12 Biodiversity and Geodiversity, Landscape, Open Space and Coast

Indicator	Latest Data	Previous Data	Trend
Total extent of nature conservation designations (without overlap)	329.25 ha (2021)	-	-
Total extent of nature conservation designations (with overlap)	1077.18 ha (2021)	-	-
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	272.40 (ha) (2021)	-	-
Special Protection Area (SPA)	224.19 (ha) (2021)	-	-
RAMSAR	164.64 ha (2021)	-	-
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	4.06 ha (2021)	-	-
Site of important for nature conservation (SINC)	371.93 ha (2021)	-	-
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	39.96 (ha) (2021)	-	-
% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in favourable condition	21.3% (2019/20)	32.29% (2015/16)	↓
Extent of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats	426 ha (2018/19)	-	-
Number of Hampshire BAP species in Gosport Borough	26 of 50 (2019/20)	24 of 50 (2018/19)	↑
% of open spaces assessed as high quality and high value	38.1% (2014)	-	-
Number of people on allotment waiting lists	688 (2020)	234 (2016)	↑

Landscape Character

In 2010 Hampshire County Council produced a detailed character study of the county; the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment (HICA). The Assessment identifies Gosport as forming part of the wider south Hampshire conurbation, stretching from Havant to Southampton. At a local level, the Borough of Gosport is within the Gosport and Fareham Coastal Plain. As shown within Figure 12.1, this area is predominantly characterised by the 'Settlement' landscape type, surrounded by 'Open Downs', and with 'Open Coastal Shore' and 'Intertidal Estuary and Harbour' types on the coastal boundaries. The eastern half of the Alver Valley is characterised as a large area of 'Coastal Plain Enclosed'.

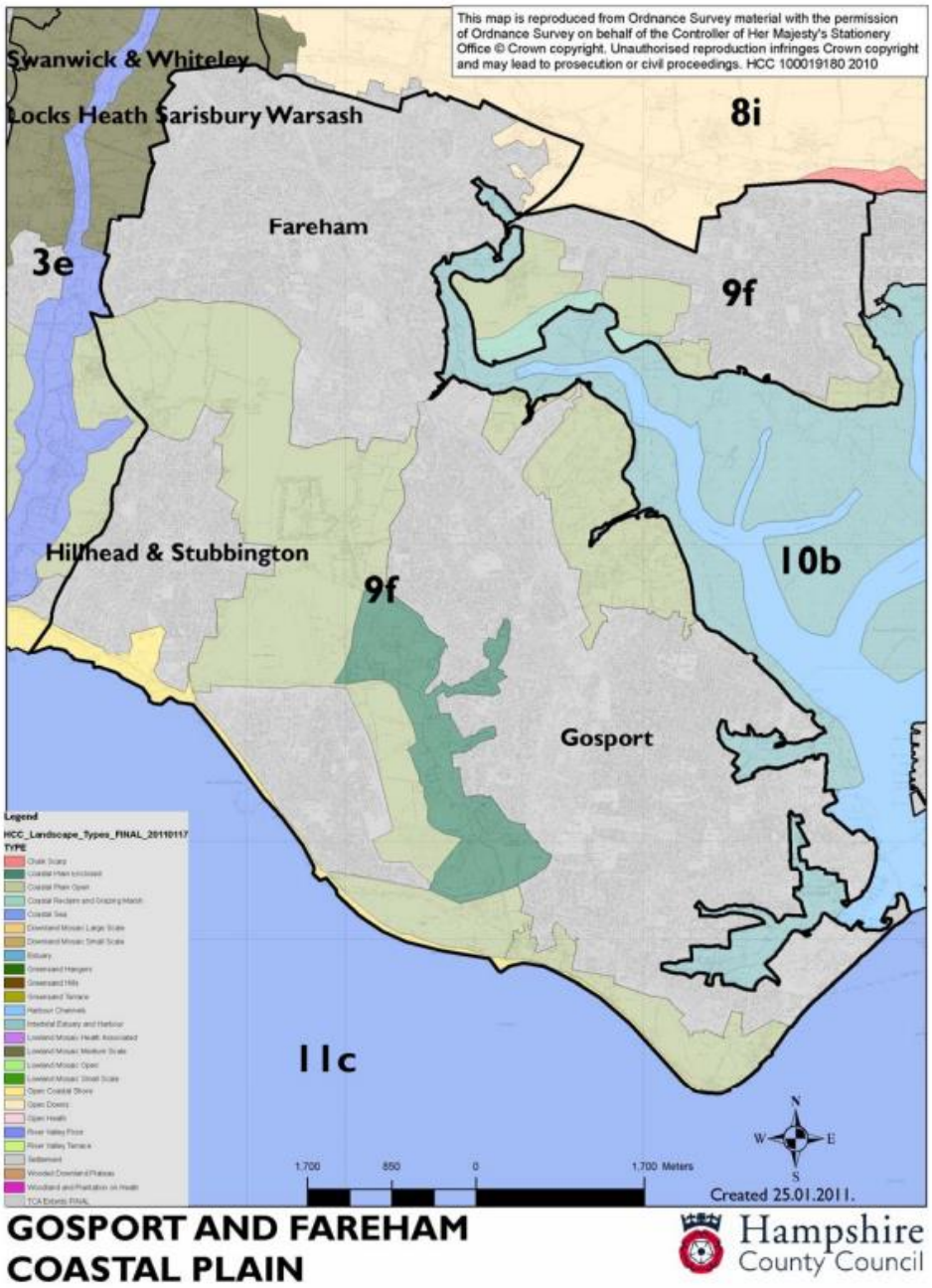

Figure 12.1: Gosport and Fareham Coastal Plain (HICA)

The report goes on to identify the Key Characteristics of the Gosport and Fareham Coastal Plain, as being the following:

- A low lying landscape which physically forms part of the coastal plain but is isolated from the coastline by the development.
- Drained by shallow valleys of the River Alver and Wallington in the east and by small streams running into the Meon to the west.
- Predominantly light soils which are of high agricultural quality with heavier soils in the extreme south and shingle on the foreshore.
- In the south, grassland pasture dominates while to the north there are large arable fields with no significant boundary vegetation.
- The area is strongly influenced by the adjoining urban areas of Gosport, Stubbington and Fareham, and by defence infrastructure.
- The Solent coast draws visitors, particularly local residents for various leisure activities including angling, sailing and walking.
- Numerous small parks and allotments.
- Varied coastal views including across Portsmouth harbour and the city skyline which contrast with views across a busy stretch of the Solent.

Focussing on Gosport itself, the report recognises that the Borough contains a wide range of townscape types, which broadly fit into 9 character areas, as shown in Figure 12.2. Those character types are:

1. High Street (Historic Core)
2. Waterfront
3. Stoke Road environs
4. Forton
5. Alverstoke & Clayhall
6. Haslar peninsula
7. HMS Sultan (Palmerston Fort Line)
8. Fleetlands Industrial Estates
9. Residential suburbs

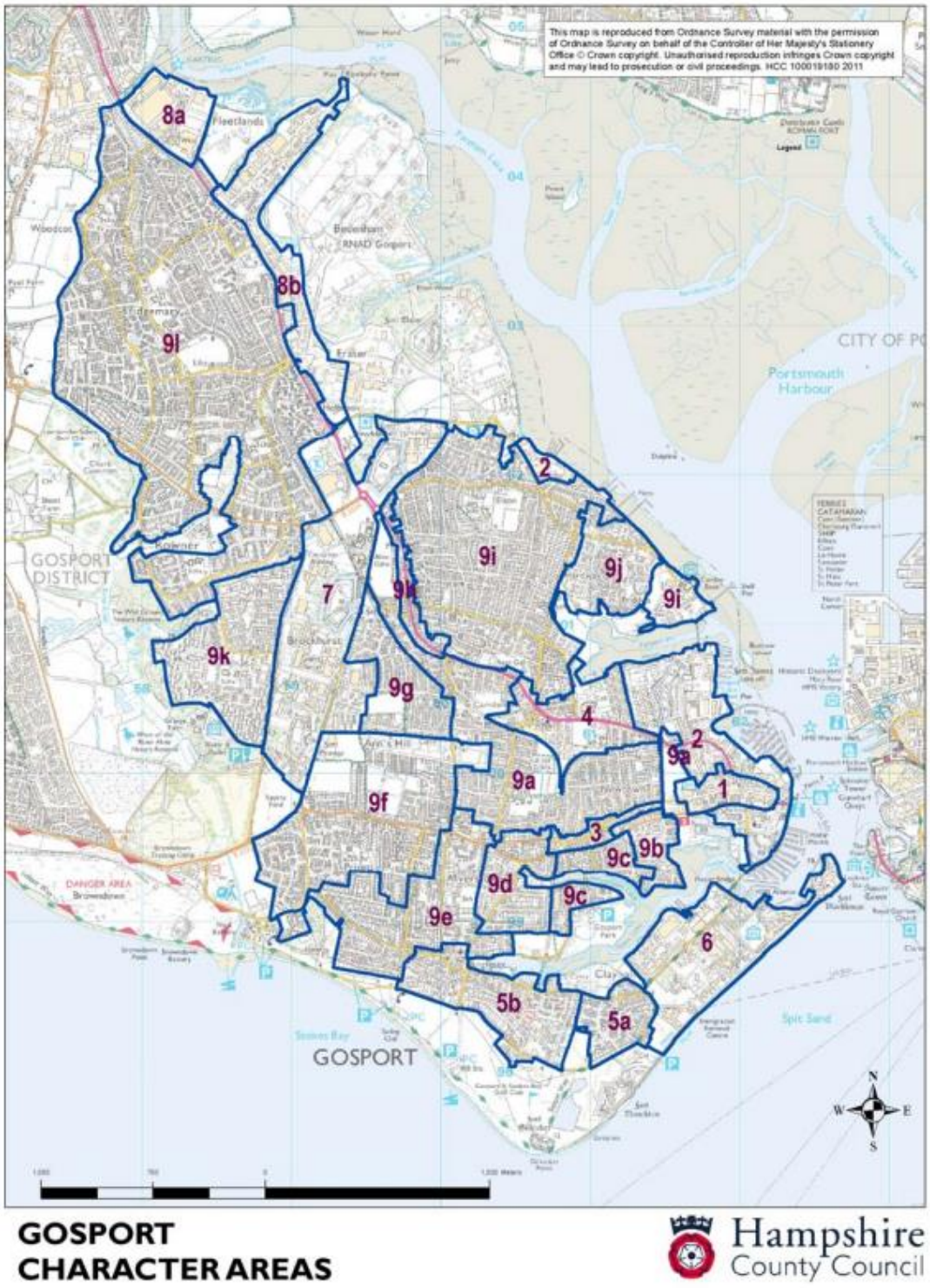

Figure 12.2: Gosport Character Areas (HICA 2010)

The Assessment recognises that Hampshire's landscape has been subject to constant evolution under human influence, however, considers that the countryside should be protected from pressures of change and threats of destruction. It also identifies a number of opportunities for improvement, which include:

- Balancing tourism needs and conversion for development demands whilst retaining and improving the setting to these historic features could be addressed by sympathetic design briefs.
- Including space for the setting to these forts could be included in coastline defence strategies.
- The planning of the balance between recreational pressures and wildlife objectives Fort Gilkicker to Browndown management unit in the face of sea level rise and increasing storm frequency.
- Design and materials could be influenced if the opportunity arises on the Portsmouth harbour side of the character area for compensatory habitat creation through coastal realignment.
- A more co-ordinated approach to stewardship within the Strategic Gap and exploring opportunities for accessible green space provision could be promoted as part of improving the variety and quantity of accessible green space and green infrastructure.
- The design and character for MoD land release for development could be influenced by the townscape assessment for Gosport, Fareham and Stubbington and Hill Head to ensure good integration with these settlements.
- Modifications to design of sea defences could ensure views from the landward side are retained over the coastline.
- Retaining and improving harbour and coastal views could be emphasised as a key factor in design briefs for development, public realms and open space strategies.

Borough Coastline

Gosport Borough has 39km of coastline, of this 17.3km is publicly accessible. The remainder of the coastline is inaccessible as much of it is within Ministry of Defence establishments.

Biodiversity

International and National nature conservation designations

Within Gosport Borough, there are a number of areas of international nature conservation importance. Many of these designations extend beyond the Borough boundary. These designations are listed in Figure 12.3 by type and shown in Figure 12.4.

Designation	Area within Borough boundary (hectares)
Special Protection Area (SPA)	**224.19**
Portsmouth Harbour	
Solent and Dorset Coast (classified by Minister January 2020)	
Ramsar Sites	**164.64**
Portsmouth Harbour	
Solent and Southampton Water	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	**4.06**
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	
Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI)	**272.40**
Portsmouth Harbour SSSI	
The Wild Grounds SSSI	
Browndown SSSI	
Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI	
Gilkicker Lagoon SSSI	

Figure 12.3: European and National Nature Conservation Designations (2020)

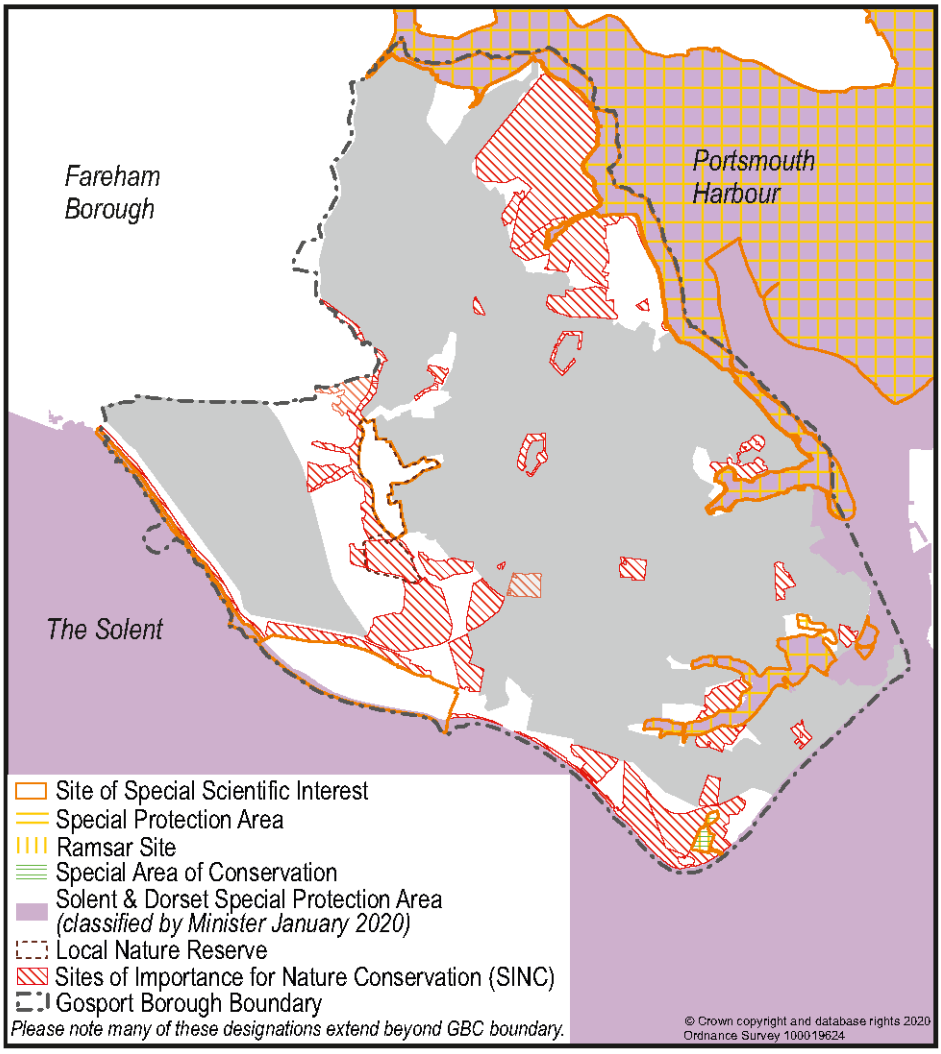

Figure 12.4: Nature Conservation Designations in Gosport Borough (GBC, 2020)

SSSI Condition

The proportion of SSSI rated by HBIC as being in 'favourable' condition (as of 31 March 2020) in Gosport Borough is 21.3%.

The HBIC Monitoring Report shows there has been no changes in the condition assessment results this year. In the previous monitoring period (2018/19) some significant areas of coastal habitat were re-classified from 'unfavourable recovering' to 'favourable'. Previously there was also a significant change in the area classified 'unfavourable recovering', with many areas instead classified 'unfavourable no change'. The table below summarises the information held by HBIC relating to the condition of the SSSIs in Gosport in the latest survey period at 31 March 2020.

Condition	Combined Hants area (ha)	Combined Hants area (%)	GBC area (ha)	GBC area (%)	2018/19 GBC area (ha)	Change in area (ha)
Favourable	22,355.61	44.2	56.59	21.3	56.59	0
Unfavourable Recovering	23,717.42	46.9	82	30.9	82	0
Unfavourable no Change	2,788.01	5.5	120.23	45.3	120.23	0
Unfavourable Declining	1,675.13	3.3	1.95	0.7	1.95	0
Part Destroyed	6.34	0	0	0	0	0
Destroyed	17.44	0	4.46	1.7	4.46	0
Grand Total	50,559.93	100	265.23	100	265.23	0

Source: Table 13E Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) as at 31st March 2020) (HBIC October 2020)
Note: Although data has been provided by Natural England (NE), the total amount of SSSI may differ from NE figures because NE do not always assign a proportion of an SSSI to the correct district where the majority of that SSSI occurs within another district, whereas HBIC are able to clip the SSSI management units directly to the district boundaries.

Figure 12.5 shows the condition of SSSIs in Gosport over the period 2015/16 to 2019/20 as assessed by HBIC and published in their annual monitoring reports.

Condition	2015/16 area (ha)	2015/16 area (%)	2016/17 area (ha)	2016/17 area (%)	2017/18 area (ha)	2017/18 area (%)	2018/19 area (ha)	2018/19 area (%)	2019/20 area (ha)	2019/20 area (%)
Favourable	86	32.29	86	32.29	32.22	12.2	56.59	21.3	56.59	21.3
Unfavourable Recovering	171	64.5	171	64.5	171.12	64.5	82	30.9	82	30.9
Unfavourable no Change	2	0.79	2	0.79	55.44	20.9	120.23	45.3	120.23	45.3
Unfavourable Declining	2	0.74	2	0.74	1.95	0.7	1.95	0.7	1.95	0.7
Part Destroyed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Destroyed	4	1.68	4	1.68	4.46	1.7	4.46	1.7	4.46	1.7
Grand Total	265	100	265	100	265.19	100	265.23	100	265.23	100

Figure 12.5: Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) Source: HBIC 2015/16 to 2019/20

Local nature conservation designations

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

The Borough also benefits from several Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). These are sites that are of local importance for nature conservation which contain habitats and features which are irreplaceable. The sites are identified by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC). The latest list of the Borough's SINCs is available at www.gosport.gov.uk/natureconservation and shown on the plan above (Figure 12.4). As of 2021, there are 39 SINCS in the Borough with a total area of 372 hectares.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

There are also two Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in the Borough. LNRs are designated by the Local Planning Authority under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 as being a nature reserve of local importance. The Two reserves in Gosport Borough are within the Alver Valley Country Park and have a land area of approximately 40 hectares. These are:

The Wildgrounds – 28.41 hectares

The Wildgrounds is largely an acid oakwood, a type of habitat which was formerly widespread on coastal commons in Hampshire.

West of the River Alver – 11.55 hectares

West of the River contains a variety of interesting habitats, the most important being the reedbed which is one of the largest remaining reedbeds in England. The reed supports a large number of insect species which in turn support birds such as reed and sedge warblers.

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centres (HBIC) annual report, published in October 2020, provides comprehensive information relating to biodiversity in Gosport Borough, showing the extent of designated sites and habitats in the Borough. Further information including HBICs annual monitoring reports can be found online: www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre

The following sections present information from the most recent Annual Biodiversity Monitoring Report[1].

BAP Habitats

The main change reported in the extent of priority habitats in the Borough is an increase in Lowland Meadow Priority Habitat which was recorded at Bedenham in recent surveys.

Priority Habitat	Comments on Status	Combined Hants area (ha)	% of Combined Hants area	GBC area (ha)	% of GBC area	2018/19 GBC area (ha)	Change in area (ha)
Grasslands							
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Comprehensive	2,041	0.53				
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Comprehensive. Some overlap with Lowland Heath	3,667	0.94	10	0.36	10	0
Lowland Meadows	Comprehensive. Some overlap with Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh and with Wood-Pasture and Parkland.	1,406	0.36	20	0.73	12	8
Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures	Comprehensive. Some overlap with Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh.	1,547	0.40	1	0.04	1	0
Heathlands							
Lowland Heathland	Comprehensive. Some overlap with Lowland Dry Acid Grassland.	11,829	3.05	4	0.15	4	0

[1] HBIC information and annual reports available from: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/information

Priority Habitat	Comments on Status	Combined Hants area (ha)	% of Combined Hants area	GBC area (ha)	% of GBC area	2018/19 GBC area (ha)	Change in area (ha)
Woodland, wood-pasture and parkland							
Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	Not comprehensive. On-going work to distinguish from Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland.	301	0.08				
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Ongoing work as all ancient/ non ancient woodland has been included yet not all has been surveyed for qualifying NVC types.	36,479	9.39	74	2.69	77	-3
Wet Woodland	Fairly comprehensive. Areas will exist in LMDW that are not yet surveyed for qualifying types.	2,165	0.56	22	0.80	22	0
Wood-Pasture and Parkland	Not comprehensive. Further work needed to classify this habitat within historic parkland.	5,544	1.43	15	0.55	15	0
Arable, orchards and hedgerows							
Arable Field Margins	Incomplete. Figures only show SINCs on arable land designated for rare arable plant assemblages.	[94]	[0.02]	[0.0]	[0.00]	[0]	[0]
Hedgerows	No comprehensive information for Priority hedgerows. All hedgerows mapped as linear features (km).	[16,448]	n/a	[25]	n/a	[25]	[0]
Traditional Orchards	Work to be undertaken to incorporate areas recently identified by PTES under contract to NE.	0.8	0.00				
Open waters							
Eutrophic Standing Waters	No comprehensive information yet available.	45	0.01	1.9	0.07	2	0
Rivers	Incomplete data. Approx. figures for Chalk Rivers only calculated from EA's River GIS layer (km).	[629]	n/a	[0]	n/a	[0]	[0]
Wetlands							
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Work ongoing to verify all qualifying grazing marsh. Some overlap with Lowland Meadows and with Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures.	9,413	2.42	59	2.15	58	1
Lowland Fens	Comprehensive.	1,898	0.49	0	0.00	0	0
Reedbeds	Not comprehensive.	254	0.07	14.5	0.53	14	1

Priority Habitat	Comments on Status	Combined Hants area (ha)	% of Combined Hants area	GBC area (ha)	% of GBC area	2018/19 GBC area (ha)	Change in area (ha)
Coastal							
Coastal saltmarsh	EA data partly verified.	896	0.23	28	1.02	28	0
Coastal Sand Dunes	EA data partly verified.	47	0.01	0.4	0.01	0	0
Coastal Vegetated Shingle	Comprehensive.	218	0.06	62.6	2.28	63	0
Intertidal mudflats	EA data partly verified.	4,463	1.15	111	4.04	111	0
Maritime Cliff and Slopes	Comprehensive.	42	0.01				
Saline lagoons	Comprehensive.	55	0.01	9.5	0.35	9	0
Marine							
Seagrass beds	Not comprehensive. Separate HWT data available.	49	0.01				
Total		**82,359**	**21.20**	**433**	**15.74**	**426**	**7**

Figure 12.6: The extent of Priority habitats in Gosport Borough (as at 31st March 2020)

Table notes:

1. The Hampshire and district totals of Priority habitat are the sum of the individual Priority habitat types (excluding Arable Field Margins and Rivers). This is not the total area of land covered by Priority habitat within Hampshire and each district because some Priority habitat types overlap and hence are double counted (e.g. Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh may overlap Lowland Meadows or Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures).

2. Because the total area of Priority habitat may include areas when habitats overlap, the % of the district area covered by Priority habitat may be slightly over-exaggerated.

3. Minor changes in area might not always reflect real change but are the result of a rounding of figures.

BAP Species

In order to monitor changes in BAP Priority Species, HBIC have selected 50 of the 493 BAP species that cover a broad range of flora and fauna classification groups and are representative of the various habitat species in Hampshire. Of the 50 species, 30 are UK Priority species and are listed on S41 of the NERC Act 2006. The remainder are on the Hampshire BAP list. This year's survey shows that Gosport has 26 of the 50 species, an increase from 24 out of 50 in 2018/19. Two new species were recorded, the Plebejus argus (Silver-studded Blue, Butterfly) and the Eptesicus serotinus (Serotine bat, Mammal). The species present are set out in Figure 12.7 below.

Scientific name	Common name	Group	Hampshire trend 2009 – 2019 (assessed 2020)
Triturus cristatus	Great crested newt	Amphibian	Decline[2]
Bombus humilis	Brown-band.carder bee	Bee	Stable
Lucanus cervus	Stag Beetle	Beetle	Stable
Alauda arvensis	Skylark	Bird	Decline
Branta bernicla bernicla	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Bird	Stable
Caprimulgus europ.	Nightjar	Bird	Stable
Lullula arborea	Woodlark	Bird	Stable
Luscinia megarhyn	Nightingale	Bird	Decline
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	Bird	Stable
Streptopelia turtur	Turtle Dove	Bird	Decline
Sylvia undata	Dartford Warbler	Bird	Increase
Tringa totanus	Redshank	Bird	Decline
Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	Bird	Decline
Argynnis paphia	Silver-washed fritillary	Butterfly	Increase
Cupido minimus	Small Blue	Butterfly	Fluctuating
Lysandra coridon	Chalk Hill Blue	Butterfly	Fluctuating
Plebejus argus	Silver-studded Blue	Butterfly	Stable
Gammarus insensibilis	Lagoon sand shrimp	Crustacean	Stable[3]
Carex divisa	Divided Sedge	Plant	Decline
Chamaemelum nobile	Chamomile	Plant	Decline
Orchis morio	Green-winged orchid	Plant	Decline
Zostera marina/noltii	Eelgrass	Plant	Stable[4]
Arvicola terrestris	European Water Vole	Mammal	Stable[5]
Eptesicus serotinus	Serotine bat	Mammal	Decline?[6]
Apoda limacodes	Festoon	Moth	Increase
Hemaris fuciformis	Broad-bord. Bee Hawk-	Moth	Fluctuating

[2] The national status of a Great Crested Newt is still thought to be declining and this applies on a county level (Source: HBIC Monitoring Report (October 2020).

[3] Trends were previously based on a 1997 survey of the Hampshire saline lagoons. A Natural England funded survey of all lagoons in 2013 recorded its presence in saline lagoons at several sites including Gilkicker Lagoon.

[4] Repeat surveys on selected Eelgrass beds carried out by the HIWWT and the EA suggests theses beds are stable. However there are thought to be local declines in some areas as a result from physical disturbance from fishing activity which has been highlighted by the Defra European Marine Sites Risk Review for the Solent EMS.

[5] Water voles in Hampshire may be showing a slight upward trend, coupled with several recent and successful reintroduction programmes.

[6] HBG are aware of fewer maternity roosts in Hampshire. However, while recorder effort is increasing, its still too low to indicate any clear trends. National Bat Monitoring Programme records trends from 1999 to 2016 and shows the maternity roost count figure is a decline of 1.3% (a decline of 19.9% over the whole period).

Scientific name	Common name	Group	Hampshire trend 2009 – 2019 (assessed 2020)
	moth		

(Source: Table 9: Distribution of Hampshire Species (2009 - 2019) Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (2020))

Figure 12.7: Hampshire BAP species found in Gosport

Open space in Gosport Borough

Despite being a largely urban Borough, Gosport has a number of significant open spaces. Stokes Bay, the Alver Valley and Browndown are all accessible to the public. In addition to these large spaces there are numerous other small open spaces including parks, gardens, common land and other recreational open spaces.

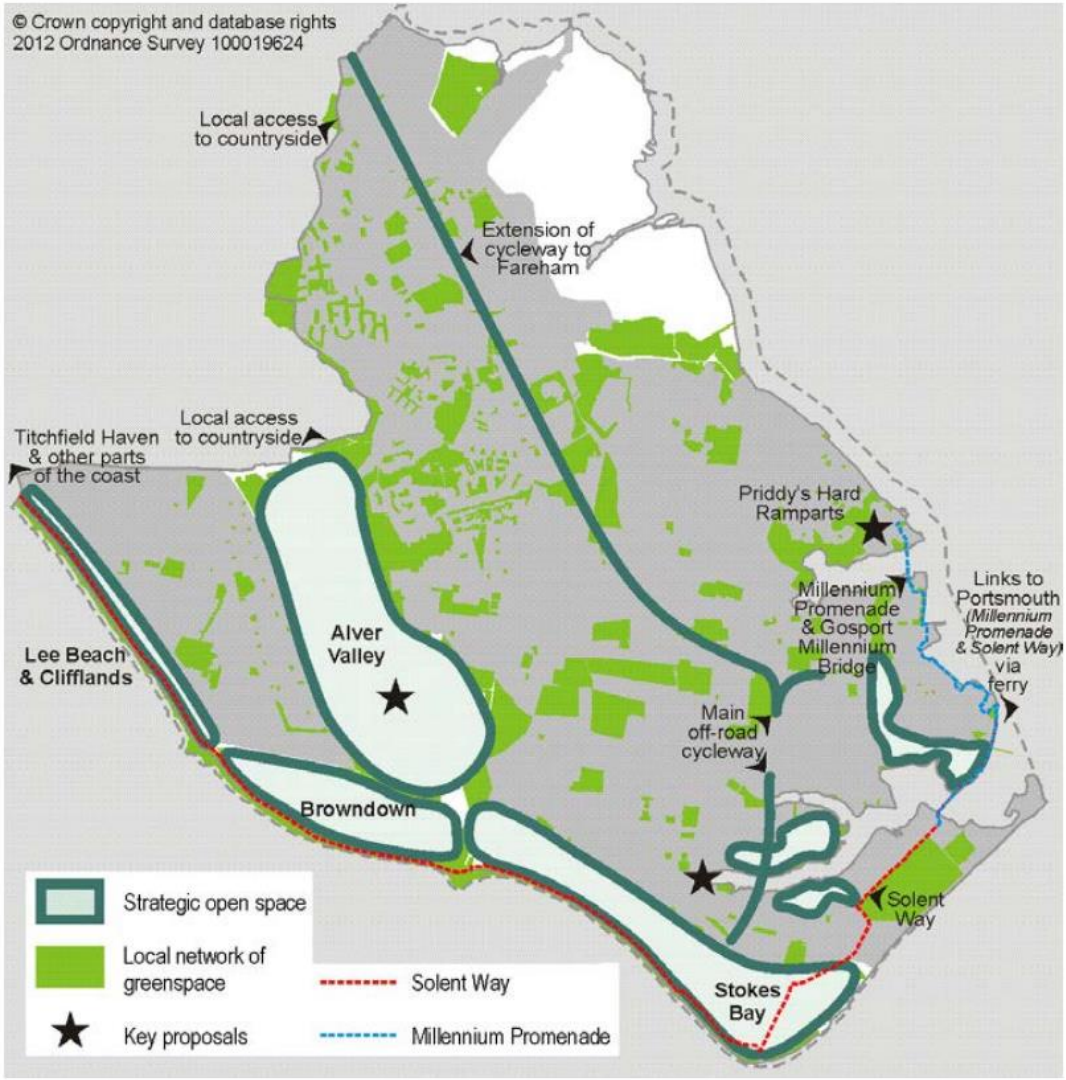

Figure 12.8: Open space in the Borough

Quality and Value of Open Spaces		
High Quality/ Low Value 2 open spaces (0.8%)	*High Quality/ Medium Value* 7 open spaces (3.0%)	*High Quality/ High Value* 90 open spaces (38.1%)
Medium Quality/ Low Value 55 open spaces (23.3%)	*Medium Quality/ Medium Value* 24 open spaces (10.2%)	*Medium Quality/ High Value* 46 open spaces (19.5%)
Low Quality/ Low Value 1 open spaces (0.4%)	*Low Quality/ Medium Value* 5 open spaces (2.1%)	*Low Quality/ High Value* 6 open spaces (2.5%)

Source: Open Space Monitoring Report 2014 (Gosport Borough Council)[7]

The open spaces in Gosport Borough have been given a quality and value rating depending on the quality of the space and how well it is used by the local community.

Each type of open space has been scored and then graded as being Good, Medium or Low Quality. The scoring system has been based on a number of elements including accessibility, provision of facilities, built and natural features and overall management.

To assess value a simple grading system has been devised to determine whether it has a high, medium or low value. Each open space is valued in accordance with the highest category it obtains when carrying out the three 'tests' outlined below:

- special attributes;
- level of use; and
- Context (proximity of a similar type of open space, accessibility).

Over a third of open spaces are considered to be of High Quality/High Value (38.1%). The total number of High Quality/High Value open spaces has increased by four since 2010. Furthermore, almost a fifth of the open spaces are classed as Medium Quality/High Value (19.5%) therefore there are still a large number that may be potentially close to achieving a high quality assessment.

Figure 12.9 provides a summary of existing provision of open space (that is generally available for public use) in each ward of the Borough. The largest proportion of open space is located within the Lee East, Lee West, Grange and Alverstoke wards (approximately two thirds of the Borough's informal open space provision). This is largely due to the significant amount of natural/semi-natural greenspace which is located within areas such as the Alver Valley, Lee Clifflands, Browndown and Stokes Bay. A full breakdown and assessment of open space in the Borough is available in the Open Space Monitoring Report 2014, available online: https://www.gosport.gov.uk/article/1309/Part-E-Topics-Evidence-Studies-and-Guidance

[7] Gosport Borough Council Open Space Monitoring Report 2014 – Available from: https://www.gosport.gov.uk/article/1309/Part-E-Topics-Evidence-Studies-and-Guidance

Ward	Existing provision (ha.)	2011 Census Population	Ha. Per 1,000 of the Population	Proportion of the Borough's Informal Open Space (%)
Alverstoke	44.16	4,234	10.43	8.9
Anglesey	30.22	3,702	8.16	6.1
Bridgemary North	5.03	4,666	1.08	1.0
Bridgemary South	13.57	4,734	2.87	2.7
Brockhurst	15.00	5,144	2.92	3.0
Christchurch	2.55	5,102	0.50	0.5
Elson	19.73	4,644	4.25	4.0
Forton	2.26	4,743	0.48	0.5
Grange	61.02	5,477	11.14	12.3
Hardway	9.63	5,709	1.69	1.9
Lee East	133.98	6,059	22.11	26.9
Lee West	91.08	4,801	18.97	18.3
Leesland	10.73	4,951	2.17	2.2
Peel Common	11.43	4,241	2.70	2.3
Privett	2.98	4,270	0.70	0.6
Rowner and Holbrook	26.56	4,798	5.53	5.3
Town	17.9	5,347	3.35	3.6
Borough Total	497.83	82,622	6.03	100

Figure 12.9: Summary of existing provision of informal open space (generally available for public use) (GBC)

Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard

Accessible natural greenspaces provide a key component of the sub-regional green infrastructure. An assessment of natural greenspace as undertaken based on Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) has been undertaken[8]. The Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards Model which provides the basis for this study sets out a system of tiers according to site size as follows:

- No person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace (however the Borough Council has chosen to adopt a 400 metre standard in line with other accessibility models)
- There should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home
- There should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km
- There should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km

[8] This work first appeared in the Borough Council's Open Space Monitoring Report (GBC 2010). This will be reviewed as part of the forthcoming Local Plan review.

The following plans highlight strategic and local accessible natural greenspaces at both the Borough level and sub-regional level. Gosport has significant greenspaces within the Borough particularly along the coast. The Alver Valley Country Park also makes a significant contribution to accessible greenspace. Figure 12.10 includes the natural greenspace within the Borough that has been identified through the study.

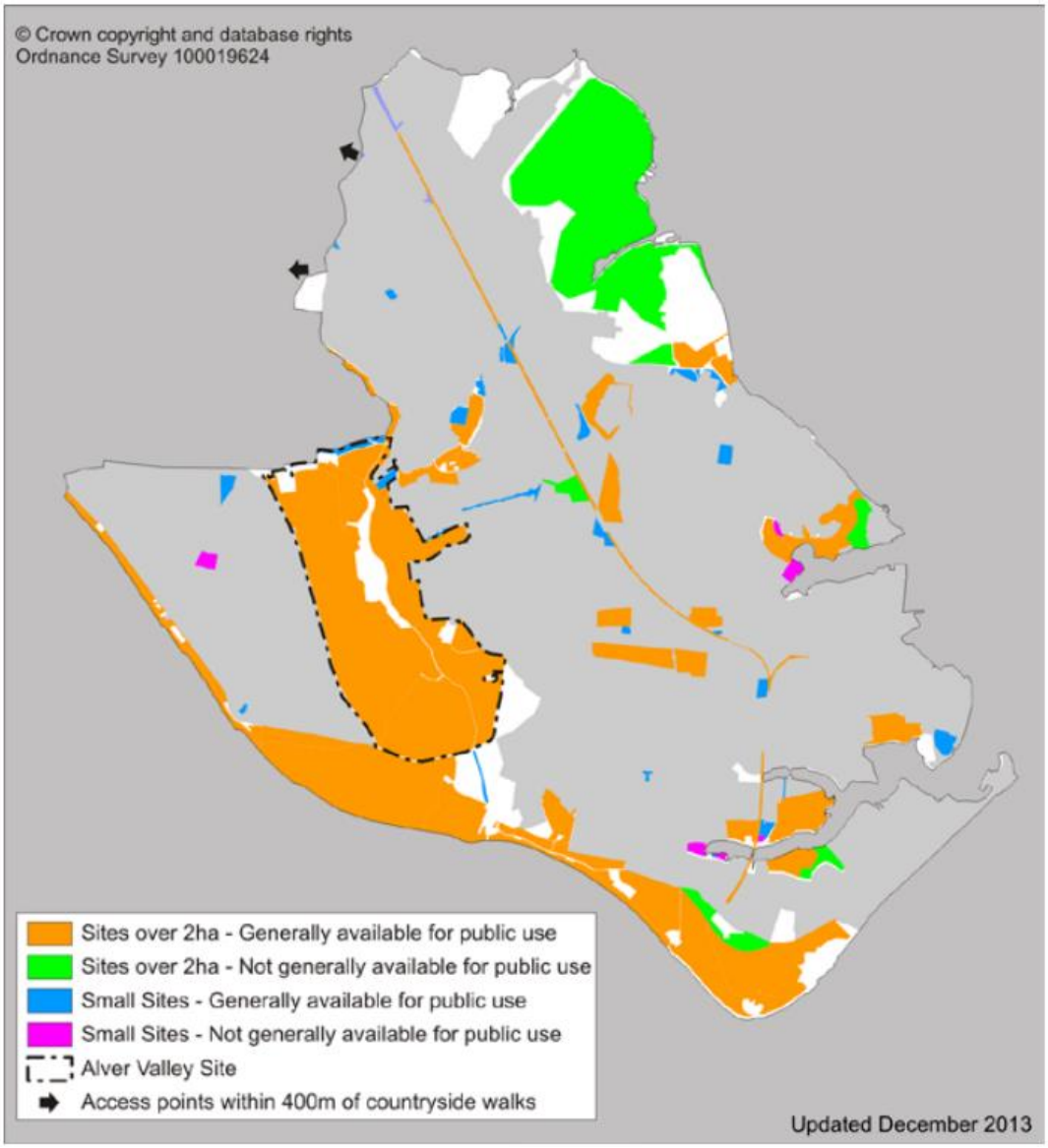

Figure 12.10: Areas of Natural Greenspace

Figure 12.11 shows the areas of accessible natural greenspace that are over two hectares in size as well as the surrounding 400 metre catchment zones. The plan shows that the Borough has a good level of provision of accessible natural greenspace with the majority of the Borough falling within the 400 metres catchment areas. There are size areas that are currently further than 400 metres of an accessible natural greenspace of 2ha or more with the largest area in Bridgemary. In many cases, few opportunities exist to improve this provision given the character of these parts of the Borough.

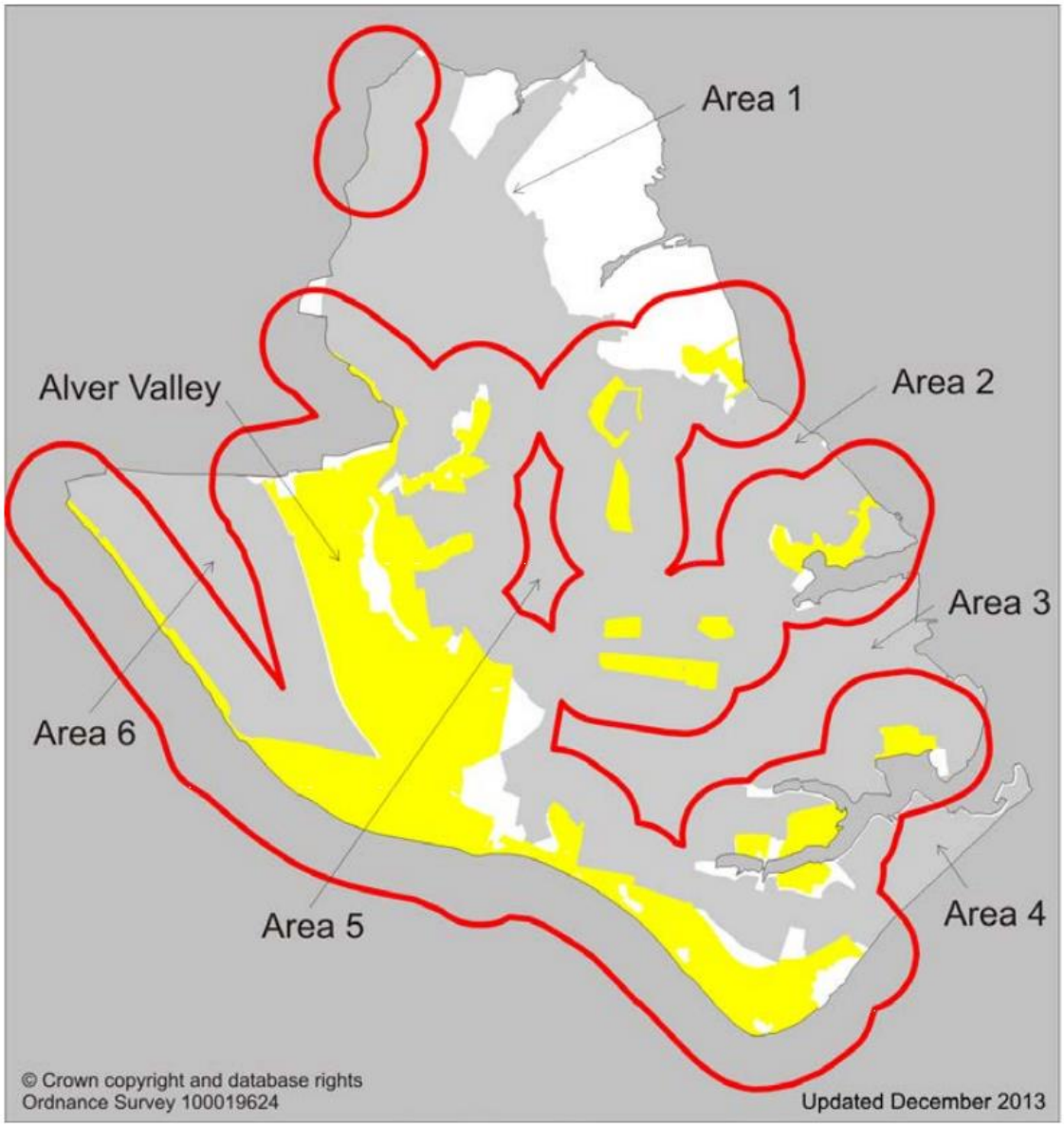

Figure 12.11: Accessible areas of natural greenspace over 2ha with catchment areas

Figure 12.12 shows that the coast and the Alver Valley Country Park will ensure most of the Borough will be within 2km of a 20 hectare natural greenspace in accordance with Natural England's ANGSt standards. It also shows that the entire Borough is within 5km of a 100ha site given that both the Alver Valley and the combined connected coastal areas of Lee beach, Browndown and Stokes Bay are over 100 hectares. The Country Park ensures that residents in the Peel Common, Bridgemary, Elson and Forton areas are within 2km of a natural greenspace.

Alver Valley:
2km catchment –orange line 5km catchment –red line
Accessible Solent coast (Lee-on-the-Solent and Stokes Bay)
2km catchment- light green 5km catchment –dark green

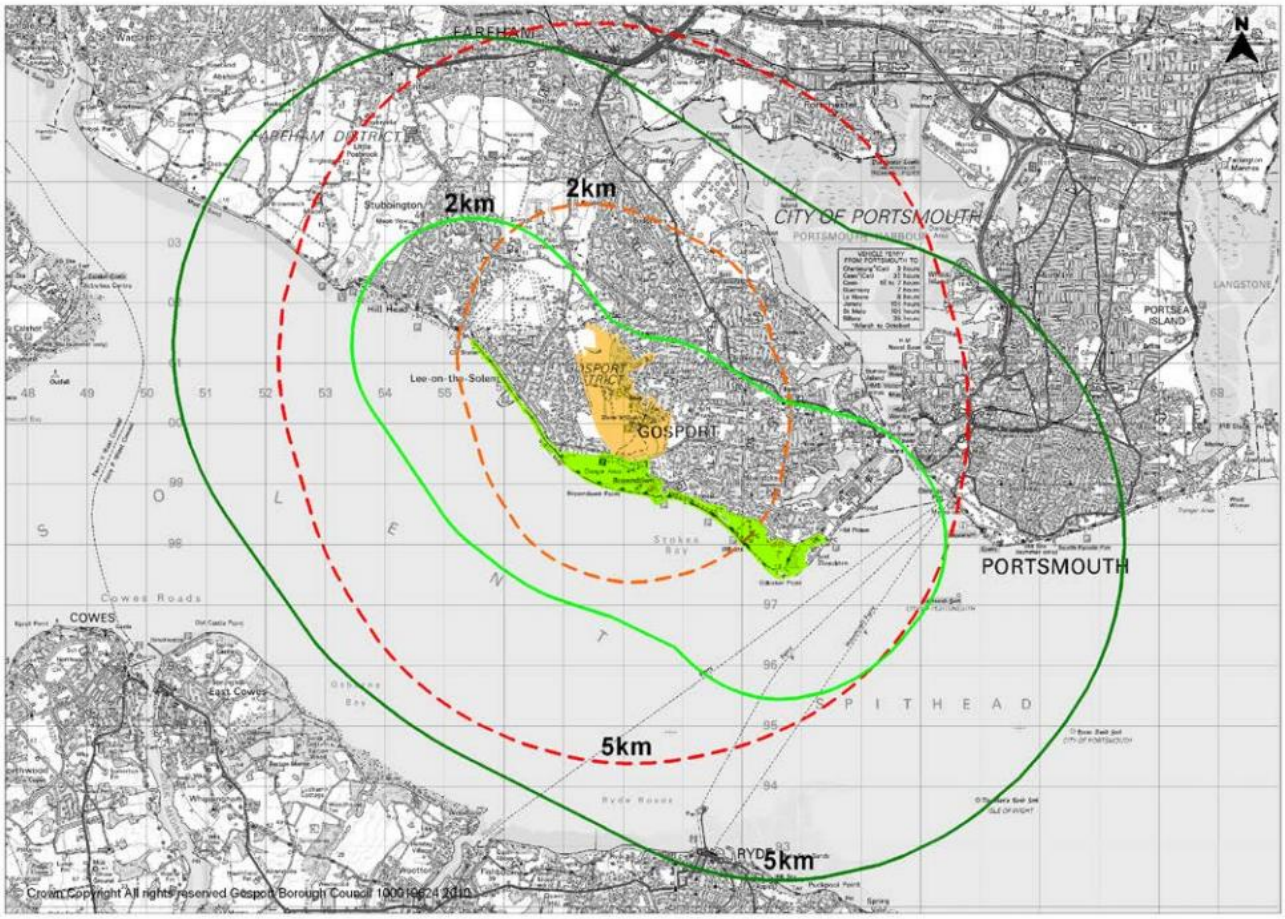

Figure 12.12: 2km and 5km catchment areas of the Alver Valley and accessible coastal areas

In relation to large sites over 500 ha within 10km (Figure 12.13 below) there are a number of areas of countryside with some form of public access. This could include: farmland with public rights of way; nature reserve with public access; countryside sites managed for public access (country parks etc) or coastal areas with natural characteristics.

Within 2 km of the Borough boundary is the countryside between Gosport/Fareham and Stubbington/Lee. This area contains a network of footpaths where people can access natural greenspace.

Within the 5km buffer there are areas of natural greenspace at Titchfield Haven and the surrounding areas in the Lower Meon Valley. This area is a National Nature Reserve and is home to nationally and internationally important wildlife. The area is readily accessible to visitors with facilities including car parking, a tea room and a shop as well as space for exhibitions and displays.

A wide area of natural greenspace including areas of woodland can also be found in the Portsdown Hill area north of Fareham and Portchester. There are a number of rights of way where people are able to take walks to access the wider countryside. The area has a number of woodland sites including the Forest of Bere. Much of the woodland is managed by the Forestry Commission and some sites incorporate facilities such as toilets, car parking, barbeque and picnic sites, play areas and refreshments as well as clearly marked paths and trails for walking, cycling and horse riding.

The area surrounding Langstone Harbour falls within the 10km buffer; this includes the eastern shoreline of Portsea Island, the western part of Hayling Island as well as areas to the north of the Harbour including Farlington Marshes. Langstone Harbour is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar Site and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The area is designated for a variety of habitats and in particular its importance for its bird populations.

Some areas of natural greenspace were excluded from this study despite falling within the criteria. There were areas of natural greenspace in northern parts of the Isle of Wight between Cowes and Ryde that fell within the 10km boundary; however, these areas are not readily accessible to Gosport residents as there are no direct ferries to the Isle of Wight from Gosport. Furthermore, parts of the New Forest fell within the 10km boundary and these sites were also excluded due to issues relating to access. As the New Forest is separated from Gosport by Southampton Water the actual distance required to travel in order to access these areas significantly exceeds 10km (30 km via M27).

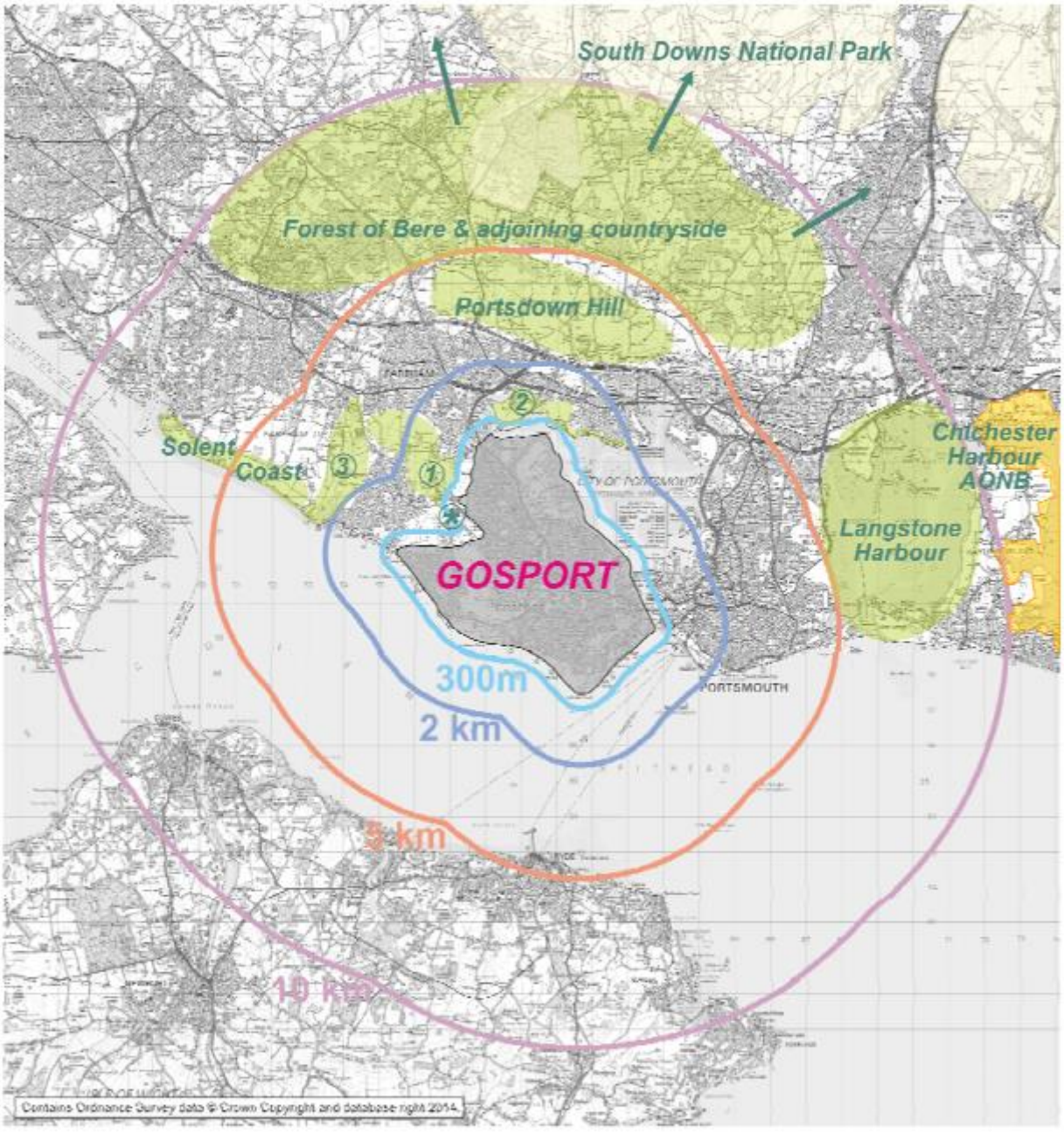

Figure 12.13: Large areas of countryside within 10km of Gosport Borough

Allotments

In addition to the formal open spaces there are a number of allotment gardens in Gosport Borough. There is steady demand for allotments in Gosport due to the urban nature of the town and the limited supply. There are approximately 22.5 hectares of allotments in the Borough.

There are significant waiting lists for allotments, with Leesland Park having the longest. Residents can put their list on the waiting list for more than one allotment site. There are now more vacant plots, with 93 in 2020 compared to 45 in 2018 and 32 in 2017; meanwhile the waiting list has increased from 251 in 2017 to 688 in 2020[9].

Allotment Vacancy Rates (at April 2020 GBC Sites only)

Allotment site	Total number of plots	Number of vacant plots	Vacancy rate	Waiting list
Brockhurst	379	42	11.1%	97
Camden	177	17	9.6%	55
Elson	83	5	6%	65
Lee-on-the-Solent	111	4	3.6%	95
Leesland Park	66	3	4.5%	126
Middlecroft	192	6	3.1%	48
Park Road	17	1	5.9%	82
Rowner	79	15	18.9%	53
Tukes Avenue	3	0	0%	19
Wych Lane	9	0	0%	48
Total	1116	93	8.3%	688

[9] GBC Allotment Waiting List (2020)

Geology

The geology maps from the British Geological Survey can be viewed online at http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain3d/

Bedrock

Figure 12.14 shows the bedrock geology of Gosport Borough from the British Geological Survey. The underlying bedrock of the Borough is formed by a mix of clay, silt, sands and gravels laid down between approximately 66 million and 23 million years ago in the Paleogene Period.

The bedrock geology includes the Barton Clay Formation, Selsey Sand Formation, Wittering Formation, Whitecliff Sand Member, London Clay Formation, and Lambeth Group.

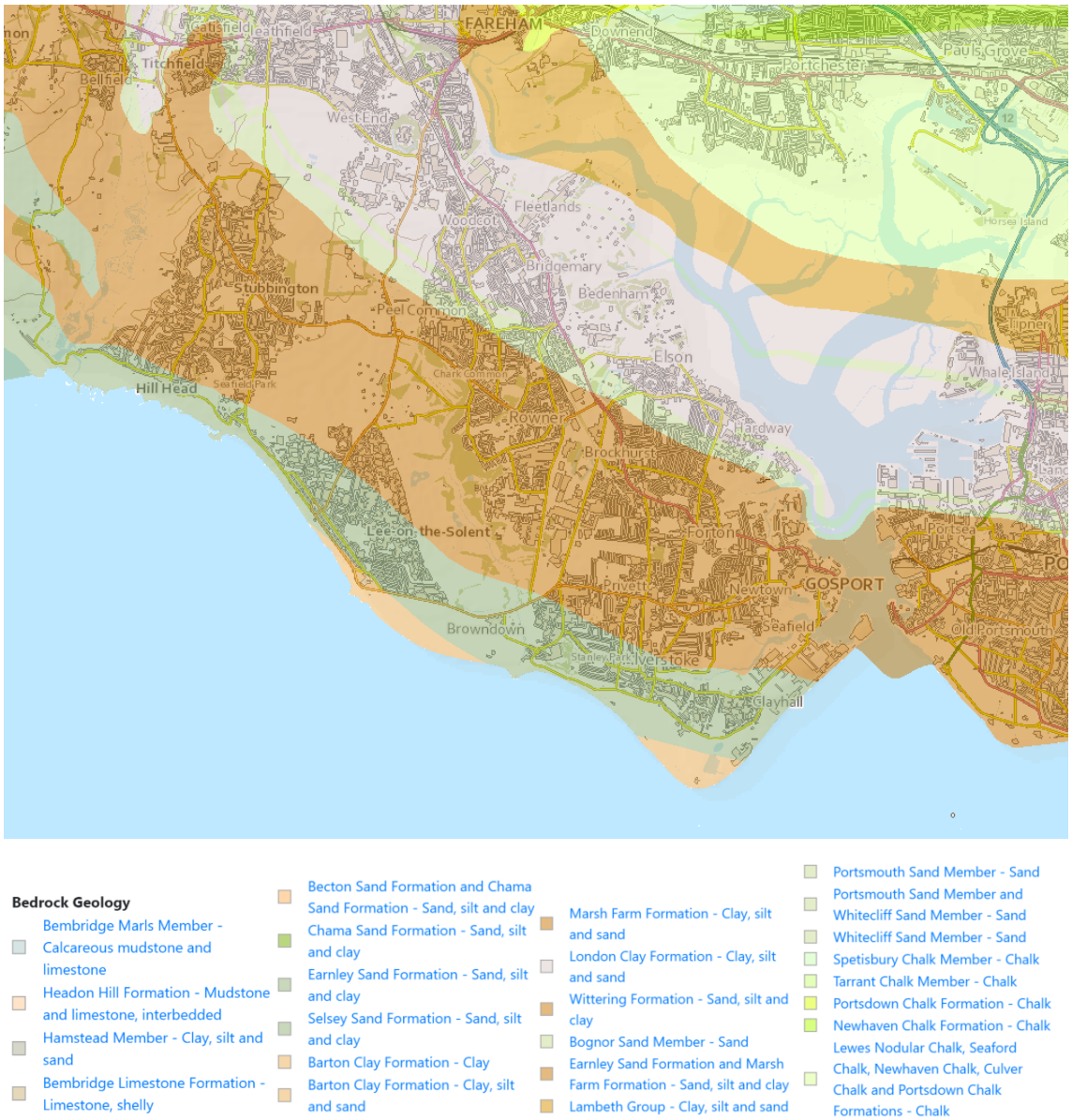

Figure 12.14: Bedrock Geology - Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 (BGS 2020)

Superficial

Figure 12.15 shows the superficial geology of Gosport Borough from the British Geological Survey. The superficial geology is primarily formed of River Terrace Deposits and Peat deposits with a mix of sand and gravel formed between approximately 2.58 million years ago during the Quaternary Period and the present day. There are areas of Alluvium (Clay, silt, sand and gravel) in the south of the borough deposited around 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary Period. There are also areas of Tidal Flat Deposits (Clay, silt, sand and gravel) formed 11.8 thousand years ago.

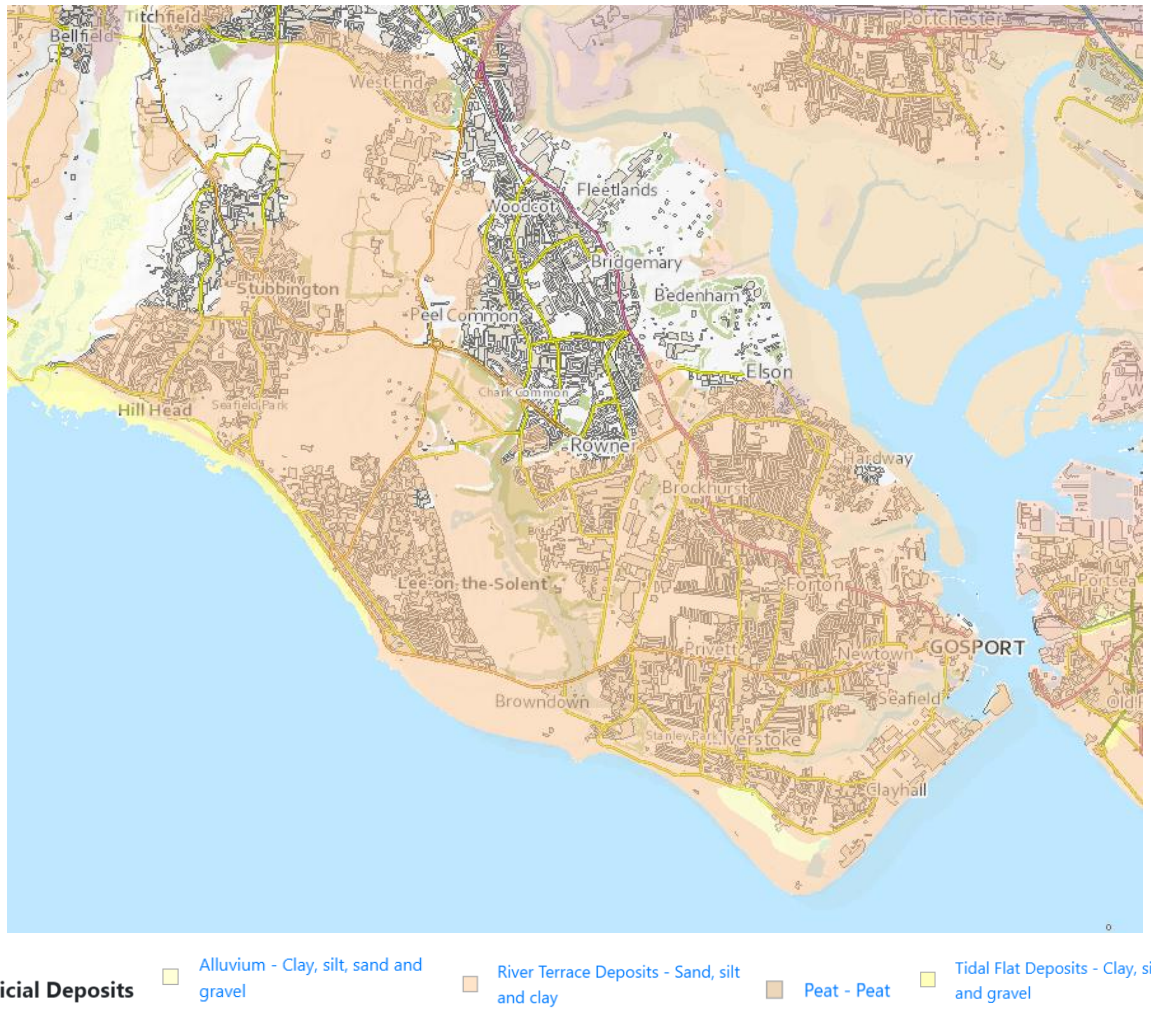

Figure 12.15: Superficial Deposits - Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 (BGS 2020)