

New Forest National Park Management Plan 2015-2020 Habitats Regulations Screening Report - Final adoption version

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1.0 Introduction and background

1.1 Introduction

This Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening report is based upon final plans and actions produced as part of the review and update of the New Forest National Park Management Plan following a series of consultations with stakeholders and the public.

The document forms the final assessment of the content of the Plan and provides explanation of the need for assessment, the scope, impact pathways and views of where plans for action may lead to significant effects. Regard should be given to the Screening in the adoption process of the Management Plan. The conclusions on impact pathways will also inform project level assessment for those actions requiring further levels of assessment.

1.2 The New Forest National Park Management Plan

Section 66 (1) of the Environment Act 1995 establishes that National Parks should produce and publish a plan which formulates its policy for the management of the relevant Park and for the carrying out of its functions.

The 2015-2020 New Forest National Park Management Plan is based upon the first Management Plan for the Park adopted in 2010. The long-term vision and objectives and the descriptions of the various topics are still relevant, and in its final form the plan gained the support of most of the organisations and interests in the Forest. These aspects of the original report have therefore not been changed and will be carried forward to form the foundation of the new Plan.

The original Plan included a number of priority actions covering the period up to 2015, many of which have been completed or are underway. The main purpose of the update is therefore to suggest a series of new or updated actions for the next five years. These mainly consist of new ideas and initiatives and the majority of the actions suggested have not yet been developed in any detail.

The 80 or so actions included were chosen because:

- They are directly relevant to the National Park purposes and duty and to the objectives in the 2010 Management Plan (listed in Annex 2 and summarised at the top of each topic in the Management Plan).
- In general they show newly proposed or recently started projects, rather than on-going work. As such they do not include a great deal of work which is nevertheless very important – such as maintenance of the highways, the day to day management of the Open Forest, education work in local schools and many other examples. All this work will continue, although not directly mentioned in the actions.
- They are fairly precise and specific, and where possible can be completed within the next five years; they are therefore usually defined projects, rather than broader activities or policies.
- They are felt to be a priority by the organisation(s) concerned and resources are therefore likely to be found to take them forward.

Although mainly focussed on the Park area the geographical scope of the actions is not necessarily limited to the Park itself, for example actions may support provision of green infrastructure to provide wildlife stepping stones into and out of the Park or help mitigate visitor impacts.

1.3 The requirement for assessment

Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive¹ requires that, in the event that a plan or project will result in likely significant effects upon sites under the provision of the Directive responsible bodies should undertake an 'Appropriate Assessment' of their impact upon the integrity of European nature conservation sites. This requirement has also been transposed into UK law.

Although Ramsar sites (sites designated in accordance with the Ramsar Convention on wetlands) are not part of this European habitat network, as a matter of government policy and guidance, the same assessment processes are applied to such sites.

An Appropriate Assessment is only required where there is the likelihood of significant effects. Implicit within the wording of the Habitats Directive is the precautionary principle, whereby if an effect upon a designated site is inconclusive or uncertain, a full assessment should still be made. Only where it can be stated conclusively that there will be no likely significant adverse effects on designated sites will it be deemed unnecessary to undertake a full assessment.

Article 6(3) and the Directive from which it derives does not include a definition of a 'plan'. Subsequent guidance² suggests the word 'plan' has a potentially very broad meaning. The New Forest National Park Management Plan is not in itself a land-use plan that permits a particular form of development. It could also be argued that it is in part a policy document that establishes an indication of general political will and intention of the Authority and its partners. Guidance³ suggests that it can be argued that it is not appropriate to consider such documents to constitute 'plans' for the purpose of Article 6(3), particularly if any initiatives deriving from such policy statements must pass through the intermediary of a land-use or sectoral plan.

However as the Park Management Plan does contain a mixture of policy and specific targeted actions that provide a strategy for implementation, it is considered appropriate to treat the plan as falling within the definition of Article 6(3). Further it was considered the approach of assessment has merit in forming a tool to highlight ways in which policies and actions could be improved to reflect the first purpose of the National Park during the drafting of the plan. The screening process also provides an early indication of projects or action that may require further assessment

¹ Directive 92/43/EEC - The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive)

² Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/CEE

³ Para 4.3.2 Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/CEE

at more detailed stages, enabling more streamlined decision making and project planning as the actions are progressed.

1.4 Methodology

The objective of this Habitats Regulations Screening is to ‘screen out’ those plans and projects that could, without any highly detailed appraisal, be said to be unlikely to result in significant adverse effects upon European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. This allows those remaining policies or actions with likely significant effects to be highlighted for decision makers with the intention that action can be taken during policy formulation to amend policies and avoid effects or allow adoption only after a full Appropriate Assessment has been successfully undertaken, either at plan or project stage.

The Management Plan 2015-2020 is based upon the vision and strategic actions within the 2010 Plan which was subject to successful Habitats Regulations Screening⁴. These strategic actions will remain unchanged and still underpin the new plan and therefore form part of its content. The approach used in the 2010 screening has therefore been adopted rather than repeating the full scoping and analysis within this assessment process. The 2010 HRA Screening therefore forms an intrinsic part of the HRA process for the updated Plan and should be read in conjunction with this assessment of the updated actions. The 2010 HRA Screening can be obtained on request from the National Park Authority.

Sections 2.1-2.3 of this HRA report provide an overview of how the approach has been applied and highlights any key departures.

HRA Screening reports (Initial draft report Oct 2014, Interim report March 2015) were produced to inform earlier consultation versions of the updated Management Plan. Regard has been had to these as drafting has progressed in an interactive manner to arrive at the final proposals for the Management Plan. A range of interested parties and individuals including Natural England have been consulted on earlier these versions.

This HRA report represents the final assessment of the actions identified with partners through the Management Plan preparation process. Its conclusions will inform final adoption and endorsement of the updated New Forest Management Plan by the Authority and the partners in the plan, initially by the New Forest National Park Authority at its Authority meeting on 16 July 2015.

⁴ New Forest National Park Authority Park Management Plan HRA Habitat Regulations Assessment January 2010 Scott Wilson

2.0 Scoping the assessment

2.1 Identifying relevant sites in and around the Plan area

Best practice guidance⁵ on Habitats Regulations Assessment suggests that all European sites within the area of coverage of a plan, together with all those within a 10km buffer zone should be considered as potential receptors for negative effects. In addition to these, other European sites further than 10km from the area of coverage of a plan may also be affected. This is particularly the case where there is potential for developments resulting from the plan to generate water-borne pollutants, or where there are particularly high demands for water resources.

Sites identified within this area relevant to the New Forest National park Management Plan as part of the 2010 HRA consultation and this updated version comprise:

- River Avon SAC
- Avon Valley SPA
- Avon Valley Ramsar
- Dorset Heathlands SAC
- Dorset Heathlands SPA
- Dorset Heathlands Ramsar
- Emer Bog SAC
- Great Yews SAC
- Mottisfont SAC
- The New Forest SAC
- New Forest SPA
- The New Forest Ramsar
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC
- Solent Maritime SAC
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA
- Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar

⁵ David Tyldesley and Associates (for English Nature, 2006): *Draft Guidance: The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations*.

2.2 Conservation objectives of site and impact pathways

The background to the sites and their conservation objectives are described in the 2010 Habitats Regulations Assessment and are not re-produced here, they have however informed interim screening considerations.

Sixteen European sites were included within the scope of this screening and of these likely significant effects on four were screened out, since there was no potential pathway to connect the Plan with those sites. The seven sites screened out were:

- River Avon SAC: screening concluded that spatial focus of development within the New Forest will mean effects on the River Avon sites are unlikely as they do not derive water supplies from Avon sources or have direct impacts in their actions.
- Dorset Heathlands SAC, SPA and Ramsar: screening concluded that the focus of actions and associated development within the New Forest will mean that impacts upon these sites are unlikely.

The 2010 Habitats Regulations Assessment established impact pathways for plan policies and objectives. These were identified with reference to the conservation objectives and evidence base and are considered still to be appropriate for the purposes of assessment as there have not been any significant changes in understanding since that time. The pathways identified were:

- Urbanisation
- Water resource/quality
- Water resource/quality
- Air quality
- Coastal squeeze (loss or deterioration of habitat extent due to sea level rise acting in combination with coastal defences)
- Recreational disturbance.

2.3 Technical scope

Sources of evidence that we have accessed for this appropriate assessment include:

- New Forest National Park Authority Park Management Plan HRA Habitat Regulations Assessment January 2010 Scott Wilson
- The PUSH South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy;
- Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project Phase II: Predicting the impact of human disturbance on overwintering birds in the Solent. Report to the Solent Forum. Stillman, R. A., West, A. D., Clarke, R. T. & Liley, D. (2012)
- The HRA of the South East RSS (including Proposed Changes);
- European Site Management and Access Management Plans where available;
- Sharp, J., Lowen, J. & Liley, D. (2008) '*Recreational pressure on the New Forest National Park, with particular reference to the New Forest SPA*';
- New Forest National Park Recreation Management Strategy (2010-2030)
- MAGIC mapping and its links to SSSI citations and the JNCC website
- (<http://www.magic.gov.uk/>).

- Given the heathland interest features of the SAC we have drawn upon the reports cited in New Forest National Park Authority Park Management Plan HRA Habitat Regulations Assessment January 2010 Scott Wilson

2.4 In-combination scope

For the purposes of this assessment, we have determined that, due to the nature of the identified impacts, the key other plans and projects relevant for in-combination effects relate to the additional housing, transportation, recreational access, flooding and coastal protection and commercial/industrial allocations proposed over the lifetime of the Plan.

The following plans and projects are currently identified for consideration 'in combination' at the screening stage:

- Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, and New Forest National Park Minerals and
- Waste Local Development Framework 'Core Strategy'
- Test Valley Borough Local Plan
- Wiltshire Local Plan
- New Forest National Park Recreation Management Strategy
- Hampshire's Highway Asset Management Strategy
- Crownlands Management Plan
- Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031
- South-east River Basin Management Plan

3.0 Screening assessment results

3.1 Discussion

The final draft of the Management Plan 2015 Actions consists of 90 actions identified with partner organisation to implement the overall policy objectives of the 2010 New Forest National Park Management Plan. A HRA of the 2010 Management Plan concluded that there were no likely significant impacts as a result of the plan on the European designated sites it scoped into assessment.

HRA screening during earlier stages of the Management Plan update process identified a total of thirteen actions which possibly had the capacity to generate impacts on European sites. The conclusions highlighted that project level assessment would be important for these as the actions lacked spatial detail to enable meaningful assessment or screen out effects.

The Management Plan document has been amended to reflect the interaction with the HRA process and to highlight that some specific projects may require more in depth assessment once more detail is available. Section 5.6. states the following:

5.6 Most of the actions included are still at an early stage of development, but show the ideas or ambitions that different organisations have identified, and to which they are prepared to commit time and resources. How or where particular actions may be taken forward will depend on further more detailed discussions with local communities, land managers, businesses and organisations. In a few cases projects may require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) or take into account sustainability issues, as recommended in the HRA Screening Report and Sustainability Appraisal for the Plan as a whole (see website for more detail).

As a result of the final consultation with stakeholders wording changes have taken place to 11 actions, these do not relate to any previous findings or recommendations in the interim HRA Screening. Five new actions/policies have been added.

No comments on the HRA Screening Reports (available on the website) have been received and Natural England has not advised that the HRA Screening was deficient in any way.

The individual actions which form the new action plan have been screened against the impact pathways identified in the original screening methodology. With the exception of the Avon Valley explained below, the results of this are presented in Appendix 1.

Exception to Appendix Tables - Avon Valley sites

The Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar sites are not shown in the screening table as only one Action EP7, *'Develop the facilities at Blashford Lakes nature reserve to create an important centre for visitors near the western edge of the National Park'* was

assessed as having direct relevance, although consideration has been given to the sites in all the assessments. The Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar sites cover the Blashford Lakes reserve and there is a theoretical potential for an increase in visitors to result in recreational disturbance and likely significant effects in relation to the conservation objectives of the sites. However this screening has given weight to the current management of the Blashford reserve site which has in place management measures to ensure visitors do not adversely affect feature interests. Action EP7 has been assessed in this context and therefore it is not predicted any likely significant effect will arise from the further development of the reserve as a focus for visitors.

Discussion - other actions and sites

LH4: Recreational disturbance was identified as a possible issue in relation to Action LH4 which has remained unchanged since the first draft version - *‘Seek opportunities for large-scale habitat restoration, including continuing the major restoration work at Foxbury, returning the area to heathland and broad-leaved woodland, improving access to visitors and complementing the open landscapes of the nearby Bramshaw commons.’* In this case relevant sites affected include the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar.

As compared with Blashford Lakes, whilst the management of the Foxbury site itself provides benefits for recreational activity in providing alternative locations for recreation, it is difficult at this stage to assess implications of the Management Plan action in terms of whether there is a likelihood of overspill recreational activity to the designated sites and what form the visitor access proposal might take (e.g. whether new access routes are required across the designated site, whether any infrastructure be required that might have effects).

Since the first draft Management Plan liaison has occurred between the National Trust, who own and manage Foxbury, and parties including Natural England and the New Forest National Park Authority. In addition a planning application has been determined which establishes infrastructure and access for activities. This has enabled a better understanding of what activities may be related to visitor activity of the area. Consideration is also being given, in consultation with Natural England to the enhanced use of Foxbury to act as mitigation for development derived visitor pressure impacts in the Test Valley area.

Whilst overspill onto European sites as a result of action LH4 cannot be ruled out, it is clear that activities will take place within a context of careful management of the area and an awareness of the issue. It is anticipated events will include key messages about the sensitivities of the designated sites and be designed in ways to minimise impacts.

Whilst the associated infrastructure (access track) has resulted in localised impacts on the area of the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar, Natural England has advised this is not significant in relation to the sites.

LD9 : *‘Support communities wishing to produce Village Design Statements or Neighbourhood Plans, including policies that take into account the local distinctiveness of their area’.* As part of the HRA screening assessment a precautionary approach was taken to the possible implementable policy base and actions that could potentially arise from Neighbourhood Plans. These plans can establish policy that facilitates development and land-use change, which could result in impact pathways such as increases in in-combination recreation impacts from new dwellings. It will be necessary to undertake screening for any plans or strategies that might arise from this action and so Habitats Regulations Assessment at that stage would be the most expedient way of addressing specific issues. However the action is flagged in this screening to ensure decision makers are aware of this requirement.

CC6: *‘Seek further support and funding for identified flood relief, coastal defence and beach management works designed to reduce flooding and coastal erosion in the future.’* This action was flagged in interim stages of HRA screening as having likely significant effects as works could result in disturbance, coastal squeeze and theoretically even loss of extent of designated habitat. It has not been possible to re-draft the policy to avoid likely significant effects. The action will give rise to projects which themselves would be subject to project level assessment and where that level of assessment is more appropriate as spatially specific issues can then be appropriately incorporated.

The action could apply to terrestrial flood relief schemes as well as coastal defences and so there is a risk to the New Forest SAC/SPA and Ramsar Sites as well as the Solent designations. Due to the requirement for lower level assessment it has not been considered necessary to include any associated amendments in the final draft.

ST3: *‘Progress the undergrounding of low voltage cables, in appropriate locations, prioritising the most visually sensitive areas.’ and*

ST4: *‘ Seek national funding for protected landscapes to underground high voltage cables and remove pylons, focusing on the pylons in the north of the Forest and close to the Waterside.’*

ST5: *‘Carry out an assessment of the visual impacts of communications, services and other infrastructure on the open landscape of the Forest and seek ways to reduce those impacts where possible.’*

Whilst the spatial location is loosely defined and the caveat of appropriate locations is used in action ST3, the original interim screening highlighted that there was potential for these works to require undergrounding in or close to designated sites where there is a likelihood of loss of habitat, disruption of hydrology and disturbance. The action was flagged for information and for further consideration in drafting of the Management Plan. The final version has not made any specific amendments linked to this recommendation and Action ST5 has been introduced which has similar in-principle effects and impacts

Since the first draft of the updated Management Plan further details have come forward for a possible project to underground cables across Hale Purlieu which is part of the New Forest SAC/SPA and Ramsar sites. This gives further support to the interim HRA's recommendation to carefully consider such projects.

However engineering details and designs of schemes are still required to undertake meaningful HRA and so careful assessment at early stages of scheme consultation and design is recommended. In addition consultation on current schemes also demonstrates that in some cases landscape impacts can be mitigated through options other than undergrounding such as pylon location, colour, design and screening from sensitive vantage points. However some of these would still involve activities that could result in likely significant effects on European site interests. Consideration should be given to such activities and impacts in the formulation of further action and policy.

The actions will give rise to projects which themselves would be subject to project-level assessment which would more appropriately assess impacts and allow for identification of mitigation. Dependent on scheme design there could even be long term benefits for European sites if existing infrastructure were to be removed, Therefore the Management Plan can adopt the action in the knowledge that impacts will be assessed at a lower level, however inclusion of techniques in addition to undergrounding could represent an improvement to the action.

EP3: *'Improve the safety and connectivity of routes used by pedestrians, horse-riders and cyclists to travel between settlements and places of interest, including an awareness-raising campaign to encourage mutual respect and the responsible shared use of the network of roads and agreed tracks by all.'* This action was identified in the interim screening as resulting in impact pathways and it was recommended that further stages of planning or programme development had regard to impacts, although project level HRA was also recommended as the key measure due to the strategic nature of the policy. The final action has been the subject of some wording changes, however these amendments have not been related to HRA screening and effects still cannot be ruled out at this stage of decision making.

Both the New Forest and Solent European designated sites are potentially affected and likely significant effects cannot be ruled out, mainly due to the level of detail available about proposals. In practical terms it is likely that any improvements would comprise projects or plans in their own right and require lower level Habitats Regulations Screening.

EP8: *'Redevelop visitor facilities at Lepe to provide a flagship country park, incorporating sustainable design and creating an innovative centre for interpretation, relating to the coast and Forest'*. Any development would be subject to project level Habitats Regulations Assessment and the likely significant effect (outlined in the

following section) was flagged in the interim HRA screening report for consideration by Management Plan partners.

It is understood that the detailed action resulting from this redevelopment will take into account sea level rise and so coastal squeeze will be avoided, however the action itself does not provide this level of detail. In-combination disturbance is a likely significant effect given the proximity to the Solent designated sites and the assessment by Natural England in their SSSI Condition Assessments that the adjacent Unit 5 is in unfavourable condition, partly due to visitor disturbance to interest features. The interim HRA screening report recommended consultation with Natural England concerning this assessment.

This final HRA Screening Assessment concludes impact pathways are likely and that a project level HRA or appropriate assessment would be required, as well as enabling more fully-informed assessment. The Management Plan can adopt the action in the knowledge that impacts will be more appropriately assessed at a lower level, however partners in the project should have early regard to the need for implementation of the action to have regard to European site interests.

LC5: *'Identify possible sites for affordable housing, including suitable local authority controlled land, and agree new schemes designed for local people which are of high quality and sustainability, and are in keeping with the character of the area.'* This action was flagged at earlier stages due to the effect of dwellings contributing to in-combination recreational pressure on New Forest and Solent sites. Within the National Park development plan policies and partnership mitigation schemes are in place to provide avoidance mitigation for likely effects.

The final assessment concludes no action/policy change is deemed necessary as the schemes themselves would be subject to project level decision Habitats Regulations Assessment. This would prompt consideration of, and the need for, engagement with the strategic avoidance mitigation as well as any special localised effects such as lighting impacts. However the action/policy is flagged to ensure decision makers incorporate consideration of impacts at an early stage of the process.

LC8 & LC9: A precautionary approach was previously taken to the screening assessment for LC8 *'Actively involve local communities in a variety of initiatives to improve health and well-being, including the New Forest Health Walks programme, dementia awareness training and projects to encourage a more active younger generation.'* And LC9 *'Help young people to become more involved in the National Park by removing barriers and providing new opportunities, including developing at least three 'wildplay' sites enabling direct experiences of the natural environment, and encouraging confidence and skills through the Mosaic Youth Project.'* The precautionary approach has been continued into this final assessment. Whilst these actions are likely to result in only a modest increase in visitor activity and recreational

disturbance relevant to the sites (New Forest and Solent SAC. SPA and Ramsar designations) given the evidence base considered as part of this stage in screening, it is difficult to rule out effects when assessed in-combination.

As with some other actions, the strategic nature and lack of spatial detail in the LC8 and LC9 makes a detailed assessment difficult and it is likely to be more appropriate to carry out Habitats Regulations Assessment at a project level or clarify details of action in the Management Plan. It has not been possible to include any further clarification in the final Management Plan.

TT9 – *‘Rebrand and promote existing local bus routes into and across the National Park, adding a New Forest theme providing user-friendly information and enabling commercially viable services for residents. To include routes between Lymington and Southampton, Bournemouth and Salisbury and Southampton and Salisbury.’* & **TT11** – *‘Undertake an ‘active travel’ programme, encouraging walking and cycling to reduce car use and improve health through a series of guided walks, cycle skills training and other initiatives, aimed at people of all ages and abilities.’*

Whilst it may not be the objective of the action, the promotion of bus routes and other activities could increase the number of day visits and therefore in-combination effects cannot be ruled out, albeit the effects from this action alone could be relatively minor. As many factors are involved it is recommended this is considered further at more detailed stages of action and HRA or appropriate assessment undertaken at a scheme level if required.

TT10 – *‘Explore the funding and feasibility options, such as the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, for adjacent to carriageway cycle routes on fenced roads between main settlements to improve safe access for commuting and leisure cycling, including a link between Lymington and Cadnam.’* Many road verges are included in the New Forest SAC and associated European sites; however presence of designated interest features is less likely in some locations. Construction of new highways routes could therefore have potential impacts which would need to be considered at an early stage of scheme design and decision making. However at this strategic level, with little detail of location or design, it is not considered expedient to recommend the action is not pursued to later design stages.

3.2 Conclusions and recommendations

The Habitats Regulations Assessment of New Forest National Park Management Plan in 2010 concluded that there was no likely significant impact of the plan on the European designated sites it scoped into assessment. The review of the Management Plan 2015-2020 brings forward and adopts the same objectives and visions of the 2010 plan. Having considered the current evidence base available, the assessment in relation to these is supported and no likely significant effects from the objectives and visions are predicted.

In relation to the updated proposed actions, the strategic level of the Management Plan and sparsity of spatial detail presents challenges to accurate assessment. A precautionary approach has therefore been taken in this assessment to include actions and policies that could feasibly give rise to impact pathways. Fourteen actions have been identified as possibly generating impacts. However given the ability of projects and programmes to be adapted to take into account European sites this assessment concludes significant effects are not likely occur or can be managed at more detailed stages to enable effects to be avoided at later levels of assessment which in several cases will be required.

Action		Conclusion/recommendation
LH4	Seek opportunities for large-scale habitat restoration, including continuing the major restoration work at Foxbury, returning the area to heathland and broad-leaved woodland, improving access to visitors and complementing the open landscapes of the nearby Bramshaw commons	Project level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways. Plan partners encouraged to consider potential impacts in any action planning and scoping.
LD9	Support communities wishing to produce Village Design Statements or Neighbourhood Plans, including policies that take into account the local distinctiveness of their area	Project level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways
CC6	Seek further support and funding for identified flood relief, coastal defence and beach management works designed to reduce flooding and coastal erosion in the future.	Project level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways
ST3	Progress the undergrounding of low voltage cables, in appropriate locations, prioritising the most visually sensitive areas	Project level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways. Direct effects unlikely to result due to requirement for site operation assents and consents.
ST4	Seek national funding for protected landscapes to underground high voltage cables	Project level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways. Direct effects unlikely to

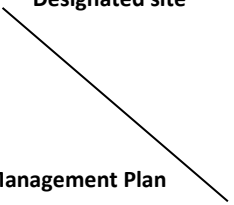
	and remove pylons, focusing on the pylons in the north of the Forest and close to the Waterside	result due to requirement for site operation assents and consents.
ST5	Carry out an assessment of the visual impacts of communications, services and other infrastructure on the open landscape of the Forest and seek ways to reduce those impacts where possible	Due to the very generalised spatial location of the action, project level assessment recommended as most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways. Direct impacts most likely on schemes within designated sites, the existing consenting regime for projects would be likely to avoid impacts. Lead partner encouraged to give high priority to designated sites at an early stage of implementing this action.
EP3	Improve the safety and enjoyment of pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists using roads and agreed main tracks to travel between settlements and places of interest, including an awareness raising campaign that encourages mutual respect and the responsible use of the network of roads and agreed tracks by all.	Dependent on location of action project/programme level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways. Plan partners encouraged to consider potential impacts in any action planning and scoping of the programme.
EP8	Redevelop visitor facilities at Lepe to provide a flagship country park, incorporating sustainable design and creating an innovative centre for interpretation, education and volunteering relating to the coast and Forest	Project level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways. Plan partners encouraged to consider potential impacts in any action planning and scoping of the programme. It is recommended consultation takes place with Natural England to assess the basis for current site condition assessment.
LC5	Identify possible sites for affordable housing, including suitable local authority controlled land, and agree new schemes designed for local people which are of high quality and sustainability, and are in keeping with the character of the area	Project level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways – subject to development engaging with current avoidance mitigation effects are not predicted. Persons taking forward projects are encouraged to have regard to the relevant schemes in an early stage of project feasibility assessment.
LC8	Actively involve local communities in a variety of initiatives to improve health and well-being, including the New Forest Health Walks programme, dementia awareness training and projects to encourage a more active younger generation	Dependent on location of action project/programme level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways. Plan partners encouraged to consider potential impacts in any action planning and scoping of the programme.
LC9	Help young people to become more involved in the National Park by removing barriers and providing new opportunities, including developing at least three 'wildplay'	Dependent on location of action project/programme level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways.

	sites enabling direct experiences of the natural environment, and encouraging confidence and skills through the Mosaic Youth Project	Plan partners encouraged to consider potential impacts in any action planning and scoping of the programme.
TT9	Rebrand and promote existing local bus routes into and across the National Park, adding a New Forest theme, providing user-friendly information and enabling commercially viable services for residents. To include routes between Lymington and Southampton, Bournemouth and Salisbury and Southampton and Salisbury.	Project level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess whether impact pathways will result. Subject to development engaging with avoidance & mitigation effects are not predicted. Persons taking forward projects are encouraged to have regard to the relevant schemes in an early stage of project feasibility assessment
TT10	Explore the funding and feasibility options, such as the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, for adjacent to carriageway cycle routes on fenced roads between main settlements to improve safe access for commuting and leisure cycling, including a link between Lymington and Cadnam.	Project level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess whether impact pathways will result. Avoidance may be challenging if projects involve loss of European site area but at this strategic scale conclusions cannot be reached. Persons taking forward projects are encouraged to have regard to the relevant schemes in an early stage of project feasibility assessment
TT11	Undertake an 'active travel' programme, encouraging walking and cycling to reduce car use and improve health through a series of guided walks, cycle skills training and other initiatives, aimed at people of all ages and abilities.	Dependent on location of action, project/programme level assessment recommended as the most appropriate mechanism to assess impact pathways if the more detailed action is likely to result in effects. Plan partners encouraged to consider potential impacts in any action planning and scoping of the programme.

In conclusion, whilst this HRA Screening of the final adoption New Forest National Park Management Plan 2015-2020 identifies some pathways of impacts on European designated sites arising from the above policies, these can be addressed appropriately and more effectively at lower levels of project assessment. The lack of spatial specificity to the actions means the risk of impact is ambiguous and likely significant effects are not certain. Provided decision makers and those persons taking forward the actions have regard to the recommendations and sensitivities of the sites, and adapt projects accordingly, impacts can be avoided. No further HRA or Appropriate Assessment is required at this stage and the Plan can be adopted subject to commitment the above caveats and recommendations being noted.

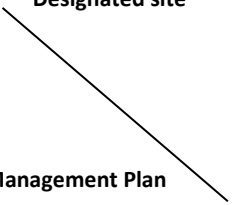
Appendix 1: Interim Habitats Regulations Assessment of New Forest National Park Management Plan
draft Actions

[illegible]

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
landowners. The target is to develop and complete at least one major landscape scale project within the Park by 2020.						
LH4 Seek opportunities for large-scale habitat restoration, including continuing the major restoration work at Foxbury, returning the area to heathland and broad-leaved woodland, improving access to visitors and complementing the open landscapes of the nearby Bramshaw commons.	Action could result in an increase in recreational pressure in the vicinity of site. Effect dependent on infrastructure requirements, detailed design and implementation. Projects would be subject to lower level assessment.	Action could result in an increase in recreational pressure in the vicinity of site. Effect dependent on infrastructure requirements, detailed design and implementation. Projects would be subject to lower level assessment.	Action could result in an increase in recreational pressure in the vicinity of site. Effect dependent on infrastructure requirements, detailed design and implementation. Projects would be subject to lower level assessment.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LH5 Continue to monitor coastal change to inform the conservation and creation of habitats, and help in the development of schemes to stabilise saltmarsh.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted – monitoring will assist understanding and inform any	No significant effect predicted – monitoring will assist understanding and inform any schemes which would be	No significant effect predicted – monitoring will assist understanding and inform any schemes which would be

Designated site Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
				schemes which would be subject themselves to project assessment	subject themselves to project assessment	subject themselves to project assessment
LH6 Take forward a project to protect the grazed verges of the Open Forest from damage and erosion, both by parked cars and traffic overrun.	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of management objectives— individual projects would be subject to assessment	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of management objectives— individual projects would be subject to assessment	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of management objectives— individual projects would be subject to assessment	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LH7 Promote an integrated approach to river catchment management ⁶ in the New Forest, including wildlife conservation, surface and ground water quality and flood prevention, working with all agencies, communities and landowners.	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of management objectives— individual projects would be subject to	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of management objectives— individual projects would be subject to	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of management objectives— individual projects would be subject to	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of management objectives— individual projects would be subject to	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of management objectives— individual projects would be subject to	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of management objectives— individual projects would be subject to

⁶ Management of the whole river system: including the main river, its tributaries and other water bodies.

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
	assessment	assessment	assessment	assessment	assessment	assessment
LH8 Improve the water quality and ecological value of river catchments by carrying out practical enhancements to at least 43 km of rivers and 5 ponds, working with land managers.	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of enhancement objectives— individual projects would be subject to assessment	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of enhancement objectives— individual projects would be subject to assessment	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of enhancement objectives— individual projects would be subject to assessment	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of enhancement objectives— individual projects would be subject to assessment	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of enhancement objectives— individual projects would be subject to assessment	No significant effect predicted from current understanding of enhancement objectives— individual projects would be subject to assessment
LH9 Expand the project to remove invasive non-native plants along river corridors, working with landowners to target at least 40 prioritised locations.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LH10 Reduce the impacts of any new development which may have an effect on the internationally protected habitats of the National Park by access management, education and awareness-raising projects and the provision of new or improved areas for countryside recreation, all funded by developer	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower level	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower level

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
contributions.	level HRA as required	level HRA as required	level HRA as required	level HRA as required	HRA as required	HRA as required
LH11 Develop a green infrastructure plan ⁷ for the National Park to help identify opportunities for an improved network of open spaces and attractive alternative locations for recreation, with benefits for health and well-being, linking with the green infrastructure strategies of neighbouring local authorities and identifying joint projects..	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower level HRA as required	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower level HRA as required	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower level HRA as required	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower level HRA as required	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower level HRA as required	No significant effect predicted – however detailed design of new areas for recreation should take into account recreation overspill effects and be subject to lower level HRA as required
LH12 Carry out a programme of surveys of protected or vulnerable species, to assess population levels and inform conservation needs.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LH13 Publish a comprehensive Ancient Woodland Inventory for the National Park, and promote to land managers as the basis for ancient woodland restoration projects.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LH14 Establish clear methods for monitoring the status of wildlife	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant effect	No significant effect

⁷ See glossary.

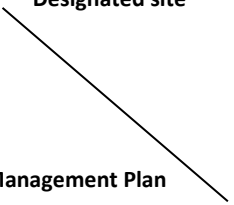
Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
and habitats, contributing to the Government's Biodiversity 2020 targets, including the extent and condition of priority habitats and the number of local people engaged in wildlife issues.	effect predicted	effect predicted	effect predicted	effect predicted	predicted	predicted
LM1 Provide New Forest-focused land management advice and supporting information, including Lidar and infra-red data ⁸ where appropriate. The target is to provide advice to 250 landowners, farmers, commoners and woodland managers over five years.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LM2 Provide practical training on best practice for land management, aimed at farmers and commoners, with at least six courses arranged each year, and a target of 600 land managers and at least 20 new and young commoners.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LM3 Promote the use of ecosystem services maps ⁹ of the National Park and surrounding area as an aid to	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted

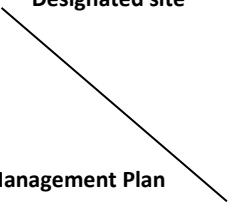
⁸ Methods of aerial mapping which reveal archaeological features beneath vegetation cover.

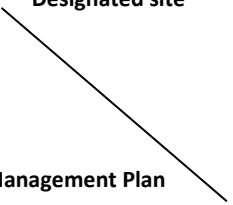
⁹ A way of mapping natural resources and other ways the natural environment contributes to quality of life and the economy. See para 4.1 above.

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
sustainable land management.						
LM4 Increase the availability of back-up land for commuting by enabling the use of land managed by public and voluntary sector organisations, and in addition seek to maintain the stock of existing back-up land . The target is to provide at least 20ha of additional back-up land.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LM5 Increase the economic viability and environmental value of woodlands by establishing 'management hubs' of nearby woodland owners and expanding the markets for local timber products. The target is to improve the management of at least 2000 ha of woodland by 2020.	No significant effect predicted – however site level assessment may be required, particularly to ensure improved management has regard to site objectives	No significant effect predicted – however site level assessment may be required, particularly to ensure improved management has regard to site objectives	No significant effect predicted – however site level assessment may be required, particularly to ensure improved management has regard to site objectives	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LM6 Research potential new markets for the products of Open Forest management , to aid the economic and environmental sustainability of these important habitats.	No significant effect predicted – however site level assessment may be required, particularly to ensure management has	No significant effect predicted – however site level assessment may be required, particularly to ensure management has	No significant effect predicted – however site level assessment may be required, particularly to ensure management has	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted

[illegible]

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
industries and ancient route ways.						
LD3 Develop a WWI project, involving local people in recording family memories and mapping wartime locations in the Forest, and developing an on-line archive of WWI material.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LD4 Design and take forward a project to assess changes in the local distinctiveness of settlements over time, with the involvement of communities.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LD5 Work with property owners to encourage the renovation and active use of historic buildings where these are 'at risk'. The target is to improve the condition of 20 historic buildings by 2015.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LD6 Actively manage the scheduled and unscheduled ancient monuments on the Crown Lands and Open Forest to bring them into good condition. The target is to improve the condition of at least ten sites on the Crown Lands each year.	No significant effect predicted at plan level – however detailed site assessment and planning may be required to ensure works	No significant effect predicted at plan level – however detailed site assessment and planning may be required to ensure works	No significant effect predicted at plan level– however detailed site assessment and planning may be required to ensure works	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
	have regard to site conservation objectives.	have regard to site conservation objectives.	have regard to site conservation objectives.			
LD7 Maintain the character of Forest edge settlements by working with, initially, two local communities to protect traditional boundaries and other features, and prevent encroachments on Forest land.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LD8 Deliver a range of projects to enhance the Western Escarpment Conservation Area, including recommendations for the design of new highway infrastructure and addressing damage to verges, and evaluating success for use in other Conservation Areas.	No significant effect predicted – where verges include designated site positive benefits are assumed	No significant effect predicted – where verges include designated site positive benefits are assumed	No significant effect predicted – where verges include designated site positive benefits are assumed	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LD9 Support communities wishing to produce Village Design Statements or Neighbourhood Plans, including policies that take into account the local distinctiveness of their area.	At Management Plan level effects cannot be ruled out as plans could propose policies or actions that would give rise to impacts – however the Neighbourhood plans do so they	At Management Plan level effects cannot be ruled out as plans could propose policies or actions that would give rise to impacts – however the Neighbourhood plans do so they	At Management Plan level effects cannot be ruled out as plans could propose policies or actions that would give rise to impacts – however the Neighbourhood plans do so they	At Management Plan level effects cannot be ruled out as plans could propose policies or actions that would give rise to impacts – however the Neighbourhood plans do so they	At Management Plan level effects cannot be ruled out as plans could propose policies or actions that would give rise to impacts – however the Neighbourhood plans do so they would be subject to HRA/AA at	At Management Plan level effects cannot be ruled out as plans could propose policies or actions that would give rise to impacts – however the Neighbourhood plans do so they would be subject to HRA/AA at

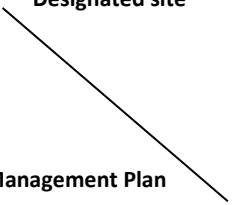
Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
	would be subject to HRA/AA at that level which would address effects	would be subject to HRA/AA at that level which would address effects	would be subject to HRA/AA at that level which would address effects	would be subject to HRA/AA at that level which would address effects	that level which would address effects	that level which would address effects
CC1 Raise awareness about the increased risk of tree diseases and pests, and agree a strategy to sustain the woodlands of the New Forest in the long-term; including a public seminar in 2015 and other discussion / consultation events.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
CC2 Research the effects of coastal change on winter bird roosts, and breeding sites for gulls and terns, and recommend key sites to safeguard in the future.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
CC3 Maintain the New Forest's important function as a carbon sink by protecting and restoring natural habitats, including wetland and mires.	No significant effect predicted – site level assessment would be required for any project not fulfilling objective of site management This policy/action	No significant effect predicted – site level assessment would be required for any project not fulfilling objective of site management This policy/action	No significant effect predicted – site level assessment would be required for any project not fulfilling objective of site management This policy/action	No significant effect predicted – site level assessment would be required for any project not fulfilling objective of site management This policy/action	No significant effect predicted – site level assessment would be required for any project not fulfilling objective of site management This policy/action emphasises protection and restoration are the	No significant effect predicted – site level assessment would be required for any project not fulfilling objective of site management This policy/action emphasises protection and restoration are the

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
	emphasises protection and restoration are the aims.	emphasises protection and restoration are the aims.	emphasises protection and restoration are the aims.	emphasises protection and restoration are the aims.	aims.	aims.
CC4 Produce and promote a climate change adaptation plan for the National Park, identifying likely future climate-related impacts and suggesting ways of adapting to them.	No significant effect predicted – plan itself would be subject to HRA consideration	No significant effect predicted – plan itself would be subject to HRA consideration	No significant effect predicted – plan itself would be subject to HRA consideration	No significant effect predicted – plan itself would be subject to HRA consideration	No significant effect predicted – plan itself would be subject to HRA consideration	No significant effect predicted – plan itself would be subject to HRA consideration
CC5 Support communities wishing to prepare Emergency Response plans, or establish Flood Action Groups, to plan ahead for future flood or other extreme weather events.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
CC6 Seek further support and funding for identified flood relief, coastal defence and beach management works designed to reduce flooding and coastal erosion in the future.	Dependent on scheme design policy/action could give rise to projects that result in adverse hydrological changes & disturbance . These would be	Dependent on scheme design policy/action could give rise to projects that result in adverse hydrological changes & disturbance . These would be	Dependent on scheme design policy/action could give rise to projects that result in adverse hydrological changes & disturbance . These would be	Dependent on scheme design policy/action could give rise to projects that result in coastal squeeze and other adverse impacts. These would be	Dependent on scheme design policy/action could give rise to projects that result in coastal squeeze and other adverse impacts. These would be appropriately subject to project level	Dependent on scheme design policy/action could give rise to projects that result in coastal squeeze and other adverse impacts. These would be appropriately subject to project level

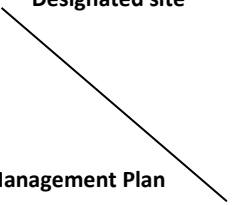
Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
	appropriately subject to project level assessment.	appropriately subject to project level assessment.	appropriately subject to project level assessment.	appropriately subject to project level assessment.	assessment.	assessment.
ST1 Ensure the updated tranquillity mapping for the National Park, is available in the necessary mapping formats and encourage its use by those involved in managing or administering the Forest.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
ST2 Agree ways to maintain the most tranquil and remote areas over time, including ways to reduce disturbance from low flying aircraft, working with all interested groups and local communities.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
ST3 Progress the undergrounding of low voltage cables, in appropriate locations, prioritising the most visually sensitive areas.	Dependent on scheme design and location, policy/action could give rise to projects that result in disturbance within sites, hydrological & vegetation	Dependent on scheme design and location, policy/action could give rise to projects that result in disturbance within sites, hydrological & vegetation	Dependent on scheme design and location, policy/action could give rise to projects that result in disturbance within sites, hydrological & vegetation	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
	changes. These would be appropriately subject to project level assessment	changes. These would be appropriately subject to project level assessment	changes. These would be appropriately subject to project level assessment			
ST4 Seek national funding for protected landscapes to underground high voltage cables and remove pylons, focusing on the pylons in the north of the Forest and close to the Waterside.	Dependent on scheme design and location, policy/action could give rise to projects that result in disturbance within sites, hydrological & vegetation changes. These would be appropriately subject to project level assessment	Dependent on scheme design and location, policy/action could give rise to projects that result in disturbance within sites, hydrological & vegetation changes. These would be appropriately subject to project level assessment	Dependent on scheme design and location, policy/action could give rise to projects that result in disturbance within sites, hydrological & vegetation changes. These would be appropriately subject to project level assessment	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
ST5 Carry out an assessment of the visual impacts of communications, services, and other infrastructure on the open landscapes of the Forest and seek ways to reduce						

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
those impacts where possible						
SQ1 Promote public awareness campaigns on New Forest issues, with initiatives targeted at both visitors and local people. The aim is to achieve, year on year, fewer road traffic animal deaths, less disturbance of ground nesting birds, greater protection for fungi, reduced dog fouling and litter and lower incidence of feeding ponies.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
SQ2 Support and help co-ordinate the work of volunteer groups and networks, enabling them to become an integral part of delivering specific projects in the National Park, including (as examples) mapping of local heritage features, archaeological field work and removal of invasive plant species. The target is to involve as many local people as possible, with a combined total of at least 5000 volunteer days over five years	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
SQ3 Fully support the New Forest Volunteer Ranger Service through	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant effect	No significant effect

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
SQ6 Organise a regular New Forest Wildlife Forum event bringing together the many wildlife organisations and researchers to exchange ideas and publicise projects.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
SQ7 Support educational activities and programmes that encourage learning about the National Park, from Forest School activities for pre-school children to Countryside Management courses for university students, including expanding the New Forest Curriculum ¹⁰ for local schools and colleges and annual conferences for teachers and secondary school pupils	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
SQ8 Improve understanding of commoning traditions by restoring the historic features of the Verderers Hall and enabling free public access.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
EP1 Improve specific areas of open space for people and wildlife in parishes within and around the	No significant effect predicted – however this is	No significant effect predicted – however this is	No significant effect predicted – however this is	No significant effect predicted – however this is	No significant effect predicted – however this is based on	No significant effect predicted – however this is based on

¹⁰ A major new resource for educators showing how the complex landscape and special qualities of the Forest can contribute to life-long learning across the curriculum – see newforestcurriculum.org.uk.

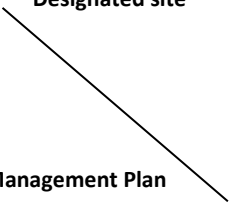
Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
National Park, working with interested local communities. The target is to work on projects with at least ten communities and local groups.	based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.
EP2 Work with individual communities to design and fund at least five projects annually to help improve local rights of way or access to countryside recreation	No significant effect predicted – however this is based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	No significant effect predicted – however this is based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	No significant effect predicted – however this is based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	No significant effect predicted – however this is based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	No significant effect predicted – however this is based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.	No significant effect predicted – however this is based on understanding that the objective of such improvements will include mitigating effects of recreational pressure on designated sites.
EP3 Improve the safety and connectivity of routes used by pedestrians, horse- riders and	Effects of policy/action difficult to assess	Effects of policy/action difficult to assess	Effects of policy/action difficult to assess	Effects of policy/action difficult to assess	Effects of policy/action difficult to assess at this level	Effects of policy/action difficult to assess at this level

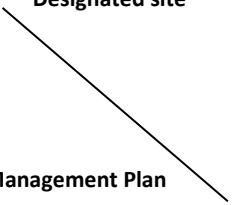
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Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
EP6 Develop a new 'Forest Park' in the southern Test Valley to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation close to communities in Romsey, Eastleigh and Southampton, helping to reduce pressure on the sensitive habitats of the National Park.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
EP7 Develop the facilities at Blashford Lakes nature reserve to create an important centre for visitors near the western edge of the National Park.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
EP8 Redevelop the visitor facilities at Lepe to provide a flagship country park, incorporating sustainable design and creating an innovative centre for interpretation relating to the coast and Forest.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	With the current level of detail available within the policy/action the likelihood of significant effects such as coastal squeeze, increase in recreational disturbance and erosion cannot be excluded. Project level HRA will be	With the current level of detail available within the policy/action the likelihood of significant effects such as coastal squeeze, increase in recreational disturbance and erosion cannot be excluded. Project level HRA will be	With the current level of detail available within the policy/action the likelihood of significant effects such as coastal squeeze, increase in recreational disturbance and erosion cannot be excluded. Project level HRA will be

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
				required.	required.	required.
LC1 Work with communities to identify heritage features of importance to them, and help them record and celebrate these to a wider audience; initially involving eight local communities.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LC2 Continue to support the Community Wildlife Plans initiative ¹¹ , helping eight local communities to deliver their action plans, including practical environmental improvements.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LC3 Provide best practice advice and potential funding support for village shops, community buildings and other community facilities, including organising an annual Hampshire village shops conference to share information and encourage collaborative working.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
LC4 Expand the Village Agents programme within the New Forest, enabling older residents to gain	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted

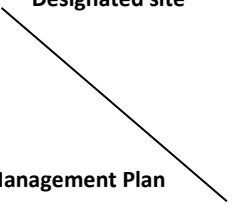
¹¹ A project helping local people to record and map the wildlife and habitats of interest in their area.

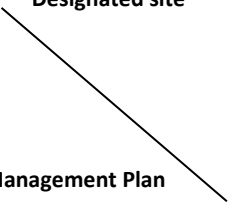
Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
bulky waste.						
LC8 Actively involve local communities in a variety of initiatives to improve health, mental health and well-being, including the New Forest Health Walks programme, dementia awareness training and projects to encourage a more active younger generation.	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.
LC9 Help young people to become more involved in the National Park by removing barriers and providing new opportunities, including developing at least three 'wildplay' sites enabling direct experiences of the natural environment, and encouraging confidence and skills through the Mosaic Youth Project.	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
	assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	address and avoid significant effects.
LC10 Support a range of local initiatives that encourage more sustainable lifestyles and economies, including energy conservation, local food production and sustainable transport. The target is to support at least 50 community projects over five years.	No significant effect predicted – however level of detail of policy/action is difficult to interpret. Individual projects would be subject to lower level HRA/AA assessment	No significant effect predicted – however level of detail of policy/action is difficult to interpret. Individual projects would be subject to lower level HRA/AA assessment	No significant effect predicted – however level of detail of policy/action is difficult to interpret. Individual projects would be subject to lower level HRA/AA assessment	No significant effect predicted – however level of detail of policy/action is difficult to interpret. Individual projects would be subject to lower level HRA/AA assessment	No significant effect predicted – however level of detail of policy/action is difficult to interpret. Individual projects would be subject to lower level HRA/AA assessment	No significant effect predicted – however level of detail of policy/action is difficult to interpret. Individual projects would be subject to lower level HRA/AA assessment
EW1 Continue to promote the Brand New Forest campaign encouraging greater use of local businesses by local people, including a pilot Fair Booking initiative, establishing a locally based visitor accommodation booking system.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
EW2 Deliver the Rural	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant effect	No significant effect

[illegible]

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
elements, taking into account the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorised users.						
TT7 Produce and implement a maintenance plan and specification for highway operations, setting out agreed standards within the National Park, taking into account the sensitivity of its protected landscapes and habitats.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
TT8 Improve opportunities to use a range of sustainable transport options, including the New Forest Tour, Beach Bus and other seasonal bus services, rail links, walking and cycling, and investigate the possibility of Park and Ride. The target is to achieve a 5% reduction in the number of visits by car by 2020.	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted	No significant effect predicted
TT9 Rebrand and promote existing local bus routes into and across the National Park, adding a New Forest theme, providing user-friendly information and enabling commercially viable services for residents. To include routes between Lymington and	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive baseline.

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
Southampton, Bournemouth and Salisbury and Southampton and Salisbury.	extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.	Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects.
TT10 Explore the funding and feasibility options, such as the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, for adjacent to carriageway cycle routes on fenced roads between main settlements to improve safe access for commuting and leisure cycling, including a link between Lymington and Cadnam.	Policy/action is likely to lead to development within designated site particularly between Lymington and Cadnam. Project level appropriate assessment would be required.	Policy/action is likely to lead to development within designated site particularly between Lymington and Cadnam. Project level appropriate assessment would be required.	Policy/action is likely to lead to development within designated site particularly between Lymington and Cadnam. Project level appropriate assessment would be required.	Project level appropriate assessment would be required. Development close to site could result in disturbance, however spatial detail of action not available.	Project level appropriate assessment would be required. Development close to site could result in disturbance, however spatial detail of action not available.	Project level appropriate assessment would be required. Development close to site could result in disturbance, however spatial detail of action not available.
TT11 Undertake an 'active travel' programme, encouraging walking and cycling to reduce car use and improve health through a series of guided walks, cycle skills training and other initiatives, aimed at	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with	Policy/action could lead to modest increase in recreation which would act in combination with existing extensive

Designated site  Management Plan draft actions	New Forest			Solent Maritime	Southampton & Solent Water	
	SAC	SPA	Ramsar	SAC	SPA	Ramsar
people of all ages and abilities.	with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects	with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects	with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects	with existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects	existing extensive baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects	baseline. Operational level assessment would appropriately address and avoid significant effects