

POLICY LP37: ACCESS TO THE COAST AND COUNTRYSIDE

- 1. The Borough Council will promote public access to the coast and countryside. Planning permission will be granted for appropriate new development provided that:**
- a) it will not result in the loss of existing public access to the coast and countryside;**
 - b) public access to the coast and countryside is incorporated within new proposals where practical and appropriate, including opportunities to link to and integrate with the existing public right of way network;**
 - c) access does not adversely affect important habitats and species through disturbance of sensitive areas.**

EXPLANATION OF POLICY LP37

- 11.127 It is one of the Council's Strategic Priorities for the Borough to have a high quality waterfront environment. Public access along the frontage can contribute to enhancing the quality of life for local residents.
- 11.128 Certain parts of the coast have good public access to the shoreline including Stokes Bay and the Lee-on-the-Solent clifflands. The Council has had a successful record in improving the quality of access in recent years with the development of the Millennium Promenade stretching from the Submarine Museum to Priddy's Hard via the Forton Lifting Bridge. The Council aims to extend public access along the coastline as opportunities arise within the Gosport Waterfront regeneration area.
- 11.129 Access to certain coastal areas is constrained by the extensive MoD landholdings at Fleetlands, Bedenham, Frater and the Haslar Peninsula. Where opportunities arise appropriate public access will be sought.
- 11.130 With the improvement of coastal routes and the creation of the Alver Valley Country Park there will be new opportunities to improve linkages to the wider countryside as promoted by the PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy and Hampshire County Council's Countryside Access Plan for the Solent.
- 11.131 When considering planning applications for appropriate new development having regard to other policies in the plan the Borough Council will aim to ensure that no coastal access is lost and that opportunities to increase access along the coast are incorporated within the development. This includes the potential to improve access along the Solent coast as part of redevelopment proposals on the Haslar Peninsula (see policy LP6).
- 11.132 Where opportunities arise the Borough Council will seek to ensure that developments are linked to the existing rights of way network including the creation of new offsite permissive routes where viable and desirable.
- 11.133 Careful consideration will be given when improving access along the coast and to the countryside to ensure proposals do not adversely affect important habitats and species, including along the coast and harbour which contain internationally important habitats. Where applicable an 'appropriate assessment' in accordance with the Habitats Regulations will be required and advice sought from Natural England regarding the suitability of avoidance and mitigation measures.

Further information:

The Open Space Background Paper (GBC 2014).

The following can be found at www.gosport.gov.uk/localplan2029-evidencestudies
Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Assessment (Strategic Leisure 2014);
Gosport Children's Play Strategy 2007-2012 (GBC 2007);
Local Open Space Standards contained within Appendix 4 of the Planning
Obligations and Developer Contributions Strategy (GBC 2014);
Open Space Monitoring Report (GBC 2014).

Other key documents include:

PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy (UEA 2010); and
www.push.gov.uk/push_gi_strategy_adopted_june_10-3.pdf

Solent Countryside Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008-2013 (HCC 2008).
www.hants.gov.uk/rh/countryside/access/solent.pdf