

Land and Water Resources

Geology and minerals

D.169 Hampshire's landscape has been formed by a number of influences including peri-glacial activity that created gravel terraces and plateau deposits particularly by the coast and along river basins. The most important sand and gravel deposits are in the west on Hampshire in the Avon Valley.

D.170 Significant parts of Hampshire's landscape are considered to be of high quality and are covered by nature conservation and landscape designations¹⁷⁷.

D.171 Principal mineral sources in Winchester District include sharp and soft sand, gravel, and some deposits of bedrock deposits, chalk and brick making clay¹⁷⁸.

D.172 The Hampshire Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) conducted in 2019 details the current and predicted supply of aggregates to meet housing and infrastructure needs in Hampshire. The assessment suggest that the planned level of infrastructure construction appears to be a significant uplift from the current build out rates and will require an increase in aggregate supply. According to the assessment, Hampshire's reliance on other mineral planning authorities for supplies of crushed rock will need to be taken into consideration in the review of mineral local plans, as Hampshire is not meeting the required landbank based on its local requirement. Based on the 2019 LAA Rate, only the minimum requirements are met¹⁷⁹.

D.173 According to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan¹⁸⁰, the most recent forecast and county appointment on sand and gravel requirement agreed by the Hampshire County Council in 2013 was 1.56mt per annum. Hampshire will need to provide 30 million tonnes of aggregate by 2030 in the form of:

- Existing (permitted) reserves – 16.44mt;
- Sites identifies within the Plan, including extensions and new sites – 11.57mt; and
- Unallocated opportunities – 3.08mt.

D.174 The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan sets out a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) for Hampshire which includes hard sand and gravel, soft sand, silica sand and brick-making clay resources. The MSA safeguards land containing the mineral deposits from development, as well as making sure that there are road and rail facilities for importing and exporting minerals. In Winchester District, it is a case of safeguarding border areas of South Downs National Park which contain deposits of clay along the southern border and hard sand and gravel along north west border¹⁸¹. At present GIS data is not available to map the MSAs in the District. However, this data will be worked up and will be used to inform the appraisal of the new Local Plan.

Soils

D.175 The underlying geological minerals in the District influence the quality of the Winchester's soils. This in turn impacts the capacity for agriculture and woodlands in the area. The majority of land within Winchester District is Agricultural Land Classification Grade 3, 4 or 5 (i.e. good to moderate, poor and very poor quality agricultural land respectively). To the south of the District there are areas of Grade 2 agricultural land that provide a good quality fertile land for horticultural activities¹⁸².

D.176 Figure D.23 below shows the range of agricultural land grades within the District.

¹⁷⁷ Hampshire County Council (2013) Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan [online] Available at: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanADOPTED.pdf>

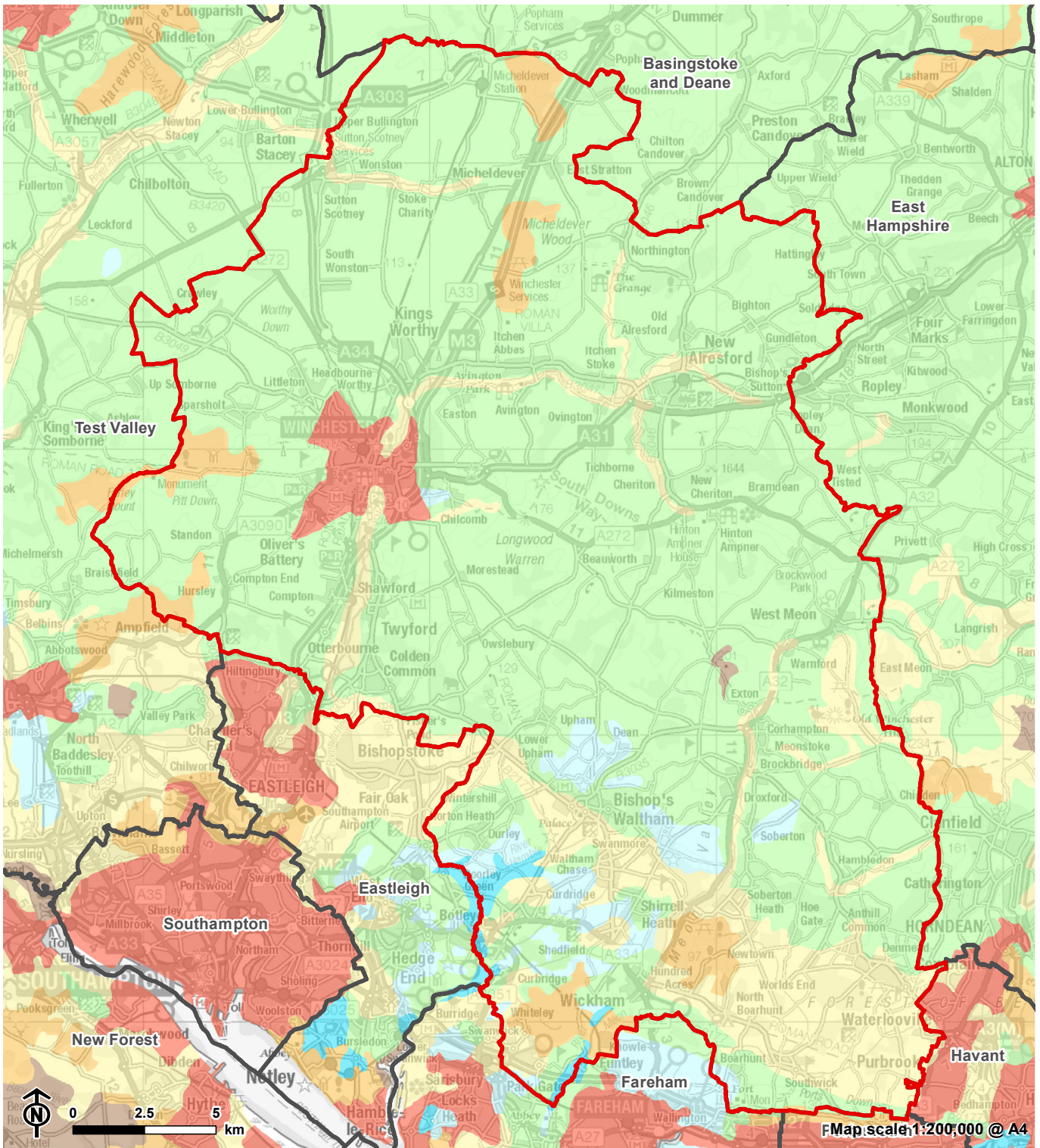
¹⁷⁸ British Geological survey (2003) Mineral resources map for Hampshire [online] Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/downloads/start.cfm?id=2596>

¹⁷⁹ Hampshire County Council (2019) Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan: Local Aggregate Assessment 2019 [online] Available at: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/2019LocalAggregateAssessment.pdf>

¹⁸⁰ Hampshire County Council (2013) Minerals and Waste Plan [online] Available at: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanADOPTED.pdf>

¹⁸¹ Hampshire county Council (2013) Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Policies Map [online] Available at: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlan-PoliciesMap.pdf>

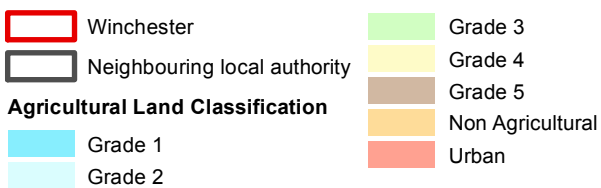
¹⁸² Winchester City council (2004) Landscape Character Assessment [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/evidence-base/environment/landscape-character-assessment>



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Source: Natural England

Figure D.23: Agricultural Land Classification



Contaminated land

D.177 In accordance with Section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council is required to maintain a public register of contaminated land, which serves as a permanent record of all regulatory action undertaken to ensure remediation of any site that has been classified as contaminated.

D.178 Currently, there are no areas of contaminated land identified within the District¹⁸³.

Waste

D.179 Hampshire's Minerals and Waste Plan (2013) states that the County has a good network of existing facilities for waste management, with the capacity of 5.75mt per annum. On average 40% of waste in the County is recycled and approximately 90% is diverted from landfill¹⁸⁴. The growing population in the plan area will place pressure on existing resources and there will be a requirement to meet growing needs.

D.180 The household recycling rates trends for Winchester in 2017 was 22.0% and the number has dropped compared to the previous years. In 2012, the recycling rate was about 25.5%¹⁸⁵.

Water

D.181 Winchester District is within the Itchen River Basin. The River Itchen is one of the classic examples of chalk rivers in southern England. There are only around 200 chalk rivers known globally, and 85% of these are found in southern and eastern England. Therefore, Winchester's Itchen and Test rivers are of high importance¹⁸⁶. River Itchen is recognised for its river habitat which compromises the river channel, its banks and parts of its riparian zone. Winchester is in the Test and Itchen Water Management Catchment Partnership. The idea behind this partnership is to engage a wide range of stakeholders to safeguard and improve the health of the catchment's freshwater, estuarine and coastal ecosystem. This Catchment Partnership is co-hosted by the Wessex Chalk Stream and River Trust and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust¹⁸⁷.

D.182 There is an ongoing concern from Natural England in relation to the inputs of both nitrogen and phosphorus to rivers draining to the Solent, which are increasing eutrophication and adversely affecting the protected habitats and bird species within the Solent. These nutrients arise from either from agricultural sources or from wastewater from existing housing and other development. The Solent area is covered by the highest levels of European designation - SAC, SPA and Ramsar designations cover much of the area and it is one of the UK's most important for wildlife¹⁸⁸.

D.183 Natural England has recently published guidance (updated in June 2020)¹⁸⁹ on the need for and methods to achieve nutrient neutrality for new development in the Solent region. It states that:

There is uncertainty as to whether new growth will further deteriorate designated sites. This issue has been subject to detailed work commissioned by local planning authorities (LPAs) in association with Natural England, Environment Agency and water companies. This strategic work, which updates early studies, is on-going. Until this work is complete, the uncertainty remains and the potential for future housing developments across the Solent region to exacerbate these impacts creates a risk to their potential future conservation status.

One way to address this uncertainty is for new development to achieve nutrient neutrality. Nutrient neutrality is a means of ensuring that development does not add to existing nutrient burdens and this provides certainty that the whole of the scheme is deliverable in line with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

D.184 In relation to planning, Winchester City Council has agreed a position statement backed by Natural England where mitigation can be 'direct' through upgrading sewage treatment works and through alternative measures, e.g. interceptor

¹⁸³ Winchester City Council (2019) Contaminated land [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/environment/contaminated-land>

¹⁸⁴ Hampshire County Council (2013) Minerals and Waste Plan [online] Available at: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanADOPTED.pdf>

¹⁸⁵ Winchester City Council (2017) Household waste recycled [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/about/access-to-data/performance-measures/environment/household-waste-recycled-percentage>

¹⁸⁶ The Wildlife Trust (2020) Chalk rivers [online] Available at: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/habitats/freshwater/chalk-rivers>

¹⁸⁷ <http://www.ticp.org.uk/>

¹⁸⁸ Natural England (undated) Designated Sites View [online] Available at:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0017073&SiteName=solent&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&HasCA=1&NumMarineSeasonality=0&SiteNameDisplay=Solent%20and%20Isle%20of%20Wight%20Lagoons%20SAC>

¹⁸⁹ Natural England guidance on achieving nutrient neutrality in the Solent Region (June 2020): <https://www.push.gov.uk/2020/06/11/natural-england-published-nutrient-calculator-and-updated-guidance-on-achieving-nutrient-neutral-housing-development/>

wetlands or 'indirect' by offsetting the nitrogen generated from new development by taking land out of nitrogen-intensive uses (e.g. agriculture).

D.185 Southern Water provides for Winchester District's water supply and wastewater treatment. In Winchester 100% of public water supply is taken from groundwater. According to the Water Resources Management Plan, the area is in a serious water stress. Consequently, the Management Plan includes a range of measures to prevent water shortages such as reducing leaks, promoting water efficiency, desalination of water, water recycling and transferring water from other areas that are not prone to droughts¹⁹⁰.

D.186 Wastewater treatment works (WwTW) operated by Southern Water within the District or close to the District were identified in 2018 as likely to require capacity upgrades to meet planned growth within Winchester. This includes WwTW at Bishops Waltham, Budds Farm Havant, Peels Common, Southwick, Wickham and Chickenhall Eastleigh¹⁹¹. This is likely to be even more necessary, as all new developments must achieve nutrient neutrality to get planning consent under Natural England's June 2020 guidance on nutrient neutrality for new developments in Solent region.

D.187 The current Local Plan Part 1 states that the most important groundwater resources in the District are at 'poor' status. Additionally, ground water resources in the District are amongst the most sensitive in the region and are highly vulnerable to pollution. 80% of the District is underlain by principal aquifer and 46% of the District is within Source Protection Zones¹⁹².

D.188 Source Protection Zones (SPZs) are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites and they provide additional protection to safeguard drinking water quality by constraining the proximity of an activity that can impact the quality of drinking water¹⁹³. They cover the area surrounding Winchester City with an exception for the North West of the City. As for the wider District, SPZs mainly cover the areas in the South and the East of the District, especially in the North West of Bishop's Waltham and also in the North East from New Alresford¹⁹⁴.

D.189 Drinking Water Safeguard Zones (Surface Water) are catchment areas that influence the water quality for their respective Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface Water), which are at risk of failing the drinking water protection objectives. These non-statutory Safeguard Zones are where action to address water contamination will be targeted, so that extra treatment by water companies can be avoided. Safeguard Zones are a joint initiative between the Environment Agency and water companies. Safeguard Zones are one of the main tools for delivering the drinking water protection objectives of the Water Framework Directive. This data includes what substances are causing the drinking water protected area to be 'at risk'.

D.190 In December 2020, Solent and South Downs had above average rainfall receiving 158% (140mm) of the long term average (LTA) (89mm). Monthly mean river flows across the Solent and South Downs ranged from normal to notably high. Groundwater levels ranged from below normal to exceptionally high. Moreover, soil moisture deficits across the area ended the month at zero. End of month reservoir stocks were average at Ardingly Reservoir (Ouse Catchment) and above average at Arlington Reservoir (Cuckmere catchment)¹⁹⁵.

D.191 Key waterbodies within Winchester District include the Arle, Bow Lake, Candover Brook, the Itchen (and Cheriton Stream), Monks Brook and Nun's Walk Stream which form part of the Itchen operational catchment. The River Dever that forms part of the Test Upper and Middle operational catchment also flows into the District. Within the East Hampshire operational catchment, the Upper Wallington, the Meon, the Upper Hamble, Moors Stream and Horton Heath Stream also flow into the District. The majority of these waterbodies have been classified as 'good' overall considering their ecological and chemical condition. However, Candover Brook, Monks Brook, the Moen, Upper Hamble and Upper Wallington have been assessed as being in 'moderate' condition overall. Within the District, only Bow Lake has been reported to be in a 'bad' condition overall¹⁹⁶. Some of the key reasons why water bodies are classified as being in 'bad' condition include the provision and occupation of

¹⁹⁰ Southern Water (2019) Water Resource Management Plan 2020 – 2070 [online] Available at: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/our-story/water-resources-planning/water-resources-management-plan-2020-70>

¹⁹¹ Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (2018) Integrated Water Management Study. Available at: <https://www.push.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/IWMS-Appendix-1.pdf>

¹⁹² Winchester City Council and South Downs National Park Authority (2013) Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-part-1-joint-core-strategy-adopted-march-2013-local-plan-review-2006>

¹⁹³ Environmental Agency (2020) Source Protection Zones [online] Available at: <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/09889a48-0439-4bbe-8f2a-87bba26fbbf5/source-protection-zones-merged>

¹⁹⁴ DEFRA (2020) Magic Maps [online] Available at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

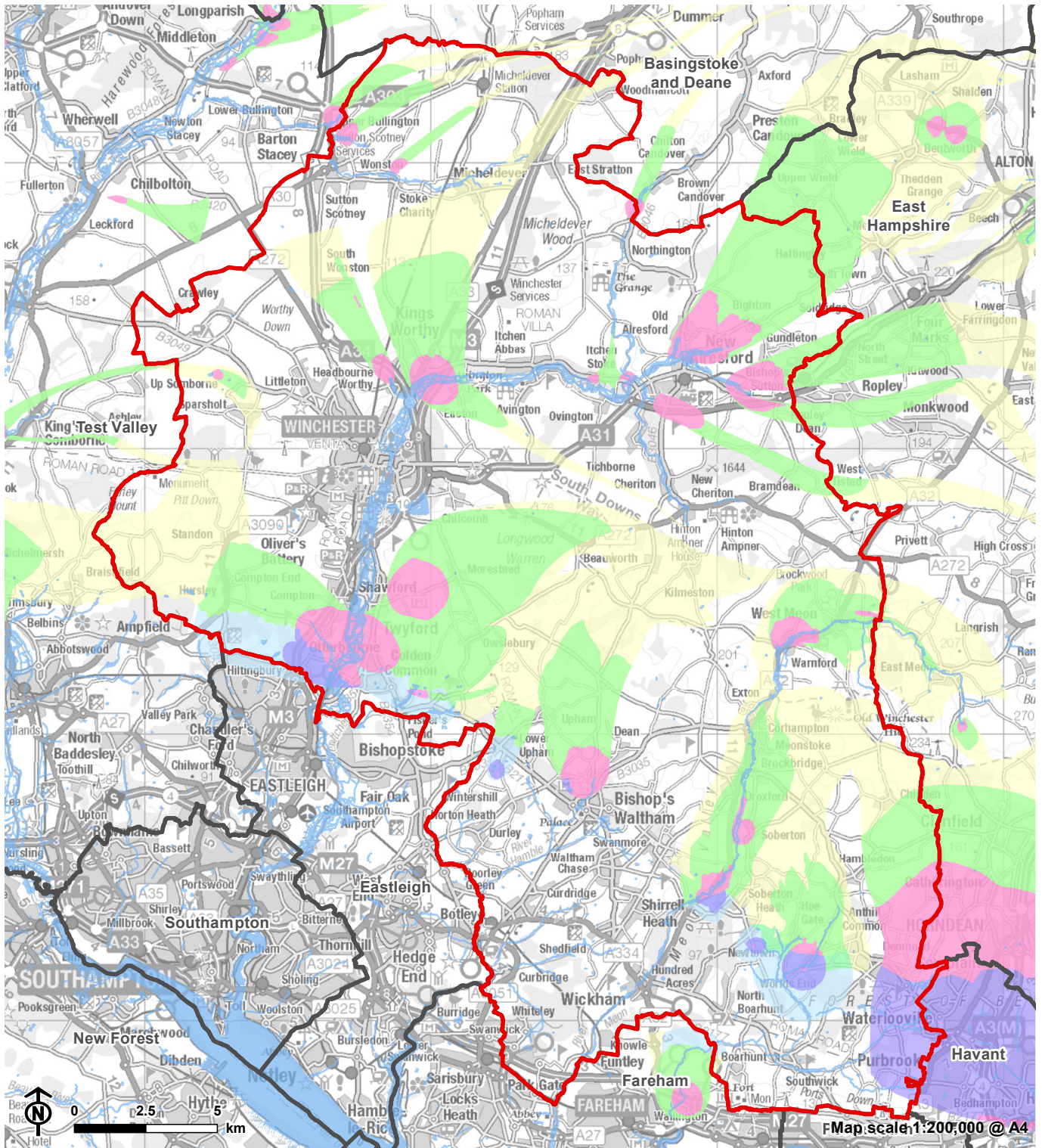
¹⁹⁵ Environment Agency (2020) Monthly water situation report: Solent and South Downs Area [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951282/Solent_and_South_Downs_Water_Situation_Report_December_2020.pdf

¹⁹⁶ Environment Agency (2016) South East River Basin District [online] Available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/7>

urban development, sewage discharge, poor soil management, groundwater abstraction, contaminated land and poor livestock management¹⁹⁷.

D.192 The location of SPZs and the main watercourses in the District are shown in **Figure D.24**, below.

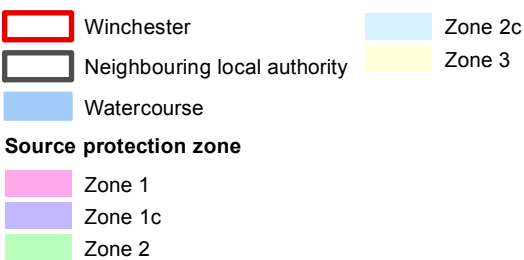
¹⁹⁷ Environmental Agency (undated) Catchment Data Explorer: South East River Basin District [online] Available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/7>



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Source: Environment Agency

Figure D.24: Watercourses and Source Protection Zones



Biodiversity

D.193 Winchester District contains a number of areas which are valued for their natural beauty and contribution to biodiversity. Notable among these are the Itchen Chalk River and coastal habitats of the Solent and Southampton Water. These sites are protected through European Directives (Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)) and international Ramsar designations for important wetland sites. Further detail regarding the qualifying features and key sensitivities of these European designated sites and others within 15km of the District is provided in the HRA Scoping Report.

D.194 There are 17 SSSIs, almost 600 sites of Nature Conservation (SINCs) and nine Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in Winchester District. The areas of ancient woodland and designated biodiversity sites that are present in the District is shown in **Figure D.25** and **Figure D.26**, below. At present data is not available to map the SINCs and Nature Recovery Network in the District and therefore this detail is not shown on **Figure D.25** or **Figure D.26**. However, this data will be worked up and will be used to inform the appraisal of the new Local Plan.

D.195 Out of the 17 SSSIs within Winchester District, five are in entirely favourable condition. The following SSSIs were found to be partly or entirely within unfavourable condition:

- **Beacon Hill, Warnford SSSI:** 61.28% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition, with 54.07% recovering and around 3% declining.
- **Botley Wood and Everett's and Mushes Copses SSSI:** 88.4% of this SSSI is in unfavourable and recovering.
- **Lye Heath Marsh SSSI:** 100% of this SSSI is in unfavourable and recovering condition.
- **The Moors, Bishop's Waltham SSSI:** Around 33% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and declining and around 58% is in unfavourable condition and recovering.
- **Ratlake Meadows SSSI:** 100% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and recovering.
- **River Itchen SSSI:** Around 5% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and declining, around 28% is in unfavourable condition with no change and around 56% is in unfavourable condition and recovering.
- **St. Catherine's Hill SSSI:** Around 11% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and recovering.
- **Alresford Pond SSSI:** 100% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and declining.
- **Hook Heath Meadows SSSI:** 100% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and recovering.
- **Old Winchester Hill SSSI:** Around 4% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and recovering.
- **River Test SSSI:** Around 1% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and declining, around 44% is in unfavourable condition with no change and around 38% is in unfavourable condition and recovering.
- **Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI:** Around 12% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and declining and around 88% is in unfavourable condition and recovering.

D.196 The latest Winchester Authority Monitoring Report states that many Winchester Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species lie outside designated sites. Therefore, the full extent of priority habitats and species is yet unknown¹⁹⁸. However, non-statutory designated sites such as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in Winchester are subject to significant loss recently and are just as important to protect.

D.197 Winchester City Council is in the process mapping its ecosystem services including areas of importance for pollination¹⁹⁹, mitigation heat island effect²⁰⁰ and for regulating surface water runoff²⁰¹. This mapping is to be used by the Council to inform planning decision making in the District. The key areas that provide all three of the above ecosystem services include:

- Green spaces along River Itchen and River Meon;
- Farley Mount Country Park;

¹⁹⁸ Winchester City Council (2020) Authorities' Monitoring Report 2018 – 2019 [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/annual-monitoring-report-amr>

¹⁹⁹ Winchester City Council (2017) Pollinators map [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/4788/Pollination.pdf>

²⁰⁰ Winchester City Council (2017) Urban heat map [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/4789/Urban-heat-island-effects.pdf>

²⁰¹ Winchester City Council (2017) Water run off map [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/4790/Water-runoff-regulation.pdf>

- Blackwood Forest;
- Forest areas along the M3 road in the north East from Winchester;
- Forest areas located East of Whitley;
- Rookesbusy Park;
- Creech Wood in the South West from Denmead; and
- Woodland and hedge patches spread across the western part of South Downs National Park.

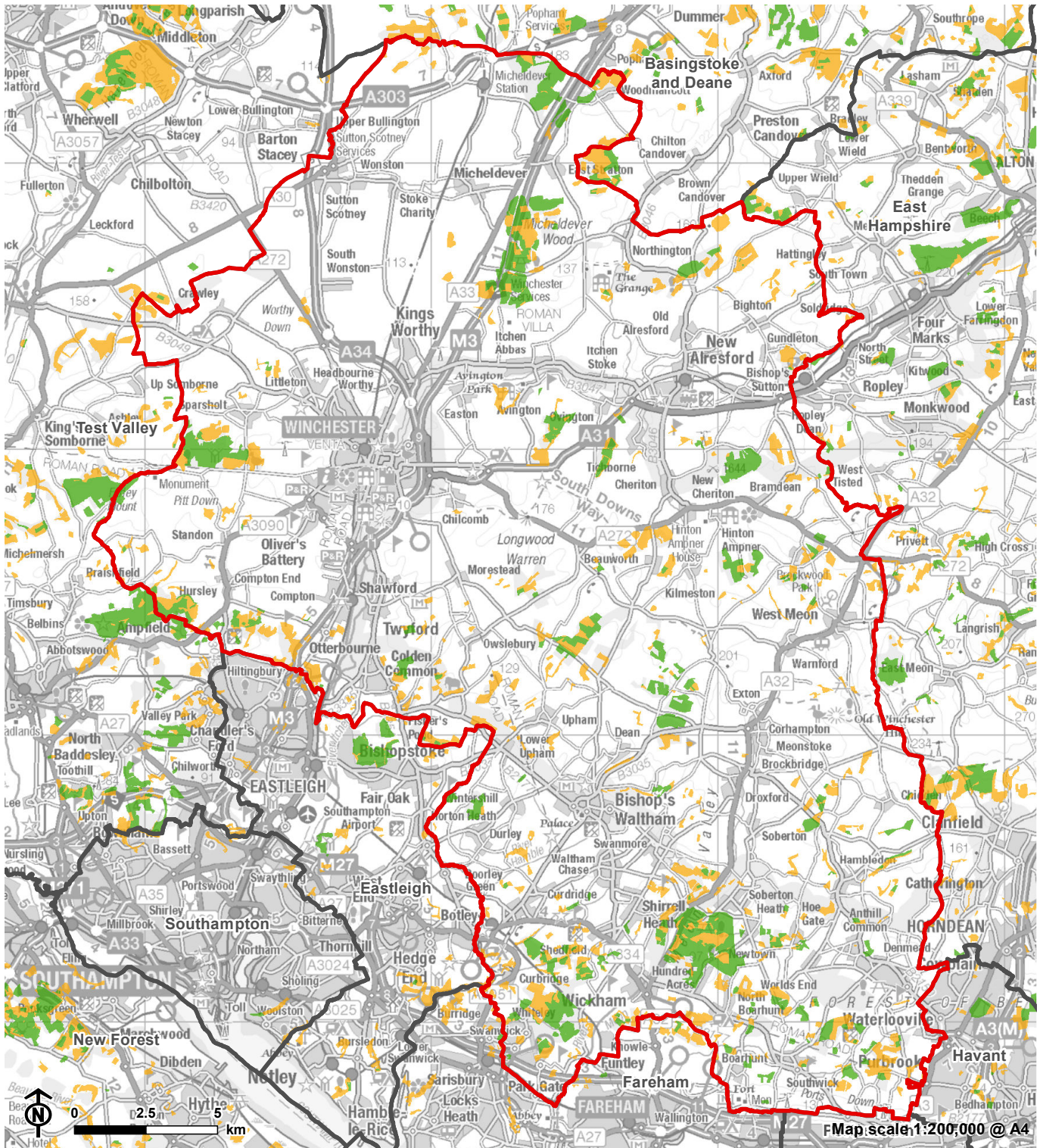
D.198 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre have created a Nature Recovery Network map for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Counties. Mapping has identified the absolute no-go areas for development that include places such as nature reserves and the internationally protected areas, and it also identified areas which can deliver greatest benefits for wildlife. This ecological network map presents a bigger picture that allows for larger perspective to evaluate cumulative effects of individual planning and land use decisions²⁰².

D.199 As of summer 2020, the Council is in the process of commissioning a new Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the District which will replace the 2005 document. The new BAP will extend beyond the designated sites in the District and will prioritise and direct resources and work relating to biodiversity.

D.200 The Government reintroduced the Environment Bill in January 2020 and this set out a requirement for development to achieve mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The Bill requires at least a 10% improvement in biodiversity value. This approach follows on from the Government's aim in the 25 Year Environment Plan²⁰³ to "leave the environment in a better state than we found it". In Winchester District a minimum 10% measurable BNG will be a requirement of all applications as evidenced through reporting using the DEFRA metric which was developed as part of the Biodiversity 2020 strategy.

²⁰² Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (2020) Nature Recovery Network [online] Available at: <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/nature-recovery-network>

²⁰³ Defra (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment



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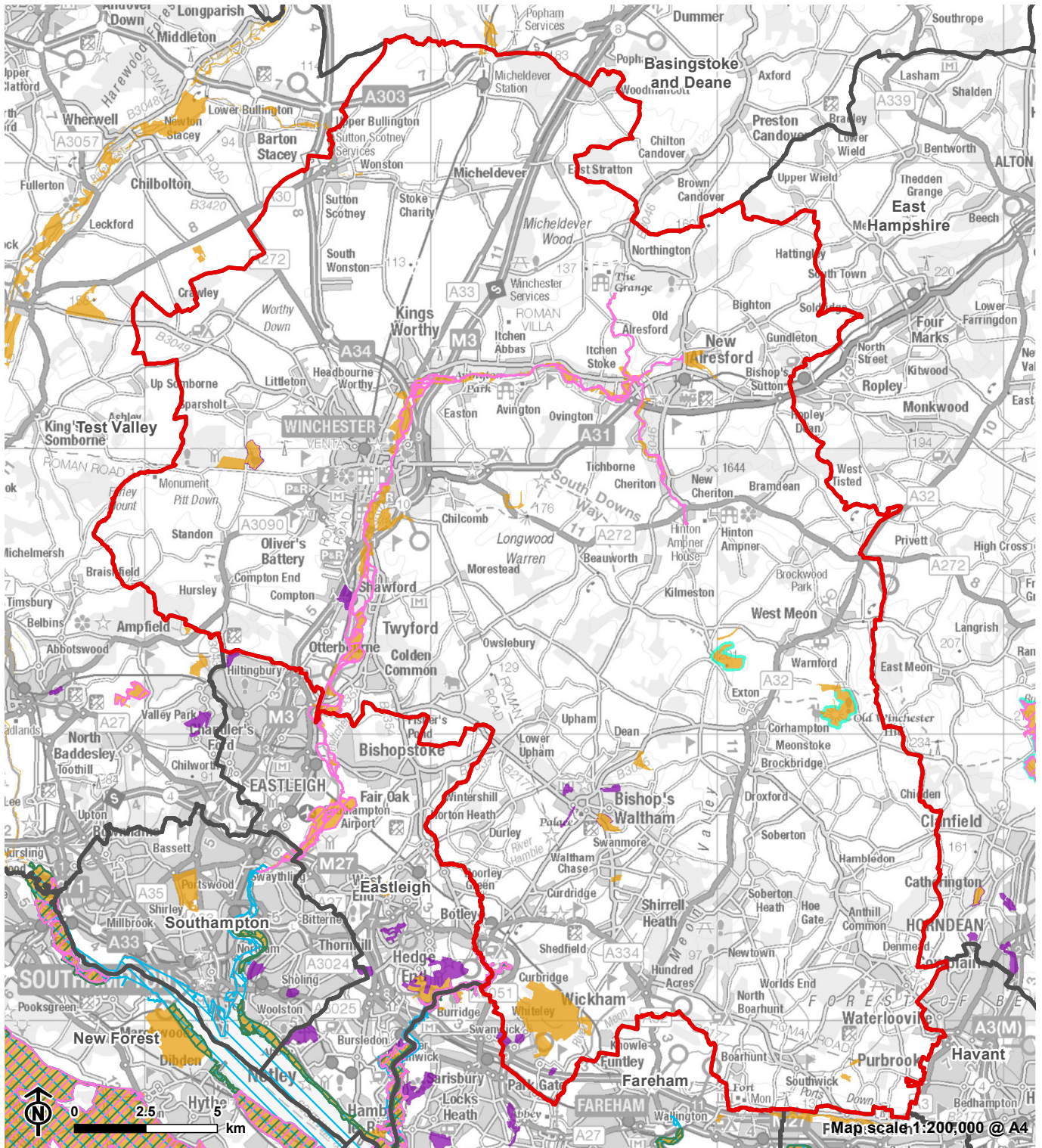
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Source: Natural England

Figure D.25: Ancient Woodland

- Winchester
- Neighbouring local authority

Ancient woodland

- Ancient and semi-natural woodland
- Ancient replanted woodland



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Figure D.26: Designated Biodiversity Assets

- Winchester
- Neighbouring local authority
- Ramsar
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- National Nature Reserve
- Local Nature Reserve

Historic Environment

Heritage Assets

D.201 Winchester District has a range of unique heritage assets that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the District. These assets include Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and a range of listed buildings (Grade I, II and II*), as shown in **Figure D.27** and **Figure D.28**, below.

D.202 Highlighted in the National Planning Policy Framework, non-designated heritage assets are singular buildings, structures and monuments or landscapes that are believed to have a degree of heritage significance and make a significant contribution to local character, identity and sense of place. However, despite their level of heritage significance, these sites do not meet the criteria set out for statutory listing through Historic England²⁰⁴.

D.203 The Winchester Future 50 Conservation Area Project is currently being undertaken in the District. Through this project, a pilot in a form of Non-Designated Heritage Asset list for a part of Winchester has been devised and will be published on completion²⁰⁵.

D.204 In Winchester District, there are over 100 Scheduled Monuments, 2,267 listed buildings, 110 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 11 historic parks and gardens, 37 Conservation Areas and a historic battlefield which now lies within South Downs National Park.

D.205 Winchester District has a wealth of historic parks and gardens that contribute to the character, diversity and distinctiveness of its landscape. Equally, the District has many important archaeological resources from pre-historic period to the military history of the last century²⁰⁶.

D.206 A Conservation Area is defined as “an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”. There are 37 designated Conservation Areas in the District, which vary in size from small villages such as Ovington to the urban centre of Winchester. All Conservation Areas in the District currently benefit from Technical Assessments which set out the special qualities of those areas²⁰⁷.

D.207 During the most recent reporting year (2018/19) two planning applications were refused for being in conflict with the adopted Local Plan’s policy relating to preventing the loss of or harm to designated heritage assets through development²⁰⁸.

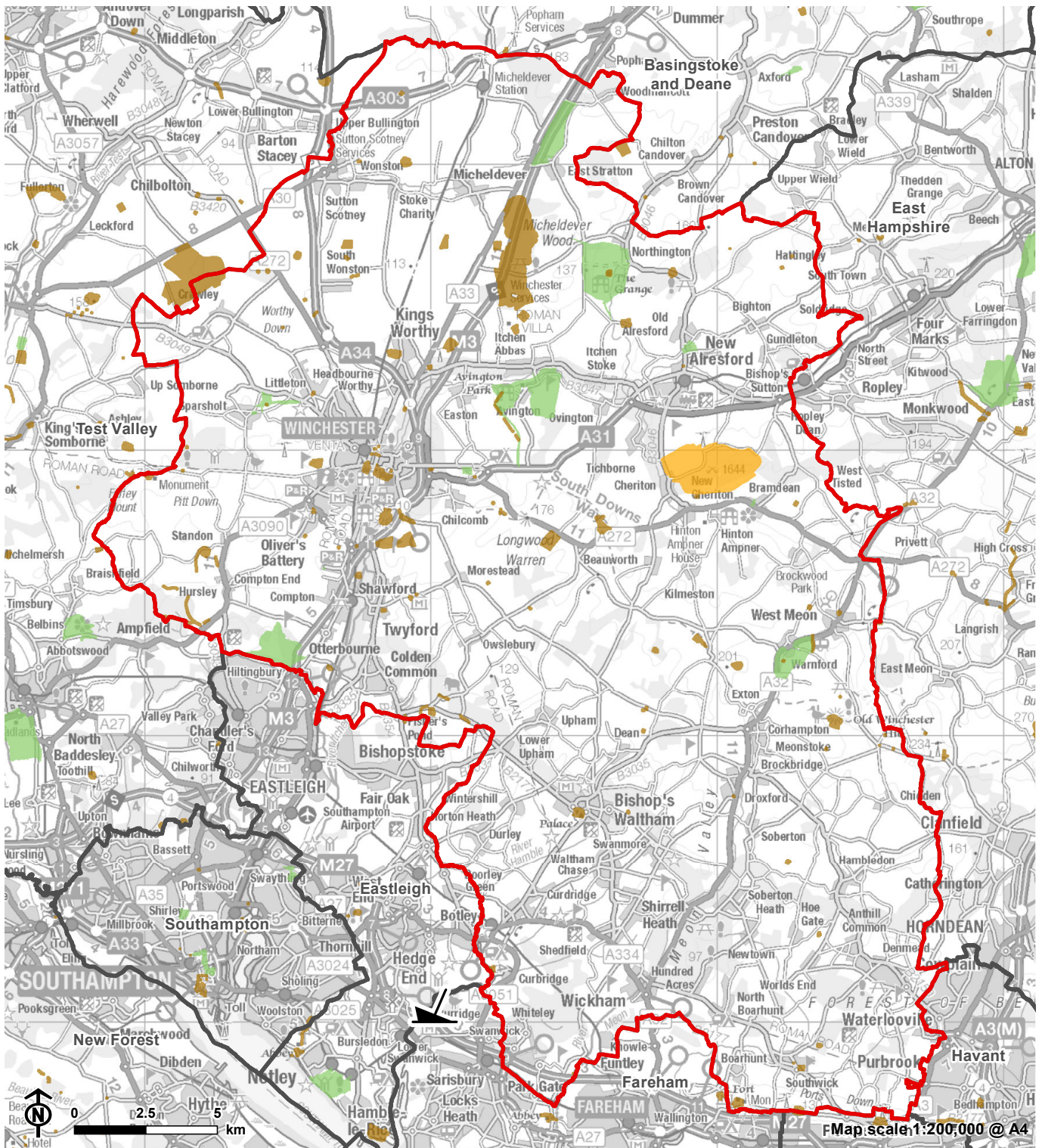
²⁰⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Governments (2019 update) National Planning Policy Framework (footnote 63) [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

²⁰⁵ Winchester City Council (2020) Non-Designated Heritage Assets [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/historic-environment/non-designated-heritage-assets-and-locally-listed-heritage-assets/non-designated-heritage-assets>

²⁰⁶ Ibid.

²⁰⁷ <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/historic-environment/conservation-areas/technical-assessments>

²⁰⁸ Winchester City Council (2020) Authorities' Monitoring Report 2018 – 2019 [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/annual-monitoring-report-amr>

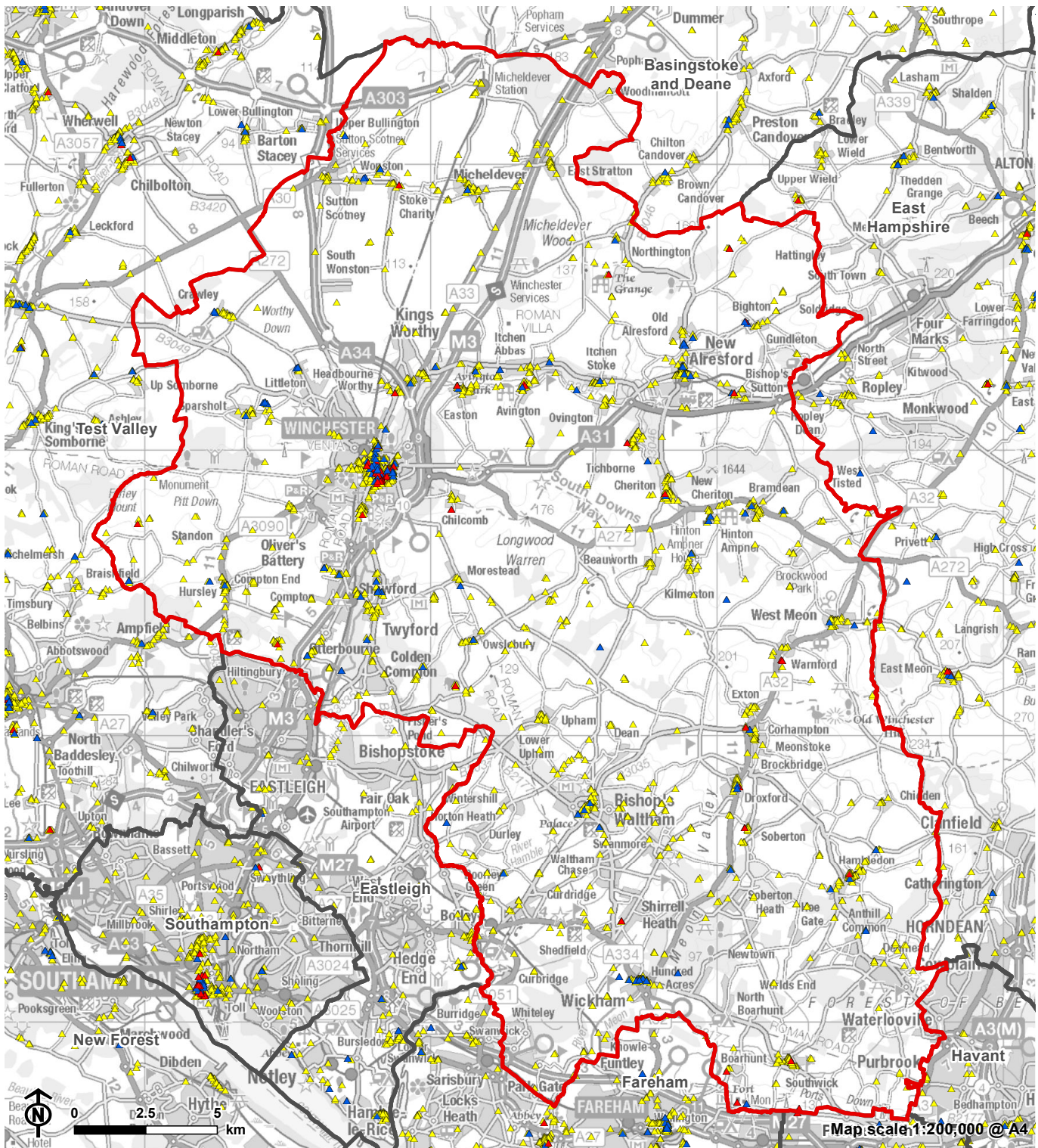


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Source: Historic England

Figure D.27: Heritage Assets

- Winchester
- Neighbouring local authority
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Battlefield
- Registered Park and Garden
- Protected Wreck



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Source: Historic England

Figure D.28: Listed Buildings

- Winchester
- Neighbouring local authority

Listed Building

- ▲ Grade I
- ▲ Grade II*
- ▲ Grade II

Heritage at Risk

D.208 Historic England has a Heritage at Risk Register²⁰⁹ which includes historic buildings, of Grade II* and Grade I listed buildings (Grade II listed buildings are only included for London), sites and Conservation Areas at risk of being lost through neglect, deterioration or decay. The register aims to highlight those places and buildings in greatest need of repair.

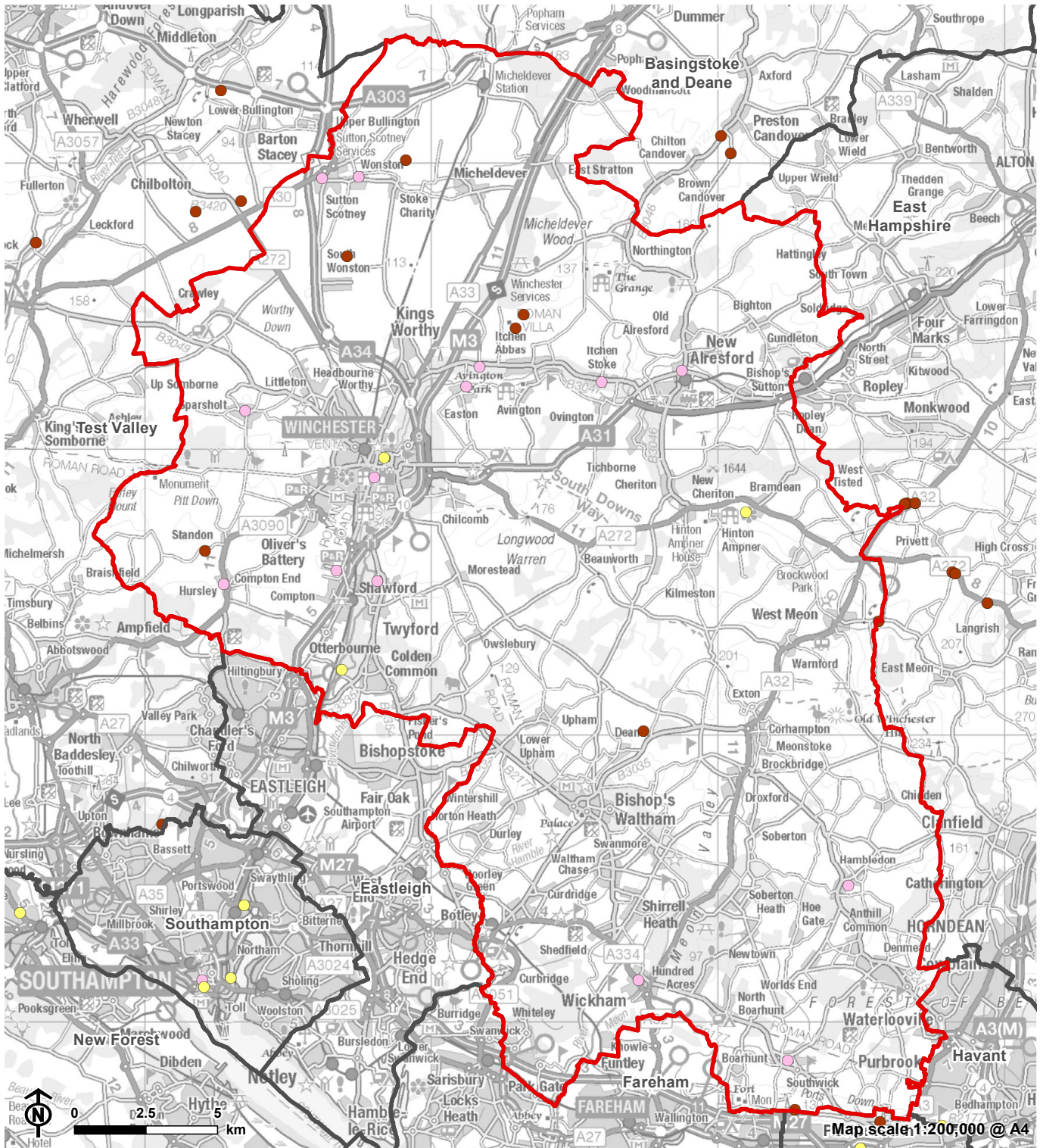
D.209 The heritage assets (including Conservation Areas) identified on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register as being at risk in the District are shown in **Figure D.29** below, and information about their heritage category and condition²¹⁰ are provided in **Table D.19** below. The Council presently does not have a local Heritage at Risk Register.

Table D.19: Heritage assets on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register in Winchester District

Designated Site Name	Heritage Category	Condition
Compton Street	Conservation Area	Very Bad
Hursley	Conservation Area	Fair
New Alresford	Conservation Area	At risk
Southwick	Conservation Area	At risk
Sparsholt	Conservation Area	At risk
Sutton Scotney	Conservation Area	At risk
Wickham	Conservation Area	At risk
Winchester	Conservation Area	At risk
Wonston	Conservation Area	At risk
Church of the Holy Trinity, North Walls, Winchester	Listed Building grade II*	Poor
Church of St Simon and St Jude, Church Lane, Bramdean, Bramdean and Hinton Ampner	Listed Building grade II*	Very bad
Norsebury Ring hillfort, Micheldever	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems
Long barrow and bowl barrow 440m north west of Sanctuary Farm, Wonston	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems
'Banjo type' native settlement	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems
Roman villa and earlier prehistoric settlement 400m west of Lone Farm, Itchen	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems
Merdon Castle	Scheduled Monument	Poor

²⁰⁹ Historic England (2019) Risk Register [online] Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2019-registers/ee-har-register2019/>.

²¹⁰ Historic England classifies building conditions as 'very bad', 'poor', 'fair' or 'good'. The condition of buildings or structures on the Heritage at Risk Register typically ranges from 'very bad' to 'poor', 'fair' and (occasionally) 'good' reflecting the fact that some buildings or structures capable of use are vulnerable to becoming at risk because they are empty, under-used or face redundancy without a new use to secure their future. Assessing vulnerability in the case of buildings in fair condition necessarily involves judgement and discretion. A few buildings on the Register are in good condition, having been repaired or mothballed, but a new use or owner is still to be secured. Buildings or structures are removed from the Register when they are fully repaired/consolidated, and their future secured through either occupation and use, or through the adoption of appropriate management.



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Source: Historic England

Figure D.29: Heritage Assets at Risk

- Winchester
 - Neighbouring local authority
- Heritage at risk**
- Conservation Area
 - Listed Building
 - Registered Park and Garden
 - Scheduled Monument

Landscape

D.210 National Character Area (NCA) profiles created by Natural England are used to define the specific combination of landscape, geodiversity, biodiversity, history, culture and economic activity in an area. NCAs follow natural lines in the landscape instead of administrative boundaries²¹¹. The National Character Areas are shown in **Figure D.30**, below.

D.211 Winchester District runs through four NCAs: Hampshire Downs (130), South Hampshire Lowlands (128), South Downs (125) and South Coast Plain (126), summarised below.

- Hampshire Downs (130) is found in the central southern England belt of Chalk. The majority of the area is an elevated, open, rolling landscape dominated by arable fields with low hedgerows on thin chalk soils, scattered woodland blocks and shelterbelts²¹².
- South Hampshire Lowlands (128) is a low-lying plain between the chalk hills of the Hampshire and South Downs and Southampton Water. The NCA is dominated by the city and port of Southampton and its adjoining towns and suburbs (29% of the area is urban). Rural areas comprise a mixture of farmland and woodland²¹³.
- In South Downs (125) NCA the majority of the area falls within the South Downs National Park. About 8% of the NCA is classified as urban area, comprising the coastal conurbation of Brighton and Hove in the east. The South Downs NCA is an extremely diverse and complex landscape with considerable local variation representing physical, historical and economic influences. It is defined by a prominent ridge of chalk that stretches from Winchester in the west to Eastbourne and the East Sussex in the east. About 90% of the NCA falls within the South Downs National Park. The area consists of large fields and nationally and internationally important chalk grassland²¹⁴.
- South Coast Plain (126) is a flat, coastal landscape with an intricately indented shoreline. The coastline includes several major inlets which have particularly distinctive local landscapes and intertidal habitats of international environmental importance for wildfowl and waders²¹⁵.

D.212 Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment conducted in 2004 was aimed at helping the planning system to conserve, restore and enhance the character of the District's landscape and the settings of its settlements. It also highlighted trends and issues that threaten the character of the landscape and set out strategies for improvements²¹⁶. Currently, the Landscape Character Assessment for the District is being updated.

D.213 The previous 'Winchester District Landscape Assessment' was timed to support the 'Winchester District Local Plan' which was adopted 22nd April 1998. That assessment identified nine Areas of Special Landscape Quality (ASLQs), some of which are now in the South Downs National Park. Should the update to the Landscape Character Assessment identify any equivalent, locally important landscapes, the potential effects of the Local Plan on these will be considered by the SA.

D.214 A Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal²¹⁷ conducted in 2014 was prepared to inform land use and land management policy and the need to assess the main attributes of landscape as a basis for gauging sensitivity. For the purposes of the SA of the Local Plan, this will be superseded by a landscape sensitivity appraisal of the SHELAA sites. This is currently underway by the Council, using an assessment method based on the revised Natural England Methodology published in March 2019.

D.215 Part of the South Downs National Park lies within the boundaries of Winchester District and the Local Plan Review will cover the areas of land located on the edge of the National Park (the National Park itself is covered by its own Local Plan). The location of the South Downs National Park is shown in **Figure D.31** below.

²¹¹ HM Government (2014) Natural characteristic Areas [online] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles>

²¹² Natural England (2014) NCA Profile: 130 Hampshire Downs [online] Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6738147345956864?category=587130>

²¹³ Natural England (2014) NCA Profile: 128 South Hampshire Lowlands [online] Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5925881990086656?category=587130>

²¹⁴ Natural England (2015) NCA Profile: 125 South Downs [online] Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/7433354?category=587130>

²¹⁵ Natural England (2014) NCA Profile: 126 South Coast Plain [online] Available at:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4923911250640896?category=587130>

²¹⁶ Winchester City Council (2004) Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/landscape---countryside/landscape-character-assessment/>

²¹⁷ Winchester City Council (2014) Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal [online] Available at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/4030/Winchester-ALL-landscape-sensitivity-appraisal-FINAL-21.10.-2014-for-web-low-res.pdf>

D.216 The South Downs National Park includes some of the most valued lowland landscapes in England. There are two distinct areas of the South Downs National Park that fall within Winchester District and they include the Western Downs and the Dip Slope.

D.217 The Western Downs are characterised by large-scale open farmland with remnants of ancient woodland. The landscape in the Western Downs contains some of the most tranquil areas and darkest night skies²¹⁸. The areas surrounding Winchester City are of relatively low tranquillity. Wildlife in the Western Downs is rich, and it supports a variety of rare and internationally important species. Access to the park is more dispersed than in other areas of the National Park with a larger population close at hand. The area has a rich cultural heritage and historical features, including the site of the Battle of Cheriton and the National Trust House and garden at Hinton Ampner²¹⁹.

D.218 The Dip Slope extends along the entire length of the South Downs. In terms of landscape, the south-facing chalk Dip Slopes are intersected by river valleys (River Itchen, Meon, and Lavant). The area has a rich variety of wildlife, there are extensive areas of deciduous and coniferous woodland. The majority of the Dip Slope is Grade 3 agricultural land with some pockets of Grade 2. The area has many access opportunities with Rights of Way linking the coast to the crest of the South Downs. It also has a rich cultural heritage and historical features²²⁰.

Difficulties and Data Limitations

D.219 The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(8) require the Environmental Report to include:

“...a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.”

D.220 At this stage, given the content and purpose of the SA Scoping Report, it is considered appropriate to report on the data limitations identified as the report was prepared:

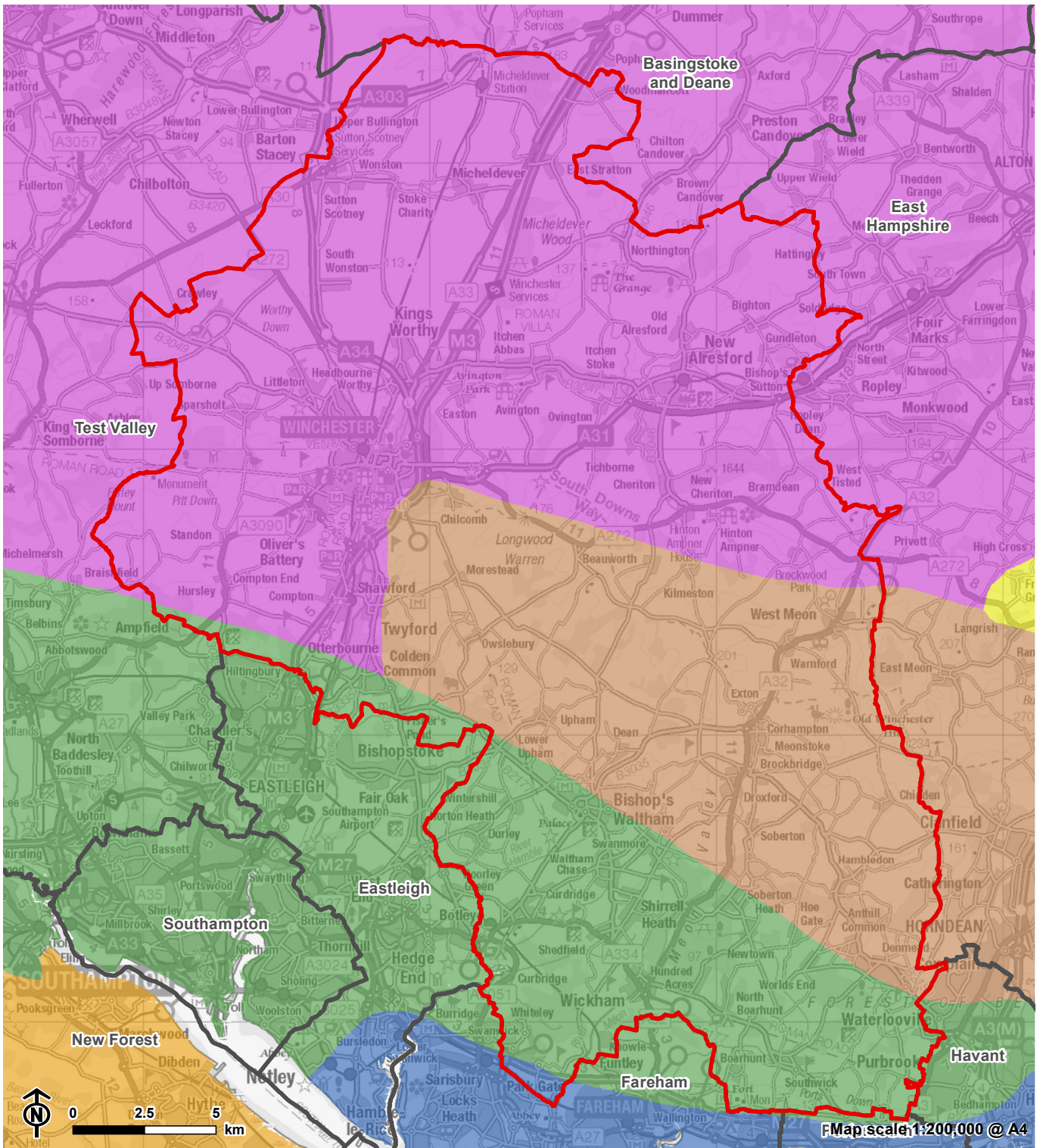
- Some of the data which is available at the national and District level is based on the reporting of 2011 census. This data allows for comparisons to be made between the District and national performance in relation to number of indicators, however it recognised that data is now relatively old considering the timings of the national census.
- Data on non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest does not exist for the District at present. These assets can often only be confirmed following further, more detailed assessment involving surveys / investigations. The initial identification of development site options which might have the potential to contain remains of equivalent significance to scheduled sites, is something that Winchester District’s heritage team has raised as not being possible presently due to capacity issues.
- Winchester City Council do not currently have a List of Local Heritage at Risk; this is something that the Council’s Heritage Team are hoping to prepare in due course.
- Evidence regarding number of areas and number of homes that are not connected to mains sewers in the District is currently not available.

D.221 Where data limitations have been identified, if relevant updates sources become available at a later stage of the SA process, they will be used to update the baseline evidence for the appraisal work.

²¹⁸ South Downs National Park (2017) SDNP Tranquillity Study [online] Available at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/13-04-17-South-Downs-National-Park-Tranquillity-Study.pdf>

²¹⁹ South Downs Council (2019) South Downs National Park Local Plan [online] Available at: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SD_LocalPlan_2019_17Wb.pdf

²²⁰ South Downs Council (2019) South Downs National Park Local Plan [online] Available at: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SD_LocalPlan_2019_17Wb.pdf

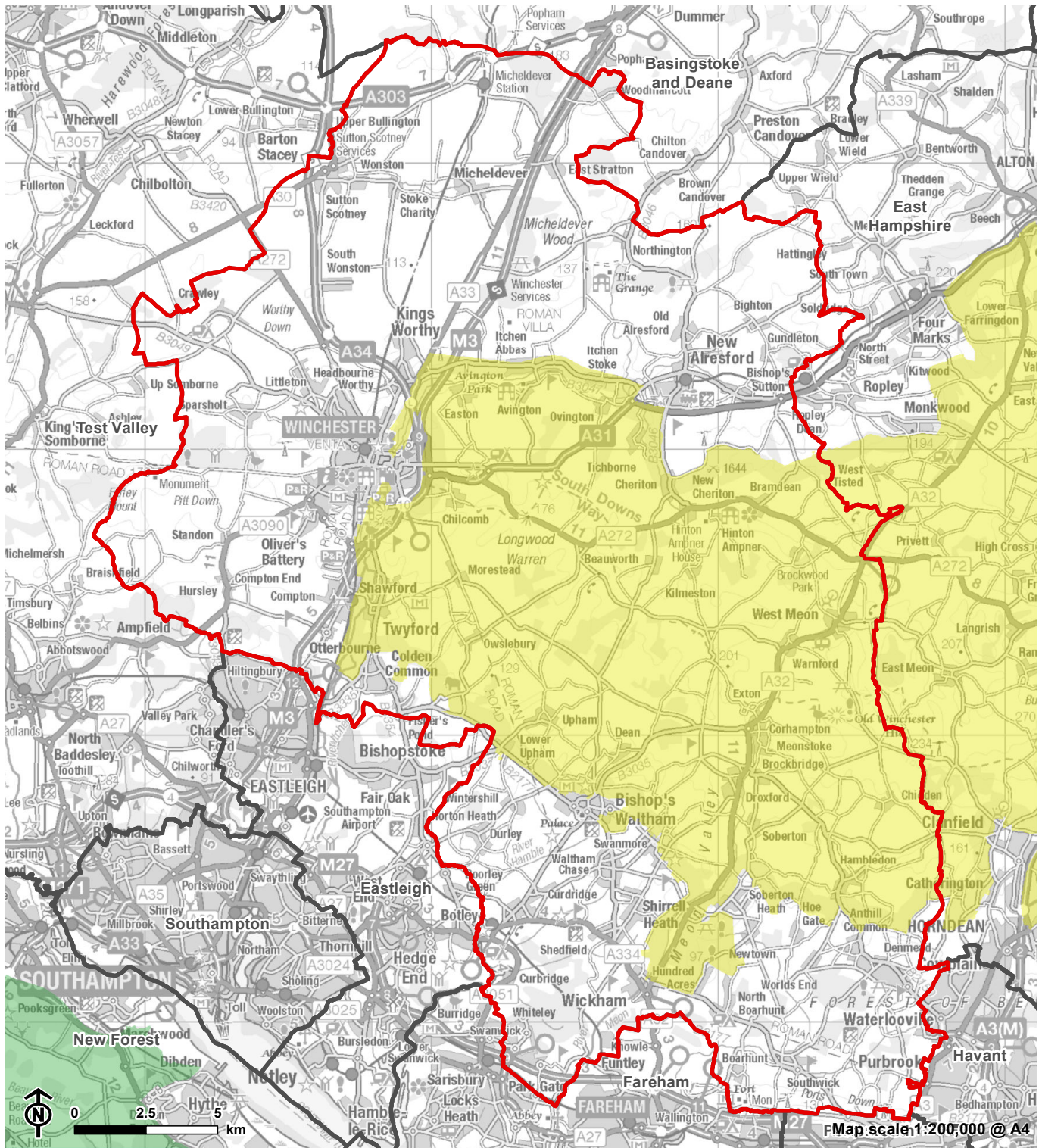


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Source: Natural England

Figure D.30: National Character Areas (NCA)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Winchester | 125: South Downs |
| Neighbouring local authority | 126: South Coast Plain |
| NCA | 128: South Hampshire Lowlands |
| 120: Wealden Greensand | 130: Hampshire Downs |
| | 131: New Forest |



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Source: Natural England

Figure D.31: National Parks

- Winchester
- Neighbouring local authority
- National Park**
- New Forest
- South Downs