



Securing our natural environment

Eastleigh Borough Council
Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2034

Dactylorhiza orchids at Wyvern Meadow

Purpose of this strategy

This strategy sets out our approach for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment in the Borough from 2024-2034. Reflecting the aims and obligations in legislation and in national, regional and Eastleigh Borough Council local policy, it provides the framework for delivery of a diverse natural environment and a greener future for the Borough. This strategy forms part of the Council's response to the climate change and environmental emergency.



Habitat management at Itchen Valley Country Park

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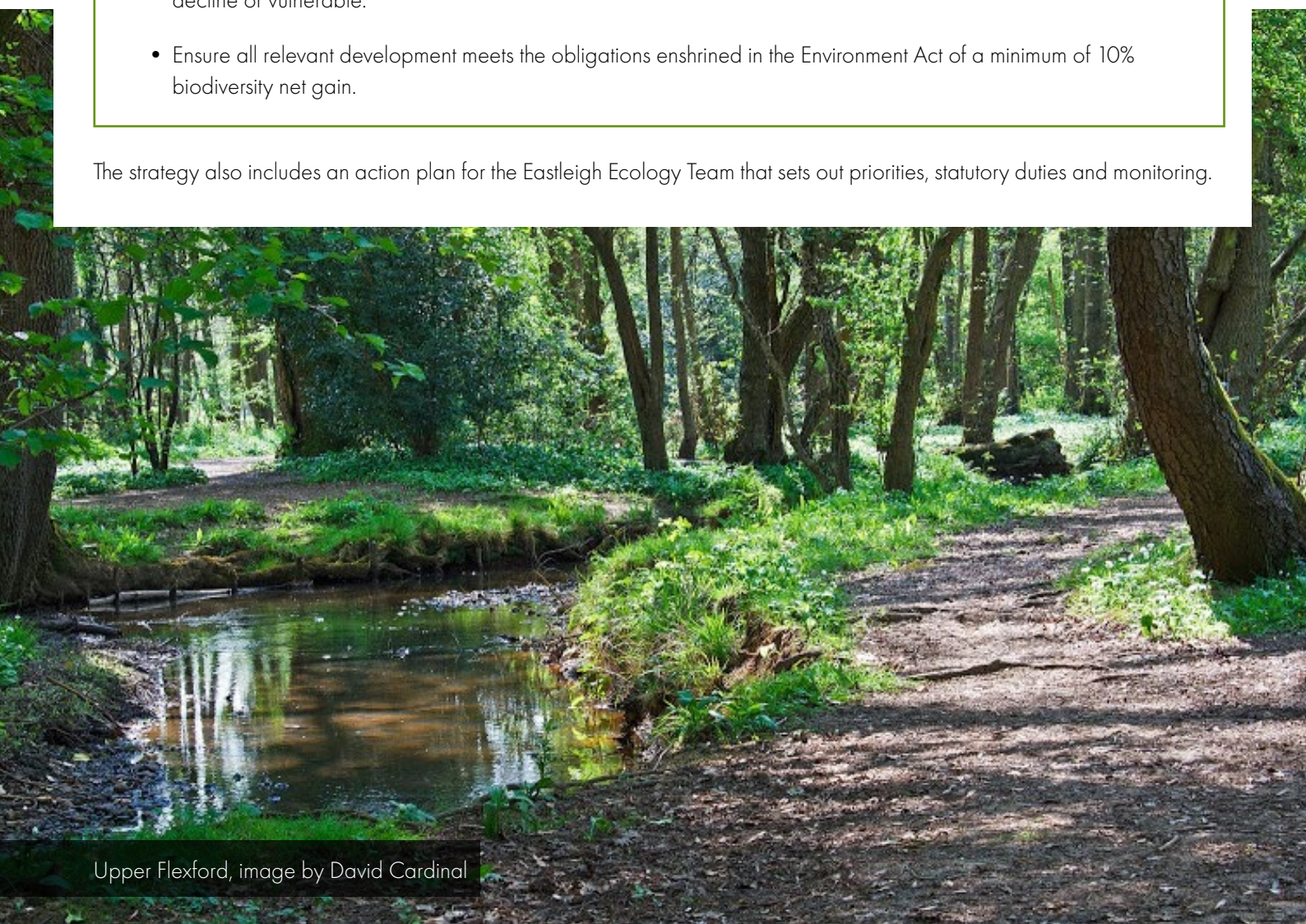
Executive summary

This overarching strategy addresses the issues facing biodiversity in the Borough. It provides a nature recovery strategy for the Borough by identifying priority biodiversity areas and links to assist and direct nature conservation. Delivery of the strategy will help protect, maintain, and increase our diverse habitats and create new habitats where possible. We will also seek to arrest the local decline and loss of species. This will not only benefit biodiversity, but through enhanced access to nature and natural green spaces it will benefit our residents by contributing to improved health and wellbeing.

As part of this strategy, we will:

- Create a minimum of 50 hectares of new habitat and restore a minimum of 50 hectares of existing habitat in priority areas.
- Plant 160,000 trees across the Borough by 2030. Planting trees of the right species and maturity in the right place will ensure the success of the trees and provide maximum ecological benefits.
- Seek to protect and improve existing designated nature conservation sites.
- Provide a 10% increase in the number of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- Take specific, measurable action to halt or reverse the decline of key species, so that fewer populations are in decline or vulnerable.
- Ensure all relevant development meets the obligations enshrined in the Environment Act of a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain.

The strategy also includes an action plan for the Eastleigh Ecology Team that sets out priorities, statutory duties and monitoring.



Upper Flexford, image by David Cardinal



River Itchen at Bishopstoke

1. Introduction – The current Eastleigh biodiversity resource

1.1 A brief overview of the Borough

Eastleigh Borough supports a broad range of important habitats and associated species across its 8,000 hectares. The Rivers Itchen and Hamble, their tributary streams and associated wet grassland define and influence the ecology of much of the Borough. Additionally, there are many areas of arable farmland, hedgerows, lakes and ponds, lowland grassland, pockets of heathland, and woodland. The Borough also contains part of the River Hamble estuary and a short section of coastline from Hamble Point to Netley. Identified in the original UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), these habitats are regarded as being the most threatened, requiring targeted conservation efforts.

Table 1. Priority habitat extent in Eastleigh (February 2023 HBIC data)

Priority habitat type	Area (ha)	Percent area (%)
Grassland		
Lowland dry acid grassland	0	0.00
Lowland meadows	64	5
Purple moor grass and rush pasture	47	4
Heathlands		
Lowland heathland	6	0.4
Woodland, wood pasture and parkland		
Lowland beech and yew woodland*	0.7	0.00
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland*	509	39
Wet woodland	166	13
Wood pasture and parkland*	1	0.00
Arable, orchards and hedgerows		
Hedgerows* (mapped in length km)	301	N/a
Traditional orchard*	0.3	0.00
Open water		
Standing water*	0.1	0.00
Rivers* (measured in km)	26	N/a
Wetlands		
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh*	262	20
Reedbeds*	9.2	0.70
Coastal		
Coastal saltmarsh*	30	2.30
Coastal sand dune	0.1	0.00
Vegetated coastal shingle	3.4	0.30
Intertidal mudflats	164	13
Total area = 1289 ha		

*These percentages reflect the mosaic of woodland and floodplain grassland associated predominantly with the Itchen and Hamble Valleys and the extensive mudflats associated with the Hamble estuary.

Designated sites

Approximately 73% of the priority habitats in Eastleigh are within sites which have some level of legal or policy protection through a formal nature conservation designation. The protection of habitats and their associated species is based on a tiered geographic system consisting of internationally important sites, nationally important sites and locally (generally at a county scale) important sites. Table 2 provides an overview of these sites in the Borough.

Table 2. Designated nature conservation sites in Eastleigh (March 2022 data)

Designation	Number of sites in Eastleigh	Area (ha)	% of land (8000 ha)
Internationally important			
Ramsar	1	184	2.16
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	2	296	3.47
Special Protection Area (SPA)	1	590	7.38
Nationally important			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	5	427	5.01
Locally important			
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	7	242	2.84
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	150	823	10.29

* note that some designations overlap in geographical area

More detail about the protected sites in the Borough and how they are treated within the planning system can be found in the [Eastleigh Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document](#).¹ The internationally designated sites are associated with the coastal/estuarine environment and the River Itchen corridor. Nationally important sites underpin these internationally important sites but also include an area of grassland at Moorgreen in West End. These sites (including Local Nature Reserves) are mapped on Defra's MAGIC website². An overview of the locations of nationally important sites is provided in Appendix One.

Appendix Two provides location information for LNRs and SINC. The locations of SINC can also be viewed on Eastleigh's online interactive mapping. Designation details of individual SINC can be obtained from HBIC.³

1.2 Biodiversity in Urban areas

The three urban areas of Eastleigh Borough are Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford and Hedge End. Bishopstoke, Fair Oak, Horton Heath, West End, Burseldon, Botley, Hamble and Netley are sizeable settlements. A large proportion of the Borough is considered to be suburban. **It is important that this strategy includes the biodiversity values and opportunities in these built-up areas as well as the more rural locations.**

We know that in some cases urban areas can have a higher species richness of bees than the more rural areas surrounding them.⁴ This is partly due to the increased nectar sources provided by gardens, parks, and allotments. Pollinators are by no means the only species that thrive in the urban environment and benefit from positive biodiversity

1 <https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/media/2392/biodiversity.pdf>. This is due to be updated.

2 <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

3 <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs>

4 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-14496-6>

action. Eastleigh’s gardens, allotments and parks are also home to a thriving population of slow worms. Colonies of swifts breed in the towns, bats roost in the Borough’s dwellings. Water voles and otters have been recorded around our urban water courses.

1.3 Recent Trends

The annual monitoring reports produced by HBIC allow us to compare the status of designated sites and important habitats from 2013 (at the beginning of the previous BAP) with the data from 2022 (Table 3).

Habitats tend to change relatively slowly, and this is reflected in the modest changes that have occurred over the period of the previous BAP. A small amount of priority habitat has been lost, but more of the remaining habitat (approximately 79%) is now protected within the boundaries of designated sites. The increase in the number of SINC’s over the period of the last BAP is reflective of the continued partnership work between the council and HBIC who designate and monitor these sites.

The apparent decline in condition of some areas of SSSI within the Borough is of concern. There has been an increase in habitat being categorised as being in unfavourable condition. One of the priorities of this strategy is to influence and facilitate the recovery of SSSIs to more favourable conditions.

Table 3. Baseline habitat comparison for Eastleigh 2013 to 2022

Indicator	March 2013 data	March 2022 data	Implication for biodiversity 2013 to 2022
Amount of priority habitat (ha)	1,264	1,289	2% gain
Priority habitat within designated sites (%)	71	79.4	12% gain
Statutorily designated sites (total number)	15	16	1 % gain
SSSI habitat in favourable condition (%)	46.9	44.81	4.5% loss
SSSI habitat in unfavourable recovering condition (%)	45.5	33.88	25% loss
SSSI habitat in unfavourable condition (%)	6.9	19.68	185% gain = loss for biodiversity
Sites of importance for nature conservation (SINC’s) (total number)	142	149	5% gain

1.4 Eastleigh Countryside sites

Eastleigh owns and manages a wealth of open spaces across the Borough. Itchen Valley and Lakeside Country Parks are two of the largest sites. They contain a diverse variety of habitats including ancient woodland, flower-rich meadows, open water, and part of the Itchen Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Hamble Common is in the far south of the Borough and has large areas of lowland heath and coastal fringe habitats. Combined with the many other areas of open green space managed by the council, these already provide a wealth of biodiversity and additional environmental benefits.



Countryside sites case study

Ashtrim Nursery SINc is located south of the Bishopstoke Road. It is sandwiched between two channels of the River Itchen, the Itchen Navigation on the eastern side and the Barton River on the west, both of which are part of the River Itchen SAC. During the autumn of 2009 a habitat creation project took place on the site which involved creating a slow-moving ditch meandering through Ashtrim. The ditch was created to form new habitat for southern damselflies which are a component species of the SAC.

Since 2012 (the beginning of the last BAP) the site has developed in terms of its ecological function and diversity. Positive management by Eastleigh's Countryside Service includes grazing, scrub management and ditch clearance. This has ensured that the site is now an important ecological feature in the Itchen water meadows complex.

The site now supports a medium-sized population of southern damselflies. Combined with another population located to the west of the recreation ground north of Bishopstoke Road this site is now a strategic link between the important populations of this priority species at Highbridge in the north and Allington Manor Farm/Itchen Valley Country Park in the south.

The wider site supports grassland with a diverse structure and blocks of scrub. This provides a range of micro-habitats for invertebrates and reptiles. It is designated as a SINc due to the presence of relic areas of unimproved grassland which are developing across the site.

More details on individual countryside sites can be found [here](#).⁵

5 <https://eastleigh.gov.uk/parks-leisure-and-culture/country-parks-and-open-spaces>

2. Understanding the value of nature – why is biodiversity important?

2.1 Nature is the foundation of our mental and physical health

There is growing evidence of the positive impact on health and wellbeing due to contact with the natural world⁶. This research has shown that spending at least 120 minutes per week in contact with nature is associated with good overall health. Seeing and interacting with nature as part of our recreation and exercise improves our physical and mental health.

This was recognised in the 2011 Government White Paper “The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature”⁷ which states:

“Our ambition is to strengthen the connections between people and nature. We want more people to enjoy the benefits of nature by giving them freedom to connect with it. Everyone should have fair access to a good-quality natural environment.”

2.2 Natural capital – further benefits of our natural resource

Natural capital refers to putting an economic value on the goods and services provided by nature. These include:

- **Pollination** needed to produce fruits and seeds. This is mostly animal-assisted, i.e. done by insects such as bees, rather than by wind
- **Biomass** The mass of plants, animals and fungi which provide food, fuel, wood, fertilisers, break down wastes, and enrich the soil
- **Water purification** the removal of pollutants and suspended solids such as sediment
- **Flood prevention** by wetlands, coastal habitats, and other natural floodplain systems
- **Carbon sequestration** storing carbon to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere
- **Temperature regulation in urban environments** particularly through tree canopy cover
- **Visual and sound amelioration** such as vegetation screening roads and buffering highway noise

The 2022 Natural Capital Assessment for the UK⁸ reports that:

- In 2020, the asset value of the aspects of UK natural capital we can currently value was estimated to be £1.8 trillion.
- Living near publicly accessible green and blue spaces added £2,819 million to house prices for increased recreational and aesthetic value.
- Within the UK, health benefits from recreation in nature are estimated as £600 billion.

6 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-44097-3>

7 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf

8 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/uknaturalcapitalaccounts/2022>

3. The climate change and environmental emergency

3.1 National and local recognition

Eastleigh Borough Council declared a climate change and environmental emergency in June 2019. In addition to setting out the council's priorities for carbon neutrality, the motion also recognised the **crisis facing the Borough's natural environment and the wildlife which depends upon it.**

3.2 The national biodiversity picture

In 2019 the *State of Nature* report for the UK⁹ documented the sweeping changes in our natural environment.

Over the last 50 years:

- 41% of species have decreased in abundance, versus 26% which have increased
- More species have decreased in distribution (27%) than have increased (21%)
- 53% of species are now showing a strong change in abundance (either up or down) indicating an increasing rate of rapid change
- 15% of the 8,431 species assessed in the report are in danger of extinction nationally with 2% already lost

3.3 The picture locally

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) monitors the population and distribution of 50 notable species in Hampshire over a rolling ten-year period (currently 2009-19).¹⁰

⁹ <https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/State-of-Nature-2019-UK-full-report.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/HBICAnnualBiodiversityMonitoringReport2021-2022.pdf>

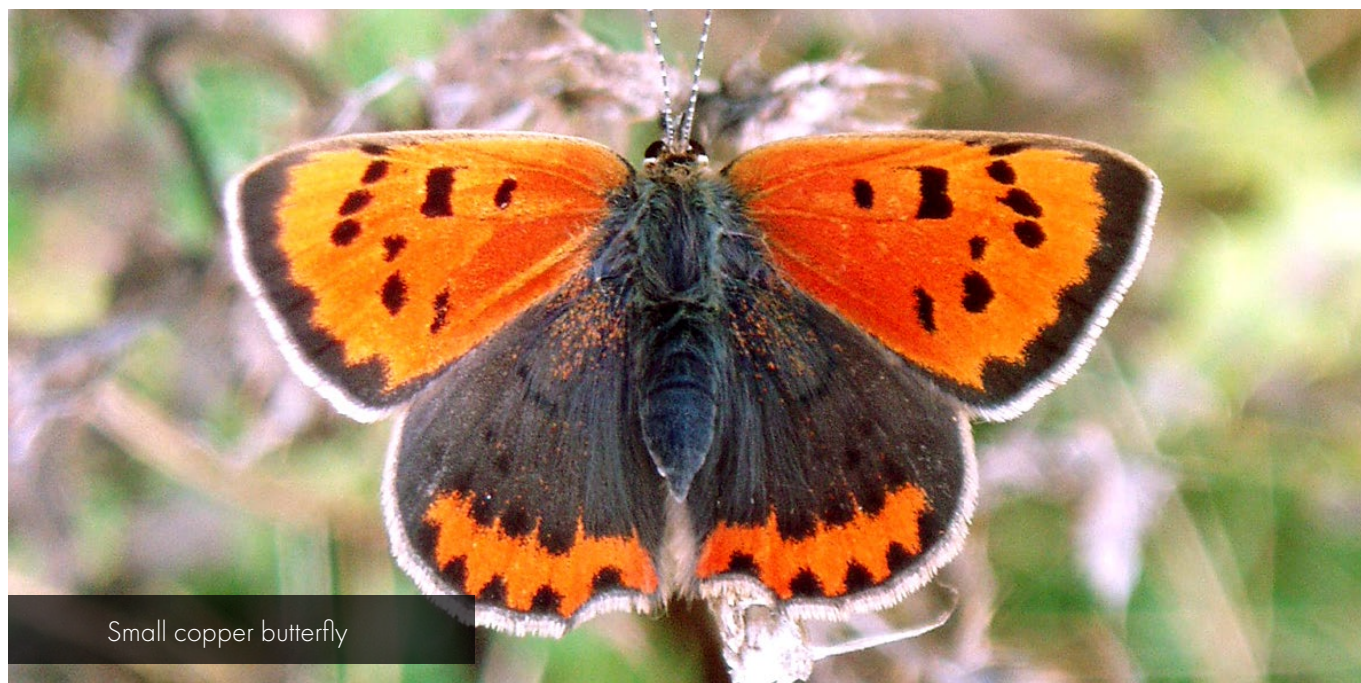
The monitoring shows that the last decade has seen declines in population of several of the county's notable species. Many of the populations considered to be stable in distribution are already at a vulnerable level. The number of species showing a decline has increased from 35% to 48%.

Twenty-six of those fifty species are found in Eastleigh Borough and twelve (46%) are in decline. Of the remaining species, eight (30%) are regarded as being stable but six of those are likely to be at a vulnerable status and two are "fluctuating." Only four species are increasing. These are the Dartford warbler (which is not currently breeding in the Borough) the silver-washed fritillary butterfly and the button snout and festoon moths.

We also know that across Hampshire many farmland birds are in serious decline,¹¹ with species such as tree sparrow and yellow wagtail being effectively extinct as breeding species in the county. Even species perceived as widespread and abundant are in decline, with breeding starlings down 19% since the late 80's. This monitoring provides only a sample of the many species in Eastleigh. A large proportion are likely to be in decline and positive action is required to arrest these losses.

While many species have suffered, there are key success stories in the Borough over the last BAP period. For example, we know from transect monitoring by Butterfly Conservation¹² that grassland species such as brown argus, marbled white and common blue have all increased since 2010. White-letter hairstreak, which is a Hampshire priority species, has also increased. This species can often be found in urban areas. The larvae will feed on cultivars of elm planted in urban landscaping schemes. Colonies are now known from Eastleigh, Stoneham, Lakeside, West End, Hedge End and Netley.

Southern damselflies are a primary designating species for the River Itchen SAC. Their numbers have been monitored by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) at the Itchen Valley Country Park water meadows since 2006.¹³ Following a decline from 2006 to 2016, numbers increased steadily in the period from 2017 to 2020, which is excellent news for this charismatic and rare species. The 2020 report also highlighted the impacts of good management on the water meadows and need for this to continue.



11 <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/hampshire2050/StateofNaturalEnvironmentReport.pdf>

12 <https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/surrey-and-sw-london-branch/transects-wcbs>

13 Rushbrook B and Selby T. (2021) Southern damselfly monitoring study: Itchen Valley Country Park – 2020 report. Arcadian Ecology & Consulting Ltd, Curdridge.

4. What are the factors affecting biodiversity?

4.1 Urbanisation and associated impacts

Housing, industrial development and associated infrastructure (i.e. roads, services) can impact on biodiversity in a number of ways. There can be direct loss of habitat through inappropriately located development. Increased fragmentation of important habitats makes ecological connectivity more difficult. Growth in human populations can lead to increasing recreational disturbance of important habitats and species if not appropriately mitigated. The Council has a strong record of insisting on mitigation of harm from development. As part of this strategy the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be updated to take account of the climate change and environmental emergency, and national legislation which will require all development (other than householder applications) to provide a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain.

4.2 Increased agricultural intensity and inappropriate management

We now know that farming practices over recent decades have had the single largest impact on UK wildlife. The great majority of that impact has been negative, which is a by-product of changes to increase farming efficiency.

More recently, agri-environment schemes have aimed to try and reverse or slow some of the biodiversity loss by paying farmers to employ wildlife friendly measures. These include creating flower-rich field margins, beetle banks, replanting hedgerows and protecting important habitat features. However, there is still much work to be done.

Inappropriate management of habitats may not all be directly related to agriculture. Loss of structure and species diversity can result from lack of woodland management or under-grazing species-rich grassland. Negative impacts on both the riverine environment and floodplains, which rely on periodic inundations of floodwater, can be caused by over-extraction of water for domestic and industrial uses.

4.3 Pollution

Although negative impacts from pollutants are reducing, this is still a factor in wildlife decline. There are a wide range of pollutants from a variety of sources which can impact upon wildlife, but currently the most significant local pollutants are excess nutrients (phosphates and compounds of nitrogen) in both water and air.

High levels of nutrients entering the water across the south Hampshire region, including Eastleigh, are having a detrimental effect on the internationally important wildlife sites that comprise the Solent coastal environment. The primary of sources for these nutrients are agriculture and wastewater from housing or other development. The increase of nutrients into the estuarine and coastal environment encourages a process called eutrophication, which leads to excess growth of algae that can cover the surface of the water, blocking the light. When the algae die, their decomposition uses up the oxygen in the water. This causes a decrease in all aquatic organisms, reducing the food available for other species, particularly wading birds.

The Council is fully engaged with Natural England and the Environment Agency on a programme of mitigating harmful effects from nitrates and phosphates, enabling sustainable development and provision of much needed new homes to continue. Land used to offset nutrient inputs could also be used to deliver additional environmental enhancement projects, delivering multiple benefits.

4.4 Impacts of climate change

According to Met Office reports, the average temperature of the UK has increased by 0.8°C between 1961 and 2020, with some areas increasing by more than 1°C.¹⁴ This is causing huge and observable impacts on nature in both land and sea. Recent work by Natural England has looked at priority habitats in the context of their potential vulnerability to climate change and how they may respond to future warming.¹⁵ The priority habitat types described in section 3.1 have been categorised as being of high (H), medium (M) or low (L) sensitivity. Those habitats in the high and medium categories are more likely to be affected in future climate scenarios. Figure 1 shows the proportion of Eastleigh Borough's priority habitats in the high (2%), medium (56%) and low (42%) categories.

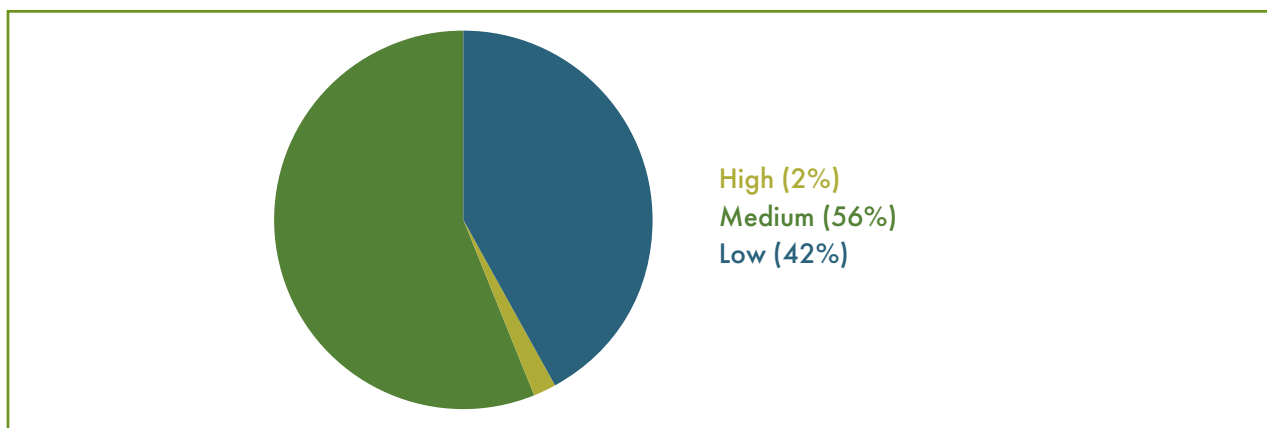


Figure 1: Priority habitat sensitivity to climate change in Eastleigh

Over half of the priority habitat in the Borough has a raised level of climate sensitivity. This indicates that there is some resilience, but we are likely to see changes in the future as the climate warms. One of the most vulnerable habitats is saltmarsh, which occupies a very narrow space between the marine and terrestrial environments. This habitat is susceptible to sea level rise, and increased frequency of storm events, and the human response to these factors such as building sea defences (known as coastal squeeze).

Saltmarsh is extremely important and supports many unique species of plants, acts as a nursery area for juvenile fish and feeding areas for birds. It is also extremely beneficial for sequestering and storing carbon.

Important saltmarsh can be found in the Borough, in pockets along the River Hamble, including Hamble Common, Hackett's Marsh and along much of the tideline in the Upper Hamble above the A27 Providence Hill Road. Research is being undertaken to test the feasibility of creating more saltmarsh habitat along the River Hamble and looking at the wider potential for habitat creation in the Hamble Estuary.¹⁶

Eastleigh has a substantial amount of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh habitat which is characterised by periodic inundation of water. This means that it is likely to be impacted by predicted changes to rainfall patterns and fluctuating periods of flooding and drought.

Most of this habitat is found along the Itchen Valley from the M27 and north through Bishopstoke, although other pockets can be found elsewhere.

Likewise, wet woodland spends much of the year in waterlogged conditions. Although the tree species themselves may be reasonably resilient, the habitat will respond depending on future rainfall patterns. Wet woodland is found in patches throughout the Borough and is characterised by willow, alder, birch and rushy grasses. **A significant proportion of Itchen Valley Country Park is classified as wet woodland.**

14 <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2021/9120-new-climate-normal>

15 <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5679197848862720>

16 <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/Hamble/RiverHambleSaltmarshandSoftSedimentHabitatRetentionFeasibilityStudy2016.pdf>

The Borough's lowland woodland makes up most of the low sensitivity habitat. While the habitat itself is resilient, a predicted increase in the frequency and severity of summer drought may impact some woodlands more than others, depending on the underlying soil type. There may also be shifts in the distribution of tree species, changing the characteristics of lowland woodland blocks.



Himalayan balsam control

Himalayan balsam is one of the UK's most invasive plants. Its spread has been rapid, colonising riverbanks, damp woodlands, road and railway corridors and scrub land since it first appeared in 1839. It is an annual and grows rapidly to head height, out-competing native plants for space, pollinators, and nutrients. This causes a reduction in biodiversity in the habitats it colonises.

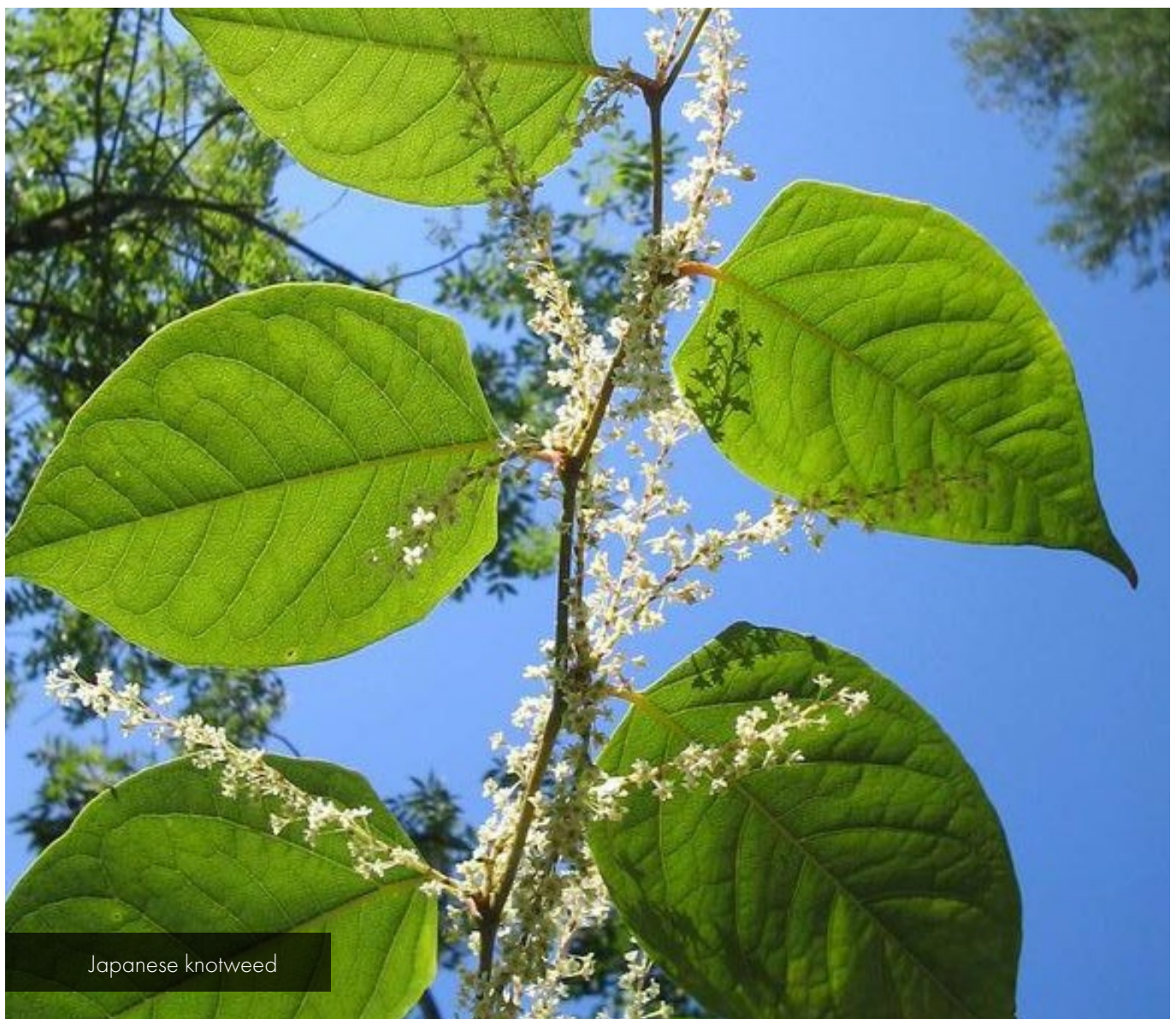
Eastleigh Borough Council has been involved in an extensive balsam eradication and control program over the last decade. This has been focussed on the River Itchen catchment, particularly on the Monks Brook and its tributaries. External funding has allowed the council to work in partnership with other organisations to extend this programme.

4.5 Invasive non-native species (INNS)

Non-native species can enter the local environment in a number of ways: through trade (e.g. on goods or plants); through accidental introductions/escapes; and deliberate release into the wild, which is a wildlife crime.

INNS can impact on existing biodiversity in a number of ways: they may compete with native species for resources (e.g. space, breeding places); they may actively feed on native species; they can bring diseases which native species are unable to tolerate; and they could breed or hybridise with native species damaging their unique identity and even leading to local or regional extinction.

Control is difficult or unrealistic for some INNS due to their large numbers and widespread distribution. Some of the better-known INNS within Eastleigh include Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed, mink, grey squirrels, terrapin, and signal crayfish. Ring-necked parakeets, now abundant in parts of Surrey and South London, are colonising the Eastleigh area.



5. Policy, strategies and plans

5.1 The bigger picture – Lawton and beyond

The Lawton Report (2010)¹⁷ stated that we need more sites that benefit wildlife, existing sites need to be bigger, they need to be better managed, and we need to link sites together via habitat creation initiatives. This simple formula is summarised as **more, bigger, better, and joined up**.

The government's more recent 25-year environment plan¹⁸ is informed by the underlying principles identified by Lawton. The Environment Act (2021) effectively brings into law the commitments to environmental recovery made in the 25 year Environment Plan and the documents that preceded it. The government has now committed to a new legal requirement that new development must result in a minimum of a measurable 10% net gain in biodiversity. This is a major shift in national policy, and it will be incumbent on local authorities to ensure that this is delivered in a way that maximises the opportunities for biodiversity. This principle is already embedded in the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) and the associated Natural Environment guidance.

5.2 The local view

In line with the pressures identified in section 4 of this strategy document, the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036) recognises that development could impact the Borough's biodiversity through direct impact, additional recreational pressure, pollution, and habitat fragmentation. The Local Plan provides revised nature conservation policies linked to the following objectives:

- **Developing green infrastructure:** providing green links between open spaces and providing and protecting a linked habitat network
- **Maintaining the identity of towns and villages:** protecting gaps between settlements
- **Protecting and enhancing biodiversity:** Ensuring protection and enhancement of designated and priority habitats within the Borough and endeavouring to create a cross boundary landscape scale habitat network.

The need for development and to protect / enhance biodiversity will be balanced in accordance with national and local policy. In the past this balance has focussed on protecting biodiversity designations and it is important this continues. However, the statutory requirements for biodiversity net gain and local nature recovery will deliver a step change by ensuring new development is accommodated alongside site specific and strategic enhancements to biodiversity.

The priority areas for nature recovery maps in Section 8 illustrate the areas with the most potential to achieve these statutory requirements. The most sustainable location for new development depends on a wide range of factors, of which the priority areas for nature conservation will be one. In some cases, taking account of all factors, these areas may on balance be considered the most sustainable locations for development. In these cases, it will be vital that the layout, design, and delivery of development supports the delivery of strategic biodiversity net gain as an integral part of creating new communities.

The policies, strategies and plans which underpin Eastleigh's biodiversity strategy can be found in [Appendix 3](#).

¹⁷ Lawton, J.H., Brotherton, P.N.M., Brown, V.K., Elphick, C., Fitter, A.H., Forshaw, J., Haddow, R.W., Hilborne, S., Leafe, R.N., Mace, G.M., Southgate, M.P., Sutherland, W.J., Tew, T.E., Varley, J., & Wynne, G.R. (2010) Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network. Report to Defra

¹⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

5.3 Regional approach – the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH)

A number of environmental strategies and aims have been developed through the work of PfSH. These include a green infrastructure strategy and a mitigation strategy for achieving nutrient neutrality.



6. Key biodiversity principles and mechanisms for strategy delivery for Eastleigh

Our response to the ecological emergency

Core principles:

- ▶ Protect
- ▶ Reverse declines and restore
- ▶ Extend and expand
- ▶ Manage, maintain and monitor
- ▶ Educate and engage

6.1 Biodiversity strategy core principles

This strategy is composed of five core principles and a series of documents that will ensure its delivery. Within each principle there are actions which can be undertaken to provide measurable gains for biodiversity.

These five principles are:

1. Protect

To protect biodiversity, we will:

- Undertake an audit of Eastleigh-owned sites to establish present baseline conditions and existing habitat value
- Set out clear ecology guidance and expectations for planning applications and planners to protect habitats and species
- Continue to work with HBIC to protect the existing resources and increase the number of SINC's in the Borough **by 10%** by the end of this strategy period
- Undertake a baseline assessment of the of the existing habitats in the Borough to understand their contributions to carbon storage

2. Reverse and restore

To reverse species declines and restore biodiversity, we will:

- Begin restoration of a minimum of **50 hectares** of habitat in the Borough's priority areas and links by the end of this strategy
- Ensure that relevant planning applications follow the mitigation hierarchy, contribute to restoring habitats and deliver **a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain**

- Work with local area teams, parish councils and other council services to support biodiversity restoration projects
 - Improve the condition of our SSSIs
 - Provide support to apply for Government Environmental Land Management Grant schemes on EBC land
 - Identify and undertake specific projects to restore populations of key species in the Borough
 - Use the planning system to maximise species restoration opportunities (e.g inclusion of built-in habitat such as swift bricks and bat bricks and encouraging biodiverse planting for pollinators)
-

3. Extend and expand

Taking Lawton’s “more, bigger, better, and joined up”, we will:

- Create a minimum of **50 hectares** of new habitat in the Borough’s priority areas and links by the end of this strategy period
 - Ensure that relevant planning applications deliver a **minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain** and contribute to creating the right habitats in the right places
 - Plant **160,000 trees** in the Borough by 2030 in line with principles developed in the Eastleigh Tree Strategy
-

4. Manage, maintain and monitor

To ensure our sites are managed and maintained effectively and progress is monitored, we will:

- Secure appropriate management plans for sites (EBC assets and third-party sites where relevant) to ensure maximum biodiversity benefit
 - Work closely with other EBC services to maximise the benefits to biodiversity from our maintenance programmes
 - Continue to support and lead work in the Borough (and wider river catchments) controlling invasive non-native species (INNS)
 - Report annually on progress against the targets set in this document and the associated delivery documents
-

5. Educate and engage

To ensure that all our residents benefit from the Borough’s natural resource we will:

- Involve our residents in shaping our priorities and projects through consultation and the opportunities to suggest specific schemes
- Encourage our residents to partake in recording and reporting biodiversity in the Borough
- Continue to involve residents in conservation volunteering tasks in the Borough
- Ensure fair access to nature for all our residents
- Educate residents and visitors about accessing nature in a sensitive way that does not compromise the wildlife value of sites



7. Resourcing

The Council has expanded the Ecology team in recent years to reflect the need for strong controls on development and management of our ecological assets. In addition, these teams also help to deliver biodiversity outcomes:

- Countryside
- Country parks
- Urban and landscape design
- Trees
- Development management
- Streetscene

A large proportion of the Council's ecology work is carried out as projects funded by developer contributions or external grant funds. Therefore, much of the action to deliver this strategy is dependent on external funds. The Council has been successful in accessing external grant funding and will continue to invest time in securing funds to deliver more biodiversity benefits.

8. Priority areas for nature recovery

8.1 Introduction

Our ambitious biodiversity strategy for Eastleigh sets broad targets for habitat creation, habitat restoration and species recovery. The priority areas and links identified in the following sections are intended to guide these targets into areas where the most benefits can likely be achieved for biodiversity in the Borough. However there are also opportunities which exist outside of the priority areas and links boundaries.

Measurable Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) will be mandatory for development projects from November 2023 following the Environment Act (2021) becoming law. Following the mitigation hierarchy, BNG should be delivered onsite in the first instance. As a last resort some BNG could potentially be delivered off-site with bespoke schemes or contributions to existing schemes. Our priority areas and links can guide developers in terms of locations and the type of project that could maximise biodiversity benefits and provide BNG.

The technical detail of how BNG will be delivered in the Borough will be supported through further government guidance and an updated Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document to support policy DM11 in the Eastleigh Local Plan.

Policy DM11 states:

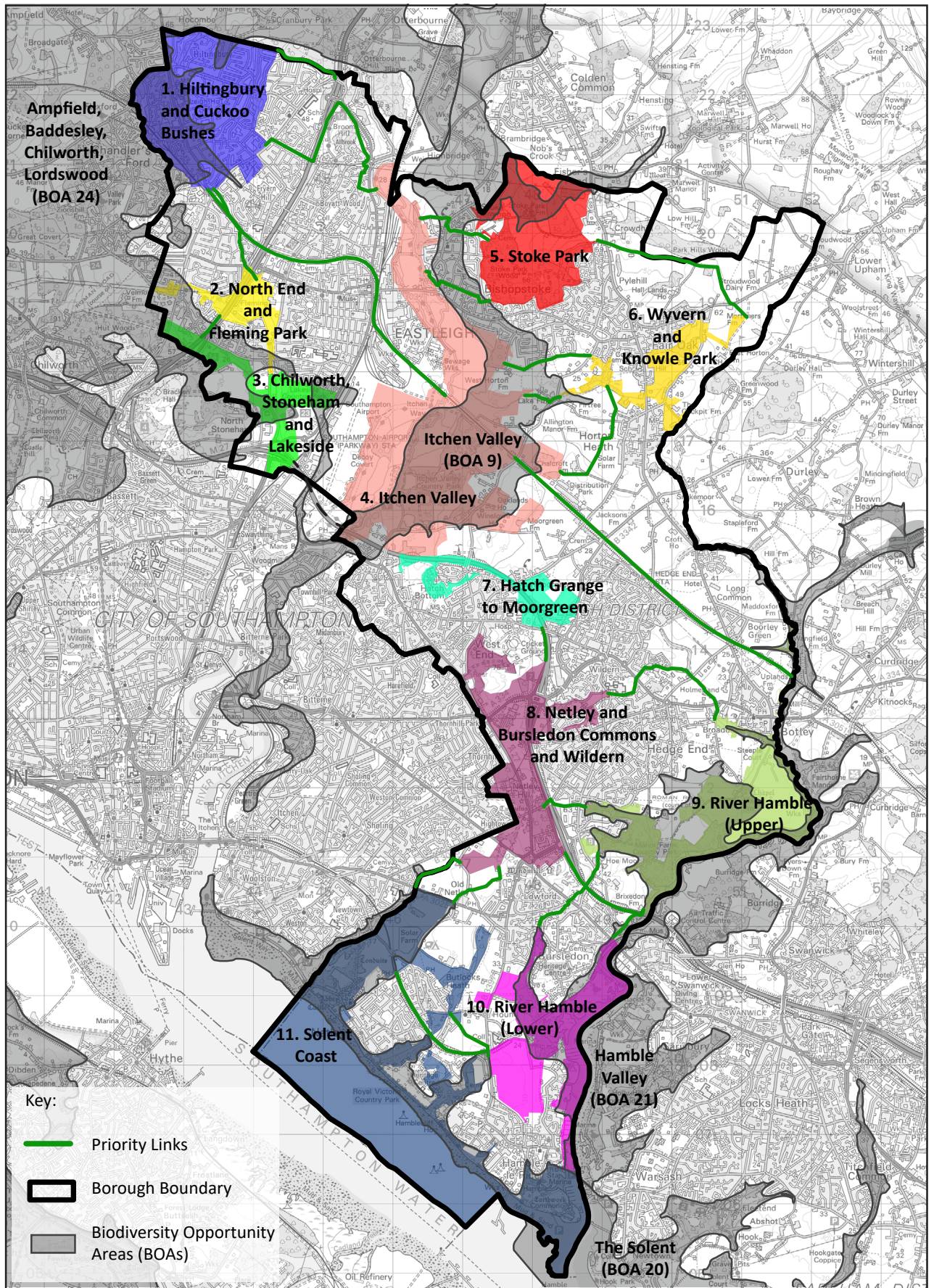
*“The Borough Council will work with statutory and voluntary agencies and developers to: Protect, conserve and enhance networks of natural habitats and features, including the **priority biodiversity areas and priority biodiversity links identified in the Eastleigh Borough Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2022**, and watercourses and wetland complexes, woodland trees and hedgerows important to biodiversity and local character.”*

An overview of the priority areas and links is provided overleaf, with larger scale individual maps for each priority area.



Netley Common

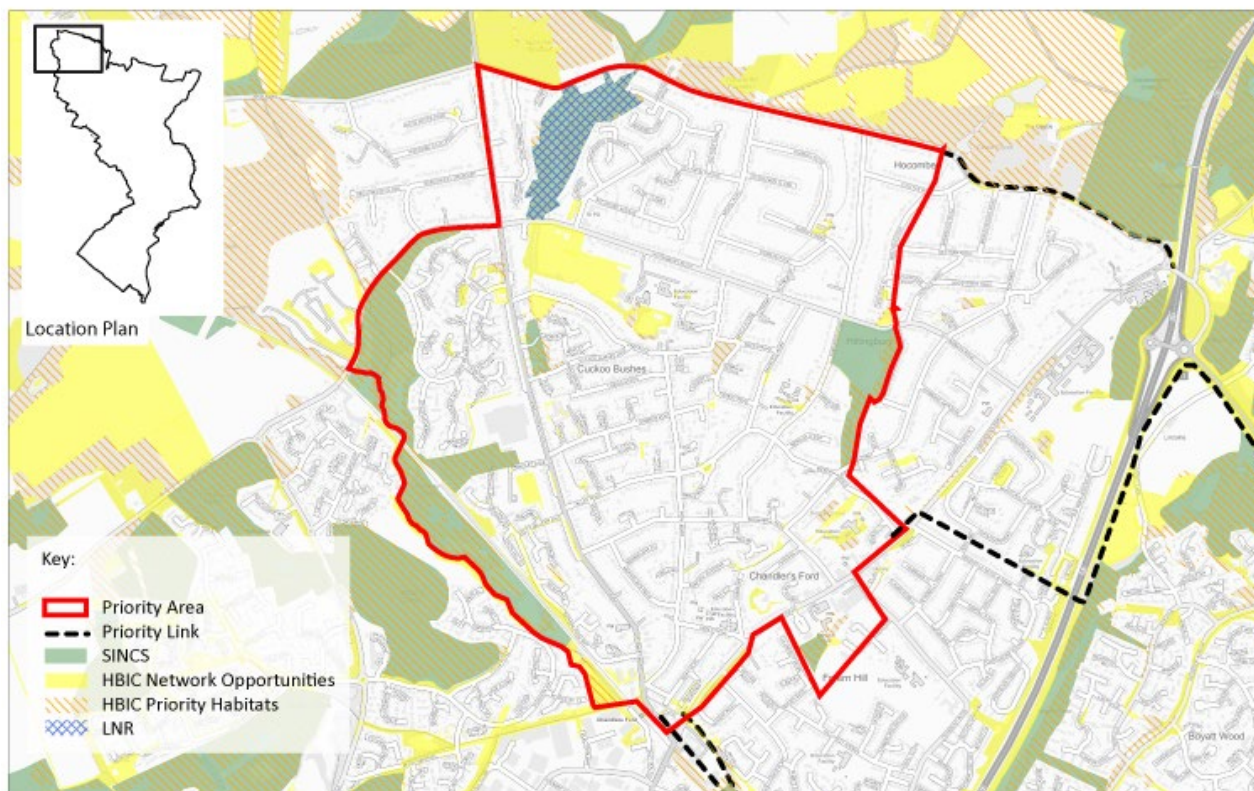
Map 1: Priority areas and links



Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan

8.2 Priority areas for nature recovery

Area 1. Hiltingbury and Cuckoo Bushes



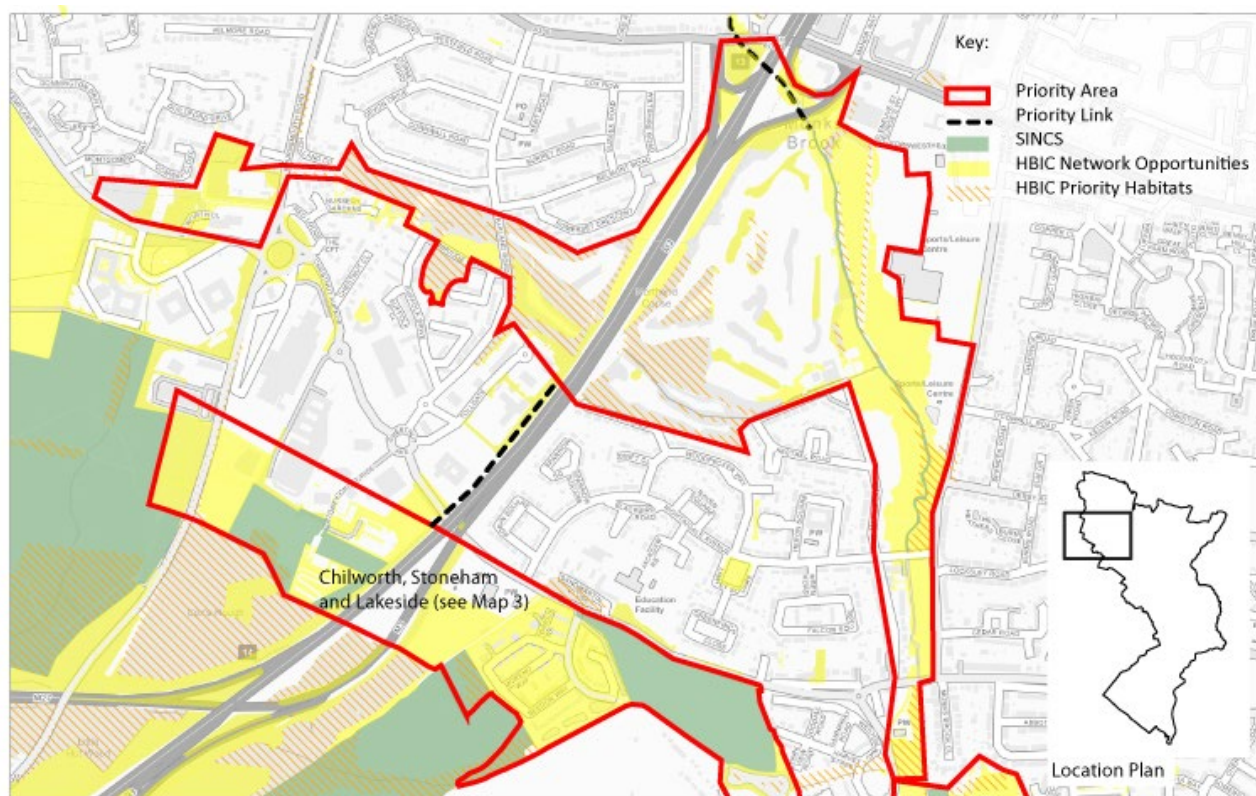
Description	<p>A mosaic of oak and wet alder carr woodland and flower-rich, rushy pasture along the western boundary of this area links to similar habitats over the Borough boundary into Test Valley and Winchester. To the east of the area is Hiltingbury Lakes historic park and garden. All of the sites are linked along the Monks Brook its and feeder streams which is a tributary of the River Itchen. The residential areas of Hiltingbury and Cuckoo Bushes are included within the priority area boundary due to the high tree cover (covered by a woodland Tree Preservation Order) helping to link all the habitats together as well as being important ecological features in themselves.</p>
Size	333.05 ha

Local Area	Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury
Parish	Chandler's Ford
Biodiversity opportunity area	24 Ampfield-Baddesley-Chilworth-Lordswood
Designated nature conservation sites	Local Nature Reserves (LNR): Hocombe Mead Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs): Hocombe Mead, Baddesley Road Woodland, Upper Flexford Nature Reserve, Ramalley Copse, Lower Flexford Nature Reserve, Cuckoo Bushes Lane, Hiltingbury Lakes
Key habitats for nature recovery	Purple moor grass and rush pasture, wet woodland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, mixed scrub
Key species for nature recovery	Slow-worm, grass snake, bats (at least five species), hedgehog, firecrest, house sparrow, marsh tit, song thrush, starling, lesser spearwort, butcher's broom, annual knawel, white admiral, silver-washed fritillary, stag beetle.
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership, Test and Itchen INNS project, Hiltingbury Lakes Restoration Project, Flexford Nature Reserve Management Plan, Hocombe Mead Management Plan.



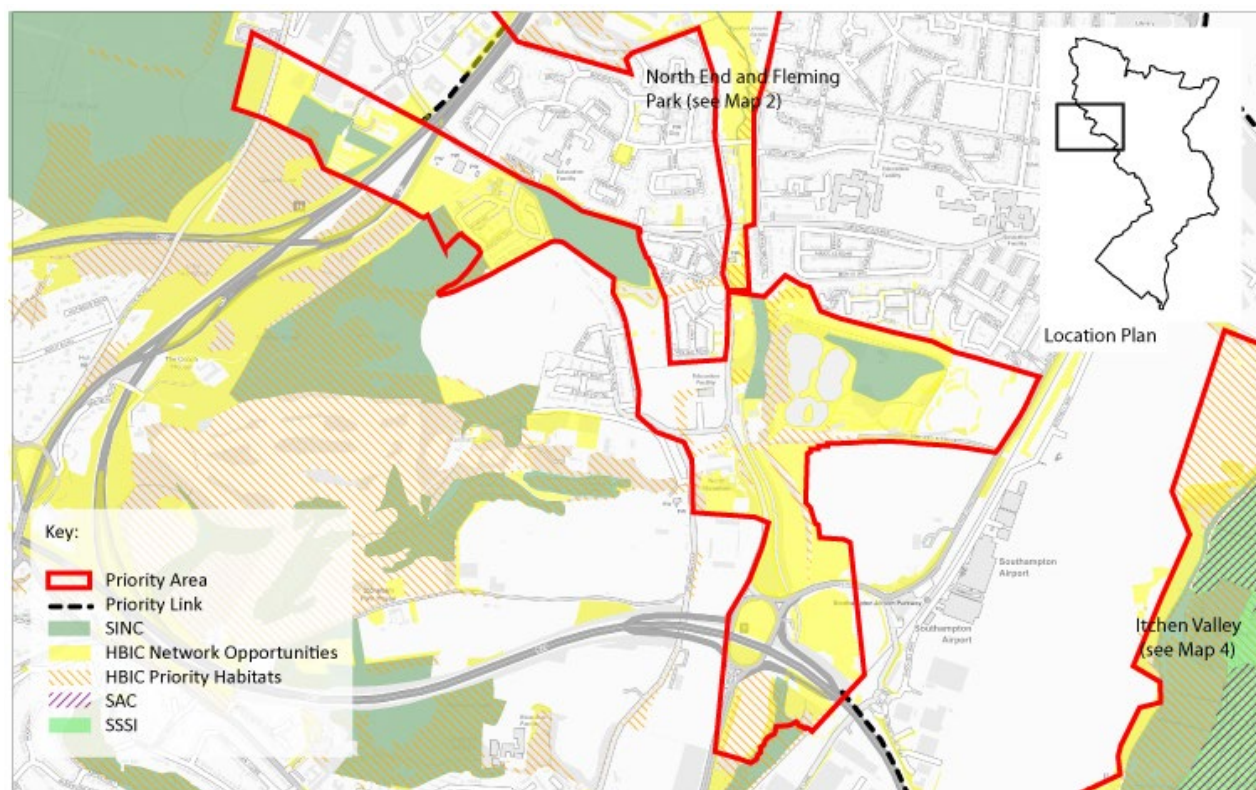
Hocombe Mead, image by David Cardinal

Area 2. North End and Fleming Park



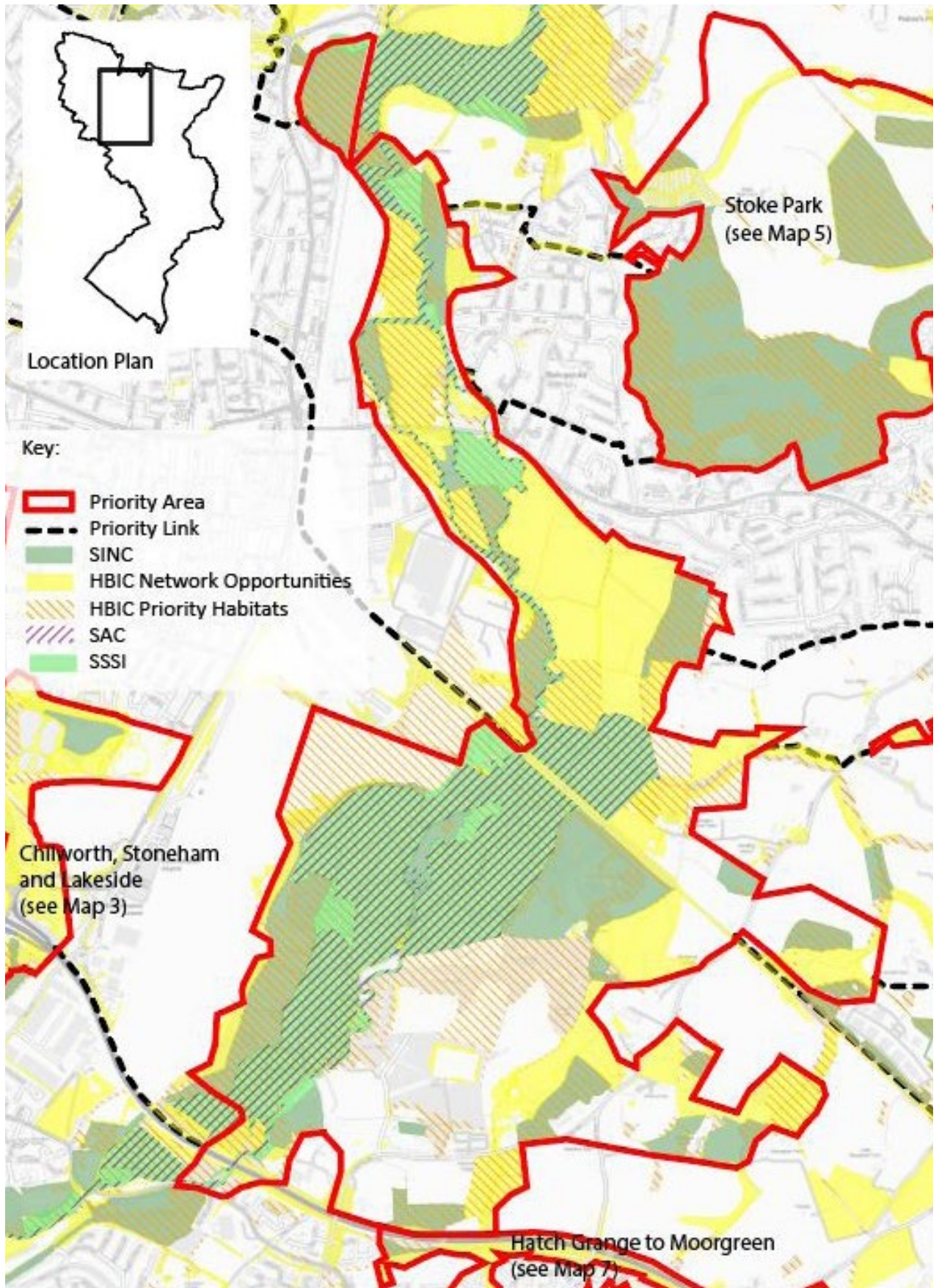
Description	Fleming Park is a former golf course which has been opened up for recreation. The Monks Brook flows along the eastern boundary. A relaxation of the management has allowed areas of meadow to develop along with tree planting initiatives. Blocks of woodland in the west of the park would formerly have linked to the woodland of North End Copse on the west of the M3 motorway. To the west of Bournemouth Road there are several other blocks of woodland which stretch to the Borough boundary beyond Templars Way.
Size	63.38 ha
Local Area	Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford and Hilingbury
Parish	Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford
Biodiversity opportunity area	24 Ampfield-Baddesley-Chilworth-Lordswood
Designated nature conservation sites	SINCS: Monks Brook Fleming Park, North End Copse
Key habitats for nature recovery	Wet woodland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, mixed scrub, lowland meadow, chalk river.
Key species for nature recovery	Slow worm, bats (at least five species), song thrush, house sparrow, swift, small heath, white-letter hairstreak, stag beetle, water vole, hedgehog.
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership, Test and Itchen INNS project, Fleming Park Enhancement Project, Tiny Forest project.

Area 3. Chilworth, Stoneham and Lakeside



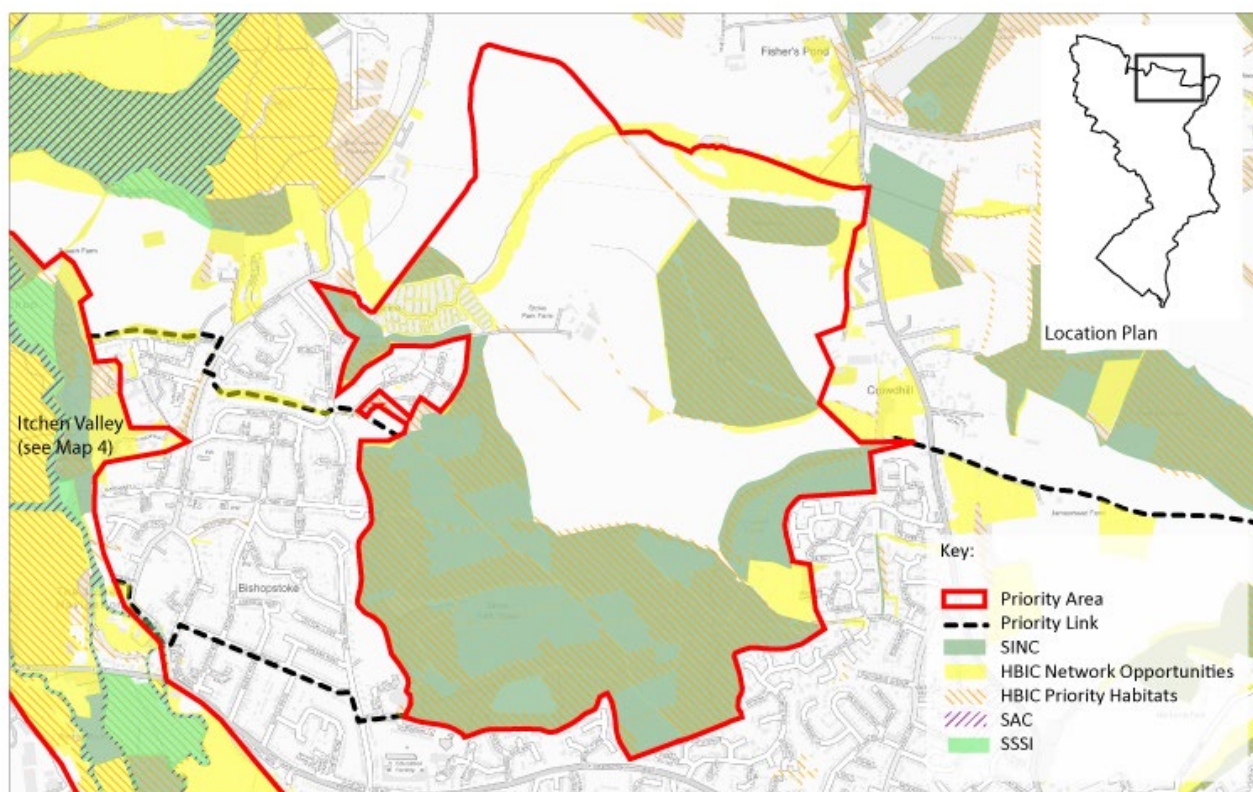
Description	This priority area is particularly notable for its reptile populations, especially that of the declining adder in the western half. It probably represents a remnant metapopulation of what would have once been a much larger population in the landscape. The habitat is comprised of lowland woodland blocks and lowland grassland, which is drier in the west tending towards wetter, more fen-like towards Lakeside Country Park in the east. The lakes at Lakeside Country Park support a diverse assemblage of wintering waterfowl and the Monks Brook corridor supports water voles and otters.
Size	111.58 ha
Local Area	Eastleigh
Parish	Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford
Biodiversity opportunity area	24 Ampfield-Baddesley-Chilworth-Lordswood, 9 Itchen Valley
Key habitats for nature recovery	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, eutrophic standing waters, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, wet woodland, chalk river, mixed scrub.
Key species for nature recovery	Adder, common lizard, slow worm, common toad, bats, waterfowl assemblage, butcher's broom, corn spurrey, weasel's snout, water vole, hazel dormouse, harvest mouse, small heath, white-letter hairstreak, stag beetle
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Freespace Management Plan, Avenue Park Management Plan, Lakeside Country Park Management Plan (Green Flag), Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership, Test and Itchen INNS project

Area 4. Itchen Valley



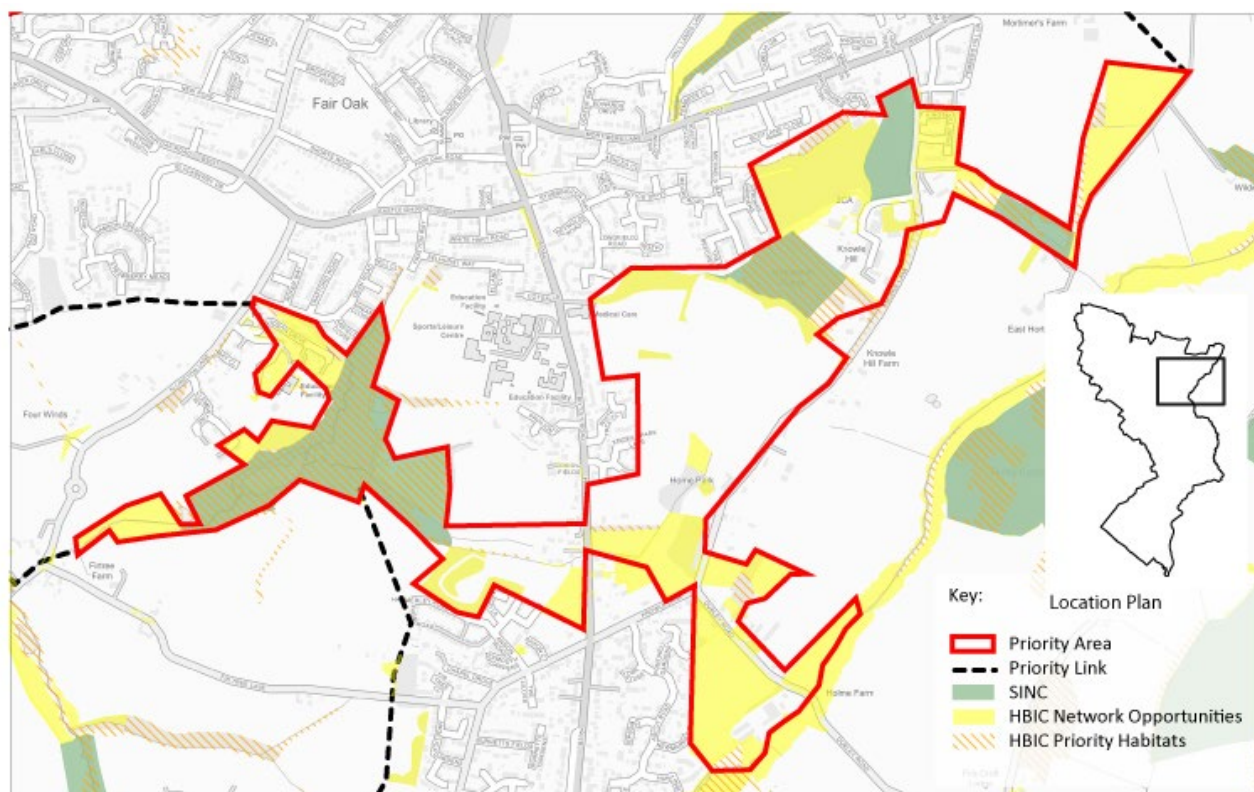
Description	The River Itchen is a classic chalk river of global significance, typified by shallow, crystal clear water running over gravel beds which support an exceptionally diverse floral and faunal community. Along its length in Eastleigh there are extensive areas of unimproved fen, carr and herb-rich floodplain meadows. There are numerous blocks of woodland set within the wider valley landscape including the extensive Itchen Valley Country Park as well as the former extraction sites at Hog Wood. Collectively the riparian, grassland and woodland habitats bring together numerous protected and notable species into a relatively small geographic area.
Size	675.47 ha
Local Area	Eastleigh; Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath; and Hedge End, West End and Botley
Parish	Allbrook and North Boyatt, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh and West End
Biodiversity opportunity area	9 Itchen Valley
Designated nature conservation sites	Special Area of Conservation (SAC): River Itchen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): River Itchen SINC: Allbrook Hill Copse, Ham Farm Meadow, Meadow Between Railway and River Itchen, Breach Farm Meadows, Breach and Gully Copses, Swamp West of Recreation Ground, Ashtrim Nurseries, Marshy Grassland Bishopstoke, West Horton Farm Woods, Stanford Meadow, Meadow North of Railway, Allington Farm Pond, Hearts Copse, Hog Wood and Gravel Pits, Allington Manor Farm Water Meadows, Hogwood Lane Meadow, Hogwood Lane Drove, Itchen Valley Country Park, Itchen Valley Nature Reserve, Portsmouth Water Company Lagoons and Woodland, IVCP South Parkland East, Home Covert, Meadow Adjacent to Home Covert, Winslowe House Meadow, Copse by Oakland House, Bushy Copse West End, Withybed Covert/Ridgeway Copse, Dummers Copse North.
Key habitats for nature recovery	Chalk river, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, hedgerows, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, reedbeds, traditional orchards, wet woodland
Key species for nature recovery	Southern damselfly, water vole, otter, salmon, European eel, great crested newt, grass snake, bat assemblage, bullhead, brook lamprey, white-clawed crayfish, water crowfoot, lapwing, snipe, reed warbler, sedge warbler, Cetti's warbler, barn owl.
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Test and Itchen INNS project, Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership, Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy 2021, River Itchen SAC Conservation Objectives, Portsmouth Water Biodiversity Grant Scheme, Southern Damselfly Monitoring, Itchen Valley Country Park management Plan (Green Flag) including Water Meadows Management Plan and Woodland Management Plan

Area 5. Stoke Park



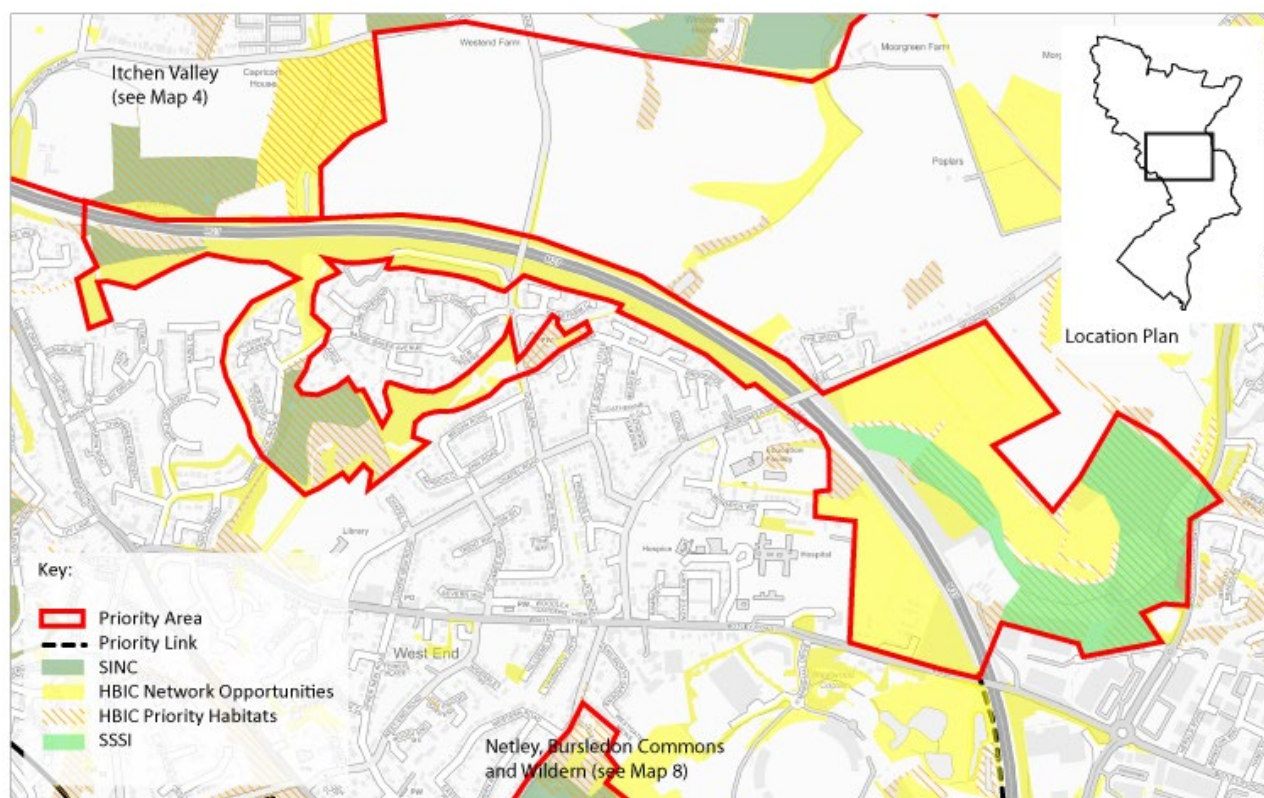
Description	This is a particularly wooded part of the Borough, with the large commercial plantation of Stoke Park Wood. There are also several other areas of ancient woodland including Upper Barn and Crowdhill Copses which are owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. The farmland which sits between the woodland blocks is criss-crossed with hedgerows which link the landscape together.
Size	254.37 ha
Local Area	Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath
Parish	Bishopstoke and Fair Oak and Horton Heath
Biodiversity opportunity area	9 Itchen Valley
Designated nature conservation sites	SINC: Stoke Park Wood, Crowdhill Copse, Upperbarn Copse, Hill Copse Fair Oak and Horton Heath, Poplar Plantation (Stoke Park Wood), Judges Gully Copse, Judges Gully Meadow, Brick Kiln Copse Bishopstoke
Key habitats for nature recovery	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, wet woodland, hedgerows, lowland meadows, ponds
Key species for nature recovery	Common toad, great crested newt, grass snake, Important bat assemblage (including barbastelle and whiskered bat), ancient woodland indicator plant community, woodland bird assemblage (including marsh tit and firecrest), white admiral, silver-washed fritillary
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Woodland Management Plans for Upper Barn and Crowdhill Copse, Stoke Park Wood, EBC Stoke Park Farm public consultation

Area 6. Wyvern and Knowle Park



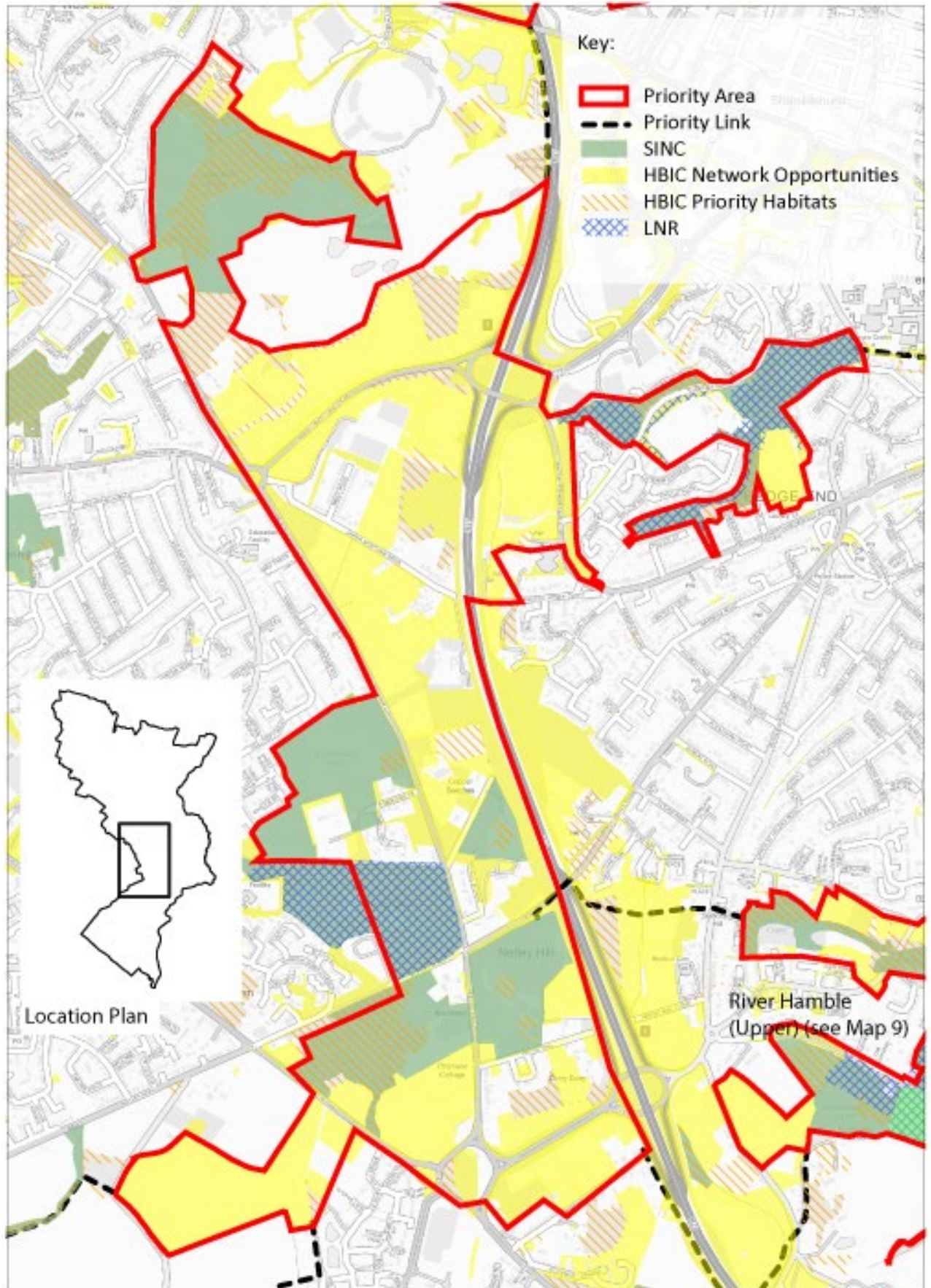
Description	This area is comprised primarily of grassland interspersed with areas of wet woodland. Some of the wet meadows are very flower rich and full of orchids and represent some of the best examples in the Borough. This area also covers an important population of great-crested newts in the pond complex in and around Quobleigh Woods. To the east of the area is Knowle Park which is managed by Fair Oak Parish Council. This area is comprised of woodland and grassland rising up to a high point with excellent views of the Borough and surrounding area.
Size	90.24 ha
Local Area	Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath
Parish	Fair Oak and Horton Heath
Biodiversity opportunity area	none
Designated nature conservation sites	SINCs: Quobleigh Pond and Woods, Ponds and meadow adjacent to Wyvern, Wyvern Technology College Meadow, Knowlehill Copse, Knowle Lane Open Space, Land at Knowle Lane Fair Oak.
Key habitats for nature recovery	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, hedgerows, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pasture, wet woodland, mixed scrub
Key species for nature recovery	Great crested newt, stag beetle, grass snake, important bat assemblage, lesser spearwort.
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Test and Ichen INNS project, Quobleigh Woods Management Letter (S106)

Area 7. Hatch Grange to Moorgreen



Description	The meadows of Moorgreen SSSI are botanically rich and surrounded by wet woodland which runs along the edge of the Moorgreen stream. This is a remnant of what would have been a much larger area of wet meadows prior to the construction of the M27 motorway. Moorgreen links to the meadows and woodland of Hatch Grange located to the northwest along the wooded fringe of the M27 corridor.
Size	79.24 ha
Local Area	Hedge End, West End and Botley
Parish	West End, Hedge End
Biodiversity opportunity area	none
Designated nature conservation sites	SSSI: Moorgreen Meadows SINCs: Dummers Copse South, Hatch Grange Meadows, Moorgreen Woodlands
Key habitats for nature recovery	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, neutral grassland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, wet woodland, mixed scrub
Key species for nature recovery	Marsh orchid species complex, grass snake, spotted flycatcher, tall ramping fumitory, hedgehog.
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Moorgreen Meadows Management Plan

Area 8. Netley and Bursledon Commons and Wildern

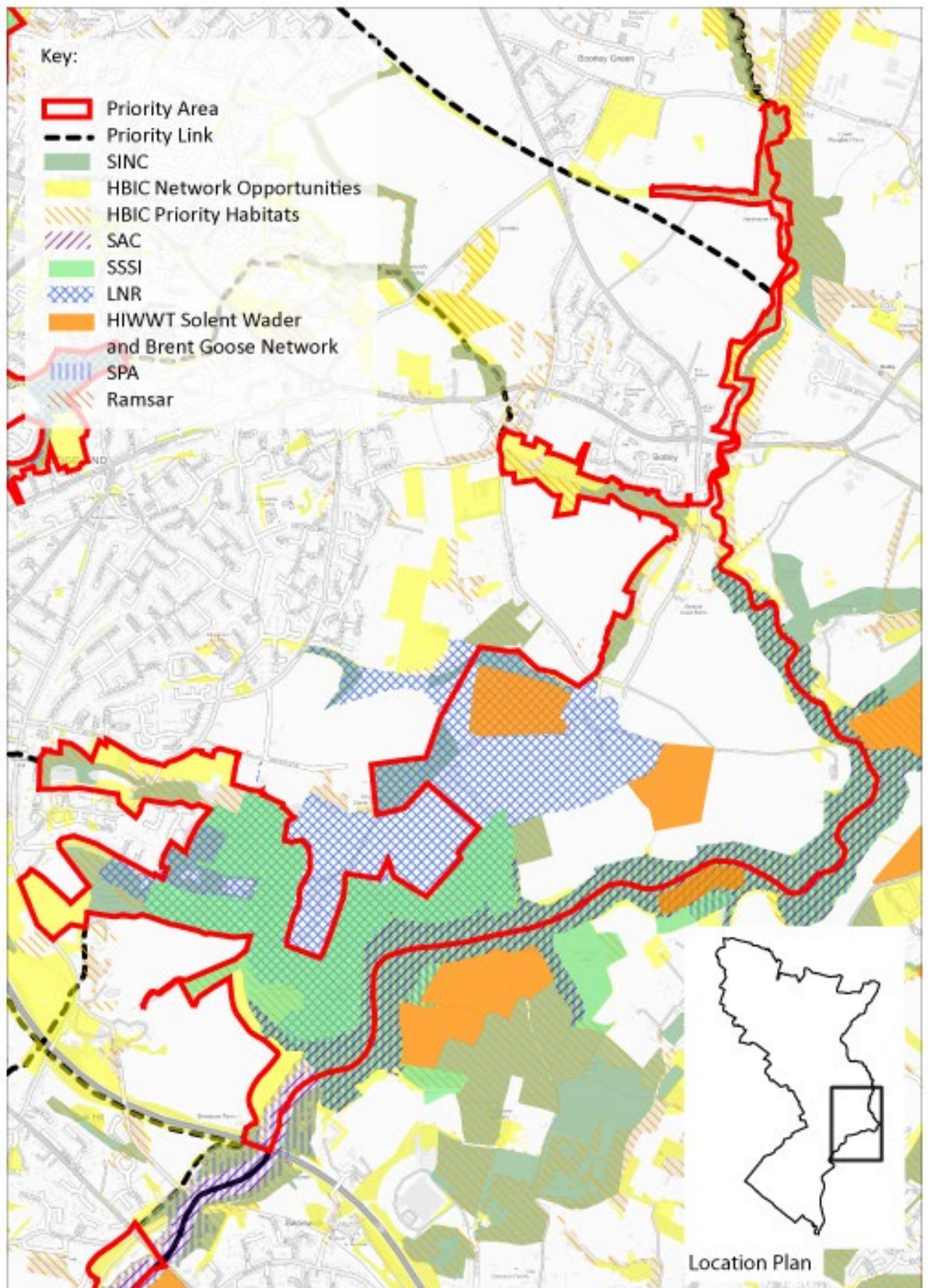


Description	The majority of this priority area is comprised of former common land and the habitat that remains are fragments of this once much larger, contiguous area. There are still areas of heathland to be found between residential areas and also within small glades in the remaining larger blocks of woodland such as Dumbleton's Copse and Telegraph Woods. To the east of the M27, Wildern LNR comprises a number of ponds, wet meadows, valley mire and woodland in a relatively small area making for a very diverse site.
Size	248.53ha
Local Area	Hedge End, West End and Botley and Bursledon, Hamble and Hound
Parish	West End, Hedge End, Bursledon
Biodiversity opportunity area	none
Designated nature conservation sites	LNRS: Wildern, Netley Common SINCS: Telegraph Woods, Hogsty Corner, Wildern Nature Park, Bridget Mary Garden, Dumbleton's Copse, Netley Hill Heath, Netley Common, Windhover (Netley Common South), Peewit Hill.
Key habitats for nature recovery	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland heath, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, wet woodland, and ponds
Key species for nature recovery	Adder, common lizard, grass snake, slow worm, European eel, dormouse, <i>Odonata</i> assemblage, small heath, stag beetle, sundew species complex
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Wildern LNR Management Plan, Telegraph Woods Management Plan



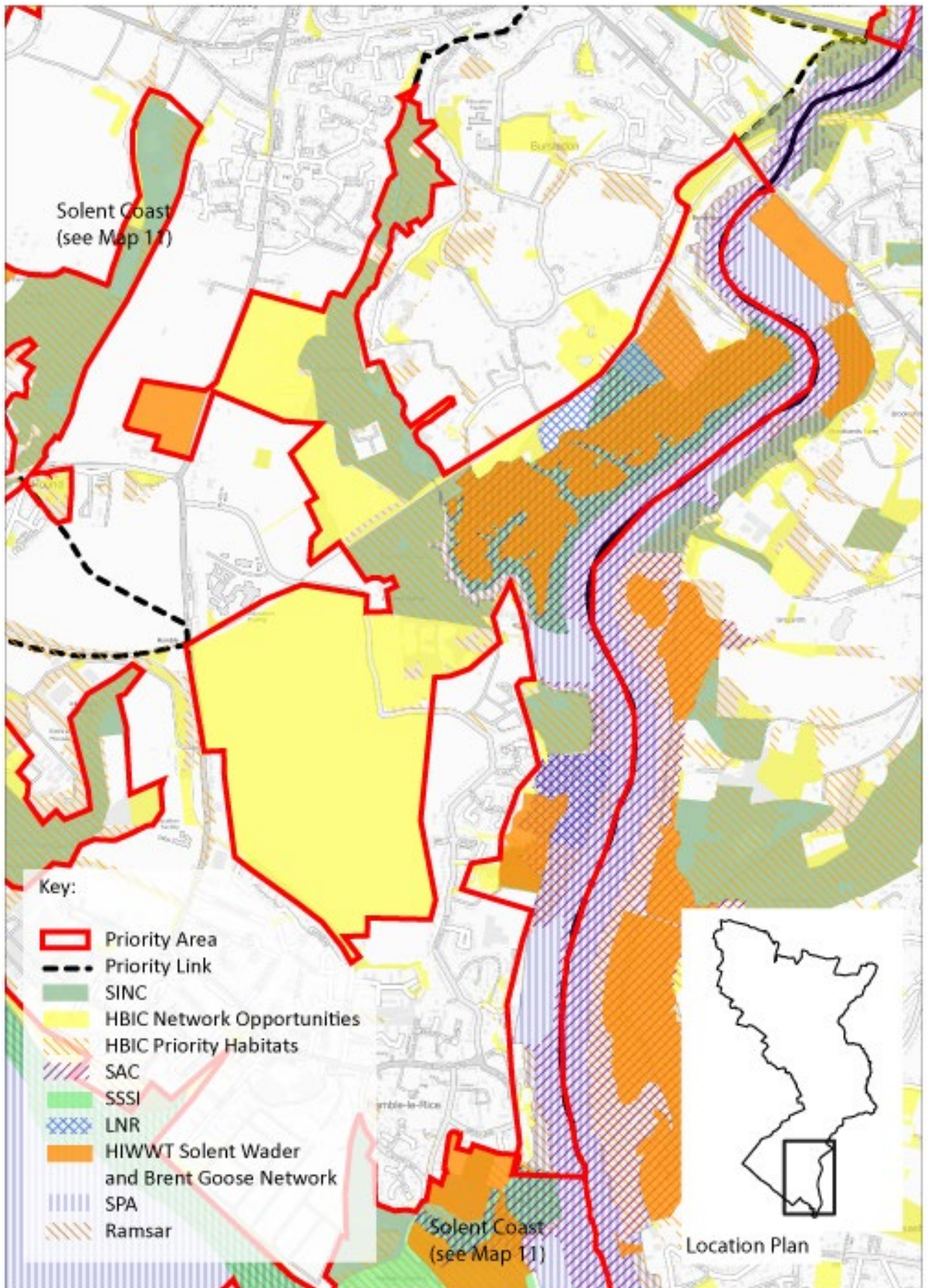
Juvenile Adder

Area 9. River Hamble (Upper)



Description	The upper Hamble valley is characterised by broadleaved ancient woodland and arable farmland flanking the tidal Hamble estuary. The larger area of woodland at Manor Farm links to Long Copse that runs along the western edge of the Hamble. The tidal influence means that there are areas of saltmarsh and intertidal mud fringing the low water mark. The diversity of habitats makes this an area rich in biodiversity interest.
Size	299.04 ha
Local Area	Hedge End, West End and Botley; Bursledon, Hamble and Hound
Parish	Botley, Hedge End
Biodiversity opportunity area	21 Hamble Valley
Designated nature conservation sites	SAC: Solent Marine Special Protection Area (SPA): Solent and Dorset Coast LNR: Manor Farm SSSI: Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods
Key habitats for nature recovery	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, reedbeds, wet woodland, mixed scrub.
Key species for nature recovery	Important bat assemblage (including Bechstein's and barbastelle), Brent goose, winter wader assemblage, shore horsetail, glasswort species
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy, Bird Aware Solent, Solent Seascape Project, Hamble Estuary Partnership, River Hamble Soft Sediment Retention Feasibility Study, Saltmarsh restoration projects (University of Portsmouth)

Area 10. River Hamble (Lower)

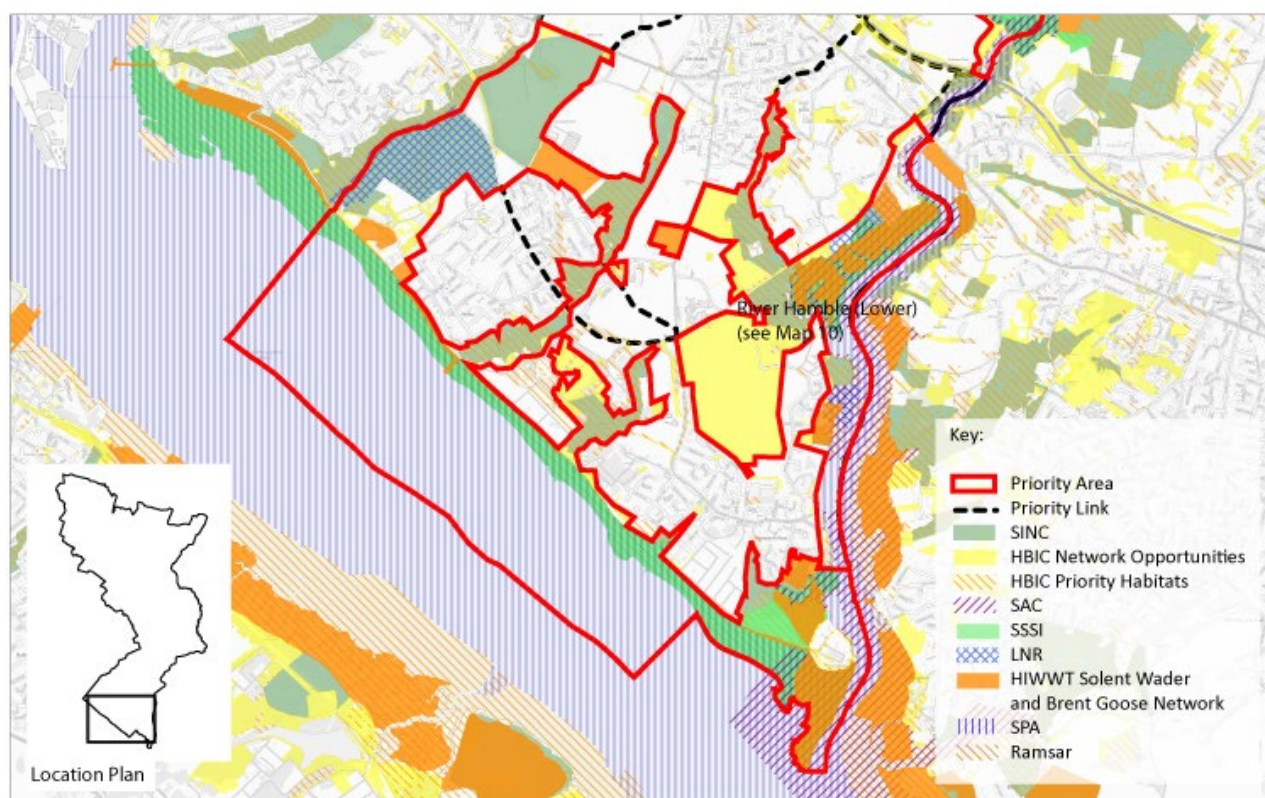


Description	Below the A27 bridge the character of the lower Hamble valley differs from that of the upper valley. The lower Hamble is flanked by Bursledon and Hamble-Le-Rice and its associated residential development and maritime infrastructure such as the extensive marina basins. There are a number of creeks featuring saltmarsh habitat, some broadleaved woodland and extensive intertidal mudflats.
Size	247.37 ha
Local Area	Bursledon, Hamble and Hound
Parish	Hamble-le-Rice, Hound, Bursledon
Biodiversity opportunity area	21 Hamble Valley
Designated nature conservation sites	SPA: Solent and Dorset Coast LNR: Mercury Marshes, Hackett's Marsh SINCs: Mercury Marsh South, Mercury Marina Saltmarsh, Badnum Copse, Mallards Moor, Piland's Wood (Upper), SSSI: Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes
Key habitats for nature recovery	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh, coastal sand dunes, intertidal mudflats, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, reedbeds, and wet woodland
Key species for nature recovery	Brent goose, winter wader assemblage, glasswort species, native oyster, Kattegat orache
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy, Bird Aware Solent, Solent Seascape Project, Hamble Estuary Partnership, River Hamble Soft Sediment Retention Feasibility Study, Saltmarsh restoration projects (University of Portsmouth)



Hamble Common

Area 11. Solent Coast



Description	This priority area features extensive areas of intertidal mudflats, vegetated shingle, saltmarshes, reedbeds, marshy grasslands, acid grassland, heathland, soft rock cliffs and deciduous woodland. The site is an integral part of the wider Southampton Water which is of international importance for overwintering wildfowl and waders. There is also an outstanding assemblage of scarce coastal plants.
Size	743.27 ha
Local Area	Bursledon, Hamble and Hound
Parish	Hound, Hamble-Le-Rice
Biodiversity opportunity area	20 The Solent and 21 Hamble Valley
Designated nature conservation sites	SPA: Solent and Dorset Coast LNR: Westwood Woodland Park SINCs: Hamble Common West, Hamble Common North, Petters Copse, West Wood (Royal Victoria Country Park), Netley Lodge, St. Mary's Road Wood, Priors Hill Copse/Hound Copse, Priors Hill Brickworks, Netley to Hamble Shore, Weston Greenway, West Wood (Hound), West Wood Central Grassland, West Wood Grange Field, Netley Farm Closed Landfill Site, Burrows Copse (Remnant) SSSI: Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary

Key habitats for nature recovery	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh, coastal vegetated shingle, intertidal mudflats, lowland beech and yew woodland, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland heathland, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, reedbeds, wet woodland, and wood-pasture and parkland.
Key species for nature recovery	Brent goose, winter wader assemblage, Dartford warbler, common lizard, small heath, shore horsetail, sea buckthorn, common glasswort
Relevant existing projects, strategies and plans	Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy, Bird Aware Solent, Solent Seascape Project



Hamble foreshore

9. Priority biodiversity links

Priority biodiversity links are potential wildlife corridors that link the biodiversity priority areas. They include stream and river corridors, scrub, woodland, and grassland, footpaths, bridleways, hedgerows, vegetated road verges and railway embankments. Twenty-two priority biodiversity links are identified within the Borough, and additional natural links exist from Eastleigh Borough to biodiversity areas in the adjacent Boroughs. The links between priority areas are shown in green on [Map 1](#) in section 8.1.

Table 4: priority links

Number	Name	Links	Details	Habitats	Length (m)
1	Hocombe Road	Area 1 with M3 corridor	North of Hocombe Rd	Woodland	973.98
2	Allbrook	Area 1 to Area 4	Links Hocombe Road to Itchen Way mostly on existing footpaths and road verges.	Woodland, road verge, grassland, footpath, river itchen	3516.41
3	Bow Lake Walk	Area 4 to Area 5	Links River Itchen to Stoke Park Wood	Woodland, road verges	1246.49
4	Jamesmead	Area 5 to Area 6	Links Stoke Park Wood to Knowle Park	Woodland, hedgerow with trees, defunct hedgerows, agricultural or grazing land, golf course	2657.05
5	Railway 1	Area 1 to Area 4	Railway corridor from Chandlers Ford to Itchen corridor	Scrub with trees, bare soil, brownfield mosaic, ruderal vegetation, areas of bare soil and gravel , hardstanding	5137.7
6	Railway 2	Area 4 to Area 9	Railway corridor from Itchen corridor to River Hamble (upper)	Scrub with trees, bare soil, brownfield mosaic, ruderal vegetation, areas of bare soil and gravel, hardstanding	5096.28
7	M27 corridor 1	Area 3 to Area 4	Chilworth Stoneham and Lakeside to River Itchen	Scrub with trees, grassland, ruderal vegetation	1203.21
8	M27 corridor 2	Area 7 to Area 8	Connects Hatch Grange to Moorgreen with Netley and Bursledon Commons and Wildern	Scrub with trees, grassland, ruderal vegetation	472.91
9	M27 corridor 3	Area 8 to Area 9	Connects Netley and Bursledon with River Hamble (upper) also crosses other links connecting to River Hamble (lower) and Solent Coast	Scrub with trees, grassland, ruderal vegetation, bare soil, paved road	1632.92

Number	Name	Links	Details	Habitats	Length (m)
10	River Hamble 1	Area 9 to Area 10	Connects River Hamble (upper) to River Hamble (lower) and links to M27 corridor 3	Paved road with mudflats along eastern edge, trees and scrub along western edge	637.64
11	Railway 3	Area 10 to Area 11 and Area 11 to itself	Connects River Hamble (lower) to two areas of Solent Coast	Woodland, scrub with trees, grassland, ruderal vegetation	1946.28
12	Tickleford Gully	Area 11 to Area 8	Connects Netley and Bursledon Commons and Wildern to Solent Coast	Stream running through woodland	851.64
13	Bursledon 701 path	Area 11 to Area 8	Connects Netley and Bursledon Commons and Wildern to Solent Coast	Grassland, scrub with trees, ruderal vegetation	950.37
14	Hound 5 path	Area 11 to itself	Connects Hamble station to Hound Way along the edge of Hound Corner Ecology Park	Hedgerow, defunct hedgerow with trees, grassland, ruderal vegetation, woodland	880.01
15	Dodwell Lane stream	Area 9 to Area 10	Connects River Hamble (upper) to River Hamble (lower) and links to M27 corridor 3	Woodland, stream, possibly culverted through housing estate	1571.53
16	Sunday to Netley Hills	Area 8 to Area 9	Connects Netley and Bursledon Commons and Wildern to River Hamble (upper)	Road verge, hedgerow, grassland, scrub, ruderal vegetation, woodland	702.41
17	Woodhouse Gully	Area 8 to Area 9	Connects Netley and Bursledon Commons and Wildern to River Hamble (upper)	Woodland, stream	2298.86
18	West of Burnetts Lane	Area 4 to Area 6	River Itchen to Wyvern and Knowle Park	Hedgerow, hedgerow with trees, grassland, ruderal vegetation, woodland	1853.37
19	Firtree Farm	Area 4 to Area 6	River Itchen to Wyvern and Knowle Park	Stream, hedgerow, woodland, grassland, scrub	565.49
20	Bishopstoke 744 path	Area 4 to Area 6	River Itchen to Wyvern and Knowle Park	Hedgerow, hedgerow with trees, woodland, grassland and scrub	1293.21
21	Chestnut Avenue	Area 2 to Area 3	Along west side of M3 embankment	Woodland and scrub	404.43
22	Monks Brook	Area 1 to Area 2	Along Monks Brook from Bournemouth Road to Fleming Park	Stream corridor	1513.83
				Total length	37406.02m

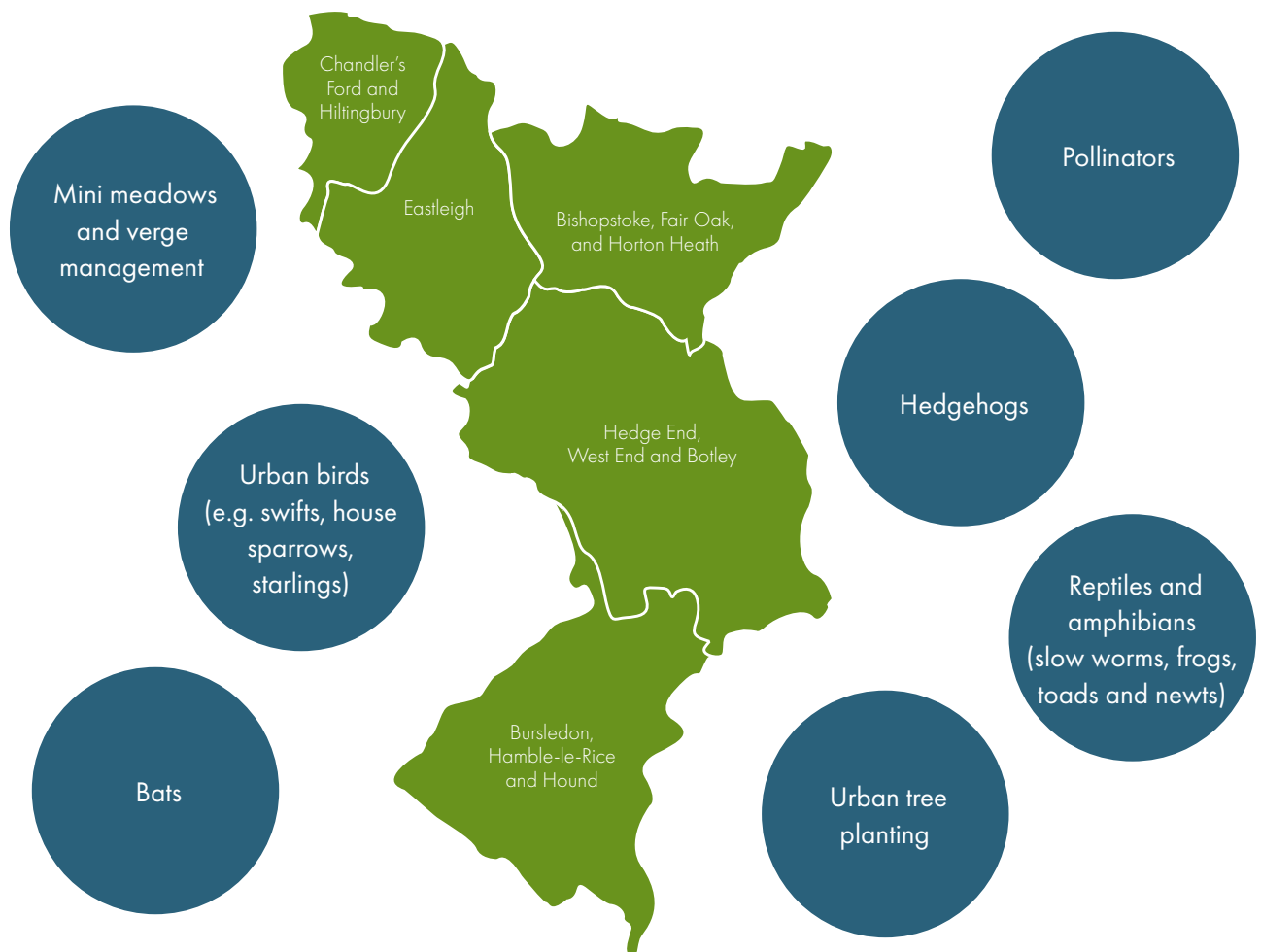
10. Biodiversity priorities for urban areas

The major town in the Borough is Eastleigh, with other major urban areas in Chandler's Ford and Hedge End. Bishopstoke, West End, Fair Oak, Horton Heath, West End, Bursledon, Hamble and Netley could also be classed urban settlements to a greater or lesser degree.

Some of these urban areas and their associated species are included within the priority areas and links. However, the contribution that all urban areas can make to nature recovery is well known, with public greenspace, water courses, allotments, and gardens and even the buildings themselves offering opportunities to enhance biodiversity.

Protected species such as bats, nesting birds, amphibians and reptiles and badgers often live in urban and suburban areas. They are usually protected because their populations have been decreasing. This is often due to loss of suitable habitat. Developments need to provide space for protected species to remain in place where possible and not eliminate these important habitats.

Figure 2. Urban biodiversity priorities for Eastleigh



All planning applications are required to demonstrate no net loss of biodiversity (Local Plan policy DM1) and biodiversity enhancement (Local Plan policy DM11). The Environment Act 2021 will require 10% biodiversity enhancement when it comes into effect (planned for November 2023). We can help wildlife thrive by providing biodiversity enhancements.

In urban areas these can include:

10.1 Urban tree planting

Flowering and fruiting trees and shrubs can provide food for pollinating insects, birds, and small mammals. Although evergreen trees and shrubs are sometimes preferred in domestic gardens for their screening properties, they should not be the dominant plants in an urban or suburban garden. Trees can also provide shade and cooling to urban and suburban areas and habitat for nesting birds, roosting bats, and squirrels. Tree roots stabilise soil and create additional habitat for invertebrates. Decomposing trees provide rotten wood for stag beetles and other decomposers. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen during photosynthesis and can trap some pollutants, removing them from the environment.

10.2 Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs need to be able to move freely through the gardens in their territory, to have untidy garden areas where they can shelter and hibernate, and enough of their natural diet such as worms, beetles, slugs, caterpillars, earwigs and millipedes. Gardens should have at least two un-obstructed hedgehog holes in the baseboards of fences (13 x 13cm minimum) and a quiet corner with a pile of leaves and branches. Chemicals such as slug pellets and herbicides should not be used and hazards such as rubbish, litter or netting which could entrap or harm small animals need to be avoided.

10.3 Reptiles and amphibians

A garden pond and a compost heap are good habitat features for frogs, toads, newts, and common reptiles such as slow worms. Ponds also provide water for birds and small mammals, habitat for invertebrates such as dragonflies, damselflies and other insects that can be eaten by birds and bats.

10.4 Pollinators

A range of flowering plants, shrubs and trees that flower successively over a long season is essential for pollinating insects. Fruit and vegetable crops are more successful when pollinators are welcomed to the garden. Night-scented flowering plants attract moths as food for bats.

10.5 Mini-meadows and verge management

Creating mini-meadows and mowing verges less frequently allows wildflowers and grasses to flower and set seeds. They are more sustainable and require less maintenance than closely mown lawns. They attract pollinators such as butterflies and bees and provide seeds for birds and other wildlife.

10.6 Bats

Bats help regulate insect populations by eating midges and mosquitoes among others. Built-in or externally mounted bat bricks, tubes and boxes can attract roosting bats. They also need night-scented flowering plants nearby so there will be more moths available.

10.7 Urban birds

Nesting birds (swifts, house sparrows, house martins, starlings, etc.) are at risk of losing nest sites due to development or being disturbed on their nests by construction or gardening activities. Adding nest boxes on or built into houses and on suitable trees can provide additional opportunities for birds to raise their young safe from predators (such as cats). Pruning or removing vegetation that could shelter nesting birds must not be done during bird nesting season, which is usually from March through August, unless checks for active nests are done first.

10.8 Invertebrates

Stag beetles, which are a priority species, require a source of decomposing wood underground. Making a log pyramid or buried tree stumps in a shady corner of a garden will encourage stag beetles. Invertebrates are important in the decomposition process and provide food for larger animals.

10.9 Green roofs and walls

Green roofs and green walls on buildings and sheds can provide biodiversity opportunities in urban settings where space is often a constraint. They absorb and filter water, slow runoff and absorb pollutants. Green roofs and walls provide habitat for pollinating insects, other invertebrates and sometimes nesting birds. In addition, layers of soil and vegetation provide thermal insulation for buildings.

10.10 Eliminating invasive species

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (schedule 9) contains a list of invasive species that must not be allowed to spread into the wild. Many of these plants are already present in large numbers in our urban environments and are difficult to eradicate or even control. Some common garden plants can become invasive if allowed to spread into the wild and outcompete our native species. To protect our existing species, invasive species must be controlled and not allowed spread to natural areas. This can be difficult if the plant spreads easily, if the seeds are eaten and spread off site through animal droppings, if garden waste is not disposed of properly, or if seeds are spread in mud carried on shoes or outdoor equipment. Learning to recognise invasive species and how to control them is the best protection against their spread.



Wildflowers at Shannon Way, Chandler's Ford

11. Ecology Action Plan

Planning, planning policy and strategic project work			
Action	Notes	Responsibility	Timescale
Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance Note	Produce a guidance note to accompany policy DM11 and detail BNG requirements in Eastleigh	Ecology Team	July 2024
Guidance for Watercourse mitigation	Develop guidance for applicants regarding net gain for watercourses for use with metric	Ecology Team	July 2024
District Level Licensing for great-crested newts	To be implemented Hampshire-wide in 2023. Integrate into EBC policy, provide training where necessary	Ecology Team Naturespace	Implemented Summer 2023
District Level Licensing for great-crested newts – compensatory habitat	Work with Naturespace and the Newt Conservation Partnership (NCP) to explore opportunities to deliver GCN compensatory habitat on EBC land holdings	Ecology team Naturespace/ NCP	During 2024 and then ongoing
Biodiversity Net Gain schemes on EBC land	Develop a pipeline of costed BNG projects on EBC land in preparation for November 2023	Ecology Team PFSH	Ensure at least one scheme is ready by Summer 2024, then ongoing

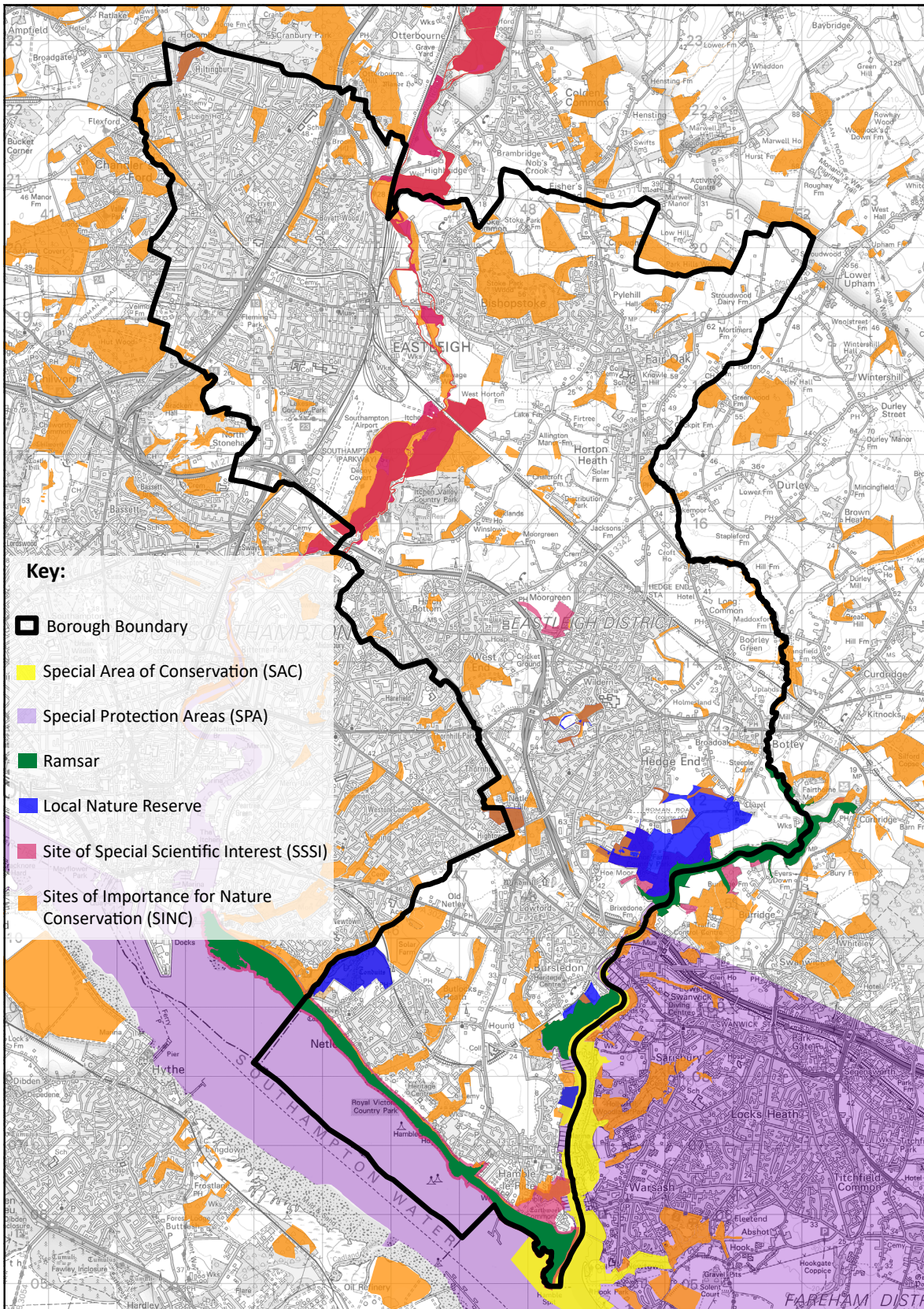
Partnership work		
Action	Responsibility	timescale
Continued service level agreement with HBIC for ecology monitoring	Ecology Team HBIC	Annually
HBIC Users Advisory Group	Ecology Team HBIC	Biannually
HBIC Steering Group	Ecology Team HBIC	Biannually on rotation with other LPA Ecologists
East Hampshire Catchment Partnership	Ecology Team Environment Agency Groundwork UK	Quarterly
Bird Aware Steering Group	Ecology Team Bird Aware	Quarterly
INNS project board	Ecology Team Wessex Rivers Trust	Quarterly

Partnership work		
Action	Responsibility	timescale
Hants and IOW BNG Forum	Ecology Team PfSH Hampshire County Council	As required
Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership	Ecology Team Wessex Rivers Trust	Quarterly
Solent Forum	Ecology Team Solent Forum	Biannually
Hamble Estuary Partnership	Ecology Team River Hamble Harbour Authority	Biannually

Communication and engagement			
Action	Notes	Responsibility	timescale
Borough News articles	Contribute biodiversity article to each edition of Borough News	Ecology Team	Ongoing, quarterly as required
Website/social media	Develop opportunities for greater regular engagement through use of social media and/or EBC biodiversity pages	Ecology Team Communications Team	Ongoing

Monitoring and reporting of this strategy			
Action	Notes	Responsibility	timescale
Annual Monitoring Report	<p>Annual report to Cabinet to summarise progress against key targets set in this strategy. Reporting against targets to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of new habitat (ha) created within priority areas/links • Amount of habitat restored (ha) within priority areas/links • Updates on the status of the Borough's SSSIs • Update on SINC status in the Borough • Pertinent information of the status of key species in the Borough and relevant action taken • Number of trees planted 	Ecology Team HBIC other EBC teams	Annually, March 2024 to March 2033
Five Year Strategy Review	Full review of strategy and opportunity to update to bring into line with any recent policy or strategies or changes in priorities	Ecology Team and wider EBC	March 2029

Appendix One: Important Designated Nature Conservation sites in Eastleigh



European international nature conservation sites (4)

River Itchen SAC

Solent Maritime SAC

Solent and Southampton Water SPA

Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar

SSSIs (5)

Moorgreen Meadows

Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes

Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods

Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary

River Itchen

Local nature reserves (6)

Hocombe Mead LNR (Chandler's Ford)

Mercury Marshes LNR (Bursledon)

Hackett's Marsh LNR (Bursledon)

Netley Common LNR (near Thornhill)

Westwood Woodland Park LNR (Netley Abbey)

Wildern LNR (Hedge End)

Manor Farm LNR (Botley/Bursledon)

SINCs (149)

Site reference	Sitename
EA0011	Fryernhill Wood
EA0083	Mercury Marsh South
EA0032	Dummers Copse South
EA0021	Allbrook Clay Pit
EA0054	Judges Gully Meadow
EA0117	Dockdell Copse
EA0098	The Mount, Fair Oak and Horton Heath
EA0085	Mercury Marina Saltmarsh
EA0015	Weston Shore (South-East)
EA0119	Tippers Copse
EA0102	Chestnut Gully Wood
EA0099	Ponds and Meadow adjacent to Wyvern Technology College
EA0012	The Lakes, Hiltingbury
EA0039	Spear Pond Gully

Site reference	Sitename
EA0038	Breach and Gully Copses
EA0128	Newhouse Farm Woodland and Swamp
EA0126	Stroud Wood, Fair Oak and Horton Heath
EA0069	Home Covert, West End
EA0089	Crowdhill Copse
EA0004	Ramalley Copse
EA0120	Woodhouse Gully Wood
EA0018	Pitmore Copse (West)
EA0026	West End Copse
EA0110	Gore Copse
EA0080	Hearts Copse
EA0055	Petters Copse
EA0123	Botley Park Wood
EA0127	Moplands Copse
EA0096	Quobleigh Pond and Woods
EA0033	Breach Farm Meadows
EA0094	Durncomb's Copse Meadow
EA0113	Bottom Copse/Bushy Copse
EA0112	Kings Copse Meadow and Pond
EA0006	Cuckoo Bushes Lane
EA0057	Telegraph Woods
EA0067	Windhover (Netley Common South)
EA0074	Piland's Wood (Upper)
EA0003	Baddesley Road Woodland
EA0061	Brick Kiln Copse, Bishopstoke
EA0101	Wyvern Technology College Meadow
EA0051	West End Covered Reservoir
EA0065	Meadow adjacent to Home Covert
EA0082	Upperbarn Copse
EA0042	Marshy Grassland, Bishopstoke
EA0027	Ham Farm Meadow
EA0087	Moorgreen Woodlands
EA0109	Tanhouse Meadow
EA0062	Dumbleton's Copse
EA0084	Windmill Fields Wood

Site reference	Sitename
EA0040	St. Mary's Road Wood
EA0014	Lakeside Country Park
EA0007	Hocombe Mead
EA0091	Oakleigh Meadow
EA0093	Piland's Copse
EA0100	Durncomb's Copse
EA0009	Woodland between railway and Monks Brook
EA0116	Knowle Lane Open Space
EA0066	Allington Lane Pond
EA0060	Winslowe House Meadow
EA0041	Hatch Grange Meadows
EA0137	Ashtrim Nurseries
EA0010	Chestnut Avenue Meadow
EA0025	Allbrook Hill Copse
EA0068	Netley Common, Hound
EA0044	Stanford Meadow
EA0142	Boyatt Wood - Bosville Extension
EA0143	Boyatt Wood - Woodside Avenue Extension
EA0005	Freespace Hicknor Hill
EA0139	Pudbrook Lake
EA0124	Botley Golf Course Wood
EA0045	Breach Sling Copse and Stoke Common Copse
EA0072	Netley Hill Heath
EA0097	Fielders Farm Meadows (Eastleigh)
EA0063	Copse by Oaklands House
EA0103	Sandpit Copse
EA0002	Lower Flexford Nature Reserve
EA0088	Round Copse, West End
EA0071	Piland's Wood (Lower)
EA0092	Bursledon Meadow
EA0064	Poplar Plantation (Stoke Park Wood)
EA0073	Stoke Park Wood
EA0048	Withybed Covert/Ridgeway Copse
EA0108	Hall Lands Farm Wood
EA0049	Bushy Copse, West End

Site reference	Sitename
EA0141	West Wood Central Grassland
EA0001	Upper Flexford Nature Reserve
EA0052	Hogwood Lane Meadow
EA0053	Hogwood Lane Drove
EA0111	Hall Lands Copse
EA0135	IVCP South Parkland East
EA0050	Hog Wood and Gravel Pits
EA0106	Scoreys Copse Meadow
EA0105	Scorey's Copse
EA0107	Scorey's Copse Rush Pasture
EA0132	Marshy Grassland, Botley
EA0134	Holly Tree Farm Meadow
EA0046	Priors Hill Copse/Hound Grove
EA0056	Priors Hill Brickworks
EA0070	Mallards Moor
EA0037	Burrows Copse (Remnant)
EA0136	Netley Farm Closed Landfill Site
EA0140	West Wood Grange Field
EA0019	West Wood, Hound
EA0035	Itchen Valley Country Park
EA0144	Home Wood (Eastleigh extension)
EA0031	Meadows at Allbrook
EA0079	Chalcroft Distribution Park
EA0146	Park Lane Footpath Allbrook
EA0147	Netley to Hamble Shore
EA0148	Land North of Bridge Road
EA0133	Holly Tree Farm Wood
EA0131	Botley Mill Woodland
EA0030	Meadow between Railway and River Itchen (Eastleigh)
EA0058	Judges Gully Copse
EA0149	Hardings Lane Wooded Bank
EA0104	Brixedone Saltmarsh and Mudflat
EA0090	Hill Copse, Fair Oak and Horton Heath
EA0114	Knowlehill Copse
EA0024	Portsmouth Water Company Lagoons and Woodland

Site reference	Sitename
EA0029	Netley Lodge
EA0047	West Wood (Royal Victoria Country Park)
EA0151	Field North of Hearts Row, West End
EA0152	Treeline Break, West End
EA0078	Badnum Copse
EA0008	Northend Copse (East and West of Flyover)
EA0020	Pitmore Copse/Pitmore Gully Copse
EA0023	Lincolns Copse
EA0013	Fen to west of Lakeside
EA0122	Manor Farm Plantation
EA0150	Manor Farm Meadows (Central Field)
EA0125	Church Lane Meadows
EA0130	Maddoxford Farm Meadows
EA0115	Alder Strip
EA0036	Allington Manor Farm Water Meadows
EA0043	Meadow North of Railway
EA0153	Monks Brook, Fleming Park
EA0075	Peewit Hill
EA0022	Itchen Valley Nature Reserve
EA0076	Hamble Common West
EA0077	Hamble Common North
EA0034	Dummers Copse North
EA0121	Gould Copse
EA0081	Hogsty Corner
EA0016	Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh
EA0059	West Horton Farm Woods
EA0028	Swamp West of Recreation Grounds
EA0095	Wildern Nature Park
EA0086	Bridget Mary Garden
EA0138	Land at Knowle Lane, Fair Oak

Appendix Two: priority habitats, accessible greenspaces and key species lists

Key species from the protected and notable species list (March 2022)

Area 1 Hiltingbury and Cuckoo Bushes	
Priority habitats	Purple moor grass and rush pasture, purple moor grass meadows, wet woodland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
Accessible greenspaces	Hocombe Mead, Flexford Nature Reserve, Hiltingbury Lakes

Area 1 Key species	
Amphibians and reptiles	Common toad, grass snake, slow worm
Birds	<p>49 species including:</p> <p>Annex 1: merlin (also BOCC red list), honey buzzard, kingfisher, little egret, Mediterranean gull, nightjar, peregrine, red kite, woodlark,</p> <p>Birds of Conservation Concern red list (and not on Annex 1 list): black redstart, cuckoo, fieldfare, grey wagtail, hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, lesser black-backed gull, lesser redpoll, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnet, marsh tit, mistle thrush, nightingale, pied flycatcher, starling, tree sparrow, willow tit, wood warbler, woodcock</p> <p>County rare (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): black-headed gull, goosander</p> <p>County scarce (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): crossbill, firecrest, grey heron, wheatear</p> <p>County other interest (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): common redpoll, hobby, redstart, siskin</p>
Invertebrates	<p>45 species including:</p> <p>County rare: dawn flat body, engrailed, white-bodied conch</p> <p>County scarce: grass rivulet, orange moth, pearl-bordered fritillary, poplar kitten, poplar lutestring, purple emperor, satyr pug, twin-spot carpet</p> <p>County other interest: silver-washed fritillary</p> <p>Nationally scarce: stag beetle, black-headed cardinal beetle, tanner beetle; dotted bee-fly and <i>Pipiza lugubris</i> (in the fly family) are both also nationally notable</p> <p>Nationally rare: alder leaf beetle</p> <p>Nationally notable: festoon, banded general</p>

Area 1 Key species	
Plants	<p>38 species of flowering plants including:</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: annual knawel, butcher's broom, green-winged orchid, upright chickweed, weasel's snout</p> <p>County rare and declining: angular Solomon's seal (also nationally scarce), grey-bracted hawkweed, round-fruited rush</p> <p>Non-flowering plants:</p> <p>County rare: Don's thread-moss</p> <p>County scarce: handsome woollywort</p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, Daubenton's, <i>Myotis</i> bat species, noctule, serotine, soprano pipistrelle, western barbastelle</p> <p>Brown hare, Eurasian water shrew, European water vole, hazel dormouse, polecat, yellow-necked mouse, West European hedgehog</p>

Area 2 North End and Fleming Park	
Priority habitats	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland meadow, chalk river, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, wet woodland
Accessible greenspaces	Fleming Park

Area 2 Key species	
Amphibians and reptiles	Adder, common lizard, common toad, slow worm
Birds	<p>82 species including:</p> <p>Annex 1: Arctic tern, avocet, barnacle goose, bittern, black tern, common tern, golden plover, honey-buzzard, hen harrier (also BOCC red list), kingfisher, little egret, little gull, little tern, marsh harrier, Mediterranean gull, merlin (also BOCC red list), osprey, peregrine, red kite, sandwich tern, short-eared owl, Slavonian grebe, woodlark</p> <p>Birds of Conservation Concern red list: black redstart, black-tailed godwit, cuckoo, curlew, fieldfare, grasshopper warbler, grey wagtail, hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, lesser redpoll, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnets, mistle thrush, pied flycatcher, pochard, redwing, ring ouzel, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, starling, tree pipit, turtle dove, whimbrel, whinchat, wood warbler, woodcock, yellow wagtail, yellowhammer</p> <p>County rare (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): black-headed gull, goosander, goshawk, great black-backed gull, shoveler</p> <p>County scarce (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): Cetti's warbler, crossbill, firecrest, grey heron, little ringed plover, oystercatcher, sand martin, snipe, water rail, wheatear</p> <p>County (other interest, not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): common redpoll, great crested grebe, grey plover, hobby, redstart, shelduck, siskin</p>

Area 2 Key species	
Invertebrates	<p>14 species including:</p> <p>County rare: maple-seed pygmy,</p> <p>County scarce: small yellow underwing, white-letter hairstreak</p> <p>County (other interest): silver-washed fritillary</p> <p>Nationally rare: alder leaf beetle, <i>Pilemostoma fastuosa</i> (beetle family) (and nationally scarce)</p> <p>Nationally scarce: stag beetle, <i>Involvulus cupreus</i> (beetle family) and Lesne's earwig</p>
Plants	<p>Flowering plants: 12 species including:</p> <p>County scarce: ivy broomrape</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: butcher's broom</p> <p>Nationally rare: upright spurge</p> <p>Nationally scarce: Welsh poppy</p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule</p> <p>Eurasian otter, European water vole, West European hedgehog</p>

Area 3 Chilworth, Stoneham and Lakeside	
Priority habitats	Chalk river, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland meadow, eutrophic standing water, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, wet woodland
Accessible greenspaces	Lakeside Country Park, Avenue Park

Area 3 Key species	
Amphibians and reptiles	Adder, common lizard, common toad, slow worm
Birds	<p>82 notable species including:</p> <p>Annex 1: arctic tern, avocet, barnacle goose, bittern, black tern, common tern, golden plover, hen harrier (also BOCC red list), honey-buzzard, kingfisher, little egret, little gull, little tern, marsh harrier, Mediterranean gull, merlin (also BOCC red list), osprey, peregrine, red kite, sandwich tern, short-eared owl, Slavonian grebe, woodlark</p> <p>Birds of Conservation Concern red list (and not on Annex 1 list): black redstart, black-tailed godwit, cuckoo, curlew, fieldfare, grasshopper warbler, grey wagtail, hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, lesser redpoll, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnet, mistle thrush, pied flycatcher, pochard, redwing, ring ouzel, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, starling, tree pipit, turtle dove, whimbrel, whinchat, wood warbler, woodcock, yellow wagtail, yellowhammer</p> <p>County rare (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): black-headed gull, goosander, goshawk, great black-backed gull, shoveler</p> <p>County scarce (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): Cetti's warbler, crossbill, firecrest, grey heron, little ringed plover, oystercatcher, sand martin, snipe, water rail, wheatear</p> <p>County (other interest, not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): common redpoll, great crested grebe, grey plover, hobby, redstart, shelduck, siskin</p>

Area 3 Key species	
Invertebrates	<p>14 species including:</p> <p>County scarce: white-letter hairstreak, small yellow underwing</p> <p>County rare: maple-seed pigmy</p> <p>County (other interest): silver-washed fritillary</p> <p>Nationally rare: alder leaf beetle, <i>Pilemostoma fastuosum</i> (beetle family) (and nationally scarce)</p> <p>Nationally scarce: stag beetle, <i>Involvulus cupreus</i> (beetle family) and Lesne's earwig</p>
Plants	<p>Flowering plants: 12 species including:</p> <p>County scarce: ivy broomrape</p> <p>Nationally rare: upright spurge</p> <p>Nationally scarce: Welsh poppy</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: butcher's broom</p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule</p> <p>Eurasian otter, European water vole, West European hedgehog</p>

Area 4 Itchen Valley	
Priority habitats	Chalk river, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, hedgerows, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, reedbeds, traditional orchards, wet woodland
Accessible green spaces	Itchen Valley Country Park

Area 4 Key species	
Amphibians and reptiles	Common lizard, common toad, grass snake, great crested newt, slow worm
Birds	<p>91 species including:</p> <p>Annex 1 and BOCC red list: corn crane, hen harrier, merlin, ruff</p> <p>Annex 1: bittern, common tern, crane, Dartford warbler, golden plover, honey-buzzard, kingfisher, little egret, little gull, marsh harrier, Mediterranean gull, nightjar, osprey, peregrine, red kite, short-eared owl, Slavonian grebe, spoonbill, stone-curlew, white stork, wood sandpiper, woodlark</p> <p>Birds of Conservation Concern red list (and not on Annex 1 list): black redstart, black-tailed godwit, cuckoo, curlew, fieldfare, grasshopper warbler, grey partridge, grey wagtail, hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, lesser redpoll, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnet, marsh tit, mistle thrush, nightingale, pied flycatcher, pochard, redwing, ring ouzel, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, starling, tree pipit, turtle dove, whimbrel, whinchat, wood warbler, woodcock, yellow wagtail, yellowhammer</p> <p>County rare (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): bearded tit, reedling black-headed gull, goosander, goshawk, great black-backed gull, shoveler</p> <p>County scarce (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): Cetti's warbler, crossbill, firecrest, grey heron, little ringed plover, oystercatcher, sand martin, snipe, water pipit, water rail, wheatear</p> <p>County (other interest, not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): common redpoll, great crested grebe, hobby, redstart, shelduck, siskin</p>

Area 4 Key species	
Fish	Atlantic Salmon, European eel
Invertebrates	<p>45 species including:</p> <p>County rare: cypress tip moth, dawn flat body, four-spotted footman, engrailed, oblique carpet, pine bud moth</p> <p>County scarce: chalk hill blue, pearl-bordered fritillary, poplar kitten, poplar lutestring, purple emperor, red-necked footman, white-letter hairstreak</p> <p>County (other interest): silver-washed fritillary</p> <p>Nationally scarce: stag beetle, <i>Nigma puella</i> (spider family), dusky cockroach, Lesne's earwig</p> <p>Nationally rare: alder leaf beetle</p> <p>Nationally notable: buttoned snout, long-legged tabby, white-line snout</p> <p>Annex II species: southern damselfly</p>
Plants	<p>Flowering plants: 20 species including</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: butcher's broom, green-flowered helleborine (also nationally scarce), Hampshire-purslane (also county scarce and nationally rare), stream water crowfoot (also nationally rare), weasel's snout</p> <p>County scarce: broad-leaved spurge, great yellow cress, narrow-fruited water-cress, shining pondweed (declining)</p> <p>County rare: Jersey cudweed</p> <p>Nationally scarce: <i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i> var. <i>degenera</i> (orchid), fringed water-lily, fritillary, tasteless water-pepper (also county rare)</p> <p>Nationally rare: broad-leaved spurge</p> <p>Non-flowering plants:</p> <p>County rare: Lesser striated feather-moss</p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton's, lesser noctule, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Natterer's, noctule, <i>Myotis</i> sp., serotine, whiskered/Brandt's</p> <p>Eurasian badger, Eurasian water shrew, European otter, European water vole, harvest mouse, West European hedgehog, yellow-necked mouse</p>

Area 5 Stoke Park	
Priority habitats	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, wet woodland, hedgerows
Accessible greenspaces	Stoke Park Wood (Forestry Commission)

Area 5 Key species	
Amphibians and reptiles	common toad, grass snake, slow worm
Birds	<p>41 species including:</p> <p>Annex 1: kingfisher, little egret, Mediterranean gull, osprey, peregrine, red kite</p> <p>Birds of Conservation Concern red list (and not on Annex 1 list): black redstart, cuckoo, fieldfare, grey wagtail, hawfinch, house sparrow, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, lesser redpoll, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnet, marsh tit, mistle thrush, redwing, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, starling, tree pipit, tree sparrow, whimbrel, wood warbler, yellow wagtail,</p> <p>County scarce (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): Cetti's warbler, firecrest, oystercatcher, snipe</p> <p>County (other interest, not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): hobby, redstart, siskin</p>
Invertebrates	<p>18 species including:</p> <p>County rare: four-spotted footman, engrailed</p> <p>County scarce: beautiful carpet, poplar lutestring</p> <p>County (other interest): silver-washed fritillary</p> <p>Nationally scarce: stag beetle, <i>Platystomos albinus</i> (weevil), woodland grasshopper</p> <p>Nationally rare: alder leaf beetle</p> <p>Nationally notable: festoon, white-line snout</p>
Plants	<p>Flowering plants: 30 species including:</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: annual knawel (also county scarce) butcher's broom, lesser quaking grass (also county and nationally scarce), violet helleborine</p> <p>County scarce: good king Henry</p> <p>Nationally scarce: Welsh poppy</p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: Brandt's, brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton's, Natterer's, noctule, serotine, western barbastelle, whiskered/ Brandt's</p> <p>Eurasian badger, West European hedgehog</p>

Area 6 Wyvern and Knowle Park	
Priority habitats	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, hedgerows, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pasture, wet woodland, ponds, floodplain grassland
Accessible greenspaces	Quobleigh Woods, White Tree Farm (Parish Council)

Area 6 Key species	
Amphibians and reptiles	common lizard, common toad, great crested newt, slow worm

Area 6 Key species	
Birds	<p>21 notable species including:</p> <p>Annex 1: kingfisher, little egret, Mediterranean gull, peregrine, red kite</p> <p>Birds of Conservation Concern red list (and not on Annex 1 list): black redstart, cuckoo, fieldfare, grey wagtail, house sparrow, lesser redpoll, linnet, marsh tit, mistle thrush, redwing, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, starling yellowhammer</p> <p>County (other interest and not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): hobby</p>
Invertebrates	<p>4 notable species including:</p> <p>Nationally scarce: dusky cockroach, <i>Oedemera femoralis</i> (beetle), <i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i> (beetle), stag beetle</p>
Plants	<p>Flowering plants: 5 notable species including:</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: annual beard-grass (also nationally scarce), butcher's broom</p> <p>Nationally scarce: large-leaved lime</p> <p>Endangered: corn spurrey, lesser spearwort</p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius's pipistrelle, noctule, serotine</p> <p>West European hedgehog</p>

Area 7 Hatch Grange to Moorgreen	
Priority habitats	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures and wet woodland

Area 7 Key Species	
Amphibians and reptiles	Grass snake
Birds	<p>44 notable species including:</p> <p>Annex 1: golden plover, kingfisher, little egret, Mediterranean gull, peregrine, red kite</p> <p>Birds of Conservation Concern red list (and not on Annex 1 list): cuckoo, curlew, fieldfare, grasshopper warbler, grey wagtail, hawfinch, herring gull, lapwing, lesser spotted woodpecker, marsh tit, mistle thrush, pied flycatcher, redwing, ring ouzel, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, starling, whimbrel, whinchat, woodcock, yellow wagtail</p> <p>County rare (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): black-headed gull</p> <p>County scarce (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): Cetti's warbler, crossbill, firecrest, snipe, water rail, wheatear</p> <p>County (other interest and not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): great crested grebe, hobby, redstart, siskin</p>

Invertebrates	<p>10 notable species including:</p> <p>Nationally scarce: <i>Nigma puella</i> (spider family), dusky cockroach, <i>Ampedus cinnabarinus</i> (beetle), Lesne's earwig, stag beetle</p> <p>Nationally rare: alder leaf beetle, <i>Gymnosoma rotundatum</i> (fly)</p>
Plants	<p>5 notable species including:</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: bog-myrtle, butcher's broom, creeping willow</p> <p>County scarce: harsh downy-rose, tall ramping-fumitory</p> <p>Vulnerable: lesser spearwort, lousewort</p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: brown long-eared, Natterer's</p> <p>West European Hedgehog</p>

Area 8 Netley and Bursledon Commons and Wildern

Priority habitats	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, and wet woodland
Accessible greenspaces	Netley Common, Bursledon Common, Telegraph Woods, Westend Copse, Open Space off Chartwell Green, Land on north-west side of Culvery Gardens, Bacon Hill Woodland Park, Bursledon Recreation Ground, Wildern Local Nature Reserve

Area 8 Key species

Amphibians and reptiles	adder, common lizard, common toad, slow worm
Birds	<p>54 notable species including:</p> <p>Annex 1: Dartford warbler, golden plover, kingfisher, little egret, Mediterranean gull, nightjar, osprey, peregrine, red kite, sandwich tern, stone-curlew</p> <p>Birds of Conservation Concern red list: black-tailed godwit, cuckoo, curlew, fieldfare, grey wagtail, hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, lesser redpoll, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnet, marsh tit, mistle thrush, nightingale, pied flycatcher, redwing, ring ouzel, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, starling, whimbrel, woodcock, yellow wagtail</p> <p>County rare (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): black-headed gull, common merganser, goosander, great black-backed gull</p> <p>County scarce (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): crossbill, firecrest, sand martin, snipe, wheatear, grey heron</p> <p>County other interest (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): hobby, redstart, siskin</p>

Area 8 Key species	
Invertebrates	<p>33 notable species including:</p> <p>Nationally scarce: Stag beetle, dusky cockroach, <i>Agrilus angustulus</i> (beetle family), <i>Araneus angulatus</i> (spider family), <i>Cantharis fusca</i> (beetle family), <i>Coelotes terrestris</i> (spider family), <i>Drassodes pubescens</i> (spider family), <i>Evarcha arcuata</i> (spider family), <i>Kochiura aulica</i> (spider family), <i>Ocypus nitens</i> (beetle family), <i>Pardosa saltans</i> (spider family), <i>Polydrusus formosus</i> (beetle family), <i>Uleiota planatus</i> (beetle family), yellow loosestrife bee</p> <p>Nationally rare: Alder leaf beetle</p> <p>County scarce: chalk hill blue, red-necked footman, downy emerald</p> <p>County rare: early long-horn, knapweed bell</p> <p>County (other interest): silver-washed fritillary</p> <p>Vulnerable: fairy shrimp, white admiral</p>
Plants	<p>Flowering plants: 18 notable species including:</p> <p>Hampshire Responsibility: annual beard-grass, autumn lady's-tresses, bog-myrtle, creeping willow, dodder, green-winged orchid, heath dog-violet (also vulnerable), oblong-leaved sundew (also vulnerable), <i>Potentilla erecta x anglica</i> (<i>P. x suberecta</i>) (also county scarce)</p> <p>National responsibility: Jacob's-ladder</p> <p>County scarce: black bog-rush, corn chamomile, harsh downy-rose, narrow-leaved pepperwort, round-leaved dog-rose, smooth cat's-ear (vulnerable), white sedge</p> <p>Vulnerable (not in above lists): common cottongrass, corn marigold, corn spurrey, lesser spearwort</p> <p>Non-flowering plants: 6 priority species</p> <p>Nationally scarce: <i>Lecanora albella</i> (lichen)</p> <p>County scarce: Hampe's threadwort, Magellanic bog-moss (Annex 5), slender pocket-moss, wood-rust</p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, <i>Myotis</i> species, noctule, serotine, soprano pipistrelle, western Barbastelle</p> <p>Eurasian badger, Eurasian otter, hazel dormouse, west European hedgehog, yellow-necked mouse (county scarce)</p>

Area 9 River Hamble (Upper)	
Priority habitats	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, reedbeds, wet woodland
Accessible greenspaces	Manor Farm Country Park

Area 9 Key species	
Amphibians and reptiles	Common lizard, grass snake, slow worm
Birds	<p>77 species including:</p> <p>Annex 1: Greenland white-fronted goose, merlin, roseate tern, ruff, Arctic tern, avocet, barnacle goose, bar-tailed godwit, bittern, black tern, black-throated diver, common tern, Dartford warbler, glossy ibis, golden plover, great northern diver, kingfisher, Leach's petrel, little egret, little gull, little tern, marsh harrier, Mediterranean gull, nightjar, osprey, peregrine, red kite, red-throated diver, sandwich tern, short-eared owl, Slavonian grebe, smew, spoonbill, white-spotted bluethroat, wood sandpiper, woodlark</p> <p>Birds of Conservation Concern red list (and not on Annex 1 list): Arctic skua, black redstart, black-tailed godwit, common scoter, cuckoo, curlew, fieldfare, grasshopper warbler, grey wagtail, hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, kittiwake, lapwing, lesser black-back gull, lesser redpoll, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnet, long-tailed duck, marsh tit, mistle thrush, nightingale, pochard, red-necked grebe, redwing, ring ouzel, ringed plover, scaup, shag, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, starling, tree pipit, whimbrel, whinchat, white-fronted goose, woodcock, yellow wagtail, yellowhammer</p> <p>County scarce (and not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): Cetti's warbler, crossbill, firecrest, grey heron, little ringed plover, oystercatcher, sand martin, snipe, water pipit, water rail, wheatear</p> <p>County rare (and not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): bearded tit, black-headed gull, goosander, great black-backed gull, long-eared owl, rock pipit, shoveler</p>
Invertebrates	<p>48 species</p> <p>County scarce: emperor moth, grass rivulet, white-letter hairstreak (also endangered)</p> <p>County rare: dark elm case-bearer, early long-horn, little grass-veneer, saltern groundling, silver carrot conch</p> <p>County (other interest): silver-studded blue, silver-washed fritillary</p> <p>Nationally scarce: Stag beetle, flax flea beetle, Lesne's earwig, river skater, large velvet ant, swollen thighed blood bee, trimmers mining bee, tawny cockroach, <i>Coelotes terrestris</i> and <i>Evarcha arcuata</i> (in the spider family); <i>Agrilus angustulus</i>, <i>Cantharis fusca</i>, <i>Cryptocephalus aureolus</i>, <i>Orsodacne humeralis</i>, <i>Poecilium alni</i>, and <i>Strophosoma faber</i> (in the beetle family); <i>Alydus calcaratus</i> and <i>Eurygaster maura</i> (in the true bug family); <i>Aporus unicolor</i> and <i>Crossocerus distinguendus</i> (in the bee family).</p> <p>Nationally rare: alder leaf beetle, <i>Cerapheles terminatus</i> (in the beetle family)</p> <p>Nationally notable: small grass emerald</p> <p>Endangered: <i>Cistogaster globosa</i> (in the fly family)</p>

Area 9 Key species	
Plants	<p>Flowering plants: 58 species including:</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: annual beard-grass (also nationally scarce), autumn lady's-tresses, butcher's-broom, creeping willow, dodder, green-winged orchid, heath dog-violet, long-spiked glasswort (also county scarce), marsh St John's-wort, sanfoin, suffocated clover (also county and nationally scarce), upright chickweed, weasel's snout, yellow glasswort (also county and nationally scarce)</p> <p>County scarce: common glasswort, ivy broomrape, long-bracted sedge, parsley water-dropwort, sea rocket, sea wormwood, slender hare's-ear (also nationally scarce), slender thistle, toothed medick (also nationally scarce), wormwood</p> <p>County rare: large-leaved lime (also nationally scarce)</p> <p>Nationally scarce: sea buckthorn</p> <p>Non-flowering plants:</p> <p>Ferns: southern polypody (county scarce)</p> <p>Horsetails: shore horsetail (county scarce)</p> <p>Lichens:</p> <p>Nationally scarce: <i>Catillaria nigroclavata</i>, <i>Lecanora albella</i>, <i>Xanthoria ucrainica</i></p> <p>Nationally rare: <i>Pertusaria amara f. pulvinata</i></p> <p>Lower plants:</p> <p>County scarce: alder silk-moss, curving feather-moss, frizzled crisp-moss and slender haircap</p> <p>County rare: chalk threadwort (also nationally rare)</p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, Daubenton's, <i>Myotis</i> bat species, Natterer's, noctule, serotine, soprano pipistrelle, whiskered/Brandt's, Bottle-nosed dolphin, grey seal, harbour seal, West European hedgehog</p>

Area 10 River Hamble (Lower)	
Priority habitats	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh, coastal sand dunes, intertidal mudflats, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, reedbeds, and wet woodland
Accessible greenspaces	Hamble Airfield Playing Ground

Area 10 Key species	
Amphibians and reptiles	Adder, common lizard, slow worm

Invertebrates	<p>19 species</p> <p>County scarce: yellow belle</p> <p>County rare: saltern groundling</p> <p>County (other interest): silver-studded blue, silver-washed fritillary</p> <p>Nationally scarce: Stag beetle, Lesnes'e earwig, wood cricket, flax flea beetle; <i>Agrilus angustulus</i> and <i>Orsodacne humeralis</i> (in the beetle family), <i>Kochiura aulica</i> (in the spider family)</p> <p>Nationally rare: alder leaf beetle</p> <p>Nationally notable: small grass emerald</p>
Plants	<p>Flowering plants: 42 species</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: autumn lady's-tresses, butcher's broom, curved hard-grass, <i>Festuca rubra</i> subsp. <i>litoralis</i>, long-spiked glasswort, one-flowered glasswort, perennial glasswort, slender spike-rush, stiff saltmarsh-grass (also county and nationally scarce), weasel's snout, yellow glasswort (also nationally scarce)</p> <p>County scarce: brookweed, common glasswort, English scurvygrass, long-bracted sedge, marsh mallow (and nationally scarce), parsley water-dropwort, sea sandwort, wild celery</p> <p>County rare: Kattegat orache (and Hampshire declining)</p> <p>Nationally scarce: fringed water-lily</p> <p>Lichens:</p> <p><i>Caloplaca chalybaea</i>, <i>Catillaria nigroclavata</i></p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, <i>Myotis</i> bat species, Natterer's, noctule, serotine, soprano pipistrelle, whiskered/Brandt's</p> <p>Bottle-nosed dolphin, grey seal, harbour seal, Eurasian otter, west European hedgehog</p>

Area 11 Solent Coast	
Priority habitats	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh, coastal vegetated shingle, intertidal mudflats, lowland beech and yew woodland, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland heathland, lowland meadows, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, reedbeds, wet woodland and wood-pasture and parkland
Accessible greenspaces	Hound Corner Ecology Park, Hamble Common, Westwood Common, Cox Row, Sydney Avenue, Norbury Gardens, Chadwick Way, Avro Court, Royal Victoria Country Park,

Area 11 Key species	
Amphibians and reptiles	Common lizard, grass snake, slow worm
Birds	<p>111 species</p> <p>Annex 1: Greenland white-fronted goose, merlin, roseate tern, ruff, Arctic tern, avocet, barnacle goose, bar-tailed godwit, bittern, black tern, black-throated diver, common tern, Dartford warbler, glossy ibis, golden plover, great northern diver, kingfisher, Leach's petrel, little egret, little gull, little tern, marsh harrier, Mediterranean gull, nightjar, osprey, peregrine, red kite, red-throated diver, sandwich tern, short-eared owl, Slavonian grebe, white-spotted bluethroat, Birds of Conservation Concern red list (and not on Annex 1 list): Arctic skua, black redstart, black-tailed godwit, common scoter, cuckoo, curlew, fieldfare, grasshopper warbler, grey wagtail, hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, kittiwake, lapwing, lesser black-back gull, lesser redpoll, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnets, long-tailed duck, marsh tit, mistle thrush, nightingale, pochard, red-necked grebe, redwing, ring ouzel, ringed plover, scaup, skylark, song thrush, starling, tree pipit, whimbrel, whinchat, white-fronted goose, woodcock, yellow wagtail, yellowhammer</p> <p>County scarce (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): Cetti's warbler, crossbill, firecrest, grey heron, little ringed plover, oystercatcher, sand martin, snipe, water pipit, water rail, wheatear,</p> <p>County rare (not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): bearded tit, black-headed gull, goosander, great black-backed gull, rock pipit, shoveler</p> <p>County (other interest, not on Annex 1 or BOCC red list): common redpoll, great crested grebe, grey plover, hobby, redstart, shelduck, siskin</p>
Invertebrates	<p>48 species</p> <p>Nationally scarce: Stag beetle, Lesnes'e earwig, tawny cockroach, flax flea beetle, large velvet ant, swollen-thighed blood bee, Trimmer's mining bee; <i>Coelotes terrestris</i>, <i>Evarcha arcuata</i>, <i>Agrilus angustulus</i>, <i>Cantharis fusca</i>, <i>Cryptocephalus aureoles</i>, <i>Orsodacne humeralis</i>, <i>Poecilium alni</i>, and <i>Strophosma faber</i> (in the beetle family); <i>Alydus calcaratus</i> and <i>Eurygaster maura</i> (in the true bug family); <i>Aporus unicolor</i> and <i>Crossocerus distinguendus</i> (in the bee family).</p> <p>Nationally rare: alder leaf beetle, <i>Cerapheles terminatus</i> (in the beetle family)</p> <p>Nationally notable: small grass emerald, sulphur pearl</p>

Area 11 Key species	
Plants	<p>Flowering plants: 58 species</p> <p>Hampshire responsibility: annual beard-grass (also nationally scarce), autumn lady's-tresses, butcher's broom, creeping willow, dodder, green-winged orchid, heath dog-violet, long-spiked glasswort (also county scarce), marsh St John's-wort, sanfoin, suffocated clover (also nationally scarce), upright chickweed, weasel's snout, yellow glasswort (also nationally scarce)</p> <p>County scarce: common glasswort, ivy broomrape, long-bracted sedge, parsley water-dropwort, sea rocket, sea wormwood, slender hare's ear (also nationally scarce), slender thistle, toothed medick (also nationally scarce), wormwood</p> <p>County rare: large-leaved lime (also nationally scarce)</p> <p>Nationally scarce: sea-buckthorn</p> <p>Non-flowering plants</p> <p>County scarce: alder silk-moss, curving feather-moss, frizzled crisp-moss, shore horsetail, southern polypody</p> <p>County rare: chalk threadwort (and nationally rare)</p> <p>Lichens:</p> <p>Nationally scarce: <i>Catillaria nigroclavata</i>, <i>Lecanora albella</i></p> <p>Nationally rare: <i>Pertusaria amara f. pulvinata</i>, <i>Xanthoria ucrainica</i></p>
Mammals	<p>Bats: brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, Daubenton's, <i>Myotis</i> bat species, Natterer's, noctule, serotine, soprano pipistrelle, whiskered/Brandt's</p> <p>Bottle-nosed dolphin, grey seal, harbour seal, West European hedgehog</p>

Appendix Three: Relevant plans, policies, and strategies

Policy/strategy/plan	Source	Implications and/or desired outcomes
National Planning Policy Framework 2021	Government (MHCLG)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment 2). Safeguard existing and enhance ecological networks 3). Protect hierarchy of designated sites 4). Pursue opportunities for measurable net gain 5). Refuse planning permission if significant harm cannot be avoided esp. SSSIs 6). Damage to irreplaceable habitats only in exceptional circumstances 7). Development to protect or enhance biodiversity should be facilitated 8). Potential and proposed designated sites given same level of protection as existing
Environment Act (2021)	HM Government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). England only - Amends the Town and Countryside Planning Act 2). Mandates the creation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies 3). Mandates a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain requirement on new development based on use of the Biodiversity Metric; net gain delivered on-site, locally off-site or via biodiversity credits following mitigation hierarchy; creation of BNG register for off-site land; Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) or Marine are out of scope of the mandatory requirements in the Bill. 4). The introduction of a new Species Conservation Strategy to safeguard the future of particular species at greatest risk. This builds on the process developed for the District Level Licences (DLL) an approach taken for great crested newts. 5). Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) places a duty on public bodies to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The Environment Act will strengthen the duty for public authorities to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. This policy also requires public authorities to look at their policies and operations strategically at least every five years. 6). The introduction of conservation covenants as recommended by the Law Commission to help leave the environment in a better condition for future generations.

Policy/strategy/plan	Source	Implications and/or desired outcomes
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment (2018)	HM Government	<p>Sets targets for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reversing the loss of marine biodiversity and, where practicable, restoring it • Increasing the proportion of protected and well-managed seas, and better managing existing protected sites • Ensuring populations of key species are sustainable with appropriate age structures • Ensuring seafloor habitats are productive and sufficiently extensive to support healthy, sustainable ecosystems <p>This will be done on land and in freshwater, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term • Creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, focusing on priority habitats as part of a wider set of land management changes providing extensive benefits • Taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi, and where possible to prevent human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories • Increasing woodland in England in line with our aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042 <p>Much of the scope of this plan will be implemented through the Environment Act</p>
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's Wildlife and ecosystem services 2011	Defra	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Introduces a more integrated, large-scale approach to conservation: establish coherent ecological network; targeted action for recovery of priority species; maintain genetic diversity in agriculture. 2) Putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy: working with nature partnerships to engage; better publicity and public awareness; new and innovative funding mechanisms. 3) Reducing environmental pressure: improve deliverability of environmental outcomes from agriculture; reform CAP (Common Agricultural Policy); more sustainable forestry. 4) More strategic approach through planning. test biodiversity offsetting; protect water environment by actions through biodiversity i.e. WFD (Water Framework Directive); promote water and flood management that also protects biodiversity; improve air quality; monitor and tackle INNS.

Policy/strategy/plan	Source	Implications and/or desired outcomes
The National Pollinator Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England (2014)	DEFRA	A ten-year plan that includes supporting pollinators across towns, cities, countryside by encouraging landowners (including managers of public amenity space), gardeners, allotment owners to engage in good practice to make places more pollinator friendly
River Basin Management Plans - South East (2016)	DEFRA and Environment Agency	<p>The purpose of a river basin management plan is to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment - it delivers the obligations of the WFD. Four main themes to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Determine baseline status of quality factors of all water bodies and prevent deterioration 2) Protect bodies of water and land that have specific uses e.g. commercial, water extraction or biodiversity 3) Statutory objectives for water bodies -sets out legally binding objectives for each quality element in every water body, including an objective for the water body as a whole, default deadline 2021, more technical objectives 2027 4) Summary programme of measures to achieve statutory objectives - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a framework for action and future regulation; summarises the existing mechanisms, both statutory and voluntary, that are used to manage the quality of the water environment. <p>In relation to the plan, EBC is seen as a regulator, operator, influencer and deliverer of projects.</p>
Catchment based approach: Chalk Stream restoration strategy (2021)	Catchment Based Approach (CaBA)	<p>Provides guidance on the restoration of chalk streams (i.e. River Itchen)</p> <p>Addresses the trinity of ecological health for chalk streams: water quantity; water quality; physical habitat quality.</p> <p>Also addresses all three factors together</p>
District Level Licensing for Great Crested Newts (GCN)	Natural England/other accredited schemes	<p>A focus on net gain for GCNs through the mitigation hierarchy and landscape scale enhancement vs traditional licensing and protection for individual newts. The process is intended to be more streamlined for developers and cost-effective while safeguarding and enhancing GCN populations.</p> <p>Precedes species conservation strategies that will be introduced by the Environment Act</p>

Policy/strategy/Plan	Source	Implications and/or desired outcomes
Regional		
Green Infrastructure Strategy (2018)	Partnership for South Hampshire	<p>Contribute to reducing flood risk on local communities.</p> <p>Improve the health and wellbeing of communities by providing green areas for recreation and by addressing the impacts of noise, air and water pollution.</p> <p>Help communities and the natural environment adapt to a changing climate.</p> <p>Protect and enhance biodiversity, providing mitigation for the impact of development taking place within the sub-region and in-combination with that taking place adjacent to it.</p> <p>Promote access to GI (green infrastructure) through greater connectivity of spaces, in so far as this does not compromise environmental sensitivities.</p> <p>Create new areas of GI to serve new and existing developments.</p> <p>Enhance the quality of the landscape, maintain the distinctiveness of settlement pattern and promote sense of place.</p> <p>Provide a strategic framework for locally prepared GI strategies within the sub-region.</p>
Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (2017)	Bird Aware for the Partnership for South Hampshire	<p>Provides a strategic solution to ensure the requirements the Habitats Regulations are met with regard to the in-combination effects of increased recreational pressure on the Solent SPAs arising from new residential development.</p> <p>Sets out a strategic, regional approach to the mitigation, the actual mitigation measures to be implemented, and the arrangements for governance, reporting, and monitoring.</p>
Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (2020)	Solent Waders and Brent Goose Steering Group for the Partnership for South Hampshire	<p>Identifies the network of core areas that are regularly used and are of fundamental importance to over-wintering waterfowl across the Solent;</p> <p>Aims to maintain a network of sites through better management and protection from development and recreational pressure, and to ensure that they will be resilient to the pressures of climate change and predicted sea level rise in the future;</p> <p>Provides a strategy that will ensure that the network of important sites is protected, whilst reducing the current uncertainty over site use, in order to better inform key coastal stakeholders</p>

Policy/strategy/Plan	Source	Implications and/or desired outcomes
Advice on achieving nutrient neutrality for new development in the Solent region (2020)	Natural England	<p>There are high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus input to the Solent with sound evidence that these nutrients are causing eutrophication at these designated sites</p> <p>These nutrient inputs currently mostly come either from agricultural sources or from wastewater from existing housing and other development.</p> <p>The resulting dense mats of green algae and other effects on the marine ecology from an excessive presence of nutrients are impacting on the Solent's protected habitats and bird species.</p> <p>This report sets out a practical methodology to calculating how nutrient neutrality can be achieved and a detailed methodology and advice on mitigation.</p>
Mapping the Hampshire Ecological Network	HBIC on behalf of the Local Nature Partnership	<p>The map represents the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity in Hampshire, plus other priority habitats and areas identified for habitat restoration or creation.</p> <p>Is intended to highlight opportunities for restoration and habitat creation rather than be viewed as a constraint to development.</p>
Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership	Partnership of organisations including EBC hosted by the Wessex Rivers Trust	<p>Aims to:</p> <p>Identify, monitor and reduce nutrient input from point sources of pollution and mitigate soil, nutrient and pesticide losses from diffuse sources to benefit surface, groundwater and coastal waters.</p> <p>Increase water attenuation, slow run-off, improve resilience to low-flows and climate change, increase aquifer re-charge, and improve management of water.</p> <p>Increase connectivity within the floodplain, reduce impoundment and barriers to fish, improve resilience to increasing temperatures, enhance habitats for wildlife and control invasive species to benefit surface, groundwaters and marine waters.</p> <p>Promote opportunities for local communities to learn about, enjoy and help enhance and protect the water environment.</p>
East Hampshire Catchment Management Plan (2014 – 2020) – River Hamble in EBC	East Hampshire Catchment Partnership	<p>Catchment Partnership objectives:</p> <p>Understanding current baseline conditions in catchment.</p> <p>Protect water quality and quantity.</p> <p>New infrastructure and development are planned and implemented to maximise their contribution to sustainable water management.</p> <p>Reducing the risk of flooding to people, households and businesses</p> <p>Protect and improve the biodiversity of our river catchments and coast that support a diverse range of interconnected wetland habitats and range of species</p>

Policy/strategy/Plan	Source	Implications and/or desired outcomes
Solent Forum	Independent Coastal Partnership including EBC	The Forum's aims and objectives relevant to biodiversity are to: Promote, facilitate and support integrated planning and sustainable management of the Solent Raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change on the Solent and appropriate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation measures
River Itchen SAC site conservation objectives Solent and Southampton Water SPA Conservation Objectives Solent Maritime SAC Conservation Objectives	Natural England	Sets the conservation objectives for these internationally important sites for maintaining and restoring: The distribution and extent of qualifying habitats The function of qualifying habitats The processes qualifying habitats rely on The population level and distribution of qualifying species
Local (Eastleigh)		
Eastleigh Local Plan 2016-2036 and associated documents: Habitats regulations assessment Strategic Conservation Plan for Southern Damselflies Great Crested Newt Strategic Survey	EBC with reports in partnership with ecological consultancies	Sets the framework for EBC biodiversity planning policy Protects existing designated sites hierarchy and associated protected species Seeks to protect ecological networks and green links Requires at least no net loss of biodiversity with net gain where possible Requires production of a Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement plan (BMEP) for applications on greenfield sites
Eastleigh Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2022	EBC	Review first BAP in the light of Lawton and the National Ecosystem Assessment BAP aims to: Establish coherent and resilient ecological networks that safeguard ecosystem services for the benefit of wildlife and people against the challenges of climate change and other pressures. Identify, protect, maintain, restore, create and enhance priority habitats Identify, protect, maintain, restore and enhance viable populations of priority species. Focus conservation action in Priority Biodiversity Areas and Links to achieve maximum biodiversity benefit. Highlights the need for partnership working with other organisation to realise delivery of actions
Climate and environment emergency strategy	EBC	Sets the framework for the council's response to the declaration of the climate and environmental emergency

Policy/strategy/Plan	Source	Implications and/or desired outcomes
Tree Strategy	EBC	Sets priorities for delivering 160,000 trees in the Borough Provides guidance on what species and where they should be planted
Trees & Development Supplementary Planning Document	EBC	Sets the policy framework for protecting the Borough's trees Provides guidance for new tree planting
EBC Corporate Plan 2023-2026	EBC	Creating new wetland and woodland Offset development through nutrient mitigation and biodiversity net gain Increase public access to nature Wilding of Bishopstoke Recreation Ground Tree planting across all five Local Areas



Wetland at Lakeside Country Park