SANG Research Study
Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath SPA Consultancy Report

Final report
Prepared by LUC
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Registered office:
250 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8RD

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Summary of study approach and findings

1.1 This study considers the potential for Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) alternatives to avoid or mitigate the effects of recreation pressure at the Thames Basin Heaths (TBH) Special Protection Area (SPA) within Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath. SANG alternatives include:

- **SANG networks**: enhancing existing suites of SANG or enhancing individual SANGs so that as a network they draw more people away from the SPA. Individual SANGs / SANG alternatives could be linked together or provide different experiences for different purposes of visit, such that together they provide a full range of 'SANG' features.
- **Linear SANG**: sites that would otherwise meet existing SANG criteria but provide a linear walk instead of a circular walk. Because sites unable to provide circular walks tend to be narrow sites with linear paths through them, there are similarities with 'recreational routes', although linear SANGs focus more on the individual site and incorporate wider areas of greenspace whereas recreational routes are narrow and may be primarily routes to other places..
- **Enhancement or creation of recreational routes**: new or improved recreational routes that do not otherwise meet existing SANG criteria, e.g. public rights of way not within the SPA/SANGs and/or routes that link SANG sites. Recreational routes could form part of a linear SANG or SANG network, or function on their own.
- **Smaller SANG / facilities with smaller catchments**: sites that, either due to their smaller size or features, would have a smaller catchment than the existing SANG sites catchments (e.g. less than 2ha or larger than 2ha but without parking and/or a circular walk). As smaller SANG may lack the space for a circular walk, there is some overlap with linear SANG.
- **Larger SANG with larger catchments**: SANG sites greater than 20ha with a catchment larger than 5km. These may be significantly larger than 20ha and/or have a greater range of features than current SANGs.

1.2 Other forms of mitigation are being explored through separate studies, all forming part of the main TBH Mitigation project being led by Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Local Planning Authorities, which aims to explore measures that could supplement or provide alternatives to the current approach to mitigating the effects of new housing in Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.

1.3 The brief for this study posed 17 research questions and this report draws together information from existing data and information from visitor surveys at the SPA and SANGs, open space strategies and other sources to help answer the research questions. An online survey was also carried out from August to September 2020 to obtain primary data from residents of Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath on how they use a range of green space types, to determine whether SANG alternatives could be effective at mitigating recreation pressure from new development.

1.4 The findings are summarised below in relation to each of the study's research questions.

Whether/how people would use alternatives to SANGs (e.g. other types of recreation space/route)? *(Research question 2*

1.5 The online survey asked people which of various types of green space they had visited in the last year and also to name up to five green spaces that they visit the most often. For about half of the sites that they named, we were able to link the sites to existing open space data to obtain additional information on those sites including whether they are part of the SPA, an existing SANG, or another type of site, and the site area.

1.6 The results show that people visit a wide variety of types of site. The top five most frequently visited types of sites were footpaths/trails alongside a canal/river/disused railway, footpaths/bridleways in the countryside, urban parks and recreation grounds, nature reserves or other natural areas, and country parks. Of the named sites, 16% are part of the SPA, 13% are existing SANGs, 44% are other types of green space and 27% could not be linked to the map. Outside of the SPA and SANG sites (29% of all mapped sites and considered to all be 'natural and semi-natural sites'), the most frequently visited types of sites, based on named and mapped green spaces, are: parks and gardens, followed by natural and semi-natural green space, then green corridors.

1.7 Footpaths, bridleways and trails, including linear paths, have also been used by the majority (>80%) of all respondents.

Which features make the most difference to the attractiveness of a site for recreation? *(Research question 1)*

1.8 The online survey asked respondents to identify features that are present at their most-visited green spaces. They were also asked which features were most/least important to them when selecting a green space to visit.

1.9 The most frequently cited features (by over a third of respondents, both in relation to features that are present at their most frequently visited greenspaces and the features that are most important to them) are:

- Convenient car parking;
- Within walking distance of home;
- Variety of routes;
- Opportunities for a circular walk;
- Visually attractive;
- Safe/secure;
- Quiet / not many people;
- Wildlife / access to nature;
- Variety of landscape features; and
- Free from unpleasant smells/noise etc.

1.10 Most of the top ten features cited above as being very important when considering which green space to visit are listed in the SANG guidance as 'must have' criteria for SANGs. The top ten features cited as being 'least important' when choosing a green space to visit (by 29-63% of respondents) are (from highest to lowest):

- Easy to get to on public transport;
- Sports / fitness facilities;
- Visitor centre and / or café;
- Playground / play equipment;
- Accessible trails / facilities (e.g. for pushchair or wheelchair);
- Well used / sociable;
- A focal point such as a viewpoint or a monument;
- Area of green space securely fenced to allow dogs to be walked off leads;
- Space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users;
- Toilets; and

- Facilities for dogs e.g. dog waste bins, water points / bowls, dog exercise area.

1.11 Again, most of these are not included in the current SANG 'must have' criteria. Most of the 'least important' features provide for specific users (the exception being 'a focal point'), for example people without cars or with limited mobility, people using the green spaces for fitness, families, and dog walkers. Features for dog walkers, although they are unimportant to most surveyed greenspace visitors, may increase mitigation capacity as dogs contribute more to disturbance at the SPA than visitors without dogs; features for other groups may have less potential to act as suitable SPA mitigation. Dog walkers were more likely than other visitors to say that 'clearly defined and waymarked walking trails' and 'signage at access points outlining layout of green space and routes available' were least important.

1.12 For some people, 'least important' features may also be features that they visit some green spaces for or use if available (e.g. where there is a café or toilets), but which do not strongly influence their choice of green spaces as a whole. Features that provide for specific groups of visitors could therefore still be incorporated into a larger SANG or SANG networks to create a site/network with wider appeal.

1.13 Taken as a whole, therefore, the responses to this survey question do not help to identify any 'must have' SANG features that could be automatically omitted from a SANG alternative, and still have confidence that mitigation would be provided. 'Focal points' ('desirable' SANG features) appear to be less important and could be omitted. Similarly, the most frequently cited 'very important' features could be used as a guide to the features that would make a SANG alternative more likely to be successful as mitigation as they would be more likely to attract frequent visits to green spaces that are not the SPA. However, it may not be necessary for a SANG alternative to have all of the 'very important' features to be attractive: the survey data shows that a wide range of green space types are well used, even where they do not meet the 'ideal' green space that is suggested by combining all respondents' 'most important' features.

Whether dog walkers would use walks/sites without certain SANG features (e.g. circular walks) or that link existing SANGs together? *(Research question 3)*

1.14 As stated above, dog walkers responding to the online survey were found to be more likely than other visitors to say that 'clearly defined and waymarked walking trails' and 'signage at access points outlining layout of green space and routes available' were least important in choosing a green space to visit.

1.15 The features that people stated as being most/least important align fairly well with the 'must have' SANG features and 'circular walk' was cited as most important for just under half of respondents, both dog walkers and others. The survey results point to no obvious SANG features that could be omitted and for there still to be confidence that mitigation would be provided, although they do not rule out the possibility that different features could be provided across more than one site, particularly if linked.

Are there complementary features which would make a lack of features (e.g. a circular walk) acceptable? Does this differ for dog walkers compared to other types of visitor? *(Research question 9)*

1.16 As above, the survey results found no obvious SANG features that could be omitted. However, it was clear that many respondents use the SPA and other sites for certain activities that require specific features, and do not require the presence of the full set of 'SANG features', for example horse riding and mountain biking. Dog walking also has specific requirements, with 59% of dog walkers stating that the most important factor in deciding which green space to visit is 'space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users'. It is likely that some trips for dog walking will be local sites where dogs can be off lead, for convenience rather than choice.

1.17 Of the top 20 most-visited green spaces that people visited, five are part of the SPA, five are SANGs, and the remaining ten feature bodies of water and/or are urban/country parks with a range of facilities, as follows:

- Basingstoke canal – linear site/recreational route along waterbody;
- Fleet Pond – site with waterbody;
- Frimley Lodge Park – park adjacent to waterbody (Basingstoke canal) with range of facilities;
- Blackwater Valley – linear site/recreational route along waterbody;
- Manor Park – site with waterbody and range of facilities;
- Queen Elizabeth Park – large park with range of facilities;
- Hawley lake- site with waterbody;
- King George V playing field – large park with range of facilities;
- Aldershot Park – park with waterbody and range of facilities; and
- Brickfields Country Park – park with waterbody.

1.18 An audit of these sites against SANG criteria was beyond the scope of this study, but it is clear that sites with a range of facilities and/or attractive waterbodies have a significant draw

and could potentially compensate for an absence of specific features identified as important by survey respondents e.g. circular walk, a variety of walks, or 'close to home'.

Whether there are specific features that should be avoided or minimised if variations and/or SANG sites/connections were delivered (e.g. linear SANGs) which would make them attractive to dog walkers? *(Research question 10)*

1.19 Characteristics that affect dogs and dog walkers, such as the presence of grazing animals, a lack of space to take dogs off leads and a lack of water points, are shown to be more likely to discourage dog walkers than other users. Other differences that are interesting if a SANG alternative is aimed at attracting dog walkers are that dog walkers are more likely than other visitors to be discouraged by a lack of variety of walking routes, busy sites or those where there is potential conflict with other users, and unsafe routes to the green space.

How might people use a SANG network and how they might select alternative sites? *(Research question 4)*

1.20 Links between green spaces appear to be important based on the types of green spaces that people say they have used in the last year, when prompted to consider footpaths and trails as green spaces. However, around one quarters of respondents say that links / routes between green spaces are important to them when choosing a site and less than one fifth of respondents would be put off by a lack of links. This may be because respondents' 'ideal' green space would have everything they need within it, with no need to link to nearby sites. Or it may be because footpaths are considered a means of travel rather than a destination. This appears to be the case when considering the list of green spaces that people have named as their most frequently visited sites. Most are defined open spaces, with few people citing 'footpaths'. The exceptions to this are popular trails such as the Blackwater Valley Path and the Basingstoke Canal, which were named by a significant number of people. This does not mean that linked SANG networks or recreational routes would not be successful, but their success is not certain and the convenience and the appeal of the links themselves and connecting green spaces would be important.

1.21 Creating SANG networks such that a group of sites functions as a whole may make those sites more appealing by providing more variety. 53% of respondents indicated that 'Variety of landscape features such as woodlands, grassland, heathlands and waterbodies etc' applies to greenspaces they visit. 45% consider this very important when selecting which green space to visit. 51% of respondents indicated that 'Variety (type / length) of walking/ cycling /horse riding routes' applies to green spaces they visit. 43% consider this very important when selecting which green space to visit. While the survey data provides evidence that people do use different sites at different times and for different purposes – and therefore that SANG networks could be effective in principle – it has not been possible to identify a set of specific criteria by which potential groups of sites could be assessed; there are too many variables.

1.22 It is likely that SANG networks do have potential as a SANG alternative, but it is difficult to draw conclusions from the survey data alone to support this. Examples of existing SANG networks such as The Cut and Bullbrook Countryside Corridors in Bracknell (see paragraph 2.10) show that SANG networks can be well used, but specific proposals would need to be considered on a case by case basis.

1.23 The use of SANG sites is similar in terms of primary activity when compared to non-SANG / non-SPA sites, although both walking and dog walking account for a slightly larger proportion of main reasons to visit SANG sites. Non-SANG sites are likely to be already diverting some use from the SPA for some activities, and could therefore enhance the 'offer' at existing SANGs with improved access / connectivity within a strategically planned 'network'.

1.24 Developing better networks of open space around existing SANGs could both increase the capacity of existing popular SANGs and potentially address any issues that are limiting the use of less popular SANGs or green spaces, although quantifying that capacity is complex and has not been concluded in this study (the capacity of SANG networks is considered further in the Mitigation Capacity Review report). Improving accessibility and networks around less popular sites may make them more desirable for some users, especially if this approach provides the opportunity to improve the sense of safety at sites. This may include safer road / rail crossings, better entrances and access routes used by more people. 41% of dog walkers and 33% of other users identified 'route to green space feels unsafe due to large roads / traffic' as a key feature that would discourage them from using a green space. 76% of dog walkers and 74% of other users identified sites feeling 'unsafe' or 'concerns about anti-social behaviour' as features that would discourage use; while only c.40% of dog walkers and 37% other visitors also said that sites feeling safe/secure were 'most important' features.

1.25 Networks of sites which include typologies such as parks and gardens or that link together small sites or along small paths could also increase the likelihood of conflict due to a wider range of activities that may be undertaken in more limited space (e.g. cycling). User conflict was highlighted as a feature to discourage use of a green space by 57% of dog walkers and 46% of other visitors. Existing use of open spaces and footpath links would therefore need to be considered in planning SANG networks and their capacity.

Why people select different sites at different times of the day, week and/or year? *(Research question 5)*

1.26 Question 6 of the 2020 online survey asked respondents whether they use different types of green spaces at different times of the day, week or year. There is an even split between people who tend to visit sites at the same times and those who visit at different times. Dog walkers and cyclists are more likely to visit different types of site at different times. Reasons given for differences are summarised below.

1.27 Commonly cited:

- Seasonal differences: dark in winter (feels less safe), more likely to visit some sites (e.g. play parks) in summer
- To avoid mud/flooding
- To fit around work and other commitments: shift work, more time at weekends, retired so can go any time, whenever time is available
- Depending on activities e.g. running, cycling, with family or not, when on holiday
- For variety

1.28 Less commonly cited:

- To avoid crowds (nine responses)
- Responses related to heat/shade e.g. woodlands in hot weather (three responses)
- Whether carer is available (wheelchair user; one response)
- When access at MOD sites is restricted (two responses).

1.29 Questions 4 and 5 of the 2020 online survey asked respondents to state, for each of their most-visited green spaces, how often they visit, when they typically visit, and how long they spend there. Comparisons between dog walkers and non-dog walkers are also made (across all types of site).

1.30 Some differences in the data that stand out are:

- Dog walkers are more likely to visit their green space frequently (daily or weekly) than other visitors and make relatively long visits to their sites.
- Visits are made to SPA sites slightly more frequently than other types of site, and are more likely to be in the morning and involve longer visits (1 hour+).

How far people would travel to different types of site (e.g. different types of recreational facilities or differing SANG sites)? *(Research question 6)*

1.31 Using the online survey respondents' home postcodes and a straight line distance to the location of sites they identified as 'most frequently visited', it was possible to estimate distance travelled to a range of green space types (where typology was available). Taking into account all site entries, respondents on average travel 2.9 km to reach their most frequently visited sites.

1.32 The furthest distance (over 5 km) is travelled by respondents who frequently visit sites with 'provision for children and teenagers' (two sites for this typology). It should be recognised that this typology includes facilities that may not be found within many sites (i.e. large wheels park, BMX track etc,) which may account for the large distance travelled.

1.33 The data indicates that respondents are on average travelling between three and just over four kilometres to travel to 'historic parks' (56 sites), amenity green space (4 sites) and 'natural and semi-natural green space' (1,109 sites).

1.34 Respondents on average travel less than 2 km to reach green corridors (63 sites) and 'parks and gardens' (610 sites). Whilst average distance travelled to 'outdoor sports provision' (101 sites) is just over 2km.

1.35 As might be expected the shortest average distance travelled is to visit 'children's play areas' (1 site), at just over 1 km.

1.36 A comparison was also made between travel distance to sites identified as SPA, SANGs or other types of site. This found that respondents that identified SPA sites among their most frequently visited sites generally travel the furthest (just over 3.6 km on average). Respondents on average travel just over 2 km to reach their most frequently visited sites which are SANGs, and around 2.8 km to reach sites which are non-SANG / non-SPA.

1.37 These distances are shorter than the average distances that visitors were found to have travelled to the SPA and SANG sites during previous on-site surveys. Differences may be due to survey methods or changes in visiting habits due to the pandemic; people have tended to more frequently visit sites closer to home than they did pre-pandemic.

Does travel distance vary for type of visitor (e.g. dog walker)? *(Research question 7)*

1.38 As noted above, distance travelled varies with green space type, with some green space types providing for specific activities or visitors. For example 'provision for children and teenagers' (as mapped on open space data) includes facilities that might not be found within many sites, and people are travelling further to use them. At the other end of the scale, people with children using local children's play areas are travelling the shortest distance.

1.39 Further analysis based on the primary activity that survey respondents gave shows there is notable variation in average

distance travelled depending on the primary activity undertaken on a site, which was also found in the on-site visitor surveys at the SPA. This reflects the fact that it is likely some respondents need to travel further to reach sites that cater for particular activities (such as horse riding) or to reach sites with desirable characteristics (e.g. desirable for picnicking). Relevant observations are:

- Respondents are traveling furthest to reach the SPA on average for all activities, over 8 km on average in the case of horse riding and picnicking.
- For most activities, respondents are travelling the shortest average distances to reach SANG sites.
- The average distances travelled for dog walking is relatively short compared to other activities, and similar for all types of sites (between 1.9 km and 2.9 km).
- Respondents who are cycling / mountain biking, horse riding, meeting family / friends and picnicking are generally travelling further on average to reach all types of sites when compared to other activities such as walking, running and dog walking.

1.40 Respondents who are cycling, attending organised events / activities and running / jogging are travelling the shortest distance to reach existing SANGs sites (between 1.3 km and 1.7 km on average).

What size/characteristics of SANG site/facilities would justify a catchment greater than 5km? *(Research question 11)*

1.41 Based on the data on travel distance to existing sites, above, people are willing to travel further to a site with provision for horse riding, mountain biking, picnicking and facilities for children and teenagers, than other types of site. Some of these activities were found to be more likely within the SPA specifically than at other types of large site. Horse riding and mountain biking takes place where there are facilities such as trails, within the SPA. A large SANG could therefore incorporate features for horse riders or mountain bikers. The proportion of visitors this could divert from the SPA is relatively low, but could be used in conjunction with other features to broaden the appeal of a large site.

1.42 Additional analysis of 'most frequently visited' green spaces by site size suggests that, in addition to horse riding and mountain biking, 20ha+ sites are also important for the following 'main reasons' to visit a site; dog walking, 'nature / wildlife, 'running / jogging and walking. People may not be travelling long distances to undertake these activities, but it suggests that a larger site providing for a range of activities would be appealing, and provision could be incorporated into a site alongside facilities that draw people from further afield.

1.43 However, it is worth noting that a larger percentage of dog walkers (50%) are only willing to walk up to 15 minutes (c. 1.2km) when compared to cyclists and walkers (40% and 41% respectively) to reach a new green space containing their five most important features. This suggests that dog walkers may be less willing to travel to reach sites if a larger catchment was being relied upon to 'intercept' visits to the SPA, although dog walkers were also found to be more likely to make longer visits to green spaces at the SPA, and diverting longer visits away from the SPA would be beneficial.

How does the way people use SANG or other types of recreational space/route differ by area? *(Research question 8)*

1.44 A high proportion of people have visited urban parks, recreation grounds and smaller grassed areas, and the majority of those people live in urban areas. People in urban areas are also more likely to have visited formal gardens and children's playgrounds.

1.45 Data from the online survey on types of sites visited is broadly similar to data from the Monitor of Engagement in the Natural Environment (MENE) survey for the whole of England[1], with urban spaces and rights of way visited by the highest numbers of people, followed by natural areas. Differences between the two datasets may be because of differences in the categories used and the characteristics of Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath (e.g. no beaches in the local area).

1.46 Mapping the postcodes of survey respondents and the location of the greenspaces they identified as visiting most frequently, there is a broad correlation between where the survey respondents live and the green spaces that they visit most frequently. This shows a high concentration of visits to green spaces close to the urban areas in Rushmoor, the eastern edge of Hart, and the western side of Surrey Heath. In general, green spaces close to urban areas are visited the most and the lower density of visits to green spaces in the east of Surrey Heath and west of Hart appears to relate to lower numbers of survey respondents in those (less urban) areas.

[1] MENE ten year summary: https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=d5fe6191e3fe400189a3756ab3a4057c 2018-2019 technical reports: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monitor-of-engagement-with-the-natural-environment-headline-report-and-technical-reports-2018-to-2019

What is the potential capacity of the SANG variation options? *(Research question 16)*

1.47 Having considered examples of potential SANG alternative sites, it is evident the popularity of a site for public use and enjoyment does not purely relate to its size. Other factors such as the type, characteristics and proximity of a site to residents are also important factors into determining the effectiveness of SANG alternatives.

1.48 Size may have a determining influence on the number of people visiting a site at any single time, however it is not clear what level of visitor numbers would be detrimental to attractiveness of the site to different user groups. Any increase in usage could be mitigated through the design of a space such as the type path surface material and the ability to disperse visitor numbers throughout the site. The capacity of SANG alternatives would therefore need to be considered on a site by site basis using 8ha/1,000 population and then adjusted based on existing use, the character of the surrounding area and the proposed design of the SANG alternative. This approach is considered further in the Mitigation Capacity Review report by EPR.

1.49 Sites may offer greatest effectiveness when located in close proximity to residential areas, and where good, safe access is provided. Although smaller sites may be constrained in the type of experience they are able to offer, there may be potential for the visitor experience to be extended over a number of other sites through strengthening connections with other smaller green spaces, to a larger site or to linear feature / green corridor, or by providing a range of experiences across a group of nearby but separate small sites.

How potential capacity will need to account for existing usage? *(Research question 17)*

1.50 The existing approach to SANG requires that existing use of sites is taken into account. Surrey Heath's supplementary planning document states that:

> *Where a proposal for a SANG includes the use of existing public open space, the existing rights and patterns of public use must be taken into account and protected, and a degree of discounting people capacity must be applied to reflect this. Discounting is used to account for the existing visitor capacity for a given area, meaning the overall capacity of the SANG is reduced because some of the visitor capacity is already used. The impact of the proposed improvements to the land and accessibility through implementation of a SANG will, to some extent be absorbed by existing visitors' use of the site area.*
>
> *In the case of SANGs which have a recognised nature conservation interest, capacity will only be released where monitoring indicates that additional usage is having no adverse effect and the site can accommodate more recreational usage. In such cases it will be difficult to identify a definitive capacity. Surrey Heath may be reliant on such sites. For this reason, it may be necessary to identify SANG capacity at a rate that is above the 8ha per 1,000 population standard.*

1.51 Bracknell Forest Council's SPD provides a more prescriptive methodology for taking existing visitor use into account that has been agreed with Natural England:

a. Record existing use: total visits per annum
b. Calculate equivalent number of visitors: total visits per annum (a) divided by average number of visits per person per year
c. Estimate capacity to mitigate: area of site (ha) divided by 8 x 1,000
d. Calculate residual mitigation capacity: capacity to mitigate (c) minus equivalent visitors (b)
e. Calculate residual area of SANG capacity available: residual mitigation capacity (f) divided by 8 x 1000.

1.52 It is likely that a similar approach for taking existing visitor use into account could be applied to the provision of alternative SANG sites as well. Areas available for use as a SANG alternative may be reduced by the presence of sensitive ecological features. Visitors surveys and ecological surveys would inform the calculation of capacity.

What would be the best locations for alternatives to SANG? *(Research question 12)*

1.53 SANG alternatives, like SANG, need to be located such that they draw people away from the SPA, although they do not necessarily need to 'intercept' people on the way to the SPA.

1.54 Although SANG networks (and enhanced recreational routes) might work if designed carefully, there is insufficient evidence from the 2020 greenspace survey data to say this with certainty. There is more evidence from the survey that individual sites are used frequently. However, there is evidence that existing SANG networks are effective. Therefore, from the point of view of mitigating recreation pressure at the SPA, it may be more straightforward to focus on individual sites, linked to specific developments. Where opportunities for new sites is limited or where general population increases across a borough/housing market area need to be mitigated, SANG networks could provide an opportunity to spread the mitigation capacity (if it can be demonstrated) across more sites and/or a wider area; and, if a 'green infrastructure' (GI) approach is taken, then enhancements and mitigation capacity could be planned

alongside other more general improvements to the GI network. The GI work already undertaken by the three authorities can also be used to help identify potential locations for SANG alternatives.

1.55 The 2020 online survey results confirm that people visit green spaces close to their homes the most often. The survey showed that people generally travel on average just over 3.6 km to SPA sites, just over 2 km to SANG sites, and around 2.8 km to reach other types of green spaces. The distance that respondents suggested they would be willing to walk to reach a new green space varied between 15 minutes (1.2 km) and 30 minutes (2.4 km) (with further distances reported for driving). These distances correspond with the accessibility standards for local scale green spaces (sized 2–12ha) as set out within the most recent assessments of open space provision within each authority area (i.e. each resident should have green space of 2-12 ha within 2-2.4 km or 25 to 30 minute walk of their home).

1.56 SANG alternatives intended to have a local catchment could therefore be located within 2-2.4 km of the homes they are seeking to provide mitigation for, and be within easy reach of walkers and car drivers.

1.57 Conversely, SANG alternatives providing facilities for horse riding or mountain biking (which could be larger sites, but not necessarily) could be further from people's homes, for example in the more rural areas of Hart (as respondents to the online survey who are cycling / mountain biking, horse riding, meeting family / friends and picnicking are generally travelling further on average to reach all types of sites). However, there is no evidence that a significant number of people would travel more than 5km (the catchment of 20ha SANGs) to a larger site.

Is there suitable and available land to deliver alternatives to SANG? *(Research question 13)*

1.58 Rushmoor has the highest density of existing SANG of the three authorities and Rushmoor residents are more likely to be within the catchment of existing SANG than Hart or Surrey Heath residents. Surrey Heath also has good access to existing SANGs and is constrained, like Rushmoor, in where new sites could go (particularly by the SPA). Hart has areas further away from the SPA that could be developed for new housing, in the areas showing as having less access to existing SANG. Parts of Hart fall outside the 5km (and 7km) SPA zone of influence in which mitigation is required, but SANG or SANG alternatives beyond these zones of influence could still draw visitors away from the SPA. In the more rural areas of Hart, the existing approach to SANG would probably continue to be appropriate, for new development within 5km of the SPA. However, the more urban areas in the east of the district, which are also closer to the SPA, have a similar issue to Rushmoor and Surrey Heath, i.e. are potentially more constrained in terms of land available for new SANG sites.

1.59 SANG alternatives could be created either by enhancing an existing site to provide new features that would attract more visitors or by enabling public access to a new site (which would likely also involve enhancing its features, for example creating a network of paths, adding parking and signs).

1.60 Some of the sites previously identified by the three authorities as available but discounted as SANGs could be SANG alternatives (or taken forward as SANGs, as some still have potential). Further work would be required to assess existing use at the site and determine exactly what each site could offer.

1.61 Other potential locations for SANG alternatives have been identified by looking at existing green spaces of a range of sizes and typologies, across the three authorities, and by considering how they could be used as SANG alternatives. Some of these might be ruled out or further opportunities may present themselves if more detailed study is undertaken (e.g. taking into account site quality, surveys of existing use, or further work on green infrastructure strategies). The availability of land that is currently not accessible to the public would also require further work, for example consultation with major landowners in the local area to identify potentially available sites, or approaching specific landowners with proposals based on where SANG alternatives would be desirable. The MOD has already been approached by the three authorities (as explained in the SANG background paper) but no land is available that is surplus to their requirements.

How could capacity be shared between several authorities whilst ensuring certainty? *(Research question 14)*

1.62 The TBH SPA Delivery Framework[2] states that:

> *Joint working between authorities to provide SANG may be appropriate when:*
>
> – *A LPA alone is not able to provide sufficient SANG land to meet its local need*
>
> – *The catchment of a SANG extends into a neighbouring authority*

[2] Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (2009) Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework

- *There is the opportunity to add value and/or capacity to individual SANG by developing a network of SANGs across boundaries.*

Local authorities should explore opportunities for cross boundary working.

1.63 How the capacity of SANGs is shared in practice varies and is largely agreed between authorities as required; although, where a SANG is privately owned, the owner decides how the capacity will be apportioned (e.g. for a specific development). The capacity of SANG alternatives could be shared in the same way.

What are the potential costs of delivering these potential measures? *(Research question 15)*

1.64 The costs for delivery of the SANG alternatives will vary depending on the existing characteristics of the site including its functionality. Outline estimates completed as part of this study suggest the capital cost of creating SANG alternatives could range from £150,000 for a small SANG / SANG network component, up to £900,000 for a large SANG with a catchment area of 5km, with in perpetuity costs ranging between £2,000,000 to £8,000,000, respectively.

Conclusions

1.65 This study has considered how people use a range of green space types and the features that influence where they go. The results of the online survey have provided useful data to enable a comparison of the relative effectiveness of each of the SANG alternatives being considered as summarised below.

1.66 All of the approaches have some merits, although some may be easier to implement than others. It is likely that a range of types of SANG alternative could be the most effective due to the variation in how people use existing green spaces, depending on the sites available.

1.67 Overall, it is not recommended that large SANGs are pursued, due to the uncertainties that a site with a catchment larger than 5km can be created (although it is possible that a site with a larger catchment could come forward in the future).

1.68 Recreational routes are not recommended on their own due to high levels of use on existing routes and the potential for user conflict, but could be incorporated or linked to a linear SANG or SANG network; linear SANG are considered to have potential as mitigation.

1.69 Smaller SANGs would require multiple sites to be effective and could be most effective clustered as part of a SANG network; SANG networks could be complex to design but are likely to be effective, based on existing examples.

Chapter 2
Introduction

The purpose of this study and the approach taken

2.1 This study explores the potential for alternatives to Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANG) to be used as mitigation for the effects of recreation disturbance at the Thames Basin Heaths (TBH) Special Protection Area (SPA),

2.2 The work is part of the main TBH Mitigation project being led by Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Local Planning Authorities, which aims to explore measures that could supplement or provide alternatives to the current approach to mitigating the effects of new housing in Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.

2.3 Three background papers have been prepared, which summarise the existing available information and identify gaps in information which are to be addressed by further studies:

- Visitor distribution and access background paper (A1)
- SANG background paper (A2); and
- Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) background paper (A3).

2.4 The aims of the study and 17 specific research questions are presented at the end of this chapter. This report seeks to answer these questions and builds upon the A2 background paper and is referred to as the 'C1 SANG Research Study'. Research studies relating to the other types of mitigation are also being prepared alongside this work.

What are SANGs and SANG alternatives?

SANG

2.5 Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) are sites that provide opportunities for recreation, intended to attract new and existing residents away from the SPA.

2.6 The catchment of SANGs depends on the individual site characteristics and location, with smaller sites generally considered to have a smaller catchment. Further explanation of how catchments are calculated is provided in **Chapter 5**.

2.7 The Delivery Framework states that "*In assessing the required quality for new SANG land regard should be had to the guidance published by NE"*. Natural England have defined

the criteria for sites to be considered 'SANG' and these guidelines are set out in **Appendix A**. These include features such as a degree of naturalness, largely unrestricted access within the site with plenty of space provided where it is possible for dogs to exercise freely and safely off lead, and a circular walk of 2.3-2.5km, that starts and finishes at a car park (on sites with a car park).

SANG alternatives

2.8 In this study and the main TBH Mitigation project, the term 'SANG alternatives' is used to refer to sites that may provide the same function as SANGs, i.e. drawing people away from the SPA, but in a different way to the traditionally accepted SANG which should meet all of the 'must have' criteria from the guidelines. These could be existing accessible green spaces that are enhanced to provide additional features or previously inaccessible sites that are opened to the public.

2.9 This could include:

- **SANG networks**: may include enhancing existing suites of SANG or enhancing individual SANGs so that as a network they draw more people away from the SPA. Individual SANGs / SANG alternatives could be linked together or provide different experiences for different purposes of visit, such that together they provide a full range of 'SANG' features.
- **Linear SANG**: sites that provide a linear route (for example incorporating a long-distance footpath) rather than a circular walk, but which otherwise meet SANG criteria. Because sites unable to provide circular walks tend to be narrow sites with linear paths through them, there are similarities with 'recreational routes', although linear SANGs focus more on the individual site and incorporate wider areas of greenspace whereas recreational routes are narrow and may be primarily routes to other places.
- **Enhancement or Creation of Recreational Routes**: new or improved recreational routes that do not otherwise meet existing SANG criteria, e.g. other Public Rights of Way not within the SPA or SANGs and/or routes that link SANG sites. Recreational routes could form part of a linear SANG or SANG network, or function on their own.
- **Smaller SANG**: sites that, either due to their smaller size or features, could have a smaller catchment than the existing SANG sites catchments (e.g. less than 2ha or larger than 2ha but without parking and/or a circular walk). As smaller SANG may lack the space for a circular walk, there is some overlap with linear SANG.
- **Larger SANG**: sites >20ha with a range of features that could attract people from >5km away.

2.10 SANG networks have historically been created within the Thames Basin Heaths SPA area. Bracknell Forest Council has created two clusters of sites that function as SANG networks; these were agreed by Natural England before stricter requirements came in. The Cut Countryside Corridor[3] and Bullbrook Countryside Corridor[4] are groups of smaller SANGs and other small urban green spaces, with linking green corridors and footpaths to provide longer circular walks than are possible within individual sites.

2.11 Larks Hill (part of The Cut Countryside Corridor) was surveyed as part of the 2018 SANG survey and found to be drawing relatively high levels of dog walkers, with a high proportion (54%) of respondents naming SANGs as their alternative sites; suggesting that the group of sites is functioning well as a SANG.

2.12 SANG networks, linear SANG, recreational routes and smaller SANG could all make use of sites that are not able to accommodate a circular walk of at least 2.3km within the site boundaries.

2.13 Linear SANG, which could be considered to fall somewhere between 'recreational routes' and standard SANG, would be of a shape or size that would preclude an on-site circular walk, but would be wider than a recreational route, and provide a more varied experience than a recreational route. It is, however, difficult to define a linear SANG in terms of a width that would create a site that would be used by dog walkers. Guidance (see paragraph 4.55, below) suggests that a linear SANG should have wider areas in places and an irregular shape, and that recreational routes should be designed to maintain a flow along them, but allow dogs to leave the main path in places.

2.14 One example of a SANG that makes use of connectivity beyond the site boundaries is Shepherd Meadow SANG[5] in Bracknell. This linear SANG is able to provide a circular walk of 2.6km by making use of paths either side of a river, part of which is the Blackwater Valley Path, a recreational route just outside the site boundary that provides links to the wider area. This site was also in the 2018 Footprint SANG visitor survey

[3] The Cut Countryside Corridor: https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/great-places-for-circular-walks-the-cut-countryside-corridor.pdf
[4] Bullbrook Countryside Corridor: https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/the-bullbrook-countryside-corridor-osmp.pdf
[5] Shepherd Meadows SANG: https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/great-places-for-circular-walks-shepherd-meadows.pdf

and had one of the highest weekday visitor numbers of surveyed sites, which could reflect its links to wider routes.

2.15 SANG alternatives have also been explored elsewhere in the country. The Dorset Heathlands SPA and Wealden Heaths Phase I & II SPAs have taken a broadly similar approach to mitigating recreation pressure as the Thames Basin Heaths (although the areas surrounding the SPAs are more rural). Councils in Dorset have agreed a mitigation strategy, set out in a Supplementary Planning Document[6] (SPD), that includes 'Heathland Infrastructure Projects' (HIPs):

> *"HIPS are physical infrastructure works, such as the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) or enhancement of existing greenspaces to increase the attractiveness for visitors that would otherwise visit the Dorset Heathlands."*

2.16 The SPD provides examples of HIPs (other than SANGs):

- *Provide accessible routeways, gateways, viewing points, seating and waymarking.*
- *Improve access to non-designated sites.*
- *Improve linkages between SANGs and other green infrastructure.*
- *On-site and access management projects e.g. managing diffuse car parking, improved interpretation, enhancing access in appropriate locations.*
- *Provision of BMX facilities to reduce impacts of BMX usage on nearby heaths.*
- *Provision of heathland support areas around protected sites to dissipate the impacts and make sites more robust.*
  [Heathland support areas are defined as: "*sites, usually adjacent to the Dorset Heathlands where the area provides important functional support to the protected site. This may be in spreading public access pressure, enabling better site management or making the designated site more resistant to external effects. Because of the close proximity these sites will not be intended to attract new visitors in the same way as SANGs.*"]
- *Increasing capacity and attractiveness of existing open spaces including creation of new routes, clearing, signage, small car park, seating and interpretation display.*
- *Creation of dog friendly areas to provide alternative secure location for dog owners to train and exercise their dogs.*
- *Managing access to open space for dog walking.*

2.17 In the earlier (2015) version of the SPD[7], proposed HIPs were identified, some of which have been implemented.

2.18 A similar approach has been agreed by Natural England for use near the Wealden Heaths Phase I & II SPAs (summarised from the HRA[8] of the Elstead and Weyburn Neighbourhood Development Plan):

> *A. Development sites of less than 20 dwellings would not need mitigation;*
>
> *B. Development sites of 20 - 50 dwellings would require some form of mitigation such as Heathland Infrastructure Projects (HIPs)*
>
> *C. Development sites of more than 50 dwellings would require a Suitable Alternative Greenspace (SANG)*
>
> *Heathland Infrastructure Projects (HIPs) are a concept developed around the Dorset Heaths. The idea is to make areas of existing countryside or parkland more desirable for informal recreation and better functional from a recreational point of view for local residents. Projects are likely to be bespoke to local areas and for example may consist of creating linkages between open greenspaces, recreational facilities such as non-motorised bike tracks or fire access measures.*

2.19 Although the areas around the Dorset Heaths and Wealden Heaths SPAs are under different levels of development pressure to the areas surrounding the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, these examples do show that Natural England has agreed alternatives to SANG for use alongside 'standard' SANG, where they can be demonstrated to be appropriate.

2.20 Of the SANG alternatives being considered in this study, the following could be considered to be similar to 'HIPs': SANG networks, linear SANG, and enhancement or creation of recreational routes.

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[6] Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2020-2015 Supplementary Planning Document: https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/planningbuilding/PlanningPolicy/PlanningPolicyFiles/Heathlands-SPD-2020-2025/Dorset-Heathlands-2020-2025-SPD-Adopted.pdf

[7] The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2015-2020 Supplementary Planning Document https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/planningbuilding/PlanningPolicy/Other-Planning-Documents/dorset-heathlands-planning-framework-supplementary-planning-document.pdf

[8] Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Elstead and Weyburn Neighbourhood Development Plan, March 2020: https://elsteadvillage.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Elstead-NP-HRA-March-2020.pdf

Aims of this study

2.21 This SANG research study examines the existing use of green space within the three local authorities both within the SANGs and the SPA itself, as well as other areas of green space. It also investigates the potential to deliver alternatives to SANGs, and the characteristics that these alternatives would need to successfully mitigate recreation pressure. This information will feed into the main study, to inform the appraisal of mitigation options and selection of the preferred option/s.

2.22 The specific aims of this study are:

- To understand whether the required features/qualities of SANGs could be delivered in alternative ways (i.e. in order to meet the overall objective of attracting visitors away from the SPA);
- To determine what the requirements would be for these measures to be effective;
- To explore scope for implementing variations on SANG as a mitigation measure; and
- To consider the potential capacity of these measures.

2.23 In order to achieve these aims and a number of specific research questions that were set out in the project brief, the study has brought together several strands of work including a review of existing information, an online survey, and GIS analysis.

2.24 Table 2.1 sets out the information provided in this report, the research questions that have been explored (numbered as in the project brief), and the approaches that underpin them. Further details of the study methodology are provided in the relevant sections of **Chapters 3-6**.

Table 2.1: Structure of this report and approaches to study research questions

Chapter	Research question *(numbering reflects original ordering in the study brief)*	Summary of approach
Chapter 3: Online survey methodology; and Chapter 4: Current use of SANGs and alternative sites	1. Which features make the most difference to the attractiveness of a site for recreation? 2. Whether/how people would use alternatives to SANGs (e.g. other types of recreation space/route)? 3. Whether dog walkers would use walks/sites without certain SANG features (e.g. circular walks) or that link existing SANGs together? 4. How might people use a SANG network and how they might select alternative sites? 5. Why people select different sites at different times of the day, week and/or year? 6. How far people would travel to different types of site (e.g. different types of recreational facilities or differing SANG sites)? 7. Does travel distance vary for type of visitor (e.g. dog walker)? 8. How does the way people use SANG or other types of recreational space/route differ by area? 9. Are there complementary features which would make a lack of features (e.g. a circular walk) acceptable? Does this differ for dog walkers compared to other types of visitor? 10. Whether there are specific features that should be avoided or minimised if variations and/or SANG sites/connections were delivered (e.g. linear SANGs) which would make them attractive to dog walkers?	Review of existing information Online survey
Chapter 5: Site capacity and catchment	11. What size/characteristics of SANG site/facilities would justify a catchment greater than 5km? 16. What is the potential capacity of the SANG variation options? 17. How potential capacity will need to account for existing usage?	Review of existing information Online survey
Chapter 6: Potential locations for SANG alternatives	12. What would be the best locations for alternatives to SANG? 13. Is there suitable and available land to deliver alternatives to SANG?	GIS analysis
Chapter 7: Implementation	14. How could capacity be shared between several authorities whilst ensuring certainty? 15. What are the potential costs of delivering these potential measures?	Landscape manager experience

Chapter	Research question *(numbering reflects original ordering in the study brief)*	Summary of approach
Chapter 8: Conclusions	All of the above	Summary of findings and overall conclusions.
Appendix A: SANG Guidelines	n/a	Natural England criteria for SANGs
Appendix B: Summary of survey results	Research questions 1-11	Online survey

Chapter 3
Online survey methodology

Explanation of how primary data has been gathered and processed

Survey set up

3.1 Primary data for this study about general green space usage across the three local authorities was gathered via an online public survey hosted on the online platform Survey Monkey. This chapter explains how the survey was set up and the data analysed; the results are discussed in **Chapters 4** and **5** and summarised in **Appendix B**. The survey ran for four weeks, between 14 August and 11 September 2020, and was promoted through Rushmoor, Surrey Heath and Hart Councils' social media accounts and websites.

3.2 The survey was designed to assist in answering the research questions set out in the project brief (see **Table 2.1**). Several other visitor surveys have been undertaken relating to use of the SPA and associated SANGs and these have generally focused on individual sites and were conducted on-site (face to face). The results of the online public survey have been used to provide a more strategic overview of the use of open space and recreational access across the wider area of the three local authorities, and a better understanding of the use of SPA/non-SPA and SANG/non-SANG sites.

3.3 Questions within the survey focused on gathering data primarily relating to:

- The types of open spaces visited by respondents and those open spaces visited most frequently.
- Primary reasons for visiting and activities undertaken.
- Site features considered most important by individual users.
- Visiting habits (time of day, length of stay, frequency of visit).
- Demographic and postcode data.

3.4 The format of the survey and individual questions were set out to provide the opportunity to understand the preferences and habits of different user groups (for example dog walkers) and also to understand any variation in open

space use across different geographic locations using postcode data.

3.5 Respondents were provided the opportunity to indicate sites that they regularly visit on an interactive map. The Survey Monkey survey was linked to a web map that was created using Web App Builder on ESRI's ArcGIS online.

Sorting and 'cleaning' the data

3.6 All individual survey responses were exported in excel format. A series of sense checking and data 'cleaning' exercises were undertaken prior to analysis. This included:

- Removing blank responses with no data input.
- Removing identical, repeat responses from the same IP address.

3.7 Following removal of the above, a total of 909 responses were included within analysis.

3.8 Questions that required input of 'free text' to identify respondents' most frequently visited sites were spot checked for consistency. The following limitations to the free text responses have been considered while sorting the data and during subsequent analysis and interpretation of the results:

- Different respondents may use different local names to identify the same site.
- Respondents may refer to specific locations within, or entrances to, sites (most often with sites covering large geographic areas, or linear sites).
- Spelling errors, inconsistent word spacing and punctuation.

3.9 Site names were grouped to account for variations in spelling and punctuation. Grouping also enables high level analysis by site where respondents have referred to specific entrances or locations within open spaces. Specific entrances or locations within green spaces were retained within the original entry.

3.10 In order to understand how far respondents travel to reach specific open spaces, the site names within the survey database were matched with the corresponding sites within the web map. This allows sites to be cross referenced with respondents' post code data. This process has also allowed some of the survey information relating to existing SANGs to be compared with non-SANG sites and the SPA. There were some inconsistencies in how respondents identified sites by name. Therefore, not all responses could be linked with the map data. 1,249 unique site (open space) names were provided within the survey. A total of 656 matches were achieved between site names in the survey and the web map.

Analysing the data

3.11 Analysis of the data focused on the following key elements:

- Review of summary responses from all respondents.
- Review of summary responses from specific user groups (e.g. dog walkers, cyclists, walkers).
- Cross reference of post code data with site information (spatial analysis).
- Review of data associated with specific sites (including comparison of SANG/non-SANG sites).
- Cross reference with data from existing research, where feasible and appropriate (e.g. other visitor surveys).

3.12 As stated above, 909 responses were retained for analysis following initial cleaning and sorting of the data. It is worth noting that there are several instances where participants 'skipped' questions. These incomplete responses have been retained as the questions that have been answered still provide useful data.

3.13 **Table 3.1** below provides a summary of the survey including an overview of the question format and primary use for analysis.

Table 3.1: 2020 online survey questions and approach to analysis

Survey question	Format	Description	Key analysis / rationale
1. Privacy statement	Tick box	Agreement / acknowledgement to use of personal data	N/A
2. Which type of green spaces have you visited in the last year?	Multiple choice (tick all that apply)	Respondents were asked to select from the following types of open spaces: Urban parks / recreation grounds Formal gardens Nature reserve Country Park Footpaths / bridleways (countryside) Footpaths / bridleways (urban) Footpaths / trails (canal/river/disused railway) Children's playground Allotments Facility for sports/fitness Smaller grassed area for informal recreation None Other (please specify)	Provides an overview of the types of features, facilities or 'experience' that the survey group may seek out when visiting open spaces.
3. Please name up to five of the green spaces that you have visited most frequently in the last year (pre pandemic and during). If you visited a different green space during the pandemic, please tell us why.	Free text	Respondents provided with five separate 'free text' boxes.	Used to indicate sites that are visited most frequently by the study group. Named sites have been cross referenced with site data to indicate which sites are existing SANG /non-SANG and SPA. Responses can be cross referenced with questions 4 and 5 to indicate visiting habits and primary activities undertaken at specific sites. Responses can be cross referenced with question 12 to understand how far on average respondents travel to individual sites.
4. For each of your five most frequently visited green spaces you gave in question 3, please tell us how you travel to and use these sites. (Part 1)	Multiple choice	Respondents were asked to provide information for each of their five sites (provided in question 3) on the following aspects (via multiple choice lists): What is the main reason you visit this site? (e.g. 'walking', 'dog walking', 'cycling') How often do you visit? What times do you most often visit, during weekdays? What times do you most often visit, during weekends?	Used to determine visiting habits and activities undertaken at specific sites. To be used to highlight variations in use across existing SANG / non-SANG sites. Responses for 'main reason for visiting' can be used to indicate the most popular sites for specific users (i.e. dog walkers, cyclists, walkers).
5. For each of your five most frequently visited green spaces you gave in question 3, please tell us how you travel to, and use, these sites. (Part 2)	Multiple choice	Respondents were asked to provide information for each of their five sites (provided in question 3) on the following aspects (via multiple choice lists): How long do you usually spend at this green space? How do you usually travel to the site? Have you visited this site more before or during the pandemic?	Used to determine visiting habits and activities undertaken in relation to specific sites. To be used to highlight variations in use across existing SANG / non-SANG sites.
6. Do you use different types of green spaces at different times of	Yes / no	N/A	Provides an overview of visiting habits / use of open spaces amongst respondents.

Survey question	Format	Description	Key analysis / rationale
the day, week or year?			
7. Please tell us which of the following features are present at, or apply to, the green space you visit most frequently. Please also tell us which five features are most important, and which five features are least important to you, when considering which green spaces to visit.	Multiple choice	Respondents were asked to select from a list of 25 site features or attributes (e.g. 'convenient car parking'). Respondents were asked to indicate whether each feature / attribute applies to open spaces they visit. And also to select up to five features / attributes that are 'very important when considering which green space to visit', up to five that are 'least important when considering which important when considering which green space to visit', and indicate which features have been more important during the pandemic (if any).	Provides an overview of the types of features, facilities or 'experience' that the survey group may seek out when visiting open spaces. Responses can be cross referenced with sites that were identified by respondents in question 3.
8. How far would you be willing to walk to a new green space which contains your top five most important features? (Tick one that applies)	Multiple choice	Respondents were asked to select one of the following: Up to five minutes Up to 15 minutes Up to 30 minutes Up to one hour Greater than one hour	Provides an overview of visiting habits / use of open spaces amongst respondents. Can be translated into 'walk time' distances. This would indicate how far respondents would be willing to walk to new green spaces. Can be filtered to understand travel habits of different user groups (cyclists, walkers etc.)
9. How far would you be willing to travel by car to a new green space which contains your top five most important features? (Select one that applies)	Multiple choice	Respondents were asked to select one of the following: Up to five mins drive Up to ten mins drive Up to 15 mins drive Up to 30 mins drive Greater than 30 mins drive	Provides an overview of visiting habits / use of open spaces amongst respondents. Can be filtered to understand travel habits of different user groups (cyclists, walkers etc.)
10. What would put you off using a green space? (Tick all that apply)	Multiple choice	Respondents were asked to select from a list of 22 detracting features or site attributes that would put them off using a green space. (i.e. lack of a circular walk, too busy, too noisy).	Provides an overview of the types of features, facilities or 'experience' that the survey group may seek out when visiting open spaces. Reviewing aspects that respondents would be put off by also highlights site attributes / features that users may consider essential to make a site appealing (i.e. parking or a site not being 'too busy')
11. How has your use of green spaces changed during the pandemic, compared with before?	Multiple choice	Respondents were asked indicate 'less', 'no change', or 'more' for the following aspects: Visit frequency Number of different green spaces Typical travel distance to green spaces Travel by car to green spaces Travel by bike / walking to green spaces I have discovered new green spaces near me I think the pandemic will change how I use green spaces in the future Other / further details	Highlights potential future changes in respondents use of green spaces.
12. Would you be willing to tell us your postcode? (This will be used for analysis	Yes / No / Free text	Respondents were asked to provide their postcode using 'free text'.	Can be cross referenced with web map and site data to indicate average distance travelled to open spaces overall and to specific sites.

Survey question	Format	Description	Key analysis / rationale
purposes only and we will not be able to identify individuals from this information)			
Questions 13 to 16. Demographic data	Multiple choice	Several questions collecting demographic data: Gender Age Ethnicity Day to day activity limited by health problem or disability?	For survey group information.
17. Further notes / comments		Respondents provided with 'free text' box to provide further comment.	Provides an opportunity to understand thoughts / issues not covered by the survey questions.

Chapter 4
Current use of SANGs and alternative sites

Evidence for how people use different types of sites and whether SANG alternatives could draw people away from the SPA

4.1 This chapter builds upon the information set out in the A2 SANG Background Paper (see paragraph 2.3), and draws together the following:

- The results of the online survey (methodology described in **Chapter 3** and full results in **Appendix B**);
- Findings from visitor surveys of the SPA[9] and SANGs[10];
- Data from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment[11]; and
- Information from open space studies undertaken by Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath.

The research questions explored in this chapter are:

1. Which features make the most difference to the attractiveness of a site for recreation?

2. Whether/how people would use alternatives to SANGs (e.g. other types of recreation space/route)?

3. Whether dog walkers would use walks/sites without certain SANG features (e.g. circular walks) or that link existing SANGs together?

4. How might people use a SANG network and how they might select alternative sites?

5. Why people select different sites at different times of the day, week and/or year?

6. How far people would travel to different types of site (e.g. different types of recreational facilities or differing SANG sites)? (explored further in **Chapter 6**)

[9] SPA visitor survey reports include: Liley, D., Jackson, D., Underhill-Day, J. (2005) Visitor access patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths, Footprint Ecology / English Nature'; and Southgate, J. (2018) Visitor access patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA: Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018, EPR

[10] Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018, Footprint Ecology

[11] Natural England Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/monitor-of-engagement-with-the-natural-environment-survey-purpose-and-results

7. Does travel distance vary for type of visitor (e.g. dog walker)?

8. How does the way people use SANG or other types of recreational space/route differ by area?

9. Are there complementary features which would make a lack of features (e.g. a circular walk) acceptable? Does this differ for dog walkers compared to other types of visitor?

10. Whether there are specific features that should be avoided or minimised if variations and/or SANG sites/connections were delivered (e.g. linear SANGs) which would make them attractive to dog walkers?

11. What size/characteristics of SANG site/facilities would justify a catchment greater than 5km? (explored further in **Chapter 6**).

Location and capacity of existing SANGs

4.2 The TBH SPA is a network of heathland sites across Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey. The portions of the SPA within Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath are shown on **Figure 4.1**, along with SANGs that have been created to mitigate housing development associated with the three districts.

4.3 SANG sites are described in detail in the SANG background paper (A2). 70 SANGs have been delivered across the SPA area since the introduction of the requirement through the TBH Delivery Framework in 2009. Of these, 25 are within Hart, Rushmoor and/or Surrey Heath, providing mitigation for 32,093 dwellings in theory; although the real capacity is considered to be lower than this due to factors such as existing visitor use. An additional four 'pipeline SANGs' have been identified across the three authorities' areas as suitable SANG sites but not yet delivered.

4.4 Analysis of the online survey data that refers to SANG data (for example the type of site, where site data has been linked to survey responses) is based on the data that was available at the time of analysis in October 2020, which excludes (at the time of writing) three of the newest sites. Figure 4.1 shows the SANGs that were used in the analysis, with the addition of Frimley Fuel Allotments, which was provided as GIS data after the survey analysis.

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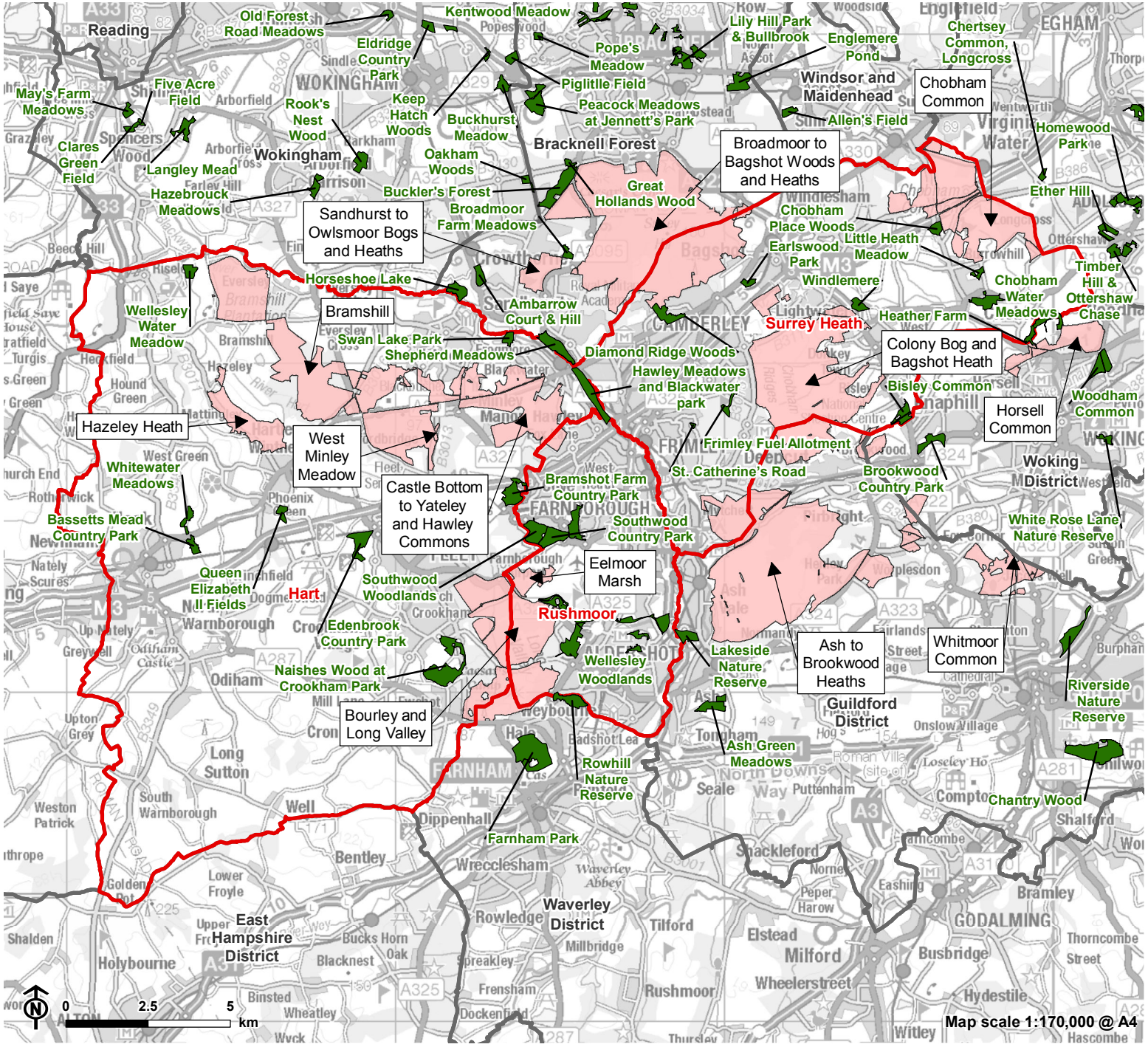
LUC

Figure 4.1: The SPA and existing SANGs



Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Districts

Adjacent district

Thames Basin Heaths SPA

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)

(SANGs used in data analysis, based on data available in October 2020)

CB:MB EB:llott_J LUC FIG4_1_10683_SPA_and_SANGs_A4L 10/12/2020
Source: OS, RBC, NE

4.5 As explained in the SANG background paper, SANGs are currently identified and delivered in three ways:

- Strategic SANG: Open spaces allocated as SANG, in agreement with Natural England, which are owned/managed by the local authority[12]. Developers pay financial contributions towards enhancement to SANG status and long-term management.
- Bespoke SANG: New open spaces provided mostly by large development and allocated as SANG, in agreement with Natural England. In most cases, the SANG land is transferred to local authority ownership with maintenance sums to fund long term management.
- Third Party SANG: Open spaces privately provided and owned. They have been approved through planning permission and developers can purchase SANG capacity directly from the owners by private contract in agreement with the local authority. Long term management is sometimes provided by the owner or the land is transferred to local authority ownership, or other bodies, with maintenance sums to fund its long-term management.

4.6 This means that SANGs are created through a mixture of enhancing currently accessible sites, bringing new sites into public access, or alongside new developments that have the space and appropriate characteristics for SANG. Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Councils are concerned that suitable sites for new SANGs are becoming more limited within their authority boundaries, and that a lack of opportunities to create new SANGs could lead to a significant impact on new housing development required to meet future growth.

4.7 In searching for suitable SANG sites (that meet the specific criteria required by Natural England), the three authorities have identified a number of sites that were considered for SANGs but could not be implemented. Some of those sites could have potential as SANG alternatives that may provide the same function as SANGs, i.e. drawing people away from the SPA, but in a different way (see paragraph 2.9). This is explored in **Chapter 6**.

Existing data on features attracting visitors to green spaces

SPA and SANG visitor survey data

4.8 Previous SPA[13] and SANG[9] surveys asked people what their main activity at the site was on that day. Responses are summarised in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1: Main activities reported at SPA and SANG sites

Activity	Visitors surveyed at SPA (2013)	Visitors surveyed at SPA (2018)	Visitors surveyed at SANGs (2018)
Dog walking	1,939 (66%)	711 (75%)	561 (79%)
Walking	614 (21%)	93 (10%)	88 (12%)
Out with family	37 (1%)	Not reported	21 (3%)
Jogging/running	87 (3%)	38 (4%)	6 (1%)
Cycling/mountain biking	124 (4%)	61 (6%)	1 (<1%)
Horse riding	24 (1%)	Not reported	0 (0%)
Picnicking	13 (<1%)	Not reported	Not reported
Other	117 (4%)	50 (5.2%)	29 (4%)

4.9 The visitor surveys[14] carried out at 14 of the SANGs sought to identify how people use the sites and the features that are important to them. Five of the surveyed sites are within Hart, Rushmoor or Surrey Heath.

4.10 Some of the results, as summarised in the SANG background paper, are presented below:

- Over three quarters of interviewees were dog walkers and dog walking was identified as the main activity at all but one site (although this varied across SANG sites with 50%-95% identifying dog walking as their main activity).
- Across all SANG sites the main reason for visiting was that sites were close to home (35%), followed by two factors relating to dogs: being able to let the dog off lead (19%) and the site being good for dogs (18%). The next most common reason was well maintained paths (16%).
- Just under a third of respondents suggested that no improvements to site were necessary. The most

[12] Surrey Heath has recently reviewed the way that SANG is allocated in the borough; previously it was allocated when a full planning application was submitted but is now allocated when it has been confirmed that a development is in line with policy, and the allocation is held for one year. https://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/residents/planning/planning-policy/TBH/Surrey%20Heath%20SANG%20allocation%20criteria%20February%202020.pdf

[13] Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. 2013. Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) Footprint Ecology / Natural England; and Southgate, J (2018) Visitor access patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA: visitor questionnaire survey 2018, EPR

[14] Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018, Footprint Ecology

common improvements suggested by respondents were better paths, more dog waste bins/dog fouling issues, more parking, new or better fencing, and more paths/choice of paths. It is notable that specific features for dogs (i.e. water features, dog agility) were rarely mentioned.

4.11 Other reasons cited for visiting the SANG sites included paths (including circular walks), large open areas, presence of water, wildlife, views, ease of parking and safety.

4.12 The requirement for a site to be 'close to home' depends on the mode of transport:

- Three quarters of interviewees arrived on site by car but there was significant variation between SANG sites (7% to 96%, which was reflected in the variation of distances travelled to the sites).
- Average distance travelled to the SANG was 3.8 km but there was significant variation between sites (0.4 km to 4.1 km). There was also evidence of a larger draw or catchments for some sites (i.e. 75% of interviewees lived within 7.5km of Heather Farm and within 6.3km of Chobham Water Meadows.

4.13 'Close to home' was also given as the most popular reason why people visit the SPA (61.6% of all groups and 64.6% of groups with dogs[15]). Mode of travel to the SANG sites is broadly similar to how people travel to the SPA. **Table 4.2** shows the overall mode split across all of the surveyed SANG sites, compared with the data from the 2013 SPA survey[16].

Table 4.2: Comparison between mode split of travel to the SANG sites (average) and SPA

Mode	SANGs	SPA
% travelling by car/van	75%	75%
% travelling on foot	25%	21%
% travelling by bicycle	0%	3%
% travelling on horse	0%	1%
% travelling by other means e.g. public transport	0%	0%

4.14 After 'close to home', the next four most frequently cited reasons for visiting the SPA were:

- Dog enjoys it (41.2% all groups, 52.6% groups with dogs);
- Quiet/peaceful (39.6% all groups, 38.5% groups with dogs);
- Like the wide-open landscape/views (37.5% all groups, 39.2% groups with dogs); and
- Can let the dog off the lead (31.0% all groups, 39.4% groups with dogs).

4.15 Other reasons cited included those relating to ease of parking, paths, presence of water, large open areas, natural habitats/wildlife, and feeling safe. These reasons are broadly similar to those found at the SPA.

Monitor of Engagement in the Natural Environment survey

4.16 Natural England has ten years of data (2009-2019) from its annual Monitor of Engagement in the Natural Environment (MENE) survey[17] for the whole of England. The survey has found that:

- Over the ten-year period, people are making more trips to green spaces closer to home, for example urban parks, and fewer trips to the countryside. Average distance travelled to green spaces has reduced from an average of 6.8 miles to an average of 4.9 miles. Two thirds of all trips are within 2 miles of home.
- More people are making trips to green spaces on foot than ten years ago, but a third of visits to the natural environment are still by car. Trips by car are more likely if people have children or are visiting national parks or the countryside or coast.
- On average, 58% of people without dogs and 68% of people with dogs visit the natural environment. Dog ownership has increased in the last decade from 22% to 26%
- Access to nature is unequal, with older people, people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, people living in more deprived areas and/or those without cars being less likely to visit the natural environment.

[15] Southgate, J (2018) Visitor access patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA: Visitor questionnaire survey 2018, EPR. Similar results were found in the 2013 survey by Fearnley & Liley, Footprint Ecology.
[16] Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. 2013. Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Natural England/Footprint Ecology
[17] MENE ten year summary: https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=d5fe6191e3fe400189a3756ab3a4057c
2018-2019 technical reports: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monitor-of-engagement-with-the-natural-environment-headline-report-and-technical-reports-2018-to-2019

4.17 These results indicate that, nationally, green spaces that are 'close to home' and that provide opportunities to walk dogs are important across all types of site. They also make a case for more green spaces within walking distance of residents, and perhaps that those green spaces should be designed with the local demographics in mind. A variety of smaller and more local green spaces for recreation is something that SANG alternatives could provide, if data for Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath shows similar trends (see later in this chapter).

4.18 The MENE survey results for 2018-2019 present the types of place that people include on their visits to the natural environment (**Table 4.3**).

4.19 This illustrates that people visit a variety of types of green spaces and that green spaces nearest to large numbers of people get visited more often.

4.20 The 2018-2019 survey also presents data on the reasons that people visit different types of site (**Table 4.4**), which provides a useful benchmark to compare the online survey data to (noting that Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath do not have any beaches).

Table 4.3: MENE data - places included on visits to the natural environment

Type of place	% of visits
Urban park	36
Other urban open space	13
Path, cycleway, bridleway	13
Playing field or recreation area	10
Other countryside open space	9
Woodland or forest	9
Country Park	9
River, lake or canal	6
Beach	5
Village	5
Playground	4
Other coastline	4
Hill/moorland	4
Farmland	4

Table 4.4: MENE data - visit motivations by place visited (% of visits)

Motivations	Park in town or city	Playing field or recreation area	Woodland or forest	Country park	River, lake or canal	Beach
Health/exercise	57%	79%	70%	57%	68%	61%
Relax & unwind	42%	49%	40%	40%	46%	47%
To exercise a dog	**35%**	**50%**	**53%**	**39%**	**42%**	**32%**
Enjoy scenery	25%	43%	34%	39%	46%	49%
Time with family	22%	30%	28%	27%	27%	36%

4.21 The MENE data does not show that more people walk dogs in woodland than in urban sites; the majority of all visits are to urban parks or open spaces (36% - see Table 3.3), thus 35% of the trips to urban parks for dog walking is greater than 53% of all trips to woodland. However, the MENE data shows that visitors to woodland (as parts of the SPA are) are more likely to have gone there to walk a dog or exercise than relax. Different types of sites therefore attract different activities.

Open space surveys within Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath

4.22 Useful and relevant data is available from other public surveys undertaken previously relating to open space provision in all three local authority areas. This includes:

- Surrey Heath open space assessment (2016)
- Hart open space study (2016)
- Rushmoor open space, sport and recreation study (2014)

4.23 The following section briefly summarises the key findings from earlier public surveys undertaken to inform open space standards for each borough. Survey results of most relevance to this study generally relate to:

- Visiting habits and accessibility
- Quantity (Perceived need for new or different types of open space)
- Aspects relating to quality and value of open spaces

Surrey Heath open space assessment public survey (2016)

4.24 The 2016 public survey for the Surrey Heath open space assessment received 185 responses.

Visiting habits and accessibility:

4.25 Respondents were asked to indicate how often they visit each type of open space in the borough (if at all). Types of open spaces mostly visited by respondents more than once a week included 'local park or public garden' (65%), 'outdoor networks – cycleways, footpaths, bridleways' (45%) and 'nature reserve, common or woodland' (42%). (Respondents could tick all that applied). This suggests that many respondents to this survey visit a variety of sites on at least a weekly basis.

4.26 The results indicate that respondents generally prefer to walk to visit open spaces. Respondents indicated they are generally willing to travel further to reach parks and gardens when compared to country parks. 80% indicated they are willing to walk 15 minutes to reach a local park or garden, compared to 45% for 'nature reserve, common or woodland'.

Quantity

4.27 Respondents were asked how satisfied they are with the amount and availability of open space in the area they live. Over 60% indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the amount of local parks / gardens and outdoor networks (cycleways / footways). Satisfaction was lowest for teenage provision (e.g. skate park / teenage shelter), with 20% being quite satisfied or very satisfied.

4.28 No data was provided on satisfaction of quantity of natural and semi-natural sites.

Quality and value

4.29 Nearly all typologies of open space were considered satisfactory by respondents in terms of quality at the time of the survey. Over 65% of respondents indicated they were quite satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of parks and gardens. Over 50% were very satisfied or quite satisfied with the quality of outdoor networks and around 40% were very satisfied or quite satisfied with the quality of play areas for young children. The lowest level of satisfaction was for teenage provision and public open space in housing estates, with less than 10% of respondents being very satisfied in terms of quality.

4.30 Respondents were asked to indicate what features and facilities they consider most important. The most highly ranked features included:

- 'Maintenance and improvement of footpaths, seats' (over 70% of respondents);
- 'Cleanliness' (over 65%),
- 'Attractiveness of the site' (50%); and
- 'More natural wildlife environments' (over 45%).

Hart open space study public survey (2016)

4.31 The2016 online public survey for Hart received 437 responses.

Visiting habits and accessibility

4.32 The majority of respondents travelled to parks and open spaces on foot (87%), 56% by car and a third by bicycle. Very few used public transport to travel to parks. 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there is a park or open space within easy walking distance of their home.

4.33 Around a quarter of respondents used parks and open spaces in Hart every day, with almost 90% using them at least once a week. 45% of respondents usually spent between one and two hours per visit, 28% spending between half an hour and one hour.

4.34 Two thirds of respondents indicated they use open spaces for exercise, almost half to observe the wildlife and around 45% for family outings, children's play or to relax.

4.35 Popular parks and open spaces identified as part of the survey included Basingstoke Canal, Calthorpe Park, Elvetham Heath, Fleet Pond, Hartletts Park, Oakley Park and Yateley Green / Common.

Quantity

4.36 79% of respondents indicated that they are fairly or very satisfied with the quantity of parks and open spaces in Hart.

4.37 Where respondents felt that more open spaces are needed, 61% would like green corridors, 54% would like more natural and semi-natural green space and 51% would like provision for children and young people.

4.38 Allotments (21%) and civic spaces (24%) were the least favoured form of new provision.

Quality and value

4.39 Respondents were asked to rate the park they visit most frequently on several aspects. 21% of respondents rated the facilities at their most frequently visited park as good or very good – the majority of respondents rating them as fair.

4.40 79% of respondents indicated that cleanliness was very important to them, with 76% of respondents rating the cleanliness of their park as good or very good.

4.41 Almost three quarters of respondents felt that the general appearance of the park or open space was good or very good. 69% of respondents felt that general appearance is very important. 77% indicated that they feel safe in their most frequently used park. A feeling of safety was considered very important by 81% of respondents.

4.42 Sites noted as needing improvement included The Views, Calthorpe Park, Oakley Park and Basingbourne Park.

Rushmoor open space study public survey (2014)

4.43 The 2014 online public survey for the Rushmoor open space assessment received 328 responses.

Visiting habits and accessibility

4.44 Over 70% of respondents use parks and open spaces once a week or more frequently, and 43% spend between 2 and 7 hours each week taking part in leisure and recreational activities.

4.45 About three quarters of the respondents (75%) spent between 30 minutes and two hours per visit. Respondents showed that spaces were visited at all times of day, and at the weekend, with almost 50% of people visiting them in the afternoon (between 1pm and dusk), and a similar proportion visiting at weekends.

4.46 The survey found that 81% of respondents travel to open space on foot 51% by car, 20% by bicycle.

4.47 When considering their local park / open space, most people (94%) strongly agreed or tended to agree that they can get to the space easily.

4.48 The most common activities undertaken within open spaces amongst respondents included 'exercise' (48%), 'to take children to use the play facilities' (47%), 'to relax and contemplate' (44%) and 41% used the parks and open spaces to observe the wildlife.

Quantity

4.49 74% of respondents stated that they are very or fairly satisfied with the amount of open space in Rushmoor.

4.50 Respondents were asked if they think more open spaces are needed, what type should this be and where. If additional open space were provided within the Borough, across every type of open space, respondents suggested that more provision should be provided in Farnborough than Aldershot. Natural and semi-natural green space is the type of provision that the majority of respondents feel should be provided.

Quality and value

4.51 Around three-quarters of respondents (76%) agreed that they feel safe when using parks and open spaces, and a similar proportion (73%) felt that generally the parks and open spaces are clean and well maintained. 89% of people strongly agreed or tended to agree that there are enough footpaths in the park, and that they can easily access all the facilities.

4.52 In terms of provision within and maintenance of the parks and open spaces, some less positive feedback was given. 32% of respondents felt that their park / open space is not generally free from dog fouling, and 22% felt that the space is not clean nor generally free from litter. 41% of respondents felt that the provision of seats and bins within their park is not sufficient. Less than half (43%) of respondents felt that signage within the open spaces is good, suggesting that this could also be improved.

Guidance on the size/shape of sites that attract dog walkers

4.53 Guidance produced by Hampshire County Council[18] recommends that single narrow entry points are avoided and

[18] Hampshire County Council (2013) Planning for dog ownership in new developments: reducing conflict – adding value, https://documents.hants.gov.uk/ccbs/countryside/planningfordogownership.pdf

that 'a circular walk to match locally-assessed needs' (i.e. has no prescribed minimum length) are included. It also suggests that sites where there are too many people and there is conflict between users will be less attractive to dog walkers.

4.54 Guidance from South Australia[19] states that:

> *Linear and non rectangular shapes should be considered as they offer more opportunities to encourage park users to move and be more active through the park.*
>
> *Linear shapes encourage people to move through a space and promote exercise by walking rather than standing in one spot. This has the additional benefit of reducing the concentration of dogs in one location by dispersing dogs and people throughout the park.*
>
> *Irregular (odd) shapes work better than rectangles. They provide more opportunities to create spaces for dogs to 'get out of the main flow of traffic'.*

4.55 This suggests that linear SANG would be most effective where they provide wider sections in places and where they have irregular shapes. It also suggests that recreational routes would need to be carefully designed to ensure flow along the route and to avoid user conflict.

4.56 The Australian guidance also states that smaller sites have the advantage that they provide a local community focus, provide off-lead opportunities in inner city locations, cost less to construct, and can address specific needs. However, disadvantages of smaller sites are that they can lead to overcrowding and potential dog to dog conflict and be overused, leading to deterioration of ground surfaces.

Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath online survey 2020

4.57 As explained in **Chapter 3**, the online survey carried out between August and September 2020 set out to understand how residents of Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath use a range of types of green space and the features that are important to them when choosing a green space. **Appendix B** summarises the responses to each question and the number of respondents for each answer (as not all respondents answered all questions, and due to the range of options posed within questions, differing numbers of people responded to each option).

4.58 The questions that enable an understanding of the features attracting or discouraging visitors to sites were:

- Q2: Which type of green spaces have you visited in the last year?
- Q7: Please tell us which of the following features are present at, or apply to, the green space you visit most frequently. Please also tell us which five features are most important, and which five features are least important to you, when considering which green spaces to visit.
- Q10: What would put you off using a green space?

4.59 Respondents were also asked what activities they undertake at these sites and visit frequency (Q4), time spent at site and travel mode (Q5), their postcodes (Q12) and demographic information (Q13-16); so that we could look for any differences between responses from different groups of visitors.

4.60 Where respondents had marked their green spaces on the webmap (approximately half of the total number of sites), we were able to obtain additional information on distance travelled to green spaces (see **Chapter 6**) and the typology of the green spaces (e.g. SANG, SPA, other).

Types of green space visited

4.61 Of the 4,035 named green spaces that respondents said they visit most frequently:

- 17% are part of the SPA (692 entries);
- 13% are existing SANGs (533 entries);
- 44% are other types of green space (1,797 entries); and
- 25% unknown as they could not be linked to specific named sites in the GIS data (1,013 entries).

4.62 Outside of the SPA and SANG sites (29% of all mapped sites and considered to all be 'natural and semi-natural sites'), the most frequently visited types of sites, based on named and mapped green spaces, are: parks and gardens, followed by natural and semi-natural green space, then green corridors.

4.63 Responses from Q2 of the survey provide additional detail, recording all types of green space that respondents have visited in the last year, are summarised in **Appendix B.** This data has been analysed to show the difference in responses between urban and rural areas (as mapped by Lower Super Output Area, shown on **Figure 4.2**). Note that due to the survey set up, it is not possible to distinguish the percentage of dog walkers who visited these different types of green spaces.

[19] Government of South Australia (2013) Unleashed: a guide to successful dog parks, https://gooddogsa.com/booklets

Table 4.5: Types of green spaces visited by respondents in the last year

Type of green space	Number of respondents who have visited in the last year		
	Total (urban, rural & no postcode)	Urban	Rural
Footpaths/trails e.g. alongside canal/river/disused railway	753 (83%)	560 (83%)	34 (74%)
Footpaths/bridleways in the countryside	744 (82%)	548 (82%)	38 (83%)
Urban parks and recreation grounds	744 (82%)	550 (82%)	34 (74%)
Nature reserve or other 'natural' area	625 (69%)	468 (70%)	32 (70%)
Country park	600 (66%)	448 (67%)	33 (72%)
Footpaths/bridleways in an urban area	560 (62%)	426 (63%)	23 (50%)
Smaller grassed area for informal recreation	445 (49%)	342 (51%)	26 (57%)
Formal gardens	371 (41%)	272 (41%)	16 (35%)
Children's playground	331 (36%)	241 (36%)	16 (35%)
Facilities for sports of fitness e.g. ball court, mountain bike trails	261 (29%)	189 (28%)	15 (33%)
Other	93* (10%)	62 (9%)	4 (9%)
Allotments	64 (7%)	50 (7%)	3 (7%)
None	3 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	0 (0%)
Total number of respondents	909	671	46

* majority of those stating 'other' named MOD land, SANGs or woodland; individuals also named beaches (outside of study area), national park, golf course, lake

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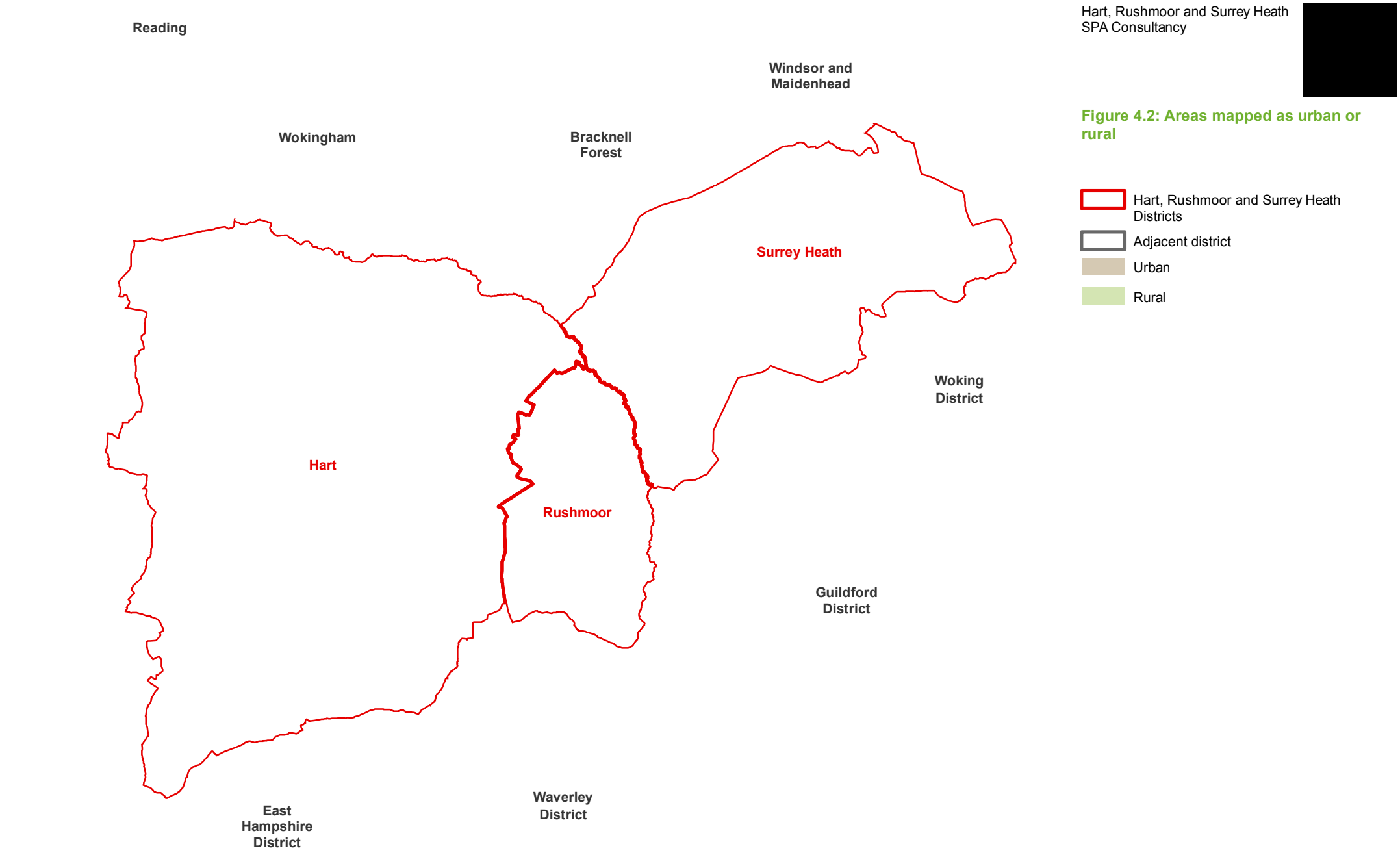


Figure 4.2: Areas mapped as urban or rural

Map scale 1:170,000 @ A4

CB:CB EB:llott_J LUC FIG4_2_10683_Urban_Rural_A4L 07/12/2020
Source: OS, ONS

4.64 What stands out is that a significant number of respondents reported using footpaths, bridleways and trails. The online survey asked people to name up to five of their most frequently visited green spaces, which will have led people to name definable destinations; as such, few respondents identified public rights of way as their most frequently visited green spaces. There were one or two minor exceptions, for example "public footpaths around Camberley" but as well as these, 289 people named the Basingstoke Canal (a recreational route or linear green space, and more of a 'destination' than many other public rights of way) as their most frequently visited green space, making it the most-cited green space from the survey.

4.65 A high proportion of people have visited urban parks and recreation grounds, and they are more likely to live in urban areas. People in urban areas are also more likely to have visited formal gardens and footpaths/bridleways in an urban area A visit in the last year does not necessarily mean that someone visits a type of site frequently; however these responses to Q2 are worth having in mind while considering the survey responses that are based on mapped data.

4.66 Data from the online survey on types of sites visited is broadly similar to the MENE data (**Table 4.3**), with urban spaces and rights of way visited by the highest numbers of people, followed by natural areas. Differences between the two datasets may be because of differences in the categories used and the character of the Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath (e.g. no beaches in the local area).

Activities undertaken

4.67 Across all of the most frequently visited sites identified by respondents (Q3), walking is the most common primary reason for visiting a site (Q4), this is followed by dog walking, then cycling / mountain biking (**Table 4.6**).

4.68 When the green spaces that have been identified through mapping as within either the SPA or a SANG site have been separated out this is still the case, but there are some slight differences in how the different types of site are used:

- A higher proportion of people visiting the SPA appear to go there to cycle/mountain bike or run/jog than at other types of site.
- A higher proportion of people appear to visit SANG sites to walk than at other types of site.
- People going to a green space for children to play appear more likely to choose sites that are not within the SPA or SANG sites (mostly 'parks and gardens').

4.69 The data from the 2020 online survey recorded a much lower proportion of people citing dog walking as the main reason that they used their most frequently visited green spaces than data from the earlier SPA and SANG surveys. Around one quarter of the main reasons cited for visiting green spaces, including at the SPA and SANGs, in the online survey was dog walking, compared to around three quarters of all respondents recorded as dog walkers during the on-site SPA and SANG visitor surveys carried out previously (**Table 4.1**). In addition, higher numbers of people responding to the online survey cited walking (c.40% compared to c.13% at the SPA/SANGs) and cycling (c.7% compared to 4% at the SPA and 0% at SANGs) as their main reason for visiting green spaces. The reasons for this are unclear but may be due to a variety of factors including:

- Differences in survey question / method (e.g. SPA surveys counted ‘dog walkers’ as both individuals with dogs, and groups with a dog);
- The SPA and SANG visitor surveys only captured visitors to those type of green spaces, where dog walking is known to be popular; whereas the 2020 online survey captured a large number of residents from across Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath who may or may not use the SPA regularly, and are using a variety of different green spaces for different activities.
- The timing of the online survey, i.e. taking place following a period of ‘lockdown’ due to the Covid-19 pandemic, may reflect higher numbers of people than normal walking and cycling to and within green spaces as part of their ‘daily outings’ allowed during lockdown.

Table 4.6: Reasons for visiting green spaces (activities undertaken)

Activity	All sites	Sites identified as SANG	Sites identified as SPA	Sites not identified as SPA/SANG
Walking	1,626 (40%)	272 (51%)	249 (36%)	1,105 (39%)
Dog walking	949 (24%)	146 (27%)	203 (29%)	600 (21%)
Cycling / mountain biking	300 (7%)	15 (3%)	85 (12%)	200 (7%)
Children playing	272 (7%)	25 (5%)	20 (3%)	227 (8%)
Running / jogging	247 (6%)	18 (3%)	61 (9%)	168 (6%)
Nature / wildlife	227 (6%)	27 (5%)	30 (4%)	170 (6%)
Meeting family / friends	169 (4%)	15 (3%)	15 (2%)	139 (5%)
Horse riding	25 (1%)	4 (1%)	7 (1%)	14 (0%)
Organised activity / event	52 (1%)	1 (0%)	5 (1%)	46 (1%)
Picnicking	31 (1%)	3 (1%)	2 (0%)	26 (1%)
Other	94 (2%)	3 (1%)	10 (2%)	81 (3%)
No response	43 (1%)	4 (1%)	5 (1%)	34 (1%)
Total responses:	4,035	533	692	2,810

4.70 Linking the survey responses to the webmap has allowed some additional analysis of site typology, for the sites that could be linked. Natural and semi-natural sites and 'historic parks' are notable for mountain biking. Mountain bike trails at Swinley Forest within the SPA (Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI) are likely to be one of the reasons for this.

4.71 Horse riding (although a small group at nine entries) is only recorded on SANGs and SPA sites.

When people visit green spaces

4.72 Question 6 of the online survey asked respondents whether they use different types of green spaces at different times of the day, week or year. The results are shown in **Table 4.7**.

Table 4.7: Responses to the question 'do you visit different types of green space at different times'

Respondent group	Answered 'yes'	Answered 'no'
All respondents	449 (50%)	455 (50%)
Walkers	255 (45%)	308 (55%)
Dog walkers	164 (58%)	119 (42%)
Cyclists	84 (59%)	58 (41%)

4.73 There is an even split between people who tend to visit sites at the same times and those who visit at different times. Dog walkers and cyclists are more likely to visit different types of site at different times. Reasons given for differences are summarised below.

4.74 Commonly cited:

- Seasonal differences: dark in winter (feels less safe), more likely to visit some sites (e.g. play parks) in summer
- To avoid mud/flooding
- To fit around work and other commitments: shift work, more time at weekends, retired so can go any time, whenever time is available

- Depending on activities e.g. running, cycling, with family or not, when on holiday
- For variety

4.75 Less commonly cited:

- To avoid crowds (nine responses)
- Responses related to heat/shade e.g. woodlands in hot weather (three responses)
- Whether carer is available (wheelchair user; one response)
- When access at MOD sites is restricted (two responses).

4.76 Questions 4 and 5 of the survey asked respondents to state, for each of their most-visited green spaces, how often they visit, when they typically visit, and how long they spend there. The results are presented in **Figure 4.3-4.6** and compare the responses for sites able to be linked via mapping to the survey responses as being part of the SPA, SANGs, all other types of site. Comparisons between dog walkers and non-dog walkers are also made (across all types of site).

4.77 Some differences in the data that stand out are:

- Dog walkers are more likely to visit their green space frequently (daily or weekly) than other visitors and make relatively long visits to their sites.
- Visits are made to SPA sites slightly more frequently than other types of site, and are more likely to be in the morning and involve longer visits (1 hour+).

4.78 These results suggest that a larger site that could attract longer visits from dog walkers and other visitors could potentially divert some of the longer visits to the SPA.

Figure 4.3: Response to question 'how often do you visit your green space?' (% of site responses)

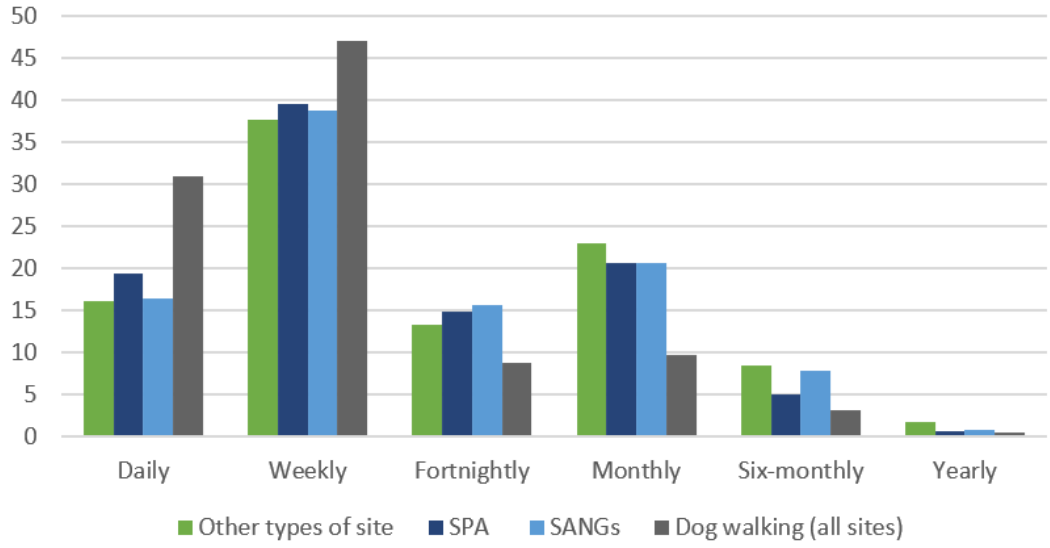


Figure 4.4: Responses to question 'what times do you typically visit your green space on weekdays?' (% of site responses)

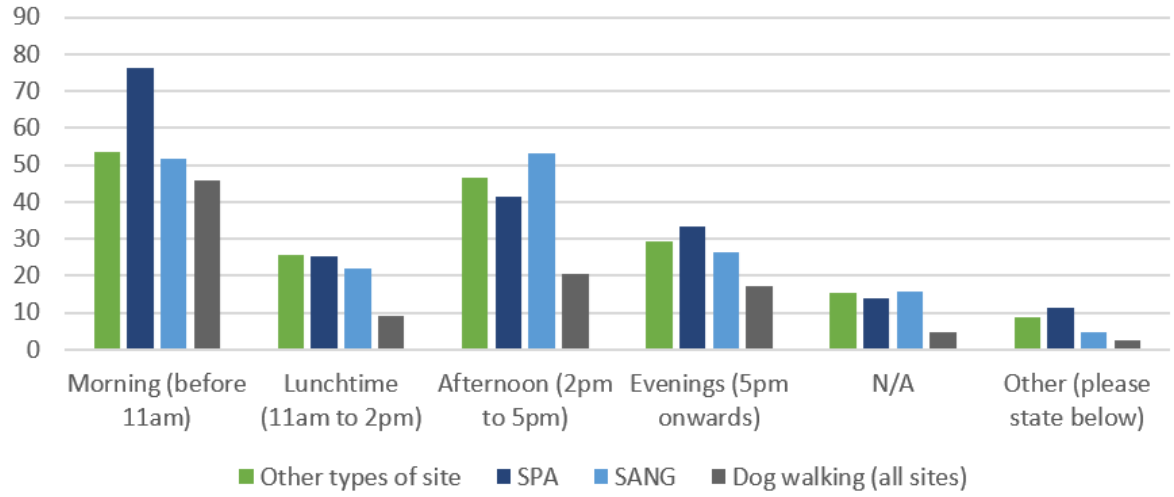


Figure 4.5: Responses to the question 'what times do you typically visit your green space at the weekend?' (% of site responses)

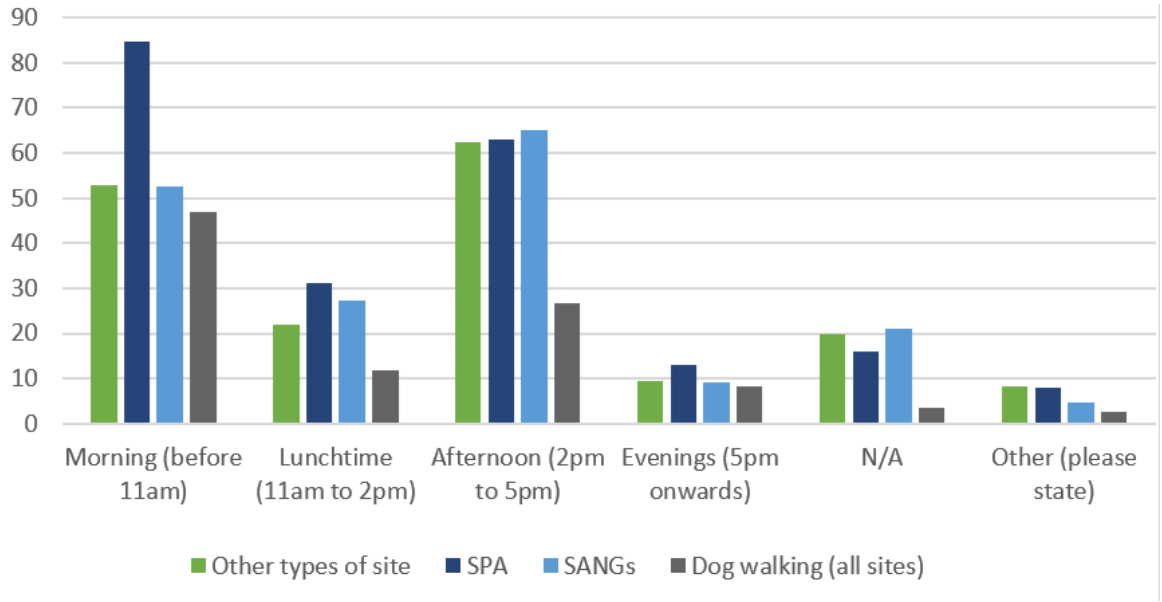
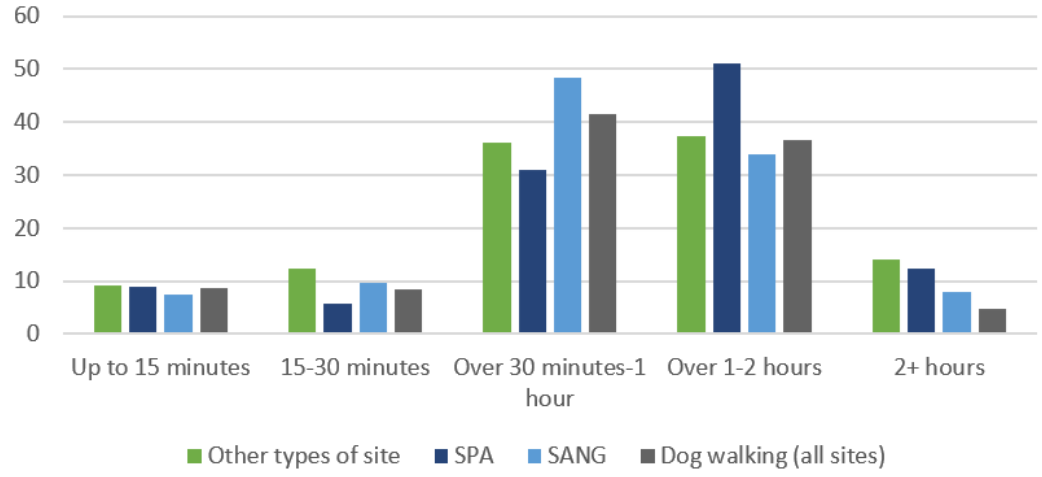


Figure 4.6: Responses to the question 'how long do you typically spend at your green space?' (% of site responses)



Average distance travelled to green spaces

4.79 Average straight line distances from home postcodes to different typologies of open space (if known) of the most frequently visited sites identified in response to Q3, are shown in **Figure 4.7**.

4.80 This analysis uses the centre point of postcodes, which cover a wider area in rural than urban locations, and the location of pins dropped on the webmap by survey respondents, which may be some distance from entry points for larger sites. Calculated distances are therefore likely to be more accurate between urban postcodes and smaller green spaces than rural postcodes and larger green spaces; however, it provides a useful estimate.

4.81 The furthest distance (over 5 km) is travelled by respondents who frequently visit sites with 'provision for children and teenagers' (two site entries for this typology). It should be recognised that this typology includes facilities that may not be found within many sites (i.e. large wheels park, BMX track etc,) which may account for the large distance travelled.

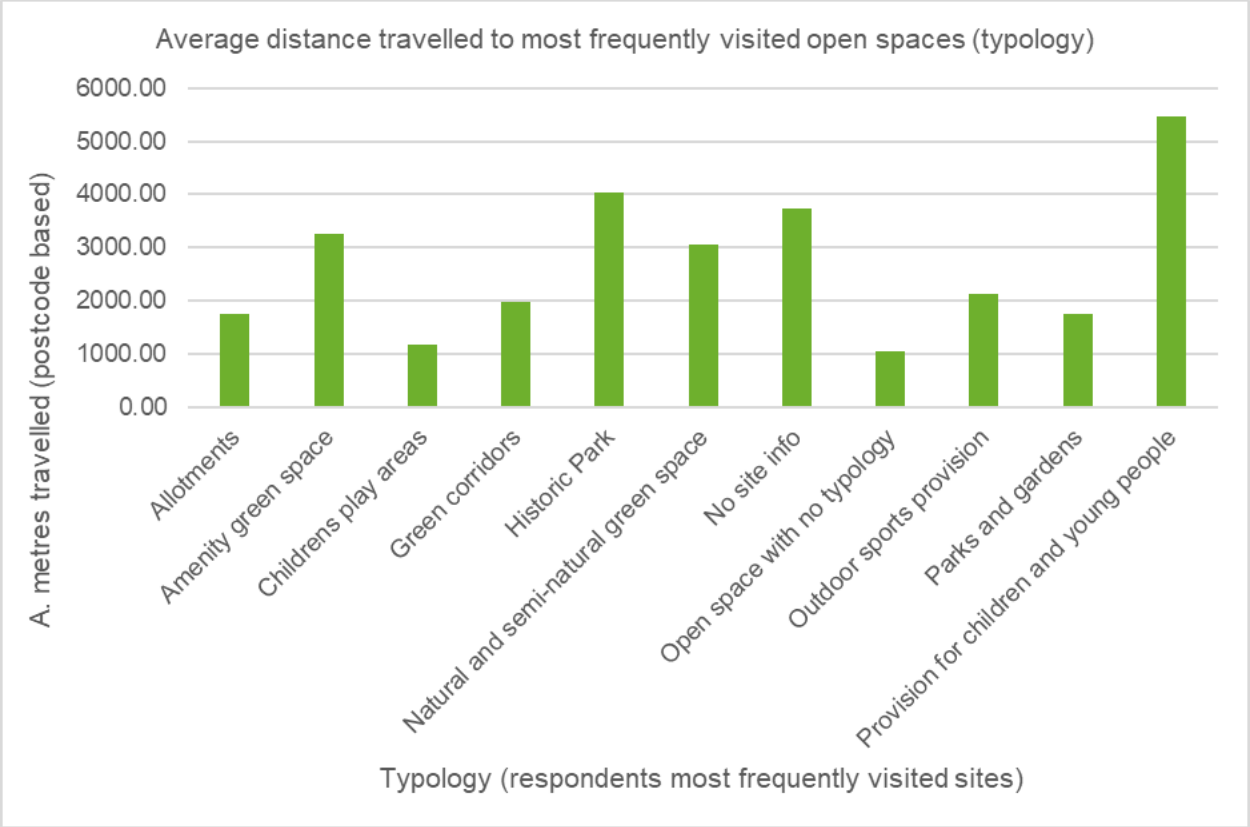
4.82 The data indicates that respondents are on average travelling between three and just over four kilometres to travel to 'historic parks' (56 entries), amenity green space (4 entries) and 'natural and semi-natural green space' (1,109 entries).

4.83 Respondents on average travel less than 2 km to reach green corridors (63 entries) and 'parks and gardens' (610 entries). Whilst average distance travelled to 'outdoor sports provision' (101 entries) is just over 2km.

4.84 As might be expected the shortest average distance travelled is to visit 'children's play areas' (1 site entry), at just over 1 km.

4.85 Taking into account all site entries, respondents on average travel 2.9 km to reach their most frequently visited sites.

Figure 4.7: Average distance travelled to most frequently visited open space



4.86 Figure 4.7 shows that respondents are willing to travel different distances when comparing existing SANGS, the SPA and non-SANG/non-SPA sites:

- Respondents that identified SPA sites among their most frequently visited sites generally travel the furthest (just over 3.6 km on average).
- Respondents on average travel just over 2 km to reach their most frequently visited sites which are SANGs, and around 2.8 km to reach sites which are non-SANG / non-SPA.

4.87 These distances are shorter than the average distances that visitors were found to have travelled to the SPA and SANG sites during previous on-site surveys. The 2018 SPA visitor survey found average distance travelled to access point, across all modes, was 5.1km. The SANG surveys recorded an average of 3.8km, although with significant variation between sites.

4.88 Differences between the two datasets could be due to a range of factors including:

- Visitor surveys took place at access points whereas the online survey distances have been taken from a centre point (which could exaggerate or minimise distance estimates).
- On-site surveys will have recorded travel distances for some people who live a long way from the sites, whereas the online survey only recorded residents of Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath.
- People's visiting habits may have changed due to the pandemic.

4.89 The survey asked people how their frequency of visit to 'most visited' green spaces has been changed due to the pandemic, and this is presented in **Table 4.8**.

4.90 Across all types of sites, around one third of respondents are visiting more often during the pandemic and another one third say there has been no change to the frequency of their visits.

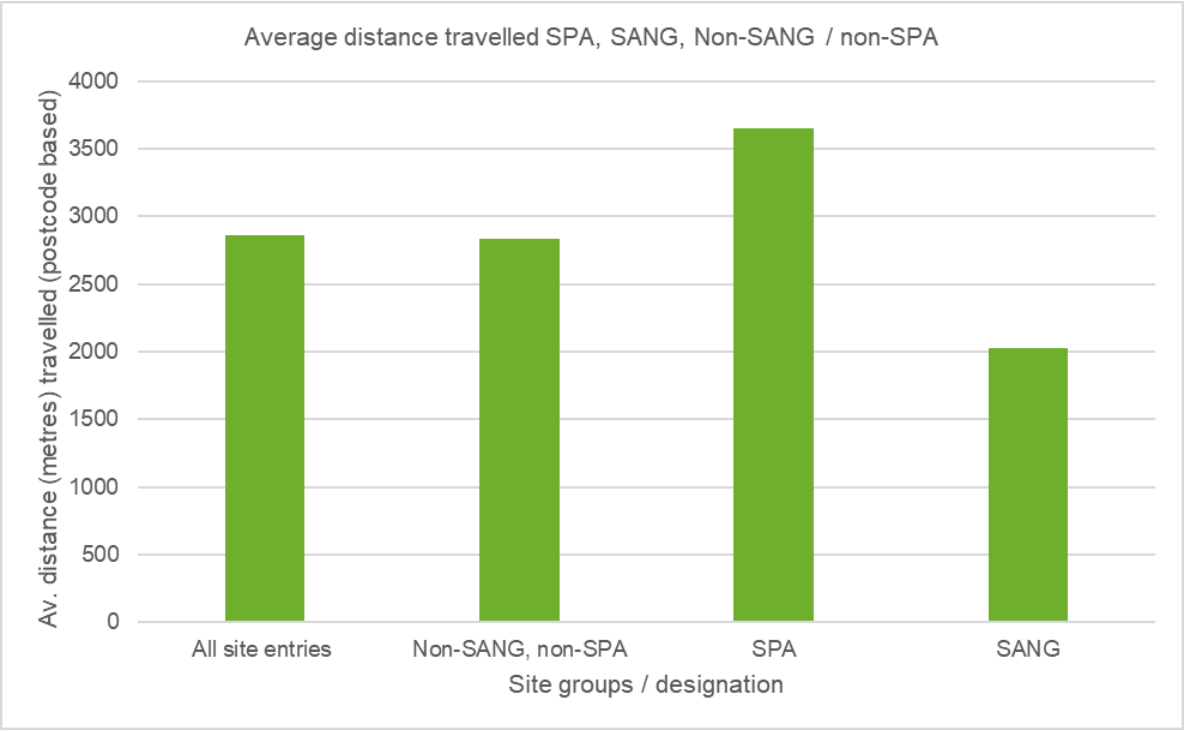
4.91 People have also tended to visit sites closer to home than they did pre-pandemic (33% of respondents). If this became a longer term trend, then this could have implications for the zone of influence of housing on recreation pressure at the SPA: the current mitigation strategy requires residential development within 5km of the SPA (and large schemes within

7km) to provide mitigation, but if travel distance reduces then the zone of influence could also. This data also suggests that smaller SANGs with local catchments could be more successful than larger SANGs with larger catchments, in terms of diverting the more frequent visitors from the SPA.

Table 4.8: Changes to greenspace visits due to pandemic

	Site type		
How has visit frequency changed?	SPA sites	SANG sites	Other types of site
More during pandemic	209 (30%)	183 (34%)	532 (30%)
No difference	249 (36%)	162 (30%)	564 (31%)
More pre-pandemic	83 (12%)	61 (11%)	294 (16%)
No answer	151 (22%)	127 (24%)	407 (23%)

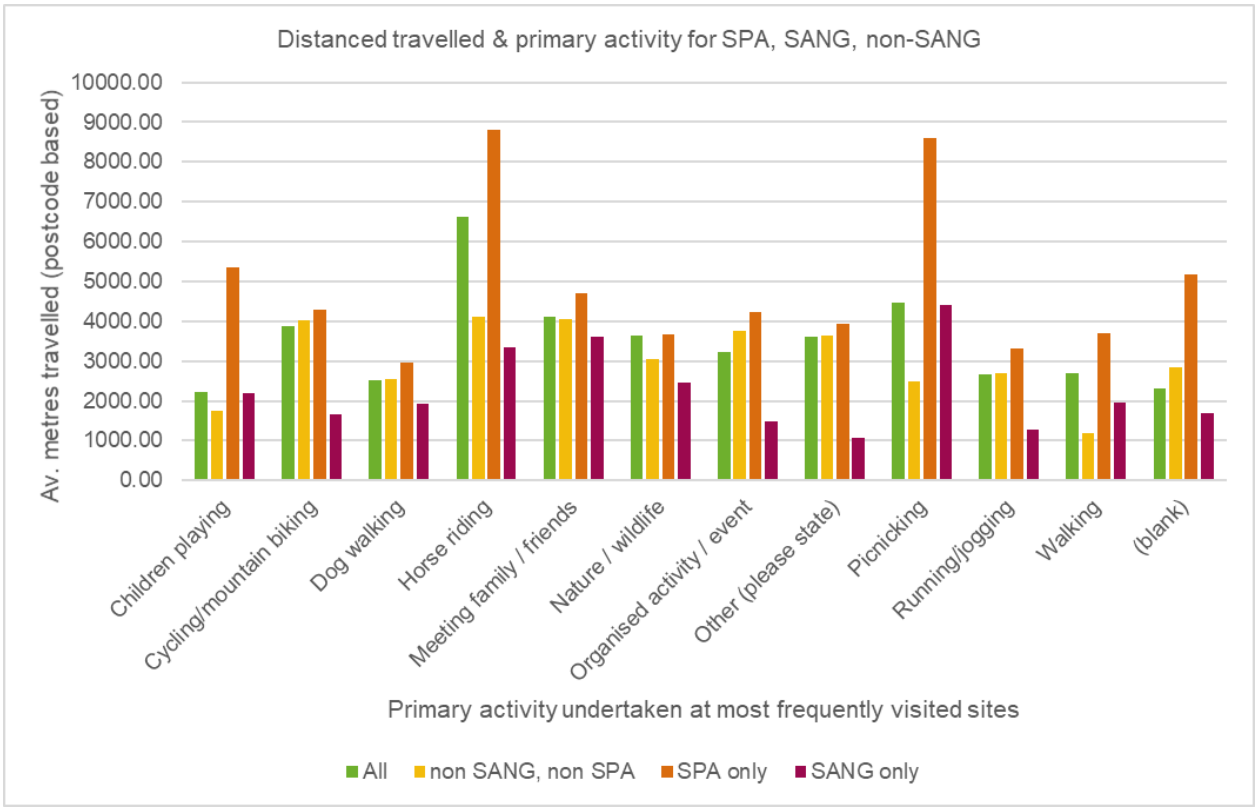
Figure 4.8: Average distance travelled to SPA, SANG and other sites



4.92 As shown in **Figure 4.9** below, there is notable variation in average distance travelled depending on the primary activity undertaken on a site, which was also found in the on-site visitor surveys at the SPA[20]. This reflects the fact that it is likely some respondents need to travel further to reach sites that cater for particular activities (such as horse riding) or to reach sites with desirable characteristics (e.g. desirable for picnicking). Relevant observations from **Figure 4.9** are:

- Respondents are traveling furthest to reach the SPA on average for all activities, over 8 km on average in the case of horse riding and picnicking.
- For most activities, respondents are travelling the shortest average distances to reach SANG sites.
- The average distances travelled for dog walking is relatively short compared to other activities, and similar for all types of sites (between 1.9 km and 2.9 km).
- Respondents who are cycling / mountain biking, horse riding, meeting family / friends and picnicking are generally travelling further on average to reach all types of sites when compared to other activities such as walking, running and dog walking.
- Respondents who are cycling, attending organised events / activities and running / jogging are travelling the shortest distance to reach existing SANGs sites (between 1.3 km and 1.7 km on average).

Figure 4.9: Distance travelled and primary activity for SPA, SANG and non-SANG sites



Mode of travel to green spaces

4.93 Figures 4.10 and **4.11** below show the results from Questions 8 and 9 ('How far would you be willing to walk to a new green space which contains your top five most important features?' and 'How far would you be willing to travel by car to a new green space which contains your top five most important features?'). A comparison is provided for all respondents, walkers, dog walkers and cyclists. Walk times have also been translated into straight line distances for analysis:

- An almost equal percentage of respondents are willing to walk up to 15 minutes and up to 30 minutes to reach a

[20] EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA – Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018

new green space which contains their top five most important features. 41% of respondents are willing to walk up to 15 minutes (approximately 1.2km) and 39% are willing to walk up to 30 minutes (approximately 2.4km).

- A larger percentage of dog walkers (50%) are only willing to walk up to 15 minutes (approximately 1.2km) when compared to cyclists and walkers.
- Taking all responses into account, the largest group (40%) are willing to drive up to 30 minutes to reach a new green space containing their top five most important features. Respondents indicated they would generally be less likely to travel short distances by car; 4% (up to five minutes), 8% (up to eight minutes) and 22% (up to 15 minutes).
- 23% of all respondents would be willing to drive longer than 30 minutes. Respondents who use open spaces primarily for cycling / mountain biking are more likely to be willing to drive longer than 30 minutes to reach a new open space when compared to walkers and dog walkers; 30% of cyclists compared to 25% of dog walkers and 23% of walkers.

Figure 4.10: Distance respondents willing to walk to a new green space containing their five most important features

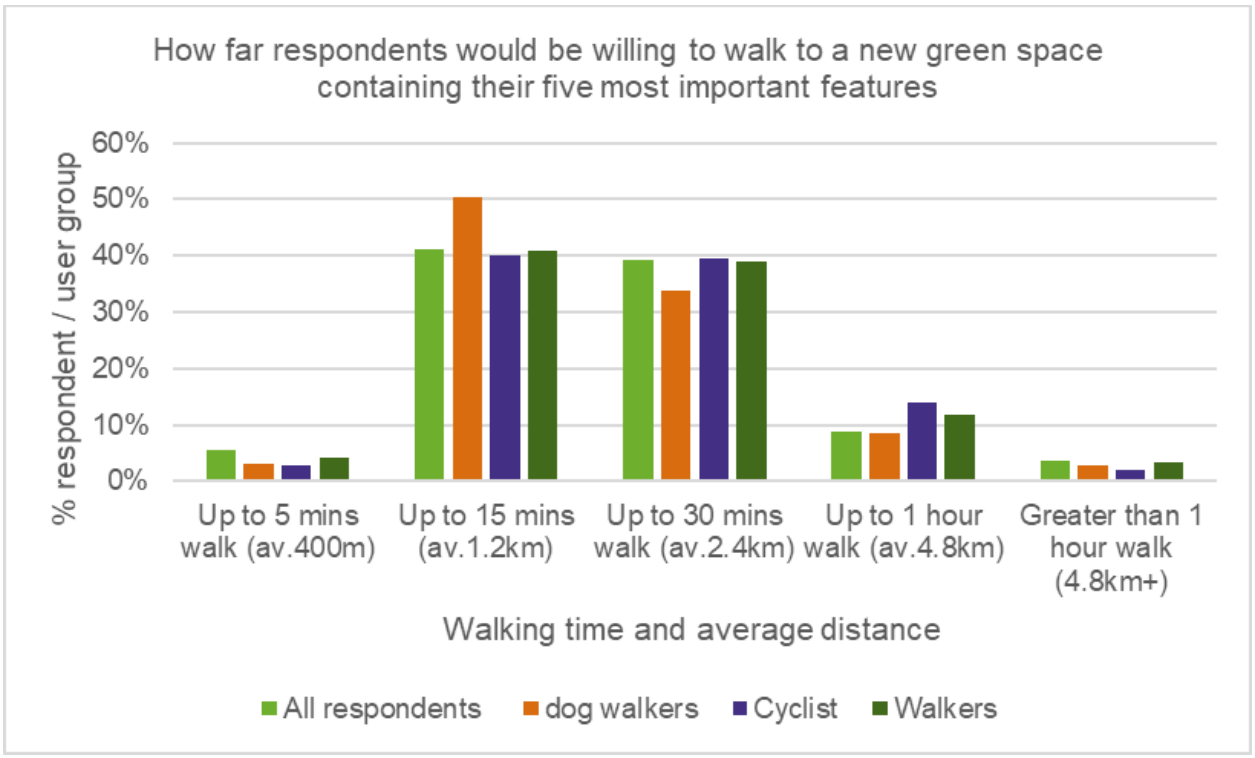
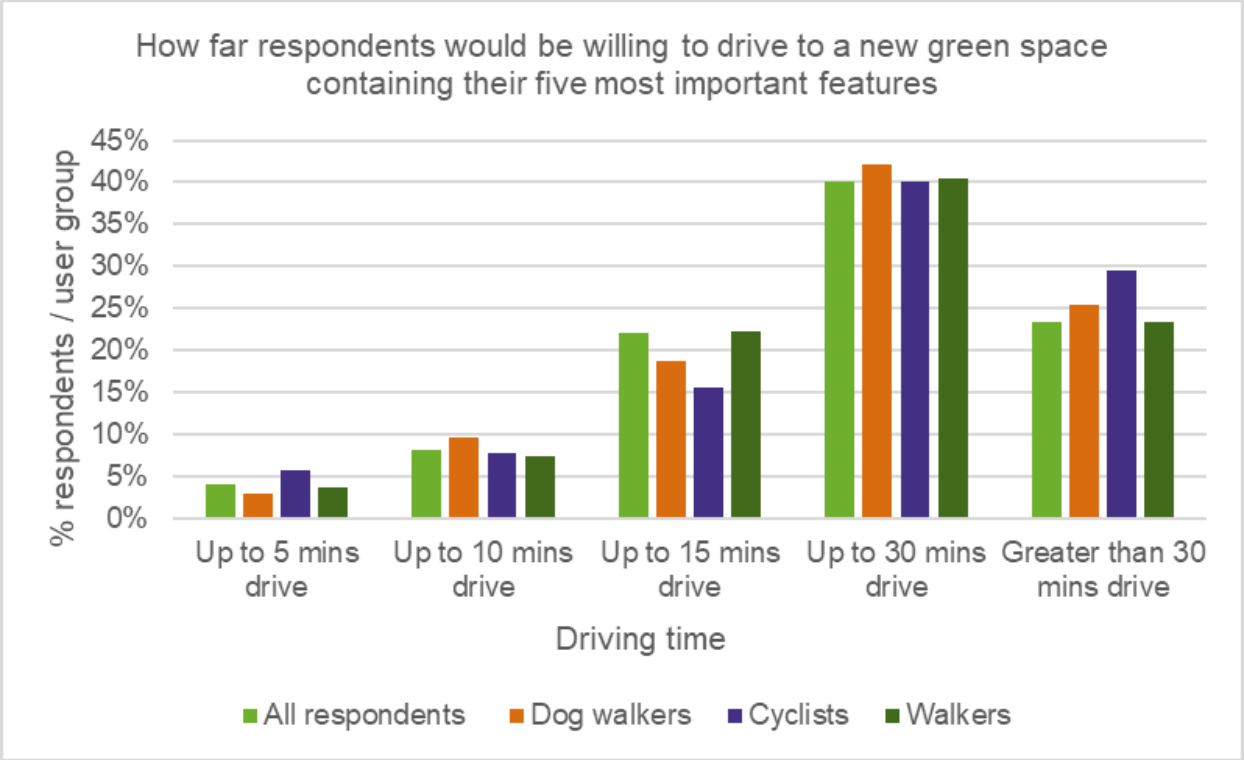


Figure 4.11: Distance respondents willing to drive to a new green space containing their five most important features



Most and least important features at green spaces

4.94 Question 7 of the online survey asked respondents to identify features that are present at their most-visited green spaces. They were also asked which features were most/least important to them when selecting a green space to visit, and which had become more important than usual during the pandemic. **Table 4.9** presents the responses to that question. The top ten features cited that apply to green spaces visited and are most or least important are highlighted green for ease of reading. For those features that are more important during the pandemic than usual, just the top five features are highlighted green due to the lower numbers of respondents completing that question.

Table 4.9: Features present at green spaces most frequently visited and those features identified as most/least important

Feature	Applies to green spaces you visit	Very important when considering which green space to visit	Least important when considering which green space to visit	More important during pandemic than usual
Convenient car parking	392	314	244	74
Within walking distance of home	563	419	78	301
Easy to get to on public transport	41	16	574	10
Variety (type / length) of walking/ cycling /horse riding routes	465	389	91	106
Clearly defined and waymarked walking trail	332	241	230	47

Feature	Applies to green spaces you visit	Very important when considering which green space to visit	Least important when considering which green space to visit	More important during pandemic than usual
Accessible trails / facilities (e.g. for pushchair or wheelchair)	185	120	400	39
Opportunities for a circular walk (ie not just 'there and back again')	461	426	98	84
Signage at access points outlining layout of green space and routes available	292	213	203	53
Links/ routes to other green spaces in the surrounding area	276	220	214	56
Visually attractive without many artificial structures to spoil the view	444	400	83	49
Make you feel safe/secure	385	347	65	109
Well used / sociable	217	89	375	28
Quiet / not many people	366	331	83	230
Wildlife/ access to nature	499	420	47	74
Variety of landscape features such as woodlands, grassland, heathlands and waterbodies etc	478	408	65	58
A focal point such as a viewpoint or a monument.	178	103	331	31
Visitor centre and / or café	114	104	420	15
Toilets	147	182	271	41
Playground / play equipment	121	107	412	14
Sports / fitness facilities	82	46	458	23
Space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users	235	224	289	44
Area of green space securely fenced to allow dogs to be walked off leads	149	157	331	22
Facilities for dogs e.g. dog waste bins, water points / bowls, dog exercise area	199	208	261	26
Free from unpleasant smells, noise etc.	350	347	60	40

4.95 Perhaps unsurprisingly, the results show a close alignment between the features present at the most-visited green spaces and the features that are most important to respondents. The most frequently cited features (by over a third of respondents for both questions) are:

- Convenient car parking;
- Within walking distance of home;
- Variety of routes;
- Opportunities for a circular walk;
- Visually attractive;
- Safe/secure;
- Quiet / not many people;
- Wildlife / access to nature;
- Variety of landscape features; and
- Free from unpleasant smells/noise etc.

4.96 The only notable difference between the data on whether the feature is present or 'very important' is the response 'within

walking distance from home'. More respondents (62%) said that 'within walking distance from home' applied to their most-visited sites than respondents who said it was an important factor in choosing a site to visit (46%), which may indicate necessity rather than choice in some cases.

4.97 Most of the top ten features cited above as being very important when considering which green space to visit are listed in the SANG guidance as 'must have' criteria for SANGs. The SANGs criteria were defined in response to visitor surveys at the SPA so these results lend weight to the validity of the existing SANG. Exceptions to this are:

- 'Variety of landscape features', although variety of habitats is a 'must have' for sites >12ha; gently undulating topography is 'desirable' for all SANGs;
- 'Visual attractiveness'; and
- 'Quiet / not many people', is somewhat subjective but would be potentially at odds with the aim of attracting visitors if creating a SANG alternative. Taking into account existing use and any changes in character that would arise if enhancing a site for use as a SANG alternative are therefore important.

4.98 The top ten features cited as being 'least important' when choosing a green space to visit (by 29-63% of respondents) are (from highest to lowest):

- Easy to get to on public transport (63%);
- Sports / fitness facilities (50%);
- Visitor centre and / or café (46%);
- Playground / play equipment (45%);
- Accessible trails / facilities (e.g. for pushchair or wheelchair) (44%);
- Well used / sociable (41%);
- A focal point such as a viewpoint or a monument (36%);
- Area of green space securely fenced to allow dogs to be walked off leads (36%);
- Space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users (32%);
- Toilets (30%); and
- Facilities for dogs e.g. dog waste bins, water points / bowls, dog exercise area (29%).

4.99 Again, most of these are not included in the current SANG criteria, although 'focal point' is listed as desirable.

4.100 Most of the 'least important' features provide for specific users (the exception being 'a focal point'), for example people without cars or with limited mobility, people using the green spaces for fitness, families, and dog walkers. Therefore, they appear less important if considered together but are important features for green spaces to have generally. In order for SANG alternatives to be successful, they need to divert visits from the SPA. One of the key SPA user groups is dog walkers, and dogs contribute more to disturbance at the SPA than visitors without dogs; therefore features at SANG alternatives that provide for other groups could also divert visits but may alter disturbance at the SPA less. The requirements of dog walkers are explored further below.

4.101 For some people, 'least important' features may also be features that they visit some green spaces for or use if available (e.g. where there is a café or toilets), but which do not strongly influence their choice of green spaces as a whole. Features that provide for specific groups of visitor could be incorporated into a larger SANGs or SANG networks to create a site/network with wider appeal, but they would be less likely to influence the capacity for mitigation than 'SANG features'.

4.102 Taken as a whole, therefore, the responses to this survey question do not help to identify any 'must have' SANG features that could be automatically omitted from a SANG alternative, and still have confidence that mitigation would be provided. 'Focal points' ('desirable' SANG features) appear to be less important and could be omitted.

4.103 Similarly, the most frequently cited 'very important' features could be used as a guide to the features that would make a SANG alternative more likely to be successful. However, it may not be necessary for every site to have all of the features.

4.104 Of the top 20 most-visited green spaces that people visited, five are part of the SPA, five are SANGs, and the rest feature bodies of water and/or are urban/country parks with a range of facilities:

- Basingstoke canal – linear site/recreational route along waterbody;
- Fleet Pond – site with waterbody;
- Frimley Lodge Park – park adjacent to waterbody (Basingstoke canal) with range of facilities;
- Blackwater Valley – linear site/recreational route along waterbody;
- Manor Park – site with waterbody and range of facilities;
- Queen Elizabeth Park – large park with range of facilities;
- Hawley lake- site with waterbody;
- King George V playing field – large park with range of facilities;

- Aldershot Park – park with waterbody and range of facilities; and
- Brickfields Country Park – park with waterbody.

4.105 Sites not meeting SANG criteria but having other characteristics such as a range of features and attractive waterbodies (e.g. larger SANGs or linear SANG) could be well visited.

Dog walkers versus non-dog walkers

4.106 Interesting, although not surprising, differences in most and least important features are observed when comparing dog walkers to non-dog walkers as shown in **Table 4.10**. Most of the responses are very similar between groups, but there are some differences.

Table 4.10: Most important features when considering which green space to visit by dog walkers and other visitors (number cited and % of total respondents)

Which five features are most important to you, when considering which green spaces to visit?	Dog walkers	Other visitors
Convenient car parking	119 (42%)	195 (31%)
Within walking distance of home	117 (41%)	302 (48%)
Easy to get to on public transport	2 (1%)	14 (2%)
Variety (type / length) of walking/ cycling /horse riding routes	123 (44%)	266 (43%)
Clearly defined and waymarked walking trail	58 (21%)	183 (29%)
Accessible trails / facilities (e.g. for pushchair or wheelchair)	31 (11%)	89 (14%)
Opportunities for a circular walk (ie not just 'there and back again'	131 (46%)	295 (47%)
Signage at access points outlining layout of green space and routes available	47 (17%)	166 (27%)
Links/ routes to other green spaces in the surrounding area	59 (21%)	161 (26%)
Visually attractive without many artificial structures to spoil the view	122 (43%)	278 (44%)
Make you feel safe/secure	115 (41%)	232 (37%)
Well used / sociable	32 (11%)	57 (9%)
Quiet / not many people	121 (43%)	210 (34%)
Wildlife/ access to nature	127 (45%)	293 (47%)
Variety of landscape features such as woodlands, grassland, heathlands and waterbodies etc.	133 (47%)	275 (44%)
A focal point such as a viewpoint or a monument.	28 (10%)	75 (12%)
Visitor centre and / or café	27 (10%)	77 (12%)
Toilets	44 (16%)	138 (22%)
Playground / play equipment	22 (8%)	85 (14%)
Sports / fitness facilities	12 (4%)	34 (5%)
Space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users	168 (59%)	56 (9%)
Area of green space securely fenced to allow dogs to be walked off leads	46 (16%)	108 (17%)
Facilities for dogs e.g. dog waste bins, water points / bowls, dog exercise area	128 (45%)	80 (13%)

Which five features are most important to you, when considering which green spaces to visit?	Dog walkers	Other visitors
Free from unpleasant smells, noise etc	106 (38%)	238 (38%)
Other (please state)	8 (3%)	36 (6%)

4.107 The top ten features most important to dog walkers (i.e. respondents who cited dog walking as their main reason for visiting one or more of their most visited green spaces) are (from highest to lowest):

- Space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users (59%);
- Variety of landscape features such as woodlands, grassland, heathlands and waterbodies etc.(47%);
- Opportunities for a circular walk (ie not just 'there and back again' (46%);
- Facilities for dogs e.g. dog waste bins, water points / bowls, dog exercise area (45%);
- Wildlife/ access to nature (45%);
- Variety (type / length) of walking/ cycling /horse riding routes (44%);
- Visually attractive without many artificial structures to spoil the view (43%);
- Quiet / not many people (43%);
- Convenient car parking (42%); and
- Within walking distance of home (41%).

4.108 The non-dog walkers had eight of the same features in their top ten, but unsurprisingly did not include the following two features:

- Space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users;
- Facilities for dogs e.g. dog waste bins, water points / bowls, dog exercise area;

4.109 Instead, non-dog walkers cited the following as also being in their top ten most important features:

- Free from unpleasant smells, noise etc (38%); and
- Make you feel safe/secure (37%).

4.110 In terms of the least important features to dog walkers, the ten features most cited by the dog walking respondents is broadly similar to those cited by all the respondents (see paragraph 4.97). Dog walkers did not include:

- Area of green space securely fenced to allow dogs to be walked off leads;
- Space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users; and
- Facilities for dogs e.g. dog waste bins, water points / bowls, dog exercise area.

4.111 Instead, dog walkers included:

- Clearly defined and waymarked walking trail; and
- Signage at access points outlining layout of green space and routes available.

Features that would discourage visitors

4.112 Question 10 of the online survey asked respondents what features would discourage them from using a green space; they could tick all that applied. Separating out the responses from dog walkers compared to other users (**Table 4.11**), there are some differences in the responses, although most are minor.

4.113 Characteristics that affect dogs and dog walkers, such as the presence of grazing animals, a lack of space to take dogs off leads and a lack of water points, are shown to be more likely to discourage dog walkers than other users. Other differences that are interesting if a SANG alternative is aimed at attracting dog walkers are that dog walkers are more likely than other visitors to be discouraged by a lack of variety of walking routes, busy sites or those where there is potential conflict with other users, and unsafe routes to the green space. The only characteristic for which there is a large variation between dog walkers and other visitors, with dog walkers less likely to be discouraged, is the presence of toilets. Other characteristics show smaller variation.

4.114 Some of the responses appear to contradict results from other parts of the survey. For example, just under half of respondents said that the presence of a circular walk is very important to them when choosing a green space (**Table 4.10**). However, only one fifth of respondents said that the lack of a circular walk would put them off using a green space. The differences here may be due to differences in how people imagine an 'ideal' green space, i.e. if they were to choose anywhere to go versus the reality of how people visit existing spaces, with many likely to choose convenient (e.g. local) sites over their ideal site, in some cases.

4.115 Similarly, links between green spaces appear to be important based on the types of green spaces that people say

they have used in the last year, when prompted to consider footpaths and trails as green spaces (**Table 4.5**). However, only around one quarter of respondents say that links / routes between green spaces are important to them when choosing a site and less than one fifth of respondents would be put off by a lack of links. This may be because respondents' 'ideal' green space would have everything they need within it, with no need to link to nearby sites (particularly if they drive there). Or because footpaths are either considered a means of travel rather than a destination or, in a small number of cases, have been named as the destination and are therefore not thought of as 'links'. This appears to be the case looking at the list of green spaces that people have named as their most frequently visited sites. Most are defined open spaces, with few people naming 'footpaths'. The exceptions to this are popular trails such as the Blackwater Valley Path and the Basingstoke Canal, which were named by many people (see **Appendix B)**. This does not mean that linked SANG networks or enhanced recreational routes would not be successful, but convenience and the appeal of the links themselves and connecting green spaces would be important.

Table 4.11: Features that would discourage people from visiting a green space (% of respondents)

What would put you off using a green space?	Dog walkers	Other visitors
Distance from home	116 (41%)	242 (39%)
Difficult to find somewhere to park	208 (74%)	392 (62%)
Lack of variety of walking routes (e.g. type / length)	98 (35%)	149 (24%)
Lack of circular walk	45 (16%)	125 (20%)
Lack of links/ routes to surrounding green spaces	20 (8%)	45 (7%)
Too busy	243 (86%)	486 (78%)
Too noisy	181 (64%)	394 (63%)
Potential conflicts with other users	161 (57%)	291 (46%)
Presence of grazing animals	54 (19%)	34 (5%)
Lack of toilets	36 (13%)	175 (28%)
Lack of benches	27 (10%)	73 (12%)
Lack of play facilities	11 (4%)	32 (5%)
Lack of visitor centre or café	20 (8%)	48 (8%)
Lack of secure space to walk dogs off leads	116 (41%)	20 (3%)
Lack of water points/ dog wash/ bowls	20 (8%)	6 (1%)
Feels unsafe / concerns about antisocial behaviour	215 (76%)	463 (74%)
Route to green space feels unsafe: need to cross large roads, traffic, lack of people etc.)	116 (41%)	207 (33%)
Route to green space is unappealing: passes through urban area with limited open space or other green features	57 (20%)	127 (20%)
Lack of disabled access	8 (3%)	32 (5%)
Litter / lack of bins	137 (48%)	259 (41%)
Unattractive appearance of the green space	144 (51%)	341 (54%)

4.116 By cross referencing the sites that people identified as their 'most visited' green spaces with existing open space data, it has been possible to obtain data on site size for some of the open spaces, and to analyse survey responses with

reference to those sizes. The majority of the named sites that it was possible to link with open space data are greater than 20ha (**Figure 4.12**). This will be in part because larger sites are easier to link with open space data (e.g. because pins dropped by respondents are more likely to fall with the boundaries of mapped data for larger sites, and because larger sites are more likely to be well known and be referred to with similar names). Smaller sites are harder to identify but may also be overlooked by respondents when recalling most visited sites e.g. respondents might name a park but not the green link to it.

4.117 Analysing the size data against main activity (**Figure 4.13**) and mode of travel (**Figure 4.14**) shows that all types of activity are undertaken at larger sites and some are almost exclusively undertaken at larger sites (horse riding and cycling /mountain biking). People also tend to walk to smaller sites and drive to larger sites.

Figure 4.12: Size of 'most frequently visited' green spaces

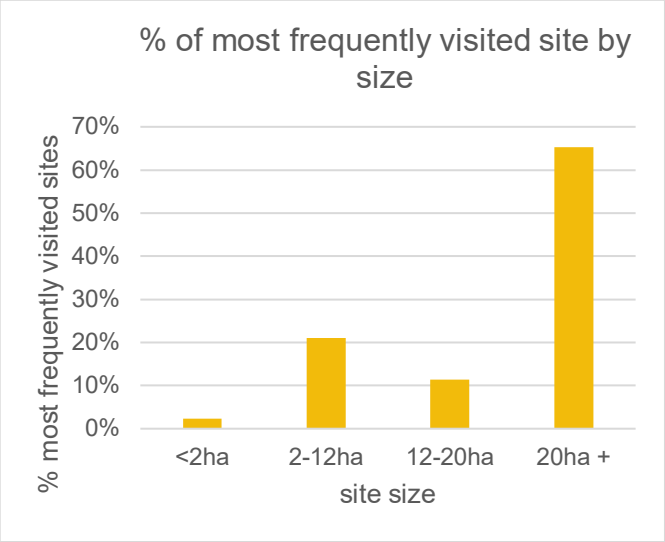


Figure 4.13: Activities undertaken at different sized sites

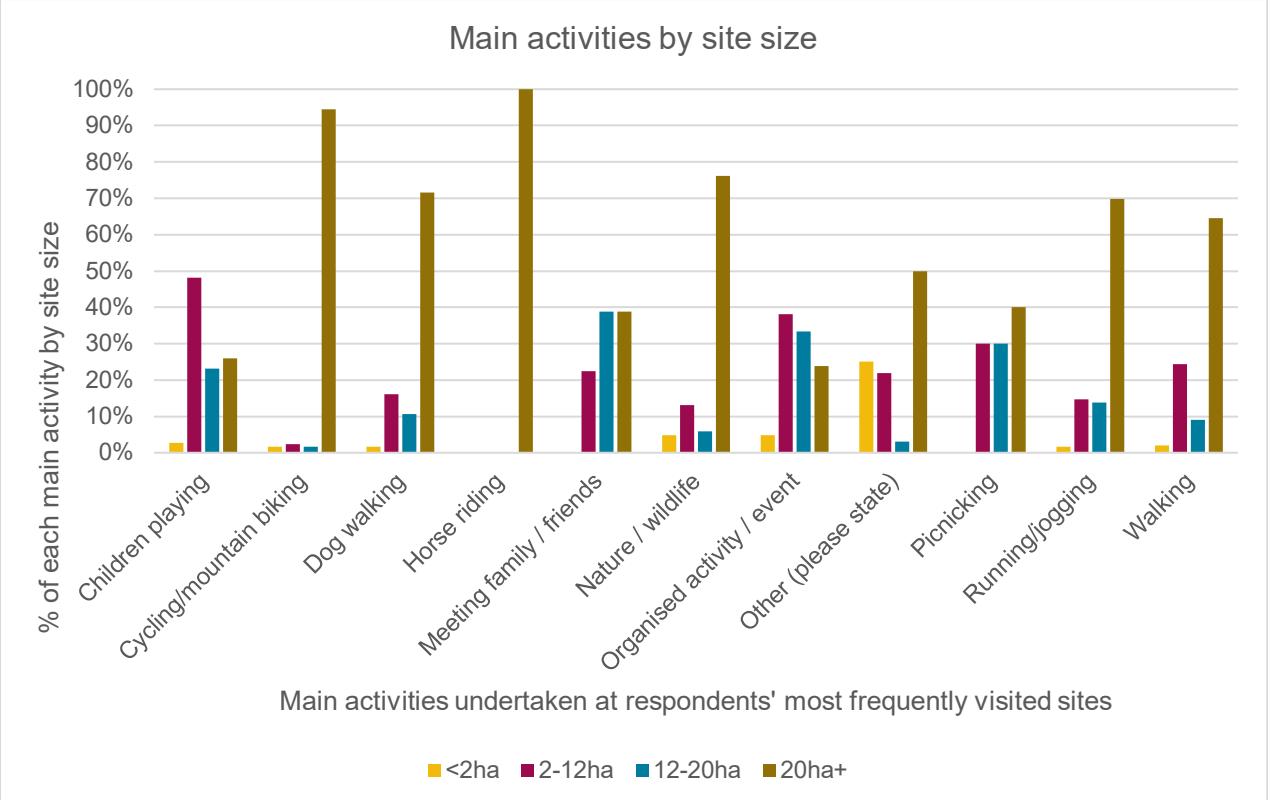
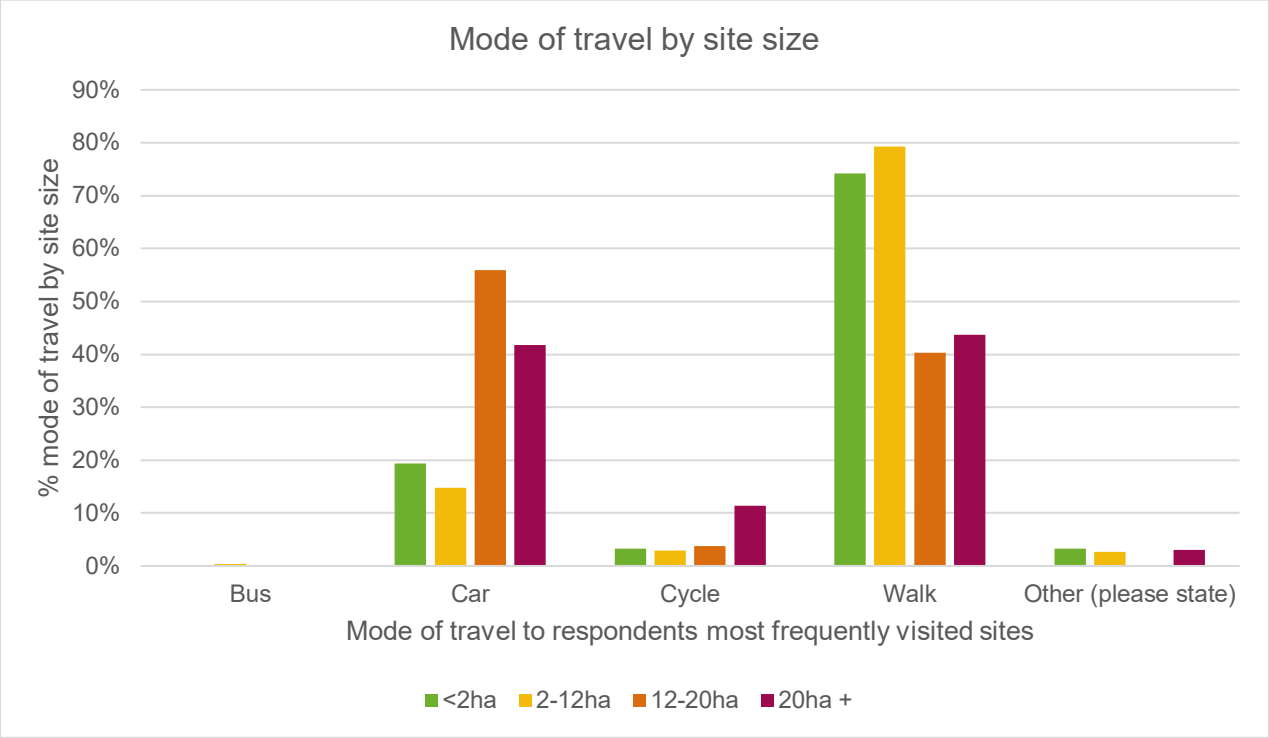


Figure 4.14: Mode of travel to different sized sites



Survey evidence supporting SANG alternatives

4.118 The results of the online survey confirm that residents of Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath do use a variety of different types of green space, for a range of activities. Most of the top ten features cited by survey respondents as being very important when considering which green space to visit are listed in the SANG guidance as 'must have' criteria for SANGs. The SANGs criteria were defined in response to visitor surveys at the SPA so these results lend weight to the validity of the existing SANG. In some ways this makes it difficult to identify the features that SANG alternatives would require without making them identical to SANG (although SANG features do not necessarily need to be provided in a single site), but some of the findings do point to ways in which SANG alternatives could be successful at mitigating recreation pressure on the SPA.

SANG networks

4.119 The 2020 online survey data suggests that existing SANGs are fulfilling their intended function and are well used. 13% of entries identifying respondents 'most frequently visited sites' are existing SANGs (representing 30 separate SANG sites). This compares to 44% of respondents most frequently visited sites which are 'non-SANG / non-SPA' (representing 113 separate non-SANG / non-SPA sites).

4.120 The use of SANG sites is similar in terms of primary activity when compared to non-SANG / non-SPA sites. However, both walking and dog walking account for a slightly larger proportion of main reasons to visit SANG sites: 51% walking and 27% dog walking (SANG sites); 43% walking and 20% dog walking (non-SANG / non-SPA). Non-SANG sites are likely already diverting some use from the SPA for some activities and could therefore enhance the 'offer' at existing SANGs with improved connectivity or as part of a group of complementary sites within a strategically planned 'network'.

4.121 Developing better networks of open space around existing SANGs could both increase the capacity of existing popular SANGs and potentially address issues that are limiting the use of less popular SANGs or green spaces. Based on the online survey data, the popularity of SANG sites varies. Bramshot Country Park SANG in Hart was listed as the 'most frequently visited' SANG site by respondents (102 entries for this site). This compares to several SANG sites that only had one or two entries (e.g. Shepherds Meadow, Naishes Wood, Dukes Wood and Farnham Park). This could be influenced by where respondents live, although the 2018 SANG visitor surveys by Footprint also found variation in busyness across the surveyed SANGs. Improving accessibility and networks around less well-used sites may make them more desirable for some users, especially if this approach provides the opportunity to improve the sense of safety at sites. This may include safer road / rail crossings, better entrances and access routes used by more people. 41% of dog walkers and

33% of other users identified 'route to green space feels unsafe due to large roads / traffic' as a key feature that would discourage them from using a green space. 76% of dog walkers and 74% of other users identified sites feeling 'unsafe' or 'concerns about anti-social behaviour' as features that would discourage use.

4.122 Lack of routes / links to sites was not noted as being a significant feature that discourages people from visiting green space (8% dog walkers, 7% other visitors). A relatively low number of respondents also identified 'unappealing' routes to green spaces as a key detracting feature (20% of dog walkers and 20% of other visitors). Similarly, 'links / routes to other green spaces in the surrounding area' was generally not considered to be one of the most important features when considering which green space to visit (21% of dog walkers and 26% of other visitors). Only 30% of respondents indicated that 'links / routes to other green spaces in the surrounding area' are present at their most frequently visited green spaces. Similarly, only one fifth of respondents said that the lack of a circular walk would put them off using a green space. If a SANG network involved linked sites then the convenience and the appeal of the links themselves and connecting to attractive green spaces (which included desirable features) would be important.

4.123 For 86% of people identified as dog walkers and 78% of other visitors, a site being 'too busy' is considered a key factor that may put them off visiting a green space. Creating enhanced open space networks focused around SANGs may increase visitor use at existing SANGs and deter current and potential future users and affect their capacity. SANG networks would therefore need to incorporate new and enhanced sites that provide additional capacity independent of existing SANGs wherever possible. Networks of sites which include typologies such as parks and gardens or that make use of existing small sites or small paths/links could also increase the likelihood of conflict due to a wider range of activities that may be undertaken. User conflict was highlighted as a feature to discourage use of a green space by 57% of dog walkers and 46% of other visitors. Existing use and potential user conflict would therefore need to be considered in planning SANG networks, with new sites incorporated wherever possible.

4.124 Creating SANG networks such that a group of sites functions as a whole may make sites more appealing by providing more variety. 53% of respondents indicated that 'Variety of landscape features such as woodlands, grassland, heathlands and waterbodies etc' applies to greenspaces they visit. 45% consider this very important when selecting which green space to visit. 51% of respondents indicated that 'Variety (type / length) of walking/ cycling /horse riding routes' applies to green spaces they visit. 43% consider this very important when selecting which green space to visit. While the survey data provides evidence that people do use different sites at different times and for different purposes – and therefore that SANG networks could be effective in principle – however, it has not been possible to identify a set of specific criteria by which potential groups of sites could be assessed. It is likely that SANG networks do have potential as a SANG alternative, but it is difficult to draw conclusions from the survey data alone to support this. Examples of existing SANG networks such as The Cut and Bullbrook Countryside Corridors in Bracknell (see paragraph 2.10 above) show that SANG networks can be well used, but specific proposals would need to be considered on a case by case basis.

Linear SANG

4.125 Linear routes are among the types of green spaces respondents are most likely to have visited within the past year. 83% of respondents indicated that they have visited 'footpaths/ trails (e.g. alongside canal, river, disused railways)' within the past year, and many respondents (82%) have used 'footpaths / bridleways in the countryside', which supports the idea that a site does not need to have a circular walk within it to be well used. Almost half of respondents indicated that 'opportunities for a circular walk' is the most important feature when considering which green spaces to visit. The response to this question was similar for dog walkers and other visitors (46% of dog walkers and 47% of other visitors). Although a smaller proportion of respondents said that a lack of circular walk would put them off visiting a site; 'there and back again' walks may therefore be acceptable in some cases. A circular walk could also be provided by linking a linear SANG into existing rights of way/recreational routes, or by providing a walk on two sides of a linear feature (i.e. along one side of a canal and then back on the other), with some wider areas opening out from the linear feature. This is the approach taken at Shepherd Meadows SANG (see paragraph 2.13, above), and the popularity of routes such as the Basingstoke Canal suggests that new linear SANG, particularly if they link into longer/recreational routes, could be created that are appealing to visitors.

4.126 Public surveys undertaken for previous open space studies suggest that green corridors and linear routes (which could be relevant to both linear SANG and recreational routes) may be important for some residents within the study area. 66% of respondents to the 2016 Hart public survey who feel as though more open space is needed in the borough would like to see more 'green corridors'. 45% of respondents to the 2016 Surrey Heath public survey indicated that they use 'outdoor networks (cycleways, footpaths, bridleways) more than once a week.

4.127 Walking is listed most often as the 'main reason for visiting' sites identified as green corridors (38 entries for walking); this compares to nine entries for dog walking and

seven entries for 'cycling / mountain biking'. This suggests that some green corridors may not currently cater well for some uses such as dog walking, cycling and horse riding when compared to other types of sites, and could potentially be enhanced.

Enhancement or creation of recreational routes

4.128 Recreational routes feature among some of the most popular sites listed as respondents' most frequently visited sites. Basingstoke Canal is the site listed most often (311 individual entries) and is part of a long distance recreational route of 31 miles that passes through Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath. Although the phrasing of the survey question would have led people to identify 'destination' green spaces, it is likely that its high number of users in the survey stems from its length and the many locations in which it can be accessed and linked to other routes. Other footpaths and trails are also well used (see paragraph 4.124).

4.129 However, few respondents indicated that they consider 'clearly defined and waymarked walking trail(s)' as one of the most important features when considering which green space to visit (21% of dog walkers and 29% of other visitors).

4.130 As with linear SANG, a circular walk could be provided by linking a recreational route to other rights of way. Almost half of respondents indicated that 'opportunities for a circular walk' is the most important feature when considering which green spaces to visit, although fewer would be put off by a lack of circular walk.

4.131 As with other linked networks, user conflict (paragraph 4.122, above) could be an issue for recreational routes; and, particularly if they have some existing use, this could limit their mitigation capacity.

4.132 Although there is less evidence that recreational routes could work on their own, they could be considered as part of a SANG network and/or linear SANG.

Smaller SANG/facilities with smaller catchments

4.133 Previous visitor surveys at the SPA and SANGs have found that 'close to home' is one of the main criteria by which people choose a green space to visit. The results of the 2020 online survey show similar results, with almost half of respondents stating that it is very important for a site to be 'within walking distance of home'. One third of respondents also said that sites 'close to home' were more important during the pandemic than usual.

4.134 49% of respondents said they have visited 'smaller grassed areas for recreation' in the last year, however, of the 'most visited' sites named by survey respondents, only a small proportion (2%) were at very small sites <2ha, both for dog walkers and others. <2ha sites accounted for 2% of the most frequently visited sites within the sample (of those linked to specific named sites in the GIS data). This compares to 2-12ha (21%), 12-20ha (11%) and 20ha+ (65%). <2ha sites account for 2% of site entries where dog walking is listed as the main reason for visiting. This is similar for all of the 'main reasons' for visiting; 'children playing' (<2ha sites account for 3% of site entries), 'nature / wildlife' (<2ha sites account for 5% of site entries).

4.135 Cross referencing postcode data with the 'most frequently visited green spaces' indicates that respondents are on average travelling the shortest distance to reach existing SANG sites, when compared to average travel distance to the SPA and non-SANG / non-SPA sites. (approx. 2km to reach SANGs, 2.8km to reach non-SANGs / non-SPA and 3.6km to reach the SPA), reflecting their designed intention to be more accessible to people than the SPA. These travel distances do not provide evidence to support smaller sites with smaller catchments; however, smaller sites were harder to link to survey data (see also paragraph 4.115 and **Appendix B**), meaning that estimated travel distances are skewed towards larger sites.

4.136 Taking into account the activities undertaken at named sites, the data suggests that some users might use sites with a smaller catchment, and that, consideration of smaller catchments may be most important for 'intercepting' dog walkers that may otherwise visit the SPA when compared to other user groups. The average distances travelled for dog walking is relatively short compared to other activities, and similar for all types of sites (i.e. SPA, SANG, non-SANG / non-SPA), at between 1.9km and 2.9km. Respondents who are cycling, attending organised events / activities and running / jogging also travel relatively short distances to reach existing SANGs sites (between 1.3km and 1.7km on average).

4.137 Looking at the data for the distances that people said they would travel to a new green space containing their five most important features, a larger percentage of dog walkers (50%) are only willing to walk up to 15 minutes (aprox.1.2km) when compared to cyclists and walkers (40% and 41% respectively). These distances are shorter than the distances estimated from postcode data and linked sites; and might be more representative of the distances that people do travel when smaller sites are also taken into account.

4.138 Depending on the size of the site, there may be limitations for smaller SANGs to accommodate all needs for dog walkers. 'Space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users' was indicated as the most important feature when considering which green spaces to visit for 59% of dog walkers (compared to 9% of other users), although potential conflicts could be overcome by providing new smaller SANG specifically with these features, rather than making use of already-popular sites. Dog walkers were found to be more

likely to make longer visits to green spaces at the SPA than other users. Longer visits with dogs is likely to cause greater disturbance of SPA bird species than shorter visits or those without dogs, so diverting these to alternative sites would be beneficial

4.139 Although there were many similarities in how dog walkers visit green spaces compared to other users and the features that are important to them, dogs contribute to more disturbance of birds at the SPA. 'Very important' features that were more important to dog walkers than other visitors were 'space for dog off lead' and 'facilities for dogs' (whereas other visitors cited 'safe/secure' and 'free from smells/noise'). Dog walkers are also more likely to be put off by characteristics that affect dogs and dog walkers, such as the presence of grazing animals, a lack of space to take dogs off leads and a lack of water points. It is possible to provide these features within a smaller SANG.

4.140 It may be hard to provide a suitable offer for some other types of users that seek out features for specific activities at larger sites, for example horse riding.

4.141 Smaller SANGs might lack the space to provide a circular walk that meets SANG criteria within the site, and a circular walk was among the features that visitors look for in a green space (as above). However, as with linear SANG, a circular walk could be provided by linking a smaller SANG into existing rights of way/recreational routes.

Larger SANG with Larger Catchments

4.142 Approximately 44% of site entries for respondents most frequently visited sites could be linked to specific named sites in the GIS data indicating size of site. Most sites visited among this sample are 20ha+ (65%), although this will have been skewed by the difficulty in linking some smaller sites to GIS data. The results also suggest that larger sites are more likely to be used to certain activities. 100% of site entries indicating horse riding as the main reason for visiting are 20ha+. 94% of site entries for cycling / mountain biking are 20ha+. The results also suggest that (20ha+ sites) are important for the following 'main reasons' to visit a site; dog walking (72% of sites listed are 20ha+), 'nature / wildlife (76% of site entries are 20ha+), 'running / jogging (70% of site entries are 20ha+) and walking (65% of site entries are 20ha+).

4.143 Some activities were found to be more likely within the SPA than at other types of site. Horse riding and mountain biking takes place where there are facilities such as trails, within the SPA. A large SANG could incorporate features for horse riders or mountain bikers. The proportion of visitors this could divert from the SPA is relatively low, but could be used in conjunction with other features, for example to broaden the appeal of a large site.

4.144 The results suggest that the popularity of larger (20ha+) sites varies considerably, which likely reflects location and accessibility but also features and site attributes. Some of the more popular non-SPA sites include Fleet Pond (176 entries), Southwood Country Park (80 entries) and Yateley Common (53 entries). A large number of 20ha+ sites in the study area were listed very few times or not at all as a 'most frequently visited site'; Hook Common (2 entries), Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve (7 entries), Bisley Common SANG (9 entries). No entries were recorded for Heckfield Heath, which is in the north-west of Hart. The lack of visitors identified in the survey could be related to the home location of the survey respondents (**Figure 6.1**) but could also suggest that there may be additional capacity at some existing large sites in the study area if work can be undertaken to improve their offer, attractiveness or accessibility.

4.145 The average distance travelled is notably higher for the SPA than for other 20ha+ sites. Respondents to the online public survey are on average travelling over 3.5km to areas of the SPA. The average distance travelled to all other non-SPA 20ha+ sites is 2.5km. This re-enforces evidence of the significant draw of the SPA when compared to other large sites in the study area, although this may be because the SPA provides one of few large sites for horse riding and mountain biking. It also re-enforces that the offer on other large sites may have to be significantly more attractive than the SPA to intercept visitors who travel from further than 5km. SANGs are also expected to be more accessible than the SPA, which may be hard to achieve.

4.146 A catchment of greater than 5km is beyond the distance that most people said they would be willing to walk to a new greenspace, For example, 50% of dog walkers are only willing to walk up to 15 minutes (c. 1.2km) when compared to cyclists and walkers (40% and 41% respectively) to reach a new green space containing their five most important features. However, in terms of driving, the majority of survey respondents (40%) are willing to drive up to 30 minutes to reach a new green space containing their top five most important features, and 23% of all respondents would be willing to drive longer than 30 minutes; these times would suggest a travel distance of greater than 5km. Respondents indicated they would generally be less likely to travel short distances by car; 4% (up to five minutes), 8% (up to eight minutes) and 22% (up to 15 minutes).

4.147 Respondents who use open spaces primarily for cycling / mountain biking are more likely to be willing to drive longer than 30 minutes to reach a new open space when compared to walkers and dog walkers (30% of cyclists compared to 25% of dog walkers and 23% of walkers).

Chapter 5
Site capacity and catchment

How the capacity and catchment of SANG alternatives could be calculated to ensure mitigation of new development

5.1 The required capacity of SANGs to mitigate visitor pressure associated with population increase (and increased housing numbers) in the surrounding districts was originally defined in the TBH Delivery Framework, which states that at least 8ha of SANG is needed per 1,000 population (to which an average occupancy rate of 2.4 persons per dwelling is applied to calculate the number of homes that would be mitigated). SANG catchments for developments of 10 dwellings or more depend on site characteristics and location, with the following catchments typically used:

- 2-12 ha SANG: 2 km catchment
- 12-20 ha SANG: 4 km catchment
- 20+ ha SANG: 5 km catchment
- Where SANGs do not have a parking area, the catchment is limited to 400 metres.

5.2 Developments with less than 10 dwellings do not need to be within a specified distance of a SANG, but there needs to be enough SANG available within the local authority area, overall. Capacity can also be shared with an adjoining local authority, if agreed, i.e. a SANG located near the boundary between two authorities could provide mitigation for new homes within both authorities by agreement on a case by case basis (see **Chapter 7**).

The research questions explored in this chapter are:

6. How far people would travel to different types of site (e.g. different types of recreational facilities or differing SANG sites)?

7. Does travel distance vary for type of visitor (e.g. dog walker)?

11. What size/characteristics of SANG site/facilities would justify a catchment greater than 5km?

16. What is the potential capacity of the SANG variation options?

17. How potential capacity will need to account for existing usage?

Estimating capacity

5.3 As noted above, the capacity requirement in the TBH Delivery Framework relates to the quantity of new SANG land that needs to be provided to mitigate additional population increase (and the associated housing delivery) within the districts surrounding the SPA. The requirement for 8ha of SANG per 1,000 population arose through work prepared for the Examination in Public (EiP) of the South East Plan in 2007. Natural England had prepared a draft delivery plan (DDP) setting out the proposed approach to mitigating visitor pressure at the Thames Basin Heaths (including SAMM and SANG) and various approaches had been proposed for calculating the capacity of SANG. These were appraised and a preferred approach reached by an assessor in a report[21] for the EiP (hereafter referred to as the 'Assessor's Report').

5.4 On the subject of alternative approaches to estimating capacity, the assessor said:

> *The first of these, which was promoted by the HBF, involved a simple arithmetical calculation. If the population increase for the 11 authorities over the 20 year period is taken as 68,388, which equates to 3,419 additional people a year. If as at present each person makes an average of 4.58 visits to the SPA per year and a hectare of the SPA currently absorbs 638 visits, then 24.5 ha of additional open space would be required which would equate to 490ha over the 20 year period. If this is then divided by the increased population it would produce a mitigation standard of 7.16 ha.*
>
> *Although this approach is rather crude, I have no reason to believe it is any less valid than that adopted by NE. Indeed as it relies on the likely population increase and the number of visits generated I consider it may actually be more robust.*
>
> *Various alternative approaches were put forward by Defence Estates (DE), the first of which used a more sophisticated method to calculate the maximum carrying capacity of a 50 ha SANGs, based on the assumption that users would want to keep 200m apart when using a 2.5km path system. Using this process DE calculated that 1.22ha would be required to support 1000 residents. Alternatively using the actual usage rates for Bourley and Long Valley it calculated the requirement would be 5.3ha per 1000. Finally based on average usage rates for the SPA as a whole, it came up with a figure of 2.74ha per 1000.*
>
> *NE acknowledges that these approaches have some merit and deserve further examination. However, it contends that the DE alternatives are not based on a sufficient evidential basis. It considers that the HBF assumption of a 5.8% growth in population is not sufficiently precautionary. In addition, it argues that all other open space up to 10kms from the SPA should be included in the calculation. If it was it would produce figures similar to those in the DDP.*
>
> *I accept that the evidential basis for some of the DE calculations is weak. I also consider relying on visitor figures for just one part of the SPA is unlikely to be an entirely reliable approach to estimating the amount of alternative space required generally. In contrast I find the HBF calculation to be more convincing. I note the suggestion that the 5.8% growth is insufficiently precautionary but even if you take the growth figure from the 2003 statistics presented by GOSE, which indicate a growth of 8%, as being more reliable, and feed this into the HBF calculation, the result would still only be a requirement of 7.44ha of SANGs per 1000.*
>
> *As for the suggestion that all other open space should be included in the calculation, I see no justification for such an approach. SANGs are supposed to provide alternative land to the SPA not an alternative for all other open space in the area. As such I consider that the HBF calculation, using the population projections based on the 2003 figures provided by GOSE, provides a more statistically valid figure for SANGs than the figures in the DDP. This approach already includes an element of precaution since the population increase relates to the whole of the 11 core authorities rather than merely those parts of their districts which fall within 5km of the SPA. However, rounding the figure up to 8ha per 1000 would provide a further degree of precaution. In my view this would provide a reasonable and proportionate standard for the provision of SANGs, particularly if it was supported by appropriate access management measures.*

5.5 It is worth revisiting these approaches that were considered for estimating how much SANG area was needed per head of population, when considering how to estimate the capacity of any SANG alternatives that might be taken forward. Although there was apparently insufficient evidential basis for any of the approaches proposed in 2005-06, the South East Plan assessor concluded that the HBF calculation

[21] Burley, P. (2007) Report to the Panel for the Draft South East Plan Examination in Public on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and Natural England's Draft Delivery Plan

was more statistically valid. This was based on an assumption that in 2005 each person makes an average of 4.58 visits to the SPA per year and that 1 hectare of the SPA absorbs 638 visits (which in turn were derived from an estimated 5 million visits to the SPA and the total area of the SPA)[22].

5.6 The findings of visitor surveys presented in the 2018 EPR report[23] suggest that SANGs are helping to reduce visitor numbers at the SPA. The 2018 visitor survey recorded a statistically significant drop in visitor numbers (19%) across the 24 access points surveyed in both 2005 and 2018, despite a concurrent 12.9% increase in housing numbers within 5km of the SPA boundary over the same period. A non-significant decrease in the numbers of both visitors and dogs compared to 2012/13 was also recorded, which suggests that the introduction of the SANG requirements and SAMM programme from 2006 and subsequent implementation of a number of SANGs has helped to reduce visitor numbers at the SPA, more so in the years up to 2012, but lower visitor numbers have been maintained up to 2018, due at least in part to continued use and provision of SANGs.

5.7 As the visitor numbers to the SPA are 19% lower than 2005, but the population has increased between 2005-2018, then this would result in a lower average of visits per person per year compared to 4.58, which could mean that a lower total area of additional SANG land would be needed per year. This has been explored in more detail within the EPR Mitigation Capacity Review[24].

5.8 In addition to understanding the quantity of new SANG required to mitigate housing development, this study has attempted to consider the capacity of particular SANG alternatives to absorb visitors, as the actual number of visitors to an open space is not only influenced by the size of the site. Indeed the 2005 SPA visitor survey found no correlation between size of visitable area at the SPA and number of visitors. Similarly, our review of visitor numbers at existing open spaces further ahead in this chapter (**Table 5.10**) shows that the size of open space does not proportionally increase the number of visitors. Instead it seems that factors such as location (i.e. urban or rural) and nature of the site (i.e. type of experience, activities and facilities it provides) are also likely to influence visitor numbers.

5.9 Therefore, the existing SANG provision standard is still likely to provide a useful starting point for estimating the quantity of SANG and SANG alternatives to be provided to meet future housing growth, but the capacity (or number of homes to be mitigated) of each potential SANG alternative may need to be considered individually, taking into account its location, facilities, quality and existing use (see below). These factors are explored further at the end of this chapter.

Discounting for existing use

5.10 The existing approach to SANG requires that existing use of sites is taken into account. Surrey Heath's supplementary planning document states that:

> *Where a proposal for a SANG includes the use of existing public open space, the existing rights and patterns of public use must be taken into account and protected, and a degree of discounting people capacity must be applied to reflect this. Discounting is used to account for the existing visitor capacity for a given area, meaning the overall capacity of the SANG is reduced because some of the visitor capacity is already used. The impact of the proposed improvements to the land and accessibility through implementation of a SANG will, to some extent be absorbed by existing visitors' use of the site area.*
>
> *In the case of SANGs which have a recognised nature conservation interest, capacity will only be released where monitoring indicates that additional usage is having no adverse effect and the site can accommodate more recreational usage. In such cases it will be difficult to identify a definitive capacity. Surrey Heath may be reliant on such sites. For this reason, it may be necessary to identify SANG capacity at a rate that is above the 8ha per 1,000 population standard.*

5.11 Bracknell Forest Council's SPD provides a more prescriptive methodology for taking existing visitor use into account that has been agreed with Natural England:

a. Record existing use: total visits per annum
b. Calculate equivalent number of visitors: total visits per annum (a) divided by average number of visits per person per year
c. Estimate capacity to mitigate: area of site (ha) divided by 8 x 1,000
d. Calculate residual mitigation capacity: capacity to mitigate (c) minus equivalent visitors (b)
e. Calculate residual area of SANG capacity available: residual mitigation capacity (f) divided by 8 x 1000.

5.12 It is likely that a similar approach for taking existing use into account could be applied to the provision of alternative SANG sites as well. Areas available for use as a SANG

[22] The original visitor survey, in August 2005, was conducted at 26 access points (Liley, Jackson, & Underhill-Day 2006). This study provided a crude estimate of 5 million visits per year to the Thames Basin Heaths, from which the average visits per year was derived.

[23] EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA – Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018

[24] EPR (2020) Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath SPA Mitigation Project: Mitigation Capacity Review

alternative may be reduced by the presence of sensitive ecological features. Visitors surveys and ecological surveys would inform the calculation of capacity.

Defining a catchment

5.13 At present, the smallest size of SANG (2-12 ha) is considered to have a catchment of 2km, and the largest sites (20ha+) are considered to have a catchment of 5km. The SANG alternatives being considered as part of this study include sites smaller than 2ha, which could potentially have a catchment of less than 2km, and sites that have a catchment greater than 5km; these have been assumed to be large sites (e.g. 20ha+) but with additional features that make them more attractive than typical SANGs and draw people from further away.

5.14 SANG require a 2.3 - 2.5km circular walk, which came from a study by Footprint Ecology[25] that found 2.5km to be the average distance that dog walkers travelled at the SPA. Although SANG can in theory be 2ha, in practice an area much larger than this is needed to fit a circular walk of the right length in. SANG of greater than 2ha without a circular walk would therefore be considered 'smaller SANG / sites with smaller catchment', along with sites <2ha (if found to be suitable; it is likely that they would not be as individual sites).

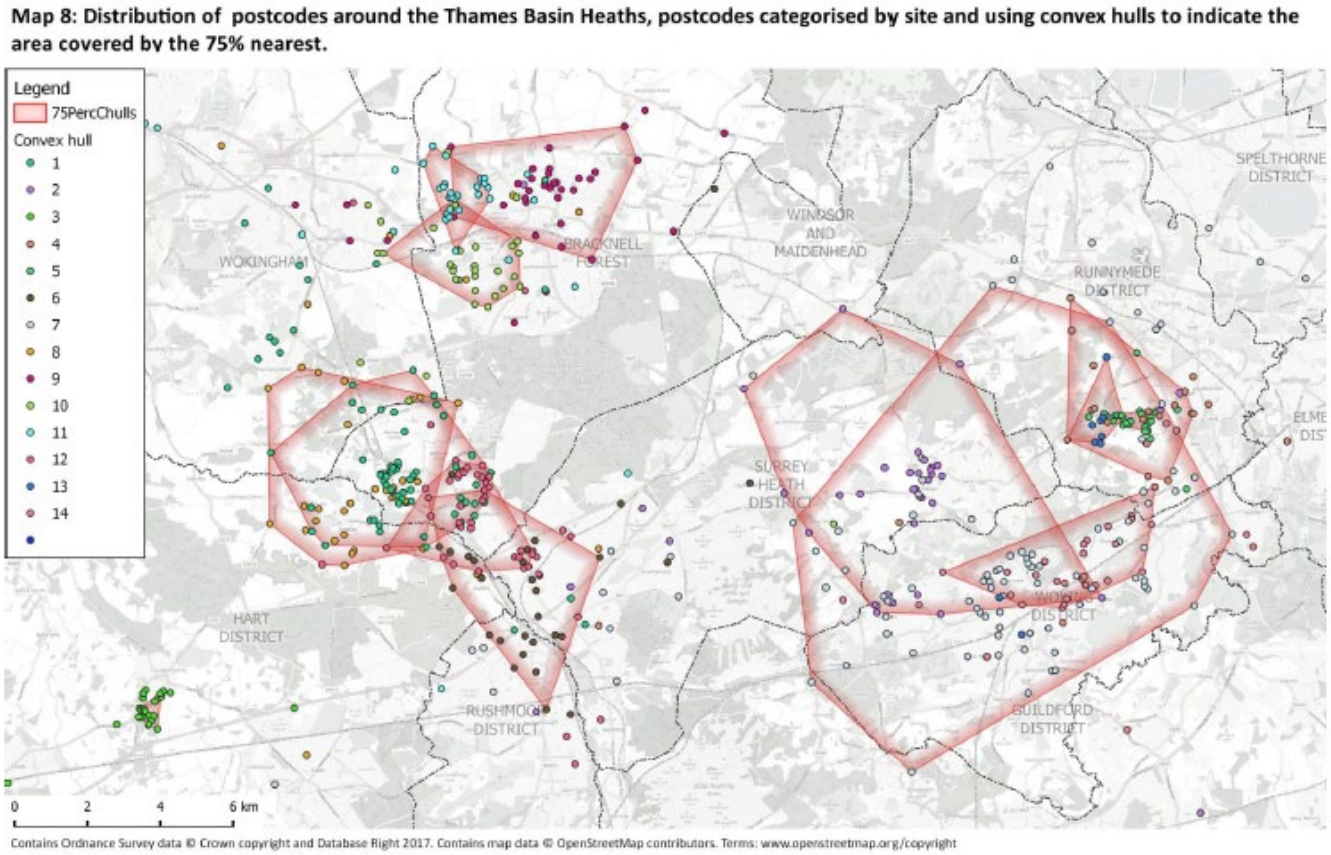
5.15 Of this, the Assessor's Report from the South East Plan EiP stated that:

> *In my view this was a reasonable approach. However, some participants have pointed out that this fails to take adequate account of linear routes. I have no doubt that linear routes could make a contribution in respect of providing alternative places for people to walk or walk their dog, particularly where they linked other areas of existing open space. In my view therefore the avoidance and mitigation strategy should recognise that smaller areas could in certain circumstances make an acceptable contribution as alternative open space.*

5.16 Figure 5.1 below shows the catchment areas of existing SANGs as analysed by the Footprint 2018 SANG visitor survey. These were defined by mapping 75% nearest postcodes to each surveyed SANG to create 'catchments' for each. The Footprint analysis found quite a bit of variation between sites, with median distances ranging from 0.4 km at Hare Hill to 4.1km at Heather Farm. The study found that one of the key factors affecting travel distance was mode, which varied between sites: median distance from home was 2.4km by car and 0.4km on foot. There was no clear correlation between size of site and catchment. The Footprint study also did some analysis on whether people were visiting their nearest site or not and found that visits to the nearest SANG site was more likely where interviewees had less choice.

[25] Referred to in the assessors report as 'the Liley study' – need ref.

Figure 5.1: 'Catchments' of SANGs surveyed in 2018 SANG visitor survey (Footprint Ecology)



Catchment of green spaces within Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath

5.17 The results of the online survey revealed that respondents are willing to visit a range of green spaces including rights of way such as footpaths and trails.

5.18 It is also apparent that respondents are willing to travel further to sites offering specific characteristics/ features of recreational interest e.g. historic parks and natural and semi-natural green space. However, the results of the survey also suggested that respondents are willing to travel a similar distance to visit green spaces which may offer limited characteristics or features (e.g. amenity green spaces).

5.19 The distance that respondents suggested they would be willing to walk to reach a new green space varied between 15mins (1.2km) and 30mins (2.4km). It is notable that those using green spaces for dog walking are on average willing to travel 1.9km to 2.9km to reach an existing green space but only 50% of this group would be willing to travel 1.2km to a new green space.

Catchment of green spaces within Surrey Heath

5.20 The Surrey Heath Open Space Assessment (2016)[26] notes the following accessibility standards for open space provision within the borough. The standards suggest residents are willing to travel 15 minute walk time (1.2km) to a park and garden and a 30 minute walk time (2.4km) to sites of natural and semi-natural green space.

5.21 Table 5.1 sets out the accessibility standards contained within the Surrey Heath Open Space Assessment.

Table 5.1: Surrey Heath accessibility standards to travel to open space provision

Typology	Applied standard
Parks and gardens	15 minute walk time (1.2km)
Natural and semi-natural green space	30 minute walk time (2.4km)
	30 minute drive
Amenity green space	5 minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people	15 minute walk time (1.2km)
Provision for teenagers	15 minute walk time (1.2km)

Catchment of green spaces within Rushmoor

5.22 The Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2014)[27] recommends that the accessibility standards for borough park and gardens should be 3.2km, local park and garden 1.2km and small local park and garden 400m. Accessibility catchment for natural green space range from 5km for regional sites, 4km for borough sites, 2km for local sites and 400m for small local sites.

5.23 Table 5.2 contains the open space standards for Rushmoor.

Table 5.2: Rushmoor Borough open space accessibility standards

Hierarchy level	Size range of sites	Distance of accessibility buffer
Borough parks and gardens	20-60ha	3.2km
Local parks and gardens	2-20ha	1.2 km
Small local parks and gardens	0.4-2ha	400m
Regional natural and semi-natural green space	20-400ha	5km
Borough natural and semi-natural green space	12-20ha	4km
Local natural and semi-natural green space	2-12ha	2km
Small local natural and semi-natural green space	0.4 – 2ha	400m
Green corridors	Variable sizes	n/a
Amenity green space	Generally 0.4 – 3ha.	400m
Provision for children and young people		
Local areas for play	100m2	60m
Local equipped areas for play	400m2	240m
Neighbourhood equipped areas for play	1000m2	600m

Catchment of green spaces in Hart District

5.24 The Hart Open Space Study (2016)[28] sets an accessibility standard for local parks and gardens of 800m and small local park and garden 400m. The accessibility catchment for natural green space range from 5km for regional sites, 4km for district sites, 2km for local sites and 400m for small local sites.

[26] Knight, Kavanagh, Page (2016) "*Surrey Heath Borough Council Open Space Assessment*"

[27] LUC (2014) *"Rushmoor open space, sport and recreation study"*

[28] LUC (2016) "*Hart Open Space Study*"

5.25 Table 5.3 contains the open space standards for Hart.

Table 5.3: Hart District open space accessibility standards

Hierarchy level	Size range of sites	Distance of accessibility buffer
Local parks and gardens	2-20ha	800m/ 10 min walk/ 4 min cycle
Small local parks and gardens	0.4-2ha	400m/ 5 min walk/ 2 min cycle
Regional natural and semi-natural green space	20-400ha	5km/ 1hr walk/ 20 min cycle
District natural and semi-natural green space	12-20ha	4km/ 50 min walk/ 15 min cycle
Local natural and semi-natural green space	2-12ha	2km/ 25min walk/ 10 min cycle
Small local natural and semi-natural green space	0.4 – 2ha	400m/ 5 min walk/ 2 min cycle
Green corridors	Variable sizes (0.3 – 14ha)	n/a
Amenity green space	Generally 0.4 – 3ha. Some sites below 0.4ha threshold have been included if they include equipment.	400m/ 5 min walk/ 2 min cycle
Provision for children and young people		
LAPS	100m2	60m
LEAPS	400m2	240m
NEAPS	1000m2	600m

Proposed catchment for SANG alternatives

5.26 The 2020 online survey revealed that respondents are willing to travel varying distances to reach a green space which provides their favourite characteristics. The majority of respondents noted that on average they would be willing to walk up to 1.2km or 2.4km to reach a new green space. The survey also revealed that 40% of respondents would be willing to travel up to 30 minutes to reach a new green space containing their top five most important features with a further 23% of respondents willing to drive longer than 30 minutes. Respondents indicated they would generally be less likely to travel short distances by car; 4% (up to five minutes), 8% (up to eight minutes) and 22% (up to 15 minutes).

5.27 Respondents who use open spaces primarily for cycling / mountain biking are more likely to be willing to drive longer than 30 minutes to reach a new open space when compared to walkers and dog walkers; 30% of cyclists compared to 25% of dog walkers and 23% of walkers.

5.28 The results of the analysis of the walking distances correspond with the accessibility standards for local scale natural and semi-natural green spaces (2–12ha) as set out within the assessment on open space provision for Hart and Rushmoor (i.e. 2km or 25 minute walk, see **Tables 5.2** to **5.3** above). Surrey Heath has adopted a slightly larger catchment area for natural and semi-natural green spaces (2.4km) however these sites are not broken down into a hierarchy based on a size threshold and therefore potentially apply to sites greater that 12ha in size.

5.29 The current SANG catchment area for a 2-12ha site is 2km. This therefore corresponds with the catchment areas for similar types of green space adopted by Hart and Rushmoor. Where it is possible to provide new green space of this size for the purposes of SANG, it should be assumed that a catchment area of 2km could continue to be applied.

5.30 The open space assessments for all three of the local authorities recommend a catchment area of 400m for small and incidental green spaces (i.e. below 2ha). This corresponds with the catchment area for SANG where parking is not provided. This accessibility standard could therefore be applied when considering the catchment area of small green spaces.

5.31 None of the open space assessments for the three authorities set an accessibility standard for green corridors. However, respondents to the survey indicated they would be willing to travel 400m to reach a site.

5.32 A number of respondents noted that they would be willing travel up to 30 minutes to reach a new green space with their five most important characteristics suggesting that they would be willing to travel to a site which is located outside of the local authority boundary.

5.33 The Hart Open Space Study (2016) and the Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2014) note regional natural and semi-natural green space as having a catchment area of 5km. Regional sites are considered to be 20 – 400 ha in size and contain the following characteristics:

- Attracts visitors from throughout the region and within the district;
- Provides a broad range of habitats;
- Contains marked walking routes;
- Sufficient facilities to enable long stay e.g. car park and litter bins.

5.34 Sites considered to be regional natural and semi-natural green space in Hart include:

- Fleet Pond SSSI and Nature Reserve
- Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve

5.35 Sites considered to be regional natural and semi-natural green space in Rushmoor include:

- Rowhill Nature Reserve
- Hawley Meadow

Existing green space provision

5.36 The quantity of green space in each local authority area varies with differing types of site. It is useful to review current provision of green space within each authority area to help assess the current levels of provision and to consider how this compares to the current SANG requirement of 8ha per 1,000 head of population.

Green space provision within Surrey Heath

5.37 Table 5.4 sets out the quantity of green space provision within Surrey Heath by 1,000 head of population.

Table 5.4: Green space provision in Surrey Heath

Typology	No. sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000 population (2014)
Parks and gardens	11	50.11	0.57
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	61	1852.66	21.16
Amenity green space	57	104.40	1.19
Provision for children / young people	46	3.27	0.03
Allotments	13	12.54	0.14
Cemeteries / churchyards	4	3.75	n/a
Total			**23.09**

5.38 The borough as a whole has 21ha per 1,000 population of natural and semi-natural greenspace. The majority of natural and semi-natural sites are located in rural areas.

5.39 The Surrey Heath Open Space Assessment notes that 65% of the borough's natural and semi-natural sites can be attributed to five significant sites. Chobham Common makes up almost a third (33%) of the natural and semi-natural green space provision at 577ha:

- Chobham Common - SPA (577ha)
- Bagshot Heath – SPA (184.44ha)[29]
- Land off Mytchett Place Road (140.15ha)
- MOD Blackdown Hill (120.90ha)
- Old Dean Common (104.15ha)

Green space provision within Hart

5.40 Table 5.5 sets out the quantity of green space provision within Hart by 1,000 head of population.

Table 5.5: Green space provision within Hart

Typology	Ha per 1,000 population
Parks and Gardens	0.85
Natural and semi-natural greenspace Including designated sites Excluding designated sites	 16.84 6.92
Green corridors	0.34
Amenity greenspace	0.04
Allotments	0.05
Cemeteries and churchyards	0.12
Roadside verges	0.16
Total including designated sites	**18.40**
Total excluding designated sites	**8.25**

5.41 The quantity of natural and semi-natural sites in Hart is shown in the **Table 5.6**. Sites are broken down by a size hierarchy. These figures include SANGS which provide an important contribution to the open space.

[29] Records contained within Magic.gov.uk records Bagshot Heath and Colony Bog as one site which together is 1,130.51 ha [https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx?startTopic=Designations&activelayer=sssiIndex&query=HYPERLINK%3D%271001957%27]

Table 5.6: Natural and semi-natural green space by hierarchy

	Regional (90.1-500ha)	District (12.1-90ha)	Local (2.1-12ha)	Small local (0.4-2ha)	**All sites**
No. sites	14	4	17	20	**55**
Total area	1,365	55.40	102.64	20.76	**1,543.8**

5.42 Public consultation carried out as part of the 2016 open space study revealed that respondents are happy with the quantity of open space within Hart (e.g. 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there is a park or open space within easy walking distance of their home and 79% of respondents state that they are very or fairly satisfied with the amount of open space in Hart). When asked whether more parks and open spaces are required in Hart, 65% said 'Yes'. In conjunction with the previous question about being satisfied with the amount of open space in the district, this could be interpreted as a potential lack of a particular typology of open space. This suggests that provision should be focused on increasing facilities at existing open spaces rather than increasing the quantity of open spaces.

5.43 Consultation for Hart open space study revealed that whilst there is adequate open space provision there is demand to have access to more formal provision such parks, gardens and active recreation (BMX / skate parks). There is also a need to create a linked network of open spaces to allow movement throughout the district.

5.44 The quantity standard for Hart (for all open spaces but excluding designated sites) has been set at 8.16ha per 1,000 population. The quantity standard for natural and semi-natural green spaces is set at 6.92ha per 1,000 population (excluding designated sites).

5.45 Due to population growth up to 2032 it is anticipated that an additional 1.25ha per 1,000 population of open space will be required (all open space – excluding designated natural and semi-natural sites). Of this additional open space, it is anticipated that 1.05ha will need to be natural and semi-natural green space (excluding designated sites).

Green space provision within Rushmoor

5.46 Table 5.7 sets out the quantity of green space provision within Hart by 1,000 head of population.

Table 5.7: Green space provision within Hart

Typology	**Ha per 1,000 population**
Parks and Gardens	1.66
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	10.46
Green corridors	0.28
Amenity greenspace	0.13
Allotments	0.11 (0.18 standard)
Cemeteries and churchyards	0.27
Provision for children and young people	0.06
Roadside verges	0.05
Total ha per 1,000 population for all typologies	**13.02**

5.47 Due to population growth up to 2032 it is anticipated that an additional 0.87ha per 1,000 population of open space will be required to maintain overall 2014 provision levels.

Comparison of natural and semi-natural green space by local authority area

5.48 Table 5.8 sets out the provision of green space per head of population by local authority area. As expected Rushmoor residents have considerably less natural and semi-natural green space per 1,000 head of population than Surrey Heath and Hart.

Table 5.8: Quantity of natural and semi-natural green space by local authority area

Local authority	Quantity of open space per 1,000 head of population
Hart	16.84 ha (6.92 ha excluding designated sites)
Rushmoor	10.46 ha
Surrey Heath	21.16 ha

Assessing capacity of new or enhanced green space

5.49 The capacity of individual green spaces in the study area to absorb visitors will vary according to type, location and

characteristics. An assessment of the capacity of a green space to mitigate new housing, will therefore need to consider:

- Location to communities and demographics of community groups (e.g. the number of people that live within the catchment area of the site and the interest/ ability of population within the catchment area to visit the site). Consideration should therefore be given to understanding the population within the catchment area of a proposed site.
- Current usage.
- Predicted change in population (including number and demographics).
- Current quality and functionality of the green space (e.g. opportunity to increase capacity through enhancement).
- Accessibility within the green space (e.g. if the whole green space freely accessible or are there areas which have restricted access or no public access).
- Accessibility to other green space.

5.50 **Table 5.9** sets out estimated visitor numbers for a range of types and size of green spaces within the three authorities. Sites have also been selected due to their location to help to understand if locality has any influence on visitor numbers. These green spaces have been selected to help consider the potential capacity of new or enhanced green spaces.

5.51 The estimated visits per annum have been calculated by the Outdoor Recreation Valuation Tool (ORVal), which has been developed by the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute at the University of Exeter. The project is funded through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Visit estimates are based on the modelling of recreational demand in England and Wales, and are not actual counts of visits. The models consider the features present within a green space as well as the availability of other green space within the vicinity and the characteristics of the population.

5.52 **Table 5.9** shows that a small site (Hartletts Park, 5ha) and a large site (Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve, 26ha) in Hart have almost the same estimated visits per annum (c. 70,000) while a 9ha site in a rural location (Hartley Wintney Common) has only c. 26,000 visits. Similarly, a medium sized site in more densely populated Rushmoor (Manor Park, 12ha) has much higher visits (c. 147,500) than those Hart sites above, and also than Bisley and West End Commons, a much larger site (37ha) in Surrey Heath (c.111,500). This shows that the features at a site make an important difference to how well used it is, not just the size of a site.

Table 5.9: Sample of green space visitor numbers for a range of types and size of green spaces within the three authorities

Site	Borough	Location	Characteristics	Size	Estimated visits per annum
Lightwater Country Park	Surrey Heath	Located on the edge of the village and adjacent to the M3.	Part of site is SPA Contains heathland, ponds, woodland and meadows. It also has a broad range of facilities to support recreation including café, toilets, waymarked footpaths and car parking.	59 ha	635,436
Fleet Pond	Hart	Location close to Fleet Rail Station	SSSI Large freshwater lake set within heathland, woodland, reedbed and marsh. Contains circular walks, benches, bins, fishing platforms. It has achieved a Green Flag Award.	55 ha	208,888
Bisley and West End Commons	Surrey Heath	Located within the village	Local nature reserve and linked to the TBH SPA	37 ha	111,507
Rowhill Local Nature Reserve	Rushmoor	Located on Aldershot – Farnham border	Woodland, heathland, ponds and streams. Also contains footpaths and field centre. Cycling not allowed.	27 ha	97,226
Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve	Hart	Adjacent to residential development the site contains	Contains heathland, woodland, play area, pond and informal recreation ground. Also contains surfaced paths, information boards. Green Flag Award site.	26 ha	70,138
Frimley Lodge Park	Surrey Heath	Located on the edge of village and adjacent to the Basingstoke Canal	Large park . Contains a car park, café, public toilets, woodland, sport pitches, pitch and putt, and large play area. Green Flag Award site.	24 ha	165,733
Manor Park	Rushmoor	Large formal recreation in central Aldershot	Play space, pond, war memorial, surfaced paths and public toilets.	12 ha	147,558
Hartley Wintney Common	Hart	Rural location.	Contains a wildlife pond, information boards, benches litterbins and an orchard. Green Flag Award site and Green Heritage Site.	9 ha	26,114
Hartletts Park	Hart		Large recreation ground containing sport pitches, play area and skate ramps.	5 ha	70,285
Chobham Recreation Ground	Surrey Heath	Located within the village surrounding by residential areas.	Contains playing fields, play area and memorial garden.	4 ha	52,623

5.53 The estimated visitor numbers reveal that the green spaces with the largest capacity, out of the examples above are:

- Lightwater Country Park, Surrey Heath;
- Fleet Pond, Hart;
- Frimley Lodge Park, Surrey Heath; and
- Manor Park; Rushmoor.

5.54 Interestingly these green spaces were frequently mentioned by respondents to the 2020 online survey.

5.55 These green spaces vary in size and characteristics. However, all provide a broad range of interest for visitors including surfaced footpaths, ease of access and presence of points of interest including semi-natural features (e.g. heathland, grassland, waterbodies or woodland).

5.56 Although there is some correlation between the size of green space and estimated visitor numbers, the data suggests that size alone does not influence the capacity of a green space. The requirement for 8ha per 1,000 population could therefore be used as a starting point, but would need to be adjusted to take into account differences between SANG alternatives and standard SANG.

5.57 Further work on how the capacity and catchment of a SANG alternative could be defined has been undertaken by EPR[30].

5.58 The next chapter considers potential locations for SANG alternatives and considers the capacity that SANG alternatives could provide in some of those locations.

[30] EPR (2020) Hart, Rushmoor & Surrey Heath SPA Mitigation Project: Mitigation Capacity Review

Chapter 6
Potential locations for SANG alternatives

Where SANG alternatives would be needed

6.1 To date, potential SANGs within Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath have either been put forward by developers alongside proposals for new housing or identified by the three local authorities / third parties (paragraph 4.5). Many of those identified as having potential by the three authorities came through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment process, now referred to as the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.

6.2 The SANG background paper explored the reasons why potential SANG sites within Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath had been discounted. It found that:

The reasons fell into two categories:

- *sites which did not or could not meet the existing SANG criteria; and*
- *sites which were considered to have potential as a SANG or had been agreed in principle, but for other reasons had not come forward (i.e. costs/impacts on viability and land ownership/availability).*

In summary, the most common reasons that sites were considered not to, or be unable to meet the SANG criteria are:

- *The size/shape/site characteristics which resulted in a lack of space for the required circular walk (2.3-2.5km).*
- *The site not perceived or able to be perceived as a 'semi-natural space' and impact of adjoining uses (e.g. noise from adjacent uses and/or proximity to noisy roads and smells).*
- *The size/shape/site characteristics which resulted in a lack of space for dogs to exercise freely and safely off the lead.*
- *Levels of existing usage/already well used by dog walkers and therefore would not provide additional capacity.*
- *Lack of car parking or available space to provide car parking required.*

6.3 Some of the sites previously discounted by the three authorities as being able to become SANGs could therefore have potential as SANG alternatives (because alternative criteria may be suitable). There are also likely to be sites that have not been previously considered as SANGs that could be either SANGs or SANG alternatives.

The research questions explored in this chapter are:

12. What would be the best locations for alternatives to SANG?

13. Is there suitable and available land to deliver alternatives to SANG?

Individual sites or network of SANG alternatives?

6.4 The results of the online survey (**Chapter 4** and **Appendix B**) indicate that people visit a variety of green spaces and also use rights of way and linear sites / recreational routes, either as destinations in their own right (e.g. the Basingstoke Canal, and footpath networks), or potentially to link other green spaces.

6.5 However, as stated in **Chapter 4**, 'links / routes to other green spaces in the surrounding area' was generally not considered to be one of the most important features when considering which green space to visit. Similarly, only one fifth of respondents said that the lack of a circular walk would put them off using a green space. This does not mean that SANG alternatives involving links (SANG networks or recreational routes) would not be successful, but their success is not certain and the convenience and the appeal of the links themselves and connecting green spaces would be important.

6.6 Improving accessibility and networks around less popular sites may make them more desirable for some users, especially if this approach provides the opportunity to improve the sense of safety at sites. This may include safer road / rail crossings, better entrances and access routes used by more people. Care would need to be taken to not make existing sites too busy (86% of dog walkers and 78% of other visitors said a site being 'too busy' is a key factor that would put them off visiting a green space). Networks of sites that make use of existing sites including typologies such as parks and gardens or that link together small sites or along small paths could also increase the likelihood of conflict due to a wider range of activities that may be undertaken. Existing use would therefore need to be considered in planning SANG networks.

6.7 Although SANG networks (which could make use of or link to enhanced recreational routes) have potential, the survey data alone does not provide certainty in this approach. Existing examples of SANG networks (see paragraph 2.10 above) do suggest that they could work, but they would need to be considered on a case by case basis.

6.8 Therefore, from the point of view of mitigating recreation pressure at the SPA, it may be more straightforward to focus on individual sites, linked to specific developments. Where opportunities for new sites is limited or where general population increases across a borough/housing market area need to be mitigated, SANG networks could provide an opportunity to spread the mitigation capacity (if it can be demonstrated) across more sites and/or a wider area; and, if a 'green infrastructure' (GI) approach is taken, then enhancements and mitigation capacity could be planned alongside other improvements to the GI network. SANG networks would also provide other green infrastructure benefits for example ecological connectivity and climate change resilience, and could be explored as part of wider green infrastructure (GI) and open space improvements (see also **Chapter 7**).

6.9 The GI work already undertaken by the three authorities can be used to help identify potential locations for SANG alternatives. The SANG background paper summarised some of the opportunities for GI enhancement identified through the GI strategy work of the local authorities:

- Hart's GI Strategy[31] found that the district has lots of GI but networks are fragmented. Linear features could be enhanced to provide green corridors and connect green spaces.
- Rushmoor's Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study[32] found that small and local sites are the most visited open spaces and access could be improved through provision of car/cycle parking and signage. It also found issues with connectivity e.g. due to railway/road severance. Access to open space varies across the borough, with Farnborough falling below standards for quantity of green space. Suggests that amenity green space, cemeteries and churchyards could be enhanced to improve their role in the open space network. A new GI strategy is currently being prepared.
- Surrey Heath's Infrastructure Needs Assessment[33] found that the borough has lots of natural and semi-natural green space but much of it is 'low quality' and lacking in features such as signs, bins, paths; these could be enhanced to increase use of green spaces.

[31] LUC (2017) Hart Green Infrastructure Strategy
[32] LUC (in association with Continuum Sport and Leisure (2014) Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
[33] AECOM (2017) Surrey Heath Infrastructure Needs Assessment: Part A Baseline Report

- Hampshire's Countryside Access Plan[34] (covering Hart and Rushmoor) identifies improvements needed to support access to the countryside, including improving rights of way, network connectivity and the attractiveness of existing assets for different user groups.
- Surrey's Rights of Way Improvement Plan[35] (covering Surrey Heath) includes measures to improve accessibility, connectivity and recreational enjoyment.

6.10 These existing studies describe enhancements that would need to be achieved both by considering individual green spaces and the network as a whole. These approaches are considered further, below.

Where should SANG alternatives be located to provide mitigation for new development?

6.11 SANG alternatives, like SANG, need to be located such that they draw people away from the SPA, although they do not necessarily need to 'intercept' people on the way to the SPA.

6.12 The survey results confirm that people visit green spaces close to their homes the most often. The 2020 online survey showed that people generally travel on average just over 3.6 km to SPA sites, just over 2 km to SANG sites, and around 2.8 km to reach other types of green spaces. The 2018 SANG visitor surveys found people were willing to travel 3.8 km on average to SANGs but there was significant variation between sites (0.4 km to 4.1 km).

6.13 The distance that respondents suggested they would be willing to walk to reach a new green space varied between 15mins (1.2km) and 30mins (2.4km) (and drive further), and this corresponds with the accessibility standards for local scale green spaces (2–12ha) as set out within the assessment on open space provision within each authority area (i.e. 2-2.4 km or 25 to 30 minute walk, see **Tables 5.1** to **5.3**).

6.14 SANG alternatives intended to have a local catchment could therefore be within 2-2.4 km of the homes they are seeking to provide mitigation for, and be within easy reach of walkers and car drivers.

6.15 Data on travel distance (**Chapter 4**) indicates that people will travel further to use facilities for specific activities such as horse riding and mountain biking. SANG alternatives with providing these facilities (which could be larger sites, but not necessarily) could be further from people's homes, for example in the more rural areas of Hart, although there is currently insufficient evidence that a significant number of people would travel more than 5km (the catchment of 20ha SANGs) to a larger site.

6.16 Housing allocations identified within the Local Plans have SANG capacity associated with them (which is required to demonstrate avoidance of adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA). In addition, there will be further development that will be identified in future Local Plans for Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath. Although the locations of future development have not yet been identified, we know which sites survey respondents in Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath currently visit and where existing SANG provision is located, and this can be used to consider where additional capacity may be required in the future.

6.17 **Figure 6.1** shows the location of people who responded to the online survey, based on home postcode. **Figure 6.2** maps the location of green spaces identified as 'most frequently visited' by respondents to the online survey, where it was possible to link responses to the map.

6.18 These show a broad correlation between where the survey respondents live and the green spaces that they visit most frequently, with a high concentration of visits to green spaces close to the urban areas in Rushmoor, the eastern edge of Hart, and the western side of Surrey Heath. It is interesting to compare this with the map of existing open spaces (**Figure 6.3**).

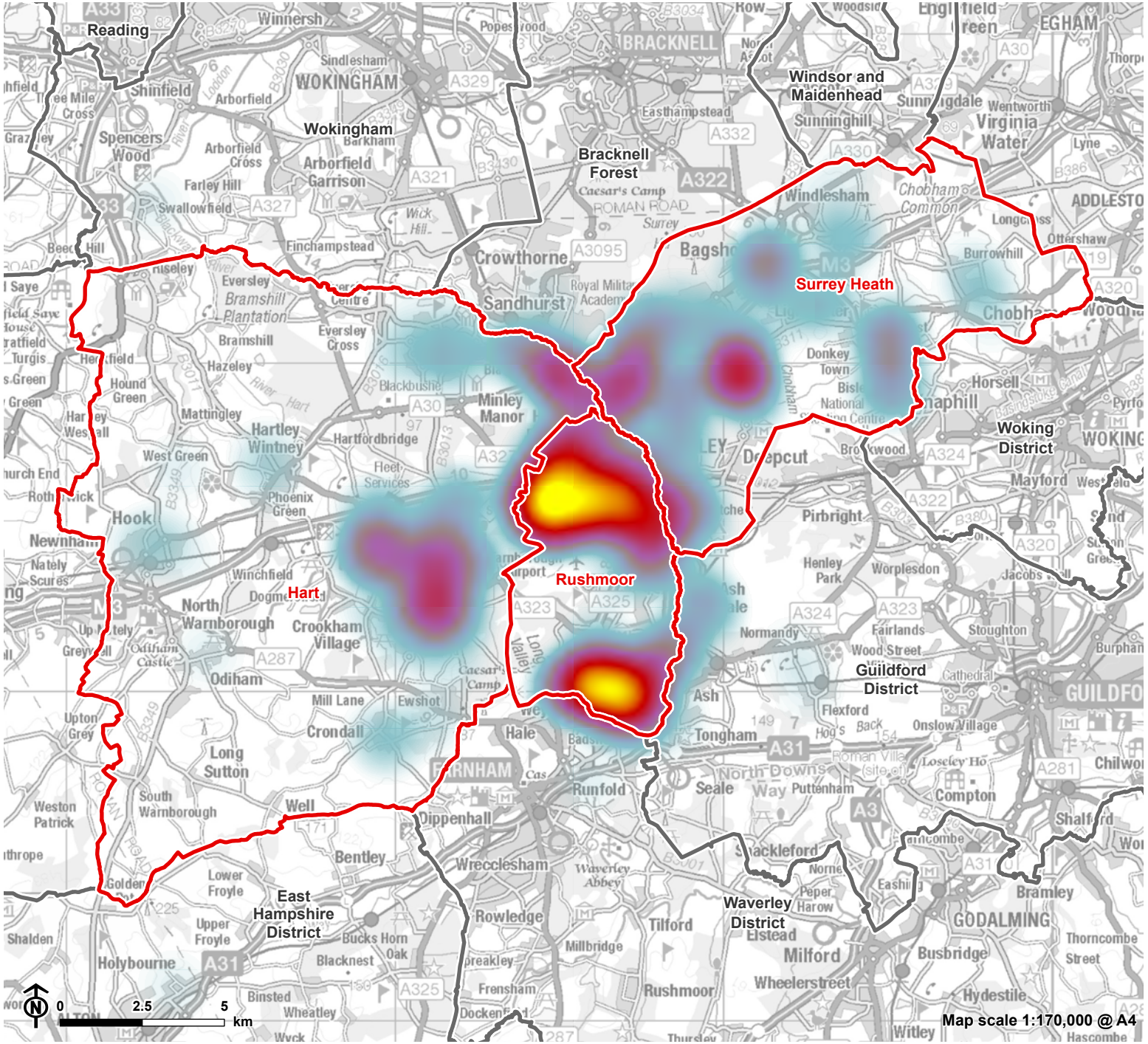
6.19 In general, green spaces close to urban areas are visited the most and the lower density of visits to green spaces in the east of Surrey Heath and west of Hart appears to relate to lower numbers of survey respondents in those (less urban) areas.

[34] Hampshire County Council (2015) Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025

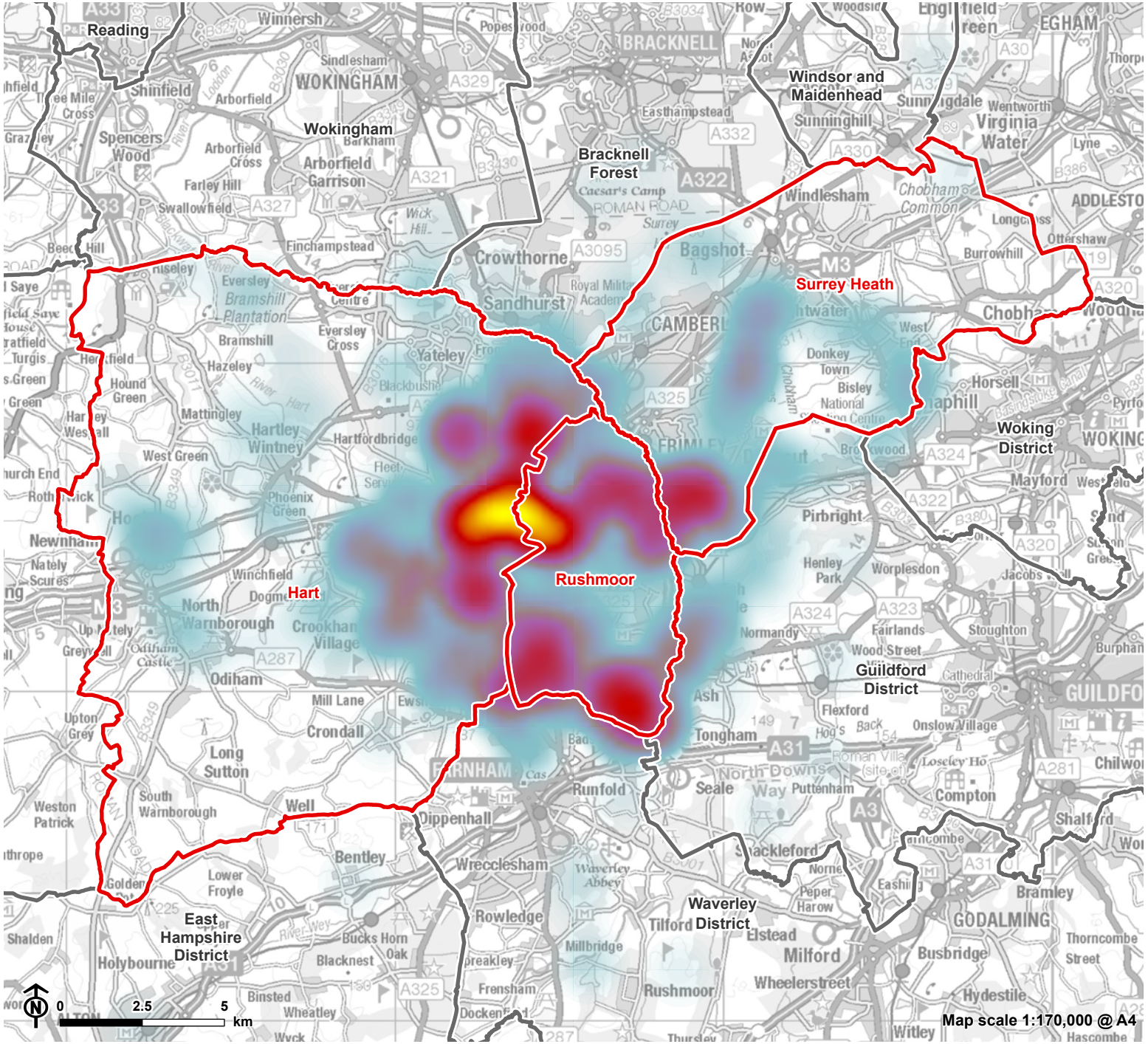
[35] Surrey County Council (2014) Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan

LUC

Figure 6.1: Location of home postcode of online survey respondents



CB: KS EB:Stenson_K LUC 10683_Figs 13/10/2020
Source: OS, LUC



Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Districts

Adjacent district

Green spaces mapped in public survey

Sparse

Dense

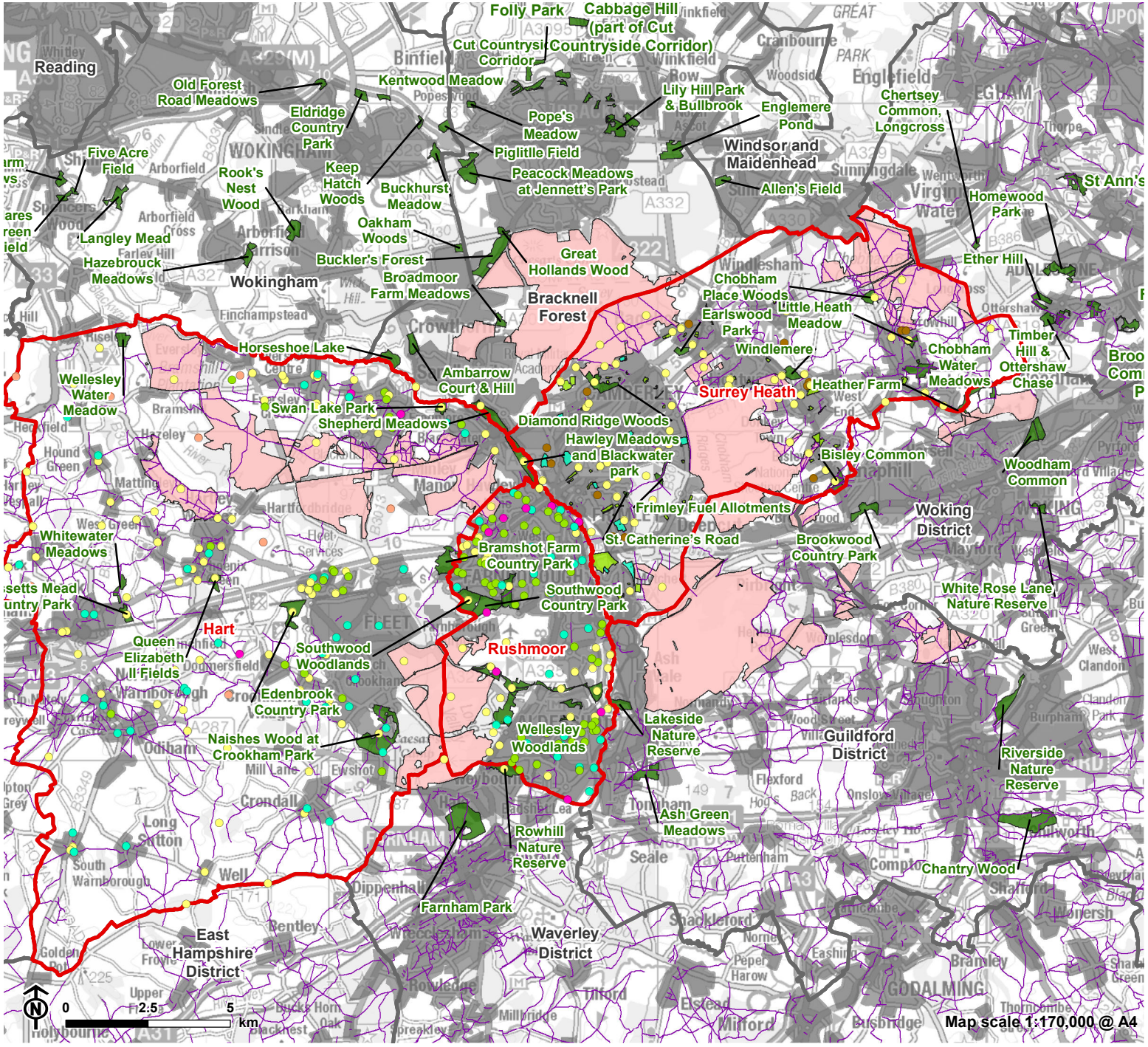
Figure 6.2: Location of most frequently visited greenspaces

CB: KS EB:Stenson_K LUC 10683_Figs 29/09/2020
Source: OS, RBC

Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath SPA Consultancy

LUC

Figure 6.3: Location of existing green spaces



- Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Districts
- Adjacent district
- Settlement
- Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)
- Thames Basin Heaths SPA
- Public right of way

Open space

- Allotments
- Amenity green space
- Green corridors
- Historic park
- Natural and semi-natural green space
- Parks and gardens
- Amenity greenspace
- Parks and gardens

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC FIG6_3_10683_SANG_OS_Allocations_A4L 10/12/2020
Source: OS, RBC, NE

6.20 Rushmoor appears more constrained in terms of opportunities for new SANGs or new SANG alternative sites than Hart and Surrey Heath due to the proportion of urban area within it and the density of existing open spaces. Because it is more urban than the other two districts, it also receives a higher concentration of the green space visits mapped by the online survey.

6.21 **Figure 6.4** shows areas that are the least or most deficient in terms of access to existing SANG, using the guidelines for the capacity of four levels of SANG hierarchy:

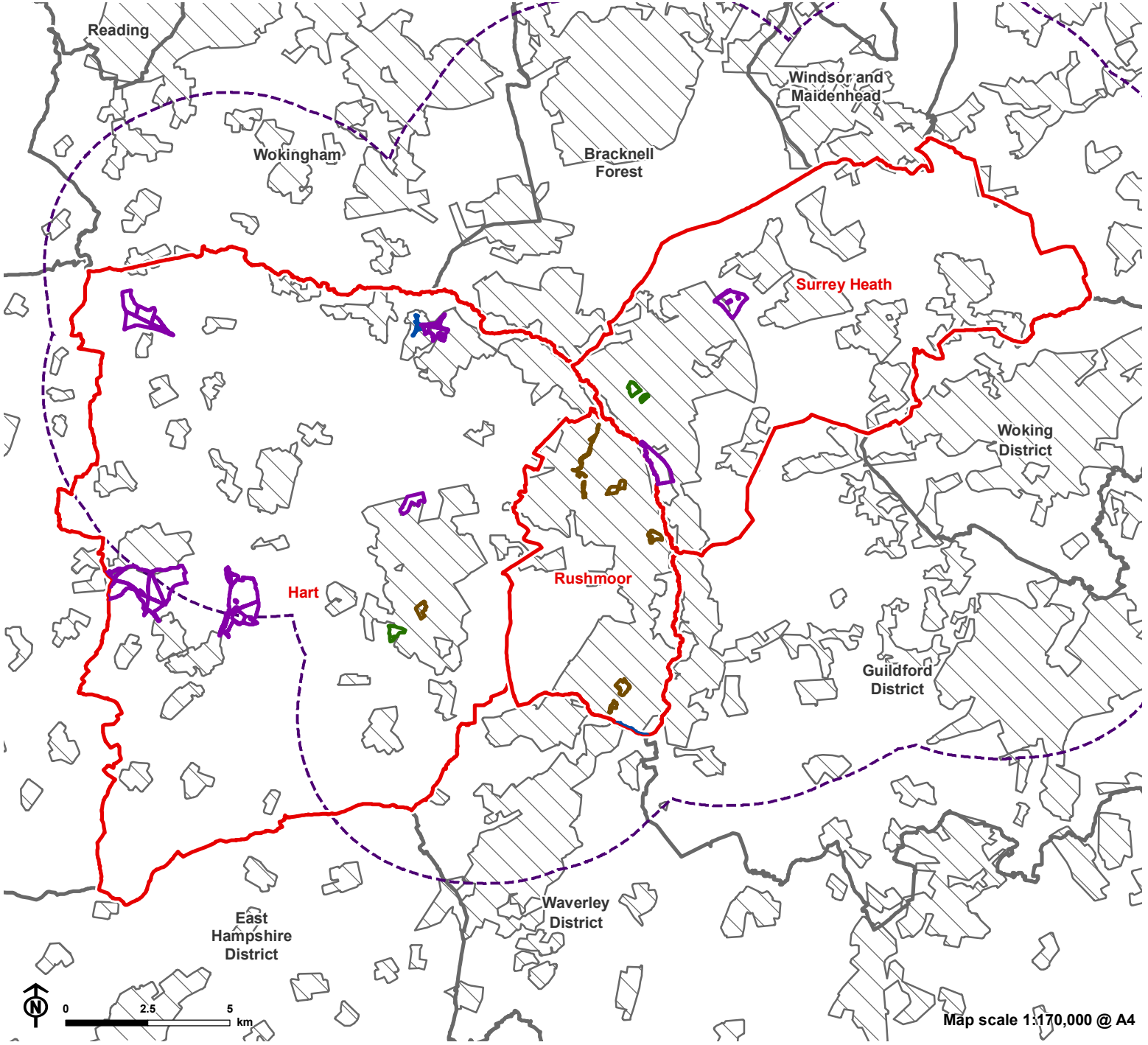
- 2-12 ha SANG: 2 km catchment
- 12-20 ha SANG: 4 km catchment
- 20+ ha SANG: 5 km catchment
- Where SANGs do not have a parking area, the catchment is limited to 400 metres.

6.22 Areas with dark blue on the map *lack* access to all four levels of the SANG hierarchy, as they are outside the catchment of all size of SANGs (i.e. greater than 5 km from a SANG). Areas of white *have* access to all four levels of SANG in the hierarchy, ie are within 400m of a SANG but also have other sizes of SANG within 2, 4 and 5 km. Areas showing as yellow, green or turquoise fall between these levels of access, with paler colours having access to more existing SANG sites. Note that **Figure 6.4** shows the accessibility of existing SANGs (as the crow flies), not the capacity available at those SANGs. Note that the analysis of SANG deficiency is based on the dataset that was available at the time of analysis (October 2020) and excludes the newest sites, including Frimley Fuel Allotments (which was provided after the analysis had been carried out).

6.23 Rushmoor also has the highest density of existing SANG of the three authorities and residents are more likely to be within the catchment of existing SANG than Hart or Surrey Heath.

6.24 Surrey Heath also has good access to existing SANGs and is constrained, like Rushmoor, in where new sites could go (particularly by the SPA and in the more urban west of the borough). Although, from this map, it can be seen that the area around Frimley/Mytchett, on the border with Rushmoor and Surrey Heath, appears to have the potential to accommodate additional SANG or SANG alternative site or enhancement of existing green spaces, subject to suitable sites being available (see below); however this analysis does not take into account Frimley Fuel Allotments SANG, which is within the area. This area is a hotspot of green space visits, according to **Figure 6.2** (for example to the Blackwater Valley and lakes around Mychett) and is close to the SPA and urban areas, but much of the area is MOD (managed access) land. It may be difficult to find suitable locations for SANG alternatives, although existing sites (e.g. lakes at Mytchett) could be enhanced or Frimley Fuel Allotments SANG could be extended (if possible).

6.25 Hart has areas further away from the SPA that could be developed for new housing, in the areas showing as having less access to existing SANG. Parts of Hart fall outside the 5km (and 7km) SPA zone of influence in which mitigation is required, but SANG or SANG alternatives beyond these zones of influence could still draw visitors away from the SPA. In the more rural areas, the existing approach to SANG would probably continue to be appropriate, for new development within 5km of the SPA. However, some of the more urban areas in the east of the borough, which are also closer to the SPA, have a similar issue to Rushmoor and Surrey Heath, i.e. are potentially more constrained in terms of land available for new sites.



Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath SPA Consultancy

Figure 6.4: Areas deficient in access to existing SANGs

- Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Districts
- Adjacent district
- Settlement
- Thames Basin Heaths SPA
- Thames Basin Heaths SPA 5km buffer
- Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)

Potential SANG alternatives

- <2 ha
- 2-12 ha
- 12-20 ha
- >20 ha

Combined deficiency in access to SANG

- Deficient in access to 1 level of SANG hierarchy
- Deficient in access to 2 levels of SANG hierarchy
- Deficient in access to 3 levels of SANG hierarchy
- Deficient in access to 4 levels of SANG hierarchy

CB:KS EB:llott_J LUC FIG6_4_10683_SANG_Access_Deficiency_A4L 08/12/2020
Source: OS, RBC, NE, LUC

What sites are available to develop SANG alternatives?

6.26 SANG alternatives could be created either by enhancing an existing site to provide new features that would attract more visitors or by enabling public access to a new site (which would likely also involve enhancing its features, for example creating a network of paths, adding parking and signs).

6.27 Some information on existing open spaces, including site typology and size is available from existing data, but a detailed analysis of the features at those sites and visitor surveys to quantify existing use of those sites is beyond the scope of this study.

6.28 Some of the sites previously identified by the three authorities as available were discounted as SANGs, but could be considered for SANG alternatives (or taken forward as SANGs as some still have potential). Some of these are provided as examples in **Table 6.1**.

6.29 Other potential locations for SANG alternatives have been identified by looking at existing green spaces of a range of sizes and typologies, across the three authorities, and by considering how they could be used as SANG alternatives. These examples have been presented in **Table 6.2** and on **Figure 6.5**. Some of these might be ruled out or further opportunities may present themselves if more detailed study is undertaken (e.g. through sites visits or by taking into account site quality, surveys of existing use, constraints analysis, or further work on green infrastructure strategies). For example, some of the sites have ecological designations that might not be compatible with increased visitor numbers, and SANG alternatives intended to link into existing routes or sites (e.g. the Basingstoke Canal) would need to consider the effects on those as well as within the sites themselves. How effective SANG alternatives could be in these locations is explored in the next section.

6.30 The availability of land that is currently not accessible to the public would also require further work, for example consultation with major landowners in the local area to identify potentially available sites, or approaching specific landowners with proposals based on where SANG alternatives would be desirable. The MOD has already been approached (as explained in the SANG background paper) but no land is available that is surplus to their requirements.

Table 6.1: Sites previously discounted as SANGs that could be SANG alternatives

Site name / location	Reason it was not taken forward as SANG	Potential as SANG alternative
Blackwater Valley Path (multiple authorities)	Fragmented ownership; availability for car parking; narrow piece of land – difficult to establish a circular walk; flooding/water issues; existing usage	Linear SANG / SANG network Survey results show heavy existing use (which would need to be discounted in terms of mitigation capacity), but this could be a good thing if sites adjacent to it were made available as SANG alternative as people more likely to visit them. May also be possible to enhance to reduce flooding issues or provide alternative routes around flooding, which would extend period path is used.
Henley Park, Normandy (Guildford)	66ha site but 5km catchment only reaches a small part of the HMA *(Note we think this is a historic building and grounds with no public access, but this is not clear from the SANG background paper, so needs to be confirmed.)*	Larger SANG with larger catchment Enhance site, which may include allowing access, but potential to add features subject to constraints of historic site. May not be possible to achieve catchment greater than 5km.
Cove Brook Greenway and connected green spaces (Rushmoor)	Path rather than a green space; existing use	Linear SANG / SANG network Path connects a number of green spaces so even if existing use does not allow much existing capacity, could be used to enable enhancement of adjoining green spaces, as part of a network.
Mytchett Lakes (Surrey Heath)	Large site in multiple ownership; lack of capacity for parking; nature conservation designation (SINC), used as fishery but most of site is not publicly accessible	SANG network / small SANG If much of the site needs to be discounted due to ecological sensitivities, it may still have value as a 'small' SANG with a local catchment. Walking distance catchment (if appropriate) would reduce the requirement for parking.

Table 6.2: Examples of sites for potential SANG alternatives

Site name	Size (ha)	Typology	Urban / rural	Respondent count 2020 survey	Potential type of alternative SANG	Reasoning
Examples sites in Hart						
Odiham Common	116	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Rural	3	Larger SANG with Larger Catchment	Site of Special Scientific Interest. The low respondent count for this survey suggests that there may be capacity for additional visits, subject to compatibility with its SSSI designation. Potential for a range of interventions / enhancements to cater for a range of users whilst avoiding potential conflict.
Heckfield Heath	76.6	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Rural	No data	Larger SANG with Larger Catchment	Potential for a range of interventions / enhancements to cater for a range of users whilst avoiding potential conflict. Few environmental constraints / designations.
Yateley Green	23.2	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Urban edge	7	SANG Networks	A range of habitats (grassland / woodland) with potential to enhance for a range of users. Easy access from surrounding residential areas. Relatively low respondent count for size of site. Further work would need to be undertaken to understand impact of use for large events on capacity. Potential to improve connectivity to surrounding sites (Castor Court Woods, Moulsham Green, Horseshoe Lake SANG, Trilakes Country Park)
Elvetham Heath	20.7	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Urban edge	7	SANG Networks	Local Nature Reserve. Relatively low respondent count for size of site with potential capacity for additional visits. A range of habitats with potential to enhance to cater for a range of users. Potential to improve connectivity to surrounding sites (woodland walk, Twyford Close Open Space, Broomhurst Wood)
Zebon Copse	12.4	Natural and semi-natural greenspace / Parks and Gardens	Urban edge	No data	SANG Networks	Varied site with formal and informal provision. Good existing connectivity to Basingstoke Canal.
Basingbourne Park	8.8	Park and garden	Urban	13	SANG Networks	Varied site (formal / informal provision) with potential to enhance and cater for a range of users. Relatively low respondents count suggesting there is capacity for additional visits. Potential to enhance connectivity to Basingstoke Canal.
Castor Court Woods	1.9	Green corridors	Urban edge	No data	SANG Networks Linear SANG Smaller SANG with Smaller Catchment	Small site in close proximity to residential areas. Potential to improve connectivity to larger surrounding sites.

Odiham Recreation Ground	1.2	Parks and Gardens	Urban edge	No data	Smaller Sang with Smaller Catchment	Small site in close proximity to residential areas. Potential to enhance the 'offer' and cater for a wider range of users.
Example sites in Surrey Heath						
Land East of the Maultway (north section)	40	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Urban edge	No data	Larger SANG with Larger Catchment	Potential to enhance and provide an improved offer for a wide range of users (cycling / horse riding). Existing parking with potential to enhance. Potential to improve pedestrian connectivity / access from surrounding residential areas.
Watchetts Park and Lakes	12	Park and Garden	Urban	29	SANG Networks	Wide range of existing users. Near several other sites with potential to manage in a coordinated way and maximise the 'offer'.
Watchmoor Reserve	1.7	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Urban	17	Smaller SANG	A notable number of respondents listed this small site. A range of activities are undertaken. A valuable example of the features and facilities that may be provided at a smaller SANG site.
Example sites in Rushmoor						
Manor Park	11.5	Park and garden	Urban	78	SANG Networks	A range of feature and facilities provided. In close proximity to several other open spaces offering a range of different landscapes (Brickfields Country Park, Redan Gardens)
Queen Elizabeth Park	9.3	Park and garden	Urban	77	SANG Networks	A range of features and facilities provided. The site is near residential areas and surrounding open spaces. Nearby green spaces include Cove Brook & Blunden Road.
King George V Playing Fields	8.4	Park and garden	Urban	51	SANG Networks	Potential to enhance site for a wider range of uses. Near several other sites with potential to manage in a coordinated way and maximise the 'offer'. Nearby sites include Queens Road Recreation Ground, Salesian View Playing Field & Ramilies Park.
Cove Brook Greenway	7.8	Green corridors	Urban	30	SANG Networks Linear SANG / recreational route	Linear open space connecting several open space, including Blunden Road Recreation Ground, Moor Road Playing Fields, Camarthen Close, Oak Farm Playing Fields, Blackwater River Path.
Brickfields Country Park	3.1	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Urban	37	SANG Networks	In close proximity to several other green spaces offering a range of different landscapes. There is potential to manage sites in a coordinated way and maximise the 'offer'. Nearby green spaces include Blackwater Walk & Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve (outside of the borough).
Blackwater Walk	1.3	Green corridors	Urban edge	No data	Sang networks Linear SANG / recreational route	Small site linking several nearby green spaces including Aldershot Park and Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve (outside of the borough).

					Smaller SANG with Smaller Catchment	
Prince Charles Recreation Ground	0.7	Parks and Gardens	Urban	No data	Smaller SANG with Smaller Catchment	Small site with potential to enhance and improve the offer for local users. Nearby residential areas.
Cross-boundary examples						
Blackwater river valley walk	46.2	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Urban	No data	SANG Networks Recreational route	Large site with few environmental constraints / designations. Existing connectivity to surrounding open spaces (e.g. Coleford Bridge Road Lake) via Blackwater River Path.

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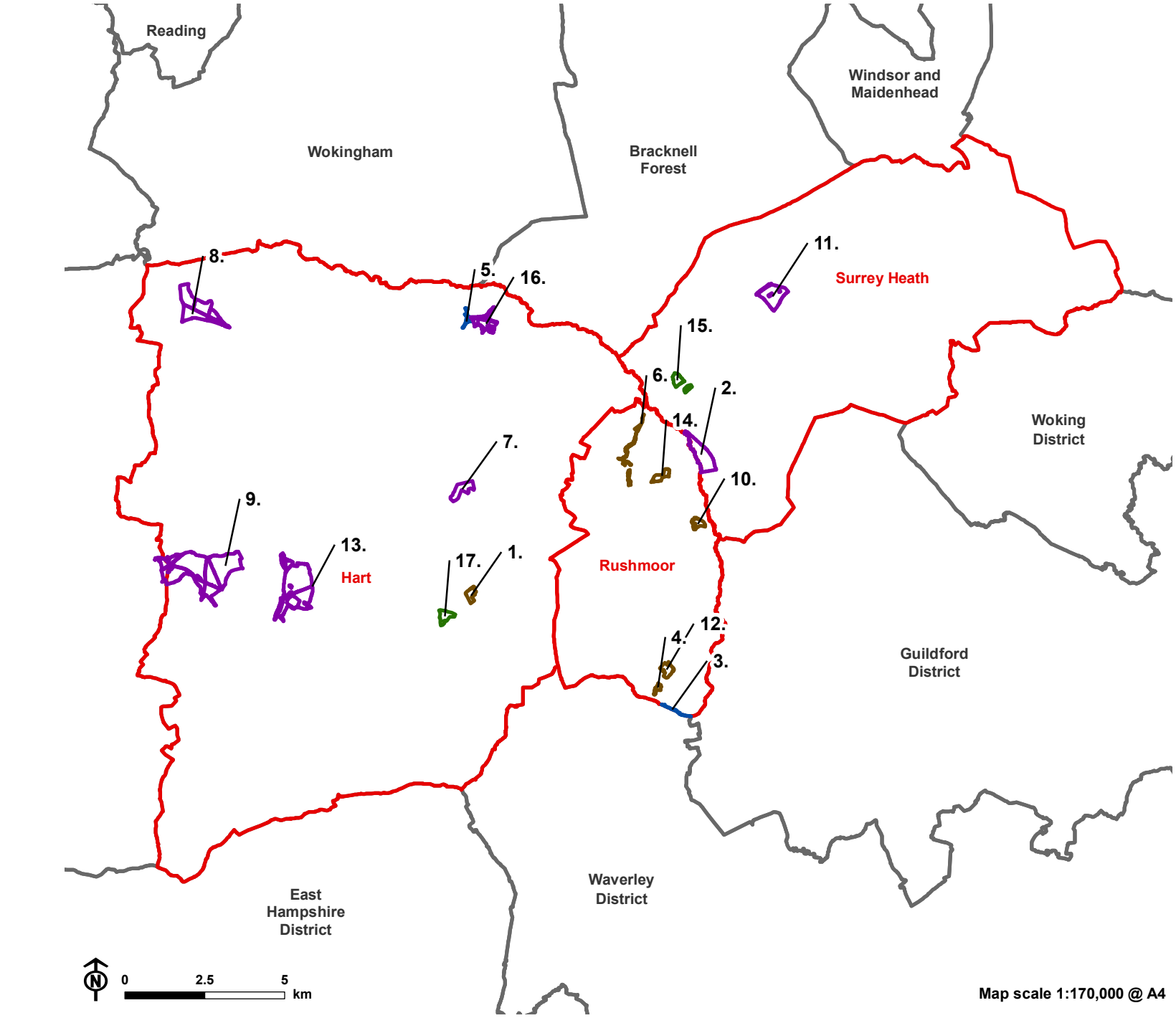


Figure 6.5: Location of sites that could be SANG alternatives

Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Districts

Adjacent district

Potential SANG alternatives

- <2 ha
- 2-12 ha
- 12-20 ha
- >20 ha

1. Basingbourne Park
2. Blackwater Rivery Valley Route
3. Blackwater Walk
4. Brickfields Country Park
5. Castor Court Woods
6. Cove Brook Greenway (Conservation)
7. Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve
8. Heckfield Heath
9. Hook Common
10. King George V Playing fields
11. Land East Of The Maultway (north section)
12. Manor Park
13. Odiham Common
14. Queen Elizabeth Park (Woodland Park)
15. Watchetts Recreation Ground
16. Yateley Green
17. Zebon Copse

Map scale 1:170,000 @ A4

CB:CB EB:llott_J LUC FIG6_5_10683_Potential_SANG_Alternative_A4L 08/12/2020
Source: OS, RBC

How effective could SANG alternatives be in these locations?

6.31 The effectiveness of specific SANG alternatives at mitigating recreation pressure will be dependent on the potential for individual sites to withstand increased visitor numbers.

6.32 The following paragraphs consider how each type of SANG alternative identified in **Table 6.2** could be effective. Individual sites have been selected to provide an example of how each of the potential to function as a SANG alternatives. These sites have been identified for consideration due to the following factors:

- Number of responses to the survey.
- Estimated visitor numbers per annum (based on ORVal calculations).
- Potential for the site to support characteristics required of the suggested type of SANG alternative.
- Location and size of sites together with proximity to residents with the relevant catchment areas.
- Sites which are designated for ecological importance.

6.33 Based on the above factors the following sites have been identified as examples of how capacity could be considered at SANG alternatives:

- Heckfield Heath, Hart (Large SANG)
- Watchmoor Reserve, Surrey Heath (Smaller SANG)
- Cove Brook Greenway, Rushmoor (Linear SANG)
- Brickfields Park, Rushmoor (Network SANG)

Large SANG

6.34 Heckfield Heath covers an area of 76.6ha but, based on ORVal calculations, it is estimated to receive 19,965 visits per annum. This compares to Lightwater Country Park which covers an area of 59ha but is estimated to receive 635,436 visits per annum. This is an estimated difference in visitor numbers of 615,471 per annum.

6.35 The difference in estimated visitor numbers is reflected in the number of responses to the survey. Lightwater Country Park is mentioned on 133 occasions in the survey whereas there is no mention of Heckfield Heath in the survey results, although the site is identified on OrVAL as accessible. The estimated number of visitors together with the lack of responses to the survey suggest there may be potential to increase public access to the site.

6.36 As a potential large SANG Heckfield Heath could have a catchment of greater than 5km (subject to the 'offer' at the site), meaning that its catchment would cover north Hart District. The size of the site would also allow for the creation of a 2.5km circular walk as well as potential to provide other characteristics which could attract a range of user groups, including dog walkers.

Smaller SANG

6.37 Watchmoor Reserve covers an area of 1.7ha and based on ORVal calculations, it is estimated to receive 33,582 visits per annum. This compares to Hartley Wintney Common which covers an area of 9ha is estimated to receive 26,114 visits per annum.

6.38 Watchmoor Reserve is adjacent to residential areas to the south-west of Camberley and could serve the residents in the immediate vicinity of the site.

6.39 Watchmoor Reserve was mentioned on 17 occasions in the survey suggesting the site is a popular green space. Watchmoor Reserve was created alongside the adjacent supermarket and contains features such as an outdoor classroom, lake and sculptures[36]. It is also linked to an adjacent park with a trim trail (children's obstacle course) and skate park.

6.40 This site is an example of how small sites (and potentially those that are linked to others) can be well used. For smaller SANGs to be effective, it is likely that a number would be required, in order to capture a sufficient number of local visits to successfully divert visits away from the SPA.

Linear SANG / recreational routes

6.41 Cove Brook Greenway extends over an area of 7.8ha and is c.100m wide at its widest but less than 50m for most of its length. The linear site extends through the north of Farnborough and could be linked to other sites to create/enhance a recreational route. It is estimated to receive 61,805 visits per annum. This compares to a section on Blackwater Valley between Mychett and North Town, which is estimated to receives 146,982 visits per annum. The Cove Brook Greenway was mentioned on 34 occasions in the survey. The proximity of the residential areas to the Greenway possibly contributes to the comparatively high visitor numbers.

6.42 The online survey suggests visitors would be willing to travel 400m to reach a green corridor, and there is potential to

[36] https://www.farnhamrocks.co.uk/listings/crabtree-park-watchmoor-reserve

increase capacity through connecting to Hawley Meadow SANG which is located to the north.

Network SANG

6.43 Brickfield Park covers an area of 3.1ha and based on ORVal calculations it is estimated to receive 45,227 visit per annum. This compares to Hartletts Park which covers and area of 5ha and is estimated to receive 70,285 visits per annum. Although 1.9ha larger than Brickfield Park, based on the ORVal estimates, Hartletts Park receives slightly fewer visits per ha/ per annum. Brickfield Park was mentioned on 37 occasions in the survey.

6.44 However, Brickfield Park, located within the Aldershot urban area and within close proximity to the Blackwater Valley, offers the potential to connect with the surrounding network of accessible green spaces. There is also potential to strengthen links to the Blackwater Valley from which it is currently separated by Boxall Lane and a mixture of commercial and residential properties.

6.45 A SANG network could incorporate a variety of site sizes and types, such as any of the other examples described above under large SANG, smaller SANG and linear SANG/recreational routes.

Summary of effectiveness of alternative SANG at example locations

6.46 Having considered the above sites, it is evident the popularity of a site for public use and enjoyment does not purely relate to its size. Other factors such as the type, characteristics and proximity of a site to residents are also important factors into determining the effectiveness of SANG alternatives.

6.47 Size may have a determining influence on the number of people visiting a site at any single time, however it is not clear what level of visitor numbers would be detrimental to attractiveness of the site to different user groups. Any increase in usage could be mitigated through the design of a space such as the type path surface material and the ability to disperse visitor numbers throughout the site. The capacity and catchment of SANG alternatives would therefore need to be considered on a site by site basis, based on existing use, the character of the surrounding area and the proposed design of the SANG alternative.

6.48 Sites may offer greatest effectiveness when located in close proximity to residential areas, and where good, safe access is provided. Although smaller sites may be constrained in the type of experience they are able to offer, there may be potential for the visitor experience to be extended over a number of other sites through strengthening connections with other smaller green spaces, to a larger sites or to linear feature/ recreational route.

Chapter 7
Implementation

How alternative SANGs could be delivered and associated costs

7.1 This study has shown that there is potential for SANG alternatives to contribute to mitigation of recreation pressure on the TBH SPA, subject to the identification of specific measures at available sites.

7.2 This chapter describes the general steps that would need to be taken to deliver alternative SANGs. While the overall TBH Delivery Framework may not need to be changed, it is likely that each authority's Supplementary Planning Document relating to TBH SPA mitigation would need to be updated to recognise the role of SANG alternatives, and set out the guidelines for their creation and use.

7.3 This chapter also provides an indication of outline capital and revenue costs associated with the delivery of green space enhancement projects generally, which could be applied to SANG alternatives. Estimates of costs specific to individual SANG alternatives will need to be determined based on the differing requirements needed to either enhance an existing site or deliver a new site.

The research questions explored in this chapter are:

How could capacity be shared between several authorities whilst ensuring certainty?

What are the potential costs of delivering these potential measures?

Local authority led enhancement of green space network

7.4 Key steps required to be taken to deliver any new green space or to enhance existing assets include:

1. Identify available sites;
2. Identify the landowners and managers;
3. Understand the desired functionality and features of the areas;
4. Identify potential funding sources;
5. Identify potential delivery partners and delivery models;
6. Prepare concept plans;

7. Prepare outline costs to deliver concept plan; and
8. Delivery phase.

7.5 A similar approach could be applied to identified and developing proposals for SANG alternatives.

Step 1: Identify available sites

7.6 As previously noted, opportunities to deliver SANG within the three authority areas is limited due to the availability of suitable land. Alternative SANG sites could be identified individually, for example sites that have been identified through other studies as being low quality or available for development. An alternative approach would be to develop a spatial strategy for the three authority areas. This could be a development of the existing GI work and would seek to identify and build on the mapping of the network of existing SANGs, open spaces and linkages within the three authorities, as well as the areas of deficiency identified from the open space and green and blue infrastructure strategies and this study (see also **Figure 6.4**). This would also need to be reviewed to take into account potential new strategic housing allocations coming forward through Local Plans, as new areas of need may appear.

Step 2: Identify landowners and managers

7.7 The individual landowners and managers present in the area being considered for SANG alternative should be identified. The engagement with these individuals/ organisations will help to formalise the area under consideration for creation/ enhancement and may help to present new opportunities.

Step 3: Understand the desired functionality and features of the SANG alternatives, at a site level

7.8 Complete a review of the potential SANG alternative site to identify opportunities for enhancing and understand existing usage and capacity. As with traditional SANG, sites would need to be assessed individually and agreed with Natural England.

Step 4: Identify potential funding sources

7.9 The ability to deliver and maintain green space enhancement will be dependent on the availability of funding. SANG alternatives would be funded, as SANGs are, through developer contributions, so that the mitigation is associated with new development. However, for some of the options e.g. SANG networks, delivery may be required in advance of all the necessary contributions so the three authorities may be required to seek funding and then recoup the costs through developers.

7.10 External funding streams tend to focus on specific elements e.g. increasing biodiversity, restoring historic landscapes or delivering community-based projects. These are also primarily focused on the creation of green spaces rather than supporting longer- term management and maintenance activities.

7.11 The size of the grant available varies greatly between each funding stream but most are likely to require some match funding and to be able to demonstrate some form of community support for the project. These could potentially be used to further enhance proposed green spaces or links to them, but measures that are required for mitigation need to be funded via developer contributions. Green spaces assets may also need to have mechanisms for income generating ventures.

Step 5: Identify potential delivery partners and delivery model

7.12 Once a clear idea has been established of the most appropriate funding sources to pursue for a SANG alternative, delivery partners could be consulted. Consultation with landowners, local groups and community representatives will be essential to the effective delivery and long-term maintenance of green spaces.

7.13 Green space models used across England to manage assets include:

- Local authority with in-house management teams
- Local authorities in partnership with private contractors
- Public sector partnerships
- Partnerships with parish and town councils
- Public and third sector partnerships
- Private management companies
- Charitable Trusts
- Community Interest Companies
- Boards of Conservators

7.14 For each of the management models listed above, it is critical that the extent of land ownership is fully understood and responsibility for management is clear. The allocation of rights and responsibilities of each of these bodies will also need to be considered.

7.15 The selection of appropriate delivery models will be greatly dependent on a variety of factors including land ownership, availability of funding and the ability of existing land management organisations to take on additional green space assets.

7.16 Factors which would need to be taken into consideration to ensure the allocation of the most suitable delivery models and sources of funding to specific areas will include the following:

- Identification of likely development areas which may create a demand for new green spaces.
- Understanding of land ownership and options for leasing land and/ or ownership transfer.
- The form and function of proposed green space provision to guide the selection of appropriate funding mechanisms.
- Availability of delivery organisations.
- Ability of local community groups to become involved in the delivery and management of the green space.

Step 6: Prepare concept plan

7.17 The next step in the process will be to prepare a concept plan, which will help to form the vision and key priorities for the SANG alternative and to communicate this effectively.

7.18 Close collaboration with the delivery partners and other key stakeholders will be needed to develop a successful concept plan.

Step 7: Prepare outline costs to deliver the concept plan

7.19 The concept plan will provide a clear vision of the potential of the SANG alternative and enable outline costs to be prepared for providing green space in that area. This will enable the delivery partners to more accurately apply for funding.

Step 8: Delivery phase

7.20 The previous steps will provide the information required for the delivery partners to confidently take the project forward, including a clear vision for the SANG alternative, an indicative idea of the amount of funding required and a clear picture of the funding sources they need to target.

7.21 The detailed design process will involve further detailed green space planning and analysis work. This may include the commissioning of technical surveys such as topographic, hydrology, ecology, archaeology, access etc. It is also possible statutory consents will be required for the creation of green spaces or enhancement works. Planning permission and special heritage and ecological consents may be required. This should be scoped with the appropriate authorities at the earliest stage, with detailed management plans and funding mechanisms being secured through the planning process where possible.

Delivering green space enhancement alongside development

7.22 Where SANG alternatives are to be delivered as part of development proposals, the presumption should continue to be that developers provide a standard SANG unless evidence is provided as to why the SANG criteria cannot be met and why SANG alternatives would be appropriate and effective at providing mitigation for recreation pressure at the SPA. EPR have considered this further in the Mitigation Capacity study[37]. The process for then meeting SANG alternative criteria should be set out in each authority's TBH mitigation strategy or SPD, but there would be merit in taking a similar approach to the existing one i.e. identification of on-site SANGs through the planning application process.

7.23 It is important that green space provision is considered during the feasibility, concept and masterplanning stage of any proposals for a development. Opportunities for incorporation of green space within a development will vary considerably depending on each site and should be informed by careful analysis and assessment. Proposals for strengthening the green space network should consider:

- Conservation and enhancement of existing green spaces.
- Linking of existing green spaces/ features with assets in the wider area.
- Creation of green spaces linking to a spatial strategy for the authority areas.
- Long-term stewardship of green spaces including capital and revenue funding. SANGs require in-perpetuity plans and funding, and a similar requirement could be applied to SANG alternatives.

Stakeholders and joint working

7.24 The design and delivery of the SANG alternatives should be a collaborative process between local authorities, developers, community groups and other key stakeholders.

7.25 The process should seek to explore opportunities to establish partnerships. Suitable management organisations would also need to be appointed. The adoption of a management plan for the SANG alternative would provide a framework for management and to guide the decision-making process.

[37] EPR (2020) Hart, Rushmoor & Surrey Heath SPA Mitigation Project: Mitigation Capacity Review

7.26 Opportunities should be considered to further support and potentially expand existing partnerships, such as the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust and the Basingstoke Canal Authority. Both of these organisations manage significant and popular green corridors which link between the three authorities.

7.27 In terms of sharing capacity between authorities, the TBH SPA Delivery Framework[38] states that:

> *Joint working between authorities to provide SANG may be appropriate when:*
>
> – *A LPA alone is not able to provide sufficient SANG land to meet its local need*
>
> – *The catchment of a SANG extends into a neighbouring authority*
>
> – *There is the opportunity to add value and/or capacity to individual SANG by developing a network of SANGs across boundaries.*
>
> *Local authorities should explore opportunities for cross boundary working.*

7.28 How the capacity of SANGs is shared in practice varies and is largely agreed between authorities as required; although, where a SANG is privately owned, the owner decides how the capacity will be apportioned (e.g. for a specific development). The capacity of SANG alternatives could be shared in the same way.

Potential costs

7.29 Table 7.1 provides an indication of outline capital costs associated with the delivery of green space creation and enhancement projects. A separate 'in perpetuity' cost is provided as a guide to the potential management and maintenance requirements for each of the SANG alternatives.

7.30 Not all of the capital or revenue costs will relate to each SANG alternative, as different sites will have different elements requiring enhancement or creation. The costs implications of each SANG alternative would therefore need to be examined as proposals for each measure are developed.

7.31 An estimate of costs for each SANG alternative proposed will be needed, which could look like the example at the end of the table.

Table 7.1: Indication of outline capital costs associated with SANG alternatives

Example costs associated with delivery of SANG alternatives	*Capital cost*	*Maintenance cost in perpetuity (80 year period)*
Large SANG To cover total area of 75 hectares with costs allowing for: • 2.5km circular route for pedestrians and cyclists. • 1km horse route to connect to surrounding bridleway network • Car park. • Dog facilities including exercise area, water points and dog bins • Habitat creation/ management • Allowance of site furniture and signage. • Allowance for general landscaping.	£900,000	£8,000,000 *(based on an estimated £100,000 annual management and maintenance cost, see note below table)*
Small SANG To cover total area of 2 hectares with costs allowing for: • 800m circular route for pedestrians and cyclists. • Dog facilities including exercise area, water points and dog bins • Habitat creation/ management • Allowance of site furniture and signage. • Allowance for general landscaping.	£500,000	£4,000,000 *(based on an estimated £50,000 annual management and maintenance cost, see note below table)*
Linear SANG / Recreational route To include route of 1km with costs allowing for:	£750,000	£6,000,000

[38] Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (2009) Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework

• 1km route for pedestrians and cyclists. • New road crossing point. • 1 km horse route. • Car park. • Dog facilities including water points and dog bins. • Habitat creation/ management. • Allowance of site furniture and signage. • Allowance for general landscaping.		*(based on an estimated £75,000 annual management and maintenance cost, see note below table)*
Network SANG component Individual site to cover total area of 0.4 hectares with costs allowing for: • 500m route for pedestrians and cyclists extending to site boundary and connecting to surrounding area. • New road crossing point. • Dog facilities including exercise area, water points and dog bins • Habitat creation/ management • Allowance of site furniture and signage. • Allowance for general landscaping.	£250,000	£2,000,000 *(based on an estimated £25,000 annual management and maintenance cost, see note below table)*

Notes on costs

- As a contract period has not yet been assessed, the allowance for main contractor's preliminaries has been based on 10% of the construction cost total.
- The percentage allowance for contingencies has been made based on 12.5%.
- External consultants' professional fees for the capital works have not been added. Fees will vary according to which consultants will need to be appointed depending on the precise scope of work. Differing project values will also affect the actual fee percentage.
- In perpetuity costs are based on an estimate of the cost of delivering management and maintenance operations at each type of SANG alternative site over an 80-year period.
- Management costs relate to conservation of habitats (not indirect people costs such as park managers, or any other support staff - e.g. additional HR or finance teams to support the increase in operation needs).
- Costs per dwelling will depend upon the capacity of individual options. If capacity (housing mitigated per hectare of greenspace) is similar to existing SANGs then costs could also be viewed as similar to the existing approach.

Exclusions

- Cost of land/purchase of any site or part of site
- Future inflation costs/changes in tendering climate
- Interest/finance charges
- Prescribed fees to the local authority
- Legal fees
- Value Added Tax

Chapter 8
Conclusions

Overall conclusions regarding the potential effectiveness of the SANG alternatives

8.1 The aims of this study were:

- To understand whether the required features/qualities of SANGs could be delivered in alternative ways (i.e. in order to meet the overall objective of attracting visitors away from the SPA);
- To determine what the requirements would be for these measures to be effective;
- To explore scope for implementing variations on SANG as a mitigation measure; and
- To consider the potential capacity of these measures.

8.2 The review of existing information regarding SANGs and open spaces in Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath and the 2020 online survey of how Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath residents use a range of green space types and the features that influence which ones they choose to visit, has enabled the following conclusions to be drawn.

Can SANGs be delivered in alternative ways?

8.3 SANG alternatives already exist in some places, with examples of operational SANG networks comprising linked smaller SANGs, and linear SANGs linked to recreational routes demonstrating that SANG alternatives can be effective (see paragraphs 2.10 to 2.15, above).

8.4 In order to make use of SANG alternatives as part of a TBH mitigation strategy, the principle that they will be effective needs to be agreed. Data from the online survey provides useful evidence to show that people use a wide variety of different sites for different uses, and that a broader range of green space types than standard SANG can attract visitors and may divert visits from the SPA. However, the data also backs up the general principle of SANG being effective, while evidence for the effectiveness of specific SANG alternatives is less certain: all of the SANG alternatives explored appear to have potential, although there is more evidence to support some than others.

8.5 SANG alternatives involve green space sites that do not meet the current SANG criteria but may provide an equivalent or similar experience that will still divert visits from the SPA. The online survey found that the majority of features that are most important to residents when choosing green spaces to visit are on the 'must have' list of SANG criteria, therefore the survey data does not help to identify any 'must have' SANG features that could automatically be omitted from a SANG alternative. 'Focal points' (which are in the 'desirable' SANG features) appear to be less important and could be omitted. The most frequently cited 'very important' features from the online survey could be used as a guide to the features that would make a SANG alternative more likely to be successful as mitigation, for example to compensate for the omission of another feature. However, it may not be necessary for every SANG alternative to have all of the features to be attractive to visitors, and analysis of the sizes of green spaces visited, distances travelled and main reasons for visiting have demonstrated that a wide variety of sites are well used by visitors and there is merit in considering the potential use of SANG alternatives to achieve mitigation of recreation pressure on the TBH SPA.

8.6 The results of the online survey have provided useful data to enable a comparison of the relative effectiveness of each of the SANG alternatives being considered as summarised below.

8.7 All of the approaches have some merits, although some may be easier to implement than others. It is likely that a range of types of SANG alternative, alongside the existing approach, could be the most effective due to the variation in how people use existing green spaces, and depending on the sites available. As with traditional SANGs, potential SANG alternatives would need to be assessed individually and agreed with Natural England.

SANG networks

8.8 Although a high proportion of respondents said that they have used footpaths, bridleways or trails in the last year, only a quarter of respondents said that links or routes to other greenspaces is very important to them when choosing a greenspace, and few people said they would be put off by a lack of linking routes.

8.9 Linked SANG networks could provide opportunities for circular walks from smaller sites, variety on a walk, could result in improvements in the safety of routes to greenspaces, and bring routes to greenspaces closer to people's homes – all characteristics that scored fairly highly as 'very important' features. However, linked SANG networks or those that incorporate small or well-used sites could also create conflict between users and increased use of already busy sites which would need to be managed.

8.10 It is likely that SANG networks do have potential as a SANG alternative, but it is difficult to draw conclusions from the survey data alone to support this. Examples of existing SANG networks such as The Cut and Bullbrook Countryside Corridors in Bracknell (see paragraph 2.10 above) show that SANG networks can be well used, but specific proposals would need to be considered on a case by case basis, taking into account the convenience, safety and appeal of links and connecting green spaces, and with careful consideration of existing uses.

8.11 From the point of view of securing mitigation for recreation pressure at the SPA, it may be more straightforward to focus on individual sites linked to specific developments rather than networks, in most cases. However, where opportunities for new sites are limited (for example in urban areas) or where general population increases across a borough/housing market area need to be mitigated (rather than a single development), SANG networks could provide an opportunity to spread the mitigation capacity (if it can be demonstrated) across more sites. In addition, if a 'green infrastructure' (GI)-led approach is taken, (i.e. as part of a Borough's GI strategy looking at all green spaces and GI across the borough in terms of wider benefits such as ecological connectivity and climate change resilience), then enhancements to particular green spaces to provide TBH mitigation capacity could be planned alongside other improvements to the GI network.

8.12 Examples of existing locations that could become SANG networks include: Blackwater Valley and nearby green spaces, and Cove Brook Greenway and nearby green spaces.

Linear SANG

8.13 Linear SANG are sites that cannot provide a 2.3km circular walk within the site boundaries, but instead provide a linear walk through the site; it is expected that they might commonly be found alongside linear features such as railway lines, canals or rivers, with some wider areas opening out from the linear feature. They may be able to include a shorter circular walk (as with 'smaller SANGs') or connect into a recreational route or network of SANGs; therefore there is overlap with the other categories of SANG alternative.

8.14 The online survey found that green spaces alongside linear features are among some of the most popular sites listed as respondents most frequently visited sites, and Basingstoke Canal (which could also be described as a recreational route) is the most often cited of all the green spaces by the survey respondents.

8.15 Public surveys undertaken for previous open space studies also suggest that green corridors and linear routes may be important for some residents within the study area. 66% of respondents to the 2016 Hart public survey who feel

as though more open space is needed in the borough would like to see more 'green corridors'. 45% of respondents to the 2016 Surrey Heath public survey indicated that they use 'outdoor networks' (cycleways, footpaths, bridleways) more than once a week.

8.16 Linear SANG by definition do not contain a circular walk of 2.3km. Almost half of respondents to the online survey indicated that 'opportunities for a circular walk' is the most important feature when considering which green spaces to visit, although fewer said that a lack of circular walk would put them off visiting a site; 'there and back again' walks may therefore be acceptable in some cases. Where circular walks could be provided this would therefore be beneficial but lack of circular walk may not necessarily put off visitors to the site, particularly as linear sites are currently very well used. There may also be opportunities to link with other green spaces to provide circular routes, which could be part of a SANG network. This is the approach taken at Shepherd Meadows SANG (see paragraph 2.13, above), and the popularity of routes such as the Basingstoke Canal suggests that new linear SANG, particularly if they link into longer/recreational routes, could be created that are appealing to visitors.

8.17 Opportunities for linear SANG may be limited by a lack of suitable sites (typically alongside railways, rivers or canals; or other narrow sites), but by permitting SANGs on linear sites that would not otherwise meet SANG criteria (e.g. because of a lack of circular walk on site), more sites would be available than have been explored to date. If the creation of linear SANG therefore involves enhancing an existing site to increase the numbers of visits it receives, existing use will be an important factor. As with SANG networks, there is a risk that creation of linear SANG could make existing sites too busy or increase conflict between user groups but, overall, linear SANG appear to be likely to be effective as SANG alternatives.

8.18 Examples of existing locations that could be explored as linear SANG include: Castor Court Woods.

Enhancement or creation of recreational routes

8.19 Basingstoke Canal is the site listed most often in the online survey and is part of a long distance recreational route. Other footpaths and trails are also well used.

8.20 However, few respondents indicated that they consider 'clearly defined and waymarked walking trail(s)' as one of the most important features when considering which green space to visit (21% of dog walkers and 29% of other visitors).

8.21 As with linear SANG, opportunities for a circular walk could be created by linking a recreational route to other rights of way. However, existing recreational routes are well used and there may therefore be limited opportunities to create new or enhanced routes with significant capacity for use as mitigation, on their own. As with other linked networks, user conflict (paragraph 4.122, above) could also be an issue for recreational routes; and, particularly if they have some existing use, could limit their mitigation capacity.

8.22 Although there is less evidence that recreational routes could work on their own, they could be considered as part of a SANG network or incorporated into a linear SANG.

8.23 Examples of existing locations that could become recreational route include the Blackwater Valley walk and/or connections to it (this would involve enhancement, and it is already well used).

Smaller SANG / facilities with smaller catchments

8.24 Previous visitor surveys at the SPA and SANGs have found that 'close to home' is one of the main criteria by which people choose a green space to visit. The results of the 2020 online survey show similar results, with almost half of respondents stating that it is very important for a site to be 'within walking distance of home'. One third of respondents also said that sites 'close to home' were more important during the pandemic than usual.

8.25 Cross referencing postcode data with the 'most frequently visited green spaces' indicates that respondents are on average travelling the shortest distance to reach existing SANG sites (2km), when compared to average travel distance to the SPA and non-SANG / non-SPA sites, although it is likely that this data excludes smaller sites: smaller sites named in the survey were more difficult to match to specific named sites in the GIS data than larger sites.

8.26 49% of respondents said they have visited 'smaller grassed areas for recreation' in the last year, however, of the 'most visited' sites named by survey respondents, only a small proportion (2%) were at very small sites <2ha, both for dog walkers and others.

8.27 Looking at the data for the distances that people said they would travel to a new green space containing their five most important features, a larger percentage of dog walkers (50%) are only willing to walk up to 15 minutes (aprox.1.2km) when compared to cyclists and walkers (40% and 41% respectively). These distances are shorter than the distances estimated from postcode data and linked sites; and might be more representative of the distances that people do travel when smaller sites are also taken into account.

8.28 Consideration of smaller catchments may be most important for 'intercepting' dog walkers that may otherwise visit the SPA when compared to other user groups. The

average distances travelled for dog walking is relatively short compared to other activities, and similar for all types of sites. Dog walkers were found to be more likely to make longer visits to green spaces at the SPA than other users. Longer visits with dogs is likely to cause greater disturbance of SPA bird species than shorter visits or those without dogs, so diverting these to alternative sites would be beneficial.

8.29 Smaller SANG sites might therefore provide for convenient frequent visits, particularly for dog walkers, although other visitors (such as horse riders) may not be catered for. 'Very important' features that were more important to dog walkers than other visitors were 'space for dog off lead' and 'facilities for dogs' (whereas other visitors cited 'safe/secure' and 'free from smells/noise'). Dog walkers are also more likely to be put off by characteristics that affect dogs and dog walkers, such as the presence of grazing animals, a lack of space to take dogs off leads and a lack of water points. It is possible to provide spaces for dogs off lead and facilities for dogs within a smaller SANG and potential user conflicts could be overcome by providing new smaller SANG specifically with these features, rather than making use of already-popular sites.

8.30 It may be hard to provide a suitable offer at smaller SANG for some other types of users that seek out features for specific activities at larger sites, for example horse riding.

8.31 Smaller SANGs might lack the space within the site to provide a circular walk that meets 'must have' SANG criteria, and a circular walk was among the most important features that visitors look for in a green space (as above). However, as with linear SANG, a circular walk could be provided by linking a smaller SANG into existing rights of way/recreational routes.

8.32 Smaller SANGs have the advantage that smaller sites may be easier to find in urban areas (close to where people live) than other types of SANG, although to provide mitigation for a significant number of homes, there will need to be a lot of them, and existing use may already be high. Overall, it is considered that smaller SANG could be effective if provided in sufficient number; these could also be linked or close to other smaller sites, to provide a SANG network, particularly in urban areas.

8.33 Examples of existing locations that could be explored as smaller SANG include: Odiham Recreation Ground.

Larger SANG with larger catchments

8.34 Of the sites named by survey respondents as 'most frequently visited' that could be linked to specific named sites in the GIS data, 65% are 20ha+. All of the site entries indicating horse riding as the main reason for visiting are 20ha+, along with almost all of site entries for cycling / mountain biking – the SPA provides facilities for both. The results also suggest that larger sites are important for dog walking (72% of sites listed are 20ha+), 'nature / wildlife (76%), 'running / jogging (70%) and walking (65%).

8.35 Analysis of travel distances suggests that it may be difficult to create a large site with a catchment greater than 5km. The average distance travelled is notably higher for the SPA than for other 20ha+ sites, and a SANG would need to be more attractive than the SPA: 3.5km compared to 2.5km, although this may be because the SPA provides one of few large sites for horse riding and mountain biking. This estimated data is based on the online survey data (postcodes and linked green spaces), which captured green space use by people in Rushmoor, Hart and Surrey Heath, so visitors from further away would not have been picked up. The data on how far people would be willing to travel to a new site therefore provides a useful comparison.

8.36 A catchment of greater than 5km is beyond the distance that most people said they would be willing to walk to a new green space, For example, 50% of dog walkers are only willing to walk up to 15 minutes (c. 1.2km) when compared to cyclists and walkers (40% and 41% respectively) to reach a new green space containing their five most important features. But in terms of driving, the majority of survey respondents (40%) are willing to drive up to 30 minutes to reach a new green space containing their top five most important features, and 23% of all respondents would be willing to drive longer than 30 minutes; these times would suggest a travel distance of greater than 5km. Respondents indicated they would generally be less likely to travel short distances by car; 4% (up to five minutes), 8% (up to eight minutes) and 22% (up to 15 minutes).

8.37 Data on travel distance indicates that people will travel further to use facilities for specific activities such as horse riding and mountain biking. SANG alternatives providing these facilities (which could be larger sites, but not necessarily) could be further from people's homes, for example in the more rural areas of Hart. However, the survey data does not provide certainty that a SANG could be designed such that it would have a catchment larger than 5km.

8.38 Examples of existing locations that could be explored as larger SANG include: Heckfield Heath.

Capacity for mitigation

8.39 Having considered examples of potential sites for SANG alternatives, it is evident the popularity of a site for public use and enjoyment does not purely relate to its size. Other factors such as the type, characteristics and proximity of a site to residents are also important factors into determining the effectiveness of SANG alternatives.

8.40 Size may have a determining influence on the number of people visiting a site at any single time, however it is not clear what level of visitor numbers would be detrimental to attractiveness of the site to different user groups. Any increase in usage could be mitigated through the design of a space such as the type of path surface material and the ability to disperse visitor numbers throughout the site. The capacity of SANG alternatives would therefore need to be considered on a site by site basis, based on existing use, the character of the surrounding area and the proposed design of the SANG alternative. The requirement for 8ha per 1,000 population could therefore be used as a starting point but would need to be adjusted to take into account differences between SANG alternatives and standard SANG.

8.41 Further work on how the capacity and catchment of a SANG alternative could be defined has been undertaken by EPR[39]. Further details are provided in the EPR report.

[39] EPR (2020) Hart, Rushmoor & Surrey Heath SPA Mitigation Project: Mitigation Capacity Review

Appendix A
SANG Guidelines

SANG Guidelines produced by Natural England

Introduction

A.1 'Suitable Accessible Natural Green space' (SANG) is the name given to green space that is of a quality and type suitable to be used as mitigation within the Thames Basin Heaths Planning Zone.

A.2 Its role is to provide alternative green space to divert visitors from visiting the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). SANGs are intended to provide mitigation for the potential impact of residential development on the SPA by preventing an increase in visitor pressure on the SPA. The effectiveness of SANG as mitigation will depend upon the location and design. These must be such that the SANG is more attractive than the SPA to users of the kind that currently visit the SPA.

A.3 This document describes the features which have been found to draw visitors to the SPA, which should be replicated in SANG. It provides guidelines on

- the type of site which should be identified as SANG
- measures which can be taken to enhance sites so that they may be used as SANG

A.4 These guidelines relate specifically to the means to provide mitigation for housing within the Thames Basin Heaths Planning Zone. They do not address nor preclude the other functions of green space (e.g. provision of disabled access). Other functions may be provided within SANG, as long as this does not conflict with the specific function of mitigating visitor impacts on the SPA.

A.5 SANG may be created from:

- existing open space of SANG quality with no existing public access or limited public access, which for the purposes of mitigation could be made fully accessible to the public
- existing open space which is already accessible but which could be changed in character so that it is more attractive to the specific group of visitors who might otherwise visit the SPA

- land in other uses which could be converted into SANG

A.6 The identification of SANG should seek to avoid sites of high nature conservation value which are likely to be damaged by increased visitor numbers. Such damage may arise, for example, from increased disturbance, erosion, input of nutrients from dog faeces, and increased incidence of fires. Where sites of high nature conservation value are considered as SANG, the impact on their nature conservation value should be assessed and considered alongside relevant policy in the development plan.

The Character of the SPA and its Visitors

A.7 The Thames Basin Heaths SPA is made up of 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and consists of a mixture of heathland, mire, and woodland habitats. They are essentially "heathy" in character. The topography is varied and most sites have a large component of trees and some contain streams, ponds and small lakes. Some are freely accessible to the public and most have a degree of public access, though in some areas this is restricted by army, forestry or other operations.

A.8 A recent survey showed that more than 83% of visitors to the SPA arrive by car, though access points adjacent to housing estates showed a greater proportion arriving on foot (up to 100% in one case). 70% of those who visited by car had come from within 5km of the access point onto the SPA. A very large proportion of the SPA visitors are dog walkers, many of whom visit the particular site on a regular (more or less daily) basis and spend less than an hour there, walking on average about 2.5km. Almost 50% are retired or part-time workers and the majority are women. Further detailed information on visitors can be found in the reports referenced at the end of this document.

Guidelines for the Quality of SANG

A.9 The quality guidelines have been sub-divided into different aspects of site fabric and structure. They have been compiled from a variety of sources but principally from visitor surveys carried out at heathland sites within the Thames Basin Heaths area or within the Dorset heathlands. These are listed as references at the end of this document. The principle criteria contained in the Guidelines have also been put into a checklist format which is contained in Annexe 1.

Accessibility

A.10 Most visitors come by car and want the site to be fairly close to home. Unless SANGs are provided for the sole use of a local population living within a 400 metre catchment around the site, then the availability of adequate car parking at sites larger than 10 ha is essential. The amount and nature of parking provision should reflect the anticipated use of the site by visitors and the catchment size of the SANG. It should provide an attractive alternative to parking by the part of SPA for which it is mitigation. Car parks should be clearly signposted and easily accessed. New parking provision for SANG should be advertised as necessary to ensure that it is known of by potential visitors.

Target groups of Visitors

A.11 This should be viewed from two perspectives, the local use of a site where it is accessed on foot from the visitor's place of residence, and a wider catchment use where it is accessed by car. Most of the visitors to the SPA come by car and therefore should be considered as a pool of users from beyond the immediate vicinity of the site. All but the smallest SANG should therefore target this type of visitor. It is apparent from access surveys that a significant proportion of those people who visit the sites on foot, also visit alternative sites on foot and so this smaller but significant group look for local sites. Where large populations are close to the SPA, the provision of SANG should be attractive to visitors on foot.

Networks of sites

A.12 The provision of longer routes within larger SANG is important in determining the effectiveness of the authorities' network of SANG as mitigation, because a large proportion of visitors to the SPA have long walks or run or bicycle rides. The design of routes within sites at the smaller than about 40 ha will be critical to providing routes of sufficient length and attractiveness for mitigation purposes.

A.13 Where long routes cannot be accommodated within individual SANG it may be possible to provide them through a network of sites. However, networks are inherently likely to be less attractive to users of the type that visit the SPA, and the more fragmented they are, the less attractive they will be, though this is dependent on the land use which separates each component. For example, visitors are likely to be less put off by green areas between SANG than by urban areas, even if they restrict access to rights of way and require dogs to be kept on leads.

A.14 Though networks of SANG may accommodate long visitor routes and this is desirable, they should not be solely relied upon to provide long routes.

A.15 Specific guidance on individual SANG is summarised in Annexe 2. An information sheet for individual SANG can also be found in Annexe 4.

Paths, Roads and Tracks

A.16 The findings suggest that SANG should aim to supply a choice of routes of around 2.5km in length with both shorter and longer routes of at least 5km as part of the choice, where space permits. The fact that a considerable proportion of visitors were walking up to 5km and beyond suggests the provision of longer routes should be regarded as a standard, either on-site or through the connection of sites along green corridors.

A.17 Paths do not have to be of any particular width, and both vehicular-sized tracks and narrow PRoW type paths are acceptable to visitors.

A.18 The majority of visitors are female and safety is one of the primary concerns of site visitors. Paths should be routed so that they are perceived as safe by the users, with some routes being through relatively open (visible) terrain (with no trees or scrub, or well spaced mature trees, or wide rides with vegetation back from the path), especially those routes which are 1-3 km long.

A.19 The routing of tracks along hill tops and ridges where there are views is valued by the majority of visitors. A substantial number of visitors like to have surfaced but not tarmac paths, particularly where these blend in well with the landscape. This is not necessary for all paths but there should be some more visitor-friendly routes built into the structure of a SANG, particularly those routes which are 1-3 km long.

Artificial Infrastructure

A.20 Little or no artificial infrastructure is found within the SPA at present apart from the provision of some surfaced tracks and car parks. Generally an urban influence is not what people are looking for when they visit the SPA and some people undoubtedly visit the SPA because it has a naturalness about it that would be marred by such features.

A.21 However, SANG would be expected to have adequate car parking with good information about the site and the routes available. Some subtle waymarking would also be expected for those visitors not acquainted with the layout of the site.

A.22 Other infrastructure would not be expected and should generally be restricted to the vicinity of car parking areas where good information and signs of welcome should be the norm, though discretely placed benches or information boards along some routes would be acceptable.

Landscape and Vegetation

A.23 SANGs do not have to contain heathland or heathy vegetation to provide an effective alternative to the SPA.

A.24 Surveys clearly show that woodland or a semi-wooded landscape is a key feature that people appreciate in the sites they visit, particularly those who use the SPA. This is considered to be more attractive than open landscapes or parkland with scattered trees.

A.25 A semi-natural looking landscape with plenty of variation was regarded as most desirable by visitors and some paths through quite enclosed woodland scored highly. There is clearly a balance to be struck between what is regarded as an exciting landscape and a safe one and so some element of choice between the two would be highly desirable. The semi-wooded and undulating nature of most of the SPA sites gives them an air of relative wildness, even when there are significant numbers of visitors on site. SANG should aim to reproduce this quality.

A.26 Hills do not put people off visiting a site, particularly where these are associated with good views, but steep hills are not appreciated. An undulating landscape is preferred to a flat one. Water features, particularly ponds and lakes, act as a focus for visitors for their visit, but are not essential.

Restrictions on usage

A.27 The majority of the people using most of the SPA sites come to walk, with or without dogs. At two or three sites there were also a significant number of cyclists and joggers. A small amount of horse riding also occurs at some sites.

A.28 The bulk of visitors to the SPA came to exercise their dogs and so it is imperative that SANG allow for pet owners to let dogs run freely over a significant part of the walk. Access on SANG should be largely unrestricted, with both people and their pets being able to freely roam along the majority of routes. This means that sites where freely roaming dogs will cause a nuisance or where they might be in danger (from traffic or such like) should not be considered for SANG.

A.29 It may be that in some areas where dog ownership is low or where the cultural mix includes significant numbers of people sensitive to pets, then the provision of areas where dogs are unrestricted can be reduced. It should also be possible to vary restriction over time according to the specific needs of a community, providing effective mitigation is maintained. SANG proposals which incorporate restrictions on dogs should be in the minority of SANG and would need to be considered on a case by case basis in relation to the need for restrictions.

Assessment of site enhancement as mitigation

A.30 SANG may be provided by the enhancement of existing sites, including those already accessible to the public that have a low level of use and could be enhanced to attract more visitors. The extent of enhancement and the number of extra visitors to be attracted would vary from site to site. Those sites which are enhanced only slightly would be expected to provide less of a mitigation effect than those enhanced greatly, in terms of the number of people they would divert away from the SPA. In order to assess the contribution of enhancement sites in relation to the hectare standards of the Delivery Plan, it is necessary to distinguish between slight and great enhancement.

A.31 Methods of enhancement for the purposes of this guidance could include enhanced access through guaranteed long-term availability of the land, creation of a car park or a network of paths.

A.32 SANGs which have not previously been open to the public count in full to the standard of providing 8ha of SANG per 1000 people in new development in zone B. SANGs which have an appreciable but clearly low level of public use and can be substantially enhanced to greatly increase the number of visitors also count in full. The identification of these sites should arise from evidence of low current use. This could be in a variety of forms, for example:

- Experience of managing the site, which gives a clear qualitative picture that few visitors are present
- Quantitative surveys of visitor numbers
- Identified constraints on access, such as lack of gateways at convenient points and lack of parking
- Lack of easily usable routes through the site
- Evidence that the available routes through the site are little used (paths may show little wear, be narrow and encroached on by vegetation)

A.33 SANGs with no evidence of a low level of use should not count in full towards the Delivery Plan standards. Information should be collected by the local planning authority to enable assessment of the level of increased use which can be made of the SANG. The area of the site which is counted towards the Delivery Plan standards should be proportional to the increase in use of the site. For example, a site already used to half of its expected capacity should count as half of its area towards the standards.

Staging of enhancement works

A.34 Where it is proposed to separate the enhancement works on a site into separate stages, to deliver incremental increases in visitor use, the proportion of the increase in visitor use arising from each stage should be estimated. This would enable the granting of planning permission for residential development to be staged in parallel to ensure that the amount of housing permitted does not exceed the capacity of SANG to mitigate its effects on the SPA.

Practicality of enhancement works

A.35 The selection of sites for enhancement to be SANG should take into account the variety of stakeholder interests in each site. Consideration should be given to whether any existing use of the site which may continue is compatible with the function of SANG in attracting recreational use that would otherwise take place on the SPA. The enhancement should not result in moving current users off the SANG and onto the SPA. The specific enhancement works proposed should also be considered in relation not only to their effects on the SANG mitigation function but also in relation to their effects on other user groups.

SANG Guidelines Annexe 1 Site Quality Checklist – for a suite of SANGs

A.36 This guidance is designed as an Appendix to the full guidance on Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) to be used as mitigation (or avoidance) land to reduce recreational use of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.

A.37 The wording in the list below is precise and has the following meaning:

- Requirements referred to as "must" are essential in all SANGs
- Those requirements referred to as "should haves" should all be represented within the suite of SANGs, but do not all have to be represented in every site.
- All SANGs should have at least one of the "desirable" features.

A.38 Must haves

- For all sites larger than 4ha there must be adequate parking for visitors, unless the site is intended for local use, i.e. within easy walking distance (400m) of the developments linked to it. The amount of car parking space should be determined by the anticipated use of the site and reflect the visitor catchment of both the SANGs and the SPA.
- It should be possible to complete a circular walk of 2.3-2.5km around the SANGs.
- Car parks must be easily and safely accessible by car and should be clearly sign posted.
- The accessibility of the site must include access points appropriate for the particular visitor use the SANGs is intended to cater for.
- The SANGs must have a safe route of access on foot from the nearest car park and/or footpath/s
- All SANGs with car parks must have a circular walk which starts and finishes at the car park.
- SANGs must be designed so that they are perceived to be safe by users; they must not have tree and scrub cover along parts of the walking routes
- Paths must be easily used and well maintained but most should remain unsurfaced to avoid the site becoming too urban in feel.
- SANGs must be perceived as semi-natural spaces with little intrusion of artificial structures, except in the immediate vicinity of car parks. Visually-sensitive way-markers and some benches are acceptable.
- All SANGs larger than 12 ha must aim to provide a variety of habitats for users to experience.
- Access within the SANGs must be largely unrestricted with plenty of space provided where it is possible for dogs to exercise freely and safely off lead.
- SANGs must be free from unpleasant intrusions (e.g. sewage treatment works smells etc.).

A.39 Should haves

- SANGs should be clearly sign-posted or advertised in some way.
- SANGs should have leaflets and/or websites advertising their location to potential users. It would be desirable for leaflets to be distributed to new homes in the area and be made available at entrance points and car parks.

A.40 Desirable

- It would be desirable for an owner to be able to take dogs from the car park to the SANGs safely off the lead.
- Where possible it is desirable to choose sites with a gently undulating topography for SANGs
- It is desirable for access points to have signage outlining the layout of the SANGs and the routes available to visitors.
- It is desirable that SANGs provide a naturalistic space with areas of open (non-wooded) countryside and areas of dense and scattered trees and shrubs. The provision of open water on part, but not the majority of sites is desirable.
- Where possible it is desirable to have a focal point such as a view point, monument etc. within the SANGs.

SANG Guidelines Annexe 2 Site Quality Checklist – for an individual SANG

A.41 The wording in the list below is precise and has the following meaning:

- Requirements referred to as "must" or "should haves" are essential
- The SANGs should have at least one of the "desirable" features.

A.42 Must/ Should haves

- For all sites larger than 4ha there must be adequate parking for visitors, unless the site is intended for local use, i.e. within easy walking distance (400m) of the developments linked to it. The amount of car parking space should be determined by the anticipated use of the site and reflect the visitor catchment of both the SANGs and the SPA.
- It should be possible to complete a circular walk of 2.3-2.5km around the SANGs.
- Car parks must be easily and safely accessible by car and should be clearly sign posted.
- The accessibility of the site must include access points appropriate for the particular visitor use the SANGs is intended to cater for.
- The SANGs must have a safe route of access on foot from the nearest car park and/or footpath/s.
- All SANGs with car parks must have a circular walk which starts and finishes at the car park.
- SANGs must be designed so that they are perceived to be safe by users; they must not have tree and scrub covering parts of the walking routes.
- Paths must be easily used and well maintained but most should remain unsurfaced to avoid the site becoming too urban in feel.
- SANGs must be perceived as semi-natural spaces with little intrusion of artificial structures, except in the immediate vicinity of car parks. Visually-sensitive way-markers and some benches are acceptable.
- All SANGs larger than 12 ha must aim to provide a variety of habitats for users to experience.
- Access within the SANGs must be largely unrestricted with plenty of space provided where it is possible for dogs to exercise freely and safely off lead.
- SANGs must be free from unpleasant intrusions (e.g. sewage treatment works smells etc.).
- SANGs should be clearly sign-posted or advertised in some way.
- SANGs should have leaflets and/or websites advertising their location to potential users. It would be desirable for leaflets to be distributed to new homes in the area and be made available at entrance points and car parks.

A.43 Desirable

- It would be desirable for an owner to be able to take dogs from the car park to the SANGs safely off the lead.
- Where possible it is desirable to choose sites with a gently undulating topography for SANGs
- It is desirable for access points to have signage outlining the layout of the SANGs and the routes available to visitors.
- It is desirable that SANGs provide a naturalistic space with areas of open (non-wooded) countryside and areas of dense and scattered trees and shrubs. The provision of open water on part, but not the majority of sites is desirable.
- Where possible it is desirable to have a focal point such as a view point, monument etc. within the SANGs.

SANG Guidelines Annexe 3: Background

A.44 The Thames Basin Heaths SPA was designated in 2005 under the Habitats Regulations 1994 to protect the populations of three internationally-threatened bird species that use the heathlands: woodlark, nightjar and Dartford warbler. One of the principle threats to these species is disturbance during their breeding period which collectively extends from February to August. Freely roaming dogs hugely exacerbate the disturbance caused by people visiting the sites.

A.45 The Thames Basin Heaths area is much urbanised with little green space available to people apart from the designated areas of heathland. The whole area is also under pressure for more housing.

A.46 The Habitats Regulations require an 'appropriate assessment' to be carried out for any plan or project (including housing developments) which may affect the designated interest, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The result is that each new planning application within the Thames Basin Heaths Planning Zone would have to be assessed in combination with all the other extant applications. A solution to this situation (which would cause a log jam in the planning system) is the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan.

A.47 The Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework, which is monitored by the TBH Joint Strategic Partnership Board, provides the framework for addressing new residential development in the Thames Basin Heaths Planning Zone.

A.48 The need to provide green space for the community was incorporated into planning policy through PPG 17, originally published in 1991 and revised in 2003. It requires local authorities to set green space standards locally but that these should include aspects of quantity, quality and accessibility. PPG17 illustrates the breath of type and use of public open spaces that are encompassed by the guidelines. SANGs fit into a small proportion of these. Local authorities may look at provision of SANGs in relation to other public open space provision within their area and identify potential SANGs as part of their audit of green space.

SANG Guidelines Annexe 4: SANGs Information Form

A.49 This form is designed to help you gather information about any potential SANGs. For more guidance on the creation of SANGs, please also refer to the relevant Borough Council's Thames Basin Heaths SPA Interim Avoidance Plan.

A.50 Natural England, Local Planning Authorities, and other organisations will then be able to consider the potential suitability of the proposed SANGs based on this initial information.

Background information

Name and location of proposed SANGs	Name: Address: Grid reference: (Please attach a map of the site with the boundaries clearly marked)
Size of the proposed SANGs (hectares), excluding water features	
Any current designations on land - e.g. LNR / SNCI	
Current owners name and address. (If there is more than one owner then please attach a map)	
Who manages the land?	
Legal arrangements for the land – e.g. how long is the lease?	
Is there a management plan for the site? (if so, please attach)	
Is the site currently accessible to the public?	
Does the site have open access?	
Has there been a visitor survey of the site? (If so, please attach)	
If there has been no visitor survey, please give an indication of the current visitor levels on site	High / Medium / Low
Does the site have existing car parking?	Yes / No How many car parks? How may car parking spaces? (Please mark car parks and numbers of car parking spaces on the site map)
Are there any existing routes or paths on the site?	Yes / No (Please mark these on the map)
Are there signs to direct people to the site? (Please indicate where and what type of sign)	

Site quality checklist

A.51 This checklist is intended to help identify what is already present on the site and what needs to be developed for the SANGs to be suitable. This information is taken from Annexe 2 – please refer to Annexe 2 for more details.

Must/should haves – these criteria are essential for all SANGs			
	Criteria	Current	Future
1	Parking on all sites larger than 4ha (unless the site is intended for use within 400m only)		
2	Circular walk of 2.3-2.5km		
3	Car parks easily and safely accessible by car and clearly sign posted		
4	Access points appropriate for particular visitor use the SANGs is intended to cater for		
5	Safe access route on foot from nearest car park and/or footpath		
6	Circular walk which starts and finishes at the car park		
7	Perceived as safe – no tree and scrub cover along part of walking routes		
8	Paths easily used and well maintained but mostly unsurfaced		
9	Perceived as semi-natural with little intrusion of artificial structures		
10	If larger than 12 ha then a range of habitats should be present		
11	Access unrestricted – plenty of space for dogs to exercise freely and safely off the lead		
12	No unpleasant intrusions (e.g. sewage treatment smells etc.)		
13	Clearly sign posted or advertised in some way		
14	Leaflets or website advertising their location to potential users (distributed to homes and made available at entrance points and car parks)		
Desirable features			
15	Can dog owners take dogs from the car park to the SANGs safely off the lead		
16	Gently undulating topography		
17	Access points with signage outlining the layout of the SANGs and routes available to visitors		
18	Naturalistic space with areas of open (non-wooded) countryside and areas of dense and scattered trees and shrubs. Provision of open water is desirable		
19	Focal point such as a view point or monument within the SANGs		

Appendix B

Summary of survey results

A summary of responses to each question of the online public survey undertaken to inform the study

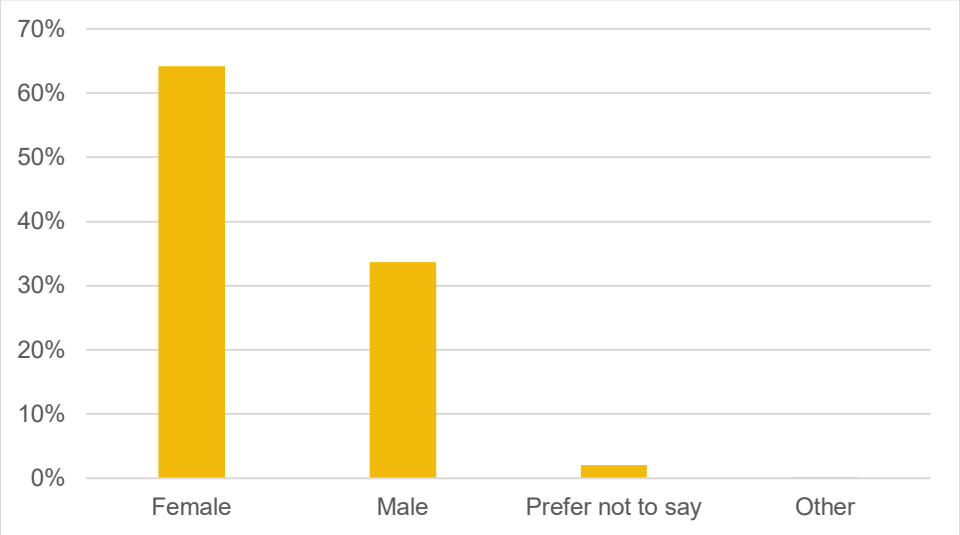
The public survey was hosted on the online platform Survey Monkey. It ran for four weeks, between 14 August and 11 September 2020, and was promoted through Rushmoor, Surrey Heath and Hart Councils' social media accounts and websites. Primary data collection focused on general green space usage across the three local authorities. Respondents were asked to provide their postcode. Where it was possible to do so, postcode data was linked to site specific questions in order to analyse 'distance travelled' to different types of sites.

Data management

- Blank responses with no data entry were removed prior to analysis.
- Repeat responses from identical IP addresses were removed.
- Following removal blank responses and repeat IP addresses, a total of 909 responses were included within the analysis.
- Some responses were 'incomplete' (i.e. the respondent did not complete every question within the survey). Incomplete responses have been retained and included within the analysis as the questions that have been answered still provide useful information.
- The number of respondents who answered or 'skipped' each question is indicated below. Percentages used below and within the body of the report relate to the percentage of respondents that answered the question, not including those that skipped the question.
- For questions that ask respondents to 'tick all that apply' the number of respondents that selected each option within the list is shown.

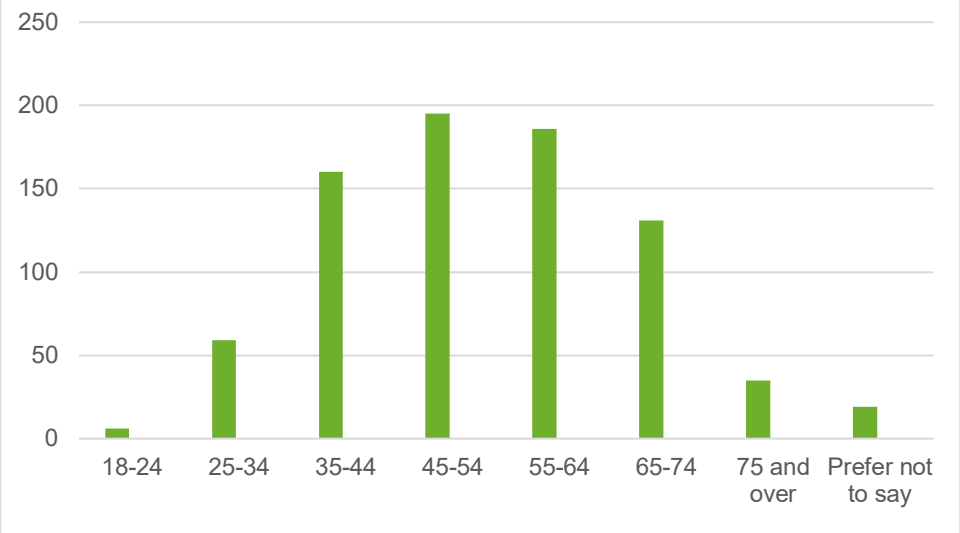
Questions 13 to 16: demographic data

Do you consider yourself:



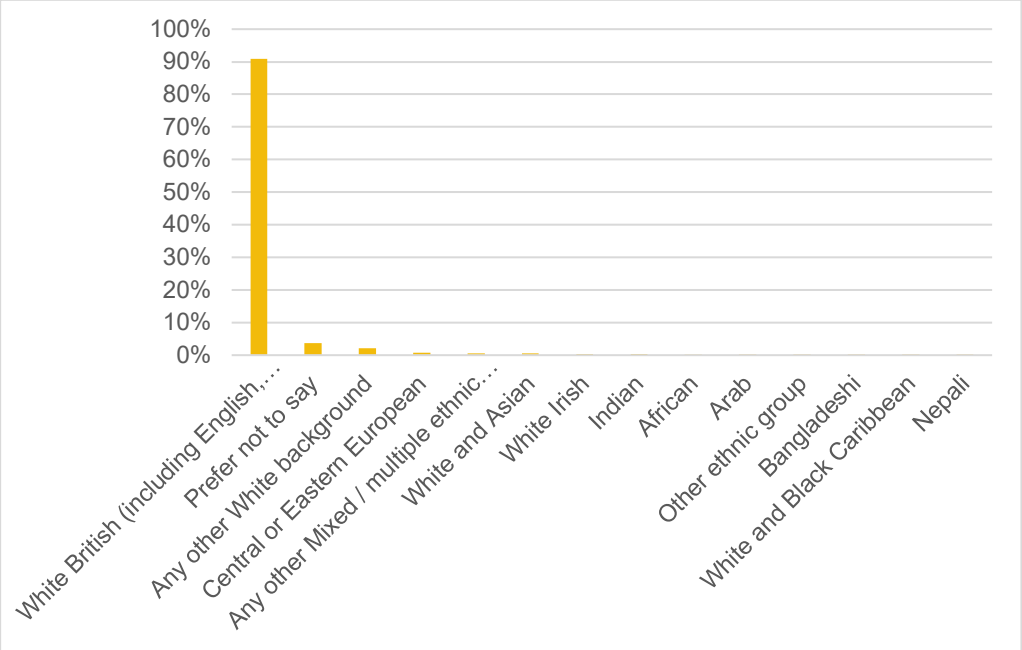
answered	792	87%
skipped	117	13%
total	909	100%

What age are you?



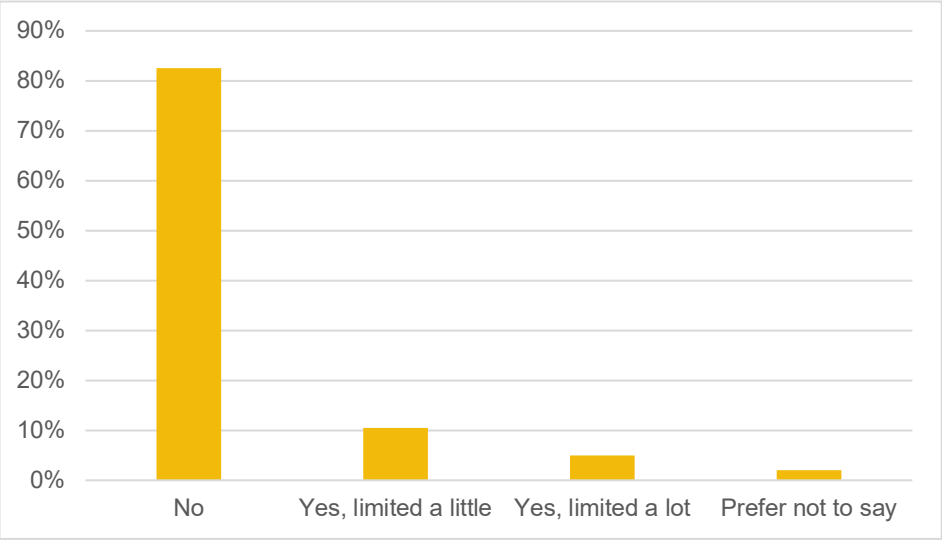
answered	791	87%
skipped	118	13%
total	909	100%

How would you describe your ethnicity?



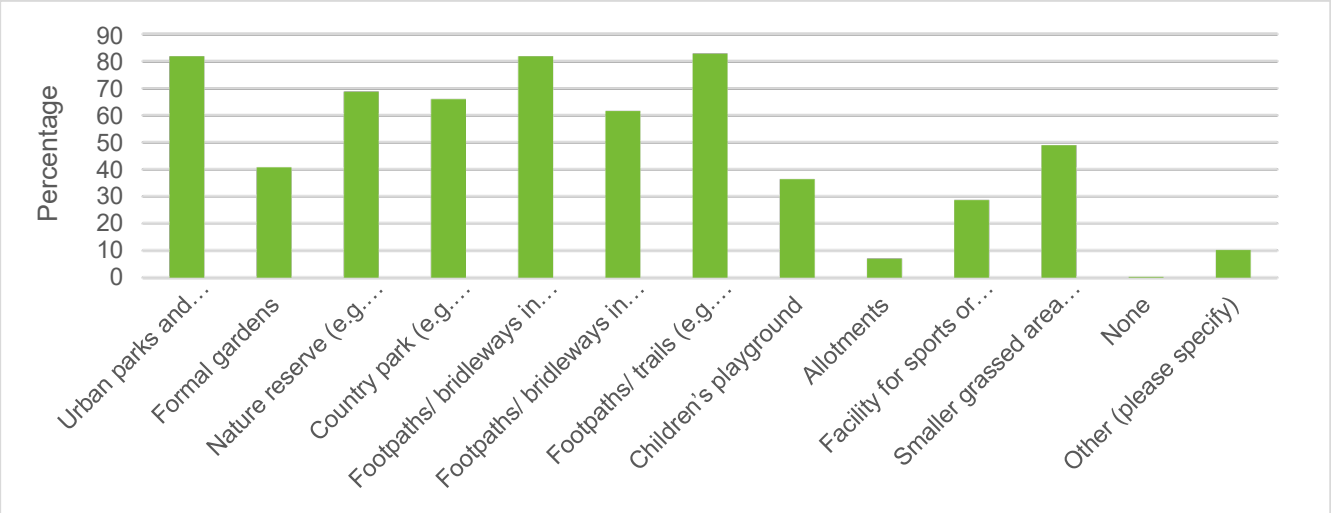
answered	789	87%
skipped	120	13%
total	909	100%

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? (Please include any problems related to old age)



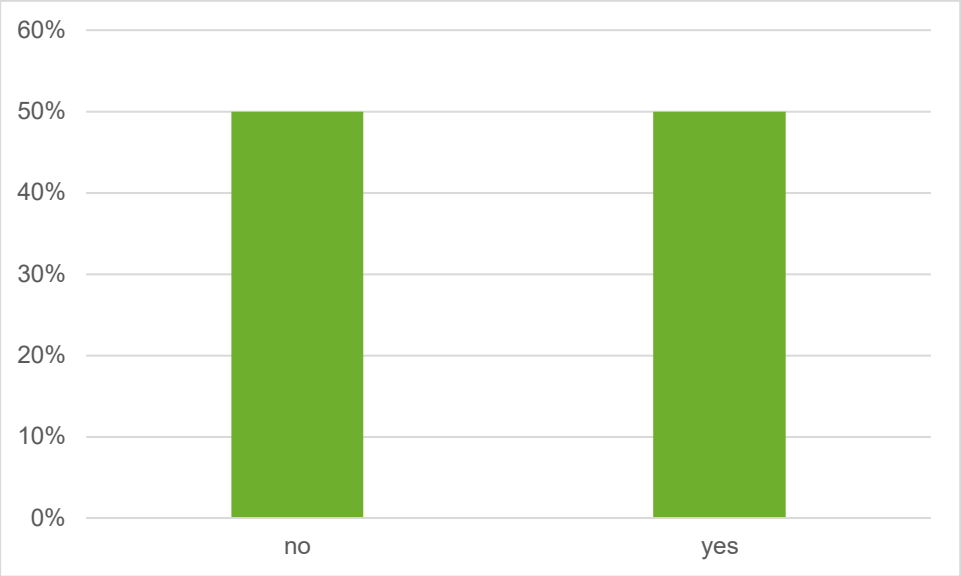
answered	792	87%
skipped	117	13%
total	909	100%

Question two. Which of the following types of green spaces have you visited in the last year? (Tick all that apply)



Typology	No. of respondents
Urban parks and recreation grounds	744
Formal gardens	371
Nature reserve (e.g. RSPB site) or other 'natural' area	625
Country park (e.g. Lightwater Country Park)	600
Footpaths/ bridleways in the countryside	744
Footpaths/ bridleways in an urban area	560
Footpaths/ trails (e.g. alongside canal, river, disused railways)	753
Children's playground	331
Allotments	64
Facility for sports or fitness (e.g. ball court, outdoor gym, mountain bike trails)	261
Smaller grassed area suitable for informal recreation	445
None	3
Other (please specify)	93

Question six. Do you use different types of green spaces at different times of the day, week or year?



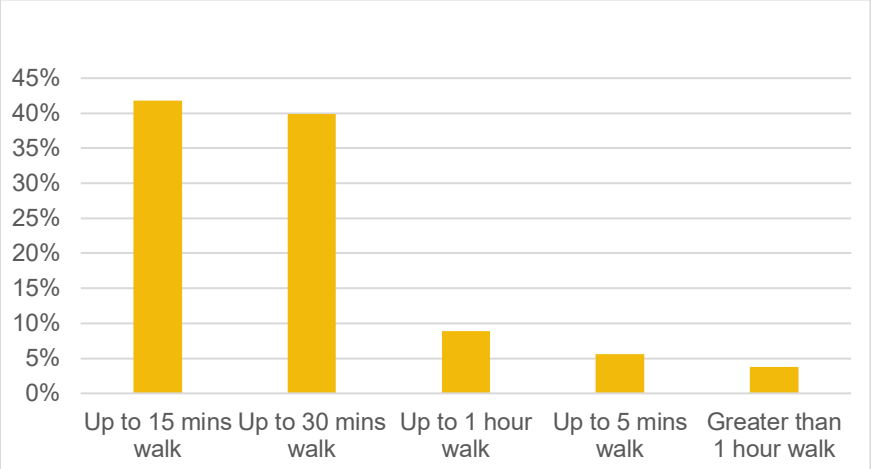
Five respondents skipped this question

Question seven. Please tell us which of the following features are present at, or apply to, the green space you visit most frequently. Please also tell us which five features are most important, and which five features are least important to you, when considering which green spaces to visit.

	No of respondents				% of respondents			
Feature	Applies to green spaces you visit	Very important when considering which green space to visit	Least important when considering which green space to visit	More important during pandemic than usual	Applies to green spaces you visit	Very important when considering which green space to visit	Least important when considering which green space to visit	More important during pandemic than usual
Within walking distance of home	563	419	78	301	61.94%	46.09%	8.58%	33.11%
Wildlife/ access to nature	499	420	47	74	54.90%	46.20%	5.17%	8.14%
Variety of landscape features such as woodlands, grassland, heathlands and waterbodies etc	478	408	65	58	52.59%	44.88%	7.15%	6.38%
Variety (type / length) of walking/ cycling /horse riding routes	465	389	91	106	51.16%	42.79%	10.01%	11.66%
Opportunities for a circular walk (ie not just 'there and back again')	461	426	98	84	50.72%	46.86%	10.78%	9.24%
Visually attractive without many artificial structures to spoil the view	444	400	83	49	48.84%	44.00%	9.13%	5.39%
Convenient car parking	392	314	244	74	43.12%	34.54%	26.84%	8.14%
Make you feel safe/secure	385	347	65	109	42.35%	38.17%	7.15%	11.99%
Quiet / not many people	366	331	83	230	40.26%	36.41%	9.13%	25.30%
Free from unpleasant smells, noise etc.	350	347	60	40	38.50%	38.17%	6.60%	4.40%
Clearly defined and waymarked walking trail	332	241	230	47	36.52%	26.51%	25.30%	5.17%
Signage at access points outlining layout of green space and routes available	292	213	203	53	32.12%	23.43%	22.33%	5.83%
Links/ routes to other green spaces in the surrounding area	276	220	214	56	30.36%	24.20%	23.54%	6.16%
Space to walk dogs off lead away from potential conflicts with other users	235	224	289	44	25.85%	24.64%	31.79%	4.84%
Well used / sociable	217	89	375	28	23.87%	9.79%	41.25%	3.08%
Facilities for dogs e.g. dog waste bins, water points / bowls, dog exercise area	199	208	261	26	21.89%	22.88%	28.71%	2.86%
Accessible trails / facilities (e.g. for pushchair or wheelchair)	185	120	400	39	20.35%	13.20%	44.00%	4.29%
A focal point such as a viewpoint or a monument.	178	103	331	31	19.58%	11.33%	36.41%	3.41%

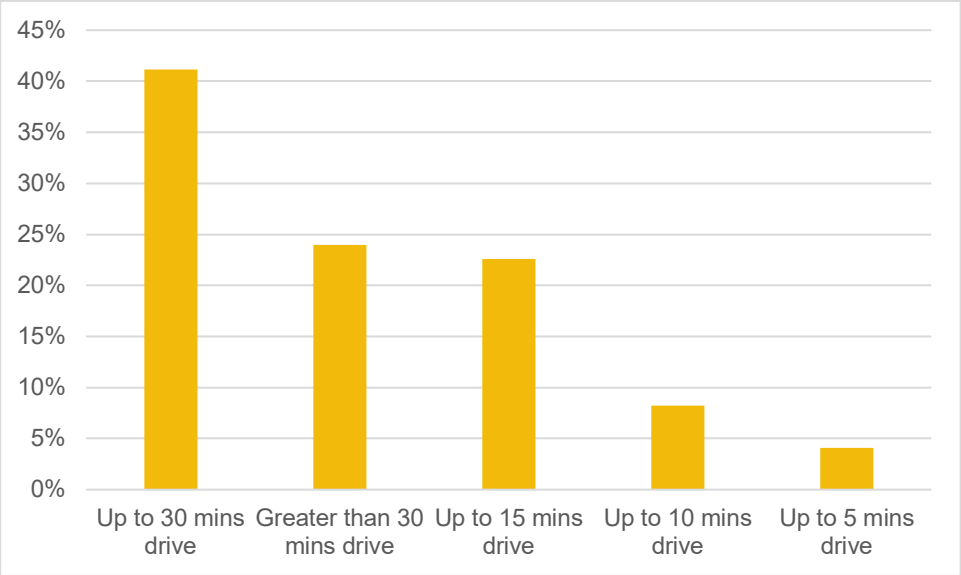
Area of green space securely fenced to allow dogs to be walked off leads	149	157	331	22	16.39%	17.27%	36.41%	2.42%
Toilets	147	182	271	41	16.17%	20.02%	29.81%	4.51%
Playground / play equipment	121	107	412	14	13.31%	11.77%	45.32%	1.54%
Visitor centre and / or café	114	104	420	15	12.54%	11.44%	46.20%	1.65%
Sports / fitness facilities	82	46	458	23	9.02%	5.06%	50.39%	2.53%
Easy to get to on public transport	41	16	574	10	4.51%	1.76%	63.15%	1.10%

Question eight. How far would you be willing to walk to a new green space which contains your top five most important features? (Tick one that applies)



Twelve respondents skipped this question.

Question nine. How far would you be willing to travel by car to a new green space which contains your top five most important features? (Select one that applies)



24 respondents skipped this question.

Question ten. What would put you off using a green space? (Tick all that apply)

What would put you off using a green space?	Dog walker		Non-dog walker	
	No.	%	No.	%
Distance from home	116	40.99%	242	38.66%
Difficult to find somewhere to park	208	73.50%	392	62.62%
Lack of variety of walking routes (e.g. type / length)	98	34.63%	149	23.80%
Lack of circular walk	45	15.90%	125	19.97%
Lack of links/ routes to surrounding green spaces	20	7.67%	45	7.19%
Too busy	243	85.86%	486	77.64%
Too noisy	181	63.96%	394	62.94%
Potential conflicts with other users	161	56.89%	291	46.49%
Presence of grazing animals	54	19.08%	34	5.43%
Lack of toilets	36	12.72%	175	27.96%
Lack of benches	27	9.54%	73	11.66%
Lack of play facilities	11	3.89%	32	5.11%
Lack of visitor centre or café	20	7.67%	48	7.67%
Lack of secure space to walk dogs off leads	116	40.99%	20	3.19%
Lack of water points/ dog wash/ bowls	20	7.67%	6	0.96%
Feels unsafe / concerns about antisocial behaviour	215	75.97%	463	73.96%
Route to green space feels unsafe: need to cross large roads, traffic, lack of people etc.)	116	40.99%	207	33.07%
Route to green space is unappealing: passes through urban area with limited open space or other green features	57	20.14%	127	20.29%
Lack of disabled access	8	2.83%	32	5.11%
Litter / lack of bins	137	48.41%	259	41.37%
Unattractive appearance of the green space	144	50.88%	341	54.47%
Other (please specify)	14	4.95%	42	6.71%

Questions three to five: site specific questions

Respondents were asked to locate their most frequently visited sites on a web map as part of the online survey (by 'dropping a pin' on the map). This has allowed the incorporation of site data (typology, size) etc. into the subsequent analysis. It has also allowed postcode data to be cross referenced with listed sites to generate average travel distances. In order to do this analysis the 'pins' on the map were linked to the survey responses. In some instances, linking of site data to the survey responses could not be achieved for the following reasons:

- The respondent did not drop a pin on the map so there is no spatial data.
- The respondent dropped a pin on the map but it did not correspond with open space data provided by the client, meaning that site names, site sizes, site typology could not be brought through.

Full analysis incorporating site data could only be achieved where the respondent dropped a pin on the map and it did correspond with open space data provided by the client, meaning site names, site sizes and site typology could be brought through.

Analysis of site data (size, typology etc.) relating to respondents 'most frequently visited' green spaces (whether percentages or response count) therefore relates to the sample that could be successfully linked to the open space data provided by the local authorities, not the number of respondents or the total number of site entries within the online survey.

Questions three required the input of 'free text' to identify up to five of each respondents' most frequently visited sites. **Questions four and five** asked specific question relating to each of the sites that were identified by each respondent. Responses for these questions (whether percentages of 'response count') therefore relate to the total number of 'entries', or individual site names given, rather than the number of respondents.

Responses were spot checked for consistency. The following limitations to the free text responses have been considered while sorting the data and during subsequent analysis and interpretation of the results:

- Different respondents may use different local names to identify the same site.
- Respondents may refer to specific locations within, or entrances to, sites (most often with sites covering large geographic areas, or linear sites).
- Spelling errors, inconsistent word spacing and punctuation.

Site names were grouped to account for variations in spelling and punctuation. Grouping also enables high level analysis by site where respondents have referred to specific entrances or locations within open spaces. Specific entrances or locations within green spaces were retained within the original entry.

Please name up to five of the green spaces that you have visited most frequently in the last year (pre pandemic and during). If you visited a different green space during the pandemic, please tell us why.

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Basingstoke canal	312	Yes	No
Fleet Pond	176	Yes	Yes

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Lightwater country park	133	Yes	Yes
Frimley Lodge Park	124	Yes	Yes
Caesar's Camp	118	No	Yes
Bramshott Country Park	102	Yes	No
Blackwater Valley	96	Yes	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Hawley Woods	86	Yes	No
Southwood country park	80	No	Yes
Manor Park	78	Yes	Yes
Queen Elizabeth Park	77	Yes	Yes
Hawley lake	59	Yes	No
King George V playing field	58	Yes	No
Aldershot Park	55	Yes	Yes
Yateley Common	53	Yes	Yes
Southwood Woodlands	53	Yes	Yes
Ash Ranges	42	Yes	No
Rowhill Nature reserve	38	Yes	Yes
Eden brook Country Park	37	Yes	No
Brickfields Country Park	37	Yes	Yes
Frimley Fuel Allotments	36	Yes	Yes
Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve	35	Yes	No
Southwood Woodland	34	Yes	Yes
Minley Woods	32	No	Yes
Wellesley woodlands	30	Yes	Yes
Chobham common	30	Yes	Yes
Cove Brook	30	Yes	Yes
Watchetts Park and Lakes	29	Yes	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Farnham Park	28	Yes	No
Heatherside Recreation Ground	27	Yes	Yes
Hawley meadows	27	Yes	Yes
Swinley Forest	26	Yes	Yes
Virginia Water	25	Yes	No
Barossa Common	25	Yes	No
Rectory road park	24	Yes	No
Shepherds Meadow	23	Yes	Yes
Calthorpe Park	22	Yes	Yes
Hartland Country Park	21	Yes	No
Oakley park	21	Yes	Yes
Southwood	20	Yes	Yes
southwood Golf Course	19	Yes	Yes
Caesar's Camp	19	Yes	Yes
Velmead Common	18	Yes	Yes
Cove Green	18	Yes	Yes
Barossa	18	Yes	No
Watchmoor nature reserve	17	Yes	Yes
Long Valley	16	Yes	Yes
Moor Road Park	15	No	Yes
Sandhurst memorials	14	Yes	No
Horseshoe Lake	14	No	No
Wellington Statue and trails	13	Yes	No
Swan Lake	13	Yes	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Tweseldown	13	Yes	No
Frensham Pond	13	No	No
Basingbourne Park	13	Yes	Yes
Canal	13	Yes	Yes
Brentmoor Heath	13	Yes	Yes
castle bottom	13	Yes	Yes
Velmead Woods	12	Yes	Yes
Crabtree Park	12	No	No
Municipal Gardens	11	Yes	Yes
Minley	11	Yes	Yes
Mytchett Canal Centre	10	Yes	Yes
Mod Land	10	Yes	No
Minley Manor Area	10	Yes	Yes
Wellington Country Park	9	No	No
Wellingtonia Avenue	9	Yes	Yes
Windsor Great Park	9	No	No
Queens Road Park	9	No	No
Hazeley Heath	9	Yes	Yes
Frimley recreation ground	9	No	No
Allotment	9	Yes	Yes
Bisley common	9	Yes	Yes
West End Common	8	Yes	No
Rowhill Copse	8	Yes	Yes

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Windlesham Field of Remembrance	8	No	No
Puttenham Common	8	No	No
The Views	8	Yes	Yes
RHS Wisley	8	Yes	No
Rowhill	8	Yes	Yes
Naish's Sangs	8	Yes	No
Mytchett woods	8	No	Yes
Horsell common	8	No	No
Hawley green	8	Yes	No
Wisley Gardens	7	No	No
Watchetts recreation ground	7	Yes	No
Queen's Parade	7	No	No
Yateley green	7	Yes	Yes
Elvetham Heath Nature reserve	7	Yes	Yes
Bourley Lakes	7	Yes	No
Priory Street Park	6	No	No
Sheets Heath	6	Yes	No
Zebon Copse Nature Reserve	6	No	No
Napier gardens	6	No	No
Frensham little pond	6	Yes	No
North Downs Way	6	Yes	No
Frimley Green Recreation Ground	6	No	No
Moor Green Lakes	6	Yes	No
Blunden Park	6	Yes	Yes

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Chobham water meadows	6	No	No
Alice Holt	6	No	No
West Green Common	5	Yes	No
Windlesham Sang	5	No	No
Tomlinscote woods	5	No	No
Savill Garden	5	No	No
Velmead Wood	5	Yes	Yes
The Ash Ranges	5	No	No
Windlesham Arboretum	5	No	No
The Ranges	5	Yes	No
Wisley	5	No	No
Hawley Common	5	Yes	No
Frith hill	5	No	No
Hawley	5	Yes	No
Ancells Park	5	Yes	No
Earlswood park	5	No	No
Devil's punch bowl	5	No	No
Chobham Recreation Ground	5	No	No
Fleet Pond Nature Reserve	5	Yes	No
Bisley recreation ground	5	No	No
Basset Mead	5	Yes	No
Bourne wood	5	Yes	No
Cheylemore park	5	No	No
Ranges	4	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Sandhurst Park	4	No	No
Windermere Sang	4	No	No
Watchetts	4	Yes	Yes
Warren Heath	4	Yes	No
West End recreation ground	4	Yes	Yes
Tunnel Hill	4	Yes	Yes
princes garden	4	No	No
Pirbright Ranges	4	No	No
Lakeside Nature Reserve	4	Yes	No
Naishes wood	4	Yes	Yes
Polesden Lacey	4	No	No
Peter Driver sports field	4	No	Yes
Parks	4	No	No
Chobham Ranges	4	Yes	No
Camberley park	4	No	No
Alice Holt forest	4	No	No
Bartley Heath	4	Yes	Yes
Azalea park	4	Yes	No
Alice Holt	4	No	No
Brickfields Nature Reserve	4	Yes	No
Alice Holt forest	4	No	No
Surrey Hills	3	Yes	No
St. George's Playing Fields	3	Yes	Yes
St Catherine's Woods	3	No	No
Wellesley	3	No	No
Warren Wood	3	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Sandhurst recreation ground	3	No	No
Turfhill	3	No	No
River Blackwater	3	No	No
National Trust	3	No	No
Osborne Road Park	3	Yes	Yes
Hartley Wintney Common	3	No	No
London Road Park	3	No	No
Hartland woods	3	Yes	No
Hawley field	3	No	No
Green	3	Yes	No
Hawley park	3	No	No
Odiham	3	Yes	No
Hook Meadow	3	No	No
Hartland	3	No	No
Frensham common	3	No	No
Mychett woods	3	Yes	No
Heatherside Park	3	No	No
Hartletts Park	3	Yes	Yes
MOD Training area Aldershot	3	Yes	Yes
loman Road park	3	No	No
Bagshot Playing Fields	3	No	No
Crookham Park	3	Yes	Yes
Chobham SANG	3	No	No
Badshot Lea Nature Reserve	3	No	No
Deepcut Park	3	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Army land	3	Yes	Yes
Chobham Ridges	3	Yes	No
Ewshot SANG	3	Yes	No
Ash Meadows	3	No	No
California Country Park	3	No	No
Crookham Park SANG	3	Yes	Yes
Bisley green	3	Yes	Yes
Eweshot park	3	Yes	No
Bramshill	3	Yes	Yes
Brentmoor common	3	Yes	Yes
Chobham Meadows	3	No	No
Urban footpath	2	No	No
Windsor Great Park	2	No	No
RSPB Pulborough Brooks	2	No	No
School Lane Field	2	No	No
Trunk road	2	Yes	No
Simons Wood	2	Yes	No
Wendover Park	2	Yes	Yes
Snaky lane nature reserve	2	No	No
Wildmoor Heath	2	No	No
South wood woods	2	Yes	Yes
Wisey gardens	2	No	No
Southwood fields and Cove Brook	2	Yes	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Twesledown racecourse	2	Yes	No
Queens avenue polo fields	2	No	No
Redan Hill	2	Yes	Yes
Swindled forest	2	No	No
West end park	2	No	No
Swinley	2	Yes	Yes
Whitewater Meadows	2	Yes	Yes
Thames Path	2	Yes	No
Rushmoor bottom	2	Yes	Yes
Rowan Fields	2	No	No
Winkworth Arboretum	2	No	No
Tongham wood	2	No	No
Woking Park	2	No	No
Tringham Recreation Ground	2	No	No
Pyestock	2	No	No
None	2	No	No
Mytchett ranges	2	No	No
Pinewood Park & green	2	No	No
Frensham	2	No	No
Nature reserve	2	No	No
Heather Farm	2	No	No
Hart country park	2	No	No
Heatherside	2	Yes	No
Mytchett community centre	2	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Hook Common	2	Yes	Yes
Mytchett Recreation park	2	No	No
Footpaths around Hook	2	No	No
New forest	2	No	No
Ivy Road recreation ground	2	No	No
Old Dean park	2	No	No
Lakeside Park	2	Yes	No
Pine ridge Golf Club	2	Yes	No
municipal park	2	No	No
Polo fields	2	No	No
Mychett Canal Centre	2	No	No
Polo fields Aldershot	2	No	No
Deepcut SANG	2	No	No
Countryside footpath	2	No	No
Fleet canal	2	Yes	No
blackbushe disused airfield	2	Yes	Yes
Crabtree Park	2	No	No
Blunder Hall Park	2	No	No
Eversley woods	2	No	No
Bourley	2	Yes	Yes
Country park	2	Yes	No
Bracknell Forest	2	No	No
Cove brook pathway	2	No	No
Bramshill forest	2	Yes	Yes

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Darby green	2	No	No
Bagshot Park	2	No	No
Dukes wood	2	Yes	Yes
Carrington Recreation Ground	2	No	No
Field of Remembrance Windlesham	2	No	No
Chertsey Common	2	No	No
Footpath	2	Yes	No
Football pitches	2	Yes	No
Wellworth park hook	1	No	No
SANGS Nature Reserve	1	No	No
Richmond park	1	No	No
Shipwrights way	1	No	No
Royal Common Elstead	1	No	No
Sidmouth Byes	1	No	No
Westend Common	1	No	No
Silent pool, Guildford	1	No	No
Woodland Area around Wellington Statue	1	No	No
Public footpaths around camberley	1	No	No
Ranges behind canal centre	1	No	No
Small green area on St Catherine's road	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
RSPB Pagham	1	No	No
River walks	1	No	No
school lane field bagshot	1	No	No
South Downs	1	No	No
Whitmoor Road playground	1	No	No
South Hill Park	1	No	No
Queen Victoria Wood	1	No	No
River Wey	1	No	No
Woods between Fleet and Aldershot	1	No	No
Southcote dog park	1	No	No
Various footpaths	1	No	No
Southwold nature reserve	1	No	No
Veran road lake	1	No	No
Southwold Woodland	1	Yes	Yes
Recreation ground London road camberley	1	No	No
Queen's avenue Park	1	No	No
Sandhurst Meadows	1	No	No
Queens Avenue & canal walk, Aldershot	1	No	No
West End Green	1	No	No
Southwood Field And Reserve	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
West End tringham Park	1	No	No
Sandhurst RMA training area	1	No	No
Whishby common	1	No	No
Southwood football fields	1	Yes	No
Winchfield	1	No	No
Queens Avenue playing field	1	No	No
Ridgeway Path	1	No	No
Southwood Lane to Bramshott Bridge	1	Yes	No
Woking canal paths	1	No	No
Southwood Meddow	1	No	No
Woodland walks foot paths	1	No	No
Sands	1	No	No
Wyndham's pool	1	No	No
Queens Avenue Polo Fields	1	No	No
Urban parks and recreation grounds	1	No	No
sports areas	1	No	No
Various other sites further afield	1	No	No
Sports fields	1	No	No
Rowledge, Aldershot	1	No	No
SSSI behind the Old Dean estate	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Rapley lake	1	No	No
St Catherines SANG	1	No	No
RSPB Chichester	1	No	No
Rogate	1	No	No
Watchmoor Recreation	1	No	No
St Mary's field	1	No	No
Wellesley Water Meadow SANG	1	No	No
Rohill nature reserve	1	No	No
RHS garden Wisley	1	No	No
St. Peter's Church grounds	1	No	No
West End	1	No	No
Stoke Park	1	No	No
West End Heath	1	No	No
Summerleaze Downs, Bude, Cornwall	1	No	No
School Lane Park via Chapel Lane Bagshot	1	No	No
Sunningdale Golf Club	1	No	No
RSPB reserve Farnham Heath	1	No	No
Surrey heath near West end	1	No	No
Wharf road Allotment	1	No	No
Rosewood Way Green Space	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Several Footpath and along Canals	1	No	No
Public footpaths West End / Chobham	1	No	No
Shawfield Road Allotment	1	No	No
Swimmer forest bagshot	1	No	No
Windlemere Golf Course	1	No	No
Sands by Waitrose Bagshot	1	No	No
Windlesham FOR	1	No	No
Swinfern forest	1	No	No
Windsor riverside	1	No	No
SANG land, Naishes Woods, from Crookham Park to Ewshot	1	No	No
Rushmoor FC Recreation Ground	1	No	No
Swinley Bike Park	1	Yes	No
Woodhurst Park Warfield	1	No	No
Queens polo fields	1	No	No
Woodland next to the Foresters pub	1	No	No
Test track off the Maultway	1	No	No
Woods behind Basingstoke Canal Centre	1	No	No
SANG westend - old golf course	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Woods near Pine Ridge	1	No	No
SANG, Windlesham	1	No	No
Ship lane cemetery	1	No	No
The Basingstoke canal	1	No	No
Riverside park Camberley	1	No	No
The big park opposite the barracks in aldershot	1	No	No
Vale maed	1	No	No
The common	1	No	No
Various national trust properties	1	No	No
The green	1	No	No
Velmead	1	Yes	Yes
The green between Church Lane West, The Mount and Lindum Dene	1	No	No
Velmead Heath	1	Yes	Yes
Yateley Lakes	1	No	No
Ranges behind Sandhurst RMA	1	No	No
public rights of way all over	1	No	No
Village green, Medstead	1	No	No
The look out bracknell	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Wakehurst Place	1	No	No
The lookout at thatcham	1	No	No
Royal Victoria Country Park Southampton	1	No	No
The Lookout Bracknell	1	No	No
RBG Kew	1	No	No
The meadows	1	No	No
Pulborough RSPB	1	No	No
The Meadows Camberley	1	No	No
Wellantonia walk heatherside	1	No	No
The Polo fields	1	No	No
wellesley walks	1	No	No
The quays	1	No	No
Red rd	1	Yes	No
Rowans nature reserve ash	1	No	No
Redan Road cemetery	1	No	No
The recreation ground, crondall	1	No	No
Wellsely woods	1	No	No
The river bank alone the canal	1	No	No
School lane field and playground	1	No	No
The SANG in Ash Green	1	No	No
private dog walking areas	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
The SANGS	1	No	No
WEST END GREEN (NT)	1	No	No
Quetta/Crookham Park	1	No	No
West End keria way park	1	No	No
the views Fleet	1	No	No
West end Park	1	No	No
The vyne	1	No	No
West End small park by bowls green	1	No	No
The Vyne Woods	1	No	No
West end village green	1	No	No
Yateley and Blackbushe commons	1	No	No
West Moor Lakes	1	No	No
River Lot	1	No	No
Weybourne Rec	1	No	No
River walk from Horseshoe Lake	1	No	No
What used to be the golf course	1	No	No
Thursley Common	1	No	No
Whitefield Nature Reserve	1	No	No
Puttenham green space	1	No	No
Whitewater Valley	1	No	No
Tices Meadow Nature Reserve	1	Yes	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Whyndams Pond	1	No	No
Tilford Common	1	No	No
Wildmoore	1	No	No
Tomkins Wood	1	No	No
Ruislip Woods	1	No	No
Tomlins Wood	1	No	No
Runnymede	1	No	No
Tomlins Woods	1	No	No
Windlesham footpaths	1	No	No
Tomlinscote allotments	1	No	No
Sheep meadows	1	No	No
Yareley Woods	1	No	No
Queen Victoria park	1	No	No
Rushmoor Saints Bourley Road	1	No	No
Shepherd Meadow	1	Yes	Yes
Tomlinson Woods	1	No	No
Wishmoor Bottom	1	No	No
Tongham meadow	1	No	No
River	1	No	No
SANGS by the Queen Elizabeth development in Church Crookham	1	No	No
Shepperton Lock	1	No	No
Towpath from Aldershot to Ash Vale	1	No	No
Woodland	1	Yes	Yes

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Trilakes	1	No	No
Woodland around Ash The disused railway between Ash Green and Tongham	1	No	No
SANGS Church Crookham	1	No	No
Woodland opposite dettingen park	1	No	No
TRL Crowthorne	1	No	No
Woods	1	No	No
SANGs crookham park	1	No	No
Woods beside canal centre	1	No	No
Tundry pond	1	Yes	No
Woods by basingstoke canal centre	1	No	No
Pysetock Woods	1	Yes	Yes
Wrecclesham sports field	1	No	No
Tunnel hill(army land)	1	No	No
Yaffle Meadow	1	No	No
Rowhills copse	1	No	No
Ranges	1	No	No
Tomlinscote woods/Frimley fuel allotments	1	No	No
The Vyne, Basingstoke	1	No	No
Yateley Heath	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Thorn Hill, Aldershot Garrison.	1	No	No
Thursley	1	No	No
The hatches	1	No	No
The lakes between Blackwater and yateley	1	No	No
National Trust grounds	1	No	No
Former polo field off King's Ride Camberley	1	No	No
Odium Woods	1	No	No
Footpaths round Crondall	1	No	No
Mytchett	1	Yes	Yes
Hawley rec area	1	No	No
NGS Gardens to support owners and charity	1	No	No
Hawley Road Fernhill Lane fields walking	1	No	No
Other	1	No	No
Footpaths around Chobham golf course	1	Yes	No
Moors	1	No	No
Hayling Island	1	No	No
Hawkey lakes	1	No	No
Footpaths around church crookham	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Nature reserve west end	1	No	No
Heartland sang	1	No	No
North Hants Golf Club	1	No	No
Heath land	1	No	No
Olddean Common	1	No	No
Hartlands wood SANG	1	No	No
Park on Zebon Copse	1	No	No
Heather side rec	1	No	No
Money woods	1	No	No
Heather side tree walk	1	No	No
Hatchlands	1	No	No
Footpaths surrounding west end village	1	No	No
Hatfield House/Park	1	No	No
Footpaths around fleet and church Crookham	1	No	No
Naishies wood	1	Yes	Yes
Heatherside park	1	No	No
nature reserve ash vale	1	No	No
Frimley Canal Centre & adjacent military land	1	No	No
Hawley & Lake	1	No	No
Heathland and woodland around Gibralta Barracks	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
normandy village cricket ground	1	No	No
Heathland Brentmoor heath	1	No	No
Hankley Common	1	No	No
Heathside rec ground camberley	1	No	No
Old golf course	1	No	No
Herbs End Green Space	1	Yes	Yes
Open Fields to Rotherwick	1	Yes	No
Hogs Back pathways and local areas,	1	No	No
Palmer Park	1	No	No
Hogsmoor country park	1	No	No
Paths around Chobham golf coutse	1	No	No
Holy Trinity Aldershot- working on Eco project garden	1	No	No
Play park	1	Yes	No
Holybourne Downs	1	No	No
Footpaths from Odiham	1	No	No
Hartley Wintney	1	No	No
Multiple national trust sites	1	No	No
Footpaths urban around Bisley	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Mychett Ranges	1	No	No
Hook Woods	1	No	No
Grove Farm	1	Yes	No
Footpaths around Waggoners hollow, bagshot	1	No	No
Hawely Woods / Lake	1	No	No
Horsell wetlands	1	No	No
Guildford Ranges	1	No	No
Frimley Green/Mytchett woods	1	No	No
Hampshire bridleways	1	No	No
Hurt wood - peaslake	1	No	No
National Trust properties	1	No	No
Hurtwoods Pitch Hill	1	No	No
Nature Reserve Cranmore Lane	1	No	No
Hussar Copse	1	No	No
Netlry street parking	1	No	No
Ivy field recreation ground	1	No	No
New SANG opposite Basset Mead Country Park near Hook.	1	No	No
Ivy Fields	1	Yes	Yes

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Footpaths/ bridleways in the countryside	1	No	No
Ivy Fields Recreation Ground, Aldershot	1	Yes	No
North Camp footpath leading to the train station	1	No	No
ivy playing fields	1	No	No
Numerous footpaths around Chobham & Windlesham	1	No	No
Ivy road green	1	No	No
Harold Hillier Garden Romsey	1	No	No
Hartley Wintney golf Course	1	No	No
Old Dean Common (MOD)	1	No	No
Kennels lane old golf course	1	No	No
Old Parsonage Meadow Crondall	1	No	No
Kiftsgate gardens	1	No	No
Open country around Up Nateley	1	No	No
Kiln lane bisley	1	No	No
Forestry commission land nr Farnham	1	No	No
Footpaths around West End & Chobham	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Outside the rec centre	1	No	No
King's Road park	1	No	No
park lane allotment	1	No	No
Knaphill woods	1	No	No
Hart leisure centre/ edenbrook country park	1	No	No
Krooner park	1	No	No
Hart Woodland - adjacent to Southwood	1	No	No
Lakes	1	No	No
Footpaths in local area	1	No	No
Lakes and field. Verran Road Camberley - during lockdown as it's local to me	1	No	No
Hawley leisure centre	1	No	No
Footpaths from Bentley	1	No	No
Monkey Woods	1	No	No
Hatch lands Park / Basildon Park NT	1	No	No
Green opposite Sheridan Close	1	No	No
Land behind the Foresters PH	1	No	No
MTB trails around Fleet in general	1	No	No
Land beside Fernhill Lane	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Greywell	1	No	No
land between railway and m3 over from earlswood park	1	No	No
Hatchlands Park	1	No	No
Land by Curley hill	1	No	No
Greywell Moors Nature Reserve	1	No	No
Land near Minley Manor	1	No	No
Mytchett Athletics FC home ground	1	No	No
Lea Green	1	Yes	Yes
Mytchett common	1	No	No
LECKFORD NURSERY & WATER GARDEN (Waitrose)	1	No	No
Mytchett Heath	1	No	No
Frimley woods	1	No	No
Mytchett rec	1	No	No
Local fields	1	No	No
Guildford castle grounds	1	No	No
local green spaces on my estate in north town, aldershot	1	No	No
Hale Park	1	No	No
Local park	1	No	No
Halesworth park	1	No	No
Local walks around	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Windlesham and Golf Course			
National Trust - inc. The Vyne	1	No	No
Priory St Park Farnborough	1	No	No
National trust properties	1	No	No
Footpaths around Calthorpe Paek Estate & toward Crookham Village	1	No	No
Footpaths/ bridleways in an urban area	1	No	No
Frimley/Mytchett pathway	1	No	No
Nature reserve Bramshot	1	No	No
London Road Recreation Ground	1	No	No
Nature reserve Off Broadhurst	1	No	No
london road recreation ground camberley	1	No	No
Netherhouse Moor	1	No	No
Long Moor	1	No	No
New facility off of Kenels Lane	1	No	No
Frimley/Pirbright	1	No	No
New paths through woods by fuel allotments	1	No	No
Look Out	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
New wooded area near hartland village	1	No	No
Maguire Drive Children's Playground	1	Yes	Yes
Nightingale close	1	No	No
Manor & aldershot Parks	1	No	No
Normandy Common	1	No	No
manor fruit farm	1	No	No
normandy village parks	1	No	No
Footpaths from Hartley Witney	1	No	No
Hampshire parks	1	No	No
Many local bridleways	1	No	No
NT Runnymede including river walk	1	No	No
Many Recreational Grounds (Hart & Rushmoor)	1	No	No
Oakham	1	No	No
Maultway - Water Tower	1	Yes	No
Ockham Common	1	No	No
Maultway - water tower area	1	No	No
Odiham tennis club	1	No	No
maultway common	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Old Dean Common	1	No	No
Maultway footpath	1	No	No
Hawley cricket field	1	No	No
Maultway paths	1	No	No
Old golf course - Southwood	1	No	No
Maultway woods	1	No	No
Old Winchester Hill	1	No	No
Meadow in Chapel Lane, Bagshot	1	No	No
One Oak	1	No	No
Meadows	1	No	No
Open country around Upton Grey	1	No	No
Meadows green space blackwater	1	No	No
Open grass land	1	No	No
memorial park, (west end park) aldershot	1	No	No
Osborne Road recreation ground	1	Yes	No
MiddleMead Hook Green	1	No	No
Others	1	No	No
Military land	1	No	No
Painshill	1	No	No
Polo Fields (North Camp)	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Park behind Waitrose Bagshot.	1	No	No
Polo Fields Queens Avenue	1	No	No
Park on Portsmouth Road ?southwell	1	No	No
Poors Common	1	No	No
PARK road park	1	No	No
Hartland nature reserve	1	No	No
Paschal woods	1	No	No
Hartland Woodland	1	No	No
Pennines	1	No	No
Frith woods	1	No	No
formal gardens	1	No	No
Gerry's Copse	1	No	No
Pirbright Common	1	No	No
Minley Ranges	1	Yes	Yes
Places with an orienteering course	1	No	No
Golf course	1	Yes	No
Footpaths in various areas in Hart and Rushmoor	1	No	No
Grant's Moor	1	No	No
Fox way	1	Yes	No
Great Nightingale copse	1	No	No
Military land off Maultway	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Poors Allotments Woods Penny Hill Park Woodland	1	No	No
Military Queens Ave fields	1	No	No
Porridge Pots/Deepcut	1	Yes	No
Military range land off Maultway	1	No	No
Priory are park	1	No	No
military ranges areas	1	No	No
Military ranges mytchett	1	No	No
Loman Road play park	1	No	No
Cycle paths- Christmas pie trail/black water valley	1	No	No
At Catherine's woods	1	No	No
Englemere pond nature reserve	1	No	No
Blackwater Park	1	No	No
Bisley ranges	1	No	No
Lack water river and meadow	1	No	No
Dog walking	1	No	No
Army polo fields	1	No	No
Farnham Heath	1	Yes	No
Bicester green spaces	1	No	No
Cove Brook walking	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Blundon Hall	1	No	No
Basingbourne woods	1	No	No
Bourgeois country park	1	No	No
Denbies Hillside	1	No	No
Bird world	1	No	No
Eelmoor & Rushmoor Arena	1	No	No
ARMY RANGES	1	No	No
Beach and greensward at side of beach	1	No	No
Army Training areas	1	No	No
Finchampstead park	1	No	No
Bournemouth beach	1	No	No
Cove allotments	1	No	No
Bishops Wood	1	No	No
Crab tree Road Park	1	No	No
Bracknell/Swinley Forest	1	No	No
Crondall Football ground	1	No	No
Bramley Forrest	1	No	No
Cross lane Allotments	1	No	No
Brampton park	1	No	No
Aldershot Municipal Gardens	1	No	No
Bagshot heath	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
ash nature reserve	1	No	No
Bramshill Country Park	1	Yes	Yes
5 brooks path	1	No	No
Bisley	1	No	No
Elvetham Heath Country Park	1	No	No
Bramshot nature reserve	1	No	No
Black water	1	Yes	No
Bramshot nature reserve	1	No	No
Farnborough Rec	1	No	No
Aldershot polo fields	1	No	No
behind waitrose in bagshot	1	No	No
Bramshott SANG	1	No	No
Blackwater and Hawley playing fields	1	No	No
Bramshott training area	1	No	No
countryside near winchfield	1	No	No
Brandon common	1	No	No
Cove brook cycle way	1	No	No
Branshill woods	1	No	No
Cove Greenway	1	No	No
Brentmoor	1	No	No
Crabtree Nature Reserve	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Bisley & West End Nature Reserve	1	No	No
Crondall	1	No	No
Arundel castle gardens	1	No	No
Crondall play area	1	No	No
Brentwood Nature Reserve	1	No	No
Crooksbury Hill	1	No	No
Briars park	1	No	No
Curly Hill	1	No	No
Brick lane nature park	1	No	No
Daily 'COVID' walk	1	No	No
Bagshot pavilion fields and playground	1	No	No
Deepcut Recreational Park	1	No	No
Badshot Lea Green	1	No	No
Dettingen Fields	1	No	No
Brickwater Country Park	1	No	No
dinton pastures	1	No	No
Bridle way Bramshott	1	No	No
Duke of Wellington Statue	1	No	No
Bridle ways	1	No	No
Edenbrook Sangs	1	No	No
Bridle ways near our new home.	1	No	No
Elizabeth park	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Brock Hill near Tweseldown Racecourse	1	No	No
Elvetham Heath Green, Fleet	1	No	No
Brook Path	1	No	No
Evergreen Road Rec	1	No	No
Brookwood Canal	1	No	No
Ewshot	1	No	No
Brookwood cemetery	1	No	No
Farlington Marshes (near Portsmouth)	1	No	No
Brookwood Common	1	No	No
Farnborough rugby club fields	1	No	No
Brookwood Country Park	1	No	No
Farnham Road Odiham to Tundry Pond walking	1	No	No
Bude canal walking trail	1	No	No
Fields in Herbs End	1	No	No
Bulhousen public footpath	1	No	No
finchampstead ridges & simons wood	1	No	No
Bushey Park	1	Yes	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
fleet nature reserve and surrounding fields	1	No	No
Butser Hill, Queen Elizabeth Country Park	1	No	No
Blackwater meadows	1	No	No
Buttersteep	1	No	No
Courtmore Park	1	No	No
BV path Yateley to Finchampstead	1	No	No
Ambarrow Court	1	No	No
Bagshot rec and tennis courts	1	No	No
Bisley playground	1	No	No
Bagshot SANG's	1	No	No
Ambarrow woods	1	No	No
Bagshot woods/Swinley forest	1	No	No
Cove Road Park	1	No	No
Ash Common	1	No	No
Crabtree	1	No	No
Camberley Community Sports Pitch	1	No	No
Badshot Lea Recreation ground	1	No	No
Balloon hanger	1	Yes	No
Cranmoor lane woods to Farnham Castle	1	No	No
Camberley recreation ground	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Crondall circular walk	1	No	No
Camberley Recreation ground	1	No	No
Crondall footpaths	1	No	No
Allotments in Prospect road	1	No	No
Aldershot and District Allotment Association	1	No	No
Bisley / Deepcut / PIRBRIGHT ARMY RANGE	1	No	No
Crooksbury Common	1	No	No
Footpaths and Bridleways	1	No	No
Croquet lawns	1	No	No
Footpaths and bridleways leading to the Arboretum	1	No	No
Crowthorne woods	1	Yes	No
Hilworth and St.Marthas hill	1	No	No
cycle area	1	No	No
Chapel Lane Bagshot to look at a green space under threat	1	No	No
Cycling through army golf course	1	No	No
Chapel lane park	1	No	No
Army lands at Frimley	1	No	No
Chawton Park	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Deepcut ranges and surrounding land	1	No	No
Chenies bridleways	1	No	No
Black Down	1	No	No
Bisley children's playground	1	No	No
DERA/Mod test track (maultway)	1	No	No
Chesham woods	1	No	No
Dettingen open area	1	No	No
Footpath through wooded areas W. Sussex	1	No	No
Diamond ridge woods & borossa common	1	No	No
Footpaths along River Soar	1	No	No
Disused railway path, Tongham	1	No	No
Army area around mytchett	1	No	No
Duke of Wellington fields	1	No	No
Childrens playpark Farm estate, Northtown	1	No	No
Black park	1	No	No
Ambarrow	1	No	No
Ancells Nature Reserve	1	Yes	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Chobham footpaths and bridalways	1	No	No
Edward V recreational park	1	No	No
Chobham Heathland	1	No	No
eelmore training area	1	No	No
Bagshot Common	1	No	No
Elvetham Heath	1	Yes	Yes
footpath across fields @ crookham village	1	No	No
Elvetham Heath duck lake	1	No	No
Barista mod	1	No	No
Ash vale nature reserve	1	No	No
Aldershot & District Military Lands	1	No	No
Eton side of river at windsor	1	No	No
Ash Green Meadows	1	No	No
Eversley Cricket/Football Club	1	No	No
Aldershot Allotments	1	No	No
Army Cricket Ground	1	No	No
Chobham Road rec	1	No	No
Ewshot play area	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Chobham Rugby Field	1	No	No
Ewshott	1	No	No
Barrossa woods	1	No	No
Farnborough Civic Quarter	1	No	No
Ash Green SANG	1	No	No
Farnborough recreation grounds	1	No	No
Chobham Wetlands	1	No	No
Farnham Common	1	No	No
Football field	1	Yes	No
Ash Vale Ranges	1	No	No
foothpaths along canals	1	No	No
Field in front of Wellington statue	1	No	No
Church Crookam Canal	1	No	No
Field Road green	1	No	No
church crookham	1	No	No
Fields off Lucas green road	1	Yes	No
Claygate Common	1	Yes	No
Finchampstead ridges	1	No	No
Cobham Heath	1	No	No
Firth woods	1	No	No
Conservation area Bagshot	1	No	No
Fleet nature reserve and connected woodland			
Costal path	1	No	No
Arena park	1	No	No
Bisley flowers estate	1	No	No
Folly bog	1	No	No
Bagshot cricket club	1	No	No
Countryside near Owlsmoor	1	No	No
chobham woods	1	No	No
Beacon Hill / Water Catchment	1	No	No
Christmas Pie Trail	1	No	No
Footpath around Chichester harbour area	1	No	No
Chobham Place Woods	1	No	No
Chobham Play Field opposite Tesco	1	No	No
Footpaths and Bridle ways around Church Crookham	1	No	No
Children’s play area	1	No	No
Children's playground	1	No	No
Footpaths around Bisley village	1	No	No
chalk farm nature reserve	1	No	No

Row Labels	Count of Respondent ID	Was the site marked on the map with a pin?	Did the pin correspond with an existing open space boundary?
Chapel lane	1	No	No
Grand Total	4035		

For each of your five most frequently visited green spaces you gave in question 3, please tell us how you travel to and use these sites.

What is the main reason you visit?

	No of sites for each 'main reason' to visit
Children playing	272
Cycling/mountain biking	300
Dog walking	949
Horse riding	25
Meeting family / friends	169
Nature / wildlife	227
Organised activity / event	52
Other (please state)	94
Picnicking	31
Running/jogging	247
Walking	1626

How often do you visit?

	No of sites
Daily	437
Fortnightly	364
Monthly	583
Six-monthly	203
Weekly	1001
Yearly	36

What times do you most often visit, during weekdays?

	No of sites
Afternoon (2pm to 5pm)	645

Evenings (5pm onwards)	408
Lunchtime (11am to 2pm)	348
Morning (before 11am)	787
N/A	211
Other (please state below)	120

What times do you often visit, during weekends?

	No of sites
Afternoon (2pm to 5pm)	784
Evenings (5pm onwards)	123
Lunchtime (11am to 2pm)	300
Morning (before 11am)	715
N/A	242
Other (please state)	96

How long do you usually spend at this green space?

	No of sites
15-30 minutes	395
2+ hours	471
Over 1-2 hours	1428
Over 30 minutes-1 hour	1337
Up to 15 minutes	321

How do you usually travel to the site?

	No of sites visited by each mode of travel
Bus	4
Car	1319
Cycle	274
Motorcycle	1
Other (please state)	82
Walk	1546

Have you visited this site more before or after the pandemic?

	No of sites visited more or less pre/during pandemic.
More during pandemic	1213
More pre-pandemic	585
No difference	1298