

---

# New Forest National Park Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment

Sustainability Appraisal Report  
January 2010



Table of Contents

**1 Background ..... 1**

**2 Methodology ..... 5**

**3 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context ..... 8**

**4 Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects ..... 24**

**5 Appraisal Findings ..... 26**

**6 Implementation and Monitoring ..... 41**

**Appendix 1 Objectives Compatibility Appraisal..... 43**

**Appendix 2 Policy Appraisal Matrices ..... 46**

# 1 Background

## 1.1 The New Forest National Park

National Parks are protected landscaped recognised to be the highest national importance for the natural beauty of their landscapes, the value of their wildlife habitats and cultural heritage, and the opportunities they give for many people to enjoy these qualities. Most National Parks, and perhaps particularly significantly the New Forest, are cultural and working landscapes, shaped over the centuries by the communities that live within them.

The New Forest National Park was established in 2005, one of newest in England and the first to be created in the South East. It covers 56,658 hectares (220 square miles) on the central south coast of England, making it the smallest national park in the UK, other than the Broads. It is home to more than 34,000 people.

The Environment Act, 1995 sets out the two purposes of the National Park and the duty of National Park Authorities.

The two National Park purposes are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park; and
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

National Park Authorities also have a duty in taking forward the Park purposes to:

- Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

### Planning in the New Forest National Park

The New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) is the sole local planning authority for the designated area of the New Forest National Park. The NFNPA sets local planning policy and makes decisions on planning applications within the National Park. When it was formed the NFNPA inherited the existing planning policies from the local planning authorities which had covered the park area. This created a complex situation because of the number of different planning authorities previously covering the area and the introduction of a new system of plan making.

A new Core Strategy and Management Plan are being produced for the New Forest National Park. The Core Strategy sets out the NFNPA planning policies for the park area. The Management Plan outlines the visions and objectives to guide the National Park for the next 20 years.

In 2008 a consultation draft of the New Forest National Park Plan was produced and subject to consultation. This document combined the Core Strategy and Management Plan in one document. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was undertaken on the consultation draft.

Scott Wilson has been appointed to undertake the SA/SEA of the Core Strategy and the Management Plan. The purpose of SA/SEA is to assess the sustainability effects of plans and policies.

This SA Report documents the findings of the SA/SEA of the Core Strategy. A separate Sustainability Appraisal Report will be produced for the Management Plan.

Copies of the Core Strategy and the Management Plan, and the SA Reports for both of these documents can be found on the website of the NFNPA at: <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk>

## The New Forest National Park Core Strategy

The Core Strategy contains planning policies and detailed development management policies to guide new development. It will be implemented primarily by the National Park Authority as the local planning authority. Its spatial vision and objectives will set out how the New Forest National Park will look by the end of the Plan period and how this will be achieved.

The Management Plan will provide the broad strategic approach to guide the long-term management of the National Park. Its aim is to influence all those with responsibilities in the area and will be implemented through partnership working.

### Core Strategy Objectives

The Objectives of the plan are as follows:

1. protect and enhance the natural environment of the National Park, including the natural beauty of the landscape and the range of habitats and species
2. Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the built environment of the New Forest
3. 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
4. Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area
5. Promote affordable housing to meet local needs and maintain the vibrant communities of the National Park
6. Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well being of local communities
7. Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park
8. Support development which encourages sustainable tourism and recreation, and provides opportunities for enjoying the Park's special qualities
9. Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provides a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park

## 1.2 The Purpose of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The purpose of SA/SEA is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of new or revised plans. The SA Report is the means by which stakeholders and the public can comment on the findings of the SA/SEA. It sets out the process followed, methods used and conclusions reached, together with proposed mitigation and monitoring measures.

SEA is required as a result of the adoption of a European Directive, which has subsequently been transposed into English law. It involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the

environmental impacts of a strategic action (e.g. a plan or programme). In 2001, the EU adopted Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive'). The aim of the SEA Directive is "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development".

The Directive was transposed into English legislation through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations'), which came into force on 21st July 2004. The SEA Regulations apply (with some specific exceptions) to plans and programmes subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority or those prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government. It also applies to plans or programmes that are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

The Government's approach is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a wider SA process that considers economic and social effects as well as environmental effects. To this end, in November 2005, the Government published guidance on undertaking SA of Local Development Frameworks that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive ('the Guidance'). The combined SA/SEA process documented in this report is referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

### 1.3 Compliance with the SEA Regulations

The table below sets out the required content of the SA Report as defined in the SEA Regulations and details how these have been met in this report.

Requirement	Where covered
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Chapter 3: Background, Context Review (Scoping Report)
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	Context Review, Baseline Chapter and Baseline maps in Scoping Report, Chapter 3, Section 3.3 Key sustainability Issues
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 3.2 Baseline, Baseline Chapter and Baseline maps (Scoping Report)
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	Chapter 3, Section 3.2 Baseline and Section 3.3 Key sustainability Issues
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account	Context Review (Scoping Report)

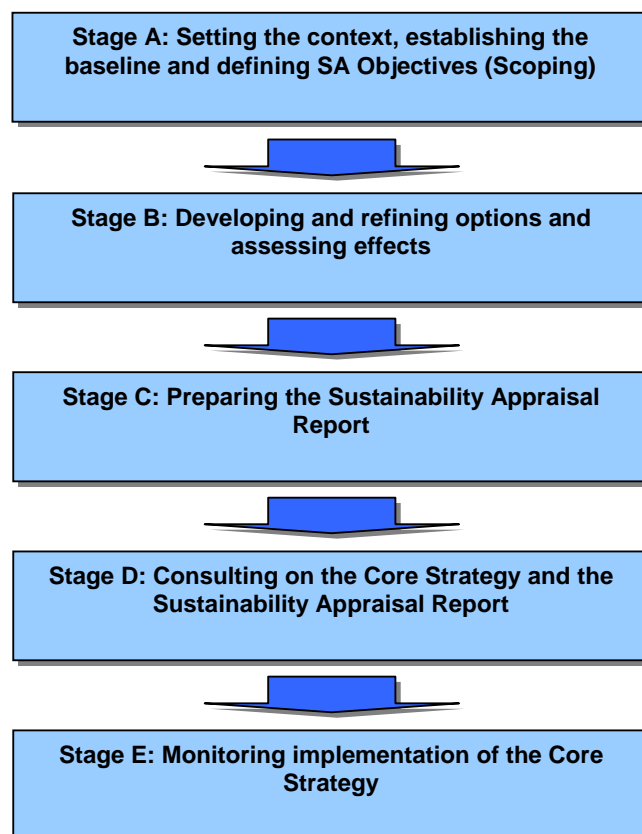
during its preparation	
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors	Chapter 5: Appraisal Findings
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme	Appendix 2 Policy Appraisal Matrices
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	Chapter 2: Methodology, Chapter 5: Appraisal Findings Section 5.1 Appraisal Technique, Chapter 4: Developing and Refining Policies
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10	Chapter 6: Implementation and Monitoring
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	See separate Non Technical Summary

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 The SA Process

The Guidance advocates a five-stage approach to undertaking SA (see Figure 2.1). This SA Report represents Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

**Figure 2.1: Five-stage approach to Sustainability Appraisal**



#### Stage A – Scoping

According to the Guidance, the Scoping Report should set out the findings of Stage A (which includes gathering an evidence base) together with information on what happens next in the process.

Stage A in the SA process involved five key tasks:

- A1 – Identify other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that will influence the Core Strategy;
- A2 – Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information;
- A3 – Identify key sustainability issues for the SA / plan to address;
- A4 – Develop the SA framework, consisting of the SA objectives, indicators and targets; and
- A5 – Produce a Scoping Report and consult relevant authorities, the public and other key stakeholders on the scope of the appraisal.

Tasks A1-A5, are illustrated in Figure 2.2. Tasks A1-A4 are undertaken concurrently and the results are collated in the Scoping Report, which represents Step A5.

### Figure 2.2: Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal Process

A1 – Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives and sustainability objectives that will influence the DPD

A2 – Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information

A3 – Identify key sustainability issues for the SA / DPD to address

A4 – Develop the SA framework, consisting of the SA objectives (and sub-objectives/criteria where appropriate)

A5 – Produce a scoping report and consult relevant authorities, the public and other key stakeholders on A1–A4

The purpose of Stage A is to set the context of the sustainability appraisal, establish the baseline from which the appraisal will be made, identify key sustainability issues and develop relevant sustainability objectives against which the Local Development Framework will be assessed. This includes the identification and review of relevant international, national, regional and local plans and programmes that might influence the LDF, and from which sustainability objectives can be derived, and the collection of baseline data, along with trend data where appropriate, to inform the identification of key sustainability issues.

The output of Stage A is the production of a Scoping Report. The Scoping Report is subject to consultation. The Scoping Report outlines the identified key sustainability issues for the area in light of the baseline data collated. It also sets the sustainability framework, which includes the sustainability objectives that were developed in the context of the identified issues and other relevant plans and programmes, and supporting decision-making criteria against which the plan can be assessed.

Stage A for the Core Strategy was undertaken by the NFNPA and the New Forest District Council and a Scoping Report was produced in 2006. The information in the following sections of this report has been taken from this Scoping Report and from the SA Report of the New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft:

- Section 3.2 – Baseline (Stage A2)
- Section 3.3 - Key Sustainability Issues (Stage A3)
- Section 3.5 - SA Objectives (Stage A4)

The information included in this report taken from the Scoping Report has not been updated. The Scoping Report can be viewed and downloaded in full from the planning policy pages of the website of the New Forest National Park Authority<sup>1</sup>.

### Stage B – Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

This report documents Stage B and summarises Stage A of the process. In doing so it fulfils the requirements of Stage C. Stage B of the SA process involves the main body of appraisal work and consists of five key tasks:

- **B1** – Testing the Core Strategy Objectives against the SA Framework;
- **B2** – Developing and Refining Options;

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk>

- **B3** – Predicting and assessing effects;
- **B4** – Identifying mitigation measures; and
- **B5** – Developing monitoring proposals;

## 3 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context

### 3.1 Context Review

The first task in Stage A of the SA process involved reviewing the policy and sustainability context. This entailed reviewing a large number of policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives prepared at international, national, regional and local level. This information can be found in the Scoping Report which was prepared for the use by the NFNPA and New Forest District Council and can be viewed and downloaded in full from the planning policy pages of the website of the NFNPA<sup>2</sup>. As Stage A has been completed and the SA Objectives identified, the Context Review has not been updated.

### 3.2 Baseline Information

The second task in Stage A of the SA process involved researching local conditions in order to determine whether the environmental, economic and social conditions in the park were favourable, average or unfavourable. This task was undertaken during the production of the Scoping Report. A short summary of baseline information is given below. This baseline information is derived from the SA Report of the New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft produced in 2008 and includes baseline from the Scoping Report. The baseline information has not been updated. The baseline information was used at the scoping stage to produce the sustainability objectives.

The SA Report of the New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft and the Scoping Report can be viewed in full on the NFNPA website at <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk>. As Stage A has been completed and the SA Objectives identified, this baseline section has not been updated.

#### Location

The Park is located largely within Hampshire, with most of its area lying within New Forest District, with a small area in Test Valley Borough, and a further small area in Wiltshire.

To the west, the New Forest District extends to the county boundary with Dorset and Wiltshire and includes the Avon Valley and the Western Downlands. The National Park boundary runs down the eastern side of the valley. The northern parts of the National Park extend beyond the District boundary into Wiltshire and Test Valley Borough. To the east the District and parts of the National Park are bounded by the River Test and Southampton Water and to the south by the western Solent.

The Southampton and Bournemouth-Poole conurbations provide employment and services, but also have an impact on the environment of the Forest including traffic generation, development pressures and visitors.

#### The New Forest National Park

The New Forest was created around 1079 as a royal hunting Forest, and has survived remarkably intact to become a highly valued part of the national heritage. It is an area of outstanding national and international importance for the extraordinary richness of its ecology and wildlife, the quality of its landscape, and the continuity of human influences over many centuries, in the form of management of woodlands, heaths, wildlife, game and domestic animals.

---

<sup>2</sup><http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk>

## Area

New Forest National Park is the smallest national park at 56,658 hectares, with one of the largest resident populations at approximately 34,668. At 61 people per square kilometre the National Park is more densely populated than any other national park in England.

## Population and Settlements

Within the National Park, there are four main settlements: Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway. The latest estimate<sup>3</sup> of the parish population for Brockenhurst is 3,300, for Sway is 3,400, for Lyndhurst is 3,000, and for Ashurst is 2,100. These four settlements have a broad range of community facilities and services, good accessibility, including public transport and include a significant proportion of the existing houses and jobs in the National Park. Community facilities and access to key services are essential in providing a focus and vibrancy in community life. Although many villages do still have some services, such as a pub and village hall, many of the smaller settlements do not have schools, play grounds, village shops or other facilities which together help sustain the rural communities.

71 schools are located in the National Park or within about 4km of the boundary, including those in Totton and the Waterside parishes, the southern coastal towns, Ringwood and Fordingbridge

With the close proximity of the major centres of Bournemouth, Southampton and Salisbury, local communities in the New Forest tend to look towards these cities for large commercial leisure, entertainment and shopping facilities.

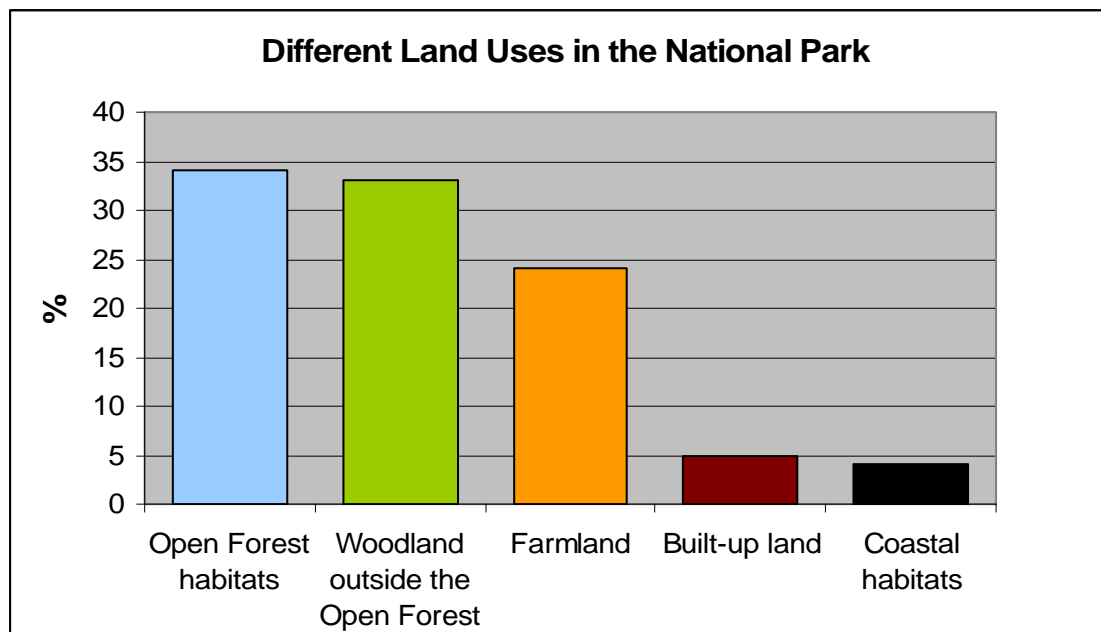
## Landscape and land use

Recognition of the very high quality of the landscape is reflected in the New Forest designation as a National Park. The New Forest National Park encompasses a wide variety of landscapes ranging from open heaths and woodlands to river valleys, coastal marshes and farmland

From its origins as a medieval Royal hunting forest, the New Forest remains a living and working forest. The proportion of the National Park occupied by different types of land use is summarised below.

---

<sup>3</sup> Source: New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration 2005



The New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) prepared by Environmental Resource Management and adopted by New Forest District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 2000 describes twenty-seven different landscape character areas, of which twenty-one are either wholly or partly within the New Forest National Park.

The National Park also includes part of the Southampton Water coast between Ashlett and Calshot, and the western Solent coast between Calshot and Keyhaven. Both are characterised by mudflats, saltmarshes and a rural hinterland of considerable nature conservation and landscape value. They have functional links with the New Forest in the form of small areas of grazing marsh.

The Landscape Character Assessment done by the New Forest District Council in 2000 summarised that the main issues for the landscape character in the National Park were:

- The impact of piecemeal development in the Forest.
- Pressures on the boundary of the Heritage Area (now mostly the National Park).
- The decline of landscape character on eastern edges bordering the Waterside.
- Managing visitor pressures.
- The influence of ongoing changes in forest management.
- Threats to communing.
- The erosion of semi-natural habitats.
- The impacts of sand and gravel extraction.
- Threats to historical and archaeological features.

### Nature conservation

The majority of the National Park is of outstanding national, European and international value for its nature conservation interest. Its unique combination of habitats includes lowland heath, valley and seepage step mire and ancient pasture woodland. The National Park contains a

substantial area covered by Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and the majority of this is also a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a classified Special Protection Area (SPA) and a listed Ramsar site.

The National Park includes the largest area of continuous semi-natural vegetation in lowland England, with extensive areas of beech woodland, lowland heath and valley mire systems. The New Forest also contains a large number of older trees which support a wide range of species including insects, birds, bats, mosses, lichens and fungi. Many of the habitats and species identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan are found in the National Park.

More than 31,000 hectares within the National Park is covered by international, national and local nature conservation designations. Table 3.1 below demonstrates that these designations represent a very high proportion of the area with these designations in Hampshire. Over 80% of the area designated as a SAC in Hampshire is found in the New Forest National Park. The total area covered by these designations amounts to more than half of the whole area of the National Park, and is a higher proportion than in any other English National Park.

**Table 3.1: Nature Conservation Designations**

<b><i>Nature Conservation Designations<sup>4</sup></i></b>	<b>Area in Hants (ha)</b>	<b>Area in NFNPA (ha)</b>
<b>Local Nature Reserve (LNR)</b>	1,850	412
<b>National Nature Reserve (NNR)</b>	1,953	979
<b>RAMSAR</b>	36,982	30,131
<b>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</b>	36,697	30,223
<b>Special Protection Area (SPA)</b>	41,780	30,101
<b>Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</b>	50,078	31,702
<b>Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)</b>	34,675	2,890

Natural England undertakes assessments of the condition of SSSIs. Less than 11,000 hectares (about one third of all SSSIs by area) are in favourable condition. Considerable resources are needed to achieve and maintain the high conservation value of these primary sites.

Pressures on the areas designated as being of nature conservation value include those arising from human activity (recreation, development and various forms of pollution including noise and light), and from other forces such as climate change. These can result in habitat loss and fragmentation, disturbance to wildlife (including pet predation), introduction of non-native species, increased flood risk etc. Human intervention through land management, including depasturing of grazing stock, has also helped to create biodiversity. The practice of commoning, which is so important in shaping much of the landscape and habitats in the National Park, remains under economic pressure.

<sup>4</sup> Monitoring Change in Priority Habitats, Priority Species and Designated Areas - Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre October 2007

## Tourism and Recreation

The New Forest is a major destination for tourism, because of the extensive opportunities it offers for informal outdoor recreation. Parts of its coastline at Calshot and Lepe also attract substantial numbers of visitors, and the National Park includes a number of major tourist attractions such as the National Motor Museum and Exbury Gardens.

The National Park is a major recreational area, with 42 kilometres of coastline (not all accessible), 235 kilometres of public footpaths, 57 kilometres of public bridleways, 226 kilometres of waymarked cycle routes and over 27,000 hectares of open access land (nearly 50% of the whole area of the National Park). The coast is a major recreation resource, and there are 23,000 moorings for boats in the Solent (including moorings within or close to the National Park at Buckler's Hard, Calshot, Hythe, Keyhaven and Lymington). The Park also accommodates formal recreation facilities in the form of sports pitches serving predominantly local village needs, and golf courses. There are eight golf courses, a number of cricket and football clubs plus facilities catering for other specialist activities including polo and archery. There are also a number of indoor leisure centres which lie outside the National Park such as at Lymington, Ringwood, Totton and New Milton.

Research in 2005 by Tourism South East indicated that there were 13.5 visitor days spent per annum in the New Forest National Park. This is a large number when compared to the geographical size of the New Forest National Park. Relative to the other National Parks, the number of visits per annum per square kilometre is very high. The vast majority of these visitors are local day visitors, most of which use private vehicles to travel to the Park. About 15 million people live within a 90 minute drive of the New Forest National Park, and with the development proposals in the two urban sub-regions either side of the National Park, this figure could increase by the end of the Plan period (2026).

One of the National Park Authority's statutory responsibilities is to promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the New Forest. However, this does not equate directly to promoting recreational use of the National Park. Instead, the enjoyment of the Park's special qualities, which include the Forest's outstanding natural beauty, tranquillity and the opportunities for quiet recreation, is to be promoted.

## Economy

Whilst the National Park is predominantly rural in nature, the economy within the area is diverse. According to the New Forest Economic Profile 2006<sup>5</sup> which covers both the New Forest District and the majority of the National Park, the most important employment sectors are distribution, hotels and restaurants (supported by the tourist industry); public administration, education and health; and finance and business services. Only a small proportion of employment is now found in traditional rural land-use activities such as farming, forestry and commoning, even though employment levels in these activities tend to be above the county, regional and national average. Whilst the viability of these activities is under pressure, they are essential for maintaining the land use management practices that help to conserve and enhance the landscape character and natural habitats of the National Park. A particular example is the importance of commoning to the character of the New Forest.

While unemployment is low, jobs within the New Forest District are relatively poorly paid, and a significant number are part-time. Data for incomes<sup>6</sup> in the New Forest District shows that the

<sup>5</sup> Annual Business Inquiry 2004, and New Forest Economic Profile - Hampshire County Council 2006

<sup>6</sup> CACI (2005). Non-weighted averages of the sum total incomes for each postcode in the authority. Data contained in Economic Profile of New Forest District, Hampshire County Council 2006

average household income for the District is one of the lowest in Hampshire and many households in the District have low incomes, possibly reflecting the number of low paid jobs, and the high numbers of pensioners in the District. Also, according to the New Forest Economic Profile 2006, the New Forest District has a lower gross value added (GVA) per person than either the national or Hampshire average. With house prices relatively high, the affordability of housing is an issue for many residents.

The New Forest District has only 56% of its population of working age which is lower than in the county, regional and national figures<sup>7</sup>. The economically active population is forecast<sup>8</sup> to decline significantly over the plan period and it is also expected that older people will make up a higher proportion of the population in the future.

## Transport

The transport network in the New Forest National Park serves its residents and provides connections to the bordering towns in the New Forest District, the two major conurbations centred on Southampton and Bournemouth and beyond. The area is served by road, rail and bus routes, and there is a large network of cycle ways and footpaths.

There are also significant contrasts in the transport network. Areas of relative remoteness, tranquil footpaths and quiet lanes contrast with the busy motorway and occasionally congested village streets.

The road network in the National Park spans the full range of roads from country lanes to motorway. There is also a combination of A-class roads, local rural roads (B-class) and a number of strategic roads crossing through the National Park. The M27 motorway passes through the eastern part of the National Park and brings traffic from the Southampton conurbation and urban South Hampshire, together with traffic arriving via the M3 motorway from further north.

There is a seasonal change in traffic volumes as a larger number of visitors are attracted to the New Forest during the summer months. This can produce congestion on some sections of the National Park road network, including approach roads to and within village centres. A particular aspect of the road network in the National Park is that of accidents involving animals. There are many accidents on the unfenced roads within the National Park involving animals that are permitted to graze as part of the commoning system

The National Park is relatively well served for long-distance rail travel, with good connections to the national rail network. There are four stations at Brockenhurst, Sway, Beaulieu Road and Ashurst. Brockenhurst station is particularly well served with over 130 trains stopping each day. There is also a rail connection between Brockenhurst and Lymington, which has recently been designated a Community Rail Partnership, and is particularly important in serving the ferry services to the Isle of Wight.

There are a number of regular scheduled public bus services through and across the National Park, including the hourly 56 service between Southampton and Lymington which also links Lyndhurst village and Brockenhurst rail station. The New Forest Tour recreational open top bus serves the large visitor market during the summer months. The New Forest Tour follows a circular route which takes in Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst, Lymington and Beaulieu including attractions en route. In 2007 the New Forest Tour achieved over 9000 passenger journeys.

<sup>7</sup> Census 2001, New Forest Economic Profile - Hampshire County Council 2006

<sup>8</sup> Hampshire County Council 2006 : Long term Population and Housing Projections using the Chelmer Model in Future Matters : Issues and Options for the New Forest – A Public Consultation Dec 2006

The transport network in the National Park also provides links to other transport facilities, including the regional airports in Southampton and Bournemouth, the port of Southampton, and the ferry services in Southampton, Hythe and Lymington.

## Agriculture

Management of land and stock for agriculture, forestry and horticulture is a major determinant of landscape quality. The contribution of the commoning system and silvicultural management to the character of the National Park is very important. The maintenance of a viable agricultural and commoning economy is therefore an issue of great significance for the National Park. Increasingly, diversification of activity and agricultural enterprise is seen as a way of sustaining agricultural management of land.

The majority of the land that is of high nature conservation value in the National Park, principally the open Forest, is of poor agricultural quality. This is one of the reasons why commoners need back-up land to support stock depastured on the open Forest. This is a unique and vital element of the land management regime associated with the New Forest. Back-up land is to be found in farmland in and around the National Park. A particular issue affecting the future of commoning is the availability of back-up land; competition from other uses such as recreational horse riding forces up rental and sale prices to levels well beyond the means of most commoners.

The highest quality agricultural land in the National Park is in the southern parts of the Park between Hinton and Boldre and along the north-west Solent shore, and in the small parts of the Avon valley included within the Park, where there are large areas classified as Grades 2 and 3.

## Historic Environment

The National Park is of substantial historic and cultural importance in its own right, encompassing a system of land management that has survived remarkably intact for many centuries. The commoning system and the associated Verderers Court, which derives from the medieval system of Forest Law, is one manifestation of this, as are many of its landscape characteristics, including historic features such as the Ancient and Ornamental Enclosures, 13th Century Forest boundary markers, enclosure banks, and ancient field patterns.

In terms of the built heritage, the National Park contains a built environment of mixed age and quality. Forest settlements are typically dispersed in character, with dwellings and farmsteads scattered along lanes and tracks, interspersed with fields and woodlands. In the larger villages of Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway this pattern has largely been lost to more modern infilling development; however, most other settlements in the Forest have retained the more characteristic layout. Distinctive building types include timber-framed cottages with thatched roofs and cob-walled cottages and barns. Larger houses include Georgian manor houses, and Victorian and Edwardian dwellings notable for their steeply pitched roofs and tile-hung upper storeys. The National Park contains a number of Conservation Areas (with some newly designated) and listed buildings. There is also extensive archaeological evidence of earlier occupation, particularly Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman, and the Park contains numerous Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The more recent historic heritage includes evidence of both World Wars, with remnants of airfields in the Forest, the seaplane hangers at Calshot and Mulberry Harbour structures on the south coast.

A number of man-made landscapes are also identified as being of particular importance. Six areas within the National Park are on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, and a further 16 are also identified as being of historic interest.

## Noise and light

Tranquillity is considered to be one of the special qualities of the National Park, but this is under pressure from noise disturbance from road (and air) traffic and from recreational activities. A 1996 assessment of Tranquil Areas in the New Forest Heritage Area found that there was a high degree of remoteness/ tranquillity in the north-west and south-east of the area. It found that the most remote areas were west of Fritham, the north west Solent shore (south and west of Beaulieu), south of Burley and Hatchet Moor<sup>9</sup>. A CPRE study from 2000 indicated that one of the only parts of the District with 'dark skies' was the centre of the National Park.

## Minerals and Waste Sites

A couple of small scale operational mineral extraction and waste management sites are dotted throughout the National Park, and are likely to continue during the lifetime of the Park Plan, including sand and gravel extraction in the south east of the Park and a number of waste management sites, including a landfill site in the north of the Park.

## Energy

In 2005 New Forest District (including the National Park) had an average level of domestic and commercial electricity consumption, relative to other local authorities in the South East<sup>10</sup>. Energy savings over the six years to 2004 have been in the region of 19% as opposed to the English average of 9%.

## Water supply

Much of Hampshire County relies on groundwater or groundwater-fed streams for its water supply. New Forest District contains groundwater protection zones at Ampress, Lymington and in the Western Downlands extending to Fordingbridge and through Breamore into the National Park at Hale, serving boreholes at Hale and Woodgreen. The District is well supplied with water as it contains large reservoirs at Blashford Lakes which draw water from the River Avon, and Testwood Lakes which draw from the River Test. The Environment Agency has identified water catchment areas around the Avon and the Test.

## Pollution

### Air Quality

Air quality is generally good, although localised problems exist from traffic emissions, for example in Lyndhurst where high traffic flows and queues are common. Poor air quality is associated with heavy industry in the Waterside Area of the District and mineral workings in the Avon Valley.

### Water

Rivers with catchments largely contained within the Forest are of generally high water quality, with the main problems relating to low flows in summer. Low flows can be attributed to the lack of a major aquifer to hold winter rainfall, partial drainage of some of the mire systems and the straightening and dredging of rivers. Ground water abstraction may also be contributing to reduced flow rates.

<sup>9</sup> Tranquil Areas: the New Forest Heritage Area. Countryside Commission/Ash Consulting 1996 CPRE Light Pollution Map for the South East

<sup>10</sup> Regional and local energy consumption statistics DTI 2005

The Avon and Test Rivers have experienced a gradual loss of quality. Diffuse pollution from agricultural land, roads and built up areas are contributory factors. Use of fertilisers results in nutrient-rich run-off that enters coastal waters via streams and rivers, adding to problems of nutrient enrichment associated with sewage. The Environment Agency monitors and reviews abstraction licenses within SACs where these may have a significant effect on their ecological value.

### 3.3 Key Sustainability Issues

The key sustainability issues were identified in Stage A through Tasks A1 and A2. The table below sets out these issues and any further issues identified in the SA Report of the New Forest National Park Plan. The table examines the likely evolution of each of the key issues in the absence of the National Park Plan, The National Park Plan was a combined document that contained both the Core Strategy and the Management Plan. As Stage A has been completed and the SA Objectives identified, this table has not been updated.

**Table 3.2 Key issues**

Key Issue	Likely Evolution without the National Park Plan
<b>Environmental</b>	
<p>The majority of the New Forest National Park, is covered by local, national, and international nature conservation designations (SINC, SSSI, SPA, Ramsar, SAC) and is covered by its national landscape designation (National Park), The character and condition of these areas are under pressure from a variety of sources, such as development, recreation, transport, and climate change.</p>	<p>A possible gradual erosion of the landscape quality and the condition of the designated nature conservation sites, and the quality of the National Park landscape overall.</p>
<p>Although mechanisms are in place to help enable favourable or recovering condition for a high proportion of the nationally and internationally important habitats (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) by 2010, nevertheless currently less than 11,000 hectares (about one third of all SSSIs by area) is in favourable condition.</p>	<p>Without the Plan it may be difficult to sustain favourable condition for all SSSIs</p>
<p>Local distinctiveness is the sum of all the individual features of the landscape and built environment which create the particular character of the National Park. Although the Park is still clearly different in many ways from its surroundings, the small-scale changes to the local landscape, buildings and settlements take place almost constantly in response to shifting values, fashions, availability of products and the spread of new technology. Although change is inevitable it is often at the expense of those features which give the New Forest its particular character and local distinctiveness.</p>	<p>These trends are likely to continue unless local distinctiveness in the New Forest is much better understood, valued and conserved through the actions of local residents, businesses and organisations.</p> <p>Over time small scale changes cause a real impact on the landscape, reducing the recognisable differences between different parts of the National Park and leading to a general suburbanisation and loss of the rural quality of the New Forest as a whole.</p>

Key Issue	Likely Evolution without the National Park Plan
<p>There has been a gradual and continuing loss of character, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suburbanisation of the villages</li> <li>• Use of standard highways infrastructure</li> <li>• Mediocre building design</li> <li>• Decline in traditional rural crafts and land management</li> <li>• The general 'tidying' of the landscape.</li> </ul>	
<p>Climate change will alter the character of large parts of the National Park over the next 20-50 years and beyond, modifying landscapes, habitats, biodiversity and the way the Park is perceived and used.</p> <p>Predictions relevant locally include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A substantial rise in sea-levels affecting coastal habitats and recreation;</li> <li>• Increased summer droughts causing the decline of important wetland and woodland habitats;</li> <li>• Warmer winters allowing the spread of plant and animal diseases; and</li> <li>• Changes to traditional land management.</li> </ul>	<p>Without action to encourage a switch to more sustainable lifestyles it is unlikely that emissions will fall.</p> <p>Without building knowledge and awareness and putting into place mechanisms allowing adaptation to the impacts of climate change, it may not be possible to ameliorate some of the most damaging effects.</p>
<p>The significant economic development planned in areas close to the Park (e.g. South Hampshire and South East Dorset) could create important impacts on the National Park. Development could affect the visual setting of the Park, and create increased recreational pressures and more traffic (from both visitors and commuters)</p>	<p>Nearby and regional authorities may be less aware of the opportunities to provide alternative green infrastructure to help relieve some of the recreational pressures on the Park, and avoid or mitigate policies and proposals that could have a negative impact on the National Park.</p> <p>There would be less likelihood of protection of the visual setting of the Park, and the retention of back-up grazing land for commoning beyond the Park boundary</p>
<p>Development pressures (including the cumulative impact of small-scale development), pose threats to the character of the built environment, the cultural landscapes and biodiversity within the Park. High land and property prices fuel these pressures.</p>	<p>Planning policies have prevented significant levels of development in the rural settlements, but traditional buildings and features will be vulnerable to new development (replacements, extensions etc) that undermine the character of villages.</p>
<p>The future viability of the commoning practice is uncertain. This is due in part to the continuing rise in the cost of housing for young commoners, the need for flexible part-time employment in other parts of the economy, and the decline in the availability of back-up grazing land.</p>	<p>Without strong supportive policies, this traditional land-use management may decline. The landscape and biodiversity value of much of the National Park depends on commoning, without which there would be a rapid change and loss of quality of typical habitats and features, and cultural traditions.</p>
<p>Agriculture has a significant impact on the nature of the landscape and habitats in the</p>	<p>Without strong support and guidance, agricultural land may not be managed to</p>

Key Issue	Likely Evolution without the National Park Plan
<p>National Park. However, like the commoning practice, it continues to be subject of economic uncertainty. Government subsidy schemes are complex and there are practical problems in their implementation. Moreover, it is possible that the government may move away from the public subsidy system and the current schemes which encourage environmentally sensitive management may not continue.</p>	<p>achieve the highest environmental benefits and diversification may include development and activities not appropriate within the National Park.</p> <p>There is likely to be pressures to diversify farming businesses away from the traditional land management activities.</p>
<p>Tranquillity is one of the National Park's special qualities. Elements which affect tranquillity and include noise levels of road and air traffic and other human activities, the visual intrusion of buildings and structure, and light pollution. The greatest influence on tranquillity is the main road network.</p>	<p>Unless regional and local policies take the Park's qualities into account it is likely that there will be a further erosion of tranquillity in the National Park due to increasing road and air traffic, development, recreational demand and light pollution.</p>
<p>The impacts of recreational activities are difficult to evaluate, but there are concerns about the effects of visitor pressures on the fabric of the New Forest, its wildlife, sense of remoteness and on the day to day lives of residents.</p> <p>With more than 13 million visitors to the Park every year, a more precise knowledge of recreational activities and their impacts on the National Park needs to be built up over time, and that specific policies may be amended on the basis of that work. However clear guidance is needed now to establish the basic principles for managing recreation across the whole of the National Park. The Recreation Management Strategy for the National Park will set out in more detail the policy approach and actions for recreation, based on the framework given in this plan.</p>	<p>The National Park Plan provides the framework for the more detailed Recreation Management Strategy.</p> <p>While further research is needed into the precise impacts of recreation on the Park's Special Qualities, it is likely that without management and mitigation measures this will include adverse impacts on sensitive species, erosion of fragile habitats and lose of tranquillity.</p>
<p>The volume of road traffic in the National Park is derived from a number of different sources. These include recreational visits, local traffic accessing local services, commuters (both into and out of the Park, and those passing through the Park) and business traffic within, and passing through, the National Park.</p>	<p>Tranquillity would continue to be eroded.</p> <p>The experience of travelling to or through the National Park would not be as distinctive.</p>
<p>Road traffic is a major issue for many residents and visitors, affecting the quality of life in local communities (e.g. congestion and pollution), the quiet enjoyment of the Park (tranquillity), the welfare of stock and the integrity of the Forest's landscapes and habitats. There is an unacceptable level of accidents involving</p>	<p>The quality of life for village residents would be eroded by greater traffic congestion.</p> <p>There would be fewer opportunities to use sustainable alternatives to private cars.</p> <p>The numbers of animal accidents would remain too high.</p>

Key Issue	Likely Evolution without the National Park Plan
animals.	
<b>Economic</b>	
<p>The numbers employed in traditional rural land-use activities associated with forestry, farming, and commoning have declined over time and now account for a very small percentage of the workforce. With the viability of these activities under pressure, many farms are looking to diversify their businesses – not all of the new proposals, however, support the land management activities, which are so important in helping to maintain the landscape and habitats.</p>	<p>There is a risk that some farms will move away from their traditional land management activities to concentrate on other businesses.</p> <p>Because land based activities are so important in maintaining the landscape, habitats and cultural identity, and contributing to the sustainability of rural communities, the continued decline in employment in these activities could be very detrimental.</p>
<p>Whilst the National Park is predominantly rural in nature, the economy within the area is diverse. The most important employment sectors are distribution, hotels and restaurants, followed by public administration, education and health, and then finance and business services. Only a small proportion of employment is now found in traditional rural land-use activities such as farming, forestry and commoning. There is a challenge to ensure that the local economy is sufficiently sustainable to maintain the life and vibrancy of the National Park, providing local employment and sustaining its rural communities. Flexibility is needed to respond to changes in the wider economy, but without compromising the special qualities and essentially rural character of the area.</p>	<p>Without retention of existing employment sites, the sustainability and identity of many local communities could be put under pressure. Loss of local employment could increase the number of out-commuters dependant on jobs outside the National Park.</p>
<p>Some rural skills are being lost, and new skills involving sustainable technologies and new local products will need to be developed.</p>	<p>Lack of skills could hamper some rural businesses, including land management activities. Opportunities to develop new businesses could be limited by insufficient skills in the local workforce.</p>
<p>Many of the locations that support businesses are under pressure from other higher value land uses, such as housing.</p>	<p>Some employment sites may be lost to other activities through change of use or redevelopment, with the consequent loss of employment that supports rural communities.</p>
<p>The large areas covered by national and international nature conservation designations, and the high level of environmental protection provided by national planning policies, means that there are environmental constraints on new business and business expansion in the National Park.</p>	<p>There may be a greater chance of business expansion affecting landscape and nature conservation interests.</p> <p>Some employment sites may be lost to other activities through change of use or redevelopment.</p>

Key Issue	Likely Evolution without the National Park Plan
<p>There is no specific regional requirement for employment development in the National Park. Under these circumstances, greater emphasis is placed on retaining existing sites, re-using redundant buildings, and home working,</p>	<p>Fewer opportunities may be explored for alternative means of employment provision, including re-use of redundant buildings and working from home.</p>
<p><b>Social</b></p>	
<p>The cultural identity and cohesion of rural communities remains under pressure and they are changing rapidly in response to a combination of social and economic trends, including high property prices, the desirability of the area for commuting, second homes and retirement.</p>	<p>Local culture and heritage could diminish. There would continue to be a loss of skills, local knowledge and traditions which contribute to community identity and distinctiveness, where these are no longer transferred between generations or from established to new residents.</p> <p>It is possible that some rural communities could become 'dormitory' settlements for out commuters.</p>
<p>There are concerns about the loss of village pubs and shops, local services, and community facilities.</p>	<p>Without the Plan, there would be less support for maintaining essential local services and facilities.</p>
<p>Affordable housing for people with a strong connection to the New Forest is a particular issue, especially affecting younger people who wish to remain involved in the traditional land-based economy (including commoning) and other rural businesses. The gap between house prices and local earnings has widened considerably over the last 10 years</p>	<p>Fewer people with local housing needs would be able to find affordable accommodation.</p>

### 3.4 Limitations and Assumptions

The Scoping Report was produced for the NFNPA and New Forest District Council. It was intended that the document be used for the SA/SEA of the LDF and Management Plan produced by the NFNPA and the LDF produced by the New Forest District Council. When information was collected for the baseline it was not possible in every instance to collect information for the National Park as often information is collected at a District level. In these instances information for the District was used. The assumption was made therefore that although this information incorporated areas outside of the National Park it could be used as an indicator of the environmental, social and economic conditions in the National Park. The SA Framework was intended for use to by both the NFNPA and the New Forest District Council. It is possible that aspects of the SA Framework may be more relevant to the New Forest District rather than to the National Park specifically. Difficulties encountered during Stage A are listed in the Scoping Report in Section 2.8.

## 3.5 SA Objectives

Task 4 of Stage A is the development of the SA Framework, which sets out the SA Objectives and sub-objectives where appropriate. SA objectives are a recognised way in which environmental, economic and social effects can be described, analysed and compared. The SA Objectives and their decision making criteria are listed below.

**Table 3.3 SA objectives and underlying criteria**

SA Objective	Criteria
<b>1. Provide a safe and secure environment</b>	• Will it improve road safety, especially for vulnerable groups including pedestrians, cyclists and young people?
	• Will it limit development at risk from flooding and coastal erosion (by means of protection/ defence works and/or location)?
	• Will it limit development at risk from major hazards or hazardous substances?
	• Will it reduce fear of crime?
	• Will it ensure the environment does not encourage crime?
<b>2. Improve health and well being</b>	• Will it encourage walking and cycling?
	• Will it improve access to leisure facilities?
	• Will it reduce noise pollution?
	• Will it ensure access to health care?
	• Will it ensure accessible buildings and external spaces?
<b>3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements</b>	• Will it provide enough dwellings to meet identified District housing needs, particularly with regard to providing affordable and key worker dwellings?
	• Will it provide for special accommodation needs? (Key workers/ Elderly/Disabled/ Commoners/Agricultural and forestry workers/ other occupational needs/Gypsies/ travelling showpeople)
	• Will it ensure adequate standards of residential accommodation?
	• Will it ensure accessibility to essential services including provision in accessible locations and accessible transport links?
	• Will it ensure access to alternative modes of transport?
<b>4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors</b>	• Will it enable provision of, access to & maintenance of outdoor and indoor recreation, leisure and cultural facilities for all including young people, elderly people and those with disabilities?
	• Will it enable the quiet enjoyment of New Forest National Park?
	• Will it enable recreational access to countryside and coast within environmental constraints?
	• Will it enable provision for educational development needs including further education opportunities for those seeking new skills, and elderly people?
<b>5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints</b>	• Will it ensure transport infrastructure (roads/ rail/buses/ cycleways/footpaths) serves local needs?
	• Will it improve/ increase provision of public transport?
	• Will it encourage greater use of public transport?
	• Will it ensure utilities infrastructure serves local needs?
	• Will it limit adverse environmental impacts of infrastructure provision?
	• Will it enable economic/environmentally acceptable provision of services?

SA Objective	Criteria
<b>6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy for the District that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the District's assets.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it ensure a sufficient supply of land in sustainable locations to meet local employment needs?</li> <li>• Will it encourage provision of diverse employment opportunities?</li> <li>• Will it enhance skill levels and provide higher-paid jobs?</li> <li>• Will it ensure that, within environmental constraints, economic activity is supported by an adequate transport network</li> </ul>
<b>7. Ensure thriving rural economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it support commoning and Forest-related enterprise?</li> <li>• Will it enable farm diversification appropriate to the character of the area?</li> <li>• Will it support management of the landscape?</li> </ul>
<b>8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it provide for local convenience and comparison shopping needs?</li> </ul>
<b>9. Promote sustainable tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it help maintain a viable tourist economy?</li> <li>• Will it ensure that tourist/visitor pressure does not harm the environment of the New Forest, AONB, countryside, and coast?</li> </ul>
<b>10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it protect and enhance designated sites?</li> <li>• Will it encourage appropriate management of designated sites?</li> <li>• Will it limit pressures on designated sites arising from recreational and other uses?</li> <li>• Will it maintain biodiversity levels, protecting and enhancing existing nature conservation interests and creating new areas of nature conservation value?</li> <li>• Will it allow biodiversity to adapt to the effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Will it protect rare and vulnerable species wherever they occur?</li> <li>• Will it encourage public access and education facilities, where appropriate?</li> </ul>
<b>11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it protect the landscape character of the New Forest National Park or the Cranborne Chase &amp; West Wiltshire Downs AONB?</li> <li>• Will it encourage appropriate management of designated landscapes?</li> <li>• Will it protect the character of the countryside and coast?</li> <li>• Will it protect and retain trees, woodlands and hedgerows?</li> <li>• Will it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- maintain local distinctiveness?</li> <li>- enhance and contribute to local building traditions?</li> <li>- enhance the urban landscape?</li> <li>- ensure high design standards?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Will it improve quantity and/or quality of amenity space?</li> </ul>
<b>12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it protect, maintain and enhance listed buildings and their settings, conservation areas, archaeological sites and historic landscapes?</li> <li>• Will it encourage local cultural traditions including commoning?</li> </ul>

SA Objective	Criteria
<b>13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it protect the quality of air, water and soil by controlling developments likely to give rise to harmful emissions?</li> <li>• Will it protect the quality of air, water and soil by controlling developments likely to have an adverse effect on coastal, surface or groundwater quality?</li> <li>• Will it encourage the restoration of contaminated land?</li> </ul>
<b>14. Encourage sustainable use of resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it ensure sustainable use of land?</li> <li>• Will it limit waste generation?</li> <li>• Will it encourage recycling of waste materials?</li> <li>• Will it encourage the recovery of maximum value from waste materials, including re-use, recovery and composting?</li> <li>• Will it limit disposal of all waste types to landfill?</li> <li>• Will it encourage the production and use of recycled aggregates?</li> <li>• Will it avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources?</li> <li>• Will it encourage sustainable use of water?</li> </ul>
<b>15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it limit greenhouse gas emissions from domestic and industrial sources by means of energy-efficient building construction and layout?</li> <li>• Will it require new buildings to incorporate energy generating infrastructure?</li> <li>• Will it encourage the use of energy generating devices in existing buildings?</li> <li>• Will it reduce the need to travel by car by means of sustainable location of development?</li> <li>• Will it encourage the use of alternative modes of transport, including more walking and cycling?</li> <li>• Will it encourage generation of renewable energy by enabling the development of renewable energy schemes consistent with local resources and the environment?</li> </ul>

## 4 Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

### Generating Options

In producing the New Forest National Park Core Strategy the New Forest National Park Authority were required to consider a range of different options which could be used to achieve the plan objectives.

This process has been undertaken over several years and the formation of options was informed by consultation with stakeholders. A number of different policy options were considered and these alternative policy options were informed by a range of sources including:

- The Issues and Options consultation 'Future Matters' January 2007;
- Consultation on Draft New Forest National Park Plan;
- Stakeholder Workshop and other consultations of issues and potential policy options;
- The Interim National Park Management Plan ('Strategy for the Forest');
- Test Valley Borough Local Plan, Salisbury District Local Plan, New Forest District Local Plan;
- The Community Strategies for Test Valley Borough, New Forest District and Salisbury District;
- The environmental, social, and economic characteristics of the National Park, the current state of the environment, and its likely evolution without implementation of the Core Strategy; and
- A number of local, regional and national policies and programmes and various background assessments and research (see Annex 4 of the draft National Park Plan<sup>11</sup>).

Once different alternatives had been produced, sustainability appraisal was used to provide information to decision makers on the environmental, social and economic effects of the different options. This information enabled the relative merits of the different options to be considered. The role of the sustainability appraisal is not to determine the options to be chosen – it is to assist with the selection of the appropriate options, by highlighting the sustainability implications of each.

### The New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft

Following the consideration of policy options a Consultation Draft of the New Forest National Park Plan was produced. The New Forest National Park Plan was a combined document that incorporated both the Core Strategy and the Management Plan. A Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken on the Consultation Draft of the New Forest National Park Plan and the SA Report accompanied the Consultation Draft as an Annex to the main report<sup>12</sup>.

The Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken by the New Forest National Park Authority and a copy of this document is available from the New Forest National Park Authority website. The Consultation Draft was subject to a 12 week consultation period which closed in November 2008.

Following the completing of the 12-week consultation period further consultation was undertaken. This included:

<sup>11</sup> New Forest National Park Authority (2008) New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk>

<sup>12</sup> Annex 5 – New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report August 2008  
<http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk>

- Running five working groups looking at the more contentious issues (zoning, service villages, traffic, transport, socio-economic issues, recreational horse keeping);
- Hosting a meeting for all local, district and county councillors;
- Inviting all parish and town councils within the park to meet to discuss their local responses;
- Meeting local interest groups to explore how the proposals could be improved and taken forward constructively; and
- Setting up an equine forum to gain input from the horse riding community.

### **The New Forest National Park Core Strategy**

On the basis of the consultation feedback received on the New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft the decision was made to separate the two components of the document; the Core Strategy and the New Forest National Park Management Plan and to produce these separately. This decision was made as it was felt that this would be clearer and would better reflect the status of the two documents. Separating the two documents would also enable them to be updated separately in the future.

The policies in the New Forest National Park Core Strategy were produced using the feedback received from the consultation exercises. Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken during the development and refining of the policies using an iterative process where feedback was provided to the National Park Authority during the policy development process. The appraisal findings and methodology are presented in Chapter 5.

## 5 Appraisal Findings

### 5.1 Appraisal Technique

A compatibility appraisal of the Core Strategy Objectives was undertaken to ensure that they were not in conflict with the SA objectives. This was done using a compatibility matrix (Appendix 1) with the findings discussed in section 5.2 below.

Appraisal matrices were also used to evaluate the effects of the Core Strategy policies where each Policy was considered against each Sustainability Objective (and its criteria) and the likely effects noted. The appraisal matrices are included as appendices to this report and can be found in Appendix 2.

The following Key was used in the appraisal matrices to record effects:

Key:

++	Significantly beneficial impact
+	Beneficial impact
+/-	Both positive and adverse impacts
-	Potential adverse impact
--	Significant adverse impact
?	Uncertain impact – requires monitoring
0	Not relevant or not applicable

### 5.2 Objectives Compatibility Appraisal

**When compared against the SA Objectives, the Core Strategy objectives were found to be largely compatible with many beneficial effects. No significant conflicts have been identified.** There are areas where it is uncertain whether the objective would cause tension and these are highlighted below:

**Core Strategy Objective 3:** Reducing the overall environmental footprint of the National Park has the potential to conflict with SA Objectives 6 and 7 which encourage economic wellbeing. However, measures set out in the Core Strategies policy approaches encourage economic wellbeing that is based on sustainability principles and if implemented, it is likely that the overall Core Strategy will meet the objective of reducing the environmental footprint of the National Park while at the same time promoting the health of the local economy. No mitigation measures are proposed.

**Core Strategy Objective 8 and 9:** Promoting sustainable tourism would have the potential to have an adverse effect on the environment of the New Forest if an increase in visitor numbers resulted in additional recreational pressure on nature conservation sites, increased traffic and a loss of tranquillity. However the focus of the Core Strategy objective is to facilitate a shift to more sustainable forms of tourism rather than acting to increase visitor numbers. No mitigation measures are therefore proposed.

### 5.3 Policy Appraisal Results

**Overall, the Core Strategy policies have no significant adverse effects on the SA objectives and therefore no adverse effects were identified.** The tables below provide the

summary findings for each of the policies including mitigation measures and cumulative effects where appropriate. The full matrices are included in Appendix 2.

## Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment

When appraised against the SA objectives, the policies relating to protecting and enhancing the New Forest’s environment were found to have an overall beneficial effect on sustainability. Significant beneficial effects were identified against SA objectives related to maintenance and enhancement of the natural and built environment as well as on mitigating against climate change. There were also some significant beneficial effects identified against objectives related to health and well being of the New Forest’s residents, safety and pollution control.

No adverse effects were identified. However, some recommendations on enhancing some of the policies were identified and are summarised below:

*Policy CP4 and DP4 – These policies touch on adaptation to climate change and are judged to have beneficial effects. The SA Objective they are assessed against however only relates to climate change mitigation and it is recommended that when revising the SA objectives in the future, this objective is enhanced by incorporating adaptation to climate change to this objective*

### Cumulative effects:

Policies CP1, DP1 and CP2 in combination present significant beneficial cumulative effects for nature conservation, landscape conservation and protection of cultural heritage. This is further enhanced by Development management policies that seek to ensure that development in the National Park does not lead to detrimental effects on the Park’s natural and built environment.

**Table 5.1 Protecting and enhancing the Natural Environment – SA findings**

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p><b>Policy CP1: Nature Conservation Sites of International Importance</b></p> <p>Development which may affect the integrity of an internationally important site for nature conservation (either individually or in combination with other plans and projects) will not be permitted unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) there is no alternative solution; and</li> <li>b) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the development.</li> </ul> <p>In particular, any new housing that is proposed to be located within 400m of the boundary of the New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) will be required to demonstrate that adequate measures are put in place to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects on the ecological integrity of the SPA. Such measures must be agreed with Natural England.</p>	<p>Policy CP1 supports SA Objectives related to the protection of internationally important nature conservation sites through regulating development. This policy will contribute to the overall protection of the New Forest National Park’s environment and landscape character.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP2: The Natural Environment</b></p> <p>Proposals should protect, maintain and enhance nationally, regionally and locally important sites and features of the natural environment, including habitats and species of biodiversity importance, geological features and the water environment.</p> <p>In addition, opportunities to enhance ecological or geological</p>	<p>Policy CP2 supports SA Objectives related to the maintenance and enhancement of the built and natural environment including nature conservation designations, BAP priorities, landscape, heritage and archaeological sites. This policy will contribute to the overall protection of the New Forest National Park’s environment.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p>assets should be maximised, particularly in line with local Biodiversity Action Plan priorities, and the South East Plan Areas of Strategic Opportunity.</p>	
<p><b>Policy DP1: General Development Principles</b></p> <p>All new development and uses of land within the New Forest National Park must uphold and promote the principles of sustainable development. New development proposals must demonstrate high quality design and construction which enhances local character and distinctiveness. This includes, but is not restricted to, ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) development is appropriate and sympathetic in terms of scale, appearance, form, siting and layout;</li> <li>b) development respects the natural and built environment, landscape character and biodiversity;</li> <li>c) materials are appropriate to the site and its setting;</li> <li>d) amenity is not adversely affected in terms of additional impacts, visual intrusion, overlooking or shading; and</li> <li>e) no adverse impacts associated with traffic or pollution (including noise and light pollution)</li> </ul> <p>New development must also comply with required standards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f) car parking;</li> <li>g) open space (as set out in policy DP3); and</li> <li>h) the Code for Sustainable Homes, achieving a minimum of Level 3 by 2012, Level 4 from 2012 to 2016; and Level 6 from 2016; and BREEAM Level 'very good' for commercial and industrial buildings</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP1 supports SA Objectives related to pollution from noise, light and traffic, as well as maintaining the natural environment and biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. The policy supports the SA Objective relating to climate change through the requirement for BREEAM and similar design standards which are likely to require energy efficient development with reduced environmental impacts.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP2: Safeguarding and Improving Water Resources</b></p> <p>Development will not be permitted if it would risk harm to the quality and yield of water resources, including abstraction sites, groundwater, rivers, streams and still waters.</p>	<p>Policy DP2 supports SA objectives relating to nature conservation interests, landscape and townscape and water pollution. The policy will contribute to protecting the water environment.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP3: Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Proposals which create, maintain and enhance a network of green infrastructure will be supported, particularly where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) encourage connectivity between different habitats and sites; or</li> <li>b) relieve recreational pressures on internationally important nature conservation sites.</li> </ul> <p>The Authority will work with adjoining authorities and other partners to develop green infrastructure for the National Park, and to ensure the impacts of development outside the Park's boundary do not affect the Park, especially internationally important nature conservation designations.</p>	<p>Policy CP3 supports the SA objective relating to education through the creation and maintenance of a green infrastructure network which will support meeting local leisure needs. The SA objective on tourism is also supported through the relief of recreational pressure on conservation sites. The policy supports the SA objectives relating to maintaining and improving nature conservation interests and the character of the National Park.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP3: Open Space</b></p> <p>Proposals that result in the loss of existing open space and amenity areas will not be permitted.</p> <p>Development should either provide for the enhancement of existing open space and amenity areas, or provide on-site</p>	<p>Policy DP3 supports the SA objective relating to meeting educational, leisure and cultural needs and maintaining and enhancing the landscape through providing and enhancing open space and amenity areas.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p>open space to the minimum provision standard of 3.5 hectares of public open space per 1,000 population.</p>	
<p><b>Policy CP4: Climate Change</b></p> <p>The Authority will support proposals to mitigate climate change and adapt to the impacts of climate change through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoiding development in areas at highest risk of flooding;</li> <li>b) locating development so as to reduce the need to travel by car;</li> <li>c) sustainable design and construction including improved water and energy efficiency;</li> <li>d) increasing small scale renewable and low carbon energy generation;</li> <li>e) reduce the overall environmental footprint of the National Park; and</li> <li>f) enabling wildlife and habitats to adapt to climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy CP4 supports the SA objective on climate change as well as those relating to safety (through avoiding development in areas liable to flooding), reducing travel by car, nature conservation and sustainable water and energy use. The policy will contribute to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change (the SA objective should be updated to reflect both climate change mitigation and adaptation).</p>
<p><b>Policy DP4: Flooding and the Coast</b></p> <p>Development proposals will not be permitted if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) would increase the risk of coastal or fluvial flooding or coastal erosion;</li> <li>b) do not comply with the sequential test or are inappropriate in high flood risk areas (as defined by PPS25 Flood Zones 2 and 3 and the New Forest Strategic Flood Risk Assessment); and</li> <li>c) are not compatible with the appropriate Shoreline Management Plan and Coastal Defence Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>Appropriate developments will require a flood risk assessment.</p>	<p>Policy DP4 supports the SA objectives relating to safety (through avoiding development in areas liable to flooding), nature conservation and protecting landscape and seascape. The policy will contribute to limiting development at risk from flooding and coastal erosion. This policy also contributes to adapting to climate change and it is recommended that in future the SA objective on climate change be enhanced to include both mitigation and adaptation.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP5: Coastal Development</b></p> <p>Small scale proposals for development on the coast will be permitted provided that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) will not have adverse impacts on coastal processes;</li> <li>b) are in keeping with the character of the coast;</li> <li>c) will not significantly prejudice landscape interest and will have regard to the importance of seaward and landward views;</li> <li>d) will not adversely affect coastal habitats and species; and</li> <li>e) will not lead to the consolidation of scattered development.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP5 supports the SA objectives relating to nature conservation, landscape and seascape character. The policy will contribute to ensuring development does not adversely affect coastal habitats or the character of the coastline.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP5: Renewable Energy</b></p> <p>Development proposals for, or incorporating, renewable energy schemes that assist in contributing towards the achievement of the South East regional renewable energy targets will be permitted where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) are small-scale;</li> <li>b) are located and designed to reduce visual impacts; and</li> <li>c) do not have significant impacts on the special qualities of the National Park.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy CP5 primarily supports the SA objective relating to climate change through encouraging renewable energy generation. There may be beneficial impacts on nature conservation and landscape, as the policy balances renewable development against potential adverse impacts on the National Park. The policy requires visual impact to be reduced through design and location. The policy will contribute to increasing provision of energy from renewable sources.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p><b>Policy CP6: Pollution</b></p> <p>Opportunities should be taken to control and reduce the impacts of noise, visual intrusion, nuisance and other unacceptable environmental impacts on the National Park and its special qualities.</p> <p>This should include reducing the impacts of light pollution on the 'dark skies' of the National Park and control of development to prevent artificial lighting from eroding rural darkness, except where this is outweighed by overriding public safety considerations.</p>	<p>Policy CP6 supports the SA objectives relating to pollution and to health and leisure through reduction of visual and noise intrusion in the Park. The policy will contribute to controlling and decreasing the impacts of pollution and other environmental impacts on the National Park.</p>

## Protecting and Enhancing the Built Environment

When appraised against the SA Objectives, the policies relating to protecting and enhancing the New Forest's built environment were found to have an overall beneficial effect on sustainability. No adverse effects were noted.

**Table 5.2 Protecting and enhancing the Built Environment – SA findings**

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p><b>Policy CP7: The Built Environment</b></p> <p>Proposals should protect, maintain and enhance nationally, regionally and locally important sites and features of the built environment, including local vernacular buildings, archaeological sites and designed landscapes.</p>	<p>Policy CP7 supports SA objectives related to the protection, maintenance and enhancement of townscapes and of local heritage and culture. This policy will contribute to the overall protection of the New Forest National Park's townscape and historical character.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP8: Local Distinctiveness</b></p> <p>Built development and changes of use which would individually or cumulatively erode the Park's local character or result in a gradual suburbanising effect within the National Park will not be permitted.</p>	<p>Policy CP8 supports SA objective related to the protection of the National Park's landscape and townscape character. This policy will also contribute to the protection of the National Park's natural environment.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP6: Design Principles</b></p> <p>All new development will be required to achieve the highest standards for the design, external appearance and location of new development within the National Park, with particular regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) enhancing the built heritage of the New Forest;</li> <li>b) designing out crime through the use of Secured by Design principles and standards;</li> <li>c) ensuring new development is accessible where appropriate;</li> <li>d) ensuring new residential development takes account of the lifetime homes principles where appropriate; and</li> <li>e) ensuring all new development incorporates sound sustainable design and construction principles and good environmental practices.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP6 supports the SA objectives relating to safety, through designing out crime, and to health, through ensuring dwellings are accessible and incorporates lifetime homes principles where appropriate. The policy also relates to built heritage, supporting the SA objective relating to maintenance and enhancement of townscapes through requirement for high design standards and appropriate external appearance.</p>

## Vibrant Communities

The policies in this chapter seek to support the well-being of the New Forest rural communities and especially promotion of affordable housing which is a key issue for the area. Overall the policies support sustainable development. There are some significant beneficial effects on SA objectives related to housing provision, meeting educational, leisure and cultural needs as well as meeting essential utilities and infrastructure needs having regard to environmental constraints. Further positive effects are identified with regard to mitigating against climate change as making provision locally is likely to reduce the distance people travel to access goods and services especially by car. The local economy would also benefit from the support given to small scale development proposals and provision of housing especially specifically for agricultural and forestry workers. No adverse effects were identified and no mitigation measures are proposed.

### Cumulative effects:

Policies CP11, DP13 and DP14 all touch on making provision for affordable housing. Together these policies can have a beneficial cumulative effect on the SA objective on housing as more affordable housing is likely to be delivered through these policies. The majority of policies in this chapter indirectly support economic wellbeing and taken together with those in the Sustainable Local economy chapter, they contribute to an overall beneficial cumulative effect on the health of the economy of the National Park through job creation, provision of housing, infrastructure, services and local facilities.

**Table 5.3 Vibrant Communities – SA findings**

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p><b>Policy CP9: Defined Villages</b></p> <p>The Authority will support small-scale development proposals to meet local needs, including employment, retail and community facilities within the four ‘Defined Villages’ of Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway provided that the proposals conform with other policies in the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>Support for small scale development within the Park to meet local needs can have a beneficial effect on the well being of the community by providing access to facilities like retail, GP services, leisure, recreation and other community services. Provision of such services can have a beneficial effect in maintaining the local economy through job creation and provision. It also provides facilities for use by visitors therefore supporting tourism. Providing facilities locally reduces the need to travel further especially by car therefore reducing GHG emissions.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP7: Change of Use from Retail in the Defined Villages</b></p> <p>The change of use of ground floor premises from retail to financial and professional services or food and drink uses within the local shopping frontages of the Defined Villages (as defined on the Proposals Map) will be permitted provided that it will not result in the proportion of retail units in the shopping frontages of Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst being reduced to less than 50%; and in the frontages of Ashurst and Sway to less than 40%.</p>	<p>Policy DP7 supports change of use from retail development to financial and other professional services within defined villages. This can have beneficial effects on the local economy as it can lead to job creation in these sectors. It also ensures promotion of local services e.g. banking helping meet the communities needs closer to where they live and reducing the need to travel further.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP8: Retail Development outside the Defined Villages</b></p> <p>Outside the defined villages small-scale convenience shops within rural settlements that serve local needs, and farm shops that are part of a farm diversification will be permitted, together with small scale extensions of existing shops. Any development should not extend into the open countryside or have impacts on adjoining land uses. The potential effects of farm shops on other</p>	<p>Supporting small scale convenience shops will have the overall beneficial effect of supporting the rural economy, tourism and vibrant rural communities. Extensions will be expected to respect the local open landscape.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
shops in neighbouring villages will be assessed.	
<p><b>Policy CP10: Local Community Facilities</b></p> <p>The Authority will support the retention of existing community facilities throughout the National Park and prevent their loss or redevelopment where they contribute to the sustainability of local communities. The Authority will support the development of essential local community facilities where the proposal is of clear and direct benefit to the local village or rural community.</p>	<p>Supporting the retention of existing facilities will contribute to the maintenance of vibrant local communities as well as jobs, local services and facilities. The Policy is also anticipated to have a beneficial effect on the SA Objective on sustainable tourism as facilities e.g. village shops will also be available for tourists to use. This will also contribute to keeping more of the money spent by tourists in the local economy. This policy has a beneficial effect on climate change as it would reduce the need to travel further especially by car to access services.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP11: Affordable Housing</b></p> <p>The development of affordable housing to meet local needs will be permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Within the four defined villages of Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway, or</li> <li>b) Across the National Park through the release of “exceptions” sites within or adjacent to other villages, provided that:</li> </ul> <p><b>Within the four Defined Villages at least 50%</b> of the residential development on all sites should be affordable housing, with the remainder being open market housing. Proposals for single dwellings within the defined villages will be required to make an affordable housing contribution to be used in the local area, rather than on site provision.</p> <p><b>Across the rest of the National Park</b> (including the other villages not included as ‘defined villages’), small-scale affordable housing developments may be permitted as “exceptions” on sites in or adjoining villages to meet the identified needs of local people in these areas. Proposals for exceptions sites should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) meet a particular local need that cannot be accommodated in any other way; and</li> <li>b) be subject to a planning obligation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) to ensure that the dwellings provide for low-cost housing for local needs in perpetuity; and</li> <li>c) be capable of management by an appropriate body, for example a Registered Social Landlord, the Authority, or a village trust or similar accredited local organisation; and</li> <li>d) be located where there are appropriate local facilities (e.g. shops, schools and public transport).</li> </ul>	<p>Provision for affordable housing has a significant beneficial effect on SA Objective 3 on housing. It would also contribute to a vibrant local community by helping local people with strong connections with the area to afford to live within the National Park. It also helps retain jobs as people can live closer to where they work.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP12: New Residential Development</b></p> <p>An additional 220 dwellings will be required within the New Forest National Park between 2006 and 2026. To meet this requirement, new residential development will be permitted within the National Park to maintain the vitality of local communities and support local services, where the proposal is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) within the defined New Forest villages set out in CP9; or</li> </ul>	<p>Policy CP12 has significant beneficial effects on SA Objective 3 on housing as it provides for new residential development within the New Forest. It also helps support the rural economy by allowing agricultural and forestry worker dwellings therefore allowing these local sectors to have access to local employees. This also reduces the need to travel further for work which has a minor beneficial effect on the climate change objective.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p>b) a replacement of an existing dwelling in accordance with Policy DP10; or                      c) an extension to an existing dwelling in accordance with Policy DP11; or                      d) an agricultural or forestry workers dwelling in accordance with Policy DP13; or                      e) affordable housing for local needs in accordance with CP11.</p> <p>Permission will not be granted for new residential caravans or mobile homes, except in accordance with Policy DP13.</p>	
<p><b>Policy DP9: Residential Density in the Defined Villages</b></p> <p>To ensure the conservation and enhancement of the built heritage of the defined villages, development densities within the villages must be informed by consideration of the character of the local area. Within the local circumstances of the New Forest National Park, where the four defined villages are often characterised by spacious residential plots set within mature landscapes, development densities below the national indicative minimum of 30 dwellings per hectare will usually be justified.</p>	<p>This policy ensures that the National Park’s built heritage and landscapes are not adversely affected by high development densities in the defined villages. It has beneficial effects on SA Objectives related to the maintenance and enhancement of the built environment.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP10: Replacement Dwellings</b></p> <p>Within the Defined Villages the replacement of existing dwellings will be permitted except where the existing dwelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) is the result of a temporary or series of temporary permissions or the result of an unauthorised use;</li> <li>b) has been abandoned;</li> <li>c) has been demolished; or</li> <li>d) makes a positive contribution to the historic character and appearance of the locality.</li> </ul> <p>A replacement dwelling may be sited other than in the same position as the dwelling to be replaced, providing that there are clear environmental benefits.</p> <p>Caravans and mobile homes may not be replaced by permanent dwellings.</p> <p><u>Outside the Defined Villages</u>, the replacement dwelling should be of no greater floorspace than the existing dwelling. In exceptional circumstances, a larger dwelling may be permitted if it is essential to meet the genuine family needs of an occupier who works in the immediate locality. In respect of this exceptional circumstance, the maximum habitable floorspace of the replacement dwelling must not exceed 120 sq. metres.</p>	<p>This policy has a beneficial effect on provision of housing as it allows for replacement of existing dwellings.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP11: Extensions to Dwellings</b></p> <p>Extensions to existing dwellings will be permitted provided that they are appropriate to the existing dwelling and its curtilage.</p> <p><u>In the case of small dwellings</u>, the extension must not result in a total habitable floorspace exceeding 100 sq. metres, and in the case of other dwellings (not small dwellings) outside the defined villages the extension must not increase the floorspace of the</p>	<p>Extension of dwellings can have a beneficial effect on provision of housing by allowing growing families to increase habitable floor space. The policy on restricting the floor space buildings can be extended by can help mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and the National Park’s built heritage.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p>existing dwelling by more than 30%. In exceptional circumstances a larger extension may be permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to meet the genuine family needs of an occupier who works in the immediate locality; or</li> <li>b) to meet design considerations relating to the special character of the dwelling (e.g. listed buildings).</li> </ul> <p>In respect of these exceptional circumstances, the maximum habitable floorspace of an extended small dwelling must not exceed 120 sq.metres.</p> <p>In the case of agricultural or forestry workers' dwellings, the extension must not result in a total habitable floorspace exceeding 120 sq. metres.</p> <p>Extensions will not be permitted where the existing dwelling is the result of a temporary or series of temporary permissions or the result of an unauthorised use.</p>	
<p><b>Policy DP12: Outbuildings</b></p> <p>Domestic outbuildings will be permitted where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) are located within the residential curtilage;</li> <li>b) are required for purposes incidental to the use of the main dwelling; and</li> <li>c) are not providing additional habitable accommodation</li> </ul>	<p>This policy aims to impose planning condition limiting the size and use of outbuildings. It has a beneficial effect against protection of the landscape and the built heritage as large outbuildings maybe visually intrusive and detrimental to the character of the new Forest.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP13: Dwellings for agricultural or forestry workers</b></p> <p>Permission will be granted for an agricultural or forestry worker's dwelling provided that the tests of Annex A of PPS7 are met and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) no other dwellings either on or closely connected to the holding/enterprise have been sold separately or in some way alienated from the holding/ enterprise;</li> <li>b) the size of the proposed dwelling would not result in a total habitable floorspace exceeding 120 square metres; and</li> <li>c) where practicable and appropriate first consideration has been given to the conversion of an existing building under the terms of Policy DP19.</li> </ul> <p>Where evidence of the financial soundness and future sustainability of the holding/enterprise appears inconclusive, consideration may be given to permitting a caravan or other temporary accommodation for a limited period of time in order to provide time for the viability of the holding / enterprise to be proven.</p>	<p>This policy allows for the construction of agricultural and forestry worker dwellings where this can be demonstrated to be required. It has beneficial effects on housing provision as well as maintaining the rural economy by providing worker accommodation locally. It also reduces the need to travel therefore potentially mitigating against climate change.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP14: Removal of Agricultural Occupancy Conditions</b></p> <p>An occupancy condition restricting the occupancy of a dwelling to a person solely, mainly or last working in agriculture or forestry will not be removed unless the Authority is satisfied that the long term need for the dwelling has ceased and there is no evidence of a continuing need for housing for persons employed or last employed in the locality in these categories or practising</p>	<p>This policy restricts removal of agricultural occupancy conditions. Where occupancy is no longer needed, the policy requires the dwelling to be occupied by a person with local housing need. This has a beneficial effect on SA Objective 3 on housing provision.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p>commoning. If such evidence can be produced, then the local planning authority will seek to restrict the occupancy of the dwelling to a person in local housing need, by means of a similar agreement to that for individual dwellings permitted in accordance with Core Policy 11.</p>	
<p><b>Policy CP13: Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople</b></p> <p>Proposals for the provision of permanent and / or transit accommodation to meet an established need of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople will be supported within the National Park where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for the site to be located within the National Park; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the impact of the site on the landscape character of the National Park is acceptable;</li> <li>b) the site is well located on the highway network and will not result in a level of traffic generation inappropriate for the roads in the National Park;</li> <li>c) there are adequate on-site facilities for parking and storage;</li> <li>d) in the case of any permanent site, be located where there are appropriate local facilities (e.g. shops, schools and public transport); and</li> <li>e) the site does not detrimentally affect the amenities of surrounding occupiers.</li> </ul>	<p>This policy has a beneficial effect on providing housing needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people. Such provision should be made in a way that does not have adverse effect on the New Forest's landscape.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP15: Infrastructure Provision and Developer Contributions</b></p> <p>Development proposals shall make provision, through planning contributions, for the infrastructure necessary to secure that the development is acceptable in the context of the Core Strategy. Where appropriate, financial contributions for the provision of infrastructure off-site will be sought.</p> <p>The mechanism by which developers' contributions are achieved will be reviewed in the light of changes in national policy. Tariff-based approaches and the Community Infrastructure Levy will be considered where this would simplify procedures and better ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure.</p> <p>In implementing this policy regard will be had to economic viability considerations at the site specific level.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to ensure that development proposals make provision for infrastructure where necessary. This can have a beneficial effect in providing local community services and facilities including affordable housing, highway works, education, nature conservation and recreation. This policy can also contribute to the local economy depending on the nature of condition.</p>

## A Sustainable Local Economy

None of the proposed policies was judged to have an adverse effect on any of the SA Objectives. The policies have an overall beneficial effect on sustainable development with significant benefits for the New Forest economy and especially with regard to promotion of land based businesses (agriculture and forestry) that help maintain the overall character and identity of the National Park. This has an indirect positive effect on promoting tourism as a vibrant local economy is able to support visitors in terms of providing services for example restaurants, farm shops and other retail facilities. Policy CP16 facilitates sustainable tourism which supports the

local economy while at the same time ensuring conservation of the particular qualities of the Park and especially the internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites.

**Table 5.4 A Sustainable Local Economy – SA findings**

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p><b>Policy CP14: Business and Employment Development</b></p> <p>Small scale employment development will be permitted within the four defined villages of Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway.</p> <p>Outside these defined villages, small scale employment development that helps the well-being of local communities will be permitted through the re-use or extension of existing buildings, the redevelopment of existing business use employment sites, farm diversification schemes and through home-working.</p> <p>Particular encouragement will be given to businesses that help to maintain the land-based economy and cultural heritage of the National Park, or contribute to the understanding and enjoyment of the National Park's Special Qualities. Providing local communities with a variety of employment opportunities will also be supported where these do not have an adverse impact on the Special Qualities of the National Park.</p>	<p>Policy CP14 supports SA Objectives related to economy, town centres and the rural economy, local heritage and culture and sustainable land use. This policy will contribute to employment development supporting local communities. It will also help in sustaining businesses that helping to maintain the land-based economy of the Park including agriculture and forestry. It also has beneficial effects on mitigating against climate change by reducing the need to travel further for employment.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP15: Existing Employment Sites</b></p> <p>Existing employment sites will be retained throughout the National Park where these contribute to the sustainability of local communities.</p>	<p>Policy CP15 supports SA Objectives related to economy, the rural economy, and local heritage and culture. This policy will retain employment sites where they support local communities. This policy ensures existing sites are maintained therefore reducing the need to travel further for work and mitigating against climate change by potentially reducing car journeys.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP16: Redevelopment of Existing Employment Sites</b></p> <p>The redevelopment of established employment sites for industrial, office, business and low key storage uses will be permitted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) there would be environmental benefits such as a reduction in the visual impact of the site in the landscape, an improvement to the amenities of nearby properties, or a reduction in traffic or other disturbances from the site; and</li> <li>b) where feasible, the redevelopment scheme deals comprehensively with the full extent of the site; and</li> <li>c) the replacement buildings would not materially increase the existing floorspace of displaced buildings or materially increase the level of impact of the activity generated in terms of employment, visitors and traffic, and</li> <li>d) the replacement buildings would be appropriate to their surroundings in terms of scale, design and materials; and</li> <li>e) the redevelopment scheme would be contained within the existing site boundary.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP16 supports SA Objectives related to economy, the townscape and sustainable land use. This policy seeks to redevelop existing employment sites to include environmental benefits and sensitive design.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP17: Extensions to Non Residential Buildings and Uses</b></p> <p>The limited extension of existing non residential buildings and uses will be permitted where it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) would not materially increase the level of impact of the activity on</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP17 supports SA Objectives related to the economy and sustainable tourism (as the policy also applies to extensions of buildings with tourism uses). This policy relates to extending existing non-residential buildings within existing site boundaries and so relates to sustainable land use and conservation by limiting</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p>the site; and b) is contained within the existing site boundary.</p>	<p>pressure of development on designated sites.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP16: Tourism Development</b></p> <p>Tourism development will be supported where it provides opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park in a way that either enhances, or does not detract from, the special qualities. This will be facilitated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) supporting small scale development of visitor facilities and accommodation using new or existing buildings in the four defined villages or through the re-use or extension of existing buildings as part of a farm diversification scheme outside these villages;</li> <li>b) retaining existing serviced visitor accommodation where it contributes to the sustainability of local communities; and</li> <li>c) supporting opportunities to relieve visitor pressures where this would assist the conservation or enhancement of internationally or nationally designated nature conservation sites.</li> </ul>	<p>This policy relates to supporting more sustainable tourism and should not detract from the National Park's special qualities. It has beneficial effects on the SA objectives related to tourism and conservation. Increased tourism in the National Park can have potential adverse effects on the park's special qualities. To counter this, the policy seeks to relieve pressure on the most sensitive areas of the National Park helping to conserve and enhance vulnerable habitats and landscapes.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP18: Extensions to Holiday Parks and Camp Sites</b></p> <p>Extensions to existing holiday parks, touring caravan or camping sites will only be permitted to enable the removal of pitches from sensitive areas by the relocation of part of a site to a less sensitive area adjoining an existing site, providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) there would be overall environmental benefits;</li> <li>b) there would be no increase in the overall site area or site capacity;</li> <li>c) the area where pitches or other facilities are removed from would be fully restored to an appropriate New Forest landscape, and any existing use rights are relinquished.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP18 supports SA Objectives related to sustainable tourism and conservation. This policy relates to supporting more sustainable tourism due to the removal of pitches in sensitive areas and restoration of that land.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP17: The Land-based Economy</b></p> <p>Land-based businesses that help maintain the overall character and cultural identity of the National Park will be supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) working with key organisations to ensure the future viability of commoning through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) enabling affordable housing for commoners, that includes land suitable for holdings; and</li> <li>(ii) maintaining the supply of land available for back-up grazing on the enclosed lands and adjacent to the National Park; resisting the loss of back-up grazing through development or change of use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Supporting farming and forestry that would be beneficial to the Forest through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the provision of agricultural and forestry buildings subject to Policy DP 13;</li> <li>(ii) farm diversification where this would help to sustain the existing farm business and would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agricultural diversification based on an extensive system of land management, or</li> <li>- non-agricultural diversification, through the re-use of redundant farm buildings, where the new use would have a low environmental impact</li> </ul> </li> <li>(iii) Helping to support markets for local produce and products.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Policy CP17 supports land-based businesses in the New Forest with the aim of maintaining the overall character and cultural identity of the National Park. This policy supports SA objectives related to housing as it promotes provision of affordable housing, the economy, landscape management, local heritage and culture. It also has beneficial impacts on the rural economy by supporting agriculture and forestry as well as farm diversification.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p><b>Policy DP19: Re-use of Buildings outside the defined villages</b></p> <p>The re-use of buildings outside Defined Villages will be permitted provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the proposal would not result in the loss of an employment use or community facility; and</li> <li>b) the proposal would not involve a residential use (other than in accordance with policy CP12); and.</li> <li>c) the building is appropriate in scale and appearance to its location, and should be capable of conversion without significant extension or detriment to itself or its surroundings. The building must be structurally sound and capable of re-occupation without re-building; and</li> <li>d) in the case of agricultural or forestry buildings, the building must be genuinely redundant in its existing use and not capable of fulfilling any beneficial agricultural use.</li> </ul>	<p>This policy relates to re-use of redundant buildings which may have beneficial impacts on the economy and supports use of previously developed land. This has positive effects on protecting employment opportunities and community facilities. It also seeks to ensure that re-use outside defined villages is of appropriate size and does not lead to adverse effects on the surrounding environment.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP20: Agricultural and Forestry Buildings</b></p> <p>Permission will be granted for buildings required for agriculture or forestry purposes where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) there is a functional need for the building and its scale is commensurate with that need;</li> <li>b) the building is designed for the purposes of agriculture or forestry;</li> <li>c) the site is related physically and functionally to existing buildings associated with the business unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to agricultural necessity for a more isolated location; and</li> <li>d) they do not involve large or obtrusive structures or generate a level of activity which would have a detrimental effect on the National Park.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP20 supports SA Objectives related to the economy, conservation, landscape and townscape and in particular the rural economy. This policy relates to permission for new agriculture or forestry related buildings, which aims to benefit the rural economy by providing local businesses with the opportunity to construct buildings required to carry out their businesses in a manner that does not have adverse effects on the National Park's character.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP21: Recreational Horse Keeping</b></p> <p>Permission will be granted for recreational horse keeping provided that the proposal does not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) have an adverse impact on the landscape or any nature conservation interests;</li> <li>b) increase riding pressures on the open Forest; or</li> <li>c) result in the loss of back-up grazing land.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP21 supports SA Objectives related to the rural economy, conservation and landscape management. This policy relates to permission for recreational horse keeping and supports conservation interests. This policy also has a beneficial effect on community well being as it promotes opportunities for recreational activities.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP22: Field Shelters and Stables</b></p> <p>Permission will be granted for field shelters and stables provided that the building is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) sensitively sited to be unobtrusive in the landscape; and</li> <li>b) simple in appearance and modest in scale; and</li> <li>c) constructed of appropriate materials.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP22 supports SA Objectives related to landscape management. This policy relates to permission for field shelters and stables and supports sensitive design of these buildings.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP23: Maneges</b></p> <p>The development of outdoor maneges will be permitted provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) they do not result in any detrimental impact on the landscape and ecology of the New Forest; and</li> </ul>	<p>Policy DP23 supports SA Objectives related to conservation, landscape management and light pollution. This policy relates to permission for maneges supporting conservation and aiming to prevent further light pollution and ensuring there is no detrimental effect on the landscape and ecology of the New Forest.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p>b) they do not involve the installation of lighting.</p> <p>The development of indoor maneges will not be permitted other than in accordance with policy DP19 (Re-use of buildings).</p>	

## Transport and Accessibility

Transport and accessibility policies are judged to have an overall beneficial effect especially on promoting safety, improvements to existing paths, tracks and roads as well as promoting non-motorised transport which has a beneficial effect on mitigating against climate change. The New Forest is well connected to the railway network and this provides opportunities for visitors to access the Park via rail. Transport initiatives promoting better links between the rail network and the park are promoted (New Forest Tour) which will lead to increase in the number of people accessing the Park via more sustainable modes. Restricting development of further transport infrastructure unless the conditions set out in policy CP18 are met will ensure that unnecessary development does not take place reducing associated adverse environmental effects including habitat loss, fragmentation, noise pollution etc.

No adverse effects are identified and no further mitigation measures are required.

### Cumulative effects

Policy CP19 in combination with other policies in the Core Strategy especially those aimed at providing housing in the National Park and local facilities closer to where people live can have a significant beneficial effect on minimising overall green house gas emissions and mitigating against climate change by reducing the distances travelled especially by car.

**Table 5.5 Transport and Accessibility – SA findings**

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p><b>Policy CP18: Transport Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Further development of the transport network will only be supported where</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) it is an integral part of a longer term strategy to address traffic congestion on the A31, or</li> <li>b) alternative solutions including potential traffic demand management measures have been explored and are not feasible or appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy CP18 supports the SA objective related to transport infrastructure by only supporting further development of the transport network after other traffic management alternatives have been explored.</p>

Core Strategy Policy	SA Summary Findings
<p><b>Policy CP19: Access</b></p> <p>The Authority will promote safer access and more sustainable forms of transport to and within the National Park for enjoyment, health and well-being, particularly by supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) local transport initiatives such as the New Forest Tour;</li> <li>b) community transport initiatives such as the Lymington to Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership;</li> <li>c) improvements to make existing paths, tracks and roads safer and more user friendly; and</li> <li>d) opportunities for the creation of a more joined-up network of core routes for non-motorised transport.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy CP19 supports SA Objectives related to safety, health, sustainable tourism and climate change.</p> <p>This policy will contribute to safer and more sustainable forms of transport, including encouraging non-motorised forms of transport. The policy also supports the New Forest Tour and other such forms of transport which contribute to more sustainable tourism. Promoting non-motorised transport has a beneficial effect on mitigating against climate change.</p>

## 6 Implementation and Monitoring

Indicators provide the means by which performance against the SA Objectives can be measured. Proposed indicators for measuring the effects of the sustainability Core Strategy and Development Management policies are given in Table 6.1 below. The indicators listed are proposed only. As the local planning authority the NFNPA is required to identify indicators against which progress will be monitored and to produce an Annual Monitoring Report. The Annual Monitoring Report will assess how well the Core Strategy is performing against the objectives and targets, or if trends indicate an early review of one of more policies is necessary.

Another aspect of monitoring is that which is specifically targeted at assessing the extent and magnitude of a particular anticipated effect. With regard to monitoring effects, no further specific monitoring measures have been proposed as no adverse effects have been identified.

In addition to monitoring the Core Strategy indicators, the NFNPA will publish a State of the Park Report every five years which will describe any changes to the condition of the National Park through the monitoring of indicators relating to objectives in the New Forest National Park Management Plan.

**Table 6.1 Proposed Indicators for monitoring**

SA Objective	Proposed Indicators
<b>1. Provide a safe and secure environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic accidents causing death or personal injury</li> <li>• Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence</li> <li>• Reported crime figures per 1000 population</li> </ul>
<b>2. Improve health and well being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of cycle paths</li> </ul>
<b>3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing completions</li> <li>• Affordable housing completions</li> <li>• Gypsy/ traveller site needs and provision</li> </ul>
<b>4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of formal and informal open space</li> <li>• School waiting lists</li> </ul>
<b>5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volumes of traffic on strategic road network</li> <li>• Capacity of sewage treatment infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy for the National Park that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the Park's assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment land available by type</li> <li>• Employment by sector</li> </ul>
<b>7. Ensure thriving rural economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions granted for change of use of agricultural buildings</li> </ul>

SA Objective	Proposed Indicators
<b>8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shop frontage uses</li> </ul>
<b>9. Promote sustainable tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport mode used by Tourists</li> </ul>
<b>10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported condition of national/international sites</li> <li>• Performance against Biodiversity Action Plan targets</li> </ul>
<b>11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications refused because of adverse effects on landscape</li> </ul>
<b>12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage at risk</li> <li>• Number of practising commoners</li> </ul>
<b>13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality</li> </ul>
<b>14. Encourage sustainable use of resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % new residential development on previously developed land</li> <li>• Amount of municipal waste arising/managed by management method</li> </ul>
<b>15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy capacity installed</li> </ul>

## Appendix 1 Objectives Compatibility Appraisal

Compatibility Appraisal of Core Strategy Objectives and the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Assessment: **+** Positive      0 Neutral      ? Uncertain      **-** Potential conflict

The summary of findings is provided below the appraisal table.

SA Objective  Draft Core Strategy Objectives	1. Provide a safe and secure environment	2. Improve health and well being	3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirement	4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets	7. Ensure thriving rural economy	8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	9. Promote sustainable tourism	10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change
	1. Protect and enhance the natural environment of the National Park, including the natural beauty of the landscape and the range of habitats and species	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+
2. Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0

SA Objective  Draft Core Strategy Objectives	1. Provide a safe and secure environment	2. Improve health and well being	3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirement	4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets	7. Ensure thriving rural economy	8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	9. Promote sustainable tourism	10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change
	built environment of the New Forest														
3. 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.	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+
4. Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0
5. Promote affordable housing to meet local needs and maintain the vibrant communities of the National Park	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well-being of local communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
7. Encourage land management	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0

<p>SA Objective</p> <p>Draft Core Strategy Objectives</p>	1. Provide a safe and secure environment	2. Improve health and well being	3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirement	4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets	7. Ensure thriving rural economy	8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	9. Promote sustainable tourism	10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change
that sustains the special qualities of the National Park															
8. Support development which encourages sustainable tourism and recreation, and provides opportunities for enjoying the Park's special qualities	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	?	+	0	0	0	0
9. Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provide a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	?	+	0	+	0	0	+

## Appendix 2 Policy Appraisal Matrices

SA Objective Core Strategy - Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate Change	Comments
Protecting and Enhancing the Environment																
<p><b>Policy CP1: Nature Conservation Sites of International Importance</b></p> <p>Development which may affect the integrity of an internationally important site for nature conservation (either individually or in combination with other plans and projects) will not be permitted unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) there is no alternative solution; and</li> <li>b) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the development.</li> </ul> <p>In particular, any new housing that is proposed to be located within 400m of the boundary of the New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) will be required to demonstrate that adequate measures are put in place to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects on the ecological integrity of the SPA. Such measures must be agreed with Natural England.</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	Policy CP1 supports SA objectives related to the protection of internationally important nature conservation sites through regulating development. This policy will contribute to the overall protection of the New Forest National park's environment and landscape character.
<p><b>Policy CP2: The Natural Environment</b></p> <p>Proposals should protect, maintain and enhance nationally, regionally and</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	+	0	0	Policy CP2 supports SA objectives related to the maintenance and enhancement of the built and natural environment including nature conservation designations, BAP priorities, landscape, heritage and archaeological sites. This policy will contribute to the overall

SA Objective  Core Strategy - Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate Change	Comments
<p>locally important sites and features of the natural environment, including habitats and species of biodiversity importance, geological features and the water environment.</p> <p>In addition, opportunities to enhance ecological or geological assets should be maximised, particularly in line with local Biodiversity Action Plan priorities, and the South East Plan Areas of Strategic Opportunity</p>																protection of the New Forest National park's environment.
<p><b>Policy DP1: General Development Principles</b></p> <p>All new development and uses of land within the New Forest National Park must uphold and promote the principles of sustainable development. New development proposals must demonstrate high quality design and construction which enhances local character and distinctiveness. This includes, but is not restricted to, ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) development is appropriate and sympathetic in terms of scale, appearance, form, siting and layout;</li> <li>b) development respects the natural and built environment, landscape character and biodiversity;</li> </ul>	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	+	Policy DP1 supports SA objectives related to pollution from noise, light and traffic, as well as maintaining the natural environment and biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. The policy supports the SA objective relating to climate change through the requirement for BREEAM and similar design standards which are likely to require energy efficient development with reduced environmental impacts.

SA Objective  Core Strategy - Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate Change	Comments
<p>c) materials are appropriate to the site and its setting; d) amenity is not adversely affected in terms of additional impacts, visual intrusion, overlooking or shading; and e) no adverse impacts associated with traffic or pollution (including noise and light pollution)</p> <p>New development must also comply with required standards for:</p> <p>f) car parking; g) open space (as set out in policy DP3); and h) the Code for Sustainable Homes, achieving a minimum of Level 3 by 2012, Level 4 from 2012 to 2016; and Level 6 from 2016; and BREEAM Level 'very good' for commercial and industrial buildings</p>																
<p><b>Policy DP2: Safeguarding and Improving Water Resources</b></p> <p>Development will not be permitted if it would risk harm to the quality and yield of water resources, including abstraction sites, groundwater, rivers, streams and still waters.</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	<p>Policy DP2 supports SA objectives relating to nature conservation interests, landscape and townscape and water pollution. The policy will contribute to protecting the water environment.</p>

SA Objective  Core Strategy - Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate Change	Comments
<p><b>Policy CP3: Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Proposals which create, maintain and enhance a network of green infrastructure will be supported, particularly where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) encourage connectivity between different habitats and sites; or</li> <li>b) relieve recreational pressures on internationally important nature conservation sites.</li> </ul> <p>The Authority will work with adjoining authorities and other partners to develop green infrastructure for the National Park, and to ensure the impacts of development outside the Park's boundary do not affect the Park, especially internationally important nature conservation designations.</p>	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	Policy CP3 supports the SA objective relating to education through the creation and maintenance of a green infrastructure network which will support meeting local leisure needs. The SA objective on tourism is also supported through the relief of recreational pressure on conservation sites. The policy supports the SA objectives relating to maintaining and improving nature conservation interests and the character of the National Park.
<p><b>Policy DP3: Open Space</b></p> <p>Proposals that result in the loss of existing open space and amenity areas will not be permitted.</p> <p>Development should either provide for the enhancement of existing open space and amenity areas, or provide on-site open space to the minimum provision standard of 3.5 hectares of public open space per 1,000 population.</p>	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	Policy DP3 supports the SA objective relating to meeting educational, leisure and cultural needs and maintaining and enhancing the landscape through providing and enhancing open space and amenity areas.

SA Objective Core Strategy - Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate Change	Comments
<p><b>Policy CP4: Climate Change</b></p> <p>The Authority will support proposals to mitigate climate change and adapt to the impacts of climate change through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoiding development in areas at highest risk of flooding;</li> <li>b) locating development so as to reduce the need to travel by car;</li> <li>c) sustainable design and construction including improved water and energy efficiency;</li> <li>d) increasing small scale renewable and low carbon energy generation;</li> <li>e) reduce the overall environmental footprint of the National Park; and</li> <li>f) enabling wildlife and habitats to adapt to climate change.</li> </ul>	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	Policy CP4 supports the SA objective on climate change as well as those relating to safety (through avoiding development in areas liable to flooding), reducing travel by car, nature conservation and sustainable water and energy use. The policy will contribute to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change (the SA objective should be updated to reflect both climate change mitigation and adaptation).
<p><b>Policy DP4: Flooding and the Coast</b></p> <p>Development proposals will not be permitted if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) would increase the risk of coastal or fluvial flooding</li> </ul>	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	Policy DP4 supports the SA objectives relating to safety (through avoiding development in areas liable to flooding), nature conservation and protecting landscape and seascape. The policy will contribute to limiting development at risk from flooding and coastal erosion. This policy also contributes to adapting to climate change and it is recommended that in future the SA objective on climate change be enhanced to include both mitigation and

SA Objective  Core Strategy - Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate Change	Comments
<p>or coastal erosion;</p> <p>b) do not comply with the sequential test or are inappropriate in high flood risk areas (as defined by PPS25 Flood Zones 2 and 3 and the New Forest Strategic Flood Risk Assessment); and</p> <p>c) are not compatible with the appropriate Shoreline Management Plan and Coastal Defence Strategy.</p> <p>Appropriate developments will require a flood risk assessment.</p>																adaptation.
<p><b>Policy DP5: Coastal Development</b></p> <p>Small scale proposals for development on the coast will be permitted provided that they:</p> <p>a) will not have adverse impacts on coastal processes;</p> <p>b) are in keeping with the character of the coast;</p> <p>c) will not significantly prejudice landscape interest and will have regard to the importance of seaward and landward views;</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	Policy DP5 supports the SA objectives relating to nature conservation, landscape and seascape character. The policy will contribute to ensuring development does not adversely affect coastal habitats or the character of the coastline.

SA Objective Core Strategy - Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate Change	Comments
<p>d) will not adversely affect coastal habitats and species; and</p> <p>e) will not lead to the consolidation of scattered development.</p>																
<p><b>Policy CP5: Renewable Energy</b></p> <p>Development proposals for, or incorporating, renewable energy schemes that assist in contributing towards the achievement of the South East regional renewable energy targets will be permitted where they:</p> <p>a) are small-scale;</p> <p>b) are located and designed to reduce visual impacts; and</p> <p>c) do not have significant impacts on the special qualities of the National Park.</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	++	Policy CP5 primarily supports the SA objective relating to climate change through encouraging renewable energy generation. There may be beneficial impacts on nature conservation and landscape, as the policy balances renewable development against potential adverse impacts on the National Park. The policy requires visual impact to be reduced through design and location. The policy will contribute to increasing provision of energy from renewable sources.
<p><b>Policy CP6: Pollution</b></p> <p>Opportunities should be taken to control and reduce the impacts of noise, visual intrusion, nuisance and other unacceptable environmental impacts on the National Park and its special qualities.</p> <p>This should include reducing the impacts of light pollution on the 'dark skies' of the National Park and control of development to prevent artificial lighting from eroding rural darkness, except where this is outweighed by overriding public safety considerations.</p>	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	Policy CP6 supports the SA objectives relating to pollution and to health and leisure through reduction of visual and noise intrusion in the Park. The policy will contribute to controlling and decreasing the impacts of pollution and other environmental impacts on the National Park.

Protecting and Enhancing the Built Environment																	
<p><b>Policy CP7: The Built Environment</b></p> <p>Proposals should protect, maintain and enhance nationally, regionally and locally important sites and features of the built environment, including local vernacular buildings, archaeological sites and designed landscapes.</p>	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	++	0	0	Policy CP7 supports SA objectives related to the protection, maintenance and enhancement of townscapes and of local heritage and culture. This policy will contribute to the overall protection of the New Forest National Park's townscape and historical character.
<p><b>Policy CP8: Local Distinctiveness</b></p> <p>Built development and changes of use which would individually or cumulatively erode the Park's local character or result in a gradual suburbanising effect within the National Park will not be permitted.</p>	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	++	0	0	Policy CP8 supports SA objective related to the protection of the National Park's landscape and townscape character. This policy will also contribute to the protection of the National Park's natural environment.
<p><b>Policy DP6: Design Principles</b></p> <p>All new development will be required to achieve the highest standards for the design, external appearance and location of new development within the National Park, with particular regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) enhancing the built heritage of the New Forest;</li> <li>b) designing out crime through the use of Secured by Design principles and standards;</li> <li>c) ensuring new development is accessible where appropriate;</li> <li>d) ensuring new residential development takes account of the lifetime homes principles where appropriate; and</li> <li>e) ensuring all new development incorporates sound sustainable design and construction principles and good environmental practices.</li> </ul>	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	++	0	0	Policy DP6 supports the SA objectives relating to safety, through designing out crime, and to health, through ensuring dwellings are accessible and incorporates lifetime homes principles where appropriate. The policy also relates to built heritage, supporting the SA objective relating to maintenance and enhancement of townscapes through requirement for high design standards and appropriate external appearance.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<b>Vibrant Communities</b>																
<b>Policy CP9: Defined Villages</b>  The Authority will support small-scale development proposals to meet local needs, including employment, retail and community facilities within the four 'Defined Villages' of Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway provided that the proposals conform with other policies in the Core Strategy.	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	Support for small scale development within the Park to meet local needs can have a beneficial effect on the well being of the community by providing access to facilities like retail, GP services, leisure, recreation and other community services. Provision of such services can have a beneficial effect in maintaining the local economy through job creation and provision. It also provides facilities for use by visitors therefore promoting tourism. Providing facilities locally reduces the need to travel further especially by car therefore reducing GHG emissions.
<b>Policy DP7: Change of Use from Retail in the Defined Villages</b>  The change of use of ground floor premises from retail to financial and professional services or food and drink uses within the local shopping frontages of the Defined Villages (as defined on the Proposals Map) will be permitted provided that it will not result in the proportion of retail units in the shopping frontages of Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst being reduced to less than 50%; and in the frontages of Ashurst and Sway to less than 40%.	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy DP76 supports change of use from retail development to financial and other professional services within defined villages. This can have positive effects on the local economy as it can lead to job creation in these sectors. It also ensures promotion of local services e.g. banking helping meet the communities needs closer to where they live and reducing the need to travel further.
<b>Policy DP8: Retail Development outside the Defined Villages</b>  Outside the defined villages small-scale convenience shops within rural settlements that serve local needs, and farm shops that are part of a farm diversification will be permitted, together with small scale extensions of existing shops. Any development should not	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	Supporting small scale convenience shops will have the overall beneficial effect of promoting the rural economy, tourism and vibrant rural communities. Extensions will be expected to respect the local open landscape.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
extend into the open countryside or have impacts on adjoining land uses. The potential effects of farm shops on other shops in neighbouring villages will be assessed.																
<p><b>Policy CP10: Local Community Facilities</b></p> <p>The Authority will support the retention of existing community facilities throughout the National Park and prevent their loss or redevelopment where they contribute to the sustainability of local communities. The Authority will support the development of essential local community facilities where the proposal is of clear and direct benefit to the local village or rural community.</p>	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	Supporting the retention of existing facilities will contribute to the maintenance of vibrant local communities as well as jobs, local services and facilities. It will also have beneficial effects for visitors as they can access facilities e.g. village shops. This policy has a beneficial effect on climate change as it would reduce the need to travel further especially by car to access services.
<p><b>Policy CP11: Affordable Housing</b></p> <p>The development of affordable housing to meet local needs will be permitted:</p> <p>a) Within the four defined villages of Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway, or</p> <p>b) Across the National Park through the release of "exceptions" sites within or adjacent to other villages, provided that:</p> <p><b>Within the four Defined Villages at least 50% of the residential development on all sites should be</b></p>	0	0	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Provision for affordable housing has a significant beneficial effect on objective 3 on housing. It would also contribute to a vibrant local community by helping local people with strong connections with the area to afford to live within the National Park. It also helps retain jobs as people can live closer to where they work.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>affordable housing, with the remainder being open market housing. Proposals for single dwellings within the defined villages will be required to make an affordable housing contribution to be used in the local area, rather than on site provision.</p> <p><b>Across the rest of the National Park</b> (including the other villages not included as 'defined villages'), small-scale affordable housing developments may be permitted as "exceptions" on sites in or adjoining villages to meet the identified needs of local people in these areas. Proposals for exceptions sites should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) meet a particular local need that cannot be accommodated in any other way; and</li> <li>b) be subject to a planning obligation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) to ensure that the dwellings provide for low-cost housing for local needs in perpetuity; and</li> <li>c) be capable of management by an appropriate body, for example a Registered Social Landlord, the Authority, or a village trust or similar accredited local organisation; and</li> <li>d) be located where there are appropriate local facilities (e.g.</li> </ul>																

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
shops, schools and public transport).																
<p><b>Policy CP12: New Residential Development</b></p> <p>An additional 220 dwellings will be required within the New Forest National Park between 2006 and 2026. To meet this requirement, new residential development will be permitted within the National Park to maintain the vitality of local communities and support local services, where the proposal is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) within the defined New Forest villages set out in CP9; or</li> <li>b) a replacement of an existing dwelling in accordance with Policy DP10; or</li> <li>c) an extension to an existing dwelling in accordance with Policy DP11; or</li> <li>d) an agricultural or forestry workers dwelling in accordance with Policy DP13; or</li> <li>e) affordable housing for local needs in accordance with CP11.</li> </ul> <p>Permission will not be granted for new residential caravans or mobile homes, except in accordance with Policy DP13.</p>	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	<p>Policy CP12 has significant beneficial effects on SA objective 3 on housing as it provides for new residential development within the New Forest. It also helps support the rural economy by allowing agricultural and forestry worker dwellings therefore allowing these local sectors to have access to local employees. This also reduces the need to travel further for work which has a minor beneficial effect on the climate change objective.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP9: Residential Density in the Defined Villages</b></p> <p>To ensure the conservation and</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	<p>This policy ensures that the Park's built heritage and landscapes are not adversely affected by high development densities in the defined villages. It has beneficial effects on SA objectives related to the maintenance and enhancement of the built environment.</p>

<b>SA Objective</b>  <b>National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options</b>	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
enhancement of the built heritage of the defined villages, development densities within the villages must be informed by consideration of the character of the local area. Within the local circumstances of the New Forest National Park, where the four defined villages are often characterised by spacious residential plots set within mature landscapes, development densities below the national indicative minimum of 30 dwellings per hectare will usually be justified.																
<p><b>Policy DP10: Replacement Dwellings</b></p> <p>Within the Defined Villages the replacement of existing dwellings will be permitted except where the existing dwelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) is the result of a temporary or series of temporary permissions or the result of an unauthorised use;</li> <li>b) has been abandoned;</li> <li>c) has been demolished; or</li> <li>d) makes a positive contribution to the historic character and appearance of the locality.</li> </ul> <p>A replacement dwelling may be sited other than in the same position as the dwelling to be replaced, providing that there are clear environmental benefits.</p> <p>Caravans and mobile homes may not be</p>	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy has a beneficial effect on provision of housing as it allows for replacement of existing dwellings.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>replaced by permanent dwellings.</p> <p><u>Outside the Defined Villages</u>, the replacement dwelling should be of no greater floorspace than the existing dwelling. In exceptional circumstances, a larger dwelling may be permitted if it is essential to meet the genuine family needs of an occupier who works in the immediate locality. In respect of this exceptional circumstance, the maximum habitable floorspace of the replacement dwelling must not exceed 120 sq. metres.</p>																
<p><b>Policy DP11: Extensions to Dwellings</b></p> <p>Extensions to existing dwellings will be permitted provided that they are appropriate to the existing dwelling and its curtilage.</p> <p><u>In the case of small dwellings</u>, the extension must not result in a total habitable floorspace exceeding 100 sq. metres, and in the case of other dwellings (not small dwellings) outside the defined villages the extension must not increase the floorspace of the existing dwelling by more than 30%. In exceptional circumstances a larger extension may be permitted:</p> <p>a) to meet the genuine family needs of an occupier who works in the immediate locality; or</p>	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0		Extension of dwellings can have a beneficial effect on provision of housing by allowing growing families to increase habitable floor space. The policy on restricting the floor space buildings can be extended by can help mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and the National Park's built heritage.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>b) to meet design considerations relating to the special character of the dwelling (e.g. listed buildings).</p> <p>In respect of these exceptional circumstances, the maximum habitable floorspace of an extended small dwelling must not exceed 120 sq.metres.</p> <p>In the case of agricultural or forestry workers' dwellings, the extension must not result in a total habitable floorspace exceeding 120 sq. metres.</p> <p>Extensions will not be permitted where the existing dwelling is the result of a temporary or series of temporary permissions or the result of an unauthorised use.</p>																
<p><b>Policy DP12: Outbuildings</b></p> <p>Domestic outbuildings will be permitted where they:</p> <p>a) are located within the residential curtilage;</p> <p>b) are required for purposes incidental to the use of the main dwelling; and</p> <p>c) are not providing additional habitable accommodation</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0		This policy aims to impose planning condition limiting the size and use of outbuildings. It has a beneficial effect against protection of the landscape and the built heritage as large outbuildings maybe visually intrusive and detrimental to the character of the new Forest.
<p><b>Policy DP13: Dwellings for agricultural or forestry workers</b></p> <p>Permission will be granted for an agricultural or forestry worker's dwelling</p>	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This policy allows for the construction of agricultural and forestry worker dwellings where this can be demonstrated to be required. It has beneficial effects on housing provision as well as maintaining the rural economy by providing worker accommodation locally. It also reduces the need to travel therefore potentially mitigating against climate change.

<b>SA Objective</b>  <b>National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options</b>	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>provided that the tests of Annex A of PPS7 are met and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) no other dwellings either on or closely connected to the holding/enterprise have been sold separately or in some way alienated from the holding/enterprise;</li> <li>b) the size of the proposed dwelling would not result in a total habitable floorspace exceeding 120 square metres; and</li> <li>c) where practicable and appropriate first consideration has been given to the conversion of an existing building under the terms of Policy DP19.</li> </ul> <p>Where evidence of the financial soundness and future sustainability of the holding/enterprise appears inconclusive, consideration may be given to permitting a caravan or other temporary accommodation for a limited period of time in order to provide time for the viability of the holding / enterprise to be proven.</p>																
<p><b>Policy DP14: Removal of Agricultural Occupancy Conditions</b></p> <p>An occupancy condition restricting the occupancy of a dwelling to a person solely, mainly or last working in agriculture or forestry will not be</p>	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<p>This policy restricts removal of agricultural occupancy conditions. Where occupancy is no longer needed, the policy requires the dwelling to be occupied by a person with local housing need. This has a beneficial effect on SA objective 3 on housing provision.</p>

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>removed unless the Authority is satisfied that the long term need for the dwelling has ceased and there is no evidence of a continuing need for housing for persons employed or last employed in the locality in these categories or practising commoning. If such evidence can be produced, then the local planning authority will seek to restrict the occupancy of the dwelling to a person in local housing need, by means of a similar agreement to that for individual dwellings permitted in accordance with Core Policy 11.</p>																
<p><b>Policy CP13: Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople</b></p> <p>Proposals for the provision of permanent and / or transit accommodation to meet an established need of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople will be supported within the National Park where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for the site to be located within the National Park; and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the impact of the site on the landscape character of the National Park is acceptable;</li> <li>the site is well located on the highway network and will not result in a level of traffic generation inappropriate for the roads in the National Park;</li> <li>there are adequate on-site facilities for parking and storage;</li> </ol>	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	<p>This policy has a beneficial effect on providing housing needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people. Such provision should be made in a way that does not have adverse effect on the New Forest's landscape.</p>

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>d) in the case of any permanent site, be located where there are appropriate local facilities (e.g. shops, schools and public transport); and</p> <p>e) the site does not detrimentally affect the amenities of surrounding occupiers.</p>																
<p><b>Policy DP15: Infrastructure Provision and Developer Contributions</b></p> <p>Development proposals shall make provision, through planning contributions, for the infrastructure necessary to secure that the development is acceptable in the context of the Core Strategy. Where appropriate, financial contributions for the provision of infrastructure off-site will be sought.</p> <p>The mechanism by which developers' contributions are achieved will be reviewed in the light of changes in national policy. Tariff-based approaches and the Community Infrastructure Levy will be considered where this would simplify procedures and better ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure.</p> <p>In implementing this policy regard will be had to economic viability considerations at the site specific level.</p>	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	?	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	<p>This policy seeks to ensure that development proposals make provision for infrastructure where necessary. This can have a beneficial effect in providing local community services and facilities including affordable housing, highway works, education, nature conservation and recreation. This policy can also contribute to the local economy depending on the nature of condition.</p>

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<b>A Sustainable Local Economy</b>																
<p><b>Policy CP14: Business and Employment Development</b></p> <p>Small scale employment development will be permitted within the four defined villages of Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway.</p> <p>Outside these defined villages, small scale employment development that helps the well-being of local communities will be permitted through the re-use or extension of existing buildings, the redevelopment of existing business use employment sites, farm diversification schemes and through home-working.</p> <p>Particular encouragement will be given to businesses that help to maintain the land-based economy and cultural heritage of the National Park, or contribute to the understanding and enjoyment of the National Park's Special Qualities. Providing local communities with a variety of employment opportunities will also be supported where these do not have an adverse impact on the Special Qualities of the National Park.</p>	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	<p>Policy CP14 supports SA objectives related to economy, town centres and the rural economy, local heritage and culture and sustainable land use. This policy will contribute to employment development supporting local communities. It will also help in sustaining businesses that helping to maintain the land-based economy of the Park including agriculture and forestry. It also has beneficial effects on mitigating against climate change by reducing the need to travel further for employment.</p>
<p><b>Policy CP15: Existing Employment Sites</b></p> <p>Existing employment sites will be</p>	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	<p>Policy CP15 supports SA objectives related to economy, the rural economy, and local heritage and culture. This policy will retain employment sites where they support local communities. This policy ensures existing sites are maintained therefore reducing the need to travel</p>

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
retained throughout the National Park where these contribute to the sustainability of local communities.																further for work and mitigating against climate change by potentially reducing car journeys.
<p><b>Policy DP16: Redevelopment of Existing Employment Sites</b></p> <p>The redevelopment of established employment sites for industrial, office, business and low key storage uses will be permitted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) there would be environmental benefits such as a reduction in the visual impact of the site in the landscape, an improvement to the amenities of nearby properties, or a reduction in traffic or other disturbances from the site; and</li> <li>b) where feasible, the redevelopment scheme deals comprehensively with the full extent of the site; and</li> <li>c) the replacement buildings would not materially increase the existing floorspace of displaced buildings or materially increase the level of impact of the activity generated in terms of employment, visitors and traffic, and</li> <li>d) the replacement buildings would be appropriate to their surroundings in terms of scale, design and materials; and</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	Policy DP16 supports SA objectives related to economy, the townscape and sustainable land use. This policy seeks to redevelop existing employment sites to include environmental benefits and sensitive design.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
e) the redevelopment scheme would be contained within the existing site boundary.																
<b>Policy DP17: Extensions to Non Residential Buildings and Uses</b>  The limited extension of existing non residential buildings and uses will be permitted where it:  a) would not materially increase the level of impact of the activity on the site; and b) is contained within the existing site boundary.	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	Policy DP17 supports SA objectives related to the economy and sustainable tourism (as the policy also applies to extensions of buildings with tourism uses). This policy relates to extending existing non-residential buildings within existing site boundaries and so relates to sustainable land use and conservation by limiting pressure of development on designated sites.
<b>Policy CP16: Tourism Development</b>  Tourism development will be supported where it provides opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park in a way that either enhances, or does not detract from, the special qualities. This will be facilitated by:  a) supporting small scale development of visitor facilities and accommodation using new or existing buildings in the four defined villages or through the re-use or extension of existing buildings as part of a farm diversification scheme outside these villages; b) retaining existing serviced visitor accommodation where it contributes to the sustainability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	This policy relates to supporting more sustainable tourism that does not detract from the National Park's special qualities. It has beneficial effects on the SA objectives related to tourism and conservation. Increased tourism in the National Park can have potential adverse effects on the park's special qualities. To counter this, the policy seeks to relieve pressures where this would assist the conservation or enhancement of internationally or nationally designated nature conservation sites.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>c) of local communities; and supporting opportunities to relieve visitor pressures where this would assist the conservation or enhancement of internationally or nationally designated nature conservation sites.</p>																
<p><b>Policy DP18: Extensions to Holiday Parks and Camp Sites</b></p> <p>Extensions to existing holiday parks, touring caravan or camping sites will only be permitted to enable the removal of pitches from sensitive areas by the relocation of part of a site to a less sensitive area adjoining an existing site, providing:</p> <p>a) there would be overall environmental benefits;</p> <p>b) there would be no increase in the overall site area or site capacity;</p> <p>c) the area where pitches or other facilities are removed from would be fully restored to an appropriate New Forest landscape, and any existing use rights are relinquished.</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	Policy DP18 supports SA objectives related to sustainable tourism and conservation. This policy relates to supporting more sustainable tourism due to the removal of pitches in sensitive areas and restoration of that land.
<p><b>Policy CP17: The Land-based Economy</b></p> <p>Land-based businesses that help maintain the overall character and cultural identity of the National Park will</p>	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	Policy CP17 supports land-based businesses in the New Forest with the aim of maintaining the overall character and cultural identity of the National Park. This policy supports SA objectives related to housing as it promotes provision of affordable housing, the economy, landscape management, local heritage and culture. It also has beneficial impacts on the rural economy by supporting agriculture and forestry as well as farm

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>be supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) working with key organisations to ensure the future viability of commoning through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) enabling affordable housing for commoners, that includes land suitable for holdings; and</li> <li>(ii) maintaining the supply of land available for back-up grazing on the enclosed lands and adjacent to the National Park; resisting the loss of back-up grazing through development or change of use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Supporting farming and forestry that would be beneficial to the Forest through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the provision of agricultural and forestry buildings subject to Policy DP 13;</li> <li>(ii) farm diversification where this would help to sustain the existing farm business and would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agricultural diversification based on an extensive system of land management, or</li> <li>- non-agricultural diversification, through the re-use of redundant farm buildings, where the new use would have a</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>																diversification.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
low environmental impact (iii) Helping to support markets for local produce and products.																
<p><b>Policy DP19: Re-use of Buildings outside the defined villages</b></p> <p>The re-use of buildings outside Defined Villages will be permitted provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the proposal would not result in the loss of an employment use or community facility; and</li> <li>b) the proposal would not involve a residential use (other than in accordance with policy CP12); and</li> <li>c) the building is appropriate in scale and appearance to its location, and should be capable of conversion without significant extension or detriment to itself or its surroundings. The building must be structurally sound and capable of re-occupation without re-building; and</li> <li>d) in the case of agricultural or forestry buildings, the building must be genuinely redundant in its existing use and not capable of fulfilling any beneficial agricultural use.</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	This policy relates to re-use of redundant buildings which may have beneficial impacts on the economy and supports use of previously developed land. This has beneficial effects on protecting employment opportunities and community facilities. It also seeks to ensure that re-use outside defined villages is of appropriate size and does not lead to adverse effects on the surrounding environment.
<p><b>Policy DP20: Agricultural and Forestry Buildings</b></p> <p>Permission will be granted for buildings</p>	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	Policy DP20 supports SA objectives related to the economy, conservation, landscape and townscape and in particular the rural economy. This policy relates to permission for new agriculture or forestry related buildings, which aims to benefit the rural economy by providing local businesses

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>required for agriculture or forestry purposes where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) there is a functional need for the building and its scale is commensurate with that need;</li> <li>b) the building is designed for the purposes of agriculture or forestry;</li> <li>c) the site is related physically and functionally to existing buildings associated with the business unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to agricultural necessity for a more isolated location; and</li> <li>d) they do not involve large or obtrusive structures or generate a level of activity which would have a detrimental effect on the National Park.</li> </ul>																<p>with the opportunity to construct buildings required to carry out their businesses in a manner that does not have adverse effects on the National Park's character.</p>
<p><b>Policy DP21: Recreational Horse Keeping</b></p> <p>Permission will be granted for recreational horse keeping provided that the proposal does not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) have an adverse impact on the landscape or any nature conservation interests;</li> <li>b) increase riding pressures on the open Forest; or</li> <li>c) result in the loss of back-up grazing land.</li> </ul>	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	<p>Policy DP21 supports SA objectives related to the rural economy, conservation and landscape management. This policy relates to permission for recreational horse keeping and supports conservation interests. This policy also has a beneficial effect on community well being as it promotes opportunities for recreational activities.</p>

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p><b>Policy DP22: Field Shelters and Stables</b></p> <p>Permission will be granted for field shelters and stables provided that the building is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) sensitively sited to be unobtrusive in the landscape; and</li> <li>b) simple in appearance and modest in scale; and</li> <li>c) constructed of appropriate materials.</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	Policy DP22 supports SA objectives related to landscape management. This policy relates to permission for field shelters and stables and supports sensitive design of these buildings.
<p><b>Policy DP23: Maneges</b></p> <p>The development of outdoor maneges will be permitted provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) they do not result in any detrimental impact on the landscape and ecology of the New Forest; and</li> <li>b) they do not involve the installation of lighting.</li> </ul> <p>The development of indoor maneges will not be permitted other than in accordance with policy DP19 (Re-use of buildings).</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	Policy DP23 supports SA objectives related to conservation, landscape management and light pollution. This policy relates to permission for maneges supporting conservation and aiming to prevent further light pollution and ensuring there is no detrimental effect on the landscape and ecology of the New Forest.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure and Tourism	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscapes	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<b>Transport and Accessibility</b>																
<b>Policy CP18: Transport Infrastructure</b>  Further development of the transport network will only be supported where <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) it is an integral part of a longer term strategy to address traffic congestion on the A31, or</li> <li>b) alternative solutions including potential traffic demand management measures have been explored and are not feasible or appropriate.</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy CP18 supports the SA objective related to transport infrastructure by only supporting further development of the transport network after other traffic management alternatives have been explored.
<b>Policy CP19: Access</b>  The Authority will promote safer access and more sustainable forms of transport to and within the National Park for enjoyment, health and well-being, particularly by supporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) local transport initiatives such as the New Forest Tour;</li> <li>b) community transport initiatives</li> </ul>	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	Policy CP19 supports SA objectives related to safety, health, sustainable tourism and climate change.  This policy will contribute to safer and more sustainable forms of transport, including encouraging non-motorised forms of transport. The policy also supports the New Forest Tour and other such forms of transport which contribute to more sustainable tourism. Promoting non-motorised transport has a beneficial effect on mitigating against climate change.

SA Objective  National Park Plan - Conserving and Enhancing Policies / Options	1. Safety	2. Health	3. Housing	4. Education, Leisure	5. Utilities and Transport	6. Economy	7. Rural Economy	8. Town Centres	9. Tourism	10. Conservation	11. Landscape, Townscape	12. Heritage, Culture	13. Pollution	14. Resources	15. Climate	Comments
<p>such as the Lymington to Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership;</p> <p>c) improvements to make existing paths, tracks and roads safer and more user friendly; and</p> <p>d) opportunities for the creation of a more joined-up network of core routes for non-motorised transport.</p>																