

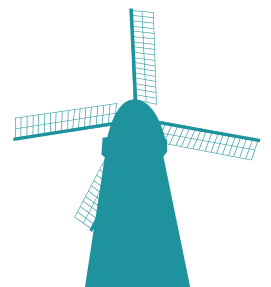
Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036



Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036

Interim New Forest Recreation Mitigation

June 2019



1. Overview

- 1.1 This paper sets out a technical approach to address disturbance in the New Forest from new development in Eastleigh borough. It provides an officer viewpoint to be finalised following further discussions and the findings of ongoing research.
- 1.2 The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan will deliver approximately 14,580 dwellings within c.20km of the New Forest. In order to ensure the delivery of this development, it is a legal requirement that the habitat regulations are met and that a precautionary approach is taken which is beyond reasonable scientific doubt. As set out in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), in the absence of avoidance and/or mitigation measures, this level of residential development is likely to have an adverse effect on the New Forest. This is through the increase in the number of visitors to the New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar (New Forest protected areas) in the presence of ground nesting birds which can easily be disturbed by people and dogs.
- 1.3 The Council is part of a partnership of local authorities within and adjacent to the New Forest and also involving Natural England who are addressing this issue; initially updating the evidence base and then developing a mitigation strategy. This research is being funded by a grant from the Planning Delivery Fund. The emerging Local Plan includes the commitment to deliver this mitigation strategy. Where possible, the Council will secure Government funding in order to deliver the improvements required. Much of the development in the Local Plan either has planning permission or will not come forward before the full strategy is in place, however the Council is working on an interim solution to address potential impacts before the full strategy is finalised.
- 1.4 Initial findings from the research (see appendix) demonstrate that most people surveyed from Eastleigh borough had visited the New Forest in the past year and most visitors from the borough visit once a month or less frequently. Across the study area, the proportion of people visiting the New Forest, and the number of visits, declines the further people live from the New Forest with people close by visiting more frequently than people in Eastleigh borough. These findings indicate that any disturbance from residents in Eastleigh borough is relatively small in comparison to residents living closer to the New Forest. Therefore it will be important to ensure that the mitigation measures attributable to Eastleigh development are kept in proportion to the level of impact.
- 1.5 The partnership will develop an effective and proportionate package of measures and consider the most appropriate way to fund this. Within Eastleigh borough, the provision of new and enhanced green open spaces and routes can provide open spaces and routes in people's immediate neighbourhoods and providing an attractive alternative to driving to the New Forest. Within the New Forest, access management measures such as changes to car parks, way-marking and improvements to routes may be appropriate to direct people to non-designated areas. Face to face contact, communications, education and events can help promote responsible recreation whilst visiting designated areas.
- 1.6 This interim strategy will initially prioritise the investment in delivering new, and improving existing, open spaces and routes in Eastleigh borough. This may be through improved facilities to make country parks useable throughout the year and increase their attractiveness to specific users such as dog walkers. Improvements to strategic routes may increase the scope for longer walks and opening up access to landscapes and open spaces such as the South Downs.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan Habitats Regulation Assessment Update (October 2018) discussed the issue of human disturbance including recreational disturbance in the New Forest protected areas. This reported that ground and near-ground nesting birds such as Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Woodlark are particular receptors of negative effects of disturbance. Research findings elsewhere have shown lower breeding success due to disturbance. For Nightjars, a negative relationship has been observed between the proximity of housing and the size of their population. For Dartford Warblers, birds in heavily disturbed areas delayed the start of their breeding, preventing multiple breeds. Most of this disturbance was from dogs running through vegetation after sticks. The HRA also reported findings showing that the removal of human disturbance resulted in an increase of between 13% and 48% in the breeding population of Woodlark in heathland sites.
- 2.2 The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan provides for approximately 14,580 dwellings within 20km of the New Forest. Although the New Forest is relatively inaccessible by road or rail from the southern parts of the borough, the nearest parts of the borough, Eastleigh and Chandlers Ford, are approximately 12-13km away. In the absence of avoidance and/or mitigation measures, development in the borough is likely to increase the number of visitors to the New Forest and adversely impact the breeding populations of Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler. In order to address this impact, the Local Plan commits the Council to implementing mitigation measures identified in the emerging mitigation strategy (paragraph 5.57 and policy DM11 in the Submission Local Plan 2016-36). This will be informed by the research being undertaken by Footprint Ecology which is due to be finalised by the end of this year. This will help determine the impact from the new development in the borough and the appropriate mitigation to address this impact. The Council is working on an interim strategy to be implemented until the full strategy is finalised.

3. Current mitigation

- 3.1 Mitigation strategies are in place elsewhere to address the impact of recreation arising from new development within and close to the National Park. Strategies are currently in place for the New Forest National Park Authority, New Forest District Council (which covers areas outside the National Park) and for Test Valley Borough Council (the New Forest protected areas extends into the south west corner of the borough). They are proportionate approaches based on the number of visits generated from development and measures needed to address the impact. These involve the provision and enhancement of alternative non-designated areas, access and visitor management measures and monitoring.
- 3.2 The New Forest National Park Authority draft Revised Habitat Mitigation Scheme 2018 replaces the initial mitigation scheme 2012. This calculates the contributions required to fund the mitigation measures during the Plan period and in perpetuity covering access management, alternative sites and routes, education, awareness and promotion, monitoring and research and implementation. It applies a standard developer contribution to all new residential development irrespective of dwelling size.
- 3.3 New Forest District Council adopted a mitigation strategy for European sites in 2014 and consulted on a review of the strategy in 2018. This sets out the broad approach to mitigation and identifies projects to be funded. It seeks development contributions

from every net additional dwelling and the contributions required varies by the size of dwelling and size of development (either below or above 50 dwellings). Mitigation measures include the improvement of greenspace in the district, and the direct employment of an additional ranger resource within the National Park.

- 3.4 Test Valley Borough Council seek development contributions towards habitat mitigation measures under its Interim Mitigation Framework (2014). This applies to development within 13.6km of the New Forest protected areas. This is the distance from where a likely significant effect is anticipated (where 75% of existing visitors to the areas of the New Forest closest to Test Valley travel from). The contributions reflect the cost of purchasing land and implementing the works required for SANGS.
- 3.5 The local authorities and environmental bodies within the Solent sub-region have a history of working together to address recreational disturbance. The Council is a member of the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership addressing impacts from new development on the coast. Following research on the extent of the issue, the partnership developed the Bird Aware programme that collects contributions to fund rangers, infrastructure improvements and communication tools.
- 3.6 For areas within 5.6km of the Solent coastline, the New Forest mitigation is in addition to developer contributions collected to address recreational impact from new development on the Solent Special Protection Areas. These contributions fund the Bird Aware Solent programme which improves infrastructure and increases awareness through ranger provision and face to face engagement, SANGS, site specific improvements and a range of communication tools. The contributions are on a sliding scale based on bedroom numbers ranging from £346 for a one bedroom property to £902 for a property with five or more bedrooms, as set out in the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership Strategy approved in December 2017.

4. Existing evidence for Eastleigh

Survey of Recreational Visits to the New Forest National Park (Tourism South East 2005)

- 4.1 The Tourism South East research (2005) was the last comprehensive survey of users of the New Forest and involved on-site surveys at 62 locations and around 2,200 phone interviews. It was commissioned to inform work on the newly designated National Park and sought to identify the profile of visitors to the New Forest, characteristics of their visits, reasons why people chose to visit and their economic impact. The primary data collection included both on-site and telephone surveys (although this did not extend to Eastleigh borough). In its analysis visitors were categorised into local day visitors from home within 5 miles and other day visitors from home; Staying visitors (including staying with friends or relatives); and Holidaymakers.
- 4.2 The research found that 60% of visitors surveyed on site were day visitors from home, 40% were on holiday staying either within the New Forest or elsewhere. Of the day visitors, the majority (35%) were local from within 5 miles of the National Park boundary and made an average of 257 recreational visits during the previous 12 months. The remaining 25% were from further afield (which covers visitors from Eastleigh borough) and averaged 45 recreational visits during this time. The percentage of local visitors increased in off-peak months. Residents of Southampton, Eastleigh and Chandler's Ford combined comprised 7% of all visitors and 28% of other day visitors from home (from further than 5 miles).

- 4.3 In the on-site surveys, visitors were asked what they particularly liked about the location visited. The scenery, landscape and views were most frequently mentioned, followed by peace & quiet/not too crowded; good for walking; wildlife, birds and animals; easy to get to/close to home; and good for dog walking.
- 4.4 The telephone survey did not cover Eastleigh borough. However the overall findings of the survey are relevant to the borough. The survey found that 75% of respondents from major urban catchments outside the New Forest had visited the New Forest for leisure / recreation in the previous 12 months, on average just over once a month. For households located in major urban catchment areas, the majority of the locations which were visited most frequently were outside the European sites. Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst, Burley, Beaulieu and Lymington were the most frequently visited locations by this category of visitors. These five locations comprised 60% of the locations stated. Locations within the European sites comprised only 12% of all identified locations (although it is recognised that many New Forest towns are within easy walking distance of European sites). This compares with households living in areas bordering the National Park where 32% of locations mentioned were within the European sites (NFDC Draft Mitigation SPD, June 2018).
- 4.5 For non-local day visitors from major urban catchments, walks were the main reasons to visit the New Forest for 47% of households. Although visiting a pub, café or tea room was the primary reason for only 10% of visits, it was the secondary reason given by over three quarters of respondents. Relaxing/enjoying views/picnicking; and walking the dogs were the primary reasons each given by 9%.

Interim results from the Footprint Ecology work (2018/19)

- 4.6 In March 2018, the Government awarded a Planning Delivery Fund grant for research on recreational pressure on the New Forest from new housing development. This was awarded to a partnership of local authorities led by Test Valley Borough Council and also involving Natural England. The partnership appointed Footprint Ecology to undertake the research required. This will form the basis for a strategic approach to mitigation from local authorities close to the New Forest to prevent adverse effects on the SAC/SPA/Ramsar sites.
- 4.7 The research being undertaken by Footprint Ecology will update the Tourism South East survey and the overall evidence base. The primary data involves telephone and on-site surveys and car park counts. As the Tourism South East telephone survey did not extend as far as Eastleigh borough, this research will help determine to the extent of the impact from residential development within the borough.
- 4.8 The Footprint Ecology telephone survey ran from November – December 2018 and the on-site surveys (interviews and car park counts) have taken place since October. The on-site surveys are taking place at different times of day, weekdays and weekends and school holiday and non-holiday times. They will continue into the summer holidays and include the August Bank Holiday weekend. The telephone survey asked interviewees whether they had visited in the past 12 months, how this compared to other greenspaces, how often they visited and the activities undertaken.
- 4.9 The Footprint Ecology telephone surveys are the first outputs of the Footprint Ecology work (see appendix). A total of 2,000 surveys were completed, of which 138 were in Eastleigh borough. Out of these 138 respondents, around two thirds had visited the New Forest heaths and woods in the past 12 months. The key findings applicable to Eastleigh borough are:

- i. the majority of Eastleigh residents had visited the New Forest heaths and woods in the past year;
- ii. the proportion of people visiting the New Forest, and the number of visits, declines the further people live from the New Forest;
- iii. the most common frequency of visits from people living 10-25km away was less than once a month (2-5 visits), followed by once a month (6-15 visits);
- iv. walking was the most commonly cited activity by all interviewees, other commonly cited activities included dog walking. The proportion of dog walking generally declines with distance however dog walkers tend to visit more frequently than other users;
- v. the proportion of visits to the New Forest as opposed to other greenspace locations decreases with distance.

5. Potential number of visits to be mitigated

5.1 Much of the development proposed in the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan already has planning permission and therefore the issue of the impact on the New Forest protected areas will have been resolved. The number of allocations in the Local Plan which do not have planning permission is 6,710 dwellings. With the addition of allowances for small sites and for windfall developments, the total number is 8,250 dwellings (after delivery discounts have been applied).

5.2 The estimated number of visits from Eastleigh residents to the New Forest protected areas are as follows:

No. of new homes in the Local Plan (without planning permission): 8,250 dws

Estimated average number of visits by Eastleigh residents by year: 25

Proportion who had visited the New Forest in previous year: 64%

Estimated number of visits to the New Forest from new households in new development (without planning permission) = 132,000 (8,250 x 25 x 64%)

Estimated proportion to locations within the SPA/SAC/Ramsar = 12%

Additional recreational visits to New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar locations per year from households in new development (without planning permission): 15,840 visits (132,000x12%)

5.3 If all the housing numbers are mitigated the estimated number of visits from Eastleigh residents to the New Forest protected areas is as follows:

No. of new homes in the Local Plan: 14,580 dwellings

Estimated average number of visits by Eastleigh residents by year: 25

Proportion who had visited the New Forest in previous year: 64%

Estimated number of visits to New Forest from households in new development = 233,280 (14,580 x 25 x 64%)

Estimated proportion to locations within the SPA/SAC/Ramsar = 12%

Additional recreational visits to New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar locations per year from households in new development = 27,994 visits (233,280 x 12%)

- 5.4 These figures assume that mitigation is required from all new development, irrespective of where it is located in the borough, the travel time to the New Forest and the size of development. In addition, it includes development on large strategic sites such as the Strategic Growth Option and Land west of Horton Heath which will include SANGs within the development site.

6. Likely mitigation measures

- 6.1 Footprint Ecology will summarise the full survey results in a final report. This will report where people have travelled from, the locations they visit and why, their activities and what proportion of these activities they do in the New Forest. Footprint Ecology will consider the key findings and how they might change in the future and highlight key areas of concern and issues to be addressed. This will also be informed by a workshop of stakeholders connected to the New Forest and adjacent local authorities.
- 6.2 The mitigation can include measures within boroughs to provide and improve alternative locations to the New Forest and measures within the New Forest to manage access within designated sites and promote alternative sites and routes outside designated sites. Contributions may also be used for education, awareness and monitoring. The balance of these measures across the strategy, and how these will vary between local authorities, will be determined by the findings from the research. For example, access management measures may be the most appropriate way to address the impact of dog walkers living in the New Forest while improvements to alternative locations may be more effective for dog walkers who would travel further into the New Forest. The following measures are likely to be appropriate to Eastleigh borough:
- i) New open space within or adjoining development including within the west of Horton Heath and SGO developments and in the new country park in Bursledon (SANGS);
 - ii) Improvements to routes and existing open spaces in Eastleigh borough – linking up areas to create longer routes, physical and access improvements to routes, improved facilities within open spaces such as dog waste bins, dog exercise areas and seating, signage, information boards, providing facilities for dog walkers; and
 - iii) Where appropriate, contribution to measures within the New Forest with funding sought from national sources – to fund access management, rangers, education and awareness projects.

- 6.3 In addition to delivering spaces and routes that may be attractive alternatives to visiting the New Forest, mitigation measures within the borough can be designed to meet a number of needs. If the design is in a location where it would attract visitors from protected areas on the Solent coast and incorporates attractive facilities for dog walking, a variety of paths and semi-natural space it may be classed as a SANG to help mitigate the impact on the Solent. These measures will also help deliver new, and improve existing, footpath, cycle and bridleway links and open spaces in accordance with Local Plan policies S13 and DM34.
- 6.4 An interim strategy for Eastleigh will prioritise the provision of new and enhanced green infrastructure to divert residents of the borough away from the New Forest where possible and help deliver the green infrastructure objectives of the borough. While the delivery of measures within the New Forest may be a requirement to address the impact, the Council will seek to gain Government funding for these measures wherever possible, and will ensure the measures attributable to Eastleigh are kept in proportion to the lower number of visits from Eastleigh residents. Developer contributions will only be sought where funding is not achievable from other sources to ensure development can be delivered.

7. Potential Infrastructure projects

- 7.1 The Council has identified a number of projects to improve open spaces and deliver footpath improvements as set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Capital Investment Programme. In addition, Hampshire County Council has identified strategic (and non-strategic) infrastructure projects within the borough and cross-boundary. These include improvements to HCC country parks and routes to these parks within the borough; and improving and connecting existing routes to help deliver a strategic network of walking, cycling and riding routes.

Open spaces within development sites

- 7.2 The Local Plan sets out detailed criteria for strategic developments in the Strategic Growth Option (land north of Bishopstoke and land north and east Fair Oak) and at Land west of Horton Heath. These developments involve the creation of new communities in greenfield locations. They are located close to existing communities and therefore provide opportunities to deliver strategic infrastructure that will serve both the new and existing communities in the area.
- 7.3 As set out in the Cabinet Report from 20th June 2019¹ the Council is working to bring forward new homes and supporting infrastructure at land west of Horton Heath. There are a number of permitted sites in this area and the Council has acquired land to deliver these stalled sites as part of a larger strategic site. A modification to the submitted Local Plan proposes combining various permitted sites into a strategic site allocation; policy HH1. The Council's role in directly delivering development means that it can deliver high quality open spaces and routes within the development, designed to provide the facilities and links necessary to be an attractive alternative to travelling to the New Forest for some of the visits currently made there. The Strategic Growth Option to the north of the borough also provides opportunities to improve links north into the open chalk landscape of the South Downs National Park.

¹ <https://meetings.eastleigh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=254&MIId=6422&Ver=4>

EBC Capital Investment

- 7.4 The Council has a Capital Investment Programme that identifies projects within the borough. Based on currently identified schemes and other potential opportunities, funding could be secured towards:
- (a) Itchen Valley Country Park – investment in paths within the park to ensure they are usable during winter and improvements to dog walking facilities (nb. a bid was submitted for Bird Aware funding for a scheme for path improvements. Depending on the success of this bid, funding could deliver more improvements or provide alternative funding to help deliver the scheme);
 - (b) Lakeside Country Park – improvements to footpaths and cyclepaths including the extension to the Country Park delivered by the Stoneham redevelopment; and
 - (c) Hedge End rail path – help deliver a strategic footpath link alongside the railway (and other links to join up and extend the footpath network).

Hampshire Strategic Infrastructure Statement 2017²

- 7.5 The Strategic Infrastructure Statement identifies strategic and non-strategic transport and countryside schemes within the borough. Funding could be directed towards outstanding elements of the following schemes:
- (a) Strategic transport schemes - Cycle routes:
 - A27 Windhover to Swanwick (along Providence Hill) - capacity improvements and managing traffic along A27 including cycle route provision
 - A3025 Portsmouth Road – Cycle route, cross boundary link to Southampton;
 - A3024 Bursledon Road – Cycle route, cross boundary route to Southampton;
 - Hut Hill, Chandlers Ford - Cycle route, cross boundary route to Southampton;
 - Eastleigh, Bishopstoke to Itchen Valley – strategic footway/cycleway/bridleway;
 - (b) Non-strategic transport scheme:
 - Cycling and walking schemes appropriate to link up network and improve access to open spaces (to be delivered in the short term within 5 years - funding shortfall identified of £6,290,000);
 - (c) Countryside schemes:
 - Manor Farm Country Park – improve visitor facilities; identify and improve sustainable transport corridors to Manor Farm Country Park from Hedge End, Botley, Burridge and Bursledon;

² <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/planning-strategic/HampshireStrategicInfrastructureStatement2017.pdf>

- Royal Victoria Country Park – improve visitor facilities, increase visitor capacity and improve access to heritage of the site; identify and improve sustainable transport corridors from Bursledon, Hamble-le-Rice, Netley, Weston;
 - Eastleigh CAP delivery – strategic improvements to the rural network, improving connectivity and sustainable transport;
- (d) Cross-boundary projects -
- Countryside Recreation Network Initiative – improve and connect existing routes to create a modern walking, cycling and riding network that connects communities and countryside across Hampshire;
 - Access for All – to improve and promote access to as wide a range of people as possible e.g. better surfacing, more accessible furniture and bridge structures;
 - Information management of promoted routes project – better information available for all visitors to the countryside and targeted promotion and improvements of routes to meeting varying user needs;
 - Network connectivity project – road safety schemes to address existing issues and ensure new development does not present further barriers to accessing the countryside.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Council is working on a strategic approach to address recreational disturbance in the New Forest as a result of new development in Eastleigh borough. This strategic approach will be informed by the latest evidence collected by Footprint Ecology and discussions on appropriate mitigation to direct people away from designated sites (to alternative locations both within the borough and within the New Forest) and to effectively manage people in order to prevent disturbance when they visit designated sites. It will be a proportionate approach, recognising that appropriate mitigation will vary between local authorities and with distance to the New Forest.
- 8.2 Eastleigh Borough Council will continue to work on an interim strategy to put in place until the full strategy is finalised. This will take opportunities to deliver multiple benefits from new and enhanced open spaces in the borough. The Council will also seek funding from national sources to deliver measures within the New Forest in recognition of the unique nature of the New Forest.

Appendix:

New Forest Study - Interim Results Overview

Footprint Ecology (January 2019)

1. Overview of results so far: New Forest Visitor Surveys

Introduction

- 1.1 This paper provides a short update on the results so far and the emerging patterns from the joint study of the likely impact of additional development on the New Forest international nature conservation designations through increased recreation.
- 1.2 The primary data collection as part of this project involves a telephone survey, face-to-face interviews and direct counts (covering three time periods) within the New Forest and car park counts undertaken throughout the year. Not all elements of data collection have yet been completed.
- 1.3 The content of this paper is intended to inform discussion, show how the results are coming together and provide an update on progress.
- 1.4 Please note, all tables, maps and commentary relate to interim data only and there remains further data collection to be undertaken as part of this project. Please do not try to extrapolate information from them, do not rely on them for any decision making, or widely cite / quote them. It is also premature to use this information as an indication of likely mitigation.

2. Telephone survey

2.1 The survey ran from 16th November into early December. The full 2000 interviews were achieved as planned. In total, 70% of interviewees have visited the New Forest heaths and woods over the past 12 months. The breakdown by distance band (5km bands 'as the crow flies' out to 25km) is summarised in Table 1 and by band and authority in Table 2. These bands are also shown in the maps on the subsequent pages.

Table 1: Number (and % in brackets) of interviewees by distance band from the New Forest SPA/SAC and whether they or their household had visited the New Forest heaths and woods in the past 12 months.

Q2 Visited NF in past 12 months?	0-5km	5-10km	10-15km	15-20km	20-25km	Total
No	96 (16)	140 (28)	137 (34)	137 (46)	93 (47)	603 (30)
Yes	504 (84)	359 (72)	264 (66)	163 (54)	107 (54)	1397 (70)
total	600 (100)	499 (100)	401 (100)	300 (100)	200 (100)	2000 (100)

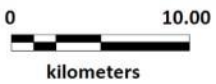
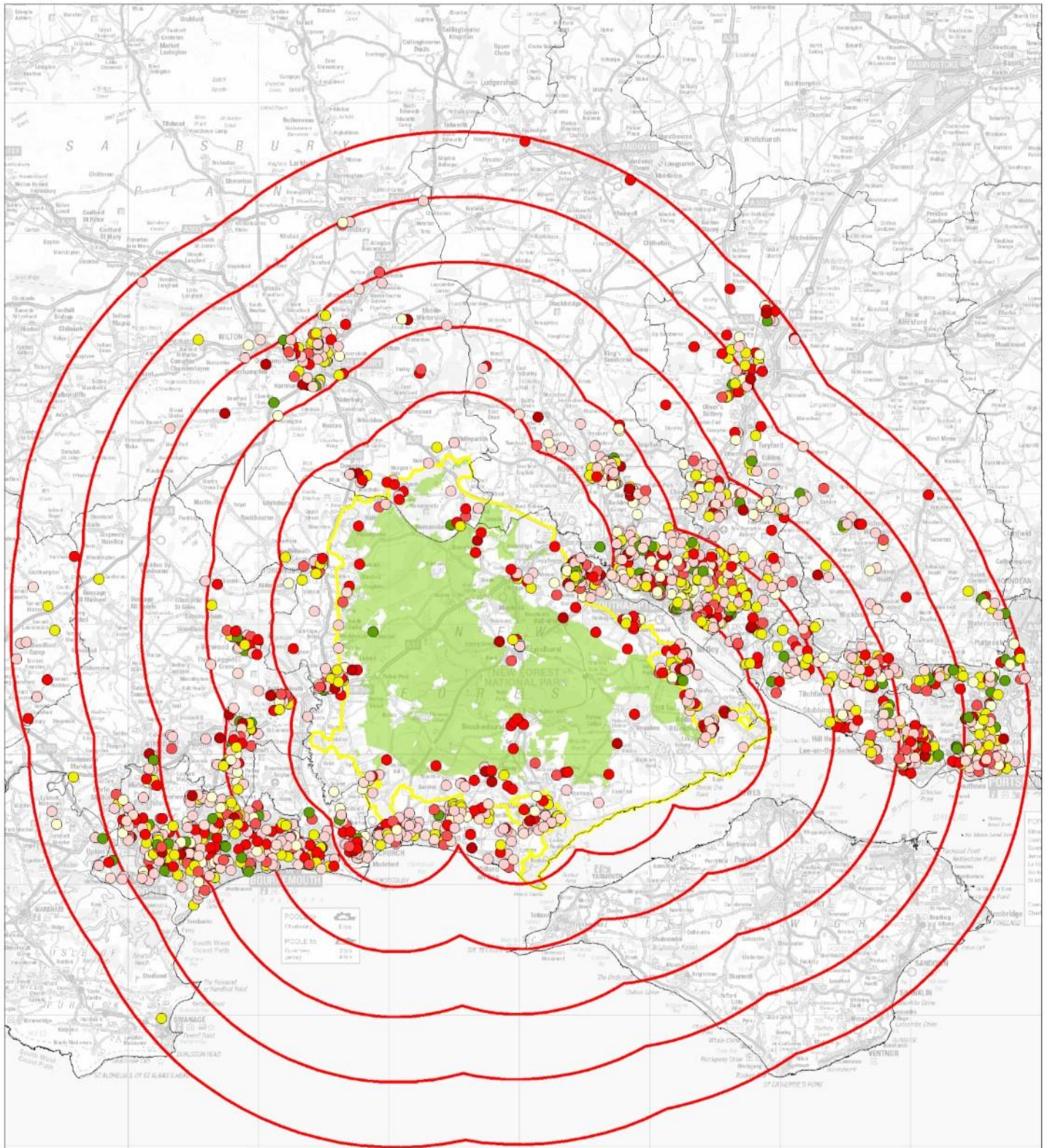
Table 2: Total number of interviews by distance band and local authority, with the figure in brackets representing the percentage answering yes to Q1 (whether they or their household had visited the New Forest heaths and woods in the past 12 months), The first row is the National Park and subsequent rows exclude interviewees from within the National Park.

	0-5km	5-10km	10-15km	15-20km	20-25km	Total
New Forest NP	89 (91)	0	0	0	0	89 (91)
Bournemouth	0	68 (75)	93 (63)	0	0	161 (68)
Christchurch	88 (77)	7 (43)	0	0	0	95 (75)
City of Portsmouth	0	0	0	23 (57)	118 (54)	141 (55)
City of Southampton	53 (70)	185 (68)	0	0	0	238 (68)
East Dorset	2 (100)	90 (76)	8 (88)	7 (43)	1 (100)	108 (75)
Eastleigh	2 (50)	30 (67)	86 (69)	20 (45)	0	138 (64)
Fareham	0	31 (65)	66 (67)	20 (50)	0	117 (63)
Gosport	0	0	25 (48)	65 (42)	0	90 (43)
Havant	0	0	0	0	8 (38)	8 (38)
New Forest	351 (86)	0	0	0	0	351 (86)
North Dorset	0	0	0	0	11 (45)	11 (45)
Poole	0	0	42 (69)	107 (56)	6 (17)	155 (58)
Purbeck	0	0	0	0	5 (60)	5 (60)
Test Valley	2 (50)	86 (80)	1 (100)	0	2 (50)	91 (79)
Wiltshire	13 (100)	2 (100)	72 (68)	10 (80)	10 (60)	107 (73)
Winchester	0	0	8 (50)	48 (69)	39 (59)	95 (63)
Total	600 (84)	499 (72)	401 (66)	300 (54)	200 (54)	2000 (70)

2.2 Data are summarised in maps 1-5, which provide an overview of the spatial distribution of the data for selected questions. Key points from the maps include:

- A good spatial distribution of responses has been achieved, encompassing 15 different local authorities (including the National Park) and out to 25km ('as the crow flies').
- The data show interviewees visiting the New Forest from all distance bands, including those from Portsmouth and Purbeck.
- Frequent visits are made by some interviews in the outer bands, but the data show a clear pattern whereby those living close to the New Forest heaths and woods visit more frequently.
- For those within 5km and even for some out to 15km the majority or all of their visits for the given activity take place in the New Forest. In the other bands, and particularly in the far south-east the majority of interviewees visit the New Forest for less than 50% of their visits for the given activity.
- A broad range of activities were undertaken by those who had visited the New Forest heaths and woods in the last year. Walking was the main activity (836 interviewees), followed by dog walking (263 interviewees).

Map 1: Telephone survey Q1: General use of the countryside for recreation



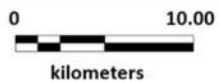
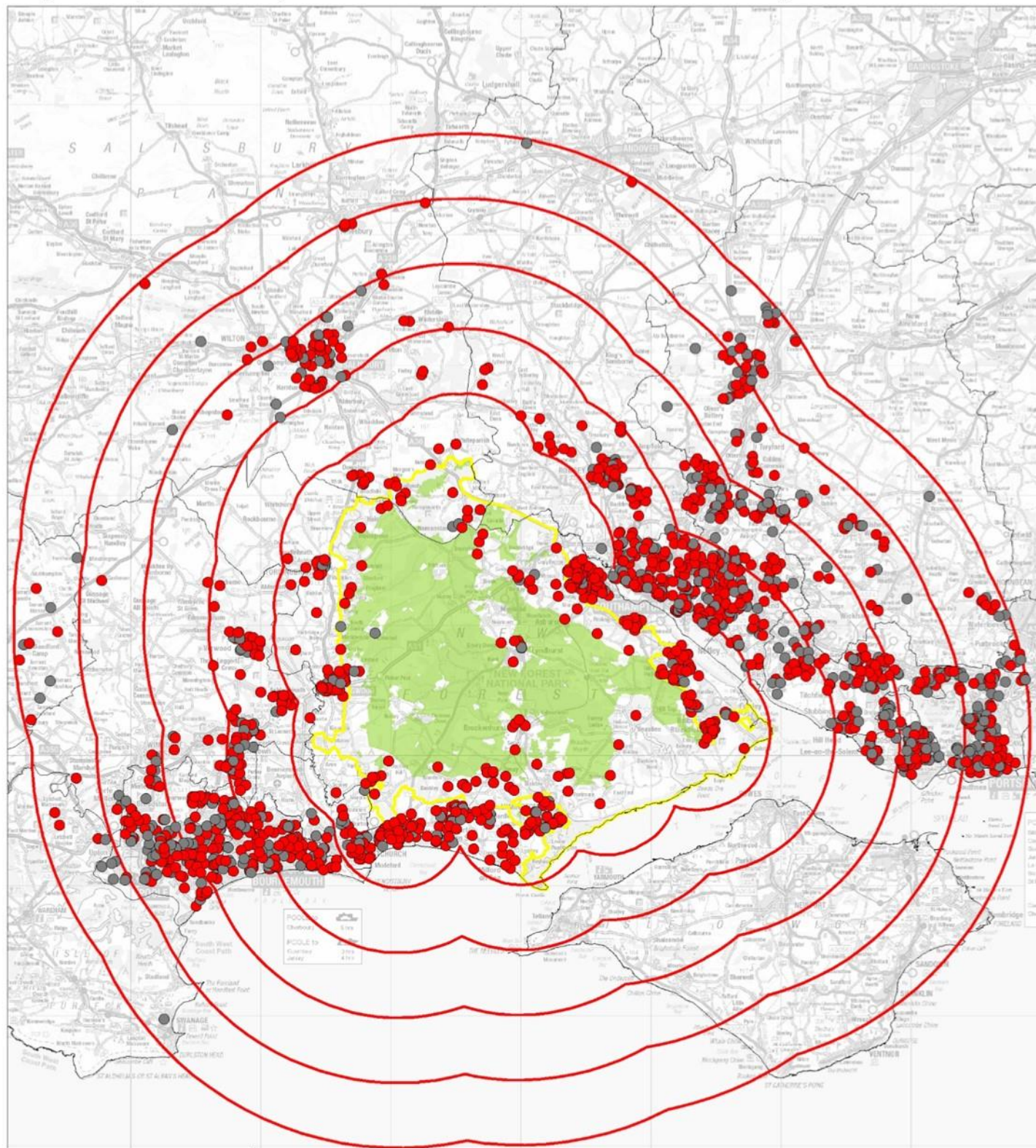
- New Forest SPA/SAC
- NF National Park boundary
- 5km bands (to 25km) from SPA/SAC

Q1 How often visit countryside in general for recreation?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than once a day (365+ visits a year) (81) Daily (300-365 visits) (306) Most days (180-300 visits) (174) 1 to 3 times a week (40-180 visits) (570) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 to 3 times per month (15-40 visits) (220) Once a month (6-15 visits) (198) Less than once a month (2-5 visits) (341) Don't know/other (110)
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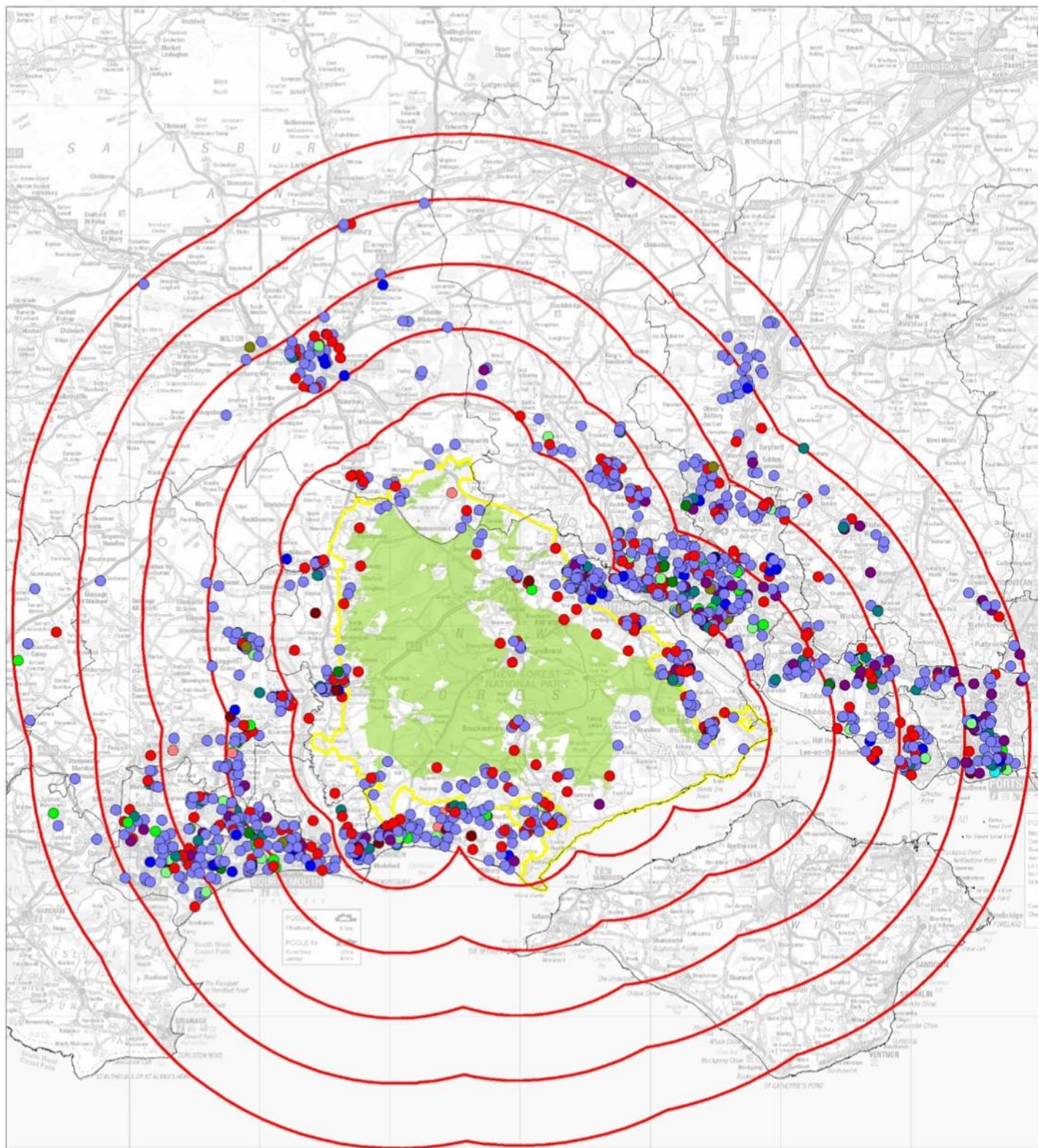
Contains Ordnance Survey Data. © Crown Copyright and Database Right 2018.
 Designated site boundaries downloaded from Natural England website. © Natural England.

Map 2: Telephone survey Q2: Visited New Forest Heaths & Woods in past 12 months



Q2 Have you/your household visited NF heaths/woods in last 12 months?
 ● No (603) ● Yes (1397)

Map 3: Telephone survey Q5: Main activity when visiting the New Forest Heath and Woods

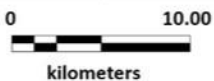
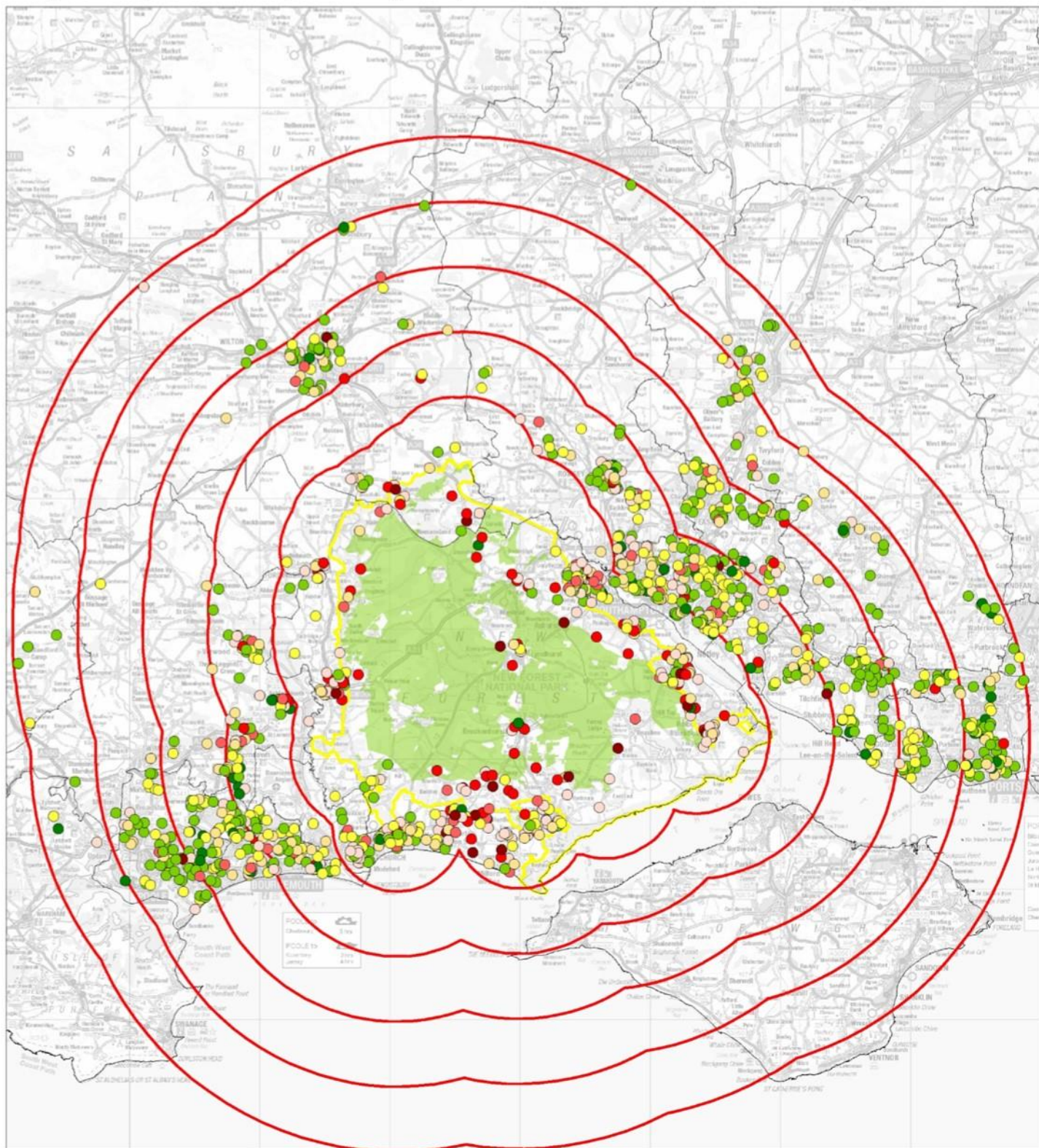


- New Forest SPA/SAC
- NF National Park boundary
- 5km bands (to 25km) from SPA/SAC

Q5 Main activity

● Bird / Wildlife watching	(24)	● Model aircraft	(1)
● Cycling off-road / mountain biking	(47)	● Other	(86)
● Dog walking / exercising dogs	(263)	● Photography	(9)
● Enjoying the view / picnic	(57)	● Road cycling	(2)
● Fishing	(1)	● Running	(11)
● Horse riding	(15)	● Visiting café / pub	(34)
● Meeting up with friends	(11)	● Walking	(836)

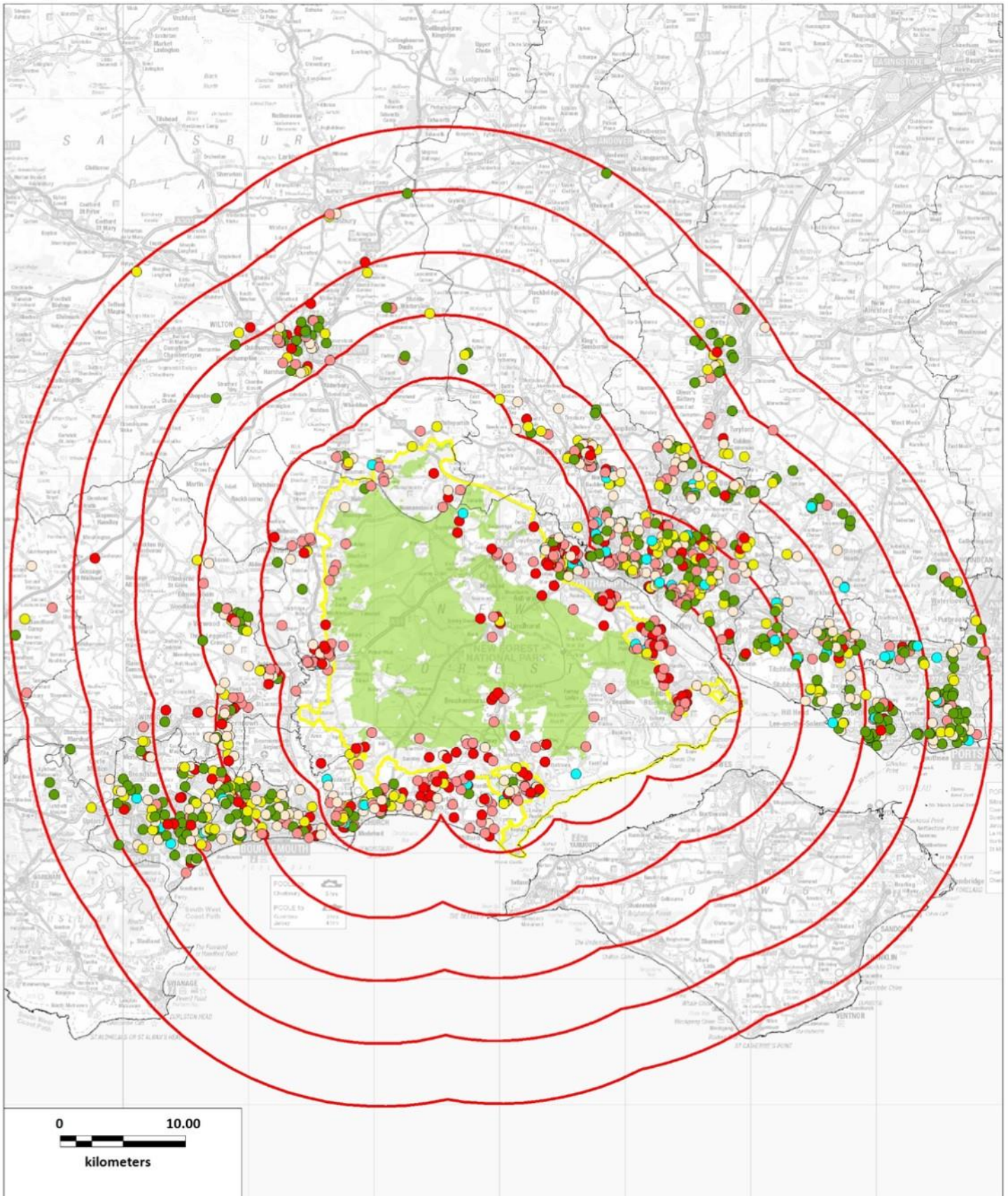
Map 4: Telephone survey Q4: Frequency of visit to NF Heath and Woods in past 12 months



Q4 How often have you visited the New Forest heaths/woods in past year?

● More than once a day (365+ visits a year)	(28)	● Once a month (6-15 visits)	(304)
● Daily (300-365 visits)	(87)	● Less than once a month (2-5 visits)	(424)
● Most days (180-300 visits)	(69)	● Don't know/other	(68)
● 1 to 3 times a week (40-180 visits)	(225)		
● 2 to 3 times per month (15-40 visits)	(192)		

Map 5 : Telephone survey Q9: Proportion of visits to New Forest compared to other sites



- New Forest SPA/SAC
- NF National Park boundary
- 5km bands (to 25km) from SPA/SAC

Q9 Proportion of visits for given activity to New Forest

- | | |
|---|--|
| ● All visits to New Forest (208) | ● 25 - 49% (190) |
| ● 75% and above (307) | ● Less than 25% (349) |
| ● 50 - 74% (281) | ● Don't know (62) |

3. On-site surveys

- 3.1 A total of 1953 face-face interviews were completed at 60 survey locations (see Map 6). Interviews were spread across the period 4th October – 28th November. The weather across the period was variable, and some surveys did take place on days with some rain. Around 71% of the two-hour survey sessions were entirely dry and no sites have continuous rain for all survey sessions¹.
- 3.2 Totals by location are summarised in Table 3, which also gives the activities (main activity) given by the interviewees. Dog walking (60% of interviewees) was the most frequently recorded main activity, followed by walking (25%).
- 3.3 1724 interviews were geocoded and matched to a valid UK postcode (this total could increase, we will do a more complete data clean and tidy once all interview data are in). The data are summarised maps 7-9.

¹ Note around 10% of the summary data (weather etc) and the counts of visitors (tallies) still to enter.

Table 3: Numbers (row %) of interviews at each location, by activity.

Location code	Survey point name	Bird/Wildlife watching	Commercial dog walking	Cycling off-road/mountain biking	Dog walking/exercising dogs	Enjoying the view/picnic	Meeting up with friends	Model aircraft	Other	Photography	Road cycling	Running	Visiting cafe/pub	Walking	Total
36	Marchwood Inclosure	0 (0)	2 (3)	2 (3)	58 (84)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (6)	69 (100)
24	Blackwater	2 (3)	0 (0)	1 (2)	17 (28)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	36 (60)	60 (100)
9	Wilverley Pit	1 (2)	1 (2)	0 (0)	44 (80)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	7 (13)	55 (100)
6	Wilverley Inclosure	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	29 (57)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (6)	0 (0)	13 (25)	51 (100)
41	Longdown	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	50 (98)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	51 (100)
60	West Wellow	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	43 (84)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	7 (14)	51 (100)
51	Abbots Well	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (6)	27 (54)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (6)	0 (0)	15 (30)	50 (100)
29	Dibden Inclosure	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	42 (88)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (10)	48 (100)
13	Burbush Hill	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (9)	30 (65)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (24)	46 (100)
3	Brownhills	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	32 (71)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	9 (20)	45 (100)
5	Horseshoe Bottom	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	40 (93)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (2)	43 (100)
19	Balmer Lawn	2 (5)	0 (0)	6 (14)	7 (16)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (21)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (7)	1 (2)	14 (33)	43 (100)
38	Rockford Common	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	37 (88)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (12)	42 (100)
40	Bolderwood	6 (14)	0 (0)	1 (2)	4 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	6 (14)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	24 (57)	42 (100)
11	Blackwell Common	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	35 (90)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (8)	39 (100)
27	Kings Hat	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	34 (87)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (13)	39 (100)
30	Brock Hill	1 (3)	0 (0)	3 (8)	10 (26)	1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	22 (56)	39 (100)
52	Janesmoor Pond	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	20 (51)	1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (10)	1 (3)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	11 (28)	39 (100)
59	Turf Hill	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	34 (87)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5)	0 (0)	2 (5)	39 (100)
23	Bolderford Bridge	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (29)	7 (18)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5)	0 (0)	18 (47)	38 (100)
37	Boltons Bench	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	14 (37)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	18 (47)	38 (100)
43	Ashurst	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	21 (55)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	1 (3)	1 (3)	14 (37)	38 (100)

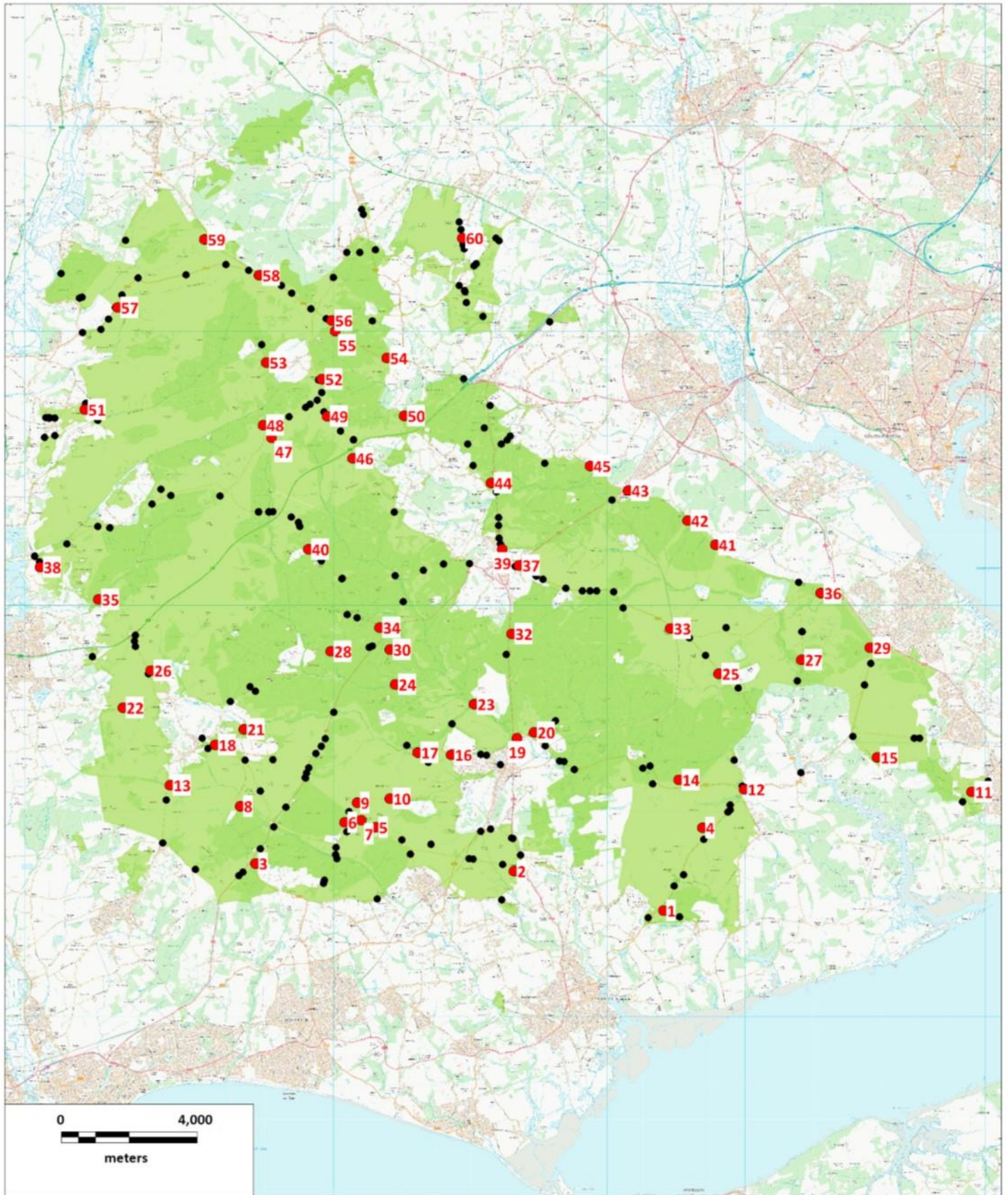
Interim results overview, Jan 2019

Location code	Survey point name	Bird/Wildlife watching	Commercial dog walking	Cycling off-road/mountain biking	Dog walking/exercising dogs	Enjoying the view/picnic	Meeting up with friends	Model aircraft	Other	Photography	Road cycling	Running	Visiting cafe/pub	Walking	Total
45	Phone box on Woodlands	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (16)	25 (66)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	6 (16)	38 (100)
35	Linford Bottom	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	33 (89)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (8)	37 (100)
31	Heath roundabout	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	30 (83)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	4 (11)	36 (100)
42	Deerleap	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	30 (83)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (11)	36 (100)
33	Shatterford	4 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (34)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	19 (54)	35 (100)
16	Beachern Wood	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	18 (53)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	12 (35)	34 (100)
26	Vereley	2 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	22 (65)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (24)	34 (100)
58	Telegraph Hill	3 (9)	0 (0)	1 (3)	21 (62)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	7 (21)	34 (100)
54	Roundhill	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	27 (82)	1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	33 (100)
22	Smugglers Road	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	25 (78)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	5 (16)	32 (100)
57	Ashley Walk	1 (3)	0 (0)	1 (3)	16 (50)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	14 (44)	32 (100)
10	Hincheslea Moor	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	16 (52)	2 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (6)	0 (0)	10 (32)	31 (100)
53	Fritham	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	6 (19)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (13)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (10)	0 (0)	17 (55)	31 (100)
15	Moonhills	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	28 (93)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	30 (100)
2	Setley Pond	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	21 (72)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (21)	29 (100)
14	Hawkhill	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (7)	22 (76)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (10)	29 (100)
17	Whitefield Moor	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (34)	1 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)	0 (0)	17 (59)	29 (100)
18	Burley Cricket	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (18)	3 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (7)	15 (54)	28 (100)
12	Hatchet Pond	1 (4)	0 (0)	1 (4)	8 (30)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (4)	1 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (56)	27 (100)
20	Tilery Road	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (15)	11 (41)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (7)	0 (0)	10 (37)	27 (100)
34	Knightwood Oak	2 (7)	0 (0)	2 (7)	9 (33)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (15)	1 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (33)	27 (100)
4	Beaulieu Heath	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (16)	15 (60)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (16)	1 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (4)	25 (100)
25	Pig Bush	2 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (63)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	7 (29)	24 (100)

Interim results overview, Jan 2019

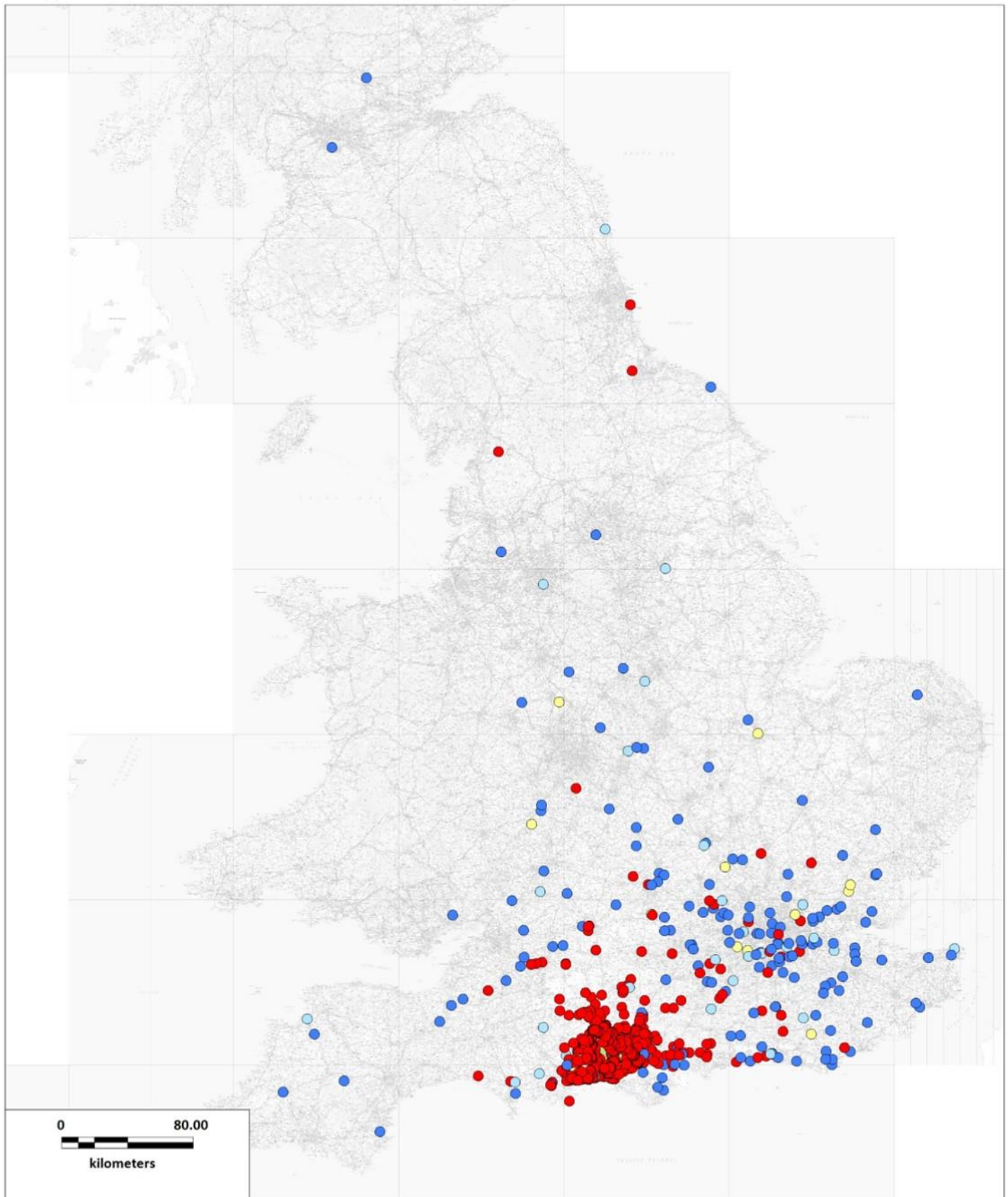
Location code	Survey point name	Bird/Wildlife watching	Commercial dog walking	Cycling off-road/mountain biking	Dog walking/exercising dogs	Enjoying the view/picnic	Meeting up with friends	Model aircraft	Other	Photography	Road cycling	Running	Visiting cafe/pub	Walking	Total
55	Longcross	0 (0)	1 (4)	2 (9)	10 (43)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (35)	23 (100)
48	Cadmans Pool	1 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	13 (59)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (5)	2 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (23)	22 (100)
39	Racecourse View	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	16 (84)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (5)	0 (0)	2 (11)	19 (100)
46	Andrews Mare	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	14 (78)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (17)	18 (100)
50	Rufus Stone	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (6)	5 (28)	0 (0)	1 (6)	0 (0)	2 (11)	1 (6)	0 (0)	1 (6)	0 (0)	7 (39)	18 (100)
1	Norley Wood	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	13 (76)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (6)	0 (0)	1 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (12)	17 (100)
21	Mill Lawn	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (6)	10 (59)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (29)	17 (100)
8	Holmsley	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (19)	5 (31)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (6)	0 (0)	7 (44)	16 (100)
28	Anderwood	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (56)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (13)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (31)	16 (100)
56	Bramble Hill Walk	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (7)	9 (60)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (33)	15 (100)
32	Clayhill Heath	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (57)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (36)	14 (100)
49	Stoney Cross	0 (0)	1 (8)	0 (0)	8 (67)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (17)	12 (100)
47	Ocknell Pond	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (11)	3 (33)	1 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (33)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (11)	9 (100)
7	Longslade Heath	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (57)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (43)	7 (100)
44	Minstead Road	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (29)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (29)	1 (14)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (14)	1 (14)	7 (100)
Total		28 (1)	9 (0)	72 (4)	1164 (60)	9 (0)	1 (0)	4 (0)	108 (6)	17 (1)	3 (0)	35 (2)	5 (0)	498 (25)	1953 (100)

Map 6: Survey points for face-face interviews







- Survey points
- Other parking locations (not surveyed)
- New Forest SPA/SAC

Map 7: Face-face data, winter survey only, all postcodes

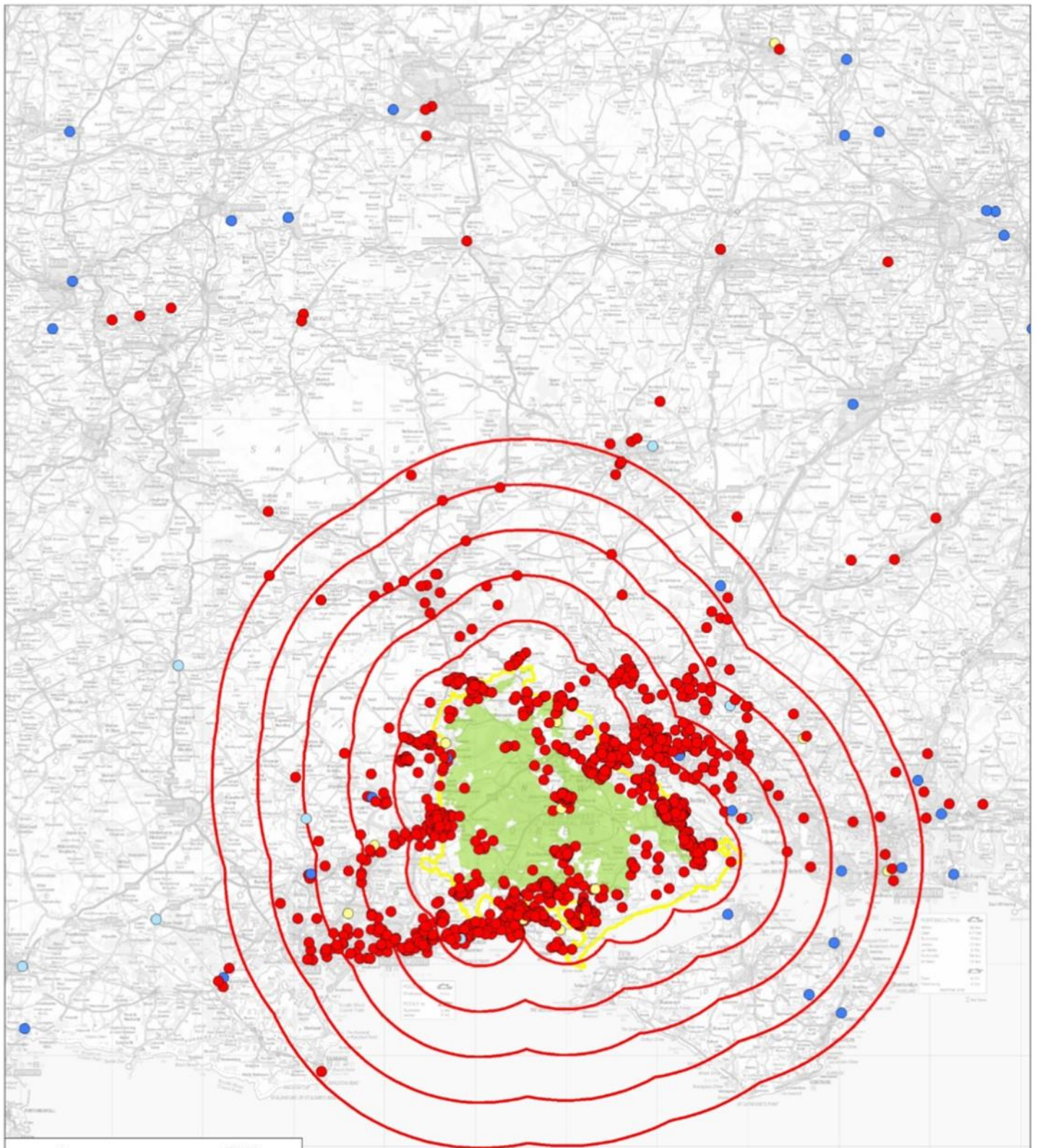


-  New Forest SPA/SAC
-  NF National Park boundary
-  5km bands (to 25km) from SPA/SAC

Type of visitor (1724 geocoded)





-  Travelled directly from home
-  Staying away from home with friends or family
-  Staying away from home, tourist accommodation
-  Other

Map 8: Face-face interview data, winter 2018 only, more local area only

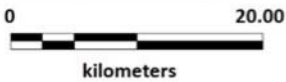
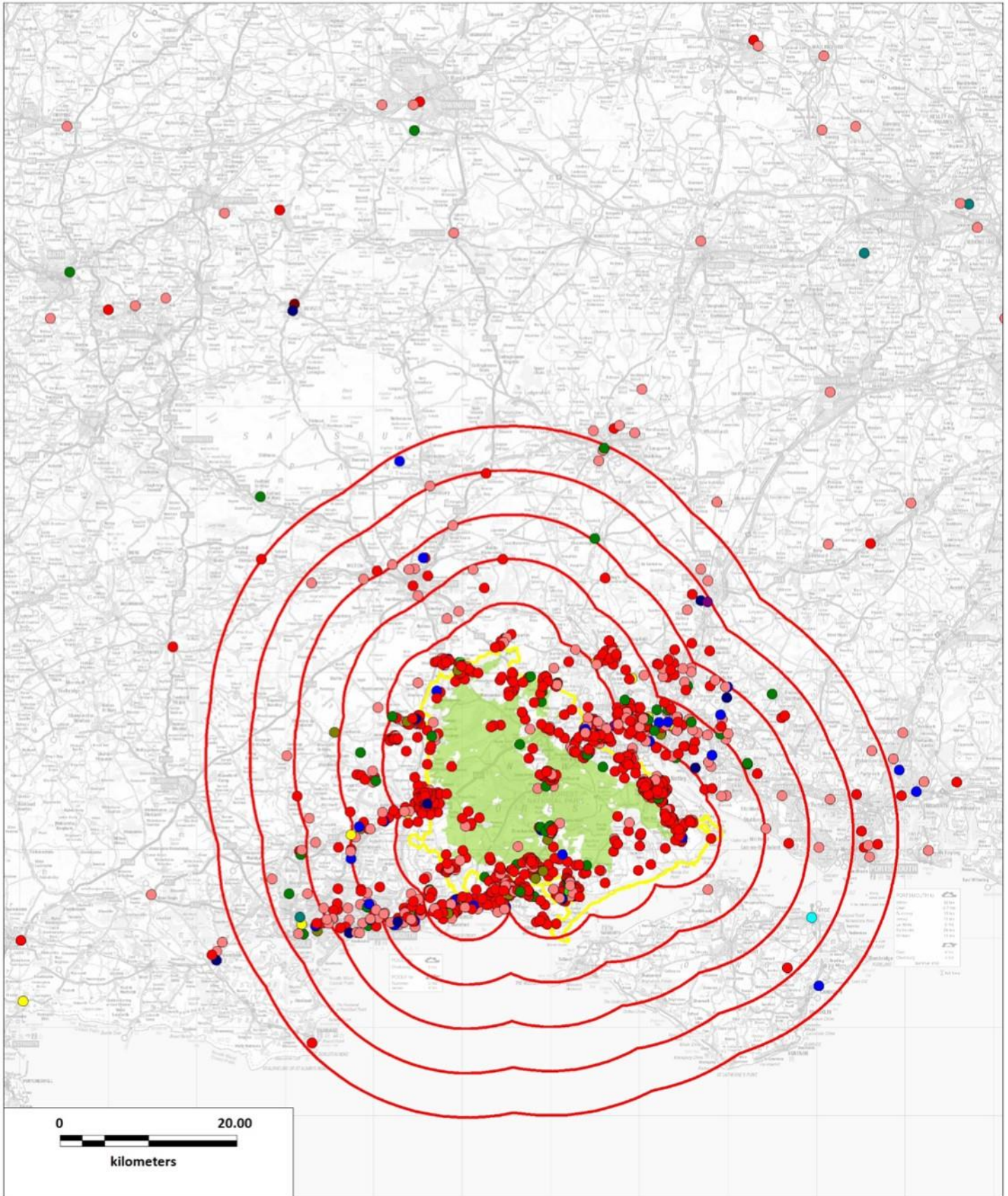


-  New Forest SPA/SAC
-  NF National Park boundary
-  5km bands (to 25km) from SPA/SAC

Type of visitor (1724 geocoded)

-  Travelled directly from home
-  Staying away from home with friends or family
-  Staying away from home, tourist accommodation
-  Other

Map 9: Face-face interview data, winter 2018 only, more local area only, by activity



- New Forest SPA/SAC
- NF National Park boundary
- 5km bands (to 25km) from SPA/SAC

Main activity

- Bird/Wildlife watching
- Commercial dog walking
- Cycling off-road/mountain biking
- Dog walking/exercising dogs
- Enjoying the view/picnic
- Meeting up with friends
- Model aircraft
- Other
- Photography
- Road cycling
- Running
- Visiting cafe/pub
- Walking

4. Car-park counts

4.1 Car park counts cover 271 parking locations, with an estimated total capacity of 4,748 spaces. Three separate co-ordinated counts have now been conducted on three dates, with five surveyors used to cover all parking locations in a small-time window (currently typically three hours):

- Friday 26th Oct 2018, starting at 13:00
- Sunday 25th Nov 2018, starting at 11:00
- Friday 28th Dec 2018, starting at 09:00

4.2 A total of 3,400 motor vehicles have been counted over the three transects (an average of 1,133 per transect to date). The totals on the two weekdays appear broadly similar, but weekends notably more. The total in late December in the Christmas period was the lowest, but not very different and this may be in part due to the earlier start time.

4.3 Most vehicles are plain cars, with the largest group of other vehicles noted being vans, which accounted for roughly 4% of all vehicles. This was followed by camper/caravans (2%) and vehicles with bike racks (2%).

4.4 Weather during transects has generally been good for the winter period, odd showers mixed with sunshine, but no bad conditions.

Table 4: Summary of results from counts of parked vehicles

	26/10/2018 @ 13:00	25/11/2018 @ 11:00	28/12/2018 @ 09:00	Total to date
total parking locations visited/checked	271	271	271	813
total parking locations open	265	247	252	764
total motor vehicles	1053	1411	936	3400
number of vans (as % of vehicles)	50 (5)	48 (3)	40 (4)	138 (4)
number of branded dog walker vehicles (as % of vehicles)	3 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	5 (0)
number of camper/caravans (as % of vehicles)	25 (2)	17 (1)	16 (2)	58 (2)
number of horse boxes (as % of vehicles)	4 (0)	7 (0)	3 (0)	14 (0)
number of vehicles with bike racks (as % of vehicles)	23 (2)	21 (1)	13 (1)	57 (2)
number of minibus/coaches (as % of vehicles)	4 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	8 (0)
number of bicycles	4	2	6	12

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