

corridors, linking up different habitats. Enhancing health and wellbeing, and delivering a net gain in biodiversity are key national and local objectives. As such, the Council expects developers to take advantage of all opportunities to 'green' routes, such as through including green buffers in new routes, or providing additional planting along existing routes, where appropriate. This can assist in enhancing the Borough's Green Infrastructure Network (see Policy D4).

Further information

The following can be found online: www.gosport.gov.uk/GBLP2042

Playing Pitch Strategy (Strategic Leisure Limited, 2024)
Indoor Sport Built Facilities Strategy (Strategic Leisure Limited, 2021)
Gosport Children's Play Strategy 2007-2012 (GBC, 2007)
Local Open Space Standards (GBC, 2026)
Open Space Monitoring Report (GBC, 2026)

Other key documents include:

South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017-2034 (PfSH, 2018)
www.push.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/South-Hampshire-GI-Strategy-2017-2034-FINAL.pdf

South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan (PfSH, 2019)
www.push.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/South-Hampshire-Green-Infrastructure-Implementation-Plan-June-2019-.pdf

Countryside Access Plan for the Solent 2008-2013 (HCC, 2008)
www.hants.gov.uk/rh/countryside/access/solent.pdf

Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025 (HCC)
www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/countryside/accessplan

South Marine Plan (MMO, 2018)
www.gov.uk/government/collections/south-marine-plans

Policy LE5: Locally Designated Nature Conservation Sites

Nature conservation

- 10.49 The following set of nature conservation policies must be read in conjunction with the strategic Policy D5 relating to the Local Ecological Network and internationally and nationally important sites (Section 2 of the Local Plan). This, and the following policies, relate to features that form part of the Local Ecological Network (LEN).

POLICY LE5: LOCALLY DESIGNATED NATURE CONSERVATION SITES

- 1. Locally designated sites such as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Local Nature Reserves will be appropriately protected and opportunities will be taken to enhance them.**
- 2. Planning permission will not be granted on locally designated sites unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the benefits of the proposal outweigh the need to protect the nature conservation value of the site.**
- 3. In exceptional circumstances where development is permitted the Local Planning Authority will require that any adverse impacts are appropriately mitigated for, with compensatory measures only used as a last resort.**

EXPLANATION OF POLICY LE5

- 10.50 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are identified by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) following an ecological assessment and consideration by the Local Sites Panel³²⁰. in accordance with local sites guidance issued by DEFRA in 2006³²¹. These sites are shown on the Policies Map. Following the adoption of the Local Plan further sites may be identified as SINCs and these additional sites will also be covered by Policy LE5. A list of all the sites including those added after the Local Plan is adopted can be found on the Council's website together with the list of qualifying criteria³²².
- 10.51 The Borough has two Local Nature Reserves (LNRs): the Wildgrounds (also a SSSI) and the West of the River Reserves. Both sites are located in the Alver Valley and are owned and managed by Gosport Borough Council. LNRs are a statutory designation made by local authorities under Section 21 of the National Parks and Countryside Act 1949 (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972).
- 10.52 All these designated sites form part of the Local Ecological Network (see Policy D5) which support a range of species. The Council will continue to protect them and encourage and support opportunities to enhance them, including the establishment of buffer areas around them. The Council will resist any development proposals which would adversely affect these locally designated sites unless the benefits of the proposal outweigh the

³²⁰ The panel comprises representatives from Natural England, Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust for ratification,

³²¹ www3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hampshire/sinCs/important-sites-sinc-criteria.htm

³²² www.gosport.gov.uk/article/1393/Local-Sites

significance of the site. Where there is a risk of damage to a designated site, the Local Planning Authority will impose planning conditions or require a Section 106 Agreement in order to secure measures that overcome any potential impacts. Such measures could include the long-term management of the site, restriction of operations, or the provision of nature conservation features to compensate for any such features lost when development takes place to ensure that there is no net loss in overall biodiversity.

Policy LE6: Protecting Species and Other Features of Nature Conservation Importance

POLICY LE6: PROTECTING SPECIES AND OTHER FEATURES OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE

- 1. Planning permission will not be granted on a site that would have an adverse impact on a protected species or its habitat unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there is an overriding need for the development that outweighs the significance of the nature conservation feature. In such instances, the Council will impose conditions on the planning permission or require a planning obligation to:**
 - a) facilitate the survival of individual members of the species;**
 - b) reduce disturbance to a minimum;**
 - c) provide alternative habitats to sustain at least the current levels of population of the species; and**
 - d) take opportunities to enhance their habitat.**
- 2. Planning permission will not be granted for development which would adversely affect, directly or indirectly, features of nature conservation importance unless it can be demonstrated that the justification for the development outweighs their importance for nature conservation or amenity value.**
- 3. Appropriate management of these features will be secured by the imposition of planning conditions and by entering management agreements with landowners where appropriate. Where such features are lost as part of a development proposal, the Council will use conditions and/or planning obligations to ensure there is a net gain of biodiversity.**

EXPLANATION OF POLICY LE6

Protected Species and their habitats (Point 1 of Policy LE6)

- 10.53 This policy needs to be considered with Policy D5 relating to the LEN and development proposals should be aiming to achieve a net gain in