UE ASSOCIATES

Green Infrastructure Study for East Hampshire District Council

Draft Study: Final Version

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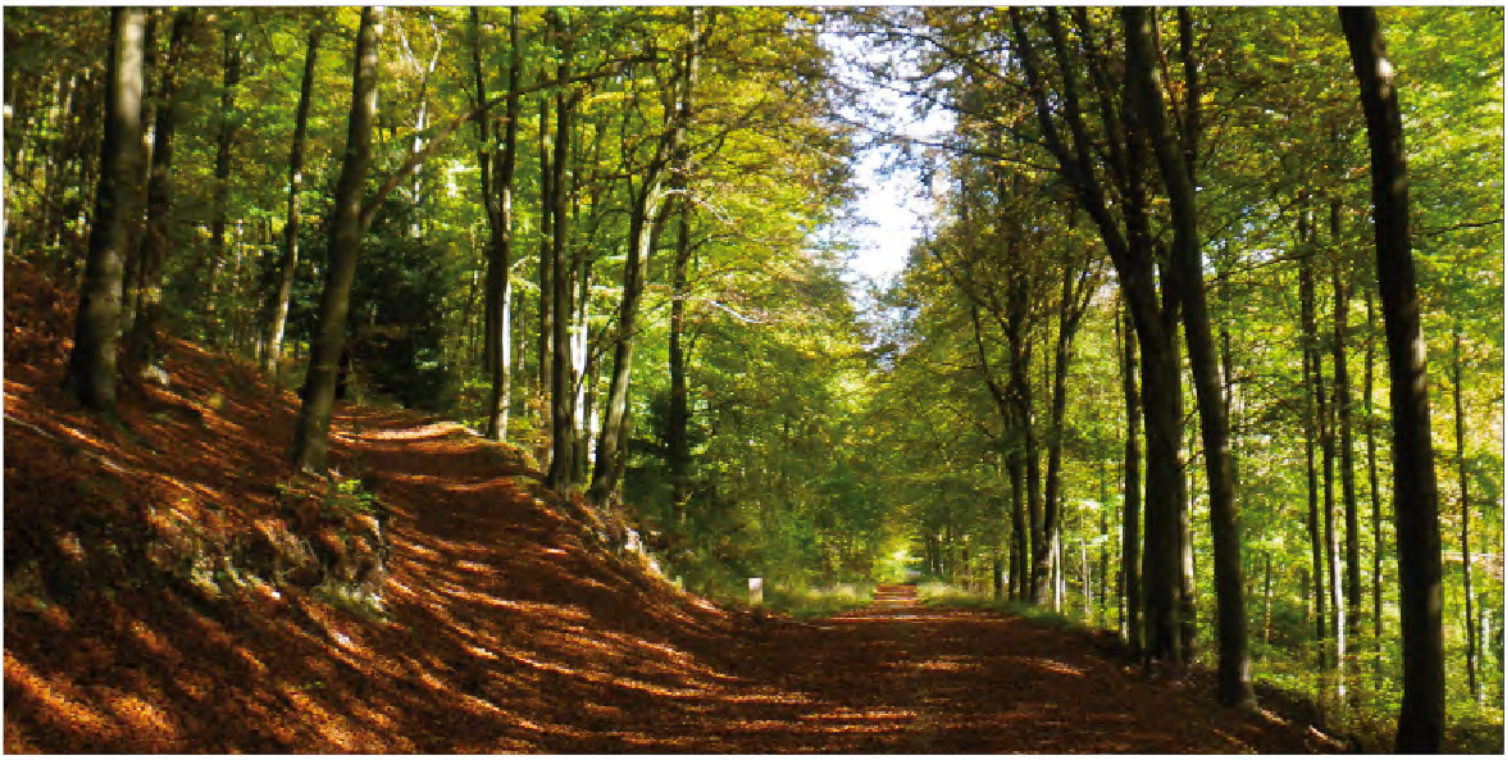

Green Infrastructure Study for East Hampshire District Council

This document should be referred to as:

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Contents

List of Tables, Figures and Maps

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- Neil Davidson (UE Associates)
- Helen Davies (UE Associates)
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The consultation exercise conducted between January and March 2011 yielded positive and constructive responses for which the authors are grateful. We trust that consultees will be able to recognise that most comments have been incorporated into this final version. Consultees included stakeholder groups, environmental professionals, local authorities, town and parish councils. Details of the Stakeholder Focus Groups can be found in **Appendix A**.

Executive Summary

E.1 Introduction

E1.1 This Study has been prepared in order to support the sustainable development of communities, towns and villages throughout East Hampshire and that part of the South Downs National Park which passes through East Hampshire. It is an essential part of the evidence to support the joint East Hampshire/South Downs National Park (SDNP) Authority Core Strategy. Green infrastructure (GI) planning is a new and important means of ensuring that the green spaces and habitats which can be found close to where people live and work, are recognised as key features of day to day life. Long term planning and management are key characteristics of a strong green infrastructure network.

E1.2 Green infrastructure is the network of green space and natural elements between and within cities, towns and villages. It includes open space, waterways, gardens, woodlands, green corridors, wildlife habitats, street trees and natural heritage. Planning Policy Statement 12, Local Development Frameworks, recognises the importance of sound green infrastructure planning.

E1.3 Green infrastructure provides various functions and benefits at the places where people live and work. Benefits include strong physical health, mental well being, economic advantage, sustainable drainage and flood management, climate change adaptation and biodiversity gain. It provides people with opportunities to keep fit, and benefit from contact with nature. Strong green infrastructure networks are characterised by multifunctionality and connectivity.

E.2 About the Study

E2.1 The aim of this Study is to identify opportunities for strengthening the green infrastructure (GI) network and to mitigate any potential adverse effects that may be affecting the way in which the network currently functions to provide benefits to local residents and workers. In preparing this Study, we have expressly sought to identify the GI network at a number of the district's principal settlements, recognise the services it currently provides and establish a framework for delivering a series of interventions and actions to strengthen and enhance the network. The Study has been deliberately written with the needs of the Core Strategy in mind.

E2.2 The Study has identified a wide range of benefits that are provided by the green infrastructure that is present amongst the market towns, villages and smaller settlements in the district. In order to recognise the potential multiple benefits of green infrastructure, a comprehensive review of baseline environmental, social and economic data has been undertaken. Similarly, an in depth review of relevant plans and programmes has taken place. At the start of the project, three focus groups were held with a wide range of

external partners to help inform the direction of the Study and gain local views and perspectives from practising professionals involved with green infrastructure in the district and beyond its boundaries.

E2.3 The Study has used a carefully crafted GI Framework, created by drawing together the information gathered through the baseline review. The Framework consists of 8 themes and 16 objectives. It acts as a guide to planning green infrastructure, helping to ensure that proposals within different settlements are going to support existing green infrastructure. The network will be achieved by a combination of protection, enhancement, restoration and where necessary, the creation of new assets.

E2.4 The Study has concentrated on the settlements identified in the Preferred Policies Core Strategy (November, 2009). These are most likely to be experiencing pressure for growth, and therefore increased demands for green infrastructure provision as the Core Strategy and its associated plans are rolled out. For each settlement, recommendations and suggestions have been made to protect, enhance, restore or create the GI network at each location. A separate green infrastructure planning preparation process is being undertaken in connection with the Whitehill Bordon Eco-town.

E2.5 Settlements included are: Alton, Petersfield, Liphook, Horndean, Clanfield, Four Marks/South Medstead, Grayshott, Liss, and Rowlands Castle. The Study has identified the four district Community Forums as suitable organisational structures to consider the GI recommendations, decide on priorities and select the best means of delivering the various initiatives. This is due to the fact that they represent a wide range of interests and groups.

E2.6 The Study has drawn on a range of secondary objective and subjective information, the limitations of which are cited in the report. Working with available data and stakeholder opinion, the recommendations need further consideration at the local level.

E2.7 The Study is targeted at planning policy makers, development control planners, the community, developers, and land managers. The purpose of the Study is to enable engagement with local communities and help to facilitate sustainable development associated with the Core Strategy. Local communities have an important role to play in the next steps of the process. The suggestions and recommendations from this Study require careful consideration as to how they might be achieved locally. Indeed, the first challenge is to judge whether or not these are the right recommendations and how issues associated with data gaps or the quality of data might need to be overcome.

E2.8 The Study's recommendations will need ratification, refinement and positive support at the local level for it to succeed. It should be recognised that the Study is therefore the first step towards comprehensive green infrastructure planning and creation of a robust network of green infrastructure across the district.

Local green infrastructure planning

E3.1 Besides providing evidence for the Core Strategy, the Study has recommended that Community Forums, and therefore by association the district's Parish and Town Councils,

be introduced to the process of preparing green infrastructure plans at the local level. This Study suggests that Community Forums provide a means of verification and ratification for the Study's proposals. In this way, local views and distinctiveness can be further achieved. The Forums can establish their own vision for green infrastructure and establish the local green infrastructure network firmly in the minds of local people and plan for a sustainable future. In the first instance, by using this Study, the Forums can begin the next steps of green infrastructure planning.

Findings and Recommendations

E4.1 This study has made several recommendations in the form of target notes for the main settlements and strategic recommendations for across the district. A total of 78 individual projects have been recommended at the settlement scale with 17 overall strategic projects recommended at the district scale.

E4.2 In addition, five further key recommendations have been suggested which should be considered in order to take this study further as the basis for green infrastructure planning in the district. A summary of all recommendations can be found in **Table 15.3**. All recommendations are designed to facilitate green infrastructure interventions in order to ensure and maintain a high quality network, whilst providing guidance and direction for future green infrastructure planning.

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1 Introduction to Green Infrastructure

1.1 The requirement for a Green Infrastructure Study

1.1.1 As part of the information and evidence to support the preparation and creation of its Core Strategy, and Local Development Framework, East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) appointed UE Associates to prepare this Green Infrastructure (GI) Study. The Study has been written to ensure that future land development facilitates multi-functionality and connectivity of green space in line with the intentions of the Core Strategy and the principles of sustainable development (UK Government, 2005). The Study has drawn on Natural England's GI Guidance for the South East (Natural England, 2009) to help guide preparation.

1.1.2 Green infrastructure planning represents a way of increasing and enhancing semi-natural features and greenspaces, including rivers and lakes, such that spatial planning can maximise cost effective service provision as opposed to using hard man-made "grey" infrastructure as a first choice to support development. These economic efficiencies can be used to support and enhance the quality of places (including residential and employment sites), access to open air recreation, biodiversity gain, landscape enhancements, sustainable drainage and flood management and health benefits. Effective GI is organised through a carefully planned spatial network of interconnected and integrated features. The extent to which a particular piece of green infrastructure can provide different services defines its multifunctionality.

1.1.3 This Study has expressly sought to identify the GI network at a number of the district's principal settlements, recognise the services it currently provides and establish a framework for delivering a series of interventions and actions to strengthen and enhance the network. The Study has been deliberately written with the needs of the Core Strategy in mind.

1.2 Definition of green infrastructure

1.2.1 Planning Policy Statement 12 (Local Development Frameworks) defines green infrastructure as a "network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities".

1.2.2 Green infrastructure is a cornerstone of spatial planning that is essential to provide wide-ranging benefits to various sectors through the use of "green" and semi-natural features. Careful planning of GI delivers social, economic and environmental benefits that can be derived in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. Natural England's Framework for GI for the South East (2009) identifies seven key functions of GI:

1. Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including the need to mitigate the potential impacts of new development;

2. Creating a sense of place and opportunities for greater appreciation of valuable landscapes and cultural heritage;
3. Increasing recreational opportunities, including access to and enjoyment of the countryside and supporting healthy living;
4. Improved water resource and flood management and sustainable design;
5. Making a positive contribution to combating climate change through adaptation and mitigation of impacts;
6. Sustainable transport, education and crime reduction; and
7. Production of food, fibre and fuel.

1.2.3 **Table 1.1** provides a typology listing for the different types of GI which can be found in East Hampshire. For convenience these have been grouped under categories. The categories have been derived from Natural England's (2009) GI Guidance for the South East (which in turn stem from Planning Policy Guidance for open space, sport and recreation, PPG17). For further examples of green infrastructure guidance please see the comprehensive collection of references presented at the back of this document.

1.3 The proposed GI vision for East Hampshire

1.3.1 The proposed vision for the East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Study is characterised by:

- Appreciation of the important roles played by the diverse green spaces and wider countryside features in providing a distinctive sense of place and high quality natural environment of rolling downs, ancient hanger woodland, river networks and farmland; and attractive built environments with a range of parks, allotments, street trees and space to play;
- The opportunity to create more green spaces for open air recreation and landscape enhancement as part of ongoing sustainable development in the district's settlements, including as supported by developer contributions;
- Expansion of the network of allotments and access to allotments;
- Protection of the centrepieces of the GI network at a settlement and district-wide scale such as the network of ancient woodland and park sites like the Heath in Petersfield;
- Restoration of habitats including heathland, water meadows and chalk downland where land use opportunities are appropriate. Environmental Stewardship is one means of achieving this. Other opportunities exist via developer contributions, National Park initiatives and through forums for best practice promoted nationally and local by organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and IEEM;
- Protection of a strong network of footpaths, cycle routes and horse riding opportunities which interconnect throughout settlements and integrate with the various long distance footpaths that cross the district;
- Partnership working with local towns and parishes as well as adjacent districts and boroughs to facilitate cross boundary working with shared values and joint initiatives for enhancing the wider green infrastructure network;
- Maximisation of the multifunctional uses that are possible within different features of the GI network such as green corridors, woodlands and larger GI

assets such as the Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Forestry Commission sites;

- Recognition of the district's distinctive rivers and open water, promoting natural corridor features and enhancing the wider river corridors; and
- Adaptation to the effects of climate change with robust GI networks that help retain water following heavy rain showers and storm events and mitigation of the effects of increased temperatures in the market towns and villages through enhanced street tree provision.

Table 1.1: *Different types of green infrastructure and their functions*

Functionality	Sub-type
Parks and gardens Encompasses large scale composite GI features such as country parks or smaller parcels of land which when clustered together provide a significant GI asset. Parks and Gardens feature high levels of multifunctionality delivering a wide range of benefits. Large parks form the cornerstone of many sub-regional GI networks. Optimum location is near towns and other residential areas.	Country Parks Registered parks and gardens Formal gardens
Semi-natural urban greenspaces Nearly all habitats found in towns are semi-natural having been modified in someway by man and managed so that the ecosystem in question is under control. In highly urbanised circumstances semi-natural habitats are often at a premium. Accessible natural greenspace is a good multifunctional asset that adds to the diversity of a GI network. It is important that habitats are inter-connected and maintained at a high and stable quality. GI can help protect, enhance, restore and create habitats which in turn provide benefits for people, business and nature. Land use designations relating to biodiversity include non-statutory and statutory sites such as SINCs, LNRs, SSSIs, NNRs and European sites of nature conservation interest.	Woodands and scrub Heathland Grasslands; downlands, commons and meadows Wetlands, open and running water Wastelands and derelict land Countryside in urban fringe areas Cliffs, quarries and pits
Green and blue corridors Like most GI features, green corridors can be found at a range of scales and sizes. This affects the extent to which they deliver multifunctionality. They link the network and enable transfer of people and nature across and throughout settlements. Increased levels of isolation cause genetic limitations, and the ability for biodiversity to disperse and colonise can be limited by isolation. Well-connected access routes will encourage people to use active travel options. Blue corridors include rivers, streams, overland flow paths, surface water ponding areas, watercourse buffer areas and multi-use flood storage areas.	River and canal banks; towpaths Rivers and Canals Cycleways and greenways Footpaths and Bridleways White roads and byways open to all traffic Hedgerows and ditches Motorway and road verges Railway embankments

Functionality	Sub-type
Outdoor sports facilities This GI typology provides the important benefit of structured outdoor recreation and exercise. Playing surfaces can be natural or manmade; natural surfaces offer greater multifunctionality of GI. Not all outdoor sports facilities provide open access to everybody. For example, school playing fields have the extra benefit of physical education, but are usually only used by school children. The same is true of certain sports venues such as tennis and rugby clubs. Informal greenspace enables opportunities for outdoor activities focused on sport, play and general fitness. Smaller parcels of GI in this category include young children's play areas, skateparks, basketball courts and other openspace provision for teenagers. To deliver multifunctional benefits, these typologies should be free draining and avoid hard non-porous surfaces that exacerbate storm flow conditions. Access is an important consideration when reviewing this resource; formal and informal outdoor recreation opportunities should be balanced. Indirect benefits include water retention and natural drainage, landscape enhancements and opportunities for communities to socialise. Trees make an important contribution to certain types of formal and informal recreation areas and associated activities by providing landscape, biodiversity and shading benefits. Benefits to health and economy should also be recognised.	Golf courses Tennis courts Bowling greens Sports pitches Athletics tracks School playing fields Children's play areas Recreation grounds Teenage open space provision Exotic and native specimen trees and copses; veteran trees Other outdoor areas: skateparks and basketball Fitness trails
Amenity greenspace Amenity greenspace is found commonly, but not exclusively, in housing areas. It tends to be informal areas that enable communities to meet, enjoy the fresh air and for children to play in unstructured surroundings.	Informal recreation spaces Domestic gardens Village greens Street trees and copses Doorstep greens Pocket parks
Community assets Community assets include those types of GI that have strong social and cultural significance. They all involve service provision to local communities and provide structured outdoor meeting places. In the context of place, Historic and cultural aspects often provide the spatial context for several GI community assets.	Churchyards and cemeteries Allotments Community gardens and woodlands Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas
GI design features The built environment can include a range of design features that draw on natural processes and aim to complement or mimic natural processes that would take place in semi-natural habitats. Benefits of this types of GI relate	Green roofs and walls SUDs Swales

Functionality	Sub-type
strongly to sustainable drainage and enhancing habitat connectivity across areas that are lacking in habitat diversity.	Street trees

1.4 Preparing the Study

1.4.1 The Study preparation process has followed clear sequential steps, which have identified the suite of actions and projects proposed for each of the nine settlements. These steps are summarised below.

1. **Baseline**: Baseline information has been collected, collated and analysed to understand the existing resource, current service provision through existing green infrastructure, as well as any deficiencies based on need. This is presented in map format as well as text. The baseline review also includes a consideration of prevailing policy factors that may affect the GI baseline. The baseline process has been augmented by the use of external Focus Groups to discuss baseline issues, GI opportunities and challenges.

2. **GI Framework:** The baseline review has been used to inform and develop a GI Framework. The proposed Framework is intended to guide the way in which GI is to be protected, enhanced, restored or created to provide strong levels of multifuntionality and a well-connected network of green infrastructure features.

3. **Designing Local GI Networks:** Each of the nine settlements has been analysed in terms of GI asset types and a map of the existing network has been drawn up. The GI Framework and typology index (see **Table 1.1**) has then been used as a guide to protect, enhance, restore and recreate the network to maximise benefits and address the needs of each settlement.

4. **Planning Delivery:** The Study is the starting point for a long term initiative to plan for green infrastructure in the district and beyond into neighbouring districts where appropriate. It has not included a detailed action plan, however it has sought to provide information and direction to support the next steps of its evolutionary path.

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2 Planning Green Infrastructure in East Hampshire

2.1 Focus on local planning

2.1.1 This GI Study has been developed as a means of grappling with a complex and challenging task. It begins a long term evolutionary process that will be informed at the local level and delivered through a range of inclusive and innovative partnerships, involving public and private initiatives. GI relates to many different aspects of the policies in the Core Strategy.

2.1.2 Green infrastructure planning can be applied at a range of different scales from the regional to the very local, project level. In electing to prepare a local level study, recommendations have been made for activity at a strategic (district-wide) and settlement scale.

2.1.3 To ensure the Study translates into success, it should be embedded in the local planning process and be explicitly defined as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). It has been specifically designed to engage with local communities who can help shape the document. It is to be used by developers and planners when preparing new development associated with the Core Strategy and LDF. Outputs from the Study will be defined by inputs and ownership of projects at the local level.

2.1.4 The next iteration of the Core Strategy (Pre-Submission Version), due for publication later in 2011, is likely to include the following policy or something very similar:

Draft Core Strategy policy on Green Infrastructure (in press)

Development will only be permitted which maintains, manages and enhances the network of new and existing green infrastructure, taking forward the objectives presented in the district's Green Infrastructure Strategy, the South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, the avoidance and mitigation measures set out in the Core Strategy's Habitats Regulations Assessment and working alongside relevant core strategy policies such as landscape, biodiversity, flood risk and design. New green infrastructure should be provided either through on site provision or financial contributions. The size of contribution would be linked to the size of the development and should be located as close to the development it is intended to serve.

2.2 Whitehill Bordon Eco-town

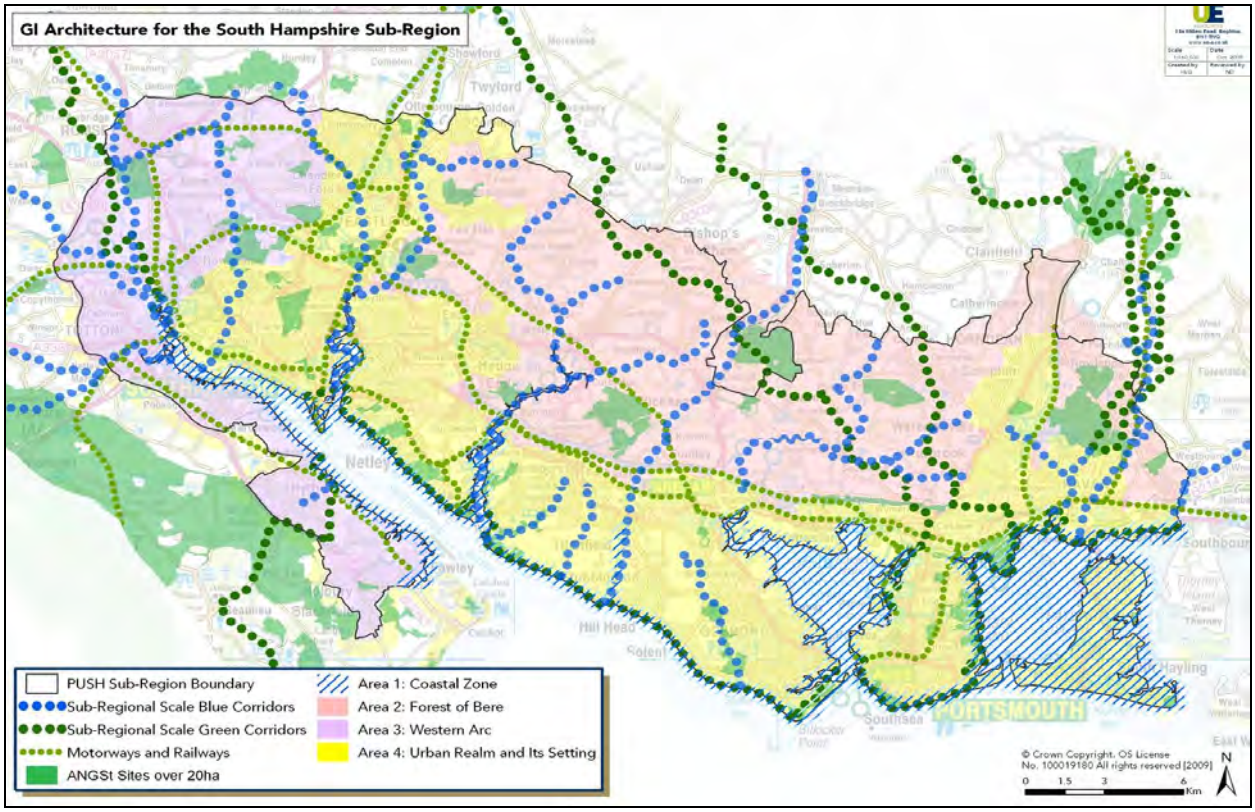
2.2.1 It should be noted that the Whitehill Bordon Eco-town is preparing a separate green infrastructure strategy, together with carefully masterplanned proposals as part of the ongoing Eco-town development. Therefore, Bordon is not included as part of the settlement analysis contained in this GI Study for East Hampshire. However, it is essential

that both initiatives link together and are not considered in isolation of each other. Almost all aspects of green infrastructure benefits are relevant to integrated working between the two projects and include for example enhanced connectivity for access, woodlands, green and blue corridors; landscaping; sustainable transportation; and woodfuel.

2.3 PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy

2.3.1 The PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy was prepared by UE Associates and was adopted in June 2010. The strategy is now being carried forward by the Partnership under the governance of the Sustainability and Community Delivery Panel.

2.3.2 The purpose of the strategy is to identify existing green infrastructure (GI), consider which enhancements or introductions should be made, and to recommend how the strategy might be delivered. The guiding principles for green infrastructure embrace connectivity and multifunctionality to create a robust network of green spaces to address identified deficits and needs. The strategy has eight themes as illustrated in **Table 2.1** with supporting objectives.



Map 2.1: *Distribution of GI zones reproduced from the PUSH GI Strategy*

2.3.3 The strategy identifies an architecture of four geographic zones with common characteristics (see **Map 2.1**). It recommends five strategic subregional initiatives which are underpinned with forty six projects each of which are allocated across the four GI zones (see **Map 2.2**). Those projects that are in or near to East Hampshire are discussed in the context of the settlements of Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle (see **Chapters 7, 10** and **14**). These projects are relevant to cross-boundary working (see **Table 15.1** and **Map 3.1.**

Table 2.1: *The PUSH Green Infrastructure Framework*

THEME I: Sustainable economic development, attractive workplaces and desirable tourist destinations
THEME II: Maximising biodiversity opportunities, adapting to change and protecting European sites
THEME III: Landscape quality and diversity, distinctive features, cultural heritage and appreciation of sense of place
THEME IV: Access to the countryside and green spaces, providing recreational opportunities and experiences
THEME V: Providing high quality water resources, managing flood risk and increasing water retention
THEME VI: Climate change adaptation and mitigation
THEME VII: Food, fibre and fuel production
THEME VIII: Well being and health

2.3.4 Strategic initiatives which are relevant to East Hampshire include: (1) The Green Grid, (2) The Forest of Bere Land Management Initiative, (3) Country Parks and Woodlands and (4) Greener Urban Design. The PUSH Strategy maps these initiatives. **Map 2.2** provides an extract of how the spatial coverage of the initiatives relates to East Hampshire.

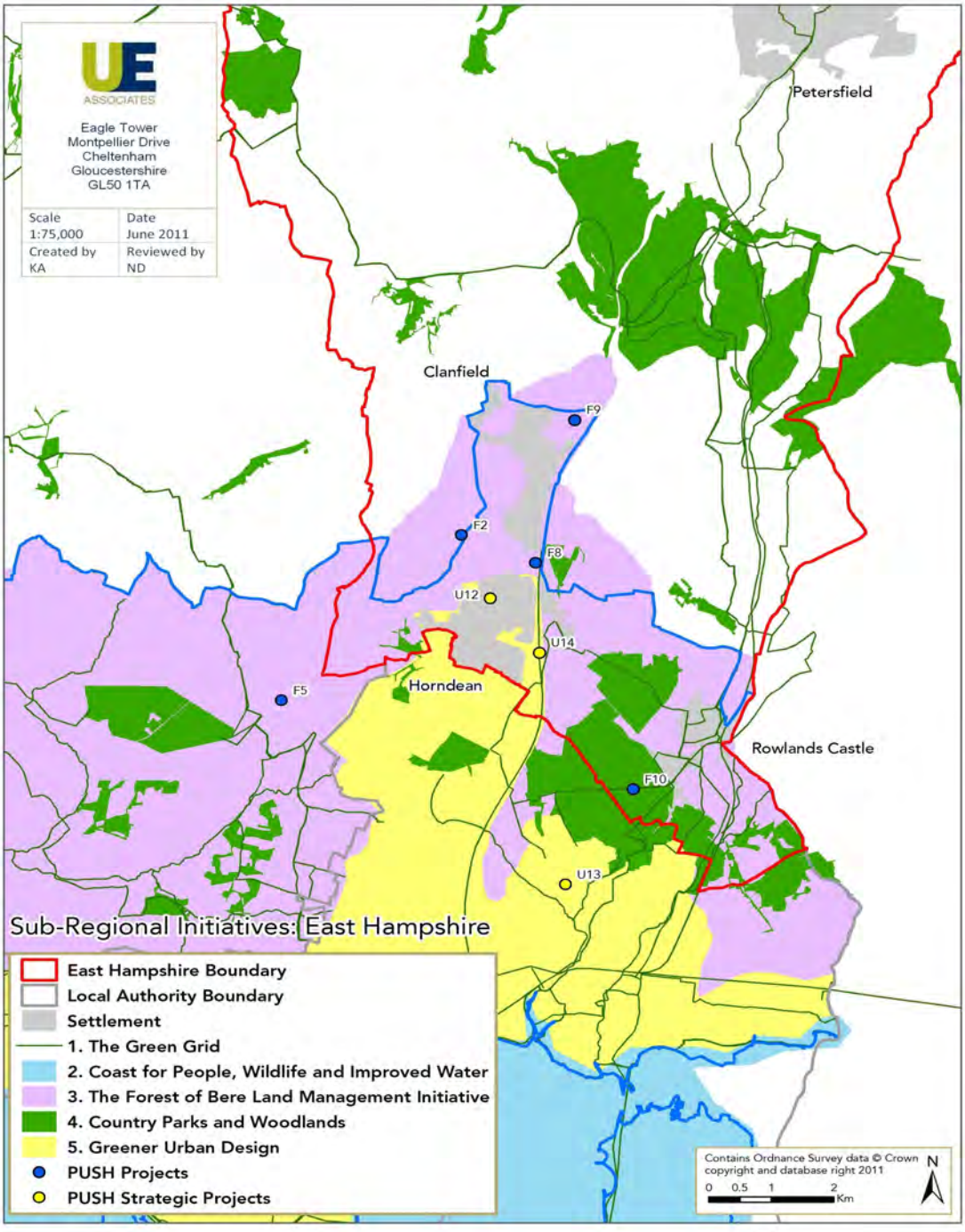
2.3.5 The proposed projects are intended to provide the necessary enhancements to, and introductions of, new green infrastructure across the sub-region. Some of the projects are already in existence in one form or another and already have natural "champions". For example, the Environment Agency are progressing various river restoration initiatives. The purpose of the PUSH GI Strategy is to harness existing work to enable quick wins. Secondly, and more importantly, it raises awareness of green infrastructure and establishes a structured standalone approach to delivery.

2.3.6 The strategy warns that this approach must be integrated and capable of delivering a holistic green infrastructure which facilitates the planned changes, and growth, of the sub-region. None of the projects identify a "champion or sponsor" for each project (unless there is already one in place) as these details should be considered once projects have been agreed and the strategic delivery mechanism for the strategy has been established. With the progression of core strategies in the sub-region, this task is to be shared through an integration of approaches which unites the local and sub-regional level planning.

2.3.7 The PUSH GI Strategy is clear to point out that it was not possible to provide extensive details of each initiative or project at this stage in the planning of green infrastructure for the sub-region. It is instead suggested that firstly projects should be considered for

inclusion as the GI Strategy progresses, and then (if appropriate) feasibility studies should be undertaken, and finally the projects be worked up into a definitive shape and format by PUSH.

2.3.8 Whilst the sub-regional strategy progresses, the need for local level green infrastructure planning is still very pertinent as this represents a distinct scale, with sub-scales at the settlement level, all of its own.



Map 2.2: *Distribution of the PUSH GI initiatives in relation to East Hampshire*

2.4 South Downs National Park

2.4.1 The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is the organisation responsible for promoting the purposes of the National Park and the interests of the people who live and work within it. The South Downs National Park is England's newest National Park, having become fully operational on 1 April 2011.

2.4.2 As a National Park, the SDNPA has statutory purposes and socio-economic responsibilities as specified in the Environment Act of 1995: (i) To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area, and (ii) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.

2.4.3 Working in partnership with other Local Authorities and other organisations, it is also the duty of the Authority to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.

2.4.4 The National Park's 2008-2013 Management Plan is structured according to ten "ambitions" which together support the vision and aims of the Park. These are listed in **Table 2.2**. Aspects of all ten ambitions reflect the principles of effective green infrastructure planning and management.

Table 2.2: *Ten ambitions of the South Downs National Park Management Plan*

No.	Description of ambition
1	An unspoilt landscape of the highest quality and diversity.
2	An historic and cultural heritage valued by local people and visitors and benefitting future generations.
3	A tranquil landscape with extensive dark skies.
4	A landscape rich in wildlife, with extensive swathes of interlinking habitat managed to maximise benefits for nature.
5	Unpolluted air, soil and water to allow the landscape and wildlife of the South Downs to be sustained, and reduced CO_2 emissions that exceed government targets.
6	Sustainable management of the land supported by the necessary skills and expertise.
7	A buoyant local economy supported by, and directly contributing to the management of natural beauty and its enjoyment.
8	Wide ranging opportunities for countryside recreation and access respecting the natural beauty of the South Downs.
9	Sustainable communities strongly linked to the locality, with the housing to support local needs and essential workers.
10	Widespread awareness and understanding of the South Downs.

2.4.5 Since the National Park crosses the district, covering approximately 57%[i] of East Hampshire (see **Map 3.1**), it is vital that the recommendations from this study engage with and recognise the spirit of the Management Plan. The design recommendations suggested in this study therefore reflect and are consistent with the ambitions of the Management Plan. This applies to all of the recommendations since the nature of the National Park Plan's ambitions are appropriate and relevant to most of East Hampshire.

2.4.6 The proposals for a joint Core Strategy between East Hampshire DC and SDNPA will provide a strong basis for joint working and shared perspectives on green infrastructure.

2.5 Habitats Directive and Conservation Regulations Assessment

2.5.1 Core Strategy policies are subject to assessment under the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, known as the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process. If required, the HRA process will seek to include mitigating principles where necessary as the Core Strategy progresses. This is likely to avoid or restrict development near to European sites of nature conservation interest. A complementary measure may also be used to mitigate likely significant effects: the creation of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANGS). Recommendations (Natural England, 2008) for SANGS include:

- No individual area of new natural greenspace should be less than 2ha in size, as the feeling of 'openness' is likely to be a major factor in visitors using the sites;
- New greenspace would need to serve a similar recreational function to the European sites from which it is intended to draw recreational users;
- Greenspace should be located as close as possible to the development it is intended to serve, and at least as close as the European site that it is intending to draw visitors away from; and
- Existing natural greenspace could make some contribution provided that a visitor study could demonstrate that it did not already meet its maximum recreational capacity.

2.5.2 SANGS have the opportunity to augment the green infrastructure network. The precise multifunctionality potential will need to be carefully considered to ensure their creation is faithful to the purposes for which the SANGS was created in the first place. The identification and recommendation of SANGS, if any, will be via the HRA process.

[i] http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/media/memberservices/planningcommittee/20110613/Agenda_Item_10_Report_1_Joint_working_CS_Report_20110603.pdf. (see Page 54).

2.6 Other plans, policies and strategies

2.6.1 There are a number of other relevant plans, programmes and policies which are relevant to green infrastructure planning in East Hampshire that have a wider geographic remit. **Appendix B** provides further detail about how the various policy documents have influenced the design of the East Hampshire GI Framework.

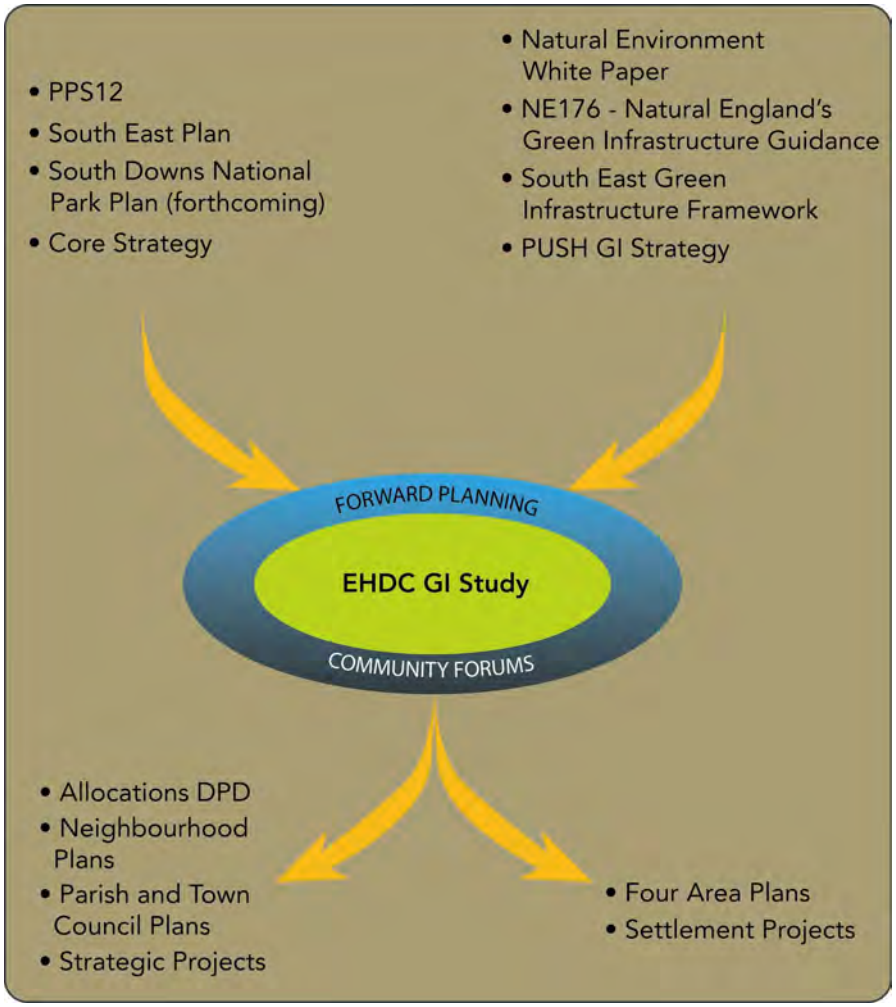


***Figure 2.1**: Planning policy and guidance influences on the green infrastructure study and its outputs*

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3 Baseline characteristics affecting green infrastructure

3.1 Context

3.1.1 The following sections provide a synoptic perspective on key issues reviewed as part of the baseline. These have subsequently been incorporated into the GI Framework. Each section includes an overview of relevance to green infrastructure and identifies any deficiencies, challenges and key issues associated with each topic. The green infrastructure in East Hampshire is presented in **Map 3.1**. This map includes various projects that are explained later in the document such as target notes for settlements and cross boundary projects of relevance. The map also depicts contextual information about neighbouring authorities. This is relevant to **section 15.4**. Maps relating to a range of baseline topics are presented in **Appendix C**.

3.2 Access and recreation

3.2.1 There is a very good public rights of way (PROW) network in East Hampshire with a total length of 823km (16 metres per hectare; HCC, 2008). This represents one of the best networks in the county, however, some sections are in need of upgrading. Other opportunities for enhancement should seek to improve access from settlements and augment accessibility for those who are less mobile or do not have access to a car. The network as a whole would benefit from more publicity, tailored in particular to the young and older age groups.

3.2.2 There is good provision of cycle routes in the district, particularly in the north and east, with access to the regional Sustrans route which is present in the north and south of Hampshire and Hampshire County Council's (HCC) Strategic Access Network. A new part of the National Cycle Network is presently being worked up: NCR22. This will run through the district, starting in Farnham and finishing in Havant. Due to issues of safety and accessibility, however, driving is by far the most popular means of transport in East Hampshire.

3.2.3 There are fragmented areas of open access land distributed randomly across the east and south of the district. The Forestry Commission manages four large (75ha – 800ha) public woodlands in East Hampshire which provide a range of recreational opportunities, from walking and cycling to orienteering and 'Go Ape' activities for climbers. The majority of woodlands in the district are private with no area access for the public; however, some are crossed by PROW or cycle routes. The Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (EHDC, 2008a) revealed a deficit of recreational opportunities for young people throughout the district.

3.2.4 **Map 3.2** illustrates an assessment of accessible natural greenspace (see **Chapter 5** for more information about standards in general).

3.3 Biodiversity

3.3.1 Comprising of the open hilltops and rolling chalk downlands of the South Downs, the dramatic wooded scarp slopes of the hanger woodlands, the meandering plains of the river valleys, and the lowland heath areas, East Hampshire is one of the most diverse areas in the county for wildlife (EHDC, 2009c). The district is home to a large number of European, nationally and locally designated sites; one of the most important being the Wealden Heaths (Phase 2) Special Protection Area (SPA) – a large yet fragmented patch of heathland in the north-east of the district, internationally recognised for its rare bird species.

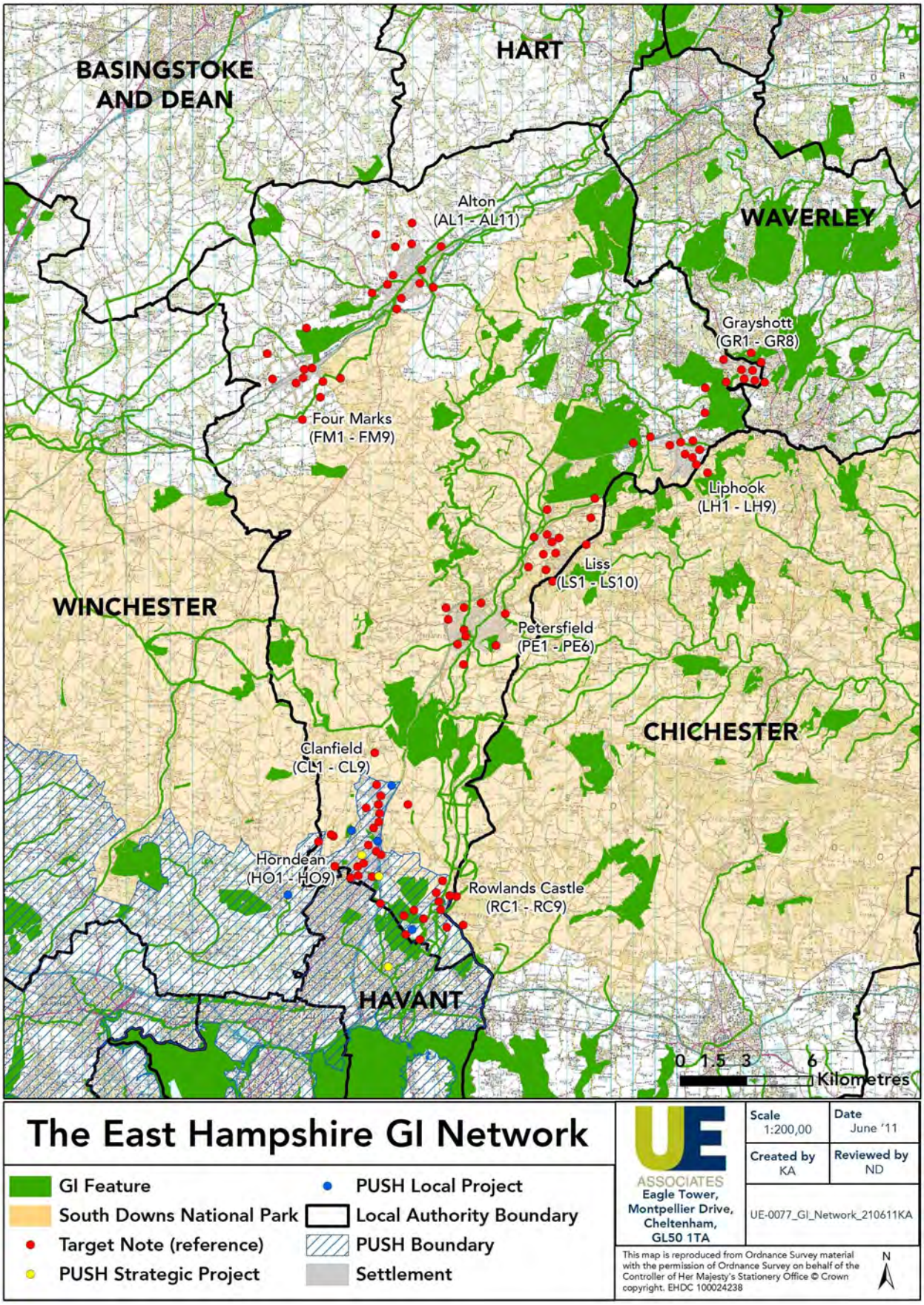
3.3.2 Other protected sites are present across the district, with nationally designated SSSIs and locally designated SINCs making up 5% and 11% of East Hampshire's area respectively. However, many of these sites are fragmented, with poor connectivity of habitats in certain parts of the district, particularly between urban and rural areas. Biodiversity is under pressure from, amongst other things, future housing developments and the subsequent increase in population, with Wealden Heaths SPA already under pressure from formal and informal recreation activities (including mountain biking, orienteering, car and motorcycle events) which are a potential threat to the breeding success of the Annex 1 birds for which the SPA is designated (JNCC, 2006).

3.3.3 HCC has used habitat opportunity mapping to identify the areas of land in the county with greatest potential for recreation and restoration of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats. These are known as Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) of which there are seven which occur in East Hampshire (HBIC, 2009). See Map C2 in **Appendix C** for distribution and location of the BOAs.

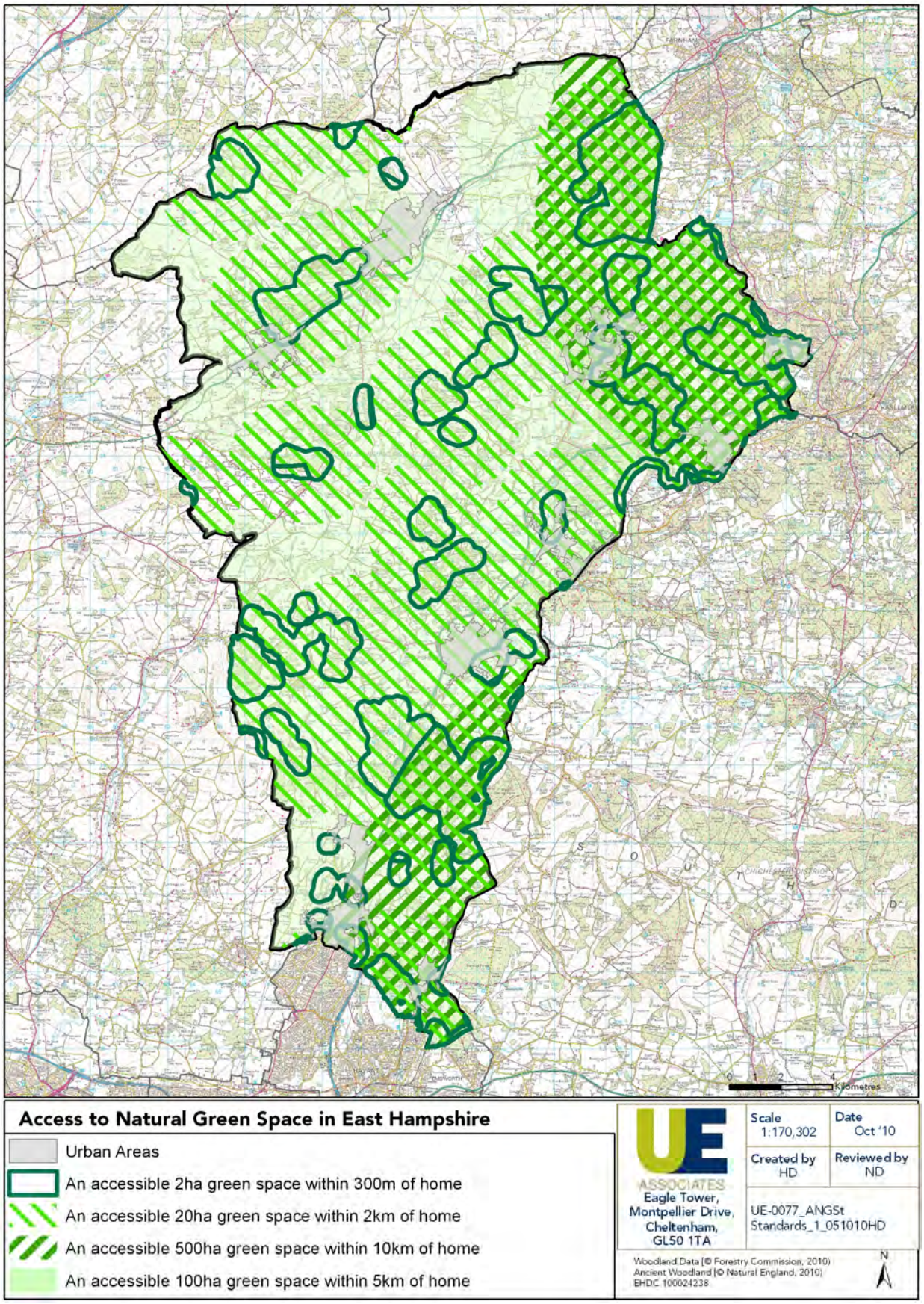
3.4 Landscape, heritage and sense of place

3.4.1 East Hampshire has a diverse geology, comprising primarily of chalk from the Cretaceous period which underlies the South Downs, with sandstone and mudstone underlying the heathland in the east of the district. 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, and the remainder (12.4%) is urban land (Land Use Consultants, 2006).

3.4.2 The South Downs National Park designation, which covers approximately 57% of the district, has excellent protection and promotion of its landscape asset, and this approach could be extended to the rest of the district's rural areas, and particularly within its settlements. East Hampshire is naturally proud of its cultural heritage, with listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and conservation areas present throughout the district, though sense of place could be enhanced in some areas.



Map 3.1: *The East Hampshire GI network including local and neighbouring GI projects*



Map 3.2: *Spatial analysis of access to natural green space in East Hampshire (Natural England, 2010)*

3.5 Water resources, water quality and flood management

3.5.1 There are four main rivers in East Hampshire – the Meon, Rother, Slea and Wey – as well as a number of streams, brooks and ditches. The Environment Agency's General Quality Assessment (2008[ii]) graded the four main rivers as 'good' chemical water quality (based on levels of dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and ammoniacal nitrogen), whilst in terms of biological water quality (the number and diversity of freshwater species found in and on the river bed) the rivers Slea and Wey are classed as 'good' and the rivers Meon and Rother as 'very good'. Watercourses that require water quality improvements include the Caker Stream, graded as biologically poor, and the Lavant Stream, graded as chemically fair, both of which are located to the south of Alton.

3.5.2 There are a range of opportunities along river corridors to enhance benefits, partly because the narrow nature of the district's watercourses restricts recreational activities. Biodiversity and flood prevention capabilities are sometimes restricted due to culverting. Whilst the district's rivers are some of the best in the country for fishing and wildlife, there are numerous opportunities for river restoration, improving their multifunctional potential. The rural nature of East Hampshire leads to opportunities to utilise river corridor buffer zones to provide benefits for wildlife, landowners and for water quality.

3.5.3 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for East Hampshire, 2008, concludes that the floodplain is one of the most important measures against flood risk, and should be protected and, where possible, increased. Collaboration between key stakeholders should be encouraged to ensure integrated urban drainage and adequate maintenance of watercourses and drainage systems. Public awareness of groundwater flooding needs to be raised, and uptake of flood warning services encouraged.

3.6 Sustainable land management and local markets

3.6.1 Approximately 2,000 hectares of woodland in East Hampshire is managed by the Forestry Commission, which involves maintaining and improving habitat, providing access to recreational and educational opportunities, and production and sale of timber. The majority of East Hampshire's remaining 8,900 hectares of woodland has not been actively managed for many years, with woodchip (the cheapest and one of the most sustainable sources of fuel available at the moment) a particularly underutilised resource. As a well-wooded district, East Hampshire has great potential to become self-sufficient in timber and woodchip production.

3.6.2 Food is currently produced on the district's numerous farms (38.7% of East Hampshire's total land area is under arable rotation), though there is little emphasis on selling to local markets at present. Venison is currently harvested on a small scale from woodland areas. The South Downs National Park Authority believe that a 'South Downs' brand may increase demand for the meat. Allotments are very popular in the district, but in short supply.

[ii] http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/queryController?topic=riverquality&x=477200.0&y=127050.0&ep=2ndtierquery&lang=_e&layerGroups=2&extraClause=STRETCH_CODE~'041071400009'&textonly=off&extraClause=YEAR~2008&latestValue=2008&latestField=YEAR&selectedTab=0

3.6.3 Greater provision of allotments and promotion of farmers markets has the potential to improve East Hampshire's self-sufficiency in food supply. The Hampshire Fare initiative actively promotes the sale and marketing of local produce and is led by a small group of food producers who wanted to actively promote the benefits of buying local produce.

3.6.4 Though recreational and tourism opportunities are provided by the Forestry Commission and within the South Downs National Park, revenue from such activities is currently limited. Commercial GI activities are currently not being managed to their potential in terms of revenue and take-up, with promotion of Environmental Stewardship schemes being able to offer greater opportunities linked to GI. Land owners need to be shown how they can benefit from commercial GI activities.

3.7 Health and well-being

3.7.1 Green and affluent, East Hampshire is one of the least deprived districts in Hampshire and indeed in England as a whole. Health in the district is generally very good, however, the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) has revealed pockets of health inequalities across East Hampshire. A number of Lower Super Output Areas (standardised geographical areas designed for the collection and publication of small area statistics; there are 32,482 LSOAs in England) are within the 40% most deprived in England, and include the centres of Alton, Liss, Horndean, Liphook and Bordon, as well as Sleaford and the area encompassing Greatham, Empshott and Hawkley.

3.7.2 Another component of the IMD looks at barriers to housing and services. Due to its rural nature, access to housing and services in East Hampshire is limited, and consequently much of the district is in the worst decile nationally for this IMD indicator (NHS Hampshire, 2010). Specifically, it has been found that people living in rural areas have less access to public transport, older and less fuel efficient housing, and sometimes lack mains gas; all of which can impact on health and well-being (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2010). Furthermore the Foundation calculated that people in rural areas incur additional costs of 10-20% for everyday requirements compared to those living in urban areas.

3.7.3 A recognised issue is obesity amongst adults with more than one in five (22%) adult residents is clinically defined as obese. This rate is slightly less than the county but is thought to be increasing. Child obesity is less prevalent but both rates of obesity amongst adults and children are believed to be part of an increasing trend. There is also a high proportion of older people living in the district, and with the nationally ageing population, this is likely to increase at a disproportionately higher rate, putting pressure on the health service. Indeed, between 2008 and 2015 there is expected to be a 20% increase in the number of people aged over 65, whilst East Hampshire's population as a whole is only expected to increase by around 2.5% (NHS Hampshire, 2010).

3.7.4 The Council's Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (EHDC, 2008a) revealed that people should utilise the district's green routes and cycleways in order to integrate basic fitness activities into their daily lives. Greener, safer routes, such as the Shipwrights Way, can improve access by foot and bike, encouraging people to walk and cycle more, in turn

benefiting their health. Fitness Trails (outdoor gyms with cardiovascular and resistance equipment) like the one recently opened in Whitehill Bordon at Mill Chase Recreation Ground could also be created elsewhere in the district.

3.7.5 In terms of well-being, greenspace within settlements is sometimes poorly maintained and could be aesthetically enhanced with more imaginative landscaping, particularly close to hospitals and residential care homes (East Hampshire Community Partnership, 2008). Sustainable routes into the attractive green spaces could be better publicised for all sectors of society.

3.8 Local involvement and awareness

3.8.1 East Hampshire is a safe and well-educated district, with its strong community spirit and sense of neighbourliness; more than half of adults regularly volunteer and over 2,000 voluntary groups now exist in the area. Despite this, there is limited volunteer support for the management of local greenspace, with people preferring to volunteer in the district's nature reserves. Maintenance of local GI resources is something that should be improved, perhaps through raising awareness about the benefits of GI.

3.8.2 EHDC's Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2008a) suggested that there may be a desire and willingness to consider innovative community-based solutions to GI provision and maintenance, perhaps involving young people in their design and creation. This is illustrated by the recently opened natural play areas supported by Big Lottery Play funding in Whitehill Bordon and Petersfield. The Countryside Access Plan for the South Downs (Hampshire) revealed there to be a lack of awareness and understanding of each other's needs among those who use and own/manage the countryside access network (for example conflicts between farmers and dog walkers); and indicated that information about the walking routes available or how to access green spaces is frequently either lacking or insufficiently detailed. The Get Active website[iii] run by EHDC does, however, provide details on walking routes in eight of the district's towns and villages as part of the national Walking to Health scheme.

3.9 Woodland management and climate change adaptation

3.9.1 Hampshire is the third most wooded county after Surrey and East Sussex. It should be noted that over 16% of Ancient Woodlands are now Plantations of Ancient Woodlands. East Hampshire district fares particularly well with almost 11,000 hectares of woodland (21% of the total land area). Around 40% of this is ancient woodland, dating from pre-1600 AD. Within East Hampshire, approximately 19% of the woodland is owned by the Forestry Commission, comprising four distinct woodlands: Alice Holt Forest, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Havant Thicket, and, Bushy Leaze and Chawton Park. Management of these sites includes maintaining habitat quality for biodiversity, improving accessibility and recreation opportunities for residents and tourists, and timber production as a source of

[iii] http://www.getactivenow.org.uk/ad/cat_13_Walking.html

revenue. The remaining 8,900 hectares of woodland in East Hampshire is privately owned and largely under-managed (Forestry Commission[iv]).

3.9.2 Despite the abundance of woodland in the district, more trees are required within settlements, particularly along road corridors where they can perform a number of roles from corridors for wildlife to improving aesthetics to carbon sequestration . There is also a need for more clumps of trees in urban areas (with species of trees depending on the soil type, ability to cope with pollutants, flood mitigation and shade provision), with a 10% increase in canopy cover being a suggested target (Focus Group 1, June, 2010). Wildlife corridors need to be improved within and between urban and rural areas; tree planting can help facilitate this aim.

[iv] Presentation to East Hampshire's Green Infrastructure launch event, May 2010.

4 The GI Framework

4.1.1 The Green Infrastructure Framework is designed to ensure that the GI Study recommendations are successful in meeting the requirements and needs of the district. The Framework provides a rational checklist which has been drawn up according to the baseline review and associated assessment of deficiencies. The Framework enables selection of GI actions and initiatives based on the best available information. It uses objectives set within themes to guide decision making.

4.1.2 The Framework has been derived from:

- A thorough review of baseline data;
- The views of key stakeholders via the Focus Groups;
- Comprehensive spatial information relating to the different GI typologies; and
- A review of plans and programs currently operating across and beyond the district.

4.1.3 Together, these factors have shaped the Framework. **Appendix B** provides details of the "purpose driver": a logical progression table which demonstrates how each objective in the Framework has been derived.

4.1.4 The Framework is presented in **Table 4.1**. It is composed of themes and objectives. The Framework can be used as a policy framework for decision making and, if appropriate, be transformed into policy documents such as a supplementary planning document. The core principles of multifunctionality and connectivity feature strongly in the spirit of the Framework's themes and objectives.

4.1.5 It is important that these themes and objectives support and inform progress and shape of the Core Strategy. By way of a compatibility check which demonstrates the extent to which particular themes and objectives relate to the objectives of the Core Strategy, see **Appendix D.**

Table 4.1: *The GI Framework*

Theme	Objective
Theme A: Access and Recreation	**A1:** To enhance and promote East Hampshire's Public Rights of Way (PROW) network (including circular routes), providing more accessible links within and between urban and rural areas to reduce reliance on motor vehicles and increase use by all sectors of society.
	A2: To address deficiencies in greenspace provision and accessibility through creation of new recreation sites, enhancing outdoor play sites, sports facilities and community walks, and improving safety to encourage use by the under-24s and over-65s.
Theme B: Biodiversity	**B1:** To conserve and enhance existing biodiversity throughout East Hampshire; restoring habitats according to Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) and Biodiversity Action Plan priorities, and improving connectivity of habitats at all scales and levels of designation.

Theme	Objective
	B2: To contribute to the avoidance and mitigation of the impacts of growth on European sites in and around East Hampshire through enhanced access management and creation of local natural accessible green space.
Theme C: Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	**C1:** To protect the unique quality, diversity and distinctiveness of East Hampshire's countryside and geology.
	C2: To maintain and where necessary improve the cultural heritage, identity and character of settlements, including places of work.
Theme D: Water Resources, Water Quality and Flood Management	**D1:** To promote natural river corridor management to provide multifunctional benefits for ecosystem services (aesthetics, recreation, biodiversity, connectivity, adaptation to climate change). Activities might include deculverting, providing wider buffer zones of native vegetation along river sides, introducing meanders, and improved areas for wildlife to reduce disturbance through planting and habitat improvement.
	D2: To increase rainwater storage capacity, alleviate diffuse pollution into rivers from urban and agricultural run-off, improve permeability in settlements across East Hampshire to reduce flood risk, attenuate its effects including wild fires, and address water abstraction issues.
Theme E: Land Management and Local Markets	**E1:** To promote and support East Hampshire's potential for self-sufficiency in local produce including food grown on farms and community allotments as well as biofuel (woodchip), timber and venison from the district's woodland.
	E2: To promote, increase and raise awareness of commercial GI activities including businesses related to outdoor recreation and tourism, encouraging take-up of Stewardship schemes and enhanced land management.
Theme F: Health and Well-being	**F1:** To create and enhance greenspace in East Hampshire in order to improve quality of life as well as access to fresh air for a sense of spiritual well-being, particularly within settlements.
	F2: To minimise future pressure on the health service by addressing the district's problems of an ageing population and helping to address the increasing levels of obesity amongst adults and children by promoting active lifestyles.
Theme G: Local Involvement and Awareness	**G1:** To improve understanding of the importance of green infrastructure in terms of providing socio-economic and environmental benefits by means of education and better communication of information for all. Promote employment and the creation of skills.
	G2: To encourage the involvement of people in maintaining their local greenspace through a sense of responsibility, ownership and pride, in addition to promoting volunteer opportunities.
Theme H: Woodland Management and Climate Change Adaptation	**H1:** To increase the number of managed woodlands within the district, and bring neglected woodlands into active management with a stronger focus on timber and/or woodfuel production and improving resilience to climate change. This is especially important for existing woodlands upon heathland sites (heathland should not be planted up).
	H2: To adapt to the effects of climate change in East Hampshire through enhanced shading from trees and improved permeability in urban areas, as well as facilitating landscape connectivity for species migration. Encourage imaginative planting of trees within settlements.

4.2 Benefits of planning green infrastructure

4.2.1 The GI Framework, through its themes and objectives, will deliver a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits. These are well documented (CABE, 2009; Landscape Institute, 2009; Natural England, 2009; and Forestry Commission, 2010). The following list provides a summary of key benefits identified by CABE:

- Reinforce local identity and civic pride;
- Enhance the physical character of an area, shaping existing and future development;
- Improve physical and social inclusion, including accessibility;
- Provide connected routes between places for wildlife, recreation, walking and cycling, and safer routes to schools;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological habitats;
- Provide green infrastructure and ecosystem services;
- Provide for children and young people's play and recreation;
- Raise property values and aid urban regeneration;
- Boost the economic potential of tourism, leisure and cultural activities;
- Provide cultural, social, recreational, sporting and community facilities;
- Protect and promote understanding of the historical, cultural and archaeological value of places;
- Contribute to the creation of healthy places, including quiet areas;
- Provide popular outdoor educational facilities;
- Promote the opportunities for local food production;
- Help mitigate and adapt to climate change; and
- Improve opportunities to enjoy contact with the natural world.

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5 Designing the GI Network

5.1 Approach

5.1.1 The GI Study focuses on the nine settlements identified in the Core Strategy. These are: Alton, Petersfield, Liphook, Horndean, Clanfield, Four Marks/South Medstead, Grayshott, Liss, and Rowlands Castle.

5.1.2 The following chapters provide information about each settlement in terms of the existing green infrastructure resource and makes recommendations for strengthening the network. This information is supported by a map of each settlement's green infrastructure resource.

5.2 Design principles

5.2.1 The summary of green infrastructure baseline is drawn from the baseline review and includes the different types of green infrastructure that are set out in **Table 1.1**. This includes a range of components and designations. GI features can be found within and outside of designations. These are presented together to identify the local GI network. The designations such as SINCs, allotments and sports pitches can be thought of as key nodes or spatial foci which provide targets for enhanced connectivity between GI assets.

5.2.2 The text in each section has been highlighted bold to draw attention to particular different types of green infrastructure. The map of the local green infrastructure network has been composed from available GIS datasets provided by EHDC, HBIC, HCC, Natural England and the Forestry Commission. Aerial photography has also been used to identify and clarify the detail of each map.

5.2.3 Wherever possible established standards have been used to identify deficiency and opportunity. **Table 5.1** lists examples of available standards. It is important to note that there are no specific GI standards and that those cited in **Table 5.1** have been prepared to serve specific strategies such as the Open Space, Sport, and Recreation Study (EHDC, 2008a). They have been reproduced here as an illustrative guide to inform green infrastructure.

5.2.4 Other examples of standards can be found in Natural England's Access Natural Greenspace Standards (see below) and the Fields in Trust guidelines (2008). An ANGSt analysis for East Hampshire is presented on **Map 3.2** using data kindly supplied by Natural England.

Table 5.1: *Open space standards*

Category	2008 EHDC Open Space Study
	Hectares per 1000 population
Parks, Sports and Recreation Grounds	1.0 (of which 0.5 for outdoor sport)
Equipped Children and Young People's Space	0.25
Informal Open Space	1.0
Accessible Natural Green Space	1.0
Allotments	0.2

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt; English Nature, 2003) recommends that everyone should have access to a quality natural greenspace of:

- At least two hectares within 300 metres walking distance (five minutes walk) from their home;
- At least 20 hectares within two kilometres;
- At least 100 hectares within five kilometres;
- At least 500 hectares within ten kilometres;
- One hectare of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population.

5.3 Recommendations and opportunities

5.3.1 Recommendations and target activity have been made according to the principles of protection, enhancement, restoration or creation. These four principles for activity can be found throughout the GI Framework (see **Table 4.1**) which is the basis for making recommendations at each settlement. These are the mechanisms for delivering multifunctionality and connectivity of green infrastructure assets.

5.3.2 Protection is conferred by a number of different legislative and policy drivers. In the case of core green infrastructure that is not protected by such means, it is necessary to consider which elements of a local network should be upheld and protected as core components. This is important in the context of any new initiatives relating to biodiversity offsetting.

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

5.3.4 Restoration differs from enhancement because it is used to restore a particular feature. This might include improved grassland that could be restored to semi-natural grassland. Restoration has a key role to play with the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (see **Appendix**

C). Restoration also applies to parks and features that have since changed use but not so much so that any intervention would prove impossible to achieve a positive change.

5.3.5 Creation refers to the establishment of new green infrastructure features. This has an important role to play in light of proposed changes that are associated in particular with new development. This activity relates to almost all types of green infrastructure although there will be issues of establishment and the length of time for a particular type of green infrastructure to become fully multifunctional need to be considered. Creation of grass tennis courts will have an immediate impact whilst creation of chalk grassland will take decades to fully establish itself.

5.3.6 The Framework has been derived from existing planning and programme policies, baseline evidence and focus group comments (see **Appendix B** for complete details of the justifications behind the GI Framework).

5.3.7 The GI Framework represents the key themes and objectives for green infrastructure planning in the district. The target note recommendations facilitate these aspirations. Each target note identified includes reference to the respective GI Framework objective to which it relates.

5.3.8 First and foremost the recommendations seek to deliver the GI vision and support the aims of the Core Strategy. The idea behind the recommendations is to enable development proposals to incorporate GI and enhance the local GI network such that environmental resources are protected and their potential to deliver multiple benefits is maximised.

5.3.9 The recommendations should form the basis of consultation and discussion with local communities. They are not set in stone and may change as the study progresses. Recommendations have been prepared for settlements in each of the following sections. **section 15.5** and **Appendix E** provides recommended projects that are also worth considering as part of the wider green infrastructure network at a district scale.

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6 Alton

6.1 Existing green infrastructure network in Alton

6.1.1 Alton is one of the main settlements of East Hampshire, located in the north of the district. It lies within the parish of Alton and is closely surrounded by the parishes of Froyle, Binsted, Worldham, Chawton, Beech and Shaldon. Within an 8km radius of the town lie a number of smaller settlements whose residents are largely dependent on the town for day-to-day work, education, shopping and leisure facilities. These include Holybourne (which is classed as part of Alton for administrative purposes), Beech, Binsted, Chawton, Farringdon, Four Marks, Medstead, and Selborne (EHDC, 2004). The population of Alton is 17,158 (HCC, Small Area Population Forecasts SAPF; aggregated from SAPF data by HCC, 2011[v]).

6.1.2 Chawton House is a 92.4ha Grade II* listed **Registered Park and Garden** located approximately 0.5km from the southwest corner of the town. It is currently undergoing long term restoration including the promotion of nature conservation interests.

6.1.3 There is good provision of **Parks, Sports and Recreation Grounds** in the northeast of the town, and some additional provision in the centre and far southwest of the town. There are six **children and young people's spaces** located in the south and east of Alton, which include a **playground** at Anstey Lane, and **BMX/skate park** at Chawton Park Road. There is also a good distribution of **informal openspace** throughout the town, including the 6ha River Wey **Flood Meadow** in the centre of town, and the 9ha Windmill Hill in the southwest.

6.1.4 Alton has an abundance of **private gardens**, many of which are a good size in relation to dwelling size and therefore population. There are four **allotment sites** within the central and southwestern parts of the town, totalling 2.66ha. There is one large **cemetery** close to the centre of Alton. There are some small, mainly linear **woodlands** within the town itself, as well as a mosaic of larger broadleaved, coniferous and mixed **woodlands** throughout the surrounding landscape including Bushey Leaze wood which is a productive woodland. The majority of the woodland is classed as ancient.

6.1.5 There is an abundance of improved grassland surrounding the town. To the southwest of the town is an area of **semi-improved** (15.5ha) and **unimproved** (2ha) **calcareous grassland**. Other land surrounding the town is in arable rotation. The majority of the arable land and some of the grassland and woodland surrounding the town are managed under Environmental Stewardship schemes (of which most is entry level).

6.1.6 **Floodplain grazing marsh** can be found alongside all of Alton's watercourses, except along the River Wey where it flows through the centre of the town. Other **wetland habitat**

[v] Population data have been kindly provided by Hampshire County Council. HCC have aggregated data for each of the eight settlements and derived the information from the Small Area Population Forecast 2010-2017. This aggregated figures data was prepared in April, 2011 (Amanda Dunn, pers comm., 28th April 2011).

consists of some small patches of reedbed. There is one medium-sized (1ha) body of eutrophic **standing water** in Alton, King's Pond, located close to the centre of the town. Other **ponds** are likely to be present in private gardens. There is a good provision of **watercourses**, including the River Wey (whose source lies on the western edge of the town), Lavant Stream and Caker Stream, though the latter watercourses are of poor quality.

6.1.7 East Hampshire Hangers **SAC** is located approximately 3km to the southeast of the town. Wick Wood and Worldham Hangers **SSSI** and Upper Greensand Hangers **SSSI** are located approximately 3km to the southeast of the town. All of the **woodland sites** surrounding the town, as well as the area of unimproved grassland, are registered **SINCs**, but there are no LNRs. The **woodland, wetland** and **calcareous grassland** within and surrounding the town are BAP priority habitats. There is a small **registered common** of 1.69ha known as The Butts, in the southwest of the town.

6.1.8 There is a northeast to southwest linear **cycle route** running diagonally through the centre of town, and good provision out to the wider countryside from the southwest corner, but routes within the rest of the town and out to the countryside from the north and southeast are limited. The majority of cycleways in town are painted lines on already narrow or busy streets, so are not particularly safe (Alton Town Partnership, 2008). There are some **PROW** within the town itself, and provision out to the wider countryside is good in all directions. St Swithun's Way **Long Distance Trail** (which runs for 55km between Winchester and Farnham) passes through the town from southwest to northeast. The railway is largely **tree lined**.

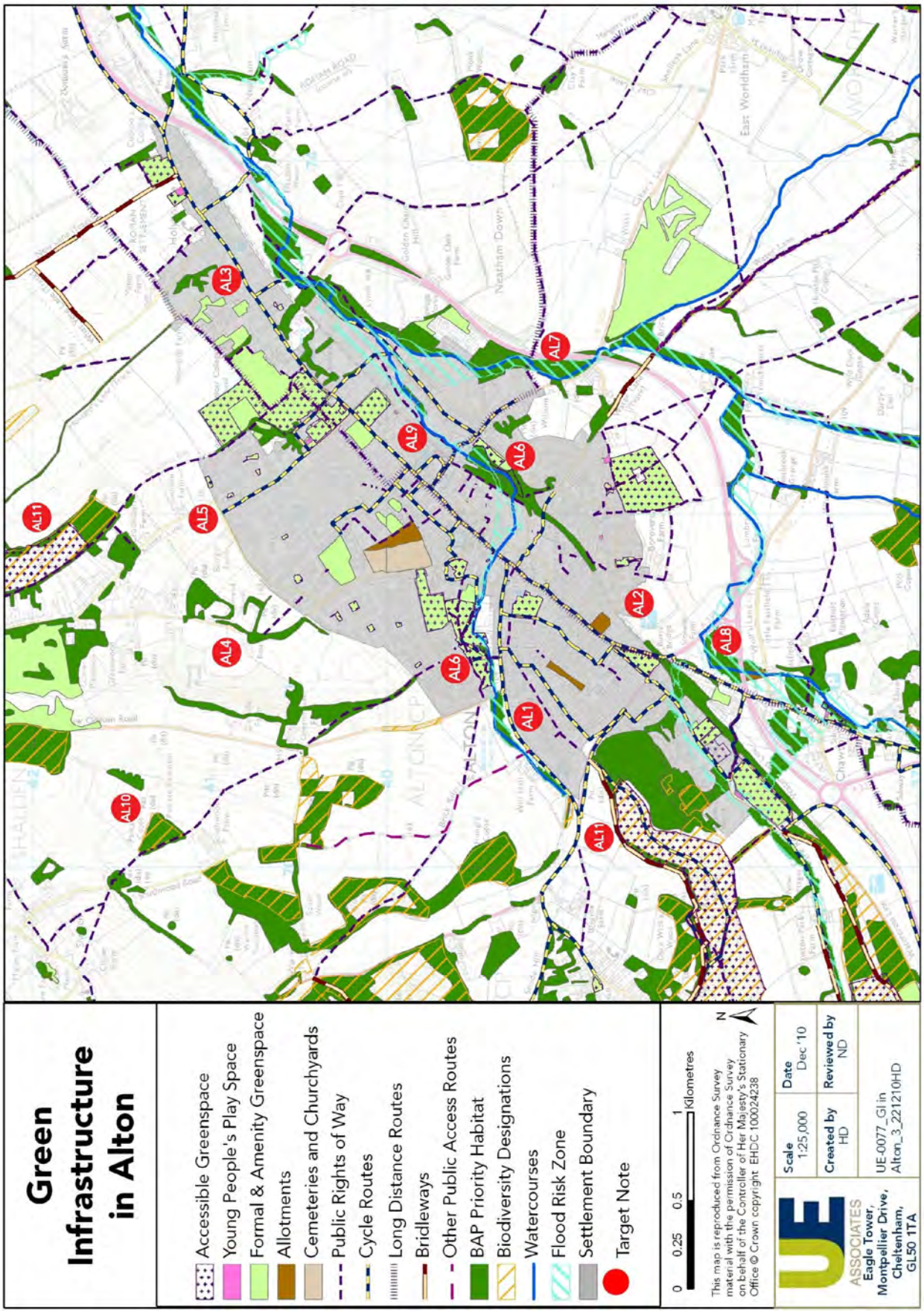
6.1.9 School Travel Plans are in place for schools in Alton due to concerns about pupil safety and traffic congestion, e.g. the school run to Andrews' Endowed Primary School on London Road causes traffic problems. As a solution, Alton College Travel Plan (2006) aims to improve cycle routes to the college (e.g. from the Holybourne area) and improve lighting in the Nursery Road area to increase the number of students who walk to college. Eggars School Travel Plan (2006) aims to identify safe cycle routes from both Alton and Holybourne, including the establishment of a cycle/footway route along the London Road, and a Park and Walk Scheme at Anstey Park.

6.2 Recommendations and opportunities for Alton's green infrastructure network

6.2.1 **Table 6.1** presents recommended projects to support the local green infrastructure network in Alton. Information is included in relation to which objective of the GI Framework will be delivered by the relevant suggestion. Projects are represented by target notes which have been presented spatially in **Map 6.1**.

Table 6.1: *Project recommendations for Alton*

Target Note	Recommendations and opportunities in Alton	GI Framework
AL1	Additional children's play space should be created, focusing on central, northern and western parts of the town.	**A2**
AL2	New football pitches, including 5-a-side pitches for use by juniors, should be created in central and south-western parts of town.	**A2**
AL3	Additional allotments should be created in the north eastern part of Alton.	**E1, G2**
AL4	Increase the provision of PROW to the north of the town, including better links between the town and surrounding countryside, as well as linking existing PROW to create circular walks.	**A1, F2**
AL5	Create new cycle routes to link the town with countryside to the north and southeast, whilst improving safety of within-town routes.	**A1, F2**
AL6	Enhance the King's Pond area (open water, woodland, river, informal open space) as focus for biodiversity and recreational benefits. Similarly, downstream, improve the water meadow area.	**B1, C2, D1, D2, F1**
AL7	As part of the Northern Wey Valley BOA, enhance the natural river corridor of the Caker Stream with the aim of improving water quality and opportunities for access especially from Mill Lane to join river by a new footpath linking to the riverside path.	**A1, B1, C1, D1**
AL8	Enhance the natural river corridor of the Lavant Stream with the aim of improving water quality and opportunities for access.	**A1, B1, C1, D1**
AL9	Create wetland habitat on the floodplain along the River Wey (northern branch) to help provide natural water retention features. Remove or reduce culverting.	**D2**
AL10	Encourage Environmental Stewardship to connect fragmented woodland to the northwest of the town to support the Herriard Wooded Downland Plateau BOA (link Southwood, Applesome Wood and Gregory's Wood). Include semi-improved grassland creation where appropriate as part of stewardship schemes at this location.	**B1, C1, H1, H2**
AL11	Consider creation of a LNR by applying the designation to Ackender Wood SINC or Row Wood SINC.	**B1,G2**



Map 6.1: *Green Infrastructure in Alton including target note recommendations*

7 Clanfield

7.1 Existing green infrastructure network in Clanfield

7.1.1 Clanfield is situated within the chalk downlands in the southern part of the district, and lies within the parishes of Clanfield and Horndean. The village comprises an extensive area of housing, with a population of 4,396 (HCC SAPF data, 2010) and limited local amenities; residents have to travel out of the village for most of their daily requirements.

7.1.2 Queen Elizabeth **Country Park** is a 767ha site with accessible woodland and downland located within 2km of the northeast of the village, and provides residents with numerous recreational opportunities. Within Clanfield itself lie two good sized **recreation grounds**: Peel Park East and the South Lane **cricket pitch** which has no changing provision. Both are located in the northwest of the village.

7.1.3 There are three **children and young people's spaces** in Clanfield: Bellway in the north, Peel Park West (which includes a **skate park**) in the northwest, and Downs Park in the centre of the village (with provision for both toddler and junior age groups). The latter site makes up the majority of the total provision at 0.62 ha. **Informal open space** is provided throughout Clanfield, though with the exception of the Sunderton Lane site in the northwest, these are rather small. Clanfield has a good provision of **private gardens**, but there are no allotments, churchyards or cemeteries in the village.

7.1.4 A resolution was granted (February, 2011) to allow planning permission for a new housing development at Green Lane on a 14.8ha site; subject to completion of a legal agreement. The legal agreement is likely to include: formal and informal open space (spread over two sites) including junior football pitches; a multi-use games area (MUGA) and children's play space; allotments together with associated access; and a landscape buffer on the northern boundary including stormwater ponds.

7.1.5 There are two broadleaved **woodlands** immediately to the south of Clanfield: Stubbins Down (11ha) and the 20ha **ancient woodland** of Blendworth Lith. Other woodlands in the vicinity of the village (some of which are ancient) include: North Wood to the northwest; Hyden Wood to the north; Queen Elizabeth Forest to the northeast; Bascombe Copse to the east; and Wick Hanger to the southeast. The majority of woodland surrounding Clanfield is classed as BAP priority habitat.

7.1.6 Two areas of **semi-improved neutral grassland** can be found in the northeast and northwest of the village, whilst some neglected rough grassland can be found to the south of the village across the A3 trunk road. Improved grassland is also present around the village. The majority of land surrounding Clanfield is in arable rotation, much of which is managed under entry level **Environmental Stewardship**.

7.1.7 There are no watercourses or wetland habitatsin the vicinity of Clanfield; however, the south western edge of the village (Southdown Road) and parts of the centre (along Green Lane) are at risk from flooding. The small **village pond**, located on the corner of Charlton Lane/Pond Lane in the far northwest of Clanfield was carefully restored and re-landscaped in 2008. There is also a **reservoir** here, located at the top of Hilton Manor Lane, owned by Portsmouth Water.

7.1.8 Butser Hill **SAC** and **SSSI** (238ha) is located approximately 2km to the north of Clanfield, whilst Catherington Down **SSSI** (12.8ha; 9ha of which is open access land), is located 0.7km to the southwest of the village. The publicly accessible **Local Nature Reserve** at Catherington Lith (10.6ha; also a SINC) is located adjacent to the south of Clanfield. Twelve other **SINCs** of varying sizes are located within 2km of the village, the majority being woodland sites.

7.1.9 There is an excellent **PROW** network linking Clanfield with countryside to the southwest, whilst paths also exist in other directions, enabling access to numerous **long distance routes**; the Monarch's Way (south), Wayfarer's Walk (west), South Downs Way (north) and Sussex Border Path (east) are all approximately 2-3km from the village. On-road **cycle routes** can be found around the perimeter of the village and along the A3, however, there are no routes linking cyclists with the surrounding countryside.

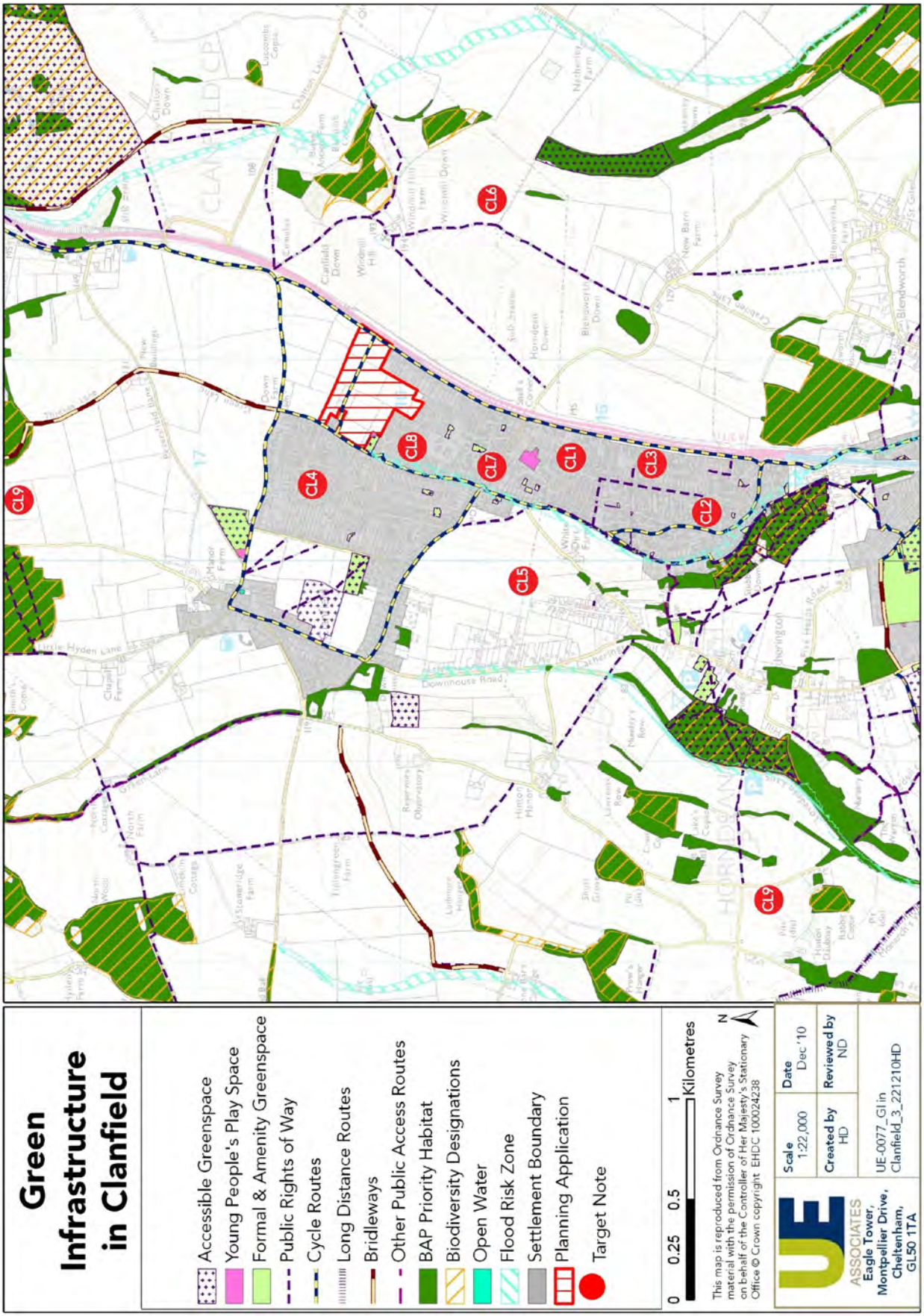
7.1.10 Both schools in Clanfield have Travel Plans; Petersgate Infant School Travel Plan (2004) in particular aims to encourage children to walk to school and/or use cycles, scooters, rollerblades and skateboards, whilst there is also an initiative to link the school with Clanfield Junior School, approximately one mile away, by means of a community funded mini-bus.

7.2 Recommendations and opportunities for Clanfield's green infrastructure network

7.2.1 **Table 7.1** presents recommended projects to support the local green infrastructure network in Clanfield. Information is included in relation to which objective of the GI Framework will be delivered by the relevant suggestion. Projects are represented by target notes which have been presented spatially in **Map 7.1**.

Table 7.1: *Project recommendations for Clanfield*

Target Note	Recommendations and opportunities in Clanfield	GI Framework
CL1	Central and southern parts of Clanfield could benefit from provision of football fields and tennis courts, these are likely to be included in the Green Lane development subject to the s.106 agreement being finalised (due later in 2011).	**A2**
CL2	Additional young people's spaces should be created, focusing on central, southern and western parts of the village.	**A2**
CL3	Additional informal open space is required, particularly in the far north, far west and southern parts of the village, and along the eastern edge. This is likely to be delivered through the Green Lane development subject to the s.106 agreement being finalised (due later in 2011).	**F1**
CL4	Allotment space should be created throughout Clanfield.	**E1**
CL5	Increase the provision of PROW within the village, so that surrounding countryside is accessible from all areas. Links between the village and long distance routes to the north, east and west should also be enhanced.	**A1, F1**
CL6	Create new cycle routes to link the village with surrounding countryside.	**A1**
CL7	Additional ponds could be created as part of informal openspace in central and southern parts of Clanfield.	**B1, D2**
CL8	Wetland habitats should be created along Southdown Road and Green Lane to reduce flood risk to adjacent residential properties.	**B1, C1, D2**
CL9	Encourage new woodland connections on arable land through Environmental Stewardship; particularly to link up larger woodlands to the north, as well as more fragmented woodlands to the west of Clanfield.	**B1, C1, E2, H1, H2**



Map 7.1: *Green Infrastructure in Clanfield including target note recommendations*

8 Four Marks / South Medstead

8.1 Existing green infrastructure network in Four Marks / South Medstead

8.1.1 Four Marks (which for administrative purposes includes South Medstead, a small settlement adjacent to the north), is a large village in the northwest of East Hampshire, falling within the parishes of Four Marks, Medstead and Chawton (and close to Farringdon and Ropley parishes). It is also close to, and somewhat dependent on (for employment, education, shopping and leisure) the town of Alton. The combined population of Four Marks is 4089 (HCC SAPF data, 2010).

8.1.2 Rotherfield Park is a 196.5ha Grade II* listed **Registered Park/Garden** located approximately 2.5km southeast of Four Marks, whilst the Grade II* listed Chawton House is located approximately 2.5km to the east.

8.1.3 There is good provision of recreation grounds in the southwest of the town, with **football pitches, tennis courts** and a **bowling green** situated either side of Uplands Lane. There is also a **children's play area** located here (comprising equipment for both toddlers and juniors), with three more located in central and western parts of Four Marks (with provision focussing on the toddler age group at Tawny Grove). **Informal open space** can also be found in the centre of town, either side of the A31, though provision is limited.

8.1.4 The majority of residential properties in Four Marks are endowed with large **private gardens**; however, there are no allotments or community gardens. There is one small **cemetery** on Brislands Lane in the far southwest of the town. **Tree corridors** exist within the town itself, whilst more substantial woodland is present in the surrounding countryside; all of which is priority habitat in the Hampshire BAP. **Ancient woodlands** include the 208.3ha Chawton Park Wood, which is a working woodland, to the northeast and the 29ha Old Down Wood to the southwest, with other woodlands close by to the east and southeast.

8.1.5 Improved grassland surrounds the town in all directions, with small areas of **semi-improved neutral grassland** located in the east of South Medstead and the southwest of Four Marks. This situation should be addressed through arable reversion schemes, where appropriate, to increase the total area of semi-improved grassland. Arable land is also abundant in this area; the majority of which (to the south and west of the town, as well as grassland to the east) is under entry level Environmental Stewardship. There are no watercourses in Four Marks, though there are two small **ponds**: Five Ash Pond in the far northwest and another within Weathermore Copse to the far east of the town. Others may be present within private gardens.

8.1.6 No statutorily designated sites are present close to Four Marks, but there are numerous **SINCs** including Chawton Park Wood (208.3ha), Maryland Copse and Plantation (47ha) and Old Down Wood (29ha), as well as numerous smaller SINCs adjacent to or within the town.

Of the within-town natural greenspace, 3.62ha is accessible, whilst Chawton Park Wood is also freely accessible.

8.1.7 There is a good provision of **PROW** linking the town with surrounding countryside to the north, east and south, though off-road footpaths within the town itself are in short supply. St Swithun's Way (a **Long Distance Trail** linking Winchester with Farnham) passes within a kilometre of the southern part of the town. **Cycle routes** within and beyond Four Marks are only present along roads in a northeast to southwest direction. The railway is lined by either trees or hedges on both sides.

8.1.8 There is one school in Four Marks, and with long-recognised traffic and safety issues, no accessible cycle routes, narrow footpaths and a particularly steep terrain, very few children travel to school by sustainable modes of transport. The Four Marks Primary School Travel Plan includes a Walking Bus Scheme to operate from the Village Hall, as well as junction improvements at Five Lanes End.

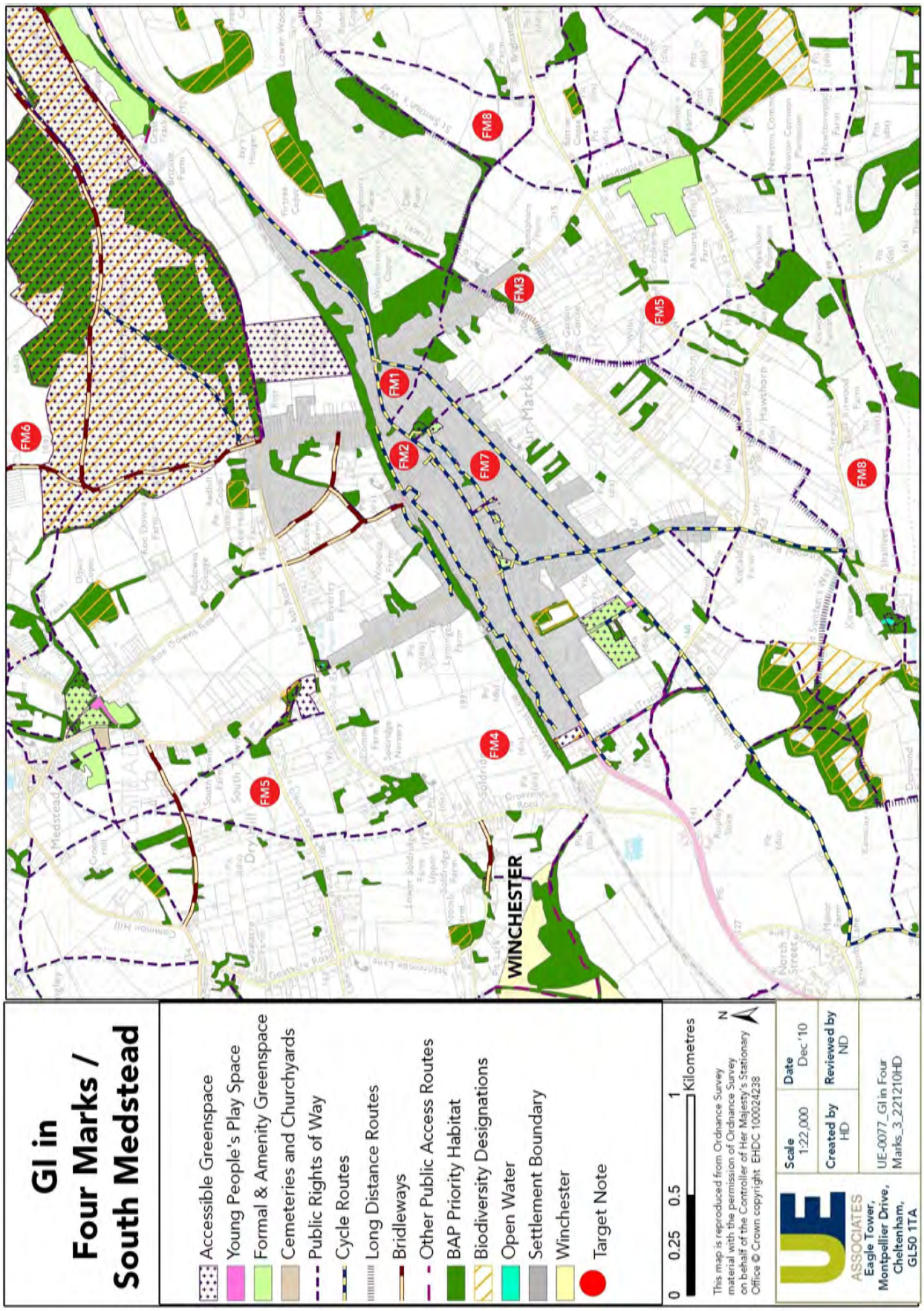
8.2 Recommendations and opportunities for Four Marks / South Medstead's green infrastructure network

8.2.1 **Table 8.1** presents recommended projects to support the local green infrastructure network in Four Marks. Information is included in relation to which objective of the GI Framework will be delivered by the relevant suggestion. Projects are represented by target notes which have been presented spatially in **Map 8.1**.

Table 8.1: *Project recommendations for Four Marks*

Target Note	Recommendations and opportunities in Four Marks / South Medstead	GI Framework
FM1	Additional playing fields should be created, focusing on northern, southern, eastern and central parts of the town.	**A2**
FM2	Additional play spaces for both children and teenagers should be created, particularly in northern, eastern and south eastern parts of Four Marks.	**A2, F2**
FM3	Additional informal open space is needed in the north (South Medstead) and south of the town.	**C1,F1**
FM4	Increase the provision of PROW within central and western parts of the town, so that surrounding countryside (particularly within neighbouring local authority area, Winchester) is accessible.	**A1, F1**
FM5	Create new cycle routes to link the town with countryside to the southeast and northwest (including links with Winchester), and improve the quality and safety of existing cycle routes in Chawton Park Wood and within the village.	**A1, F2**
FM6	Consider creation of a LNR for example by applying the designation Chawton Park Wood SINC.	**B1,G2**
FM7	Additional ponds could be created as part of informal open space in the centre of Four Marks.	**B1, C1, D2**

FM8	Link up fragmented woodland to the east and south of the town by encouraging new woodland on both arable land and improved grassland through Environmental Stewardship. Encourage reversion of arable to semi-improved grassland.	**B1, C1, E2, H1, H2**



Map 8.1: *Green Infrastructure in Four Marks including target note recommendations*

9 Grayshott

9.1 Existing green infrastructure network in Grayshott

9.1.1 Grayshott is a small village in the north-east of East Hampshire district, surrounded by attractive countryside (much of which is owned by the National Trust). It is located within the parish of Grayshott, close to the parish of Bramshott and Liphook, and adjacent to Waverley Borough in Surrey. The population is 2,337 (HCC SAPF data, 2010).

9.1.2 There are two **recreation grounds** in the northwest of Grayshott: a 4.03ha site comprising **cricket and football pitches** as well as a **skate park**, and a 0.15ha site close by comprising three **tennis courts**. A **children's play area** is located within the larger recreation ground, whilst another is located further east on the corner of Headley Road/Crossways Road (with facilities specifically for toddlers). There are also several small areas of **informal open space** near the centre of the village, either side of the Headley Road.

9.1.3 Many/some of Grayshott's residents benefit from large **private gardens**, and there is a **churchyard** at St. Luke's. There are two equally-sized **allotments** in the village, one near the centre and one in the northwest adjacent to the larger recreation ground. Well-connected **woodland** intersperses the town and surrounds it on all sides. The larger woodlands include Golden Valley to the north and Nutcombe Down to the east (both in neighbouring Waverley Borough and publicly accessible), and Ludshott Common to the west. Smaller **ancient woodlands**, Croaker's Patch and Whitmoor Bottom, are adjacent to the village to the southwest and northwest respectively.

9.1.4 Patches of **heathland** can be found in amongst the woodland on Ludshott Common to the east and Bramshott Common to the south of Grayshott (all of which is **open access land**). Much of the surrounding woodland, as well as the heathland, is BAP priority habitat. Small and fragmented areas of improved and **semi-improved grassland** can be found in amongst the woodland surrounding the village as well as over the border in Waverley. There are two small farms to the northwest of the town, and a larger one to the southeast in Waverley.

9.1.5 Cooper's Stream is located to the southwest of Grayshott and is heavily wooded on either side; Whitmoor Vale, another stream, is located to the north of the village. Both **streams** flood but there are no properties nearby. Several bodies of **eutrophic standing water** are located along Cooper's Stream, and other waterbodies can be found along Whitmoor Vale.

9.1.6 Part of the 2,054ha Wealden Heaths Phase 2 **SPA** is located adjacent to the west and southwest of Grayshott, and this comprises the 371ha Bramshott and Ludshott Commons **SSSI**. There are no LNRs in the vicinity of Grayshott, but four good sized **SINCs** are within 1km of the village: Whitmoor Hanger (24.2ha); Coach House Copse (59.0ha); Bramshott Common Camp Ground (17.8ha); and Bramshott Common South East (42.3ha).

9.1.7 The **PROW** network connects Grayshott with countryside to the northwest, west and southwest, though links with Waverley Borough are poor. The Serpent Trail, a **long distance trail** which runs for 102km between Petersfield and Haslemere, passes within a kilometre of Grayshott, to the east. There is one **cycle route** in the village, along the busy B3002 linking it with the village of Headley Down to the west, whilst there is also a cycle route nearby along the A3 that links Liphook with Hindhead.

9.1.8 Grayshott Primary School, adopted a School Travel Plan in 2005. In order to deal with problems of congestion and inappropriate parking, the Travel Plan proposed a number of initiatives, including:

- Creating a safe path between the pottery car park and school entrance;
- Investigate the provision/improvement of local cycle routes;
- Investigate the development of walking buses;
- Improve safety for pedestrians travelling along Headley Road; and
- Improve maintenance of trees and bushes and encourage use of footpaths around the schools.

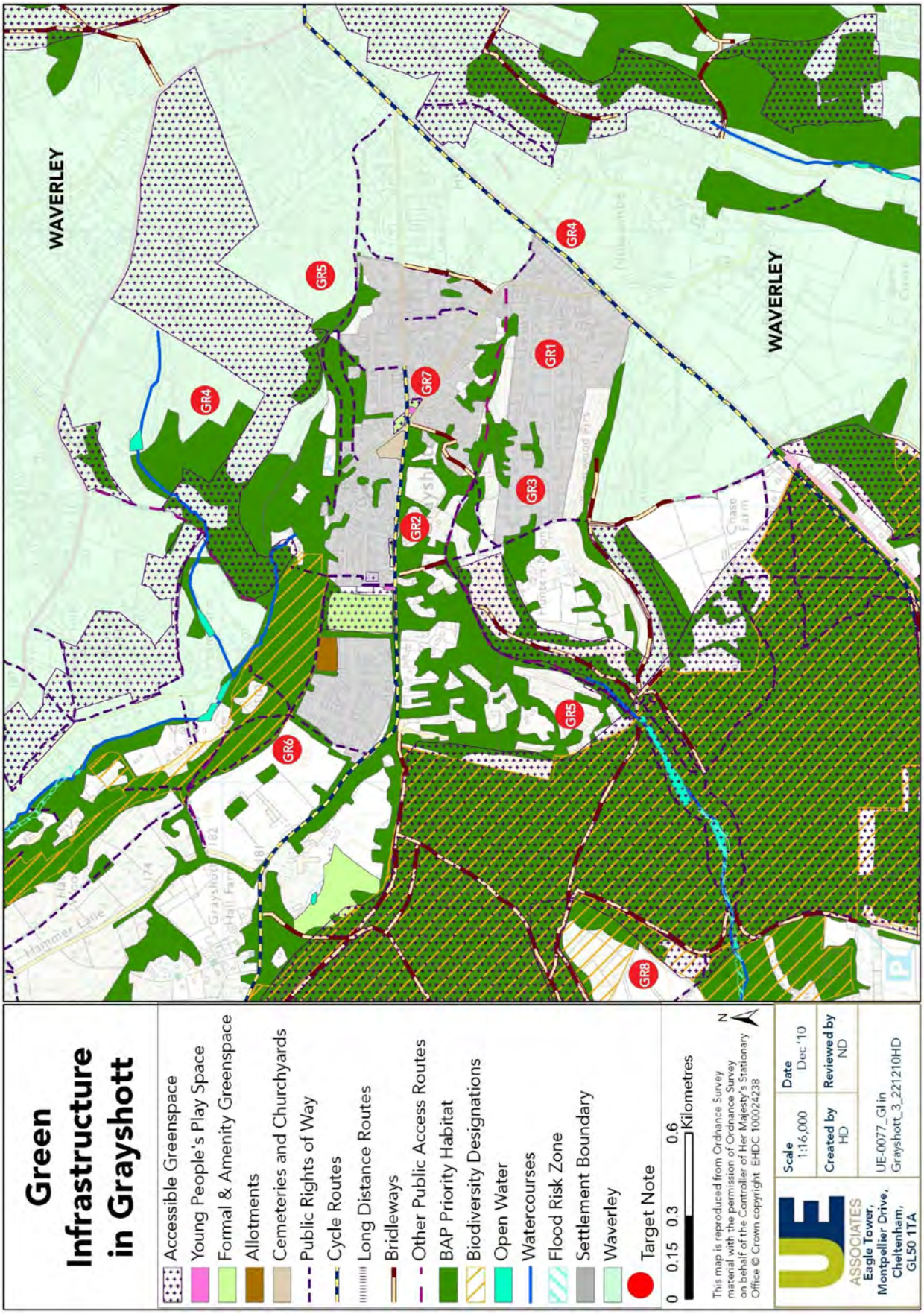
9.2 Recommendations and opportunities for Grayshott's green infrastructure network

9.2.1 **Table 9.1** presents recommended projects to support the local green infrastructure network in Grayshott. Information is included in relation to which objective of the GI Framework will be delivered by the relevant suggestion. Projects are represented by target notes which have been presented spatially in **Map 9.1**.

Table 9.1: *Project recommendations for Grayshott*

Target Note	Recommendations and opportunities in Grayshott	GI Framework
GR1	Additional children's play spaces should be created throughout the village, particularly in the southeast.	**A1**
GR2	Creation of facilities for young people, for example a multi-use games area (MUGA) with junior rugby/football pitches and teenage 'hanging out' area.	**A1**
GR3	Additional informal openspace is required, with larger sites (>1ha) needed in north western, eastern and southern parts of the village.	**C1,F1**
GR4	Increase provision of PROW to the north and east of Grayshott to link the village with neighbouring Waverley Borough.	**A1**
GR5	Create new cycle routes to link the village with countryside in all directions, including within Waverley Borough, and improve safety for cyclists travelling through the village itself.	**A1, F2**
GR6	Consider creation of a LNR for example by applying the designation to Whitmoor Hanger SINC.	**B1,G2**
GR7	Consider creation of a village pond in the centre or eastern part of Grayshott.	**B1, C2, D2**

GR8	Restore tree plantations and improved grassland within the Wealden Heaths BOA to heathland in order to reconnect existing heathland fragments.	**B1, C1**



Map 9.1: *Green Infrastructure in Grayshott including target note recommendations*

10 Horndean

10.1 Existing green infrastructure network in Horndean

10.1.1 Horndean is a town located at the southern tip of East Hampshire (within the parish of Horndean), sandwiched between Clanfield to the north and Havant Borough to the south. It is also close to the parish of Rowlands Castle to the east, and Winchester City Council to the west. The population is 12,358 (HCC SAPF data, 2010).

10.1.2 Many Horndean residents use Queen Elizabeth Country Park which is easy to access and within easy walking distance of the north of the parish and a cycle link in from Snells Corner. Staunton **Country Park** is approximately 3km to the southeast of Horndean. Leigh Park is the closest **Registered Park and Garden**, approximately 5km to the southeast. There are just two **open access playing fields** in Horndean, both in the south of the town - the 1.44ha Jubilee Park (a playing field which includes a **basketball court**), and the 2.37ha Horndean Recreation Ground South on Five Heads Road (comprising **football pitches**). There is also Downs Park in the north but this is small and its usage is difficult for ball games. Additional greenspace is provided by the **sports grounds** of Horndean Technology College, also in the north of the town, however these have only limited public access (being available for hire). Waterlooville **golf course** is situated to the southeast of the town. The Forestry Commission manages Havant Thicket, a large **woodland** (265 ha) that adjoins Staunton Country Park.

10.1.3 There are four play sites for children, located in the east (junior provision at Deep Dell North and Merchistoun Hall Grounds) and north of the town (toddler provision at Lychgate Close and toddler/junior provision at Five Heads Road), however provision for teenagers is limited. There is a well-distributed, though rather small, provision of **informal open space** across the town. Of particular note for their size are Deep Dell South in the southeast and Jubilee Field in the northwest.

10.1.4 Horndean has good provision of **private gardens** and there is a large area to the north of the town designated as a **local gap**, to avoid coalescence with Clanfield. Another **local gap** has been designated at Blendworth. There is one 0.12ha **allotment site** by Napier Road, just to the east of the centre of the town, which contains ten individual allotments.

10.1.5 There are several **ancient woodland** sites in the vicinity of the town, including Catherington Lith and Blendworth Lith to the north, and Yoell's Copse and James' Copse to the west. Wooded areas also exist in some residential **gardens** in the south of the town. The countryside surrounding Horndean has maintained a good proportion of its traditional **hedgerows**, with good examples of ancient hedgerow trees along Blendworth Lane in the far northeast of the town.

10.1.6 Approximately half of the farmed countryside surrounding the settlement is grassland; half is land in arable rotation. This is largely improved grassland or neglected rough grassland,

though some small areas are classed as **unimproved** or **semi-improved grassland**, with tall herb present at Dell Piece West. A small proportion of surrounding arable land is managed under Entry Level Stewardship schemes.

10.1.7 There are limited quantities of heathland in Horndean, some can be found at the 19ha Hazleton Common **LNR** (adjacent to the southeast corner of Horndean) which mostly consists of unimproved **acid grassland and scrub** that may once have been more extensive heathland.

10.1.8 There are some very small areas of **floodplain grazing marsh** on the western and eastern boundaries of the town, where flood risk areas exist (Lovedean Lane and London Road/Havant Road respectively). There is a small (0.13ha) **pond** located in Dell Piece West, known as Lily Pond, whilst ponds are also present at Hazleton Common, Yoell's Copse, Catherington Lith and Merchistoun, amongst others and also feature in some **private gardens**. **Reedbed** is present around Lily Pond.

10.1.9 Catherington Down, located approximately 1km to the northeast of Horndean, is a **SSSI**. There are three **LNRs** adjacent to the town: Catherington Lith and to the north, Hazleton Common to the southeast, and Yeoll's Copse to the southwest. There is an additional 12.8ha **LNR**, Catherington Down, located approximately 1km to the northeast of Horndean. **SINCs** include Blendworth Lith, Dell Piece West, James' Copse, amongst others. Much of the surrounding **woodland**, and some of the grassland is BAP priority habitat.

10.1.10 Hazleton Common in the southeast of Horndean, and Catherington Down, some 1km to the northwest are designated **open access land**. There are three large **accessible natural greenspace** sites immediately adjacent to the village, located within 300m of houses in the north (Catherington Lith), southeast (Hazleton Common) and southwest (Yeoll's Copse). Two smaller **accessible natural greenspace** sites are also located near the centre of the town - Merchistoun Hall Grounds and Dell Piece West. The five total 35.91ha, or 2.84ha/1000 population. The majority of the town is also within 5km of a large accessible site (Staunton Country Park).

10.1.11 There is good provision of **cycle routes** within Horndean, and some links with the wider countryside to the east and west, though connections with Clanfield to the north are via poor quality off-road tracks or busy on-road routes, e.g. the A3. There are some good pedestrian links between the edge of Horndean and the wider countryside, but very few **PROW** within the town; **bridleways** are present but fragmented. Monarch's Way **Long Distance Trail** (which runs for 87km across Hampshire and 990km in total between Worcester and Shoreham) passes through Horndean from west to east.

10.1.12 Due to high volumes of traffic, the number of children walking or cycling to school in Horndean is low; however, all three schools in the town have Travel Plans in place. In particular, Horndean Technology College is focusing on improving access by bicycle, whilst Horndean Infants School has introduced the following initiatives:

- Provision of cycle and scooter storage so that parents accompanying children to school do not have to carry cycles or scooters back with them;

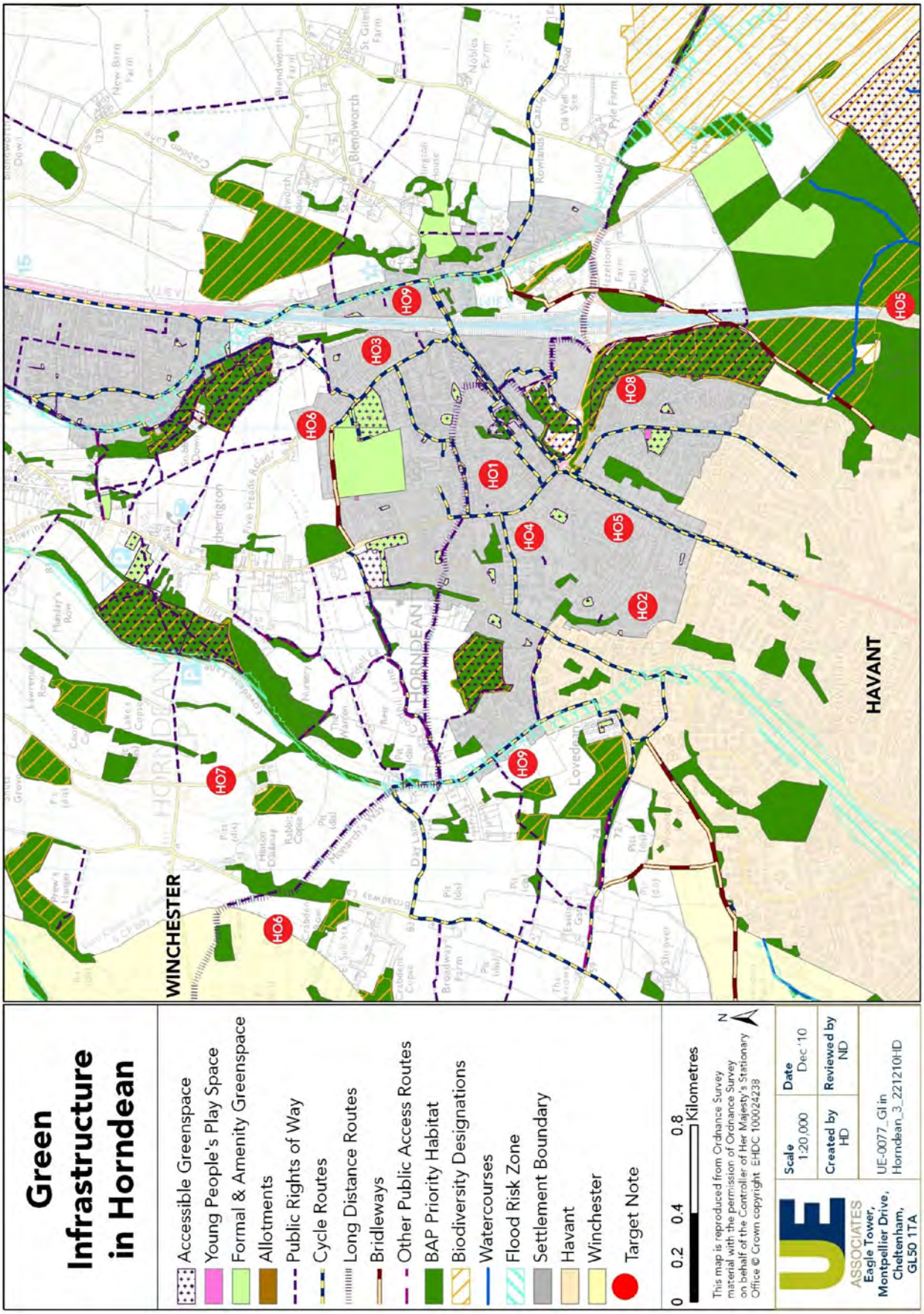
- A walking train from Horndean Express has been established; and
- Agreement has been obtained for parking in the Colonial Bar car park and walking trains from there and Napier Road is being investigated.

10.2 Recommendations and opportunities for Horndean's green infrastructure network

10.2.1 **Table 10.1** presents recommended projects to support the local green infrastructure network in Horndean. Information is included in relation to which objective of the GI Framework will be delivered by the relevant suggestion. Projects are represented by target notes which have been presented spatially in **Map 10.1**.

Table 10.1: *Project recommendations for Horndean*

Target Note	Recommendations and opportunities in Horndean	GI Framework
HO1	Additional playing fields, particularly junior football pitches, should be created, focusing on central, southern, eastern and western parts of the town.	**A2**
HO2	Additional young people's spaces should be created, focusing on central, southern and western parts of the town.	**A2**
HO3	Additional informal openspace should be sought, with larger sites (>1ha) needed in the northeast, southwest and central parts of town.	**C1,F1**
HO4	Allotment space should be created throughout Horndean.	**E1, G2**
HO5	Increase the provision of PROW within the town, so that surrounding countryside is accessible from all areas. Also improve access to Havant Thicket in association with Havant Borough Council.	**A1**
HO6	Create new cycle routes to link the north of the town with countryside at Catherington Down and the northeast with neighbouring Winchester local authority area.	**A1, F2**
HO7	Link up fragmented woodland to the north west; encourage new woodland connections on arable land through Environmental Stewardship.	**B1, C1, E2, H1**
HO8	Restore heathland at Hazleton Common LNR.	**B1, G2**
HO9	Encourage creation of features to support sustainable drainage alongside and throughout the Lovedean Lane and London Road/Havant Road area.	**D2**



Map 10.1: *Green Infrastructure in Horndean including target note recommendations*

11 Liphook

11.1 Existing green infrastructure network in Liphook

11.1.1 Liphook is a large village in East Hampshire, located in the parish of Bramshott and Liphook in the far east of the district, immediately to the north of Chichester District in Sussex. Adjacent to the busy A3 and lying on the London to Portsmouth railway line, the village is well located and popular with commuters. Liphook's population, including Bramshott, is 8,467 (HCC SAPF data, 2010).

11.1.2 There are no country parks in the vicinity of the village. Little Bohunt is a 2.5ha, Grade II listed **Registered Park/Garden** located in the southwest of Liphook; it is not open to the public.

11.1.3 The centrally located 3.16ha War Memorial Recreation Ground East comprises of **football pitches, tennis courts** and a **bowling green**, whilst additional sports pitches are planned for elsewhere in the village. Liphook **Golf Course** is located southwest of the village. There are two sites specifically for **children** in Liphook, one at War Memorial Recreation Ground East near the centre of village, and also at Admers Crescent which has equipment suitable for the junior age group.

11.1.4 **Informal open space** is largely concentrated in the central parts of the village, for example the Village Green, Fletcher's Field and Chiltley Manor. Liphook has a good provision of **private gardens**, however, there is only one very small **allotment site** in between a group of houses off Gunns Farm in the far south of the village. There is a more substantial (0.59ha) allotment site off Tunbridge Lane, but this is to the north of the village's boundary and the busy A3, in the village of Bramshott. The 5ha **churchyard** serving Liphook is also located in Bramshott, and known as St. Mary's.

11.1.5 Pockets of **woodland** can be found surrounding the village in all directions, particularly along the River Wey corridor adjacent to the east and surrounding Foley Manor 0.5km to the west, with larger expanses including the 1,293ha Woolmer Forest approximately 1km to the west, the 371ha Bramshott Common 1km to the northeast, and extensive woodland across the border in Chichester District. **Ancient woodland** in the vicinity of Liphook includes the 15ha Griggs Wood (0.5km to the northwest) and the 37ha Golden Valley in Chichester District.

11.1.6 Improved grassland surrounds the village to the northeast and west. There is a small linear fragment of **unimproved/semi-improved grassland** approximately 1km to the west of Liphook. Land adjacent to Liphook to the east, south, west and northwest is in arable rotation. **Heathland** occurs at both Bramshott and Ludshott Commons **SSSI** (located approximately 1km to the northeast of Liphook) and Woolmer Forest **SSSI**.

11.1.7 The **River Wey, Hollywater** and **open water bodies** to the west of Liphook are located in areas with high flood risk zones. **Floodplain grazing marsh** is present in much of this area. There are close to a dozen waterbodies located in the woodlands surrounding Foley Manor, some 0.5km west of Liphook, totalling over 5ha. Other nearby waterbodies are located adjacent to the village's southwest corner off Portsmouth Road; at Hammer Trout Farm to the northeast; at Conford Park Farm to the northwest; whilst **ponds** are also located in some private gardens.

11.1.8 Wealden Heaths Phase 2 **SPA** surrounds the village, lying approximately 1km away to the west, northwest and northeast. Bramshott and Ludshott Commons **SSSI** is located approximately 1km to the northeast. Woolmer Forest **SSSI** is approximately 1km to the west and northwest. There are several **SINCs** adjacent to Liphook in particular along the River Wey corridor, other SINCs are located around the village reflecting BAP priority habitat in particular the **woodland, heathland and wetlands**.

11.1.9 Woolmer Forest's **open access land** provides **Accessible Natural Greenspace** to residents of Liphook: other areas include the 8ha Radford Park located between Liphook's northeastern residential area and the River Wey; the 164ha Passfield Common & Conford Moor 1.5km to the northwest; and the 381ha Bramshott and Ludshott Common 1km to the northeast. Nearby woodland sites in Chichester District are also accessible.

11.1.10 Provision of **cycle routes** within the village is good (though safety is a concern as they are all on-road), and there are links with the wider countryside in all directions. **PROW** provide good access from the edge of the village into surrounding countryside, particularly Woolmer Forest, however, there are few linking the village with countryside to the south (Chichester District) or within the village itself, and footpaths in the centre of village are very narrow. There is a good **bridleway** network just outside the western edge of village. The New Lipchis Way **Long Distance Trail** is a 60km route that starts in the southern end of Liphook and goes south through West Sussex, ending in West Wittering on the coast. The route also links Liphook with the nearby Sussex Border Path Long Distance Trail.

11.1.11 As a result of pupil safety and traffic congestion concerns, all three schools in Liphook have Travel Plans. Specific suggestions within the Travel Plan produced by Liphook Infant and Junior Schools (2003) include:

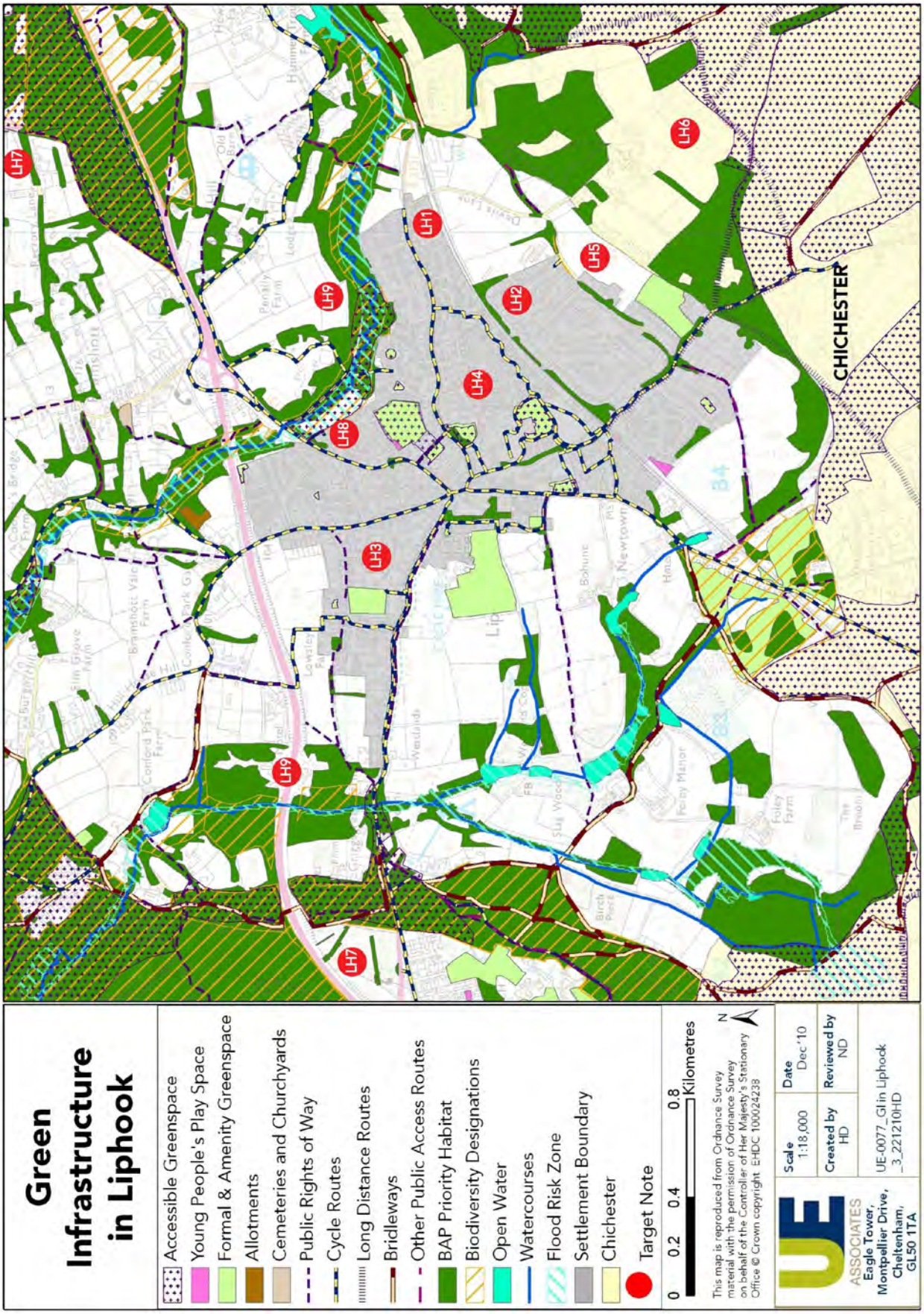
- Crossing points on Headley Road, Longmoor Road and Haslemere Road;
- A Walking Bus from Sainsbury's; and
- Other Walking Initiatives.

11.2 Recommendations and opportunities for Liphook's green infrastructure network

11.2.1 **Table 11.1** presents recommended projects to support the local green infrastructure network in Liphook. Information is included in relation to which objective of the GI Framework will be delivered by the relevant suggestion. Projects are represented by target notes which have been presented spatially in **Map 11.1**.

Table 11.1: *Project recommendations for Liphook*

Target Note	Recommendations and opportunities in Liphook	GI Framework
LH1	Additional playing fields should be created, focusing on northern, southern and eastern parts of the village.	**A2**
LH2	New young people's spaces should be created, particularly in northern and eastern parts of the village.	**A2**
LH3	Additional informal openspace is required, particularly in the northwest, east and south of village.	**C1,F1**
LH4	Allotment space should be created throughout Liphook.	**E1, G2**
LH5	Increase the provision of PROW within the village, so that surrounding countryside is accessible from all areas, and improve links with Chichester District to the south east.	**A1, C2**
LH6	Create new cycle routes to link the village with countryside and Chichester's accessible woodland to the southeast.	**A1, F2**
LH7	Restore and connect fragmented heathland habitat to support the Wealden Heaths BOA.	**B1, B2, C1**
LH8	Restore wetland habitats within the woodland and parkland along the River Wey to reduce floodrisk to adjacent residential properties; encourage access.	**B1, D2**
LH9	Consider creation of a LNR by giving statutory status to SINCs where land is of suitable quality and where land owners are in agreement. Proposed development at Liphook (Boyer Planning) includes creation of meadows and scrub which will help deliver this target note.	**B1, G2**



Map 11.1: *Green Infrastructure in Liphook including target note recommendations*

12 Liss

12.1 Existing green infrastructure network in Liss

12.1.1 Liss is a fairly large village located in the east of East Hampshire, adjacent to the border with Chichester District in Sussex. Besides the main village centre, there are two outlying areas to the north and west (Liss Forest and West Liss) as well as close neighbour Rake (part of which lies in Chichester District), that make up the administrative area of the settlement. Located in the parish of Liss, adjoining parishes are Whitehill, Greatham, Hawkley and Steep, all of which fall within the recently designated South Downs National Park, except Whitehill which is only partly resides in the National Park. The population of Liss is 6,288 (HCC SAPF data, 2010).

12.1.2 There is a good sized (2.17ha) formal sports ground near the centre of Liss (on Hill Brow Road) which comprises **football pitches** and **tennis courts**. There is also a large **children's play area** here (Newman Collard/Inwood Road comprising both toddler and teenage facilities), with another four located in central (toddler provision at The Roundabouts), northern (toddler provision in Liss Forest) and western parts of town. The largest informal open space in Liss is a 1.45ha **recreation ground** adjacent to Station Road, with others present in central, western and northern parts of the town.

12.1.3 Liss has an abundance of **private gardens** and numerous **allotments**; with four near the centre of village and one to the east (those at Mill Road, Lower Green and Duckmead Lane are particularly large). There are also two **churchyards** (St. Peter's and St. Mary's) in the north western part of Liss.

12.1.4 There is substantial **woodland** present to the northeast (Liss Forest, which also contains large fragments of **heathland**), southeast (e.g. Highfield Wood), south (e.g. Durford Wood) and southwest (e.g. Adhurst Wood) of the Village. Wealden Heaths Phase 2 **SPA** is a substantial (2,084ha) European Site located immediately to the northeast of Liss, and contains the 1,299ha Woolmer Forest **SSSI**. Rake Hanger, over the border in Chichester District, is a substantial (40ha) area of **ancient woodland**, 28ha of which is a designated SSSI.

12.1.5 Improved grassland is present immediately to the east and further to the west of Liss, with a small area of **semi-improved neutral grassland** to the north (at Moor Park Farm). The majority of the non-wooded land surrounding Liss is in arable rotation, and is managed under **Environmental Stewardship** (including entry level, organic and higher level schemes).

12.1.6 The **River Rother** passes through the village from north to southwest, and is tree lined for much of its urban route. There is high flood risk along the river corridor; **floodplain grazing marsh** is present along much of the corridor to the north of Liss, and some fragments exist to the south. There are numerous bodies of **standing eutrophic water** to the northeast of the village, with 'The Lake' being the largest at 3.3ha. Other ponds are

present to the west of the village, e.g. at Prince's Marsh, whilst they may also be present in some private gardens. In addition, there are a number of minor watercourses, feeder streams for the River Rother, which are important for enjoyment and ecological value, such as Batt's Brook and the stream running along Mints Road.

12.1.7 The 14ha Liss Riverside Railway Walk **LNR** is located immediately to the northwest of the village; the railway embankment itself has few trees or hedges. Various **SINCs** can also be found along the river to the north and south of Liss, whilst small woodlands and meadows within and adjacent to the village are also registered SINCs. **Open access land** is present nearby in Chichester District (at Durford Wood and Combe Hill), whilst there is 7.1ha of accessible natural greenspace along the River Rother immediately north of Liss, representing 1.45ha/1000 population.

12.1.8 Though limited in number, Liss's **cycle routes** link all parts of the village with countryside in all directions, as well as to neighbouring Petersfield and Whitehill Bordon. Only the northwest of Liss is well served by **PROW.** There are a number of important routes not designated as PROW such as paths to and across Longmoor; it is recognised however that *de facto* access of this nature can change at short notice. In addition, quiet roads such as Mint Road, Warren Road, and Rake Road, form important aspects of the local walking network, drawing on Natural England's quiet lanes initiative. The 1.8km Riverside Railway Walk links the north western part of the village with adjacent Liss Forest, the Longmoor heathland area and hence to the Royal Woolmer Way to Alice Holt Forest. According to the Liss Village Design Statement (2000), around 100 people per day use the walk on weekdays, rising to 250 during summer weekends.

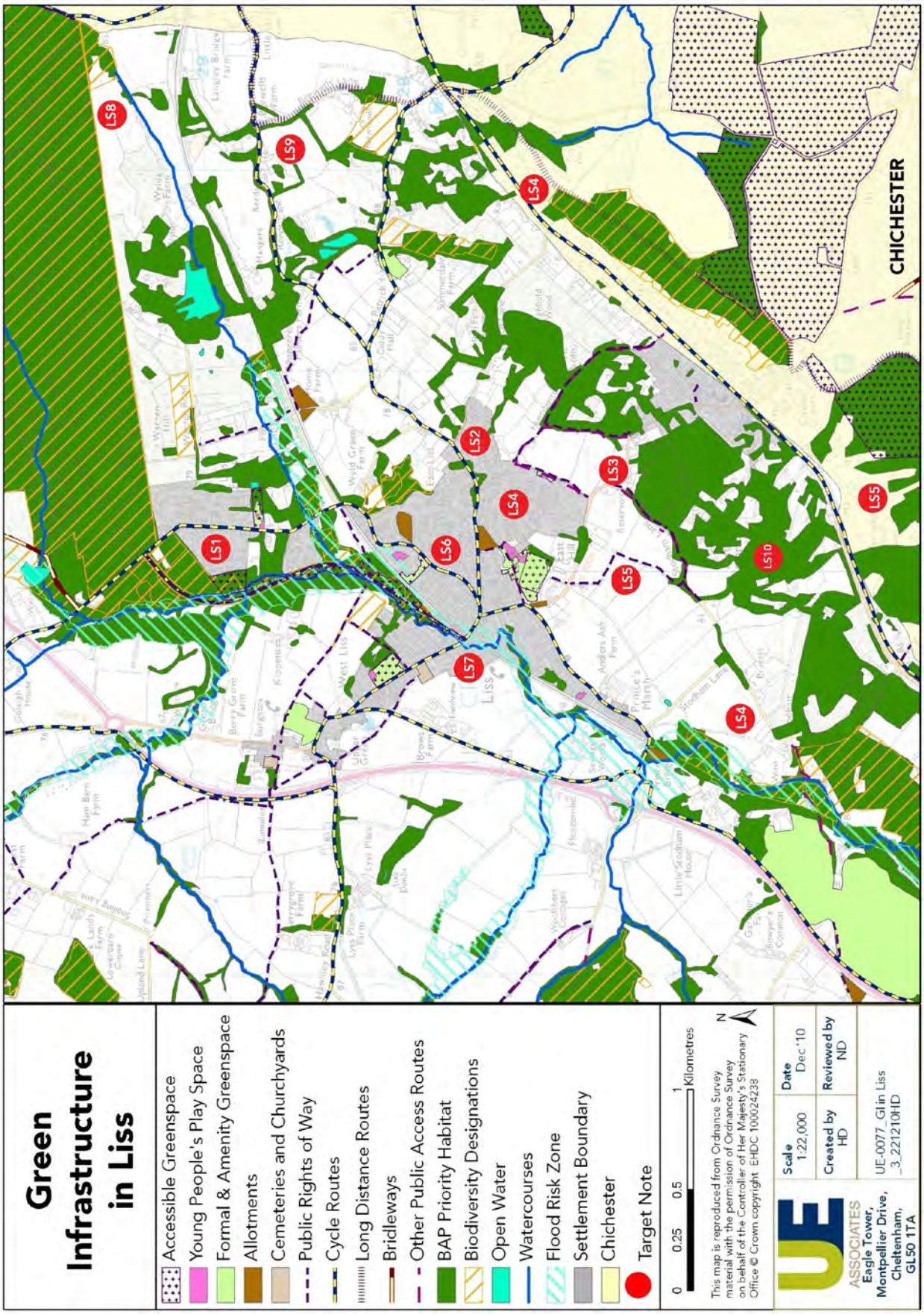
12.1.9 Pedestrian links with Chichester District are particularly limited, though the 222km **Sussex Border Path** is located just to the south of Rake. Liss Infant and Junior Schools have jointly prepared a Travel Plan to deal with the health and safety of pupils and sustainable travel in the village. Speeding traffic on Hillbrow Road, between the schools and Andlers Ash Road is a particular concern.

12.2 Recommendations and opportunities for Liss's green infrastructure network

12.2.1 **Table 12.1** presents recommended projects to support the local green infrastructure network in Liss. Information is included in relation to which objective of the GI Framework will be delivered by the relevant suggestion. Projects are represented by target notes which have been presented spatially in **Map 12.1**.

Table 12.1: *Project recommendations for Liss*

Target Note	Recommendations and opportunities in Liss	GI Framework
LS1	Additional playing fields ought to be created, focusing on the northern part of Liss and neighbouring Rake (including both East Hampshire and Chichester parts).	**A2**
LS2	Liss would benefit from additional young people's spaces in the east of the village (a skate park has already been proposed), as would neighbouring Rake (including both East Hampshire and Chichester parts).	**A2**
LS3	Additional informal openspace is required, particularly in the north, east and southwest of village and in Rake (including both East Hampshire and Chichester parts).	**C1,F1**
LS4	Increase the provision of PROW both within the village, and to link residential areas with surrounding countryside to the east, south and west. Increase links to Hangers, across Longmoor and to the South of Liss and create links with Chichester District and the Sussex Border Path.	**A1, G1**
LS5	Create new cycle routes to link Liss with countryside to the south in Chichester District.	**A1, F2**
LS6	Enhance the biodiversity and recreational potential of the Rother Valley BOA, and in particular restore wetland habitat along the River Rother to reduce the flood risk to residential areas.	**B1, D1, D2**
LS7	Restore tree plantations, improved grassland and arable land within the Wealden Heaths BOA (especially to the north and south of Liss Forest) to heathland to reconnect existing heathland fragments.	**B2, H2**
LS8	Encourage land owners to the east of Liss to provide either open access to their land or alternatively off-road footpaths and cycle routes/bridleways by means of Environmental Stewardship.	**A1, E2, F2**
LS9	Protect the corridor of mixed and broadleaved woodland to the south of Liss from further fragmentation, and encourage the owners of St. Patrick's Copse, Highfield Wood, Hill Side, Rake Common, Farther Commons, Stodham Park, Budd's Copse and Adhurst Wood to work together to improve biodiversity and public access within the woodland corridor.	**H1**



Map 12.1: *Green Infrastructure in Liss including target note recommendations*

13 Petersfield

13.1 Existing green infrastructure network in Petersfield

13.1.1 Petersfield, although not the largest town in East Hampshire, is located approximately at its centre and is often seen as the principal town of the district. A traditional market town, Petersfield is adjacent to the busy A3 that links London with Portsmouth, and benefits from being located within the recently designated South Downs National Park, which along with its setting in the valley of the Western Rother, gives it its special character. The population of Petersfield is 14,306 (HCC SAPF data, 2010).

13.1.2 The substantial Queen Elizabeth **Country Park** is approximately 3km away. Petersfield has a good provision of large **sports and playing pitches**, including **football, hockey, rugby, tennis** and **swimming** in the eastern side of the town, e.g. at Love Lane and Penns Place. There is also a good distribution of **play space** around the town, though these are limited in number and provide primarily for younger children. However, there is a proposal for a new **skate park** at Love Lane Recreation Ground.

13.1.3 The provision and distribution of **informal open space** is high, with a large area to the south of the town (The Heath; a prominent green lung), and smaller areas throughout the western side of the town, e.g. Woods Meadow, Bell Hill and Water Meadows.

13.1.4 Petersfield has an abundance of **private gardens**, many of which are a good size in relation to dwelling size and therefore population. Two good-sized **allotment spaces** are located in the northwest (Tilmore Road) and far northeast (Mill Lane) of the town. There is one, large, **cemetery** (Petersfield Cemetery) in the centre of the town.

13.1.5 Fragments of **broadleaved woodland** are present to the south of the town, whilst a substantial woodland (Durford Wood) is located to the northeast, comprising broadleaved and mixed areas of woodland. Approximately half of the town's woodland resource is classed as **ancient woodland**. Grassland, particularly improved grassland, forms the major part of Petersfield's non-urban land resource. **Semi-improved neutral grassland** is located to the south of the town, in places along the **River Rother**, and both adjacent to and within the cemetery.

13.1.6 **Heathland** covers a significant proportion of The Heath (on the southern edge of the town). Various watercourses flow through the town. These include the River Rother (west), Tilmore Brook (centre) and Cridell Stream (south). There is part culverting (particularly on the Tilmore Brook) and a lack of natural river features. There is significant **floodplain grazing marsh** along both the River Rother and the Cridell Stream, and one very small pocket of **reedbed** to the east of the town, beyond Penns Place. All watercourses represent a flood risk to the town. Heath Pond is a **lake** which represents the largest water body in the town. It is likely that gardens have **ponds**. Other ponds can be found to the east of the town to the edge of the settlement.

13.1.7 Out of town, the East Hampshire Hangers **SAC** and Wealden Edge Hangers **SSSI** are located approximately 2km to the north, beyond the A3 road. Rotherlands **LNR** is located to the east of the town, whilst The Heath and the River Rother are registered as **SINCs**. There are several other woodland **SINCs** to the east of the town.

13.1.8 In addition to the local sites mentioned above, other BAP priority habitat within the town itself includes small pockets of **grassland, marsh and woodland** (e.g. on Churchers College grounds), as well as areas beyond the town's boundaries in all directions.

13.1.9 The Heath is Petersfield's only parcel of land registered under and therefore **open access** under the CROW act. Residents within southern and eastern parts of Petersfield are within 300m of either The Heath or woodland close to Penns Place, whilst all Petersfield residents are within 2km of a 20ha site. Petersfield's **Accessible Natural Greenspace** comprises approximately 40ha.

13.1.10 The areas of grassland and farmland between the north of the urbanised area and the A3 are designated local gaps. The rural hinterland is mostly in arable rotation on all sides of Petersfield. The majority of arable land and grassland to the southeast, south, west and northwest of the town is under environmental stewardship (of which most is entry level).

13.1.11 There is an excellent network of **cycling routes** within the town itself (though crossing points and safety along the busier roads is a concern), some of which link to the wider countryside. PROW link Petersfield with the surrounding countryside, but there are few routes within the town itself. There are no **bridleways** in the town and only a short stretch to the east. There are two **Long Distance Trails** in Petersfield; the Hangers Way passes from north to south and the Serpent Trail goes eastwards from The Heath. The **verges** and **embankments** along certain stretches of the mainline railway that passes through the down and immediately adjacent to the settlement could be enhanced. The proposed Shipwrights Way will link the site to Alice Holt Forest and Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

13.1.12 A number of green fingers, such as Lords Farm, Tilmore Farm and Sheet Common, link the urban areas of Petersfield to the countryside. These form important corridors that help retain the rural character of the town whilst linking and concealing Petersfield from the surrounding countryside (Petersfield Tomorrow, 2010). These represent significant opportunity for biodiversity and recreational enhancement.

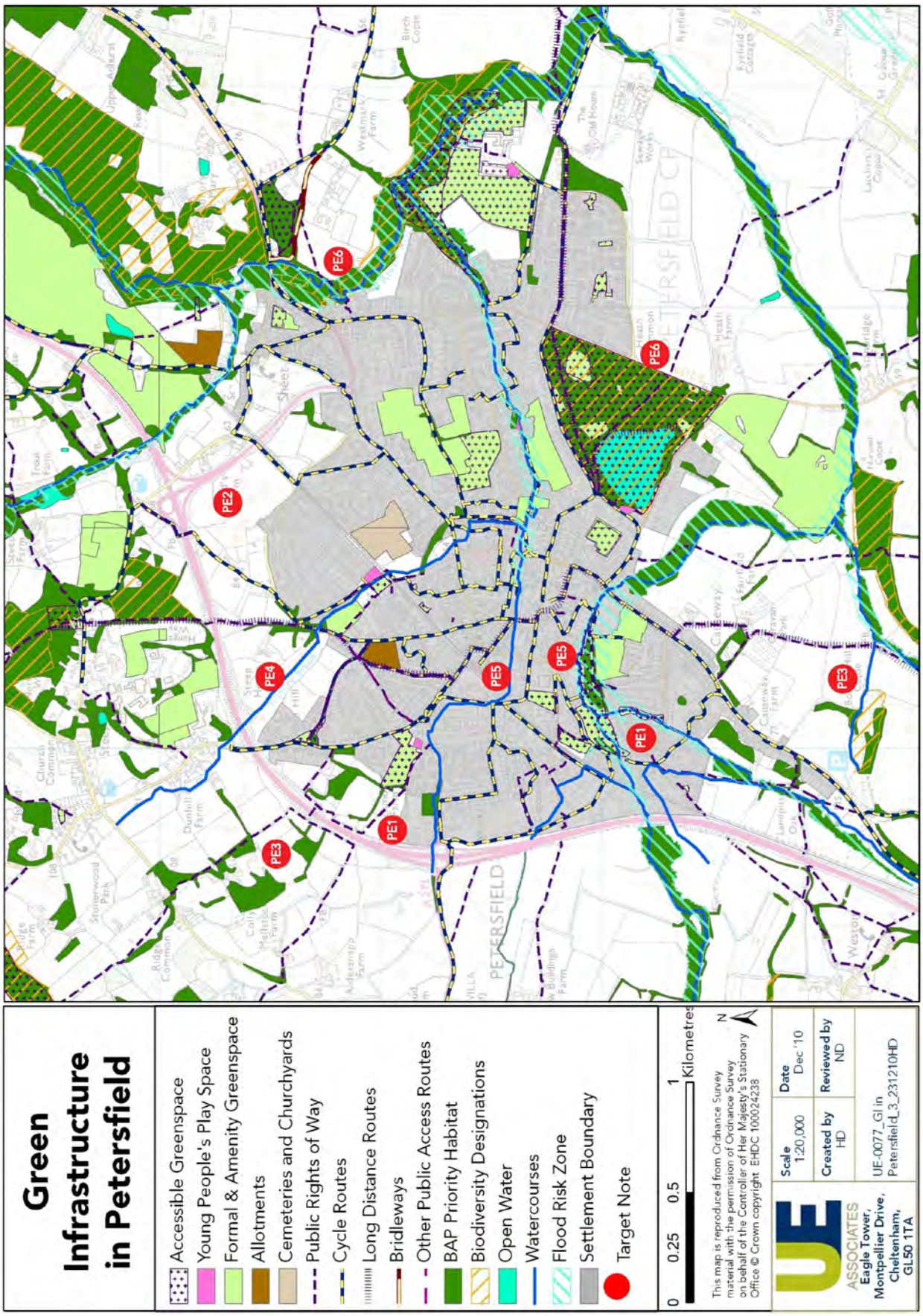
13.1.13 Three of the six schools in Petersfield have adopted Travel Plans to deal with congestion and the safety of children who walk and cycle to school. Specifically, the Petersfield School Travel Plan (2005) included a recommendation to provide safe crossing areas for cyclists and pedestrians at the junctions of Hylton Road/The Causeway/Dragon Street/Sussex Road.

13.2 Recommendations and opportunities for Petersfield's green infrastructure network

13.2.1 **Table 13.1** presents recommended projects to support the local green infrastructure network in Petersfield. Information is included in relation to which objective of the GI Framework will be delivered by the relevant suggestion. Projects are represented by target notes which have been presented spatially in **Map 13.1**.

Table 13.1: *Project recommendations for Petersfield*

Target Note	Recommendations and opportunities in Petersfield	GI Framework
PE1	Additional children's play spaces should be created, focusing on south-western parts of the town, and more teenage provision in the west.	**A2**
PE2	Increase the provision of PROW within the town, so that surrounding countryside is accessible from all areas. Improve links with the golf course, woodland and river corridor.	**A1**
PE3	Encourage new woodland corridors on arable land through Environmental to connect woodlands.	**B1, C1, E2, H1**
PE4	Restore floodplain habitats along the Tilmore Brook corridor where possible to alleviate the flood risk to the town. Introduce access and create flower rich meadows.	**A1, D1, D2**
PE5	Where the watercourses pass through grassland or arable land, restore natural river features such as meanders and diversity of bankside vegetation. Support the Rother Valley BOA. Reduce culverting through the town.	**B1, D1**
PE6	Consider creation of a LNR by giving statutory status to SINCs where land is of suitable quality and where land owners are in agreement.	**A1, F2**



Map 13.1: *Green Infrastructure in Petersfield including target note recommendations*

14 Rowlands Castle

14.1 Existing green infrastructure network in Rowlands Castle

14.1.1 Rowlands Castle is located in the far south of East Hampshire District, adjacent to the County of West Sussex, and partly resides in the South Downs National Park. Despite excellent links to London and Portsmouth via the railway and A3(M), and its inclusion within the PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) sub-region, the village of Rowlands Castle retains a semi-rural character featuring woodlands and both arable and pastoral farmland. The population of Rowlands Castle is 2,688 (HCC SAPF data, 2010).

14.1.2 Rowlands Castle benefits from being located adjacent to **Staunton Country Park,** the site of the possible Havant Thicket Reservoir**,** and two Grade II* listed **Registered Parks and Gardens** - Leigh Park and the more substantial (602.3ha) Stansted Park. Swallow Holes golf course is also adjacent to the village. Within the centre of Rowlands Castle is the large **Recreation Ground** North, which contains **football pitches** and **tennis courts**. There is also a good, if small, provision of **informal open space**, which can be found in central, southern and north eastern parts of the village.

14.1.3 There is just one formal area of **children's play space** in the settlement. This is a very small site just south of the recreation ground that features an assortment of obstacles and swings for children aged eleven and under. There are no outdoor socialising places for teenagers in Rowlands Castle (other than structured provision offered by schools, youth and sports clubs). **Private gardens** in Rowlands Castle are plentiful and of a good size. There is one large **allotment space**, located in the far southwest of the village, off Durants Road. There is a **cemetery** on the corner of Redhill Road / Manor Lodge Road in the southwest of the town.

14.1.4 Large areas of **ancient woodland** surround the village, including mixed woodland to the southeast (Southleigh Forest) and northeast (Stansted Forest), and a mixed plantation to the northwest (comprising Long Wood, Havant Forest and Stein Wood). Grassland surrounds the village to the south and southwest, with **semi-improved neutral grassland** at Staunton Country Park, Durrants and Nightingale Bottom. Land immediately to the north and northeast of Rowlands Castle is in arable rotation (Woodhouse Ashes Farm and Drews Farm, respectively, both of which are managed under Environmental Stewardship), whilst other farmland is present to the southeast.

14.1.5 The **Lavant Stream** runs to the east of the village, parallel and adjacent to Finchdean Road and the railway. The **flood plain** runs east of the village and is seasonally inundated in the winter and can flood gardens in the hamlet of Finchdean and the southern end of Finchdean Road. **Floodplain grazing marsh** is present alongside the Lavant Stream south of the Stansted Forest, but north of this the stream is un-vegetated and is at high risk of flooding (though residential areas are largely unaffected). The central part of the village, between Redhill Road and Finchdean Road is also at high risk of flooding. There are two

lakes (0.6ha and 1.7ha) close by within Staunton Country Park, and a number of smaller **waterbodies** on the grounds of the old Motte and Bailey castle, and in the Red Hill and Durrants areas. Ponds may also be present within private gardens. The proposed Havant Thicket reservoir will significantly increase the existing open water resource once approved.

14.1.6 There are no LNRs in the vicinity of Rowlands Castle, however, **SINCs** within 1km of the village include the Holt (127.4ha), Havant Thicket (97.3ha), Southleigh Forest (79.1ha), Rowlands Castle Golf Course (47.6ha), and five smaller (<10ha) sites. Havant Thicket and neighbouring Long Wood (adjacent to the west of Rowlands Castle and totalling 138ha) are registered under the CROW act, whilst Stansted Park (602ha; adjacent to the northeast) is also publicly accessible.

14.1.7 The **PROW** network connects Rowlands Castle with countryside in all directions, and those to the north and east of the village are especially well used by residents. Of particular merit are the **long distance routes**: the 256km Sussex Border Path passes through the northeast of the village; the 990km Monarch's Way passes through the centre; and the 34km Staunton Way passes along the village's western boundary. The railway embankment is sparsely vegetated except where it runs through Stansted Forest to the south of the station.

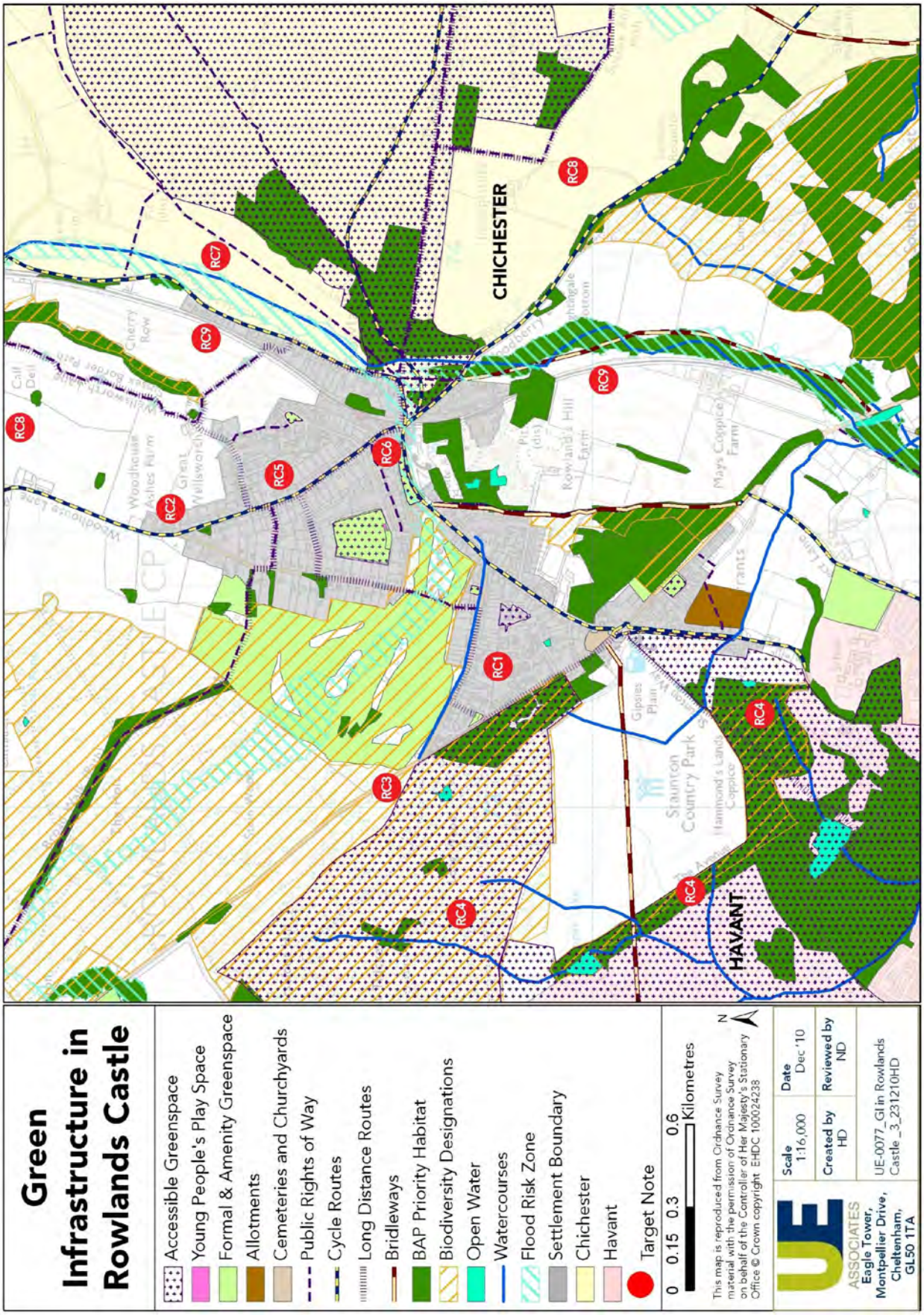
14.1.8 There is one school in the village, St. John's Primary School, which has a Travel Plan. Whilst the provision of footpaths and cycleways is good in Rowlands Castle, the Parish Plan (2008) demonstrated concerns about traffic speeds, danger spots, congestion and parking problems, with just 13% of people walking to work, study, shopping or leisure destinations. In addition, the footpaths used by parents and children along the B2149 (Manor Lodge Road and Durrants Road) are narrow and suffer from wind turbulence.

14.2 Recommendations and opportunities for Rowlands Castle's green infrastructure network

14.2.1 **Table 14.1** presents recommended projects to support the local green infrastructure network in Rowlands Castle. Information is included in relation to which objective of the GI Framework will be delivered by the relevant suggestion. Projects are represented by target notes which have been presented spatially in **Map 14.1**.

Table 14.1: *Project recommendations for Rowlands Castle*

Target Note	Recommendations and opportunities in Rowlands Castle	GI Framework
RC1	Additional play spaces for children should be created, especially in northern, eastern, southern and western parts of Rowlands Castle, as well as a new 'hanging out' space for teenagers.	**A2**
RC2	Additional informal openspace should be sought in the north and west of village.	**A2**
RC3	Create new cycle routes to link the village with countryside to the west (and beyond to Havant Borough).	**A1, C2**
RC4	Consider creation of a LNR. This could be achieved by converting the status of one of the followings SINCs: Havant Thicket, Thicket Bottom, or Hammond's Lands Copse (collaboration with Havant Borough Council may be necessary).	**A1, F2**
RC5	Create additional ponds within areas of greenspace in the centre and north of the village.	**B1, D2**
RC6	Restore wetland habitats and integrate with sink holes (McDowell et al, 2008) along urban sections of the Lavant Stream, e.g. within the area of informal open space between Redhill Road and Finchdean Road, to reduce flood risk to nearby properties.	**B1, D2**
RC7	Restore natural river features such as meanders and diversity of bankside vegetation along the Lavant Stream to enhance its biodiversity and aesthetics (in collaboration with Chichester District Council).	**B1, D1, C2**
RC8	Work with Chichester District and arable land owners to the north and east of Rowlands Castle to restore tree corridors and hedgerows between the Holt, Stansted Forest and Southleigh Forest.	**B1, C1, H1**
RC9	Enhance the railway corridor by planting trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses of local provenance to enhance floristic and invertebrate diversity in particular.	**B1**



Map 14.1: *Green Infrastructure in Rowlands Castle including target note recommendations*

15 Implementing a Study

15.1 Partnership and community engagement

15.1.1 The GI Study has been prepared on behalf of EHDC; the next stages of green infrastructure planning and delivery of recommendations will be subject to a longer term strategy which is shaped by local communities to determine specific elements on the ground. Delivery of GI projects will be variously delivered through partnership working which will include local communities, developers, stakeholder organisations as well as the Council itself. Funding will be an essential consideration for many projects; the aspiration and desire to achieve and deliver each project will come through identified lead organisations or private developers.

15.1.2 It is as yet unclear to what extent the proposed Localism and Decentralisation Bill and the new Neighbourhood Plans (HM Government, 2010) will be a fundamental factor in joint working and delivering projects through partnership. Opportunities to define, appreciate and deliver green infrastructure through the local level will be welcome.

15.1.3 East Hampshire District Council already has several partnerships that are well placed to take the Study recommendations forward. For example, the East Hampshire Community Partnership has a ready-made network of organisations that consider issues relating to green infrastructure: the East Hampshire Environment Group. Notably, the present East Hampshire Sustainable Development Strategy (2008-2026) contains several strands which relate directly to the GI Framework including priority outcomes that include action for biodiversity, landscape enhancement, recreation opportunities and adapting to climate change.

15.1.4 The East Hampshire District Council Strategy Update (2008-2011) identifies three priority areas around: (i) people, (ii) organisation and (iii) place. It recognises that Community Forums have an important role to play in terms of supporting and achieving the priorities; the GI vision reflects these priorities. **Figure 15.1** illustrates the four Community Forum areas which cover the district. The priorities for each Community Forum is to focus on understanding and meeting the needs of the communities in East Hampshire, ensuring that everyone is treated equally and issues that matter most to the district's residents are tackled; the priorities for organisation seek to make the most of council resources; and, the priorities for place will look to the future to enhance the natural environment and recognise sense of place whilst providing facilities for local people.

15.1.5 This GI Study has been prepared to inform future development and growth within the market towns and settlements of East Hampshire. It is suggested that local GI groups are established for each settlement to consider proposals in this Study and shape them to provide for local communities. Representatives from these groups can then liaise through the Community Forums when considering priorities in order to allocate resources.

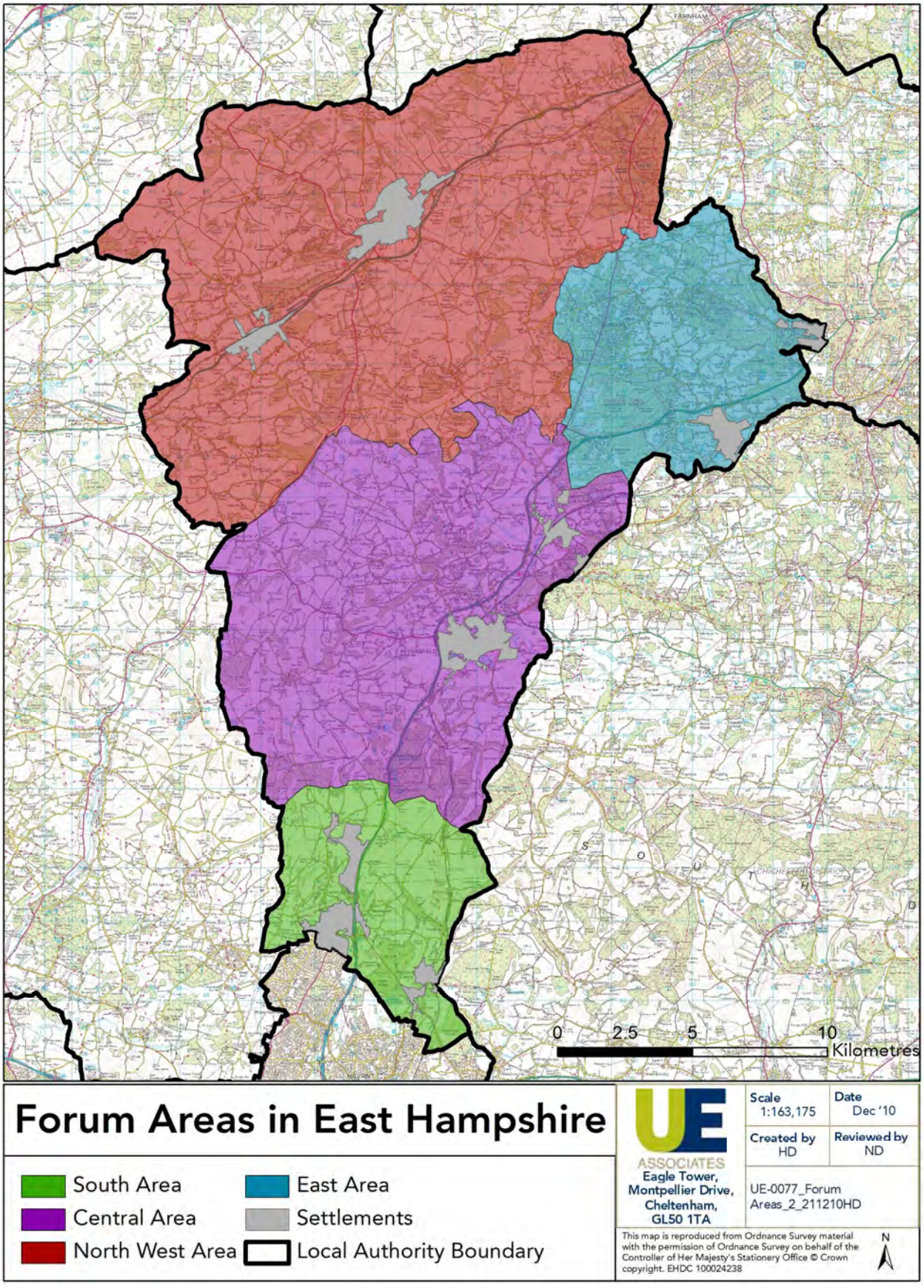


Figure 15.1: *Community Forum areas in East Hampshire*

15.2 Community Forums

15.2.1 There are four Community Forums in East Hampshire: Central Area, East Area, North West Area, and South Area. They have been in existence for more than thirteen years. They initially sought to engage with local communities by providing local people with a method for influencing council work and policy development. In supporting this role, they have aimed to devolve decision-making power to local councillors whenever possible and appropriate. The style and format of the meetings has changed over time.

15.2.2 In that time, local government has changed considerably. Partnership working at a local level has become a major strand in government thinking. This has resulted in the creation of formal arrangements such as Local Strategic and Community Safety Partnerships. This reflects an increasing desire to ensure organisations work closely together to respond to local needs efficiently and effectively (see **Figure 2.1**).

15.2.3 This 'localism' concept complements the model of partnership advocated by the Government. By linking the three tiers of local government, and other public and voluntary sector agencies, the Forums have the potential to provide the vital link between residents and those responsible for running services.

15.2.4 Local communities are also being encouraged to play a more active role in the development of priorities for their areas. In East Hampshire, an increasing number of communities are now engaged in community led planning. This has been particularly apparent through the development of Town Health Checks and Parish Plans. The Council and partners need to formalise a method of responding to these initiatives and their findings.

15.2.5 Community Forums operate through a Community Action Plan (CAP). Each Forum prepares its own CAP. The CAP will hold detailed information on all projects, which could take place in a particular Community Forum area.

15.2.6 All project proposals will use a standard project proposal template. This template will request details of the project including:

- detailed information regarding the project proposal;
- evidence to demonstrate local public support for the project; and
- data and intelligence to support the need for the project.

15.2.7 A Support Panel will conduct the initial assessment of project proposals. The Panel will have a core membership of officers and councillors from all three tiers of local government, representatives from the voluntary sector and the local Parish Councils. The Panel will also call upon advice from other organisations that are relevant to the project proposal. For example, if a proposal was regarding a flooding issue, the Environment Agency would be invited to comment on and inform the decision.

15.2.8 The Support Panel operating on behalf of each Community Forum area will assess each proposal using a standard set of criteria. The criteria will assess the technical merit as well as public support for the project. Significantly, the criteria should include green infrastructure components.

15.2.9 A record will be made on the community needs database of any project, approved for inclusion on the CAP. Each project that receives approval will be given a unique reference number. The database will provide a library of all projects that are taking place across the District. It will be web enabled to allow all members of the community to access the information available and view the progress of any project.

15.2.10 Currently, there are a number of common issues that unite different communities within East Hampshire.

- Lack of affordable housing;
- Need for more facilities for young people ;
- Improving relationships between different ages;
- Problems with public transport;
- Heavy goods vehicles going through villages;
- Speeding and pot-holes;
- Ageing Community Assets; and
- Emergencies such as flooding.

15.2.11 Green infrastructure can assist with some of these issues, such as children's play spaces and flooding. The list of issues can be augmented in terms of key green infrastructure issues identified in East Hampshire, details of which are presented in **Chapter 2**.

15.3 Planning, agreement and delivery of green infrastructure through community forums

15.3.1 Notwithstanding a potential role to be played by neighbourhood planning, Community Forums are a central component for taking forward the recommended projects in this Study. They need to liaise with other key players to plan and agree priorities for action; this can be achieved via the support panels and the East Hampshire Environment Network. In terms of delivery the forums can play an important role by ensuring proposals are carefully costed and justified on a priority basis so that developer contributions, grants, environmental stewardship and council funds can be readily sought (see **section 15.6** on funding).

15.3.2 For consideration alongside this potentially vital role of the Community Forums, the Forestry Commission supports the need to include and evolve local communities in the development and implementation of green infrastructure. Forest Research also co-ordinates the Urban Regeneration and Greenspace Partnership (URGP). This new partnership provides a service to community groups, local authorities, businesses, voluntary organisations, planners and developers for optimising the multiple benefits provided by well-planned and well-managed green infrastructure. For further details, guidance and

case studies please see: http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/urgp. This initiative could form a useful support mechanism to the Forums' planning of green infrastructure.

15.3.3 The subsequent stages of green infrastructure planning via the Community Forums will ultimately be manifested in the planning applications that will come through in due course. **Appendix F** includes a checklist of questions to consider when development management is determining planning applications. This list can be updated and tailored following Community Forum engagement.

15.4 Cross boundary working

15.4.1 Within East Hampshire, there exists a tier of local government beneath the District Council, comprising the three Town Councils of Alton, Petersfield and Whitehill, and 36 Parish Councils. Each of these councils has jurisdiction over local community assets including footpaths, allotments, parks and ponds. By working together, they can ensure that these green infrastructure assets form part of a coherent district-wide network.

15.4.2 East Hampshire's borders also meet up with several other local planning authorities:

- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (Hampshire);
- Chichester District Council (West Sussex);
- Hart District Council (Hampshire);
- Havant Borough Council (Hampshire);
- South Downs National Park Authority (Hampshire, East Sussex, West Sussex);
- Waverley Borough Council (Surrey); and
- Winchester City Council (Hampshire).

15.4.3 As with all green infrastructure networks, the features and components that form the network, at whatever scale of planning e.g. district or settlement, rarely align with planning boundaries and are usually part of larger scale green infrastructure. An example of this is the regional-scale chalk downland of the South Downs which runs as a strategic regional corridor throughout the National Park from Winchester to the Seven Sisters in East Sussex, taking in East Hampshire en route. In this example of the need to work in partnership on cross-border initiatives, East Hampshire DC can work with the South Downs National Park Authority to help ensure consistency of management when considering the chalk downland green infrastructure resource.

15.4.4 At a district scale, the strategy has included recommendations for making links to adjacent green infrastructure features which can be found across the border. Examples of this include the recommendation at Liss where heathland habitat creation is proposed to support the network of heathland sites over the border in Chichester District, and at Liphook where enhanced recreation links are suggested with the nearby woodland sites in Chichester District. Another example is Horndean which could increase links with Havant Borough Council regarding access to Staunton Country Park. Similarly, the district wide project proposals in **Appendix E** make strong links with the need to work at a cross boundary level through partnership.

15.4.5 GI planning therefore needs to recognise that key assets may be available near to settlements but not actually lie within the district boundaries; this is important when defining the GI baseline. Secondly, if growth is proposed in nearby districts and boroughs, potential demands associated with growth in terms of needs and opportunities should be carefully considered. This latter issue can be addressed by cross-boundary working and sharing of information and proposals, for both development and green infrastructure network management, amongst the respective planning authorities. It is recommended that the councils work together with the relevant Town or Parish in this respect and consider annual or biannual workshops to share plans and initiatives.

15.4.6 Cross boundary working is especially pertinent in the context of: (i) the PUSH green infrastructure strategy, (ii) the South Downs National Park, and (iii) adjacent local authority green infrastructure strategies and Core Strategies. **Table 15.1** demonstrates those initiatives that are presently ongoing and which relate to the aspirations of the East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Framework (see **Table 2.1**). **Figure 3.1** demonstrates the geographic relationship between the various initiatives.

Table 15.1: *Other GI projects or initiatives of cross boundary significance*

Initiative reference	Description
PUSH Project U12	**Horndean business and industrial estates GI Improvements** Enhance open space and streets within estates through tree planting and management. Create cycle and footpath links into adjoining residential areas.
PUSH Project U13	**Strengthening north-south connections along transport corridors (A3M)** The multifunctional benefits of this transport corridor should be utilised by enhancing its biodiversity potential.
PUSH Project U14	**Multifunctional stream enhancements** Resurfacing the existing corridor or providing new foot/cycle paths along the stream corridors at Leigh Park and West Leigh.
PUSH Project F2	**Enhancing Catherington Down SSSI** Opportunities to manage access around the SSSI in combination with habitat creation/restoration to provide an enhanced GI resource.
PUSH Project F5	**Improving recreational spaces in settlements** Seek to enhance existing provision and develop new recreation spaces in order to improve quality of recreation experience and address deficits.
PUSH Project F8	**Horndean and Clanfield Green Gap** To maintain and enhance the green gap between Horndean and Clanfield.
PUSH Project F9	**NE Clanfield Greenway** Seek to create a greenway through the proposed development within which new recreational space and allotments can be provided.
PUSH Project F10	**Havant Thicket Reservoir** An opportunity to create sustainable accessible natural greenspace which will be a significant recreational attraction.

Initiative reference	Description
South Downs National Park Authority	**Joint Core Strategy** SDNPA and EHDC are in the process of preparing a joint Core Strategy. This will include shared aspirations for a robust and coherent network of green infrastructure. SNDPA and EHDC should work together on future monitoring of the GI Strategy via each authority's Annual Monitoring Report.
Forestry Commission	Due to the breadth of the Forestry Commission work (i.e. regulation and grants, research and estate management) the Commission works day to day with East Hampshire's adjoining local authorities and partners. This links a number of cross border initiatives such as Havant Thicket and the Shipwrights Way.
Hampshire County Council	HCC manage the PROW network across Hampshire as well as the excellent network of country parks.
Basingstoke and Dean DC	The Council is preparing a green infrastructure strategy which is due for release as a consultation document at the end of 2011.
Chichester DC	The Council is working with West Sussex County Council to assess details of the green infrastructure baseline. Natural England is presently assisting with ANGSt analysis and Chichester DC plan to prepare a local level green infrastructure plan or study later in 2011.
Hart DC	The Council is presently conducting a PPG17 assessment for the district, preparing a new local BAP, and is working with Natural England on the Blackwater Green Infrastructure Project. There is no green infrastructure strategy or study available at the moment; Hart DC plan to prepare one following completion of these studies.
Havant BC	Havant is preparing a green infrastructure study to inform the council's allocations DPD. This is likely to include a number of projects close to the border of East Hampshire. Details of projects to be included will be available later in 2011.
Waverley BC	The Council is preparing a green infrastructure strategy to inform their Core Strategy. This is due to be completed by autumn 2011.
Winchester DC	The Council has prepared a Green Infrastructure Study which includes recommendations for various green infrastructure typologies which can be found across the district as well as proposed green infrastructure projects for strategic allocations and SDAs.

15.5 Strategic initiatives

15.5.1 The Study has focused on settlement initiatives. To help recognise the district-wide links between settlements and consider those parts of the wider network that fall outside of the main settlements, a series of strategic projects have been suggested in **Appendix E**. **Table 15.2** provides a summary of these projects. These are similar in nature to the objectives of the GI Framework. The key difference is that the projects include prescriptive actions whilst the Framework is directional.

Table 15.2: *District wide project suggestions*

Code	Description
SP1	**Enhancing the recreational network**
SP2	**Recreational and community facilities for all**
SP3	**Young people**
SP4	**Schools**
SP5	**Delivering the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and wildlife corridors via Environmental Stewardship**
SP6	**New Strategic Greenspace**
SP7	**Hedgerows**
SP8	**Ancient and hanger woodlands**
SP9	**Landfill restoration**
SP10	**Watercourse restoration and pond creation**
SP11	**Allotments**
SP12	**Signage and publicity**
SP13	**Volunteers and local ownership**
SP14	**Awareness raising and education**
SP15	**Woodland management**
SP16	**Design for new build**
SP17	**Trees in towns and villages**

15.6 Funding

15.6.1 In the current economic climate, funding is likely to prove more challenging than ever. This must not be a barrier to progressing the recommendations of this Study. It is aspirational in the scale and depth of projects and requires equal commitment to delivery if the recommendations are to succeed. The ability of the proposals to enhance recognition of the benefits that green infrastructure can offer will require a blend of goodwill amongst the communities and partnerships. This is essential to protect and manage the natural spaces, open air recreation resource and other environmental resources in the long term for generations to come.

15.6.2 Funding sources are discussed by Natural England in their South East Guidance (2009) and include:

- Multi agency public sector grant funding such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund;
- Environmental Stewardship schemes administered by Natural England;
- English Woodland Grant Scheme administered by the Forestry Commission;
- Tax initiatives to include ring-fencing of local taxes;

- Planning and development opportunities: Planning conditions; Planning obligations (Section 106 agreements); and Roof taxes;
- Community Infrastructure Levy;
- Regional Growth Fund;
- Financially viable land uses;
- Incidental income;
- Endowments; and
- Voluntary sector involvement.

15.6.3 Given the large proportion of East Hampshire that falls within the South Downs National Park (approximately 57%), funding for green infrastructure enhancements may be available via the National Park Authority which will be responsible for collecting Developer Contributions.

15.6.4 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new levy that local authorities can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the Council, local community and neighbourhoods want. Significantly this includes green infrastructure. East Hampshire DC will be considering how CIL might be developed in the district following adoption of the Core Strategy.

15.7 Communicating the Strategy

15.7.1 Since the Study has been prepared to inform the wider planning of green infrastructure and to help inform the Core Strategy and other DPDs in the Local Development Framework, it is possible that the communication of this work may come through more prominently at a later stage. For example, if the Community Forums work up local GI plans or the Study is translated into a more formal strategy document that focuses less on recommendations but directs action more specifically. In either case it is important to raise awareness about the importance of green infrastructure.

15.7.2 This point is made by the Natural Environment White Paper (2011) and also features strongly in the National Ecosystem Assessment (2011). As national documents these need to be considered locally too. The term "green infrastructure" needs translation sometimes and in other cases it needs to perhaps be explained in plainer English. Whatever the chosen communication channels are to be, it should be noted that to carry forward the considerable work of this Study, a sound approach to communicating its aspirations will be necessary.

15.8 Limitations

15.8.1 The report is a mixture of quantitative and qualitative analysis and has drawn on the views of stakeholders via the focus groups (see **Appendix A**), comprehensive baseline information, plans and programmes as well as different mapped information. There is however a significant lack of quantifiable data that would in some instances provide the recommendations with a stronger empirical footing.

15.8.2 For example, the PPG17 assessment information provides helpful quantitative information on suggested quantities of open spaces including playing pitches and children's play areas. This information is nevertheless part of an assessment of open space rather than multifunctional capacity or connectivity. Behavioural considerations are also largely absent from the report except where health statistics provide contextual trends. Without primary survey data it is difficult to be certain that provision of a particular green infrastructure feature will guarantee its use by the local population. On this basis, the role of the Community Forums and by association, Parish Councils is critical.

15.9 Summary of recommendations

15.9.1 This study has made several recommendations in the form of target notes for the main settlements and strategic projects across the district. **Table 15.3** includes these recommendations and adds five further key recommendations that should be considered when taking this forward as the basis for green infrastructure planning in the district.

Table 15.3: *Summary of recommendations*

No.	Recommendation	Description	Action
1	**Settlement Target Notes**	These represent local project suggestions that will enhance the local, and by association, strategic core network of green infrastructure in East Hampshire. In total, **78 individual projects** have been suggested.	The views of Community Forums should be sought to verify and support these projects as part of a neighbourhood planning approach. Projects need to be ratified, amended if necessary, considered in light of local need and carefully worked up into projects with details of the scope, budget and responsible delivery bodies being identified.
2	**Strategic Projects**	These represent district wide project suggestions that will enhance the strategic core network of green infrastructure in East Hampshire. In total, **17 projects** have been suggested in **Appendix E**.	Strategic projects are likely to need a strategic coordination. The Council is perhaps best placed to consider these in the first instance. It is recommended that EHDC verify and carefully plan out how these projects can be delivered. Details of the scope, budget and responsible delivery bodies need to be identified. The National Park could also have an important role to play, as would the Forestry Commission.

No.	Recommendation	Description	Action
3	**Cross boundary coordination**	**Map 3.1** illustrates where there is strategic green infrastructure in neighbouring authorities. It also illustrates the distribution of proposed projects.	Where appropriate for projects that either relate to border sites (such as Alice Holt) or long distance routes (such as the new Shipwrights Way).
4	**Reference the GI Study to HRAs**	The strategic projects include a number of recommendations that, if implemented, could be relevant to HRA mitigation proposals to address recreational impacts at European sites.	Study to be used by competent body as large strategic GI sites and enhancements to the recreational network (see SP1 and SP6, **Appendix E**) might be relevant.
5	**Consider how CIL can be used to deliver GI**	The Community Infrastructure Levy has a potentially significant role to play in delivering local infrastructure requirements that are identified by the Council, and a tariff can be set for developer contributions.	Whilst the Council is scheduled to revisit this issue during 2012, the findings of the study and decisions of the Community Forums should be considered when determining the tariff and scope of infrastructure projects to which it applies.
6	**A GI inventory for East Hampshire; common standards and quantification for green infrastructure**	The typologies defined in **Table 1.1** should be ratified by the Community Forums and EHDC to inform a GI inventory for the district. For each typology, clear definitions relating to design, size, quality and terminology should be developed. Where appropriate, standards should be used or developed in relation to understanding what makes a good quality green infrastructure feature or resource.	This action is important to assist with common language surrounding green infrastructure. It will also help with Action 7.

No.	Recommendation	Description	Action
7	**Establish monitoring standards**	Standards and monitoring play important roles when seeking to ensure that the green infrastructure network is being delivered and managed effectively. Key Performance Indicators should be considered as a means of measuring progress and maintaining standards.	A working group should consider standards for green infrastructure once the project recommendations have been considered by the Community Forums. Monitoring can be done via the Annual Monitoring process (jointly with SDNPA) as well as using a system that quantifies the size, type, distribution, quality and quantity of green infrastructure. Monitoring standards may be different for different types of green infrastructure.

15.10 Next steps

15.10.1 The next steps for this Green Infrastructure Study are to publish the report as evidence during the Council's next round of consultation of the Core Strategy. Early engagement with the Community Forums at this time will help get the recommendations underway. The Community Forums will have the opportunity to consider whether this report rightly identifies local networks of green infrastructure and how these integrate to strengthen the district wide network of green infrastructure. At the same time, the GI planning process should carefully consider the important relationship to be had with neighbouring authorities and other strategic initiatives such as key partners the Solent LEP and South Downs National Park, and the PUSH green infrastructure strategy.

Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ANGSt	Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards
BOA	Biodiversity Opportunity Area
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Plan
CAP	Community Action Plan
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
DPD	Development Plan Document
EHDC	East Hampshire District Council
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HBIC	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
HCC	Hampshire County Council
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PROW	Public Rights of Way
ROWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SANGS	Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space
SAPF	Small Area Population Forecasts
SDNP	South Downs National Park
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SINC	Site of Importance to Nature Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System

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Glossary

Allotment	Allotments consists of numerous land parcels assigned to individuals or families for the purpose of sowing, growing, cultivating and harvesting vegetables. They also have wildlife, social and relaxation functions.
ANGSt	The accessible natural greenspace standard (ANGSt) is a national assessment framework, developed by Natural England, to plan and prioritise the quantity and accessibility of natural green space for the benefits it brings to people's quality of life.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity includes all species of plants, animals and fish, their habitats, and the complex ecosystems and interactions that sustain them. Biodiversity provides food, medicines, water, and oxygen.
BOA	Biodiversity Opportunity Areas are the regional priority areas for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats. They are a spatial representation of the BAP targets and are areas of opportunity, not constraint.
Community garden	These are community-managed projects which can be tiny plots of land, gardens on roofs, school gardens, private or open to the public. They are often created in response to lack of available green space.
Connectivity	Geographic integration and interlinking such that fragmentation and isolation are avoided. Connecting green infrastructure features will involve connecting a wide variety of green and blue corridors.
Country park	An area designated for people to visit and enjoy recreation in a countryside environment.
Eco-town	Small new towns of at least 5-20,000 homes. They are intended to exploit the potential to create a complete new settlement to achieve zero carbon development and more sustainable living using the best new design and architecture (CLG, 2007).
Greenway	Largely car free off road routes connecting people to facilities and open spaces in and around towns, cities and to the countryside; for use by people of all abilities on foot, bike or horseback, for car free commuting, play or leisure (Countryside Agency).
Multifuntionality	The ability to provide multiple cross-cutting functions, by integrating different activities and land usage, on individual sites and across a whole green infrastructure network.
PROW	Public Rights of Way are highways that allow the public a legal right of passage at all times. They can be wide tracks or narrow trails, and they can run through towns or across remote countryside. All PROW can be accessed by foot, whilst some have additional rights to ride a horse, cycle or drive a vehicle.
Sink hole	A sinkhole is a natural depression or hole in the Earth's surface caused by karst processes — the chemical dissolution of carbonate rocks. In Horndean's case this is chalk. Sink holes may vary in size from 1 to 600 meters (3.3 to 2,000 ft) both in diameter and depth, and vary in form from soil-lined bowls to bedrock-edged chasms. Sinkholes may be formed gradually or suddenly, and are found worldwide.
Street trees	Tree planting along streets which soften the street scene while creating visual interest, improving microclimate and providing valuable habitats.

SUDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems incorporate an approach to drainage which seeks to decrease the amount of surface runoff, decrease the velocity of surface runoff, or divert it for other useful purposes, thereby reducing the contribution it makes to sewer discharge and flooding. It takes account of the quantity and quality of runoff, and the amenity value of surface water in the urban environment.

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