



## **Revised Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation Statement – January 2025**

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### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 12 (a) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), this 'Consultation Statement' sets out the consultation undertaken during the preparation of the revised draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement SPD.
- 1.2 The draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement was the subject of a statutory 6-week period of consultation between 25 October and 6 December 2024. This statement focuses on the work undertaken both prior to this public consultation taking place; and following the receipt of consultation responses. The Revised Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement was formally adopted by the National Park Authority on 23 January 2025.
- 1.3 In accordance with the relevant regulations, the Consultation Statement provides details of who was consulted on the revised draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement SPD between October and December 2024; how they were consulted; a summary of the main issues raised during the consultation; and how those issues have been addressed in the final SPD.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The first Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement was prepared over a decade ago by a group of local residents and parish councillors. The Village Design Statement was formally adopted by the Authority as a supplementary planning document in June 2013 following a period of public consultation.
- 2.2 In the years since the adoption of the Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement there have been significant changes in both national and local policy and design guidance. For example, the new National Park Local Plan was adopted in 2019 and the revised National Park Design Guide was adopted in January 2022. Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council is keen to update their Village Design Statement to ensure it is still afforded weight in planning decision-making and to cover relevant design issues in the parish. This requires the revised document to be subject to consultation, the consideration of comments received, and a formal decision of the full Authority.
- 2.3 The revised draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement SPD was considered by members of the New Forest National Park Authority's Planning Committee on 15 October 2024. At this meeting members approved the document for the purposes of public consultation.

### **3. Preparation of the revised Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement**

- 3.1 Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council has worked with the National Park Authority's planning policy and building design & conservation officers on the revisions to the adopted Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement (2013). The Authority is content that the updates to the Village Design Statement do not conflict with the Authority's own policies and guidance and therefore it could proceed to public consultation commencing in October 2024. Similarly, it was considered there is no conflict with national policy.
- 3.2 The main updates in the revised document compared to the existing Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement (2013) were as follows:
- Chapter 1 – Introduction includes additional wording on the how the updated Statement complements the National Park Local Plan (2019) and the revised National Park Design Guide (2022). This provides an appropriate cross-reference to the strategic policies the revised Design Statement is supplementing. A summary is also given of how the community have been notified of the updated guidance.
  - Chapter 2 – History includes reference to Ashurst & Colbury being one of the 'defined villages' within the planning framework for the National Park.
  - Chapter 2 - History has been updated to include additional detail on population change over time. The important dates timeline has been updated to include recent events, such as the celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee and King Charles' Coronation, and the village being awarded runner up in Best Outdoor Space category in the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Village of the Year competition (2022).
  - Chapter 3 – Important Historic Buildings has been expanded to comprehensively cover the nationally designated listed buildings and the identified locally listed buildings (non-designated heritage assets) within the parish. The section now includes an excerpt from Historic England's searchable map, pinpointing the 5 nationally Listed Buildings in the parish. Another map has been annotated with the locations of the locally listed buildings and other historic buildings of note in the parish. Brief descriptions and photographs of each building have been provided, which is supported and helps make the document more informative.
  - Chapter 4 - Community Facilities & the Local Economy recommendations have been revised to focus more specifically on local design considerations and this is supported. Previous references to the retention of local services and the use of developer contributions towards open space provision have been removed as they are planning matters outside the scope of local design guidelines.
  - Chapter 5 – Nature Reserves and Natural Habitats has been updated to include maps of the Fletchwood Meadows SSSI and also the trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders in the parish. The recommendations that follow have been amended to more specifically focus on local design

considerations (rather than planning policy matters that are outside the scope of a Village Design Statement).

- Chapter 6 – Built Environment includes updated photographs to reflect the prevailing character in different parts of the parish. The section on solar panels and heat pumps has been expanded, reflecting how their use has increased since the original Statement was adopted (2013).
- Chapter 6 – Built Environment recommendations have been expanded to cover additional areas that are important to the local community. These include a recommendation relating to glazing and external lighting, as well as a cross-references to the National Park Design Guide (2022).
- Chapter 7 - Highways, Transport and Infrastructure recommendations have been revised to include consideration of EV charging facilities for new developments. This reflects how the provision of EV charging has evolved since the adoption of the original Village Design Statement in 2013.
- The current Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement (2013) includes an annex listing the relevant planning policies in the New Forest National Park Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD (2010). During discussions with the Parish Council it was agreed that this was not necessary, as the adopted development plan for the National Park is referenced elsewhere in the Statement.

#### **4. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

- 4.1 The Government's National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) resource on strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal confirms, *'Supplementary planning documents do not require a sustainability appraisal, but may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already have been assessed during the preparation of the relevant strategic policies.'* (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 11-008-20140306). Given that the revised draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement SPD is providing design advice and does not allocate land for development, it is the Authority's position that neither a Sustainability Appraisal nor a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.
- 4.2 'Competent authorities' (including National Park Authorities) must carry out an assessment under the Habitats Regulations to test if a plan or project could significantly harm the designated features of a European site. It is the Authority's view that the revised draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement SPD is not a 'plan or project' that might have an impact on a European site and therefore no assessment is required.
- 4.3 The Authority bases this position on the fact that the Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement does not set out where future activities or developments should take place within the parish; and does not itself consent development. The higher order New Forest National Park Local Plan (August 2019) was subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment.

## **5. Public Consultation – 25 October to 6 December 2024**

5.1 National planning regulations require a period of public consultation of at least 4 weeks on draft supplementary planning documents. The National Park Authority is committed to a 6-week period of public consultation on draft documents, which better reflects the meeting cycles of local town and parish councils and provides greater opportunity for the public to comment. The revised draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement was approved for the purposes of public consultation at the Authority's Planning Committee meeting in October 2024. The 6-week public consultation on the revised draft Village Design Statement ran from 25 October to 6 December 2024.

### *(i) Who was consulted*

5.2 Annex 1 to this Consultation Statement list the organisations and bodies notified of the 6-week public consultation on the revised draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement. This includes statutory consultees, other consultees and local groups/stakeholders.

5.3 In addition, Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council have raised awareness of the review of the Village Design Statement and the opportunities to input into the review through various methods over the last couple of years, including:

- Articles in the local Village Magazine which is delivered to all households in the parish. Articles were placed in February 2022 asking for comments and a further update was provided in the November 2024 Magazine, delivered during the final 6-week consultation period.
- The review of the existing Village Design Statement has been overseen by a working party of parish councillors. All parish councillors have been invited to input.
- The review of the Village Design Statement has been an agenda item at the monthly parish council meetings. In addition, it was discussed at the annual Ashurst & Colbury Parish meeting.

### *(ii) How were they consulted*

- Over 200 statutory and general consultees were directly notified of the start of the consultation (see Annex 1). This included neighbouring town and parish councils, local stakeholder groups, statutory consultees (e.g. Historic England) and local planning agents.
- The revised draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement was made available on the Authority's website and for inspection during office hours at Lyminster Town Hall.
- A press release was issued to local media outlets, summarising the role of the draft Village Design Statement, the consultation period, how comments could be made and where the document could be viewed. A formal press notice was also issued.

- The consultation was actively promoted through the Authority's social media channels, including Facebook (49,000 followers) and X (16,500 followers).
- As outlined above, the revised Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement consultation was highlighted in the November 2024 edition of the Village Magazine, which is delivered to every dwelling in the parish.

*(iii) Summary of the main points raised & how they were taken into account*

- 5.4 In accordance with Regulation 12(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the Authority is required to set out in this Consultation Statement, "*a summary of the main issues raised*" during the consultation period; and "*how those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document*". The table on the following pages fulfils this requirement and focuses on the changes sought to the draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Guide SPD in the representations received. It should be noted that the Authority is not required to list every single point raised during the consultation, only the main issues raised.
- 5.5 All of the representations received during this period have been reviewed and changes made to the draft document where appropriate. This process was undertaken in liaison with Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council. The formal adoption of the revised Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement SPD was a decision for the full National Park Authority meeting on 23 January 2025.

## **6. Formal adoption of the revised Village Design Statement**

- 6.1 The final version of the revised Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement was considered at the full National Park Authority meeting on 23 January 2025 for formal adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.
- 6.2 Authority members were presented with a cover report, a Consultation Statement and the revised version of the document. Officers from the Authority's policy & conservation team were joined by a representative of Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council to respond to questions. Members of the National Park Authority unanimously voted to adopt the revised Village Design Statement as a Supplementary Planning document on 23 January 2025, with it becoming a material planning consideration with immediate effect.

Respondent	Summary of main points raised	NPA response to the main points raised
Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs National Landscape	In the interests of reducing light pollution - and the negative impacts of modern lighting - you may wish to refer to / take note of our position Statement on Light Pollution and Good Practice Guides on Good Lighting available at <a href="https://cranbornechase.org.uk/our-work/publications/planning-resources/">https://cranbornechase.org.uk/our-work/publications/planning-resources/</a>	<p>Alteration to the Village Design Statement to note the negative impacts of modern lighting / light spill and to direct to further guidance on appropriate external lighting design:</p> <p><b>6.6. Light Pollution and External Lighting</b></p> <p>6.6.1. Artificial light, internal and external, is necessary for safety, security and facilitating activity during the hours of darkness. However excessive or inappropriately designed lighting and glazing can have a harmful impact on the tranquility and biodiversity of the New Forest and be a source of annoyance. Such lighting is termed 'light pollution', 'obtrusive light' or 'light spill'. To achieve maximum benefit from artificial lighting it is important to have the right light, in the right place and used at the right time. Further guidance on well-designed lighting can be found in the National Planning Practice Guidance page on <a href="#">light pollution</a>, and in chapter 7 of the <a href="#">New Forest National Park Design Guide</a>.</p>
Historic England	It is recommended that the VDS is clear from the outset that Ashurst and Colbury is within the New Forest National Park. While this may be taken as read, it may help those unfamiliar with the area to make this explicit from the start. We note the VDS does not include a map showing the National Park boundary relative to the Parish and reference is made to the National Park Authority in paragraph 1.1 without saying which one. A new paragraph could be added (before the existing 1.1) stating:	<p>Insert new paragraph 1.1 to read</p> <p>'This Village Design Statement covers the Parish of Ashurst and Colbury, which lies almost entirely within the New Forest National Park. The boundary of the New Forest National Park follows the course of the A326 (see map on page 5).'</p>

	<p>"This Village Design Statement covers the Parish of Ashurst and Colbury, which lies within the New Forest National Park."</p>	
Southern Water	<p>Thank you for consulting Southern Water on the revised draft Ashurst and Colbury Village Design Statement, as the statutory wastewater and water service provider for the area we welcome your engagement. Having reviewed the document, we support paragraph 6.5.10: 'Any new development should be designed to take into account the current infrastructure of drains, ditches and streams and make the most of existing natural drainage.'</p> <p>We also support paragraph.7.7.1: 'Hampshire County Council provides a system for reporting blocked public drains and gullies via their website. These will usually be cleared within seven days unless there is a problem with the gully or drain itself, in which case the work may take longer. Ditches form a natural part of the local drainage system. They contribute to the character of the village and should; d be maintained to prevent flooding. The ditches run beside the A35 and along Whartons Lane, where the residents are required to maintain them as Riparian Owners, and in some instances use planting to enhance their appearance.'</p> <p>Southern Water also supports paragraph 7.8.1: 'Road-side verges of grass or other natural vegetation should be maintained wherever possible, in preference to concrete kerbing, asphalt or other hard surfaces.'</p>	<p>Support from Southern Water noted and welcomed.</p> <p>In response to the information shared in Southern Water's response it is recommended that a new paragraph is inserted 7.7.1 to read</p> <p>'On average 96% of water flowing in wastewater systems during a 1 in 20 year storm event comes from surface water runoff from roofs, road and permeable surfaces. This guidance supports effective rainwater management, which is key to achieving reduced risk of surface flooding, sewer flooding, and storm overflow releases.'</p>

## **Annex 1 - Organisations notified of the draft Ashurst & Colbury Village Design Statement consultation (October – December 2024)**

Coal Authority  
Historic England  
Natural England  
Environment Agency  
Marine Management Organisation  
Highways England  
National Grid  
Bournemouth Water  
Wessex Water  
Southern Water  
Hampshire, Southampton & Isle of Wight  
Clinical Commissioning Group

Dorset Council  
Southampton City Council  
Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council  
Wiltshire Council  
Hampshire County Council  
New Forest District Council  
Test Valley Borough Council

37 Town and Parish councils within the New Forest National Park

Cadland Estate  
Bisterne, Pylewell & Sowley Estates  
Exbury Estate  
Somerley Estate  
Hamptworth Estate  
Beaulieu Estate  
Hinton Admiral Estate  
Pylewell Estate  
Meyrick Estate

80 local planning agents and architects

5 MPs covering the New Forest and immediately adjacent areas

New Forest Transition CIC  
Ringwood Actions for Climate Emergency  
Minstead Green Group  
Greener Brockenhurst  
ECO Sway  
Conservation Connection New Forest South

Action Hampshire  
Age Concern Hampshire  
Associated British Ports  
Bournemouth International Airport Ltd  
Calshot Activities Centre  
Campaign for National Parks  
CPRE Hampshire  
Christchurch Bicycle Club  
Community First New Forest  
Country Land and Business Association

Cranborne Chase & West Wilts Downs  
National Landscape  
Enterprise M3 LEP  
ExxonMobil Chemical Ltd  
Federation of Small Businesses  
Friends, Families and Travellers  
Fordingbridge Society  
Forestry Commission  
Forestry England  
Friends of Brockenhurst  
Friends of the New Forest  
Hampshire Chamber of Commerce  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
Hampshire Association of Local Councils  
Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society  
Hampshire Constabulary  
Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Hampshire Gardens Trust  
Hampshire Outdoor Centres  
Hampshire Scouts  
Homes England  
Lepe Country Park  
Lymington & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry Limited  
Lymington Harbour Commissioners  
Lymington Society  
National Farmers' Union  
National Grid  
National Trust  
Network Rail  
New Forest Access Forum  
New Forest Business Partnership  
New Forest Centre  
New Forest Commoners' Defence Association  
New Forest Equestrian Association  
New Forest Friends of the Earth  
New Forest Hounds  
New Forest Runners Club  
New Forest Sports Council  
Go New Forest  
New Forest Transition  
New Forest Trust  
Ramblers Association (New Forest Branch)  
Ringwood Society  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
Sandy Balls Estate and Holiday Village  
The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain  
Solent Forum  
Solent LEP  
Solent Protection Society  
Southampton Airport  
Sport England  
SSE  
Swindon & Wiltshire LEP  
The Caravan Club Ltd  
Tourism South East



Verderers of the New Forest  
Wild New Forest  
Wilts & Dorset Bus Co Ltd  
Wiltshire Association of Local Councils  
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust  
UK Youth