


	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Notes</h1> 
Name of Meeting:	Isle of Wight Council (IWC) Environment & Sustainability Forum: Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Date and Time:	9 th January 2025, 18:00 – 18:50
Chair:	Alaster Sims – Service Manager for Climate, Coast and Environment
Attendees:	Katy Hurd (Climate Change and Biosphere Coordinator); James Brewer (Planning Policy Manager, (Isle of Wight Council)); Robert Packham; Kay Lynch; Trish Evans; Sam Buck; Lucy Charman; Nigel George; John Hobart; Caroline Gowing; Cllr. Penny Acton; Ian Boyd; Sarah Talbot.
Notes:	<p>Presentation on Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) - Presenter: James Brewer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a key initiative introduced by the Environment Act 2021 in England. They aim to create a comprehensive map of opportunities for nature recovery across the country. Each LNRS includes a map and a statement of biodiversity priorities, helping to coordinate and focus efforts on nature's recovery. ○ The strategies involve local authorities working with stakeholders, including farmers and land managers, to identify areas where nature recovery can be most effective. The goal is to enhance biodiversity, support sustainable land management, and contribute to the national Nature Recovery Network. • Key Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Environment Act 2021 underpins the LNRS with three key commitments: biodiversity duty, biodiversity net gain, and the LNRS. ○ The Isle of Wight Council appointed Arc Biodiversity to lead the preparation of the LNRS. ○ The LNRS has mapped existing biodiversity areas, set priorities, and identified opportunities for nature recovery. ○ The strategy is intended to be a positive tool for developers, landowners, and conservation charities. ○ It was noted that the LNRS is a land based document but that we are an Island, and therefore a small amount of marine work has been captured within it. • Mapping and Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The LNRS will focus on areas outside existing conservation estates. ○ It creates irreplaceable habitats. Irreplaceable habitats in LNRS are areas of particular importance for biodiversity that cannot be recreated once lost. These habitats are essential for the conservation of certain species and ecosystems. ○ We already have a lot of extremely good ecological designations. ○ It will include urban and rural areas, aiming to connect habitats and provide opportunities for nature recovery. ○ THIS is not a one size fits all type of strategy and a lot of time has been spent over the designation and the 13 opportunity areas identified.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The strategy will be a live document, evolving with new data and feedback. ○ It is hoped that the strategy will stop the decline in nature and help move us towards a nature positive and thriving Biosphere Island. ● Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public consultation will start on January 17, 2025, for four weeks. ○ The final LNRS will be presented to the full council in March 2025, with formal publication expected in April or May 2025. ● Questions and Answers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PA: Asked if the LNRS would be impacted by the devolution white paper. JB confirmed it would not. ○ CG: Inquired about the expected feedback from the public consultation. JB explained the focus would likely be on priorities, habitats, and mapping. ○ LC: Asked about the material considerations around the LNRS. JB noted the need for further guidance from Defra. ○ LC noted the Council may get submissions from developers asking for potential development sites to be designated due to the Strategic Significant multiplier. The multiplier effect for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) is known as the Strategic Significance (SS) multiplier. This multiplier incentivizes developers to align their projects with the priorities identified in the LNRS. JB agreed this may be a potential area of feedback when consulting and that there may be amendments and iterations to the LNRS moving forward. ○ ST: Raised concerns about protecting ancient woodlands if there is no enforcement associated with the LNRS. JB emphasized that the new visibility of current existing protections would help with this protection rather than hinder it.
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<p>Green Open Homes 2025: January 18-19 and February 8-9. An opportunity to see real examples of home adaptations for reducing carbon footprints. https://www.wightcommunityenergy.org/project/green-open-homes</p> <p>Biosphere Festival: End of 28 June - 6th July. A week-long event celebrating our Biosphere status with various activities planned throughout the week. The event will be kicked off at FO-CAS, the weekend of 28/29 June at the Wild heart Animal Sanctuary. If you would like to be involved, please email Martha Henson at Hello@iwbiosphere.org</p> <p>White Farming Conference: 27th February. Focus on balancing nature and farming: Isle of Wight Farming Conference 2025 Wight Rural Hub</p>
<p>PSQ:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>AOB:</p>	<p>The meeting concluded with thanks to all participants and a reminder of the upcoming public consultation on the LNRS. Opportunities to submit your opinion will be available from 17th January 2025 and we encourage you to do so.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>13th March 13:00</p>



Island Nature

Isle of Wight Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Environment Act 2021

The [Environment Act \(2021\)](#) laid out key commitments and policy changes for biodiversity recovery across England
Several key statutory requirements came out of this Act:

The Biodiversity Duty

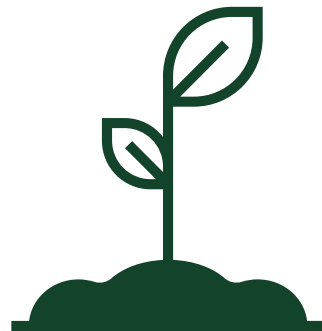
Biodiversity Net Gain

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Along with other policy tools and outputs, they have been designed to work together to achieve the same targets and goals
The targets for biodiversity for England are set out in the [Environmental Improvement Plan \(2023\)](#)

By 2030, the government has committed to:

- Halt the decline in species abundance
- Protect 30% of UK land



By 2042, the government has committed to:

- Increase species abundance by at least 10% from 2030, surpassing 2022 levels
- Restore or create at least 500,000 ha of a range of wildlife-rich habitats
- Reduce the risk of species extinction
- Restore 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term

WHAT ARE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGIES?

- **48 new statutory spatial plans for nature in England designed to reverse the declines in biodiversity and improve ecological connectivity in the landscape.**
- **Each strategy will, for the area it covers:**
 - **Map existing areas of importance for biodiversity;**
 - **Agree priorities for nature recovery;**
 - **Map opportunities to address priorities and wider environmental benefits**

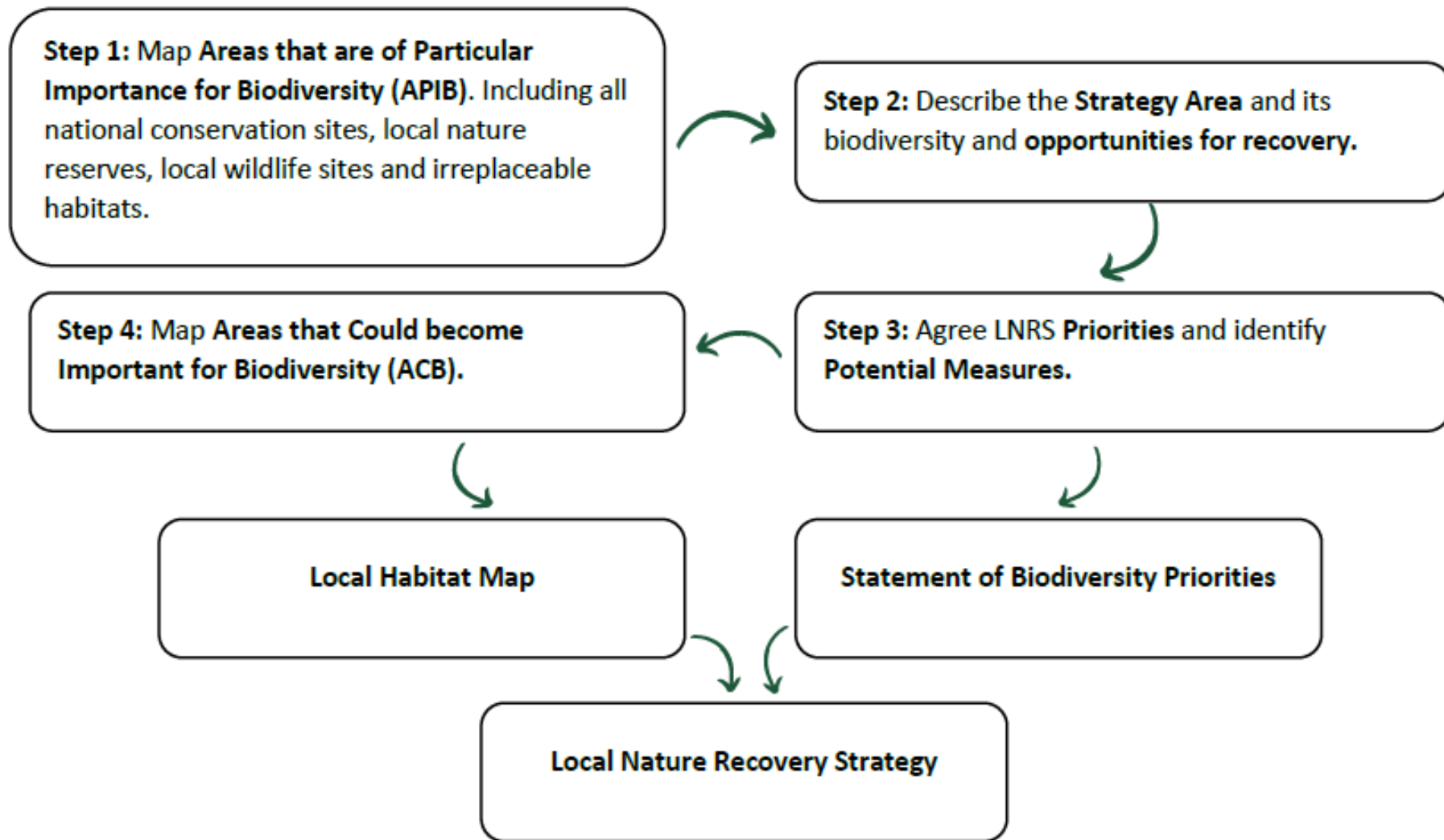


Figure 1: Adapted diagram of LNRs process from the LNRs Statutory Guidance (2023).

Ten goal areas of 25-year environmental plan

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1

Clean air | 2

Clean and plentiful water |
| 3

Thriving plants and wildlife | 4

Reducing environmental hazards |
| 5

Using natural resources more sustainably | 6

Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with nature |
| 7

Mitigating and adapting to climate change | 8

Minimising waste |
| 9

Managing chemicals and pesticides | 10

Enhanced biosecurity |

THE ISLE OF WIGHT BIOSPHERE PRINCIPLES

We commit to...

VALUE OUR ISLAND HERITAGE

PROTECT AND RESPECT NATURE

RESTORE ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

CELEBRATE LOCAL DISTINCTIVENESS

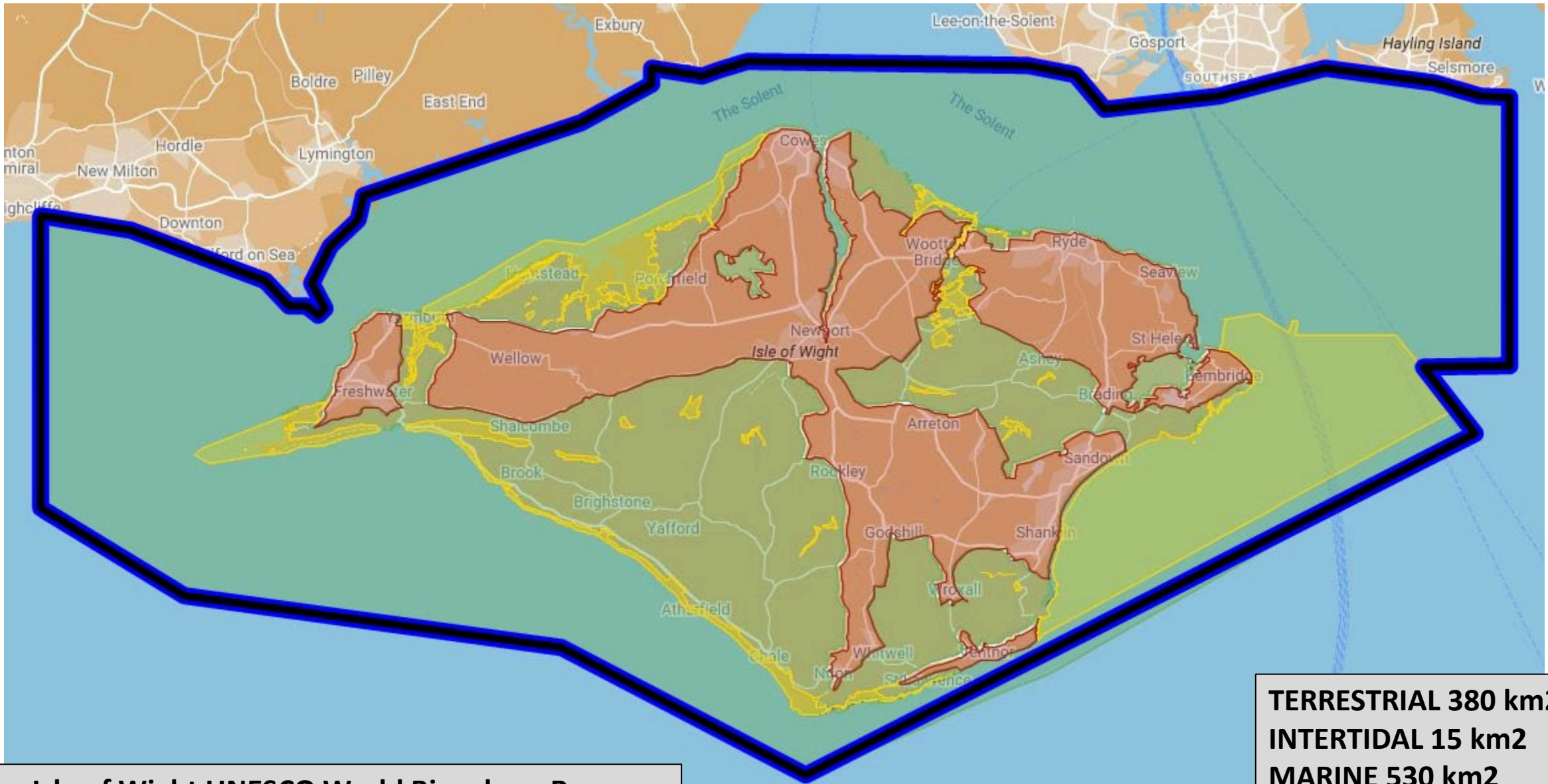
BUILD A LIVEABLE ISLAND

SHARE BIOSPHERE KNOWLEDGE

EMBRACE A NEW ECONOMY

TAKE ACTION FOR CLIMATE

SAFEGUARD FUTURE GENERATIONS



The Isle of Wight UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve

**TERRESTRIAL 380 km²
INTERTIDAL 15 km²
MARINE 530 km²**

IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL GRASSLAND 13000 HA 35%

CROPS 8000 HA 21%

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS 8000 HA 21%

URBAN + INFRASTRUCTURE 5000 HA 13%

OTHER 4000 HA 10%

WOODLAND AND TREES

Lowland mixed deciduous
Plantations (PAWS and recent)
Wood pasture and parkland
Traditional Orchards
Wet woodlands
Ancient and veteran trees
Scrub
Hedgerows and treelines
Transitional and successional habitats

IMPROVED GRASSLAND AND CROPLAND

Arable
Horticulture
Rotational and permanent headlands
Temporary grasslands
Permanent pasture
Transitional and successional habitats

SEMI-NATURAL GRASSLAND AND HEATH

Chalk grassland
Acid grassland
Neutral meadows
Mires, bogs and heaths
Rush pasture and marshy grassland
Transitional and successional habitats

WETLANDS

Rivers and streams
Ditches and drains
Ponds and lakes
Swamps , fens and peat
Reedbeds
Transitional and successional habitats

COASTAL AND INTERTIDAL

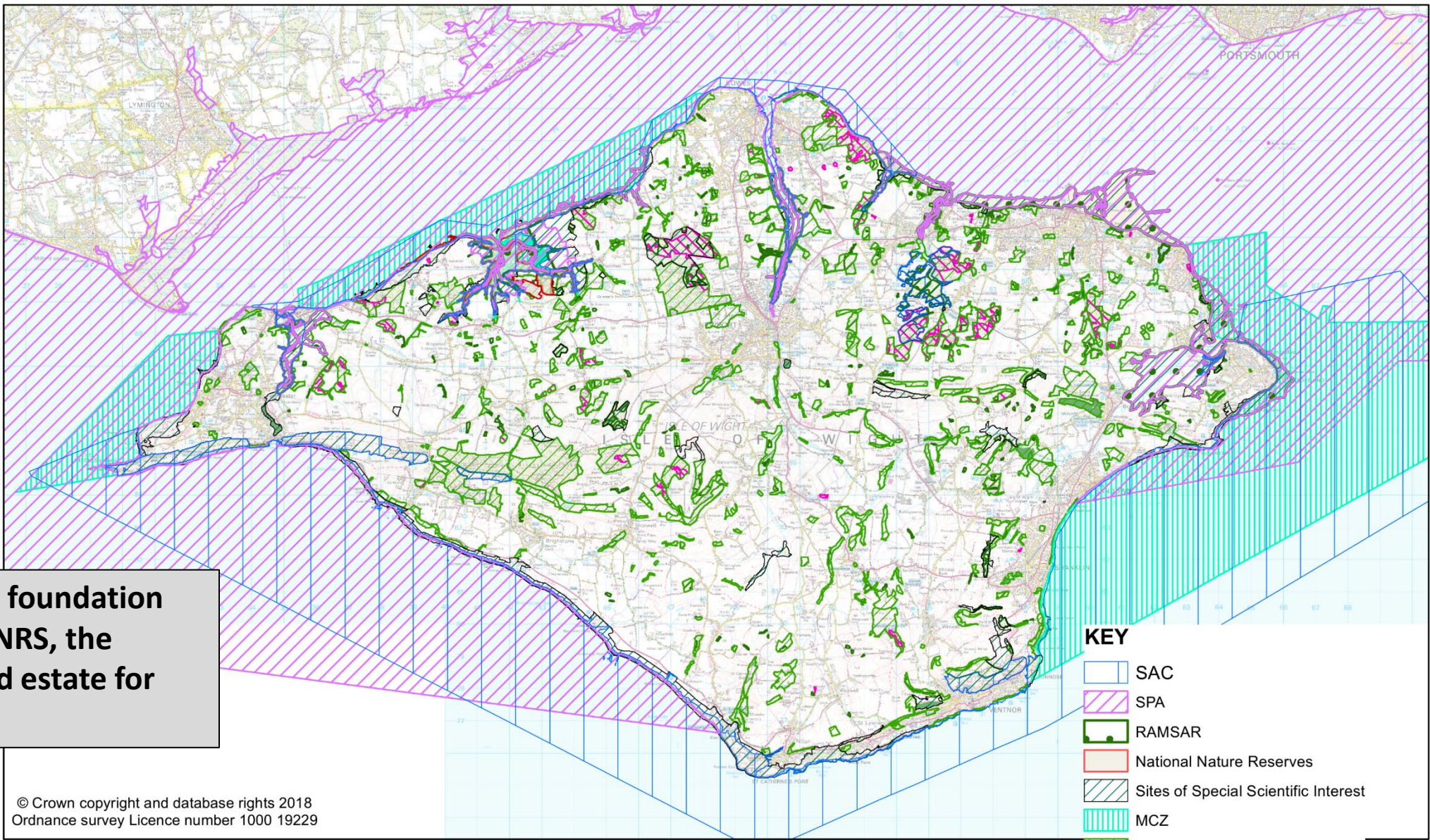
Cliffs, sea caves and slopes
Coastal lagoons
Shingle, strandline and dunes
Saltmarsh
Mud, sand, coarse and mixed sediments
Intertidal peat
Seagrass, wrack and kelp
Rocks and reefs

**LNRS Topic Groups and
their Habitats 10.04.24**

BUILT AND URBAN

Parks and gardens
Golf courses
Cemeteries
Allotments
Brownfield mosaics
Buildings
Highways infrastructure
Drainage infrastructure
Coastal infrastructure
Water ,energy and waste infrastructures
Quarries and mineral works





This is the foundation map for LNRs, the designated estate for nature.

© Crown copyright and database rights 2018
 Ordnance survey Licence number 1000 19229

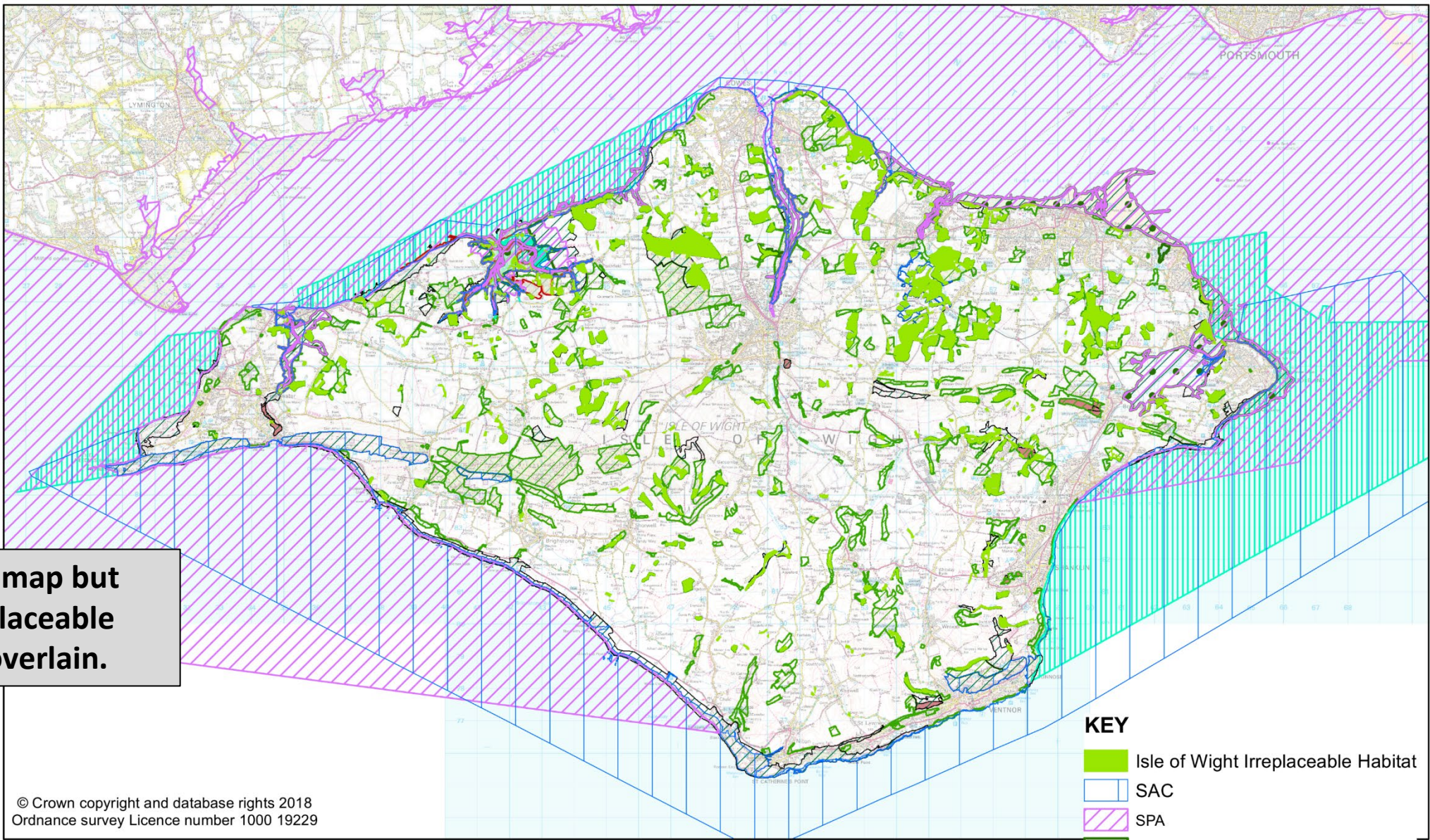


1:150,000

Date: 03/01/2024

Isle of Wight 'Wildlife Sites' Map

- KEY**
- SAC
 - SPA
 - RAMSAR
 - National Nature Reserves
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - MCZ
 - SINC
 - Local Nature Reserves
- Ancient Woodland STATUS**
- ASNW
 - PAWS



The same map but with Irreplaceable Habitats overlain.

© Crown copyright and database rights 2018
 Ordnance survey Licence number 1000 19229



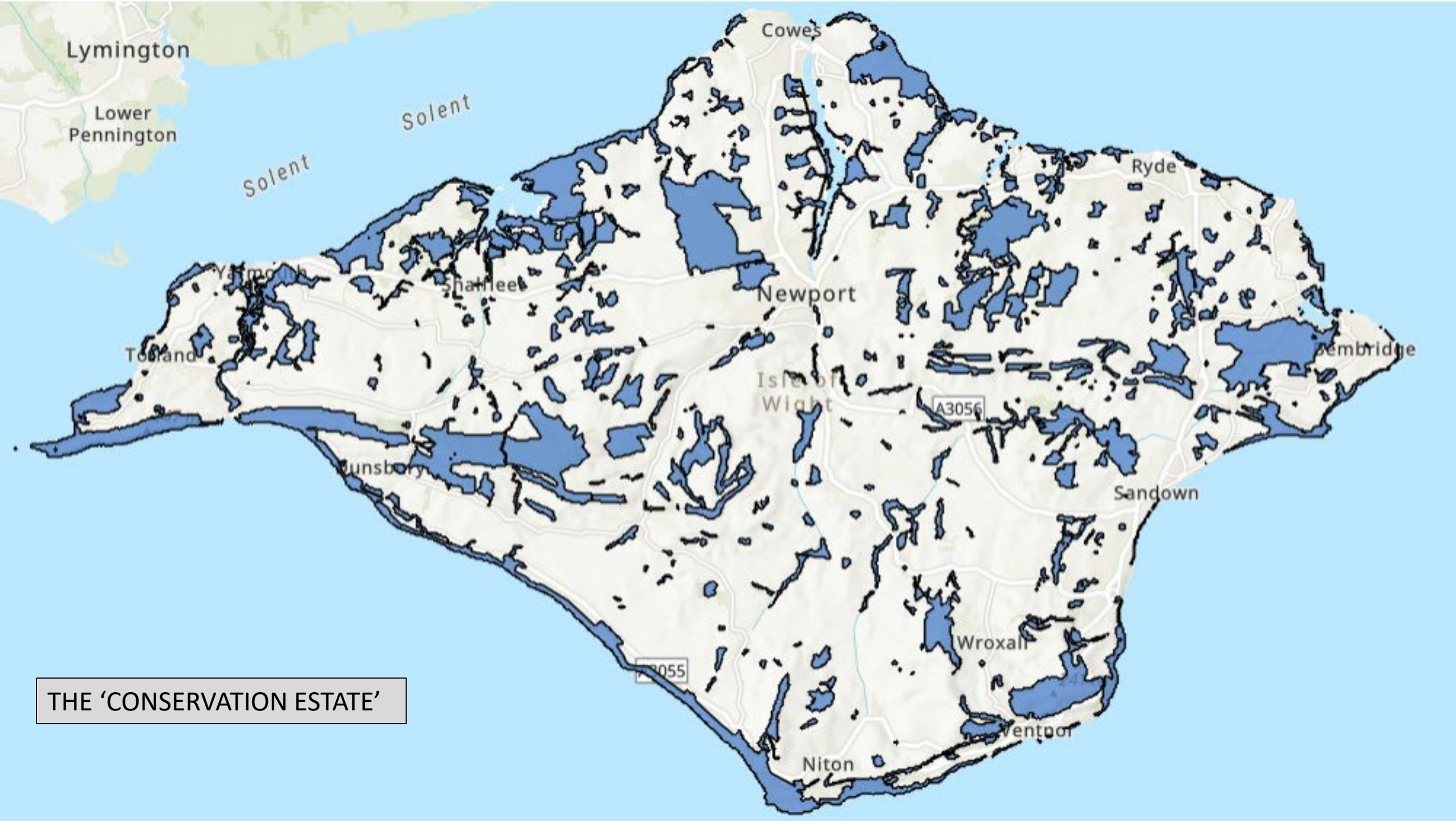
1:150,000

Date: 05/01/2024

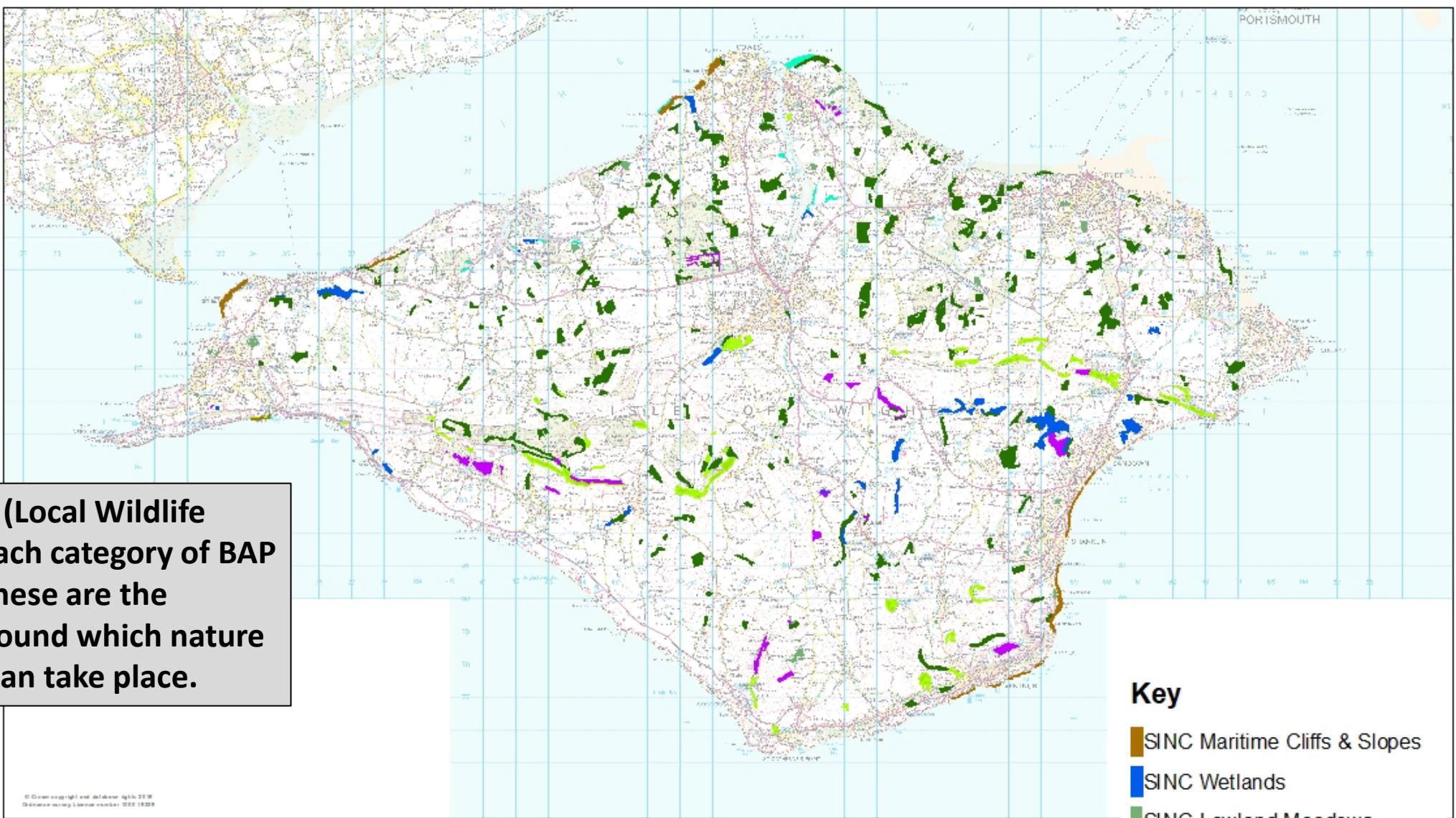
Isle of Wight 'Wildlife Sites' Map
 Including:
 National Nature Conservation Sites
 Local Nature Reserves
 Local Wildlife Sites
 Irreplaceable Habitat

KEY

-  Isle of Wight Irreplaceable Habitat
-  SAC
-  SPA
-  RAMSAR
-  National Nature Reserves
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
-  MCZ
-  SINC
-  Local Nature Reserves



THE 'CONSERVATION ESTATE'



The SINCs (Local Wildlife Sites) in each category of BAP habitat. These are the 'nuclei' around which nature recovery can take place.

- Key**
- SINC Maritime Cliffs & Slopes
 - SINC Wetlands
 - SINC Lowland Meadows
 - SINC Heath & Acid Grasslands
 - SINC Calcareous Grassland
 - SINC Shoreline/Coastal
 - SINC Woodlands

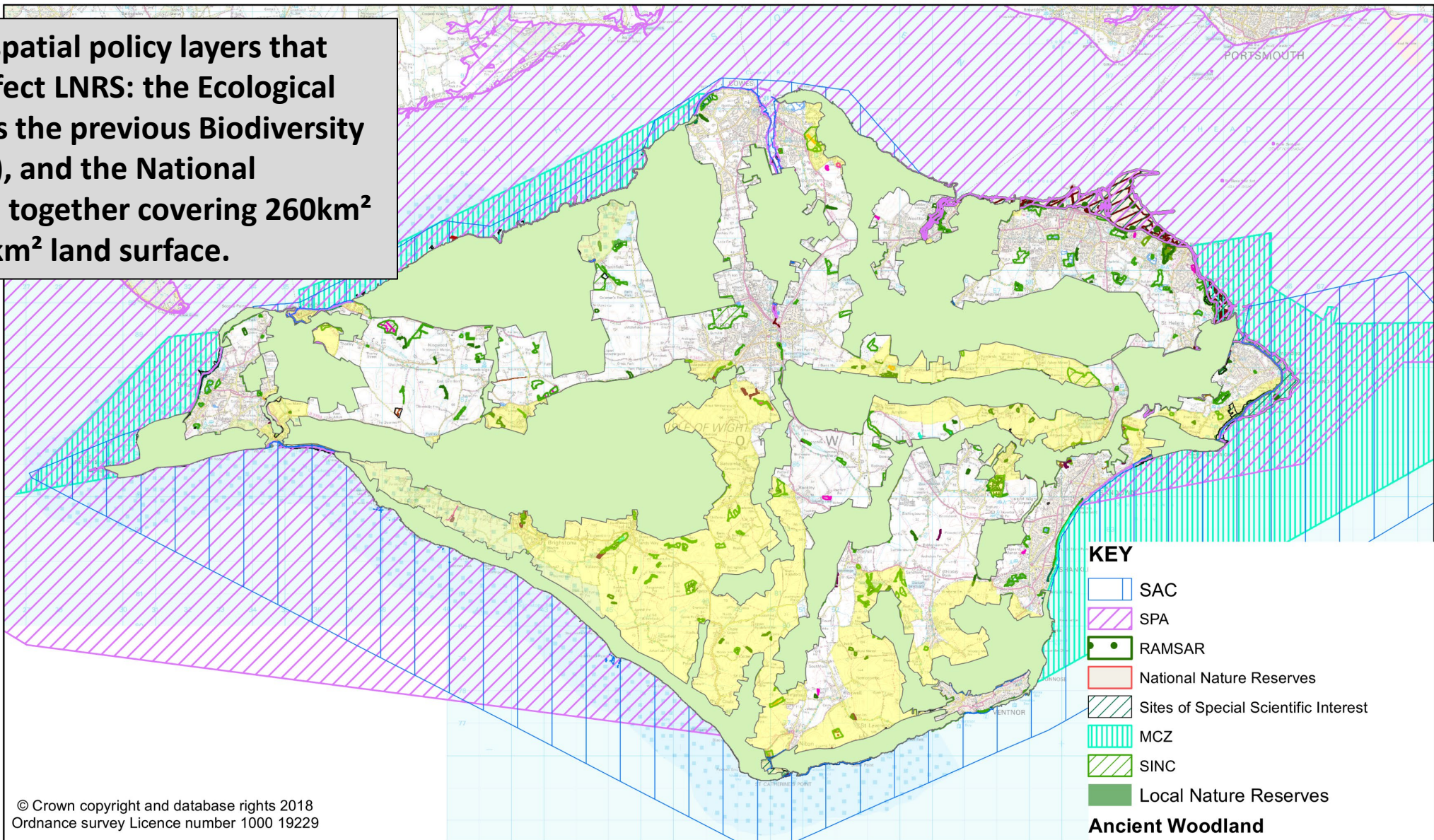
Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats
Designated SINC



1:150,000

Date: 23/02/2024

The 2 key existing spatial policy layers that will significantly affect LNRS: the Ecological Network (combines the previous Biodiversity Opportunity Areas), and the National Landscape (AONB), together covering 260km² of the Island's 380km² land surface.



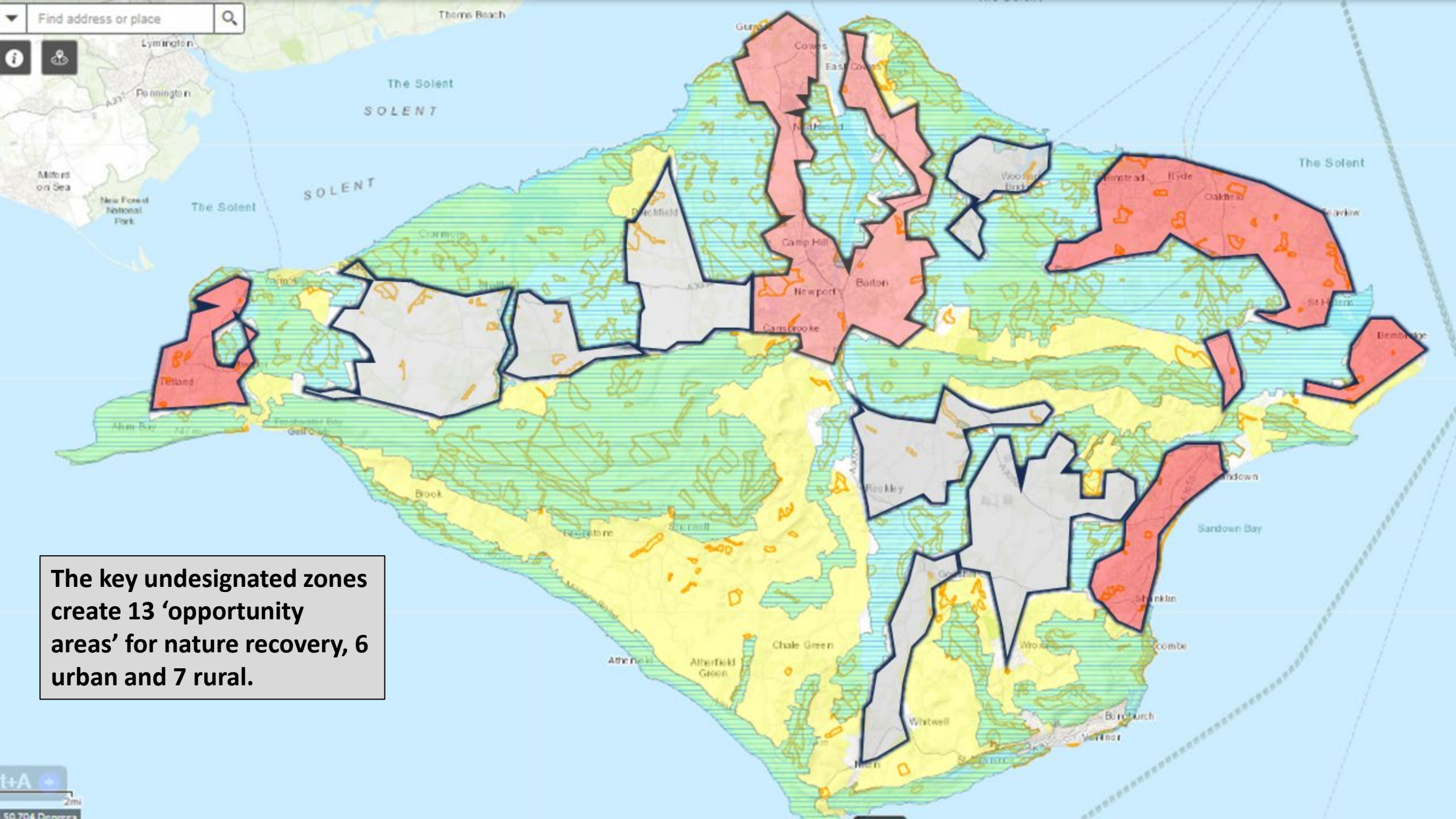
© Crown copyright and database rights 2018
Ordnance survey Licence number 1000 19229



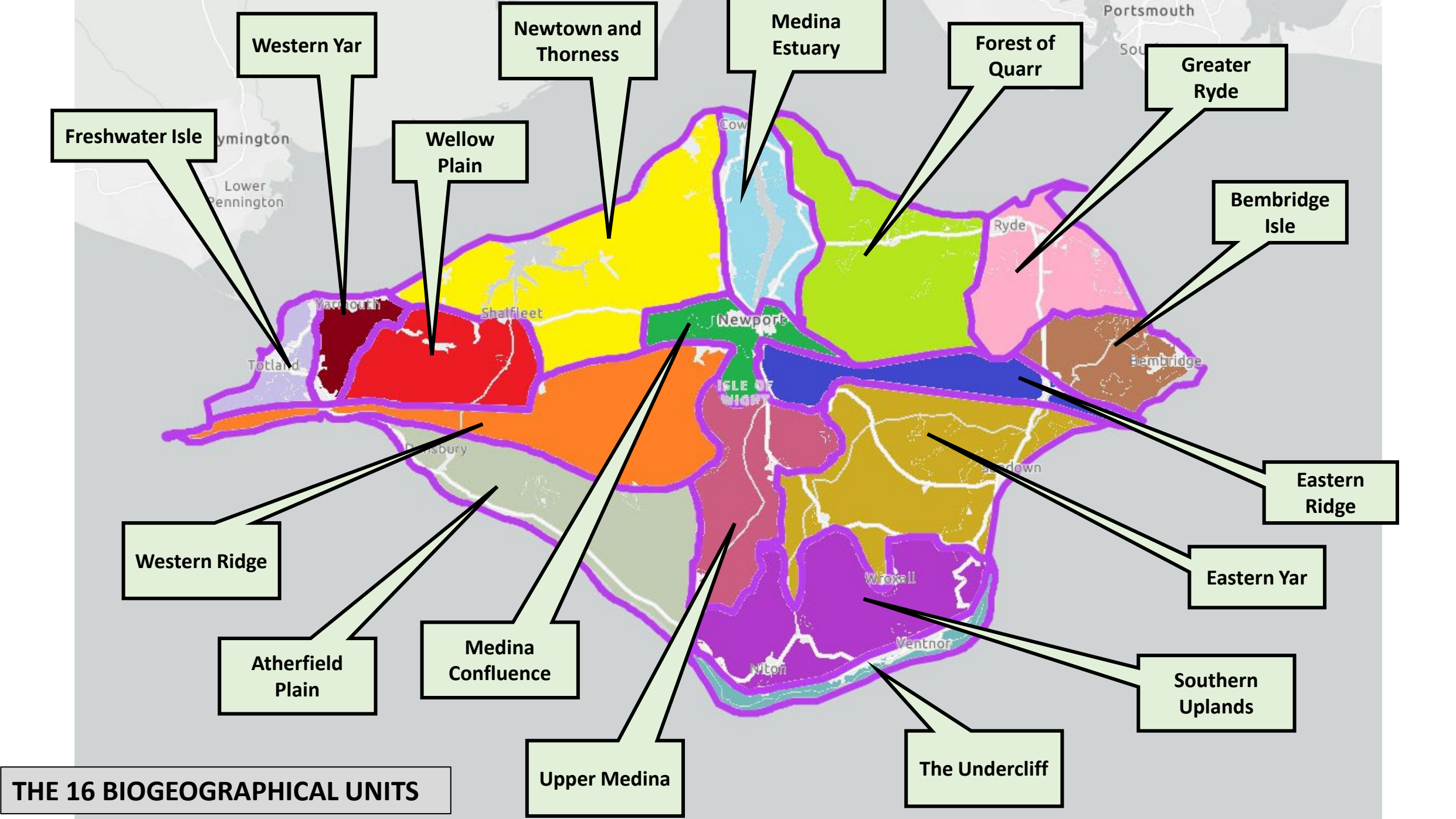
1:150,000
Date: 03/01/2024

Isle of Wight 'Wildlife Sites' Map with priority habitat, Ecological Network and IW AONB

- KEY**
- SAC
 - SPA
 - RAMSAR
 - National Nature Reserves
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - MCZ
 - SINC
 - Local Nature Reserves
- Ancient Woodland**
- STATUS**
- ASNW
 - PAWS
 - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Heritage Coast
 - Local_Ecological_Network



The key undesigned zones create 13 'opportunity areas' for nature recovery, 6 urban and 7 rural.



THE 16 BIOGEOGRAPHICAL UNITS

Freshwater Isle

Western Yar

Wellow Plain

Newtown and Thorness

Medina Estuary

Forest of Quarr

Greater Ryde

Bembridge Isle

Western Ridge

Atherfield Plain

Medina Confluence

Upper Medina

The Undercliff

Eastern Ridge

Eastern Yar

Southern Uplands

Next steps for the Isle of Wight LNRS

- Draft LNRS signed off by Defra / Natural England panel in late December
- 4-week public consultation to commence on 17th January 2025 and will run until 14th February 2025
- All details and documents will be published at:
 - [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)
 - [Island Nature](#)
- LNRS to be taken to IWC Full Council in March for agreement
- Formal publication in April



ALL GONE

