

# New Forest National Park Management Plan **Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment**

FINAL Sustainability Appraisal Report  
January 2009



## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Background .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Methodology .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Appraisal Findings .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Implementation and Monitoring .....</b>	<b>37</b>
	<b>Appendix 1 Approaches Appraisal Matrices .....</b>	<b>38</b>

# 1 Background

## 1.1 The New Forest National Park

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

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

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

The two National Park purposes are:

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

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

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

### Planning in the New Forest National Park

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **The New Forest National Park Management Plan**

All National Park Authorities must produce a Management Plan for their area. The central role of the Plan is to guide and co-ordinate the work for all those with an interest in the Park and in delivering the National Park purposes and duty<sup>1</sup>.

As with other Management Plans, the New Forest National Park Management Plan is a strategic document, which sets out the overall policy approach for the area and attempts to tackle some of the major issues that affect the Park now, or are likely to influence it in the future.

The Management Plan does not include planning or development control policies. These will be part of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy for the National Park which was been produced by the National Park Authority as a separate document.

### **Management Plan Objectives**

The Objectives of the plan are as follows:

1. Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the villages and landscapes of the New Forest;
2. Protect and enhance the large-scale cultural landscapes and semi-natural habitats of the New Forest;
3. Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park;
4. 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;
5. Maintain and enhance the tranquillity of the National Park;
6. Achieve a shared understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park by local people, visitors and organisations;
7. Enhance people's enjoyment and quality of experience of the National Park, while safeguarding the special qualities of the area;
8. Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area;
9. Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well being of local communities; and
10. Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provide a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park.

---

<sup>1</sup> Environment Act, 1995 and National Park Management Plans – Guidance (Countryside Agency, 2005)

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

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

SEA is required as a result of the adoption of a European Directive, which has subsequently been transposed into English law. It involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of a strategic action (e.g. a plan or programme). In 2001, the EU adopted Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive'). The aim of the SEA Directive is "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development".

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

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

## 1.3 Compliance with the SEA Regulations

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

Requirement	Where covered
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Chapter 2: Background, Context Review (Scoping Report)
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	Context Review (Scoping Report), Section 3.2 Baseline, Baseline Chapter and Baseline maps (Scoping Report), Chapter 4, Section 4.3 Key sustainability Issues
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 3.2 Baseline, Baseline Chapter and Baseline maps (Scoping Report)
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in	Chapter 3, Section 3.2 Baseline and Section

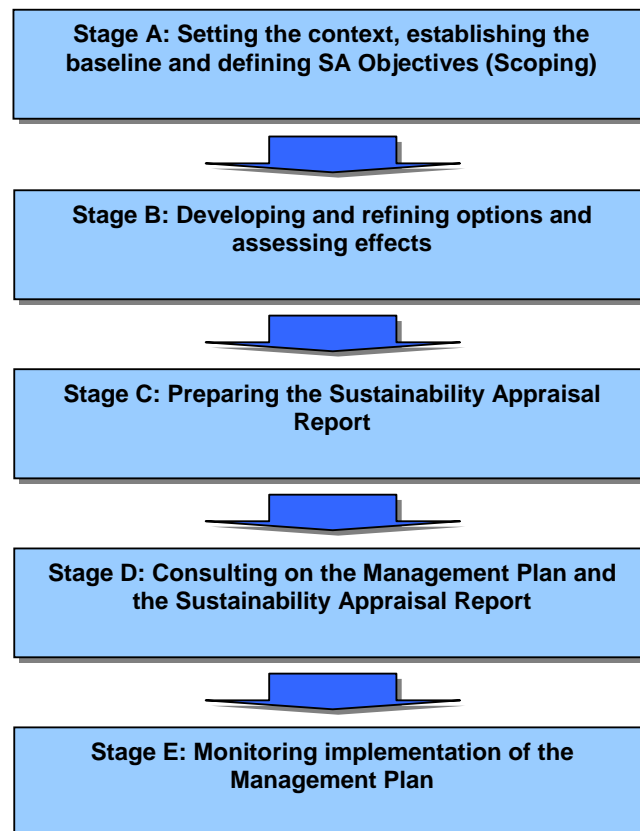
particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	3.3 Key sustainability Issues
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Context Review (Scoping Report)
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors	Chapter 5: Appraisal Findings
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme	Appendix 1: Approaches Appraisal Matrices
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	Chapter 3: Methodology, Chapter 5: Appraisal Findings Section 5.1 Appraisal Technique, Chapter 4: Developing and Refining Approaches
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10	Chapter 6: Implementation and Monitoring
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	See separate Non Technical Summary

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 The SA Process

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

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



#### Stage A – Scoping

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

Stage A in the SA process involved five key tasks:

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



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

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

- 
- A1 – Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives and sustainability objectives that will influence the DPD
  - A2 – Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information
  - A3 – Identify key sustainability issues for the SA / DPD to address
  - A4 – Develop the SA framework, consisting of the SA objectives (and sub-objectives/criteria where appropriate)
  - A5 – Produce a scoping report and consult relevant authorities, the public and other key stakeholders on A1–A4

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

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

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

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

The information included in this report taken from the Scoping Report has not been updated. The Scoping Report can be viewed and downloaded in full from the website of the NFNPA <sup>2</sup>.

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

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

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



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

## 3 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context

### 3.1 Context Review

The first task in Stage A of the SA process involved reviewing the policy and sustainability context. This entailed reviewing a large number of policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives prepared at international, national, regional and local level. This information can be found in the Scoping Report which was prepared by the NFNPA and New Forest District Council. The Scoping Report can be viewed and downloaded in full from the planning policy pages of the website of the NFNPA<sup>3</sup>. As Stage A has been completed and the SA Objectives identified, the Context Review has not been updated.

### 3.2 Baseline Information

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

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

#### Location

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

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

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

#### The New Forest National Park

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

---

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

## Area

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

## Population and Settlements

Within the National Park, there are four main settlements: Ashurst, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway. Estimates<sup>4</sup> of the parish populations for the four main settlements are 3,300 for Brockenhurst, 3,400 for Sway, 3,000 for Lyndhurst and 2,100 for Ashurst. These four settlements have a broad range of community facilities and services, good accessibility, including public transport and include a significant proportion of the existing houses and jobs in the National Park. Community facilities and access to key services are essential in providing a focus and vibrancy in community life. Although many villages do still have some services, such as a pub and village hall, many of the smaller settlements do not have schools, play grounds, village shops or other facilities which together help sustain the rural communities.

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

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

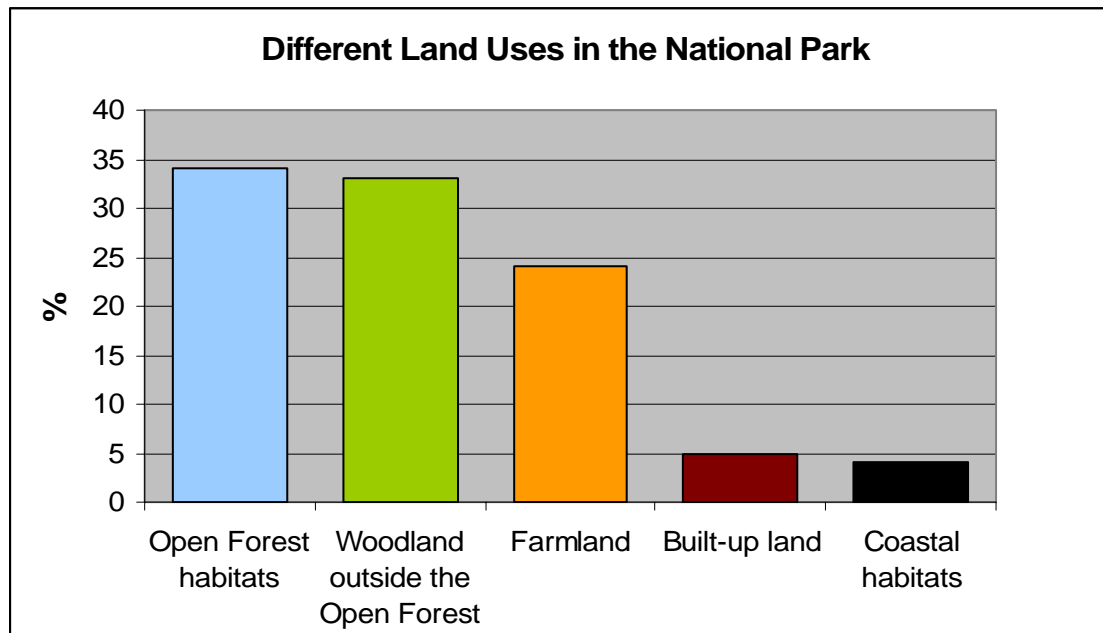
## Landscape and land use

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

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

---

<sup>4</sup> Source: New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration 2005



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

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

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

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

### Nature conservation

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

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

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

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

**Table 3.1: Nature Conservation Designations**

<b><i>Nature Conservation Designations<sup>5</sup></i></b>	<b>Area in Hants (ha)</b>	<b>Area in NFNPA (ha)</b>
<b>Local Nature Reserve (LNR)</b>	1,850	412
<b>National Nature Reserve (NNR)</b>	1,953	979
<b>RAMSAR</b>	36,982	30,131
<b>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</b>	36,697	30,223
<b>Special Protection Area (SPA)</b>	41,780	30,101
<b>Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</b>	50,078	31,702
<b>Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)</b>	34,675	2,890

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Monitoring Change in Priority Habitats, Priority Species and Designated Areas - Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre October 2007

## Tourism and Recreation

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

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

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

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

## Economy

Whilst the National Park is predominantly rural in nature, the economy within the area is diverse. According to the New Forest Economic Profile 2006<sup>6</sup> which covers both the New Forest District and the majority of the National Park, the most important employment sectors are distribution, hotels and restaurants (supported by the tourist industry); public administration, education and health; and finance and business services. Only a small proportion of employment is now found in traditional rural land-use activities such as farming, forestry and commoning, even though employment levels in these activities tend to be above the county, regional and national average. Whilst the viability of these activities is under pressure, they are essential for maintaining the land use management practices that help to conserve and enhance the landscape character and natural habitats of the National Park. A particular example is the importance of commoning to the character of the New Forest.

While unemployment is low, jobs within the New Forest District are relatively poorly paid, and a significant number are part-time. Data for incomes<sup>7</sup> in the New Forest District shows that the

<sup>6</sup> Annual Business Inquiry 2004, and New Forest Economic Profile - Hampshire County Council 2006

<sup>7</sup> CACI (2005). Non-weighted averages of the sum total incomes for each postcode in the authority. Data contained in Economic Profile of New Forest District, Hampshire County Council 2006

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

The New Forest District has only 56% of its population of working age which is lower than in the county, regional and national figures<sup>8</sup>. The economically active population is forecast<sup>9</sup> to decline significantly over the plan period and it is also expected that older people will make up a higher proportion of the population in the future.

## Transport

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>8</sup> Census 2001, New Forest Economic Profile - Hampshire County Council 2006

<sup>9</sup> Hampshire County Council 2006 : Long term Population and Housing Projections using the Chelmer Model in Future Matters : Issues and Options for the New Forest – A Public Consultation Dec 2006



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

## Agriculture

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

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

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

## Historic Environment

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

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

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

## Noise and light

Tranquillity is considered to be one of the special qualities of the National Park, but this is under pressure from noise disturbance from road (and air) traffic and from recreational activities. A 1996 assessment of Tranquil Areas in the New Forest Heritage Area found that there was a high degree of remoteness/ tranquillity in the north-west and south-east of the area. It found that the most remote areas were west of Fritham, the north west Solent shore (south and west of Beaulieu), south of Burley and Hatchet Moor<sup>10</sup>. A CPRE study from 2000 indicated that one of the only parts of the District with 'dark skies' was the centre of the National Park.

## Minerals and Waste Sites

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

## Energy

In 2005 New Forest District (including the National Park) had an average level of domestic and commercial electricity consumption, relative to other local authorities in the South East<sup>11</sup>. Energy savings over the six years to 2004 have been in the region of 19% as opposed to the English average of 9%.

## Water supply

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

## Pollution

### Air Quality

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

### Water

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

---

<sup>10</sup> Tranquil Areas: the New Forest Heritage Area. Countryside Commission/Ash Consulting 1996 CPRE Light Pollution Map for the South East

<sup>11</sup> Regional and local energy consumption statistics DTI 2005

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

### 3.3 Key Sustainability Issues

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

**Table 3.2 Key issues**

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

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

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

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



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

### 3.4 Limitations and Assumptions

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

### 3.5 SA Objectives

Task 4 of Stage A is the development of the SA Framework, which sets out the SA Objectives and sub-objectives where appropriate. SA objectives are a recognised way in which



environmental, economic and social effects can be described, analysed and compared. The SA Objectives and their decision making criteria are listed in the table below. These SA Objectives and the decision making criteria were identified previously in the Scoping stage.

**Table 3.3 SA objectives and underlying criteria**

SA Objective	Criteria
<b>1. Provide a safe and secure environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it improve road safety, especially for vulnerable groups including pedestrians, cyclists and young people?</li> <li>• Will it limit development at risk from flooding and coastal erosion (by means of protection/ defence works and/or location)?</li> <li>• Will it limit development at risk from major hazards or hazardous substances?</li> <li>• Will it reduce fear of crime?</li> <li>• Will it ensure the environment does not encourage crime?</li> </ul>
<b>2. Improve health and well being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it encourage walking and cycling?</li> <li>• Will it improve access to leisure facilities?</li> <li>• Will it reduce noise pollution?</li> <li>• Will it ensure access to health care?</li> <li>• Will it ensure accessible buildings and external spaces?</li> </ul>
<b>3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it provide enough dwellings to meet identified District housing needs, particularly with regard to providing affordable and key worker dwellings?</li> <li>• Will it provide for special accommodation needs? (Key workers/ Elderly/Disabled/ Commoners/Agricultural and forestry workers/ other occupational needs/Gypsies/ travelling showpeople)</li> <li>• Will it ensure adequate standards of residential accommodation?</li> <li>• Will it ensure accessibility to essential services including provision in accessible locations and accessible transport links?</li> <li>• Will it ensure access to alternative modes of transport?</li> </ul>
<b>4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it enable provision of, access to &amp; maintenance of outdoor and indoor recreation, leisure and cultural facilities for all including young people, elderly people and those with disabilities?</li> <li>• Will it enable the quiet enjoyment of New Forest National Park?</li> <li>• Will it enable recreational access to countryside and coast within environmental constraints?</li> <li>• Will it enable provision for educational development needs including further education opportunities for those seeking new skills, and elderly people?</li> </ul>
<b>5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it ensure transport infrastructure (roads/ rail/buses/ cycleways/footpaths) serves local needs?</li> <li>• Will it improve/ increase provision of public transport?</li> <li>• Will it encourage greater use of public transport?</li> <li>• Will it ensure utilities infrastructure serves local needs?</li> <li>• Will it limit adverse environmental impacts of infrastructure provision?</li> <li>• Will it enable economic/environmentally acceptable provision of services?</li> </ul>

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

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

## 4 Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

### Generating Options

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

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

- The Issues and Options consultation 'Future Matters' January 2007
- Stakeholder Workshop consultations of issues and potential policy options
- The Interim National Park Management Plan ('Strategy for the Forest')
- Test Valley Borough Local Plan, Salisbury District Local Plan, New Forest District Local Plan.
- The Community Strategies for Test Valley Borough, New Forest District and Salisbury District.
- The environmental, social, and economic characteristics of the National Park, the current state of the environment, and its likely evolution without implementation of the Plan
- A number of local, regional and national policies and programmes and various background assessments and research (see Annex 4 of the draft National Park Plan<sup>12</sup>)

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

### The New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft

Following the selection of the preferred options a Consultation Draft of the New Forest National Park Plan was produced. The New Forest National Park Plan was a combined document that incorporated both the Core Strategy and the Management Plan. A Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken on the Consultation Draft of the New Forest National Park Plan and the SA Report accompanied the Consultation Draft as an Annex to the main report<sup>13</sup>.

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

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

<sup>12</sup> New Forest National Park Authority (2008) New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft  
[http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/aboutus/our\\_work/consultations/closed\\_consultations/national\\_park\\_plan/park\\_plan\\_contents.htm](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/aboutus/our_work/consultations/closed_consultations/national_park_plan/park_plan_contents.htm)

<sup>13</sup> Annex 5 – New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report August 2008  
[http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/aboutus/our\\_work/consultations/closed\\_consultations/national\\_park\\_plan/park\\_plan\\_contents.htm](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/aboutus/our_work/consultations/closed_consultations/national_park_plan/park_plan_contents.htm)

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

### **The New Forest National Park Management Plan**

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

The Approaches in the New Forest National Park Management Plan were produced using the feedback received from the consultation exercises. Sustainability Appraisal was used during the development and refining of the Approaches. The following iterative process was used:

- 1) Draft Approaches were produced by NFNPA these were then appraised by Scott Wilson using the SA Framework;
- 2) These initial appraisal findings of the Draft Approaches were provided to NFNPA by Scott Wilson to enable further refining of the Approaches.
- 3) NFNPA refined the Draft Approaches using the findings of the sustainability appraisal to produce the Approaches.
- 4) The Approaches were provided to Scott Wilson by NFNP. These Approaches were then subject to sustainability appraisal. This report presents the findings of this appraisal.

The Appraisal Matrices showing the evaluation of the Approaches are included in Appendix 1.

## 5 Appraisal Findings

### 5.1 Appraisal Technique

Appraisal matrices were used to evaluate the effects of the Approaches. Each Approach has been considered against each Sustainability Objective (and its criteria) and the likely effects noted. The appraisal matrices are included as appendices to this report and can be found in Appendix 1.

Only significant effects are recorded within the matrix and therefore not all Approaches will be mentioned within the matrices tables. If an Approach is not mentioned within the appraisal against a particular Sustainability Objective then no significant effects have been identified. The Sustainability 'score' within the matrix is the cumulative 'score' of the Approaches combined. Individual 'scores' for the Sustainability Objectives are noted in the Appraisal Summary at the end of each matrix.

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

Key:

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

### 5.2 Results

**Overall the Approaches appraised were found to have no adverse effects on the SA objectives. No adverse effects were identified.**

In the Sustainability Appraisal each of the Approaches were appraised against the SA Objectives and the summary of the findings are reported in the tables in the sections that follow including mitigation. The full appraisal matrices are included as appendices to this report (Appendix 1).

## Conserving Local Distinctiveness

### Objective 1: Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the villages and landscapes of the New Forest

When appraised against the SA Objectives, the Approaches under this objective were found to have overall beneficial effects. No adverse effects were identified and no mitigation measures have been proposed. The table below provides the appraisal summary for each of the Approaches. There are beneficial cumulative effects on SA Objective 11 on landscape protection as the majority of Approaches would lead to enhancement of the local distinctiveness in the National Park.

Approaches	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Identify and raise awareness about the full range of characteristics that contribute to local distinctiveness in the National Park.	No effect	O	None
2. Support improvements to the character of selected settlements, working closely with local communities.	Objective 11 – minor benefits on maintaining and enhancing the high quality landscape	+	None
3. Ensure that the design of all development takes into account local distinctiveness in the National Park.	Objective 5 – minor benefits on meeting the local community infrastructure needs	+	None
	Objective 11- sensitive design can have some beneficial effects on the landscape, townscape and seas scape of Park	+	None
4. Protect and encourage the sensitive management of locally important sites and features.	Objective 10 – significant benefits on maintaining and preserving nature conservation interests	++	None
	Objective 11 – significant benefits on maintaining high quality landscapes	++	None
	Objective 12 – minor benefits on maintaining and enhancing local heritage and culture	+	None

## Enhancing Landscapes and Habitats

### Objective 2: Protect and enhance the large-scale cultural landscapes and semi-natural habitats of the New Forest

The appraisal revealed that the Approaches had an overall beneficial effect on the SA objectives. There is likely to be significant benefits associated with maintaining and enhancing nature conservation interests through seeking to improve and sustain the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats. There are also benefits relating to maintaining and enhancing landscape as development proposals will be required to fully take into account the important landscapes of the Park. Minor benefits are likely in relation to maintaining and enhancing local heritage and culture through encouraging integrated land management which enhances archaeological features.

Improving opportunities for outdoor recreation through supporting the production of green infrastructure plans may bring indirect health benefits through improving the provision of



opportunities of outdoor recreation and increased levels of physical activity. New development outside of the National Park could potentially increase recreational pressure on conservation sites. Ensuring that new developments have areas for countryside recreation could help to ease this pressure by providing an alternative recreation resource. The provision of such alternative recreation resources may act to reduce the number of people travelling from new development outside of the National Park into the National Park for recreation.

Approaches	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Working towards a shared vision and agreed priorities for managing, enhancing or restoring the different landscapes and habitats of the National Park, involving local communities and land managers.	No effect	O	None
2. Improving and sustaining the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats through appropriate land management and by monitoring and managing recreational pressure to avoid any adverse impacts.	Objective 10 – significant benefits. The Approach seeks to improve and sustain the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats through appropriate land management and by monitoring and managing recreational pressure to avoid any adverse impacts. The Approach is likely to protect and enhance conservation sites.	++	None
3. Encouraging integrated land management on the enclosed lands which enhances the landscape character, habitats and archaeological features of the area.	Objective 12 – minor benefits. The Approach encourages integrated land management which enhances archaeological features and is therefore likely to offer some benefits.	+	None
4. Ensuring development proposals, both within and outside the National Park, take the important landscapes, habitats, wildlife and visual setting of the Park fully into account.	Objective 11 – significant benefits as proposals must fully take into account the important landscapes of the Park.	++	None
5. Supporting the production of green infrastructure plans, including areas for countryside recreation close to new development outside the National Park, and seeking improvement to open space within the Park.	Objective 2 – minor indirect benefits associated on health associated with provision of areas for outdoor recreation.	+	None
	Objective 10 – minor indirect benefits on nature conservation arising through reduced recreation pressure on conservation sites.	+	None
	Objective 15 – minor benefits on benefits on minimising factors contributing to climate change by reducing emissions from travel for countryside recreation.	+	None

## Encouraging Sustainable Land Management

### Objective 3: Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park

Overall, the Approaches appraised have no adverse effects on the SA objectives. Beneficial effects are anticipated as the Approaches will support a healthy economy in the New Forest by supporting commoning, farming, forestry and other local economic activities. Benefits effects

associated with encouraging local cultural traditions through supporting commoning are anticipated and there is the potential for indirect benefits in relation to conserving the character of the area through supporting such practices. Supporting housing provision for commoners is likely to have a beneficial effect on meeting housing need.

Approaches	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Supporting farming, commoning and forestry business that contribute to the local economy and help to maintain the landscapes of the National Park.	Objective 6 – minor benefits by supporting a healthy economy.	+	None
	Objective 7 – minor benefits on the rural economy are anticipated arising from supporting rural businesses.	+	None
	Objective 11- minor indirect benefits on landscape are possible as a result of supporting traditional means of land management such as commoning	+	None
	Objective 12 - minor indirect benefits on cultural heritage are possible as a result of supporting traditional methods of land management such as commoning	+	None
2. Developing support scheme for commoners and farmers tailored to the needs of the New Forest.	Objective 6 – significant benefits by supporting a healthy economy.	+	None
	Objective 7 – significant benefits on the rural economy are anticipated arising from supporting rural businesses.	+	None
	Objective 11- minor indirect benefits on landscape are possible as a result of supporting traditional means of land management such as commoning	+	None
	Objective 12 - minor indirect benefits on cultural heritage are possible as a result of supporting traditional methods of land management such as commoning	+	None
3. Taking forward the priority recommendations of the New Forest Commoning Review, including protecting the stock of land available for back-up grazing and supporting housing for commoners.	Objective 3 – minor benefits on meeting housing needs as the housing for commons will be supported	+	None

4. Supporting appropriate diversification schemes that help to sustain the existing farming or commoning business.	Objective 6 – minor benefits by facilitating a healthy economy.	+	None
	Objective 7 – minor benefits on the rural economy are anticipated arising from supporting rural businesses.	+	None
	Objective 11- minor indirect benefits on landscape are possible as a result of supporting traditional means of land management such as commoning	+	None
	Objective 12 - minor indirect benefits on cultural heritage are possible as a result of supporting traditional methods of land management such as commoning	+	None
5. Providing co-ordinated land management advice relevant to the New Forest.	No effect.	O	None
6. Encouraging long-term plans to guide woodland management on privately owned land, including the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland.	Objective 10 – the restoration of ancient and indigenous woodland is likely to have nature conservation benefits.	+	None
	Objective 11 - the restoration of ancient and indigenous woodland is likely to have landscape benefits.	+	None
	Objective 14 - the use of long term woodland management plans are likely to aid the sustainable use of woodland.	+	None

## Planning for Climate Change

### Objective 4: 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

The Approaches appraised directly relate to climate change and therefore cumulatively if implemented would have significant beneficial effects on mitigating against climate change. Although the SA Objective on climate change (objective 15) relates to mitigating against climate change, Approaches 3 and 4 have a beneficial effect on adaptation to climate change and aim at improving resilience to the effects of climate change through reducing fragmentation of natural habitats as well as creation of new habitat. These Approaches are essential to ensure the New Forest is able to cope with the consequences of climate change especially with regard to conservation of natural habitats and some parts of the coast line. These two Approaches also have beneficial effects on nature conservation and landscape conservation and enhancement.

Understanding about climate change impacts can influence a change in lifestyles and behaviour and thereby lead to better use of resources reducing Green House Gas (GHG)

emissions and therefore Approaches 1, 2 and 5 all positively support mitigating against climate change.

Approaches	Appraisal Summary	Mitigation
1. Improve dialogue and understanding about climate change impacts, including the monitoring of impacts at a regional and local level.	Objective 15 – beneficial effects on climate change mitigation through raising awareness.	+
2. Raise public awareness about the environmental footprint of the area and encourage a change towards more sustainable lifestyles by organisations, communities, businesses and individuals.	Objective 15 – A change in behaviour to more sustainable lifestyles would have a beneficial effect on mitigating against climate change.	+
3. Conserve and where necessary restore an extensive network of natural habitats both within and across the National Park boundary, to improve resilience and reduce fragmentation.	Objective 15 and 10 – Although this Approach relates to adaptation to climate change, it can be said to have beneficial effects on objective 15. It also has beneficial effects on nature conservation.	+
4. Ensure critical parts of the coastline (as identified in the Shoreline Management Plan) are protected from sea-level rise through environmentally acceptable coastal defences, while allowing the natural realignment of the coast and seeking the creation of new habitats where appropriate, particularly where this helps to maintain the nature conservation value of designated coastal sites.	Objective 11 and 15- allowing natural realignment of the coast where appropriate could have a beneficial effect on enhancing the Parks landscape. It also has a beneficial effect on mitigating against climate change effects.	+
5. Support local or community-based initiatives for improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, recycling, composting, food production, water conservation or producing renewable energy.	Objective 14 and 15– Improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, recycling, composting, food production etc would contribute towards better resource use as well s mitigating against climate change by reducing GHG gas emissions.	+

## Safeguarding Tranquillity

### Objective 5: Maintain and enhance the tranquillity of the National Park

Minor benefits are likely in relation to improving health and well-being through reducing the impacts of noise, while conserving tranquil areas of the National Park will enable its quiet enjoyment for residents and visitors. Maintaining and enhancing the tranquillity of the National Park will help to preserve its attractiveness to tourists who wish to enjoy tranquil and remote areas of the park. The focus of the Management Plan is to ensure that tourism has a low impact on the environment rather than to promote higher levels of tourism.

Reducing visual intrusion is likely to offer minor benefits in relation to maintaining and creating high quality landscapes and townscapes and maintaining and enhancing local heritage such as historic landscapes, conservation areas and listed buildings.

Approach	Appraisal Summary	Mitigation
1. Conserve the most tranquil and remote areas of the National Park and reduce fragmentation of these areas	Objective 4 – minor benefits	+

where possible.	Objective 9 – beneficial effects	+	None
2. Reduce the impacts of noise, visual intrusion and inappropriate activity on tranquillity generally;	Objective 2 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 10 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 11 – minor benefits	+	None
3. Improve the quality of the 'dark skies' of the National Park.	No effects	O	None

## Understanding the New Forest's Special Qualities

### Objective 6: Achieve a shared understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park by local people, visitors and organisations

There are likely to be minor benefits associated with Approach 2 in relation to meeting education needs through supporting education about the Forest for academic purposes and enjoyment.

There is also the potential for minor benefits arising from Approach 4 in terms of facilitating tourism to have a low impact on the environment. The communication of 'caring for the forest' messages may act to improve understanding of the vulnerabilities of the environment encouraging changes in the behaviour of residents and visitors to reduce impact

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Raising awareness about the special qualities of the New Forest in a consistent and co-ordinated way.	Objective 9 – minor benefits	+	None
2. Promoting 'Caring for the Forest' messages, linked to the special qualities, incorporating them into a wide range of publications and other media.	No effects	O	None
3. Developing sensitive and innovative forms of interpretation which add to the appreciation and enjoyment of the National Park, while minimising the need for additional signage.	No effects	O	None
4. Supporting education activities that are linked to the special qualities for the Forest for both academic purposes and enjoyment.	Objective 4 – minor benefits	+	None
5. Developing a co-ordinated and accessible system for holding technical information about the National Park, for use by land managers, organisations and local communities.	No effects	O	None

## Enjoying the National Park

### Objective 7: Enhance people's enjoyment and quality of experience of the National Park, while safeguarding the special qualities of the area

There is the potential for benefits in relation to providing a safe and secure environment through providing opportunities for safer access to and within the Park. The Approaches also provide opportunities for improving health and well-being through encouraging walking and

cycling and offer the potential to minimise factors contributing to climate change. There is the potential for an indirect benefit in relation to enabling the quiet enjoyment of the Park through ensuring that new recreational facilities are designed and located to avoid impacts on the most tranquil areas. Ensuring that transport infrastructure serves local needs by making roads safer and more user friendly and developing a linked network of core routes is also likely to offer some benefits.

Minor benefits are likely in relation to maintaining a viable tourist economy by encouraging a high standard of services and facilities for visitors. Improving the understanding of the likely future recreational demand and the impacts of recreation on the Park's special qualities will contribute towards ensuring that tourist/visitor pressure does not harm the environment of the Park. Similarly, designing and locating new recreational facilities to avoid impacts on the special qualities of the area will also contribute towards this.

Approach		Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1	Improving understanding of the current and likely future recreational demand, and the impacts of recreation on the National Park's special qualities.	Objective 9 – minor benefits	+	None
2	Raising awareness about the sensitive environment and the working nature of the New Forest through direct contact with the public and working closely with user groups.	No effects	O	None
3	Provide opportunities for safe access, including a more joined-up network of core routes into and within the national park.	Objective 1 – minor benefits	+	None
		Objective 2 – minor benefits	+	None
		Objective 5 – minor benefits	+	None
		Objective 15 – minor benefits	+	None
4	Ensuring new recreational facilities are designed and located to avoid impacts on the special qualities of the area, including designated nature conservation sites and the most tranquil areas.	Objective 4 – minor benefits	+	None
		Objective 9 – minor benefits	+	None
		Objective 10 – minor benefits	+	None
5	Enabling the involvement of under-represented groups who feel the National Park provides few opportunities for them, or who feel excluded due to cost, lack of transport or other barriers.	No effects	O	None
6	Encouraging a high standard of services and well-designed and maintained facilities for visitors within the National Park.	Objective 9 – minor benefits	+	None
7	Maintain a clean and litter-free National Park	No effects	O	None

## Supporting Local Communities

### Objective 8: Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area

Improving the range of community facilities and services has the potential to improve health and well-being through the provision of additional health and leisure facilities. There is the

potential for an indirect benefit in relation to maintaining local heritage and culture through promoting interest in local culture, traditions and heritage.

Approach	Assessment Summary		Mitigation
1. Maintaining and improving the range of community facilities and services that provide for the needs of local people and contribute to the vitality of village life.	Objective 2, 6, 7 and 15 – This Approach supports health and well being of local people, may lead to economic benefits by retaining local services contributing to a thriving rural economy. Making local provision can also help reduce distances people travel by car to access services thereby reducing GHG emissions.	++	None
2. Providing more affordable housing for local people with housing needs and address the particular housing requirements of commoners.	Objective 3 – beneficial effects on making provision for affordable housing	+	None
3. Supporting communities in developing proposals for their area and undertaking practical projects to improve the quality of village life and the local environment.	Objectives 6 & 7 – This Approach can help in creating local businesses and therefore contribute to the local economy	+	None
4. Encouraging local communities to record, celebrate and promote interest in their local culture, traditions and heritage.	Objective 4 & 12 – this Approach supports cultural activities and can help raise cultural awareness amongst the local communities	+	None

## Fostering Economic Well-being

### Objective 9: Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well-being of local communities

It is anticipated that the Approaches will have a beneficial effect on the health of the local economy of the National Park. The Approaches will provide conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people.

There are likely to be benefits associated with providing encouragement to businesses that maintain the land-based economy in relation to supporting commoning and Forest-related enterprise and enabling farm diversification. Strengthening the Park's role at the forefront of sustainable tourism is likely to facilitate tourism in the National Park to have a low impact on the natural environment. This is likely to contribute to maintaining a viable tourism economy by ensuring that the attractions of the National Park are preserved and damage is prevented.

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Providing the conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people throughout the National Park, where these do not compromise the special qualities of area.	Objective 6, 7 & 15 – This Approach will contribute to a healthy economy as well as reducing the need to travel far thereby having potential beneficial effects on climate change mitigation.	++	None



2. Giving particular encouragement to businesses that help to supply services for rural communities, promote local distinctiveness, maintain the land-based economy or contribute and use local produce or products.	Objectives 6&7 - greater use of the New Forest goods and services can help support a thriving economy	+	None
3. Supporting businesses to develop ways of reducing their environmental impact using sustainable technologies and practices.	No effects	O	This Approach has potential to lead to beneficial effects especially with regard to climate change but more details on the general types of technologies and practices is required in order to understand the benefits
4. Supporting training and co-ordinated business advice relevant to the area.	No effects	O	None
5. Strengthening the New Forest's role at the forefront of sustainable tourism.	Objective 9 – beneficial effects on supporting sustainable tourism	+	None
6. Developing stronger links with the business community and partnerships.	No effects	O	None

## Improving Traffic and Transport

### Objective 10: Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provide a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park

The aim to reduce the number of animal accidents on roads within the National Park is likely to contribute towards improving road safety. Reducing the impact of road traffic on the quality of life of local communities is likely to reduce noise pollution and contribute towards improving the well-being of visitors and residents, while offering opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the National Park in terms of air and noise pollution. Developing an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths, cycling and riding routes should encourage walking, cycling and riding and contribute towards meeting local community needs for transport infrastructure. It is also likely to offer opportunities to reduce the need to travel by car and encourage the use of alternative modes of transport, thus contributing towards minimising factors contributing to climate change.

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Influencing regional and national transport policies in order to minimise impacts on the National Park and, where possible, achieve benefits for the area.	No effects	O	None
2. Helping to reduce the number of animal accidents on roads within the National Park.	Objective 1 – minor benefits	+	None
3. Developing a distinctive and different experience for those travelling within the National Park which clearly indicates its special and protected status.	No effects	O	None
4. Promoting measures to reduce the impacts of road traffic on the quality of life of local communities and the environmental quality of the National Park.	Objective 2 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 13 – minor benefits	+	None
5. Supporting an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths and cycling and riding routes designed to meet the needs of both residents and visitors.	Objective 2 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 5 – minor benefits	+	None

	Objective 15 – minor benefits	+	None
--	-------------------------------	---	------

## Cumulative Effects

In the appraisal each of the Approaches were appraised against the SA Objectives and the findings of this appraisal are reported above. The appraisal of individual Approaches is an important aspect of the SA process as it identifies potential issues relating to the implementation of the plan and provides an opportunity for mitigation and monitoring to be suggested as required. It is also important to assess how the individual effects interact with one another to ascertain whether there are any cumulative effects relating to the implementation of different Approaches in the New Forest National Park Management Plan. The following cumulative effects were identified:

SA Objective	Cumulative Effects
SA Objective 6 Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	A significant cumulative beneficial effect with respect to supporting a sustainable local economy is anticipated as a result of the identified minor beneficial effects of the Approaches on supporting farming, commoning, forestry, diversification and communities.
SA Objective 10 Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	Cumulative beneficial effects on nature conservation are likely as a result of the implementation of Approaches that relate to nature conservation e.g. Approach on improving the quality of internationally and nationally designated sites, Approach on encouraging green infrastructure, Approach on woodland management, policy on reducing habitat fragmentation and Approach on creation of new coastal habitats.
SA Objective 11 Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	Cumulative beneficial effects on landscape protection are likely as a result of implementation of most of the Approaches supporting Objectives 1 and 2. These Approaches relate to improving the character of the National Park, ensuring high quality design taking account of the park's local distinctiveness and sensitive management of locally important sites and features which together would lead to maintaining and enhancing the Park's landscape.
SA Objective 15 Minimise factors contributing to climate change	Promoting non-motorised access to the Park, development of integrated networks of community transport including foot paths and cycling and riding paths together with Approaches aimed at reducing the need to travel e.g. by making sufficient provision of services and facilities locally can have beneficial cumulative effects on minimising factors contributing to climate change.

## 6 Implementation and Monitoring

The Management Plan includes more than 60 priority actions to be taken forward over the next five years as a core part of its implementation. In discussion with the organisations involved, the NFNPA will incorporate these into a more detailed on-going action plan with details of lead organisations and main partners. This action plan will be updated regularly on the NFNPA website.

A State of the Park report will be produced by the NFNPA describing the overall condition of the National Park. This report will have measurable indicators and targets relating to the objectives in the Management Plan. These indicators and targets are to be developed with local organisations and practical means will be agreed for gathering baseline information and regularly monitoring the indicators. Over time the indicators will give a broad picture of changes in the condition of the special qualities of the forest and show if the objectives and actions are being effective. The State of the Park report will be publicly available and reviewed every five years.

The State of the Park report will help to inform the review of the Management Plan by showing progress made and therefore indicating any changes needed to the objectives. The Management Plan as a whole will be reviewed every five years, involving wide public consultation.

## Appendix 1 Approaches Appraisal Matrices

### *Conserving local distinctiveness*

**Objective 1: Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the villages and landscapes of the New Forest**

**Approach:**

1. Identifying and raising awareness about the full range of characteristics that contribute to local distinctiveness in the National Park.
2. Supporting improvements to the character of selected settlements, working closely with local communities.
3. Ensuring that the design of all new development takes into account local distinctiveness in the National Park.
4. Protecting and encouraging the sensitive management of locally important sites and features.

Sustainability Objectives		Comments
1. Provide a safe and secure environment	O	
2. Improve health and well being	O	
3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	O	
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	O	
5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	+	Approach 3 - Although the effects of the implementation of this Approach are implicit, there are likely to be minor benefits of ensuring that all new development takes into account local distinctiveness in the National Park. New development that is appropriate to the National Park will limit adverse environmental effects and enable environmentally acceptable provision of services.
6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	O	
7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	O	

### Conserving local distinctiveness

#### Objective 1: Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the villages and landscapes of the New Forest

##### Approach:

1. Identifying and raising awareness about the full range of characteristics that contribute to local distinctiveness in the National Park.
2. Supporting improvements to the character of selected settlements, working closely with local communities.
3. Ensuring that the design of all new development takes into account local distinctiveness in the National Park.
4. Protecting and encouraging the sensitive management of locally important sites and features.

8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	O	
9. Promote sustainable tourism	O	
10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	++	Approach 4 - The Approach seeks to protect and encourage the sensitive management of locally important sites and features and therefore there is likely to be a significant benefit in relation to nature conservation interests.
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	++	Approaches 2, 3 & 4 - Supporting improvements to the character of selected settlements and protecting and encouraging the sensitive management of different aspects of the characteristics that contribute to the distinctiveness of the New Forest is likely to offer significant benefits, as is ensuring that the design of new development takes such distinctiveness into account.
12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	+	Approaches 4 - There are likely to be minor benefits associated with the protection and sensitive management of locally important sites and features.
13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	O	
14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	O	
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	O	

## Conserving local distinctiveness

### Objective 1: Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the villages and landscapes of the New Forest

#### Approach:

1. Identifying and raising awareness about the full range of characteristics that contribute to local distinctiveness in the National Park.
2. Supporting improvements to the character of selected settlements, working closely with local communities.
3. Ensuring that the design of all new development takes into account local distinctiveness in the National Park.
4. Protecting and encouraging the sensitive management of locally important sites and features.

#### SUMMARY

There are likely to be minor benefits associated with this Approach in relation to limiting the adverse environmental effects of new development, including the provision of new infrastructure. However, the beneficial effects of this Approach are implied as opposed to explicit and therefore the benefits can only be considered to be limited. There are also minor benefits associated with the protection of the historic built and natural environment and minimising factors contributing to climate change.

There are likely to be significant benefits associated with maintaining and enhancing nature conservation interests through seeking to protect and encourage the sensitive management of important sites and features. Similarly, significant benefits are likely in relation to landscape and townscape through supporting improvements to the character of selected settlements and protecting and encouraging the sensitive management of different aspects of the characteristics that contribute to the distinctiveness of the New Forest.

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Identify and raise awareness about the full range of characteristics that contribute to local distinctiveness in the National Park.	No effect	O	None
2. Support improvements to the character of selected settlements, working closely with local communities.	Objective 11 – minor benefits on maintaining and enhancing the high quality landscape	+	None
3. Ensure that the design of all development takes into account local distinctiveness in the National Park.	Objective 5 – minor benefits on meeting the local community infrastructure needs	+	None
	Objective 11- sensitive design can have some beneficial effects on the landscape, townscape and seas scape of Park	+	None
4. Protect and encourage the sensitive management of locally important sites and features.	Objective 10 – significant benefits on maintaining and preserving nature conservation interests	++	None
	Objective 11 – significant benefits on maintaining high quality landscapes	++	None
	Objective 12 – minor benefits on maintaining and enhancing local heritage and culture	+	None

## Enhancing landscapes and habitats

### Objective 2: Protect and enhance the large-scale cultural landscapes and semi-natural habitats of the New Forest

#### Approach:

1. Working towards a shared vision and agreed priorities for managing, enhancing or restoring the different landscapes and habitats of the National Park, involving local communities and land managers.
2. Improving and sustaining the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats through appropriate land management and by monitoring and managing recreational pressure to avoid any adverse impacts.
3. Encouraging integrated land management on the enclosed lands which enhances the landscape character, habitats and archaeological features of the area.
4. Ensuring development proposals, both within and outside the National Park, take the important landscapes, habitats, wildlife and visual setting of the Park fully into account.
5. Supporting the production of green infrastructure plans, including areas for countryside recreation close to new development outside the National Park, and seeking improvements to open space within the Park.

Sustainability Objectives		
1. Provide a safe and secure environment	○	
2. Improve health and well being	+	Approach 5 – Improving opportunities for outdoor recreation through supporting the production of green infrastructure plans may bring indirect health benefits through improving the provision of opportunities of outdoor recreation and increased levels of physical activity.
3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	○	
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	○	
5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	○	
6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	○	



## Enhancing landscapes and habitats

### Objective 2: Protect and enhance the large-scale cultural landscapes and semi-natural habitats of the New Forest

#### Approach:

1. Working towards a shared vision and agreed priorities for managing, enhancing or restoring the different landscapes and habitats of the National Park, involving local communities and land managers.
2. Improving and sustaining the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats through appropriate land management and by monitoring and managing recreational pressure to avoid any adverse impacts.
3. Encouraging integrated land management on the enclosed lands which enhances the landscape character, habitats and archaeological features of the area.
4. Ensuring development proposals, both within and outside the National Park, take the important landscapes, habitats, wildlife and visual setting of the Park fully into account.
5. Supporting the production of green infrastructure plans, including areas for countryside recreation close to new development outside the National Park, and seeking improvements to open space within the Park.

7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	O	
8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	O	
9. Promote sustainable tourism	O	
10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	++	<p>Approach 2 - The Approach seeks to improve and sustain the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats through appropriate land management and by monitoring and managing recreational pressure to avoid any adverse impacts. The Approach is likely to protect and enhance conservation sites.</p> <p>Approach 5 – New development outside of the National Park could potentially increase recreational pressure on conservation sites. Ensuring that new developments have areas for countryside recreation will help to ease this pressure by providing an alternative recreation resource.</p>
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	++	<p>Approach 4 - Development proposals must fully take into account the important landscapes of the Park and integrated land management will be encouraged which enhances the landscape character of the Park.</p>
12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	+	<p>Approach 3 - The Approach encourages integrated land management which enhances archaeological features and is therefore likely to offer minor benefits.</p>
13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	O	

### Enhancing landscapes and habitats

#### Objective 2: Protect and enhance the large-scale cultural landscapes and semi-natural habitats of the New Forest

##### Approach:

1. Working towards a shared vision and agreed priorities for managing, enhancing or restoring the different landscapes and habitats of the National Park, involving local communities and land managers.
2. Improving and sustaining the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats through appropriate land management and by monitoring and managing recreational pressure to avoid any adverse impacts.
3. Encouraging integrated land management on the enclosed lands which enhances the landscape character, habitats and archaeological features of the area.
4. Ensuring development proposals, both within and outside the National Park, take the important landscapes, habitats, wildlife and visual setting of the Park fully into account.
5. Supporting the production of green infrastructure plans, including areas for countryside recreation close to new development outside the National Park, and seeking improvements to open space within the Park.

14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	O	
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	+	Approach 5 – The provision of opportunities for outdoor recreation close to new development outside of the National Park is likely to act to reduce the number of people travelling from new development outside of the National Park into the Park for recreation.

### SUMMARY

There are likely to be significant benefits associated with maintaining and enhancing nature conservation interests through seeking to improve and sustain the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats through appropriate land management and by monitoring and managing recreational pressure to avoid any adverse effects. There are also benefits relating to maintaining and enhancing landscape as development proposals will be required to fully take into account the important landscapes of the Park.

Minor benefits are likely in relation to maintaining and enhancing local heritage and culture through encouraging integrated land management which enhances archaeological features. Supporting the production of green infrastructure plans and the provision of opportunities for outdoor recreation close to new developments outside of the National Park is anticipated to have minor indirect benefits on health, nature conservation and climate change. Supporting the provision of green infrastructure plans and increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation may bring about health benefits through encouraging people to be more active. Encouraging the provision of areas for outdoor recreation close to new development outside of the park will act to lessen recreational pressure on conservation areas in the National Park and support a reduction in carbon emissions from travel.

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Working towards a shared vision and agreed priorities for managing, enhancing or restoring the different landscapes and habitats of the National Park, involving local communities and land managers.	No effect	O	None
2. Improving and sustaining the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats through appropriate land management and by monitoring and managing recreational pressure to avoid any adverse impacts.	Objective 10 – significant benefits as the Approach seeks to improve and sustain the quality of nationally designated habitats as well as enhancing or restoring habitats in the National Park and taking action to avoid adverse impacts from recreational pressure.	++	None

## Enhancing landscapes and habitats

### Objective 2: Protect and enhance the large-scale cultural landscapes and semi-natural habitats of the New Forest

#### Approach:

1. Working towards a shared vision and agreed priorities for managing, enhancing or restoring the different landscapes and habitats of the National Park, involving local communities and land managers.
2. Improving and sustaining the quality of internationally and nationally designated habitats through appropriate land management and by monitoring and managing recreational pressure to avoid any adverse impacts.
3. Encouraging integrated land management on the enclosed lands which enhances the landscape character, habitats and archaeological features of the area.
4. Ensuring development proposals, both within and outside the National Park, take the important landscapes, habitats, wildlife and visual setting of the Park fully into account.
5. Supporting the production of green infrastructure plans, including areas for countryside recreation close to new development outside the National Park, and seeking improvements to open space within the Park.

3. Encouraging integrated land management on the enclosed lands which enhances the landscape character, habitats and archaeological features of the area.	Objective 12 – minor benefits, the Approach encourages integrated land management which enhances archaeological features and is therefore likely to offer some benefits.	+	None
4. Ensuring development proposals, both within and outside the National Park, take the important landscapes, habitats, wildlife and visual setting of the Park fully into account.	Objective 11 – significant benefits as proposals must fully take into account the important landscapes of the Park.	++	None
5. Supporting the production of green infrastructure plans, including areas for countryside recreation close to new development outside the National Park, and seeking improvement to open space within the Park.	Objective 2 – minor indirect benefits associated on health associated with provision of areas for outdoor recreation.	+	None
	Objective 10 – minor indirect benefits on nature conservation arising through reduced recreation pressure on conservation sites.	+	None
	Objective 15 – minor benefits on minimising factors contributing to climate change by reducing emissions from travel for countryside recreation.	+	None

## Encouraging sustainable land management

### Objective 3: Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park

#### Approach:

1. Supporting farming, commoning and forestry business that contribute to the local economy and help to maintain the landscapes of the National Park.
2. Developing support schemes for commoners and farmers tailored to the needs of the New Forest.
3. Taking forward the priority recommendations of the New Forest Commoning Review, including protecting the stock of land available for back-up grazing and supporting housing for commoners.
4. Supporting appropriate diversification schemes that help to sustain the existing farming or commoning business.
5. Providing co-ordinated land management advice relevant to the New Forest.
6. Encouraging long-term plans to guide woodland management on privately owned land, including the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland.

Sustainability Objectives		
---------------------------	--	--

### Encouraging sustainable land management

#### Objective 3: Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park

##### Approach:

1. Supporting farming, commoning and forestry business that contribute to the local economy and help to maintain the landscapes of the National Park.
2. Developing support schemes for commoners and farmers tailored to the needs of the New Forest.
3. Taking forward the priority recommendations of the New Forest Commoning Review, including protecting the stock of land available for back-up grazing and supporting housing for commoners.
4. Supporting appropriate diversification schemes that help to sustain the existing farming or commoning business.
5. Providing co-ordinated land management advice relevant to the New Forest.
6. Encouraging long-term plans to guide woodland management on privately owned land, including the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland.

1. Provide a safe and secure environment	O	
2. Improve health and well being	O	
3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	+	Approach 3 – Supporting housing provision for commoners is likely to have a beneficial effect on meeting housing needs
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	O	
5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	O	
6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	++	Approach 1, 2, 3 & 4 – Supporting farming, commoning and sustainable forestry and woodland management will contribute towards facilitating a sustainable economy and therefore have beneficial effects. In combination Approaches 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are anticipated to have a significant effect.
7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	++	Approaches 1, 2, 3 & 4 - The Approach seeks to support the future viability of commoning, farming and sustainable forestry and woodland management and is therefore likely to offer significant benefits in relation to the rural economy. In combination Approaches 1, 2, 3 & 4 are anticipated to have a significant effect.

### Encouraging sustainable land management

#### Objective 3: Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park

Approach:

1. Supporting farming, commoning and forestry business that contribute to the local economy and help to maintain the landscapes of the National Park.
2. Developing support schemes for commoners and farmers tailored to the needs of the New Forest.
3. Taking forward the priority recommendations of the New Forest Commoning Review, including protecting the stock of land available for back-up grazing and supporting housing for commoners.
4. Supporting appropriate diversification schemes that help to sustain the existing farming or commoning business.
5. Providing co-ordinated land management advice relevant to the New Forest.
6. Encouraging long-term plans to guide woodland management on privately owned land, including the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland.

8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	O	
9. Promote sustainable tourism	O	
10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	+	Approach 6 – Long-term woodland management plans which include the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland may bring about nature conservation benefits.
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	+	Approaches 1, 2, 3 & 4 - There is the potential for an indirect benefit as a result of supporting commoning, farming and sustainable forestry and woodland management as such practices are likely to contribute towards conserving the character of the area. Approaches 6 – Long-term woodland management plans which include the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland may bring about landscape benefits.
12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	+	Approaches 1, 2, 3 & 4 - Supporting commoning, farming and sustainable forestry and woodland management is likely to encourage local cultural traditions and therefore offers benefits in relation to maintaining and enhancing local heritage and culture.
13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	O	
14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	O	Approach 6 - long-term woodland management plans are likely to aid the sustainable use of woodland.
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	O	

## Encouraging sustainable land management

### Objective 3: Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park

#### Approach:

1. Supporting farming, commoning and forestry business that contribute to the local economy and help to maintain the landscapes of the National Park.
2. Developing support schemes for commoners and farmers tailored to the needs of the New Forest.
3. Taking forward the priority recommendations of the New Forest Commoning Review, including protecting the stock of land available for back-up grazing and supporting housing for commoners.
4. Supporting appropriate diversification schemes that help to sustain the existing farming or commoning business.
5. Providing co-ordinated land management advice relevant to the New Forest.
6. Encouraging long-term plans to guide woodland management on privately owned land, including the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland.

### SUMMARY

Overall, the Approaches appraised have no adverse effects on the SA objectives. There are beneficial effects on supporting the New Forests economy by supporting the local economy and way of life by supporting commoning, farming, forestry and other local economic activities. Benefits effects associated with encouraging local cultural traditions through supporting commoning are anticipated and there is the potential for indirect benefits in relation to conserving the character of the area through supporting such practices. Supporting housing provision for commoners is likely to have a beneficial effect on meeting housing need.

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Supporting farming, commoning and forestry business that contribute to the local economy and help to maintain the landscapes of the National Park.	Objective 6 – minor benefits by facilitating a sustainable economy.	+	None
	Objective 7 – minor benefits on the rural economy are anticipated arising from supporting rural businesses.	+	None
	Objective 11- minor indirect benefits on landscape are possible as a result of supporting traditional means of land management such as commoning	+	None
	Objective 12 - minor indirect benefits on cultural heritage are possible as a result of supporting traditional methods of land management such as commoning	+	None
2. Developing support scheme for commoners and farmers tailored to the needs of the New Forest.	Objective 6 – significant benefits by facilitating a sustainable economy.	+	None
	Objective 7 – significant benefits on the rural economy are anticipated arising from supporting rural businesses.	+	None
	Objective 11- minor indirect benefits on landscape are possible as a result of supporting traditional means of land management such as commoning	+	None

## Encouraging sustainable land management

### Objective 3: Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park

#### Approach:

1. Supporting farming, commoning and forestry business that contribute to the local economy and help to maintain the landscapes of the National Park.
2. Developing support schemes for commoners and farmers tailored to the needs of the New Forest.
3. Taking forward the priority recommendations of the New Forest Commoning Review, including protecting the stock of land available for back-up grazing and supporting housing for commoners.
4. Supporting appropriate diversification schemes that help to sustain the existing farming or commoning business.
5. Providing co-ordinated land management advice relevant to the New Forest.
6. Encouraging long-term plans to guide woodland management on privately owned land, including the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland.

	Objective 12 - minor indirect benefits on cultural heritage are possible as a result of supporting traditional methods of land management such as commoning	+	None
3. Taking forward the priority recommendations of the New Forest Commoning Review, including protecting the stock of land available for back –up grazing and supporting housing for commoners.	Objective 3 – minor benefits on meeting housing needs as the housing for commons will be supported	+	None
4. Supporting appropriate diversification schemes that help to sustain the existing farming or commoning business.	Objective 6 – minor benefits by facilitating a sustainable economy.	+	None
	Objective 7 – minor benefits on the rural economy are anticipated arising from supporting rural businesses.	+	None
	Objective 11- minor indirect benefits on landscape are possible as a result of supporting traditional means of land management such as commoning	+	None
	Objective 12 - minor indirect benefits on cultural heritage are possible as a result of supporting traditional methods of land management such as commoning	+	None
5. Providing co-ordinated land management advice relevant to the New Forest.	No effect.	O	None
6. Encouraging long-term plans to guide woodland management on privately owned land, including the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland.	Objective 10 – the restoration of ancient and indigenous woodland is likely to have nature conservation benefits.	+	None
	Objective 11 - the restoration of ancient and indigenous woodland is likely to have landscape benefits.	+	None



### Encouraging sustainable land management

#### Objective 3: Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park

Approach:

1. Supporting farming, commoning and forestry business that contribute to the local economy and help to maintain the landscapes of the National Park.
2. Developing support schemes for commoners and farmers tailored to the needs of the New Forest.
3. Taking forward the priority recommendations of the New Forest Commoning Review, including protecting the stock of land available for back-up grazing and supporting housing for commoners.
4. Supporting appropriate diversification schemes that help to sustain the existing farming or commoning business.
5. Providing co-ordinated land management advice relevant to the New Forest.
6. Encouraging long-term plans to guide woodland management on privately owned land, including the restoration of ancient or indigenous woodland.

	Objective 14 - the use of long term woodland management plans are likely to aid the sustainable use of woodland.	+	None
--	--	---	------

### Planning for Climate Change

#### Objective 4: 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

Approach:

1. Improving dialogue and understanding about climate change impacts including the monitoring of impacts at a regional and local level.
2. Raising public awareness about the environmental footprint of the area, and encouraging a change towards more sustainable lifestyles by organisations, communities, businesses and individuals.
3. Conserving and where necessary restoring an extensive network of natural habitats both within and across the National Park boundary, to improve resilience and reduce fragmentation.
4. Ensuring critical parts of the coastline (as identified in the Shoreline Management Plan) are protected from sea-level rise through environmentally acceptable coastal defences, while allowing the natural realignment of the coast and seeking the creation of new habitats where appropriate, particularly where this helps to maintain the nature conservation value of designated coastal sites.
5. Supporting local or community-based initiatives for improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, recycling, composting, food production, water conservation or producing renewable energy.

Sustainability Objectives		
1. Provide a safe and secure environment	O	
2. Improve health and well being	O	
3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	O	
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	O	

## Planning for Climate Change

### Objective 4: 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

#### Approach:

1. Improving dialogue and understanding about climate change impacts including the monitoring of impacts at a regional and local level.
2. Raising public awareness about the environmental footprint of the area, and encouraging a change towards more sustainable lifestyles by organisations, communities, businesses and individuals.
3. Conserving and where necessary restoring an extensive network of natural habitats both within and across the National Park boundary, to improve resilience and reduce fragmentation.
4. Ensuring critical parts of the coastline (as identified in the Shoreline Management Plan) are protected from sea-level rise through environmentally acceptable coastal defences, while allowing the natural realignment of the coast and seeking the creation of new habitats where appropriate, particularly where this helps to maintain the nature conservation value of designated coastal sites.
5. Supporting local or community-based initiatives for improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, recycling, composting, food production, water conservation or producing renewable energy.

5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	O	
6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	O	
7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	O	
8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	O	
9. Promote sustainable tourism	O	
10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	+	Approach 3 - The Approach seeks to conserve or restore an extensive network of natural habitats which will offer minor benefits in relation to nature conservation interests within the Park.
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	+	Approach 4 – allowing natural realignment of the coast and the creation of new coastal habitats where appropriate could have a beneficial effect on enhancing the Parks landscape.

## Planning for Climate Change

### Objective 4: 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

#### Approach:

1. Improving dialogue and understanding about climate change impacts including the monitoring of impacts at a regional and local level.
2. Raising public awareness about the environmental footprint of the area, and encouraging a change towards more sustainable lifestyles by organisations, communities, businesses and individuals.
3. Conserving and where necessary restoring an extensive network of natural habitats both within and across the National Park boundary, to improve resilience and reduce fragmentation.
4. Ensuring critical parts of the coastline (as identified in the Shoreline Management Plan) are protected from sea-level rise through environmentally acceptable coastal defences, while allowing the natural realignment of the coast and seeking the creation of new habitats where appropriate, particularly where this helps to maintain the nature conservation value of designated coastal sites.
5. Supporting local or community-based initiatives for improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, recycling, composting, food production, water conservation or producing renewable energy.

12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	O	
13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	O	
14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	+	Approach 5 - Local or community-based initiatives for recycling, composting, water conservation and reducing waste will be supported, which will offer minor benefits.
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	++	Approach 1 - The Approach seeks to improve understanding about climate change impacts and support adaptation. Approach 2 - seeks to encourage a change towards more sustainable lifestyles.

## SUMMARY

The Approaches appraised directly relate to climate change and therefore cumulatively if implemented would have significant beneficial effects on mitigating against climate change. Although the SA objective on climate change (SA Objective 15) relates to mitigating against climate change, Approaches 3 and 4 have a beneficial effect on *adaptation* to climate change and aim at improving resilience to the effects of climate change through reducing fragmentation of natural habitats as well as creation of new habitat. These Approaches are essential to ensure the New Forest is able to cope with the consequences of climate change especially with regard to conservation of natural habitats and some parts of the coast line. These two Approaches also have beneficial effects on nature conservation and landscape conservation and enhancement.

Understanding about climate change impacts can influence a change in lifestyles and behaviour and thereby lead to better use of resources reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and therefore Approaches 1, 2 and 5 all positively support mitigating against climate change.

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Improve dialogue and understanding about climate change impacts, including the monitoring of impacts at a regional and local level.	Objective 15 – beneficial effects on climate change mitigation through raising awareness.	+	None

## Planning for Climate Change

### Objective 4: 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

#### Approach:

1. Improving dialogue and understanding about climate change impacts including the monitoring of impacts at a regional and local level.
2. Raising public awareness about the environmental footprint of the area, and encouraging a change towards more sustainable lifestyles by organisations, communities, businesses and individuals.
3. Conserving and where necessary restoring an extensive network of natural habitats both within and across the National Park boundary, to improve resilience and reduce fragmentation.
4. Ensuring critical parts of the coastline (as identified in the Shoreline Management Plan) are protected from sea-level rise through environmentally acceptable coastal defences, while allowing the natural realignment of the coast and seeking the creation of new habitats where appropriate, particularly where this helps to maintain the nature conservation value of designated coastal sites.
5. Supporting local or community-based initiatives for improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, recycling, composting, food production, water conservation or producing renewable energy.

2. Raise public awareness about the environmental footprint of the area and encourage a change towards more sustainable lifestyles by organisations, communities, businesses and individuals.	Objective 15 – A change in behaviour to more sustainable lifestyles would have a beneficial effect on mitigating against climate change.	+	None
3. Conserve and where necessary restore an extensive network of natural habitats both within and across the National Park boundary, to improve resilience and reduce fragmentation	Objective 15 and 10 – Although this Approach relates to adaptation to climate change, it can be said to have beneficial effects on objective 15. It also has beneficial effects on nature conservation.	+	None although it is suggested that minor tweaks are considered to SA objective 15 to include both mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
4. Ensure critical parts of the coastline (as identified in the Shoreline Management Plan) are protected from sea-level rise through environmentally acceptable coastal defences, while allowing the natural realignment of the coast and seeking the creation of new habitats where appropriate, particularly where this helps to maintain the nature conservation value of designated coastal sites.	Objective 11 and 15 - allowing natural realignment of the coast and seeking the creation of new habitats where appropriate could have a beneficial effect on enhancing the Parks landscape. It also has a beneficial effect on mitigating against climate change effects.	+	None – although tweaks are suggested to the SA objective to include both mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
5. Support local or community-based initiatives for improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, recycling, composting, food production, water conservation or producing renewable energy.	Objective 14 and 15– Improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, recycling, composting, food production etc would contribute towards better resource use as well as mitigating against climate change by reducing GHG gas emissions.	+	None

## Safeguarding tranquillity

### Objective 5: Maintain and enhance the tranquillity of the National Park

#### Approach:

1. Conserve the most tranquil and remote areas of the National Park and reduce fragmentation of these areas where possible.
2. Reduce the impacts of noise, visual intrusion and inappropriate activity on tranquillity generally.
3. Improve the quality of the 'dark skies' of the National Park.

Sustainability Objectives		
---------------------------	--	--

### Safeguarding tranquillity

#### Objective 5: Maintain and enhance the tranquillity of the National Park

Approach:

- 1 Conserve the most tranquil and remote areas of the National Park and reduce fragmentation of these areas where possible.
- 2 Reduce the impacts of noise, visual intrusion and inappropriate activity on tranquillity generally.
- 3 Improve the quality of the 'dark skies' of the National Park.

1. Provide a safe and secure environment	O	
2. Improve health and well being	+	Approach 2 - Reducing the impacts of noise will likely offer some minor benefits.
3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	O	
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	+	Approach 1 - Conserving tranquil areas of the Park will enable its quiet enjoyment.
5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	O	
6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	O	
7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	O	
8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	O	

### Safeguarding tranquillity

#### Objective 5: Maintain and enhance the tranquillity of the National Park

Approach:

1. Conserve the most tranquil and remote areas of the National Park and reduce fragmentation of these areas where possible.
2. Reduce the impacts of noise, visual intrusion and inappropriate activity on tranquillity generally.
3. Improve the quality of the 'dark skies' of the National Park.

9. Promote sustainable tourism	+	Approach 1 – maintaining and enhancing the tranquillity of the park will help to preserve its attractiveness to tourists who wish to enjoy tranquil and remote areas of the park. The focus of the Management Plan is to ensure that tourism has a low impact on the environment rather than to promote higher levels of tourism.
10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	O	
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	+	Approach 2 - Reducing visual intrusion is likely to offer some benefits in relation to maintaining and creating high quality landscapes and townscapes.
12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	+	Approach 2 - Reducing visual intrusion is likely to offer some benefits in relation to maintaining and enhancing local heritage such as historic landscapes, conservation areas and listed buildings.
13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	O	
14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	O	
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	O	

#### SUMMARY

Minor benefits are likely in relation to improving health and well-being through reducing the impacts of noise, while conserving tranquil areas of the Park will enable its quiet enjoyment for residents and visitors.

Reducing visual intrusion is likely to offer minor benefits in relation to maintaining and creating high quality landscapes and townscapes and maintaining and enhancing local heritage such as historic landscapes, conservation areas and listed buildings.

	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Conserve the most tranquil and remote areas of the National Park and reduce fragmentation of these areas where possible.	Objective 4 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 9 – beneficial effects	+/-	None

### Safeguarding tranquillity

#### Objective 5: Maintain and enhance the tranquillity of the National Park

Approach:

1. Conserve the most tranquil and remote areas of the National Park and reduce fragmentation of these areas where possible.
2. Reduce the impacts of noise, visual intrusion and inappropriate activity on tranquillity generally.
3. Improve the quality of the 'dark skies' of the National Park.

2. Reduce the impacts of noise, visual intrusion and inappropriate activity generally.	Objective 2 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 10 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 11 – minor benefits	+	None
3. Improve the quality of the 'dark skies' of the National Park.	No effects	O	None

### Understanding the special qualities

#### Objective 6: Achieve a shared understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park by local people, visitors and organisations

Approach:

1. Raising awareness about the special qualities of the New Forest in a consistent and co-ordinated way.
2. Promoting 'Caring for the Forest' messages, linked to the special qualities, incorporating them into a wide range of publications and other media.
3. Developing sensitive and innovative forms of interpretation which add to the appreciation and enjoyment of the National Park, while minimising the need for additional signage.
4. Supporting educational activities that are linked to the special qualities of the Forest for both academic purposes and enjoyment.
5. Developing a co-ordinated and accessible system for holding technical information about the National Park, for use by land managers, organisations and local communities.

Sustainability Objectives		Comments
1. Provide a safe and secure environment	O	
2. Improve health and well being	O	
3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	O	
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	+	Approach 4 - Supporting education about the Forest for academic purposes and enjoyment is likely to offer benefits in relation to meeting educational needs of communities and visitors.
5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	O	



### *Understanding the special qualities*

#### **Objective 6: Achieve a shared understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park by local people, visitors and organisations**

Approach:

1. Raising awareness about the special qualities of the New Forest in a consistent and co-ordinated way.
2. Promoting 'Caring for the Forest' messages, linked to the special qualities, incorporating them into a wide range of publications and other media.
3. Developing sensitive and innovative forms of interpretation which add to the appreciation and enjoyment of the National Park, while minimising the need for additional signage.
4. Supporting educational activities that are linked to the special qualities of the Forest for both academic purposes and enjoyment.
5. Developing a co-ordinated and accessible system for holding technical information about the National Park, for use by land managers, organisations and local communities.

6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	O	
7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	O	
8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	O	
9. Promote sustainable tourism	+	Approach 1 - There is the potential for the promotion of sustainable tourism through raising awareness of the special qualities of the New Forest.
10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	O	
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	O	
12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	O	

### Understanding the special qualities

#### Objective 6: Achieve a shared understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park by local people, visitors and organisations

##### Approach:

1. Raising awareness about the special qualities of the New Forest in a consistent and co-ordinated way.
2. Promoting 'Caring for the Forest' messages, linked to the special qualities, incorporating them into a wide range of publications and other media.
3. Developing sensitive and innovative forms of interpretation which add to the appreciation and enjoyment of the National Park, while minimising the need for additional signage.
4. Supporting educational activities that are linked to the special qualities of the Forest for both academic purposes and enjoyment.
5. Developing a co-ordinated and accessible system for holding technical information about the National Park, for use by land managers, organisations and local communities.

13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	O	
14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	O	
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	O	

### SUMMARY

There are likely to be minor benefits associated with this Approach in relation to meeting education needs through supporting education about the Forest for academic purposes and enjoyment. There is also the potential for minor benefits in terms of promoting sustainable tourism through raising awareness of the special qualities of the New Forest.

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Raising awareness about the special qualities of the New Forest in a consistent and co-ordinated way.	Objective 9 – minor benefits	+	None
2. Promoting 'Caring for the Forest' messages, linked to the special qualities, incorporating them into a wide range of publications and other media.	No effects	O	None
3. Developing sensitive and innovative forms of interpretation which add to the appreciation and enjoyment of the National Park, while minimising the need for additional signage.	No effects	O	None
4. Supporting education activities that are linked to the special qualities for the Forest for both academic purposes and enjoyment.	Objective 4 – minor benefits	+	None
5. Developing a co-ordinated and accessible system for holding technical information about the National Park, for use by land managers, organisations and local communities.	No effects	O	None

## Enjoying the National Park

### Objective 7: Enhance people's enjoyment and quality of experience of the National Park, while safeguarding the special qualities of the area

#### Approach:

1. Improving understanding of the current and likely recreational demand, and the impacts of recreation on the National Park's special qualities.
2. Raising awareness about the sensitive environment and the working nature of the New Forest through direct contact with the public and working closely with user groups.
3. Provide opportunities for safe access, including a more joined-up network of core routes into and within the National Park.
4. Ensuring new recreational facilities are designed and located to avoid impacts on the special qualities of the area, including the designated nature conservation sites and the most tranquil areas.
5. Enabling the involvement of under-represented groups who feel the National Park provides few opportunities for them, or who feel excluded due to cost, lack of transport or other barriers.
6. Encouraging a high standard of services and well-designed and maintained facilities for visitors within the National Park.
7. Maintaining a clean and litter-free National Park.

Sustainability Objectives		
1. Provide a safe and secure environment	+	Approach 3 - There is the potential to offer minor benefits in relation to improving road safety for all users.
2. Improve health and well being	+	Approach 3 - There is the potential to offer minor benefits in relation to encouraging walking and cycling through providing opportunities for safer and easier access to and within the Park.
3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	O	
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	+	Approach 4 - There is the potential for an indirect benefit in relation to enabling the quiet enjoyment of the Park through ensuring that new recreational facilities are designed and located to avoid impacts on the most tranquil areas.
5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	+	Approach 3 - There is the potential for a minor benefit in relation to ensuring that transport infrastructure serves local needs through providing opportunities for safer and easier access to and within the Park by making existing rights of way and roads safer and more user friendly and developing a linked network of core routes.
6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	O	

### Enjoying the National Park

#### Objective 7: Enhance people's enjoyment and quality of experience of the National Park, while safeguarding the special qualities of the area

##### Approach:

1. Improving understanding of the current and likely recreational demand, and the impacts of recreation on the National Park's special qualities.
2. Raising awareness about the sensitive environment and the working nature of the New Forest through direct contact with the public and working closely with user groups.
3. Provide opportunities for safe access, including a more joined-up network of core routes into and within the National Park.
4. Ensuring new recreational facilities are designed and located to avoid impacts on the special qualities of the area, including the designated nature conservation sites and the most tranquil areas.
5. Enabling the involvement of under-represented groups who feel the National Park provides few opportunities for them, or who feel excluded due to cost, lack of transport or other barriers.
6. Encouraging a high standard of services and well-designed and maintained facilities for visitors within the National Park.
7. Maintaining a clean and litter-free National Park.

7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	O	
8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	O	
9. Promote sustainable tourism	+	<p>Approach 6 - Encouraging a high standard of services and facilities for visitors will help maintain a viable tourist economy.</p> <p>Approach 1 - Improving the understanding of the likely future recreational demand and the impacts of recreation on the Park's special qualities will contribute towards ensuring that tourist/visitor pressure does not harm the environment of the Park.</p> <p>Approach 4 - Designing and locating new recreational facilities to avoid impacts on the special qualities of the area will also contribute towards this.</p>
10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	+	<p>Approach 4 - Minor benefits are likely through locating and designing new recreational facilities to avoid impacts on designated nature conservation sites.</p>
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	O	
12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	O	

### Enjoying the National Park

#### Objective 7: Enhance people's enjoyment and quality of experience of the National Park, while safeguarding the special qualities of the area

##### Approach:

1. Improving understanding of the current and likely recreational demand, and the impacts of recreation on the National Park's special qualities.
2. Raising awareness about the sensitive environment and the working nature of the New Forest through direct contact with the public and working closely with user groups.
3. Provide opportunities for safe access, including a more joined-up network of core routes into and within the National Park.
4. Ensuring new recreational facilities are designed and located to avoid impacts on the special qualities of the area, including the designated nature conservation sites and the most tranquil areas.
5. Enabling the involvement of under-represented groups who feel the National Park provides few opportunities for them, or who feel excluded due to cost, lack of transport or other barriers.
6. Encouraging a high standard of services and well-designed and maintained facilities for visitors within the National Park.
7. Maintaining a clean and litter-free National Park.

13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	O	
14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	O	
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	+	Approach 3 – There is the potential for minor benefits through providing opportunities for safer and easier access to and within the Park. This could encourage people to utilise modes of transport other than the car.

### SUMMARY

This Approach offers potential benefits in relation to providing a safe and secure environment through providing opportunities for safer and easier access to and within the Park. This also provides opportunities for improving health and well-being through encouraging walking and cycling and offers the potential to minimise factors contributing to climate change. There is the potential for an indirect benefit in relation to enabling the quiet enjoyment of the Park through ensuring that new recreational facilities are designed and located to avoid impacts on the most tranquil areas. Ensuring that transport infrastructure serves local needs through providing opportunities for safer and easier access to and within the Park by making existing rights of way and roads safer and more user friendly and developing a linked network of core routes is also likely to offer minor benefits. Nature conservation interests will be maintained through locating and designing new recreational facilities to avoid impacts upon them.

Minor benefits are likely in relation to maintaining a viable tourist economy by encouraging a high standard of services and facilities for visitors. Improving the understanding of the likely future recreational demand and the impacts of recreation on the Park's special qualities will contribute towards ensuring that tourist/visitor pressure does not harm the environment of the Park. Similarly, designing and locating new recreational facilities to avoid impacts on the special qualities of the area will also contribute towards this.

## Enjoying the National Park

### Objective 7: Enhance people's enjoyment and quality of experience of the National Park, while safeguarding the special qualities of the area

#### Approach:

1. Improving understanding of the current and likely recreational demand, and the impacts of recreation on the National Park's special qualities.
2. Raising awareness about the sensitive environment and the working nature of the New Forest through direct contact with the public and working closely with user groups.
3. Provide opportunities for safe access, including a more joined-up network of core routes into and within the National Park.
4. Ensuring new recreational facilities are designed and located to avoid impacts on the special qualities of the area, including the designated nature conservation sites and the most tranquil areas.
5. Enabling the involvement of under-represented groups who feel the National Park provides few opportunities for them, or who feel excluded due to cost, lack of transport or other barriers.
6. Encouraging a high standard of services and well-designed and maintained facilities for visitors within the National Park.
7. Maintaining a clean and litter-free National Park.

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1 Improving understanding of the current and likely future recreational demand, and the impacts of recreation on the National Park's special qualities.	Objective 9 – minor benefits	+	None
2 Raising awareness about the sensitive environment and the working nature of the New Forest through direct contact with the public and working closely with user groups.	No effects	O	None
3 Provide opportunities for safe access, including a more joined-up network of core routes into and within the national park.	Objective 1 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 2 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 5 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 15 – minor benefits	+	None
4 Ensuring recreational facilities are designed and located to avoid impacts on the special qualities of the area, including designated nature conservation sites and the most tranquil areas.	Objective 4 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 9 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 10 – minor benefits	+	None
5 Enabling the involvement of under-represented groups who feel the National Park provides few opportunities for them, or who feel excluded due to cost, lack of transport or other barriers.	No effects	O	None
6 Encouraging a high standard of services and well-designed and maintained facilities for visitors within the National Park.	Objective 9 – minor benefits	+	None
7 Maintain a clean and litter-free National Park	No effects	O	None

### Supporting local communities

#### Objective 8: Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area

##### Approach:

1. Maintaining and improving the range of community facilities and services that provide for the needs of local people and contribute to the vitality of village life.
2. Providing more affordable housing for local people with housing needs and addressing the particular housing requirements of commoners.
3. Supporting communities in developing proposals for their area and undertaking practical projects to improve the quality of village life and the local environment.
4. Encouraging local communities to record, celebrate and promote interest in their local culture, traditions and heritage.

Sustainability Objectives		
1. Provide a safe and secure environment	O	
2. Improve health and well being	+	Approach 1 - Improving the range of community facilities and services has the potential to improve health and well-being through the provision of additional health and leisure facilities.
3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	+	Approach 2 – providing for affordable housing is especially important as the average cost of housing in the Park is well beyond most local people can afford.
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	+	Approach 4- encouraging locals to record, celebrate and promote interest in their local culture and heritage has a beneficial effect on meeting the cultural needs of the community
5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	+	Approach 1 – can contribute towards meeting local community need
6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	++	Together, Approaches 1, 3 and 4 can help promote economic growth by making the New Forest an attractive place to live, work and visit by contributing to its vitality which turn can attract small businesses (shops, post offices etc) and more visitors
7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	++	Together, Approaches 1, 3 and 4 can help sustain a healthy economy by making the New Forest an attractive place to live, work and visit by contributing to its vitality which turn can attract small businesses (shops, post offices etc) and more visitors



### Supporting local communities

#### Objective 8: Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area

##### Approach:

1. Maintaining and improving the range of community facilities and services that provide for the needs of local people and contribute to the vitality of village life.
2. Providing more affordable housing for local people with housing needs and addressing the particular housing requirements of commoners.
3. Supporting communities in developing proposals for their area and undertaking practical projects to improve the quality of village life and the local environment.
4. Encouraging local communities to record, celebrate and promote interest in their local culture, traditions and heritage.

8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	+	Approach 1- seeks to maintain a range of community services to provide for local needs this is taken to include shopping provision
9. Promote sustainable tourism	+	Approach 4 – encouraging the local community to participate in cultural activities can help promote tourism
10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	0	
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	0	
12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	+	Approach 4 - There is the potential for an indirect benefit through promoting interest in local culture, traditions and heritage.
13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	0	
14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	0	
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	+	Approach 1 - Making local provision for services could potentially reduce the distances people travel to access services especially by car thereby minimising GHG emissions

### Supporting local communities

#### Objective 8: Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area

##### Approach:

1. Maintaining and improving the range of community facilities and services that provide for the needs of local people and contribute to the vitality of village life.
2. Providing more affordable housing for local people with housing needs and addressing the particular housing requirements of commoners.
3. Supporting communities in developing proposals for their area and undertaking practical projects to improve the quality of village life and the local environment.
4. Encouraging local communities to record, celebrate and promote interest in their local culture, traditions and heritage.

#### SUMMARY

Improving the range of community facilities and services has the potential to improve health and well-being through the provision of additional health and leisure facilities. There is the potential for an indirect benefit in relation to maintaining local heritage and culture through promoting interest in local culture, traditions and heritage.

Together Approaches 1, 3 and 4 can help promote economic growth by making the New Forest an attractive place to live, work and visit by contributing to its vitality which turn can attract small businesses (shops, post offices etc) and more visitors

Approach	Assessment Summary	Mitigation
1. Maintaining and improving the range of community facilities and services that provide for the needs of local people and contribute to the vitality of village life	Objective 2, 6, 7 and 15 – This Approach supports health and well being of local people, may lead to economic benefits by retaining local services contributing to a thriving rural economy. Making local provision can also help reduce distances people travel by car to access services thereby reducing GHG emissions.	++ None
2. Providing more affordable housing for local people with housing needs and address the particular housing requirements of commoners	Objective 3 – beneficial effects on making provision for affordable housing	+ None
3. Supporting communities in developing proposals for their area and undertaking practical projects to improve the quality of village life and the local environment	Objectives 6 & 7 – This Approach can help in creating local businesses and therefore contribute to the local economy	+ None
4. Encouraging local communities to record, celebrate and promote interest in their local culture, traditions and heritage	Objective 4 & 12 – this Approach supports cultural activities and can help raise cultural awareness amongst the local communities	+ None

### ***Fostering economic well-being***

#### **Objective 9: Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well-being of local communities**

Approach:

1. Providing the conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people throughout the National Park, where these do not compromise the special qualities of area.
2. Giving particular encouragement to businesses that help to supply services for rural communities, promote local distinctiveness, maintain the land-based economy or contribute and use local produce or products.
3. Supporting businesses to develop ways of reducing their environmental impact using sustainable technologies and practices.
4. Supporting training and co-ordinated business advice relevant to the area.
5. Strengthening the New Forest's role at the forefront of sustainable tourism.
6. Developing stronger links with the business community and partnerships.

Sustainability Objectives		
1. Provide a safe and secure environment	O	
2. Improve health and well being	O	
3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	O	
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	O	
5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	O	
6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	++	<p>Approach 1 - Providing the conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people will contribute towards the provision of diverse employment opportunities.</p> <p>Approach 2 - greater use of the New Forest goods and services can help support a thriving local economy</p>

**Fostering economic well-being**

**Objective 9: Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well-being of local communities**

Approach:

1. Providing the conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people throughout the National Park, where these do not compromise the special qualities of area.
2. Giving particular encouragement to businesses that help to supply services for rural communities, promote local distinctiveness, maintain the land-based economy or contribute and use local produce or products.
3. Supporting businesses to develop ways of reducing their environmental impact using sustainable technologies and practices.
4. Supporting training and co-ordinated business advice relevant to the area.
5. Strengthening the New Forest's role at the forefront of sustainable tourism.
6. Developing stronger links with the business community and partnerships.

7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	++	<p>Approach 1- Providing the conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people will contribute towards the provision of diverse employment opportunities and a thriving rural economy</p> <p>Approach 2- greater use of the New Forest goods and services can help support a thriving economy. Providing encouragement to businesses that maintain the land-based economy has the potential to contribute towards supporting commoning and Forest-related enterprise and enabling farm diversification.</p>
8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	0	
9. Promote sustainable tourism	+	<p>Approach 5 - Strengthening the Park's role at the forefront of sustainable tourism is likely to offer benefits in relation to maintaining a viable tourist economy.</p>
10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	0	
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	0	
12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	0	
13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	0	

### ***Fostering economic well-being***

#### **Objective 9: Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well-being of local communities**

##### **Approach:**

1. Providing the conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people throughout the National Park, where these do not compromise the special qualities of area.
2. Giving particular encouragement to businesses that help to supply services for rural communities, promote local distinctiveness, maintain the land-based economy or contribute and use local produce or products.
3. Supporting businesses to develop ways of reducing their environmental impact using sustainable technologies and practices.
4. Supporting training and co-ordinated business advice relevant to the area.
5. Strengthening the New Forest's role at the forefront of sustainable tourism.
6. Developing stronger links with the business community and partnerships.

14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	O	
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	+	Approach 1- creating local business opportunities can help reduce the distances people travel for jobs thereby reducing their GHG emissions especially if they travel by car

### **SUMMARY**

It is anticipated that the Approaches will have a beneficial effect on the health of the local economy of the National Park. The Approaches will provide conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people.

There are likely to be benefits associated with providing encouragement to businesses that maintain the land-based economy in relation to supporting commoning and Forest-related enterprise and enabling farm diversification. Strengthening the Park's role at the forefront of sustainable tourism is likely to facilitate tourism in the National Park to have a low impact on the natural environment. This is likely to contribute to maintaining a viable tourism economy by ensuring that the attractions of the National Park are preserved and damage is prevented.

Approach	Appraisal Summary		Mitigation
1. Providing the conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people throughout the National Park, where these do not compromise the special qualities of area.	Objective 6, 7 & 15 – This Approach will contribute to a growth in the local economy as well as reducing the need to travel far thereby having potential beneficial effects on climate change mitigation.	++	None
2. Giving particular encouragement to businesses that help to supply services for rural communities, promote local distinctiveness, maintain the land-based economy or contribute and use local produce or products.	Objectives 6 & 7 - greater use of the New Forest goods and services can help support a thriving economy	+	None

### **Fostering economic well-being**

#### **Objective 9: Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well-being of local communities**

##### Approach:

1. Providing the conditions to encourage a wide variety of business opportunities and employment for local people throughout the National Park, where these do not compromise the special qualities of area.
2. Giving particular encouragement to businesses that help to supply services for rural communities, promote local distinctiveness, maintain the land-based economy or contribute and use local produce or products.
3. Supporting businesses to develop ways of reducing their environmental impact using sustainable technologies and practices.
4. Supporting training and co-ordinated business advice relevant to the area.
5. Strengthening the New Forest's role at the forefront of sustainable tourism.
6. Developing stronger links with the business community and partnerships.

3. Supporting businesses to develop ways of reducing their environmental impact using sustainable technologies and practices.	No effects	O	This Approach has potential to lead to beneficial effects especially with regard to climate change but more details on the general types of technologies and practices is required in order to understand the benefits
4. Supporting training and co-ordinated business advice relevant to the area.	No effects	O	None
5. Strengthening the New Forest's role at the forefront of sustainable tourism.	Objective 9 – beneficial effects on supporting sustainable tourism	+	None
6. Developing stronger links with the business community and partnerships.	No effects	O	None

### **Improving Traffic and Transport**

#### **Objective 10: Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provide a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park**

##### Approach:

1. Influencing regional and national transport policies in order to minimise impacts on the National Park and, where possible, achieve benefits for the area.
2. Helping to reduce the number of animal accidents on roads within the National Park.
3. Developing a distinctive and different experience for those travelling within the National Park which clearly indicates its special and protected status.
4. Promoting measures to reducing the impacts of road traffic on the quality of life of local communities and the environmental quality of the National Park.
5. Supporting an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths and cycling and riding routes designed to meet the needs of both residents and visitors.

Sustainability Objectives		
1. Provide a safe and secure environment	+	Approach 2 - The aim to reduce the number of animal accidents on roads within the National Park is likely to contribute towards improving road safety.
2. Improve health and well being	+	Approach 4 - Reducing the impact of road traffic on the quality of life of local communities is likely to reduce noise pollution and contribute towards improving the well-being of visitors and residents. Approach 5 - Developing an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths and cycle routes should encourage walking and cycling.

### Improving Traffic and Transport

#### Objective 10: Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provide a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park

##### Approach:

1. Influencing regional and national transport policies in order to minimise impacts on the National Park and, where possible, achieve benefits for the area.
2. Helping to reduce the number of animal accidents on roads within the National Park.
3. Developing a distinctive and different experience for those travelling within the National Park which clearly indicates its special and protected status.
4. Promoting measures to reducing the impacts of road traffic on the quality of life of local communities and the environmental quality of the National Park.
5. Supporting an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths and cycling and riding routes designed to meet the needs of both residents and visitors.

3. Make sustainable provision to meet housing needs and requirements	O	
4. Meet educational, leisure and cultural needs of community and visitors	O	
5. Meet local community needs for essential utilities and transport infrastructure having regard to environmental constraints	+	Approach 5 - Developing an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths and cycle routes will offer benefits in relation to meeting local community needs for transport infrastructure.
6. Facilitate a sustainable and growing economy that creates economic and employment opportunity while making full use of the area's assets.	O	
7. Ensure a thriving rural economy	O	
8. Ensure adequate shopping provision and vitality and viability of town centres	O	
9. Promote sustainable tourism	O	



### Improving Traffic and Transport

#### Objective 10: Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provide a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park

##### Approach:

1. Influencing regional and national transport policies in order to minimise impacts on the National Park and, where possible, achieve benefits for the area.
2. Helping to reduce the number of animal accidents on roads within the National Park.
3. Developing a distinctive and different experience for those travelling within the National Park which clearly indicates its special and protected status.
4. Promoting measures to reducing the impacts of road traffic on the quality of life of local communities and the environmental quality of the National Park.
5. Supporting an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths and cycling and riding routes designed to meet the needs of both residents and visitors.

10. Maintain and enhance local, national and international nature conservation interests	O	
11. Maintain, enhance and create high quality landscape, townscape and seascape	O	
12. Maintain and enhance local heritage and culture	O	
13. Prevent pollution, and maintain and enhance the quality of air, water and soil	+	Approach 4 - Reducing the impacts of road traffic on the environmental quality of the National Park offers opportunities to reduce air and noise pollution. However, the effects are likely to be minor given the magnitude of the issue.
14. Encourage sustainable use of resources	O	
15. Minimise factors contributing to climate change	+	Approach 5 - Developing an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths and cycle routes will offer opportunities to reduce the need to travel by car and encourage the use of alternative modes of transport.

### SUMMARY

The aim to reduce the number of animal accidents on roads within the National Park is likely to contribute towards improving road safety. Reducing the impact of road traffic on the quality of life of local communities is likely to reduce noise pollution and contribute towards improving the well-being of visitors and residents, while offering opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the National Park in terms of air and noise pollution. Developing an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths, cycling and riding routes should encourage walking, cycling and riding and contribute towards meeting local community needs for transport infrastructure. It is also likely to offer opportunities to reduce the need to travel by car and encourage the use of alternative modes of transport, thus contributing towards minimising factors contributing to climate change.

Approach	Appraisal Summary	Mitigation
----------	-------------------	------------

### Improving Traffic and Transport

#### Objective 10: Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provide a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park

##### Approach:

1. Influencing regional and national transport policies in order to minimise impacts on the National Park and, where possible, achieve benefits for the area.
2. Helping to reduce the number of animal accidents on roads within the National Park.
3. Developing a distinctive and different experience for those travelling within the National Park which clearly indicates its special and protected status.
4. Promoting measures to reducing the impacts of road traffic on the quality of life of local communities and the environmental quality of the National Park.
5. Supporting an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths and cycling and riding routes designed to meet the needs of both residents and visitors.

1. Influencing regional and national transport policies in order to minimise impacts on the National Park and, where possible, achieve benefits for the area.	No effects	O	None
2. Helping to reducing the number of animal accidents on roads within the National Park.	Objective 1 – minor benefits	+	None
3. Developing a distinctive and different experience for those travelling within the National Park which clearly indicates its special and protected status.	No effects	O	None
4. Promoting measures to reduce the impacts of road traffic on the quality of life of local communities and the environmental quality of the National Park.	Objective 2 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 13 – minor benefits	+	None
5. Supporting an integrated network of public and community transport, footpaths and cycling and riding routes designed to meet the needs of both residents and visitors.	Objective 2 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 5 – minor benefits	+	None
	Objective 15 – minor benefits	+	None