



- 220 square miles
- 34,000 residents
- 2,500 businesses
- Over 600 nationally listed buildings
- Over 2,000 assets on the 'Local List'
- 20 Conservation Areas
- 56% designated as internationally important for nature conservation
- 15 million people within a 90 min drive

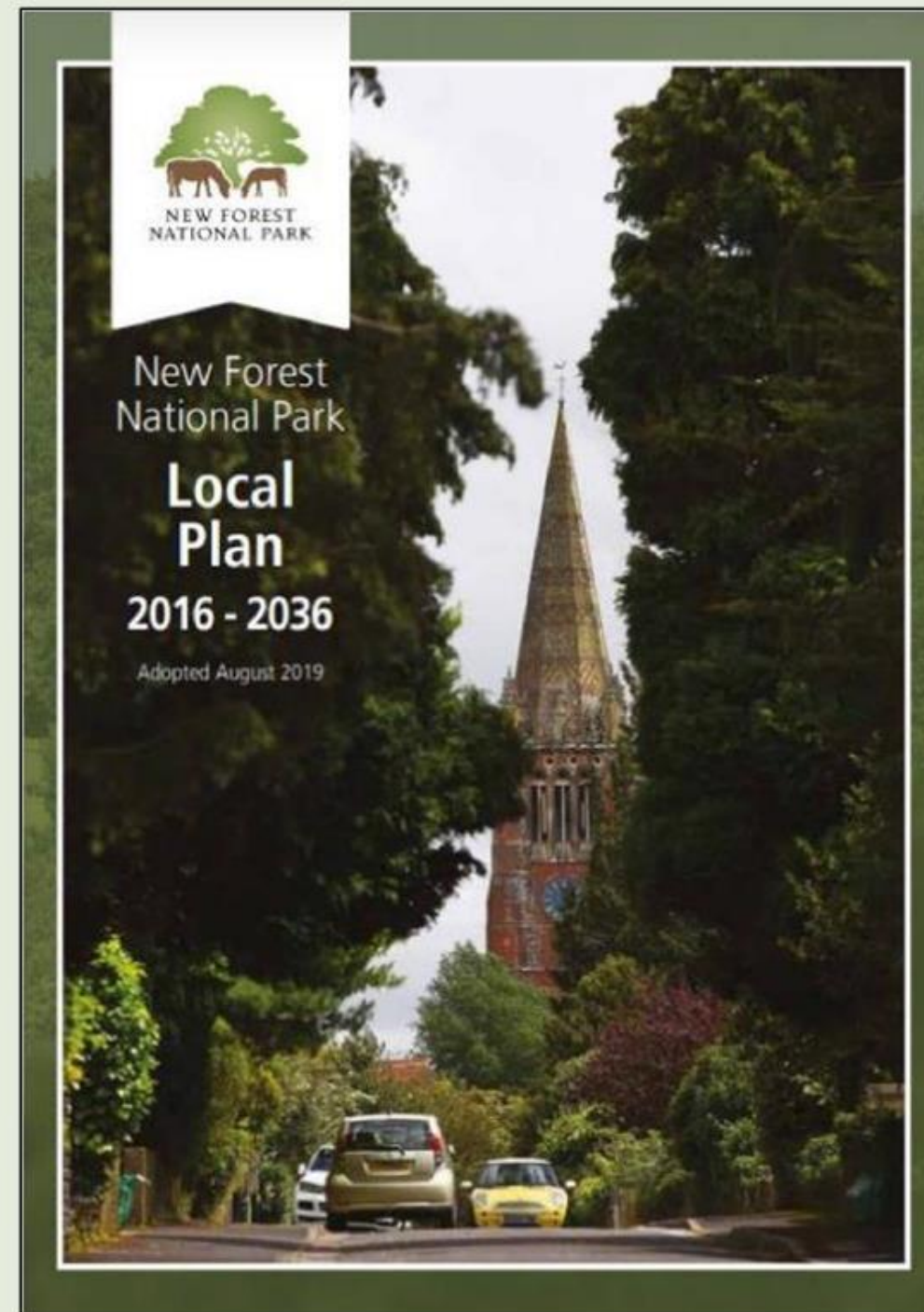
Authority Reports

March & July 2024

The current New Forest National Park Local Plan was adopted in August 2019 and so the 5-year adoption date was Summer 2024.

In March 2024 members considered report 675/24 and resolved to commence a partial review of the adopted New Forest National Park Local Plan (August 2019).

In July 2024 members considered report 684/24 which set out the timetable for the partial review in the form of an updated **Local Development Scheme (LDS)**.



Pillars of the current Local Plan (2019)

- The statutory purposes set out in National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 unaltered by recent national reforms.
- National planning policy continues to confirm that National Parks have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape & scenic beauty.
- Legal protections afforded to national & international nature conservation designations that comprise over 50% of the National Park remain.



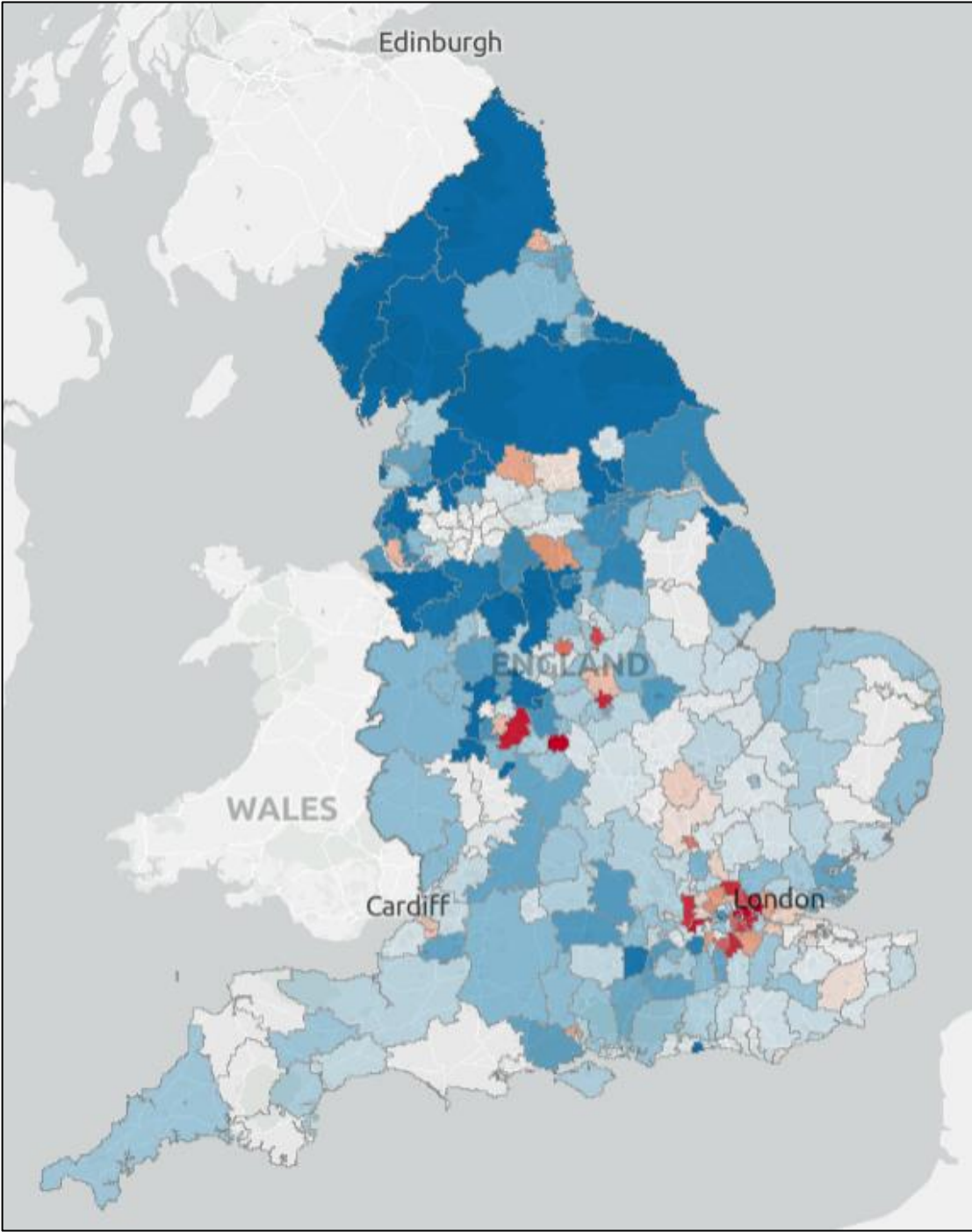
Updated NPPF (December 2024)

Key sections on National Parks

- **Paragraph 11, footnote 7** – recognise that National Park designation protects areas of particular importance and provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area.
- **Paragraphs 189 and 190** – confirm that National Parks have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic quality; and that the scale and extent of development within National Parks should be limited.
- **Footnote 66 reference to the National Parks Circular** – the Circular states, “The Government recognises that the Parks are not suitable locations for unrestricted housing and does not provide general housing targets for them.”

Areas identified as being ‘in scope’ for review

- The most appropriate way to address the nature and climate emergency; the introduction of mandatory BNG for certain developments; and the emerging LNRs for Hampshire & Wiltshire in the review of Local Plan.
- The local policy approach to supporting appropriate renewable energy proposals that do not conflict with the statutory National Park purposes.
- How the relative tranquillity of significant parts of the National Park – one of its defined ‘special qualities’ – can be conserved and enhanced
- The scope for new residential development within the National Park will be informed by the latest evidence on housing need. The adopted Local Plan (2019) includes a limited number of housing site allocations.



Local Authority	National Park	Housing Need Figure
Northumberland	Northumberland	1,649 dpa, up 200% from 549 dpa
Westmorland & Furness	Lake District	1,331 dpa, up 486% from 227 dpa
Cumberland	Lake District	1,105 dpa, up 353% from 244 dpa
North Yorkshire	Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors	4,077 dpa, up 199% from 1,361 dpa
Derbyshire Dales	Peak District	580 dpa, up 169% from 216 dpa
East Hampshire	South Downs	1,142 dpa, up 99% from 575 dpa
New Forest District	New Forest	1,501, up 106% from 729 dpa



New Forest National Park Local Plan Review 2025 - 2043

Regulation 18 (Part 1) Consultation - Strategic Direction of Travel

February 2025

Effectiveness of adopted Local Plan policies

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that Local Plans should be reviewed every five years to assess whether they require updating. We undertook a review in 2024 using a template produced by the Planning Advisory Service, to assess whether the policies in our adopted Local Plan still align with national planning policy. This forms the basis of the following assessment of the individual plan policies, but also incorporates consideration of the effectiveness of the policies based on evidence from the Authority's Annual Monitoring Reports and implementation of the policies through the development management process.

Whilst this assessment considers the existing policies in the adopted Local Plan, it should be noted that there may also be additional new policies required, particularly in light of emerging evidence base studies and further engagement with key organisations and local communities.

Review shows that the policy does not need to be updated.	Green
Review shows that the policy does need some slight amendments to reflect local or national policy.	Amber
Review shows that the policy requires more significant updates.	Red

Policy	Title	RAG status	Justification
SP1	Supporting sustainable development	Green	National policy continues to recognise the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies differently in National Parks. Policy SP1 supports sustainable development within the context of the statutory Park purposes and related duty. It is consistent with paragraph 11 and footnote 7 of the NPPF.
DP2	General development principles	Green	These key development principles remain appropriate for a nationally protected landscape, where small-scale incremental changes can affect landscape character, and continue to align with the NPPF.
SP3	Major development in the National Park	Green	Policy SP3 is consistent with national policy which reiterates that major development should only be supported in National Parks in 'exceptional circumstances', with the three tests in policy SP3 reflecting the NPPF.