Policy E3: Local Gaps

Development within Local Gaps (see map 48 - 56) will be permitted provided that:

a) **it would not diminish the physical separation and/or visual separation; and**
b) **it would not individually or cumulatively with other existing or proposed development compromise the integrity of the gap.**

Local Gaps have been identified between:
Andover – Anna Valley/Upper Clatford;
Andover – Enham Alamein/Smannell;
Andover – Abbotts Ann;
Andover – The Pentons;
Ampfield – Valley Park;
North Baddesley – Chilworth;
North Baddesley – Valley Park;
Romsey – North Baddesley;
Southampton – Eastleigh

7.27 The countryside around settlements plays an important role in helping to define their character and in shaping the settlement pattern of an area. The countryside around Andover and in Southern Test Valley in particular helps to define the distinct character of the two areas. Andover is separated from a number of small rural communities by relatively narrow areas of countryside. Similarly the relationship and sense of place between Romsey, North Baddesley, Ampfield, Chilworth, Valley Park and the larger urban areas of Southampton and Eastleigh is characterised by their separation with areas of countryside.

7.28 The purpose of the policy is not to prevent all development within a local gap. In some circumstances where the proposal is of a rural character, such as agricultural buildings, and has a minimal impact on the purpose of the gap, these may be permitted. Development on the edge of settlements will reduce the physical extent of the gaps and development within the gaps themselves could reduce the visual separation of settlements. The Council will take into account both the individual effects of the proposal and the cumulative effects of existing and proposed development.

7.29 In defining the extent of the gaps no more land than is necessary to prevent coalescence and retain separate identities of settlement has been included. To ensure that the local gaps can be easily identified, physical boundaries have been used to define their extent. Further justification and details of each of the gaps defined can be found in the Local Gap topic paper.