

Further response to Inspectors' questions relating to New Forest National Park

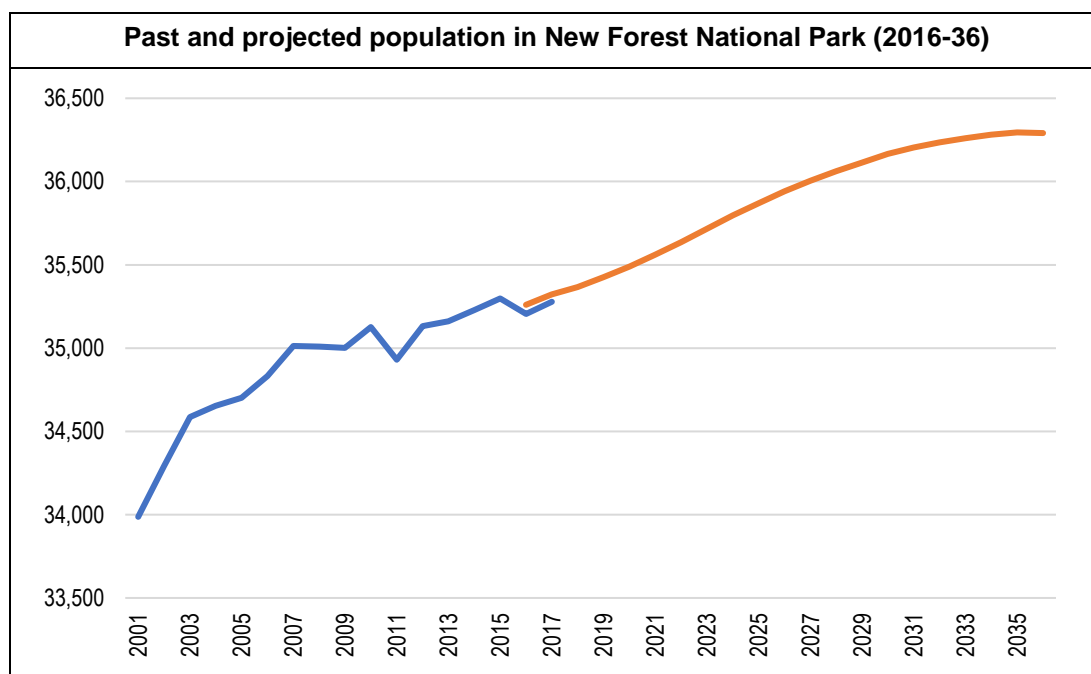
1. Could a version of Figure 2.1 (*Past and projected population growth – 2014-based SNPP – New Forest*) be produced that relates solely to the National Park area. Elsewhere the report states that population growth in the National Park has been quite modest (growth of just 1.7% over the 2005-15 decade – paragraph 5.50).

NOTE: ONS does not publish population projections for National Parks and so the data below looks at past trends and the core projection (10-year population trends) as developed by JGC.

The figure below shows estimated population growth from 2001 to 2017 (the longest time series available). This confirms the 1.7% population growth in the 2005-15 period; the last 10-years (2007-17) shows lower growth (of 0.8%). The rate of population growth in the Park has been relatively steady over the period since 2003. The New Forest National Park was designated in 2005.

The figure also shows projected growth in the period to 2036 – in the modelling, this is projected to be around 2.9% (just over 1,000 additional people). This figure (2.9%) is slightly lower than the growth in the 2005-15 period due to an adjustment made to recognise slightly lower growth across the District when using data for the 2006-16 ten-year period (data for this period was not available for National Parks at the time of drafting the OAN report).

In identifying an OAN for the National Park, the positive level of population growth should be noted. For example, in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan Inspectors Report, the Inspector highlighted concerns about identifying an OAN figure that would lead to a decline in the Park's population (see paragraphs 41 – 49 of the [Inspector's report](#)). In comparison, the figure below relating specifically to the New Forest National Park indicates a positive population growth level based on the OAN figure identified, rather than a decline which is the concern in other National Parks.



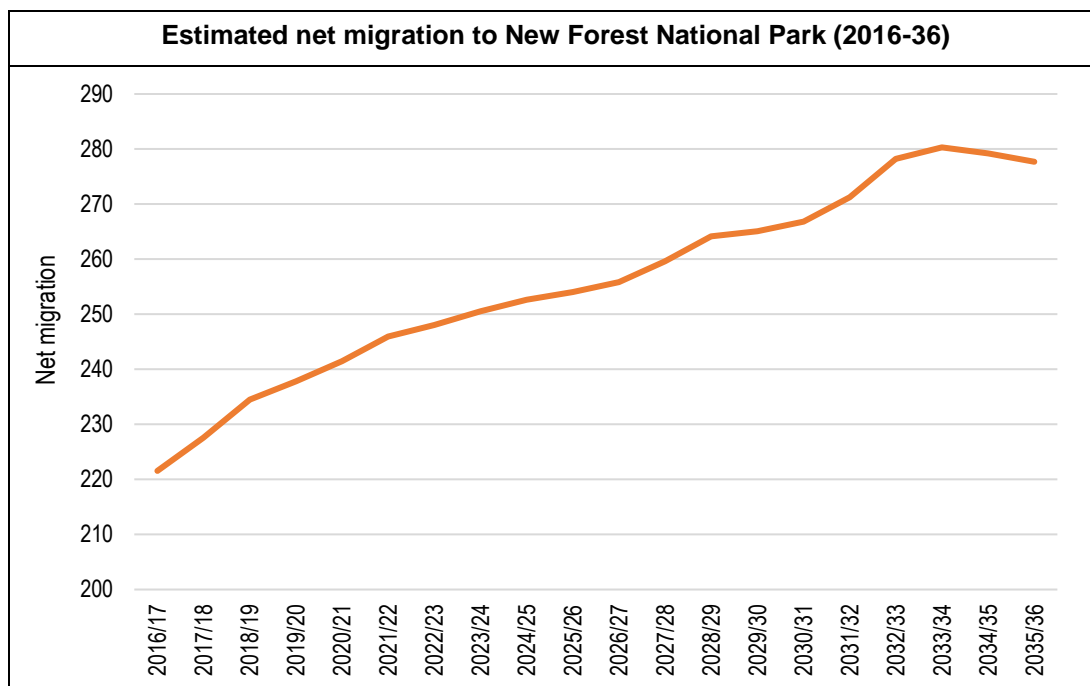
Source: ONS and JGC projections

2. Could a version of Figure 2.2 (Net migration to New Forest – trend and projection (2001-36)) be produced that relates solely to the National Park area

Unfortunately, it is not possible to specifically disaggregate this. ONS do not publish data on net migration specifically for National Park geographies – see email correspondence enclosed.

However, it is possible to show the net migration estimated in the projections developed by JGC (linked to 10-year population trends) and this is shown in the figure below. This shows net migration generally increasing over time – over the full 2016-36 period, it is estimated that net migration to the National Park would average just over 250 people per annum.

A rising level of net migration moving forward in the National Park is consistent with projections for the New Forest District area (see Figure 2.2 of the OAN report) – albeit the past data tends to show a declining trend. The rising ‘trend’ is based on ONS data which considers interactions between areas, and is likely to be a function of an older population in the District (and also the National Park) – essentially as population grows in areas outside of the District there are more potential migrants to the areas, whilst on the other hand, with older people being less migrant, an ageing population sees the scope for out-migration reduce slightly. Within the modelling (specifically for the National Park), it is the case that in-migration is projected to rise and out-migration to decline – this drives the projected increase moving forward.



Source: JGC projections

From: justin@justingardnerconsulting.co.uk [<mailto:justin@justingardnerconsulting.co.uk>]

Sent: 05 July 2016 15:27

To: Pop Info <pop.info@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Components of change

Dear Tony

I have another query: I see that you provide MYE for National Parks and wondered if you also provide any components of change data to sit behind this?

Best wishes

Justin

Dear Justin

Thank you for your enquiry.

I'm afraid that we do not provide components of change for National Parks.

The following [link](#) will give you access to the Quality and Methodology Information document which gives information about the methodology used to create small area population estimates.

If you require anything further please contact us.

Regards

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3. Could a version of Figure 3.10 (*Estimated change to the economically active population (2016-36)*) be produced solely for the National Park area.

Taking account of the age structure of the Park's population, the demographic modelling indicates that over the plan period the economically active population within the Park would fall, as shown in the chart below. This is influenced by the age structure of the population within the Park boundary.

However as explained at the hearings there are clear economic interrelationships between the National Park and urban areas which lie just beyond its boundary, such as Totton and the Waterside, Ringwood, Lymington, Milford-on-Sea and Christchurch; the National Park boundary being defined to exclude these areas. The decline in the economically active population should therefore be seen in the context of the combined New Forest figure (i.e. District and National Park) which indicates an increase in the overall level of economically active people of over 4,000 people.

Estimated change to the economically active population (2016-36) – New Forest National Park				
	Change in working-age economically active	Change in pensionable age economically active	Total change in economically active	Per annum change
10-year population trends	-1,652	1,002	-650	-32

Source: Derived from demographic projections

As set out in the 2010 National Park's Circular, the NPA's duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities is expected to be achieved through the delivery of the statutory purposes to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities by the public. The Circular sets out that by harnessing the economy to environmental ends, tangible economic benefits can be achieved through the delivery of the statutory purposes.

The policy framework for national parks does not imply that workforce growth must be supported per se; and the Authority notes the evidence points to significant net out-commuting from New Forest District. Previous work and analysis (e.g. SHMA, 2014, GL Hearn) indicates that there are strong commuting links between the Park and adjoining urban areas beyond the National Park boundary. The NPPG recognises that economies operate across administrative boundaries and the JGC report highlights that the New Forest as whole will see a positive increase in its economically active population. It is also not considered to be appropriate to increase housing targets to meet economic driven scenarios in a nationally protected landscape.