

Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 - Nutrient Budget

1. In March 2018 an Integrated Water Management Study (IWMS) was completed for the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). Amongst other issues, the IWMS highlighted concerns relating to high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous being present within Solent waters. These nutrients are liable to cause dense mats of macroalgae and phytoplankton to grow (called eutrophication), which can have an adverse impact upon the integrity of the protected Solent Special Protection Areas (as shown in Figure 1), as well as harming rare and protected species, such as waders.

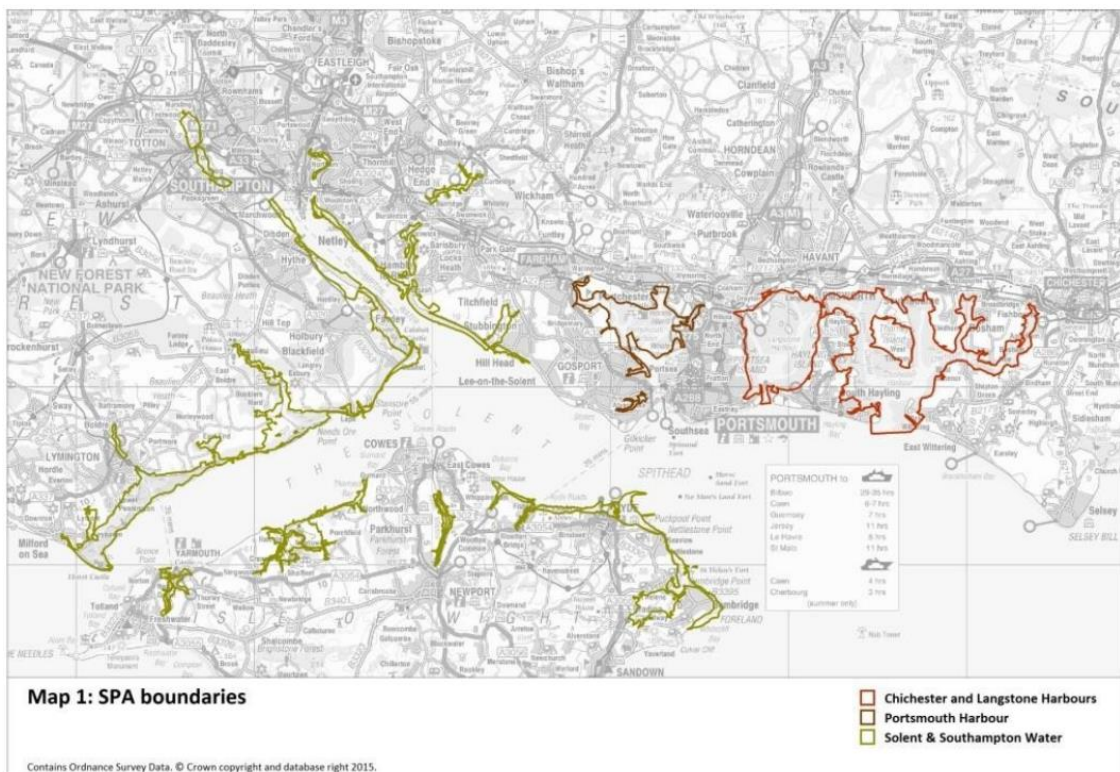


Figure 1 - The Solent SPAs (Source: SRMP Strategy)

2. In line with the Habitat Regulations and recent CJEU case law which require plans and projects to prevent further deterioration of the water environment, since January 2019 Natural England has required all developments in the Solent area to be 'nutrient neutral'. This includes all residential proposals, tourist accommodation and visitor attractions which would draw additional people into the catchment. Certain commercial and industrial activities which use large volumes of water may also be required to be nutrient neutral.

3. To achieve nutrient neutrality, many developments will be required to secure appropriate mitigation. To satisfy the provisions of the Habitat Regulations, any required nutrient mitigation must have a high degree of certainty both in terms of its effectiveness and deliverability, and be secured prior to any impacts being created (prior to occupation).
4. This nutrient budget has been put together in order to demonstrate that sufficient mitigation is likely to be available to satisfy the quantum of development within the emerging Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038. Appendix 1 of this report shows the expected nutrient demand over the plan period (2021-2038), including the estimated phasing and the housing need generated by the Standard Method, as well as an Estimated Potential Supply of units, taking into account existing constraints.
5. Figure 2 is an extract from a recent PfSH report¹ considering the supply and demand for nutrient credits within the sub region. The figure shows the expected level of nutrient mitigation which will be available in the East Hampshire Catchment over the next 5 years, with Gosport having an expected demand of 375 Kg/TN/Yr.

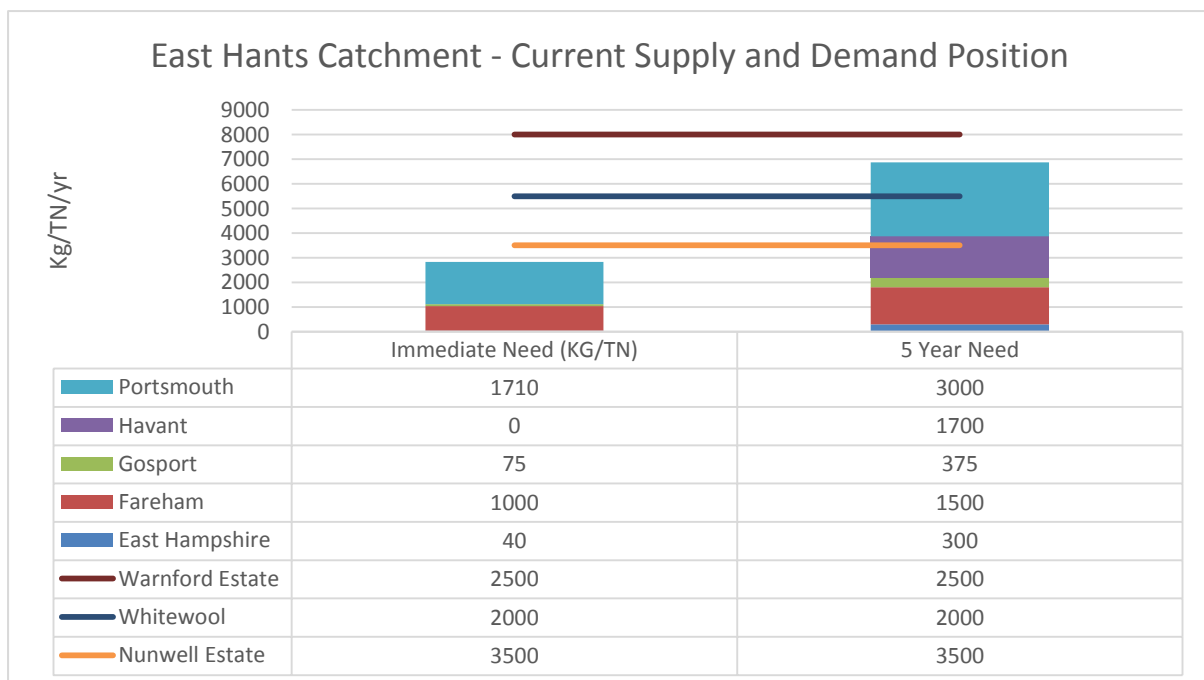


Figure 2 - Supply and demand of nutrient credits within East Hants Catchment (Source: PfSH 2021)

¹ Report for Joint Committee - Recommendations of the Strategic Environmental Planning Officer – Nutrient Neutrality in the Solent – Appendix 2 (PfSH, July 2021)

6. As shown in Appendix 1, the estimated phasing of units between 0-5 years would generate a nutrient need of approximately 451.6 Kg/TN/Yr. While this is slightly higher than that estimated for the PfSH report (375 Kg/TN/Yr), it is still comfortably within the range of estimated supply of nutrient credits within the East Hants Catchment. Similarly the nutrient need generated from the Estimated Potential Supply after 5 years (of 695 Kg/TN/Yr) also falls within the current estimated supply.
7. Between 5-10 years Appendix 1 estimates that an additional 869 Kg/TN/Yr will be required to satisfy demand within Gosport Borough, while 545 Kg/TN/Yr would be required between 11-17 years. While nutrient mitigation have not yet been identified to satisfy these years, the current rate of mitigation schemes coming online is expected to continue and be able to meet future demand. This is informed by the investment strategy of organisations such as the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust who have indicated a willingness to continue supplying large-scale nutrient mitigation sites. In addition, DEFRA are developing a Nutrient Trading Platform which is due to come online in 2022, and is expected to improve the supply and viability of nutrient credits. Beyond 10+ years it is likely that mitigation will be supplemented by enhancements to regional Waste Water Treatment Works which have a 5+ year investment cycle, as well as other strategic solutions.
8. On this basis we can conclude that sufficient nutrient mitigation credits will be available to satisfy the development needs of the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 over the plan period, and therefore the Plan meets the provisions of the Habitat Regulations.