



# New Forest National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund

## Annual Report 2009 - 2010



Prepared by:

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[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)

# Summary

This report summarises the progress of the New Forest National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund during its fourth year of operation, from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. A total of £213,376 was allocated to eighteen projects during this period. This report details those projects and explains how they and the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) overall address the scheme criteria and benefit the New Forest National Park. During this reporting period the SDF continues to focus on supporting projects that address the challenges we face from climate change and this is reflected in the range of projects funded.



Biomass boiler, Lyndhurst Community Centre



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“We are very proud of our sustainable build, there is now a much wider interest by the community about sustainable issues.”

**Margaret Richens, Milford-on-Sea Community Centre.**

# Background

The Sustainable Development Fund was introduced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to English National Parks in 2002 following a similar scheme that had been successfully established in Wales. The purpose of the SDF is to encourage individuals, community groups and businesses to develop practical, sustainable local projects; to develop and test new ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living in National Parks; and, in particular, to change the attitudes and behaviour of individuals and communities. The SDF intends to provide a flexible and non-bureaucratic means of funding projects that aid the achievement of National Park purposes and enhance the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area.

Each National Park authority operates its own SDF independently and according to its own local circumstances but within national Defra guidelines. The New Forest National Park was designated in March 2005 and the National Park Authority took up its powers in April 2006. The SDF was first launched in the New Forest in November 2005 and began receiving and appraising applications in April 2006.

## SDF Criteria

To be eligible for a grant from the SDF a project must further at least one of the National Park purposes:

- **to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park; and**
- **to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities by the public.**

Projects must demonstrate that they will promote or support sustainable living in the National Park by having a positive effect on the environmental, economic *and* community wellbeing of the New Forest. They also need to have the support or involvement of local communities.

In addition, Defra has stated that priority be given to projects that:

- **involve young people,**
- **promote social inclusion,**
- **promote understanding and support of the New Forest amongst our urban neighbours,**
- **demonstrate new ways or best practice in sustainable living**
- **encourage people to work together in tackling challenges or promoting new ideas,**
- **lever in contributions from other sources or have little access to alternative public funding,**

The New Forest SDF focuses on supporting projects that help to meet the challenges we face from climate change. When appraising applications to the SDF, consideration is also given to how well a project meets the objectives of the New Forest National Park Management Plan, which are detailed at Annex 1.

## SDF Panel

Applications to the SDF are appraised by a Panel of representatives from the local area who were selected to the Panel to represent particular areas of knowledge or expertise including business, environmental issues, conservation and wildlife, tourism, sustainable building technologies and local communities. The Panel Chair is a Member of the New Forest National Park Authority.

Representing	Name	
Chair	Vicky Myers	Vicky works as a Ranger in the New Forest and studied conservation in Africa for her PhD. She was born in Salisbury and has lived in or close to the New Forest for most of her life. She is a Member of the National Park Authority.
Conservation, wildlife, agriculture and commoning	Phil Marshall	Phil is a Countryside Manager for the National Trust.
Conservation, wildlife, agriculture and commoning	John Durnell	John is Head of Conservation for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
Wider environment and sustainability	Robert Pratt	Robert is a Chartered Engineer specialising in sustainable building design with particular experience of low and renewable energy systems. He lives in Redlynch.
Wider environment and sustainability	Jessie Rogers	Jessie has considerable experience of campaigning and raising awareness about global and local environmental issues. She lives with her young family in the New Forest.
Local business and economy	Rob Dewing	Rob is vice-chair of the New Forest Business Partnership and Chair of the New Forest branch of the Federation of Small Businesses. He lives and works in Lyndhurst.
Sustainable tourism	Charles Oswin	Charles has over thirty years of experience in the tourism business having worked for the English Tourist Board and on a wide range of sustainable tourism projects throughout Europe. Charles now lives in Lymington.
Wider community interest	Deborah Stockwell	Deborah worked for a large multi national energy company for over thirty years, latterly managing their community grants programme. A regular visitor to the New Forest for over forty years, she now lives in Barton on Sea.
Wider community interest	Sophy Robinson	Sophy is a freelance writer and business coach, living and working in the New Forest. She is involved in a variety of community issues and is a governor at Brockenhurst College.
Wider community interest	John Sanger	John is a parish councillor for Woodgreen and an active member of the New Forest Association of Local Councils. He is also a Member of the New Forest National Park Authority. John has lived in Woodgreen for over 25 years.

# Achievements of the SDF in 2009 - 2010

The SDF supported eighteen projects during 2009 – 2010 allocating a total of £213,376.50.

## The projects supported during 09 – 10 were:

- 1 New Forest Non-native Invasive Plants Project
- 2 Woodgreen Community Shop
- 3 South Baddesley Primary School Photo-voltaic system
- 4 Chewton Glen Hotel Biomass feasibility study
- 5 Ferny Crofts Ground Source Heat pump and sustainability improvements
- 6 Charcoal Challenge
- 7 Lyndhurst Community Centre Biomass Boiler
- 8 Priestlands Sustainable School
- 9 New Forest Harvest Celebration
- 10 Brownies Go Green
- 11 Avon Tyrrell Compost Toilets
- 12 Milford-on-Sea Community Centre - Biomass Heating and Sedum Roof
- 13 Super-insulated Rooms
- 14 Solent Tidal Power feasibility study
- 15 Hyde Recycling project
- 16 New Forest Sustainable Schools Outreach
- 17 Anaerobic Digestion Phase One Feasibility
- 18 Hampshire Country Learning Local Food Project

## A brief summary of each of the projects is provided below:

### 1 New Forest Non-native Invasive Plants Project

SDF grant £20,000, 9% of total project costs £216,023

The New Forest National Park is one of the most important areas for wildlife in western Europe and as such, has many designations recognising its local, national and international importance for biodiversity. A large proportion of the National Park is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and includes a mix of heathland and mire, ponds, grassland and woodland habitats not found anywhere else in lowland Britain. It is estimated that over 2,700 non native plant species have established themselves in Britain and the vast majority of them pose little or no threat to our native wildlife. However, there are a number of species that are having a very serious negative effect on our native wildlife and present particular challenges in the New Forest National Park, for example, Crassula helmsii, parrots feather, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. This project aims to address the problem across the entire National Park area including the Open Forest, enclosed landscape and river valleys. It will deliver large scale practical management work, improved data recording and collection and extensive volunteer and community involvement. The project is being led by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and is partnership between the Trust and the Environment Agency, New Forest National Park Authority, Forestry Commission, Defra and Natural England.

### 2 Woodgreen Community Shop

SDF grant £25,000, 65% of total project costs £38,192

The Woodgreen Community Shop Association aims to save the last remaining village shop and Post Office in this cluster of villages (Woodgreen, Breamore and Godshill) and to retain this vital amenity for the villages in the long term. As the current non-renewable lease expires in December 2011 the aim is to provide a new purpose built community building to house the shop and post office that address aspects of sustainability. The Community Shop Association have been awarded an SDF grant towards the cost of including energy saving measures in the construction of the building and installing an air-source heat pump and heat recovery ventilation unit to utilise the warm air generated by appliances and increase efficiency in temperature control.



Removing Himalayan Balsam



Woodgreen Community Shop



South Baddesley Primary School

### 3 South Baddesley Primary School Photo-voltaic system

SDF grant £13,927, 28% of total project costs £48,903

South Baddesley Primary School has implemented a range of sustainability measures such as becoming a bronze Eco School, increasing the energy efficiency of the school building and monitoring energy consumption. This project is to further increase the school's sustainability by installing an array of photovoltaic panels on the school hall roof which will be linked to a data screen showing the electricity generated in both real and historical terms.

### 4 Chewton Glen Hotel Biomass feasibility study

SDF grant £1,692, 40% of total project costs £4,230

Chewton Glen Hotel on the edge of the New Forest has received an SDF grant towards the cost of carrying out a feasibility study to explore the possibility of installing a biomass heating system. If the system proves feasibility it will be fuelled by wood obtained from the sustainable management of New Forest woodlands. This is part of the work the hotel is undertaking to reduce its carbon output.

### 5 Ferny Crofts Ground Source Heat pump and sustainability improvements

SDF grant £36,415, 50% of total project costs £72,829

Ferny Crofts Scout Centre is installing a ground source heat pump to provide space heating to the main buildings on the site. A number of other sustainable improvements are also being made including the installation of a solar energy system and increased insulation.

### 6 Charcoal Challenge

SDF grant £5,950, 59% of total project costs £10,100

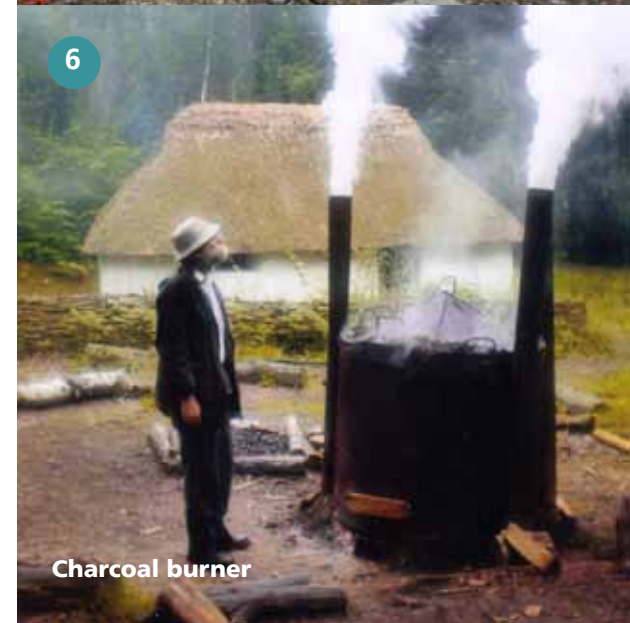
This project, run by the Small Woods Association, undertook a range of activities and events within the New Forest National Park to support local coppice and greenwood craft workers, promoting their unique local skills and services to new markets and clients within the National Park area.



Chewton Glen



Ground source heat pump, Ferny Crofts



Charcoal burner

## 7 Lyndhurst Community Centre Biomass Boiler

SDF grant £25,000, 37% of total project costs £67,132

Following a grant from the SDF, Lyndhurst Community Centre became the first community centre in the New Forest National Park to be heated by locally sourced woodfuel. The Centre has installed a biomass boiler which provides space and hot water heating using fuel obtained from the sustainable management of woodlands in the New Forest. The Centre is providing an excellent showcase for this energy system and a number of events have been held for people to find out about biomass energy and learn from their experiences.

## 8 Priestlands Sustainable School

SDF grant £29,726, 75% of total project costs £39,635

Building on the successful development of its walled garden, Priestlands School in Lymington was very keen to move towards becoming a truly sustainable school. Due to support from the SDF the school now has a Sustainable School Co-ordinator, which has enabled a variety of initiatives, actions and ideas to be taken forward. This has included the installation of solar panels, an Eco-Prefect Scheme, more incorporation of sustainability into the curriculum and work with the school canteen to reduce waste.

## 9 New Forest Harvest Celebration

SDF grant £2,542, 29% of total project costs £8,740

This project, which took place in autumn 2009, was to hold a New Forest Harvest Celebration event with the aim of enabling adults and children living within the area to understand what is special and unique about the New Forest and to learn about what is produced there. Over 250 local school children took place in the one-day event where they each spent time learning about the ponies, pigs and cattle that run on the New Forest and trying their hand at besom broom making with a local coppicer, as well as learning about many other traditions and products of the New Forest area, such as honey and lavender.

## 10 Brownies Go Green

SDF grant £3,185, 68% of total project costs £4,715

This project will work with every Brownie Pack in the New Forest National Park to educate them about energy efficiency and renewable energy through a series of interactive workshops. This will contribute towards the Brownies earning their environment badge, as part of which they must record, monitor and reduce their energy and water consumption in the home.



Biomass boiler, Lyndhurst Community Centre



Priestlands Sustainable School



Harvest celebration

### 11 Avon Tyrrell Compost Toilets

SDF grant £9,000, 63% of total project costs £14,300

SDF funding was awarded to Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre to install two composting toilets, replacing chemical portaloos type facilities. The composting toilets are more environmentally friendly as they use no water or chemicals and the waste does not need to be removed from site. The project forms part of a broader strategy to look at efficiency, environmental and sustainability issues at Avon Tyrrell and will be used to pass on the message about the importance of conservation and sustainability of resources to the centre's visitors - the toilets have already attracted considerable interest from people using the site!

### 12 Milford-on-Sea Community Centre - Biomass Heating and Sedum Roof

SDF grant £25,000, 32% of total project costs £78,894

A new Community Centre building is being constructed in Milford-on-Sea to replace the previous two portacabins, which will have dedicated facilities for youth groups and much improved facilities to meet the diverse needs of the community. The new building is being constructed to incorporate the latest energy saving ideas and technology together with an awareness of the need to create minimum pollution and waste and to contribute less to climate change. The centre has received an SDF grant towards the cost of installing a biomass heating system fuelled by wood pellets and a sedum roof.

### 13 Super-insulated Rooms

SDF grant £400, 100% of total project costs £400

This project received an SDF small grant to explore a particular approach to increasing the energy efficiency of the older, difficult to insulate, New Forest properties without having a detrimental impact on their appearance.

### 14 Solent Tidal Power feasibility study

SDF grant £16,280, 50% of total project costs £32,559

Tidal stream power is the production of electricity from the natural flow of the tides, energy from the moving water turns a turbine which, in turn, drives a generator and produces electricity. It is clean, renewable and predictable energy. The Solent area has high tidal energy levels and is an attractive site for investigation. This was a project to study the potential of the area, consult with the local community, further understand the environmental impacts and study the engineering aspects.



Compost toilet, Avon Tyrrell



Community Centre in progress



Beaulieu River

## 15 Hyde Recycling project

SDF grant £417.63, 100% of total project costs £417.63

A small SDF grant was awarded to Hyde and District Climate Change Forum to provide a straight forward solution to the village's recycling problem – items that can be recycled being thrown away as they are not collected in the kerbside scheme. A small collection point has been set up to gather together these items (batteries, old mobile phones etc) which are then taken to an appropriate recycling facility.

## 16 New Forest Sustainable Schools Outreach

SDF grant £15,999, 73% of total project costs £22,030

Following a successful pilot project trialling a new method of helping schools to become more sustainable, the New Forest Sustainable Schools project was expanded to work with fourteen New Forest schools. Each school received bespoke support to establish a 'change team' of students and staff to plan and implement a programme of improvement, making them a more sustainable school. Schools participated in a variety of advice and inspiration visits, workshops and action days exploring food, travel, waste, water and energy.

## 17 Anaerobic Digestion Phase One Feasibility

SDF grant £3,000, 40% of total project costs £6,832.82

This is a project to carry out initial investigations into the possibility of obtaining energy from waste using small-scale anaerobic digestion systems in the New Forest area.

## 18 Hampshire County Learning Local Food Project

SDF grant £4,706.60, 69% of total project costs £6,832.82

Working with six New Forest schools this project taught children about the food that is produced in the New Forest area. Children from each of the schools visited a local working farm to experience how the countryside is managed to produce food, learn about the work that is involved and meet the people who produce the food. Following the farm visit each school received a composting bin, gardening equipment and a gardening session to help them improve their sustainability. Each school also received a cookery workshop which used locally grown ingredients and food from the school's growing activity. Class work produced by the school children was displayed at the New Forest Show..



Sustainable Schools Outreach



Cattle, Ashurst



Hampshire County Learning

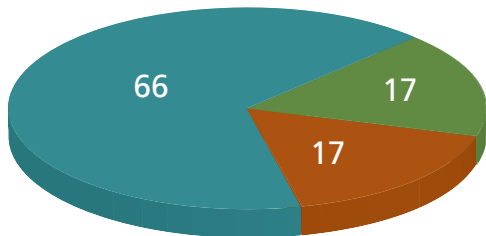
# Evaluating and measuring performance

## Applications to the Sustainable Development Fund

The SDF is open to individuals or organisations from the public, private or voluntary sectors from within or outside the National Park. The charts below show the breakdown of grants allocated across the different sectors during the year 2009 - 2010 and by the SDF overall. Funding for projects from private sector applicants is usually limited to 40% of the total project costs in recognition of any potential future financial gain by the applicant.

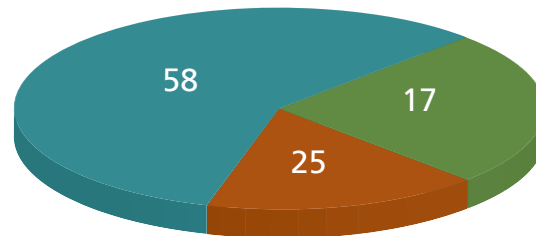
**Fig. 1 Projects supported during 2009 - 2010 by sector**  
(based on number of projects)

- Public sector 17%
- Private sector 17%
- Voluntary sector 66%

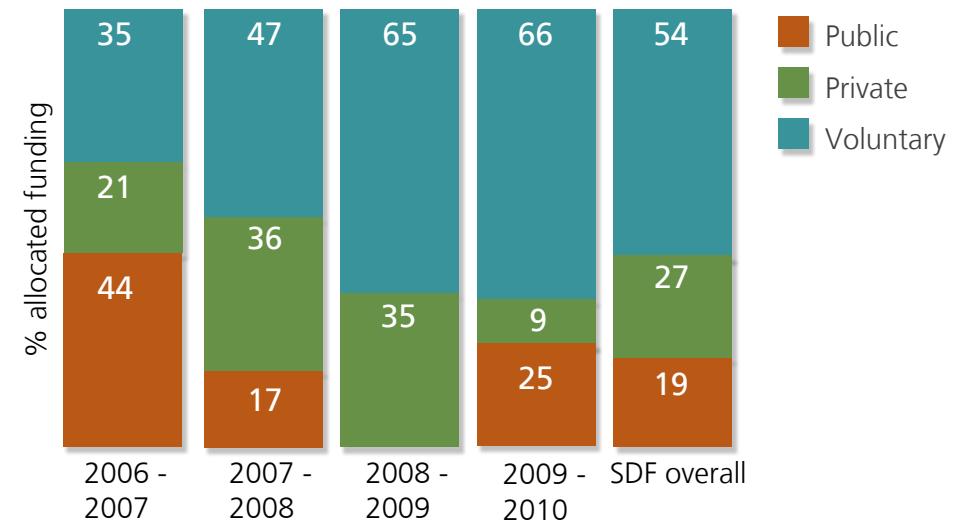


**Fig. 2 Projects supported by the SDF overall by sector**  
(based on number of projects)

- Public sector 17%
- Private sector 25%
- Voluntary sector 58%



**Fig. 3 Projects supported by sector**  
(based on amount of grant)



The voluntary sector is clearly the greatest beneficiary of support from the SDF in terms of number of projects supported as can be seen in figures one and two above with over half of the projects funded have been from that sector. This pattern remains when comparing the amount of grant funding awarded by sector. As can be seen in figure three above, 54% of the funding has been awarded to the voluntary sector and 27% to the private sector, with the public sector receiving 19% of the funding allocated.

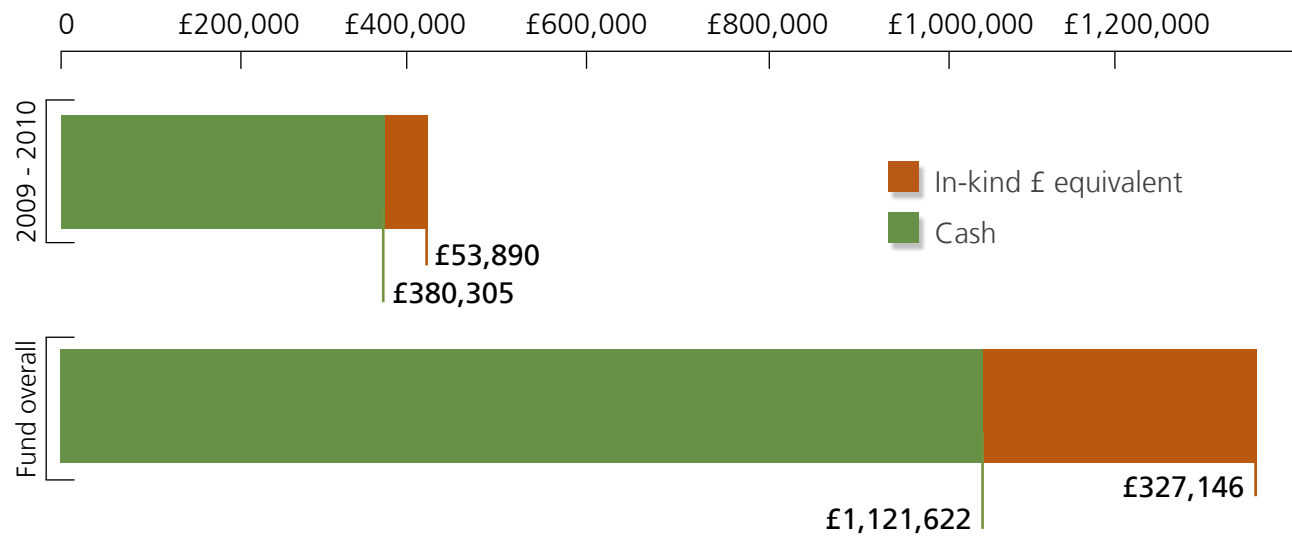


Feeding the chickens, Priestlands

## Match Funding

Defra requests that the SDF supports projects that lever in contributions from other sources. During 2009 - 2010 £434,195 was levered in from match funding, either in the form of cash contributions to projects or the provision of in-kind contributions such as volunteer time or donated materials (£ equivalent). The chart below shows the breakdown of match funding contributions for this year and the SDF as a whole. The total amount of match funding levered in by the SDF to date is £1,464,371 - this represents around £1.85 for every £1 of grant allocated.

**Fig. 4 Match funding levered in by the Sustainable Development Fund**



## Measuring project success

In keeping with the 'light touch' and non-bureaucratic nature of the SDF, monitoring and evaluation of projects is carried out mainly through regular contact with the project applicants, supported by a system of regular progress reports. Key dates and project outcomes are agreed with applicants at the start of a project and progress against them is used to measure project success. In addition, each project is required to submit an end of project report that reviews the most and least successful aspects of a project and the overall benefits to the New Forest National Park. Each project also monitors the number of local businesses, community groups, participants, young people and volunteers involved.

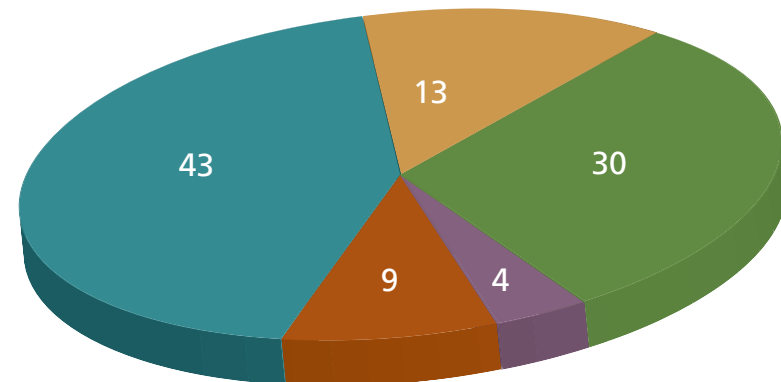
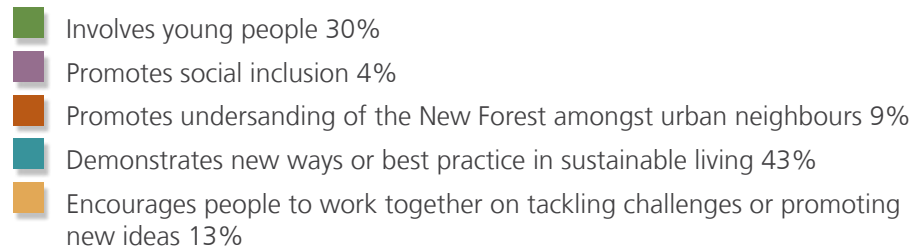
As can be seen from the tables in Annex two and three, **in excess of one hundred and fifty local businesses have been involved in projects supported by the SDF and over ninety local community groups. Well over 5,000 children and young people have benefitted from SDF projects. To date, over 51,000 people have participated in or directly benefitted from SDF projects.**



## Delivering against Defra priorities

The wide variety of projects supported by the SDF during 2009 - 2010 has, to varying degrees, addressed the whole range of priorities identified by Defra for the scheme, with the majority of projects addressing more than one priority (see page four for list of priorities). The chart below shows how these priorities have been supported during 2009 - 2010.

**Fig. 5 Proportional impacts of projects against Defra priorities 2009 – 2010**



The chart demonstrates that projects that either involve young people or demonstrate new ways or best practice in sustainable living have been particularly well supported, although all of the Defra priorities have been addressed to some extent.

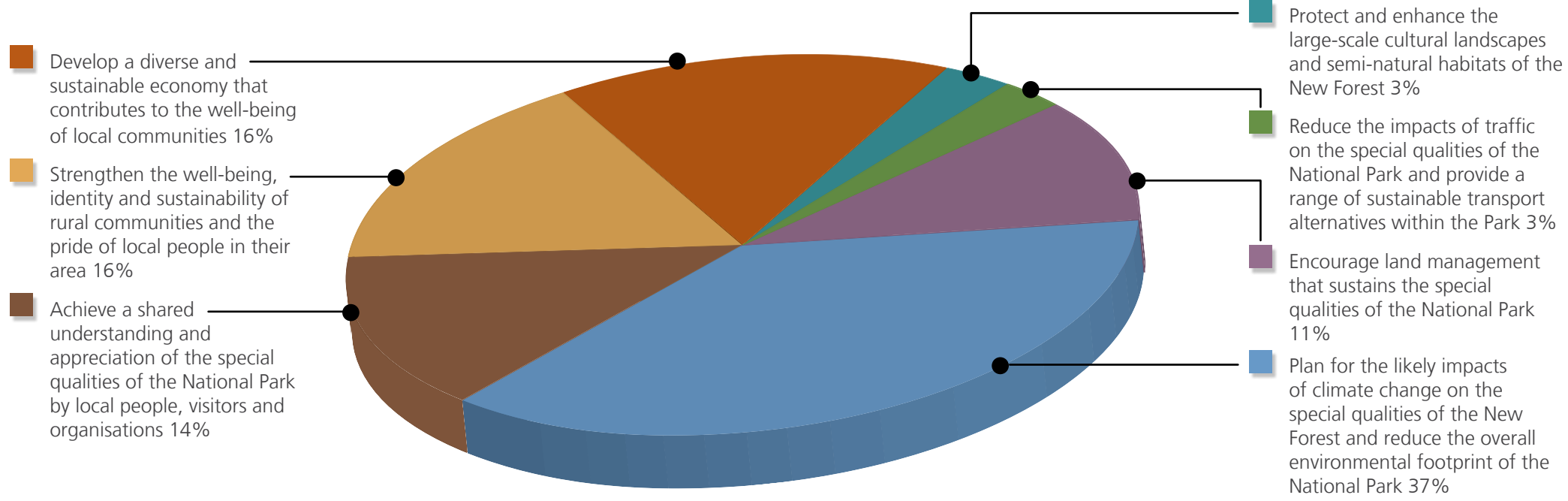
“This project will not only achieve our aim of saving a vital amenity but gives us the exciting opportunity to develop it in line with crucial concerns around the issues of sustainability.”

**Andrea Finn, Woodgreen Community Shop.**

### Delivering against New Forest National Park Management Plan

During 2009 – 2010 the SDF has continued to be successful in addressing many of the objectives in the New Forest National Park Authority’s Management Plan (these are detailed in Annex 1), with the vast majority of the objectives being delivered to some degree. Some of the Authority’s objectives fall outside of the remit of the SDF and it is therefore not expected that it should address them all. The chart below details the breakdown of how projects have addressed the Management Plan objectives during 2009 - 2010.

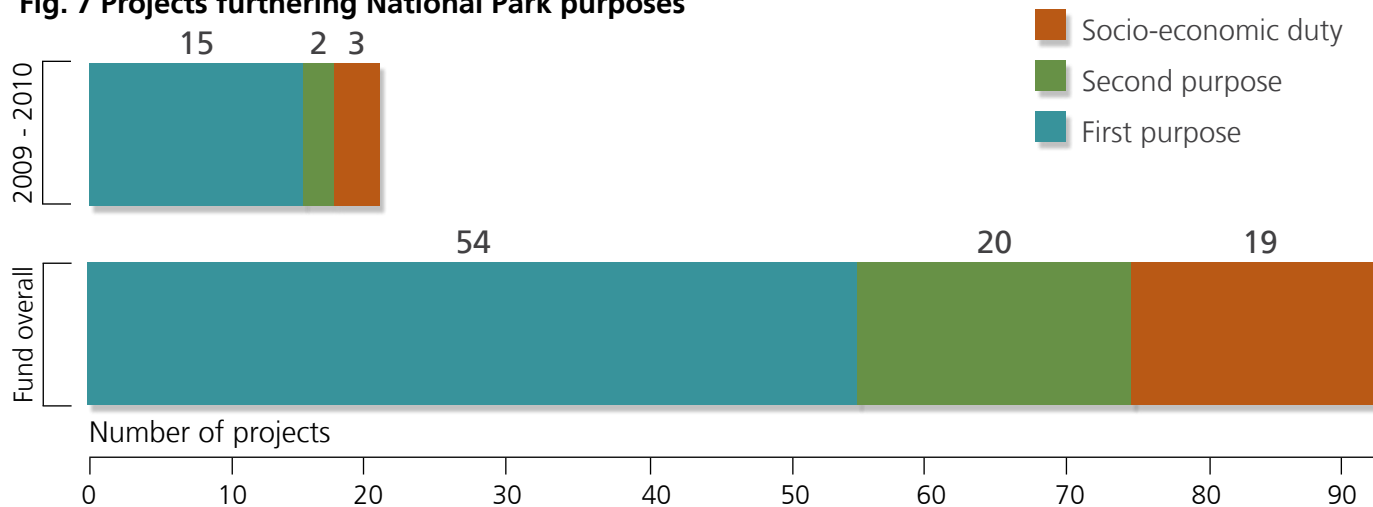
**Fig. 6 Proportional impacts of projects against Authority objectives 2009 – 2010**



## Furthering National Park Purposes

Projects receiving grant support from the SDF must demonstrate that they further at least one of the National Park purposes. In reality the majority of projects deliver benefits, either directly or indirectly, that further both purposes. The chart below shows how projects have furthered National Park purposes based on their primary focus. More projects have been supported that further the first purpose, which is to be anticipated given that the remit of the SDF fits particularly closely with first purpose objectives, for example tackling climate change issues. In addition to furthering National Park purposes, at least nineteen projects have contributed to the National Parks socio-economic duty to support the social and economic wellbeing of local communities in ways that sustain the National Parks special character.

**Fig. 7 Projects furthering National Park purposes**



Ground source heat pump, Ferny Crofts

# Conclusion

During 2009 – 2010 the SDF awarded **£213,377** to support eighteen projects that provide community, economic and environmental benefits to the New Forest National Park. This brings the total amount awarded by the SDF to **£787,882** and the total number of projects supported to 77. The projects supported have delivered a wide range of benefits across both Defra priorities and the New Forest National Park Management Plan objectives and have contributed to furthering both the National Park purposes and the duty.

Supporting adaptation to and mitigation for climate change is a key objective for the Authority and during 2009 – 2010 the SDF focused on supporting projects that address the issues that climate change brings. As can be seen from fig. 6 this focus resulted in 37% of projects supported addressing climate change issues, for example increasing the use of renewable energy, encouraging the wise use of natural resources, educating and raising awareness. The SDF has proven to be an effective means of supporting communities that wish to implement projects and initiatives that mitigate or adapt for climate change and therefore, this will remain the focus for the SDF during 2010 – 2011.

During this reporting period the SDF was also particularly successful in encouraging projects that promote best practice in sustainable living. It is anticipated that these projects will be influential in encouraging others to undertake similar projects, leading to a cumulative increase in sustainability within the New Forest National Park.



Oak leaves, Denny Wood

## Annex 1 – New Forest National Park Management Plan Objectives

- Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the villages and landscapes of the New Forest
- Protect and enhance the large-scale cultural landscapes and semi-natural habitats of the New Forest
- Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park
- Plan for the likely impacts of climate change on the special qualities of the New Forest and reduce the overall environmental footprint of the National Park
- Maintain and enhance the tranquillity of the National Park
- Achieve a shared understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park by local people, visitors and organisations
- Enhance people’s enjoyment and quality of experience of the National Park, while safeguarding the special qualities of the area
- Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area
- Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well-being of local communities
- Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provide a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park

## Annex 2 Defra Table of Indicators 2009 - 2010

Indicator		number	£ total	Your comments	
1.No. of enquiries or expressions of interest received		39		All enquiries relating to the Fund made by phone, letter, email or in person were recorded.	
2.No. and value of grants awarded under the fund	Total, of which:	18	213,377		
	up to £1,000	2	818		
	from £1,001 to £5,000	5	15,216		
	over £5,000	11	197,433		
3.Amount of match funding levered in by the fund	as cash		380,305		
	in kind (£ equivalent)		53,890		
4.Amount spent on administration & delivery	from the fund		20,000		
	from other sources*		16,316		
5.No. of new partnerships created due to the fund		7			At the time of writing three projects had made new partnerships. The exact no created will be recorded in end of project reports that are submitted on completion of the project.
6.No. directly involved (in funded projects +/- or in operation of the fund)*, of;	local community/ voluntary groups	12			Projects are asked to record this information in their end of project reports. Not all of the projects detailed in this report had been completed at the time of writing, so these figures are incomplete.
	young people or youth organisations	923			
	local businesses	46			
7.No. of projects that would not have occurred or would have been significantly diminished without the fund*		13			
8.No. of projects that are likely to continue beyond the life of the fund*		11			
9.No. of projects that provide models of sustainable development applicable to other areas*		11			
10.No. of training/awareness raising sessions or other events held re sustainable development/ the fund		4			

\*Estimate/ opinion of responsible SDF/ NPA officer

### Annex 3 Defra Table of Indicators – Total for the SDF (2006 – 2010)

Indicator	number	£ total	Your comments
11.No. of enquiries or expressions of interest received	269		All enquiries relating to the Fund made by phone, letter, email or in person were recorded.
12.No. and value of grants awarded under the fund	Total, of which:	77	787,882
	up to £1,000	17	8,632
	from £1,001 to £5,000	19	66,813
	over £5,000	41	712,437
13.Amount of match funding levered in by the fund	as cash		1,090,959
	in kind (£ equivalent)		373,412
14.Amount spent on administration & delivery	from the fund		40,000
	from other sources*		105,264
15.No. of new partnerships created due to the fund	29		
16.No. directly involved (in funded projects +/- or in operation of the fund)*, of;	local community/ voluntary groups	94	
	young people or youth organisations	5843	
	local businesses	161	
17.No. of projects that would not have occurred or would have been significantly diminished without the fund*	59		
18.No. of projects that are likely to continue beyond the life of the fund*	52		
19.No. of projects that provide models of sustainable development applicable to other areas*	45		
20.No. of training/awareness raising sessions or other events held re sustainable development/ the fund	25		

\*Estimate/ opinion of responsible SDF/ NPA officer



Ground source heat pump, Ferny Crofts

### Who to contact for further information

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