



WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (GI) STUDY

May 2010



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Executive Summary

This Green Infrastructure (GI) Study identifies and analyses local assets and proposes a locally distinctive definition. Deficits are identified but, overall, the area has considerable assets with extensive areas of publically accessible space for recreation, as identified on Map 6, and a comprehensive network of Rights of Way which not only provide for recreation but also act as green corridors to link existing green spaces. The area also benefits from strategic 'blue' corridors, such as the River Itchen, which are of considerable biodiversity, landscape and recreation value.

Relevant plans and strategies, both existing and emerging, have been identified; their relationship, shared aims and objectives explored. Both local and regional studies have been used to inform this study. In terms of providing informal open space and formal play and recreation space for new development, the implementation of robust development management policies will be crucial.

A list of key issues from the workshop held in December 2009 emphasises the demands which will be made on the existing green infrastructure of the area, due to the projected population increase and, in addition, a potential increase in the number of visitors resulting from the change of designation of the East Hampshire AONB to National Park. The need to understand the long term commitment to the management of GI projects and to balance the provision of GI with expected housing densities was also clearly expressed at the workshop and will require careful consideration both at the early stages of planning the strategic allocations and in dealing with other development proposals.

1.0 Introduction

Context

- 1.1 The purpose of this study is to provide the basis for a clear and deliverable strategy for retaining, enhancing and enlarging Green Infrastructure (GI) assets within the Winchester District, over the period up to 2026. It is intended to provide evidence for the various components of the Winchester District Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.2 A strategic approach to GI assets is required to complement and manage the impacts of planned, significant growth in housing provision across the District during this period. For example, over the next twenty years the South Hampshire Sub-Region (known as the 'PUSH' area - Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) which covers a significant, southern part of the District is expected to grow in terms of its economic performance. It is calculated that the provision of 80,000 net additional dwellings will be required in the area as a whole over this period.
- 1.3 In the wider, regional context the District will also need to respond to the challenges outlined in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), the South East Plan (2009) which requires the provision of sites for over 12,000 new dwellings in the next twenty years. The RSS makes specific reference to Winchester City, in terms of making a contribution to the regional strategy.
- 1.4 In the context of these development pressures, the GI study for Winchester District will need to inform future planning for, provision and maintenance of enhanced networks of accessible multi-functional green space that are relevant for urban and rural areas, and for both the major and more incremental growth points.
- 1.5 The GI study must address and be capable of delivering against the following primary objectives:
 - Sustainable development
 - Multi-functionality
 - Extended access
 - Landscape enhancement
 - Biodiversity enhancement
 - Connectivity of habitats
 - Planning, delivery and management of landmark projects
- 1.6 This study was informed by a stakeholder workshop which took place on the 7th December 2009 and is referenced throughout this document. A list of the participants and full notes of the proceedings can be found at Appendix A.

What 'Green Infrastructure' Means

- 1.7 The term green infrastructure relates to the planning, provision and management of connected 'networks' of publicly accessible and multi-functional areas of open space. GI and GI networks are spatially relevant at local/ neighbourhood and wider regional levels as recognised and reinforced through both National and Regional planning policy.
- 1.8 A range of definitions for GI has emerged, but typically there is a shared understanding that: GI involves natural and managed green areas in both urban and rural settings; it is about the strategic connection of open green areas and; it should provide multiple benefits for users. In its recent 'Green Infrastructure Guidance' Natural England (2009) defines GI as:

'Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.'

'Green Infrastructure includes established green spaces and new sites and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. Consequently it needs to be delivered at all spatial scales from sub-regional to local neighbourhood levels, accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.'

- 1.9 Natural England's guidance document also outlines the history of GI development and, importantly, the distinction between planning for open space (Open Space or Green Space Strategies, based on Planning Policy Guidance 17 or PPG17-type audits) and planning for green infrastructure. In particular, it is noted that the scope of GI strategies is wider through coverage of the following key elements:

- Green infrastructure goes beyond the site specific, considering also the 'big picture' – landscape context, hinterland and setting, as well as strategic links of sub regional scale and beyond;
- Green infrastructure considers private as well as public assets;
- Green infrastructure provides a multifunctional, connected network delivering ecosystem services;
- Whilst PPG17 compliant studies consider typologies beyond sports and amenity greenspace, spaces are considered primarily from

access, quality and management perspectives, rather than consideration of wider environmental benefits and services. These green spaces are, however, important constituents of green infrastructure networks

(Natural England, 2009)

- 1.10 At a regional level, the South East Plan (GOSE, 2009) does not include a formal definition but, instead gives a clear indication as to the value and purpose of GI. To promote this approach it sets out objectives for the active planning and management of networks of multi-functional open space. The Plan also encourages provision as part of the forward planning process; indicating that local interpretations of GI should be formalised and spatially mapped through Local Development Frameworks (LDFs).

The Value of Green Infrastructure

- 1.11 Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12 - 'Local Spatial Planning' talks about green infrastructure as a network of green spaces both new and existing, rural and urban which supports nature and its ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities. In the context of this study GI should, therefore, contribute to and enhance the quality of life of both present and future residents and visitors, by:

- Supporting and enhancing natural biodiversity
- Mitigating the potential effects of new development, especially in areas about to undergo significant change
- Adding to sustainable travel alternatives
- Benefiting local economies and local sustainability
- Increasing countryside access and recreational opportunities, to the benefit of personal health and quality of life
- Assisting with improved water management and reducing flood risk
- Making a positive contribution towards combating climate change
- Encouraging a greater appreciation of important landscapes and cultural heritage

- 1.12 The linkages within and between habitats and landscapes are fundamental to providing and maintaining high quality green infrastructure. Biodiversity in particular can benefit from the creation and improvement of linking 'corridors' which help to increase connectivity and counteract the effects of habitat fragmentation.

- 1.13 In addition to environmental benefits, GI can contribute to the development of better places to live, work and invest. It is a simple and effective way of improving health and well being without cost implications for the user, whilst at the same time helping people of all

ages to appreciate and enjoy their natural surroundings. It also helps to recognise, provide and maintain well-connected and more sustainable places and local landscape character. GI can, in addition, strengthen the relationship between urban and rural areas and increase the potential for the countryside areas to provide opportunities for informal recreation and relaxation. These additional benefits connect with and support the Winchester District Sustainable Community Strategy and its 'Vision' for the District's future; issues later referred to at paragraphs 1.27-1.29.

Drivers for Green Infrastructure: National Policy, Regional Policy & Strategy

National Policy Background

- 1.14 The inclusion of GI in National planning policy marks a significant step in strategic environmental planning and delivery, and is an important component of the Government's commitment to meeting sustainable development objectives. A number of national planning policies are particularly relevant:

Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) - 'Delivering Sustainable Development' (2005), is the principal driver which sets out the implicit requirement to have due regard to environmental issues and needs, in meeting sustainable development objectives. Further to that, it states that development should deliver an appropriate mix of uses, including the provision of green space.

Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS 7) - Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004) sets out the Government's policies for rural areas, including those which call for new development to respect and enhance local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside, including the urban fringe. In parallel with these aims, the PPS advocates a more directly targeted move towards the conservation and enhancement of both landscape character and natural biodiversity.

Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS 9) - Biological and Geological Conservation (2005), identifies the part that networks of natural habitats play in linking sites of biodiversity importance and providing channels for dispersal, migration and genetic exchange among species in a wider environment. More specifically, it calls for an integrated approach to planning for biodiversity which should include a focus on networks of natural habitats, as part of any broader strategy to protect and expand open spaces and access routes.

Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS 12) - Local Spatial Planning (2008), establishes the importance of local spatial planning in creating strong, safe and prosperous communities and ensures that local plans are supported by evidence as to which physical, social and green infrastructure elements are needed to deliver sustainable communities.

Planning Policy Guidance17 (PPG17) - Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) highlights the need to undertake open space audits and, from these, develop strategies to inform and support planning for the inclusion of green infrastructure within new development, at both the strategic and local levels.

The Government has recently consulted on a **new draft PPS on 'Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment'** which pulls together advice on GI and sets out advice on incorporating it into local and regional policy.

Regional Policy Background

The South East Plan - the Regional Spatial Strategy

- 1.15 The South East Plan (2009) is the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East Region, setting out a range of policies for employment, housing, transport and the environment. The Plan identifies South Hampshire as a sub-region that will deliver economic growth and significant housing development. The southern part of the Winchester District falls within the South Hampshire sub-region where, together with ten other partner authorities, the City Council is part of the 'PUSH' initiative (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) formed to develop cross-boundary joint working, in order to help deliver the RSS.
- 1.16 The RSS makes reference to GI and emphasises the function and overall importance of GI within the Region. In particular, the RSS identifies specific requirements for new GI provision to be made in association with proposed Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) at North Fareham (10,000 dwellings) and at Hedge End (6,000 dwellings), to prevent the coalescence of the SDAs with neighbouring settlements. These large-scale strategic developments are intended to be centred on land to the south of the Winchester District and located within Fareham Borough in the case of the North Fareham SDA and split between Eastleigh Borough and Winchester District for the North/North East Hedge End SDA.
- 1.17 Due to their scale, complexity and closeness to the Winchester District boundary both SDAs are expected to require close working between the authorities and, in the case of the Hedge End SDA, a possible joint Supplementary Planning Document produced by Winchester City and Eastleigh Borough Councils.

A South East Green Infrastructure Framework - From Policy into Practice

- 1.18 The South East Plan requires that local authorities and their partners "work together to plan, provide and manage connected and substantial networks of accessible and multi-functional green space in the South East". The South East Green Infrastructure Framework (GOSE, June 2009) has been published to provide detailed planning guidance

on how to deliver high-quality green infrastructure, in a form and distribution which will meet these criteria.

- 1.19 The Framework emphasises the importance of partnerships and other organisations' strategies, in terms of GI delivery and gives further guidance on securing funding for its implementation and long term maintenance.
- 1.20 The classification of GI Assets in this study has been derived from that given in the South East GI Framework document.

PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 1.21 The PUSH GI strategy (October, 2009) aims to identify existing GI, consider which improvements and/or new elements should be introduced and recommend how a high-level strategy might be delivered across the sub-region. The outcome is a GI Framework to guide the emerging direction of a sub-regional approach to GI. The Strategy identifies significant, existing GI features and prepares a spatial interpretation of these features which is described as the GI 'Architecture'. This is broadly composed of: corridors; areas within which common features of green infrastructure or processes occur and; other sites which represent core GI assets.
- 1.22 The Strategy recommends the inclusion of six sub-regional initiatives and 45 projects which represent 'concepts' at different scales and are intended to help deliver the GI Framework. This, in turn, can lead to the formation and improvement of a multi-functional network of green spaces and other GI features which are then equal to the task of meeting the growth agenda and also help to deal with statutory Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) requirements.

The impact of the South Downs and New Forest National Parks

- 1.23 The South Downs National Park Authority came into operation on the 1 April 2010 and will proceed to assume its full range of statutory powers and duties by the 1 April 2011. Included among these will be the new Park Authority's role as planning authority for the National Park area. This area covers approximately forty per cent of the Winchester District and the local implications for development control and policy making are likely to be significant. The Park will be extensive and complex, covering parts of the administrative areas of 12 District local authorities, in addition to three County Councils. Consequently, discussions are already underway to reach agreement on a programme of delegation which could allow elements of planning work and decision-making within the Park to remain with the constituent authorities.
- 1.24 A key aim of Winchester City Council's GI provision will be to help protect the particular characteristics of this nationally important landscape. It will also be important to ensure that, where possible, attractive and sustainable linkages and 'entrances' to the National

Park are provided, from settlements and other parts of the District which border the Park. Four of the District's principal settlements (categorised as 'Level 1/Level 2 settlements' in the LDF Core Strategy's 'Preferred Option' document (WCC, May 2009)) adjoin the new National Park boundary. Each of these provides accessible and sustainable services/facilities and is, therefore, intended to evolve and, to some extent, grow.

- 1.25 Natural England has expressed concern over the impact of recreation on the biodiversity of the New Forest National Park. A study entitled "Changing patterns of visitor numbers within the New Forest National Park, with particular reference to the New Forest SPA" carried out by Footprint Ecology on behalf of the New Forest National Park Authority, New Forest District Council, Natural England and the Forestry Commission found the following:

"Forty percent (40 %) of New Forest visitors are staying tourists, a further 25 % are day-trippers, coming from beyond 5 miles, and locals (living within 5 miles) account for 35% of visitors. As a consequence of this range of visitor types, the New Forest receives a high total volume of visitors (current estimates are over 13 million visitor days per year). Most of these people tend to visit infrequently, in larger groups and, compared with other areas, they are less likely to be visiting to walk their dog. Visitor numbers peak in the summer and the tourists tend to be attracted to particular honey-pot sites, whereas local visitors tend to chose locations away from the tourist hot spots".

- 1.26 The document also includes information from The University of Portsmouth which suggests that there is particularly strong day-visitor pressure from the east of the New Forest, with 23% of other day-visitors coming from Southampton and Eastleigh and a further 10% from Test Valley, Winchester and East Hampshire. This appears to indicate that the recreation impact of visitors from Winchester District is not particularly significant.

Local Policy Background

The Winchester District Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.27 The Winchester District Strategic Partnership (WDSP) has prepared the Sustainable Community Strategy for the Winchester District following extensive consultation with local people, town and parish councils, businesses, voluntary organisations and public sector services such as the police, health services and education. The Strategy's Vision was initially adopted in March 2007 and remains in place following its 'refresh' in 2008.

"Our vision for the Winchester District is of diverse and dynamic communities, where people work together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life, now and in the future".

- 1.28 The Strategy acknowledges that its vision is critical to the Council's LDF in ensuring that the growth and development is sustainable and secures benefits which help to achieve the shared priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy such as 'Health and Wellbeing' and an 'Inclusive Society'. Also among these priorities is a 'High Quality Environment' outcome, supported by a series of indicators, which would mean that:

"Neighbourhoods are clean, 'green' and safe. Resources are used efficiently and pollution levels are low. Natural wildlife species are thriving. The District is adapting to the effects of climate change and has low emissions of greenhouse gases. The historic environment is conserved and enhanced. Communities are well designed and built, and inclusive"

- 1.29 For the natural environment, the following changes are regarded as key targets for translating this outcome into reality:

- Important natural habitats are protected and enhanced and new ones created
- Endangered species are protected
- Informal open space is available near all communities and accessible to disabled and elderly people.
- Recognition of protected and non protected landscape and biodiversity character to ensure that landscape quality and local distinctiveness are protected and enhanced.

The Local Development Framework

- 1.30 In 2004 the Government introduced a new spatial planning policy approach, in the form of the Local Development Framework (LDF). This will replace former local plans. The City Council began preparing its lead LDF document, the 'Core Strategy', in 2007. The Core Strategy sets out the vision, planning objectives, development strategy, and core policies for planning within the District, over the next twenty years. A primary purpose of the Core Strategy is to ensure that development across the District happens in the right places, at the right time and with the necessary infrastructure - the roads, drainage, schools and community facilities needed to support both new and existing communities.
- 1.31 The Core Strategy is set out in two parts, the Spatial Strategy and the Core Policies. The Spatial Strategy divides the District into three areas: Winchester Town; the South Hampshire Urban Areas and; the Market Towns and Rural Areas. Each of these has a 'vision' and a set of policies designed to reflect their distinctive nature and characteristics, coupled with opportunities for growth and change. The primary focus for new development will be at Winchester Town and the South Hampshire Urban Areas. Key objectives for these areas are:

Winchester Town - 'Providing for housing growth and maximising opportunities to diversify the economy whilst seeking to reduce commuting levels and respecting the character of the town'. This objective will be achieved by encouraging the effective use of previously developed land and by allocating two main sites for any necessary greenfield development – North Winchester (2,000 homes) and Bushfield Camp (for employment).

South Hampshire Urban Areas – 'To ensure that the new communities created in this area are supported by the provision of physical and social infrastructure whilst paying full regard to the environmental assets in this part of the District'. In line with the PUSH urban-centred strategy, the major greenfield development required within the southern part of the District will be focused on the urban areas fringing the District, at West of Waterlooville and Whiteley. This approach will help to focus housing development on locations where there are already large existing and planned employment areas, supporting the economic and housing growth objectives of PUSH.

For Market Towns and the Rural Area - the Core Strategy seeks to deliver development which 'serves local needs in the most accessible and sustainable locations, in order to maintain the vitality and viability of existing communities'. These objectives will be achieved by: providing housing, including affordable housing, of a scale which is appropriate to the level of the individual settlement; supporting rural transport provision and new initiatives; the promotion of appropriate economic activity; support for the retention and improvement of local services and facilities and; the provision and retention of accessible public open space and green infrastructure. For the wider countryside the Council will only support proposals for development which have an operational need for a countryside location, or which reuse existing rural buildings.

- 1.32 The Core Strategy (Preferred option 2009) sets out policies and explanatory text for GI and biodiversity: CP5 Green Infrastructure and CP6 Biodiversity.

The District's PPG17 Assessment of Open Space and Recreation Facilities

- 1.33 Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council jointly commissioned a study of open space, sport and recreation facilities, an approach supported by PPG17. The overall aim of the joint study was to research, analyse and present conclusions in conformity with the requirements of PPG17. The specific objectives identified in the project brief were:
- To meet the objective of PPG17 to provide local people with networks of accessible, high quality open space, sports and recreation facilities in both urban and rural areas, which meet the

needs of residents and visitors, are fit for purpose, and are in sustainable locations.

- To provide part of the evidence base for the development of appropriate policies in the Local Development Frameworks of each Authority and for the sustainability appraisals of future Development Plan Documents.
- To provide an effective evidence base for each Authority to prepare a local strategy for the provision or improvement of open space, sports and recreation facilities in their District.
- To carry out the assessment in accordance with the good practice methodology set out in the Companion Guide to PPG 17: Assessing Needs and Opportunities.

1.34 The assessment of local needs and an audit of current assets informed new standards of provision, for open space and built facilities for the Winchester District. The standards for both open space and built facilities used the guidance in the PPG17 Companion Guide and 'Green Flag' standards and were refined using the following criteria:

- **Quantity standards:** Determined by an analysis of existing quantity provision, in the light of community views as to adequacy and levels of use. The quantity standards proposed must be achievable.
- **Quality standards:** The standards for each form of provision are derived from the quality audit and from the views of the community and those that use the spaces. Quality standards should be achievable and reflect the priorities that emerge through consultation.
- **Accessibility standards:** Reflect the needs of potential users. Spaces and facilities likely to be used on a frequent and regular basis need to be within easy walking distance and safe to access. Other facilities which are used less frequently, for example large leisure facilities or country parks, where visits are longer but perhaps less frequent, can be further away.

1.35 The standards that have been recommended are for minimum levels of provision. Therefore, where geographical areas enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards, this does not mean there is surplus provision, as all such provision may be well used.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

1.36 Planning legislation requires that the LDFs are subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), a systematic process that is designed to evaluate the predicted social, economic and environmental effects of development planning. European and UK legislation require that the LDF is also subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), a process that considers the effects of development planning on the environment. Government guidance advises that these two processes should be carried out together.

- 1.37 Each stage of Winchester's Core Strategy has been systematically appraised using a framework of SA Objectives (that include infrastructure, landscape and biodiversity), developed in consultation with statutory and wider stakeholders. The SA process is ongoing and will continue to inform the Core Strategy, to ensure that emerging policies and proposals will be the most deliverable and sustainable options for the District.
- 1.38 LDFs are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) through European and UK legislation. The purpose of the HRA is to assess the potential impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- 1.39 HRA Screening of the Core Strategy preferred options considered four European Sites within the plan area boundaries and twelve European Sites within a 15km search area. Of these, the screening assessed the potential for likely significant effects at thirteen sites in relation to impacts on water resources, water quality and from increased recreation. Further Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Core Strategy will be required to determine the nature and significance of the effects and develop satisfactory avoidance and mitigation measures, as necessary. The Screening has been subject to consultation advice from Natural England which has recommended that GI is integral to avoidance and mitigation measures, particularly for strategic development areas.

2.0 Locally Distinctive Definition of Green Infrastructure

Definition of GI for Winchester

- 2.1 For the Winchester District, GI encompasses the physical environment within and between the District's settlements and consists of a network of natural and semi-natural areas which enhance personal health and community well-being, improve quality of life and help to underpin sustainable travel, green tourism and adaptation to climate change. Any GI strategy for the Winchester District should therefore, seek to enhance the physical identity of the City and the District's other settlements, ensuring that accessible multi-functional green space becomes an integral part of all settlements, in a form and distribution which supports and increases their future self-sufficiency.
- 2.2 To ensure a broad information base and to engage a wide forum in early consultation on Winchester's approach to GI, a stakeholder workshop was held on Monday 7 December 2009 which was attended by a varied range of participants from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The workshop comprised introductions to the concept of GI, its importance and relationship to the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF). The stakeholder workshop looked at creating a locally distinctive definition of GI for the study and suggested words and local features which could be included and that are relevant to the entire District. It was requested that the definition should be free of jargon. Full details of the workshop are appended to this report as Appendix A.
- 2.3 The following basis for a GI definition or policy wording is put forward:

"Properly planned and executed Green Infrastructure (GI) will enhance the environment of Winchester District for the benefit of its community. New or enhanced GI will connect to and augment the existing GI network, strengthening its capacity to support the community in terms of climate change, flood alleviation, recreation, landscape and biodiversity. Significant existing GI corridors include the Itchen and Meon valleys, the Upper Hamble Estuary, existing and former railway lines and major Rights of Way (e.g. Clarendon Way, South Downs Way). Major GI assets are located at Farley Mount, West Walk, Micheldever Woods, Creech Woods and Botley Wood. These are complemented by smaller local GI assets including recreation grounds, informal green spaces and footpaths/ cycleways. All types of green space, from church yards and golf links to the South Downs National Park have a part to play in supporting a healthy, sustainable community in Winchester District."

3.0 Identification and Analysis of Existing GI Assets

District Level Provision

- 3.1 Information on the existing GI resources of the District was provided by Winchester City Council and overlaid on base maps of the area. A 10 km radius around the District was shown to indicate that GI extends beyond administrative boundaries and to emphasise the need to work with neighbouring districts. The 10km boundary does not mean that this is the extent of possible linkages or leisure/recreation destinations but is simply illustrative of the wider context. Linked datasets were chosen to illustrate six interrelated themes:
- **Map 1** – Landscape and water context
 - **Map 2** – Internationally designated sites for biodiversity
 - **Map 3** – National and Local Biodiversity Characterisation
 - **Map 4** – Formal Greenspace
 - **Map 5** – Destinations and Right of Way Network
 - **Map 6** – GI assets (2km,5km and 10km zones)
- 3.2 The mapping exercise generally illustrates that Winchester is a district with a wealth of GI assets and has a good base on which to build (as shown by the existing landscape and biodiversity baseline data). This is evidenced on the following maps 1-6. Winchester has both quantity and quality of GI and the Council is keen to maintain these standards in the context of the development pressures on the area. The purpose of these maps is to give a spatial indication of the quantity and range of existing asset types and the linkages between them.
- 3.3 The Winchester administrative boundary, principal settlements (Core Strategy 'urban areas' and 'Level 1' settlements) and Core Strategy strategic development allocations are featured on all six maps, to set the context of the study and the proposed level of new development. The 10km boundary is shown, as indicated above, to demonstrate that GI does not begin or end at district or regional boundaries. This is purely a distance chosen to illustrate the point, make connections outside the study area and indicate the relationship to influencing factors such as the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks, European designated sites for biodiversity (i.e. Special Areas for Conservation (SACs,) Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) and Ramsar sites (the latter illustrated on Map 2).
- 3.4 **Map 1: Landscape and Water Features** illustrates that approximately forty per cent of the District is covered by the newly established South Downs National Park and this change of designation from AONB will bring with it a higher emphasis on meeting recreation needs, a change in management priorities and administration and, potentially, changes in funding to carry out the requirements of National Park management. This change therefore offers opportunities to improve access for recreation whilst at the same time recognising the potential issues arising with increased pressure on landscape and biodiversity

features/character. The one Historic Battlefield, at Cheriton and the District's Scheduled Ancient Monuments are illustrated as part of the landscape features. Flood plains are also indicated, as GI can play a part in flood and water management schemes. A map illustrating **Historic Landscape Characterisation can be found at Appendix D** and should be used as part of the information base when considering the delivery of GI and appropriate uses within the landscape.

- 3.5 Map 1 also shows the potential of the water network for leisure purposes and its relationship to wooded areas across the District. Comparison with maps 5 and 6 shows that the water network ('Blue Infrastructure') is also well connected to the Rights of Way (RoW) network, which provides opportunities for improved landscape, biodiversity and access interconnections.
- 3.6 **Map 2: Internationally Designated Sites for Biodiversity** illustrates internationally important biodiversity sites i.e. Special Areas for Conservation and Special Protection Areas. These are given specific prominence, as any plans or projects which have the potential for likely significant effects on the sites would need to be subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment. Notably, these sites are primarily water based and their relationship to the strategic allocations indicates that GI could play an important part in mitigating any adverse effects of the proposed development and should be incorporated at the outset of masterplanning.
- 3.7 **Map 3: National and Local Biodiversity** expands the biodiversity/conservation theme and illustrates national and local biodiversity and the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas identified by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC). Again, the relationship of the strategic sites to these areas should be noted and taken into account when formulating master plans or development briefs.
- 3.8 Having looked at the natural landscape and biodiversity assets of the district, **Map 4: Formal Greenspace** concentrates on more formal aspects of GI provision and shows play areas, recreation grounds, country parks and golf courses, all of which encourage physical activity and bring significant health benefits. Most of the settlements have access to some element of formal recreation space. A full PPG17 study has been carried out by the Council and should be read in conjunction with this document. Allotments and churchyards/cemeteries are also shown and have multi-functional purposes, both social and environmental. In both cases the areas can become valuable habitats in their own right, as well as being a part of habitat corridors.
- 3.9 **Map 5: Destinations and ROW Network and Map 6: Areas of Unlimited Public Access and ANGST 2, 5 and 10km Zones** both illustrate the full RoW network which is comprehensive and includes several long distance regional paths. **Map 5** shows the RoW network in relation to

destinations chosen for less formal recreation purposes than those illustrated on Map 4. These destinations do not all have free public access and some may have limited access. It can be seen that the majority of these areas such as the commons, historic parks and open access Forestry Commission holdings are accessible from the RoW network within Winchester District and also from within the 10 km boundary.

- 3.10 **Map 6** shows the RoW access to all parts of Winchester’s publicly accessible countryside, public parks and recreation areas and it can be seen that the network works well both internally and externally. The footpath network also leads out of the District towards the North Wessex Downs AONBs, the New Forest National Park and the more easterly parts of the South Downs National Park. Improved linkages have been suggested and these are dealt with in the review of strategies in Section 5 of this report. The map also shows the 2km, 5km and 10 km radii around the strategic site allocations and SDAs to illustrate the availability of publically accessible land within the zones. Tables identifying the 20ha, 100ha and 500ha sites and giving their area can be found in Section 4 (Tables 5, 6 and 7).
- 3.11 The following tables set out the GI assets of the District according to the inter-related GI themes, with five categories of green space and accessibility: Landscape and Water (natural green space); Biodiversity (natural green space); formal Greenspace; Rights of Way and; Public Access Land. Table 1 itemises strategic assets at the District level and Table 2 considers significant assets for the strategic site allocations:

District Level Provision

Table 1: District Level Strategic Assets

GI	Winchester District Assets
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ South Downs National Park (> 500ha) ■ Rivers Meon and Itchen and their tributaries ■ Upper Hamble Estuary and woods ■ River Wallington and tributaries ■ 369 woodland sites - 1871 ha accessible woodland (HCC 2007) ■ Landscape quality: The District has been subject to a Landscape Character Assessment (March 2004) to identify existing local landscapes and guide change including new development.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) ■ Upper Hamble Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site ■ 20 SSSIs e.g. St. Catherine’s Hill, Crab Wood, Botley Wood, Beacon Hill, and Old Winchester Hill. ■ Nearly 600 SINC’s within the district, including 369 woodland sites, 170 grassland sites, 4 sites with

GI	Winchester District Assets
	<p>heathland, 17 sites with wetland habitats and 25 sites designated solely for priority species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National Nature Reserves – 2 ■ Local Nature Reserves – The Moors 14ha ■ Butterfly Conservation Reserves - 2 ■ Ancient Woodland
Formal Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 14 golf courses – limited access ■ Public Parks – open access ■ Recreation grounds – open access ■ Country Parks – varied access ■ Allotments – limited access ■ Outdoor sport - limited access ■ EH Heritage Parks and Gardens ■ Historic Parks - limited access ■ Cemeteries ■ Play Areas/ recreation grounds in most towns and villages – open access
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 557 kilometres of footpath, 170 kilometres of bridleway, 103 kilometres of restricted byway and 9 kilometres of Byways open to all traffic (BOATs) including disused railway track ■ National Long Distance Paths e.g. The South Downs Way, Itchen Way and Wayfarers Walk which act as sub regional green corridors.
Public Access Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Forests to north west of Winchester (Micheldever Woods, Black Wood), south of Denmead (Creech Wood) and east of Wickham (West Walk) (included in forestry figure above) ■ CROW Access Land approx. 643 ha within 10km of strategic sites ■ Small areas of common land - approx. 247 ha within 10km of strategic sites ■ Country parks - 6

Strategic Sites Level Provision

Table 2: Strategic Site, SDA and Level 1 Settlements Significant Assets

GI	North Winchester - new homes and supporting uses, including GI
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ River Itchen to east ■ Upper Itchen Valley landscape character area – distinctive open downland landscape and valley topography. Significant features include windbreaks, copses, boundary and roadside planting with adjacent footpaths; winterbournes/ dry valleys.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Land to east of railway line.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ River Itchen Special Area of Conservation to east of site ■ Linear beech belt on ridge crest ■ Trees along main railway line ■ Hedgerows within and around the site
Formal Green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Outdoor sports facilities to south-east of site. ■ Outdoor sports facilities at Henry Beaufort School
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Footpaths crossing site east/west ■ Long distance path to east (St Swithin's Way), River Itchen to east. ■ Disused railway further to the north ■ Accessibility to city centre and Headbourne Worthy
Public Access land (Natural green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Open access land (Itchen Wood and Micheldever Wood) 6-7 km to north east ■ Farley Mount Country Park 5 km to west (public access) ■ 100 ha sites within 5km. - See table 5. ■ South Downs NP within 10km.
GI	Bushfield Camp - Knowledge park
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hursley Scarplands landscape character area: distinctive open fields and network of sunken lanes in vicinity of site. Diverse landscape, rich in local heritage. Part of the site was previously developed as a war-time army camp (now derelict).
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Significant parts of the site are identified as SINC's. ■ Potential for LNR. ■ Yew Hill – Butterfly Conservation/CROW – 2-3km SE ■ St Catherine's Hill - to east ■ River Itchen (SAC) – to east ■ Whiteshute Ridge – boundary to west of site
Formal Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ None on site
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clarendon Way forms boundary to the west of the site.
Public Access land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Yew Hill – Butterfly Conservation/CROW – 2-3km SE ■ 100 ha sites within 5km. - See table 5. ■ South Downs NP within 10km.
GI	North Whiteley - new homes and supporting uses, including GI
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Whiteley Woodlands landscape character area – Predominance of woodland and strong hedgerow boundaries (including ancient woodland). ■ Streams through site run west into R Hamble, the District's only stretch of tidal river. ■ Fairthorne Manor (HCC Register of HP&G) lies to

	north west within 5 km
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Site is immediately adjacent to R Hamble, a SSSI to the south east – partial public access, within 2km. Also RAMSAR site, SAC and SPA. ■ Several SINCs in centre of site (meadows and woodlands). ■ Woodlands within and to east also SSSI.
Formal Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ None
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ RoWs running across south of site and to the north.
Public Access land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wide range of 20ha sites within 2km (Table 5) ■ Several 100ha sites within 5km (Table 6) ■ SDNP within 10km
GI	West of Waterlooville – new homes and supporting uses, including GI
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Forest of Bere lowlands landscape character area - woodland and narrow hedged roads. ■ River Wallington flows through site and is identified as sub regional scale blue corridor (PUSH GI Strategy).
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Woodland and meadow SINCs ■ Ponds ■ Hedgerows
Formal Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Golf courses x 2 and outdoor sport facilities within 3 km. ■ Allotments on and adjacent to the site.
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Site well served by RoWs, north-south and east-west.
Public Access land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public access to Creech Wood within 5 km of site. ■ Staunton Country Park and Havant Thicket approx. 7 km from site to east (but across A3M). ■ 2 x 20ha sites within 2km (Table 5) ■ Several 100ha sites within 5km (Table 6) ■ SDNP within 10km
GI	Hedge End SDA – new homes and GI
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Study area lies within WCC and Eastleigh BC boundaries. Landscape character is very diverse with suburban areas in conjunction with Hedge End and Botley to the south, contrasting wooded Hamble Valley through the centre and rural landscape with scattered settlements to the north. ■ Hamble River estuary to south
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Within the area being considered there are several SINCs and opportunities to create LNRs. ■ Hamble valley is a strategic blue corridor through the centre of the study area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hamble River estuary Ramsar/SAC/SPA/SSSI to the south ■ Ancient woodland in study area
Formal Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There are play spaces in the locality of the area ■ A golf course lies on the boundary between the two Districts.
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The area has a good north-south ROW network with some east west linkages.
Public Access land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Manor Farm Country Park and Itchen Country Park lie within 5km.
GI	Fareham SDA – new homes and GI
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The study area lies within WCC and Fareham Borough. The area which lies within the boundaries of WCC is in the Whiteley Woodlands character area. The essential characteristics of the Whiteley Woodlands are gently undulating lowlands with a predominance of woodland, including ancient woodland such as Blackmoor Copse and Ridge Copse. Hedgerow boundaries are strong and often sit on banks.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strategic blue corridor running to the north east of site. ■ Potential for creation of LNR.
Formal Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Golf course to north of site ■ Some play area provision but more will be required
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some ROWs but require linkages and improvement
Public Access land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Whitley Pastures lie within 5km of the site
GI	Bishops Waltham (Level 1 settlement)
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Durley Claylands landscape character area
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LNR and SSSI to south of the settlement ■ Several SINCs adjacent to built development ■ Blue corridors to E and S of settlement
Formal Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Existing play and recreation areas ■ Allotments
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Good relationship to long distance paths ■ Good ROW network and gateway to SDNP
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cemeteries and Churchyards

land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gateway to SDNP ■ Bishop's Waltham Moors within 2km
GI	New Alresford (Level 1 settlement)
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Upper Itchen Valley landscape character area. ■ River Itchen runs through the settlement.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ River Itchen Ramsar/SAC/SPA/SSSI, BOA ■ SINCs to south of settlement ■ Significant blue corridor N and W of the settlement
Formal Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Existing play and recreation grounds ■ Tichborne Down Golf Course to the south
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Good relationship to long distance paths ■ Good ROW network and gateway to SDNP Good ROW network
Public Access land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Churchyards and cemeteries ■ Several small sites under 20 ha

MAPS REMOVED

4.0 Identification and Analysis of GI Deficits and Issues Arising

Introduction

- 4.1 The first stage in considering GI deficits and issues arising was to present and interpret the information provided by Winchester CC, both graphically and in text, to understand the level of provision that already exists in the District. This information is set out in Section 3 of this study and presents the existing GI assets of the District as interrelated themes, demonstrating the multifunctional characteristics of GI.
- 4.2 In order to identify where there may be deficiencies in this existing provision, in the context of the proposed level of development the District is expected to accommodate, this information was analysed alongside other related strategies and standards, such as the Council's own PPG17 study, GI guidance from Natural England and the South East Green Infrastructure Framework. Projects which have already been proposed, for example in the PUSH Strategy, were also taken into consideration and have been incorporated in the study.
- 4.3 To support and inform the analysis, a stakeholder workshop was held on 7th December 2009 at Winchester Guildhall, from which key issues for the District emerged. The discussion and outcomes were fed into the overall analysis which is described in detail below. Meetings with key officers of Winchester City Council have also informed the process as it has progressed.

Analysis: method

- 4.4 The mapping process organised the available information into specific related categories:
- 1 Landscape and Water
 - 2 Internationally Protected Biodiversity
 - 3 National and Local Biodiversity
 - 4 Formal Greenspace
 - 5 Destinations and Rights of Way
 - 6 Areas of Unlimited Public Access and ANGSt 2, 5 and 10km radii
- 4.5 As set out in section 3 above, these maps illustrate the quality of the landscape and biodiversity and the quantity of existing provision of both public and private greenspace. It is important to remember the multi-functional nature of GI and that whilst public access to greenspace is a driving aim of GI, an important part is also played by those areas which do not afford public access. By not permitting general public access, these areas may help to support and maintain existing landscape and biodiversity quality and character, including the water environment.

- 4.6 Maps 1-3, therefore, evaluate the natural environment, while maps 4 -6 consider the availability of land for recreation purposes, including access on foot to popular destinations.
- 4.7 Maps 4-6 illustrate the existing GI assets of the Winchester Core Strategy Strategic Sites and the areas of the North Fareham and Hedge End SDAs which fall within the Winchester boundary. Using standards from the Open Space and Recreation Study and the ANGSt standards recommended by Natural England, an assessment is made of the potential requirements and opportunities for GI. Map 6 illustrates the 2km, 5km and 10km radii, as specified in the ANGSt standards. Centre points were taken at the four strategic allocations, the Core Strategy's Level 1 settlements and from central points on the Winchester boundary, for the SDAs.
- 4.8 Projects already identified at a regional level by the PUSH study and more local projects, such as new footpath linkages, were included in the analysis.
- 4.9 The workshop was an important part of the process, giving a local dimension to the analysis and an early opportunity for stakeholders to have an input into the process. A full report of the workshop can be found at Appendix A, although the key issues emerging from the workshop and the response are summarised in the table below. Responses to the issues raised are provided and potential actions identified.

Table 3: Key Issues identified by the workshop participants:

Issue	Response and Potential Actions
There is a need to have a better understanding of how spaces are used, how people value those spaces and how different GI is perceived by the community and various user groups.	This is a District wide issue when related to major infrastructure such as country parks or national parks but one which also requires work at a Parish or Village level to meet the specific needs of local user groups. Such work could be incorporated in Parish Plans.
There is concern as to how the GI strategy will be implemented. In particular, how will any Winchester GI strategy be joined up with the work of other authorities? Also, where GI is being provided how/ who will manage it in the future and where will the funding come from to ensure it is managed in perpetuity?	This study is intended to encourage integration of strategies and partnership working for the provision and long-term management of GI. Funding opportunities are included in the document.
It is important that GI is designed at the outset of plans and projects and cannot	This is particularly important in relation to the strategic

be retrofitted.	allocations and the GI opportunities identified in sections 4 and 7. Development briefs or masterplans for major sites should incorporate GI.
Winchester needs to focus more (in particular, in relation to strategic allocations) on larger areas/ country parks that can 'cope' with recreational pressures. Links should be provided to ensure easy access.	29.25 % of Winchester District residents visit a country park and countryside visits, including country parks, are expected to rise by 15.6%. The increased recreational role of the South Downs National Park may cope with some of this increased activity but new woodland access and footpaths are proposed in proximity to the strategic allocations.
There is a need to ensure that rural interests are not neglected and that the strategy does not have an urban bias.	It is agreed that GI is a District wide issue. Agricultural land contributes to GI indirectly by providing the space and context for passive activities such as walking and, as such, its recreational potential is constrained. Agricultural land provides some of the functions of GI but does not compensate for dedicated GI land that is close to settlements. However, it does contribute directly through water management and biodiversity.
The District is divided, to some extent, by motorways/dual carriageways. 'Green Bridge' provision at selected locations could help wildlife movement and biodiversity and provide pedestrian links to nearby countryside again, without the need for total car dependency.	There has been a long term desire for a 'green bridge' at Twyford Down to enable the provision of circular routes over the M3. This is included as a potential project but may well be financially prohibitive.
There is a need to balance housing density, to make the best use of greenfield sites, with the desire to provide GI.	Planning policy will require a specific density of dwellings per hectare and also specific amounts of both formal and informal open space to serve the development. However, the encouragement of the use of SUDs, retention of existing on-site trees and hedgerows and even the use of green

	roofs can all contribute to GI.
There is a lack of informal green space and links near to settlements for dog walking, casual walks etc	The need for natural green space should be recognised and incorporated in all new development.

Table 4 Key Opportunities identified by the workshop participants

Opportunities	Response
There is a need for flexibility, e.g. allotments are currently popular, but if this changes it would be possible to respond by adapting uses or occupancy. GI has a range of functions (food production, biodiversity, recreation)	The production of local food is an established sustainability issue. Ensuring that allotments are well related to new developments or existing settlements and can be used for alternative purposes, such as community orchards or play areas, will give the required flexibility.
GI has a role helping to accommodate new developments into the existing area. GI should maintain, extend and be creative with existing resources	By ensuring adequate GI is provided in new development, pressure on existing resources will be offset. Making links between new and existing GI assets will benefit both new and existing residents.
GI should be fit for purpose and there is a need to recognise that it may have both primary and secondary purposes.	It is important to acknowledge the multifunctional aspects of green space and to maximise their use, combining the different purposes of areas such as flood management and biodiversity, informal recreation and biodiversity.
There is a desire to reconnect rights of way and integrate existing green spaces.	Potential linkages have been identified by Hampshire County Council working with community groups and these are identified in Appendix B

- 4.10 Section 5 sets out related strategies and details their significance and impact on the findings of this study.

Identification of GI Deficits

- 4.11 **Table 5: ANGSt zones, Table 6: District and Table 7: Strategic Sites** below, set out key GI deficits identified together with potential actions that could be taken to remedy such deficits. For the allocated strategic sites, Table 6 also includes issues and effects arising from the level of development proposed, where these have been highlighted by the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment undertaken.

- 4.12 **Landscape and Water** - This category is not about public access but about the natural environment of Winchester District and, as advised in PPS 12, the role GI should play in:-
- Mitigating the potential effects of change, including new development,
 - Encouraging a greater appreciation of both protected and non-protected landscapes and cultural heritage, especially in terms of quality and local character.
- 4.13 The quality of the District's landscape and water features has been detailed in section 3 and it is important that any change, including future development, does not have any adverse effect on these assets. Whilst there cannot be considered to be a particular deficit in this category, existing landscape and biodiversity quality and local character should be clearly recognised, so that these can be protected and enhanced wherever feasible. This is stated in the actions and carried forward into the proposed GI projects for the strategic allocations. To assist with this analysis, maps are provided to show existing baseline data for both biodiversity and historic landscape characterisation. (The latter can be found at Appendix D)
- 4.14 **Biodiversity** – A specific deficiency which has become apparent is the limited number of Local Nature Reserves within the District, as illustrated on Map 3. The Natural England ANGSt standards seek **one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserve per thousand head of population** and this target is not met in the District. PPS 12 also emphasises the role of GI in supporting and enhancing natural biodiversity. These areas can serve as public access areas and act as outdoor classrooms to display and help interpret natural and cultural features and educate both residents and visitors. There are several opportunities related to the strategic allocations which could help to reduce this deficit. Creation of such sites should be informed by biodiversity designations such as SINC's and the identified Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs).
- 4.15 **Formal Greenspace** – This is illustrated on Map 4. Information from existing studies has also been fed into the analysis and of particular significance are the key findings from the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (WCC 2008) which found that:
- "Overall, people appear to use informal spaces and recreation opportunities more frequently than formal sports area and/or "built" provision.
 - Local people value informal and natural space, parks and attractive recreation corridors for walking and cycling"
 - "For over 50% of respondents, their most visited local area of open space is less than a quarter of a mile from their home and for 2/3rds, less than half a mile. For over 50%, it takes up to 5 minutes to reach these areas. Around 70% of people walk to these and 29% go by car. For indoor sports facilities, a surprisingly high number walk (45%), and almost 50% go by car".
 - "Local areas of open space and recreation facilities are used mainly for walking, walking the dog and giving people the chance to enjoy

the natural environment and exercise (for between 40% and 50% of respondents). Around a quarter visit children's play areas in them. 20% use them to jog/take some exercise, which forms a good basis from which to promote such areas as opportunities for improving health and fitness levels."

- 4.16 Provision of play and recreation areas and open space have been proposed in this study and will be subject to development management and the implementation of relevant LDF policy when considering development proposals. Currently, most settlements appear to have play and recreation areas and there is reasonable provision of allotments, particularly in Winchester. However, there does appear to be a deficit in public park provision outside Winchester, particularly in the Bishop's Waltham and Denmead areas. This latter deficiency has already been identified by the PUSH GI Strategy. The PPG17 Study gives more detail of open space deficiencies.
- 4.17 The open space standards seek the provision of areas for informal activities, such as casual walking and dog exercising, which are within a five minute walk of homes. The deficiency of such space has been a consistent theme in the consultation carried out by Winchester City Council and was raised at the GI Workshop held to inform this study. This is more of an issue for those living in the larger settlements than those in the rural settlements, who have better access to open countryside. The ANGSt standards are slightly higher than those set out by the PPG17 study, in that they require 2ha of greenspace no more than 300m from home, while the PPG 17 study requires 1 ha of natural green space within 400m and 0.8ha of informal greenspace within 700m. Natural England explains that its standards are targeted at urban areas (such as the urban extensions allocated in the LDF), as smaller settlements in the countryside inevitably have more access to natural greenspace than town dwellers. Adoption of the higher standard for the proposed major new developments will help maintain the quality and quantity of GI currently enjoyed by the population of Winchester district.
- 4.18 **Natural Greenspace** The ANGSt standards also deal with larger areas for informal recreation i.e. 20, 100 and 500ha sites and, as no local standards have been set, these have been used in this analysis.
- 4.19 The proposed strategic allocations at Winchester, North Whiteley and Waterlooville all have points of entry to the South Downs National Park (1,600 square km in area; 544 within Hampshire), within 10km of home. The NP does not have unlimited public access but will, nevertheless, be managed to:
- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park, and
 - Promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of these special qualities.

The Queen Elizabeth Country Park (300ha) lies on the boundary of a 10km radius from the Waterlooville allocation and, whilst not meeting ANGSt standards, does provide an extensive area of accessible open space.

- 4.20 Sites of 100ha are sought within five kilometres of homes and the analysis has identified the following:
- Botley Wood (107 ha) is within 5 kilometers of the proposed developments at North Whiteley and Fareham Manor Farm Country Park (comprising 70 ha) is within the 5 kilometre zones of the Hedge End SDA, Bushfield Camp and North Whiteley. The coastal Royal Victoria Country Park (83ha) also falls within the 10 kilometre zones of these proposals.
 - Farley Mount Country Park lies on the 5 km zone of the proposed developments at North Winchester and Bushfield Camp. Other, smaller public access areas, including the Butterfly Conservation areas at Magdalen Hill Down and Yew Hill, also lie within the 5 km zone of both proposals. The Itchen Valley Country Park lies within the 5km zone for Hedge End.
 - Creech Woods, Havant Thicket and Farlington Marshes are all within the 5 km zone of the Waterlooville proposal and Staunton Country Park (83ha) is adjacent to the zone but separated from it by the A3 (M) motorway.
 - Micheldever Woods (370ha) lies between the 5 and 10 km zones of the North Winchester proposal to the north-west of the site and is to receive new play facilities as part of the Forestry Commission's projects in the area.
 - Bishop's Waltham has West Walk (370ha) within 10km.
- 4.21 Whilst these sites are available and within the standards set by Natural England, a predicted 16% increase in visits to country parks is predicted, which will increase visitor pressure on each of these sites. Creation of a Country Park at Bere Woods in conjunction with the Forestry Commission could assist in relieving pressure on, and reduce travel to, the other CPs in the southern part of the District. (See suggested project WCC 6). The proposal could also accommodate some of the recreation demands created by the proposed levels of new development, particularly in the southern part of the District, and mitigate the potential increase in pressure on the New Forest National Park, about which NE is already expressing concern.
- 4.22 The Fareham SDA, West of Waterlooville and North Whiteley allocations are reasonably well served by sites of 20ha + within 2km of the proposed housing elements but the North Winchester, Hedge End, New Alresford and North Whiteley areas all have a deficiency in this category. Whilst there is a proliferation of smaller sites under 1ha and

up to 6/7 ha, there is a general lack of sites of a size between 20 ha and the larger sites (such as Woodland Trust, Country Parks and FC holdings) which border the 2km boundary.

- 4.23 The tables below detail provision of natural greenspace to ANGSt standards for the four strategic allocations, the two SDAs and the two Level 1 settlements of Bishops Waltham and New Alresford. Provision within the 300 - 700m zone has not been detailed, as this will be subject to the PPG17 standards for play space. Provision of such facilities only currently exists in Bishops Waltham and New Alresford.

Table 5: Accessible Sites, of at least 20 ha, within 2km of home

Strategic Site/SDA/Level 1 settlement	Area (ha.)	GI typology
Bishops Waltham		
No sites		
Bushfield Camp		
St Catherine's Hill	65	HIWWT
Fareham SDA		
Wickham Common	29	County Services Site
CL184 – Wickham Common	29	Winchester Commons
Meon Valley Railway Path	37	County Services Site
Botley Wood	107	County Services Site
Hedge End SDA		
Some CROW access	193	
North Alresford		
No sites		
North Winchester		
No sites		
North Whiteley		
Swanwick	35	HIWWT
Meon Valley Railway Path	38	County Service Sites
Kitnocks Estate	88	FC Landholding
Botley Woods	107	County Service Sites
Whiteley Pastures	113	FC Landholding
Manor Farm Country Park	164	HCC Country Parks
CROW access land	193	
West Of Waterlooville		
Creech Woods	189	FC Landholding (Bere Woods Estate)

Table 6: Accessible 100 ha sites within 5km of home

Strategic Site/SDA, Level 1 Settlement	Area (ha.)	GI Typology
Bishop's Waltham		
No sites		
Bushfield Camp		
Crab Wood (Pt Of Farley Mount CP)	164	Country Parks
West Wood Hursley	164	FC Landholding
Fareham SDA		
Whiteley Pastures	113	FC Landholding
CROW	193	
Botley Woods	107	County Service Site
West Walk	370	FC Landholding (Bere Woods Estate)
Hedge End SDA		
Whiteley Pastures	113.	FC Landholding
Manor Farm Country Park	163	Country Parks
Itchen Valley Country Park	170	Itchen Valley Country Park
	193	CROW
New Alresford		
No sites		
North Winchester		
Crab Wood (Pt Of Farley Mount CP)	164	HCC Country Parks
West Wood Hursley	164	FC Landholding
North Whiteley		
Botley Woods	107	County Services Site
Whiteley Pastures	113	FC Landholding
Manor Farm Country Park	163	HCC Country Parks
	193	CROW
West Of Waterlooville		
Creech Woods	189	FC Landholding (Bere Woods Estate)
Farlington Marshes	123	HIWWT
Havant Thicket	137	FC Landholding

Table 7: Accessible 500ha sites within 10km of home

Strategic Site/SDA, Level 1 Settlement	Area (ha.)	GI Typology
Bishop's Waltham		
No sites		
Bushfield Camp		
No sites		
Fareham SDA		
No sites		
Hedge End SDA		
No sites		
North Alresford		
No sites		
North Winchester		
No sites		
North Whiteley		
No sites		
West of Waterlooville		
No sites		

NB: No individual site areas were provided for CROW access land and only a cumulative total was available.

- 4.24 The information from the tables 5-8 above provides the quantitative basis for the deficits identified in Tables 8, 9.1 – 9.4 and 10 below.

Table 8: District Level Strategic Deficits

GI	Winchester District Deficits	Action
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	No deficit but subject to some degradation and fragmentation, especially to the south of the district.	GI should recognise the importance of retaining and enhancing existing landscape quality and local character.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	The District is rich in biodiversity but the ANGSt standards aim for one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) per thousand population. Currently the District has only one LNR and does not meet this standard. LNRs can act as outdoor classrooms to give access to and interpretation of natural and cultural assets.	Opportunities should be taken to meet the ANGSt standard for LNRs. Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) should be given consideration when looking at development proposals. Mitigation for any adverse effects on SACs and SPAs will be

GI	Winchester District Deficits	Action
		informed by Project Level AA if required.
Formal Greenspace	The mapping exercise did not highlight any obvious deficiencies. The recent PPG17 study has looked at existing provision and has set standards for parks, allotments, play and recreation space provision, in new and existing development.	Recent PPG17 study suggests standards for provision. Such standards are minima and can be varied to provide for particular local needs.
Rights of Way	<p>There appear to be significant gaps in provision on land to the west of Winchester and to the north between the A34 and the disused railway line.</p> <p>The District is divided by major roads which can prevent linking of footpaths and the creation of circular walks in some areas.</p>	<p>Potential for improved linkages as suggested in HCC work.</p> <p>Ongoing suggestion of a 'green bridge' link at Twyford Down.</p>
Public Access Land	<p>The workshop indicated that the biggest deficit in Winchester is the lack of natural green space close to settlements for casual walking and dog exercise.</p> <p>Sites of 500ha within 10km of home</p>	This is an issue which is hard to resolve for existing rural settlements. However, all new development should be assessed for the potential to both provide adequate space for incoming residents and, where possible, improve the situation for existing residents. NE ANGSt standards should be adopted to address this matter.

Strategic Site Level

Table 9.1-9.4-d: Strategic Site Level Significant Deficits/Issues/Potential Actions

Table 9.1: North Winchester		
GI typology	North Winchester 2000 homes + supporting uses Site characteristics	Potential actions to remediate deficits or enhance assets
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	Wonston Downs LCA High quality landscape. Dry valleys/winterbournes. Characterisation as set out in 'Winchester City and its Setting' document (1999)	GI should retain and strengthen existing landscape quality and local character to help offset any loss caused by development of this greenfield site. To apply both within the new development and on land east of the railway line.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to east of site. District-wide deficit in LNRs.	Potential for creation of LNR in conjunction with BOA to east of site.
Formal Green space	N/A – to be negotiated.	Provision to PPG 17 standards + greenspace at NE ANGSt standard.
Rights of Way	Footpath links, especially to existing long distance paths and to the north, are poor.	Improved ROW linkages to strengthen existing footpath links to identified assets nearby, including Micheldever Woods. Also links to Farley Mount CP, city centre and HW.
Public Access Land (Natural green space)	Identified deficit in 20ha sites within 2km of dwellings. (See Table 5) Sites of 500ha within 10km of home (see Table 7)	ANGSt standards propose natural green space of 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from homes in urban settings. This can be provided in the allocated area (east of the railway

Table 9.1: North Winchester		
GI typology	North Winchester 2000 homes + supporting uses Site characteristics	Potential actions to remediate deficits or enhance assets
		line) for GI and within the developed area of the site. 20 hectare areas of greenspace within two kilometres of home are also sought and this could be provided within the area east of the railway line allocated for GI.

Table 9.2: Bushfield Camp Knowledge Park		
GI typology	Bushfield Camp Knowledge park Site characteristics	Potential actions to remediate deficits or enhance assets
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	Hursley Scarplands LCA	GI should retain and strengthen existing landscape quality and local character to help offset any loss caused by development of a greenfield site. Important to avoid adverse impacts on the landscape setting of Winchester, the Cathedral, St Catherine's Hill or the Conservation Area.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	Majority of the site is a SINC. Whiteshute Ridge	Potential to create a LNR incorporating SINC land and for improved management.
Formal Greenspace	None	Any formal play and recreation space likely to be limited, as little need generated by the proposed use of the site.

Rights of Way	Clarendon Way forms boundary to the west of the site	Potential for linkages to the Clarendon Way
Public Access Land	Only one site of 20ha + within 2km, at St Catherine's Hill (65ha) (Table 5) Sites of 500ha within 10km of home (see Table 7)	Provision of 20 ha site on undeveloped part of the site.

Table 9.3: North Whiteley		
GI typology	North Whiteley 3,000 homes and supporting uses Site characteristics	Potential actions to remediate deficits or enhance assets
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	LCA - Whiteley Woodlands	GI should retain and strengthen existing landscape quality and local character, to offset any loss caused by development of this greenfield site.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	Site has significant biodiversity value – issue rather than deficit.	GI will play an important part in mitigation of effect on European sites – AA of the site should provide detail. Provision of Local Nature Reserve in centre of site.
Formal Greenspace	None existing on site.	Provision should be in accord with PPG17 study recommendations for play and pitch areas and ANGST standards for informal spaces.
Rights of Way	Poor connection to RoWs to north and north west, outside Winchester boundary,	Potential for cross boundary working to improve connectivity. Provision of access to adjoining woodland areas.
Public Access Land	Sites of 500ha within 10km of home (see Table 7)	Contribution to creation of Forest of Bere Country Park.

Table 9.4: West of Waterlooville		
GI typology	West of Waterlooville 3,000 homes and supporting uses Site characteristics	Potential actions to remediate deficits or enhance assets
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	LCA Forest of Bere Lowlands	GI should retain and strengthen existing landscape quality and local character to help offset any loss caused by development of this greenfield site.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	Parts of the site are designated SINC as is adjacent land to the south and east.	ANGSt standards aim for one hectare of statutory LNR per thousand head of population. Potential for this to be provided on site, incorporating SINC woodlands and meadows.
Formal Greenspace	Unknown. Development is in conjunction with 2,000 dwellings which already have permission. Negotiation has taken place and standards agreed. Some of these have been based on the 'six-acre standard' and some, such as cemeteries, on a needs basis.	This further development should complement and link to facilities already agreed. WCC PPG 17 standards should be applied.
Rights of Way	No deficit within the site but connections to consented development unknown.	RoWs on site should connect with RoWs on adjacent sites with planning permission and into the adjacent countryside.
Public Access Land	Access to 2 sites of 20ha + both to south of site. Deficit to the north. No provision of 2ha sites. Sites of 500ha within 10km of home (see Table 7)	ANGSt standards propose natural green space of 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from homes in urban settings. This can be provided in the allocated area for GI. 20 hectare areas of greenspace within two kilometres of home are

Table 9.4: West of Waterlooville		
GI typology	West of Waterlooville 3,000 homes and supporting uses Site characteristics	Potential actions to remediate deficits or enhance assets
		also sought and this could be provided within the areas flanking the o/h power line allocated for GI.

- 4.25 The Core Strategy allocation related to the **Fareham** SDA is for GI provision only and there is no specific allocation for the Hedge End SDA. Working with Eastleigh Borough Council in regard to the feasibility of the Hedge End site has already commenced, including landscape assessment and GI potential. An "action" column has not been provided in the table below but a list of potential projects for discussion and consultation can be found in Table 9.

Table 10: Strategic Development Areas in conjunction with neighbouring authorities

Strategic Development Areas (SDAs)	
Hedge End SDA	
GI typology	Site characteristics
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	LCA – Durley Claylands LCA – Shedfield heathlands Landscape quality and local character, including river valleys, are significant features within WCC district. LCA ref Eastleigh BC assessment
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	Three SINCs on eastern part of site. Maintenance of the footpaths will create habitat corridors between these areas. Potential for LNRs based on the SINCs.
Formal Greenspace	There is a golf course in the centre of the area and play areas serving small existing settlements.
Rights of Way	The area of search for the Hedge End SDA is crossed by ROWs and connects with the Itchen Way Long Distance Path.
Public Access Land	ANGSt standards propose natural green space of 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from homes in urban settings. There is an identified deficit

Strategic Development Areas (SDAs)	
	in sites of 20 hectare areas of greenspace within two kilometres of the SDA. Currently, there is only access to some CROW land. (Unable to quantify, as information received gave aggregate figure for CROW land). Identified deficit - sites of 500ha within 10km of home (see Table 7)
Fareham SDA	
GI typology	Site characteristics
Landscape and Water (Natural Green space)	LCA Whiteley Woodlands LCA ref Fareham District assessment River Meon to north west of allocated land and River Wallington to east.
Biodiversity (Natural Green space)	SSSI on land to south of Knowle.
Formal Greenspace	None
Rights of Way	Poor RoW network within site. Links to Knowle.
Public Access Land	Open countryside but no access at present to land south east of Knowle. 20 hectare areas of greenspace within two kilometres of home are also sought and this could be provided within the area north of the SDA identified for GI/gap. Identified deficit (Table 5) Identified deficit - sites of 500ha within 10km of home (see Table 7)

4.26 Summary of identified deficits

- Deficit of Local Nature Reserves.
- Deficit of 20ha sites for Hedge End and North Winchester and only one serving Bushfield Camp area.
- Pressure from level of development proposed in south of District could lead to a requirement for another Country Park. Whilst there are currently three Country Parks in the southern area, Manor Farm, Itchen Valley and Staunton, both Manor Farm and Staunton are under 100ha and Staunton is on the eastern side of the A3(M).
- Gaps in existing RoW provision and need to create new strategic links.
- Deficit of 500ha sites within 10km of home to serve the District.
- Some degradation and fragmentation of existing landscape character and quality, especially to the south of the District.

4.27 Map 7 below illustrates strategic projects for the District. Maps 8-13 illustrate the strategic allocations and propose essential (PPG17 GI types such as play and recreation space) and potential GI

requirements to meet GI standards for 20ha, 100ha and 500ha sites.
Linkages to the existing RoW network are also shown.

MAPS REMOVED

5.0 Relationship to other Strategies/Standards

Introduction

- 5.1 A review of related strategies was undertaken to ensure consistency with and a reflection of existing GI aspirations for the area, both local and regional. These documents can be found at Appendix E. It is noted that there are several emerging strategies which will yet need to be taken into account, for example:
- The emerging South Downs National Park (SDNP) strategy and cross boundary strategies of adjoining districts, especially those where local authorities have GI strategies underway e.g. Test Valley BC, or in place;
 - Winchester CC and Eastleigh BC's Core Strategies
 - Other emerging local strategies such as WCC Landscape and Tree Strategy (as yet at an early stage) and revised WCC Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 5.2 There is a need to ensure that the Winchester GI strategy can easily be updated when these strategies are finalised and that the emerging strategies take full account of the findings of these GI related studies or any future GI Strategy for Winchester.

National

- 5.3 National standards have been set out by **Natural England** in **Standards for Accessible Natural Greenspace – ANGSt**, as follows:

"Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. These standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- *an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home*
- *at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two km of home*
- *one accessible 100 hectare site within five km of home*
- *one accessible 500 hectare site within ten km of home*
- *one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand of population.*

In some areas, this will be hard to achieve in the short term, but it should be a long-term aim for all local authorities, within their Greenspace Strategies. "

Regional

- 5.4 Currently the most significant existing GI strategy is the **Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy** which covers a significant part of the Winchester District.
- 5.5 The Push GI Strategy divides the total area covered into six. The parts most relevant to Winchester are Area 2: Forest of Bere which covers the southernmost part of Winchester District, from Bishops Waltham in the west to Denmead in the east, and Area 4: The Urban Realm and Its Setting which covers land to the south and east of Eastleigh.

Table 11: PUSH Projects

PUSH projects	Objective	Benefits for Winchester
Area 2 F1	Enhance linkages between woodlands in the area, encourage active woodland management and create new woodlands.	The F1 project relates to linkages between Creech Wood and West Walk which are adjacent to the southern strategic allocations. New wooded areas and footpath links will be beneficial for both recreation opportunities and biodiversity. Pressure on horse riding and driving routes in the Forest of Bere could be partially alleviated by the creation of a wider choice of routes.
Area 2 F4	Enhance and conserve the River Meon and Hamble corridors as semi-natural refuges through the creation of woodland stepping stones to connect woodland habitats, enhance biodiversity and reinforce local landscape character.	This project could be expanded outside the PUSH boundary into the rest of Winchester and link into the identified Biodiversity Opportunity Area which follows the route of the River Meon. A similar approach could also be taken to the River Itchen corridor (which is a SAC and SPA).
Area 2 F5	Enhance existing and develop new recreation spaces in the Denmead area to address current deficits.	Whilst the Denmead area has reasonable access to formal recreation areas e.g. golf course, play and recreation grounds, it does not have good access to informal recreation areas. The proposed new recreation areas will not only meet the existing deficit but will be important for the new development at Waterlooville, to which these new areas should be linked by footpath and cycle routes.
Area 4 U5	Indicates a sub regional	As noted above, the project

PUSH projects	Objective	Benefits for Winchester
	scale blue corridor along the River Itchen Corridor. Project U5 is summarised as landscape enhancements at this location will enhance biodiversity and quality of life value.	should be adopted by this strategy as GI does not stop at the defined boundaries of individual strategies. Opportunities for the Itchen river corridor are already recognised in the Winchester BAP.

Table 12: Forestry Commission projects in PUSH Area 2

Forestry Commission	Asset	Benefits for Winchester
West Wood (Winchester)	Over 250 hectares of mature woodland adjoining Farley Mount Country Park (Crab Wood). The west of Winchester's largest area of green infrastructure.	Extensively used for walking and cycling, with excellent opportunities for further development in partnership with Hampshire CC.
Micheldever Wood (Winchester)	Over 370 hectares of mature woodland located to the north of Winchester. Its picturesque appeal and bluebell woods makes it one of the county's most photographed woodlands. Over 650 acres at Black Wood, another FC woodland close by, offer similar potential.	Soon to receive an innovative nature play facility, this site offers exciting opportunities for rural green infrastructure development. However, the wider area has been identified as having a deficit of footpaths and the opportunity should be taken to create circular walks from the proposed new development at North Winchester.
Ampfield Wood (Winchester/Test Valley)	Over 430 hectares of green infrastructure; a productive woodland but with access for recreation restricted by leasehold.	A limited network of public rights of way and opportunities for further development. However, achieving this access could be problematic.
New Woodlands -	Creation of sites greater than 10 hectares that link to existing woodlands, to promote recreation and habitats networks.	Woodland links to the two Strategic Development Areas and Major Development Areas should be developed where possible. This could be applicable to all the strategic allocations e.g. linking North Winchester to Micheldever

		Wood, as suggested above.
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- 5.6 The PUSH strategy illustrates a sub regional scale corridor which runs along, and links, existing long distance paths, namely the Kings Way and the Monarchs Way running from south of Waterlooville, around Bishop's Waltham (a main 'gateway' point to the SDNP) to Winchester (the western tip of the SDNP).
- 5.7 The **Countryside Access Plan for the Forest of Bere** and the **Countryside Access Plan for the South Downs (Hampshire)** contain the following shared aims which relate to the provision of high quality GI at a strategic level:
- Increase, facilitate and promote off-road cycling opportunities.
 - Provide, maintain and promote good quality routes that link town and countryside.
 - Encourage and support car-free travel.
 - Ensure that access improvements do not adversely affect wildlife conservation and seek, where possible, to enhance biodiversity.
 - Ensure information is easy for all to find and understand.
 - Optimise the provision and management of parking.
 - Encourage wider involvement in the improvement and management of access.
 - Improve physical accessibility of routes and sites.
 - Identify and secure new access that will provide high quality, useful 'missing links' in the network.

Local

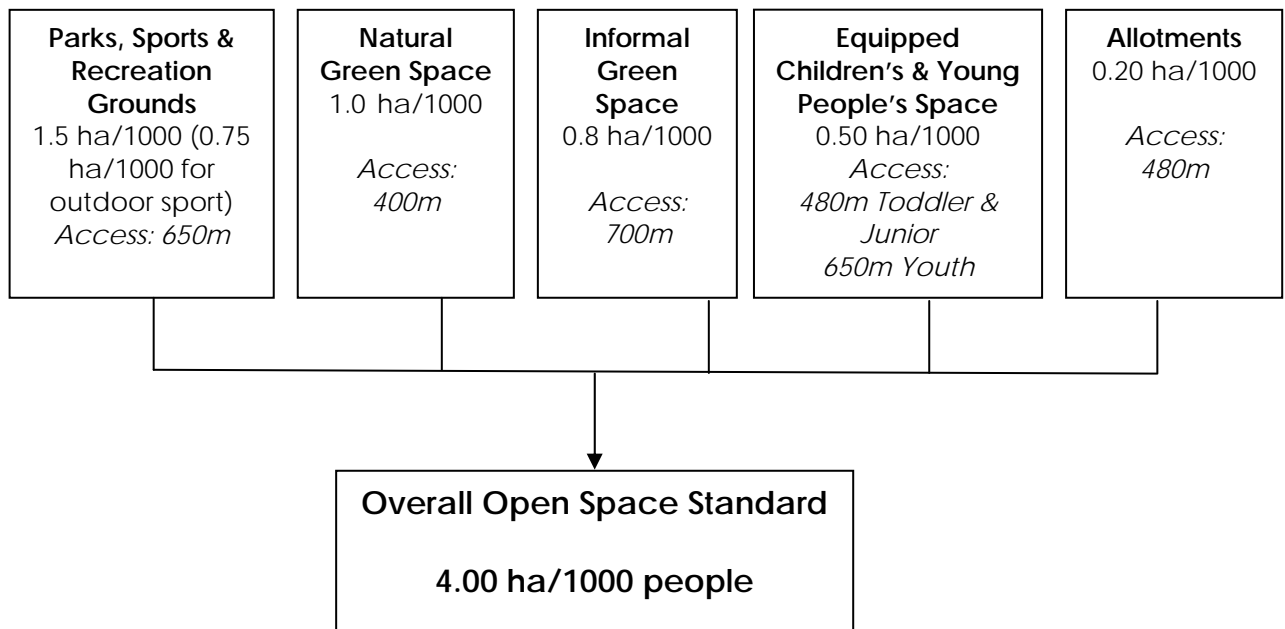
- 5.8 The **Countryside Recreation Network Opportunities Green Infrastructure Strategy** produced by Hampshire County Council has also identified potential projects which reflect some of the aims of the PUSH strategy, particularly in and around strategic allocations and settlements. These suggestions have been arrived at through public consultation and are appended to this report.
- 5.9 The **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment** prepared by Halcrow Group Ltd (2007) on behalf of WCC states that:

"SUDS techniques will be required for most, if not all, proposed land allocations. The attenuation to 'greenfield' (undeveloped condition) discharge should be the norm and the method adopted will depend on the individual circumstances. Developers should consult with the Environment Agency at an early stage about their SUDS proposals, to ensure that they are adopting the most affective methods for their site."

- 5.10 Although the report does not regard attenuation as always necessary, such areas can be important in maintaining the biodiversity and habitat integrity of development near the SAC, SPA, SSSIs and SINCs present in the District and can be incorporated in GI plans.

- 5.11 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (illustrated on Map 3 of this document) should be incorporated in the revised BAP due in 2010 and should be incorporated in the GI strategy.
- 5.12 Standards for quantity and access to GI components were defined in the **Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study for Winchester City Council 2008** ('PPG17 Study') and are being incorporated in the emerging LDF.

Summary of quantity and access standards for open space (WCC, 2008)



- 5.13 The summaries of these important existing strategies illustrate the importance of co-operation between the existing bodies involved in the delivery of GI. No single agency will be capable of meeting all the expressed aims for the District and, therefore, partnership working will be paramount.

6.0 Potential Projects, Delivery and Partnerships for GI

Issues, Opportunities and Principles for GI

- 6.1 **Tables 13.1 – 13.6** below take into account the issues, opportunities and deficits presented above and consider them in the light of the types of GI illustrated on Maps 1-6, together with the Historic Landscape Character information mapped at Appendix D. The Tables identify opportunities for partnership working and initiatives which are either new, or build on projects and proposals already incorporated in other strategies or plans.
- 6.2 The types of infrastructure are also noted as being of sub regional, district or local scale. This approach has been developed from the PUSH strategy, which categorises GI as being of sub regional, city/town or local scale, and is intended to keep a consistency of approach between documents. Due to the greater area covered, the PUSH document describes local as being district-scale, but local in the context of this document refers to GI, such as play or recreation areas, serving smaller settlements or parts of the major settlement of Winchester. District level refers to GI which is used by, or impacts on, the whole District, whether urban or rural, such as RoWs and Country Parks. Finally, sub regional shares the same meaning as the PUSH strategy and refers to significant infrastructure such as the South Downs National Park, the long distance footpath trails and transport corridors.
- 6.3 The suggestions below either indicate specific physical projects, or policy approaches to be taken across the District. The strategic allocations will be the greatest scale of new development experienced in the District but the basic principles for the provision of GI apply to all levels of development and can be incorporated in most new residential or commercial development. Whilst the strategic allocations will place the most demands and pressure on existing GI, the cumulative pressure of smaller incremental developments should also be taken into account.
- 6.4 **Table 14** lists the strategic allocations and itemises GI which will definitely be required by the PPG 17 study standards and suggests other potential uses for the allocated GI land.

Tables 13.1-13.6: Issues, Opportunities and Principles for GI

Table 13.1: Map 1 Landscape and Water			
GI type	Scale	Comment	Potential Partnerships/ Initiatives
Woodland Trust and Ancient Woodland	District	Winchester has extensive woodland with public access but this could be improved in the vicinity of the strategic allocations	Working with the Forestry Commission to provide more Forest areas with public access, particularly to the north and west of Winchester i.e. the Crab Wood and Micheldever areas.
Scheduled Monuments	District	Existing assets to be protected.	
South Downs National Park	Sub regional	The change from AONB to National Park will involve more emphasis on recreation as well as landscape protection. The change could lead to more visits both local and tourism derived, which are more likely to be car borne. The latter will increase pressure on existing natural landscape and infrastructure including transport e.g. increased car parking, widening of rural lanes, air quality. Careful management is essential if it is not to have an adverse impact on landscape quality, local character and the enjoyment of GI assets. Designation of the National Park will bring new management, project and funding opportunities but will require a modified relationship to that which existed between WCC and the South Downs Joint Committee.	<p>Working with the National Park Authority to create opportunities for both formal and informal recreation, without having a detrimental effect on existing landscape and biodiversity. Car parking should be provided at a level that does not encourage people to drive to their destination and public transport maintained/enhanced to serve both local people and visitors.</p> <p><i>WCC 1 That an enhanced role for Winchester, New Alresford and Bishops Waltham be considered and explored, in terms of their serving as public transport hubs to support sustainable tourism, with bicycle hire and buses serving popular destinations within the SDNP.</i></p>
AONBs	Sub regional		Working with other AONBs and inputting to their management plans.

Battlefields	Local	Existing asset to be protected.	Working with the District and County Archaeologists.
Rivers and Flood zone	Sub regional	GI can play a part in the reduction of flood risk, through improving flood storage capacity and reducing storm run off rates. Rivers – see below	Inclusion of policy requirement for SUDs in the LDF.

Table 13.2: Map 2

GI type	Scale	Comment	Potential Partnerships/ Initiatives
Internationally Protected Sites for Biodiversity	Sub regional	The blue infrastructure of Winchester i.e. river corridors and water courses, (some of which carry both SAC and SPA designations) must be protected from any significant effects resulting from the proposed level of development: GI can play an important part in the mitigation of predicted effects. Management of river banks improves biodiversity and can create linear routes for walking and cycling. The river corridors are well linked to the footpath network and offer diverse recreation opportunities.	The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the development proposals will detail the need for mitigation. Water quality and quantity can be protected by appropriate water management, attenuation and drainage techniques which can be incorporated in strategic landscaping and construction designs for the strategic allocations. <i>WCC 2 Adopt and progress PUSH Project U5 which is summarised as landscape enhancement of the location (the River Itchen Corridor) which will enhance biodiversity and quality of life.</i>

Table 13.3: Map 3

GI type	Scale	Comment	Potential Partnerships/ Initiatives
SSSI and SINCs	District	These components of GI illustrate the multifunctional aspect of GI. Whilst their principle purpose is that of nature conservation, the sites also provide areas for quiet, passive informal recreation and	<i>WCC 3 Working with Natural England, the National Park Authority and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to create more Local Nature Reserves with public access, particularly in the National Park and in the area to the south of the National Park between Hedge End and Waterlooville,</i>
Nature Reserves, national and local	Mainly local		

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas	Local	contribute to the landscape character of the District.	<i>to provide accessible open space within walking distance of settlements.</i>
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Table 13.4: Map 4			
GI type	Scale	Comment	Potential Partnerships/ Initiatives
Play areas and recreation grounds	Local	<p>Vital parts of GI for health and well-being for both children and adults.</p> <p>The leisure and recreation needs which will be generated by the proposed level of development will place increased recreation pressure on all open spaces, both formal and informal.</p>	<p>A PPG17 study of Winchester has been produced and identifies deficiencies in provision and in the condition of some existing facilities.</p> <p>Principle 1 <i>Provision of new facilities to serve the strategic allocations and other development proposals will be dependant on the implementation of the Core Strategy's policy relating to formal public space. Where possible, play and recreation space should be designed to create links with other greenspace to create habitat continuity and walking and cycling opportunities.</i></p>
Golf courses	Local	Valuable contribution to GI for both human health and biodiversity,	Mostly private provision.
Country Parks	District	<p>The District is not particularly well served, in terms of formal country parks but does have the new South Downs National Park and the relatively close (and more established) New Forest National Park. However, two of the existing country parks are within reasonable distance of the north Winchester development (Farley Mount CP) and Hedge End SDA (Manor Farm CP).</p> <p>Also, the Itchen Valley and Royal Victoria Country Parks (Eastleigh) and Queen</p>	<p>WCC 4 <i>The strategic allocations to the north and south of Winchester to be linked to the Farley Mount Country Park by cycling and walking routes.</i></p> <p>WCC 5 <i>Development at Hedge End SDA to be linked by cycling and walking routes to Manor Farm Country Park.</i></p> <p>WCC 6 <i>The need for another country park to be investigated in the light of HCC predictions of a 16% increase in visits to country parks. The development to the west of Waterlooville is separated from the nearest country park by</i></p>

Table 13.4: Map 4			
GI type	Scale	Comment	Potential Partnerships/ Initiatives
		Elizabeth Country Park (East Hants.). The new South Downs NP offers opportunities for enhanced recreation.	<i>the A3(M). The FC intends to create further woodland in the vicinity and there is potential for partnership working to create a publically accessible woodland Country Park.</i>
Public Parks	Local	Another important part of GI for health and well being for both children and adults, of which there appears to be a deficit across the District. This may not be an issue, due to the amount of accessible open space in the District. However, CABE are keen to promote the provision of public parks.	Principle 2 Where possible new public parks should be designed to create links with other greenspace to create habitat continuity and walking and cycling opportunities.
Allotments	Local	Discussed above under key issues, Table 3.	Allotment provision should be considered in new developments (see Core Strategy open space policy and strategic allocations).
Churchyards and cemeteries	Local	Existing GI asset	WCC 7 Produce guidance on the part such areas can play in GI, with good management.

Table 13.5: Maps 5 & 6			
GI type	Scale	Comment	Potential Partnerships/ Initiatives
Rights of Way	District	The area generally has a very good RoW network but areas where there is a deficiency have been illustrated on Map 7. There is pressure on the Forest of Bere network from horse riding and driving. The strategic allocations are all crossed by footpaths and it is vital that these are not lost and are used as a basis for GI within the development sites. These must be	1. HCC have identified potential RoW linkages which are listed in Appendix B and should form the basis for footpath improvement initiatives. See also the Countryside Access Plans for the Forest of Bere and the South Downs (Hampshire) The PUSH strategy illustrates a sub-regional scale corridor, following and linking the Kings Way and Monarchs Way long distance paths crossing the southern parts of the District. A similar approach should be explored and developed on the

Table 13.5: Maps 5 & 6			
GI type	Scale	Comment	Potential Partnerships/ Initiatives
		incorporated into any masterplanning process from the outset and used to inform the evolution and layout of the subsequent development.	<p>basis of the Wayfarers Walk and Alresford Drove/Oxdrove paths which traverse the central and northern parts of the District.</p> <p>2. Support should be given to the PUSH project F1 which seeks to create woodland linkages in the Forest of Bere and the creation of new bridleways should be encouraged.</p> <p>Principle 3. Existing footpaths across the strategic allocation sites must be preserved and enhanced and form the basis for internal site GI and links to the wider external GI, as indicated on Map 7.</p>
Disused railway lines	District	Existing GI asset	Working with track-bed owners and adjoining landowners to establish and, where feasible, exploit opportunities to improve public access, link with elements of the RoW network and/or enhance biodiversity value
Long distance paths	Regional	The District has a comprehensive network of long distance paths which are well connected to the local RoW network. These strategic components of the network will be illustrated as sub regional green corridors, in line with the PUSH strategy.	WCC 8 A link to the eastern side of Winchester to be created from the South Downs Way.
EH Parks and Gardens	District/ sub regional	Important part of GI for biodiversity and landscape but often does not have any public access.	Working with EH to ensure continuing integrity of sites.
Historic Parks	District	Important part of GI for biodiversity and landscape but often does not have any public access.	
CROW Access land	Local	Important part of GI for recreation, biodiversity and landscape.	Principle 4 Working with landowners to secure management

Table 13.5: Maps 5 & 6			
GI type	Scale	Comment	Potential Partnerships/ Initiatives
			agreements to manage land in the best interests of landscape, biodiversity and public access.
Winchester Commons	Local	Important part of GI for recreation, biodiversity and landscape.	Principle 5 Working with landowners and South Downs NPA to secure management agreements to manage land in the best interests of landscape, biodiversity and public access.
Public Access	District	The audit has revealed a deficit in the ANGSt standards for 20ha sites within 2km of home and a 500ha site within 10km of homes.	Principle 6 Encourage and support areas with public access and encourage the provision of new areas, particularly in relation to strategic allocations and any substantial development in the Level 1 settlements. Promote the long term provision of a 500ha site to serve the District.
Transport corridors	Sub regional	The dissection of the District by the M3/M27/A34/A32 corridors and roundabouts can provide valuable habitat for some species but act as a barrier to humans. There has been a long term ambition for an ecobridge over the M3.	<i>WCC 9 Investigation of the feasibility of an ecoduct/bridge over the M3 at Twyford Down to enable the provision of circular routes from the east to west of the District and to allow the movement of other species.</i>

- 6.5 To set local standards for accessible natural green space at a local (i.e. District) level will require extensive further survey work and analysis and it is recommended that, in the interim period, Natural England's standards are adopted as a basis for provision, along with the standards recommended through the PPG17 Study. The ANGSt standards provide a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live and are recommended as a long term aim for all local authorities. The PPG17 Study's District-wide standard for natural green space is set at 1ha per 1,000 head of population, no more than 400m from home. It is recognised that there is a significant difference in rural and urban environments and rural communities generally have better access to informal recreation space for walking and cycling.
- 6.6 Therefore, it is recommended that the PPG17 natural green space (1.8ha) be applied outside urban areas and the ANGSt standards (2ha) within 300m of homes should be applied in new *urban developments*. This approach has been justified by the analysis and identification of assets and deficits through interpretation of the data received from WCC and the urban nature of the strategic allocations. The benefits of adopting ANGSt standards are clearly set out in "Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace" (*Natural England, March 2010*).
- 6.7 The following table sets out potential GI projects for the Strategic Allocations and SDAs, based on the information gathered and analysed in Sections 3 and 4 of the study. The protection and/or enhancement of natural assets, the identification of existing deficiencies and the projection of needs which will be generated by the level of development have all been taken into account.

Proposed GI Projects for Strategic Allocations and SDAs

Table 14: Proposed GI Projects for Strategic Allocations and SDAs		
Site	Development Proposal	GI
North Winchester, Winchester	<p>2,000 dwellings and supporting uses</p> <p>Poor RoW network across site.</p>	<p>Preferred Option allocation illustrates GI area of land to the east.</p> <p>BF1 Development will require play, recreation and 2 ha areas of natural greenspace within the site. The latter to be provided within 300m from home.</p> <p>WCC 4 Proposed link to Farley Mount Country Park by cycling and walking routes.</p> <p>BF2 Build on existing footpaths on site to create internal and external links to walking and recreation areas.</p> <p>BF3 Creation of north/south RoWs across site, existing links are west/east. Note: FC proposals to create woodland links in the Micheldever Wood area – potential for habitat corridors and circular walk creation.</p> <p>BF4 Allotments and community orchards on-site and/or in allocated GI area.</p> <p>BF5 Existing landscape character and quality including topography, trees and hedgerow patterns to be preserved and enhanced within the site.</p> <p>BF6 Accessible 20ha natural greenspace for informal recreation e.g. dog walking to be provided within 2 km of homes in area allocated for GI (land east of railway)(ANGSt standard).</p> <p>BF7 Potential for creation of LNR in conjunction with BOA to east of site.</p>
Bushfield Camp, Winchester	<p>Knowledge Park</p> <p>Much of site covered by SINC designation.</p> <p>Clarendon Way runs along north west boundary of site.</p>	<p>Site development likely to be subject to AA. (R. Itchen SAC)</p> <p>BC1 Although no residential development is proposed, GI principles can be applied to the site so that it contributes to the main objectives of the study through the retention of local landscape character, habitat protection and creation, protection of existing footpaths and the creation of linear routes through and beyond the site, to link up with other nearby assets.</p> <p>BC2 Potential to create LNR within site</p>

Table 14: Proposed GI Projects for Strategic Allocations and SDAs		
Site	Development Proposal	GI
North Whiteley	<p>3000 dwellings and supporting uses.</p> <p>Unlimited public access site to south east of proposed development.</p>	<p>Preferred Option allocation illustrates central GI area of land dividing the site. Site development likely to be subject to AA. (Solent Maritime SAC)</p> <p>NW1 Development will require play, recreation and 2ha areas of natural greenspace within the site. The latter to be provided within 300m from home.</p> <p>NW2 Existing trees and hedgerow patterns to be preserved within the site.</p> <p>NW3 Areas of existing open space of biodiversity value to be protected, improved and extended. Potential for 7.5 ha Local Nature Reserve to meet ANGSt standard as there are no such reserves in the vicinity of the proposed development, although there are adjacent SSSIs.</p> <p>NW4 Wildlife corridor should run through the site to provide connectivity between the SAC/SSSI to the north west and SSSI to the south east.</p> <p>NW5 Allotments to be provided within the site in suitable locations.</p>
West of Waterlooville	<p>Consent for 2000 dwellings, allocation for a further 1000 dwellings.</p> <p>The Preferred Option allocation illustrates GI area of land to the west. The Denmead area is identified as being deficient in open space (PUSH) and development must be self sufficient and not increase pressure on existing facilities to the north.</p>	<p>Permission has already been granted on parts of the site and further permissions should link to footpaths and cycle routes already proposed.</p> <p>WW1 Development will require play, recreation and 2ha areas of natural greenspace within the site. The latter to be provided within 300m from home.</p> <p>WW2 The northern part of the site is crossed by a tributary of the River Wallington which creates areas of flood risk. Attenuation and the use of SUDs in this part of the site can provide sustainable management of surface water run off and provide blue infrastructure to the site. Footpath links should be created to enhance recreation opportunities. The PUSH Strategy promotes opening out this part of the Wallington River catchment.</p> <p>WW3 The southern area of the site is partially covered by SINCs and an opportunity exists to create a 7.5ha LNR. (ANGSt standards).</p> <p>WCC 6 The need for another country park to be investigated in the light of HCC</p>

Table 14: Proposed GI Projects for Strategic Allocations and SDAs		
Site	Development Proposal	GI
	<p>Flood risk zone across northern portion of the site.</p> <p>SINCs identified in southern portion of site.</p>	<p>predictions of a 16% increase in visits to country parks. The development to the west of Waterlooville is separated from the nearest country park by the A3(M). The FC intends to create further woodland in the vicinity and there is potential for partnership working to create a publicly accessible woodland Country Park.</p>
Hedge End SDA	<p>6,000 dwellings</p> <p>The area indicated on the map is a study area rather than a definitive boundary for the SDA or GI. There is a close physical relationship to the development at North Whiteley.</p> <p>A European designated site (the Solent Maritime SAC) is within 5 km of the study area boundary and any recreation development which has potential for adverse effects on biodiversity value should be concentrated in the northern part of the proposed GI area.</p> <p>The area has good footpath connections to a golf course on the Eastleigh boundary</p>	<p>HE1 Development will require play, recreation and 2ha areas of natural greenspace within the site. The latter to be provided within 300m from home.</p> <p>HE2 The existing golf course to act as a central focus for GI when considering connectivity of natural greenspace.</p> <p>HE3 Footpath and cycle routes within the developable area should be maintained and improved and link to the extensive RoW network in the proposed GI area.</p> <p>HE4 Potential for the creation of a substantial area of natural greenspace which would meet the needs of the residents of Bishops Waltham as well as the residents of the proposed 6,000 dwelling residential development. Accessible 20ha natural greenspace for informal recreation e.g. dog walking to be provided within 2 km of homes in area allocated for GI. (ANGSt standard).</p>

Table 14: Proposed GI Projects for Strategic Allocations and SDAs		
Site	Development Proposal	GI
	<p>with Winchester. This covers an extensive area and is in a central position.</p> <p>There is also potential for a direct link to Bishops Waltham and the adjacent South Downs National Park along the disused railway line, where possible. GI provision here could also benefit the residents of the market town. Bishops Waltham is approximately 10km from the SDA. The ANGSt standards seek one accessible 500 hectare site within ten km of home so a substantial area of natural greenspace in this location would be necessary.</p>	
Fareham SDA	<p>10,000 dwellings</p> <p>Golf course to north of proposed GI area.</p> <p>Extensive areas of natural greenspace to north west and north east of site.</p>	<p>F1 Development will require play, recreation and 2ha areas of natural greenspace within the site. The latter to be provided within 300m from home.</p> <p>F2 Provision of allotments within/adjoining the SDA</p> <p>F3 Potential for Local Nature Reserve adjacent to the River Meon, to ANGSt standards.</p> <p>F4 Footpath and cycle links from within site to link to LNR and exploit potential for riverside walks.</p> <p>F5 Footpath links should also run through the GI area to link with public access Wickham Common to the north east.</p>

Table 14: Proposed GI Projects for Strategic Allocations and SDAs		
Site	Development Proposal	GI
		F6 Accessible 20ha natural greenspace for informal recreation e.g. dog walking to be provided within 2 km of homes in area allocated for GI. (ANGSt standard).

Considerations for Delivery: Funding

- 6.8 The publication by CABI Space "Paying for Parks" (2006) gives examples of several methods of funding used to create and maintain green space. They include:
- Traditional LA funding - Funded from a LA's general revenue budget (i.e. local tax and/or government allocation).
 - Multi agency public sector funding – e.g. delivery of cross cutting targets may be eligible for funding from a range of government departments and agencies.
 - Planning and development opportunities – probably the most used via planning conditions and Section 106 agreements (including the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy) to fund urban green space.
 - Income generating opportunities – licensing, franchising, sponsorship, fees and fines.
- 6.9 Other sources such as Lottery Funding, particularly sport and community funds, and landfill tax credit scheme funding could also contribute.

Considerations for Delivery: Recommendations

- 6.10 Potential projects and district wide principles have been identified in Tables 13.1 and 13.6 and are illustrated on Maps 7 – 13. Whilst the study has concentrated on the major development areas to be progressed through the Local Development Framework, it is important that the District-wide principles are applied to the developments which will occur in settlements such as New Alresford and Bishops Waltham and where their scale will be commensurate with the settlement's size and character and the level of services/facilities and employment opportunities provided.
- 6.11 Overall the study brings together new suggestions and the work of other organisations to provide a basis for future action working in partnership and the following **recommendations** are put forward to progress the development of a GI Strategy for implementation throughout the District.
- a) A **District-wide GI steering group** to be set up to ensure communication and co-ordination between all the agencies and stakeholder groups who will be responsible for the provision of GI and to monitor the outcomes. It will also be essential to ensure that the aims for Winchester District are taken into account during the preparation of plans which will have an impact on the District such as the GI strategies of neighbouring Local Authorities and management planning for the South Downs National Park.

- b) **Further consultation with statutory consultees, key stakeholders and agencies** to be carried out on the:
- **District-wide Principles for GI**
 - **Potential District-wide projects WCC 1 – WCC 9**
 - **Strategic site allocations potential projects**
 - North Winchester BF1 – BF7
 - Bushfield Camp BC1 – BC2
 - North Whiteley NW1 – NW5
 - West of Waterlooville WW1 – WW 3
 - **Potential SDA projects**
 - Hedge End HE1 – HE4
 - Fareham F1 – F6
 - **District Wide Project**
 - Long term potential for a 500 ha accessible site within 10km of homes within the District
- c) **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** to be incorporated in the revised BAP due in 2010 should inform the proposed creation of **Local Nature Reserves** to assist in filling the identified deficit.
- d) The **open space/natural greenspace standards** set out in the **Winchester CC PPG 17 Study** should be applied to the smaller allocations and incremental development but the open space/natural greenspace standards which are set out in the above study should be extended with regard to the four Strategic Allocations and the SDAs to include the ANGSt standards. The **Natural England ANGSt standards** provide a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live and these are recommended as a long term aim for all local authorities. These standards to act as a basis for the provision of natural greenspace, in relation to the major urban development proposed. The standards also cover facets of GI outside the remit of PPG 17 studies and relate to District-wide issues rather than individual developments. Also, as noted in paragraph 6.5, the ANGSt standards require areas of open space for informal recreation to be provided nearer to where people live than proposed in the PPG17 Study standards. If more detailed local standards are sought these will require further extensive research.
- e) This study should be updated when further work on the **Habitats Regulation Assessment** has determined whether or not **Appropriate Assessment** of the strategic allocations and SDAs will be required. If AA is required, GI will play a fundamental role in helping to mitigate any significant adverse effects identified in relation to the proposed levels of development.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Appropriate Assessment (AA)	A stage in the HRA process undertaken at Regulation 85B of the Habitats Regulations.
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)	Areas of countryside considered to have significant landscape value in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, that have been specially designated by Natural England on behalf of the United Kingdom government.
Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	Countywide plans identifying priority habitats and targets for enhancement/habitat creation.
Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)	Regional priority areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats.
Byways open to all traffic (BOATs)	A highway over which the public have a right of way for vehicular and all other kinds of traffic but which is used by the public mainly for the purpose for which footpaths and bridleways are used.
Countryside Access Plan	Aims to improve access to the countryside in a chosen area.
CRoW	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act 2000)
GI	Commonly used acronym for Green Infrastructure. GI Typologies refers to areas that can form part of networks of green infrastructure. GI Architecture is phrase used in the PUSH strategy as an expression of the current strategic spatial form of green infrastructure.
Green Bridge	A bridge built to allow wild life to move over highways safely
Green links	Green corridors (primarily for movement and access but also considering other functions such as for habitat connectivity) – a key part of the green infrastructure network.
EA	Commonly used acronym for the Environment Agency
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)	Assessment of the effects of a plan on European designated sites under the Habitats Directive/Regulations.
HCC	Commonly used acronym for Hampshire County Council
LA	Commonly used acronym for Local Authority
Landscape character	The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape and how these are perceived. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.
Landscape character areas	Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical area of a particular landscape type.
Landscape character types	Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historic land use and settlement pattern.
LDF	Commonly used acronym for Local Development Framework
LEAPs	Commonly used acronym for Local Equipped Areas for Play
LNR	Commonly used acronym for Local Nature Reserve
National Park	A reserve of natural or semi-natural land, declared or owned by

	a government, set aside for animal safety and/or human recreation and enjoyment, and protected from most development.
Natura 2000 sites	Sites of pan European nature conservation importance, e.g. SPAs and SACs.
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)	Partnership of local authorities in South Hampshire dedicated to sustainable, economic-led growth and improving prosperity and the quality of life.
Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs)	Prepared by the government after public consultation to explain statutory provisions and provide guidance to local authorities and others on planning policy and the operation of the planning system.
Rights of Way (RoW)	All rights of way are legally highways and anyone may use them at any time. All can be used by pedestrians, but some have extra rights to ride a horse, cycle or drive a vehicle.
SE RSS	Commonly used acronym for South East Regional Spatial Strategy
Scheduled Monument	Nationally important archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Designated under the Wildlife and Conservation Act 1981, as amended, for their outstanding interest in respect of flora, fauna, geology and or limnology.
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	Designations applied to the most important nature conservation sites. Can be designated for both their ecology and geological interest.
Special Area for Conservation (SACs)	Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected sites that have habitat types and species that are considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds).
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Strictly protected sites classified for rare and vulnerable birds, and for regularly occurring migratory species.
Strategic Development Areas (SDA)	Broad locations for major mixed-use development well served by public transport, including housing.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes.
Sustainable Drainage Systems or SuDS	Formerly called Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. An approach to managing rainfall and run off in developments, with a view to replicating natural drainage. SuDS also aim to control pollution, re charge ground water, control flooding, and often provide landscape and environmental enhancement.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Generic term to describe the form of assessment that considers environmental, social and economic effects, whilst also incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive.
WCC	Commonly used acronym for Winchester City Council
WDSP	Commonly used acronym for Winchester District Strategic Partnership

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APPENDICES

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- B** Opportunities: The Countryside Recreation Network Opportunities Green Infrastructure Strategy Hampshire County Council
- C** Proposed Forestry Commission Projects
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APPENDIX A: Report of GI Stakeholder Workshop 7 December 2009

**Winchester City Council Local Development Framework
Green Infrastructure Strategy Monday 7 December 2009
0930-1300 Walton Room, Guildhall, Winchester SO23 9GH**

Workshop

1.0 Introduction

- On 7th December 2009, Winchester City Council (WCC) hosted a workshop to invite discussion on the proposed Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy being prepared by Enfusion Ltd.
- 1.1 On arrival each participant was provided with a pack containing; a programme for the day, a green infrastructure briefing note, a list of green infrastructure definitions, a list of relevant strategies, a list of green infrastructure assets and facts and figures on Winchester, the draft green infrastructure maps to be included in the report and a table of questions to discuss during the workshop.
- 1.2 The workshop began with an introductory welcome speech from Councillor Frank Pearson.
- 1.3 This was followed by an introduction from the Head of Strategic Planning at Winchester City Council, Steve Opacic, on the relationship between the Local Development Framework and Green Infrastructure.
- 1.4 Liz Payne from Enfusion then outlined the initial findings of the strategy and identified GI assets, issues and opportunities within the District. Questions were then invited from the floor.
- 1.5 Timescale the council was working to on completion of the report. It was answered that the draft report would be complete by mid January 2010, with the final report being completed in February 2010. A second question was asked regarding what the phrase "Strategic Allocations" referred to. It was explained that it is a term used for Site Allocations in the Core Strategy. The term is usually reserved for housing developments of at least 2000 houses. Finally, a participant commented that it was felt that the draft maps provide a very urban centric view of Green Infrastructure and that agriculture is a major issue and needs to be accounted for.

2.0 Group Work

2.1 After a short break participants were given a number of questions to discuss in their four separate groups. The following tables provide the results of the discussion:

2.2 Table 1

Q1: Definitions of GI – is there a refinement to better reflect the particular characteristics of the Winchester District and vision/objectives for the LDF?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The definition needs to be clear, easily understandable and one that avoids use of jargon, making it accessible to non-professionals. 2. Ideas for words to be included in a definition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open spaces ▪ Accessible/non-accessible ▪ Wildlife/recreational/network ▪ Natural ▪ Man made ▪ Planned and unplanned ▪ Appropriate place and function ▪ Fit for purpose 3. Should include the European designations within the District 4. Be more locally specific by referring to important landscape assets/features that are locally distinctive to the District e.g. river corridors; disused railway corridors. 5. Emphasise flexible use of green spaces to ensure they are adaptable to meet changing needs of community in the future.

2.3 Table 2

Q2: Ensuring Integration of Strategies – are there any others we should consider?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Plans ▪ Rights of Way (ROW) improvement plans ▪ Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) – WCC/Hants ▪ Health and education strategies ▪ Crime, safety ▪ SE recreation strategy by GOSE (due 2010) ▪ Rights of Way transport plan by Hampshire County Council (HCC) ▪ Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) GI strategy ▪ Flood risk strategies, ▪ Transport Plans ▪ Emerging South Downs National Park (SDNP) strategy. There is a need to ensure that this GI strategy can easily be updated when the SDNP strategy is in place ▪ Cross boundary strategies of adjoining districts especially those where local authorities have GI strategies underway e.g. Test Valley BC; Eastleigh BC.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emerging local strategies such as WCC Landscape and Tree Strategy (early stages). <p><i>Other issues raised</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East Hants is not specifying a boundary for its GI Strategy on the basis that a boundary artificially restricts the potential GI resources being used by residents, particularly where resources are easily accessible via the strategic road network ▪ The Green Infrastructure strategy must deliver in terms of the EU sites and if this is not possible the proposal cannot go ahead.
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2.4 Table 3

Q3: Issues and Suggestions for developing the GI Strategy – please debate and comment. Are there any other significant issues that we should consider?	
Issue	Comments (agree/disagree)
A: Needs generated by proposed development and increased recreation pressure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More locally accessible linkages from the doorstep that include ‘pro dog’ areas as now there are fewer areas to walk dogs without conflicting with other uses e.g. more formal recreational and children’s play areas. 2. There is the potential for a conflict as the use of existing areas to deliver recreation spaces could cause biodiversity issues (woodlands, SSSI’s). This will need to be mitigated. 3. Stress the development pressures that exist within the District and the issues/opportunities presented by these; need to manage ‘domestic’ use of green space i.e dog walking opportunities required locally that do not conflict with other users/activities. 4. Identify existing car parks used mainly for walking/cycling activities e.g. Cheesefoot Head, Garnier Road by Itchen Navigation and link in with footpath/bridleway networks. Also consider larger parking areas that can be used for horse boxes and associated events. 5. Greenways for walking/cycling to be designed into new development as at Whiteley, to link in with existing paths in surrounding countryside. May include hierarchy of footpaths to direct people away from more sensitive areas. 6. Need to ensure that developments incorporate ‘meaningful open space’ and not just left over bits of land that are landscaped as ‘amenity’ areas and have no clear function and purpose. 7. Ensure GI is planned into the site at the outset through the master planning process, as it cannot be

	<p>retrofitted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. A balance between GI provision and housing density is necessary. 9. Recognise conflicts between different recreational pursuits that also have an economic implication e.g. fly fishermen on Test and Itchen vs canoe activities.
<p>B: Forest of Bere – lack of access, pressure for equestrian use</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The priority is to improve access to the forest for all. It is an important area for BOAs. 2. The Forest has a particular character and quality but lacks clear identity. Need to clarify what is meant by Forest of Bere including extent and boundaries under consideration and future aims/objectives. Different perceptions include historic coverage which is a large area and very fragmented; strategic area only as in PUSH GI Strategy or two remaining areas described as woodland. 3. New development places increased recreational pressure on diminishing countryside creating devalued landscape. More concentrated equestrian overuse causes churned up bridleways; broken linkages create traffic/horse conflict in lanes; subdivision of paddocks and fields urbanises landscape with more vehicular entrances and tracks.
<p>C: Change of designation from AONB to National Park</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to emphasise the National Park and its recreational role within the District for both the existing communities and those to be created via the new developments; 2. Should mean more officer time and money for high quality environment. Different planning authority interpretation, enforcement and view of the same planning legislation. 3. Could this change lead to another layer of bureaucracy? 4. Increase potential for development on boundary of National Park and recreation pressure from further afield. There is a need to ensure transitional zones for development on periphery of the National Park. 5. Recognize different recreational and management priorities of an SDNP and how this will affect the landscape character and use. 6. Issue of formal boundaries - the landscape value does not significantly change from one side of the boundary to the other, potential for a buffer zone? 7. Effect of SDNP on roads within district not yet known,

	but has the potential to encourage more people into the District
D: High flood risk areas, water quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The majority of the flood risk is located in the south of district. 2. Erosion of soil (linked to flooding) causes diffuse pollution which is a major issue in the district. 3. There is not a flood risk problem at Barton Farm. The majority of the site is not even classified as an area of flood risk. 4. A flooded flood plain can be a visual attraction which can attract tourists. It is part of the natural make up. 5. There should be a preventative approach to flood risk and water quality, rather than having to deal with the consequences of flooding. There is, at present, not enough focus on localised water features e.g. small ponds, wetland areas, groundwater flooding 6. Need to identify local landscape features not suitable for development in addition to those areas already identified by EA e.g. dry valleys and winterbournes; source of springs. 7. Must design SUDS into new schemes and maximize any existing 'wet' features 8. SUDS can stand out due to fencing (health and safety requirement) – what should be a natural feature becomes an eye sore.
E: Dissection of district by M3/A31	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dissection of the district can be both an issue and an asset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Can be an asset as contains the major traffic and caters for fluid population as it passes through district. Major attractions/destinations need to be included in strategy e.g. New Forest, south coast in order to better understand movement patterns. Question need for visitor surveys/data to understand destinations and movement patterns. ■ Can also be an issue as it creates rat runs through smaller lanes in the countryside and through villages, especially in the south of the District. 2. Major roads create fragmented communities and links at local level that need to be reinstated/ improved. 3. Also need to recognise for car park development to

	<p>determine where people may be heading.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. David Rumble (Hampshire Wildlife Trust) raised the issue of the 'ecoduct' across the M3 at Twyford Down as an opportunity to reconnect downland biodiversity and creating a more conducive walking route 5. Dissection by roads may be an issue if these cut across pedestrian/wildlife routes, but can also complement existing corridors. It is mainly an issue for new rather than existing roads. 6. Green Bridges, e.g. Twyford cutting – Fareham SDA, cut off from Fareham by H27. South Downs Gateway. 7. Moving road to pass through developments can reduce cutting off of communities and biodiversity. There is, however, a lot of opposition as it would increase traffic through developments.
<p>F: Need for allotments – recreation and contribution to security of food supply</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are different ways of providing allotments. They can be divided into larger sites with fewer allotments or smaller sites with a more allotments. 2. One participant was against allotment designation as he questioned why some people should have free land. 3. Allotments have the capability to form another community. 4. They are not, however, a substitute for agricultural functions or recreation etc. 5. There is a balance between garden size and housing density. There was a debate as to whether larger gardens could reduce the need for allotments. 6. There is a lot of support for both allotments and community orchards. 7. Hierarchy of food growing areas needed in new developments to cater for different needs e.g. larger traditional size allotments for families/retired; small areas for single/busy individuals. 8. Community gardens for apartments in new development. 9. Importance of existing soil type and quality is being overlooked when assessing suitability of sites for allotment use. 10. Allotments need to be within walking distance of users homes and overlooked for security. 11. Allotments are 'fashionable' at present. However, there is a need to consider the concept of allotments as a flexible resource that can be

	adapted to meet local community needs in the future.
<p>Any other issues not included above :</p> <p>1. Impact on National Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There is pressure to provide alternatives to the New Forest to reduce pressure on it. There is the possibility of similar pressures on the South Downs National Park. <p>2. Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Green bridges over the major road networks would open up access to district, which could link up the national parks and provide links for both biodiversity and pedestrians ■ Suggestion to consider buffer zones around GI sites to protect their biodiversity value from increased use. ■ There is the potential to include green roofs and green walls in new development <p>3. Rights of Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Railway lines are greatly used and accessible making them a valuable existing GI asset. The change of old railways to bridleways and removal of blockages would be supported. ■ There is a need to reconnect ancient rights of way in order to create a larger network. ■ Network of GI needs to emphasise that people enjoy walking circular routes. <p><i>Notes from Curdridge PC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Curdridge PC has already requested that Shedfield Footpath No. 10 should be extended into the Parish and on towards N.Whiteley. The footpath currently begins on the A334 at Silverlake/Rowash and runs SW to a dead-end at the edge of a wood at the boundary with our Parish. The path could be extended to cross the railway at Fairthorne Grange or at Barn Farm and so connect up with the B3051 at Curbridge, and so to Footpath No. 2 towards Whiteley. ■ Meanwhile, Curdridge PC is investigating the possibility of establishing a new footpath from the Northern end of Lake Rd (near the end of Shedfield Footpath No.10) north to meet Footpath No. 5. If successful, and if the Whiteley connection could also be made this would improve the connectivity of the footpath network in the village significantly. Any assistance in helping us to establish ownership of the relevant land and permissive use or purchase thereof would be most welcome. ■ The issue of the needs of horse riders came up. As mentioned, there are many equestrian establishments in Curdridge Parish, but NO bridleways, although an attempt is underway to open the old Botley to Bishops Waltham railway line as a multi-use Right of Way. However, it is suggested that the needs of horse riders also be considered in the 	

<p>planning of N. Whiteley-related Right of Ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The strategy should aim to enhance the areas which are most accessible to the majority of people <p>4. Cost/Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a capacity within communities to manage areas of green infrastructure. ▪ Communities can provide information to aid councils management (e.g. stating when paths are overgrown). ▪ The costs of maintaining GI must be considered as well as providing it in the first place. Who will pay for green infrastructure development? There is a need for an overall GI strategy so that all areas/developments contribute fairly; ▪ Maintenance and management: GI has a range of potential partners (a number of which meet regularly through the Winchester District Strategic Partnership Natural Environment Forum). This GI strategy needs to link into their action plan (if it exists?) and could actually be their action plan to start to deliver on the ground? Their web link is provided below: http://www.wdsp.co.uk/highqualityenvironment/naturalenvironment/ ▪ The management/maintenance issues of all GI resources must not be undermined. ▪ Effective enforcement must be implemented for GI to be successful. <p>5. Baseline Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that it would be useful if the maps could include the various GI resources for the whole District, as at present they give the impression that parts of the District are void of any GI which is not the case. This would overcome the criticism that there is an overriding focus on the urban environment and would also provide a useful 'baseline' to start to establish monitoring targets and indicators. ▪ There is a need to justify the use of a 10k boundary, particularly given the good road connections that exist within the District, as it implies GI stops at 10k. ▪ Include green burial sites and churchyards in GI data both existing and proposed. The suitability of the site is dependent on the level of the water table and soil type. ▪ Data gap on maps to be addressed. Data for the whole district must be included and used as a baseline for future assessments. ▪ The GI Strategy should cover a wider area to pick up on major destinations such as New forest, south coast. ▪ There was a suggestion to merge landscape character assessment with GI as the two have a degree of common issues. <p>6. Agricultural Land Classification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is important to conserve land of high agricultural value, for food production and landscape quality (contact for Agricultural Land Classification maps is Julie Holloway, DEFRA Reading)
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- Is there a possibility that the landscape and land use on which the sites are to be allocated is represented on the maps?
 - There is a need for agricultural protection but also housing creation. Conflict with natural spaces/biodiversity.
- 7. Other issues**
- There is a need for
 - Adequate recreational provision at all scales
 - Provision for the elderly
 - Flexibility of use for open space
 - Emphasise local provision
 - Community engagement should be encouraged in order for the GI development to be most successful.
 - Planned Vs incremental growth: Concerns raised over the volume of GI being delivered through the larger developments, when in a District such as Winchester most development occurs on a much smaller scale which is scattered across the District (albeit concentrated in and around the existing settlements). This kind of incremental growth can have an equal impact on GI resources, particularly where it has occurred over a number of years without any increase in provision.
 - Must design GI into all new sites not just the larger/strategic allocations but also the small and medium sized developments.
 - GI simply too big a subject to cope with. (?)

2.5 Table 4

Q4: Can you suggest any landmark/good practice GI projects?

- Whiteley is a good example, all footpath links are well used and lead to places/activities people want access to.
- Test Valley: Large development at Andover is being planned on a zoned basis with the development area separated by an access area from the nature reserve, to provide accessible GI adjacent to the new community followed by GI with greater biodiversity interest further from the new dwellings.
- David Rumble (Hampshire Wildlife Trust) suggested the 'Testwood Lakes at Totton' example. It was achieved through Section 106 agreements, available on Trust website.

3.0 Reporting back and Key Issues

3.1 At the end of the session, a representative from each group put forward the key issues that their group had identified:

3.2 Group 1

- Mapping of GI needs to be comprehensive. There is a need to have a better understanding of how spaces are used, how people value those spaces and how different GI is perceived by the community and various user groups.
- There is concern as to how the GI strategy will be implemented. In particular, how will any Winchester GI strategy be joined up with the work of other authorities? Also where GI is being provided how/ who will manage it in the future and where will the funding come from to ensure it is managed in perpetuity.

3.3 *Group 2*

- It is important that GI is designed at outset of plans and projects and cannot be retrofitted.
- GI should maintain, extend and be creative with existing resources/ use as offset
- There is a need for flexibility GI, e.g. Allotments are currently in fashion, when it goes out it could address the changing local needs by evolving.

3.4 *Group 3*

- GI has a role helping to accommodate new developments into the existing area.
- GI has a range of functions (food production, biodiversity, recreation etc)
- There is a need to pull together all stakeholders in developing Winchester's GI strategy
- There is a need to ensure that rural interests are not neglected as, at present, the GI strategy has an urban focus.

3.5 *Group 4*

- GI should be fit for purpose and there is a need to recognise that there will be primary and secondary purposes.
- Winchester needs to focus more (in particular in relation to strategic allocations) on larger areas/ country parks that can 'cope' with recreational pressures. Links should be provided to ensure easy access.
- The district is divided, to some extent, by motorways/dual carriageways. "Green Bridge" provision at selected location could help wildlife movement and biodiversity and provide pedestrian links nearby countryside again, without the need for total car dependency.
- There is a desire to reconnect rights of way and integrate existing green spaces.

Participants:

- Sarah Kate Abercrombie – *Winchester City Council*
- David Ball – *HCC (Countryside Service)*
- Cllr Martin Bell – *Compton and Shawford PC*

- John Beresford – *Grainger Plc*
- Jonathan Bills – *South Downs Joint Committee*
- Julie Boschi – *Havant Borough Council*
- Cllr Kevin Bundell – *Curdrige Parish Council*
- Mike Carter – *Wickham Parish Council*
- Alan Cox – *Shedfield PC (Chairman)*
- Selina Crocombe – *Fareham SDA*
- Amanda Dunn – *East Hants District Council*
- Mike Emmett – *Cala Homes*
- Simon Finch – *Winchester City Council*
- Nicola French – *Terence O'Rourke*
- Matthew James – *Hedge End SDA*
- Al Menzies – *Whiteley Parish Council*
- Jenny Nell – *Winchester City Council*
- Damien Offer – *Winchester City Council*
- Steve Opacic – *Winchester City Council*
- Tracey Payne – *Eastleigh Borough Council*
- Ann Peal – *South Wonston PC (Chairman)*
- David Rumble – *Hampshire Wildlife Trust*
- Cllr Derek Smithers – *Kingsworthy Parish*
- Jonathan Steele – *Savills*
- Tim Sykes – *Environment Agency*
- James Taylor – *National Trust*
- Linda Thomas – *Winchester City Council*
- Yvonne Wheadon – *Shedfield PC (Parish Clerk)*
- Greg White – *Winchester City Council*

**APPENDIX B:
The Countryside Recreation Network Opportunities Green Infrastructure
Strategy Winchester City Council (Undated)**

Barton Farm/Headbourne Worthy	
Ref	Opportunities
BF 1	Improved walking/cycling routes to Farley Mount Country Park
BF 2	Improve routes from Winchester to the North linking up to the rights of way network.
BF 3	Disused railway line (current status/condition?)
BF 4	Extend the permissive footpath to Woodhams Farm Lane
BF 5	Circular walking/cycling routes within development.
BF 6	Link to Itchen Way (not currently identified but potential walking route?)
BF 7	Lanes in this area provide vital links in the off road network and should be protected as quiet lanes

Bushfield Camp	
	Opportunities
BC 1	Routes to the Itchen Way
BC 2	There is a high demand to allow cyclists to use the Itchen Way legally.

N/NE Hedge End SDA		
Ref	Opportunities	Comments
HE 1	Botley to Bishops Waltham route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.	This is an active partnership project involving local community and HCC.
HE 2/NW 1	Route to link Botley to Whiteley Pastures/Botley Woods.	Lack of any rights of way through Curdridge (identified by PC also)
HE 3	Walking/cycling route from SDA to Manor Farm Country Park	
HE 4	Botley to Wickham – there is a huge gap in access network in Curdridge. Could more access be provided in the woodlands through WGS?	

North Whiteley SDA		
Ref	Opportunities	Comments
NW1/ HE 2	Route to link Botley to Whiteley Pastures/Botley Woods.	Lack of any rights of way through Curdrige (identified by PC also)
NW 2	Route to Meon Valley Trail	
NW 3	Formalising/improving routes within Whiteley Pastures/Botley Woods to create circular walks/ cycle rides.	
NW 4	Crossing over railway line to link to woodlands if potential for more access. See additional suggestions in previous section.	This would open up the countryside to the NE.
NW 5	There are concerns about the A3051 particularly for horse riding as there are stables in the area. Might need to consider more bridleway improvements?	

Wickham	
Ref	Opportunities
W 1	Meon Valley Trail. Improvements to the route required and more circular walks/cycle routes to connect.

Denmead	
Ref	Opportunities
D1	Route to Creech Woods and network in West of Waterlooville MDA.
D2	Route between Creech Woods and West Walk.

West of Waterlooville	
Ref	Opportunities
WoW 1	Off site routes to Creech Wood to north and Portsdown Hill to south to link with north-south multiuser route and network in development.

Bishops Waltham/Waltham Chase		
Ref	Opportunities	Comments
BW 1/HE 1	Botley to Bishops Waltham route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.	This is an active partnership project involving local community and HCC.

BW 2	Route through Waltham Chase to link to Meon Valley Trail	Lack of bridleways in this area so important network improvement.
BW 3	Circular network from Bishops Waltham	

APPENDIX C:**Proposed Forestry Commission Projects**

(Reproduced from PUSH GI strategy, 2009)

Area 4 – Central and Northern Hampshire (Winchester, East Hampshire and Hart)

CNH1	Connecting and enhancing woodlands
Description	<p>Enhance linkages between woodlands in the Area, encourage active woodland management and create new woodlands. Increase carrying capacity of the woodlands via on-site provision, increased area and improve transport connections including possible cycle hire. This will require revenue and capital support to increase carrying capacity. Active management should promote fibre and wood-fuel production, considerable carbon storage, as well as recreation, tourism and biodiversity.</p> <p>New Woodlands</p> <p>Creation of sites greater than 10 hectares that link to existing woodlands, to promote recreation and habitats networks. Woodland links to the Strategic Development Areas and Major Development Area in the Area can be developed.</p> <p>Existing Woodlands</p> <p>In particular, linkages should be enhanced between the following Forestry Commission owned and managed woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ West Wood (Winchester) – Over 250 hectares of mature woodland adjoining Farley Mount Country Park (Crab Wood). The west of Winchester’s largest green infrastructure. Extensively used for walking and cycling, with excellent opportunities for further development in partnership with Hampshire CC. ➤ Micheldever (Winchester) – Over 370 hectares of mature woodland located the north of Winchester. Its picturesque appeal makes it one of the counties most photographed woodlands. Soon to receive an innovative nature play facility, this site offers exciting opportunities for rural green infrastructure development. ➤ Ampfield (Winchester/Test Valley) – Over 430 hectares of green infrastructure; a productive woodland, partly with recreation restricts by leasehold. A network of public rights of way and opportunities for further development. <p>This project should connect to the PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy Area 2: Forest of Bere: F1 Connecting and enhancing</p>

	woodlands.
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**APPENDIX D:
Historic Landscape Character Map**

Map Removed

APPENDIX E: Strategy Review

- Winchester District Sustainable Community Strategy Winchester City Council 2008
- An assessment of countryside recreation supply and demand in Winchester Hampshire *County Council September 2007*
- Winchester BAP *Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust 2005*
- Winchester Strategic Flood Risk Assessment *Halcrow 2007*
- Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study *Winchester City Council 2008*
- Winchester District Open Space Strategy 2009/2010 *Winchester City Council*
- (Draft) River Basin Management Plan, South East River Basin District *Environment Agency 2009*
- Landscape Character Assessment *Winchester City Council 2004*
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan *Hampshire County Council 2008*
- Countryside Access Plan for the Forest of Bere 2008-2018 *Hampshire County Council*
- Countryside Access Plan for the South Downs (Hampshire) 2008-2013 *Hampshire County Council*
- Winchester District Strategic Partnership website has also provided information on the health and sport and recreation aspirations for the area.
- Countryside Recreation Network Opportunities - Hampshire County Council
- The emerging Winchester Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Preferred Option May 2009.
- Partnership for Urban South Hampshire *UEA Associates 2009*
- South East Plan (also known as the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East) *May 6 2009.*

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