

# NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

## Local Development Framework MONITORING REPORT

2013

**December 2013**



## **Contents**

### **Page Number**

	<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>National Park profile</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Local Development Scheme</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Protecting and Enhancing the Built Environment</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Vibrant Communities</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>A Sustainable Local Economy</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Transport and Access</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>National Park profile</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>Core Strategy Indicators</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>5 year housing land supply</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Appendix 4</b>	<b>Condition of watercourses in the National Park</b>	<b>32</b>

## Executive Summary

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, requires local planning authorities to produce a monitoring report each year which should contain details of:

- the timetable and progress of the documents set out in the Authority's Local Development Scheme;
- numbers of net additional dwellings and affordable dwellings;
- the Authority's co-operation with another local planning authority or relevant body during the monitoring period.

This is the seventh annual Monitoring Report produced by the New Forest National Park Authority. It covers the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, and focuses on assessing the effectiveness of the planning policies in the adopted Core Strategy.

The Authority's Local Development Scheme (LDS) was brought into effect on 26 April 2011 and a number of the documents identified therein have now been adopted, together with a number of other documents now adopted including several Village Design Statements.

Assessment of the Core Strategy's policies in this report indicates that many of the policies are performing effectively, and continue general trends of protection and enhancement of the area. The communities in the National Park continue to be supported through the provision of appropriate levels of housing and employment as well as community facilities.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Authority is responsible for spatial planning, minerals and waste planning, development control and enforcement, and other related regulatory functions within the National Park.
- 1.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 requires every local planning authority to produce a monitoring report each year. This should contain information on issues including the progress of the documents in the Authority's Local Development Scheme and general monitoring data including net additional dwellings.
- 1.3 The monitoring data set out in this report relate to the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, and, unless otherwise stated, refers to the whole of the National Park. The basis for the monitoring data are the indicators set out in the Authority's adopted Core Strategy, in order to assess the effectiveness of the planning policies. A summary of these indicators and the monitoring results is set out in Appendix 2.

### **Development Plan**

- 1.4 During the period of this monitoring report the Development Plan for the National Park comprised the following:
  - New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2010)
  - Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (2007)
  - Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East ('The South East Plan') – *this was formally revoked in March 2013*
- 1.5 The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was formally adopted by the Authority and partners in October 2013, and now replaces the 2007 Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.

### **Duty to cooperate**

- 1.6 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a 'duty to cooperate' on strategic planning matters (defined as those affecting more than one planning area) applying to local planning authorities and a range of other organisations and agencies. The evidence provided below, of activities undertaken in 2012/13, demonstrates the Authority's commitment and actions in respect of it's 'duty to co-operate' during the monitoring period.

### **Supplementary Plan Document production**

The Authority has worked with a range of local community groups and Parish Councils to assist in the production of Village Design Statements, some of which straddle the boundary of the National Park and adjacent authorities.

### **Joint working on Minerals and Waste issues**

The Authority has worked on the production of the recently adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and South Downs National Park Authority. This has involved engagement at officer and member level.

### **Commenting on and contributing towards the preparation of other authorities plans and development proposals**

Officers have liaised with Christchurch Borough Council on the issue of proposed housing close to the National Park boundary, prior to their examination and hearing sessions into the Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy. Discussions have also taken place with New Forest District Council on the issue of mitigation of their proposed housing on the New Forest Special Protection Area as part of the examination into their Sites and Designations Document. Comments have also been made on the draft plans and strategies of other authorities including the strategic and site specific minerals and waste documents of Dorset County Council and Wiltshire Council. The Authority has also liaised with Wiltshire Council over habitat mitigation measures to ensure that development in South Wiltshire does not impact on the integrity of the adjacent Natura 2000 sites in the New Forest.

### **Participating in sub and regional groups such as the Local Economic Partnerships**

The Authority has engaged with the Enterprise M3 Local Economic Partnership looking at various cross-boundary economic issues.

### **Joint Working with Neighbouring District Authorities and other bodies**

Officers regularly attend the Hampshire Development Plans Group with representatives of all local planning authorities in Hampshire to discuss relevant issues, many being cross-boundary issues. Joint working has also been undertaken with a group of Hampshire Authorities to commission a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to feed into respective development plans. In addition the Authority has jointly commissioned a Strategic Housing Market Assessment with New Forest District Council which considers the National Park and District Council administrative areas. Regular liaison with planning officers at other UK National Park Authorities is also undertaken both on a formal and informal basis.

### **Liaison with other statutory organisations**

Engagement with a range of statutory organisations, including Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency has been undertaken, in relation to specific planning applications and also other strategic projects where appropriate. Officers have also attended workshops run by the Marine Management Organisation in relation to the preparation of the South Marine Plan.

## **Format of this report**

- 1.7 This report covers the entirety of the National Park and assesses the effectiveness of the Authority's planning policies by analysing the monitoring indicators set out in Chapter 10 of the adopted Core Strategy. This will also enable analysis of trends in future monitoring reports.
- 1.8 This document, and previous years' monitoring reports, can be viewed on the Authority's website. Any comments and queries on this Monitoring Report should be addressed to the Policy Team at the National Park Authority:

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New Forest National Park Authority  
Lymington Town Hall  
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## 2. National Park Profile

- 2.1 The New Forest covers a geographical area of 56,658 hectares. It includes the Open Forest, which most people identify as the heart of the Forest, together with a wider area of enclosed farmlands. The handful of large villages house the majority of the population of around 35,000 people. Much of the area is sparsely populated, with villages and hamlets set in countryside of exceptional quality and natural beauty. Traditional land management, such as the ancient system of commoning, is still practised in much of the Forest, and the cultural landscape and natural habitats are recognised to be of international importance.
- 2.2 However, the National Park is fringed by the expanding residential and industrial areas of the Bournemouth / Poole / Christchurch and Southampton / Portsmouth conurbations, creating continual pressure for new development. It is easily reached by road from centres of population locally, and throughout southern England and attracts large numbers of visitors each year, with associated traffic problems and damage to the more fragile habitats.
- 2.3 Appendix 1 sets out more detailed statistics on the National Park.

### Issues and Challenges

- 2.4 In December 2010 the Authority adopted the first set of National Park-wide planning policies, which became operational immediately. The Core Strategy identified the main challenges for the New Forest National Park over the next 20 years to be:
- **Climate change**, which is likely to affect the character of large parts of the National Park, modifying landscapes, habitats and biodiversity;
  - **Local distinctiveness**, which is the sum of all the individual features of local landscapes and the built environment, but there has been a gradual and continuing loss of character;
  - **Traditional land management**, which has created the landscape of the New Forest over the last 1000 years but is now under threat from uncertainties facing agriculture and commoning;
  - **Economic growth** within the Park and surrounding areas which brings both pressures and opportunities. There is a continued demand for new development within and immediately adjacent to the Park.

### **3. Local Development Scheme**

- 3.1 The Authority's Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a publicly available document setting out a schedule of what local development documents will be produced, and when. The third revision of the LDS for the New Forest National Park Authority was brought into effect on 26 April 2011.

#### **Implementation of the Local Development Scheme**

- 3.2 Local planning authorities are required to prepare a monitoring report that sets out information on the implementation of their Local Development Scheme (LDS). An update on the progress of the various documents set out in the Authority's LDS is set out below.

#### *Sites and Designations Development Plan Document*

- 3.3 The initial scoping of the content of this document has been started. However, the Authority has not yet reached the stage where it is ready to be subject to public consultation, contrary to the timeline set out in the LDS. With the Government's new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) signalling a return to a single 'local plan' it is now envisaged that the proposed contents of this document will be wrapped up in an early review of the Core Strategy, and reviewed to reflect national policy, and any new policy requirements.

#### *New Forest National Park Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)*

#### *Standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)*

- 3.4 As stated in last year's monitoring report, these documents have been adopted, and are being used to inform decisions on planning applications and appeals.

#### *Hampshire and New Forest National Park Minerals and Waste LDF*

- 3.5 The National Park Authority together with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and latterly the South Downs National Park Authority, have undertaken a review of the adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. This document is known as the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan and incorporates strategic minerals and waste sites.

- 3.6 A revised Hampshire Minerals and Waste LDS was brought into effect on 6 March 2013, and sets out the updated timetable for the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Plan. Following Hearing sessions in June 2012, and in March 2013, the Inspector concluded in May 2013 that the Plan is sound subject to a number of amendments. The Minerals and Waste Plan was formally adopted by all the partner authorities on 15 October 2013. The six-week period for legal challenge has now expired, with no legal challenges received. Further details are set out in the Hampshire and New Forest Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme, which can be viewed on Hampshire County Council's website.

## 4. Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment

### **Core Strategy Objective 1:** Policies: **CP1, CP2, DP1, DP2, CP3, DP3**

Protect and enhance the natural environment of the National Park, including the natural beauty of the landscape and the range of habitats and species.

### **Core Strategy Objective 3:** Policies **CP7, CP8, DP6**

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.

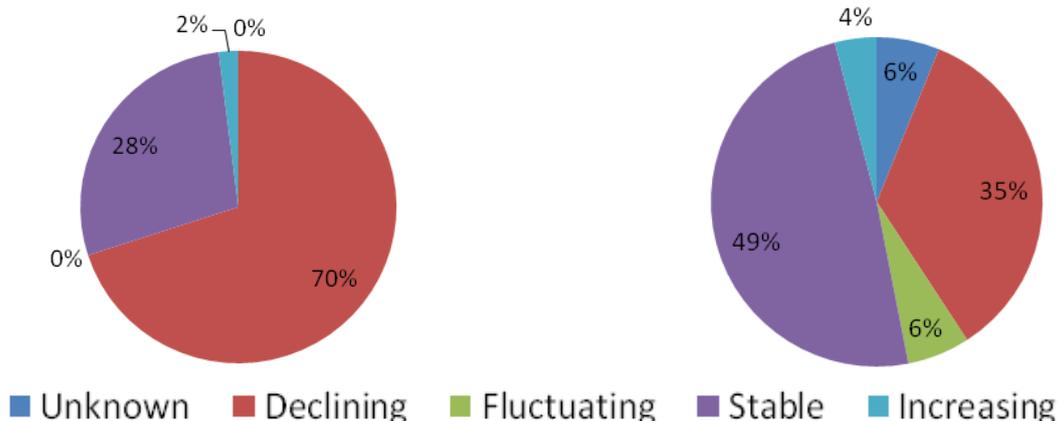
- 4.1 The planning policies for the National Park in the adopted Core Strategy place a strong emphasis on protection of the natural environment. Additionally, in line with Government guidance, the Core Strategy seeks to plan for the impacts of climate change over the next 20 years. These challenges are enshrined in the objectives of the Core Strategy, and are reiterated above.

### **Natural environment**

#### *Priority habitats and species*

- 4.2 The amount of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitat in the National Park totals 30,524 hectares (as at 31 March 2013), which is an increase of 40 hectares from last year's monitoring period. Approximately 90% of these priority habitats fall within statutorily designated nature conservation sites.
- 4.3 There are 493 priority species listed in the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan. It is unrealistic to attempt to report on all priority species and therefore Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre has identified 50 BAP species which have been chosen as they are representative of various habitats in Hampshire, and there is good data available. Forty of these species are present in New Forest National Park.
- 4.4 During the monitoring period there has been minimal change across Hampshire as a whole. Figure 1 overleaf illustrates that over the last decade numbers of the 50 representative priority species have been in decline but at a slower rate than previously. Overall there are now fewer species in decline with a larger proportion remaining at stable levels. Compared to the data in last year's monitoring report a slightly greater proportion of species are classed as declining (up from 32% to 35%).

**Figure 1: Changes in Hampshire's representative 50 BAP priority species**  
**Assessed in Hampshire BAP 2000**      **Assessed trends for 2002 - 2012**



Source: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2013

*Designated nature conservation sites*

4.5 During this monitoring period there has been a net gain of 5 hectares in the extent of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the National Park. This comprises two new sites at Mill Stream Valley, Blackwater Farm, and at Rodlease Meadows in Roydon Woods.

**Open space**

4.6 There has been no net loss of open space arising from a grant of planning permission during the monitoring period, in line with policy DP3 of the Core Strategy.

**Air quality**

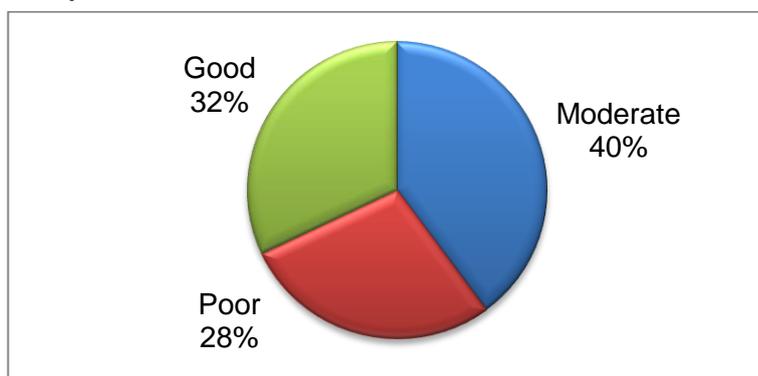
4.7 An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for Lyndhurst High Street was designated in 2005 based on high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide. The air quality is regularly monitored by New Forest District Council and the results for this monitoring period are set out in the table below which show improvement since last year which means that both objectives have now been achieved.

Pollutant	Objective	Result 2012/13	Objective achieved	Result 2011/12	Result 2010/11
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual mean not exceeding 40ug/m3	40	Yes	42	46
Nitrogen Dioxide	No more than 18 occurrences of hourly mean >200ug/m3	0	Yes	1	2

## Water quality

4.8 The Environment Agency monitors the water quality of rivers in the New Forest, which are assessed under the EU Water Framework Directive, which looks at over 30 measures. The detailed data is set out in Appendix 4, and identifies that the majority of watercourses are rated as either 'good' or 'moderate'. A number are classed as 'poor', including Sowley Pond, the lower Hampshire Avon and the River Blackwater. The overall status of the area of the water courses in the National Park is summarised in the chart below. Several projects are being undertaken in the National Park as part of the New Forest Catchment Programme to monitor and address issues of water quality.

**Figure 2: Condition of watercourses in the National Park (based on area)**



Source: Environment Agency

4.9 The Authority routinely consults the Environment Agency on planning applications that may impact upon water quality or flood risk in the area. During the monitoring period the Authority did not permit any applications against the advice of the Environment Agency on the grounds of either impact on water quality or flood risk issues.

## Renewable energy

4.10 A small number of planning applications for renewable energy schemes were permitted during the monitoring period. These have all comprised solar panels and were largely for domestic uses, with the exception of a large scheme for 174 solar panels at Hightown Reservoir, and solar panels at Boldre War Memorial Hall.

## Performance of the Natural Environment policies

4.11 There continues to be a strong emphasis on the core objectives of protecting and enhancing the natural environment as set out in the Authority's Core Strategy.

4.12 In reviewing the Core Strategy it is likely that some aspects of these policies will need to be reconsidered, in part to reflect changes to national planning policy since the adoption of the Core Strategy.

## 5. Protecting and Enhancing the Built Environment

### **Core Strategy Objective 2:** Policies: CP7, CP8 and DP6

Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the built environment of the New Forest.

- 5.1 The Core Strategy emphasises the importance of recognising and protecting the distinctive character of the built environment of the National Park.

### **Design issues**

#### *Planning applications*

- 5.2 The Authority's Core Strategy promotes the principles of good design in new development. The proportion of planning applications refused on the grounds of poor or inappropriate design was similar to previous years. Where design issues led to a refusal of permission these consisted primarily of concerns regarding potential suburbanisation effects of the proposals, or erosion of the rural character and local distinctiveness of the area. The Core Strategy policies commonly cited in relation to design issues were CP8 Local Distinctiveness, DP1 General Development Principles and DP6 Design Principles.
- 5.3 However, other reasons for refusal of planning applications are associated with overarching design issues such as the over-enlargement of dwellings, and impacts on the historic environment, especially where proposed development would be located in a Conservation Area.

#### *Village Design Statements*

- 5.4 The Authority continues to support the production of Village Design Statements (VDS) by parish councils in order to provide a more locally specific document that will sit alongside the Authority's adopted Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document. These will be formally adopted by the Authority as Supplementary Planning Documents and will thus be a material consideration in the assessment of planning applications.
- 5.5 Individual Village Design Statements have been adopted for Wellow (2011), Landford (2011), Hyde (2012), Ashurst and Colbury (2013), Boldre Parish (2013) and Sway (2013). The local community in Hordle are also currently preparing a Village Design Statement.

### **Impacts on the Historic Environment**

- 5.6 Since the adoption of the Core Strategy one of the main reasons cited most often in refusals of planning applications is the likely impacts on the historic environment.

## **Performance of the Built Environment policies**

- 5.7 Design issues continue to be an area of importance for the assessment of planning applications and the Authority has recognised this in adopting the Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document to aid applicants and developers in achieving a level of design that is more locally specific to the National Park. This is complemented by Village Design Statements as they are adopted.
- 5.8 The future review of the Authority's Core Strategy will need to reflect the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to national policy and guidance since the adoption of the Core Strategy. This will include consideration of the existing policies relating to the historic environment and heritage assets, in the context of the numerous important designated and undesignated features of the built environment of the New Forest National Park.

## 6. Vibrant Communities

**Core Strategy Objective 4:** Policies CP9, DP7, DP8, CP10, CP12, DP9, DP10, DP11, DP12 and DP15

Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area.

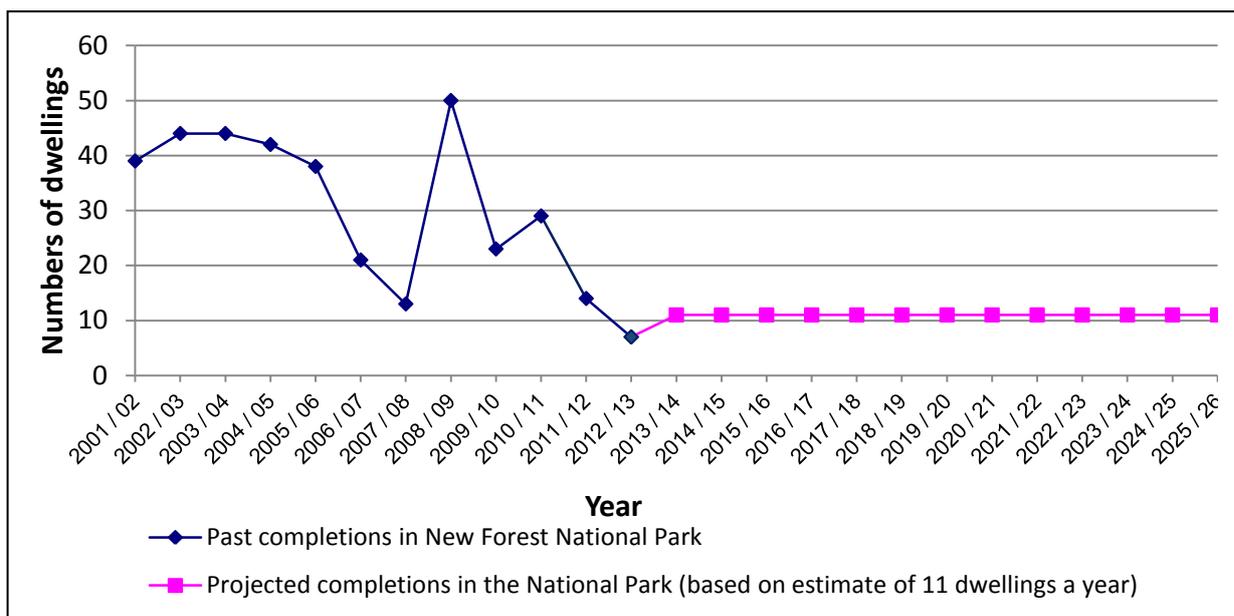
**Core Strategy Objective 5:** Policies CP11, DP13, DP14, and CP13

Promote affordable housing to meet local needs and maintain the vibrant communities of the National Park.

### Housing

6.1 There was a net gain of 7 dwellings completed during the monitoring period, of which the majority was built on previously developed land. This figure of 7 completions during 2012/13 is the lowest since the designation of the National Park in 2005. However, as noted in paragraph 6.2 there are a significant number of dwellings under construction that will be completed during 2013/14. The chart below illustrates completions in the National Park in previous years.

**Figure 3: New Forest National Park Housing Trajectory 2012 / 13**

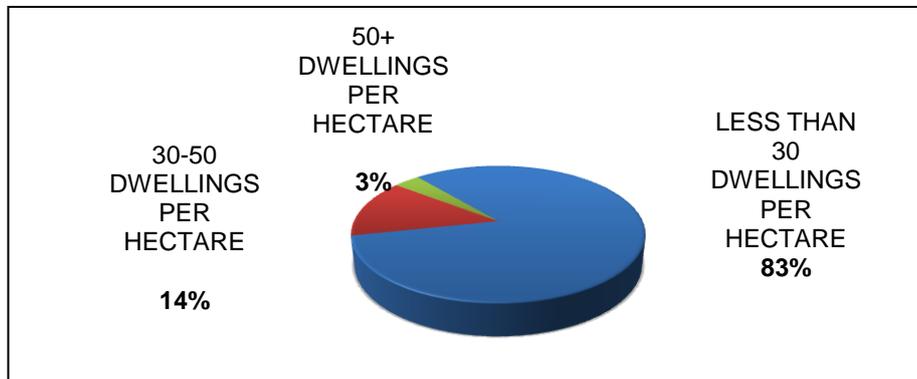


6.2 In terms of the locations of the housing completions the majority of houses have been built in the defined villages, with some completions in all four defined villages. This is a higher proportion than last year's figure, with a further 61 dwellings under construction, many within the defined villages, and therefore a higher proportion of housing completions is expected next year.

### *Housing densities*

- 6.3 The Authority's Core Strategy aims to ensure that the general pressure for development in the National Park does not lead to inappropriate and high density development, especially as the residential areas in the four defined villages are spacious in character with mature trees and larger gardens.
- 6.4 The figures for the monitoring period indicate that 83% of all (gross) dwellings completed during that time were built at a density of less than 30 dwellings per hectare. This compares to a figure of 88% from last year's report, and 93% from the previous year. Given the predominantly rural or semi-rural nature of the National Park, this figure is to be expected as higher density development is not always appropriate within the New Forest villages.

**Figure 4: Densities of housing completions in the National Park**



Source: Hampshire County Council, 2013

### *Location of new housing*

- 6.5 The majority of new housing completions fell within a defined village, with some completions during this monitoring period in all four defined villages.
- 6.6 Policy CP1 of the Core Strategy requires any new dwellings proposed to be located within 400m of the boundary of the New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) to demonstrate that adequate mitigation measures are put in place to avoid any potential adverse effects on the ecological integrity of the SPA. Analysis of the schedule of sites with outstanding planning permissions for housing shows that only 7 new dwellings fell within that boundary. Natural England were consulted and confirmed that they either had no objections to the proposed development or that it was not likely to have a significant or detrimental effect.

### *Affordable housing*

- 6.7 There were three affordable housing completions during the monitoring period, of which two are located in the defined village of Sway, with a rural exception scheme at Breamore. A further two affordable dwellings

are under construction in Lyndhurst and are likely to be completed during the 2013/14 reporting period.

#### *Five year housing supply*

- 6.8 Government planning policy requires local planning authorities to identify a stock of five years worth of housing supply, with an additional 'buffer' of 5% of that requirement as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. Given the nature of the New Forest and the statutory National Park purposes the Authority does not allocate land for housing but relies on 'windfall' sites of which there has been a steady and constant supply. The Authority currently has a stock of outstanding planning permissions for 108 dwellings, which is in excess of the requirement of 58 dwellings as the five years supply. The details of the sites making up the five year supply are set out in Appendix 3 of this document.

### **Defined villages**

#### **Retail**

- 6.9 The Authority's officers carried out the 2013 annual survey of the proportion of A1 retail uses in the defined shopping frontage within the four defined villages, as set out in the Core Strategy. This identified little change from the last monitoring period. The proportion of retail units in the identified shopping frontages of Ashurst, Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst remain above the recommended minimum of 40%, 50% and 50% respectively.
- 6.10 However, in Sway the proportion of A1 retail units remains at 36% and therefore falls 4% below the recommended threshold of 40% established in Policy DP7 of the Core Strategy.
- 6.11 It should be noted that the changes to permitted development rights in 2013 now include changes from A1 (shop) to A2 (financial and professional services) without the necessity of a planning consent. However developers are required to apply to the Authority to determine whether prior approval in relation to flooding, highways and contamination matters is required.

#### **Community facilities**

- 6.12 Throughout the last year a number of planning applications have been permitted for a range of community facilities, spread throughout local communities across the National Park. Such applications included improvements to existing sports facilities, new nursery school, scout buildings and improvements to village halls.

## Developer contributions

- 6.13 Policy DP15 of the Core Strategy states that “*Development proposals shall make provision, through planning contributions, for the infrastructure necessary to secure that the development is acceptable in planning terms*”. The Development Standards Supplementary Planning Document sets out more detail on the financial contributions expected of developers where appropriate.
- 6.14 During the monitoring period the monies received and released by the Authority are set out in the table below. The open space contributions are released to the relevant parish council to be spent on appropriate schemes such as children’s play equipment or more informal greenspace provision. More details are set out in the Developer Standards Document. Active discussions are taking place with both parish councils and affordable housing providers to ensure that developer contributions are spent locally.

Type of Contribution	Amount received (01/04/12 – 31/03/13)	Amount released (01/04/12 – 31/03/13)
Affordable housing	£93,156	£0
Public open space	£16,629	£0

## Neighbourhood Plans

- 6.15 Local Planning Authorities are now required to set out the details of any neighbourhood plans in the area. No neighbourhood plans have yet been adopted in the National Park, and to date only Milford-on-Sea have formally commenced preparation on a plan. On 10 April 2013 the Director of Planning and Chair of the Planning Development Control Committee resolved to formally designate the boundary of the Milford-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan area, as it relates to the area of the Parish within the National Park. The Parish Council are currently considering the scope and content of the neighbourhood plan following a period of public consultation in 2013.

## Performance of Vibrant Communities policies

- 6.16 The data illustrates that there remains a stock of planning permissions for residential development which is exceeding the expected level of housing completions of 11 dwellings per year. Despite the figure of completions falling below the housing requirement of 11 for the first time this year, there is a large proportion of dwellings under construction and therefore the average completion rate continues to exceed the overall housing requirement for the plan period.
- 6.17 The overall trend of housing completions over the last few years has been decreasing, particularly since 2010 when the Core Strategy was adopted. However, the general downturn in the economy is also likely to be a factor in this trend. Overall it should be emphasised that completions within the National Park are well on target to meet the Core Strategy target of 220 additional dwellings required within the National Park between 2006 and 2026.

## 7. A Sustainable Local Economy

### **Core Strategy Objective 6:** Policies CP14, CP15, DP16 and DP17

Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well-being of local communities throughout the Park.

### **Core Strategy Objective 7:** Policies CP17, DP19, DP20, DP21, DP22 and DP23

Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park.

### **Core Strategy Objective 8:** Policies CP16, DP1 and DP18

Support development which encourages sustainable tourism and recreation, and provides opportunities for enjoying the Park's special qualities.

### Employment and the economy

*Total amount of additional employment floorspace – by type*

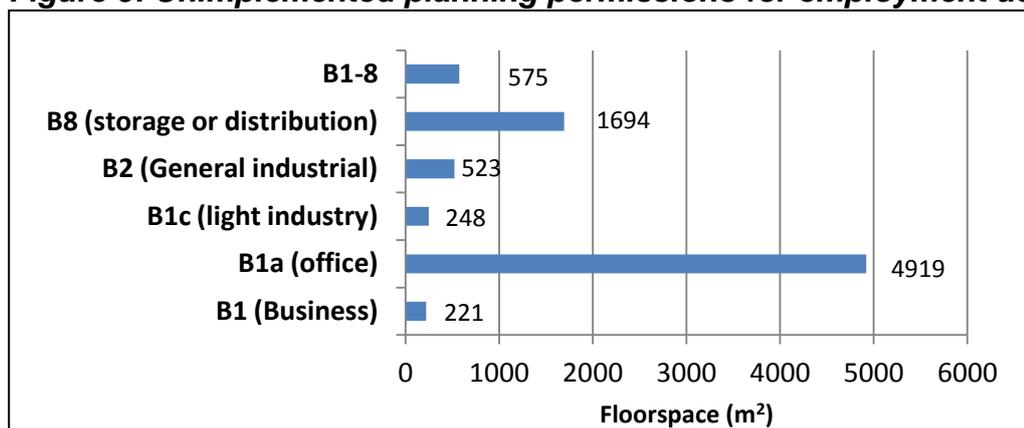
*Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land*

- 7.1 Last year's monitoring report identified that there was a site at Mortimers Industrial Estate where the existing building had been demolished but not yet been rebuilt thereby resulting in a negative net amount of employment floorspace. However, the two new buildings have now been completed at this site, which constitutes the only employment floorspace completed this year. This amounts to a net gain of 26m<sup>2</sup> of new B1-B8 floorspace on previously developed land.

*Employment land available – by type*

- 7.2 The amount of employment land available in the National Park is based solely on unimplemented planning permissions as there are no site specific allocations for employment use in the Authority's Core Strategy. An analysis of available employment land reveals that there is a stock of sites with planning permission for industrial and office uses totalling some 8,180m<sup>2</sup> across seven sites (see graph below). None of these sites is in a defined village, though 65% of that available floorspace is on sites adjacent or in very close proximity to a defined village (e.g. Appletree Court, Lyndhurst). In addition, the majority of this proposed floorspace is on brownfield sites.

**Figure 5: Unimplemented planning permissions for employment use**



### **Agriculture, farming and forestry**

- 7.3 During the monitoring period a total of 11 planning applications for agricultural development were permitted, which is on a par with last year. These comprised a variety of new or replacement barns or new or extended agricultural buildings.
- 7.4 In addition, permission was granted for two agricultural dwellings during this period, together with a commoners dwelling.
- 7.5 The Government has proposed that new permitted development rights might encompass the change of use from an agricultural barn to a residential use. This has been consulted on during 2013 and a response from Government is expected sometime in early 2014. If brought in, the impacts of these changes will need to be monitored and carefully assessed.

### **Recreational horsekeeping**

- 7.6 A total of 22 planning applications were permitted for recreational horsekeeping activities and associated development. These were largely comprised of stables or maneges, in dispersed locations throughout the National Park.

### **Visitor facilities and accommodation**

- 7.7 There were no new visitor accommodation units completed during the monitoring period, although there remains an unimplemented planning permission for an additional 16 bedrooms at an existing hotel.
- 7.8 With regard to leisure facilities a total of 1,488m<sup>2</sup> was completed at existing sites, comprising a new leisure building at Paulton's Park in Ower, and a replacement clubhouse at Hurst Castle Sailing Club.

### **Performance of economic policies**

- 7.9 It can be seen that there remains a stock of land with planning permission for a range of business and industrial uses throughout the National Park. This indicates that the strategy for relying on windfall sites coming forward rather than allocating employment sites is proving successful. However, since the Core Strategy was adopted the National Planning Policy Framework has been introduced and this does raise a number of areas to consider prior to a review of the evidence base and policies of the Core Strategy.

## 8. Transport and Access

### **Core Strategy Objective 9:** Policies CP18 and CP19

Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and support a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park.

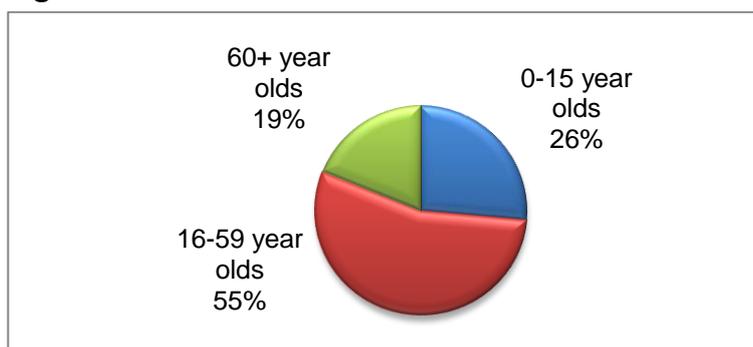
#### **New Forest Tour**

- 8.1 The Authority, together with partners continues to support the New Forest Tour, which had another successful summer season in 2013, operating for 79 days. It generated over 40,000 passenger journeys, up 32% on 2012 figures, contributing over £600,000 to the local economy and saving over 350,000 private car miles. This was helped by the introduction of the new blue route, serving the coast and south west of the National Park.
- 8.2 A recent new initiative, funded by the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, is the Beach Bus, which runs between the Hythe Ferry and Lymington via Lepe. It recorded over 6,000 passenger journeys with positive feedback from businesses and communities along the route.

#### **Road Safety**

- 8.3 Pedestrian casualties in 2012 continue to be the highest in New Forest District than any other district in Hampshire. With a total of 53 pedestrian casualties it is only just higher than last year's figure of 52. However, there has been a decrease in the proportion of casualties in the '0-15 year olds' and the '60+ year olds' age groups. This is set out in the chart below.

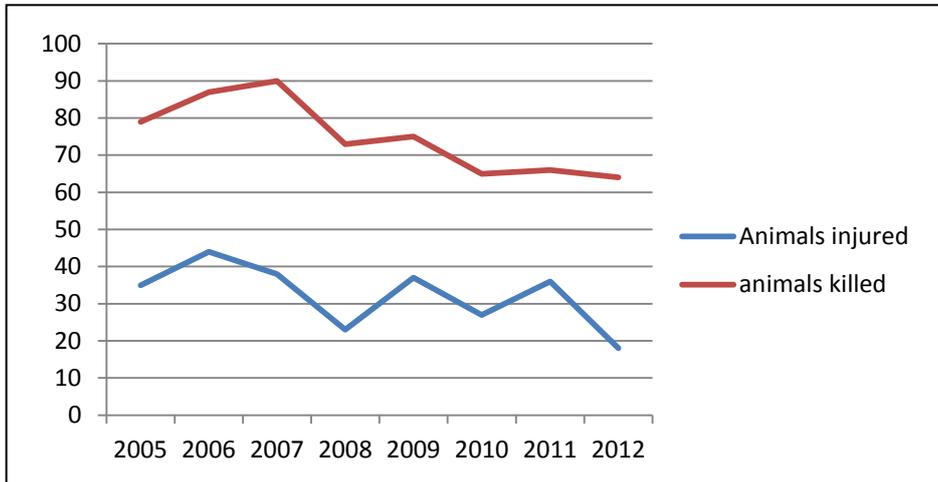
**Figure 6: Pedestrian casualties in New Forest District by age**



Source: Hampshire County Council

8.4 In addition to human casualties there remains the on-going issue of animal casualties and fatalities within the National Park. The Verderers of the New Forest record this data to monitor the impact on the free-roaming livestock of the commoners within the Park. The chart below indicates that the data for 2012 is lower than the previous year.

**Figure 7: Accidents involving commoners' animals**



Source: Verderers of the New Forest, 2013

### **Performance of the Transport and Access policies**

8.5 The Core Strategy's Transport and Access policies appear to be performing well, within the limited remit of the National Park Authority in this area. The New Forest Tour continues to flourish, providing a mode of sustainable transport in and around the National Park.

## **9. Conclusions**

- 9.1 The initial assessment of the Core Strategy's policies in this report indicates that many of the policies are performing well, and continue general trends of protection and enhancement of the area, whilst strengthening policies in several areas. The communities in the National Park continue to be supported through the provision of appropriate levels of housing and employment as well as community facilities.
- 9.2 There remains a significant stock of sites with planning permission for housing or employment uses, which supports the Authority's approach in the Core Strategy of not allocating sites for such uses but relying on a steady supply of 'windfall' sites.
- 9.3 With the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework and a number of significant changes to national planning policy and guidance since the adoption of the Core Strategy it is anticipated that a future review of the Core Strategy within the next few years may be helpful. An assessment of the Core Strategy against new national planning policy undertaken by officers has not raised any fundamental issues of non-conformity. However, there are a number of detailed requirements that were to be included within the Sites and Designations document that could usefully be considered as part of a future review of the core Strategy.

## New Forest National Park Profile

Topic	Figure for New Forest National Park	Data Sources
Total area	56,658 ha (571 km <sup>2</sup> )	New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA)
National Park Area within New Forest District	53,197 ha (532 km <sup>2</sup> ) (93.9%)	NFNPA; New Forest District
Wiltshire Council	3,018 ha (30 km <sup>2</sup> ) (5.3%)	
Test Valley Borough	442 ha (4 km <sup>2</sup> ) (0.8%)	
Number of parishes and towns wholly or partly within the Park	37	NFNPA
Crown lands	26,800 ha	NFNPA, 2012
Perambulation <sup>1</sup>	37,500 ha	Countryside Agency, 2000
<b>Population</b>	<b>Number / percentage</b>	
Total population	34,922	2011 Census (ONS)
Population within New Forest District	32,277	Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2010 (ONS)
Population within Wiltshire Council	2,598	Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2010 (ONS)
Population within Test Valley	362	Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2010 (ONS)
Number of settlements with population of 3,000 or more	3	New Forest District Council, 2004
<b>Natural Habitats / Designations</b>	<b>Area / Percentage</b>	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	32,190 ha (57% of NP)	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2013
National Nature Reserves	1,199 ha	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2013
Local Nature Reserves	416 ha	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2013
Sites of Importance for Nature Conversation (SINCs)	3,023 ha (381 SINCs)	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2013
Total area of woodland (sites of 2 hectares or more)	19,325 ha	Forestry Commission, 2011
Area of Open Forest habitats (woodland, heathland, mire and grassland open to common grazing)	19,692 ha	Forest Enterprise, 2003
Length of coastline	42 km	NFNPA
Length of water courses	Approx. 455 km	Environment Agency, 2013

<sup>1</sup> Land within cattle grids – common rights exercised on unenclosed land

Area of farmland	15,149 ha (holdings of more than 5 ha)	Defra, June 2010
Number of practising commoners	662	Verderers of the New Forest, 2013
Numbers of stock depastured on the Open Forest	8,756	Verderers of the New Forest, 2013
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Number</b>	
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	214	NFNPA, 2012
Conservation areas	20, covering 7,500 ha	NFNPA, 2012
Listed buildings	620	NFNPA, 2012
Historic Parks and Gardens on English Heritage Register	7 (all in New Forest District)	English Heritage
<b>Recreation and Access</b>	<b>Number / percentage</b>	
Public rights of way	326 km	NFNPA
Cycle routes	187 km	NFNPA
Land with open public access	29,652 ha	Natural England / Forestry Commission
Visitor days per year	13.5 million	Tourism South East, 2005

**Key Core Strategy Indicators**

Key:

	Aim achieved		Aim partially achieved		Aim not achieved		Neutral / Unknown
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**Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment**

Indicator	Target	Core Strategy policies	Outcome	
Housing permitted within 400m of the New Forest SPA	Not to allow adverse impacts on the sensitive European nature conservation site	CP1	0 completions 7 dwellings with extant permission (no objection from Natural England)	
Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including: i) Change in BAP priority habitats & species ii) Change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional or sub-regional significance	Net increase in areas of biodiversity importance	CP2	i) Increase of 40 hectares in priority habitats in the National Park  ii) Net gain of 5 hectares in designated areas	
% of new development meeting BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes standards	Achieve Level 3 by 2012; Level 4 from 2012 to 2016; Level 6 from 2016 (zero-carbon rating) and BREEAM level 'very good' for commercial and industrial buildings	DP1	4 post-construction certificates submitted to DCLG	
Public open space standard of 3.5 hectares per 1000 population	New provision in line with the Authority's Open Space Standards; and no net loss of existing open space	DP3	No net loss of open space	
Condition of watercourses	% of river length achieving water quality rating of 'good' or above	DP2	32% classed as 'good'	

Planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding and water quality grounds	Zero applications	DP2, DP4	Zero	
Applications refused on the basis of incompatibility with the Shoreline Management Plans and Coastal Defence Strategies	Not to allow development in areas at risk of coastal erosion or flooding	DP4	Zero applications	
Level and type of renewable energy permitted	Increase in numbers of applications permitted	CP5	Increase in number & scale of applications permitted achieved.	
Areas subject to Air Quality Management Action Plans (Lyndhurst)	Improvement in air quality levels in Lyndhurst – in line with Government’s Air Quality Strategy Objectives	CP6	Annual and hourly average objectives achieved	

### Protecting and Enhancing the Built Environment

Indicator	Target	Core Strategy policies	Outcome	
Numbers of pre-application discussions which led to satisfactory schemes	Not to allow development that would be incompatible with the character of the area	DP6	A significant proportion of housing completions had pre-application discussions	
Planning applications refused on design grounds	Not to allow development that would be incompatible with the character of the area	CP8, DP6		
Planning applications refused on the basis of the impact on the historic environment	Not to allow development that would have adverse impacts on the Park’s historic environment	CP7 (DP6 / CP8)		
Planning applications refused due to inadequate access provision for disabled and less mobile	Not to allow development that has inadequate access for the disabled and less mobile	DP6	Zero applications	

## Vibrant Communities

Indicator	Target	Core Strategy policies	Outcome	
Proportion of new employment development, dwellings, retail uses and community facilities in the four defined villages	To ensure defined villages remain the focus for development	CP9, DP8	Most new housing completed lies within the defined villages, but not employment or leisure sites	
Planning applications permitted for change of use from retail in the four defined villages	Retain retail uses in 50% of the shopping frontages in Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst, and 40% in Ashurst and Sway shopping frontages	DP7	Only Sway has not maintained level of retail in shopping frontage	
Location and type of new / enhanced community facilities	Net gain in facilities / improved facilities	CP10	Net gain of a range of new and improved facilities	
Location and type of new housing permitted and completed	To meet the Core Strategy requirement of 220 dwellings between 2006 & 2026	CP12	7 dwellings completed throughout the Park	
Density of completed dwellings	Not to allow development that would be incompatible with the character of the area	DP9	Density achieved reflects area's character	
Applications refused on the grounds of over enlargement	Not to allow development that would be incompatible with the character of the area	DP10, DP11		
Applications permitted for agricultural or forestry workers dwellings	-	DP13		
Net additional pitches permitted for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople	<i>Target to be identified through a later DPD</i>	CP13	Zero	
Location and type of affordable housing permitted and completed	At least 50% in defined villages; rural exception sites elsewhere	CP11	3 dwellings completed	

## A Sustainable Local Economy

Indicator	Target	Core Strategy policies	Outcome	
Total amount of additional employment floorspace completions – by type	No significant net loss	CP14	Net gain of 26m <sup>2</sup> B1-B8 uses	
Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land – by type		CP14	26m <sup>2</sup> B1-B8 uses	
Employment land available – by type		CP15, DP16 DP17, CP16	8,180m <sup>2</sup>	
Applications permitted for agricultural and forestry buildings	-	DP20	11 permitted	
Applications permitted for recreational horse-keeping and associated development	-	DP21, DP22, DP23	Several permitted	
Numbers of planning applications resulting in back-up grazing land lost to other uses	No net loss	CP17	No net loss	
Number of applications permitted for farm diversification schemes which replace the farm business or which encourages intensive production methods	Zero	CP17	Zero	
Numbers and type of visitor facilities and accommodation permitted in the defined villages	-	CP16	Schemes permitted outside defined villages	

## Transport and Access

Indicator	Target	Core Strategy policies	Outcome	
Length / location of, and enhancements to, public rights of way	Increase / improve footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways	CP19	No change	
Numbers of people using the New Forest Tour bus	Year on year increase	CP19	Increase in operating season and passenger journeys (2013 season)	

**Five Year Housing Land Supply**

The 5 year housing land supply is based on the requirement to meet the level of housing set out in the Authority's adopted Core Strategy which is 220 dwellings between the period 2006 and 2026. The Authority currently has well in excess of a deliverable 5 year supply of housing land based on unimplemented planning permissions, which are set out in the tables below and overleaf.

	<b>Source</b>	<b>Dwellings</b>
<b>A</b>	Core Strategy requirement 2006-2026	220
<b>B</b>	Net completions 2006-2013	157
<b>C</b>	Residual requirement 2013-2026 <b>A – B</b>	63
<b>D</b>	Annual building rate required <b>C / 13 years</b>	5
<b>E</b>	Existing commitments including sites with planning permission and dwellings under construction	108
<b>F</b>	Number of years housing supply identified <b>E / D</b>	22.3

### Outstanding dwellings site schedule (as at 31 March 2013) - Dwellings under construction

REF.	NET AREA	ADDRESS	LOCALITY	NET DWELLINGS
92300	0.02	68A HIGH STREET	LYNDHURST	2
12/97386	0.04	SUNNYCROFT PILLEY STREET	PILLEY	1
12/97615	0.04	SIKA COTTAGE MAIN ROAD	EAST BOLDRE	1
12/97985	0.04	2 PARISH HALL FOREST GARDENS	LYNDHURST	1
11/96826	0.05	5A THE CUSTARDS	LYNDHURST	2
09/94481	0.06	FOREST GLEN REAR OF PIKES HILL	LYNDHURST	1
12/97325	0.06	1 PRINCES CRESCENT	LYNDHURST	2
09/93770	0.08	KNIGHTWOOD LODGE HOTEL SOUTHAMPTON ROAD	LYNDHURST	8
10/95407	0.09	OAK HOUSE MILFORD ROAD	EVERTON	1
85763	0.10	SIDLEY SOUTHAMPTON ROAD	CADNAM	1
12/97328	0.10	SOUTH VIEW HOTEL GOSPORT LANE	LYNDHURST	7
92179	0.11	LITTLE GREENMOOR FARM CHURCH LANE	BOLDRE	1
11/96721	0.11	COWPENN COTTAGE	FRITHAM	1
11/96338	0.14	BIRCH COTTAGE SWAY ROAD	BROCKENHURST	1
12/97700	0.15	WOODSIDE RINGWOOD ROAD	BARTLEY	1
10/95825	0.18	258 WOODLANDS ROAD	WOODLANDS	1
12/97679	0.18	BADMINSTON FARM CALSHOT ROAD	CALSHOT	1
08/93170	0.20	PENN VALE FARM PENN COMMON ROAD	BRAMSHAW	1
08/92794	0.20	15 PETERSCROFT AVENUE	ASHURST	1
03/79004	0.21	EDGEMOOR FARM TOMS LANE	LINWOOD	1
12/97934	0.22	THORNEY ORCHARD BLACK LANE	BRANSGORE	1
10/95752	0.23	FOREST HEATH HOTEL STATION ROAD	SWAY	5
12/97236	0.25	40 FOXHILLS	ASHURST	7
85280	0.28	FIVE THORNS COTTAGE LAND REAR OF NORTH WEIRS	BROCKENHURST	1
11/96743	0.35	STRAWBERRY FARM	GODSHILL	1
11/96244	0.37	JOYCOL WELL LANE	GODSHILL	1
09/93801	0.53	SOWLEY LODGE SANDPITS LANE	EAST END	1
10/95358	0.68	FOXHILL FARM TWIGGS LANE END	LONGDOWN	1
11/96863	0.86	WOODSIDE INCHMERY LANE	EXBURY	1
11/96865	1.05	FOREST MEAD AND WATTONS FARM HOLMSLEY ROAD	WOOTTON	2

TVS 2246/7	0.20	ABBOTTS DROVE CAMDEN CANADA ROAD	WEST WELLOW	1
12/97210	0.05	WHISPERING OAKS CHAPEL LANE	NOMANSLAND	1
09/93925	0.06	PLUM TREES LAND ADJACENT SCHOOL ROAD	NOMANSLAND	1
08/93142	0.07	THE WHITE HOUSE LAND ADJACENT FOREST ROAD	NOMANSLAND	1
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>

### Outstanding dwellings site schedule (as at 31 March 2013) - Unimplemented permissions

REF.	NET AREA	ADDRESS	LOCALITY	NET DWELLINGS
12/97577	0.02	16 LAND TO THE REAR OF WOOD ROAD	ASHURST	1
12/97514	0.03	25 LAND REAR OF LYNDHURST ROAD	NOEL CLOSE	1
12/97795	0.04	RAMBLER COTTAGE LAND ADJACENT TO CHINHAM ROAD	BARTLEY	1
09/94011	0.05	SEPTEMBER COTTAGE NORTH ROAD	BROCKENHURST	2
08/93639	0.07	MANOR FARM WINSOR LANE	WINSOR	-1
09/93749	0.08	SKYLARK FARM COACH HILL LANE	BURLEY	1
12/97211	0.08	NABOTHS VINEYARD NEWTOWN ROAD	MINSTEAD	1
10/95963	0.09	YEW TREE COTTAGE LAND ADJACENT TO ST JAMES ROAD	SWAY	1
10/95509	0.17	FAIRWEATHER GARDEN CENTRE HIGH STREET	BEAULIEU	6
12/98020	0.22	2/2A LAND ADJACENT GOSPORT LANE	LYNDHURST	26
13/98218	0.14	THE LODGE LIME WOOD BEAULIEU ROAD	LYNDHURST	-1
92465 DETAIL	0.45	FLYING BOAT INN SITE OF THE FORMER CALSHOT ROAD	FAWLEY	1
12/97225	0.50	WATERSPLASH HOTEL THE RISE	BROCKENHURST	1
12/97417	0.66	HIGH FOREST LAND ADJACENT MANCHESTER ROAD	SWAY	2
12/97444	1.77	INEOS PROPERTIES HAWKSLEASE, BROCK COTTAGE & DEER LEAP CHAPEL LANE	LYNDHURST	-1
09/94619	6.08	FORMER AL CENTRE NOS. 8, 10, 14, 16 BEECHEN LANE	LYNDHURST	4
10/95256	2.46	APPLETREE COURT BEAULIEU ROAD	LYNDHURST	-1
08/92914	0.15	SAND DUNES SCHOOL LANE	NOMANSLAND	1
09/93795	0.22	LONGUEVILLE LAND OF LYNDHURST ROAD	POUND HILL	1
12/97727	0.31	LITTLE GREEN SOUTH LANE	NOMANSLAND	1
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>

## APPENDIX 4

### Condition of watercourses in the New Forest National Park

River	Length (km)	Area (km)	Current overall status	Overall objective
Buckland Stream	3.24	6.05	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
Walhampton Stream	1.84	2.97	Moderate	Good Status by 2027
Danes Stream	15.46	19.87	Good	Good Status by 2015
Thorns Marsh Stream	2.03	1.96	Moderate	Good Status by 2027
Sowley Stream	10.70	16.77	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
R. Beaulieu	2.89	7.25	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
Beaulieu Abbey Stream	2.41	10.23	Moderate	Good Status by 2027
Lymington River	21.15	46.36	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
Penerley Trib	5.75	21.20	Good	Good Status by 2015
Beckton Bunny	2.12	4.35	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
Walkford Brook	6.75	10.60	Good	Good Status by 2015
Plummers Water	8.97	8.97	Good	Good Status by 2015
Stone Farm Stream	2.20	2.50	Good	Good Status by 2015
Avon Water	23.63	48.70	Good	Good Status by 2015
Mopley Pond Stream	4.47	7.37	Good	Good Status by 2015
Black Water	0.38	1.13	Good	Good Status by 2015
Dark Water	9.26	17.46	Good	Good Potential by 2015
Cadland Stream	2.51	10.83	Moderate	Good Status by 2027
Langdown Stream	2.00	6.94	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
Ober Water	13.27	23.78	Moderate	Good Status by 2027
Hatchet Stream	8.97	10.38	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
R. Beaulieu	26.70	42.52	Moderate	Good Status by 2027
Marchwood Park Stream Trb	6.74	7.50	Good	Good Potential by 2015
Magazine Lane Stream	1.36	3.85	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
Black Water	8.33	22.77	Good	Good Status by 2015
Highland Water	12.80	25.71	Good	Good Status by 2015
Bartley Water	16.22	19.39	Good	Good Status by 2015
Jacobs Gutter	2.62	2.97	Good	Good Status by 2015
Fletchwood Trib	5.92	11.24	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
Bartley Water	3.21	5.31	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
Hatchet Pond (lake)		0.06	Moderate	Good Potential by 2027
Sowley Pond (lake)		0.16	Poor	Good Potential by 2027
LINFORD BROOK	8.10	18.60	Poor	Good Status by 2027
DOCKENS WATER	14.81	21.25	Poor	Good Status by 2015
Huckles Brook	20.41	23.97	Moderate	Good Status by 2015
DITCHEND BROOK	8.70	12.76	Moderate	Good Status by 2015
Hampshire Avon (Lower)	109.91	152.08	Poor	Good Potential by 2027
Cadnam River	14.73	33.92	Moderate	Good Status by 2027
Whiteparish Trib	2.69	15.61	Moderate	Good Status by 2027
River Blackwater	21.55	28.40	Poor	Good Status by 2027
R. Blackwater	4.55	13.06	Moderate	Good Status by 2027
R. Blackwater	15.44	35.50	Good	Good Status by 2015

Source: Environment Agency, 2011