

State of the Solent Edition 3:

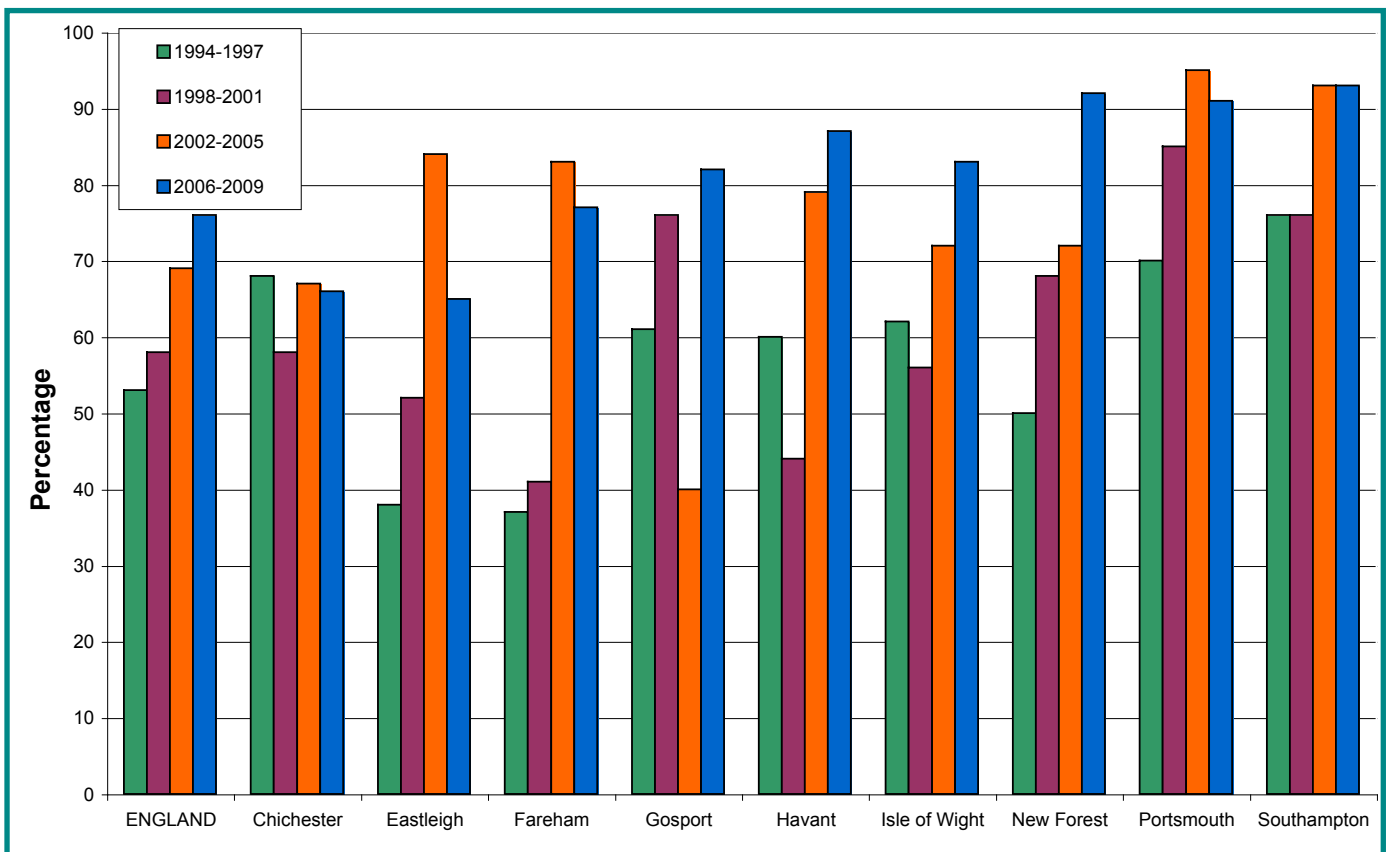
9. Human Use Indicators



Approximately 1.3 million people live in the local authority areas which have a coastline that lies on the Solent. The coast is intensively used for recreation and commerce. To ensure the sustainable development of the Solent's coast it needs to be managed in a balanced way that takes account of all interests. The dominant forces which have influenced the character of the Solent in the 20th century are the growth of urban settlement on the coastal plain of Hampshire and the development and land-reclamation associated with the growth of commerce, defence and recreational activities.

There are currently over 100 different management plans in the Solent. They address issues such as nature conservation, coastal defence, recreation, emergency planning and land use planning. Marine spatial planning will also commence in the next few years. This plethora of plans in itself tells the story of the many different sectors which use the Solent area and the demands placed on its resources.

Indicator 9.2: Use of Brownfield as apposed to Greenfield sites for development at the coast



Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, planning statistics.

9.2 Reason for Indicator Selection

New developments within existing urban areas, on Brownfield sites, contribute to the revitalisation of communities and enable people to live near shops and employment, reducing the need to travel. Building homes or development on previously developed land wherever possible is also important for the protection of the countryside and the landscape of the area.

This indicator monitors the degree to which development is taking place on Brownfield or Greenfield sites. It will indicate whether the land available is being used in a sustainable way. This indicator is not directly relevant to the coast but would have an impact on the overall land and seascape character of the area.

This indicator links to one of the European indicators of sustainable development for the coastal zone 'the rate of development on previously undeveloped land'. At the national level the indicator 'the amount of new homes which are built on previously developed land' is one of the government's national sustainability indicators. At the regional level it is used in the Quality of Life Counts and by the Environment Agency in the State of the Environment report. It is also used by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) as one of the annual key performance indicators.

9.2 Where does the Data come from?

The data comes from the land use change statistics which are collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

9.2 What the Indicator Shows

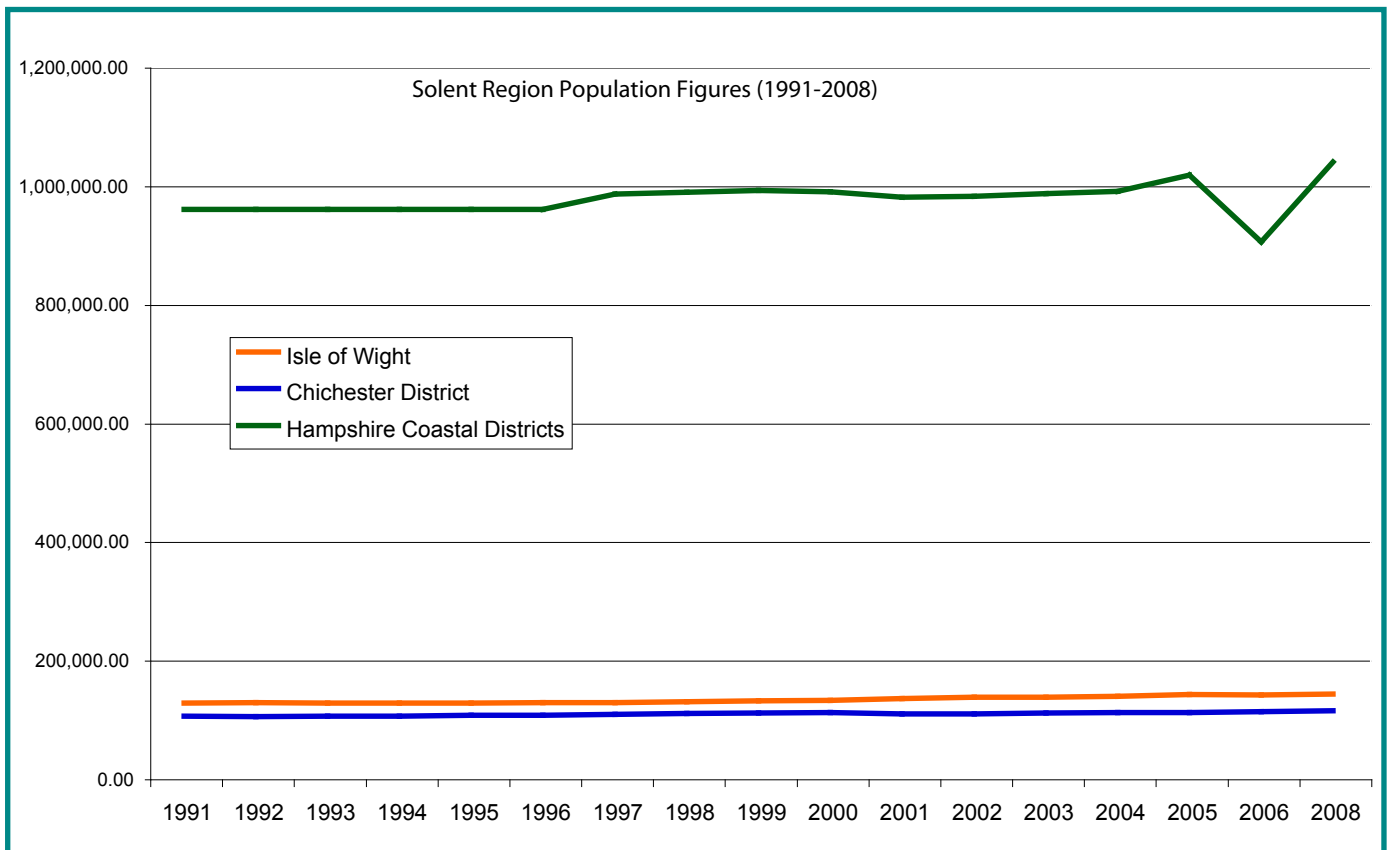
The majority of Solent local authorities are building over seventy percent of new development on previously developed land. This percentage has been increasing over time. This increase is also seen at the national level with the figure for England being around seventy percent of development being on brownfield sites. For the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton, and the New Forest District, this percentage is even higher at over ninety percent.

9.2 What are the Implications for Coastal Planning and Management

It is positive that new developments are on brown-field sites and this measure will continue to be monitored to see if the trend continues. However, coastal defence policies must be considered with this indicator as many coastal brown-field sites around the Solent may not be suitable for long term development due to climate change.

Supplementary Data: Solent Region Population Figures

The greater the number of people which live in the Solent area, the greater the number of people which will use its resources. This requires planning and management; population data is critical to make effective long term policies across all sectors.



Source: Office of National Statistics

Future Work

There are still a number of indicators for which data is not collected in this section. They relate mainly to the changes to the land and seascape of the Solent and how it is perceived (indicators 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6 and 9.7). Work needs to be done with the local authorities in the Solent to see how this data could be best collected and to consider if these five indicators could be represented by one or two measurements.

There are currently no indicators measuring the social welfare element of the Solent's population. This type of data is available from the Office of National Statistics and is also collected by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH). Work could be carried out on developing a measure for a social indicator. For example, data on unemployment rates, people with a certain level of qualification or number of people in private housing.

The next edition of the report will also include data on marine spatial planning, which by that time will be in place. Forum members need to consider what should be measured and why that indicator is important to the Solent area.

Links

- Department for Communities and Local Government: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/>.
- Office of National Statistics: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>.
- Partnership for Urban South Hampshire: <http://www.push.gov.uk/>.
- Environment Agency State of the Environment Report: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/34019.aspx>.