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Shepway Open Space Strategy

Shepway District Council

Prepared by LUC
June 2017



Project Title: Shepway Open Space Study

Client: Shepway District Council

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
3.0	16/06/2017	Third issue	Sebastian West Veni Tzampoura	Matthew Parkhill	Philip Smith



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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Shepway District Council (SDC) commissioned LUC to carry out an assessment of the district's open space provision. The study considers the current quantity, accessibility, quality and value of open spaces in Shepway. Having completed an assessment of current provision, the study makes recommendations to conserve and enhance the open space network in Shepway.
- 1.2 The study primarily assesses publicly accessible open spaces within or adjacent to the key settlements within Shepway. Consideration is also given to those significant natural and semi-natural greenspaces which are frequently used by Shepway's residents.
- 1.3 This study is one of a number of evidence base assessments which relate to the open space network in Shepway. It should therefore be read in conjunction with the *Playing Pitch Strategy (2011)* and the *Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* and *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)* documents.
- 1.4 The preparation of this study has followed national guidance on planning for open space and reflects the methodology used for Green Flag Award scheme assessments. More detail on the policy context for this study is provided below.

Study aims and objectives

- 1.5 The overall aims of this study are to:
 - Provide a robust assessment of needs and deficiencies in open space in order to inform policies within the emerging Shepway Local Plan
 - Establish local provision standards and create an up-to-date evidence base which can be maintained to aid implementation of policies and the provision of open space.
- 1.7 The objectives are to:
 - Evaluate the quantity, quality, value and accessibility of open space for all areas of the district.
 - Identify any specific needs or deficiencies in the district now and in the future.
 - Determine the impact on deficiency of increasing population growth.
 - Identify how new development should address existing open space facilities deficiencies in the district.
 - Assess the level of need in all areas of the district based upon a number of objective demographic and socio-economic indicators.
 - Identify mechanisms to meet future needs including recommendations for appropriate, locally-derived standards of provision by new development.
 - Provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to underpin the development and implementation of detailed planning policies, and facilitate the future management of open space assets.
 - Provide information to justify the collection of developer contributions and provide information to help inform the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
 - Provide an updated set of maps to support the study and aid in the interpretation of the findings.
- 1.6 This report sets out the findings of the assessment and provides recommendations for how any open space deficiencies can be addressed. This evidence will be used by SDC to guide protection

and investment in the open space network, providing justification for any levy or contribution from new development in the district.

National, regional and local framework

- 1.7 This section sets out the key national and regional policies that have influenced the approach to this study. These should be considered when interpreting the study's findings for the purpose of the Shepway Local Plan. A summary of the relevant policy context is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Approach to open space assessments

- 1.8 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) includes a specific requirement for planning policy 'to be based on a robust and up to date assessment of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision' (para. 73). This study provides the open space evidence base for the purpose of the Shepway Local Plan.

Loss or replacement of open space

- 1.9 The NPPF (para. 74) sets out the only circumstances in which an open space can be developed for different uses. It clarifies that existing open space should not be built on unless:
- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements; or
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- 1.10 Policy SS3 within the *Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) (Core Strategy (2013))* highlights that "development must address social and economic needs in the neighbourhood and not result in the loss of facilities (unless it has been demonstrated that there is no longer a need or alternative social/community facilities are made available in a suitable location)."¹
- 1.11 As stated within Policy CSD4 in the *Core Strategy (2013)* "Green infrastructure (GI) will be protected and enhanced and the loss of GI uses will not be allowed, other than where demonstrated to be in full accordance with national policy, or a significant quantitative or qualitative net GI benefit is realised or it is clearly demonstrated that the aims of this strategy are furthered and outweigh its impact on GI."²

New development

- 1.12 The *Core Strategy (2013)* states that "change is inevitable in places outside of these towns and villages within the Urban Area, but the District Spatial Strategy seeks active environmental management of the countryside for green infrastructure and sustainable agricultural, coastal and tourism purposes, and to restrict unnecessary and inappropriate proposals. Countryside protection will also allow a focus on local community, rural business, affordable housing, and other activities where a countryside location is essential."³ Specific criteria are set out in other policies, including CSD3 and CSD4.
- 1.13 The main area of future change in the North Downs Area is expected to be outside of the AONB. The protection of open countryside, recognising its intrinsic character and beauty, in Policy SS1

¹ Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/1811/Core-Strategy-Local-Plan-2013/pdf/Core_Strategy_Local_Plan_2013_v2.pdf> [Accessed 28 February 2017].

² Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/1811/Core-Strategy-Local-Plan-2013/pdf/Core_Strategy_Local_Plan_2013_v2.pdf> [Accessed 28 February 2017].

³ Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/1811/Core-Strategy-Local-Plan-2013/pdf/Core_Strategy_Local_Plan_2013_v2.pdf> [Accessed 28 February 2017].

(and policies such as CSD3 and CSD4) will be significant to sustainable development in this Shepway character area.

- 1.14 The provisions of Policy CSD4 within the plan are also relevant, particularly for improving access to sports and green spaces within and on the edge of the towns. In line with Policy SS5, *"developer contributions will be sought for upgrades to the open spaces and sports provision in Folkestone and Hythe where a need is generated by the development. Some smaller and medium-sized parks and play spaces in and around this area also have identified needs for improvement."*⁴
- 1.15 The *Core Strategy (2013)* commits to maintaining the supply of open space in the district, through Policy CSD4, which states that *"Improvements in GI assets in the district will be actively encouraged as will an increase in the quantity of GI delivered by SDC."*⁵
- 1.16 The plan also highlights that *"development must respect and enhance the character of historic and/or coastal settlements and landscapes in line with national policy; and in all instances innovative design processes shall be used to create a high-quality built environment and GI uses (see CSD4) which actively promote security, a local sense of place and community and achievement of Core Strategy aims."*⁶ The plan outlines that *"in addition new development must further support infrastructure needs, including for the public realm of town centres. Additional to directly supporting Spatial Strategy delivery, infrastructure planning could assist in meeting statutory development and environmental requirements, for example GI provisions necessary under the Habitats Regulations Assessment regime (see Policy CSD4)."*⁷

Delivering multifunctional open space

- 1.17 The importance of multifunctional open space is recognised by the *Core Strategy (2013)*, which highlights that GI is vital to quality of life in the district, and notes the importance of how *"these networks should be managed and designed to support biodiversity and wider quality of life, particularly in areas undergoing large scale change."*⁸

Protecting, maintaining and enhancing open space

- 1.18 The NPPF provides a mechanism by which local authorities can protect some open spaces under a 'Local Green Space' designation (paras.76-77), and provides high level criteria for such a designation.
- 1.19 The *Core Strategy (2013)* contains Policy CSD4 Green Infrastructure of Natural Networks, Open Spaces and Recreation which looks at the protection, management and expansion of areas of green infrastructure within the district at a strategic level. Reference should also be made to the policies listed below, many of them remain in place as saved policies from the *Shepway District Local Plan Review (2006)*:
- LR1- Provision and protection of sports facilities
 - LR3- Formal Sport and Recreation in the Countryside
 - LR4- Cheriton Road Sports Ground/ Folkestone Sports Centre
 - LR7- Coastal Leisure and Recreation: Range Road and elsewhere
 - LR8- Public Rights of Way
 - LR9- Protection & Provision of Open Space
 - LR10- Equipped Play Areas

⁴ Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/1811/Core-Strategy-Local-Plan-2013/pdf/Core_Strategy_Local_Plan_2013_v2.pdf> [Accessed 28 February 2017].

⁵ Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/1811/Core-Strategy-Local-Plan-2013/pdf/Core_Strategy_Local_Plan_2013_v2.pdf> [Accessed 28 February 2017].

⁶ Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/1811/Core-Strategy-Local-Plan-2013/pdf/Core_Strategy_Local_Plan_2013_v2.pdf> [Accessed 28 February 2017].

⁷ Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/1811/Core-Strategy-Local-Plan-2013/pdf/Core_Strategy_Local_Plan_2013_v2.pdf> [Accessed 28 February 2017].

⁸ Land Use Consultants, 2009. *South East Green Infrastructure Framework from Policy into Practice*.

- LR11- Allotments
- LR12- Protection of School Playing Fields
- BE13- Urban Open Space
- BE14- Communal Gardens
- BE16- Landscape and Amenity: New Development
- BE17- Landscape and Amenity: Tree Preservation Orders
- BE18- Historic Parks and Gardens
- BE19- Land Instability

Open Space

- 1.20 *Shepway District Local Plan Review (2006)* Policy LR9 covers the protection and provision of open space. *"The District Planning Authority will provide an adequate level of public open space for leisure, recreational and amenity purposes, by protecting existing and potential areas of open space and by facilitating new provision by means of negotiation and agreement.*

Loss of open space

- 1.21 *Areas of open space of recreation, leisure or amenity value or potential as identified on the Proposals Map will be safeguarded. Development proposals which would result in a net loss of such space will only be permitted if:-*

- a) sufficient alternative open space exists;*
- b) development does not result in an unacceptable loss in local environmental quality;*
- c) it is the best means of securing an improved or alternative recreational facility of at least equivalent community benefit having regard to any deficiencies in the locality.*

Provision of new open space

- 1.22 *In deciding planning applications for residential development within areas where an open space deficiency exists or will be created, the District Planning Authority will be guided by the following criteria:-*
- i) Sites of 25 or more dwellings should provide open space to the standard of 2.43 hectares (6 acres) per 1,000 population. Where full provision on site would not be appropriate or desirable the space needed may be met by commuted sum payment towards the provision or improvement of open space nearby on a scale related to the size and scale of the development;*
 - ii) Sites for less than 25 dwellings should contribute towards the provision and improvement of open space on a scale related to the size and nature of the development."*⁹

Play

- 1.23 *Shepway District Local Plan Review (2006)* Policy LR10 relates to equipped play areas. *"The District Planning Authority will currently seek by negotiation and agreement to achieve a level of provision which meets, or is equivalent to, the guidance set out below.*
- 1.24 *Criteria for the provision of children's play space in developments containing 20 or more child bed spaces:-*
- a) Where a deficiency in the provision of children's play space would exist, a minimum of 5sq.m. of space per child bed space should be provided;*
 - b) Areas should be set out and located so as to minimise annoyance to nearby occupiers, maximise children's safety and be visible from neighbouring properties. Play areas should be within walking distance of all dwellings containing child bed spaces.*

⁹ Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway District Local Plan Review Policies Applicable 2013 Onwards* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/970/Local-Plan-Review-Policies-Applicable-2013/pdf/Local_Plan_Review_-_Policies_Applicable_2013.pdf> [Accessed 25 April 2017].

- 1.25 *Within the above criteria, Local Areas for Play, Local Equipped Areas for Play and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (further defined within the policy) may be provided, depending on the size and nature of the development.*
- 1.26 *NB Child bed spaces are calculated by subtracting all bed spaces in old people's dwellings, all bed spaces in one or two person dwellings and two bed spaces in family dwellings, from the total number of bed spaces in the scheme.*¹⁰
- 1.27 In addition the green infrastructure policy supports proposals which include new play facilities and the enhancement of play spaces.
- 1.28 The Core Strategy recognises that there are a large amount of facilities such as outdoor sports grounds, parks and playspace providing for the district's population, but their quality varies substantially.
- 1.29 The plan outlines the role of planning contributions from development to address this and seeks opportunities to maximise overall green infrastructure through complementary functions. When allocating investment in play space within the district, reference should be made to the findings of this study and the *Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* and *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)* which outlines whether there is scope for investment and enhancement and/or if deficiency exists.

Allotments

- 1.30 *Shepway District Local Plan Review (2006) LR11 relates to allotments. "The District Planning Authority will refuse planning permission for the development which results in the loss of allotment land unless it can be shown that:-*
- a) sufficient alternative provision exists including the ability of displaced allotment holders to be satisfactorily relocated in the locality;*
- b) development does not result in an unacceptable loss of environmental quality;*
- c) it is the best means of securing an improved or alternative recreational facility of at least equivalent community benefit having regard to any deficiencies in the locality.*"¹¹
- 1.31 Proposals which include new allotments and enhancement of existing spaces are encouraged as part of GI policy. Local neighbourhood facilities are yet to be determined but are expected to include options such as youth facilities and allotments. This is supported by policies CSD4, SS2 contained within the *Core Strategy (2013)*.

School playing fields

- 1.32 *Shepway District Local Plan Review (2006) LR12 covers the protection of school playing fields. "Proposals resulting in the loss of school playing fields or grass play and amenity areas at school sites, as shown on the Proposals Map, will only be permitted where development would not cause an unacceptable loss in local environmental quality and where it also accords with both the following criteria:*
- a) In the case of school playing fields, sufficient alternative open space provision exists or new sport and recreational facilities will be provided of at least equivalent community benefit having regard to any deficiencies in the locality;*
- b) The land required is for an alternative educational purpose which cannot reasonably be met in another way.*
- 1.33 *NB: In assessing whether sufficient alternative open space exists, regard will be had to relevant details referred to in paragraph above.*"¹²

¹⁰ Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway District Local Plan Review Policies Applicable 2013 Onwards* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/970/Local-Plan-Review-Policies-Applicable-2013/pdf/Local_Plan_Review_-_Policies_Applicable_2013.pdf> [Accessed 25 April 2017].

¹¹ Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway District Local Plan Review Policies Applicable 2013 Onwards* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/970/Local-Plan-Review-Policies-Applicable-2013/pdf/Local_Plan_Review_-_Policies_Applicable_2013.pdf> [Accessed 25 April 2017].

¹² Shepway District Council, 2013. *Shepway District Local Plan Review Policies Applicable 2013 Onwards* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/970/Local-Plan-Review-Policies-Applicable-2013/pdf/Local_Plan_Review_-_Policies_Applicable_2013.pdf> [Accessed 25 April 2017].

Other relevant local strategies

- 1.34 As well as relevant national and regional policy documents, the following key SDC documents have informed the preparation of this report:
- Shepway Play Area Strategy 2017
 - Shepway Play Area Review 2017
 - A Needs Assessment relating to the Provision of Natural Greenspace in areas with Low Levels of Physical Activity – Shepway District Council 2016
 - Shepway District Council Core Strategy Local Plan 2013
 - Planning for Play in Shepway 2007 – 2012
 - Shepway Open Spaces: Sports and Recreation Report 2011
 - Shepway LDF 'Open Space Audit' 2011
 - Green Infrastructure Report 2011
 - A Playing Pitch Strategy Update 2011
 - Shepway District Local Plan Review 2006






The Shepway context

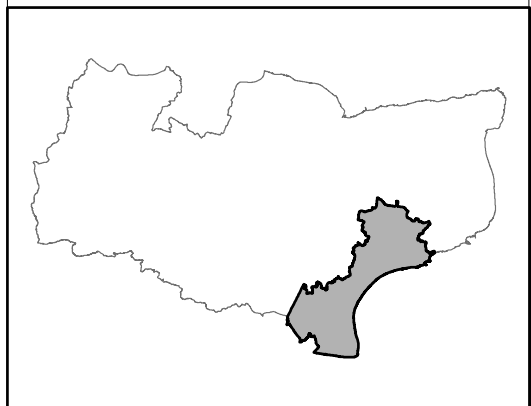
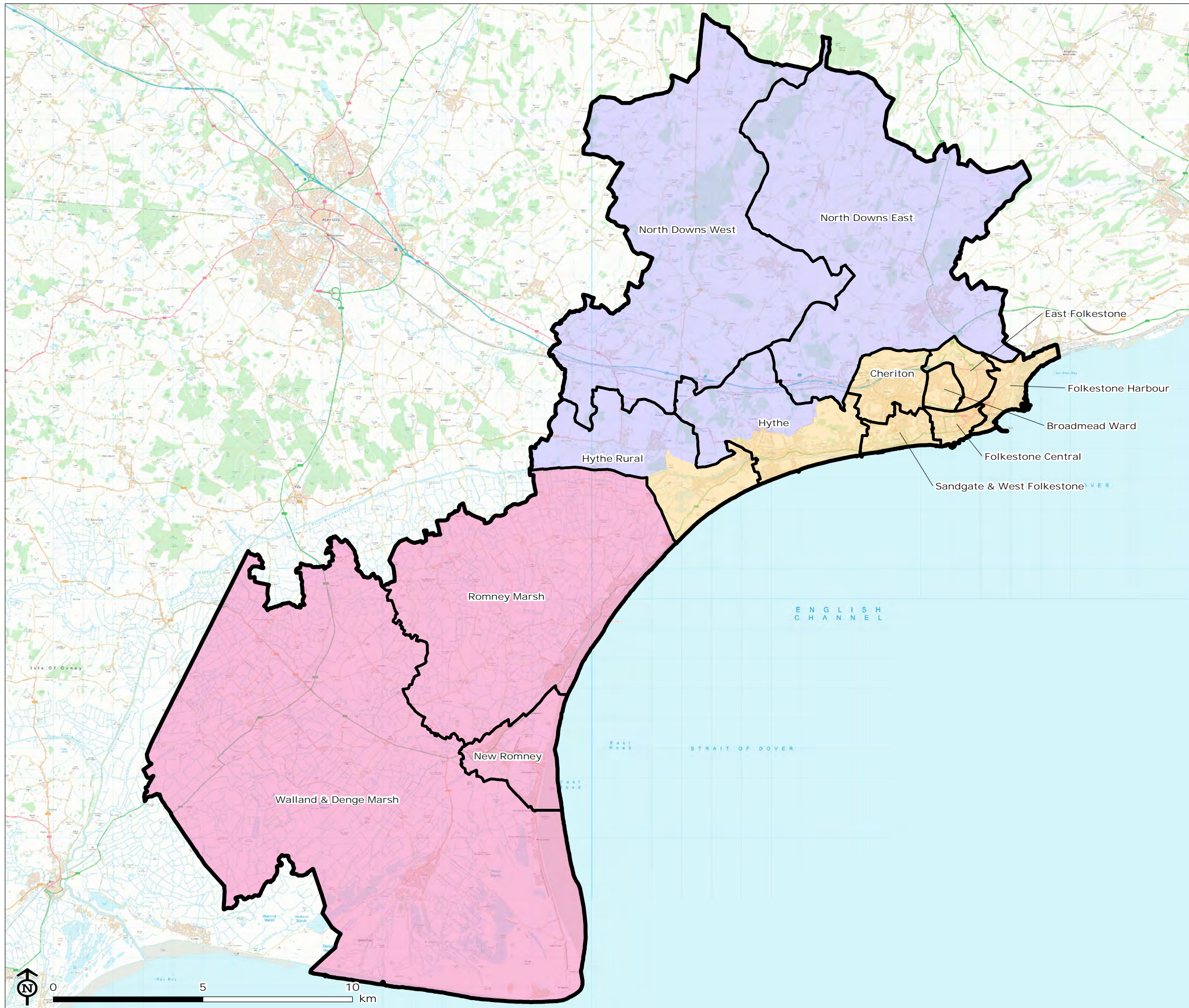
- 1.35 Shepway is a coastal district in the south eastern county of Kent and home to a diverse collection of towns and villages. Primarily rural in character, the district covers approximately 363 sq. km (140 sq. miles). The district stretches from the East Sussex border in the south west, across the low-lying Romney Marsh, through to Folkestone and to the cliffs and the hills of the Kent Downs in the north. The settlements of Ashford, Dover and Canterbury adjoin Shepway in east Kent. Folkestone is the primary town, accounting for just under half of Shepway's 110,034 population¹³.
- 1.36 Shepway is well connected to the national road network via the M20. The introduction of High Speed 1 rail service to St Pancras has resulted in Folkestone being less than one hour from Central London. Investment in the transport network has promoted Shepway as a gateway location between the UK and mainland Europe.
- 1.37 Shepway has particularly contrasting rural landscapes and urban environments. The many parts of the district have a varied and often strong individual character. The Shepway Local Plan sets out the preferred scale for considering strategic planning outcomes based around individual settlements in Shepway ensuring a focus on place-shaping.
- 1.38 Three district analysis areas are identified in the *Core Strategy (2013)* to help interpret the sustainable development needs within a large and varied district, and in particular as a tool to more clearly articulate strategic proposals in context. These are defined as Folkestone and Hythe (Urban Area), North Downs and Romney Marsh. These three analysis areas are shown in **Figure 1.1**.
- 1.39 **Figure 1.2** shows the environmental designations and considerations which affect open space in Shepway. **Figure 1.3** shows the cultural heritage designations in Shepway.

¹³ Office for National Statistics Website, 2016. *Ward Level Mid-Year Population Estimates*. Available at: <<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/wardlevelmidyearpopulationestimatesexperimental>> [Accessed 27 October 2016]

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 1.1: Analysis Areas

-  Shepway boundary
-  Shepway ward boundary
- Analysis Area**
-  Urban
-  North Downs
-  Romney Marsh

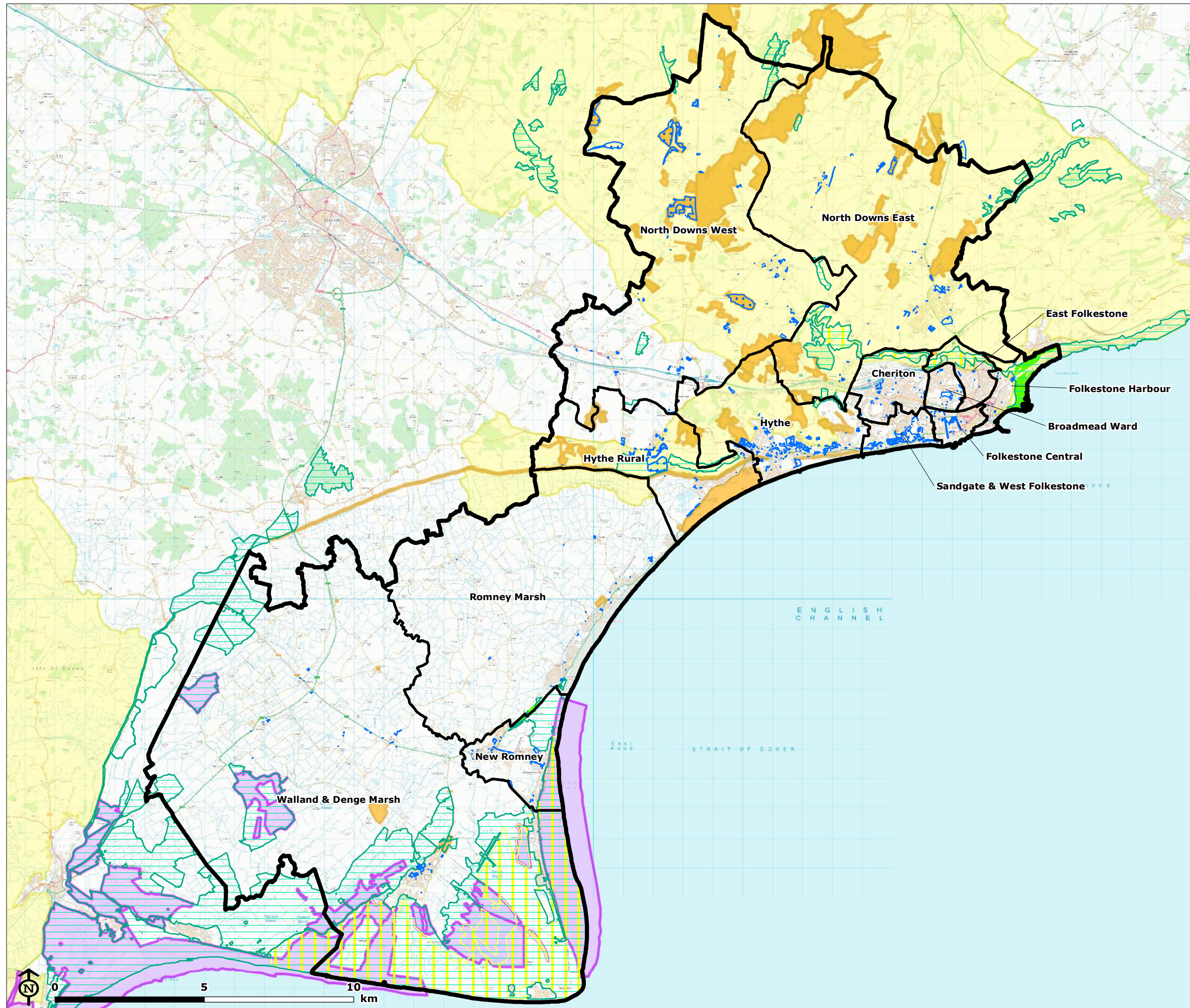


Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000

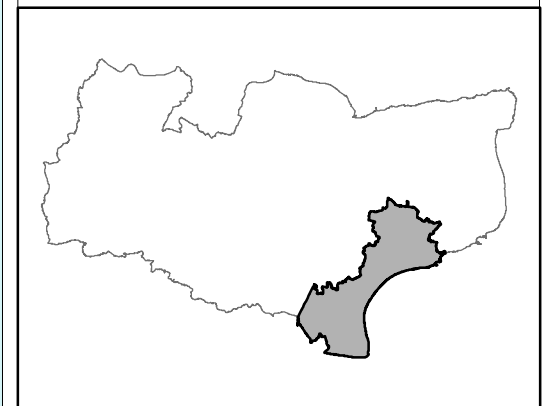


Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 1.2: Environmental Designations and Considerations



- Shepway boundary
- Shepway ward boundary
- Tree Preservation Order
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Area of Conservation
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Special Protection Areas
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty





Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000






Shepway Open Space Strategy





Figure 1.3: Cultural Heritage Designations

-  Shepway boundary
-  Shepway ward boundary

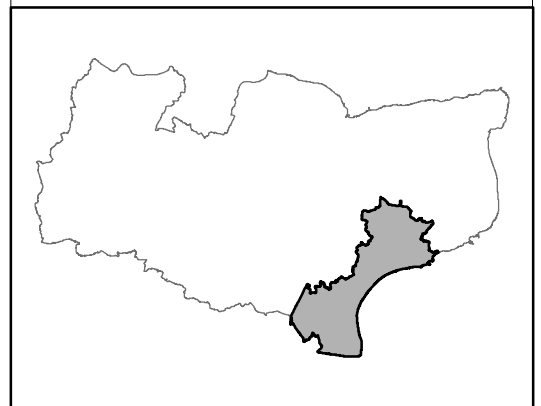
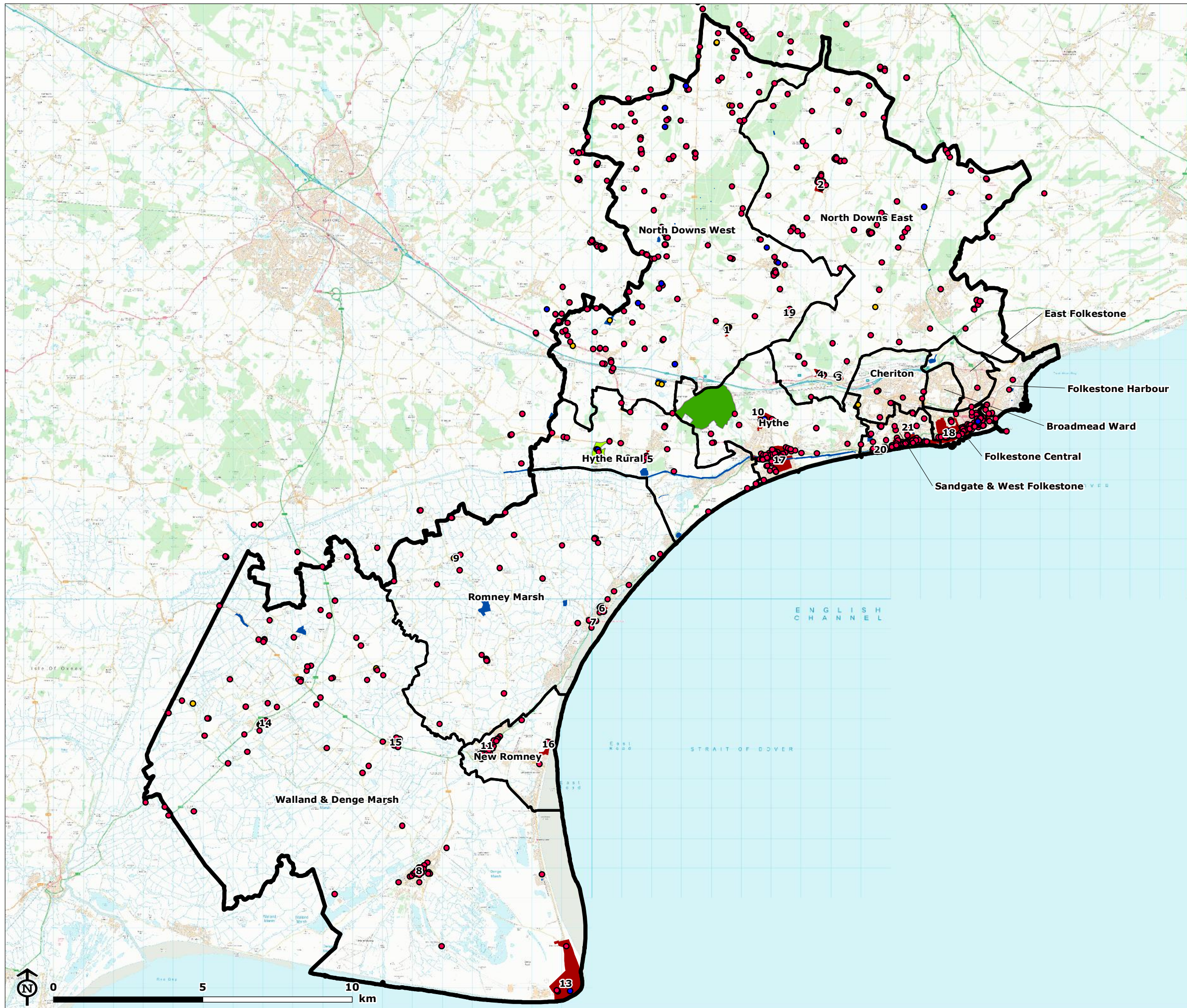
Listed building

-  Grade I
-  Grade II
-  Grade II*

Registered park and garden

-  Grade II
-  Grade II*
-  Scheduled monuments
-  Conservation area

1. Postling
2. Elham
3. Newington-Next-Hythe
4. Frogholt
5. Lymgne
6. Dymchurch - Church Area
7. Dymchurch High Street
8. Lydd
9. Newchurch
10. Saltwood
11. New Romney - High Street
12. New Romney - Cannon Street
13. Dungeness
14. Brookland
15. Old Romney
16. Littlestone
17. Hythe, High street & Vicinity
18. Folkestone Leas & Bayle
19. Etchinghill
20. Sandgate - The Esplanade
21. Sandgate - High Street



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000



Urban analysis area

- 1.40 Folkestone and Hythe form a physically continuous built-up area by virtue of the connecting coastal neighbourhoods of Sandgate and Seabrook, and this can be defined as the Urban Area for Shepway. The urban area is bound by the sea to the south and escarpment to the north.
- 1.41 This area of the district also enjoys unsurpassed connections, with both Folkestone West and Folkestone Central railway stations offering HS1 services, easy access to the M20, Eurotunnel and the Port of Dover.
- 1.42 The sub area clearly has a function as an 'economic entity' within Shepway, with the main employment locations serving Folkestone and Hythe, as well as retail provision in Folkestone's town centre. The sub area also provides education facilities (particularly further education centres), a common coastline and other direct communication routes.
- 1.43 Whilst large parts of this sub area have low unemployment levels, there are pockets of higher unemployment in East and Central Folkestone, with rates in the region of 8% in some areas (June 2014).

North Downs analysis area

- 1.44 The north of Shepway is predominantly, but not exclusively, included within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is termed the district's North Downs area, centred on traditional villages such as Elham and Lyminge, and encompassing the large settlement of Hawkinge (the whole of Hawkinge is within the North Downs East ward). It includes a rural area near Hythe which lies outside the national landscape designation. This area is bound by Ashford to the west and the AONB on the other sides.
- 1.45 The North Downs analysis area comprises the rural landscapes to the north of Folkestone and Hythe and the M20 corridor, including settlements such as Hawkinge, Sellindge, Lyminge, Elham and Densole.
- 1.46 The area is characterised by the predominance of agricultural activities, its quality natural landscape, its vibrant and varied villages, and a variety of recreational activities focused on the Kent Downs AONB.
- 1.47 The North Downs performs exceptionally well economically, with unemployment rates being exceptionally low. There are also some key development opportunities to be driven for wards in Hawkinge, with its ready access to the M20. Commuting and shopping patterns suggest that people in this area are linked economically with Canterbury and Ashford, as much as they are with Folkestone and Hythe.
- 1.48 The Shepway in Context report sets out a number of challenges for the sub-area. However, these can be seen as opportunities to strengthen the economy by maximising its advantages as an AONB particularly in relation to the visitor, tourism and leisure sectors.

Romney Marsh analysis area

- 1.49 The analysis area encompasses the distinctive area of countryside commonly known as Romney Marsh. Within this area lie New Romney and Lydd, other coastal communities, small inland villages and the Dungeness peninsula.
- 1.50 Unemployment rates are low in the area, with many wards having a Jobseeker's Allowance claimant rate below 2%, with the exception of New Romney and the south-eastern half of Walland and Denge Marsh.¹⁴ The new Marsh Academy and the work of the Romney Resource Centre are both supporting the creation of a strong future workforce.
- 1.51 Since the 1950s, the west of the area has been dominated by two nuclear power stations at Dungeness. One of these facilities is currently being decommissioned, and although a significant number of jobs were involved in that process, this is due to decline significantly over the next two

¹⁴ Strategic Business Development Intelligence, Kent County Council, April 2017. *Business Intelligence Statistical Bulletin* [pdf] available at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/8182/District-unemployment-bulletin.pdf> [Accessed 25 April 2017].

years. Dungeness B, continues to employ over 500 people, and is expected to be granted an extension to its operations through until 2028, and will therefore continue to be a major economic driver over the foreseeable future.

- 1.52 The analysis area contains Lydd Airport, which is proposing to construct a new terminal building and the extension of its runway to accommodate larger passenger planes. There is a set aspiration over the next few years to achieve 500,000 passengers per annum using the airport services. This is particularly significant in view of the recent closure of Manston Airport. Once fully operational, the airport facility is expected to have the potential to attract new support and other service based businesses into the area.
- 1.53 This area has seen considerable public investment over the last decade including improvements to sea defences at Dymchurch, increase in education and skills provisions at the Marsh Academy and Romney Resource Centre, and in the decommissioning of the nuclear plant.

Shepway's population

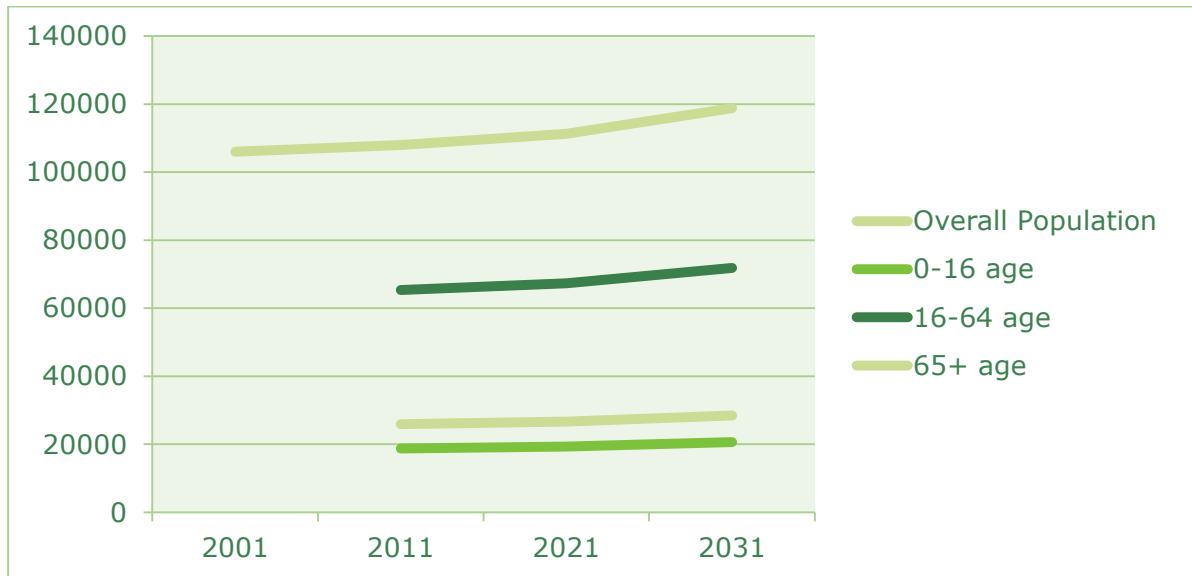
- 1.54 The following section is largely drawn from key findings set out within the Shepway District Council document *Shepway in Context: A Socio-Economic and Property Analysis (2015)*.
- 1.55 The population of Shepway according to the census of population in 2011 was 107,969. Of which 49.2% are males and 50.8% are females¹⁵. Recent population figures of 110,034 are from the most recent 2015 Mid Year Estimates from The Office for National Statistics (ONS)¹⁶.
- 1.56 Total population growth and working age population growth has been greater in Shepway than in all comparator areas, with the exception of Ashford, between 2001 and 2011. Population projections suggest that Shepway will see relatively low population growth up to 2037, with the working age population expected to remain fairly static (Shepway District Council, 2015). The latest population projections and demographics are also set out within the *Shepway Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (2017)*.
- 1.57 **Figure 1.4** shows the expected population projections in Shepway from 2001 to 2031¹⁷.

¹⁵ Shepway District Council, 2015. *Shepway in Context: A Socio-Economic and Property Analysis* [pdf]. Available at: <<https://www.shepway.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s16097/rcabt20150225%20app%202%20Draft%20Final%20Shepway%20in%20Context%20Report.pdf>> [Accessed 31 October 2016].

¹⁶ Office for National Statistics Website, 2016. *Ward Level Mid-Year Population Estimates*. Available at: <<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/wardlevelmidyearpopulationestimatesexperimental>> [Accessed 27 October 2016]

¹⁷ Shepway District Council, 2015. *Shepway in Context: A Socio-Economic and Property Analysis* [pdf]. Available at: <<https://www.shepway.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s16097/rcabt20150225%20app%202%20Draft%20Final%20Shepway%20in%20Context%20Report.pdf>> [Accessed 31 October 2016].

Figure 1.4: Expected population projection in Shepway 2001-2031



- 1.58 The 2011 Census indicated that 48,639 Shepway residents were in employment, which was equivalent to 70% of all those aged 16-64. The percentage of residents (aged 16 to 64) who were economically inactive was around 20%.
- 1.59 Shepway has an older age profile compared to Kent and Medway and the South East region. It also has a lower proportion of residents in the younger working age groups (aged 16 to 44 years). The average age of people in Shepway is 42, while the medium age is 43.
- 1.60 **Figure 1.5** reveals the percentage of the population in Shepway within working age groups and **Figure 1.6** shows the percentage of population by 5-year group based on the 2011 census.

Figure 1.5: Population of Shepway by age group

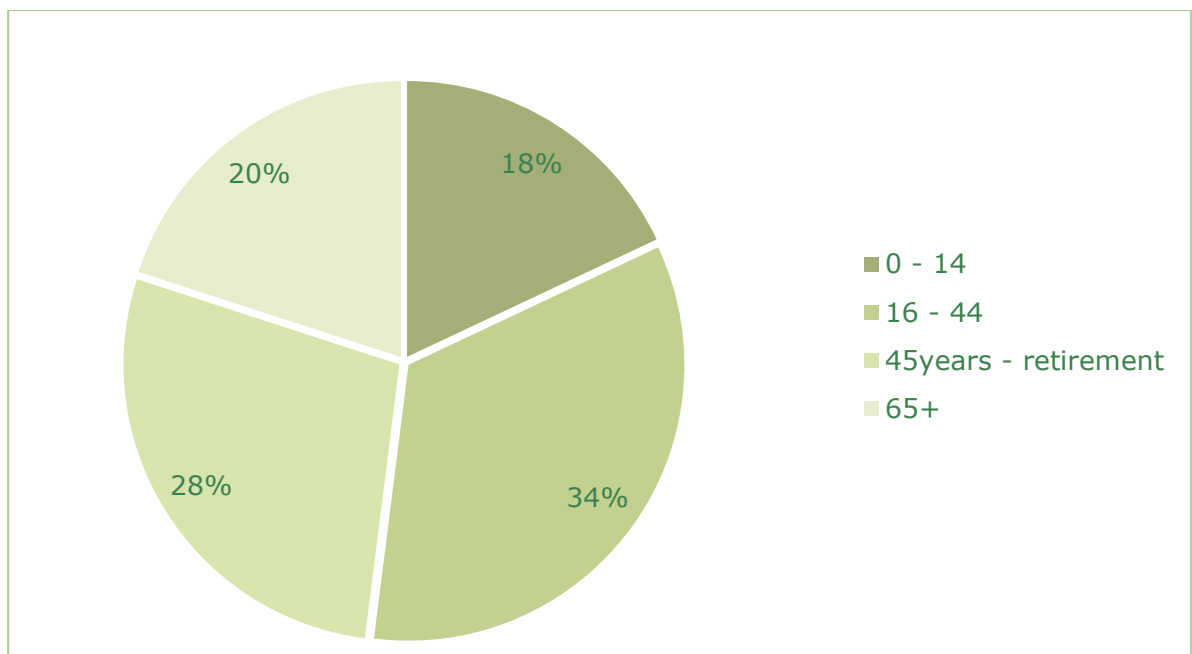
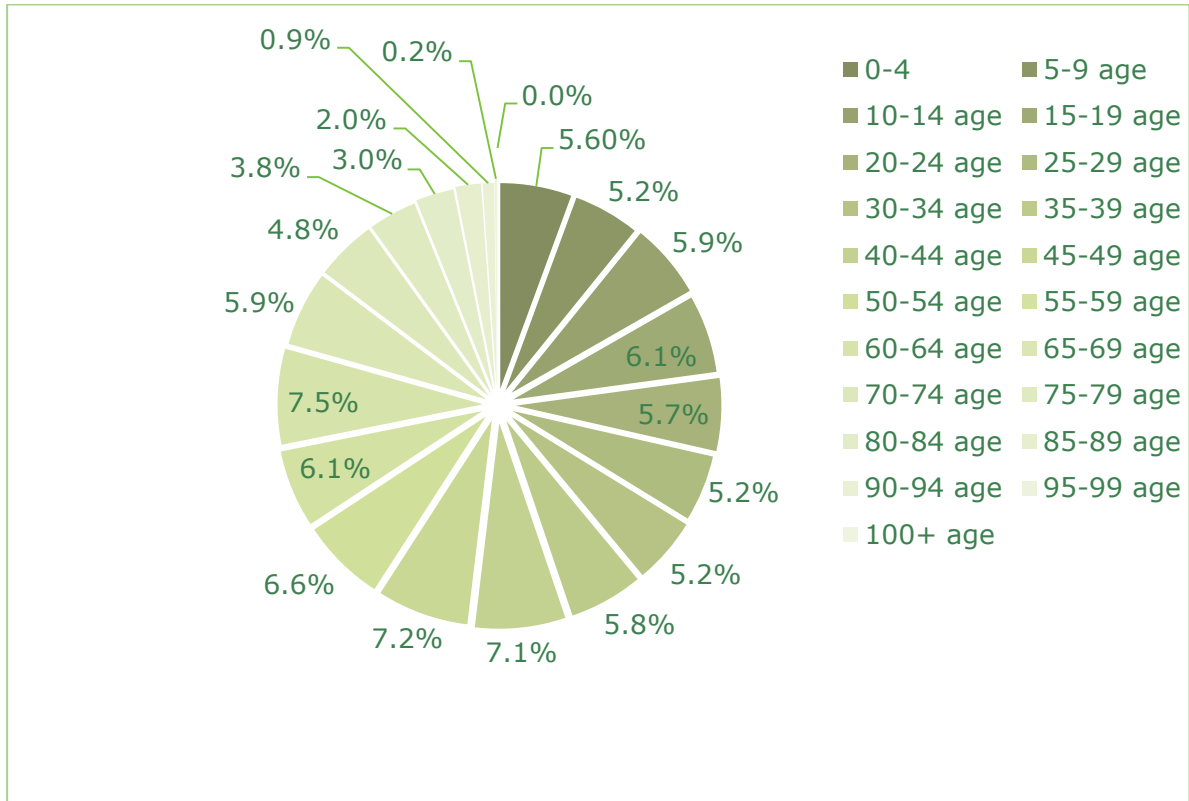


Figure 1.6: 2011 Census: Percentage of population by 5-year group



Health and deprivation in Shepway

- 1.61 As shown in **Figure 1.7**, a review of the latest Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data reveals Folkestone Central, Folkestone Harbour, East Folkestone, and Walland and Denge Marsh wards have the highest levels of Living Environment Deprivation in Shepway. This criterion measures both the indoor living environment (quality of housing) and the outdoor living environment (levels of road accidents and air quality). These areas also show higher levels of deprivation.
- 1.62 There are a few pockets of high Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Deprivation as shown in **Figure 1.8** (particularly in Folkestone Central, East Folkestone and Hythe wards). Levels are lower than those found in surrounding districts, including in areas to the north-east in Dover.
- 1.63 The over-arching IMD scores take into account the health and living environment criteria listed above, alongside the following domains: income, employment, education, crime and barriers to housing and services. The IMD data for Shepway shown in **Figure 1.9** shows a marked difference between the north and south of the district. There are higher levels of deprivation generally in the south with much lower levels of deprivation in the north.
- 1.64 Shepway contains four Lower Super Output Areas within the top 10% most deprived within the national rank (Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, 2015). These are located within Folkestone Harvey Central and Folkestone East wards.

Table 1.1: Proportion of Kent's least and most deprived wards by local authority¹⁸

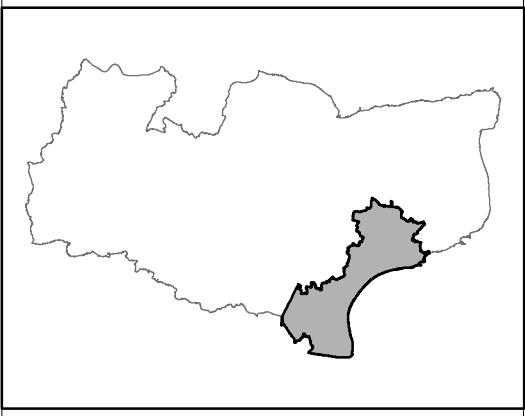
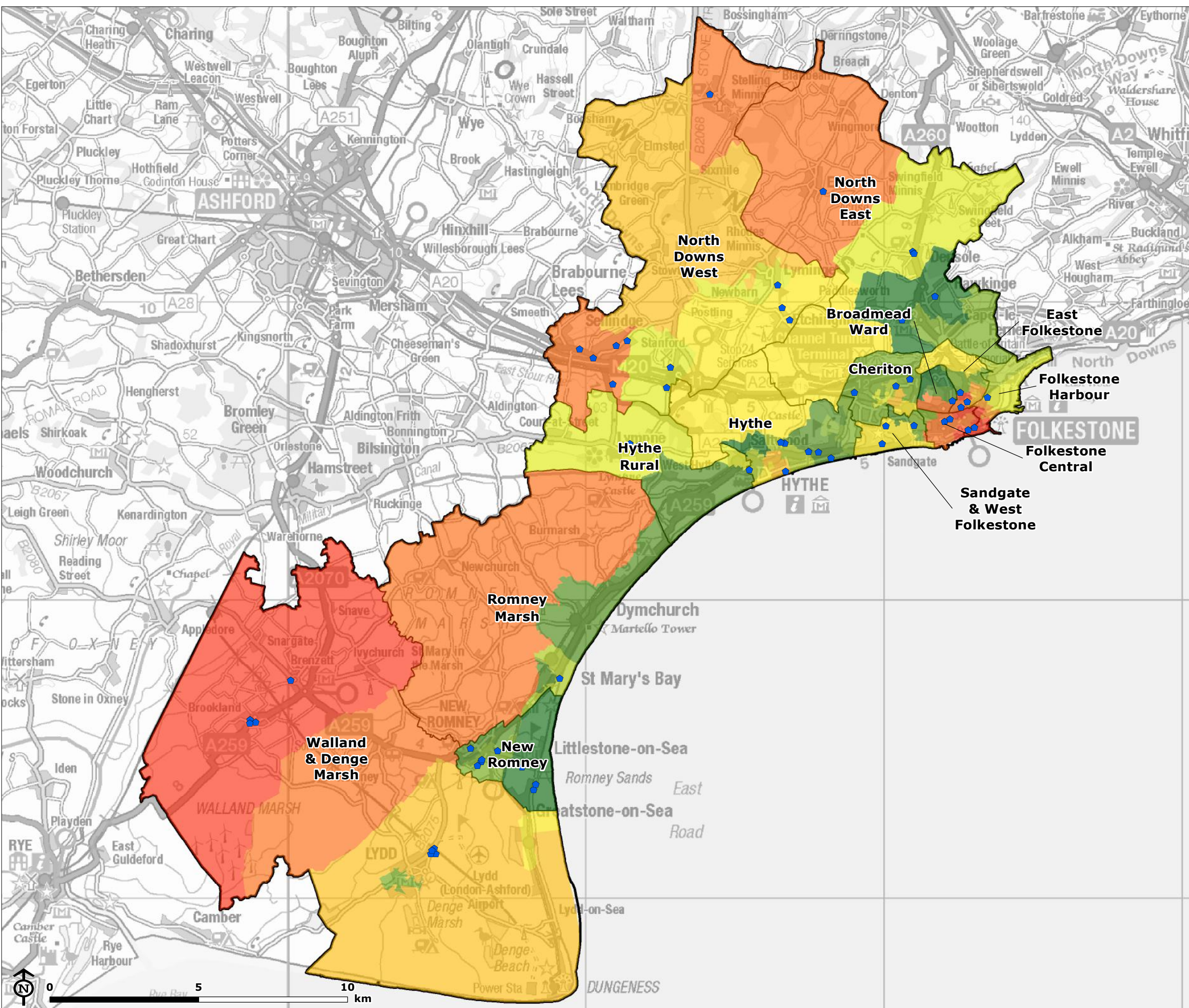
Local Authority	20% most deprived Wards in Kent		20% least deprived Wards in Kent	
	Number of wards	% most deprived wards in Kent	Number of wards	% most least wards in Kent
Ashford	58	8.8%	6	10.5%
Canterbury	23	3.5%	2	3.5%
Dartford	4	7.0%	2	3.5%
Gravesham	4	7.0%	3	5.3%
Maidstone	35	5.3%	10	17.5%
Sevenoaks	1	1.8%	15	26.3%
Shepway	8	14.0%	0	0.0%
Swale	9	15.8%	1	1.8%
Thanet	13	22.8%	0	0.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	1	1.8%	12	21.1%
Tunbridge Wells	1	1.8%	5	8.8%
Kent	57	100%	57	100%

¹⁸ Based on the Indices of Deprivation 2010 CLG: calculated by Research and Evaluation, Kent County Council

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Figure 1.7: Living Environment Deprivation

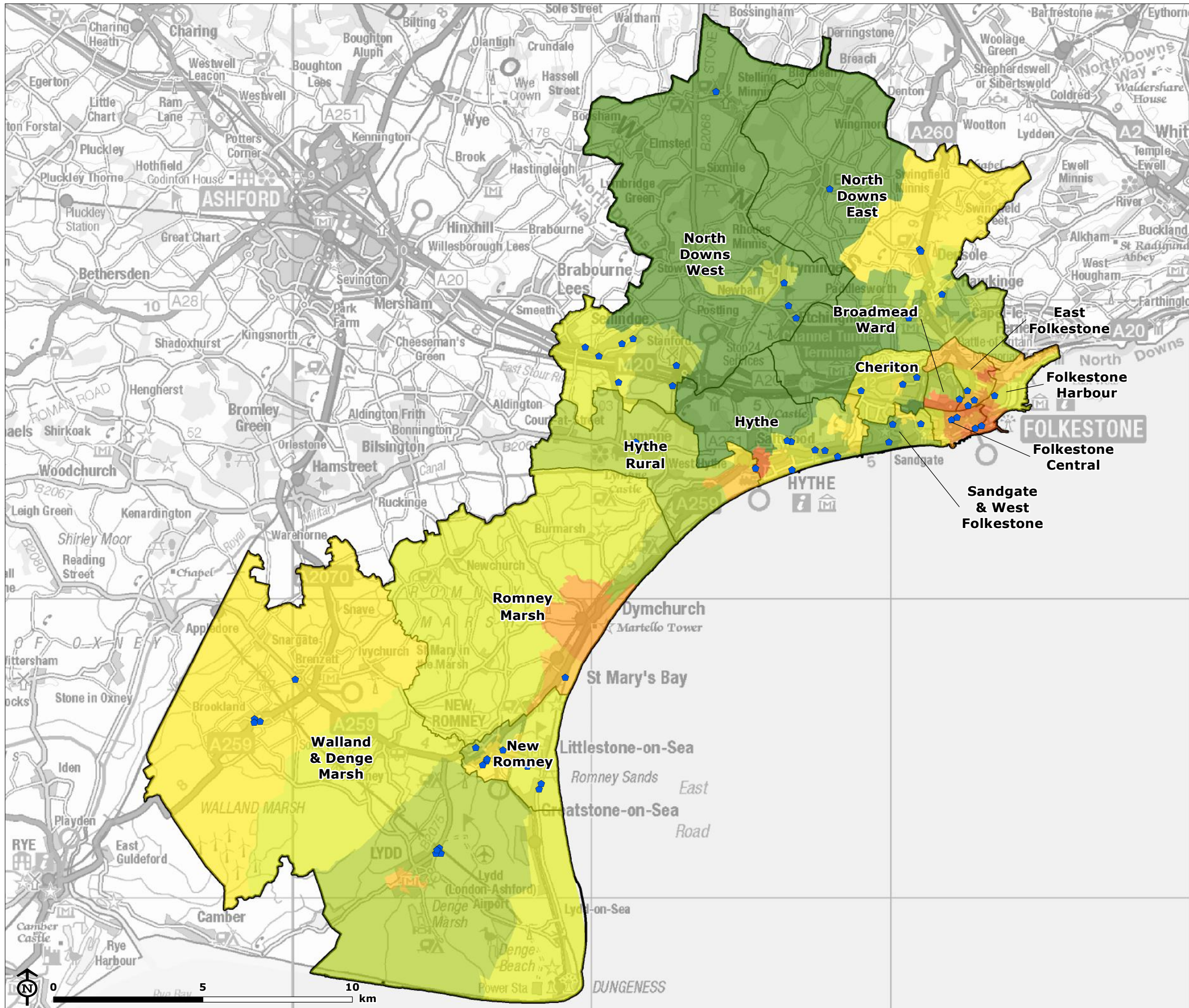
- Shepway ward boundaries
- Living environment (Percentile)**
- 0 - 10% (most deprived)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived)
- ◆ Residential allocation



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000



Figure 1.8: Health Deprivation

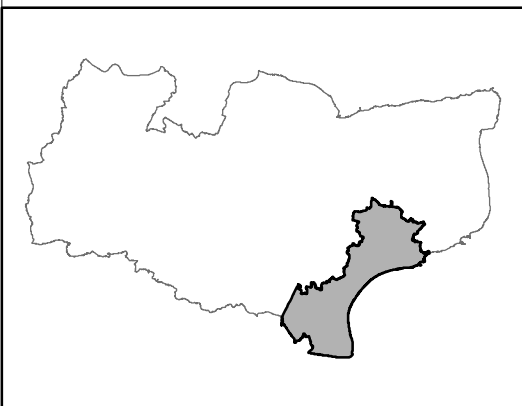


Shepway ward boundaries

Health (Percentile)

- 0 - 10% (most deprived)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived)

Residential allocation



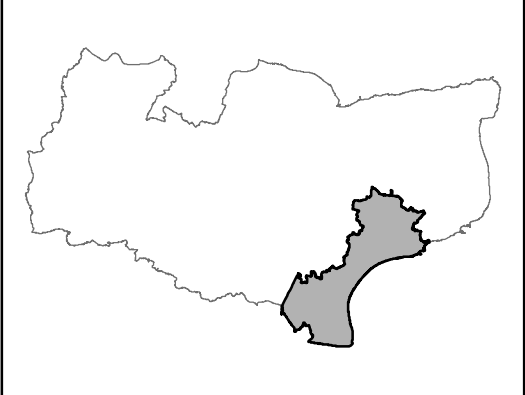
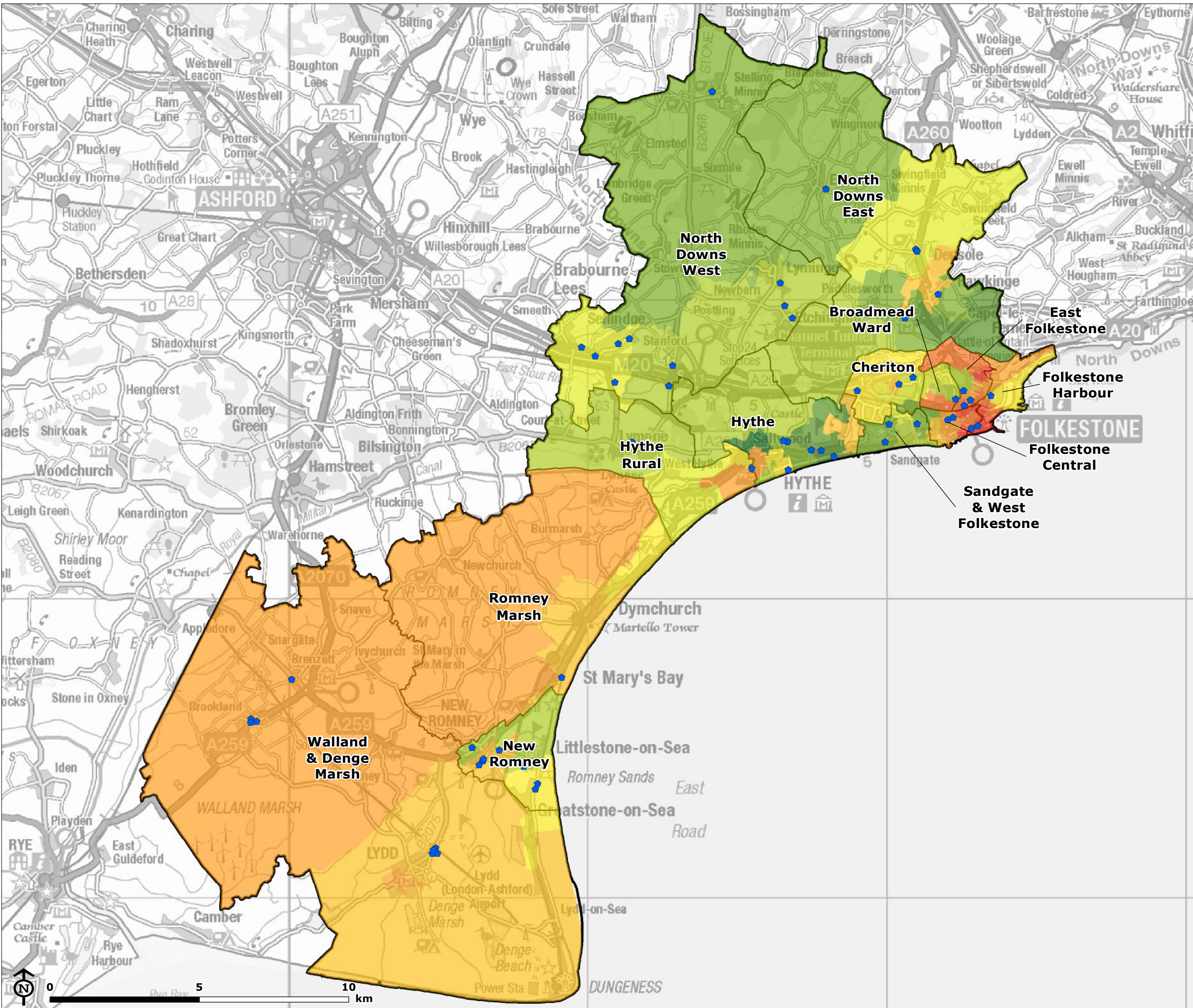
Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000

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Figure 1.9: Index of Multiple Deprivation

- Shepway ward boundaries
- IMD (decile)**
- 0 - 10% (most deprived)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived)
- ◆ Residential allocation



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000

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- 1.66 In Year 6, 20.6% (206) of children are classified as obese. The rate of alcohol-specific hospital stays among those under 18 was 52.1 (rate per 100,000 population). This represents 12 stays per year. Levels of GCSE attainment and smoking at time of delivery are worse than the England average.¹⁹
- 1.67 In 2012, 25.2% of adults are classified as obese. The rate of alcohol related harm hospital stays was 634 (rate per 100,000 population). This represents 701 stays per year. The rate of self-harm hospital stays was 281.9 (rate per 100,000 population), worse than the average for England. This represents 288 stays per year. The rate of smoking related deaths was 310 (rate per 100,000 population). This represents 229 deaths per year. Rates of sexually transmitted infections, people killed and seriously injured on roads and Tuberculosis are better than average. Rates of violent crime and long term unemployment are worse than average. Rates of statutory homelessness and drug misuse are better than average.²⁰
- 1.68 In general 78% of the population considers themselves in Very Good or Good health. However Shepway has a high rate of Coronary Heart Disease and Cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) diagnosis within the district, linked to the obesity rates and deprivation. Priorities for tackling this include promoting physical activity to children and adults, reducing smoking in pregnancy, and reducing teenage pregnancy.²¹
- 1.69 Shepway has the third highest percentage population (approx. 5%) of Benefit Claimants, behind Swale and Thanet and above the UK average of approx. 4%.²²
- 1.70 21.6% of the population of children in Shepway are being bought up in poverty; this is the third highest rank in Kent and higher than the overall average in Kent of 18.4%. **Figure 1.10** highlights the proportion of the children's population in poverty by age group. Folkestone East (40.1% of under-16s) is within the top ten ranked wards in Kent with the highest percentage child poverty.²³

¹⁹ Shepway District Council, 2015. *Shepway District – Health Profile 2015* [pdf]. Available at: <http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwjn-5D32ILSAhVHBCAKHZ4_CsIQFggIMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.apho.org.uk%2Fresource%2Fview.aspx%3FRID%3D171909&usg=AFQjCNHsEgvGoB1PhO_4JMCN1WFMylTbRg> [Accessed 31 October 2016].

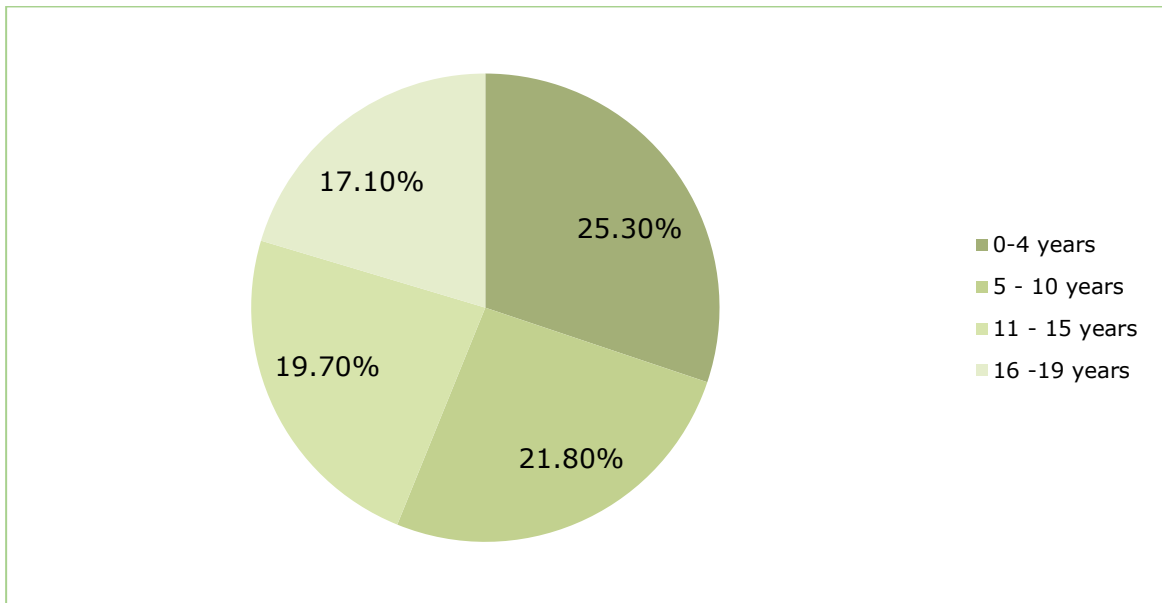
²⁰ Shepway District Council, 2015. *Shepway District – Health Profile 2015* [pdf]. Available at: <http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwjn-5D32ILSAhVHBCAKHZ4_CsIQFggIMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.apho.org.uk%2Fresource%2Fview.aspx%3FRID%3D171909&usg=AFQjCNHsEgvGoB1PhO_4JMCN1WFMylTbRg> [Accessed 31 October 2016].

²¹ Shepway District Council, 2015. *Shepway District – Health Profile 2015* [pdf]. Available at: <http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwjn-5D32ILSAhVHBCAKHZ4_CsIQFggIMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.apho.org.uk%2Fresource%2Fview.aspx%3FRID%3D171909&usg=AFQjCNHsEgvGoB1PhO_4JMCN1WFMylTbRg> [Accessed 31 October 2016].

²² Kent County Council, 2017. *Business Intelligence Statistical Bulletin – Benefits Claimants* [pdf]. Available at: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/8178/Benefit-claimants-in-Kent.pdf> [Accessed 23 February 2017].

²³ Kent County Council, 2016. *Business Intelligence Statistical Bulletin – Children living in low income families in Kent* [pdf]. Available at: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/7956/Children-in-poverty.pdf> [Accessed 23 February 2017].

Figure 1.10: Proportion of Shepway's children in poverty by age group



1.71 Overall, East Kent schools achieved mixed academic outcomes in 2007, reflecting local diversity. In Dover, nearly 70% of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at A*- C grades, whilst **Shepway (63%)** and Canterbury (65%) exceeded the South East average of 62% (East Kent Sustainable Community Strategy, 2009).

Likelihood of access to gardens

1.72 Census data from 2011 makes it possible to use housing type as a proxy for the proportion of households which are unlikely to have access to a private garden. For the purposes of the census, housing type is differentiated into the following categories:

- Whole house or bungalow (including detached, semi-detached and terraced)
- Flat, maisonette or apartment (including purpose built flats, converted or shared houses and flats within commercial properties)
- Caravans or other mobile or temporary structure

1.73 For the purpose of this assessment we have worked on the assumption that most whole houses and bungalows will have access to a private garden, with other housing types deemed not to have access to a private garden.

1.74 76.65% of all households in Shepway are accommodated in either whole houses or bungalows. 23.35% are flats, maisonettes, apartments, caravans or other mobile structures and by inference are less likely to have access to a private garden. **Figure 1.11** shows the percentage of households unlikely to have access to a garden, **Figure 1.12** highlights the percentage of housing by type and **Figure 1.13** provides a map of the district indicating the percentage of households unlikely to have access to a private garden. As would be expected the largest proportion of the population without access to a private garden are centred around the more urban areas of Folkestone Central and its surrounds, and within Hythe.

Figure 1.11: Percentage of properties likely access to private garden

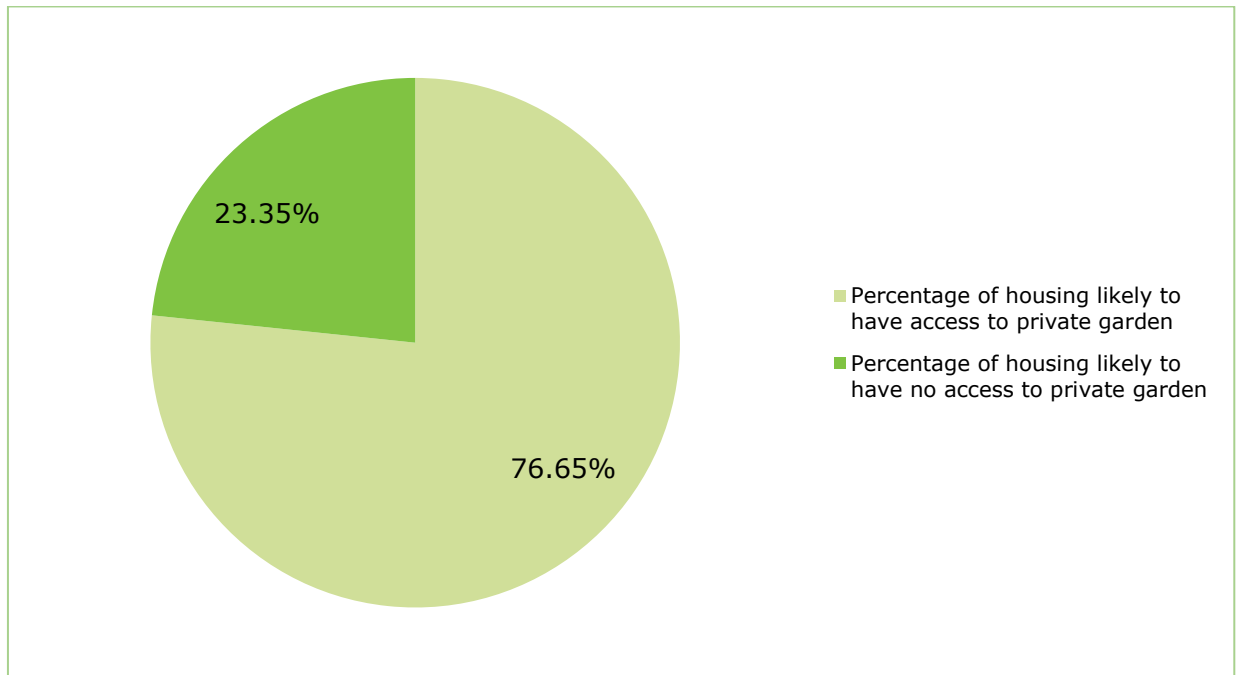
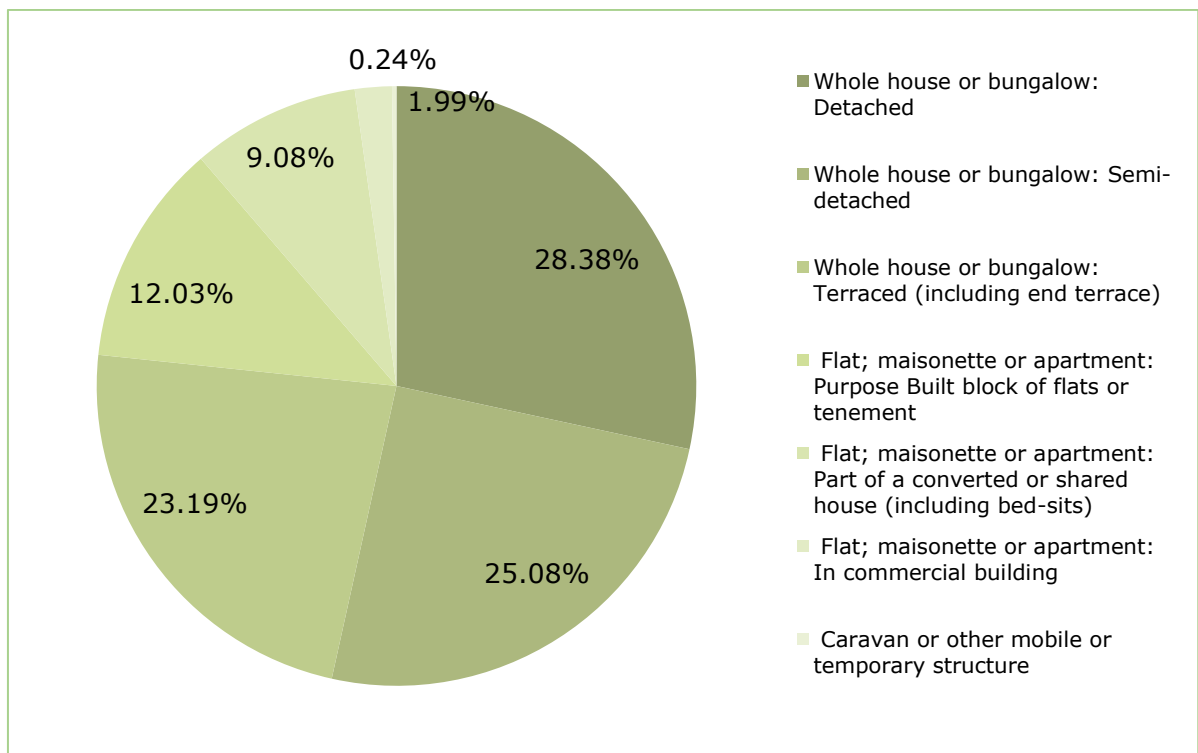
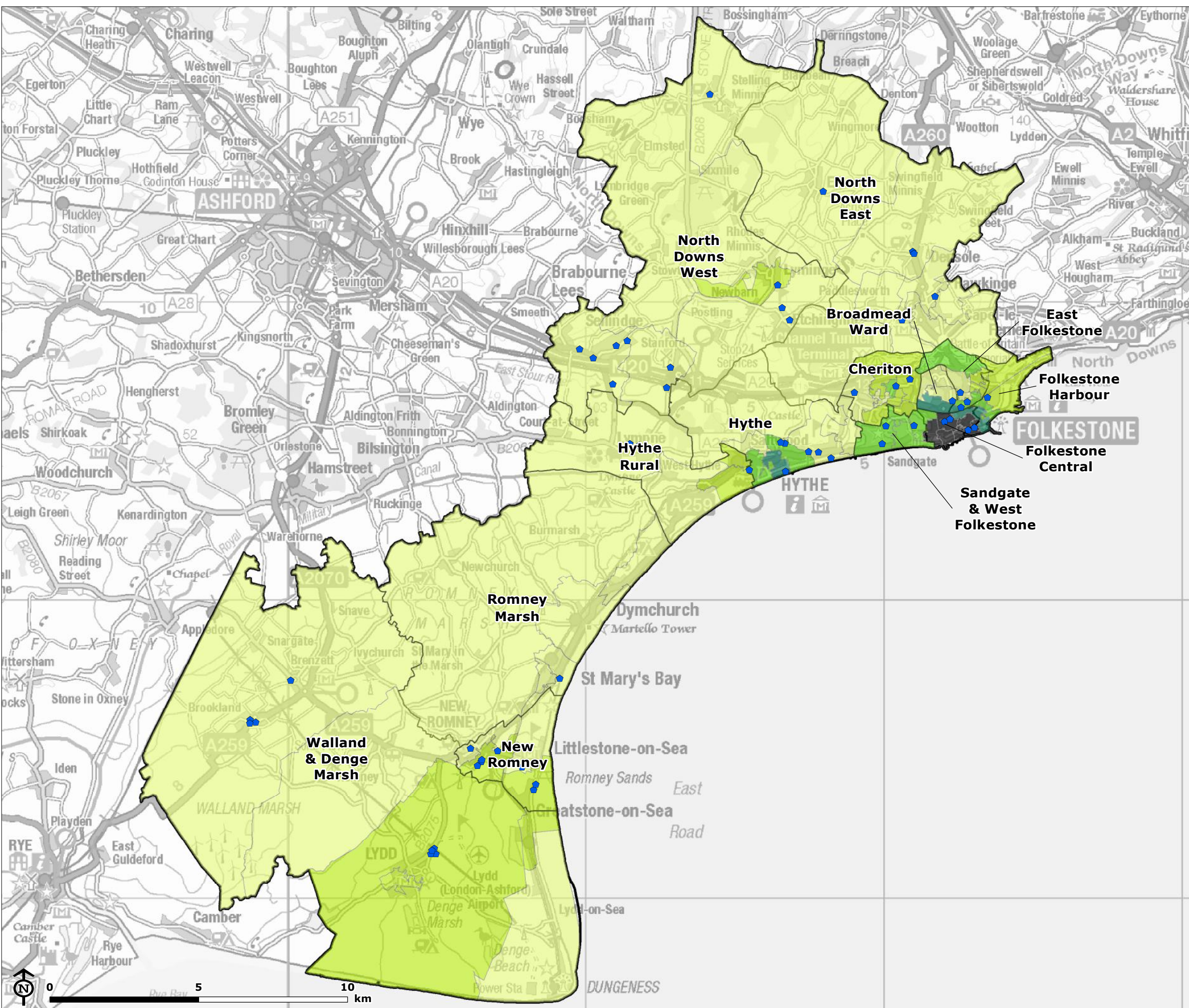


Figure 1.12: Percentage of housing by type

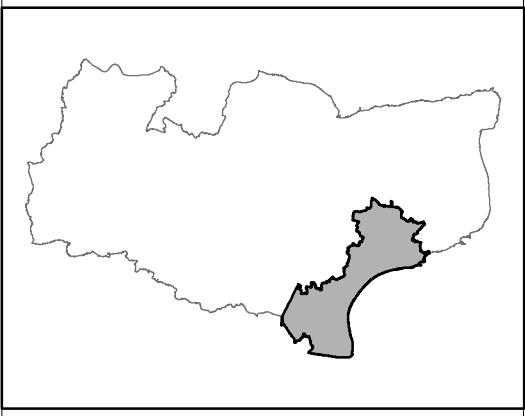


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Figure 1.13: Percentage of Households Unlikely to Have Access to a Private Garden



Shepway ward boundaries
Percentage of households
 0.0 - 10.0
 10.1 - 25.0
 25.1 - 50.0
 50.1 - 75.0
 75.1 - 100.0
● Residential allocation



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000

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Planned Development

- 1.75 As indicated by the East Kent Local Strategic Partnership document *Lighting the way to success - The EKLSPP Sustainable Community Strategy (2009)*, economic growth in East Kent lagged behind both the South East and the UK throughout much of the 1990s and despite some higher rates of growth in the early 2000s, this has slowed again recently. The Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan sets requirements for housing development as follows:
- Core long-term objective – minimum 350 dwellings a year from 2006/07 to 2030/31 – 8,750 dwellings in total;
 - Minimum of 350 dwellings a year from 2006/07 to 2025/26 – 7,000 dwellings in total; and
 - Target of 400 dwellings a year from 2006/07 to 2025/26 – 8,000 dwellings in total.
- 1.76 Overview of key proposals in the Shepway District Spatial Strategy:
- Develop Folkestone's centre, employment sites and deprived residential neighbourhoods, led by major opportunities on 'brownfield' land, and improved connectivity. See policies SS1, SS3, SS4, SS6, SS7 & CSD6.
 - Focus major new development in Hythe on regenerating the west/south of the town, and maintain the character and vitality of the town centre. See policies SS2, SS3, SS4 & CSD7.
 - Regenerate Romney Marsh through a positive approach to sustainable economic development and infrastructure opportunities, and through increasing the strategic role of New Romney town in serving the area. See policies SS1, SS4, CSD3 & CSD8.
 - Improve precious habitats, critical landscapes and efficiency of natural resource use (including water) in Shepway, and manage carbon emissions and flood risks in response to climate change. See policies SS1, SS3, CSD4 & CSD5.
 - Aim to deliver an average of approximately one hectare per year (to 2026) of office/industrial premises. See policies SS3, SS4, & CSD6-8.
 - Accommodate new retail, leisure and an improved public environment at Folkestone, Hythe and New Romney town centres. See policies SS3, SS4 & CSD6-8.
 - Secure resources from developers for new physical and social infrastructure through developer contributions/the Community Infrastructure Levy. See policy SS5.
 - Provide public access to major new green infrastructure for Folkestone, Hythe and the district at Seabrook Valley and elsewhere. See policies SS7 & CSD4.

Urban

- 1.77 The Urban analysis area has a population in the region of 65,000 people, and it is where the majority of the economic activity in the district takes place. It is also where the majority of growth will take place for the period up to 2026, with the *Core Strategy (2013)* indicating that around 75% (6,000) of the 8,000 new homes built in the district over this period are likely to come forward in this urban area.

North Downs

- 1.78 The North Downs analysis area has a population of around 20,000. The *Core Strategy (2013)* indicates that around 15% (1,200) of housing growth for the period up to 2026 will be within the North Downs analysis area.

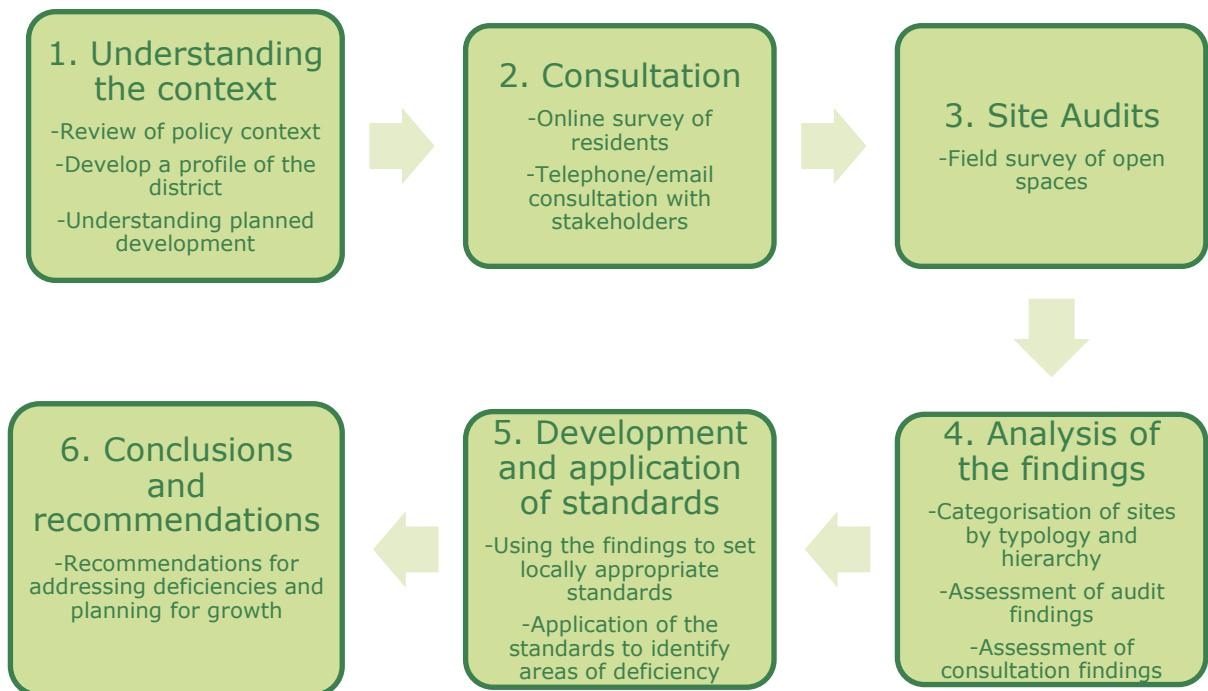
Romney Marsh

- 1.79 Approximately 20,000 people currently live in the Romney Marsh analysis area and housing growth is likely to be relatively modest in the period up to 2026. The *Core Strategy (2013)* indicates that around 800 new homes (10% of the total for the district) will be built in Romney Marsh, with many likely to be in and around the more urban areas.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The method for this assessment reflects the requirements of the NPPF and draws on the quality evaluation guidelines developed through the Green Flag Award initiative. The method is further informed by the Mayor of London’s guidance on the preparation of open space strategies²⁴ and is aligned to the six step process suggested as shown in **Figure 2.1**.

Figure 2.1: Study Method



Steps 1 and 2: Understanding the context and consultation

- 2.2 The ‘need’ for open space was assessed by reviewing current population patterns, the socio-economic deprivation index, demographic indicators, together with future development and population forecasts. Baseline information on open space in the district was obtained from SDC including the *Shepway Open Spaces: Sports and Recreation Report (2011)*, *Shepway LDF ‘Open Space Audit’ (2011)*, *A Playing Pitch Strategy Update (2011)* and *Shepway Green Infrastructure Report (2011)* (list not exhaustive).
- 2.3 A review of national, regional and local policy and guidance was completed, and this has been interpreted in terms of the relevance to the study (See **Chapter 1**).
- 2.4 The Mayor’s guidance recommends taking an inclusive approach to understanding demand and need. Community consultation is a useful way to inform the evidence base on need and demand including:
- Local people’s attitudes to existing provision.
 - Local expectations and needs which are currently ‘invisible’ because there is no current provision.

²⁴ CABE Space/Mayor of London (2009). *Open Space Strategies – Best Practice Guidance*

- A qualitative 'vision' for the type of open space and sports facilities communities want to see in their areas.
- 2.5 An online public survey was identified as the best approach to gathering the public's views (See **Chapter 3**). This covered topics such as parks used most frequently, users' satisfaction with current provision, modes of travel to parks and open spaces and distances travelled. There were 380 responses gathered in the four week period that the survey was live.
- 2.6 A number of internal and external stakeholders who are involved in the maintenance and management of elements of Shepway's open spaces were consulted (See **Chapter 3**) through correspondence and a stakeholder workshop. In order to comply with the Duty to Cooperate, consultation also included active engagement with neighbouring authorities. Information on the open space standards of neighbouring districts was gathered to understand the extent of provision in those districts.
- 2.7 Information gathered during the community consultation stage has been analysed to understand the community's demands and preferences.
- 2.8 Analysis has been completed for the three analysis areas as shown in **Figure 1.1**.

Step 3: The audit

- 2.9 An audit of current provision was undertaken to gather information on open spaces in Shepway. All publicly accessible open spaces within or adjacent to key settlements in Shepway were included in the audit with the exception of:
- Golf courses, outdoor sports pitches and schools playing fields totalling.
 - Agricultural land.
 - Amenity greenspace - these areas are typically soft landscaped areas adjacent to the highway of a consistent quality and value.
 - Standalone play areas as these have been fully assessed within the *Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* and *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)*.
- 2.10 The audit was undertaken using GIS-enabled tablets for data collection. An audit form was agreed, based around the Green Flag Award Assessment criteria to enable each open space to be scored for both quality and value. The form provided an effective way of gathering information about sites, enabling benchmarks to be established, and finally measuring the success of sites against those benchmarks. A GIS-linked database (a geodatabase) was created to capture and collate survey data.
- 2.11 The analysis presented in this report focuses on the 195 sites which were audited, 178 of which were publicly accessible open spaces. Eight additional accessible open spaces have been highlighted following consultation to allow for appropriate accessibility assessments. However these areas have not had open space site audits conducted. This study is looking at open space provision largely within and around urban areas. Detailed completed audit forms can be found in **Appendix 6**.

Step 4: Analysis of findings

- 2.12 An assessment of the existing quantity of provision has been provided for the whole of the district and an assessment for each analysis area. This was based on a quantity of open space per 1,000 head of population.
- 2.13 The analysis differentiates between different levels of site access to enable an assessment of the levels of provision per head of publicly accessible open space. The provision per head was then compared to provision in surrounding districts (where current data is available).
- 2.14 A *review* of the consultation results then took place, to see if the local perception is that there is sufficient quantity of open space within the district, or not.

2.15 The quantity figures are presented and analysed, alongside information on the existing and future population within the district. This highlights the relative provision in each analysis area and establishes whether there is a spatial variance in provision across the district. Future population figures have been used to establish the net reduction in open space provision per head as a result of population growth. Information on the locations of planned housing growth has also informed this analysis (See **Chapter 3**).

Play areas

2.16 Proposed standards have been produced for quantity, accessibility, location, value and quality. Further detail regarding the site assessments and the analysis process is contained within the *Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* and *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)* documents.

Categorisation of sites

Open space typologies

2.17 Whilst many spaces will serve a variety of functions, it is helpful to categorise open spaces by their 'primary' typology, to enable assessment and analysis. The results of the open space audit will be used to develop provision standards by typology for Shepway.

2.18 The open space categories are set out in **Table 2.1** below. These reflect the Mayor of London's guidance on Open Space Strategies²⁵. Within these typologies, there is potential for secondary typologies to exist. For example, many parks and gardens will contain play areas for children, or outdoor sports pitches. These secondary typologies have been identified and are taken into account when analysing each of the primary typologies

Table 2.1: Open space typology

Type of open space	Primary purpose
A. Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. More multi-functional than other open space, offering space for quiet relaxation as well as a range of amenities and activities for visitors. In particular parks and gardens often include children's play, youth and/or outdoor sports facilities.
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness.
C. Green corridor	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
D. Amenity Green Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work. Amenity Green Spaces provide a less formal green space experience than parks and gardens, and generally provides fewer habitats
E. Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
G. Civic Space	Providing a setting for civic buildings and community events.
H. Provision for Children/ Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and

²⁵ CABE Space/Mayor of London (2009) *Open Space Strategies – Best Practice Guidance*

	teenage shelters.
I. Outdoor Sports Provision	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics, or countryside and water sports.

- 2.19 Standalone children’s play areas are assessed in the *Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* and *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)* documents and summarised within this study.
- 2.20 This study includes descriptions of the types of sports facilities found within other open spaces. The findings of the Playing Pitch Assessment have also been taken into account in considering the recommendations arising from this study.
- 2.21 Civic spaces were not identified and assessed within this study.

The open space hierarchy

- 2.22 It is helpful to categorise open space by size, as this influences the functions it can provide to a community, as well as the distance that people are likely to travel to use it. Having reviewed the size and features of the open spaces in Shepway and similar studies within the county, it was considered that hierarchical levels identified in the London Mayor’s Guidance for open space strategies are appropriate for assessment for parks and gardens and natural/ semi-natural green space typologies within the district. However the metropolitan hierarchy will be replaced with sub-regional. Small sites and pocket parks have been combined into a ‘small local’ level as shown below:
- 1 Sub-Regional sites (60-400ha)
 - 2 District sites (20-59ha)
 - 3 Local sites (2-19ha)
 - 4 Small local sites (<2ha)
- 2.23 Sites outside of the parks and gardens and natural/ semi- natural green space typologies have not been divided by hierarchy.

Step 5: Development and application of standards

- 2.24 This step draws together the information from the site audits and the consultation to develop locally appropriate standards for the quantity, quality, value and accessibility of open space in Shepway (See **Chapter 4**).
- 2.25 Mapping has been produced to aid with a review of the distribution and accessibility of open spaces in Shepway. These maps also enable the identification of areas deficient in the provision of open space. Accessibility catchment buffers are set for each type of open space and, where applicable, hierarchy. These buffers are guided by the standards set out in the Mayor’s guidance on preparing open space strategies. This mapping exercise highlighted the extent to which parts of Shepway are deficient in access to public open space.
- 2.26 Quality and value benchmarks have been set for each type and, where applicable, hierarchy of open space. These benchmark standards have been based on the results of the open space audits together with an understanding of what residents may reasonably expect open spaces in Shepway.
- 2.27 The range of scores given to each site is mapped to identify any areas of the district that have pockets of relatively low performing sites. The results were overlain with the catchment maps developed in the previous task to gain a better understanding of the quality and value of provision that is enjoyed by residents and visitors.
- 2.28 This reflects the approach recommended in “*Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17*” (the method of which is still utilised when assessing open space provision, in the absence of new national guidance), and enables the assessment to identify:
- Spaces or facilities which should be given the highest level of protection.

- Spaces which would benefit from enhancement.
- Spaces which may no longer be needed for their present purpose.

Step 6: Conclusions and recommendations

- 2.29 This final stage involved the translation of the findings of the assessment into priorities and principles for future policy within the emerging Local Plan (See **Chapter 5**).
- 2.30 The study provides robust justification for the policy approach to open space. An understanding of deficiency and need generated by the study in terms of quantity, quality, value and accessibility is fundamental to informing policy.
- 2.31 The report will provide options on:
- Delivery and management of open spaces.
 - More effective use of open space, their protection, land use opportunities and for provision elsewhere.
 - Options for future management and funding of open space.
- 2.32 The recommendations focus on the enhancement and management of existing open spaces and identification of priorities for new provision.

3 Existing open space provision in Shepway

- 3.1 This Chapter sets out the existing open space provision in Shepway. It begins by setting out the types of open space in Shepway before describing their key characteristics and accessibility.

Current provision

- 3.2 **Table 3.1** sets out the quantity of open space in Shepway by typology and hierarchy. **Figures 3.2-3.3** show the spatial distribution of open spaces by typology. Additional open spaces have been highlighted following consultation to allow for appropriate accessibility assessments. However these areas have not had open space site audits conducted.

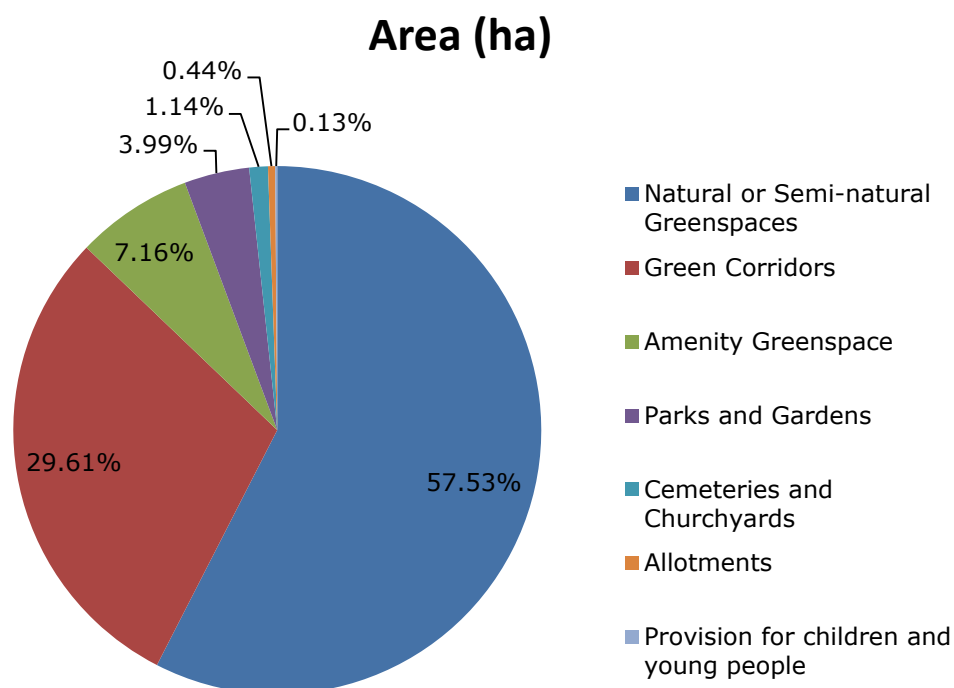
Table 3.1: Open space by hierarchy in Shepway

Typology	Hierarchy	Number of open spaces	Area (Ha)	Hectares per 1,000 head of population (2015)
A. Parks and gardens	District	1	21.63	0.20
	Local	14	72.71	0.66
	Small Local	49	28.21	0.26
B. Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Sub-Regional	5	1582.48	14.38
	District	2	69.22	0.63
	Local	16	106.83	0.97
	Small Local	36	25.98	0.24
C. Green corridors		31	921.30	8.37
D. Amenity green space		476	205.10	1.86
E. Allotments		17	13.34	0.12
F. Cemeteries and churchyards		38	34.72	0.32
G. Provision for children and young people		43	3.82	0.03
H. Outdoor sports provision		118	518.43	4.71
Total		846	3603.77	32.75

- 3.3 **Figure 3.1** shows the division of publicly open space by overall area (hectares) and including amenity green space with unconfirmed access to assist in highlighting proportions of typology. The vast majority of open space in terms of area falls within the natural and semi-natural greenspace typology covering 1784.52 ha. Amenity green space accounts the largest number of open spaces (476) covering an area of 205.10 ha.

3.4 There are a large number of open spaces which fall within the primary typology of green corridors (31 open spaces) covering an area of 921.30 ha. However sites within other typologies also contain features of nature conservation importance including cemeteries and churchyards.

Figure 3.1: Division of publicly accessible open space by overall area



3.5 43 open spaces are recorded within the provision for children and young people typology. However many open spaces in other typologies also contain elements to support informal play.

3.6 **Table 3.2** highlights the current provision of open space by analysis area. The Urban analysis area shows a greater proportion of amenity green space and green corridors which can be attributed to the soft landscape surrounding transport infrastructure and housing. A greater proportion of parks and gardens are also found within this area which caters for the more densely populated residential areas. The North Downs and Romney Marsh analysis areas have a greater quantity of natural and semi-natural green space due to woodlands and the coastal peninsula respectively. Romney Marsh has an increase in quantity of green corridors and open space generally which can be attributed to the beaches and coastline. There is a fairly even distribution of quantity of outdoor sports provision throughout the three analysis areas. **Chapter 5** explores recommendations by analysis area further.

Table 3.2: Current provision of open space by analysis area

Primary typology	Urban	North Downs	Romney Marsh	Shepway
Parks and gardens	69.18	32.62	20.69	122.49
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	209.87	520.53	1054.12	1784.52
Green corridor	136.89	4.94	779.47	921.3
Amenity green space	112.51	46.34	46.25	205.1
Allotments	6.64	3.31	3.39	13.34

Primary typology	Urban	North Downs	Romney Marsh	Shepway
Cemeteries and churchyards	12.59	14.33	7.80	34.72
Provision for children and young people	1.47	1.75	0.60	3.82
Outdoor sports provision	193.47	124.93	200.03	518.43
All typologies	742.62	748.75	2112.35	3603.72

3.7 **Table 3.3** shows the accessibility of open space within each typology based on the results of the open space audits. It's evident that the majority of open space is freely accessible to the public. Parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural green space have potential for providing improved access due to an increase in proportion of sites with restricted public access and no public access.

Table 3.3: Accessibility of open spaces in Shepway

Typology	Freely accessible to public	No public access	Restricted public access	De facto public access	Unconfirmed access
Parks and gardens	95.56	0.86	26.07	0	0
Natural and semi-natural green space	1698.20	15.17	55.98	0	0
Green corridors	887.92	18.38	9.13	5.87	0
Amenity green space	0	0	0	0	205.10
Allotments	1.60	0	10.11	1.64	0
Cemeteries and churchyards	34.22	0	0.51	0	0
Provision for children and young people	3.62	0.06	0.02	0	0
Total number of hectares	2721.12	34.47	101.82	7.51	205.10

3.8 **Table 3.4** shows how the publicly accessible open spaces are distributed between the three analysis areas used for this assessment. Amenity green space is not included due to unconfirmed access. Similar trends to those identified in **Table 3.2** can be seen; however there is a significantly reduced availability of open space which is freely accessible to the public within the Urban analysis area. This is because of the lack of confirmed accessible green space.

Table 3.4: Quantity of publicly accessible open space by analysis area

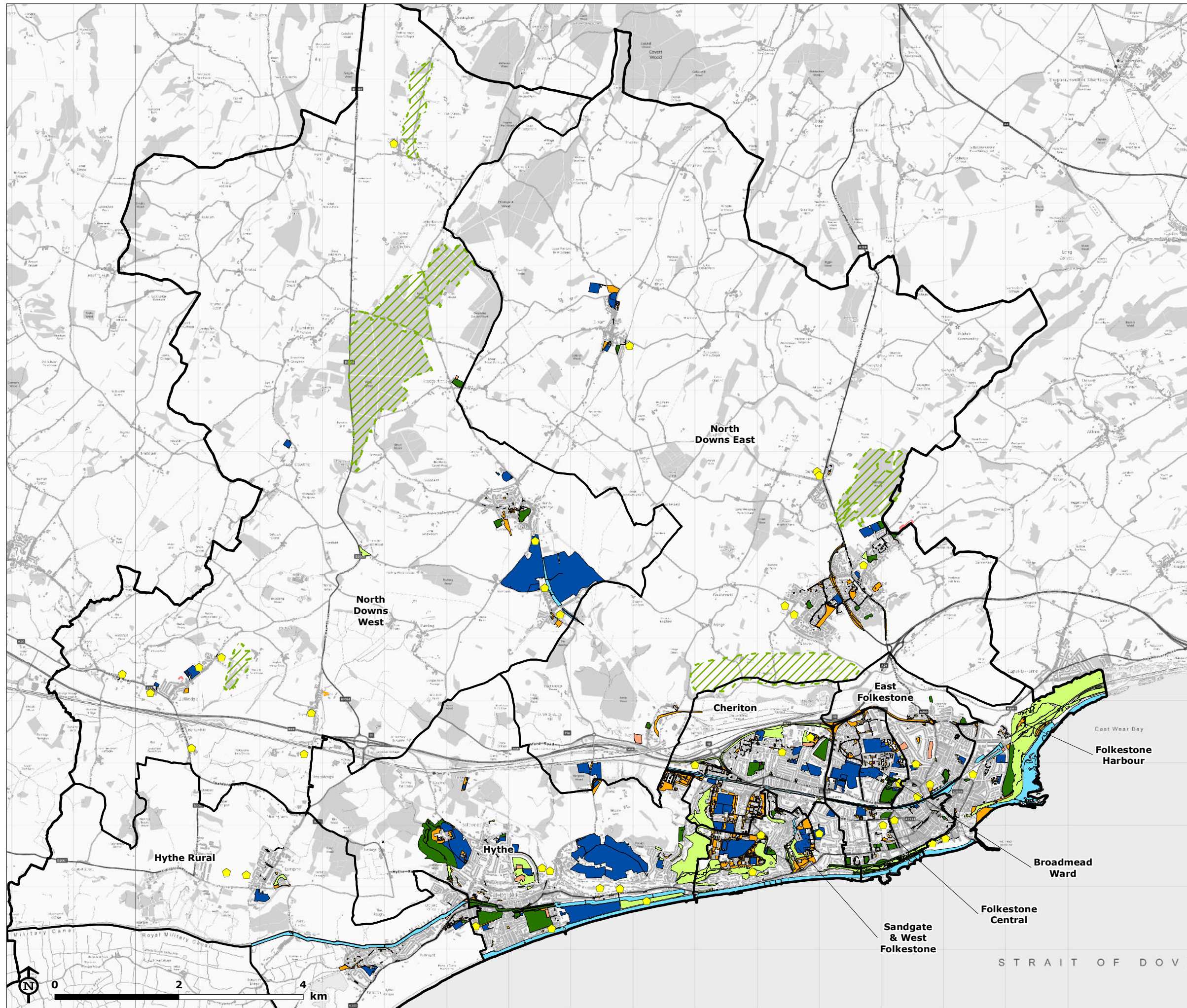
Primary typology	Urban	North Downs	Romney Marsh	Total
Parks and gardens	68.32	32.62	20.69	121.63
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	179.53	520.53	1054.12	1754.18
Green corridor	118.52	4.93	779.47	902.92
Allotments	6.64	3.31	3.39	13.34
Cemeteries and churchyards	12.59	14.33	7.80	34.72

Primary typology	Urban	North Downs	Romney Marsh	Total
Provision for children and young people	1.47	1.68	0.5	3.65
Shepway	387.07	577.40	1865.97	2830.44

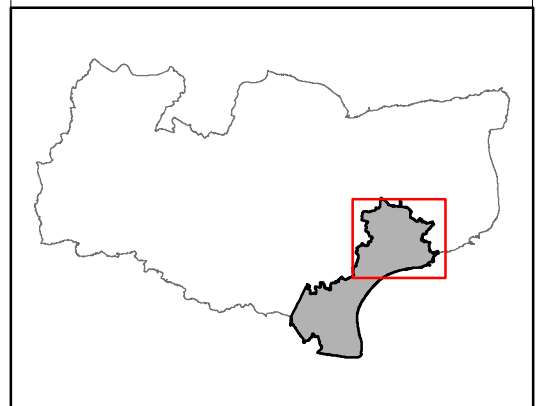
3.9 **Figure 3.2** identifies all the recorded open space within Shepway by typology.

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 3.2: All Open Space (North Shepway)



- Shepway boundary
- Shepway ward boundary
- Primary Typology**
- Parks and gardens
- Natural / semi-natural green space
- Green corridors
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Provision for children and young people
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Amenity green space
- Additional identified open space (coloured according to typology)
- Residential allocation

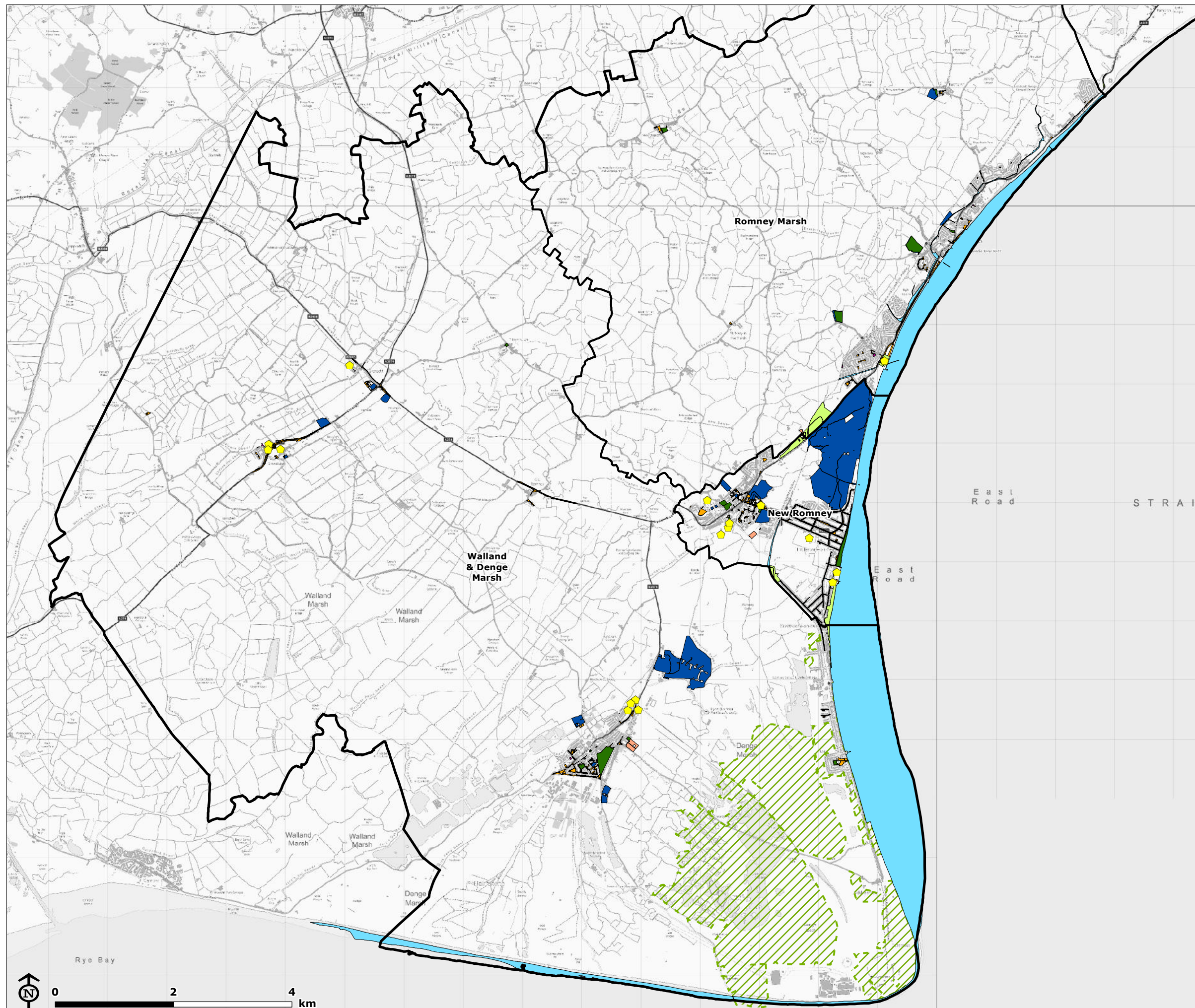


Map Scale @ A3: 1:60,000

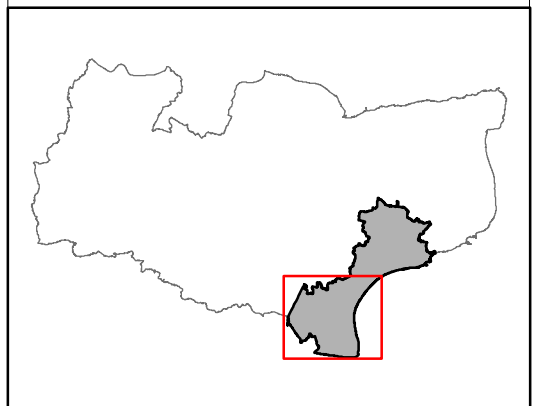


Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 3.3: All Open Space (South Shepway)



- Shepway boundary
- Shepway ward boundary
- Primary Typology**
- Parks and gardens
- Natural / semi-natural green space
- Green corridors
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Provision for children and young people
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Amenity green space
- Additional identified open space (coloured according to typology)
- Residential allocation



Map Scale @ A3: 1:60,000



Characteristics of open space provision in Shepway

3.10 The following text describes the open space provision in Shepway by typology and hierarchy.

A: Parks and gardens

3.11 Parks and gardens in Shepway provide a wide range of amenities and features for public use and enjoyment. **Figure 3.4** outlines parks and gardens by hierarchy level. There are 64 parks and gardens in Shepway covering an area of 121.64 ha. This equates to approximately 8.11% of all publicly accessible open space in Shepway. Approximately 60% of the total amount of parks and gardens (72.7 ha) falls within the local hierarchy.

3.12 The quality and value scores for parks and gardens across all hierarchies vary greatly. The following paragraphs summarise the standards of provision across the district.



District Park: Brockhill Country Park



Local Park: South Road Recreation Ground



Small Local Park: Memorial Garden, Park Street, Lydd

District parks and gardens in Shepway

3.13 Brockhill Country Park is the only district park in Shepway at 21.63 ha and accounts for the 17.6% of the total area of parks and gardens in the district. It is a popular open space with extensive provision of heritage and wildlife features alongside visitor facilities including play space. The park attracts visitors from across the district and wider region. Despite its heavy use, the park is considered to be of good quality and offers good access for all. Brockhill Country Park achieved the Green Flag Award in 2016.

Local parks and gardens in Shepway

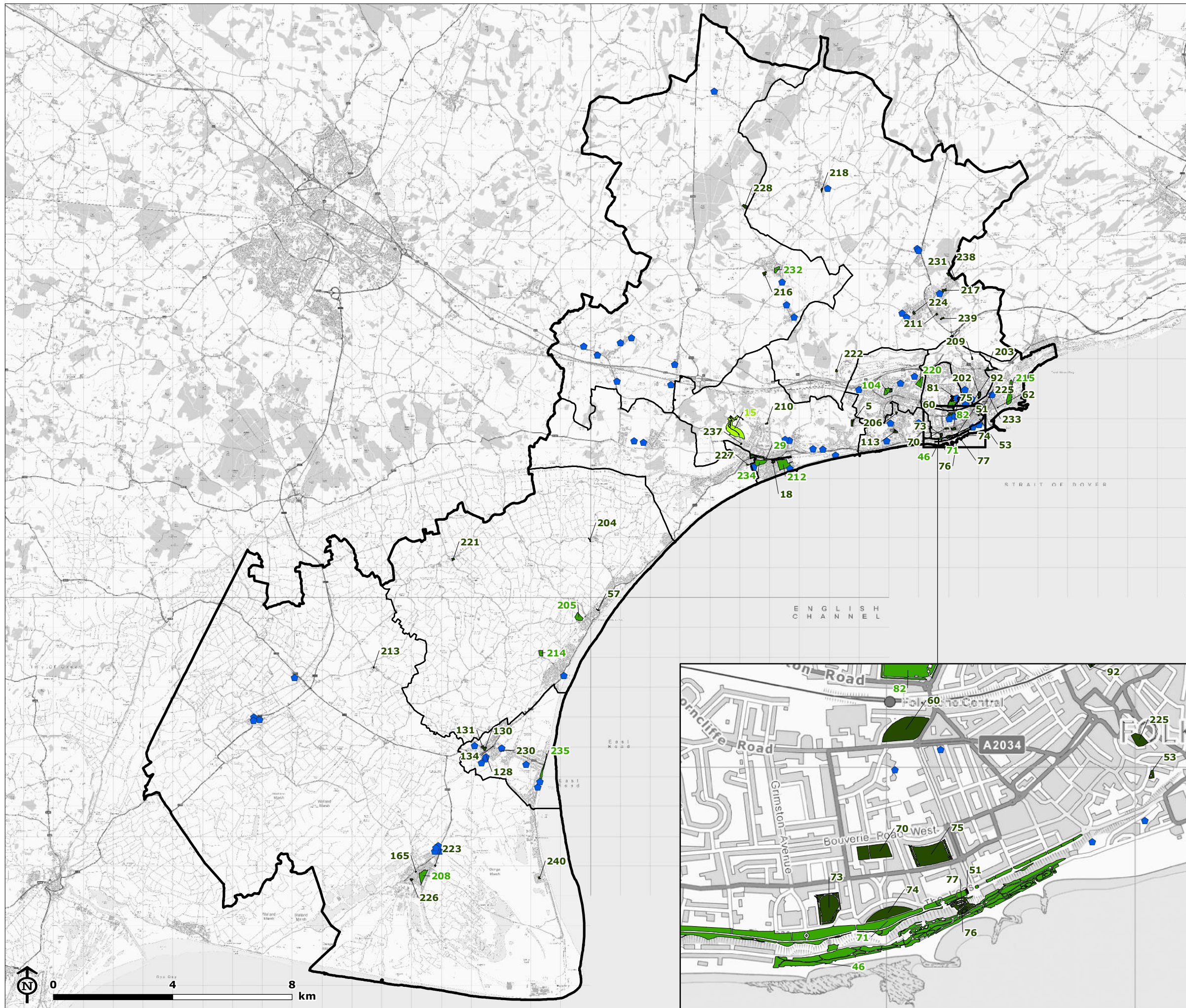
3.14 There are 14 local parks in Shepway covering an area of 72.7 ha. South Road Recreation Ground for example is located within the Urban area and supports a broad range of uses and activities including sports and play facilities (skate park). It also provides access for all with good quality planted borders and playing pitches.

Small local parks and gardens in Shepway

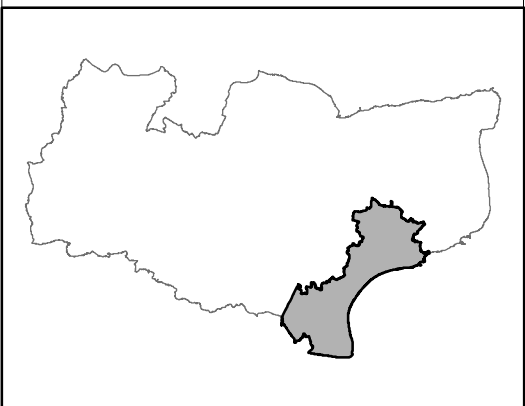
- 3.15 There are 47 small local parks covering an area of 27.3 ha.
- 3.16 Sites which received lower scores during the site audit include Balfour Gardens and Augusta Gardens. These sites do not contain play equipment, extensive community facilities or were often scored low for lack of variety in vegetation/habitat types.

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 3.4: Parks and Gardens by Hierarchy Level



- Shepway boundary
- Shepway ward boundary
- Parks and gardens**
- District
- Local
- Small local
- Residential allocation



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000



B: Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- 3.17 There are 47 open spaces which fall within the natural and semi-natural greenspaces typology covering an area of 1754.18 ha. These sites are divided into four hierarchies of Sub-Regional, District, Local and Small Local. **Figure 3.5** highlights natural and semi-natural greenspace by hierarchy level.
- 3.18 Further analysis of natural and semi-natural greenspace areas including issues and opportunities are discussed within the *Green Infrastructure Report (2011)* and *A Needs Assessment relating to the Provision of Natural Greenspace in areas with Low Levels of Physical Activity – Shepway District Council (2016)*.



Sub-Regional natural and semi-natural greenspaces

- 3.19 There are five Sub-Regional natural and semi-natural greenspaces. The Warren accounts for 10.4% of the total area of natural or semi-natural greenspace in the district. Commuted sums from Section 106 have been obtained for this site through the nearby Folkestone Seafrost development.
- 3.20 Dungeness has been designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR), Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).²⁶ A 'Sustainable Access Strategy' (SAS) document is currently being prepared by Rother District Council, Natural England and other environmental bodies. The results of the Dungeness, Rye and Camber visitor survey as part of the SAS process will inform how visitors use the area and to help ensure that people can enjoy themselves and that wildlife continues to thrive.

District natural and semi-natural greenspaces

- 3.21 There are two district natural and semi-natural greenspaces in Shepway. One example identified as open space adjacent to Horn Street comprises an expanse of varied habitat and topography amongst Ministry of Defence land and adjacent Risborough Barracks. The Landscape Strategy for Shornecliffe Garrison in Folkestone highlights a new adjacent residential development of up to 1,200 homes with improved recreation facilities and a primary school. There are planned improvements to pedestrian and cycle links within the open space. Further details on the

²⁶ Dungeness National Nature Reserve Website, 2017. *Dungeness National Nature Reserve*. Available at: <<http://www.dungeness-nnr.co.uk/index.php>> [Accessed 27 April 2017]

development, enhancements at Seabrook Valley and the management plan can be provided by Shepway District Council on request.

Local natural and semi-natural greenspaces

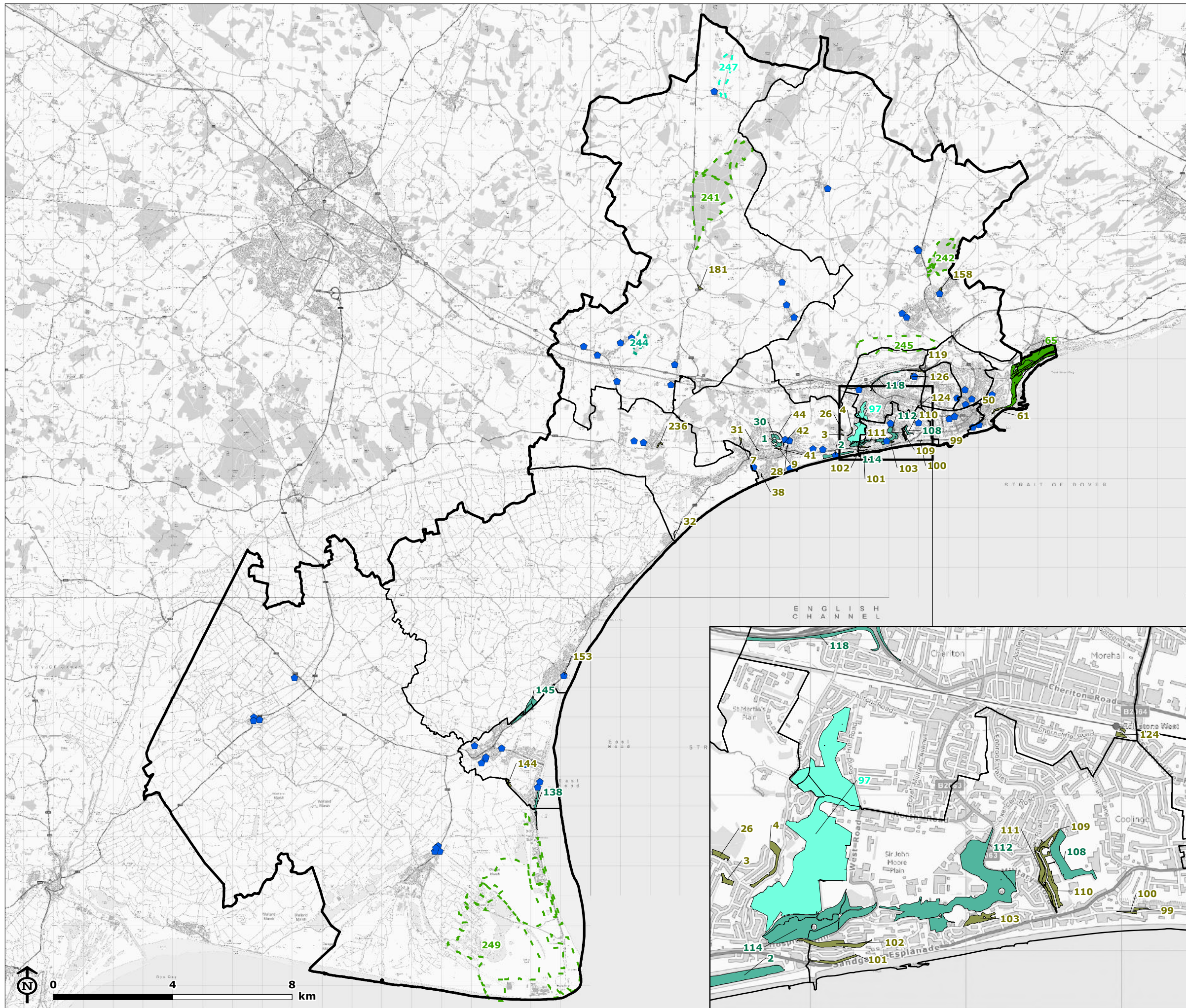
- 3.22 There are 10 local natural and semi-natural greenspaces covering an area of 80.6 ha. One of which is the sand dune to the rear of Coast Drive and situated along the coastline. This area is designated as a Special Area of Conservation and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Small local natural and semi-natural

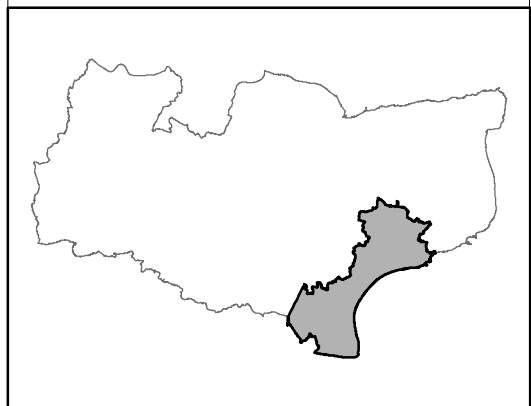
- 3.23 There are 30 small local natural and semi-natural greenspaces covering an area of 21.87 ha.
- 3.24 The M20 screen and land opposite Enbrook Road received lower scores given the soft landscape function and proximity to busy transport infrastructure sites. As expected these areas comprised of valuable habitats but lacked visitor amenities. The end of Dunes Road, Greatstone site offered more in terms of visitor amenities and accessibility with its proximity to residential areas making it a popular recreation site.

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 3.5: Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces by Hierarchy Level



- Shepway boundary
- Shepway ward boundary
- Natural/semi-natural greenspaces**
- Sub-Regional
- District
- Local
- Small local
- Additional identified open space
- (coloured according to hierarchy)
- Residential allocation



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000



C: Green corridors in Shepway





- 3.25 There are 22 green corridors in Shepway covering an area of approximately 902.9 ha. In Shepway these spaces largely comprise of shoreline, beaches, and alongside canals and transport infrastructure. **Figure 3.6** outlines the location of green corridors.



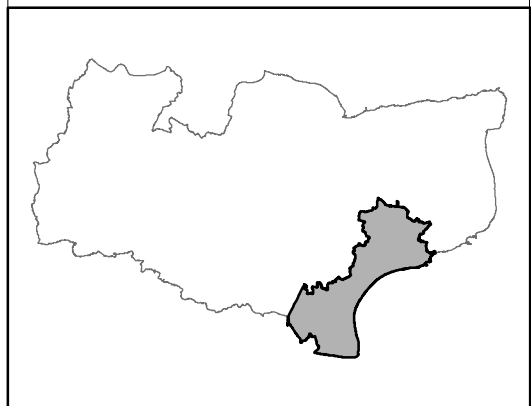
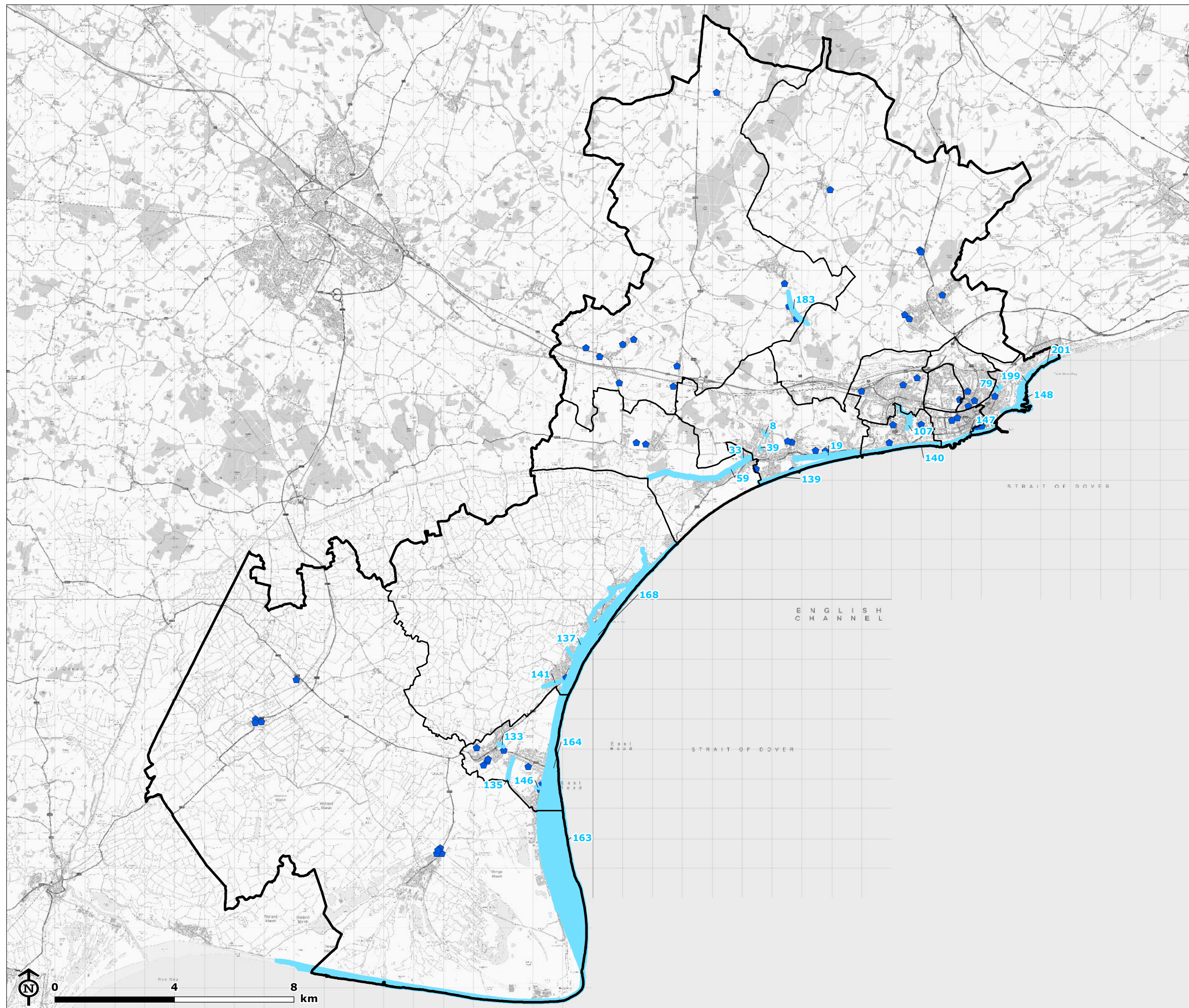
- 3.26 An example of the coastal green corridors includes Dymchurch and St Mary's Bay Beach. It provides high quality seating together with good signage, access and visitor amenities including car parking. The coastline areas form a significant proportion (14.9%) of the green corridors.
- 3.27 The Royal Military Canal is a popular and attractive area designated as a local wildlife site offering visitor amenities, heritage and wildlife value and good access.
- 3.28 Railway embankment areas generally scored lower due to their lack of intended public use and supporting transport infrastructure.

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 3.6: Green Corridors

-  Shepway boundary
-  Shepway ward boundary
-  Green corridors*
-  Residential allocation

**Width of linear sites exaggerated for clarity*



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000



D: Amenity green spaces

- 3.29 There are 476 amenity green spaces in Shepway which combined are over 205.1 ha in size. **Figures 3.2-3.3** show the location of amenity green space within the district.
- 3.30 Amenity green spaces contribute significantly to local communities which are not within walking distance of a park and garden, or natural or semi-natural green space. They can provide an attractive landscape surrounding housing whilst also assisting with drainage and providing a valuable habitat for wildlife.



Example amenity green space within Shepway

- 3.31 Many of the amenity green spaces are located within areas of residential and social housing largely comprising of highway soft estate verges. Given the quantity, network and relatively consistent quality and value standards sampled it was deemed inappropriate to conduct detailed on-site assessments. However it is important to recognise these spaces commonly comprised of grass verges occasionally incorporating benches, bins and planting as identified in the image above. These sites were generally maintained to a good standard.

E: Allotments in Shepway

- 3.32 There are 17 allotments and/or community gardens recorded within Shepway which provide an important space for education, volunteers and the local community. These sites are largely distributed along the coastal towns. **Figure 3.7** identifies the location of allotments.



The Marsh Community Garden



Lydd Allotments

- 3.33 The Marsh Community Garden is included within this category. This site is located adjacent to Romney Warren Country Park (Local Nature Reserve and visitor centre) and covers an area of 0.3 ha. It provides a welcoming place for people with learning and physical disabilities and is run on a voluntary basis using organic principles and permaculture.
- 3.34 Lydd Allotments had clear involvement from the Allotments Association with the site supporting a junior gardening club and providing a number of useful facilities including car parking and toilets. The site was generally well presented and maintained.
- 3.35 Rhodes Minnis Allotments scored lower than other sites due to its lack of use, current neglect and relatively difficult access.

Allotment management information

3.36 Further information on allotment interest and usage is contained within the summary of public consultation later in this chapter and within consultation responses within **Appendix 5. Table 3.5** below outlines information from town and parish councils obtained via Shepway District Council in May 2017. The information on waiting lists below indicates a need for potentially further allotment provision particularly within the areas within the remit of Folkestone Town Council and Hythe Town Council.





Table 3.5: Allotments in Shepway District

Area	Number of allotments	Waiting list	Cost	Additional comments
Burmarsh Parish Council	0	-	-	-
Dymchurch Parish Council	0	-	-	There is a farm in Burmarsh Road, Haguelands Farm, that offer allotments to residents at Dymchurch
Folkestone Town Council	2	76 people	0.5560 per se meter	150 plots varying sizes at Park Farm Road Allotments, and Tile Kiln Lane Allotments in Cheriton
Hawkinge Town Council	1	1 person	£56 for a full plot, £31 for a half plot per year	Hawkinge has one allotment site at Stombers Lane, Hawkinge. The society pays Hawkinge Town Council £900 per year to run the site. The site consists of 59 plots and 8 raised beds. A full plot costs £56 per year and a half plot costs £31 per year. Last year the society spent £5300 of its own money on the site.
Hythe Town Council	161 plots, 4 allotments	A waiting list for our Twiss Road Site of 31	£12.15 per perch (£0.49 per sq m)	All allotments managed by Hythe Town Council are well used and there are 161 plots in all. The rental cost is £12.15 per perch (£0.49 per sq m). We have a waiting list for our Twiss Road Site of 31 and the longest waiting time is 3 years. There is no one on the waiting list for the following sites - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eaton Lands (North, South & Meadow) • Longbridge • Horn Street We currently have 3 vacant allotments, all on the Eaton Lands sites.
Ivychurch Parish Council	0	-	-	-
Lyminge Parish Council	1		Present cost is £15 per year, renovated plots will be £25 per year	Ten allotment pitches in total. Two of the pitches are rented and have been with the same tenants for several years. The other eight were vacant and were overgrown with weeds and brambles so the area at present is being renovated and will be ready for additional tenants from the end of June. At present we have ten Allotments, two let to tenants, with four residents waiting to take on a

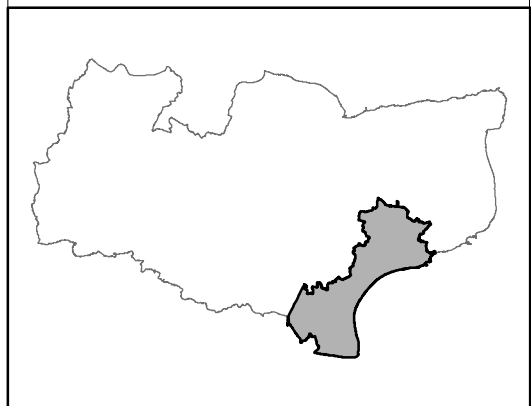
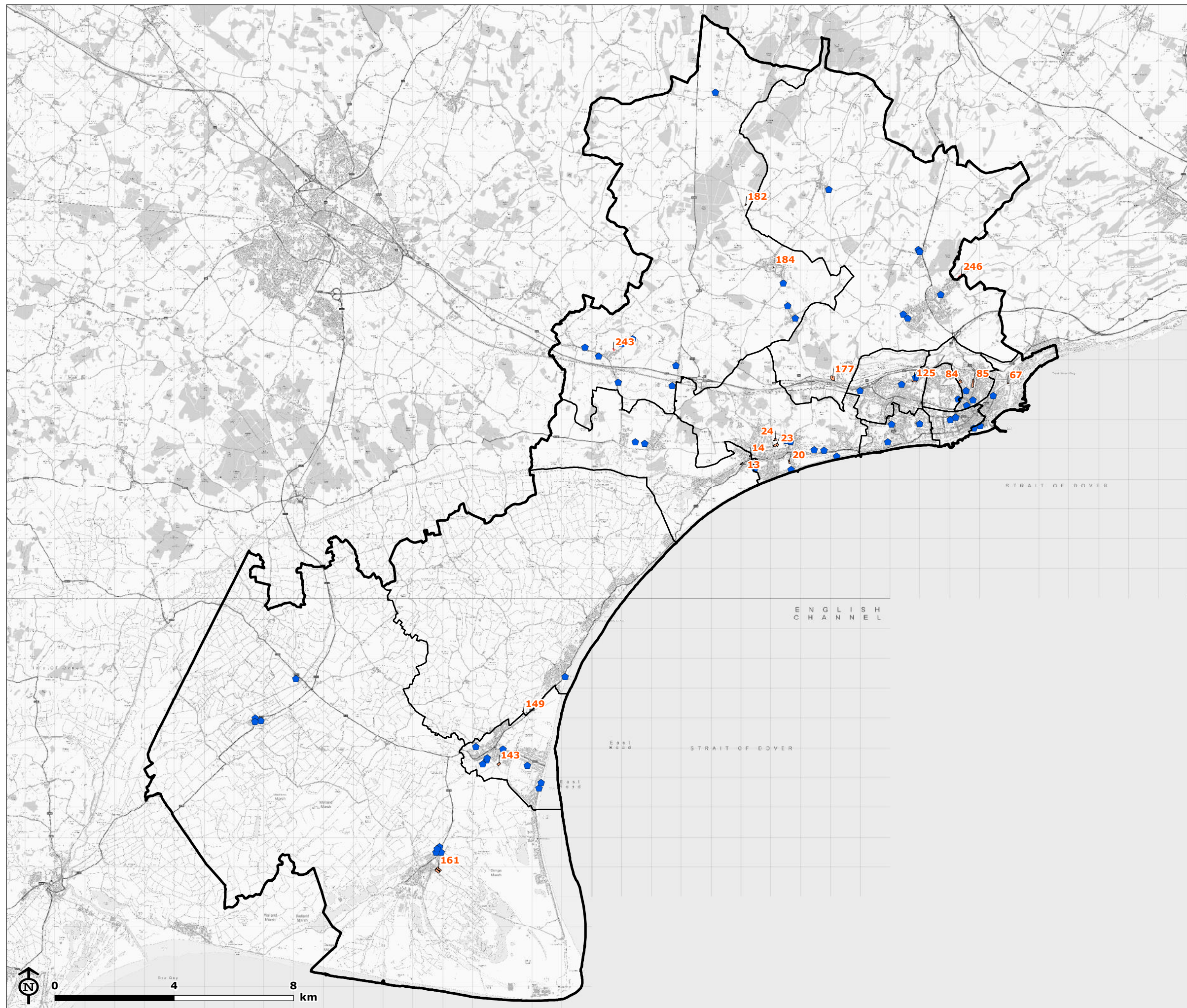
Area	Number of allotments	Waiting list	Cost	Additional comments
				tenancy of a plot when the renovation is complete.
Lympne Parish Council	0	-	-	-
Newington Parish Council	0			The allotments at Newington are not owned or managed by the Parish Council, they are owned and managed by Hinxhill Estate.
Old Romney Parish Council	0	-	-	-
Sandgate Parish Council	0	-	-	-
Sellindge Parish Council	0	-	-	-
Stanford Parish Council	0	-	-	-
Stelling Minnis Parish Council	0	-	-	-
St Mary in the Marsh	0	-	-	-

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 3.7: Allotments

-  Shepway boundary
-  Shepway ward boundary
-  Allotments*
-  Residential allocation

**Sites 243 and 246 are additional identified open space*



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000



F: Cemeteries and churchyards in Shepway

- 3.37 Cemeteries and churchyards offer opportunities for quiet contemplation and are often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. These sites account for 34.7 ha of open space in Shepway. **Figure 3.8** highlights the location of cemeteries and churchyards.
- 3.38 Cemeteries and churchyards often contribute to the setting of a local area, helping to define a sense of place. Such spaces are of importance to communities which may not be within walking distance of an alternative space or for users who want to avoid more active sites.



Lydd Cemetery







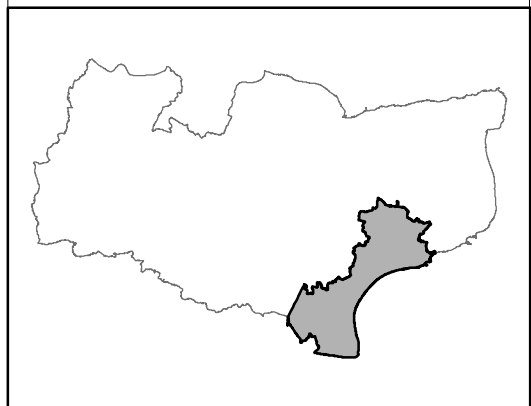
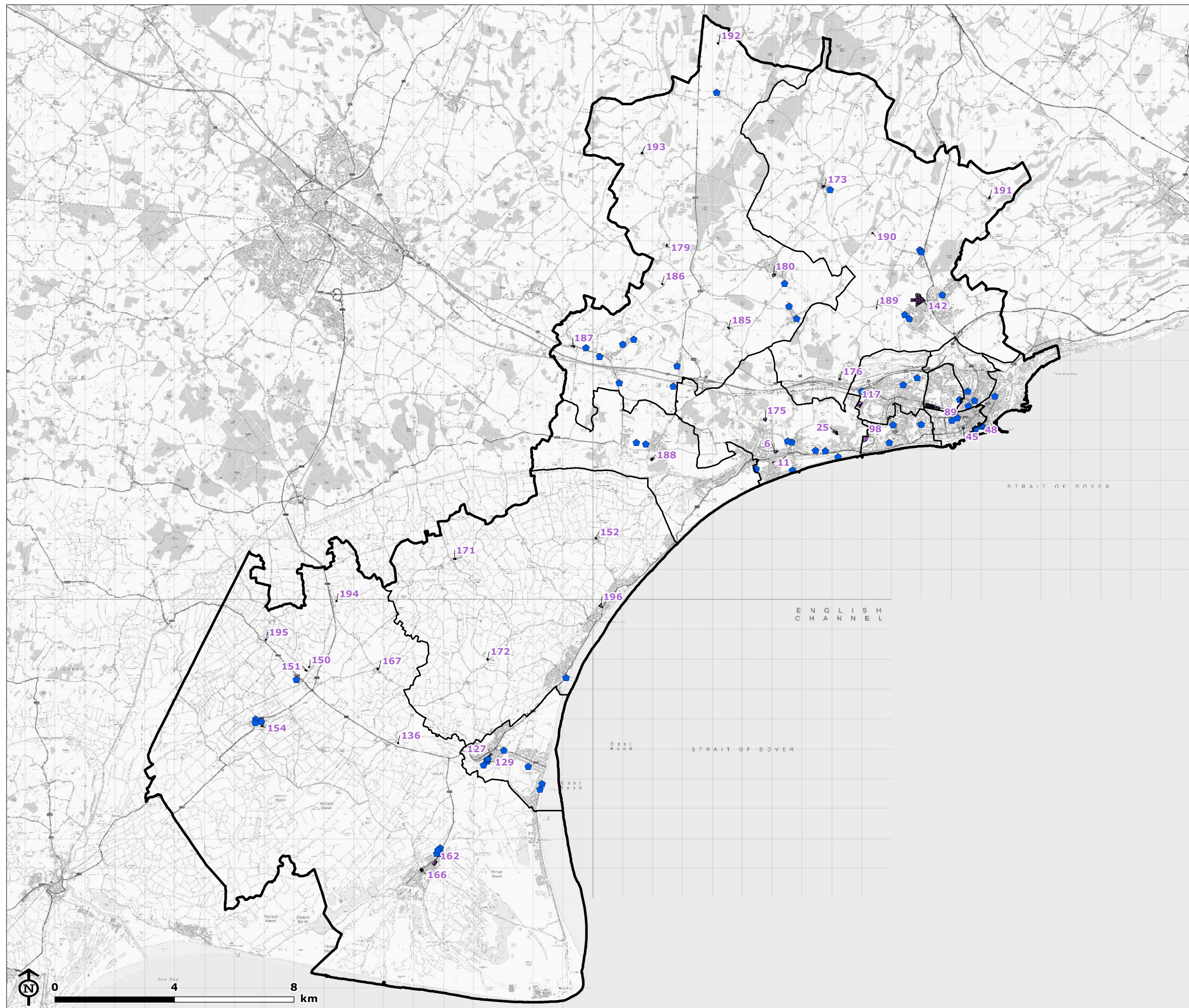
St Clement's Churchyard (Old Romney)

- 3.39 There were 38 recorded cemeteries and churchyards within Shepway with many comprising important and attractive listed churches, particularly within the historic Romney Marsh area.
- 3.40 Overall cemeteries and churchyards are considered to be clean and well maintained. Entrances and access through the cemeteries and churchyards were variable with often movement restricted due to uneven surfaces or insufficient footpaths for example at St Clement's Churchyard.

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 3.8: Cemeteries and Churchyards

-  Shepway boundary
-  Shepway ward boundary
-  Cemeteries and churchyards
-  Residential allocation



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000



G: Provision for children and young people in Shepway

- 3.41 *The Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* outlined the approach taken during the assessment of provision and sets out the current situation and proposed standards for play provision across the district. The results of the review provided a foundation for the *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)*.
- 3.42 Of the sites that have been audited, 85 sites included play equipment. 43 sites have a primary typology of 'Provision for children and young people' as shown in **Figure 3.9**. The rest of the equipped play provision is found with other typologies as shown in **Table 3.6**.

Table 3.6: Equipped play provision by primary typology

Typology		Number of sites with play provision
A	Parks and gardens	40
B	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	1
C	Green corridor	1
G	Provision for children and young people	43
Total		85

- 3.43 In reference to *The Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* play provision throughout Shepway is generally good in terms of distribution with some evident lack of provision for the 11+ age group in terms of quantity as shown in **Table 3.7** below.

Table 3.7: Range of ages and number by primary typology

Typology	Count of sites with play		
	under 5yrs	5-11yrs	over 11yrs
Parks and gardens	36	39	25
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	1	1	0
Green corridor	1	1	1
Provision for children and young people	36	32	9

- 3.44 As expected, play areas are predominately located within or adjacent to larger open spaces (e.g. parks and gardens) and sections of the district's residents are not within easy walking distance of a suitable facility. This was highlighted as an issue through stakeholder consultation and confirmed by the mapping of accessibility catchments. Consultation also revealed concerns with ongoing maintenance of play spaces.
- 3.45 *The Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* and *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)* identified deficiencies in play areas within the centre of New Romney, intermittent areas along coastal residential areas in Romney Marsh, to the south-east of Folkestone Harbour and within Broadmead. The results of the audit show that Shepway has a variety of play areas, which are generally well located and offering good play value. However, there tends to be issues with the quality of the play areas across the district.
- 3.46 In consideration of the latest Fields in Trust guidance and Play England guidance²⁷ the following was defined for the purposes of the play area assessment within the *Shepway Play Area Review (2016)* and *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)*:
- Type A: **Local Areas for Play (LAPs)**.
 - Small, low-key games area (may include "demonstrative" play features).
 - Minimum activity zone of 100sqm.
 - Type B: **Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs)**.
 - Approximately five types of equipment.

²⁷ Play England, 2009. *Tools for evaluating local play provision: A technical guide to Play England local play indicators* [pdf] available at <http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/202750/tools-for-evaluating-play-provision.pdf> [Accessed 8 September 2016].

- Minimum activity zone of 400sqm.
- Type C: **Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs)**.
 - Approximately eight types of equipment.
 - Kickabout and/or wheeled activities.
 - Minimum activity zone of 1,000sqm comprising an area for play equipment and structures.
 - Hard surfaced area of at least 465sqm (the minimum needed to play five-a-side football).
- Type D: **Destination Play Space**.
 - Play spaces which can attract visitors for a wider catchment, usually within larger parks they often have supporting facilities such as car parking, catering and toilets.

3.47 Photos below help depict example sites for each classification.

Photos of play areas by classification



Atkinson Road Play Area – example LAP



Swan Lane – example LEAP









Kettle Drive Play Area – example NEAP



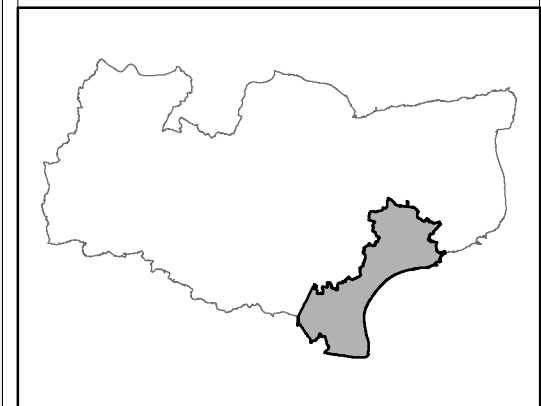
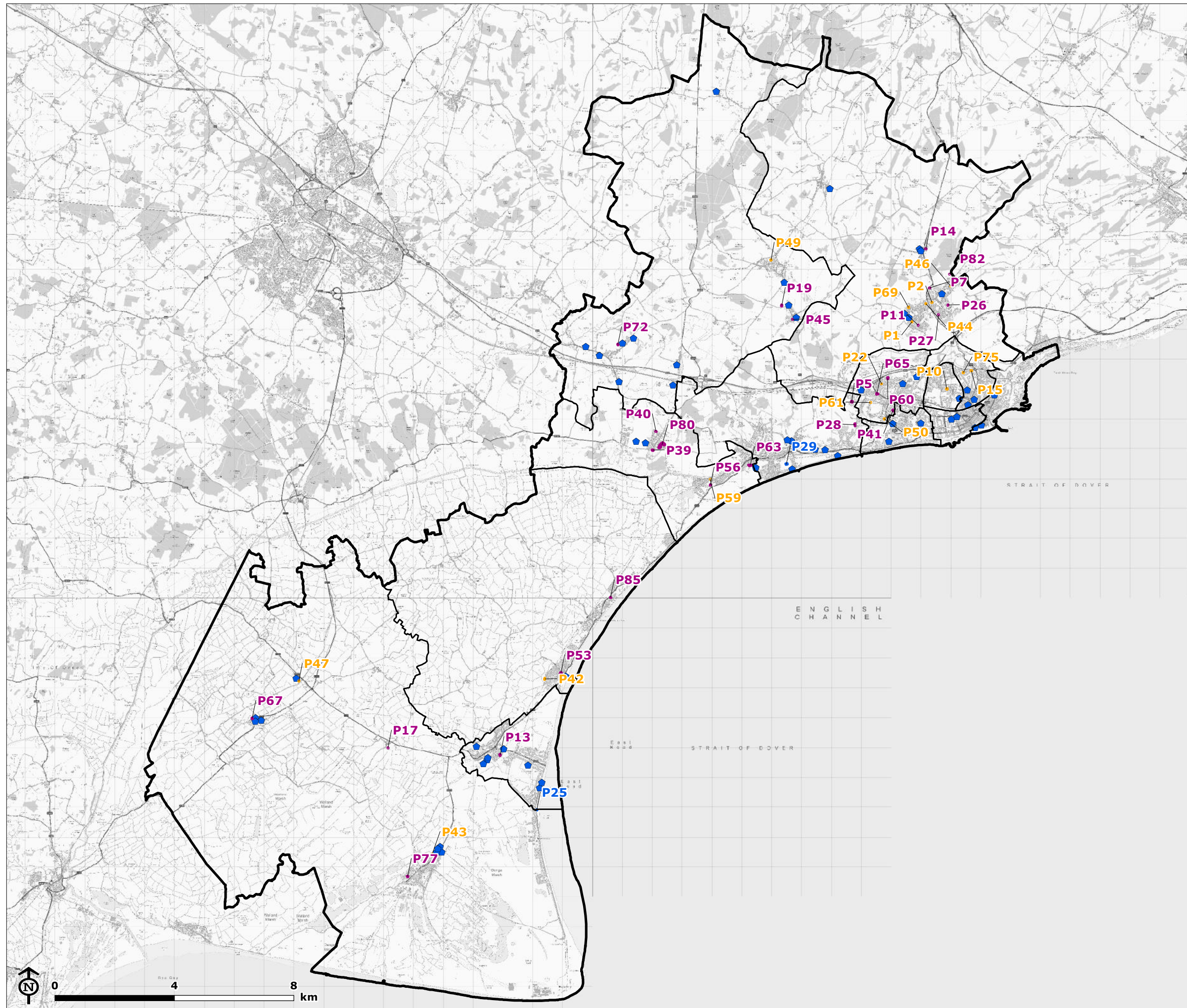
Lower Leas Coastal Park Fun Zone – example Destination play space

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 3.9: Provision for Children and Young People

-  Shepway boundary
-  Shepway ward boundary
- Provision for children and young people**
-  Type A: LAP
-  Type B: LEAP
-  Type C: NEAP
-  Residential allocation

Please refer to "Shepway Play Area Review" for Site IDs



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000



H: Outdoor sports facilities

- 3.48 A Playing Pitch Strategy Update for Shepway was produced in 2011. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the findings from the strategy. All sites that have a primary typology of outdoor sports facilities or sites of another typology that have sporting provision are shown in **Figure 3.2** and **Figure 3.3**.
- 3.49 Over and above the sites with a primary typology of outdoor sports facilities, a number of sports facilities were found within other sites. Almost all of these facilities are located in or adjacent to parks and gardens and include:
- Football pitches
 - Cricket pitches
 - Outdoor bowls
 - Golf
 - Tennis
 - Basketball
 - Green gyms
- 3.50 *The Playing Pitch Strategy Update (2011)* report identified that at present quantitative deficiencies are limited, although a range of qualitative issues are identified (such as a perennial issue of cricket wicket maintenance). The report showed a district-wide major surplus for football, although there are smaller deficits for junior provision in the three other sports (cricket, rugby and hockey). This suggests that cricket grounds, for example, need to be used more for junior purposes as there are no space impediments for doing so. However all pitches, whether natural or artificial, need to be safe for use. Looking forward and accounting for Shepway's proposed growth, the locations where shortfalls may be most widespread will be within the most urban areas (e.g. east Folkestone) where land for new pitches is very scarce.
- 3.51 *The Shepway Open Spaces: Sports & Recreation (2011)* report considered provision of outdoor recreation in the district and identified 'better use and management of open spaces to deliver qualitative upgrades' as one of the key themes to address. The report also emphasised the importance of multi-functional open spaces and highlighted the wildlife benefits of grassed pitches surrounded by less used margins and hedgerows/tranquil habitats etc. The enhancement of existing open spaces is therefore critical to a range of objectives.

Summary of findings from open space audit

- 3.52 The key strengths and issues identified during the open space audits are summarised below:
- The quality and value of publicly accessible open space across Shepway is relatively good, there are three Green Flag Award sites. However there are sites across all typologies which experience issues with condition and functionality.
 - Shepway contains a greater quantity of open space than surrounding local authorities.
 - Approximately 4.3% of open spaces audited in the assessment fall within the parks and gardens typology and 121.64 ha are publicly accessible.
 - Natural and semi-natural greenspace is the largest typology of open spaces in Shepway. These sites form approximately 61.98% of the total quantity of open space covering a publicly accessible area of 1754.18ha.
 - There are large expanses of open space within Shepway which have a number of environmental designations and considerations and are well used by Shepway residents and surrounding districts. There are internationally designated wildlife habitats within the Romney Marsh/Dungeness area.
 - The limited provision of larger open spaces in Shepway particularly within the centre of the district and to the south-west highlights the significance of the network of smaller sites to

residents. These smaller open spaces should therefore support a range of facilities and be able to withstand challenges from increased use and a changing climate.

- Vandalism was recorded in 11 of the sites audited.
- 47 open spaces fall within the natural and semi-natural greenspace typology. However open spaces within other typologies including linear open spaces/ green corridors and churchyards and cemeteries contribute significantly to the district's biodiversity.
- Green corridors are a key component of the open space network in Shepway. These sites are predominantly linked to the waterways and coastal areas which have shaped the gradual evolution of the district. As well as contributing to local character, these sites provide opportunities for recreation, sustainable travel for people, and nature conservation.
- The greatest number of play facilities in Shepway is contained within Urban (32 sites) and North Downs (30 sites) analysis areas. Romney Marsh analysis area contains just 23 sites offering play facilities. Fewer sites offer opportunities for teenagers than provision for those within the 0-5 and 5-11 age groups.
- There is an extensive network of community, friends and community groups within Shepway who are responsible for the management and support the delivery of open space provision in the district.

Summary of feedback from public consultation

- 3.53 Public consultation was undertaken through an online survey via a web service called 'SurveyMonkey'. The scope of this questionnaire covered the frequency of use, perceived value and satisfaction with the quality and quantity of open spaces in the district. Questions on specialist open space provision such as allotments/community gardens and play were also included. In addition, a confidential section on the profile of the respondent was included, to enable us to ensure that the survey captured responses from a reasonable sample of the Shepway population.
- 3.54 The survey elicited responses from 380 people. Those that completed the gender question highlighted that 25% were male and 74% were female.
- 3.55 The full results and responses to online consultation are contained within **Appendix 5**.

Headline findings

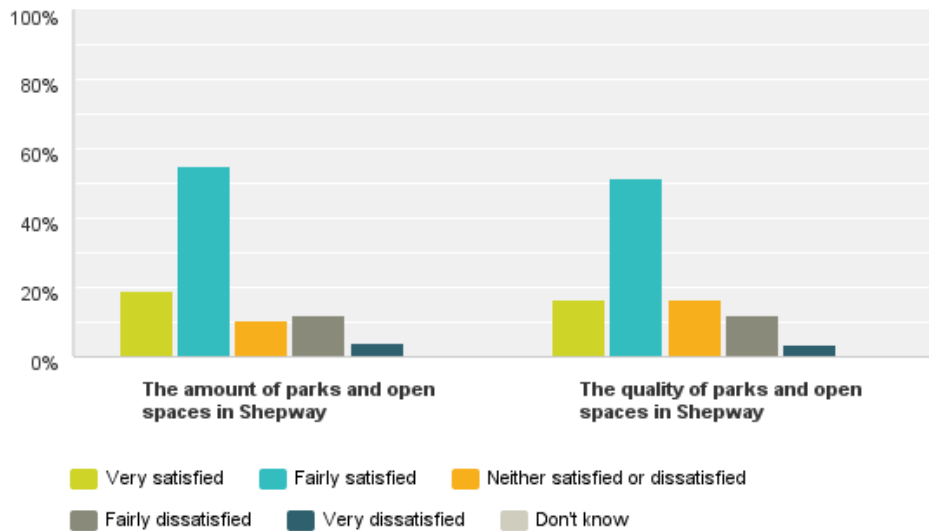
- 3.56 The majority of users travel to their local park or open space on foot, with most respondents taking less than 10 minutes to travel to their local park or open space. Just over 77% of respondents can get to their local park or open space in less than 15 minutes.
- 3.57 The vast majority of respondents felt that there is a park or open space within easy walking distance of their home.
- 3.58 The majority of respondents visit their local park or open space to relax/contemplate, with large numbers using them for taking children to use play facilities/equipment, family outings, exercise and to observe the wildlife.

As shown in **Figure 3.10**, generally people are satisfied with the quantity and quality of open spaces in the district.

Figure 3.10: Satisfaction with quantity and quality of open space

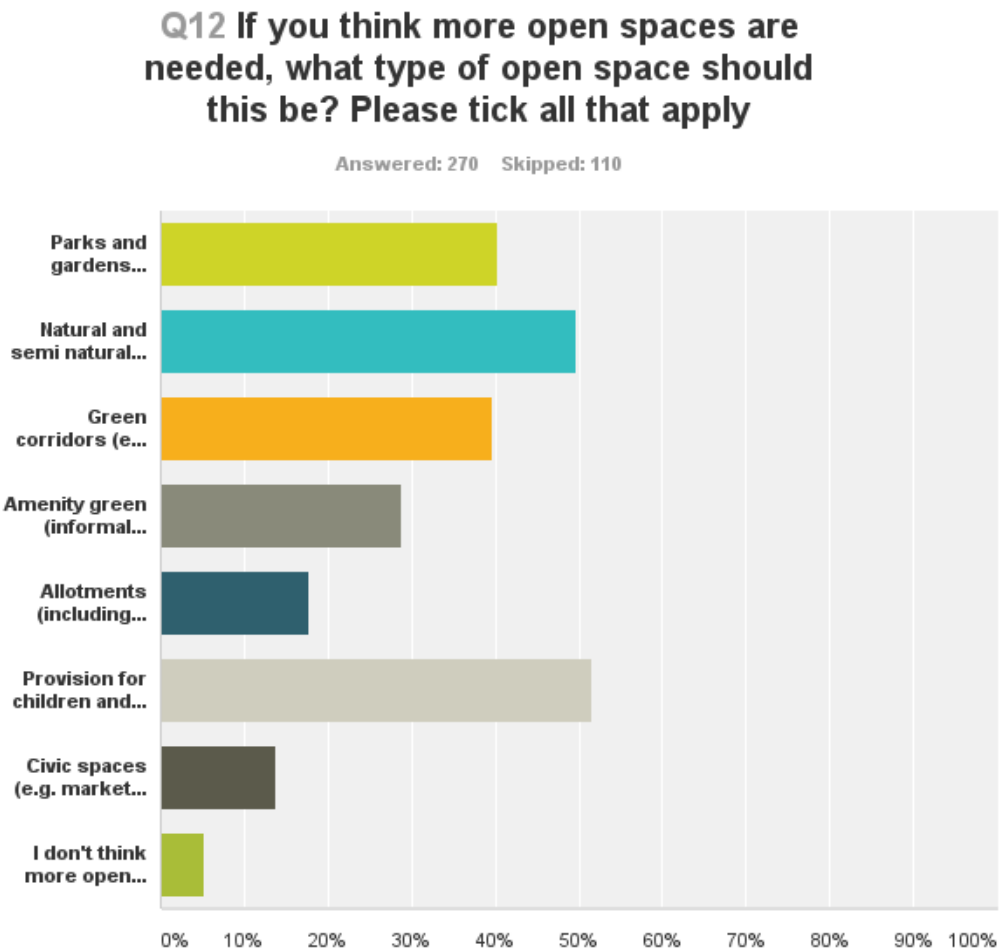
Q11 Overall, how satisfied are you with the amount and quality of parks and open spaces in Shepway?

Answered: 293 Skipped: 87



- 3.59 For those that don't use parks and open spaces regularly 19% of respondents cited lack play of facilities and similarly 19% felt litter, anti-social behaviour and not liking the appearance of the park or open space deterred visits. Around 43% highlighted other reasons for not visiting including poor weather, time at work and general lack of time.
- 3.60 If additional open space were provided in Shepway, respondents would like to see provision of more facilities for children and young people, natural and semi natural green space, parks and gardens and green corridors in particular; this is indicated in **Figure 3.11**.

Figure 3.11: Preferred typology of new open space provision



- 3.61 The parks and open spaces that respondents visited most often included: Lower Leas Coastal Park, Princes Parade and Radnor Park.
- 3.62 Negative comments or recommendations regarding levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction on the quality of parks and open spaces included the following:
- Vandalism and litter.
 - Lack of facilities for disabled children.
 - Opportunities for enhancements including provision of play facilities at Radnor Park and Jock’s Pitch.
 - There should be improved provision of areas for dog walking and exercise.
 - There should be improved provision of play facilities for the 11+ age group.
- 3.63 Positive comments included:
- Recognition of the value of Lower Leas Coastal Park.
 - Appreciation of the open spaces in the vicinity of the Royal Military Canal in Hythe.
 - The views and open spaces within the region are valued.

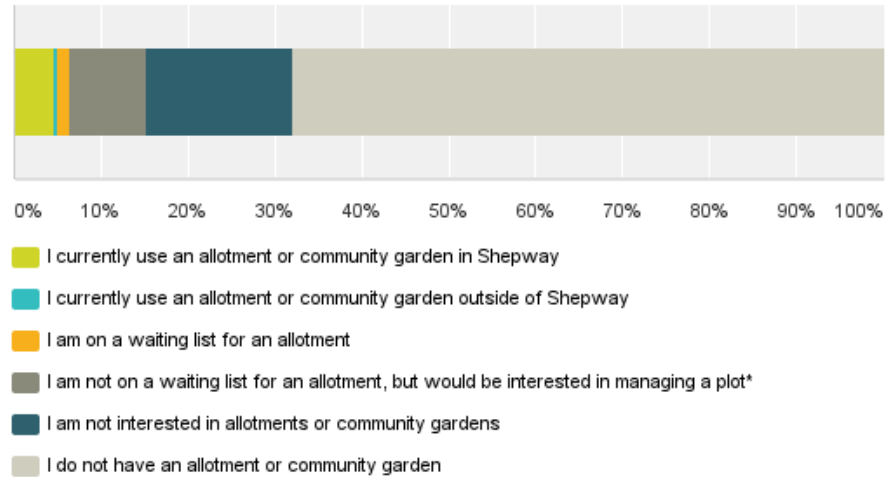
Allotments

- 3.64 Very few respondents are currently using or on a waiting list for an allotment, however just over 8% showed interest in managing a plot, as shown in **Figure 3.12**.

Figure 3.12: Current allotment use and level of interest in allotments

Q15 With regards to allotment/s and community garden/s in Shepway, please select from the following. Please tick one option

Answered: 277 Skipped: 103



Equipped play facilities

3.65 Just over 60% of respondents confirmed the use of equipped play facilities in Shepway. **Figure 3.13** and **Figure 3.14** show 24% using equipped play equipment once a week; 23% 2-3 times a week and 20% once a fortnight. The majority of respondents access local play facilities on foot.

Figure 3.13: Frequency of use of equipped play provision

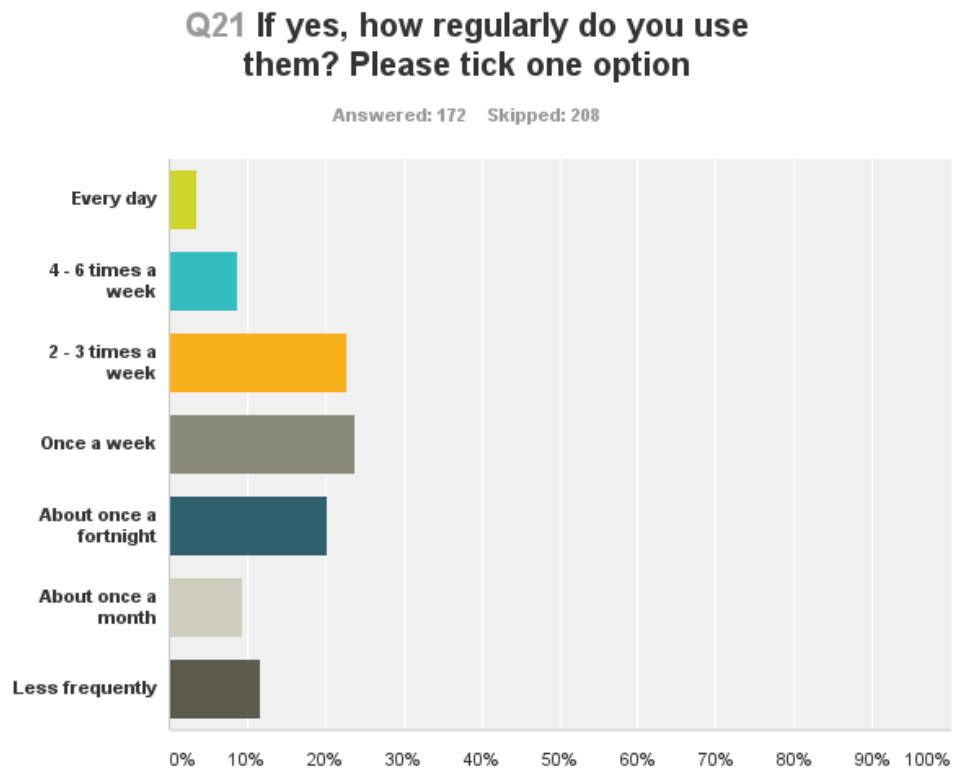
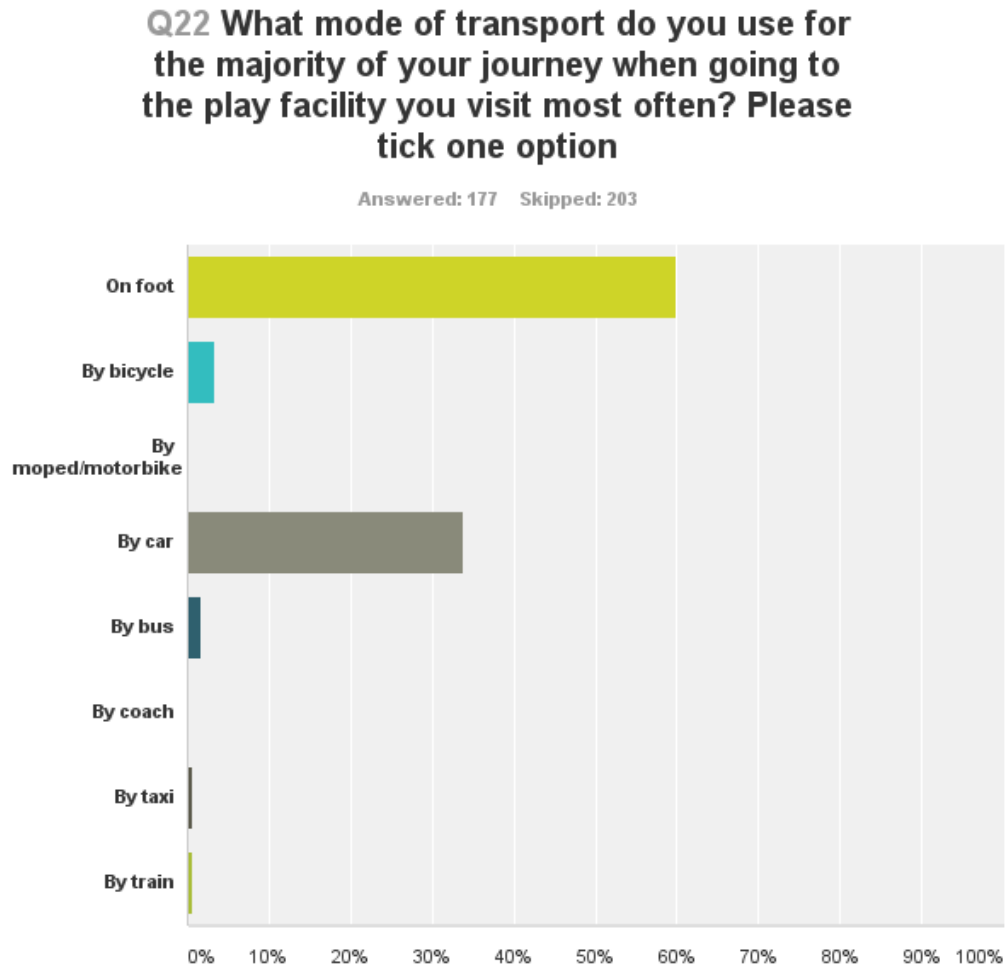


Figure 3.14: Mode of travel to equipped play facilities



3.66 Responses to the survey indicate high levels of satisfaction with the amount and quality of play overall, however responses for play for 11+ years indicates an area for improvement. Details about satisfaction of respondents with play equipment is shown in **Figure 3.15** and **Figure 3.16**.

Figure 3.15: Level of satisfaction with quantity and quality of equipped play facilities

Q25 Overall, how satisfied are you with the amount and quality of equipped play facilities in Shepway ?

Answered: 221 Skipped: 159

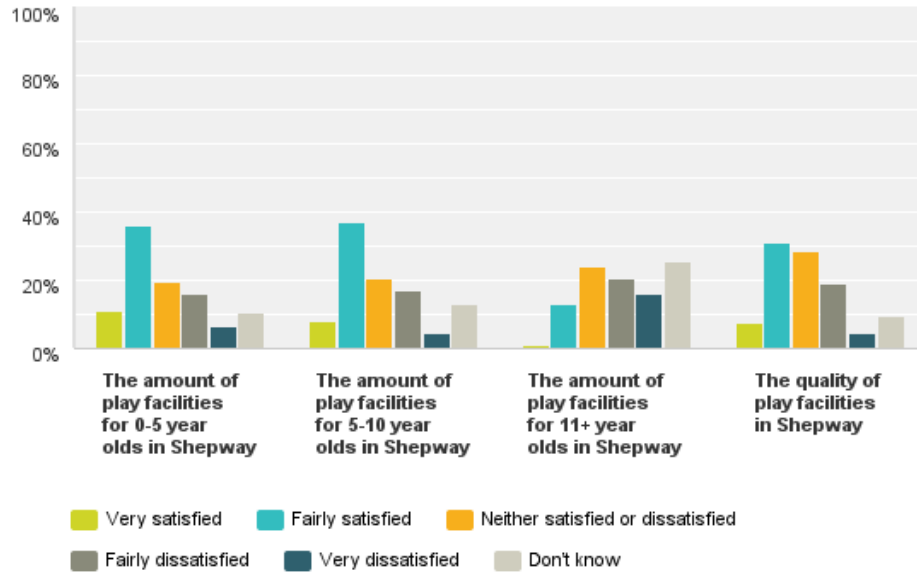
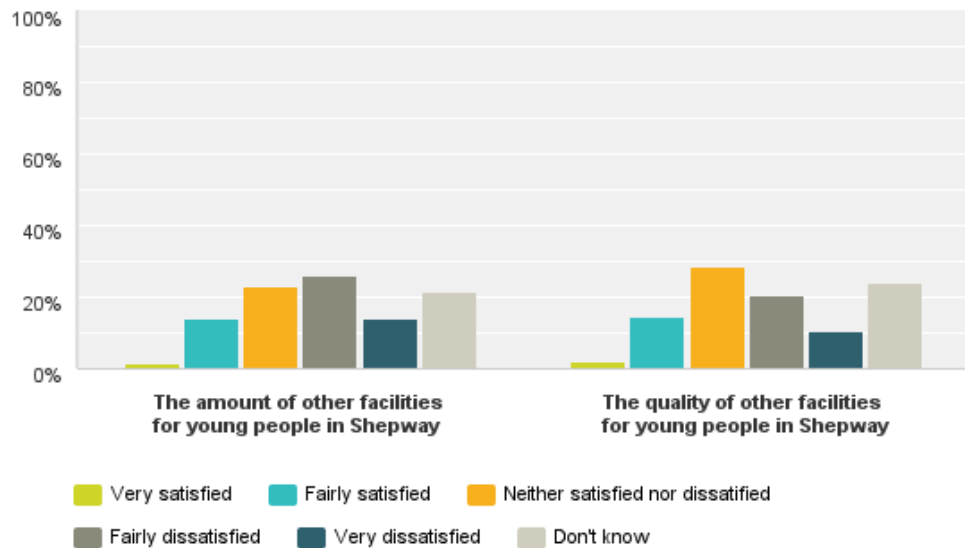


Figure 3.16: Level of satisfaction with quantity and quality of other facilities for young people

Q26 Overall, how satisfied are you with the amount and quality of other facilities for young people in Shepway? (e.g. skate parks, teen shelters, bmx tracks, climbing walls, green gyms etc.)

Answered: 228 Skipped: 152



Summary of feedback from stakeholder consultation

3.67 The stakeholder consultation focussed on the targeted consultation of a number of internal and external stakeholders who are involved in the maintenance and management of elements of Shepway’s open spaces.

Correspondence

3.68 In producing the open space study a number of different organisations and individuals have been consulted. A questionnaire was issued to ascertain how stakeholders are involved in the management and use of Shepway’s open spaces. The questionnaire also sought to understand views on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the network of open space in Shepway. Stakeholders were also asked to provide thoughts on quality, value and accessibility of open spaces. The questionnaire was issued to groups and/or individuals or was used to facilitate phone discussions.

3.69 One or more representatives of the following teams and organisations were contacted through this study:

- Shepway District Council
 - Housing
 - Planning
 - Ground Maintenance

- Communities
- Environmental Protection
- Health and Wellbeing
- Economic Development
- All councillors (inc. Town, Parish and Ward)
- Schools
- Kent County Council
- Ministry of Defence
- Voluntary, community and disability groups
- Businesses
- Residents associations
- Church groups
- Neighbouring local authorities

Results

3.70 In summary the main points arising out of the consultation are:

Strengths

- There are some larger well maintained sites including Brockhill Country Park, Lower Leas Coastal Park and Dungeness. These sites are also important for wildlife and utilising natural and coastal features.
- Open spaces are generally well maintained with support from the Community Safety Unit within Shepway District Council.
- Open spaces are important for the development of children, providing time away from phones, computers and televisions.
- There is generally good disabled access within open spaces.
- Sites largely have good public transport access.

Weaknesses

- Graffiti, vandalism and litter are evident in some form at a large proportion of sites.
- Lack of good quality and clean toilets.
- Lack of parking provision noted for a range of sites.
- Lack of community gardens (growing fruit and vegetables).

Opportunities

- Improved advertising of open spaces and events.
- An improved events programme encouraging competition and challenges for fitness.

Threats

- Anti-social behaviour.

Workshops

3.71 On Wednesday 7th December 2016 a stakeholder workshop was held at Shepway District Council Civic Centre. The workshop was held to inform the development of the Open Space Study together with the Play Area Review and Strategy. This event was aimed at key stakeholders and a complete list of attendees and minutes of the workshop can be found in **Appendix 4**.

3.72 The aim of this session was to communicate the overall process and objectives of the Open Space Study and to enable an open sharing of views about the state of the open space provision in

Shepway. Views on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were discussed alongside future priorities and comments on specific sites.

3.73 The headline findings from this consultation are outlined below:

Strengths

- Larger key open spaces, such as the Warren, are important for communities.
- There is a huge amount of open space in Shepway and the district includes a coastal path.

Weaknesses

- Accessibility can be difficult at some sites and during wet seasons.
- Communities in East Folkestone do not have good access to open spaces.
- There are not enough facilities for young people (11+) age group.

Opportunities

- Establish a network in Shepway where land managers and stakeholders are able to discuss and share knowledge.
- Utilise railway land and corridors.
- Promote the use of urban spaces for temporary events or to create community gardens.
- Link with the wider health agenda within Shepway and Kent County Council e.g. current strategy for tackling health and wellbeing by SDC.
- A sustainability appraisal is needed for Dungeness as there is likely to be an increase in use from residents in Ashford where population is expected to increase.

Threats

- There are problems with anti-social behaviour by young people. This is possibly due to a reduction in community facilities.
- Budget restrictions.
- Sustainability of management of all open spaces is a concern and capacity for management varies between parish/towns.

4 Development and application of standards

Proposed Standards

Open space standards

- 4.1 This chapter recommends open space standards for Shepway which will help guide the management and enhancement of the open space network. These have been defined through a review of the open space network in the district, alongside consideration of nationally recognised provision standards, and those adopted by neighbouring districts.
- 4.2 Four types of open space standards have been developed:
- **Accessibility:** The maximum distance residents should be required to travel to use an open space of a specific typology.
 - **Quantity:** The amount (measured in m² or hectares) of each open space typology which should be provided as a minimum per 1,000 head of population.
 - **Quality:** The condition of the open space provided in each typology and, where applicable, hierarchy.
 - **Value:** The functionality of the open space provided in each typology.
- 4.3 Benchmarking was undertaken as part of the analysis to ensure the proposed open space standards for Shepway are feasible, and promote a similar approach to that applied elsewhere.

Play area standards

- 4.4 Proposed standards for play area provision were compiled separately through the *Shepway Play Area Review (2017)*. Proposed standards are set out at the end of the chapter and have been calculated using the population figures of 110,034 which are from the most recent 2015 Mid Year Estimates from The Office for National Statistics (ONS)²⁸.

Quantity standards

- 4.5 The quantitative standards define the amount of open space that should be available to the communities within Shepway. The standards provide a measure against which existing provision can be assessed and guidance for additional provision in new development. Published guidance provides a useful reference for setting the quantity standard, but, in order to ensure the standards are relevant to Shepway, they reflect the findings of the audits in terms of existing levels of provision and take into account consultation findings to gauge whether the community considers the level of existing provision to be sufficient or not.
- 4.6 The quantity standards have been developed by assessing the existing quantity of each open space typology. The basis for the quantity standards was the average quantity of combined open space provision in the district. This was then reviewed against both national guidelines on open space provision, for example Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards.
- 4.7 Benchmarking was undertaken as part of the analysis, to ensure the proposed open space standards for Shepway are feasible, and promote a similar approach to that applied elsewhere.
- 4.8 Rather than develop a quantity standard for each typology, the following complementary typologies have been grouped together.

²⁸ Office for National Statistics Website, 2016. *Ward Level Mid-Year Population Estimates*. Available at: <<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/wardlevelmidyearpopulationestimatesexperimental>> [Accessed 27 October 2016]

- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi-natural urban green space

- 4.9 This enables the delivery of meaningful open space rather than a series of smaller open spaces of differing types. The additional identified open space is not included within the quantity standard as this study is largely looking at open space provision within and around urban areas.
- 4.10 There is no current national standard for the quantity of allotment provision. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) have suggested a national standard of 0.125 ha per 1,000 head of population based on an average plot size of 250 square metres. In 2006 the University of Derby completed a study on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister which indicated that the average provision of allotments was then 13 plots per 1,000 households.
- 4.11 No quantity standards have been proposed for cemeteries and churchyards or green corridors.
- 4.12 **Table 4.1** sets out the proposed quantity standards for open space provision in Shepway. These are based on current provision and what needs to be provided.
- 4.13 Any developer with a development over 10 dwellings should refer to these standards in addition to Shepway District Council’s Planning Policy Teams latest contribution requirements and the local demographic. The development should contribute to eliminating any open space deficiency through on-site or off-site provision after SDC can determine the size and scale of the development, existing accessibility to open space within the area, suitability of the site e.g. flood risk and topography, availability of land and provision in the surrounding area including any proposed provision. Typically on-site provision is normally sought for amenity green space and natural and semi-natural greenspace above 20 dwellings and for play areas above 10 dwellings. On-site provision of allotments and parks and gardens is normally sought above 250+ dwellings.

Table 4.1: Quantity standards for open space

Typology	Proposed standard	Justification
Parks and gardens Natural and semi-natural greenspace	2.89 ha/1000 head of population	This is the current provision of publicly accessible open space in Shepway based on mid 2015 population data. Open spaces which are not accessible to the public have not been included within this calculation. Setting the standard at this level of provision will ensure that provision should not fall below the existing quantity per 1,000 head of population as the population grows.
Allotments	0.12 ha/1000 population	This is the current provision of publicly accessible open space in Shepway based on mid 2015 population data.

- 4.14 **Table 4.2** sets out the quantity of provision based on the current population and how provision will change with the projected increase in population.

Table 4.2: Application of open space quantity standard with the population increase

Committee Area	Publicly accessible open space (ha)	Population 2015	Population 2031	Provision ha per 1,000 people 2015	Provision ha per 1,000 people 2031	Additional quantity of open space required to maintain open space standard in 2031
Shepway District Council	318.20	110,034	117,700	2.89	2.70	0.19 ha per 1,000 head of population

Accessibility standards

- 4.15 The accessibility standard defines the maximum distance that users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of open space. This can be presented spatially by use of an 'accessibility catchment' which is effectively a mapped buffer around facilities and spaces.
- 4.16 The accessibility standards for open space provision are set out in Natural England's Natural Accessible Natural Greenspace Model in the Mayor of London's guidance on open space strategies. Reference has been made to this guidance and also to standards within comparable local authorities and to the results of consultation. Accessibility standards have not been proposed for green corridors and cemeteries and churchyards. This reflects the fact that proximity is not considered to be a requirement of this open space type.
- 4.17 There is no current national standard for the accessibility distances for allotment provision. A standard of 1.2km has therefore been set for provision in Shepway. This is equivalent to a 5min drive/ 15 minute walk.
- 4.18 **Table 4.3** sets out the accessibility standards for open space provision in Shepway.

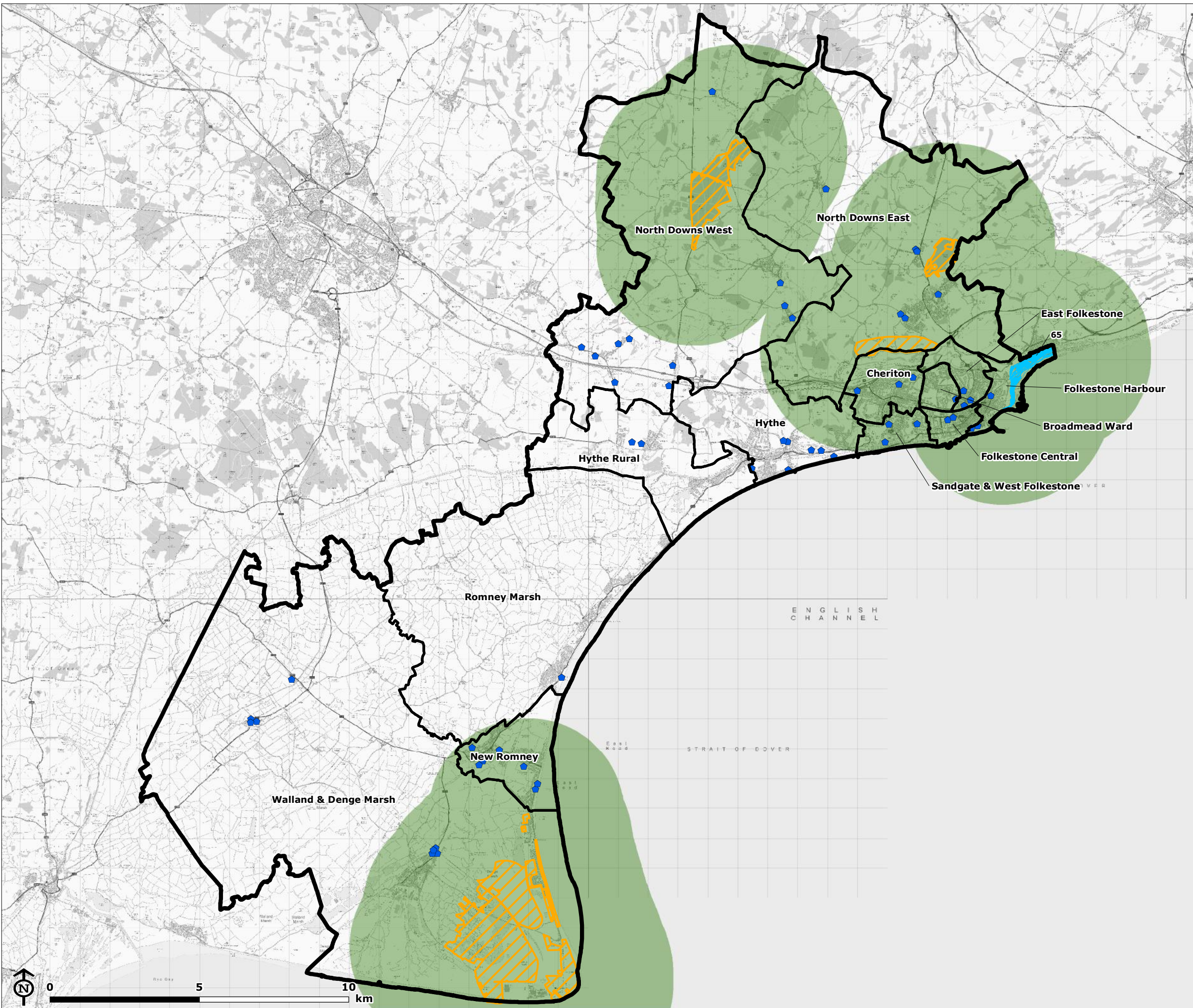
Table 4.3: Accessibility standards for open space provision in Shepway

Typology/ hierarchy	Proposed standard
Parks and gardens	
• District	1.2km
• Local	400m
• Small Local	280m
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	
• Sub-Regional	3.2km
• District	1.2km
• Local	400m
• Small Local	280m
Green corridor	N/A
Amenity green space	280m
Allotments	1.2km
Cemeteries and churchyards	N/A

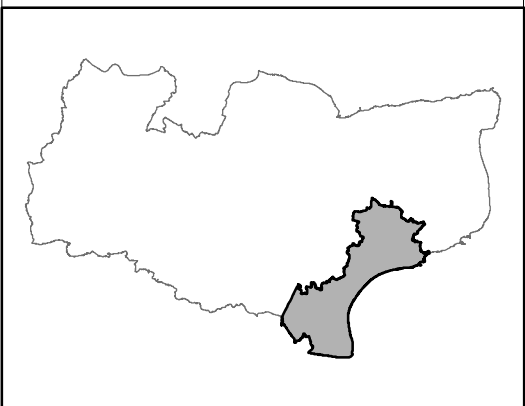
- 4.19 **Figures 4.1-4.5** show the access to each type and hierarchy of open space in Shepway. The quality and value ratings of each open space are shown together with the proposed locations for future residential development.

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 4.1: Sub-Regional Site Access



- Shepway boundary
- Shepway ward boundary
- Accessibility Catchment (3.2km)
- Quality/Value Rating**
- Low Quality/Low Value
- Residential allocation
- Additional identified open space

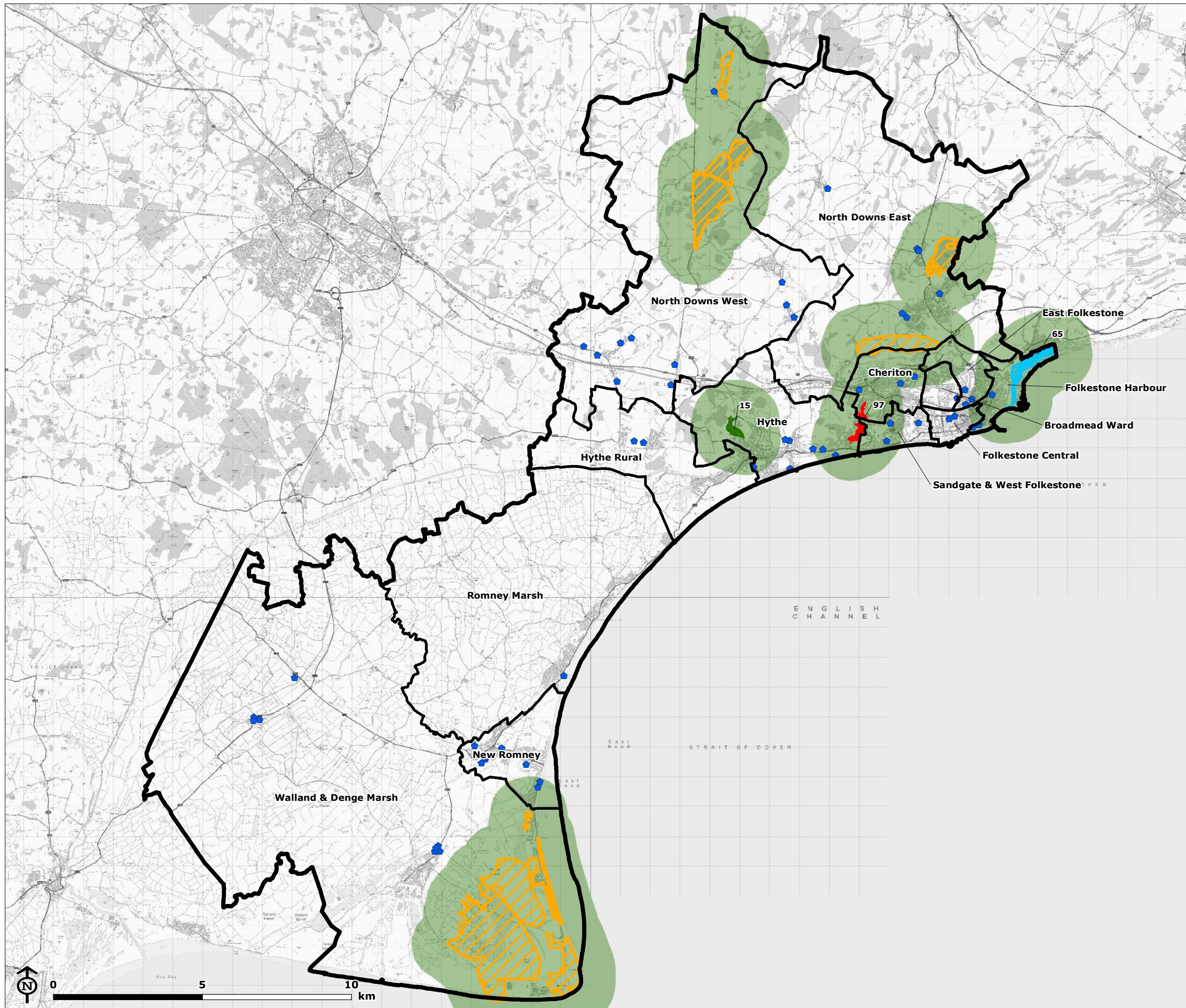


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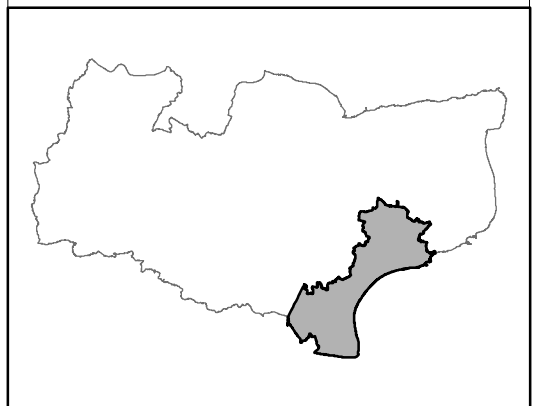


Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 4.2: District Site Access



- Shepway boundary
- Shepway ward boundary
- Accessibility Catchment (1.2km)
- Quality/Value Rating**
- High Quality/High Value
- Low Quality/High Value
- Low Quality/Low Value
- Residential allocation
- Additional identified open space

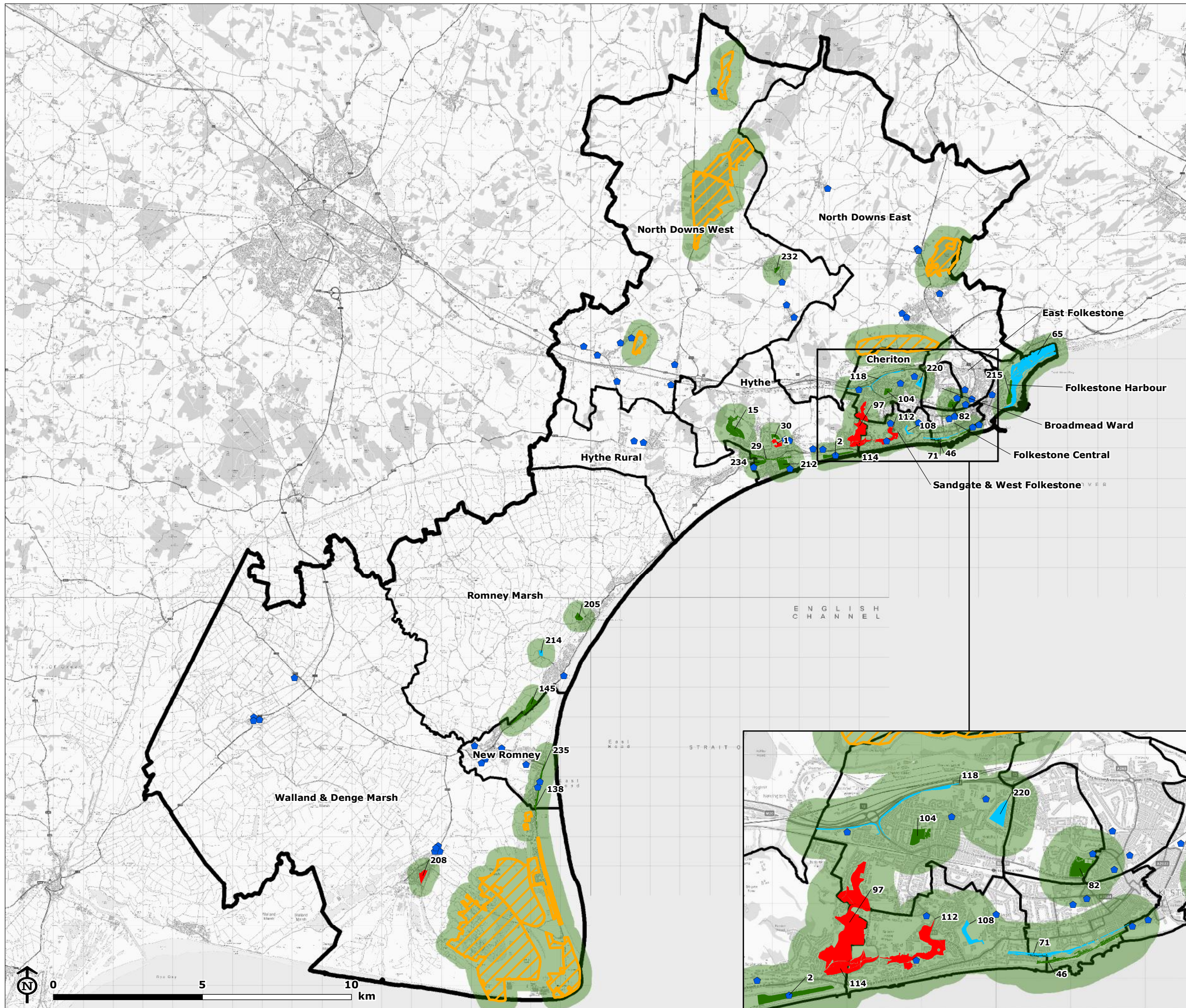


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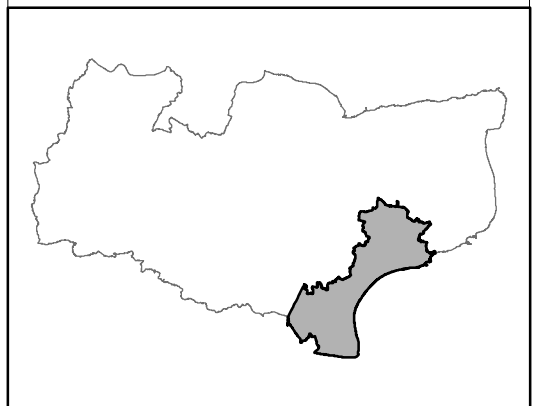


Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 4.3: Local site access



- Shepway boundary
- Shepway ward boundary
- Accessibility Catchment (400m)
- Quality/Value Rating**
- High Quality/High Value
- High Quality/Low Value
- Low Quality/High Value
- Low Quality/Low Value
- Residential allocation
- Additional identified open space

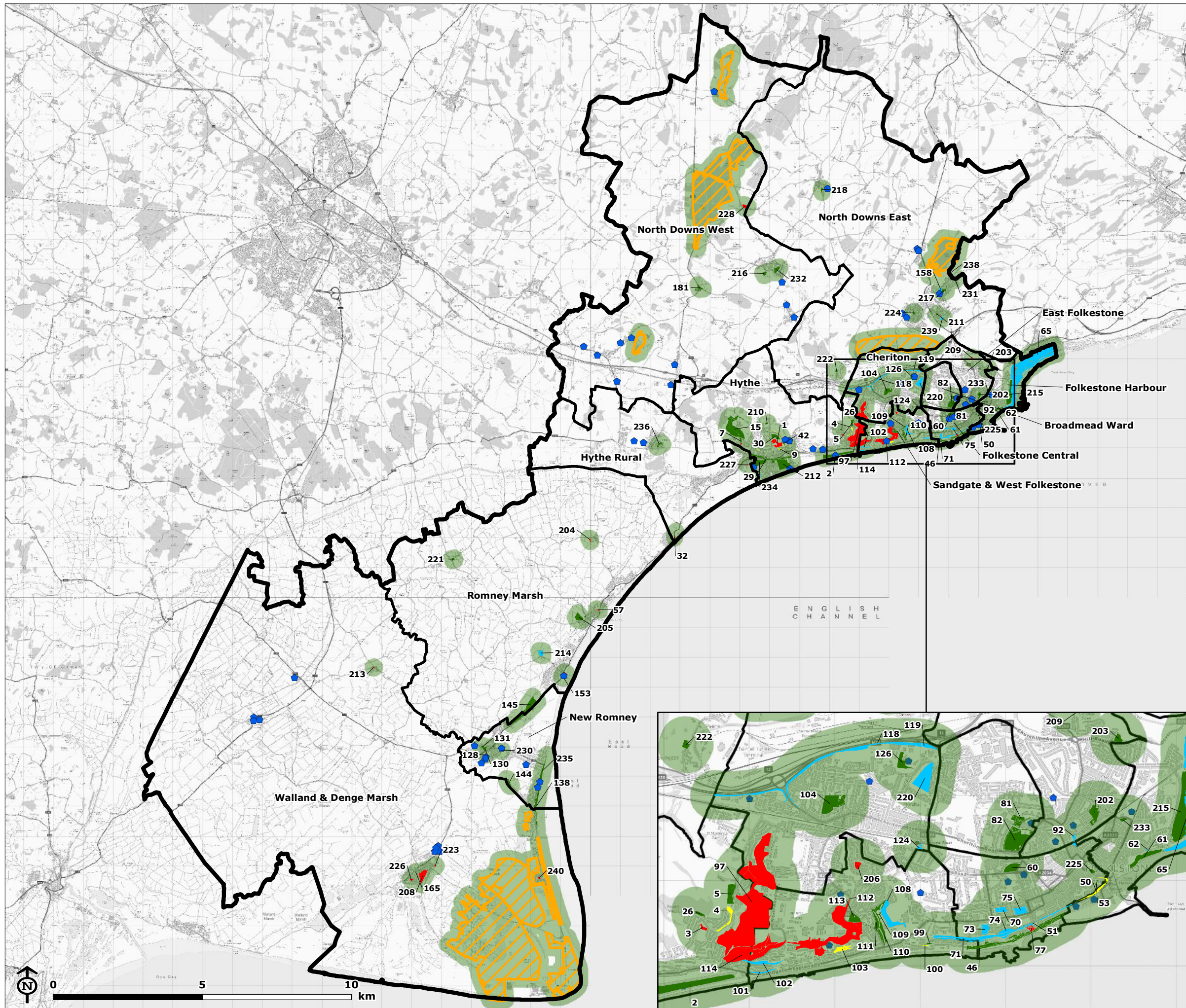


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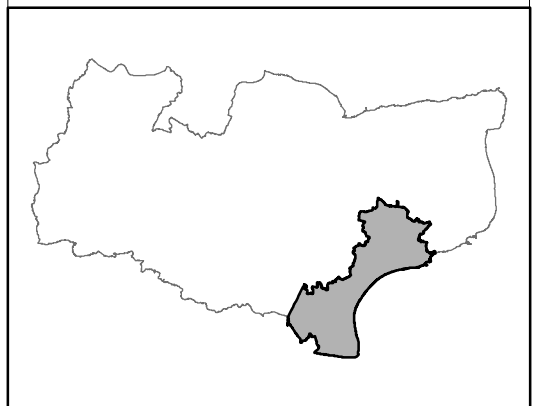


Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 4.4: Small Local Site Access










- Shepway boundary
- Shepway ward boundary
- Accessibility Catchment (280m)
- Quality/Value Rating**
- High Quality/High Value
- High Quality/Low Value
- Low Quality/High Value
- Low Quality/Low Value
- Residential allocation
- Additional identified open space



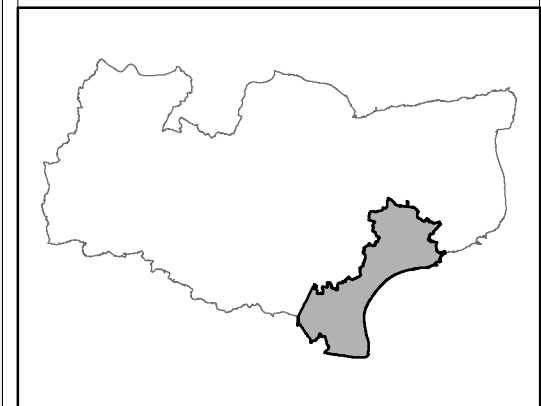
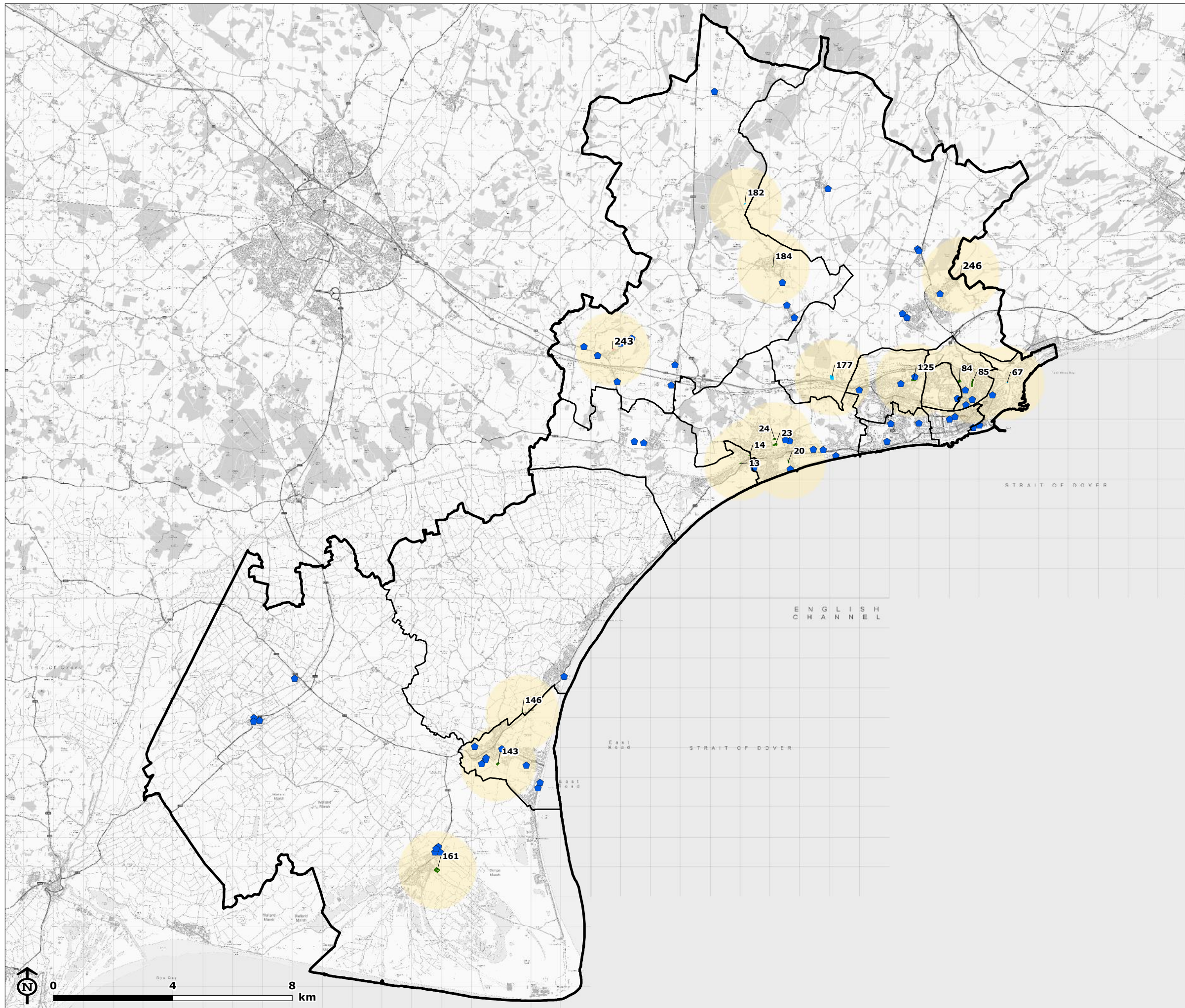
Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 4.5: Allotments Access

-  Shepway boundary
 -  Shepway ward boundary
 -  Accessibility Catchment (1.2km)
- Quality/Value Rating**
-  High Quality/High Value
 -  High Quality/Low Value
 -  Low Quality/Low Value
 -  Residential allocation

Note: Sites 243 and 246 are additional identified open space



Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000



Quality and value standards

- 4.20 In order to assess the performance of open spaces in terms of quality and value, the following factors have informed the standards:
- Key characteristics expected of spaces within the different typologies and levels of the hierarchy.
 - High quality and/or high value sites within Shepway which provide a 'benchmark' against which to assess sites.
 - Ensuring standards are set at a level to be aspirational, yet achievable based on existing quality and value.

Quality standard for Shepway

- 4.21 As part of the site audit, each open space was assessed for quality against the Green Flag Award criteria, and the condition of the various components of a site rated as very good, good, fair, poor or very poor. This assessment was then transposed through the scoring system into a quality score.
- 4.22 In order to develop a quality standard which is appropriate for the type and function of open spaces in Shepway, the existing quality of provision was reviewed by typology and the associated hierarchy level. Through reviewing the range of quality scores it was possible to form a quality threshold score, i.e. a minimum level of quality which should be achieved at any open space. A threshold score has been defined for each level of hierarchy reflecting the ideal score scenario for a good quality site.

Value standard for Shepway

- 4.23 Value is fundamentally different from quality; a space can be valued for a range of reasons even if it is of low quality. Value mainly relates to the following:
- **Context:** an easily accessible space is higher value than one that is inaccessible to potential users, equally the value of a space may diminish if it is immediately adjacent to several others which provides the same function.
 - **Level and type of use:** the primary purpose and associated use of a space can increase its value – well used spaces are of high value to people, similarly spaces with diverse habitats can be well used by wildlife and can be interpreted as having a high value.
 - **Wider benefits:** the benefits a space generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment including the following – landscape, ecology, education, social inclusion and health benefits, cultural and heritage, amenity benefits, 'sense of place' and economic benefits.
- 4.24 The open space audit included information to be evaluated as part of the value assessment such as the value of play spaces, the presence of community facilities and the biodiversity value of habitats. The relevant audit information was reviewed to develop a value threshold score specific to the different types of open space in Shepway. A list of key characteristics was developed which could be expected of sites of a particular typology and at a particular level of the hierarchy.

Setting benchmark standards for quality and value

- 4.25 In order to assess the sites consistently the audit forms were scored. The scores for each site were separated into factors that relate to quality and value. Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated. For example, an open space may be of high quality but if it is not accessible it is of little value, while if an open space is poor quality but has a wide range of facilities it is potentially of high value.
- 4.26 The value and quality scoring can be reviewed by total score or by the audit themes (linked to the Green Flag Award criteria). Each site was audited using a standard form with scores allocated to relevant criteria.

- 4.27 The scoring results were listed in sequential order for both quality and value to help to determine which overall score and open space (exemplar site) within the scale meets good quality and good value. Subsequently this informed whether an open space is ranked above or below the quality and value threshold within its typology/hierarchy.
- 4.28 **Table 4.4** sets out the quality standards for Shepway highlighting those exemplar sites representing good quality. Typologies and hierarchies with 'no sufficient exemplar' are those which do not have an existing good quality or value exemplar site. Typologies and hierarchies with 'no specific exemplar' do not have a representative good quality or value site.

Table 4.4: Quality standards for Shepway

Typology/ hierarchy	Proposed standard	Example of a good quality open space
Parks and gardens	-	
• District	76	Brockhill Country Park
• Local	52	The Greens
• Small Local	42	Lower Radnor Park
Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces	-	
• Sub-Regional	42	No sufficient exemplar
• District	39	No sufficient exemplar
• Local	33	No specific exemplar
• Small Local	22	No specific exemplar
Green corridor	37	Royal Military Canal
Amenity green space	N/A	
Allotments	34	Park Farm Road Allotments
Cemeteries and churchyards	38	St Peters churchyard, Monks Horton

- 4.29 **Table 4.5** sets out the value standards for Shepway.

Table 4.5: Value standards for Shepway

Typology/ hierarchy	Proposed standard	Example of a good value open space
Parks and gardens	-	
• District	76	Brockhill Country Park
• Local	44	South Road Recreation Ground
• Small Local	19	The Zig Zag Path
Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces	-	
• Sub-Regional	46	No sufficient exemplar
• District	34	Open Space Adjacent to Horn Street
• Local	24	Eaton Lands Meadow
• Small Local	20	The Ridgeway Trim Trail
Green corridor	26	Dymchurch and SMB Beach
Amenity green space	N/A	
Allotments	20	Park Farm Road Allotments

Typology/ hierarchy	Proposed standard	Example of a good value open space
Cemeteries and churchyards	24	St Eanswythes Churchyard

- 4.30 Each open space has been rated with a combined quality and value band using the format of +/- symbols to annotate each band (i.e. high quality/ high value is shown as ++, high quality/low value is shown as +-). A full list of the open spaces audited through this study is contained within **Appendix 3**.
- 4.31 **Table 4.6** below suggests the future management approach to open spaces within each band.

Table 4.6: Quality and value matrix

High Quality/High Value	High Quality/ Low Value
++	+-
<p>These sites are considered to be the best open spaces within the district offering the greatest value and quality for the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Future management should seek to maintain the standard for these spaces and ensure they continue to meet the requirements of the communities they serve.</p> <p>Ideally all spaces should fit into this category.</p>	<p>These sites have been scored as being of high quality but low value.</p> <p>Wherever possible the preferred management approach to a space in the category should aim to enhance its value in terms of its present primary typology or purpose.</p> <p>If this is not possible, the best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to another typology.</p>
Low Quality/ High Value	Low Quality/ Low Value
-+	--
<p>These spaces meet or exceed the required value standard but fall below the required quality standard.</p> <p>Future management should therefore seek to enhance their quality to ensure that the open spaces are welcoming and safe for use by the local community.</p>	<p>These spaces are falling below the applicable value and quality standards and therefore their future enhancement should be considered to be a priority.</p>

Proposed standards for play area provision

- 4.32 The proposed standards for play provision are set out in **Table 4.7** below. Proposed standards were calculated using the population figures of 110,034 which are from the most recent 2015 Mid Year Estimates from The Office for National Statistics (ONS)²⁹.
- 4.33 Further detail regarding the site assessments, the analysis process and wards meeting or failing to meet the Fields in Trust quantity benchmark are contained within the *Shepway Play Area Review (2017)*. The Fields in Trust recommended benchmark quantity standard is 0.25 hectares per 1000 population for equipped/designated play areas. Shepway standards as a whole fall below this as indicated below. However there a number of local factors which explain this, including Shepway's older population and rural character. The Fields in Trust standards have been criticised

²⁹ Office for National Statistics Website, 2016. *Ward Level Mid-Year Population Estimates*. Available at: <<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/wardlevelmidyearpopulationestimatesexperimental>> [Accessed 27 October 2016]

because they are often seen as undeliverable, and can result in a proliferation of play areas that can be difficult to maintain, as well as setting unrealistic aspirations in the urban context where insufficient land is available.

- 4.34 The standards below propose quantities of play space by play area classification which should be delivered on site through development over 10 dwellings where feasible. In addition funding should be provided to ensure off-site provision is made to these standards for destination NEAP, LEAP and LAP sites. *The Places and Policies Local Plan, Preferred Options (2016)*³⁰ contains Policy C4 Formal play space provision; which highlights current requirements for developer contributions, these closely relate to the latest Fields in Trust guidance³¹. The standards aim to ensure any deficiencies are met, as well as providing for an increase in population with development.
- 4.35 Any developer with a development over 10 dwellings should refer to these standards in addition to Shepway District Council’s Planning Policy Teams latest contribution requirements and the local demographic. On-site and off-site provision via developer contributions should be applied to sites with reduced scores and benchmarks. On smaller residential developments, of up to about 10 dwellings or within town centres, because of the limitations on providing satisfactory on-site provision, part or all of the play area may be best provided for in the form of a financial contribution, of equivalent value to on-site provision, towards the enhancement and management of play areas. Reference should be made to the *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)* as well as the evidence within the *Shepway Play Area Review (2017)*.

Table 4.7: Proposed standards for play provision in Shepway

Type of standard	Proposed standard	Justification
Quantity	Destination: 0.003 hectares per 1,000 population NEAP: 0.080 hectares per 1,000 population LEAP: 0.077 hectares per 1,000 population LAP: 0.005 hectares per 1,000 population	This is based on the current provision of play spaces in Shepway. Setting the standard at this level of provision will ensure that provision should (as a minimum) not fall below the existing quantity per 1,000 population as the population grows. Guided by the Fields in Trust guidance <i>Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard</i> ³²
Accessibility	Destination 1000m (15 minute walk) NEAP 600m (10 minute walk) LEAP 240m (5 minute walk) LAP 60m (1 minute walk)	Straight line distance outlined by the Fields in Trust guidance <i>Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard</i> ³³
Location	Destination 85.71% - Exemplar: Lower Leas	Expected score for a good well located site

³⁰ Shepway District Council, 2016. *The Places and Policies Local Plan, Preferred Options* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/3897/Places-and-Policies-Local-Plan-Oct-2016/pdf/Places_and_Policies_Local_Plan_Final_Plan_2.pdf> [Accessed 2 May 2017].

³¹ Fields in Trust, 2015. *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard* [pdf] available at: <<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/PAD/FINAL%20ONLINE%20Planning%20Guidance%20for%20Outdoor%20Sport%20and%20Play%20Provision%20Oct%202015.pdf>> [Accessed 8 September 2016].

³² Fields in Trust, 2015. *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard* [pdf] available at: <<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/PAD/FINAL%20ONLINE%20Planning%20Guidance%20for%20Outdoor%20Sport%20and%20Play%20Provision%20Oct%202015.pdf>> [Accessed 8 September 2016].

³³ Fields in Trust, 2015. *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard* [pdf] available at: <<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/PAD/FINAL%20ONLINE%20Planning%20Guidance%20for%20Outdoor%20Sport%20and%20Play%20Provision%20Oct%202015.pdf>> [Accessed 8 September 2016].

Type of standard	Proposed standard	Justification
	Coastal Park Fun Zone NEAP 74.29% - Exemplar: Canterbury Road Recreation Ground LEAP 62.86% - Exemplar: Tayne Field (adjacent public house) LAP 62.86% - Exemplar: Blenheim Drive	
Value	Destination 74% - Exemplar: Brockhill Country Park NEAP 72% - Exemplar: Canterbury Road Recreation Ground LEAP 68% - Exemplar: Elmfields LAP 55% - Exemplar: Megan Close	Expected score for a good value site
Quality	Destination 65.71% - Exemplar: Brockhill Country Park NEAP 60% - Exemplar: Cheriton Recreation Area LEAP 54.29% - Exemplar: Newington Village Hall LAP 52% - Exemplar: Atkinson Road Play Area	Expected score for a good quality site

Application of the proposed open space standards

- 4.36 The standards proposed have been applied to sites in Shepway to get an understanding of the extent to which standards are being achieved and also to determine where there are deficiencies that need to be addressed.

Quantity

- 4.37 **Table 4.8** shows how provision of open space reduces with an increase of population. The North Downs analysis area and Romney Marsh analysis area are currently below the quantity standard in 2015 and this is likely to be exacerbated to a small extent by 2031. This is not in itself a reason to preclude development in this area though. Instead, it will be particularly important to secure new open spaces within these areas. There is access to larger spaces away from the urban and residential context including West Wood and Park Wood and Dungeness respectively. Many of the area's residents are not within easy walking distance of a publicly accessible open space due to the lack of local scale provision, and the amount of open space that is in agricultural use.
- 4.38 Proposed development of 12,000 homes at former farmland near Folkestone Racecourse (around Lympe, Westenhangar and Sellindge) to be known as Otterpool Park Garden Town will need to consider appropriate provision of accessible open space within the North Downs analysis area.
- 4.39 *The Places and Policies Local Plan, Preferred Options (2016)*³⁴ highlights the proposed allocations. Shorncliffe Garrison in Folkestone is under construction as a new residential development of up to

³⁴ Shepway District Council, 2016. *The Places and Policies Local Plan, Preferred Options* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/3897/Places-and-Policies-Local-Plan-Oct-2016/pdf/Places_and_Policies_Local_Plan_Final_Plan_2.pdf> [Accessed 2 May 2017].

1,200 homes with improved recreation facilities and a primary school. Folkestone Seafront also has planning permission with a proposal for 1,000 homes and retail units. Proposals for development are also identified at St. Mary's Bay within Romney Marsh analysis area which will also require similar open space considerations. Innovative approaches to new open spaces such as small civic spaces, pocket parks and green corridors will be needed so that developments maximise opportunities for the provision of new open space.

4.40 In 2031 there is a slight deficit of publicly open space provision for Shepway as a whole.

Table 4.8: Application of open space quantity standard to identify shortfall/surplus

Analysis Area	Publicly accessible open space (ha)	Population 2015	Population 2031	Provision ha per 1000 people 2015	Provision ha per 1000 people 2031
Urban	238.66	66,883	-	3.57	-
North Downs	35.65	20,603	-	1.73	-
Romney Marsh	43.89	22,548	-	1.95	-
Shepway	318.20	110,034	117,700	2.89	2.70

4.41 **Table 4.9** shows the current provision of allotments in the district compared to the proposed quantity standard. The findings of the study indicate that there is generally good provision of allotments available for use. The Urban analysis area is currently the area most deficient in allotment provision. Most of the allotment sites included in this study were assessed as being of high quality and value.

4.42 In 2031 there is a small deficit of allotment provision for Shepway as a whole.

Table 4.9: Provision of allotments against the quantity standard to identify shortfall/surplus

Analysis Area	Area of allotments (ha)	Population 2015	Population 2031	Provision ha per 1000 people 2015	Provision ha per 1000 people 2031
Urban	6.64	66,883	-	0.10	-
North Downs	3.31	20,603	-	0.16	-
Romney Marsh	3.39	22,548	-	0.15	-
Shepway	13.34	110,034	117,700	0.12	0.11

Quality, value and accessibility

4.43 **Appendix 3** shows the full list of sites with their quality and value ratings. Application of the proposed quality, value and accessibility standards is explored at the district level below. The analysis is supported by **Figures 4.1-4.5** which show deficiencies in access to open space provision in the district as well as the quality and value ratings for the sites.

4.44 The standards help to form the basis for redressing the quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process by highlighting where investment in existing spaces to enhance their role, or the provision of new spaces, should be focussed.

- 4.45 As a general district-wide theme, analysis of site benchmarking highlights a notable proportion of low value parks, natural and semi-natural green space and green corridors across the district that could benefit from investment to improve their functionality.
- 4.46 The communities which experience some of the greatest population densities are predominantly located within the Urban analysis area which also experiences high levels of Living Environment Deprivation. This area fortunately has a higher quantity of public open space in the district and has largely good sub-regional site access throughout with the exception of Hythe Rural in the west. There are a few pockets within the district which have a notable lack of publicly accessible open space including areas within north-east Romney Marsh, northern areas within Walland and Denge Marsh and Hythe Rural. Furthermore, many of these communities fall outside the catchment areas of the larger sub-regional and district scale open spaces which are located in the northern and southern ends of the district. However, the larger open spaces in the north (including The Warren) are considered to be of lower quality and value.
- 4.47 The North Downs and Romney Marsh analysis areas have lower population densities and the areas do not meet the quantity standard for publicly accessible open space. However there is access to larger spaces away from the urban and residential context including West Wood and Park Wood and Dungeness respectively. Many of the area's residents are not within easy walking distance of a publicly accessible open space due to the lack of local scale provision, and the amount of open space that is in agricultural use.
- 4.48 *The Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* highlighted that play provision throughout Shepway is generally good in terms of distribution with some evident lack of provision for the 11+ age group in terms of quantity. As expected, play areas are predominately located within or adjacent to larger open spaces (e.g. parks and gardens) and the district's residents are not all within easy walking distance of a suitable facility. This was highlighted as an issue through stakeholder consultation alongside maintenance issues and confirmed by the mapping of accessibility catchments. This is likely to be of greatest significance to families with young children who may wish to have access to more local provision.
- 4.49 For older children served by NEAPs and destination sites, there is a wide distribution of sites across the district. Provision in the north of Shepway is particularly good in terms of quantity, location and value. There is a lack of provision of destination play space in the southern half of Shepway compared to the three located in the northern half of Shepway (assessed as parks and gardens for the purposes of the open space strategy). However, the condition of the destination play spaces was generally good.
- 4.50 For the middle age category, largely served by LEAPs, again, levels of provision and distribution are generally good. Provision within the district is reasonable in terms of quantity and accessibility, but the quality of the majority of sites is average to very poor.
- 4.51 There is a lack of provision for the youngest age category (LAPs) in the southern half of the district. Adding to this, the condition of the existing sites are mainly average, poor or very poor throughout the district.
- 4.52 The assessment on the provision of open spaces accessible to residents of Shepway should not be constrained to the district boundary. Significant open spaces in neighbouring district's such as coastal margins within Rother District Council and Dover District Council are likely to contribute greatly to health and wellbeing of residents providing valuable opportunities for formal and informal recreation.
- 4.53 The projected population growth is likely to have a moderate impact on open space provision in Shepway. The provision of new open spaces in areas which experience the greatest levels of open space deficiency should be considered. In addition efforts should be made to ensure existing open spaces are multifunctional and are of a good quality and high value. Attempts should be made to also ensure all sectors of the community are able to easily access open spaces through the removal of physical barriers (e.g. providing safe crossing points across roads) and ensuring open spaces are appropriately promoted.

5 Conclusions and recommendations

Key findings

Open space

- 5.1 **Figures 5.1 - 5.3** compares existing provision for each of the three analysis areas with accessibility standards to show the levels of open space deficiencies within Shepway. It highlights that, despite being a green district, a significant proportion of the district's residents are deficient in access to one or two levels of the open space hierarchy. This can in part be explained by large areas of land that are not available for informal recreation, such as agricultural land, marshland or sports pitches with restricted public access. A large proportion of residents are within the catchment area of a sub-regional scale natural and semi-natural greenspace, although through site audits and consultation these areas tended to require further enhancement for site-based accessibility, quality and value. It is therefore important that these spaces are conserved and sensitively managed to ensure they are able to respond to the anticipated increase in use as well as the likely impacts of a changing climate.
- 5.2 Shepway is also surrounded by large areas of significant open spaces particularly around coastal areas which contribute greatly to the open space network accessible to the residents of Shepway. Although not reflected in the mapped data for this study (as shown on **Figure 5.1** and **Figure 5.3**), these spaces are of particular importance to those communities which are located on the extremities of the district and where there are currently deficiencies of publicly accessible open spaces in Shepway. For example, Walland and Denge Marsh within the south of the district includes the settlements of Brookland and Brenzett which are deficient in access to two levels of the hierarchy. However it is likely open space in the vicinity of Camber help to alleviate some of these deficiencies. SDC should therefore continue to work with the surrounding local authorities to ensure access to such sites is secured for use by its residents. Shepway District Council should continue to work closely with land owners and parish councils to enable opportunities for new open space provision.
- 5.3 The greatest challenge will be to alleviate deficiencies within pockets of built up residential areas, particularly those immediately to the west of Hythe (within Hythe Rural) and the coastal settlements within Romney Marsh. In addition rural settlements with evident deficiencies also include Lympe and Sellindge in the North Downs. In such locations it will be vital that access to surrounding open spaces is fully promoted and any barriers to access removed/ alleviated. Attempts should also be made to increase the amount of publicly accessible open spaces available in these areas through securing opportunities brought about by proposed development. Currently new open space is to be delivered as a village green at Sellindge. The open space standards outlined in **Section 4** of this study should be used to guide the amount of open space that should be provided within a specific development. Through available funding streams access to surrounding open spaces can also be improved which may enhance links with populated settlements. This can be achieved through improvements to public rights of way with improved marketing and signage.
- 5.4 The extent to which a development should be expected to contribute to open space depends on a range of factors, including the size of development, number and types of residents/ dwellings as well as the existing open space resource in and around the planned development areas.
- 5.5 As a starting point, the quantitative standards set out in **Table 4.1-4.4** and **Table 4.7** can be used to establish how much open space a scheme should support.
- 5.6 Good quantities of publicly accessible open space are identified in areas within the Urban analysis area including the southern margins of the M20 and coastal areas within Folkestone. In addition good quantities are identified within Lyminge in the North Downs analysis area. Lydd, Greatstone and Littlestone and northern areas in New Romney within Romney Marsh analysis area show similar good quantity.

Play facilities

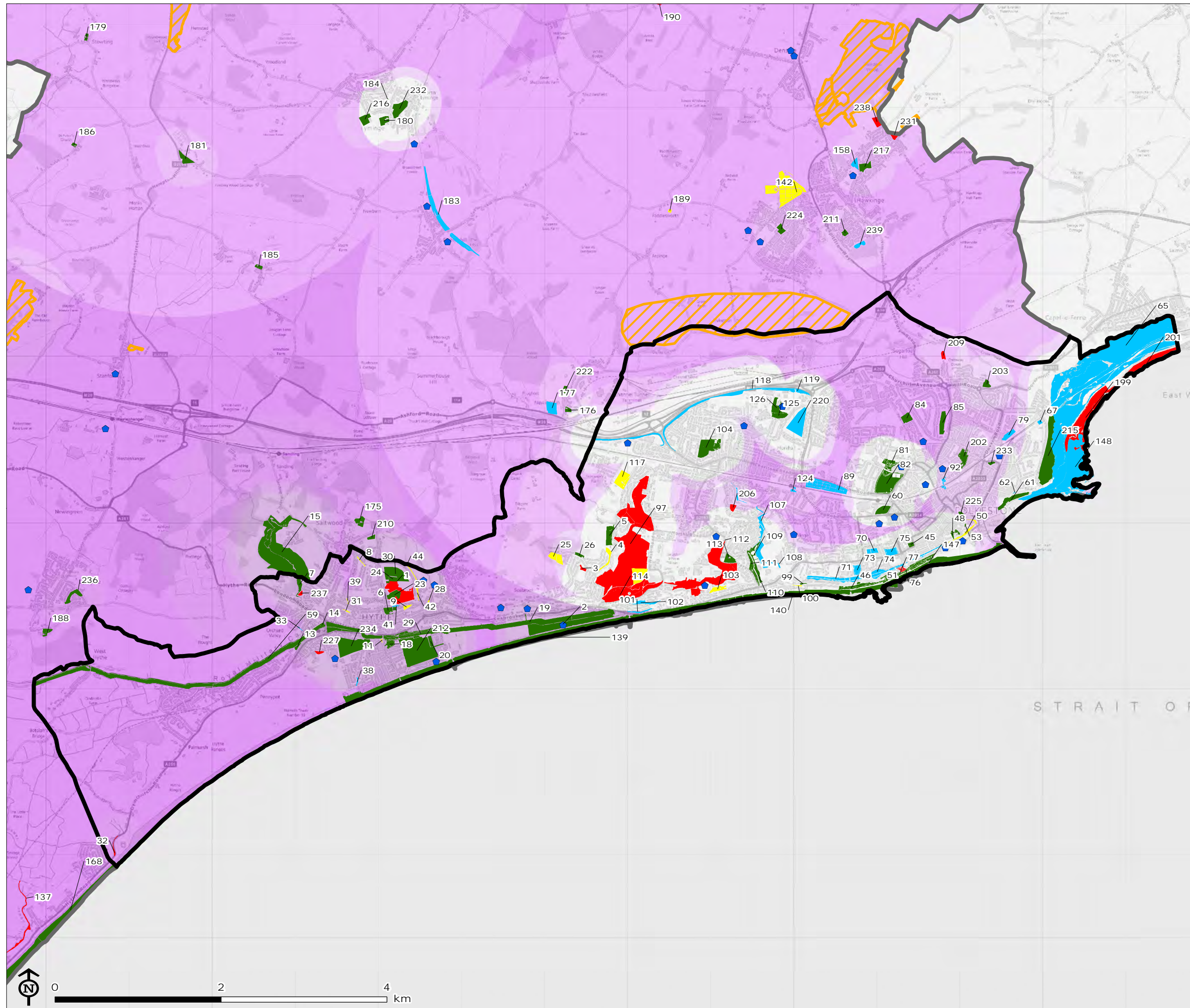
- 5.7 As discussed in **Section 3** play areas are predominately located within or adjacent to larger open spaces (e.g. parks and gardens) and sections of the district's residents are not within easy walking distance of a suitable facility. This was highlighted as an issue through stakeholder consultation and confirmed by the mapping of accessibility catchments. Consultation also revealed concerns with ongoing maintenance of play spaces. Play provision throughout Shepway is generally good in terms of distribution with some evident lack of provision for the 11+ age group in terms of quantity.
- 5.8 *The Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* and *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)* identified deficiencies in play areas within the centre of New Romney, intermittent areas along coastal residential areas in Romney Marsh, to the south-east of Folkestone Harbour and within Broadmead. The results of the audit show that Shepway has a variety of play areas, which are generally well located and offering good play value. However there tends to be issues with the quality of the play areas across the district. Opportunities to provide play facilities within the wider open space network should be considered to address deficiency e.g. provision of natural play features within natural and semi-natural green spaces.

Allotment/Community garden provision

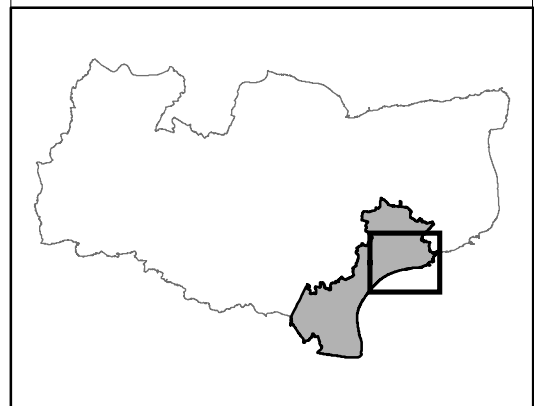
- 5.9 Areas within Romney Marsh analysis area which are deficient in allotment/community garden provision (with many residents more than 1.2km from the nearest allotment/community garden) include north-east Romney Marsh and northern areas within Walland and Denge Marsh. In addition as expected coastal margins in Folkestone within the Urban analysis area are the area most deficient in allotment/community garden provision. The majority of allotments have restricted public access due to allocated use by plot holders. North Downs analysis area and Romney Marsh analysis area have similar quantities of allotments/community gardens of 3.31 ha and 3.39 ha respectively. The Urban analysis area has approximately double the quantity of allotments when compared to the other two areas with 6.64 ha; however there are clear shortfalls in availability of and accessibility to allotments in the vicinity of Sandgate. Settlements which currently lack accessibility to allotments/community gardens include:
- Brookland and nearby Brenzett
 - Dymchurch
 - Stanford
 - Lympne
 - North Elham
 - Stelling Minnis
 - Sandgate and surrounds
- 5.10 In addition, management information from town and parish councils has highlighted a need for further allotment provision particularly within the areas within the remit of Folkestone Town Council and Hythe Town Council due to existing waiting lists.
- 5.11 Overall there is good provision of allotments/community gardens within Shepway, with 0.12 ha per 1000 population compared to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggested national standard of 0.125 ha per 1,000 head of population. . Communities which currently lack available and accessible allotments/community gardens could be encouraged to use sites in other surrounding settlements where feasible. In addition opportunities should be sought to increase the number of allotment plots within the existing sites and where feasible provide additional sites and/or community gardens within those areas with shortages listed above. There may also be opportunities to increase the quality of the existing provision further and to ensure facilities are provided to encourage use by all sections of the community (e.g. suitable paths and raised beds).

Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 5.1: Public Open Space Deficiencies
Urban



- Shepway boundary
- Analysis area
- Residential allocation
- Quality/Value Rating**
- High Quality/High Value
- High Quality/Low Value
- Low Quality/High Value
- Low Quality/Low Value
- Deficiency in access to public open space**
- Deficient in access to 1 level of the hierarchy
- Deficient in access to 2 levels of the hierarchy
- Deficient in access to 3 levels of the hierarchy
- Deficient in access to all levels of the hierarchy
- Additional identified open space

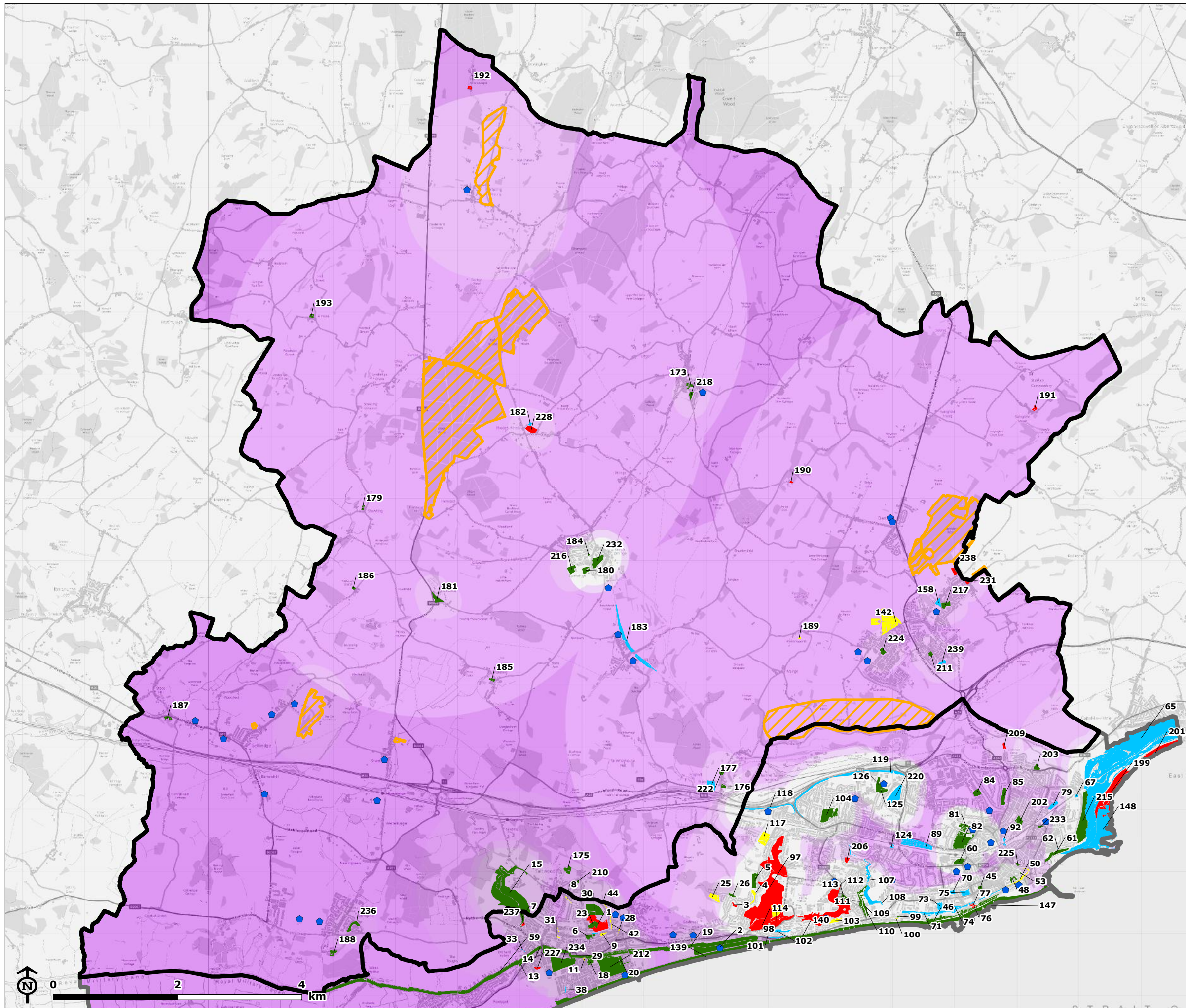


Map Scale @ A3: 1:45,000



Shepway Open Space Strategy

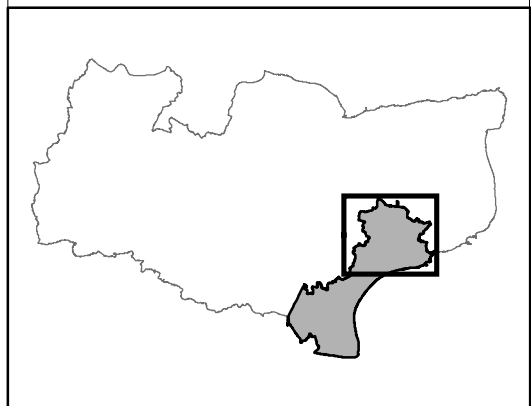
Figure 5.2: Public open space deficiencies North Downs



- Shepway boundary
- Analysis area
- Residential allocation

- Quality/Value Rating**
- High Quality/High Value
 - High Quality/Low Value
 - Low Quality/High Value
 - Low Quality/Low Value

- Deficiency in access to public open space**
- Deficient in access to 1 level of the hierarchy
 - Deficient in access to 2 levels of the hierarchy
 - Deficient in access to 3 levels of the hierarchy
 - Deficient in access to all levels of the hierarchy
 - Additional identified open space

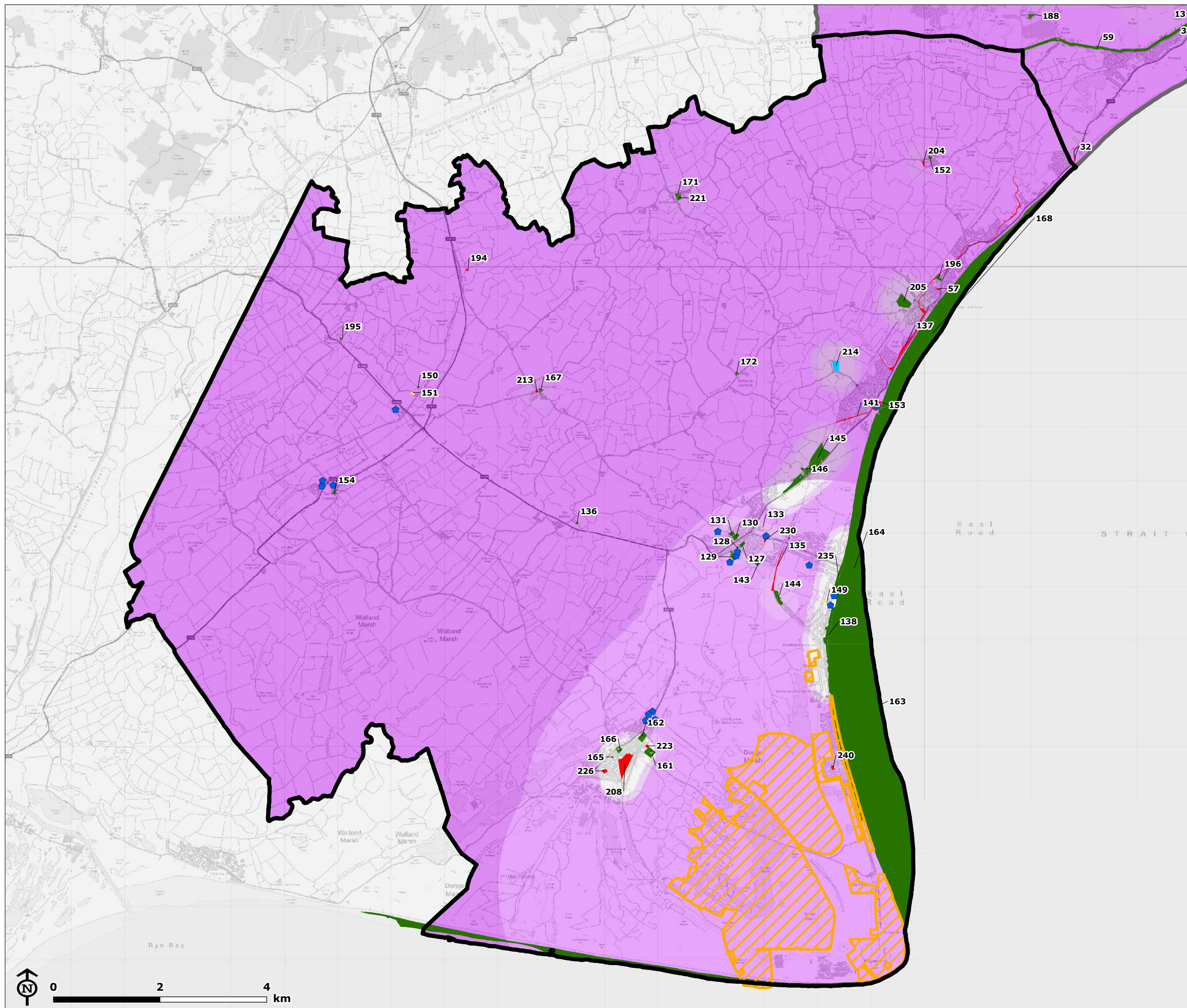


Map Scale @ A3: 1:60,000



Shepway Open Space Strategy

Figure 5.3: Public Open Space Deficiencies Romney Marsh



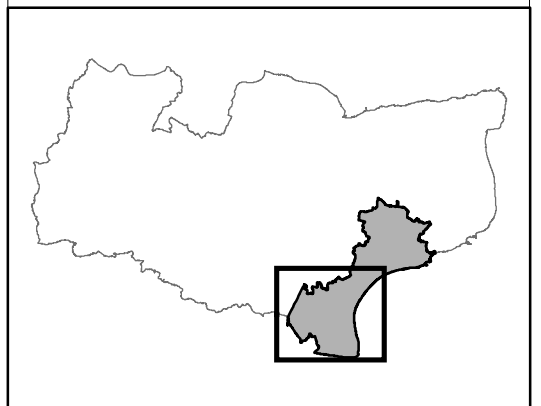
- Shepway boundary
- Analysis area
- Residential allocation

Quality/Value Rating

- High Quality/High Value
- High Quality/Low Value
- Low Quality/High Value
- Low Quality/Low Value

Deficiency in access to public open space

- Deficient in access to 1 level of the hierarchy
- Deficient in access to 2 levels of the hierarchy
- Deficient in access to 3 levels of the hierarchy
- Deficient in access to all levels of the hierarchy
- Additional identified open space



Map Scale @ A3: 1:70,000



Recommendations for management/investment

- 5.12 This section sets out our recommendations for each analysis area. Key priorities for capital investment are The Warren and East Cliff and enhancing existing open spaces including those detailed below.
- 5.13 Refer to **Appendix 6** which includes the detailed site proformas providing further information on site specific recommendations and scores. **Appendix 3** provides a site list with quality and value ratings and therefore identifies those sites which require quality and value enhancements. Regarding play area recommendations reference should be made to *The Shepway Play Area Review (2017)* and *Shepway Play Area Strategy (2017)*.

Urban

- 5.14 The Urban open space is varied and includes Shepway's three Green Flag Award winning open spaces at the Lower Leas Coastal Park, Royal Military Canal and Brockhill Country Park. The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is located along the northern fringes of this analysis area.
- 5.15 Existing green links and corridors should be strengthened including the extensive beaches, cliff-tops and the Royal Military Canal. The Folkestone and Sandgate "Green Chain" links urban and urban fringe sites including the Seabrook Valley, Folkestone Downs, Sandgate Escarpment, the Lower Leas Coastal Park and the East Cliff and The Warren. The publicly accessible sites and their scores and ratings are found within **Appendix 6** and **Appendix 3** respectively.
- 5.16 Future management should focus on enhancing the larger sub-regional open space sites such as The Warren. It should also seek to provide local scale open spaces particularly in areas which experience greatest levels of deprivation together with communities which do not have access to gardens or there is no access to other open spaces.
- 5.17 Opportunities should be sought to provide allotments and/or community gardens within the coastal margins in Folkestone including within the vicinity of Shorncliffe Garrison. In addition civic spaces and pocket parks should be created within built-up areas alongside enhancing amenity green space sites through providing appropriate amenities e.g. site furniture and play areas in residential areas. Improving the quality of existing open spaces (particularly small local open spaces) should be another priority. Particular sites requiring quality enhancements include:
- M20 Screen (Site ID 119)
 - Folkestone West (Site ID 124)
- 5.18 Open spaces in areas which experience the most pronounced deficiencies (as shown in **Figure 5.1**) should be conserved and enhanced to ensure these sites are attractive to the surrounding communities and are able to withstand an increase in use.

North Downs

- 5.19 Significant publicly accessible woodlands which are managed by the Forestry Commission are found within this analysis area including West Wood and Park Wood. The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a number of Local Wildlife Sites also encompass this area for consideration. There is the opportunity to work with the Forestry Commission to improve public access and public recreation within woodland areas.
- 5.20 Deficiencies of open space are identified generally in the North Downs analysis area. Pockets of rural settlements with evident deficiencies include Lympne and Sellindge. Etchinghill Tunnel a green corridor requires potential enhancement and opportunities for improvements to the former railway line between Etchinghill and Lympne are currently being explored. Proposed improvements in quality to small local parks and gardens include:
- Rhodes Minnis Recreation Ground (Site ID 228)
 - Strombers Lane (Site ID 231)
 - Underwood (Site ID 238)

5.21 There is potential that the enhancement of such spaces could be delivered through securing funds through the Community Infrastructure Levy and S106. Opportunities should also be sought to ensure publicly accessible open spaces are provided within new developments, as described within the Core Strategy Review, Places and Policies Local Plan.

Romney Marsh

5.22 There are internationally designated wildlife habitats within the Romney Marsh/Dungeness area for consideration. These areas are popular destinations for local visitor's and visitors from across the county who value its natural beauty. There are high quantities of provision within this analysis area.

5.23 Notably there are a number of green corridors requiring improvements to quality including:

- Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway (Site ID 135)
- Dymchurch Sewer and Environs (Site ID 137)
- New Sewer (Site ID 141)

5.24 These poorer quality sites could be addressed through securing developer contributions.

5.25 In reference to allotments, allotment provision could be increased within north-east Romney Marsh and northern areas within Walland and Denge Marsh.

5.26 Walland and Denge Marsh within the south of the district includes the settlements of Brookland and Brenzett which are deficient in access to two levels of the hierarchy. Opportunities should be sought to ensure publicly accessible open spaces are provided within new developments in the vicinity of these areas. *The Places and Policies Local Plan, Preferred Options (2016)*³⁵ highlights the proposed allocations.

Delivery mechanisms

5.27 In light of the findings of the study, the district will need to carefully consider the options for mechanisms to meet future open space needs in Shepway. The delivery of high quality open space through regeneration and new development will be integral to this, particularly as this study demonstrates that many areas with high levels of deprivation and deficiencies in open space are also the areas highlighted for regeneration and housing delivery.

Additional housing allocation locations are shown within **Figures 5.1-5.3**.

Funding and finance

5.28 The recent Heritage Lottery Fund '*State of UK Parks' report (2014)* highlights the risks posed to open space and other green infrastructure assets by public sector funding cuts. To manage this risk, there will be a need for alternative funding sources for open space provision and maintenance, as well as new forms of governance. The Nesta Rethinking Parks report is a good starting point for options on alternative forms of management and income. Options could include providing membership schemes with a small fee for businesses and users which provide certain benefits and increasing the events and activities on offer that can secure an income for management.

5.29 Different types and sizes of open space may lend themselves to different sources of funding and forms of management. Larger open spaces, such as sub-regional and district scale open spaces, perhaps offer greater opportunities for income generation, through supporting a programme of events and activities. They may also offer greater scope to be multi-functional meaning they can be used more intensively. However smaller open spaces are often of great importance to local communities and management should seek to conserve and strengthen the diversity of open spaces in Shepway.

³⁵ Shepway District Council, 2016. *The Places and Policies Local Plan, Preferred Options* [pdf] available at: <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/media/3897/Places-and-Policies-Local-Plan-Oct-2016/pdf/Places_and_Policies_Local_Plan_Final_Plan_2.pdf> [Accessed 2 May 2017].

Open space delivery through regeneration

- 5.30 Planning policies require implementation through the development management process. This requires a good understanding of the rationale for the policies and ways in which they can be implemented effectively. On-site and off-site provision should be provided depending on the size and scale of the development, existing accessibility to open space within the area, suitability of the site e.g. flood risk and topography, availability of land and provision in the surrounding area including any proposed provision. Open space should be viewed as a fundamental component of any new development. Often the open space that is finally delivered in new schemes does not reflect the visualisations that were submitted at the planning stage. Planning enforcement officers therefore need to ensure that schemes are properly implemented and planning conditions are fully discharged. If a development is required to provide open space on-site and the developer is expected to maintain the open space it is expected that a management plan for the open space would be submitted and approved by the council within the S106 agreement.

Review charges for some uses

- 5.31 There is scope to increase the annual levy on some users of the open space resource. Charges on users could be considered, potentially through creating a membership with an annual levy on users/residents/businesses. This is likely to be controversial however, and should only be considered in the absence of other options for funding parks maintenance.

Sponsorship

- 5.32 Corporate sponsorship is an increasingly important way to secure income for the management of open space sites. Nottingham City Council's parks department, which is on track to achieve its ambition of becoming financially self-sufficient by 2020, has achieved direct sponsorship of six parks in the city. Community groups decide where the sponsorship money will be spent on park improvements. Parks departments may have a dedicated web page on the subject and relevant brochures. Companies can meet their green goals and boost their corporate social responsibility credentials but they can engage their employees, clients or customers with on-the-ground activity in the communities in which they operate. In addition The Land Trust has been working with the private sector to create new green spaces since 1989. Typically developers or other companies that want to create a new green space approach the trust and give an endowment that the trust invests to pay for maintenance.³⁶

Fields in Trust

- 5.33 Fields in Trust (FIT) is a charity which has been legally safeguarding playing fields, play space, recreation grounds and other open spaces since its formation as the National Playing Fields Association in 1925. It currently protects around 2,600 sites covering nearly 12,000ha throughout the UK. Alongside advice and help in drawing up the correct legal protection for the land, the charity gives ongoing advice and expertise on planning matters, technical issues and funding as well as fundraising for the land it has helped to protect. It has given £3.1m in improvement grants to FIT sites since 2012 and could provide opportunities and advice within Shepway.

Partnership

Community partnership

- 5.34 The district could explore partnership approaches to open space management, including Community Asset Transfer by which community groups can take on ownership and maintenance of their own local space. The Localism Act (2011) provides other opportunities for the transfer of land or community assets from statutory bodies to communities, the right for communities to list land as being a community asset and then bid for it should it come up for sale and the right to reclaim underused land from the Local Council or other public bodies.

Partner with other open space managers

- 5.35 The district could also work with other land owners, Kent County Council and the Local Children's Partnership Group to explore options for the installation of appropriate play spaces (including natural play) for example within open space sites.

³⁶ Horticulture Week Website, 2017. *How can parks win more support from sponsors?* Available at: <<http://www.hortweek.com/parks-win-support-sponsors/parks-and-gardens/article/1431634>> [Accessed 31 May 2017]

Cross-sector partnership

- 5.36 There is potential to increase cross-sector working within Shepway in order to achieve the shared goal of delivering healthy sustainable communities. A key partner that the district should approach is the South Kent Coast Health and Wellbeing Board. This Board and the Local Children's Partnership Group may assist in allocating funding for health and well-being priorities on an annual basis, and the benefits offered by good quality open space should be promoted to this Board as a potential mechanism for delivering its objectives.

Delivering open space through new development and the Community Infrastructure Levy

- 5.37 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced through the Planning Act (2008) as a capital cost payable by developers towards the cost of local and sub-regional infrastructure to support development. Open space and recreational facilities are included in the types of infrastructure that are eligible for CIL funding. The NPPF states that the CIL should 'support and incentivise new development' and encourages local authorities to test the feasibility of proposed CIL charges alongside the Local Plan. As stated in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG):
- "The levy can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure, if that is necessary to support development."*
- 5.38 Shepway District Council should use the findings of this study to inform where investment is targeted in the future, both in terms of on-site open space provision, and also developer contributions in the form of CIL and/ or S106. Consideration of the typology, size, and function (including scope for multi-functionality) will all be important in ensuring investment alleviates existing and future deficiencies. Reference should be made to the *Shepway District Council Core Strategy Local Plan Draft Infrastructure Assessment and Delivery Plan (2015)*.
- 5.39 The Council will need to determine an integrated cost per m2 which all developments should contribute towards the creation and maintenance of open space.
- 5.40 The broad approach would involve the following tasks:
- Identify future green infrastructure and open space needs (in terms of enhancement and creation) based on the application of the standards set out in this report to the preferred option for development;
 - Broadly cost the necessary green infrastructure and open space investment needed;
 - Identify funding likely to be available for green infrastructure and open space;
 - Identify the potential funding gap (difference between the funding required and the funding available); review the potential effect of required CIL on the economic viability of new development in the district;
 - Quantify the approximate green infrastructure and open space tariff per household, based on the total funding gap divided by the planned number of new dwellings.

Appendix 1
Planning policy context review

Shepway Open Space Strategy – Policy context

Policy document	Date/Reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Study	Relevant element of the Shepway Open Space Strategy
NPPF	2012 Paras 73, 74, 76, 77 and 78 Duty to cooperate: Paras 156 and 178-181	<p>Para 73 essentially provides the rationale for the study, what the study should comprise of and how it feeds into the strategic allocations of new open space as well as managing existing open spaces. It states that:</p> <p>“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.”</p> <p>Para 74 sets out the only circumstances in which an open space can be developed for different uses. It clarifies that existing open space should not be built on unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or • the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or • the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss. <p>Para 77 describes the Local Green Space designation requirements, this could inform the audit and perhaps used to help designate new Local Green Spaces.</p> <p>Para 78 states that “Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts”.</p> <p>The ‘duty to cooperate’ is a legal requirement of the plan preparation process and is set out in Section 110 of the Localism Act. It is also outlined in the NPPF including para 156 which sets out the strategic issues where co-operation might be appropriate. Paragraphs 178-181 provides further guidance on ‘planning strategically across local boundaries’. The duty to cooperate recognises linkages between neighbouring authorities and that development requirements cannot be wholly met by one single authority, so a joined up approach is required including joint evidence to inform key</p>	Rationale Open Space method Open Space Protection/loss of open space Designation Policy

Policy document	Date/Reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Study	Relevant element of the Shepway Open Space Strategy
		issues, and aligned plans across a series of authorities that include complementary policies that address key issues.	Consultation and partnership
South East Plan	<i>Revoked 2012/2013</i>	Revoked following results of public consultation informing the Localism Act 2011 (AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited , 2012). The Localism Act 2011 repealed Part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, thereby removing the legal framework for the review of regional strategies or the adoption of new or revised regional strategies, and gave the Secretary of State powers to revoke in full or in part the existing strategies by order.	No longer applicable to study
Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan	The Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan was adopted as part of the statutory development plan for the district on 18 September 2013	<p>The Core Strategy is produced under guidelines to ensure it is justified, effective, positively prepared and consistent (i.e. with the National Planning Policy Framework) and along with 'procedural' requirements these form tests of 'soundness'.</p> <p><i>Policy CSD4 Green Infrastructure of Natural Networks, Open Spaces and Recreation Improvements</i></p> <p>In green infrastructure (GI) assets in the district will be actively encouraged as will an increase in the quantity of GI delivered by Shepway District Council working with partners and developers in and around the sub-region, including through pursuing opportunities to achieve net gains in biodiversity, and positive management of areas of high landscape quality or high coastal/recreational potential. Green infrastructure will be protected and enhanced and the loss of GI uses will not be allowed, other than where demonstrated to be in full accordance with national policy, or a significant quantitative or qualitative net GI benefit is realised or it is clearly demonstrated that the aims of this strategy are furthered and outweigh its impact on GI. Moreover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development must avoid a net loss of biodiversity. • The highest level of protection in accordance with statutory requirements will be given to protecting the integrity of sites of international nature conservation importance. • A high level of protection will be given to nationally designated sites (SSSI and Ancient Woodland) where development will avoid any significant impact. • Appropriate and proportionate protection will be given to 	

Policy document	Date/Reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Study	Relevant element of the Shepway Open Space Strategy
		<p>habitats that support higher-level designations, and sub-national and locally designated wildlife/geological sites (including Kent BAP habitats, and other sites of nature conservation interest).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning decisions will have close regard to the need for conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the AONB and its setting, which will take priority over other planning considerations. Elsewhere development must not jeopardise the protection and enhancement of the distinctive and diverse local landscapes in Shepway (especially where these support the setting of the AONB), and must reflect the need for attractive and high-quality open spaces throughout the district. <p>Shepway's GI network, and other strategic open space, will be managed with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting to and managing climate change effects. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and access to nature, particularly in green corridors and other GI Strategic Opportunities, with appropriate management of public access (including a Sustainable • Access Strategy for Dungeness and together with a strategic approach to the international sites as detailed above); and also avoiding development which results in significant fragmentation or isolation of natural habitats. • Identifying opportunities to expand the GI functions of greenspaces and their contribution to a positive sense of place (including enhancements to public open spaces and outdoor sports facilities). • Tackling network and qualitative deficiencies in the most accessible, or ecologically or visually important GI elements, including improving the GI strategic fringe zones through landscape improvements or developing corridors with the potential to better link greenspaces and settlements. 	

Policy document	Date/Reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Study	Relevant element of the Shepway Open Space Strategy
		<p><i>Policy SS6 Spatial Strategy for Folkestone Seafront</i></p> <p>Sets out Development proposals are to include an appropriate recreational access strategy to ensure additional impacts to Natura 2000 site(s) are acceptably mitigated against, in accordance with policy CSD4</p> <p><i>Policy SS7 training land in the Seabrook Valley to be released from military purposes</i></p> <p>Sets out the plans for the steeply sloping training land in the Seabrook Valley to be released from military purposes and the Local Plan proposals and will be better used for its green infrastructure (conservation/landscape) functions, subject to arranging improved public management of the land. Improvements to the Seabrook Valley are very important to deliver the overall green infrastructure strategy in Shepway (policy CSD4). Particular attention should be paid to specific opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, with potential functional connections to the SSSI to the west of Seabrook Valley, and facilitating accessible use of the new public open space (consistent with nature conservation objectives). There may also be scope for enhancements contributing to the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives (see CSD5).</p>	
Shepway Open Spaces: Sports and Recreation Report	2011	The report considered provision of outdoor recreation in the district and identified 'better use and management of open spaces to deliver qualitative upgrades' as one of the key themes to address. The report also emphasised the importance of multi-functional open spaces and highlighted the wildlife benefits of grassed pitches surrounded by less used margins and hedgerows/tranquil habitats etc. The enhancement of existing open spaces is therefore critical to a range of objectives.	
Shepway Local Development Framework Green Infrastructure Report	2011	<p>In producing Local Development Frameworks Local Authorities are required to have a 'sound' evidence base to ensure the effectiveness of current planning policies and inform decisions for future policies. The report comprised the evidence base in respect of Green Infrastructure (GI), which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities (PPS12).</p> <p>PPS12 also requires GI evidence bases to:-</p> <p>Explain who will provide the GI and when it will be provided</p>	The Green Infrastructure Report worked in conjunction with the regional South East Plan revoked in 2012/2013. Therefore some of the policies it follows are no longer relevant and needs to be re-evaluated to determine relevance to present GI Policy.

Policy document	Date/Reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Study	Relevant element of the Shepway Open Space Strategy
		Draw on, and in parallel, influence any strategies and investment plans of the local authority and other organisations	
A Playing Pitch Strategy Update	2011	<p>Over and above the sites with a primary typology of outdoor sports facilities, a number of sports facilities were found within other sites. Almost all of these facilities are located in or adjacent to parks and gardens and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football pitches • Cricket pitches • Outdoor bowls • Golf • Tennis • Basketball • Green gyms <p>The report identified that at present quantitative deficiencies are limited, although a range of qualitative issues are identified (such as a perennial issue of cricket wicket maintenance). The report showed a district-wide major surplus for football, although there are smaller deficits for junior provision in the three other sports (cricket, rugby and hockey). This suggests that cricket grounds, for example, need to be used more for junior purposes as there are no space impediments for doing so. However all pitches, whether natural or artificial, need to be safe for use. Looking forward and accounting for Shepway's proposed growth, the locations where shortfalls may be most widespread will be within the most urban areas (e.g. east Folkestone) where land for new pitches is very scarce.</p>	
Lighting the way to success	2009 East Kent Sustainable Community Strategy	This is a document which shows how organisations will work together to improve their area and safeguard its future. This document sets out the clear, long-term vision for East Kent, covering the districts of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet. Formed the basis of the local development frameworks that guided planning decisions in each of the four districts for the foreseeable future.	

Policy document	Date/Reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Study	Relevant element of the Shepway Open Space Strategy
		<p>achieve a level of provision which meets, or is equivalent to, the guidance set out below.</p> <p>Criteria for the provision of children’s play space in developments containing 20 or more child bed spaces:-</p> <p>a) Where a deficiency in the provision of children’s play space would exist, a minimum of 5sq.m. of space per child bed space should be provided;</p> <p>b) Areas should be set out and located so as to minimise annoyance to nearby occupiers, maximise children’s safety and be visible from neighbouring properties. Play areas should be within walking distance of all dwellings containing child bed spaces.</p> <p>Within the above criteria, Local Areas for Play, Local Equipped Areas for Play and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (further defined within the policy) may be provided, depending on the size and nature of the development.</p> <p>NB Child bed spaces are calculated by subtracting all bed spaces in old people’s dwellings, all bed spaces in one or two person dwellings and two bed spaces in family dwellings, from the total number of bed spaces in the scheme.</p>	

Appendix 2

Review of provision standards in neighbouring districts

Accessibility standards adopted by comparable local authorities

Typology	Ashford Borough Council (2008)	City of Canterbury ((2013)2014-2019)	Dover District Council (2015)	Thanet District Council (2005)	Rother District Council (2006-2007)
Parks and gardens	Other open space – 300m (10 min walk time)	2000m	At least one accessible greenspace of minimum size 0.4ha within 300m. At least one green space 2ha within 15 minute walking time/1000m	1km	Urban – 20 min walk (1.6km), Rural – 20 min drive
Natural and semi-natural green space	300 m (c. 10 minutes walk). For larger 'strategic' sites, the same travel time by motorised trip mode may be acceptable in some circumstances.	1000m	No accessibility standard available	2.25km	15 minute walk (1.2km)
Green Corridors	300 m (c. 10 minutes walk). For larger 'strategic' sites, the same travel time by motorised trip mode may be acceptable in some circumstances.	300m	At least one accessible greenspace of minimum size 0.4ha within 300m. At least one green space 2ha within 15 minute walking time/1000m	N/A	N/A
Amenity Green Space	300 m (c. 10 minutes walk). For larger 'strategic' sites, the same travel time by motorised trip mode may be acceptable in some circumstances.	1000m	At least one accessible greenspace of minimum size 0.4ha within 300m. At least one green space 2ha within 15 minute walking	0.82km	10 minute walk (800m)

Typology	Ashford Borough Council (2008)	City of Canterbury ((2013)2014-2019)	Dover District Council (2015)	Thanet District Council (2005)	Rother District Council (2006-2007)
			time/1000m		
Allotments	Other open space – 300m (10 min walk time)	N/A	At least one site within 15 minute walking time or 1000m	Urban: 1.06 km, rural: 1.83 km	20 min walk (1.6km)
Cemeteries and churchyards			Closed churchyards : At least one accessible greenspace of minimum size 0.4ha within 300m. At least one green space 2ha within 15 minute walking time/1000m	N/A	N/A
Provision for children and young people	Other open space – 300m (10 min walk time)	LAPs: 100 metres /up to 1 minutes’ walk LEAPs: 400 metres /up to 5 minutes’ walk NEAPs: 1,000 metres/up to 15 minutes’ walk Destination: 20 minutes’ drive time	Local play space within 600m and/or strategic play space 1000m. At least one equipped play space in each settlement of village	LEAPs: 0.87 km	10 minute walktime (800m) for younger children 15 minute walktime (1200m) for older children and teenagers
Outdoor sports facilities	300 m (c. 10 minutes walk). For larger ‘strategic’ sites, the same travel time by motorised trip mode may be acceptable in some circumstances.	1000m	Three sub-areas within the district have been defined on the basis of league structures (Dover, Deal and rural)	N/A	20 min walk (1.6km)

Current quantity of provision in Shepway compared to quantity standards adopted by comparable local authorities

Typology	Quantity standards by comparable Local Authority (ha per 1000 head of population)					
	Existing quantity in Shepway (2015)	Ashford Borough Council	City of Canterbury	Dover District Council	Thanet District Council	Rother District Council
Parks and gardens	District: 0.20 ha Local: 0.66 ha Small Local: 0.26 ha	Existing: 0.8 ha, proposed: 0.3 ha	0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m ² / person)	2.22 ha	1.06 ha	Existing: 0.25 ha, Proposed: Urban – 0.43 ha, Rural – 0.71 ha
Natural and semi-natural green space	Sub-regional: 14.38 ha District: 0.63 ha Local: 0.97 ha Small Local: 0.24 ha	Including green corridors: 8.14 ha, proposed: 2.0 ha There should be at least: o 20 hectares of natural greenspace within 2 km of each person o 100 hectares of natural greenspace within 5 km of each person o 500 hectares of natural greenspace within 10 km of each person	4.0 hectares per 1,000 people (40m ² / person)	None stated	At least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home, at least one 100ha site within 5km, at least one 500ha site within 10km	Existing: 15.53 ha, Proposed 2 ha (for large scale developments only)
Green Corridors	8.37 ha	Including green corridors: 8.14 ha, proposed: 2.0 ha There should be at least: o 20 hectares of natural greenspace within 2 km of each person o 100 hectares of natural greenspace within 5 km of each person o 500 hectares of natural greenspace within 10 km of each person	1.3 –1.7 hectares per 1,000 people (13 –17 m ² / person)	2.22 ha	None stated	None stated
Amenity Green Space	1.86 ha	2.0 ha	1.3 –1.7 hectares per 1,000 people (13 –17 m ² / person)	2.22 ha	0.05 ha	Existing: 0.88 ha, Proposed: 1.73 ha

Typology	Quantity standards by comparable Local Authority (ha per 1000 head of population)					
	Existing quantity in Shepway (2015)	Ashford Borough Council	City of Canterbury	Dover District Council	Thanet District Council	Rother District Council
			person			
Allotments	0.12 ha	Existing: 0.12 ha, Proposed: 0.20 ha, 0.8 ha	15 plots per 1,000 household or 1.56m ² per household.	0.21 ha	1.19 ha	Existing: 0.19 ha, Proposed: Urban – 0.45 ha, Rural 0.17 ha
Cemeteries and churchyards	0.32 ha	Proposed: 0.6 ha	None stated	Closed cemeteries: 2.22 ha	None stated	None stated
Provision for children and young people	0.03 ha Play Area Review: Destination: 0.03 ha NEAP: 0.080 ha LEAP: 0.077 ha LAP: 0.005 ha	Existing urban area: 0.06 ha, Existing parishes: 3.13 ha & 0.05 ha, 0.8 ha (0.5 ha) A standard Play Area Unit including 0.08 hectares of fenced/equipped play; 0.15 hectares for informal ball games; and 0.25 hectares of 'buffer space'. For every 500 people a standard Play Area unit. For every 1000 people a standard Play Area unit plus a 'wheels' facility; or, paved kickabout area; or, extension of play area; or, for 4 x teenage shelters plus goals. For every 1500 people a standard Play Area unit plus any three of the above items.	0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m ² / person) All categories: Part of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m ² / person)	0.06 ha	0.7 ha per 1000 population (0-15 age group) 0.87 kilometres of a good quality equipped play area (LEAP)	Existing: 0.020 ha, Proposed: 0.20 ha

Typology	Quantity standards by comparable Local Authority (ha per 1000 head of population)					
	Existing quantity in Shepway (2015)	Ashford Borough Council	City of Canterbury	Dover District Council	Thanet District Council	Rother District Council
Outdoor sports facilities	4.71 ha	Current: 0.6 ha, 1.29 ha (rural), proposed: 1.6 ha	4.0 hectares per 1,000 people (40m ² / person)	1.17 ha of natural grass playing pitches	0.87 ha	Proposed: Urban – 2.97 ha, Rural – 4.84 ha
Total open space provision per 1000 head of population	32.75 ha (including all confirmed publicly accessible open space)	5.2 ha	None stated	3.66 ha	None stated	None stated

Appendix 3

Site list with quality and value ratings

Parks and gardens

District parks and gardens

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
15	Brockhill Country Park, Hythe	76	76	++

Local parks and gardens

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
29	Royal Military Canal - Hythe Town Centre, Hythe	65	48	++
46	Lower Leas Coastal Park - SFZ, Folkestone Central	54	62	++
82	Radnor Park, Broadmead Ward	53	48	++
104	Cheriton Recreation Area, Cheriton	55	63	++
205	Dymchurch Recreation Ground, Romney Marsh	67	53	++
212	South Road Recreation Ground, Hythe	65	44	++
215	Jock's Pitch, Folkestone Harbour	59	50	++
232	Tayne Field, North Downs West	54	47	++
234	The Green, Hythe	52	64	++
235	The Greens, New Romney	52	51	++
208	The Rype, Walland & Denge Marsh	41	58	+-
71	The Leas, Folkestone Central	46	21	--
214	Jefferstone Lane, Romney Marsh	36	38	--
220	Morehall Recreation Ground, Cheriton	39	36	--

Small local parks and gardens

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
5	Horn Street Recreation Ground, Hythe	48	43	++
18	Oaklands, Hythe	60	52	++
53	Bayle Pond Gardens, Folkestone Central	45	19	++
60	Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone Central	46	23	++
81	Lower Radnor Park, Broadmead Ward	42	39	++
113	Sandgate Recreation Ground, Sandgate & West Folkestone	57	46	++
128	The Old School, New Romney	53	31	++
130	St Martin's Field, New Romney	50	28	++
131	Fairfield Road Recreation Ground, New Romney	55	61	++
165	Memorial Garden, Park Street, Lydd, Walland & Denge Marsh	51	28	++
202	Canterbury Road Recreation, East Folkestone	50	54	++
203	Brabner Park, East Folkestone	46	62	++
210	Grange Road, Hythe	42	44	++
211	Heron Forstall Avenue, North Downs East	42	34	++
216	Jubilee Field, North Downs West	61	45	++
217	Kettle Drive, North Downs East	49	40	++
218	King George V Playing Field, North Downs East	55	56	++
221	Newchurch Playing Field, Romney Marsh	49	45	++
222	Newington Village Hall, North Downs East	46	37	++
224	Pannell Drive Play Area, North Downs East	44	33	++
225	Payers Park, Folkestone Central	54	35	++
233	The Danni and James Com Friendship Park, Folkestone Harbour	43	37	++
57	Country's Field, Romney Marsh	35	33	+-
76	The Coastal Park - Amphitheatre, Folkestone Central	41	21	+-
77	The Zig Zag Path, Folkestone Central	28	19	+-

134	High Street/Station Road, New Romney	39	23	--+
204	Burmarsh Recreation Ground, Romney Marsh	38	48	--+
206	Golden Valley Park, Sandgate & West Folkestone	38	32	--+
209	George Gurr Crescent, East Folkestone	25	34	--+
213	Ivychurch Village Hall Green, Walland & Denge Marsh	36	35	--+
223	Oakham Drive, Walland & Denge Marsh	39	40	--+
226	Queensway, Walland & Denge Marsh	31	31	--+
227	Lyell Close, Hythe Rural	37	20	--+
228	Rhodes Minnis Recreation Ground, North Downs West	36	28	--+
230	Station Road, New Romney	37	46	--+
231	Stombers Lane, North Downs East	23	29	--+
237	Turnpike Hill, Hythe	27	31	--+
238	Underwood Play Area, North Downs East	27	19	--+
240	Lade Fort, Walland & Denge Marsh	38	31	--+
51	The Leas Scented Garden, Folkestone Central	28	15	--
52	The Leas - The Carpet Bed, Folkestone Central	26	7	--
62	Bruce Porter Gardens, Folkestone Harbour	38	17	--
70	Trinity Gardens, Folkestone Central	32	14	--
72	Balfour Gardens, Folkestone Central	36	8	--
73	The Grand, Folkestone Central	32	13	--
74	Clifton Crescent, Folkestone Central	32	11	--
75	Augusta Gardens, Folkestone Central	34	16	--
92	Viaduct Pocket Park, East Folkestone	28	12	--
239	Widgeon Walk, North Downs East	25	17	--

Natural and semi-natural greenspaces

Sub-regional natural and semi-natural greenspaces

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
65	The Warren, Folkestone Harbour	20	34	--

District natural and semi-natural greenspaces

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
97	Open Space adjacent to Horn Street, Hythe	18	34	--+

Local natural and semi-natural greenspaces

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
2	Royal Military Canal, Hythe	51	41	++
30	Eaton Lands Meadow, Hythe	43	24	++
138	Sand dune to rear of Coast Drive, Walland & Denge Marsh	40	31	++
145	Romney Warren Country Park, New Romney	63	49	++
1	Eaton Lands Quarry, Hythe	25	25	--+
112	Land adjoining Encombe & S J M Barracks, Sandgate & West Folkestone	14	30	--+
114	Hospital Hill Escarpment, Sandgate & West Folkestone	21	29	--+
47	Leas Escarpment, Folkestone Central	23	11	--
96	Shornccliffe Redoubt, Sandgate & West Folkestone	15	13	--
108	Escarpment above Saga Pavilion, Sandgate & West Folkestone	29	21	--
118	M20 Screen, Cheriton	24	15	--
120	Land to r/o of Ceasar's Way, Cheriton	10	9	--

Small local natural and semi-natural greenspaces

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
7	Woodland at Turnpike Hill, Hythe	25	28	++
26	Paraker Wood Pocket Park, Hythe	25	24	++
61	Coronation Parade, Folkestone Harbour	33	22	++
99	Radnor Cliff / Radnor Cliff Crescent, Sandgate & West Folkestone	44	21	++
109	Grounds for Saga Pavilion, Sandgate & West Folkestone	48	26	++
110	Grounds for Saga Pavilion, Sandgate & West Folkestone	41	23	++
111	Enbrook Stream Pocket Park, Sandgate & West Folkestone	54	29	++
126	Folkestone and Dover District Water Co, Cheriton	35	26	++
144	End of Dunes Road, Greatstone, New Romney	24	30	++
181	Farthing Common, Lyminge, North Downs West	24	27	++
236	The Ridgeway Trim Trail, Hythe Rural	27	20	++
3	Eversley Rd Rec Wood, Hythe	21	22	+-
32	A259 verge - Sandy Bay Caravan Park, Hythe Rural	17	22	+-
153	Land adjoining pumping station, Romney Marsh	21	23	+-
4	Land fronting Horn Street, Hythe	32	15	+-
9	Church Rd North Rd, Hythe	27	18	+-
28	Station Road / North Road Verge, Hythe	34	19	+-
31	Land to rear of 33-42 St John Moore Ave, Hythe	29	13	+-
42	Land fronting Deedes Close, Hythe	29	17	+-
44	Land between Tanners Hill & T.H. Gardens, Hythe	33	18	+-
50	Land adjacent to Rd of Remembrance, Folkestone Harbour	26	13	+-
100	Radnor Cliff / The Riviera, Sandgate & West Folkestone	27	14	+-
103	Land r/o Wilberforce Road, Sandgate & West Folkestone	30	10	+-
38	Undeveloped land off Range Road, Hythe	16	13	--
41	Land north of Vergers Church Road, Hythe	21	13	--
63	The Durlocks, Folkestone Harbour	16	4	--
83	Land adjoining Park Farm CPS, Broadmead Ward	11	4	--
101	Land above Shorncliffe Battery Wall, Sandgate & West Folkestone	17	14	--
102	Alexandra Corniche & Temeraire Hts, Sandgate & West Folkestone	18	11	--
119	M20 Screen, Cheriton	13	13	--
124	Folkestone West, Cheriton	14	14	--
158	The Street / Mill Lane, Hawkinge, North Downs East	10	16	--
197	Land opposite Enbrook Road, Sandgate & West Folkestone	13	8	--

Allotments

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
13	Land rear of Tweed & Ettrick Terrace, Hythe Rural	35	26	++
14	Green Lane Allotments, Hythe Rural	45	27	++
20	Twiss Road Allotment, Hythe	41	25	++
23	Eaton Lands Allotment, Hythe	50	25	++
24	Eaton Lands Allotments - small, Hythe	54	20	++

84	Park Farm Road Allotment, East Folkestone	34	20	++
85	Black Bull Road Allotment, East Folkestone	42	24	++
125	The Kiln Lane Allotments, Cheriton	41	30	++
143	New Romney Allotments (Church Lane), New Romney	50	27	++
146	The Marsh Community Garden, New Romney	47	32	++
161	Lydd Allotments, Walland & Denge Marsh	58	38	++
184	Allotment Garden, Lyminge, North Downs West	48	24	++
67	Wear Bay Road Allotment, Folkestone Harbour	29	17	--
177	Allotment, Newington, North Downs East	25	17	--
182	Allotment, Rhodes Minnis, North Downs West	22	17	--

Cemeteries and churchyards

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
6	St Leonards Churchyard, Hythe	60	27	++
45	Christ Church Tower, Folkestone Central	43	24	++
48	St Eanswythes Churchyard, Folkestone Central	39	24	++
127	St Nicholas Churchyard, New Romney	50	33	++
129	New Romney Cemetery, New Romney	50	27	++
136	St Clement's Churchyard, Walland & Denge Marsh	39	34	++
150	Brenzett Churchyard, Walland & Denge Marsh	40	25	++
152	All Saints Churchyard, Burmarsh, Romney Marsh	44	31	++
154	St Augustine's Churchyard, Walland & Denge Marsh	44	42	++
162	Lydd Cemetery, Walland & Denge Marsh	51	29	++
166	All Saint's Church, Lydd, Walland & Denge Marsh	51	37	++
167	St George's Church, Ivychurch, Walland & Denge Marsh	44	37	++
171	St Peter and St Paul's Church, Newchurch, Romney Marsh	41	36	++
172	St Mary in the Marsh Churchyard, Romney Marsh	49	32	++
173	St Mary's Church, Elham, North Downs East	43	26	++
175	St Peter and St Paul's Church, Saltwood, Hythe	57	28	++
176	St Nicholas's Church, Newington, North Downs East	40	27	++
179	St Mary's Churchyard, Stowting, North Downs West	42	30	++
180	St Mary and St Ethelburga's Churchyard, North Downs West	50	34	++
185	St Mary's & St Radigund's Churchyard, North Downs West	48	31	++
186	St Peter's Church, Monks Horton, North Downs West	38	26	++
187	St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Sellindge, North Downs West	45	34	++
188	St Stephen's Churchyard, Lympe, Hythe Rural	47	32	++
193	Church of St Jame's the Great, Elmsted, North Downs West	43	31	++
195	St Dunstan's Churchyard, Walland & Denge Marsh	40	26	++
196	St Peter and St Paul's Churchyard, Romney Marsh	52	39	++
190	St Martin's Church, Acrise, North Downs East	36	26	--
191	St Peter's Churchyard, North Downs East	33	27	--
192	St Mary's Churchyard, North Downs West	34	29	--
194	St Augustine's Churchyard, Walland & Denge Marsh	34	28	--
11	Tin Tabernacle Churchyard, Hythe	47	21	+-
25	Spring Lane Cemetery, Hythe	40	18	+-
98	Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Sandgate & West Folkestone	48	22	+-
117	St Martin's Churchyard / Vicarage, Cheriton	45	23	+-

142	Hawkinge Crematorium/Cemetery, North Downs East	57	22	+-
151	Brenzett Cemetery, Walland & Denge Marsh	39	21	+-
189	St Oswald's Church, Paddlesworth, North Downs East	38	23	+-
89	Cheriton Road Cemetery, Broadmead Ward	32	19	--

Green corridors

ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score	QV rating
19	Royal Military Canal, Hythe	63	47	++
59	Royal Military Canal, Hythe Rural	37	44	++
139	Hythe Beach, Hythe	54	33	++
140	Sandgate Beach, Sandgate & West Folkestone	57	32	++
147	Folkestone Beach, Folkestone Central	53	30	++
163	Greatstone Beach, Walland & Denge Marsh	47	32	++
164	Littlestone Beach, New Romney	48	29	++
168	Dymchurch and SMB Beach, Romney Marsh	47	26	++
66	Embankment r/o St Johns Street, Folkestone Harbour	12	70	+-
135	Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, New Romney	20	28	+-
137	Dymchurch sewer and environs, Romney Marsh	30	26	+-
141	New Sewer, Romney Marsh	32	27	+-
199	Folkestone shoreline, Folkestone Harbour	35	30	+-
201	Folkestone shoreline, Folkestone Harbour	22	26	+-
8	Land at Brockhill Rd and Seaton Avenue, Hythe	41	17	+-
39	Cut through North Rd and Hillcrest Rd, Hythe	39	19	+-
133	The Marsh Academy, New Romney	44	24	+-
149	Land r/o Meehan Rd, New Romney	38	19	+-
33	Grass strip - Grn. Ln. Ave. / Millfields, Hythe Rural	24	15	--
55	Railway embankment, Folkestone Central	16	6	--
56	Railway Embankment, Folkestone Harbour	28	5	--
68	Railway Embankment, Folkestone Central	18	9	--
79	Space adj. indust. unit Bowles Well Grds, Folkestone Harbour	10	5	--
86	Railway Embankment, East Folkestone	18	11	--
91	Embankment r/o Eastfields, East Folkestone	10	5	--
95	Embankment r/o Ship Street, East Folkestone	15	3	--
107	Remnant of The Green Walk, Sandgate & West Folkestone	16	16	--
115	Railway Embankment, Cheriton	22	8	--
121	Railway Embankment, Cheriton	15	6	--
148	Folkestone shoreline, Folkestone Harbour	24	22	--
183	Etchinghill Tunnel, North Downs West	11	10	--

Appendix 4

Stakeholder workshop attendees and minutes

Name	Organisation
Cllr; Berry, Ann	SDC
Cllr; Dearden, Malcolm	SDC
Cllr; Hollingsbee, Jenny	SDC
Cllr; Lawes, Mary	SDC
Karen Lewis	Dymchurch Parish Council
Neil Jones	Folkestone Town Council
Lynne Martin	Hawkinge Town Council
Nick Hilditch	Hythe Town Council
Ben Geering	SDC- Head of Planning
Andy Blaszkowicz	SDC- Head of Commercial and Technical Services
Sarah Robson	SDC- Head of Communities
Karen Weller	SDC- Environmental Protection
Jess Harman	SDC- Communities Officer
Laura Pinkham	SDC- Grounds Maintenance Manager
Piran Cooper	SDC- Landscape and Urban Design Officer
Rebecca Chittock	SDC- Planning Policy
Isabelle Hills	SDC- Planning Policy
Jo Clifford	Folkestone Sport Centre
Ivan Rudd	KCC- Public Health Specialist
Brigitte Orasinski	Strange Cargo
Jon Clarke	East Folkestone Together
Matthew Parkhill	LUC
Sebastian West	LUC



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Minutes Shepway play area review and open space study

Purpose Stakeholder workshop
Project number 6890 & 6891
Date 7 December 2016

Minute

1 Play area review

Play areas

Existing play area provision

Strengths

- Community wants to get involved
- Coastal Parks
- Radnor Park (community group)
- Number of outdoor gyms
- Level of provision generally
- Consultation
- Picnics / different needs

Weaknesses

- Lack of equipment replacements
- Lack of continuity in areas
- Ageing equipment
- Barriers to access
- Negativity to certain proposals (skate parks)
- Vandalism
- No clear way involving communities
- Cleanliness

Opportunities

- Clear processes
- Access for other areas and spaces
- Play Area Strategy
- Potential to zoom into isolated pockets of deficiency (kids per play area) – Example E. Folkestone
- Funding streams
- Contributions locally - Older children in remote areas need to be catered for
- Taking ownership
- Capital plan for ageing equipment

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- Consider seasonal aspects and variation of use

Threats

- Continuing funding
- Play areas ignored
- If decommissioning sites, consultation will be required

Prioritising future enhancement

Working with the local community

Strengths

- Desire to provide high quality play areas (how best to do?)
- Play areas inspected weekly
- Green Flag Award sites
- The new Play Area Strategy
- Sites including The Rype/ Fairfield Recreation Ground/Lower Leas Coastal Park
- Councillor links

Weaknesses

- Remote areas experiencing issues
- Costs

Opportunities

- Prepared to help in the community
- Conduits (officers) – Current weakness?
- Give responsibility (Trusts, Residents Groups)
- Residents advised to take initiative and provide support
- Encouraging children
- Publicise – map of play areas (interactive)
- Notices in parks/open days - Consultation
- Radnor Park / Shornecliffe – provide future Destination play areas.
- Fundraising
- How to best use areas

Threats

- Vandalism
- Development
- No budget/ restricted budgets

2 Open space study

Strengths

- Sport centre at Sellindge is used by surrounding residents for dog walking.
- The churchyard at Stanford contains an area of publicly accessible open space.

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- Lyminge village hall has been purchased by communities and is important for biodiversity.
- The Warren is a key open space for the communities located in East Folkestone but it is not accessible 6 months per year when ground conditions are poor.
- Huge amount of open space in Shepway and coast path connects the whole district.
- Community gardens within East Folkestone have been created from small patches of unused land. These are popular sites for residents and a good example of what could be achieved in areas which are deficient in publicly accessible open space and for communities which do not have access to private gardens.
- Provision of publicly accessible open space in Hythe is good.

Issues/ threats

- Communities in East Folkestone do not have good access to open spaces.
- The existing skate parks are great and well used but there is not good provision across the district.
- Play areas in the East Folkestone have not been repaired for a number of years.
- Some play areas in Hawkinge are under private ownership and are not sufficiently maintained.
- Ward budgets restrict the ability to fund and enhance play areas.
- There are a number of large open spaces in the district but these support limited facilities and residents are concerned about safety.
- There are problems with antisocial behaviour in young people and there are not enough facilities for this age group.
- The loss of the Rotunda and other community facilities has contributed to the rise in antisocial behaviour in young people.
- The Warren is only accessible seasonally – issues with flooding during winter months.
- There is a lack of understanding of the implications of the village green designation. There is a risk that the designation could restrict how open spaces with village green designation will be used.
- There are concerns that open space could be susceptible to development.
- Sustainability of management of all open spaces is a concern and capacity for management varies between parish/town.

Opportunities

- Establish a network in Shepway where land managers and stakeholders are able to discuss and share knowledge.
- Improve accessibility to the Warren. Particularly as this site is located in East Folkestone where open space provision is limited.
- Utilising railway land and corridors.
- Reclaim the streets to help alleviate issues of accessibility in dense urban environments including parts of Folkestone. Spaces could be used for temporary events or to create community gardens.
- Seek to increase use of churchyards and cemeteries for public enjoyment and biodiversity.
- Promote the importance of open space and how they contribute to:
 - Heritage
 - Health & well being
 - Sport
- Increase access to open spaces in rural areas – ensure study captures destination spaces.
- Carry out consultation with secondary schools to understand needs of children and young people in Shepway.
- There is a need to increase the number of skate parks in Shepway.
- Seek opportunities to link with the wider health and well-being agenda and teams within Shepway and Kent County Council etc. SDC is currently preparing a strategy for tackling health and well-being.
- Adult exercise equipment should be promoted and included within the play strategy.

The future

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- It is unlikely there will be a large increase in population. However there will be an increase in number of housing.
- The population of Shepway is ageing.
- A sustainability appraisal for Dungeness is needed as there is likely to be an increase in use from residents in Ashford where population is expected to increase.

Priorities

Management/ custodian of the open space network:

- Trust the town and parish councils to manage the open space network in Shepway as they have a good understanding of issues and local needs.
- Encourage town and parish councils to cluster provision and share/ provide facilities. Encourage the better spread of available money through sharing skills and knowledge.
- Mobilise Shepway's residents to use publically accessible open spaces in the district through promoting the network.
- Celebrate Shepway's open spaces as key components of the district and acknowledge their importance to the character of the district and benefits to health and wellbeing together with nature conservation.
- The public rights of way in Shepway are important and therefore needs to be protected and enhanced to improve connectivity. Kent County Council needs to improve management of the network.
- All public space (including roads, small spaces and gardens) should be protected and opportunities for the public use and enjoyment of these spaces should be maximised.
- Seek to enhance open space network through investing in unusual spaces, particularly in dense urban environments.

Play areas:

- Ensure appropriate provision for small children including areas under cover as well as outdoors.
- Provide multi-use areas for 0-19 year old but also consider providing facilities for older people (adult exercise equipment).
- Increase provision for youth - 14+ ages.
- Provide a MUGA in East Folkestone.
- Consider providing different types of play spaces.

Open spaces:

- Dungeness should be protected from development and overuse.
- Leave Romney Marsh undeveloped but open access by road as well as rail.
- Prioritise areas of the district where access to open space is an issue i.e. denser parts of Folkestone, rural areas, adjacent to the Marsh.
- Publicise Lower Radnor Park area and use closed steps.
- Payers Park is not as well used as other open spaces – a project is unfinished and a café is needed (pop-up?).
- Invest in Coastal Park and the Warren.
- Improve access to open space in East Folkestone. Work with Harbour Ward Residents Association.
- Jock's Pitch along the cliff.
- Improve physical access to the Warren particularly during winter months.
- Need for a community hub.

Approach to provision of new open space:

- Consider the temporary closure of public highways as a good way to bring the whole community together for festivals etc. (e.g. Cheriton Light Festival)
- Promote the relationship between open space and what it can provide – light festival/ temporary events and permanent attractions/ uses.
- Safeguarding open space and ongoing maintenance.
- Protect existing facilities (e.g. against applications for village green).

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- Thinking about antisocial behaviour and what the youth want/need.
- New open space should be multi-functional and contribute to a diversity of hierarchy in Shepway.
- Connecting Cheriton with the sea and improving access.
- Consider farm diversification in terms of recreation provision.
- Link open space planning to other current projects in Shepway e.g. heritage strategy.
- Provide a hierarchy of open space and promote access to significant open spaces on urban boundaries.
- Relationship between Otterpool Garden New Town & existing – how should this be approached?
- Increase recreational facilities (swimming pool for all ages).
- Increase swimming provision in New Romney.
- The value local people place on open space can't be underestimated – it's independent of the condition / appearance of land.

Comments on specific open spaces/ areas

Dungeness

- Dungeness contributes significantly to the character and cultural heritage of Shepway and is an important site for nature conservation.
- The reserve is used extensively for walking and attracts residents from Ashford, nearby holiday camps and visitors from further afield. It receives over one million visits.
- The reserve should be recorded in the open space study as a destination space.
- The reserve needs to be protected from threat of encroachment from surrounding properties.

New Romney

- MAC – not enough provision for youth but there are a number of facilities which are not being used.
- KCC - derelict youth facilities.
- Art of the Romney Marsh.
- New Romney council is very active but little else from other towns.
- There are cultural and social barriers to people using publicly accessible open spaces in New Romney.
- The proposed Garrison development in Cheriton offers opportunity to create new publicly accessible open space. It also offers opportunity to connect Cheriton and Seabrook.

Additional open spaces to be included in study:

- Stelling Minnis – Minnis open space
- Park Wood/ Mockbeggar/ West Wood – significant open space in woodland managed by Forestry Commission. Special woods, how should be approached?
- Reinden Woods – natural open space and popular for recreation
- Yewtree Cross: Biodiversity area adjacent to village hall
- Etchinghill: two golf courses
- Sellindge: allotments
- Sellindge: Gibbons Brook SSSI
- Stanford: Recreation area by Stanford church
- WCCP: Between County Park and Little Dane FM Saxon Shore Way
- Stomers Lane – allotments at location of site 231 as well as a park and garden

Otterpool Park New Town

- Proposed creation of a new town with up to 12000 houses.
- Seek opportunities within the development to provide appropriate open space and use existing landscape and ancient woodland.

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Appendix 5

Online public consultation responses

Appendix 6

Detailed site proformas

