

# NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

## Local Development Framework ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

2011

**December 2011**



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## Executive Summary

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 currently requires local planning authorities to produce an Annual Monitoring Report by 31 December each year. The report should:

- set out progress on Local Development Document preparation against the timetable outlined in the Authority's Local Development Scheme;
- assess the extent to which current planning policies are being implemented;
- identify the significant effects of implementing policies in Local Development Documents and whether they are as intended;
- set out whether policies are to be amended or replaced.

The Localism Bill, which was enacted in November 2011, sets out a number of proposed changes to the format and procedure for preparing such monitoring reports. Although this has not yet come into force the Authority will be considering the implications of these changes.

This is the sixth Annual Monitoring Report produced by the New Forest National Park Authority. It covers the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, and largely focuses on assessing the effectiveness of the planning policies in the adopted Core Strategy.

The report highlights that the key milestones of early preparation and consultation on a number of supporting documents to the Core Strategy have been achieved.

As the Core Strategy was adopted in December 2010 it is too early to give full assessment of the performance of the planning policies. However, early indications are that they are performing well and are on track to achieve the Core Strategy's overall objectives. However, there are a number of issues regarding data availability and the Authority will continue to ensure that as much data as possible is available to fully assess the effectiveness of the Core Strategy's policies in future reports.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The designation of the New Forest National Park was confirmed in March 2005 and the National Park Authority assumed its full planning responsibilities in April 2006. The Authority is responsible for spatial planning, minerals and waste planning, development management and enforcement, and other related regulatory functions within the National Park.
- 1.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 currently requires every local planning authority to produce an Annual Monitoring Report for submission to the Secretary of State by 31 December each year. This should contain information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which the Policies set out in Local Development Documents are being achieved.
- 1.3 The Localism Bill which was enacted in November 2011 proposes a number of changes to the requirements for Annual Monitoring Reports currently set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, until such time as the Government confirms when these changes will come into effect the Authority will continue to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports in line with the requirements in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The Authority will review the implications of the proposed changes in due course.
- 1.4 This is the sixth Annual Monitoring Report produced by the New Forest National Park Authority. The monitoring data set out in this report relate to the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.
- 1.5 The New Forest National Park covers parts of New Forest District and Test Valley Borough in Hampshire and part of Wiltshire Council area (formerly Salisbury District).

### **Development Plan**

- 1.6 During the period of the monitoring report the Development Plan for the National Park comprised the following:

1 April 2010 to 8 December 2011:

- New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration (2005)
- Test Valley Borough Local Plan (2006)
- Salisbury District Local Plan (2003)
- Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (2007)
- Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (2009)

From December 2010 to 31 March 2011:

- New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2010)

- Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (2009)
- Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (2007)

- 1.7 The Authority's Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document was adopted part way through this monitoring period, in December 2010, and replaced the majority of policies in the three Local Plans formerly covering the National Park. More details of this are set out in paragraph 1.9 below.
- 1.8 The Localism Act sets out details of the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategies, although it has yet to be confirmed by Government when this will come into force. Until that time the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East remains in place as part of the Authority's Development Plan.

#### *Saved policies*

- 1.9 The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced the system of Local Development Frameworks to replace local plans. As these are gradually introduced policies from local plans will expire unless the Government agrees to save those policies considered necessary. Within the National Park, the vast majority of the local plan policies were superseded by the Authority's Core Strategy upon its adoption. An overview of the policies 'saved' is set out below.
- **New Forest District Local Plan** (Adopted 2005) – All but one policy now superseded by the Core Strategy.
  - **Test Valley Borough Local Plan** (Adopted 2006) - All policies now superseded by the Core Strategy.
  - **Salisbury District Local Plan** (Adopted 2003) – All policies now superseded by the Core Strategy.
  - **Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Plan** (Adopted 2005) All but one policy superseded by the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.

#### **Format of this report**

- 1.10 This report covers the entirety of the National Park and takes as its starting point the objectives in the Authority's adopted Core Strategy. Regard has also been had to the objectives in the three local plans that were still in place for part of the monitoring period. However, the report largely focuses on assessing the effectiveness of the Core Strategy policies as these have now superseded the majority of policies in the local plans. This will also enable analysis of trends in future monitoring reports.

- 1.11 In March 2011 the Government, in a letter to Local Authority Chief Planning Officers, announced that it had withdrawn its formal guidance on annual monitoring reports, including the set of national core output indicators. Whilst this gives planning authorities greater flexibility to determine what to include within their monitoring reports the Park Authority is committed to monitoring the indicators set out in the adopted Core Strategy, which include some of the former national core indicators.
- 1.12 Any comments and queries on this Monitoring Report should be addressed to the Policy Team at the National Park Authority:

Policy Team  
New Forest National Park Authority  
Lymington Town Hall  
Avenue Road  
Lymington  
SO41 9ZG

**Tel:** 01590 646600

**email:** [policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

## 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, and they 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 formally brought into effect on 26 April 2011.

#### **Progress against Local Development Scheme milestones**

- 3.2 Through the Annual Monitoring Report Local Planning Authorities are required to assess whether significant milestones in the preparation of various documents in the Local Development Scheme have been reached. Assessment of the key milestones for relevant documents identified in the Authority's current LDS is set out below.

##### *Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD*

- 3.3 This was adopted by the Authority in December 2010 and no longer features in the LDS.

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

- 3.4 The initial scoping of the content and evidence base requirements for this document is underway, in line with the relevant milestone set out in the Authority's LDS.

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

- 3.5 Public consultation for this document was carried out between 9 September and 21 October 2011 and several representations were received. These will be reported to Members at an Authority meeting in mid-December 2011 together with a revised Design Guide, with a view to recommending formal adoption of the document.

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

- 3.6 The Authority has started scoping out the content of this document, in line with the LDS. The next milestone is a period of public consultation scheduled for January and February 2012.

*Guidelines for Horse-related Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)*

- 3.7 The LDS refers to this document as the 'Recreational Horsekeeping' SPD. It achieved the milestones of a period of public consultation for six weeks during June, July and August 2011. The document was then adopted at an Authority meeting in September 2011, as set out in the Authority's LDS.

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

- 3.8 The National Park Authority together with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and latterly the South Downs National Park Authority, is undertaking an early review of the adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. This document will be known as the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan and will incorporate strategic minerals and waste sites. A revised Hampshire Minerals and Waste LDS was brought into effect on 7 September 2011, and sets out the updated timetable for the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Plan. The Submission Draft Plan is out for a period of public consultation from 7 November until 19 December 2011. 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.

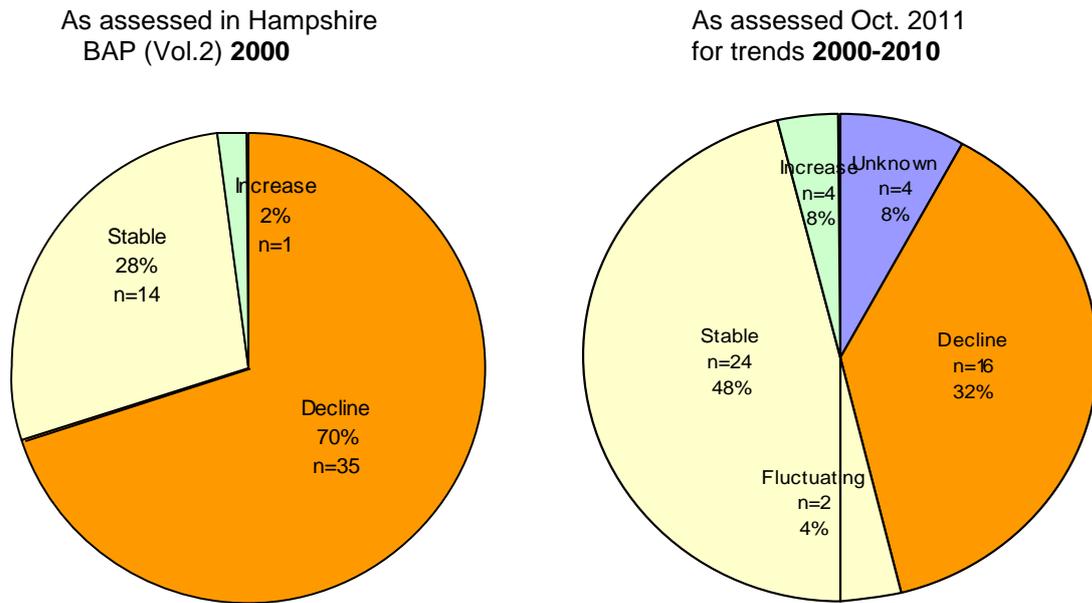
- 4.1 The planning policies for the National Park, both in former local plans and the adopted Core Strategy, place a strong emphasis on protection of the natural environment. Additionally, in line with Government guidance, the Core Strategy seeks to plan for the impacts of climate change over the next 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 29,099 hectares (as at 31 March 2011). Over 87% of these priority habitats fall within statutorily designated nature conservation sites. This represents a slight increase from last year's report.
- 4.3 There are 493 priority species listed in the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan, although 69 of these are considered extinct or else vagrants. It is unrealistic to attempt to report on all priority species, therefore Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre has identified a suite of 50 Biodiversity Action Plan species which have been chosen as there is good data available, and they are representative of various habitats in Hampshire. Forty of these species are present in the 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 the rates of decline of the 50 representative priority species have slowed. Compared to the data in last year's monitoring report the number of species showing a decline has dropped from 42% to 32%.

**Figure 1: Changes in Hampshire's representative 50 BAP priority species**



Source: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

### *Designated Nature Conservation Sites*

- 4.5 During this monitoring period there were no net changes to the extent of statutory designated nature conservation sites within the National Park.

### **Condition of watercourses**

- 4.6 The Core Strategy, like the constituent local plans before it, does not support development that would risk harm to the quality and yield of water resources, including groundwater, rivers and streams.
- 4.7 The Environment Agency monitors the water quality of rivers in the New Forest and has recently changed the methodology it uses. Therefore the data below will not be directly comparable with data from previous years' monitoring reports. Rivers are now assessed under the EU Water Framework Directive which looks at over 30 measures, grouped into Ecological Status and Chemical Status. For a river to be classified as having a 'Good' status both ecological and chemical status must be at least 'Good'.
- 4.8 The vast majority of watercourses in the National Park are rated as 'good'. However, a number of key watercourses are rated as 'moderate' and these are listed in Figure 2 overleaf, together with a summary of the reason for that status.

**Figure 2: Condition of water courses in the National Park**

<b>Water course</b>	<b>Status (reasons)</b>
Dockens Water	Poor (fish)
Ditchend Brook	Moderate (chemical)
East End	Moderate (chemical)
Huckles Brook	Moderate (fish, Chemical)
Linford Brook	Poor (fish)
Ripley Brook	Moderate (fish, macrophytes, pH)
River Lymington at Balmer Lawn	Moderate (chemical)
River Mude	Moderate (fish)

Source: Environment Agency

- 4.9 The Environment Agency is consulted on applications that may potentially impact on a local watercourse. The National Park Authority did not permit any applications against the advice of the Environment Agency during the monitoring period on the grounds of either impact on water quality or flooding issues.

### **Renewable energy**

- 4.10 A large number of applications for renewable energy schemes have been permitted during the monitoring year. These have all comprised the installation of one, or more often multiple, solar panels on both domestic and community buildings. These included multiple solar panels at Bramshaw Village Hall, and the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst

### **Air Quality**

- 4.11 An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared for a part of the High Street in Lyndhurst in 2005 on the basis of high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide. The air quality in Lyndhurst is regularly monitored by New Forest District Council Environmental Health officers and the results for the monitoring period 1 April 2010 through to 31 March 2011 identifies a partial achievement of the objectives of improving the air quality.

**Figure 3: Results of Air Quality in Lyndhurst AQMA**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Achieved Objective?</b>
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual mean not exceeding 40ug/m3	46	No
Nitrogen Dioxide	No more than 18 occurrences of hourly mean >200ug/m3	2	Yes

4.12 The air quality will continue to be monitored. A Progress Report undertaken in August 2011 by New Forest District Environmental Health has concluded that the current Air Quality Management Area in Lyndhurst with respect to nitrogen dioxide (annual mean objective) should remain. The associated Action Plan for the Lyndhurst AQMA will continue to be progressed. In particular it is noted that detailed assessments for nitrogen dioxide are to be carried out for one location within Lyndhurst AQMA in relation to traffic.

#### **Performance of the Natural Environment policies**

4.13 It is still early days in terms of assessing the performance of the policies in the Core Strategy. However, it can be seen that there is at least a continuation of the core objectives of protecting and enhancing the natural environment. In particular there has been no loss of areas of biodiversity importance, maintenance of generally good water quality and ongoing monitoring of air pollution in Lyndhurst. These trends will continue to be assessed in future monitoring reports.

## 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**

- 5.2 Both the former local plans and the Authority's adopted Core Strategy promote the principles of good design in new development. Refusals of planning applications based on the grounds of poor design were relatively and consistently high throughout the monitoring period, despite the change from local plan to Core Strategy planning policies during this time.
- 5.3 However, since the adoption of the Core Strategy there are other issues that were more commonly cited in refusals of applications than purely design issues. These comprised over-enlargement of dwellings and impacts on the historic environment, although this could be due to the particular circumstances of the changeover of policies from the local plans to the Core Strategy and the ensuing differences in policies.
- 5.4 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. Several of these proposals were applications within a Conservation Area. The two Core Strategy policies cited in relation to design issues were CP8 Local Distinctiveness and DP6 Design Principles.

### *Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document*

- 5.5 To supplement the Core Strategy policies and accompanying text the Authority has prepared and consulted on a Design Guide for the National Park which is due to be adopted by the Authority in December 2011 as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This will provide advice and guidance on achieving high standards of design of new development while retaining and enhancing the distinctive character of the area.

### *Village Design Statements*

- 5.6 The Authority continues to support the preparation of Village Design Statements (VDS) by parish councils in order to provide a more detailed document that will sit alongside the Design Guide SPD. These will be formally adopted by the Authority as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and will thus be a material consideration in the

assessment of planning applications. Village Design Statements for Wellow, and also for Landford were both adopted by the Authority as SPDs in March 2011, following a period of public consultation.

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

- 5.7 Since the adoption of the Core Strategy the two main reasons cited in refusals of planning applications comprise impacts on the historic environment (citing policies CP7 –The Built Environment, and CP8 – Local Distinctiveness) and the over-enlargement of dwellings (citing policy DP11 – Extensions to Dwellings).
- 5.8 As policy DP 11 relating to extensions to dwellings represented a change from the policies in the old local plans it is considered that the significant number of applications which were submitted prior to the adoption of the Core Strategy were attempting to benefit from the more lenient local plan policies.

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

- 5.9 Design issues continue to be an area of importance for the assessment of planning applications, and the Authority recognises this in preparing and adopting a Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document. This will facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the Core Strategy in enhancing the locally distinctive communities of the 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.

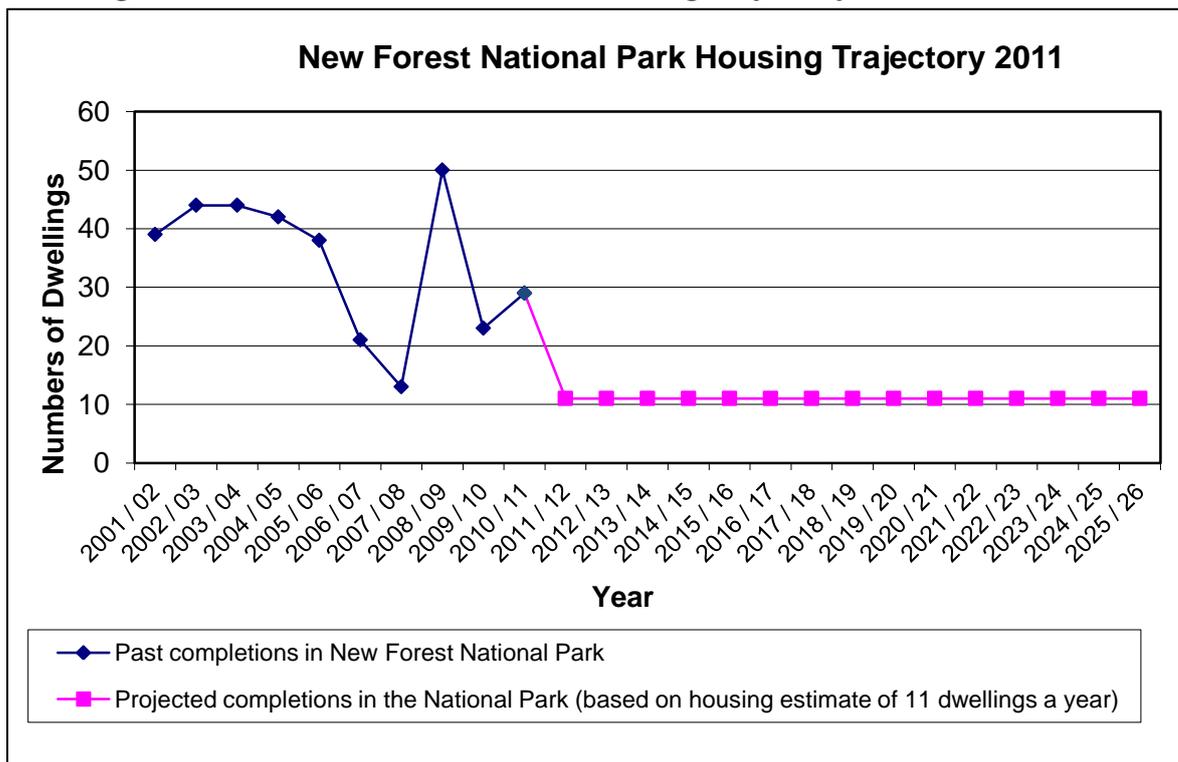
**Core Strategy Objective 5:** Policies CP11, DP13, DP14, and CP13

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

### Housing

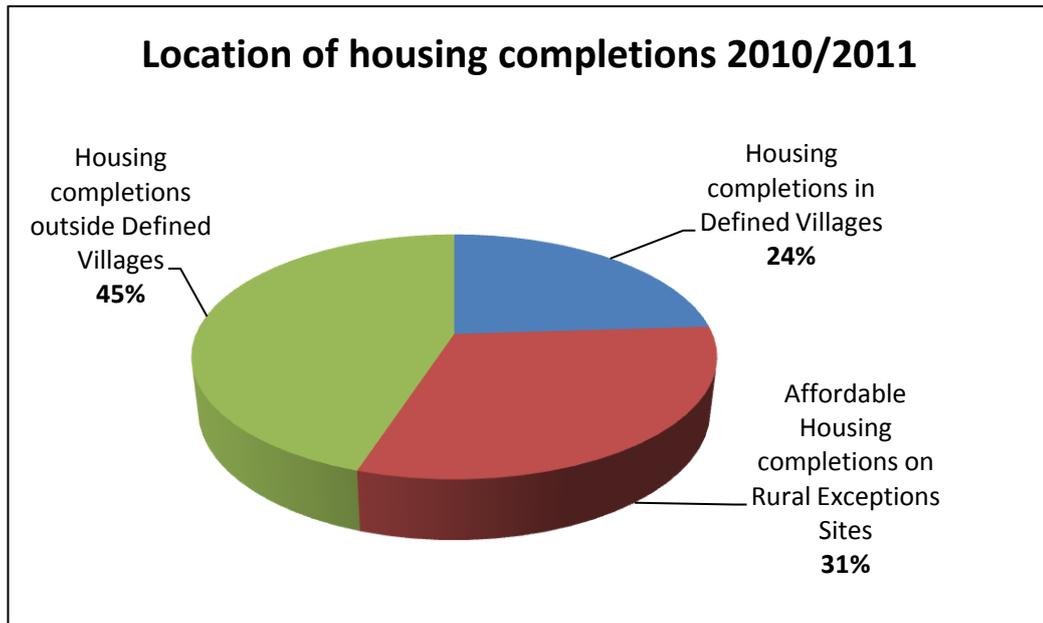
- 6.1 There was a net gain of 29 dwellings completed during the monitoring period, of which 69% was built on previously developed land. This is higher than the national target of 60% of development to be on previously developed land, as set out in the Government's Planning Policy Statement 3 on Housing. The chart below compares this figure with completions from previous years.

**Figure 4: New Forest National Park Housing Trajectory 2011**



- 6.2 In terms of the locations of the housing completions the majority of houses have been built outside the defined villages, as illustrated in figure 5 overleaf. This is because all the housing completions during the monitoring year gained planning permission whilst the old local plans were still in place and thus were not determined under the new Core Strategy policies which direct housing development towards the four defined villages.

**Figure 5: Location of housing completions**



Source: NFNPA planning applications data

- 6.3 Although 45% of housing completed during the monitoring year was developed on land outside the defined villages this still took place on previously developed land rather than on new greenfield sites.

*Housing densities*

- 6.4 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 gardens.
- 6.5 The figures for the monitoring period indicate that 93% 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 87% last year. However, this figure reflects the high proportion of single houses, particularly replacement dwellings, which are often set in large grounds.

*Housing size*

- 6.6 A total of 32 applications were refused on the basis of over-enlargement of dwellings during the part of the monitoring period following the adoption of the Core Strategy. Of these 32 applications only one has an appeal pending.

*Affordable Housing completions*

- 6.7 Nine affordable houses were built during 2010 / 2011, compared to a figure of zero for the previous monitoring period. These were all built on one rural exception site in Pilley.

## **Defined Villages**

### **Retail**

- 6.8 During the monitoring period there was no loss of retail use in the four defined villages. However, there remain two outstanding planning permissions for retail development but neither is within any of the four defined villages.
- 6.9 The Authority's policy officers carried out the 2011 annual survey of the proportion of A1 retail in the defined shopping frontage within the four defined villages, as set out in the Core Strategy. This identified little change from the thresholds set out in the Core Strategy.
- 6.10 In Ashurst, Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst the proportion of A1 retail use remains at least 10% above the minimum threshold set out in Core Strategy policy DP7. However, in Sway, the proportion of A1 retail use is now 36% and therefore falls 4% below the minimum threshold.

### **Community Facilities**

- 6.11 Throughout the whole of the monitoring period a significant amount of planning applications for community facilities were permitted, with a large part of these being within or adjacent to the boundaries of the four defined villages. Such applications included new allotments, an ecological discovery centre, improvements to sport and recreation grounds and educational facilities. Many are also for improvements to existing facilities rather than completely new development.

## **Performance of Vibrant Communities policies**

- 6.12 The data illustrates that the Authority continues to maintain a stock of planning permissions for residential development and is exceeding the expected level of housing completions of 11 dwellings per year. The Authority continues to maintain a five-year supply of housing, as required by Government guidance.
- 6.13 It is too early yet to give firm assessment of the more detailed housing policies, particularly relating to over-enlargement of extensions. However, the next year's monitoring report is likely to give a fuller picture of these trends.
- 6.14 Policy CP10 of the Authority's Core Strategy which supports the retention of community facilities and seeks to prevent their loss, in addition to supporting appropriate new community facilities, continues to facilitate the provision of community facilities.

## 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 During the monitoring period a total of 1,197m<sup>2</sup> employment floorspace was completed within the National Park. This is on a par with that completed in 2009 / 2010. It is broken down by type as follows:

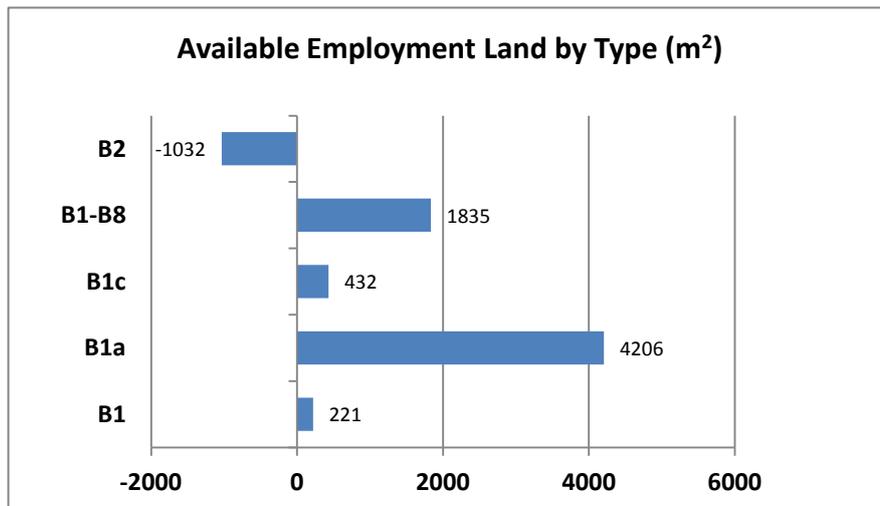
**Figure 6: Employment completions 2011**

Use Class Type	B1	B1-B8	TOTAL
Amount	582m <sup>2</sup>	615m <sup>2</sup>	1,197m <sup>2</sup>
% on previously developed land	-	-	-
% on greenfield land	100%	100%	100%

*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 business and industrial uses totalling some 5,662m<sup>2</sup>, as illustrated in figure 7 overleaf.

**Figure 7: Land with planning permission for employment**



Source: Hampshire County Council

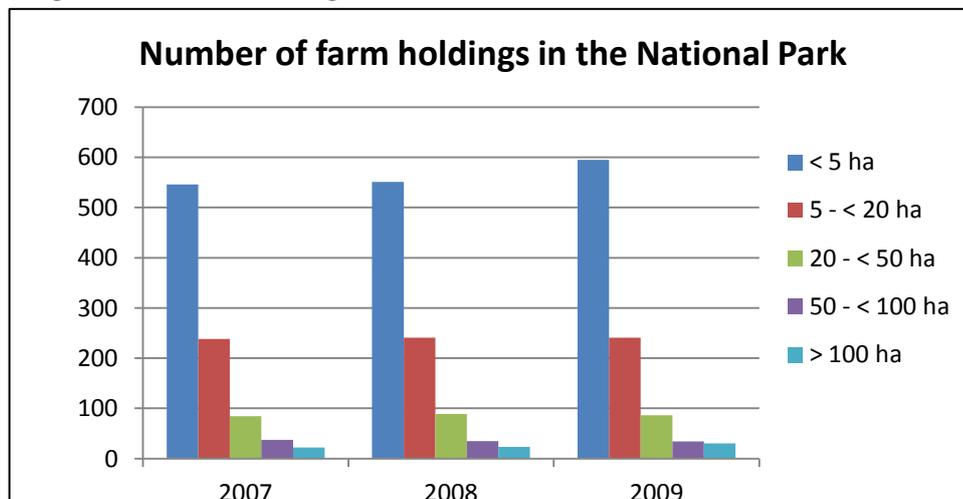
### Agriculture, farming and forestry

7.3 Only two planning applications were permitted during the monitoring period when the Core Strategy was in place. These were for a barn for storage of agricultural equipment, and retention of mobile homes for seasonal farm workers.

#### *Farm holdings*

7.4 The number of farm holdings in the National Park has shown a slight rise year on year from 2007 to 2009. However, the numbers of commercial farm holdings have slightly fallen, from 395 in 2009 to 365 in 2010. Total numbers of farm holdings in the Park in 2009 amount to a land area of 16,415 hectares. This is illustrated in Figure 8 below.

**Figure 8: Farm holdings in the National Park**



Source: Defra Annual Agricultural Surveys

### **Recreational Horsekeeping**

- 7.5 A very small number of planning applications were received, and subsequently permitted, relating to recreational horsekeeping, of which the majority comprised improvements to existing horsekeeping facilities.
- 7.6 A Supplementary Planning Document entitled 'Guidelines for Horse-Related Development' was consulted on and subsequently adopted by the Authority in September 2011. It is aimed at horse owners and land managers who keep horses, and seeks to share best practice in land management to ensure that the New Forest landscape is conserved and enhanced.

### **Visitor facilities and accommodation**

- 7.7 During the monitoring period there was a number of applications permitted for appropriate visitor facilities including accommodation.

### **Performance of economic policies**

- 7.8 The Authority continues to maintain a stock of land with planning permission for employment uses throughout the National Park, and ensure a steady rate of employment uses built this year compared to last year.

## 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. Passenger numbers continue to show a year on year increase, despite having slightly fewer operating days over the last few years. The detailed figures are shown in figure 9 below.
- 8.2 A new route covering the north and west of the National Park was trialled for 6 weeks this summer with much positive feedback received from customers.

**Figure 9: Passenger numbers using the New Forest Tour**

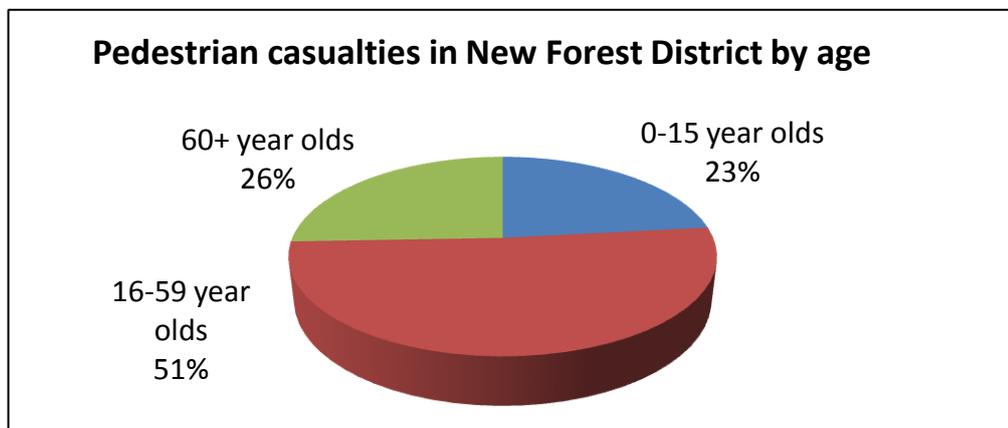
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>No of passenger journeys</b>	9,015	9,879	14,103	15,623	17,600	18,000 (NW route) 14,000 (SE route)
<b>Operating days</b>	100	100	100	86	86	86

Source: New Forest NPA

#### **Road Safety**

- 8.3 Pedestrian casualties in 2010 were highest in New Forest District than any other in Hampshire. There was a total of 43 pedestrian casualties with a high proportion of older pedestrian casualties, which is illustrated in the diagram below.

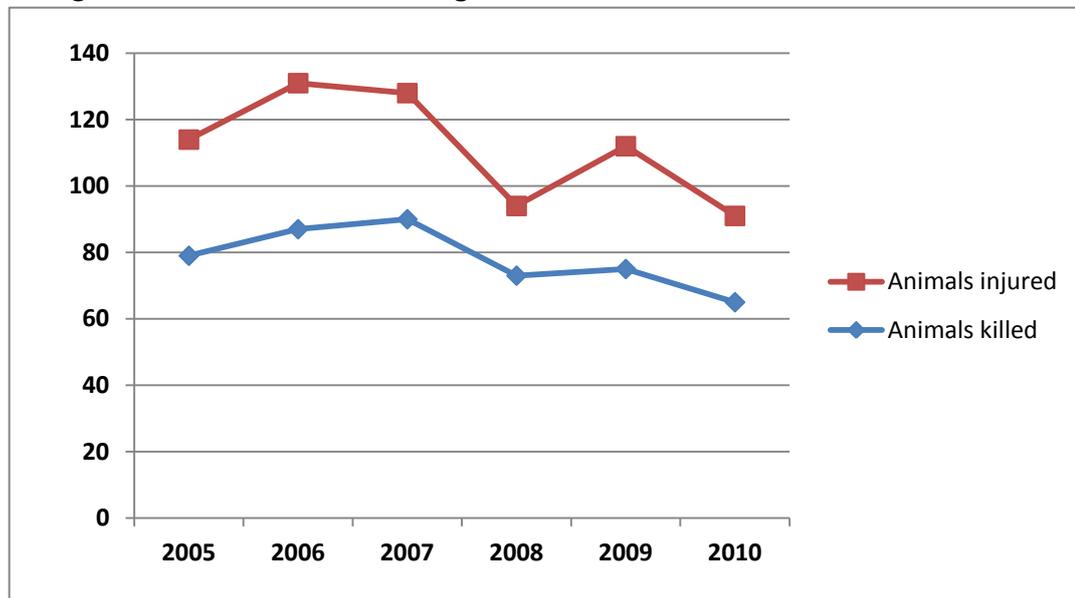
**Figure 10: Pedestrian casualties in New Forest District**



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 overall trends for injured and killed animals are on the decrease, albeit only a slight decrease.
- 8.5 The Authority continues to support initiatives to raise awareness of animal accidents such as working with local schools to promote a poster campaign highlighting this issue. A portion of the Higher Level Stewardship grant awarded to the Authority and partners was used to purchase additional reflective collars for the commoners' ponies.

**Figure 11: Accidents involving commoners' animals**



Source: the Verderers of the New Forest

### Levels of traffic

- 8.6 The Department for Transport monitors road traffic levels through the Annual Average Daily Traffic Flows methodology. This sets out the number of vehicles passing through a particular count point on an average day of the year. For the A31 during 2010 a figure of 57,263 vehicles passed through a count point just east of picket post. Over 78% of those vehicles were cars, with HGVs comprising 12%. In a separate count point at the roundabout near Cadnam a total daily flow of 22,446 vehicles was counted, of which 82% were cars and 6% HGVs.
- 8.7 In the absence of past data the annual average daily traffic flows will continue to be monitored through the annual monitoring report in order to identify any trends.

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

- 8.8 The Core Strategy's Transport and Access policies appear to be performing well, with the addition of a new trial route for the New Forest Tour enabling greater access throughout the National Park, and by more sustainable means. In addition the Authority maintains a watching brief on other aspects of road safety and will continue to support related initiatives such as the reflective pony collars.

## **9. Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 9.1 The adoption of the Authority's first National Park-wide planning policies in December 2010 has meant that this monitoring report has largely focused on the assessment of those policies. However, there is a lack of past data against which to compare much of the data in this report, especially as there are many new indicators in this report that are being monitored for the first time.
- 9.2 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 from the former local plans, whilst strengthening policies in several areas.
- 9.3 There are a number of issues on which there is currently no data available and work will be undertaken to ensure as much data as possible is available in future years reports.
- 9.4 Additionally the Authority will be reviewing the process of preparing the annual monitoring report in the light of the proposed changes set out in the recently enacted Localism Act 2011.
- 9.5 The production of the National Park Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document, and the Standards Supplementary Planning Document, together with the recently adopted Guidelines for Horse-related Development Supplementary Planning Document and Village Design Statements will provide a comprehensive policy framework for the National Park which supports the socio-economic well-being of the Park's communities in the delivery of the statutory Park purposes.

## 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
National Park Area within New Forest District Wiltshire Council Test Valley Borough	53,197 ha (532 km <sup>2</sup> ) (93.9%) 3,018 ha (30 km <sup>2</sup> ) (5.3%) 442 ha (4 km <sup>2</sup> ) (0.8%)	New Forest National Park Authority; New Forest District
Number of parishes and towns wholly or partly within the Park	37	New Forest National Park Authority
Crown lands (managed by the Forestry Commission)	26,756 ha (268 km <sup>2</sup> )	Forestry Commission, 2008
Perambulation <sup>1</sup>	38,000 ha (all but a very small area within the Park)	Countryside Agency, 2000
<b>Population</b>	<b>Number / percentage</b>	
Total population	35,237	Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2010 (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, 2011
Natura 2000 sites <sup>2</sup>	31,887 ha (56% of NP)	English Nature, 2005
National Nature Reserves	1,199 ha	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2011
Local Nature Reserves	412 ha	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2011
Sites of Importance for Nature Conversation (SINCs) and County Wildlife Sites	3,073 ha (on 383 sites)	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, 2010
Total area of woodland (sites of 2 hectares or more)	22,379 ha	Forestry Commission, 2004
Area of Open Forest habitats (woodland, heathland, mire and grassland open to common grazing)	19,692 ha	Forest Enterprise, 2003
Length of hedgerows (Hampshire only)	2,402 km	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
Length of coastline	42 km	New Forest National Park Authority

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

<sup>2</sup> Sites of European importance – all area also Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Coastal cliff and foreshore (above mean low water)	891 ha	New Forest District Council
Length of water courses	5,866 km	Environment Agency
Area of farmland	16,415 ha (986 farm holdings)	Defra, June 2009
Number of practising commoners	628	Verderers of the New Forest, 2008
Numbers of stock depastured on the Open Forest	7,924	Verderers of the New Forest, 2010
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Number</b>	
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	214	New Forest National Park Authority
Conservation areas	20	New Forest National Park Authority
Listed buildings	610	New Forest National Park Authority
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 footpaths	235 km	Wiltshire and Hampshire County Councils
Public Bridleways	57 km	
Other public rights of way	18 km	
Waymarked cycle routes	226 km	New Forest National Park Authority
Land with open public access	30,769 ha	Natural England / Forestry Commission
Visitor days	13.5 million	Tourism South East, 2005

## 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	<i>No data available</i>	
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) No net change in priority habitats (for the National Park) or species (in Hampshire overall)	
			ii) No net change 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	<i>No data available</i>	
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	<i>No data available</i>	
Condition of watercourses	% of river length achieving water quality rating of 'good' or above (chemical and biological grading)	DP2	Generally good	

Planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding and water quality grounds	Zero applications	DP2, DP4	Zero	
The environmental footprint of the National Park	A year on year reduction in the Park's footprint	CP4	<i>No data available</i>	
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 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 average achieved objective. Hourly average exceeded objective.	

## 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	<i>No data available</i>	
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	
Housing quality – Building for Life Assessments	To promote housing that supports an ageing population	-	<i>No data available</i>	

## 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	<i>Insufficient data available</i>	☹️
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	Shopping frontage figures remain	😊
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	29 dwellings completed throughout the Park	😊
Density of completed dwellings	Not to allow development that would be incompatible with the character of the area	DP9		😊
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	9 dwellings on one rural exceptions site	😊

## A Sustainable Local Economy

Indicator	Target	Core Strategy policies	Outcome	
Total amount of additional employment floorspace – by type	No significant net loss	CP14	1,197m <sup>2</sup>	
Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land – by type		CP14	Zero	
Employment land available – by type		CP15, DP16 DP17, CP16	5,662m <sup>2</sup>	
Numbers of practising commoners and stock depastured	-	-		
Number and size of farms in the National Park	-	-		
Applications permitted for agricultural and forestry buildings	-	DP20	2 permitted	
Applications permitted for recreational horse-keeping and associated development	-	DP21, DP22, DP23	6 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		
Numbers of visitors coming to the National Park ( <i>data not collected annually</i> )	-	-		
Numbers of pitches relocated from holiday parks and camp sites in sensitive areas	-	DP18	Zero	

## Transport and Access

Indicator	Target	Core Strategy policies	Outcome	
Level of road traffic in the Forest, especially on A31	Hampshire LTP 2006-2011 sets out targets to 2020: - Reduce traffic growth County-wide by 50%	CP18		
Implementation of safeguarded transport schemes	<i>n/a</i>	-	No schemes are safeguarded	
Length / location of, and enhancements to, public rights of way	Increase / improve footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways	CP19	No change	
Traffic accidents causing death or personal injury	Hampshire LTP 2006-2011 sets out targets to 2020: - Reduce fatalities or serious injuries by 40% - Reduce child fatalities or serious injuries by 50% - Reduce slight injuries by 10%	CP19	Little change from previous year	
Numbers of people using the New Forest Tour bus	Year on year increase	CP19	New route added, and increased passenger journeys	