

Kingscroft Farm & adjacent former allotments, Ranelagh Road, Havant, Hampshire, P09 1NR

Habitat Regulations Assessment Visitor Survey Report

March 2013

Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd
Consultant Ecologists & Chartered Environmentalists

91 Ethelburt Avenue, Southampton, Hants SO16 3DF

E: enquiries@hantsecology.co.uk

W: www.hantsecology.co.uk

T: 0771 456 8361

F: 0871 266 8127

Registered in England Company No. 7316076.

Registered office: 4 Sussex Business Village, Lake Lane, Barnham, W. Sussex PO22 0AL

Habitat Regulations Assessment Visitor Survey Report
Kingscroft Farm, Ranelagh Road, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 1NR
for
Orchard Homes

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Prepared by:	Rev 0
 KIRSTY PEARMAN Ecologist	27/03/2013
Review & Technical QA by:	
 JOHN POLAND Principal Ecologist	28/03/2013

This report represents sound industry practice; reports and recommends correctly, truthfully and objectively; is appropriate given the local site conditions, scope of works proposed and resources allocated to us by the client; and avoids invalid, biased, and exaggerated statements.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd was commissioned by Savills (Property Consultants) on behalf of Orchard Homes to produce a Habitat Regulation Assessment visitor survey report relating to a proposed residential development on a site at Kingscroft Farm and adjacent former allotments, Ranelagh Road, Havant, Hampshire. Planning Permission is being applied for residential development at the Site for 79 dwellings, including related infrastructure such as access roads and landscaping.
2. This report has been prepared to address the raised concerns by Hampshire County Council/ Havant Borough Council and Natural England regarding the potential impacts of increased recreational pressure as a result of the development at Land South of Ranelagh Road, Havant *in combination* with other potential developments at other allocated sites on Chichester Harbour SPA, Ramsar, SSSI and AONB; Langstone Harbour SPA, Ramsar and SSSI and Solent Maritime SAC. The harbours were designated due to their features of internationally important numbers of wintering waterbirds, migratory birds and breeding seabirds listed on Annex 1. The sites also contain a wide range of key coastal intertidal and terrestrial habitats supporting important plant and animal communities.
3. To offset recreational pressures on designated nature conservations sites, part of the proposed development site also includes an area of adjacent land offsite at Meyrick Road (MROS) which provides accessible open space available for informal public recreation. In addition to this, there is a proposal to link this open space with a new permissive footpath (shown in *Figure 3* in *Section 6*). This provides a short circular walk and an area of open space with water frontage along the Hermitage Stream. It is aimed to enhance this area for recreational users, making the longer distance to the designated sites a less attractive alternative.
4. In order to better inform current levels of use at the sites, identify how much the development will contribute to the in-combination effect and to identify how best the local authorities can divert additional visitors away from the coastal sites to the new allocated open space area and permissive footpath, Natural England and the other consultees requested Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd to undertake a study of local recreational activity at the designated site and in Ranelagh Road and the surrounding area, including the local footpath off Meyrick Road.
5. Five days of visitor surveys were conducted, three at the main carpark at Broadmarsh (coastal path within Langstone Harbour) and two along the upper part of the footpath close to Ranelagh Road, adjacent to the Meyrick Road. A total of 92 questionnaires were completed. In addition, doorstep surveys were carried out along various roads in the vicinity of Ranelagh Road over two days. A total of 47 surveys were completed. The survey questionnaire and full results are listed in the Appendix (see *Section 8*).
6. A summary of the main findings of the visitor surveys are listed below.
 - **Most common place to travel from:** Havant (32.26%) and Bedhampton (27.96%);

- **Most common distance to travel:** 2-5 miles (Broadmarsh) and less than 1 mile (local footpath);
 - **Most common mode of travel:** Car (Broadmarsh) and walk (local footpath);
 - **Most common reason for visit:** Dog walking (62.37%) and walking (31.18%);
 - **Most common length of visit:** Less than 1 hour (47.83%) and 1-2 hours (47.83%);
 - **Most common frequency of visit:** Daily (41.94%) and 1-3 times a week (40.86%);
 - **Most commonly valued open space feature:** Natural beauty and good for dogs;
 - **Most disliked feature about site:** Litter (Broadmarsh) and condition of the path (local footpath);
 - **Mean common other location to visit:** Hayling Island and Langstone Harbour (local footpath); and
 - **Most common features of interest:** Natural beauty (53.76%), wildlife (20.43%), good for dogs (20.43%) and open space (25.81%).
7. Results found that 17.02% (doorstep survey) of the interviewees would preferentially use Meyrick Road open space than visiting coastal areas. 16.13% of participants at Broadmarsh and the local footpath also said that they would visit the coastal areas less often if there was a new suitable green space close to home. This indicates that providing more accessible open space in residential areas could be a successful method in relieving visitor pressure at coastal areas.
8. A large number of participants (45.45%) said they would not visit coastal areas any less often if there was a new greenspace as they enjoy visiting the coast and 22.73% because they enjoyed the natural beauty of the sites they visit.
9. Features that were commonly mentioned that would attract people to the new area include it being good for dogs, easily accessible, an open space and had natural beauty. Reasons that would deter people from using an area include dog excrement, vandalism, litter and also the condition of the path.
10. Many other locations within designated sites and nature reserves in the area were also given as popular sites to visit for recreational purposes. This could indicate that the development at Ranelagh Road *in combination* with other potential developments at other allocated sites within the Havant area are likely to contribute to increased recreational pressure at a range of other sites, especially on the local SPA/SAC network.
11. The provision of accessible open space is expected to offset some of the recreational pressure, and attract other visitors who might otherwise be contributing to pressure on the local designated site network. However, it is not possible to assume such provisions will be sufficient to attract a large number of people from these sites due to the strong preferences for coastal areas and natural beauty. In addition such sites provide a greater range of features and activities that the open space would not provide.

INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Planning permission is being applied for a residential development at Kingscroft Farm and adjacent former allotments, Ranelagh Road, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 1NR (approximate Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SU708062) consisting of 79 dwellings, including related infrastructure such as access roads and landscaping. The site currently comprises approximately 3.6ha and includes the stables and horse pastures of the farm and the adjacent former allotments on Ranelagh Road.

The application is accompanied by a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) (Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd, 2012) that considers the likely significant effects of the proposals on nearby designated sites. The sites are Chichester Harbour SPA, Ramsar, SSSI and AONB; Langstone Harbour SPA, Ramsar and SSSI and Solent Maritime SAC (shown in *Figure 1* in *Section 6*). The harbours were designated due to their features of internationally important numbers of wintering waterbirds, migratory birds and breeding seabirds listed on Annex 1. The Ramsar sites supports 6% of the population of dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, during winter; levels of international importance. The sites also contain a wide range of key coastal intertidal and terrestrial habitats supporting important plant and animal communities.

The majority of the additional recreational pressure is likely to be generated by dog walkers and be focused along the coastal footpaths. The harbours are easily accessible, within a 5 minute drive/ 25 minute walk. Chichester Harbour is located approximately 1.3 km southwest of the Site and Langstone Harbour is approximately 1.7 km southeast of the Site. Solent Maritime SAC is approximately 1.3 km south of the Site (at Chichester Harbour).

There is evidence to suggest that the majority of recreational users of open green space, particularly regular users such as dog walkers, will visit sites and use footpaths that are in close proximity to their homes. There are a number of alternative existing publicly accessible green open spaces near the housing development at Ranelagh Road that recreational users generated by the proposals are likely to use: Havant Park and Bidbury Mead Recreation Ground both in easy walking distance, approximately a 10 minute walk away (shown in *Figure 2* in *Section 6*).

To offset recreational pressures on designated nature conservations sites, part of the proposed development site also includes on site accessible open space available for informal public recreation. An area of adjacent land offsite at Meyrick Road has been identified which provides accessible open space (MROS) within walking distance. It is aimed to enhance this area for recreational users, making the longer distance to the designated sites a less attractive alternative. In addition to this, there is a proposal to link this open space with a new permissive footpath leading from the south-east end of the MROS, along the east boundary of the adjacent field to the bottom of the development site, which would then connect to an existing Right of Way in the adjacent field to the south-west of the site linking north-west back towards the MROS (shown in *Figure 3* in

Section 6). This provides a short circular walk and an area of open space with water frontage along the Hermitage Stream. Additional signage and provision of dog waste bins is aimed to be provided along the route.

When consulted on the planning application, Hampshire County Council/ Havant Borough Council Ecologist and Natural England raised concerns about the impacts of increased recreational pressure on Chichester Harbour SPA, Ramsar, SSSI and AONB; Langstone Harbour SPA, Ramsar and SSSI and Solent Maritime SAC as a result of the development at Land South of Ranelagh Road, Havant *in combination* with other potential developments at other allocated sites.

No extensive studies have been carried out on the impact of recreational pressure on European designated sites. Hampshire County Council has advised that currently there is not enough information to confirm whether the development in combination with other sites would or would not have significant effects. In order to better inform current levels of use at the sites, identify how much the development will contribute to the in-combination effect and to identify how best the local authorities can divert additional visitors away from the coastal sites to the new allocated open space area, Natural England and the other consultees requested Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd to undertake a study of local recreational activity in Ranelagh Road and the surrounding area.

This report presents the methodology, survey findings and conclusions of the visitor questionnaire survey carried out by Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd. The location of the site and designated sites are given in *Figure 1*; the distribution of current open space around the site and the proposed allocated area of open space adjacent to the site at Meyrick Road is given in *Figure 2*; and the location of the Meyrick Road open space (MROS) and new permissive footpath and circular route is given in *Figure 3* (see *Section 6*).

2.2 Aims of survey

The aims of the visitor survey were to identify:

- The current level of recreational use of the designated sites (Chichester Harbour, Langstone Harbour and Solent Maritime) and the coastal paths during the week and at weekends;
- Where people using these areas live;
- How people travelled to the area;
- The range of recreational activities undertaken;
- The duration and frequency of visits;
- Which other local site(s) do they use for recreational purposes;
- Whether they would visit coastal areas less often if there was a new suitable green space close to home;
- Why people have chosen to use this site for recreation than others; and
- What could be done to attract them to use the new open space area.

2.3 Structure of this report

This report is structured as follows:

- *Section 1* contains the executive summary;

- *Section 2* contains an introduction;
- *Section 3* describes the survey methods;
- *Section 4* describes the results;
- *Section 5* evaluates the findings;
- *Section 6* contains the figures including:
 - *Figure 1* gives the location of the site and designated sites;
 - *Figure 2* gives the distribution of open space around the site;
 - *Figure 3* gives a plan showing the new permissive footpath and circular route, including the development site and the Meyrick Road open space; and
 - *Figure 4* gives the locations of the visitor questionnaire survey sites.
- *Section 7* lists the references;
- *Appendix A* gives the visitor survey questionnaire.

3 METHODS

3.1 *Approach to survey*

Two types of surveys were completed. The first was a visitor survey, aimed at users of two local sites, whilst the second was a doorstep survey of the local area (where local residents were interviewed at their homes). The approach of the surveys were based on the format of questionnaires currently being used to inform the Solent Disturbance Project, and adapted for the requirements of this site. Similar approaches, agreed with Natural England, have been used on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.

Survey work involved the interviewer using a standard set of questions (see *Appendix A* and *B* in *Section 8*) and maps that were used to ask people accurately if they used a particular area / footpath route. The protocol and questions were designed in consultation with Natural England and the Hampshire County Council Senior Ecologist.

For the visitor survey, surveyors kept a count of total numbers of visitors using the two sites, including the number of dog walkers, runners, cyclists and people who did not leave their vehicles observed during the surveys. Records of weather conditions were also taken.

3.2 *Survey effort*

Visitor surveys were undertaken over several days in order to obtain a sufficient sample size and representative levels of expected use over the winter period. It involved three days midweek and two days on the weekend, split between two survey sites (two midweek and one weekend day for Broadmarsh, one midweek and one weekend for the local path). On each day, surveying was carried out for a minimum of six hours, between 7:30 and 17:30 depending on the conditions.

Visitor surveys were conducted at two sites (see *Figure 4* in *Section 6*). The first was along the upper part of the footpath close to Ranelagh Road, adjacent to the Meyrick Road, which has been identified as providing accessible open space. The other is the main carpark at Broadmarsh (coastal path within Langstone Harbour), which also links to the footpath from Ranelagh Road (and receives visitors along the Solent Way). This combination of points allows users of the designated sites and in the area around Ranelagh Road to be interviewed.

Doorstep surveys were carried out along various roads in the vicinity of Ranelagh Road. Roads used in the survey were Brockhampton Road, Brocklands, Kings Croft Corner, Knox Road, Meyrick Road, Ranelagh Road and West Street.

4.1 Number of visitors and surveys completed

The number of visitors (including dog walkers, walkers, runners and cyclists) observed at Broadmarsh (coastal path within Langstone Harbour) and the local footpath from Meyrick Road during each survey over the four days is shown in *Tables 4.1.1. and 4.1.2 below.*

Table 4.1.1. Summary of the visitors observed at Broadmarsh (coastal path within Langstone Harbour) during each survey.

	Broadmarsh (West) car park and coastal path					Combined Day Total				
Date and Period	Dog walker	Walker	Runner	Cyclist	Did not leave vehicle	Dog walker	Walker	Runner	Cyclist	Did not leave vehicle
Tuesday 12/03/13										
10:00-12:00	4	2	0	0	0	23	11	3	0	15
12:00-14:00	11	7	3	0	12					
14:00-16:00	8	2	0	0	3					
Total	23	11	3	0	15					
Saturday 16/03/13										
07:30-09:30	8				3	22	7	0	1	15
09:30-11:30	6				8					
11:30-13:30	8	7		1	4					
Total	22	7	0	1	15					
Thursday 21/03/13										
07:30-09:30	7			1	5	10	1	1	2	10
09:30-10:00	1		1		2					
16:00-17:00	2	1			2					
17:00-17:30				1	1					
Total	10	1	1	2	10					
						55	19	4	3	40

Table 4.1.2. Summary of the visitors observed at the local footpath from Meyrick Road during each survey.

Local Path (Meyrick Road end)						Combined Day Total				
Date and Period	Dog walker	Walker	Runner	Cyclist	Did not leave vehicle	Dog walker	Walker	Runner	Cyclist	Did not leave vehicle
Friday 15/03/13										
07:30-09:30	6					20	7	0	4	0
09:30-11:30	5	3		1						
11:30-13:30	3			2						
13:30-15:30	3	1		1						
15:30-17:30	3	3								
Total	20	7	0	4	0					
Sunday 17/03/13										
11:30-13:30	8	4		1		11	13	0	2	0
13:30-15:30		4		1						
15:30-17:30	3	5								
Total	11	13	0	2	0					
Total						31	20	0	6	0

Table 4.1.1. indicates that the pattern of use at Broadmarsh (West) car park and coastal path was consistently high over the weekdays and weekend. This is true for both walkers and dog walkers. Table 4.1.2. indicates that the pattern of use at the local footpath was almost double during the week than at the weekend. The peak at 07:30-09:30 could also suggest pre-work walkers at the local footpath, compared to later visits at Broadmarsh. This could suggest possible use of this site by people with more leisure time available.

A total of 92 questionnaires were completed during the five days of survey. This indicates that approximately 50% of the total visitors observed using the area (total of 178) participated in the survey. The breakdown of the number of participants is:

- Tuesday 12/03/2013 – Broadmarsh (West) car park and coastal path – 20 participants
- Friday 15/03/2013 - Local Path (Meyrick Road end) – 16 participants
- Saturday 16/03/2012 – Broadmarsh (West) car park and coastal path – 32 participants
- Sunday 17/03/2013 – Local Path (Meyrick Road end) – 17 participants
- Thursday 21/03/2013 – Broadmarsh (West) car park and coastal path – 7 participants

The number of questionnaires completed did not vary significantly. Three of the five dates had between 16 and 20 participants, whilst Saturday 16th and Thursday 21st had 32 and 7 participants respectively.

The doorstep surveys were completed on the Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st of March. A total of 47 surveys were completed. The numbers of surveys completed on each road are given in *Table 4.1.3*.

Table 4.1.3. Summary of the number of surveys completed during the doorstep survey.

Road	Surveys Completed
Brockhampton Road	6
Brocklands	7
Kings Croft Corner	2
Knox Road	15
Meyrick Road	4
Ranelagh Road	11
West Street	2
Total	47

4.2 Weather

Details of the weather conditions during the visitor surveys are presented in *Table 4.2.1* below.

Table 4.2.1. Weather conditions during the surveys.

Date	Weather Conditions	
	Morning	Afternoon
Tuesday 12/03/2013	Bright and sunny, very cold, strong wind	Bright and sunny, very cold, strong wind
Friday 15/03/2013	Heavy rain showers, cold, strong wind	Heavy rain showers, cold, strong wind
Saturday 16/03/2012	Heavy rain showers, cold, strong wind	Light rain showers, moderate wind, overcast, occasional sun
Sunday 17/03/2013	Heavy rain showers, cold, moderate wind, overcast	Heavy rain showers, moderate wind, cold, sunny intervals
Thursday 21/03/2013	Heavy rain showers, cold, strong wind, overcast	Heavy rain showers, cold, strong wind, overcast

4.3 Summary of responses to visitor survey questions

4.3.1 Questions 1 and 10

The responses to question 1 are summarised in *Table 4.3.1.1*.

Table 4.3.1.1. Summary of question 1 responses.

Location	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Bedhampton	36.36%	20.41%	21.67%	39.39%	27.96%
Cowplain	4.55%	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%
Drayton	4.55%	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%
Havant	34.09%	30.61%	28.33%	39.39%	32.26%
Horndean	0.00%	2.04%	1.67%	0.00%	1.08%
Leigh Park	4.55%	8.16%	3.33%	12.12%	6.45%
Melksham	0.00%	6.12%	5.00%	0.00%	3.23%
Portsmouth	2.27%	12.24%	10.00%	3.03%	7.53%
Romsey	2.27%	0.00%	1.67%	0.00%	1.08%
Rowland Castle	0.00%	4.08%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%
Waterlooville	4.55%	8.16%	10.00%	0.00%	6.45%
West Leigh	2.27%	8.16%	5.00%	6.06%	5.38%
Widley	4.55%	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%

The majority of visitors interviewed lived in the Bedhampton (27.96%) and Havant areas (32.26%). More people from further afield, such as Portsmouth and Waterlooville, were users of Broadmarsh, making up 10% at both, compared to people from nearby areas Leigh Park and West Leigh which contributed to 12.12% and 6.06% of the users of the local footpath.

The responses to question 10 are summarised in *Table 4.3.1.2*.

Table 4.3.1.2. Summary of question 10 responses.

Distance (per interviewee)	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
< 1 mile	20.45%	16.33%	0.00%	51.52%	18.28%
1-2 miles	29.55%	18.37%	20.00%	30.30%	23.66%
2-5 miles	36.36%	40.82%	50.00%	18.18%	38.71%
5-10 miles	11.36%	18.37%	23.33%	0.00%	15.05%
10-20 miles	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
>20 miles	2.27%	6.12%	6.67%	0.00%	4.30%

Of the participants who were willing to provide their postcode, analysis was performed to calculate the distances from which they were from. It has been possible to determine that visitors came from distances between 1.7 miles and 75.8 miles to visit Broadmarsh. The vast majority (70%) travelled between 1-5 miles to the area. Interestingly, no interviewed visitors at Broadmarsh lived within 1 mile.

In comparison to this, the visitors of the local footpath only came from distances between 0.2 miles and 2.8 miles. The vast majority (51.52%) came from within 1 mile of the area, none from over 5 miles. Visitors travelled further to visit Broadmarsh at the weekends, however there was no change at the local footpath. This supports the results from question 1.

4.3.2 Question 2

The responses to question 2 are summarised in *Table 4.3.2.1*.

Table 4.3.2.1. Summary of question 2 responses.

Method	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Walk	43.18%	38.78%	11.67%	93.94%	40.86%
Car	54.55%	59.18%	88.33%	0.00%	56.99%
Cycle	2.27%	2.04%	0.00%	6.06%	2.15%

The majority of participants responded that they travelled to Broadmarsh by car on the day of the survey (88.33%), compared to the majority of participants that travelled to the local footpath by foot (93.94%). Only two participants (6.06 %) travelled to the local footpath by bicycle; none by car. This indicates that regular users of the local footpaths around Ranelagh Road are people arriving by foot, whilst the regular users of Broadmarsh are people arriving by car. The pattern of foot and car access is similar at the weekend and during the week.

Due to the practical difficulties in interviewing cyclists, only a low number of people observed using bikes were interviewed. It is therefore likely that the number of people visiting by bicycle (particularly the local footpath) is higher than the results indicate.

4.3.3 Question 3

The responses to question 3 are summarised in *Table 4.3.3.1*.

Table 4.3.3.1. Summary of question 3 responses.

Reason	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Dog walking	72.73%	53.06%	65.00%	57.58%	62.37%
Walking	25.00%	36.73%	31.67%	30.30%	31.18%
Cycling	2.27%	2.04%	0.00%	6.06%	2.15%
Running	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Feeding the birds	0.00%	4.08%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%
Seeing the horses	0.00%	4.08%	0.00%	6.06%	2.15%

Dog walking was the most popular response to the main reason for peoples visit on the day of the survey (62.37%). This demonstrates that dog walkers are one of the main users of the area both at the weekend and during the week. Walking was the second highest response (31.18%). However, it should be noted that cyclists and runners were under-represented in the survey, as it is often impractical to stop and speak to them. A number of cyclists were observed using the pathways, particularly at the local footpath, who did not participate in the survey. Other responses for visiting the sites included feeding the birds and seeing the horses.

4.3.4 Question 4

The responses to question 4 are summarised in *Table 4.3.4.1*.

Table 4.3.4.1. Summary of question 4 responses.

Time spent (hours)	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Less than 1	34.88%	59.18%	59.32%	27.27%	47.83%
1 to 2	60.47%	36.73%	37.29%	66.67%	47.83%
2 to 3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
More than 3	4.65%	4.08%	3.39%	6.06%	4.35%

During the week most people spent 1-2 hours in the area (60.47%). Only four participants (4.65%) spent over three hours at the site on weekdays. During the weekend the number of participants that spent less than 1 hour at Broadmarsh coastal path greatly increased (59.32%). The time spent at the local footpath did not vary between the weekday and the weekend survey. This could indicate more regular users, such as dog walkers, that use a set route every day.

4.3.5 Question 5

The responses to question 5 are summarised in *Table 4.3.5.1*.

Table 4.3.5.1. Summary of question 5 responses.

Frequency	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Most days	63.64%	22.45%	36.67%	51.52%	41.94%
1-3 times a week	27.27%	53.06%	41.67%	39.39%	40.86%
2-3 times a month	2.27%	8.16%	6.67%	3.03%	5.38%
Once a month	4.55%	4.08%	5.00%	3.03%	4.30%
Less than once a month	2.27%	12.24%	10.00%	3.03%	7.53%

The majority of participants visit the areas either every day or 1 to 3 times a week (82.80%). This indicates that the majority of users interviewed visit regularly. The responses varied between the two sites and between weekday and weekend surveys. Most people during the week day surveys

said they visit every day (63.64%, most people during the weekend surveys said they visit 1-3 times a week (53.06%).

Most participants at the local footpath surveys replied that they visit every day (51.52%), whereas most participants at the Broadmarsh surveys replied they visit 1-3 times a week (41.67%). The more infrequent visitors (using the site less than once a month) were mainly recorded on the weekend surveys and mostly at Broadmarsh. This may be because people travelling from further afield only do so at weekends. It could also indicate that the majority of users of the local footpath regularly use the route for dog walking or as part of a walk to work.

4.3.6 Questions 6, 7 and 8

The responses to question 6 are summarised in *Table 4.3.6.1*.

Table 4.3.6.1. Summary of question 6 responses.

Response	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Yes	11.36%	20.41%	16.67%	15.15%	16.13%
No	86.36%	79.59%	81.67%	84.85%	82.80%
Maybe	2.27%	0.00%	1.67%	0.00%	1.08%

When asked if participants would visit coastal areas less often if there was a new suitable green space close to home, the majority of the responses said no (82.80%). This was true for both Broadmarsh and the local footpath users, and at weekends and week day surveys.

For participants that said yes, the responses given for what would attract them to use the green space (question 7) are summarised in *Table 4.3.6.2*.

Table 4.3.6.2. Summary of question 7 responses.

Attractive feature	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Natural beauty	80.00%	30.00%	40.00%	60.00%	46.67%
Easy access	40.00%	30.00%	10.00%	80.00%	33.33%
Good for dogs	80.00%	20.00%	50.00%	20.00%	40.00%
No Litter	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	0.00%	6.67%
Open space	0.00%	50.00%	30.00%	40.00%	33.33%

The responses given varied between Broadmarsh and the local footpath. The most common response from users of the local footpath included easy access (80%) and natural beauty (60%), while open space (40%) was also mentioned. The most common responses from users of Broadmarsh included good for dogs and natural beauty, while open space and easy access were also mentioned. Participants at the weekends considered open space to be most important (50%), while those in the week considered natural beauty (80%) and good for dogs (80%) to be the most attractive features.

For participants that said no, the responses given for why they would not use the green space (question 8) are summarised in *Table 4.3.6.3*.

Table 4.3.6.3. Summary of question 8 responses.

Response	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
They enjoy this site	13.16%	12.82%	4.08%	28.57%	12.99%
The site they already visit is good for the dog	10.53%	2.56%	4.08%	10.71%	6.49%
They enjoy visiting the coast	55.26%	74.36%	77.55%	42.86%	64.94%
They enjoy the wildlife of the site they already visit	7.89%	7.69%	10.20%	3.57%	7.79%
They enjoy the natural beauty of the sites they already visit	15.79%	2.56%	10.20%	7.14%	9.09%
Too many people closer to home	5.26%	0.00%	4.08%	0.00%	2.60%
The proposed green space is prone to flooding	2.63%	0.00%	0.00%	3.57%	1.30%
Don't know	2.63%	0.00%	0.00%	3.57%	1.30%

The responses across all surveys indicate that the main reason for people not using the open space is that they enjoy visiting the coast. Enjoying the natural beauty and the wildlife of the sites they already visit were also popular responses. Participants during the weekday and local footpath surveys also felt the site they already visit is good for their dog, indicating that regular users and those using the local footpaths are predominantly dog walkers.

4.3.7 Question 9

When participants were asked why they had chosen this site rather than others interviewees frequently responded with several answers. These are summarised in *Table 4.3.7.1*.

Table 4.3.7.1. Summary of question 9 responses.

Response	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Easy access	0.00%	16.33%	8.33%	9.09%	8.60%
They have always enjoyed this site	6.82%	16.33%	13.33%	9.09%	11.83%
The site is good for the dog	13.64%	24.49%	23.33%	12.12%	19.35%
They enjoy visiting the coast	4.55%	4.08%	5.00%	3.03%	4.30%
They enjoy the wildlife of the site	4.55%	8.16%	8.33%	3.03%	6.45%

They enjoy the natural beauty of the site	29.55%	14.29%	25.00%	15.15%	21.51%
Found by accident	2.27%	0.00%	1.67%	0.00%	1.08%
Close to home	45.45%	53.06%	35.00%	75.76%	49.46%
Peacefulness	0.00%	6.12%	3.33%	3.03%	3.23%

A total of 49.46% of people surveyed responded that they were using the area because it was close to home. Additionally, 21.51% said that they enjoy the natural beauty of the site and 19.35% said the site was good for the dog. Responses from visitors saying that they have always enjoyed the site and that they used it because of easy access were also common (11.83% and 8.60% respectively).

4.3.8 Question 11

Participants were asked if there was anything they disliked about visiting the sites. Their responses to this question are summarised in *Table 4.3.8.1*.

Table 4.3.8.1. Summary of question 11 responses.

Response	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
No	27.27%	46.94%	35.00%	42.42%	37.63%
Close proximity to motorway	4.55%	2.04%	1.67%	6.06%	3.23%
Too many dogs	4.55%	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%
Litter	27.27%	24.49%	31.67%	15.15%	25.81%
Vandalism	20.45%	6.12%	16.67%	6.06%	12.90%
Dog excrement	11.36%	16.33%	20.00%	3.03%	13.98%
Poor facilities	2.27%	0.00%	1.67%	0.00%	1.08%
Condition of the path	6.82%	10.20%	0.00%	24.24%	8.60%
Development of the area	2.27%	0.00%	0.00%	3.03%	1.08%
Jet Skiers	0.00%	6.12%	5.00%	0.00%	3.23%
Misuse of the carpark	0.00%	8.16%	6.67%	0.00%	4.30%

The most common response was from all surveys were that there was nothing that the participant did not like about visiting (37.63%). Of the participants that responded with something that they disliked about visiting, there were noticeable differences between Broadmarsh and the Local Path. Dog excrement and vandalism appears to more of an issue to Broadmarsh visitors, whilst the condition of the path was the most noted concern to visitors to the local path. It should be noted that visitors to both sites noted that there was an issue with litter. Litter was the most common concern at the Broadmarsh site (31.67%), and the second most common concern at the local path site (15.15%). It should also be noted that 3 participants (5.00%) at Broadmarsh (during the weekend survey) said they disliked jet skiers. This has implications for the potential disturbance on the wildlife.

4.3.9 Question 12

Of the 85 participants from all of the surveys, 39 other local sites were given which users visited for recreational purposes. Of these, the most common locations were Hayling Island and Langstone Harbour. Other locations within designated sites and nature reserves also made up the majority of responses, such as Butser Hill, Emsworth Shore, Farlington Marshes, Harting Downs, Hayling Billy Line, Kingley Vale, Milton Common, New Forest, Nore Barn Woods, Portsdown Hill, Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Thorny Island. Two of the three existing publicly accessible green open spaces within the 700m walking catchment of Ranelagh Road were also amongst the responses: Bidbury Park and Havant Rugby Field.

4.3.10 Question 13

Participants were then asked why they visited the above sites. Their responses to this question are summarised in *Table 4.3.10.1*.

Table 4.3.10.1. Summary of question 13 responses.

Response	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Crabbing	0.00%	4.08%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%
Cycling	9.09%	8.16%	1.67%	21.21%	8.60%
Dog walking	79.55%	53.06%	68.33%	60.61%	65.59%
Feeding the birds	0.00%	6.12%	5.00%	0.00%	3.23%
Gliding	4.55%	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%
Photography	0.00%	6.12%	5.00%	0.00%	3.23%
Running	0.00%	2.04%	1.67%	0.00%	1.08%
Sailing	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Walking	34.09%	32.65%	30.00%	39.39%	33.33%
Windsurfing	4.55%	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%

The responses to this question suggest two main activities relating to sites from question 12. The majority of participants (65.59%) answered that dog walking was the main reason that they visit the aforementioned sites, whilst walking was another popular response, with 33.33% of participants responding with this answer. Interestingly, only three types of responses were offered from participants in the Local Footpaths surveys; Dog walking, walking and cycling. In contrast, participants from the Broadmarsh survey offered a wider variety of responses, including crabbing, photography and windsurfing.

4.3.11 Question 14

The participants were asked about which features and characteristics attracted them to the sites. The responses are summarised in *Table 4.3.11.1*.

Table 4.3.11.1. Summary of question 14 responses.

Response	Percentage of Participants				
	Weekday	Weekend	Broadmarsh	Local Footpath	Combined
Angling	0.00%	2.04%	0.00%	3.03%	1.08%
Archaeology	2.27%	0.00%	0.00%	3.03%	1.08%
Bait digging	0.00%	2.04%	0.00%	3.03%	1.08%
Change of scenery / open space	15.91%	34.69%	23.33%	30.30%	25.81%
Close to home	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	12.12%	4.30%
Crabbing	0.00%	6.12%	5.00%	0.00%	3.23%
Exercise	0.00%	2.04%	0.00%	3.03%	1.08%
Fossils	2.27%	0.00%	0.00%	3.03%	1.08%
Fresh air	2.27%	6.12%	6.67%	0.00%	4.30%
Friendly people	2.27%	0.00%	1.67%	0.00%	1.08%
Good for dogs	20.45%	20.41%	25.00%	12.12%	20.43%
Good for running	0.00%	2.04%	1.67%	0.00%	1.08%
Horses	2.27%	0.00%	0.00%	3.03%	1.08%
Natural beauty	68.18%	40.82%	53.33%	54.55%	53.76%
Nice walk	0.00%	4.08%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%
Parking / easy access	4.55%	16.33%	16.67%	0.00%	10.75%
Peace and quiet	11.36%	18.37%	8.33%	27.27%	15.05%
The coast	6.82%	4.08%	6.67%	3.03%	5.38%
Watching the boats	0.00%	6.12%	5.00%	0.00%	3.23%
Wildlife	15.91%	24.49%	18.33%	24.24%	20.43%

The participants offered a wide range of responses for this question. The most common attractive feature was natural beauty (53.76%). Other popular responses were change of scenery/open spaces (25.81%) and wildlife (20.43%). It should be noted that whilst the attractive features did not differ notably between the two sites, there were some noticeable differences between weekday and weekend visits. For example, natural beauty was a more popular answer for weekdays (68.18%) in comparison to weekends (40.82%). Participants that visited on weekends seemed to express change of scenery/open spaces, wildlife and dog walking as features they found attractive. Visitors also mentioned, although in low numbers, angling (1 person) and bait digging (1 person). However these features could lead to negative pressure on an area if they were to increase significantly.

4.4 Summary of responses to doorstep survey questions

4.4.1 Questions 1 and 2

The responses to question 1 and 2 are summarised in *Table 4.4.1.1.* and *Table 4.4.1.2.* respectively.

Table 4.4.1.1. Summary of question 1 responses.

Percentage of Participants	
Yes	No
55.32%	44.68%

Table 4.4.1.2. Summary of question 2 responses.

Reason	Percentage of Participants
Dog walking	34.62%
Walking	46.15%
Cycling	7.69%
Sailing	7.69%
Fishing	3.85%

Of the 47 participants from the doorstep surveys, 26 (55.32%) responded that they visited the coast for recreation. The 26 participants that responded Yes to question 1 were then asked for their main reasons for visiting the coast. Their main reasons for were walking (46.15%) and dog walking (34.62%). Cycling and sailing were offered as reasons by two participants, whilst one participant suggested that fishing was the main reason why they visited the coast.

4.4.2 Question 3

The responses to question 3 are summarised in *Table 4.4.2.1*.

Table 4.4.2.1. Summary of question 3 responses.

Sites visited	Percentage of Participants
Bedhampton Park	2.13%
Bidbury Park	2.13%
Buds Farm	4.26%
Emsworth Shore	2.13%
Farlington Marshes	2.13%
Hayling Billy Line	4.26%
Hayling Island	17.02%
Langstone Harbour	46.81%
Milton Common	2.13%
Southsea	8.51%
Wayfarers Way	2.13%
Warblington Church	2.13%
Withering	2.13%

Of the 26 participants that stated they visited the coast, 13 other local sites, which users visited for recreational reasons were given. Of these, the most common locations were Langstone Harbour (46.81%) and Hayling Island (17.02%). Other locations included Bedhampton Park, Bidbury Park, Buds Farm, Milton Common, Southsea, Wayfarers Way, Warblington Church and Withering.

Other locations within designated sites and nature reserves sites were also mentioned including Farlington Marshes, Hayling Billy Line and Emsworth Shore.

4.4.3 Question 4

The responses to question 4 are summarised in *Table 4.4.3.1*.

Table 4.4.3.1. Summary of question 4 responses.

Method	Percentage of Participants
Walk	53.85%
Car	65.38%
Cycle	7.69%

The participants that visit the coast for recreation were asked how they travel to the site(s). Participants were allowed to give more than one answer. The most popular methods of transport were by car (65.38%) or by foot (53.85%). Only two participants (7.69%) answered that they cycled to sites on the coast.

4.4.4 Questions 5 and 6

The responses to question 5 and 6 are summarised in *Table 4.4.4.1*. and *Table 4.4.4.2*. respectively.

Table 4.4.4.1. Summary of question 5 responses.

Time spent (hours)	Percentage of Participants
Less than 1	7.69%
1 to 2	80.77%
2 to 3	3.85%
More than 3	7.69%

Table 4.4.4.2. Summary of question 6 responses.

Frequency	Percentage of Participants
Most days	15.38%
1-3 times a week	53.85%
2-3 times a month	7.69%
Once a month	23.08%

Participants were asked how long they stay on the sites they visit. The majority of participants only stay on site for up to two hours (88.46%), with only three participants stating that they visited the sites for a period of over two hours. Participants were also asked how frequently they visit the aforementioned sites. The most common answer was 1-3 times a week (53.85%). Other popular answers were most days (15.38%) and once a month (23.08%). Interestingly, of the 26 participants that answered this question, nobody stated that they visited less than once a month.

4.4.5 Question 7

The responses to question 7 are summarised in *Table 4.4.5.1*.

Table 4.4.5.1. Summary of question 7 responses.

Answer	Percentage of Participants
Yes	17.02%
No	78.72%
Maybe	4.26%

All 47 participants to the doorstep survey were asked if they would visit the coastal areas less often if there was a new greenspace nearby. The most common answer was that they would not visit the coastal areas less often (78.72%), with just 8 participants (17.02%) suggesting that they would change their visiting habits if there was a new greenspace nearby.

4.4.6 Question 8

The responses to question 8 are summarised in *Table 4.4.6.1*.

Table 4.4.6.1. Summary of question 8 responses.

Attractive feature	Percentage of Participants
Easy access	12.50%
Good for dogs	50.00%
Good for families	25.00%
Close to home	37.50%
No Litter	12.50%
Open space	37.50%

Of the 8 participants that suggested they would visit coastal areas less often were asked which features would attract them to the new greenspace. The most common answer was that a site good for dogs (50%) would attract them to use a new greenspace. Other popular answers were if the site was close to home, an open space, or if the site was good for families.

4.4.7 Question 9

The responses to question 9 are summarised in *Table 4.4.7.1*.

Table 4.4.7.1. Summary of question 9 responses.

Reason	Percentage of Participants
The site they already visit is good for the dog	9.09%
They enjoy visiting the coast	45.45%
They enjoy the natural beauty of the sites they already visit	22.73%
Too old and disabled to use green spaces	13.64%

They do not visit green spaces	4.55%
There are already plenty of green spaces	4.55%

The 37 participants that suggested they would not visit coastal areas any less often if there was a new greenspace were asked why this is the case. The most popular answers were that the participant enjoyed visiting the coast (45.45%), or that they enjoyed the natural beauty of the sites they visit (22.73%).

4.4.8 Question 10

The responses to question 10 are summarised in *Table 4.4.8.1*.

Table 4.4.8.1. Summary of question 10 responses.

Reason	Percentage of Participants
Easy access	2.13%
The site is good for the dog	4.26%
They enjoy visiting the coast	4.26%
They enjoy the wildlife of the site	2.13%
They enjoy the natural beauty of the site	4.26%
Close to home	42.55%
Peacefulness	2.13%
Good fishing	2.13%

The participants that stated they visited a coastal site were asked why they visit that particular coastal site rather than others. The majority of participants stated that they visited the site due to how close it was to their home (76.92%). Other answers included that the site was good for dogs, they liked visiting the site, and they enjoyed the wildlife of the site.

4.4.9 Question 11

The responses to question 11 are summarised in *Table 4.4.9.1*.

Table 4.4.9.1. Summary of question 11 responses.

Dislikes	Percentage of Participants
No	44.83%
Close proximity to motorway	3.45%
Litter	27.59%
Dog excrement	6.90%
Poor facilities	3.45%
Development of the area	6.90%
Misuse of the carpark	6.90%

Of the 26 doorstep survey participants that visited coastal sites were asked if there was anything that they did not like about visiting the site or the coast in general. Half of the participants stated

that there was nothing they disliked about the site or the coast. The most common response of the remaining participants was litter (30.77%), with 8 participants stating that this was something they disliked about the sites they visited. Other responses included dog excrement, development of the area and misuse of the carpark.

5 ***INTERPRETATION AND EVALUATION***

5.1 ***Constraints on survey***

Due to continued poor weather and time constraints, it was not possible to complete the visitor surveys in satisfactory weather conditions. The weather conditions were less than optimal on four out of the five survey days and as a result the results may have been biased towards dog walkers. This could be reflected in the large proportion of regular users. This would also have reduced the number of casual visitors and families at the sites.

No data on the disturbance and behaviour of waterfowl and other wildlife was collected.

5.2 ***Existing levels of recreational pressure***

Visitors of both Broadmarsh (coastal path within Langstone Harbour) and the local footpath from Meyrick Road are largely represented by dog walkers who visit the sites daily or a few times a week. Therefore although the survey was undertaken in periods of bad weather conditions, the survey results are likely to be representative of the pattern of use of the site by local dog walkers throughout the year. However it is reasonable to suggest that during the spring and summer, particularly at weekends, visitor numbers at Broadmarsh will be higher than recorded during this survey due to the increase in casual users.

In addition, the survey focused on the footpaths and may not have been able to capture the full range of recreational pressures from other activities that take place within the harbour, such as water sports (i.e. canoeing, windsurfing, kite surfing, dinghy sailing and yachts/motorboats and moored boats), bait digging, shellfish collectors, wildfowling and recreational fishing. Although these are less frequent activities, they still have a significant level of disturbance. Research conducted by Cox and Ravenscroft (2009) investigating recreation disturbance on the internationally important assemblages of wintering waterfowl and internationally important populations of birds listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive found at sites across the Solent, including Chichester and Langstone Harbours found that although the dominant activities caused the majority of disturbance, there is no relationship between event and disturbance rates as birds were more sensitive to some activities than others (discussed further in *section 5.6* below and in *section 5.3* of the Habitat Regulations Assessment).

It should be noted however that participants visited other locations to undertake other recreational activities, including gliding, sailing, windsurfing, angling and bait digging. In addition, 3 visitors considered noise from jet skiers to be an issue.

Residents around Ranelagh Road reported similar trends in recreational patterns to those of users at Broadmarsh and the local footpath during the visitor surveys.

5.3 ***Projection of recreational pressure***

It is estimated (using the data from the doorstep survey and predicted number of 163 new residents) that implementation of the proposed development at Ranelagh Road would result in 90 people (55.32%) visiting the coast for recreation. This proportion could also be used as a guideline for other developments in the area.

53.85% of residents would visit one to three times a week; 15.38% would visit most days. 23.08% of people would visit once a month. The majority of these will travel by car (65.38%) or walk (53.85%).

34.62% of residents, (56 people at the Ranelagh Road development) would be dog walkers, 46.15% of residents, (75 people at the Ranelagh Road development) would be casual walkers. A small proportion of residents are also likely to undertake in other recreational activities such as sailing (7.69%) and fishing (3.85%).

5.4 ***Predicted impacts on designated sites***

Natural England raised concerns, not with impact of the Ranelagh Road development alone, but the combination with other development sites to have potential significant effects on Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA, by resulting in more recreation users on the coastline and pressure upon birds.

Results suggest that the greatest impacts on the designated sites is likely to arise from increased numbers of dog walkers and casual walkers. Therefore, most visitors to the sites are expected to keep largely to the footpath network, minimising trampling impacts and eutrophication of sensitive habitats (particularly dog walkers). These are also usually set back far enough to limit too much disturbance to wintering wildfowl and waders.

As 88.33% of visitors travelled to Broadmarsh by car (and 65.38% from the door survey around Ranelagh Road), this raises concern as car parking around the Harbours is expected to become congested at peak periods, especially weekends. This could act as a restraint on the numbers of people visiting the Harbours, however it may lead to irresponsible parking elsewhere which leads to degradation of verges and wildlife habitats.

Recreational pressures on wildlife habitats are potentially greatest in the northern part of the Harbour, where the most sensitive wildlife habitats coincide with public access. This was confirmed by the popular locations for people to visit, aside from Broadmarsh, which were Langstone Harbour and Hayling Island. Other frequently visited places were Farlington Marshes, Hayling Billy Line, Emsworth Shore and Thorny Island.

Along with increased noise and disturbance, increases in people results in increases of litter, which can be harmful to wildlife and can seriously detract from the amenity value of the areas. Management plans of the harbours suggest there is evidence that the present level of recreational activity on the water or the shore significantly impairs the overall value of wildlife habitats or the

general amenity of the Harbour. Several indicators suggest that the current balance is fragile and that substantial adverse impacts might result if recreational activity increased significantly.

Although no data on the disturbance and behaviour of waterfowl and other wildlife was collected, the study by Cox and Ravenscroft (2009) found that 13% of activity caused disturbance of some degree to birds. 79% were caused by activities on the shore (23% by walkers, 32% by those with dogs, 16% by other people, and the remaining 8% by shots, bait-diggers, cyclists, joggers and vehicles). Only 8% of disturbance was caused by activities on the water.

Although the dominant activities caused the majority of disturbance, there is no relationship between event and disturbance rates as birds were more sensitive to some activities than others. Passing cyclists had little impact, possibly as set back from the shore, as did sailing vessels. People lingering on the shore, such as birdwatchers and fishermen, had higher impacts overall than those walking. Other vessels had higher impacts than those motoring or sailing, probably because this category was composed of vessels moving close to the shore, such as kite-surfing and canoeing.

Such impacts arising from increased recreational pressure are discussed further in the Habitat Regulations Assessment (Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd, 2012).

Disturbance is not always expected to reduce survival. A study by Stillman, West, Clarke & Liley (2012) predicted that there is a threshold density of visitors / proportion disturbed after which shorebird survival decreases. Wader survival is potentially reduced if daily disturbance rates exceed 30 per ha. There are currently already a couple of sites in Chichester Harbour which exceed this. Several other sites, including those in Langstone Harbour, are currently just below this. This raises concern that increases in visitor numbers from new housing developments may tip these sites over the threshold.

5.5 Conclusion

The questionnaire results show that the vast majority of people coming to Broadmarsh (coastal path within Langstone Harbour) have come a short distance from home; 70% came from within 5 miles of the area and have travelled by car (88.33%). The vast majority of users of the local footpath (51.52%) came from within 1 mile of the area and have travelled by foot (93.94%). The majority of participants visit the areas either every day or 1 to 3 times a week (82.80%). This indicates that the majority of visitors are regular users of the route for dog walking (or also as part of a walk to work in the case of the local footpath). Broadmarsh and the local footpath were particularly used for dog walking (62.37%), but a variety of recreational activities took place, including feeding the birds and seeing the horses. Most people are in the area for up to 2 hours (95.65%). Interestingly, the number of participants that spent less than 1 hour at Broadmarsh coastal path greatly increased at the weekend (59.32%).

The survey results of the doorstep survey of the area around Ranelagh Road largely reciprocated the results of the visitor surveys.

The doorstep survey of the area around Ranelagh Road recorded that 17.02% of the interviewees would preferentially use Meyrick Road open space than visiting coastal areas. This shows that this new area would provide a new alternative destination for some existing and future residents and will draw a proportion away from coastal areas in Langstone and Chichester Harbour. 16.13% of participants at Broadmarsh and the local footpath also said that they would visit the coastal areas less often if there was a new suitable green space close to home. This indicates that providing more accessible open space in residential areas could be a successful method in relieving visitor pressure at coastal areas. However, 45.45% of participants said they would not visit coastal areas any less often if there was a new greenspace as they enjoy visiting the coast, and 22.73% because they enjoyed the natural beauty of the sites they visit.

The findings suggest that users of Langstone Harbour show a preference for visiting the coastal sites within the area of Chichester Harbour SPA, Ramsar, SSSI and AONB; Langstone Harbour SPA, Ramsar and SSSI and Solent Maritime SAC due to the natural beauty of the area and its wildlife. Features that were commonly mentioned that would attract people to the new area include it being good for dogs, easily accessible, an open space and had natural beauty. Reasons that would deter people from using an area include dog excrement, vandalism, litter and also the condition of the path.

The proposals to provide accessible open space available for informal public recreation at Meyrick Road along with the link to this open space with a new permissive footpath were the focus of the questionnaire. This provides a short circular walk and an area of open space with water frontage along the Hermitage Stream. Additional signage and provision of dog waste bins is aimed to be provided along the route.

Of the other local sites that were given which users visited for recreational purposes the most common locations were Hayling Island and Langstone Harbour. Many other locations within designated sites and nature reserves in the area also made up the majority of responses (including Farlington Marshes). This could indicate that the development at Ranelagh Road *in combination* with other potential developments at other allocated sites within the Havant area are likely to contribute to increased recreational pressure at a range of other sites, especially on the local SPA/SAC network.

The provision of accessible open space is expected to offset some of the recreational pressure, and attract other visitors who might otherwise be contributing to pressure on the local designated site network. However, it is not possible to assume such provisions will be sufficient to attract a large number of people from these sites due to the strong preferences for coastal areas and natural beauty. In addition such sites provide a greater range of features and activities that the open space would not provide.

FIGURES

Figure 1. Site Location and Designated sites

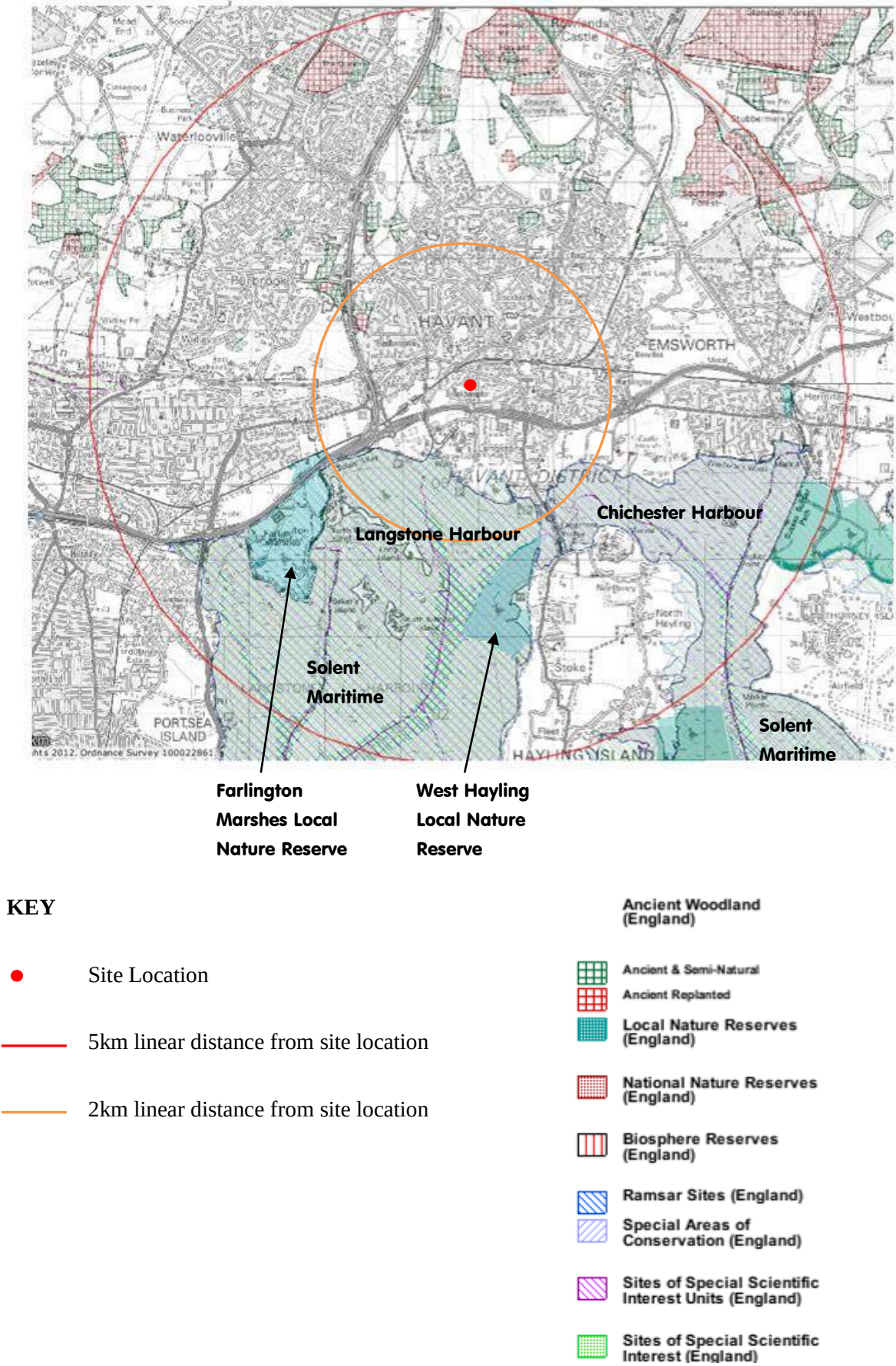
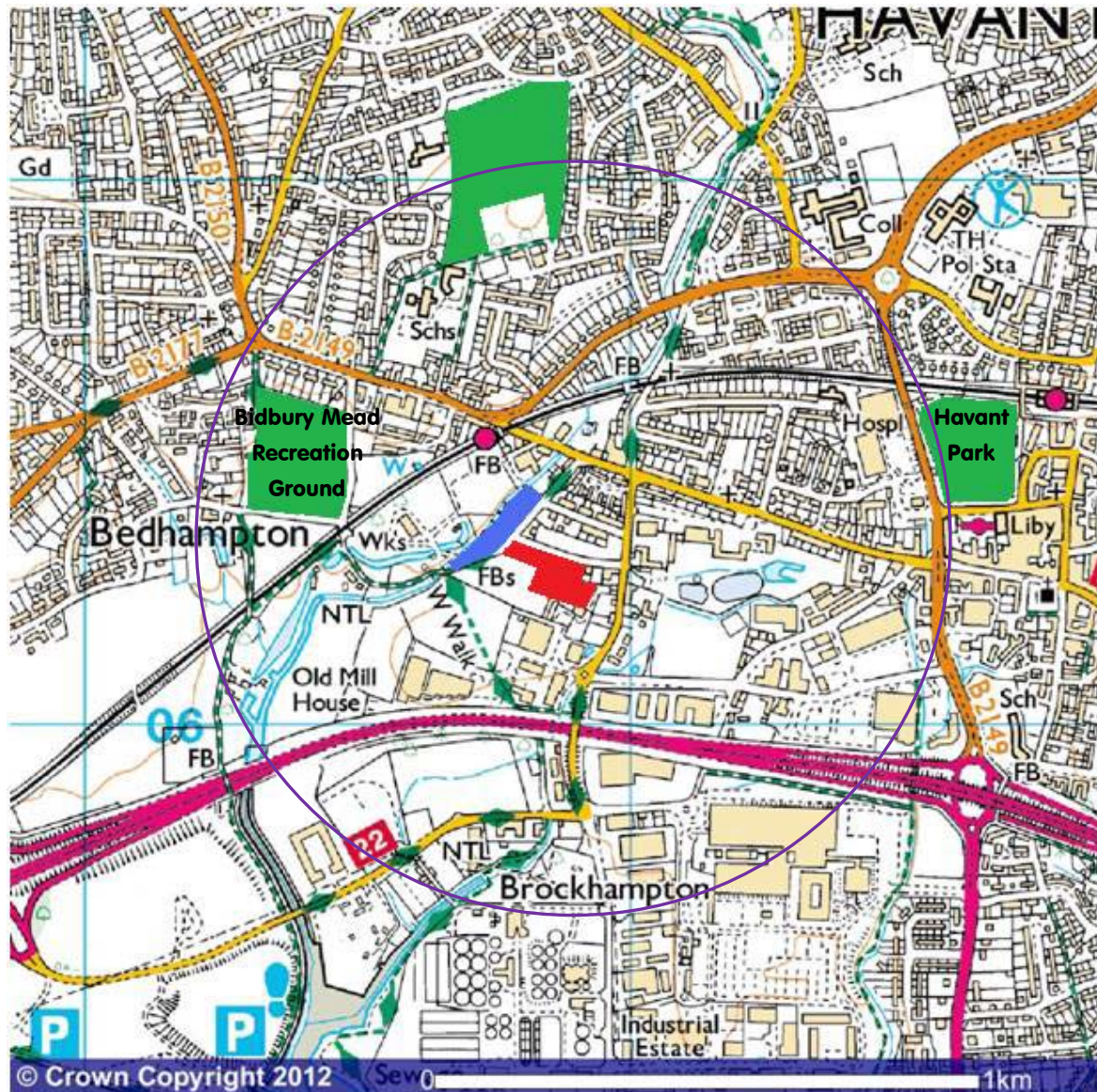


Figure 2. Distribution of Open Space around the Site



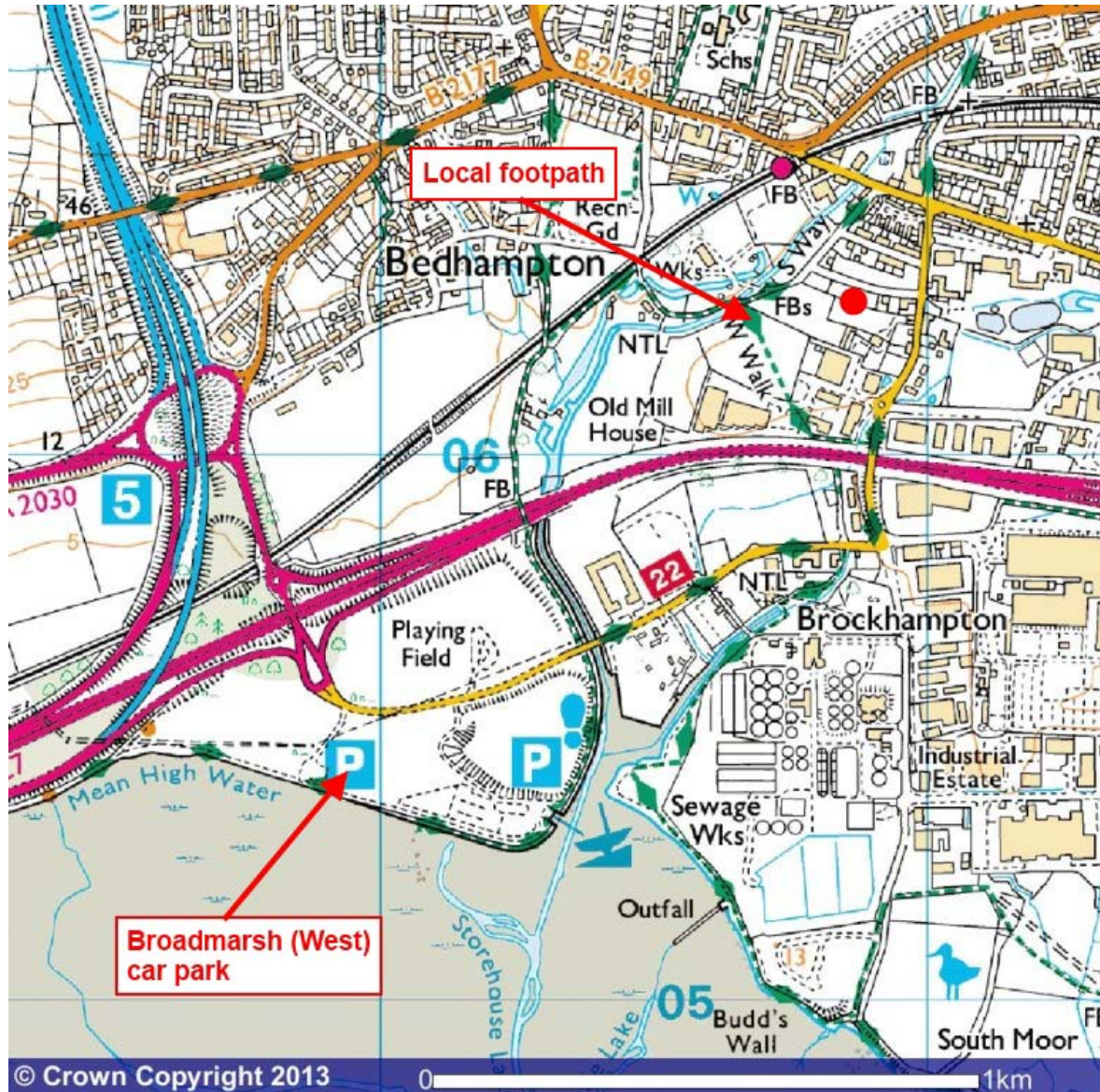
KEY

- Site
- 700m walking catchment for the site
- Accessible open space adjacent to the site at Meyrick Road
- Alternative existing publicly accessible green open spaces

Figure 3. Plan showing new permissive footpath and circular route, including the development site and the Meyrick Road open space



Figure 4. Locations of the two visitor questionnaire surveys sites (the red dot shows the Site)



REFERENCES

Cox, J. & Ravenscroft, N. (2009). *Solent Recreation Disturbance Study, Phase II; Year 1 Bird Report*.

Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd (2012). *Habitat Regulations Assessment*. Unpublished.

Stillman, R. A., West, A. D., Clarke, R. T. & Liley, D. (2012). *Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project: Phase II Final Report*. Produced by Footprint Ecology.

APPENDIX A – VISITOR SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

SOLENT SURVEY**Time:**

*Note the number of visitors per hour including purpose i.e.: dog walker, exercise, etc...

Main questions

1. Where have you come from? (we can calculate travel time & distance)
2. How did you travel here? (car, walk, etc)
3. What is the main reason for your visit? (dog-walking, walking, etc)
4. How long is your visit today?
5. How frequently do you visit?
6. Would you visit coastal areas less often if there was a new suitable green space close to home?
7. If Yes, what would attract you to use the green space?
8. If No, any particular reason why not?
9. Why have you chosen this site rather than others?
10. What is your post code? (don't want to ask early on in case it deters the interviewee)

Additional questions (slightly broader, assuming interviewee is willing to continue)

- 11.) Is there anything you dislike about visiting here?
- 12.) What other local site(s) do you visit for recreational purposes?
- 13.) What activities do you undertake there?
- 14.) What features and characteristics attract you to visiting?

APPENDIX B – DOORSTEP SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Date	
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Road	Number	Time of Visit

DOORSTEP SURVEY

1. Do you visit the coast for recreation?
2. What is the main reason for visiting the coast?
3. Where do you go?
4. How do you get there? (by car, etc)
5. How long are your visits?
6. How frequently do you visit?
7. Would you visit coastal areas less often if there was a new green space here?
8. If Yes, what would attract you to use the green space?
9. If No, any particular reason why not?
10. Why visit that coastal site rather than others?
11. Is there anything you dislike about visiting that site or the coast in general

APPENDIX C – RAW VISITOR QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY DATA

Question 1

Location	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Bedhampton	3	9	6	4	4
Cowplain	2	~	~	~	~
Drayton	2	~	~	~	~
Havant	6	6	8	7	3
Horndean	~	~	1	~	~
Leigh Park	1	~	~	4	1
Melksham	~	~	3	~	~
Portsmouth	1	~	5	1	~
Romsey	1	~	~	~	~
Rowland Castle	~	~	2	~	~
Waterlooville	2	~	4	~	~
West Leigh	~	1	3	1	~
Widley	2	~	~	~	~

Question 2

Method	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Walk	2	15	3	16	2
Car	18	~	29	~	6
Cycle	~	1	~	1	~

Question 3

Reason	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Dog walking	14	12	19	7	6
Walking	6	3	11	7	2
Cycling	~	1	~	1	~
Running	~	~	~	~	~
Feeding the birds	~	~	2	~	~
Seeing the horses	~	~	~	2	~

Question 4

Time spent (hours)	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Less than 1	7	5	25	4	3
1 to 2	11	11	7	11	4

2 to 3	~	~	~	~	~
more than 3	2	~	~	2	~

Question 5

Frequency	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Most days	9	12	6	5	7
1-3 times a week	9	2	15	11	1
2-3 times a month	~	1	4	~	~
Once a month	1	1	2	~	~
Less than once a month	1	~	5	1	~

Question 6

Answer	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Yes	3	1	6	4	1
No	16	15	26	13	7
Maybe	1	~	~	~	~
Don't know	~	~	~	~	~

Question 7

Attractive feature	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
N/A	16	15	26	13	7
Natural beauty	3	1	1	2	~
Easy access	1	1		3	~
Good for dogs	2	1	2	~	1
Good for families	~	~	~	~	~
Close to home	~	~	~	~	~
No Litter	~	~	1	~	~
Open space	~	~	3	2	~

Question 8

Reason	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
N/A	3	1	6	4	1
They enjoy this site	2	3	~	5	~

The site they already visit is good for the dog	1	2	~	1	1
They enjoy visiting the coast	8	6	23	6	7
They enjoy the wildlife of the site they already visit	2	~	2	1	1
They enjoy the natural beauty of the sites they already visit	3	2	1	~	1
Too many people closer to home	2	~	~	~	~
The proposed green space is prone to flooding	~	1	~	~	~
Don't know	~	1	~	~	~

Question 9

Reason	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Easy access	~	~	5	3	~
They have always enjoyed this site	1	1	6	2	1
The site is good for the dog	3	2	10	2	1
They enjoy visiting the coast	~	1	2	~	1
They enjoy the wildlife of the site	1	~	3	1	1
They enjoy the natural beauty of the site	10	2	4	3	1
Found by accident	1	~	~	~	~
Close to home	5	11	12	14	4

Peacefulness	~	~	2	1	~
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Question 10

Interviewee	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
1	PO9 1DN	PO9 1NP	PO9 5HE	PO9 1NP	PO9 2DT
2	SO51 6AH	PO9 3TG	PO9 5HE	PO9 1NP	PO9 1DN
3	PO9 4AR	PO9 3NY	PO9 3HR	PO9 4RT	PO9 1DN
4	PO6 1HY	PO9 3JG	PO8 9NP	PO9 4RT	PO9 3JB
5	PO9 4AS	PO9 3LL	PO9 1DN	PO9 4RT	PO9 3BQ
6	PO9 4AS	PO9 1NN	PO9 3PL	PO9 4RT	PO9 3NJ
7	PO8 8DF	PO9	PO9 3BJ	PO9	PO9 3PU
8	PO8 8DF	PO9 3EQ	PO3 6PW	PO9 1NR	PO9
9	PO7 7SE	PO9 1LP	PO9 3PR	PO9 1LZ	~
10	PO7 7SE	PO9 1LP	PO9 3PR	PO3 3JH	~
11	PO9 2US	PO9 1NP	PO9 3SN	PO9 1NG	~
12	PO6 2AH	PO9 3EG	PO9 3HT	PO9 1NG	~
13	PO9 3HR	PO9 3DR	PO9 3HT	PO9	~
14	PO9 1DN	PO9 3LQ	PO7 3DY	PO9	~
15	PO9 3NJ	PO9 1AF	PO7 3DY	PO9 2LQ	~
16	PO6 3NB	PO9 3NB	PO8 3BD	PO9 1NP	~
17	PO6 3NB	~	PO8 3BD	PO9 3EQ	~
18	PO2 8PL	~	PO8 9QZ	PO9 3EQ	~
19	PO95PA	~	PO8 9QZ	~	~
20	PO9 2RY	~	PO9 3RB	~	~
21	~	~	PO9 3RB	~	~
22	~	~	PO9 3RB	~	~
23	~	~	PO5 2QU	~	~
24	~	~	SN12 8AL	~	~
25	~	~	SN12 8AL	~	~
26	~	~	SN12 8AL	~	~
27	~	~	PO9	~	~
28	~	~	PO9	~	~
29	~	~	PO9 2EE	~	~
30	~	~	PO9 2EE	~	~
31	~	~	PO9 2EE	~	~
32	~	~	PO9 2EE	~	~

Question 11

Dislikes	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
No	5	6	15	8	1
Close proximity to motorway	1	1	~	1	~
Too many dogs	2	~	~	~	~
Litter	5	3	10	2	4

Vandalism	7	1	2	1	1
Dog poo	2	1	8	~	2
Poor facilities	1	~	~	~	~
Condition of the path	~	3	~	5	~
Development of the area	~	1	~	~	~
Jet Skiers	~	~	3	~	~
Misuse of the carpark	~	~	4	~	~

Question 12

Other sites visited	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Bartons Road Recreation Park	1	~	~	~	~
Bidbury Park	1	~	1	~	~
Butser Hill	~	~	5	~	~
Creech Wood	3	~	~	~	~
East Road	~	~	1	~	~
Emsworth Recreation Park	1	~	~	~	~
Emsworth Shore	2	1	3	~	~
Farlington Marshes	3	1	1	1	1
Harting Downs	1	~	~	~	~
Havant Rugby Field	1	~	1	~	~
Havant Thicket	2	~	~	~	~
Hayling Billy Line	~	2	1	1	1
Hayling Island	2	8	21	9	5
Hilsea	~	~	2	~	~
Hundred Acres	3	~	~	~	~
Isle of White	1	~	~	~	~
Jubilee Park	2	~	~	~	~
Kinley Vale	2	~	~	~	~
Langstone Harbour	~	9	7	3	~
Lee-on-Solent	1	~	~	~	1

Leigh Park Recreational Park	~	~	3	~	~
Milton Common	1	~	~	~	~
New Forest	1	~	~	~	~
Nore Barn Woods	~	~	~	1	~
Porchester Castle	2	~	~	~	~
Portsdown Hill	2	3	6	1	1
Prinsted	2	~	2	~	~
Purbeck Heath	2	~	~	~	~
Queen Elizabeth Country Park	~	1	5	~	~
Rowlands Castle	~	2	~	3	~
Scratchface Lane	~	1	~	2	~
South Downs College	~	1	~	2	~
Southsea	~	~	3	3	2
Stanstead Wood/Fields	4	2	1	1	~
Stourton	1	2	~	1	~
Thorny Island	2	~	~	~	~
Wayfarers Way	~	~	~	2	~
West Leigh	3	~	~	~	~
Wildern Wood	~	~	~	1	~

Question 13

Activities	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Crabbing	~	~	2	~	~
Cycling	~	4	1	3	~
Dog Walking	15	13	19	7	7
Feeding the birds	~	~	3	~	~
Gliding	1	~	~	~	1
Photography	~	~	3	~	~
Running	~	~	1	~	~
Sailing	~	~	~	~	~
Walking	8	6	9	7	1
Windsurfing	2	~	~	~	~

Question 14

Features / Characteristics	Weekday 12/03/2013	Weekday 15/03/2013	Weekend 16/03/2013	Weekend 17/03/2013	Weekday 21/03/2013
Angling	~	~	~	1	~
Archaeology	~	1	~	~	~
Bait digging	~	~	~	1	~
Change of scenery/open space	1	4	11	6	2
Close to home	~	4	~	~	~
Crabbing	~	~	3	~	~
Exercise	~	~	~	1	~
Fossils	~	1	~	~	~
Fresh air	1	~	3	~	~
Friendly People	1	~	~	~	~
Good for dogs	3	2	8	2	4
Good for running	~	~	1	~	~
Horses	~	1	~	~	~
Natural beauty	17	12	14	6	1
Nice walk	~	~	2	~	~
Parking / easy access	2	~	8	~	~
Peace and quiet	2	3	3	6	~
The coast	1	1	2	~	1
Watching the boats	~	~	3	~	~
Wildlife	3	2	6	6	2

APPENDIX D – RAW DOORSTEP SURVEY DATA

Question 1

Yes	No
26	21

Question 2

Reason	Interviewees
Dog walking	9
Walking	12
Cycling	2
Sailing	2
Fishing	1

Question 3

Sites visited	Interviewees
Bedhampton Park	1
Bidbury Park	1
Buds Farm	2
Emsworth Shore	1
Farlington Marshes	1
Hayling Billy Line	2
Hayling Island	8
Langstone Harbour	22
Milton Common	1
Southsea	4
Wayfarers Way	1
Warblington Church	1
Withering	1

Question 4

Method	Interviewees
Walk	14
Car	17
Cycle	2

Question 5

Time spent (hours)	Interviewees
Less than 1	2
1 to 2	21

2 to 3	1
more than 3	2

Question 6

Frequency	Interviewees
Most days	4
1-3 times a week	14
2-3 times a month	2
Once a month	6

Question 7

Answer	Interviewees
Yes	8
No	37
Maybe	2

Question 8

Attractive feature	Interviewees
N/A	37
Easy access	1
Good for dogs	4
Good for families	2
Close to home	3
No Litter	1
Open space	3

Question 9

Reason	Interviewees
N/A	8
The site they already visit is good for the dog	2
They enjoy visiting the coast	10
They enjoy the natural beauty of the sites they already visit	5
Too old and disabled to use green spaces	3
They do not visit green spaces	1

There are already plenty of green spaces	1
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Question 10

Reason	Interviewees
Easy access	1
The site is good for the dog	2
They enjoy visiting the coast	2
They enjoy the wildlife of the site	1
They enjoy the natural beauty of the site	2
Close to home	20
Peacefulness	1
Good fishing	1

Question 11

Dislikes	Interviewees
No	13
Close proximity to motorway	1
Litter	8
Dog excrement	2
Poor facilities	1
Development of the area	2
Misuse of the carpark	2