



**New Forest National Park Design Guide SPD (December 2011)**

The NPPF confirms Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues “such as design”. The National Park Authority has adopted a number of SPDs to add further detail to policies within the statutory development plan.

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) section on ‘Plan-making’ provides further guidance on the role of SPDs, stating:

- SPDs should build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted development plan.
- As they do not form part of the development plan, they cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan.
- They are however a ‘material consideration’ in planning decision-making.

Planning case law confirms that the weight afforded to SPDs by the decision-maker (whether that is Authority officers for delegated decisions, members of the Authority’s Planning Committee or the Planning Inspectorate for appeals) is proportionate to the degree of consistency between the SPD and the statutory development plan policies.

At the full National Park Authority meeting on 10 October 2019, members unanimously endorsed a [report](#) setting out the weight to be afforded to adopted SPDs as material considerations in future planning decisions. It was resolved that the *New Forest National Park Design Guide SPD* (December 2011) can continue to be given full weight as a material planning consideration, as set out below.

<i>New Forest National Park Design Guide SPD (adopted December 2011)</i>	
Main Core Strategy policy ‘hooks’	Policy DP1: General development principles Policy CP5: Renewable energy Policy DP6: Design principles Policy CP7: The built environment Policy CP8: Local distinctiveness Policy DP9: Residential density in the defined villages Policy DP10: Replacement dwellings Policy DP11: Extensions to dwellings Policy DP12: Outbuildings
Main Local Plan (2019) policy ‘hooks’	Policy DP2: General development principles Policy SP14: Renewable energy Policy SP16: The historic and built environment Policy SP17: Local distinctiveness Policy DP18: Design principles Policy DP34: Residential character of the defined villages Policy DP35: Replacement dwellings Policy DP36: Extensions to dwellings Policy DP37: Outbuildings

<p>Conclusion on weight</p>	<p>The Design Guide is one the key SPDs for the National Park. The Local Plan (August 2019) continues to place a strong emphasis on the importance of good design and reinforcing local distinctiveness. This is reflected in the range of relevant policies covering these areas and strategic objective 2 (page 23), which highlights the importance of conserving and enhancing the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute towards the local distinctiveness of the New Forest. The NPPF (2019) emphasises the importance of good design, with paragraph 130 referring specifically to local design guides in SPDs.</p> <p>Given the consistency between the new Local Plan (2019) policies and those in the previous Core Strategy (2010), it is concluded that the <i>Design Guide SPD</i> should continue to be given full weight as a material planning consideration.</p>
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New Forest National Park Authority  
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