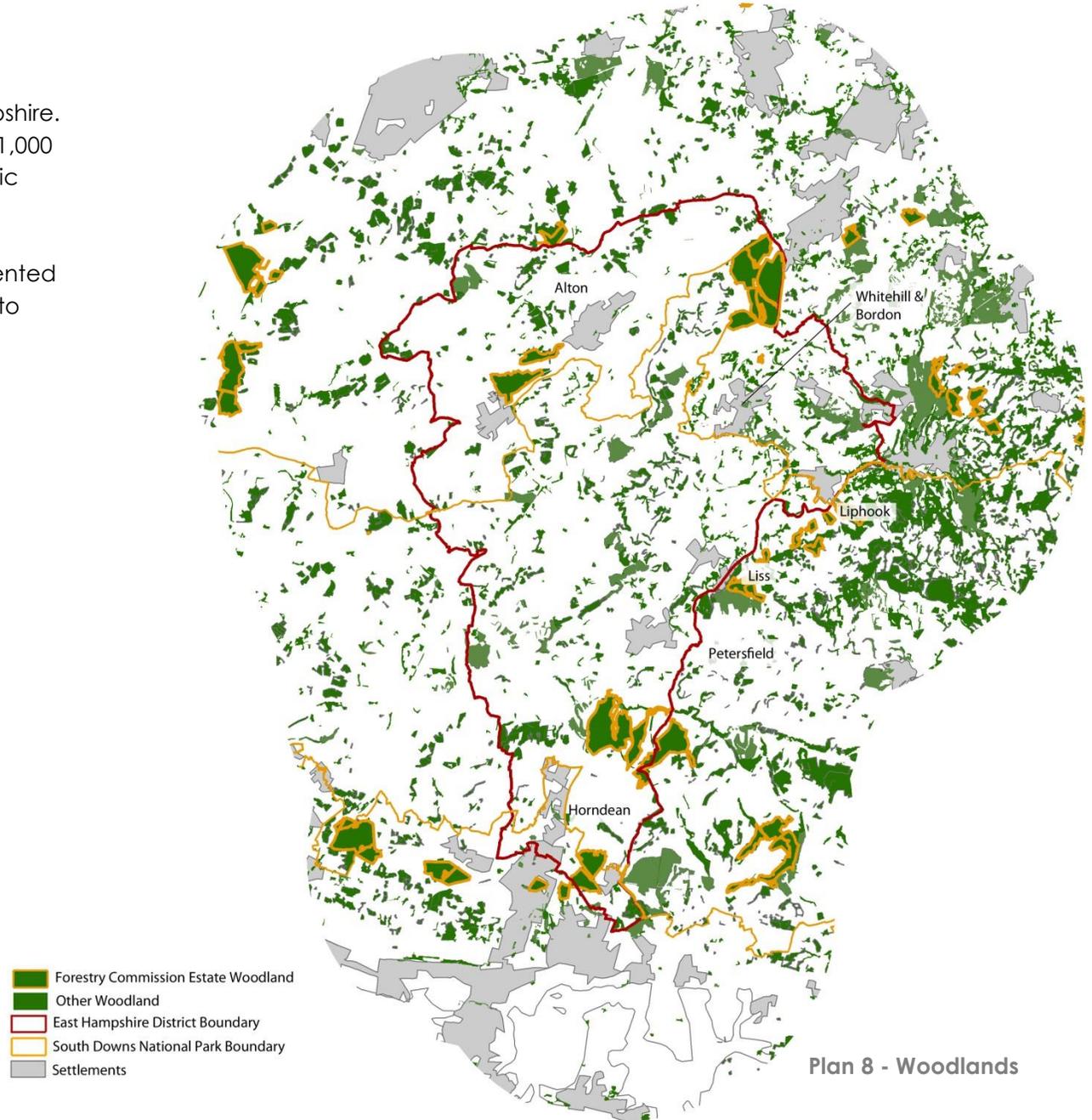
Plan 7 shows the extent of publicly accessible open spaces, including sports and informal recreation and accessible natural greenspace areas larger than 2 hectares and woodlands open to the public. Areas accessible only by rights of way are not included.



## Woodlands

Plan 8 shows the woodland resource in East Hampshire. There are extensive areas of woodland totalling 11,000 hectares, only 2,100 hectares of which are in public ownership.

A number of woodland sites are small and fragmented and not well-managed, making them vulnerable to pressures from recreation and climate change.



## Health and Well-Being

Plans 9 and 10 illustrate health and deprivation in East Hampshire's communities.

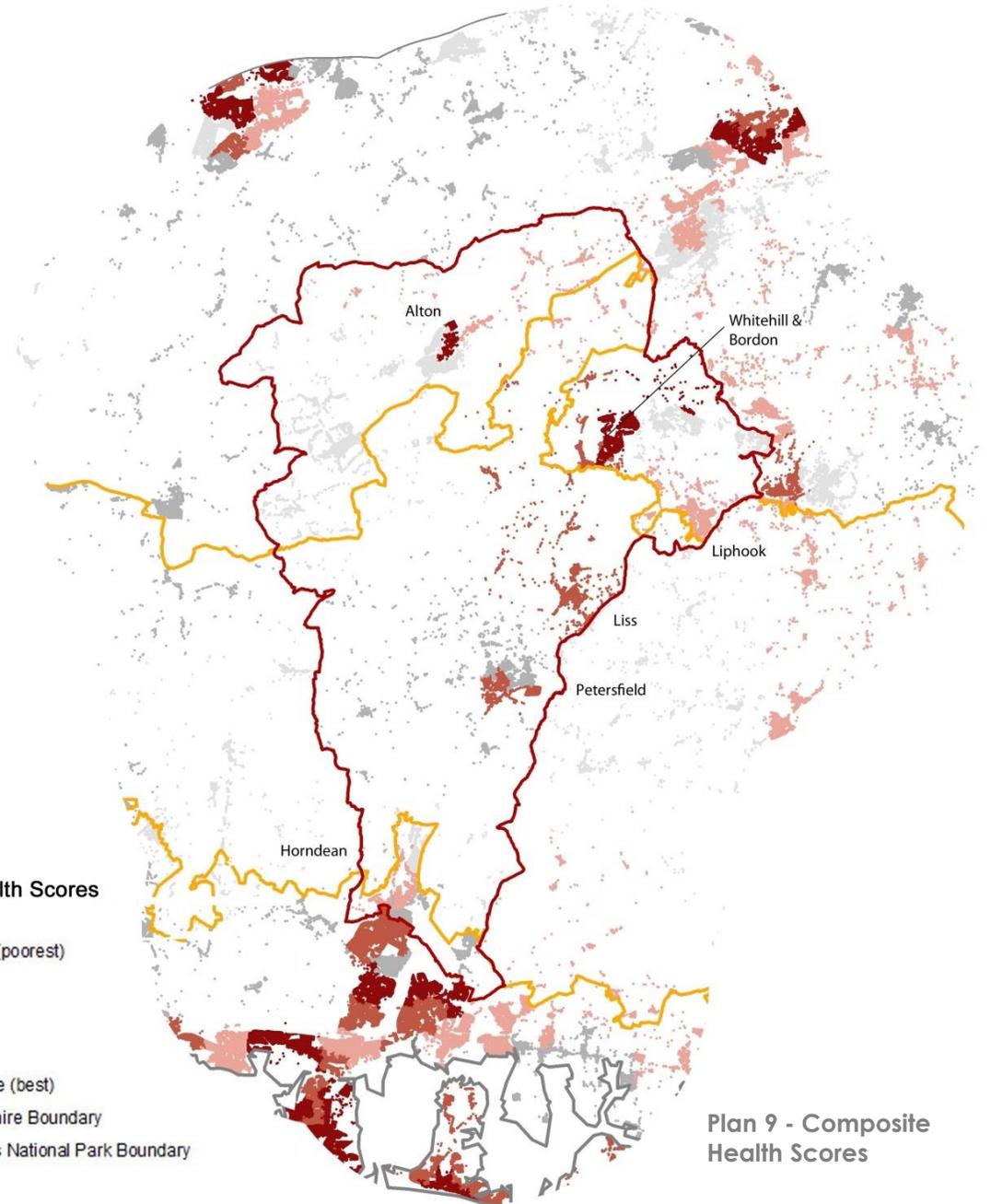
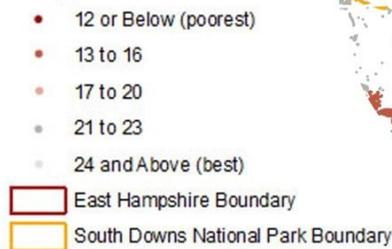
Plan 9 shows Natural England's 'Composite Health Scores', based on the 2001 Census.

The Composite Health Scores are devised by compiling data for those conditions which are known to benefit from access to natural greenspace:<sup>18</sup>

- Physical conditions: heart disease, stroke, hip fracture, obesity and diabetes;
- Life expectancy;
- Physical activity;
- Well-being issues including stress reduction and lowering of blood pressure); and
- Mental health data.

A score is assigned to each measured area<sup>19</sup> for each of the above indicators and these scores are then combined and ranked to indicate the health of the population in those areas, with the highest scores representing the best health.

### Composite Health Scores By Household



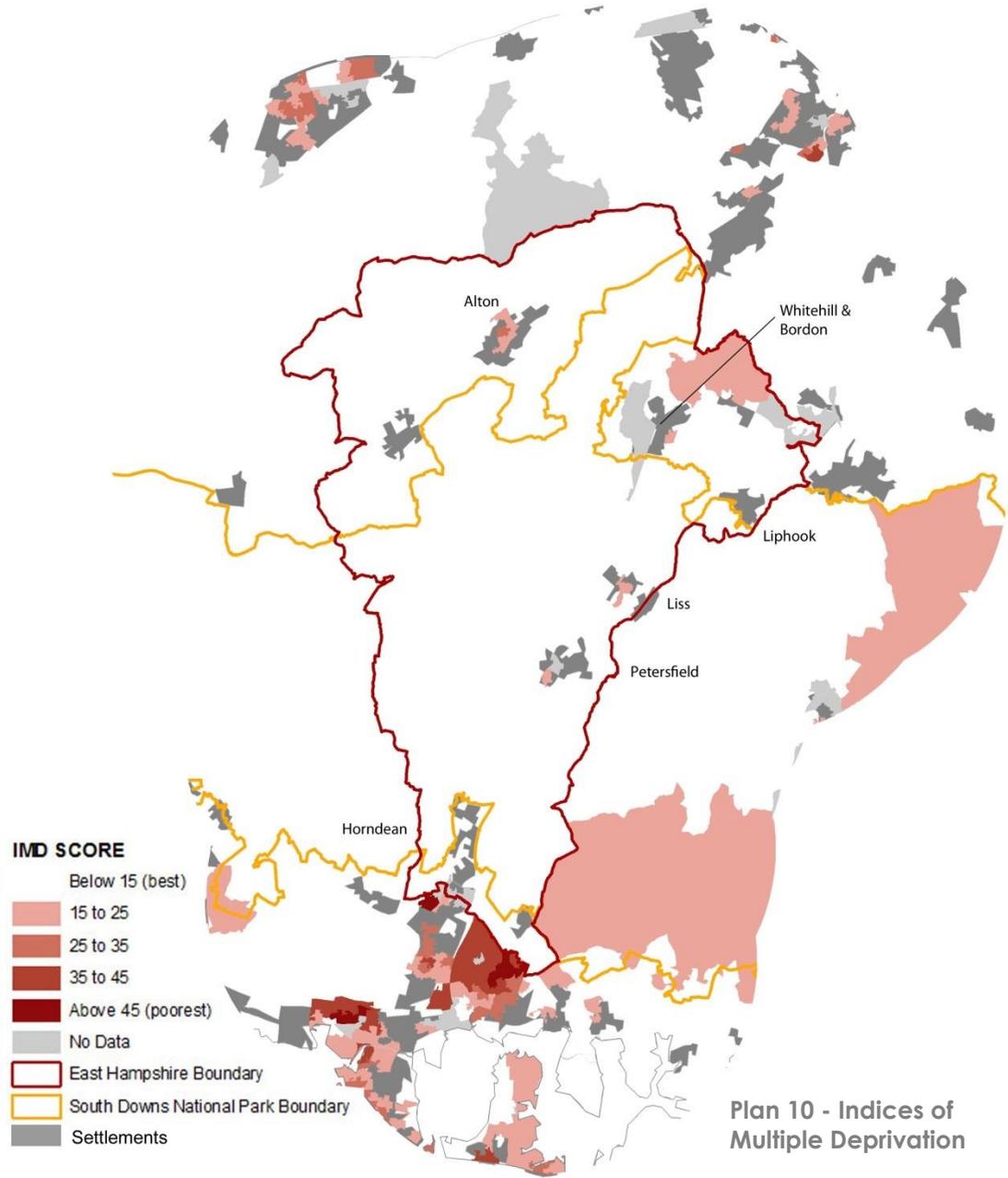
Plan 9 - Composite Health Scores

<sup>18</sup> see also Data and Sources Table in Appendix

<sup>19</sup> Middle Super Output Area

Plan 10 shows Indices of Deprivation from the 2011 Census.

East Hampshire is one of the least deprived districts in Hampshire and indeed in England. It is ranked 332 out of 354 districts (354 being the least deprived).<sup>20</sup> However, as these plans demonstrate there are some inequalities in health and deprivation across the district.



<sup>20</sup> From East Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026

## Assessment of Deficiencies and Opportunities

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An analysis of mapped and other data helped identify areas where there are deficits in green infrastructure provision by:

- Applying accepted standards;
- Applying national and/or local policy objectives or aspirations;
- Layering baseline and other data mapping;
- Identifying where the green infrastructure resource is currently under pressure e.g. fragmented habitats and areas of existing recreation pressure;
- Identifying where the resource may be under pressure in future e.g. as a result of climate change, or recreation pressure as a result of housing growth from within East Hampshire and neighbouring districts;
- Identifying where there are gaps in provision such as in the access network and in the distribution of types of open space;
- Highlighting socio-economic factors including measures of health and deprivation in the local communities, together with deficiency in local open space and access routes, and
- Applying local knowledge.

Standards for green infrastructure are discussed on pages 26 and 70.

This Strategy applies the national Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) in assessing the type, size and accessibility of greenspaces.

Table 2 on page 75 shows the national standard for accessible natural greenspace (ANGSt). The standard is used to assess East Hampshire and its neighbouring authorities (in the study area) in order to determine deficiencies in types of accessible greenspace.

The table shows the number and percentage of households in East Hampshire and surrounding districts within the study area that meet each part of the standard. For East Hampshire this is based on a total of 31,630 households.

The results indicate deficits in all parts of the standard, but in particular for local greenspaces (within 300m walking distance) and in large sites of a country park scale. The exception is the standard of 100 hectare sites within 5km of households, where East Hampshire is just short of meeting the standard. Overall, East Hampshire meets the standard better than its neighbouring areas.

## Discussion on Green Infrastructure Standards in East Hampshire

The East Hampshire District Council Open Space Report (2008) sets out the PPG 17 assessment for the district. It reports on ANG standards, but recommends a local standard and not the national standard used for this strategy.

The Open Spaces Report identifies the practical difficulties of applying the national standard to existing urban areas where there is not sufficient space to create the necessary open spaces and applies the standard of 1Ha per 1000 at a distance of 400m (the national standard for this local ANG provision in 2Ha per 1000 at 300m).

However, the report goes on to recommend that local provision should be at least 2Ha in size, which is the minimum size used in this strategy. As the national standard does not deal with quantities of open space per head of population, but instead is focussed on proximity,<sup>21</sup> the only difference between the Open Space report and this strategy in mapping at the lowest local standard is effectively the difference in proximity to households, i.e. a 300m national standard and a 400m local standard. This does not create a significant difference between these analyses and the PPG 17 report. Additionally, this strategy uses address point data in each of the urban areas whilst the PPG 17 study took in a wider area. The analyses in this strategy highlight the specific groups of households which do not meet the ANG standard, giving a 'finer grained' result.

The mapping exercise for East Hampshire in this strategy applies the methodology developed by Sheils Flynn in their 2011 study. The Green Infrastructure Study carried out for East Hampshire in 2011<sup>22</sup> makes reference to the local EHDC standard, but it too applies the national standard in its ANG mapping. This strategy builds on the earlier study and therefore the same standard has been applied.

The following pages show the key findings of spatial analyses on the existing strategic green infrastructure assets.

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<sup>21</sup> Except for a national provision standard in relation to LNRs, which is not considered in this strategy.

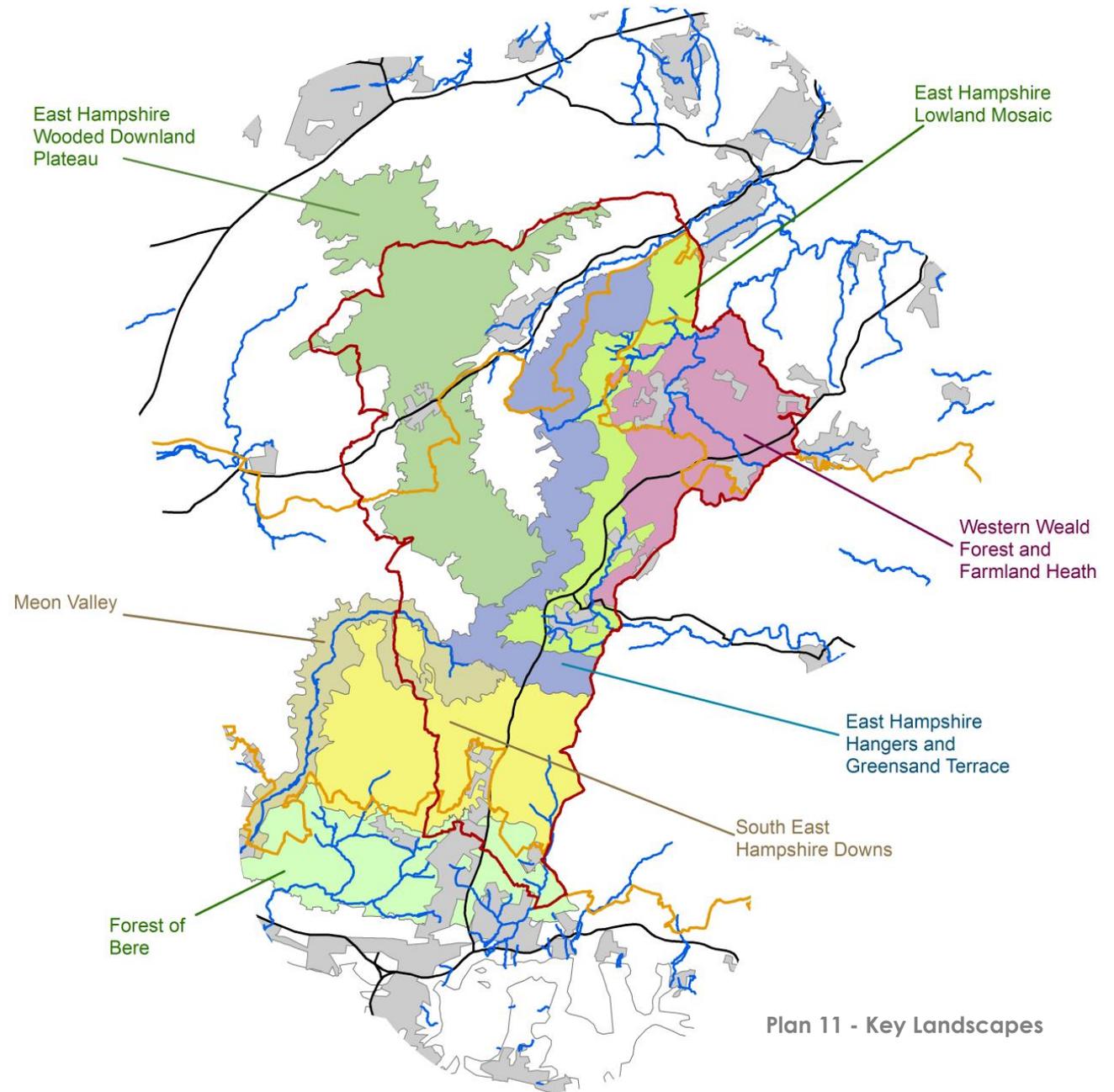
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<sup>22</sup> UE Associates (2011) Green Infrastructure Study for East Hampshire

## Landscape

Plan 11 shows a number of key landscapes together with the underlying Landscape Character Area (LCA) data. The LCA mapping illustrates the variety of landscapes within the district and helps to inform on locations where the landscape can be strengthened in order to maintain its distinctive and varied character. The key qualities and forces for change on the LCAs in East Hampshire are detailed on pages 15 to 17.

This strategic approach could also include a planned approach to the conservation and enhancement of cultural and heritage features.

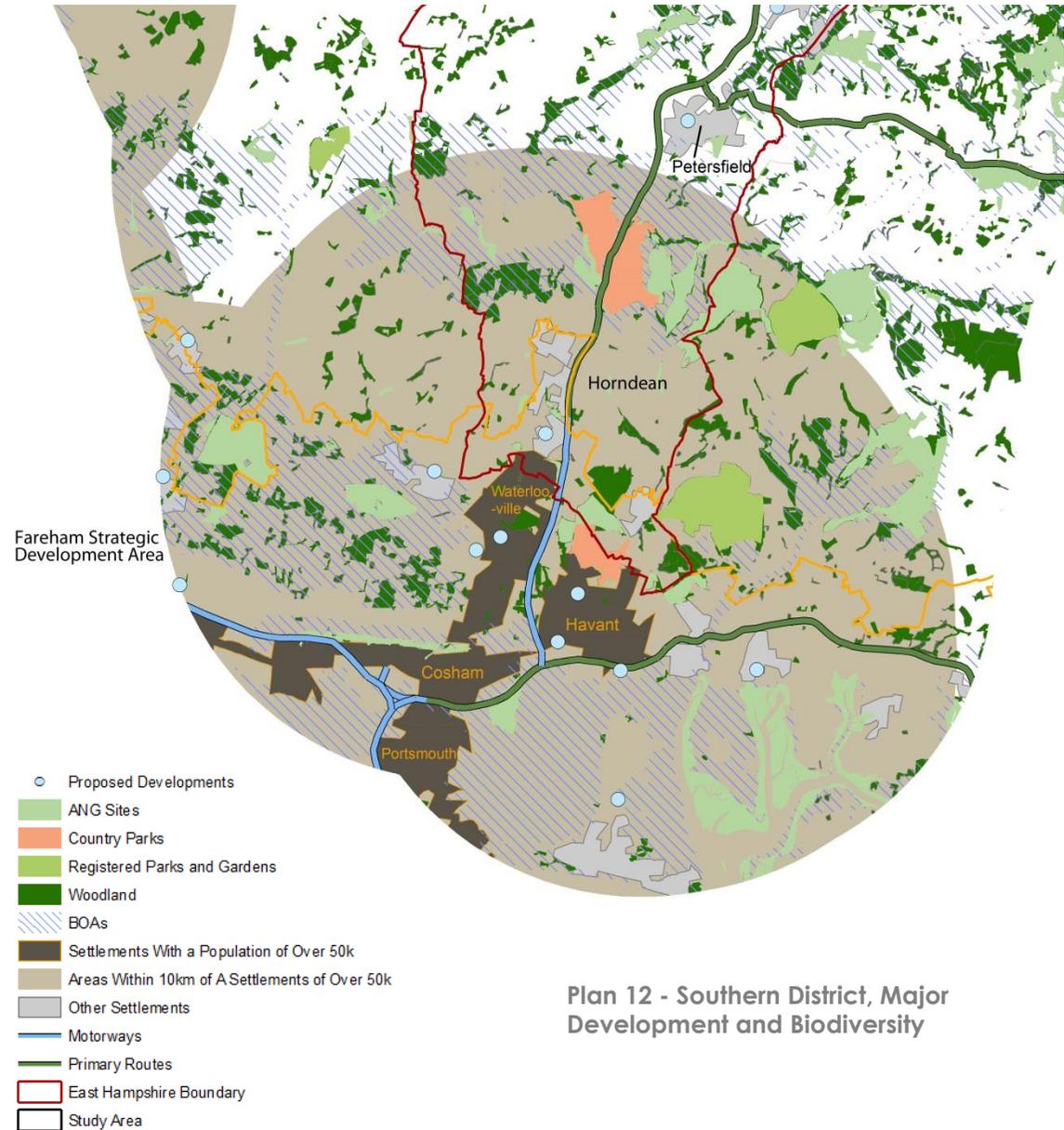


## Biodiversity

This plan shows the southern part of the district and conurbations with more than 50k inhabitants to the south of East Hampshire, plus planned major housing developments outside the district. A 10km buffer is shown around the conurbations corresponding to the areas within which the ANG standard would require a range of sites up to 500Ha.

Baseline biodiversity mapping shows designated sites, including a National Nature Reserve and areas of Ancient Woodland on the South Downs close to Queen Elizabeth Country Park (QECP) in East Hampshire and within this 10km zone.

Butser Hill National Nature Reserve (NNR) adjoins QECP and is within easy reach for many visitors to the park. Butser Hill includes areas of nationally recognised chalk grassland, a habitat type that is known to be sensitive to visitor pressure. As visitor numbers increase this fragile landscape could be threatened.

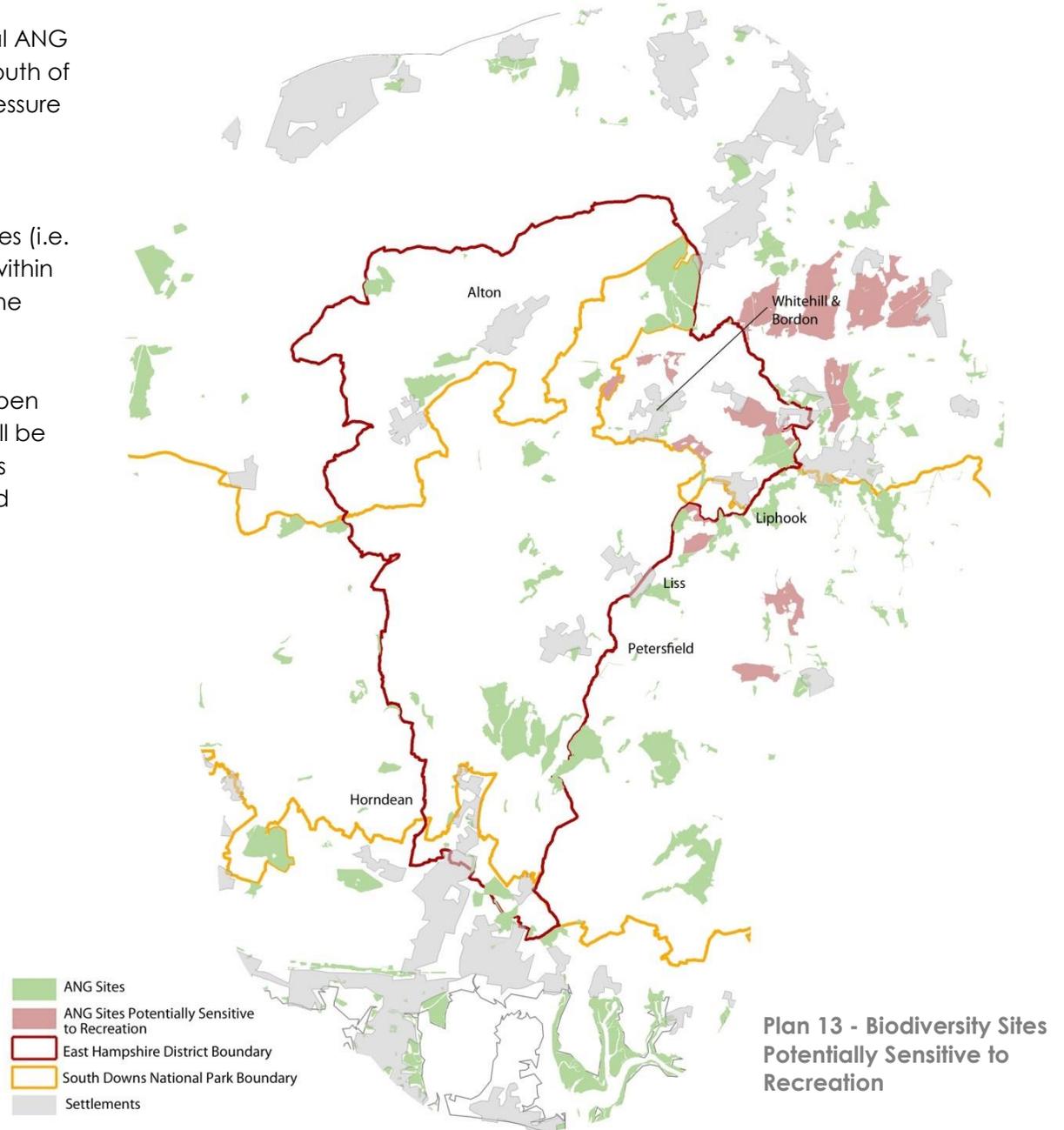


Other mapping indicates a significant deficit in local ANG (within 300m of homes) in the conurbations to the south of East Hampshire, potentially resulting in increased pressure on other sites.

In East Hampshire both Horndean and Clanfield are deficient in ANG with almost no provision of local sites (i.e. those providing 2Ha within 300m of home, or 20Ha within 2km), although there are Local Nature Reserves in the area.

The current situation places pressure on available open space including biodiverse sites and the situation will be exacerbated by the pressure from additional homes planned in Havant and Fareham, as well as planned housing growth in Horndean.

Plan 13 shows sites which are potentially sensitive to recreational pressure. This is discussed further in the following section.



## Biodiversity Sites Potentially Sensitive to Recreation

Some nature conservation sites used for recreation are also potentially sensitive to the effects of this recreational use. This is a particularly pertinent issue for the heathland sites in the north of the district. Many types of terrestrial habitat, including chalk grassland and heathland, can be affected by trampling and erosion. Birds can also be disturbed from recreational activity, including the ground-nesting birds associated with heathland.

The analysis of recreational pressure, the populations of ground-nesting and other rare birds and the assessment of the need for and specific location of any alternative recreational provision were beyond the scope of this study. However, in taking a strategic view, it was useful to gain a better understanding of the contribution these protected and sensitive sites make in the wider matrix of total provision.

To do this, further analyses of accessible natural greenspace provision were carried out. A number of wildlife sites, with open public access, have national and international designations due to the presence of bird species known to be particularly sensitive to recreation pressure.

An earlier study to map areas of accessible natural greenspace in the South Downs National Park applied the protocol of excluding such sites from the ANG map to assess the relative contribution these sites made to total ANG provision.

The sites comprise a series of large fragmented heathland sites in the north of the district and beyond East Hampshire within the 10km buffer into Waverley and Chichester districts.

Several areas of heathland sites are protected due to their international importance for species or habitats and have a high level of protection conferred through the 'Habitats and Species Regulations':

- Shortheath Common SAC<sup>23</sup> – designated for its heathland habitats, but nightjar have also been recorded
- Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA<sup>24</sup> – comprised of four individual SSSIs and designated for nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler
- Thursley Complex SAC, SPA and Ramsar – designated for heathland habitat and nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler
- Woolmer Forest SAC – designated for its lakes, ponds, dry heaths, wet heathlands and mires.

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<sup>23</sup> Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – a site protected through the European Union's Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

<sup>24</sup> Special Protection Area (SPA) – a site protected through the European Union's Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated at a national level and several SSSI sites in East Hampshire are open for recreation, but also have Nightjar, Woodlark or Dartford Warbler listed in the reasons for designation. Although these sites are not protected at an international level, these birds are all listed under Annex 1 of the European 'Birds Directive'.

- Forest Mere SSSI
- Chapel Common SSSI
- Woolbeding and Pound Commons SSSI
- Iping Common SSSI
- Lavington Common SSSI<sup>25</sup>

A number of these SSSI sites are described by Natural England as being in an 'unfavourable recovering condition' and as such they are more vulnerable to pressure.

Plan 13 highlights the sites that are potentially sensitive to recreation pressure.

As other analysis maps show (see East Hampshire planned major development, Plan 24) the green infrastructure resource in this area is already under pressure from the existing conurbations and this is likely to increase as housing numbers grow.

Although some of the sites in question are large and make a significant contribution to the access resource, their exclusion from the map of accessible natural greenspace and theoretical reduction in ANG sites, would not alter the conclusion that some intervention is required in this area to support the existing green infrastructure assets.

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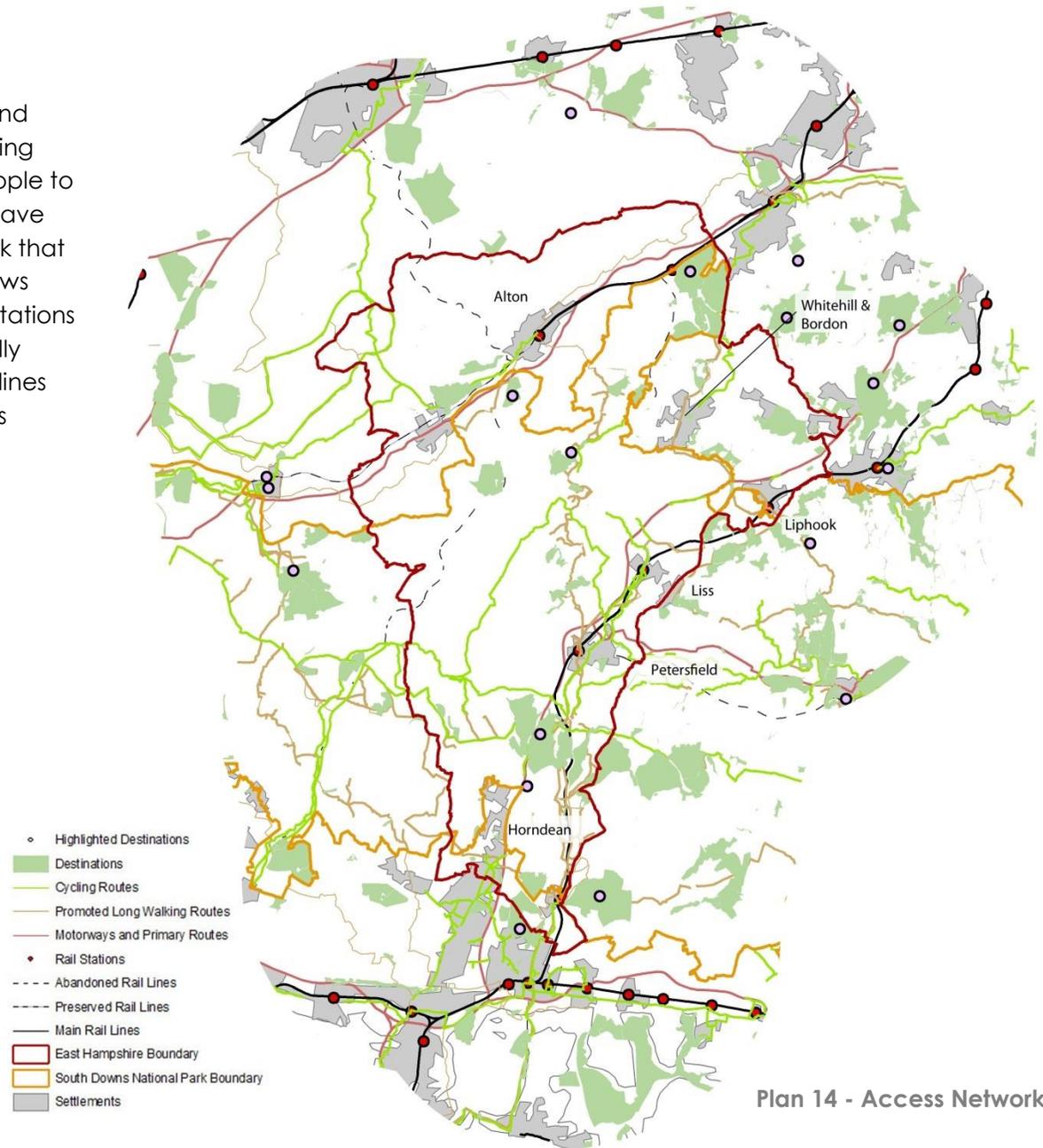
<sup>25</sup> On 12th June 2013, the consultants met with Natural England to discuss developing a protocol for identifying potentially recreation sensitive sites for a Green Infrastructure Study across the South Downs National Park. At that meeting the sites identified above were agreed to fall into the category of being "access sensitive".

Issues associated with recreational pressure are not only relevant to the heathland sites. The Hanger Woodlands are unique areas of woodland distributed across an area stretching from Alice Holt Forest in the north to Petersfield in the south and within the national park boundary. The sites are fragmented and their location – between areas of housing growth within East Hampshire and in neighbouring areas – makes them potentially vulnerable to increasing recreation pressure.

Overall there are opportunities to develop landscape-scale biodiversity enhancement, focusing on Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) and the expansion of existing core areas of biodiversity. Key areas include the heathlands, the Hanger Woodlands and around Catherington Down, Butser Hill and the Forest of Bere.

## Access and Recreation – Routes

East Hampshire has a good rights of way network and some well-developed long-distance routes for walking and cycling. However, in order to attract more people to access the countryside on foot and cycle and to leave the car at home, it is important to provide a network that connects to where people want to go. Plan 14 shows existing long distance routes together with railway stations and key visitor destinations that routes could helpfully connect with. The map also shows disused railway lines that may lend themselves to future development as access routes or links.

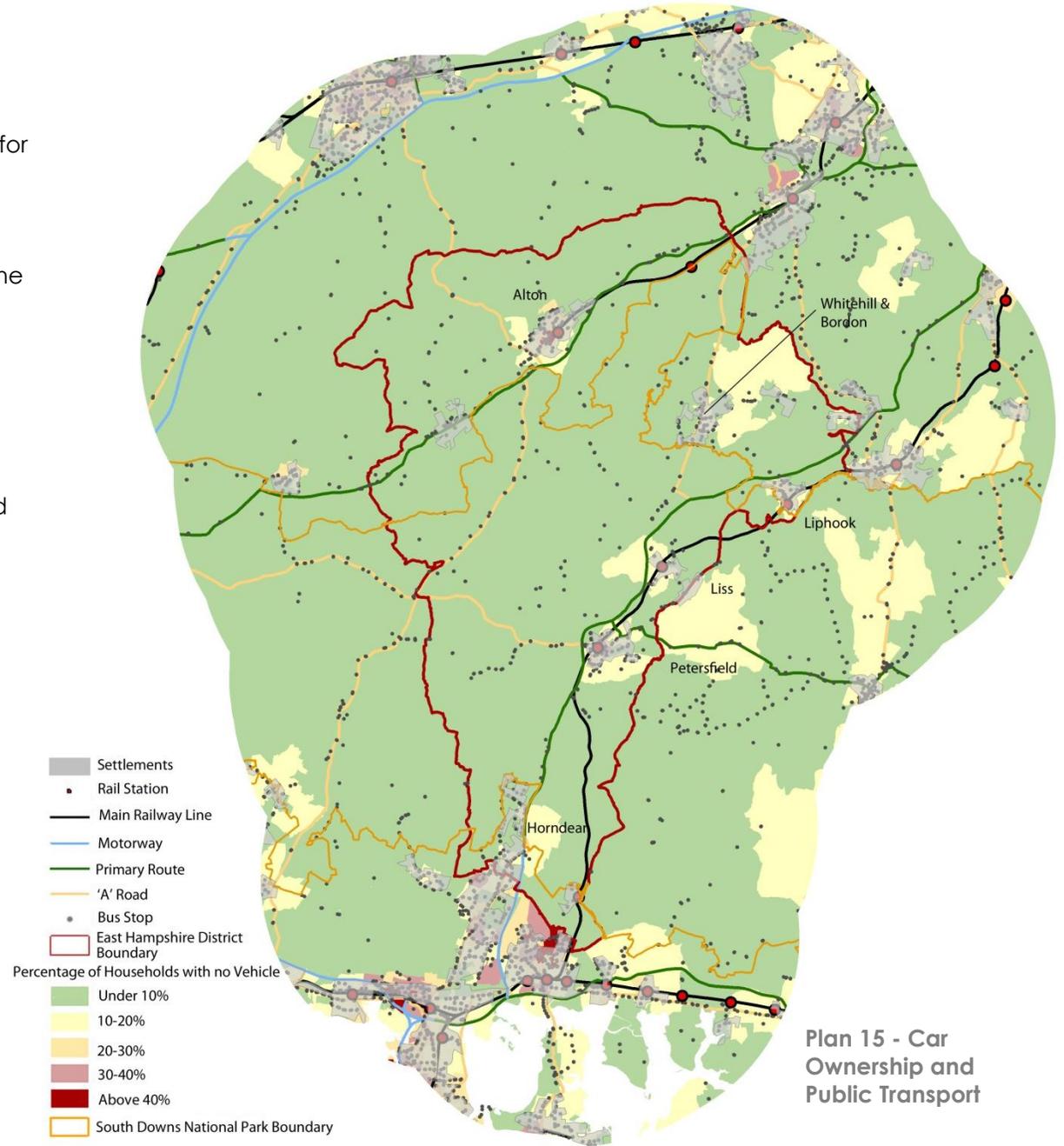


Plan 14 - Access Network

## Accessibility

Some of East Hampshire's settlements are deficient in local accessible natural greenspace, making it difficult for those without cars to visit open spaces and the countryside. In particular there is a need to provide recreational opportunities for young people. Plan 15 highlights areas with lower rates of car ownership and the availability of public transport into the surrounding rural areas.

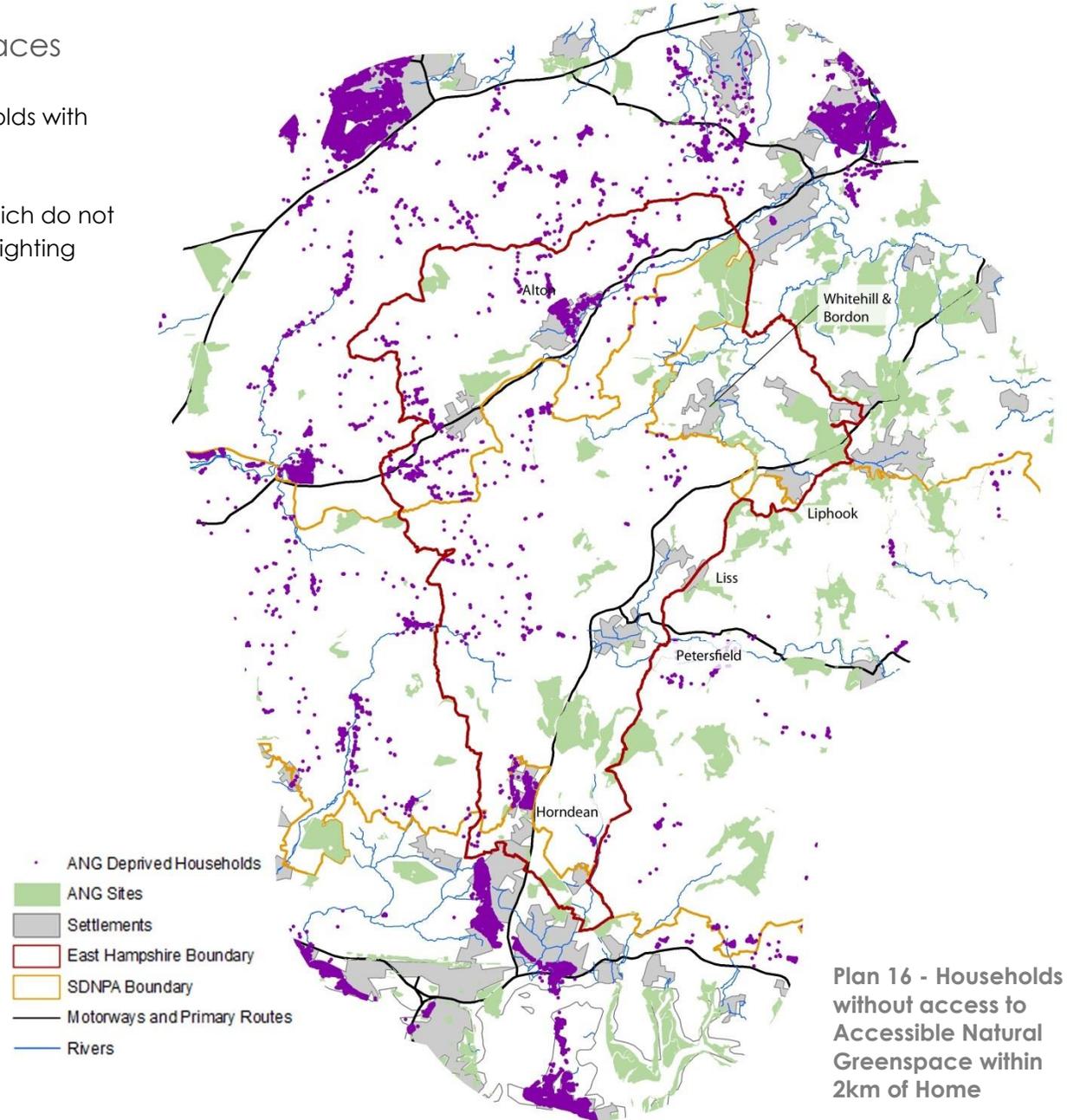
Improving the links between town and countryside is important, as is a focus on public transport links to key visitor destinations and other greenspaces. This will increase access to the wider Rights of Way network and rural lanes, thus reducing the reliance on car usage.



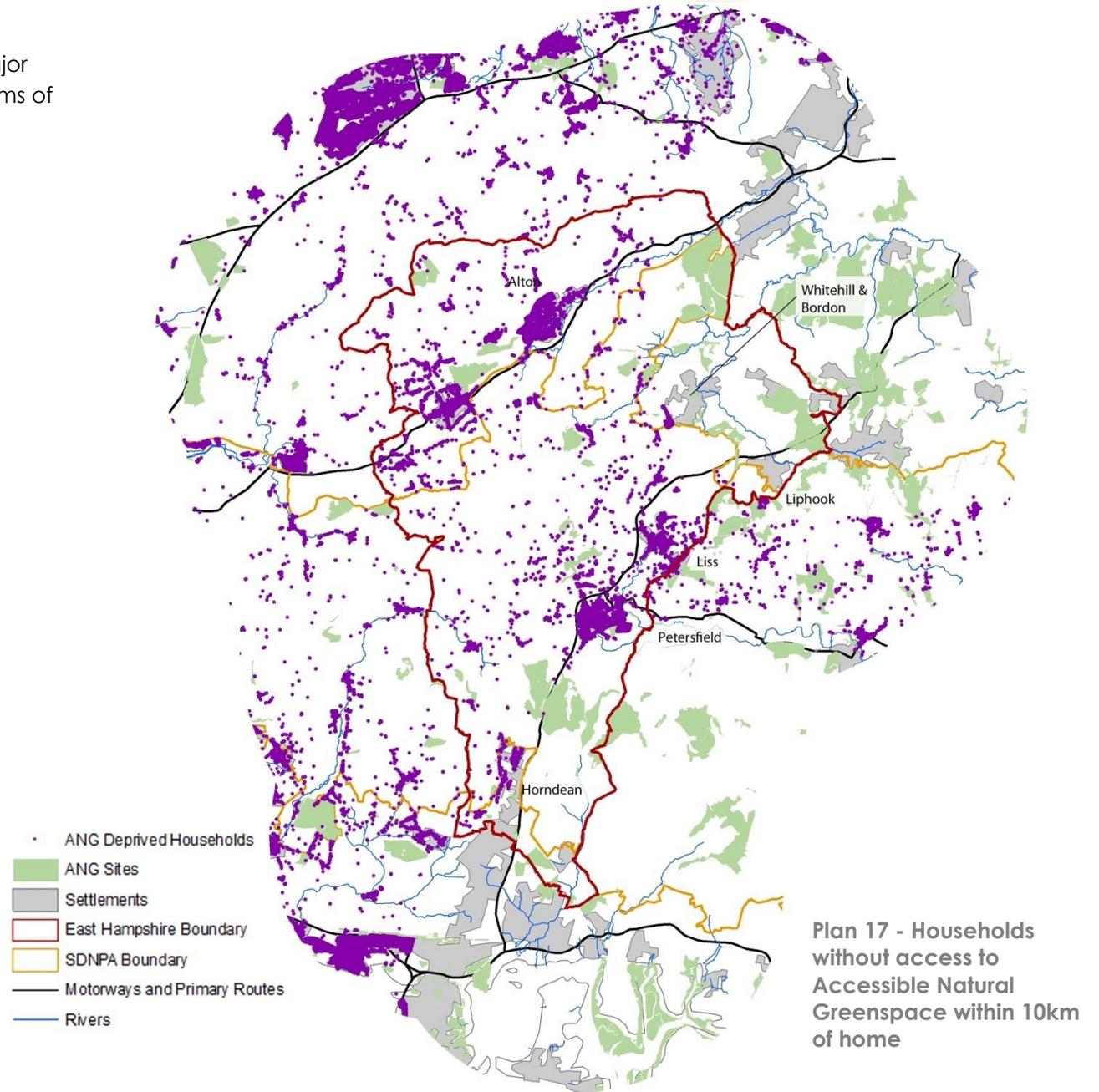
## Access and Recreation – Open Spaces

Plans 16 and 17 show the distribution of households with limited access to natural greenspace.

Plan 16 shows ANG sites and the households which do not have access to ANG within 2km, therefore highlighting where there are deficiencies in neighbourhood greenspace (small sites within 2kms of home).



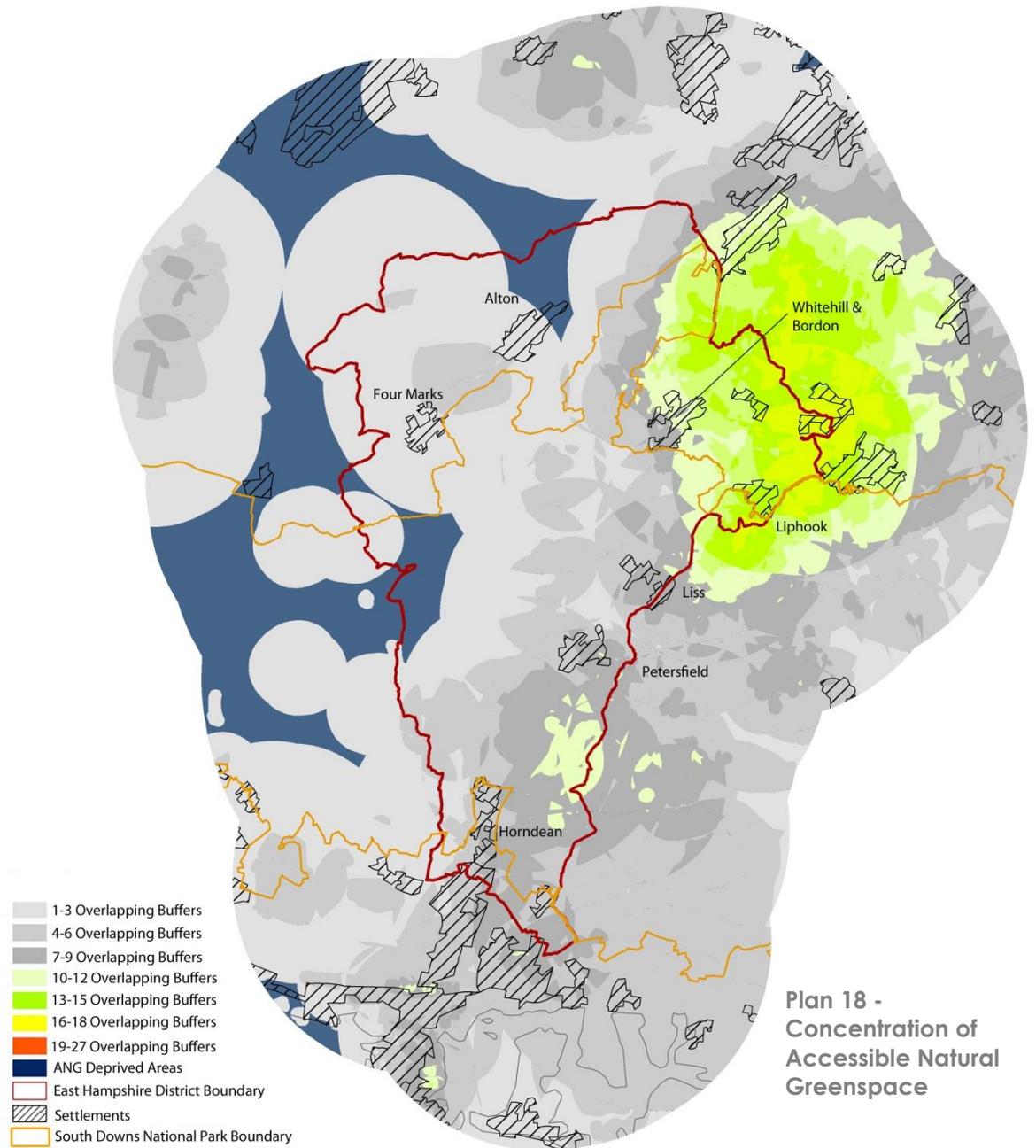
Plan 17 shows those households which lack major greenspace at a country park scale within 10kms of home.



Plan 18 shows the density of ANG sites across the district. The areas of lowest concentration of sites are to the north of Alton, to the south of Four Marks and generally in the west of the district.

The map also shows a concentration of ANG sites in the north east of the district and across the boundary into Waverley and Chichester. The analysis of biodiverse sites that are sensitive to recreation (Plan 13) discussed the pressures on the heathland sites in this area. Accordingly the picture of a high concentration – and availability - of accessible greenspace in this area is not straightforward.

This map was analysed alongside maps depicting the distribution of ANG sites, designated sites and potential housing development areas in order to assess both deficiency of greenspace and opportunities for enhancement.



Plan 12 shows the southern part of East Hampshire and planned major housing development areas where they are within 10km of the district boundary. Notably, sites in Waterlooville and north of Fareham could add more than 10,000 additional houses to an already significant conurbation.

These developments have the potential to impact on East Hampshire's designated wildlife sites and accessible greenspaces. Queen Elizabeth Country Park (QECP) is already one of the most visited sites in the south-east<sup>26</sup> and with planned housing growth in nearby Havant and Fareham as well as within East Hampshire, this pressure is likely to increase. QECP's convenient location next to the A3 attracts visitors from a wide area and there are no other countryside sites in the area offering such a range of facilities.

The only other major countryside visitor site in the district is Alice Holt Forest in the far north. This highly visited site<sup>27</sup> is located within the catchment for a number of planned major housing developments including the Eco-town at Whitehill & Bordon. Improving access to this site is essential, particularly by cycle and public transport (there is a railway station at Alice Holt) and would help relieve congestion and support a sustainable approach to visitor management in this area.

Staunton Country Park lies just within the neighbouring district of Havant and has a key role in providing access opportunities for East Hampshire residents. Improving sustainable access to these sites would help relieve congestion and provide recreational opportunities.

New developments south of East Hampshire are constrained by the coast and the existing urban area and to the north by the topography of hills and the motorway.

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<sup>26</sup> c 276k visitors 2012-2013, ref Hampshire County Council

<sup>27</sup> c 300k visitors

The transport network funnels visitors into the South Downs National Park and towards QECP. There is a need to address the potential increase in visitor pressure on these areas by exploring the possibility of other gateway sites into the National Park and by considering the management of existing sites and spreading visitor pressure by zoning land uses, e.g. at QECP.

In the northern part of the district major housing developments are planned within 10km of the East Hampshire boundary, notably at Basingstoke and Aldershot. These developments will add up to around 7,000 homes.

A 10km buffer is shown around the largest conurbations to indicate where major ANG sites are required, with or without the new developments.<sup>28</sup>

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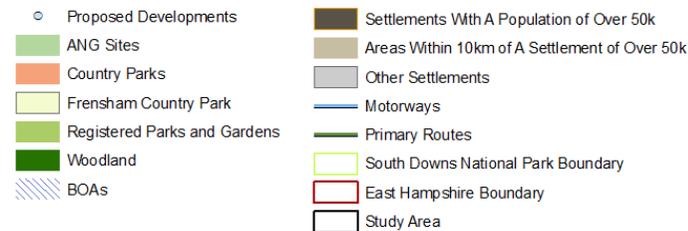
<sup>28</sup> NB It is not known but considered likely that the planned major sites will provide their own allocations of ANG and other green infrastructure. However, major sites of 500Ha are unlikely to be provided on site.

Plan 19 shows the allocation of all ANG sites in the northern part of East Hampshire and within 10km of the boundary.

There are few ANG sites between the EHDC boundary and the main conurbation of Basingstoke and only one ANG site between Alton and the Basingstoke and Deane boundary. This lack of ANG sites is compounded by the PROW data that shows gaps in the access network in this area; and mapped evidence that indicates poorer levels of health and deprivation in some parts of Alton, Four Marks and the current Whitehill & Bordon area.

The main visitor site in this part of East Hampshire is Alice Holt Forest. The map shows it is within a 10km radius of major conurbations and planned development sites, where there is very little alternative provision. This map does not show the planned developments within East Hampshire. Alice Holt is also within 10km of the planned Eco-town of Whitehill & Bordon and within 10km of both Alton and Liphook where housing development is also planned. This site is also within the South Downs National Park.

There are very few ANG sites in this part of East Hampshire. Although there is the potential of privately owned woodlands and some large areas of private parks and gardens.



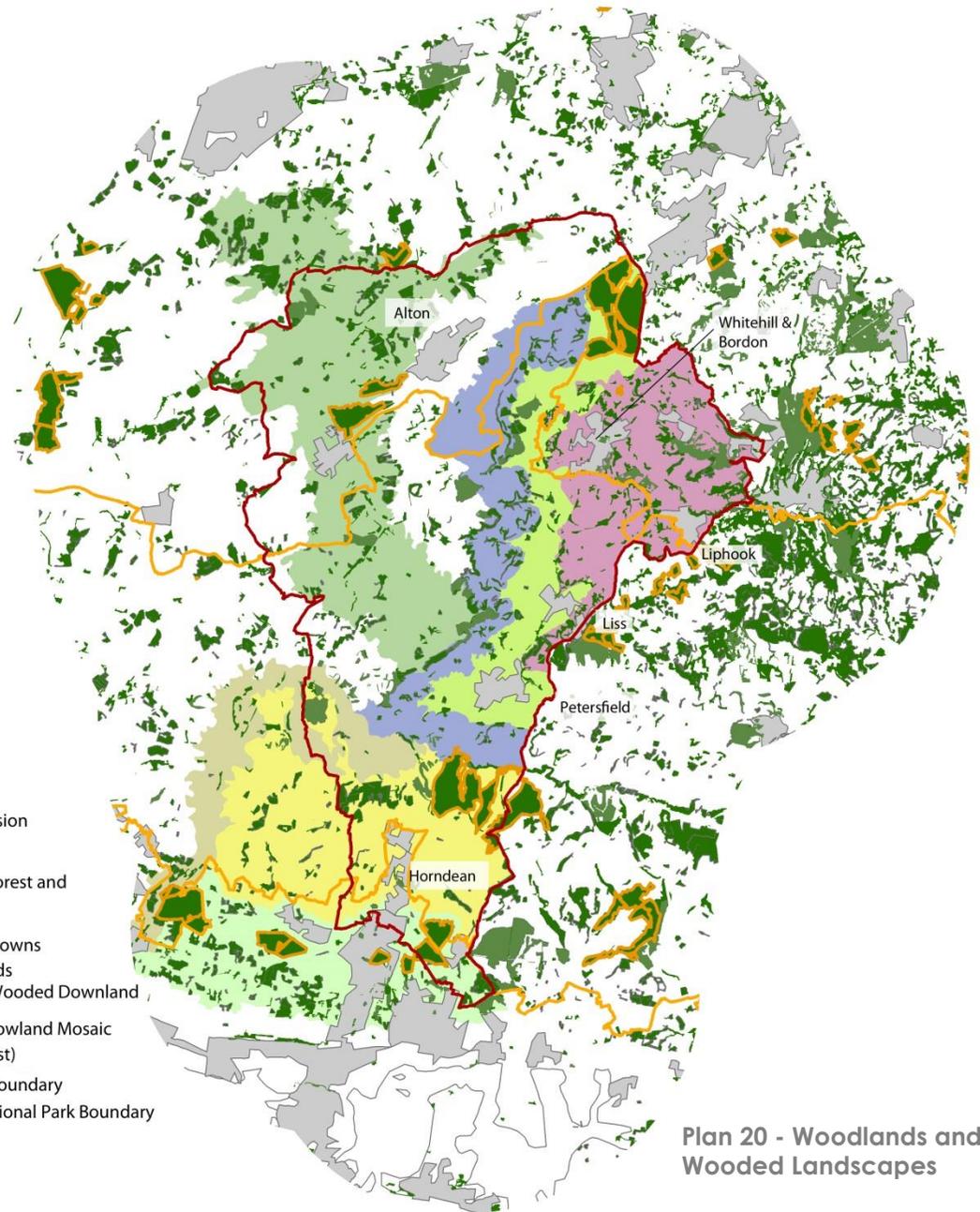
**Plan 19 - Northern District, Accessible Natural Greenspace and Major Development outside of District**

## Woodlands

Plan 20 shows the extent of all woodland in the district together with the underlying Landscape Character mapping to show where further development and joining up of woodland areas might be appropriate. The map shows the fragmentation of woodland sites to the north-west of Alton (in the East Hampshire Wooded Downland Plateau) and in the Hanger Woodlands (in the East Hampshire Hangers and Greensand Terrace character area).

The Plan also shows the Forest of Bere, once a hunting forest and now in need of restoration to support wildlife and provide greenspace areas for a growing population.

Other plans show where housing growth is planned, placing additional recreation pressure on these woodland sites. There is a need for a strategic approach to woodland management, to tackle fragmentation, restore areas of woodland, expand and extend woodland habitat and improve management and access.



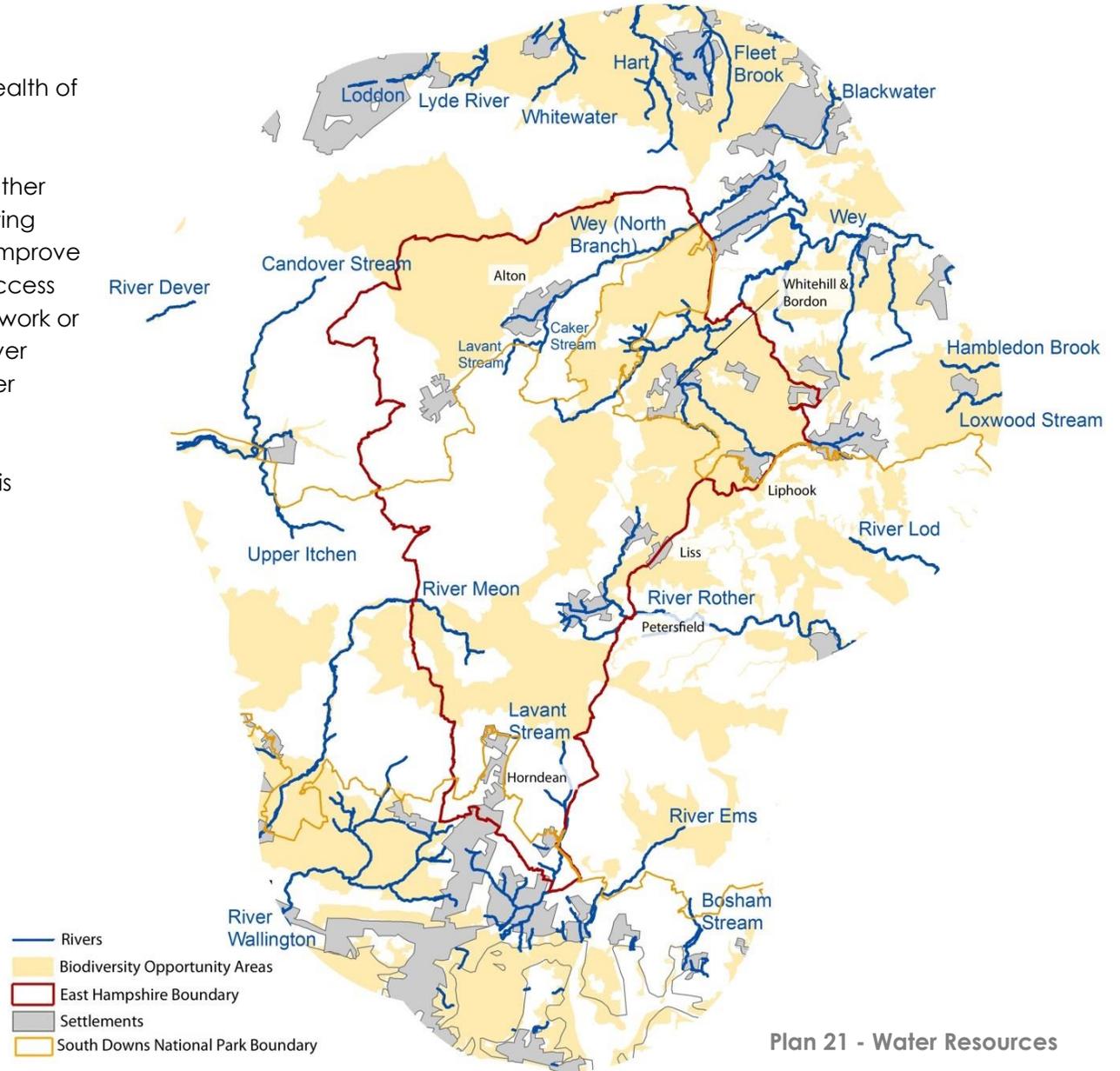
Plan 20 - Woodlands and Wooded Landscapes

## Water Resources

Rivers, streams, ponds and lakes can provide a wealth of ecosystem services.

All rivers and streams are shown on the map, together with Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs), indicating where there may be potential for intervention to improve wildlife areas along the river corridor. Mapping access routes would inform where gaps in the access network or low density of routes could be addressed along river corridors as part of an integrated approach to river corridor management.

A catchment scale approach to water resources is required to realise all the multifunctional green infrastructure benefits of the water environment.

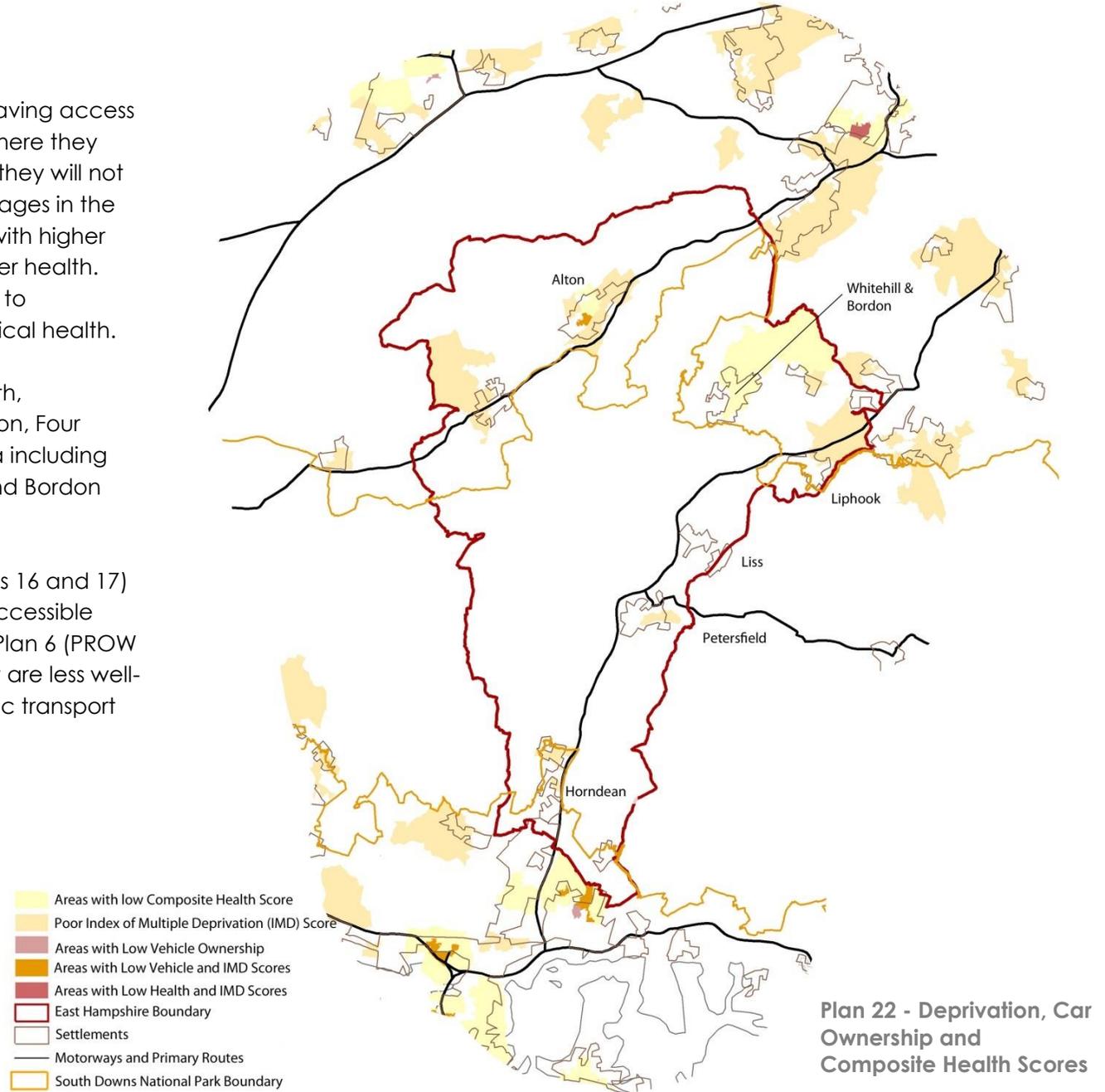


## Health and Well-Being

A key issue for East Hampshire's residents is having access to open spaces within walking distance of where they live. Unless people can get to places easily, they will not use them. This is an issue for all towns and villages in the district, but is particularly important in areas with higher than average levels of deprivation and poorer health. There is a direct link between ease of access to greenspace and improved mental and physical health.

Plan 22 shows there are poorer levels of health, deprivation and car ownership in parts of Alton, Four Marks, Horndean and Clanfield and the area including the current settlements and rural areas around Bordon and Whitehill.

Other maps (ANG 2km and 10km maps, Plans 16 and 17) show where there is poor provision of local accessible greenspace and Plan 15 (Accessibility) and Plan 6 (PROW network and density page) reveal areas that are less well-served than others by rights of way and public transport into the surrounding countryside.



## Housing Growth and Green Infrastructure

### New Development

As housing numbers grow, without additional provision the pressure on the access network and open spaces will increase.

The growth in housing development also presents opportunities to create new green infrastructure. Development sites could include green infrastructure in their planning, providing a network of open spaces and traffic-free access routes within the site. This would also provide connections to link with the wider access network, together with wildlife corridors and opportunities for enhancing watercourses and minimising flood risk as part of Blue Corridor proposals.

Development should also provide the opportunity to develop new countryside recreation sites where the relevant ANG standard is not being met.

In the case of local provision it should be possible to meet the requirements on site. However, for larger sites serving a larger population, the planned growth in East Hampshire and adjoining areas may offer the opportunity to take a more strategic and cross-boundary approach to green infrastructure provision, necessitating cross-boundary arrangements regarding development-related and other sources of funding.

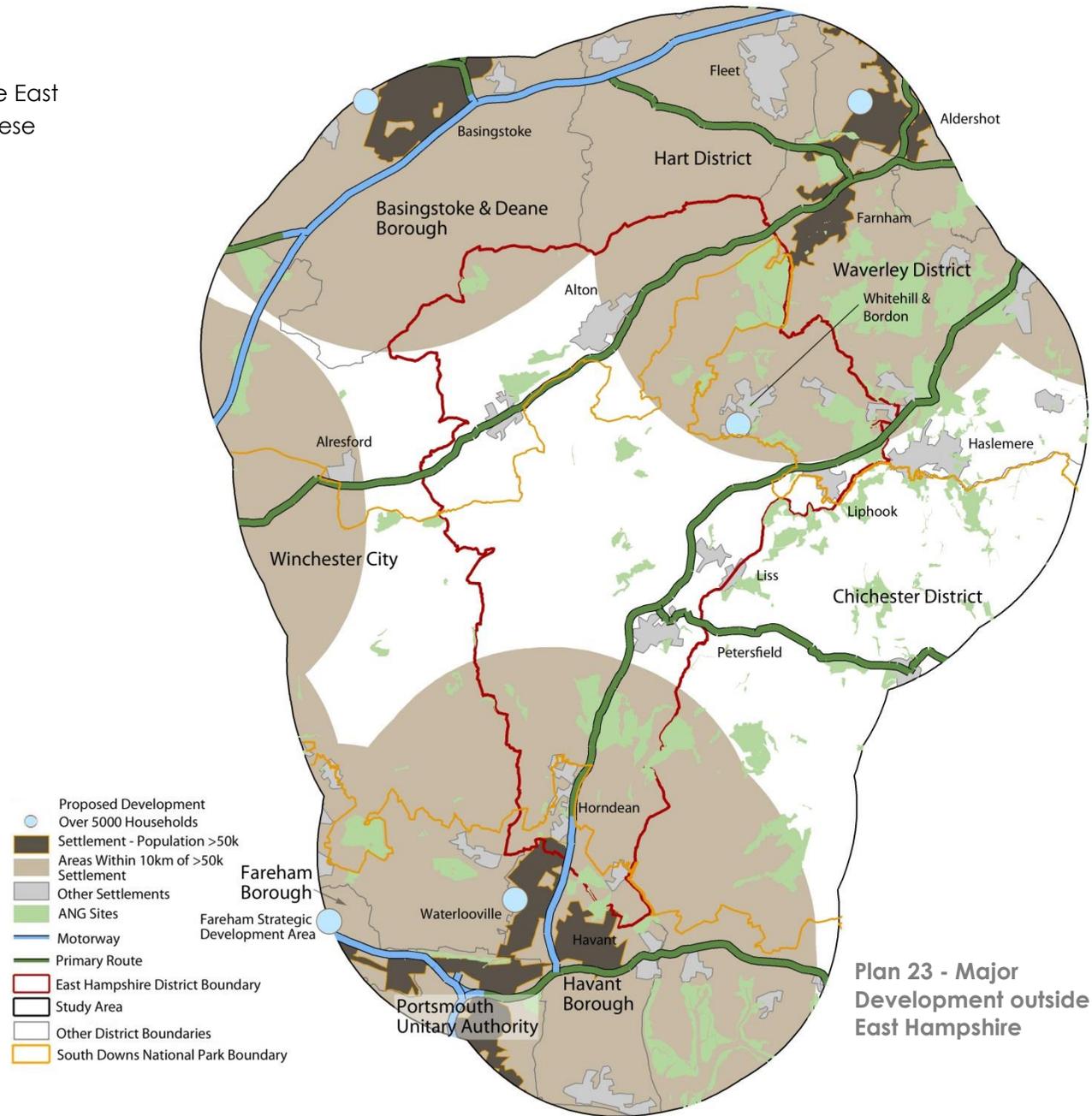
The mapped analyses of biodiversity and development (Plans 12 and 19) also show the increasing pressure on existing greenspace and wildlife sites in parts of East Hampshire from major conurbations and planned housing growth.

### Major Sites and their potential impact on green infrastructure

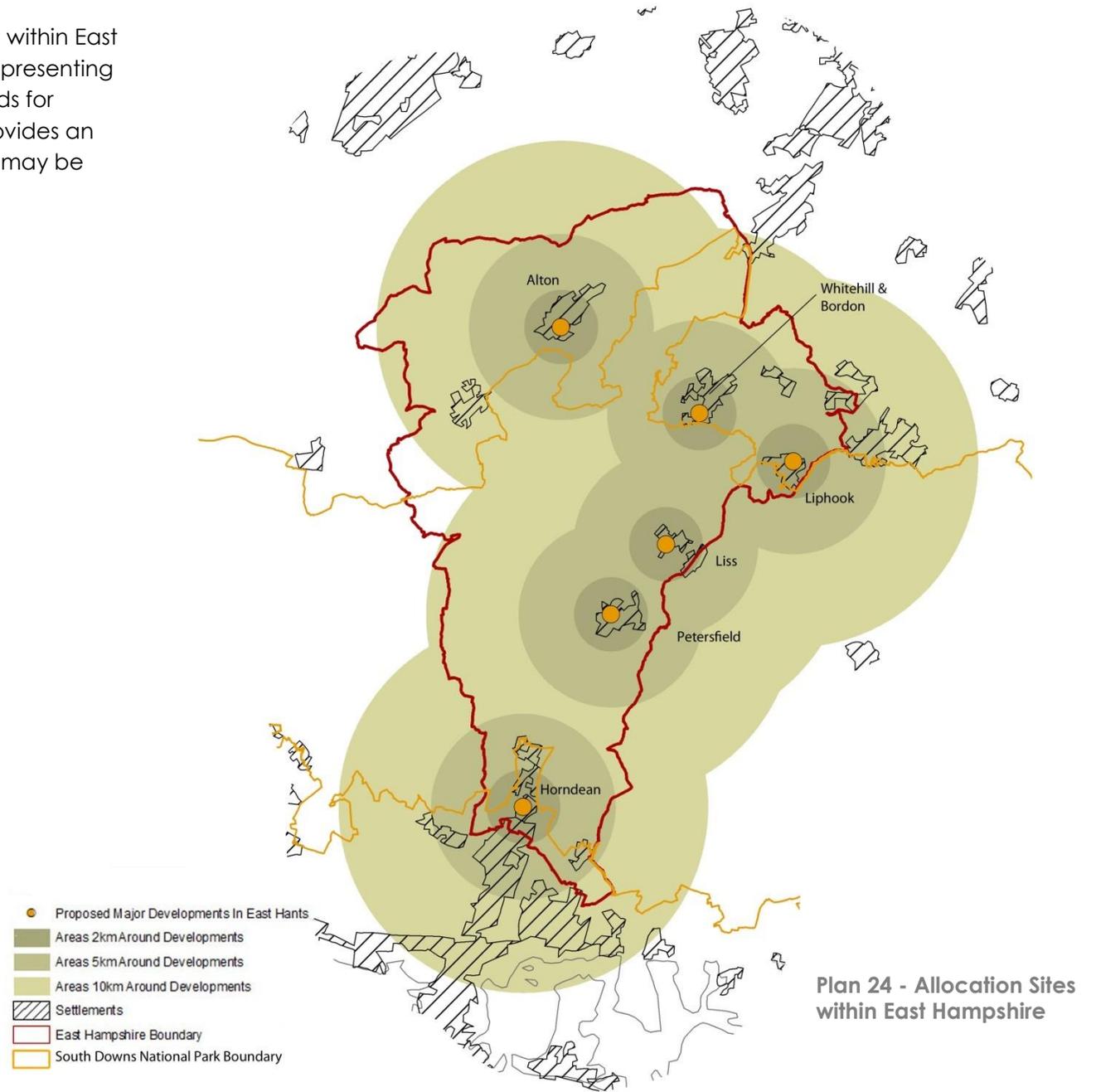
Information was gathered from neighbouring local planning authorities regarding their proposed strategic housing allocations. The resulting mapping indicates the likely locations and magnitude of proposed development (Plans 23 and 24) and illustrates the potential impact of new developments on their surrounding areas in terms of recreation pressure. The zones correspond to the distance ranges in the ANG Standard categories.

Although it is acknowledged that this is a fairly crude method of recreation impact assessment, the plans show that planned sites for housing growth within and beyond East Hampshire are likely to have an impact upon existing greenspaces. When considered together with the mapping on ANG deficiency and pressures on biodiversity and access, it is clear that there are some areas that will be under pressure.

Plan 23 shows the major developments outside East Hampshire, and areas falling within 10km of these developments.



Plan 24 shows the proposed development sites within East Hampshire, with 2km, 5km and 10km buffers, representing the areas of influence for each for the standards for accessible natural greenspace (ANG). This provides an indication of where the different types of ANG may be required.



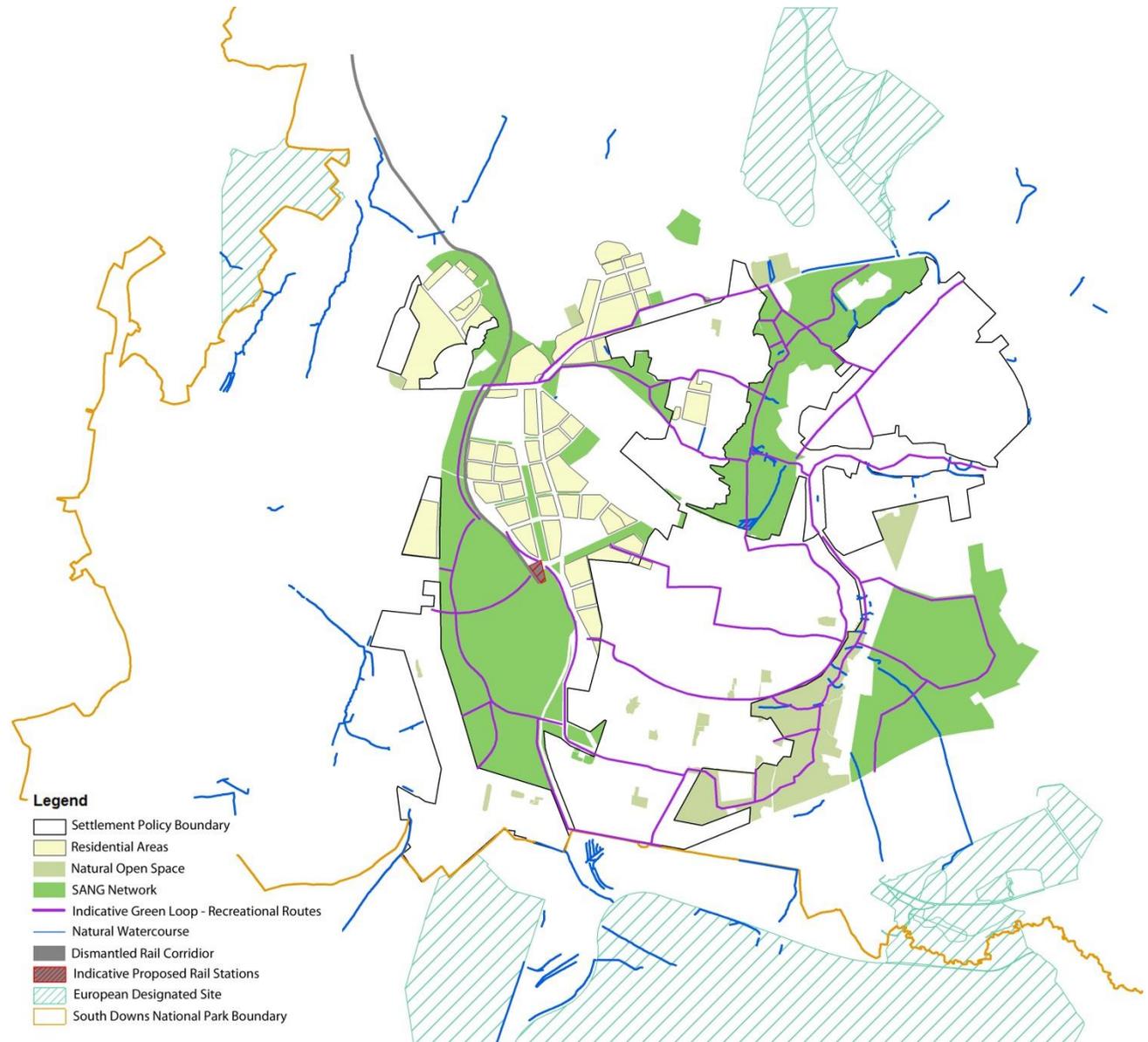
## Whitehill & Bordon Eco-town

The planned Eco-town development provides opportunities to connect a new access and greenspaces network into the surrounding countryside.

The green infrastructure proposals include a continuous, multifunctional corridor of greenspaces and watercourses that will unite new and existing communities, creating a recreation route around the town which is within easy access of residents.

Existing greenspaces will be linked with new and improved public parks, play areas, schools, shopping centre and the town centre to provide a safe and attractive way to get around the town without the need for a car.

This approach, though difficult to replicate in existing towns, is a model for new developments and a useful example of the need to plan green infrastructure at the early stages of the development process.



Plan 25 - Whitehill and Bordon Green Infrastructure

## Results of Spatial Analyses

Analyses of mapped information and other data have provided an up to date picture of the current green infrastructure resource within East Hampshire and the neighbouring areas.

The assessment of this information has applied national standards (e.g. ANGSt) and other indicators<sup>29</sup> to highlight gaps in provision and areas where deficiencies in green infrastructure provision need to be addressed.

The analysis also identified areas where there may be opportunities to develop green infrastructure assets. The results of the analyses feed into East Hampshire's strategic priorities for green infrastructure, see page 64.

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<sup>29</sup> Includes composite health scores and Index of Multiple Deprivation

Table 1 - Results of Spatial Analyses

Analyses Revealed - Issues		Potential green infrastructure proposals	Contributes to mitigating issue:
1	Gaps in the access network and areas with deficits in accessible open space at varying scales;	Fragmentation and isolation of sites is an important issue for both the Hanger Woodlands and heathlands in the north of the district. Consideration should be given to developing buffer sites to afford protection to access-sensitive wildlife sites and to provide wildlife corridors and linking sites that will enable habitats to increase in size and improve their resilience to climate change and other pressures, including impacts from growth;	2
2	Areas where habitats are small and fragmented and may be under pressure;	Landscape-scale biodiversity enhancement could focus on Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) and the expansion of existing core areas of biodiversity. Key areas include the heathland areas, the Hanger Woodlands and around Catherington Down, Butser Hill and Forest of Bere;	7
3	Areas where planned housing growth within East Hampshire and neighbouring areas could place additional recreational pressure on green infrastructure, notably wildlife habitats; in particular on designated sites that are known to be sensitive to recreation pressure;	The ANG deficiency mapping has highlighted the need for large-scale recreation sites of at least 500 hectares. The provision of such a site could be considered to relieve pressure on existing sites, notably Alice Holt Forest and QECP;	1
4	Areas where socio-economic need could be supported through targeted programmes of green infrastructure improvements and associated activities where areas of poor health and deprivation in the local population coincide with deficits in the access network and greenspace, and the potential pressure from planned housing developments in East Hampshire and the surrounding areas;	Areas outside East Hampshire could be considered for potential solutions e.g. into Chichester to explore the potential of the Forestry Commission land to the east of QECP. Also Staunton Country Park in Havant should be considered regarding improvements to access and management. The Forest of Bere is an obvious location to explore the further development of recreation and access and biodiversity gains and aside from the limitations on accessibility in terms of topography and major roads, would be ideally placed to serve the new communities close to home;	5
		The existing biodiversity-led NIA project could be supported and potentially expanded as a green infrastructure initiative;	7
		The management of existing recreation sites could be reviewed in terms of providing additional visitor facilities and helping to draw visitors away from sensitive areas;	6
		Areas deficient in levels of local accessible natural greenspace could be targeted for improvements, taking the opportunity to incorporate biodiversity in wider green infrastructure. Key areas are parts of Alton, Horndean, Clanfield and Whitehill & Bordon;	1 & 4

Analyses Revealed - Issues		Potential green infrastructure proposals	Contributes to mitigating issue:
5	The potential for linking the green infrastructure network across boundaries into neighbouring areas and developing more cross-boundary initiatives and partnership approaches;	The area around Alton could be considered for a major ANG site to serve Alton and surrounding areas, together with the potential for a programme of green infrastructure actions to enhance the corridor of the River Wey and its streams through Alton and connecting to Alice Holt and on to the Eco-town;	4 & 7
6	Areas where there are a combination of pressures and opportunities that may benefit from a comprehensive and strategic approach;	A cross-boundary approach to the management of woodland that lies on the borders with neighbouring authorities would help enhance landscape character; providing wildlife linkages and a valuable access and recreation resource;	5
7	Potential opportunity areas where green infrastructure networks might be developed; access links made; habitats joined or strengthened and new open spaces developed.	River corridors and streams could be linked with networks of green infrastructure to provide an environment with a wealth of multifunctional benefits, including landscape enhancement, wildlife links, flood control and recreation;	7
		Gaps in the rights of ways network around settlements should be targeted to ensure good local access that links towns or villages to the countryside;	1
		New developments provide the opportunity to make links with the access network to provide sustainable access to the surrounding rural areas;	3
		Link routes from railways stations to join to national and regional cycle routes will enhance the cycling network and encourage the use of sustainable transport;	1
		Cycle routes between settlements and to visitor recreation sites will also help to encourage visitors to use their bicycles;	7
		Where gaps in the network occur across administrative boundaries, there may be opportunities to develop partnership arrangements between authorities;	5
		A programme could be developed across the district to resolve issue of barriers in the network – such as main roads;	1

Analyses Revealed - Issues	Potential green infrastructure proposals	Contributes to mitigating issue:
	<p>Permissive access arrangements could also help to fill gaps in the network or to provide an off-road alternative for users;</p> <p>Consideration could be given to seeking planning obligations to secure the provision of new recreation sites and to seek funding through development e.g. CIL funding. These approaches should be made in partnership with neighbouring authorities where major developments may affect green infrastructure assets in East Hampshire.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>3</p>

## Workshops

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Two half day facilitated workshops were held on 11th April 2013 in the early stages of the development of the Strategy and the results of these workshop sessions informed its development.

The purpose of the workshops was to develop a broad understanding of the green infrastructure issues, constraints and opportunities and subsequently develop a set of strategic green infrastructure priorities.

The workshop discussions were divided into themes, based on the earlier Green Infrastructure Study<sup>30</sup>

- Access and Recreation;
- Biodiversity;
- Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place;
- Water Resources, Water Quality and Flood Management;
- Health and Well-being;
- Local Awareness and Involvement;
- Woodlands;
- Economic Development.<sup>31</sup>

For each theme the objectives from the 2011 green infrastructure study<sup>32</sup> were presented, along with a set of draft strategic priorities which were also tabled for discussion.

Workshop 1 was attended by key stakeholders and Workshop 2 was attended by East Hampshire District Council Officers and Councillors.

Attendees provided comments on the proposed strategic priorities and made suggestions for further development.

This report provides a record of the key comments made during the workshop sessions.

Presented here are:

- Workshop programmes;
- Workshop attendees and groups;
- A table presenting the themes, objectives, draft strategic priorities and key workshop comments.

Both workshops were very successful in generating enthusiasm and comments on the proposed draft priorities.

The comments and discussions from the workshop sessions have been used to inform the East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and to shape and refine the final list of strategic priorities.

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<sup>30</sup> UE Associates (2011) Green Infrastructure Study for East Hampshire

<sup>31</sup> Not included in UEA Study

<sup>32</sup> Note 30

## Workshop Summaries

### Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place

#### Objectives:

- To protect the unique quality, diversity and distinctiveness of East Hampshire's countryside and geology;
- To maintain and where necessary improve the cultural heritage, identity and character of settlements, including places of work.

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>The East Hampshire GI Strategy will provide a framework for the delivery of a high quality network of green infrastructure that will complement local design and heritage features to enhance the setting of small towns and villages.</p> <p><b>Design for New Build:</b> ensure that new development is designed in such a way as to maximise provision of GI services.</p> <p>Potential target areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site water retention using Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems;</li> <li>• Green roofs;</li> <li>• Native tree and hedgerow planting within new and existing developments;</li> <li>• Landscaping of all car parking areas and recreation grounds;</li> <li>• No loss of existing trees except on safety grounds;</li> <li>• Using a consistent palette of building materials (flint, red brick and clay tiles);</li> <li>• Enhancement and protection of underlying geology, nearby archaeological and architectural assets and resident flora and fauna.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hedgerow initiative:</b> Conserve and enhance the district's hedgerow network (links also with Woodlands).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful implementation of green infrastructure on new development will require strong leadership (by the planning authority) supported by clear policies and principles. GI standards and other tools will be required;</li> <li>• Need to ensure the profile of GI is raised to secure funding via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL);</li> <li>• New Developments: GI to be regarded as a key sustainability principle. Standards for GI should be part of planning policy. ANG standards including local sites within walking-distance were welcomed.</li> <li>• Consider developing GI standards;</li> <li>• Identify and formalise GI partnership working between neighbouring local authorities for cross-boundary developments where CIL is payable.</li> <li>• Consider and identify an appropriate GI management model;</li> <li>• Develop Guidance for Planners and a Green Infrastructure Toolkit to assist Planners in advising developers on the inclusion of GI in developments;</li> <li>• Ensure there is a joined up approach to GI, which incorporates other agendas and projects e.g. highway projects;</li> <li>• A GI Framework is needed around heritage areas recognising the importance of locally significant historic buildings;</li> <li>• The provision of strategic landscape gaps cannot be used to contain the growth of settlements, but they could create links and greenspaces between settlements and develop particular types of GI (e.g. to provide for a range of ecosystems services).</li> </ul>

Biodiversity

Objectives:

- To conserve and enhance existing biodiversity throughout East Hampshire; restoring habitats according to Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) and Biodiversity Action Plan priorities and improving connectivity of habitats at all scales and levels of designation;
- To contribute to the avoidance and mitigation of the impacts of growth on European sites in and around East Hampshire through enhanced access management and creation of local natural accessible greenspace.

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>Strengthen the network of biodiverse habitats across East Hampshire, improving ecological connectivity, reducing habitat fragmentation and managing threatened habitats, at a landscape scale, in line with national and regional priorities.</p> <p>This could be achieved through: Developing an East Hampshire-wide Habitat Restoration and Improvement Programme that will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Link sites to form larger habitat areas that are more resilient to climate change and other pressures, such as impacts from growth.</li> <li>2. Create wildlife corridors to connect BOAs, running to the east and west of the Whitehill &amp; Bordon (WHB) Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGS) and the fragmented Wealden Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).</li> <li>3. Consider buffer zones, alternative natural greenspace areas and recreation destinations to relieve the pressure on sensitive sites.</li> <li>4. Work in partnership with neighbouring authorities and organisations to ensure a consistent approach.</li> </ol> <p>Potential target BOAs: The East Hampshire Hangers; Wealden Heaths; Meon Valley; Rother Valley and Northern Wey Valley; The South Downs; Herriard Wooded Downland Plateau.</p>	<p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a mechanism to prioritise Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) for management to draw pressure away from sensitive sites. Develop an intelligent approach according to value/use of the SINC;</li> <li>• BOAs - develop a priority action approach. This could also help stream funding to deliver action in highest priority BOAs;</li> <li>• Target BOAs with the most recreational pressures or sites, which could result in quick wins, such as sites owned by the National Trust;</li> <li>• Consider mapping ecological networks for East Hampshire;</li> <li>• Extend best practice from WHB across the district – prepare a guidance note;</li> <li>• Target willing private landowners to address fragmentation issues e.g. National Trust. They need funding/time/support/advice. Suggest South Downs National Park (SDNP) take a proactive role.</li> </ul> <p><b>Medium Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a governance mechanism to deliver green infrastructure – resource could come from SDNP;</li> <li>• Consider undertaking an Informal Open Space Strategy that would focus on the BOAs, SINCs and other designated sites, developing a strategic approach to fragmentation and identify sites that could take more recreational pressures;</li> <li>• Green infrastructure should be integrated more fully into Neighbourhood Plans – need feedback mechanisms for Parish Councils to make sure they understand the green infrastructure agenda. This links to the 'Greening Campaign' or something similar across all the Parishes.</li> </ul>

Water Resources, Water Quality and Flood Risk Management

Objectives:

- To promote natural river corridor management to provide multifunctional benefits for ecosystem services (aesthetics, recreation, biodiversity, connectivity and adaptation to climate change), flood risk reduction and landscape;
- Activities might include deculverting, providing wider buffer zones of native vegetation along riversides, introducing meanders and improved areas for wildlife;
- To increase rainwater storage capacity, alleviate diffuse pollution into rivers from urban and agricultural run-off, improve permeability in settlements across East Hampshire to reduce flood risk and address water abstraction issues.

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>Catchment-scale restoration of the rivers and their floodplains. Target key river corridors to improve their multifunctional benefits (e.g. recreation, access, flood storage and flood defence, wildlife and landscape)</p> <p>Potential target areas: Rivers Rother, Meon, Slea, Wey, Coker Stream, Lavant Stream and pond creation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key priority - groundwater retention and healthy river corridors.</li> </ul> <p>Short Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit of water related groups and organisations;</li> <li>• Coordination of stakeholders in catchment areas (started by EA) e.g. East Hampshire group;</li> <li>• Promote local action and public engagement and awareness in water issues;</li> <li>• Demand management of water, more SUDs retro-fitting existing properties;</li> <li>• Investigate possible solutions to over abstraction;</li> <li>• Seasonality of ponds and streams e.g. at Bordon – priority to restore existing ponds not create new ones.</li> </ul> <p>Medium Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To plan and promote increased water storage capacity such as Havant Thicket reservoir;</li> <li>• Improve habitats and carry out restoration projects on the Rother, Wey and Meon.</li> </ul> <p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect water resources.</li> </ul>

## Woodland Management and Climate Change

### Objectives:

- To increase the number of managed woodlands within the district and bring neglected woodlands into active management with a stronger focus on timber and/or woodfuel production and improving resilience to climate change;
- To adapt to the effects of climate change in East Hampshire through enhanced shading from trees and improved permeability in urban areas, as well as facilitating landscape connectivity for species migration. Encourage imaginative planting of trees within settlements;
- Facilitate reduced carbon emissions and contribute to the development of East Hampshire's low carbon economy;
- Promote, increase and raise awareness of commercial activities such as farming or forestry, which provide multi-purpose and cost effective delivery of GI;
- GI is planned and managed to allow for climate change and deliver other economic, social and environmental benefits.

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>Take a <b>landscape-scale approach</b> to tree planting, woodland creation and management which takes into account the interaction between woodlands and other land uses, delivering the benefits of wider ecosystem services such as landscape, habitat, recreation and amenity which strategically placed woodland can provide.</p> <p><b>Woodland Management Improvements:</b> Work with public and private woodland owners to increase active woodland management; to benefit wildlife, offer opportunities for public access and to provide economic benefits to landowners in the production of woodland products.</p> <p><b>Promote the marketing of local woodland products</b> such as woodfuel, charcoal, woodchip (biomass) and construction materials. Venison and pheasant rearing.</p> <p>Promote Woodland and Forestry partnerships e.g. South Downs Forestry partnership</p>	<p>Management of existing woodlands should be a higher priority than woodland creation, which should be restricted to buffering existing woodlands and providing connectivity, linking wildlife habitats and ancient woods.</p> <p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Hampshire Council to show leadership in improving the management of its own woodlands and trees;</li> <li>• Target woodland initiatives and cross boundary working such as Forest of Bere, West Walk, Havant Thicket, Ancient and Hangers Woodlands, Liphook recreational woodland links;</li> <li>• Increase the number of urban trees and woodlands. (Street trees declining in number);</li> <li>• Undertake audit of all existing groups and woodland partnerships and assist with support and coordination;</li> <li>• Support existing partnerships such as the South Downs Forestry partnership and the Forestry Society.</li> </ul>

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>Use Forestry Design Plans, Woodland management plans to assist the funding and participation of woodland owners in management.</p> <p>Target woodland initiatives and cross boundary working e.g. Ancient and Hanger Woodlands, Forest of Bere, Havant Thicket and Liphook.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the Forestry Commission to increase open access to woodlands (not just linear access);</li> <li>• Work with the Forestry Commission to open up forests around QECP so they are better for landscape, habitat and recreational use;</li> <li>• Look at more flexible policies for recreational activity in woodlands e.g. Tree houses, Go Ape;</li> <li>• Retain Alice Holt as a centre for forestry research;</li> <li>• Update, develop and coordinate Forestry and Woodland strategies in the district;</li> <li>• Research projects for CIL payments;</li> <li>• Support Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) woodland initiatives e.g. Forest of Bere, West Walk, develop woodfuel markets.</li> </ul> <p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More private woods into better management;</li> <li>• Ancient woodlands better connected and managed for conservation;</li> <li>• Remove non-native tree species and restore deciduous woodlands;</li> <li>• Develop the woodland economy in East Hampshire so that there are long-term sustainable markets for woodland products especially wood fuel;</li> <li>• Create reliable supply and demand of woodfuel on a substantial scale to encourage investment in equipment, machinery and renewable heating.</li> </ul>

## Access and Recreation

### Objectives:

- All households in East Hampshire to have access to open space
- To enhance and promote East Hampshire’s Public Rights of Way (PROW) network (including circular routes), providing more accessible links within and between urban and rural areas to reduce reliance on motor vehicles and increase use by all sectors of society.
- To address deficiencies in greenspace provision and accessibility through creation of new recreation sites, enhancing outdoor play sites, sports facilities and community walks and improving safety to encourage use by the under-24s and over-65s.
- All such sites should avoid conflict with established nature conservation interests

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p><b>Recreational Network Improvements:</b> improve connectivity, safety, maintenance and promotion. Enhance the quality and accessibility of existing networks, as well as creating new routes and links where appropriate.</p> <p><b>A Green Grid for East Hampshire:</b> draw all the green infrastructure initiatives together to ensure a focus for planning, funding and delivery. An ‘umbrella’ initiative working in partnership with neighbouring authorities and initiatives to deliver a landscape-scale interconnected network of sites, routes and facilities, providing a wide range of benefits (e.g. more resilient wildlife habitats; a planned approach to managing recreation activities and sites; multifunctional land uses to minimize flood risk access; local community involvement and activities).</p> <p>Within a Green Grid develop:</p> <p>(i) Landscape-scale Green and Blue Corridors to provide strategic green infrastructure; to provide key access and wildlife linkages from towns into the countryside; maximise the recreational and other potential of water courses (also links with biodiversity and water resources priorities)</p> <p>(ii) New strategic greenspace, targeted at areas deficient in large-scale greenspace.</p>	<p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More circular routes that connect with public transport and visitor destinations and facilities (e.g. cafes).</li> <li>• East-West access across the A3 corridor needs addressing.</li> <li>• Improve signage for access – district wide</li> <li>• Promotion should be fit for purpose and must not result in visitor hot-spots being over-promoted. More promotion of alternative sites to ease the pressure on the busier ones, although this could result in management issues.</li> <li>• Need to increase local community involvement to help reduce the funding required for management</li> </ul> <p><b>Medium Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for a visitor Management Study at key sites - visitor impact on the landscape and recreational destinations needs further investigation and understanding, e.g. visitor management at key areas such as country parks. Queen Elizabeth Country Park (QECP) is one of the busiest sites in the southeast.</li> <li>• Need to assess changing access requirements – e.g. with an ageing population there may be increased numbers of walkers.</li> <li>• Review parking requirements (for visitors to the countryside) to prevent parking problems in villages and towns.</li> </ul>

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>Recreational and Community Green Infrastructure facilities: Improve quality and provision to better meet the needs of East Hampshire's residents, by the targeting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements to the green infrastructure network (open spaces, routes, facilities and public transport) to areas with higher levels of deprivation, poorer health indicators and poor access to open space;</li> <li>• New recreation spaces and social activities for young people within residential areas, accessible by foot, bicycle or regular bus services;</li> <li>• Improvements to the quality and safety of existing walking and cycling routes between schools and residential areas, as well as creating new ones.</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake and implement a Visitor Management Study.</li> </ul>

Health and Well-being

Objectives:

- To create and enhance greenspace in East Hampshire in order to improve quality of life as well as access to fresh air for a sense of spiritual well-being, particularly within settlements;
- To minimise future pressure on the health service by addressing the district's problems of an ageing population and the increasing levels of obesity amongst adults and children by promoting active lifestyles.

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>Develop opportunities to support healthy lifestyles through the provision of green and blue routes for walking, cycling and horse-riding and multifunctional greenspaces for sport, play, recreation and amenity.</p> <p>Improve the quality of life for East Hampshire communities through place shaping and careful design that brings natural features into neighbourhoods, improving community health and well-being.</p> <p>Potential target areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deprivation and poor health;</li> <li>• Ageing population;</li> <li>• Obesity amongst adults and children;</li> <li>• Sedentary lifestyles;</li> <li>• Inadequate Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) and Rights of Way provision.</li> </ul> <p>Green infrastructure delivery mechanism: An East Hampshire Green Grid could be the delivery mechanism for targeted community action to support health and well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise areas of need and undertake a more detailed community study to ascertain reasons for poor health and if ANG would make a difference;</li> <li>• Determine the extent that a lack of ANG is contributing to health issues and ground truth the evidence;</li> <li>• Try to understand why some people are not taking part in recreation in these areas.</li> </ul>

Local Awareness and Involvement

Objectives:

- To improve understanding of the importance of green infrastructure in terms of providing socio-economic and environmental benefits by means of education and better communication of information for all. Promote employment and the creation of skills;
- To encourage the involvement of people in maintaining their local greenspace through a sense of responsibility, ownership and pride, in addition to promoting volunteer opportunities.

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>Increase the level and diversity of community participation in the planning, development and use of East Hampshire's GI.</p> <p><b>Promotion and Signage:</b> Improve 'on the ground' signage for footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways and information provision (oral, printed and electronic) on routes, events and particular locations. Coordination required between authorities and organisations including Tourism.</p> <p><b>Awareness raising and Education:</b> To encourage healthy and sustainable lifestyles.</p> <p><b>Allotments Initiatives:</b> increase the number of allotments available to the public. Pursue a range of related activities including linking local production to consumption via small-scale farmers markets; enhancing the biodiversity potential of allotments; and developing community composting.</p> <p><b>Allotment provision:</b> targeted at areas of Horndean, Alton, Whitehill, Bramshott and Liphook.</p>	<p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more signage to help people get beyond their front door and out into the countryside. 'Walks' around the local area – funding is an issue. Need more disabled walks / routes. WHB use Websites, newsletters to promote their walks – need to learn lessons from them;</li> <li>• Look at what campaigns are running and reinvigorate these to encourage local action e.g. Friends of groups;</li> <li>• Develop a Parish Green Champions Initiative;</li> <li>• Ensure allotments sites are included in new developments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Medium Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green infrastructure work needs to be embedded in Neighbourhood Plans, which need to set green infrastructure priorities for the local area. Parish Plans are also key to this;</li> <li>• Develop a co-ordinated district wide approach to volunteering. Needs funding, co-coordinator / team. Does the SDNP do this already or have the resource to undertake this role?</li> </ul> <p><b>Long Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set a target – e.g. 20% of the population of the district will become more active by e.g. 2020. Target specific groups and need to set realistic short, medium and long-term targets.</li> </ul>

Land Management and Local Markets

Objectives:

- To promote and support East Hampshire's potential for self-sufficiency in local produce including food grown on farms and community allotments as well as biofuel (woodchip), timber and other products from the district's woodland;
- To raise awareness of commercial GI activities including businesses related to outdoor recreation and tourism, encouraging take-up of Stewardship schemes and enhanced land management.

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
Ensure green infrastructure plays a central role in East Hampshire's sustainable and economic growth	No specific comments Comments integrated in other priority areas.

Economic Development and Tourism

Objectives:

- Complement the resources of existing visitor destinations, facilitate increased tourism opportunities and enhance the visitor economy;
- Reduce the cost of flooding events; maintain the unique landscape character to ensure inward investment.

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>Deliver high quality, attractive environments that support and increase levels of business investment and tourism, enhancing East Hampshire's economy.</p> <p>Priority areas: Tourism, local markets, local produce, housing development / property values, inward investment, valuing natural capital, CIL funding.</p>	<p>Needs 'Sustainable' growth in the priority.</p> <p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake an audit of current tourist attractions and identify opportunities to increase sustainable tourism;</li> <li>• Work with SDNP to promote sustainable tourism.</li> </ul> <p><b>Medium Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link up places of interest across the district and cross boundary</li> <li>• Lots of work already being undertaken to encourage tourists. Specific areas - Forest of Bere, Alice Holt;</li> <li>• More opportunities for development of visitor accommodation and activities. Need SDNP to be proactive e.g. marketing NP gateways;</li> <li>• Issue of poor tourist accommodation in the district – consider Yurts and more hotels;</li> <li>• Tourism opportunities on big estates and in forests like Alice Holt and other woodland;</li> <li>• More support for rural diversification, farm tourism, camping, yurts, paintballing and "Go-Ape" tree experiences, providing activity does not affect the environment;</li> <li>• Coordinate and encourage tourism providers. Lack of Business opportunities especially in smaller settlements, number of businesses declining;</li> <li>• An increasing number of EHDC residents travel out of the district to work;</li> <li>• SDNP could provide more opportunities to promote businesses especially linked to the environment and tourism.</li> </ul>

General

Objective:

- To ensure that green infrastructure assets are identified. Opportunities and pressures on green infrastructure are addressed on a landscape / ecological basis and not restricted by political boundaries.

Draft Strategic Priorities	Key comments recorded at workshop
<p>Develop a comprehensive green infrastructure strategy for East Hampshire that identifies cross-boundary issues and opportunities.</p> <p>Use the green infrastructure strategy to formalize working arrangements with neighbouring authorities and other organisations.</p> <p>Target Cross Boundary Projects :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Liss – heathland habitat creation to support the network of heathland sites in Chichester District.</li> <li>2. Liphook – recreation links with woodland sites in Chichester District.</li> <li>3. Horndean – links to Stanton Country Park in Havant.</li> <li>4. Strengthen North-South biodiversity connections along transport corridors (PUSH).</li> <li>5. Horndean and Clanfield - Maintain and enhance the green gap between.</li> <li>6. Havant Thicket Reservoir – create sustainable accessible natural greenspace with significant recreational attraction.</li> <li>7. Forest of Bere – cross boundary links Country Parks and woodlands.</li> </ol>	<p>No specific comments. Comments integrated in other priority areas.</p>

## Attendees and Workshop Groups

### Workshop 1: Stakeholders

#### Wildlife, Health and Local Involvement

**Facilitator:** Andrea Byerley **Scribe:** Valerie Dobson

- Pauline Holmes, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Sue Payne, Chichester District Council
- Damian Offer, Winchester City Council
- Marc Turner, Natural England
- Andy Biltcliffe, East Hampshire DC/Havant BC
- Lionel Fanshawe, Terraforma Consultancy

#### Access & Recreation, Landscape, Heritage & Sense of Place

**Facilitator:** Val Hyland **Scribe:** Rebecca Altman

- Mark Herbert, East Hampshire District Council
- Bryan Harrison, Town and Parish Councils
- Martin Small, English Heritage
- Mike Heelis, White Young Green
- Gareth Williams, Havant Borough Council
- Ray Drabble, South Downs National Park Authority

#### Water and Woodlands

**Facilitator:** Lynnette Leeson **Scribe:** Steve Proctor

- Laura Lax, Environment Agency
- Bruce Collinson, Whitehill & Bordon Eco-Town
- Tracey Flitcroft, Chichester District Council
- Sean Quigley, Hart District Council
- David Carman, Hampshire County Council
- Garry King, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

## Workshop 2: East Hampshire District Council Officers and Councillors

#### Wildlife & Local Involvement

**Facilitator:** Andrea Byerley **Scribe:** Valerie Dobson

- Mike O'Mahony, EHDC Community Team
- Martin Healey, EHDC Countryside
- Cllr Glynis Watts
- Cllr Hilary Ayer
- Cllr Dorothy Denston

#### Access & Recreation, Landscape Heritage & Sense of Place

**Facilitator:** Val Hyland **Scribe:** Patrick Reid

- Stephen D'Este Hoare, EHDC Landscape
- Gareth Giles, South Downs National Park Authority
- Sarah Hobbs, EHDC Transport
- Cllr Melissa Maynard
- Cllr Bob Ayer

#### Water and Woodlands

**Facilitator:** Lynnette Leeson **Scribe:** Steve Proctor

- Julia Mansi, EHDC Development Management
- Andy Biltcliffe, EHDC/HBC Planning Policy Section Manager
- Cllr Julie Butler
- Cllr David Newberry

## Developing Strategic Aims and High Level Priorities

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The results of the mapping analysis and research helped to inform the development of strategic aims and priorities for green infrastructure. The themes that were developed in a previous study<sup>33</sup> provided a framework for the aims and priorities, as well as a template for inviting feedback at the Workshop sessions.

The themes comprise:

- Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place;
- Biodiversity;
- Water Resources;
- Woodlands;
- Access and Recreation;
- Health and Well-Being;
- Local Awareness and Involvement.

Table 3 on page 76 sets out the logical progression of the development of the strategy.

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<sup>33</sup> UE Associates (2011) Green Infrastructure Study for East Hampshire

## A Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

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In order to develop a strategic green infrastructure strategy, it is proposed that a framework be developed to consider actions across spatial areas. A framework for the delivery of a high quality network of green infrastructure would:

- Protect the strategic gaps between settlements and ensure new development reflects the local style and use of local materials to preserve a sense of place;
- Enhance the rural setting of small towns and villages;
- Improve awareness of the landscape and historic character and involve local people in actively caring for local landscapes and enhancing local sense of place.
- Tackle issues of poor landscape quality or landscapes under pressure through landscape improvement initiatives;
- Improve the setting and gateways into the National Park and key towns and villages;
- Recognise the value of existing projects and provide support where it is needed to deliver a coordinated and sustained approach to landscape enhancement and improvement;

As part of the development of this strategy a range of strategic 'tools' is used to describe the elements of the proposed green infrastructure network:

### Green Infrastructure Investment Areas (GIAs)

Areas in which an integrated approach can deliver a range of green infrastructure improvements.

### Green and Blue Corridors

Linear features that follow water courses or other features and extend or link wildlife habitats, enhance the landscape, naturalise river corridors and provide access, linking towns and villages to the wider countryside.

### New Greenspaces

Targeted in areas where there are gaps in provision, either locally or to serve wider recreational needs, or areas with increasing pressure from housing growth.

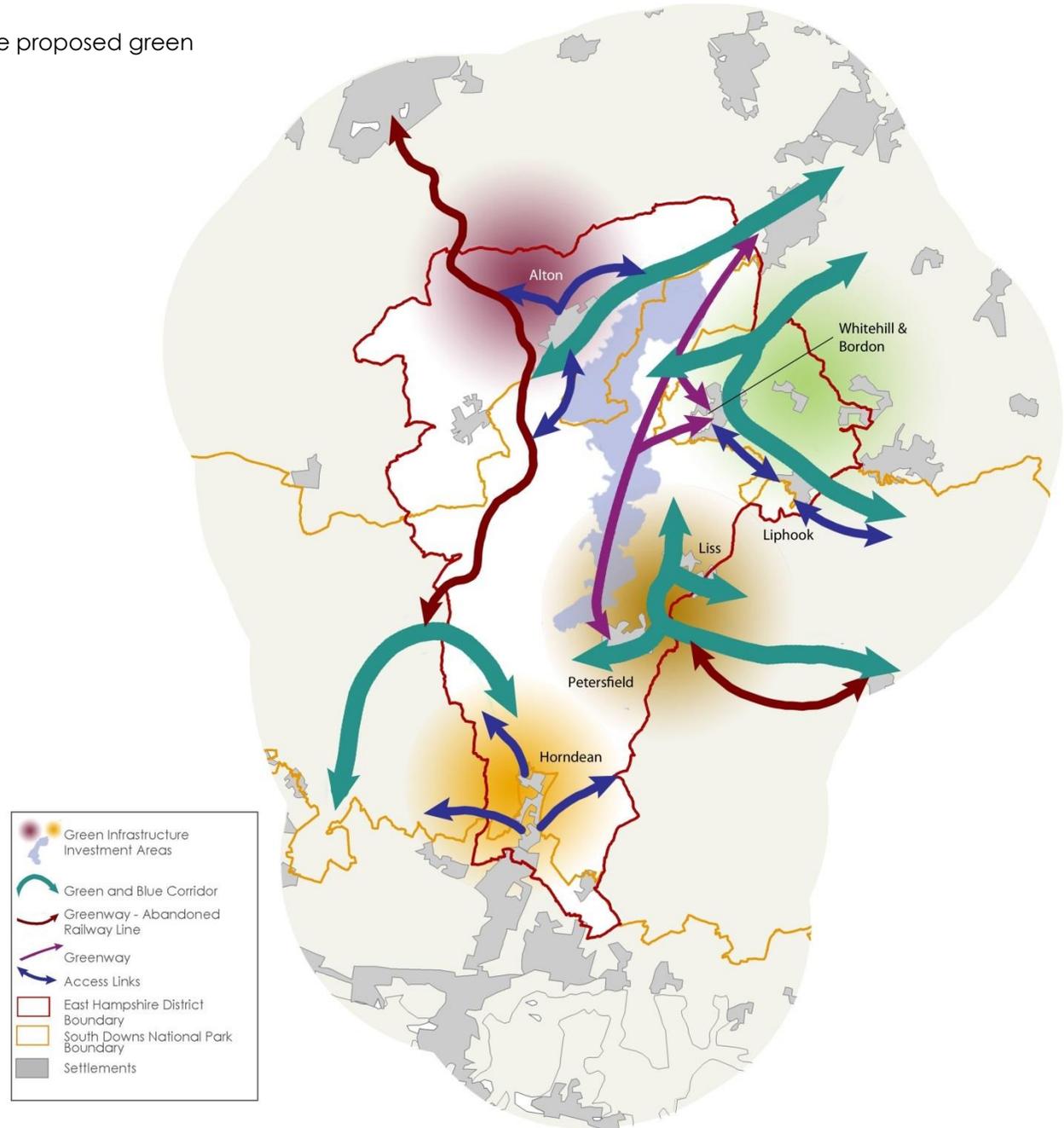
### Greenways and Access Links

Provide access routes, connecting settlements to greenspace and providing links to the access network.

### Green Visitor Hubs

These are points of access into the countryside and the South Downs National Park, providing a range of visitor facilities, relieving pressure on 'honeypot' sites and supporting local businesses.

Plan 26 shows a strategic representation of the proposed green infrastructure network.



## Green Infrastructure – Key Concepts and Best Practice

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### Principles

The Green Infrastructure Strategy for East Hampshire has been developed in accordance with the principles outlined in the East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Study (2011). These are effectively the mechanisms for delivering multifunctionality and connectivity of the green infrastructure network. They comprise:

**Protection:** This is generally influenced by legislation and various policy drivers. The planning system in England has a central role to play in the protection of the natural environment and ensuring green infrastructure is protected through the strategic planning process is essential. However, in areas that are not protected by such means, it is necessary to consider which elements of a local network should be upheld and protected as core components. This is important in the context of any new initiatives relating to biodiversity offsetting.

**Enhancement:** This relates to the quality of green infrastructure assets. In order to understand the quality of a particular type of green infrastructure, standards need to be in place and these need to be monitored so that any decision to implement actions relating to enhancement can be made. This activity relates to almost all types of green infrastructure.

**Restoration:** This differs from enhancement because it is used to restore a particular feature. For example, this might include improved grassland that could be restored to semi-natural grassland. Restoration has a key role to play with the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. Restoration also applies to parks and features that have since

changed use but not so much so that any intervention would prove impossible to achieve a positive change.

**Creation:** This is the establishment of new green infrastructure features. This has an important role to play particularly with new developments. This activity relates to almost all types of green infrastructure although there will be issues of establishment and the length of time for a particular type of green infrastructure to become fully multifunctional needs to be considered. Creation of grass tennis courts will have an immediate impact whilst creation of chalk grassland will take many years to fully establish.

### Green Infrastructure Functions and Benefits

The concept of 'multifunctionality' is central to the green infrastructure approach, referring to the potential for green infrastructure to have a range of functions and to deliver multiple benefits. The following themes have been identified as being of particular relevance and importance to the proposed green infrastructure network in East Hampshire.

## Functions

Key functions of green infrastructure:

- Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including the need to mitigate the potential impacts of new development;
- Creating a sense of place and opportunities for greater appreciation of valuable landscapes and cultural heritage;
- Increasing recreational opportunities, including access to and enjoyment of the countryside and supporting healthy living;
- Improved water resource and flood management and sustainable design;
- Making a positive contribution to combating climate change through adaptation and mitigation of impacts;
- Sustainable transport, education and crime reduction;
- Production of food, fibre and fuel.

## Benefits

**Economic Growth and Tourism:** A quality, well planned green infrastructure network can support sustainable economic development through enhancing the design of new communities and helping to provide a sense of place. It can also have a major positive impact on land and property markets, creating settings for investment and acting as a catalyst for wider regeneration. Work undertaken by Natural Economy North West<sup>34</sup> shows that high quality, connected environments attract skilled and mobile workers, which in turn encourages business investment.

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<sup>34</sup> Natural Economy Northwest - The Economic benefits of Green Infrastructure: Developing key tests for evaluating the benefits of Green Infrastructure

Strategic development of green infrastructure can also contribute towards the district's tourism offer, further enhancing the area's overall image as an attractive destination. Specific benefits include the potential further development of nature-based and activity based tourism utilising an enhanced network of high quality green routes.

Key economic benefits of a green infrastructure network are:

- Increasing land and property values;
- Increasing the opportunities for food and non-food production;
- Flood alleviation and water management;
- Increased employment in land management and biodiversity;
- Creating the setting for investment;
- Improving the tourism, recreation and leisure offer.

**Health and Well-being:** An accessible green infrastructure network can provide many potential health and well-being benefits through the provision of good quality, accessible greenspaces and infrastructure for exercise, sport, play, recreation and quiet contemplation and by providing green routes to promote safe opportunities for walking and cycling. It can also help to enhance quality of life by bringing the natural world into neighbourhoods with benefits for improving community health, helping to develop liveability and sense of place. The evidence strongly suggests that, at their best, greenspaces can help reduce health inequalities and that both the improvement of existing and creation of new, green infrastructure should be prioritised, especially in areas of greatest need.

**Climate Change:** A robust green infrastructure network has the potential to reduce the effects of climate change by decreasing the likelihood and severity of flooding, particularly storm water run-off, flash floods and droughts, supporting healthy ecosystems and reducing the risk of heat island effects in urban areas. Simple measures such as urban tree planting schemes, green roofs and improved woodland management, can all make a contribution.

**Healthy Natural Environment:** A well-connected green infrastructure network plays an essential role in maintaining and enhancing the health of the natural environment by increasing ecological connectivity, overcoming habitat fragmentation and reducing pressure on sensitive habitats. Its role in supporting functioning ecosystems is critical in helping to deliver a wealth of ecosystem services by improving water, air and soil quality and the maintenance of biodiversity.

**Social:** A local green network can provide a wide range of social benefits to local communities, such as providing meeting places, volunteering opportunities and the use of allotments. By providing accessible space for communities to interact in, it encourages social cohesion, interaction, local awareness and direct contact with the natural environment. It can instil a sense of pride and foster strong feelings of attachment.

**Flood Alleviation and Water Management:** A green infrastructure network that integrates blue infrastructure can also support the efficient management of water by implementing measures that will help reduce the likelihood of flooding through the appropriate management of permeable ground and the provision of greenspace for flood storage areas and other drainage techniques. Similarly, green infrastructure can help reduce water pollution through natural

processes and have a positive effect on the biodiversity of rivers and streams.

**Quality of Place/Local Distinctiveness:** An attractive, landscape-scale green infrastructure network can strengthen the links between urban areas and countryside and contribute to high quality landscapes that benefit people and wildlife.

**Education:** A diverse green infrastructure network can provide an inspirational resource for more formal environmental education and training and provide opportunities for linking people with and encouraging appreciation of the district's cultural and historic features within the landscape.

## Green Infrastructure Typologies

Adapted from UEA East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Study (2011).

**Parks and Gardens:** includes large-scale green infrastructure and smaller parcels of land. Considered together, these provide a significant green infrastructure asset, providing high levels of multifunctionality and a range of social, economic and environmental benefits. Large parks form the cornerstone of a green infrastructure network and should be located near towns.

Sub Types: Registered Parks and Gardens • Country Parks • Formal gardens.

**Semi-natural Greenspace:** Accessible natural greenspace is a multifunctional asset, adding diversity to green infrastructure networks. It is important that habitats are interconnected and maintained at a high quality.

Sub Types: Woodlands and scrub • Heathland • Grasslands: downlands, commons and meadows • Wetlands, open and running water • Wastelands and derelict land • Countryside in urban fringe areas • Cliff, quarries and pits.

**Design Features:** the built environment can include a range of design features that draw on natural processes and aim to complement or mimic natural processes. Benefits of these types of GI relate strongly to sustainable drainage and enhancing habitat connectivity across areas.

Sub Types: Green roofs and walls • SUDs • Swales • Street trees.

**Green and Blue Corridors:** can be found at a range of scales and sizes. They link the network and enable people and nature to move across and throughout settlements. Well-connected access routes encourage people to use active travel options. Blue corridors include rivers, streams, overland flow paths, surface water ponding areas, watercourse buffer areas and multi-use flood storage areas.

Sub Types: River and canal banks • Towpaths • Rivers and Canals • Cycleways and greenways • Footpaths and Bridleways • White roads and byways open to all traffic • Hedgerows and ditches • Motorway and road verges • Railway embankments.

**Outdoor Sports Facilities:** provides the important benefit of structured outdoor recreation, play and exercise. Indirect benefits include water retention and natural drainage, landscape enhancement and opportunities for communities to socialise.

Sub Types: Golf courses • Tennis courts • Bowling greens • Sports pitches and athletics tracks • School playing fields • Children's play areas • Recreation grounds • Teenage open space provision • Exotic and native specimen trees and copses • Veteran trees • Other outdoor areas: Skate parks, basketball, fitness trails.

**Amenity Greenspace:** often found in housing areas, tending to be informal areas that enable communities to meet, enjoy the fresh air and for children to play in unstructured surroundings.

Sub Types: Informal recreation spaces • Domestic gardens • Village greens • Street trees and copses • Doorstep Greens • Pocket Parks.

**Community Assets:** include those types of green infrastructure that have strong social and cultural significance. They all involve service provision to local communities and provide structured outdoor meeting places. Historic and cultural aspects often provide the spatial context for several green infrastructure community assets.

Sub Types: Churchyards and cemeteries • Allotments • Community gardens and woodlands • Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas.

## Green Infrastructure Standards

An agreed set of greenspace standards is a fundamental tool in addressing inequalities in provision. Standards provide a benchmark against which it is possible to assess current greenspace provision, identify deficiencies and maximise opportunities for improvement as well as planning for future needs in response to new development. Greenspace standards need to cover not only quantity but also accessibility and quality. For a greenspace to meet the needs of the residents it is intended to serve it must be accessible within a reasonable distance and it needs to be designed and maintained in a way that will deliver the benefits required. This study applies the Natural England national standard for Accessible Natural Greenspace.

The Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt):

- No person should live more than 300 metres from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size;
- At least 1 hectare of Local Nature Reserve should be provided per 1,000 population;

- There should be at least one accessible 20 hectare greenspace site within 2 kilometres from home;
- There should be one accessible 100 hectare greenspace site within 5 kilometres;
- There should be one accessible 500 hectare greenspace site within 10 kilometres.

Other recognised standards for green infrastructure include the Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standards and the Design for Play Standards, which details how good schemes can give children and young people the freedom to play in a creative way.

The Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standards:

- No person should live more than 500 metres from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 hectares in size;
- There should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 hectares within 4 kilometres (8 kilometres round-trip) of people's homes.

This standard was based on data collected and analysed annually since 2004 and is supported by the Forestry Commission.

## Green Infrastructure Design Standards

Across the country, the Eco-town developments have adopted a general rule that 40 per cent of the total land in an eco-town (including private gardens and green roofs) and the same percentage of any individual development site should be identified for green infrastructure. The proposed Whitehill & Bordon Eco-town is

planning to adopt this standard, providing an example for green infrastructure planning for the rest of the district.

A number of design standard documents have also been developed to help translate policies and strategies into well designed, high quality green infrastructure on the ground, for example 'Green infrastructure by design: adding value to development', which was developed in the Milton Keynes South Midlands (MKSM) growth area.

## Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services

National Ecosystem Assessment (June 2011) provided a comprehensive view of the state of our environment as well as its critical economic and social value.

The many ways in which our environment supports us and provides for our needs is now being regarded by Government agencies in terms of 'ecosystem services'. Defra splits ecosystem services into the following categories:

**Supporting Services:** the services that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services including soil formation, photosynthesis, primary production, nutrient cycling and water cycling;

**Provisioning Services:** The products obtained from ecosystems, including food, fibre, fuel, genetic resources, biochemicals, natural medicines, pharmaceuticals, ornamental resources and fresh water;

**Regulating Services:** the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes, including air quality regulation, climate regulation, water regulation, erosion regulation, water purification,

disease regulation, pest regulation, pollination, natural hazard regulation;

**Cultural services:** the non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation and aesthetic experiences, thereby taking account of landscape values.

Focus is turning to landscape-scale solutions to environmental degradation and fragmentation of wildlife habitats, with greater emphasis on the way in which action at a local level can be guided through a bigger perspective. For example, the new Natural Environment White paper supports the creation of Nature Improvement Areas where there are significant opportunities to enhance and reconnect wildlife habitats.

Green infrastructure provides a way of recognising and protecting the ecosystem services and functions provided by green assets and enables the functions and connectivity of assets to be improved for strategic benefits. This is important when planning for development, whether a small housing development or a major urban extension. The local and strategic green infrastructure context for any plan area or site should therefore directly influence its formation.

## Green Infrastructure Guidance

North West Green Infrastructure Guidance  
[www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk](http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk)

Natural England Green Infrastructure Guidance – currently being updated to reflect recent policy changes  
[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

TCPA and Wildlife Trusts (2012) Planning for a healthy environment – Good Practice for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity – currently being updated  
[www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk)

Landscape Institute (2013) An integrated approach to Green Infrastructure and Land Use  
[www.landscapeinstitute.co.uk](http://www.landscapeinstitute.co.uk)

Natural Economy Northwest - The Economic benefits of Green Infrastructure: Developing key tests for evaluating the benefits of Green Infrastructure.  
[www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk](http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk)

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- Landscape Character Assessment (2006)
- Core Strategy – Issues and Options – Healthy Living (Spring 2008)
- Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2008)
- Playing Pitch Strategy (2008)
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008)
- Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2026
- Biodiversity Action Plan (2009)
- UEA, East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Study (2011)
- Habitat Regulation Assessments and Appropriate Assessment Report (2012)
- Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy Draft (2012)
- The Health and Well Being of Residents in the District of East Hampshire report (July 2012)

### Whitehill and Bordon Eco-town

- Outline Water Cycle Study Green Town Vision (2009)
- Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)
- A Framework for the long-term management and maintenance of the Green Infrastructure (2012)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment Refresh (2012)
- Walking and cycling Strategy (2012) (Hampshire County Council)
- Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace – Design and Delivery (2012)
- Inward Investment Strategy (2013)

### Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)

- Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)
- Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan (2012)

### South Downs National Park

- South Downs National Park Management Plan (in development)

### Others

- Water Framework Directive (2000)
- Arun and Western Streams CAMS (2007)
- Hampshire County Council, Countryside and Access Plan for the South Downs (2008)
- Wey CAMS (2008)
- Winchester City Council Open Space and Sports and Recreation Study (2008)
- Environment Agency River Basin Management Plan: South East River Basin District (2009)
- A report to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trusts, A Vision for the Forest of Bere (2010)
- Forestry Commission: The Case for Trees (2010)
- Forest Research, Benefits of Green Infrastructure (2010)
- Hampshire Health and Well Being Partnership Strategy (2010)
- Natural England (2010), Nature Nearby – Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance
- Winchester City Council, Green Infrastructure Study (2010)
- Basingstoke and Deane (2012) Towards a Green Infrastructure strategy for Basingstoke and Deane (to inform the Core Strategy): Consultation Draft
- Havant Borough Council (2012) Green Infrastructure Study
- South Hampshire Strategy (2012): A framework to Guide Sustainable Development and Change 2026

## Additional Data Tables

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**Table 2 – ANG Provision**

National (Natural England) ANG Standard	No of households in EHDC area meeting the standard (based on 31,630 households)	% of households in EHDC meeting the standard	% of households in the rest of the study area meeting the standard
300m/2Ha	8121	25.7%	24.6%
2km/20Ha	27819	88%	71.1%
5km/ 100Ha	31152	98.5%	81.9%
10km/500Ha	15805	50%	62.3%
One LNR/1000 pop	13 LNRs in East Hampshire, making a deficit of 103 LNRs		

Table 3 - Strategy Development

Strategic Aim	Strategic Priority	Plan, Policy or Strategy	Workshop/other stakeholder comments	Information and maps	Proposed intervention and GI tools
<b>Theme: Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place</b>					
Deliver a Green Infrastructure Network that will protect and enhance the unique character and diversity of the East Hampshire landscape.	Multifunctional Corridors - linking towns and villages to the wider countryside, improving accessibility, enhancing river corridors and extending wildlife habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape Character Assessment (HCC), 2011</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape Character map</li> <li>• Key Landscapes map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue and Green Corridors along main river corridors and streams.</li> </ul>
	Raise awareness of the importance of historical and cultural heritage and its interrelationship with the landscape, the natural environment and sense of place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Downs National Park Management Plan (current draft)</li> <li>• EHDC Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026</li> </ul>	A GI Framework is needed to include historic areas and recognise the importance of locally significant historic buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing Green Infrastructure map</li> <li>• Landscape Character map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and cultural heritage initiatives;</li> <li>• Local involvement and supporting existing initiatives.</li> </ul>
	Green Infrastructure Investment Areas (GIAs) - strategic areas of opportunity for green infrastructure development where a range of multifunctional benefits can be focused as part of the green infrastructure network.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing Green Infrastructure map</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Network Proposals map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIA development across 5 areas of the district and across neighbouring boundaries, where a range of GI interventions could be targeted.</li> </ul>

Strategic Aim	Strategic Priority	Plan, Policy or Strategy	Workshop/other stakeholder comments	Information and maps	Proposed intervention and GI tools
<b>Theme: Biodiversity</b>					
<p>At a landscape scale, strengthen the network of biodiverse habitats across East Hampshire, improving ecological connectivity, reducing habitat fragmentation and managing threats to habitats.</p>	<p>To interconnect, restore, enhance and protect our most important habitats ('more, bigger, better and joined').</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EHDC Biodiversity Action Plan 2008</li> <li>• EHDC Sustainable Community</li> <li>• Strategy 2008-2026</li> <li>• PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010</li> <li>• PUSH Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan 2012</li> <li>• Whitehill &amp; Bordon (WHB) Green Infrastructure Strategy</li> <li>• WHB A Framework for the long-term management and maintenance of Green Infrastructure (2012)</li> <li>• WHB Habitats Regulations Assessment Refresh (2012)</li> <li>• SDNPA Management Plan (current draft)</li> </ul>	<p>Issue of fragmentation of sites, which will increase as housing development increases.</p> <p>(Fragmented) BOAs need buffering and linking and improvement in their management.</p> <p>Need to keep people local and use their GI close to where they live to reduce pressures on sensitive sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity: Habitats map</li> <li>• Biodiversity: Designations and Ancient Woodland map</li> <li>• Biodiversity Pressures map</li> <li>• Access-Sensitive Biodiversity Sites map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase natural accessible greenspace provision and wildlife corridors;</li> <li>• Target Heathland Mosaic improvements through Whitehill &amp; Bordon GIA;</li> <li>• Hanger Woodlands fragmentation through Hanger Woodlands and Selborne GIA; Southern Downlands enhancements through the Horndean GIA;</li> <li>• Undertake a district-wide review of (SINCs) in relation to green infrastructure;</li> <li>• Designate LNRs to increase access and secure management;</li> <li>• Blue Corridor initiatives for the (Northern and Southern) Wey, Rother and Meon.</li> </ul>

Strategic Aim	Strategic Priority	Plan, Policy or Strategy	Workshop/other stakeholder comments	Information and maps	Proposed intervention and GI tools
<b>Theme: Water Resources</b>					
<p>Deliver a green infrastructure network in East Hampshire that will help to provide high quality water resources, increase water retention and manage flood risk.</p>	<p>Identify a network of Blue Corridors that can provide important natural refuges, linking adjacent greenspaces, for both people and wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDNPA Management Plan (current draft)</li> <li>• EHDC Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026;</li> </ul>	<p>Improve habitats and (support) restoration projects on the Rother, Wey and Meon.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses and BOAs map</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Network Proposals map;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Corridor initiatives for the (Northern and Southern) Wey, Rother and Meon.</li> </ul>
	<p>Catchment-scale management approach to water resources, ponds, lakes, rivers and their floodplains, to improve their multifunctional benefits and ecosystem services (recreation, access, flood storage and flood defence, wildlife and landscape).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• River Basin Management Plan: South East River</li> <li>• Basin District (EA), 2009</li> <li>• River Basin Management Plan: Thames River Basin District (EA), 2009</li> <li>• Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (EHDC), 2008</li> <li>• Outline Water Cycle Study for Whitehill/Bordon Green Town Vision (EHDC), 2009</li> <li>• Arun and Western Streams CAMS (2007)</li> <li>• East Hampshire CAMS (2003)</li> <li>• Wey CAMS (2008)</li> <li>• SDNPA Management Plan (current draft)</li> </ul>	<p>Water resources are a major asset; need a multifunctional policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses and BOAs map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Havant Thicket Reservoir scheme;</li> <li>• Develop 'Follow the River' projects.</li> </ul>

Strategic Aim	Strategic Priority	Plan, Policy or Strategy	Workshop/other stakeholder comments	Information and maps	Proposed intervention and GI tools
<b>Theme: Woodlands</b>					
To improve the management of woodland in the East Hampshire District to ensure it is actively managed for timber, wood fuel, wildlife and access.	A strategic approach to the future management and development of all areas of woodland in the district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Commission (2010) The case for trees</li> <li>• PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy</li> <li>• South Downs National Park Management Plan (current draft)</li> </ul>	<p>Increase active woodland management: to benefit wildlife, offer opportunities for public access and to provide economic benefits.</p> <p>Seek a Landscape scale approach to woodland Creation, management and tree planting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodlands map</li> <li>• Woodlands and Landscape Character map;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Woodland Plan for East Hampshire;</li> <li>• Target the Hanger Woodlands for a landscape initiative;</li> <li>• Support the creation of linear woodlands;</li> <li>• Develop an Urban Tree Planting Initiative.</li> </ul>

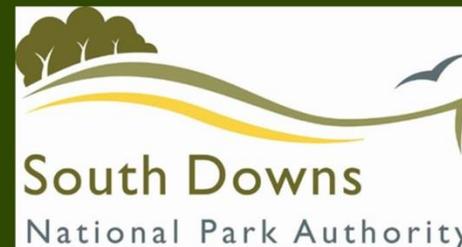
Strategic Aim	Strategic Priority	Plan, Policy or Strategy	Workshop/other stakeholder comments	Information and maps	Proposed intervention and GI tools
<b>Theme: Access and Recreation</b>					
<p>To provide local residents and visitors to East Hampshire with sustainable access to the countryside and open spaces, improving connectivity, safety and promotion and enhancing the quality and accessibility of existing networks as well as creating new routes and links.</p>	<p>Develop an interconnected network of sites, routes and facilities to provide a range of social, environmental and economic benefits across broad areas of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EHDC PPG17 Assessment (2008)</li> <li>• EHDC Sustainable Community</li> <li>• Strategy 2008-2026</li> <li>• PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)</li> <li>• Hampshire's Countryside Access Plan (HCC), 2008-13</li> <li>• SDNP Management Plan ((current draft)</li> <li>• WHB Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace – Design and Delivery (2012)</li> <li>• WHB Walking and Cycling Strategy (2012) (HCC)</li> <li>• WHB Inward Investment Strategy (2013)</li> </ul>	<p>Need for more circular routes that connect with public transport and visitor destinations and facilities; Need to ensure access and recreation is managed across political boundaries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PROW Density map</li> <li>• Accessible Natural Greenspace (and PPG 17 sites) map</li> <li>• Access and Recreation Pressures map</li> <li>• Long Distance walking and cycling routes map</li> <li>• Accessibility map</li> <li>• Accessible Natural Greenspace Deficiency maps</li> <li>• Accessible Natural Greenspace 'Heat' maps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Blue and Green Corridors, Greenways and Access Links;</li> <li>• Address deficiencies in open space provision and take action to relieve pressures on honeypot sites;</li> <li>• Investigate the potential for Green Visitor Hubs;</li> <li>• Address areas of open space and recreational pressure;</li> <li>• Enhance the access network: Develop routes linking towns and villages to the countryside; Create circular routes, in particular from towns and villages and railway stations; Identify barriers to the access network and prioritise improvements.</li> </ul>

Strategic Aim	Strategic Priority	Plan, Policy or Strategy	Workshop/other stakeholder comments	Information and maps	Proposed intervention and GI tools
<b>Theme: Health and Well-Being</b>					
<p>To increase the levels of physical, mental and social well-being for the residents of East Hampshire by providing opportunities for access to and enjoyment of greenspaces.</p>	<p>Develop opportunities to support healthy lifestyles through providing a network of green access routes to connect communities with local facilities, schools, places of work and open space and countryside and provide multifunctional greenspaces for sport, play, recreation and amenity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hampshire's Countryside Access Plan (HCC) 2008-13</li> <li>• EHDC PPG17 Assessment (2008)</li> <li>• HCC Health and Well-being Partnership Strategy Consultation (2010)</li> <li>• EHDC Core Strategy – Issues and Options – Healthy Living (2008)</li> <li>• Hampshire Health and Well Being Partnership Strategy (2010)</li> <li>• The Health and Well Being of Residents in the District of East Hampshire report (July 2012)</li> <li>• SDNPA Management Plan (current draft)</li> </ul>	<p>ANG in close proximity to (the) settlements could help and would support other health – improvement activities.</p> <p>Could prioritise areas of need (ref ANG).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Composite Health Scores map</li> <li>• Deprivation map</li> <li>• Health and Deprivation Analysis map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify new areas of local accessible natural greenspace;</li> <li>• Target a package of green infrastructure improvements to areas of socio-economic need, together with a local health initiative related to greenspace.</li> </ul>

Strategic Aim	Strategic Priority	Plan, Policy or Strategy	Workshop/other stakeholder comments	Information and maps	Proposed intervention and GI tools
<b>Theme: Local Awareness and Involvement</b>					
To increase the level and diversity of community participation in the planning, development and use of East Hampshire's green infrastructure.	Develop a co-ordinated district-wide approach to improving the understanding and profile of green infrastructure and encourage community participation in its creation and management, promoting opportunities for volunteering and skills training and encourage local activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EHDC Sustainable Community</li> <li>• Strategy 2008-2026</li> <li>• Hampshire's Countryside Access Plan (HCC) 2008-13</li> <li>• EHDC Green Infrastructure Study (2011)</li> </ul>	Increase volunteering and get companies to become more involved. Need a more co-ordinated approach across the Borough for volunteering.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the preparation of Neighbourhood/Local Plans and village design statements which offer a community led approach to the development of green infrastructure;</li> <li>• Develop a Local Greenspace Toolkit.</li> </ul>

Part 1 of this report, 'Main Report', provides a summary strategy document and outlines:

- Strategic Aims and Priorities for green infrastructure in East Hampshire
- Potential Priority Actions for delivery



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