



East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

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Project Title: East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

Client: East Hampshire District Council

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 East Hampshire District Council commissioned LUC to prepare a Green Infrastructure Strategy excluding the South Downs National Park area of the District hereinafter referred to as the Planning Authority Area (PAA). The Strategy and the evidence underpinning it will inform spatial planning and development management in the PAA by identifying ways in which existing green infrastructure (GI) can be protected and enhanced and how new GI can be delivered.
- 1.2 The structure of this report is as follows:
- **Section 1** – Introduction: includes the aim of the Strategy and outlines why GI is important
 - **Section 2** – Approach to the Strategy: describes stages undertaken in developing the Strategy.
 - **Section 3** – Planning Policy Context: sets out existing local and national policy and guidance including a review of Neighbourhood Plans
 - **Section 4** – Green Infrastructure Themes: reviews the existing GI assets within the PAA and summarises the key issues and opportunities relating to these.
 - **Section 5** – Strategic Projects: sets out a number of site-specific and district-wide projects to be delivered within the Local Plan period.
 - **Section 6** – Delivery and Implementation: sets out the potential delivery mechanisms and funding streams to deliver the proposed GI Projects.
 - **Section 7** – Next Steps: outlines a set of actions that should be adopted to ensure timely and effective delivery of the strategy.

What is green infrastructure?

- 1.3 National Planning Practice Guidance¹ defines GI as:
- “A network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Green infrastructure is not simply an alternative description for conventional open space. As a network it includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, but also street trees, allotments and private gardens. It can also include streams, canals and other water bodies and features such as green roofs and walls.”
- 1.4 GI can be in public or private ownership and be various sizes and be in any condition.
- 1.5 The multifunctional nature of GI refers to the range of benefits it affords to human health (both physical and mental wellbeing), biodiversity, landscape, reducing local temperatures, the decreasing the impact of climate change and alleviating flood risk. The benefits of GI can be felt at a local, regional and national scale.
- 1.6 As well as offering environmental benefits, GI affords economic and social benefits through increasing the attractiveness of the local area which is an asset to employers and employees, supporting the tourism sector and reducing healthcare costs.
- 1.7 This section concludes with a summary outlining why GI is important in general terms.

¹ MHCLG 2018 Planning Practice Guidance for the Natural Environment – Paragraph: 027 Reference ID: 8-027-2160211 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment#para027>

Aim of the Strategy

- 1.8 The overall aim of the Strategy is to guide future investment in East Hampshire's Green Infrastructure (GI). It also provides up-to-date evidence to inform the East Hampshire Local Plan, which will be a key vehicle for securing GI enhancement.
- 1.9 To achieve the above aim the Strategy will:
- Update the evidence base that was prepared in 2013 and to identify the key issues and opportunities associated with the following themes:
 - Landscape, heritage and sense of place
 - Biodiversity
 - Woodlands and associated habitats
 - Water environment
 - Access, recreation and transport
 - Local awareness
 - Health, wellbeing and inequality
 - Identify a number of GI projects to be delivered either by the Council and/or its partners. Alongside the SANGs policy, this will also help to mitigate adverse environmental effects of development in the PAA and secure environmental enhancement.
- 1.10 This Strategy works in tandem with the East Hampshire Open Space Study (2018) as both documents will be used to inform policies of the District's emerging Local Plan and guide the outcome of planning applications. In addition, these studies provide recommendations for how East Hampshire District Council should coordinate the protection, enhancement and creation of green spaces in East Hampshire.

Profile of East Hampshire

- 1.11 East Hampshire is a predominantly rural district and an attractive part of southern England. Within the PAA most of the population is concentrated within the main towns of Alton, and Whitehill & Bordon. The District's population in 2016 was 118,000² and is projected to grow to 128,000 by 2036.³ The District has an ageing population with the number of older people (those aged 65 and over) almost doubling between 1981 and 2011⁴.
- 1.12 The PAA has a rich variety of landscapes with many historic assets which play an important role in creating strong sense of place and identity for different parts of the PAA. These landscapes support a diversity of different habitats and species, including heathland, ancient semi-natural woodland on chalk and upper greensand, unimproved chalk grassland and the Wey River Systems. Many areas in the District containing these habitats are protected under various designations.
- 1.13 The PAA has numerous publicly accessible open spaces and an extensive network of public rights of way, which allow residents to partake in a wide variety of recreational activities such as running, walking, cycling and dog walking which help to increase access to nature, physical activity and promote health and wellbeing.
- 1.14 The South Downs National Park makes up a significant proportion of East Hampshire and is a separate Local Planning Authority. In April 2018, the Park Authority submitted the first Local Plan to the Government for examination. The Park is an important resource for recreation for those within the PAA and visitors further afield.

² Nomis (2016), ONS Population estimates - local authority based by five year age band. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157301/printable.aspx>
Hampshire County Council (2012), *East Hampshire Ageing Factsheet*. Available at: http://www.hants.gov.uk/east_hampshire_ageing_factsheet_2011.pdf
⁴ Hampshire County Council (2012), *East Hampshire Ageing Factsheet*. Available at: http://www.hants.gov.uk/east_hampshire_ageing_factsheet_2011.pdf

- 1.15 The District as a whole demonstrates significantly lower than average socio-economic deprivation⁵. The exceptions to this include parts of Alton and to the north and east of Whitehill & Bordon. However, childhood obesity and an ageing, less physically mobile population is experienced across the District. Well planned and designed GI can play a role in helping to address these issues.⁶
- 1.16 The PAA has a number of significant transport corridors running through it, including the A3 and A31 trunk roads and two branches of the South Western Railway network. There is a high rate of car ownership within the District, reflecting its rural nature. The PAA has localised areas of poor air quality located along the A3 and A31 corridors, as well as settlements along these routes. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is located in Whitehill & Bordon.
- 1.17 Provision and enhancement of GI will play an important role in positively addressing East Hampshire's shifting social and environmental context and the issues raised above. Further detail is provided on the Hampshire's context within **Section 2** of this report.

Why green infrastructure is important

Health and wellbeing

GI can help to provide safer, more attractive routes for active travel (walking and cycling) and a venue for outdoor recreation, helping to increase activity levels, with associated health benefits. Increased walking, cycling, and better routes to public transport hubs also contribute to improved air quality by reducing car use.

Living in greener environments (high presence of natural features around the residence) delivers benefits for: mental health and wellbeing; development and maintenance of a healthy immune system; reduction of inflammatory based diseases; and a reduction in health inequalities experienced by lower socio-economic groups. GI can also benefit community cohesion, for example by providing space for community food production, an 'outdoor classroom', or 'green gym'.

Biodiversity

The GI network contains a range of biodiversity designations and habitats and plays a key role in connecting these areas to ensure that the movement of organisms and biological processes continue to function. GI can directly benefit biodiversity by providing new habitats, by buffering existing habitats, and by increasing habitat connectivity.

GI that increases access to or interpretation of nature can help to build long-term support for biodiversity conservation. Where biodiversity is sensitive to recreation pressure, GI can help to alleviate this by providing alternative greenspace for recreation.

Economic growth

GI can also support economic growth by helping to make attractive places for living and working.

Landscape, historic environment and sense of place

GI, if appropriately designed and located, can help to restore degraded landscape character and enhance the setting of historic environment assets.

GI provides a multifunctional landscape that creates a balance between the built and natural environment. The components of the GI network add environmental and social value whilst also contributing to landscape quality.

Climate change adaptation and flooding

Creation of biodiversity corridors can provide climate change adaptation by increasing the connectivity and resilience of species populations. GI can help to reduce flood risk by providing areas for flood storage, natural drainage routes, increased soil permeability, and rainfall interception.

Climate change mitigation

GI can help to provide safer, more attractive routes for active travel (walking and cycling), helping to encourage modal shift from motorised transport with its associated carbon emissions.

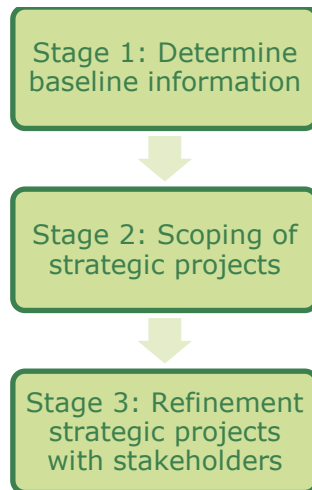
Vegetation and soils can also provide a carbon sink. Land management options likely to increase carbon storage/reduce carbon emissions include tree planting, conversion of arable farmland to semi-natural habitat (requires less soil disturbance and no fertiliser inputs), and preservation of peatland soils.

⁵ Index of Multiple Deprivation (2015)

⁶ Public Health England (2017). Health Profile for East Hampshire District

2 Approach to strategy

- 2.1 This section sets out the approach to the development of the GI Strategy which involved three broad stages, as summarised below:



Stage 1: Determine baseline information

- 2.2 This stage involved reviewing relevant policy and assembling relevant datasets. The policy review included national policy, in addition to a range of relevant evidence base and guidance documents available for this study including:
- Review of national, regional and local planning policy and guidance
 - Initial site visits with planning officers
 - mapped information relevant to the 'GI themes' in Section 2
 - Review of existing evidence base reports and strategies, including the adopted and emerging neighbourhood plan documents.
 - Email & telephone consultation with internal and external stakeholders
- 2.3 From the above the key GI issues and opportunities were identified for each GI theme.

Stage 2: Scoping of strategic projects

- 2.4 The second stage of the study involved identifying a number of strategic GI projects capable of being delivered within the forthcoming Local Plan period.
- 2.5 The projects were identified from the opportunities identified in the baseline review (stage 1) and email consultation with stakeholders. For the stakeholder consultation, external and internal organisations were invited to highlight key GI issues relevant to their organisation and to suggest any project ideas. Stakeholders contacted during the process included:
- Natural England
 - Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Deadwater Valley Trust

- The River Wey Trust
- South Down National Park Authority
- RSPB
- Hampshire County Council
- Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Forestry Commission
- Ministry of Defence
- Sport England
- National Trust
- CPRE
- National Farmers Union
- Heathlands Reunited Project in Hampshire
- Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)
- Portsmouth Water
- Waverley Borough Council

2.6 Following the above steps, a list of strategic projects was drafted for further consultation and refinement with stakeholders.

Stage 3: Refinement of strategic projects with stakeholders

2.7 Following the development of the project details within the PAA, key stakeholders who expressed a keen interest in supporting the delivery of projects during the first round of consultation were contacted again. This stage of consultation sought to confirm the projects' relevance and deliverability. Stakeholders consulted included:

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Deadwater Valley Trust
- The River Wey Trust
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)

2.8 Any additional comments from the stakeholders were incorporated into the project details and considered within the next steps of this report.

Documents considered in within the Strategy

2.9 The following existing evidence documents have been taken into consideration within this strategy.

- East Hampshire Open Space Assessment (2018)
- East Hampshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2018)
- East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan April (2015)
- Alton Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Bentley Neighbourhood Development Plan

- Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan
- Green Infrastructure Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane 2013 to 2029 (July 2013)
- Hart Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017)
- South Downs Green Infrastructure Framework (March 2016)
- East Hampshire Landscape Capacity Study (2018)
- Hampshire County Council Countryside Access Plan 2015 -2025
- A Cycling Plan for East Hampshire (2004)
- South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017)
- South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan (2018) Draft 01.11.18

3 Planning policy context

- 3.1 This section outlines the key national, regional and local policies that have influenced the approach to this study.

National policy

25 Year Environment Plan

- 3.2 The government's recently published 25 Year Environment Plan⁷, provides support for 'net environmental gain' in development, habitat creation, multi-functional SUDS requirements, and natural spaces close to where people live and work.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) underlines the importance of GI and its relevance to the development of a Local Plan.
- 3.2 Paragraph 91 states that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure.
- 3.3 Paragraph 96 highlights that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities.
- 3.4 The NPPF provides a mechanism by which local authorities can protect some open spaces under a 'Local Green Space' designation (paras.99-101), and provides high level criteria for such a designation.
- 3.5 The NPPF (para. 97) sets out the only circumstances in which an open space can be developed for different uses. It clarifies that existing open space should not be built on unless:
- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.
- 3.6 Paragraph 149 states that Local Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.
- 3.7 Paragraph 171 of the NPPF states that Local Plan should take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.
- 3.8 Paragraph 174 addresses the importance of protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity through mapping the components of ecological networks.

⁷ A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment UK Government, Jan 2018

National Planning Practice Guidance

- 3.9 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) encourages a strategic approach to implementing GI into Local Plans through an evidenced based approach. It states that local authorities are required to provide suitable mitigation for potential impacts on European sites of nature conservation and recommends the provision of open space such as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), either directly or through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)⁸.

Regional policy and guidance

South East Green Infrastructure Framework

- 3.10 Published in 2009, this document was developed by a partnership of regional governmental and non-governmental organisations in the South East and sets out the policy context and other resources needed to deliver high quality GI in the South East region. It provides guidance on how GI might be delivered effectively through the Local Plan process from the establishment of an evidence base, to policy development and delivery. The framework highlights the significance of an evidence base formed with diverse partner organisations (e.g. private and public landowners, expertise and specialisms) to provide GI in a specified area.
- 3.11 The East Hampshire GI Strategy has been informed through consultation with external organisations .

Local policy

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) allocation and delivery

- 3.12 The primary purpose of the SANG in East Hampshire is to divert existing recreational uses away from the Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area located in the north east of the PAA.
- 3.13 Policy CSWB9 Biodiversity within the existing Joint Core Strategy (2014) states “Where avoidance and mitigation, as required in the Habitats Regulations Assessment, takes the form of provision of a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), a minimum requirement of 8 hectares of land should be provided per 1,000 new occupants (after discounting to account for the existing ecological value of sites and for current access and capacity within reasonable access of the new dwellings”. The new Local Plan for the PAA will include policies relating to biodiversity and supporting policies covering the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA, the Solent SPAs and Thames Basin Heaths SPA.
- 3.14 A guidance note⁹ for applicants published in 2019 notes “Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGS Style Greenspace) – their role is to provide alternative greenspace to divert visitors from visiting the SPA. This form of mitigation is best considered for large new developments. The effectiveness of the SANG style greenspace will depend upon its location and design. Design measures to encourage dog walking away from the heathland areas of the SPA. This could include looking for alternative areas of existing greenspace, supported by interpretation boards and advertising by leaflet drops.”
- 3.15 The Council has no duty to be the sole provider of SANGs meaning that developments that are to be located within the Wealden Heaths II SPA zone of influence may need to contribute to SANGs or provide their own bespoke SANG..
- 3.16 This report will take into account the allocation and delivery of GI, including SANGs.

⁸ “The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area.” Planning Portal https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200126/applications/70/community_infrastructure_levy

⁹ <http://www.easthants.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/HRAmitigationguidance.pdf>

Open space and new development

- 3.17 The new Local Plan for the PAA will include an open space policy that protects, maintains and enhances open spaces and this is likely to set out stringent criteria in which development proposals would result in the loss of open space (similar to that outlined in CP17 of the extant East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy June 2014).
- 3.18 The recent Open Space Study¹⁰ highlights the areas which experience deficiency in open space provision in terms of quantity, quality, value and accessibility. The study observed the majority of East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy site allocations are situated in the North West Sub-Area clustered around Alton or Four Marks/ South Medstead and the Southern Parishes Sub-Area around Clanfield, Horndean or Rowlands Castle. Whilst six site allocations have new open space creation included in development plans, other innovative approaches to new open spaces such as small civic spaces, pocket parks and green corridors will be needed so that developments maximise opportunities for the provision of new open space.
- 3.19 In addition, in areas of deficiency, efforts should be made to ensure existing open spaces are multifunctional and are of a good quality and high value. Attempts should be made to also ensure all sectors of the community are able to easily access open spaces through the removal of physical barriers (e.g. providing safe crossing points across roads) and ensuring open spaces are appropriately promoted.
- 3.20 Taking into account the findings of the Open Space Study, the new Local Plan will set out the open space requirements to be provided by new developments. The area, type and whether the open space needs to be provided on-site or off-site are expected to be determined by the number of proposed dwellings and local need within a locality, in line with the provision standards set out in the Open Space Study.
- 3.21 This Strategy will highlight locations towards which the creation of off-site open space contributions could be channelled in conjunction with the evidence presented in the Open Space Study.

Existing Gaps

- 3.22 The new Local Plan for the PAA is expected to include a 'Gaps Between Settlements' policy which will require the open and undeveloped nature of gaps between settlements to be protected to help prevent coalescence and retain the settlements' separate identity.

Biodiversity

- 3.23 There will be a policy within the new Local Plan that will prevent developments from having adverse effects on biodiversity and key habitats, including the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA.
- 3.24 To achieve best practice guidance, developments should result in biodiversity net gain whereby proposals should deliver greater levels of biodiversity compared to that before development. The UK's first and latest guidance¹¹ sets out ten principles which provide a framework for development projects to follow to help improve the UK's biodiversity. As already mentioned, biodiversity enhancements are one of the benefits of GI and can therefore be integrated into developments as a mitigation strategy to minimise biodiversity loss or it can even contribute to biodiversity net gain. Biodiversity offsetting is discussed further in **Section 5**.

Allotments

- 3.25 Provision of allotments encourages healthy lifestyles and local food production. Allotments currently form part of the Council's intended delivery of multi-functional GI as highlighted in the supporting text of Policy CSWB10 Green Infrastructure of the Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy. Although there is no specific policy of allotments East Hampshire's extant Local Plan, it is likely that allotment provision will be a requirement of the new Local Plan, through policies which refer to specific new large planned development sites.

¹⁰ LUC (2018) Open Space Assessment for East Hampshire District Council

¹¹ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (2016) Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development.

Play

- 3.26 Policies relating to specific development sites in East Hampshire’s new Local Plan are likely to outline the provision for children’s play facilities. Furthermore policies relating to infrastructure provision would be expected to outline that large development proposals are required to provide appropriate infrastructure, including children’s play, either on site, off site or through financial contributions.

Neighbourhood planning

- 3.27 Neighbourhood Plans have been prepared for a number of areas in East Hampshire. The relevant GI policies and objectives are summarised in **Table 3.1** below.

Table 3.1: Summary of relevant Neighbourhood Plan policies and objectives

Neighbourhood Plan	Relevant Green infrastructure policy/objectives
<p>Alton Neighbourhood Plan 2011 to 2028 (Adopted November 2015)</p>	<p>Policy TR3: Pedestrian Networks - seeks to ensure developments provide links for pedestrians, broadening footpath network.</p> <p>Policy TR4: Cycle Routes - seeks to ensure development proposals will provide linkages within, into and out of the site that provide safe cycle access.</p> <p>TRAP5: Press for footpaths and pedestrian alleyways in the town to be well maintained and clear pedestrian signposting provided, liaising with adjoining Parishes in relation to the surrounding network of public rights-of-way.</p> <p>TRAP7: Seeks to encourage actions that will reduce the use of cars for school pupil transport. Initiatives such as Walking Bus, or school minibus transport for those living in the outer areas of the town, will be actively supported.</p> <p>TRAP9: Lobby for improvements to be made to National Cycle Route 224 (Medstead to Farnham) on its route through the town and for all designated cycle routes to be maintained in a condition that encourages their use.</p> <p>TRAP10: Ensure that there is adequate direction signing for cyclists passing through the town, particularly along National Cycle Route 224 (Medstead to Farnham).</p> <p>TRAP11: Provide safe cycle connections between the town and surrounding villages.</p> <p>Open space, sports and recreation</p> <p>CH5 Local green space and open space: All existing areas of open space in the town with a community function should be retained. In addition, any areas of open space that enhance the character of the local area should similarly be considered for retention.</p> <p>CH6 Playing Fields: Proposals to provide additional playing field space and associated facilities will be supported. In particular, proposals that help meet the identified need in Alton for junior football pitches will be actively encouraged.</p> <p>Policy CH7: Allotments: Allotment land will be protected for this purpose for the duration of the plan period. Proposals to provide additional allotment land in the town will be actively encouraged.</p>
<p>Bentley Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2028: February 2016</p>	<p>Policy 3: Recreation Ground: Safeguards land at the recreation ground, as shown on the Policies Map, for future provision of a new building for community uses, and for a car parking area.</p> <p>Policy 5: Local Green Spaces: Resist proposals for housing or other inappropriate development on the recreation ground; Carters Meadow; and the allotment site by Somerset Field.</p> <p>Policy 6: Sustainable Drainage: all proposals for residential and commercial development will be supported provided they are able to demonstrate implementation one of a number of sustainable drainage features.</p> <p>Para 5.6 of the neighbourhood plan notes the Parish Council would like to see a number of infrastructure projects realised. Relevant to GI, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in improved mains drainage for foul sewage and surface water to reduce the risk of flooding. • Provision of a pedestrian access way from Bonners Field to Eggars Field to facilitate children walking to Bentley Primary School.

<p>Medstead & Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2028</p>	<p>Policy 2: Local Gap between Medstead Village & South Medstead: protect this local gap to help prevent coalescence and retain the separate identity of the settlements.</p> <p>Policy 7: Local Green Spaces: seeks to protect and enhance a number of Local Green Spaces in the neighbourhood plan area.</p> <p>Policy 8: Medstead Village Wild Flower Walk: The formation and maintenance of a Wild Flower Walk in the village of Medstead, as shown on the Policies Map, for the enjoyment of the local community and visitors, will be supported.</p> <p>Policy 9: Medstead & Four Marks Green Infrastructure Network: seeks to improve the network of footpaths and tracks for pedestrians and cyclists. Proposes the establishment of Green Infrastructure Network through linking existing Public Rights of Way.</p> <p>Policy 10: Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity: seeks the retention of existing green infrastructure, corridors, ponds and other wildlife habitats; and support the connection of wildlife habitats in the settlements to those in the countryside.</p>
<p>Ropley Neighbourhood Plan (2019)</p>	<p>Policy RNP4: New development should retain existing healthy mature trees which contribute to the amenity of the area, hedgerows, verges and banks. Any new planting in association with the new development should be of indigenous species.</p> <p>In addition, new development should seek to protect and enhance the area's ecological networks.</p> <p>Policy RNP8: seeks to protect Local Green Spaces</p> <p>Policy RNP9: seeks to protect locally important heritage assets</p> <p>Policy RNP10: identifies and protects wildlife corridors and stepping stones which link designated wildlife sites within Ropley. There are three such areas in Ropley, which the policy calls 'Local Nature Conservation Networks'. They are: the Ropley Ridgeline (the area running from Ropley Soke through Lyeway and Charlwood to Monkwood); Park Lane Woodlands (the area at the end of Park Lane to the parish boundary with Bishops Sutton); and Bowers Grove Wood (to the north west of the railway line).</p> <p>Policy RNP11: Seeks to conserve and enhance the Public Rights of Way in Ropley</p>
<p>Bramshott & Liphook Neighbourhood Development Plan: Interim Report: March 2018</p>	<p>Bramshott & Liphook Parish Council is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. An interim report outlines a number of draft policies relating to GI. These include:</p> <p>SR3 Design and implement a series of outdoor trails aims to provide a wider range of sports and recreational facilities for different age groups.</p> <p>SR4 The South Downs National Park aims to capitalise on the opportunity to become a gateway to SDNP. This includes enabling a circular cycle route around village, including across SDNP land.</p> <p>PS3 Investment in water infrastructure aims to ensure sufficient investment in flood protection and associated infrastructure such as through widespread application of SuDS technologies and approaches.</p> <p>PS4 Planning & design to achieve clean energy and air aims to use the planning system to ensure high standards of environmental sustainability such as through restricting HGV movement and increased tree planting along streets.</p> <p>HD1 Rediscovery of Liphook Square aims to rediscover the historic centre of Liphook village by Investigate feasibility for a "shared space" scheme to better prioritise space between cars and people.</p>

Relevant extant GI Frameworks

3.28 A number of relevant GI frameworks have been reviewed in preparation of this Strategy. These are summarised below.

East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013

3.29 The 2013 Green Infrastructure Strategy notes a number of issues relating to recreation, including:

- Desire of residents to have access to open space within walking distance of their homes.
- Need to provide a variety of different kinds of open space.

- Unequal distribution of open space across the District.
- Fragmented Public Rights of Way network in parts of the countryside.
- Major barriers to movement, such as the A3 trunk road.
- Dealing with the visitor pressures on existing key visitor sites, such as the Queen Elizabeth Country Park.
- Increasing access for less mobile people.
- Capitalising on opportunities to increase access to open space through development proposals.

South Downs Green Infrastructure Framework (March 2016)

3.30 The SDNP have set out a strategic framework for GI. The framework adopts a sub-regional approach to planning and delivering GI across the SDNP and within the surrounding areas of partner authorities and organisations. It notes a number of headline issues notably:

- **An interrelated area** - how pressures in one area can have an effect on another area with consequences for biodiversity and landscape quality.
- **Addressing deficits in existing green infrastructure provision** - there is a need to address deficits in existing GI provision based on standards, particularly outside the National Park.
- **The need for connectivity** - There is a need to improve biodiversity and physical access links both within the SDNP and out to surrounding areas.
- **Urban edge pressures** - There is pressure from urban areas on the SDNP in the form of declining biodiversity, urbanisation of the landscape, degradation of landscape quality and character. This pressure is particularly apparent along the southern boundary of the SDNP.

3.31 The Framework sets out a number of Green Infrastructure Investment Areas (GIAs) based on the review of evidence. There are two GIA areas relevant to the East Hampshire PAA summarised below:

- **East Hants and Heathlands GIA** - An area covering several heathland sites. Several European sites are recognised as being sensitive to recreation, for which mitigation measures are required, but many more have been highlighted as sensitive by land managers, for which mitigation of impacts is very challenging. Within this area there is opportunity to build on the success of the Heathlands Reunited Heritage Lottery Fund project to fully integrate landscape-scale habitat conservation and green infrastructure into the future.
- **South East Hampshire GIA** - This area lies across the northern PUSH area and the southern part of Winchester and East Hampshire districts. Alongside a large existing population, significant new housing is planned. The PUSH Green Infrastructure partners have plans and policy in place to provide GI within PUSH. Investment and co-ordinated planning needs to extend to the southern area of the National Park to protect the edge of the South Downs National Park. Within this area the Strategy notes there is opportunity to:
 - Provide an integrated recreation management to manage visitors to these highly visited and valued sites, especially around Queen Elizabeth Country Park/ Butser Hill SAC.
 - Extend woodland, provide more areas for recreation.
 - Link sites with access routes.
 - Forest of Bere - potential for landscape-scale project incorporating biodiversity, access, cultural heritage and landscape. Work with partners to develop this sub-regional project.

South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017-2034)

3.32 The PUSH Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy identifies the key green Infrastructure (GI) features and future requirements for South Hampshire, which includes part of the East Hampshire planning authority area. The primary purpose of the PUSH GI strategy is to enable and unlock development.

- 3.33 The strategy adopts a position statement which notes the “Each of the PUSH authorities will in their Local Plans and where appropriate, GI Strategies:
- *Make provision for these strategic and other local GI proposals taking account of Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGst); including where appropriate as an integral part of development proposals;*
 - *Protect and enhance the integrity, quality, connectivity and multi-functionality of the existing green infrastructure network and individual sites; and*
 - *Secure funding to deliver and manage these enhanced and new GI features and networks.”*

- 3.34 Currently a GI Implementation Plan containing a number of strategic projects is being prepared to help deliver a strategy.

South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan (2018) Draft 01.11.18

- 3.35 The South Hampshire GI Implementation Plan is the delivery plan for South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017-2034 and will support the enhancement of the area’s GI network through the delivery of a number of key strategic GI projects/initiatives. Initial GI projects identified within the draft implementation plan relevant to East Hampshire District include:

- **Forest of Bere Woodlands Project** – the creation of new woodland together with extended and enhanced recreational access routes to improve connectivity, recreational and biodiversity opportunities. This project is to be confirmed.
- **Strategic Transport Corridor GI Project** - Securing appropriate habitat management of vegetation on active road and rail corridors is crucial to the contribution that these linear GI assets make and can make to the biodiversity of South Hampshire and beyond. This project is to be confirmed.
- **Greening the Urban Environment Initiative** - a myriad and diverse smaller scale local GI projects that will be required to enable the development, regeneration and enhancement of urban areas across South Hampshire, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment
- **Havant Thicket Reservoir GI Project** - deliver winter storage reservoir for Portsmouth Water in an area of woodland and open space north of Leigh Park, Havant, east of Rowlands Castle and close to Staunton Country Park to the south.

Hart Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017)

- 3.36 The Hart GI Strategy will guide future investment in Hart’s GI. It also provides up-to-date evidence to inform the Hart Local Plan, which will be a key vehicle for securing GI enhancement. The Strategy sets out a number of priority projects to be implemented in the District including:

- Connecting Hart’s valuable ecological features.
- Promote access to the countryside, woods and SANGs.
- Maximise the environmental benefits of Hart’s woodlands.
- Use GI to connect communities to existing green spaces.
- Engage schools, young people, children and new residents to the District.

Green Infrastructure Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane 2013 to 2029 (July 2013)

- 3.37 The Basingstoke and Deane GI Strategy assesses the nature, extent and distribution of the borough’s existing GI, and makes an initial assessment of where deficiencies exist. The Strategy sets out a number of high level future GI opportunities for addressing deficiencies.

4 Green infrastructure themes

4.1 This section provides analysis of East Hampshire's GI context. Drawing on relevant GIS data, evidence base studies and input from stakeholders, the key issues and opportunities are drawn out in relation to the seven themes outlined below. Noted underneath each of the themes are the key features analysed related to that theme:

1 Landscape, heritage and sense of place

- Landscape character areas
- Designated historic assets
- Landscape capacity areas

2 Biodiversity

- Local, national and international biodiversity designations
- Priority Habitat Areas
- Ecological Networks

3 Woodlands

- Woodlands
- Ancient woodland
- Publicly accessible woodland

4 Water environment

- Primary water bodies within the PAA
- Flood Zones

5 Access, recreation and transport

- Recreational open space including, designated open space, accessible woodland and registered common land
- Local and National Cycle routes
- Public Rights of Way

6 Health, wellbeing at inequality

- Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) domains, including Living Environment, Health Environment and Overall IMD score

7 Local awareness and involvement

4.2 The issues and opportunities identified will inform Local Plan policy on GI and help to identify strategic projects included in **Section 5** of this report.

4.3 For the purposes of this Strategy, the supporting maps have been split into three different Sub-Areas for analysis. These are:

- North West Sub Area
- North East Sub Area
- Southern Parishes

Landscape, heritage and sense of place

4.4 East Hampshire is predominantly a rural district. The Landscape Character Assessment (2006)¹² notes East Hampshire's landscape as being diverse with rolling chalk downs, often capped with clay to create a wooded character, and steep chalk slopes contrasting strongly with the Western Weald heaths and the wooded greensand escarpments. The assessment divides the District into a number of different landscape types, each of which has a distinct and relatively homogenous character with similar physical and cultural attributes, including geology, landform, land cover and historic evolution. Each landscape type is subdivided further into character areas, which possess common characteristics for each type. Outlined below are the main character areas within the PAA. **Figure 4-1** at the end of this section shows the corresponding location of these character areas.

- **Four Marks Clay Plateau (2b):** defined by the extent of a shallow but virtually continuous deposit of clay with flint, which caps the chalk bedrock geology. This landscape is dominated by pasture but with some arable fields. Despite the density of settlement around the A31 at Four Marks this is a peaceful and in places a tranquil and rural landscape. Historic landscape features include the ancient woodland such as Bushy Leaze Wood and Chawton Wood, historic parkland landscapes in the north east part of the character area, and distinctive planned enclosure of late 19th century date, mostly smallholdings associated with post-medieval settlements at Four Marks, Dry Hill and Medstead.
- **Clanfield Downland Mosaic (3a):** part of which lies within the SDNP, comprises of large scale rolling landform comprising the prominent chalk ridge (of the Meon anticline) and dip slope with a localised secondary escarpment (incorporating Catherington Down, Windmill Down and Wick Hanger) marking the division between different formations of chalk.
- **Horndean-Clanfield Edge (3f):** comprises a small area of downland to the west of Horndean and south of Clanfield. Located on the lowest elevations of the south facing chalk dip slope. The land use is predominantly housing and infrastructure, although arable fields remain on the edges of the built development, with pasture (paddocks) also common. The fields are medium/ large in size and are separated by thin/ gappy hedgerows. The landscape is dominated by post-1800 settlement, representing dormitory settlements originating from a scattered core of common-edge settlement (Horndean and Clanfield).
- **Lasham Downland Mosaic (3d):** comprises a band of chalk downland in the northern part of East Hampshire; its northern extent defined by the district boundary. The undulating landform slopes in a south-westerly direction towards the River Wey. To the south west the character area is bordered by the more continuously clay capped plateau (character area 2b). There are some long views from the downland slopes across the wide floodplain of the Wey Valley to the rising land to the south. Key historical characteristics in this settlement include several post 1810 parklands at Burkham Park, Shalden Park Farm, Lasham Hill Farm, and Shalden Manor, as well as Lasham Airfield – RAF fighter base 1942-48, civilian airfield 1948-present (most of the distinctive wartime buildings have been demolished).
- **Ropley Downland Mosaic (3e):** a small, and unusually a relatively low lying downland area sloping to the west. Key historic characteristics in this area include areas of ancient woodland and three post 1810 locally listed parks.
- **Northern Wey Valley (4b):** a broad valley, cutting through and enclosed by the Chalk, Upper Greensand and Gault Mudstone geology. Key historic characteristics include the Roman settlement site at Cuckoo's Corner east of Alton at point where Chichester-Silchester Roman road crosses the valley (SM), as well as historic features associated with the river, including weirs, mills and millponds.
- **Worldham Greensand Terrace (6c):** flat to gently sloping landform of Upper Greensand contained to the west by chalk hills. It is open and dominated by medium to large fields of pasture and arable agriculture.

¹² Land Use Consultants (2006) Landscape Character Assessment for East Hampshire District

- **Whitehill to Liphook Farmland and Heath Mosaic (8c):** gently undulating landform formed on sandstone and cut by a number of watercourses (River Slea, Southern River Wey and Deadwater). Well-drained acidic sandy soils support tracts of woodland (e.g. around Bordon Camp) and heathland commons of international importance (Broxhead and Kingsley Commons). Key historic features include remnant features relating to water management and agricultural/industrial use of the river, including mills and aqueducts, and blocks of post-1800 woodland around Bordon Camp, mainly 19th century heathland plantations.
- **Ludshott and Bramshott Commons (9b):** This character area lies on the eastern edge of the Lower Greensand and is part of a series of hills which form an elliptical belt around the Wealden Clay. The area contains a mosaic of woodland supporting variation in type and structure (including sessile oak and beech woodland, coppice and mixed and coniferous plantation) with some ancient woodland on the steeper valley sides. The area also contains internationally important areas of unenclosed heathland common (Bramshott and Ludshott Commons SSSI) part of the Wealden Heaths SPA with clearings in the woodland. Key historic characteristics here include blocks of ancient woodland, historic parkland at Downlands House, Ludshott Manor and Grayshott Hall, as well as a former military camp on Bramshott Common occupied by the Canadian army in both world wars.
- **Havant Thicket and Southleigh Forest (10a):** a transitional area incorporating the low lying, clay vale and the edge of the chalk downland dipslope. It has a varied land cover dominated by woodland and including pasture, paddocks and common land. Pockets of heathland are present at Blendworth Common. Key historic characteristics in this area include post-1800 expansion (Rowlands Castle and Horndean), historic parkland – Historic England registered parkland at Staunton Park, with one small unregistered parkland at Rowlands Castle, with early post-medieval enclosures defined by trackways north of Havant Thicket. Scheduled Monuments occur as Ring work and Bailey at Motley's Copse. The remnant woodland and common land represent fragments of the once extensive Forest of Bere - a medieval royal hunting preserve.

4.5 East Hampshire's designated historic assets contribute significantly to the District's sense of place. **Figure 4-2** shows the designated assets within the PAA. There are 31 Conservation Areas, 652 listed buildings, two registered park and gardens and 19 Scheduled Monuments within the PAA. Conservation Areas include Catherington, Horndean Blendworth, Rowlands Castle, Upper Wield, Lower Wield, Bentworth, Lasham, The Butts, Anstey, Alton, Holybourne, Froyle (upper and lower), Bentley, Islington and River Wey.

4.6 A number of important long-distance paths run through the PAA. These include St Swithun's Way, a 34-mile path that historically forms part of a pilgrimage route between Winchester and Canterbury, as well as Shipwrights' Way running from Alice Holt Forest, across the South Downs to Portsmouth.

4.7 Across East Hampshire there are also a number of literary walks devised to illustrate the work of six important writers who were close observers of their natural (and social) environment. Within the PAA, this includes the 'Jane Austen Trail', a walking route from Alton High Street to Chawton, and 'Walking in Jane Austen's Footsteps', a circular walk from Chawton to Farringdon, as well as the Edward Thomas circular walk at Steep, near Petersfield.

4.8 Terrafirma Landscape Architects completed a Landscape Capacity Study in 2018. The study provides evidence to help understand where new development would give rise to landscape and visual impacts and identify which general areas, if any, may have capacity to accommodate change. The Study assesses the value and capacity of Local Areas and outlines the potential effect on key visual characteristics, the potential effect on key landscape characteristics, and GI measures to conserve and enhance landscape character of a particular area. The study shows that much of the PAA has limited capacity to accommodate change. However, areas around Four Marks, Medstead and Beech contain some areas rated as having 'medium' capacity to accommodate change. Much of the restricted areas in the PAA relating to landscape are due to the nature of the internationally designated sites, such as the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. **Figure 4-3** shows the landscape capacity scores for different Local Areas.

4.9 East Hampshire District Council have recently published an East Hampshire Neighbourhood Character Study. Evidence gathered through this study shows GI is an important component of

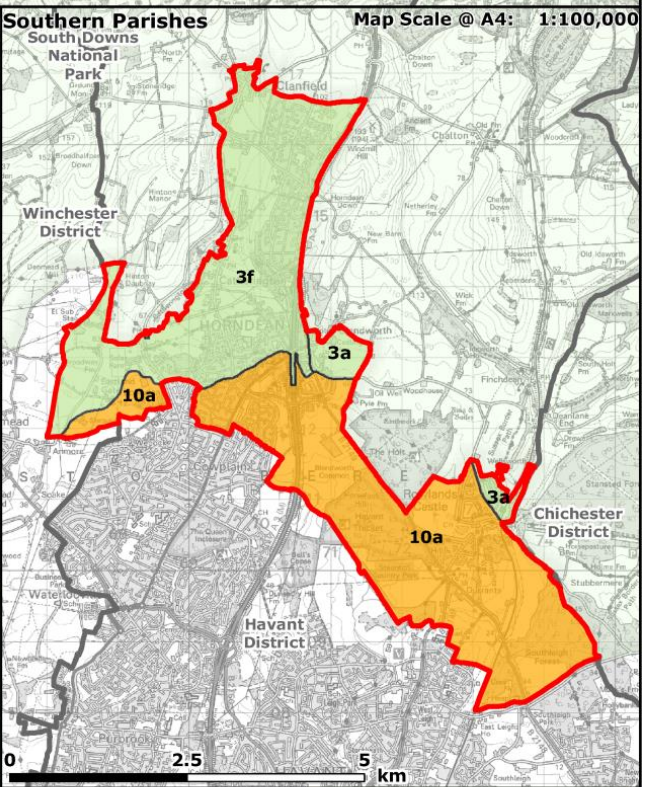
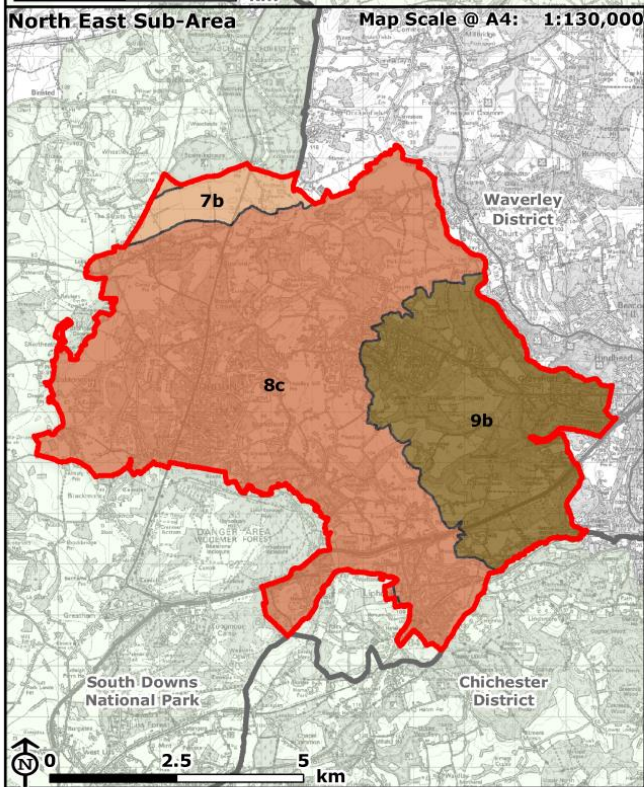
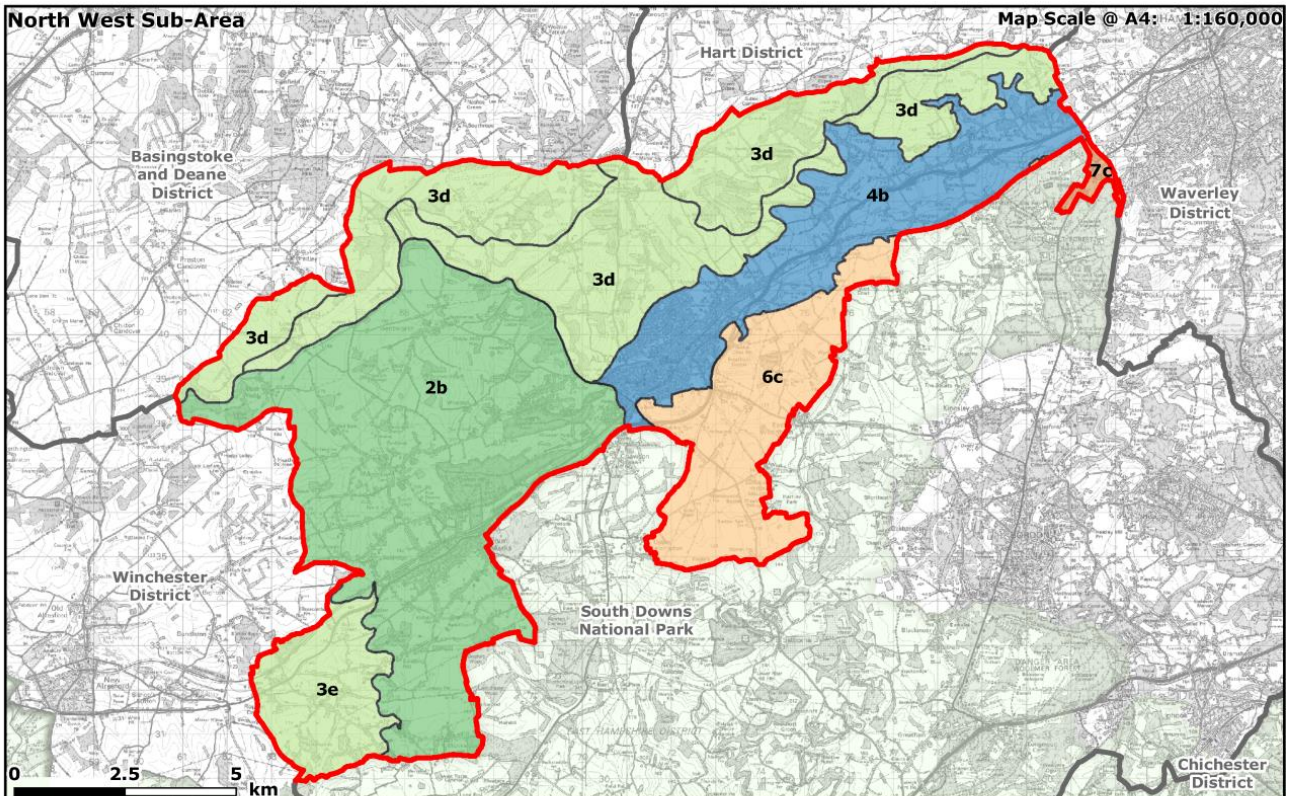
the rural and green character of Hampshire settlements. This includes open spaces, trees and verges adjacent to properties. Landscape, heritage and sense of place: issues and opportunities

Issues

- An increase in development particularly around key settlements (Horndean, Clanfield, Liphook, Alton, Four Marks, Rowlands Castle) have the potential to detract from landscape character if not managed properly. Landscape character is particularly sensitive in areas that are more open.
- Pressure to build at higher densities at the expense of GI within development sites.
- There is pressure for development within settlement gaps, which could detract from the individual identities of settlement and the open quality of gaps.
- There is a lack of physical connection with important parts of the landscape such as the Southern and Northern River Wey.
- There can be a lack of awareness of the local landscape and its historic importance. This issue is likely to be particularly prevalent in young and new populations.
- GI in the form of street trees and grass verges, as well as vegetation within building plots can contribute significantly to the rural character of settlements.

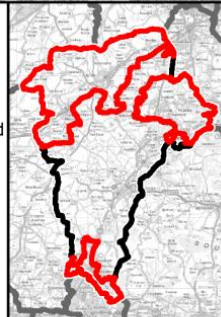
Opportunities

- Require developers to provide GI as part of a development proposal, for example through use of locally sourced plants and materials. This should accord with GI recommendations set out in the 2018 East Hampshire Landscape Capacity Study.
- Improve connectivity between settlements and the surrounding countryside by enhancing Public Rights Of Way, including along river corridors enhancing perceived and physical connectivity.
- Implement GI to enhance the setting of historic assets and improve access for people to enjoy them. This includes Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments and other historic features e.g. historic features associated with the District's waterways and landscape.
- Improve awareness of East Hampshire's landscape by providing enhanced interpretation and guided trails. This could adopt new technologies such as GPS guided trails.
- Increase woodland cover to strengthen landscape character and mitigate the visual impacts of new development.
- Protect and seek opportunities to link non-designated GI such as green verges and street trees to preserve the special character of the PAA's towns in accordance of the findings of the East Hampshire Neighbourhood Character Study 2018.
- Consider restoration of land to former historic land uses e.g. woodland, heathland restoration to reinforce historic sense of place.
- Support and implement projects, which enhance awareness and quality of the landscape.



- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Study area | 4 : Chalk Valley Systems |
| East Hampshire District | 5 : Major Scarps |
| Other local authority | 6 : Greensand Terrace |
| South Downs National Park | 7 : Mixed Farmland and Woodland |
| Landscape Character Area | 8 : Wealden Farmland and Heath Mosaic |
| 1 : Wooded Estate Downland | 9 : Greensand Hills |
| 2 : Clay Plateau | 10 : Wooded Claylands |
| 3 : Downland Mosaic | |

Source: EHDC, NE



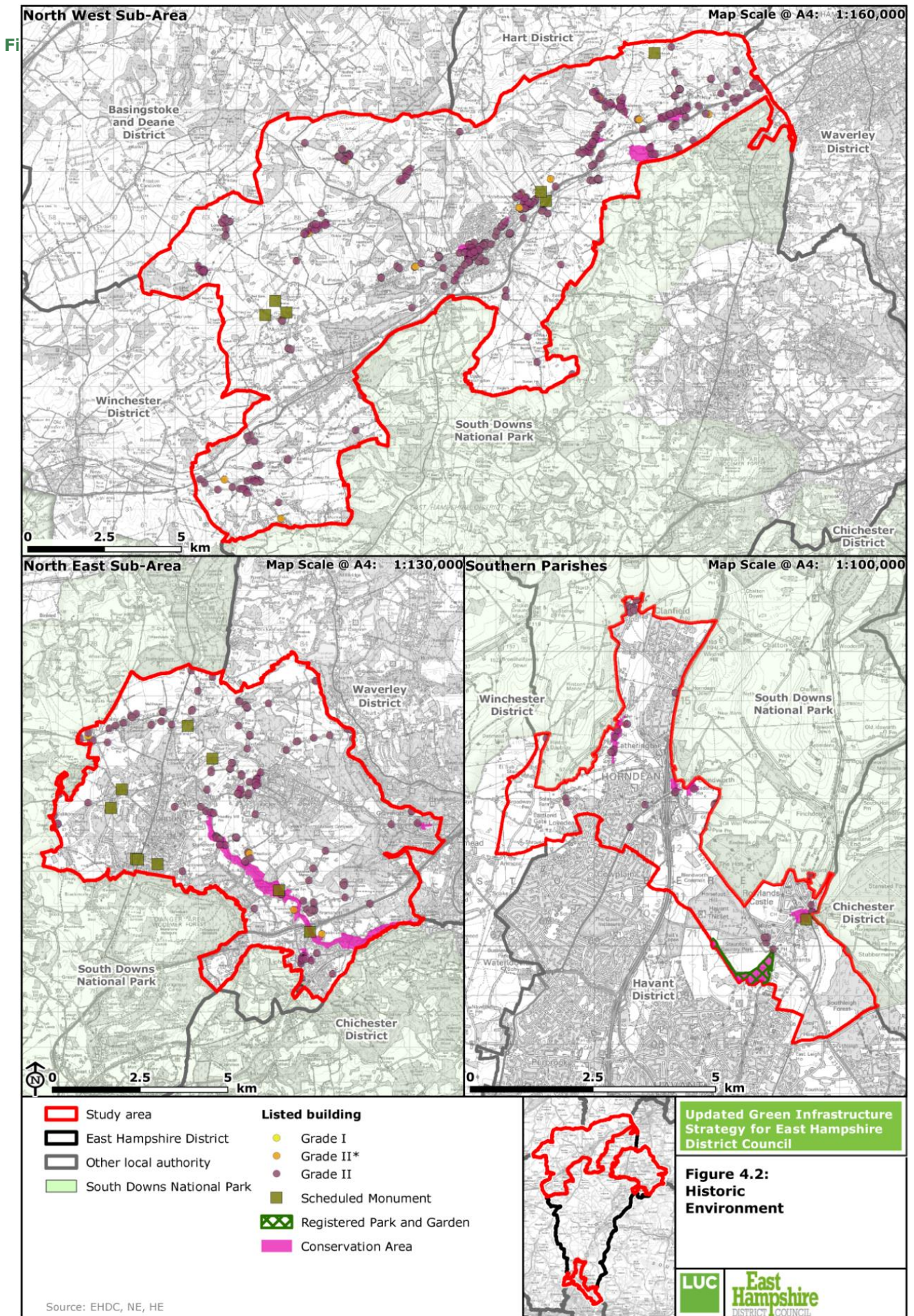
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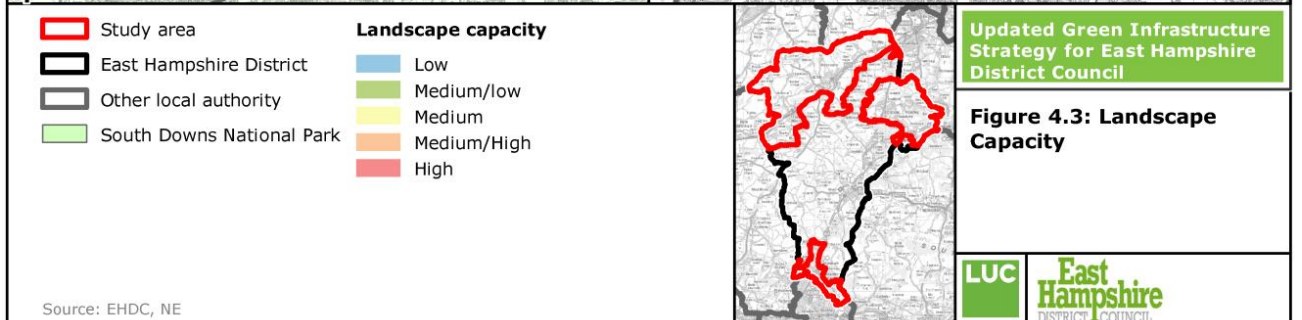
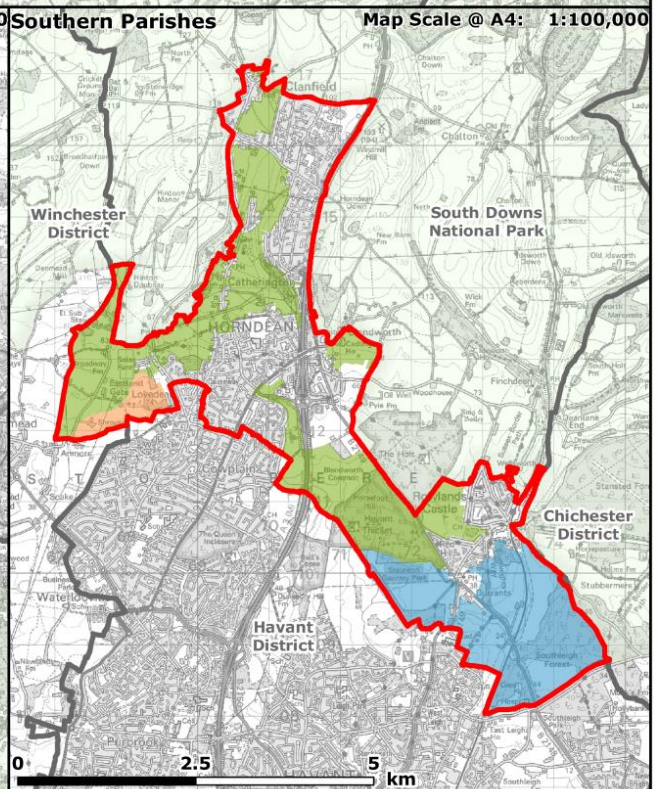
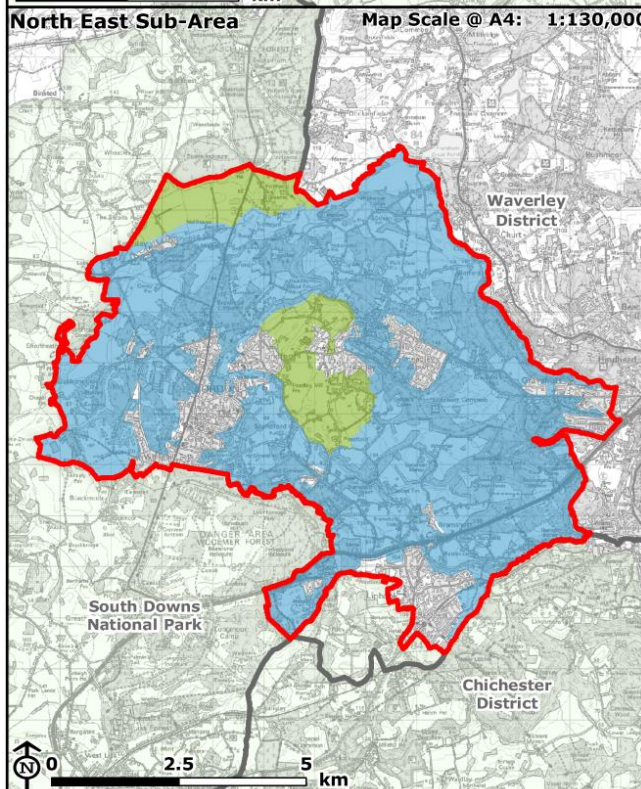
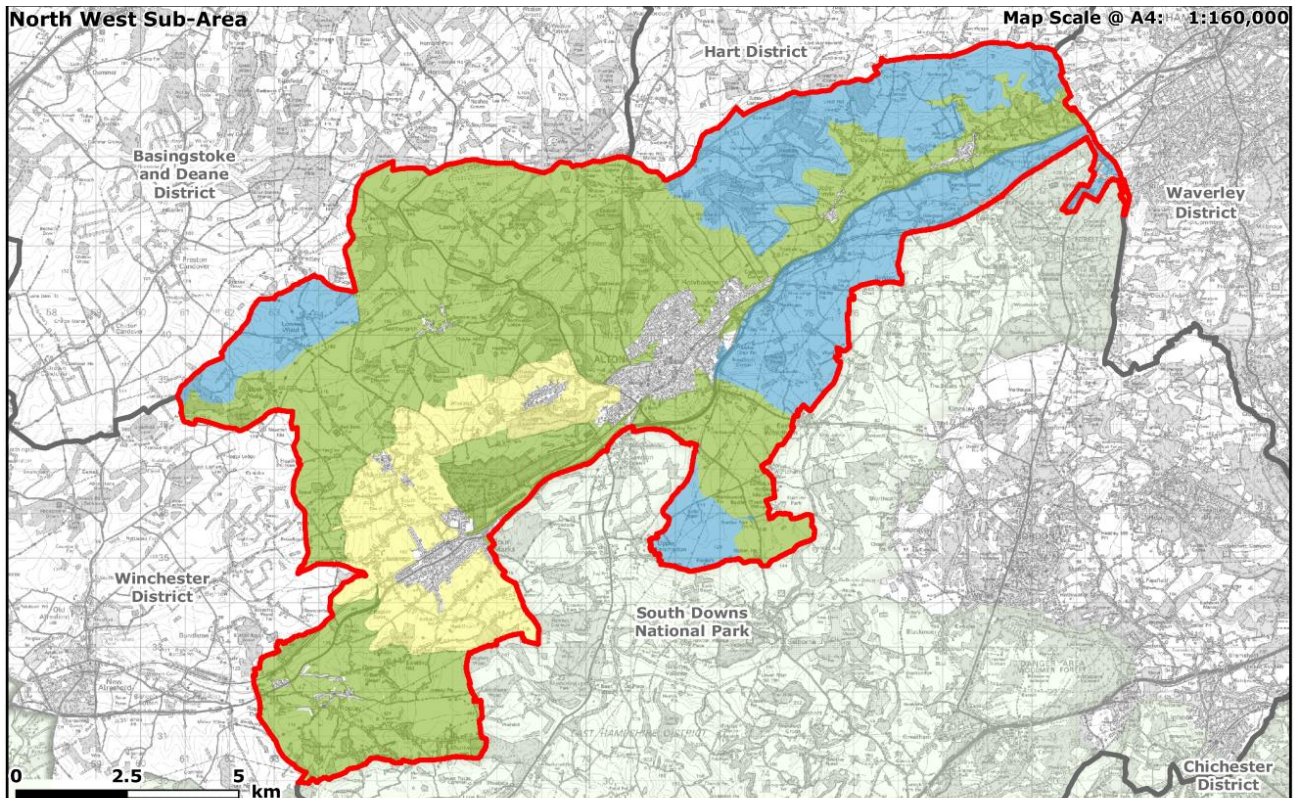
Figure 4.1:
Landscape Character Areas



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Biodiversity

- 4.10 East Hampshire has a mosaic of habitats, which are linked to the underlying geology; the Hampshire Basin to the west and the Weald to the east.¹³
- 4.11 In the North East Sub-Area around Kingsley, Grayshott, Whitehill & Bordon, Lindford, Liphook and Headley, there are extensive tracts of woodlands and heathland habitats, as well as areas of grassland of ecological value. In addition this area is dissected by a number of linear watercourses and lakes, which add the ecological value and diversity in this area, including the River Wey, Fullers Vale, Washanger Lake, and Deadwater.
- 4.12 There are number of designated sites including Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. Contained within the SPA are a number of SSSIs notably Woolmer Forest, Bramshott and Ludshott Commons, Broxhead and Kingsley Commons. The Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA is internationally recognised for supporting significant populations of birds associated with lowland heath, including the nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler. The purpose of SSSIs is to safeguard the diversity and range of habitats, species, geological, and geomorphological features throughout England. An ongoing concern for these sites is recreational disturbance, which can increase alongside new development and population growth¹⁴. There are also a number of SINCS in this area, which have a level of protection from development, but are not necessarily managed for biodiversity.
- 4.13 In North West Sub-Area areas between Ropley and Bentley is an area dominated by agriculture; however the area contains various woodland blocks, many of which are ancient. Many of these woodland sites are designated SINCS. In addition, there are various areas of grassland of ecological value, such as along the flood plain for the Wey Valley.
- 4.14 The Southern Parishes are dominated by woodland and permanent pasture grassland. Many of the remaining woodland and common grassland areas represent fragments of the Forest of Bere. There are a few large blocks of woodland here, including Havant Thicket and Southleigh Forest. Many woodlands are of ancient origin and carry the SINC designation. A number of areas are also designated as Local Nature Reserves, notably Hazelton Common comprises a mix of heathland, grassland, mixed gorse and woody scrub, ponds and wetland.
- 4.15 Throughout the PAA, there are a number of site allocations currently being considered located on greenfield land, which could have implications for biodiversity in these areas through direct habitat loss and increased human disturbance.
- 4.16 **Figure 4-4** shows the designated biodiversity assets within the PAA and **Figure 4-5** shows the Priority Habitats.
- 4.17 Fragmentation remains an important form **Figure 4-6** shows the ecological networks within the PAA¹⁵ developed by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC). An ecological network is a group of habitat patches that species can move easily between maintaining ecological function and conserving biodiversity. Through appropriate management, ecological networks can provide a connected collection of refuges for wildlife. Within the ecological network map are 'Network Opportunities'. These are areas where habitat connectivity could be improved through restoration and re-creation of priority habitats. Notable network improvement areas include:
- Areas of improved grassland along the banks of the Northern Wey.
 - Areas of improved grassland at Holybourne Down.
 - Areas of improved grassland between Four Marks and Medstead.
 - Areas of improved grassland around Ropley.
 - Many areas of improved grassland in and around nationally and locally designated biodiversity sites throughout the North East Sub-Area.
 - Areas of Neutral Grassland around Havant Thicket.

¹³ East Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment July 2006

¹⁴ East Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan

¹⁵ Ecological Network Maps sourced from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre 2018

- Areas of improved grassland adjacent to stream between Rowlands Castle and the B2148.

4.18 Hampshire County Council has recognised the ecological importance of roadside verges through the Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEI) project. Verges are often the only remaining semi-natural habitat in a farmed or urban landscape. This means they have had no artificial inputs of pesticides or fertilisers and have not been ploughed or re-seeded. As a result, they can support a rich and varied range of plants, many of which have vanished elsewhere in the countryside. The RVEI project identifies the most ecologically important verges within Hampshire and implements a refined management scheme that allows for increased biodiversity.¹⁶

Biodiversity: issues and opportunities

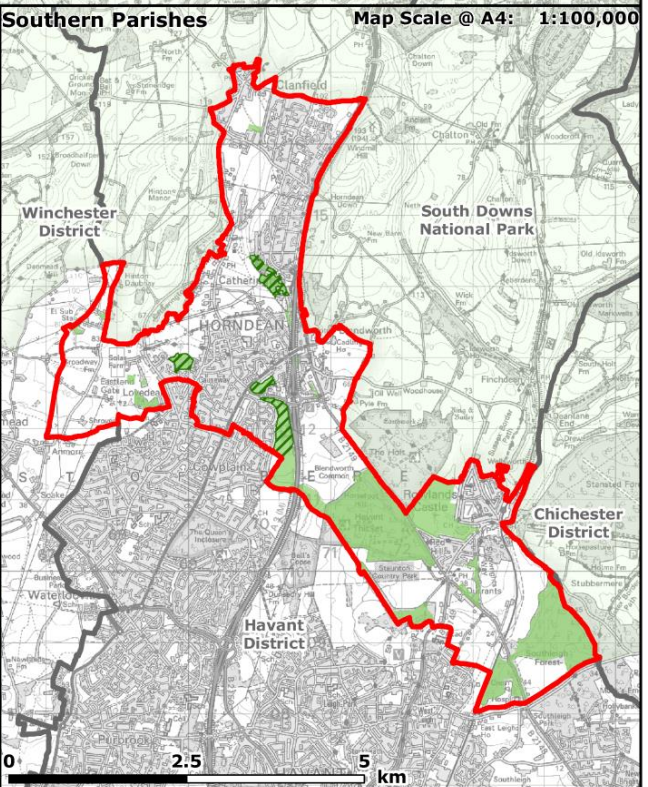
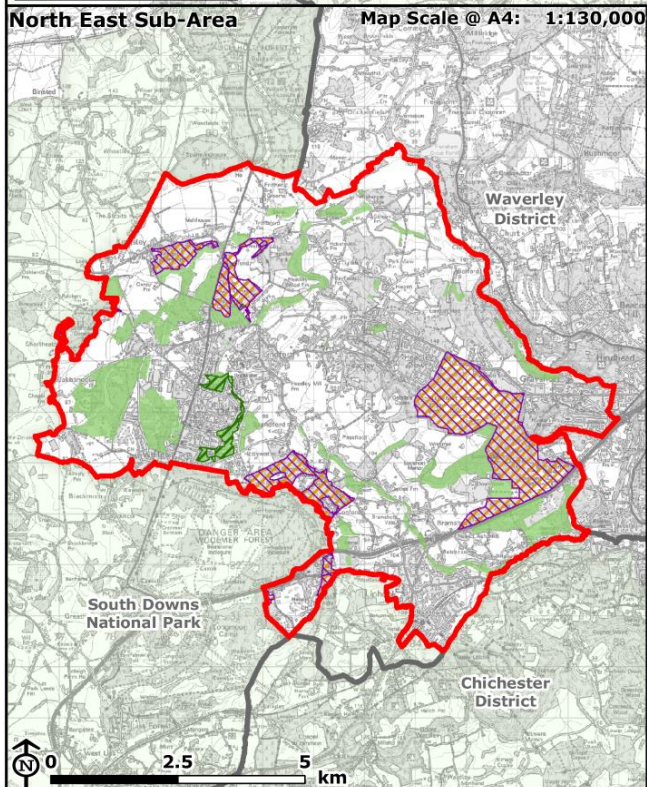
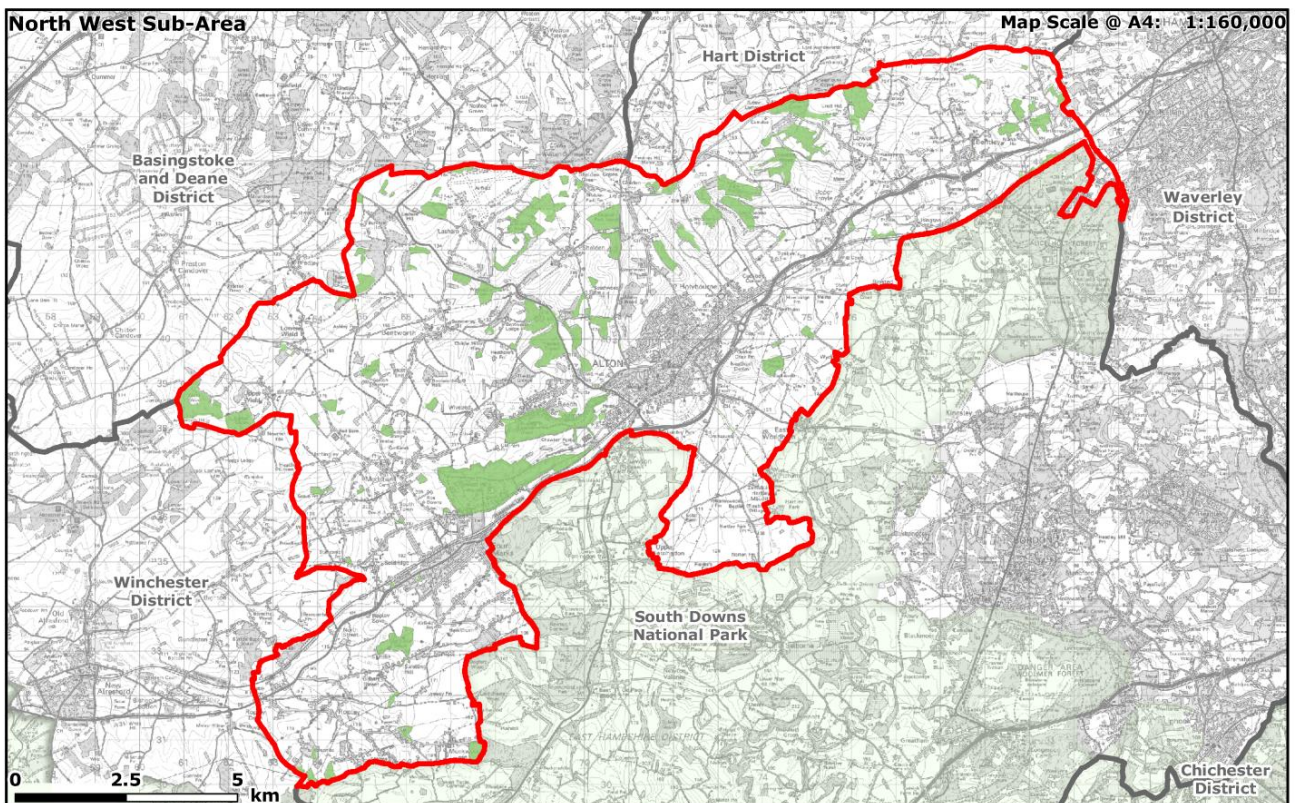
Issues

- There is pressure on designated sites from recreation. The Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA is particularly vulnerable to external influences such as dog walkers. Rare species depend on the heathland such as the sand lizard, smooth snake and Dartford warbler.
- Many habitats across the District and PAA have become fragmented through changing land uses and urban development. Fragmentation is an important cause of species decline.
- Some future development is likely to occur on greenfield land which could result in loss of habitats and biodiversity.
- Farmland accounts for a large amount of land cover within the District, much of which is comprised of arable land and improved grassland, which is species poor. However, the corners and edges of some arable fields also retain a rich rare arable plant flora, and the increasing use of buffer strips at field margins is proving beneficial for a wide variety of wildlife.
- Research on long-term ecological change has found that woodlands are becoming less structurally diverse and less species rich. This has been caused by the cessation of active woodland management at many sites, whilst at others intensive silviculture prevails. Coupled with this, past habitat fragmentation has resulted in widespread reduction in habitat connectivity, which in turn inhibits the ability of woodland species to respond to external influences e.g. climatic change.
- Species-rich unimproved and semi-improved grassland is one of the rarest habitats in the UK and Hampshire. Many areas have been lost due to arable farming.
- Developments can lead to increased light pollution and non-native planting schemes which can affect the dispersal and foraging habitats of nocturnal species.
- There are many inter-related issues threatening and altering East Hampshire's freshwater habitats, including eutrophication recreational pressures, water level and reproduce management, alien species and climate change.
- As well as rural areas, urban areas have considerable biodiversity. However, poor management such as mowing road verges and increased pressure to build on brownfield sites can decrease the biodiversity value of urban areas.

¹⁶ Hampshire County Council. Further information on Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEI). Accessible at: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/RoadVergesofEcologicalImportanceupdatedAugust2017.pdf>

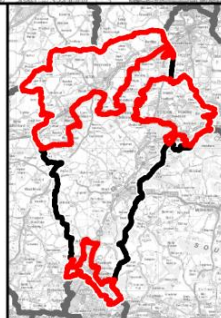
Opportunities

- Continue to rejuvenate Hampshire's heathlands through partnership working and focused conservation management work. This could involve introducing sustainable management regimes to sites where management is currently limited, and target heathland re-creation to re-connect isolated fragments.
- Educate the public about the sensitivities of heathland sites and encourage use of alternative sites for more sensitive activities, such as dog walking.
- Explore opportunities to reduce ecological fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity such as 'Network Opportunity Areas' identified by HBIC.
- Increase woodland cover where appropriate to improve habitat connectivity and improve the structural diversity of woodlands. This could be achieved by developing sustainable long-term management plans. Increased woodland cover could also be encouraged by increased support for 'wood fuel' initiatives, and encourage markets for local timber and wood products.
- Implement restoration and maintenance initiatives to improve the coverage and condition of semi-improved grassland such as through Environmental Stewardship Schemes.
- Implement GI such as SuDS to improve and manage water quality thereby helping to improve the ecological value of freshwater sites.
- Ensure continued management of Road Verges of Ecological Importance – through the RVEI project conducted by Hampshire CC.
- Implement GI as part of new developments to encourage biodiversity net gain. Where net gain cannot be achieved on-site, funding should be pooled into off-site biodiversity projects to offset any loss to biodiversity.



- Study area
- East Hampshire District
- Other local authority
- South Downs National Park
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- International Nature Designations
- Local Nature Reserve
- Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation

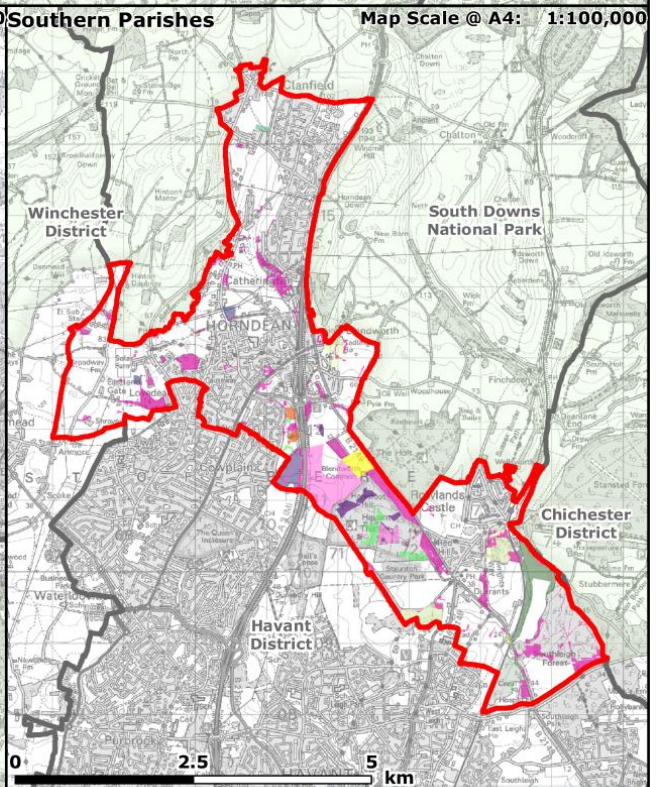
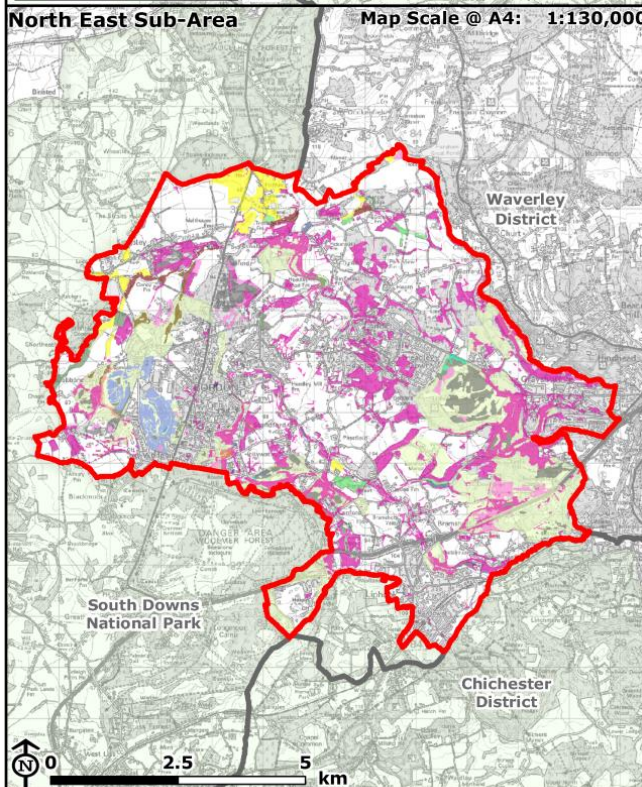
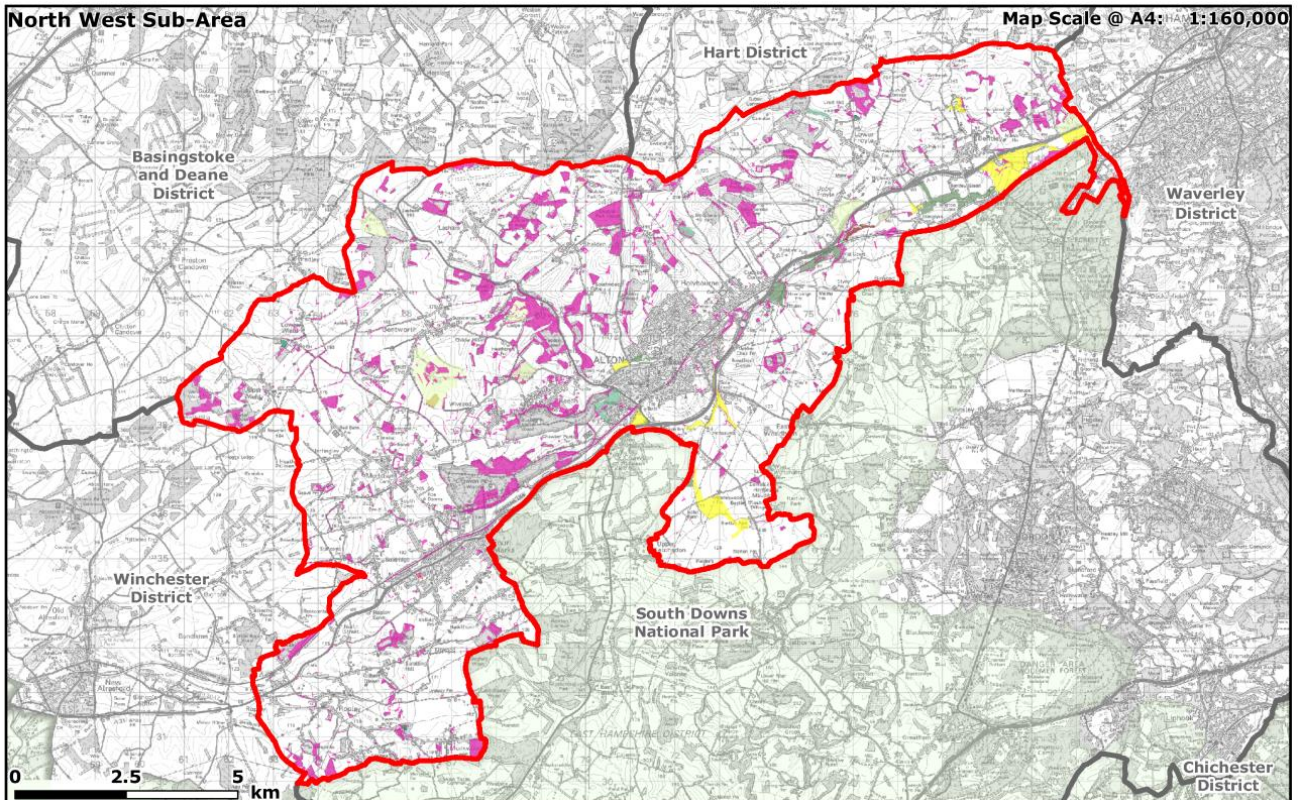
Source: EHDC, NE



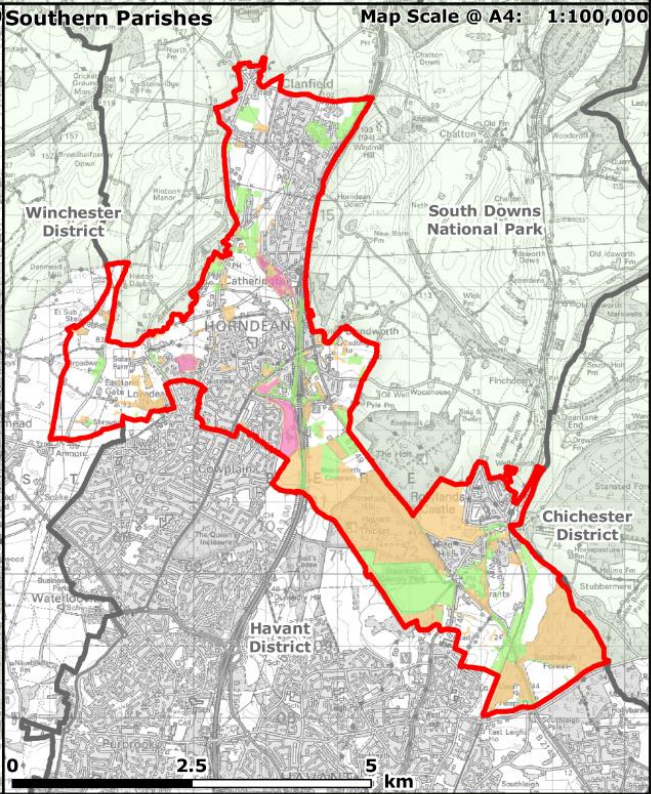
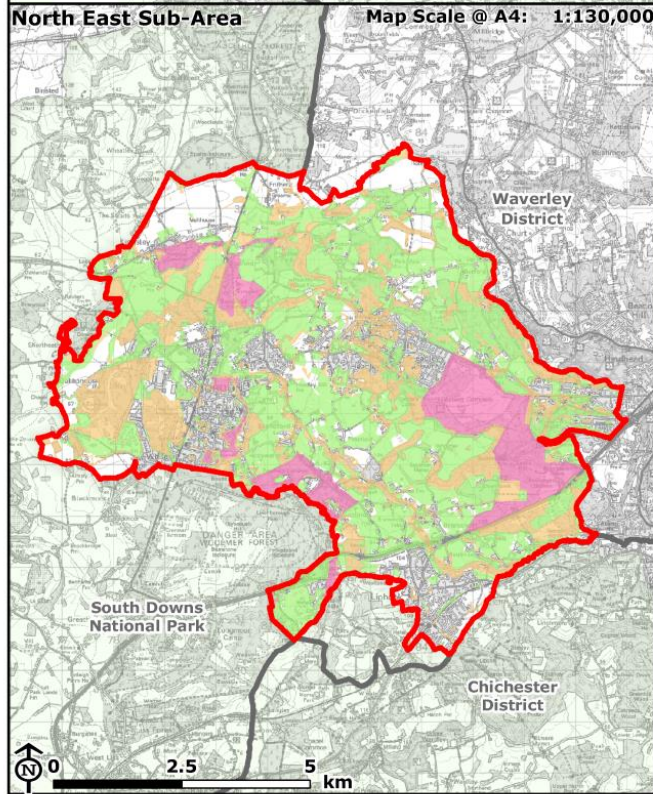
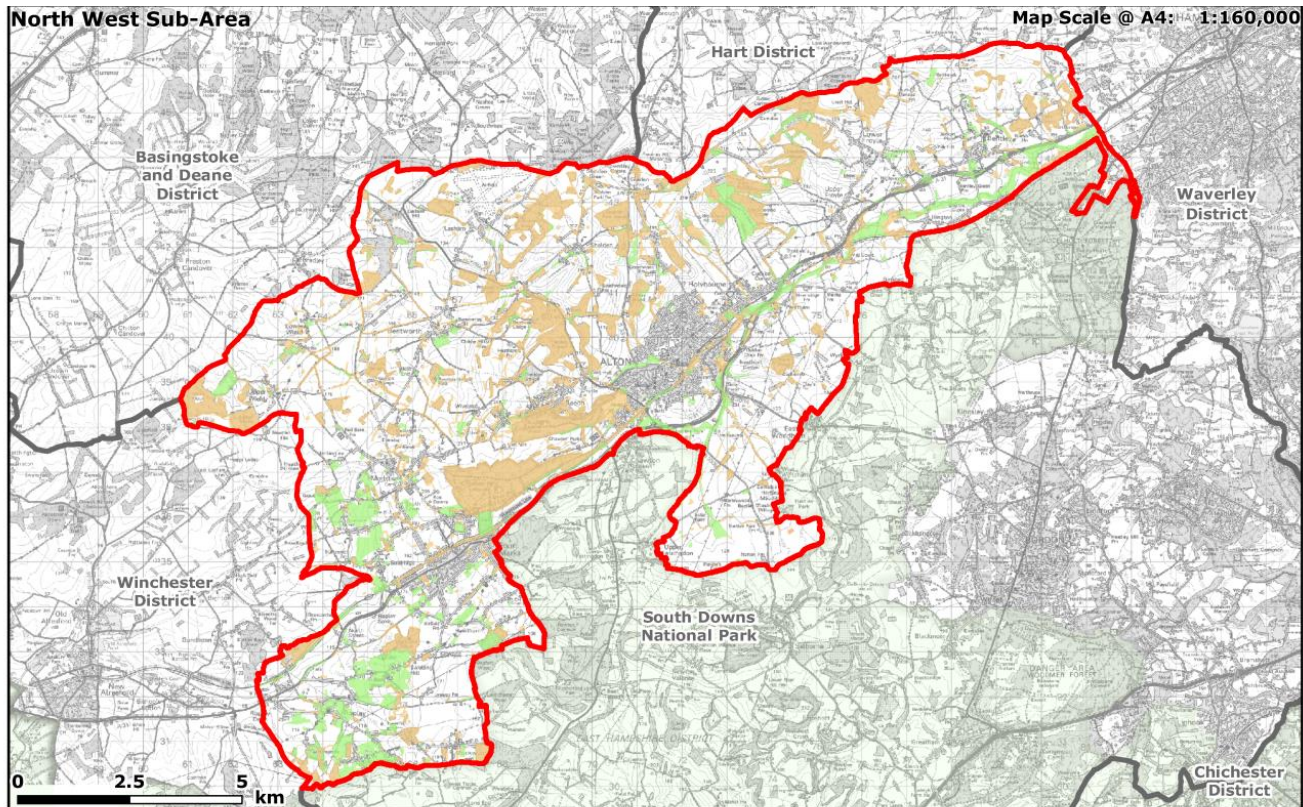
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Figure 4.4: Biodiversity Designations





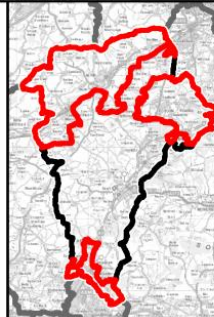
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 Source: EHDC, NE
 LUC East Hampshire District Council
 CB:LA EB:Archer_L LUC FIGX_10400_Priority_habitat_A4P 12/11/2018



- Study area
- East Hampshire District
- Other local authority
- South Downs National Park
- Network Opportunity Areas
- Core Non Statutory Areas
- Core Statutory Areas

Source: EHDC, NE

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Figure 4.6: Ecological Network



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Woodlands

- 4.19 Woodland can be seen across many parts of East Hampshire forming an inherent part of the District's rural landscape. Woodlands provide a resource for biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, recreation, as well a resource for timber and wood fuel. The District supports a range of woodland types that vary according to local geology, climate and historic management techniques. There are many areas of woodland which are of historic significance and managed under a coppice with standard regime. **Figure 4-7** shows the woodland areas across the PAA. Many areas of woodland are under private ownership with limited public access.
- 4.20 In the North West Sub-Area, there are numerous blocks of woodland, many of which are ancient in origin often comprised of a mix of broadleaved and coniferous tree species. Notable larger woodlands in this area include Chawton Park Wood, Bushy Lease Wood, Weston Common Woods, Shaldon Park Woods and Hawkins Wood. Of particular importance is Chawton Park Wood and Bushy Lease Wood. These form part of the Forestry Commission Estate and due to their proximity to Alton are a valuable resource for recreation.
- 4.21 In the North East Sub-Area, the district also supports extensive tracts of woodland. The majority of the woodland is of secondary plantation origin. A range of woodland types occur, including sessile oak and beech woodland, and mixed and coniferous plantation.
- 4.22 The Southern Parishes have extensive woodland, notably around Horndean. Most of this woodland here is ancient with significant larger blocks (e.g. Havant Thicket, The Holt and Southleigh Forest) and smaller copses (Barton's Copse and James's Copse). Much of the woodland represents remnants of the former uninterrupted Forest of Bere.
- 4.23 Over the last 200 years the total area of the district's non-ancient woodland has increased to the detriment of other habitats such as chalk grassland and heathland. The increase in woodland cover has been brought about by changes in land-use, namely the end of grazing on grassland and heath which has resulted in woodland and scrub encroachment as part of the natural succession process. Also, secondary or plantation woodland covers much of the valuable East Hampshire heathland.¹⁸
- 4.24 In East Hampshire, the quality of ancient semi-natural woodland has generally declined over the last 50 years through neglect, lack of traditional management such as coppicing and the planting of non-native species.¹⁹ This is reflective of national trends, which shows woodlands are becoming less structurally diverse and less species rich.²⁰
- 4.25 The woodlands of East Hampshire are used for many different purposes, for example timber production, nature conservation, recreation, MOD training and rearing game.

¹⁸ East Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

¹⁹ East Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

²⁰ Woodland Trust. The State of the UK's Forests, Woods and Trees: Perspectives from the Sector.

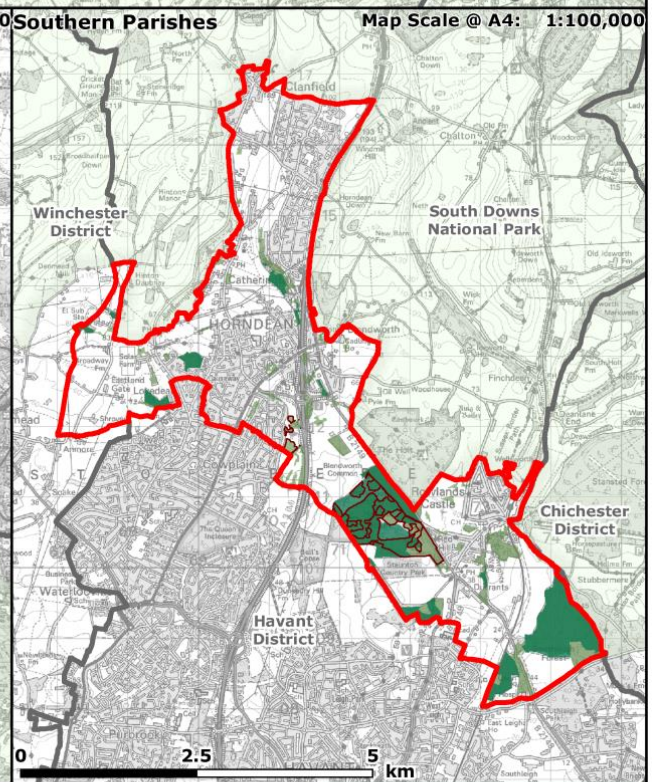
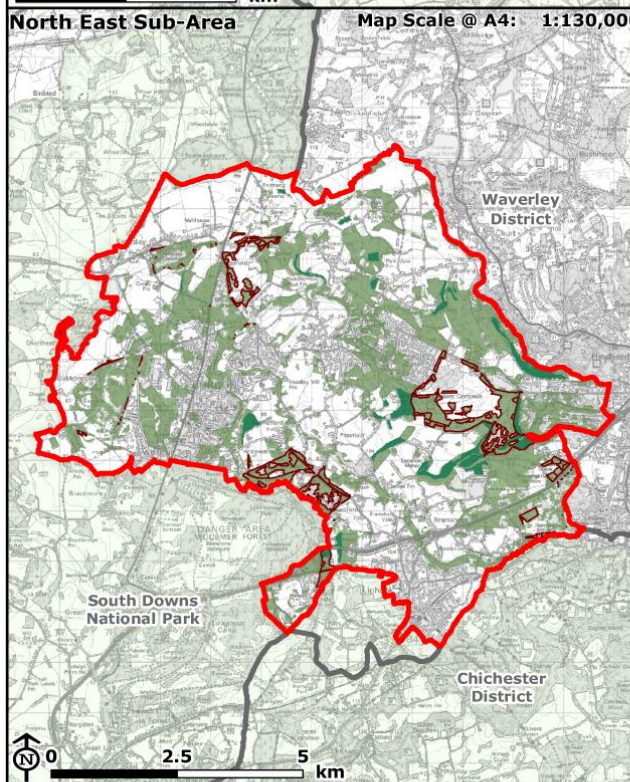
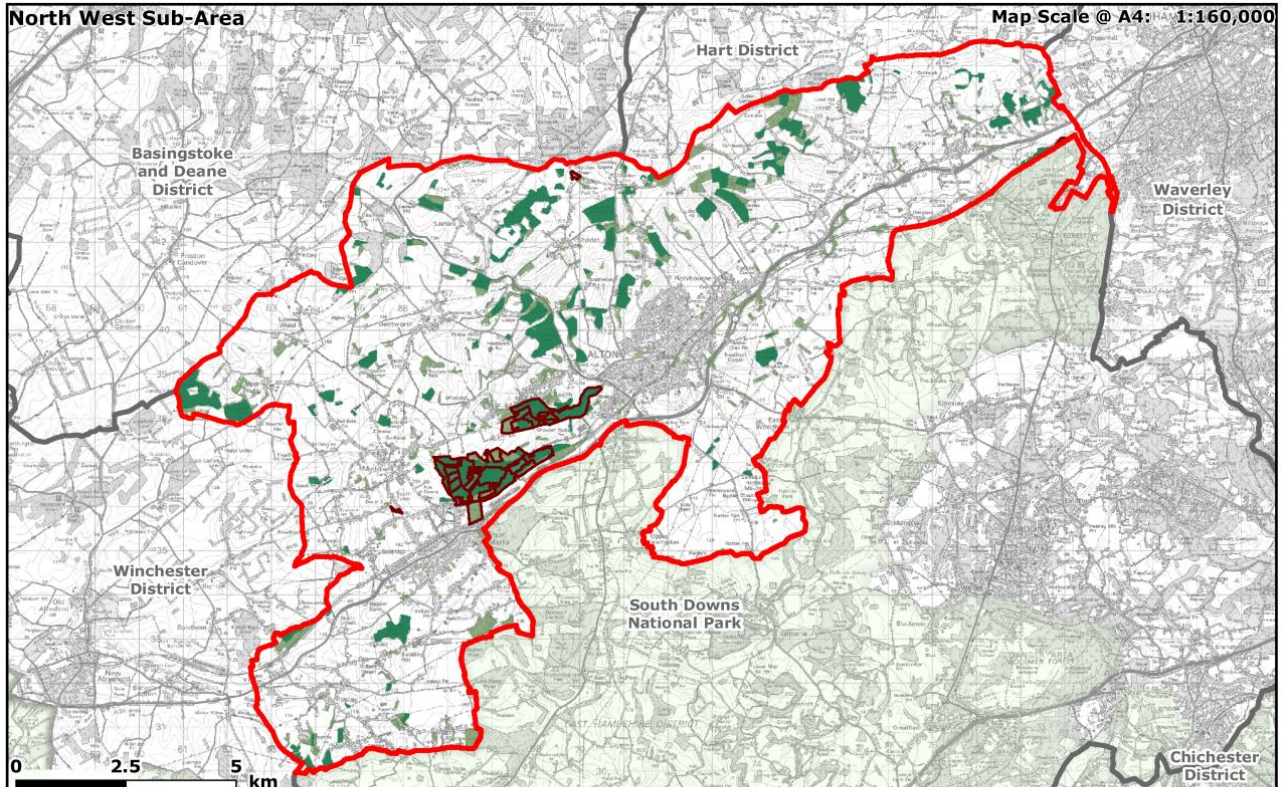
Woodlands and associated habitats: issues and opportunities

Issues

- Overall quality of woodland in the District has declined due to lack of appropriate management.
- Although woodlands provide a valuable resource for biodiversity, plantations in inappropriate locations can come at the expense of other valuable habitat types.
- Woodland sites require a suitable stream of income to sustain active management.
- New development puts pressure on sensitive woodland and associated habitats, both directly through decreasing coverage and ecological viability, and indirectly through the potential for increased recreational use.
- Forestry management needs to be taken into account to ensure it remains economically viable.
- Woodland is at risk from the spread of invasive species, as well as from changes to climatic conditions (higher average temperatures, greater frequency of intense storms, and a wider range of pests and diseases).
- Many areas of woodland are inaccessible to the public for recreational purposes.

Opportunities

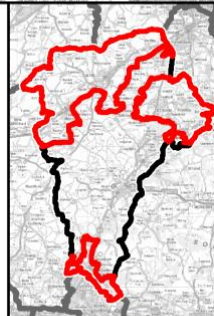
- Increase woodland coverage where appropriate to improve habitat connectivity and improve the structural diversity of woodlands. This could be achieved by developing sustainable long-term management plans for woodlands. Increased woodland cover could also be encouraged by increased support for 'wood fuel' initiatives, and encourage markets for local timber and wood products.
- Within the south of the PAA, conserve the mosaic of woodland, heath and pasture which forms the relic fragment of the former Royal Forest of Bere. Increase awareness of the Forest of Bere.
- Conserve and manage ancient woodland and monitor/ check the spread of introduced invasive species.
- Consider further opportunities for woodland planting within and around settlements and the urban edge to screen development and enhance landscape character.
- Aim for diversification of plantation woodland by creating a more diverse age and species structure, and increasing open areas.
- Encourage reintroduction of traditional woodland management techniques such as coppicing.



- Study area
- East Hampshire District
- Other local authority
- South Downs National Park
- Ancient woodland
- Other woodland
- Publicly accessible woodland

Source: EHDC, NE, FC

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Figure 4.7: Woodland



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Water environment

- 4.26 The northern half of East Hampshire District drains to the Thames river system via branches of the Wey (including the Deadwater), and southern half to four coastal rivers, which are the Arun (via the Western Rother), the Lavant Stream, the Meon and the Itchen. The catchment divide follows an approximate line from Greatham (between Petersfield and Bordon) via Four Marks to Lasham
- 4.27 The southern tip of the PAA is drained by the Hermitage Stream and River Wallington, though the permanent parts of these watercourses are entirely outside the District boundary.
- 4.28 In addition to rivers there are a number of lakes within the District, notably in the North East Sub-Area along parts of the Wey and its tributaries.
- 4.29 A Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the District was carried out in 2018²¹. The 2018 SFRA demonstrates that a significant source of flood risk to this part of the PAA is not from fluvial or tidal flooding but from groundwater and overland flow flooding from intense rainfall. This is because after prolonged rainfall the water table in the Upper Chalk aquifer can rise to the ground surface causing springs to erupt in the valley floors and the creation of ephemeral watercourses.
- 4.30 **Figure 4-8** shows the Flood Zones within the PAA with flood risk areas largely limited to areas in close proximity to watercourses running through the catchment.

Water supply

- 4.31 Water supply in the District is covered by the East Hampshire Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)²² and the Wey Hampshire Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy.
- 4.32 Within the Wey catchment, there are currently over 220 abstraction licences for the abstraction of over 340 ML/day in total. Groundwater abstraction accounts for around two thirds of licensed water abstraction. The majority of water is abstracted for public water supply.
- 4.33 Groundwater abstraction dominates the whole East Hampshire CAMS area, accounting for 98% of all abstraction. Public water supply licences held by Portsmouth Water account for most of the groundwater abstraction (88%). There are no surface water public water supply abstractions. The other significant groundwater abstractions are for watercress beds in Warnford (outside the PAA) but these return water locally and so have no impact on overall water resources.
- 4.34 There are currently no significant storage facilities i.e. reservoirs within the PAA to store water from abstraction. However, Portsmouth Water have put forward a proposal to create a reservoir at Havant Thicket to cater for increased demand.

Water quality

- 4.35 The Environment Agency's (EA) data catchment explorer provides data on the water environment in East Hampshire. Within the Wey catchment, the North Wey (Alton to Tilford), North Wey (at Alton) were classified as having 'moderate' quality. Hollywater and Deadwater at Bordon is classified as having 'good' water quality. The South Wey (Haslemere to Bordon) is classified as having 'poor' water quality. Poor water quality is caused by a variety of different reasons, including contaminated surface water runoff from agriculture and industrial development, effluent discharge from water treatment works.

Ecology

- 4.36 As part of this GI Strategy, consultation responses from the external stakeholders highlights the issue of invasive species present within the District's waterways, notably Himalayan Balsam which can outcompete other native parts and detract from the traditional landscape character.

²¹ East Hampshire District Council (2018) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework. <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/StrategicFloodRiskAssessment.pdf>

²² East Hampshire Abstraction Licensing Strategy (March 2013): A licensing strategy to manage water resources sustainably.

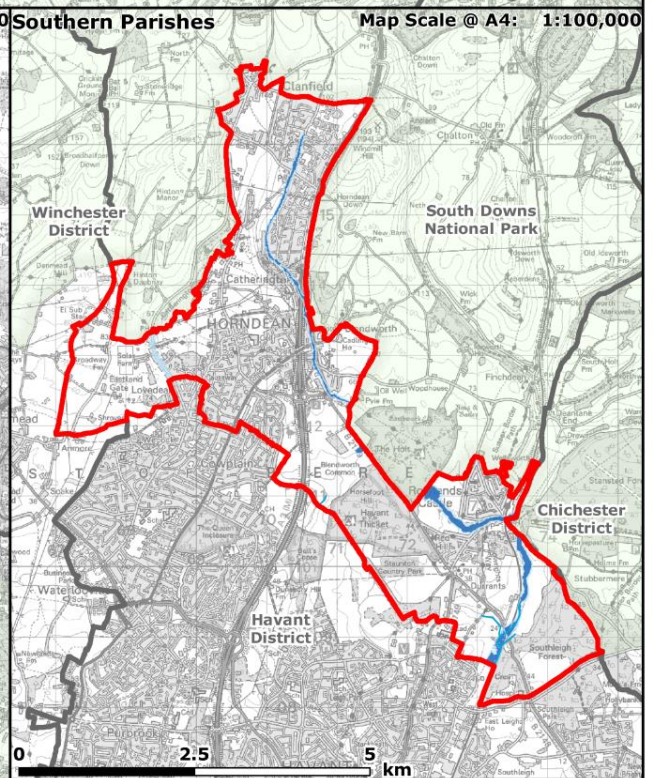
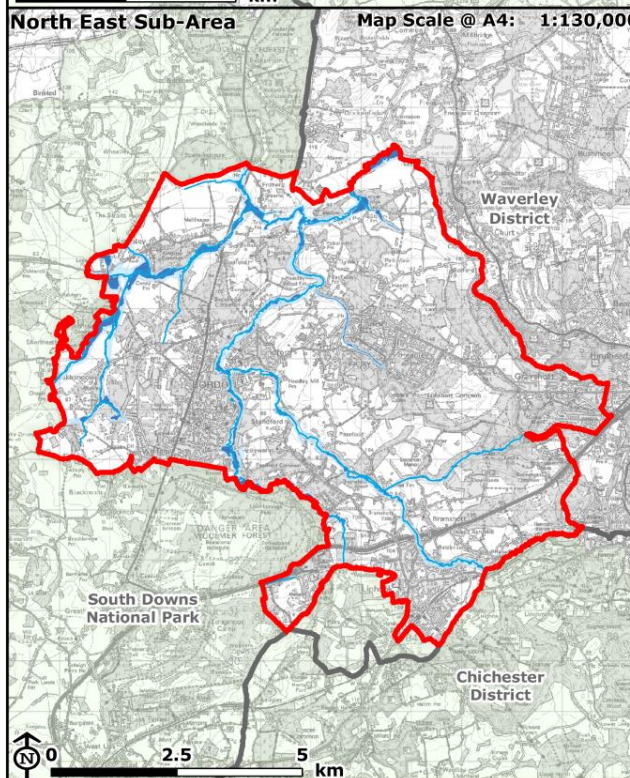
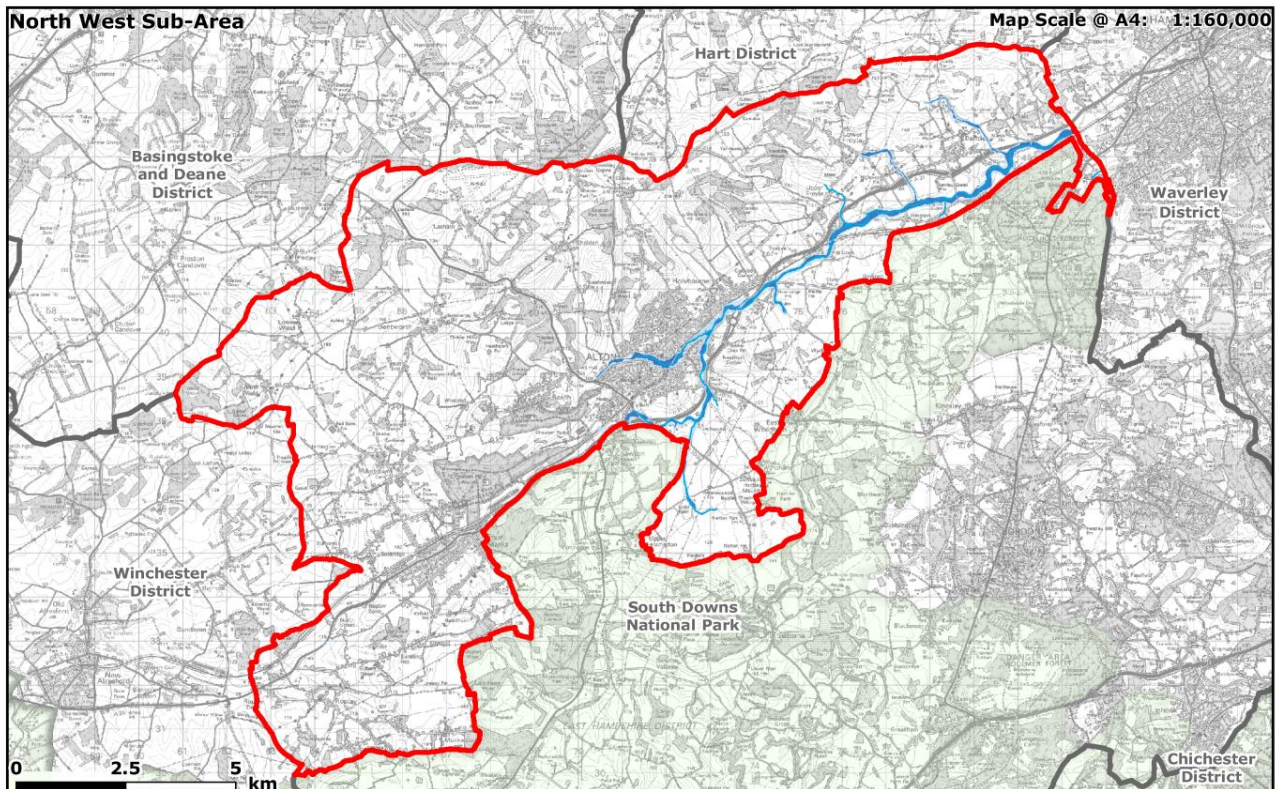
Water environment: issues and opportunities

Issues

- Groundwater flooding is the predominant source of flooding within the PAA.
- The South Wey (Haslemere to Bordon) is classified as having 'poor' water quality, whilst the North Wey (Alton to Tilford) and North Wey (at Alton) were classified as having 'moderate' quality which restricts ecological value in these waterbodies.
- East Hampshire's growing population will increase pressure on water resources. This could increase levels of water abstraction and water treatment with negative impacts on the water quality.
- Flooding frequencies could increase significantly with climate change.
- Surface water runoff from agriculture and urban development can reduce water quality. These issues could be exacerbated by new development.
- Recreational access along the District's waterways is limited in many areas e.g. along parts of the River Wey (see next section on Access, Recreation and Transport).
- Water bodies such as the northern and southern Wey contain Invasive Species such as Himalayan Balsam which detract from the ecology and character of wetland habitats.

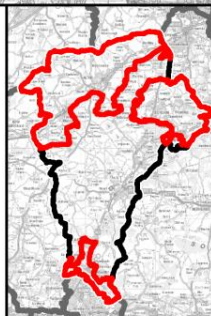
Opportunities

- Implement, where appropriate, SuDS within new developments to prevent surface water runoff and associated negative effects on water quality.
- Remove invasive species from the PAA's waterways to increase the ecological quality of wetland habitat.
- Promote the delivery of Havant Thicket Reservoir to ensure sustained supply of Water to the PAA, as well as provide a new recreational asset.
- Enhance access to and along waterways, notably the River Wey and its tributaries



- Study area
- East Hampshire District
- Other local authority
- South Downs National Park
- Rivers/canals
- Flood zone 3
- Flood zone 2

Source: EHDC, NE, EA



Updated Green Infrastructure Strategy for East Hampshire District Council

Figure 4.8: Water Environment



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Access, recreation and transport

- 4.37 East Hampshire is a rural district therefore, access to the countryside is particularly important for its residents and visitors. The district has extensive areas of open space, woodland, country parks and an extensive rights of way network with the South Downs National Park acting as an important recreational resource (see **Figure 4-5**)
- 4.38 An Open Space, Sports and Recreational Study was completed in 2018 by LUC. The Study highlights the areas which experience deficiency in open space provision in terms of quantity, quality, value and accessibility.

Quantity of open space

- 4.39 The Study identified an existing deficiency in natural and semi-natural open space in the North West Sub-Area and Southern Parishes. These deficiencies are likely to be exacerbated to a small extent by planned growth in these areas, notably around Alton, Four Marks, Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle, where the majority of site allocations are situated.
- 4.40 Analysis of specific open space typologies found there is a deficiency in the provision of Parks and Gardens and allotments in the south of the District (although part of the deficiency has been met through the creation of two allotment sites are Cranfield), deficiency in natural/semi-natural greenspace in the north west of the district and deficiency of amenity greenspace in the north east of the District.

Quality, value and accessibility standards

- 4.41 The open space assessment has analysed quality value and accessibility for the main settlements within the planning authority area. These findings are summarised below:

Alton

- 4.42 Approximately half of Alton (north east half) lacks access to open space of any typology. The rest of Alton has access to local level open space including parks and gardens and semi-natural green space. Only one site in Alton is of high quality and value; Public Gardens. All other sites in Alton have low quality and/or low value.
- 4.43 Amenity green spaces in Alton offer access to open space in some areas deficient in access to local parks and gardens or natural or semi-natural green space. However, despite this, there are still areas deficient in any access to green space, particularly in the north east of the town. The north east of Alton deficient access to allotments with two allotments. In addition, two of the sites are low quality and low value, and one site has high quality but low value.

Whitehill & Bordon

- 4.44 Whitehill & Bordon has the best provision and access to open space in the District. The majority of the settlement falls within the access catchment to sub-regional, district and local sites. There are also a number of amenity green spaces providing access at a local level. Additionally, Deadwater Valley is a 15.4 ha green corridor with high quality and value, offering additional open space to the residents of Whitehall Bordon.
- 4.45 Open space quality and value varies in Whitehill & Bordon, with area for improvement particularly in parks and gardens and natural or semi-natural green space.

Horndean

- 4.46 Horndean has no access to district or sub-regional open spaces. Horndean has access to one good quality and value park and garden as well as four natural or semi-natural green spaces with varying quality and value. Amenity green space offers some access to open space in areas deficient in access to other open spaces, however there are still areas in Horndean which are deficient in all open space types.
- 4.47 Horndean is within 1 km of Staunton Country Park, a 325 ha site which is open to the public for a fee. Adjacent to Staunton Country Park is Havant Thicket, a Forestry Commission site made up of a series of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Havant Thicket is freely accessible to the public.

4.48 One allotment site in Horndean offers access to the majority of the settlement, however the site has low value.

Liphook

4.49 Liphook has good access to open space, the whole settlement falls within the access catchment of sub-regional sized open spaces such as Passfield Common and Conford Moor (SPA, SAC and SSSI), Bramshott and Ludshott Common (an SPA and SSSI), Linchmere Common (LNR in Chichester District).

Clanfield

4.50 Approximately half of Clanfield lacks access to open space at any level of the hierarchy. However, it is noted Clanfield is 1.3km from Queen Elizabeth Country Park and close to Butser Hill, which if mapped and included within the study would mean Clanfield would not be deficient in access to a sub-regional semi-natural green space.

4.51 The Study identified possible deficiency to allotments within Clanfield. However two recently created allotments within the Windmill View and St James Place development sites addressed issues with access to such sites.

Four Marks/ South Medstead

4.52 A significant part of Four Marks/ South Medstead lacks access to open space at any level of the hierarchy. The six sites in or adjacent to Four Marks/ South Medstead are have low quality with the exception of Recreation Ground West.

4.53 One high quality and high value allotment is located in Four Marks/ South Medstead, approximately half of Four Marks/ South Medstead falls within the access catchment for this site.

Grayshott

4.54 Grayshott falls within sub-regional and mostly within district access catchments to open space, this is because it falls within close proximity of Bramshott and Ludshott Common (Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA and Bramshott and Ludshott Common SSSI). Grayshott also has two local parks and gardens in close proximity; one of high quality and value, one of low quality and value.

4.55 Grayshott is also within 2km of Hindhead Common (SPA, SAC and SSSI), a sub-regional natural or semi-natural green space in Waverley District.

4.56 There are two allotment sites in Grayshott, most of Grayshott is with the access catchment of these two sites. Both sites are of low quality.

Rowlands Castle

4.57 Rowlands Castle is deficient in access to sub-regional and district sized open spaces. Rowlands Castle has two high quality and high value amenity green spaces and one low quality and low value local natural or semi-natural green space. The north of Rowlands Castle is deficient in access to open space.

4.58 Staunton Country Park is adjacent to Rowlands Castle, whilst not considered as an open space in this study, Staunton Country Park is a 325 ha site open daily for an entry fee.

4.59 Rowlands Castle is also adjacent to Havant Thicket, a freely accessible Forestry Commission site.

4.60 One low quality and low value allotment is located south of Rowlands Castle, half of Rowlands Castle falls within the 1.2 km access catchment of this site.

Public Rights of Way

4.61 Access to the countryside and key destinations via the District's PROW network is important for the health and wellbeing of East Hampshire's residents and as an attraction for visitors. There are a number of long-distance PROW that provide access across the PAA. These include:

- St. Swithun's Way connecting Farnham to Winchester via Alton and Bentley and Chawton.
- Monarch's Way connecting Rowlands Castle to the SDNP via Horndean
- Southern England Coast to Coast connecting the northeast of the District with the SDNP

- Shipwrights Way connecting Alice Holt to Havant via Bordon, Liphook and the SDNP.
- Hangers Way connecting Alton the Queen Elizabeth Country Park
- Staunton Way connecting Staunton Country Park to the Queen Elizabeth Country Park via Rowlands Castle.

4.62 The following Sustrans routes provide an important means for cycling:

- Sustrans Route 224 running between Farnham and Medstead through Alton and Bentley.
- Sustrans Route 22 runs from Farnham to Havant via Whitehill & Bordon, the SDNP and Rowlands Castle
- Sustrans Route 222 connecting Horndean to the Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

4.63 In addition to the above, there are many other shorter PROW and cycle routes that facilitate movement across the PAA (see **Figure 4-9, Figure 4-10, Figure 4-11** below)

Access, recreation and transport: issues and opportunities

Issues

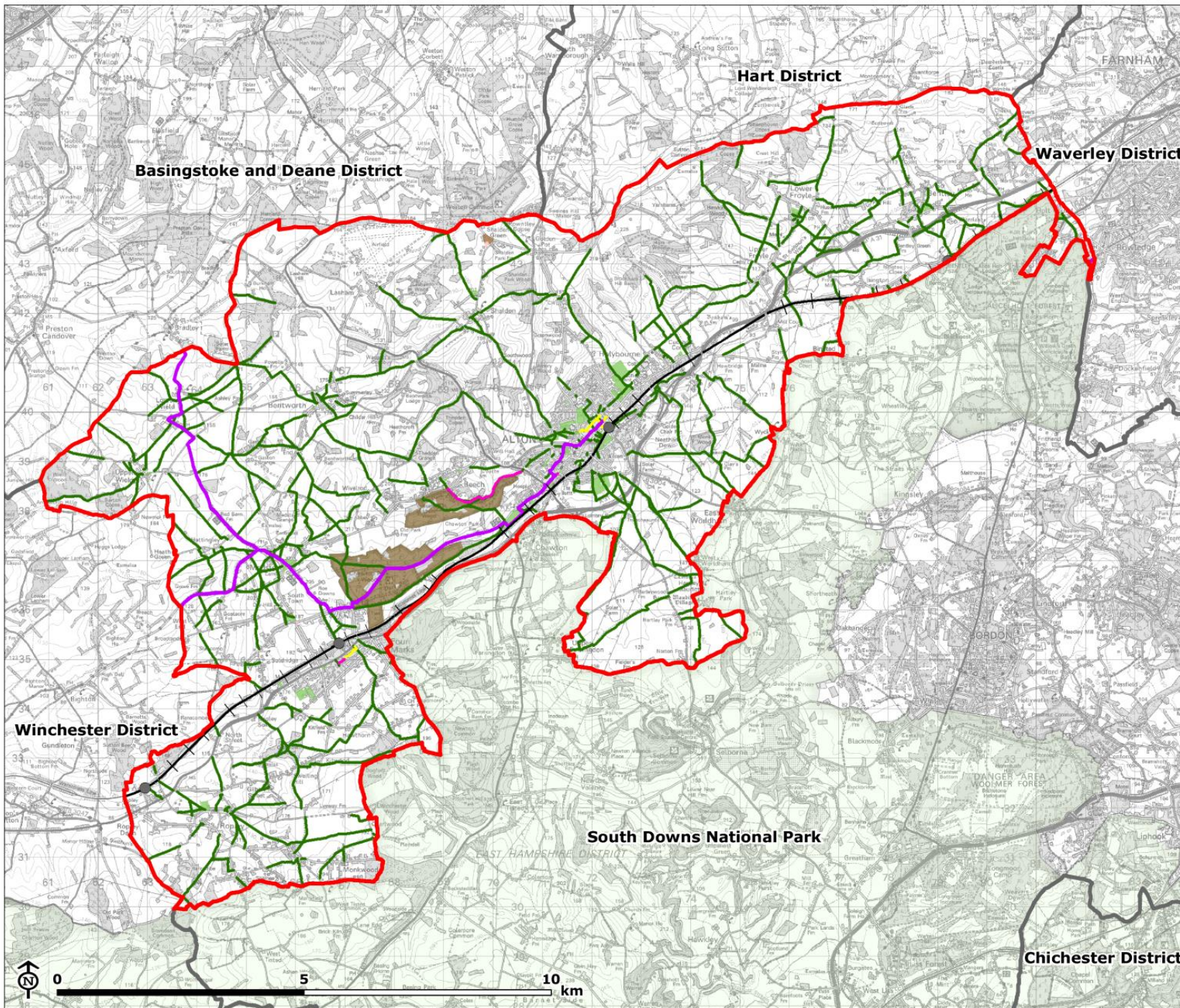
- There is deficiency in quantity of open space in the north west and south of the PAA, notably around Alton, Rowlands Castle and Four Marks/South Medstead. This is likely to be exacerbated by increased housing development in these areas.
- Deficient quantity of parks and gardens and allotments within the Southern Parishes.
- Deficient quantity of sub-regional level natural and semi-natural green space in the North West Sub-Area of the PAA.
- Deficient access to open space in Alton, particularly in the east.
- Deficient access to allotments in Rowlands Castle.
- There are a number of open spaces that are assessed as low quality due to poor facilities and limited number of GI functions.
- There are gaps within the PROW network such as along sections of the Southern and Northern Wey. Furthermore, severance from roads and railways can act as a physical and perceived barrier to access.
- There are limited routes by bicycle leaving the main towns. Many routes leaving towns are unsuitable due to high traffic speeds. This was noted to be the case in Alton within their Neighbourhood Plan, which highlights the need to improve Sustrans Route 224 between Alton and Farnham.
- Parts of the PROW network and open spaces are unsuitable for those with physical disabilities and elderly due to lack of suitable pathways and facilities such as toilets and car parking.
- The South Downs National Park is a key recreational resource for the Planning Authority area yet there can be a lack of physical and perceived connectivity to the Park from the surrounding settlements.
- Many woodlands within the PAA are inaccessible to the public.

Opportunities

- Reinforce and create walking PROW links to the wider countryside, between settlements and towards the South Downs National Park addressing existing gaps in the network.
- Enhance open spaces and existing PROW to increase accessibility older people and those with physical disability.
- Increase the quantity of open space in the north-west and south of the district, notably in Alton, Rowlands Castle and Four Marks/South Medstead.
- Provide allotments in Rowlands Castle.
- Improve low quality spaces that are high value by enhancing facilities and functionality.
- Enhance provision of off-road cycle routes, such as through improvements to Sustrans Route 224 between Alton and Farnham.
- Enhance access to woodlands

Figure 4.9: Access, Recreation and Transport - North West Sub-Area

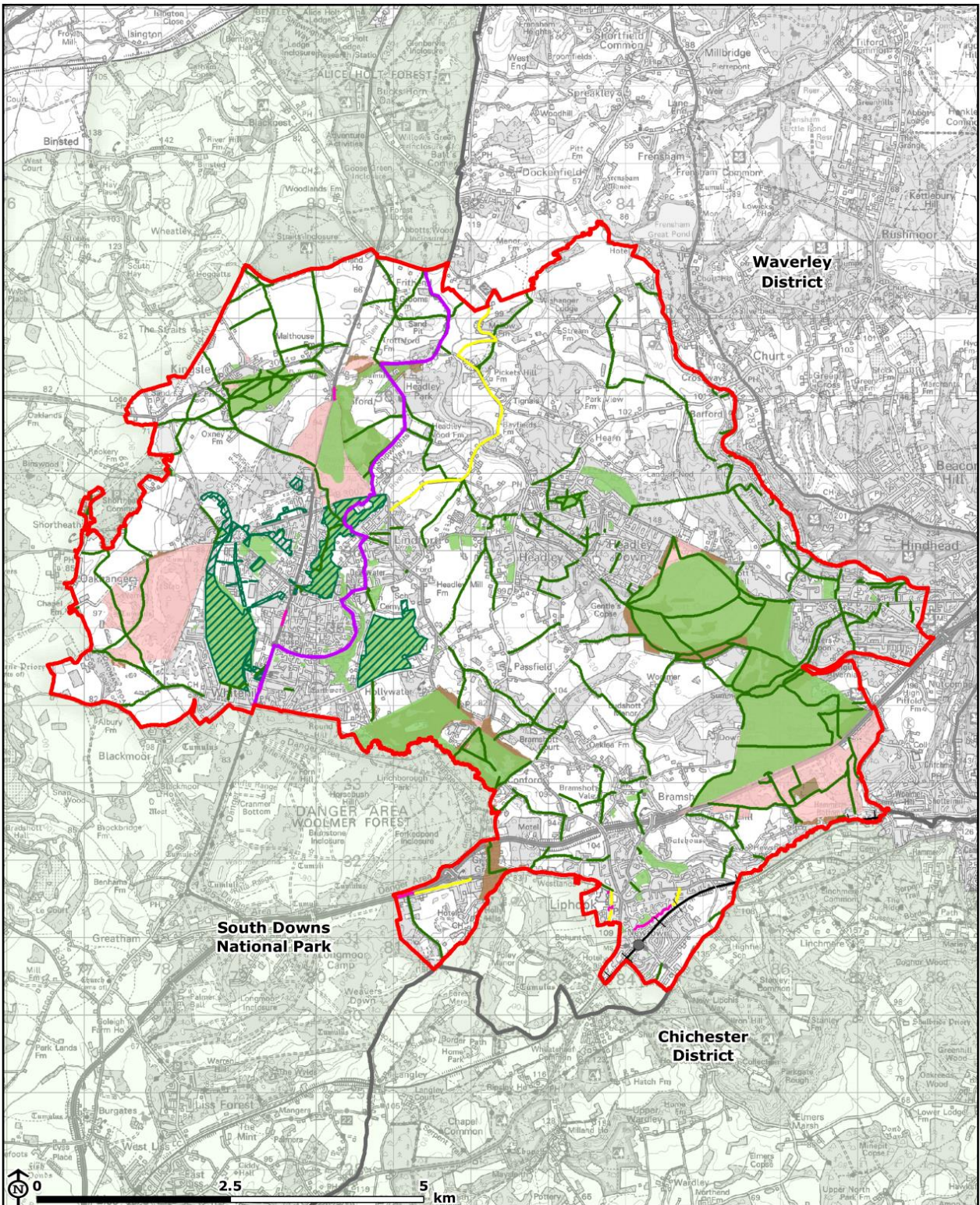
- Study area
- Other local authority
- South Downs National Park
- Railway stations
- Railway
- National cycle route
- Local cycle route on-road
- Local cycle route off-road
- Public Right of Way
- Designated open space
- Accessible woodland
- Registered common land



Source: EHDC, NE, Sustrans

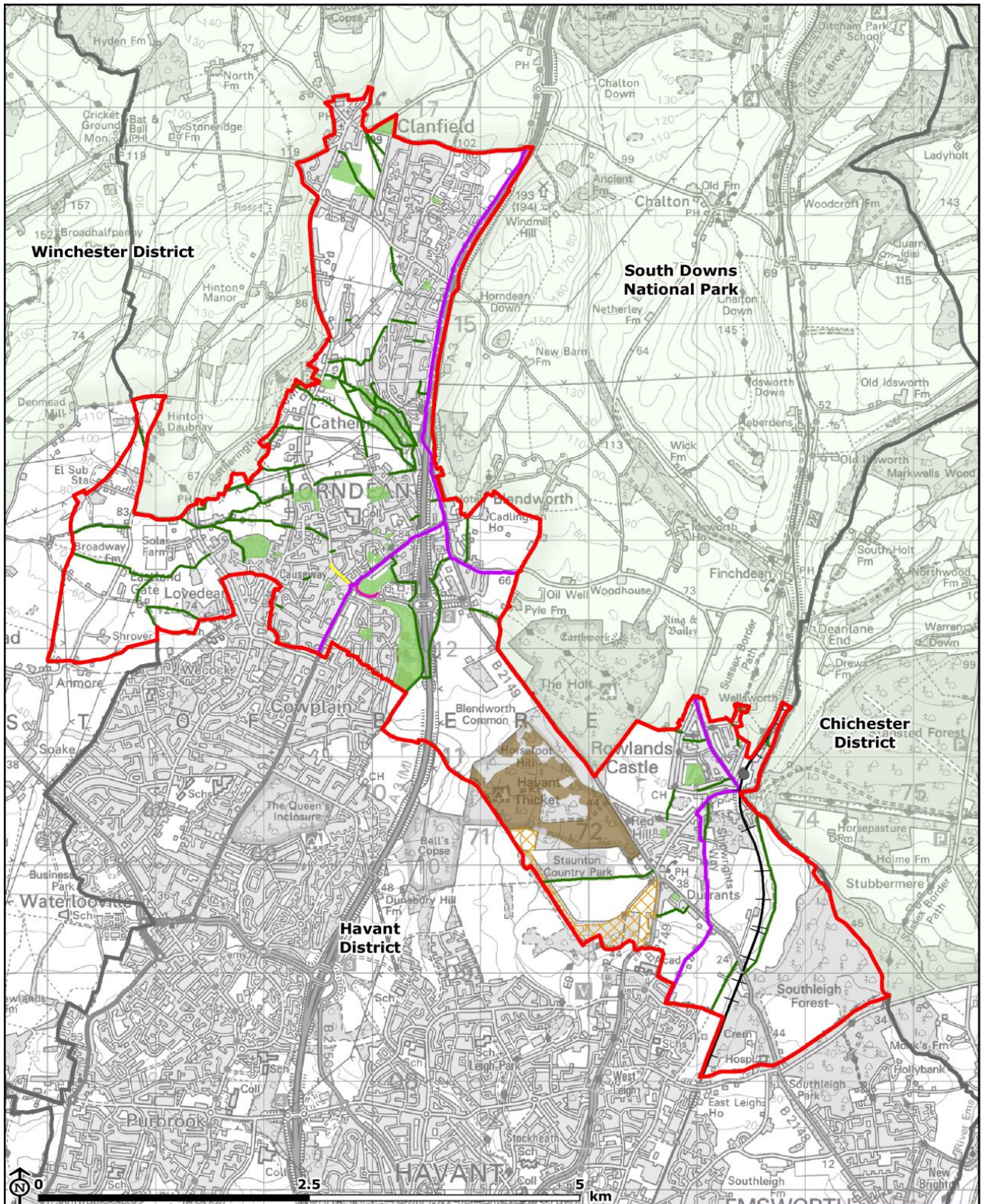
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North East Sub-Area Boundary	Local cycle route off-road	Updated Green Infrastructure Strategy for East Hampshire District Council
Other local authority	Public Right of Way	
South Downs National Park	Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space	Figure 4.10: Access, Recreation and Transport - North East Sub-Area
Railway stations	Designated open space	
Railway	Accessible woodland	
National cycle route	Registered common land	
Local cycle route on-road		

Source: EHDC, NE, Sustrans
 Map Scale @ A4: 1:70,000
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- Southern Parishes
- Other local authority
- South Downs National Park
- Railway stations
- Railway
- National cycle route
- Local cycle route on-road
- Local cycle route off-road
- Public Right of Way
- Country Park
- Designated open space
- Accessible woodland

Updated Green Infrastructure Strategy for East Hampshire District Council

Figure 4.11: Access, Recreation and Transport - Southern Parishes



Source: EHDC, NE, Sustrans

Map Scale @ A4: 1:50,000

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Health, wellbeing and inequality

- 4.64 It is well documented that living in greener environments can enhance health and wellbeing. This includes development and maintenance of a healthy immune system; reduction of inflammatory based diseases; and a reduction in health inequalities experienced by lower socio-economic groups²³.
- 4.65 East Hampshire has a good quality living environment and a higher than average level of public health, although health and weight problems associated with inactivity are common. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Health Environment 2015²⁴ shows that of the 72 Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in the District, none are located within the 10% most deprived or 11%-20% most deprived areas in England in terms of 'health deprivation and disability'.²⁵ Nonetheless, there are areas of the PAA which are experiencing poorer average health levels include Alton and Whitehill & Bordon (see **Figure 4-12**)
- 4.66 The IMD also show that most areas in East Hampshire have an above average 'living environment' (see **Figure 4-13**) There is one LSOA within the Planning Authority Area which is an exception to this trend, located to the north west of the Whitehill & Bordon. This criterion measures both the indoor living environment (quality of housing) and the outdoor living environment (levels of road accidents and air quality).
- 4.67 The over-arching IMD scores take into account the health and living environment criteria listed above, alongside the following domains: income, employment, education, crime and barriers to housing and services. The District as a whole demonstrates significantly lower average exposure to the social and economic issues indicated above, with the local value is identified as 8.6 while the national average for England is 21.8. Areas which are the exception to this include parts of Alton, Horndean and to the north and east of Whitehill & Bordon. Many of the neighbourhoods in Havant Borough, directly to the south of the District, display high overall levels of social and economic issues, particularly within the town of Havant (see **Figure 4-14**)
- 4.68 The PAA has localised areas of poor air quality located along the A3 and A31 corridor, as well as settlements along these routes. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is located in Whitehill & Bordon.
- 4.69 East Hampshire District has higher than average levels of adults with excess weight and a higher than the England average. Those number of people killed and seriously injured on roads is also higher than average, likely to be linked to the higher number of car users²⁶.
- 4.70 The District has an ageing population with the population of those aged between 65-84 due to increase by 16.5% between 2016 and 2023. This brings with it a number of age-related related requirements to facilitate access to GI, such as toilets and level footpaths.

²³ DEFRA (2017) Evidence Statement on the links between natural environments and human health

²⁴ Hampshire County Council (2015), *2015 IMD Deprivation Factsheets*. Available at:http://www.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/figures-economics/deprivation_indices.htm

²⁵ This criterion measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor mental or physical health.

²⁶ Public Health England (2018) Health Profile 2017 for East Hampshire District. Accessible at: <http://fingertipsreports.phe.org.uk/health-profiles/2017/e07000085.pdf>

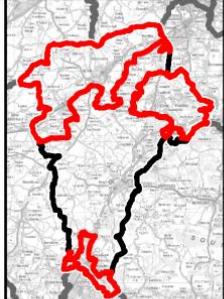
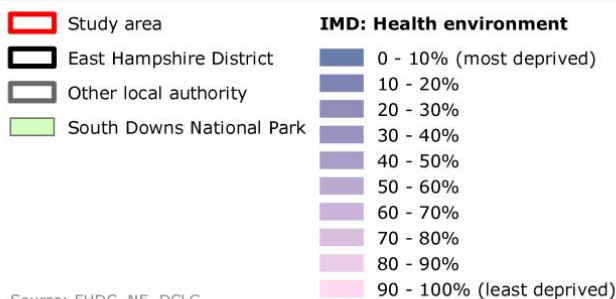
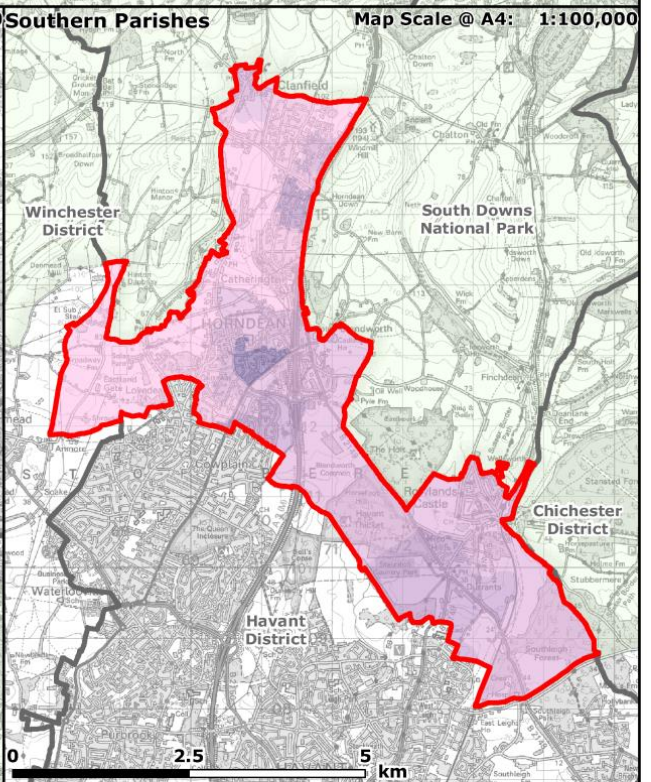
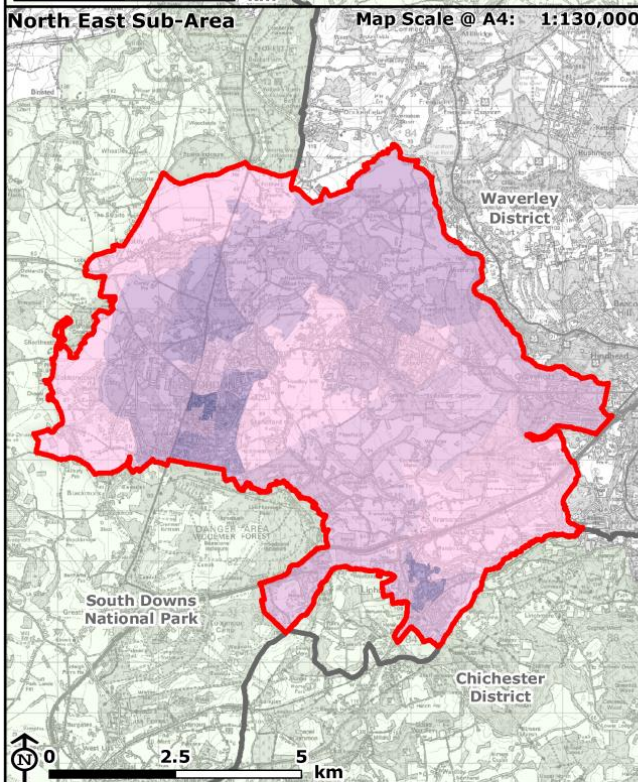
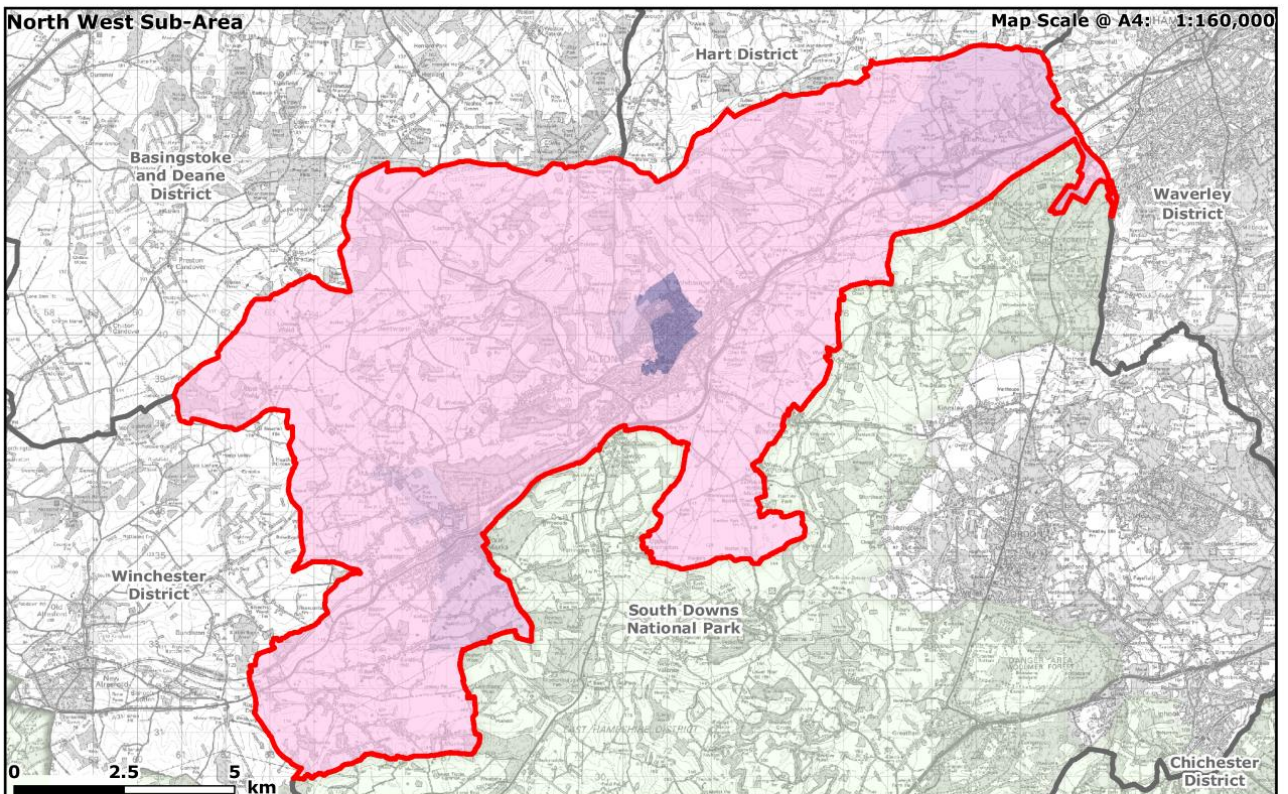
Health, wellbeing and inequality: issues and opportunities

Issues

- There are areas with deficiency in provision of accessible open space throughout the PAA. This has implications for health and wellbeing as some areas have limited opportunities for recreation.
- Poor air quality around heavily used roads will adversely affect the mental and physical health of nearby communities, particularly children and those with respiratory problems. This could also discourage local people from adopting healthy transport options such as cycling and walking.
- There are small pockets of relative social deprivation in the Planning Authority Area, notably in Alton and Whitehill & Bordon.
- GI within the south of the PAA could provide an important resource for neighbouring Havant, which experiences higher levels of social deprivation.
- The PAA has higher than average levels of overweight adults.
- Some parts of the GI network are inaccessible to those with physical disability or lack suitable facilities for older people.

Opportunities

- Strong policies should be adopted to ensure that the health and wellbeing of all communities is enhanced, and adequate access to open spaces for healthy recreation is incorporated within all development proposals.
- Alleviate relatively poor health and living environments through provision of new open space and access enhancements to existing green spaces.
- Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation that is inclusive i.e. accessible to those of all ages and those with physical impairments.
- Enhance active travel routes in order to reduce car dependency thereby helping to improve air quality.



Updated Green Infrastructure Strategy for East Hampshire District Council

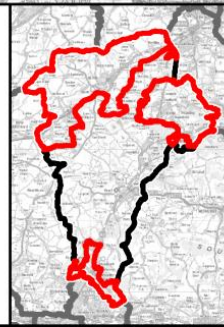
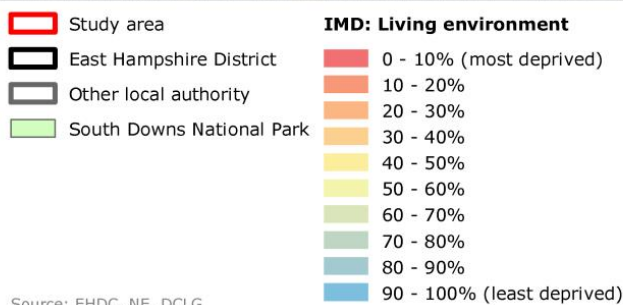
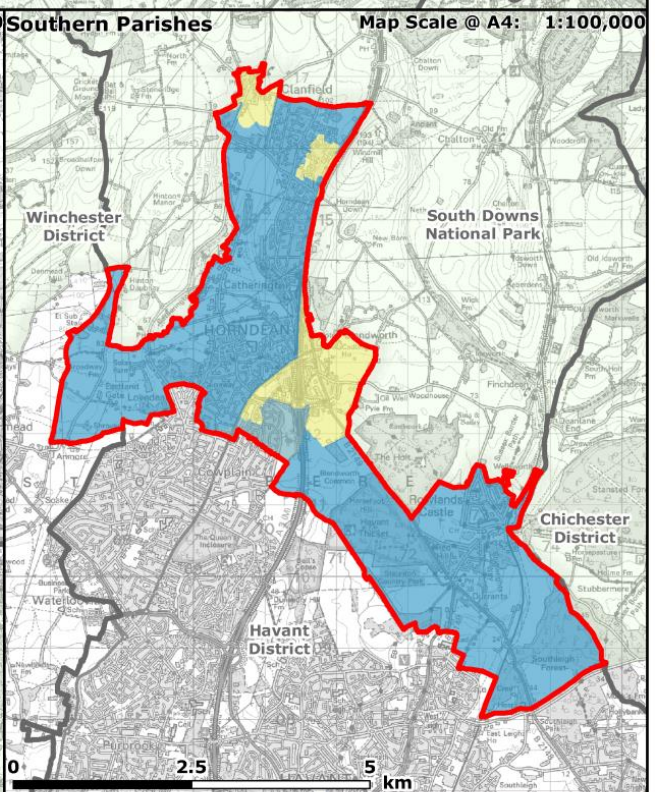
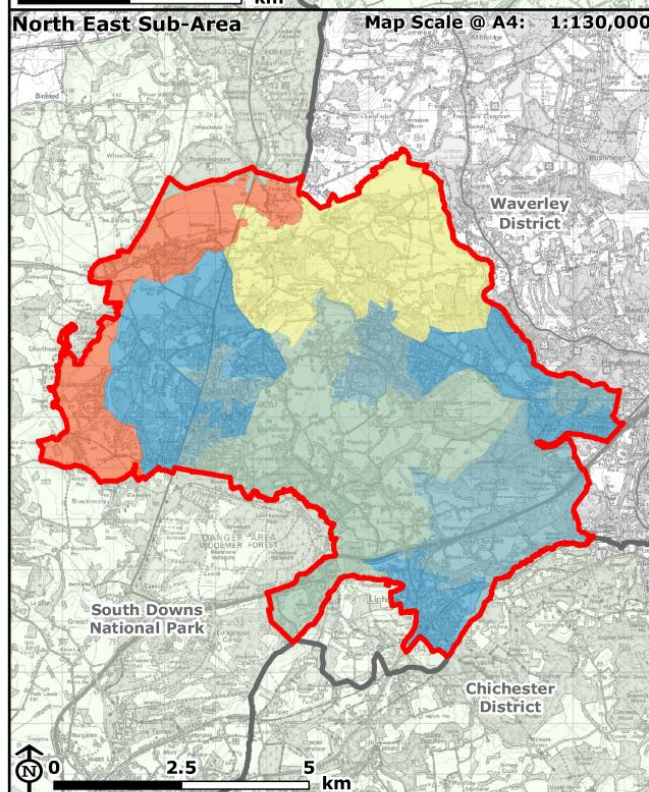
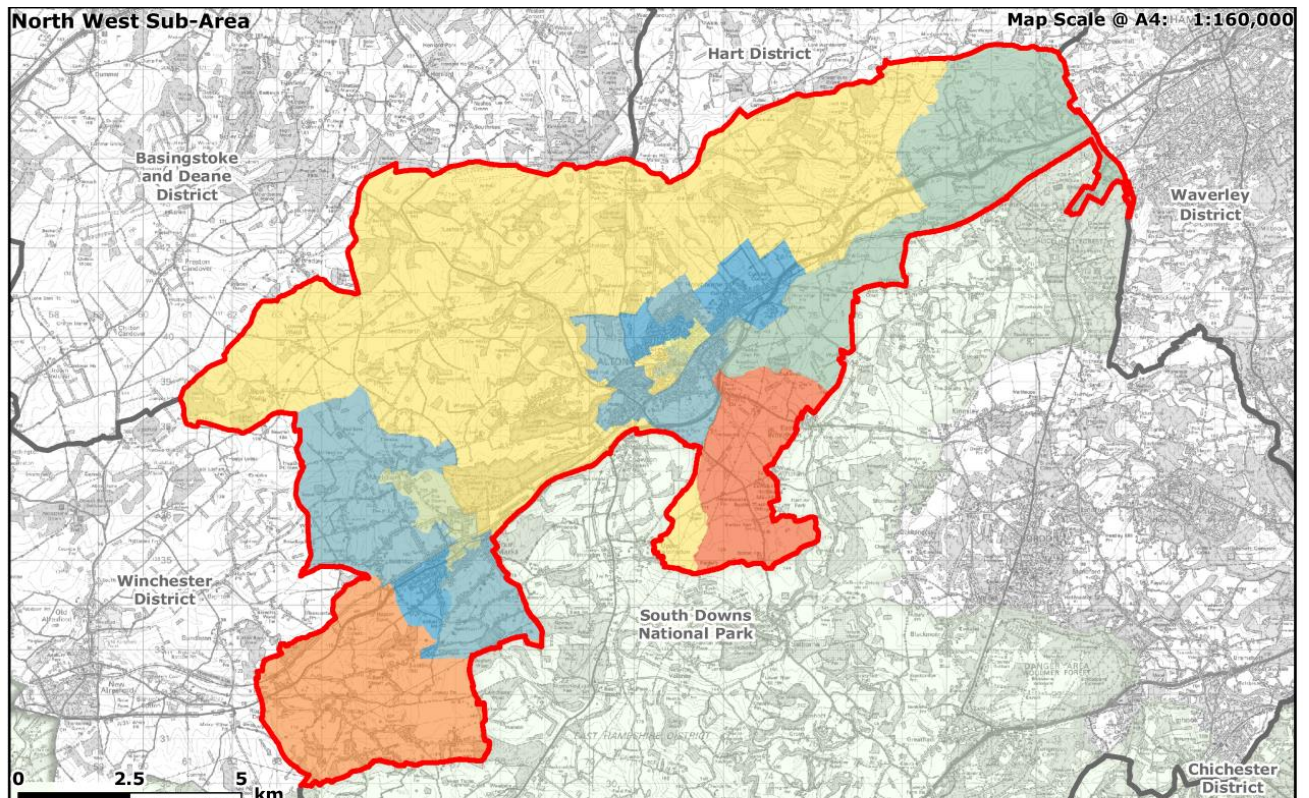
Figure 4.12: IMD Health Environment



Source: EHDC, NE, DCLG

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Updated Green Infrastructure Strategy for East Hampshire District Council

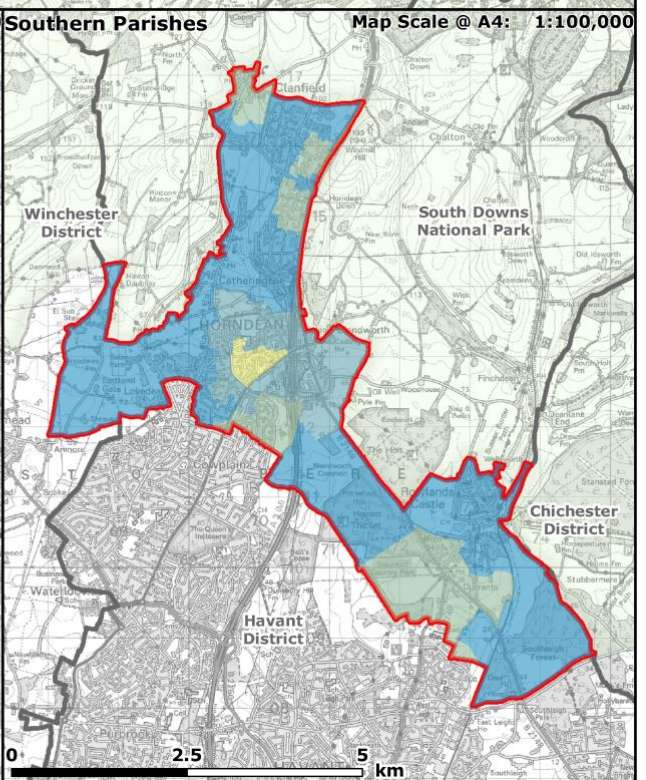
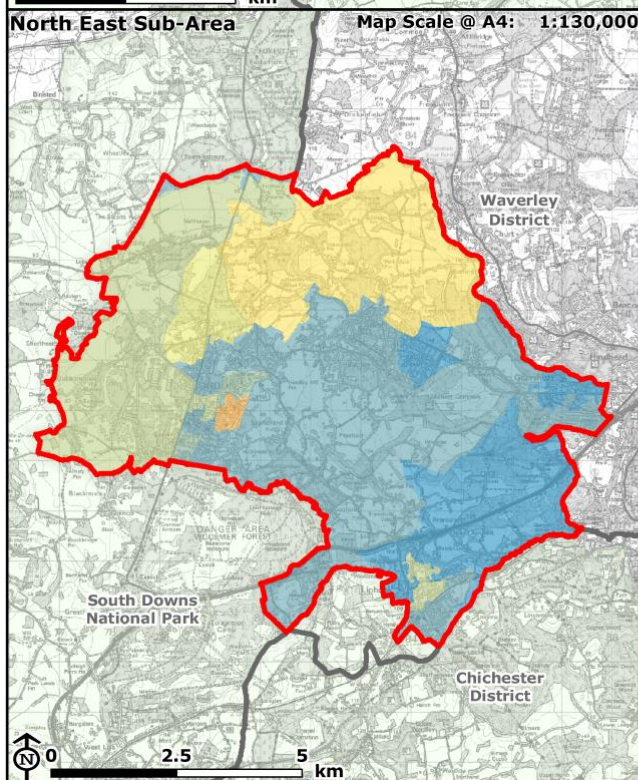
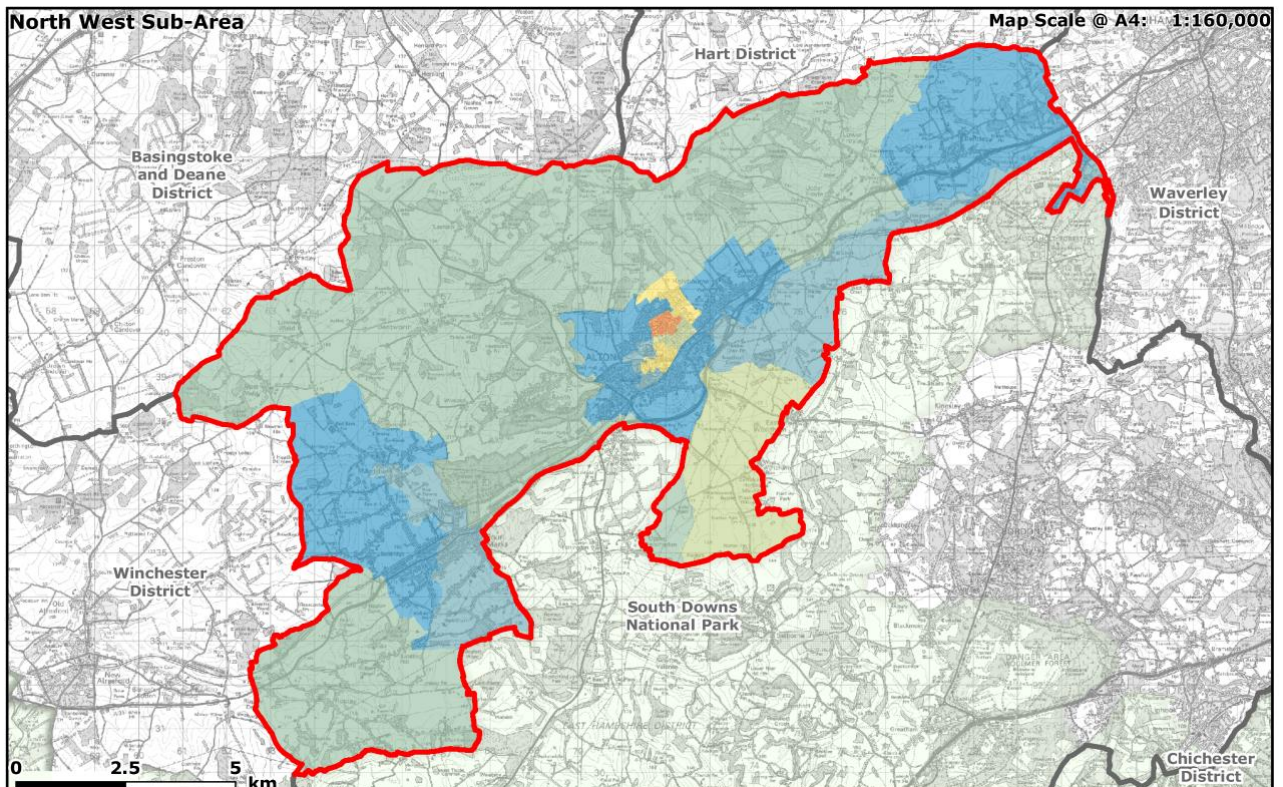
Figure 4.13: IMD Living Environment

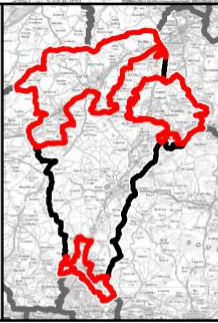


Source: EHDC, NE, DCLG

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CB:LA EB:Archer_L LUC FIGX_10400_IMD_Living_env_A4P_05/11/2018



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study area East Hampshire District Other local authority South Downs National Park 	<p>IMD Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 - 10% (most deprived) 10 - 20% 20 - 30% 30 - 40% 40 - 50% 50 - 60% 60 - 70% 70 - 80% 80 - 90% 90 - 100% (least deprived) 		<p>Updated Green Infrastructure Strategy for East Hampshire District Council</p> <p>Figure 4.14: IMD Overall</p>
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Source: EHDC, NE, DCLG
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 CB:LA EB:Archer_L LUC FIGX_10400_IMD_A4P 05/11/2018

Local awareness and involvement

- 4.71 East Hampshire has a wealth of publicly accessible GI assets, which are of paramount importance to the health and wellbeing of visitors and residents of the PAA.
- 4.72 There appears to be a lack of awareness and knowledge amongst people of the GI assets available to them. This can lead to a limited sense of ownership and lack of physical engagement with the environment. This issue is particularly relevant to younger people and new populations who can lack an in-depth knowledge of the wider landscape. Furthermore, different people have different requirements and interests dictating what GI assets they have access to or are attracted to use. For example, many trails and open spaces may not be suitable for those with physical impairment or unsuitable for facilities such as toilets and sealed pathways. As such, suitable information and opportunities need to be in place to help promote local awareness and involvement with GI from all parts of the population.
- 4.73 Physical signposts are important resource to help guide people through the PAA's GI assets. Additionally, interpretation panels are important for helping visitors and residents learn about the natural and historic environment around them. However, signage varies in quality, and the location of interpretation panels away from where people live does not always provide the initial stimulus to get people out and enjoy those spaces. Furthermore, as the population becomes more technology dependent, the use of mobile phones and GPS guided technology is becoming increasingly sought after as a means of engaging residents with the environment. This is particularly the case for younger populations. Hampshire County Council provides a useful online mapping resource highlighting cycling and walking trails of different distances and types (e.g. linear/circular walk) with each walk supported by a printout guide. However, more could be done to digitally promote trails such as these through a more up-to-date technology.
- 4.74 Community engagement is important for the creation and management of new GI and can help to foster social and environmental sustainable. For example, engaging local people through volunteering schemes and community led design can help develop skills, promote social interaction, and foster a sense of ownership and knowledge of the local environment.
- 4.75 It has been reported that many younger people feel that they do not have enough of a say about local decisions affecting them, and would like to volunteer more.²⁷ For older people, volunteering provides opportunity to extend their social contacts where existing social networks have shrunk, for example as a result of bereavement or retirement.²⁸ This is important for maintaining mental health and prolonging independent living²⁹. Generally, national trends indicate participation in volunteering is underrepresented by some parts of the population, including those with disabilities, young people and the relatively disadvantaged.

²⁷ East Hampshire Community Partnership: East Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2026.

²⁸ <https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/news/volunteering-better-later-life>

²⁹ Mental Health Foundation (no date). Doing Good Does you Good: A Pocket Guide to Helping Others

Local awareness and involvement: issues and opportunities

Issues

- Traditional signage and interpretation boards are limited in their ability to promote GI. Technology is becoming an increasingly important part of how people engage with the environment.
- There is a need to engage with young people and older residents with GI to foster a sense of ownership and knowledge of the natural and physical environment.
- Some GI assets are unsuitable for certain parts of the population such as physically disabled and the elderly due to lack of facilities e.g. toilets or sealed level surfaces.
- Community engagement is important for the creation, maintenance and use of GI. However, volunteering is underrepresented by sections of the population, notably disabled people, younger people and the relatively deprived.

Opportunities

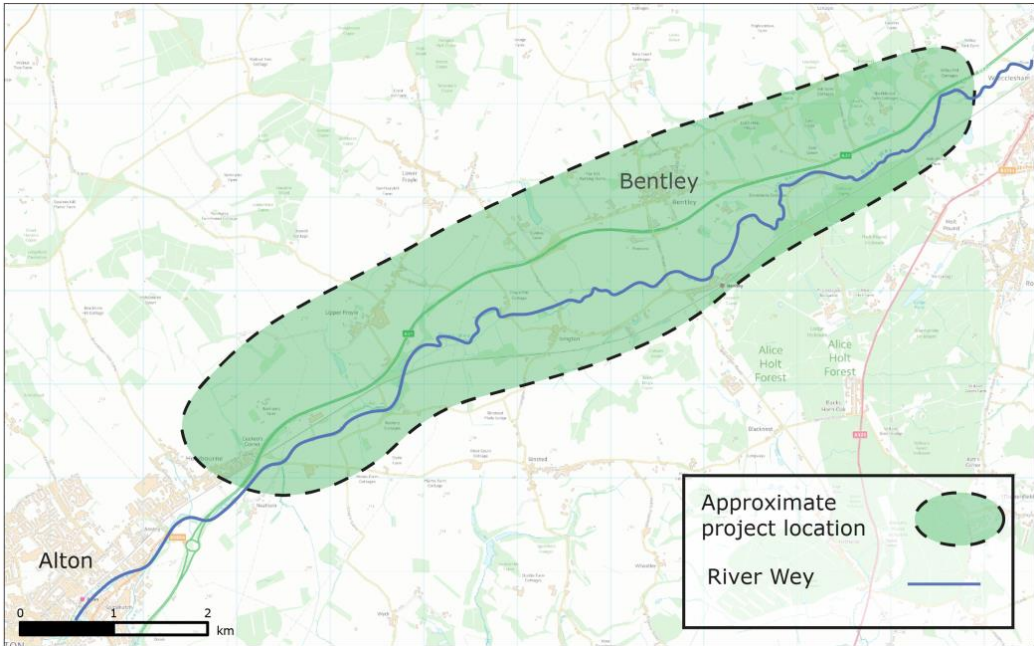
- Enhance GI assets, including open spaces and public rights of way to make them more inclusive to older populations and those with physical disabilities. This could involve the introduction of additional visitor facilities or physical improvements to public rights of way.
- East Hampshire's GI could be more effectively promoted through better signage, including signage at key community locations such as schools, shops and train stations.
- Adopt new technologies to better promote East Hampshire's GI assets.
- Facilitate volunteering opportunities for all sections of the population to engage people in the creation and ongoing maintenance of GI.

5 Strategic projects

- 5.1 This section sets out the Green Infrastructure projects identified to date. It should be noted that these are currently draft and subject to further research and may be subject to change. These have been identified from combination of evidence review³⁰, email consultation with neighbouring local authorities, internal and external stakeholder organisations. The projects are divided into two categories:
- **Site-specific projects:** particular geographic areas where there is an identified need for GI enhancement. These locations for these projects are approximate. Further work will be required to determine the exact location and extent of these projects.
 - **District-wide projects:** these are generic projects that involve interventions that are either not location based or can be applied to multiple locations across the Planning Authority Area.
- 5.2 The projects identified are intended to be deliverable, contribute to multiple GI functions, and address needs identified through the baseline analysis.
- 5.3 No one project should be considered a priority over another, rather they should be considered of equal importance. The timing of their delivery will be determined by stakeholder engagement, resources, funding and their relevance to new development in the PAA.

³⁰ The evidence base documents reviewed include East Hampshire Open Space Assessment (2018), East Hampshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, East Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013), Infrastructure Delivery Plan April 2015, Alton Neighbourhood Development Plan, Bentley Neighbourhood Development Plan, Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane 2013 to 2029 (July 2013), Hart Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017), South Downs Green Infrastructure Framework (March 2016), East Hampshire Landscape Capacity Study (2018), Hampshire County Council Countryside Access Plan 2015 -2025, A Cycling Plan for East Hampshire (2004).

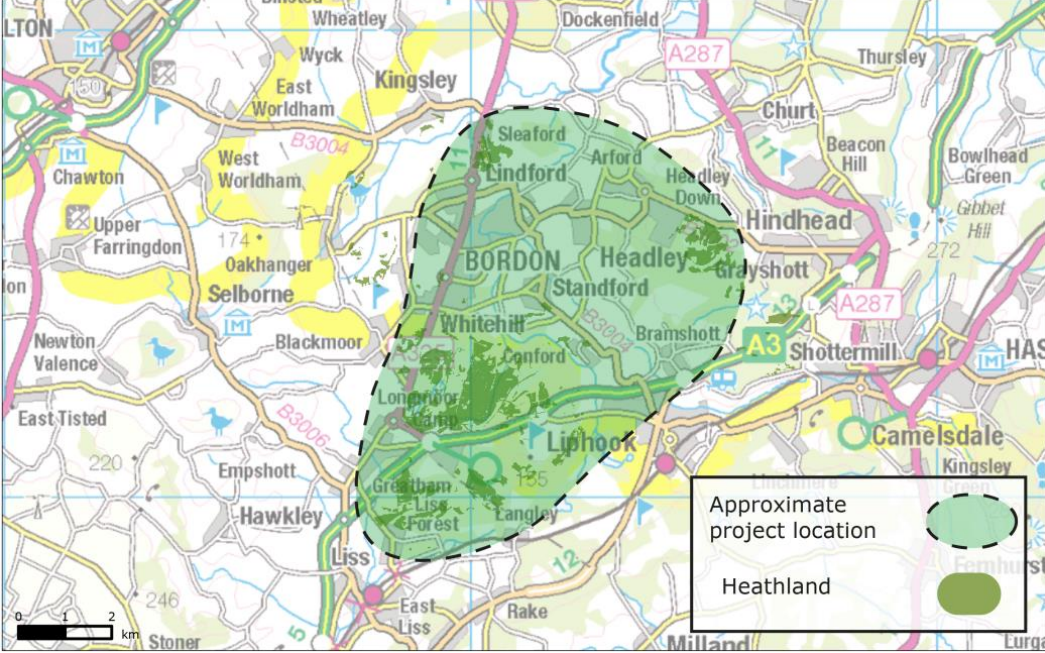
Site-specific Projects

1. Enhance the Northern Wey Valley			
Overview	Create an overarching strategy and series of sub-projects to conserve and enhance the Northern Wey Valley and its tributaries namely the Caker Stream.		
Approximate location			
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance habitats along the valley, including flood meadow, semi-improved grassland, and wet grassland. • Create a multifunctional walking & cycling route between Alton and Bentley addressing the existing gap in Sustrans National Cycle Route 224. • Enhance access along the River Wey exploring opportunities to create a riverside walkway by negotiating new permissive paths. • Ensure GI is implemented within new development to maintain tranquil nature of the valley. • Improve access across the A31 enhancing access to the SDNP. • Seek to enhance the public access along the upper valley slopes maximising appreciation of the valley and long distance views. • Implement SUDs and appropriate planting along the valley to reduce surface water runoff. • Conserve and enhance historic elements such as mills, weirs and mill ponds and watercress beds which provide evidence for past use of the river. Development within the valley, notably on the edges of existing villages has the potential to detract from the landscape character of the valley. • Conserve and actively manage hedgerows and woodlands within the valley. • Involve the local community in various elements of improving the valley e.g. volunteer-led planting. 		
Contribution to	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 20%;">✓</td> </tr> </table>	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓		

1. Enhance the Northern Wey Valley		
GI themes	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	✓
	Water Environment	✓
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓
	<p>The northern Wey Valley overlaps with an ecological network opportunity area identified by HCC. Integrating GI features into new development and enhancing important habitats and features along the valley, such as grassland, hedgerows, small blocks of woodlands and flood meadows would help to improve biodiversity and address habitat fragmentation along the valley.</p> <p>The valley forms an important landscape feature with heritage significance owing to its historic use as a transport corridor between the south coast and the Thames Valley, as well as land uses and associated with the river. Implementation of GI, such as improved access would help to promote the heritage significance of the valley and enhance the quality of the landscape.</p> <p>Implementation of appropriate SuDS and planting along the valley would help to improve water quality within the valley currently rated as 'moderate quality' by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Delivery of access enhancements along the valley for walking, cycling and horse riding would help improve the recreational value of valley for residents of Alton and Bentley helping to alleviate open space deficiencies in these areas. Addressing the gap in Sustrans Cycle Route 224 would be significantly enhancing cycle connectivity along the valley and further afield.</p> <p>Involving the community in valley enhancement such through volunteer-led planting would enhance awareness and appreciation of the valley for residents of Bentley and Alton, develop skills and promote social cohesion.</p> <p>The enhancements noted above would help to encourage physical activity, access to nature for residents along the valley with associated health and wellbeing benefits enhanced physical health for an ageing population. Improving health and wellbeing is particularly important for residents of Alton, which has higher levels of social deprivation relative to the rest the District.</p> <p>The enhancements will also help to delivery some environmental net gain.</p>	
Potential partners / stakeholders	Hampshire County Council Sustrans Environment Agency River Wey Trust East Hampshire District Council	Landowners along the Wey Valley Prospective developers Alton Parish Council Froyle Parish Council Bentley Parish Council
Delivery mechanisms	Embed proposal within Local Plan Biodiversity offsetting Delivery body/partnership to oversee project delivery	
Potential funding streams	S106 CIL Lottery funding - National Lottery Grants for Heritage	Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019 to 2020 Hampshire County Council MOREwoods and MOREhedges - Woodland Trust

1. Enhance the Northern Wey Valley	
	Neighbourhood Projects Small Grants Programme
Delivery priority	Medium/long term
Potential challenges	<p>No lead stakeholder currently responsible for the Northern Wey</p> <p>Lack of willingness from landowners</p> <p>Limited time and support from local stakeholders</p> <p>Balancing heathland creation with the need to maintain other forms of habitat</p>

2. Connect and restore heathland habitats

Overview	Build on the success of the Heathlands Reunited Project to restore and connect the District's heathlands.	
Approximate location		
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit existing heathland and identify suitable areas for heathland restoration and creation helping to establish links within the existing heathland network. • Involve community in heathland restoration activities such as scrub removal and removal of invasive species. This should involve those who would significantly benefit e.g. young people, unemployed and those living with disabilities. • Establish long-term management strategy for existing and new heathland sites, including exploring opportunities to roll out grazing schemes in conjunction with local farmers. • Provide a series of educational events such as walking tours and school trips to educate people about heathland and its ecological value. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓

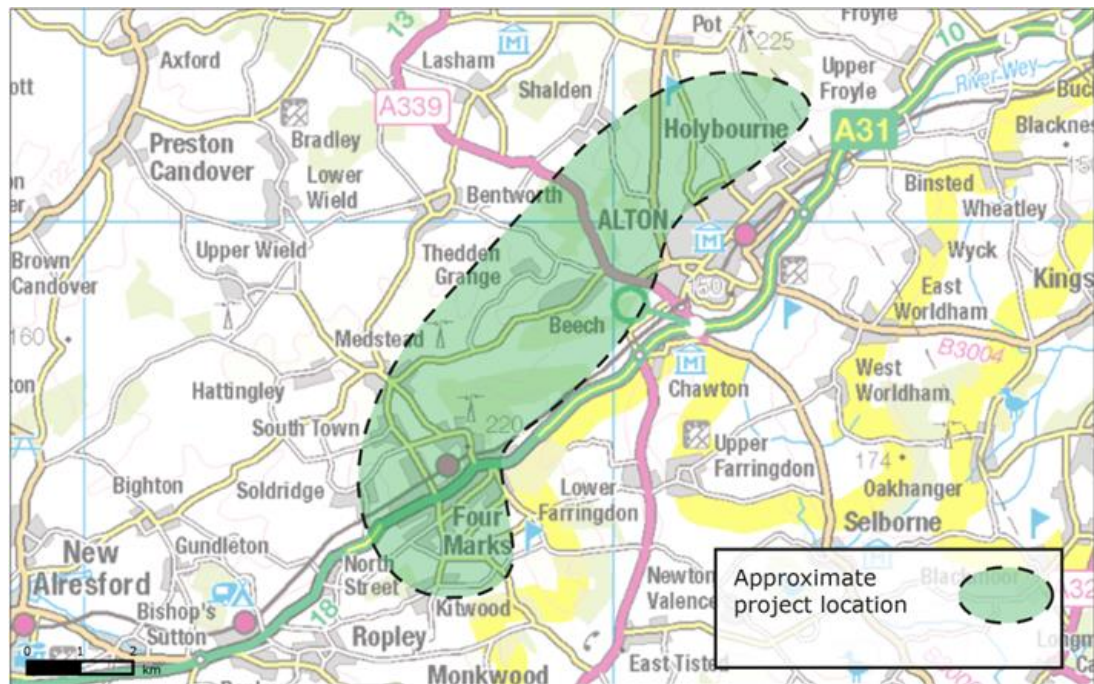
2. Connect and restore heathland habitats

	<p>Lowland heathland forms an important historic landscape feature in the northeast of the District. East Hampshire's lowland heathland reduced dramatically in the twentieth century with up to 80% being lost. Its restoration would help to reinforce heathland as a central component of East Hampshire's historic landscape.</p> <p>Heathland supports a rich variety of wildlife, including 5,000 species of invertebrates. Restoring heathland alongside enhanced management will help to enhance promote ecological connectivity and improve the biodiversity value of the northeast of the District. Creation of new heathland sites will also help to relieve recreational pressure on existing heathland sites that form part of the Wealden Heaths SPA.</p> <p>Although sensitive to human disturbance, heathland is an important recreational resource with its open landscape and wildlife supporting walking and nature watching, with associated health and wellbeing benefits. This is particularly important given that parts of the northwest of the district have slightly higher levels of social deprivation relative to the rest of the District.</p> <p>Volunteer and educational events created within the project would help to engage local communities and promote social cohesion.</p> <p>The project area overlaps and ties in with the East Hants and Heathland Green Infrastructure Investment Area (GIIA) as identified in the South Downs Green Infrastructure Framework (2016).</p>	
Potential partners / stakeholders	<p>Hampshire County Council</p> <p>East Hampshire District Council</p> <p>Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Ministry of Defence</p> <p>Forestry Commission</p> <p>Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust</p>	<p>Natural England</p> <p>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Prospective developers</p> <p>Local schools</p> <p>Local Parish Councils</p>
Delivery mechanisms	<p>Embed proposal within Local Plan</p> <p>Delivery body/partnership to oversee project delivery</p> <p>Biodiversity offsetting</p>	
Potential funding streams	<p>S106</p> <p>CIL</p> <p>Lottery funding - National Lottery Grants for Heritage</p>	<p>Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019 to 2020 Hampshire County Council</p> <p>MOREwoods and MOREhedges - Woodland Trust</p> <p>Neighbourhood Projects Small Grants Programme</p>
Delivery priority	<p>Medium term</p>	
Potential challenges	<p>Lack of volunteer support and time</p> <p>Difficulty maintaining long-term funding and management</p>	

3. Provide a new strategic semi-natural greenspace in the northwest of the District

Overview Provide a new semi-natural green-space (sub-regional level (60-400 hectares) in the northwest of the Borough (Alton/ Four Marks/ South Medstead) to address deficiency of natural & semi-natural open space.

Approximate location



Potential Interventions

- Identify sites for a new semi-natural green space in the north-west sub-region.
- Locate open space in proximity to Alton or Four Marks to capitalise on development
- Establish links to open space through proposed development.
- Encompass existing blocks of woodland within the park area to offer a diverse recreational experience.
- Implement biodiversity enhancements and establish management plan to ensure long-term ecological value.
- Implement woodland to screen development where appropriate.
- Connect with existing strategic public rights of way.
- Adopt a community led design process in the development of the open space and adopt volunteers through construction.


Contribution to GI themes

Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
Biodiversity	✓
Woodlands	✓
Water Environment	
Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
Local awareness and involvement	✓

3. Provide a new strategic semi-natural greenspace in the northwest of the District

	<p>A sensitively designed open space would help to enhance overall landscape character and address sensitivity from forthcoming development in the northwest of the District.</p> <p>Appropriate planting and management would help to enhance biodiversity value of the area such as through management enhancements at Woodland SINC's in this area.</p> <p>The open space would provide an important recreational resource promoting access to the countryside, which in turn will promote physical activity and access to nature. This would address open space deficiency in the north-west sub-region and help to improve health and wellbeing for residents in this area, which is particularly important for Alton given its higher levels of development and social deprivation relative to the rest of the District.</p> <p>Engaging in community led design and construction will help to foster a sense of ownership and promote social cohesion.</p>	
Potential partners / stakeholders	<p>East Hampshire District Council</p> <p>Local Parish Councils</p> <p>Forestry Commission</p>	<p>Private landowners</p> <p>Prospective developers</p>
Delivery mechanisms	<p>Embed proposal within Local Plan</p> <p>Biodiversity offsetting</p> <p>Delivery body/partnership to oversee project delivery</p>	
Potential funding streams	<p>S106</p> <p>CIL</p> <p>Lottery funding - National Lottery Grants for Heritage</p> <p>Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019 to 2020 Hampshire County Council</p>	<p>MOREwoods and MOREhedges - Woodland Trust</p> <p>Tax initiatives</p> <p>Community Infrastructure Levy</p>
Delivery priority	<p>Long term</p>	
Potential challenges	<p>No lead stakeholder currently in place</p> <p>Availability of land/ land ownership</p> <p>Establishing long term funding for stewardship</p> <p>Balancing recreation with landscape and biodiversity sensitivities of the project area</p>	

4. Enhance the Southern Wey Valley

<p>Overview</p>	<p>Conserve and enhance the Southern Wey Valley through delivering a series of projects organised by the River Wey Trust.</p>	
<p>Approximate location</p>		
<p>Potential Interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with landowners to establish new management strategies of land to enhance biodiversity along the valley. • Clearance of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam. • Introduce SUDs to reduce surface-water runoff from surrounding development. • Negotiate and construct new permissive paths along the river. • Restore historic features such as old mills. • Provide interpretation boards with information on wildlife and the historic environment e.g. previous land uses of heritage significance • Involve volunteers in restoration activities enabled by comprehensive advertising of events and activities. • Restore damaged sluices. • Create and repair fish passages enabling fish to move more freely upstream. 	
<p>Contribution to GI themes</p>	<p>Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place</p>	<p>✓</p>
	<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>✓</p>

4. Enhance the Southern Wey Valley

	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	✓
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓
	<p>The Southern Wey forms an important landscape feature connecting Linford and Liphook via Stanford, Bramshott and Passfield. The historic development of the area is closely related to the river having supported a variety of industries including iron making, paper making and cloth industries. Remnant mills remain at Headley Wood Farm and Bramshott Court (both SMs). As such, enhancing access to the Wey would help to connect people with the heritage and foster a stronger sense of place.</p> <p>Much of the Southern Wey has been identified as an ecological network opportunity area by Hampshire County Council. Clearing of invasive species, such as Himalayan Balsam, alongside revised management of land along the corridor would help to enhance connectivity and biodiversity along the valley. Appropriate located planting and SuDS can help to intercept surface water runoff from surrounding development helping to enhance water quality currently rated by the EA as 'poor'. Furthermore, developing recreational opportunities could help draw people away from the Wealden Heaths SPA.</p> <p>Negotiating new permissive paths along the Southern Wey would enhance access to the surrounding countryside for settlements in the sub-region, notably Lindford, Stanford, Bramshott and Liphook. This would help to improve health and wellbeing through encouraging physical activity and access to nature.</p> <p>Community involvement in restoration projects can help to enhance skills and community cohesion amongst residents.</p>	
Potential partners / stakeholders	<p>River Wey Trust</p> <p>East Hampshire District Council</p> <p>Hampshire County Council</p>	<p>Prospective developers</p> <p>Local Parish Councillors</p> <p>Deadwater Valley Trust</p>
Delivery mechanisms	<p>Embed proposal within Local Plan</p> <p>Biodiversity offsetting</p>	
Potential funding streams	<p>S106</p> <p>CIL</p> <p>Lottery funding - National Lottery Grants for Heritage</p>	<p>Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019 to 2020 Hampshire County Council</p> <p>MOREwoods and MOREhedges - Woodland Trust</p> <p>Neighbourhood Projects Small Grants Programme</p>
Delivery priority	<p>Medium term</p>	
Potential challenges	<p>Unwillingness of landowners.</p> <p>Lack of resources – people and time.</p> <p>Severance from major roads.</p> <p>Potential for recreational pressure to damage integrity of existing biodiversity.</p>	

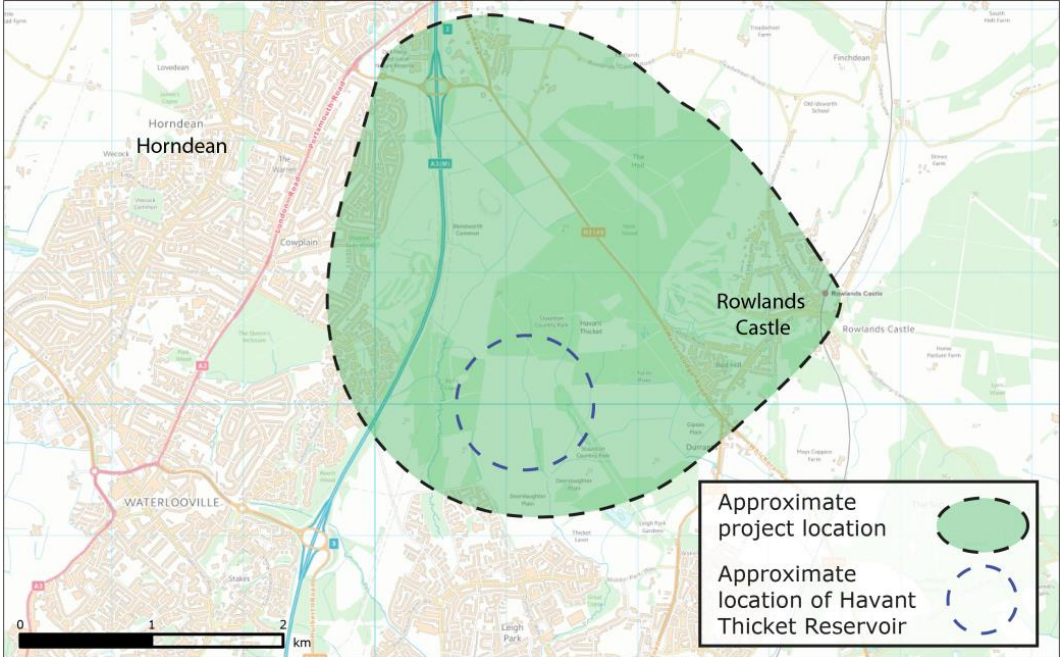
4. Enhance the Southern Wey Valley

A3 provides a significant barrier to access between Liphook and areas further north.

Conflicting land uses (primarily industrial).

Point-source pollution, particularly from road runoff (still taken directly into the watercourse), sewage treatment works (particularly the two principal locations at Haslemere (Critchmere, just upstream of the East Hampshire) and at Lindford).


5. Connect Havant Thicket Reservoir

Overview	Support the delivery of Havant Thicket Reservoir and enhance accessibility to and from the site from surrounding open spaces and settlements.	
Approximate location		
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support plans put forward by Portsmouth Water for Havant Thicket Reservoir, which will include a visitor centre, cycle ways, play areas and wetland area for birds and car parking • Enhance public rights of way within area surrounding Havant Thicket Reservoir to maximise accessibility from nearby settlements, notably Horndean and Rowlands Castle. • Improvements where necessary should be made to public rights of way within Havant Thicket Woodland, The Holt and Staunton Country Park. • Develop educational opportunities for both during and after construction such as school trips and guided walks. • Develop habitat opportunities around the site to mitigate loss resulting from reservoir's construction. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	✓
	Water Environment	✓
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓

5. Connect Havant Thicket Reservoir

	<p>The construction of the proposed reservoir has the potential to affect archaeological and cultural heritage aspects present on and around the site, such as the Grade II* listed Staunton Country Park. However, if sensitively designed, Havant Thicket will provide a distinctive and high quality landscape feature that fosters a strong sense of place.</p> <p>The reservoir will address increase demand for water by storing surplus winter water from the Havant and Bedhampton Springs.</p> <p>The development of the reservoir is likely to affect biodiversity in the short term through removal of woodland, grassland and hedgerow. However, the reservoir itself will allow for creation of new wetland habitat. Furthermore, mitigation measures will be adopted to conserve the biodiversity value of the area in line with recommendations from ongoing ecology studies. This could include creating new scrub and grassland habitats, as well as creating new and enhancing existing and creating new woodland habitats.</p> <p>Development of public rights of way around the reservoir alongside improvements to the wider public rights of way network will help to improve access from the surrounding settlements and woodland area. In addition, development of new recreational activities and facilities around the reservoir such as fishing, bird watching could help improve overall attractiveness of the wider area with better opportunities for those with physical disabilities.</p> <p>The reservoir will offer new opportunities for local involvement, notably through educational activities for schools associated with nature conservation and adventure activities.</p> <p>The project area overlaps with and ties in with the South East Hampshire GIIA as identified in the South Downs National Park Green Infrastructure Framework 2015.</p>	
<p>Potential partners / stakeholders</p>	<p>Portsmouth Water</p> <p>Forestry Commission</p> <p>East Hampshire District Council</p> <p>Staunton Country Park</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Rowlands Castle Parish Council</p> <p>Hampshire County Council</p> <p>Consumer Council for Water</p>	
<p>Delivery mechanisms</p>	<p>Embed proposal within Local Plan</p> <p>Biodiversity offsetting</p>	
<p>Potential funding streams</p>	<p>Direct funding from Portsmouth Water</p> <p>S106</p> <p>CIL</p> <p>Tax initiatives</p>	<p>Bonds and commercial finance</p> <p>Voluntary and not-for profit sector involvement</p> <p>Community Infrastructure Levy</p> <p>Income-generating</p>
<p>Delivery priority</p>	<p>Short term</p>	
<p>Potential challenges</p>	<p>Mitigating potential adverse impacts on historic landscape character and existing habitats.</p> <p>Potential for increased traffic in residential areas.</p> <p>The need for adequate parking provision.</p> <p>Managing increased recreational pressure on the area.</p>	

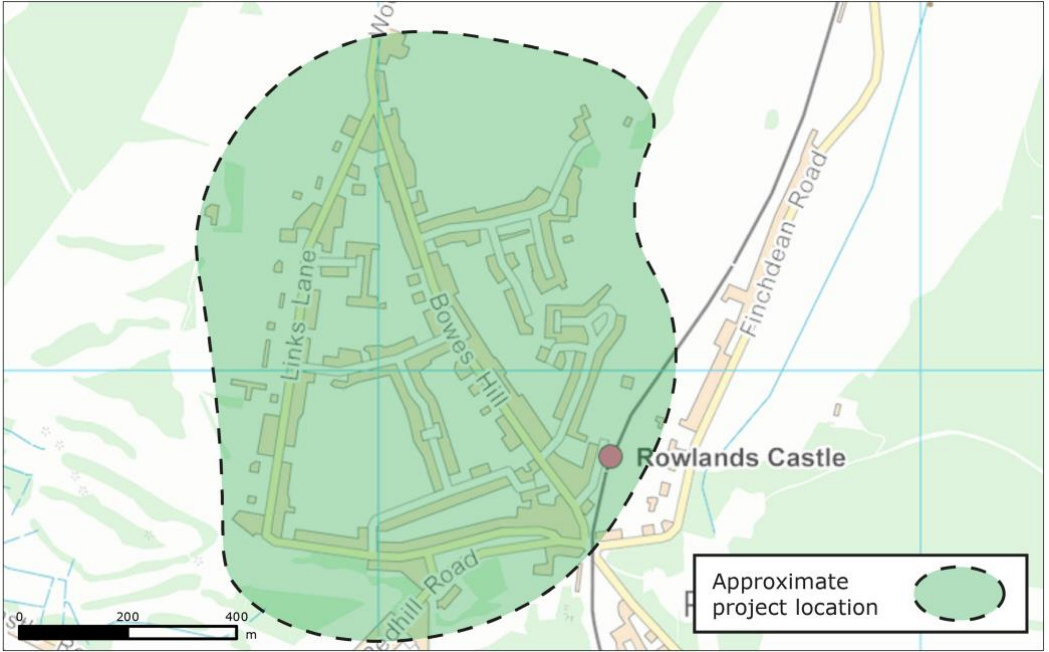
6. Medstead Village Wildflower Walk

Overview	Deliver a wildflower from one end of Medstead to the other as proposed in the Four Marks and Medstead Neighbourhood Plan	
Approximate location		
Potential Interventions	<p>Create a wildflower walk from Cedars Stables at the northern end of the Medstead to just beyond the Bowls Club at the southern end.</p> <p>Establish long-term management for wildflower planting potentially involving local community.</p> <p>Provide interpretation boards.</p>	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓

6. Medstead Village Wildflower Walk

	<p>This relatively small-scale scheme is shown to be supported given its inclusion with the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Implementation of wildflower planting would improve the visual quality of Medstead and create habitats to support biodiversity. Development of the walk would also encourage residents of Medstead to travel by foot within the village thereby promoting physical activity and access to nature with associated benefits for health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Community-led management of the walk and development of interpretation boards would help to foster local awareness of the environment and promote social cohesion.</p>
Potential partners / stakeholders	<p>Medstead and Four Marks Parish Councils.</p> <p>Land owners along the route of wildflower walk.</p>
Delivery mechanisms	<p>Negotiation with local land owners.</p>
Potential funding streams	<p>CIL</p> <p>Section 106</p> <p>EHDC Community/ Councillor Grants</p>
Delivery priority	<p>Short term</p>
Potential challenges	<p>Securing permission from landowners.</p> <p>Establishing funding and support for long-term management.</p>

7. Provide allotments in Rowlands Castle

Overview	Provide new allotments in Rowlands Castle	
Approximate location		
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult local stakeholders, including parish councils on demand for allotments. • Identify sites for allotments in the north of Rowlands Castle to address deficiency. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓
Potential partners / stakeholders	<p>The Open Space Study identified a deficiency in allotments in Rowlands Castle.</p> <p>One low quality and low value allotment is located south of Rowlands Castle. However, only half of Rowlands Castle falls within the 1.2 km access catchment of this site meaning there is opportunity to provide an allotment in the north of the settlement.</p> <p>The provision of allotments would allow local community to grow their own produce providing benefits for health and wellbeing and social inclusion. Allotments are important habitats for wildlife as they provide food, shelter and breeding sites. They also provide an important link for wildlife with other green spaces in the area.</p> <p>Rowlands Castle Parish Council</p>	

7. Provide allotments in Rowlands Castle

Delivery mechanisms	Embed proposals in local plan and any neighbourhood plans
Potential funding streams	S106 CIL
Delivery priority	Short term
Potential challenges	Availability of sites and land ownership. Establishing leadership for long term management of new allotments.

District-wide projects

1. Enhance functionality of low quality open spaces		
Overview	Introduce GI enhancements to existing open spaces assessed as having low quality.	
Potential Interventions	<p>Develop a series of costed projects for open spaces, which have been identified as low quality. The details of schemes should be developed by East Hampshire District Council in conjunction with local community groups such as parish councils.</p> <p>A range of enhancements could be implemented which could increase the multi-functionality of open spaces. This includes planting interventions, enhanced play and sport facilities, new and renovated public rights of way and better interpretation of heritage.</p> <p>Below listed are open spaces for each typology in the Planning Authority Area which have been assessed in the 2018 Open Space Study as low quality but also of high value. These could form a set of priority locations for enhancement.</p> <p>Allotment</p> <p>Mill Chase Road, Whitehill Hill Road, Grayshott West of Playing Field, Grayshott The Pound, Upper Wield</p> <p>Amenity green spaces</p> <p>King George V, Headley Recreation Ground, Beech</p> <p>Natural or semi-natural greenspace</p> <p>Bramshott and Ludshott Common, Bramshott and Liphook</p> <p>Park or garden</p> <p>War Memorial Recreation Ground East, Bramshott and Liphook Village Green, Headley Recreation Ground East, Bentley Woodlands Hall East, Headley Mill Chase Recreation Ground, Whitehill Upper Green, Kingsley South Lane, Clanfield Informal Open Space, Anstey Road, Alton</p>	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	✓
	Water Environment	✓
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓
	Improving the quality of open spaces will enhance their recreational value, which in turn will help to promote health and wellbeing. Enhancements to quality could also lead to a number of other benefits dependent on the specific interventions proposed such as enhancing nature conservation value.	

1. Enhance functionality of low quality open spaces

Potential partners / stakeholders	East Hampshire District Council Friends of Parks Groups Parish Councils
Delivery mechanisms	Embed proposals within Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan
Potential funding streams	S106 CIL Lottery funding - National Lottery Grants for Heritage
Delivery priorities	Long term
Potential challenges	Securing funding for long term management of open spaces.

2. Enhance visitor facilities to enable inclusive access to GI

Overview	Enhance visitor facilities to create age-friendly and disabled-friendly green infrastructure	
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify sites for new and enhanced visitor facilities to support inclusive access. Potential sites could include but are not limited to Havant Thicket, Chawton Park Wood, Radford Park, the Deadwater Valley Nature Reserve, Hogmoor Inclosure and the Bordon inclosure. Enhancements could include development of sealed pathways, car parking facilities and toilet/café facilities. Maintenance of facilities would need to be made sustainable by a long term funding strategy. Consult relevant community organisations relevant to ageing and disability to inform design of new facilities. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓
	<p>The development of facilities to enable inclusive access to those with physical disability is important given there is currently limited provision of spaces that are inclusive for those who are physically impaired, as well addressing the needs of an ageing population.</p> <p>Development of visitor facilities at non-designated sites could help to alleviate recreational pressure on designated sites, notably the Wealden Heaths SPA.</p> <p>Better facilities would enhance overall access to the nature and residents connection with the landscape with associated benefits for health and wellbeing and sense of place.</p>	
Potential partners / stakeholders	East Hampshire District Council Hampshire County Council Forestry Commission	River Wey Trust Deadwater Valley Trust Managers of SANGs
Delivery mechanisms	Embed proposal within Local Plan. Embed site-specific proposals within relevant emerging Neighbourhood Plans.	
Potential funding streams	S106 CIL Lottery funding	
Delivery priorities	Medium term	
Potential challenges	Funding long term maintenance of new facilities e.g. public toilets.	

3. Connect with the South Downs

Overview	Maximise access between the South Downs National Park and the Planning Authority Area reinforcing towns at the at the edge of park as 'gateway towns'	
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide traffic-free cycle and pedestrians routes into the National Park surrounding towns in the Planning Authority Area. • Improve condition of existing public rights of way and quiet lanes, and create new paths where severance and fragmentation in the network exists. • Improve wayfinding along key routes into the SDNP and at key transport nodes such as train stations. This could include improvements to physical signposts and development of digital mapping. Wayfinding could indicate distance of key distances to key destinations within the National Park. • Where possible, provide shared use routes capable of being used by all users including people with mobility difficulties and families. In order to make routes as inclusive impossible attention should be paid to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quality of surfaces – providing firm level surfaces, well drained and free from mud - natural hazards – protecting users from natural hazards of the landscape including steep slopes, sudden drops and overhanging vegetation which might cause injury - signage – providing good quality signage and waymarking, accessible to the blind and partially sighted where appropriate - barriers – removing barriers wherever possible and adhering to the principles of least restrictive access where barriers are unavoidable. Stiles will only be considered where no other option is practicable. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	
	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	
	<p>The South Downs National Park is a highly valued for recreation within the wider region providing significant benefits for health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Enhancing connectivity to the SDNP from the surrounding towns in the Planning Authority Area will help increase use of the SDNP and in return encourage greater number of visitors to the Planning Authority Area carrying benefits for health and wellbeing and the local economy. Enhanced connectivity will also enhance perceived as well as physical connection with the SDNP helping to provide a strong sense of place.</p> <p>A number of towns at the edges of the South Downs National Park have potential to be reinforced as 'gateway towns' taking advantage of existing major road and rail links. Gateway towns include Clanfield, Rowlands Castle, Ropley, Four Marks, Alton, Bentley, Liphook, and Whitehill & Bordon.</p> <p>The project aligns with the aims of the South Downs Green Infrastructure Framework, which highlights the need for connectivity as a key issue for GI to address.</p>	

3. Connect with the South Downs

Potential partners / stakeholders	East Hampshire District Council South Downs National Park Hampshire County Council	Prospective Developers Local Parish Councils
Delivery mechanisms	Embed proposal within Local Plan Embed site-specific proposals within relevant Neighbourhood Plan	
Potential funding streams	S106 CIL Landscape Enhancement Initiative (within SDNPA for landscape character enhancement works or similar enhancements work in line with the LEI fund priorities).	
Delivery priorities	Medium/long term	
Potential challenges	Increased pressure on sites on ecologically sensitive sites due to enhanced access into the SDNP. Lack of support from landowners. Funding long-term maintenance of routes.	

4. Identify and enhance strategically important rights of way

Overview	Work with Hampshire County Council to identify and enhance strategically important rights of way for investment.	
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Hampshire County Council and the SDNP to produce mapping, which identifies strategically important routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders within the Planning Authority Area. • Audit the strategically important routes and develop a strategy to proactively manage and improve them, including enhancements for biodiversity and inclusive access. • Develop a suite of costed schemes to call on when responding to short term funding opportunities. This should utilise new evidence, notably the forthcoming Walking and Cycling strategy currently being prepared for the District. • Deliver improvements to strategically important routes as opportunities arise. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	
	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	
	<p>Identifying and investing in strategically important rights of way will help to conserve and enhance access to the countryside and key destinations at a time of limited public finance. The project will promote health and wellbeing by encouraging physical activity and access to nature.</p> <p>The project seeks to link up with Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015 -2025 that recommends directing existing and future resources on those routes which provide the most benefit to residents, visitors and the local economy.</p>	
Potential partners / stakeholders	<p>Hampshire County Council</p> <p>East Hampshire District Council</p> <p>South Downs National Park</p>	
Delivery mechanisms	Embed project within Local Plan	
Potential funding streams	<p>S106</p> <p>CIL</p>	
Delivery priority	Medium/long term	
Potential challenges	Securing long-term funding for maintenance of PROW.	

5. Digital route guides

Overview	Explore a set of digital walking, cycling and horse-riding trails to be integrated into the ViewRanger mobile application.	
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a set of digital guided walking, cycling and horse-riding trails together with information on landmarks, could help to engage residents with the countryside. Routes should be uploaded onto the ViewRanger application has successfully been adopted by the South Downs National Park. • A range of different trails should be made suitable for differing abilities and interests for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disabled friendly routes - Historic long distance paths - Literary trails - Circular trails - Linear trails - Walks with train connectivity • Waymarks should be added to each of the trails highlighting particular landmarks. This could include sites of historic interest, toilet facilities. • The phone application should be supported by a webpage map and paper map for those who do not have access to a smart phone or internet as is likely to be the case with some older members of the public. • Encourage users to generate their own walks which can be uploaded to ViewRanger. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	
	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓
	<p>Creation of guided walks will help to address a lack of connection, appreciation and involvement with the countryside identified as an issue for some of East Hampshire’s existing and prospective residents.</p> <p>Provision of routes for differing abilities, interests and activities will help to help to encourage enjoyment of the countryside by a greater diversity of people based on their wants and needs. Guided digital walks can help to foster a stronger sense of place by providing an educational element by integrating location based information on biodiversity and heritage.</p>	
Potential partners / stakeholders	<p>Hampshire County Council</p> <p>East Hampshire District Council</p> <p>Local walking, cycling and horse-riding groups.</p>	
Delivery mechanisms	Delivered by East Hampshire’s community team.	

5. Digital route guides

Potential funding streams	Funded by East Hampshire District Council.
Delivery priority	Long term
Potential challenges	Monitoring trails so that they remain up-to-date as the landscape changes.

6. Increase woodland cover		
Overview	Identify sites for new woodland across the Planning Authority Area	
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and map areas for new woodland across the Planning Authority Area based on where they can deliver a range of benefits including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation. - Landscape conservation and enhancement e.g. screening from new development. - Develop ecological networks through the creation of woodland corridors. • Establish long-term management regime newly created woodland areas. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	✓
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	
	<p>New woodland located appropriately would provide a range of environmental and social benefits.</p> <p>There are areas in the Planning Authority Area where the landscape is sensitive to new development. Woodland could help to screen new development within the district thereby helping to preserve landscape character and enable population growth.</p> <p>Furthermore, appropriately located woodland can also support biodiversity and provide new opportunities for recreation and community activities, as well as address deficiency in natural or semi-natural green space, notably in the north-west of the District.</p>	
Potential partners / stakeholders	East Hampshire District Council Forestry Commission Private owners of woodland Woodland Trust	
Delivery mechanisms	Establishing partnership between stakeholders to deliver project. Embed strategy proposals within the Local Plan.	
Potential funding streams	S106 CIL Biodiversity offsetting Landscape Enhancement Initiative (within the SDNPA) Woodland Trust	
Delivery priority	Short term	
Potential challenges	There may be limited viability to fund long-term management and some woodland sites. Limited support from some land owners.	

7. Enhance access and increase active management of existing woodland

Overview	Enhance public access to existing woodland for recreation and promote active management to ensure the woodland resource is sustained.	
Potential Interventions	<p>Open up currently inaccessible woodland sites for recreation.</p> <p>Identify woodland sites for proactive management to benefit biodiversity, recreation and long-term sustainability of woodland. Forms of management could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coppicing, which allows flowering plants and grasses to grow, providing food for insects which in turn provide food for other animals such as birds and bats. • Thinning - removal of poor, weak, diseased or overcrowded trees to make the remaining trees stronger and sturdier. • Creating open areas such as rides, glades and scallops to create areas of mixed sunlight and shelter for greater species diversity. Rides, in particular can also be used as public rights of way. • Generating income from timber sale and game shoots. • Developing innovative opportunities for social and cultural activities within woodlands such as forestry education, sports events, corporate team building events and offender rehabilitation programmes. Some of these can also open up new funding streams that can be reinvested back into active management. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	✓
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓
	<p>There are areas of woodland in PAA suffering from a lack of structural diversity with limited biodiversity. Furthermore many woodland areas are inaccessible to the public therefore limiting opportunities for recreation. Increasing access and promoting woodland management will help to enhance biodiversity and open up new opportunities for recreation (through creation walkways) and commerce (e.g. through timber sales & game shoot) with associated benefits for health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Development of other cultural activities such as music events, sports event, forestry education could help to engage local communities with woodlands and provide an alternative funding stream.</p>	
Potential partners / stakeholders	East Hampshire District Council Forestry Commission	Private landowners responsible for woodland Woodland Trust
Delivery mechanisms	Establishing partnership between stakeholders to deliver project. Carbon offsetting	
Potential funding streams	S106	

7. Enhance access and increase active management of existing woodland

	<p>CIL</p> <p>Funding from Carbon offsetting</p> <p>Woodland Trust</p> <p>Landscape Enhancement Initiative (within SDNPA)</p>
Delivery priority	Medium term
Potential challenges	<p>There may be limited viability to fund long-term management and some woodland sites.</p> <p>Support from some land owners.</p>

8. Heathland educational initiative		
Overview	Educate residents about heathlands and promote the use of SANGS and other alternative sites for recreation.	
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an educational programme helping to inform people about the sensitivities of heathland sites. • Education could take on a variety of forms including guided walk, school trips, and leaflets, notice boards, online campaigning and engaging the public directly in heathland restoration. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	
	Access, Recreation and Transport	
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	✓
	The Wealden Heaths SPA provides an important recreational resource for residents of East Hampshire. However, the SPA suffers from visitor related damage such as erosion and enrichment from dog faeces. Ground nesting birds are especially sensitive to an increase in visitor activity. Many heaths are located at the edge of urban areas, leading to further problems such as littering, fly tipping, illegal access and arson. Pressure on the heathland is likely to increase as the District's population grows. As such, an educational programme facilitating understanding and more responsible use of the heathlands can help to limit this pressure.	
Potential partners / stakeholders	Hampshire County Council East Hampshire District Council South Downs National Park Authority Ministry of Defence Forestry Commission Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust	Natural England Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Natural England Prospective developers Local schools Local Parish Councils
Delivery mechanisms	Delivery body/partnership to oversee project delivery.	
Potential funding streams	Future SAMM tariff for Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA	
Delivery potential	Short/medium term priority	
Potential challenges	Lack of volunteer support and time.	

9. Incorporate GI into development sites

Overview	Make green infrastructure integral to any new development and exploit opportunities to enhance links to the surrounding countryside and public rights of way network	
Potential Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate new, high quality open space of appropriate typology and size in new development to serve the new development and surrounding areas. Integrate green features, including street trees, gardens, green walls and green roofs. Conserve and enhance connectivity to the public rights of way network and open spaces. Provide planting at the urban edge. Integrate SuDS, such as rainwater harvesting systems Incorporate green roofs and walls into new and existing development where appropriate. Streets should be laid out to maximise connectivity and permeability making places easier to navigate through and reducing the need for motorised transport. All new development should adopt mitigation measures set out in the Landscape Capacity Study 2018 to address the site-specific sensitivities of their particular location. 	
Contribution to GI themes	Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	✓
	Biodiversity	✓
	Woodlands	
	Water Environment	✓
	Access, Recreation and Transport	✓
	Health, wellbeing and Inequality	✓
	Local awareness and involvement	
	<p>Adopting GI interventions within development sites will deliver a wide range of benefits, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing open space deficiencies Habitats to support biodiversity and ecological networks Better access to recreational spaces and the countryside Enhanced landscape quality SuDS will reduce surface runoff helping to conserve water and reduce surface water runoff into nearby waterways 	
Potential partners / stakeholders	<p>East Hampshire District Council</p> <p>Prospective developers</p>	
Delivery mechanisms	GI enhancements delivered through planned development	
Potential funding streams	Directly funded by developers	
Delivery potential	Short term	
Potential challenges	<p>Balancing the integration of GI with appropriate density of housing.</p> <p>Ensuring appropriate management of newly created open spaces.</p>	

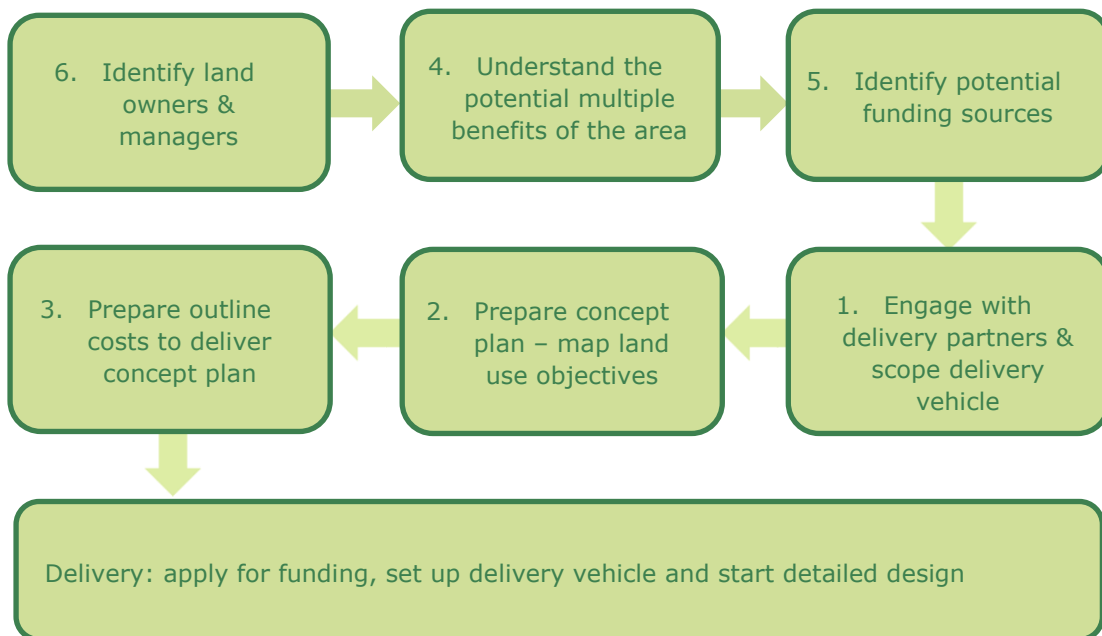
6 Delivery and implementation

- 6.1 This section sets out the way forward for the further development and realisation of high quality provision of GI in the PAA. The first part of this section considers the key steps needed to be taken to deliver the projects identified within this Strategy. The second part of this section provides a high-level guide for developers on providing green infrastructure as part of development proposals.

Delivering GI projects identified within this Strategy

- 6.2 This Strategy has identified new opportunities for GI provision and has tentatively suggested areas where these could be delivered. **Figure 6.1** sets out the key steps which need to be taken in order to move towards the delivery of these opportunities.

Figure 6-1: Key steps for delivering GI projects



Step 1: Identify landowners and managers

- 6.3 The individual landowners and managers present in the area being considered for the provision of new GI will determine how GI can be funded and delivered. Their engagement and willingness to be involved in the process will also help to pin down a firmer boundary for the area under consideration and may help to present new opportunities that were not originally considered. Therefore identifying who the landowners and managers are in the area under consideration is an important first step in the process of moving towards delivery.

Step 2: Understand the potential multiple benefits of the area

- 6.4 Once there is a firmer idea of the pattern of landownership and management, and the boundary of the area in question is firmed up, the second step will be to gain a comprehensive picture of the GI benefits that can be delivered in the proposed area.

Step 3: Identify potential funding sources

- 6.5 The ability to deliver and maintain GI will be dependent on the availability of funding. This is particularly important due to the limitations in local government funding. Funding streams to support the delivery and management of GI assets are increasingly diverse in range. Funding streams which may support GI provision in the PAA are set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 6.6 The suitability of funding streams outlined in Appendix 1 do not promote a holistic approach to the delivery of multi-functional GI assets, although there are some exceptions to this. The majority of streams identified tend to focus on specific elements e.g. increasing biodiversity, restoring historic landscapes or delivering community based projects. There are also primarily focused on the creation of GI rather than supporting longer- term management and maintenance activities.
- 6.7 The size of the grant available varies greatly between each funding stream but most are likely to require some match funding and to be able to demonstrate some form of community support for the project. It is therefore likely that the delivery of GI will need to secure funding from a variety of streams. GI assets may also need to have mechanisms for income generating ventures.

Step 4: Identify potential delivery partners

- 6.8 Once a clear idea has been established of the most appropriate funding sources to pursue for an area, delivery partners could be consulted. Consultation with land owners, local groups and community representatives will be essential to the effective delivery and long term maintenance of GI features. Key groups to involve in the development of proposals for the creation or enhancement of GI features include Deadwater Valley Trust, River Wey Trust, Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, HCC and the SDNPA.
- 6.9 A review of the different models used across England to manage GI assets has been carried out as part of this plan. A matrix outlining each of these different models and highlighting the management opportunities and implications is contained within **Appendix 2**. Nine different models are shown including:
- Local authority with in-house management teams
 - Local authorities in partnership with private contractors
 - Public sector partnerships
 - Partnerships with parish and town councils
 - Public and third sector partnerships
 - Private management companies
 - Charitable Trusts
 - Community Interest Companies
 - Boards of Conservators
- 6.10 Due to the high level nature of the plan, land ownership has not been considered in detail. For each of the management models listed above, it is critical that the extent of land ownership is fully understood and responsibility for management is clear. The allocation of rights and responsibilities of each of these bodies will also need to be considered.
- 6.11 The selection of appropriate delivery models for GI provision within the PAA will be greatly dependent on a variety of factors including land ownership, availability of funding and the ability of existing land management organisations to take on additional GI assets. Existing management arrangements within the study area are varied but each offer a variety of benefits and opportunities. It is not considered appropriate to recommend a single delivery model for GI provision in the PAA.
- 6.12 Factors which would need to be taken into consideration to ensure the allocation of the most suitable delivery models and sources of funding to specific areas will include the following:
- Identification of likely development areas which may create a demand for new GI assets.
 - Understanding of land ownership and options for leasing land and/ or ownership transfer.

- The form and function of proposed GI provision to guide the selection of appropriate funding mechanisms.
- Availability of delivery organisations within PAA and the surrounding area to take forward and manage newly created GI assets.
- Ability of local community groups to become involved in the delivery and management of the GI asset.

Step 5: Prepare concept plan

- 6.13 The next step in the process will be to prepare a concept plan, which will help to form the vision and key GI priorities for the area and to communicate this effectively. Close collaboration with the delivery partners and other key stakeholders will be needed to develop a successful concept plan. At the centre of the concept plan will be plans which illustrate the different zones in the area that could be given to biodiversity, waterbodies, the historic environment, access and recreation. Many of these zones could be created by applying a buffer around environmental features such as streams, watercourse and ponds, woodland and individual trees.

Step 6: Prepare outline costs to deliver the concept plan

- 6.14 The concept plan will provide a clear vision of the potential of the area and enable outline costs to be prepared for providing GI in that area. This will enable the delivery partners to more accurately apply for funding.

Delivery phase – apply for funding, set up delivery vehicle and start detailed design

- 6.15 The previous six steps will provide the information required for the delivery partners to confidently take the project forward, including a clear vision for the area, an indicative idea of the amount of funding required and a clear picture of the funding sources they need to target.
- 6.16 The detailed design process will involve further detailed GI planning and analysis work. This may include the commissioning of technical surveys such as topographic, hydrology, ecology, archaeology, access etc. It is also possible statutory consents will be required for the creation of GI assets. Planning permission and special heritage and ecological consents may be required. This should be scoped with the appropriate authorities at the earliest stage.

Incorporating GI within proposed developments

- 6.17 Development offers one of the greatest opportunities for strengthening the GI network within the PAA. GI can contribute significantly to creating a sense of place within a new development and support the creation of healthy communities. It is therefore important that GI is considered during the feasibility, concept and masterplanning stage of the formulation of any proposals for a development. Opportunities for the incorporation of GI are likely to vary considerably depending on each site and should be informed by careful analysis and assessment. Proposals for a development should consider the:
- Conservation and enhancement of existing GI assets.
 - Linking of existing GI assets to features within the wider area.
 - Creation of new GI assets linking to opportunities identified from the environmental network mapping.
 - Long term stewardship of GI assets including capital and revenue funding.

Analysis of GI assets

- 6.18 Analysis of a proposed development site should be carried out during the feasibility and concept stages of the planning process to ensure that existing GI assets are identified and retained within the spatial framework. Consideration should also be given to opportunities to enhance or create new assets to ensure the multi-functional benefits of GI are achieved. Analysis should extend beyond the proposed development boundary, so that GI assets in the surrounding area can be

linked, restored and enhanced. If a proposed development could result in a reduction of existing GI assets, opportunities to mitigate the loss should be considered e.g. the restoration and/ or enhancement of the remaining assets.

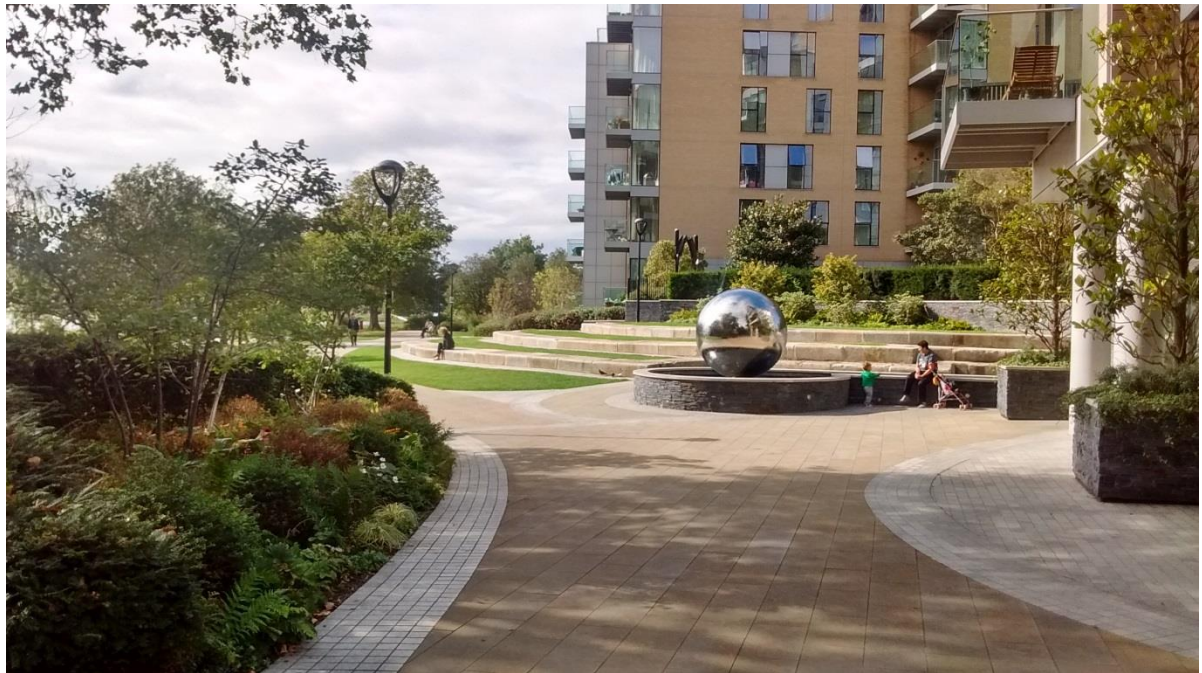
- 6.19 Consideration should also be given to deficiencies and needs in relation to GI functions. Such deficiencies could include access to natural or semi-natural greenspace or formal public open space or other functional requirements (e.g. flood risk or air quality etc.).
- 6.20 The analysis of the opportunities within a development should include consultation with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders including community groups. This will ensure local need is fully integrated within development proposals. It will also provide the opportunity to consider options for the delivery and long-term stewardship of assets.

Identifying opportunities for GI

- 6.21 This Strategy sets out the benefits of a well-managed and connected GI network throughout the PAA. The principles contained within this document should therefore be used to inform the identification of proposals for developments. The principles set out within this Strategy have been grouped by theme:
- Landscape, heritage and sense of place
 - Biodiversity and woodlands
 - Water environment
 - Access, recreation and transport
 - Health, wellbeing and inequality
 - Local awareness and involvement
- 6.22 The following paragraphs identify the key considerations for ensuring the delivery of a high quality multi-functional GI network within a development.

Landscape, heritage and sense of place

- 6.23 The development of GI masterplan for developments should seek to conserve and promote the site's landscape, heritage and sense of place. Consideration should be given to the conservation and enhancement of key landscape characteristics such as heathland, trees, woodlands, hedgerows and/ or waterbodies, together with key views or visual relationships with the features of local importance.
- 6.24 In addition features of cultural heritage should be retained and, where applicable, their setting enhanced to impart a sense of place for communities. Where feasible, consideration should be given to the restoration of lost heritage features and adoption of historic land use practices (e.g. woodland and heathland management).
- 6.25 Measures should be taken to ensure the design of the edge of new settlements are sensitive to the wider landscape and communities, with appropriate linkages (physical and visual) provided to the surrounding areas.



The Woodberry Downs development in London Borough of Hackney embraced the New River, which flows along the southern boundary of the predominately residential development. Land alongside the waterway was used to create a Green Flag Award standard linear park linking two reservoirs, one of which is managed for watersports and the other as nature reserve. The park contains a series of spaces, each contributing to a sense of place and providing opportunities for formal and informal recreation. One of the reservoirs is managed as a nature reserve in a partnership between London Borough of Hackney and the London Wildlife Trust.

Biodiversity and woodlands

- 6.26 Developments should seek to conserve and enhance a site's nature conservation value. This could include the strengthening of habitat connectivity and the adoption of appropriate management regimes. Habitat connectivity should aid species movement and extend beyond the edge of the proposed development. Features of nature conservation importance may not necessarily be covered by an international, national or local designation. It is therefore important to carry out appropriate ecological surveys to inform the establishment of proposals.
- 6.27 Planting within GI features should be of local provenance or locally sourced seed population. Consideration should be given to resilience of species to pest and diseases, as well as the anticipated impacts of the changing climate.
- 6.28 Where applicable, developments need to comply with the requirements to contribute to the delivery SANGs to help alleviate pressures on sites included within the buffers of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA.



Opportunities should be sought to conserve and enhance features of biodiversity value. Proposal will also need to give consideration to long-term management of the asset.

Water environment

- 6.29 Consideration should be given to the opportunities for the development to contribute to the district's water environment. Interventions, such as sustainable urban drainage schemes, should be incorporated throughout the development to capture and slow water runoff, thus alleviating pressure of surrounding waterbodies and help improve water quality. Features may include swales, recycling of grey water, rainwater harvesting, tree planting, incorporation of green roofs/walls on building or the use of permeable paving.



A former road within the London Borough of Waltham Forest has been transformed to create a pocket park containing a water-attenuating swale.

Health, wellbeing and inequality

- 6.30 GI within developments should seek to create healthy and sustainable communities. Where appropriate, schemes should incorporate publicly accessible open spaces. Provision should be informed by the district's Open Space Study which sets out standards for quantity, accessibility, quality and value for provision. The Open Space Study should be consulted to consider the need for play space for children and young people as well as the need for allotments, community food growing, community orchards or gardens.
- 6.31 The network of GI should seek to enable communities to adapt to the anticipated impacts of a changing climate. For instance schemes should seek to incorporate tree planting, creation of woodlands, shelterbelts to provide shade and contribute to cooling and improve air quality. The inclusion of green roofs and green walls on built features will also contribute to urban cooling.



A newly created place space located within a recent residential development.

Access, recreation and transport

- 6.32 GI features should seek to promote access, recreation and transport. Opportunities to connect and incorporate low carbon transport and/ or recreation network should be considered. Emphasis should be placed on the importance of walking and cycling routes both within the development and to the surrounding area (e.g. national trials, transport hubs and town centres etc.). Routes should be promoted through the use of interpretative and wayfinding signage as well as digital media (e.g. website and applications).
- 6.33 GI should also allow opportunities to enhance social interaction through the creation of spaces for passive recreation for people of all ages e.g. meeting places, quiet areas and areas for natural play. The incorporation of sport provision within the development should be informed by the assessment of local need as set out in the district's Playing Pitch Strategy.



Areas of woodland can be opened to public access through the creation of sensitively located and designed footpaths. Appropriate wayfinding signage and interpretative material can encourage users to explore and use new routes.

Local awareness and involvements

- 6.34 The design and delivery of GI assets should be a collaborative process between the developer, local authority, community groups and other key stakeholders. This process should seek to explore opportunities for the establishment of partnerships as well as offering opportunities for individuals to become actively engaged in the stewardship of GI assets. The involvement could be through the regular volunteering activities (e.g. Green Gyms) or through supporting the delivery of a programme of interpretation/ education activities. The adoption of management plan for the GI asset would provide a framework for management to ensure the appropriate conservation of an asset and to guide the decision making process.
- 6.35 Following the delivery of the GI assets, mechanisms should be in place to disseminate information to the surrounding community to provide updates on events, activities and management.

Delivering GI within small-scale developments

- 6.36 Incorporating GI within small-scale developments may be a challenge due to pressures on the land available. However it is important these sites contribute to the district's green infrastructure network. Consideration should therefore be given to how such developments incorporate GI interventions no matter how modest. Suitable interventions may include:

- Incorporation of green features such as street trees, planting (appropriate to support pollinators), wildflower 'meadows', hedgerows, green roofs and green walls, roof gardens, balconies and natural play.
- Incorporation of non-green features to support biodiversity such as the creation of habitat piles/ deadwood communities, bird and bat boxes, and insect hotels.
- Incorporation of features to manage water including the installation of water storage and the incorporation of rainwater harvesting, porous paving and rain gardens.

6.37 Small developments should also promote the uptake of sustainable transport methods within the district. This includes ensuring suitable access to surrounding footpaths and cycleways together and providing supporting infrastructure (e.g. bicycle storage, signage and car charging).

6.38 Opportunities for a development to contribute to enhancing GI beyond the site boundary should also be assessed with the evidence base set out in this Strategy used to prioritise interventions.

6.39 The following image reveals how GI features can be included within a confined space. All GI interventions should be well-designed, well-maintained and should seek to be multi-functional.



A small communal garden created within a new social housing scheme located in central London. Apartments have access to a balcony.



Natural play features, such as these willow structures, can be incorporated within small spaces but still provide valuable spaces for active and social play.



Habitats suitable for insects have been created on the wall within a housing development in North London. Although confined in size, the area provides sufficient space to incorporate raised planters suitable for food growing.



A simple swale created to one-side of a footpath to capture and attenuate rainwater runoff.



Buildings provide space for storage of bicycles and communal bins with external walls and roof used support habitats for insects.

7 Next steps and monitoring

- 7.1 The Green Infrastructure Strategy is an important step in securing GI delivery in East Hampshire and in realising the strategic vision of the PAA. The following next steps are recommended in order to secure effective, high quality and timely delivery of the priorities identified in this report:
- Embed GI within the Local Plan: Ensure the GI network and projects are embedded within the Local Plan.
 - Build partnerships: Engage relevant internal and external partners to further scope and progress the projects identified within this Strategy.
 - Feasibility studies: A feasibility study and implementation plan for the Priority Projects could include a masterplan for projects in proximity to site allocations and other locations where major development is anticipated, which would need to be reflected in plans for housing and other development.
- 7.2 The GI Strategy should be delivered in conjunction with the emerging the East Hampshire Biodiversity Strategy. The Biodiversity Strategy will provide a useful example of a purpose-built, planning-led strategy designed to supplement Local Plan policies and to provide clear and concise information for residents, applicants and other stakeholders on the current state of biodiversity infrastructure (natural capital) and measures available to ensure its protection and enhancement. The Biodiversity Strategy will work alongside the GI Strategy.
- 7.3 It is suggested that the delivery of the GI Strategy should be monitored annually with a full review of the document in 2029. The annual reviews should monitor progress with project delivery and phasing and also take account of changes in the planning and development context within the PAA. The cycle for the Strategy is to:
- Write and adopt the Strategy
 - Operate according to the aims and objectives held within the Strategy
 - Review the working of the Strategy
 - Revise and improve the Strategy where necessary to reflect on-going developments, which include reviewing the status of the projects, which are either completed, amended or replaced.

Appendix 1

Funding matrix

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI)	The overall objective of the scheme is to reduce the landscape and visual impact of National Grid's existing electricity infrastructure and enhance the quality of the affected designated landscapes. Where the visual impacts of the electricity transmission line cannot be directly screened or otherwise mitigated it may be possible to shift emphasis away from the transmission line by enhancing the landscape in other ways.	South Downs National Park within 3km buffer line of National Grid Over Head Lines	Up to £200,000 Maximum three live projects at any one time.	Yes	Yes	Up to 25% of overall project costs either via, in-kind donations, match funding, voluntary time.	Hedgerow restoration, Habitat restoration Tree planting, Woodland management Stone wall restoration
National Lottery Awards for all England	National Lottery Awards for All offers funding from £300 to £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities. Priorities are: Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.	Voluntary or community organisation Registered charity Constituted group or club Not-for-profit company or community interest company Social enterprise School Statutory body (including town, parish and community council)	£300 - £10,000	Yes			Therapy gardens Play facilities Burial restoration Outdoor facilities Brownfield site redeveloped for the community

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
National Lottery Grants for Heritage	The National Lottery Grants for Heritage programme is an open programme for all types of projects that focusses on heritage in the UK. A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)*	Buildings and monuments Community heritage Landscapes, parks and nature	£3,000 to £5,000,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Improve, expand and connect threatened habitats. Survey and record endangered species and habitats. Regenerate and improve the sustainability of a public park or cemetery. Learn new skills to sustainably manage the cultural and natural heritage of landscapes.
FieldFare LEADER Currently closed to applications.	Fieldfare has six local priorities and these are set out below. 1. Support for the sustainability of small tenant or family owned farms and the regeneration of underutilised farm assets 2. Support for the sustainability and productivity of woodlands 3. Strengthening the viability and interconnectivity of the visitor economy 4. Support for the profitability and productivity of rural enterprise 5. Support for the profitability and productivity of local food and related producers 6. Optimizing local resources to achieve thriving local communities	To apply for LEADER funding your business, or your project or beneficiaries, must be in the LAG area, and the applicant must be a legal entity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers • Growers • Private businesses • Public organisations • Voluntary organisations • Groups of businesses • Charities • Private forest holders 	£2,500 to £50,000	Yes		Yes	Woodland restoration

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019 to 2020 Hampshire County Council	The priority of the scheme is to fund projects which: provide community benefit and help local communities thrive help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding	Applicants must support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2021. It forms the cornerstone of all strategies and plans across departments and service areas. It features four key aims: Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity people in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives people in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment people in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities.	Up to a maximum of £100,000	Yes		Projects should be well developed with match-funding secured. Organisations should have also applied to local District or Parish Councils where local funding opportunities exist.	Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2021 Outcome three: Enhancing and protecting Hampshire's heritage and culture. Conserving and using natural resources efficiently. Protecting and improving Hampshire's environment and quality of life. Enabling people to live healthy lifestyles, and to access and enjoy Hampshire's countryside. Maintaining the unique character of the county.

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
County Councillor grants Hampshire County Councillor	Each County Councillor will receive an annual budget, to be allocated to local projects, initiatives or organisations in their Division. Revenue grants should generally be used to support short term project related costs e.g. a time limited activity group for children.	Generally eligible organisations: Parish Councils (for specific projects only) Scout, guide, boys and girls brigade local organisations Religious groups (where the project will bring wider community benefit) Riding for the disabled (local) Village or community hall associations Age Concern, Mencap British Legion, Services' benevolent societies Parent teacher associations (formally constituted) Organisations promoting the locality Nursery education groups <i>See grant details for further eligibility.</i>	£100 to £8,000	Yes		The scheme may be used to facilitate match funding from other organisations, but match funding is in no way a requirement.	Range of GI assets which delivery community benefits
Sport England Inspired Facilities fund and Protecting Playing Fields programme	Aims to: Improve the health of the nation, particularly for disadvantaged groups. Support a network of clubs, coaches and volunteers to equality. Provide infrastructure capable of developing world class performers through refurbishing existing facilities or building new ones.	Voluntary or community organisations, sports clubs, local authority, school or other education establishments.	£10,000 + (depending on type of organisation)	Yes	No (but will fund improvement works to existing facilities)	For the larger grants of 150,000 Yes	Sport facilities

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Big Local (Community Development Foundation)	<p>Big Local is a 10 year programme working with communities in up to 150 selected areas, to make where they live and work a better place now and in the future. The programme aims to achieve the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities better able to identify local needs and take action in response. • People have increased skills and confidence. • The community makes a difference to the needs it prioritises. • People feel that their area is a better place to live. • Launched in Autumn 2011 <p>http://localtrust.org.uk/</p>		Up to £30,000	Possibly	No		Range of GI assets which delivery community benefits
Countryside Stewardship	Administered by Natural England funding is provided to land managers to increase landscape quality, biodiversity and accessibility of land.	Land in private ownership. Land owned by local authorities can also be eligible provided the work is not already as part of their conservation responsibilities. Land must be registered with the Rural Payments Agency before applying.	Dependent on the payment options applied for.	Yes	Yes	Additional funding may be required to supplement payments.	Natural environment
Single payment scheme	Part of the Common Agricultural Policy, Single Payment Scheme is not usually eligible for new woodland except in occasional circumstances such as grazed woodland.	Land must be registered with the Rural Payments Agency before applying.		No	Yes	Additional funding will be required to supplement the maintenance costs.	

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Local authority collaboration	Local authorities pool financial and management resources and adopt a combined regional or sub-regional approach. Possible opportunity to link local government and private companies.	Public owned open spaces	Partnerships with private sector can generate considerable additional income streams	Yes	Yes		GI assets which offer regional/ sub-regional benefits.
Multi-agency public sector funding	Funding can be accessed from a range of government departments and public agencies. Funding streams continuously change and there are a number of websites which are useful for up-to-date information including: www.green-space.org.uk www.funderfinder.co.uk www.grantsonline.org.uk www.access-funding.co.uk	Public owned open space. Trusts may have greater access to some funding streams	Dependent on funding stream	Yes	Yes	Dependent on funding stream	Wide range of GI assets depending on funding stream.
Accor Hotels 'Plant for the Planet' Woodland Trust	The programme aim is to support the integration of trees into productive farms, with a focus on planting trees in smart ways that cut costs, raise yields and improve the environment.	Landowners	Each application is judged on merit on a case by case basis.	Yes	No	Farmer contributions are decided on an individual basis	Tree planting within production farmland
MOREwoods and MOREhedges Woodland Trust	MOREwoods project includes free advice from our woodland creation specialists who can make recommendations for the species mix and design of new woodland. To apply for MOREwoods funding you will need to plant on at least 0.5 ha (1.25 acres) of non-wooded land with between 1000 and 1600 trees per hectare. MOREhedges project supports hedgerows of 100 – 250m that create wildlife corridors from woodland.	Landowners	MORE woods: minimum 500 trees. MORE hedges: 100 metres+ of hedge	Yes	No	The fund will cover between 50%-60% of costs.	Woodland planting Hedgerow restoration

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Trees for your farm Woodland Trust	Make agroforestry a part of your farm. Improve soil and water quality, give shade and shelter to livestock and reap the benefits of a year round crop.	Delivered through PUR project funding for suitable and approved sites.	A minimum of 100 trees.	Yes	No	Farmer contributions are decided on an individual basis	Woodland planting
Neighbourhood Projects Small Grants Programme	To improve the design quality of the built environment in neighbourhood projects, to create better places. Design: The project must provide design support. Neighbourhood: The project must involve working directly 'on the ground' with a community or local group. Preferably an existing group.	Not-for-profit organisations that provide design support. www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/CABE/Localismand-planning/Grant/	Up to £7,000 (short timescale for the grants programme)	Yes	No	No but you must demonstrate a commitment of staff/volunteers and/or financial resources.	GI assets which offer opportunities for community participation in their creation and future use.
Grassroots Grants (CDF)	Building stronger, more active communities at a local level. Government programme managed by the Community Development Foundation (CDF)	Small local community and voluntary sector groups and organisations with an annual income of less than £30,000	£250 to £5,000	Yes	No	Yes for large grants (via endowment match challenge). Grassroots donations can draw down additional funding.	GI assets which offer opportunities for community participation in their creation and future use.
Community Shares Project	The CSU is a joint initiative between Locality and Co-operatives UK. Its objective is to support enterprises, promote good practice and raise awareness of community shares as a sustainable funding mechanism for community enterprises	Community project	Dependent on organisation and project	Yes	Possibly as part of wider project		Cultivate – social enterprise based on local food. Community land trust

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Tax initiatives	Funding from local taxes can be directed specifically towards the management and provision of GI. A parks charge/ levy could be imposed on residential, commercial and industrial property. Tax incentives such as tax credits or reduction may also encourage investment in local regeneration and the development of GI.	Local authorities	Dependent on number of properties agreeing into the scheme.	Yes	Yes		More likely to fund regeneration of urban landscape and GI with community benefits
New Homes Bonus (final allocation 2019)	Funding paid to Local Authorities by the Department for Communities and Local Government as an incentive to encourage house building in their area.	Subject to an overall funding limit announced on an annual basis. However, this fluctuates and the fund is also currently being part used to fund Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as of July 2013.		Amounts received by Local Authorities vary.	Bonus is paid as an unringfenced grant to Local Authorities who can choose how to spend it	Spending at discretion of LAs	

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Bonds and commercial finance	<p>Commercial finance, such as bonds can be used to fund one off capital projects with the repayments covered through increased charges and/ or rents. Bonds are generally used for infrastructure projects in which secure, long-term revenue streams can be predicted with certainty or else underwritten independently.</p> <p>Opportunities for using commercial finance in the creation and maintenance of the GI assets are likely to be restricted. This could be overcome by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GI assets providing commercial uses that generate revenue (e.g. shops, restaurants or cafes) which demonstrate a financial return upon which the funding could be leveraged. • The local authority or regeneration organisation could provide a bridging guarantee to underwrite repayments in principle. This guarantee is particularly important in the initial years of lending when the revenue-generating uses have no track record of revenues to secure finance. 	Private companies or Trust may have increased chance of accessing commercial finance.	Dependent on ability to cover repayments,	Yes	Yes		GI assets with income generating opportunities

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Voluntary and not-for profit sector involvement	These groups can provide an important resource by contributing additional labour, providing public stewardship of GI asset and assisting in community development and outreach. Funding can be gained through volunteers organising events. Trusts may have access to charitable and central government regeneration funds.	GI asset will need to be leased to Trust to gain funding.	Dependent on funding stream.	Yes	Yes		GI assets with added community or biodiversity benefits.
Endowments	Endowments provide long-term and protected sources of income. The interest used from the endowment can be used to fund the green space whilst the capital remains invested.	Maintenance of strategic scale GI projects could be funded by an income generating fund or asset to assist with the recurring maintenance costs.		Yes but reduces finance available for on-going maintenance	Yes		Range of GI assets.
Section 106 Agreements	Planning agreements can fund the provision of green space in new residential and commercial developments. Section 106 agreements require the developers to contribute towards the infrastructure and services that the new development or local community will need. The Section 106 contribution could also be invested as an annuity by the local authority but on-going payments can only apply within the development site.	Local authorities	Dependent on the value of proposed development.	Yes	Yes if invested	No	Most types of GI but needs to be within development area.

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Community Infrastructure Levy	The CIL is a local levy which local authorities can choose to levy on most new development in order to secure funding for vital local and sub-regional infrastructure. Funds generated from the CIL can be used on infrastructure outside of project area (as long as there is some benefits to the community) and can be pooled by surrounding local authorities for regional/ subregional infrastructure projects.	Local authorities	Local authorities determine the rates of CIL that will operate in their area.	Yes	Yes if invested	No	Most types of GI assets which provide community benefits.
Private management fees	Management fees could be charged to tenants of buildings on a specific site. The management fee would go towards the maintenance of the site and the green spaces within. Fees could also be used for creating new green spaces.	GI within proposed development area	Dependent on number of properties within development.	Yes	Yes	No	Most types of GI but asset needs to be within the designated development area.

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Income-generating	<p>Business opportunities such as sponsorship and the management of sport facilities, restaurants, cafes, festivals and events are ways in which private sector funding can be sourced. For example, an entry charge may be appropriate to some GI assets or sponsorship of areas within a GI asset could be used to support on-going maintenance or to finance new GI assets. Donations of funds by private individuals, businesses and organisations may also provide substantial sources of income. Fees and fines could be charged for misuse of GI asset. Open spaces also provide opportunities to develop the social economy and capture value from social enterprise projects. Funding could also be gained through integrating alternative energy production and green waste recycling in the design and management of the GI asset. Alternative energy fuels could be grown and sold.</p>	All GI assets with potential to provide a service to local community	Dependent on the availability of facilities.	Yes	Yes	No although initial funding may be required to provide facilities (e.g. buildings, sport pitches etc.)	GI assets potential to provide a service to the local community or to generate alternative energy.

Funding streams	Focus/criteria	Eligibility	Grant size	Supports creation/enhancement of GI asset	Supports management or maintenance of GI ?	Match funding required?	Types of GI funded
Public and private partnerships	These provide alternative funding streams for GI creation. Local authorities and the private sector could enter into an agreement whereby land is donated to a private developer who in return will be obliged to provide GI assets. Revenue costs could also be provided by securing the payments from private developers in planning agreements or through other mechanisms as outlined above.	Dependent on availability of developable land under the local authority's ownership and the commercial reward for the developer.	Dependent on value of proposed development.	Yes	Yes	No	A range of GI assets within the specified development area.

Appendix 2

Governance models

Delivery model	Management opportunities	Management implications	Example
Local authority with in-house management/ maintenance team			
<p>The local authority employs an in-house team of skilled grounds maintenance staff.</p> <p>Ownership of the GI assets and the associated legal responsibilities remain with the local authority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local authority has direct control over the management and maintenance of the GI assets and is able to ensure maintenance operations are carried out to the required standard. Directly employed staff provide flexibility and responsiveness. Funding is provided annually and the local authority is not generally reliant on the GI asset to generate income. The grounds maintenance staff would be responsible for only maintaining the green spaces within the borough or district imparting a sense of ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authority budgets are reviewed annually with the budgets for green spaces often competing with other local authority services. The local authority would need to cover the costs of managing a team of dedicated staff (e.g. staff salaries, insurances and administration support) as well as providing appropriate facilities, equipment, and vehicles. Additional funding may be available but will be dependent upon resources and the potential for development. 	City of London
Local authority in partnership with a private grounds maintenance contractor			
<p>Management of GI assets is through local authorities' parks team with support of a private grounds maintenance contractor.</p> <p>Ownership of the GI assets and the associated legal responsibilities remain with the local authority.</p> <p>NB: The local authority may retain a small team of in-house staff to carry out</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local authority has direct control over the management and maintenance of the GI assets and is able to oversee the contractor to ensure maintenance operations are carried out to the required standard. Funding is provided annually and the local authority is generally not reliant on the GI asset to generate income. The grounds maintenance contractor can spread the costs of delivering the maintenance operations over a number of sites (economy of scales) reducing the overall delivery cost to the local authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local authority will need to monitor the grounds maintenance contract to ensure that required operations are delivered on time and to the specified standard. Internal pressure to reduce costs may lead to accepting low cost tenders from grounds maintenance contractors which may lead to a decline in the quality of GI assets. Local authority budgets are reviewed annually with the budgets for green spaces often competing with other local authority services. Additional funding may be available but will be dependent upon resources and the potential for development. 	<p>Runnymede Borough Council</p> <p>London Borough of Camden</p>

Delivery model	Management opportunities	Management implications	Example
specialist horticultural operations or to maintain key GI assets.			
Multi-agency public sector			
Local authorities and other public sector organisations pool financial and management resources and adopt a combined regional or sub-regional approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local authority has direct control over the management and maintenance of the GI assets and is able to oversee the contractor to ensure maintenance operations are carried out to the required standard. Funding is provided annually and the local authority is generally not reliant on the GI asset to generate income. The costs of delivering the maintenance operations can be shared by the local authorities. Potential for additional sources of funding and expertise. Potential to link with voluntary schemes to provide training and education. A broader spread of resources available to secure external funding. A strategic approach to management can reduce maintenance costs allowing more resources to be used on other GI assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be competing interests in the management of the GI assets Local authority budgets are reviewed annually with the budgets for green spaces often competing with other local authority services. Additional funding may be available but will be dependant of resources and the potential for development. 	Lee Valley Regional Park
Trusts			
GI assets are transferred to a Charitable Trust through a long term lease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trust would be formed of a dedicated team responsible for the management and maintenance of the specific GI asset. Trusts have financial benefits including tax relief and are eligible for a greater range of external funding. There are opportunities for local ownership and social enterprise to be realised through the development of a trust. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trust would need to ensure that the required skills and knowledge are available. Unless the Trust has income from an endowment or through rent received from property, they will need to be continually exploring funding opportunities. A dedicated funding arm to the Trust may need to be set up. 	Milton Keynes Park Trust Bank Side Open Spaces Trust (the London Borough of Lambeth) Coin Street Community Builders
Partnership opportunities			
The management responsibilities are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to finance the development and management of GI assets in different ways as some of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local authority may have limited control or influence over the 	River Nene

Delivery model	Management opportunities	Management implications	Example
<p>split between the local authority and partner organisations.</p> <p>Management responsibilities for strategic green space could be passed to other active GI management organisations via a long-term lease.</p> <p>The local authority would retain ownership and have some control over the management of the GI asset. However, most legal responsibility would transfer to the partner organisation.</p>	<p>the organisations may have access to external funding streams not available to local authorities.</p>	<p>management of the GI asset.</p>	<p>Partnership Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Forest of Marston Vale</p>
<p>Partnership opportunities – Parish and Town Councils</p>			
<p>Management responsibilities are split between the local authority and Parish/ Town Councils.</p> <p>Ownership of the GI assets and the associated legal responsibilities will transfer to the Parish/ Town Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish/ Town Council will have a keen interest to ensure that GI asset is managed to the appropriate standards. This approach can encourage local participation and interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local authority would have no control or influence over the management of the GI asset as the precedent for this scenario is the transfer of the freehold for the sites to the Parish/ Town Councils and legal responsibilities would also be transferred. The Parish/ Town Council may not wish to adopt all GI assets which may lead to local authority having to retain these assets or to combine two or more delivery models. The Parish/ Town Council would need to ensure that the required skills and knowledge are available. Unless the Parish/ Town Council has income from an endowment or through rent received from property, they will need to be continually exploring funding opportunities to ensure the appropriate management of the GI assets. A 	<p>Newbury Town Council</p>

Delivery model	Management opportunities	Management implications	Example
		dedicated funding arm to the Trust may need to be set up.	
Private management companies			
<p>Private management companies will be responsible for managing GI assets associated with a specific development.</p> <p>Legal responsibilities are transferred to the management company.</p> <p>The existing green space resource would be managed by the local authority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The responsibility for the managing the GI asset is held with the private management company reducing the risks to the local authority. • Long-term investment in the GI asset is ensured. • Private companies may have access to funding streams not available to local authorities. • Service charge could also be used for creating new spaces or management fees may be applied on new development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local authority would have very limited control over the management of the GI asset and influence over the management would need to be secured through planning and legal agreements. • This model may only be suitable for sites within proposed residential or commercial developments so wider GI assets would need to be managed by a complementary model. 	<p>Canary Wharf London</p> <p>Bo01 district, Malmo, Sweden</p>