



New Forest National Park Authority Local Plan Review February 2025

Call for sites for potential housing, employment and gypsy, traveller, or travelling showpeople and other uses

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the ‘Call for Sites’?

The ‘Call for Sites’ is part of a technical exercise to help identify land that has potential for housing, employment or for Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople and other uses. Landowners, developers and local communities are all invited to put forward sites that they wish to be considered for development and other uses – anyone can submit a site for consideration, it need not be in your ownership. The process enables the Authority to assess the availability of land for new development and other uses to meet the needs of the local communities living and working within the National Park. It forms part of the evidence base for the review of the New Forest National Park Local Plan.

What does a ‘Call for Sites’ and subsequent assessment do?

The process helps identify potential sites for housing, employment, Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and other uses and assesses whether these are suitable, available and achievable, what could be accommodated and the time frame for delivery.

As this is a technical process the review of sites is not open for public consultation – there will be opportunities for community involvement in the consideration of sites as part of the Local Plan review process and any subsequent planning applications.

What does the ‘Call for Sites’ and subsequent assessment process not do?

The assessment does not decide where new development will take place - decisions about new development will be taken as part of the Local Plan review process and subsequent planning applications. Therefore, while the assessment will help inform future plans, it will not itself determine whether a site should be allocated for future development. The ‘Call for Sites’ process and the published report do not form part of the statutory ‘development plan’ for the National Park, instead being part of the evidence base that supports the preparation of the revised Local Plan.

Why do we assess the availability of land for new development?

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2024) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) resource require local planning authorities (including National Park Authorities) to assess the availability of land to meet their local needs for housing, employment and other uses. This process is part of the evidence base that informs the Authority's review of its local planning policies.

What criteria will submitted sites be assessed against?

Submitted sites will be assessed against a broad range of criteria to determine their suitability. This will include considering the impact on the landscape character of the New Forest National Park from developing the site; the site's proximity to local services; local flood risk; and potential impacts on the New Forest's protected habitats and species.

Who can submit a site?

Anyone can submit a site for further consideration and assessment. However, one of the criterion that the Authority will assess nominated sites against is their availability and deliverability and so the Authority will be looking for some certainty that an area of land is available for development.

How do I submit a site for consideration in the 'Call for Sites' assessment?

Complete a Site Submission Questionnaire which is available on the Authority's website and submit it to the Policy Team by **5pm Tuesday 18 March 2025**. Please note, you do not need to answer all of the questions, but please provide as much information as possible.

What will happen when I submit my site suggestion?

After submissions, we will assess each site's suitability, availability, and achievability, based on various criteria. If further information is required, then officers may contact those submitting sites. However, in general we will not be giving individual feedback on site submissions. The method used to assess sites will be published along with a report summarising the assessment outcomes as part of the Local Plan evidence base. We expect to consult on a draft of the revised Local Plan in late 2025 and the timetable for the Local Plan Review is set out in our latest [Local Development Scheme](#).