

Brent Goose Strategy

South East Hampshire Coast

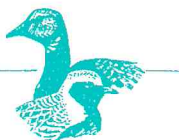


Hampshire Brent Goose Strategy Group July 2002

Acknowledgements



Solent Shorebird Study Group



HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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- English Nature;
- Fareham Borough Council;
- Gosport Borough Council;
- Hampshire County Council;
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- Portsmouth City Council.
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- Solent Shorebird Study Group;

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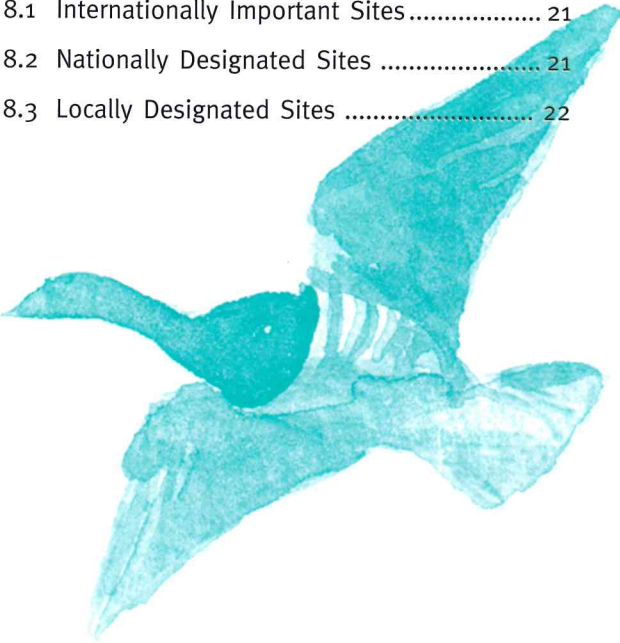
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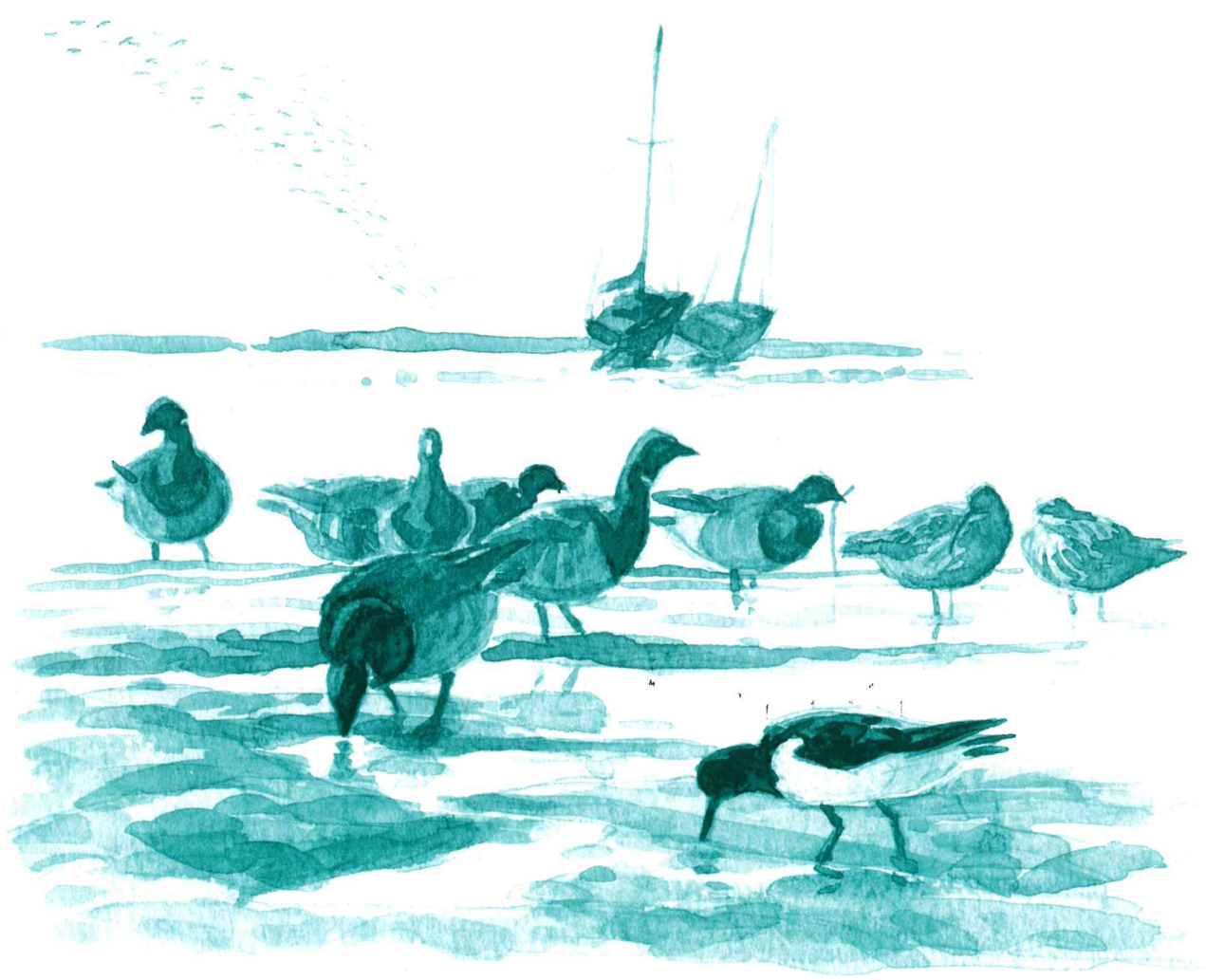
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Part I - Background Information



1 Introduction

- 1.1 The natural and man-made environment of the Solent makes it one of the most important coastal zones in the United Kingdom. The diversity of habitats and species comprise an internationally important wildlife resource. In human and economic terms the area has a long history of principally port-related industries. Good communications with the rest of the UK and Europe have ensured the development of other industrial sectors in recent years with the result that the area is very densely populated. In addition the coastline provides an attractive recreational resource for both local people and those from further afield.
- 1.2 Land-use planning and management for these diverse interests have become increasingly complex in recent years. It is perhaps inevitable that there have become conflicts between the needs of wildlife and those of people. One such conflict is exemplified in the Solent by the pressures for development on grasslands grazed by Brent Geese in the winter.
- 1.3 Whilst there are statutory mechanisms in place to designate areas of special protection for habitats and species (see sections 8 and 10), there is a mismatch between such sites and the needs of the particular species or habitats of interest. Brent Geese are a species of international importance generally protected under European legislation and specially protected within designated sites, but which are dependent upon feeding grounds outside of any formal designation or protection.
- 1.4 This strategy is a practical attempt at addressing the issues surrounding this mismatch.

2 Brent Geese in the Solent

- 2.1 The dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* is a winter visitor to the Solent from its breeding grounds in Siberia. Virtually the entire world population winters in north-western Europe. In nature conservation terms the species is of high international importance and is regarded as vulnerable because of the relatively small size of the world population, which has a highly variable breeding success. Numbers have increased in recent years following decades of low numbers after a major population crash in the 1930s (see section 3). The world population is approximately 300,000.
- 2.2 There are three races of Brent Geese, the dark-bellied *Branta bernicla bernicla*, the pale-bellied *Branta bernicla hrota* and the black *Branta bernicla nigrans*. Only the dark-bellied race occurs regularly in south Hampshire, therefore this strategy is concerned only with *Branta b. bernicla* although for ease the text states simply Brent Geese.
- 2.3 The UK supports about 100,000 dark-bellied Brent Geese at coastal sites in southern and eastern England, representing about 33% of the world total.
- 2.4 The Solent harbours and coast are a particularly important area for these Brent Geese, supporting 10-13% of the world population and around 30% of the UK population. Peak winter numbers are just under 30,000.
- 2.5 The significance of the Solent harbour populations for Brent Geese is summarised in the following table, based on Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) figures from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO):



**Table 1:
Numbers of Brent Geese in the Solent**

Source: British Trust for Ornithology

Location	Ave Peak	% UK	% International
Chichester Harbour **	10,081	10.1	3.4
Langstone Harbour **	6,534	6.5	2.2
Portsmouth Harbour *	2,771	2.8	0.9
N W Solent *	2,405	2.4	0.8
Southampton Water *	1,983	1.9	0.7
Beaulieu Estuary *	1,762	1.8	0.6

** internationally important (over 3,000 birds – over 1% of total international population)

* nationally important (over 1,000 birds – over 1% of total UK population)

2.6 The nature conservation interest of the Solent is recognised by a number of statutory and non-statutory designations. The wintering waders and wildfowl (including Brent Geese), and the habitats that support them, are amongst the principal reasons for these designations which arise from local, national, European or international initiatives, legislation or treaties (see section 8).

3 Ecology of Brent Geese

- 3.1 Brent Geese arrive in the UK from mid September but the majority arrive in late October to early November. Numbers peak in January. Birds usually depart from late February, but this varies with season.
- 3.2 Brent Geese traditionally winter on coastal mud flats, where they initially feed on eelgrass, *Zostera* spp and later on various marine algae, particularly *Enteromorpha* and *Ulva*. At any one site, the availability of food will be dependent on local factors such as the extent of the resource itself, die back in harsher winters and pollution. Availability is also dictated by the tidal regime which exposes the mudflats for varying periods.
- 3.3 In the 1930s it was believed that a fungal disease of eelgrass was a major factor in the 75% crash in Brent Goose numbers as the availability of this food source was largely wiped out.
- 3.4 Since the 1950s Brent Geese have diversified their feeding habits to include farmland with cereals and pasture, and amenity grasslands. This behaviour was first noted in the Solent in the 1970s.
- 3.5 Today, man-managed terrestrial habitats such as cereal fields and amenity grasslands are of great importance as alternative feeding areas, as the birds' nutritional requirements cannot be met by natural food sources. This is partly due to the reduction in natural habitat due to development and agriculture.
- 3.6 The use of terrestrial feeding sites is greatest at high tide. In years with large numbers of juveniles (first winter birds), more use is made of terrestrial sites partly due to competition for food on the intertidal from older, more efficient feeders, and partly because grass is more nutritious. Although families may choose to graze nutrient-rich grassland for their young, there is a trade off with the increased risks associated with exposure to predators and disturbance compared to feeding on the intertidal. Harsh winters also cause an increased use of terrestrial sites as eelgrass dies back.

- 3.7 Brent Geese are also known to feed on algal blooms caused by sewage effluent. Ironically, the clean up of effluent discharge may place even more pressure on other sites for feeding in the future.
- 3.8 The suitability of sites for Brent Geese depends on distance from the coast, the size of the grazing area, the type of grassland management, visibility and disturbance.
- 3.9 Brent Geese prefer large open sites where they have clear sight lines and short lush grass for grazing. They use a great deal of energy travelling between feeding areas, so tend to preferentially select sites adjacent to the coast.
- 3.10 However, Geese are often seen to fly over some apparently suitable sites to reach others, so there are undoubtedly more subtle factors controlling the desirability of sites.
- 3.11 Disturbance can have a marked effect on Brent Geese. When mildly alarmed, they raise their heads but quickly resume feeding. When levels of disturbance increase, they fly away and resettle when the cause of disturbance has passed, or look for another quieter site nearby.
- 3.12 Repeated disturbance can cause problems with the birds' energy budgets as they may use more energy flying from site to site than they are able to get from feeding. This can affect survival rates. However, Brent Geese can become habituated to some types of disturbance and can learn the risks associated with particular places over time.
- 3.13 Population numbers fluctuate naturally, and are largely controlled by predation pressure in the breeding season which is tied to the lemming cycle in the Arctic. In good years, predators such as Arctic Foxes concentrate on lemmings, leaving large numbers of young Geese to survive to fledging. However, in poor lemming years the predators switch their diet to ground nesting birds, which can sometimes result in an almost complete breeding failure for Brent Geese.
- 3.14 Breeding success is measured by the proportion of young in the flocks present in Britain each year. Figures collected by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust since 1988 have revealed a cycle of good, poor and variable breeding success, as illustrated in figure 1. The winter season 1999-2000 was the most successful since 1991 and was the first time that productivity exceeded the estimated annual rate of mortality since 1993.
- 3.15 Brent Geese are long-lived animals with a life expectancy of up to 30 years, although most do not survive that long. Average adult mortality is 8% and juvenile mortality is higher, at around 14%. It is estimated that breeding success (recruitment) needs to be at around 10% in order to achieve replacement, and therefore sustain the population.
- 3.16 Brent Geese exhibit faithfulness to their wintering grounds, with the same individuals having been recorded at the same site for over 20 years. The populations occurring in the Solent harbours appear to form discrete sub-populations with little movement between them.

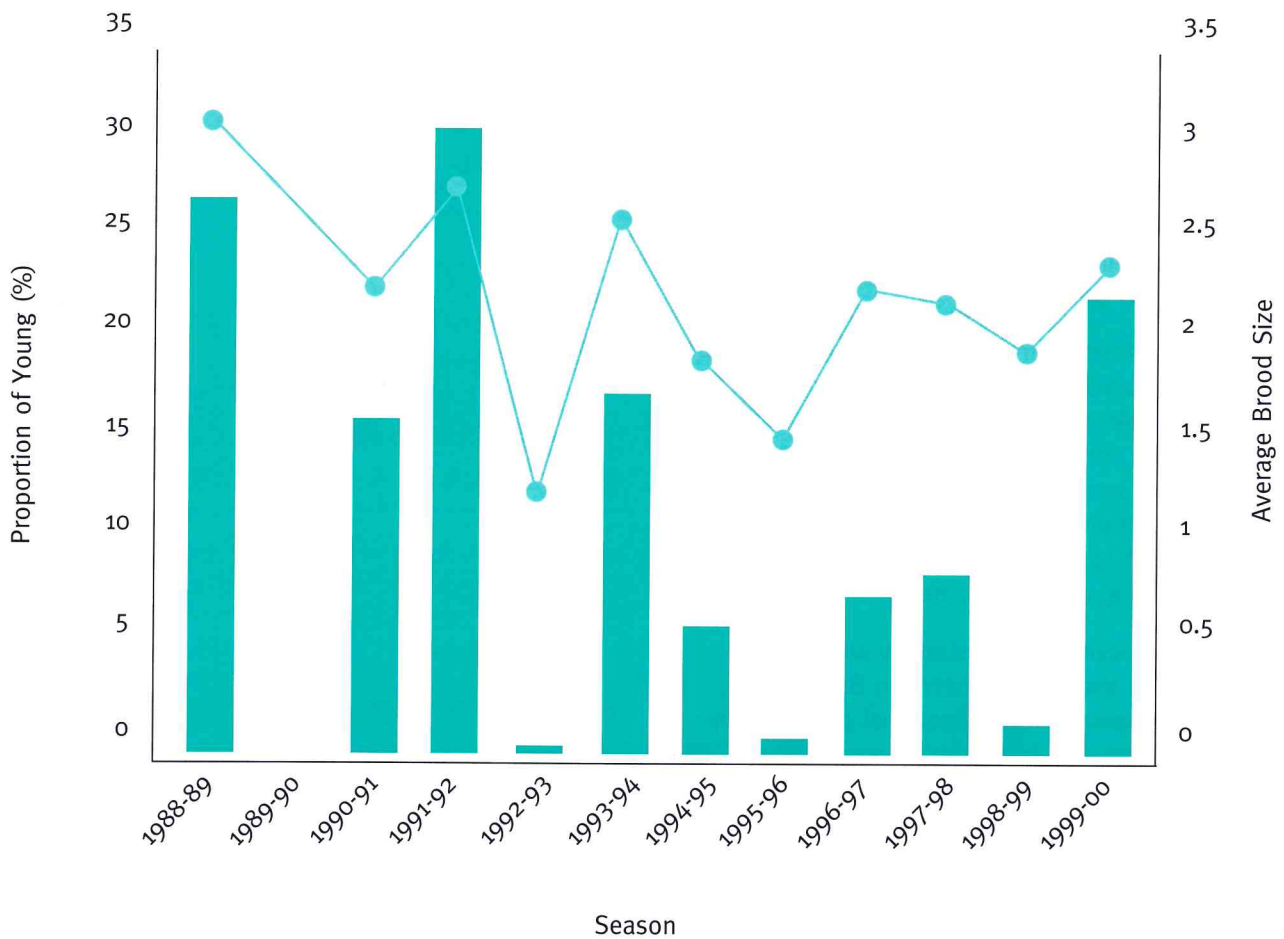


Figure 1. The proportion of young Dark-bellied Brent Geese recorded in Britain 1988-2000, and the average brood size of successful pairs (from 21 coastal sites in southern and eastern England)

■ Proportion of Young (%)
● Average Brood Size

N.B. No data collected in 1989-1990 season.

source: R D Hearn, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust



4 Need for the Brent Goose Strategy

- 4.1 A proactive and multidisciplinary approach is required to resolve conflicts between Brent Geese and people. The lack of open space in the area for new development puts high pressure on those areas that Brent Geese currently use for feeding. There is often direct competition for space. In the past, planning applications have been dealt with on an individual basis, which has led to the loss of some important Brent Goose feeding areas. Many sites are important for recreational activities which may be incompatible with the needs of Brent Geese as they are easily disturbed by both formal and informal use of playing fields or simply by dog walkers on amenity grasslands.
- 4.2 The principal aim of this strategy is to ensure that sufficient feeding resources continue to be available to ensure the survival of the Brent Goose population, both at its current level and taking into account natural fluctuations in population. The underlying principle is to protect at least the existing level of grazing resource, ensuring no net loss.
- 4.3 To achieve this, the strategy aims to help reduce the conflicts between Brent Geese, development and recreational pressures by promoting an integrated approach to land use and management, together with a programme of raising awareness and understanding. Extensive survey work has been carried out to ensure this strategy is based on sound data.



Part II - The Brent Goose Study



5 Aims of the Brent Goose Study

- 5.1 To provide the data necessary to develop this Strategy, the Brent Goose Study was undertaken, with the following aims:
- 5.2 To identify all current and potential feeding sites outside the intertidal habitats of the harbours of South East Hampshire.
- 5.3 To identify the most important of these sites, in terms of numbers of geese and frequency of use.
- 5.4 To determine the factors that influence the use of these sites by Brent Geese.

6 Study Methodology

- 6.1 The study area comprises grasslands and arable land in the boroughs of Fareham, Gosport, Havant and Portsmouth, representing the hinterlands of the South East Hampshire harbours.
- 6.2 Aerial photography, Phase I surveys and other habitat information were used to identify 400 potential feeding sites.
- 6.3 The study aimed to count Brent Geese at all of these sites as regularly as possible throughout each winter season. Other factors to be recorded included behaviour and levels and types of disturbance
- 6.4 The study was officially launched in 1997, building on an initiative pioneered by the Solent Shorebird Study Group (SSSG) who had already collected over 900 records of Brent Geese for the period 1989-1997.
- 6.5 Since 1997, the degree of recorder effort increased with the Hampshire Wildlife Trust (HWT) recruiting additional volunteers to record sites, to augment the work of the SSSG. A full list of acknowledgements appears in Appendix C.
- 6.6 In parallel with the bird counts, additional work was conducted to help understand the movements of individual geese and groups of geese. This work took the form of colour-ringing and marking individual birds caught at Farlington Marshes nature reserve by the Farlington Ringing Group, and carrying out daily observations of the locations of these marked birds.



7 Study Results

7.1 Data Collected

- 7.1.1 Over 11,000 records were collected over the period 1989-2000.
- 7.1.2 Of the 11,056 records, 8,797 were zero returns. This means that geese were not present for about 80% of all records collected. Negative records are important to determine frequency of site usage.
- 7.1.3 Of the 400 potential sites recorded, 132 produced positive counts of geese and 268 produced negative counts of geese. This means that about one-third of the sites supported Brent Geese during the study period.

7.2 Limitations of the Data

- 7.2.1 It is important to recognise several limitations of the data. Firstly, as illustrated in figure 1, Brent Geese have recently had several years of poor breeding success, therefore their use of terrestrial feeding sites will have been lower than in years with high breeding success. The data collected in the winter period 1999-2000 will have gone some way to resolving this issue, showing usage at some previously unrecorded sites, but the overall data set must still be regarded as an under-estimation of the use of sites. It is possible that some sites with low or no recent recorded use will become important in years with high numbers of juveniles, or in harsh winters.
- 7.2.2 Secondly, the use of some sites by Brent Geese will vary if the land use or management changes, for example farmland will be used when under autumn-sown cereals or grass, but not when under other crops such as soft fruit or vegetables. Similarly, some sites have become less suitable due to a change in management regime, such as being allowed to scrub over. The data therefore only reflects the use of sites as dictated by their management regime during the study period.
- 7.2.3 The use of many sites by Brent Geese is influenced by disturbance due to recreational activity, which can vary considerably according

to (i) day of the week, e.g. greater use of sports pitches at weekends and Wednesday afternoons, and (ii) weather, e.g. more dog walkers, golfers etc. during dry weather. It is likely that data collection by recorders has been biased towards (i) weekends and (ii) dry weather – which may mean numbers of Brent Geese have been under recorded as these are the times when higher levels of disturbance are likely.

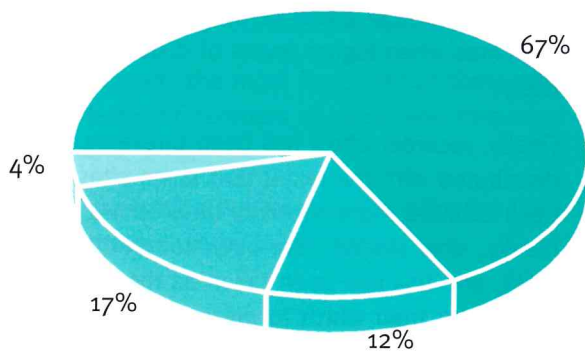
- 7.2.4 Finally, recorder effort has been unevenly distributed with the result that some sites have been counted more regularly than others. Ideally, sites should have been counted once a week, and this has been taken as the benchmark from which to measure recorder effort. However, it appears as if the most important sites have been covered adequately, and that it should have been noticed if outlying sites were being used more frequently, due to the large number of volunteers involved in the project and the relatively high profile of the study.
- 7.2.5 An attempt has been made to take these factors into account when evaluating the importance of sites.

7.3 Evaluation of Site Importance

- 7.3.1 The most important feeding sites have been identified by taking into account numbers of geese (e.g. internationally or nationally significant numbers), and the frequency of use (i.e. the percentage of visits with positive records). A confidence measure was also included, to take into account recorder effort, but this was applied subjectively where appropriate.
- 7.3.2 These criteria have been combined to provide an index of site importance, which identifies four levels – A: major importance, B: high importance, C: low to moderate importance, and D: no recorded use. The rationale for the criteria and the method of evaluation are described fully in Appendix A.

7.3.3 The evaluation resulted in the identification of 17 sites of major importance, 68 sites of high importance and 47 sites of low to moderate importance, as summarised in figure 2 below.

Fig 2. Proportion of Sites Used by Brent Geese



- A. Sites of Major Importance (n = 17)
- B. Sites of High Importance (n = 68)
- C. Sites of Low to Moderate Importance (n = 47)
- D. No Recorded Use (n = 268)

7.3.4 The maps in figures 5 and 6 show the sites in detail and Appendix B presents the site importance information in table form – i.e. a list of all sites with the criteria and importance category, together with brief information on land use, size and designations.

7.4 Analysis of Factors Influencing Site Usage

7.4.1 As shown above, the study has identified 132 terrestrial sites which provide feeding grounds of varying importance for Brent Geese around the Solent harbours.

7.4.2 Usage of sites varies with some being more regularly used and some being opportunistic. Some sites support large numbers of geese on an infrequent basis, whereas others support smaller numbers of geese on a more frequent basis.

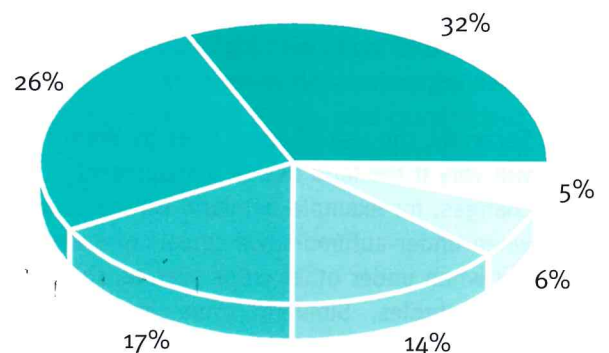
7.4.3 Analysis of the land use of sites used by Brent Geese (see figure 3 below) shows that the majority of sites are agricultural land (arable crops) (32%), pasture (26%) and amenity/recreation grasslands (17%). Formal sports grounds make up 14% of sites used.

7.4.4 However, whilst arable and pasture make up the largest number of sites, these do not tend to hold such large numbers of birds as the sports grounds and amenity/recreation sites.

7.4.5 As shown in figure 4, around 40% of the sites identified as of ‘major importance’ (category A) are sports grounds and around 20% are amenity/recreation grasslands, most of which are close to the harbours and large in size. These sites are the most significant land use type for sites of major and high importance as they are capable of holding large numbers of birds.

7.4.6 Arable and pasture appear to be the most significant land use types for sites of low to moderate importance, tending to support smaller numbers of birds, but because there are a larger number of them they form an important network of sites.

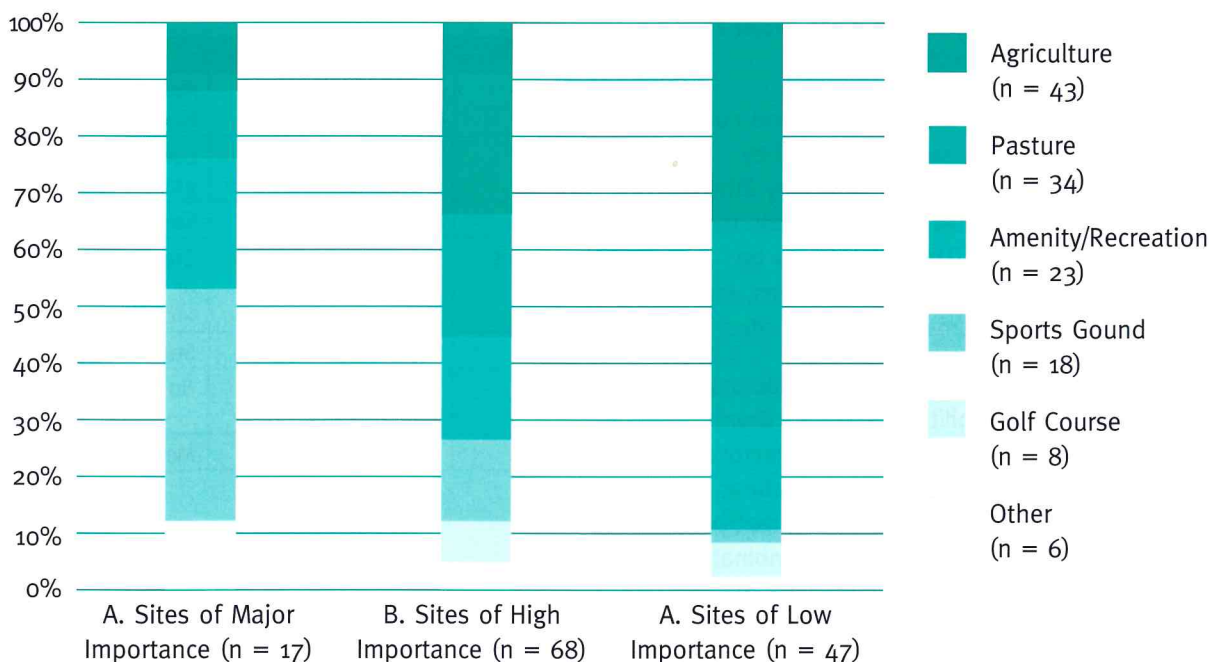
Fig 3. Proportion of Different Land Uses vs. All Brent Goose Sites



- Agriculture (n = 43)
- Pasture (n = 34)
- Amenity/Recreation (n = 23)
- Sports Ground (n = 18)
- Golf Course (n = 8)
- Other (n = 6)



Fig 4. Proportion of Different Land Uses vs. Site Importance for Brent Geese



7.4.7 The relationship between size of site and site importance suggests that larger sites are of greater importance (see table 2). However, smaller sites can be just as important for the overall network of sites, particularly as back-up feeding sites when Geese are flushed off their preferred sites due to disturbance.

Table 2: Sizes of Brent Goose sites by Importance Category

Site Importance	Average Size (ha.)	Range (ha.)
A (n = 17)	21.69	3.40 – 103.41
B (n = 68)	11.15	1.63 – 60.18
C (n = 47)	10.47	0.59 – 56.35

7.4.8 Disturbance is a major factor affecting a large number of important Brent Goose sites. The levels and types of disturbance vary considerably according to factors such as time of day, day of the week and weather.

7.4.9 Casual and informal uses of amenity sites includes activities such as kite flying, model aircraft flying, kick-about, cross-country running, golf practice and dog walking. Of these, dog walking (when dogs are off their leads) is by far the most common disturbing factor. Around 20% of the survey records include comments on Brent Geese being flushed-off or disturbed by dogs.

7.4.10 Formal sports use such as football or rugby is a regular and predictable occurrence, often taking place at weekends and on Wednesday afternoons. The availability of such sites for geese is reduced at these times although the effect of this depends on the apparent noise and activity perceived by the geese.

7.4.11 Brent Geese seem to have become habituated to golf playing as there are many records of Brent Geese quietly grazing in close proximity to golfers.

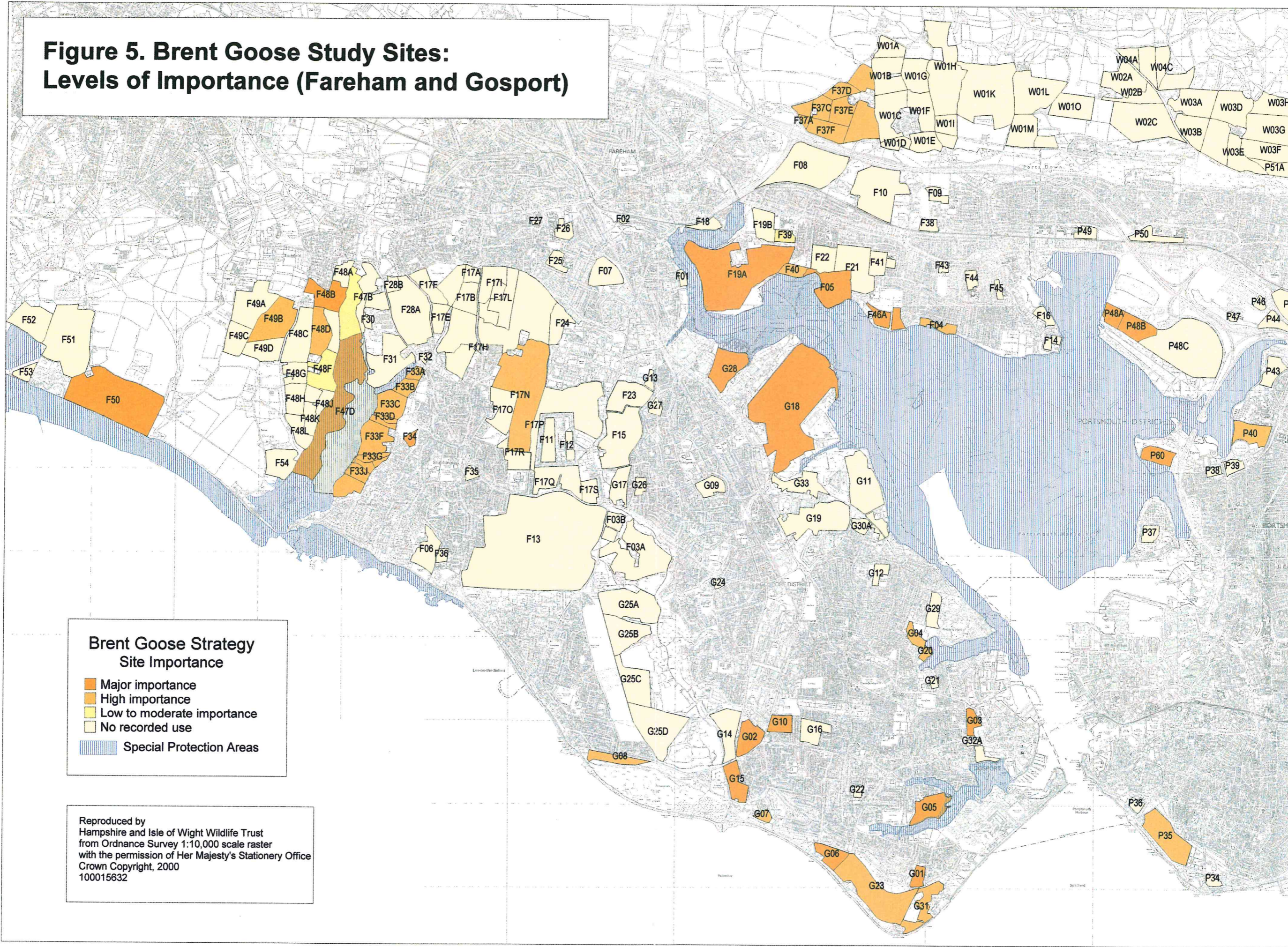
7.4.12 Information from the colour marking and colour ringing of Brent Geese suggests that they exhibit a faithfulness to sites, with very little movement between sites, in other words they have a 'home range'. There appear to be discrete sub-populations in the harbours, each of which only uses a small number of sites.

7.4.13 It is clear that there are a number of factors determining the suitability of sites for Brent Geese. Probably the most important factors are the distance from the harbours, habitat type and disturbance. The following matrix provides a simple summary of the combination of factors that determine the suitability of sites for Brent Geese.

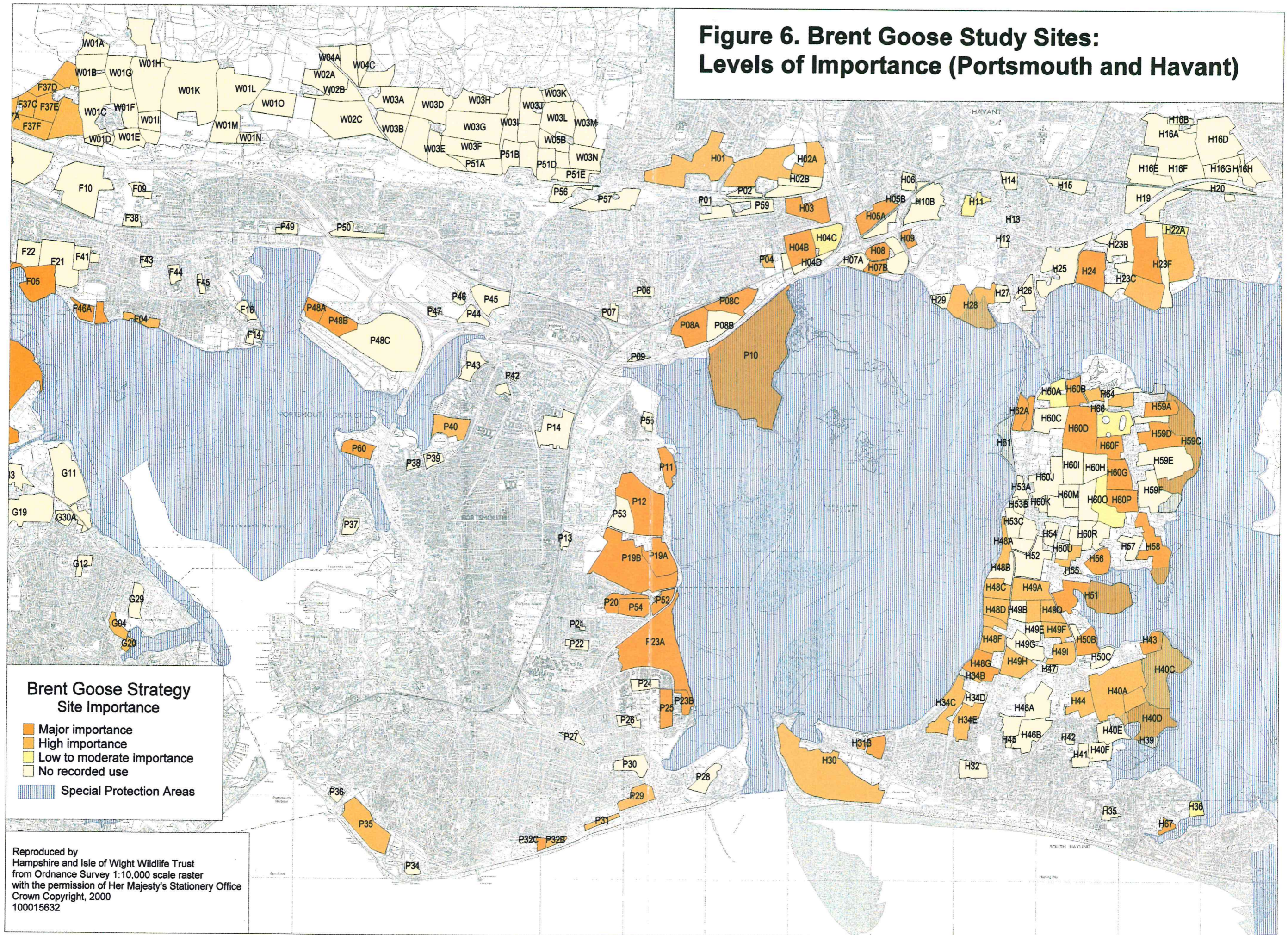
Table 3: Likely factors determining site suitability for Brent Geese

Factor	◀ more suitable	less suitable ▶
Location	Adjacent to harbour	Away from harbour
Habitat	High-productivity grassland	Low-productivity grassland
Disturbance	No disturbance	Some disturbance
Management	Short grass 5-10 cm	Grass too short or too long <5cm or >10cm
Visibility	Open	Semi-open
Habitat features	Shallow freshwater pools on site	No pools on site
Size of site	Large	Medium/Small

**Figure 5. Brent Goose Study Sites:
Levels of Importance (Fareham and Gosport)**



**Figure 6. Brent Goose Study Sites:
Levels of Importance (Portsmouth and Havant)**



**Brent Goose Strategy
Site Importance**

- Major importance
- High importance
- Low to moderate importance
- No recorded use
- Special Protection Areas

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8 Current Site Designations

8.1 Internationally Important Sites

8.1.1 There are three SPAs¹ in the study area: Chichester and Langstone Harbours, Portsmouth Harbour and Solent and Southampton Water. Dark-bellied Brent Geese are specifically referred to in the citations for these sites. The boundaries of the SPAs follow the landward extent of the key semi-natural habitats such as mudflat or saltmarsh for example. They do not necessarily encompass all the land used by the birds for which they have been notified. The boundaries of the SPAs are more or less coincident with those of the SSSIs².

8.1.2 Chichester and Langstone Harbours comprise one Ramsar site³, Portsmouth Harbour and Solent and Southampton Water are separately designated. The boundaries of the Ramsar sites are more or less coincident with the boundaries of the relevant SSSIs and SPAs. Both sites are designated for either the overall numbers of birds present, or for nationally or internationally important numbers of particular species, such as Dark-bellied Brent Goose. Other features such as plant communities or invertebrate populations may be cited on the designations.

8.1.3 Langstone and Chichester Harbours form part of the Solent Maritime candidate SAC⁴. The lagoon at Farlington Marshes (for example) is also included (with other similar sites) as part of the Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons cSAC. Portsmouth Harbour is not included in any cSAC. Whilst cSACs are not designated for ornithological interest, they are designated for habitats (e.g. estuaries and mudflats) which support Brent Geese, and they overlap with SPAs and Ramsar sites. cSACs may include either whole, or parts of, existing SSSIs.

8.1.4 Five of all the Brent Goose feeding sites occur wholly, and 6 partly, within the boundary of an international site (see Appendix B).

8.2 Nationally Designated Sites

8.2.1 Langstone, Chichester and Portsmouth Harbours are all SSSIs. Generally speaking, the boundaries of the SSSIs follow the landward extent of the key semi-natural habitats such as mudflat or saltmarsh for example. They do not necessarily encompass all the land used by the birds for which they have been notified.

8.2.2 Twelve of all the Brent Goose feeding sites occur within SSSI boundaries, 10 of which are also international sites (see Appendix B).

¹ Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated by Member States under Article 4 of the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) – the ‘*Birds Directive*’. SPAs are drawn to protect certain species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive and for ‘*regularly occurring migratory species*’ (such as waterfowl). These are referred to as interest features. This latter criterion links directly with the Ramsar Convention.

² Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are statutory sites identified and notified by English Nature under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981. All SSSIs are of national importance for the features for which they are notified (such as wintering waterfowl), and are the basis for the internationally important sites.

³ Wetlands of International Importance (often referred to as ‘Ramsar sites’) are designated by contracting parties under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat – the *Ramsar Convention*.

⁴ Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated by Member States, in consultation with the European Commission, under Articles 3 and 4 of the EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) – the ‘*Habitats Directive*’. At present SACs are referred to as candidate SACs until such time as they are formally designated by the European Commission. cSACs protect certain listed habitats and species (other than birds).

8.3 Locally Designated Sites

8.3.1 At present, 4 Brent Goose sites are wholly within a SINC⁵ and 9 others are partly within a SINC (3 of which are also SPA or SSSI) (see Appendix B). However, this is likely to change in the future as more SINCS are identified.

8.3.2 The designation of SINCS is a rolling programme, and the system is closely linked with the Local Planning system. Once SINCS have been identified they are usually included by the Local Authorities at the most appropriate deposit draft stage of their Local Plan, where they may be subject to scrutiny. The timing does not always coincide so there may be a delay between a SINC being identified and being formally shown in a Local Plan.

⁵ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS) are non-statutory sites and are identified by Hampshire County Council, the relevant District, Borough or Unitary Authority using criteria agreed with English Nature and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. SINCS are sites of high nature conservation value because of factors such as species rarity or habitat quality, and they complement the national network of SSSIs.



Part III - Issues



9 Issues and Problems

9.1 Site Protection

- 9.1.1 Despite being a species of international importance, the majority of feeding sites for Brent Geese are outside any formal nature conservation designation or protection. The designation of European sites (e.g. SPAs) is intended to ensure the long-term distribution and abundance of certain species, and the distribution, structure and function of certain habitats to support their typical species. If Brent Geese are relying on unprotected land for feeding, it may be more difficult to ensure their long-term survival.
- 9.1.2 Of the Brent Goose feeding sites which happen to fall inside a protected site, very few are specifically designated for Brent Goose interest. The table below shows that 91% of Brent Goose feeding sites fall outside any national or international designation or protection. If local designations are included (SINCs) this figure falls slightly to 90%

Table 4: Brent Goose sites without nature conservation designations

Site Importance	No. of sites without formal designation	
	National (SSSI or International (SPA, SAC)	Local (SINC, LNR)
A (n = 17)	15 (88%)	17 (100%)
B (n = 68)	60 (88%)	61 (89%)
C (n = 47)	45 (95%)	41 (87%)
Total (n = 132)	120 (91%)	119 (90%)

- 9.1.3 As the majority of sites of importance for Brent Geese are amenity/ recreation grasslands, these tend not to have other nature conservation interests so are not as well protected from development through the usual legal or policy processes. However, they may have some protection from development through open space or recreational policies.

9.2 Development Pressure

- 9.2.1 In this densely populated urban area, there are huge development pressures. Several Brent Goose feeding sites have already been lost to development, and the cumulative impact or knock-on effect on other sites has not been taken into account.
- 9.2.2 At present, there are consultation zones around SSSIs in the strategy area, which means that planning authorities consult with English Nature on the likely affect of potential developments and other activities on SSSIs. Whilst a few Brent Goose sites are included in consultation zones, many are not which means any impacts may not be fully considered.

9.3 Disturbance

- 9.3.1 All of the sites currently used by Brent Geese are used for recreational, business or farming purposes, which on some occasions prevents or reduces usage by Geese due to disturbance.
- 9.3.2 At many sites, disturbance varies considerably due to patterns of recreational use. During the weekends when recreational and sports use is at its highest, the pressure on other Brent Goose feeding sites, such as farmland, will be greater as they may be prevented from using many amenity sites.
- 9.3.3 Brent Geese are also more likely to encounter problems finding suitable feeding sites in January. At this time, many sites have been so heavily grazed that food is depleted, the days are shorter giving less feeding time, grass growth is poor and the low temperatures may mean a need for more food.
- 9.3.4 Given the density of the human population in the strategy area, the demand for recreation on existing public open spaces is likely to increase, placing more pressure on Brent Geese.



9.4 Site Management

- 9.4.1 There are a few sites where Brent Geese are actively discouraged from feeding, particularly on arable fields and pastures, through the use of gas guns, plastic bags and plastic strips to frighten the Geese off. This management temporarily prevents some potentially good sites from being used by Brent Geese, which increases the pressure on other sites.
- 9.4.2 Inappropriate or changes in management of Brent Goose sites may also cause problems for the Geese. For example, tree planting or other landscaping in and around amenity sites will make these sites less suitable for the Geese. Changes in the types of crops grown on farmland will affect the suitability of these sites for Geese. For example, 32% of the Brent Goose sites are agricultural, and so when these are under crops other than cereals, they will not support Geese, which increases the pressure on other sites.

9.5 Sea Level Rise and Coastal Retreat

- 9.5.1 A large proportion of the most important Brent Goose feeding sites are in 'flood risk areas' as identified in the East Solent Shoreline Management Plan and the Hayling Island Coastal Defence Strategy. Predicted rates of sea level rise are around 6mm/year which undoubtedly puts many important feeding sites at risk.
- 9.5.2 Any loss of these would therefore clearly have an unpredictable effect on the overall Brent Goose population.
- 9.5.3 This strategy does not attempt to deal with this issue but the needs of Brent Geese need to be incorporated into coastal zone management plans.

10 Brent Geese and the Planning System

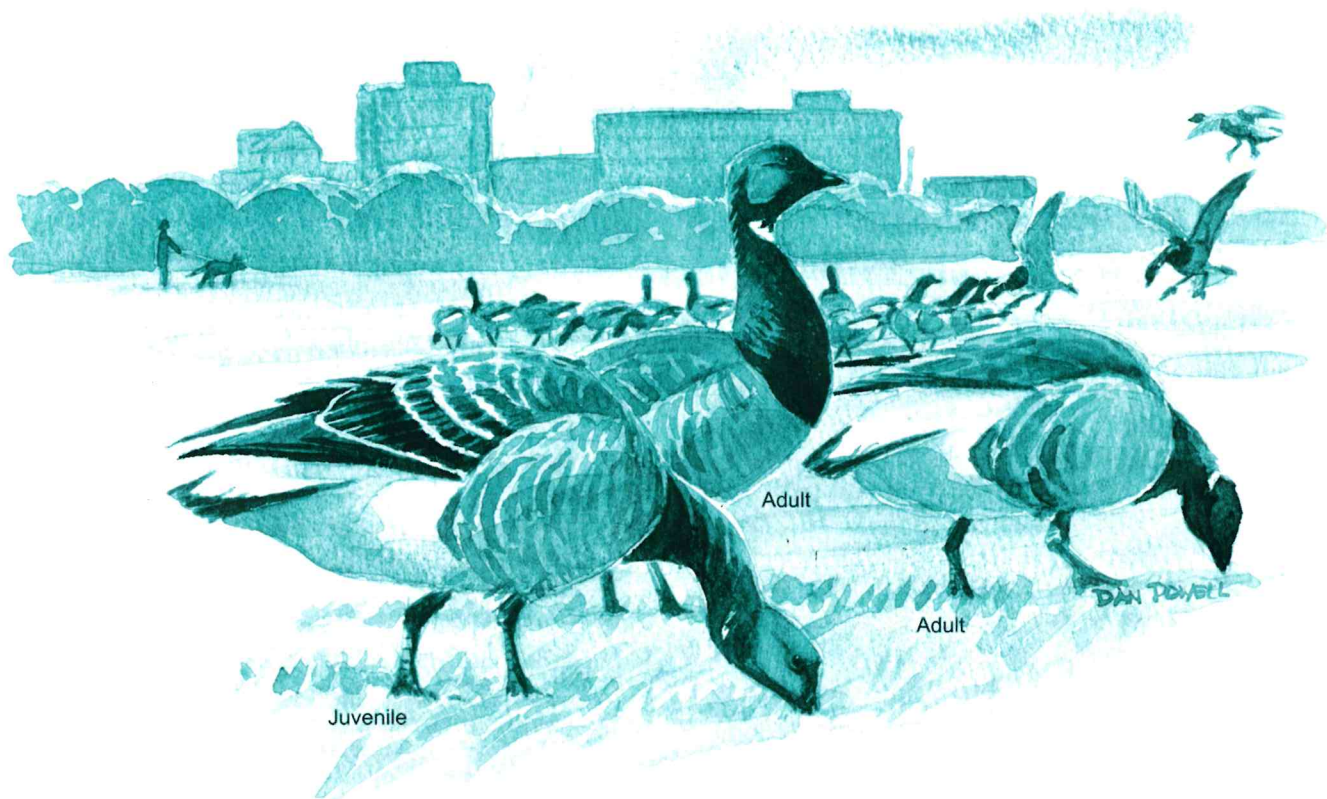
- 10.1 In practical terms there are three levels of nature conservation designation – international, national and local. The derivation of each is different, and the importance accorded to them in the planning system varies.
- 10.2 Detailed guidance on how planning applications affecting designated sites (or the interest they support) should be treated can be found in Planning Policy Guidance Note 9: Nature Conservation (PPG9), produced by the Department of the Environment (now the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions) in 1994. Applications affecting internationally important sites are dealt with in The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 – often referred to as ‘The Habitats Regulations’. The Regulations translate the EC Habitats Directive into domestic law.
- 10.3 The Regulations should be read in conjunction with PPG9, and advice sought from English Nature and DETR as required. This is a complex and evolving area of planning law. This document only provides an overview, it is not definitive.
- 10.4 At paragraph 19, PPG9 states that ‘nature conservation objectives should be taken into account in all planning activities which affect rural and coastal land use, and in urban areas where there is wildlife of local importance. They should be reflected in regional planning guidance, structure plan, unitary development plans and local plans.’
- 10.5 More specifically, paragraph 22 says that ‘Structure Plans and part 1 of Unitary Development Plans set out general policies and proposals on key strategic issues, taking account of national and regional policy guidance. They should identify key sites of nature conservation importance, such as SSSIs, NNRs, SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites, to establish a strategic framework and exemplify the particular characteristics of nature conservation interest in the plan area in their national and international context. Policies applied to these sites should reflect their relative significance (see paragraph 18 of PPG9), and place particular emphasis on the protection of internationally important sites.’
- 10.6 Paragraph 24 makes the same point for Local Plans and part II of Unitary Development Plans, noting that ‘Plans should offer reasonable certainty to developers, landowners and residents alike about the weight that will be given to nature conservation interests in reaching planning decisions...They should take account of locally-prepared nature conservation strategies, which should in turn be consistent with development plan policies.’
- 10.7 The guidance contained in PPG9 is clear in according differential weight to the various designations, but also emphasises the point that the interest may move around between sites with different designations, or perhaps sites with no designation status.
- 10.8 Paragraph 14 of PPG9 states that ‘Our natural wildlife heritage is not confined to the various statutorily designated sites but is found throughout the countryside and in many urban and coastal areas.’ Paragraph 15 goes on to note that ‘Statutory and non-statutory sites, together with countryside features which provide wildlife corridors, links or stepping stones from one habitat to another, all help to form a network necessary to ensure the maintenance of the current range and diversity of our flora, fauna, geological and landform features and the survival of important species.’
- 10.9 The second sentence of Article 4(4) of the Birds Directive states that ‘outside these protected areas [SPAs], Member States should ‘strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats’. It is not simply the SPA itself that is important, but the interest features that give rise to the designation. Any impact on the population of a species cited in an SPA designation (such as Brent Geese) whilst outside of the SPA boundary may be considered as having an affect on the SPA itself.



- 10.10 Clearly the legislation concerning the international sites and their recognised interests is of particular importance when considering potential impacts on Brent Geese. The process by which any planning application affecting an SPA (or SAC) and/or its interest should be considered is set out in Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (pp38 of PPG9). This is explained in Annex C to PPG9 (pp16 to 22 of PPG9) and in Part IV of the Habitats Regulations – principally in Regulations 48 and 49 (pp26-27 of the Habitats Regulations). These obviously require consideration of the particular planning application, but also its potential combined impact with others.
- 10.11 Guidelines from English Nature and the Department of the Environment make it clear that development affecting European sites, or the interest features of those sites, may only be permitted if there are no alternative solutions or there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest.
- 10.12 It is clear that to maintain the integrity of the internationally important sites it is essential to provide sufficient feeding sites, whether inside or outside of any formal designation, to support the populations of Brent Geese for which the area was designated.
- 10.13 The Brent Goose Strategy grew out of the need to clarify and resolve these difficult issues locally, and it is clearly the Government's view that documents such as this Strategy are an appropriate way forward in seeking to inform local decision-making.



Part IV - The Strategy



11 Policies and Proposals

11.1 Introduction

- 11.1.1 The Brent Goose Strategy Group expect the Planning Authorities to treat this Strategy as a ‘material consideration’ when considering all relevant planning proposals. The Group recommends that this Strategy is adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

11.2 Planning and Development

- 11.2.1 The planning authorities of Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport and Fareham need to take full account of Brent Geese in all forward planning and development control decisions and in other activities which may have an effect on Brent Geese.
- 11.2.2 Brent Goose sites need to be included in a formal consultation zone to ensure appropriate consideration by English Nature of any plan or project that may have an effect on the Brent Goose population.
- 11.2.3 The impact of development proposals must be assessed in combination with others in the area, in order that the overall knock-on effect on Brent Geese may be fully determined. English Nature will keep a case log on behalf of the Brent Goose Strategy Group.

Policy BG1

Planning Authorities will recognise the importance of the Brent Goose population in the Solent harbours and will use the Brent Goose Strategy as a material consideration in the preparation of development plans and in the determination of planning applications.

- 11.2.4 It is strongly recommended that the Brent Goose Survey Database is consulted for information about particular sites. For partners in the Brent Goose Strategy Group, there will be unlimited access to data, subject to a service level agreement. For other parties, the Charging and Data Release Policy will apply (see Appendix D).

Policy BG2

Planning Authorities will encourage prospective developers to consult with member organisations of the Brent Goose Strategy Group with regard to development proposals that may affect Brent Goose sites in the study area.

11.3 Site Protection

- 11.3.1 It is critical that sufficient feeding areas continue to be available each winter to ensure the survival of the Brent Goose population, both at its current level and also taking into account natural fluctuations in population. The underlying principle is to ensure protection of at least the existing level of grazing resource, with no net loss, primarily aiming at protection of the most important sites.
- 11.3.2 The Conservation Objectives⁶ for the relevant international sites recognise that populations of wintering and migratory birds may change as a reflection of national or international trends or events. The Objectives are aimed at maintaining habitat capable of supporting internationally important species and numbers irrespective of these trends or events. The Objectives also state the need to provide suitable feeding and roosting habitat to support cited species (such as Brent Geese) outside of the designated site.

Policy BG3

Member organisations of the Brent Goose Strategy Group will aim to protect sufficient levels of grazing resource to ensure the long-term survival of the Brent Goose population, irrespective of natural fluctuations in population trends, in line with the Conservation Objectives for the European sites.

⁶ Conservation Objectives are drawn up by English Nature, as required by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, for all SPAs, cSACs and Ramsar sites. These specify a series of attributes which will be used to determine favourable condition of the habitats or species for which the sites was designated.



Policy BG4

Where appropriate, sites of major or high importance for Brent Geese should be notified as SINCs, LNRs or given appropriate protection through Local Plan policies.

11.4 Mitigating Measures

11.4.1 Given the pressures for development in this densely populated area, there may be cases where development on a Brent Goose site outside the statutory protected areas cannot be avoided and appropriate mitigation must be provided to ensure no net loss of feeding resource.

Policy BG5

Development proposals which could affect Brent Goose sites need to demonstrate levels of impact, either alone or in combination with other proposals. Where an adverse impact upon grazing areas is demonstrated, appropriate compensatory/ mitigation measures will be sought.

11.4.2 Compensatory/mitigation measures may include enhancing existing Brent Goose feeding sites to increase their capacity through favourable management, or creating new sites or refuges. Given the right conditions (location, size, habitat and appropriate management), Brent Geese will exploit new sites or refuges. Advice must be sought from the English Nature (representing the Brent Goose Strategy Group) as to the most appropriate course of action on a case by case basis, but in general terms the factors that make a site suitable for Brent Geese are laid out in table 3 on page 16.

11.4.3 Where appropriate, planning permissions will have Conditions attached to ensure the provision of preventative measures, or a Legal Agreement sought to secure long-term appropriate management of the site, or replacement of habitats or features lost.

11.5 Site Management

11.5.1 Many of the sites currently used by Brent Geese are managed as sports ground or amenity grasslands, which happens to also provide ideal Brent Goose grazing. However, levels of disturbance at these sites is often high, resulting in Brent Geese being forced to find alternative grazing.

11.5.2 Other sites could be managed to increase their capacity for Brent Geese to help reduce the conflicts between geese and people at others. Local Authorities should explore opportunities to provide alternative Brent Goose feeding sites on areas of disused farmland, for example.

11.5.3 Site management for Brent Geese may include a range of measures such as (i) direct habitat manipulation, e.g. implementing a mowing regime to ensure the availability of suitable grass for grazing; or (ii) control of factors causing disturbance to Brent Geese, e.g. restricting or zoning recreational activity on important sites between November and February. This will be particularly important on sites with multiple uses where efforts should be made to integrate the needs of Geese with those of people.

11.5.4 In harsh winters, or seasons with high numbers of young, it may be necessary to provide 'refuge' sites in January (when food is at its scarcest and bird numbers are at their highest). Refuge sites have been proven to work, and Local Authorities should explore opportunities to provide temporary refuges in January. Some farmland sites may be the most appropriate locations for such refuges.

Policy BG6

At sites with multiple uses, efforts will be made to integrate the needs of Brent Geese with those of people by member organisations of the Brent Goose Strategy Group.

Policy BG7

Land owners or occupiers will be encouraged to manage Brent Goose sites to ensure continued provision of suitable habitat.

- 11.5.5 Incentive schemes such as Countryside Stewardship may be able to help landowners with site management costs in some instances. Advice must be sought from MAFF on a case-by-case basis.
- 11.5.6 Sea-level rise and coastal retreat are likely to result in the loss of Brent Goose feeding sites in the future. Whilst it is difficult to predict the precise nature of this impact, sufficient provision should be made to ensure that land is available as alternative Brent Goose feeding sites to sustain the population into the foreseeable future.

11.6 Awareness and Promotion

- 11.6.1 There is a great need to work with local people to raise awareness of Brent Goose ecology and their significance in south east Hampshire. The importance of the Solent Brent Goose population should be appreciated, particularly since internationally important numbers of wildfowl inhabit a densely urban area. The value of adjacent terrestrial feeding sites to support the harbour populations should be promoted and understood.
- 11.6.2 There is also a need to work with those owning and managing Brent Goose sites to ensure they appreciate the value of the site for Brent Geese and will continue favourable management, as well as be aware of the potential conflicts between the needs of the geese and those of people, and attempt to minimise them.

Policy BG8

Local authorities, agencies and nature conservation organisations will raise awareness of the issues and develop a greater understanding of the importance of Brent Geese amongst landowners and the general public.

11.7 Monitoring and Strategy Review

- 11.7.1 Monitoring of Brent Goose sites will continue each season, by volunteers from the Solent Shorebird Study Group and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. The data collected will be added to the Brent Goose Database, currently housed with the Hampshire Wildlife Trust.
- 11.7.2 This Strategy will be reviewed by the Brent Goose Strategy Group after a five year period to take into account any changes in the distribution or numbers of Brent Geese, or any changes in legislation or policy.

Policy BG9

The Brent Goose Strategy Group will remain in place, to reconvene as necessary, and to ensure the implementation and review of this Strategy.



Appendices



Appendix A - Site Evaluation Criteria and Methodology

All Brent Goose sites were evaluated using a combination of two criteria: significance (the maximum number of geese recorded at any one time), and frequency (the percentage of all records that were positive).

Scores were given to each site, as shown below. The scores were then totalled to give an index of site importance, as shown below:

A subjective measure of confidence has been included to compensate for the uneven recorder effort. This is a benchmark figure, assuming that the desired amount of recording is once per week throughout the season (taken to be 25 weeks). A confidence score was given in terms of the % of this benchmark. For example, sites recorded 25 times each year would have a 100% confidence score. For sites with a very low confidence score (5% or less), the index of site importance was adjusted accordingly. These are marked with an asterisk in Appendix B.

Criteria

Significance (Max No of Geese)		Score
3,000 +	International	8
1,000 - 2,999	National	6
200 - 999	Regional	4
20 - 199	Local	2

Frequency (% records positive)		
60% +	Regular	4
40 - 59%	Frequent	3
20 - 39%	Occasional	2
< 20%	Rare	1

Site Importance (total of above scores)		
8 +	Major importance	A
5 - 7	High importance	B
1 - 4	Low to moderate importance	C
0	No recorded use	D

Appendix B - List of Brent Goose sites



SiteID	Site Name	Grid Ref	Area ha.	Significance	Frequency	Confidence	Site import.	Land use category	International Designations	National Designations	Local Designations
F04	Portchester Foreshore East	SU 61120474	3.89	Local	Rare	47%	C	Amenity/Recreation			
F05	Wicor Rec Ground	SU 59850522	15.71	Regional	Rare	24%	B	Amenity/Recreation			
F17N	Newlands Farm N	SU 56190403	50.53	Local	Occasional	2%	C	Agriculture			
F19A	Cams Hall Golf Course A	SU 58700530	60.18	Regional	Frequent	18%	B	Golf Courses			(part) SINC
F33A	East of Meon Valley A	SU 54850414	2.36	Regional	Regular	1%	C*	Pasture			
F33B	East of Meon Valley B	SU 54740397	4.19				C*	Pasture			
F33C	East of Meon Valley C	SU 54550377	9.88				C*	Pasture			
F33D	East of Meon Valley D	SU 54520359	1.57				C*	Pasture			
F33E	East of Meon Valley E	SU 54480355	1.98				C*	Pasture			
F33F	East of Meon Valley F	SU 54360336	12.14				C*	Pasture			
F33G	East of Meon Valley G	SU 54330313	2.92				C*	Pasture			
F33H	East of Meon Valley H	SU 54430308	1.06				C*	Pasture			
F33I	East of Meon Valley I	SU 54270305	2.07				C*	Pasture			
F33J	East of Meon Valley J	SU 54170296	4.25				C*	Pasture			
F33K	East of Meon Valley K	SU 54050280	6.99				C*	Pasture			
F34	Land off Plymouth Drive	SU 54800335	1.77	Regional	Rare	5%	B	Amenity/Recreation			
F37A	Monument Farm A	SU 59490720	1.43	Regional	Frequent	2%	C*	Agriculture			
F37B	Monument Farm B	SU 59470734	3.05				C*	Agriculture			
F37C	Monument Farm C	SU 59700734	5.36				C*	Agriculture			
F37D	Monument Farm D	SU 59920756	5.29				C*	Agriculture			
F37E	Monument Farm E	SU 59930730	8.26				C*	Agriculture			
F37F	Monument Farm F	SU 59740709	9.26				C*	Agriculture			
F37G	Monument Farm G	SU 60200716	13.8				C*	Agriculture			
F37H	Monument Farm H	SU 60180770	6.99				C*	Agriculture			
F39	East of Cams Hall	SU 59260583	3.27	Local	Rare	4%	C	Golf Courses			
F40	West of Wicor Rec.	SU 59370542	3.91	Regional	Rare	14%	B	Amenity/Recreation			
F47A	Titchfield Haven A	SU 54070496	15.35	Local	Rare	10%	C	Pasture			SINC
F47C	Titchfield Haven C	SU 53910375	44.93	Regional	Occasional	11%	B	Pasture	Solent & Soton Water SPA/Ramsar	Titchfield Haven SSSI	
F48B	Little Posbrook Farm B	SU 53820503	11.98	Regional	Rare	9%	B	Pasture			
F48D	Little Posbrook Farm D	SU 53710462	11	Regional	Rare	13%	B	Pasture			
F48F	Little Posbrook Farm F	SU 53770416	12.04	o	Rare	9%	C	Agriculture			
F49B	Great Posbrook Farm B	SU 53140474	19	Local	Regular	0%	C*	Agriculture			SINC

SiteID	Site Name	Grid Ref	Area ha.	Significance	Frequency	Confidence	Site import.	Land use category	International Designations	National Designations	Local Designations
F50	Chilling Copse South	SU 51260384	54.15	National	Rare	52%	B	Agriculture			SINC
Go1	Monkton Sports Ground	SZ 60919813	3.4	National	Occasional	20%	A	Sports Grounds			
Go2	HMS Sultan Sports Field	SZ 58899980	9.11	National	Frequent	227%	A	Sports Grounds			
Go3	St George's Barracks Playing Field	SU 61550001	3.74	Regional	Occasional	92%	B	Sports Grounds			
Go4	Grove Rd Rec Ground	SU 60860101	3.69	Regional	Rare	18%	B	Amenity/Recreation			
Go5	Gospport Park Rec Ground	SZ 61059897	10.83	Local	Regular	72%	B	Amenity/Recreation	(part) Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar	(part) Portsmouth Harbour SSSI	
Go6	Stokes Bay West	SZ 59909839	6.96	Regional	Frequent	29%	B	Sports Grounds			
Go7	Bayhouse School Campus	SZ 59079886	1.96	Regional	Occasional	4%	B	Sports Grounds			
Go8	The Piggeries	SZ 57269954	6.51	Regional	Rare	12%	B	Amenity/Recreation			
G10	Bayhouse School Playing Field North	SZ 59269995	5.49	Regional	Rare	23%	B	Sports Grounds			
G15	Bayhouse School Playing Field South	SZ 58719927	8.16	Regional	Rare	84%	B	Sports Grounds			
G18	Bedenham	SU 59360388	85.08	Regional	Regular	82%	A	Other			
G20	Forton Lake Open Space	SU 60980082	1.63	Local	Regular	1%	C*	Amenity/Recreation			
G23	Gilkicker	SZ 60359794	31.77	Local	Rare	30%	C	Amenity/Recreation			
G28	Fleetlands	SU 58570425	14.12	Local	Regular	8%	B	Other			
G31	Fort Monkton Redoubt	SZ 60989774	9.87	Local	Rare	10%	C	Amenity/Recreation			
Ho1	Portsmouth golf course	SU 68270670	56.35	Local	Rare	11%	C	Golf Courses			(part) SINC
Ho2A	Fields at Camp Down A	SU 69240672	10.95	Local	Rare	12%	C	Pasture			
Ho3	Fields off Havant Road	SU 69180613	11.84	Regional	Occasional	26%	B	Agriculture			
Ho4B	Forty Acres Farm B	SU 69080568	12.44	Regional	Regular	38%	A	Agriculture			
Ho4C	Forty Acres Farm C	SU 69420579	9.94	Local	Occasional	6%	C	Agriculture			
Ho5A	Manor Farm A	SU 70000610	9.53	Regional	Occasional	13%	B	Agriculture			
Ho7B	Broadmarsh Coastal Park B	SU 70000544	3.8	Local	Rare	43%	C	Amenity/Recreation			
Ho8	Broadmarsh Playing Field	SU 70020563	5	Regional	Frequent	49%	B	Amenity/Recreation			
H11	Portsmouth water works East	SU 71160624	5.29	o	Occasional	7%	C	Other			
H22A	Brook Farm A	SU 73630591	3.34	o	Rare	16%	C	Agriculture			
H22B	Brook Farm B	SU 73660559	16.74	Regional	Rare	13%	B	Agriculture			



SiteID	Site Name	Grid Ref	Area ha.	Significance	Frequency	Confidence	Site import.	Land use category	International Designations	National Designations	Local Designations
H23D	Warblington Castle Farm East D	SU 73270561	18.56	Regional	Occasional	15%	B	Agriculture			
H23E	Warblington Castle Farm East E	SU 73260517	13.47	Regional	Rare	22%	B	Agriculture			
H24	Warblington Castle Farm West	SU 72670544	14.49	National	Frequent	9%	A	Agriculture			
H28	Southmoor (ex IBM land)	SU 71170499	23.04	Local	Rare	40%	C	Pasture	(part) Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar	(part) Langstone Harbour SSSI	(part) SINC
H30	Hayling Island Golf Club	SZ 69399928	54.58	Local	Occasional	6%	C	Golf Courses		Sinah Common SSSI	(part) SINC
H31A	Sinah Stables	SZ 70059963	4.9	Regional	Regular	5%	B*	Pasture			
H31B	Sinah Warren Holiday Village Sports Field	SZ 69879965	1.01	Local	Rare	3%	C	Amenity/Recreation			
H34B	Saltmarsh Lane B	SU 71250046	0.59	Local	Rare	13%	C	Agriculture			
H34C	Saltmarsh Lane C	SU 70970013	12.54	Regional	Occasional	22%	B	Agriculture	(part) Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar	(part) Langstone Harbour SSSI	
H34E	Saltmarsh Lane E	SZ 71119999	9.42	Regional	Rare	20%	B	Agriculture			
H36	Rough land near Lakeside	SU 73938896	2.88	Local	Occasional	2%	C	Amenity/Recreation			
H40A	Tournerbury Farm A	SU 72930030	31.96	Regional	Rare	7%	B	Golf Courses	(part) Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar	(part) Chichester Harbour SSSI	
H40B	Tournerbury Farm B	SU 73180023	5.37	Regional	Frequent	7%	B	Golf Courses			
H40C	Tournerbury Farm C	SU 73490055	27.35	Regional	Rare	8%	B	Pasture	(part) Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar	(part) Chichester Harbour SSSI	

SiteID	Site Name	Grid Ref	Area ha.	Significance	Frequency	Confidence	Site import.	Land use category	International Designations	National Designations	Local Designations
H40D	Tournerbury Farm D	SU 73409965	16.4	Regional	Occasional	10%	B	Pasture	(part) Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar	(part) Chichester Harbour SSSI	
H43	Mill Rythe Holiday Village	SU 73390089	5.24	Regional	Regular	5%	B*	Amenity/Recreation			
H44	Hayling Sec School Playing Field	SU 72540016	7.96	Regional	Frequent	6%	B	Sports Grounds			
H48A	West of Hayling Billy A	SU 71610206	5.63	Local	Rare	13%	C	Agriculture			SINC
H48C	West of Hayling Billy C	SU 71510155	7.07	Regional	Rare	21%	B	Agriculture			
H48D	West of Hayling Billy D	SU 71490132	7.58	Regional	Rare	22%	B	Agriculture			
H48E	West of Hayling Billy E	SU 71460115	3.25	Regional	Rare	21%	B	Agriculture			
H48F	West of Hayling Billy F	SU 71450090	7.6	Regional	Rare	21%	B	Agriculture			
H48G	West of Hayling Billy G	SU 71310063	10.07	Regional	Rare	20%	B	Agriculture			
H49A	South of Daw Lane A	SU 71900154	11.37	Regional	Rare	11%	B	Agriculture			
H49C	South of Daw Lane C	SU 71940128	4.87	Regional	Rare	11%	B	Agriculture			
H49D	South of Daw Lane D	SU 72130128	6.03	Regional	Rare	7%	B	Agriculture			
H49F	South of Daw Lane F	SU 72260104	6.14	Local	Rare	7%	C	Agriculture			
H49H	South of Daw Lane H	SU 71740064	9.91	Regional	Rare	10%	B	Agriculture			
H49I	South of Daw Lane I	SU 72320077	7.52	Local	Rare	13%	C	Pasture			
H50B	Pound Marsh B	SU 72590089	7.09	Regional	Rare	14%	B	Agriculture			(part) SINC
H51	Verner Common	SU 72650151	27.48	Regional	Regular	24%	A	Pasture	(part) Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar	(part) Chichester Harbour SSSI	
H56	Fields South of Copse Lane	SU 72730188	7.16	Regional	Occasional	18%	B	Agriculture			
H58	Gutner Farm	SU 73430206	1.76	Regional	Frequent	15%	B	Pasture	(part) Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar/Solent & Marine SAC	(part) Chichester Harbour SSSI	(part) SINC; (part) LNR
H59A	East of St Peters Road A	SU 73470374	7.08	Regional	Frequent	3%	B	Pasture			



SiteID	Site Name	Grid Ref	Area ha.	Significance	Frequency	Confidence	Site import.	Land use category	International Designations	National Designations	Local Designations
H59C	East of St Peters Road C	SU 73850332	22.75	National	Rare	2%	B	Pasture	Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar		
H59D	East of St Peters Road D	SU 73470342	12.83	Regional	Rare	11%	B	Pasture		Chichester Harbour SSSI	
H60A	West of North Hayling A	SU 72170390	7.4	o	Rare	16%	C	Pasture			
H60B	West of North Hayling B	SU 72430394	6.45	Regional	Frequent	28%	B	Pasture			
H60D	West of North Hayling D	SU 72510349	21.25	Regional	Rare	21%	B	Agriculture			
H60E	West of North Hayling E	SU 72900357	10.35	Local	Rare	6%	C	Pasture			
H60F	West of North Hayling F	SU 72850328	8.03	National	Rare	5%	B	Agriculture			
H60G	West of North Hayling G	SU 72980293	10.24	Regional	Occasional	23%	B	Agriculture			
H60O	West of North Hayling O	SU 72790255	12.73	Local	Rare	10%	C	Agriculture			
H60P	West of North Hayling P	SU 73000263	9.35	Regional	Rare	18%	B	Agriculture			
H60V	West of North Hayling V	SU 72390193	4.03	Regional	Rare	9%	B	Pasture			
H62A		SU 71770368	5.35	Regional	Rare	6%	B	Pasture			(part) SINC; (part) LNR
H62B		SU 71880368	3.5	Regional	Rare	6%	B	Pasture			(part) LNR
H63	North Common	SU 72660392	3.12	Regional	Rare	6%	B	Pasture			(part) SINC
H65	North of Northiney Road	SU 73000384	4.6	Regional	Rare	10%	B	Agriculture			
H67	Fishery Creek Camp Site	SZ 73599868	2.1	Local	Regular	6%	B	Other			
Po4	East Lodge Playing Field	SU 68700551	2.02	Local	Regular	0%	C*	Sports Grounds			
Po8A	Farlington Playing Field	SU 67770469	14.54	National	Regular	79%	A	Sports Grounds			
Po8C	St Johns College	SU 68290500	11.31	National	Regular	47%	A	Sports Grounds			
P10	Farlington Marshes	SU 68470432	103.41	International	Regular	58%	A	Pasture	Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA/Ramsar/ Solent & IOW lagoons SAC	Langstone Harbour SSSI	
P11	Eastern Rd Playing Field	SU 67510304	6.48	National	Frequent	88%	A	Sports Grounds			
P12A	Great Salterns Golf Course North	SU 67210260	2.81	National	Rare	16%	B	Golf Courses			
P12B	Great Salterns Golf Course South	SU 67440188	12.47	Regional	Occasional	20%	B	Golf Courses			
P19B	Great Salterns Rec Ground	SU 67030183	40.45	National	Frequent	8%	A	Amenity/Recreation			

SiteID	Site Name	Grid Ref	Area ha.	Significance	Frequency	Confidence	Site import.	Land use category	International Designations	National Designations	Local Designations
P20	Tangier Road Open Space	SU 66890139	5.6	National	Rare	28%	B	Amenity/Recreation			
P23A	Milton Common	SU 67380082	45.02	Regional	Frequent	28%	B	Amenity/Recreation			
P23B	Portsmouth Uni Langstone Campus Field	SU 67750015	3.53	Regional	Frequent	14%	B	Sports Grounds			
P25	Portsmouth Uni Playing Fields	SU 67500007	6.96	National	Occasional	28%	A	Sports Grounds			
P29	Eastney Sports Ground	SZ 67189899	7.49	Regional	Rare	23%	B	Sports Grounds			
P31	Eastney Fort West	SZ 66739870	2.51	Regional	Occasional	15%	B	Amenity/Recreation			
P32A	St Helens Cricket Field	SZ 66019843	1.63	Regional	Occasional	34%	B	Sports Grounds			
P32B	Southsea Mini Golf	SZ 66189845	1.67	Regional	Rare	14%	B	Other			
P35	Southsea Common	SZ 63869865	18.47	Local	Occasional	14%	C	Amenity/Recreation			
P40	Alexandra Park	SU 64860349	9.82	Regional	Rare	4%	B	Sports Grounds			
P48A	Port Solent West	SU 63190487	5.08	National	Frequent	32%	A	Amenity/Recreation			
P48B	Port Solent East	SU 63470472	9.62	Regional	Regular	23%	A	Amenity/Recreation			
P52	Portsmouth Sixth Form College	SU 67460138	4.48	National	Frequent	101%	A	Sports Grounds			
P54	Tangier Road South	SU 67110130	7.8	National	Occasional	66%	A	Amenity/Recreation			
P60	Tipner Range	SU 63740322	6.62	Regional	Regular	4%	A	Other			

Appendix C - Acknowledgments



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Funding partners:

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Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Hampshire County Council
Havant Borough Council
Portsmouth City Council

Appendix D - Brent Goose Data Release and Charging policy

1 INTRODUCTION

Under the Environmental Information Regulations 1992, organisations have an obligation to make environmental information available to every person that requests it. Whilst it is important that these Regulations are adhered to, it is also important to ensure that confidential information or information supplied, and therefore owned, by a third party is only released after careful consideration of the purpose of the request and with the consent of all of the parties involved (articles 4(2) and 4(3) of the Environmental Information Regulations 1992).

2 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE RELEASE OF DATA

- 2.1 The Brent Goose dataset consists of two elements: Brent Goose survey data (held by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust), and Brent Goose sites as GIS maps (held by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust). Any requests for data or maps must be made in writing to the relevant partner (see 6 for contact details), giving:
- The name and address of the person requesting the data and the name and address of the person/organisation they are acting for (where applicable)
 - The reason for their request
 - The geographical extent of the area of interest, defined on a map at a suitable scale
 - The precise nature of the information required
- 2.2 Under the Regulations, a request for data must be responded to within two months of the request being made. The partnership will endeavour to respond to a request within two weeks.
- 2.3 The consent of the owner of the data will be required before the data is released. If the data has been supplied to the partnership by an organisation or individual who has not consented to its disclosure then that data

cannot be released and the person requesting the data will be directed to the original supplier (refer also to 2.5).

- 2.4 Similarly it will be expected that the person requesting the data will have consulted the land owner (to whose land the data pertains to), as a matter of courtesy.
- 2.5 Data and maps will only be supplied by the person and organisation nominated by the partnership (refer to 6). Individual recorders should not supply information to a third party and on receiving a request for data or maps will pass this request on to the nominated person/ organisation.

3 CHARGES FOR BRENT GOOSE SURVEY DATA

- 3.1 Charges for supplying 'raw' biological data have been set to reflect the costs of collection, processing, retrieving, copying and supplying biological data. The guidance note on the Implementation of the Environmental Information Regulations 1992 in Great Britain (DoE, 1992) states that "organisations in the business of collecting their own primary data may wish to recover the full economic cost of collecting, manipulating and displaying it". The following costs are per site record and are based on the recording effort. It is intended that only a proportion of the full economic cost will be charged.
- 3.2 The following charges have therefore been drawn up to produce an appropriate level of recovery. Charges will apply for all sites where any records are held, whether the Brent Goose population records held are positive or negative.
- (a) staff time @ £50 per hour (£30 minimum charge)
 - (b) charge for provision of data £10 per site
 - (c) additional charge for sites with large numbers of records (over 25), £10 per 25 records



4 CHARGES FOR BRENT GOOSE GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AS PAPER MAPS

- 4.1 The production, distribution and use of copies of Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping is subject to the terms of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HWT) copyright licence.
- 4.2 The total charge for the provision of geographical information when supplied in the form of paper maps (as opposed to digitally on floppy disk or similar) will be made up of a number of components:
- (a) staff time @ £50 per hour (£30 minimum charge)
 - (b) area-based charge for provision of site maps £1 per sq. km
 - (c) additional charge for colour map output £10 per plot
- 4.3 Where charges will apply, requests for information should be put in writing so that an estimate of the total cost may be calculated and agreed before work commences.

5 EXEMPTIONS

- 5.1 The above charges shall normally apply to all requests except where the work/or the supply of information is an integral part of the work of the Partnership or is part of an exchange of information between authorities or is a joint project or where there is an evident benefit to the Partnership. However, requests for information to be used for the following purposes will qualify for the waiving of some or all charges as detailed in 3.2 and 4.2:
- (a) For non-profit making private research and study
 - (b) For students and educational establishments
 - (c) For charitable purposes including use by voluntary non-profit making organisations and societies
 - (d) For voluntary and statutory nature conservation organisations
 - (e) For County Council, District Council, Parish Council and other members of the Partnership

6 CONTACTS FOR PROVISION OF INFORMATION

- 6.1 Brent Goose Survey Data:
- Species & Habitats Conservation Manager
Hampshire Wildlife Trust
Woodside House
Woodside Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9ET
Tel: 023 8061 3636
- 6.2 Brent Goose Maps/Geographical Information as Paper Maps:
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Woodside House
Woodside Road
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Hampshire SO50 4ET