



**Solent
Mitigation
Partnership**

Solent Mitigation Partnership Winchester City Council – Planning Agents' Forum

9 July 2026

SMP & Local Authority Partners





Our Vision

- High-integrity, nature-positive solutions
- Safeguard the internationally important habitats of the Solent
- Enable urgently needed new housing
- Wide coverage across the Solent
- Deliver wider benefits for communities and wildlife
- 100% of funds generated by credit sales are reinvested in new mitigation schemes supporting further housing - we are a 'not for profit' organisation
- Once nutrient mitigation is no longer required, fund to enable the restoration of protected waterways



DELIVERING PROJECTS

We deliver a growing programme of projects designed to:



REDUCE
POLLUTION



ENHANCE THE
ENVIRONMENT



IMPROVE THE
RESILIENCE OF
OUR RIVERS
AND ESTUARIES

This includes:



RESTORING
FARMLAND TO
NATURE-RICH
HABITATS



CREATING NEW
PUBLIC GREEN
SPACES AND
COUNTRY PARKS



IMPROVING
SEPTIC SYSTEMS IN
RURAL AREAS



REDUCING WATER
USE IN HOMES

These projects not only...



SUPPORT
NEW HOUSING



CREATE LASTING
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Solent Strategy

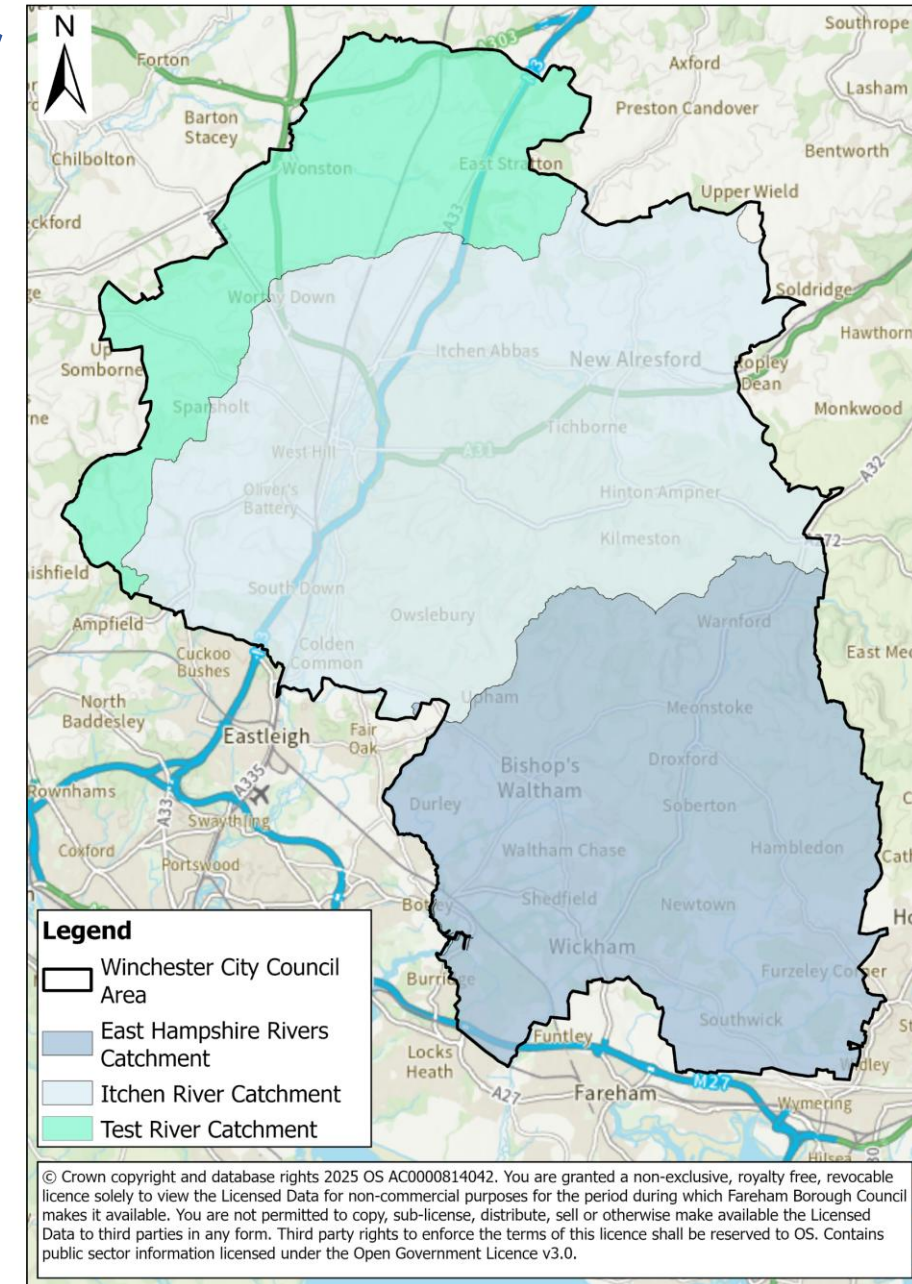
- The Solent nutrient neutrality catchments extend beyond local authority areas – hence the need for a **strategic and dynamic response!**
- Our strategy is influenced by:
 - Housing demand and mitigation supply analysis
 - Spatial constraints to where mitigation can be delivered
 - River Itchen – more difficult to achieve phosphorus neutrality



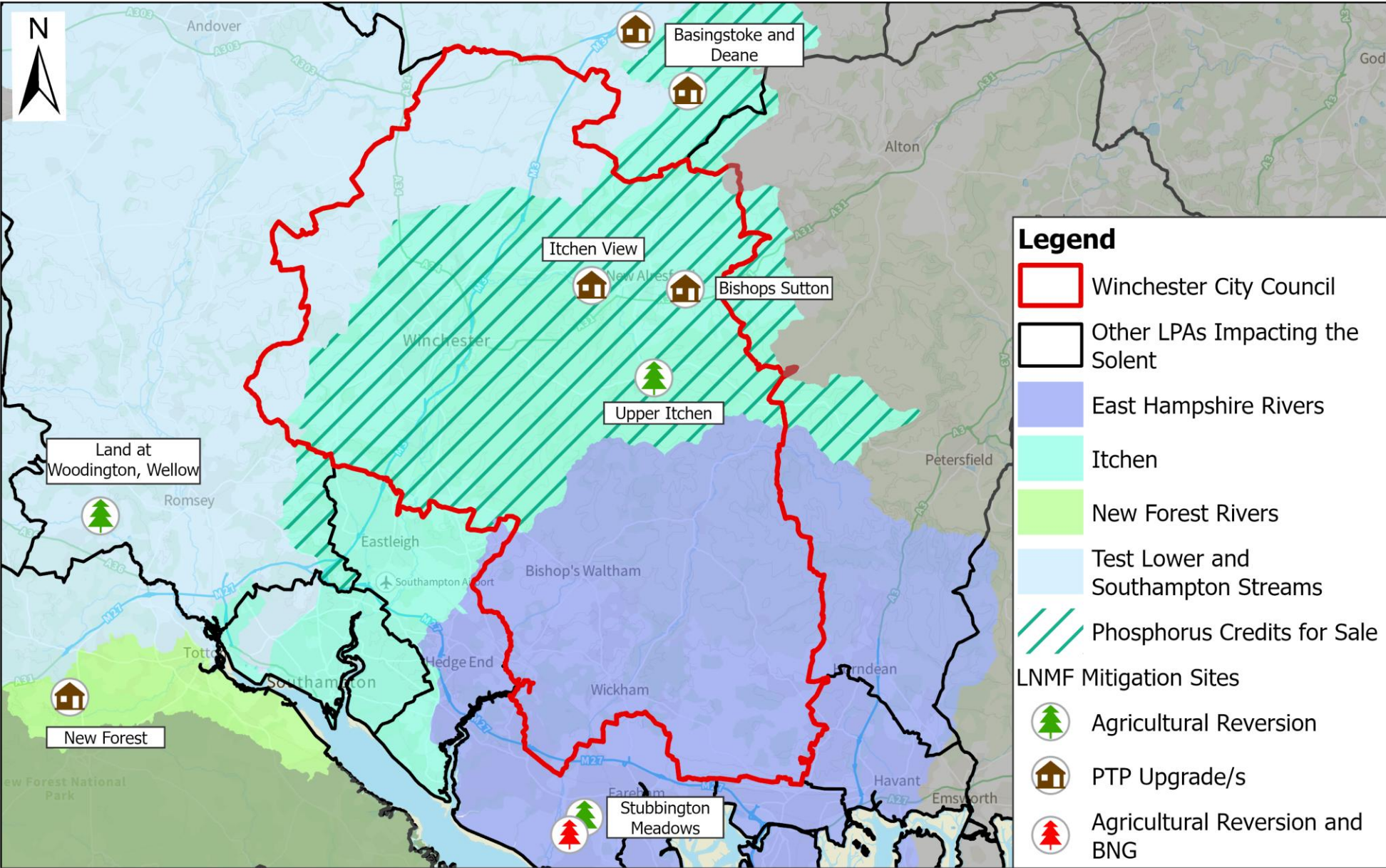
Nutrient Neutrality in Winchester

Winchester covers three Solent Catchments – the **Test River**, the **Itchen River** and **East Hampshire Rivers**.

- Development in the Test and East Hampshire Rivers catchment has a likely significant effect on the total **nitrogen** to **marine protected sites** – **nitrogen neutrality**
- Development in the Itchen River catchment has a likely significant effect on the total **phosphorous** to **riverine protected sites** **AND** the total **nitrogen** to **marine protected sites** – **nitrogen and phosphorus neutrality**



Mitigation Schemes



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Stubbington Meadows, East Hampshire Catchment

- Agricultural Reversion Project creating a new Nature Reserve
- Partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Creates 417 Nitrogen Credits and 121 BNG habitat units
- Extension of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve
- Creates a new circular permissive footpath
- Opportunity area in Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Stubbington Meadows Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve
What's special about this nature reserve?

Did you know, this meadow was once an arable field? It now provides food for pollinators, a nesting site for birds and cover for small mammals.

Chrysanthemum
This typical garden plant provides large blooms that appear from July to September and are so bright that they appear to glow in the evening. These are the common varieties of 'daisy' and 'marguerite'.
Height: up to 1m
When: June to September

Ratcatcher
Ratcatchers are typically seen hunting their prey with a long, thin tail. They have the ability to keep their head still while hunting, even in strong winds. Helping to attract prey by sight.
Length: 10cm
Weight: 10g
When: All year

Some of the special wildlife protected here

Yellow flag
When yellow water lilies bloom, they have a yellow centre and a white ring. The flowers are so bright that they appear to glow in the evening. These are the common varieties of 'daisy' and 'marguerite'.
Height: up to 1m
When: May to September

Common blue butterfly
The male common blue has bright blue wings with a brown border and white spots. The female is brown with a blue border. It is a common sight in the meadow.
Height: 4-6cm
When: May to October

We have partnered with Bournemouth Council to transform this former arable field into a vibrant wildflower meadow to bring nature back to life!

By taking on the ownership and management of the 12 hectares there, and taking the land out of intensive arable production, we were able to provide mitigation for planned housing developments through the sale of nitrate credits.

Through the process of arable reversion, we have created more space for nature. Wildflower meadows provide an amazing home for a huge variety of wildlife, offering food and shelter to countless creatures - especially our vital pollinators.

From late summer into early autumn, the meadows will burst into bloom, transforming the landscape into a vibrant sea of colour.

When the flowers bloom, you'll spot a wonderful mix, which could include orange-tipped red clover, yellow rattle, field scabious, common birds like chaffinches and magpies.

Nature is in crisis. If you would like to protect and restore the nature world, please visit stubbington.org.uk/support-us or scan the QR code to donate.

Your support allows this land to be cared for and managed by the Wildlife Trust and our team of volunteers.

Image credit: Neil Owen & David Owen. Nature is in Crisis. Registered Charity Number 270041

Improving Water Quality at Source, River Itchen

Upgrading Council-Owned Small Sewage Works in Winchester

- One project complete and open for sales
- 3 more scheduled for delivery
- 385 Nitrogen and 44 Phosphorus credits

Householder Septic Tank Upgrades Scheme

- Phase 1 in Bishop Sutton, Winchester – open for householder applications
- Pipeline of nutrient credits from late Summer
- 330 nitrogen and 28 phosphorus credits
- Phase 2 in New Forest Rivers catchment
- Phase 3 – wider rollout across Solent



New Green Spaces for Communities, Test Catchment

- Land at Woodington, Wellow
- Partnership with Test Valley Borough Council
- Creation of a new Country Park
- Nitrogen credits – 1342 kg/TN/yr
- Biodiversity Net Gain units – 50 units
- 34 hectares of SANG for New Forest Recreational Disturbance Strategy
- Open for temporary and permanent nitrogen credits



Our nutrient credits

- Developers can buy credits with confidence – all schemes are approved by Natural England
- SMP is backed by 16 Local Planning Authorities
- Postcode checker for development locations
- Flexible approach – reserve credits or purchase in full
- Lowest administration fees
- Credits are sold in fractional units to suit the needs of your development
- **Biodiversity Net Gain** units also available soon



Default Prices for Nutrient Credits	
Permanent Nitrogen Credits	£3,250 per 1kg/TN/yr
Permanent Phosphorus Credits	£50,000 per 1 kg/TP/yr
Temporary Nitrogen Credits	£325 per 1kg/TN/yr



Buy Credits

Expression of Interest

Enquiries & Newsletter



✉ Email

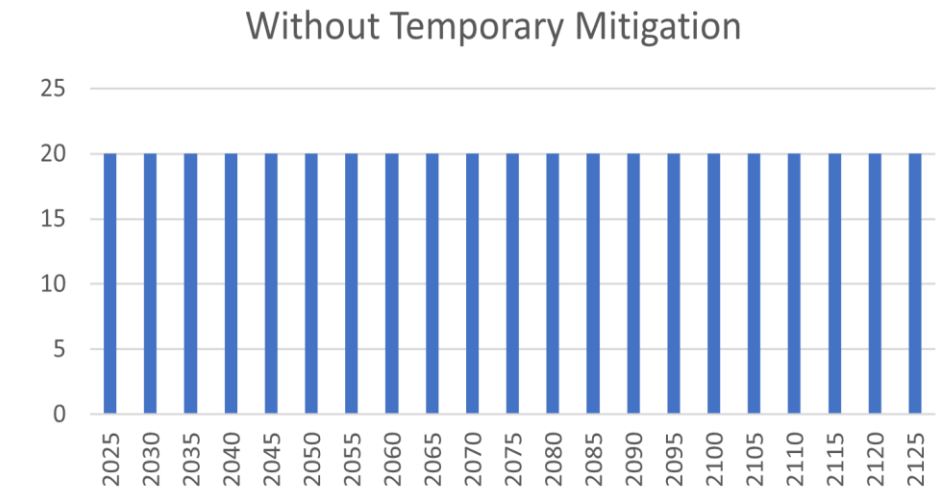
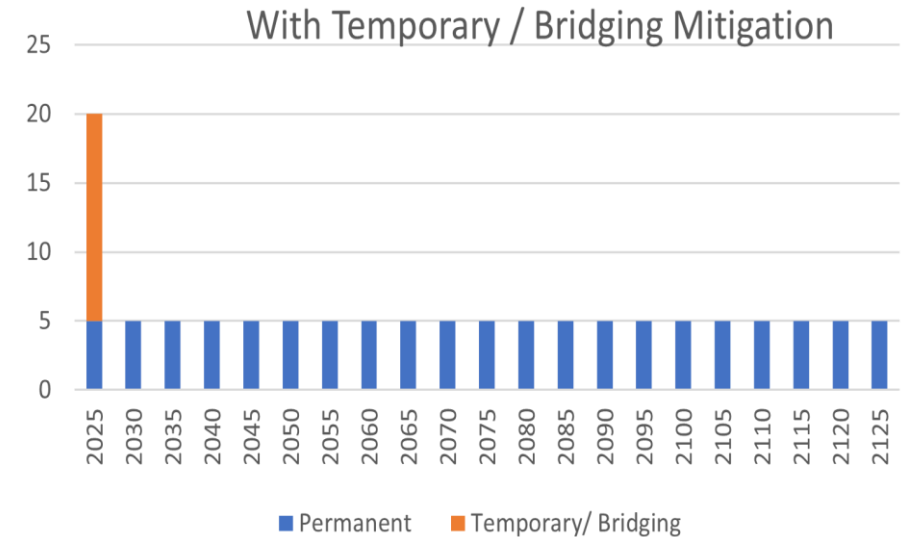
environmentalmitigation@fareham.gov.uk

🔗 Social



New Offer of Temporary Credits

- Permanent credits - mitigation for a development in perpetuity (100 years)
- Temporary Credits -short term mitigation (up to 4 years) pending wastewater upgrades by 2030
- Only needed in areas with planned upgrades – mostly inland, eg River Test and Itchen
- Temporary Credits Sales process -
 - First come first serve allocation
 - No reservations – temporary credits must be purchased upfront
 - Sold with any permanent credits - secured through Credit Purchase Agreement



Legislation Update - Environmental Delivery Plans

- New approach – **Environmental Delivery Plans** (EDPs)
- EDPs being prepared by Natural England with developers paying into a **Nature Restoration Levy**
- 16 Nutrient Neutrality EDPs, 7 Great Crested Newts.
- The Solent is one of the nutrient areas identified but not the first one coming forward (Norfolk)
- EDPs are expected to last for up to 10 years and will set out the type and amount of development it can support.
- The **Nature Restoration Levy** is a payment mechanism to support delivery of EDPs
- Pay levy rather than sorting bespoke mitigation or buying credits
- EDPs – not compulsory – likely to be two parallel systems when schemes launch.

