Draft Local Plan 2021-2040 (Regulation 18)

Integrated Impact Assessment Scoping Report

INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SCOPING REPORT

January 2024

Prepared by East Hampshire District Council

Planning Policy

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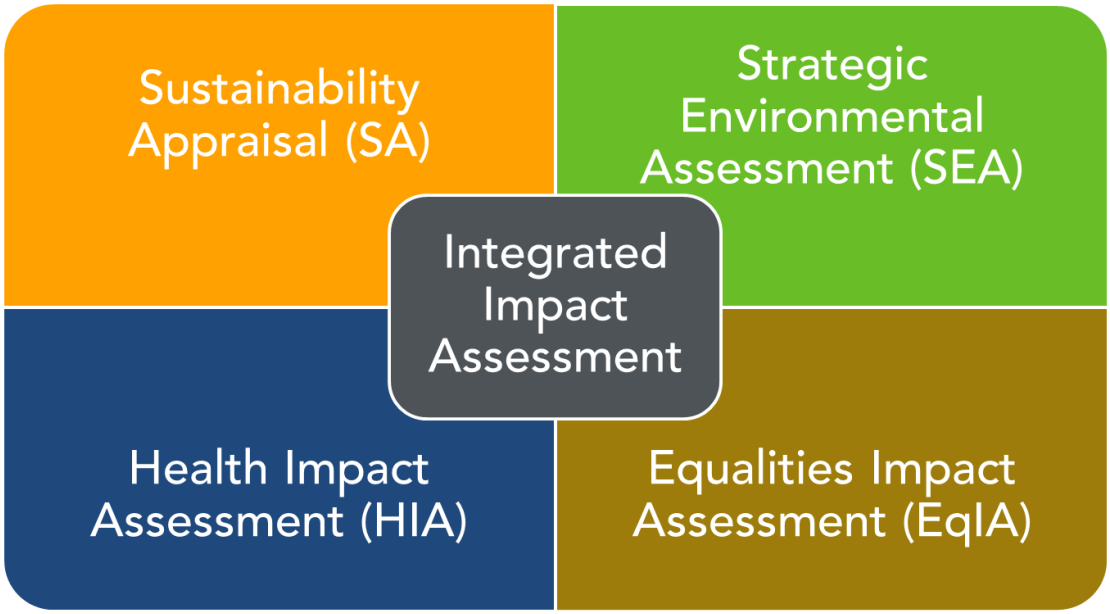
Executive Summary

1. The preparation of Local Plans requires various legislative processes and documentation to be prepared to inform the Local Plan. Preparation of the East Hants Local Plan commenced in 2018 and this scoping report is an updated and refreshed version of the interim Scoping Report published to support the draft East Hampshire Local Plan 2017-2036 published in February 2019 for public consultation.
2. Further changes to the context for plan-making in East Hampshire has prompted East Hampshire District Council to revise its timetable for the emerging Local Plan and change the local plan period to 2021-2040.
3. The new East Hampshire Local Plan will therefore be subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA). IIA integrates four different assessment regimes including:
    - Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
    - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
    - Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
    - Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)



4. IIA combines these processes to allow for a single appraisal to be carried out by integrating the requirements of SEA, HIA and EqIA into the SA process. The integrated assessment approach avoids the need to undertake and report on separate assessments, seeks to reduce any duplication of assessment work and benefits from a shared understanding of the outputs to inform the Local Plan's development.

5. This scoping report therefore reflects data from numerous sources to explain the context for the IIA in terms of international, national and local plans and strategies in place. Baseline data is included which establishes the current situation of the key topics identified :

1. Biodiversity
2. Climate emergency
3. Community and well-being
4. Economy and employment
5. Health
6. Heritage
7. Housing
8. Landscape, townscape and resources
9. Water & flood risk

6. This allows for key issues and objectives to be formulated to then inform the establishment of an IIA Framework that will be used to assess the emerging spatial strategy, policies and proposals (site allocations).

7. From each of these broad topic areas, 12 key assessment objectives have been derived to create a framework to assess the emerging local plan. Objective 12, relates to pollution. Whilst there is no corresponding baseline assessment heading within this scoping report, many of the relevant datasets are included under the other topic headings. Following the scoping workshop (summer 2023), it was deemed appropriate to define a stand-alone pollution objective given the importance of potential pollution effects:

IIA Objectives	Proposed decision-making criteria	Assessment regime
1. To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity across the East Hampshire planning area	Protect and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests.	SA/SEA/HIA
	Increase habitat connectivity and enhance biodiversity in East Hampshire, including supporting the delivery of the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy	SA/SEA/HIA
	Achieve net gains in biodiversity, with new developments expected to secure 10% net gain	SA/SEA/HIA
	Contribute towards the maintenance and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure	SA/SEA/HIA
2. To minimise carbon emissions and contribute to achieving net zero carbon emissions in the East Hampshire planning area	Reduce regulated and unregulated greenhouse gas emissions associated with modern lifestyles as part of a much faster transition towards net zero emissions than "business as usual"	SA/SEA/HIA
	Prioritise sustainable modes of transport, including active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport	SA/SEA/HIA
	Increase and improve accessibility to services and facilities, particularly in rural areas	SA/SEA/HIA
	Reduce the need to travel by car, including through improved broadband provision and speed	SA/SEA/HIA
	Promote energy generation from renewable sources	SA/SEA/HIA
	Minimise energy consumption in new dwellings	SA/SEA/HIA
3. To promote adaptation and resilience to climate change	Ensure new developments are resilient and adaptable to the effects of climate change, including through the location, design and layout of new development	SA/SEA/HIA
	Avoid or reduce the risk of flooding for East Hampshire's population.	SA/SEA/HIA
4. To promote accessibility and create well-integrated	Help to meet the changing needs of an ageing and growing population	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Help to integrate new residents with existing communities through inclusive	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA

IIA Objectives	Proposed decision-making criteria	Assessment regime
communities	design principles	
	Improve accessibility to built facilities and services, and to useable formal, natural and/or semi-natural open spaces, particularly in rural areas and the most deprived areas	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Ensure public facilities are accessibility enabled	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
5. To actively promote health and wellbeing across East Hampshire and create safe communities free from crime	Increase access to open space by connecting to and creating areas of publicly accessible open space which connect into the wider green / blue infrastructure network, particularly in the most deprived areas	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Support good accessibility to local food retail and medical facilities	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Support the physical and mental health of residents through the location and design of new development	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Help to tackle loneliness through socially inclusive design principles	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Minimise opportunities for criminal and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
6. To strengthen the local economy and provide accessible jobs and skills development opportunities for local residents	Provide additional opportunities for local employment and (access to) skills development, particularly in the most deprived areas	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Ensure a range of good quality employment sites are available to suit the needs of East Hampshire's businesses, particularly sites accommodating industrial floorspace and micro businesses	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Provide flexibly designed floorspace to support the needs of a range of economic sectors, given uncertainties over the potential impacts of AI	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Support agricultural jobs given the rural nature of the planning area	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Support the vitality and viability of existing and proposed town, local and	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA

IIA Objectives	Proposed decision-making criteria	Assessment regime
	neighbourhood centres	
7. To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage assets in the East Hampshire planning area	Protect and enhance the significance and special interest of heritage assets and cultural heritage of East Hampshire and their contribution to local character.	SA/SEA
	Promote understanding, appreciation, and care of, and access to, heritage assets.	SA/SEA
8. To provide good quality and sustainable housing for all	Ensure residents have the opportunity to live in homes that meet their needs, including for affordable housing	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Ensure housing meets the needs of the population, including those of older residents and those with extra care requirements as well as other specialist provisions	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Provide a suitable housing mix and a range of tenure requirements	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Provide flexible and adaptable new homes	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
9. To conserve and enhance the character of the landscape and townscape	Maintain and enhance the character of East Hampshire's rural landscapes and its settlements	SA/SEA
	Respect the capacity of rural and edge-of-settlement landscapes to absorb new development	SA/SEA
	Protect and enhance the setting of the South Downs National Park and the Surrey Hills National Landscape	SA/SEA
10. To support efficient and the sustainable use of East Hampshire's natural resources	Use land efficiently and minimise the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land	SA/SEA
	Support sustainable water management, including minimising water consumption and supporting sustainable levels of abstraction	SA/SEA/HIA
	Minimise use of new materials and prioritise reuse and recycling of materials	SA/SEA/HIA
	Ensure extraction of mineral resources prior to development to avoid sterilisation of mineral resources	SA/SEA
11. To achieve	Avoid or reduce the risk of flooding for East	SA/SEA/HIA

IIA Objectives	Proposed decision-making criteria	Assessment regime
sustainable water resource management and protect and improve water quality in the East Hampshire planning area	Hampshire's population	
	Maintain and where possible improve water quality, and assist in meeting the requirements of River Basin Management Plans	SA/SEA/HIA
	Protect groundwater, especially in the most sensitive areas (i.e. source protection zones)	SA/SEA/HIA
12. To minimise air, noise and light pollution in the East Hampshire planning area	Maintain and where possible improve air quality	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Limit contributions to noise pollution and reduce exposure to existing sources of pollution	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Limit and reduce light pollution across the East Hampshire planning area	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA

8. This scoping report has been further refined following feedback from the statutory consultees (October 2023).

1. Introduction

Background

1.1.1 East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) is reviewing its Local Plan. A new plan will be produced to replace the the East Hampshire District Local Plan Joint Core Strategy (adopted June 2014), the Housing and Employment Allocations (adopted April 2016) and the saved policies from the East Hampshire District Local Plan Second Review (2006). The emerging Local Plan will establish an up-to-date development strategy and policies and will make new land allocations, where appropriate. It will cover the period 2021 to 2040.

An Interim Sustainability Appraisal scoping report was published in December 2018, alongside the draft local plan for consultation in February 2019. However, to ensure a broader range of matters are taken into consideration to inform the emerging Local Plan this work has been expanded and updated to inform an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).

1.1.2 Consequently, this IIA scoping report includes data and statistics for the whole of East Hampshire District, as much of the data is not available for the East Hampshire Local Planning Authority area, which is the focus of the East Hampshire Local Plan 2040.

The Existing Development Plan in East Hampshire

1.1.3 Part 1 of the East Hampshire District Local Plan is the Joint Core Strategy, which was prepared jointly with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and adopted in 2014. It guides the way in which new development, , is planned across East Hampshire up to 2028. It sets out a spatial growth strategy and policies against which planning applications will be determined. A key part of its growth strategy is the regeneration of Ministry of Defence and Council land at Whitehill & Bordon, to deliver an environmentally sustainable mixed-use development of housing, employment opportunities and new green infrastructure.

1.1.4 East Hampshire District Council's Housing and Employment Allocations Plan (2016) establishes which sites are best to meet the growth requirements set out in the Joint Core Strategy, outside of the South Downs National Park and beyond Whitehill & Bordon. It allocates land for market and affordable housing and for the provision of new employment floorspace. There are also a number of saved policies from the East Hampshire District Local Plan Second Review (2006), which provide guidance for determining planning applications. When adopted, the East Hampshire Local Plan (2021-2040) will replace the Joint Core Strategy, the Housing and Employment Allocations Plan and the saved policies of EHDC's Local Plan Second Review.

1.1.5 Six neighbourhood plans have been made for areas outside of the South Downs National Park, covering the parishes of Alton, Beech, Bentley,

Medstead & Four Marks, Ropley and Rowlands Castle. Alongside the Local Plan, these neighbourhood plans comprise the EHDC Development Plan. A number of other neighbourhood plans[1] are in the process of being prepared.

1.1.6 The South Downs National Park Authority (the SDNPA) is the local planning authority for the area of East Hampshire that is within the South Downs National Park. In July 2019, the SDNPA adopted a South Downs Local Plan that sets out a spatial strategy and planning policies for the National Park area up until 2033. Any cross-boundary effects from the strategy or policies of the South Downs Local Plan will be a dealt with as part of the "duty to co-operate" established by the Localism Act 2011.

1.1.7 The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan was adopted in October 2013 and forms the remaining part of the development plan in East Hampshire. This is the sole minerals and waste plan for Hampshire (also covering Southampton and Portsmouth) and enables the delivery of sustainable minerals and waste development up to 2030. A partial update of the Minerals and Waste Plan is currently being undertaken to ensure on-going compliance with national planning policy.

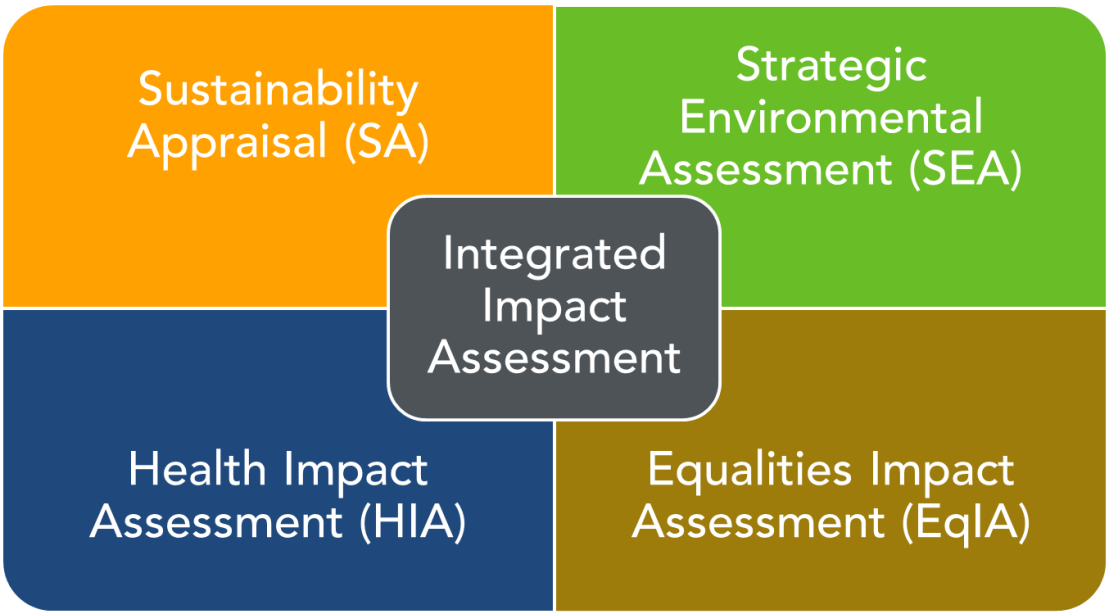
1.1.8 It is important to emphasise that the policies and allocations of EHDC's new Local Plan will only express how the Council should react to development proposals, through the planning application process. This means that the question of how matters of detail and specific circumstances will be dealt with shall often be omitted from the plan, in the knowledge that these can be more appropriately considered through the development management process. The SA for the Local Plan must recognise these facts in determining the likelihood of significant effects occurring for the environment, the economy and society.

Integrated Impact Assessment explained

1.1.9 The new East Hampshire Local Plan will be subject to Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA). IIA integrates four different assessment regimes including:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

[1] At the time of writing, Neighbourhood plans were being prepared in the parish of: Bramshott & Liphook. The Alton Neighbourhood Plan has been reviewed and revised, with a further update now being undertaken. Bentley Neighbourhood Plan is also being modified.



1.1.10 SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed plans or programmes to ensure environmental issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision making. Strategic Environmental Assessment was introduced to the UK through EU Directive 2001/42/EC. In England the Directive was transposed via the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 which still applies now that the UK has left the EU.

1.1.11 Sustainability Appraisals are broader and promote sustainable development through integration of environmental, social and economic considerations into the plan's preparation. SA is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and applies to local development documents.

1.1.12 HIA is designed to assess the likely health impacts of development plans or proposals. There is no statutory requirement to undertake HIA but the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to promote health and wellbeing through their planning policies and decisions. There are a number of guidance and health assessment tools available, including The NHS London Health Urban Development Unit Rapid HIA Tool Framework (January 2013) which defines 11 key health determinants.

1.1.13 The requirement for EqIA was introduced through The Equality Act 2010. The Act defines nine protected characteristics including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. EqIA involves an assessment of the impact of policies / proposals on groups which share these protected characteristics.

1.1.14 IIA combines these processes to allow for a single appraisal to be carried out by integrating the requirements of SEA, HIA and EqIA into the SA process. The integrated assessment approach avoids the need to undertake and report on separate assessments, seeks to reduce any duplication of assessment work and benefits from a shared understanding of the outputs to inform the Local Plan's development.

1.1.15 In-line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, a SA report must be published for consultation alongside the draft plan that 'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'[2]. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

1.1.16 The Regulations prescribe the information that must be contained within such reports and require that a non-technical summary must be produced. Essentially, there is a need for SA(IIA) scoping report to answer the following questions:

- What's the scope of the SA?
- What are the reasonable alternatives for the Local Plan and why have they been selected?
- What are the likely significant effects of the reasonable alternatives?
- What are the reasons for selecting the preferred approach for Local Plan?
- What happens next (including monitoring of the plan's implementation)?

This IIA Scoping Report

1.1.17 This IIA scoping report is an updated and refreshed version of the interim SA Scoping Report that was published to support the Regulation 18 (draft) East Hampshire Local Plan 2017-2036 in February 2019. Further changes to the context for plan-making in East Hampshire has prompted EHDC to revise its timetable for the emerging Local Plan and change the local plan period to 2021-2040. A further Regulation 18 (issues and priorities) consultation on the emerging Local Plan was undertaken in November 2022.

1.1.18 A scoping workshop was undertaken in June 2023, its key aims were to rationalise the initial list of IIA Objectives presented in the 2018 Interim Scoping Report and define decision-making criteria informed by an updated baseline and plans and programmes review undertaken by the Council in spring 2023. A rationalised list of 12 IIA Objectives with supporting decision-making criteria are presented in Section 4 of this scoping report.

1.1.19 The revised scoping report seeks to establish the scope of the IIA, taking account of the relevant policy context and the environmental, economic and social characteristics of East Hampshire; particularly the areas outside of the South Downs National Park. The likely evolution of these characteristics *without* the implementation of the Local Plan also needs to be described. This will establish an IIA framework for appraising the reasonable alternatives for the emerging Local Plan. This report therefore supports work to inform and appraising the potential impacts of an emerging development strategy and its supporting set of policies and proposals.

[2] It is a requirement that SA is undertaken in-line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which were prepared in order to transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

Scoping questions

1.1.20 The initial scope of the IIA is presented by answering the following questions:

Question	Rationale
What's the IIA context?	Answered in order to summarise the plans, programmes and strategies affecting broad sustainability issues and objectives for the new Local Plan.
What's the IIA baseline?	Answered in order to establish relevant baseline conditions which can be used as a 'benchmark' to 'identify, describe and evaluate' the effects of Local Plan proposals and reasonable alternatives.
What are the IIA objectives and the framework?	Answered with a view to establishing the methodological framework for the IIA of the new Local Plan. Considering these issues will be a particular focus of the IIA, both in terms of defining reasonable alternatives and appraising them.

Levelling-Up & Regeneration Act

The SA process is a requirement of British legislation and includes the EU-derived process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The withdrawal of the UK from the EU did not remove the requirement for SA and has not affected the principle of assessing the environmental, social and economic effects of the plan and its reasonable alternatives.

However, recent legislation from the Government in the form of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act [3] (26 October 2023) establishes the replacement of the existing SA/SEA process with a different approach to appraising and evaluating the potential impacts of a Local Plan, referred to as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports' (EOR). To date secondary legislations has not been produced to set the format of such reports.

The Council will continue to monitor the situation and if amendments to its approach to identifying, describing, and evaluating the potential effects of its emerging Local Plan, these will be made.

[3] Further information on the Levelling Up & Regeneration Act is available here: https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155

Sustainability topics

1.1.21 The scoping questions are answered for the following sustainability 'topics'.

1. Biodiversity
2. Climate emergency
3. Community and well-being
4. Health
5. Economy and employment
6. Heritage
7. Housing
8. Landscape, townscape and resources
9. Water & flood risk
10. pollution

1.1.22 From each of these broad topic areas, 12 key assessment objectives have been derived to create a framework to assess the emerging local plan. Objective 12 relates to pollution. Whilst there is no corresponding baseline assessment heading within this scoping report, many of the relevant datasets are included under the other topic headings. Following the scoping workshop, it was deemed appropriate to define a stand-alone pollution objective given the importance of potential pollution effects: The topics have been identified in light of:

1) The 'issues' suggested by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes 2004 Regulations[4];
2) The list of topics and objectives that together comprised the 'framework' for the East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy and Part 2 Local Plan processes;
3) East Hampshire District Council's declaration of a climate emergency in July 2019

Consultation on the scope of the appraisal

1.1.23 The aim of this Scoping Report is to establish the scope for the IIA work on the draft Local Plan, including a list of key issues / objectives that should provide a methodological framework for its appraisal. Together with establishing a (draft) baseline of information from which to assess the likely effects of the reasonable alternatives for the emerging local plan. This information will need to be updated and supplemented by emerging evidence base studies for the Local Plan, which will better inform the assessment of reasonable alternatives using the IIA framework. The underlying information that is shown in many of the map-based illustrations of this document will often be used in a GIS format

[4] The regulations suggest a focus on 'issues such as' biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, and landscape. See Section 6 of Schedule 2 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

within the appraisal of reasonable alternatives. The framework itself will also be kept under review and updated if necessary.

1.1.24 The Council is required to consult with three specific consultation bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) when deciding on the scope of the SA and the level of detail of information that should be included in an SA report. The Council invited comments on a first draft of this scoping report during June 2018. Responses were received from Historic England and the Environment Agency with regard to local heritage and groundwater, which resulted in some changes to the draft Scoping Report. This revised Scoping Report has been updated to reflect the changes in context for the emerging Local Plan and to expand its coverage to fulfil an Integrated Impact Assessment Appraisal regime. It has been further updated to reflect additional comments received from the consultation bodies during Sept/Oct 2023.

2. What's the 'context' for the IIA?

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1. When establishing the scope of this IIA, it is important to review the issues and objectives identified in international, national and other relevant plans or strategies. These set the "context" for the Council's new Local Plan, insofar as they enable the Council to take account of other plans and strategies through the assessment of reasonable alternatives and therefore within the plan-making process. National context messages are established first and foremost by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), but there is also a need to look at other plans and strategies. This will also help to outline the relationship of the new Local Plan with other relevant plans and strategies.

2.1.2. The relevant plans and strategies have been identified with respect to the topics for the IIA process (see paragraph 1.1.1 above). The key messages from the documents – the issues being addressed and the strategies' intended outcomes – are highlighted to help establish a context for the new Local Plan.

2.1.3. The South Downs National Park covers 57% of East Hampshire. The NPPF makes clear that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in relation to this area. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage is also an important consideration. The fact that the South Downs National Park dissects East Hampshire District Council's planning area means that the there are multiple, cross-cutting issues arising from the South Downs Local Plan (adopted July 2019). Relevant objectives from the South Downs Local Plan have therefore been highlighted below, at the end of subsections for each sustainability topic.

2.2. Biodiversity

International context

2.2.1. The East Hampshire Local Plan is being prepared, not only within the national but also an international context. In 2015 the United Nations General Assembly agreed a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. These **Sustainable Global Goals**[5] (SDG's) are intended to be achieved by 2030 and include goals relating to life below water and life on land.

2.2.2. The SDGs emphasise the interconnected environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development, by putting sustainability at their centre. Our government has reaffirmed its commitment to achieving agreed goals through its national strategy for sustainable development[6].

2.2.3. The UN's **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**[7] (associated with the **Convention on Biological Diversity**[8]) provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, with a planned meeting in December 2022 aiming to agree a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework will act as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature":

> *"By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."*

2.2.4. There is likely to be a focus on improving the state of biodiversity and reversing trends in biodiversity loss. The post-2020 strategy is being designed to support the delivery of goods and services to people to ensure human wellbeing within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.2.5. The revised National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Key messages for habitats and biodiversity include that planning policies should:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils, in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality.

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[5] United Nations (2015) Sustainable Global Goals available at https://sdgs.un.org/goals (accessed 11/2022)
[6] See: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals--2 (accessed 11/2022)
[7] United Nations (2010) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 available at http://www.cbd.int/sp/ (accessed 11/2022)
[8] United Nation (1992) Convention on Biological Diversity available at https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

- Recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.
- Take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure.
- Minimise impacts on and provide net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- Prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.

2.2.6. The NPPF makes clear at paragraphs 180 and 181 that plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of protected sites and allocated land with the least environmental or amenity value (where consistent with other NPPF policies). Enhancements to the natural environment should be planned at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries. This is significant for East Hampshire, which includes parts of the South Downs National Park. However, such enhancements are being taken forward in this part of the district by the National Park Authority, which is the planning authority for the entirety of the National Park. In this context, East Hampshire District Council will need to ensure that development does not unduly harm the setting of the South Downs National Park.

National context - supplementing the NPPF

2.2.7. The Government set out in its '**A Green Future'**[9] policy paper, published in 2018, a 25-Year Plan to improve the environment within a generation and to leave it in a better state than before. It included the following targets:

- Restore 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term.
- Create or restore 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, focusing on priority habitats as part of a wider set of land management changes providing extensive benefits.
- Take action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi.

[9] UK Government (2018) A Green Future https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

- Increase woodland in England in line with its aspiration of 12% cover by 2060; this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.

2.2.8. Subsequently the **Environment Act 2021**[10] has strengthened the 25 Year Plan by setting clear statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water and waste. It includes anew target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030, often referred to as biodiversity net gain or BNG.

2.2.9. The Act will require that all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain. BNG will be measured using Defra's biodiversity metric and habitats will need to be secured for at least 30 years.

2.2.10. These requirements complement the detailed provisions set out in the **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017**[11], as amended, that contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild faunal and fauna.

2.2.11. **Historic England**[12] has a number of publications to highlight linkages between both the natural and historic environment in terms of climate, biodiversity and heritage.

East Hampshire District local context

2.2.12. The Council, through its adopted **Climate & Environment Strategy 2020-2025**[13] has included a strategic objective to protect, improve and enhance the local natural environment to deliver biodiversity net gain. The Council will achieve this through its policies and practices. It will also encourage and facilitate local communities to deliver this objective.

2.2.13. Initiatives already planned include increasing tree cover by planting 120,000 trees and empowering communities and residents to take the lead on planting wildflowers and improving local biodiversity on Council owned land.

2.2.14. The **East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2019**[14] assesses the existing green infrastructure of the district, identifies where there are gaps in its provision and explores opportunities to improve East Hampshire's green infrastructure network. The strategy identifies a range of issues and opportunities in relation to green infrastructure. Key issues include:

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[10] UK Government (2021) Environment Act available at 2021https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted (accessed 11/2022)
[11] UK Government (2017) Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations available at 2017https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made (accessed 11/2022)
[12] Historic England publications Wellbeing and Historic Environment: Why Bother? | Historic England
[13] EHDC (2019) Climate & Environment Strategy 2020-2025 available at https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate-and-environment-strategy-2020-25-pdf-802-kb (accessed 11/2022)
[14] EHDC (2019) East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2019 available at https://cdn.easthants.gov.uk/public/documents/East%20Hampshire%20GI%20Strategy%20May%2019_0.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

- Many habitats across the District have become fragmented through changing land uses and urban development. Fragmentation is an important cause of species decline.
- Some future development is likely to occur on greenfield land which could result in loss of habitats and biodiversity.
- Developments can lead to increased light pollution and non-native planting schemes which can affect the dispersal and foraging habitats of nocturnal species.
- The Strategy identified a number of opportunities to improve the green infrastructure (GI) across the District including
- Implementing GI as part of new developments to encourage biodiversity net gain. Where net gain cannot be achieved on-site, funding should be pooled into offsite biodiversity projects to offset any loss to biodiversity.
- Exploring opportunities to reduce ecological fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity.

2.2.15. PfSH has a produced a green infrastructure strategy for the South Hampshire sub-region, which includes parts of the southern parishes of East Hampshire. This strategy establishes a "green grid" which highlights areas of strategically significant GI. Within East Hampshire, this identifies Staunton Country Park as a significant GI asset[15].

South Downs Local Plan (2017-2033) – Objectives directly relevant to biodiversity

- To conserve and enhance large areas of high-quality and well-managed habitat to form a network supporting wildlife throughout the landscape.
- To achieve a sustainable use of ecosystem services thus enhancing natural capital across the landscapes of the National Park and its special qualities.

[15] PfSH (2017, updated 2018) South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017-2034,) available at https://www.push.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/South-Hampshire-GI-Strategy-2017-2034-FINAL.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

2.3. Climate Emergency

International context

2.2.16. On 12th December 2015, 197 different countries agreed to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This agreement is known as the **'Paris Agreement[16]'** on climate change. The Agreement sets long-term goals[17] to guide all nations to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. At the time of writing, 194 parties have joined the Paris Agreement.

2.2.17. The global response is reviewed and negotiated at regular COP's (Conference of the Parties). At COP 26, held in 2021, countries restated their commitment in the **Glasgow Climate Pact**[18] to keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius target alive through a range of actions. The emerging Local Plan will need to support its achievement whilst recognising the need to have local adaptation measures in place to deal with the impacts of climate change already embedded.

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.3.1. The NPPF contains a number of provisions to address climate change through the planning system. Paragraph 158 says that local planning authorities should adopt a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. Other key messages from the NPPF include that new development should be planned for in ways that:

- Avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change;
- Can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through the location, orientation and design of development.

2.3.2. Development plans should help to increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, by means of a positive strategy for producing energy from these sources (whilst ensuring that adverse impacts are satisfactorily addressed). Plans should consider identifying suitable areas for exploiting renewable and low carbon energy sources and should identify

[16] United Nations (2015) Paris Agreement available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf (accessed 11/2022)
[17] UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 is to "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact" whilst the Paris Agreement contains the specific target to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels
[18] United Nations (2021) Glasgow Climate Pact available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_10_add1_adv.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

opportunities for decentralised renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating heat customers and suppliers.

National context – supplementing the NPPF

2.3.3. The **Climate Change Act 2008**[19] places a legal obligation on Government to reduce targeted greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This commits the UK to eliminating emissions from homes, transport, farming and industry, or in the most difficult cases through offsetting by planting trees and carbon capture and storage. The Government through its **Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener**[20], published in October 2021, sets out its strategy to achieve this by 2050.

2.3.4. Key policies from the Net Zero Strategy that are relevant to plan making include:

- To power the UK by 2035 entirely by clean electricity, subject to security of supply.
- Incentivising cost-effective abatement in industry at the pace and scale required to deliver net zero
- Setting the ambition that, by 2035 all new heating appliances installed in homes and workplaces will be low-carbon technologies
- A zero-emission vehicle mandate to deliver on 2035 commitment that all cars must be fully zero emissions capable.
- Investment to help enable half of journeys in towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030 and to create integrated bus networks, more frequent services and bus lanes to speed journeys.
- Trebling woodland creation rates in England.

2.3.5. The Climate Change Act 2008 also created the **National Adaptation Programme**[21], which is refreshed on a five-yearly cycle. The programme sets out detailed actions in response to identified Climate Change Risks. Examples in the current programme include:

- Ensuring that decisions on land use, including development, reflect the level of current and future flood risk;

[19] UK Government (2008) Climate Change Act 2008 available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents (accessed 11/2022)
[20] UK Government (2021) Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf (accessed 11/2022)
[21] UK Government (2018) National Adaptation Programme available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

- Delivering more, better quality and well-maintained local Green Infrastructure;
- Developing and start to implement a Nature Recovery Network, linking habitat restoration and creation to improved access, flood protection and water quality.

2.3.6. The **DfT Outcome Delivery Plan: 2021 to 2022**[22] (published in July 2021) sets out the following priority outcomes:

- Improving connectivity across the UK and growing the economy by enhancing the transport network, on time and on budget;
- Building confidence in the transport network as the country recovers from COVID-19 and improving transport users' experience, ensuring that the network is safe, reliable, and inclusive;
- Tackling climate change and improving air quality by decarbonising transport.

2.3.7. The **Second Cycling and Walking investment Strategy** [23]published 6 July 2022 restates the Governments ambition to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey by 2040. Its publication, **Gear Change - A bold vision for cycling and walking**[24], published in July 2020 outlines the Governments central vision as

> *Cycling and walking will be the natural first choice for many journeys with half of all journeys in towns and cities being cycled or walked by 2030.*

2.3.8. In a similar vein, planning policies should also provide for high-quality walking and cycling networks and supporting facilities such as cycle parking, drawing on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (paragraph 106d, NPPF).

East Hampshire District local context

2.3.9. East Hampshire District Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019, announcing it will continue to take urgent, positive and deliverable steps to reduce its impact on the environment. A **Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2020-2025** has been produced to drive forward change. The Council's target is to be carbon neutral by or before 2050.

[22] UK Government ((2021) DfT Outcome Delivery Plan: 2021 to 2022 available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-transport-outcome-delivery-plan/dft-outcome-delivery-plan-2021-to-2022 (accessed 11/2022)
[23] UK Government (2022) Second Cycling and Walking investment Strategy available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-second-cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy/the-second-cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy-cwis2 (accessed 11/2022)
[24] UK Government (2020) Gear Change - A bold vision for cycling and walking available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904146/gear-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

2.3.10. The Council will use its mandate as a local authority to ensure the delivery of sustainable development and support both local residents and enterprises to reduce carbon emissions to net zero. It will do so by:

- Minimising the climate impact of new development through the Local Plan policies and development management decisions
- Ensure new builds meet or exceed their planning permission conditions and obligations
- Reinforce and implement plans and strategies which support low-carbon transport alternatives

South Downs Local Plan (2017-2033) – Objectives directly relevant to climate change

- To adapt well to and mitigate against the impacts of climate change and other pressures.

2.4. Community and Wellbeing

International context

2.4.1. The United Nations General Assembly recognises that ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential for sustainable development[25] (Sustainable Development Goal 3). Whilst many improvements have been made since 2015, the Covid 19 pandemic creates a watershed moment for health emergency preparedness and for investment in critical 21st century public services and infrastructure. Goal 3 targets include:

- By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.
- Strengthen the capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

2.4.2. Sustainable Development Goal 11 recognises that as the world becomes more urbanised it is important to ensure our towns and cities are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Targets associated with Goal 11 include:

- Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services.
- Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.
- Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport.

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.4.3. Paragraph 96 of the NPPF stresses that the planning system can play an important role in creating healthy, safe, inclusive communities. Key messages include that planning policies should aim to achieve places which:

- Promote social interaction through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and pedestrian- and cycle-friendly street layouts.
- Are safe and accessible, so crime, disorder and the fear of crime do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.
- Enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs.

[25] The UN Sustainable Development Goals are set out here: https://sdgs.un.org/goals (accessed 11/2022)

2.4.4. Planning policies should also plan positively for the provision of shared spaces, community facilities and other local services, to provide the social, recreational, and cultural facilities and services that a community needs. The unnecessary loss of valued community facilities and services should be guarded against. The importance of access to a network of high-quality open spaces and recreational opportunities is also stressed, for purposes of ensuring the health and well-being of communities (paragraph 102, NPPF).

Supplementing the NPPF

2.4.5. **Fair Society, Healthy Lives**[26] ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England. A supplementary report, **The Marmot Review: implications for Spatial Planning**, considered links between spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: 'overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities'[27]. Key policy actions – which are to be applied on a universal basis, but with a scale and intensity that is proportionate to the level of disadvantage – are to:

- Fully integrate the planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems to address the social determinants of health in each locality;
- Prioritise policies and interventions that both reduce health inequalities and mitigate climate change by: improving active travel; improving open and green spaces; improving the quality of food in local areas; and improving the energy efficiency of housing;
- Support locally developed and evidence-based community regeneration programmes that remove barriers to community participation and action; and reduce social isolation;
- Develop continuous and accessible walking routes to good quality green / play areas; and
- Develop places with a distinctive character that are adaptable and diverse.

2.4.6. **The National Design Guide**[28] (published in 2021) emphasises that well-designed places positively affect our health and well-being, our feelings of safety, security, inclusion and belonging, and our sense of community cohesion. The document provides detailed advice on how this can be achieved including how public spaces can best be designed to benefit local communities.

[26]Marmot Review team (2010) https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report.pdf (accessed 11/2022)
[27] The Marmot Review Team, (2011), The Marmot Review: implications for Spatial Planning [online] https://www.nice.org.uk/media/default/About/what-we-do/NICE-guidance/NICE-guidelines/Public-health-guidelines/Additional-publications/Spatial-planning/the-marmot-review-implications-for-spatial-planning.pdf (accessed 11/2022)
[28] UK Government (2021) National Design Guide available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/962113/National_design_guide.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

2.4.7. One issue the Covid 19 pandemic starkly highlighted was the large number of people that feel lonely and isolated within our **communities**. The Tackling Loneliness Network working with the Government published an action plan in their paper **Emerging Together: The Tackling Loneliness Network Action Plan Connectedness[29].** The Plan recognises the important role the built environment has in facilitating connectedness and that changes to the built environment should actively improve conditions for connection.

2.4.8. It is expected the next review of the national planning framework will reinforce the role planning has to address this important issue.

East Hampshire District local context

2.4.1. In their **Serving Hampshire's Residents - Strategic Plan 2021 to 2025[30],** Hampshire County Council set out four strategic aims, one being that 'People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive, resilient communities'. To achieve this, enabling communities to be more resilient and connected was identified as a priority. A second aim is that 'People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives'

2.4.2. East Hampshire is a key partner in supporting the delivery on these aims. In its **Corporate Strategy 2020-2024** [31],updated in 2022, the Council states it will concentrate its focus on four themes, one being that East Hampshire is a safer, healthier and more active place.

2.4.3. Underpinning this theme, the **Welfare and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 - 2024**[32] outlines three priorities for the Council:

- Delivering physical and mental wellbeing
- Supporting an ageing population
- Improving community connectivity and sense of place

2.4.4. The strategy recognises the role the built and natural environment has in delivering on improving community connectivity and sense of place. Access to

[29] UK Government (2021) Emerging Together: The Tackling Loneliness Network Action Plan Connectedness available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emerging-together-the-tackling-loneliness-network-action-plan/emerging-together-the-tackling-loneliness-network-action-plan (accessed 11/2022)

[30] Hampshire County Council (2021) Serving Hampshire's Residents - Strategic Plan 2021 to 2025 available at https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s74959/2021-06-25%20PRSC%207iii%20Appendix%20one%20Strategic%20Plan%20and%20PMF.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

[31] EHDC (updated 2022) Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 available at https://cdn.easthants.gov.uk/public/documents/EHDC%20corporate%20strategy_0.pdf accessed 11/2022

[32] EHDC (2020) Welfare and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2024 available at https://cdn.easthants.gov.uk/public/documents/Welfare%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

quality community infrastructure, including open and green spaces, is also seen as an important factor in improving peoples' well-being.

2.4.5. Having a home is central to wellbeing. **The Affordable Housing Strategy 2022-2025**[33] sets out the Councils approach to enabling the delivery of additional suitable affordable housing for the local community.

2.4.6. East Hampshire currently has no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), which are areas that must be defined where air quality objectives are not being met. This means that there are no areas which, based on the Council's monitoring data, have failed to meet the statutorily defined air quality objectives. A study of air quality implications from committed development in the PfSH area (approximately 100,000 additional dwellings from 2014 to 2034) has concluded that there is no specific requirement for further mitigation measures to achieve air quality objectives; but that in some AQMAs across the sub-region (outside of East Hampshire), further mitigation measures could be considered.

South Downs Local Plan (2017-2033) – Objectives directly relevant to communities and wellbeing

- To achieve a sustainable use of ecosystem services thus enhancing natural capital across the landscapes of the National Park and contributing to wealth and human health and wellbeing.
- To protect and provide opportunities for everyone to discover, enjoy, understand and value the National Park and its special qualities.
- To protect and provide for the social and economic wellbeing of National Park communities supporting local jobs, affordable homes and local facilities.

[33] EHDC (2022) The Affordable Housing Strategy 2022-2025, available at: https://easthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s22067/20221215C08App1%20Housing%20Strategy1%20021222.pdf (accessed 05/2023)

2.5. Health

International context

2.5.1 The **Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly**[34], held in 2021, recognised the impact the social determinants have on the general health and well-being of a population. Member states agreed to strengthen their efforts to reducing health inequities/improve general health and to apply a health-in-all-policies approach. This builds on the United Nations Sustainable Goal 3 summarised above.

2.5.2 The Covid 19 pandemic has devasted communities and severely disrupted the worlds response to the many challenges faced in areas including health and environmental security. The United Nations in their publication **Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity** [35]emphasise how better progress on the Sustainable Development Goals could have mitigated the impact of the pandemic.

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.5.3 Key messages for achieving healthy places for communities have been summarised above, in relation to community & well-being. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF also requires that planning policies take account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health for all sections of the community.

Supplementing the NPPF

2.5.4 **Fair Society, Healthy Lives**[36] ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England. A supplementary report, **The Marmot Review:** implications **for Spatial Planning**, subsequently considered links between spatial planning and health on the basis that that there is: 'overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities'[37]. Key policy actions - to be applied on a universal basis, but with a scale and intensity that is proportionate to the level of disadvantage - are to:

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[34] WHO Assembly meeting (2021) Agenda Item 16 Social determinants of health available at https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB148/B148_R2-en.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

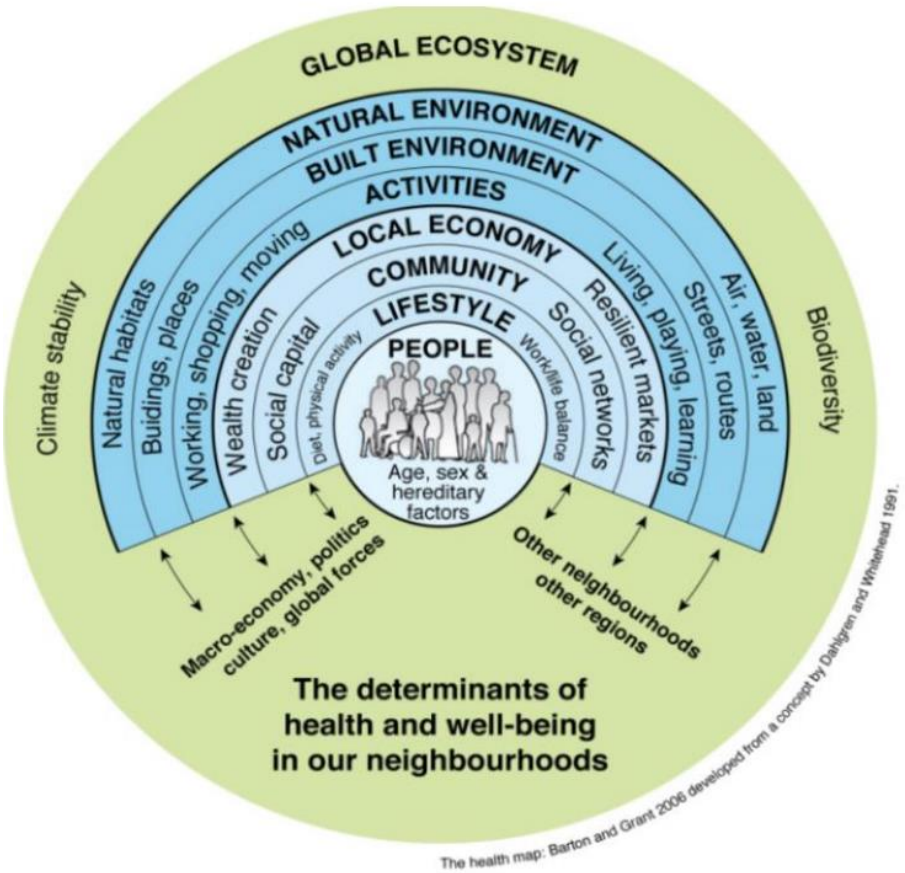
[35] United Nations (2020) Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity available at https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/Publication%20-%20Shared%20responsibility%2C%20global%20solidarity_Responding%20to%20the%20socio-economic%20impacts%20of%20COVID-19.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

[36]Marmot Review team (2010) https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

[37] The Marmot Review Team, (2011), The Marmot Review: implications for Spatial Planning [online] https://www.nice.org.uk/media/default/About/what-we-do/NICE-guidance/NICE-guidelines/Public-health-guidelines/Additional-publications/Spatial-planning/the-marmot-review-implications-for-spatial-planning.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

- Fully integrate the planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems to address the social determinants of health in each locality;
- Prioritise policies and interventions that both reduce health inequalities and mitigate climate change by: improving active travel; improving open and green spaces; improving the quality of food in local areas; and improving the energy efficiency of housing;
- Support locally developed and evidence-based community regeneration programmes that remove barriers to community participation and action; and reduce social isolation;
- Develop continuous and accessible walking routes to good quality green / play areas; and
- Develop places with a distinctive character that are adaptable and diverse

2.5.5 Public Health England in their publication **Spatial Planning for Health -An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places** are clear that the built and natural environment is a key environmental determinant of health and wellbeing. The Health Map (see next page) explains the role of neighbourhood and planning in improving health and wellbeing outcomes.



2.5.6 The **five aspects of the built and natural environment** listed below were identified as the main characteristics that can be designed and shaped, through planning policy, to promote positive health outcomes.

- neighbourhood design
- housing
- healthier food
- natural and sustainable environment
- transport

East Hampshire District local context

2.5.7 The Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board through their **Strategy for the Health and Wellbeing of Hampshire 2019–2024**[38] are seeking to enable people in Hampshire to live long, healthy and happy lives, with the greatest possible independence.

2.5.8 The Board recognise the type of housing and neighbourhood communities live in, how connected they are and how they can access transport, leisure and other facilities all play a part in maintaining general health and wellbeing. Of all the factors contributing to general health, the nature of the built environment accounts for 10% with clinical care only accounting for 20%.

2.5.9 The Council in its **Welfare and Wellbeing Strategy**[39] has identified that through the Local Plan it can enable high-quality communities and homes whilst the Affordable Housing Strategy will underpin the provision and improvement of housing across the district for those in need.

South Downs Local Plan (2017-2033) – Objectives directly relevant to health

- To achieve a sustainable use of ecosystem services thus enhancing natural capital across the landscapes of the National Park and contributing to wealth and human health and wellbeing.
- To protect and provide for the social and economic wellbeing of National Park communities supporting local jobs, affordable homes and local facilities.

[38] Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board (2019) Strategy for the Health and Wellbeing of Hampshire 2019–2024 available at https://documents.hants.gov.uk/adultservices/AStrategyfortheHealthandWellbeingofHampshire-final.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

[39] East Hampshire DC (2020) Welfare and Wellbeing Strategy available at https://cdn.easthants.gov.uk/public/documents/Welfare%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy.pdf#:~:text=Working%20with%20our%20partners%20we,line%20with%20the%20Corporate%20Plan. (accessed 11/2022)

2.6 Economy and Employment

International context

2.6.1 In 2015, Member States of the United Nations adopted a series of Sustainable Development Goals as part of a **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (see also 'Biodiversity' in the SA Context section of this scoping report). Goal 8 is to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Goal 9 – which is to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation – is also relevant for sustainable economic growth.

2.6.2 The United Nations in their subsequent report **Making Peace with Nature[40],** published in 2021, highlight that transforming humankind's relationship with nature is the key to a sustainable future. Environmental changes are increasingly impacting economic development and employment (Goal 8). The report is clear that the costs of inaction on limiting environmental change far outweigh the costs of action.

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.6.3 The NPPF (paragraph 85) is clear that planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Paragraph 82 explains that to help build a strong and competitive economy planning policies should:

- Set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration
- Set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period;
- Seek to address potential barriers to investment, such as inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment;
- Be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan, allow for new and flexible working practices, and to enable a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances.

2.6.4 In rural areas, planning policies should also enable the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business, through conversions and well-designed new buildings. The development and diversification of agricultural and land-based

[40] United Nations (2021) Making Peace with Nature, available at https://wedocs.unep.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/34948/MPN.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

business should be enabled, along with rural tourism and leisure developments that respect the character of the countryside (paragraph 88).

2.6.5 Planning policies should support the role that town centres play at the heart of the community, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation. A network and hierarchy of town centres should be defined and their vitality and viability should be promoted by allowing them to grow and diversify in a way that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries, allowing for a suitable mix of uses, including housing (paragraph 90).

Supplementing the NPPF

2.6.6 The Government's ***Build Back Better: our plan for growth***[41]***,*** published in 2021, identifies three core pillars for growth:

- Infrastructure – Having high quality infrastructure that is crucial for economic growth, boosting productivity and competitiveness. Digital connectivity specifically was identified as being central to a modern economy.
- Skills – Enabling high quality education and skills training that play a vital role in sustaining productivity growth and our international competitiveness The UK's skills system was identified as being less competitive internationally in areas such as technical skills and basic adult skills.
- Innovation – Innovation is a key driver of economic growth, and the UK needs a regulatory system that is pro-innovation.

2.6.7 The **UK Innovation Strategy**[42] sets out the government's vision to make the UK a global hub for innovation by 2035. Two of its four key pillars identify areas where Local Plans may have a role to play:

- Pillar 1: Unleashing Business includes a requirement that businesses have access to the right infrastructure to innovate and grow, including transport, digital and data, energy and utilities.
- Pillar 2: People recognises it is vital that the UK's workforce, and the education and training system that feeds it, has sufficient scale, diversity and breadth to meet the challenges and opportunities of a more innovative economy and society.

2.6.8 In 2019, the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy commissioned a nationwide study on **The Potential Impact of Artificial**

[41] UK Government (2021) Build Back Better: our plan for growth available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/build-back-better-our-plan-for-growth/build-back-better-our-plan-for-growth-html (accessed 11/2022)
[42] UK Government (2021) UK Innovation Strategy available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1009577/uk-innovation-strategy.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

Intelligence on UK Employment and the Demand for Skills[43]. This research suggests that by 2029, 18% of existing UK jobs could face a high probability of automation, rising to 30% of jobs by 2039. Although this might indicate a substantial loss of employment, the report suggests that AI will also create many jobs linked directly to AI and related technologies and (more substantially) in relatively hard-to-automate services, such as within the service sector (e.g. health and personal care). This would be as a consequence of additional real incomes and the higher spending that would emerge from productivity improvements that are generated by AI. Overall, the net effect on employment could be broadly neutral in the long term, although there are significant uncertainties in projecting forward the impacts of this technological revolution.

East Hampshire District local context

2.6.9 Hampshire County Council's **Strategic Plan for 20201-2025**[44] has four strategic aims, one of which is to maintain strong and resilient economic growth and prosperity. This will be achieved by:

- Promoting a green economic recovery across Hampshire
- Ensuring Hampshire has the right conditions for economic innovation to flourish
- Enhancing our competitiveness as an international gateway and globally connected economy
- Maximising opportunities for employment and inclusion by equipping people with the right skills to support, and benefit from, economic growth
- Promoting Hampshire's assets and opportunities as an excellent place to work, visit, live and do business

2.6.10 The **PfSH Spatial Position Statement**[45] sets out the employment and housing development needed to promote economic growth, jobs and homes for all over the period to 2036. It provides a framework to inform sub-regional planning under the 'duty to cooperate', to inform the preparation of local plans by PfSH authorities (including East Hampshire District Council). In March 2021, PfSH published the Economic, Employment and Commercial Needs (including logistics) Study which establishes the need for employment development in

[43] BEIS (August 2021) The Potential Impact of Artificial Intelligence on UK Employment and the Demand for Skills, available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1023590/impact-of-ai-on-jobs.pdf (accessed 03/2023)

[44] Hampshire County Council (2021), Serving Hampshire – Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 [online] available at: https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/strategiesplansandpolicies/corporatestrategy (accessed 11/2022)

[45] Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (2016) Spatial Position Statement [online] available at https://www.push.gov.uk/work/planning-and-infrastructure/push-position-statement/ (accessed 11/2022)

South Hampshire as c. 392,000 sqm (gross) for office and c. 168 ha (gross) for industrial floorspace up to 2040.

2.6.11 The Study demonstrates that there is currently sufficient land allocated within South Hampshire (405,666 sqm for office and 231 ha for industrial) to meet the need for employment development and there is no need to address this issue at the sub-regional level as is the case for housing development. Only a small amount of this additional need is associated with East Hampshire. This is partly because only a small part of the district (an area including some of the southern parishes of Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle) is situated within the PfSH area.

2.6.11 East Hampshire forms part of the Enterprise M3 LEP area, and adjoins the Solent LEP area, which covers much of the PfSH area. These two LEPs have different strengths and ambitions, reflecting the different characteristics of the areas and the varied opportunities for growth. The Enterprise M3 LEP has a Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and an emerging Local Industrial Strategy for its area. The Solent LEP published its *Solent 2050 – An Economic Strategy for the Solent* in April 2022.

2.6.12 The **Enterprise M3 Strategic Economic Plan** (SEP) has been updated (in late 2018) and rolled forward to cover the period to 2030[46]. A new growth ambition has been put forward, taking account of the Government's Industrial Strategy, to the effect that average growth in the LEP area should be at a rate of 4% per year to 2030, equivalent to GVA average growth of £39.4 billion per annum. This is a step-up from the average growth of 2.9% since 1997 and is therefore an ambitious and challenging goal. Transport is viewed as a necessary ingredient for securing productivity benefits, as it will be essential that the skilled local workforce can access appropriate jobs. In this context, it is noteworthy that the previous SEP's approach of focusing investment around "Growth Towns" (Guildford, Woking, Basingstoke and Farnborough) and "Step Up Towns" (including Whitehill & Bordon in East Hampshire) is being extended to include transport corridors, referred to in the revised SEP as 'sustainable growth corridors'.

2.6.13 Supporting dynamic communities and sustainable growth corridors is identified as one of the five priorities for growth. These growth corridors will be strategic (cross boundary) in nature and will encompass the Growth and Step Up Towns. They will therefore include transport corridors linking Whitehill & Bordon with other parts of the Enterprise M3 area. The A31 corridor, connecting Guildford, Farnham and Winchester is also a strategic corridor passing through the district. The SEP stresses the importance of having well-designed and appropriately located homes in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of residents and support the economic future of the Enterprise M3 area.

[46] A Strategic Economic Plan for the Enterprise M3 Area 2018-2030 (2018) [online] available at https://enterprisem3.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-06/Enterprise%20M3%27s%20Strategic%20Economic%20Plan%202018-2030.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

2.6.14 In their report '**Our Local Industrial Strategy – Defining Our Approach[47]',** Enterprise M3 set out how they will give effect to the strategic economic plan. It will focus not just on growing the economy but on how that growth is achieved – through enhanced productivity and in ways that maximise the benefit for people and places across the EM3 area.

2.6.15 The report outlines its nine priorities which include:

- Increasing the supply and securing greater diversity of housing to improve recruitment and retention of the people that business needs.
- Making better use of energy to improve productivity and the role of the natural capital in shaping future economic growth.
- Achieving better and more efficient connections between businesses and their staff, supply chains and markets
- Delivering a step change in digital connectivity and address poor mobile and broadband connectivity in parts of the area.

2.6.16 The Solent LEP in their document **Solent 2050 - An Economic Strategy for the Solent[48],** published in 2022, described their vision as**:**

'being the globally leading maritime cluster and at the forefront of innovations to adapt to climate change, with towns and cities that are fantastic places to live, trade and with opportunities for all our communities to flourish'.

2.6.17 Their long-term strategy involves unleashing the Solent's distinctive strengths that can power the local economy to increase productivity and support communities to prosper in a fast changing world.

2.6.18 To deliver on their priorities they have identified six enabling factors that include:

- Placemaking - creating and maintaining high quality communities and destinations where people want to live, work, visit and invest
- Improved Connectivity - to ensure that all our communities can benefit from future growth.
- Developing the Skills and Talent that Employers Need - to meet market demand.

2.6.19 The establishment of the Solent Freeport in 2022 is seen a major driver for growth and is expected to unlock billions of pounds' worth of investment, create up to 16,000 new skilled and semi-skilled jobs in the Solent and a further 16,000 jobs in the UK wider supply chain.

[47] Enterprise M3 (2020)?? Our Local Industrial Strategy – Defining Our Approach available at https://enterprisem3.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-08/LIS%20Developing%20Our%20Approach%20%281%29.pdf (accessed 11/2022)
[48] Solent LEP (2022) Solent 2050 An Economic Strategy for the Solent available at https://solentlep.org.uk/media/4289/60410-solent-2050-updated-130422.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

South Downs Local Plan (2017-2033) – Objectives directly relevant to the economy

- To protect and provide for the social and economic wellbeing of National Park communities supporting local jobs, affordable homes and local facilities.
- To protect and provide for local businesses including farming, forestry and tourism that are broadly compatible with and relate to the landscapes and special qualities of the National Park.

2.7 Heritage

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.7.1. Key messages for conserving and enhancing the historic environment include that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

Supplementing the NPPF

2.7.2. Historic England's **Future Strategy 2021 - Championing Heritage Improving Lives**[49] seeks to improve people's lives by championing and protecting the historic environment. They will do this by focusing on three areas:

- **Thriving Places** – by collaborating with people and partners to secure vibrant and sustainable futures for historic places
- **Connected Communities – by** bringing communities together by discovering and celebrating local heritage, and by protecting the character of historic places.

[49] Historic England (2021) available at https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/he-future-strategy-2021/he-future-strategy-2021/ (accessed 11/2022)

- **Active Participation – by i**nspiring and equipping people to take action in support of the places they care about.

2.7.3. **Historic** England's **Corporate Plan 2022-23**[50] explains the steps they will take during 2022-23 to realise their Future Strategy and includes the following priorities: Climate Change, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Wellbeing and Levelling Up.

2.7.4. Historic England has published various documents including **Advice Notes on the Planning System** in addition to **Understanding place: conservation area designation, appraisal and management**[51], which sets out ways to manage change in a way that conserves and enhances historic areas identified as conservation areas. It includes advice regarding the content of local planning policies, stating that development management policies might include policies on protecting important views and vistas, on alterations and extensions to listed buildings and on managing development opportunities within conservation areas.

East Hampshire District local context

2.7.5. The Council's **Place Making Strategy 2019 – 2036**[52] includes various references to heritage in the context of the larger settlements of the District. This report also identifies a number of place making improvements that would contribute to cultural heritage and heritage features.

2.7.6. **Conservation Area Guidance Documents**[53] have been produced for the majority of designated conservation areas in the District and these are being updated as resources allow. These provide brief descriptions of the character of the areas and predominate designs and materials used.

South Downs Local Plan (2017-2033) – Objectives directly relevant to heritage

- To conserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the National Park.
- To protect and provide opportunities for everyone to discover, enjoy, understand and value the National Park and its special qualities.

[50] Historic England's Corporate Plan 2022-23 available at https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/he-corp-plan-2022-23/he-corp-plan-2022-23/ (accessed 11/2022)
[51] Historic England (February 2019) Understanding place: conservation area designation, appraisal and management, available online at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/ (accessed 11/2022)

[52] East Hampshire Place Making Strategy 2019-2036
[53] East Hampshire - Conservation Area Guidance Documents

2.8 Housing

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.8.1. Key messages set out in Section 5 of the NPPF (paragraphs 60-67) for boosting significantly the supply of housing include:

- Strategic policy-making authorities should establish a housing requirement figure for their whole area, which shows the extent to which their identified housing need can be met over the plan period;
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies;
- Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies and decisions should specify the type of affordable housing required and expect at least 10% of the homes on major development sites to be available for affordable home ownership;
- In rural areas, planning policies should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing developments to reflect local needs. Local authorities should support opportunities to bring forward rural exception sites that will provide affordable housing to meet identified local needs;
- To promote sustainable development in rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities;
- The supply of large numbers of new homes can often be best achieved through planning for larger scale development, such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns, provided they are well located and designed, and supported by necessary infrastructure and facilities.

Supplementing the NPPF

2.8.2. Governments have long recognised that addressing housing need is a major challenge for the country and that planning has a key role to play in in tackling this issue. The **Planning for the Future White Paper**[54] included a number of possible measures relevant to future housing provision:

- focus on a brownfield first approach, thereby safeguarding valued green spaces;
- ensure every area has a local plan in place and local housing plans are developed and agreed in 30 months;
- require new homes to be 'zero carbon ready', so that no new homes delivered under the new system would require retrofitting.

[54] UK Government Planning for the Future available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/958421/Planning_for_the_Future_web_accessible_version.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

2.8.3. The reaction to the white paper was mixed, and coupled with a period of political turbulence, there have been delays to planning reform. The First Homes policy was introduced along with changes to Use Classes and some permitted development rights. Other proposals have been restated in the Levelling Up White Paper (published in 2022) and are reflected in the recently finalised Regeneration and Levelling Up Act[55]. To date detailed changes associated with the Act have yet to be published.

2.8.4. The intention is that the changes will replace the current system of developer contributions with a simple, mandatory, and locally determined Infrastructure Levy. It is intended to remove the role of negotiation in determining levels of onsite affordable housing, allowing local authorities to determine the portion of the levy they receive in-kind as onsite affordable homes.

2.8.5. In relation to future housing needs, an increase in the number of older people is predicted have a profound impact on a wide range of public services. The government's **Future of an Ageing Population[56]** notes that Suitable housing can significantly improve life in older age, while unsuitable housing can be the source of multiple problems and costs. It is estimated that poor quality housing costs the NHS around £2.5 billion per year. The report confirms that building suitable new homes and supporting the adaptation of the existing housing stock will be critical as the population ages.

2.8.6. The Government's **Housing for older and disabled people** guidance[57], published in 2019, provides advice to councils in preparing planning policies on housing for older and disabled people recognising that ensuring older people have a better choice of accommodation to suit their changing needs can help them live independently for longer, feel more connected to their communities and help reduce costs to the social care and health systems.

East Hampshire District local context

2.8.7. The Council's **Affordable Housing Strategy 2022-2025** sets out the Councils priorities for the provision of affordable housing grouped under five themes, which are :

- Supply
- Affordability
- Quality
- Inclusion
- Sustainability

[55] Levelling Up and Regeneration Act Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (legislation.gov.uk)
[56]Government Office for Science (updated 2019), Future of an Ageing Population [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-of-an-ageing-population (accessed11/2022)
[57] UK Government, Housing for older and disabled people 2019 available at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-for-older-and-disabled-people (accessed 11/2022)

The action plan seeks to align with relevant strategies of the Council, including the Local Plan.

2.8.8. The Council's **Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2019-2024**[58] recognises the impact on individuals who do not have a home and sets out how, working with partners, the Council will seek to prevent homelessness and provide essential support where needed. Enabling the provision of appropriate and affordable housing in the Borough contributes to this objective.

South Downs Local Plan (2017-2033) – Objectives directly relevant to housing

- To protect and provide for the social and economic wellbeing of National Park communities supporting local jobs, affordable homes and local facilities.

[58] East Hampshire DC Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2019 – 2024 (2019) available at https://www.easthants.gov.uk/homelessness-and-rough-sleeper-strategy-word-33-mb (accessed 11/2022)

2.9 Landscape, townscape and resources

International context

2.9.1. Two of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (11 and 12) refer to the need to safeguard the landscape environment. SDG 11 includes a target to aims to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation, as measured in terms of the ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate. SDG 12 includes a target to achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030.

2.9.2. Building on this, the draft **Global Framework for Managing Nature Through 2030[59],** due to be agreed in December 2022, seeks to preserve and protect nature and its essential services to people. It includes a goal that by 2050 Nature's contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of all.

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.9.3. Key messages for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment (paragraphs 180 & 195), including landscapes, include:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils;
- Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside;
- Limiting the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation; and
- Remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

2.8.1. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – now known as National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection. This is relevant for East Hampshire District Council's planning area as east Hampshire includes part of the South Downs National Park and adjoins Surrey Hill National Landscape.

[59] United Nations draft Global Framework for Managing Nature Through 2030 (2021) available at https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2021/07/a-new-global-framework-for-managing-nature-through-2030-1st-detailed-draft-agreement-debuts/ (accessed 11/2022)

2.9.4. In 2021 Natural England started a statutory review under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to determine if the boundary of the Surrey Hills National Landscape should be extended. The review has yet to conclude.

2.9.5. Preserving geodiversity and local landscape character in East Hampshire relates to the sustainable management of material assets such as agricultural land and minerals. The NPPF (paragraph 216) requires the definition of minerals safeguarding areas, so that mineral resources of local and national importance are not needlessly sterilised by non-minerals development; and that policies in development plans provide for the appropriate aftercare and restoration of minerals sites. It also requires that local planning authorities take account of the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land (paragraph 180b).

Supplementing the NPPF

2.9.6. The Landscape Institute's **Green Infrastructure: An integrated approach to land use**[60] recommends that local authorities embed GI in plans that lead to future funding opportunities such as infrastructure delivery plans and the community infrastructure levy. The position statement advocates an integrated consideration of complex interactions between, for example; housing, food growing, flood management and biodiversity. GI enables such a consideration at a landscape scale. The regeneration of Whitehill and Bordon is identified by the position statement as an exemplar.

East Hampshire District specific context

2.9.7. The East **Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy**[61] notes that the district's landscape character is important in helping to define the 'sense of place' of parts of the district, and that this landscape is changing. The strategy highlights the opportunities that exist to strengthen the distinctive and varied character of the district's landscape including:

- Protecting the local gaps between settlements;
- Improve awareness of the landscape by providing enhanced interpretation and guided trails.
- Increase woodland cover to strengthen landscape character and mitigate the visual impacts of new development.

[60] Landscape Institute (2013) Green Infrastructure: An integrated approach to land use [online], available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/green-infrastructure/ (accessed 11/2022)

[61] East Hampshire District Council (2019), Green Infrastructure Strategy [online] available at https://www.easthants.gov.uk/green-infrastructure-strategy: (accessed 11/2022)

- Improving connectivity between settlements and the surrounding countryside by enhancing Public Rights Of Way.

2.9.8. **East Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment (2005/6),**[62] includes reference to the historic environment and how this has influenced todays landscape, patterns of settlements and land uses. In particular, the pattern of field systems reflects the complex and varied history of enclosure within the District. There is also reference to the rural settlement character being characterised by nucleated settlements of predominantly large villages and market towns of medieval origin.

2.9.9. The **Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (October 2013)**[63] allocates and safeguards a range of sites across Hampshire, for the extraction of minerals and protection of strategically important minerals sites. In East Hampshire, the plan identifies soft sand resources that have been extracted for a number of years but does not make provision for further extraction beyond currently permitted reserves. Viable resources of soft sand have been identified in the Whitehill & Bordon area and are protected from sterilisation (Policy 15 Safeguarding – minerals resources, Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan applies). Prior extraction of soft sand or silica sand is encouraged as part of the Whitehill & Bordon regeneration scheme.

South Downs Local Plan (2017-2033) – Objectives directly relevant to landscape, townscape and resources

- To conserve and enhance the landscapes of the National Park.
- To protect and provide opportunities for everyone to discover, enjoy, understand and value the National Park and its special qualities.
- To conserve and enhance the villages and market towns of the National Park as thriving centres for residents, visitors and businesses.
- To protect and provide for local businesses including farming, forestry and tourism that are broadly compatible with and relate to the landscapes and special qualities of the National Park.

[62] East Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment 2005/6
[63] Hampshire County Council (2013), Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan [online] available at https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan (accessed 11/2022)

2.10 Water and flood risk

International context

2.10.1. The United Nations recognise that water is at the very core of sustainable development through SDG[64] 6 and that there has to be a focus on the sustainable management of water resources and associated ecosystems. Targets associated with this goal include increasing water-use efficiency and ensuring adequate freshwater supplies to support development.

2.10.2. The United Nations have also identified in SDG 14 the critical role the oceans, seas and marine resources play in supporting sustainable development. Land based activities can damage the delicate balance evident in the seas around us. Specific targets are set out to reduce the impact of greenhouse gases on sea temperatures and the acidity of the oceans together with a general target to reduce marine pollution. Nutrient pollution is specifically highlighted because of the damage it causes to the aquatic ecosystem, risks to human water supplies and degrading recreational opportunities.

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.10.3. Key messages relating to water quality and flood risk (paragraphs 167-175) are as follows:

- All plans should apply a sequential, risk -based approach to the location of development. The aim of sequential test is to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding;
- If it is not possible for development to be located in zones with a lower risk of flooding (taking into account wider sustainable development objectives), an exception test may have to be applied;
- Strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment and should manage flood risk from all sources. They should consider cumulative impacts on local areas susceptible to flooding and take advice from the Environment Agency and other relevant flood risk management authorities;
- Developments should, wherever possible, help improve environmental conditions such as water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans;
- Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk. Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere; and

[64] United Nations SDG's available at https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/ (accessed 11/2022)

- Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate.

Supplementing the NPPF

2.10.4. The **Flood and Water Management Act 2010**[65] sets out the following objectives regarding flood risk management:

- Incorporate greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fit at risk properties (including historic buildings);
- Utilise the environment, e.g. utilise land to reduce runoff and harness wetlands to store water; and
- Identify areas suitable for inundation and water storage.

2.10.5. **Draft Flood Risk Management Plans**[66] have been prepared for individual river basins, including two that are relevant for East Hampshire: the Thames and South East areas. They will be strategic in nature, focusing on areas where the risk of flooding has been identified as nationally significant. The draft FRMPs relevant to East Hampshire contain no specific measures for flood risks in EHDC's planning area.

2.10.6. In relation to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), further guidance is provided in Defra's document **Sustainable Drainage Systems: Non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems**[67]. This document specifies standards for the design of SuDS so as to avoid flooding due to surface water.

2.10.7. The Environment Agency and the Government have prepared river basin management plans (RBMPs), which set locally specific environmental objectives that underpin water regulation (such as permitting) and planning activities. East Hampshire is covered by two RBMPs; **South East RBMP**[68] and **Thames district RBMP**[69]. The RBMPs will seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD, namely:

- Enhance and prevent further deterioration of aquatic and wetland ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;

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[65] Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents (accessed 11/2022)
[66] Environment Agency (2022) Draft Flood Risk Management Plans [online] available at: https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/draft-second-cycle-flood-risk-management-plans/ (accessed 11/2022)
[67] DEFRA (2015) Sustainable Drainage Systems: Non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/415773/sustainable-drainage-technical-standards.pdf (accessed 11/2022)

- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

2.10.8. The RBMPs do not contain specific local measures for water bodies in East Hampshire District, however some of the local measures for the Wey catchment (Thames RBMP) and the east Hampshire area (South East RBMP) could be relevant for the local plan making process. The priority issues to tackle in the Wey catchment and east Hampshire are identified in the "baseline" (Section 3) part of this scoping report.

2.10.9. The RBMPs are the foundation for delivering the government's 25 Year Environment Plan 'clean and plentiful water' goal. Draft updates to the RBMPs were published in October 2021. The draft plans consist of a range of documents and GIS data sets.

2.10.10. The objectives for RBMPs include:

- preventing the deterioration of the both surface and groundwaters
- ensuring compliance with local standards set for sensitive areas e.g. drinking water abstraction, recreational use and vulnerable habitats
- preventing and reversing damaging groundwater pollutant concentrations
- safeguarding the water quality and biodiversity of local chalk streams

East Hampshire District specific context

2.10.11. The **East Hampshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment** - **Level 1** (2022) [70]provides an overview of the risk of flooding from all sources to ensure that flood risk is understood and managed effectively through the planning process. Key messages include:

- A sequential approach should be applied to site selection so that development occurs in areas of lowest flood risk, taking into account the projected impact of climate change and the vulnerability of users.
- In exceptional circumstances, where development is necessary in areas of flood risk, it should be made safe without increasing the risk elsewhere and, where possible, should reduce the overall flood risk.
- The need for greater emphasis on floodplain management and SuDS in policy formulation.

[70] East Hampshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment(2022) available at https://cdn.easthants.gov.uk/public/documents/Level%201%20Strategic%20Flood%20Risk%20Assessment%20(2022).pdf (accessed 11/2022)

South Downs Local Plan (2017-2033) – Objectives directly relevant to water and flood risk

- To achieve a sustainable use of ecosystem services thus enhancing natural capital across the landscapes of the National Park and contributing to wealth and human health and wellbeing.
- To adapt well to and mitigate against the impacts of climate change and other pressures.

3. What's the sustainability baseline for the IIA?

3.1 Introduction

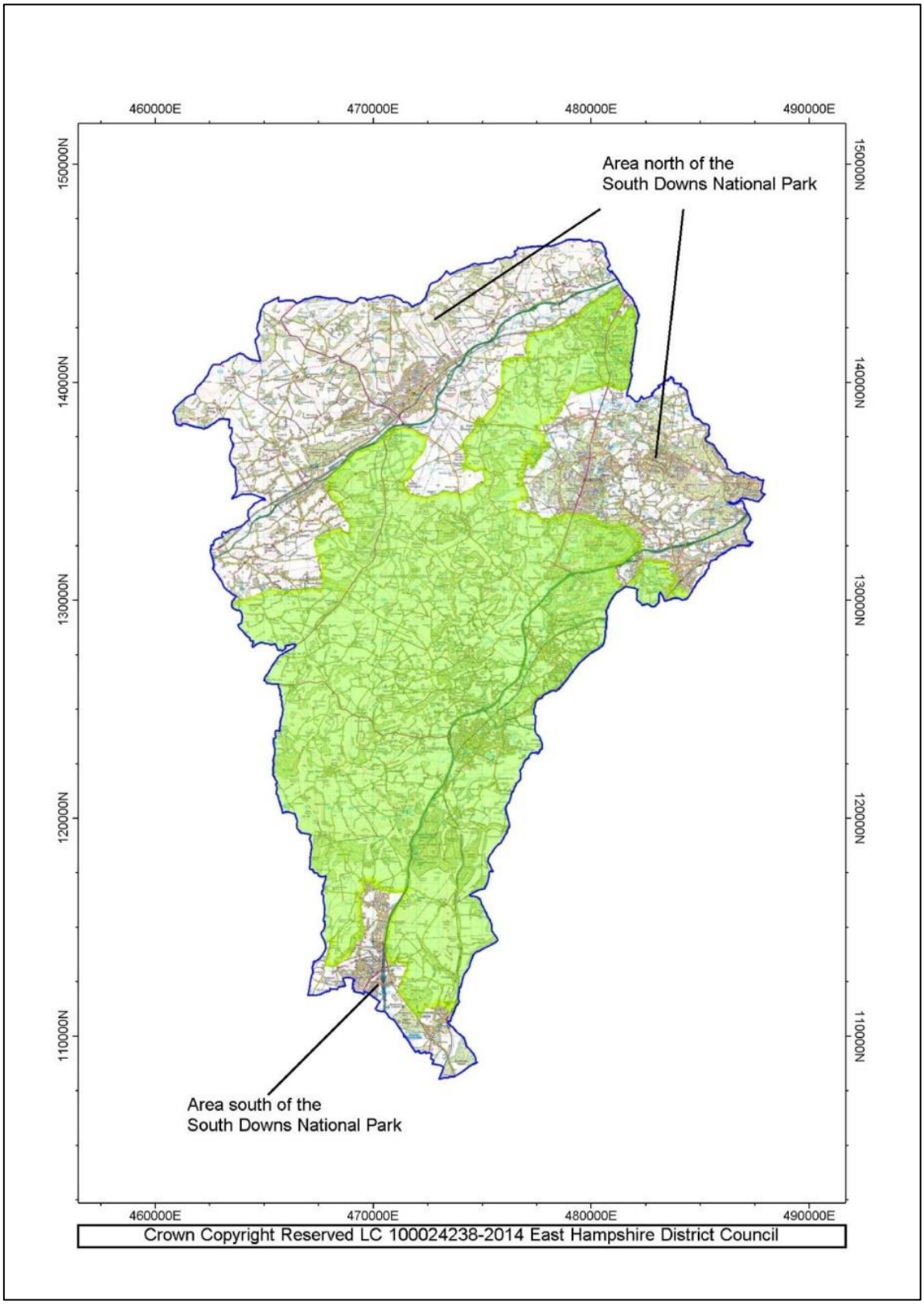
3.1.1. This section of the Scoping Report describes the principal environmental, economic and social characteristics of East Hampshire, with an emphasis on those areas outside of the South Downs National Park. Key data and trends that are relevant to the sustainability topics will be introduced and discussed for purposes of informing the sustainability appraisal, strategic environmental assessment, health impact assessment and equalities impact assessment of the emerging Local Plan. Together with information on the policy context for the appraisal (Section 2), this section helps to introduce and establish the IIA objectives and framework by which the new Local Plan can be appraised.

3.1.2. The new East Hampshire Local Plan will cover those parts of the district outside of the South Downs National Park, as shown in Figure 1 on the following page, and will cover the period 2021 to 2040. This area comprises parts of the southern parishes of Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle; and the northern parts of the district including the settlements of Alton, Whitehill & Bordon, and Liphook.

3.1.3. The baseline is presented in terms of the topics identified in Section 1 of this Scoping Report. Knowledge of these constraints, together with knowledge of environmental opportunities and social and economic characteristics, will help to inform the selection of all reasonable alternatives for the new Local Plan.

3.1.4. The baseline and the context for the IIA help to inform the IIA framework, which is presented in Section 4, following the baseline information. The IIA framework will be used to appraise the new Local Plan and its reasonable alternatives, in accordance with the legislative requirements and national guidance.

Figure 1: Map of East Hampshire including the South Downs National Park. Areas in the north and south of the district, which will be covered by the East Hampshire Local Plan 2021-2040, are identified



3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1. East Hampshire is a largely rural district and contains many areas of high biodiversity value, from local, national and international perspectives. The following table (Figure 2) summarises the designated biodiversity sites found across the district (including the South Downs National Park).

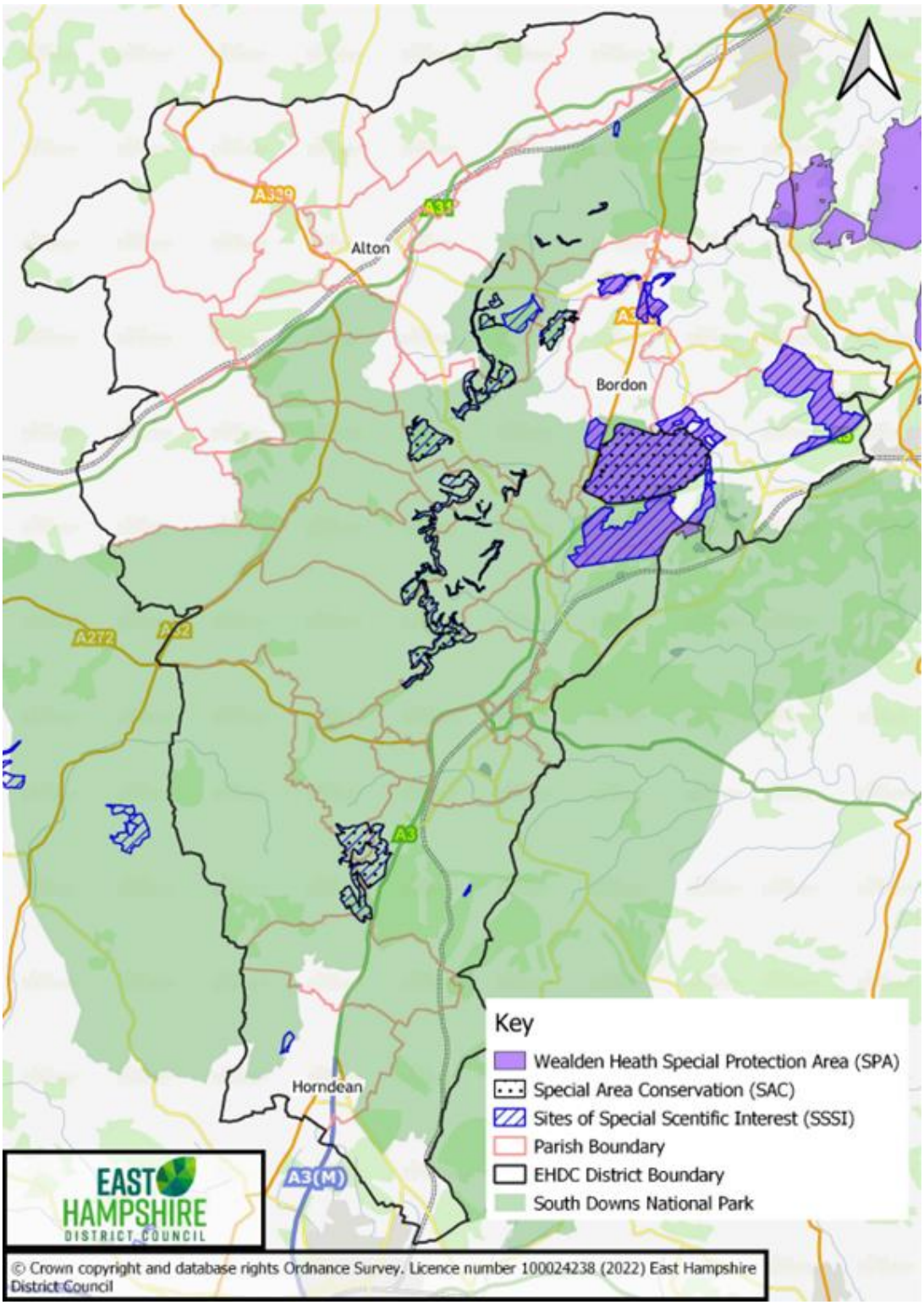
Figure 2: Fact and figures for designated biodiversity sites in East Hampshire

Designation	Presence in East Hampshire (Inc. SDNPA area)
Special Protection Area (SPA)	The Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA is internationally recognised for supporting significant populations of birds associated with lowland heathland habitat.
Special Areas for Conservations	The East Hampshire Hangers SAC (comprised of seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest) feature rare European Woodland habitats.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	The District's SSSIs cover around 5% of its area, totalling 2,712 hectares, with Woolmer Forest accounting for 1,293 hectares. Approximately 98.55% of SSSI across the district are in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition (a net change of 0.33% from the previous year (2020/2021)).
National Nature Reserves	These sites represent some of the most important SSSIs in the country, and in East Hampshire include Butser Hill and the Ashford Hangers.
Local Nature Reserves	There are a number of LNRs in the District (including the South Downs National Park), such as Buriton Chalk pit.
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	The District has a total of 575 SINCs wholly or partly within the district, covering an area of over 6,161 ha. There has been 1 new site designated in 2022 and 2 SINCs were amended. Overall, this has led to a net gain of 4.04ha of SINC land.
Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)	In 2022, there are approximately 2,090 TPOs (including those in the South Downs National Park) have been made to protect important trees. Some of TPO's will relate to groups of trees, therefore the number of trees protected will be considerably more.

Source: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2022

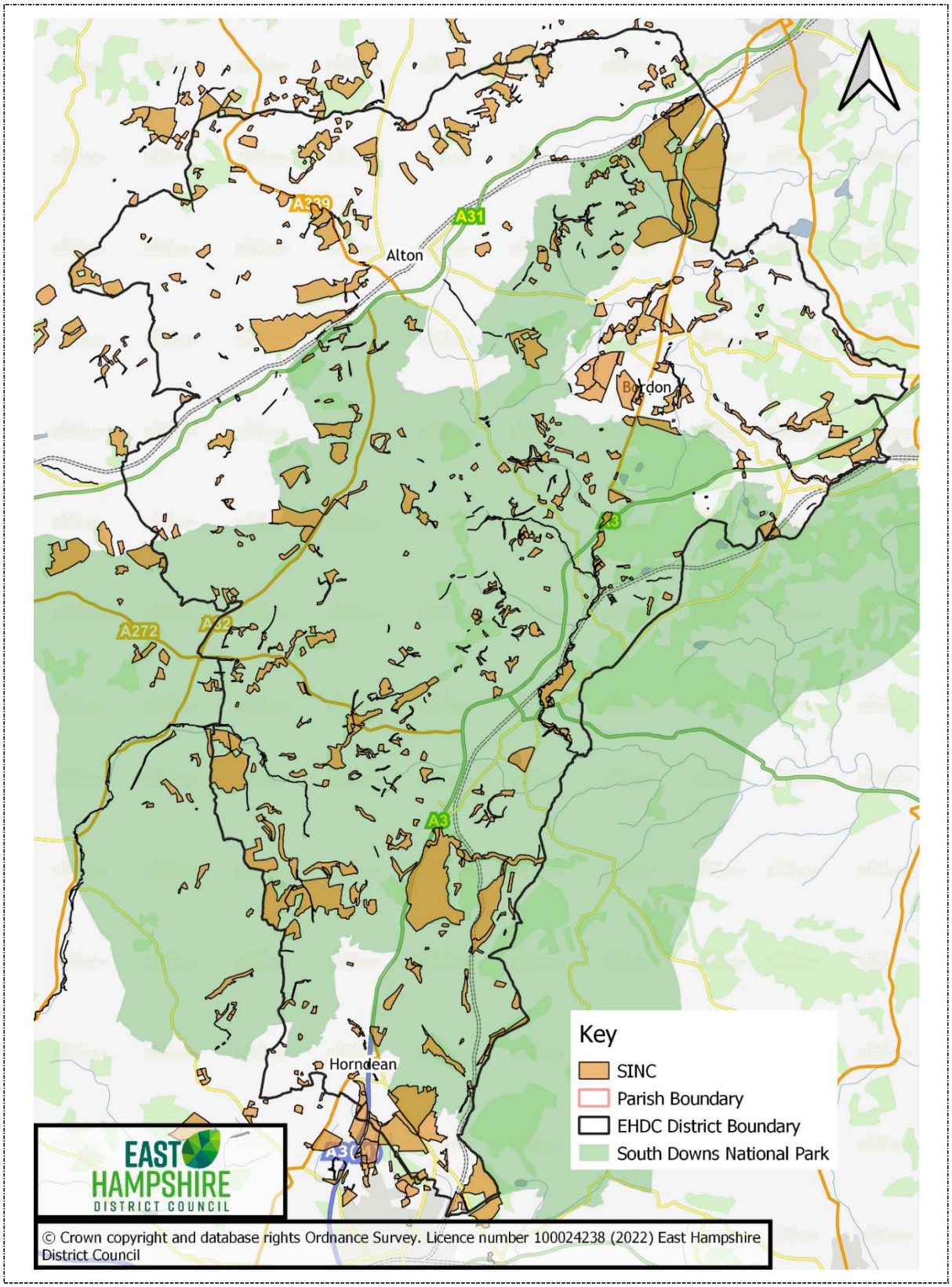
3.2.2. National planning policy strongly promotes the conservation and enhancement of these natural assets, as well as the consideration of wider ecological networks of habitats that can act as wildlife corridors or stepping-stones between them. Figure 3 shows the distribution of internationally and nationally designated sites in East Hampshire (outside of the South Downs National Park) whilst Figure 4 shows the locally designated sites. In 2022, total of 6,157ha of land was identified as being of local interest for nature conservation (designated as a SINC; source: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre).

Figure 3: SSSIs, SPAs and SACs in East Hampshire



Source: Natural England

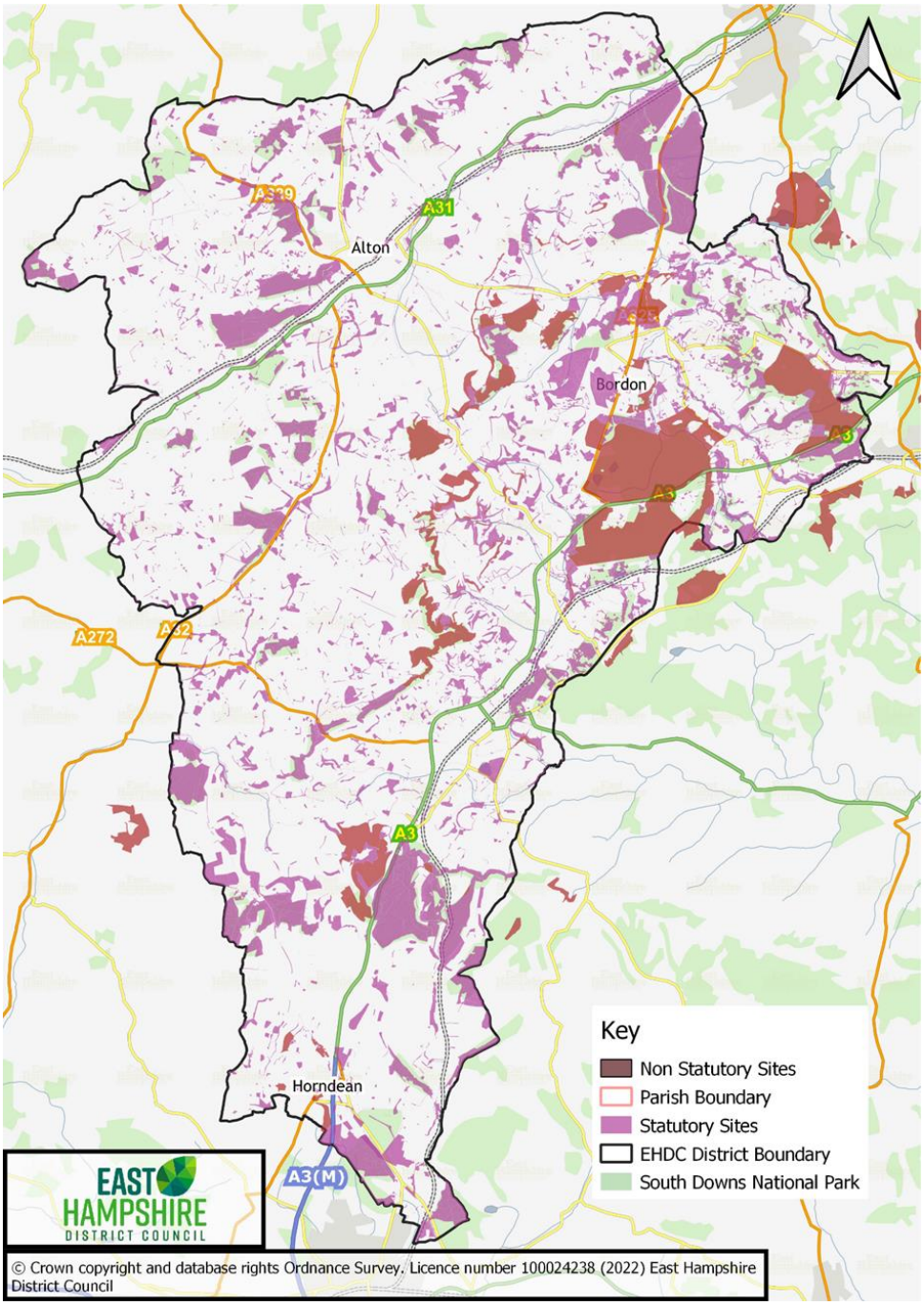
Figure 4: SINCs in East Hampshire



Source: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

3.2.3. The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre has also identified a network of ecological opportunity areas, which are those parts of the district that have been recognised as having potential for the restoration and creation of priority habitats in East Hampshire. See Figure 5 for details. Taken together, these maps (i.e. Figures 3,4 & 5) show both the spatial distribution of important habitats and indicate the potential for securing and enhancing their value from a biodiversity perspective.

Figure 5: Ecological network mapping in East Hampshire, showing opportunities for biodiversity enhancements alongside statutorily designated sites



Source: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

3.2.4. The EHDC 2022 Habitats Regulation Assessment[71] (HRA) determines various ways in which land use plans in East Hampshire can affect internationally designated sites through 'Pathways of Impact'. These are ways in which development can affect the international designated sites. For example, recreational pressure can potentially harm the designated sites through such means as nutrient enrichment, which is caused by dog fouling on the sites. This can have a significant impact on habitats characterised by lower nutrient levels e.g. heathland.

3.2.5. Recreational pressures also lead to the disturbance of protected species – specifically ground-nesting birds. Many sites that are affected by urbanisation support lower densities of particular species, such as Curlew and Nightjar. Disturbance affects feeding habits reducing the condition and survival of breeding and overwintering birds. The degree of disturbance reflects the recreational activity. For example, dog walking causes greater disturbance than hiking.

3.2.6. Recreational activity has also been found to exacerbate mechanical and abrasive damage. This is coupled with associated trampling of plants and flowers, mainly found to occur in heathland and woodland, causes individual plants to be dislodged, leading to soil compaction and erosion.

3.2.7. Air quality and pollutants such as nitrogen, ammonia and sulphur dioxide can all be toxic to vegetation at high concentrations. Urbanisation can lead to increased levels of traffic and vehicle emissions, which can have a creeping impact on the designated sites through reducing local air quality.

3.2.8. The HRA also identifies water quality as an important determinant of nature and the condition of habitats. An increase in the discharge of treated sewage effluent from local wastewater treatment as a consequence of additional development could have adverse impacts because treated sewage has a high loading of nitrogen and phosphates. The district and surrounding areas have a number of freshwater sites that are sensitive to such nutrients. The HRA recommends that any new developments within the hydrological catchment areas of such sites should achieve nutrient neutrality or if this proves unfeasible, appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place.

3.2.9. Figure 5 shows that there is an extensive network of opportunities for the enhancement of local biodiversity within the district; although it should be noted that the suitability of land would need to be confirmed through further survey work. A list of East Hampshire priority habitats is given in Figure 6 whilst Figure 7 identifies the key locations for such habitats. Compared to many other districts, East Hampshire has a relatively high proportion of Hampshire's lowland calcareous grassland habitat (c.16%; source: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre 2021/22). The priority habitat with the largest coverage in East Hampshire is lowland mixed deciduous woodland (5,350 ha out of a total of 7,865 ha of priority habitat).

[71] East Hampshire District Council, 2022, Habitats Regulation Assessment: https://www.easthants.gov.uk/media/7733/download?inline

Figure 6: Priority habitats in East Hampshire

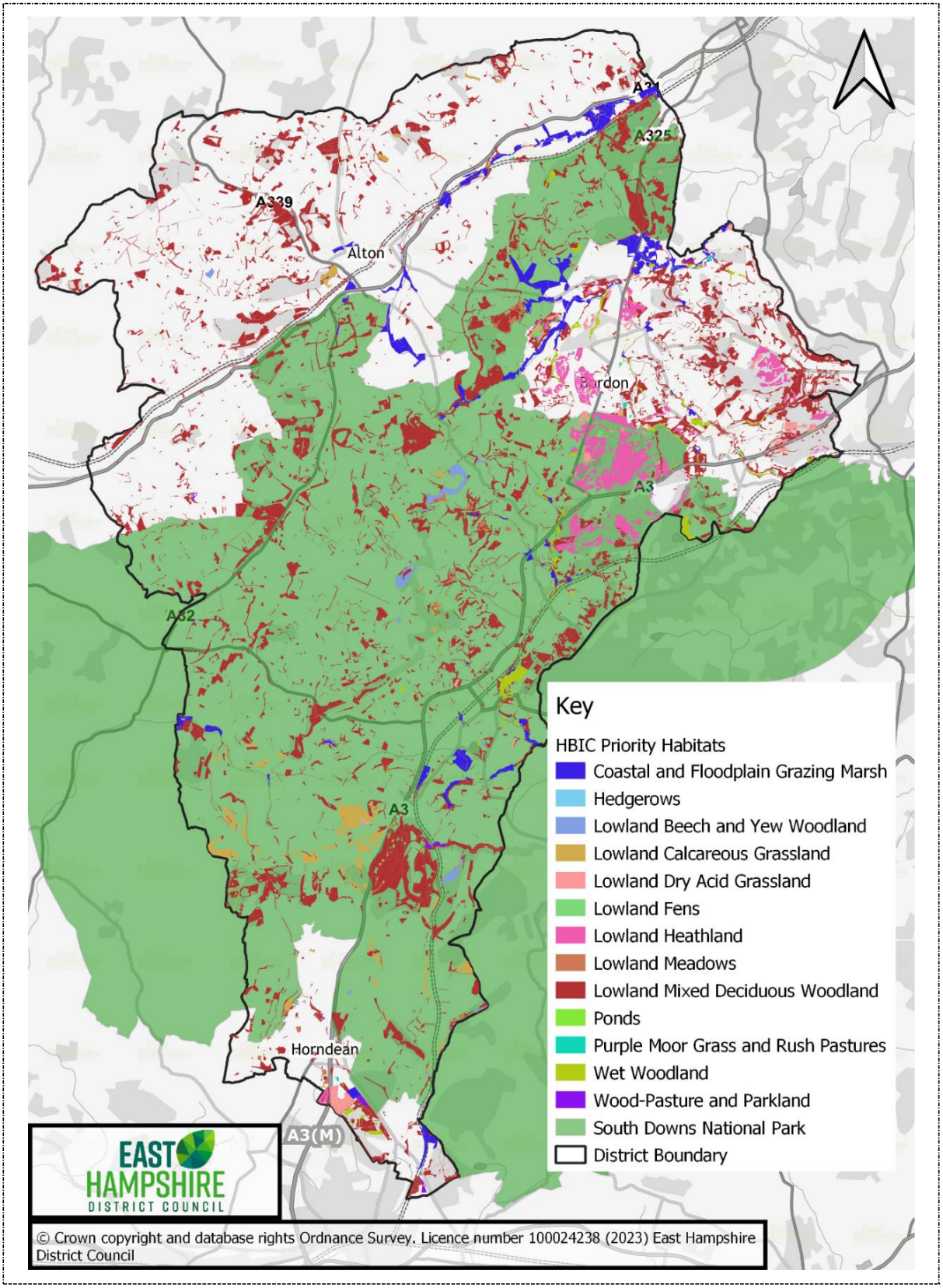
East Hampshire Priority Habitats	
Woodland	Lowland beech and yew woodland; lowland mixed deciduous woodland (including all ancient and non-ancient woodland); wet woodland; and wood-pasture and parkland (historic parkland).
Grassland	Lowland calcareous grassland; lowland dry acid grassland (overlap with lowland heath); lowland meadows; and purple moor grass and rush pasture
Heathland	Lowland heathland (some overlap with lowland dry acidic grassland)
Wetland	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (some overlap with lowland meadows, purple moor grass and rush pastures); lowland fens; and reedbeds
Arable, orchards and hedgerows	Arable field margins (only SINCS on arable land designated for rare arable plant assemblages); open mosaic habitats on previously developed land; hedgerows; traditional orchards

Source: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2022

3.2.10. In addition to areas of protected heathland that form part of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA (see Figure 3), there are a range of grasslands across the district including:

- Chalk grassland, also known as calcareous grassland, mainly found in the northwest around Lasham and Ropley and in the south near Horndean and Clanfield. This supports species-rich habitats of grasses, sedge, wildflower and insects.
- Acid grasslands are found in the north east around Whitehill & Bordon and to a lesser extent in the south around Blendworth.
- Floodplain grasslands (also known as water meadows) are found in Radford Park near Liphook and Allee's Meadow near Bramshott.

Figure 7: Locations of Priority Habitats in East Hampshire



Source; Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

3.2.11. The largest areas of ancient woodland are found near Alton (Ackender/Alexandra Wood, Bushy Leaze Wood and Chawton Park wood) and in the south near Rowlands Castle and Horndean (Havant Thicket, Southleigh Forest, The Holt/Stein Wood and parts of Staunton Country Park).

3.2.12. The scrub which develops on the edges of woodland and grasslands that have been left unmanaged provides valuable food and shelter resources for many animal species. This is particularly the case when situated adjacent to woodland, wetland, grassland or hedgerows. Hedgerows, for example, are particularly important for Hazel dormouse. They provide a favourable habitat for breeding, feeding and hibernation whilst allowing movement through the landscape.

3.2.13. Dormice are present in woodland, scrub and hedgerows throughout East Hampshire, notably found around Alton, Four Marks and A31 corridor as well as the A3 corridor from Liphook to Horndean.

3.2.14. Watercourses and wetlands support a diverse range aquatic plants and animal species including as otters and water voles. Alongside watercourses, still waterbodies such as ponds and lakes are also extremely important for example supporting dragonflies and damselflies.

3.2.15. East Hampshire is an important area for many bat species. A typical rural site in the district containing grassland, hedgerows and woodland can be expected to be visited by ten or more different bat species, including the Western barbastelle and very rare Alcathoe's bat. Bechstein's bat, another very rare bat species in the UK, is strongly associated with woodland habitats with the Forest of Bere in Horndean/Rowlands Castle being the main stronghold for the species in Hampshire

3.2.16. Urban areas also provide habitats for roosting bats and nesting birds e.g. barn owl, house sparrows, starlings and common swifts, with Alton a known hotspot for swifts. Further information in relation to local habitats and species is provided by the East Hampshire Biodiversity Guidance document[72].

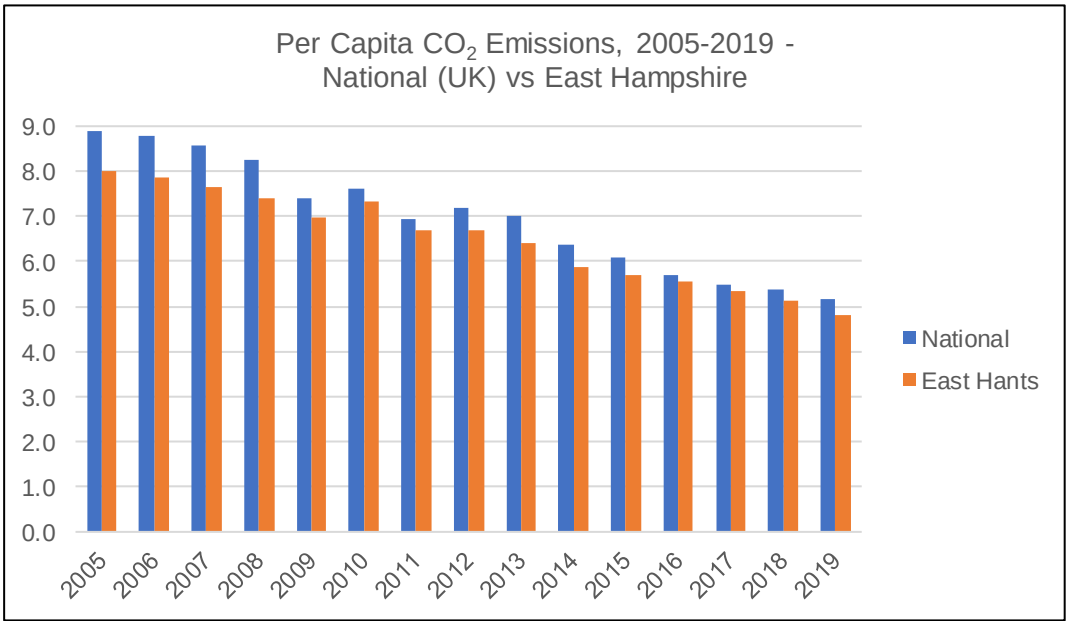
[72] East Hampshire District Council, 2021, East Hampshire Biodiversity Guidance: https://www.easthants.gov.uk/media/6296/download?inline

3.3 Climate Emergency

3.3.1. Between 2005 and 2019 carbon dioxide emissions steadily reduced in East Hampshire, reflecting the reductions seen across the UK. The reduction in the use of coal to generate electricity was the main reason for the reductions.

3.3.2. Figure 8 compares the per capita emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) for East Hampshire against those for the UK as a whole. The lower emissions in East Hampshire can, in part, be attributed to the rural nature of the District and the lack of heavy industry. The data shows that whilst the difference between district and UK-wide per capita emissions is not so marked as it was in 2005, the trend of lower emissions per capita in East Hampshire is consistent over the period to 2019.

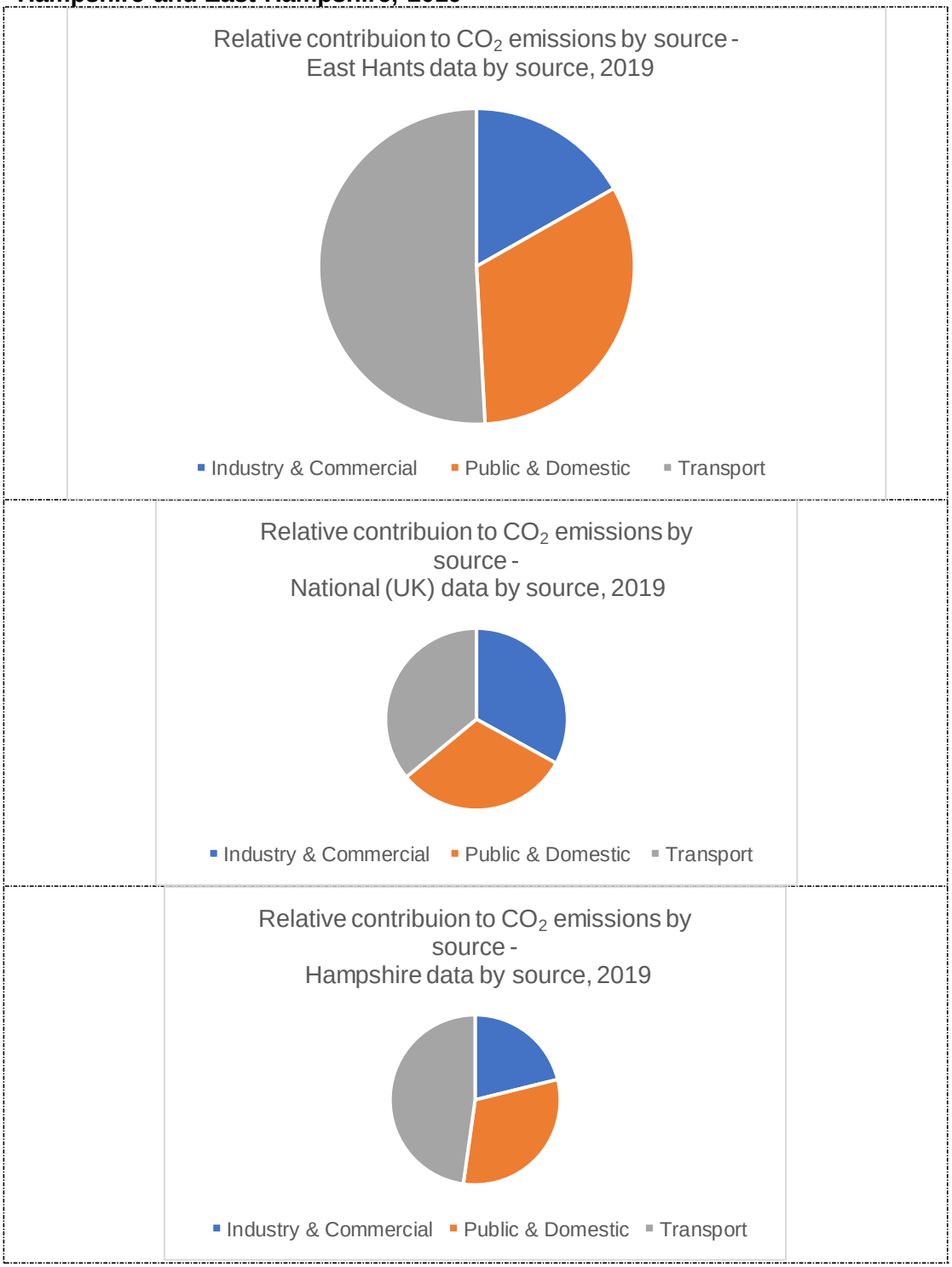
Figure 8: Per capita emissions of carbon dioxide (tonnes per annum), 2005-2019, for East Hampshire and the UK as a whole



Source: UK Government (BEIS)

3.3.3. The charts in Figure 9 below outline the main sources of CO_2 emissions for the UK, Hampshire and East Hampshire. The pattern of emissions in East Hampshire is not reflective of the national picture. The rural nature of the District means that residents must often travel further and more frequently to access major facilities, services and larger employment areas. As a result, emissions for transport are the largest source of CO_2 emissions in the area.

Figure 9: Breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions by source for the UK, Hampshire and East Hampshire, 2019



Source: UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions and national statistics: 2005 to 2019, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy August 2021.

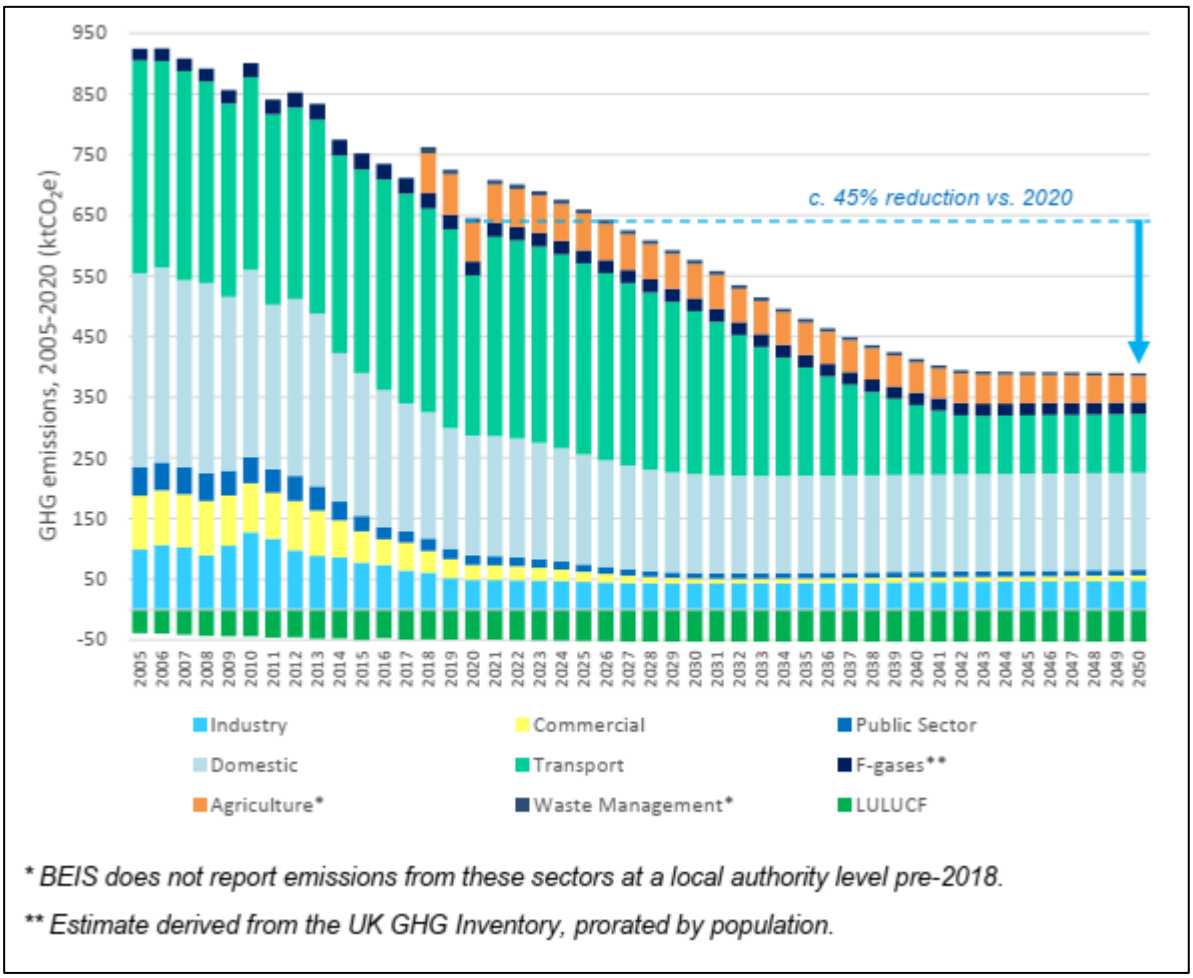
3.3.4. The Climate Change Act 2008, as amended, commits the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 100% of 1990 levels by 2050. The East Hampshire Net Zero Evidence Base Study (2023) seeks to project forward the

level of emissions in the district based on the current national policy approach. The methodology of the study projects forward current baseline and historic emissions data using annual average growth rates for each sector taking into account of the fuels used. It essentially provides a insight into a "business as usual" approach without new local plan policies to tackle the climate emergency.

3.3.5. The most significant impacts assumed in the modelling are from the increased use of renewable technology in electricity generation along with a significant projected uptake in the use of electric battery vehicles. Both will significantly reduce emissions in the transport and domestic sectors as shown in Figure 10. The domestic and transport sectors are the most dominant emissions sources, being projected to account for the majority of impacts (see Figure #)

3.3.6. In the period up to 2025 greenhouse gas emissions will continue to increase, whilst emissions between 2042 and 2050 are projected to remain constant, representing a reduction of 45% on 2020 emission levels. This falls considerably short of the legal obligation set out in the Climate Change Act.

Figure 10: Greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption by sector in a business as usual scenario



Source: East Hampshire Net Zero Evidence Base Study January 2023

3.3.7. **Domestic sector:** The “business as usual” reference case reflects the median gas and electricity consumption in the residential sector based on 2015-2017 BEIS data. Changes to the Building Regulations in 2013 (Part L) have reduced emissions from dwellings built between 2015-2017 according to the data from BEIS.

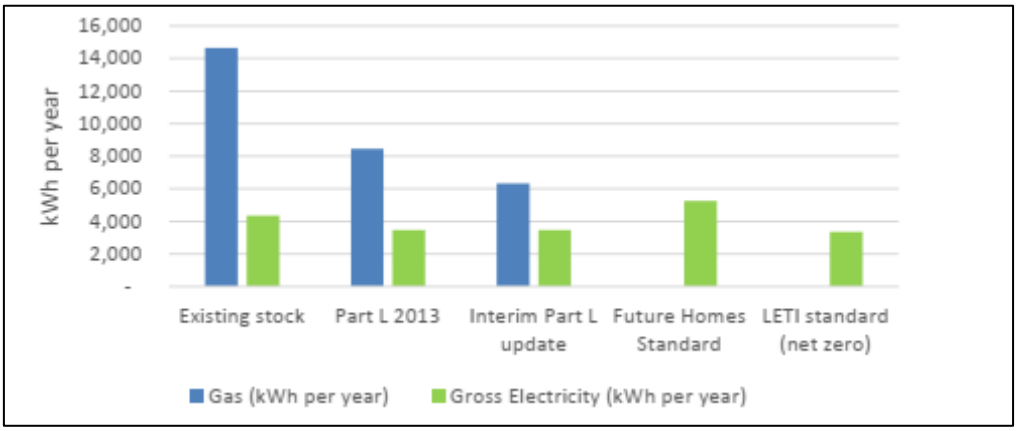
3.3.8. In 2019, the Government announced its intention to introduce the Future Homes Standard, due to come into effect from 2025, to ensure new homes produce less carbon emissions. To lay the groundwork for the Standard's introduction, the government introduced major changes to the Building Regulations in 2022. These require new homes to produce around 30% less carbon emissions compared to the old regulations. This is standard is referred to as the ‘Interim Part L update’ on the chart shown in Figure 11

3.3.9. The intention is that further changes will be introduced to ensure new homes built from 2025 produce 75-80% less carbon emissions than homes delivered under the old (2013) regulations. The projected impact of these changes, including the anticipated requirement that new properties are not connected to the gas network, are shown in Figure 11.

3.3.10. A higher standard, promoted by LETI has also been modelled. The standard would require 100% of all new buildings to be designed to be Net Zero by 2025. This would equate to an Energy Usage Target of 35kWh.m2/year.

3.3.11. Figure 11 shows the impact of the Future Homes Standard and the London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI) ‘net zero carbon’ standard against data for the average performance of the existing housing stock and those built in accordance with Building Regulations from 2013 onwards. Under the anticipated Future Homes and Buildings Standard (i.e. after 2025), electricity usage is projected to increase by around 25% relative to the 2022 ‘Interim Part L update’ to building regulations. This would be due to increased electricity demand associated with space heating, such as via air-source heat pumps. Under the LETI standard, electricity use would remain at current levels due to the enhanced insulation of new homes built in accordance with that standard. In each case, gas consumption would cease in new dwellings; but it would remain high from the existing dwelling stock.

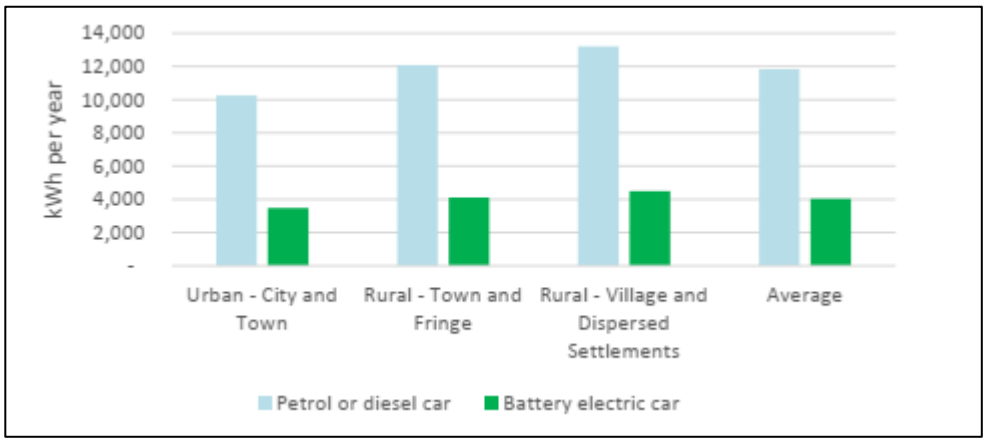
Figure 11: Annual gas and electricity consumption in dwellings



Source: East Hampshire Net Zero Evidence Base Study January 2023

3.3.12. **Transport sector:** The chart below (Figure 12) shows the how the nature of an area and the fuel used can affect energy consumption. Whilst the greatest emission reductions are achieved by the transition to battery electric vehicles, reducing the need to travel by car (e.g. through locating new development in the most sustainable locations) also has the potential to reduce emissions.

Figure 12: Annual road transport fuel consumption in cars



Source: East Hampshire Net Zero Evidence Base Study January 2023

3.3.13. The projections set out in Figure 9 show a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of greenhouse gases in the area by 2050. However, this would be insufficient to help meet the UK target of being 'Net Zero' by 2050; there would still be a significant net increase in carbon emissions on an annual basis. It is clear additional measures will be required if we are to meet the target and avoid some of the impacts on our weather that are outlined below.

3.3.14. The UK Government's latest climate change projections for the South East of England (including East Hampshire), suggest that climate change could lead to an increase in average temperatures and increased precipitation in the winter, with lower levels of precipitation in the summertime. Future policy decisions, natural events and human behaviour to curb greenhouse gas emissions will

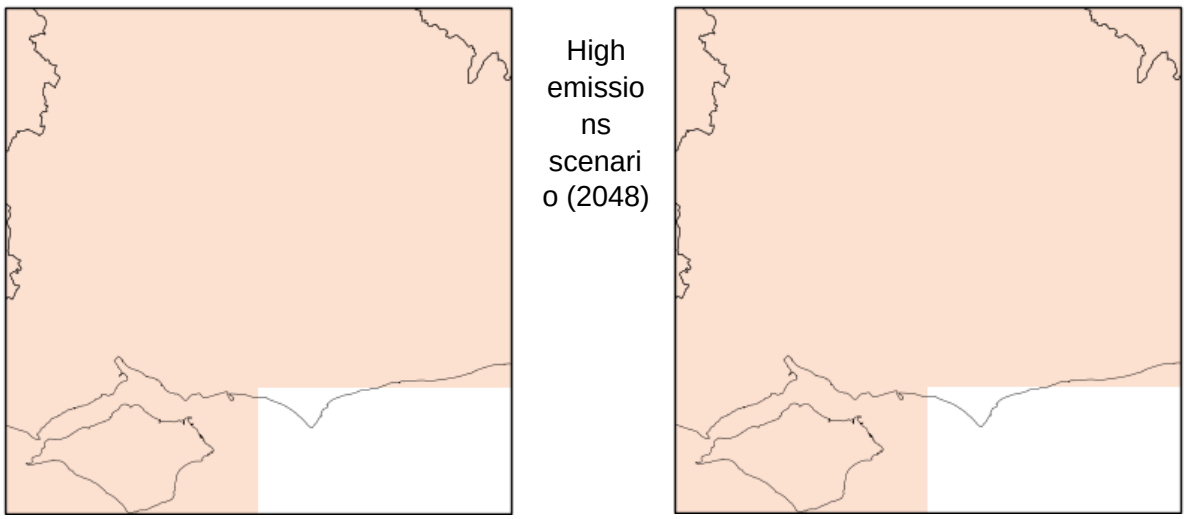
determine the actual outcome. However, Figure 13 provides an indication of some potential changes under “medium” and “high” emissions scenarios.

Figure 13: Changes in mean precipitation rate and mean air temperature between base year of 1981-2000 and 2030-2048 for high or medium greenhouse gas emissions scenarios by season (summer and winter), based on 50th percentile for the South East

Mean Air Temperature Change - Summer:

Medium emissions scenario (2048)

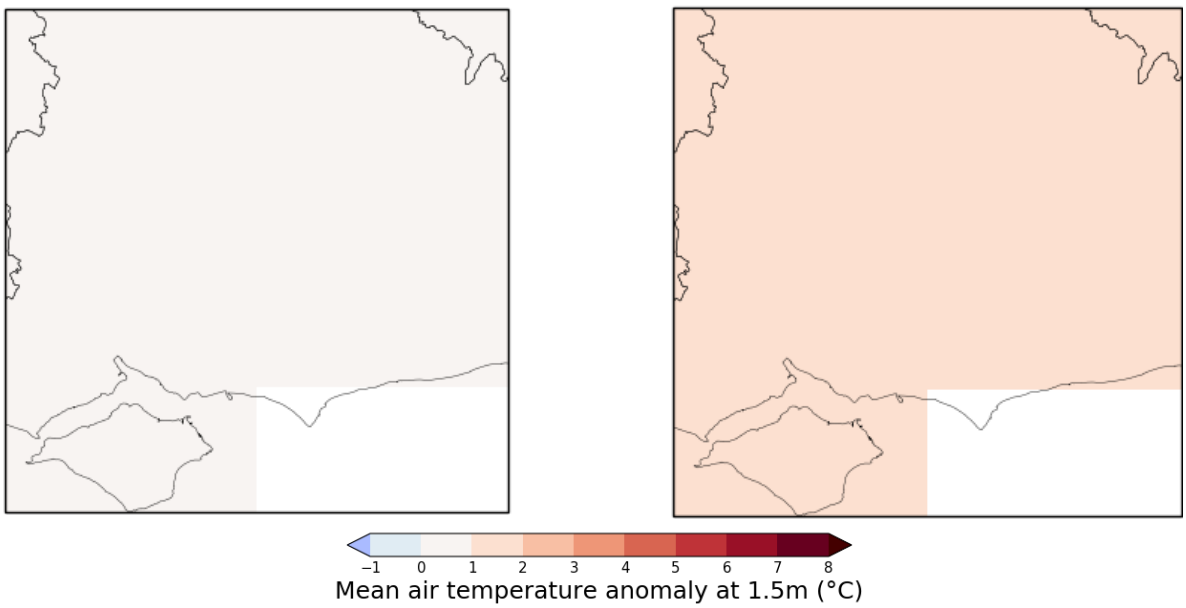
High emissions scenario (2048)



Mean Air Temperature Change – Winter:

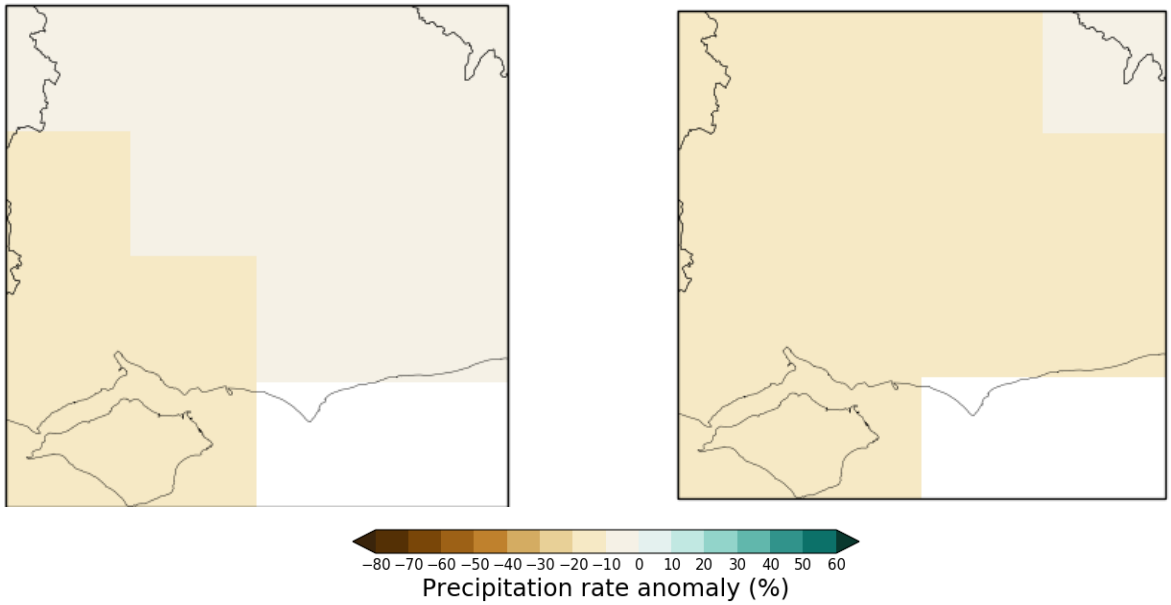
Medium emissions scenario (2048)

High emissions scenario (2048)



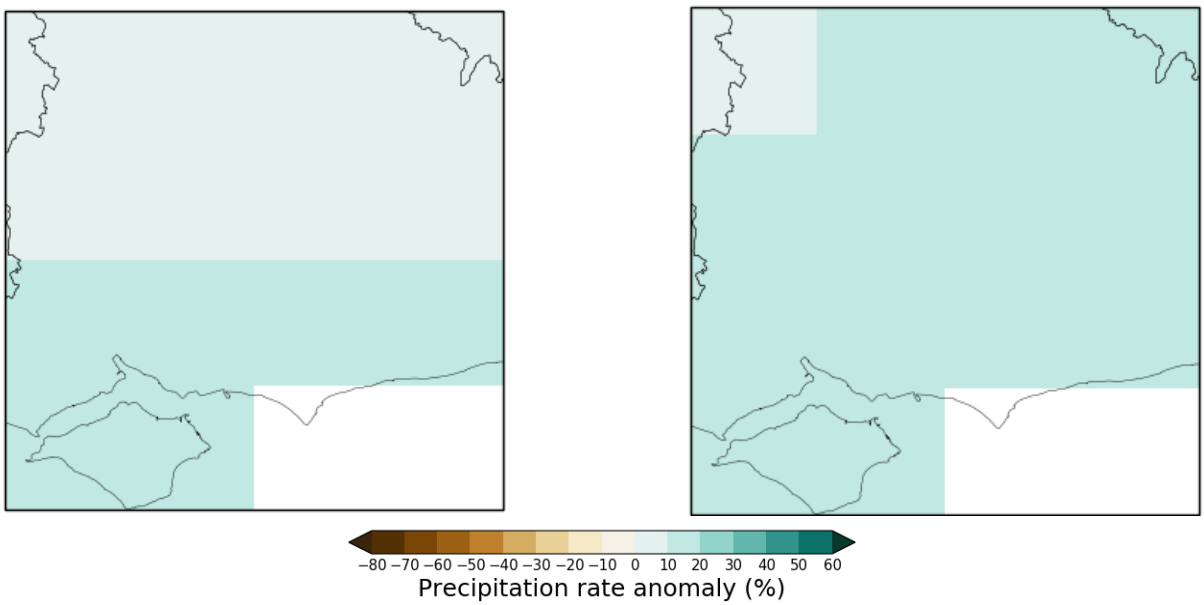
Mean Precipitation Rate Change – Summer:

Medium emissions scenario (2048) High emissions scenario (2048)



Mean Precipitation Rate Change – Winter:

Medium emissions scenario (2048) High emissions scenario (2048)



Source: UKCP18 Climate Projections

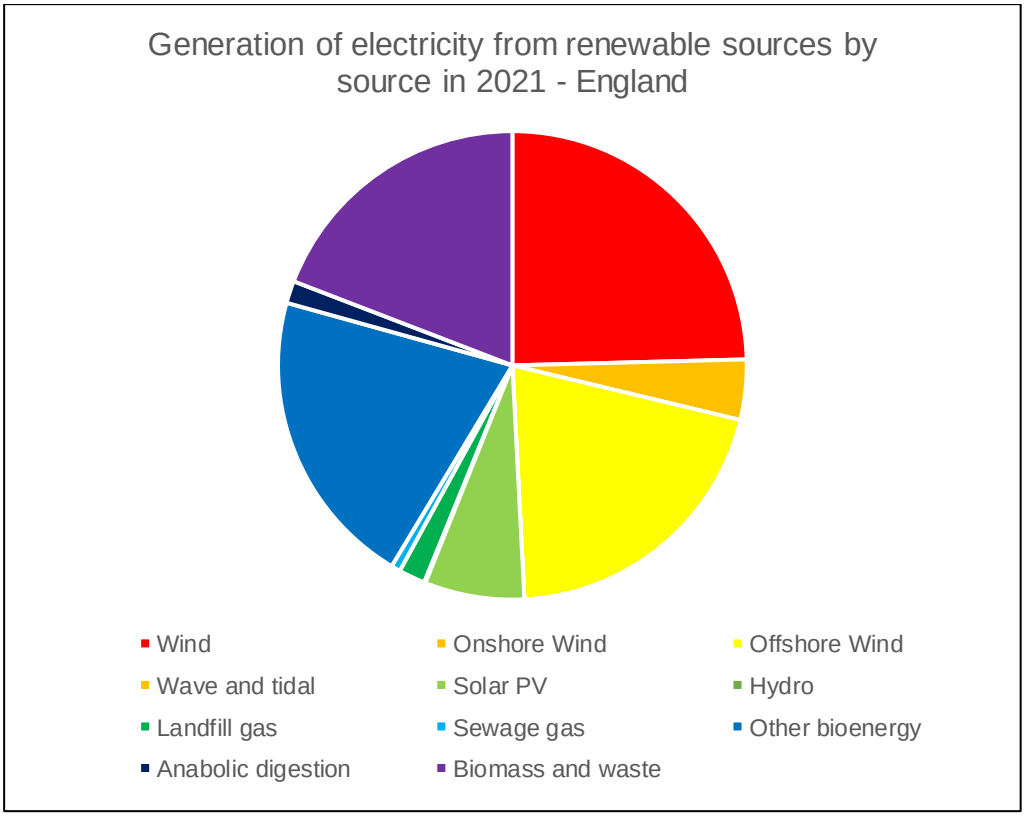
3.3.15. The projections for the South East of England suggest that:

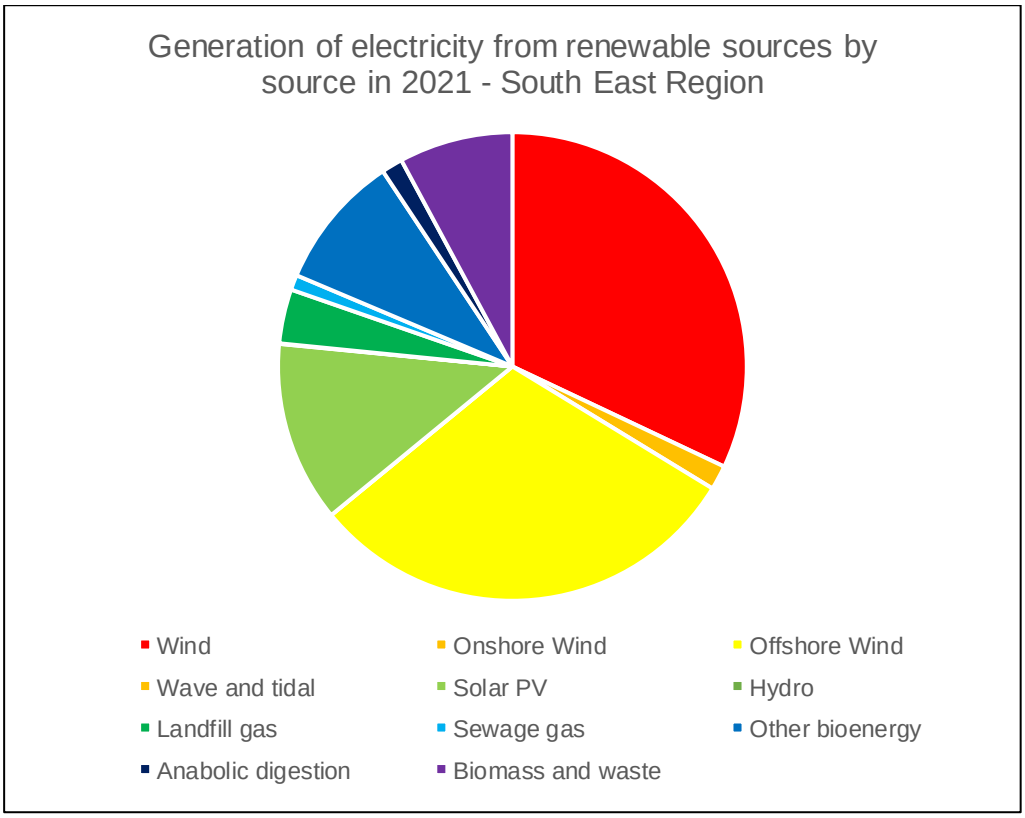
- Summer mean air temperatures could increase by 2 to 3 degrees centigrade by 2048 (compared to the 2000 baseline figures) under both medium and high greenhouse gas emission scenario.
- Winter mean air temperatures could increase by 1 degree centigrade under the medium emission scenario, rising 2 to 3 degrees under the high emission scenario over the same period.
- Summer mean precipitation is projected, over the period to 2048, to reduce. Reductions of 10-20% in the western part of the region and up to 10% in the eastern part of region could be seen under a medium emission scenario. Under the high emission scenario, most of the region would see a reduction in mean rainfall of 10-20%.
- Winter mean precipitation would see significant increases under both scenarios. For the high emission scenario, the increase in rainfall across the majority of the region could be as high as 20-30%. Under the medium emission scenario the southern part of the region is still likely to see increases of 20-30% with the northern part of the region projected to see an increase of 10-20%.

3.3.16. The implications for land use might include a greater need to insulate properties to a higher standard to limit the effect of periods of warmer weather on living conditions; and a need to avoid more frequent surface water flooding by attaching greater priority to sustainable drainage systems.

3.3.17. Increasing the generation of electricity by renewable sources, such as by wind power, solar power or biomass is a key measure to curb climate change. Figure 14 is based on Government data and shows the proportional breakdown of renewable electricity generation by source for England and the South East. The charts show that the South East region generates proportionally more electricity from wind (predominantly offshore) and solar sources in comparison to England as a whole. However, the region produces a lower proportion of its electricity from bioenergy sources, including biomass and waste compared to England as a whole. Because East Hampshire does not have a coastline, it is considered likely future investment locally in renewable electricity will frequently involve new solar power initiatives. However, as the future relative costs of energy production change, providers may chose different options.

Figure 14: Renewable energy generation by source in 2021, England and the South East

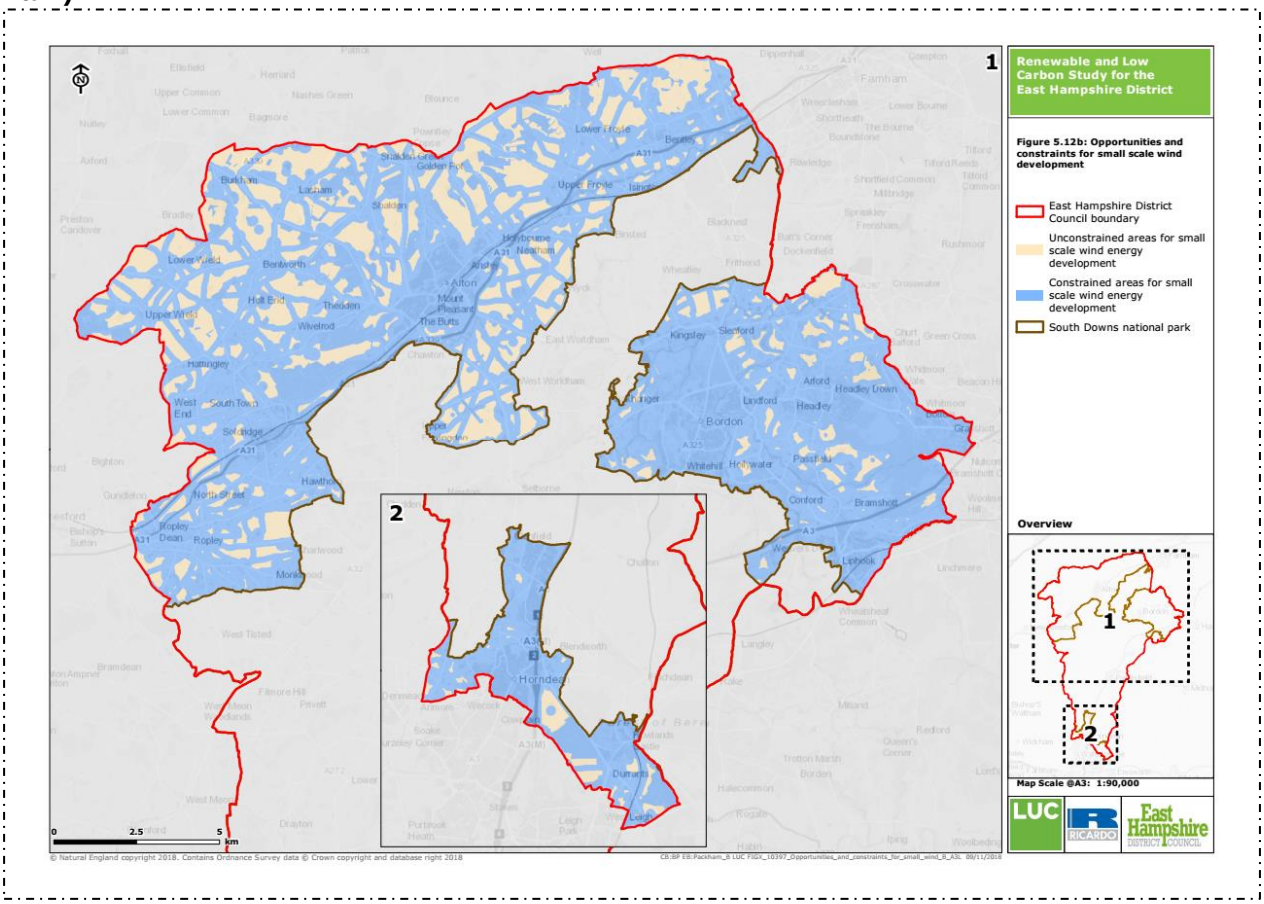




Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

3.3.18. To inform its new Local Plan, East Hampshire District Council commissioned a Renewable and Low Carbon Study, which was undertaken by Land Use Consulting in 2018. The following map show areas of constraint together with areas which are (in principle) unconstrained for the generation of electricity from small-scale wind power infrastructure, in parts of East Hampshire outside of the South Downs National Park. Other maps have been produced as part of the study for medium-, large- and very large-scale wind power generation, but these maps show similar results to Figure 15, albeit with diminishing areas that are unconstrained as the scale of wind power generation increases. It is worth noting that there are no areas of unconstrained opportunity for large or very large wind farms in the northeast (Whitehill & Bordon) area of East Hampshire. There are also aviation-related constraints to wind power development affecting all parts of East Hampshire, arising from Blackbushe, Chichester/Goodwood, Farnborough and Southampton airports.

Figure 15: Opportunities and Constraints for Small-scale Wind Development in East Hampshire District Council's Planning Area (Outside of the South Downs National Park)



Source: Renewable and Low Carbon Study for the East Hampshire District, LUC in association with Ricardo Energy and Environment, November 2018

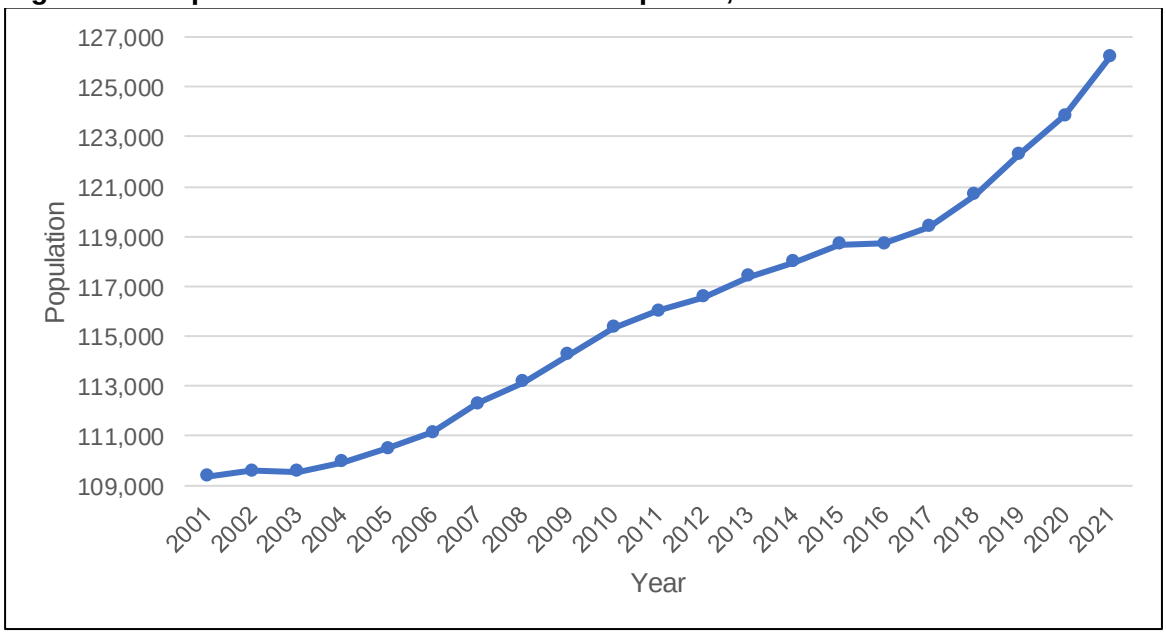
3.4 Communities and Wellbeing

3.4.1. Although East Hampshire is a largely rural district, more of the population live in built up rather than in rural areas (64.1% vs 35.9%; source: Small Area Population Forecasts 2021, Hampshire County Council). These “built up” areas are often set within a more rural setting: from a community perspective.

3.4.2. The population is distributed amongst larger and small market towns and villages and other small settlements that support the rural hinterland. It should also be noted that places such as Portsmouth, Farnham and Basingstoke provide “higher order” (e.g. larger) shops, services and facilities for all East Hampshire residents.

3.4.3. The resident population of East Hampshire was estimated to be 125, 700 persons in 2021 (source: Census 2021). Figure 16 shows how the resident population has changed since the turn of the millennium. The chart shows a steady increase in the population between 2004 to 2015 with the growth accelerating since 2016 leading to an increase of around 10,000 persons between 2017 and 2021.

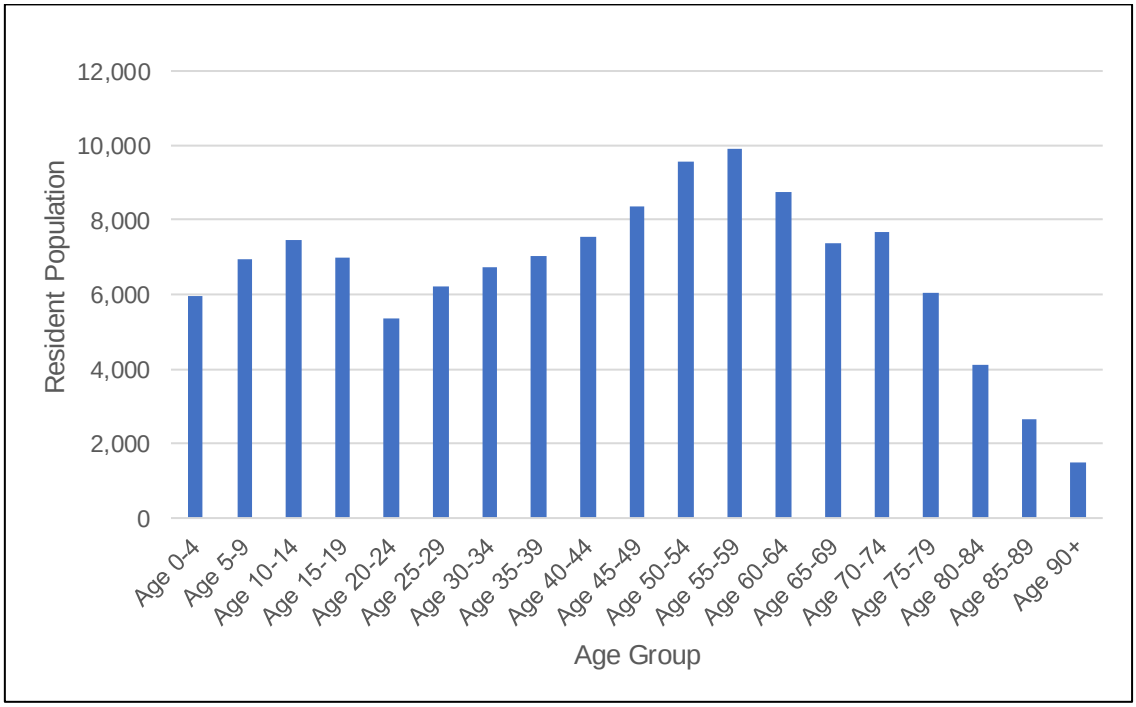
Figure 16: Population Estimates for East Hampshire, 2001 - 2021



Source: mid-year population estimates, 2021, ONS

3.4.4. The 2021 census breaks down the population by age. Figure 17 shows the breakdown of the population on census day with most age groups contributing around 7- 8% of the total resident population. The largest proportion of adults are aged between 45 and 64 yrs. The median age of residents (which is a measure of the average age) was 41 years in 2021.

Figure 17: Age structure of resident population (East Hampshire) in 2021



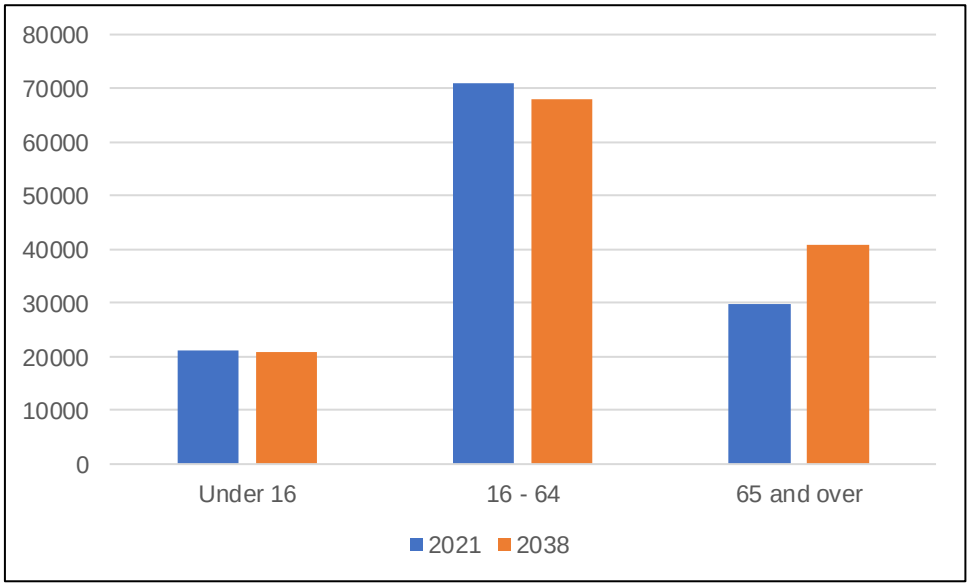
Source: Mid-year population estimates 2021, ONS

3.4.5. Hampshire County Council (HCC) produce small area population forecasts and projections of demographic change. These take account of the level of planned new housing development set out in the adopted development plans across the County, including the East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy. Between 2021 and 2028, their forecasts suggest that the population of East Hampshire will increase by around 8,100 persons (Source: Hampshire Small Area Population Forecasts, 2021, Hampshire County Council).

3.4.6. The HCC forecast also suggests that whilst there will be minor changes in numbers across most age groups, the groups 65-69yrs and 80-84yrs will experience the largest increases, whilst the age groups 50-54yrs and 55-59yrs will see the largest decreases. These projections reflect an ageing population.

3.4.7. Figure 18 highlights that the largest growth in population will be those aged 65 or over. Between 2021 and 2038 the population in this age rage is expected to increase by 37% (10,200) to around 40,800. During the same period, a modest decrease is projected in both children and those aged between 16 and 64 in the district.

Figure 18: Population change 2021 to 2038 by broad age bands in East Hampshire (2018 based SNPP – alternative internal migration assumptions)

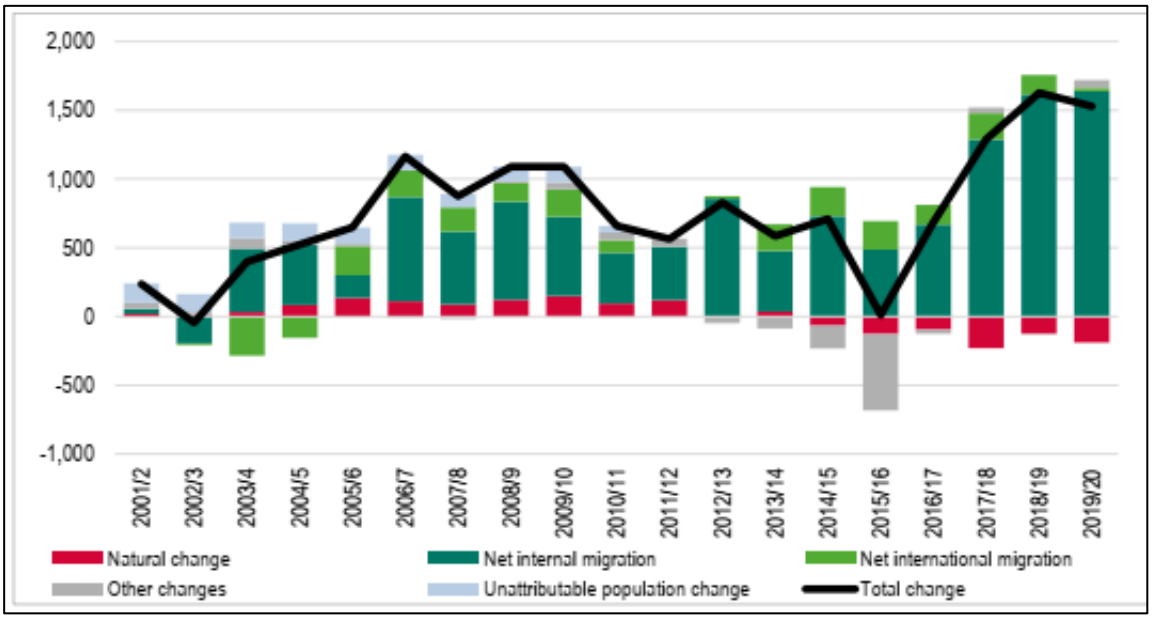


Source: East Hampshire HEDNA 2022

3.4.8. The 2021 Census data and 2022 HEDNA study supply further insights into how the population has changed since 2000. Figure 19 (next page) shows the pattern of the main components of population change. Notable findings include:

- until 2014/15, the number of births exceeded deaths leading to a natural growth in the population numbers. Since then, that trend has reversed with an average net loss of 150 people due to natural changes.
- since 2015/16 a net average of 1,140 people have annually moved into the district from other parts of the UK.
- whilst international migration has been variable, it has generally been net positive for most years. Since 2015/16 it has averaged around 140 people annually.

Figure 19: East Hampshire components of population change, mid 2001 to mid 2020



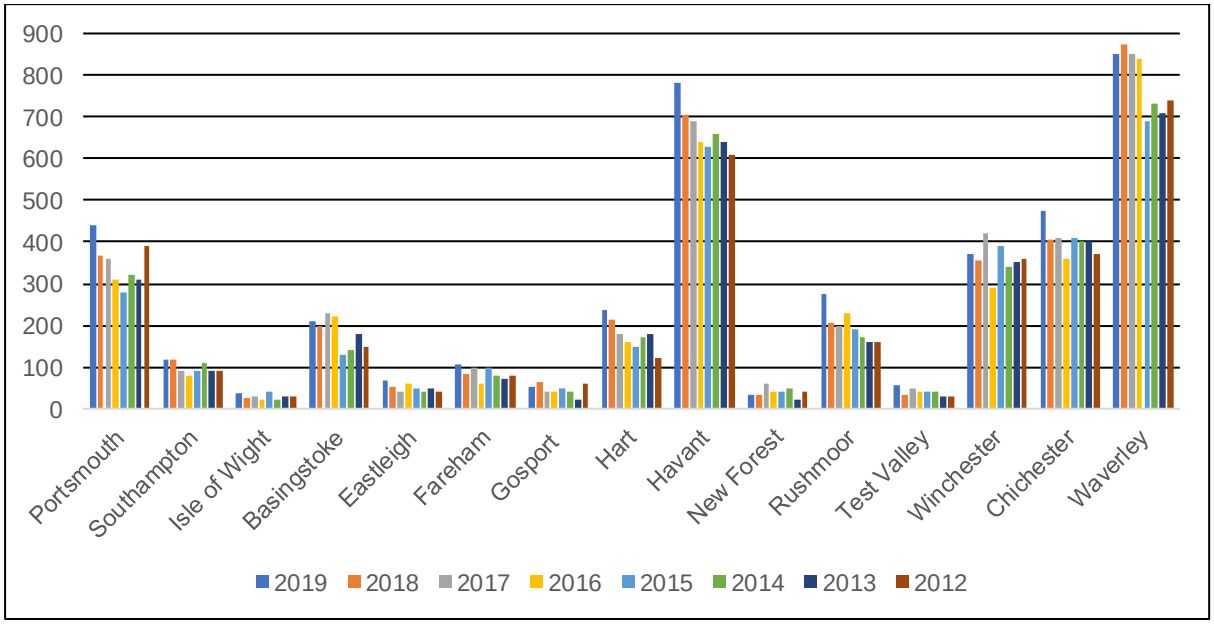
Source: ONS and HEDNA 2022

3.4.9. East Hampshire District Council has undertaken an analysis of recent migration flows into and out of the district, for the purposes of investigating housing and labour market trends. The pattern of migration between East Hampshire and its surrounding areas helps establish a picture of the relationships between communities that may extend beyond the district boundary and could be affected by future development.

3.4.10. Figure 20 shows the pattern of in migration from nearby districts with people from districts bounding East Hampshire accounting for the majority of in migration since 2012.

- People who were previously living in Waverley and Havant districts contribute the largest number of new residents from the wider area. Those coming from Waverley have consistently generated the largest migration to East Hampshire, contributing 874 persons in 2018 and 852 persons in 2019.
- Portsmouth, Winchester and Chichester are the second largest group of contributors.
- Between 2018 and 2019, the largest increases in migration to East Hampshire were from Portsmouth, Havant, Rushmoor and Chichester
- Districts, including the Isle of Wight, New Forest and Test Valley, which have a similar rural character and nature to East Hampshire, make the least contribution to in migration to the district.

Figure 20: Household migration flows into East Hampshire from Hampshire districts, Waverley and Chichester, 2012-2019



Source: Internal migration – moves between local authorities 2012-2019, ONS

3.4.11. The Government produces a national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) as an overall relative measure of deprivation for small areas (generally at district level). The index is a simple ranking which takes account of income levels, employment levels, skills, health and disability, crime levels, barriers to housing and services and living environment deprivation assessed at the level of Local Super Output Areas or LSOA (local neighbourhoods). There are 72 LSOAs in East Hampshire.

3.4.12. According to the 2019 update to the IMD, East Hampshire has relatively little deprivation when compared to most other areas of England, ranked as the 285th most deprived district out of the 317 local authority districts in England. By way of local comparison:

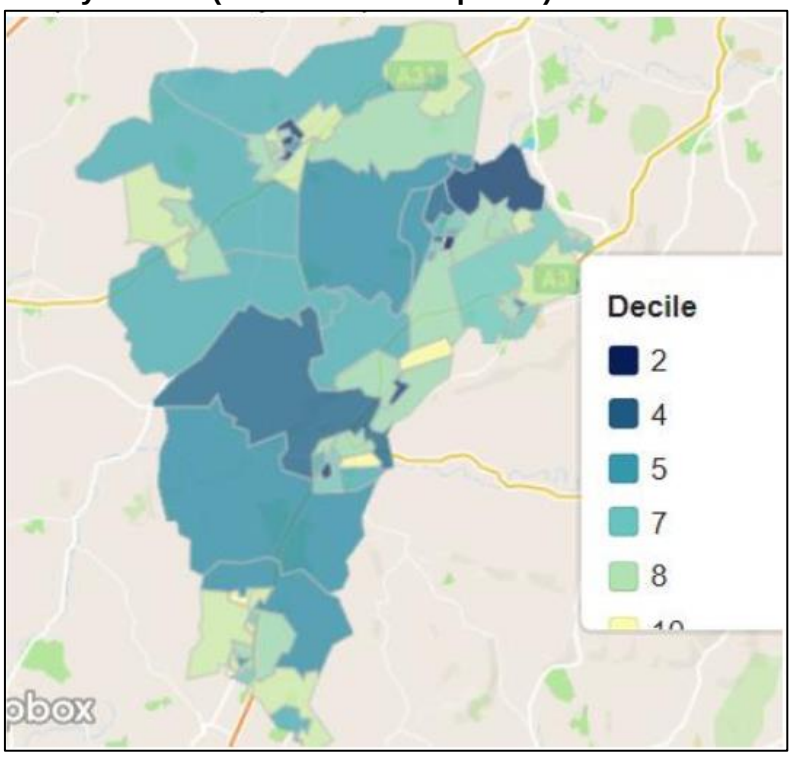
- None of East Hampshire's LSOAs fall within the 10% of most nationally deprived in England, whilst the Hampshire County area contains seven LSOAs that are in the 10% most deprived areas in England.
- None of East Hampshire's LSOAs fall within the 11-20% most nationally deprived areas in England, whilst the Hampshire County area contains 33 LSOAs that are in the 11-20% most deprived areas in England.

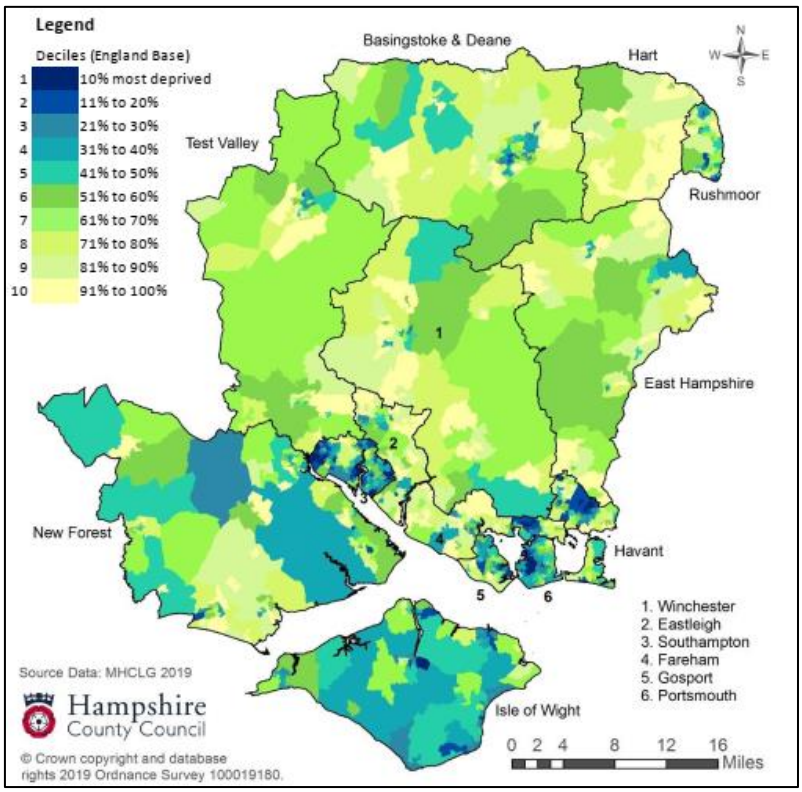
3.4.13. Havant, an immediate neighbouring authority of East Hampshire has the greatest number of LSOAs in the 10% and 11-20% most deprived areas in England with 6 and 17 LSOAs in each category respectively.

3.4.14. Figures 21 and 22 respectively show the location of the highest scoring LSOAs in East Hampshire and Hampshire – majority of East Hampshire's LSOAs are in the 51-99% bands of most deprived in England.

3.4.15. The Figures show that East Hampshire has a number of LSOAs that are in the 21-50% most deprived of England. When considering the district, excluding the area of the South Downs National Park, the locations of these LSOAs are mainly to be found in the Whitehill & Bordon and Alton areas.

Figures 21 & 22: 2019 Indicator of multiple deprivation in East Hampshire and Hampshire, shown by LSOAs (Note 1 = most deprived)





Sources: IMD 2019 & Hampshire County Council

3.4.16. The table below sets out the ranking for each indicator making up the IMD for East Hampshire (including the South Downs National Park area). The table highlights that whilst income levels are high in comparison to the rest of England, there are barriers to housing and services in the district. According to the Government, these barriers fall into two sub-domains: geographical barriers, which relate to the physical proximity of local services, and wider barriers which includes issues relating to access to housing such as affordability. Both are likely to be an issue in East Hampshire.

Indicator	National ranking out of 317 Districts
Income	287
Employment	285
Health	281
Education	279
Crime	215
Living environment	188
Barriers to housing and services	122

Source: IMD 2019

3.4.17. Figures 23 & 24 provide an overview of ethnic groups residing in East Hampshire. The greatest proportion (95.4%) of the district's residents are White. All other ethnicities are represented by 2% or less of East Hampshire residents.

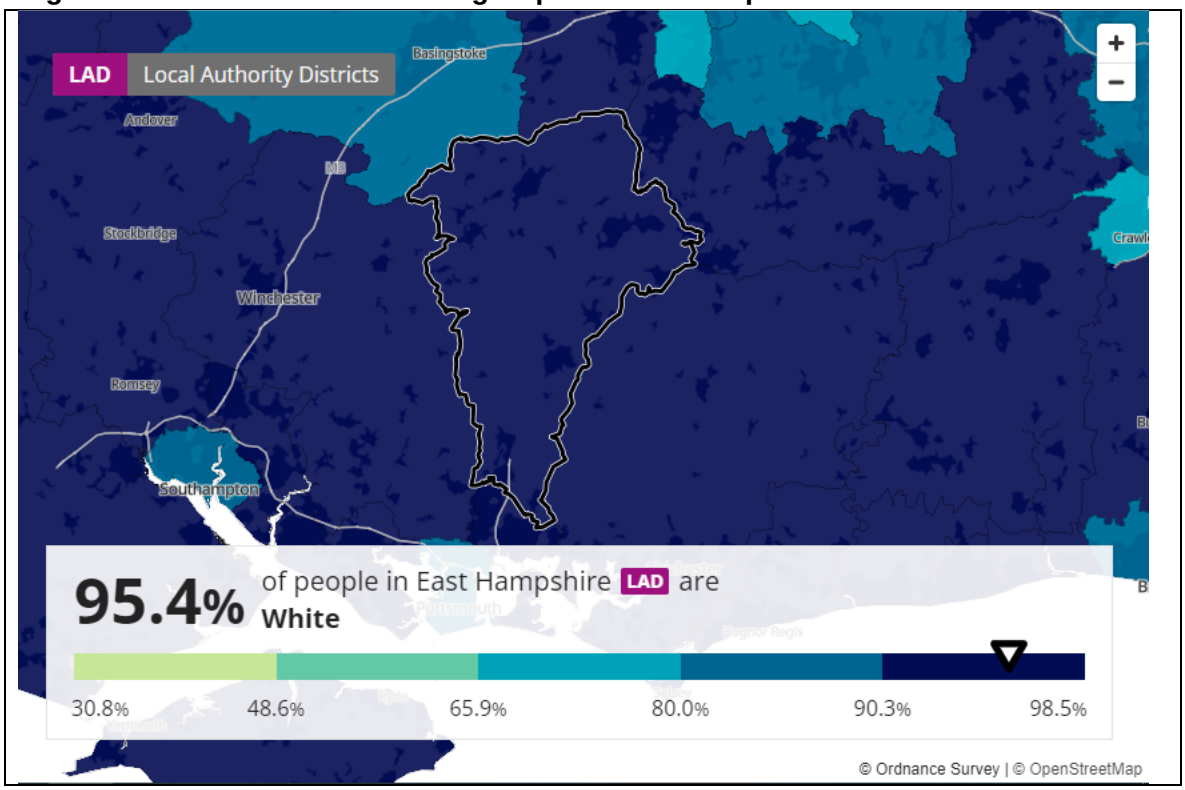
3.4.18. Figure 24 indicates that the neighbouring local authorities of Winchester and Chichester have a similarly ethnic composition of residents to East Hampshire. Local authorities to the north such as Basingstoke and Waverley, have a greater variation in ethnicity.

Figure 23: Ethnic groups residing in East Hampshire

Ethnic group	Proportion of residents
Asian, Asian British, Asian Welsh	1.9%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	0.5%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	1.7%
White	95.4%
Other ethnic group	0.5%

Source: Census 2021

Figure 24: Distribution of ethnic groups in East Hampshire



Source: Census 2021

3.4.19. The greatest proportion (95.03%) of East Hampshire residents identify with the gender that is the same as sex registered at birth, as shown in Figures 25 and 26. Just under 5% of residents preferred not to answer the question and 0.32% of residents stated that their gender differed from the sex registered at birth.

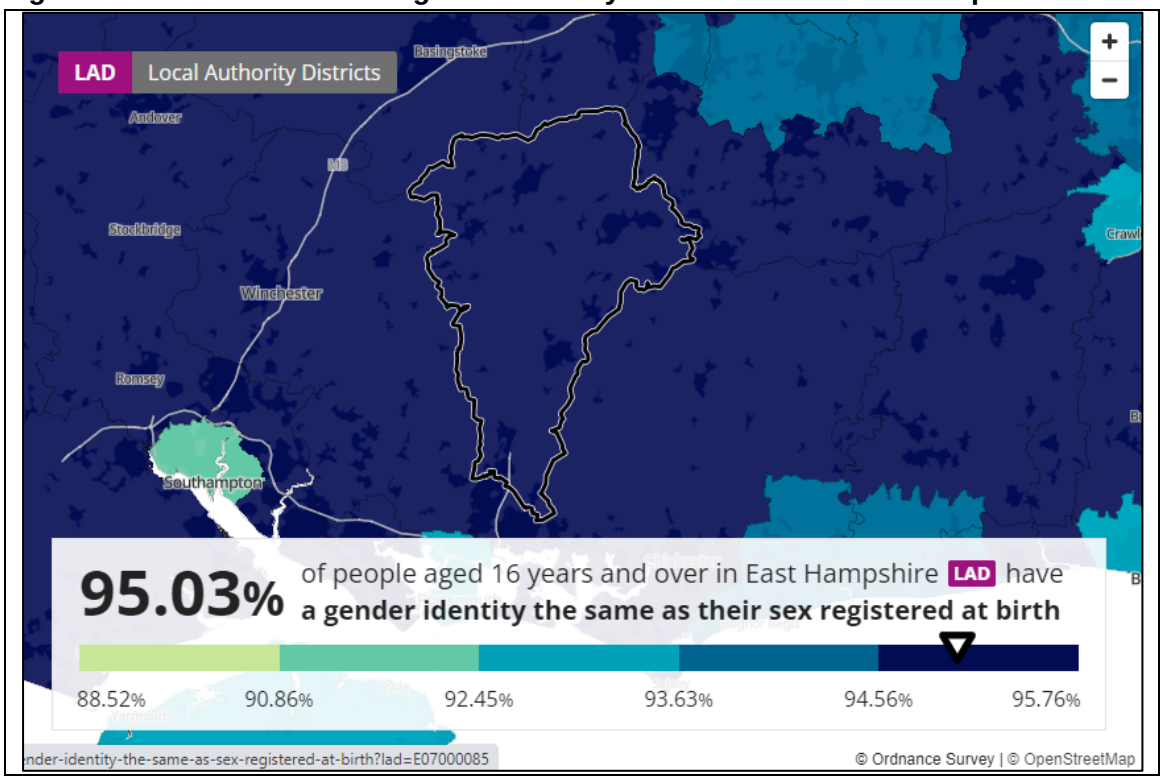
3.4.20. Census 2021 indicates that for the southern region, where individuals are identifying as a gender different from the sex registered at birth this correlates more with authorities covering large urban environments, such as Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth and Chichester.

Figure 25: Gender identity of residents in East Hampshire

Gender identity	Proportion of residents
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	95.03%
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth	0.32%
Not answered	4.65%

Source: Census 2021

Figure 26: Distribution of the gender identity of residents in East Hampshire



Source: Census 2021

3.4.21. Figures 27 and 28 provide an indication of the variation in religion in East Hampshire. The largest proportion of the district's residents are Christian, 51.1%, but the second largest proportion of residents (40.9%) have no religion. Aside from Christianity, there are no other well represented religions in East Hampshire.

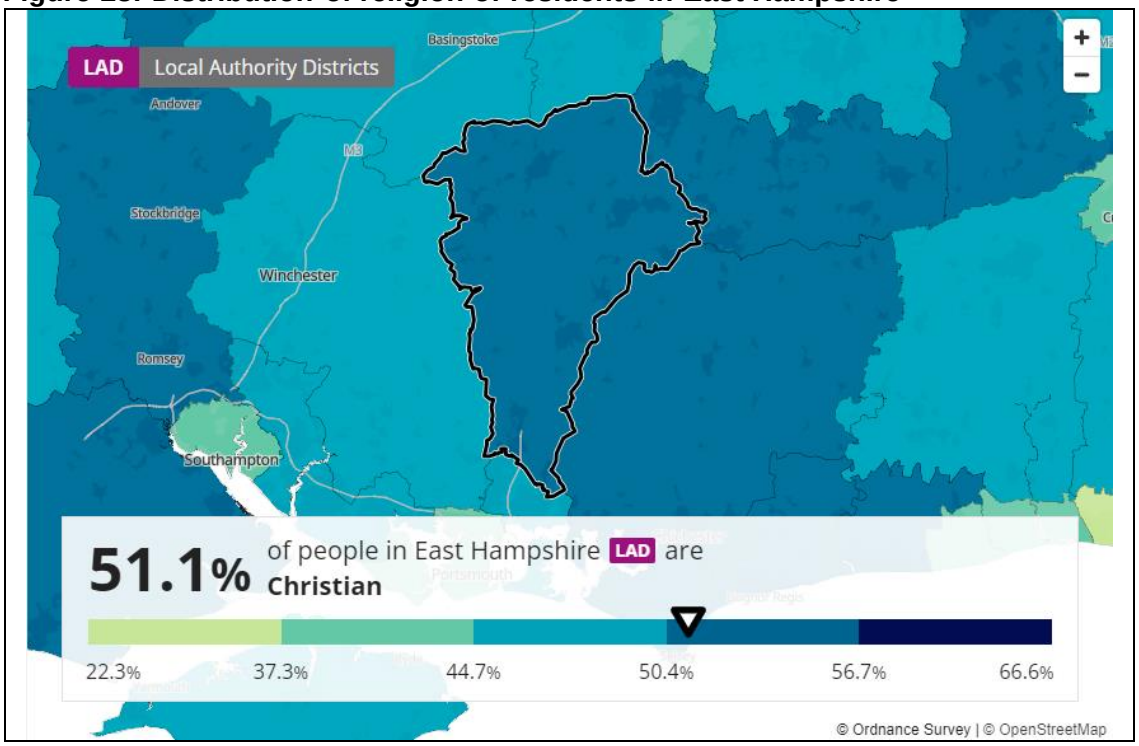
Figure 27: Religion of residents in East Hampshire

Religion	Proportion of residents
No religion	40.9%
Christian	51.1%
Buddhist	0.3%
Hindu	0.3%
Jewish	0.2%
Muslim	0.6%
Sikh	0.1%
Other religion	0.5%
Not answered	6.1%

Source: Census 2021

3.4.22. Figure 28 indicates that neighbouring local authorities covering larger urban areas, such as Winchester, Southampton and Portsmouth have a greater variation in religious beliefs amongst residents.

Figure 28: Distribution of religion of residents in East Hampshire



Source: Census 2021

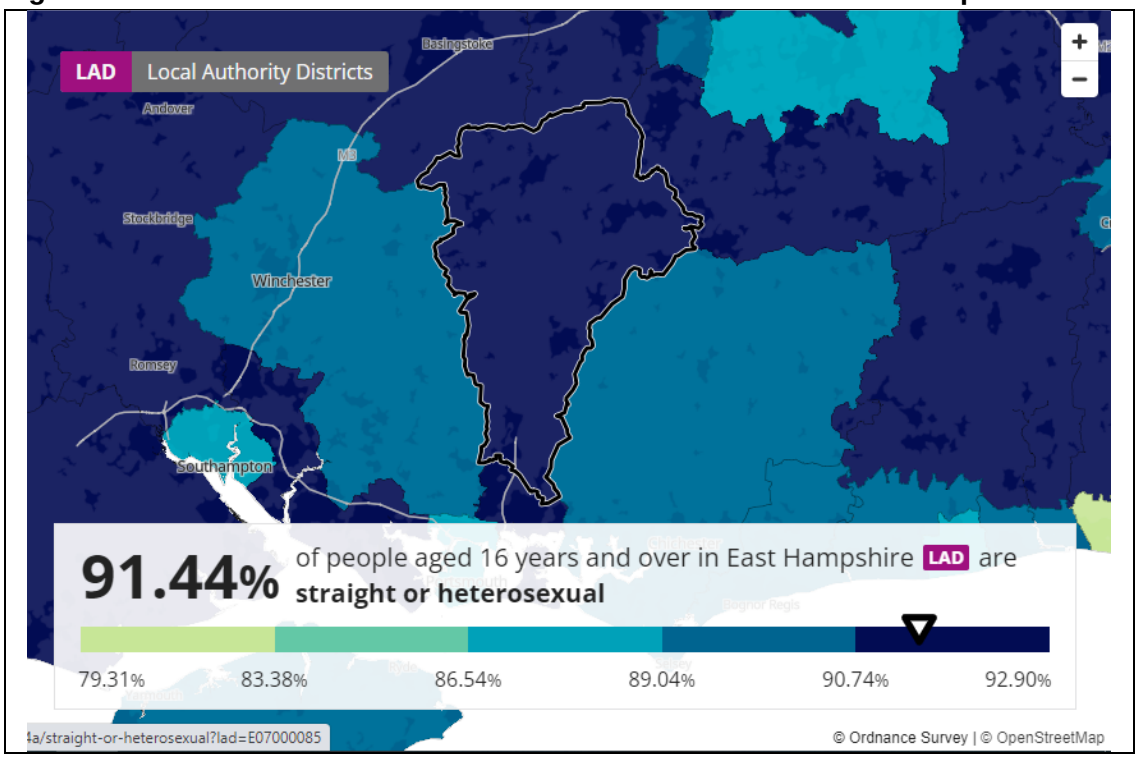
3.4.23. Figures 29 and 30 show that the largest proportion of adult residents in East Hampshire (91.44%) identify as Straight or Heterosexual in respect of their sexual orientation.

Figure 29: Sexual orientation of residents in East Hampshire

Gender identity	Proportion of residents
Straight or Heterosexual	91.44%
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other (LGB+)	2.25%
Not answered	6.31%

Source: Census 2021

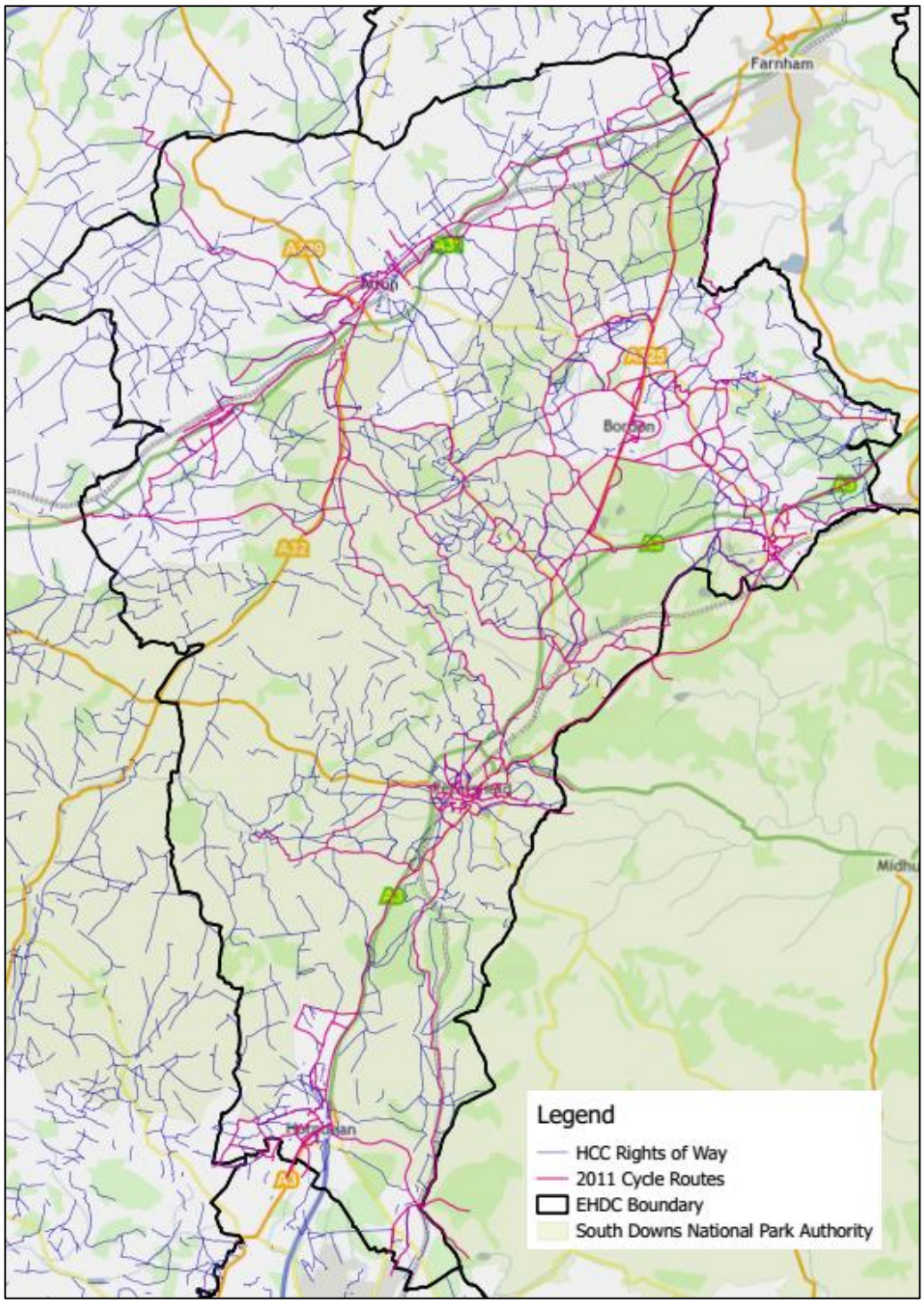
Figure 30: Distribution of sexual orientation of residents in East Hampshire



Source: Census 2021

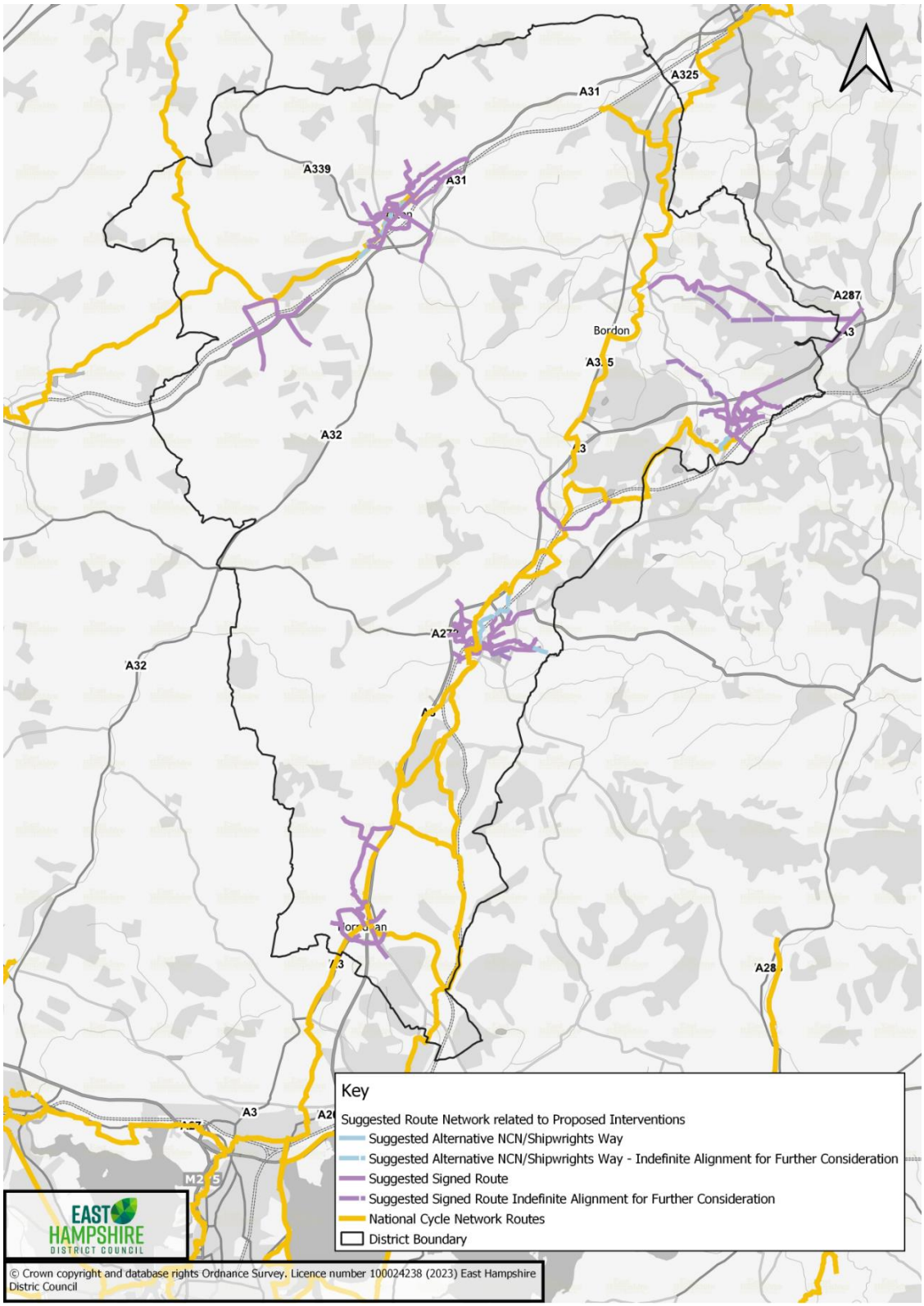
3.4.24. Public rights of way and accessible cycle routes enable communities to reduce their reliance on both public transport and private cars. Figure 31 below shows the network of these routes in the district, whilst Figure 32 outlines suggested improvements to the National Cycle network in East Hampshire from the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP, August 2020). Source data is Hampshire County Council (Figure 31) and East Hampshire District Council's LCWIP, August 2020 (Figure 32).

Figure 31: Network of public rights of way and cycle routes in East Hampshire



Source: Hampshire County Council

Figure 32: National cycle routes and new suggested improvements in East Hampshire



Source: East Hampshire LCWIP, 2020

3.4.25. At the time of writing, the LCWIP is in the early stages of being updated. An updated version is due to be published before the end of 2023. The additional cycle route links proposed in the LCWIP are focused on the largest settlements in the district, namely Alton, Liphook, Petersfield and Horndean. The six future routes identified are:

1) A commuter route along the A31 between Four Marks and Farnham (Waverley Borough Council) via Alton.
2) A commuter route along the A32 between Alton and Farringdon, including village pedestrian improvements.
3) A route along the A31 between Four Marks and Alresford for commuter and tourism purposes.
4) A cycle track connecting Grayshott through Ludshott Common and via Bordon greenspace to Liphook (via Hollywater Road) or Bentley (via the former railway line).
5) A connecting route for commuters between Stroud and Petersfield train station.
6) Horndean and Clanfield to Rowlands Castle train station.

3.4.26. The NPPF emphasises the vital role community facilities play in the life of communities. A review of community facilities in East Hampshire has been undertaken to inform the local plan. An interactive map shows the location of all community facilities in the areas of the district falling outside the South Downs National Park, according to the East Hampshire Communities Facilities Study[73].

3.4.27. The interactive map shows the following for specific types of community facilities:

- **GP practices** – these are evenly distributed across the district with no area considered to be lacking such services. A new NHS health hub, planned as part of the Whitehill & Bordon regeneration project, will bring together primary care, a pharmacy and community care in one location.
- **Hospitals** - all large hospital provision falls outside the EHDC planning authority district boundary. Whilst there is no A&E provision in the East Hampshire district, the Minor Injuries Unit became the Urgent Treatment Centre at Petersfield Hospital (in the SDNP) in 2021. The unit is open for 12 hours daily.
- **Dentists** – whilst there is dental provision across much of the district, the majority of such provision is available on a private only basis. Access to NHS dentists is limited with some settlements including Four Marks, Medstead, Liphook and Bramshott not having access to any local NHS dentist. The highest level of NHS dental services is found in Alton. There is

[73] East Hampshire 2022 Communities Facilities Study, available on-line at: https://www.easthants.gov.uk/planning-services/planning-policy/local-plan/emerging-local-plan/evidence-base/infrastructure-2#:~:text=Community%20facilities%20and%20local%20services,plan%20and%20the%20infrastructure%20plan(accessed 04/2023)

an absence of dentists (private or NHS) in the southern area of the district with only one private practice based in Clanfield.

- **Pharmacies** - there is coverage of pharmacies across the district, particularly in all the larger towns.
- **Libraries** - outside of the SDNP, there are HCC libraries in Alton, Bordon and Liphook. There are community libraries in Grayshott and Horndean. HCC consider there to be adequate library provision in the district.
- **Places of worship** – are reasonably well distributed across the district with most located in the most populous areas.
- **Cultural** infrastructure**/buildings** – there is a reasonable provision across much of the district but a notable absence in the southern area of the district. There are no live music venues in the district though some pubs do host such events, otherwise they are held in venues out of the district.
- **Pubs** – there are 38 pubs in the district, 20 of which are located in the north/A31 area. 8 pubs in the district have been registered on the Council's Assets of Community Value, specifically in rural communities where it is the sole pub in a village, showing the importance such facilities play in community cohesion.

3.5 Health

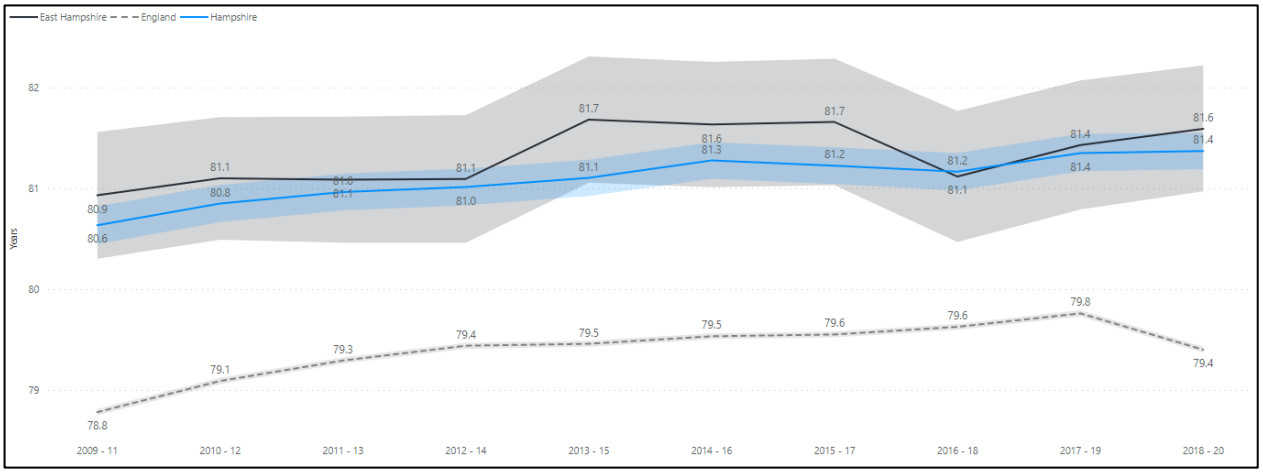
3.5.1 Life expectancy is a key national and local indicator of health that can be influenced by many economic, social and environmental factors, thus resulting in geographic variations. Life expectancy is defined as the average number of years a male or female would expect to live based on recent mortality rates. Data on life expectancy can be given from birth or from 65 years.

3.5.2 Figure 39 and 40 indicate that both the male and female life expectancy, from birth, in East Hampshire is generally higher than in Hampshire and England, considering underlying data for the period between 2009 and 2020. This indicates that East Hampshire residents typically live longer than residents in other parts of the country and in some other parts of Hampshire.

3.5.3 The 2018-2020 East Hampshire male life expectancy was 81.6 years, whereas life expectancy in Hampshire and England was 81.4 and 79.4 years respectively.

3.5.4 The 2018-2020 East Hampshire female life expectancy was 84.88 years, whereas life expectancy in Hampshire and England was 84.63 and 83.14 years respectively.

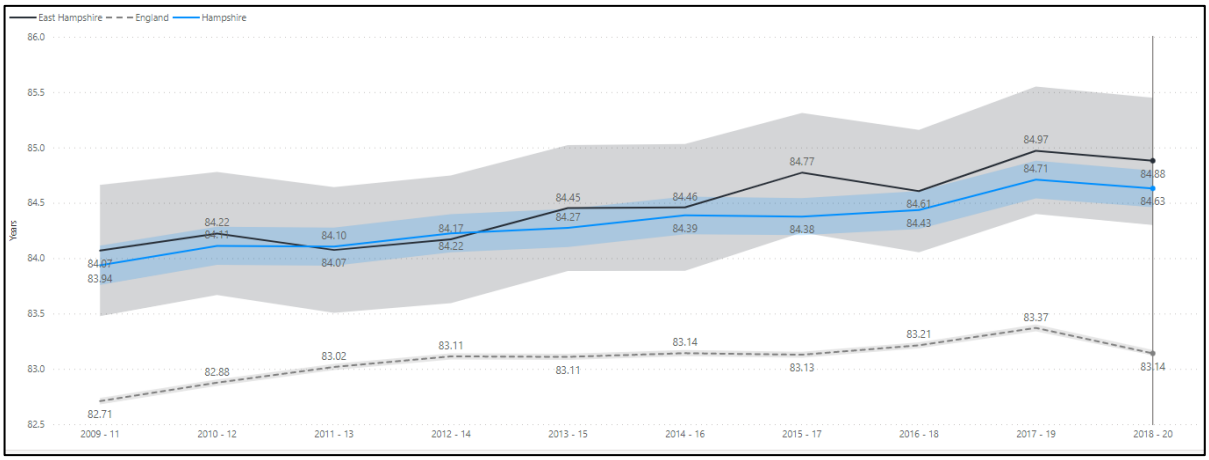
Figure 39: Male life expectancy from birth in East Hampshire, Hampshire and England
95% confidence limits are shown for East Hampshire and Hampshire by the appropriate coloured bands



Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023[74]

[74] Further information is included in Hampshire County Council Healthy Places Report covering East Hampshire May 2022

Figure 40: Female life expectancy from birth in East Hampshire, Hampshire and England



95% confidence limits are shown for East Hampshire and Hampshire by the appropriate coloured bands

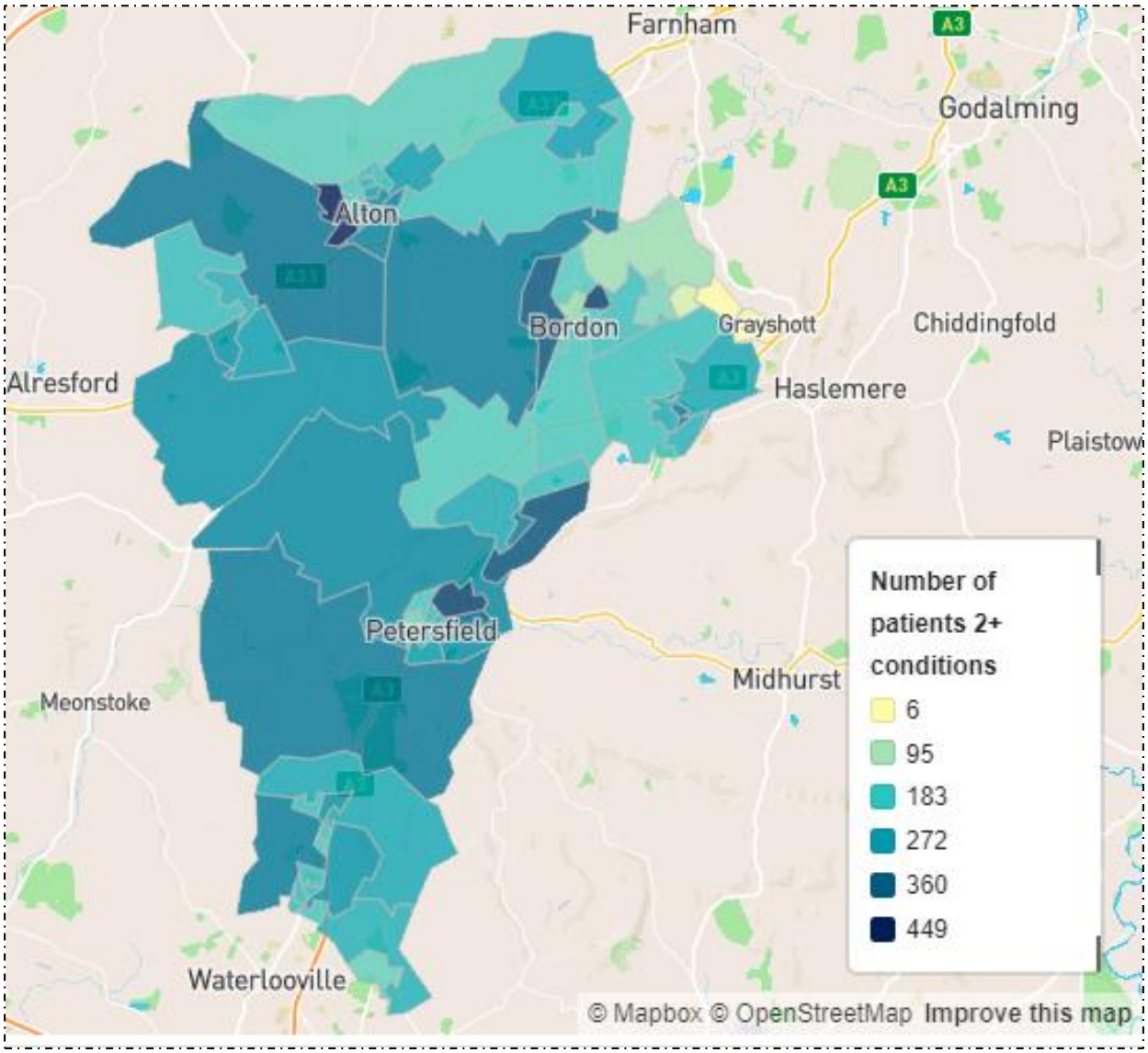
Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

3.5.5 Age is widely recognised as a key factor in determining an individual's general health. Older residents are more likely to be unwell with multiple health conditions. Whilst around 66% of residents aged between 50 and 59 years have no health conditions, this figure falls to only 17% of residents aged 85 years or over75.

3.5.6 Figure 41 describes the distribution of patients having two or more long-term health conditions across the district. The greatest number of patients having two or more long-term health conditions live in Alton with the next largest group living in Whitehill and Bordon.

[75] Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2023 https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiY2Q3MzkwNTMtODhlYy00YjVkLWExM2ItOGZkODgyZDA3MjgwIiwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVlMDctNGMxNy04NjljLTFkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOjh9

Figure 41: Number of patients with 2 or more long term conditions* in East Hampshire by LSOAs



*For list of conditions classified as long term please refer to the following link here

Source: Hampshire County Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Healthy People 2023

3.5.7 Most recently, the Covid-19 pandemic has had perhaps the greatest immediate impact on health in the district. The pandemic presented many challenges, with the most deprived communities suffering the most. In terms of incidence of Covid-19, East Hampshire saw hospital admissions numbers that were around the average for the County of Hampshire. The impact of long Covid is a concern but it is a little early to reliably quantify its long-term impact.

3.5.8 Mental health has been an increasing health concern for all demographics of the population and a much larger emphasis and awareness of the different mental health illnesses has occurred in recent years.

3.5.9 Depression is a mental health illness that has steadily increased on a national and local scale for adults over the last 5 years, as Figure 42 indicates. Since

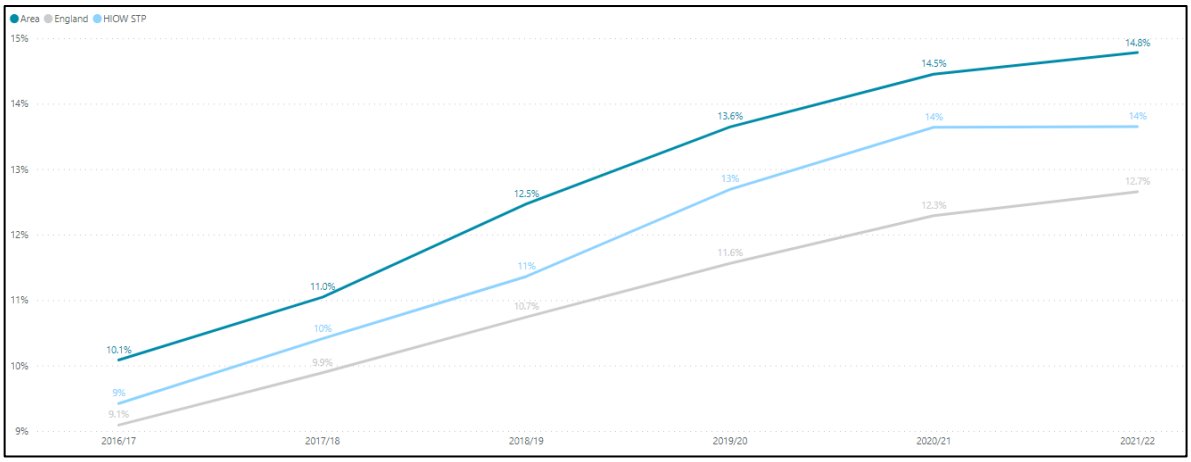
2016/17 East Hampshire has had a much higher proportion of recorded depression illnesses in adults than Hampshire and England.

3.5.10 The number of adults registered with depression in East Hampshire (2020/21) was 14,064. East Hampshire has experienced a 4.7% increase in the number of recorded cases of depression in adults between 2016/17 and 2021/22.

3.5.11 The latest statistics (2021/2022) show that depression in East Hampshire is 14.8% whereas the statistics for Hampshire and England are 14% and 12.7% respectively.

3.5.12 Figure 43 displays the distribution of adults registered with depression in East Hampshire in 2020/21 by LSOAs. West of Alton town centre and north of Bordon are the LSOAs with the highest number of adult patients registered with depression, 268 patients or more. Areas surrounding Grayshott have the lowest number of patients registered with depression in East Hampshire, ranging from 1 to 53 patients.

Figure 42: Depression recorded prevalence (aged 18+) in East Hampshire, Hampshire

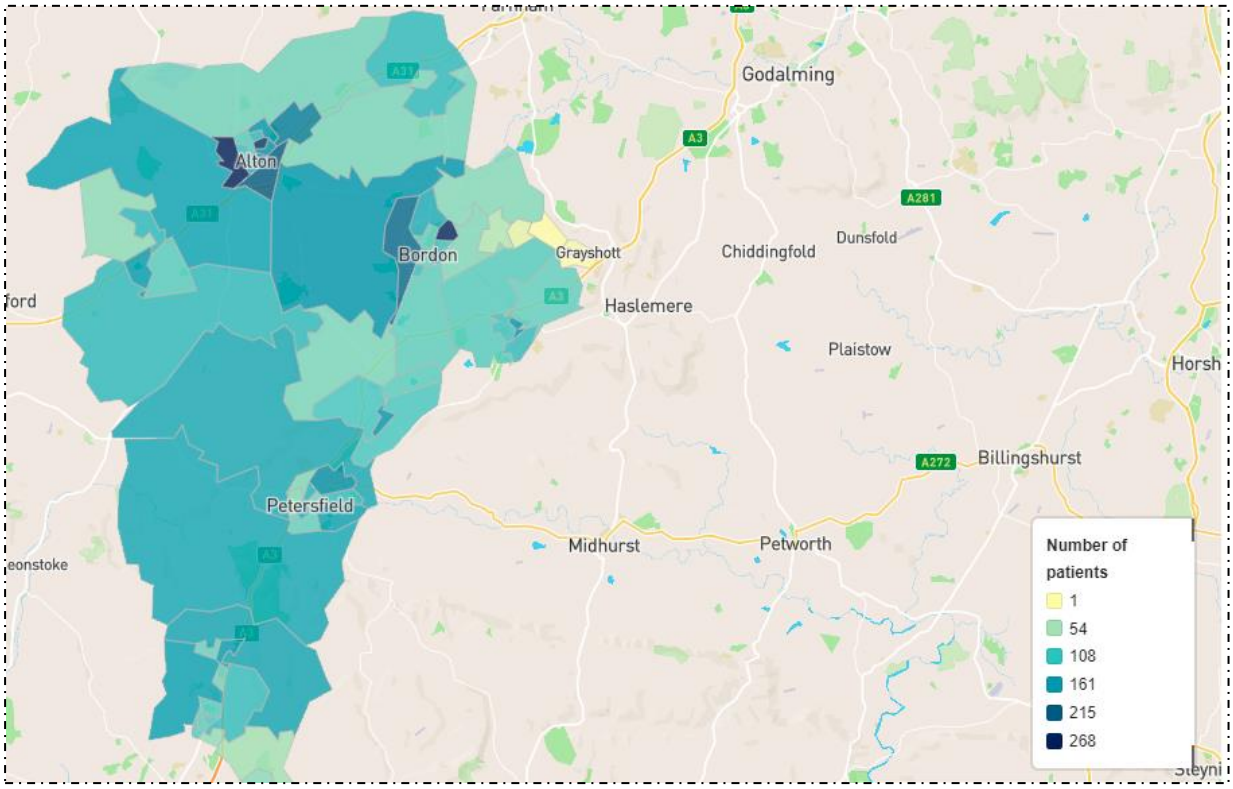


& Isle of Wight and England, 2016 – 2022

Area = East Hampshire

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

Figure 43: Number of adult patients registered with depression in East Hampshire by LSOA, 2020/21



Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

3.5.13. Mental health illnesses can be referred and/or admitted to community-based services. Figures 44 and 45 display the mental health referral and admission rates to community-based services in East Hampshire by age cohort for adults.

3.5.14. Referral to community-based services to benefit mental health illnesses are highest for the most elderly members of the community, aged 80 years or more. Mental health illnesses such as Alzheimer's and dementia become a greater risk as age increases. The second largest age cohort being referred to community-based services for mental health illnesses is 18 to 29 years.

3.5.15. Admission rates for mental health illnesses are showing the opposite trend by age cohort to referrals. Admission to community-based services for mental health illnesses is greatest in the youngest adult cohort of 18 to 29 years with a rate of 18.42 per 10,000. The eldest age cohort of 80 years or more has the second highest admission rate for mental health in the district.

3.5.16. Mental health admission rates are much lower than referral rates in East Hampshire, suggesting that mental health illnesses are being addressed more on an out-patient basis by community-based services.

Figure 44: Mental health referral rates in East Hampshire to community-based services

Age Group	Rate per 10,000
18 – 29	173.11
30 – 59	71.53
60 – 79	96.94
80 +	415.39

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

Figure 45: Mental health admission rates in East Hampshire to community-based services

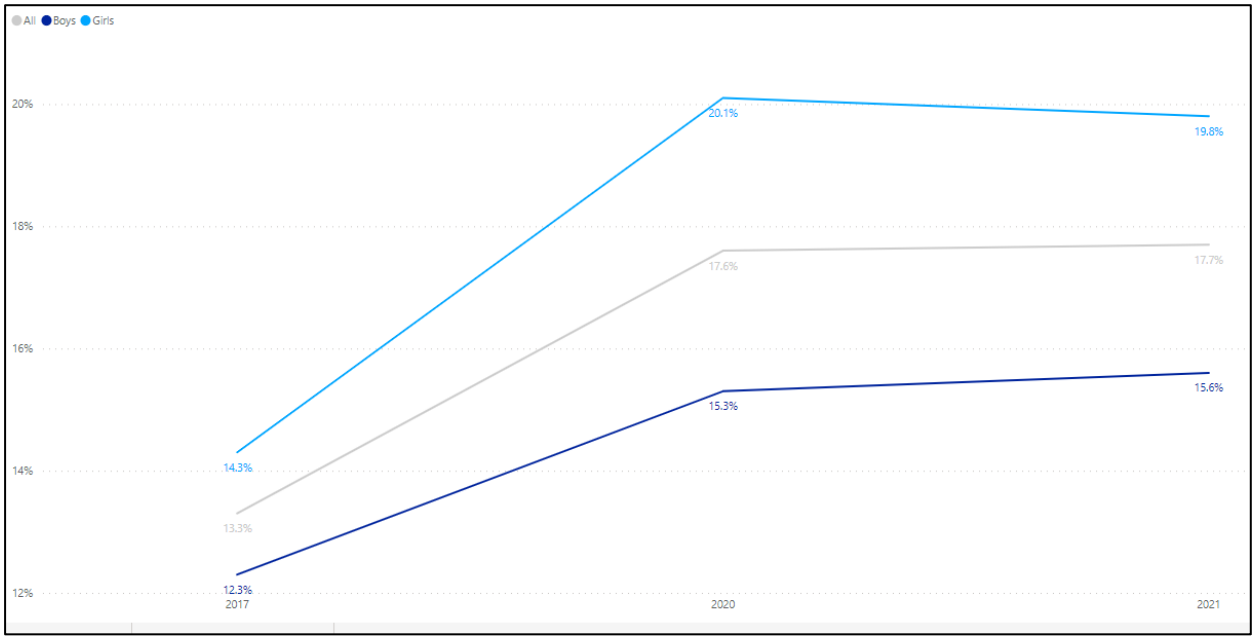
Age Group	Rate per 10,000
18 – 29	18.42
30 – 59	10.76
60 – 79	10.65
80 +	11.65

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

3.5.17. Mental health of children and young people was investigated during March 2021 of the COVID-19 pandemic, with comparisons made to a pre COVID-19 context of 2017. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertook a questionnaire to identify children and young people who may have had problems with aspects of their mental health to an extent that it impacted their daily lives. Parents, children and young people were asked to classify as either "unlikely", "possible" or "probable" of having a mental disorder. Figure 46 shows the national (England) trend of "probable" mental health conditions in children and young people between 2017 and 2021.

3.5.18. In England mental health disorders in children and young people are more likely in girls than boys, with approximately 17% of girls, compared to approximately 15% of boys classified as "probable". Nationally, mental health disorders in 11 to 16 year olds has increased by 5.5% between 2017 and 2021 with the highest rate occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The pandemic and associated restrictions had a negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in England.

Figure 46: Prevalence of probable mental health disorder in England for 11 to 16 years, 2017-2021

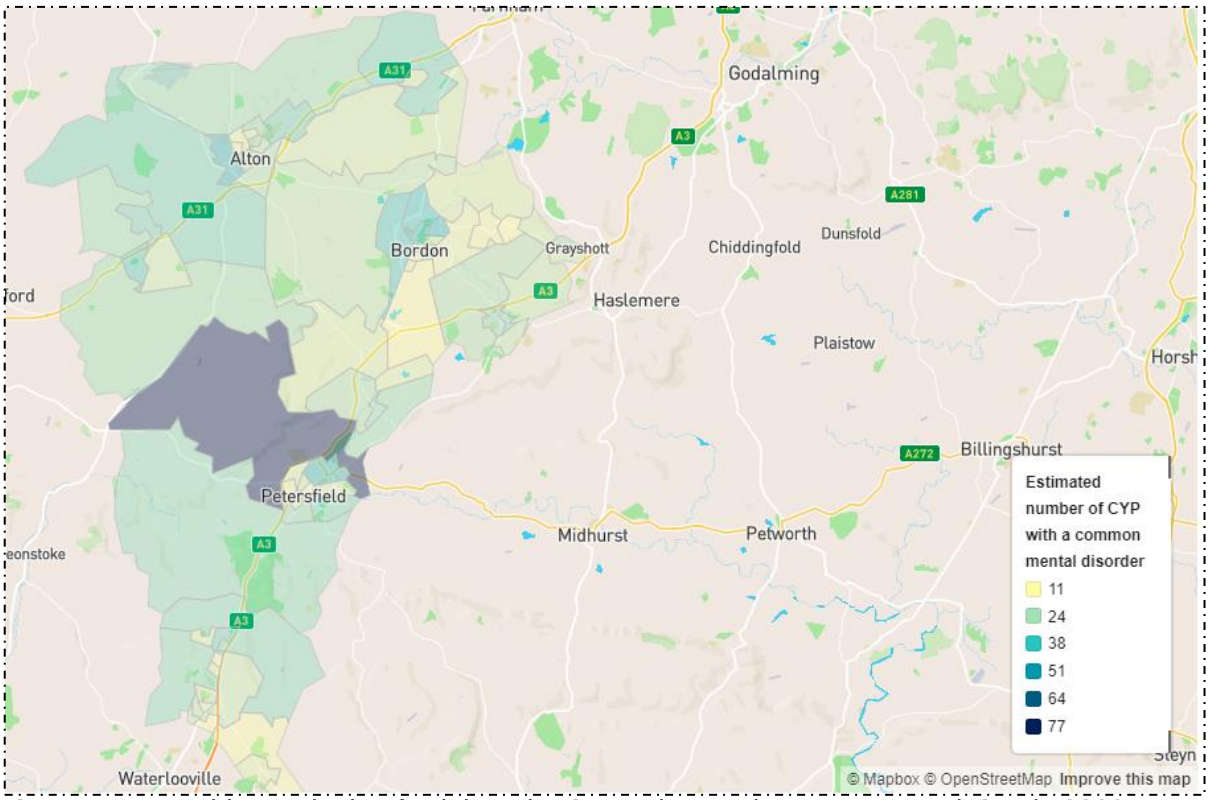


Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

3.5.19. National estimates have been applied to local population data. In East Hampshire the estimated number of children and young people (11 to 16 year olds) to have a mental health disorder is 1,677.

3.5.20. Figure 47 (on the next page) displays the distribution of children and young people with a mental health disorder in the district. The cases of mental health disorders in children and young people are relatively evenly spread throughout the district, with the exception to the LSOAs to the west of Petersfield in the SDNP, where the number of estimated cases are higher.

Figure 47: Children and young person mental health disorder estimates for East Hampshire by LSOA, 2021



Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

3.5.21. Time spent in greenspaces such as parks, woodlands, fields, allotments as well as natural green and blue spaces are increasingly being recognised as playing an important role in supporting the health and wellbeing of all members of the community.

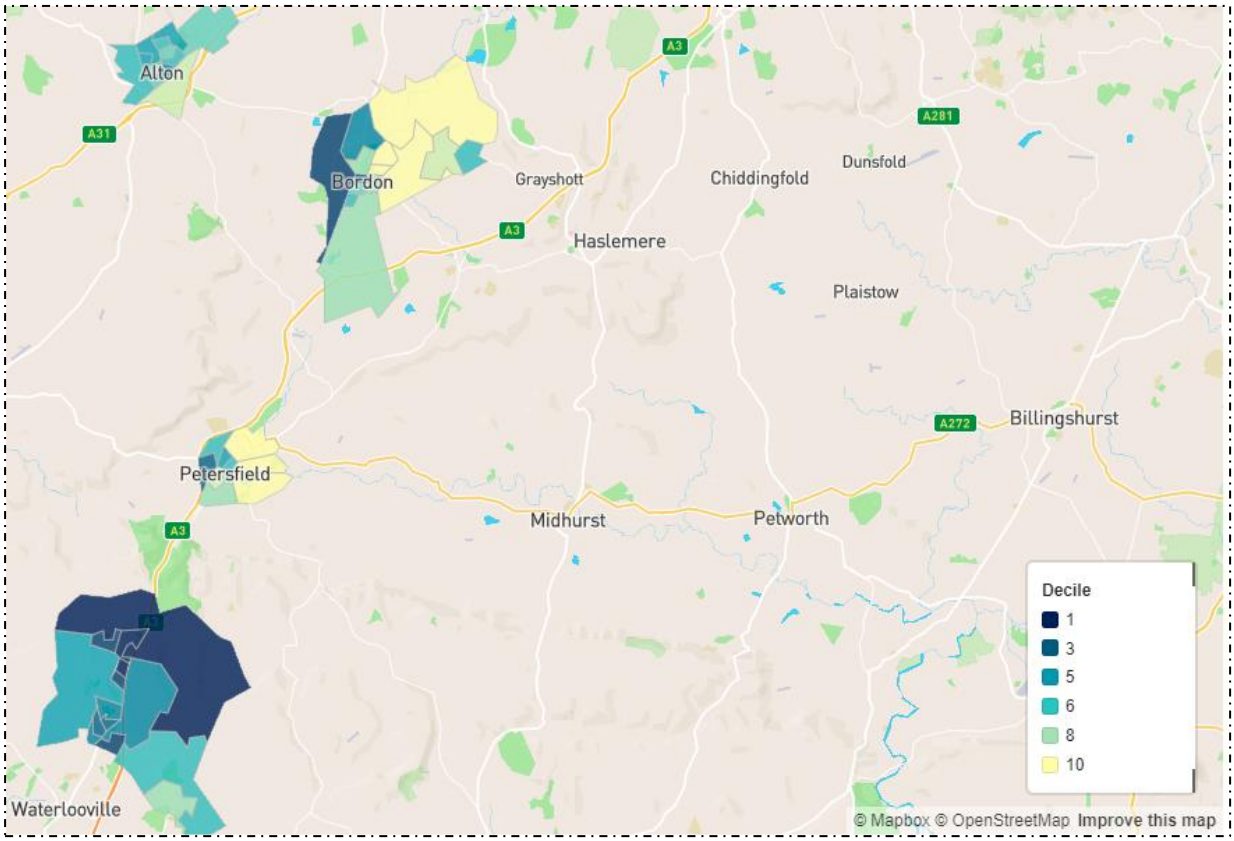
3.5.22. A green environment has been proven to improve and encourage good health, aid recovery from illness and help with managing poor health. Greener environments are also associated with improved mental health and reduced levels of depression, anxiety and fatigue. Greener environments help to create an improved quality of life for adults and children.

3.5.23. Quantifying the amount of green and blue space (parks) available to the community is challenging as assessments tend to only consider green and blue space in urban areas, therefore not taking into consideration natural environments. This must be taken into account when looking at Figure 48 (next page).

3.5.24. Figure 48 displays access to green and blue spaces in East Hampshire, therefore only providing an insight to access of green and blue spaces in built-up areas of the district. For this reason, the map only shows urban LSOAs in the district.

3.5.25 In the north of the district, an area to the west of Whitehill & Bordon has been surveyed to have the least green and blue spaces in an urban context. However, it should be noted that Hogmoor Inclosure (a large area of open green space with play facilities for children) is in close proximity to residential areas of Whitehill & Bordon, but has not been included in this analysis. The southern area of the district covering Clanfield is also sparse of green and blue spaces in an urban context. However, it is important to remember that the natural green spaces of the South Downs National Park neighbour this area to the north, with public rights of way enabling access to the countryside.

Figure 48: Access to green and blue space in East Hampshire by LSOA, 2021



1 = worst access

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

3.5.26. The EHDC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs and Opportunities Assessment 2018 to 2028 also assessed open spaces in the district that are publicly accessible. The assessment categorised open green space into typologies and found that the largest open green space in the district is "natural and semi-natural greenspace" that perform the main functions of wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environment education awareness.

3.5.27. "Natural and semi-natural greenspace" was found to account for 65% of greenspace in the district and distributed mainly in the north east of the district as well as in the South Downs National Park in East Hampshire district.

3.5.28. The assessment also considered the district's open spaces in terms of quantity, quality, value and accessibility standards. With regards to accessibility, local parks and gardens hosting open green space should be no more than 400m

walk for residences and sub-regional parks and gardens a distance no more than 3.2km. Based on this criteria the assessment made the recommendations to increase open space in the following broad locations: Alton (specifically north east); Rowlands Castle; and Four Marks and Medstead.

3.5.29. Implementation of such recommendations from the EHDC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs and Opportunities Assessment 2018 to 2028 would increase the accessibility of open space for residents of the district and could therefore enable healthier lifestyles and improved wellbeing.

3.5.30. Private gardens are also an important resource when considering access to the natural environment. Figure 49 shows the proportion of addresses in each Hampshire authority that have access to a private garden.

3.5.31. Figure 49 shows that 89.7% of addresses in East Hampshire have access to a private garden, which is a higher proportion than the national average of 88.4%. Fareham is the Hampshire authority with the largest proportion of addresses with access to a private garden (93.5%), whereas the lowest proportion of 85.6% is found in Winchester.

Figure 49: Proportion of homes with private gardens for authorities in Hampshire, 2020

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

3.5.32. A healthy and nutritious diet helps to ensure individuals wellbeing and to decrease chances of bad health. However, food is not reliably obtainable for all in the community. Food insecurity is contributed to by two key types of factors:

3.5.33. Economic factors; and

3.5.34. Factors impacting access to purchasing food.

3.5.35. The University of Southampton has developed an overall food insecurity risk index. The overall index includes sub-indices that measure the risk of economic, mental health and infrastructural factors split into the two following compositional and structural categories:

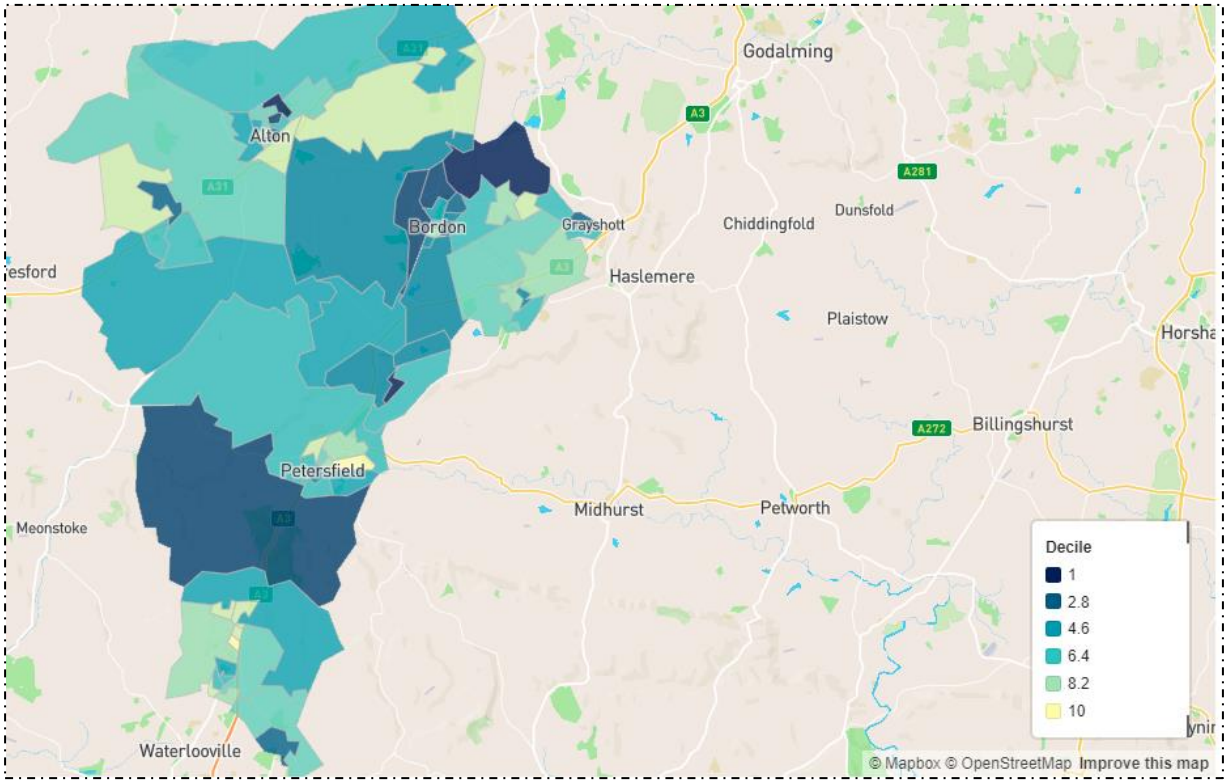
3.5.36. Compositional index = benefit claimants; low income; mental health; and educational qualifications; and

3.5.37. Structural index = distance to bus stops; distance to employment; distance to food stores; and internet speeds.

3.5.38. Figures 50 to 51 show the spatial distribution of compositional food insecurity risk, structural food insecurity risk and overall food insecurity risk (compositional and structural combined). The highest overall food risk is located to the north of Bordon, north east of Alton and an area in the centre of the district within the South Downs National Park. These locations correspond with the areas of the district with the highest risk of compositional food insecurity i.e. caused by low income and benefit claimants.

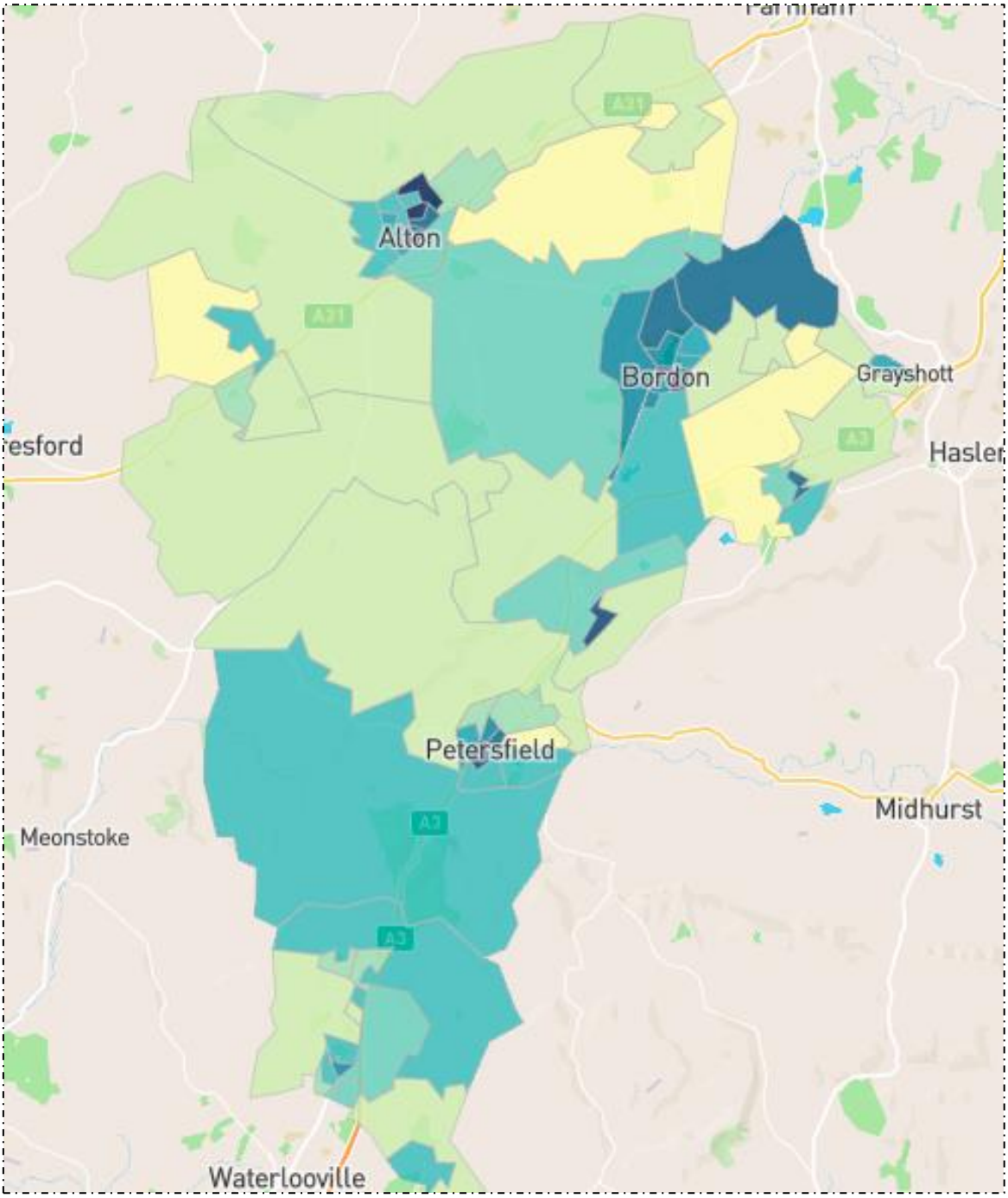
3.5.39. A large area of the district is susceptible to structural food insecurity risk. This is predominantly related to the rural nature of the district which in turn leads to fewer food stores and restricted access via public transport provision. Consequently, the areas least at risk of structural food insecurity risk surround the larger urban settlements where food stores and accessibility to these is increased. East Hampshire's food insecurity risk is heightened due to its rural setting.

Figure 50: Overall food insecurity risk in East Hampshire by LSOA, 2021



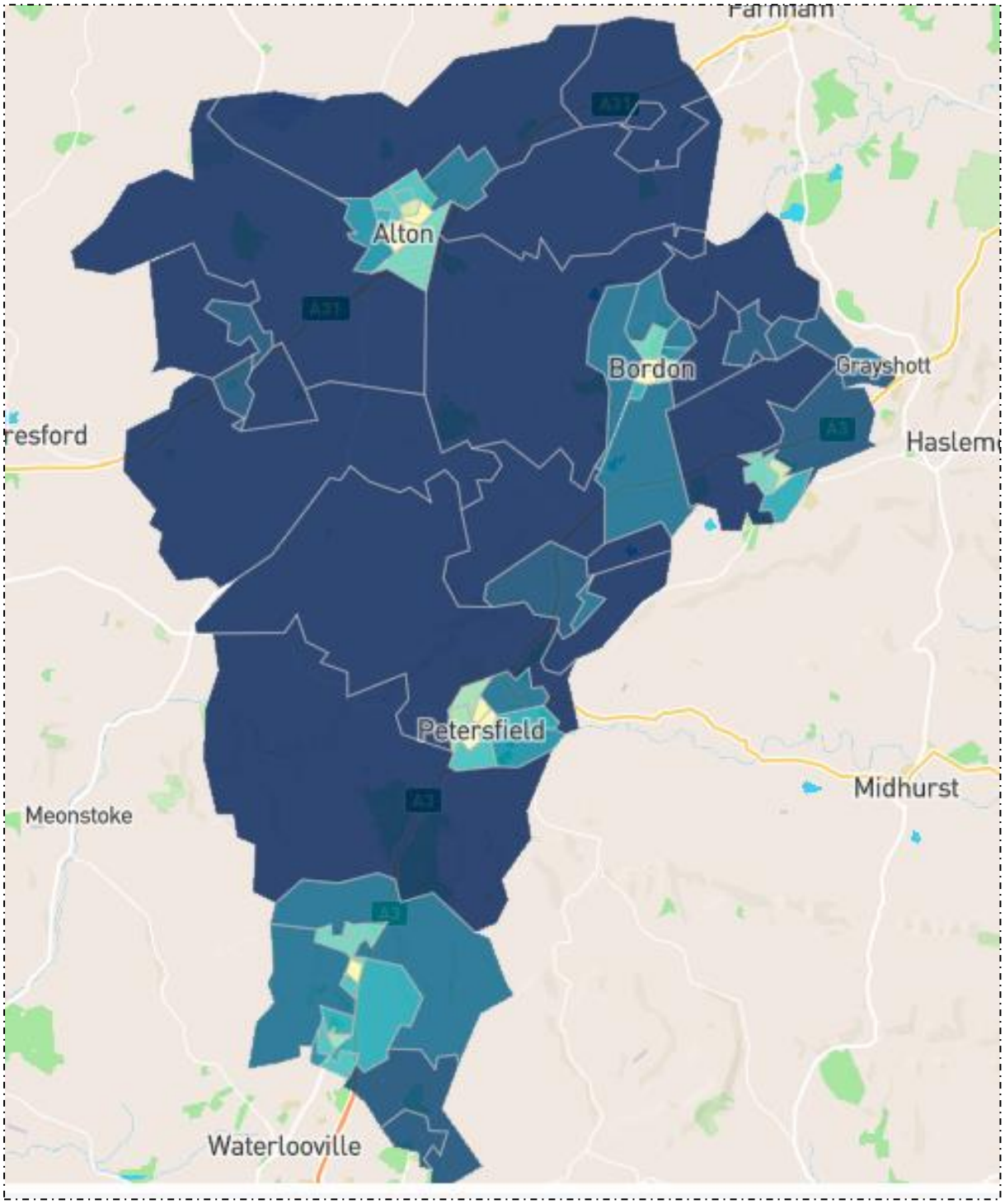
1 = highest. Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

Figure 51: Compositional food insecurity risk in East Hampshire by LSOA, 2021



Key = as per Figure 50. Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

Figure 52: Structural food insecurity risk in East Hampshire by LSOA, 2021



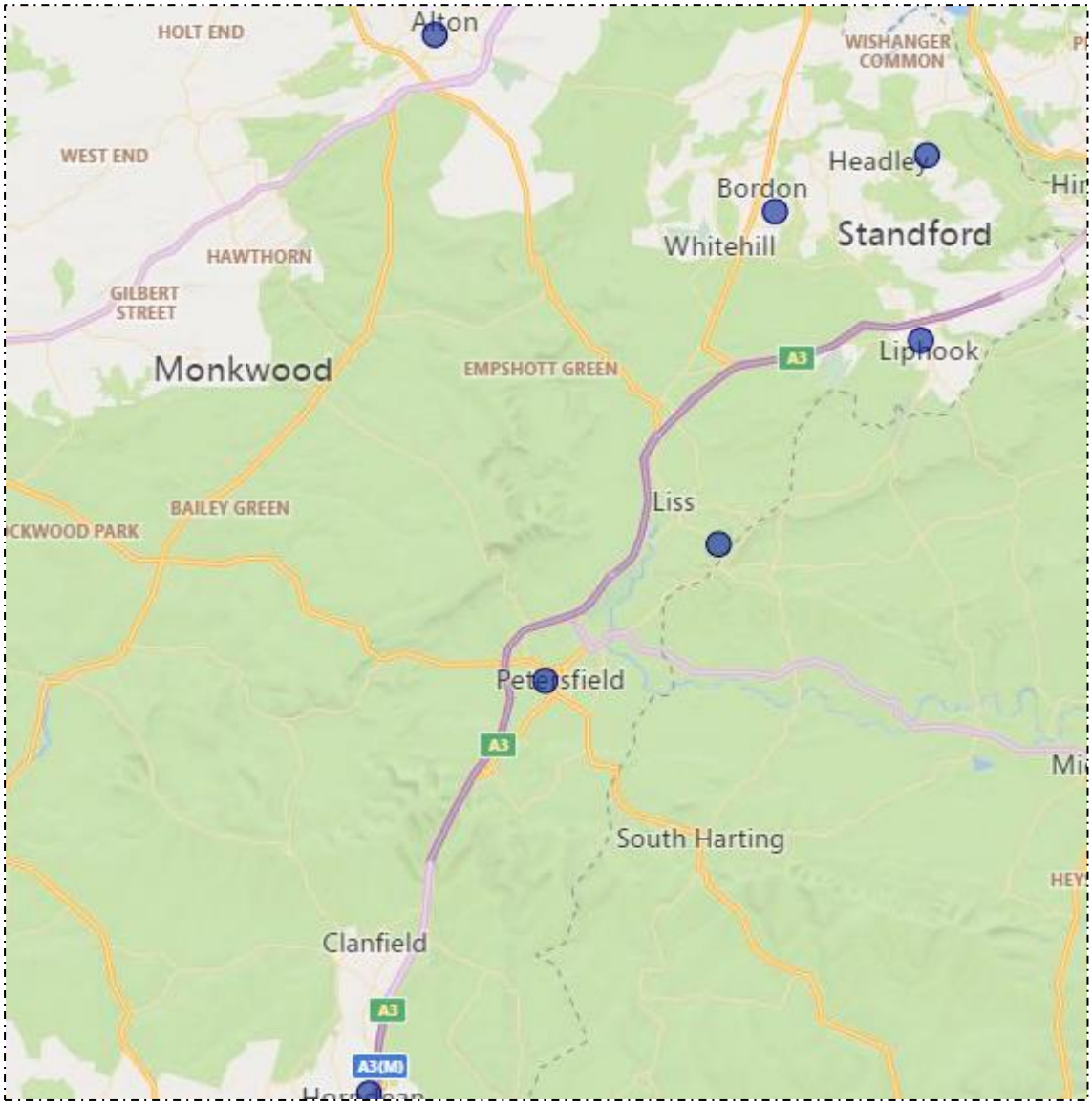
Key = as per Figure 50. Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

3.5.40. Figure 53 displays the location of food banks, as known in 2022, throughout the East Hampshire district .Generally, food banks are evenly distributed, with all larger settlements hosting a food bank. However, they are lacking in the southern region of the district, notably from Clanfield and Rowlands Castle. A food bank is present in Horndean as well as Waterlooville and Leigh Park in the neighbouring southern authority of Havant, which can also serve East Hampshire residents of Clanfield and Rowlands Castle.

3.5.41. The distribution and quantity of food banks can relate to the finances of individuals. Lower income households may have a higher need and reliance on food banks, so where there are more low-income households, there may be more food banks. This will depend on the affordability of everyday necessities: when more of a household's income is used to pay for housing, this might adversely affect the affordability of food.

3.5.42. The HEDNA 2022 provides an indication of median household incomes and of the estimated incomes required to buy and privately rent a property across the varying sub-areas of East Hampshire. Figure 54 compares median household incomes against income thresholds for buying or renting a home, in the case of different parts of East Hampshire. In the southern and north-eastern parts of the district, the differences between median incomes and incomes necessary to pay for housing are less than for the north west and the South Downs National Park areas. This indicates that households in the south and the north east of East Hampshire are likely to have less money to spend on other things, including food. Correspondingly, there is a greater geographical concentration of food banks and community pantries in the north east and southern areas (including Havant foodbanks), compared to the north west and South Downs National Park.

Figure 53: Location of food banks in East Hampshire



Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2023

Figure 54: Estimated median household income with estimated income required to buy or rent private housing in parts of East Hampshire

Part of East Hampshire		Median Income	Income for buying a home (10% deposit)	Income for renting a home (private rental market)
North East		£40,200	£53,000	£28,200
North West		£43,400	£62,400	£29,800
Southern Parishes		£42,700	£61,200	£34,400
SDNP		£41,300	£70,800	£30,000

Source: Tables 7.5 and 7.6, HEDNA 2022

3.5.43. Air quality has been linked to a number of health conditions and tends to have the greatest impact on the vulnerable individuals of a community, such as the young, elderly and those with existing health issues.

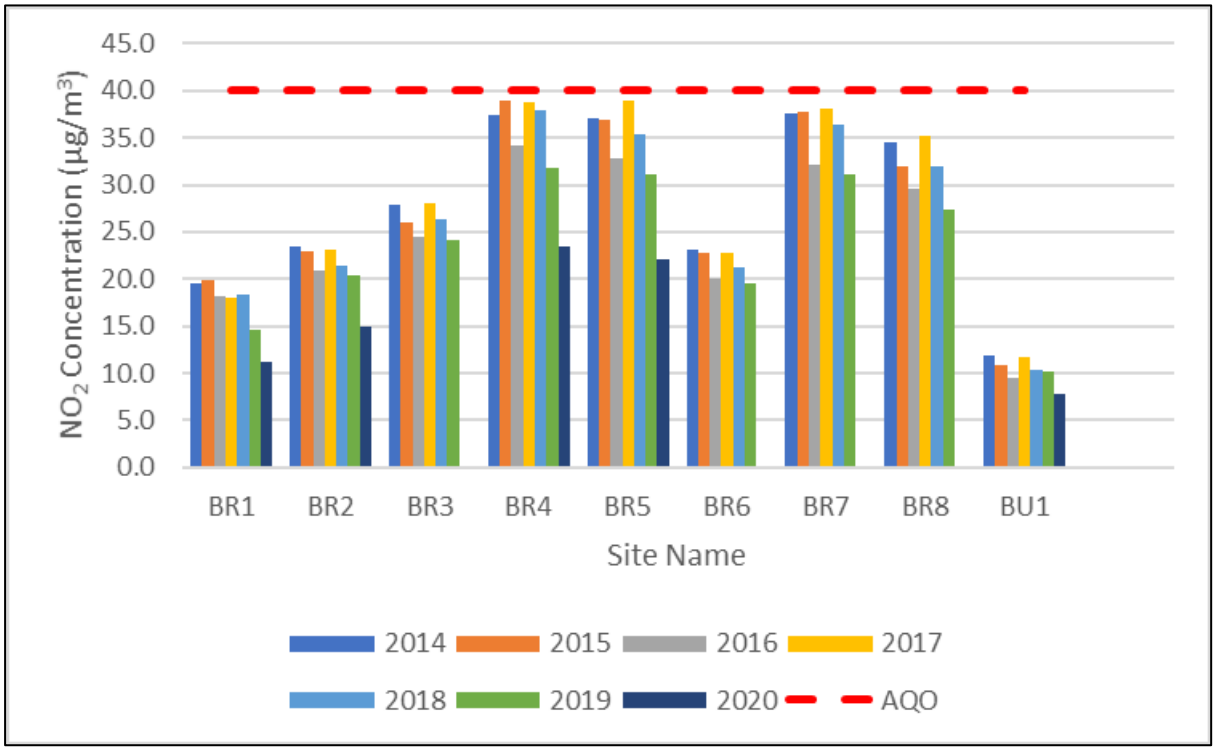
3.5.44. Air quality is mainly monitored for the levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and small particulate matter (PM10). Monitoring stations are dispersed throughout the district and collect air quality data throughout the year at fixed locations.

3.5.45. Latest data from 202176 indicates that all monitoring stations in the district complied with all air quality objectives. Consequently, East Hampshire continues to have no need for declaring an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Air quality in East Hampshire is generally found to be good.

3.5.46. NO2 is the pollutant which has seen elevated levels over recent years. The main source of NO2 is road transportation. Figures 55 and 56 display the recent trend of NO2 concentrations at all monitoring stations in the district. In recent years the concentration of NO2 in Bordon has been close to the air quality limit of 40 µg/m³ but has not been exceeded. It is anticipated that during the period to 2040, the replacement of petrol- or diesel-fuelled vehicles with electric vehicles (i.e. as part of an approach to de-carbonise transport and meet climate change objectives) will lead to reductions in NO2 levels arising from road transport.

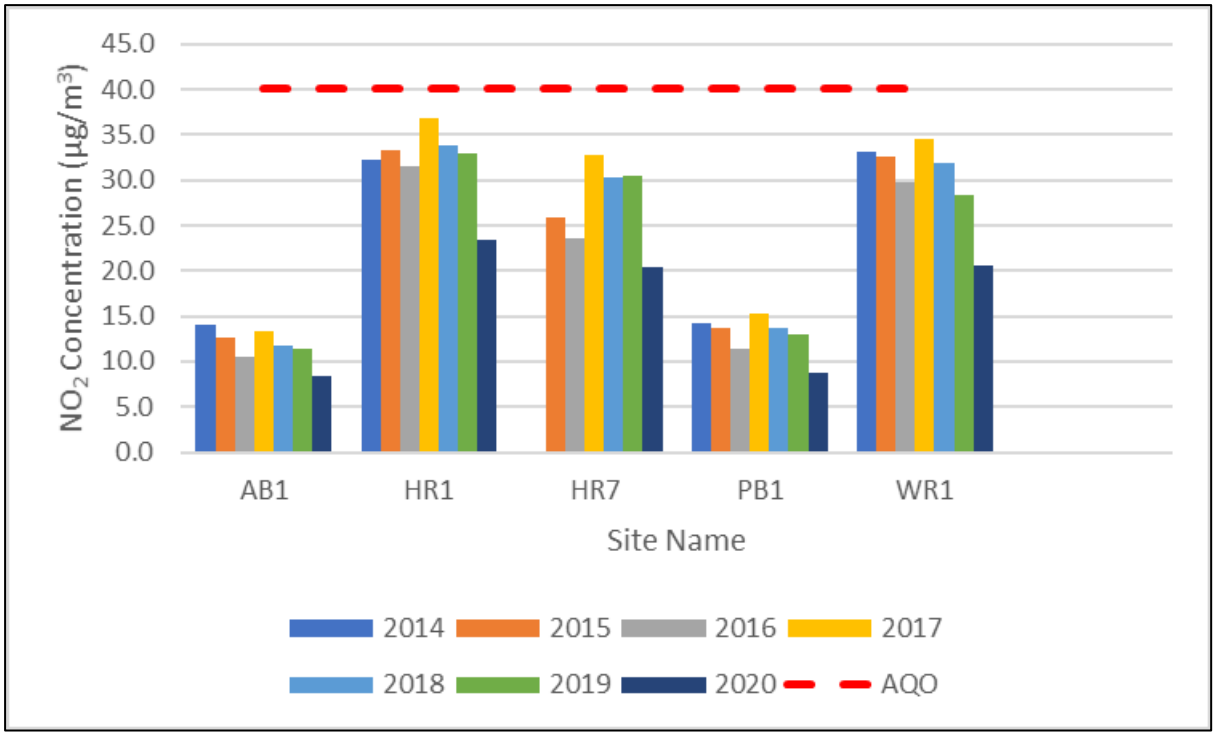
[76] East Hampshire District Council Combined 2020 and 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report, Dec 2021, https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/air-quality

Figure 55: Trends in annual mean NO_2 concentration at Bordon monitoring sites



Source: East Hampshire District Council Combined 2020 and 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report, Dec 2021

Figure 56: Trends in annual mean NO_2 concentration at other East Hampshire District Council monitoring sites



Source: East Hampshire District Council Combined 2020 and 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report, Dec 2021

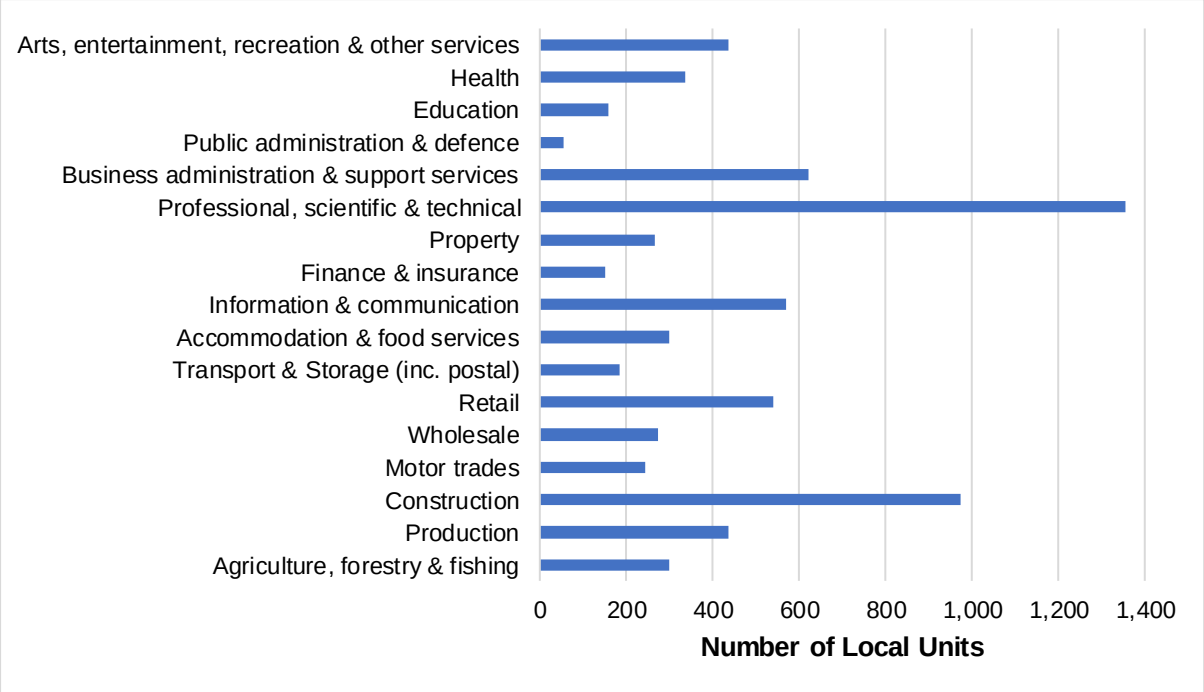
3.6 Economy and Employment

3.6.1 East Hampshire is home to a range of businesses, working in a variety of sectors. The ONS classifies business activities using Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes. Using this data, we are able to better understand the structure of the local business base. This is described in Figure 34.

3.6.2 Figure 33 includes both number of businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE and “local units” (which means premises) falling within each code. The data shows that in East Hampshire there are 1,355 units in the “professional, scientific and technical” sector in the district. This sector is by far the largest, with next largest sector, “construction”, accounting for 975 units.

3.6.3 “Business administration and support services” have a significant presence with 620 units. The “public administration and defence sectors” have the smallest presence in the district with only 55 units.

Figure 33: Number of Local Units in Use by Different Economic Sectors in East Hampshire



Source: Inter Departmental Business Register, 2022

3.6.4 The vast majority of the business units in East Hampshire accommodate smaller businesses, i.e. those having nine or less employees. Figure 34 shows the number and percentage of businesses in East Hampshire by employee size band, compared to the average for the South East region.

Figure 34: Profile of businesses (size & number) in East Hampshire and the South East

Employment Size Band (no. of employees)	East Hampshire Number	East Hampshire %	South East Number	South East %
		Enterprises[77]		
0 - 4	5,220	80%	327,805	79%
5 - 9	715	11%	43,525	11%
10 - 19	340	5%	21,905	5%
20 - 49	195	3%	11,860	3%
50 - 99	40	0.6%	3,740	0.9%
100 - 249	25	0.4%	2,230	0.5%
250+	10	0.2%	1,585	0.4%

[77] A group of legal units under common ownership is called an Enterprise Group. An Enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units (generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records) which has a certain degree of autonomy within an Enterprise Group.

Total	6,545	100%	412,650	100%
Local Units[78]				
0 - 4	5,435	75%	348,410	74%
5 - 9	885	12%	57,025	12%
10 - 19	465	6%	33,475	7%
20 - 49	300	4%	22,075	5%
50 - 99	70	1%	7,265	1.5%
100 - 249	40	0.6%	3,850	0.8%
250+	10	0.1%	1,620	0.3%
Total	7,205	100%	473,720	100%

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register, 2022

3.6.5 Most businesses in East Hampshire are micro-businesses and therefore likely to have small floorspace requirements. The majority of such businesses employ 4 people or less and represent 80% of enterprises and 75% of local units in the district. This is broadly in-line with the pattern seen across the South East region, albeit marginally greater.

3.6.6 When comparing employment sites (local units) in the district employing 10 or more people to those across the South East region, they account for a marginally lower proportion. For example, the employment size band of 250+ is 0.1% of the local units but for the South East region it is 0.3%. This indicates that there is a slightly smaller proportion of major employment sites in the district than is typical for the South East.

3.6.7 In terms of enterprises, the biggest difference when comparing East Hampshire to the South East region is in the employment size band of 50-99 employees. In East Hampshire enterprises contribute 0.6% compared to 0.9% for the South East.

3.6.8 The data indicates that most businesses in East Hampshire are likely to require small and medium sized business premises, although individual floorspace requirements will depend on the nature of the business. For example, storage and distribution uses generally require more floorspace per employee.

3.6.9 Figure 35 shows the breakdown of employee jobs, excluding the self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces, in the district. compared to corresponding figures for the South East region and nationally.

3.6.10 In 2021, the largest employment sectors in East Hampshire were:

- Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles (16.7%);
- Human Health and Social Work Activities (11.9%);
- Education (10.7%).
- Manufacturing (10.7%) - a higher proportion compared to South East (5.8%) and Great Britain (7.6%).

[78] An individual site (for example a factory or shop) in an enterprise is called a local unit.

Figure 35: Employee Jobs in Total and by Industry for East Hampshire, the South East & Great Britain (2021)

	East Hampshire (employee numbers)	East Hampshire (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Total Employee Jobs	42,000	-	-	-
Full-Time	28,000	66.7	67.4	68.1
Part-Time	14,000	33.3	32.7	31.9
Employee Jobs by Industry				
Mining And Quarrying	40	0.1	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	4,500	10.7	5.8	7.6
Electricity, Gas, Steam And Air Conditioning Supply	150	0.4	0.4	0.4
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management And Remediation Activities	250	0.6	1	0.7
Construction	2,500	6	5.7	4.9
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles	7,000	16.7	15.9	14.4
Transportation And Storage	1,500	3.6	5.1	5.1
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	3,000	7.1	7.3	7.5
Information And Communication	1,750	4.2	5.5	4.5
Financial And Insurance Activities	600	1.4	2.8	3.6
Real Estate Activities	700	1.7	1.7	1.8
Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities	4,000	9.5	9.2	8.9
Administrative And Support Service Activities	3,000	7.1	8.9	8.9
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	800	1.9	3.3	4.6
Education	4,500	10.7	9.6	8.8
Human Health And Social Work Activities	5,000	11.9	13	13.7
Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	700	1.7	2.3	2.3
Other Service Activities	1,000	2.4	2.1	1.9

Note: The data excludes farm-based agriculture. Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey, 2021

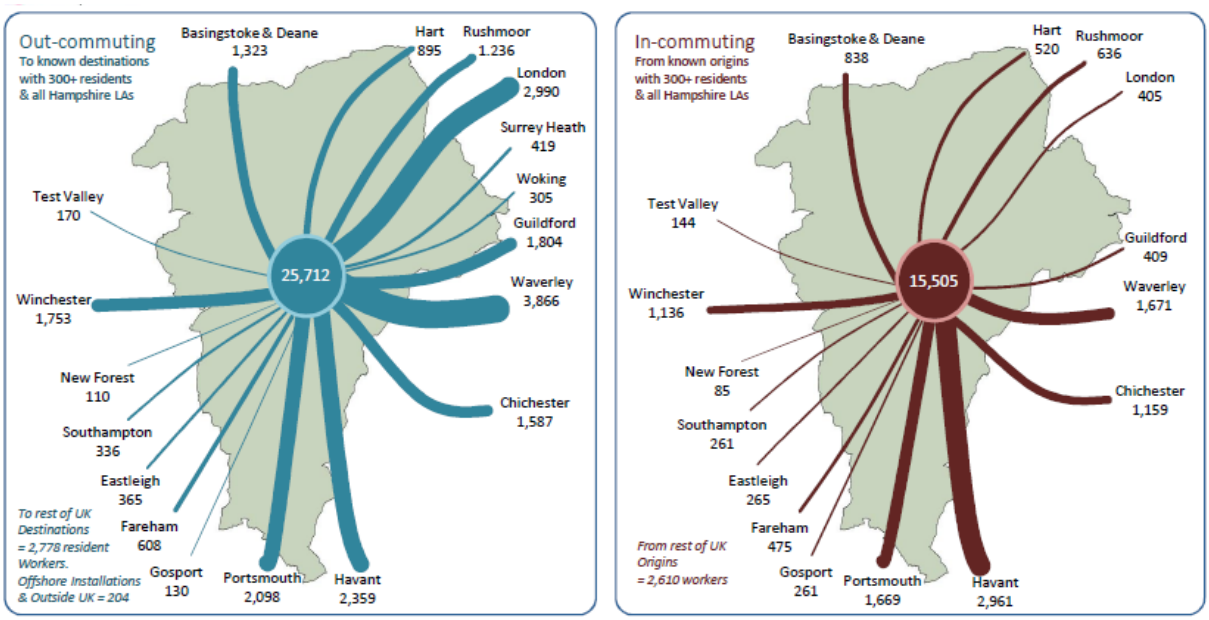
3.6.11 The most recent available data, (2011 Census), for the district on commuting shows that there is significant in- and out-commuting for work purposes. Out-commuting was significantly higher than in-commuting, with a net outflow of 10,207 workers. This data predates the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.6.12 The highest number of in-commuters came from Havant followed by Waverley and Winchester districts. The highest number of out-commuters travelled to Waverley, followed by London and Havant.

3.6.13 It should be noted that the majority of jobs in the district were held by residents, with people living and working in the district accounting for nearly 60% of the local workforce.

3.6.14 Figure 36 shows the main inflows and outflows of commuters for work purposes based on 2011 Census data.

Figure 36: Main commuting flows into and out of East Hampshire (2011)



Source: 2011 Census, ONS

3.6.15 Figure 37 (below) provides an indicator of the strength of demand for office floorspace in the district using data on net absorption. 'Net absorption' is the balance between the amount of space moved into and out of i.e. move-ins less move-outs. 'Net deliveries' is the difference between floorspace constructed and brought onto the market (Delivered) and floorspace taken out of use and removed from the market, including being demolished (Removed).

3.6.16 A positive net absorption figure indicates strong demand, leading to falling vacancy rates. A negative absorption figure indicates weaker demand and leads to rising vacancy rates.

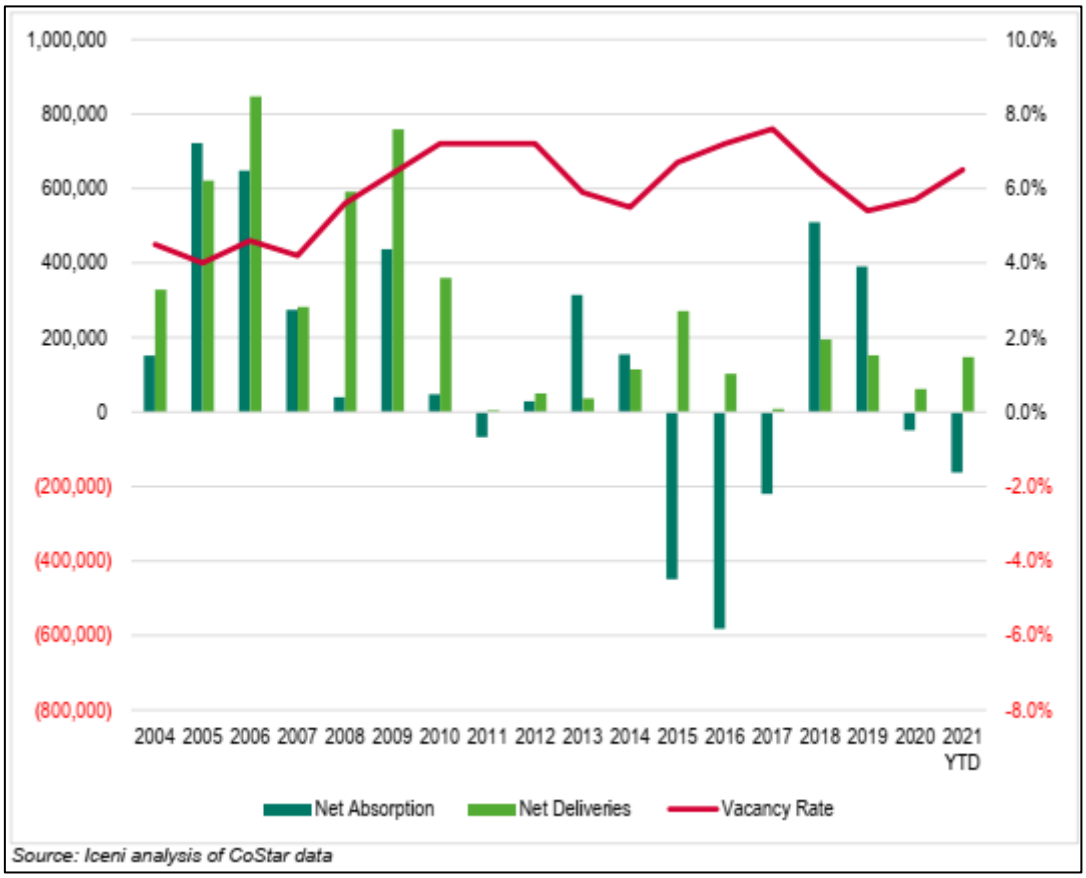
3.6.17 Between 2010 and 2022, there have been 6 years in which office net absorption rates has been negative and six years where office net absorption rates have been positive in Hampshire. However, since 2013, office net absorption has averaged at minus 10,472 sq. ft per annum in Hampshire. Prior to 2010, the picture was very different with net absorption and delivery figures being positive. This indicates a change in office market conditions, business confidence, or the availability of suitable floorspace; or a combination of all three factors (which is likely given a variety of macro-economic and societal difficulties over this period, including Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic).

3.6.18 Office net delivery data suggests a marked slowing in demand for office space in Hampshire in recent years. Average net deliveries prior to 2010 was 541,420 sq.ft compared to post-2010 deliveries of only 104,037 sq.ft. Whilst office

vacancy rates have varied since 2015 in Hampshire, they have remained relatively stable.

3.6.19 The CoStar Office National Report 2021 considered the impact of the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines on office leasing rates which had picked up over the year. In Q3 of 2021 office take-up rates nationally reached their highest level over the preceeding two years. However, net absorption nationally continues to remain negative, resulting in a growing level of vacant office space. Despite this, office investment nationally has risen in 2022 as COVID-19 restrictions have eased.

Figure 37: Office net absorption, net deliveries and vacancy rates in Hampshire



Source: East Hampshire HEDNA, 2022

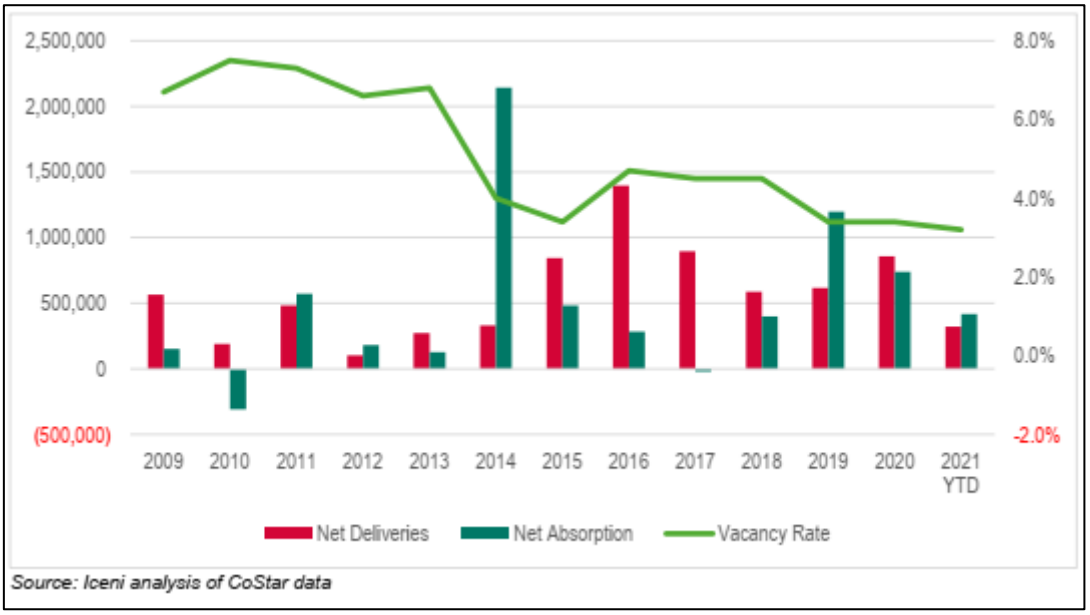
3.6.20 The picture, set out in Figure 38 below, on industrial property is very different. In 2021 the vacancy rate for industrial property in East Hampshire was 2.6%. This is considered low and is in line with the South Coast market. The low industrial vacancy rate for East Hampshire and Hampshire generally, reflects a tight and constrained market, which is unlikely to have sufficient space to satisfy future occupier demands.

3.6.21 The industrial vacancy rate in East Hampshire and Hampshire has not exceeded 6% since 2013. Since 2013, industrial net absorption has been high, averaging 489,793 sq. ft per annum. Since 2009, only in 2010 and 2017 have there been negative absorption rates for industrial space in Hampshire. As a result, the industrial vacancy rate in Hampshire has dropped from 6.8% in 2013 to 3.2% in 2021.

3.6.22 The data is indicative of a shortage of industrial space within the area and a limiting factor on growth. It is therefore a key concern.

3.6.23 On the demand side, the CoStar Industrial National Report 2021 considered the conditions stimulating demand for industrial space have never been stronger. Retail, parcel delivery and general logistics are seen as the driving forces behind the current demand for industrial space nationally. Brexit has resulted in an increase in inventory holdings and an associated need for additional need for warehousing and storage space. The expansion of on-line retailers has also increased the demands on logistics companies.

Figure 38: Industrial net absorption, net deliveries and vacancy rates in Hampshire



Source: East Hampshire HEDNA, 2022

3.6.24 The data shows that East Hampshire has seen growth in both office and industrial floorspace that is generally higher than the wider market of Hampshire. The office market has seen a trend of negative net absorption rates and low net deliveries in recent years. However, office vacancy rates in East Hampshire increased dramatically in 2021, indicating that the area was hit hard by COVID-19 restrictions, market uncertainty and a growth in home-based working.

3.6.25 The long-term impact of Covid-19 is still to become clear. Home-working trends were significantly impacted during the pandemic. It is unclear how patterns of home-working will settle post-pandemic but it is likely that an increased proportion of working adults will continue to work from home post pandemic. It is likely there will be a permanent increase in hybrid working (part-time at home, part-time in the office) compared to pre-pandemic levels which may impact on the demand for office space.

3.6.26 Covid-19 has also impacted on the pattern of retail sales. ONS monitors internet sales as a proportion of total retail spending through its Retail Sales

Index. The data shows a growing year-on-year trend of online sales prior to the pandemic which then accelerated during the pandemic. The percentage of on-line sales appears to have settled (post pandemic - 2021) at 26% from a peak of 37% during the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic (2019) the percentage of on-line sales was around 18-20% of all retail spending.

3.6.27 The industrial market continues to see high positive net market absorption and delivery rates along with an on-going trend of falling vacancy rates, latest figures suggesting as low as 2.6%. This indication of a tight and constrained market suggests there has been insufficient delivery to satisfy the growing demand in the area.

3.6.28 Through a 2018 survey of local businesses undertaken by QaResearch, on behalf of the Council, constraints in the availability of high quality and/or suitable premises for local businesses have been identified. A 2017 qualitative survey of many business parks and industrial sites in East Hampshire (outside of the South Downs National Park) revealed a varied picture, with some poorly performing sites but many that were worthy of retention for employment use. These factors suggest that it will be important to provide new, modern employment facilities through the emerging local plan.

3.6.29 Overall, East Hampshire has a diverse business base consisting largely of micro and small businesses. These businesses will have a range of floorspace requirements, although many are likely to be interested in smaller premises. Many residents work in the district, however there is substantial commuting for work purposes between the district and its surrounding areas (particularly to the south and east), with a relatively large number of workers also commuting to jobs in London.

3.7 Heritage

3.7.1. East Hampshire contains a range of historic areas, buildings and structures and the District Council attaches great importance to their protection and conservation. Overall are 1,616 listed assets within East Hampshire, comprising Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings and structures such as telephone boxes and war memorials. Although 831 listed assets are located within the South Downs National Park (and therefore outside of East Hampshire's planning area), 785 are to be found outside of the National Park.

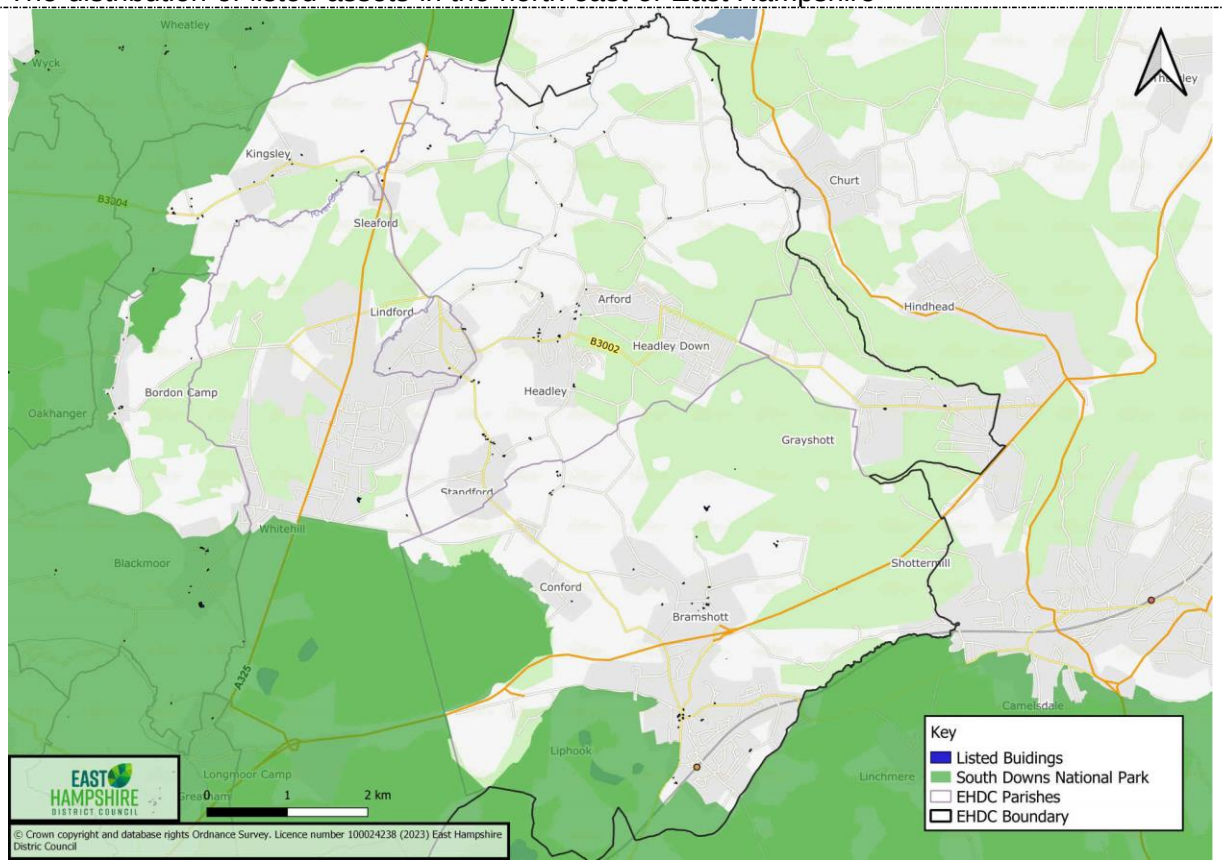
3.7.2. Figure 58 (page 105) shows the distribution of all listed assets in East Hampshire. This clearly shows that there are concentrations of listed assets in settlements such as Alton, Bentley, Bentworth and Upper and Lower Froyle (in the north east), but few in the southern parishes of Horndean, Clanfield and Rowlands Castle. In part, this is indicative of the relative age of the aforementioned settlements, as all surviving buildings built before 1700 and most buildings built between 1700 and 1840 are listed.

3.7.3. Across the District, Historic England has seven assets listed as being at Risk on its Heritage at Risk Register. The only designated at risk heritage asset in East Hampshire is a Scheduled Monument: Walldown enclosures, Whitehill. This means the assets have been assessed and found to be at risk due to their condition or vulnerability.

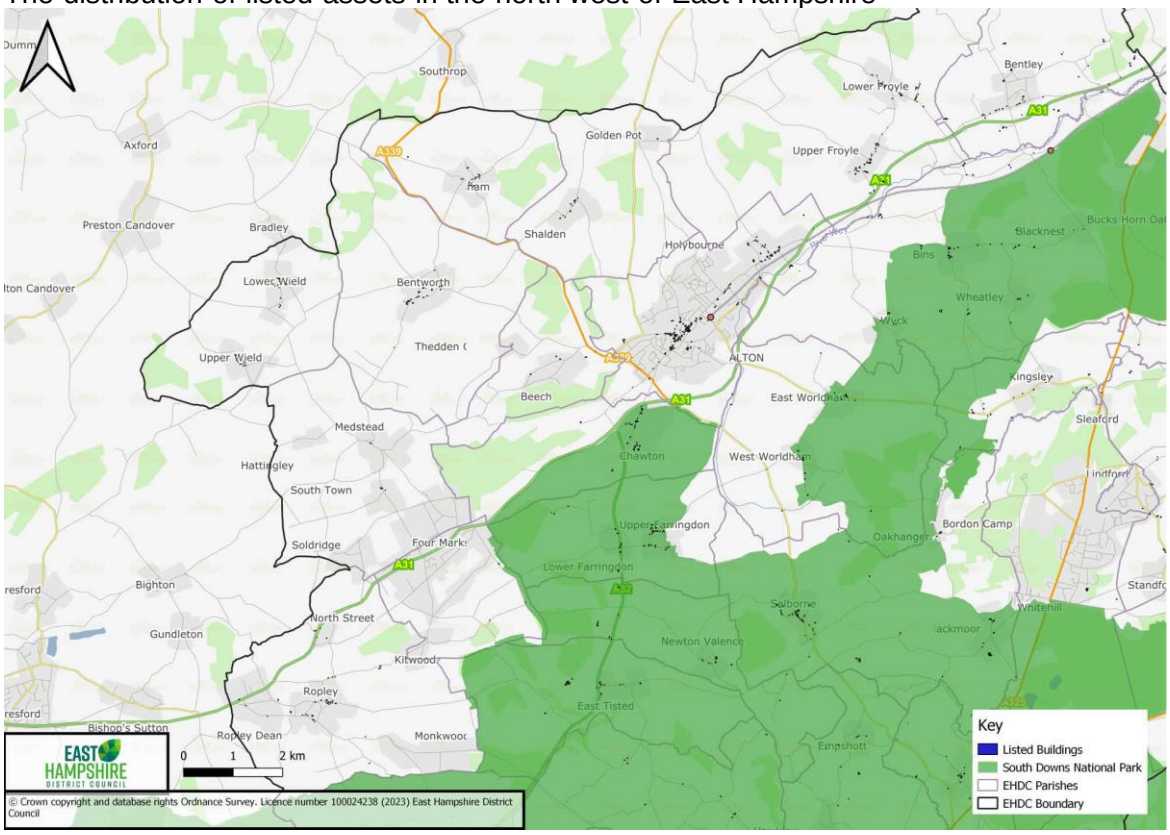
3.7.4. Figure 57 provides further details on the distribution of listed assets for the north eastern, north western and southern areas of East Hampshire that will be covered by the East Hampshire Local Plan 2021-2040.

Figure 57: Listed assets in the north east, north west and southern parts of East Hampshire district

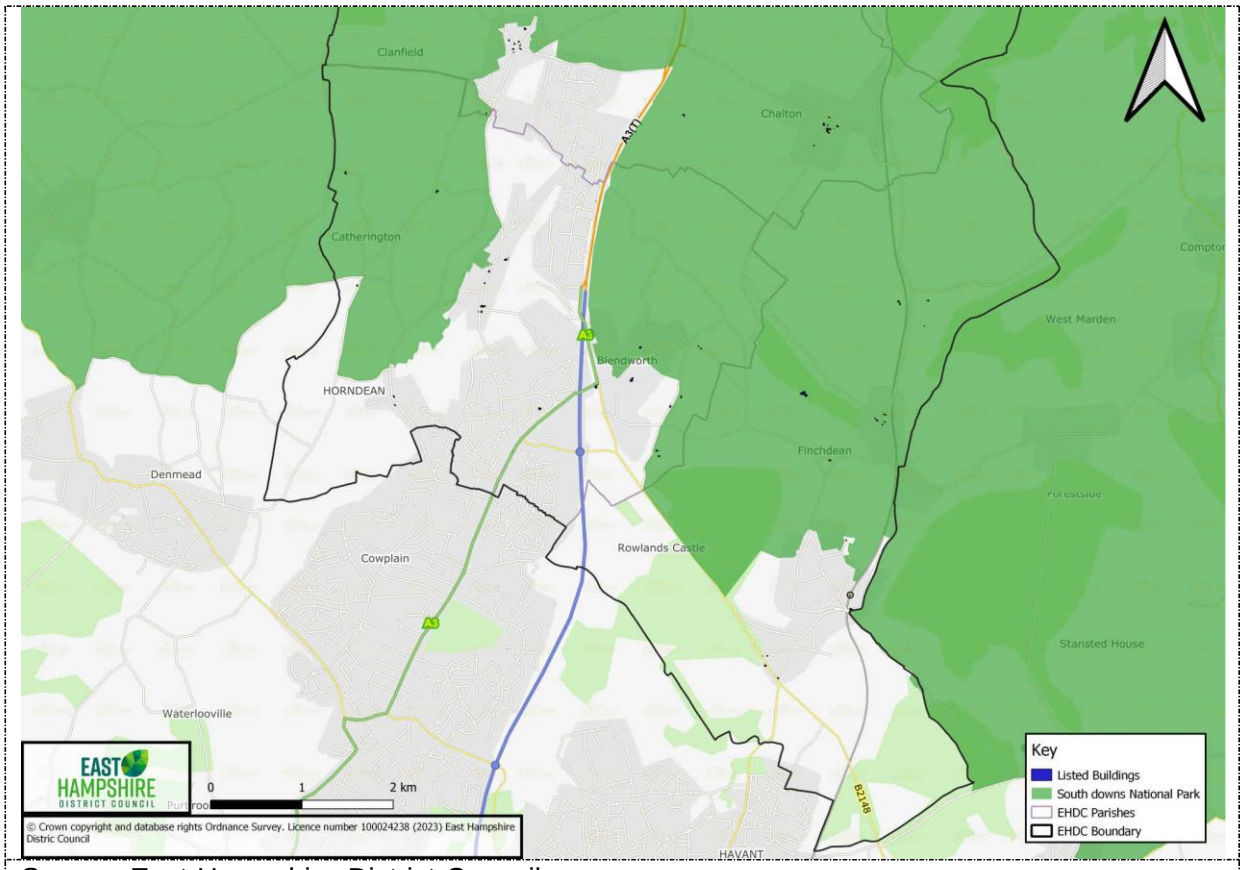
The distribution of listed assets in the north east of East Hampshire



The distribution of listed assets in the north west of East Hampshire



The distribution of listed assets in the southern areas of East Hampshire



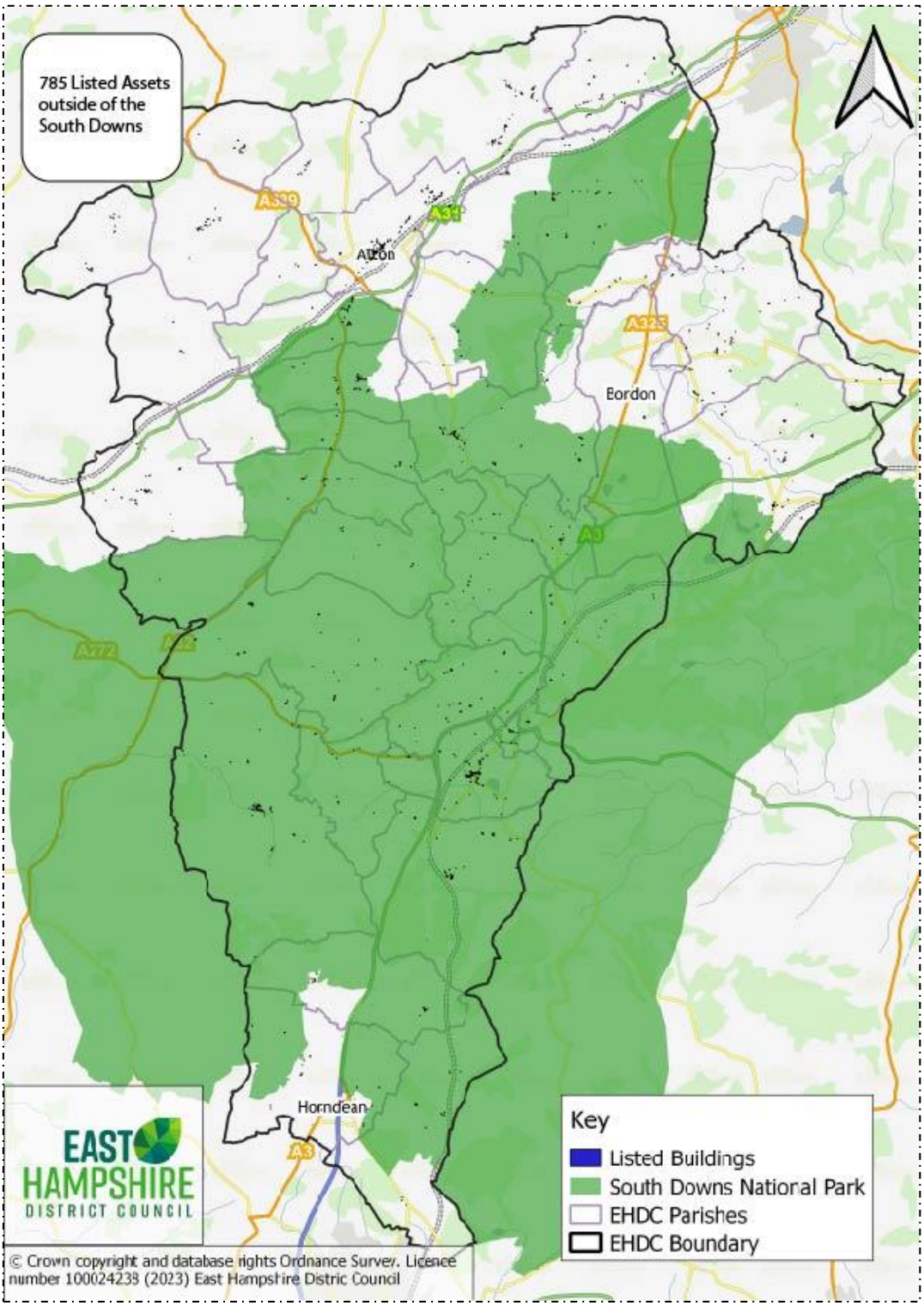
Source: East Hampshire District Council

3.7.5. In addition to individual listed buildings and structures, there are 26 designated Conservation Areas in the parts of the district falling outside of the South Downs National Park. These are shown in Figure 59. Conservation Areas are defined in law as being of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance. Most Conservation Areas have published guidance documents which are gradually being updated to reflect latest best practice to form Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans[79].

3.7.6. Many of the conservation areas in East Hampshire are focused on historic built environments and their settings. However, the Sir George Staunton Country Park (in the parish of Rowlands Castle and Havant) and the River Wey (from Lindford to the boundary with Waverley district) are large conservation areas designated for the presence of historic structures and interventions, affecting the landscape and contributing to local culture.

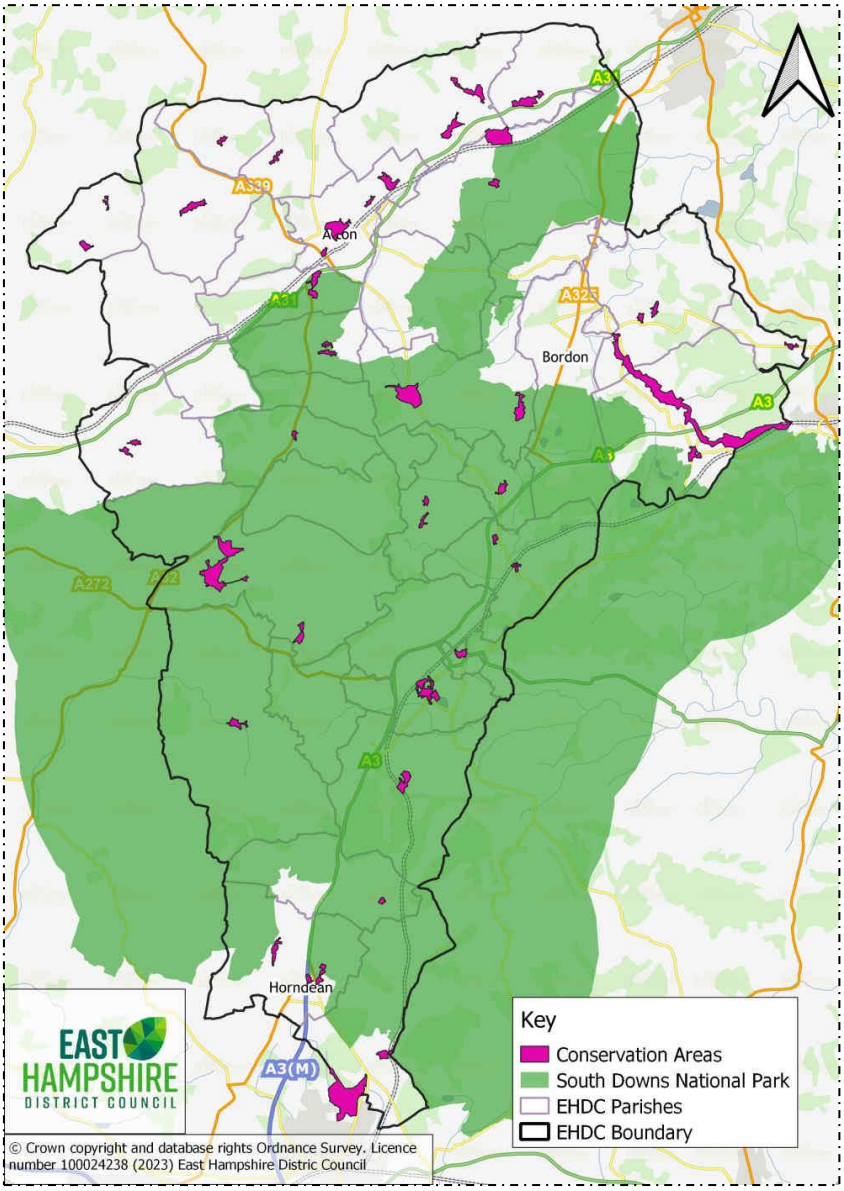
[79] Please see http://www.easthants.gov.uk/conservation-areas for details.

Figure 58: The distribution of listed assets in East Hampshire



Source: East Hampshire District Council

Figure 59: The distribution of conservation areas in East Hampshire

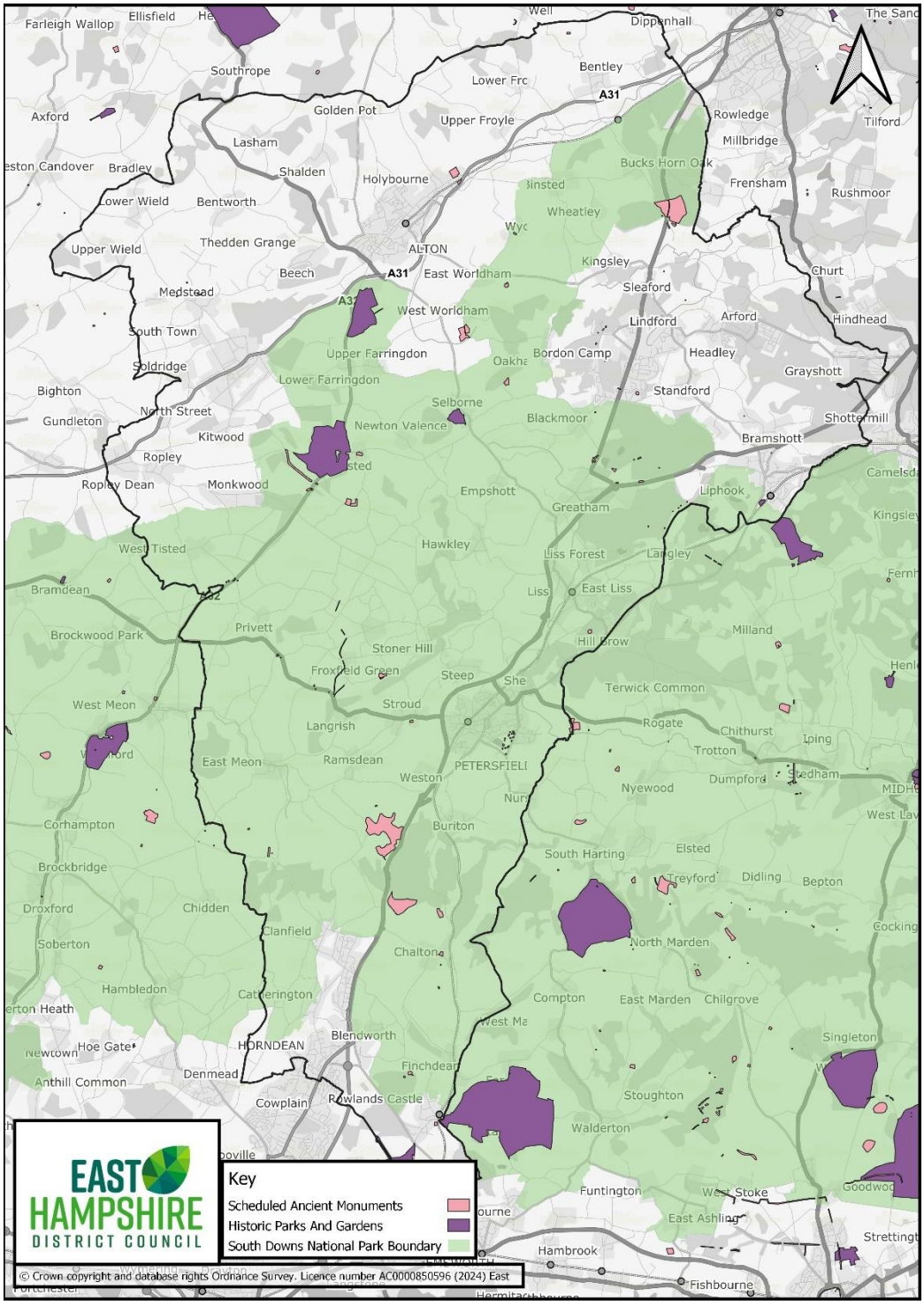


Source: East Hampshire District Council

3.7.7. There are also 78 Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the district and the South Downs National Park, many of which are in the National Park.

3.7.8. In addition, there are five registered parks and gardens in the area, one of which is the Staunton Country Park which spans the boundary with Havant Borough Council. Figure 59a illustrates the distribution of these.

Figure 59a Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens in Eash Hampshire District



Source: East Hampshire District Council

3.7.9. Furthermore, the Hampshire Historic Environment Record and The Hampshire Integrated Landscape Character Assessment provide information on non-designated archaeological and landscape assets.[80]

[80] Please see the Hampshire County Council website for Historic Environment information (https://maps.hants.gov.uk/historicenvironment/) and (https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment)

3.8 Housing

3.8.1. The current East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy plans for an additional 592 dwellings per annum across East Hampshire, with new housing development particularly focused on the towns of Alton, Petersfield and Horndean. The Council's Authority Monitoring Report identifies the following delivery of new homes over the period, outside of the South Downs National Park (see Figure 60).

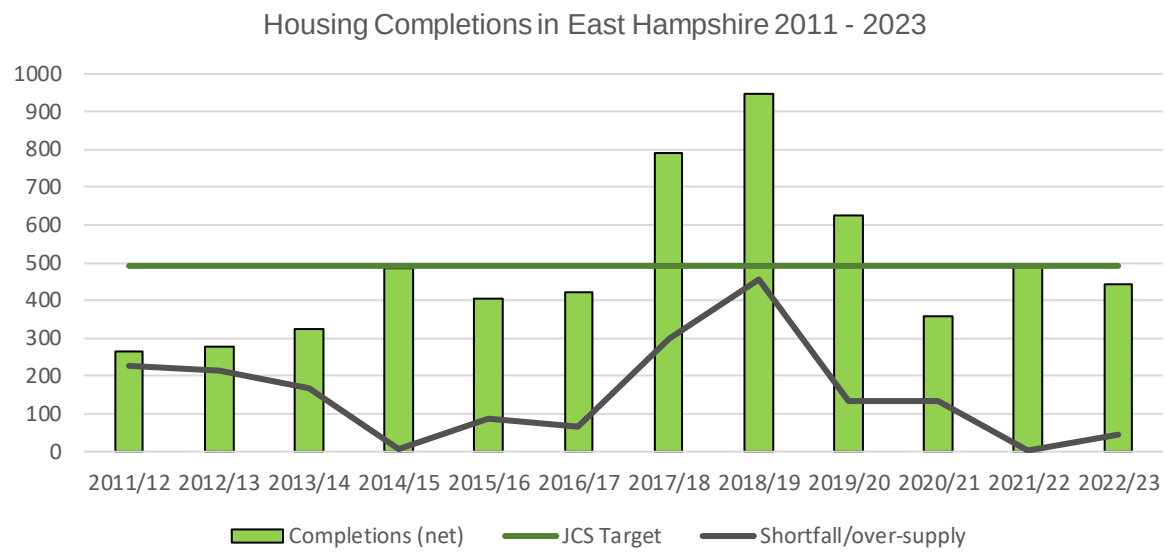
Figure 60: Annual and cumulative new housing completions in East Hampshire (outside of the South Downs National Park)

Year	JCS Target	Completions (net)	Shortfall/over supply
2011/2012	492	264	-228
2012/2013	492	279	-213
2013/2014	492	325	-167
2014/2015	492	485	-7
2015/2016	492	404	-88
2016/2017	492	424	-68
2017/2018	492	791	299
2018/2019	492	948	456
2019/2020	492	626	134
2020/2021	492	360	-132
2021/2022	492	495	3
2022/2023	492	445	-47
Total	5,904	5,846	-58

Source: East Hampshire Authority Monitoring Report 2023

3.8.2. During the period 2011-2023, 5,846 new dwellings were delivered against the target of 5,904, resulting in a shortfall of 58 dwellings. Since 2014, the delivery rate has accelerated, largely due to the regeneration of Whitehill and Bordon. Unfortunately, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020/21 is clear in the table above. Supply chain issues along with restrictions of working arrangements widely affected delivery rates across the country.

Figure 61: Annual completions of new housing in East Hampshire (outside of the South Downs National Park), 2011-2022

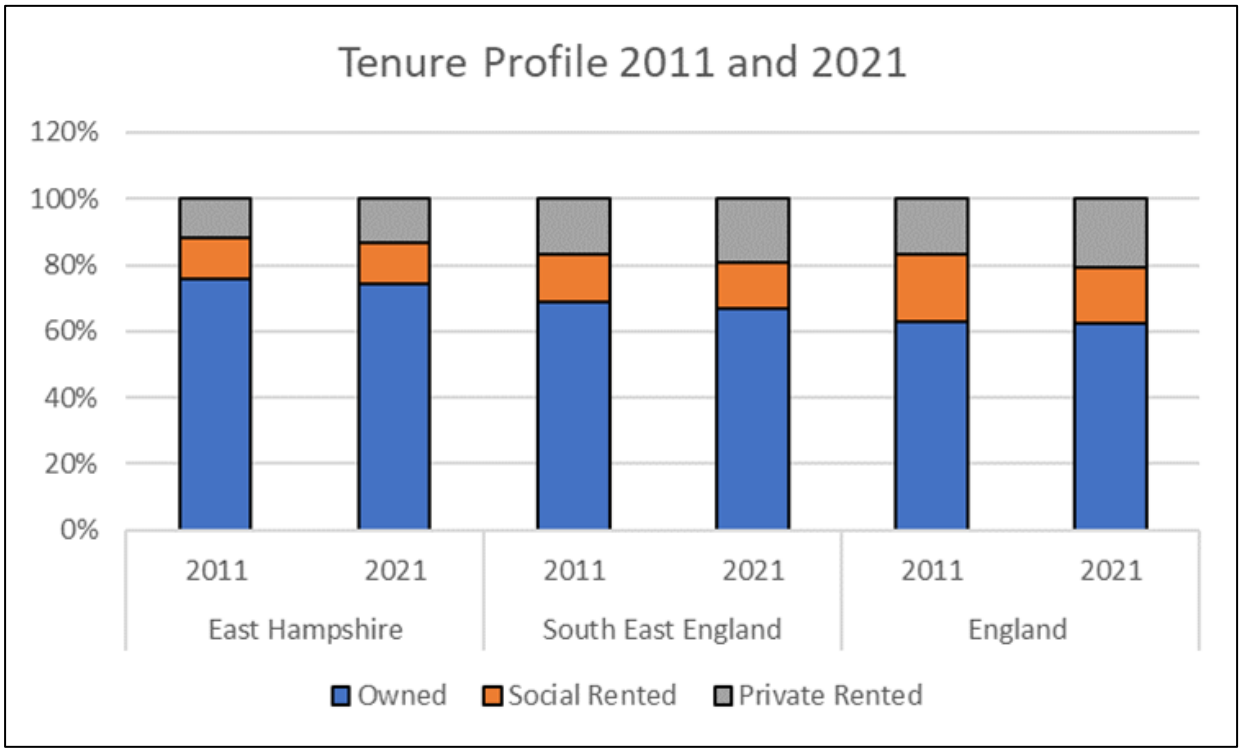


Source: East Hampshire Authority Monitoring Report 2023

3.8.3. Figure 62 (next page) shows how the tenure profile has changed since 2011. In 2021, home ownership in East Hampshire continues to be the largest tenure, despite a small reduction of 2% compared to 2011. The respective figures for 2021 and 2011 are 76% and 74%. This reflects the pattern seen across the South East region. The reduction for England was slightly less at 1%.

3.8.4. The share of social housing dwellings increased by 1% compared to the South East region where the share remained static. In England the share fell by 3%. The private rented sector increased by 1%, less than seen both regionally (2% increase) and nationally (4% increase).

Figure 62: Changes in the tenure profile in East Hampshire (including SDNP)

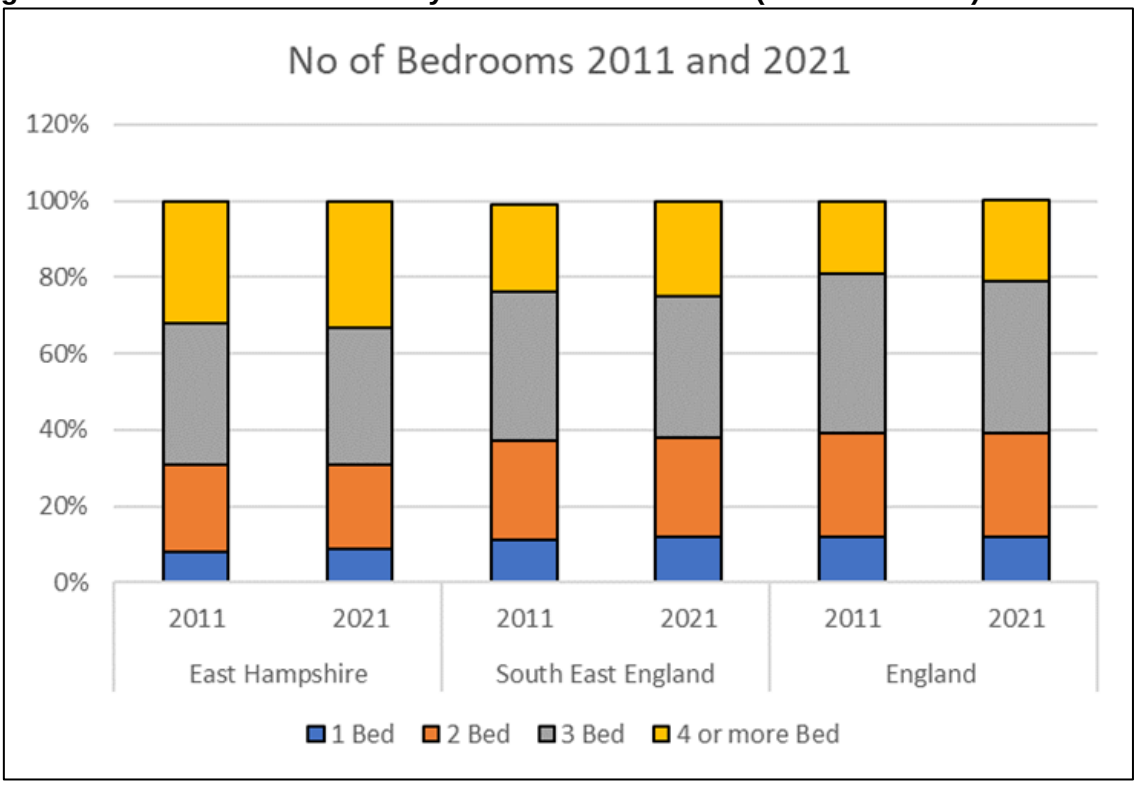


	East Hampshire		SE England		England	
	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021
Owned	76%	74%	69%	67%	63%	62%
Social Rented	12%	13%	14%	14%	20%	17%
Private Rented	12%	13%	17%	19%	17%	21%

Source: 2022 East Hampshire District Council HEDNA

3.8.5. Figure 63 (on the next page) shows the size and type of dwellings found in East Hampshire, with family-sized accommodation accounting for the majority of the stock. There has been little change in the nature of the stock since 2011.

Figure 63: Breakdown of stock by number of bedrooms (includes SDNP)



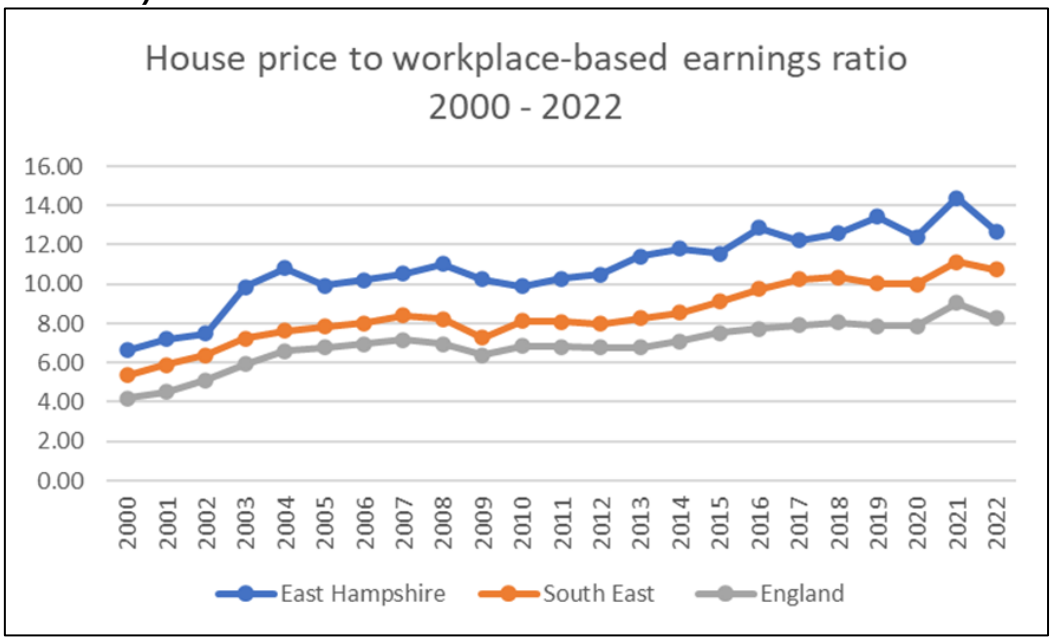
	East Hampshire		South East England		England	
	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021
1 Bed	8%	9%	11%	12%	12%	12%
2 Bed	23%	22%	26%	26%	27%	27%
3 Bed	37%	36%	39%	37%	42%	40%
4+ Bed	32%	33%	23%	25%	19%	21%

Source: East Hampshire 2022 HEDNA

3.8.6. Approximately 69% of the stock in 2021 was family-sized homes (3 bedrooms and above), unchanged from the 2011 figure. This is higher than seen both regionally (62%) and nationally (61%). In terms of their local geographical distribution, the HEDNA identifies that 3- and 4-bed dwellings predominate in the rural areas of the district whilst the majority of 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom dwellings are found in the larger settlements including Alton, Bordon and Petersfield.

3.8.7. Affordable housing provision has been an important requirement for the district. Figure 64 demonstrates that housing in the district has become increasingly unaffordable over time. This upward trend is a result of an increasing divergence between the rate of house price growth and the rate of wage growth. This is a key issue for supporting the creation of sustainable communities through new development. There is likely to be a continuing need to provide new affordable housing to reduce the effects of market exclusion.

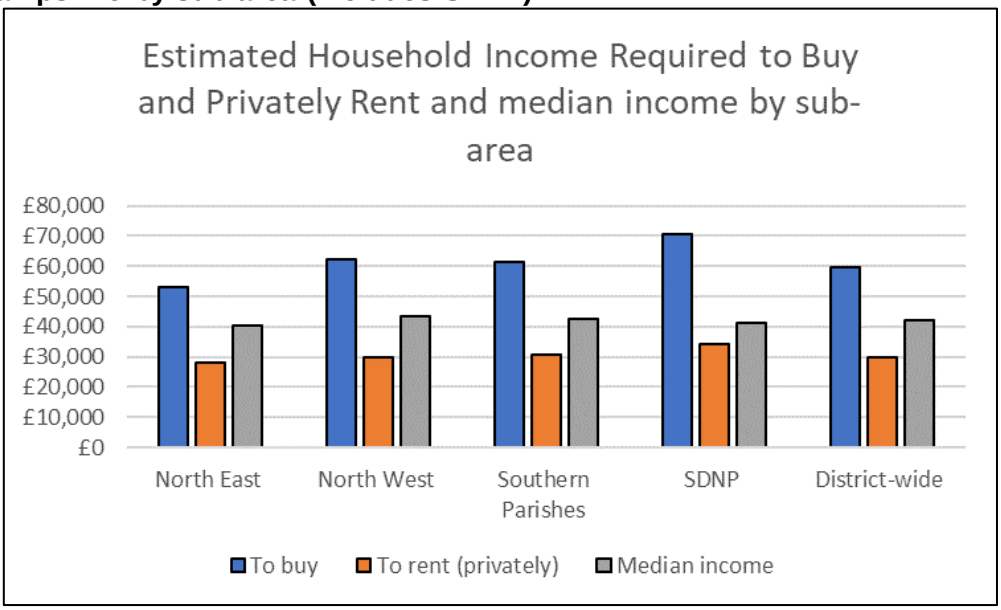
Figure 64: East Hampshire house price to workplace-based earnings ratio 2000-2022 (includes SDNP)



Source: East Hampshire 2022 HEDNA

3.8.8. The median house price-to-earnings ratio has steadily increased from 6.62 in 2000 to 12.70 in 2022. This represents virtually a 100% increase. Whilst similar trends have been both across the South East and England, the ratio has been consistently higher in East Hampshire over the period. The ratio peaked in 2021 at 14.38 but has since fallen back to 12.70, though this is still higher than the ratio for the South East region. Figure 65 below compares the estimated household income required to buy or rent in the district's four areas.

Figure 65 Estimated household income required to buy or rent accommodation in East Hampshire by sub-area (includes SDNP)



Source: East Hampshire 2022 HEDNA

3.8.9. Whilst the estimated household income needed to rent privately in the district is lower the median income across the district, the estimated household income

needed to buy in East Hampshire is considerably higher than the actual median household income. This suggests that home ownership is often unaffordable for those households without large deposits, but that renting in the private rental market is more affordable.

3.8.10. The data indicates that the least affordable area to buy is the SDNP. The Southern Parishes and North West are also relatively unaffordable for home ownership with properties in the North East of the district being marginally more affordable.

3.8.11. The current Joint Core Strategy (Policy CP13) recognises the affordability challenge many face and in response seeks the provision of 40% affordable housing dwellings on all market led housing sites in the district. The requirement reduces to 35% for sites associated with the regeneration of Whitehill and Bordon. On smaller sites, a financial contribution to the provision of affordable housing elsewhere is frequently acceptable. Figure 66 shows housing completions by tenure 2022-2022 allowing performance against the affordable housing provision target to be assessed.

Figure 66: Housing completions by tenure 2011-2023 (excludes SDNP)

Year	Net dwelling completions	Market completions	Affordable completions	Percentage affordable
2011-2012	264	214	50	19%
2012-2013	279	201	78	28%
2013-2014	325	216	109	34%
2014-2015	485	389	96	20%
2015-2016	404	350	54	15%
2016-2017	424	310	114	27%
2017-2018	792	576	216	27%
2018-2019	948	689	259	27%
2019-2020	626	418	208	33%
2020-2021	366	275	91	25%
2021-2022	495	336	159	32%
2022-2023	453	319	134	30%

Source: East Hampshire Authority Monitoring Report 2023

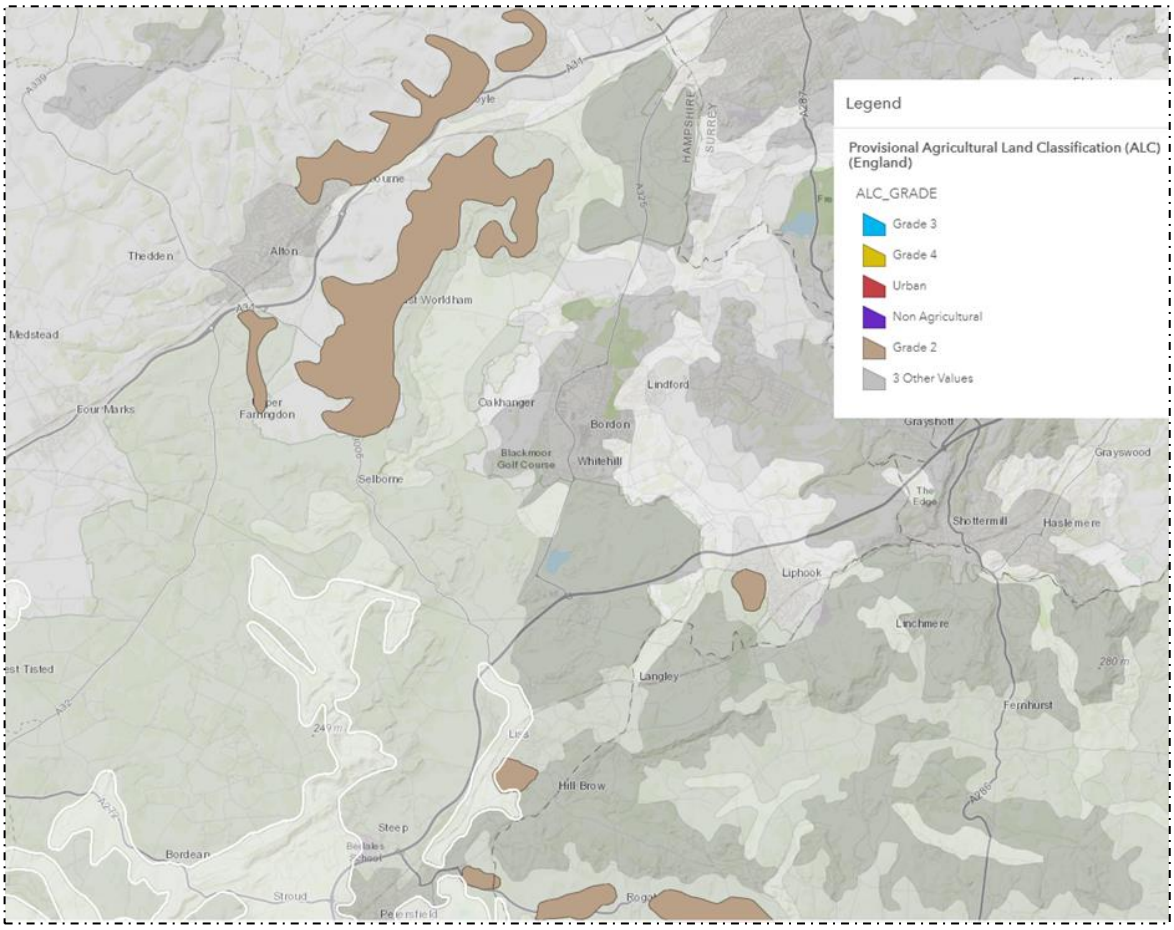
3.8.12. The target of achieving 40% affordable housing units has not been met, due to issues of viability and that a number of sites developed fall below the 10 dwelling threshold and consequently do not have to provide affordable housing.

3.9 Landscape, Townscape and Resources

3.9.1. East Hampshire has a complex geology and is influenced by two climatic zones, resulting in a varied landscape. The district's landscape is characterised by two distinct geological formations: the chalk uplands and the Wealden lowlands. The landscape is diverse and particularly rural, with approximately 39.7% being arable land, 24.9% grassland, 21.5% woodland, 1.3% heathland, 0.16% wetland and open water, with the remaining 12.4% being urban land.

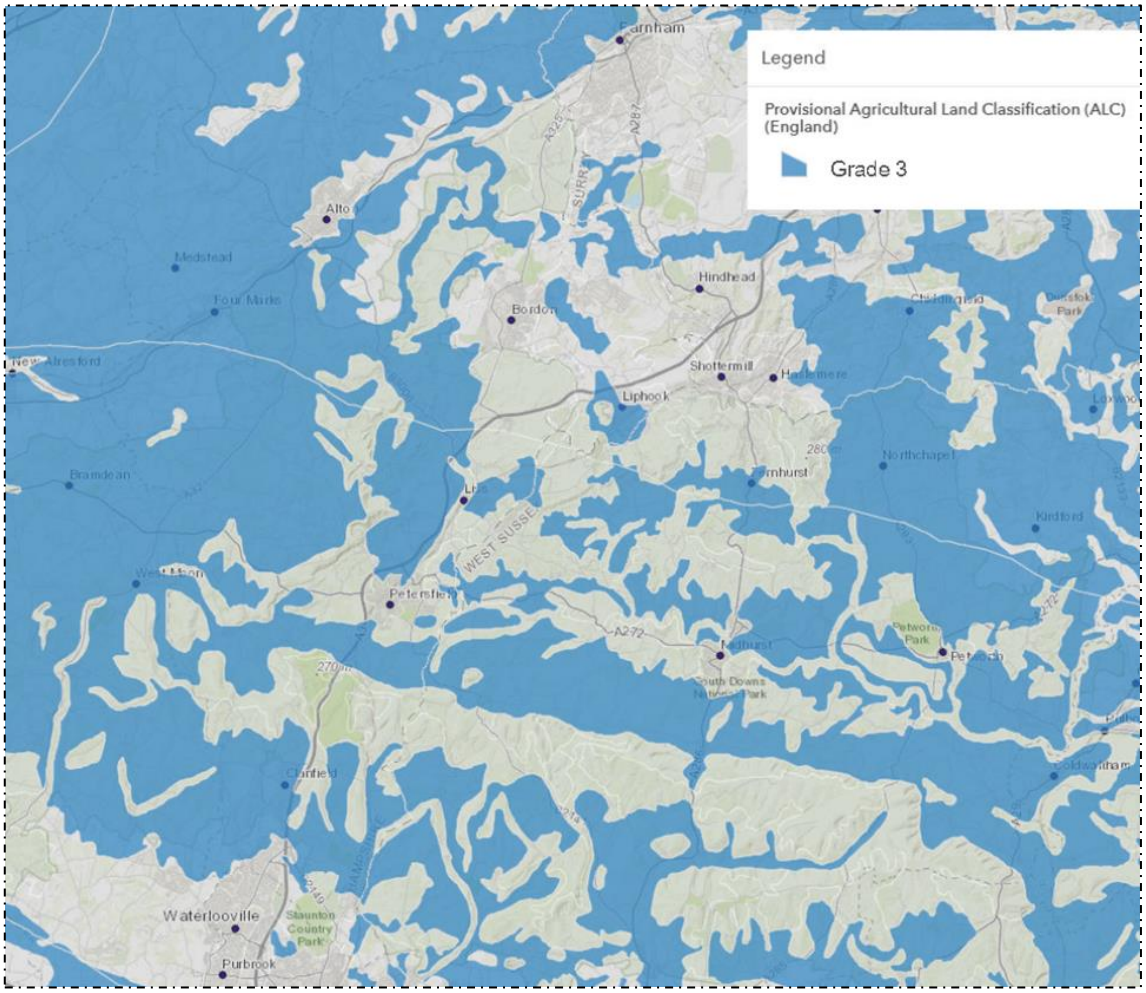
3.9.2. The charts below, based on information from Natural England (2019 Provisional Agricultural Land Classification or ALC), show the distribution of high-quality agricultural land across the district (grades 2 and 3). Figures 67-70 show the distribution of agricultural land graded 2 and 3. There is no grade 1 agricultural land within East Hampshire.

Figure 67: Grade 2 agricultural land close to Alton (within the A31 Corridor)



Source: Natural England, 2019

Figures 68 & 69: Grade 3 agricultural land in the district and environs (top) and Grade 3 agricultural land in the Alton area (source: Natural England, 2019)



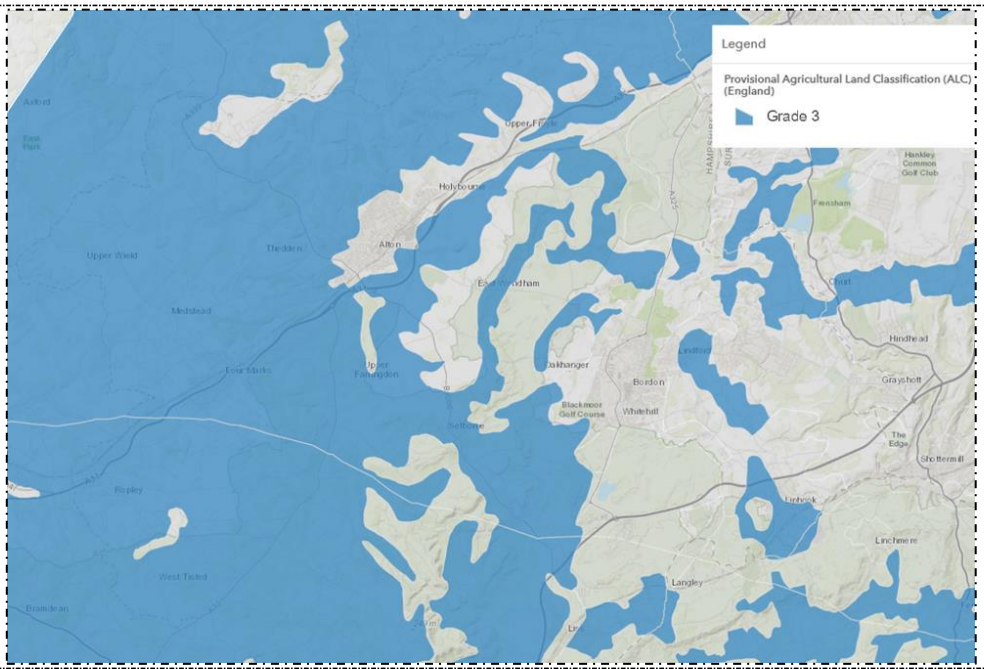
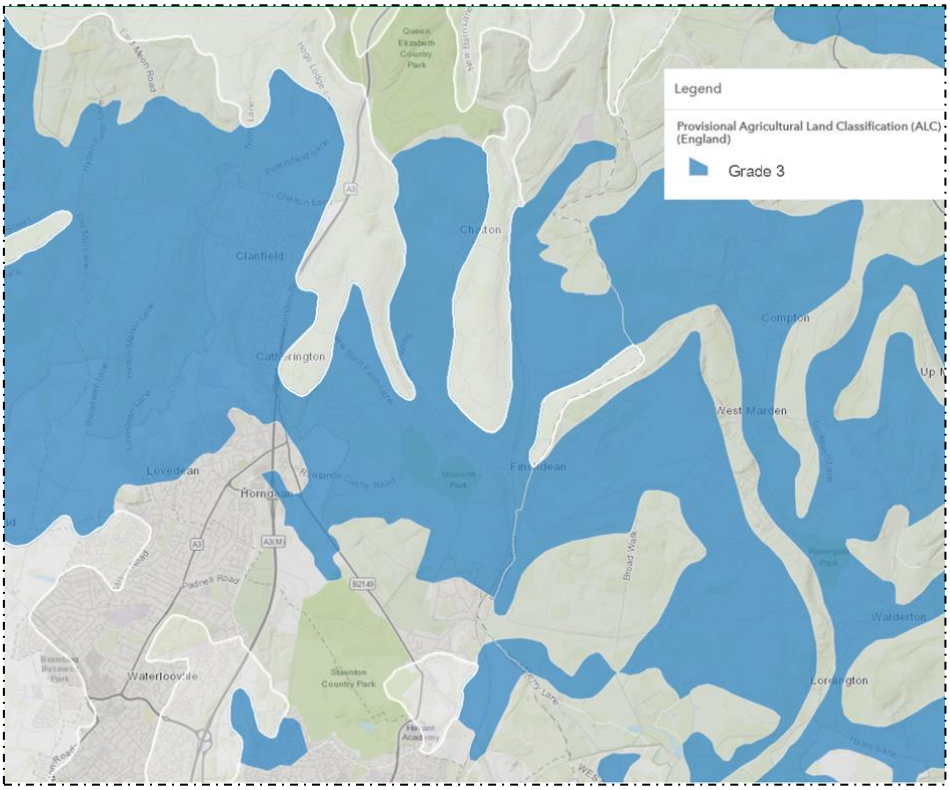


Figure 70: Grade 3 agricultural land in the Southern Parishes



Source: Natural England 2019

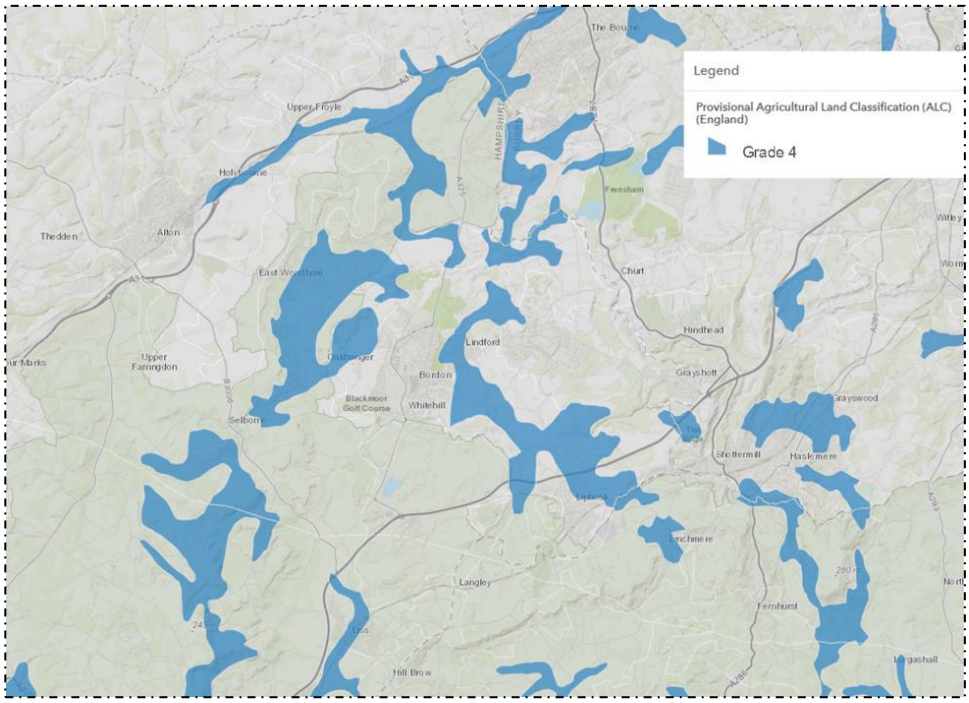
3.9.3. A significant proportion of the land in the district is classified as Grade 3 agricultural land, with some smaller areas of higher quality (Grade 2) land on the eastern and south eastern periphery of Alton and Holybourne. Small areas of grade 2 agricultural land are also found near to Liphook, Liss, and Petersfield.

3.9.4. The majority of agricultural land within the A31 corridor is assessed as grade 3 (good to moderate quality). It will be important that large areas of grade 2 and 3 agricultural land is protected to safeguard local food production.

3.9.5. There are also some large areas of grade 4 (poor quality) and non-agricultural land in the eastern and north-eastern areas of the district, particularly around Whitehill & Bordon. These areas do not require the same level of protection a higher quality agricultural land. They are often located within areas of heathland with free-draining sandy soils, which contribute to acidic growing conditions and consequently a distinctive natural habitat.

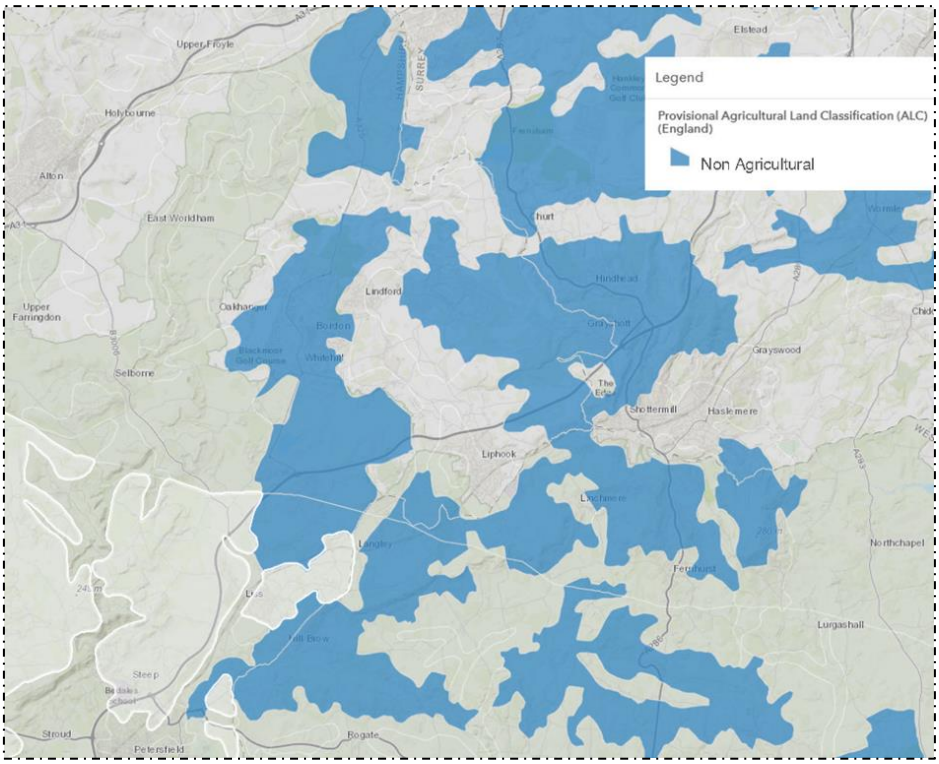
3.9.6. Figures 71 & 72 (on the next page) show areas of lower quality land in the Whitehill & Bordon area, including Grade 4 and non-agricultural land.

Figure 71: Grade 4 agricultural land (low quality) in the Whitehill and Bordon area.



Source: Natural England, 2019

Figure 72: Non-agricultural land in the Northeast/ Whitehill & Bordon Area



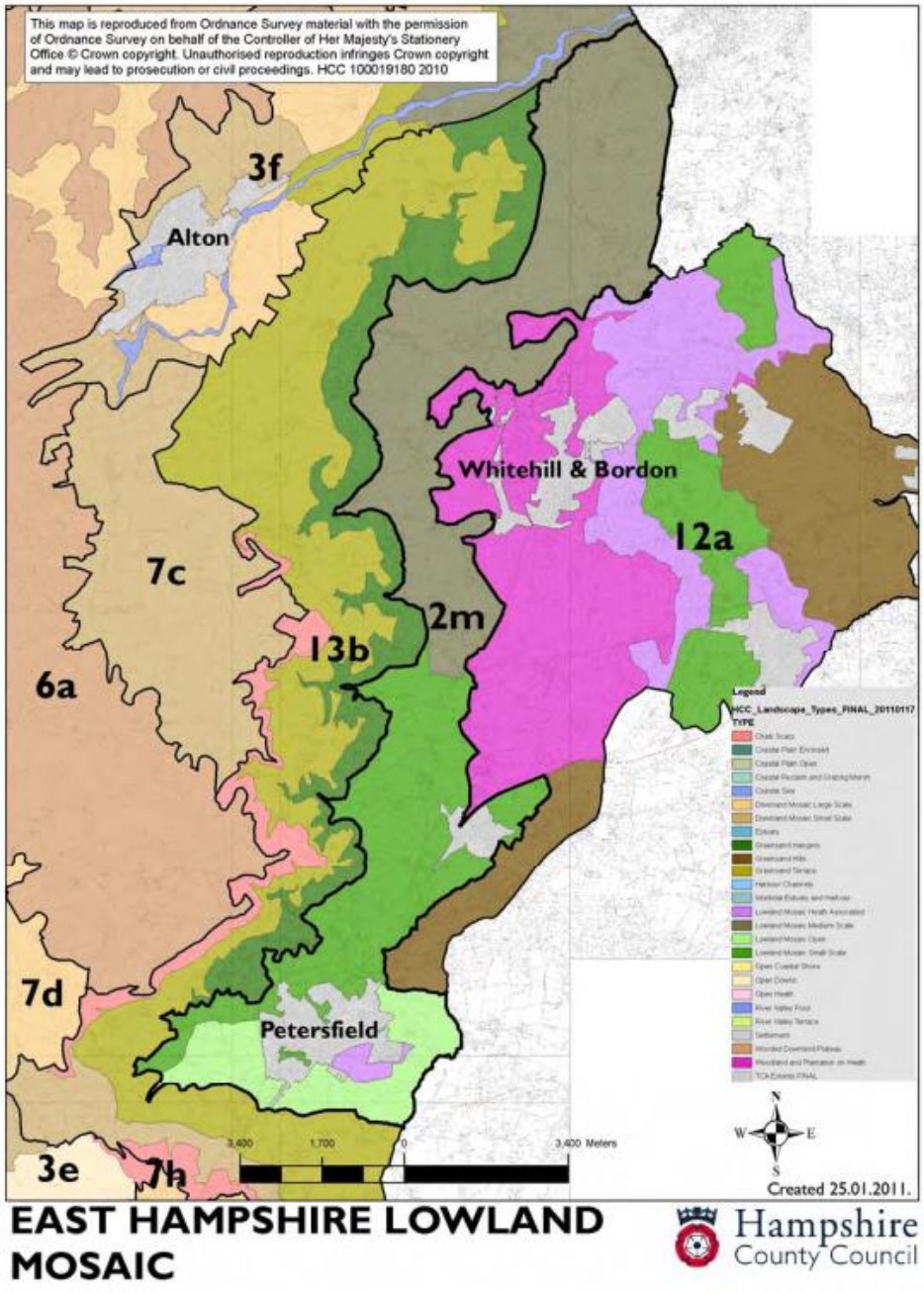
Source: Natural England, 2019

3.9.7. Approximately 57% of the district lies within the South Downs National Park, which has been designated to reflect the exceptional national quality of the natural and cultural landscape of this area. As a whole, the National Park is

regarded as having a rich and complex landscape character, featuring significant local variation and contrast. The East Hampshire area of the South Downs includes a variety of landscapes from greensand terrace in areas close to Selborne and Kingsley, downland mosaic and woodland to the south of the Butser Hill; to chalk valley systems in the Meon Valley. Petersfield is a historic market town and the largest settlement in the South Downs.

3.9.8. The following maps, taken from the Hampshire Integrated Landscape Character Assessment, highlight the landscape character types of East Hampshire District Council's planning area. See Figures 73, 74 and 75 below.

Figure 73: Lowland Mosaic Character Area in East Hampshire

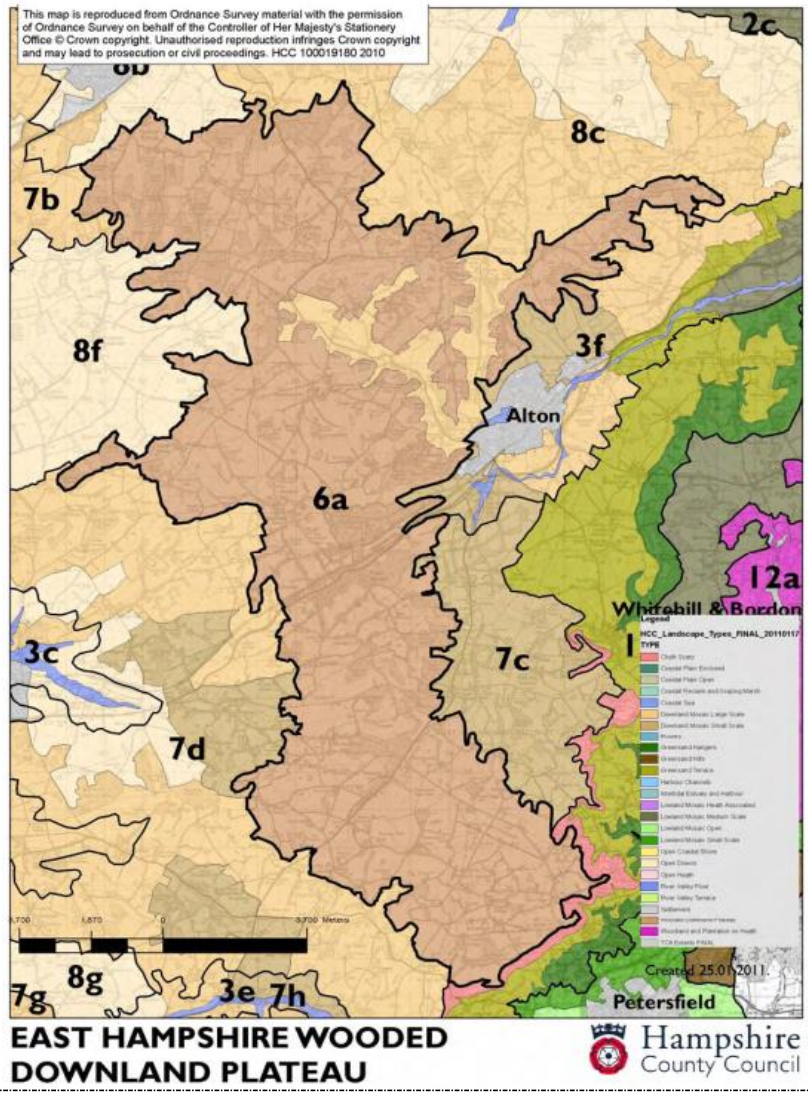


Source: Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment, May 2012

3.9.9. The East Hampshire Lowland Mosaic area includes Whitehill & Bordon and the parishes of Headley, Liphook and Grayshott. The regeneration of Whitehill & Bordon, providing new housing, business space, community, retail and town centre uses – along with significant new green infrastructure and a relief road – has coincided with the relocation of military activities from the Bordon Garrison. New development aims to encourage lifestyles which respect the environment whilst improving the image and competitiveness of the town.

3.9.10. The Lowland Mosaic area includes the Wealden Heath Special Protection Area (SPA), which provides lowland heathland and associated habitats and species. There are many small watercourses, as well as the Rivers Wey and Rother that are integral to the landscape. A great deal of this landscape is characterised by large, irregular-shaped fields with mixed uses. There are areas of dense woodland and smaller parkland. The A3 and mainline railway line form a transport corridor that bisects the rolling countryside of this character area.

Figure 74: Wooded Downland Plateau Character Area in East Hampshire



Source: Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment, May 2012

3.9.11. The northwest part of the district is shown in Figure 74 as wooded downland plateau, located at the eastern edge of the Hampshire Downs. Much of this area is used for the grazing of cattle, with large and small pockets of woodland and dry chalk valleys. There is more grazing and permanent grassland in this landscape compared with the rest of the Downs. Threats include changes to historic field enclosures and the uncertainty of funding for woodland management (e.g. coppicing).

3.9.12. Forestry England manage significant areas of forestry in the district. Areas found on the Northwest, Northern, and Southern boundaries of the East Hampshire planning area are largely managed as leisure resources. Alice Holt, located on the northern border with Surrey is also a significant wooded leisure asset with a range of facilities and activities.

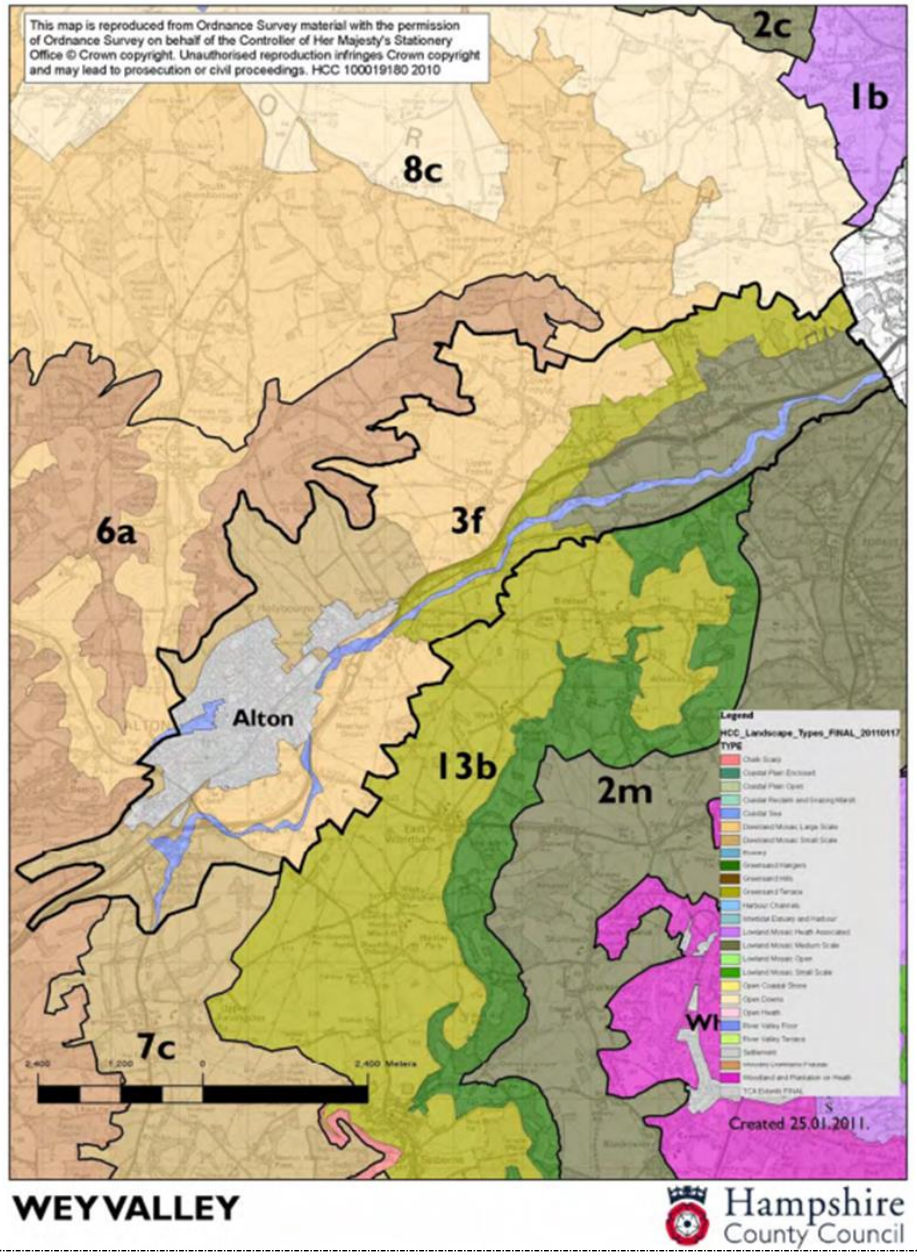
3.9.13. Other wooded areas of importance include Chawton Park Woods, on the Northwest boundary of the district. This contains ancient woodland of historic significance. On the boundary with Havant Borough, an area known as the Havant Thicket, a significant proportion of this forest is being developed into a water storage reservoir, with some ancient woodland being lost.

3.9.14. Figure 75 (next page) shows the Wey Valley Character Area in East Hampshire. The Wey Valley has been the defining influence on the growth of Alton. This town has developed as a long, narrow settlement, closely associated with Holybourne in the east, situated along a route between Winchester and London that was important in Saxon and medieval times.

3.9.15. Alton is a historic market town, with a high-quality public realm at the historic core, a large but occasionally fragmented industrial area in the south-east of the town, and Victoria and Edwardian suburbs along the valley, with post-war and 1970s residential development to the west and north. The town is largely hidden from view from the A31 by topography.

3.9.16. The Wey Valley character area covers the northeast of the district, extending eastwards from Alton towards Bentley and enclosed by the topography of the watershed. The valley is broad with smooth undulating valley sides and has historically been an important transport route, forming part of the Pilgrim's Way, connecting Winchester with the North Downs. The landscape is a mixture of permanent pasture, wet woodland, water meadows and the river. Settlements are commonly located on the north side of the valley. Threats include a lack of management of riverside and water meadow trees, and the tendency towards draining the water meadows to improve grassland for agricultural purposes. The potential for alterations to the historic form and character of settlements, through unsympathetic development, is a concern.

Figure 75: Wey Valley Character Area in East Hampshire

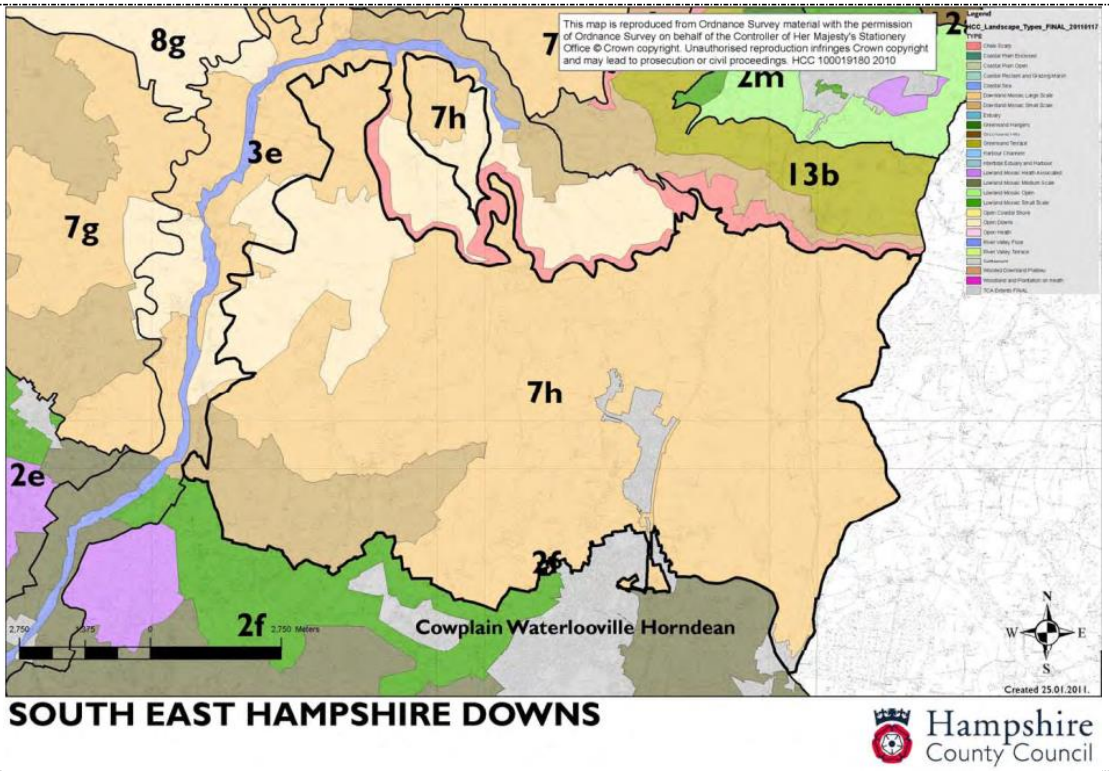


Source: Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment, May 2012

3.9.17. The southern parishes of Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle form part of the Eastern Solent Character Area and the South East Hampshire Downs Character Area, although only the latter provides relevant information on local landscape character. The South East Hampshire Downs area (Figure 76) includes the South Downs ridge in the north and follows the join between chalk and lowland clay areas of southern Hampshire.

3.9.18. This area is characterised as a large-scale landscape of ridges and sweeping, smooth undulations, arable farmland and significant areas of woodland. There are varied degrees of visual enclosure, including dramatic panoramic views. The A3M is identified as a localised negative influence on the rural and urban fringe characteristics.

Figure 76: South East Hampshire Character Area

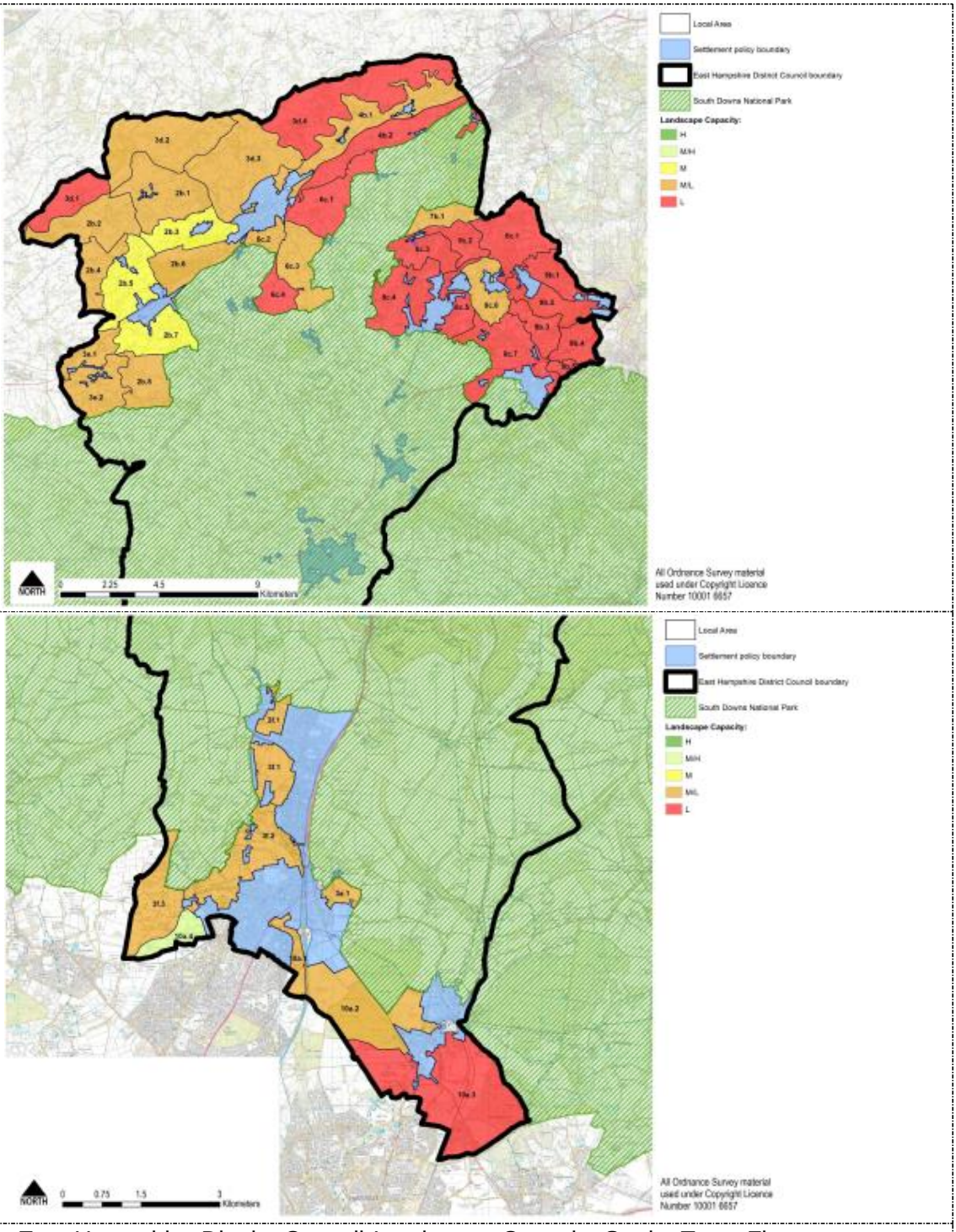


Source: Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment, May 2012

3.9.19. The Council commissioned a landscape capacity study to inform its emerging local plan. Figure 77 shows the indicative capacity of areas within East Hampshire (outside of the National Park) for purposes of accommodating new built development; although it should be stressed that due to the high-level nature of the study, which does not look at sites but larger areas, the results do not imply that particular sites within an area would be suitable or unsuitable for significant new development in landscape terms.

3.9.20. Nonetheless, Figure 77 serves to highlight the potential for landscape constraints (NB: red = low landscape capacity; amber = medium or medium/low; green = medium/high or high landscape capacity). Areas in the north east of the district, close to Whitehill & Bordon and Liphook, tend to have a low landscape capacity due to the presence of international and national designations associated with biodiversity and landscape factors. These are the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA sites and the South Downs National Park and Surrey Hill National Landscape areas. Rural parts of the Upper Wey Valley and to the south east and south west of Rowlands Castle have also been assessed as having a low capacity for new development.

Figure 77: Landscape Capacity of Areas Within East Hampshire (outside of the SDNP)



Source: East Hampshire District Council Landscape Capacity Study, Terra Firma, September 2018

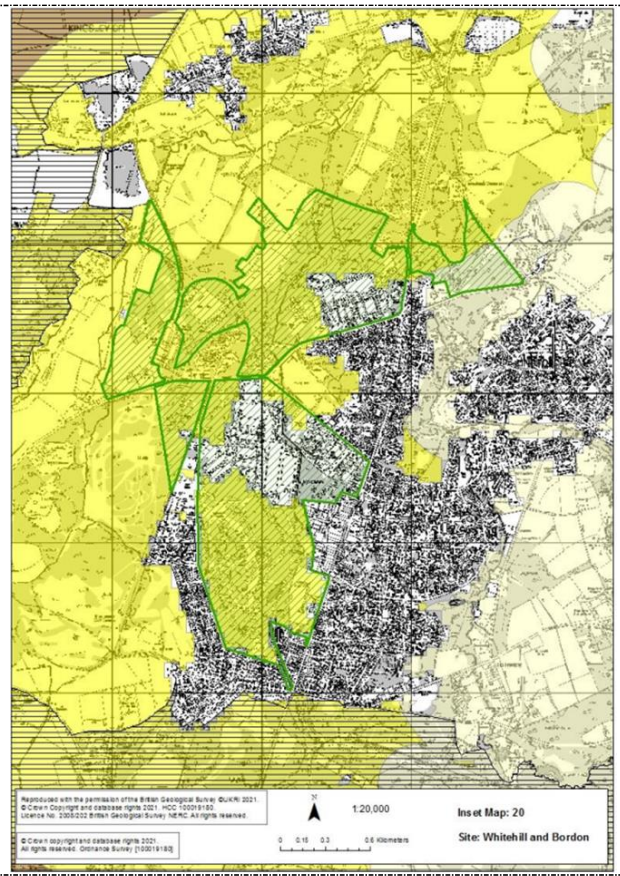
3.9.21. In terms of the district's mineral resources, a review in 2020 of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (October 2013) restates in Policy 21 that Kingsley Quarry (along with Frith End quarry) remains a major contributor to the steady supply of silica sand and soft sand. However, the landbank has fallen in recent years to well below the 10-year supply target.

3.9.22. Hampshire County Council in their 2021 monitoring report identifies that permitted reserves have fallen well below the 10-year target at Kingsley Quarry for two successive years and in 2021 reserves stood at only 3 years. This a policy concern for the sustainable provision of new mineral resources; although it should be noted that minerals planning is beyond the scope of the emerging East Hampshire Local Plan. From the Local Plan perspective, it will be important to ensure that new development does not sterilise any potential reserves.

3.9.23. Work started in 2021 to partially update of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan and the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and is scheduled to be adopted in Summer 2025. The provision for silica sand landbanks within East Hampshire has been identified as one of the most important issues for aggregates in Hampshire.

3.9.24. Draft Policy 15 of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan identifies known viable soft sand and potentially silica sand resources in the Whitehill and Bordon Green town area and the draft plan encourages the extraction of this where appropriate. While the total mineral resource within this area is unknown, the potential area covers up to 250 hectares as shown on the map below (Figure 78).

Figure 78: Potential areas for extraction of silica and soft sand – Whitehill and Bordon area

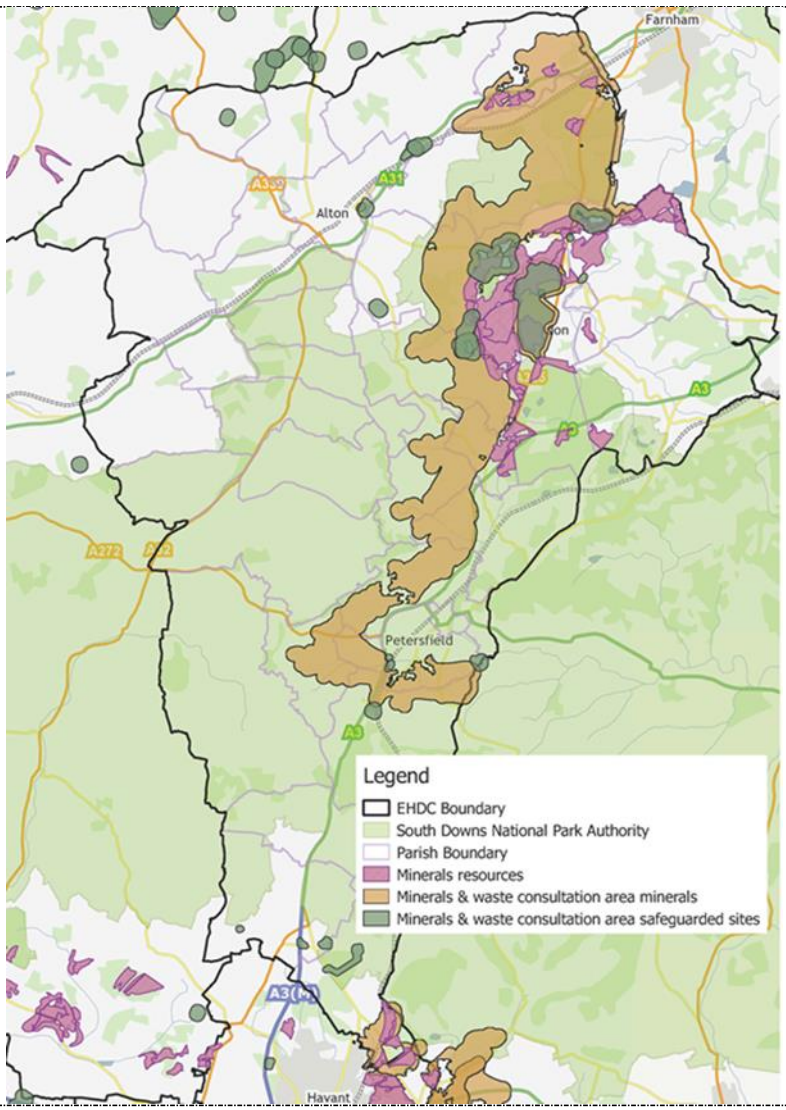


Source: Draft update of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan, Hampshire County Council

3.9.25. In response to concerns about the local availability of silica sand, an extension to the Kingsley Quarry extension was permitted in March 2020. In April 2022 approval was also granted to an extension of the Frith End Quarry. These significant extensions are expected to increase the reserves and supply considerably; however, further consents are likely to be required to meet policy targets for minerals reserves.

3.9.26. Figure 79 illustrates the extent of minerals safeguarding areas and consultation areas in East Hampshire. The areas around Whitehill & Bordon and extending into the National Park may contain suitable reserves of soft sand and silica sand (further investigation of mineral assets would be required to confirm the quality and thus the suitability for extraction).

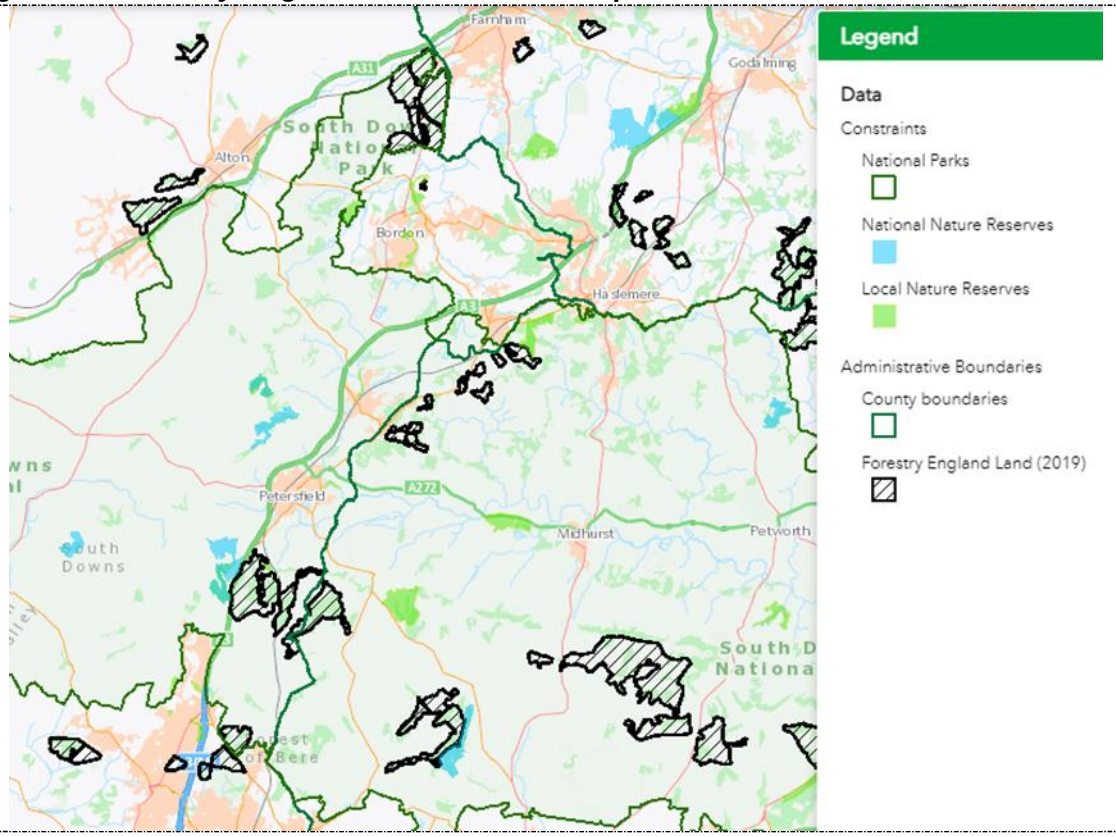
Figure 79: Minerals & Waste Safeguarding Areas/Consultation Areas within East Hampshire



Source: Hampshire County Council, 2013

3.9.27. In terms of other material resources, Figure 80 shows the location of Forestry England land within East Hampshire and surrounding areas. This land is available for forestry purposes as well as for leisure and recreation. With regard to the processing of household waste, there are household waste recycling centres located in Alton, Whitehill & Bordon and Petersfield. There is a material recovery facility (a specialised facility for separating and preparing recyclable materials), which is also a waste transfer station, near Alton.

Figure 80: Forestry England Land in East Hampshire and environs



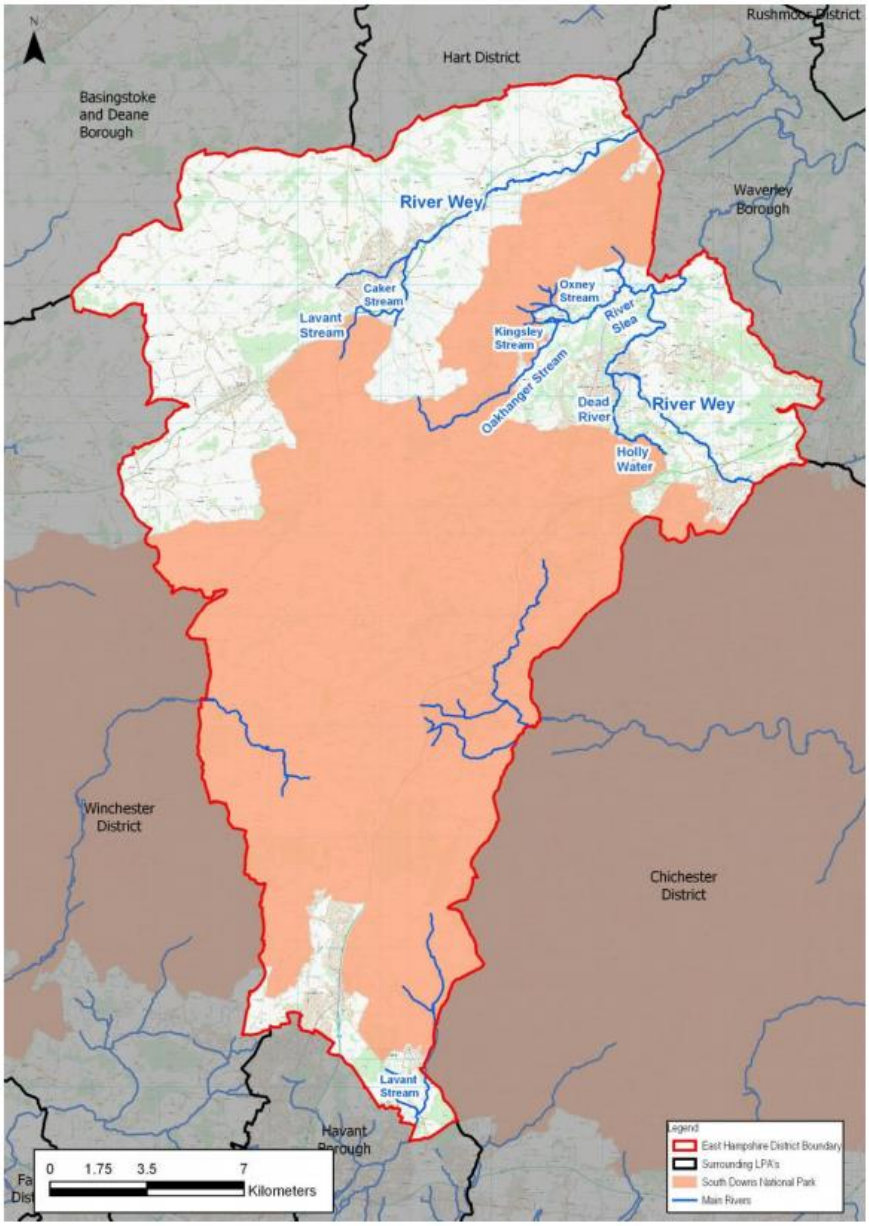
Source: Forestry England, 2023

3.10 Water and Flood Risk

3.10.1. East Hampshire's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) 2022[81] identifies eleven main rivers within the district, as shown in Figure 81. The catchment of the River Wey covers a large area in the north of the district and is split into two branches in East Hampshire, known as the northern and southern branches, with tributaries on both branches. The River Wey predominantly flows in a north east direction near Alton (northern branch) and Haslemere (southern branch) to Weybridge (outside of East Hampshire).

[81] East Hampshire District Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, AECOM, May 2022, available at: https://www.easthants.gov.uk/media/7145/download?inline (accessed: 04/2023)

Figure 81: Main rivers in East Hampshire



Source: EHDC SFRA May 2022

3.10.2. RBMPs were updated in 2022[82] by the Environment Agency to describe the current challenges for water environments. The main challenges currently facing water courses in England are:

- **Climate emergency**: raised temperatures are increasing pressures on demand for water resources for public water supply and to varying industries; increased temperatures and more volatile weather can cause

[82] River basin management plans, updated 2022: challenges for the water environment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

species decline; increased frequency of flooding leading to increase run off of pollutants.

- **Biodiversity crisis**: recent loss of wetlands and related species; degradation of habitats.
- **Physical modifications:** environmental damage from physically modifying rivers, estuaries; lakes and coastlines for development purposes and avoidance of flooding and erosion.
- **Pollution from agriculture and rural areas**: river and groundwater pollution from agricultural management of land and livestock as well as use of fertilisers and pesticides.
- **Pollution from water industry waste water:** pollution from waste water of homes and businesses not being sufficiently treated and returned to the environment; can be linked to population growth.
- **Invasive non-native species:** an animal or plant introduced, deliberately or accidentally, into a place where it does not belong having a negative impact on the environment e.g., Japanese knotweed; problem of invasive non-native species can be globally increased by trade, tourism and transport.
- **Pollution from towns, cities and transport:** pollution (waste, drainage, roads, transport, industries, housing and legacy of factories contaminating land, soils and water), from towns and cities damaging waters in England's urban areas; issue heightened by 83% of England's population living in urban areas.
- **Changes to water levels and flows**: unequal amount of water being taken and replenished from/to rivers and aquifers; problem intensified by climate change and population growth which impacts the supply and demand; impacts where wildlife can live.
- **Chemicals in the water environment:** manufactured chemicals finding their way into the water environment or soil can be harmful to people and the environment; aquatic life damaged from direct exposure to chemicals; human health impacted by consuming food that has been exposed to contaminated aquatic food chain; water used for domestic or food production compromised by surface or groundwater contamination from chemicals.
- **Pollution from abandoned mines**: Abandoned metal and coal mines polluting rivers, harming wildlife and threatening drinking supplies from groundwater.
- **Plastics pollution:** used and disposed plastics polluting seas, lakes, rivers, streams, soils and the air; potential threat from micro-plastics but impacts on water still not fully understood.

3.10.3. East Hampshire is in both the Thames[83] and South East[84] RBMP areas. The current health of a water environment is assessed by its status. Surface waters

[83] For details, please see: Thames river basin district river basin management plan: updated 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (accessed 05/2023)

are assessed by ecological status and chemical status. Groundwaters are assessed by quantitative status and chemical status. Figures 82 to 85 display the 2022 ecological and chemical statuses of the surface water and groundwater sources in the two RBMP's covering East Hampshire.

3.10.4. The ecological status for the majority of surface water in the Thames and South East RBMP areas in East Hampshire is currently classified as moderate or poor status. The exceptions to this are part of the River Wey southern branch in the north east of the district and the Meon adjoining the neighbouring district of Winchester in the west, which are classed as good ecological status. The chemical status of all surface water in East Hampshire is classified as 'fail', which is also the case for all southern RBMPs.

3.10.5. With regard to groundwater in the district, the chemical status is classified as poor, with the exception of areas close to the southern boundary with Havant, where it is currently classified as 'good'. The groundwater quantitative status in East Hampshire (which is a measure of its availability) is split between both good and poor with the north east of the district. The eastern part of the Thames RBMP is classified as 'good', whereas the rest of the Thames RBMP classified as 'poor'. The South East RBMP follows a similar trend in that the majority of the area is currently classified as poor for its quantitative status, with exception to the north east area (adjoining the Thames RBMP area), which is classified as 'good'.

3.10.6. The ecological and chemical objectives for groundwater and surface water in the district are to achieve 'good' status. As such, the baseline position for new development is that the water environment needs to improve in respect of its ecological and/or chemical quality in order to meeting existing objectives. The objective for surface water areas in the district that are currently classified as poor is to achieve 'moderate' status.

[84] For details, please see: South East river basin district river basin management plan: updated 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (accessed 05/2023)

Figure 82: Ecological status of surface water in the RBMP areas covering East Hampshire

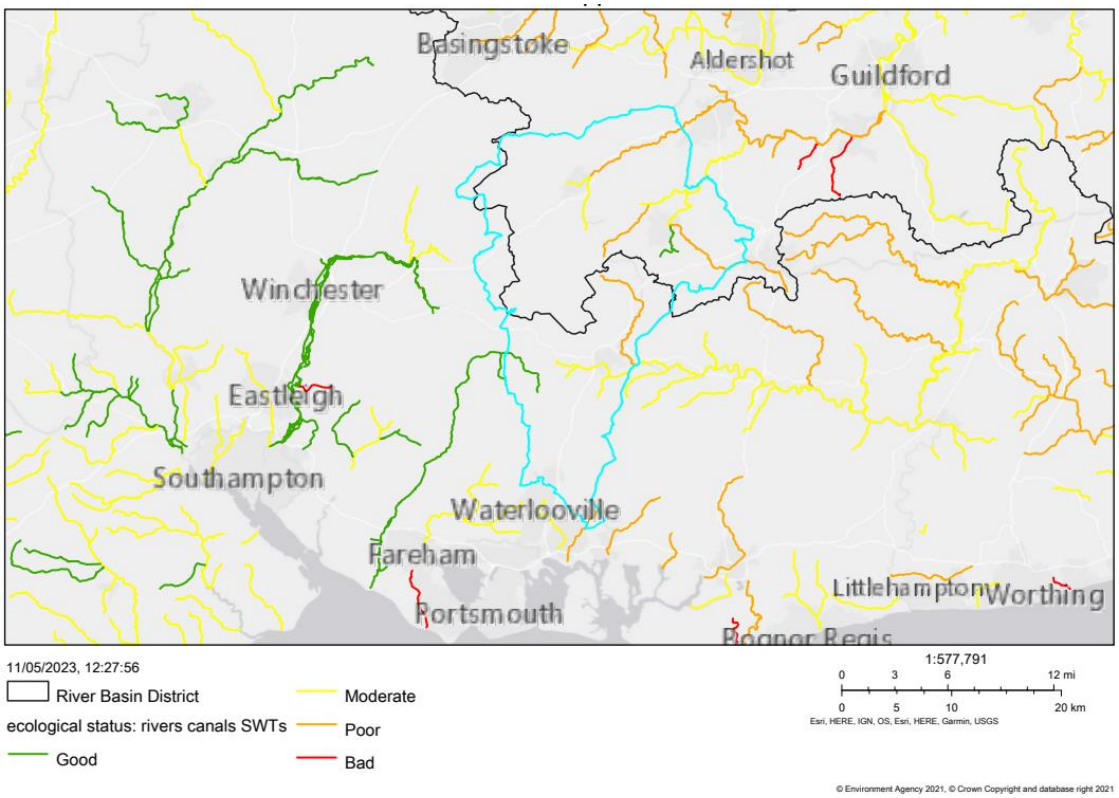


Figure 83: Chemical status of surface water in RBMP areas covering East Hampshire

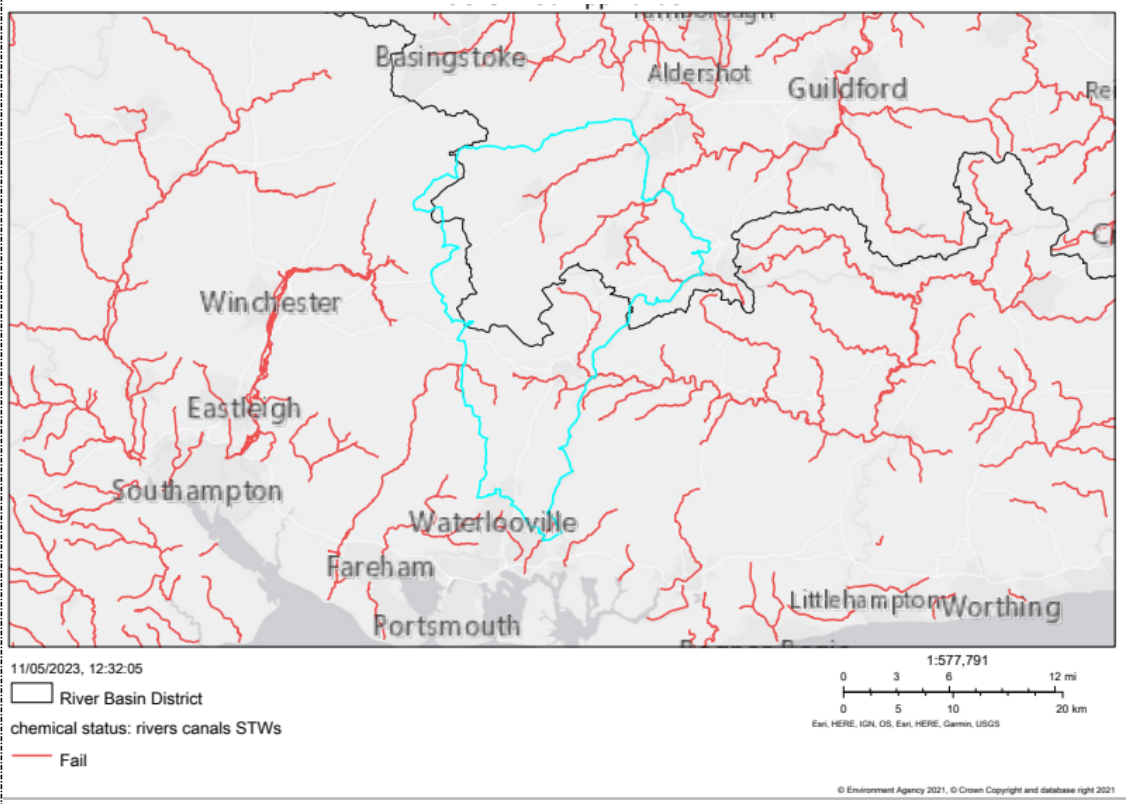


Figure 84: Quantitative status of groundwater in RBMP areas covering East Hampshire

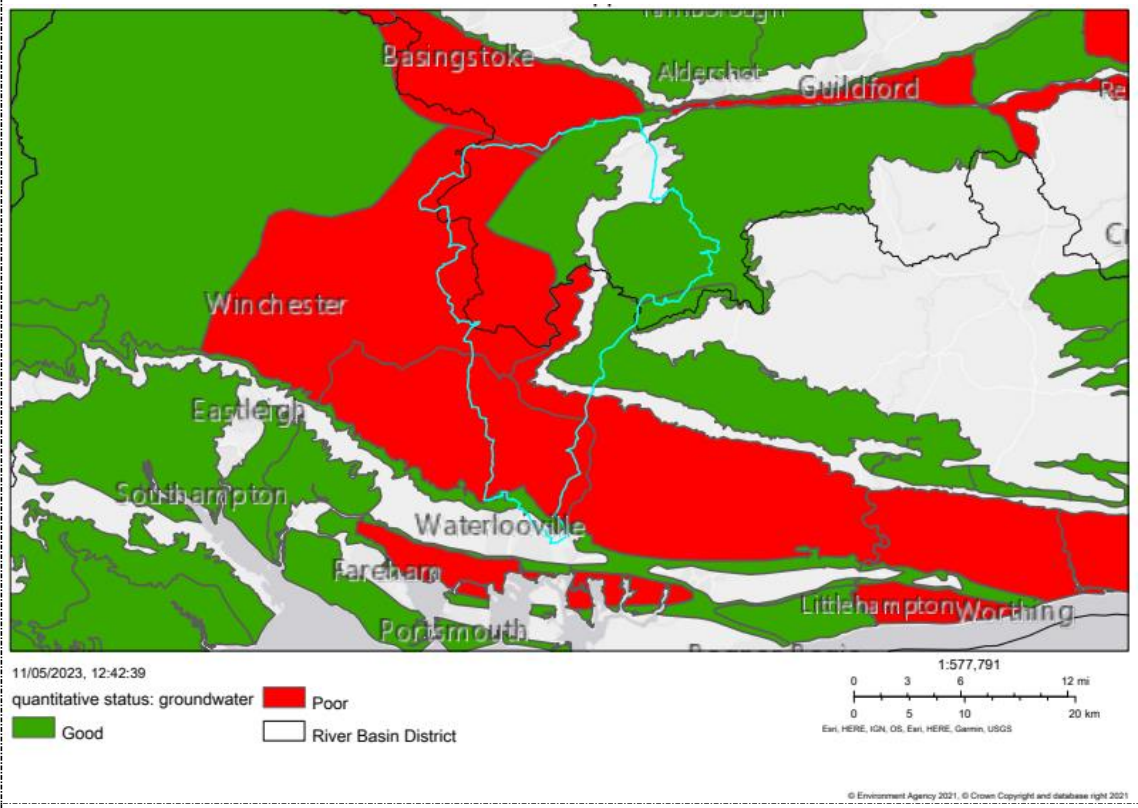
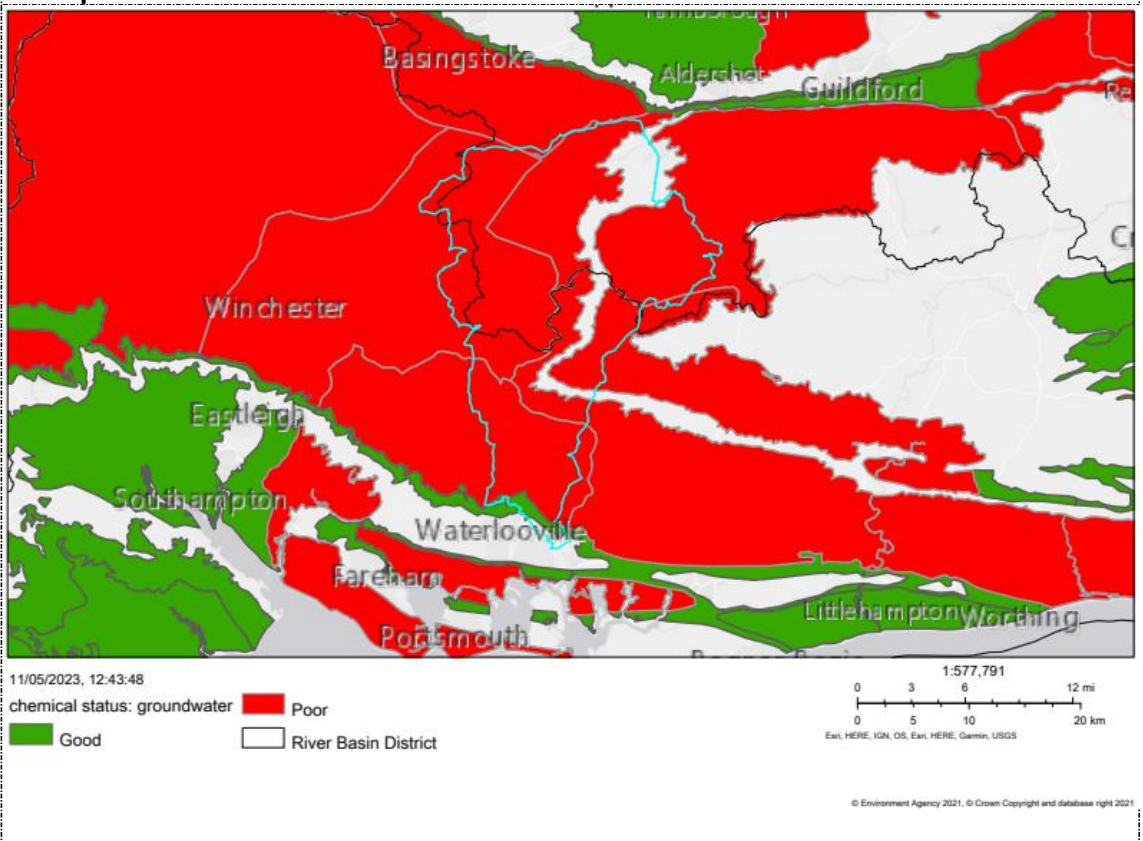


Figure 85: Chemical status of groundwater in RBMP areas covering East Hampshire



Sources for Figures 82-85: Environment Agency 2022

3.10.7. The East Hampshire SFRA 2022 highlights the key challenges and risks in the district:

- A considerable proportion of the East Hampshire planning authority (outside of the SDNP) is at risk from flooding from rivers, surface water and groundwater. Groundwater is the most significant risk to the planning authority area due to it not only being a direct cause of flooding but also contributes to fluvial and surface water flooding events.
- East Hampshire is working in partnership with statutory organisations (Environment Agency, Thames Water, Southern Water and British Geological Survey), Hampshire County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)) and neighbouring local authorities regarding strategic flooding. This is necessary as the catchments of the River Wey and River Lavant extend out of the district into neighbouring authorities.
- A proportion of East Hampshire is located in areas that have Medium or High probability of flooding from rivers i.e. in flood zones 2 and 3. The River Wey floodplain affects the north and east of the district including the towns of Alton, Whitehill & Bordon and surrounding villages. The Lavant Stream floodplain affects the south of the district, namely Rowlands Castle.
- There may be small areas within the River Wey floodplain that in a flooding event could become 'dry islands'. They are typically identified when an area of Flood Zone 1 or 2 is surrounded by Flood Zone 3, formed by the ground levels varying and "dry islands" being the higher ground. These areas should be taken into account when accessing flood risk.
- Results of hydraulic modelling of the main rivers indicates that impacts from climate change will not markedly increase the extent of river flooding within most of East Hampshire. However, these areas and those that are already at risk of flooding may be susceptible to more frequent and more severe flooding in the future. This is mainly related to climate change increasing the frequency and volume of rainfall, leading to increased risk and frequency of flooding. The detrimental impacts on properties from flooding can be managed and risk reduced by future development being designed with climate change and increased flooding events in mind.
- Groundwater flooding, which a significant risk in East Hampshire, can often cause or exacerbate surface water flooding. Rising levels of groundwater can often lead to reduced infiltration during times of flooding as well as overwhelming road drainage that would otherwise accommodate surface water flows. A combination of surface water and groundwater has the potential to cause extensive flooding within an area.
- Groundwater flooding in East Hampshire is generally related to three main mechanisms: rising water levels in superficial deposits e.g. river gravels; groundwater flooding and fluvial flooding interactions; and rising water levels in aquifers.
- East Hampshire's geology of extensive permeable chalk bedrock is also a key reason why groundwater poses a significant risk in East Hampshire.

3.10.8. Figure 86 describes the areas of the district that are most at risk of flooding from all possible flood risk sources.

Figure 86: Flood risks in East Hampshire

Flood risk source	Areas at principal risk
Fluvial	Alton, Whitehill & Bordon, Rowlands Castle
Surface	Alton, Whitehill & Bordon, Rowlands Castle
Sewers*	Whitehill & Bordon, Liphook
Groundwater	Alton, Whitehill & Bordon, Liphook, Rowlands Castle
Artificial sources	No significant urban area

*No data present for the south of the district from Southern Water
Source: East Hampshire SFRA 2022

3.10.9. Figure 87 displays the fluvial flood events that are documented in the SFRA (2022 edition) that have recently occurred in the district. The location is typically categorised in terms of the related catchment

Figure 87: Recorded major fluvial flood events in East Hampshire

Year	Location of flooding
1947	Extensive fluvial flooding
1954	Wey Northern Branch and Oakhanger Stream
1960	Wey Northern Branch
1968	Wey River system
1990	Wey River system
1996	Horndean
2020	North Wey valley from Holybourne to Farnham

Source: East Hampshire SFRA 2022

3.10.10. Figure 88 (next page) details historical surface water flooding in the district. Hampshire County Council provided this data to the SFRA 2022. Figures 89-91 (following pages) map areas of notable surface water flood risks within the district. These are parts of the district where relatively large or continuous areas of surface water flooding could occur with a 1% or 0.1% annual probability (i.e. likely once in 100 or once in a 1,000 years; NB: climate change is likely to lead to an increased risk of flooding).

Figure 88: Historical surface water flooding in East Hampshire

Date	Location	Description
17/01/2013	Lovedean	Surface water flooding of Lovedean Lane caused by blocked drainage system.
22/01/2014	Holybourne	Gardens flooded.
2013 / 2014	Chawton	Flooding caused by high groundwater levels, prolonged and heavy rainfall.
2019	Northbrook Park, Alton / Holybourne	Heavy rainfall and major flooding in the North Wey valley.
2020	Northbrook Park, Alton / Holybourne	Significant flooding following Storm Ciara and Dec 2019 floods resulting in: A31 from Bentley and Alton closed for 3 days; River Wey close to record levels; North Wey valley flooded from Holybourne to Farnham .

Source: East Hampshire SFRA 2022

Figure 89: Surface water flood risks in Rowlands Castle

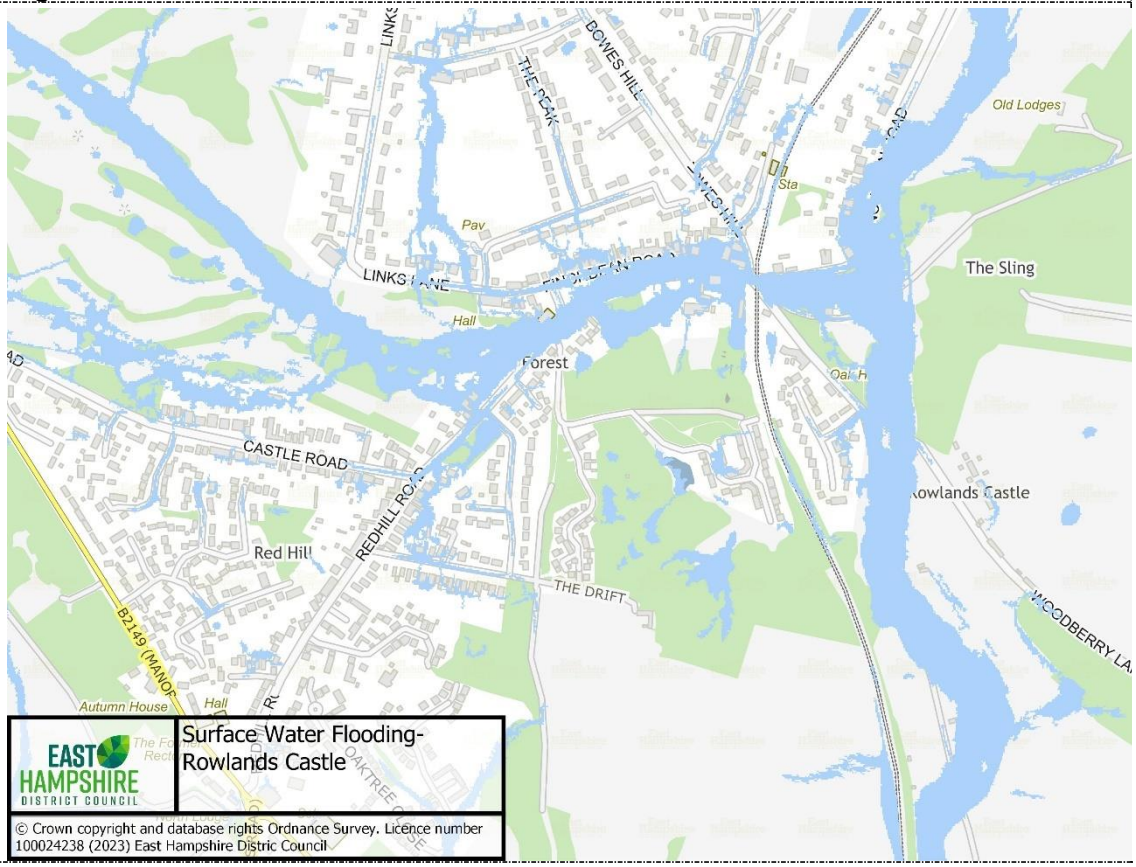


Figure 90: Surface water flood risks in Lovedean Lane

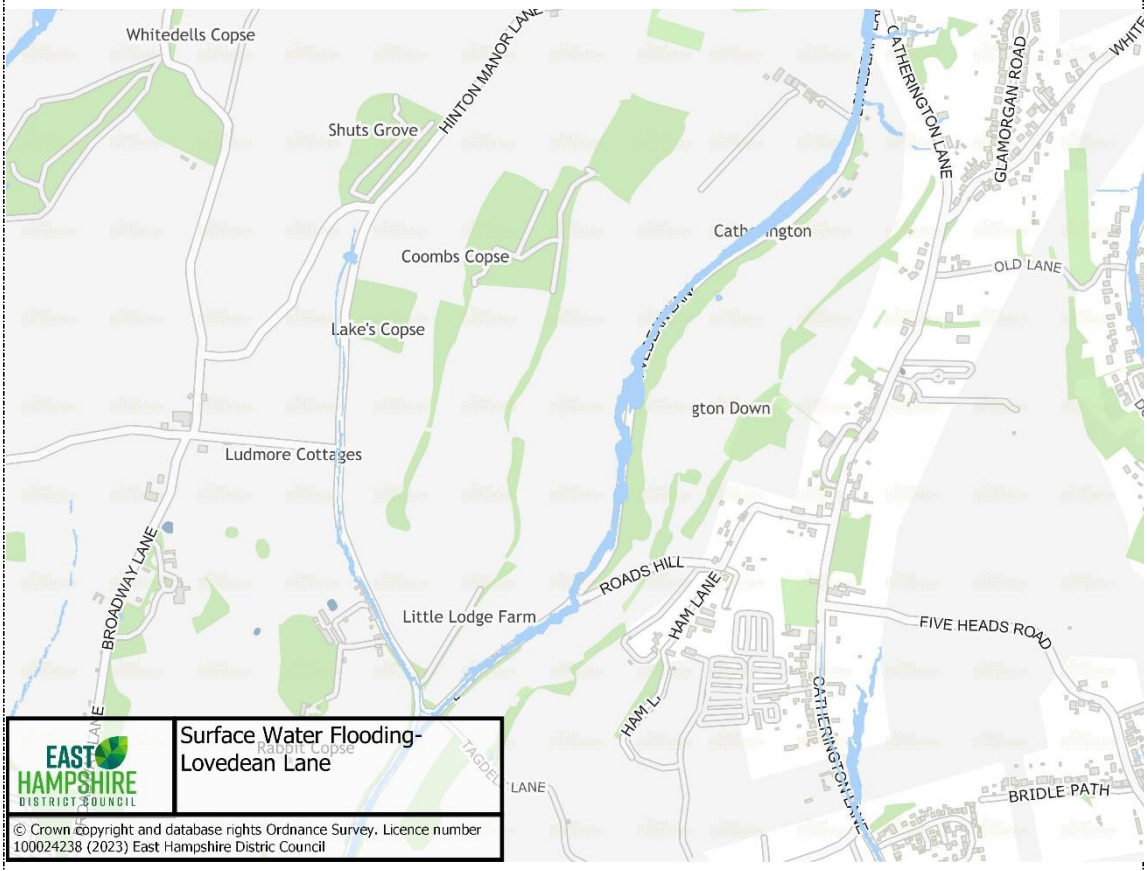


Figure 91: Surface water flood risks in Kingsley

Sources: East Hampshire SFRA 2022

3.10.11. Figure 92 details the records of groundwater flooding that has occurred in the district, sourced from the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council via the SFRA 2022. Groundwater flooding can often be confused with other sources of flooding and therefore not all groundwater flooding incidences may be reported.

Figure 92: Historical groundwater flooding in East Hampshire

Date	Location	Description
1995	Rowlands Castle	Higher rainfall in the winter of 1994 and 1995 caused ground water levels to increase, resulting in flooding causing damage to gardens and road closure. The source of flooding from the 1995event began in Finchdean within the SDNP Authority Area which also experienced flooding. Residents within the neighbouring villages of Finchdean and Deanlane End (located within the SDNP authority area) also experienced flooding during the 1994 event.
Apr 2000 – Mar 2021	Rowlands Castle	A prolonged period of rainfall exceptional caused the aquifers within Hampshire to become saturated, causing groundwater flooding around Hampshire. Significant flooding was experienced in the south of the district in the village of Rowlands Castle where a number of properties experienced internal and external flooding. Groundwater flooding also caused the sewer system and cesspits to surcharge. Access was also prevented to properties.
Jan 2001	Bordon	Water in the garden of the property.
Mar 2001	Whitehill	Water in the cellar.
July 2001	Bordon	Standing water in the garden.
2013 / 2014	Rowlands Castle	Prolonged rainfall and high groundwater levels including associated river flows caused flooding within Rowlands Castle and Finchdean (SDNPA).
2013 / 2014	Chawton	Flooding caused by high groundwater levels, prolonged and heavy rainfall.
2013 / 2014	Lower Faringdon	Experienced serious groundwater flooding, resulting in the A32 being closed for a considerable period. A social housing scheme was abandoned and demolished. HCC subsequently carried out flood alleviation schemes downstream.
2014	Alton	5 records of flooding in Alton with a mixture of internal, basement and garden flooding reported.
2019 / 2020	Northbrook Park near Alton / Holybourne	Significant flooding following Storm Ciara and Dec 2019 floods resulting in: A31 from Bentley and Alton closed for 3 days; River Wey close to record levels; North Wey valley flooded from Holybourne to Farnham.

Source: East Hampshire SFRA 2022

3.10.12. A large proportion of East Hampshire District Council's planning area is above a principal aquifer, with a significant amount of land located within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone. The district is highly dependent on groundwater resources for drinking water supplies, for baseflow to its rivers and to support local habitats. To the south of the district lie the Bedhampton and Havant springs, which supply water to over 200,000 people. These springs are reported to be the largest group of springs used in this way in Europe and are protected by a number of 'Source Protection Zones' (SPZs) in order to minimise any harm occurring to the groundwater. SPZs are identified depending on how the groundwater behaves in that area, and indicate the risk to groundwater supplies from potentially polluting activities and accidental releases of pollutants.

3.10.13. Groundwater Source Protection Zones[85] are separated into five categories: SPZ1, 1C, 2, 2C and 3. These zones are shown in Figure 93 and the designations are described below:

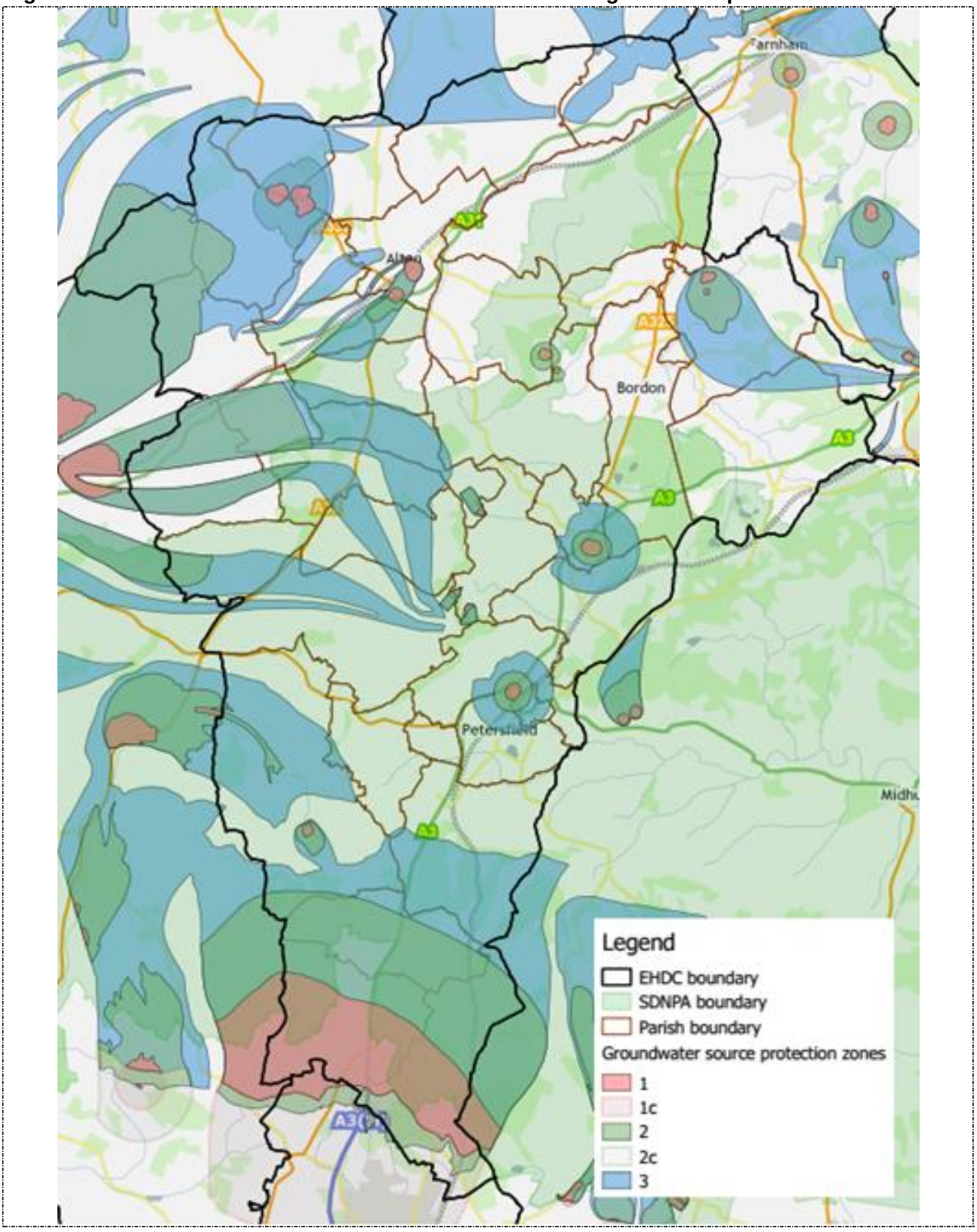
- SPZ1: Zone 1 is defined to reflect a 50-day travel time from any point below the water table to the groundwater source. It represents areas where groundwater, including drinking water supply, is at its greatest risk from potentially polluting activities.
- SPZ1C: Zone 1C represents areas where the Environment Agency may seek to limit or control 'subsurface activities' in relation to the 50-day travel time standard.
- SPZ2: Zone 2 is defined by a 400-day travel time from a point below the water table.
- SPZ2C: Zone 2C represents areas where the Environment Agency may seek to limit or control 'subsurface activities' in relation to the 50-day travel time.
- SPZ3: Zone 3 represents the total catchment of the groundwater source. It is defined as the area around a source within which all groundwater recharge is presumed to be discharged at the source.

3.10.14. Groundwater flood risks are shown throughout the district in Figures 94 -96. The following bullet points explain the information shown in Figures 94-96:

- Yellow Areas: Limited potential for groundwater flooding to occur
- Blue Areas: Potential for groundwater flooding of property situated below ground level
- Red Areas: Potential for groundwater flooding to occur at surface

[85] For more details, please see: Environment Agency, Groundwater Source Protection Zones, available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-principles-and-practice-gp3

Figure 93: Groundwater Source Protection Zones affecting East Hampshire



Source: Environment Agency, 2018

Figure 94: Groundwater flood risk in East Hampshire District Council north west area

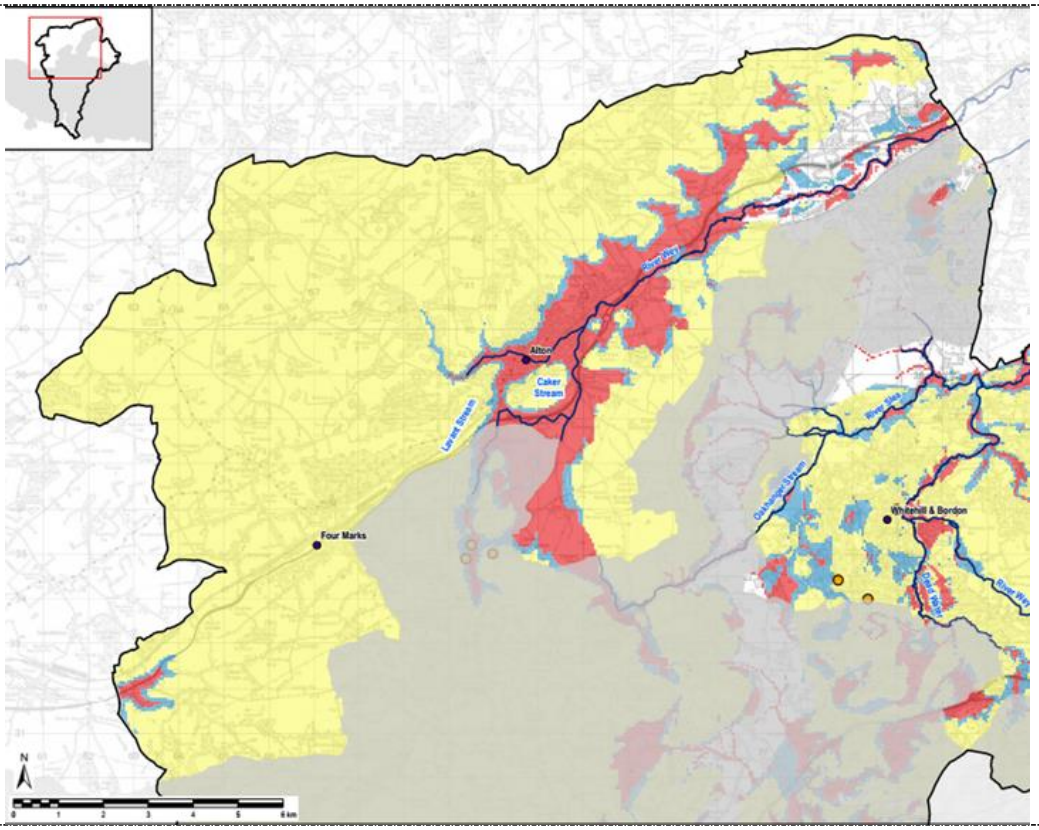


Figure 95: Groundwater flood risk in East Hampshire District Council north east area

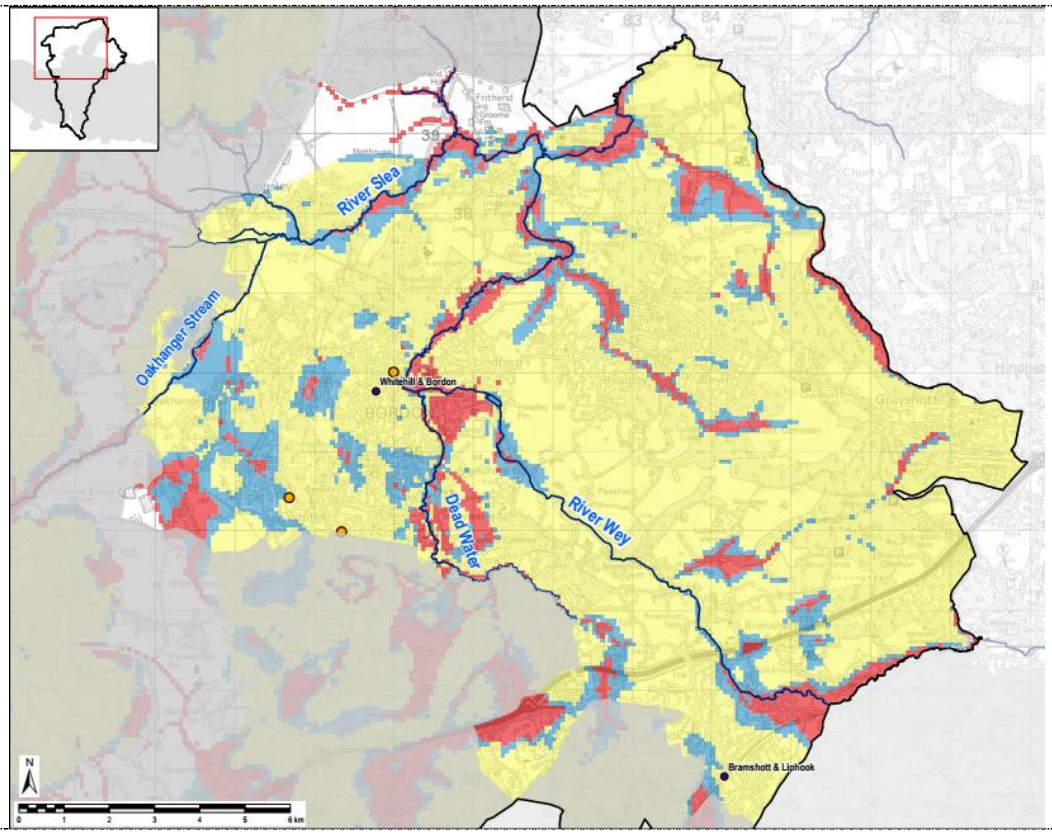
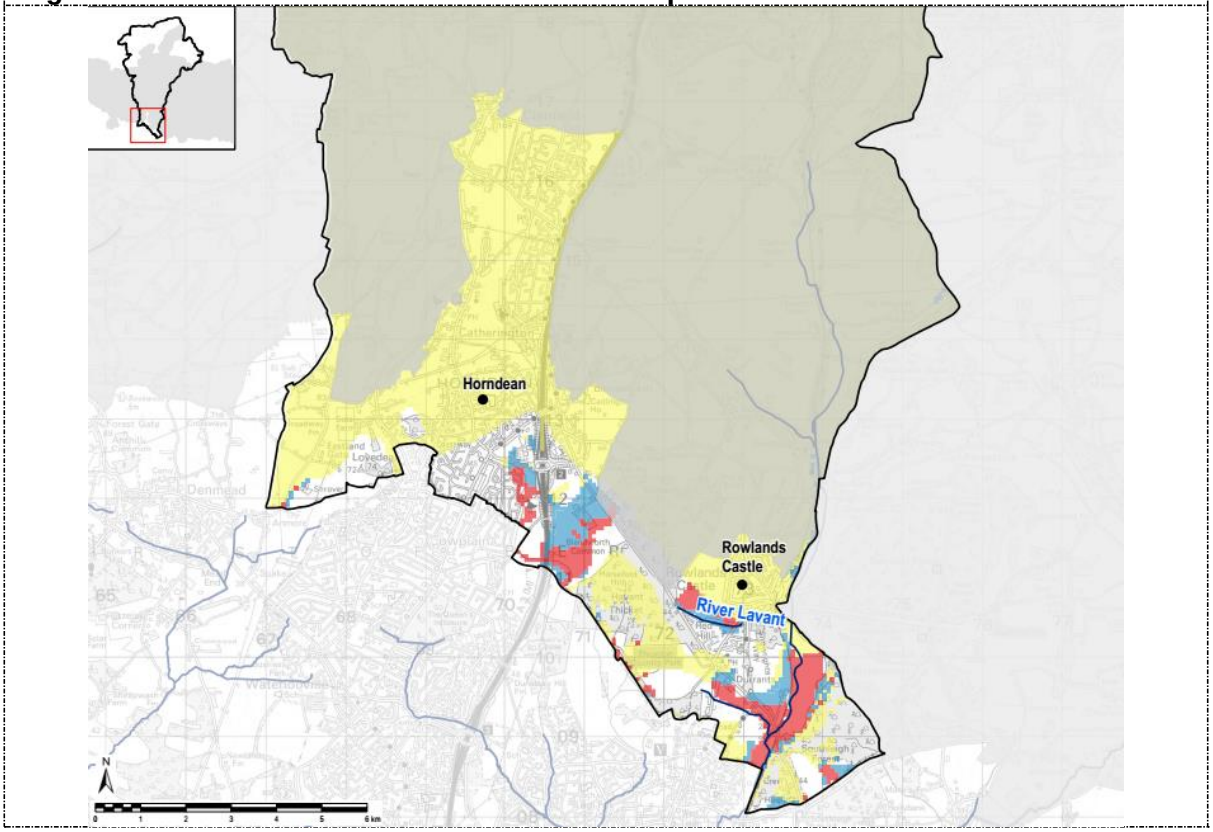


Figure 96: Groundwater flood risk in East Hampshire District Council southern area



Source: East Hampshire SFRA 2022, AECOM

3.10.15. An Integrated Water Management Study (IWMS) was produced by the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) in 2018 to assess any implications from planned growth in the Solent sub-region for the water resource and water quality environment. The IWMS highlighted (amongst other things) the need for physical upgrades to seven wastewater treatment works, to cope with current and future increases in volumes of sewage; physical upgrades to six sewer networks to cope with future requirements; and the potential need for the phasing of development in relation to some wastewater treatment works.

3.10.16. For East Hampshire, the IWMS notes that new development in the southern parishes (Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle) would drain to the Budds Farm (Havant) wastewater treatment works. Capacity upgrades at the wastewater treatment works may be required by 2040 and there is a risk of increased sewer network overflows, so improvements to infrastructure may be required. The catchment has nitrate problems and catchment-level nitrate measures are required now. Problems with levels of phosphorus have also been identified for the Itchen Catchment[86].

3.10.17. Treated wastewater can be a source of excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in the water environment. However, agriculture is typically responsible for a higher level of nutrients entering the water environment than

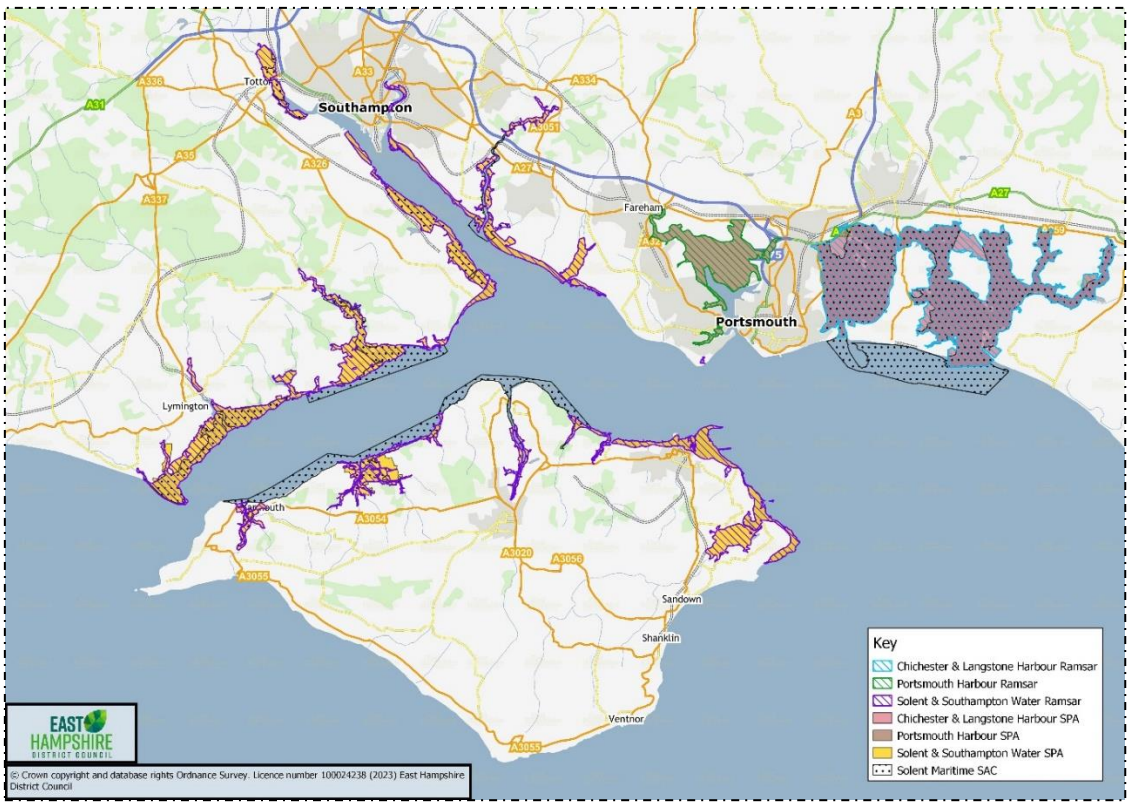
[86] The latest baseline position is described within East Hampshire District Council's position statement, which is available online at: https://www.easthants.gov.uk/planning-services/nutrient-neutrality-what-developers-need-know (accessed 05/2023)

new development. The southern parishes in East Hampshire District Council are served by Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works, whilst parts of Ropley, Medstead, Bentworth, Four Marks and Wield Parishes discharge into the catchment of the River Itchen. Both pathways into the local water environment ultimately affect the internationally designated sites of the Solent.

3.10.18. The impacts from new development would be most significant where they would threaten the specific features and conditions of the Solent's protected sites. The condition of these sites varies: none of them are fully favourable and many are not recovering. As such, any further deterioration of water quality is likely to have a significant adverse impact. Development draining to Budds Farm wastewater treatment works and any water body (surface or groundwater) draining into the River Itchen catchment would likely lead to a significant adverse effect on the following European Sites:

- Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA;
- Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar site;
- Solent Maritime SAC;
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA;
- Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar;
- Portsmouth Harbour SPA; and
- Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar.

Figure 97: Internationally designated biodiversity sites in the Solent



Source: Natural England

3.10.19. With regard to future water supply, Portsmouth Water supply homes and businesses in the southern part of East Hampshire, whilst South East Water supplies the northern parts of East Hampshire. Both areas are classified as "seriously water stressed". In southern areas, it is forecast that 40% less water will be available to Portsmouth Water by 2075[87]. The following key planned management targets have been stated by Portsmouth Water:

- The construction and filling of the new reservoir at Havant Thicket is aimed to be completed by 2029, which will enable Portsmouth Water to assist supply deficits that are estimated to affect other water supply areas (e.g. in many other areas of southern Hampshire, where water is supplied by Southern Water).
- Install smart water metres in most homes they supply.
- Support all to reduce wate usage to average of 119 litres per person per day by 2050 (currently 160 litres).
- Halve leaks on the network by 2050.
- Upgrade a water supply booster station in West Sussex by 2050 so that water can be moved more easily to areas of need.
- Increase resilience to reduce likelihood of emergency drought restrictions being implemented.
- Reduce the amount of water supplied to Southern Water customers by 2040 as their new water resources come online.
- Potentially receive water supplied from Southern Water by 2049 to reduce pressure on sourcing water from chalk streams.

3.10.20. South East Water is also an area of serious water stress. South East Water's 2019 Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) addresses the period from 2020 to 2080 and its main emphasis is to increase water efficiency and reduce leakages to save an additional 92.6 million litres of water a day. Additional future priorities for South East Water include:

- Construction of a new water treatment at the former Aylesford Newsprint site to provide an additional 18.2 million litres of water a day.
- Developing and improving an existing water treatment works site in Kent to provide an additional 8 million litres of water a day.
- Creating a new reservoir at Kent to generate an additional 19.6 million litres of water a day.
- Building a new reservoir in East Sussex by 2035 to provide an additional 16.1 million of litres a day.
- Developing a regional water transfer scheme from SES Water to provide 9 million litres of water a day by 2042.

[87] Portsmouth Water Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024, available online: Interactive-Document_FINAL.pdf (portsmouthwater.co.uk) (accessed 05/2023)

4. What are the key issues and objectives for the integrated impact assessment appraisal?

4.1.1. The following table (Figure 98) presents a summary of key sustainability issues and the related objectives for the IIA of the emerging Local Plan, informed by the context and baseline sections in this draft report. The key issues are grouped under the nine 'topic' headings that have been identified in the preceding chapters.

4.1.2. Appropriate indicators for evaluating the performance of reasonable alternatives to include the development strategy, potential development sites and development management policies for the emerging Local Plan will be identified. The availability of suitable GIS layers for each objective will determine whether these datasets can be used to for appraisal purposes. Judgements on the potential effects of reasonable alternatives on the baseline position (Section 3 above) will also be considered.

Figure 98: Summary of Key Issues & Objectives

Topic	Key issues	Key objective(s): new development should aim …
Biodiversity	Land use pressures have contributed to long-term declines in biodiversity. The district includes wildlife habitats of international and national importance. It includes a part of the South Downs National Park. The district's numerous protected and priority habitats are fragmented but there is recognised potential for increasing their connectivity and enhancing green infrastructure.	To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity across the East Hampshire planning area
Climate Emergency	Climate change continues to be an issue of international importance that requires reductions in the emission of greenhouse gases. EHDC has declared a climate emergency. Although emissions are falling, a "business as usual" approach is not sufficient to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050, as required by legislation. New development will need to facilitate a more sustainable lifestyle that generates far fewer carbon	To minimise carbon emissions and contribute to achieving net zero carbon emissions in the East Hampshire planning area To promote adaptation and resilience to climate change

Topic	Key issues	Key objective(s): new development should aim …
	emissions In the absence of a fully de-carbonised electricity grid, the projected increase in domestic electricity usage (+25% from 2025) is concerning in terms of its impact on greenhouse gas emissions Transport is one of the major producers of the districts' carbon dioxide emissions. Climate change projections indicate the potential for rising annual temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, including increased rainfall in the winter and reductions in the summer.	
Community and Wellbeing	The population of the district is projected to increase and to become older. The number of households is projected to increase. Some residents are likely to identify their day-to-day activities as being limited by health/disability. Relative deprivation is found in parts of Alton and Bordon. Overall, the district's population shows limited diversity in the protected characteristics of ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation Connectivity by footpaths and cycleways, between settlements and across rural areas, is variable across the district.	To promote accessibility and create well-integrated communities
Health	East Hampshire residents have higher-than-average life expectancy There have been increases in mental health illnesses (e.g.	To actively promote health and wellbeing across East Hampshire and create safe communities free from crime

Topic	Key issues	Key objective(s): new development should aim …
	depression) in recent years There are spatial inequalities in access to blue and green space, and in access to food	
Economy and Employment	East Hampshire forms part of the Enterprise M3 LEP area, relating to the economies of the M3 corridor. The Solent LEP area is also important as development in East Hampshire's southern parishes is strongly associated with Portsmouth. A large proportion of businesses in East Hampshire are micro or small businesses. A significant number of residents commute to other areas for work purposes. The data is indicative of a shortage of industrial space within the district, which is a limiting factor on growth. Long-term impacts from the COVID 19 pandemic are uncertain, but office vacancy rates increased during that period. Significant impacts to the district's economic structure and employment base (rather than job numbers) are projected to emerge over the longer term, as a consequence of increased automation, with potential job losses in manufacturing but job gains within the service sectors.	To strengthen the local economy and provide accessible jobs and skills development opportunities for local residents
Heritage	Listed structures are found across the district, but there are higher concentrations in older settlements such as Alton, Bentley, Bentworth and Upper and Lower Froyle. A relatively small proportion of the listed structures have been assessed and found to be at risk (30 of 785 assets outside of the South Downs National Park).	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage assets in the East Hampshire planning area

Topic	Key issues	Key objective(s): new development should aim …
	Conservation areas in East Hampshire contribute to both the local townscapes and landscapes.	
Housing	Additional land is likely to be required for the period beyond 2028, to meet East Hampshire's housing needs. There is a long-term trend of housing in East Hampshire becoming increasingly unaffordable. Home ownership is often unaffordable for those households without large deposits, but renting in the private rental market is more affordable The provision of new affordable housing in the district has been less than the estimated annual requirement	To provide good quality and sustainable housing for all
Landscape, Townscape and Resources	East Hampshire has a complex geology and high quality, varied landscapes, with central areas forming part of the South Downs National Park. A proportion of the district is classed as best and most versatile grade (1- Grade 3a) agricultural land. Threats to local landscapes include the lack of suitable land management and unsympathetic development, altering the historic form and character of settlements. There are mineral resources in the district, particularly in the northeast.	To conserve and enhance the character of the landscape and townscape To support efficient and the sustainable use of East Hampshire's natural resources
Water and Flood Risk	Many waterbodies require water quality improvements and have a poor ecological status. The northern parts of East	To achieve sustainable water resource management and protect and improve water quality in the East Hampshire

Topic	Key issues	Key objective(s): new development should aim …
	Hampshire are part of an area of serious water stress, where demand could eventually exceed supply, in the absence of interventions. There is some flood risk in areas close to watercourses and from groundwater sources.	planning area

4.1.3. For purposes of appraising the local plan and its reasonable alternatives, it is expedient to expand the above broad objectives, by expressing these as decision making criteria to allow application across the whole local plan whether this be assessment of the strategy or a proposed development site.

4.1.4 The following IIA Framework is proposed. This comprises the key objectives from Figure 98 above, together with a series of 'decision-making criteria', which provides a 'framework' for appraising the reasonable alternatives for the East Hampshire Local Plan 2021-2040. From each of these broad topic areas, 12 key assessment objectives have been derived to create a framework to assess the emerging local plan. Objective 12, relates to pollution, following the scoping workshop, it was deemed appropriate to define a stand-alone pollution objective given the importance of potential pollution effects:

Figure 99: SA/IIA Framework

IIA Objectives	Proposed decision-making criteria	Assessment regime[88]
1. To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity across the East Hampshire planning area	Protect and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests.	SA/SEA/HIA
	Increase habitat connectivity and enhance biodiversity in East Hampshire, including supporting the delivery of the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy	SA/SEA/HIA
	Achieve net gains in biodiversity, with new developments expected to secure 10% net gain	SA/SEA/HIA
	Contribute towards the maintenance and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure	SA/SEA/HIA

[88] For clarity this column indicates which element of the IIA is covered, by the corresponding objectives and decision-making criteria.

IIA Objectives	Proposed decision-making criteria	Assessment regime[88]
2. To minimise carbon emissions and contribute to achieving net zero carbon emissions in the East Hampshire planning area	Reduce regulated and unregulated greenhouse gas emissions associated with modern lifestyles as part of a much faster transition towards net zero emissions than "business as usual"	SA/SEA/HIA
	Prioritise sustainable modes of transport, including active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport	SA/SEA/HIA
	Increase and improve accessibility to services and facilities, particularly in rural areas	SA/SEA/HIA
	Reduce the need to travel by car, including through improved broadband provision and speed	SA/SEA/HIA
	Promote energy generation from renewable sources	SA/SEA/HIA
	Minimise energy consumption in new dwellings	SA/SEA/HIA
3. To promote adaptation and resilience to climate change	Ensure new developments are resilient and adaptable to the effects of climate change, including through the location, design and layout of new development	SA/SEA/HIA
	Avoid or reduce the risk of flooding for East Hampshire's population.	SA/SEA/HIA
4. To promote accessibility and create well-integrated communities	Help to meet the changing needs of an ageing and growing population	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Help to integrate new residents with existing communities through inclusive design principles	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Improve accessibility to built facilities and services, and to useable formal, natural and/or semi-natural open spaces, particularly in rural areas and the most deprived areas	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Ensure public facilities are accessibility enabled	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
5. To actively promote health and wellbeing across East	Increase access to open space by connecting to and creating areas of publicly accessible open space which connect into the wider green / blue infrastructure	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA

IIA Objectives	Proposed decision-making criteria	Assessment regime[88]
Hampshire and create safe communities free from crime	network, particularly in the most deprived areas	
	Support good accessibility to local food retail and medical facilities	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Support the physical and mental health of residents through the location and design of new development	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Help to tackle loneliness through socially inclusive design principles	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Minimise opportunities for criminal and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
6. To strengthen the local economy and provide accessible jobs and skills development opportunities for local residents	Provide additional opportunities for local employment and (access to) skills development, particularly in the most deprived areas	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Ensure a range of good quality employment sites are available to suit the needs of East Hampshire's businesses, particularly sites accommodating industrial floorspace and micro businesses	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Provide flexibly designed floorspace to support the needs of a range of economic sectors, given uncertainties over the potential impacts of AI	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Support agricultural jobs given the rural nature of the planning area	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Support the vitality and viability of existing and proposed town, local and neighbourhood centres	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
7. To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage assets in the East Hampshire planning area	Protect and enhance the significance and special interest of heritage assets and cultural heritage of East Hampshire and their contribution to local character.	SA/SEA
	Promote understanding, appreciation and care of, and access to, heritage assets.	SA/SEA
8. To provide good quality and sustainable	Ensure residents have the opportunity to live in homes that meet their needs, including for affordable housing	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA

IIA Objectives	Proposed decision-making criteria	Assessment regime[88]
housing for all	Ensure housing meets the needs of the population, including those of older residents and those with extra care requirements as well as other specialist provisions	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Provide a suitable housing mix and a range of tenure requirements	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Provide flexible and adaptable new homes	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
9. To conserve and enhance the character of the landscape and townscape	Maintain and enhance the character of East Hampshire's rural landscapes and its settlements	SA/SEA
	Respect the capacity of rural and edge-of-settlement landscapes to absorb new development	SA/SEA
	Protect and enhance the setting of the South Downs National Park and the Surrey Hills National Landscape	SA/SEA
10. To support efficient and the sustainable use of East Hampshire's natural resources	Use land efficiently and minimise the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land	SA/SEA
	Support sustainable water management, including minimising water consumption and supporting sustainable levels of abstraction	SA/SEA/HIA
	Minimise use of new materials and prioritise reuse and recycling of materials	SA/SEA/HIA
	Ensure extraction of mineral resources prior to development to avoid sterilisation of mineral resources	SA/SEA
11. To achieve sustainable water resource management and protect and improve water quality in the East Hampshire planning area	Avoid or reduce the risk of flooding for East Hampshire's population	SA/SEA/HIA
	Maintain and where possible improve water quality, and assist in meeting the requirements of River Basin Management Plans	SA/SEA/HIA
	Protect groundwater, especially in the most sensitive areas (i.e. source protection zones)	SA/SEA/HIA
12. To minimise air, noise and	Maintain and where possible improve air quality	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA

IIA Objectives	Proposed decision-making criteria	Assessment regime[88]
light pollution in the East Hampshire planning area	Limit contributions to noise pollution and reduce exposure to existing sources of pollution	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA
	Limit and reduce light pollution across the East Hampshire planning area	SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA