



**New Forest National Park Authority Local Plan Review
February 2025**

Comments Form

**Consultation on Scope of the New Forest National Park Local
Plan Review**

(Reg 18 Part 1)

This comments form relates to the review of the emerging Local Plan for the New Forest National Park following the adoption of the previous document in 2019. The consultation period will be open for 6 weeks from **Tuesday 4 February 2025 until Tuesday 18 March 2025**. Before completing this form please take the opportunity to read the 'Direction of Travel' document (702/25) available here: [New Forest National Park Authority Meeting 23/01/25 - New Forest National Park Authority](#) and returning it to the Policy Team by email via policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk.

Or by post to:

Policy Team
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington
SO41 9ZG

Comments need to be received by 5pm Tuesday 18 March 2025

To keep up to date on this consultation and others relating to the local plan review please visit our consultations page here: [Consultations - New Forest National Park Authority](#).

Your Details

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*If you are completing this form as an agent, please make this clear and ensure contact information is correct.

DATA PROTECTION

We will process personal data in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Your response(s) will be used to inform subsequent reports to inform the Local Plan Review process and anonymised comments may be shared online, on our website, or within material documents as part of this process. However, your personal data will not be published and will be redacted from public facing documents, this includes personal email addresses home addresses and personal phone numbers.

More details on how we hold personal information can be found at: <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/privacyandcookies>. Should you require any further information about how your details will be used or stored and/or would like to access any information we hold about you, please email our Information & Data Protection Officer at: dpo@newforestnpa.gov.uk.

Please note that all information held by public authorities is subject to the Freedom of information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and may be disclosed upon request.

Feedback

Would you like us to keep your contact details so we can inform you about the next stages in the progress of preparing the Local Plan?

Yes

☒

No

☐

Please write your comments in the sections provided below

*Before providing us with your comments, please ensure you have read and consulted the [‘Direction of Travel’](#) Document.

1. Introduction

n/a Please comment below:

We note the contents of the introduction setting out the framework that you need to work to. We are concerned about the comment in section 1.17 regarding the abolition of Supplementary Planning Documents which we assume would include Parish (and Village Design Statements).

We hope that a way can still be found to incorporate the content and intent of these important documents within the Local Plan.

2. Strategic policies & development principles

Q1 Do you consider the current Local Plan Vision is still broadly appropriate? Please comment below:

Yes, although we would like to see greater emphasis on using planning policies to address the impact of climate change.

Q2 Do the existing Strategic Objectives still represent the main considerations for development in the National Park? Please comment below:

Broadly yes. Land Management within the National Park is important but often conflicts with other things like increasing traffic.

Q3 Is the Spatial Strategy the most sustainable way to deliver new development over the next 20 years? Please comment below:

Whilst new property development is mainly limited to the defined villages, the impact of large extensions and outbuilding cannot be ignored.

3. The natural environment

Q4 Do you consider the current Local Plan policies on the natural environment still broadly align with national policy? Please comment below:

National natural environment policy has changed significantly since the adopted local plan and this is recognised in the consultation document. Whilst there are various new initiatives and requirements such as BNG, recreational zones of influence, nutrient neutrality and net zero, they do need to be considered holistically. This will need careful policy deliberation, and it may be useful to highlight and bring to the fore the concepts of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services in the new policy updates.

Q5 Are there any additional key issues that we may have missed? Please comment below:

We hope that the Strategic Flood Risk assessment is considered in a joined up manner throughout the National Park for both new and in-fill developments.

Q6 Do you have views on the planning policy approach to climate change and are there areas we should look to go further on? Please comment below:

We strongly believe that the impact and mitigation of climate change should be a high priority and would like to see a stronger line on including low carbon technologies for both new developments and individual household extensions and outbuildings. (e.g. Solar panels, passive design, heat pumps and car chargers). In addition, we would like to see more emphasis on household developments with respect to net biodiversity gain as they appear exempt from this at the moment.

Q7 How can we use local planning policies to protect the relative tranquillity of large areas of the New Forest National Park? Please comment below:

Paragraph 198 of the NPPF (Dec 24) highlights the need to identify and protect tranquil areas. Policy SP15 of the adopted plan covers the issues and the importance of tranquillity is strong throughout the plan. The addition of more focus on “dark skies” in the review would be welcomed.

4. Protecting and enhancing the historic and built environment

Q8 Do you consider the current Local Plan policies on the historic and built environment still broadly align with national policy? Please comment below:

The NFNP Local Plan will still likely need specific historic and built environment policies even after national development management policies are introduced to protect the special and unique characteristics of the area

Q9	Are there any additional key issues that we may have missed? Please comment below:
If local Design Statements are to be phased out along with other Supplementary Planning Documents, how will the Local Plan address issues such as the typical character of development in settlements. E.g. Do we want to have regimented/themed housing estate developments that are incongruous to the rest of a parish or village?	

5. Vibrant Communities (including housing)	
Q10	Pending the conclusions of the current evidence base work on local housing needs, what do you consider to be the best approach to meeting needs in a way that is compatible with the statutory National Park purposes? Options include site allocations, revisions to the Defined Village boundaries and other alternatives that will be tested through the Sustainability Appraisal/SEA process. Please comment below:
The register of brownfield sites is a good idea.	
Q11	Should the revised Local Plan identify specific settlements where rural exception sites would be supported in principle? Please comment below:
This is an interesting idea but there needs to be a better definition of what the acceptable levels of local infrastructure and public transport are.	
Q12	Do you agree with our intentions to retain policies focusing on commoners' dwellings and Estate workers' dwellings? Please comment below:
Yes	
Q13	What is the best policy approach to protecting the character of the National Park from incremental change from proposals for replacement dwellings, extensions to dwellings and outbuildings? Please comment below:
Possible suggestions to consider:- Putting a net biodiversity increase on all extensions larger than a defined percentage amount or absolute size. Putting a net biodiversity increase on any increase in size of outbuildings. Limit the size to the average neighbours' extensions or outbuildings. Have a maximum size regardless of property size. Anything larger would be classed as a "new Build". Ensure that there is sufficient on-site parking for the size of the buildings. Limits on the number of extensions, outbuildings in a period of time for each location. Put a higher priority of street scene and impact on neighbouring properties rather than size constraints.	

Q14	Are there any additional key issues that we have missed? Please comment below:
The growing number of second homes and “Airbnb” properties is having an impact on availability of housing and if left unchecked could result in vibrant communities declining. There appears to be conflict between “screening carparking on residential properties from the street scene” with resident verge parking (especially on protected areas) because of small entry driveways. Verge parking not only affects nature but affects the street scene by looking messy. Rural places that look well cared can have positive effects on reducing speeding leading to safer communities.	

6. Local economy	
Q15	Do you consider the current Local Plan policies on the local economy still broadly align with national policy? Please comment below:
Yes	
Q16	Are there any additional key issues that we may have missed? Please comment below:
The current reference in the adopted plan to superfast broadband is unambitious. The installation of ultrafast broadband would have the potential to retain and attract more demographically diverse economic activity. The introduction of ultrafast broadband ought to be highlighted in policy.	
Q17	Do you have views on the planning policy approach to the range of uses within the defined shopping areas of the National Park? Please comment below:
None in Copythorne so inappropriate for us to comment.	
Q18	Do you support our proposed approach to campsite development and continued use of Article 4 Directions? Please comment below:
Yes, they have proved to be very useful	
Q19	What should be the local planning policy approach to the impacts of national permitted development rights on the local economy (e.g., office to residential)? Please comment below:
We believe that the NPA should seek to minimise these rights, especially in the most rural areas that have distinct characteristics.	

7. Sustainable transport and access

Q20 Do you consider the current Local Plan transport policies still broadly align with local and national policy? Please comment below:

As the most significant contributor to CO2 production in the park, transport is a key issue, the amount of major roads nearby and the lack of viable alternatives to the car are the current reality; an apparent insurmountable challenge.

The need for improved broadband infrastructure could enable more working and servicing from home which would reduce the need to travel. That is the first step in reducing the reliance on the car.

Promoting walking and cycling in the LCWIP is important but requires investment in safe routes, cycling facilities at those routes with parking and some further disincentives for car users. Restricting cars is a real issue though as car ownership is very high, with the wealthy and older demographic. The policies are doing what they can, but the NPA is not a transport authority and must work collaboratively and innovatively with the appropriate authorities to manage these challenges.

Q21 Are there any additional key issues that we may have missed? Please comment below:

Are there any policies on improving low carbon transport links from settlements to/from towns?

Q22 Do you have views on whether the current transport policies adequately respond to the climate emergency? Please comment below:

There is limited infrastructure in the National Park for low carbon transport. There are currently too many cars for safe cycling. We have three buses on two days of the week, so that is also not a viable option.

Light pollution is, in my view, a barrier to cycling at night, so a policy to give other options would be welcome.

Q23 Do you support the current cycle and car parking standards, or consider that they should be reviewed to support sustainable transport? Please comment below:

These need to be reviewed to consider all innovative ideas to meet this challenge.