Annex B

Review of Baseline Data

B1 EVALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT THE SOUTH EAST PLAN

B1.1 INTRODUCTION

The requirements of the SEA Directive include the assessment of the likely evolution of 'State of the Environment Subjects'. In the absence of the South East Plan.

This appraisal has used the State of the Environment Report for the South East produced in 2005 by the Environment Agency 'Creating a better place' as the basis of our assessment since this is the most recent and authoritative evidence base for current evolutionary trends under RPG9. This report provides information on environmental trends and also includes analyses of the potential effects of recent or proposed legislation.

Given that environmental legislation and standards, like other types of legislation, require some time before their effect can be assessed, this aspect of the SA will require periodical updating as part of the overall review of the environmental baseline and environmental evidence base.

B1.2 KEY ISSUES IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUTH EAST

The State of the Environment Report 2005 for the region highlights the following pressures on the environment:

- Pressure from new development;
- Increasing demand for water;
- Increasing demand for energy; and
- Increasing demand for waste disposal.

These are being driven by economic and social factors such as the success of the region's economy, increasing population and increasing rates of household formation and also by environmental factors such as the low and inexplicable rainfall of the region and climate change.

B1.3 CURRENT ENVIRONMENT TRENDS IN THE SOUTH EAST

The environment of the South East is monitored via a series of indicators that allow trends to be identified and monitored and actions to be address negative trends to be formulated.

The indicator information reported on in the 2005 State of the Environment Report is the best information we have on the effects to date of the policies and actions within RPG on the environment. As such they are the most robust evidence base for examining likely trends without the South East Plan.

B1.4 NEGATIVE TRENDS

These are trends where the environment is deteriorating or environmental pressure is increasing. Aspects of the environment that indicate such trends include the following:

- Water demand and availability including supply demand balance, annual abstraction rates, household consumption, leakage and water demand
- Energy consumption
- Waste arising
- Road traffic/traffic emissions
- Emissions from regulated processes
- Nitrates in groundwater
- Biodiversity including distribution of water voles, salmon populations and wild bird populations
- Flood risk
- Future climate change in the South East
- Sea level change at Sheerness

B1.5 POSITIVE TRENDS

These are trends where the environment is improving or environmental pressure is decreasing. Aspects of the environment that exhibit such trends include the following:

- Household water metering
- Concentrations of Sulphur dioxide
- Concentrations of Nitrogen dioxide
- Concentrations of Particulates
- Biological quality of river water
- Levels of Phosphate
- Water pollution incidents
- New homes built on previously developed land
- Area under agri-environment schemes
- Land pollution from agriculture and other sources
- Biodiversity including the Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the area of woodland, the distribution of otters and the population of sea trout.
- UK greenhouse gas emissions

There is therefore a complex picture of ongoing environmental change occurring within the region. In addition, there are significant issues for which

no trend or causal effect has been clearly identified in terms of concrete impacts. The most significant of these is man-induced climate change.

B1.6 THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF LEGISLATION

Nation and EU legislation on the environment continues to evolve and several new or proposed items of legislation could have a major effect on the evolution of the environment of the region. The Water Framework Directive is an obvious example. However, what is equally clear from assessing the trends in key environmental indicators is that regulation alone is unlikely to eradicate environmental deterioration. Many of the negative trends relate to the behaviour of the public, private and domestic sectors in terms of the consumption of resources and the production of wastes or by-products.

B1.7 WHAT IS THE LIKELY TREND WITHOUT THE SOUTH EAST PLAN?

From the evidence presented in the State of the Environment Report 2005 it seems highly likely that business as usual ie. RPG9 in terms of housing and spatial development more broadly, relating as it does to an increased population and an increasing number of households, is likely to contribute to a continuation of the negative trends in the region's environment.

Investment in infrastructure and improved enforcement and better standards of performance in terms of industrial processes, building standards etc may be of some assistance in improving environmental performance but they do not address the behaviours that are at the heart of many of the negative trends.

Waste, water, energy, biodiversity impacts and impacts from flooding as well as increased evidence of the impacts of climate change all appear likely to increase under a continuation of RPG9.

B2 REVIEW OF BASELINE DATA

B2.1 POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The South East region has the largest population of all regions within England, currently standing at 8,122,200 as of 2004. The region had an estimated growth rate of 1.3% during the period of 2001-2004 which was below the national average.

Figure 2.1 South East Region

Source: South East Regional Assembly, Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B2.2 POPULATION FIGURES

Table 2.1 Population estimates and projections: by sub-region

	1971	1981	1991	2001[1]	2003[1]	2006[2]	2011[2]	2016[2]	2021[2]
United Kingdom	55,928	56,357	57,439	59,113	59,554	60,254	61,401	62,618	63,835
South East	6,830	7,243	7,629	8,023	8,080	8,210	8,435	8,669	8,910
Bracknell Forest UA	66	85	98	110	110	111	112	113	115
Brighton and Hove UA	256	237	241	250	252	256	265	273	281
Isle of Wight UA	107	118	126	133	136	141	148	156	163
Medway UA	229	240	243	250	251	256	263	272	279
Milton Keynes UA	68	126	178	213	216	224	236	248	259
Portsmouth UA	206	191	187	188	189	191	194	197	201
Reading UA	142	137	135	145	144	145	148	150	153
Slough UA	101	101	105	121	119	118	118	119	120
Southampton UA	216	210	205	220	221	223	228	232	237
West Berkshire UA	107	123	139	144	144	145	146	149	151
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	129	135	134	134	135	136	138	140	143
Wokingham UA	103	117	141	150	151	153	156	159	162
Buckinghamshire County	413	444	456	479	478	480	484	489	495
East Sussex County	397	428	469	493	496	507	526	545	565
Hampshire County	979	1,086	1,179	1,241	1,251	1,268	1,295	1,324	1,356
Kent County	1,183	1,245	1,286	1,331	1,349	1,379	1,429	1,479	1,531
Oxfordshire	516	542	576	607	615	631	655	676	697
Surrey	1,014	1,011	1,023	1,060	1,065	1,079	1,104	1,131	1,160
West Sussex	600	668	710	755	759	770	792	816	842

1 *The mid-2001 & mid-2003 population estimates are those published on 9 September 2004.*

2 *UK projections are based on 2003 data and are an interim set published on 30 September 2004; 2003-based sub national population projections for the region and local areas are those published on 25 November 2004.*

Source: Office for National Statistics; Government Actuary's Department

Table 2.2 Population estimates and projections: by age

	South East					United Kingdom				
	Percentages and Thousands					Percentages and Thousands				
	1991	**2001**	**2003[1]**	**2011[2]**	**2021[2]**	**1991**	**2001**	**2003[1]**	**2011[3]**	**2021[3]**
Age Group										
0 to 4	6.5	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.5	6.7	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.5
5 to 15	13.3	14.0	14.0	12.7	12.1	13.6	14.2	14.0	12.6	11.9
16 to 19	5.3	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.5	5.3	4.9	5.2	5.0	4.4
20 to 24	7.4	5.8	5.9	6.4	5.7	7.7	6.1	6.2	6.7	5.9
25 to 44	29.4	28.9	28.4	26.2	25.4	29.3	29.3	28.8	26.8	25.9
45 to 64 (males)/ 45-59 (females)	19.2	21.8	22.1	23.3	23.3	19.0	21.3	21.6	23.1	23.3
65 and over (males)/ 60 and over (females)	18.9	18.8	19.0	20.8	23.5	18.4	18.3	18.5	20.2	23.0
Pensionable age[4]	18.9	18.8	41.1	17.6	20.4	18.4	18.3	40.1	17.1	19.9
All ages (=100%) (thousands)	7,629	8,023	8,080	8,435	8,910	57,439	59,113	59,554	61,401	63,835

1 *The mid-2003 population estimates are those published on 9 September 2004.*

2 *2003-based subnational population projections for the region and local areas are those published on 25 November 2004.*

3 *UK projections are based on 2003 data and are an interim set published on 30 September 2004.*

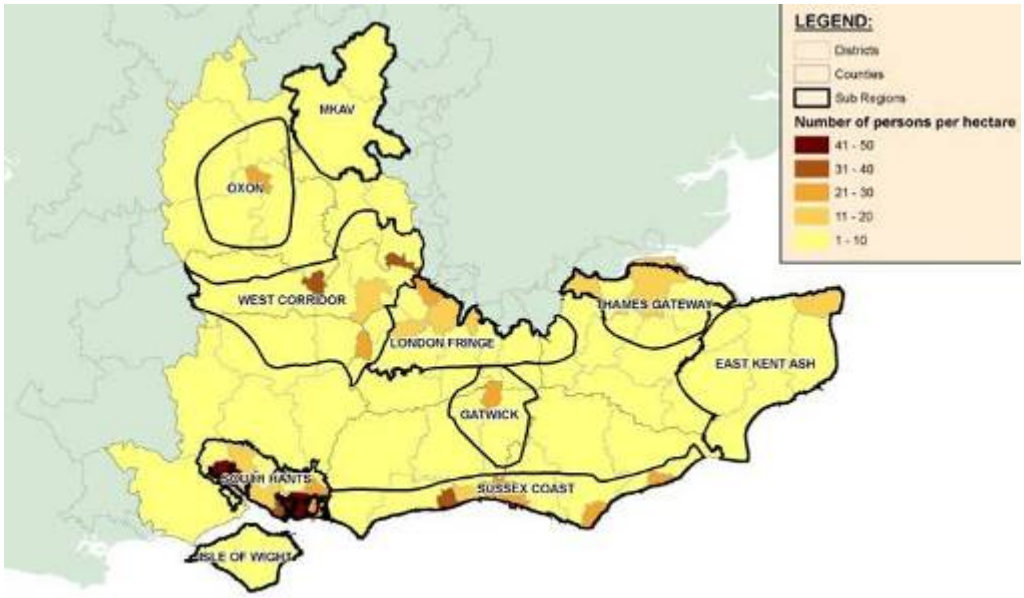
4 *The pensionable age population is that over state pension age. The 2011 and 2021 figures take account of planned changes in state pension age from 65 for men and 60 for women at present to 65 for both sexes. This change will be phased in between April 2010 and March 2020. These figures do not take account of the gradual implementation of this process.*

Source: Office for National Statistics; Government Actuary's Department

B2.3 DENSITY

Figure 2.2 presents the population density across the region, shown as a measure of the number of people per hectare.

Figure 2.2 Population Density within the Region



Source: IMD

The map illustrates that for most of the region, population density is between 1-10 people per hectare. There are, however, pockets of high density population in, for example, South Hampshire, where the population is 41-50 people per hectare. Other slightly less dense population pockets exist within several areas, such as the London Fringe, Thames Gateway, Sussex Coast and the West Corridor.

B2.4 POPULATION CHANGE

The region has had consistently lower birth and death rates than the UK, on average, this resulting in a lower rate of natural change for most of the period between 1981-2003; the exception is, however, of the latest year analysed, 2003, in which the South East had above average natural rate of change (1.5 per 1000 population, as opposed to 1.4 for the UK average).

Table 2.3 Births, Deaths and Natural Change

	South East			UK		
	Live Births	**Deaths**	**Natural Change**	**Live Births**	**Deaths**	**Natural Change**
1991	13.0	10.9	2.1	13.8	11.2	1.7
1992	12.9	10.7	2.2	13.6	11.0	2.6
1993	12.7	11.1	1.6	13.2	11.4	1.8
1994	12.6	10.5	2.1	13.0	10.8	2.2
1995	12.2	10.8	1.4	12.6	11.0	1.6
1996	12.2	10.8	1.4	12.6	11.0	1.6
1997	12.1	10.7	1.4	12.5	10.8	1.7
1998	12.1	10.4	1.7	12.3	10.7	1.6
1999	11.8	10.4	1.4	11.9	10.7	1.2
2000	11.3	10.1	1.2	11.5	10.3	1.2
2001	11.0	9.9	1.1	11.3	10.2	1.1
2002	11.0	10.0	1.0	11.3	10.2	1.1
2003	11.4	9.9	1.5	11.7	10.3	1.4

Rates per 1,000 population

Source: Office for National Statistics 2004/2005

B2.4.1 Migration

The figures for migration in and out of the region, demonstrate the considerable variability which has existed during the course of the past 13 years for which statistical analysis exists. The region has witnessed a significant drop in terms of internal (UK) inward migration, dropping from an annual peak of 29,000 people in 1996 to 7000 in 2001. The turn of the millennium would appear to have marked a trend of consistently lower inward migration into the region.

Table 2.4 Migration to and from the South East

Thousands

	Internal[1]			International[2]		
	Inflow	Outflow	Balance	Inflow	Outflow	Balance
1991	198	185	13	53	43	10
1992	202	187	16	50	44	6
1993	206	183	23	48	48	-1
1994	216	190	25	52	31	22
1995	219	196	23	55	41	14
1996	228	199	29	46	56	-10
1997	230	206	24	42	43	-1
1998	226	209	17	60	34	26
1999	229	209	20	74	45	29
2000	224	210	14	64	64	-
2001	224	216	7	65	50	15
2002	229	220	8	69	60	8
2003	220	211	9	..	..	..

1 *Small differences in individual figures may occur due to rounding and apportionment.*

2 *Subject to relatively large sampling errors where estimates are based on small numbers of contacts. See Notes and Definitions.*

Source: National Health Service Central Register; International Passenger Survey; Office for National Statistics; Home Office; Irish Central Statistical Office.

Even greater variation exists in terms of international migratory flows to and from the region. 1996 witnessed the highest recorded (for the period of 1991-2003) annual outward migration to international destinations of 10,000 people, yet there was inward migration of 29,000 people in 1999.

Figure 2.3 Migration

Inter-regional movements[1] within the United Kingdom, 2002

	ORIGIN													
	United Kingdom	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire & the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	**South East**	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
DESTINATION														
United Kingdom	.	119	41	108	95	97	103	130	262	**220**	111	50	48	11
England	101	.	36	87	86	90	89	120	247	**199**	94	48	45	9
North East	43	37	.	6	9	3	3	3	5	**5**	2	1	4	1
North West	109	91	6	.	18	10	13	8	14	**14**	8	9	7	2
Yorkshire & the Humber	100	91	9	18	.	17	8	9	11	**13**	6	3	5	1
East Midlands	120	113	3	10	18	.	17	20	15	**22**	8	3	3	1
West Midlands	99	87	3	12	8	14	.	8	13	**16**	13	8	3	1
East	150	142	3	7	7	13	7	.	66	**28**	9	3	4	1
London	155	142	5	12	10	10	11	28	.	**51**	15	5	7	1
South East	**229**	**213**	**4**	**12**	**9**	**14**	**14**	**29**	**98**	**.**	**33**	**8**	**7**	**1**
South West	146	132	2	9	6	9	16	14	25	**50**	.	9	4	1
Wales	64	62	1	11	3	3	10	4	6	**11**	12	.	2	-
Scotland	53	49	4	8	5	3	3	5	7	**9**	4	2	.	2
Northern Ireland	11	8	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	**1**	1	-	2	.

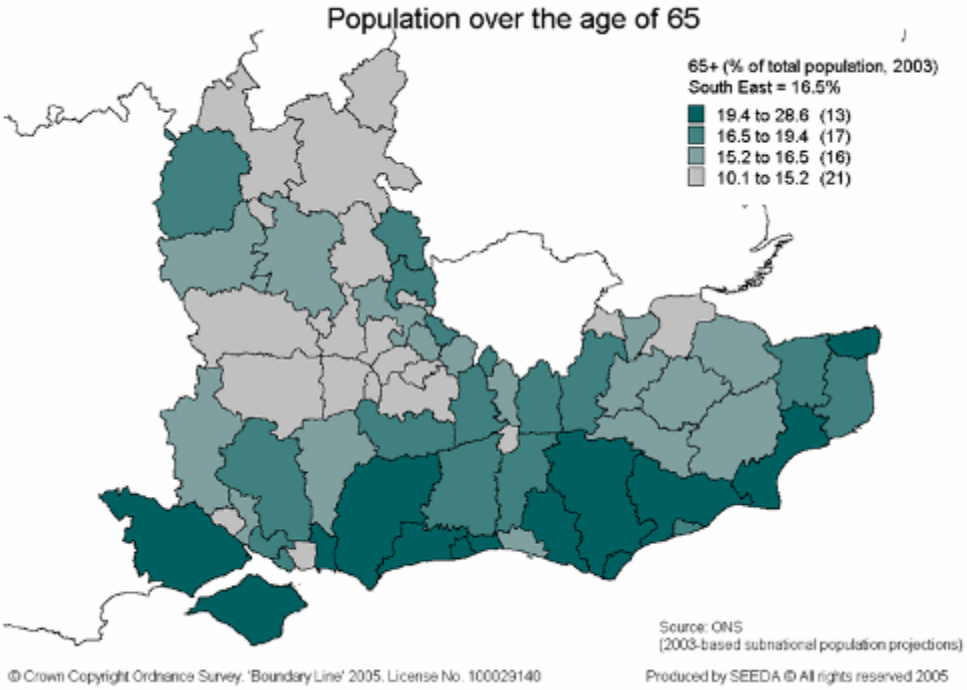
1 Based on patients re-registering with NHS doctors in other parts of the United Kingdom. Moves where the origin and destination lie within the same region do not appear in the table. Figures may be revised in the light of the 2001 Census. See Appendix, Part 1: Internal migration estimates.

All figures are in thousands

Source: National Health Service Central Register; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

In terms of inter-regional migration, Figure 2.3 highlights the South East was the most popular destination for people relocating within the UK; more than 220,000 people migrated to the South East, the second most favoured destination being London which was the destination of 148,000 people in 2003.

Figure 2.4 Ageing population 2003



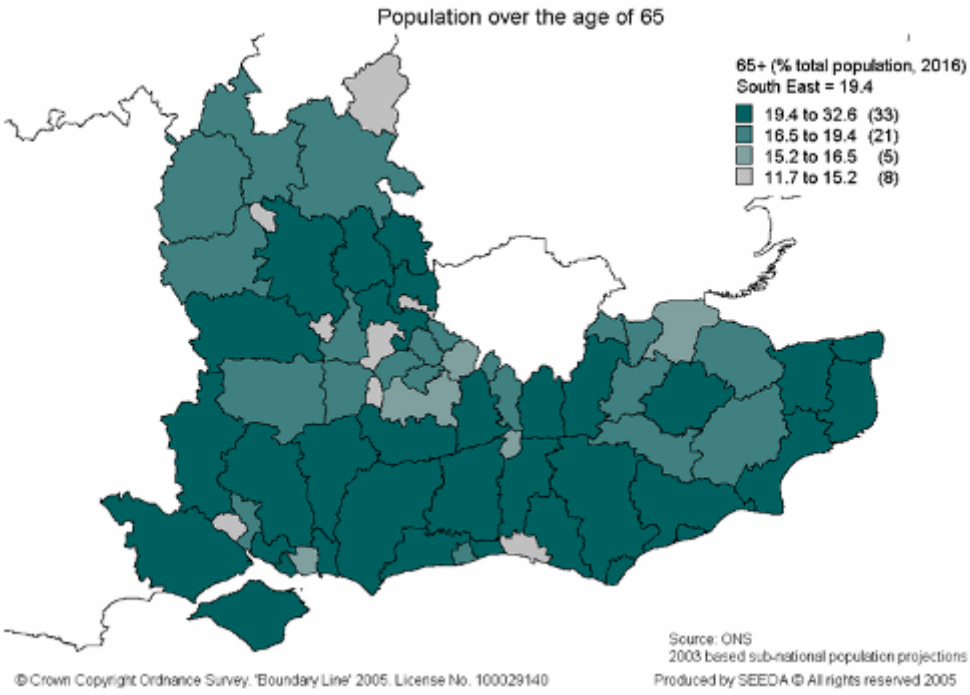
Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

Analysing the region's age profile, Figure 2,4 highlights that 16.5% of the region's population was aged 65 and over in 2003; this representing an increasing percentage of the population that illustrates the growing trend of an ageing regional demographic. There are clear pockets of clustering of this age group along the South of the region in the Sussex Coast area. The lowest percentage of over 65s are located to the North in areas such as Milton Keynes.

Figure 2.5 demonstrates that this trend of an ageing population is predicted to continue, with the region's over 65s projected to increase to 19.4% of the overall population by 2016. As the map illustrates, the majority of the region will experience an increase in the percentage of its population of over 65s, with less clustering and more uniformity in terms of population spread throughout the South East and not just in areas such as the Sussex Coast.

The current significant regional variation in terms of population age may impact upon the need for and access to key services, rates of employment and attenuating need in the short term. The greater regional uniformity will, however, make the need for services provision for the over 65s a region wide issue.

Figure 2.5 Ageing population 2016



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B3 OBJECTIVE 1 – TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN A DECENT, SUSTAINABLY CONSTRUCTED AND AFFORDABLE HOME

B3.1 DATA

Key to delivery of this objective is the provision of affordable housing. Affordability is defined in PPG3 as:

'Local plan policies for affordable housing should.....define what the authority considers to be affordable in the local plan area in terms of the relationship between local income levels and house prices or rents for different types of households'

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are, therefore, as follows:

- Net housing completions
- Household income
- Regional house prices
- Household tenure
- Proportion of Working Households unable to purchase at lower quartile house prices
- Shortfall between mortgage (average earnings x3.5) and average price of dwelling
- Households on the Housing Register
- Unfit dwellings

B3.2 AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING

Figure 3.1 Net Housing Completions

	All Urban Completions 1998/99		All Urban Completions 1999/00		All Urban Completions 2000/01		All Urban Completions 2001/02		All Urban Completions 2002/03	
	Total	% of Total Completions	Total	% of Total Completions	Total	% of Total Completions	Total	% of Total Completions	Total	% of Total Completions
Berkshire	n/a	n/a	2,521	87	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Buckinghamshire	1,363	46	1,577	53	948	37	1,277	52	940	42
East Sussex	1,208	62	1,208	61	1,055	57	1,754	66	1,597	67
Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,981	83	4,730	84
Isle of Wight	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	279	74
Kent	2,803	54	3,048	55	2,474	48	2,507	49	2,254	41
Oxfordshire	1,032	40	808	42	853	47	940	52	745	47
Surrey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Sussex	1,492	63	1,197	52	990	55	1,246	51	1,114	57
South East	**7,898**	**53**	**10,359**	**59**	**6,320**	**48**	**11,705**	**61**	**11,659**	**60**

Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

Net housing completions within the region highlight the strongly urban focus of housing development in the South East; 71% of new completions were built in urban areas and within counties such as Surrey, this rose to 92%. The figures also indicate the increasing use of PDL as a development location with

the region. Just under half of all its new housing is being built on such land and in Surrey, all new housing was built on PDL.

Figure 3.2 ***Net Housing Completions by County***

	Total Completions	Total in urban areas	% Total urban areas	Total on PDL	% Development on PDL
Berkshire	324,849	202,286	62	139,791	43
Buckinghamshire	*90,844*	*70,425*	*78*	*19,634*	*22*
East Sussex	11,882	9,043	80	6,209	55
Hampshire	274,071	216,478	79	199,320	73
Isle of Wight	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent	34,676	23,794	69	-14,495	-42
Oxfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	94,445	86,704	92	94,445	100
West Sussex	178,082	115,375	65	109,275	61
South East	**734,703**	**522,026**	**71**	**350,459**	**48**

Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

The location of housing caters to the demand for urban expansion within the region; it also highlights, however, the potential shortage of new housing within rural areas in the future.

B3.3 HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Analysis of household income within the region provides a key indication as to whether housing is affordable or not; this being used to relate to house prices and, therefore, providing a basis for assessing whether income is in line with house prices.

Table 3.1 ***Household Income by Source, 2000/01 to 2002/03***

Source	South East (%)	UK (%)
Wages and salaries	68	68
Self employment	10	8
Investments	5	4
Annuities and pensions	8	7
Social security benefits	8	12
Other income	1	1
Average gross weekly household income	**£657**	**£534**

Source: Expenditure and Food Survey, ONS, 2005

The data on household income (Table 2.1) illustrates the significant convergence of the region with the national average on most key income sources; the one notable divergence is that of the percentage of people on social security benefits, the South having 4% less people claiming benefit than the UK on the whole. The region enjoys a considerably higher gross weekly household income than the national average at £657, as compared to £534 for the UK as a whole.

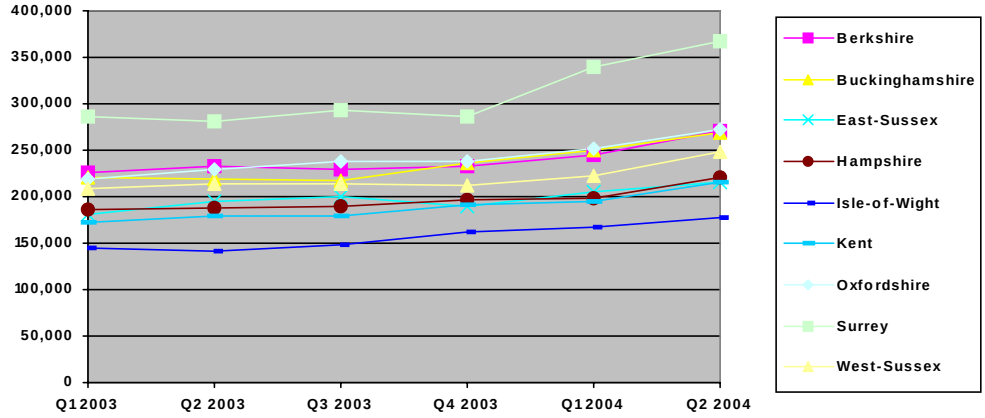
Whilst household income has increased above the national average, regional house prices have also increased substantially, as the data below illustrates. Across the region house prices have increased significantly during the past two years with the highest increases being in Surrey and Kent where the rise were 28.41% and 25.64% respectively.

Table 3.2 ***Regional House Prices – Figures***

County	2003				2004		Total increase
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
Surrey	286,041	281,451	293,407	286,778	339,772	367,307	28.41%
Oxfordshire	219,156	228,925	238,212	237,779	251,129	272,355	24.27%
Berkshire	225,306	232,009	229,918	232,523	244,655	271,439	20.48%
Buckinghamshire	220,327	218,542	217,490	236,859	249,466	268,938	22.06%
West Sussex	208,350	213,973	213,174	211,805	223,041	247,747	18.91%
Hampshire	186,919	187,760	190,002	197,382	198,639	220,021	17.71%
Kent	172,209	178,841	179,393	190,731	194,579	216,368	25.64%
East Sussex	181,812	194,584	200,593	189,401	205,545	215,011	18.26%
Isle-of-Wight	144,068	141,436	148,942	161,359	167,393	177,386	23.13%

Source: Halifax House Price Index, 2004

Figure 3.3 ***Regional House Prices – Chart***



Source: Halifax House Price Index 2004

B3.4 *HOUSEHOLD TENURE*

Rising house prices will impact upon the affordability of housing within the region; as those on lower incomes will find it increasingly difficult to purchase houses. The region still enjoys higher house ownership than the UK as a whole, this having risen slightly during the course of the past decade but less than the UK (2% rise in the South East as compared to 4% nationally). Local Authority rentals have dropped in the region, consistent though not as sharply as the national picture.

Table 3.3 ***Household Tenure***

	South East			England		
Type	**1990/01**	**1995/6**	**2002/03**	**1990/01**	**1995/6**	**2002/03**

	South East			England		
Type	**1990/01**	**1995/6**	**2002/03**	**1990/01**	**1995/6**	**2002/03**
Owner occupied	74	74	76	67	68	71
Rented from LA	12	9	6	20	17	11
Rented from private owners	11	11	11	10	11	10
Rented from registered social landlord	3	6	7	3	5	8

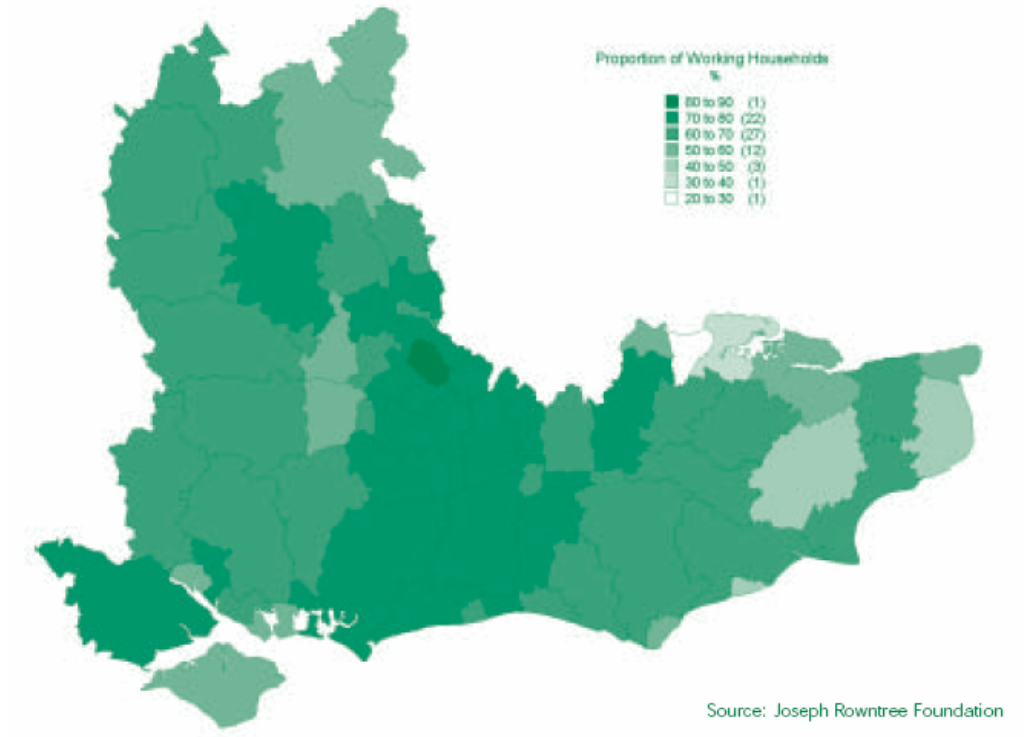
Source: ODPM/ONS 2005

The South East Regional Housing Strategy 2004/5 to 2005/6 highlights the problems of affordability within the South East's housing market. In particular:

- In 63 of the South East's 67 local authority areas, the price of a terraced house is more than four times average earnings, and in a third of these areas the multiple is more than six.
- In no local authority can an average earner afford an average priced terraced house on earnings alone, and in 41 local authority areas the mortgage shortfall is at least £50,000.
- Rural house prices are the highest in the UK.

These problems are illustrated in the maps below.

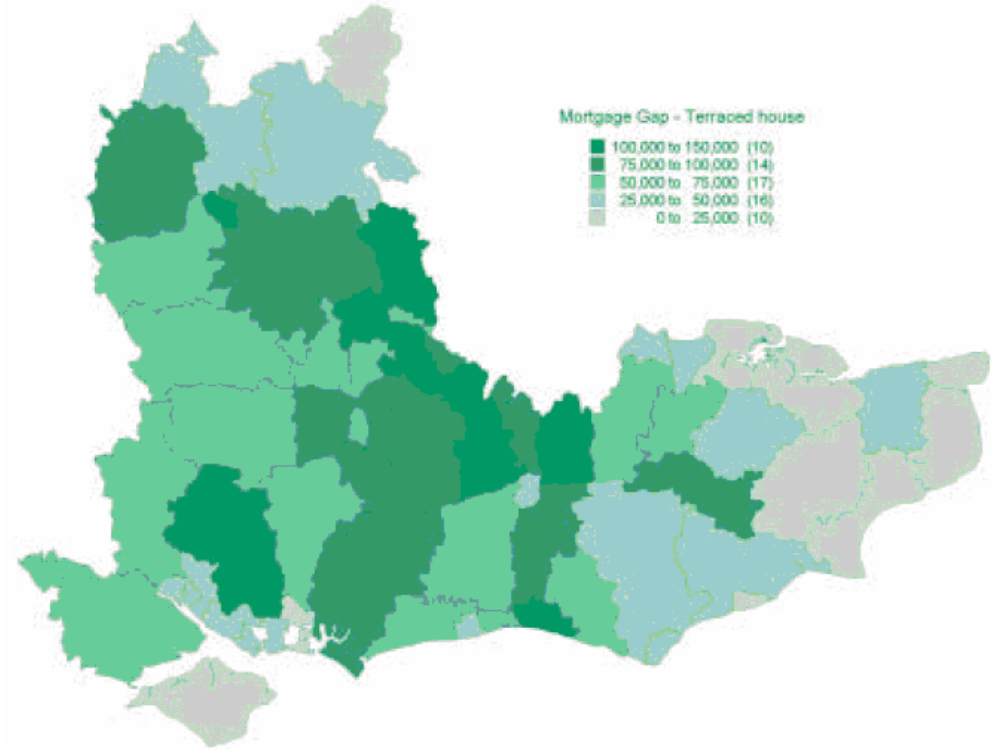
Figure 3.4 ***Proportion of Working Households unable to purchase at lower quartile house prices***



Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

The proportion of working households unable to purchase at lower quartile housing prices is demonstrably high across the region as the map above illustrates. Whilst there are pockets of affordability, such as the Isle of Wight, there are significant issues with affordability within most areas in the South East. The map of shortfall between mortgage capacity and house price reinforces this. Large tracts of the London Fringe and Western Corridor, amongst others, are characterised by sharp shortfalls which demonstrate that affordability is of particular concern in such areas.

Figure 3.5 ***Shortfall between mortgage (average earnings x3.5) and average price of dwelling***

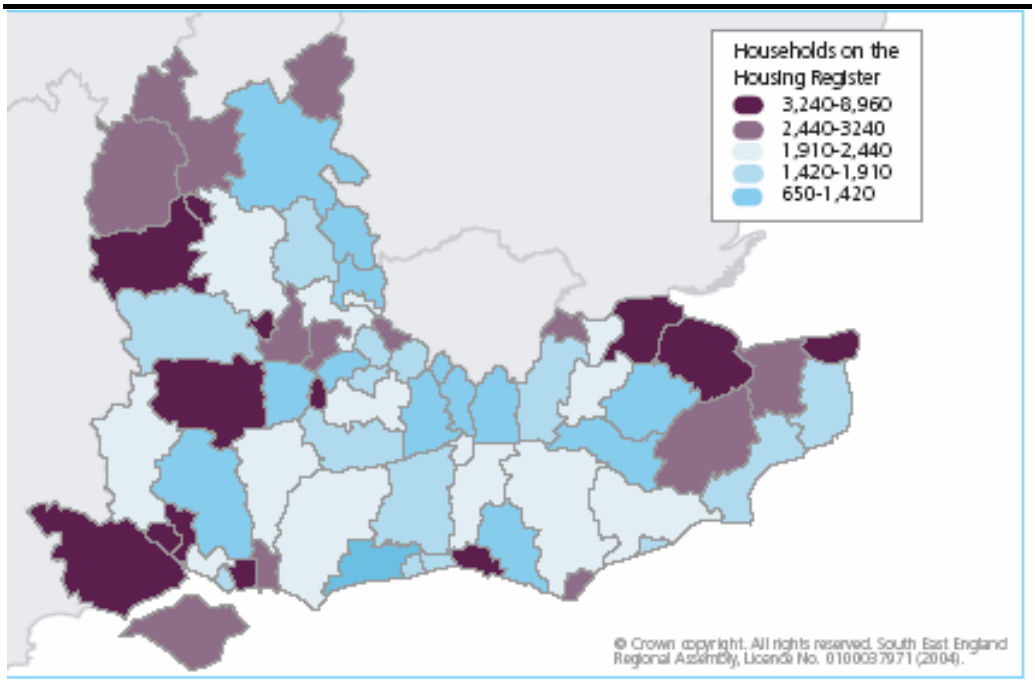


Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B3.5 HOUSING REGISTER

Analysing the figures for households on the housing register, there are sharp disparities within the region; there existing small pockets of high household numbers on the register within the Thames Gateway, whilst large areas of, for example, the Sussex Coast having very low levels of households on the register.

Figure 3.6 *Households on the Housing Register*

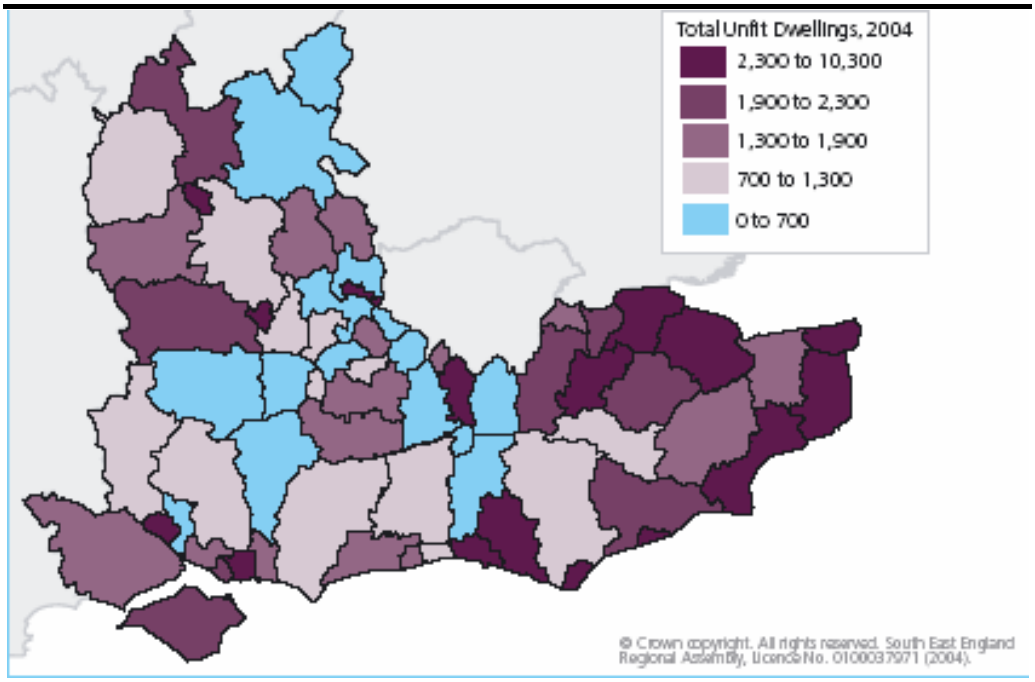


Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B3.6 *UNFIT HOUSING*

Problems with unfit social housing are most acute in Slough, Oxford, West Berkshire, Dover, and Tonbridge and Malling. The map of the region highlights again the significant disparities which exist in unfit housing across the region.

Figure 3.7 *Unfit Dwellings – Public Sector*



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B3.7 ISSUES

Whilst the region enjoys above national average household incomes, escalating house prices have created a growing shortfall in terms of household affordability. The gap between house price and the mortgage capacity is increasing, exacerbating the difficulty in purchasing a house, experienced in particular by those on lower incomes.

The South East is characterised by significant disparities in terms of household status. Whilst all counties have experienced new housing development, the predominance of this development has been in urban areas. This has served to enhance the problem of affordability within rural areas. Levels of unfit housing and households on the housing register also vary significantly across the region.

B4 OBJECTIVE 2 - TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING AND THE RESULTING DETRIMENT TO PUBLIC WELLBEING, THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

B4.1 DATA

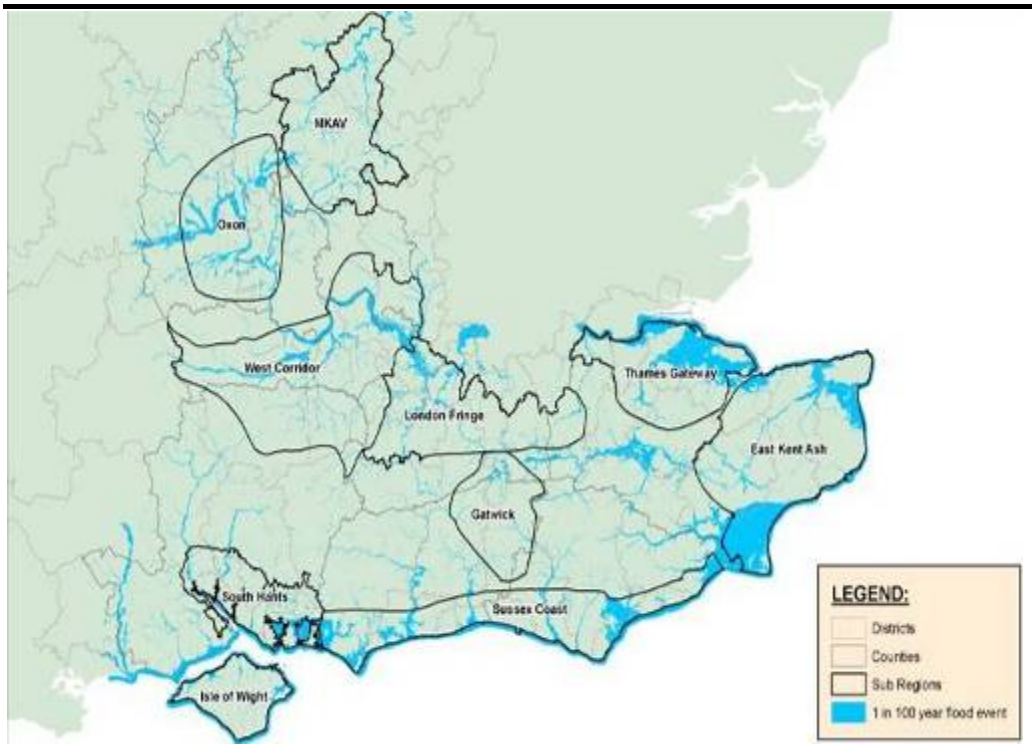
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Flood zones within the region
- Flood Zones
- The South East Plan
- Catchment Flood Management Plans

B4.2 RISK OF FLOODING

In 2003, 235,602 properties within the region were considered at risk from flooding by the Environment Agency, based on an assessment by the Environment Agency, of area liable to be affected by a 1-in-100 year fluvial flood, and/or 1-in-200 or 1000 year tidal flood.

Figure 4.1 ***Flood Zones within the Region***

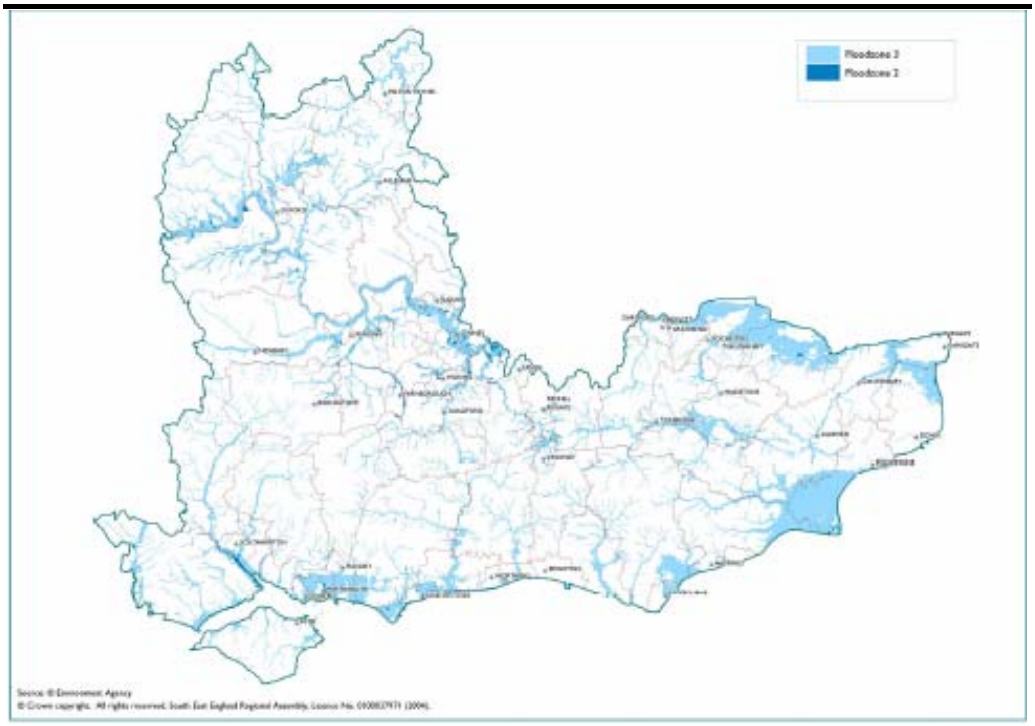


N.B. The data is based on a combination of probability and consequence; the return period of flood reflects the probability of this occurring.
Source: Environment Agency 2005/2005

As *Figure 4.1* illustrates, there is a strong probability that large parts of the region fall within areas at risk from flooding, either coastal or fluvial.

B4.3 FLOOD ZONES

Figure 4.2 Flood Zones 2 and 3, PPG25



Source: Environment Agency/South East Plan

B4.4 THE SOUTH EAST PLAN

The South East Plan explores the potential for development and the likely spatial implications of this. It also, explores the issues of particular concern for flood risk management, noting that:

'*Development in flood plains, changing patterns of rainfall, extreme weather, storms and rising sea levels accelerated by climate change, will increase the probability and incidence of flooding of property and land. Development can increase the area of impermeable land and intensive agriculture can increase runoff, both of which can exacerbate the probability and impact of flooding*'2.4. The South East Plan

Noting PPG25's priority for sequential testing of development siting, the South East Plan highlights the importance that future developments will be located where flood impact can be minimised, and if possible, avoided. The importance of conducting Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for developments in flood zones (2 and 3) is also highlighted.

B4.5 CATCHMENT FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLANS

Catchment Flood Management Plans will be produced by the Environment Agency by 2007 for the region. The objective of these Plans will be to maximise effective management of fluvial flood risk against flood probability. The Plans will also provide a policy and action based approach to flood risk management.

B4.6 FORESIGHT FUTURES REPORT

The Foresight Futures 2020 Scenarios Report, notes that the South East region, alongside London, will benefit from most new investment in the future. With this brings the increase in development and demand for accompanying housing, which will impact particularly strongly on the South East where 'the distinction between the country and the city blurs'. The increase in construction to supply such demand will have implications for planning policy and require consideration of flooding susceptibility when deciding where to locate such new housing.

B4.7 ISSUES

The issue of flood susceptibility is of particular importance given the scope for economic development and restricting the spatial dispersion of commercial and residential housing expansion which the region is likely to be subject to. It is important to ensure that all development is subject to strategic flood risk assessment and that flood risk is minimised when facilitating future development in the region.

B5 OBJECTIVE 3 - TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH

B5.1 DATA

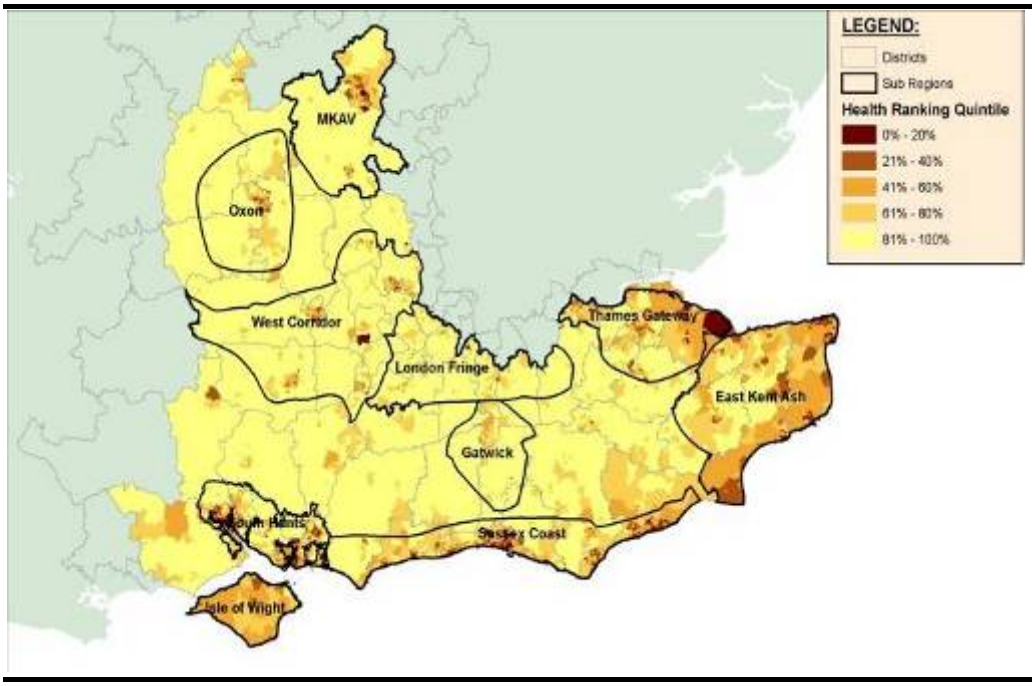
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Health deprivation index
- Life expectancy
- Mortality: Deaths due to circulatory disease, cancer, injury and suicide
- Infant mortality rates
- Teenage pregnancy
- Incapacity benefit claimants

B5.2 HEALTH DEPRIVATION

The health deprivation and disability index (which is one of seven domains that make up the ODPM Indices of Deprivation 2004 and identifies areas with relatively high rates of people who die prematurely or whose quality of life is impaired by poor health or disability) indicates that, in the national context, much of the South East experiences relatively good health (*Figure 5.1*). However, the picture is not universally favourable and high levels of health deprivation are found across many parts of the region, particularly in Thames Gateway, East Kent and South Hants.

Figure 5.1 *IMD- Health Deprivation Ranking, 2004*



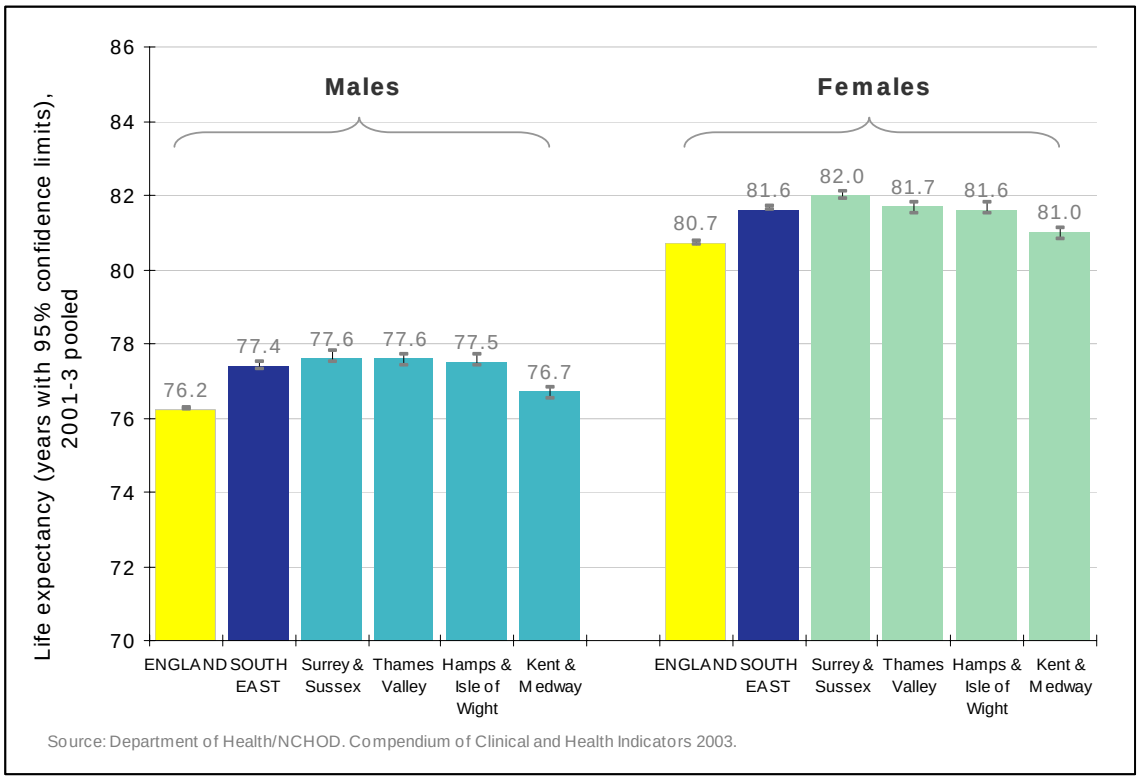
Source: IMD 2004

B5.3 LIFE EXPECTANCY

Both men and women in the South East live one year longer than the national average (*Figure 5.2*). Statistics collated by Eurostat indicate that the South East also fares well for male life expectancy in an international context, with only a small number of countries such as Sweden (77.9 years), Switzerland (77.8) and Japan (77.6) having higher levels. The South East has the second highest female life expectancy in England, but the region's women fare less well than the men when compared against several European countries such as Spain (83.7 years), France, Italy (both 82.9) and Sweden (82.4), as well as Japan (84.3).

Life expectancy in the South East is increasing: since 1991-3, the figure for males has risen by 2.5 years and for females by 1.5 years. There are, however, marked differences between different parts of the region: male life expectancy in Kent & Medway is eight months lower than in Surrey & Sussex, and for women, the difference is a full year. At local authority level, the inequalities are greater still: for example, males in Thanet live an average of 74.7 years, yet the figure for Hart is over 7% greater at 80 years.

Figure 5.2 *Life expectancy for males and females, 2001-3*



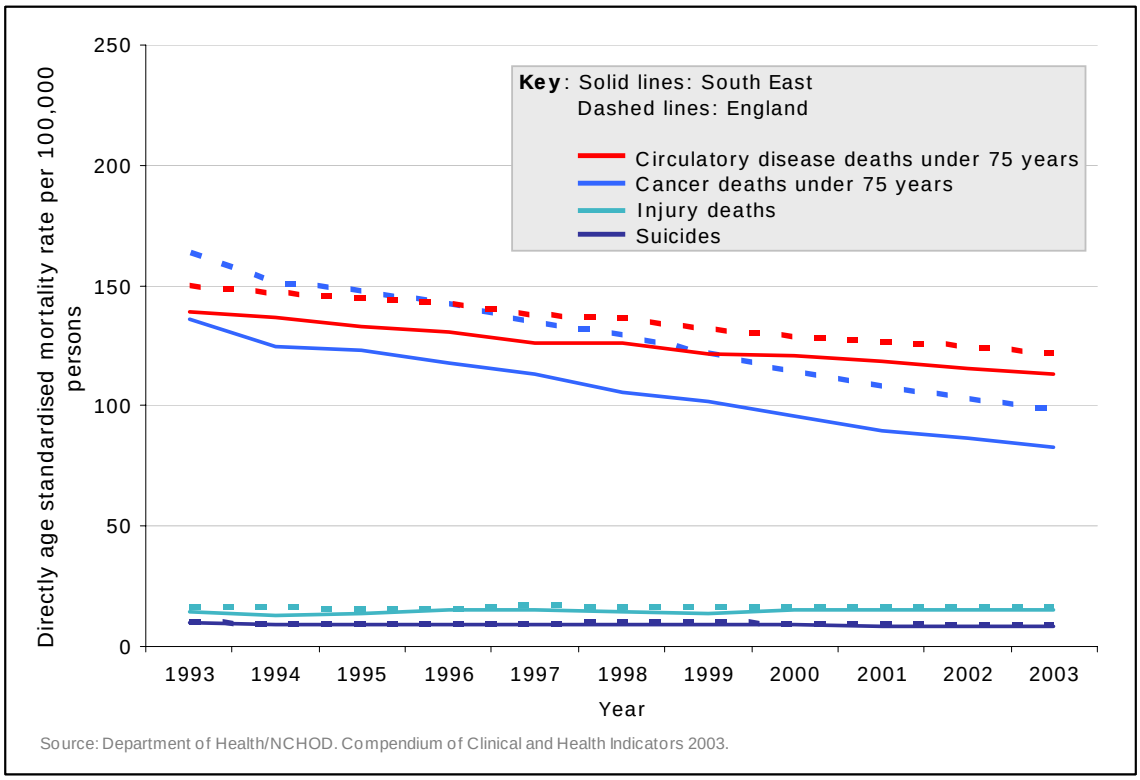
Source: Department of Health/NCHOD. Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators 2003.

B5.4 MORTALITY

Over the last decade, mortality rates for the two main killers in England and the South East – circulatory disease and cancer – have fallen significantly (*Figure 5.3*). The circulatory disease death rate among those aged under 75 (this age group provides a clearer indication of the extent of premature mortality than the rate for all ages, and this definition also corresponds to that

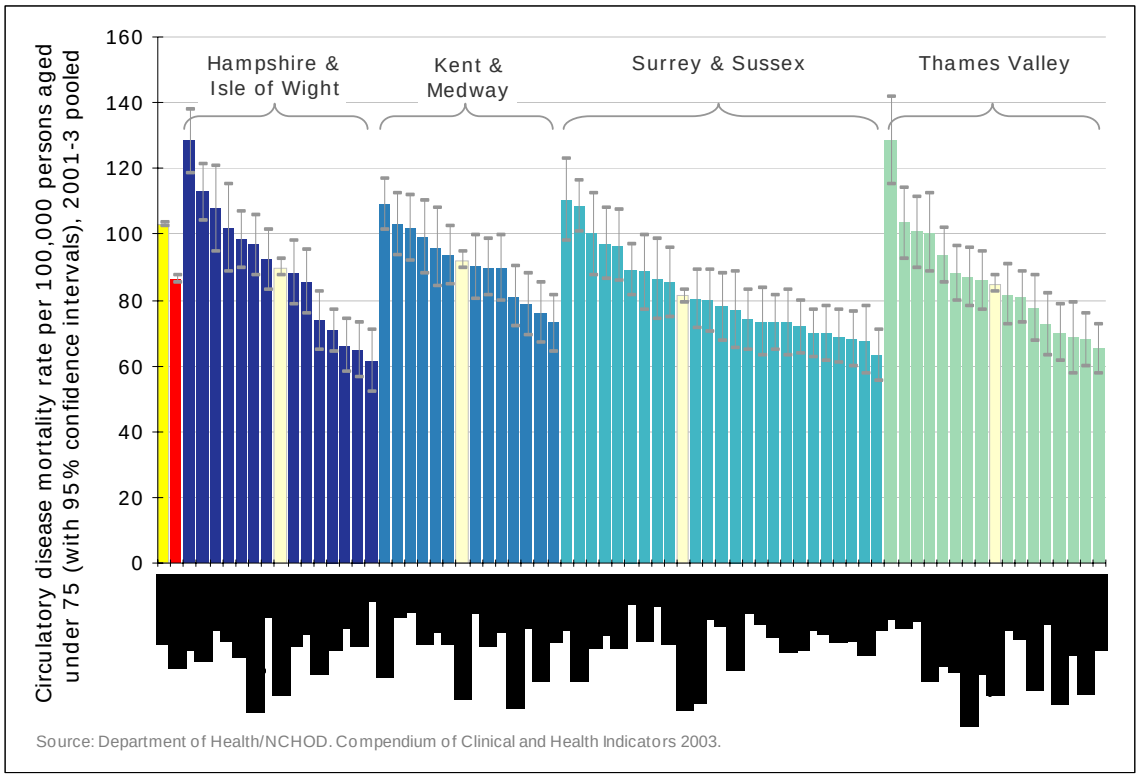
used for the Department of Health PSA target) in the South East has fallen by nearly 40%, while the rate for cancer has dropped by nearly 20%. This degree of improvement is not universal across all causes of death, however, and the mortality rates for injury and suicide have remained largely static at levels broadly comparable to the average for England as a whole.

Figure 5.3 ***Trends in mortality rates for circulatory disease under 75 years, cancer under 75 years, injury and suicide, 1993 to 2003***



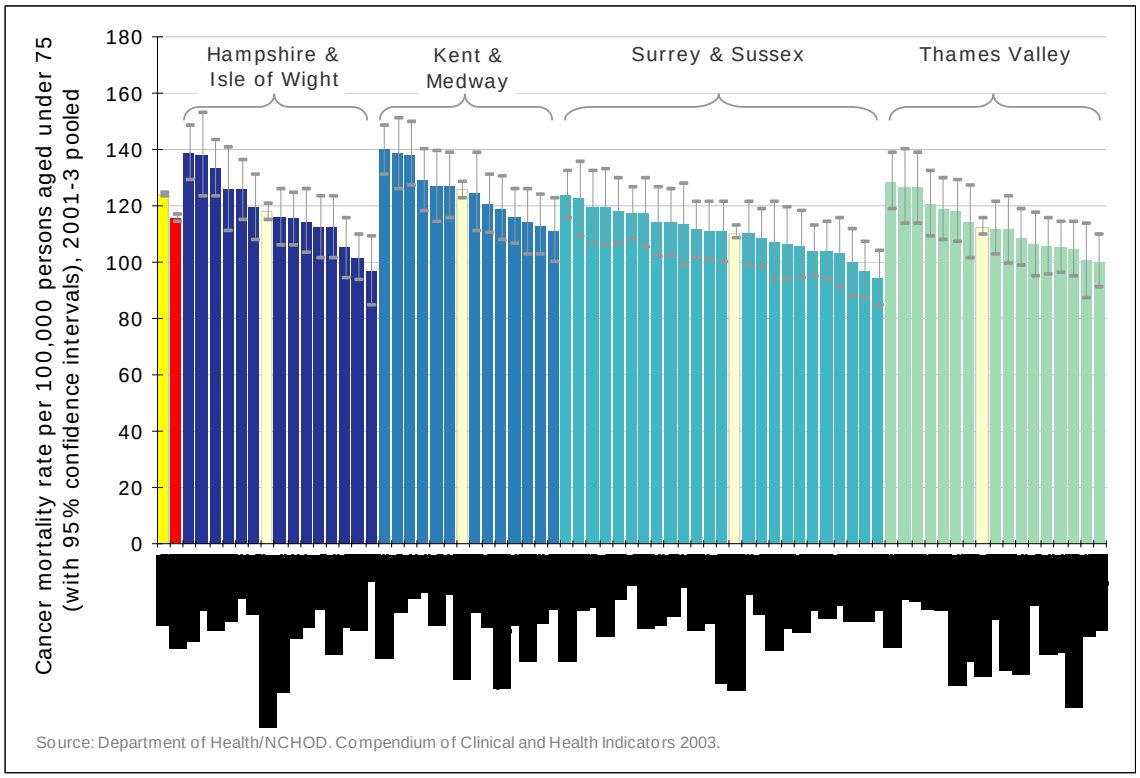
While the circulatory disease mortality rate for the South East has fallen dramatically, there remain significant inequalities between different parts of the region (*Figure 5.4*). In Hampshire & Isle of Wight, for example, the mortality rate in Portsmouth is over twice that in Hart. Rates significantly higher than the national average are also found in Slough and Southampton. Circulatory disease mortality rates across the region are strongly correlated with the distribution of deprivation: in other words, the local authority areas with the highest mortality rates tend to be the most deprived.

Figure 5.4 ***Circulatory disease mortality rate for persons aged under 75 by local authority, South East England, 2001-3***



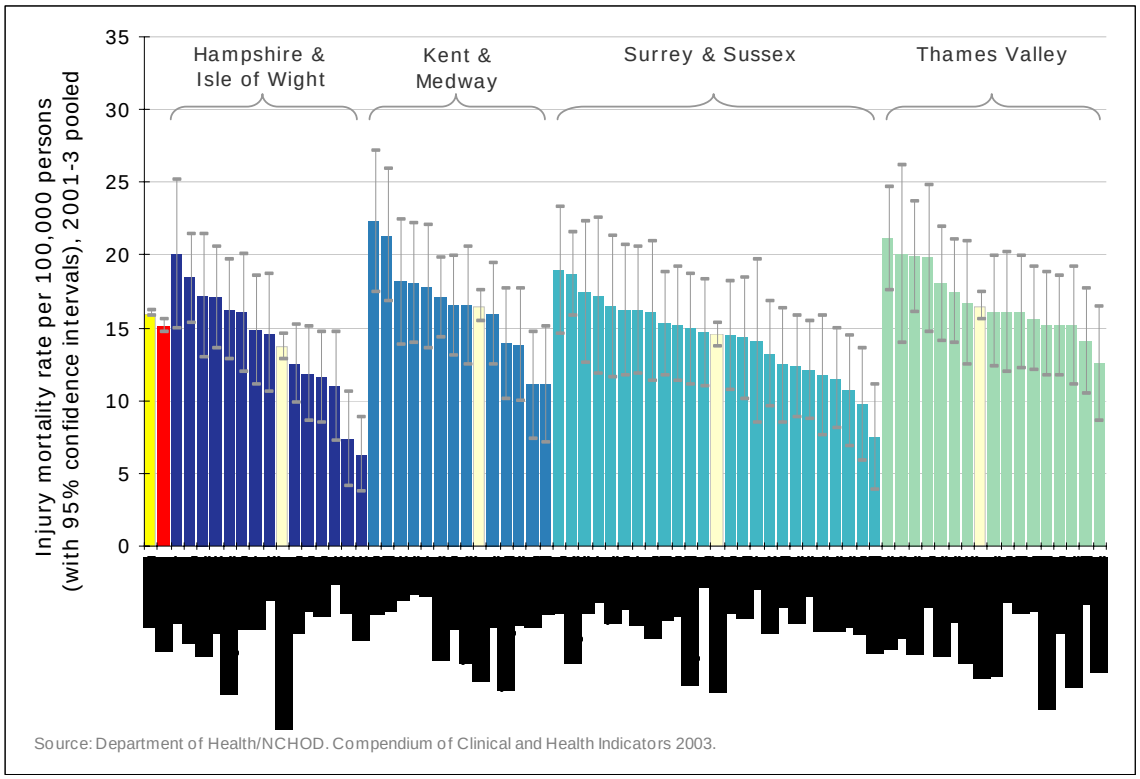
The cancer mortality rate among those aged under 75 in the South East is significantly lower than the national average (*Figure 5.5*). Nevertheless, there are marked inequalities in the rate between different parts of the region: the figure for Southampton is nearly 50% higher than that for Hart. Rates significantly higher than the national average are also found in Medway, Shepway and Thanet. As with circulatory disease, the pattern of cancer mortality across the region is strongly correlated with the distribution of deprivation.

Figure 5.5 ***Cancer mortality rate for persons aged under 75 by local authority, South East England, 2001-3***



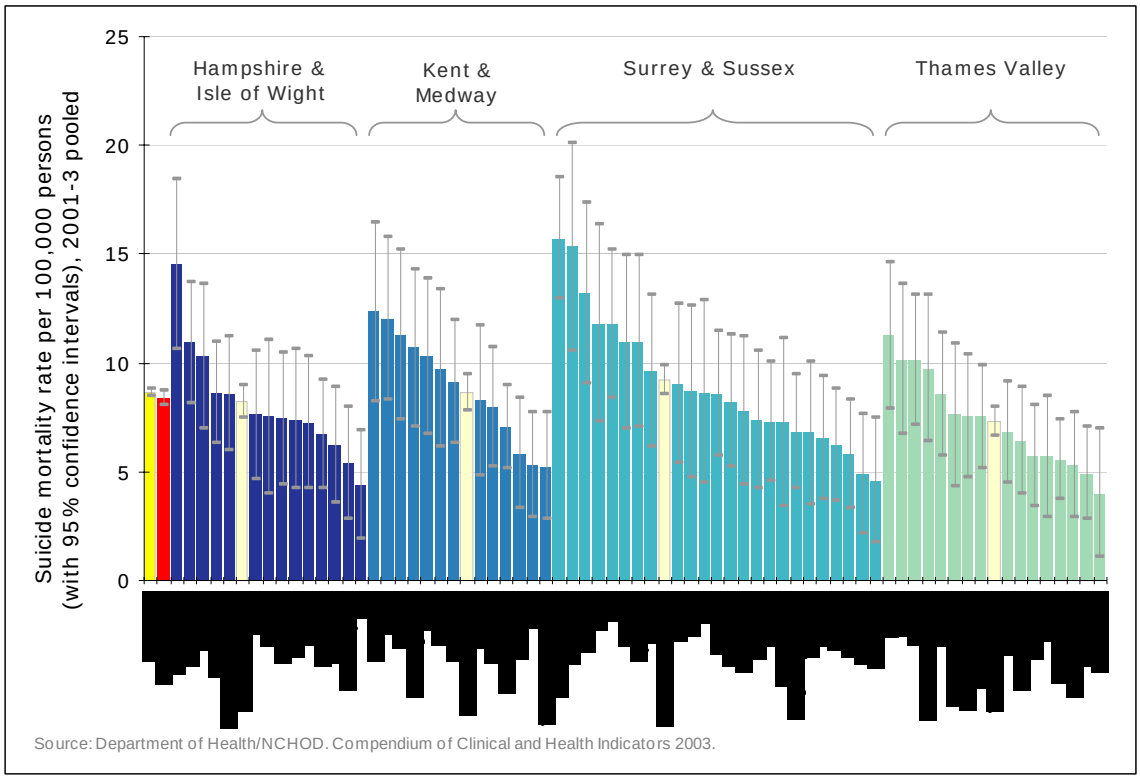
Deaths from injury are among the most avoidable, and hence preventable, of all. Each year in the South East, an average of 1,650 people lose their lives due to injuries caused by accidents. The mortality rate for the region is slightly lower than the national average, but significant differences do exist between different parts of the region: the rates for Kent & Medway and Thames Valley, for example, are both significantly higher than that for Hampshire & Isle of Wight (*Figure 5.6*). At local authority level, Shepway, Ashford and Milton Keynes all have rates significantly higher than the national figure.

Figure 5.6 ***Injury mortality rate for all persons by local authority, South East England, 2001-3***



On average there are 710 suicides each year in the South East. The rate for the region is broadly comparable to the national average, although significantly high levels are found in several local authorities in the Sussex Coast area including Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne, Isle of Wight and Worthing (*Figure* 5.7).

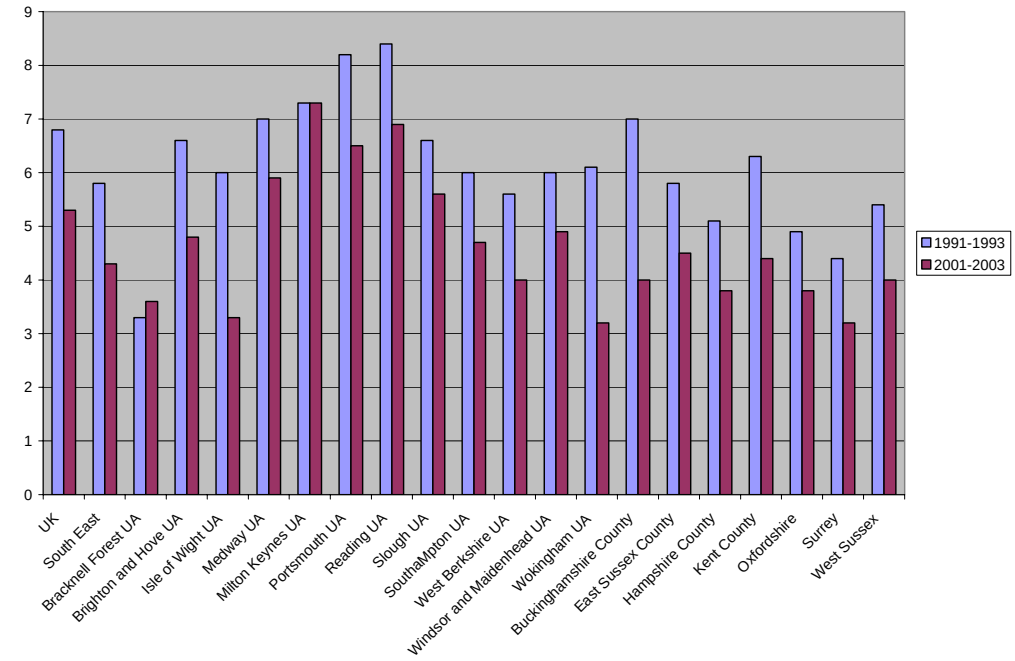
Figure 5.7 ***Suicide mortality rate for all persons by local authority, South East England, 2001-3***



B5.5 *INFANT MORTALITY RATES*

Infant mortality rates across the region demonstrate that the region has consistently reduced such deaths during the course of the past decade; with the one exception of Milton Keynes UA in which mortality rates have remained constant. Of concern, however, is the fact that five areas remain above the national average for infant mortalities: Medway UA, Milton Keynes UA, Portsmouth UA, Reading UA and Slough UA.

Figure 5.8 ***Infant Mortality Rates (Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births)***



Source: Office for National Statistics 2004/2005

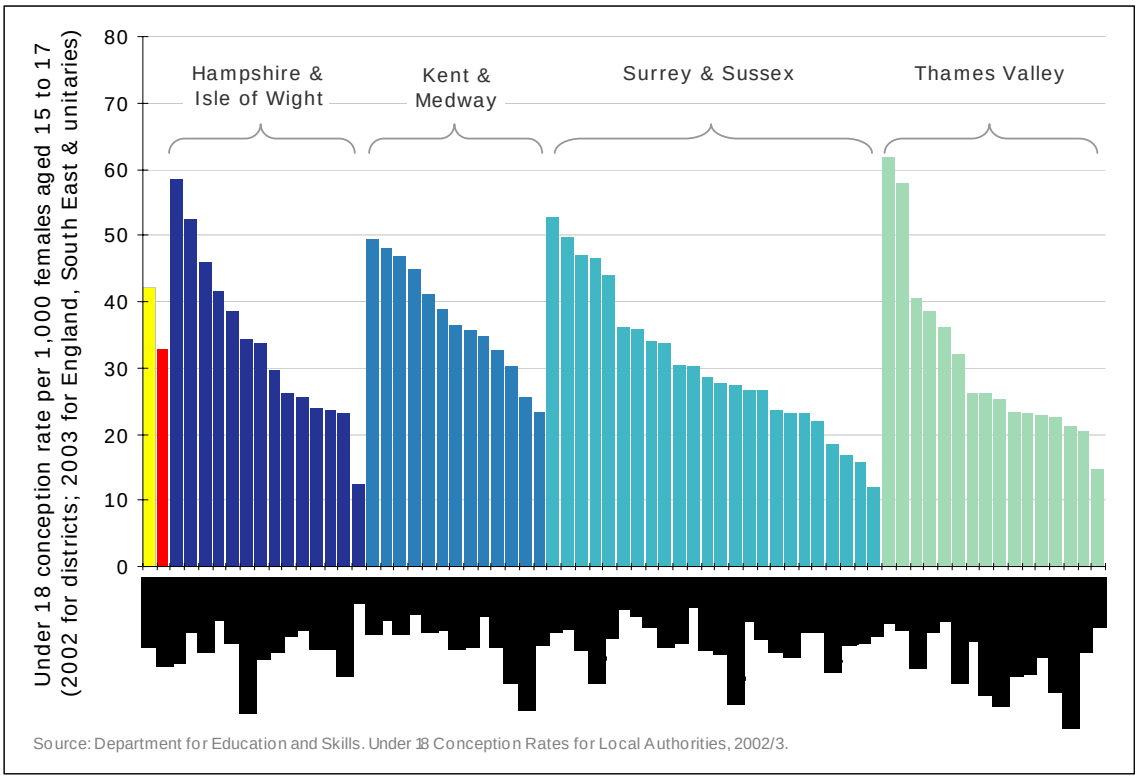
B5.6 *TEENAGE PREGNANCY*

Teenage pregnancy and early parenthood are frequently associated with low educational attainment levels, poor physical and mental health, social exclusion and poverty. Socio-economic disadvantage can be both a cause and a consequence of teenage parenthood, and young women from the lowest social groups are ten times more likely to become teenage mothers than those from the highest social groups.

In 2003, there were nearly 4,930 conceptions under age 18 in the South East. While the rate for the region is significantly lower than the national average, a threefold difference exists between the areas with the highest rates and those with the lowest (*Figure 5.9*). Ten of the 67 local authorities in the region have a rate significantly higher than the national average, including Southampton, Thanet and Reading. There is a very strong associated between teenage pregnancy and deprivation across the region.

In common with England as a whole, the trend in the teenage pregnancy rate for the South East is downwards, although whether the national and regional rates of decline are sufficiently rapid to achieve the 50% reduction target set by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit is currently unclear. Within the region, there are considerable differences between areas in the direction of the trend. For example, while the teenage pregnancy rate in Bracknell Forest has steadily improved, the trend for Reading is less clear indicating that further work is required to ensure that the reduction target is achieved.

Figure 5.9 Under 18 conception rate by local authority, South East England, 2002/3

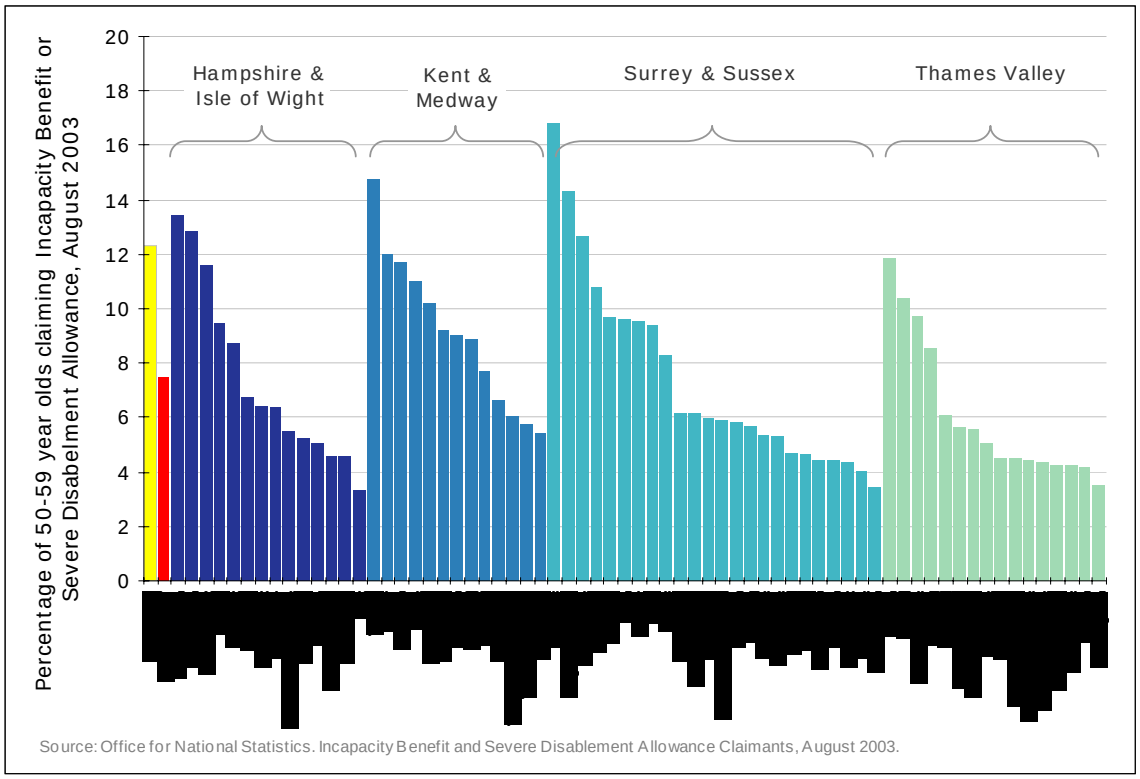


B5.7 *INCAPACITY BENEFIT CLAIMANTS*

One measure of the impact sickness and ill-health has on the economy of the South East is the number of adults aged between 50 and 59 who are not in work and claiming incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance. Variations in incapacity benefit claimant rates are sometimes attributed to differences in the threshold criteria applied, but the distribution of claimant rates among the older age groups in the South East does very strongly correlate with other measures of poor health such as limiting long-term illness indicating that the number of claimants is a robust indicator of the impact poor health has on the region's working-age population.

Across the South East, 7.5% of 50 to 59 year olds are claiming incapacity benefit (*Figure 5.10*). This figure is lower than the national average, but still accounts for over 76,900 individuals in this age group alone (and nearly 228,200 across all ages). Within the region, there are pronounced geographic differences in the percentage of older adults claiming this benefit: while fewer than 4% of 50 to 59 year olds in Hart, Surrey Heath and Wokingham are not in work due to poor health, the figure in Hastings, Thanet and Brighton & Hove is over 14%. As with the other health indicators considered, there is a very strong correlation between the percentage of incapacity benefit claimants and deprivation.

Figure 5.10 ***Percentage of 50 to 59 year olds claiming incapacity benefit by local authority, South East England, 2003***



B5.8 *ISSUES*

There are several overarching issues relating to health and economic development which are of note:

- Firstly, whilst the level of economic activity is high in the region, there are, however, sections of the community that cannot engage in such activity and are on long-term incapacity benefit.

- There also exist pockets of the region's population who are unable to access employment because of lack of access to childcare provision, care duties and associated health related responsibilities. This is an area which the region can address to enhance engagement in employment.

- Health inequality is linked to overall economic welfare; areas of economic deprivation are frequently also those of greatest health deprivation. Whilst the relationship between economic and health welfare is not without unconditional, targeting economic deprivation can assist in tackling health inequalities.

- There exists significant disparities in terms of key mortality data with infant mortality rates showing considerable disparity and above national average rates in areas such as Milton Keynes and Medway.

B6 OBJECTIVE 4 - TO REDUCE POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THE MOST DEPRIVED AREAS IN THE SOUTH EAST AND THE REST OF THE REGION

B6.1 DATA

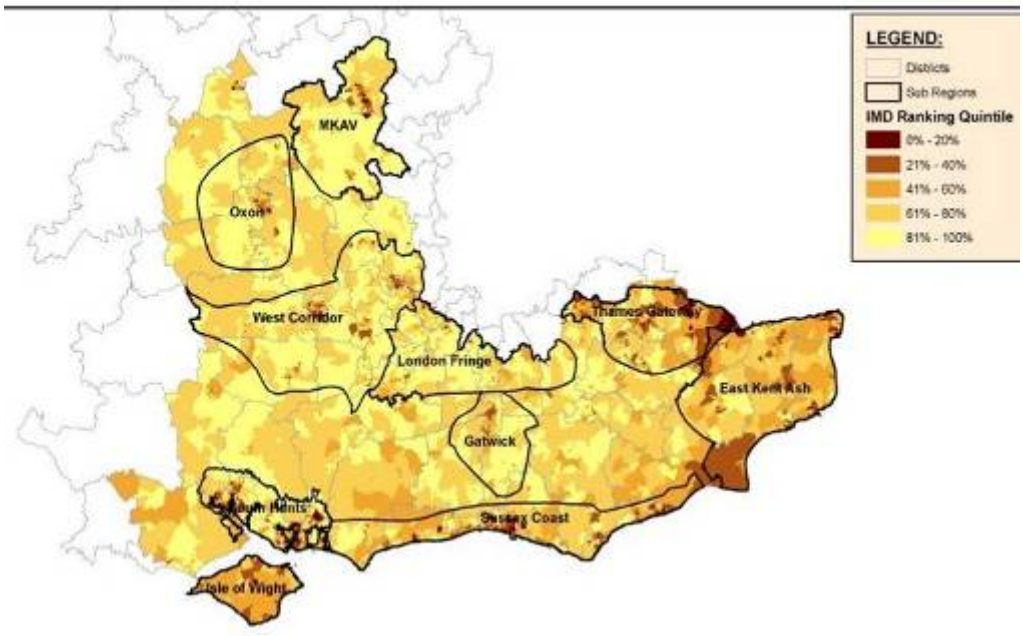
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Overall IMD deprivation
- Average gross weekly earnings across the region
- Proportion of children living in low income families
- Claimant count rates in the South East
- Households in Fuel Poverty

B6.2 OVERALL DEPRIVATION

In terms of population living in those areas of the region suffering from greatest deprivation (the 20% most deprived areas), *Figure 6.1* below illustrates that areas of very high deprivation, those within the 20% most deprived areas overall, exist within the Isle of Wight, southern parts of East Kent and Ashford, along the Sussex Coast, within the Thames Gateway and in other urban areas across the region. The region as a whole, however, is relatively affluent when compared to the rest of England and Wales.

Figure 6.1 ***Population Living within the 20% Most Deprived Areas***



Source: IMD 2004

B6.3 GROSS WEEKLY EARNINGS

Average weekly earnings are higher in the South East than any other region for people living in rural, urban and 'accessible' communities, and the second highest for 'remote' areas (behind the North West). Earnings have also, broadly speaking, increased at a rate comparable to the rest of England.

Clearly, as Table 6.1 illustrates, there are wide intra-regional differences in weekly income, with urban dwellers earning over 30% more than those in 'remote' communities. Differences within the South East are generally higher than those in other English regions and for England as a whole (a 24% gap between urban and 'remote' areas).

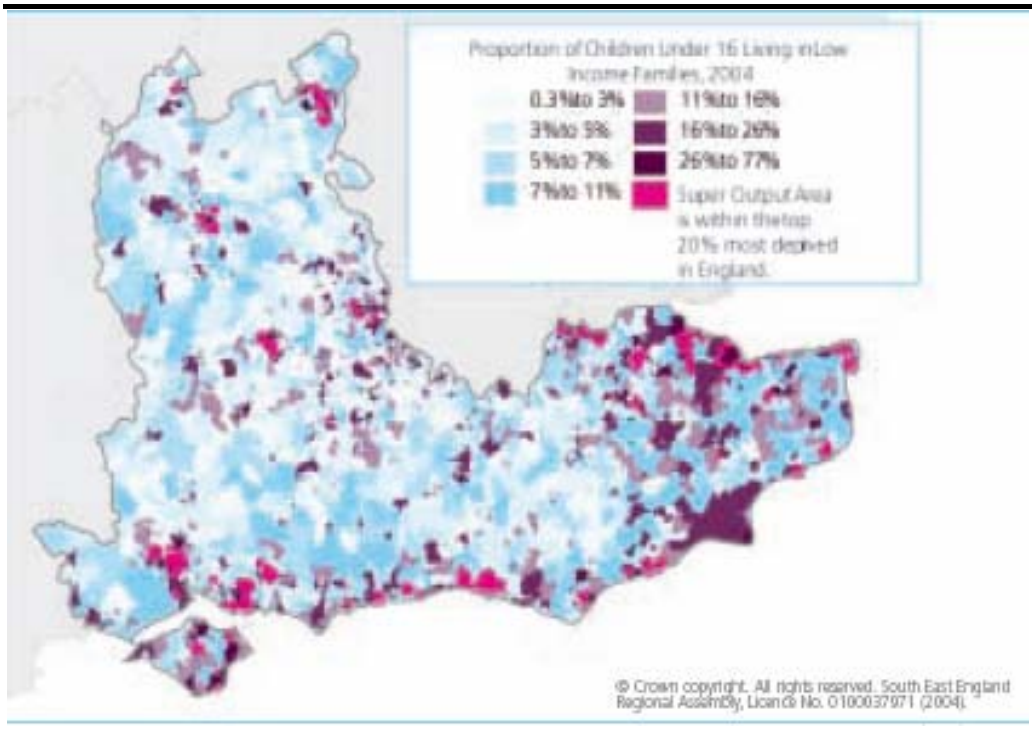
Table 6.1 Average Gross Weekly Earnings, 2002

Region	Rural		Urban		Accessible		Remote	
	£	% increase	£	% increase	£	% increase	£	% increase
South East	**£369.57**	**10.83**	**£448.87**	**13.62**	**£374.80**	**10.85**	**£334.27**	**10.63**
East of Eng	£341.52	10.8	£385.78	11.66	£369.59	12.4	£313.44	8.92
England	£336.37	11.35	£384.27	12.39	£357.74	11.18	£309.65	11.59
South West	£310.91	11.51	£366.70	12.7	£342.84	12.6	£292.43	6.68
North West	£353.45	13.72	£347.96	10.87	£353.85	11.61	£352.99	16.19
W Midlands	£328.95	9.63	£347.25	10.92	£351.08	10.7	£279.17	6.6
Yorks/Humb	£328.95	12.43	£347.25	10.97	£351.08	8.59	£279.17	13.61
E Midlands	£325.72	11.21	£344.15	12.23	£332.51	10.07	£313.12	13.45
North East	£293.54	12.84	£326.62	12.49	N/A	N/A	£293.54	12.84

Source: SEEDA

Mapping the levels of children living in income deprived families, regional disparities are once again apparent. Pockets of high level deprivation are particularly evident within areas such as East Kent and Ashford though smaller pockets are apparent elsewhere such as in the Thames Gateway. Generally, however, the region enjoys widespread low levels of deprivation.

Figure 6.2 Children Living in Income Deprived Families, 2004

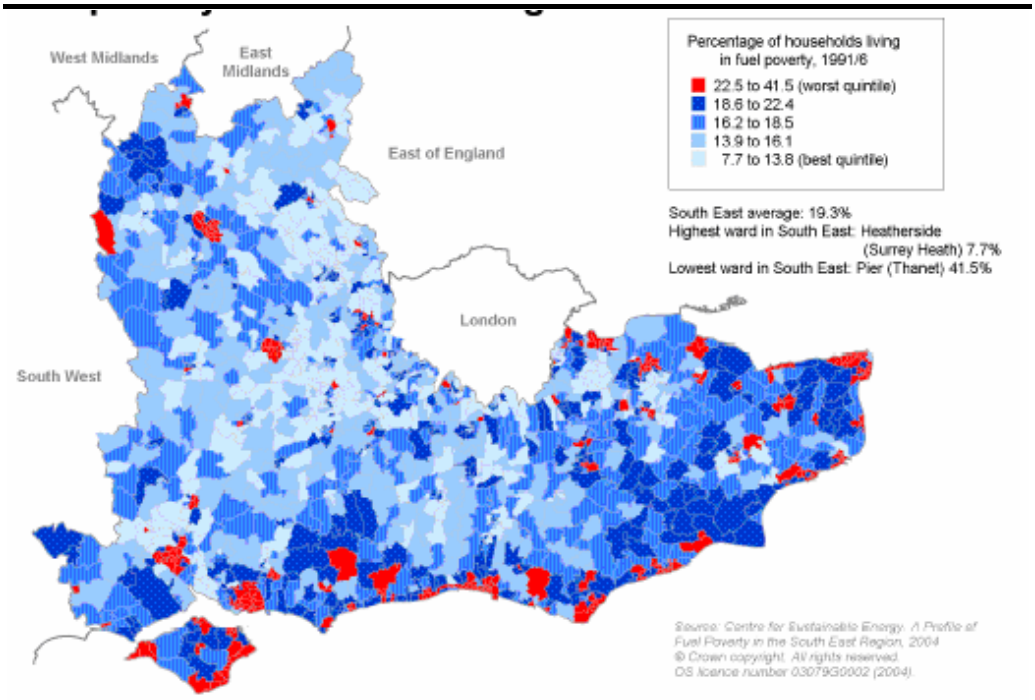


Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B6.4 FUEL POVERTY

Mapping of fuel poverty within the region demonstrates the consistency of deprivation endured by certain areas within the region, in particular, East Kent and Ashford and parts of the Thames Gateway. There are also, however, pockets of fuel poverty deprivation along the Sussex Coast. The correlation between the age of the population in such areas and the levels of fuel poverty is noteworthy.

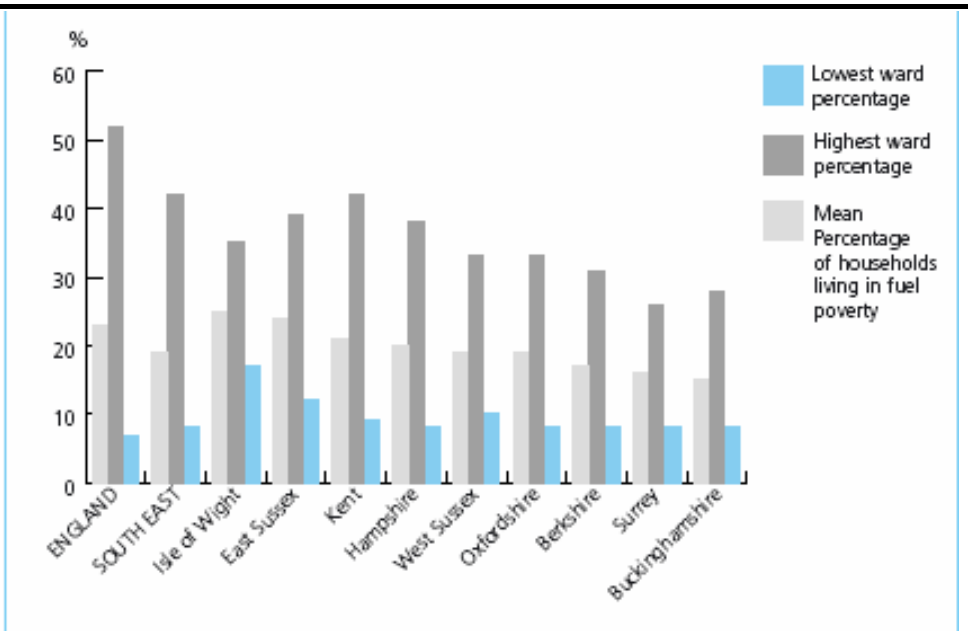
Figure 6.3 Fuel Poverty



Source: Centre for Sustainable Energy 2004

Analysing the levels of fuel poverty within the region and in comparison to the national average, the data below highlights that the region whilst suffering pockets of fuel deprivation, is still consistently below the national average in terms of highest wards. Nonetheless, the mean percentage of households in both East Sussex and the Isle of Wight is higher than the national average, highlighting again the significant intra-regional disparities which exists.

Figure 6.4 Households in Fuel Poverty



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B6.5 ISSUES

Whilst the region generally enjoys a high standard of living, there exist significant pockets of deprivation across the region. This is particularly apparent in areas of East Kent and Ashford and the Thames Gateway which experience the highest levels of children living in income deprived families and fuel poverty.

In analysing this objective, the baseline data highlights the need for targeted action within the RES and other regional strategies to address such areas which suffer a significantly lower standard of living than elsewhere in the region and in which the challenge of addressing social exclusion and poverty is greatest.

B7 OBJECTIVE 5 - TO RAISE EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS ACROSS THE REGION AND DEVELOP THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE TO ACQUIRE THE SKILLS NEEDED TO FIND AND REMAIN IN WORK

B7.1 DATA

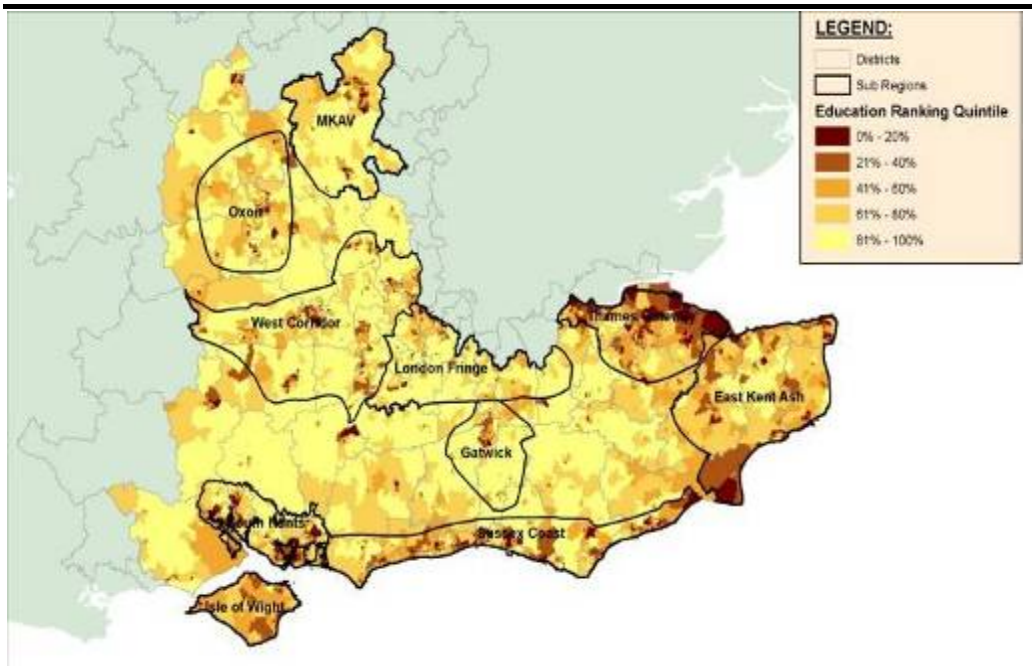
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Education and skills deprivation across the region
- Progress towards achieving national targets
- NVQ Level 2& 4
- Literacy and Numeracy Skills Levels

B7.2 EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEPRIVATION

Many areas of the South East do not suffer from high education and skills deprivation, although there are obvious pockets where these problems persist, particularly the north Kent coastal areas and urban areas across the region.

Figure 7.1 *IMD – Education and Skills Deprivation*



Source: IMD

B7.3 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The statistics for achievement towards National Targets highlights that the region has performed consistently well against the UK average, out performing the UK on all key categories/demographics. There exists scope to increase the percentage of males achieving key qualifications in line with female performance; this is, however, a UK wide issue and not specific to the region.

Table 7.1 Progress towards achieving selected National Targets

		South East	England
		Percentages and Thousands	
Spring 2003			
All			
	19-year-olds with 5 GCSEs at Grades A*-C or equivalent[4, 5]	80	76
	19-year-olds qualified to at least level 3[5, 6]	57	51
	Economically active adults qualified to at least level 2[7]	73	70
	Economically active adults qualified to at least level 3[8]	52	49
Males			
	19-year-olds with 5 GCSEs at Grades A*-C or equivalent[4, 5]	76	73
	19-year-olds qualified to at least level 3[5, 6]	57	50
	Economically active adults qualified to at least level 2[7]	75	72
	Economically active adults qualified to at least level 3[8]	56	52
Females			
	19-year-olds with 5 GCSEs at Grades A*-C or equivalent[4, 5]	83	78
	19-year-olds qualified to at least level 3[5, 6]	57	53
	Economically active adults qualified to at least level 2[7]	70	68
	Economically active adults qualified to at least level 3[8]	48	45

Source: Department for Education and Skills

Analysing achievement within the population of working age only, Table 6.2 illustrates that the region has higher levels of degree qualified workers and lower levels of workers with no qualifications, than the picture across the UK as a whole.

Table 7.2 Population of working age by highest qualification

Percentages and Thousands

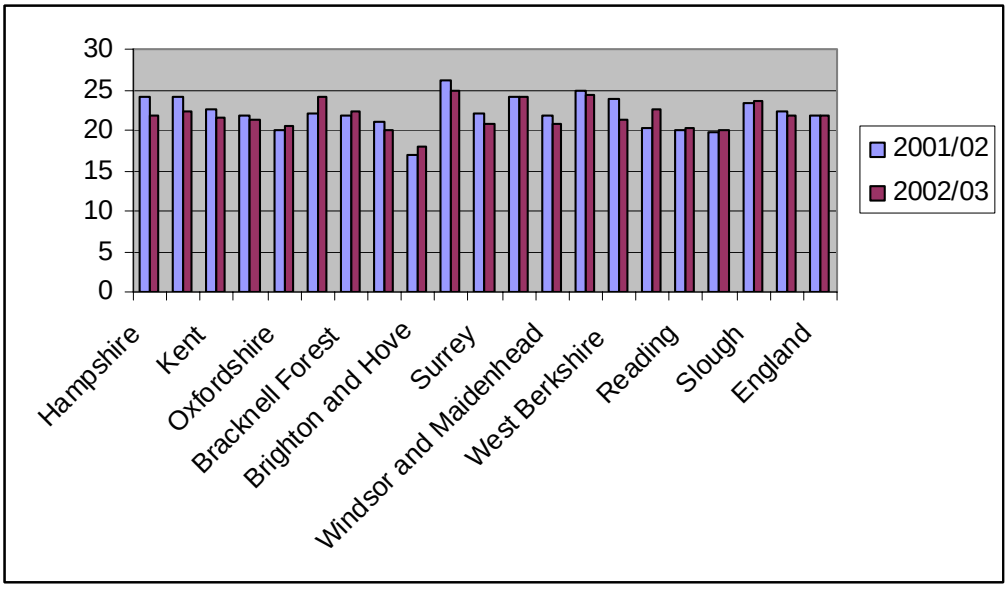
	South East	United Kingdom
Degree or equivalent	20.2	17.1
Higher education below degree	8.9	8.6
GCE A level or equivalent	24.6	24.1
GCSE grades A-C or equivalent	22.4	21.9
Other qualifications	13.0	13.2
No qualifications	10.4	14.4
All people of working age[3] (thousands = 100%)	4,910	36,239

Source: Department for Education and Skills 2004/2005

B7.3.1 Level 2

Level 2 attainment has increased in the period 2002/03 , as compared with 2001/02, across the region, as Figure 7.2 demonstrates. This is consistent with the performance of England as a whole. There remains, however, variation in performance within the region, with LEAs such as Medway achieving 24.8% attainment, whilst Brighton and Hove only reached 18%. As Table 7.1 above illustrated, 73% of those economically active within the region, have achieved Level 2 or above; this compares favourably with 70% for England as a whole.

Figure 7.2 Level 2 Attainment

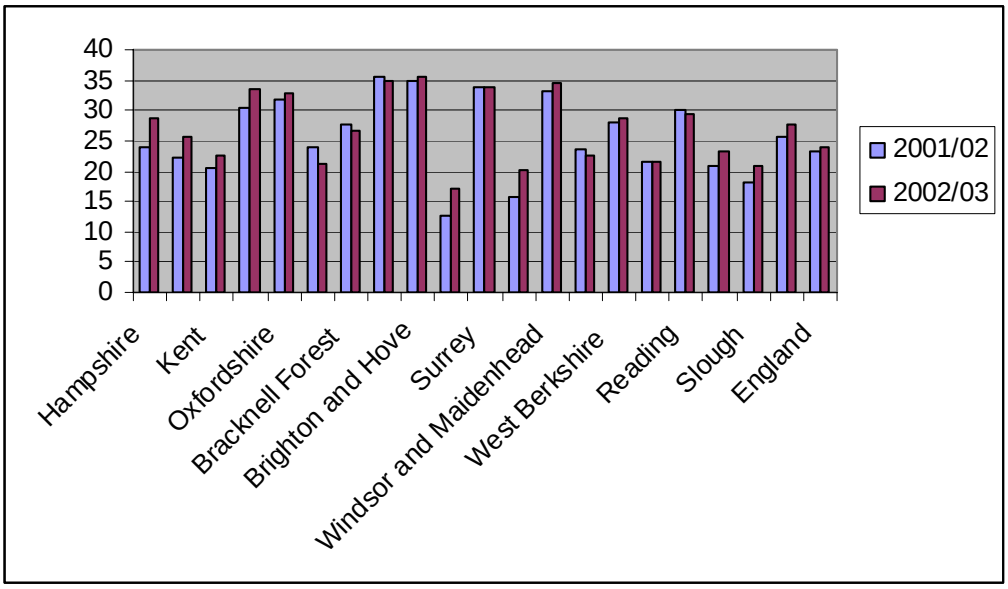


Source: Office for National Statistics 2004/2005

Level 3 attainment as Table 7.1 also highlighted, is consistently higher on average and for both females and males within the region, as compared with English average. 50% of economically active people within the region have achieved Level 3; this, however, demonstrating that there exists scope for improvement, particularly amongst females in this category of whom only 45% have such qualifications.

B7.3.2 Level 4 and above

Figure 7.3 Level 4 Attainment



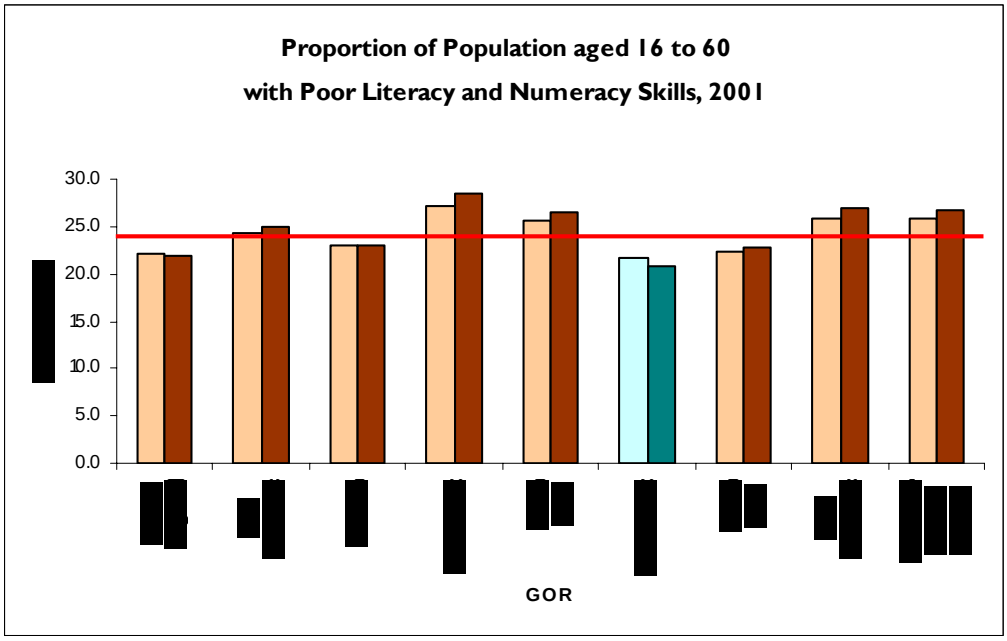
Source: Office for National Statistics 2004/2005

Level 4 attainment within the region also demonstrates the variation if performance across LEAs in the region.

B7.3.3 Literacy and Numeracy

As a region, the South East performs well in terms of literacy and numeracy; the region enjoys the lowest levels of poor literacy and numeracy of all regions. Nevertheless, approximately 20% of the population are classified as having poor literacy and numeracy skills. The South East Assembly has calculated that approximately 548,000 people in the region are failing to meet basic literacy standards and 483,000 are lacking basic numeracy skills.

Figure 7.4 Literacy and Numeracy Skills Levels



Source: Department for Education and Skills, from the Labour Force Survey (Office for National Statistics) 2003

B7.4 ISSUES

Whilst the region performs well in relation to other regions, there remains a sizeable section of the population who endure high levels of deprivation; these areas again being within East Kent and Ashford and the Thames Gateway, amongst others, lacking numeracy and literacy skills.

B8 OBJECTIVE 6 - TO REDUCE CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME

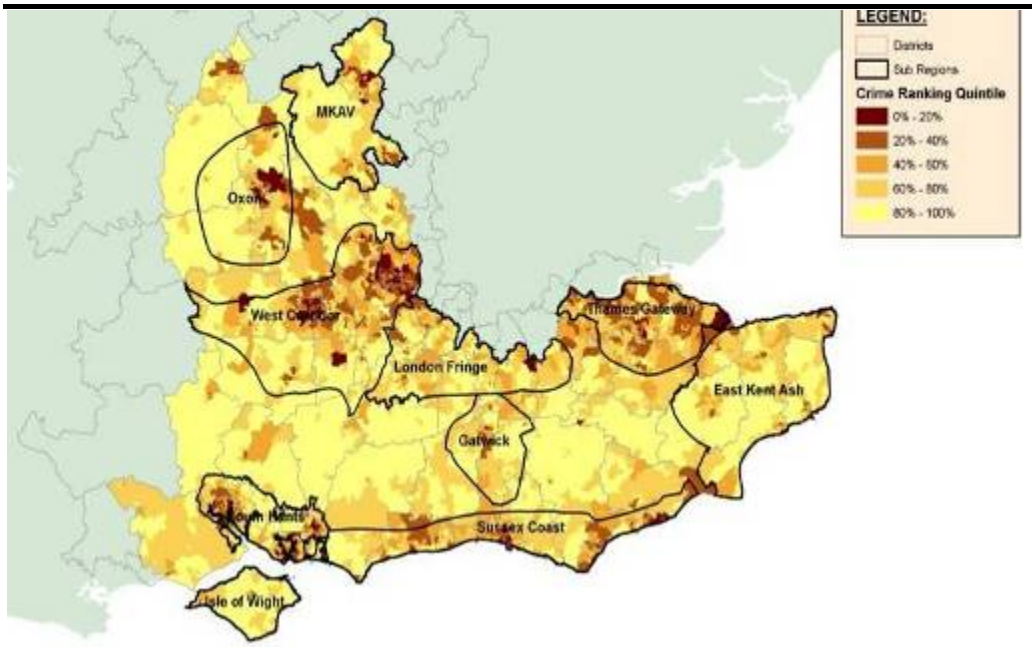
B8.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Crime and disorder across the region
- Incidences of crime within the region
- Fear of Crime

B8.2 CRIME AND DISORDER DEPRIVATION

Figure 8.1 IMD - Crime and Disorder Rankings, 2004



Source: IMD

While there are large areas of the region where the incidence of crime and disorder is relatively low, there are pockets where rates are high – focused around the urban parts of the region.

B8.3 TOTAL INCIDENCE OF CRIME

The level of recorded crime across most key crime categories has increased within the region, as is the case nationally with the notable exception of theft and handling stolen goods and burglary. Offences against the person have increased significantly. Whilst crime has generally risen, the levels of detection have, however, fallen, again in line with the national picture.

Table 8.1 Recorded crimes and percentage detected, 1991 and 2003/04

	Recorded crimes per 100,000 population				Percentage detected[2]			
	South East		England and Wales		South East		England and Wales	
	1991	2003-04[3]	1991	2003-04	1991	2003-04	1991	2003-04
Violence against the person	252	1,411	375	1,821	76	54	77	50
Sexual offences	53	83	58	99	76	38	76	39
Burglary	1,776	1,145	2,404	1,560	15	13	23	13
Robbery	33	81	89	193	34	24	23	18
Theft and handling stolen goods	4,957	3,597	5,444	4,322	22	16	28	15
Fraud and forgery	316	490	345	606	52	30	55	26
Criminal damage	986	2,000	1,223	2,297	17	14	19	13
Drug offences	26	210	22	269	96	95	97	93
Other	34	113	46	141	93	64	95	67
Total recorded crime	8,433	9,130	10,007	11,308	24	24	29	23

1 *There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998, counting rules for detection of crimes changed on 1 April 1999, which means that figures before and after these dates are not directly comparable. See Notes and Definitions.*

2 *Some offences detected may have been initially recorded in an earlier year; hence figures can be higher than 100 per cent. See Notes and Definitions.*

3 *In April 2002, all police forces in England and Wales adopted the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). See Notes and Definitions.*

Source: Home Office2005

Source: Home Office 2005

Figure 8.2 Recorded Crime: by offence group and police force area, 2003/2004

Rates per 100,000 population

	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Burglary	Robbery	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other	Total
England and Wales	1,821	99	1,560	193	4,322	606	2,297	269	141	11,308
South East	1,411	83	1,145	81	3,597	490	2,000	210	113	9,130
Hampshire	1,964	114	1,007	58	3,534	478	2,434	222	166	9,976
Kent	1,291	77	1,122	74	3,224	397	2,173	176	107	8,640
Surrey	911	55	915	58	2,735	430	1,563	159	84	6,911
Sussex	1,300	80	1,095	95	3,695	485	1,919	203	97	8,970
Thames Valley	1,362	77	1,432	109	4,299	602	1,778	257	98	10,014

1 *Numbers of recorded crimes and detections will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. See explanation on the NCRS in Chapter 7, Notes and Definitions.*

Source: Home Office

B8.3.1 Fear of Crime

The data on fear of crime within the region illustrates the significant disparity between the sexes in terms of which crimes are feared most. For females, the fear of crimes against the person is greatest, whilst for men, the fear of theft from cars is the most dominant. It is again females who fear crime at night-time most, in particular, the elderly are most concerned at this time. The data for the region as compared with England Wales generally, highlights the generally congruity between levels of fear of crime.

Table 8.2 Fear of Crime 2003/2004

		South East		England and Wales	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
Percentage feeling 'very' worried about					
	Burglary	9	12	10	15
	Mugging	5	12	7	15
	Theft of car[1]	12	12	14	15
	Theft from car[1]	13	10	13	11
	Rape	3	17	4	18
Feelings of insecurity, walking alone at night; percentage feeling 'very' unsafe					
	Aged 16 to 59	2	14	2	14
	Aged 60 and over	7	26	8	29

1 *Based on vehicle owners only.*

Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

B8.4 ISSUES

There are pockets of high levels of crime within the region and the incidences of recorded crime provide evidence of the basis for fear of crime. The nature of such fear demonstrates significant disparity between the sexes, with fear of crime against the person being most predominant; the data on recorded crime of this nature indicates that such crimes are increasing.

B9 OBJECTIVE 7 - TO CREATE AND SUSTAIN VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

B9.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- ODPM/UK SD Guidance on Sustainable Communities
- Ranking of the living environment across the region
- Satisfaction with local area; MORI poll findings

B9.2 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The definition of a sustainable community is one in which the principles of sustainable development are embodied, more specifically that the community can:

- Balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental components of their community;

- Meet the needs of existing and future generations; and

- Respect the needs of other communities in the wider region or internationally, also to make their communities sustainable.

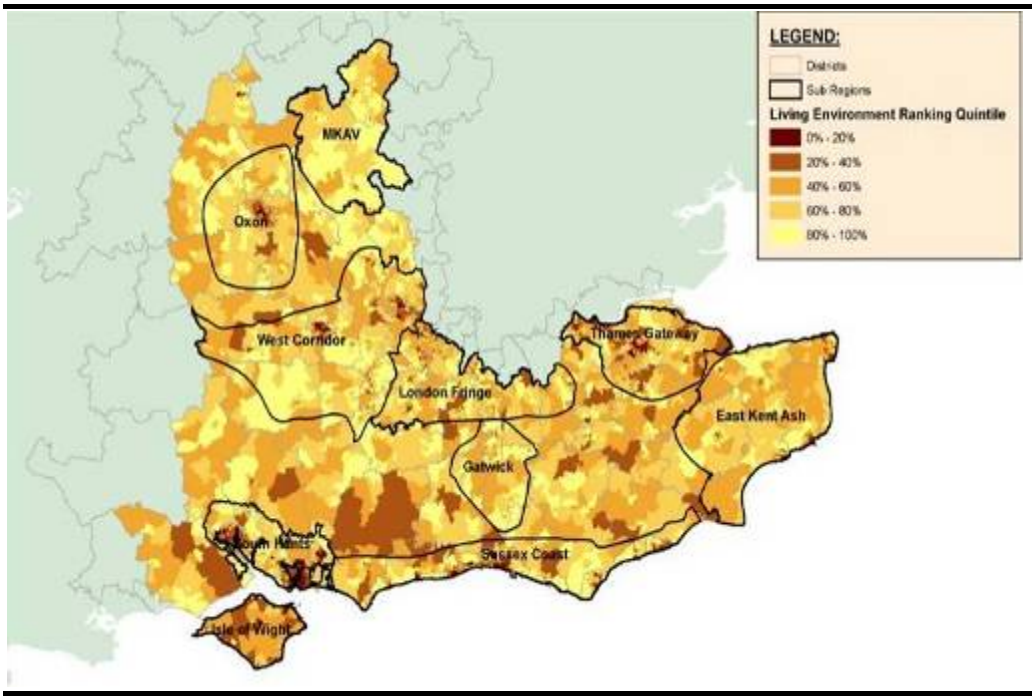
Key components or characteristics of such communities are that they should be:

- Active, inclusive and safe;
- Well run;
- Environmentally sensitive;
- Well designed and built;
- Well connected;
- Thriving;
- Well served; and
- Fair for everyone.

Delivery of all of the objectives outlined in the IRF will assist in the creation of a sustainable community; the baseline data outlined throughout this report will, therefore, be of relevance. In addition, however, the condition of the living environment within the region and perceptions of living conditions, are also of relevance.

B9.3 LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Figure 9.1 IMD - Living Environment



Source: IMD

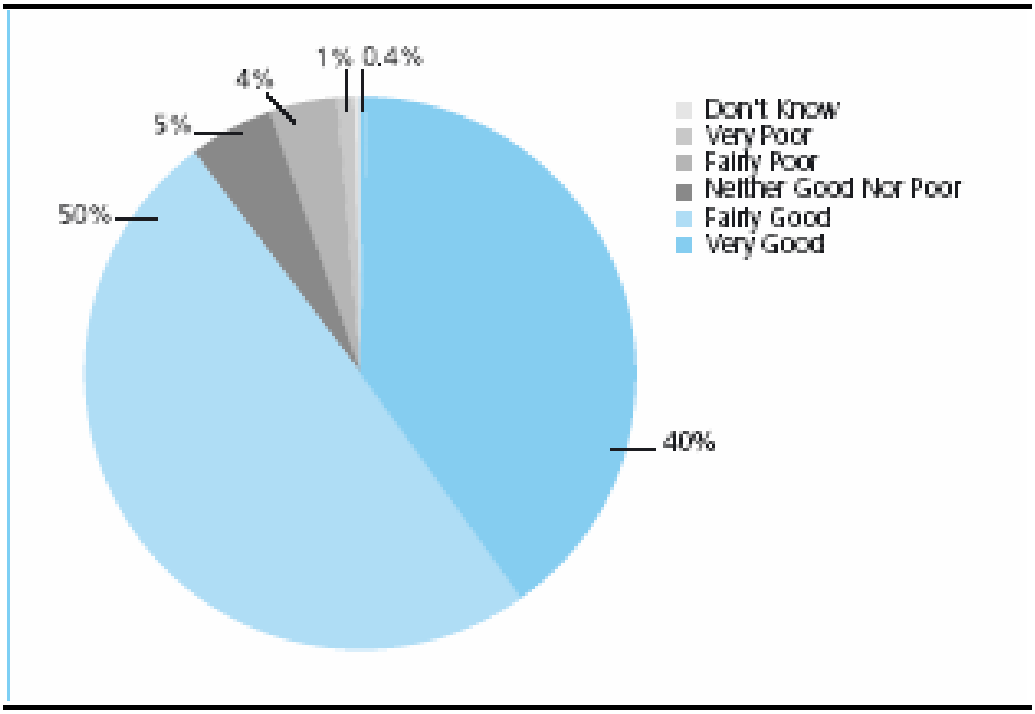
The IMD ranking of the living environment within the region highlights the disparity in living environment conditions across the region. Pockets of deprivation exist, primarily within the south of the region though there are small pockets within other areas across the region, such as The Thames Gateway.

The region does, however, enjoy a generally high standard of living environment as indicated by the large tracts of the region which are ranked as having the lowest levels of deprivation (80-100%, indicated as yellow on the map).

B9.4 SATISFACTION WITH LOCAL AREA

According to a Mori poll conducted in 2004, 90% of the region's residents consider the area they live in as 'very good', or 'fairly good'; only 5% of the region's population regard the South East as being 'fairly' or 'very' poor indicating the very high level of satisfaction with the living environment of the South East. This augments the IMD ranking of low levels of deprivation in living environment across most of the region.

Figure 9.2 Satisfaction with Local Area (%)



Source: South East Monitoring Report 2004

B9.5 ISSUES

Whilst the region enjoys a generally very good standard of living environment, reinforced by the MORI findings, there do remain pockets of deprivation within the region. Future delivery of this objective will, therefore, involve maintaining the high standard of living environment but also critically targeting the key pockets where the living environment is perceptibly lower and there exists a greater challenge to create sustainable communities.

B10 OBJECTIVE 8 - TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

B10.1 DATA

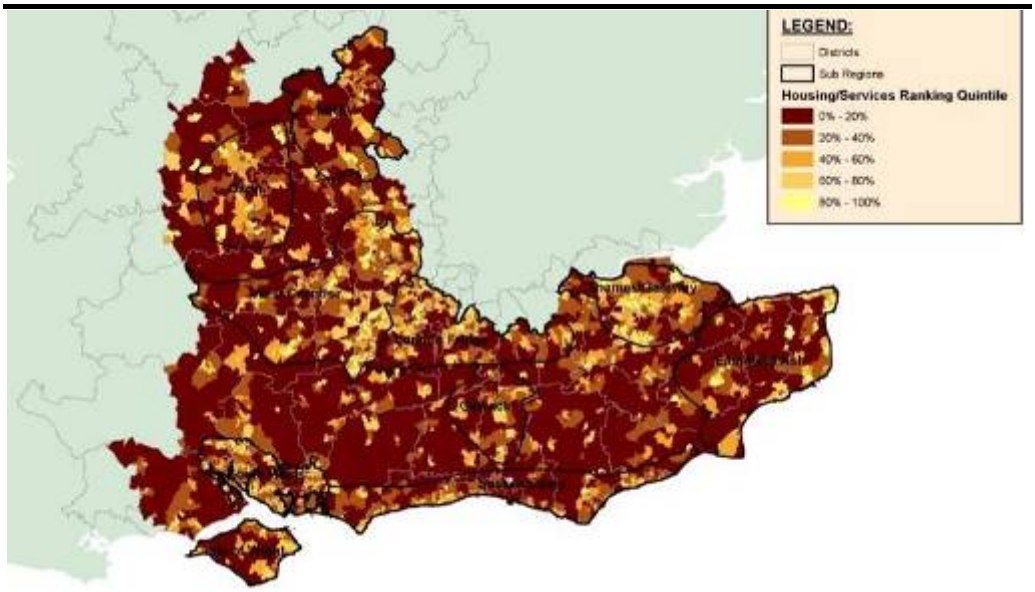
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Ranking of barriers to housing and services across the region
- Access to local services and facilities; percentage of rural households with access to these services and facilities

B10.2 ACCESS TO SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Mapping of access to services and facilities within the region illustrates that large parts of the region suffer from relatively high access deprivation – both rural and urban.

Figure 10.1 IMD, Barriers to Housing and Services Ranking, 2004

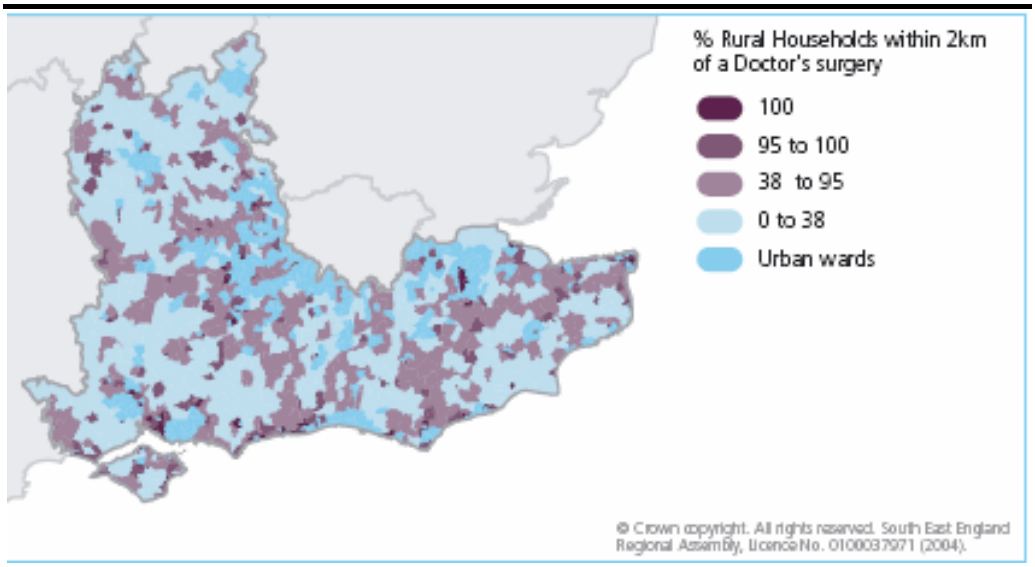


Source: IMD

B10.3 ACCESS TO SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

The data on access to doctors surgeries highlights that there exists considerable disparity across the region in rural areas. Pockets of high access deprivation exist alongside areas of very low access deprivation, indicating the clustering of doctors surgeries and/or segments of the population around such surgeries.

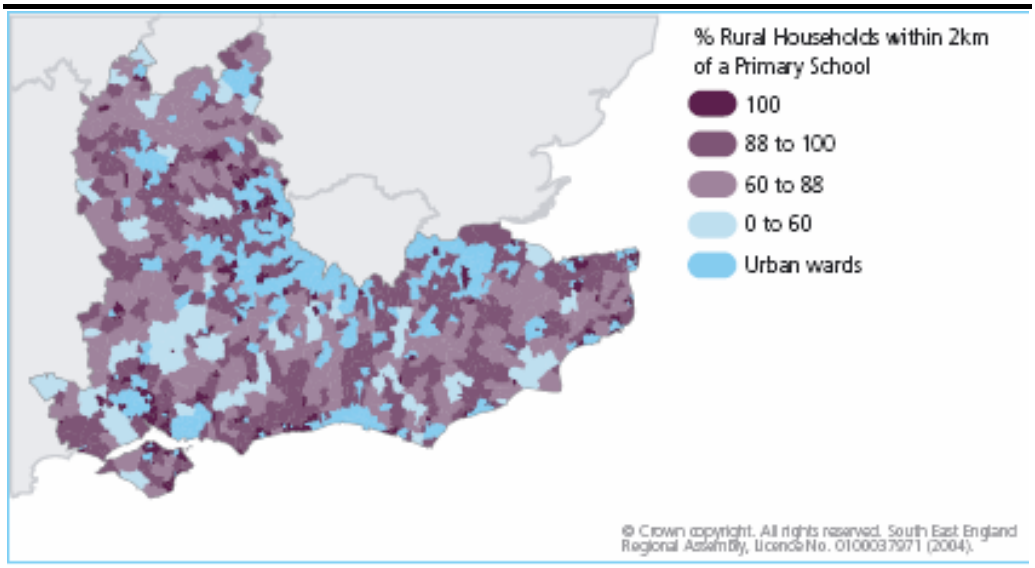
Figure 10.2 Access to Doctors Surgeries



Source: Countryside Agency 2003/South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

The picture for access to primary schools demonstrates that there is generally much greater access to schooling across the region in its Rural areas. The vast majority of the region's rural communities have above 60% access to such schools though pockets of low level access are evident.

Figure 10.3 Access to Primary Schools



Source: Countryside Agency 2003/South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B10.4 ISSUES

Access to services and facilities can be an issue of particular concern for rural communities and for deprived communities also. The data illustrates that access to doctors surgeries is of particular concern, this being an issue that will also impinge upon the health welfare of the region as a whole.

B11 OBJECTIVE 9: TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED ENGAGEMENT IN CULTURAL ACTIVITY ACROSS ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE SOUTH EAST

No data source for this objective has been identified. This apparent data gap should be addressed by the region so that a more complete baseline is available for appraisals and assessments.

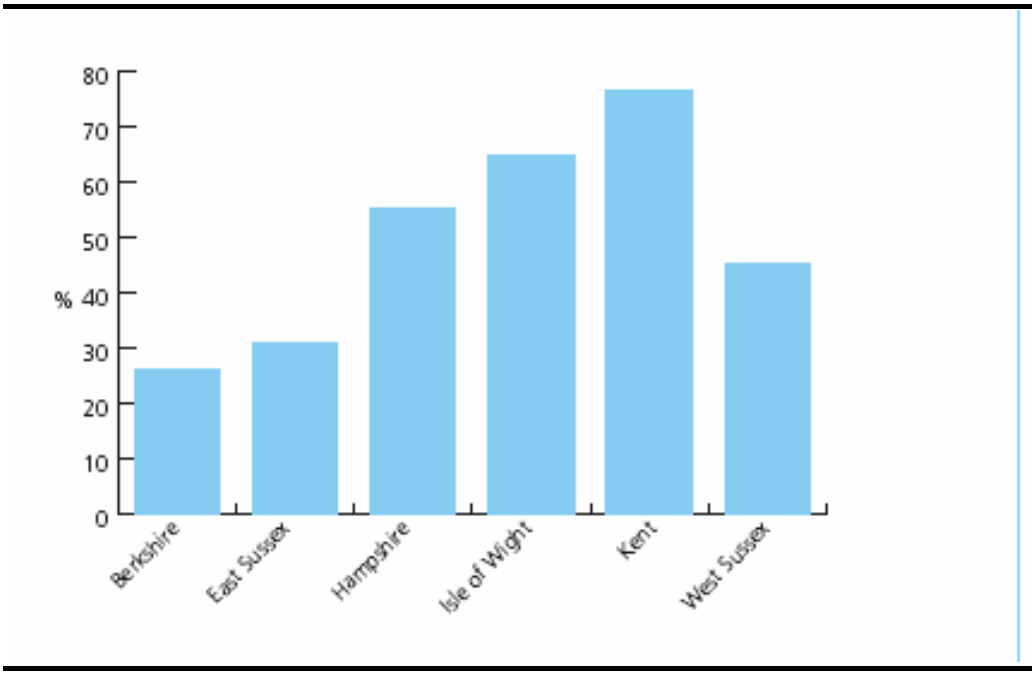
B12 OBJECTIVE 10 - TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY IN LAND USE THROUGH THE RE-USE OF PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND AND EXISTING BUILDINGS, INCLUDING RE-USE OF MATERIALS FROM BUILDINGS, AND ENCOURAGE URBAN RENAISSANCE

B12.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- PDL availability
- Derelict and vacant land use
- Land availability for development in urban and rural areas
- Distribution of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land
- Previously developed land; availability and development
- Housing development on Greenfield land

Figure 12.1 PDL Availability



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004
Units: %

Data on the availability of previously developed land within the region highlights the considerable disparity which exists across the region. Kent currently has the highest stock of available land, over twice the level of other areas such as Berkshire and East Sussex.

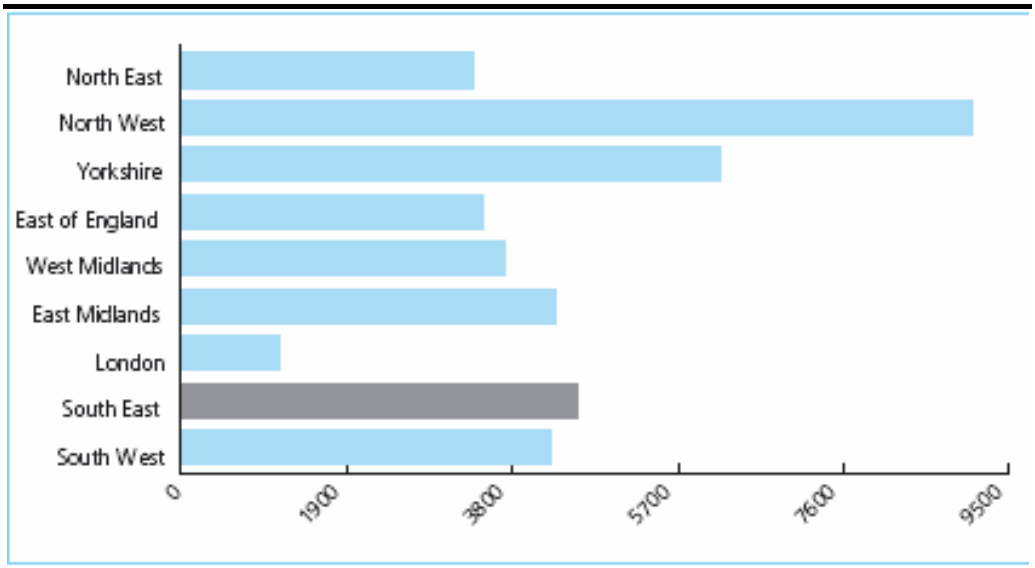
Table 12.1 Vacant Land Use

	Previously developed vacant land	Derelict land and buildings	Vacant buildings	Allocated in a local plan or with planning permission	Known redevelopment potential but no planning allocation or permission	
North East	70	64	46	62	50	63
North West	67	72	47	73	78	70
Yorkshire & the Humber	80	78	52	84	62	75
East Midlands	66	83	68	68	77	75
West Midlands	73	53	63	80	37	65
East of England	83	79	69	78	67	77
London	58	55	58	60	60	59
South East	**77**	**58**	**45**	**71**	**60**	**68**
South West	66	79	33	67	42	64
England	73	72	52	72	60	69

Source: Office for National Statistics 2004/2005
Units: %

Comparative analysis of previously developed land availability and use, indicates that the region has above the national average in terms of vacant land availability though significantly below the average stock of vacant buildings or derelict land and buildings. The region is making reasonable use of its vacant and derelict land stock with relatively high levels of such stock being earmarked for development with planning permission having been sought or granted. There does, however, remain a large stock of such land which is suitable for development but which has not yet been the subject of planning potential assessment.

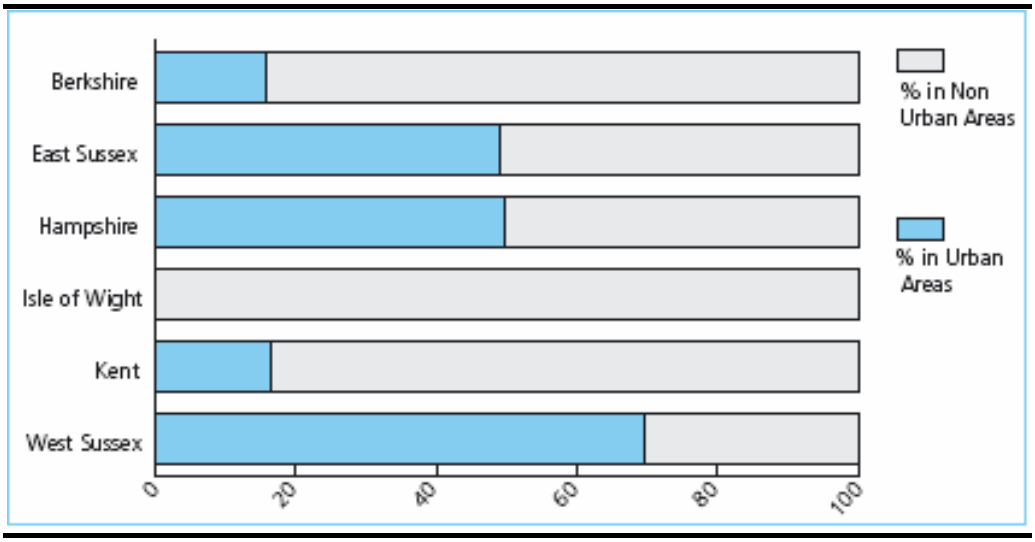
Figure 12.2 Derelict and Vacant Land



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

The location of the region's land availability for development highlights considerable disparity within the region. In sub regions such as the Isle of Wight, existing availability is exclusively located within non-urban or rural areas, whilst in West Sussex, approximately 70% of available stock is urban based.

Figure 12.3 Land Availability for Development in Urban and Rural Areas



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B12.2 BEST AND MOST VERSATILE AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Rural Development Service (part of Defra) has produced a series of maps (published in November 2005) that map the incidence of the 'Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land'.

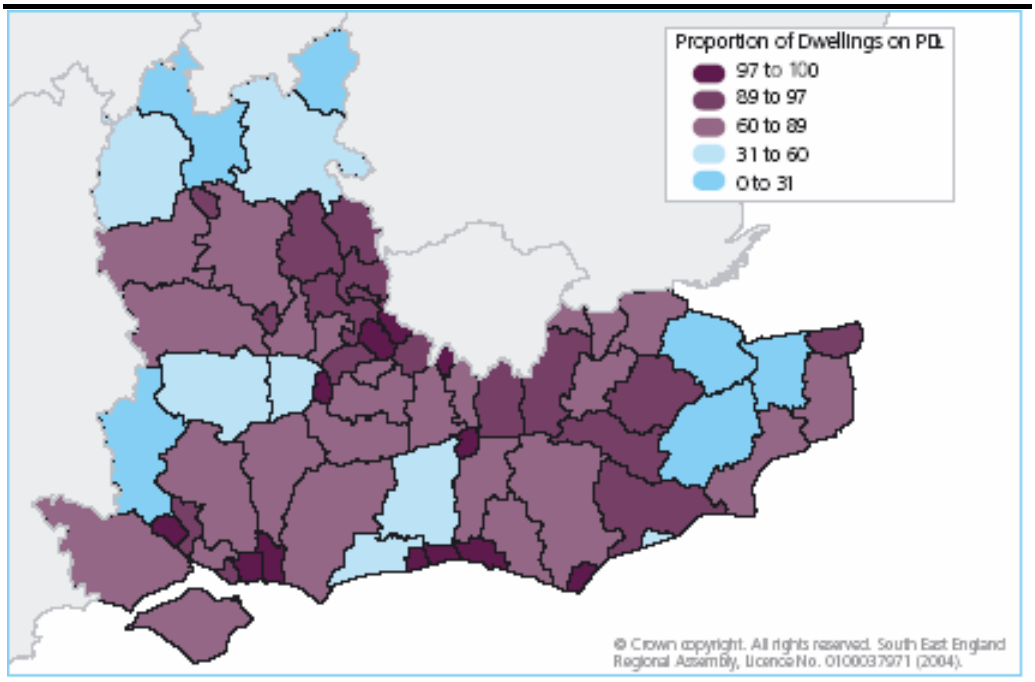
The South East is divided into four map units which are shown in Figures B11.4 to B11.7 which are attached at the end of this Annex.

The scale of the maps (1:250,000) makes them useful at a very strategic level (as is the intention of the RDS) – they do not however provide a detailed enough basis for the assessment of impacts on soil at the sub-regional or local level.

B12.3 DEVELOPMENT ON PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND

The regional picture of development of PDL highlights that large areas of the South East have experienced considerable development on such land, as the region seeks to utilise the potential of such land stock. Areas such as the Thames Gateway, in particular, will be able to make extensive use of PDL.

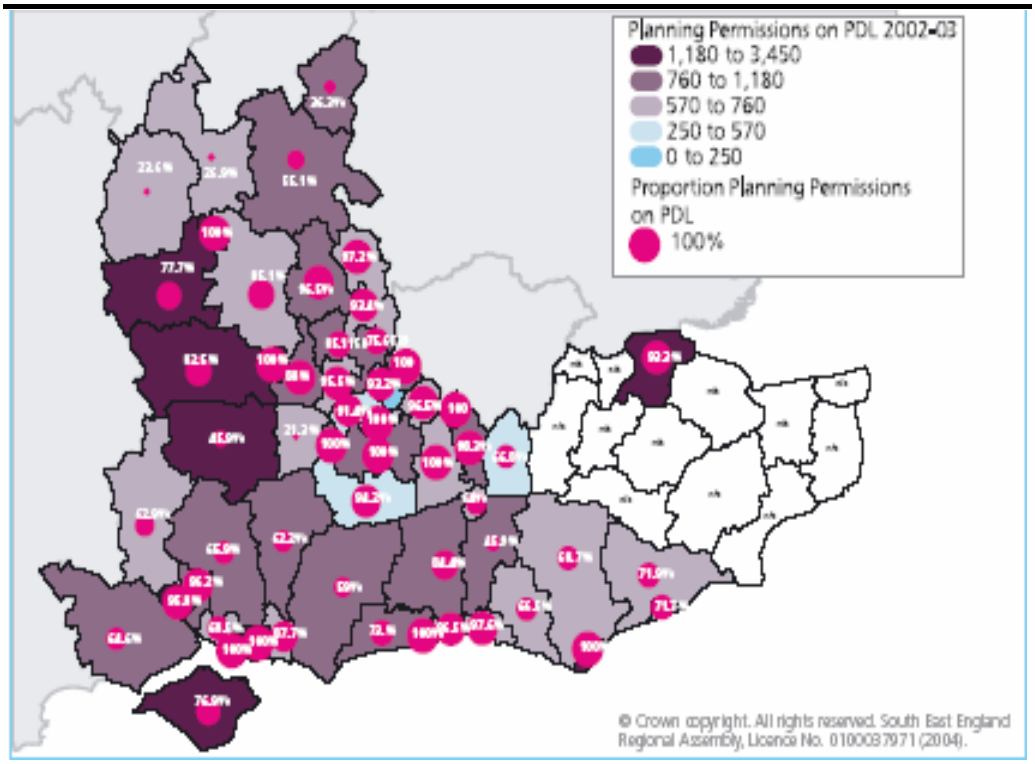
Figure 12.4 Proportion of Dwellings Completed on Previously Developed Land



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

The data on planning permissions on PDL, currently mapped for 2002-2003, illustrates the policy of redeveloping PDL, with a strong focus of new planning permission on PDL; in some areas, all of new planning permission has been PDL based.

Figure 12.5 Planning Permission on PDL



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

The focus on PDL land use for new development has enabled less new development to be Greenfield based; the figures for current Greenfield use highlight consistently low levels of overall development in such land. The predominance of current Greenfield land use in nature conservation areas has been in Surrey which has accounted for nearly all of the region's land use for development.

Figure 12.6 Housing Development on Greenfield Land

	Group 1 Nature Conservation*	Group 3 Nature Conservation**
Berkshire	n/a	n/a
Buckinghamshire	0.01	0.06
East Sussex	0.1	0
Hampshire	n/a	n/a
Isle of Wight	0	0
Kent	n/a	n/a
Oxfordshire	n/a	n/a
Surrey	0.48	2.57
West Sussex	0.02	0
South East	**0.61**	**2.63**

Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B12.4 ISSUES

The region is actively seeking to redevelop previously developed land and utilise its existing derelict and vacant land stock. In doing so, this reduces the pressure on Greenfield land and contributes to the protection of the region's natural environment. The challenge for the region will be to continue to exploit the potential of such land stock noting the limitations of where existing stock is located and the non urban locations of the existing stock.

B13 OBJECTIVE 11 - TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION AND ENSURE AIR QUALITY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

B13.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

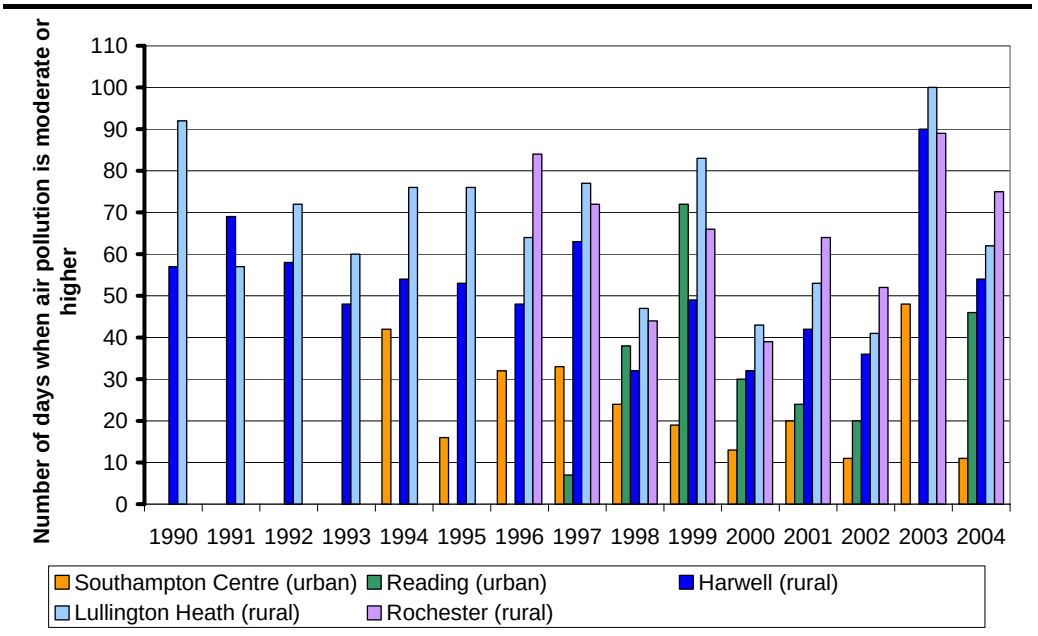
- Days when air pollution is moderate or higher
- Air pollution: NO2
- Air pollution: SO2
- Air pollution: PM10
- Total emissions data for the year
- Local Air Quality Management

Analysing these key sources of air pollutants provides a more detailed picture of the nature of air pollution within the region and a means of assessing progress towards delivery of this objective.

B13.2 DAYS OF POLLUTION

The data on days when air pollution is ranked as moderate or higher, illustrates that significant variability exists within the region in terms of both urban and rural settings, but also in the number of days of such pollution across the region. 2003 saw the highest number of pollution days for all four of the sites for which data was available.

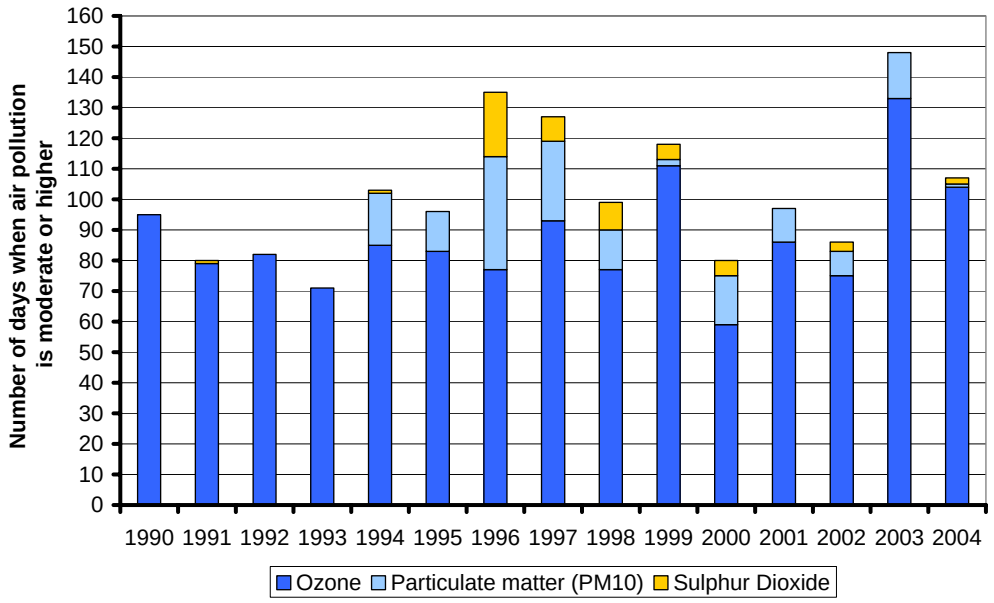
Figure 13.1 Days when air pollution is moderate or higher, 1987-2003



Source: Environment Agency 2005

Analysing the source of this pollution, the chart below identifies ozone as being the primary contributor of such pollution in 2003 and indeed for all years monitored. Incidences of high sulphur dioxide pollution are apparent sporadic though 1996 witnessed the largest numbers of days when this pollutant was in moderate to high levels.

Figure 13.2 Pollution Days

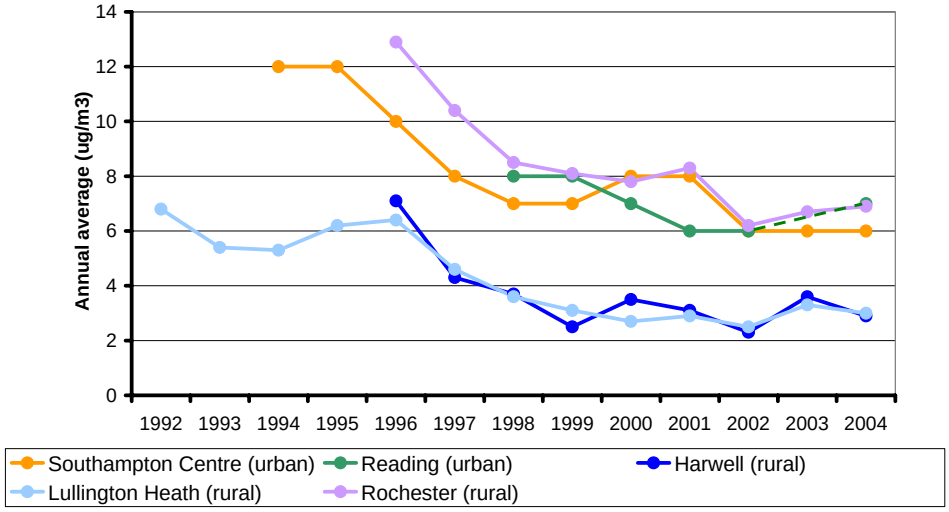


Source: Environment Agency 2005

B13.2.1 SO_2

SO_2 levels within the region are relatively low for most parts of the region and the figures for 2004 illustrate the significant drop in such levels relative to 1992. Monitoring stations at the five key sites indicated in Figure 11.3, testify to the differing levels of NO2 in the region with the rural areas of Harwell and Lullington Heath having comparatively low levels, whilst the urban areas of Southampton and Reading are high; the one key exception to this urban/rural divide being Rochester.

Figure 13.3 SO2 Levels within the Region

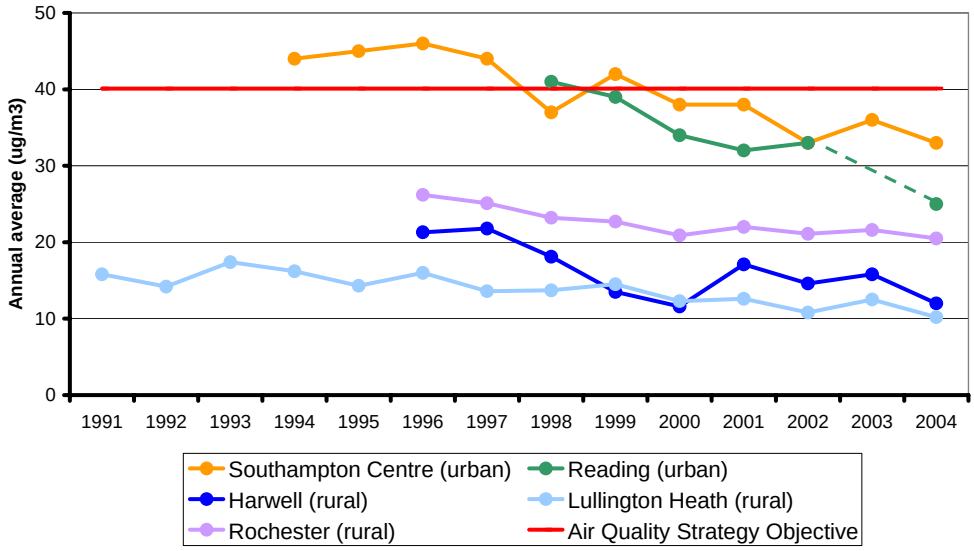


Source: Environment Agency 2005

B13.2.2 NO_2

Data on NO2 levels within the region demonstrates that in both Reading and Southampton, NO2 levels have exceeded the Air Quality Strategy objective in 1998/1999. Subsequent to this, levels have dropped with all five sites registering their lowest levels of this pollutant in 2004.

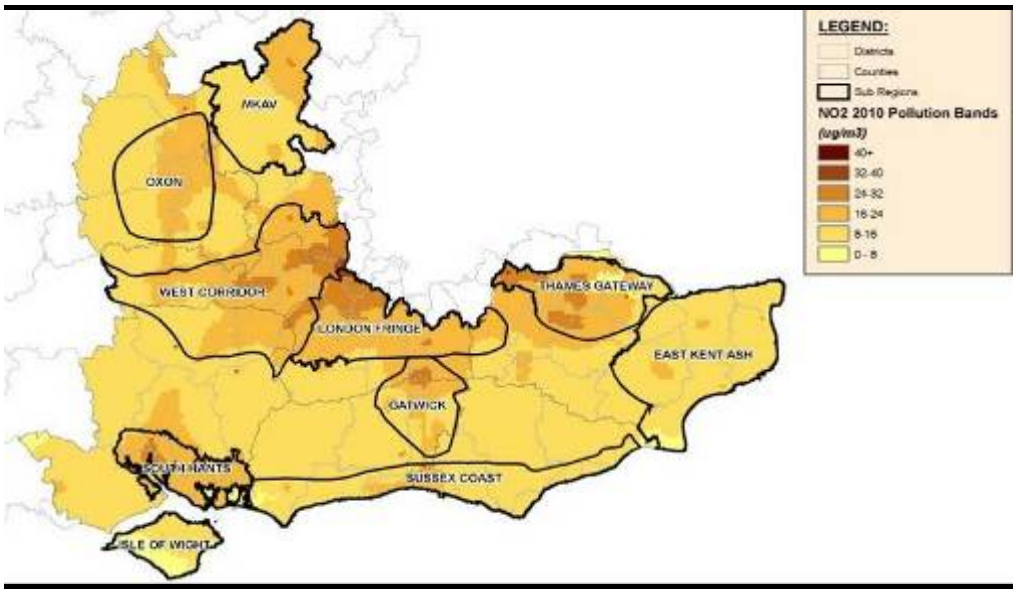
Figure 13.4 NO2 Mapping(Annual average concentrations in the region, 1991-2004)



Source: Environment Agency 2005

Predicted levels of NO2 within the region for 2010 suggest that the Air Quality Strategy objective will not be exceeded in any part of the region; indeed, many parts of the region will benefit from very low levels of this pollutant.

Figure 13.5 Predicted NO2 Levels within the Region –2010

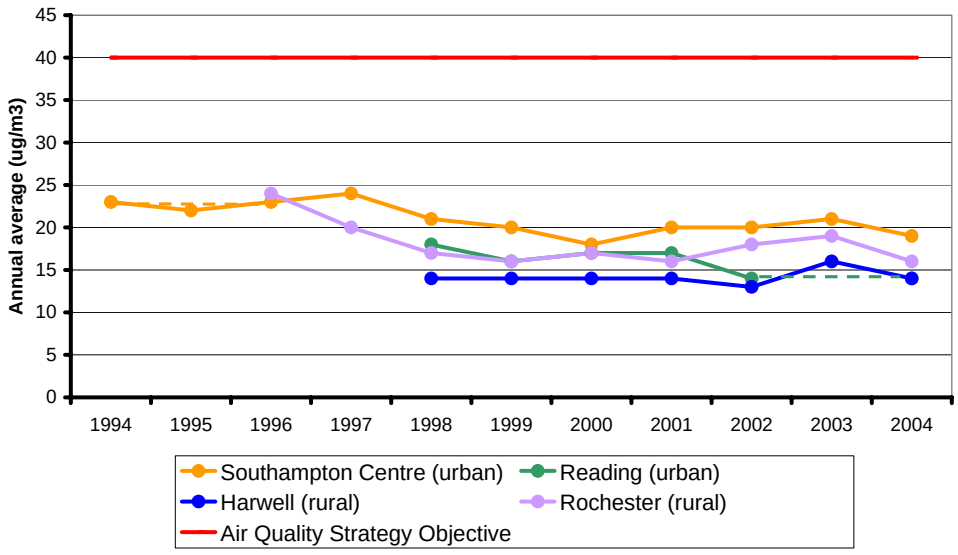


Source: Environment Agency

B13.2.3 PM10

Data on current and projected air quality is also available for PM_{10}.

Figure 13.6 PM10 Emissions

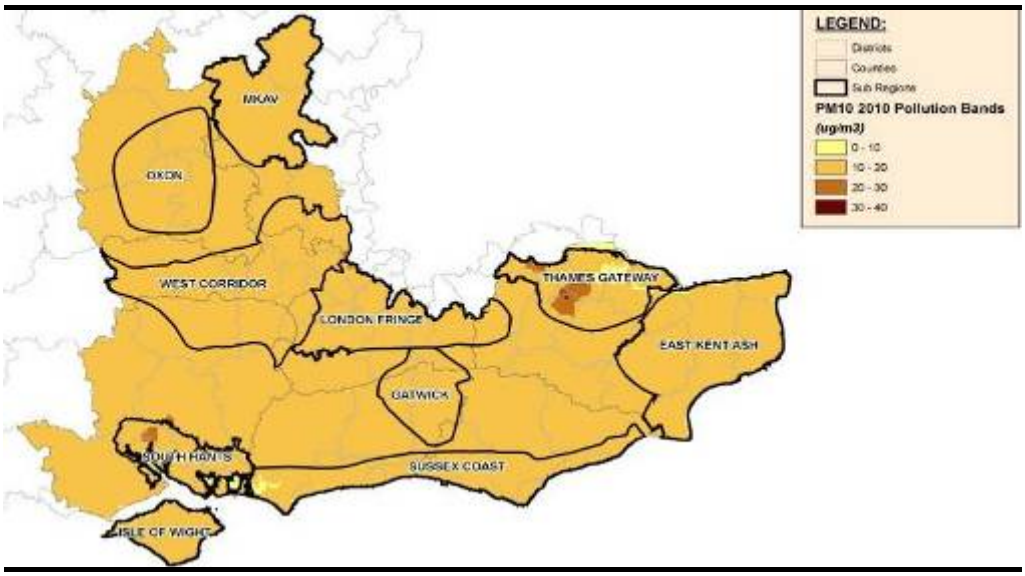


Source: Environment Agency 2005

Data from the monitoring stations indicates that PM10 emissions levels across the region have remained well within the Air Quality Strategy objective and have remained relatively constant throughout the years they have been monitored.

The map of predicted PM10 levels for 2010 show that, although the national air quality objective of 40ug/m^3 is not being breached in any areas, air quality is close to the national objective in the areas around London and near Southampton.

Figure 13.7 Predicted PM10 Levels within the Region –2010

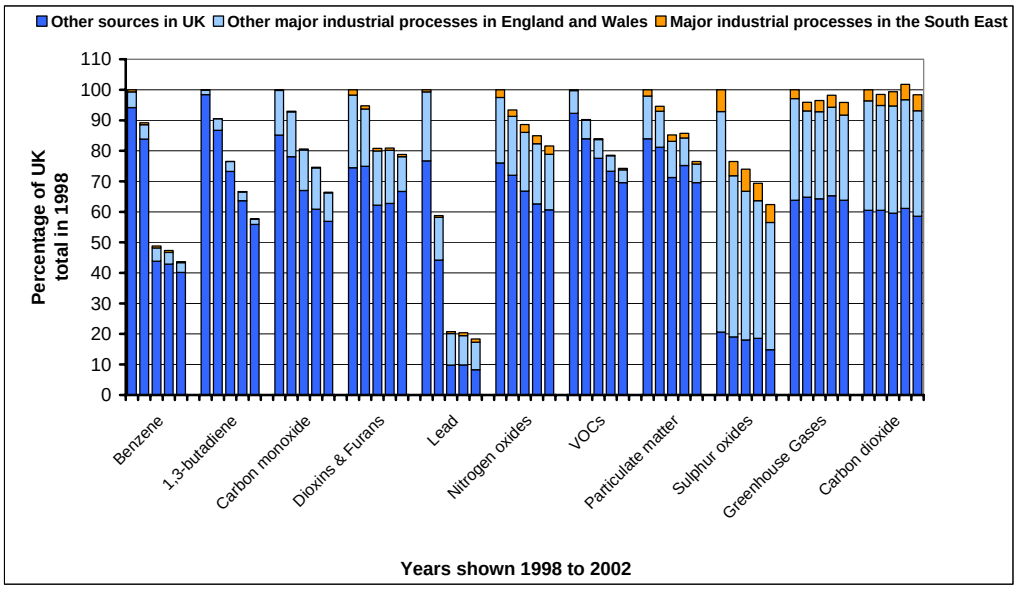


Source: Environment Agency

B13.3 TOTAL EMISSIONS DATA

Emissions data for all key air pollution sources emanating from industrial processes in the region and in the UK is outlined in Figure 11.8 below. This notes air pollution emissions from major industrial processes regulated by the Environment Agency and other sources in the UK between 1998-2002.

Figure 13.8 Emissions Data for the Region



Source: Environment Agency 2005

B13.4 LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Local Authorities are charged with the responsibility of reviewing the air quality in their respective areas, with the aim of meeting national air quality objectives. Where a Local Authority finds that local air quality will not meet such targets, it establishes an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

Within the region, there are many such AQMAs, these include:

- Brighton and Hove
- Medway Council (6)
- Portsmouth City Council (13)
- Slough Borough Council (2)
- Southampton City Council (6)
- Royal Windsor and Maidenhead (2)
- Wokingham District Council

Action Plans are devised on the basis of the AQMAs, to help ensure that air quality progressively includes in such areas.

B14 OBJECTIVE 12 - TO ADDRESS THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH REDUCING EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES AND ENSURE THAT THE SOUTH EAST IS PREPARED FOR ITS IMPACTS

B14.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

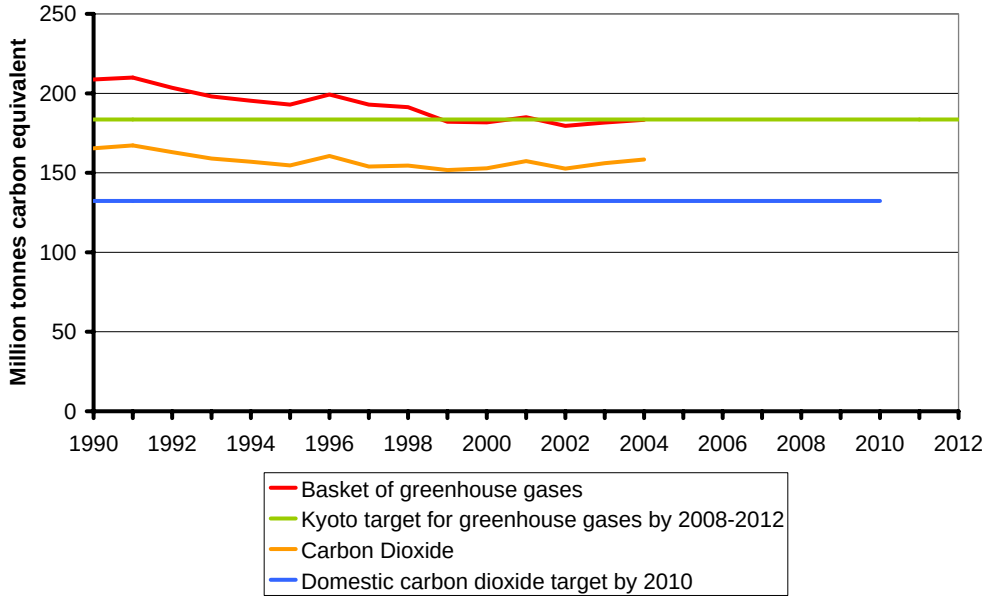
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- CO2 by user

This section should also be cross-referenced with data under Objective 19 on use renewables for energy provision within the region.

B14.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Environment Agency data on greenhouse gas emissions within the UK highlights that there has been a slight reduction in GHG emissions, relative to 1990 base levels. This reduction has been in line with the UK's commitments under the Kyoto Protocol yet highlights the significant scope/need for reduction in such emissions levels, if the Government's own domestic target is to be achieved.

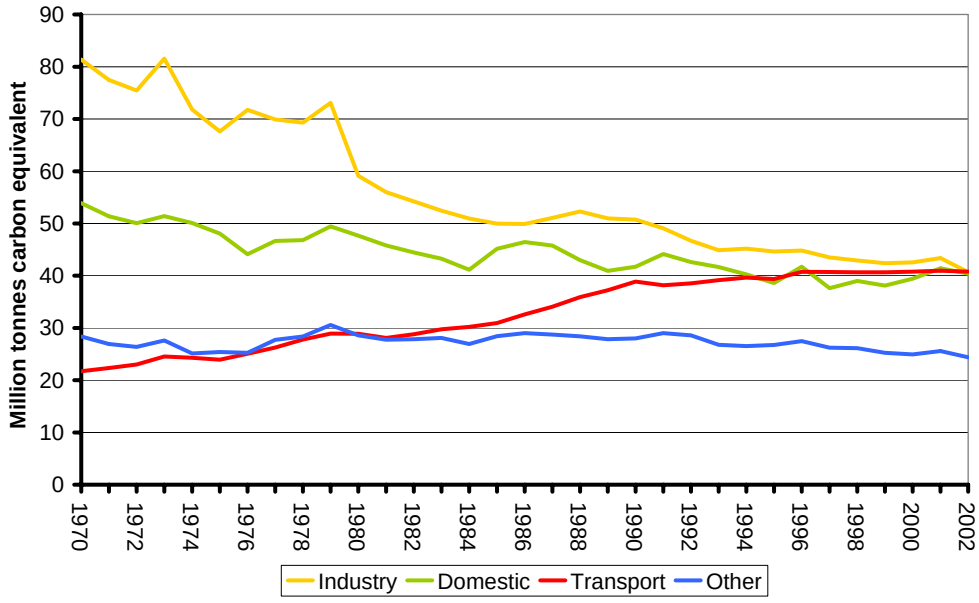
Figure 14.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (UK) 1990-2003



Source: Environment Agency 2005

Whilst the basket of GHG emissions has declined, CO2 emissions have shown greater variability. The primary source of continuing levels of CO2 emissions has been from transport, as the mapping on key CO2 sources below highlights. Industrial based CO2 emissions have declined sharply, as key measures such as the Climate Change Levy have sought to influence business behaviour. The picture for domestic emissions levels is not, however, so clear, with continuing variability in emissions levels during the course of the past decade and more. Domestic emissions now roughly equate with those of industry, highlighting the importance of also targeting this sector in reducing CO2 emissions levels.

Figure 14.2 ***CO2 by User***



Source: Environment Agency 2005

B14.3 *ISSUES*

The national picture on emissions levels highlights the challenge of addressing all key sectors in reducing CO2 emissions. The current regulatory focus is industry based, yet the domestic sector is currently an equal contributor in terms of CO2 emissions. Addressing the wider basket of GHG gases and emissions levels, the contribution of industry to tackling this will remain a key focus for both the region and the UK.

The continuing escalation of car use, which the region amongst others is experiencing, highlights the dilemma of how best to tackle transport based CO2 emissions. Car use is, however, only one key source of such emissions, with increasing flight travel constituting a further, if not primary, source of such emissions. Whilst this is not solely an issue for the region, it is one which the region has a responsibility to contribute to.

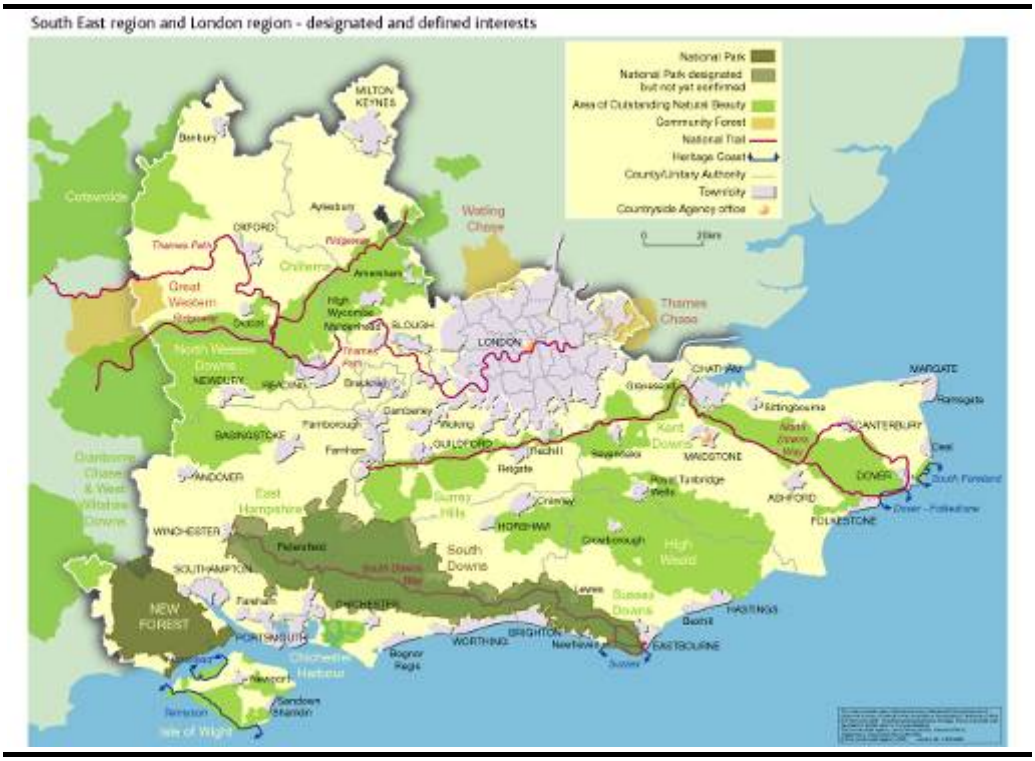
B15 OBJECTIVE 13 - TO CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE REGION'S BIODIVERSITY

B15.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Regional Landscape
- Priority habitats in the region: SSSIs, NNRs, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites
- Extent and condition of key habitats
- Wild birds and fish stocks
- Woodland assets

Figure 15 Regional Landscape



Source: Countryside Agency

The map of the region's key landscapes highlights the wealth of natural, semi-natural and historic assets which the South East enjoys. The region has a broad diversity of lowland wildlife habitats, including chalk rivers, ancient woodland, wood pastures, downland and heath. The South East also benefits from rich forestry assets, heritage coastline and designated landscapes such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, Specially Protected Areas and Ramsar sites. These landscapes provide the rich biodiversity base which the region is keen to protect.
'Action for Biodiversity in the South East' outlines the range of priority habitats in the region, these being listed in Box 15.1.

Box 15.1 Priority Habitats in the South East

Grassland Habitats
- Lowland acid grassland
- Lowland meadows
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Coastal and floodplain grazing meadow
- Lowland heath
- Cereal field margins

Woodland Habitats
- Lowland beech and yew woodland
- Wet woodland
- Ancient semi-natural woodland
- Lowland wood pasture and parkland
- Ancient and/or species rich hedgerow

Wetland Habitats
- Reedbeds
- Fen
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture

Freshwater Habitats
- Chalk rivers
- Mesotophic standing water
- Eutrophic standing water

Coastal and Maritime Habitats
- Sand dunes
- Saltmarsh
- Coastal vegetated shingle
- Saling lagoons
- Maritime cliffs and slopes
- Seagrass beds
- Littoral and sub-littoral chalk
- Intertidal mud flats

Action for Biodiversity in the South East, 1999

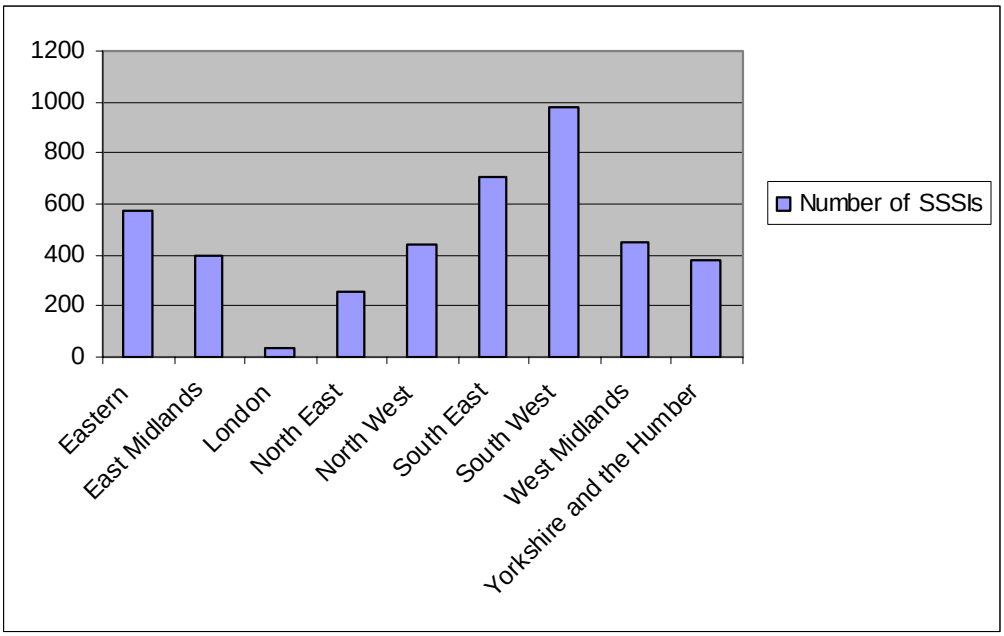
It is not possible nor the function of the SEA/SA Scoping Report to address all of these priority habitats, though they are all highly significant biodiversity assets and the range of objectives and targets established in the Regional Biodiversity Strategy is of obvious importance for the region and attainment of this IRF objective. Analysis within this report will focus on a range of key habitats and designated landscapes, monitoring of which provides a good indication of how progress towards protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the South East is being achieved.

The South East Local Biodiversity Record Centres play an important role in collating and disseminating more extensive information on the region's biodiversity assets.

B15.2 SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSIS)

The South East enjoys the second highest number of SSSIs of all English regions, with 133,415.38 hectares being designated as of this status; only the South West has a higher area coverage of SSSIs.

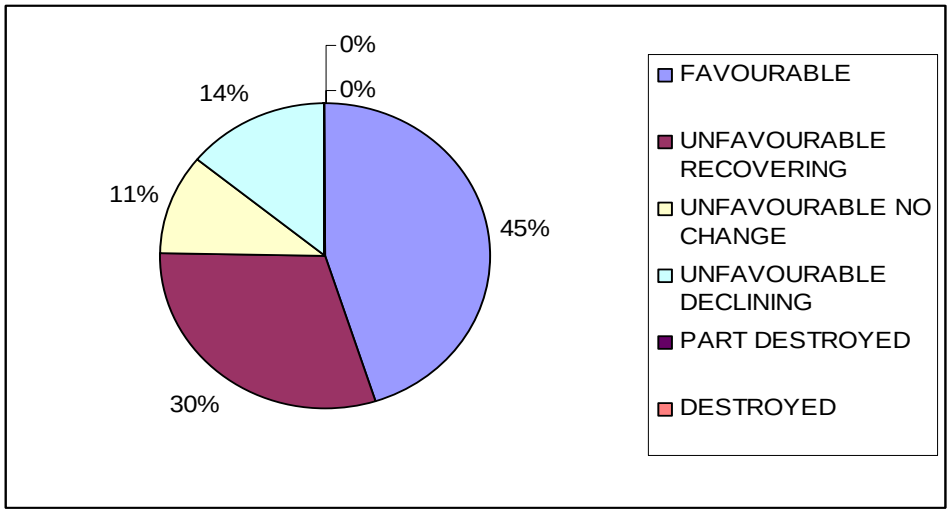
Figure 15.1 Regional Comparison of SSSIs



Source: English Nature 2005

Of this, 45% are regarded as being in a favourable state and a further 30% unfavourable but recovering. There remains however, just over a third of the region's SSSIs which are unfavourable and either not improving or actively declining; this constitutes a sizeable percentage of SSSIs which require improvement.

Figure 15.2 Condition of SSSIs in the Region



Source: English Nature 2005

The table below details the range of adverse management conditions within the SSSIs, which are varied and numerous. The most common condition is that of the adverse state of forestry and woodland management in just over 11,000 hectares of the region's SSSIs.

Figure 15.3 Detailed Overview of Adverse Conditions within SSSIs

Adverse Condition Description	Unit Area (ha)
FORESTRY AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT	11,122.86
OTHER - SPECIFY IN COMMENTS	10,310.10
INAPPROPRIATE SCRUB CONTROL	6,869.20
DRAINAGE	6,367.96
UNDERGRAZING	5,081.11
COASTAL SQUEEZE	4,467.54
INAPPROPRIATE COASTAL MANAGEMENT	4,172.70
INAPPROPRIATE DITCH MANAGEMENT	3,362.70
INAPPROPRIATE WEED CONTROL	2,148.51
PUBLIC ACCESS/DISTURBANCE	1,599.92
MILITARY	892.06
DEER GRAZING/BROWSING	871.36
FIRE – OTHER	664.41
OVERGRAZING	626.42
AGRICULTURE – OTHER	437.29
SILTATION	390.93
INAPPROPRIATE CUTTING/MOWING	387.19
PLANNING PERMISSION - GENERAL	267.95
PLANNING PERMISSION - OTHER MINERAL AND WASTE	222.04
VEHICLES – ILLICIT	206.57
VEHICLES – OTHER	197.03
GAME MANAGEMENT - PHEASANT REARING	179.9
EARTH SCIENCE FEATURE OBSTRUCTED	88.63
INAPPROPRIATE STOCK-FEEDING	88.02
FERTILISER USE	87.72
PESTICIDE/HERBICIDE USE	49.85
INAPPROPRIATE CSS/ESA PRESCRIPTION	36.32
INAPPROPRIATE PEST CONTROL	26.7
GAME MANAGEMENT – OTHER	21.83
EARTH SCIENCE FEATURE REMOVED	4.34
Grand Total	**61,249.16**

Source: English Nature 2005

B15.3 GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION REVIEW

Geological Conservation Review sites are nationally important sites and are recognised as such. All English GCR sites currently have SSSI status and are, therefore, considered within the general context of the SSSIs, listed above.

There are many such sites within the South East, the full details of which can be obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Table 15.1, below, details GCR sites within the region:

Table 15.1 Geological Conservation Review Sites

Area	GCR Site
Brighton and Hove	Black Rock, Newhaven to Brighton, Saltdean
Medway	High Halstow, Lower Upnor Sand Pit, Upnor
Isle of Wight	Alum Bay (and Totland Bay), Atherfeild to Rocken End, Bouldnor Cliff, Bouldnor Cliff and Hamstead Cliffs and foreshore, Chapel Corner, Colwell Bay, Compton Bay, Compton Bay-Brighstone Bay, Cimopton Chine, Compton to Atherfield, Gurnard, Hamstead Ladge, Hanover Point, Headon Hill, King's Quay, Lacey's Farm Quarry, luccombe Chime, Priory Bay, Prospect Quarry, Redcliffe, Sandown Bay, Shanklin Chine to Monks Bay, South-West Isle of Wight, St Helens, Thorness Nay, Thorness Nay and Gurnard, Whitecliffe, Whitecliff Bay, Bembridge, Yaverland,
Berkshire	Boxford Chalk Pit, Brimpton, Cannon Court Farm Pit, Cold Ash, Fognam Quarry, Hamstead Marshall, Pincent's Kiln, Winterbourne Chalk Pit
Buckinghamshire	Bierton, Bolter End, Bugle Pit, Chalfont St Giles, Fern House Pit, Muswell Hill, Pitstone (Marsworth Quarry), South Lodge Pit, Stone, Warren Farm
East Sussex	Asham Quarry, Battle, Beachy Head-Seaford, Birling Gap, Blackhouse Quarry, Brede, Chailey, Cliff End, Covehurst, Cow Gay, Cuckmere to Seaford, East Grinstead, Fairlight, Fairlight Cove& Haddocks, Hadlow Down, Hare Farm, Hastings, Hasting-Pett Level, High Rocks, Iden, Lower Dicker, Nothian, River Line, Rye Harbour, Southerham (Lime Kiln Quarries), Southerham Grey Pit, Tunbridge Wells, Waldron, Winchelsea
Hampshire	Barton Cliff, Calshot Cliff, Cranes Moor, Downend Chalk Pit, Dunbridge Pit, Duncroft Farm Pit, Highland Water, Hillhead Cliffs, Hordel, Hordle-Beacon Cliffs, Hordle Cliff, Hurst Castle Spit, Keyhaven Marsh, Hust Castle, Lee-on-Solent, Mark Ash Wood, Paddy's Gap, Park Hill Inclosure, Rake Bottom, Shepherd's Gutter, Stone Point, Studley Wood, Upper Hale, Wood Green Gravel Pit
Kent	Allington Quarry, Aylesford, Bakers Hole, Barnfield Pit, Blue Bell Hill Pits, Culand Pits, Devil's Kneading Trough, Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs, Dryhill, Dungeness, East Wear Bay, Folkstone, Folkston Warren, Fordwich Pit, Foreness Point, Hart hill, Herne Bay, Holywell Coobe, Hubbard's Hill, kingsdown Dover, North Cliff-Broadstairs, Oaken Wood, Otterpool Manor, Pegwell Bay, Penbury, Pivington Quarry, Rusthall Common, Sevenoaks, Sheppy, Southborough, Sturry Gravel Pits, Swanscombe-Barnfield Pit, Thanet Coast, Upper Halling, Walpole Bay Cliffs and Grenham Bay Cliffs, Wansunt Pit, Warden Point, Warden Point, Wateringbury

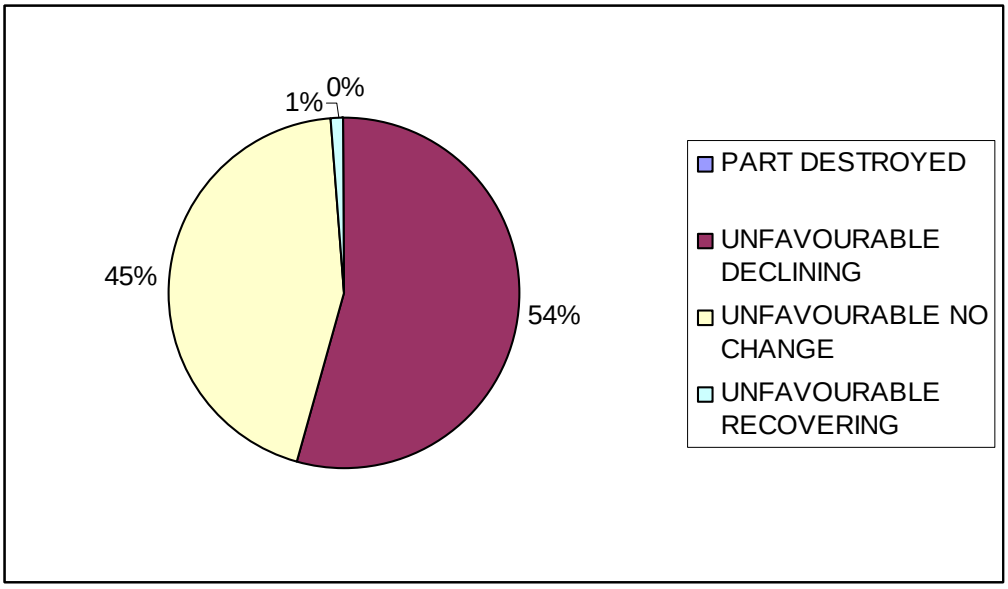
Area	GCR Site
Oxfordshire	Ardley Cuttings & Quarries, Aston Rowant Cutting, Chawley Brickpits, Chinnor Chalk Pit, Cothill Fen, Cross Roads Quarry, Cumor, Ditchely Road Quarry, Dry Sanford Pit, Higlands Farm Pitt, Hook Norton, Horesay Quarries, Kirtlington, Kirtlington Cement Works, Lamb & Flag, Littlemore, Littleworkth Brick Pitt, Long Hanborough, Lyehill, Magdalen Grove, Magdalen Pit, Neithrop Fields Cutting, Priest's Hill, Sharps Hills, Shellingfor Crossroads, Shipton on Cherwell, Stant Harcourt, Stonefield, Stratton Audley, The Manager, Wicklesham and Coxwell Pits, Wicklesham Pit, Woodeaton
Surrey	Auclaye, Brook Brick Pit, Capel, Chiddingfold, Closk House, Hambleton, Mountain Wood, Newdigate (North), Newdigate (South), Seale Chalk Pit, Smokejake, Stock Farm, The Mole Gap, Upper Common
West Sussex	Benbridge, Billinghurst, Bognor Regis, Backlesham Bay, Chantry Mill, Chiddingly Wood, Coneyhurst Common, Devil's Dyke, Earnley, Eartham Pit, Boxgrove, East Head, Felpham, Fernhurst, Horsted Keynes, Horton Clay Pit, Marehill Quarry, Pargham Harbout, Park Farm Cutting, Scaynes Hill, Selsey, Slinford, Turners Hill, Warnham, West Hoathly (Hook) West Hoathly (Philpots), West Hoathly (Sharpthorne) Wittering to Selsey

Source: JNCC 2005

B15.4 SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

The region has just over 12,300 hectares of land designated as Special Areas of Conservation. The current state of such key habitats is of concern, with over half of the region's SACs in an unfavourable state and declining and nearly all of the remaining sites unfavourable though not actually declining.

Figure 15.4 State of Special Areas of Conservation



Source: English Nature 2005

The detailed overview of the adverse conditions which are affecting the SACs is listed in the table below. The most common adverse condition is that of drainage problems which affects just under 3300 hectares of SAC land; conditions such as inappropriate pest control constitute the least common detrimental condition affecting SACs in the region.

Table 15.2 Detailed Overview of Adverse Conditions of Special Areas of Conservation

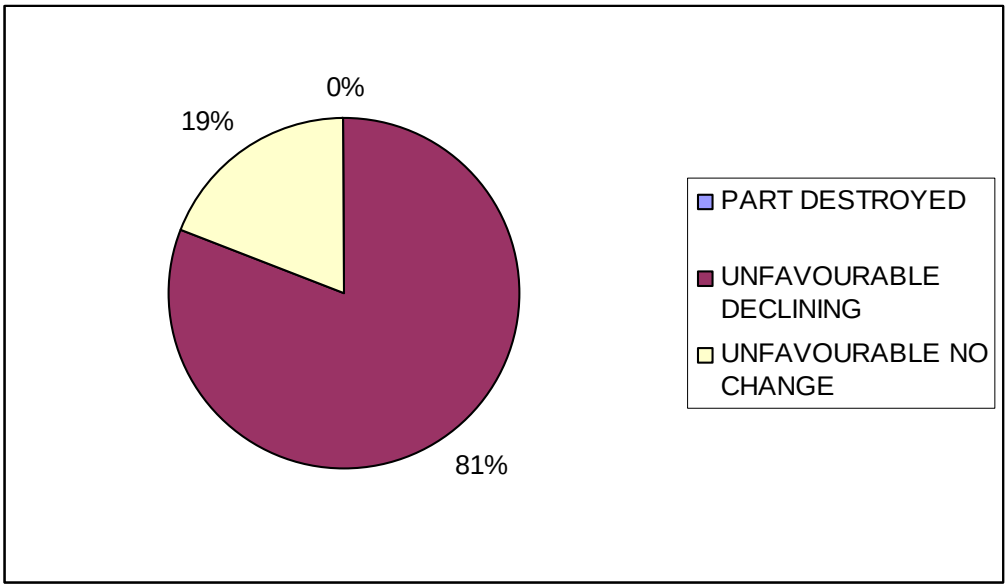
Adverse condition description	Unit Area (ha)
DRAINAGE	3,293.26
OTHER - SPECIFY IN COMMENTS	3,180.72
INAPPROPRIATE SCRUB CONTROL	1,926.41
COASTAL SQUEEZE	1,888.13
FORESTRY AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT	1,763.27
UNDERGRAZING	1,001.09
MILITARY	887.92
INAPPROPRIATE DITCH MANAGEMENT	806.01
FIRE - OTHER	337.89
PUBLIC ACCESS/DISTURBANCE	313.95
INAPPROPRIATE COASTAL MANAGEMENT	259.10
WATER POLLUTION - AGRICULTURE/RUN OFF	236.51
WATER POLLUTION - DISCHARGE	155.50
WATER ABSTRACTION	150.01
PLANNING PERMISSION - GENERAL	126.72
SILTATION	93.18
VEHICLES - OTHER	86.40
OVERGRAZING	86.29
INAPPROPRIATE WEED CONTROL	85.41
INAPPROPRIATE DREDGING	43.81
INAPPROPRIATE CUTTING/MOWING	33.80
AGRICULTURE - OTHER	28.89
INAPPROPRIATE WEIRS DAMS AND OTHER STRUCTURES	23.72
INLAND FLOOD DEFENCE WORKS	23.72
INVASIVE FRESHWATER SPECIES	23.72
GAME MANAGEMENT - PHEASANT REARING	18.80
DEER GRAZING/BROWSING	18.44
FERTILISER USE	7.38
INAPPROPRIATE PEST CONTROL	1.13
Grand Total	16,901.18

Source: English Nature 2005

B15.5 SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS

Of note is the poor condition of all of the Special Protection Areas within the region, with a significant 81% of SPAs designated as unfavourable and declining. None of the region's SPAs are in a favourable state and this is evidently an issue of concern for the region.

Figure 15.5 State of Condition of SPAs



Source: English Nature 2005

The specific adverse conditions which affect the SPAs range considerably with the largest specific adverse condition being that of coastal squeeze which currently affects just under 4,500 hectares of SPA land in the region. This has clear links to the effects of climate change on the region. It also highlights the need for the region to be proactive in planning for adaptation to climate change.

Table 15.3 Detailed Overview of Condition of SPAs

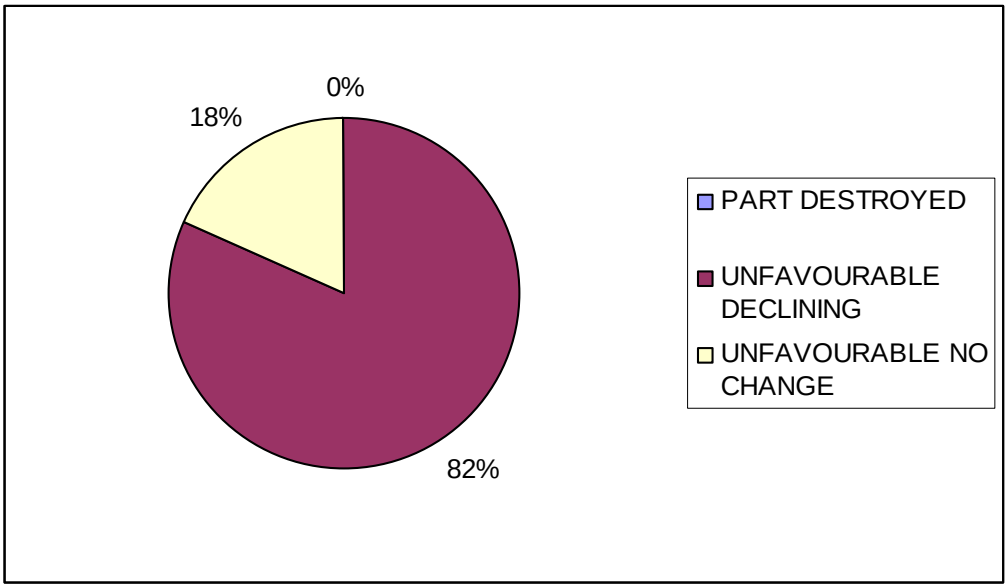
Adverse condition description	Unit Area (ha)
OTHER - SPECIFY IN COMMENTS	4,515.96
COASTAL SQUEEZE	4,467.54
INAPPROPRIATE COASTAL MANAGEMENT	3,952.95
INAPPROPRIATE SCRUB CONTROL	1,538.87
UNDERGRAZING	1,282.17
FORESTRY AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT	1,090.13
INAPPROPRIATE WEED CONTROL	667.30
INAPPROPRIATE DITCH MANAGEMENT	520.98
WATER POLLUTION - AGRICULTURE/RUN OFF	327.76
DRAINAGE	248.66
FIRE - OTHER	203.33
PUBLIC ACCESS/DISTURBANCE	167.78
OVERGRAZING	149.65
VEHICLES - ILLICIT	120.92
INAPPROPRIATE STOCK-FEEDING	67.77
INAPPROPRIATE WATER LEVELS	66.75
PLANNING PERMISSION - GENERAL	61.69
VEHICLES - OTHER	61.69
WATER POLLUTION - DISCHARGE	60.60
PLANNING PERMISSION – OTHER MINERAL AND WASTE	45.10
INAPPROPRIATE DREDGING	43.81
WATER ABSTRACTION	42.23
AGRICULTURE - OTHER	19.15
DEER GRAZING/BROWSING	8.83
INAPPROPRIATE CUTTING/MOWING	6.54
GAME MANAGEMENT - PHEASANT REARING	4.01
INAPPROPRIATE PEST CONTROL	1.13
Grand Total	19,743.30

Source: English Nature 2005

B15.6 RAMSAR SITES

As with the region's SPA sites, Ramsar sites within the South East are not in a favourable condition with all of the region's 10,888 hectares of Ramsar sites being in a unfavourable or partially destroyed state. A highly significant 82% of all Ramsar sites in the region are in an unfavourable and declining condition.

Figure 15.6 State of Condition of Ramsar Sites



Source: English Nature 2005

Analysing the factors causing this unfavourable condition, it is apparent that coastal squeeze is a key contributor to Ramsar site deterioration, as with SPA sites in the region. Other key factors of note are inappropriate coastal and ditch management which collectively comprise approximately 5,500 hectares of land.

As was noted in connection with SPAs, climate change is a major contributory factor to the current and likely future status of Ramsar sites in the region. Steps need to be taken to address the planning for adaptation to climate change.

Table 15.4 Detailed Overview of Condition of Ramsar Sites

Adverse condition description	Unit Area (ha)
COASTAL SQUEEZE	4,467.54
OTHER - SPECIFY IN COMMENTS	4,052.24
INAPPROPRIATE COASTAL MANAGEMENT	3,952.95
INAPPROPRIATE DITCH MANAGEMENT	1,424.64
DRAINAGE	620.04
INAPPROPRIATE SCRUB CONTROL	604.83
UNDERGRAZING	438.34
WATER POLLUTION - AGRICULTURE/RUN OFF	368.13
INAPPROPRIATE WEED CONTROL	298.96
PUBLIC ACCESS/DISTURBANCE	167.78
OVERGRAZING	146.98
WATER POLLUTION - DISCHARGE	133.77
VEHICLES - ILLICIT	131.17
AGRICULTURE - OTHER	80.33
WATER ABSTRACTION	69.38
INAPPROPRIATE STOCK-FEEDING	67.77
FORESTRY AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT	67.01
INAPPROPRIATE WATER LEVELS	66.75
PLANNING PERMISSION - GENERAL	61.69
VEHICLES - OTHER	61.69
PLANNING PERMISSION – OTHER MINERAL AND WASTE	45.10
INAPPROPRIATE DREDGING	43.81
INAPPROPRIATE CUTTING/MOWING	15.75
INAPPROPRIATE PEST CONTROL	8.14
GAME MANAGEMENT - PHEASANT REARING	4.01
Grand Total	17,398.80

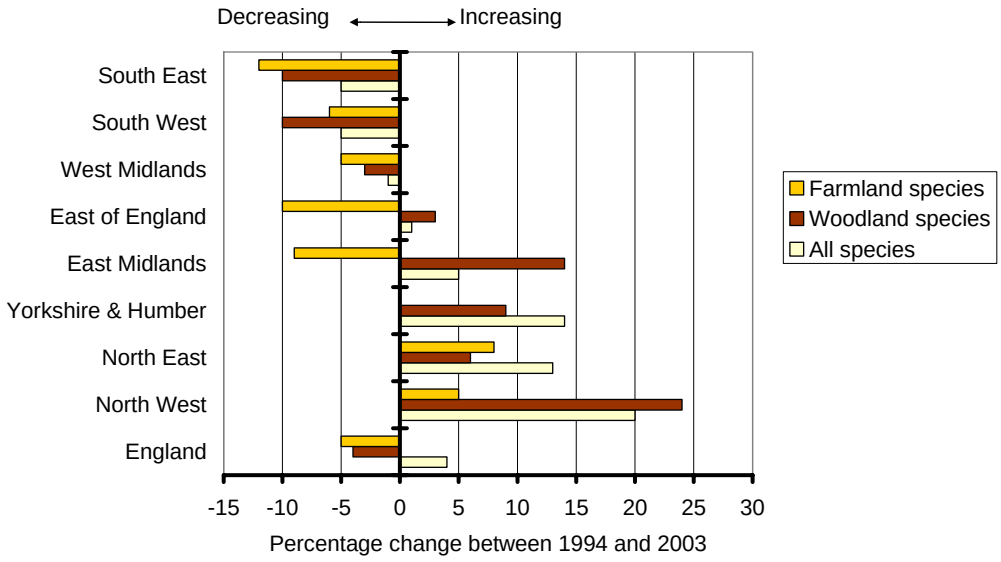
Source: English Nature 2005-11-15

It is important to note that there exists the scope for double counting with the data on designated landscapes.

B15.7 WILD BIRDS

A key indicator of the state of the region's biodiversity is the state of its stock of wild birds, both farmland and woodland groups of species. This is a nationally significant indicator of sustainable development. A regional comparison of these groups of species highlights the declining stock of both farmland and woodland birds within the South East. The region has experienced the largest loss of farmland birds of all regions, far exceeding the national average and in sharp contrast to regions such as the North East which have benefited from an increase in such species' stock. Woodland species have also suffered a decline, though marginally less marked than that of farmland species. As with the farmland species, the decline in woodland species in the region surpasses the national picture of decline and is only equalled by the South West which has` suffered a comparable decline. Other regions such as the North West have enjoyed significant increases in such species.

Figure 15.7 Regional Comparison of Species

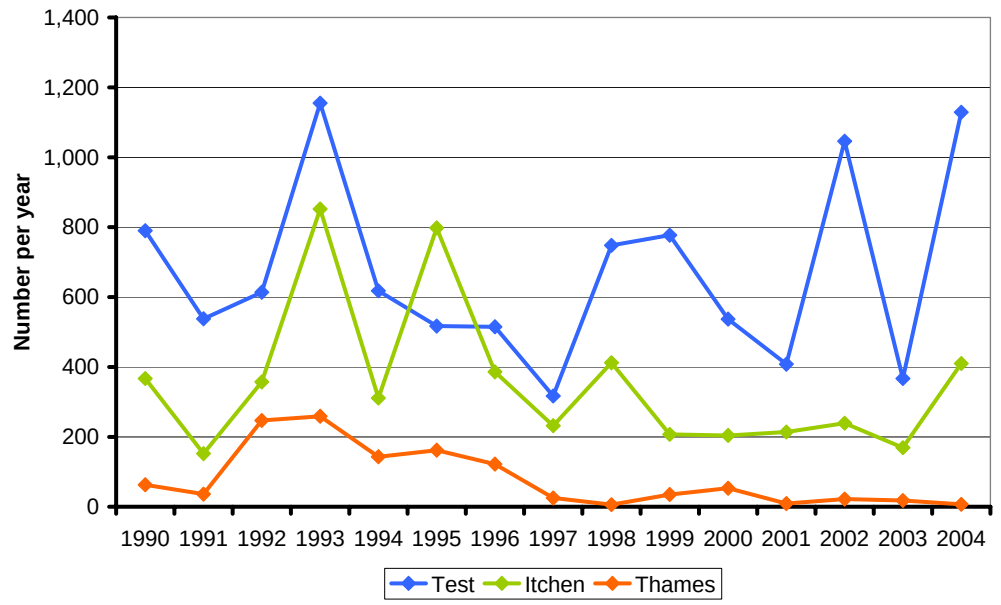


Source: English Nature 2005

B15.8 FISH STOCKS

Salmon stock within the region, as monitored by sampling in key rivers, has experienced considerable variability during the course of 1990-2004; stock being particularly high in years such as 1993, yet reaching its lowest levels in 1998, 2001 and 2004 in the Thames.

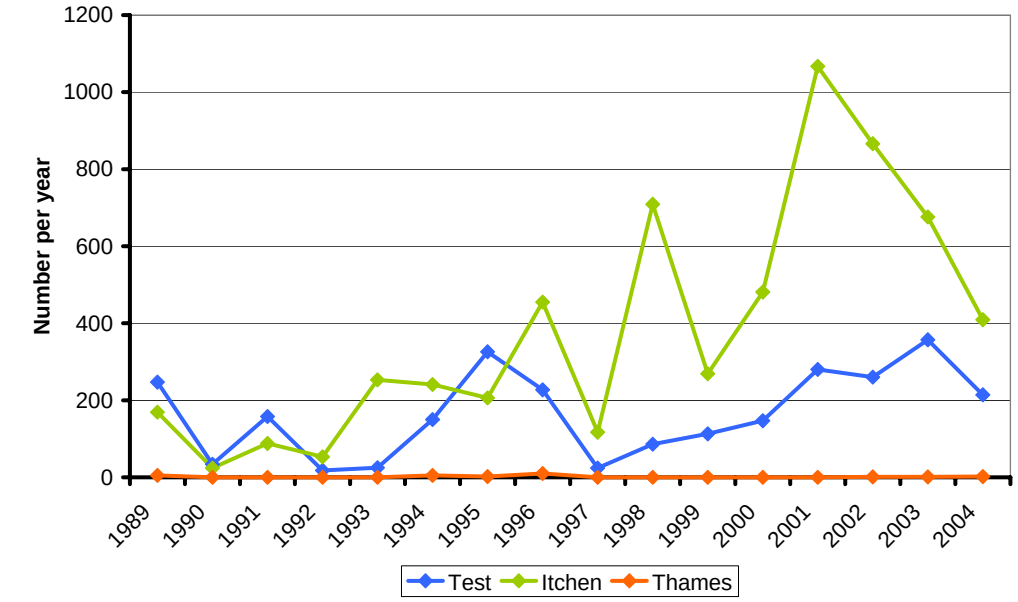
Figure 15.8 Salmon Stock



Source: English Nature 2005

Levels of sea trout stock in the region also demonstrate variability with stock in the Thames being negligible whilst stock in the Itchen has fluctuated significantly during the past two decades. The current data for 2004 highlights a significant decline in stock from 2001, this decline being consistent during the course of the past three years and indicating current stock is lower than 1996 levels.

Figure 15.9 *Sea Trout Stock*



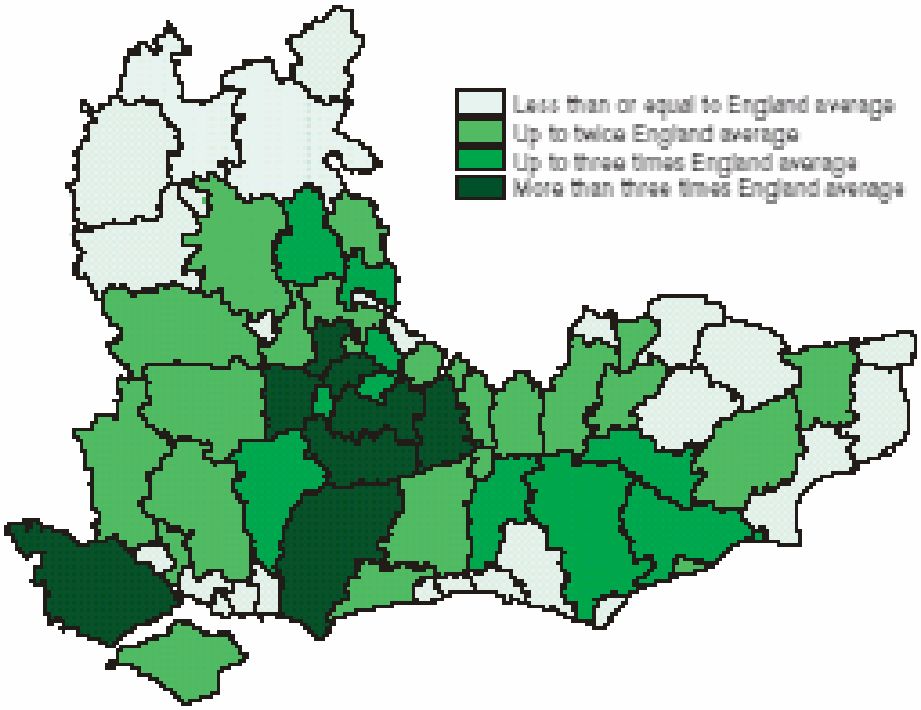
Source: English Nature 2005

B15.9 *WOODLAND ASSETS*

The total area of woodland (greater than 0.1 hectare) within the region is 270,084 hectares, this representing 14.6% of the region's land area in total. The South East benefits from having the largest area of woodland of all regions, with the national average being significantly lower at 8%. There exists considerable sub-regional variation, however, with Oxfordshire having below average woodland cover whilst Surrey Hills comprises 32% woodland.

In terms of absolute woodland, the South East has experienced an increase in woodland area; during 1980-1996 there was a regional increase of 18500 hectares, this being primarily native woodland in composition (55%).

Figure 15.10 Woodland Density



Source: Forestry Commission: South East England Strategy 2004

The South East has 40% of England's ancient woodland of which 80,000 hectares is ancient semi-natural woodland; the remaining 46,685 hectares having been replanted with non-native species at some stage

Table 15.5 Ancient Woodland

	Berks	Bucks	E.Sussex	Hants	Isle of Wight	Kent	Oxon	Surrey	W.Sussex
% Cover	14.5	9.4	16.7	17.7	12	10.6	7	22.4	18.9
Ancient Woodland	5370	8795	18190	27970	1510	27060	7725	9280	16830
Other Woodland	12938	8777	11734	38969	3039	12427	10510	28284	20677

Source: Forestry Commission

B15.10 ISSUES

The region has a rich biodiversity asset base. It has, however, experienced significant decline in key indicator species such as farmland and woodland birds. Key designated habitats also demonstrates significant scope for improvement with the level of SPA and SAC sites being designated as in an unfavourable state of condition, being of particular concern.

Whilst there is no detailed data, it is estimated that approximately two-thirds of the region's woodlands are privately owned, this raising issues of land management control and protection. It is important that the region ensures

monitoring of both private and publicly owned woodland assets to safeguard against the potential loss or deterioration of such key biodiversity assets.

B16 OBJECTIVE 14 - TO PROTECT, ENHANCE AND MAKE ACCESSIBLE FOR ENJOYMENT, THE REGION'S COUNTRYSIDE AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

B16.1 DATA

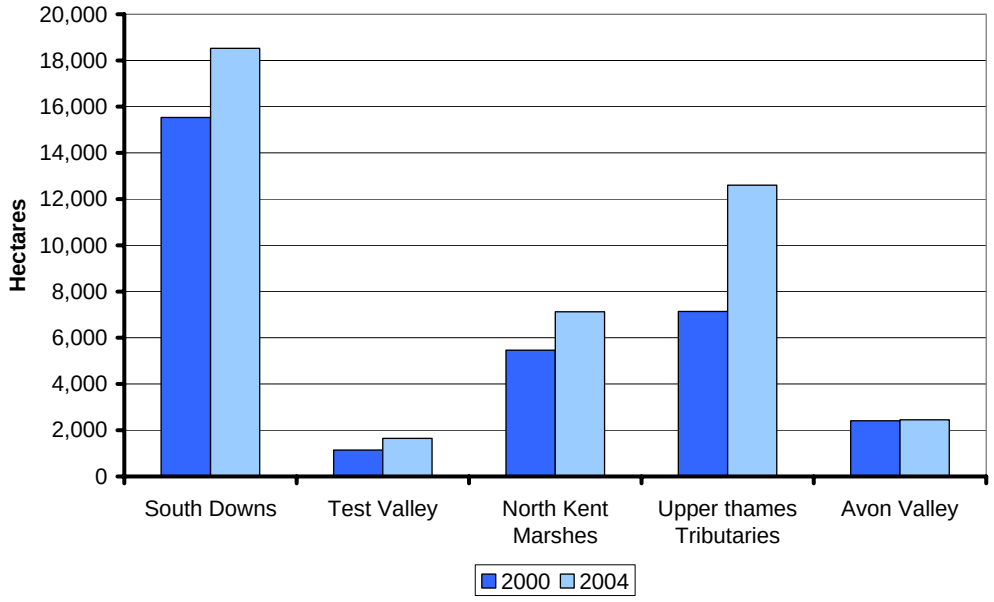
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Proportion of ESA areas with tier coverage
- Proportion of county areas covered by CSS
- Condition of countryside paths in the South East
- Condition of historic buildings

B16.2 LAND COVERED BY AGRI-ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT SCHEMES

Land within designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas within the South East is outlined within the chart below. The South Downs represents a key ESA base, its total land coverage significantly greater than that of any other key area within the region. In absolute terms, the area of land managed under the scheme has increased in all key locations with the Upper Thames tributary area experiencing the single largest relative increase.

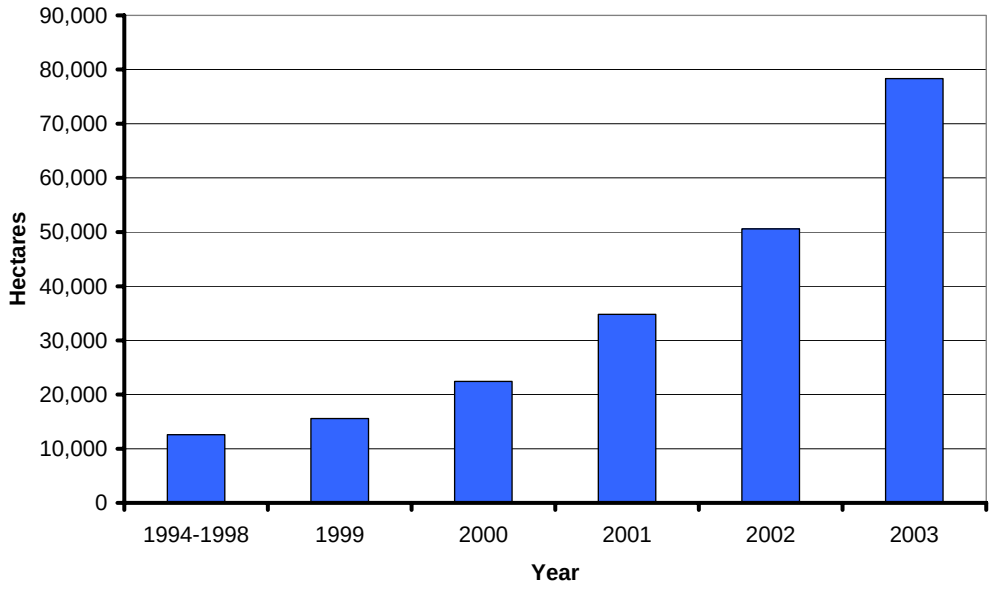
Figure 16.1 Environmentally Sensitive Areas



Source EA 2005

Land managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme within the region has also increased significantly, with year on year increases being evident since 1994.

Figure 16.2 Countryside Stewardship Schemes



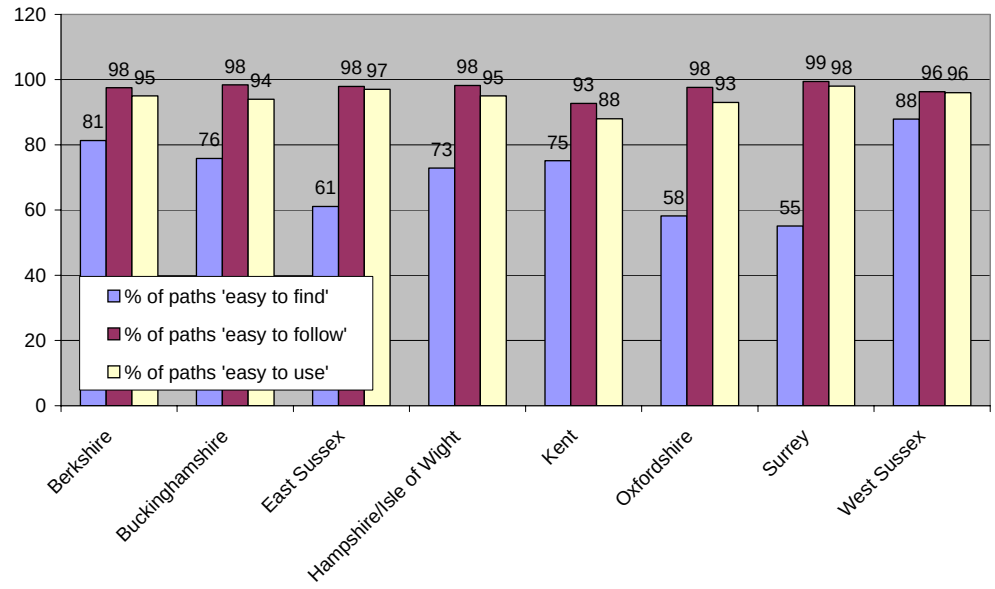
Source: EA 2005

The importance of land management under these schemes resides in the high environmental standards which the schemes seek to deliver, this contributing to the region's attainment of both its biodiversity base but also enjoyment of a rich, protected countryside.

B16.3 CONDITION OF COUNTRYSIDE PATHS

Data on the condition of countryside paths is available from 2000. According to this data, much of the region is close to or achieving the national target of 95% of paths being easy to follow and easy to use. The region has been less successful at meeting the 95% target for paths easy to find.

Figure 16.3 Condition of Countryside Paths in the South East



Source: Countryside Agency (2001) The Rights of Way Condition Survey 2000, Countryside Agency Cheltenham (CA94)

B16.4 ACCESS TO AND ENJOYMENT OF THE REGION'S HISTORIC ASSETS

The South East has the highest percentage of visitors of sites owned by English Heritage in any English region. The region itself has a rich historic environment with more registered historic parks and gardens than any other region, and more conservation areas. The number of scheduled monuments in the region has increased by 59 since 2004.

Table 16.1 Historic Areas and Open Spaces

Historic Assets and Open Spaces	Number of Assets in Region
Conservation Areas	2,132
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	9
National Parks	1
Designated Heritage Coastlines	5
Ancient Woodland	123,600ha

Source: Heritage Counts 2005

The historic environment is, however, undergoing significant change with English Heritage noting that just under 10% of listed building stock is subject to a listed building consent decision (2004/2005) and the region has the greatest number of notifications about planning consents concerning registered parks and historic gardens, of any region (2004/2005). The region has also experienced the greatest level of farm building conversion of any region since the 1980s.

Table 16.2 Designated Historic Assets

Asset	Number in Region
World Heritage Sites	2
Scheduled Monuments	2,669
Listed Buildings	76,242
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	374
Battlefields	6
Registered Historic Vessels	9
Protected Wreck Sites	17
Military Remains	3

Source: Heritage Counts 2005

Data on the region's scheduled monuments is outlined in the table below, highlighting the region's rich historic asset base. Areas such as Kent enjoy significantly higher numbers of historic buildings than elsewhere in the region, whilst Hampshire has a particularly large wealth of scheduled monuments. Initiatives aimed at protecting and enhancing the region's historic environment, and access and enjoyment thereof, reflect the geographical spread of the South East's historic assets.

Figure 16.4 Scheduled Monuments in the Region

UNITARY AUTHORITY	DISTRIBUTION OF LISTED BUILDINGS	DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED PARKS & GARDENS AND BATTLEFIELDS	DISTRIBUTION OF CONSERVATION AREAS
BRACKNELL FOREST	259	12	6	3
READING	503	2	5	13
SLOUGH	63	2	4	4
WEST BERKSHIRE	1,883	85	15	52
WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD	993	17	12	27
WOKINGHAM	638	18	7	16
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	5,791	145	33	177
MILTON KEYNES	1,076	48	3	26
EAST SUSSEX	6,342	303	36	120
BRIGHTON & HOVE	1,220	15	6	17
KENT	17,321	345	58	585
MEDWAY	610	72	2	15
HAMPSHIRE	11,503	677	56	338
ISLE OF WIGHT	1,944	119	8	25
OXFORDSHIRE	12,081	292	60	242
SURREY	6,494	165	41	238
WEST SUSSEX	7,521	352	33	234

Source: Heritage Counts 2005

B16.5 CONDITION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

According to Heritage Counts 2005, the South East has endured the greatest loss of historic parkland of any region and lost more recorded archaeological sites than any other region since 1945. In terms of its historic buildings, the region has also more entries on the Buildings at Risk Register, of which it also has the greatest number of buildings at risk which will require funds in excess

of £250,000 to restore (2004/2005). The region's coastal historic assets are also under threat from sea level change.

B16.6 ISSUES

The region enjoys a rich historic environment, with a broad base of listed buildings and scheduled monuments. Access to these assets will be key in delivering this objective, however, equally important is the protection and enhancement both of these assets and the countryside generally. Increasing land management of the region's countryside under the ESA scheme will serve to assist in achieving such protection. The state of the region's historic assets is, however, an issue of concern with the region having suffered significant losses to its archaeological sites and an escalating number of Buildings at Risk. The increasing number of Heritage Champions in the region, currently within 25 Local Authorities, will serve an important role in pushing the protection of these assets within local and regional agendas.

B17 OBJECTIVE 15 - TO REDUCE ROAD CONGESTION AND POLLUTION LEVELS BY IMPROVING TRAVEL CHOICE, AND REDUCING THE NEED FOR TRAVEL BY CAR/LORRY

B17.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

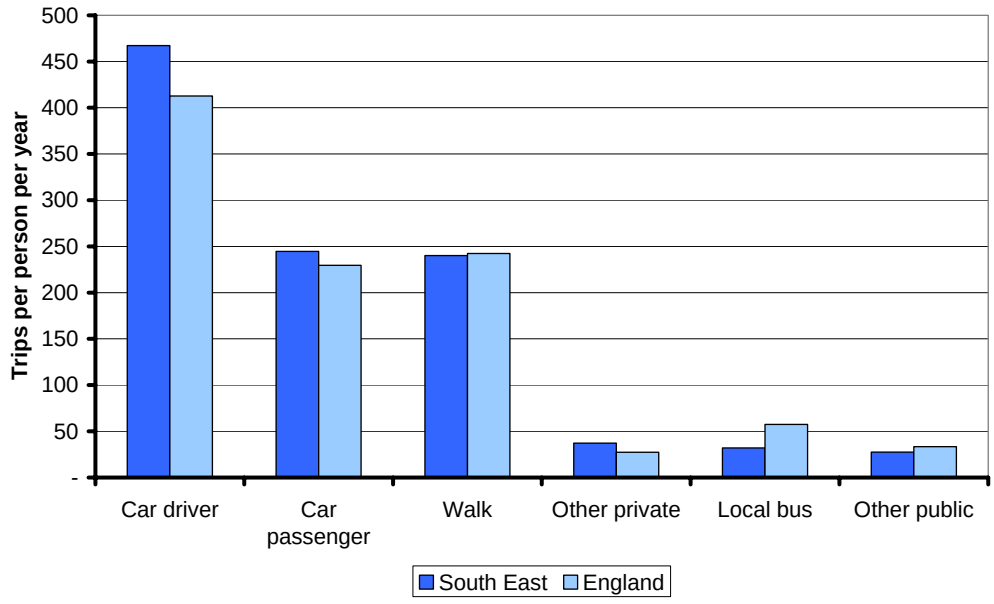
- Mode travelled
- Time taken to travel to work
- Kms travelled by motor traffic
- Daily traffic flow
- Investment in public transport
- Freight traffic

B17.2 MODE OF TRAVEL

Key to reducing road congestion will be the diversification of transport options taken by people within the region, in particular, through encouraging public transport use.

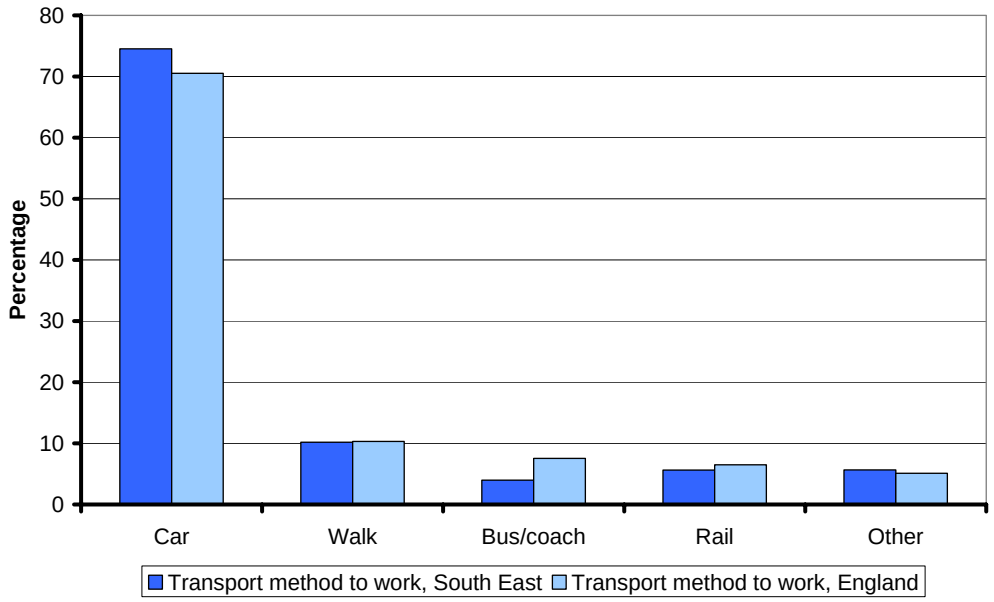
The DTI figures for the main transport mode taken by people within the region and nationally, demonstrates the continuing predominance of car use, by driver and as a passenger. Public transport options are significantly in the minority though trips by walking do exceed those taken as a car passenger.

Figure 17.1 Trips by Main Mode



Source: Department for Transport 2005

Figure 17.2 Mode of Transport to Work



Source: Department for Transport 2004/5

Analysing transport modes as related to work, the chart above reiterates the heavy reliance upon car use which far exceeds any other form of transport mode; interestingly, walking as a means to travel to work is far less common than walking as a general transport option, perhaps highlighting the disparity in transport modes between employed and unemployed/retired sections of the community and the leisure transport options taken by the region's population.

Table 17.1 Usual Time taken to travel to work

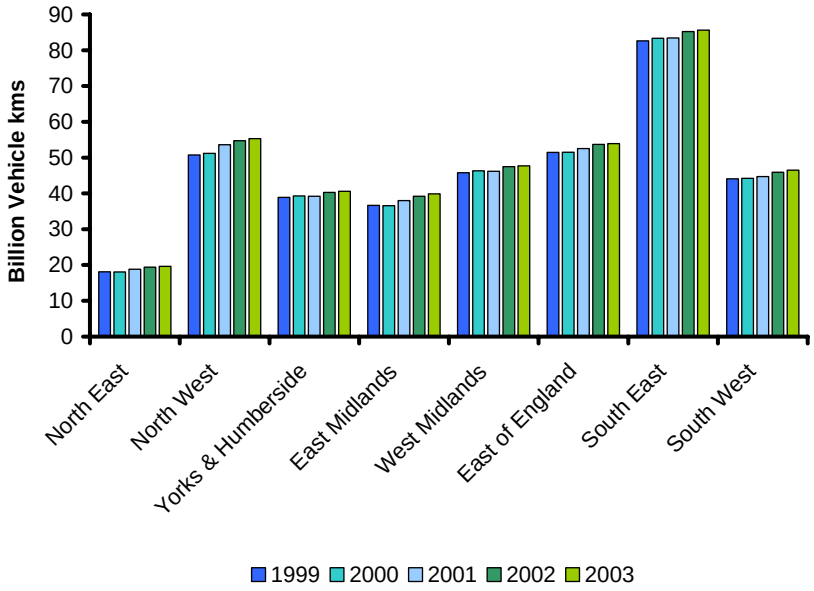
	Percentages	
	South East	United Kingdom
10 minutes or less	33.7	31.3
Between 11 and 20 minutes	29.7	28.5
Between 21 and 30 minutes	17.5	18.2
Between 31 and 40 minutes	5.1	5.6
Between 41 and 50 minutes	5.6	6.3
Between 51 minutes and one hour	4.2	5.6
More than one hour	4.2	4.4

Source: Department for Transport 2004/5

Contrasting the transport mode to work and the time taken to reach work, it is apparent that a large percentage of the region's population are making short car journeys to work with less than a fifth of the population having to travel more than a half an hour to their work.

In terms of the distance travelled by car, the data below reinforces the heavy reliance placed by the region's population on car use (and other forms of motor transportation). The South East by far exceeds all other regions in terms of Kms travelled by motor traffic with the North West a distant second.

Figure 17.3 KMs Travelled by all Motor Traffic

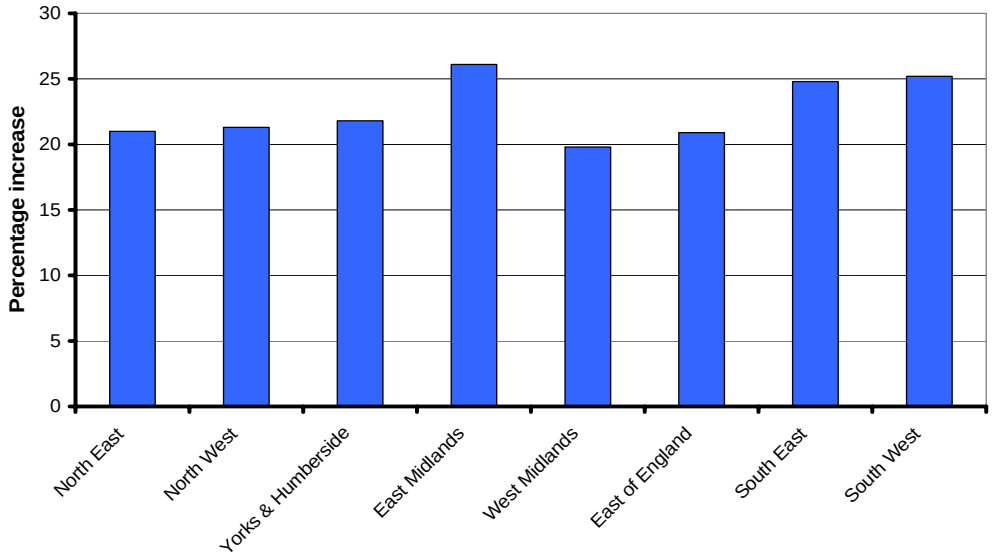


Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B17.3 TRAFFIC FLOW

Given the reliance on car use it is unsurprising that the South East is amongst the regions experiencing the highest percentage increases in traffic. The region is only surpassed by the East Midlands and the South West in terms of traffic increase; the overall volume of motor transportation is, however, still relatively low in both regions when compared to the South East.

Figure 17.4 Traffic Increase



Source: Department for Transport 2004/5

Analysis of the average daily traffic flow for the region illustrates that it is significantly higher in terms of all roads, motorway, rural major roads and both rural and urban minor roads use; only major urban roads have less traffic flow in the region than the national average.

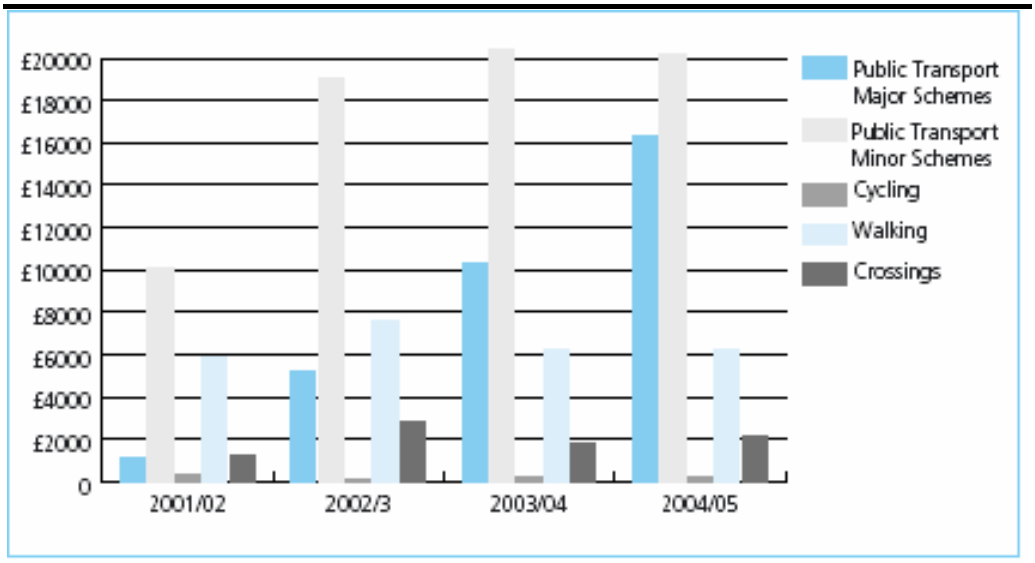
Table 17.2 Average Daily Traffic Flow

		Thousand vehicles per kilometre per day	
		South East	England
Motorway		91.0	78.0
Major roads			
	Rural[2]	17.9	13.7
	Urban	19.5	20.7
Minor roads			
	Rural[2]	1.4	1.0
	Urban	2.5	2.4
All roads		4.9	3.9

Source: Department of Transport 2004

Investment in public transport within the region has risen in terms of major schemes and continued to be high in relation minor schemes. Cycling route investment continues to attract little investment and walking paths/footpaths have had relatively little investment, when contrasted to major and minor public transport schemes. Given the heavy car use in the region, investment in public transport will be required to assist in encouraging people to switch from private transport options when travelling to work, in particular.

Figure 17.5 Investment in Public Transport



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B17.4 FREIGHT TRAFFIC

B17.4.1 Road Freight

The data on freight movement by road illustrates that the South East is amongst the top destinations for freight amongst the UK; approximately 201 million tonnes of freight was transported by road into the region in 2004. The region was also a large exporter of freight to the rest of the UK; approximately 194 million tonnes of freight was transported by road out of the region.

Figure 17.6 Freight by Road

Table 25: Goods lifted by origin and destination Government Office Regions[1] of goods: 2004

Million tonnes

	Destination											
Origin	North East	North West	Yorkshire & the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	All regions[2]
North East	56	4	8	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	76
North West	4	139	13	8	11	4	1	3	2	6	7	200
Yorkshire & the Humber	6	19	152	18	7	6	1	3	2	2	3	220
East Midlands	2	12	16	87	21	15	4	9	3	2	2	172
West Midlands	2	11	6	14	105	7	3	6	6	7	1	168
East of England	1	4	5	13	7	126	17	18	4	2	1	197
London	0	1	1	3	2	13	64	15	2	0	0	101
South East	1	3	3	7	5	14	19	131	9	2	1	194
South West	0	2	1	3	5	2	2	13	122	5	0	157
Wales	0	8	2	1	6	1	0	3	5	59	0	86
Scotland	2	6	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	158	173
All regions[2]	74	209	208	157	172	189	113	201	157	86	176	1,744

Source: Department for Transport 2004/2005

The significant transportation of freight by road in and out of the region adds to the region's traffic flow, whilst also contributing to the region's emissions levels.

Table 17.3 Sea Freight Travel

	2001			2002		
Region	Inwards	Outwards	All	Inwards	Outwards	All
North East	20,772	34,967	55,739	18,919	36,302	55,221
North West	29,665	15,298	44,963	29,423	13,911	43,334
Yorkshire & the Humber	58,103	20,386	78,489	59,241	20,485	79,726
East Midlands	1,239	348	1,587	1,088	347	1,434
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-	-
East[1]	51,118	20,563	71,681	50,354	19,478	69,832
London[1]	7,629	1,117	8,746	7,289	1,052	8,341
South East[1]	**61,072**	**25,401**	**86,473**	**61,855**	**25,133**	**86,988**
South West	14,011	4,955	18,966	12,729	5,182	17,911
England	243,609	123,036	366,645	240,897	121,889	362,786
Wales	36,584	18,150	54,734	32,478	19,542	52,020
Scotland	33,741	90,079	123,820	32,717	89,439	122,156
Great Britain	313,934	231,265	545,199	306,092	230,870	536,962

Source: Department for Transport 2005

Sea freight travel for the region was the highest of all the English regions, significantly larger than any other region, reflecting the region's geographical location.

B17.5 ISSUES

The heavy reliance upon car use and the rising levels of traffic flows in the region with a challenge to change the transport habits of the population. Whilst there continues to be investment in public transport schemes, the level of public transport use remains very low. Given the region's commitment to reducing its ecological footprint and to addressing the threat of climate change, changing the population's use of short and long trips by car will be a key issue.

B18 OBJECTIVE 16 - TO REDUCE THE GLOBAL SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF CONSUMPTION OF RESOURCES BY USING SUSTAINABLY PRODUCED AND LOCAL PRODUCTS

B18.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Ecological footprint

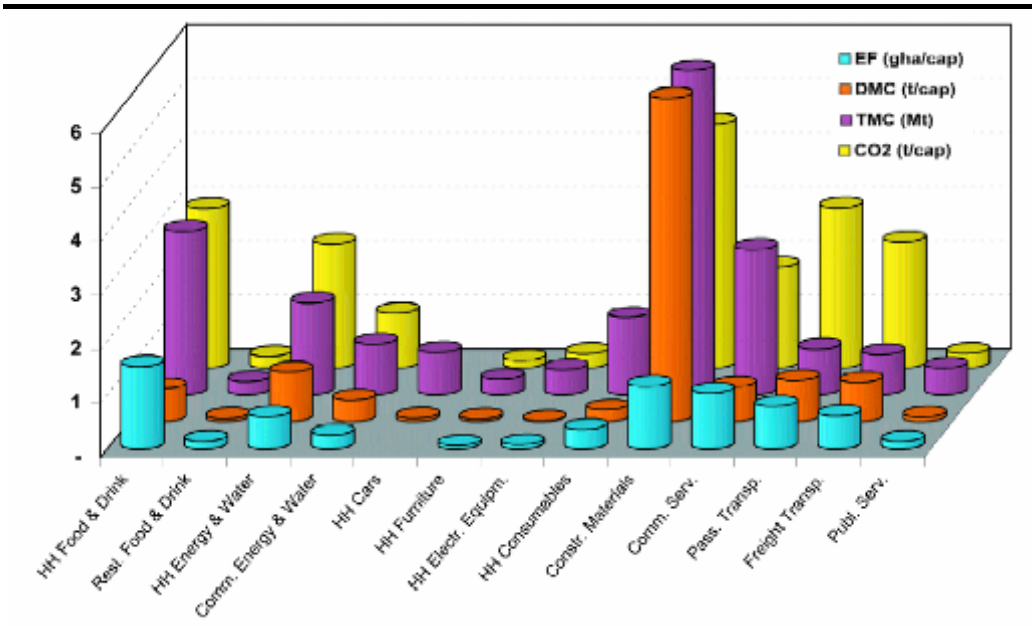
B18.2 ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

A recent study entitled 'Taking Stock' set out to analyse the material and resource flows of the residents of the South East.

According to the study, Direct Material Consumption (DMC, the total amount of materials directly used in the regional economy and consumed in the region, i.e. excluding exports) for the South East region in 2000 was 88 million tonnes, which equates to 11 tonnes per person. Total Material Consumption (the total material use associated with the regional consumption activities, including DMC and the indirect or 'hidden' material flows associated with it) was 211 million tonnes, or 26 tonnes per person, 2.5 times the direct material input to the regional economy. The direct outflow of materials in solid waste form amounted to 36.8 million tonnes in 2000, 25 million tonnes of which goes into the waste management system.

Figure 18.1 sets out the relative impacts of different sectors within the region. According to the report, the construction sector has the biggest impact in terms of direct materials consumed, total materials consumed and CO_2 emissions. The material requirements of this sector are clearly large at 100 million tonnes (Mt) out of 211 Mt total materials consumed. But energy consumption of building activities is also high and the ecological footprint of the construction sector is the second highest apart from food consumption at 1.17 gha per person.

Figure 18.1 Ecological Footprint of Key Sectors



Source: 'Taking Stock'

The ecological footprint (EF) from all consumption-related activity in the South East in 2000 shows a total of 55 million global hectares (gha). This equates to 6.8 global hectares per person. (Built-up areas, gardens etc account for another 0.1 gha per person). This total EF is 29 times the physical land area of the region. By comparing this with the available global capacity mentioned earlier of 1.9 gha per person, we can see that if all the world's population were to live like the average South East England resident we would need three and a half planets.

Total CO_2 emissions within the region are 58 million tonnes per year, about half of which comes from private transport and home heating. Total CO_2 emissions due to consumption by the region, however, are 158 million tonnes per year, or 20 tonnes per person. These are the emissions involved in delivering the level of affluence of the SE region. This shows around 3 times as much CO_2 involved in 'consumption' with impacts spread around the world, as in 'production' within the region.

B19 OBJECTIVE 17 - TO REDUCE WASTE GENERATION AND DISPOSAL, AND ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE

B19.1 DATA

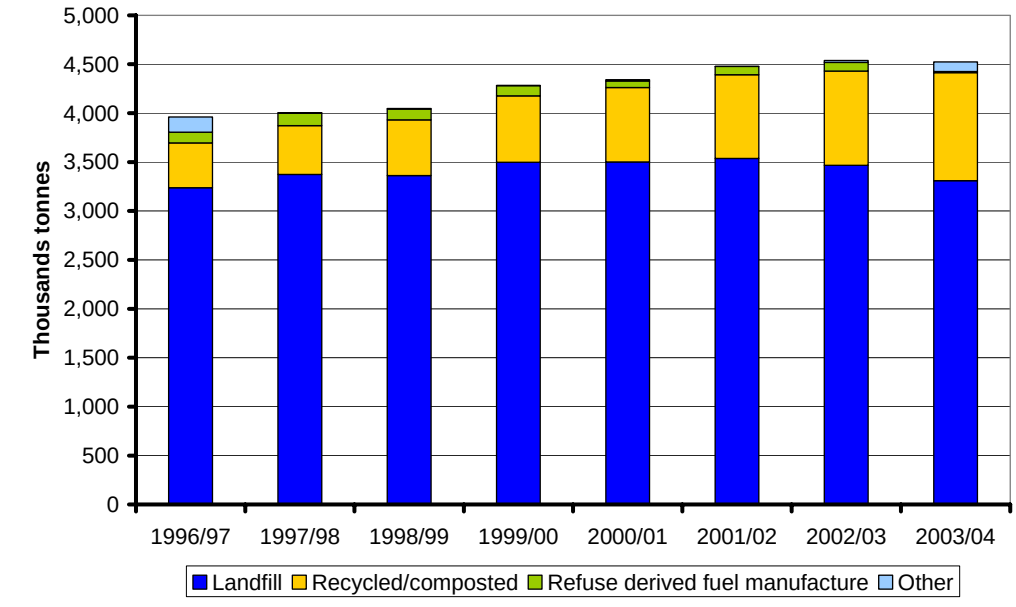
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Total municipal waste
- Waste arisings by source
- Local Authority waste management
- Local authority recycling/composting rates

B19.2 TOTAL MUNICIPAL WASTE

The data for municipal waste generation and disposal in the region, highlights that relative to 1996/1997, waste generation is still high though it would appear to have levelled off in the past three years. Disposal options have, however, changed slightly with marginally less waste going straight to landfill in 2003/2004, relative to previous years, and more being diverted into recycling and composting activity.

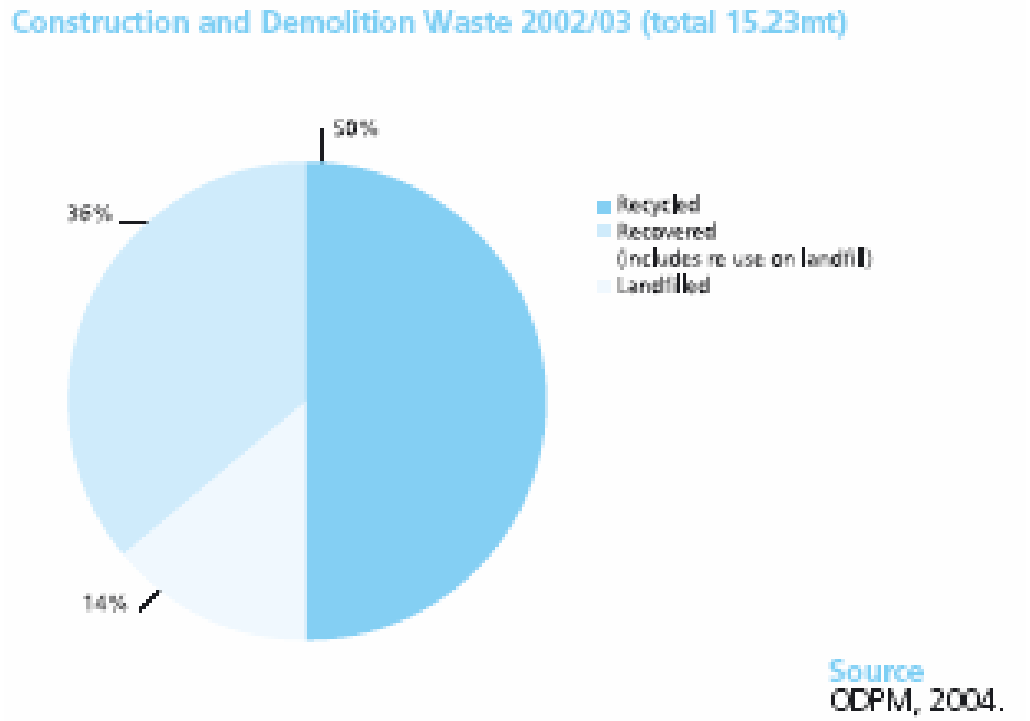
Figure 19.1 Municipal Waste Arisings and Disposal Routes



Source: Environment Agency 2005

Data on waste disposal from construction arisings demonstrate the much greater recycling activity that is being undertaken within this sector. Approximately half of all such waste is being recycled, with only 15% going to landfill.

Figure 19.2 *Waste Arisings: Construction*

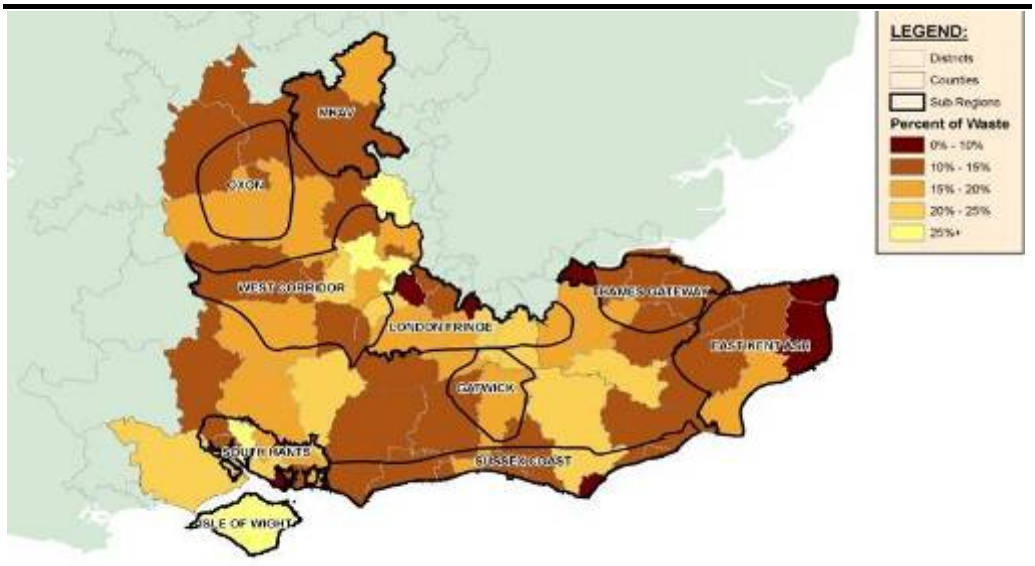


Source: ODPM 2004

B19.3 *LOCAL AUTHORITY RECYCLING/COMPOSTING*

Figure 19.3 below presents local authority recycling/composting rates within the region. As can be seen from the map, there is significant variation in rates achieved varying from 5.9% in Runnymede to 30.6% on the Isle of Wight. Across the region as a whole, 19% of Municipal Solid Waste was recycled in 2002, and the region now has the highest rate of all English regions.

Figure 19.3 *Waste Management within the Region: Rates of Recycling*



Source: IDM

B19.4 ISSUES

Whilst it is positive that greater recycling activity is being undertaken in terms of waste, it is important to ensure that this is not undermined by increasing waste generation from both municipal and industrial sources.

Municipal waste disposal continues to offer significant scope for greater recycling activity and efforts aimed at targeting this have the potential to offer considerable gains; this will, however, involve both providing the necessary recycling infrastructure as well as arguably the more problematic challenge of changing established behavioural patterns.

B20 OBJECTIVE 18 - TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF THE REGION'S RIVERS AND COASTS, AND TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

B20.1 DATA

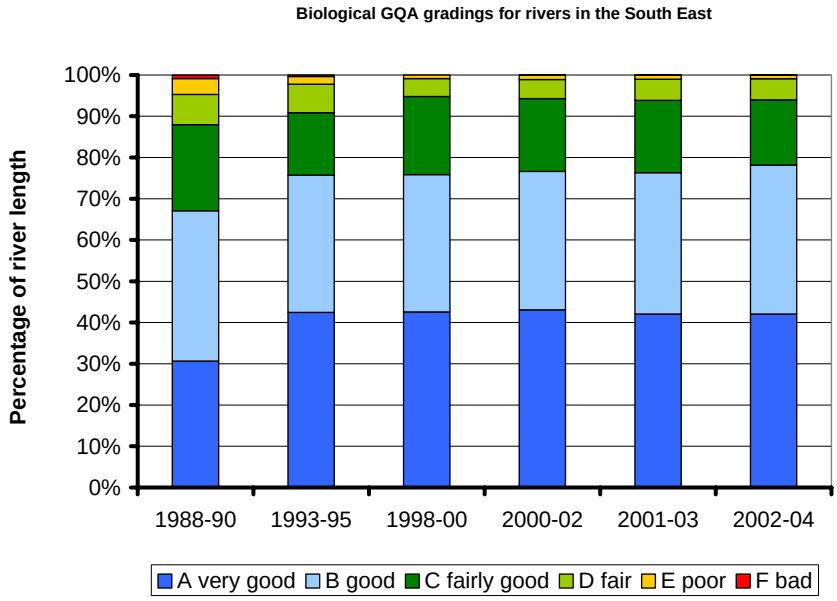
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Water quality -Biological and chemical river quality
- River Length Compliant with River Quality Objective
- Pollutants and incidents of river pollution
- Compliance with the EC Bathing Water Directive
- Water resource management and key issues
- Groundwater

B20.2 WATER QUALITY

Two key aspects of water quality are assessed to determine the state of river quality, that of the biological and chemical quality of the river. The data on biological river quality illustrates the improvement in such quality during the period 1988-2004. Whilst the number of rivers ranked 'A' or 'B', very good or good, has remained roughly the same for the past few years, rivers ranked Grade E or 'poor', have decreased, indicating a general upward harmonisation of river quality standard.

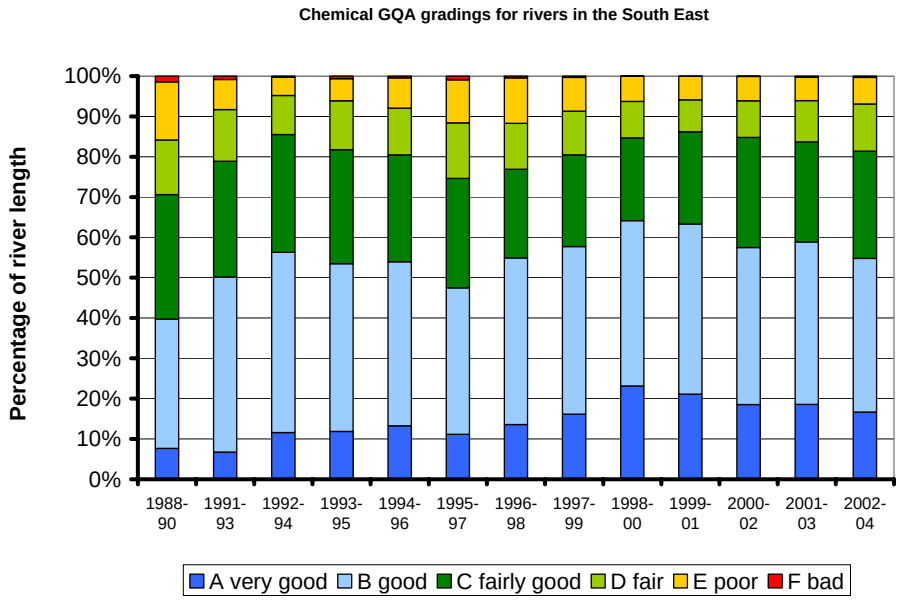
Figure 20.1 Biological River Quality in the South East



Source: Environment Agency

N.B. % length in each assessment class. Only designated river stretches have been assessed.

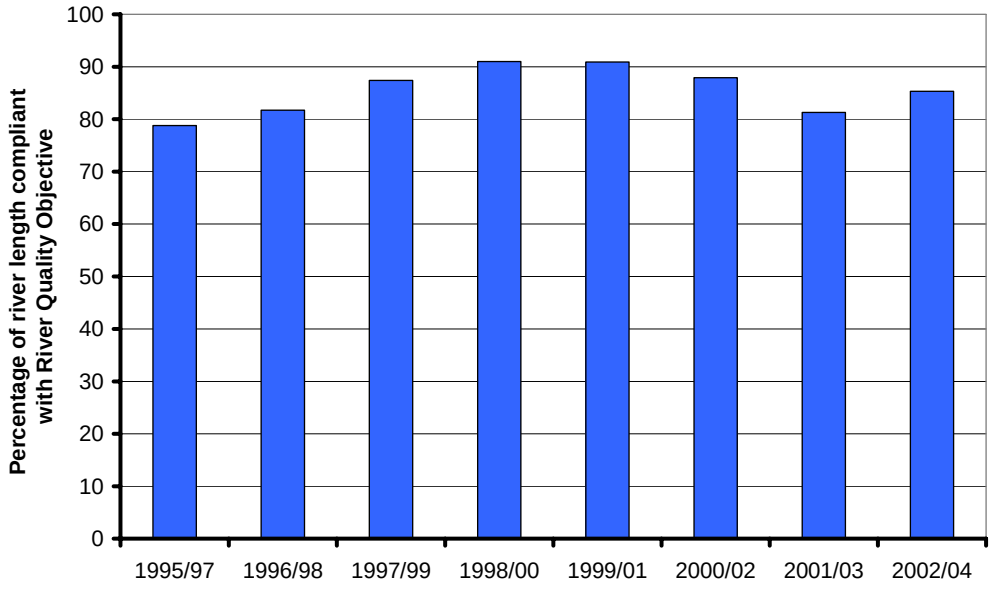
Figure 20.2 Chemical River Quality in the South East



Source: Environment Agency 2005
N.B. Only designated river stretches have been assessed.

Data on chemical river quality indicates some fluctuation in terms of percentage composition for each Grade over the course of 1988-2004 but there appears to be some stabilisation during the course of the past four years. Unlike biological water quality, there remains a constant section of the region's rivers (approximately 6/7%) which are graded as 'poor', indicating the scope for improvement in this context.

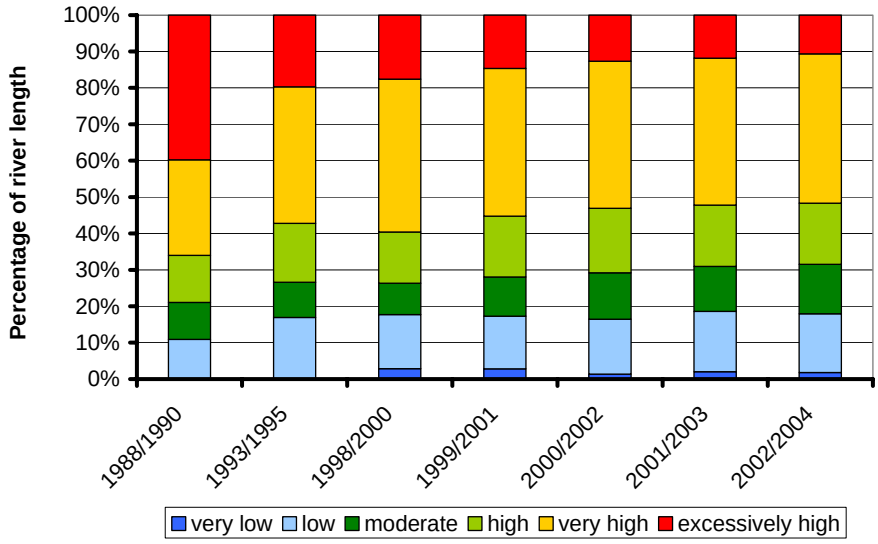
Figure 20.3 River Length Compliant with River Quality Objective



Source: Environment Agency 2005

Data on river length compliance with the River Quality objective, illustrates the variability characteristic of chemical water quality in the region's rivers. Over 90% of rivers in the region were compliant in 1998-2000, this then dropping to approximately 85% in 2002-2004.

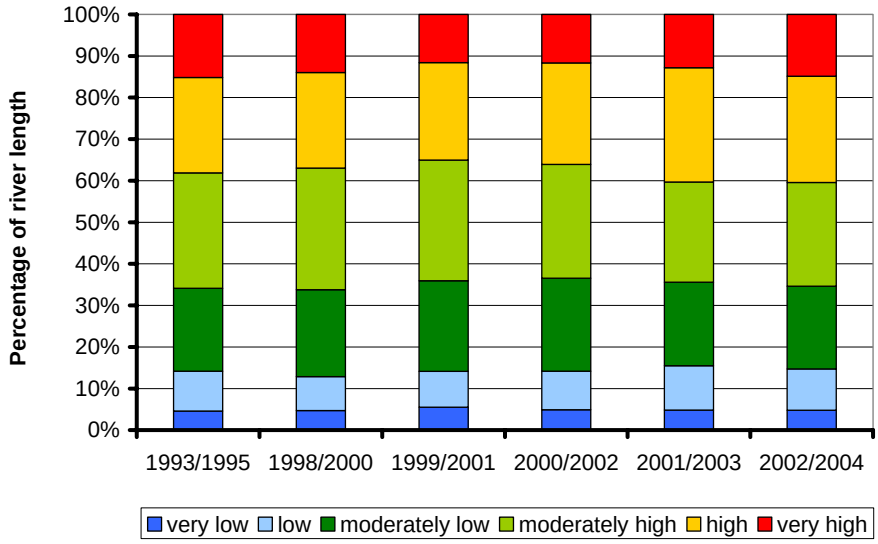
Figure 20.4 Phosphate GQA Chart



Source: Environment Agency 2005

Two key pollutants, phosphate and nitrates, are monitored in terms of their levels in river waters; these being two key indicators of river contamination from polluting activities such as agricultural run off. The level of excessively high phosphate pollution has dropped since 1993 though a persistent 40% of rivers remain polluted with very high levels of phosphate and a nominal percentage of the region's rivers benefit from very low levels.

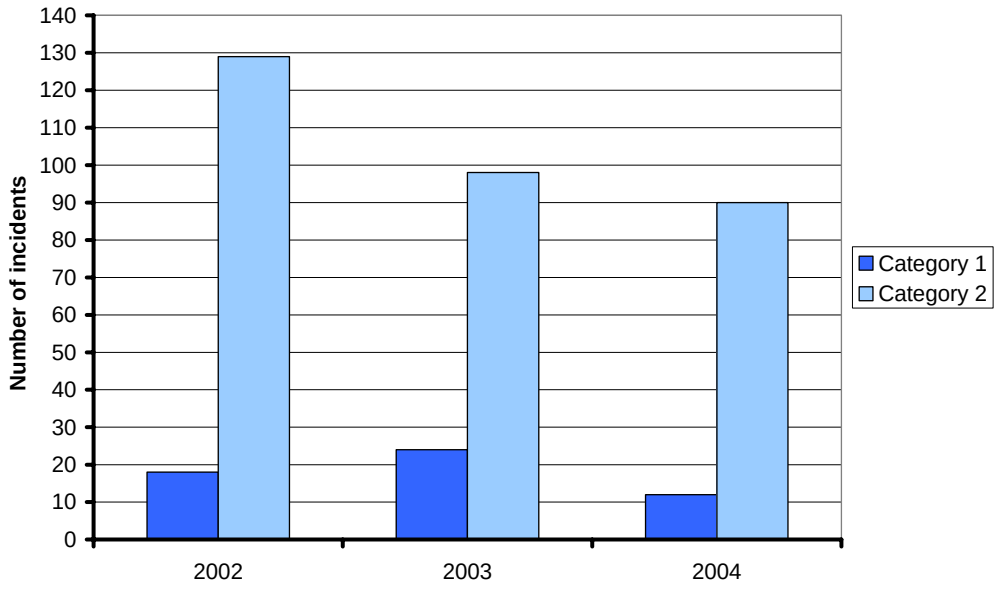
Figure 20.5 Nitrate GQA Chart



Source: Environment Agency 2005

The data on nitrate pollution indicates that the region's rivers similarly suffer from high levels of nitrate pollution, ranked 'very high', 'high' or 'moderately high'. Just over 10% of the region's rivers benefit from low or very low levels of nitrate levels; this again highlighting the scope for action to reduce such pollution.

Figure 20.6 Incidents of River Pollution



Source: Environment Agency 2005

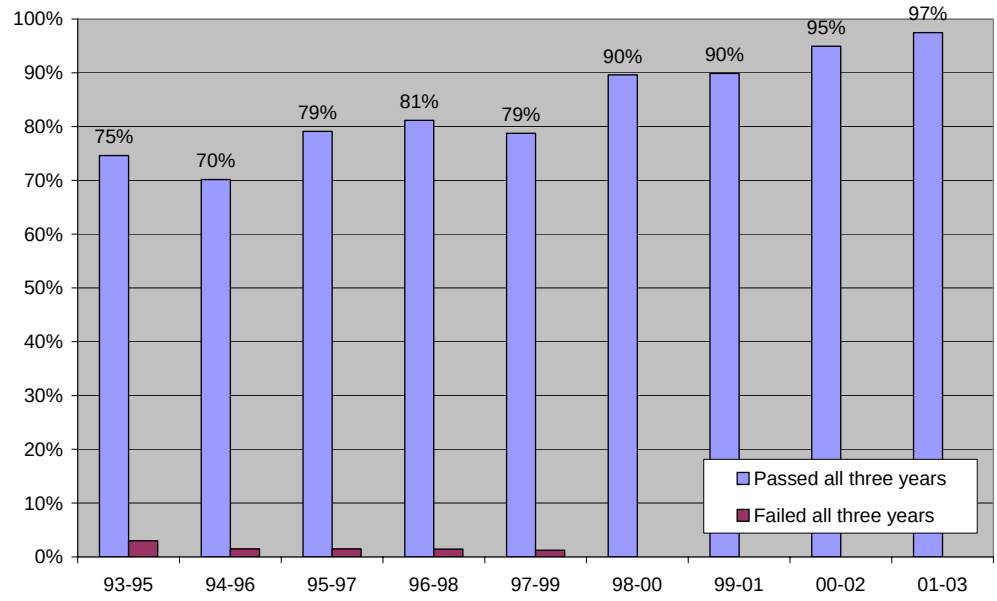
The overall picture of river pollution incidents is reassuring for its depiction of a reduction in incidents of either Category 1 or 2 severity. Category 2 incidents

remain comparatively higher but have nonetheless decreased during the course of the past two years.

B20.3 BATHING WATER QUALITY

Analysing bathing water quality in the region, the data illustrates the gradual improvement in such quality with 97% of all designated bathing waters now complying with mandatory standards.

Figure 20.7 Compliance with EC Bathing Water Directive in the South East
(Percentage of bathing waters complying)

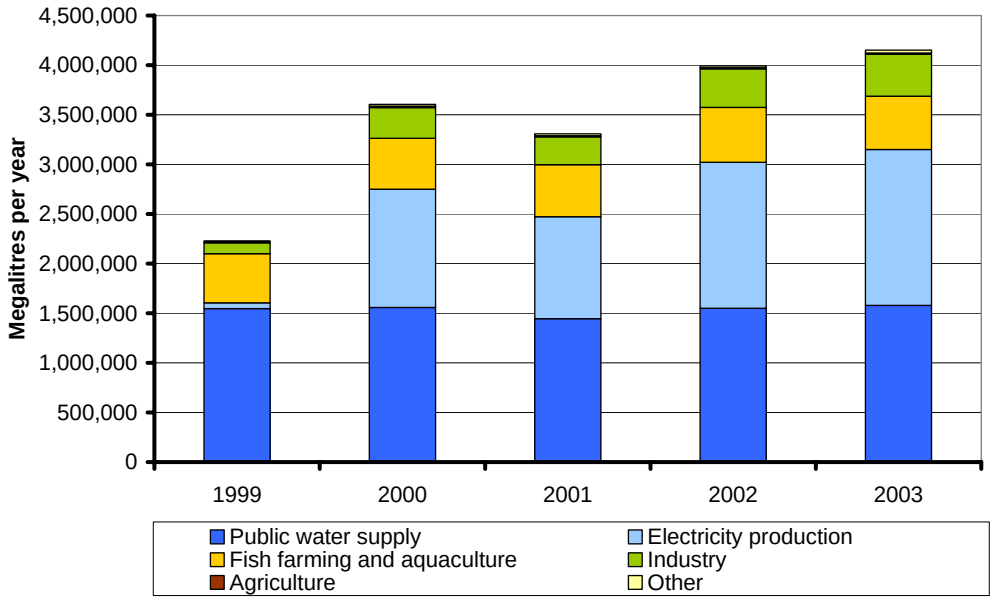


Source: Environment Agency 2005

B20.4 WATER CONSUMPTION

Overall water consumption has risen during 2002-2003 with total water consumption edging over the 4,000,000 megalitre level in 2003. Public water consumption has risen slightly, the largest increase in consumption has been for electricity production which has risen significantly since 1999.

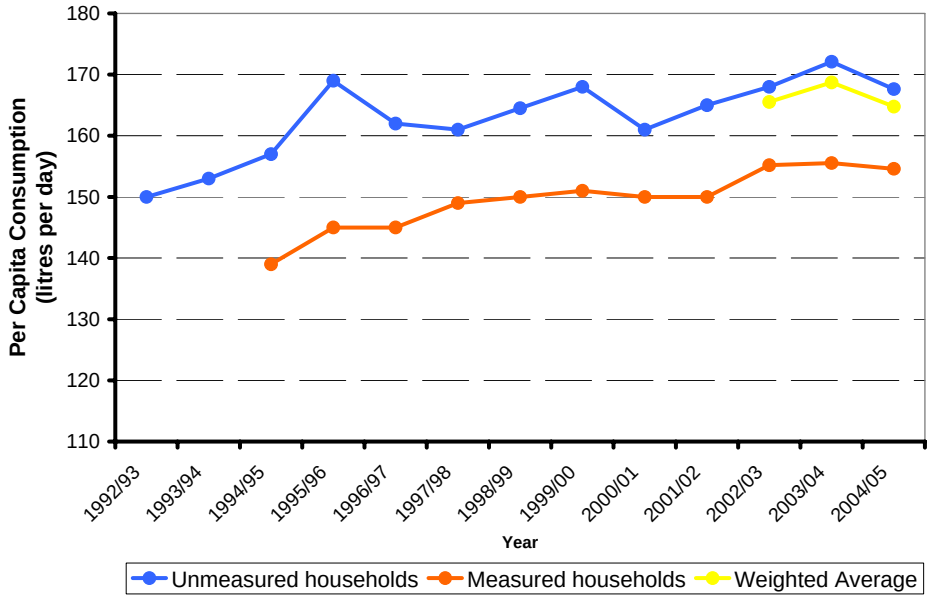
Figure 20.8 Water Consumption by User



Source: Environment Agency 2005

Domestic per capita consumption (PCC) has steadily increased year on year since 1992/1993; with slight exceptions around 2000/2001 and 2004/2005. The South East's PCC is at an all time high. Of note is the fact that water consumption in metered households is significantly less than in unmetered homes, highlighting the water conservation benefits which meters would appear to bring.

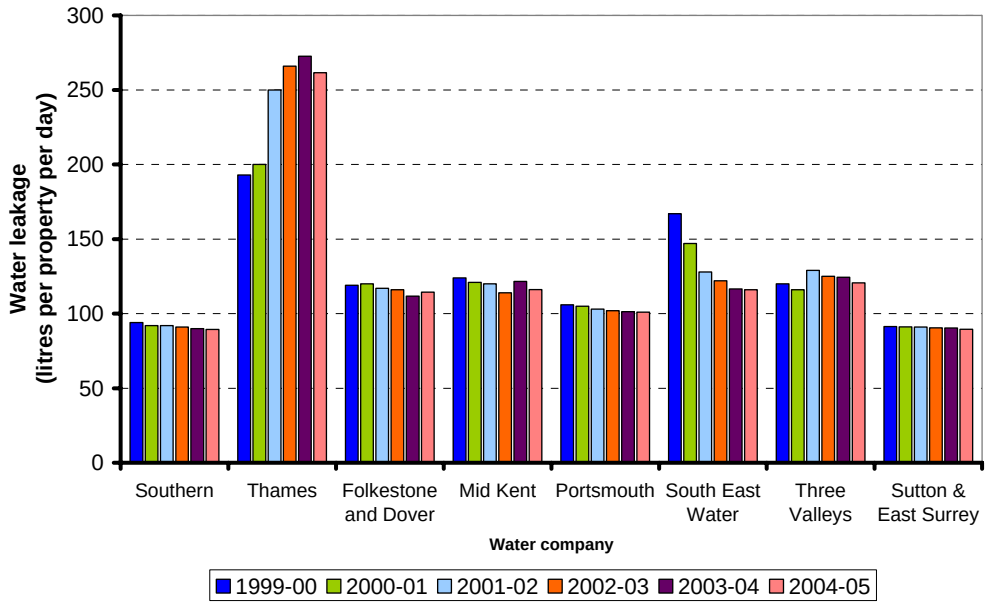
Figure 20.9 Per Capita Consumption



Source: Environment Agency 2005

Analysing water leakage rates across the region illustrates that across most areas there has been a general stabilisation in leakages. Of note, however, is the Thames region within which leakages are significantly higher than anywhere else within the region. Whilst the water companies are investing in improving the old and struggling water infrastructure, leakages remain an issue of concern , particularly given escalating water demand in the region.

Figure 20.10 Water Leakage

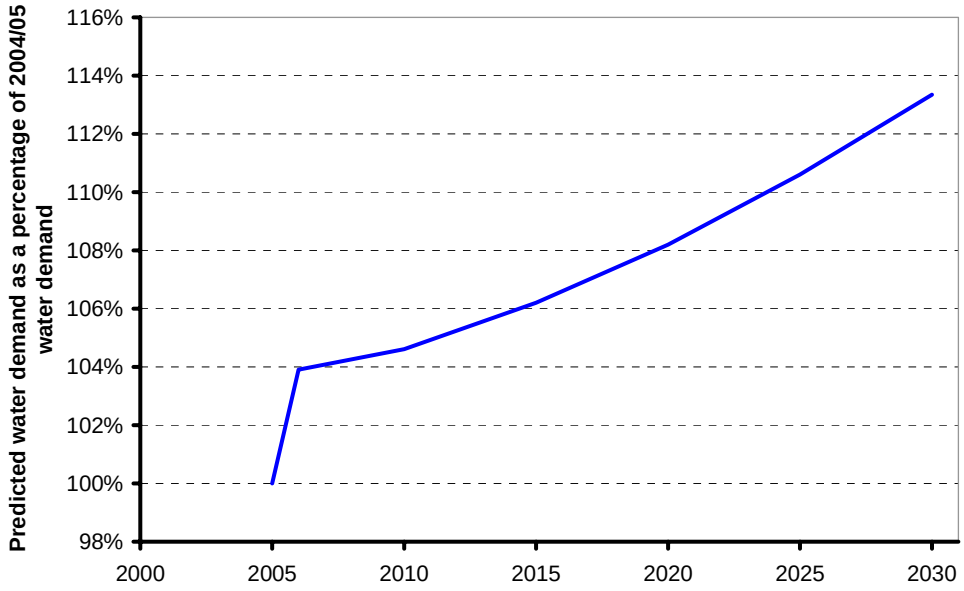


Source: Environment Agency 2005

B20.5 WATER DEMAND

The escalating trend for water consumption noted in the historic context, is predicted to continue during the next two decades with water demand soaring to just under 114% of current water demand.

Figure 20.11 Water Demand



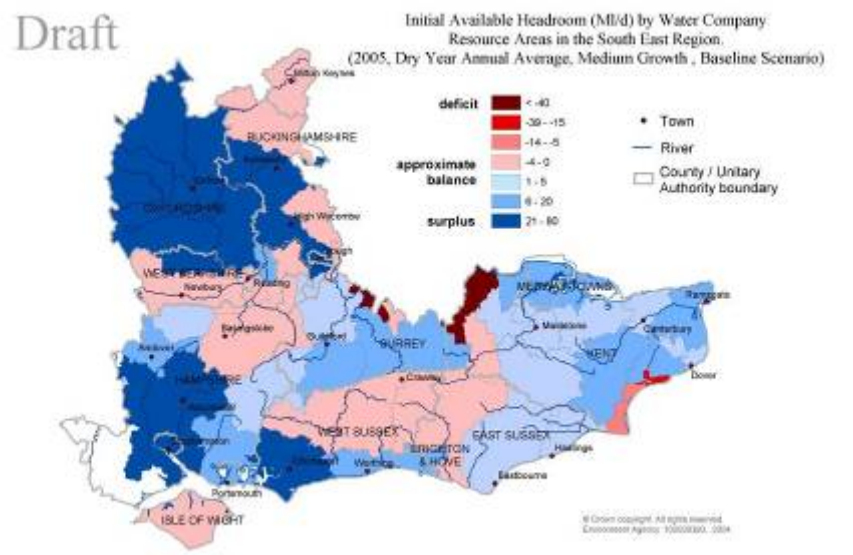
Source: Environment Agency 2005

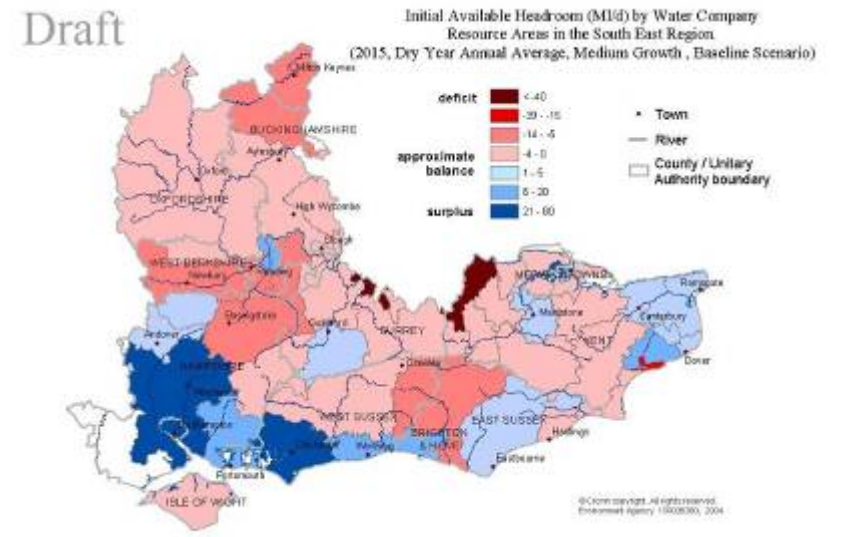
B20.6 WATER SUPPLY

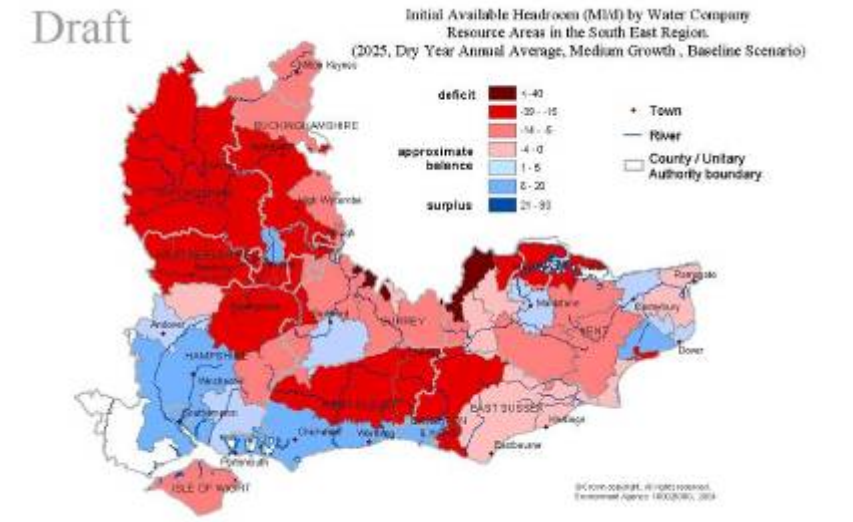
Water resource modelling has been undertaken to identify areas of the region (water resource zones) where there could be surplus or deficit of public water supply 'headroom' (in simple terms, the difference between water available for use and demand at a given time) under different scenarios. The target headroom of water company plans allows for a margin of error to encompass uncertainties of forecasting.

Figure 20.12 shows modelled maps for 2005, 2015 and 2025, where housing development rates from the RSS are delivered with no new water efficiency measures and no development of new water capacity. The 2005 map shows that, while some areas currently have a surplus of supply (eg Oxfordshire, parts of Hampshire), some parts of the region are already in deficit, in particular in the parts of North West Kent which border on London. However, 2025, at current rates of development, most of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Surrey, East and West Sussex and Kent will be in deficit.

Figure 20.12 Water Resources, 2005, 2015 and 2025







N.B It should be noted that these maps are forecasts for a dry year.
Source: Environment Agency 2004

B20.7 GROUNDWATER

Groundwater quality is a key indicator of the state of the region's water quality and integral to its delivery of sustainable water resource management.

There are currently many pressures impacting upon groundwater resources and quality, the most critical of which is the supply of public drinking water for the region; approximately 70% of the regional supply is sourced from groundwater. In addition, private water supplies are often sourced from groundwater. The source of this water provision is typically chalk and lower greensand acquifers which are vulnerable to contamination; this is exacerbated by thin soil cover which enables little attenuation can occur.

A range of activities can impact negatively upon ground water quality, including: land contamination, industrial activity, hydrocarbon storage, diffuse pollution from agricultural activities, liquid and solid effluent application and disposal, development infrastructure, mineral extraction and over abstraction. Protection of groundwater supplies from these sources of contamination is particularly important, given that groundwater is such a key provider of domestic water supplies in the region.

Requirements under the Water Framework Directive will also demand groundwater quality monitoring and potential land use changes to halt and reverse the deterioration in groundwater quality.

B20.8 ISSUES

Groundwater supply is of critical importance in the provision of domestic water supplies for the region. Given the current and predicted continuing increase in demand for such water supply, it is important that the quality and quantity of such provision if maintained. The issue of increasing water supply is also one which must be considered in light of proposed new developments and the South East Plan outlines how careful planning is required to ensure regional water supply and demand is careful regulated.

B21 OBJECTIVE 19 - TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND THE PROPORTION OF ENERGY GENERATED FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES IN THE REGION

B21.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Energy consumption by user
- Renewable energy capacity
- Renewable and sustainable energy developments

B21.2 ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Whilst there have been some fluctuations in energy consumption by user, the overall trend has been one of an increase in the quantity of oil used during the course of 1980-2003 but a slight drop in overall consumption in 2003, relative to 2001. The key users of this energy have been the domestic and transport sectors, though industry and the services sectors are also important. The transport sector represents the single largest energy consumer.

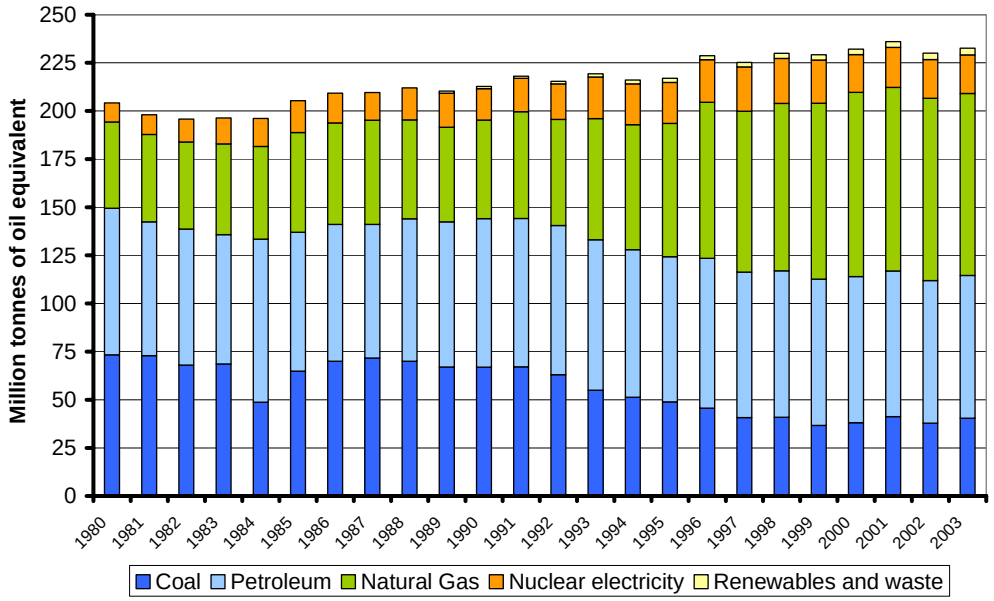
Figure 21.1 Energy Consumption by User

Source: Department of Trade and Industry, Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2004; Cambridge Econometrics

The data on consumption of fuels outlines what the key sources of this energy consumption are, demonstrating the increasing importance of natural gas to meeting energy demand in the UK. Nuclear electricity remains a relatively stable but small source of energy provision whilst coal continues to decline. Of note is the continuing small contribution which renewables make to overall

energy provision, highlighting the potential for significant expansion in this context.

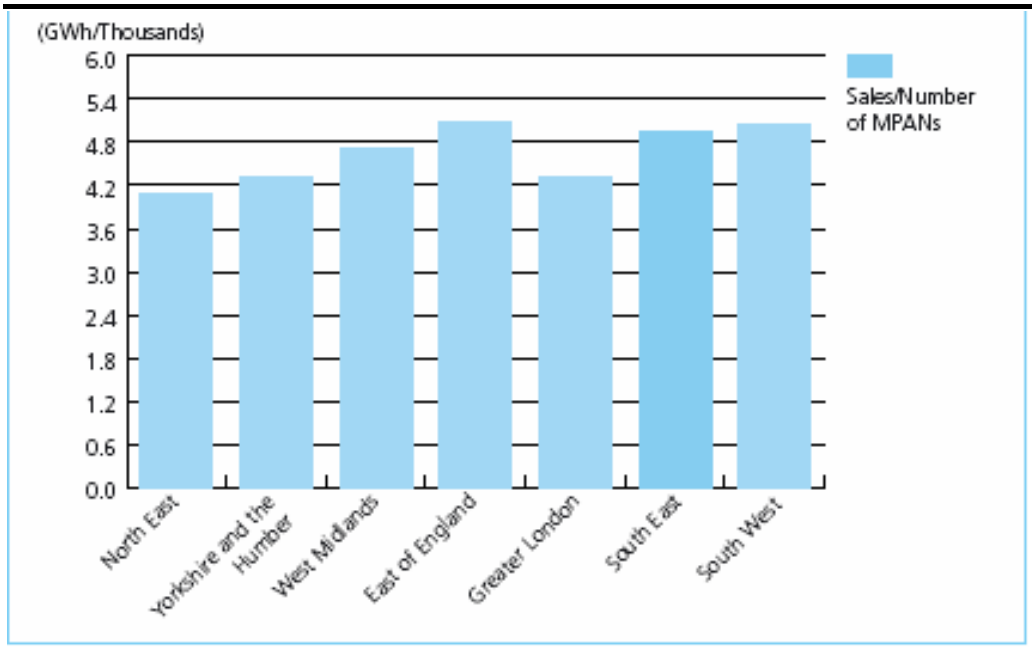
Figure 21.2 Consumption of Fuels



Source: Department of Trade and Industry, Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2004.

Electricity consumption by households in the region remains high relative to most regions; though not as high as that of the South West or East of England.

Figure 21.3 Electricity Consumption by Household

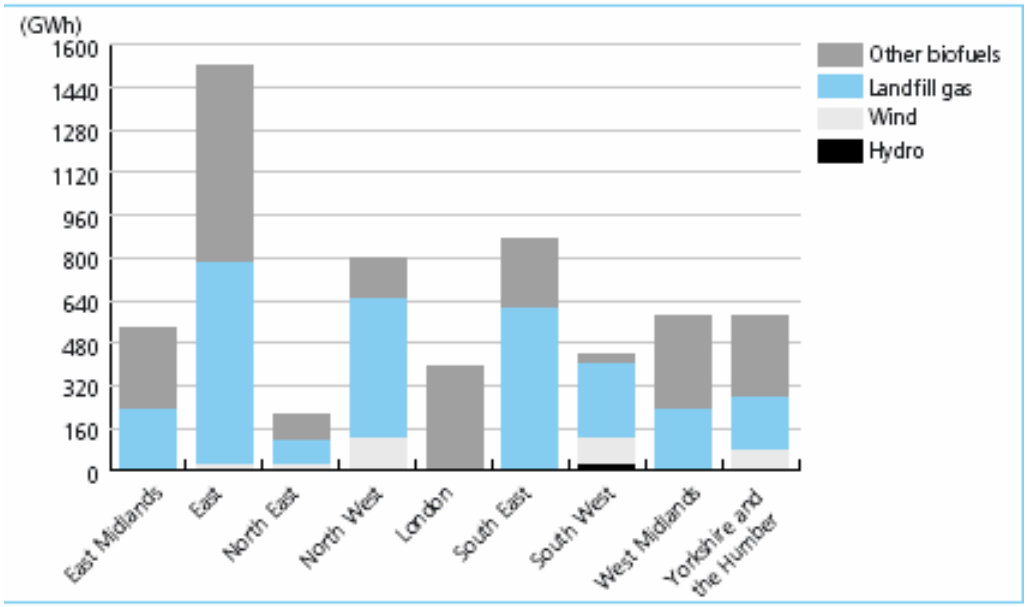


Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

Analysing the source of such household electricity consumption, the South East is second only to the East of England for renewable energy provision for electricity consumption. The largest single source of such renewable energy is

from landfill gas, with other biofuels comprising the remaining significant renewable energy provider for the region.

Figure 21.4 Electricity Consumption from Renewable Energy Sources



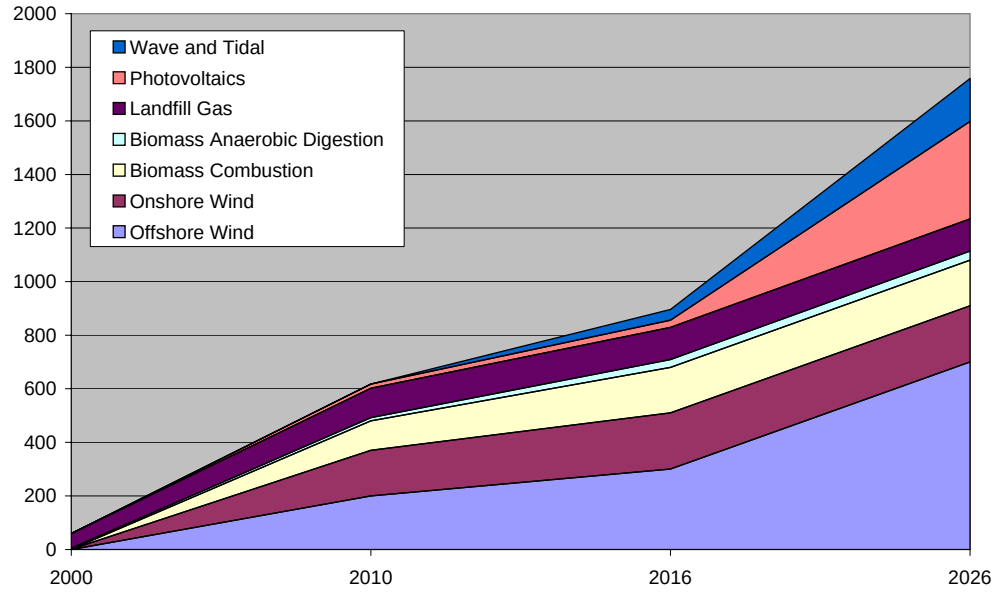
Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B21.3 RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY

In 2003, 0.65% of electricity in the South East was derived from renewable sources (compared to around 2.5% for the UK as a whole), amounting to a total of 73MW of installed capacity. Almost all of this total is derived from 'energy from waste', mostly landfill gas.

Renewable energy capacity is projected to increase significantly from its current low base, under targets that expect renewables to provide 16% of generation capacity by 2016.

Figure 21.5 Renewable Energy Targets for the South East (Installed Capacity, MW)



Source: South East Regional Assembly
N.B. X-Axes scale of above chart is slightly misrepresentative due to inconsistent date intervals

B21.4 CHP

Current CHP electrical capacity in the region, as of 2003, is 814MWe; this placing the region second in terms of a regional comparison of such provision. Generation of electricity from renewable sources was 870.4GWh; this also representing the second largest regional provider of electricity from this source (Source: Progress on Regional Implementation of the Energy White Paper, July 2005).

B21.5 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

There have been a number of new and important developments in the provision of renewable and sustainable energy provision within the region, as noted within the Government report on 'Progress on Regional Implementation of the Energy White Paper' published in July 2005:

- The region has now its first solely community owned wind cluster at Westhill Farm in Oxfordshire which was given provisional planning permission in February this year.

- A District Heating scheme for 3000 houses in Millbrook is being progressed by Southampton CC; this being done in association with a 49MW biomass power plant.

- SEEDA is in discussion with the London Array partners to maximise the benefit which can accrue from its predicted provision of 1GW of power from 270 wind turbines offshore.

- A two year Kent Renewables Programme began in January this year (2005) which will evaluate social housing stock for potential sustainable energy installations and support projects.

- The Kent Energy Centre is assisting householders with obtaining installations for vulnerable households and assisting with energy efficiency and fuel poverty alleviation measures.

B21.6 ISSUES

The region is striving to increase its provision of renewable energy as a source for electricity consumption and wider energy use. The data shows that there exists considerable scope across all the regions to increase renewable energy provision, the challenge being to provide sources which will be economical, whilst also encouraging consumers to diversify into such renewable sources as an alternative to their existing source of energy provision.

B22 OBJECTIVE 20 - TO ENSURE HIGH AND STABLE LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT SO EVERYONE CAN BENEFIT FROM THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE REGION

B22.1 DATA

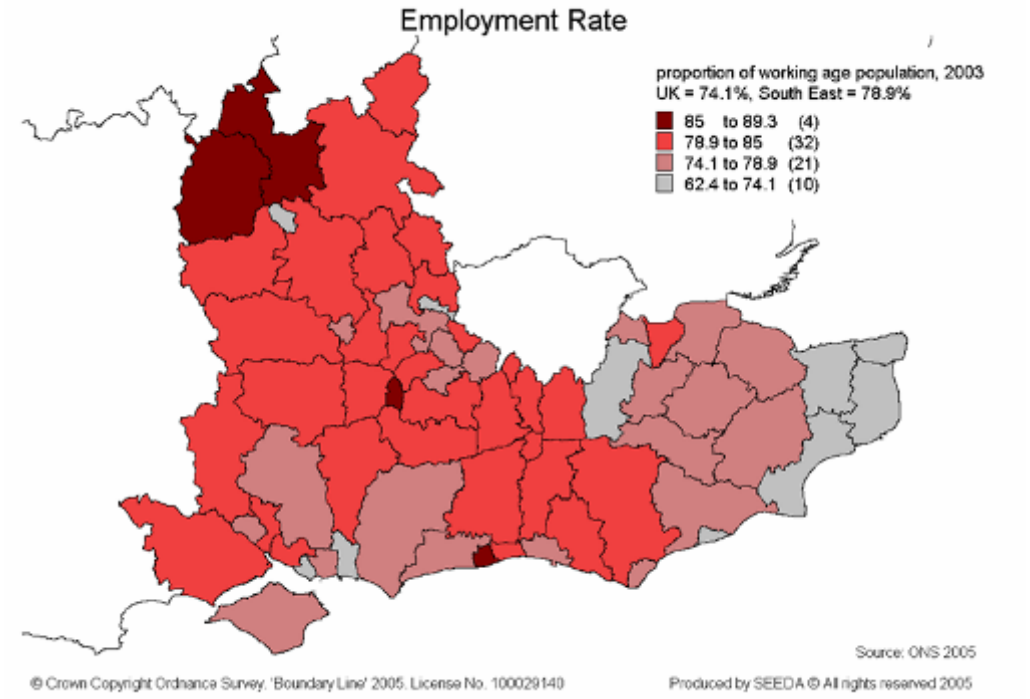
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Regional employment deprivation ranking
- Proportion of people of working age in employment
- Employment by sector
- Employment in manufacturing
- Employment inactivity
- Inactive and looking for jobs

B22.2 EMPLOYMENT DEPRIVATION

Much of the region enjoys relatively low levels of employment deprivation, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Relative to the rest of the South East, the Isle of Wight, the North Kent Coast and parts of East Kent suffer the worst employment deprivation.

Figure 22.1 ***IMD - Employment Rankings, 2004***

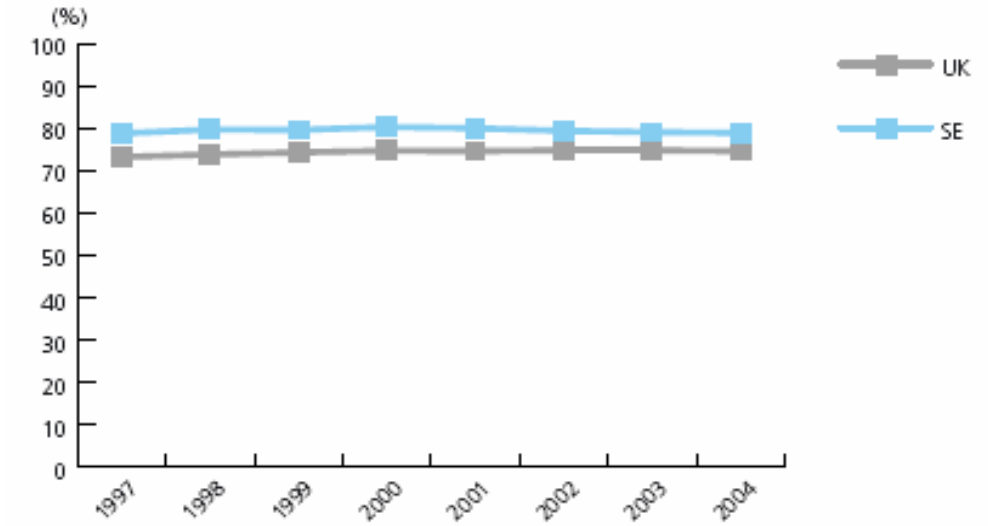


Source: ONS 2005

B22.2.1 Employment

Relative to other parts of the UK, the South East as a whole has the highest percentage of working age population in employment, taken as an average of local authority scores.

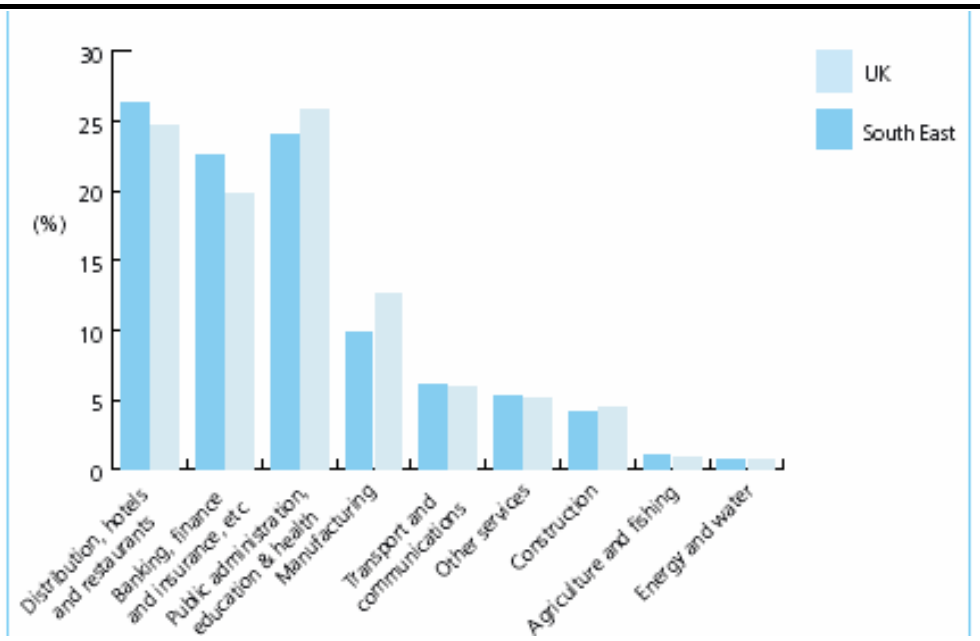
Figure 22.2 Proportion of people of working age in employment



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

Analysis of the key sectors for employment illustrates that distribution, hotels and restaurants constitutes the key employment base for the region; the second largest sector is that of public administration, education and health.

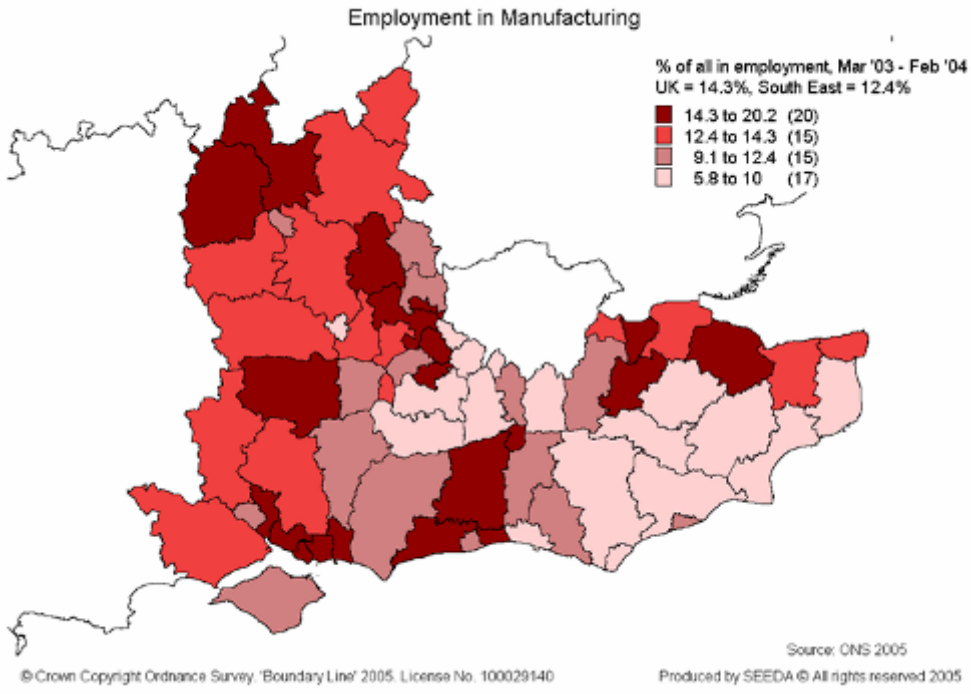
Figure 22.3 Employment By Sector



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

Employment in manufacturing within the region is lower than the UK average and is predicted to continue to decline within the region. There remain, nonetheless, pockets of relatively high manufacturing employment as the map below, highlights.

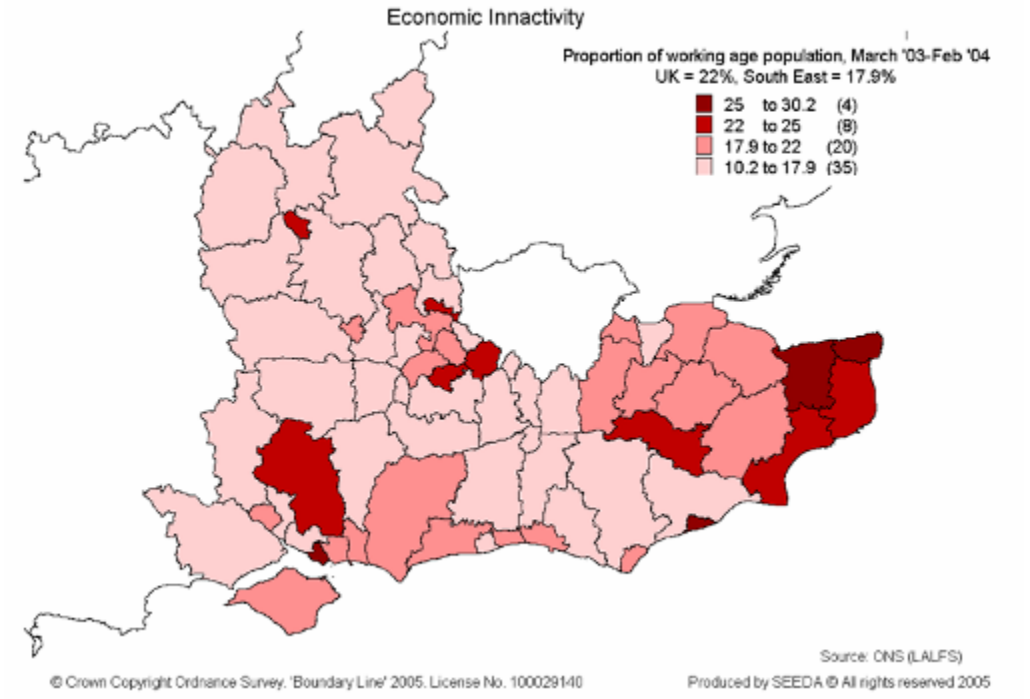
Figure 22.4 Employment in Manufacturing



Source: ONS 2005

Whilst the region benefits from overall high levels of employment, there remain approximately 820,000 people of working age who are economically inactive. Mapping this economic inactivity, it is apparent that the largest clusters of such inactivity are located in East Kent and Ashford, though pockets exist elsewhere in the region.

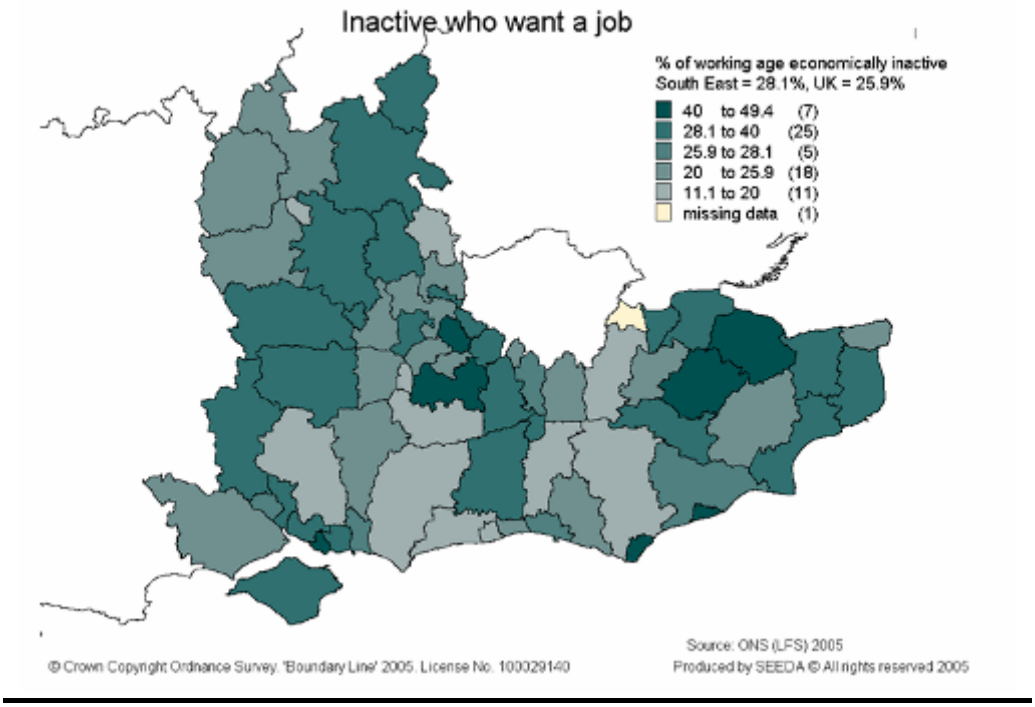
Figure 22.5 Economic inactivity



Source: ONS 2005

There are many reasons why people remain economically inactive. In the South East, the primary reason is that of 'looking after the family', which accounts for approximately 35% of all those economically inactive. The second largest inactive group is that of students, at 160,500 people, followed by the long term sick and the disabled (160,000) and the retired (75,000).

Figure 22.6 Inactive population who want jobs



Source: ONS 2005

Whilst a large section of the economically inactive are not seeking employment for the reasons noted above, there remain those who are attempting to gain employment. Mapping this section of the region's population, it is apparent that the highest levels of potential take-up are located in the North and South East, in areas such as East Kent and Ashford.

B22.3 ISSUES

Addressing the causes of economic activity will be important to delivering this objective and to addressing inter-related objectives such as improving health and well being and skills. Whilst employment is high, the challenge will be to retain this employment base despite predicted changes in employment sectors such as manufacturing.

B23 OBJECTIVE 21 - TO SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS ACROSS THE REGION

B23.1 DATA

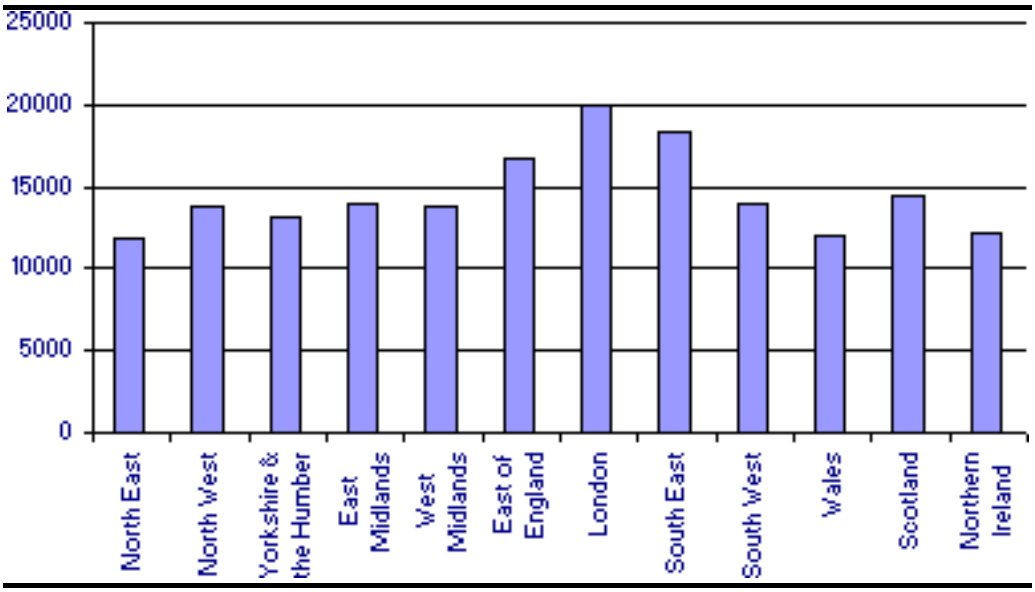
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- GVA per head
- Labour productivity – sectoral output and output per hour worked
- Business start-ups
- Business density
- Relationship between economic inactivity and business/job density
- Business start up rates
- New business survival rates

B23.2 GVA PER HEAD

In 2002, GVA (the total net product measured at market prices) per head for the South East was approaching £18,000, second only to London among UK regions.

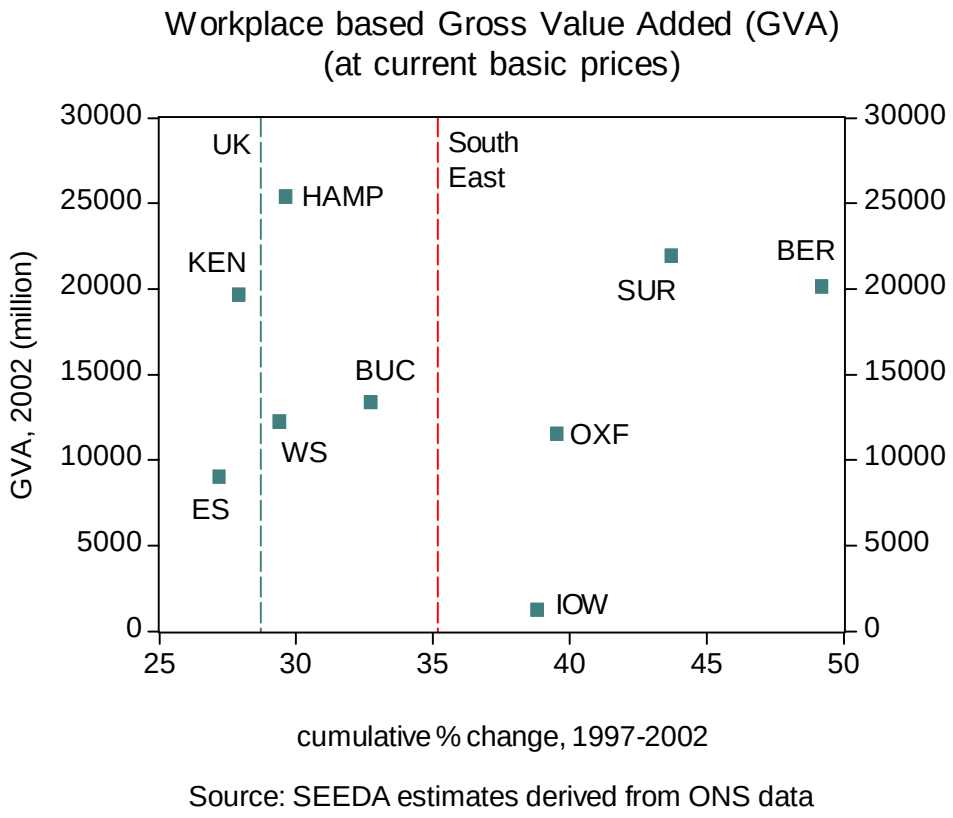
Figure 23.1 Regional Comparison of GVA per Head of Population



Source: ONS 2004

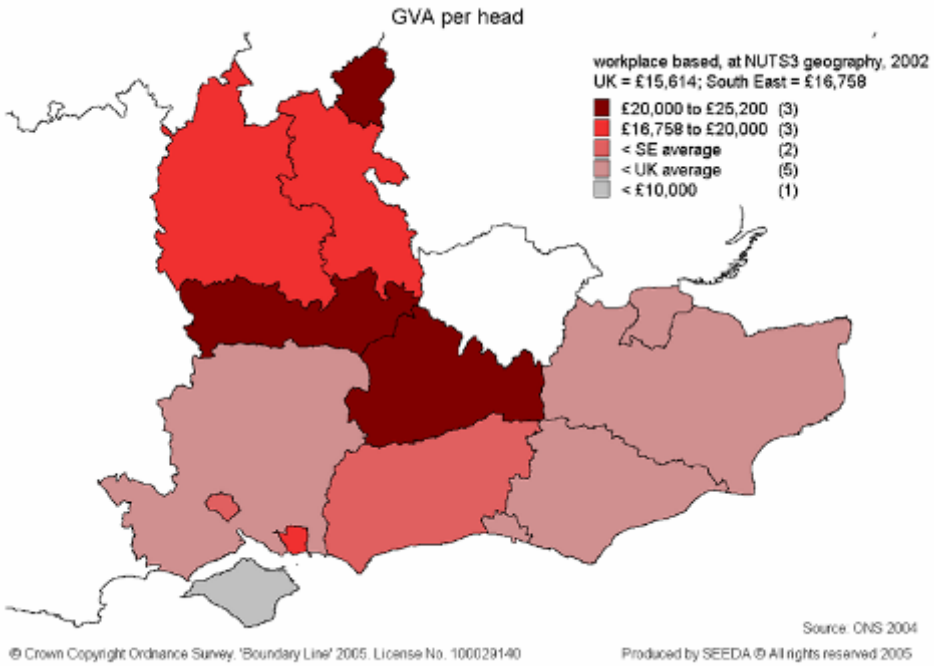
Within the region, however, these are significant variations both in GVA per head and in GVA growth rates in recent years. Figure 23.1 below shows that GVA per head in Berkshire has grown by almost 68% over the period 1995-2001, and is now more than double that for the Isle of Wight, Medway and East Sussex.

Figure 23.2 *Gross Value Added, average in the South East, and by local authority (£ per head, 1997 and 2002)*



Source: SEEDA/ONS

Figure 23.3 *GVA per head*

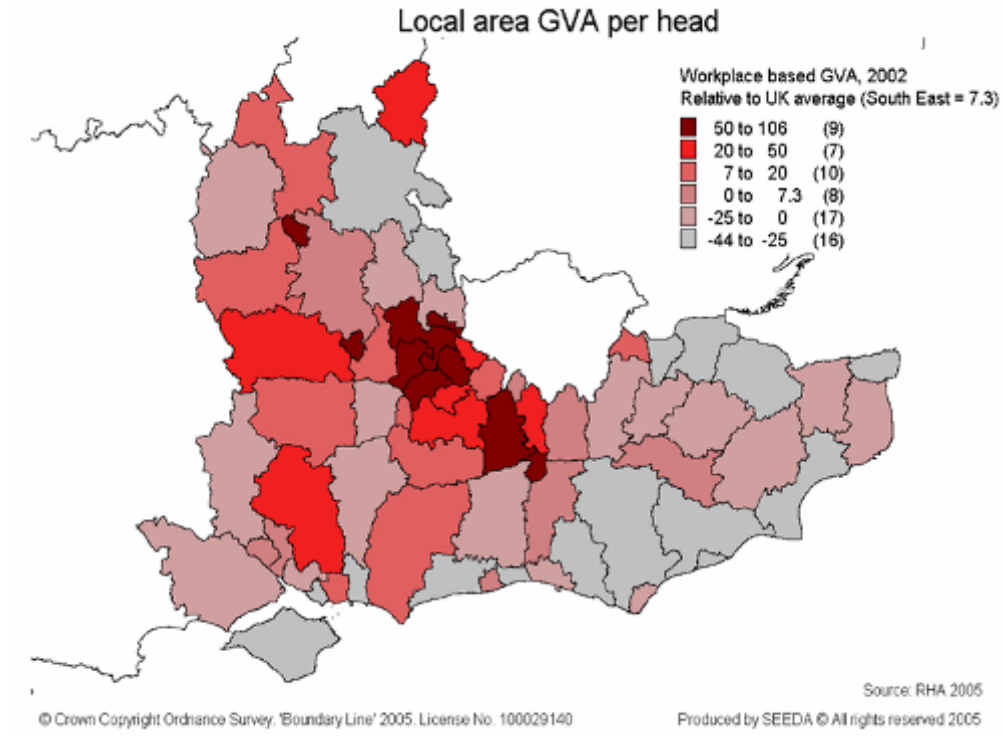


Source: ONS 2004

Mapping GVA per head illustrates that large areas of the South East achieve above national average GVA per head though again significant regional disparities are apparent.

In terms of local area GVA per head, the picture if more complex with less clustering and more significant localised GVA disparities across the region. Along the Sussex Coast and in areas such as East Kent and Ashford, the disparity with areas such as the Thames Gateway are strongest; this reflecting factors such as high economic inactivity and high levels of retired population respectively within such low local area GVA per head areas.

Figure 23.4 ***Local Area GVA per head***



Source: ONS 2004

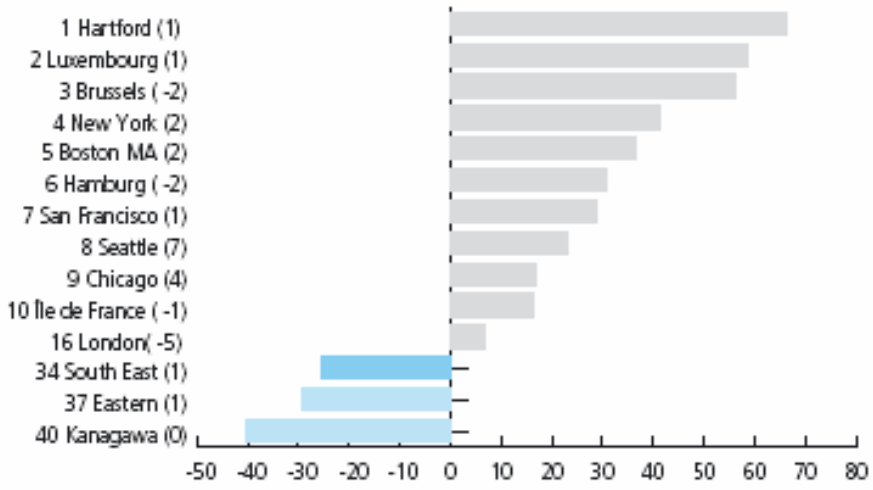
In terms of the RES, a range of scenarios have been examined but the two central scenarios depict historic levels of productivity at a GVA of +/- 2.32% per year or a more ambitious scenario of 2.39% a year (against a baseline of 2.27%). Research for the RES has also looked at a scenario of a GVA of 2% per annum. This, it is currently felt, would lead to a decline in wellbeing in the region. It should be noted that these scenarios all require higher levels of housing provision than those currently proposed in the RES.

B23.3 *LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY*

In seeking to improve its standing within the world's top 40 regions in terms of productivity, the South East has raised its position but remains within the lower tiers of these regions. The gap in terms of labour productivity between the South East and the top performing regions, is considerable, reinforcing the

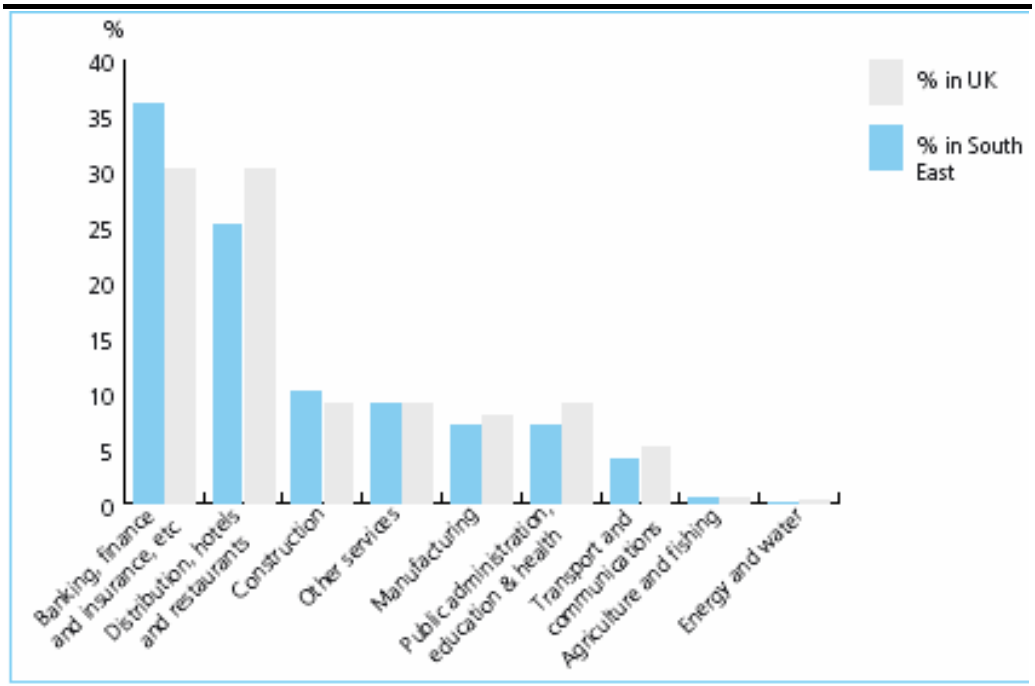
scope for improvement in productivity and the challenge of enhancing competitiveness and economic activity generally.

Figure 23.5 ***Labour Productivity: World's Leading Regions***



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

Figure 23.6 ***Sectoral Output***

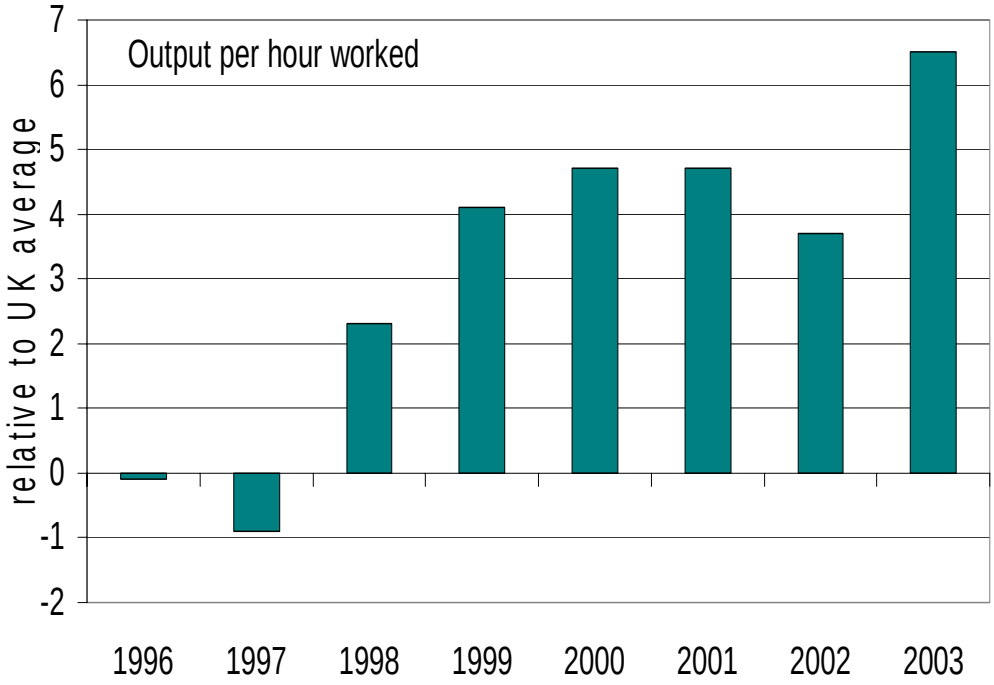


Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

The data on sectoral output in the region, as compared with the UK as a whole, illustrates the importance of the banking, finance and insurance sector to the regional economy. This output exceeds that of the distribution, hotels

and restaurants sector despite the latter comprising the highest employment source (of all sectors) in the region. Output from the banking sector exceeds that of the UK; only the construction sector in the region doing similarly.

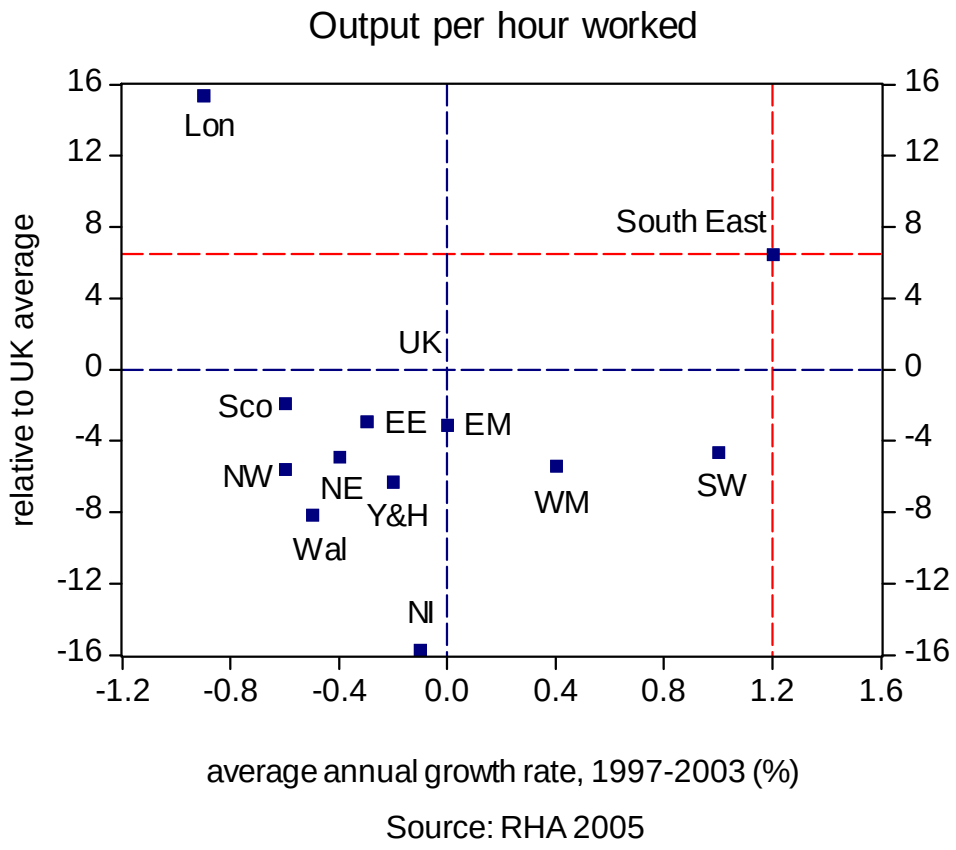
Figure 23.7 Output per hour worked



Source: RHA 2005

The figures on output per hour worked illustrate that the region has experienced significant increase in the period 1998-2003, with output at an all time high in 2003. The average growth rate for the region has outperformed the UK, as the chart below demonstrates.

Figure 23.8 Output per hour worked



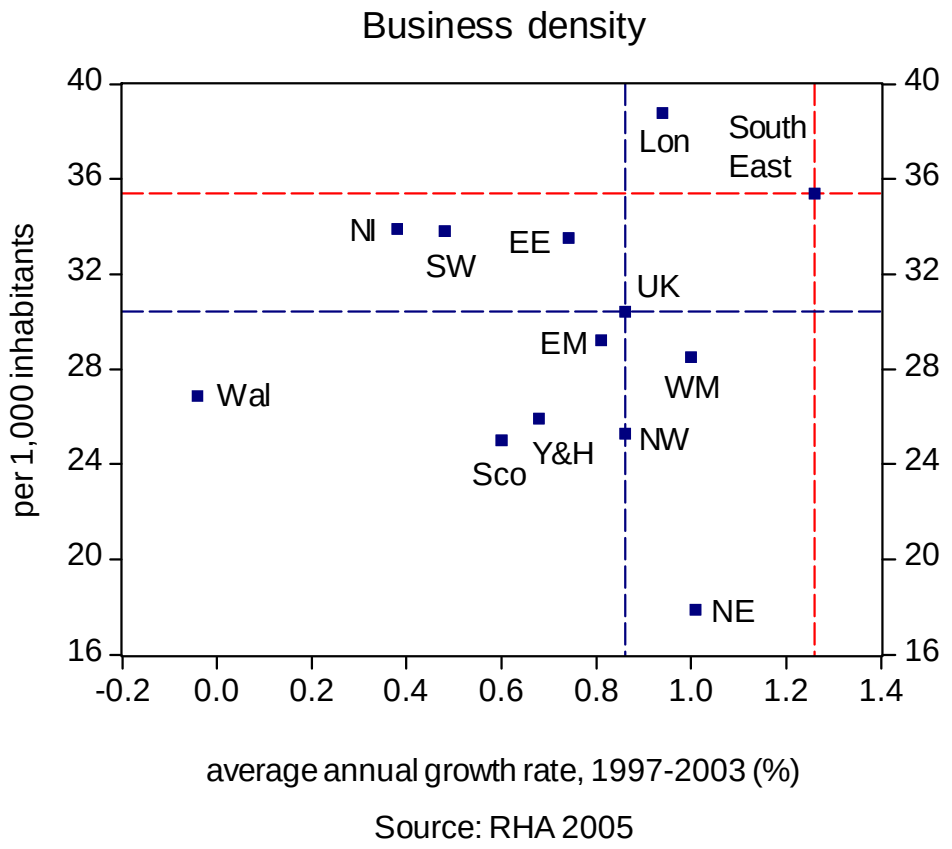
Source: RHA 2005

Irrespective of the GVA scenario adopted in the RES, labour productivity will remain a key issue for the region, especially in disadvantaged areas and deprived communities. Housing supply has also a very close relationship with productivity and the current mismatch between options in the RSS and the growth scenarios that are likely to influence the RES is of concern.

B23.4 BUSINESS START-UPS

The rate of growth in VAT registered businesses in the South East has fallen since the late 1990s, but continues to outstrip rates for the UK as a whole and is second only to London.

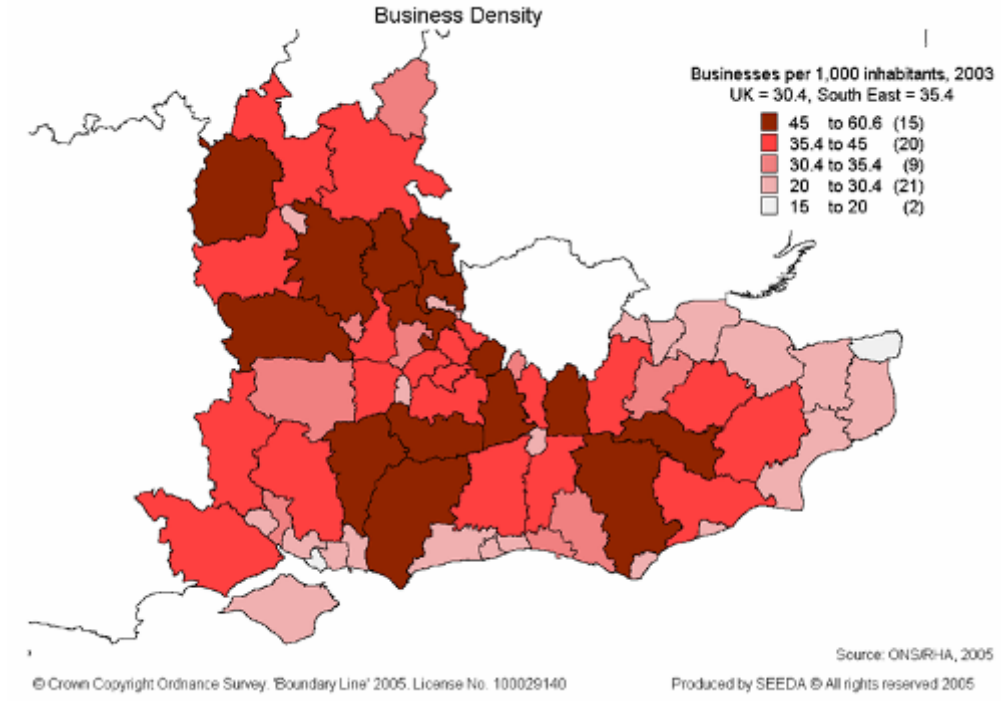
Figure 23.9 Business Density



Source: RHA 2005-11-15

Mapping business density within the region, it is apparent that the region experiences sharp disparities between low level business densities in areas such as the Isle of Wight and high levels in areas such as the London Fringe, amongst others.

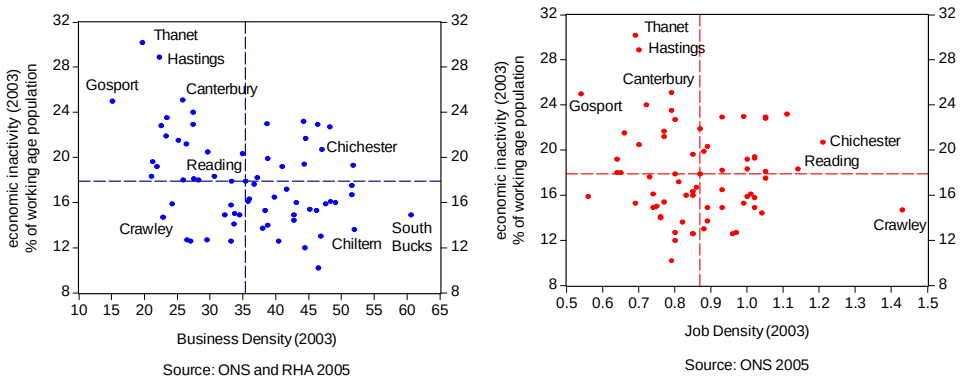
Figure 23.10 Business Density



Source: ONS/RHA 2005

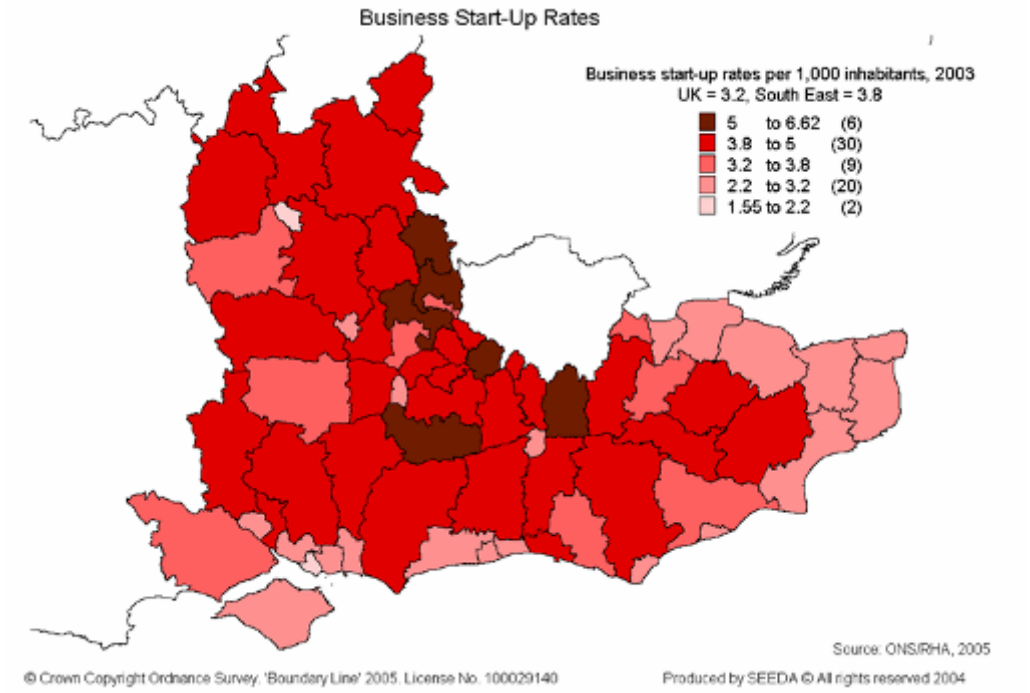
Mapping economic inactivity against business and job density, the data reinforces the relationship between low business density and high levels of unemployment. Thanet, one of the most deprived areas in the region, illustrates how low business density directly correlates with high economic inactivity.

Figure 23.11 The relationship between economic inactivity and business/job density



Source: ONS/RHA 2005

Figure 23.12 Business Start Up Rates

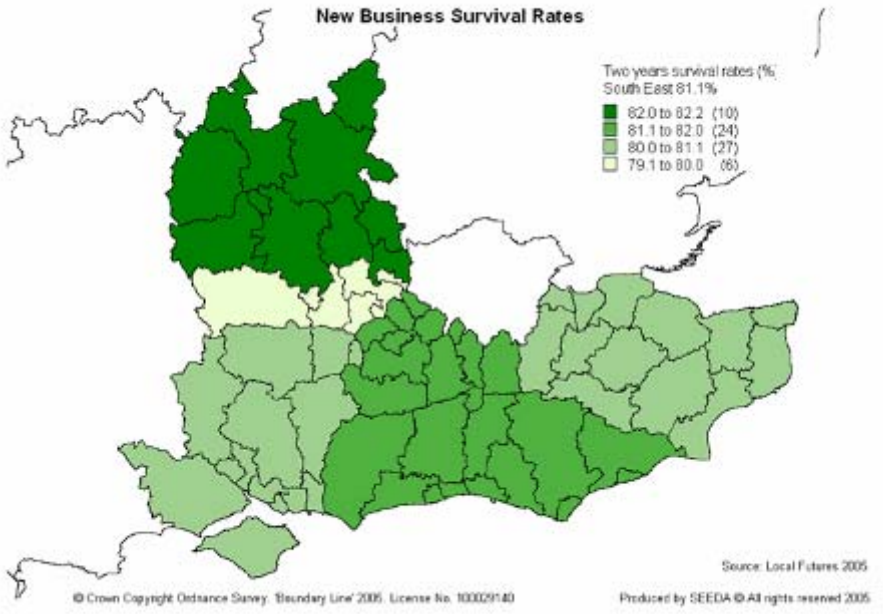


Source: ONS/RHA 2005

The rate of business start ups in the region varies significantly between the blow level of start ups in areas such as the Isle of Wight and the highest level of start ups in areas such as the London Fringe, where start up rates can be high as 6 start ups per 1000 of the population.

Whilst start up rates are a positive sign of economic activity, the rate of survival of such businesses is another significant indicator of the health of the region's economy. Mapping of business survival rates in the region highlights the strong clustering which occurs across the South East. Whilst the average survival rate of businesses (for two years and more) is 81.1% for the region, large areas of the region, such as the Isle of Wight or East Kent and Ashford have much lower rates of survival. The Western Corridor shows a high rate of business 'deaths'. This may relate to specific sector issues for businesses, in sectors such as IT.

Figure 23.13 New Business Survival Rates



Source: Local Futures 2005

B23.5 ISSUES

The region enjoys a strong economy but is faced with increasing pressures from international trade and development. In seeking to enhance its competitiveness and overall economic development, it is being challenged to strengthen its economic activity base, developing strong businesses within the region whilst increasing productivity in both the public and private sectors.

B24 OBJECTIVE 22 - TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC REVIVAL IN PRIORITY REGENERATION AREAS

B24.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Proportion of people in the most deprived areas of working age in employment.
- Proportion of people in the most deprived area of working age, not in work based employment

B24.2 EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES

The data on employment/unemployment in the most deprived areas in the region illustrates there exists varying levels of long-term unemployment in those of working age within these areas; a key characteristic of deprivation. Unemployment is highest in areas such as Thanet, Medway, Shepway and Ashford; the highest level of unemployment being in Thanet, where 3.43% of the working age population are long-term unemployed.

Figure 24.1 Employment in the Most Deprived Areas in the Region

		All People in Deprived Areas* Aged 16 to 74, Economically Active		All People in Deprived Areas* Aged 16 to 74, Economically Inactive	
	Total People Aged 16-74 in Deprived Areas*	Total People Employed**	% of Total People Aged 16-74 in Employment**	Long-Term Unemployed***	% of Total People Aged 16-74 who are Long-term Unemployed***
Arun	5,840	3,486	59.69	72	1.23
Ashford	1,107	613	55.37	28	2.53
Brighton and Hove	35,624	19,613	55.06	684	1.92
Canterbury	5,666	3,033	53.53	75	1.32
Cherwell	2,839	1,710	60.23	41	1.44
Crawley	1,002	607	60.58	14	1.40
Dartford	3,041	1,636	53.80	51	1.68
Dover	7,095	3,987	56.19	176	2.48
Eastbourne	6,704	3,915	58.40	99	1.48
Fareham	985	542	55.03	11	1.12
Gosport	3,944	2,276	57.71	76	1.93
Gravesham	6,149	3,321	54.01	139	2.26
Hastings	21,671	11,726	54.11	531	2.45
Havant	19,306	11,116	57.58	255	1.32
Isle of Wight	7,812	4,279	54.77	176	2.25
Maidstone	4,212	2,434	57.79	81	1.92
Medway	13,906	7,830	56.31	289	2.08
Milton Keynes	13,985	8,404	60.09	163	1.17
New Forest	1,994	1,161	58.22	20	1.00
Oxford	13,419	7,427	55.35	148	1.10
Portsmouth	27,942	15,257	54.60	454	1.62
Reading	8,801	5,405	61.41	113	1.28
Rother	800	434	54.25	14	1.75
Rushmoor	1,754	1,025	58.44	17	0.97
Shepway	6,032	3,376	55.97	159	2.64
Slough	5,051	3,007	59.53	114	2.26
Southampton	31,401	16,974	54.06	413	1.32
Swale	14,994	7,876	52.53	290	1.93
Thanet	19,671	9,842	50.03	675	3.43
Wealdon	826	466	56.42	18	2.18
Worthing	2,790	1,636	58.64	40	1.43
Total	**296,363**	**164,414**	**55.48**	**5,436**	**1.83**

Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

The data on those in full time education within the most deprived areas, highlights the highest concentrations of students in areas such as Brighton and Hove and Southampton; this being expected given that they are University towns/cities. Other areas within the region evidence extremely low levels of students within their population; the nexus being low level student status and high unemployment being characteristic of the challenge faced when seeking to tackle economic deprivation within these key areas.

Figure 24.2 ***Proportion of Those in Most Deprived Areas in Full Time Education and Employment***

		All People in Deprived Areas* Aged 16 to 74, Economically Active		All People in Deprived Areas* Aged 16 to 74, Economically Inactive	All People in Deprived Areas* Aged 16 to 74,	
	Total People Aged 16-74 in Deprived Areas*	Total People in Full-Time Employment or Self Employed	Student	Student	Total Employed % and Student	% of Total Employed or Student
Arun	5,840	2,742	112	164	3,018	51.68
Ashford	1,107	459	25	36	520	46.97
Brighton and Hove	35,624	14,443	1,339	2481	18,263	51.27
Canterbury	5,666	2,101	188	351	2,640	46.59
Cherwell	2,839	1,281	58	59	1,398	49.24
Crawley	1,002	453	35	40	528	52.69
Dartford	3,041	1,282	37	70	1,389	45.68
Dover	7,095	3,023	128	274	3,425	48.27
Eastbourne	6,704	2,893	249	455	3,597	53.65
Fareham	985	402	29	18	449	45.58
Gosport	3,944	1,716	59	121	1,896	48.07
Gravesham	6,149	2,612	97	187	2,896	47.10
Hastings	21,671	8,893	444	721	10,058	46.41
Havant	19,306	8,267	398	617	9,292	48.13
Isle of Wight	7,812	2,987	128	251	3,366	43.09
Maidstone	4,212	1,857	92	118	2,067	49.07
Medway	13,906	6,055	249	486	6,790	48.83
Milton Keynes	13,985	6,451	396	545	7,392	52.86
New Forest	1,994	811	36	65	912	45.74
Oxford	13,419	5,290	399	1,885	7,574	56.44
Portsmouth	27,942	11,001	829	1,557	13,387	47.91
Reading	8,801	4,116	245	243	4,604	52.31
Rother	800	306	18	17	341	42.63
Rushmoor	1,754	767	28	47	842	48.00
Shepway	6,032	2,666	107	157	2,930	48.57
Slough	5,051	2,396	116	204	2,716	53.77
Southampton	31,401	12,148	1,397	2,535	16,080	51.21
Swale	14,994	6,095	221	467	6,783	45.24
Thanet	19,671	7,376	391	769	8,536	43.39
Wealdon	826	345	12	23	380	46.00
Worthing	2,790	1,297	68	104	1,469	52.65
Total	**296,363**	**122,531**	**7,930**	**15,067**	**145,528**	**49.10**

Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B24.3 *ISSUES*

Whilst the South East overall enjoys a high standard of living, pockets of economic deprivation exist across the region, where long-term unemployment and low third level education take-up are endemic. In seeking to deliver upon this objective, the region is faced with the challenge of addressing the factors which contribute to such deprivation and which perpetuate long-term unemployment.

The RES will need to adopt a growth model that targets the needs of deprived areas and communities within the region. Unless these areas are successfully developed then intra-regional differences will continue to affect the overall performance of the economy.

B25 OBJECTIVE 23 - TO DEVELOP A DYNAMIC, DIVERSE AND KNOWLEDGE - BASED ECONOMY THAT EXCELS IN INNOVATION WITH HIGHER VALUE, LOWER IMPACT ACTIVITIES

B25.1 DATA

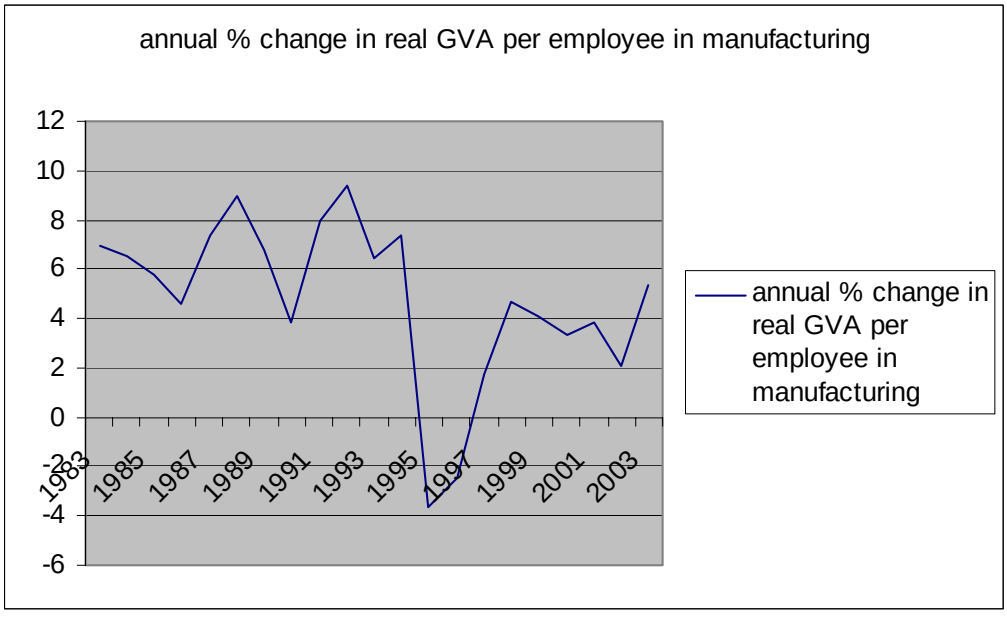
Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Annual percentage change in GVA per employee
- Employment in the knowledge sector
- Export of goods

B25.2 GROSS VALUE ADDED, PER EMPLOYEE

The average annual growth in GVA per employee in manufacturing from 1982-1992 was 6.8%, a rate that declined to 2.7% over 1992-2002. The most recent growth rate is back towards 5.5% per annum.

Figure 25.1 Annual Percentage Change in GVA per employee

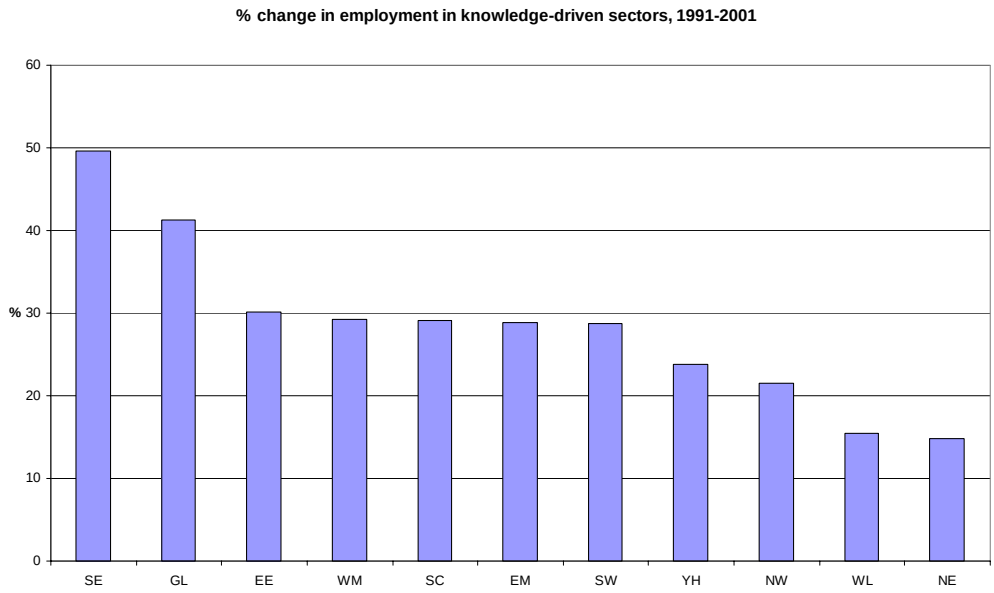


Source: ONS

B25.3 EMPLOYMENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE SECTOR

Comparable figures for GVA per employee are not available for the 'knowledge sector'. However, an alternative indicator is the percentage change in employment for this sector. Figure 25.2 below illustrates that between 1991 and 2001, employment within this sector in the region grew by 49.6%, the highest growth rate of any English region.

Figure 25.2 Percentage Change in Employment in Knowledge Sector



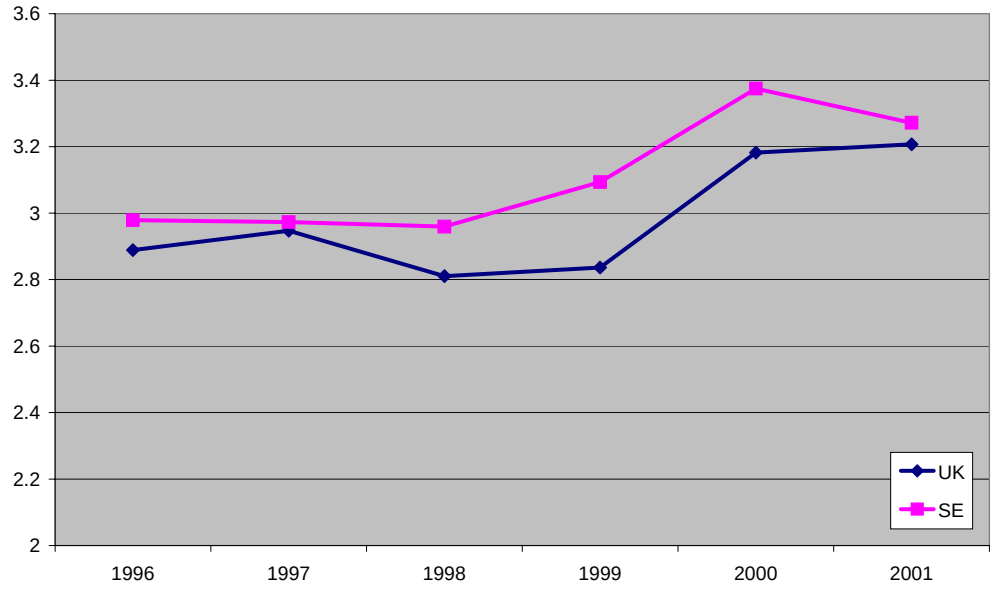
Source: ONS

The region is aware of the importance of future growth in the knowledge sector and the importance of a skills base suitable for addressing the needs of this sector. The RES will need to identify what the knowledge sector mans in the specific context of the South East and what the priorities for action should be.

B25.4 EXPORTS

The value of manufacturing exports per head has been approximately £3,000 over the period 1996-2001, slightly above the UK average over the same period.

*Figure 25.3 Export of Goods, 1996-2001 ** Update Coming***



Source: ONS

B25.5 ISSUES

The issues relating to the continuing development of the South East economy raise a wide range of issues connected with the location of the region and its support for innovative businesses. The RES will need to set out clear actions for grow innovation and retain reasonable levels of manufacturing capacity in sectors that are likely to contribute to the overall growth of the economy over the lifetime of the RES. The relationship between employment capacity, housing provision and target sectors will also need to be made explicit in the RES and the RSS. Prioritisation of investments will need to be clearly set out in the RES.

B26 OBJECTIVE 24 - TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BUOYANT, SUSTAINABLE TOURISM SECTOR

B26.1 DATA

Key data/indicators that have been used to illustrate conditions for this objective are as follows:

- Trips, nights and spend
- Occupancy levels

B26.2 TOURIST TRIPS, NIGHTS AND SPEND

Almost £3bn was spent by tourists in the South East in 2003, making the region the third biggest earner among English regions, and contributing 11.3% of the UK total. The region was also the second most popular, in terms of both trips and visitor nights. Tourism in the region as a whole is, however, experiencing a decline over recent years with a year-on-year decline of 11% in spend over January to August 2004.

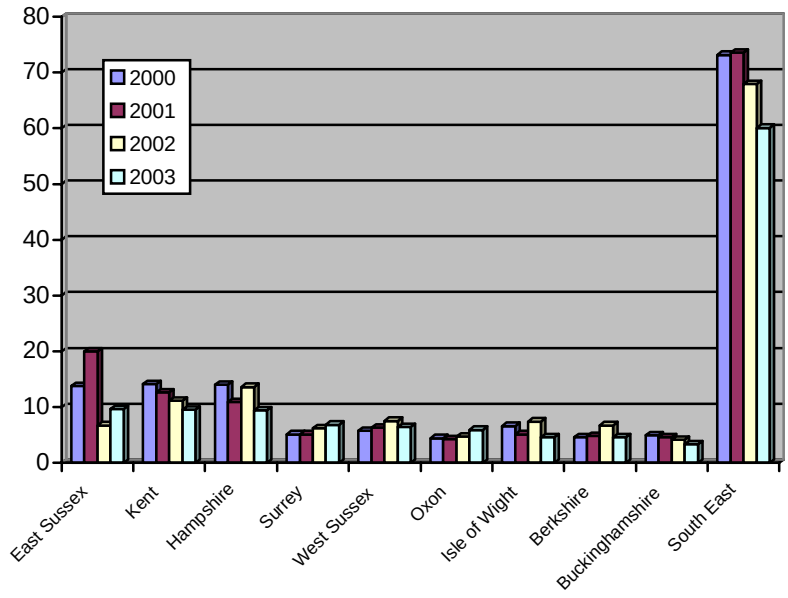
Table 26.1 Tourism Trips, Nights and Spend, 2003

Region	Trips (millions)	Nights (millions)	Spend (£m)
South West	22.8	92.1	4,263
London	14.3	32.8	3,212
South East	**20.7**	**60.1**	**2,999**
North West	16.0	44.4	2,615
Yorkshire & the Humber	13.1	35.8	1,930
East of England	11.8	37.6	1,654
West Midlands	10.8	25.9	1,633
East Midlands	9.6	28.0	1,352
North East	4.8	13.3	824
Total England	121.3	371.9	20,560
Total UK	151.0	490.5	26,482

Source: ONS

The steady decline in tourism within the region (down 17.9% in terms of nights spent by tourism from 2000-2003) is also mirrored for most counties with decline as high as 32% in Kent, Hampshire and Buckinghamshire, although tourism in Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex has grown over the period 2000-2003.

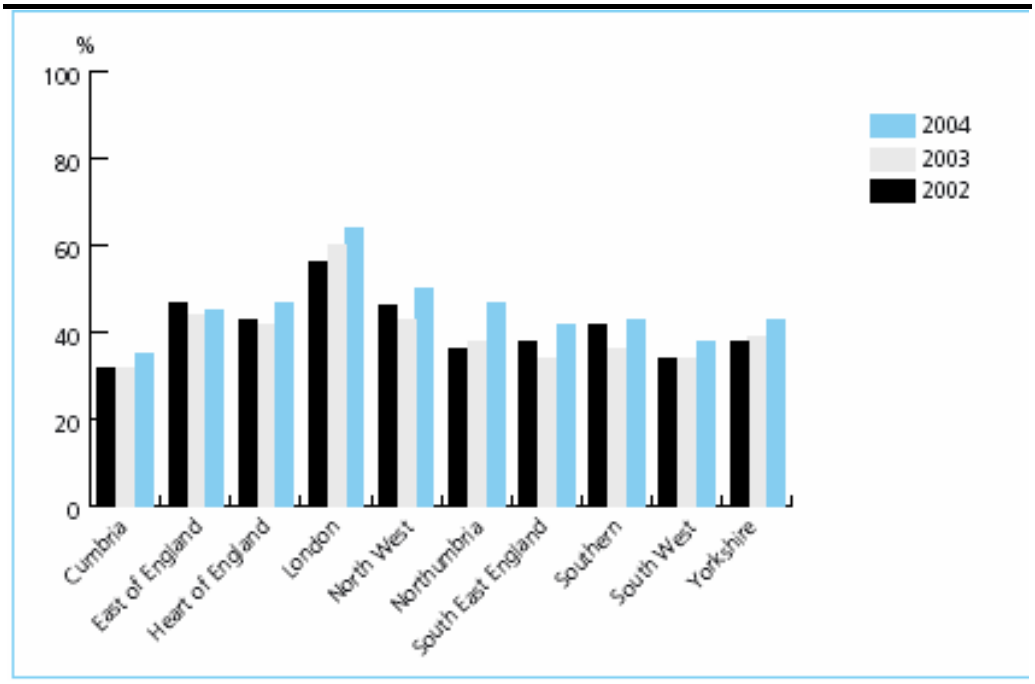
Figure 26.1 Nights Spent by Tourists 2000-2003 (millions)



Source: ONS 2004

The data on regional occupancy levels demonstrates that the region has enjoyed an increase in tourist occupancy levels since 2002, as with the majority of English regions. The region remains however behind many other regions, in terms of absolute levels of occupancy; London constituting the highest occupancy levels of all regions.

Figure 26.2 *Occupancy Levels*



Source: South East Regional Monitoring Report 2004

B26.3 *ISSUES*

There exists scope to increase the tourist base for the region, though it is important that in enhancing the buoyancy of the tourist economy, this is done

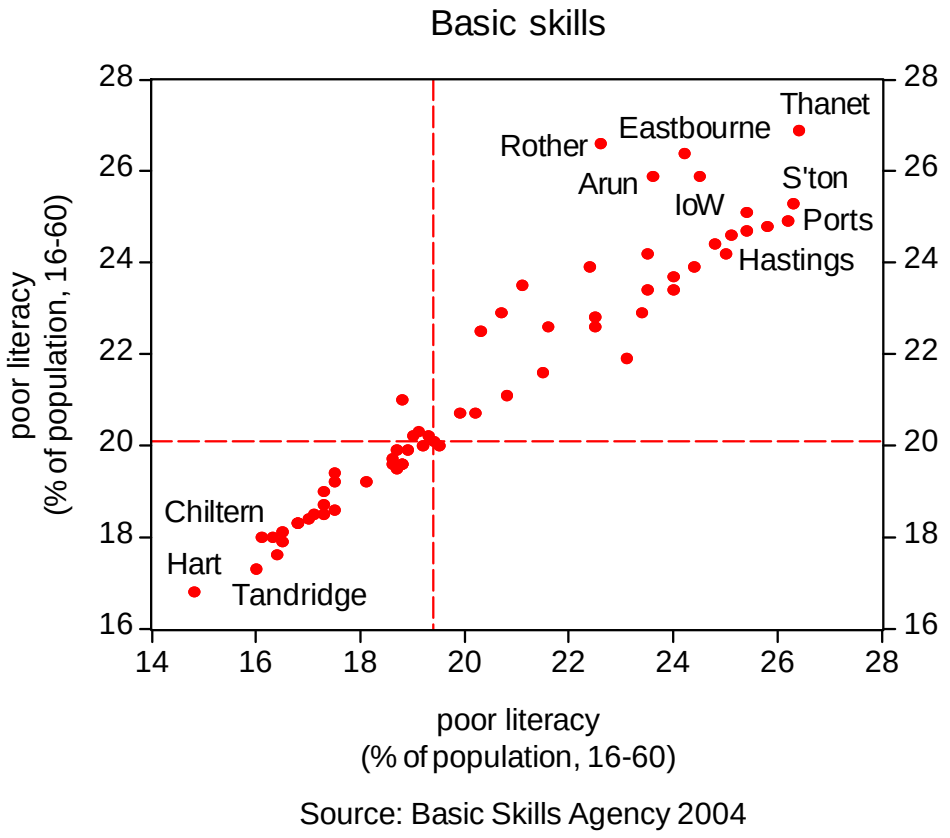
in a sustainable manner that safeguards the environmental and historic environment of the region. Delivery of this objective is closely inter-related to that relating to enhancing access to the historic environment and countryside.

Key data indicators for delivery of this objective are:

- Basic skills
- Population with no qualifications
- Proportion of working age with NVQ+
- Advanced skills

Enhancing the skills base amongst the employed and the economically inactive within the region will have positive knock on effect in terms of employment and productivity within the region.

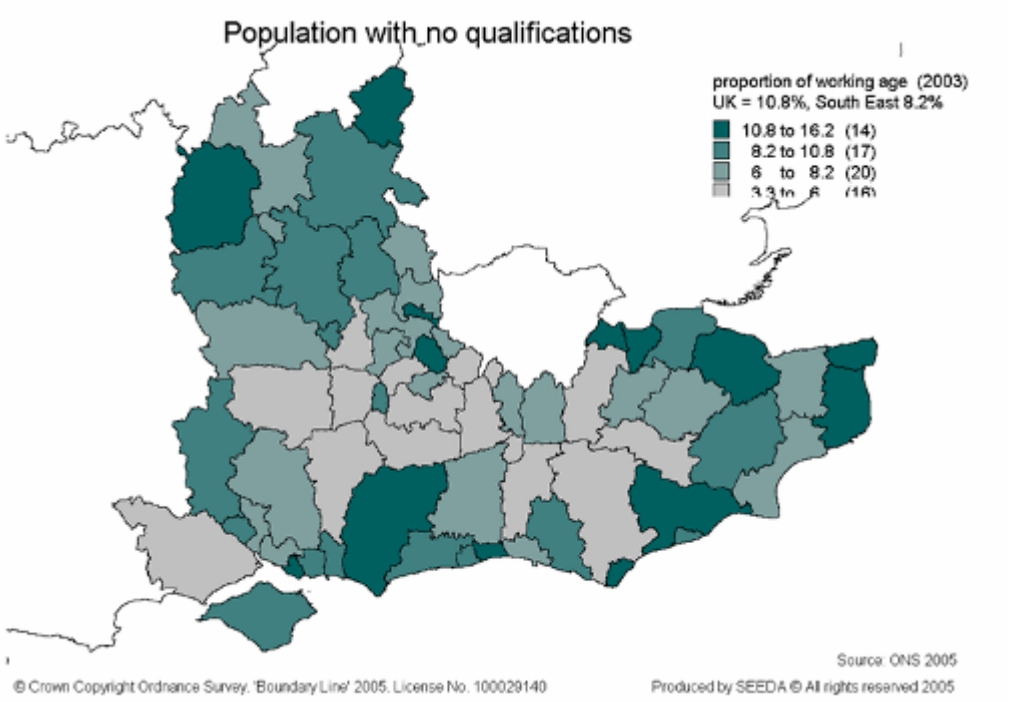
Figure 27.1 ***Basic Skills***



Source: Basic Skills Agency 2004

Mapping the basic skills levels across the region, the significant disparities between areas within the region are apparent. Whilst places such as Chiltern and Tandridge have low levels of poor literacy, other areas within the South East such as Eastbourne and Thanet, have much higher levels, at over 26% of the working age population. Tackling low levels of literacy will significantly contribute to delivering a skilled workforce.

Figure 27.2 Population with no qualifications



Source: ONS 2005

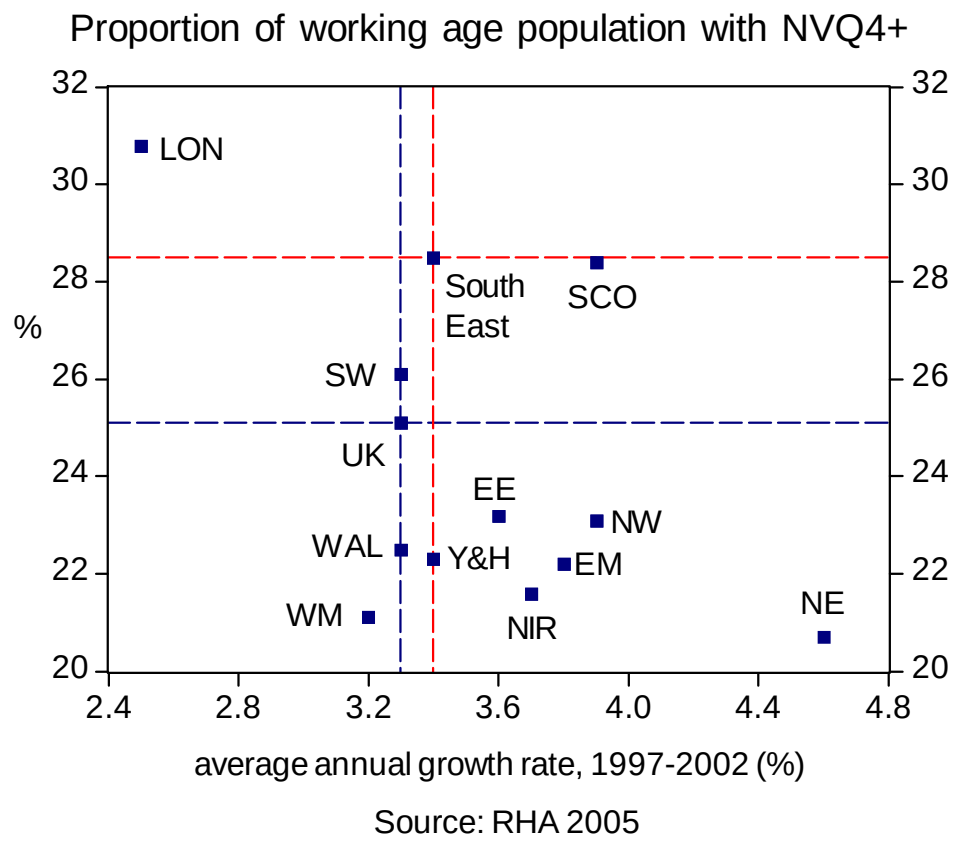
Mapping the level of working age population with no qualifications, as with addressing levels of low literacy, highlights the significant regional disparities within and across the region. Clusters of the population with no qualifications exist across the region, these exceeding the national average of 10.8% of the population in this bracket. In contrast, large tracts of the region enjoy significantly below national average of working age population with no qualification, with only 3-6% of people in these areas falling into this category.

B27.1 SKILLS STANDARDS

Data on skills standards has` already been discussed previously in this report. Building upon this data, analysis of NVQ4 and advanced skills amongst the working age population provides a indication of just how advanced the skills base of the potential employment base within the region is.

The data on comparative NVQ4 skills base within the region, relative to the rest of the UK, demonstrates that the region is on a par with Scotland and second only to London in terms of this level of skills qualification amongst the working age population.

Figure 27.3 Proportion of working age population with NVQ4+

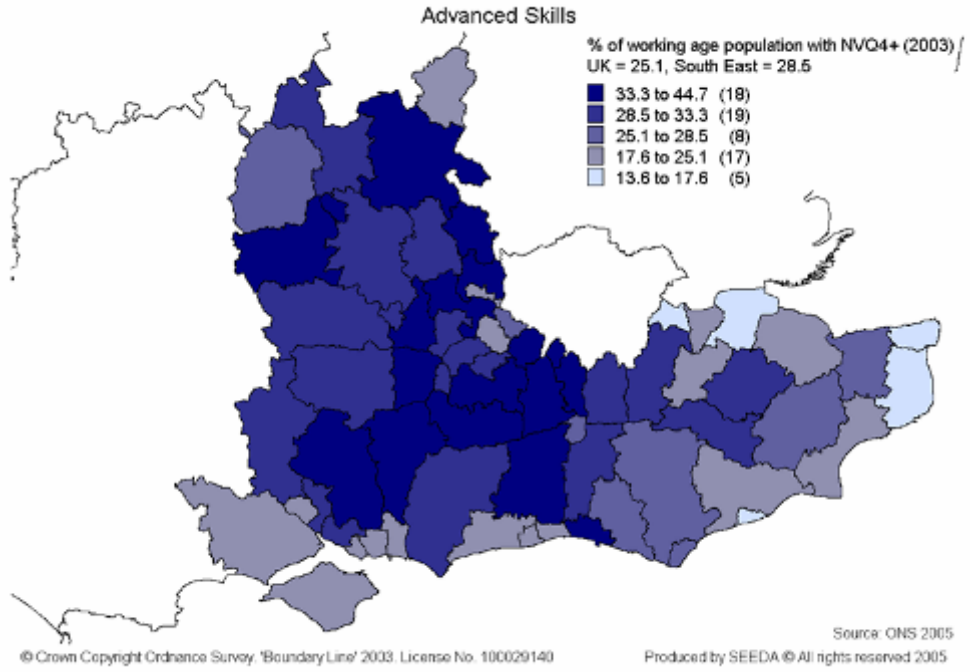


Source: RHA 2005

Focusing on the South East, mapping the advanced skills base of the working age population highlights the clustering of both the highest and lowest concentrations of skills across the region. Areas such as the London Fringe have clusters of high concentration of skilled workforce whilst clusters of low levels of advanced skills are evident in areas such as East Kent and Ashford.

The map also illustrates that the gap between average advanced skills levels within the region is considerable; from a low of 13.6% to a high of 44.7% of the working age population having such a skills base. Such a gap illustrates the challenge of ensuring a skilled workforce across the region and recognising the disparities which exist within the region and the factors which contribute to this.

Figure 27.4 Advanced Skills



Source: ONS 2005

B27.2 ISSUES

Skills levels amongst the working age population in the region are generally high. There remains, however, a challenge in tackling the pockets of low levels skills base within the region and the adverse knock on effect this has for economic activity, health and welfare for both the population concerned and the region as a whole.

The RES will need to focus on meeting 'demand' for skills rather than focusing on issues of supply. It is vital that training focuses on skills that are likely to increase activity levels but also assist in tackling economic and social exclusion.