Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath
SPA Mitigation Project

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)

Background Paper

July 2020
(*Amended January 2021*)

Hart DISTRICT COUNCIL

SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

Contents

This background paper is one of a collection of evidence/background studies which have been prepared alongside the main report on the HRSH SPA Mitigation Project. The full set of published reports are set out below:

SPA Visitor Distribution and Access Background Paper

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) Background Paper

Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) Background Paper

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) Research Study

Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study

Access Restriction Research Study

Access Management Research Study

Car Parking Research Study

Dog Control Research Study

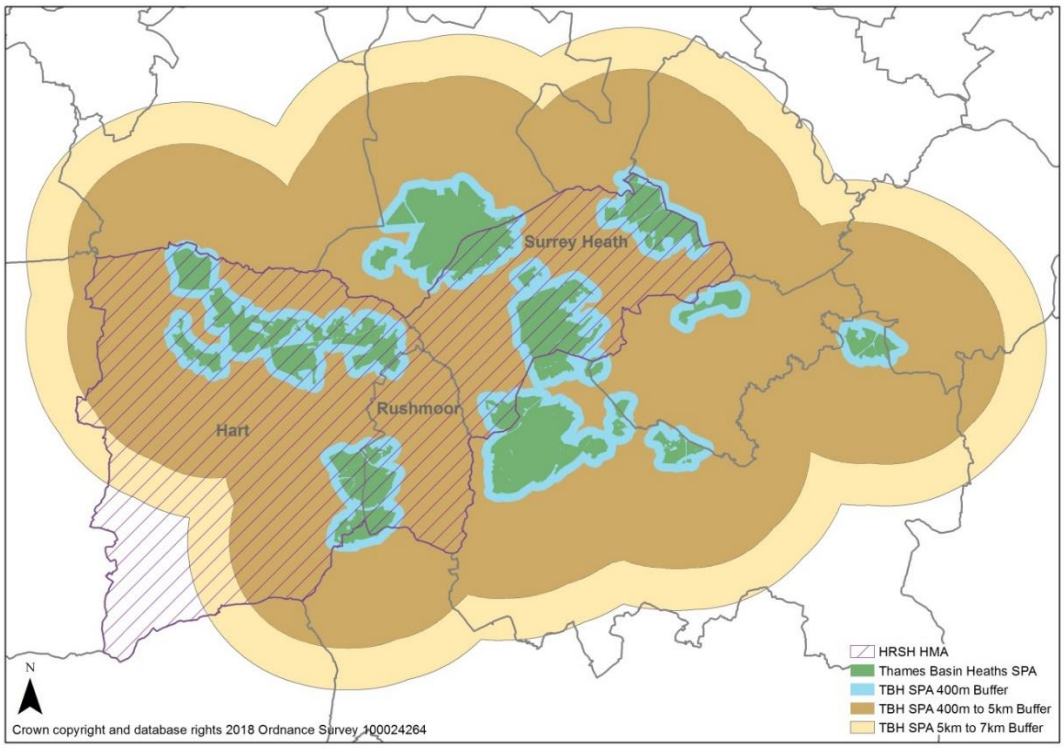
Mitigation Capacity Review & Supporting Advice

HRSH SPA Mitigation Project Report

1. Introduction

1.1. Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath (HRSH) Council's form part of the HRSH Housing Market Area (HMA) (Figure 1). A significant proportion of the HMA is either designated as Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBH SPA) or within the three buffer zones for the SPA (92%). The Councils have worked collaboratively to deliver access to cross boundary Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) solutions, to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the SPA from additional housing in line with the TBH Delivery Framework[1]. However, there are many constraints to delivering development and new SANGs in the HMA area. Opportunities for delivering SANG are reducing and the Councils are concerned that the current approach to avoidance and mitigation could result in difficulties in the delivery of net new residential development in parts of the HMA.

Figure 1: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and the Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Housing Market Area (HMA).



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

Scope of the Background Paper

1.2. The overall aim of this joint project is to identify complementary alternative mitigation measures, which can be delivered in order to mitigate new development within the HMA.

1.3. As noted above, the existing approach to mitigation includes the delivery of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), based on criteria that sites are required to meet in order to be implemented as SANG. As part of the ongoing assessment of the availability of potential SANG in the HMA, a review of the evidence and a review of avoidance and mitigation strategies in place elsewhere, a number of alternative mitigation options have been identified for assessment. This includes exploring if alternative greenspace could be provided in different ways, in addition to the existing approach to SANG.

1.4. It is important to clarify that the aim of this project is not to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing approach as a form of mitigation. Therefore, the intention is not to remove the existing criteria, but to consider whether there are new SANG 'products' or alternative ways of delivering SANG which could provide the required mitigation, alongside the existing type of SANG.

1.5. The alternatives being explored, include:

Potential for use of SANG networks

This could involve enhancing existing suites of SANG or enhancing individual SANGs so that as a network they draw more people away from the SPA. Individual SANGs could be linked together or provide different experiences for different purposes of visit, such that together they provide a full range of 'SANG' features.

Potential for delivery of linear SANG

This explores whether SANG could be delivered, which do not meet the existing requirement to provide a circular walk, but otherwise meet SANG criteria and still provide a quality experience which would draw users away from the SPA. This may involve a long-distance pathway with additional parcels of land, which could provide a range of routes and/or link to other open spaces/SANG.

Potential for mitigation from the enhancement or creation of other recreational routes

This may involve projects which would enhance existing routes, create new routes and/or provide connections between SANG. This is based on the approach to mitigation in the New Forest SPA area.

Potential for smaller SANG/facilities with smaller catchments

This considers the potential for mitigation provided by smaller sites/facilities that would not currently meet the SANG criteria but could still meet a particular recreational demand (e.g. providing dedicated dog training areas).

Potential for larger SANG with larger catchments

This considers the potential for mitigation provided by larger sites which may provide certain facilities and/or have certain characteristics, which would draw users from further afield and could justify a larger catchment.

1.6. This background paper on SANG will present existing information which may be relevant to the assessment of the above options and further research to support this assessment.

1.7. The aims of the background paper are to:

- Provide a clear understanding of the network of existing SANG in and around the HMA.
- Assist in identifying potential for enhancements and guide the location of new sites.
- Assist in understanding the potential for SANG variations to be implemented.
- Understand factors influencing the catchment / draw of different sites to help inform selection of mitigation options.

1.8. Therefore, this report will cover the following:

- An overview of the existing approach to SANG (chapter 2).
- Details on the existing network of SANG (chapter 3).
- Details on the wider open space network (chapter 4).
- A review of potential gaps and opportunities to inform further work (chapter 5).

2. The Existing Approach to SANG

Thames Basin Heaths SPA and Disturbance

2.1. The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area was classified in March 2005[2]. It covers a total area of 8,274.72 hectares and consists of a number of separate sites located across the counties of Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire in southern England. Together with the nearby Wealden Heaths SPA and Ashdown Forest SPA, the Thames Basin Heaths form part of a complex of heathlands in southern England that support important breeding bird populations.

2.2. There are a number of potential impact pathways that could result in development having an effect on European sites. These include urbanisation, recreational pressure/disturbance, atmospheric pollution, water abstraction and water quality. However, the focus of this project is to consider alternative measures to avoid or mitigate recreational disturbance on the TBH SPA resulting from a net increase in residential dwellings.

2.3. The nature, scale, timing and duration of some human activities can result in the disturbance of birds at a level that may substantially affect their behaviour, and consequently affect the long-term viability of the population. Nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler are known to be sensitive to disturbance. Disturbance caused by human activity is particularly significant in the TBH SPA because many parts are in close proximity to urban areas.

2.4. More detail on the SPA and visitor disturbance is set out in the SPA Visitor Distribution and Access Background Paper and the HRSH SPA Mitigation Project Main Report.

The Existing Approach

2.5. Prior to October 2005, the UK's approach to determining any significant effects on the integrity of European sites was not extended to an assessment of Plans. However, a European Court of Justice Judgment (C-6/04)[3] ruled that this approach did not meet the requirements of Article 6

[2] English Nature (2005) *Thames Basin Heaths SPA Citation*

[3] Judgment of the Court, *Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*, C-6/04, EU:C:2005:626. Available at http://curia.europa.eu/

of the Habitats Directive[4]. These requirements are set out within the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Habitats Regulations) for the UK as the Habitats Directive does not apply after leaving the European Union. In May 2006, English Nature (now Natural England) published a Draft Delivery Plan for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, partly in response to this judgement.

2.6. The Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East, the South East Plan (2009)[5], was prepared within this context and includes Policy NRM6 on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, which sets out a strategic approach to avoidance and mitigation. As stated in Paragraph 9.35: *"Policy NRM6 sets out the extent of mitigation measures required, based on current evidence. The evidence available indicates that effective mitigation measures should comprise a combination of providing suitable areas for recreational use by residents to buffer the SPA and actions on the SPA to manage access and encourage use of alternative sites."* In March 2013, the Government revoked the South East Plan with the exception of Policy NRM6.

2.7. In 2009, a Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework was prepared as a non-statutory document within the context of the South East Plan. It was endorsed by the Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership (JSP). The JSP was established by the Local Authorities that surround the SPA, along with the Regional Assembly (now disbanded) and other partners, to plan for the long-term protection of the SPA in a consistent and co-ordinated way. The JSP Board (JSPB) is advised by a number of bodies including Natural England.

2.8. The work of the JSP is based around the co-ordination of a three-pronged approach:

1) SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace)
2) Access Management
3) On Site Management of the SPA

2.9. It is considered that there is a combined avoidance and mitigation effect of these measures, which ensure people are provided with alternative greenspaces to visit instead of the SPA, while

[4] European Commission Council (1992) *Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora*
[5] Government Office for the South East (GOSE) *The South East Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy* (2009)

also managing potential impacts on the SPA through on-site access and habitat management. The TBH SPA Delivery Framework (2009)[6] focusses on the first two approaches.

2.10. The approach varies depending on the linear distance from the SPA:

- Within 400m of the SPA the impact of net new residential development on the SPA is likely to be such that it is not possible to conclude no adverse effect on the SPA. There should therefore be a presumption against development within this zone.
- Between 400m and 5km, the avoidance measures recommended in the Delivery Framework should be applied.
- Applications for large-scale development proposals beyond the zone of influence, particularly within 5-7km, should be assessed on an individual basis. Where appropriate a full appropriate assessment may be required to ascertain whether the proposal could have an adverse effect on the SPA[7].

2.11. The TBH SPA Delivery Framework (2009)[8] sets out the JSPB's recommended approach to the provision of avoidance measures. The JSPB has no formal control on the planning decisions made in respect of the Thames Basin Heaths, nor does it set any formal planning policy. Therefore, each affected authority has included a strategic policy within adopted or emerging Local Plans. In addition, each local authority has prepared an Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy to provide more detail on the approach taken.

2.12. More information on the existing approach to SANG (the first element of the approach) is set out below. Background information on access management (the second element of the approach) is set out in the SAMM Background Paper.

[6] Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (2009) *Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework*
[7] The South East Plan Assessor, who recommended that between 5 and 7km from the edge of the SPA residential developments of over 50 houses should be assessed and may be required to provide appropriate mitigation. It is recommended that such cases be considered on a case by case basis.
[8] Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (2009) *Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework*

SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace)

2.13. The principle of SANG is based on the provision of alternative recreational land to attract new, and existing residents away from the SPA. SANG should be provided by Local Authorities funded by developer contributions or provided by developers for individual developments.

2.14. The TBH SPA Delivery Framework (2009)[9] sets out when joint working between Local Authorities may be appropriate:

i) the Local Authority alone is not able to provide sufficient SANG land to meet its local need;

ii) the catchment of a SANG extends into a neighbouring authority;

iii) there is the opportunity to add value and/or capacity to individual SANG by developing a network of SANGs across boundaries.

2.15. SANG should be provided on the basis of at least 8ha per 1,000 population. The average occupancy rate should be assumed to be 2.4 persons per dwelling unless robust local evidence demonstrates otherwise.

2.16. The catchment of SANG will depend on the individual site characteristics and location, and its location within a wider green infrastructure network. As a guide, the following catchments are used:

Table 1: SANG Catchments

SANG Size	Catchment
2-12 ha	2 Km
12-20 ha	4 Km
20 + ha	5 Km

2.17. Developments of less than 10 dwellings do not need to be within a specified distance of SANG provided that a sufficient quantity and quality of SANG land to cater for the consequent increase in population is identified and available, in that local authority area or agreed in an adjoining local authority, and it is functional in advance of completion. However, all net new dwellings

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

(including on sites of less than 10 dwellings) will be required to contribute to the provision of avoidance measures.

2.18. There are three types of SANG being delivered across the area:

1) Strategic SANG

Open spaces allocated as SANG, in agreement with Natural England, which are owned/managed by the local authority. Developers pay financial contributions towards enhancement to SANG status and long-term management.

2) Bespoke SANG

New open spaces provided mostly by large developments 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.

3) 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.

2.19. Guidelines for SANG have been produced by Natural England and are set out in Appendix 1. These guidelines include a site quality checklist, which is intended to help identify what is already present on the site and what needs to be developed for the SANG to be suitable. These criteria were 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.

2.20. A review of the evidence available to support the criteria in the site quality checklist, is set out in Appendix 2.

2.21. The findings of two recent reports are of particular interest and relevance in considering alternatives to the existing approach to SANG. The first is the most recent SPA Visitor Survey. More detail on the findings of this survey is set out in the SPA Visitor Distribution and Access Background Paper. Common findings from all of the previous SPA Visitor Surveys include:

- A consistently high proportion of visitors giving the main reason for their visit as dog walking and a large proportion of visitors being accompanied by a dog.
- A high proportion of dog walkers will let their dog off the lead on the SPA.
- Dog walkers give high value to being able to let their dog off the lead.
- The majority of visitors travel less than 5km to get to the visited site, but there is evidence that some are willing to travel further.
- The typical distance walked on the SPA is between 2-2.5km.
- There is evidence of people using a network of sites.

2.22. The second relevant recent report is the SANG Visitor Survey[10]. The overall findings are set out below. The findings relating to particular SANG are set out in Chapter 3, and Appendix 2 shows where they relate to the SANG criteria.

2.23. The SANG Visitor Survey Report[11] summarises the findings of surveys conducted by the SAMM project team on 14 SANGs[12] across the TBHSPA area. Some findings of relevance to this project include:

- Overall higher levels of use at weekends (although this was found to vary by site and weekday usage was higher on 3 sites). Visit duration was not found to vary significantly between weekdays and weekends.
- No clear variations in usage by time of day. 34% of interviewees visited 1 to 3 times a week and 21% daily. The distances people will travel to sites and the proportion of visitors using their nearest site varies (28% at Heather Farm and 100% at Dilly Lane) and depends on proximity of the site to other SANGs. The distances people travel also has a bearing on the frequency they will visit a site.

[10] Panter, C (2019) *Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018*
[11] Panter, C (2019) *Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018*
[12] Ambarrow Court, Chobham Water Meadows, Dilly Lane, Ether Hill and Queenswood, Hare Hill, Hawley Meadows (and Blackwater Park), Heather Farm, Horseshoe Lake, Larks Hill, Peacock Meadows, Popes Meadow, Shepherds Meadows, Timber Hill and Woodham Common

- Over three quarters of interviewees were dog walkers and dog walking was identified as the main activity at all but one site. Although it is noted that this varied significantly across the sites i.e. Timber Hill 50% identified dog walking as main activity compared to 95% at Dilly Lane.

- The vast majority of visitors (83%) said they visited the site equally all year round. Although it was noted that this varied by site and some locations appeared more popular at particular times of year (e.g. Hawley Meadows and Horseshoe Lake (both sites with open water) interviewees selected summer as one of the seasons in which they visited more).

- Three quarters of interviewees arrived on site by car. However, there was significant variation in mode of transport by site with the percentage arriving by car ranging from 7% at Hare Hill to 96% at Horseshoe Lake. This was reflected in the variation of distances travelled to the sites.

- Average distance travelled to the SANG was 3.8 km. However, average distance travelled varied greatly between sites (i.e. 0.4 km at Hare Hill to 4.1 km at Heather Farm). There was 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).

- 98% of interviewees were residents of the 11 affected local authorities.

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

- Respondents were asked to name an alternative site they would have visited, if they had not been able to visit the interview site on that day. Overall, 29% of interviewees named a SANG site, 34% named a SPA site and 38% named other sites. These proportions varied by site, with the highest proportion selecting a SPA location was highest at Chobham Water Meadows (48%), Hawley Meadows (41%) and Heather Farm (40%).

- The most common reason for choosing these alternative sites was variety (21%), followed by the fact sites are close to home (18%) and because they offer large open areas (16%). For those who gave a SANG as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (7%), large open area (5%), close to home (4%), can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%) and variety of habitats (3%). For those who gave a SPA location as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (8%), large open area (6%), close to home (6%), bigger/ longer walks (5%), and can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%).

2.24. The existing evidence set out in Appendix 2 and the findings of the latest SANG surveys, supports the existing approach and criteria relating to SANG. However, it does also identify some findings that suggest there could be potential for some alternative approaches to SANG and factors that would need to be considered carefully when designing these alternatives, including:

- The importance of a number of features to visitors including quality of paths, parking, larger open areas/longer routes/choice of paths and variety.

- The different attitudes of dog walkers to features, for example, some choosing to avoid water and other choosing sites with water to enable their dog to swim.

- The high proportion of visitors using the sites for dog walking and the importance of being able to let dogs off the lead/feeling safe for them to let dogs off the lead. Factors which could influence ability to walk dogs off lead were noted, including the importance of or need to improve fencing and impact of livestock grazing, alongside evidence of a willingness to put dogs on lead if required, but not for the whole walk.

- The importance of proximity to home and value of some sites for daily visits on foot, but also the factors influencing, and differences in, how far visitors are willing to travel and the draw to sites visited less frequently.

- The influence of word of mouth, local knowledge and SANG visibility (e.g. signs noticed as people pass the SANG).

- Overall lack of variation in when people visit sites over the year, but two open sites with water features were selected as being visited more during the summer (i.e. during the breeding season on the SPA).

- Over a third of respondents named a SPA location as an alternative site. The key factors being variety, large open area, proximity to home, bigger/ longer walks and bring able to walk dog off lead/safe to walk dog off lead.

- The extent that catchment of visitors varied between sites and was influenced by proximity to other SANG sites.

2.25. Evidence on the potential effectiveness of alternative approaches will be considered in more detail as part of the SANG Research Study.

3. The SANG Network

3.1. A network of 70 SANG have been delivered across the TBH SPA (as recorded at November 2020). The Thames Basin Heaths Partnership maintains an online directory of 'greenspace on your doorstep' and this is updated when new SANG are opened. GIS data showing the location of all sites is not currently available, however a map showing the network of SANG across the SPA (as recorded in December 2019) is included in Appendix 3.

SANG in the HMA

3.2. At the time of writing, there are 25 SANG open to the public within or partly within the HMA, providing over 600 hectares of open space. The network of SANG in and around the HMA (as recorded in December 2019) is shown in figure 2. More details on individual SANG sites are available in Appendix 5.

3.3. The SANGs in the HMA provide a variety of recreational opportunities and environments for visitors to experience, ranging from woodland habitats to water meadows and rivers. Some of the current SANG sites were agreed or established before the SANG Guideline[13] criteria were in place, so also provide examples of sites which may not be designed with the current criteria in mind.

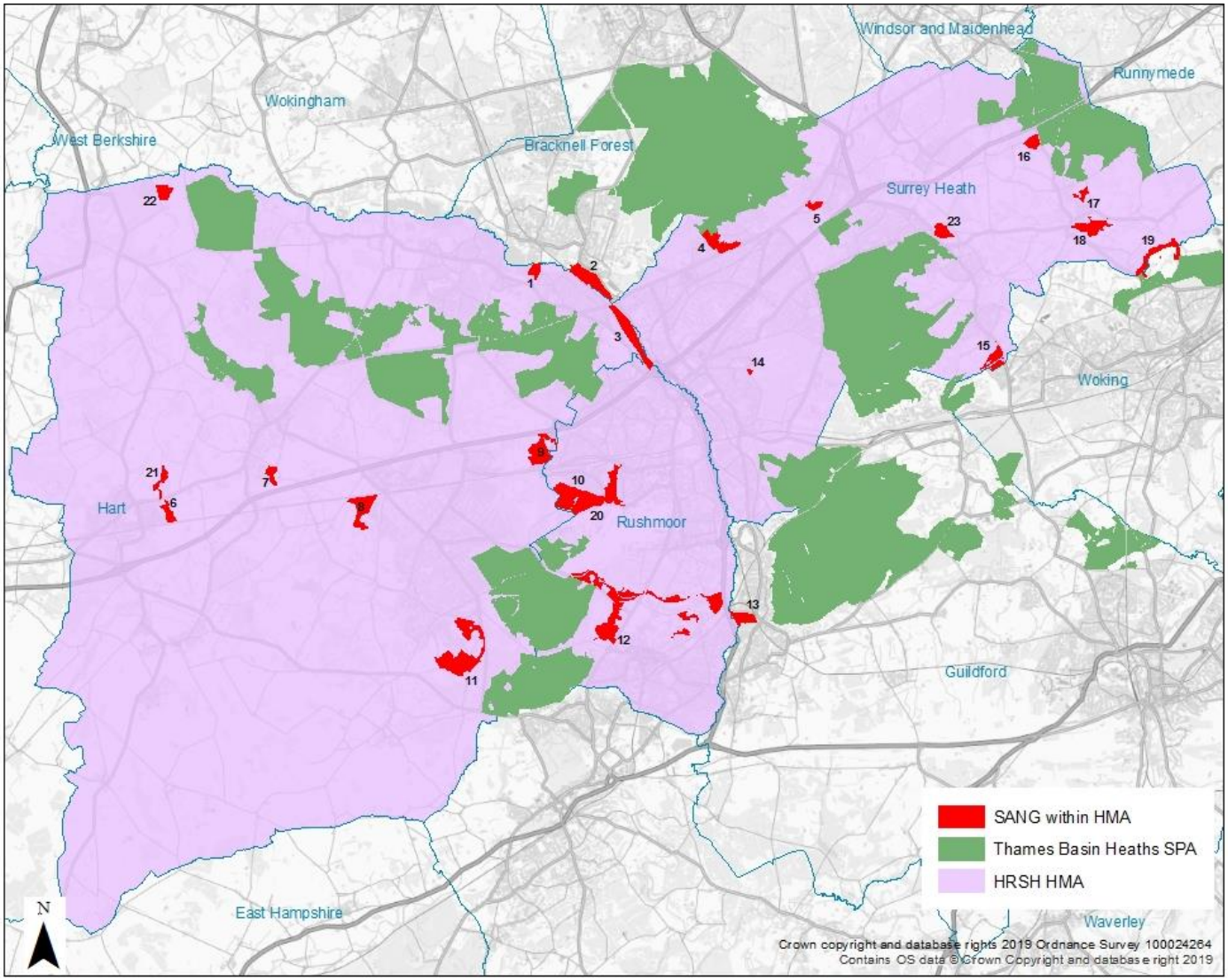
3.4. The locations of existing SANGs are likely to be influenced by the land available in close proximity to areas where housing development is planned to come forward, due to the catchment requirements of SANGs. Investigations may need to consider the likely locations of future development, beyond that allocated in existing Local Plans to identify where additional mitigation may be required in future.

3.5. As detailed in Chapter 2, SANG surveys monitor visitors using SANG sites. In the HMA, surveys have been undertaken on the SANGs shown in the following table.

[13] Natural England (2008) *SANG Guidelines*

Surrey Heath	Hart	Rushmoor
Chobham Water Meadows	Dilly Lane / QE 2 Fields	Rowhill Nature Reserve
Heather Farm	Crookham Park	Southwood Woodland
Chobham Place Woods	Shepherd Meadows	Hawley Meadows
Bisley Common	Swan Lake Park	

Figure 2: SANG network across the HMA (recorded December 2019, note two new sites in 2020 – Hartland Park & Frimley Fuel Allotments)



Ref	SANG Name
1	Swan Lake Park
2	Shepherd Meadows
3	Hawley Meadows and Blackwater Park
4	Diamond Ridge Woods
5	Earlswood Park
6	Bassetts Mead Country Park
7	Queen Elizabeth II Fields
8	Edenbrook Country Park
9	Bramshot Farm Country Park
10	Southwood Woodlands
11	Naishes Wood at Crookham Park
12	Wellesley Woodlands
13	Lakeside Nature Reserve
14	St. Catherine's Road
15	Bisley Common
16	Chobham Place Woods
17	Little Heath Meadow
18	Chobham Water Meadows
19	Heather Farm
20	Southwood Country Park
21	Whitewater Meadows
22	Wellesley Water Meadow
23	Windlemere

3.6. In addition to the SANG which are currently open, there are a number of sites which are expected to come forward in the future.

Figure 3: Pipeline SANG within the HMA Recorded December 2019 (boundaries shown are indicative and may be subject to change)

Note Hartland Park SANG in Hart was opened & operational in 2020.

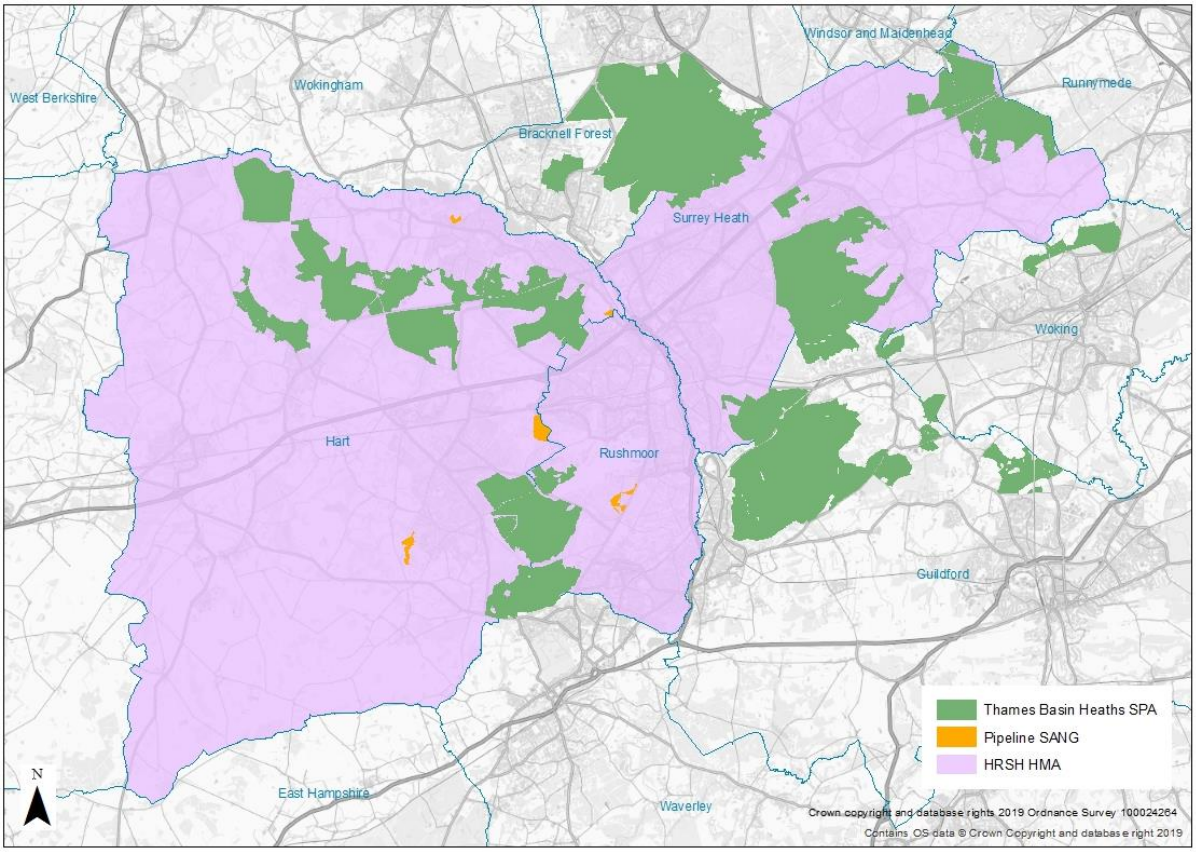


Table 2: Pipeline SANG within the HMA

SANG Name	Within LPAs	Size (Ha)
Albany Park , Crookham	Hart	16.6
Blandford House and Malta Barracks	Rushmoor	13.7
Hartland Park (*open in 2020*)	Hart	26.7
Hawley Park Farm	Hart	17.3
Moulsham Lane, Yateley	Hart	5.1

SANG Capacity

3.7. At December 2020, a total of 25 SANG have been recorded as agreed and delivered in the HMA. Based on a 2.4 person occupancy rate, and the minimum 8ha per 1,000 people

provision, in theory this could enable development of over 33,000 dwellings. However, in practice many of these sites have less capacity due to discounts for elements such as existing visitor use and biodiversity sensitivities, and in some cases the use of a standard above the 8ha per 1,000 minimum. In addition, 4 SANG are in the process of being implemented and are expected to bring forward an additional 52.7ha of greenspace.

Potential SANG

Review of Potential SANG in the HMA

3.8. A review of potential SANG sites which have been previously investigated has been undertaken as part of this project. A summary of the review is set out in Appendix 6. This identified the main reasons why sites across the HMA have been discounted. The reasons fell into two categories:

(i) sites which did not or could not meet the existing SANG criteria (see Appendix 1); and

(ii) 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, suitable catchments and land ownership/availability).

3.9. 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.

3.10. Potential SANG sites identified particularly in Hart indicate that there may be opportunities for SANG delivery but the current catchments of these sites may not relate to areas where development is likely to come forward. Bespoke SANG sites may also be put forward as part of larger residential development schemes but may be refused planning permission on grounds other than the SANG suitability. For example, at Cross Farm, Crondall Road

(18/00045/OUT) a care village and SANG application was refused on many grounds despite concluding that the proposed SANG (and SAMM contributions) would ensure that there would be no adverse effects on the SPA. The appeal Inspector noted that the SANG '*would provide certain benefits'* regarding the character and appearance of the site, however this did not outweigh the harmful landscape effects of the associated proposed built development.

3.11. The review of potential SANG and a consideration of the reasons that potential sites do not meet the SANG criteria will enable consideration as to whether these sites could be used as part of an alternative approach. This includes:

- Consideration of the relationship between sites and the delivery of a network of sites which meet different needs and provides variation/visual interest for different users.
- Consideration of the requirement to deliver a circular walk and for a 'semi-natural' site and whether different types or sizes of alternative sites could meet a need for dog walkers (e.g. dedicated fenced dog training areas).
- Consideration of what attracts people to different sites and the potential for larger sites, or those with certain facilities, to have a wider catchment.

3.12. Further consideration of the existing SANG network, SANG catchments and potential sites which could be used as part of an alternative approach to SANG will be explored further as part of the SANG Research Study.

4. The Wider Open Space Network

4.1. The SANG network in the HRSH HMA sits within a wider network of open space and green infrastructure (GI). It is valuable to understand how this wider network functions and this will assist in informing whether there are opportunities to enhance this existing network as part of an alternative mitigation approach. A map showing the wider open space network is included in Appendix 8.

Hart Open Space and Green Infrastructure

4.2. Hart District Council published the Hart Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy[14] in 2017. This strategy shows that Hart has a significant provision of GI, however networks are fragmented with a lack of green corridors. Enhancement of linear features, such as Public Rights of Way, river corridors, the canal and cycle paths, could provide these green corridors to connect greenspaces and provide recreational opportunities.

4.3. The Hart Open Space Study[15] also highlighted the importance of raising awareness of the open space network, as well as increasing connectivity and accessibility through signage and safe crossing points. The GI Strategy recommended the creation and implementation of promotional strategies, including an online map and smart phone app, to encourage visitation to sites such as SANGs and other spaces, and reduce pressure on more well-known, sensitive destinations, including the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and Fleet Pond Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Rushmoor Open Space and Green Infrastructure

4.4. Rushmoor's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study[16] identified 123 publicly accessible open spaces within the Borough. The study identified that local (2-20ha) and small parks and gardens (0.1-2ha) were the most valued and visited open space in Rushmoor. The recommendations included protecting and enhancing these sites, alongside increasing access through provision of car parking, cycle parking and improved signage.

[14] LUC (2017) *Hart Green Infrastructure Strategy*
[15] LUC (2016) *Hart Open Space Study*
[16] LUC (in association with Continuum Sport and Leisure (2014) *Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study*

4.5. The study also identified issues with open space connectivity due to fragmentation caused by lack of suitable crossing points for railway lines and highways, as well as lack of signage and promotion of the Public Right of Way network. There were differences in the provisions across the borough, with Farnborough particularly falling below standards for the quantity of parks and gardens, and natural green spaces. In these areas it was recommended that enhancing amenity green space, cemeteries and churchyards could assist in increasing their role within the open space network.

4.6. Work has commenced on the production of a new Green Infrastructure Strategy for Rushmoor which aims to identify and implement opportunities to improve the quality of the green infrastructure network.

Surrey Heath Open Space and Green Infrastructure

4.7. The Surrey Heath Infrastructure Needs Assessment[17] stated that the borough includes a significantly high provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace, however most of this is assessed as being of low quality. The report recommendations were to maintain the quantity and accessibility of this greenspace and improve its quality.

4.8. The earlier Surrey Heath Open Space Assessment Report[18] identified many natural and semi-natural greenspaces as lacking ancillary features (e.g. signage, bins, pathways), or access, which affected their recreational use and value. Features such as toilets, play areas and visitor centres were recognised as increasing the attractiveness of sites to visitors, leading to increased usage. Residents surveyed specified that attractiveness of site, cleanliness and improvements to footpaths and seats were the most important aspects of their local open space. The survey also found that the most common expected travel time to a natural space was up to 30 minutes by car, with many also willing to walk up to 30 minutes.

4.9. The findings identified for each authority above may provide opportunities to explore whether suggested improvements to the open space network to enhance recreational opportunities, could also provide mitigation alternatives for the TBH SPA. Previous studies particularly indicate that network connections, facilities and accessibility are important greenspace improvements

[17] AECOM (2017) *Surrey Heath Infrastructure Needs Assessment: Part A Baseline Report*
[18] Knight, Kavanagh & Page (2016) *Surrey Heath Borough Council Open Space Assessment Report*

sought across the HRSH area. Some of these studies collected information on individual greenspace sites, this further information could be useful to identify where different mitigation approaches could be implemented.

Connections between Open Spaces and SANGs

4.10. The Hampshire Countryside Access Plan[19], covering both Hart and Rushmoor, identifies improvements needed to support access to the countryside across the County. Many of these involve improving Public Rights of Way and the attractiveness of existing assets for different user groups, as well as enhancing the connectivity of the network.

4.11. The objectives within the Surrey County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan[20] include improving accessibility, connectivity and recreational enjoyment for people using the Rights of Way network. Funding is often a barrier to the proposed works. Appendix 7 shows the Rights of Way and connections across the whole HMA area.

4.12. SANG visitor surveys have established that people enjoy visiting a variety of greenspaces and also often seek the option of longer walks. This provides opportunities to explore whether establishing, or enhancing connections to greenspace sites could provide a mitigation option. Consideration of the wider network and potential areas which could be used as part of an alternative approach to SANG will be explored further as part of the SANG Research Study.

[19] Hampshire County Council (2015) *Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025*
[20] Surrey County Council (2014) *Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan*

5. Gaps, Opportunities and Further Work

5.1. This report has detailed the current approach to SANG and the existing SANG network in the HMA, as well as exploring the existing open space network and identifying opportunities for improvements. The recommendations from open space studies tend to support options identified within the SANG Research Study Project Brief and include increasing access and connectivity to greenspace and improving the facilities offered at greenspace sites.

5.2. SPA and SANG visitor surveys can give useful information on how people use these sites and help to understand whether any alternatives may be suitable. It will be important that any alternative greenspace mitigation proposed caters appropriately for those who may otherwise visit the SPA. The most recent SANG surveys show that most visitors to SANG are dog walkers, which is consistent with those visiting the SPA. Most people visit SANGs equally all year with three quarters of visitors travelling to the sites by car.

5.3. The main reasons given for visiting SANGs were that they were close to home, able to let dogs off the lead and good for dogs. Visitor catchments varied across sites and were influenced by the proximity to other SANGs. When asked for alternative sites people's choices were based on variety, proximity to home and provision of large open areas. The findings indicate that potential SPA visitors are using SANGs but also show that people visit a variety of greenspaces, suggesting that there may be opportunities for alternatives.

5.4. There is currently a lack of detailed information on whether, and how, potential SPA visitors would use alternative greenspaces to SANG that meet the current criteria. This is an important topic to be explored further within the SANG Research Study.

5.5. Differing catchments have not previously been explored for Thames Basin Heaths SANGs as the Delivery Framework standard has been consistently applied across the area. Investigating whether different catchments could be effective for different sites would also be valuable future work to inform alternative options.

5.6. Appendix 6 gives details of the potential SANGs which have been previously discounted within the HMA. These may provide opportunities for locations to explore the delivery of identified alternative options that may be found viable, along with the wider open space and network connections shown in appendix 8 and 7 respectively.

5.7. The SANG Research Study will investigate whether alternative options could be provided to offer effective SPA mitigation. The options being investigated further include:

- Potential for providing SANG networks
- Potential for delivery of linear SANG
- Potential for mitigation from the enhancement or creation of other recreational routes
- Potential for smaller SANG/facilities with smaller catchments
- Potential for larger SANG with larger catchments

5.8. These options will be investigated and then reviewed with all of the other mitigation options within the final Project Report. This report will draw conclusions on the potential options and set out recommendations for implementation and/or further work.

References

AECOM (2017) *Surrey Heath Infrastructure Needs Assessment: Part A Baseline Report*

Clarke, R.T., Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C., & Rose, R.J. (2005) *Visitor access patterns on the Dorset Heaths.* English Nature Research Report 683

English Nature (2005) *Thames Basin Heaths SPA Citation*

EPR (2012) *Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report*

EPR (2018) *Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018*

European Commission Council (1992) *Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora*

Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. (2013) *Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).* Natural England Commissioned Report 136

Government Office for the South East (GOSE) (2009) *The South East Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy*

Hale, J (2008) *Taking the lead: managing walkers with dogs on your site*. Hampshire County Council. Available at www.hants.gov.uk/dogs

Hampshire County Council (2015) *Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025*

Jenkinson, S (2015). *Creating positive opportunities to engage with commercial dog walkers.* Scottish Natural Heritage. Available from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Jenkinson, S. (2013) *Planning for dog ownership in new developments*. Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council, Whitehill Bordon Eco-town, Kennel Club. www.hants.gov.uk/dogs

Judgment of the Court (Second Chamber) (2005) *Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, C-6/04, EU:C:2005:626*. Available at http://curia.europa.eu/

Kennel Club (2012) *Coastal Access Survey: Kent (Ramsgate to Folkestone)*. London

Knight, Kavanagh & Page (2016) *Surrey Heath Borough Council Open Space Assessment Report*

Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005) *The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area*. English Nature Research Report XX.

Liley, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2007) *Visitor patterns on southern heaths: a review of visitor access patterns to heathlands in the UK and the relevance to Annex I bird species.* Ibis, 149, s1

Liley, D., Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005) *Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths.* English Nature Research Report 682

Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C & Squirrell, N (2006) *Dog-walkers on the Dorset Heaths: Analysis of questionnaire data collected by wardens on Dorset's Urban Heaths*

LUC (2016) *Hart Open Space Study*

LUC (2017) *Hart Green Infrastructure Strategy*

LUC (in association with Continuum Sport and Leisure) (2014) *Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study*

Natural England (2008) *SANG Guidelines*

Panter, C. (2019) *Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018*

Rose, R.J. and R.T. Clarke (2005) *Urban impacts on Dorset Heathlands: Analysis of the heathland visitor questionnaire survey and heathland fires incidence data sets.* English Nature Research Report 624

Sport Industry Research Centre (2008) *Assessment of perceptions, behaviours and understanding of walkers with dogs in the countryside*. SIRC, Sheffield. Available from www.hants.gov.uk/dogs

Surrey County Council (2014) *Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan*

Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (2009) *Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework*

Appendix 1 – SANG Guidelines

Introduction

'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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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 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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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 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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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)

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.).

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.

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 SANGS

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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 (nonwooded) 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 2 – Summary of Evidence Available to Support SANG Criteria

Evidence to Support the Criteria

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	Must Haves/Should Haves	
1	**Parking on all sites larger than 4ha (unless the site is intended for use within 400m only)**	
	Visitors travelling by car	
	80% of visitors arrived by car.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	59% of visitors arrived by car.	Clarke, R.T., Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C., & Rose, R.J. (2005). Visitor access patterns on the Dorset Heaths. English Nature Research Reports, No. 683.
	98% of visitors arrived by car.	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	83% of visitors arrived by car.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
	59% of visitors were found to drive to sites (although it was noted that this has been found to be much higher in the Thames Basin Heaths).	Liley, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2007) Visitor patterns on southern heaths: a review of visitor access patterns to heathlands in the UK and the relevance to Annex I bird species. Ibis, 149, s1.
	75% of visitors arrived by car.	Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. (2013) Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 136.
	75% of interviewees arrived on SANGs surveyed by car.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	96% travel to site by car but flexible where they go, demonstrating the importance of car park location, management and charging.	Jenkinson, S (2015). Creating positive opportunities to engage with commercial dog walkers. Scottish Natural Heritage. Available from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.
	Importance of car parking	
	The most common changes that users consider would make the place less attractive were: **introduction of car parking charges (76%),** the requirement to keep a dog on the lead (68%) and **lack of parking (67%).**	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	The highest rating across all locations was the quality of the site for dogs, followed by **parking** and then paths.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The most common improvements suggested by respondents were better paths, more dog poo bins/dog fouling issues, **more parking**, new or better fencing, and more paths/choice of paths.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The five top scoring features were (i) the ability to let the dog off a lead, (ii) safety on site, (iii) a quick journey time from home, **(iv) provision of parking** and (v) convenient access from home. Those with dogs gave higher scores to features relating to convenience, whereas people not walking dogs gave higher scores to site features such as the presence of water bodies, viewpoints and way-marked routes.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	There was also found to be differences between the features selected by those on the SPA compared to non-SPA sites. **Those on the SPA stated a preference for convenient car access and provision of car parking**.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	There was also found to be differences between the features selected by those on the SPA compared to non-SPA sites. **Those on the SPA stated a preference for convenient car access and provision of car parking**. Those on non-SPA sites preferred surfaced paths, way-marked routes, a variety of routes and the presence of viewpoints.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	Dog walkers visiting the SPA gave more value to being able to let their dog off the lead, not having to clear up after their dog and the absence of livestock.	
	Variation	
	Variation in mode of transport by site with the percentage arriving by car ranging from 7% (Hare Hill) to 96% at Horseshoe Lake. This was reflected in the variation of distances travelled to the sites.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	Variation in mode of transport between access points dependent on car parking provision and the number of people living within walking distance.	Clarke, R.T., Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C., & Rose, R.J. (2005). Visitor access patterns on the Dorset Heaths. English Nature Research Reports, No. 683.
2	**Circular walk of 2.3-2.5km**	
	Distance	
	Dog walkers were found to walk on average just over 2km and penetrate into the heath on average just less than 700m.	Clarke, R.T., Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C., & Rose, R.J. (2005). Visitor access patterns on the Dorset Heaths. English Nature Research Reports, No. 683.
	Typical visit duration was estimated to be around 50 minutes (25% of interviewees stated they visited less than 30 minutes and 57% between 30 minutes and 1 hour).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	Average dog walk was 2.8km.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	Average dog walk duration was 58 minutes (approximately 2.7km circular dog walk).	Jenkinson, S (2015). Creating positive opportunities to engage with commercial dog walkers. Scottish Natural Heritage. Available from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.
	Visits are typically short, with an average distance travelled in Dorset Heaths of 2.2km and in the Thames Basin Heaths of 2.5km.	Liley, D. & Underhill-Day, J (2007) Visitor patterns on southern heaths: a review of visitor access patterns to heathlands in the UK and the relevance to Annex I bird species. Ibis, 149, s1.
	Circular Walk	
	In Dorset, walks were typically circular.	Liley, D. & Underhill-Day, J (2007) Visitor patterns on southern heaths: a review of

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
		visitor access patterns to heathlands in the UK and the relevance to Annex I bird species. Ibis, 149, s1.
	The most important single influence on walk selection for dog owners were: 1. Dogs can be off-lead (41%) 2. Away from traffic (10.7%) 3. Close to home (10.5%) 4. Personal safety (8.7%) 5. Peace and quiet (4.7%) 6. Unlikely to meet other dog walkers (4.1%) 7. Mixing with other dogs (3.6%) 8. Away from livestock (2.9%) 9. Poo disposal facilities (2.5%) **10. Circular route (2.2%)**	Sport Industry Research Centre (2008) Assessment of perceptions, behaviours and understanding of walkers with dogs in the countryside. SIRC, Sheffield. Available from www.hants.gov.uk/dogs.
	Each person interviewed (as they were leaving the heath) was asked to indicate on a map of the site which route and where they had just walked. These maps show that circular routes were commonly followed.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
3	**Car parks easily and safely accessible by car and clearly sign posted**	
	See criteria 1 above.	
4	**Access points appropriate for particular visitor use the SANGS is intended to cater for**	
	See criteria 2 above.	
5	**Safe access route on foot from nearest car park and/or footpath**	
	The five top scoring features were (i) the ability to let the dog off a lead, (ii) safety on site, (iii) a quick journey time from home, (iv) provision of parking and (v) **convenient access from home.** Those with dogs gave higher scores to features relating to convenience, whereas people not walking dogs gave higher scores to site features such as the presence of water bodies, viewpoints and way-marked routes.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
6	**Circular walk which starts and finishes at the car park**	
	See criteria 1 – variation above.	
7	**Perceived as safe – no tree and scrub cover along part of walking routes**	

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	The five top scoring features were (i) the ability to let the dog off a lead, (ii) **safety on site,** (iii) a quick journey time from home, (iv) provision of parking and (v) convenient access from home. Those with dogs gave higher scores to features relating to convenience, whereas people not walking dogs gave higher scores to site features such as the presence of water bodies, viewpoints and way-marked routes.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	It was noted that dog walkers were more likely to be women and women scored personal safety as of higher importance than men did.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	The most important single influence on walk selection for dog owners were: 1. Dogs can be off-lead (41%) 2. Away from traffic (10.7%) 3. Close to home (10.5%) **4. Personal safety (8.7%)** 5. Peace and quiet (4.7%) 6. Unlikely to meet other dog walkers (4.1%) 7. Mixing with other dogs (3.6%) 8. Away from livestock (2.9%) 9. Poo disposal facilities (2.5%) 10. Circular route (2.2%)	Sport Industry Research Centre (2008) Assessment of perceptions, behaviours and understanding of walkers with dogs in the countryside. SIRC, Sheffield. Available from www.hants.gov.uk/dogs.
8	**Paths easily used and well maintained but mostly unsurfaced**	
	Quality/Maintenance of Paths	
	Across all sites the main reason for visiting was that sites were close to home (35%), following 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%).**	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The highest rating across all locations was the quality of the site for dogs, followed by parking and **then paths.**	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The most common improvements suggested by respondents were **better paths**, more dog poo bins/dog fouling issues, more parking, new or better fencing, and **more paths/choice of paths.**	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	Surfacing/Type of Paths	
	Based on viewing a selection of photos (of hypothetical 'ideal sites) semi-natural habitats and a number of attributes were preferred, namely: **gravelled, relatively narrow paths**, through wooded habitats (deciduous preferred), undulating terrain and the presence of water, such as a lake. However, the report concludes that visual interest and variety appeared to be of interest to people rather than particular features. There was a difference between SPA and non-SPA site visitors, the former selected soft sandy paths and undulating topography and the latter selected images of urban park and artificial lake.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
9	**Perceived as semi-natural with little intrusion of artificial structures**	
	When asked what makes visitors go to the SPA, in preference to another site 39.6% answered 'quiet/peaceful', 37.5% answered 'like the wide open landscape/views'.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	70% of the people (dog walkers) interviewed said they visited the SPA because of the open nature of the heath and the wildlife.	Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C & Squirrell, N (2006) Dog-walkers on the Dorset Heaths: Analysis of questionnaire data collected by wardens on Dorset's Urban Heaths.
	The three most common reasons for visiting the sites were: **peacefulness (62%), look and feel of the site (61%)** and the ability to let the dog off the lead (56%). However, dog owners interviewed prioritised the latter (74%).	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	Based on viewing a selection of photos (of hypothetical 'ideal sites) **semi-natural habitats** and a number of attributes were preferred, namely: gravelled, relatively narrow paths, through wooded habitats (deciduous preferred), undulating terrain and the presence of water, such as a lake. However, the report concludes that visual interest and variety appeared to be of interest to people rather than particular features. There was a difference between SPA and non-SPA site visitors, the former selected soft sandy paths and undulating topography and the latter selected images of urban park and artificial lake.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	The most important single influence on walk selection for dog owners were:	Sport Industry Research Centre (2008) Assessment of perceptions, behaviours and

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	1. Dogs can be off-lead (41%) 2. Away from traffic (10.7%) 3. Close to home (10.5%) 4. Personal safety (8.7%) **5. Peace and quiet (4.7%)** 6. Unlikely to meet other dog walkers (4.1%) 7. Mixing with other dogs (3.6%) 8. Away from livestock (2.9%) 9. Poo disposal facilities (2.5%) 10. Circular route (2.2%)	understanding of walkers with dogs in the countryside. SIRC, Sheffield. Available from www.hants.gov.uk/dogs.
10	**If larger than 12 ha then a range of habitats should be present**	
	When asked what makes visitors go to the SPA, in preference to another site 26.5% answered 'like the variety of natural habitats'.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	For those who gave a SANG as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (7%), large open area (5%), close to home (4%), can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%) and **variety of habitats (3%).**	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	Based on viewing a selection of photos (of hypothetical 'ideal sites) semi-natural habitats and a number of attributes were preferred, namely: gravelled, relatively narrow paths, through wooded habitats (deciduous preferred), undulating terrain and the presence of water, such as a lake. **However, the report concludes that visual interest and variety appeared to be of interest to people rather than particular features.** There was a difference between SPA and non-SPA site visitors, the former selected soft sandy paths and undulating topography and the latter selected images of urban park and artificial lake.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
11	**Access unrestricted – plenty of space for dogs to exercise freely and safely off the lead**	
	Proportion of SPA visitors walking dogs	
	The majority of heathland users were walkers with dogs.	Rose, R.J. and R.T. Clarke (2005) Urban impacts on Dorset Heathlands: Analysis of the heathland visitor questionnaire survey and heathland fires incidence data sets. English Nature Research Reports, No. 624.
	76.3% of visitors had at least one dog with them, with an average of 1.2 dogs per group. 74.6% of local visitors	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	were mainly using the heath for dog walking, an additional 2.3% were commercial dog walkers.	
	80% of people interviewed were mainly using the heath to walk their dog and, of those with dogs, 90-94% did not have their dog on the lead.	Clarke, R.T., Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C., & Rose, R.J. (2005). Visitor access patterns on the Dorset Heaths. English Nature Research Reports, No. 683.
	Visits made primarily for dog walking (69%) and walking (17%), with a large proportion of visitors accompanied by dog(s) (71%).	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	There are a variety of reasons for visiting the heathland, but dog walking was the most common reason (59% of groups interviewed). 72% of groups were accompanied by a dog.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
	A significantly higher proportion of those who visited the heaths daily were dog walkers, compared to less frequent visitors.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
	There are a variety of reasons for visiting the heathland, but dog walking was the most common reason (65% of groups interviewed).	Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. 2013. Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 136.
	The majority (80%) of all interviewed groups were accompanied by a dog.	Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. 2013. Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 136.
	79% of SANG users interviewed were dog walkers 2.1.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The majority of those surveyed gave dog walking as the primary reasons for visiting (80%).	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The “Quality” of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	Dogs on the Lead/Suitability for Dogs	

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	When asked what makes visitors go to the SPA, in preference to another site 52.6% of groups with dogs answered 'dog enjoys it', 39.4% answered 'can let dog off the lead'. 54.6% of visitors had at least one dog off the lead.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	90-94% of those walking dogs did not have their dog on the lead.	Clarke, R.T., Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C., & Rose, R.J. (2005). Visitor access patterns on the Dorset Heaths. English Nature Research Reports, No. 683.
	62% of people (dog walkers) interview said that they visited the SPA because it was the nearest open space where they could exercise the dog freely.	Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C & Squirrell, N (2006) Dog-walkers on the Dorset Heaths: Analysis of questionnaire data collected by wardens on Dorset's Urban Heaths.
	91% of dog owners said they let their dogs off the lead and 60% said their dog had ventured off the main footpath.	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	The three most common reasons for visiting the sites were: peacefulness (62%), look and feel of the site (61%) and **the ability to let the dog off the lead (56%). However, dog owners interviewed prioritised the latter (74%).**	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	The most common changes that users consider would make the place less attractive were: introduction of car parking charges (76%), the **requirement to keep a dog on the lead (68%)** and lack of parking (67%).	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	Dog walkers typically stay on the path but most let their dogs off the lead (and consider it important to do so). Around half of dogs went off the path and this was found to be higher were there were two dogs together.	Liley, D. & Underhill-Day, J (2007) Visitor patterns on southern heaths: a review of visitor access patterns to heathlands in the UK and the relevance to Annex I bird species. Ibis, 149, s1.
	Across all 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%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The highest rating across all locations was the **quality of the site for dogs**, followed by parking and then paths.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The most common improvements suggested by respondents were better paths, more dog poo bins/dog	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	fouling issues**,** more parking, **new or better fencing,** and more paths/choice of paths.	
	For those who gave a SANG as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (7%), large open area (5%), close to home (4%), **can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%)** and variety of habitats (3%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	For those who gave a SPA location as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (8%), large open area (6%), close to home (6%), bigger/ longer walks (5%), and **can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%).**	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The five top scoring features were **(i) the ability to let the dog off a lead**, (ii) safety on site, (iii) a quick journey time from home, (iv) provision of parking and (v) convenient access from home. Those with dogs gave higher scores to features relating to convenience, whereas people not walking dogs gave higher scores to site features such as the presence of water bodies, viewpoints and way-marked routes.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	Those interviewed with dogs were asked about their willingness to put their dog on the lead. Whilst the majority stated that they would be very willing to put their dog on the lead, the typical response suggested that this would only be acceptable for part of the walk and if expected for the whole walk would lead people to go to alternative locations.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	There was also found to be differences between the features selected by those on the SPA compared to non-SPA sites. Those on the SPA stated a preference for convenient car access and provision of car parking. Those on non-SPA sites preferred surfaced paths, way-marked routes, a variety of routes and the presence of viewpoints. **Dog walkers visiting the SPA gave more value to being able to let their dog off the lead, not having to clear up after their dog and the absence of livestock**.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	The most important single influence on walk selection for dog owners were: 1. **Dogs can be off-lead (41%)**	Sport Industry Research Centre (2008) Assessment of perceptions, behaviours and understanding of walkers with dogs in the

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	2. **Away from traffic (10.7%)** 3. Close to home (10.5%) 4. Personal safety (8.7%) 5. Peace and quiet (4.7%) 6. Unlikely to meet other dog walkers (4.1%) 7. Mixing with other dogs (3.6%) **8. Away from livestock (2.9%)** **9. Poo disposal facilities (2.5%)** 10. Circular route (2.2%)	countryside. SIRC, Sheffield. Available from www.hants.gov.uk/dogs.
	A 2012 Kennel Club Survey found that 83% strongly agreed that "off-lead access for dogs is very important" and 51% strongly agreed that they "avoid places where there are cows or sheep".	Kennel Club (2012) Coastal Access Survey: Kent (Ramsgate to Folkestone). London.
	The main influence for dog walkers is opportunities to let their dog off the lead in safe traffic free areas.	Hale, J (2008) Taking the lead: managing walkers with dogs on your site. Hampshire County Council. Available at www.hants.gov.uk/dogs.
	Studies all over the UK repeatedly show that the three most important amenities for dog owners are off-lead access, being close to home and away from traffic.	Jenkinson, S. (2013). Planning for dog ownership in new developments. Hampshire County Council / East Hampshire District Council / Whitehill Bordon Eco-town / Kennel Club. www.hants.gov.uk/dogs.
	Number of dogs walked ranged from 2 to 10 dogs and 75% of clients want dog walkers to let dogs off the lead.	Jenkinson, S (2015). Creating positive opportunities to engage with commercial dog walkers. Scottish Natural Heritage. Available from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.
12	**No unpleasant intrusions (e.g. sewage treatment smells etc.)**	
	Value of providing specific areas for walkers with dogs whilst ensuring that these area is safe, attractive not seen as a neglected space or a 'dog walking ghetto'.	Hale, J (2008) Taking the lead: managing walkers with dogs on your site. Hampshire County Council. Available at www.hants.gov.uk/dogs.
13	**Clearly sign posted or advertised in some way**	
	Local knowledge was key in how visitors became aware of the sites, with word of mouth, proximity to the sites and becoming aware of the site from driving past or seeing a sign.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
14	**Leaflets or website advertising their location to potential users (distributed to homes and made available at entrance points and car parks)**	

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	No specific evidence identified.	
	Desirable	
15	**Can dog owners take dogs from the car park to the SANGS safely off the lead**	
	No specific evidence identified.	
16	**Gently undulating topography**	
	Based on viewing a selection of photos (of hypothetical 'ideal sites) semi-natural habitats and a number of attributes were preferred, namely: gravelled, relatively narrow paths, through wooded habitats (deciduous preferred), **undulating terrain** and the presence of water, such as a lake. However, the report concludes that visual interest and variety appeared to be of interest to people rather than particular features. There was a difference between SPA and non-SPA site visitors, the former selected soft sandy paths and undulating topography and the latter selected images of urban park and artificial lake.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
17	**Access points with signage outlining the layout of the SANGS and routes available to visitors**	
	There was also found to be differences between the features selected by those on the SPA compared to non-SPA sites. Those on the SPA stated a preference for convenient car access and provision of car parking. Those on non-SPA sites preferred surfaced paths, **way-marked routes**, a variety of routes and the presence of viewpoints. Dog walkers visiting the SPA gave more value to being able to let their dog off the lead, not having to clear up after their dog and the absence of livestock	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
18	**Naturalistic space with areas of open (nonwooded) countryside and areas of dense and scattered trees and shrubs. Provision of open water is desirable**	
	Open Water	
	The percentage who visited equally all year round did range from 69% at Chobham water meadows and 94% at Peacock meadows. Some locations appeared more popular at particular times of year: at Hawley Meadows and Horseshoe Lake (both open sites with water), 21%	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	and 22% of interviewees selected summer as one of the seasons in which they visited more.	
	Based on viewing a selection of photos (of hypothetical 'ideal sites) semi-natural habitats and a number of attributes were preferred, namely: gravelled, relatively narrow paths, through wooded habitats (deciduous preferred), undulating terrain and **the presence of water, such as a lake**. However, the report concludes that visual interest and variety appeared to be of interest to people rather than particular features.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	Variety (*see also Criteria 10 above*)	
	For those who gave a SANG as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (7%), large open area (5%), close to home (4%), can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%) and **variety of habitats (3%).**	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	Wooded Habitats	
	Based on viewing a selection of photos (of hypothetical 'ideal sites) semi-natural habitats and a number of attributes were preferred, namely: gravelled, relatively narrow paths, **through wooded habitats (deciduous preferred),** undulating terrain and the presence of water, such as a lake. However, the report concludes that visual interest and variety appeared to be of interest to people rather than particular features.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
19	**Focal point such as a view point or monument within the SANGS**	
	The five top scoring features were (i) the ability to let the dog off a lead, (ii) safety on site**,** (iii) a quick journey time from home, (iv) provision of parking and (v) convenient access from home. Those with dogs gave higher scores to features relating to convenience, whereas people not walking dogs gave higher scores to site features such as the presence of water bodies, **viewpoints** and way-marked routes.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	There was also found to be differences between the features selected by those on the SPA compared to non-SPA sites. Those on the SPA stated a preference for convenient car access and provision of car parking.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	Those on non-SPA sites preferred surfaced paths, way-marked routes, a variety of routes and the **presence of viewpoints.** Dog walkers visiting the SPA gave more value to being able to let their dog off the lead, not having to clear up after their dog and the absence of livestock.	
	Catchments[21]	
	General	
	The average driving distance of dog walkers was considerably less than for other heath users.	Rose, R.J. and R.T. Clarke (2005) Urban impacts on Dorset Heathlands: Analysis of the heathland visitor questionnaire survey and heathland fires incidence data sets. English Nature Research Reports, No. 624.
	When asked what makes visitors go to the SPA, in preference to another site the highest response (61.6%) was 'close to home'.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	91.8% of postcodes provided by local grounds were within 5km of the SPA, however 79% of visitors had travelled less than 5km to their chosen access point, showing some were prepared to travel further to their chosen area, which may not be closest to home.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	Dog walkers tended to travel shorter distances to reach alternative sites than other users.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
	Across all sites the main reason for visiting was that **sites were close to home (35%),** following 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%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.

[21] As a guide, the following catchments are currently used: 2-12ha SANG = 2km catchment, 12-20ha SANG = 4km catchment, 20ha+ SANG = 5km catchment

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	There was a variation between the top 5 reasons for visiting across the sites, but the site being close to home was the main reason at eight of the fourteen sites.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The most common reason for choosing these alternative sites was variety (21%), **followed by the fact sites are close to home (18%)** and because they offer large open areas (16%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	For those who gave a SANG as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (7%), large open area (5%), **close to home (4%),** can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%) and variety of habitats (3%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	For those who gave a SPA location as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (8%), large open area (6%), **close to home (6%)**, bigger/ longer walks (5%), and can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The five top scoring features were (i) the ability to let the dog off a lead, (ii) safety on site**, (iii) a quick journey time from home,** (iv) provision of parking and (v) convenient access from home. **Those with dogs gave higher scores to features relating to convenience**, whereas people not walking dogs gave higher scores to site features such as the presence of water bodies, viewpoints and way-marked routes.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	The most important single influence on walk selection for dog owners were: 1. Dogs can be off-lead (41%) 2. Away from traffic (10.7%) **3. Close to home (10.5%)** 4. Personal safety (8.7%) 5. Peace and quiet (4.7%) 6. Unlikely to meet other dog walkers (4.1%) 7. Mixing with other dogs (3.6%) 8. Away from livestock (2.9%) 9. Poo disposal facilities (2.5%) 10. Circular route (2.2%)	Sport Industry Research Centre (2008) Assessment of perceptions, behaviours and understanding of walkers with dogs in the countryside. SIRC, Sheffield. Available from www.hants.gov.uk/dogs.
	Median distance travelled	

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	Half of interviewee's lived within a 1.7km radius of the SANG.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	Of those travelling by car, half travelled an estimated 3.7km.	Clarke, R.T., Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C., & Rose, R.J. (2005). Visitor access patterns on the Dorset Heaths. English Nature Research Reports, No. 683.
	The median distance travelled to access point was 3.1km.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
	The median straight-line distance from the home postcode of the interviewee to the access point where interviewed was 2.65km (for those travelling by car).	Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. 2013. Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 136.
	The median straight-line distance from the home postcode of the interviewee to the access point was 0.52km for those walking from home.	Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. 2013. Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 136.
	Average distance travelled	
	The average distance travelled was 5.1km, with 1km for those on foot, and 6.2km for those in cars/vans.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	The average distance travelled to the SANG was 3.8 km.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	Distance travelled varied values greatly between survey sites; median value ranged from 0.4 km at Hare Hill to 4.1 km at Heather Farm.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	Average distance travelled to the site was 6.7km (this was skewed by very long distances travelled by some visitors).	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	70% or Q3/75th percentile - distance travelled	
	75% of all visitors came from within 4.6km. 75% of those arriving on foot came from within 1km and 75% of those arriving by car/van came from within 5km.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	Three quarters of interviewee's lived within 3.7 km of the SANG.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	70% of visitors travelled within 4.3km .	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	70% of those arriving by car came from within a radius of 5km from the access point.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
	90% distance travelled by foot	
	90% of those arriving on foot came from within a radius of 1.5km from the access point.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
	Visitors from within 5km	
	The majority of visitors visit regularly and live nearby (within 5km).	Liley, D. & Underhill-Day, J (2007) Visitor patterns on southern heaths: a review of visitor access patterns to heathlands in the UK and the relevance to Annex I bird species. Ibis, 149, s1.
	The majority (94%) of visitor postcodes fell within a 5km radius of the SPA boundary.	Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. 2013. Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 136.
	83% of visitors lived within 5km of the access point at which they were interviewed (straight line distance between a visitor postcode and the access point).	Fearnley, H. & Liley, D. 2013. Results of the 2012/13 visitor survey on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 136.
	Network of sites	
	Some heaths had a higher proportion of dog walkers than others and this suggested that in areas where there are no suitable alternative sites the heaths may have a greater intensity of use.	Rose, R.J. and R.T. Clarke (2005) Urban impacts on Dorset Heathlands: Analysis of the heathland visitor questionnaire survey and heathland fires incidence data sets. English Nature Research Reports, No. 624.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	Indication that visitors tend to use a network of open spaces and stated that they would visit alternative sites less often, but would travel further to reach them.	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	Three-quarters of all heathland visitors said they visited alternative sites.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
	Two thirds of local visitors (65.9%) said they also visited alternative sites.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	People that travelled to sites by car were more likely (than those that walked to sites) to visit alternative locations.	Liley, D, Jackson, D. & Underhill-Day, J. (2005). Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths. English Nature Research Report 682. English Nature, Peterborough.
	34% of interviewees visited 1 to 3 times a week and 21% daily. Sites with a high percentage of frequent visitors were Dilly Lane and Hare Hill, compared to very infrequent visitors at Heather Farm and Horseshoe Lake.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	There was also variation between the proportion of visitors using their nearest site, ranging from only 28% at Heather Farm and 100% at Dilly Lane. As noted, in the report this calculation is an indication, but those SANG sites on the edge of the TBHSPA affected area perform better than those in close proximity to other SANG sites.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The distances people travel has a bearing on the frequency they will visit a site. For daily visitors, the median value was 1km, for those visiting 1-3 times a week the median value was 2km and for those visiting once a month the median value was 3.5km.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	Respondents were asked to name an alternative site they would have visited, if they had not been able to visit the interview site on that day. Just 5% suggested there was nowhere else they would have visited. Using the first named alternative sites, 29% of interviewees named a SANG site, 34% named a SPA site and 38% named other sites. These proportions varied by site.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.

	Evidence Supporting Criteria	Reference
	The most common reason for choosing these alternative sites was **variety (21%),** followed by the fact sites are close to home (18%) and because they offer large open areas (16%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	For those who gave a SANG as their first alternative the key factors were: **a variety of places to visit (7%),** large open area (5%), close to home (4%), can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%) and variety of habitats (3%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	For those who gave a SPA location as their first alternative the key factors were: **a variety of places to visit (8%),** large open area (6%), close to home (6%), bigger/ longer walks (5%), and can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	8% undertook all of their visits at the interview site and 23% undertook most of their visits (over 75%) at the interview site.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.

Evidence Supporting Potential Variation on Criteria

	Evidence Supporting Potential Variation on Criteria	Reference
	Must Haves/Should Haves	
1	**Parking on all sites larger than 4ha (unless the site is intended for use within 400m only)**	
	No specific evidence identified at this stage.	
2	**Circular walk of 2.3-2.5km**	
	Distance	
	For those who gave a SPA location as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (8%), large open area (6%), close to home (6%), **bigger/ longer walks (5%),** and can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	The average distance travelled within the SPA for those arriving by foot (excluding cyclists and joggers which would make it 3km) was 2.7km, for those arriving by car this was 3.1km. This report recommended reviewing the SANG Guidelines as surveys show walks increasing over time.	EPR (2018) Visitor Access Patterns on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Visitor Questionnaire Survey 2018.
	The distance travelled on the heath and the penetration distance related to the area of the heath and did not vary because of the existence of parking facilities/more people travelling to the access point by car.	Clarke, R.T., Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J.C., & Rose, R.J. (2005). Visitor access patterns on the Dorset Heaths. English Nature Research Reports, No. 683.
3	**Car parks easily and safely accessible by car and clearly sign posted**	
	See criteria 1 above.	
4	**Access points appropriate for particular visitor use the SANGS is intended to cater for**	
	See criteria 2 above.	
5	**Safe access route on foot from nearest car park and/or footpath**	
	No specific evidence identified.	

	Evidence Supporting Potential Variation on Criteria	Reference
6	**Circular walk which starts and finishes at the car park**	
	No specific evidence identified.	
7	**Perceived as safe – no tree and scrub cover along part of walking routes**	
	No specific evidence identified.	
8	**Paths easily used and well maintained but mostly unsurfaced**	
	Surfacing/Type of Paths	
	There was a difference between SPA and non-SPA site visitors, the former selected soft sandy paths and undulating topography and the latter selected images of urban park and artificial lake.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	There was also found to be differences between the features selected by those on the SPA compared to non-SPA sites. Those on the SPA stated a preference for convenient car access and provision of car parking. **Those on non-SPA sites preferred surfaced paths**, way-marked routes, a variety of routes and the presence of viewpoints.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
9	**Perceived as semi-natural with little intrusion of artificial structures**	
	3.13. There was a difference between SPA and non-SPA site visitors, the former selected soft sandy paths and undulating topography and the latter selected images of urban park and artificial lake.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
10	**If larger than 12 ha then a range of habitats should be present**	

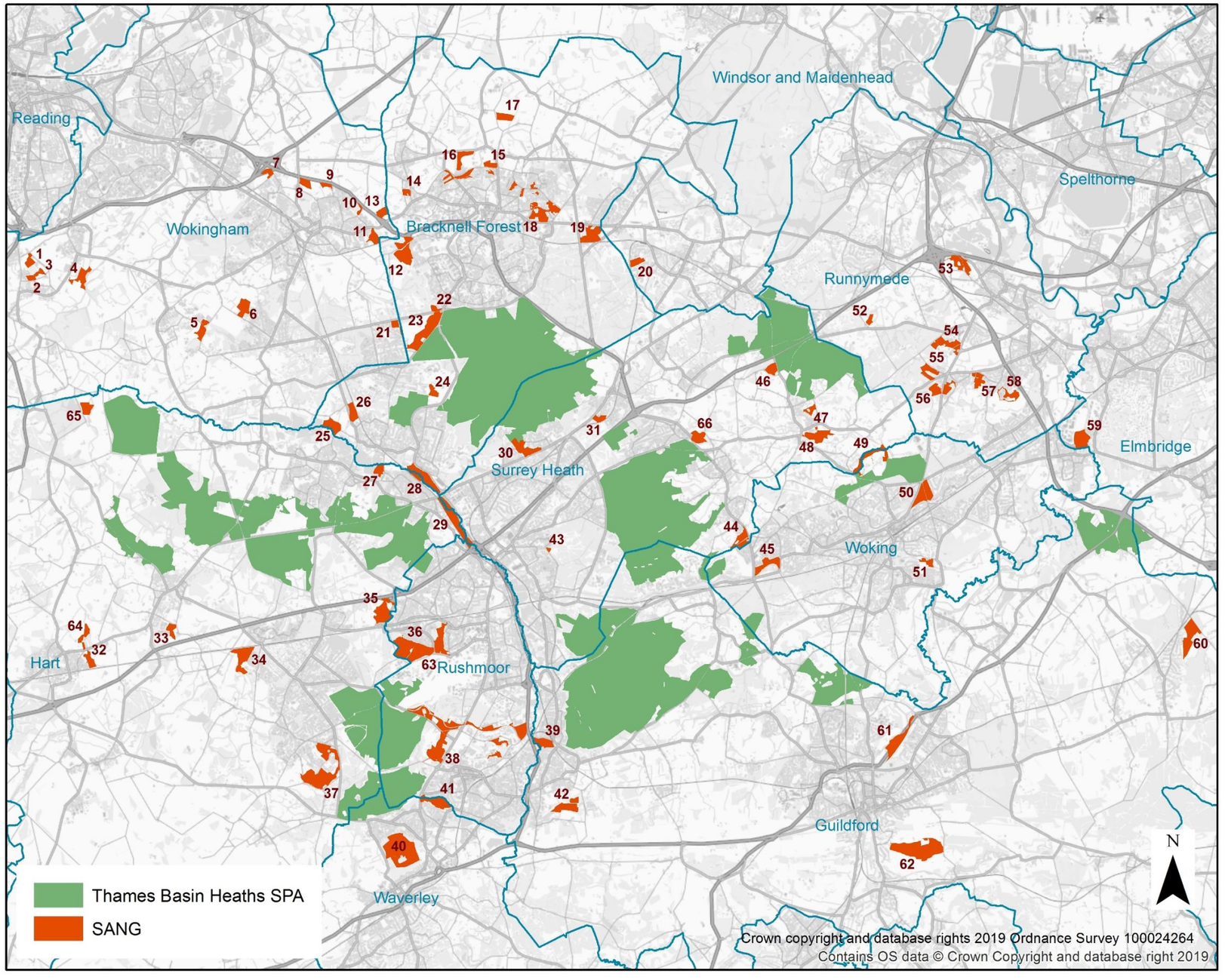
	Evidence Supporting Potential Variation on Criteria	Reference
	No specific evidence identified.	
11	**Access unrestricted – plenty of space for dogs to exercise freely and safely off the lead**	
	No specific evidence identified.	
12	**No unpleasant intrusions (e.g. sewage treatment smells etc.)**	
	No specific evidence identified.	
13	**Clearly sign posted or advertised in some way**	
	No specific evidence identified.	
14	**Leaflets or website advertising their location to potential users (distributed to homes and made available at entrance points and car parks)**	
	The numbers of visitors who were aware of the site by internet search, social media and TBH Partnership wardens/website/leaflets was relatively small across all sites.	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.
	Desirable	
15	**Can dog owners take dogs from the car park to the SANGS safely off the lead**	
	No specific evidence identified.	
16	**Gently undulating topography**	
	There was a difference between SPA and non-SPA site visitors, the former selected soft sandy paths and undulating topography and the latter selected images of urban park and artificial lake.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
17	**Access points with signage outlining the layout of the SANGS and routes available to visitors**	
	No specific evidence identified.	
18	**Naturalistic space with areas of open (nonwooded) countryside and areas of dense**	

	Evidence Supporting Potential Variation on Criteria	Reference
	and scattered trees and shrubs. Provision of open water is desirable	
	Open Water	
	It was noted that the attitude of dog walkers to water features varied, with some wanting to prevent their dog going in water and/or chasing ducks and swans and others choosing sites with water to enable their dog to swim.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
	Variety (*see also Criteria 10 above*)	
	There was a difference between SPA and non-SPA site visitors, the former selected soft sandy paths and undulating topography and the latter selected images of urban park and artificial lake.	Liley, D, Mallord, J. & Lobley, M. J. (2005). The "Quality" of Green Space features that attract people to open spaces in the Thames Basin Heaths area. English Nature Research Report XX. English Nature, Peterborough.
19	**Focal point such as a view point or monument within the SANGS**	
	No specific evidence identified.	
	Catchments[22]	
	General	
	Distance travelled was dependent on the site, access point type, method of transport, reason for visiting and the type of visitor. This identified two types of user (i) local (<4.3km) and (ii) distant (>4.3km), with most local visitors using their nearest site.	EPR (2012) Whitehill & Bordon Eco Town Visitor Survey Report.
	For those who gave a SPA location as their first alternative the key factors were: a variety of places to visit (8%), **large open area (6%),** close to home (6%), **bigger/ longer walks (5%),** and can let dog off lead/ feels safe to let dog off (4%).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.

[22] As a guide, the following catchments are currently used: 2-12ha SANG = 2km catchment, 12-20ha SANG = 4km catchment, 20ha+ SANG = 5km catchment

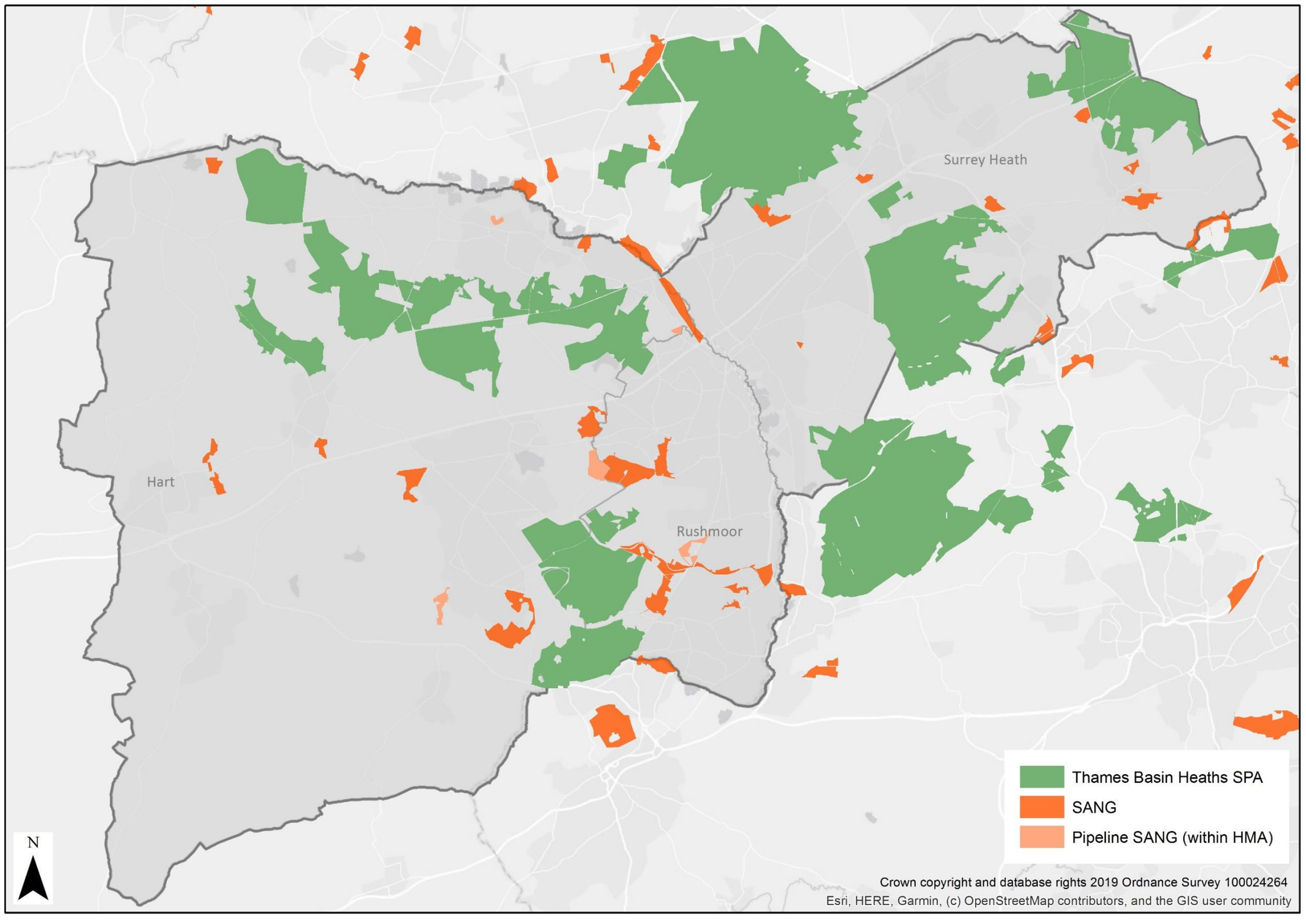
	Evidence Supporting Potential Variation on Criteria	Reference
	Average distance travelled	
	The largest draw or catchment was for Heather Farm (75% of interviewees lived within 7.5km) and Chobham water meadows (6.3km).	Panter, C (2019) Thames Basin Heaths SANG Visitor Survey Analysis 2018.

Appendix 3 – Thames Basin Heaths SPA SANG Network (*Recorded December 2019, note some SANG have been added since this time*)



Ref	SANG Name
1	May's Farm Meadows
2	Clares Green Field
3	Five Acre Field
4	Langley Mead
5	Hazebrouck Meadows
6	Rook's Nest Wood
7	Old Forest Road Meadows
8	Eldridge Country Park
9	Kentwood Meadow
10	Keep Hatch Woods
11	Buckhurst Meadow
12	Peacock Meadows at Jennett's Park
13	Piglitle Field
14	Pope's Meadow
15	Cut Countryside Corridor
16	Cabbage Hill (part of Cut Countryside Corridor)
17	Frost Folly Park
18	Lily Hill Park & Bullbrook
19	Englemere Pond
20	Allen's Field
21	Oakham Woods
22	Great Hollands Wood
23	Buckler's Forest
24	Broadmoor Farm Meadows
25	Horseshoe Lake
26	Ambarrow Court & Hill
27	Swan Lake Park
28	Shepherd Meadows
29	Hawley Meadows and Blackwater Park
30	Diamond Ridge Woods
31	Earlswood Park
32	Bassetts Mead Country Park
33	Queen Elizabeth II Fields
34	Edenbrook (Hitches Lane)
35	Bramshot Farm Country Park
36	Southwood Woodlands
37	Naishes Wood at Crookham Park
38	Wellesley Woodland
39	Lakeside Nature Reserve
40	Farnham Park
41	Rowhill Nature Reserve
42	Ash Green Meadows
43	St. Catherine's Road
44	Bisley Common
45	Brookwood Country Park
46	Chobham Place Woods
47	Little Heath Meadow
48	Chobham Water Meadows
49	Heather Farm
50	Woodham Common
51	White Rose Lane Nature Reserve
52	Chertsey Common, Longcross
53	St Ann's Hill
54	Homewood Park
55	Ether Hill
56	Timber Hill & Ottershaw Chase
57	Hare Hill
58	Franklands Park
59	Brooklands Community Park
60	Effingham Common
61	Riverside Nature Reserve
62	Chantry Wood
63	Southwood Country Park
64	Whitewater Meadows
65	Wellesley Water Meadow
66	Windlemere

Appendix 4 – HMA SANG Network (*Recorded December 2019, note some SANG have been added since this time*)



Appendix 5 – Information on SANG within HMA

Note this appendix is based upon SANG information which was available and recorded at December 2019. It is acknowledged that at least two new SANGs have been opened in 2020 for which full information was not available for this report.

SANG Name	Bassetts Mead Country Park	**Within Local Authority**	Hart
SANG Ref	32	**Type**	Strategic/Bespoke
Site Size	11.1 ha	**Catchment**	2km
Description			
A mixture of meadow, ponds and small copse with River Whitewater running through the site. 1.8km circular walk includes path along the river. Became a SANG in 2011. The site is managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, who sometimes graze the site with cattle.			
On Site Facilities			
Free car parking (at 3 locations) Bins Benches			
Links to other SANG/Open Spaces			
Links to public right of ways.			
SANG Name	Bisley Common	**Within Local Authority**	Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	44	**Type**	
Site Size	18.2 ha	**Catchment**	4km
Description			
Small common with mixture of open heath, grassland and woodland. A 2.3km circular walk through woods and heaths. The site is designated as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) and managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust. Seasonal cattle grazing takes place on the site.			
On Site Facilities			
Limited car parking, with few pedestrian entry points Waymarked routes			

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces			
Adjacent to Common Land.			
SANG Name	Bramshot Farm Country Park	**Within Local Authority**	Rushmoor; Hart
SANG Ref	35	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	32.9 ha	**Catchment**	5km
Description			
A mixture of open meadows, woodland and a community orchard. A total of 2.5km circular walk made up of choice of waymarked trails. Choice of trails for different users/weathers, including 'Leaping Hare Loop' suitable for buggies and damper weather and 'Old Oak Way' a walk on a mown path which passes some of the site's stately oak trees.			
On Site Facilities			
Free parking Bins Benches and picnic tables Surfaced paths			
Links to other SANG/Open Spaces			
Right of way on northern boundary links the site to parcel of natural/semi-natural green space at Minley Road. Close proximity (approx. 0.5 km from car park/main access point) to 'pipeline' SANG which will be delivered at Hartland Park. Located to the east of the 'pipeline' SANG is Southwood Woodland SANG and Southwood Country Park SANG, improvements to the access between these sites are expected to come forward with the development.			
SANG Name	Chobham Place Woods	**Within Local Authority**	Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	46	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	11.1ha	**Catchment**	2km
Description			
A small semi-natural woodland, with a mix of mature Scots Pine and areas of mixed broad-leaved woodland, which was part of the gardens of Chobham Place House. The site contains an impressive tree lined avenue, with views of the house and a war memorial, erected in 1952 to commemorates troops who went to the Crimean War in 1853. The site contains a 1km easy access surfaced trail, along with other paths, including a marked nature trail which takes a winding route through the woodland. The site is managed by Surrey Heath Borough Council.			
On Site Facilities			

Free parking
Bins
Benches and picnic tables
Surfaced path with access for all (including disabled access)

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

North and eastern boundaries bordered by Chobham Common SSSI. TBH SPA to the east of the site.

SANG Name	Chobham Water Meadows	**Within Local Authority**	Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	48	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	24.9 ha	**Catchment**	5km

Description

A scenic meadow surrounded by woodland and hedges, offering a choice of paths including a 2.5km circular walk which runs along the River Bourne. Part of the site is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation Interest (SINC).

On Site Facilities

2 hours free parking
Toilets
Bins
Benches

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Rights of Way through the site connect to additional walking routes.

SANG Name	Diamond Ridge Woods	**Within Local Authority**	Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	30	**Type**	
Site Size	24.8 ha	**Catchment**	5km

Description

An area of woodland in close proximity to Camberley Town Centre. A number of paths available, including a circular walk of around 3km.

On Site Facilities

Bins
Benches

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Borders the TBH SPA to the north of the site. Poppyhills amenity greenspace is adjacent to the east of the SANG.

SANG Name	Earlswood Park	**Within Local Authority**	Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	31	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	7.4 ha	**Catchment**	2km

Description

A small area of open space in adjacent to Waitrose in Bagshot. There is a 1.3km circular walk on a surfaced path. The site contains a variety of rhododendrons, which were once part of a National Collection.

On Site Facilities

3 hours free parking
Bins
Café and toilets at Waitrose
Surfaced path

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

The east of the SANG borders Woodside Cottage woodland.

SANG Name	Edenbrook (Hitches Lane)	**Within Local Authority**	Hart
SANG Ref	34	**Type**	Bespoke/strategic
Site Size	30.3 ha	**Catchment**	5km

Description

A country park with a variety of habitats, including wetlands. Includes a 2.6km circular walk with other routes available.

On Site Facilities

Free parking
Bins
Benches
Toilets and café at Hart Leisure Centre
Surfaced paths and boardwalks

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

No visibly mapped routes but likely that links could be made to Rights of Way to the south of the site through walking beside roads if necessary.

SANG Name	Ridgewood / Frimley Fuel Allotments	**Within Local Authority**	Surrey Heath
SANG Ref		**Type**	Bespoke
Site Size	Approx 8 ha	**Catchment**	400m (no car park)

Description

2.3km circular walking route through woodland, also includes a pond and views of the golf club.

On Site Facilities

Bins
Waymarked 2.3km route and interpretation boards
Limited free parking in two roadside laybys

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Longer walks are possible from Right of Way connections.

SANG Name	Lakeside Nature Reserve	**Within Local Authority**	Rushmoor; Guildford
SANG Ref	39	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	16.8 ha	**Catchment**	4km

Description

A Local Nature Reserve with a 1.4km circular walk passing a mosaic of restored wetland habitats and past fishing lakes. The site holds a Green Flag Award.

On Site Facilities			
Free parking Bins Benches and picnic tables Adventure play park Wheelchair accessible Angling			
Links to other SANG/Open Spaces			
Links to Blackwater Valley Path and the Basingstoke Canal. Also near Spring Lakes greenspace.			
SANG Name	Hawley Meadows and Blackwater Park	**Within Local Authority**	Hart; Rushmoor; Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	29	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	39.0 ha	**Catchment**	5km
Description			
A traditional floodplain meadow alongside the Blackwater River, with surfaced and unsurfaced paths and total circular walk of 3.7km.			
On Site Facilities			
Free parking Bins Benches Surfaced paths			
Links to other SANG/Open Spaces			
The Blackwater Valley Path runs through the SANG. Close to Shepherd Meadows SANG located north along the Blackwater Valley Path.			
SANG Name	Little Heath Meadow	**Within Local Authority**	Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	47	**Type**	
Site Size	6.6 ha	**Catchment**	400m
Description			

A small site with a 2km circular walk which through meadow, heathland and woodland.

On Site Facilities

No car park – various pedestrian entrances with free on-street parking
Bin

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Adjacent to additional Common Land to the north-west of the site. Public Rights of Way through the site link to additional walk opportunities, some of these do lead to the TBH SPA to the north.

SANG Name	Naishes Wood at Crookham Park	**Within Local Authority**	Hart
SANG Ref	37	**Type**	Strategic/Bespoke
Site Size	73.0 ha	**Catchment**	5km

Description

A large SANG with a network of marked trails, including on surfaced paths, boardwalks and a 2km 2km purpose-built all-weather bridlepath. This offers a choice of routes up to 6km through meadows and woodland, with open views across the surrounding countryside and a unique collection of World War II pillboxes.

On Site Facilities

Free parking (2m height restriction)
Bins
Benches
Surfaced paths and boardwalks

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Rights of Way through, and adjacent to the site could provide opportunities for longer walking routes.

SANG Name	Heather Farm	**Within Local Authority**	Woking; Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	49	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	24.9 ha	**Catchment**	5km

Description

Open meadows and wetlands situated along the River Bourne. The site has a range of surfaced paths and boardwalks, with a circular walk of up to 3.3km.

On Site Facilities

Free parking
Bins
Benches
Surfaced paths and boardwalks
Tap and dog-wash area
Café

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Adjacent area of wildlife reserve can be accessed by the public but is dog-free. Area to the south (within Woking) is adjacent to the TBH SPA. Public Rights of Way connect the site to longer walks.

SANG Name	Queen Elizabeth II Fields	**Within Local Authority**	Hart
SANG Ref	33	**Type**	Bespoke
Site Size	9.8 ha	**Catchment**	2km

Description

A small wildflower meadow with a 1km circular walk.

On Site Facilities

No car park – limited on-street parking
Bins
Benches

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Public Right of Way through the site gives opportunities for longer walks.

SANG Name	Rowhill	**Within Local Authority**	Waverley
SANG Ref	41	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	24 ha	**Catchment**	5km

Description

This site lies mainly within Waverley but is owned by Rushmoor Borough Council and used to mitigate housing in Rushmoor within its catchment. A woodland nature reserve and the source of the River Blackwater. Site includes a 2.8km circular walk.

On Site Facilities

Free parking
Bins

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Links to the Blackwater Valley Path

SANG Name	Shepherd Meadows	**Within Local Authority**	Hart; Bracknell Forest
SANG Ref	28	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	33.8 ha	**Catchment**	5km

Description

An award-winning park consisting of flower-rich meadows along the Blackwater River. A shorter 1.2km riverside circular walk on surfaced paths and a long 2.7km circular walk including unsurfaced section.

On Site Facilities

Free car park with disabled parking spaces
Bins
Benches and picnic tables
Surfaced paths

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Adjoins Sandhurst Memorial Park with children's play area, sporting facilities, a café and toilets. The Blackwater Valley Path runs though the site and links to Hawley Meadows SANG located to the south.

SANG Name	Southwood Country Park	**Within Local Authority**	Rushmoor
SANG Ref	63	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	57 ha	**Catchment**	5km

Description

Meadows on a former golf course with a number of surfaced and unsurfaced paths, including a 2.4 km circular walk.

On Site Facilities

Free parking
Bins
Benches
Some surfaced paths

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

The site is adjacent to Southwood Woodland SANG, which is in close proximity to the 'pipeline' SANG which will be delivered as part of the Hartland Village SANG and Bramshot Farm Country Park to the north.
Links with the Cove Brook Greenway.

SANG Name	Southwood Woodlands	**Within Local Authority**	Rushmoor
SANG Ref	36	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	32.5 ha	**Catchment**	5km

Description

A small area of woodland with surfaced and unsurfaced paths and 1.6km circular woodland walk.

On Site Facilities

Free parking
Bins
Benches
Surfaced paths and waymarking

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Adjacent to Southwood Country Park which includes links through to Cove Brook Greenway.
Close proximity (across a road, which is proposed to have crossing points) to the 'pipeline' SANG which will be delivered as part of the Hartland Village SANG and Bramshot Farm Country Park to the north.

SANG Name	St. Catherine's Road	**Within Local Authority**	Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	43	**Type**	
Site Size	1.6 ha	**Catchment**	

Description

A small open meadow with a 0.5km circular walk.

On Site Facilities

No car park - on-street parking available on neighbouring streets
Bins
Benches
Surfaced path

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Local rights of way lead to longer walks to Frimley Fuel Allotments. Mainly surrounded by greenspace, including Burrows Hill and MOD land at Blackdown Hill.

SANG Name	Swan Lake Park	**Within Local Authority**	Hart
SANG Ref	27	**Type**	Bespoke/strategic
Site Size	9.9 ha	**Catchment**	2km

Description

A wildflower meadow and fishing lake situated in the Blackwater Valley with a 1.2km circular walk, which could be extended by joining the Blackwater Valley Path.

On Site Facilities

Free parking
Bins
Benches and picnic bench

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Links to the Blackwater Valley Path.

SANG Name	Wellesley Water Meadow	**Within Local Authority**	Hart
SANG Ref	65	**Type**	Strategic/Bespoke
Site Size	13 ha	**Catchment**	4km

Description

Meadows beside the River Whitewater with a 2.3km circular walk on surfaced and unsurfaced paths.

On Site Facilities

Free parking (one dedicated disabled parking space)
Bins
Benches
Surfaced paths and boardwalks

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

Across the road (to the west) from the large semi-natural greenspace of Wellington Country Park which has good links to the Right of Way network. The TBH SPA is less than 400m away to the east.

SANG Name	Wellesley Woodland	**Within Local Authority**	Rushmoor
SANG Ref	65	**Type**	Bespoke
Site Size	109.7 ha	**Catchment**	N/A

Description

Extensive woodlands with a network of waymarked routes, including walks of various lengths and longer routes incorporating the Basingstoke Canal towpath.

On Site Facilities

Free parking
Bins
Benches
Surfaced paths (including a 1km easy-access trail)

Links to other SANG/Open Spaces

The Basingstoke Canal runs through the site and the towpaths provides further walking links to surrounding areas.
The SANG is adjacent to other greenspace, including Claycart Bottom/ Rushmoor Hill, Peaked Hill and Queen's Parade Recreation Ground. The site is also in close proximity, and in some areas adjacent to, the TBH SPA.

SANG Name	Whitewater Meadows	**Within Local Authority**	Hart
SANG Ref	64	**Type**	Strategic/ Bespoke
Site Size	12.9 ha	**Catchment**	4km

Description
Meadows beside the River Whitewater with a 2.5km circular walk.
On Site Facilities
Free parking Bins Benches10
Links to other SANG/Open Spaces
Links to longer walks into neighbouring countryside through extensive Public Right of Way links.

SANG Name	Windlemere	**Within Local Authority**	Surrey Heath
SANG Ref	66	**Type**	Strategic
Site Size	15.0 ha	**Catchment**	4km

Description
Work is underway to turn this former golf course into a landscaped greenspace, with a 2.3km circular walk (once complete) and a large dog-friendly pond.
On Site Facilities
Free parking Bins Benches Large dog-friendly pond
Links to other SANG/Open Spaces
In quite close proximity to Common Land, wooded open space and the TBH SPA.

Appendix 6 – Review of Potential SANG in the HMA

Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements)[23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
PS-001	Amenity land adjacent to the M3 (Minley Road/Sandy Lane)	Rushmoor	0.5	Less than 2ha	*Unknown*	N/A	*Unknown*	None	Two small parcels of amenity land adjacent to the M3 Site would not meet the existing SANG criteria.	Explore if any potential to provide mitigation in future, subject to findings of the SPA Project.
PS-002	Ball Hill	Hart; Rushmoor	0.3	Part 1 = 8.8ha Part 2 = 1.2ha	400-500	5	Aldershot, North Camp, Farnborough, Frimley, Frimley Green, Mytchett, Fleet, Church Crookham, Elvetham Heath	Land across the road from Southwood Country Park and Southwood Woodlands SANGs.	This site comprises two parcels of land adjacent to Cody Technology Park. It lies partly within Rushmoor and partly within Hart. The use of this site for SANG was agreed in principle by Natural England and would link into the existing SANG at Southwood Woodlands in Farnborough. The Council had received in principle funding from the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to enable the purchase of the site. However, the site's owners, QinetiQ, increased significantly the asking price of the land, such that its purchase was untenable for the Council due to it exceeding the loan amount from the LEP. Moreover, the acquisition costs would have meant that the SANG mitigation costs per person would have affected significantly the viability of development.	RBC to revisit and review if barriers to bringing forward the site under the existing SANG criteria can be overcome.
PS-003	Blackwater Valley Path	Various	Approx 0.3 (at closest point)	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	Potential to connect seven existing SANG sites (Horseshoe Lake, Swan Lake Park, Shephard Meadow, Hawley Meadow, Wellesley Woodland, Lakeside Nature Reserve and Rowhill Nature Reserve) and	An existing path which runs alongside the Blackwater River from Finchampstead to Badshot Lea. The path is 37km (30km of the path is off road and 7km requires walkers to use roads). Previous work by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership has identified 19 gateways into the Blackwater Valley and existing car parks. The potential for establishing a strategic SANG along the Blackwater Valley river was explored in 2014/15. Discussions took place between the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP), RBC and SHBC Officers. A number of issues were identified including: - fragmented ownership - availability for car parking	Explore if any potential to provide mitigation in future, subject to findings of the SPA Project.

[23] Based on potential catchment and assumption that capacity could be shared across the HMA. Catchments could be larger if adjacent sites are delivered together.

Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements)[23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
								some potential SANG sites (e.g. Tongham Pool and Farnham Quarry), which are situated on or near the route of the path.	- narrow piece of land – difficult to establish a circular walk - flooding/water issues - existing usage	
PS-004	Brickfields Park LNR	Rushmoor	1.9	2.2ha	*Unknown*	2	Aldershot	None	A small country park located in Aldershot. The site is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The site was first considered as a potential SANG in 2006, but it is already used for dog walking and it was not considered to have enough extra capacity. Natural England view was that the site was not appropriate as SANG when reviewed in 2014.	Explore if any potential to provide mitigation in future, subject to findings of the SPA Project.
PS-005	Farnborough Abbey	Rushmoor	1.6	10ha (approx.)	*Unknown*	2	Farnborough, Frimley, Frimley Green, Mytchett, North Camp (part).	None	Private land owned by Farnborough Abbey. Part of the site is now in used as a community allotment. The site was first considered as potential SANG in 2006. The site is private land and the opportunity for use as a SANG would be dependent on the Abbey's agreement to long term access. Discussion took place in 2014 between previous RBC CEO and Abbot. Indication given was that SANG use and public access was incompatible with the function of the private religious order. This position is not expected to change.	No further action.
PS-006	Hollybush Hill	Rushmoor; Guildford	1	10ha (approx.)	*Unknown*	2km	Aldershot (part - not town centre), North Camp	Links via Blackwater Valley Path to Lakeside Nature Reserve SANG. In close proximity to Wellesley Woodlands SANG.	Site located adjacent to the A331. Consists of a SINC and land to the south. The site was first considered as a potential SANG in 2006. There was a potential opportunity to link with land adjacent in Guildford Borough. A subsequent site visit in 2014 identify issues with lack of car parking and noise from adjacent uses. Natural England view was that the site was not appropriate as SANG.	Explore if any potential to provide mitigation as part of SPA Project
PS-007	Land adjacent to Lakeside, Mytchett	Surrey Heath	0.2	6ha (approx.)	*Unknown*	2km	Farnborough (part - not town centre), North Camp (part), Frimley Green (part), Mytchett	None	A small site adjacent to the Basingstoke Canal and in close proximity to the SPA. Previous assessments have concluded that the site is too small and already well used.	Explore if any potential to provide mitigation as part of SPA Project
PS-008	Norris Bridge	Rushmoor	Adjacent	3.5ha (approx.)	*Unknown*	2km	Church Crookham (part), Farnborough (small part of	Basingstoke Canal path could link to Wellesley Woodlands SANG.	A small parcel of land adjacent to the SPA.	Explore if any potential to provide mitigation as part of SPA Project

Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements)[23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
							Southwood – not town centre)			
PS-009	Tongham Pools	Waverley; Guildford	2.5	15ha	470 dwellings (shared between RBC and GBC)	4km	Aldershot	No existing relationship but if Farnham Quarry site came forward as SANG, this could be linked by existing greenspace. There are also links to potential Aldershot Park SANG area.	This site is located in Guildford Borough, adjacent to Rushmoor borough. It was previously used as a 'borrow pit' to supply minerals for the construction of the A331. Identified in Guildford Borough Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy 2017 as potential SANG. A significant part of the site is covered by water (around 6ha during the summer) The site has a single vehicle access point at the northern end (accessed via Willow Way/Tongham Rd). The eastern end of Tongham Rd is private road/public footpath and passes through an underpass below the A331. The site is adjacent to Aldershot Park (the nearest car park) and the Blackwater Valley Path runs along the northern edge of the site. There is an existing footpath around the site. However, during high water levels in winter this route is often blocked. There have been attempts to secure it as a SANG for over 10 years, but complex land ownership issues have thus far prohibited its implementation for such use. It was previously agreed as being suitable for SANG by Natural England with a capacity of 471 dwellings/1130 population, which could be split between Rushmoor and Guildford boroughs. This site is currently owned by Surrey County Council (SCC), and discussions have recently resumed in recent years regarding the use of Tongham as a shared SANG. The possibility of extending this to connect with other potential SANG sites, including Farnham Quarry/Tice's Meadow, have also been explored. However, the delivery SANG on the site is far from certain, and potential capacity available to Rushmoor is undetermined. SCC previously set out a policy on the use of SCC land as SANGs which would require their approval of the development and direct negotiations with the developer, rather than a standard tariff. In addition, it had been proposed that a cost for using the site would be paid to SCC on top of the cost of the provision and maintenance of the SANG itself. This would significantly affect viability and RBC would need to ensure that there was certainty that the SANG capacity is available in order to provide required mitigation. This policy is also referred to by Guildford Borough Council in the Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy 2017.	RBC to revisit and review if barriers to bringing forward the site under the existing SANG criteria can be overcome.

Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements)[23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
PS-010	Land between Tongham Pools and Farnham Quarry	Waverley; Guildford	3.3	4ha	*Unknown*	2km	Aldershot (part - not town centre)	No existing relationship but if Tongham Pools &/or Farnham Quarry came forward as SANG this land could be secured to link them.	Site located between Tongham Pools and Farnham Quarry/Tice's Meadow. The Blackwater Valley Path runs along the northern edge of the site. Previous site visits have identified limited car parking. In addition, a site visit in 2015 indicated the site is already well used by dog walkers and there were established paths around/across the site. A roadside service facility, including petrol filling station, is currently under construction on the southern part of the site.	Part of this site has been developed. Use of remainder of site is subject to potential for delivering SANG on adjacent sites (Tongham Pools and Farnham Quarry/Tice's Meadow). Reconsider alongside Tongham Pools and Farnham Quarry (Tice's Meadow).
PS-011	Farnham Quarry (known as Tice's Meadow)	Waverley; Guildford	2.2	55ha	*Unknown*	5km	Aldershot, Ewshot (part), North Camp (part)	No existing relationship but if Tongham Pools came forward as SANG then this could be linked by existing greenspace.	Quarrying activities ceased on the site in 2010 and the site is subject to restoration as part of the planning permission. The site has a high-water table and as a result much of the site has been restored to wetland habitats. The majority of the site lies within Waverley Borough, with a small part located in Guildford Borough. It is separated from Tongham Pools by a strip of privately owned land, although it can be accessed along the Blackwater Valley footpath (see PS003 above). Over recent years, there have been discussions with the landowners (Hanson Aggregates) regarding the potential use of the site as a SANG. The landowners have been open to consideration of the quarry site as a SANG, providing it does not disturb the nature conservation value established through the restoration scheme, such as by disturbance to ground nesting birds by dog walkers. To ensure the protection of the site's nature conservation interests, previous assessments have suggested that only the northern-most portion of the site (around 10ha) is considered by to be suitable for SANG provision. An on-site meeting was held with Natural England in July 2015 to assess the potential of the area as a SANG. Whilst NE considered the site suitable in principle, NE advised the following: • There may be sensitivities on site with regard the ornithological interest – the area is a nature reserve known as Tice's Meadow and the LPA should gather further information on this to ensure there would not be a conflict with the area being a SANG; • The area of water (in excess of 5ha) would also need to be discounted from capacity; • Existing visitor access - NE advised therefore that visitor surveys should be undertaken to ascertain levels of existing use, and advised that a site is at 'full capacity' when there is 1 person per ha per hour. All noted the signs of existing public use (worn paths, some signage relating to 'Tice's Meadow' volunteering group, and access infrastructure such as kissing gates). Four visitors were noted during the visit, comprising one fisher, two dog walkers, and one walker.	Reconsider alongside Tongham Pools (depending on outcome of sale)

Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements) [23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
									Hanson Aggregates is in the process of selling the site and it is understood that a bid by Waverley Borough Council was unsuccessful.	
PS-012	MoD land	Various	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	The MoD were asked whether there was any surplus MoD land which could be made available for potential SANG. No sites have been identified which are surplus to training requirements.	No further action.
PS-013	Henley Park, Normandy	Guildford	Adjacent	66	*Unknown*	5	Mytchett (part), Deepcut (part)	None	5km catchment only reaches small part of the HMA.	Explore if any potential to provide mitigation as part of SPA Project
PS-014	Snakey Lane NR and surrounding land	Surrey Heath; Guildford	0.7	2.6	*Unknown*	2	North Camp, Mytchett, Farnborough (part)	None	A Local Nature Reserve located within Guildford and surrounding land in private ownership. This site was considered in 2014/15. Ensuring the site was of sufficient size was subject to potential for assembling land owned privately surrounding the LNR.	Explore if any potential to provide mitigation as part of SPA Project
PS-015	King George V Playing Fields	Rushmoor	1.5	8.3	*Unknown*	2	Farnborough, Frimley Green, Mytchett, North Camp.	None	A large park which is popular with local people. The park contains a play area, sports pitches and a pavilion. The site was considered in 2006. The site is already in use, including by a number of dog walkers.	No further action
PS-016	Napier Gardens	Rushmoor	2	3.8	*Unknown*	2	Farnborough (part), Mytchett (part), North Camp	None	Small municipal gardens Considered in 2006. Small municipal garden. Too small and could only be considered as part of a re-development of the area which allows for the area of recreation to be extended.	No further action
PS-017	Aldershot Park	Rushmoor	2.8	30	*Unknown*	5	Aldershot, North Camp	No existing relationship but could link with Tongham Pools and Farnham Quarry potential SANGs.	Large park which contains a range of facilities, including sports pitches, a formal pond for fishing and play area Considered in 2006. Already in use. The site does provide access and parking to Tongham Pools.	No further action
PS-018	Cove Green	Rushmoor	2.1	2.5	*Unknown*	2	Farnborough	None	Recreation Ground, including tennis courts, allotments and play area. Considered in 2006. Already in use. Too small for 2.3km circular walk.	No further action
PS-019	Cove Brook Greenway	Rushmoor	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	Connects to Southwood Country Park SANG.	A well-maintained path which runs along the edge of the brook. Considered in 2006. Already well used by dog walkers and other recreational users. Does connect with a number of recreation spaces, such as Blunden Park, Moor Road Park.	Explore if any potential to provide mitigation as part of SPA Project
PS-020	Queens Parade	Rushmoor	1.3	40	*Unknown*	5	Aldershot, North Camp, Farnborough, Frimley, Frimley Green, Mytchett, Church Crookham	Adjacent to Wellesley Woodlands SANG and the Blackwater Valley Path.	Defence Estates land currently used for sports and Army Training Events. Considered in 2006. Already in active use. No plans to dispose of this land.	No further action

Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements)[23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
PS-021	Manor Farm, south of Tongham	Guildford; Waverley	3.3	17.5	*Unknown*	4	Aldershot	In close proximity to Farnham Quarry potential SANG.	Identified in Guildford Borough Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy 2017 as potential SANG on privately owned land, which have been put forward as part of planning applications. A SANG proposed as part of a planning application for 254 residential units on a site within Guildford and Waverley boroughs. Duplicate applications were refused by Guildford Borough Council's planning committee in October 2016 and Waverley Borough Council's planning committee in November 2016. Both were subsequently allowed on appeal in January 2018. A part of the SANG is required to provide bespoke mitigation for the applicant's own development and the application states that there is potential for the remaining SANG capacity to be provided to other developments in the area. The proposed SANG extends across the borough boundary into Waverley.	RBC to discuss with GBC/WBC
PS-023	Broad Street and Backside Common, Worplesdon	Guildford	2.8	128	*Unknown*	5	May have small catchment overlap with Aldershot (not incl. Town Centre)	None	Identified in Guildford Borough Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy 2017. The land is Registered Common Land, owned by Surrey County Council (SCC) and managed by the Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT). Natural England has agreed in principle that the land meets its criteria for SANG. The AMS 2017 notes that the SCC policy which requires developments that use SANGs on land owned by SCC to contribute an additional fee over and above any SANG tariff paid. GBC say that it unclear whether this additional fee would be viable or could jeopardise the delivery of other benefits, such as affordable housing.	RBC to discuss with SCC/GBC
PS-024	Farnham Park Extension/Land off Hale Road	Waverley	1.1	14	740	4	Aldershot, Ewshot	Adjacent to Farnham Park SANG.	Identified in Waverley SANG Analysis Study 2015 The site is located adjacent to the existing Farnham Park SANG. Previously it has been noted that this would be a bespoke SANG to mitigate adjacent development with no additional capacity. There have been a number of applications on the site, including an appeal currently awaiting determination.	RBC to hold discussions with Waverley
PS-025	Bishop's Meadow (The Water Meadows to the North of the A31 Bypass)	Waverley	2.7	12.8	667	4	Ewshot	None	Identified in Waverley SANG Analysis Study 2015 A flood meadow located in close proximity to Farnham town centre. The site is owned by the Bishop's Meadow Trust. The site is managed by Trust volunteers and is already used by members of the public for recreation, including letting dogs run off the lead. The 2015 study noted that further discussions would be required with Bishop's Meadow Trust. A visitor survey would also be required in order to determine the discounted capacity based on existing usage.	RBC to hold discussions with Waverley
PS-027	Fields off Waverley Lane (Compton Fields)	Waverley	3.5	12.38	650	4	Small part of Aldershot (not incl. Town Centre)	None	Identified in Waverley SANG Analysis Study 2015. An application for residential development and associated bespoke SANG was refused in 2015 and dismissed at appeal in 2018. A subsequent application was submitted in 2019 and is pending decision. The 2015 study concluded that If planning permission for housing is not granted, this site could be used for Strategic SANG. The site is not subject to existing	RBC to hold discussions with Waverley

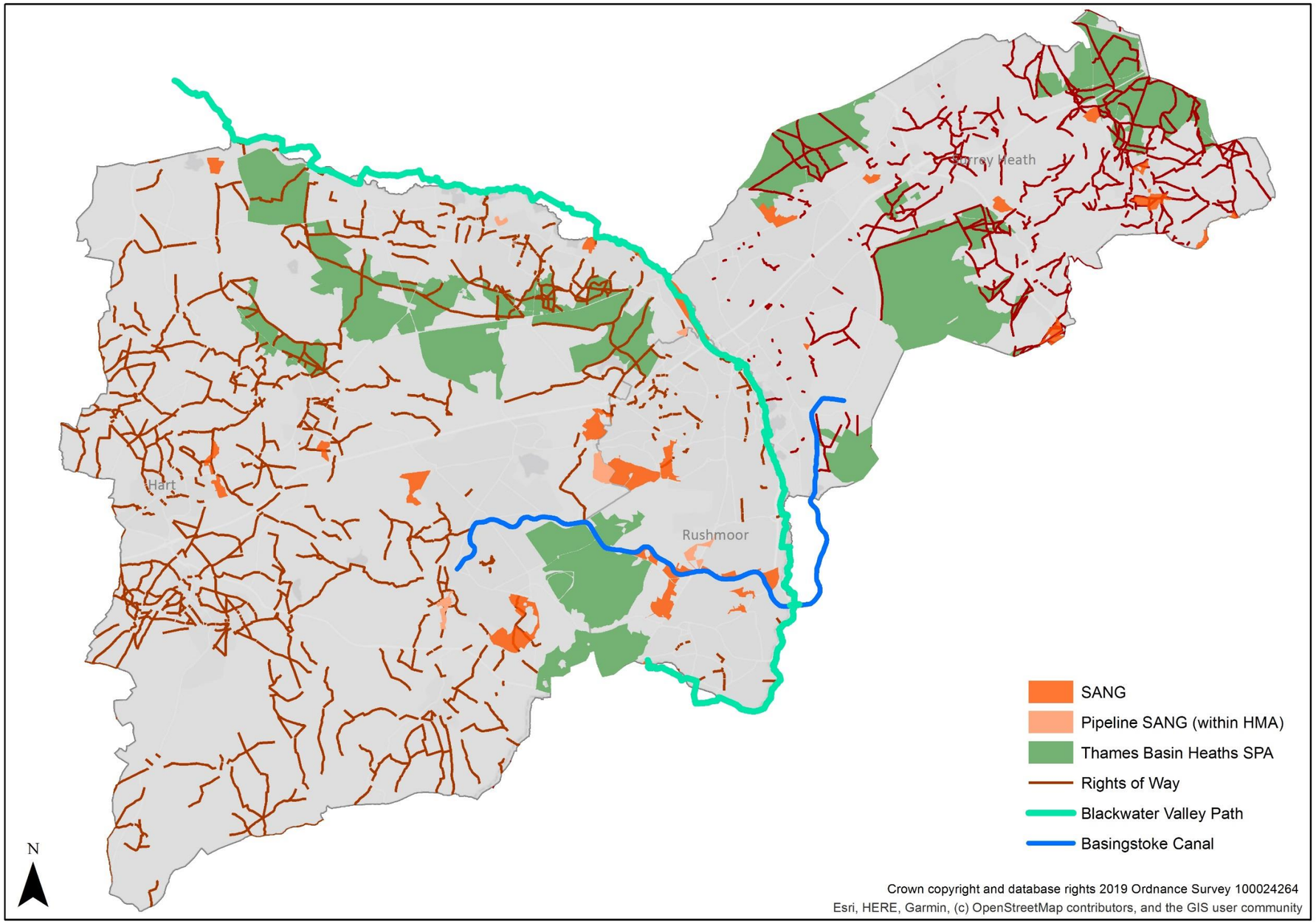
Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements)[23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
									recreational use, so could provide SANG for up to 1560 people or 650 new dwellings.	
PS-028	Runfold North Sandpit	Waverley	3	10.1ha	526	2	Small part of Aldershot (not incl. Town Centre)	No existing SANG relationship but adjacent to potential SANG at Runfold South Sandpit.	Identified in Waverley SANG Analysis Study 2015 This site is located south of the A31 and north of Guildford Road at Runfold. It is owned by SITA UK. The Sandpit has come to the end of its operational life and has been in-filled with inert waste and completed restoration to agricultural land. It is still in aftercare. Initial discussions have taken place with the site owner and Natural England has visited the site and consider it to have potential as a SANG.	RBC to hold discussions with Waverley
PS-029	Runfold South Sandpit	Waverley	2.8	41.6ha	2,167	5	Aldershot, Ewshot	No existing SANG relationship but adjacent to potential SANG at Runfold North Sandpit.	Identified in Waverley SANG Analysis Study 2015 This site is located south of Guildford Road at Runfold. It is owned by SITA UK. The Sandpit has come to the end of its operational life and is subject to restoration to agricultural land with some level of public access. Restoration is due to be completed in 2021. The site contains footpaths along the southern and western extent of the site and through the centre of the site. Initial discussions have taken place with the site owner and Natural England has visited the site and consider it to have potential as a SANG.	RBC to hold discussions with Waverley
PS-030	Homefield Sandpit	Waverley; Guildford	4	11.7ha	1,463	2	Small part of Aldershot (not incl. Town Centre)	No existing SANG relationship but adjacent to potential SANG at Jolly Farmer Sandpit.	Identified in Waverley SANG Analysis Study 2015 This site is located south of Guildford Road at Runfold. The site is owned by Chambers. The Sandpit is currently active, with a current completion date of 2042 (expected to change). If combined with the adjoining Jolly Farmer Sandpit site, the site could have a catchment of 5km.	RBC to hold discussions with Waverley
PS-031	Jolly Farmer Sandpit	Waverley	3.5	13.7ha	714	4	Aldershot	No existing SANG relationship but adjacent to potential SANG at Homefield Sandpit.	Identified in Waverley SANG Analysis Study 2015 This site is located south of Guildford Road at Runfold. The site is owned by Chambers. The site is mostly restored to agricultural use. The eastern extent of the site has not yet been restored as it adjoins the active Homefield Sandpit. If combined with the adjoining Homefield Sandpit site, the site could have a catchment of 5km.	RBC to hold discussions with Waverley
PS-032	Alton Road Sandpit	Waverley	4	36.2	1,885	5	Ewshot, Crondall	None	Identified in Waverley SANG Analysis Study 2015 This site is located west of Wrecclesham, south of the A31 and mostly south of the railway line. It is currently dormant and is still technically active. At present the end date for use of this sandpit 2029, followed by restoration and aftercare. The existing restoration plan is for hedgerows and fields with a nature conservation interest.	RBC to hold discussions with Waverley
PS-033	Frimley Fuel Allotments	Surrey Heath	0.15	65	3,250	5	Western urban area in SHBC, Deepcut, parts of Rushmoor	Links to Ridgewood and St Catheri'e's Road SANGs	In private ownership, the majority of the site is currently a golf course and links to two existing SANGs, namely the Ridgewood SANG and St Catherine's Road SANG. The site has previously been submitted in the Call for Sites for residential development.	Approach landowner
PS-034	Mytchett Lakes	Surrey Heath	0.7	51	2,240	5	Western urban area in SHBC, Deepcut, large	The site is linked to the Blackwater valley path which a number of	The site is not in single ownership and it could therefore be challenging to acquire the site in its entirety. One issue that would need to be addressed is how parking would be provided at the site. The entirety of the site is an SINC and this would need to be taken account of in the development of a SANG proposal. The site is	TBC

Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements)[23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
							area of Rushmoor and some areas in Hart	SANGs are already linked up to.	currently used as a fishery and related activities, and the majority of the site is not publicly accessible.	
PS-035	Frith Hill Woodland	Surrey Heath	0.7	135	*Unknown*	*5*	Western urban area in SHBC, Deepcut, parts of Rushmoor	Adjoins St Catherines Road and the Ridgewood SANG	The woodland is situated in the Countryside beyond the Greenbelt between Frimley and Deepcut and is partly in MOD ownership. Some of the site is publicly accessible and already used for dog walking, so a level of discounting would be required.	TBC
PS-036	Land East of St Catherines Road	Surrey Heath	0.75	28	1,400	*5*	Western urban area in SHBC, Deepcut, parts of Rushmoor	Does not adjoin existing SANGs, but could be linked to SANGs in the area.	The land parcel was submitted as part of the Call for Sites 2018 for residential development. The site is densely wooded and entirely within the Countryside beyond the Green Belt. Much of the site is owned by two landowners. A small area to the north of the site is a SINC and this would need to be taken account of in the development of a SANG proposal.	TBC
PS-037	Kings School Land, Wathcetts	Surrey Heath	2	6.3	250	*2*	Camberley and Frimley	No links to other SANGs, within settlement area	Natural England have previously raised concerns about the site's potential for a SANG due to potential lack of space for a 2.3km circular route, however it is noted that the parcel of land is in a strategic location to mitigate the impact of residential development in the west of the Borough. In addition, this is the only parcel of land within the settlement area of Camberley that is considered to have potential for change of use to a SANG. Site is owned by Kings School.	Landowner approached.
PS-038	Land at Swift Lane	Surrey Heath	0.8	17	850	*4*	Windlesham, Bagshot, West End	No links	The site was submitted as part of the Call for Sites for an 8ha SANG, however previous entries have included a wider area of land in excess of 25ha. A planning application (19/0370) was submitted for a section of the site that adjoins New Road to create a SANG of 17ha, but the application has since been withdrawn. The access would be from New Road, which is separate from the wider Swift Lane site. The site is entirely within the Green Belt and there is the risk of contaminated land and flooding on the site. If extended to a site in excess of 20ha, the site could achieve a 5km and reach Camberley.	Application previously withdrawn for a SANG, proposed action TBC
PS-039	MOD Land (east of Fleet)	Hart	*Unknown*	89.63	*Unknown*	5	Fleet, Farnborough, Aldershot (part)	Adjacent to Bramshot Farm SANG (other side of the A3013)	Excellent potential for SANGs as well as larger GI opportunities. Would link several large open spaces to provide large super SANG. This would also increase its catchment area into Surrey Heath. MOD not receptive to selling land as still forms part of training area.	Continue discussions with landowner to see if MOD may consider selling in the future
PS-40	Brook House	Hart	Within 0.4	46.78	2,436	5	Fleet, Hartley Wintney (part), Yateley Blackwater, Farnborough (part)	n/a	Hart SHLAA ref 153. Has the potential as a standalone SANGs but limited catchment to Hart.	
PS-41	Grange Farm	Hart	0.36	25.3	1,317	5	Hartley Wintney, Hook, Odiham (part), North Warnborough (part), Fleet (part)	n/a	Hart SHLAA ref 019. Has a very limited catchment to Hook, Hartley Wintney and Nth Fleet.	
PS-42	CEMEX	Hart	1	35.4	1,843	5	Yateley, Eversley, Blackwater (part)	n/a	Hart SHLAA ref 112.	

Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements)[23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
PS-43	Cross Farm	Hart	2.2	23.41	*Unknown*	5	Fleet, Hartley Wintney (part), Odiham (part)	CHECK RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANY PARK SANG	Hart SHLAA ref 116. Potential to link to Edenbrook and Poulters Meadow SANGs. Planning application (18/00045/OUT) for 160 bed care village and SANG refused. Dismissed at appeal.	
PS-44	Pale Lane Farm	Hart	1.9	39.05	2,033	5	Fleet, Hartley Wintney, East of Hook	Adjacent to Hitches Lane (Edenbrook) SANG (other side of the railway line)	Hart SHLAA ref 052. Potential to link to Edenbrook SANGs. Planning application (16/03129/OUT) for 700 dwellings and SANG refused. Dismissed at appeal.	
PS-45	West Green Farm	Hart	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*		
PS-46	Pilcot Farm	Hart	*Unknown*	28.89	1,504	5	Fleet, Hartley Wintney, Odiham (part)	Adjacent to Hitches Lane (Edenbrook) SANG and Grove Farm SANG (coming forward)	Would be an obvious extension to Edenbrook SANGs.	
PS-47	Murrell Green	Hart	2.4	15.99	832	4	Hook, Hartley Wintney, North Warnborough, Odiham (part)		Hart SHLAA ref 126. Limited catchment.	
PS-48	Darby Green Fields	Hart	*Unknown*	9.46	492	2	Blackwater, Yateley (part)	Adjacent to Clarks Farm/Swan Lakes SANG.	Unlikely to meet all the criteria. Site is SSSI and SINC so would not be suitable for SANG.	
PS-49	Totters Farm	Hart	2.5	39.36	2,050	5	Hook, Hartley Wintney, North Warnborough, Odiham	Adjacent to North East Hook SANG (other side of the A30)	Hart SHLAA ref 004. Limited Catchment, but good links to Bassets mead and Whitewater Meadow SANGs.	
PS-50	Hound Green	Hart	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	Hartley Wintney, North Hook	n/a	Large site but with a limited catchment area.	
PS-51	Ively Road	Hart	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	Fleet, Farnborough (part), Aldershot (part)	n/a	Currently Sports Pitches and Leisure Facilities. Unlikely to meet criteria unless these facilities are removed. However, this would result in a net loss of sports and it is unlikely to be supported.	
PS-52	Marsh Lane	Hart	*Unknown*	8.3	432	2	Yateley, Eversley (part)	n/a	Only room for a 1km path.	
PS-53	Wintney Court	Hart	*Unknown*	47	2,447	5	Hartley Wintney, Hook, North Warnborough, Odiham, Fleet (part)	n/a	Catchment limited to Hartley Wintney and Hook.	

Ref	Site Location	Local Authority area	Approx. distance from SPA (Km)	Potential SANG size (ha)	Potential dwelling capacity	Potential catchment (Km)	Potential HMA mitigation (settlements)[23]	Relationship with existing SANG	Notes	Proposed Action
PS-54	Vicarage Lane	Hart	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	Hook, Hartley Wintney	n/a		
PS-55	Busta Farm	Hart	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	Yateley, Hartley Wintney (north)	n/a	Hart SHLAA ref 265. Within 400m of the SPA.	
PS-56	Hill Farm	Hart	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	Yateley, Blackwater, Farnborough (part), Camberley (part)	n/a		
PS-57	Lodge Farm	Hart	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	5	North Warnborough, Odiham, Hook, Hartley Wintney	n/a	Hart SHLAA ref 110.	
SC-A	Pennyhill Park	Surrey Heath	0.15	7.2	410	*2*	Bagshot	Notcutts SANG to the south (other side of London Road)	If links were made to the Notcutts SANG to the south and a land parcel further south, the catchment area and capacity could be extended and reach Camberley. One challenge that would need to be addressed for the site is where the SANG would be accessed and where parking would be provided. The site was submitted in the Call for Sites 2018 for SANG, however it was indicated that it could only come forward with enabling development.	Approached by the land owner, a number of challenges to consider for the site, proposed action TBC.
SC-B	Spare capacity at Ash Green Meadows SANG	Guildford	1.6	24	Bespoke SANG for the 400 homes (8ha) with potential surplus capacity (16ha) available as strategic SANG.	5	Aldershot, North Camp	N/A	The 24 hectare site at Ash Lodge Drive was delivered to mitigate adjacent residential development (8 hectares/capacity for 400 homes). It has been agreed that the remaining 16 hectares will be available as strategic SANG for other developments. Recently implemented as SANG in Guildford Borough. The 5km catchment covers southern part of Rushmoor Borough, including Aldershot and part of North Camp.	Discussion with Guildford Borough Council regarding surplus capacity.
SC-C	Albany Park, Crookham (also known as Poulters Meadow, Watery Lane)	Hart	2.4	16	865	4	Elvetham Heath, Fleet, Church Crookham, Crookham Village, Dogmersfield, Ewshot, Crondall	N/A	Also known as Poulters Meadow, Watery Lane. Expected to open in 2020	

Appendix 7 – Rights of Ways and Connections across the HMA



Appendix 8 – Wider Open Space Network in the HMA (*Recorded December 2019, note some SANG have been added since this time*)