Consultation Statement

Regulation 18 Part 2

New Forest National Park

Local Plan Review 2024 - 2043

August 2026

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Introduction

1.1 The New Forest National Park Authority has undertaken a review of the local planning policies covering the National Park – currently within the New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016 - 2036 (adopted August 2019). This review is in response to changes in national policy and the experiences of applying the adopted planning policies for the past five years. However, it is important to emphasise that many key aspects of national planning policy, guidance and law relating to National Parks remain unaltered from the time the adopted Local Plan was prepared, examined and adopted. Therefore, the Authority has undertaken a partial review of the Local Plan rather than preparing a new Local Plan.

1.2 The revised Local Plan will form a key part of the statutory 'development plan' for the National Park and will continue to guide decisions on planning applications submitted within the Park. The Local Plan will set out detailed planning policies and allocations that seek to deliver the two statutory National Park purposes and related socio-economic duty, together with the newly introduced (December 2024) Protected Landscape Duty, which requires the relevant authorities to 'seek to further' the statutory purposes.

Purpose of this Statement

2.1 This Statement of Consultation has been prepared to comply with Regulation 22 (1)(c) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

2.2 It sets out how the Authority (New Forest National Park Authority) has undertaken community participation and stakeholder involvement in the production of the New Forest National Park Local Plan Review in accordance with Regulation 18, the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Local Development Scheme (LDS) in place at the time.

This statement follows a further round of consultation under Regulation 18 and should be read in conjunction with the previous Consultation Statement published in November 2025: Local Plan Reg 18 (Part 1) Consultation statement – New Forest National Park.

2.3 Before the Authority can submit the Local Plan Review to the Secretary of State for examination, it must comply with the requirements of Regulation 22(1)(c), which is set out as follows:

> **Submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State**
> 22.(1) The documents prescribed for the purposes of section 20(3) of the Act are—
>
> (a) the sustainability appraisal report;
>
> (b) a submission policies map if the adoption of the local plan would result in changes to the adopted policies map;
>
> **(c) a statement setting out—**
>
> **(i) which bodies and persons the local planning authority invited to make representations under regulation 18,**
>
> **(ii) how those bodies and persons were invited to make representations under regulation 18,**
>
> **(iii) a summary of the main issues raised by the representations made pursuant to regulation 18,**
>
> **(iv) how any representations made pursuant to regulation 18 have been taken into account;**
>
> **(v) if representations were made pursuant to regulation 20, the number of representations made and a summary of the main issues raised in those representations; and**
>
> **(vi) if no representations were made in regulation 20, that no such representations were made;**
>
> (d) copies of any representations made in accordance with regulation 20; and
>
> (e) such supporting documents as in the opinion of the local planning authority are relevant to the preparation of the local plan.

2.4 This statement has therefore been prepared to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Regulation 22 (1)(c) and that consultation on the preparation of the Local Plan Review has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant Regulations, the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Local Development Scheme (LDS) in place at the time.

2.5 Consultation on a full draft Local Plan Review was undertaken for six weeks between 5 November to 19 December 2025. This statement reflects the comments received and how the Authority has responded to the main issues raised.

Duty to Cooperate

2.6 The “Duty to Cooperate” was introduced by Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). Section 110 of the Localism Act (2011) sets out the requirements of the duty to cooperate as per Section 33A, in relation to

the planning of sustainable development. It places a legal duty on Local Planning Authorities, County Councils and prescribed public bodies to engage constructively, actively, and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of a local plan in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.

2.7 On 25 March 2026, through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the duty was abolished and it is no longer a requirement for Local Planning Authorities to cooperate and engage on cross boundary issues.

2.8 However, since work on reviewing the Local Plan began in early 2025, the Authority has used this as an opportunity for proactive engagement and to address issues identified through the review process, reflecting a consistent approach towards public consultations and notwithstanding changes to legislation.

2.9 Engagement has taken place to date with both neighbouring local authorities and prescribed bodies. Further details are set out in the Duty to Cooperate Statement published with the draft Local Plan for consultation.

Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation

Publication

3.1 Approval was given during the Authority meeting on 16 October 2025 for publication of the draft Local Plan review for consultation.

3.2 The consultation commenced on 5 November 2025 and ran until 19 December 2025. Together with numerous local interest groups, all statutory and general consultation bodies (211 recipients, Appendix 2), were notified of the start of the consultation, as set out in planning legislation. Details were supplied of when and where documentation would be made publicly available, and how they could respond (Appendix 5). This notification had a successful open rate of 56.8% and engagement score of 8.4/10.

- A public notice was issued and published in both the Lymington Times and the New Milton Advertiser on 7 November 2025 for one week (Appendix 4).

- Articles were also included in the Autumn/Winter 2025 version of New Forest publication ‘Park Life’ https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/publications/, which had a readership of 51,250 (Appendix 6). Park Life is produced twice a year, in conjunction with the Lymington Times. 20,500 Autumn/Winter copies were produced and of these, 12,500 were circulated alongside the Lymington Times and 8,000 distributed by National Park Authority rangers at visitor attractions. Copies were distributed together with the Lymington Times, and 10,000 to visitor attractions. A digital version was also made available on the National Park website.

- The New Forest eNewsletter has 27,000 recipients and published details of the Local Plan consultation and how to respond on 14 November 2025 and during early December 2025 (Appendices 8 and 9).

- A press release was issued on 5 November 2025 to 171 news outlets, including local and national media, and community magazines (Appendix 3). Available to view on the Authority's website, it received nearly 300 views: *Planning for the future of the New Forest National Park:* Have your say on the Local Plan Review – New Forest National Park Authority.

- Over the course of the consultation, 41 related social media posts were published across NPA Facebook channels, including Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Instagram. The posts had a reach of 114,545 people, with 4,464 people engaging with the posts (liking, sharing, commenting or clicking on links). An average engagement rate of 3.9% was achieved, which is well above the local government average of 1.1%; the top tagged publishes posts are set out at Appendix 12.

- The NPA website's news page was updated in early November 2025 to show details of the drop-in events occurring across the New Forest and attended by members of the Planning team (Appendix 11). A video (available to watch on YouTube: New Forest National Park Local Plan review) was also provided as part of consultation activities.

3.3 The draft Local Plan and key supporting information were available for inspection at the Authority's during normal office hours in Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG; and online at: www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/LocalPlan2025.

3.4 In addition, an online consultation event was held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 26 November 2025, between 4.30pm – 5.30pm. The presentation can be viewed here. Several in-person public drop-in events were also held across the National Park to enable people to speak to planning staff and find out more about the Local Plan review:

• Redlynch Village Hall	Tuesday 2 December 2025, 2pm – 7pm
• Colbury Memorial Hall	Thursday 4 December 2025, 2pm – 7pm
• Sway Village Hall	Friday 5 December 2025, 2pm – 7pm
• Lyndhurst Community Centre	Tuesday 9 December 2025, 2pm – 7pm
• Landford Methodist Hall	Friday 12 December 2025, 2pm – 7pm





Photographs taken at the Ashurst/Colbury drop-in event at Colbury Memorial Hall on 4 December 2026.

3.5 Additionally, presentations providing an update on the Local Plan was also delivered to NPA members (on 24 Feb, 15 Apr, 11 Jun 2026). These sessions set out the public responses to the previous Reg 18 Part 1 consultation and provided detail on where and how the Local Plan had evolved in light of feedback. Through these sessions members could recognise the concerns of the community and continue to incorporate local issues into developing planning policy.

3.6 Updates were also provided at Parish Quadrant meetings, the New Forest Consultative Panel, and New Forest Access Forum meetings (throughout January - June 2026).

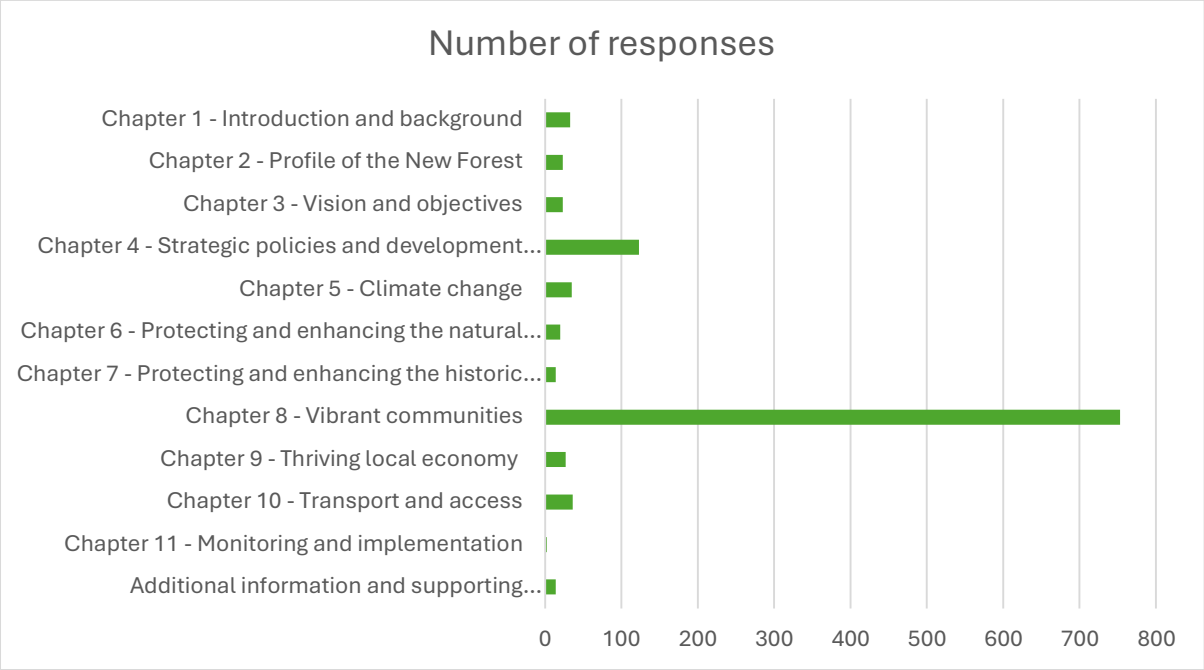
Representations could be submitted via:

- the online consultation portal, or
- email to policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk, or
- posted to the Policy Team, New Forest National Park Authority, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG.

3.7 For more information on how the NPA has engaged with its stakeholders on various matters, in supporting the emerging Local Plan i.e., supporting evidence, please refer to the Duty to Cooperate Statement (July 2026).

Responses to the Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation

4.1 During the consultation period, the Authority received over 1,000+ responses from different organisations, groups and individuals as set out below:



4.2 As the chart illustrates, Chapter 8 'Vibrant Communities' gathered the most feedback, receiving over 753 responses during the consultation period. Please note that some responses received were duplicates or irrelevant information and were therefore discounted.

4.3 The schedules in Appendix 1 summarise the key raised by respondents, setting out how these have been taken into consideration. However, it should be noted that where amendments have been proposed, these are not always detailed within the summaries. In accordance with the approved Local Development Scheme, further opportunities to refine the draft Local Plan will be provided during the Regulation 19 (pre-submission) consultation.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of main issues raised made pursuant to Regulation 18 (Part 2) – Reponses to the Draft Local Plan

Click here to open a separate document where the summary of issues and responses can be found.

Appendix 2 – List of groups and organisations consulted

During the Regulation 18 Part 2 Local Plan consultation (November - December 2025)

- Mining Remediation Authority
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Marine Management Organisation
- National Highways
- National Grid
- Bournemouth Water
- Wessex Water
- Southern Water
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board

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

- Sir Desmond Swayne
- Sir Julian Lewis
- Christopher Chope
- Caroline Nokes
- John Glen

- Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council
- Beaulieu Parish Council
- Boldre Parish Council
- Braemore Parish Council
- Bramshaw Parish Council
- Bransgore Parish Council
- Brockenhurst Parish Council
- Burley Parish Council
- Copythorne Parish Council
- Denny Lodge Parish Council
- East Boldre Parish Council
- Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council
- Exbury & Lepe Parish Council
- Fawley Parish Council
- Fordingbridge Parish Council
- Godshill Parish Council
- Hale Parish Council
- Hordle Parish Council
- Hyde Parish Council
- Hythe & Dibden Parish Council
- Landford Parish Council
- Lymington & Pennington Town Council
- Lyndhurst Parish Council
- Marchwood Parish Council
- Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council
- Milford on Sea Parish Council
- Minstead Parish Council
- Netley Marsh Parish Council
- New Milton Town Council
- Redlynch Parish Council
- Ringwood Town Council
- Sopley Parish Council
- Sway Parish Council
- Totton & Eling Parish Council
- Wellow Parish Council
- Whiteparish Parish Council
- Woodgreen Parish Council

- 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 SE
- Country Land and Business Association SW

- Cranborne Chase & West Wilts Downs National Landscape
- ExxonMobil Chemical Ltd
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Friends, Families and Travellers
- Fordingbridge Society
- 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 - Designing Out Crime officer
- Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service (New Forest Group)
- 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
- Jackson Planning
- National Farmers' Union
- National Grid
- National Trust
- National Trust Hants & IoW
- 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
- Meyrick Estate
- New Forest Sports Council
- Go New Forest
- New Forest Trust
- Ramblers Association (New Forest Branch)
- Ringwood Society
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Sandy Balls Estate
- Sandy Balls Holiday Village
- The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain Central Office
- The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain Western Office
- Solent LEP
- Solent Forum
- 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
- New Forest Transition CIC
- Ringwood Actions for Climate Emergency (RACE)
- Minstead Green Group
- Greener Brockenhurst
- ECO Sway
- Conservation Connection New Forest South
- Cadland Estate
- Bisterne, Pylewell & Sowley Estates
- Exbury Estate
- Somerley Estate
- Hamptworth Estate
- Beaulieu Estate
- Hinton Admiral Estate
- Pylewell Estate

Appendix 3 – Press release

Press release 5 Nov 2025: [Next stage of New Forest National Park Local Plan review open for comment - New Forest National Park]



Home > News > Next stage of New Forest National Park Local Plan review open for comment

Next stage of New Forest National Park Local Plan review open for comment

Residents, organisations and businesses are being asked to share their views on the next stage of the New Forest National Park Local Plan review.

The Local Plan sets out the planning policy framework for the National Park, guiding decisions on planning applications and helping shape the future of this nationally important landscape.

While the current plan (adopted in 2019) remains largely fit-for-purpose, this partial and focused review reflects recent changes in national guidance, local priorities, and lessons learnt over the past six years. It also builds on valuable feedback received during the initial 'Direction of Travel' consultation held earlier this year.

The draft Local Plan will be open for public consultation from 5 November to 19 December 2025.

You can give your views online at nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is.

Paper copies are available to view at Lymington Town Hall.

A series of public drop-in sessions will also be held across the consultation period, offering people the opportunity to speak to members of the National Park Authority's planning team and learn more about the proposals.

These are:

- Wednesday 26 November, 4.30pm – 5.30pm, online. Join at: Local Plan Online Consultation 2025 | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams
- Tuesday 2 December, 2pm – 7pm, Redlynch Village Hall

- Thursday 4 December, 2pm – 7pm, Colbury Memorial Hall
- Friday 5 December, 2pm – 7pm, Sway Village Hall
- Tuesday 9 December, 2pm – 7pm, Lyndhurst Community Centre
- Friday 12 December, 2pm – 7pm, Landford Methodist Hall

A final period of consultation on a revised version of the Plan will follow in summer 2026, before submission to the Government for independent examination in December 2026.

Steve Trow, Chair of the NPA Planning Committee, said: 'The Local Plan is key to how we protect and enhance the New Forest – safeguarding its landscapes, wildlife and heritage while supporting the people, businesses and communities who depend on it. This review gives us the opportunity to update planning policies in light of challenges such as climate change and local housing need, while maintaining a clear focus on conserving the Forest and making it fit for the future.'

Key themes of the Local Plan review

Thriving communities and local economy:

Based on the Government's method for calculating housing need, there is a significant need within the communities of the New Forest National Park. Although meeting the identified need in full would not be appropriate given the important environmental designations in the New Forest National Park, the draft Local Plan includes a series of proposed policies that would meet some local housing needs, stabilise the population of the National Park and help to support local services.

Views are invited on this as part of the consultation.
New affordable housing provided as part of these developments would be available for people in housing need with a local connection to the New Forest National Park.

Revised policies would support the land-based economy, including commoning, and respond to updated assessments of employment needs. A proposed employment site allocation on land north of Fawley Waterside (part of the Solent Freeport) would help meet identified demand.

Climate change:
In response to the climate and nature emergencies, a new standalone chapter on climate change is proposed. It will promote higher water efficiency standards, sustainable drainage systems, small-scale renewable energy and sustainable construction.

Natural environment:
Proposed policies will continue to safeguard the New Forest's internationally and nationally important habitats, setting out how local planning policies will deliver

Biodiversity Net Gain, safeguard tranquillity, and link to the Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Hampshire and Wiltshire.

Historic and built environment:
Following advice from Historic England, draft policies have been updated to better protect the Forest's built heritage while enabling historic buildings to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Traffic and transport:
Most traffic issues affecting the New Forest arise from developments outside the National Park and the review includes reference to the latest Local Transport Plans from Hampshire and Wiltshire. It promotes sustainable transport, improved walking and cycling networks, and electric vehicle chargers.

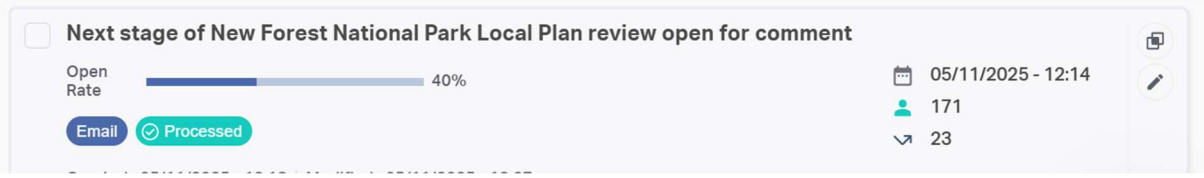
The revised Local Plan draws on a comprehensive evidence base, including a Housing Needs Assessment, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal, and Economic Viability Assessment. This evidence will continue to be updated as the Local Plan Review process proceeds.

For updates, sign up to the newsletter at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk.

Help inform the future of the New Forest National Park **– add your voice at nfnaplocalplan.commonplace.is**

-Ends-

Above sent via Vuelio to 171 news outlets



Appendix 4 – Public notice

Public Notice Lymington Times and identical in New Milton Advertiser:

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK LOCAL PLAN REVIEW NOTICE OF CONSULTATION - REGULATION 18 (PART 2)

PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LOCAL PLANNING) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 – AS AMENDED

The New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) gives notice that it has published a draft Local Plan under Regulation 18 of the above regulations for inspection and consultation for a period of 6 weeks from **5 November 2025 to 23:59 hours on 19 December 2025.**

The draft Local Plan includes a revised vision and set of strategic objectives, supported by a series of policies to guide the type and location of new development within the National Park to help to deliver the statutory Park purposes. The NPA considers a revised Local Plan is necessary to ensure the National Park is covered by an up-to-date local policy framework that complies with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024).

The draft Local Plan and other supporting information – including the Sustainability Appraisal and an assessment under the Habitat Regulations – is available for inspection at our office at Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG, from 9am-12.30pm, then 1.30pm until 4pm; and online via the consultation portal 'Commonplace' nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is

As part of the consultation, we are holding a 'virtual drop-in session', to be held on

- Wednesday 26 November 2025, 4.30pm - 5.30pm via Microsoft Teams. For further details of how to access the session see www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/LocalPlan2025

There will also be a series of public drop-in events across the National Park to enable people to find out more about the Local Plan review. All sessions will be open from 2pm until 7pm:

- Tuesday 2 December 2025, Redlynch Village Hall, Vicarage Road, Redlynch SP5 2PG
- Thursday 4 December 2025, Colbury Memorial Hall, Main Road, Ashurst, SO40 7EL
- Friday 5 December 2025, Sway Village Hall, Middle Road, Sway SO41 6BB
- Tuesday 9 December 2025, Lyndhurst Community Centre, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY
- Friday 12 December 2025, Landford Methodist Hall, Lyndhurst Road, Landford, SP5 2AF

Representations on the draft Local Plan Review should be made during the 6-week consultation period:

- Online at nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is
- By email to policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk
- By post to Policy Team, New Forest National Park Authority, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG

Representations received will inform the preparation of a proposed submission draft New Forest National Park Local Plan, due to be published for further consultation in mid-2026. Please be aware anonymous responses cannot be accepted, and all comments will be made available on the Authority's website (address and contact details will not be released).

David Illsley
Interim Head of Planning & Place 7 November 2025

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Deadline: Wednesday 10:30am
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Public Notices

Public Notices

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
NOTICE OF CONSULTATION - REGULATION 18 (PART 2)
PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LOCAL PLANNING) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 – AS AMENDED

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The draft Local Plan and other supporting information – including the Sustainability Appraisal and an assessment under the Habitat Regulations – is available for inspection at our office at Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG, from 9am-12.30pm, then 1.30pm until 4pm; and online via the consultation portal "Commonplace" nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is

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- Friday 12 December 2025, Landford Methodist Hall, Lyndhurst Road, Landford, SP5 2AF

Representations on the draft Local Plan Review should be made during the 6-week consultation period:

- Online at nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is
- By email to policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk
- By post to Policy Team, New Forest National Park Authority, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG

Representations received will inform the preparation of a proposed submission draft New Forest National Park Local Plan, due to be published for further consultation in mid-2026. Please be aware anonymous responses cannot be accepted, and all comments will be made available on the Authority's website (address and contact details will not be released).

David Illsley
Interim Head of Planning & Place 7 November 2025

Statutory Notice of Planning Applications:
22/10/2025 to 28/10/2025



Appendix 5 – Notification to stakeholders

Released 5 November 2026

Have your say on the next stage of the Local Plan review

No images? Click here



New Forest National Park Local Plan Review

- have your say on the next stage of the draft Plan

Consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Dear consultee,

In early 2025, the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) consulted on its Strategic Direction of Travel document, asking for views on the scope of the Local Plan Review. Since then, a series of technical evidence studies have been commissioned. These, together with the feedback received during the initial consultation, have informed the preparation of an initial full draft Local Plan for further consultation.

Have your say

Keeping planning up to date

The draft Local Plan sets out a revised vision and a suite of strategic objectives, supported by a comprehensive set of draft planning policies to guide the type, scale, and location of development within the National Park. These draft policies are intended to help deliver the statutory National Park purposes and related socio-economic duty. The draft Plan also includes proposed new site allocations for residential and employment development.

The NFNPA considers that a revised Local Plan is required to ensure that the National Park continues to be covered by an up-to-date local planning policy framework, consistent with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024). Once adopted, the Local Plan will guide decisions on planning applications up to 2043.

The initial draft Local Plan was approved for consultation purposes at the Authority meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2025. The New Forest National Park Authority now invites comments on the draft policies and proposals during the formal consultation period: **5 November 2025 to 23:59 hours on 19 December 2025.**

Have your say

How to respond

The draft Local Plan and other supporting information – including the Sustainability Appraisal and an assessment under the Habitat Regulations – is available to view at nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is

It's also available at our office at Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG. The reception desk is open from 9am - 12.30pm, then 1.30pm until 4pm.

Representations on the draft Local Plan Review should be made during the six-week consultation period:

- Online via the online consultation portal 'Commonplace' on the NPA website: nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is
- By email to policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk
- By post to Policy Team, New Forest National Park Authority, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG

The NFNPA has prepared a set of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** to help explain the Local Plan process and what this stage of plan preparation involves.

Please note that we're unable to accept anonymous responses. All comments submitted will be published on the Authority's website so that the process remains open and transparent — however, your **address and contact details will not be shared**.

Have your say

Drop-in events

As part of the consultation we're also holding a series of public events across the National Park – details below. These events will be staffed by members of our planning team and provide people with the opportunity to come and find out more about the Local Plan review.

- **ONLINE** Wednesday 26 November 2025, 4.30pm - 5.30pm via Microsoft Teams. For further details of how to access the session see www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/LocalPlan2025

The following in-person sessions will be open from 2pm until 7pm. Drop in any time and stay for as long or as little as you like:

- Tuesday 2 December 2025, **Redlynch Village Hall**, Vicarage Road, Redlynch SP5 2PG
- Thursday 4 December 2025, **Colbury Memorial Hall**, Main Road, Ashurst, SO40 7EL
- Friday 5 December 2025, **Sway Village Hall,** Middle Road, Sway SO41 6BB
- Tuesday 9 December 2025, **Lyndhurst Community Centre**, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY
- Friday 12 December 2025, **Landford Methodist Hall**, Lyndhurst Road, Landford, SP5 2AF

Next steps

Once the consultation closes, all feedback will be carefully reviewed and considered. The Authority will then make any necessary updates to the draft Local Plan before holding a further round of consultation, which is currently expected to take place in mid-2026.

Thank you for your valuable feedback.

Yours faithfully,

David Illsley

Interim Head of Planning and Place

Go to the consultation

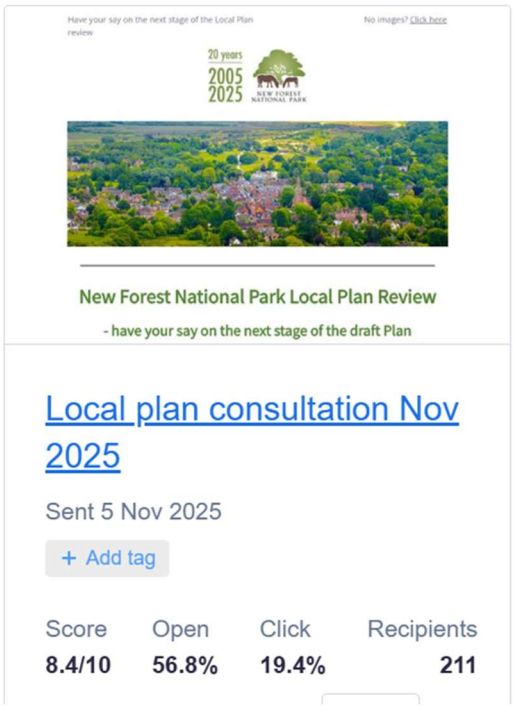
More on the Local Plan review

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Our mailing address is:
New Forest National Park Authority
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9ZG
United Kingdom

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Preferences | Unsubscribe



(Engagement statistics on stakeholder notification)

Appendix 6 – eNewsletter Park Life Autumn / Winter 2025

(readership = 51,250)



Have your say on Local Plan review

Residents, organisations and businesses are being asked for their views on the next stage of the New Forest National Park Local Plan review.

The Local Plan sets out the local planning policy framework for the National Park area, guiding decisions on planning applications. While the current one from 2019 remains largely fit-for-purpose, this partial and focused review reflects recent changes in national guidance, local priorities, insights gained from six years of applying the existing policies, and feedback received during earlier consultations.

The draft Local Plan will go to the next round of public consultation between 5 November and 19 December 2025.

It is important that the New Forest National Park is covered by an up-to-date Local Plan. The alternative of having no Plan would result in speculative proposals coming forward and less local control over where development in the National Park takes place. These are the key changes under consideration:

Vibrant communities:

There is a significant need for new homes for local people within the National Park, but there are challenges in meeting this need in an area with such a rich natural environment - over 55% of National Park land is internationally protected for nature.

The Government does not exempt National Parks from delivering new homes, and based on the Government's methodology for calculating housing need, the New Forest National Park has a need for around 260 new dwellings each year.

Development on this scale is incompatible with the landscape and nature conservation designations in the New Forest, but the revised Local Plan must consider where new development can be accommodated where appropriate. The draft Local Plan proposes around 50 net new dwellings each year and views are invited on this as part of the consultation.

The Local Plan review includes a proposed new 'settlement hierarchy' which increases the number of 'defined villages' to help deliver new housing and support the services and facilities in these communities. It aims to meet needs where possible through proposed new housing in Ashurst, Bartley, Lyndhurst, Sway, Landford and Redlynch, prioritising smaller homes, new affordable housing for local people through rural exception sites, and controls on the size of extensions and replacement houses.

It's proposed that a housing scheme which was planned for the former Fawley Power Station is deleted from the plan as it's no longer viable.

Vision and objectives:

The updated vision and strategic objectives are clearly aligned with the National Park Partnership Plan (our joint management plan for the place) as well as the New Forest's defined special qualities – those which set it apart from other parts of the country.

Climate change:

In response to the climate and nature emergencies, we've prepared a new standalone chapter on climate change. This will address the need for higher water efficiency standards, including sustainable water management systems and will be informed by an updated flood risk assessment. Policies will encourage sustainable construction and support small-scale renewable energy schemes where they are consistent with National Park purposes (conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage, and promoting public understanding and enjoyment of these special qualities).

Natural environment:

The proposed local planning policies on the natural environment continue to protect the wealth of internationally, nationally and regionally important nature conservation designations in the New Forest. There are also opportunities to link to the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Hampshire and Wiltshire. A strengthened approach to tranquillity and Biodiversity Net Gain will be included, with existing landscape character policies retained and enhanced.

Historic and built environment:

Following feedback from Historic England, policies relating to the historic and built environment have been updated to continue to help protect the New Forest's rich built heritage and support appropriately adapting historic buildings to the impacts of climate change.

Thriving local economy:

The draft revised local planning policies have been informed by an up-to-date assessment of employment needs within the National Park. These identified needs will be met through a proposed allocation north of Fawley Waterside (part of the Solent Freeport), and the draft says further development would be supported if it meets certain criteria. Suggested revisions to the Local Plan will also strengthen support for the land-based economy, including commoning.

Traffic and transport:

The traffic issues affecting the National Park largely stem from development outside National Park boundaries, rather than the small scale of new development within it. Proposed revised policies include reference to the latest Local Transport Plans from Hampshire and Wiltshire, which promote sustainable transport and reduce dependency on cars. There's also added focus on walking and cycling, as well as electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Next steps

You can give your views online, and paper copies will be available from Lymington Town Hall.

Public drop-in sessions will be held during the consultation period for you to speak to the NPA planning team and find out more about the proposals.

This will be followed by a final period of consultation on a revised version of the Plan in summer 2026.

The draft Plan, supporting evidence base studies and representations will then be submitted to the Government for independent examination in 2027.

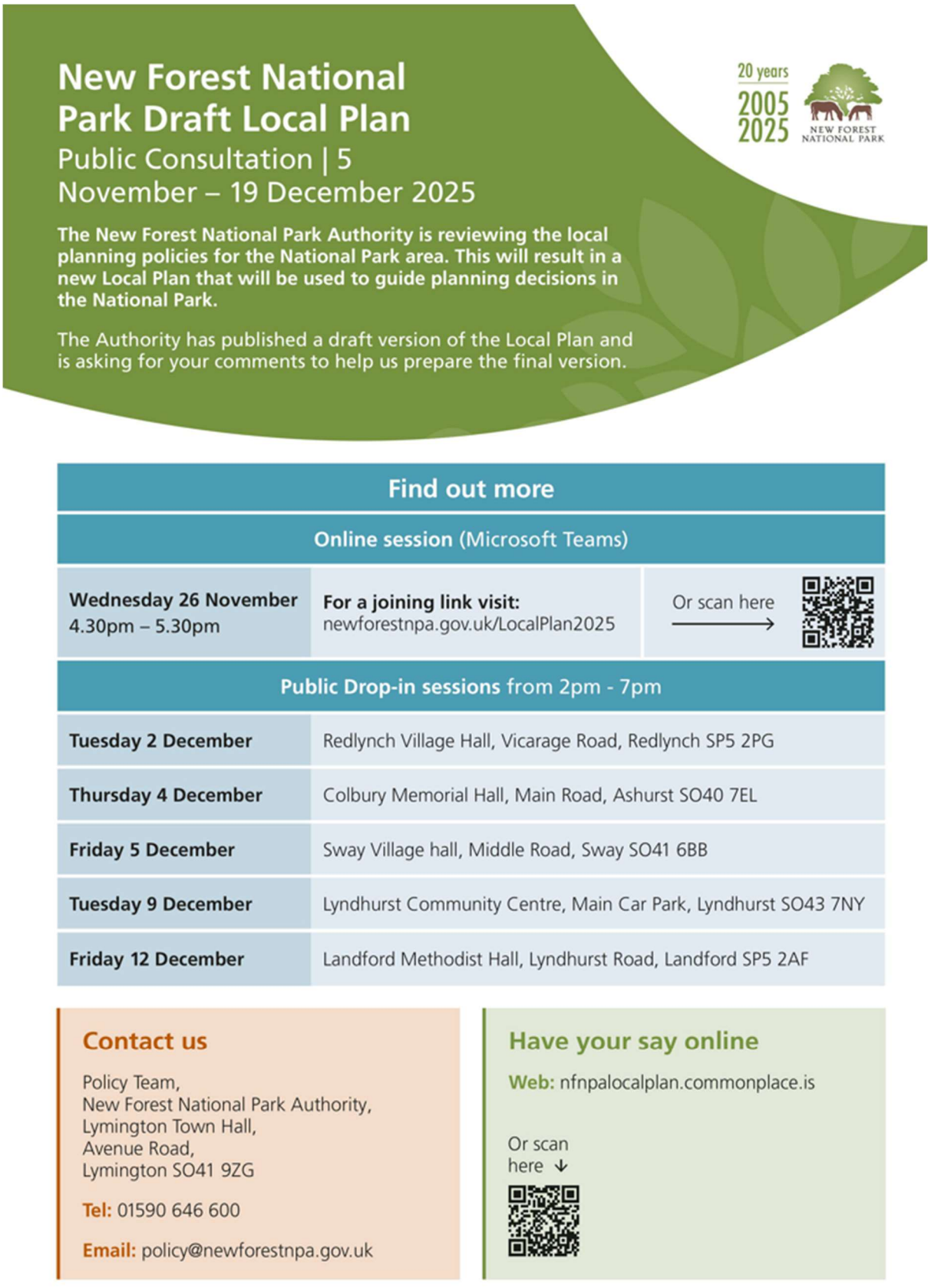
Look out for details on our website, email newsletter, social media channels and local press.

Help inform the New Forest National Park Local Plan. Add your voice from 5 November at nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is.



Appendix 7 – Consultation poster

Sent to all local towns and parishes and displayed in notice boards around the New Forest



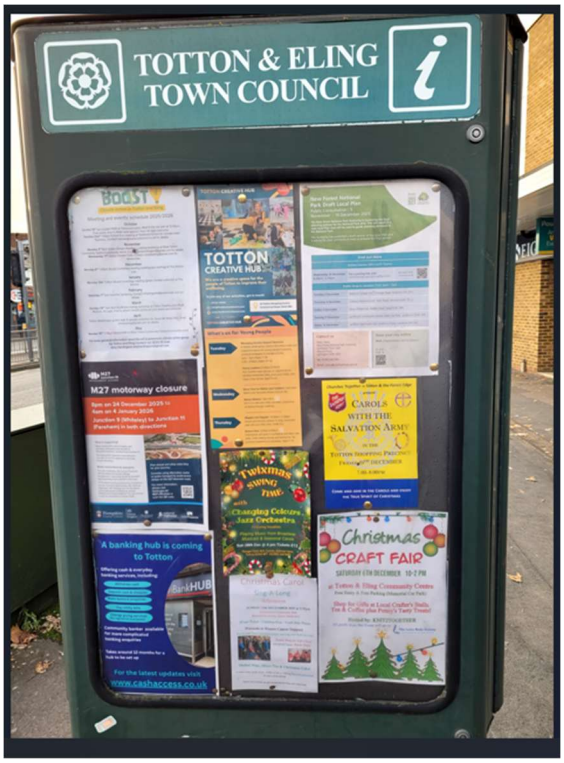
Below: Exbury and Lepe Council noticeboard



Below: Totton Civic Centre



Below: Totton Precinct



Below: Ringwood Town Council



Below: New Milton Town Council



Appendix 8 – NPA newsletter (November 2025)

Sent on 14 November 2025 to 27,000 recipients:



Have your say on Local Plan review

The next stage of our Local Plan review is now open for public comment from **5 November to 19 December 2025**.

The Local Plan sets the framework for how planning decisions are made in the National Park – shaping how we protect its landscapes, wildlife and heritage, while supporting local people, housing and the economy.

The next stage of our Local Plan review is now open for public comment from **5 November to 19 December 2025**.

The Local Plan sets the framework for how planning decisions are made in the National Park – shaping how we protect its landscapes, wildlife and heritage, while supporting local people, housing and the economy.

This review looks at key themes including:

- Meeting local housing needs and supporting thriving communities
- Tackling climate change and enhancing nature recovery
- Protecting the Forest's unique heritage and character
- Promoting sustainable transport and reducing traffic impacts

Join one of our drop-in sessions across the New Forest this November and December to learn more and speak to our planning team.

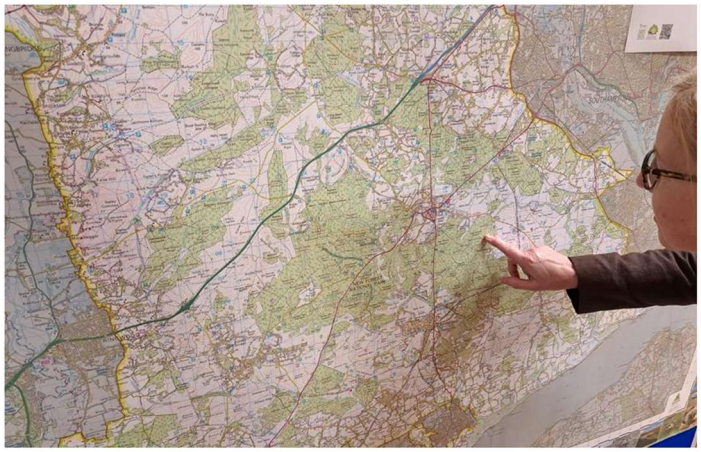
Share your views online below.

More details and updates at newforestnpa.gov.uk/LocalPlan2025

Take part in the consultation

Appendix 9 – NPA newsletter (December 2025)

Sent during early December to 27,000 recipients:



Have your say on Local Plan review

Have your say on Local Plan review

We're inviting public comments on the next stage of our Local Plan review, open until **19 December 2025**.

The Local Plan guides how planning decisions are made across the National Park. It shapes how we protect landscapes, wildlife and heritage, while supporting local communities, homes and the local economy.

This review focuses on key themes, including:

- Meeting local housing needs and supporting thriving communities
- Tackling climate change and boosting nature recovery
- Protecting the Forest's unique heritage and character
- Promoting sustainable transport and reducing traffic impacts

You can also speak to us in person at one of our drop-in sessions taking place across the Forest until **12 December**.

You can also speak to us in person at one of our drop-in sessions taking place across the Forest until **12 December**.

Share your views online below.

More details and updates at newforestnpa.gov.uk/LocalPlan2025

Take part in the consultation

Appendix 10 – Drop-in events

Photographs taken at the Ashurst/Colbury session on 4 December 2025:

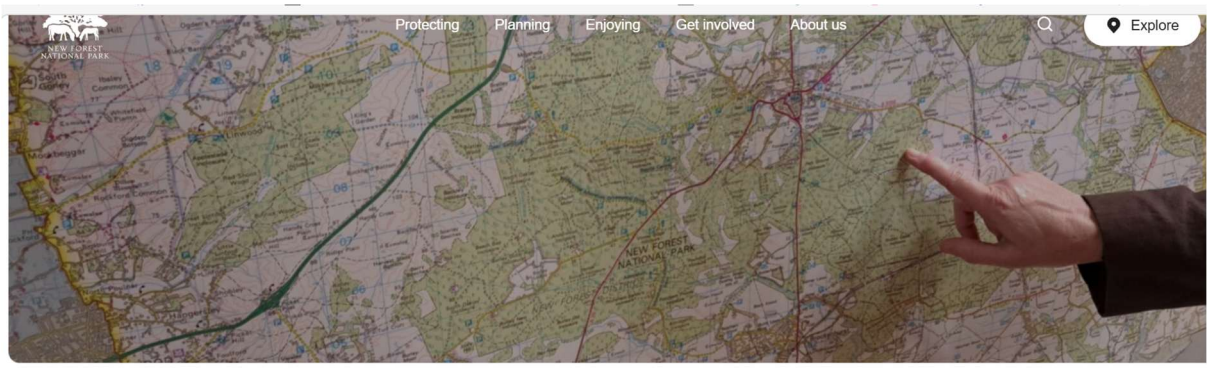






Appendix 11 – NPA website updates

News page on website 26 Nov 2025: [Public drop-in sessions: Learn more about the Local Plan review - New Forest National Park]



Home > News > Public drop-in sessions: Learn more about the Local Plan review

Public drop-in sessions: Learn more about the Local Plan review

Residents, businesses and community groups are invited to meet the New Forest National Park Authority's Planning Policy team at a series of public drop-in sessions to find out more about the next stage of the Local Plan review.

The Local Plan is an essential document that guides new development within the National Park, aimed at meeting local needs, yet conserving what makes the New Forest such a special place.

Our team will be available at the following events to answer your questions:

- **Wednesday 26 November, 4.30pm – 5.30pm (online)**
  Join via Microsoft Teams at: Local Plan Online Consultation 2025 | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams . No registration required.

Drop in any time to these in-person sessions:

- **Tuesday 2 December, 2pm – 7pm** – Redlynch Village Hall, Vicarage Road, Redlynch, Salisbury, SP5 2PG
- **Thursday 4 December, 2pm – 7pm** – Colbury Memorial Hall, Colbury Room, Main Rd, Totton, Southampton SO40 7EL
- **Friday 5 December, 2pm – 7pm** – Sway Village Hall, Middle Road, Sway, SO41 6BB
- **Tuesday 9 December, 2pm – 7pm** – Lyndhurst Community Centre, Pine Hall Main Car Park, Lyndhurst SO43 7NY

- **Friday 12 December, 2pm – 7pm** – Landford Methodist Hall, Lyndhurst Rd, Landford, Salisbury SP5 2AF

This review looks at key themes including:

- Meeting local housing needs and supporting thriving communities
- Tackling climate change and enhancing nature recovery
- Protecting the Forest's unique heritage and character
- Promoting sustainable transport and reducing traffic impacts

The **draft Local Plan is open for public consultation from 5 November to 19 December 2025**.

You can share your views online at **nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is**.
Paper copies will also be available to view at Lymington Town Hall.

We encourage everyone with an interest in the future of the New Forest to get involved.

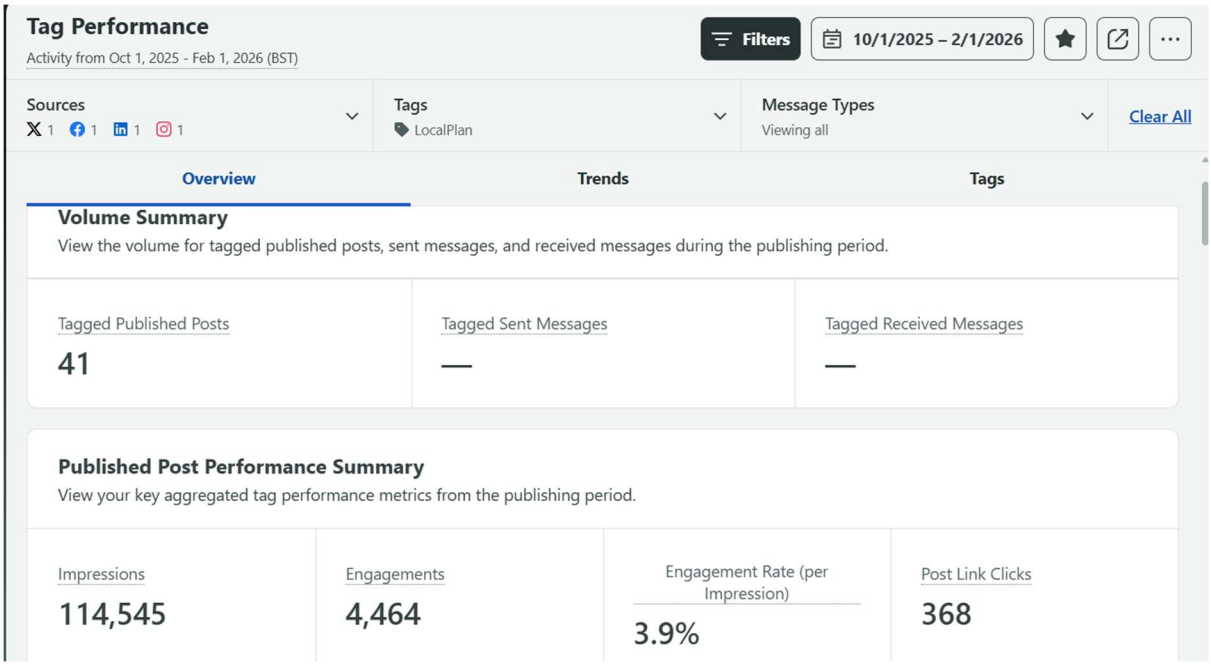


Video:
New Forest National Park Local Plan review (Published on 12 November 2025)

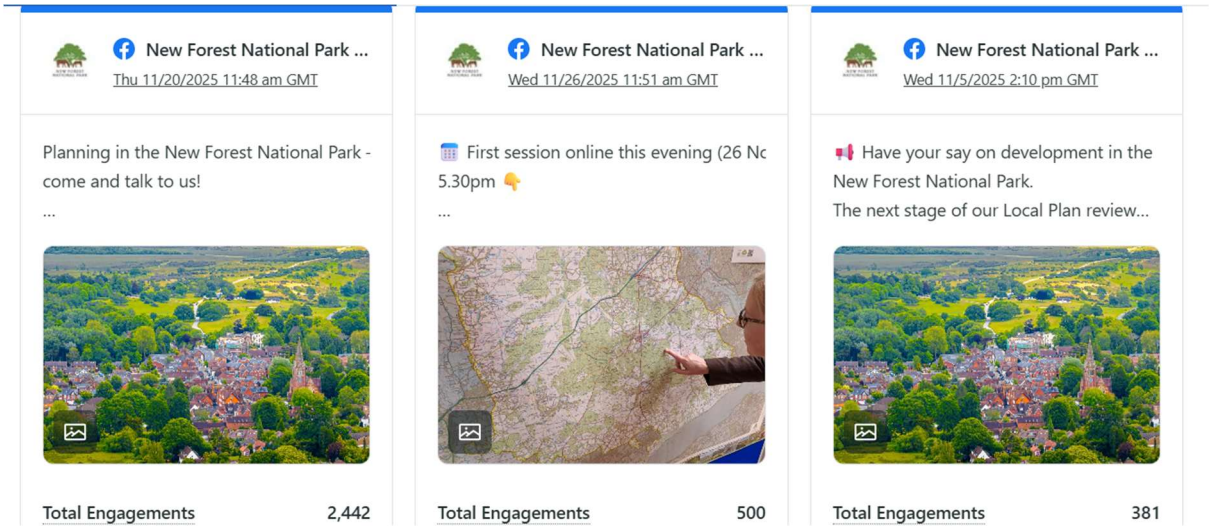
Appendix 12 – Social media posts

Over the course of the consultation, 41 related social media posts were published across NPA Facebook channels, including Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Instagram.

The posts had a reach of 114,545 people, with 4,464 people engaging with the posts (liking, sharing, commenting or clicking on links).



Example social media posts:



New Forest National Park ...
Thu 11/20/2025 11:48 am GMT

Planning in the New Forest National Park - come and talk to us!
...



Total Engagements 2,442

New Forest National Park ...
Wed 11/26/2025 11:51 am GMT

🗓️ First session online this evening (26 Nc 5.30pm 👇
...



Total Engagements 500

New Forest National Park ...
Wed 11/5/2025 2:10 pm GMT

📢 Have your say on development in the New Forest National Park.
The next stage of our Local Plan review...



Total Engagements 381

New Forest National Park ...
Wed 11/12/2025 4:12 pm GMT

🌳 We're asking for your views on the next stage of our Local Plan review.
The Local Plan is an essential document...



New Forest National Park ...
Fri 12/19/2025 11:48 am GMT

⏰ Last chance to have your say! 📢
The consultation on the latest stage of the New Forest National Park Local Plan...



New Forest National Park ...
Wed 12/3/2025 5:57 pm GMT

🗓️ Drop-in session Thursday 4 December 7pm). Colbury Memorial Hall, SO40 7EL
...



N newforestnpa
Thu 11/20/2025 11:48 am GMT

Planning in the New Forest National Park - come and talk to us!
...



N newforestnpa
Fri 12/19/2025 11:48 am GMT

⏰ Last chance to have your say! 📢
The consultation on the latest stage of the New Forest National Park Local Plan...



N newforestnpa
Wed 11/5/2025 2:10 pm GMT

📢 Have your say on development in the New Forest National Park.
The next stage of our Local Plan review...



Items posted on

- @NewForestNPA
- newforestnpa
- New Forest National Park Authority
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Green Halo Partnership