

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION



New Forest District Council Local Development Framework

MITIGATION STRATEGY FOR EUROPEAN SITES

Recreational Pressure from Residential Development

PART 1 of the GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

NEW FOREST DISTRICT OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL PARK

September 2013

Supplementary Planning Document

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1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 New Forest District Council is the planning authority for the New Forest District outside of the National Park and lies on the south coast between the Southampton and Bournemouth conurbations. The plan area includes and is close to a number of significant environmental designations, including European nature conservation sites.
- 1.2 The Council submitted the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management document to the Secretary of State for Public Examination in July 2012. The Local Plan Part 2 sets out detailed policies to implement the planning strategy agreed for the area (in the period up to 2026) in the adopted Core Strategy (Part 1 of the Local Plan).
- 1.3 The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Local Plan has identified potentially harmful recreational impacts arising from residential development on the New Forest SSA/SPA/Ramsar site (New Forest European sites) and the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar site/ Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC/Solent Maritime SAC (Solent Coastal European sites). To enable the planned residential development to proceed the EU Habitats Regulations require that appropriate mitigation measures are in place to ensure that the proposed development does not have a harmful impact on the protected sites.
- 1.4 New Forest District Council has therefore developed a Mitigation Strategy that proposes four main areas of mitigation namely:
- New green space - Delivery of 30 - 40 ha of informal open space which is not currently available for this use.
 - Enhancement of existing green space and footpaths / rights of way - A programme of enhancement of footpaths/rights of way and existing open spaces in all settlements in which the Local Plan provides for residential development. .
 - Access management – measures include the provision of additional wardens/rangers, for the New Forest European and Solent Coastal sites with the New Forest National Park Authority (and Natural England, if appropriate)
 - Monitoring - Contributions will be gathered to support monitoring of the condition of European designated habitats and species, progress in implementing the mitigation strategy, and visitor patterns at new and enhanced open spaces and within the New Forest and Solent Coast European sites
- 1.5 The mitigation proposals are set out for each settlement (in the order of the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management). In order to ensure that mitigation proposals are related to the allocations in the Local Plan, the settlement-specific proposals follow the dispersed strategy of new development in accordance with Table 2 of the Core Strategy. This document does not provide an exhaustive list of every mitigation option and there may be further opportunities in future iterations of the Local Plan to identify these alongside new allocations.
- 1.6 The Council does not currently have a CIL charging schedule adopted and until this time will collect contributions towards mitigation under S106 agreements. Under the S106 process, contributions of around £4,000 will be sought per dwellings for offsite mitigation, access management and wardening. Once the Council adopts a CIL charging schedule it will be required to publish a list of what it intends to spend CIL on. Whilst this list is subject to change, the Council recognises that the mitigation projects listed in this strategy are a high priority for CIL expenditure.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 This Mitigation Strategy covers the New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan Area. (See figure 1 below.)



Figure 1: The Plan Area

2.2 New Forest District lies on the south coast between the Southampton and Bournemouth conurbations. The area is subject to significant environmental designations, including European nature conservation sites. The environmental constraints within the Plan Area have been recognised in the adopted planning strategy for the area, which seeks development restraint in the area. The planned rate of new house-building is significantly reduced from past development rates to avoid harmful impacts on habitats and landscapes of international and national importance. However, while low rates of growth are planned in this area, limited amounts of new development to address local needs will continue to be permitted under the adopted planning strategy for the area (The New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy, adopted in October 2009.) Under the requirements of the Habitats Regulations the Council has a duty to ensure that the effects of its Plan do not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites (European nature conservation designations – Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)).

2.3 The Council submitted the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management document to the Secretary of State for Public Examination in July 2012. The Local Plan Part 2 sets out detailed policies to implement the planning strategy agreed for the area (in the period up to 2026) in the adopted Core Strategy (Part 1 of the Local Plan).

2.4 In examining the ‘soundness’ of the Local Plan Part 2, the Inspector found the submitted Plan to have failings in regard to compliance with the Habitat Regulations. The Inspector’s

Note to the Council of 25 February 2013, sets out his concerns about compliance with the Habitats Regulations and the adequacy of the approach to the mitigation of recreational impacts arising from planned residential development in the submitted Plan. (Inspector's Note ID/9: Preliminary Conclusions on Compliance with the Habitats Regulations). On 24 April 2013 the Examination was adjourned to enable the Council to undertake the further work required by the Inspector on habitat mitigation. This document – the Mitigation Strategy – has been prepared in response to the Inspector's (and others) concerns about the adequacy of mitigation measures provided for in the submitted Plan and sets out an improved package of mitigation measures, which the Council considers will provide appropriate mitigation to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.

- 2.5 The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Local Plan has identified potentially harmful recreational impacts arising from residential development on the New Forest SSA/SPA/Ramsar site (New Forest European sites) and the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar site/ Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC/Solent Maritime SAC (Solent Coastal European sites). To enable the planned residential development to proceed the Habitats Regulations require that appropriate mitigation measures are in place to ensure that the proposed development does not have a harmful impact on the protected sites. Policy DM2a of the Local Plan Part 2 includes the following requirement:

“Where development is permitted, the local planning authority will use conditions and/or planning obligations to minimise the damage, provide mitigation and site management measures, and where appropriate, compensatory and enhancement measures.”

- 2.6 The Local Plan Part 2 contains Policy DM2b which sets out the broad approach which will be applied to residential development to secure appropriate mitigation of recreational impacts on the European sites from the development. This document, the Mitigation Strategy, provides details of how that policy will be implemented, and in particular sets out the suite of projects and measures which will be either provided by or funded by residential development within the plan area over the plan period to provide the required mitigation of recreational impacts. As well as the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management DPD, other relevant documents include, the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule.
- 2.7 Mitigation measures set out in this strategy are directed towards:
- providing alternative recreational opportunities (to deflect potential visits away from the European nature conservation sites);
 - managing and educating visitors (to change visitor behaviour including when visiting the protected sites), and
 - monitoring of impacts and effectiveness of mitigation measures (to provide a better understanding of the impacts of recreation on European sites and enabling future refinements of mitigation policies and measures).
- 2.8 This Mitigation Strategy has been developed following advice given in an addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Plan, prepared for the Council by Land Use Consultants¹. The preparation of the LUC report involved a steering group comprising Natural England (NE), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Hampshire/Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIOWWT) and the New Forest National Park Authority.

¹ “Sites and Development Management Development Plan Document: New Forest outside the National Park: Addendum to Habitats Regulations Assessment of Proposed Submission Document” prepared by LUC August 2013.

Relationship between the strategy and other documents

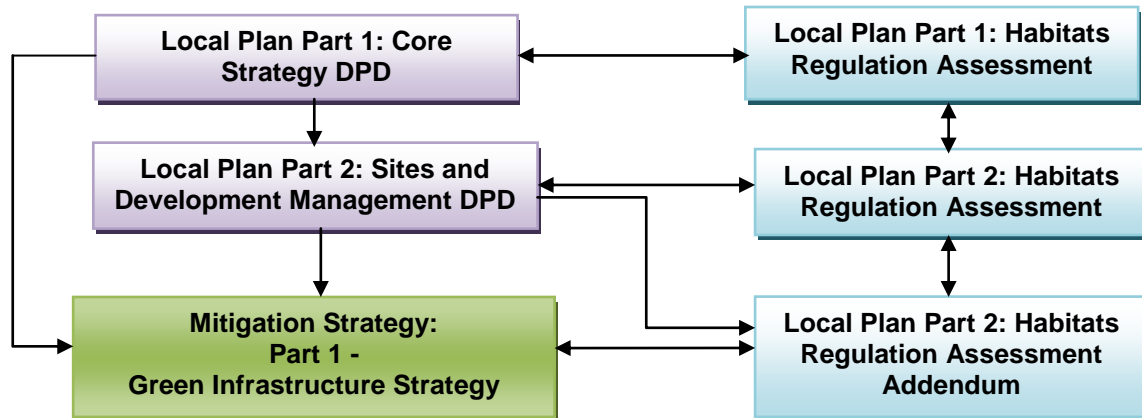


Figure 2 Relationship between the strategy and NFDC documents

Requirements of the Habitats Regulations

- 2.9 Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)² requires all Member States to undertake an 'appropriate assessment' of any plan or project requiring authorisation which would be likely to have a significant effect upon an SPA; this is commonly referred to as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This assessment must demonstrate that based on the best available scientific information, and in light of any suitable mitigation measures, the plan or project would not adversely affect the integrity of the site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. A precautionary approach must be adopted in HRA, and where a loss of site integrity cannot be ruled out the plan or project may only be authorised under very exceptional circumstances following consultation with the European Commission.
- 2.10 In the UK the Habitats Directive has been transposed into domestic legislation as the Habitats Regulations 2010³, and the provisions of Article 6 are largely satisfied by Regulation 61 and Government Circular 06/2005 which establishes the statutory obligations for HRA alongside the European Commission's guidance. The Habitats Regulations confirms the responsibility of all local planning authorities as 'competent authorities', requiring them to carry out HRA of all relevant planning applications and Local Development Documents.
- 2.11 Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, Competent Authorities have a duty to ensure that all the activities they regulate have no adverse effect on the integrity of any of the Natura 2000 sites (Together SPAs and SACs make up the network of Natura 2000 sites). Therefore, the Council (the Competent Authority) must assess the possible effects of a plan or project on any Natura 2000 sites. This includes an initial screening stage to identify any likely significant effects on the SPA/SAC which may arise, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. If at the screening stage it is considered that there is likely to be a significant effect, in view of the site's conservation objectives, then the plan or project must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA). Having undertaken the AA, the Council shall agree to the plan or project only after ascertaining that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site concerned, or where the further tests as described in article 6(4) can be met.

²Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora can be viewed at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31992L0043:EN:HTML>

³ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 can be viewed at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/pdfs/uksi_20100490_en.pdf

- 2.12 The decision-maker must consider the likely and reasonably foreseeable effects in order to ascertain that the proposal will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site before it may grant permission (subject to the exception tests set out in Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations).
- 2.13 This process requires close working with Natural England in order to obtain the necessary information, agree the process, outcomes and mitigation proposals, and to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.
- 2.14 In developing the Local Plan Part 2 the Council produced an HRA of the Proposed Submission Document⁴. Previously the Council had produced an HRA of its Core Strategy in 2008⁵ which contained within it a number of assumptions and expectations. At the Hearing Sessions of the Local Plan Part 2 Examination, the Inspector raised particular concerns about Section 4 of the HRA of the Council's Local Plan Part 2, essentially the basis for the favourable conclusion made in the assessment, and the assumptions and expectations in the HRA of the Council's Core Strategy.
- 2.15 As a result of the Inspector's concerns the Council instructed specialist consultants (Land Use Consultants) to produce an addendum report to the HRA. The addendum to the HRA clarifies a number of points made in section 4 of the HRA of the Local Plan Part 2 and the assumptions and expectations in the HRA of the Core Strategy.

Natura 2000 sites

- 2.16 The Plan Area surrounds and is within a number of Natura 2000 (SPAs/SACs) sites. Details of European nature conservation sites are set out in more detail in Appendix 2 to this document. However, the HRA screening has identified the 'New Forest European sites' (The New Forest SAC; New Forest SPA; The New Forest Ramsar site) and the 'Solent Coast European sites' (Solent Maritime SAC; Solent and Southampton Water SPA; Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site) as the Natura 2000 sites where mitigation measures are required to address the effects of the Plan in relation to recreational impacts. Descriptions of these sites are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

Approaches to mitigation of recreational impacts

The New Forest European sites

- 2.17 The Addendum to the HRA, prepared by LUC (the LUC Report) includes a review of available evidence which can be used to inform a better understanding of the likely impacts of residential development on the New Forest, and the appropriate mitigation of recreational impacts arising from new residential development on the European sites. This is set out in section 4 of that report.
- 2.18 The review of studies indicates that it is probable that recreational visits cause disturbance at European sites. However, it is noted that most studies to date relate to the New Forest National Park, and not specifically to the parts of the New Forest which are subject to European designations. The implications for mitigation of recreation pressure which can be drawn from the various studies are set out in the LUC report. A few are highlighted below.
- 2.19 The Footprint Ecology Report "Changing patterns of visitor numbers within the New Forest" emphasises the need to tailor a package of mitigation measures to the unique nature of the

⁴ Habitat Regulations Assessment of Proposed Submission Document (Submission Document S12/Background paper BP47) can be viewed at: [http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/8//BP47 -
_Habitats_Regulations_Assessment_of_Sites_and_Development_Management_DPD_Jan_2012.pdf](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/8//BP47_-_Habitats_Regulations_Assessment_of_Sites_and_Development_Management_DPD_Jan_2012.pdf)

⁵ Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement and Appropriate Assessment for New Forest District Council Core Strategy - Submission document September 2008 can be viewed at: <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=8197&articleaction=dispmedia&mediaid=9580>

New Forest and its visitor patterns but also points out that the large area of land, existing expertise in access management, and an infrastructure already geared to cope with large numbers of visitors provide a good starting point. Suggested mitigation measures comprise:

- A monitoring strategy – detailed field work to understand low densities of the three indicator species; regular monitoring of other key species and locations where there are concerns about recreational pressure; annual monitoring of visitor levels; monitoring of changes in visitor patterns associated with access management measures.
- Refinement of visitor models – accounting for the spatial distribution of paths and points of interest within the New Forest; incorporating actual route data; exploring the spatial distribution of other species to predicted visitor pressure.
- Car-parking – managing car parking to re-distribute visitors.
- Access management measures - promotion of less sensitive areas to visitors; provision of interpretation and path enhancement in less sensitive areas; promotion of issues such as the need to keep dogs on leads.
- Alternative green space – the report states that any alternative green space must be very carefully considered in terms of its ability to attract people who would otherwise visit the New Forest. It notes the lack of long term visitor monitoring at green spaces provided as a means of reducing visitor pressure on sites of nature conservation importance elsewhere and cites a Portsmouth recreation survey which suggested that neither country parks nor tourist attractions are regarded as alternatives to visiting the New Forest. It concludes that the visitors who are likely to be the easiest to divert from the New Forest are those who do not stay overnight and that potential alternative green spaces need to be located closer to development areas than the sensitive site to be protected and might be found within parts of the New Forest that currently have no public access. These would need to be located in area of low sensitivity to disturbance. Sites to attract dog walkers should provide safe off-road parking, a range of routes, and be in locations perceived to maximise enjoyment of the dog.

2.20 The most recent publication of particular relevance is the Footprint Ecology Report “Urban development and the New Forest SPA”, prepared for the New Forest National Park Authority. In discussing potential mitigation measures, the report finds little merit in establishing a development exclusion buffer zone around the New Forest’s existing settlements such as the 400 m zone used for other heathland SPAs in southern England. This reflects, in part, the particular travel patterns of the New Forest’s recreational users. Instead, the report recommends that resources are pooled into a strategic mitigation scheme focused on people management and designed to complement the National Park’s existing Recreation Management Strategy. Recommended elements of mitigation include:

- A survey of all parking locations within the National Park to inform management options.
- Heightened ranger presence at key locations during March-August to ensure responsible access.
- Promotion of routes for local residents away from sensitive areas, particularly during the bird breeding season.
- Management of pathways to influence visitor use.
- Community work to communicate issues to local residents.
- Reduction of disturbance around honey buzzard nest sites, for example by providing dedicated bird watching points.
- Further research to identify the factors determining distribution and abundance of Annex I bird species in the New Forest.

Solent Coast European sites

2.21 The Solent coastline provides feeding grounds for internationally protected populations of overwintering waders and wildfowl, and is also extensively used for recreation. In response

to concerns over the impact of recreational pressure on birds within protected areas in the Solent, the Solent Forum initiated the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project to determine visitor access patterns around the coast and how their activities may influence the birds. The project has been divided into three phases. Phase I collated and reviewed information on housing, human activities and birds around the Solent, and reviewed the potential impact of disturbance on birds. Phase II has involved a programme of major new data collection to:

- i) estimate visitor rates to the coast from current and future housing,
- ii) measure the activities and distances moved by people on the shore and intertidal habitats, and
- iii) measure the distances and time for which different bird species respond to different activities. Phase III has resulted in the production of an Avoidance and Mitigation Plan.

2.22 Following the production of the Avoidance and Mitigation Plan a sub-group of the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project Steering Group was formed to help take the Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy forward. The main purpose of the sub-group was to draw up a job description for a Project Delivery Officer, to consider the amount of contributions that could be generated through an interim contributions, what such contributions could be spent on and to put forward a suggestion with regard to who should host a Delivery Project Officer and the wardens who are to be employed. It is anticipated that approximately 5 wardens will be employed through the use of developers' contributions and that one of the wardens employed will cover, as part of their remit, the area of coastline that falls within the District Council's Plan Area. It is anticipated that this approach will provide adequate mitigation for 3-5 years, during which period proposals for further measures to divert visitors will need to be developed.

2.23 In addition to proposals for the employment of wardens phase III of the Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy sets out a number of other proposals. This includes a Solent Dogs Project aimed at engaging with dog owners, promoting particular areas for dog walking and raising awareness of certain matters such as the impacts of dogs off leads. Furthermore the strategy sets out specific mitigation proposals in relation to NFDC's Plan Area. This is mainly associated with managing recreational pressures and thus is likely to involve management by wardens and raising awareness thorough the development of possible guidance/codes of conduct.

Green Infrastructure

2.24 New Forest District Council intend to prepare a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the plan area. Mitigation of the impacts of development is a key role of the Green Infrastructure Strategy within the Plan area. This mitigation strategy forms the first of the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy. The second part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy will then specifically deal with the protection and enhancement of important local green infrastructure features (principally) within settlements, building on work previously done at a strategy level in the PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy.

2.25 Policy DM9 of the Local Plan Part 2 provides the framework for the preparation of Part 2 of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. The document will identify green infrastructure features which contribute to the local networks of green infrastructure by providing important connecting linkages. Green infrastructure features will also contribute recreational and biodiversity benefits, and help to mitigate the recreational impacts of residential development on internationally important nature conservation sites. Part 2 will be prepared following on from preparation of the mitigation part of the overall Green Infrastructure Strategy.

2.26 The Green Infrastructure Strategy will recognise that green infrastructure connections benefit both biodiversity and people. Biodiversity benefits from links between habitat areas

which enable movement and guard against fragmentation. People benefit from connected recreation and access routes for walking and cycling which can improve health and reduce emissions from motorised vehicles. Alternative recreational routes can also reduce the impacts of recreation on environmentally sensitive areas.

Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt)

- 2.27 In 2010 Natural England produced guidance aims to deliver high quality and inspiring visitor experiences in green spaces close to where people live, and connect people with the natural environment. Natural England have suggested an Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt). The principles of ANGSt are:
- a) Improving access to greenspaces
 - b) Improving naturalness of greenspaces
 - c) Improving connectivity with greenspaces
- 2.28 These principles will be applied within the Green Infrastructure Strategy, aiming to ensure that wherever they live, people should have accessible natural greenspace.

Sustainability Appraisal of this document

- 2.29 Plans and programmes that have been determined to require Appropriate Assessment pursuant to the Habitats Directive are also subject to an assessment procedure under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (Article 3(2) (b)).
- 2.30 Under the new planning rules, it is no longer mandatory to carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of SPDs. A full Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out of both the adopted Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2009 and the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management.

Public consultation and timescale for adoption

- 2.31 The timescale for adoption of this Mitigation Strategy is closely linked to that of the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management DPD, with the Council aiming to adopt both at a similar time.
- 2.32 The Council is consulting on this draft Mitigation Strategy alongside the public consultation on the Main Modifications to the Local Plan Part 2. While this document is not part of the Local Plan itself, it is a key document for securing the delivery of appropriate measures required to provide the mitigation of recreational impacts on the European sites.
- 2.33 Following the six week consultation period, the Council will review all the comments received on this document and make changes as appropriate. It will also beginning the process of developing in detail the projects put forward for public consultation in this document.
- 2.34 The Council anticipates that the Council will receive the Inspector's report following the Local Plan Part 2 Examination, in early 2014 with adoption of the Local Plan Part 2 in Spring 2014. At this time the Council will also progress and adopt this Mitigation Strategy.

3.0 Local Plan Policies and other relevant documents

Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2009

- 3.1 The Core Strategy⁶ is the means for “orchestrating the necessary social, physical and green infrastructure required to ensure that sustainable communities are created”.
- 3.2 NFDC adopted its Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) on 21 October 2009 following an Examination by the Secretary of State². The Core Strategy sets out the planning framework for the District. It provides a base level of an additional 3,920 dwellings in the Plan Area (New Forest District outside the National Park), during the plan period (2006-2026). The Core Strategy also allows for up to an additional 810 dwellings over the 3,920 to be allocated in the plan area specifically to address the local need for affordable housing (Core Strategy Policy CS12). In total the Core Strategy made provision for the development of up to 4730 dwellings during the plan period.
- 3.3 Policies CS11 and CS12 in the Core Strategy provide for the following Greenfield housing allocations:
- Totton (around 100 dwellings under Policy CS11)
 - Marchwood (up to around 130 dwellings under Policy CS12)
 - Hythe (up to around 40-45 dwellings under Policy CS12)
 - Blackfield (up to around 30 dwellings)
 - Lymington (up to around 120 dwellings under Policy CS12)
 - Milford-on-Sea (up to around 30 dwellings)
 - Hordle (up to around 20 dwellings)
 - New Milton (up to around 110 dwellings under Policy CS12)
 - Ringwood (around 150 dwellings under Policy CS11)
 - Fordingbridge (up to around 100 dwellings under Policy CS12)
 - Ashford (up to around 10 dwellings)
 - Sandleheath (up to around 10 dwellings)
- 3.4 The Core Strategy also has provision for up to 49 hectares of employment land and 26,500 square metres of additional retail floorspace during the plan period. The employment provision will be relies on a large proportion of brownfield land and largely involves the redevelopment of existing employment sites.
- 3.5 The Core Strategy contains a number of policies which set out the Council’s intentions to mitigating the harmful impacts of development. The specific policies are Core Strategy policies CS3, CS7 and CS25.

CS3 Protecting and enhancing our special environment (Heritage and Nature Conservation)

- 3.6 Protecting the Heritage and Nature Conservation of the National Park and the SPAs is a of great importance to the Council and this policy states some specific elements which are of relevance to this mitigation strategy, particularly parts (l) and (m) which state:

- (l) *ensuring development contributes, where possible, to biodiversity by designing in wildlife, and ensuring any unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated for (including on sensitive areas outside the Plan Area including the international nature conservation designations in the National Park); and*
- (m) *retaining and enhancing the green infrastructure networks within settlements.*

⁶ The adopted Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy DPD can be viewed at http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/o/t/FINAL_DOCUMENT.pdf.

CS7 Open spaces, sport and recreation

3.7 Core Strategy Policy CS7 part (j) states:

(j) in order to prevent adverse effects on internationally designated nature conservation sites, the Council will work with other local authorities to develop and implement a strategic approach to protecting such sites from recreational pressures, including provision for new and enhanced open spaces.

3.8 Core Strategy Policy CS7 requires a minimum open space contribution of 3.5ha per 1,000 populations. This is split out as follows:

- 2ha Informal Open Space
- 1.25ha Formal Open Space
- 0.2ha Play spaces for children and young people.

3.9 This level of open space is a significant increase in the informal open space requirement in the Local Plan First Alteration adopted in 2006. In the Local Plan First Alteration the informal open space standard was 1.2ha, where the Core Strategy is now 2ha. This increase was developed following an assessment of open space, play, sport and recreation facilities in the area covered by New Forest District Council and the New Forest National Park Authority as part of the PPG17 Study.

3.10 The study identified all areas of existing open space within the District and offered scope to improve and enhance these areas. Many of these projects were then taken forward in open space profiles for all the Towns and Parishes in the District which set out deficiencies in specific areas of open space.

3.11 It is the informal open space requirement that the Council believes is specifically required for mitigation measures.

CS25 Developer Contributions

3.12 Currently the Council primarily collects pooled S106 contributions for transportation and open space, as well as affordable housing. The policy specifically states that:

Development proposals will be required to provide, or meet the reasonable costs of providing, the on-site and off-site infrastructure, facilities and/or mitigation necessary to make a development acceptable in planning terms, including the mitigation of the effect of cumulative developments.

Where the provision or improvement of infrastructure or other works or facilities is needed to meet community or environmental needs associated with new development or to mitigate the impact of development on the environment or existing communities, standard charges and/or standard formulae as appropriate may be imposed for the payment of financial contributions towards such infrastructure, works or facilities to ensure that all such development makes an appropriate and reasonable contribution to the costs of provision.

3.13 With the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 and the restrictions this places on pooled contributions it is proposed that the Council will adopt a charging schedule to replace some elements of the CS25 requirements. Affordable Housing will still be required to be provided in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS12.

3.14 How the mitigation strategy will be delivered and funding is discussed in Section 7.

Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management Development Plan Document

- 3.15 NFDC started work on its Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management in 2010. The Local Plan Part 2 sets out the detailed policies and proposals to help achieve the Council's planning strategy (as set out in the adopted Core Strategy) in the areas of New Forest District outside the National Park. It includes proposals to allocate sites for new housing development and new employment development in accordance with the Core Strategy.
- 3.16 The policies and proposals in the Local Plan Part 2 provide for in the order of 4575 additional dwellings during the plan period (estimate at June 2013). As well as identifying site allocations, the Local Plan Part 2 is required to include appropriate policies and proposals to ensure an effective mitigation strategy is in place to address the recreational impacts of development on European sites, identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment. During the Examination of the Local Plan Part 2, the Inspector's raised concerns about the effectiveness of the mitigation measures set out in the Submitted Plan. In response to the Inspector's (and others') concerns, the Council has proposed a number of modifications to the policies contained in the Submission document.
- 3.17 The additional policies in the Local Plan Part 2, specifically directed to securing appropriate mitigation of the impact of development on European nature conservation sites are set out below:

Policy DM2a: Nature conservation, biodiversity and geodiversity

Development proposals which would be likely to adversely affect a designated or candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC), classified or potential Special Protection Area (SPA), or listed Ramsar site will not be permitted unless there is no alternative solution and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest which would justify the development.

Development proposals within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which would be likely to adversely affect the site will not be permitted unless the benefits of the development outweigh both the adverse impacts on the site and any adverse impacts on the wider network of SSSIs.

Development which would result in damage to or loss of a site of biodiversity or geological value of regional or local importance (including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Sites (RIGGS), and habitats of species of principal importance for biodiversity) will not be permitted unless the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the harm it would cause to the site, and the loss can be mitigated to achieve a net gain in biodiversity/ geodiversity.

Development proposals will be expected to incorporate features to encourage biodiversity, and retain and where possible enhance existing features of nature conservation value within the site. Existing ecological networks should be identified and maintained to avoid habitat fragmentation, and ecological corridors should form an essential component of green infrastructure provision in association with new development to ensure habitat connectivity.

Where development is permitted, the local planning authority will use conditions and/or planning obligations to minimise the damage, provide mitigation and site management measures, and where appropriate, compensatory and enhancement measures.

Development will not be permitted which would adversely affect species of fauna or flora that are protected under national or international law, or their habitats, unless their protection can be adequately secured through conditions and/or planning obligations.

Figure 2 Local Plan Part 2 Policy DM2a: Nature conservation, biodiversity and geodiversity

Policy DM2b: Mitigation of impacts on European nature conservation sites

Development will not be permitted unless the Council is satisfied that, having regard to mitigation measures, the development (in combination with other developments) will not give rise to likely significant adverse effects on the integrity of:

- the New Forest European nature conservation sites (the New Forest SAC; New Forest SPA; The New Forest Ramsar site) or
- the Solent Coast European nature conservation sites (the Solent Maritime SAC; Solent and Southampton Water SPA; Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site).

The required suite of mitigation measures relating to the European nature conservation sites consists of a combination of the following measures:

(a) Provision of SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space): new or improved open space of a quality and type suitable to attract residents of new development within the Plan Area who might otherwise visit the European nature conservation sites for recreation.

SANGS will be delivered by:

- Additional areas of informal open space (30 to 40 ha) of SANGS quality;
- Existing open space of SANGS quality with no existing public access or limited public access, which for the purposes of mitigation could be made fully accessible and attractive to the public (including through improvements to footpaths/rights of way);
- Existing open space which is already accessible but which could be changed in character so that it is more attractive to the specific group of visitors who might otherwise visit the European nature conservation sites.

(b) Access and Visitor Management: measures to manage the number of recreational visits to the New Forest European sites and the Solent Coast European sites; and to modify visitor behaviour within those sites so as to reduce the potential for harmful recreational impacts.

(c) Monitoring of the impacts of new development on the European nature conservation sites and establishing a better evidence base: to reduce uncertainty and inform future refinement of mitigation measures.

To achieve these mitigation measures, all residential developments that result in additional dwellings will be required to provide for appropriate mitigation and /or financial contributions towards off-site mitigation. This will need to be agreed and secured prior to approval of the development. The required level of contributions per dwelling (to be set out in more detail in the Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document) will be based on x/y where:
 x = the assessed overall cost of the package of mitigation measures set out in (a) and (b) above needed to offset potentially harmful visits to the European nature conservation sites, and
 y = the number of contributing dwellings.

On sites of 50 or more dwellings, where there is physical capacity and there are suitable opportunities, the full direct mitigation requirements may best be met by provision of SANGS on-site or close to the site, based on a standard of 8ha of SANGS per 1,000 population.

Informal open space required by Policy CS7 will be accepted as a part of the mitigation contribution where it is demonstrated as contributing towards SANGS requirements.

In addition, all residential developments will be required to contribute towards monitoring [measure (c)].

Figure 3 Local Plan Part 2 Policy DM2b: Mitigation of impacts on European nature conservation sites

- 3.18 The following policy is also included, setting out the framework for the preparation of Part 2 of the Green Infrastructure Strategy:

Policy DM9: Green Infrastructure linkages

Development proposals should maintain, and where possible enhance, the integrity of the network of green infrastructure within settlements.

In designing new development, even where the loss of some trees and hedgerows or other existing green infrastructure is unavoidable, developers should seek to:

- *retain identified 'Landscape features';*
- *minimise the loss of existing 'green' features on a site;*
- *maximise the potential to create links with adjoining green infrastructure;*
- *provide natural green spaces within a development; and*
- *maintain or create wildlife corridors through a site.*

The following green infrastructure linkage features, which have an important role in providing connectivity between other green infrastructure and open spaces, will be identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Supplementary Planning Document:

- 'green links' between green spaces within the settlements and between the built up area and the countryside;*
- 'green buffers' between development and major transport routes;*
- tree lined streets and streets with spacious verges;*
- watercourses and their banks.*

The presence of these features should be taken into account and influence the design of development proposals.

Figure 4 Local Plan Part 2 Policy DM9: Green Infrastructure linkages

Infrastructure Delivery Plans 2009 and 2012

- 3.19 As part of the preparation for the Core Strategy in 2009 a Draft Infrastructure Plan (IDP) was prepared (Core Strategy background paper 34b)⁷. This plan identified infrastructure projects within the District with estimated costs and potential funding sources.
- 3.20 As part of the Council's work on preparing an evidence base for the Community Infrastructure Levy an updated version of the IDP was prepared. There are two main areas of infrastructure required for the delivery of the Development Plan, namely Green Infrastructure (including habitat mitigation measures) and Transport. One of the main purposes of the infrastructure demands is to mitigate the impacts of development on nearby nationally and internationally designated sites, including the New Forest National Park.
- 3.21 Following the hearing sessions on the Local Plan Part 2, a further update of the IDP will be produced. Whilst the previous iterations of the IDP did contain a number of mitigation projects within the Green Infrastructure category, the 2013 version will list these into a separate category together with all the other mitigation proposals listed in this strategy.

Local Distinctiveness SPDs

- 3.22 The suite of Local Distinctiveness SPDs identifies and helps to protect the local character and distinctiveness towns and villages in the Plan Area. This includes the identification of green infrastructure features which are of particular importance to particular streets or groups of houses.
- 3.23 Currently the Council has three Local Distinctiveness SPDs adopted, those being for:
- Lymington
 - New Milton
 - Ringwood

⁷ Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2009 (Core Strategy Background Document 34b) can be viewed at: <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=8197&articleaction=dispmedia&mediaid=10523>

4.0 Habitats Regulation Assessment Addendum August 2013

- 4.1 Land Use Consultants (LUC) were appointed by the Council to provide advice in relation to the Examination Inspector's concerns about recreational pressure associated with planned residential development and the measures envisaged to mitigate these. This work is published as an Addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Plan.
- 4.2 NFDC, advised by Land Use Consultants (LUC), has worked with Natural England, the New Forest National Park, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalist Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to develop an effective strategy for the mitigation of possible recreational impacts on European nature conservation sites from residential development planned within the plan area over the plan period.
- 4.3 A review of available evidence shows a lack of conclusive evidence on the impact of recreation activities on designated features at the New Forest European sites, and it is not possible to isolate the impacts arising from development in this Plan from the numerous other factors beyond the influence of the Plan that affect the European sites. In respect of the New Forest European sites, LUC's review of evidence has however confirmed that whilst evidence of significant adverse effects from recreation is inconclusive, sufficient uncertainty exists so that significant effects on the integrity of the New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar site cannot be ruled out. While there is a lack of evidence relating specifically to visits to the European sites within the New Forest National Park, using data that is available it has been estimated that mitigation measures should seek to address in the order of around 80,000 a potential visits per annum. LUC's literature review, discussions with the project steering group and professional judgement have been used to better understand the nature of recreational impacts arising from new residential development within the Plan Area and so inform the advice to NFDC regarding the measures required to mitigate them. This advice has informed the draft mitigation strategy set out in this document.
- 4.4 The HRA of the Core Strategy included an Appropriate Assessment in respect of recreational effects (on the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites) likely to arise from additional housing planned within the plan area. The Council's HRA Screening of the Proposed Submission version of the Local Plan Part 2 (January 2012) recognised the need to implement appropriate mitigation measures identified in the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy to avoid potential harm to the New Forest SPA/SAC from the planned residential development. The HRA also identified recreational effects on European sites in combination with the plans of neighbouring districts.
- 4.5 The effects from recreational activity on the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and the Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC was not identified as a matter which needed addressing at the time of the preparation of the Core Strategy. However, as a result of more recent work by the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP), in respect of the Solent Coast European sites, the best available evidence indicates that the in-combination effects of proposed levels of housing development along the Solent Coast will have a likely significant effect on wintering bird interest. The SDMP Phase III Report describes the mitigation package required to address these effects.
- 4.6 The addendum to the HRA of this Plan therefore now recognises the need to address the potential recreational impacts from new residential development on both the New Forest and the Solent and Southampton Water coast European sites. The mitigation strategy for this area therefore needs to demonstrate that it is making a sufficient contribution to mitigation measures to address the recreation effects arising within the plan area on both the New Forest and the coastal European sites.
- 4.7 It is considered that some mitigation measures will serve to mitigate impacts on both the New Forest and the Solent Coast European sites. Therefore when considering the amount

of mitigation required this should be recognised. For example provision of SANGS alongside new development, may contribute to the mitigation of the potential effects on both sets of European sites since its provision is diverting the same set of new residents from visiting both sites. The requirements of the two mitigation packages should not, therefore, be considered independently or as additive.

5.0 Mitigation Strategy

Developing a strategy

- 5.1 To comply with the Habitats Regulations, appropriate measures are required to mitigate the potential recreational impacts of residential development within the Plan Area on European nature conservation sites.
- 5.2 Approaches to the mitigation of recreational impacts on European sites have been established for the Thames Basins Heaths and the Dorset Heaths. For both these areas the focus has been on the provision of 'SANGS' (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space) to reduce recreational pressures.
- 5.3 'SANGS' (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space) is the term used to describe new or improved publically accessible open space designed to attract residents of new development away on European nature conservation sites for recreational activities which may otherwise take place within the designated sites. Within the Plan Area this means providing alternatives (as far as possible) to visits that may otherwise be made to the New Forest European nature conservation sites within the New Forest National Park and to the European sites along the Solent and Southampton Water coast.
- 5.4 However, based on the work undertaken by LUC and discussions of the Steering Group (Natural England, RSPB, NFNPA, and HloWNT), it is concluded that for this plan area, an approach is needed that is adapted to the area's special circumstances. The provision of SANGS is only one component of this approach. It is recognised that 'the New Forest' and 'the Coast' are such strong pulls for recreational visits, that an effective mitigation strategy needs to not only consider providing alternative recreation opportunities accessible to local residents, but to also effectively manage and minimise the potential harmful effects of the visits that cannot be deflected away from the vicinity of the European sites.
- 5.5 Although not unanimous, the majority of the Steering Group agreed that it is not a realistic prospect to create SANGS of a scale and character that would effectively deflect all potential visits away from the New Forest, as SANGS could not recreate the vast open experience of the Forest or an alternative coastal experience which draws people from such a large area. The Council's view is that even if desirable and proven to be an effective means of mitigation, the practicalities of identifying and purchasing appropriate land within the plan area, and creating and maintaining such a large publicly accessible site in the long-term, makes such an approach unrealistic in terms of having a prospect of delivery.
- 5.6 The suite of mitigation measures which are appropriate in the context of the New Forest European sites is identified as:

Provision of SANGS:

- 5.7 The LUC HRA Addendum Report 2013 states that, if adopting the approach used elsewhere, some 80ha of SANGS would be required to fully mitigate the residential development proposed in the Local Plan. Under the policies of the Local Plan Part 2, through site specific requirements and public open space allocations the Council considers that approximately 35 hectares of new SANGS will be delivered within the plan period. Local Plan Part 2 Policy DM2b does not set a fixed target for SANGS provision but refers to the delivery of between 30-40 hectares of new SANGS. The 30 hectares figure is set out in the HRA Addendum Report Box 1 (outline mitigation strategy proposed by NFDC) and represents the Council's assessment at the time that report was prepared of what could be delivered through the implementation of policy DM2b, reflecting local opportunities with a realistic prospect of implementation during the plan period. Taking into account some further policy revisions now included in the Local Plan, the current assessment is that 35 hectares of SANGS are likely to be delivered under Policy DM2b Part (a). The range set out

in the policy reflects that there is some uncertainty regarding the precise outcome and that during the plan period further opportunities may come forward.

- 5.8 In preparing this mitigation strategy, most members of the Steering Group were in agreement that, within this plan area, the 'SANGS' approach as used elsewhere, would not provide the most appropriate approach to mitigating the impacts on the New Forest and coastal European sites, and that a combination of SANGS and other measures would provide a better approach in this area. However, while the strategy is not totally reliant of SANGS, their delivery, in accordance with policy DM2b will a very important element of the overall mitigation strategy.

Access and Visitor Management:

- 5.9 Measures to limit the number of recreational visits to sensitive parts of the New Forest and coast European sites are needed. It is also important to modify visitor behaviour within those sites so as to reduce the potential for recreational impacts.
- 5.10 Such tools can include coastal user guidance leaflets, interpretation boards, the provision of regulations, such as dog control/exercise areas, and the enforcement of such regulations.

Monitoring:

- 5.11 Whilst it cannot directly reduce additional visitor impacts on European sites associated with the Plan, monitoring will be important to manage uncertainty and inform future refinement of direct mitigation measures.
- 5.12 These measures will be secured by a combination of on-site provision of certain measures **and** developer funding of the off-site projects and other mitigation measures (management and monitoring).
- 5.13 Box 1 below (taken from the LUC HRA Addendum Report) outlines the mitigation strategy proposed by NFDC:

Box 1: Outline mitigation strategy proposed by NFDC

Alternative open space (SANGS)

New green space

Delivery of 30 - 40 ha of informal open space which is not currently available for this use. Developers will be required to fund this through a mixture of on-site provision (in line with the Core Strategy requirement for residential developments on sites of 0.5 ha or more to provide informal open space, and the Local Plan Part 2 requirement for sites of 50 or more dwellings to make on-site provision for SANGS) and contributions to off-site open space allocations.

Enhancement of existing green space and footpaths / rights of way

A programme of enhancement of footpaths/rights of way and existing open spaces in all settlements in which the Local Plan provides for residential development. This will seek to link up and improve the accessibility and attractiveness of rights of way and open spaces outside European sites to residents of the District who might otherwise visit the New Forest / Solent Coast European sites. Attractiveness to dog walkers, for example, might be enhanced by provision of a small car park and provision of routes/open spaces that are specifically designed as dog exercise areas and fenced off from busy roads.

Access management

NFDC will agree contributions towards the funding of appropriate access management measures, including provision of additional wardens/rangers, for the New Forest European sites with the New Forest National Park Authority (and Natural England, if appropriate) - this will draw on evidence provided in LUC's Evidence Review and HRA Addendum and be designed in partnership with the

NFPA. The potential will be explored to tie in with the Local Sustainable Transport Fund work, which is identifying a core network of community routes. Access management within the National Park is under the control of the Forestry Commission and other landowners and will therefore be planned and implemented via joint working.

NFDC will agree appropriate contributions towards access management measures for the Solent Coast European sites as set out in the SDMP Phase III report and Natural England's advice on interim measures, and will gather contributions towards these.

Monitoring

Contributions will be gathered to support monitoring of the condition of European designated habitats and species, progress in implementing the mitigation strategy, and visitor patterns at new and enhanced open spaces and within the New Forest and Solent Coast European sites.

[Box 1 Outline mitigation strategy proposed by NFDC from the LUC HRA Addendum Report](#)

The delivery of new green space through Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Allocations

- 5.14 The Local Plan Part 2 will deliver new informal green space provision through a number of different allocations for housing and public open space.
- 5.15 On-site provision of new open space is secured through Policy CS7 of the Core Strategy which requires all new residential development to make provision for public open space to the standard of 3.5 hectares per 1000 population. This includes 2 hectares per 1000 population of informal open space. Residential developments on sites of 0.5 hectares or over are required to provide the informal public open space (as well as play spaces) on site. On smaller sites developers contributions are taken towards the funding of local off-site open space projects.
- 5.16 The LUC HRA Addendum report paragraph 6.28 states that *"SANGS will broadly be located where residential development is planned. This is due, in part, to opportunities to include site-specific SANGS alongside some of the larger housing allocation sites"*. Sites of 50 dwellings would generate a SANG requirement of around 1ha, based on 8ha per 1,000 population standard used in the Thames Basin SPA and Test Valley Forest Park. The Council believes that 1ha is the size of SANG that can be adequately designed as SANGS. whilst sites smaller than this will provide a valuable contribution to the overall mitigation and will provide alternative natural green space it will be the larger sites that will specifically act as SANGS.
- 5.17 Policy DM2b of the Local Plan Part 2, therefore follows this and advise and requires the larger sites to deliver SANGS on site, stating:

On sites of 50 or more dwellings, where there is physical capacity and there are suitable opportunities, the full direct mitigation requirements may best be met by provision of SANGS on-site or close to the site, based on a standard of 8ha of SANGS per 1,000 population.

[Figure 5 Extract from Local Plan Part 2 Policy DM2b](#)

- 5.18 The implementation of this policy will result in the creation of significant new areas of local publicly accessible green space. The table below lists all sites where more than 50 dwellings are proposed. However, where planning permissions that already have been granted (indicated by *) are implemented it will not be possible to apply the policy and these sites have not been included in the calculations in Section 6.

Policy	Site	Dwelling estimate
TOT1	Land at Durley Farm, Hounslow	80-100
TOT3	Land at Hanger Farm *	331
TOT11	Eling Wharf	150
MAR2	Land at Park's Farm	100
LYM2	Land north of Alexandra Road	80
LYM6	Riverside Site, Bridge Road (Former chicken factory site) *	168
NMT2	Land east of Caird Avenue, south of Carrick Way *	90
NMT4	Land east of Caird Avenue, south of Carrick Way woodland (Residential, business and employment development)	90
RING3	Land south of Ringwood, west of Crow Lane and adjacent to Crow Arch Lane	150
FORD1	Land east of Whitsbury Road, Fordingbridge	100

Table 1: Residential Allocations required to provide on-site SANGS by the Local Plan Part 2 Policy DM2b.

- 5.19 Informal open space required by Policy CS7 will be accepted as a part of the mitigation contribution where it is demonstrated as contributing towards SANGS requirements.
- 5.20 The Local Plan Part 2 also identifies a number of specific opportunities to provide new areas of publicly accessible green space (SANGS) which will contribute towards the mitigation strategy. These are set out in Table 2 below.

Parish	Policy Allocation Reference	Informal Open Space Allocation size (ha)
Totton	TOT19	4.23
	TOT20	1.49
Hythe & Dibden	HYD6	6.2
	HYD7	2.3
New Milton	NMT9	5.9
	NMT10	3.5
	NMT11	0.3 - 0.62

Table 2: Informal Open Space Allocations in the Local Plan Part 2

- 5.21 In total, it is estimated that the allocations made in the plan will provide around 35ha of publicly accessible green space which will not only provide a local recreation role but also contribute towards the overall mitigation requirements for the plan. Section 6 of this documents sets out a schedule of implementation projects to deliver this SANGS provision.

The design of SANGS

- 5.22 Alternative open space, whether provided from land in other uses or through improving the accessibility and recreational functionality of existing open space, will need to be designed so as to maximise its chances of diverting New Forest District residents who might otherwise visit European sites for outdoor recreation, particularly for those activities mostly likely to cause disturbance of designated features. Evidence for both the New Forest and coastal European sites suggests that SANGS should particularly target the needs of New Forest District residents who wish to go for recreational walks, with or without a dog.

- 5.23 At present there is a lack of evidence on the success or otherwise of the design of SANGS elsewhere. However, desirable SANGS attributes are likely to include:
- SANGS, where possible, being located closer to the development to be mitigated than the sensitive part of the European site to be protected to encourage access from the home by walking, thereby increasing convenience and likelihood of use.
 - In certain SANGS locations such as those serving a wider catchment, short stay car parking may need to be provided, preferably with height restriction to discourage overnight stays and fly tipping.
 - An attractive natural environment, with features of interest.
 - Areas of woodland, particularly in larger SANGS, as these have the ability to absorb many more people than an open landscape without seeming to be crowded.
 - Individual sites (smaller SANGS sites) or zones (larger SANGS sites) are targeted at different user groups. Sites to attract dog walkers, for example, should provide safe a range of routes which are safe for dogs to be let off the lead, for example by fencing off from busy roads, and be in locations perceived to maximise enjoyment of the dog.
 - SANGS sites of an appropriate scale (or connected networks of sites) provide attractive, accessible linear routes that allow for a choice of circular walks, including some longer ones. These should include some way-marked footpaths without intruding on the natural character of the SANGS.

Enhancement of walks

- 5.24 There is an extensive Public Right of Way (PROW) network across the whole of the Plan Area, including in close proximity to the residential development allocations proposed in the Local Plan Part 2. A number of these rights of way suffer from a lack of signage and thus public awareness of the network could be enhanced by improving the existing signage. In addition there is an opportunity to enhance the network by improving the infrastructure associated with the network e.g. providing information/interpretation boards, benches, dog bins and dog exercise areas, along the route and improving connections with other parts of the footpath (PROW) network.
- 5.25 In working up proposals the Council has considered the 'Countryside Access Plan for the New Forest & South West Hampshire 2008-2013'⁸ produced by Hampshire County Council (HCC). It has also considered walking routes that have been promoted by HCC, Town/Parish Councils and a number of other partner organisations. This includes a number of circular Health Walks promoted by HCC⁹.
- 5.26 Section 6 of this document sets out the detail of proposals and projects to deliver improvements to the recreational walking routes within the Plan Area.

Access management

- 5.27 Initially at least, improved access management to the European sites will be achieved through the funding of additional warden/ranger services. Increased wardening services will enable an education programme to be developed, aimed at influencing visitor behaviour affecting the European designations. Measures may also include; producing information and guidance leaflets, including promotion of 'alternative' locations, interpretation boards, the introduction of regulations to control behaviours, such as dog control areas, and the enforcement of such regulations.

⁸ Countryside Access Plan for the New Forest & South West Hampshire 2008-2013 can be viewed at: <http://www.hants.gov.uk/rh/countryside/access/new-forest.pdf>

⁹ Hampshire County Council Town Walks for the New Forest District can be viewed at: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/town-walks.htm>

- 5.28 The Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP) has proposed the employment of a team of wardens/rangers as part of its mitigation strategy, suggesting one would cover the New Forest shoreline from Hurst Castle to Southampton.
- 5.29 The National Park Authority has proposed that access management mitigation measure within the National Park can be addressed through the employment of an additional ranger for the New Forest National Park, funded by contributions from residential development in the New Forest District (outside the National Park) area.
- 5.30 Further details are set out in Section 6 of this strategy.

Monitoring

- 5.31 Monitoring the implementation of this strategy will be included within the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). An appropriate set of indicators will be incorporated into the AMR to accurately determine the effectiveness of the strategy and avoidance and mitigation measures. This will also assist in reviewing the strategy if necessary.
- 5.32 Whilst NFDC will be the co-ordinating body for the monitoring and will report on the findings the Council will not be undertaking all of this work themselves and it will be important to maintain a collaborative working relationship with the other bodies who have input into this strategy including the New Forest National Park Authority and Natural England who will be the likely provider for some of this information. NFDC will also play the key role in assessing whether the level of mitigation proposed in this strategy is adequate and will review as necessary.
- 5.33 The proposed monitoring to be implemented is further explained in Chapter 6.
- 5.34 Monitoring will also take place of the new SANGs and usage of the proposed circular walks. Monitoring indicators will include:
- Visitor usage of SANG
 - Visitor usage on the proposed walks
 - Bird populations in the SPA.
 - Visitor numbers to the SPA.
- 5.35 This monitoring is crucial in providing a method of adjusting the mitigation measures to increase their effectiveness and maximise benefits. The Council expects that the whole strategy will be reviewed for its effectiveness at least every 5 years or sooner if new evidence emerges or monitoring results indicate a more urgent review is required. The Council is confident that the measures are effective and will deliver the level of mitigation needed to offset the predicted effects of the Local Plan; however if some measures are not found to be working, these will be readdressed.
- 5.36 Under the CIL Regulations the Council are required to track and record where specific funds are used and these will be made available in the AMR.

6.0 Specific Mitigation Proposals

- 6.1 This section sets out details of mitigation projects and proposals for the implementation of the mitigation strategy outlined in Chapter 5 of this document.
- 6.2 The mitigation proposals are set out for each settlement (in the order of the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management). In order to ensure that mitigation proposals are related to the allocations in the Local Plan, the settlement specific proposals follow the dispersed strategy of new development in accordance with Table 2 of the Core Strategy. The mitigation proposals in this strategy are primarily to mitigate the impacts of the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management. This document does not provide an exhaustive list of every mitigation option and there may be further opportunities in future iterations of the Local Plan to identify these alongside new allocations.
- 6.3 For each settlement, the first table sets out the estimated number of visitors to mitigate per annum based on the calculations 2 and 3 in Chapter 5 of the LUC HRA Addendum Report together with the residential housing allocations. The first table then summarises the estimated number of visitors estimated from new SANGS provision from the housing allocations, From this the required amount of mitigation from further projects is identified. The estimated visitor numbers have been calculated from the HRA Addendum report and are considered realistic targets that will be reviewed by the Council.
- 6.4 The second table for each settlement firstly sets out the mitigation directly provided by the housing allocations in the form of SANGS and the estimated number of visitors per annum this mitigates. Where appropriate the table then sets out the new offsite SANGS allocations for the settlement together with an estimated cost. The third section of this table then lists all of the further mitigation proposals that the Council proposes to mitigate the remaining estimated visits. As set out in Chapter 5, the mitigation proposals for each settlement include:
- Providing SANGS, new/additional areas of green space.
 - Improved Links to the existing footpath network;
 - Improvements to signage of, and links, to existing footpaths/rights of way;
 - Additional interpretation boards to provide an enhanced interpretation of local wildlife features along the routes;
 - Adding informal recreational value to formal open space/playing field areas;
- 6.5 The mitigation proposals for each settlement include the provision of informal open space in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS7. It is accepted that some of these provisions are very small but they will help contribute to the overall mitigation strategy by their careful design and ensuring that they are useable spaces, and where appropriate provide linkages to larger SANGS provisions and other mitigation.
- 6.6 Many of the informal open space projects were first identified by the Council as part of the PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study in February 2007. These projects have since been further evaluated by the Council in the Open Space priority reports in 2010 and further officer work. Some projects have an indicative cost attached to them and, in some cases, an allocated amount of funds. For the purposes of this strategy each project has been given a new ID reference specific to this strategy, a cross-reference to the previous IDs of these projects can be found in Appendix 3.

Project Specification and Worked Examples

- 6.7 Many of the mitigation proposals in this draft strategy are initial ideas which are being presented for public consultation, rather than the final proposals. Therefore, in the final version of this document there will be a section included setting out worked examples of projects together with a detailed project specification. Comments are therefore invited on other proposals these sections should include as well as on the proposals included.

Totton and the Waterside

Totton and Eling

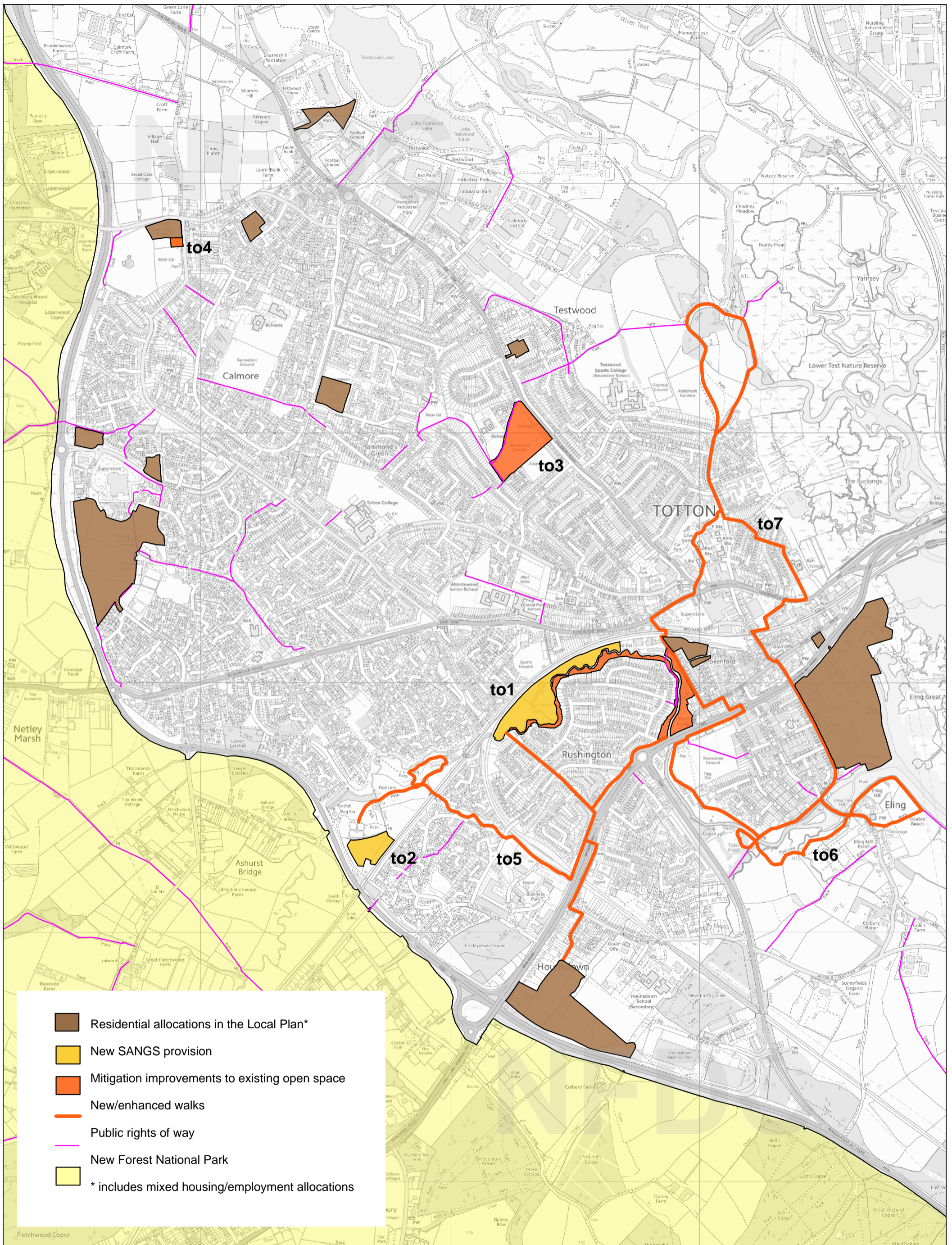
Settlement:	Totton and Eling			
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	1030			
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 18,000			
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings	
	TOT1	Land at Durley Farm, Hounslow	80	
	TOT2	Land at Loperwood Farm	30	
	TOT3	Land at Hanger Farm, Totton	202	
	TOT4	Land off Oleander Drive, north of Michigan Way	18	
	TOT5	Land north of Michigan Way, east of Garland Way	10	
	TOT6	Land east of Brokenford Lane	58	
	TOT7	Stocklands, Calmore Drive	15	
	TOT8	Land off Blackwater Drive, Calmore	15	
	TOT9	Bus Depot, Salisbury Road	15	
	TOT11	Eling Wharf	150	
	Total Allocated			224
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)			420
	Non allocated housing to come forward			386
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		12.22ha	
	Number of visits mitigated		around 12,000	
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	around 6,000			

Table 3 Totton Summary Details

- 6.8 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 1,030 new dwellings provided in Totton and Eling, 420 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains two proposals for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Totton under Policy CS11 in the Core Strategy. These are located on Land at Durley Farm, Hounslow (TOT1) and Land at Loperwood Farm (TOT2). It is expected that these two sites will deliver up to around 100 dwellings. In addition there are further allocations for smaller residential development within the existing built-up area of the settlement. This includes the allocation of a mixed use allocation is also made at Eling Wharf (TOT11) which will consist of both housing and employment uses.
- 6.9 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 386 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.10 The main focus of the mitigation measures in Totton will be securing the new SANG provision, both from the two SANGS allocations (to1 and to2) as well as the onsite provision from the two larger residential allocations. The provision of this mitigation will provide approximately 9.5ha of new SANGS.
- 6.11 Further mitigation proposals to address the proposed development in the Local Plan include a combination of improvements to existing informal open space and improvements/enhancements to existing green routes.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	Approx visits	Ha	Approx visits		
TOT1	Land at Durley Farm, Hounslowdown	80	7.82	0.36	350	1.8	2,000	2022-2026	NFDC
TOT2	Land at Loperwood Farm	30	0.85	0.14	150	-	-	2018-2020	NFDC
TOT3	Land at Hanger Farm, Totton*	202	9.7	0.90	1,000	-	-	2013-2026	NFDC
	<i>* Existing planning permission in place. If a new planning application were submitted a requirement of 3.61ha (at 8ha per 1,000) would be required on site.</i>								
TOT4	Land off Oleander Drive, north of Michigan Way	18	0.58	0.08	less than 100	-	-	2013-2015	NFDC
TOT5	Land north of Michigan Way, east of Garland Way	10	0.49	0.05	less than 100	-	-	2014	NFDC
TOT6	Land east of Brokenford Lane**	58	1.02	0.26	250	-	-	2014-2017	NFDC
	<i>** Existing planning permission in place.</i>								
TOT7	Stocklands, Calmore Drive	15	0.61	0.07	less than 100	-	-	2018-2020	NFDC
TOT8	Land off Blackwater Drive, Calmore	15	1.25	0.07	less than 100	-	-	2026	NFDC
TOT9	Bus Depot, Salisbury Road	15	0.4	0.07	less than 100	-	-	2021	NFDC
TOT11	Eling Wharf	150	15	0.68	less than 100	2.02	2,002	2016-2026	NFDC
Further mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)									
NEW SANGS (Priority)									
Ref	Name	Description	Equivalent to no. of visits	Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency			
to1	TOT19	North east of Bartley Park Provision of 4.23ha of new natural open space laid out as attractive for informal recreation and providing a pleasant place to walk, together with interpretation and links into the existing network of Bartley Park walks. The area will help contribute to the biodiversity of the area. This area is currently a designated SINC and this proposal includes enhanced management of the SINC.	4,000	£720k	2019-2026	NFDC			
to2	TOT20	Extension to Public Open Space south of Bartley Park Provision of 1.49ha of new natural open space laid out as attractive for informal recreation and providing a pleasant place to walk. Public access to the area will be created from Bartley Avenue. The area will help contribute to the biodiversity of the area.	1,500	£250k	2014-2026	NFDC			
Further mitigation									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification	Cost	Likely Timeframe	Lead Agency			
to3	Testwood Recreation Ground	Informal open space enhancements, including improved signage and interpretation.	• Increase use of site • Mitigate recreational impacts.	£15k	2014-2019	NFDC			
to4	King George's Recreation Ground	Installation of dog exercise area on underutilised area.	• Increase use of site • Mitigate recreational impacts.	£30k	2014-2019	NFDC			
to5	Wally Hammond Way / Bartley Park	• Improving the existing signage to the route and along the route itself. • Installation of Information/interpretation boards.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use	£10k	2014-2019	NFDC			
to6	Eling Quay	Erect signage as way markers for a Walk around Eling Quay.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use	£10k	2014-2019	NFDC			
to7	Eling Quay to River Test	Erection of signage and production of further literature advertising walk.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use	£10k	2014-2019	NFDC			

Table 4 Totton Mitigation Proposals



Marchwood

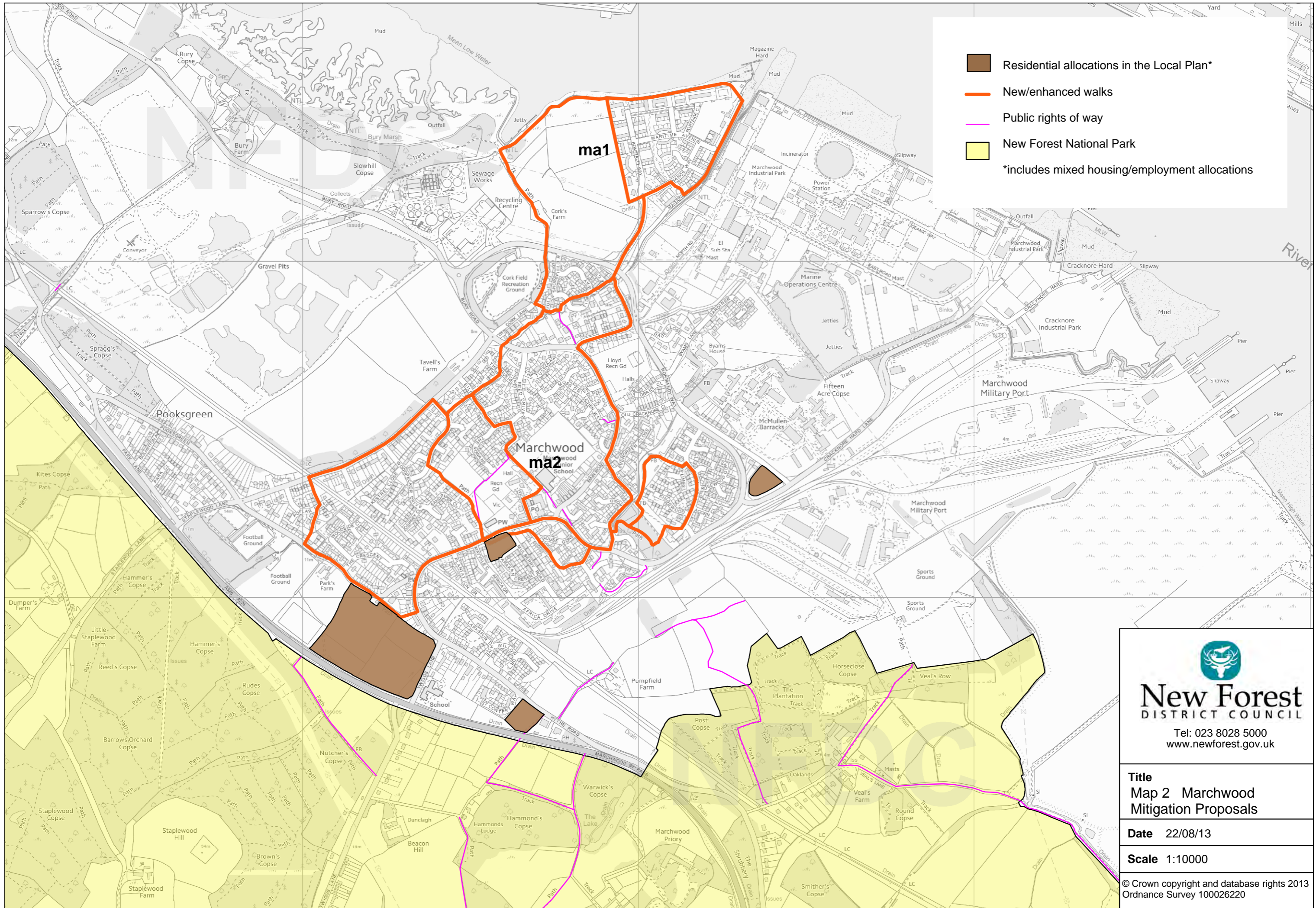
Settlement:	Marchwood			
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	205			
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 3,500			
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings	
	MAR1	Land between Cracknore Hard Lane and Normandy Way	12	
	MAR2	Land at Park's Farm	100	
	MAR3	Land south of Hythe Road	15	
	MAR4	Land off Mulberry Road	12	
	Total Allocated			139
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)			60
Non allocated housing to come forward			6	
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		1.92ha	
	Number of visits mitigated		around 2,000	
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	around 1,500			

Table 5 Summary details for Marchwood

- 6.12 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 205 new dwellings provided in Marchwood, 60 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains three proposals for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Marchwood under Policy CS12 in the Core Strategy. These are located at Land between Cracknore Hard Lane (MAR1), Land at Park's Farm (MAR2) and Land south of Hythe Road (MAR3). A further non greenfield housing for approximately 12 dwellings is also made at land off Mulberry Road (MAR4). It is expected that these sites will deliver up to around 139 dwellings.
- 6.13 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 6 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.14 The mitigation proposals for Marchwood focus on establishing a new walk along the waterfront off Magazine Lane (ma1). There is the potential to link the existing PROW on Magazine Lane and Admiralty Way and also extend the walk further the river where there is a path with current permissive rights leading back to the village centre. As part of this new walk interpretation boards could be installed providing information of the history of the site, the purpose of the walk and other interesting local facts. Enhancements to three existing HCC Healthy walks will further provide the suitable mitigation for the settlement.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	Approx visits	ha	Approx visits		
MAR1	Land between Cracknore Hard Lane and Normandy Way	12	0.50	0.05	less than 100	-	-	2021	NFDC
MAR2	Land at Park's Farm	100	6.84	0.45	500	1.3	1,500	2022-2026	NFDC
MAR3	Land south of Hythe Road	15	0.64	0.07	less than 100	-	-	2018	NFDC
MAR4	Land off Mulbery Road	12	0.49	0.05	less than 100	-	-	2018	NFDC
Further mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification		Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency		
ma1	Magazine Lane/Admiralty Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New circular walk along Magazine Way and the waterfront either returning to the village alongside Admiralty Way or via Corks Farm. • Installation of interpretation Boards and signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate recreational impacts on National Park • Improve public awareness of the route. 		£15k	2014-2019	NFDC		
ma2	HCC Healthy living walks around village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved signage • Production and distribution of leaflets 	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use		£5k	2014-2019	NFDC		

Table 6 Marchwood Mitigation Proposals



- Residential allocations in the Local Plan*
 - New/enhanced walks
 - Public rights of way
 - New Forest National Park
- *includes mixed housing/employment allocations


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 Map 2 Marchwood
 Mitigation Proposals

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Hythe & Dibden

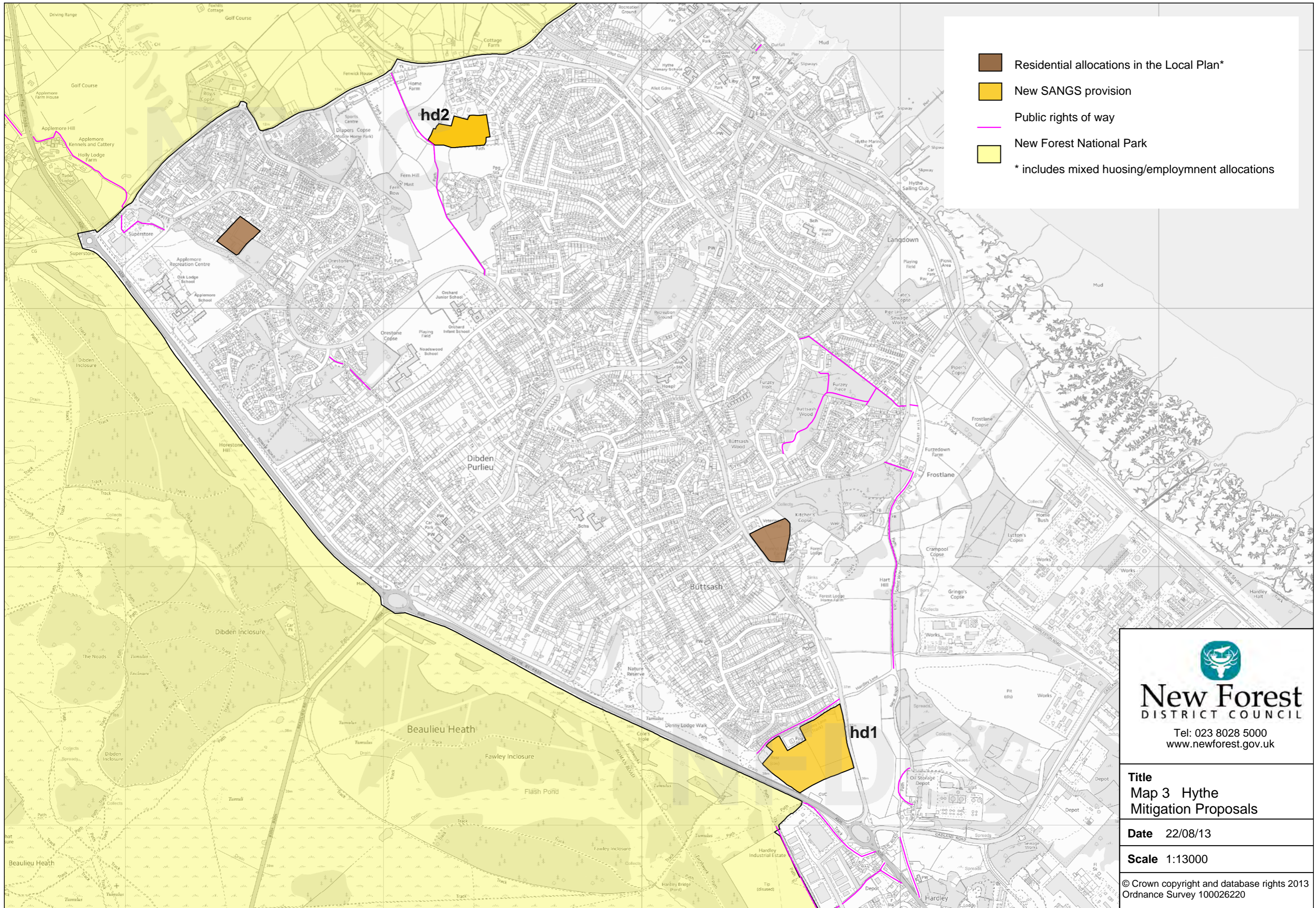
Settlement:	Hythe and Dibden		
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	400		
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 7,000		
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings
	HYD1	Land at Forest Lodge Farm	45
	HYD2	Land off Cabot Drive, Dibden	25
	Total Allocated		70
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)		275
	Non allocated housing to come forward		55
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		8.81ha
	Number of visits mitigated		around 9,000
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	-		

Table 7 Summary details for Hythe & Dibden

- 6.15 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 400 new dwellings provided in Hythe and Dibden, 275 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains a proposal for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Hythe and Dibden under Policy CS12 in the Core Strategy. The proposal on Land at Forest Lodge Farm (HYD1) will deliver up to around 40-45 dwellings. There is also an allocation on Land off Cabot Drive (HYD2) for around 25 dwellings. The site was originally safeguarded for education development but the whole site is no longer needed for this purpose.
- 6.16 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 55 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.17 The focus of mitigation in Hythe and Dibden is the delivery of the two Local Plan Part 2 allocations for new public open space provision, policy HYD6 South of Hardley Lane, west of Fawley Road (hd1) and policy HYD7 (Land south of Cedar Road, Land of Mullins Lane) (hd2). These two allocations have the potential of delivery 8.5ha of new publically accessible open space. HYD6 has the potential to accommodate a new dog exercise area as it is adjacent to a popular dog walking route.
- 6.18 The higher level of SANGS provision proposed in this settlement is considered appropriate as this is an area where existing development is very close to the New Forest SPA/SAC and it is known that this part of the New Forest is subject to particular recreational impacts because of its close proximity. The SANGS provision will divert some existing visits as well as provide mitigation for the proposed development.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	Approx visits	Ha	Approx visits		
HYD1	Land at Forest Lodge Farm	45	1.72	0.2	200	-	-	2018-2020	NFDC
HYD2	Land off Cabot Drive, Dibden	25	1.23	0.11	100	-	-	2018-2020	NFDC
Further mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)									
NEW SANGS (Priority)									
Ref	Name	Description				Equivalent to no. of visits	Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
hd1	HYD6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New public open space south of Hardley Lane, west of Fawley Road (6.2ha). Development of natural open space laid out as attractive for informal recreation and providing a pleasant place to walk. Site to include a dog exercise area. • Provision of linkages to Forest Front recreation ground and Solent way • Site to include a dog exercise area to attract local dog walkers away from the New Forest SPA. • Provision of small car park. 				6,000	£1m	2014-2020	NFDC
hd2	HYD7	New public open space west of Lower Mullins Lane (2.3ha). Development of natural open space laid out as attractive for informal recreation and providing a pleasant place to walk. The area will help contribute to the biodiversity of the area.				2,500	£390k	2014-2020	NFDC

Table 8 Mitigation proposals in Hythe & Dibden



- Residential allocations in the Local Plan*
- New SANGS provision
- Public rights of way
- New Forest National Park
- * includes mixed housing/employment allocations


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Holbury, Fawley and Blackfield






Settlement:	Holbury, Fawley and Blackfield		
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	295		
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 5,150		
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings
	BLA1	Land adjacent to Blackfield Primary School	30
	Total Allocated		30
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)		205
Non allocated housing to come forward		60	
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		0.14ha
	Number of visits mitigated		150
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	around 5,000		

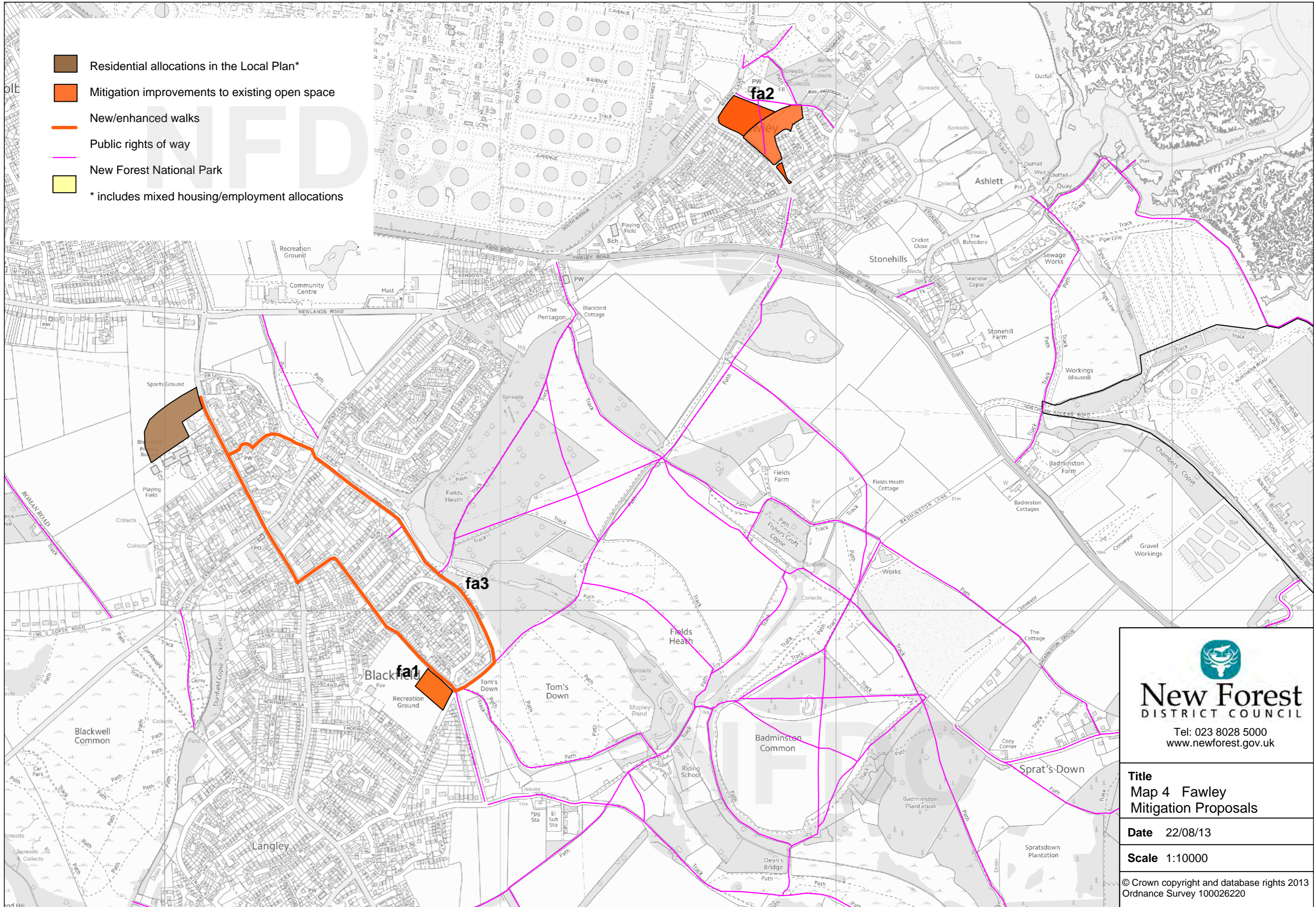
Table 9 Holbury, Fawley and Blackfield Summary Details


- 6.19 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 295 new dwellings provided in Holbury, Fawley and Blackfield, 205 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains a proposal for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Blackfield under Policy CS12 in the Core Strategy. The proposal on Land adjacent to Blackfield Primary School (BLA1) will deliver up to around 30 dwellings.
- 6.20 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 60 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.21 The focus of mitigation in this settlement is the improvement/enhancement of existing public open space and the enhancement of an existing HCC healthy walk. By creating these improvements it will allow greater use of the site of the natural green space.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	Approx visits	Ha	visits		
BLA1	Land adjacent to Blackfield Primary School	30	1.89	0.14	150	-	-	2018-2020	NFDC
Further mitigation proposed for to address SANGS shortfall									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification		Cost	Likely Timeframe	Lead Agency		
fa1	Elizabeth II Recreation Ground	Installation of a dog exercise area on part of Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase use of site • Mitigate recreational impacts. 		£30k	2014-2019	NFDC		
fa2	Church Lane	Provide surfaced footpath route, and enhance existing space for young people and encourage increased informal recreation.	Provide adequate access and enhance site		£30k	2014-2019	NFDC		
fa3	Dark Lane / Saxon Road walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs to be erected. • Installation of dog bins/benches along walk. • Provide a pleasant place to walk. 	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use		£10k	2014-2019	NFDC		

Table 10 Blackfield Mitigation Proposals

-  Residential allocations in the Local Plan*
-  Mitigation improvements to existing open space
-  New/enhanced walks
-  Public rights of way
-  New Forest National Park
- * includes mixed housing/employment allocations





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Map 4 Fawley
Mitigation Proposals

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The Coastal Towns and Villages

Lymington and Pennington

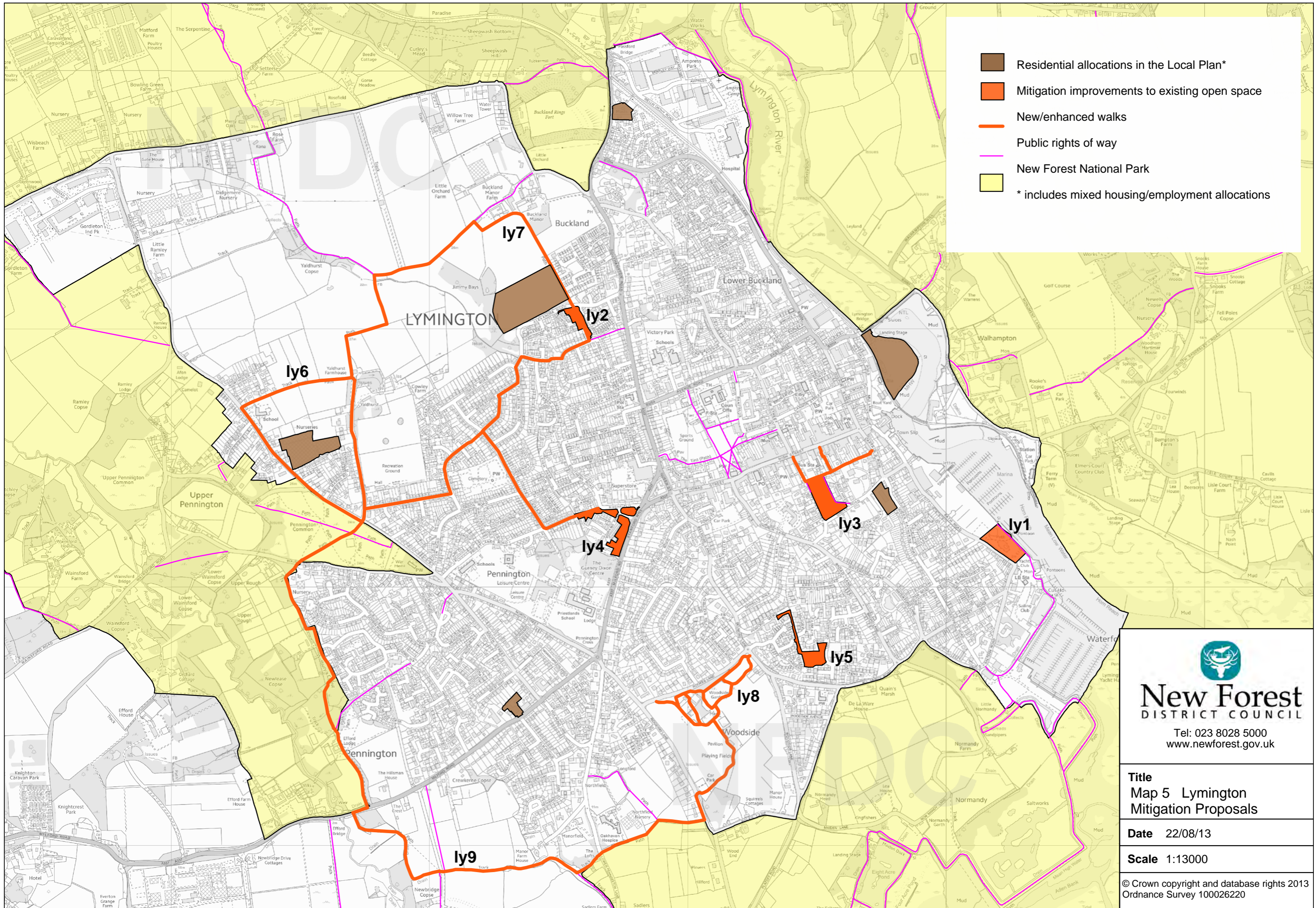
Settlement:	Lymington			
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	950			
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 16,500			
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings	
	LYM1	Pinetops Nurseries	45	
	LYM2	Land north of Alexandra Road	80	
	LYM3	Land at Queen Katherine's Road / Grove Road	15	
	LYM4	Land south of Ampress Lane, north of Buckland Gardens	11	
	LYM5	Fox Pond Dairy Depot and Garage, Milford Road, Pennington	14	
	LYM6	Riverside Site, Bridge Road	168	
	Total Allocated			333
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)			535
	Non allocated housing to come forward			82
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		2.58ha	
	Number of visits mitigated		around 2,500	
Remaining visits to be mitigated under DM2b(b)	around 14,000			

Table 11 Lymington and Pennington Summary Details

- 6.22 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 950 new dwellings provided in Lymington and Pennington, 535 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains two proposals for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Lymington under Policy CS12 in the Core Strategy. These are located at Pinetops Nurseries (LYM1) and Land north of Alexandra Road (LYM2). It is expected that these two sites will deliver up to around 120 dwellings. In addition, a further four sites have been allocated which includes a large site on Bridge Road (LYM6). This site has already been granted planning permission and includes permission for 168 new dwellings and commencement on this site has taken place. It is expected that these sites will deliver up to around 333 dwellings.
- 6.23 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 60 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.24 The main focus of mitigation in Lymington and Pennington is the creation and enhancement of a number of circular walks, as well as walks that provide connections to existing public open spaces. Some of these existing public open spaces will also benefit from improvements/enhancements. In particular the walks will focus on two circular walks around the allocations at LYM1 and LYM2.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	visits	Ha	visits		
LYM1	Pinetops Nurseries	45	1.91	0.20	200	-	-	2018-2021	NFDC
LYM2	Land north of Alexandra Road	80	4.11	0.36	350	1.08	1,000	2022-2026	NFDC
LYM3	Land at Queen Katherine's Road / Grove Road	15	0.55	0.07	less than 100	-	-		NFDC
LYM4	Land south of Ampress Lane, north of Buckland Gardens	11	0.33	0.05	less than 100	-	-	2014-2018	NFDC
LYM5	Fox Pond Dairy Depot and Garage, Milford Road, Pennington	14	0.39	0.06	less than 100	-	-	2021	NFDC
LYM6	Riverside Site, Bridge Road***	168	2.88	0.76	750	-	-	2013-2016	NFDC
*** Existing planning permission in place. If a new planning application were submitted a requirement of 3.01ha (at 8ha per 1,000 would be required).									
Further mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification		Cost	Likely Timeframe	Lead Agency		
ly1	Bath Road Recreation Ground	Redesign of site to include pond, new play space, creation of new access to the waterside and enhancement of the biodiversity of site.	Increase use, attractiveness of site and length of visits. Mitigate recreational impacts.		£200k	2014-2019	NFDC		
ly2	Redwood Park	Removal of fence which divides site. Redesign of site to improve access and enhance natural green space.	Make the site more coherent to increase use.		£10k	2014-2019	NFDC		
ly3	Grove Road Gardens	New signs to encourage the use of Grove Gardens along the existing PROW around the gardens to create a pleasant place to walk. Small enhancements to the gardens to encourage recreational activities.	Improve public awareness of the site to increase use		£5k	2014-2019	NFDC		
ly4	Rowans Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to the site access. Environmental improvements within the site to enhance biodiversity of the existing natural green space. Improved signage along the existing PROW at Highfield Rd	Increase use. Mitigate recreational impacts.		£20k	2014-2019	NFDC		
ly5	Old Orchards	Open up access to Pyrford Mews to create an attractive place for informal recreation.	Increase use. Mitigate recreational impacts.		£20k	2014-2019	NFDC		
ly6	Yaldhurst Lane/Ramley Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased signage to provide a pleasant walking environment. Increase width of PROW adjacent to the LYM1 site to allow for ease of access to the walk. 	Improve public awareness of the route to increase use		£20k	2014-2019	NFDC		
ly7	Alexandra Road / Buckland Walk / Yaldhurst Lane	Improvements to existing signs along the route and infrastructure such as dog bins, benches and information/interpretation boards provided.	Improve public awareness of the route to increase use		£25k	2014-2019	NFDC		
ly8	Woodside Gardens	Enhancement and promotion of the existing gardens, possibly with the installation of interpretation boards to encourage informal recreation.	Improve public awareness of the site to increase use		£10k	2014-2019	NFDC		
ly9	Ramley Road/Widbury's Copse/Newbridge Copse/Woodside	Promotion and enhancement of the PROW including the installation of interpretation boards to provide a pleasant walking environment.	Improve public awareness of the route to increase use		£10k	2014-2019	NFDC		

Table 12 Lymington and Pennington Mitigation Proposals



- Residential allocations in the Local Plan*
- Mitigation improvements to existing open space
- New/enhanced walks
- Public rights of way
- New Forest National Park
- * includes mixed housing/employment allocations


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Title
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Milford-on-Sea

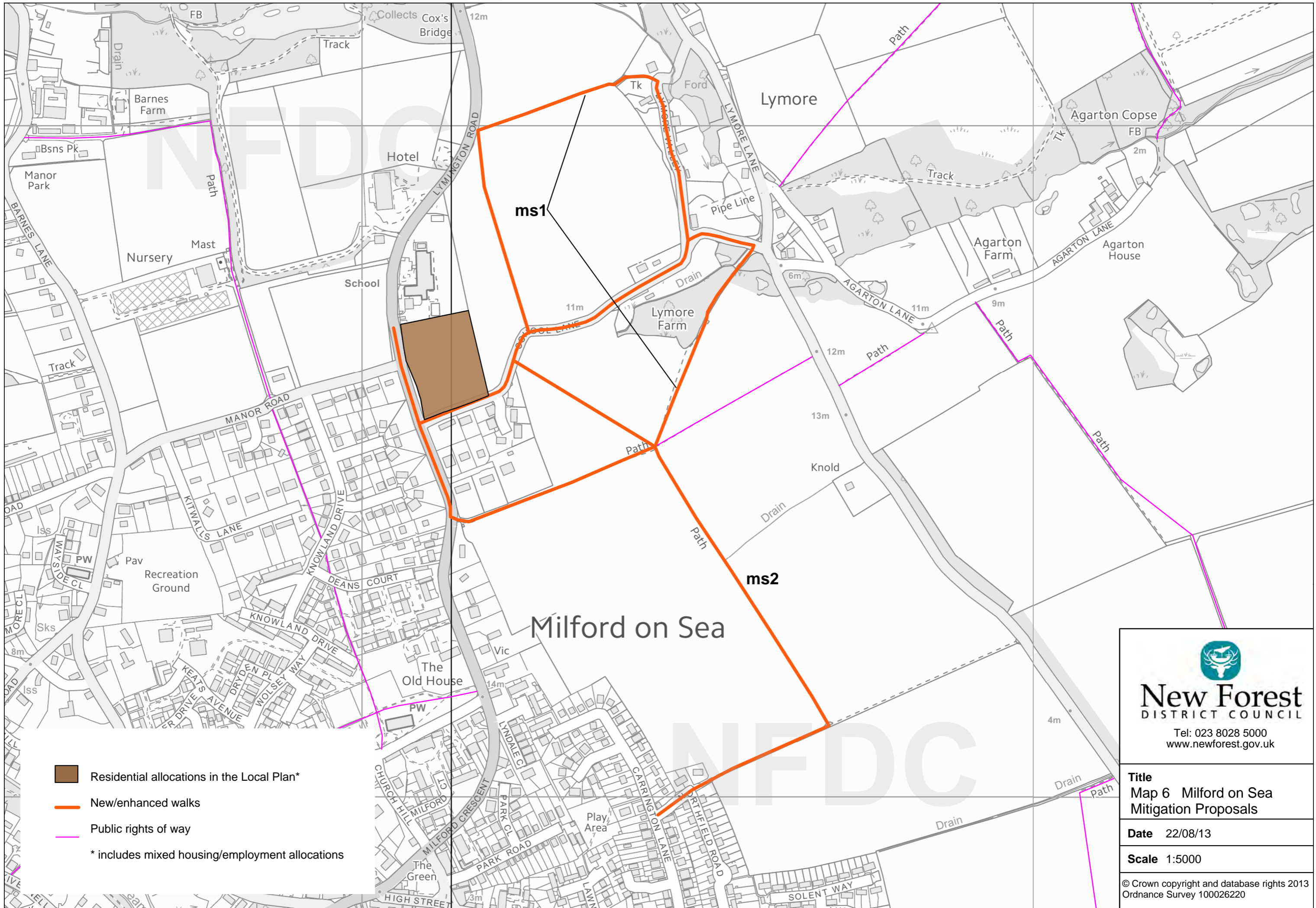
Settlement:	Milford on Sea		
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	160		
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	Around 3,000		
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings
	MOS1	Land north of School lane	30
	Total Allocated		30
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)		85
	Non allocated housing to come forward		45
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		0.14ha
	Number of visits mitigated		around 150
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	around 2,000		

Table 13 Summary details for Milford on Sea

- 6.25 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 160 new dwellings provided in Milford on Sea, 85 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains a proposal for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Milford-on-Sea under Policy CS12 in the Core Strategy. The proposal on Land north of School Lane (MOS1) will deliver up to around 30 dwellings.
- 6.26 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 45 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.27 Due to the relatively small level of development expected within the settlement the focus of mitigation in Milford on Sea is on the creation of two new walks around the housing allocation, the first providing a circular walk around the housing allocation with the second providing links from the school/housing allocation to the town centre.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	visits	Ha	visits		
MOS1	Land north of School lane	30	1.72	0.14	150	-		2018	NFDC
Further mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification		Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency		
ms1	School Lane / Lymington Road	Opportunity for signs to be erected along the circular pedestrian routes and through the allocation to provide a pleasant walking environment.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use		£10k	2019-2026	NFDC		
ms2	Carrington Lane / School Lane	Enhancement of existing PROW with signage and interpretation boards to provide a pleasant walking environment. from the housing allocation and school to town centre.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use		£10k	2019-2026	NFDC		

Table 14 Milford on Sea Mitigation Proposals




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Title
Map 6 Milford on Sea
Mitigation Proposals

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Hordle and Everton

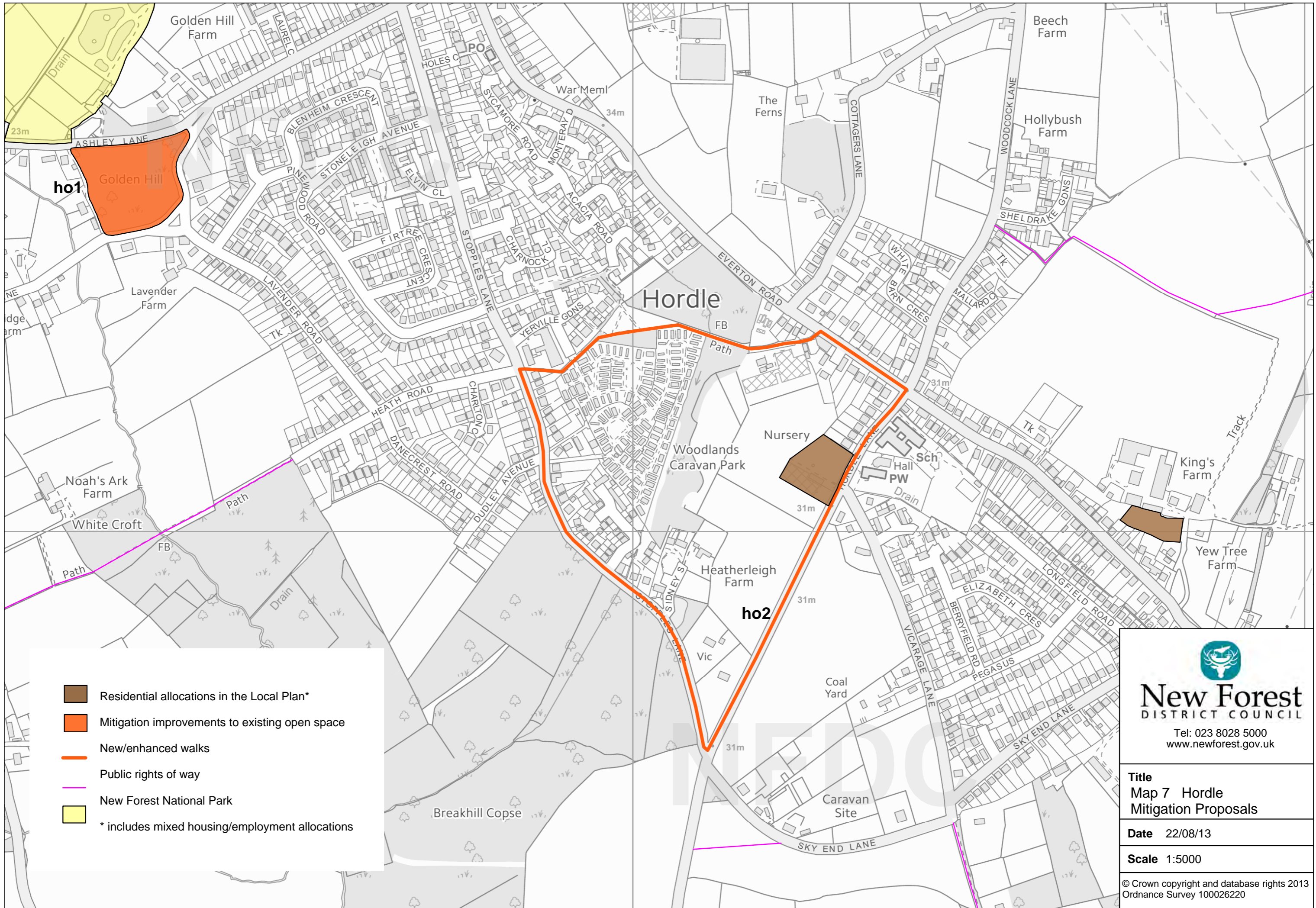
Settlement:	Hordle and Everton		
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	105		
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 2,000		
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings
	HOR1	Land to the rear of 155-169 Everton Road	5
	HOR2	Land at Hordle Lane Nursery	15
	Total Allocated		20
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)		50
Non allocated housing to come forward		35	
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		0.09ha
	Number of visits mitigated		around 100
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	around 1,900		

Table 15 Hordle and Everton Summary Details

- 6.28 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 105 new dwellings provided in Hordle and Everton, 50 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains two proposals for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Hordle under Policy CS12 in the Core Strategy. These are located on Land to the rear of 155-169 Everton Road, Hordle (HOR1) and Land at Hordle Lane Nursery (HOR2). It is expected that these two sites will deliver up to around 20 dwellings.
- 6.29 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 35 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.30 Due to the relatively small level of development expected within the settlement the focus of mitigation in Hordle and Everton will be on providing improvements on an existing area of open space and improving signage for a circular walk close to the new housing allocations

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	visits	Ha	visits		
HOR1	Land to the rear of 155-169 Everton Road	5	0.29	0.02	less than 100	-	-	2020	NFDC
HOR2	Land at Hordle Lane Nursery	15	0.62	0.07	less than 100	-	-	2020	NFDC
Further mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification		Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency		
ho1	Golden Hill Woodland	Creation of an improved access to the site and the installation of new interpretation boards to enhance biodiversity and an attractive place for informal recreation.	Increase value and catchment area of site. Mitigate recreational impacts.		£45k	2019-2026	NF DC		
ho2	Hordle Lane / Stopples Lane	Improvements / enhancements (including signs, stiles and interpretation boards) to the PROW network to provide a safe a pleasant place to walk.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use		£15k	2014-2019	NFDC		

Table 16 Hordle and Everton Mitigation Proposals



- Residential allocations in the Local Plan*
- Mitigation improvements to existing open space
- New/enhanced walks
- Public rights of way
- New Forest National Park
- * includes mixed housing/employment allocations


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Title
 Map 7 Hordle
 Mitigation Proposals

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New Milton

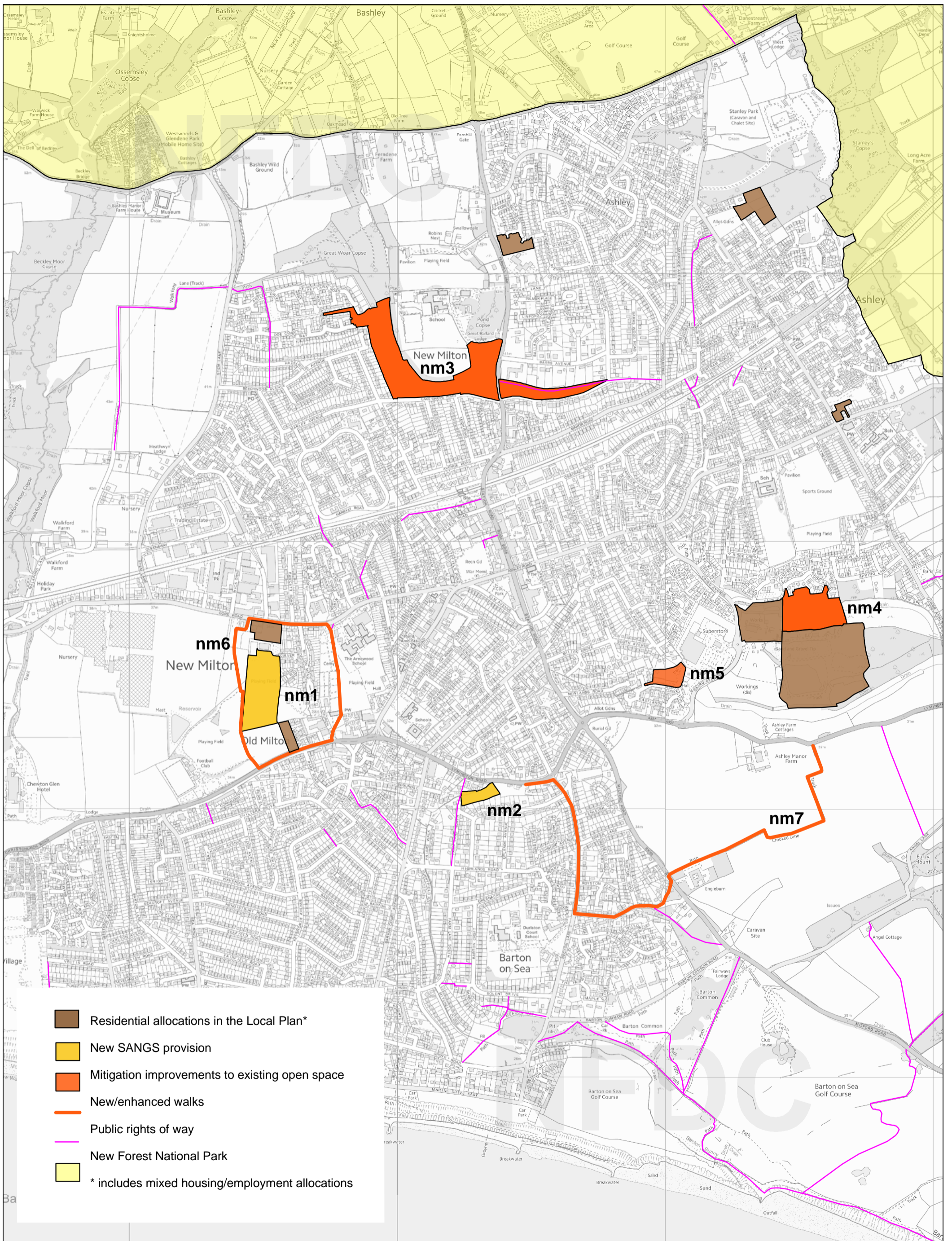
Settlement:	New Milton			
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	745			
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 13,000			
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings	
	NMT1	South of Gore Road, east of the Old Barn	20	
	NMT2	Land east of Caird Avenue, south of Carrick Way	54	
	NMT4	Land east of Caird Avenue, south of Carrick Way woodland	90	
	NMT5	Land east of Fernhill Lane	15	
	NMT6	Ashley Cross Garage and Motor Repairs, Ashley Lane	10	
	NMT1a	Moore Close	15	
	NMT1b	Park Road	20	
	Total Allocated			224
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)			400
	Non allocated housing to come forward			121
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		6.23ha	
	Number of visits mitigated		around 6,000	
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	around 7,000			

Table 17 Summary details for New Milton

- 6.31 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 745 new dwellings provided in New Milton, 400 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains two proposals for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at New Milton under Policy CS12 in the Core Strategy. These are located on Land south of Gore Road, east of the Old Barn (NMT1) and Land east of Caird Avenue, south of Carrick Way woodland (NMT4). It is anticipated that these two sites will deliver up to around 110 dwellings. There are also a further 5 brownfield allocations. It is expected, in total that these seven allocations that these two sites will deliver up to around 224 dwellings.
- 6.32 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 121 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.33 A major part of the mitigation measures for New Milton will be provided by the provision of 4ha of new informal open space laid out as SANGS through the delivery of NMT10 and NMT11 (nm1 and nm2). The provision of these SANGS will help to mitigate approximately 4,000 visits per annum.
- 6.34 Further mitigation in New Milton will involve improvements to existing informal space by the creation of better footpath links and improved access to the sites. Enhancements to the existing PROW by improved signage and accessibility will also add to the mitigation package for New Milton.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	visits	Ha	visits		
NMT1	South of Gore Road, east of the Old Barn	20	0.79	0.09	less than 100	-	-	2018-2020	NFDC
NMT2	Land east of Caird Avenue, south of Carrick Way*	54	2.4	0.24	250	-	-	2015-2017	NFDC
	<i>* Existing planning permission in place. If a new planning application were submitted a requirement 0.97ha (at 8ha per 1,000 would be required).</i>								
NMT4	Land east of Caird Avenue, south of Carrick Way woodland	90	1.02	0.41	400	1.21	1,210	2022-2026	NFDC
NMT5	Land east of Fernhill Lane	15	0.72	0.07	less than 100	-	-	2015	NFDC
NMT6	Ashley Cross Garage and Motor Repairs, Ashley Lane	10	0.27	0.05	less than 100	-	-	2018	NFDC
NMT1a	Moore Close	15		0.07	less than 100	-	-		NFDC
NMT1b	Park Road	20		0.09	less than 100	-	-		NFDC
Further mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)									
NEW SANGS (Priority)									
Ref	Name	Description		Equivalent to no. of visits	Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency		
nm1	NMT10	New Public Open Space off Culver Road (3.5ha)		3,500	£600k	2015-2026	NFDC		
nm2	NMT11	New Public Open Space south of Lymington Road, north of Chestnut Avenue (0.3ha)		300	£85k	2015-2026	NFDC		
Further mitigation									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification	Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency			
nm3	Ballard Lake	Provide better footpath links within and to the site to provide a safe and pleasant place to walk.	Increase use and attractiveness of site. Mitigate recreational impacts.	£25k	2014-2019	NFDC			
nm4	Carrick Way Woodland	Enhance/improve public access to the site, including the provision of information/interpretation signs, and the provision of a surfaced footpath route	Increase use and attractiveness of site. Mitigate recreational impacts.	£20k	2014-2019	NFDC			
nm5	Ashington Park	Provision of a new picnic area with litter bins to enhance the attractive area of land for informal recreation. Provision of new signage to direct people to the site.	Increase use and attractiveness of site. Mitigate recreational impacts.	£22k	2014-2019	NFDC			
nm6	Gore Road	Creation of a new a healthy circular walk with new signage and interpretation boards to create an attractive place for people to walk.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use	£15k	2014-2019	NFDC			
nm7	A337 / Barton Common	Improve links in to the PROW including resurfacing the footpath in order to create a pleasant place to walk. In the future this may include a safe crossing point on the A337.	Improved accessibility to site. Safer route for pedestrians.	£80k	2019-2026	NFDC			

Table 18 Mitigation proposals in New Milton



- Residential allocations in the Local Plan*
- New SANGS provision
- Mitigation improvements to existing open space
- New/enhanced walks
- Public rights of way
- New Forest National Park
- * includes mixed housing/employment allocations

Ringwood, Fordingbridge the Avon Valley and Downlands

Bransgore

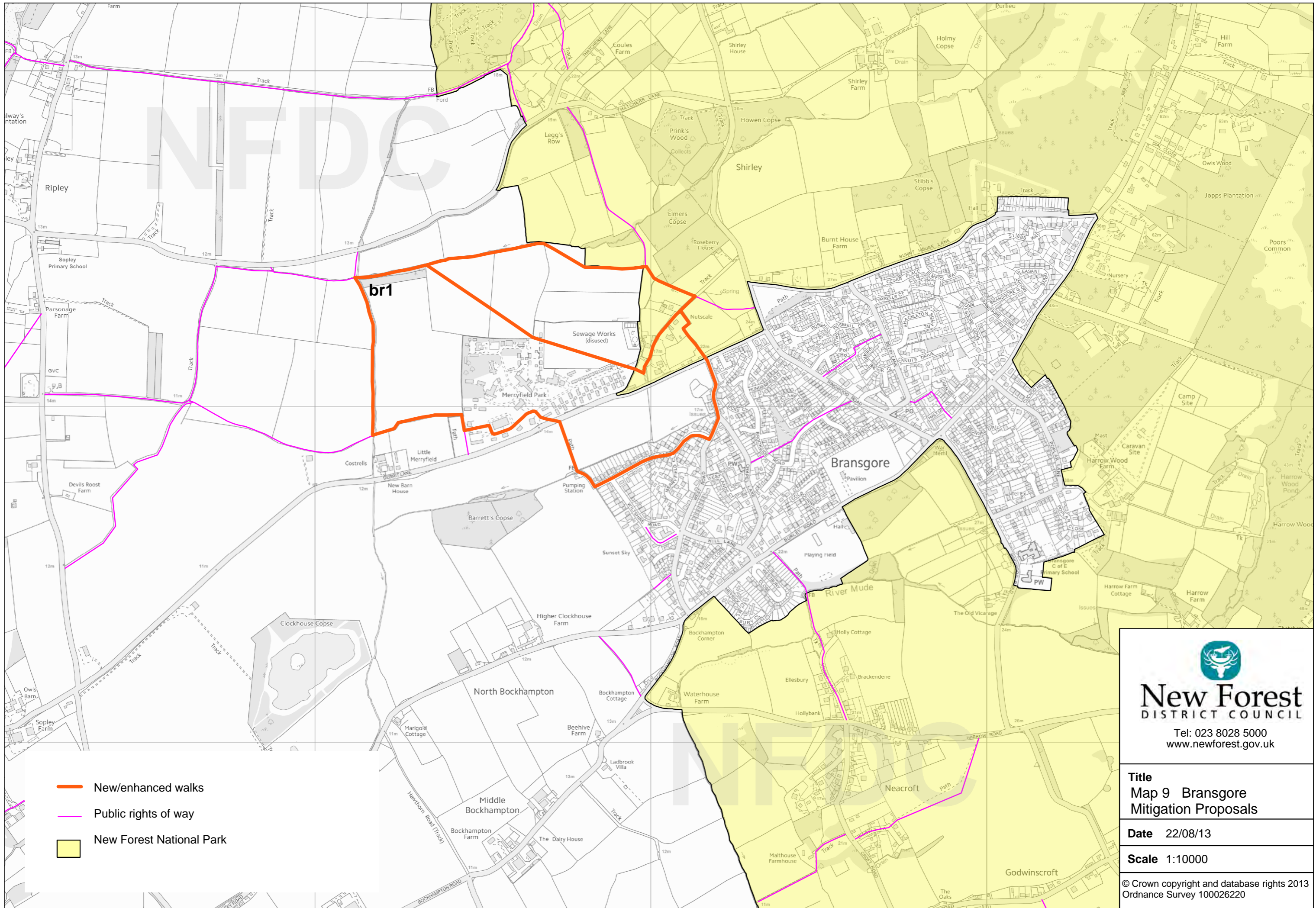
Settlement:	Bransgore	
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	50	
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 900	
Identified sites for new residential development:	Total Allocated	0
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)	45
	Non allocated housing to come forward	5
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations	0
	Number of visits mitigated	0
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	around 900	

Table 19 Bransgore Summary Details

- 6.35 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 50 new dwellings provided in Bransgore, 45 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 does not contain any allocations for new residential development although the Core Strategy does anticipate a further 5 dwellings to come through small development within the settlement.
- 6.36 The mitigation for the approximately 900 visits per number from Bransgore will involve improvements to the PROW network to the west and northwest of the settlement where enhancements to the network, including improved signage (br1), will provide a pleasant place for people to walk.
- 6.37 National green belt policies allow for the redevelopment of the Sopley Camp site (in Derritt Lane west of Bransgore). In the event that the redevelopment includes some residential use, the site has significant potential to provide onsite, enhanced SANGS provision in the form of a publically accessible natural green space and providing circular recreational walks linking into the local PROW network.

Mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)						
Ref	Name	Description	Justification	Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
br1	Footpath network north west Bransgore	Enhancement to the existing PROW network including new signage and interpretation boards to provide a pleasant place for people to walk	Improve public awareness of the local public footpath network to increase use	£10k	2019-2026	NFDC

Table 20 Bransgore Mitigation Proposals




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Map 9 Bransgore
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Ringwood

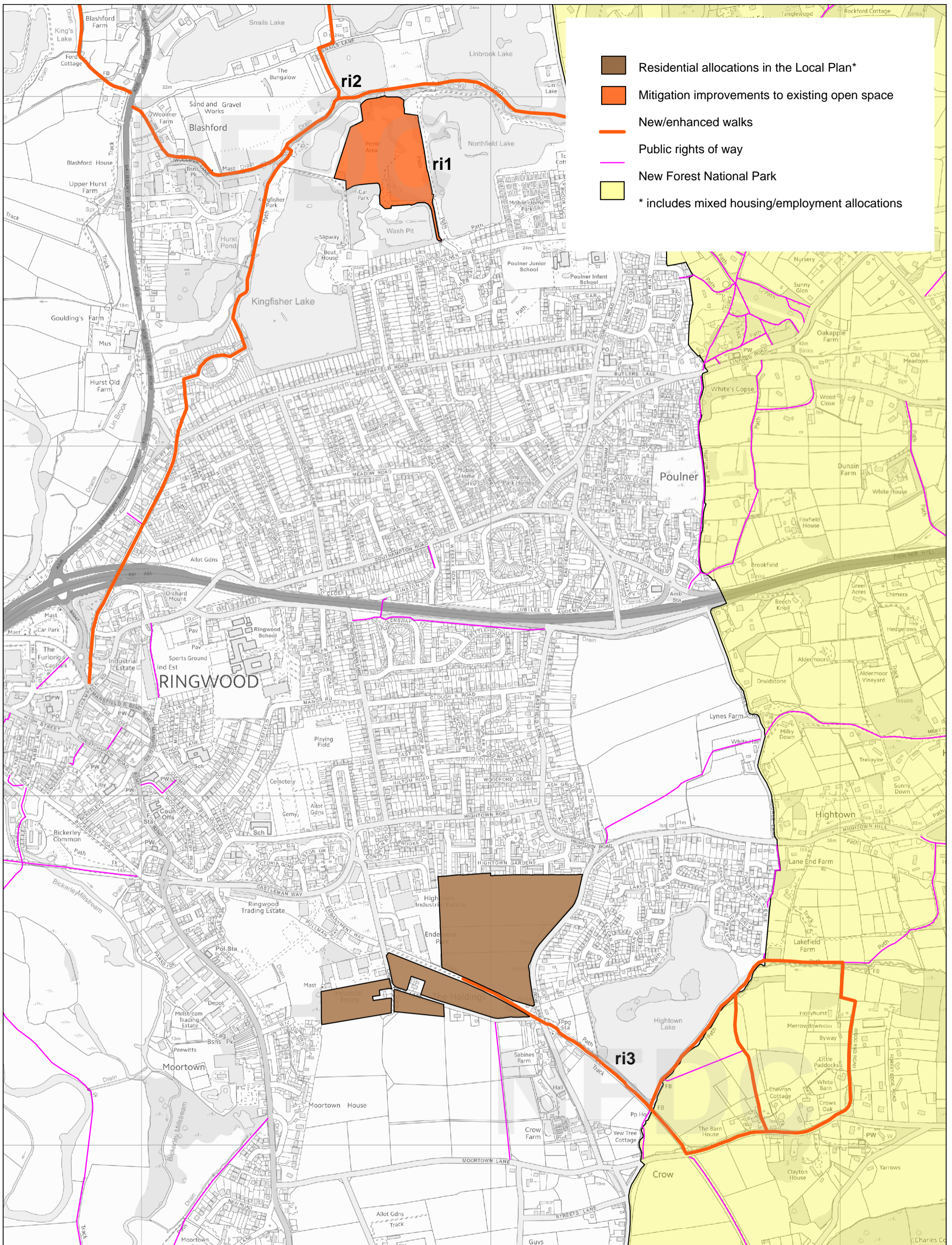
Settlement:	Ringwood		
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	410		
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	7,000		
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings
	RING3	Land south of Ringwood, west of Crow Lane and adjacent to Crow Arch Lane	150
	Total Allocated		100
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)		175
	Non allocated housing to come forward		135
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		2.78ha
	Number of visits mitigated		2,500
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	4,500		

Table 21 Ringwood Summary Details

- 6.38 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 410 new dwellings provided in Ringwood, 175 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains a proposal for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Ringwood under Policy CS11 in the Core Strategy. The proposal on Land west of Crow Lane and adjacent to Crow Arch Lane (RING3) will deliver around 150 dwellings.
- 6.39 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 135 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.40 The main focus of the mitigation in Ringwood will involve the delivery of the RING3 allocation. This allocation will deliver a significant area of SANGS on site which will also link with enhancements to the Castleman Way. An extensive PROW network exists in close proximity to the proposed RING3 site. This includes a PROW along a former railway line which passes through the allocation site. This PROW provides links to Dorset in the west and to the New Forest National Park to the south east. In a south easterly direction the former railway line links to a more extensive PROW network which forms part of a circular walk.
- 6.41 Further mitigation in Ringwood will see improved signage from the town directing people to the Avon Valley and also on site improvements to the existing open space areas around the Northfield Lake area.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	visits	Ha	visits		
RING3	Land south of Ringwood, west of Crow Lane and adjacent to Crow Arch Lane	150		0.68	500	2.1	2,000	2018-2023	NFDC
Further mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification		Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency		
ri1	Northfield Lake area	Informal Open Space enhancements to improve biodiversity. Improvements include resurfacing the path and installation of interpretation boards.	Make the site safer to access. Increase use of site,		£30k	2019-2026	NFDC		
ri2	Avon Valley / Blashford Lakes	New signs / interpretation boards directing people to the area to provide a pleasant place to walk.	Improve Public awareness of the site to increase use		£10k	2019-2026	NFDC		
ri3	Castleman Trail	Erection of new signs from the RING3 site to the PROW along the former railway line and signs from the former railway line to the circular walk to the south east of the site. Enhancements to the Castleman Trail to link to requirements of Local Plan allocation RING 6.4 in the Local Plan Part 2 and links to the PROW network around Hightown Lake.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use		£30k	2014-2019	NFDC		

Table 22 Ringwood Mitigation Proposals



- Residential allocations in the Local Plan*
- Mitigation improvements to existing open space
- New/enhanced walks
- Public rights of way
- New Forest National Park
- * includes mixed housing/employment allocations

Fordingbridge

Settlement:	Fordingbridge		
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	180		
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 3,000		
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings
	FORD1	East of Whitsbury Road, Fordingbridge	100
	Total Allocated		100
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)		40
	Non allocated housing to come forward		40
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		1.79ha
	Number of visits mitigated		around 1,750
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	around 1,250		

Table 23 Fordingbridge Summary Details

- 6.42 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 180 new dwellings provided in Fordingbridge, 40 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains a proposal for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Fordingbridge under Policy CS12 in the Core Strategy. The proposal on Land east of Whistbury Road (FORD1) will deliver up to around 100 dwellings. In accordance with Local Plan Part 2 policy DM2b this site would be required to provide SANG at 8ha per 1000 population.
- 6.43 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 40 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.44 The main focus of mitigation in Fordingbridge will be to ensure that the FORD1 development is implemented in accordance with Policy DM2b and that the onsite SANGS is delivered to a suitable design.
- 6.45 Further mitigation for the remaining anticipated development in Fordingbridge will see the improvement to an existing HCC Healthy walk and enhancements to biodiversity on an existing area of natural green space.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	visits	Ha	visits		
FORD1	East of Whitsbury Road, Fordingbridge	100	7.33	0.45	500	1.34	1,250	2022-2026	NFDC
Further mitigation proposed in accordance with Local Plan Policy DM2b(b)									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification			Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency	
fo1	Whitsbury Road	Extension of boardwalks to enhance biodiversity and increase numbers to the site by creating a safer pedestrian route.	Ensure that the site is open for use by the public. Mitigate recreational impacts.			£20k	2014-2019	NFDC	
fo2	Tinkers Cross / Puddlesloh Lane / Pennys Lane	Opportunity to provide information/interpretation boards, dog bins and benches, along the routes.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use			£5k	2014-2019	NFDC	

Table 24 Fordingbridge Mitigation Proposals

Ashford and Sandleheath

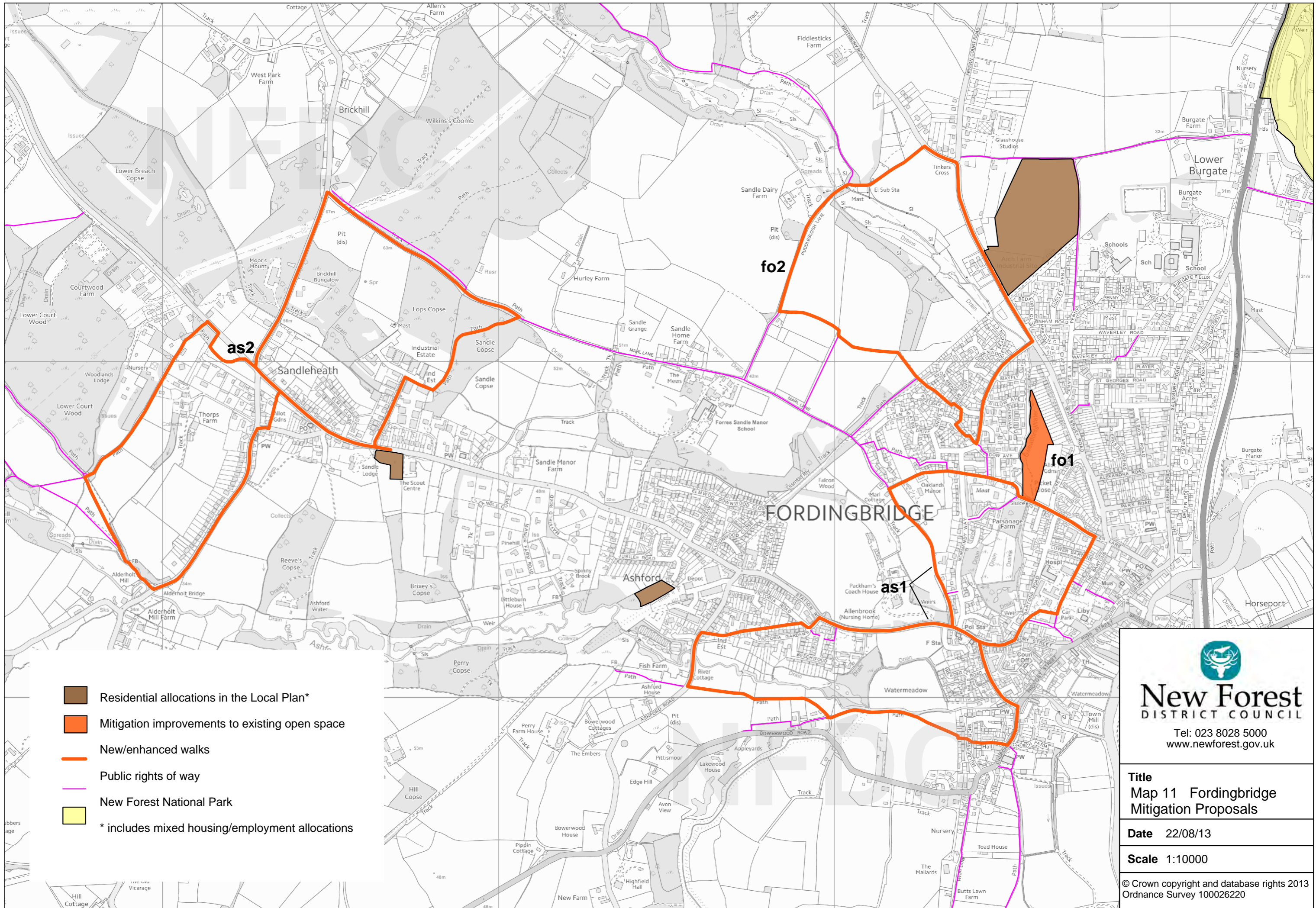
Settlement:	Ashford and Sandleheath		
Number of new residential dwellings proposed 2006-2026:	45		
Estimated number of visits per annum from new housing in area to mitigate:	around 1,000		
Identified sites for new residential development:	Policy	Site Name	No. of dwellings
	ASH1	Adjoining Jubilee Crescent, Ashford	10
	SAND1	West of Scout Centre south of Station Road, Sandleheath	10
	Total Allocated		20
	Number of units already developed (2006-2014)		20
	Non allocated housing to come forward		5
SANGS Provision allocated	On site informal POS and new informal POS allocations		0.10ha
	Number of visits mitigated		Around 100
Remaining visits to be mitigated per annum under DM2b(b)	around 900		

Table 25 Ashford and Sandleheath Summary Details

- 6.46 It is envisaged that during the plan period there will be around 45 new dwellings provided in Ashford and Sandleheath, 20 of which have already been developed. The Local Plan Part 2 contains a proposal for new residential development, on greenfield sites, at Ashford under Policy CS12 in the Core Strategy. The proposal on Land adjoining Jubilee Crescent (ASH1) will deliver up to around 10 dwellings. There is also a further allocation for around 10 dwellings in Sandleheath under Policy CS12 on Land west of Scout Centre, south of Station Road (SAND1).
- 6.47 In addition to these housing allocations, it is expected that around 5 dwellings will be developed on other sites that have not been specifically identified as allocations in the Local Plan.
- 6.48 Both new allocations are within close proximity to the PROW network and therefore the mitigation for this settlement will focus on the potential to promote and enhance both of these walks in terms of raising public awareness and installation of interpretation boards/dog bins.

Mitigation proposed for site allocations in Local Plan Part 2									
Local Plan Policy	Name	No. of dwellings	Site area (ha)	On site SANGS				Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
				Informal Open Space (CS7)		SANGS (DM2b)			
				ha	visits	Ha	visits		
ASH1	Adjoining Jubilee Crescent, Ashford	10	0.43	0.05	less than 100	-	-	2020	NFDC
SAND1	West of Scout Centre south of Station Road, Sandleheath	10	0.44	0.05	less than 100	-	-	2025	NFDC
Further mitigation proposed for to address SANGS shortfall									
Ref	Name	Description	Justification		Cost	Likely Timeframe	Lead Agency		
as1	Marl Lane and Green Lane and Church Street / Ashford Road	Opportunity to provide information/interpretation boards, dog bins and benches, along the routes.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use		£10k	2014-2019	NFDC		
as2	Alderholt Road/Station Road/Old Brickyard Road	Opportunity to promote existing circular walks in proximity to the site. Signs could be erected to raise public awareness of this route.	Improve Public awareness of the route to increase use		£10k	2014-2019	NFDC		

Table 26 Ashford and Sandleheath Mitigation Proposals



- Residential allocations in the Local Plan*
- Mitigation improvements to existing open space
- New/enhanced walks
- Public rights of way
- New Forest National Park
- * includes mixed housing/employment allocations


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Provision for continuing management and maintenance of SANGS provision

- 6.49 It is important that once the on-site SANGS provision is delivered that an appropriate maintenance schedule is put in to place to ensure that the areas remain as intended. Maintenance works will include routine management such as mowing and maintenance of tree, shrubs and footpath routes, together with other appropriate management measures to maintain accessibility and appeal to users.
- 6.50 When the District Council / Parish Council take on an area of open space, a one-off payment of £56,000 per hectare (pro-rata) is currently sought to fund future maintenance of the open space. This maintenance figure will also be applied to SANGS provision.
- 6.51 Where provision of on-site SANGS is a policy requirement (sites of 50 or more dwellings), the development will be expected to provide for the future maintenance of the SANGS provision if the land is transferred to a public body.
- 6.52 Where SANGS provision is off-site, a maintenance payment will be payable. This will be based on a pro-rata contribution towards the total cost of maintenance of all off-site SANGS provision.
- 6.53 The appropriateness of this maintenance figure for the management of SANGS will be monitored to ensure it is adequate, and if necessary reviewed.

District Wide Mitigation

- 6.54 In addition to settlement specific mitigation proposals and projects, new residential development will fund access and visitor management measures for both the New Forest and coastal European sites, and a programme of monitoring.
- 6.55 The main way of securing these management measures (initially) will be through increased warden services.
- 6.56 The District Council will have to work closely with the National Park Authority and the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (south Hampshire Authorities) to deliver the warden services elements of this mitigation strategy.

Wardening

- 6.57 The New Forest National Park Authority has advise the Council that appropriate access and visitor management measures, to mitigate the recreational impacts arising from the new housing within this Plan Area, can be achieved through the provision of additional warden services, in the form of the employment of a 'Wildlife Ranger'. The role of the ranger would be to reduce the recreational impacts on birds within areas designated as SPA or SAC within and adjoining the New Forest National Park. The appointment of the Ranger will be led by the New Forest National Park Authority.
- 6.58 There would be a different summer and winter focus to the role namely:
- Summer: breeding birds (nightjar, Dartford warbler, woodlark and waders) on inland heaths and mires
 - Winter focus: over-wintering wildfowl and waders on the coast
- 6.59 The specific duties of the ranger would be of the following kind:
- Liaison with Forestry Commission, other land owners, NE and other stakeholders to agree annual work programme

- Developing resources to aid educational campaigns
- Engagement with people likely to cause disturbance, including conducting visitor surveys/questionnaires
- Monitoring disturbance of birds at key locations
- Recruiting volunteers to support projects and surveys
- Collation of existing research and other information about factors affecting bird populations including impacts or recreation
- Identifying gaps in knowledge about impacts of people on New Forest bird populations and developing research projects to fill these
- Contribute to discussions about potential changes to recreation management strategies which would be beneficial to breeding or wintering birds

- 6.60 The New Forest National Park Authority has indicated an annual cost of approximately £40,000.
- 6.61 The Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP) proposes a package of measures which are directed towards management of visits to the coast. Key to the package of measures is the employment of a warden/ranger team. The warden/rangers will spend the majority of their time on-site, talking to visitors, influencing how visitors behave and showing people wildlife. The total cost of the Warden/Ranger Team is estimated at £262,500 per annum. New residential development within this Plan Area will contribute towards the funding of this mitigation measure. The cost of this scheme applicable within the Plan Area has yet to be agreed, but will be no greater than the cost of the New Forest warden/ranger.
- 6.62 There will be some overlap in activities between these two ranger/warden services, in that they will both have the same target audience. The Council will ensure that there is no unnecessary duplication of activities, and ensure value for money when agreeing arrangements with relevant bodies.
- 6.63 All developments which do not make full provision of SANGS on-site will contribute (pro-rata) to the funding of warden/ranger services.

Education

- 6.64 As well as the individual proposals identified within the settlement, it will be important that a suite of general education measures are introduced to highlight the issues to all new residents of the National Park and the increased visitor numbers.
- 6.65 The education items listed below are largely based on those in the New Forest National Park Authority Development Standards DPD as it will be for the District Council to work collaboratively with the National Park and Forestry Commission to provide this.

Monitoring

- 6.66 It is important that a full scheme for monitoring the mitigation strategy is put in place to ensure that the projects suggested are implemented but to ensure that they are getting the desired outcome. The results of the monitoring will be published as part of the Council's Annual Monitoring Report.
- 6.67 Using the New Forest National Park Development Standards guidelines the following monitoring projects have been identified.

New Forest District Council
Mitigation Strategy for European Sites September 2013

Ref	Name	Description	Justification	Cost	Likely Time frame	Lead Agency
Wardening						
DWM01	Park Ranger	Developing resources to aid educational campaigns Engagement with people likely to cause disturbance, including conducting visitor surveys/questionnaires Monitoring disturbance of birds at key locations Recruiting volunteers to support projects and surveys Collation of existing research and other information about factors affecting bird populations including impacts or recreation	Contribute to discussions about potential changes to recreation management strategies which would be beneficial to breeding or wintering birds	£200k (for 5 years)	2014-2018	NFNP
Monitoring and Education						
	New Forest District Residents Information Resource	Development and distribution via estate agents of a leaflet for people moving into or within the District. The leaflet will highlight a range of topics of interest to local residents, including protected wildlife, and promote a web based resource with information and advice about enjoying the New Forest without harming the designated nature conservation sites.	The aim is to inform people moving into the District (including occupiers of new dwellings) about the potential impacts on the European conservation sites, and provide advice on how these can be avoided.	Leaflet £3k Film clips of key species £3k Total £6k	2014-2026	NFDC / NFNP
	Protected Species Information	Enhance a range of interpretive information and materials about the protected species and their habitats aimed at people who access designated areas. This includes the development of window stickers, mobile apps, signs and leaflets and involves attendance at local fairs and public events, and distribution through visitor attractions and accommodation providers.	The aim of providing education and information about the protected species is to influence the behaviour of visitors and residents so that they avoid affecting the birds and their habitats. For instance, information can encourage people to avoid the more sensitive areas and stay on main tracks and avoid disturbing the protected wildlife.	Equipment £2k, Signs £2k, Leaflets about protected birds £3k Window stickers £4k Mobile apps £10k Total £21k	2014-2026	NFDC / NFNP
	Providing education to local schools	Development and provision of education sessions for children from local schools about the special characteristics of the nature conservation sites and why it is so important to protect them. These sessions will involve the development of appropriate resources and assistance with travel arrangements.	Education for children at local schools is aimed at influencing their (and their family's) behaviour in relation to the potential impacts on the designated nature conservation sites.	£10k	2014-2026	NFDC / NFNP
	Implementation and monitoring	Administration for operating and the scheme. Monitoring the monitoring impacts of the mitigation measures has two elements: (1) Recording of project-specific indicators (such as uptake of leaflets, numbers participating in activities or using facilities, web use, number of schools using the resources, press coverage, and answers on existing visitor surveys) (2) An annual survey conducted by Rangers at car parks assessing people's understanding, attitudes and behaviour with respect to recreational pressure on protected species and their habitats.	It is important to monitor the effectiveness of the measures in this package to allow for further measures to be implemented to rectify any deficiencies in those undertaken. The annual survey would aim to find out what influences behaviour most, and detect trends. A Review Panel will be established (to include Natural England) to review the effectiveness of the measures and to recommend new mitigation, if necessary.	£15k	2014-2026	NFDC / NFNP
	Further research on visitor patterns	Contribute to research of visitor patterns to identify areas where people may be impacting bird populations and other features of designated sites. This can inform development of information to encourage people to avoid these impacts and use alternative areas.	The aim is to gain a better understanding of visitor patterns and assess these in relation to bird populations. This could then inform appropriate mitigation measures.	£10k	2014-2026	NFDC / NFNP

Table 27 District wide Education and Monitoring Mitigation Proposals

7.0 Funding

- 7.1 In order to implement the mitigation required, as set out in this strategy, new development will be required to contribute funds in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS25.
- 7.2 New Forest District Council is currently in the process of adopting a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule for which a detailed viability assessment has been carried out. Once the charging schedule is adopted most of the mitigation contribution will be contained within the proposed CIL amount paid. The Council is therefore mindful that the proposed contribution outside of the scope of CIL does not affect the viability of development.
- 7.3 As there will be a period between the adoption of the Local Plan and when the Council adopts its CIL charging schedule this chapter sets out the approach that will be taken under the S106 process and under the CIL regime.

Section 106

On site mitigation

- 7.4 As set out in Local Plan Policy DM2b, developments of over 50 dwellings will be required to provide a full SANGS provision on-site or close to the site, based on a standard of 8ha of SANGS per 1,000 population. In the Local Plan Part 2 there are 7 allocations with expected development of over 50 dwellings that do not currently have planning permission, in total these allocations are expected to provide around 750 dwellings.
- 7.5 Those sites that do provide SANGS at this standard will not be required to provide a contribution to any further off-site mitigation measures except for monitoring.
- 7.6 As set out in Chapter 6, the Council currently seeks £56,000 per hectare (pro-rata) as a one-off payment towards the future maintenance of the site. For any onsite SANG provision made as part of a development contributions towards the future maintenance will be sought at this rate.

Further off-site mitigation

- 7.7 The Core Strategy plans for 4575 dwellings being provided during the plan period and it is estimated that at April 2014 2,310 of these dwellings will have been provided leaving 2,265 still to be developed. As 750 dwellings will be providing mitigation on, or near, the allocation site it will be for the remaining 1,515 to fund the further off site mitigation measures.
- 7.8 In total the further mitigation proposals as set out in Chapter 6 total £4,911.120, including the future maintenance costs of the SANGS. If this is divided by the 1,515 dwellings this amounts to a contribution of £3,550 per dwelling. This contribution will be sought from all developments under 50 dwellings under a Section 106 agreement and allocated to a mitigation project within the settlement as listed in this strategy.

Wardening

- 7.9 As set out in Chapter 6, the Council intends to fund a 'wildlife ranger'. The cost of the wildlife ranger will be split between those developments not providing the full mitigation requirement on site. Therefore, assuming a cost of £40k per annum for the remainder of the plan period, this give a total contribution per dwelling of £350.

7.10 Adding the off site mitigation, future maintenance and wardening costs together this equates to a total contribution of £4,000 per dwelling towards mitigation from those developments not providing full mitigation on site.

Monitoring

7.11 Chapter 6 sets out a range of district wide education and monitoring projects. These projects will be reviewed as part of the annual monitoring process to ensure that they are adequate.

7.12 The cost of the monitoring proposals as set out in chapter 6 totals £161,200. All dwellings will be required to contribute to this monitoring regardless of whether they are providing mitigation on site or not. The total contribution per dwelling will therefore be £71.

7.13 The table below sets out the contributions sought under the Section 106 regime.

	Full on-site 'SANGS' (8ha per 1000)	On site informal open space allocation (2ha per 1000)	Future Maintenance contribution on site provision at £56k per hectare (pro-rata)	Further off-site mitigation inc. future maintenance	Access management measures (incl. wardening)	Monitoring (by financial contribution)
Developments of over 50 dwellings	✓	Provided as part of SANG provision	✓ for the full 8ha per 1,000 population			£71 per dwelling
Developments with minimum on-site 'SANGS' (Less than 50 dwellings, larger than 0.5ha)		✓	✓ for the CS7 informal requirement	£3,550 per dwelling	£350 per dwelling	£71 per dwelling
Developments with no 'SANGS' provision on site		Financial contribution sought		£3,650 per dwelling	£350 per dwelling	£71 per dwelling

Table 28 S106 contributions towards mitigation

7.14 These figures set out the order of magnitude for the level of contributions required for mitigation and will be subject to further refinement. In addition to the contributions set out above, any additional contributions required by the Solent Bird Disturbance Mitigation Project will also need to be considered.

Community Infrastructure Levy

7.15 Once the Council adopts a CIL charging schedule it will no longer be able to collect pooled contributions towards infrastructure projects which will largely include the mitigation proposals set out in this strategy.

7.16 The Council's submitted charging schedule was accompanied by a viability assessment which demonstrated that the £80 per sqm of new residential development was viable per all new residential development across the District. The viability assessment took account of those sites over 0.5ha providing informal open space onsite.

7.17 Once the charging schedule is adopted, developers of sites over 0.5ha will still be required to provide the 2ha per 1000 population on site and those developments over 50 dwellings will be required to provide the land for the further requirement of 6ha per 1000 population of SANGS. This provision of land will be accepted as a 'payment in kind' towards the CIL amount and this will be calculated in accordance with the CIL Regulations 2010 (as

amended). No additional financial contributions will be sought towards on or off site mitigation projects in addition to the CIL charge.

7.18 The wardening and monitoring elements of the mitigation strategy are outside of the definition of infrastructure and therefore the pooling rules do not apply. Therefore the Council will continue to collect contributions for access management and monitoring as per the existing S106 regime with the access management contribution only being sought from those developments of less than 50 dwellings. This amounts to a maximum additional contribution of £421 per dwelling that was not considered as part of the CIL viability assessment. However, the Council believes that when setting the CIL rate of £80 per sqm there was sufficient flexibility to allow for these extra contributions to not damage the overall viability of any development.

7.19 Once the Council adopts a CIL charging schedule it will be required to publish a list of what it intends to spend CIL on. Whilst this list is subject to change, the Council recognises that the mitigation projects listed in this strategy are a high priority for CIL expenditure.

7.20 The table below sets out the contributions sought under the CIL regime.

	CIL contribution payable	On site informal open space allocation (2ha per 1000) in addition to CIL	Land made available for full SANG provision	Future Maintenance contribution on site provision at £56k per hectare (pro-rata)	Access management measures (incl. wardening)	Monitoring (by financial contribution)
Developments of over 50 dwellings	✓	✓	✓ (which can be offered as payment in kind)	✓ for the full 8ha per 1,000 population		£71 per dwelling
Developments with minimum on-site 'SANGS' (Less than 50 dwellings, larger than 0.5ha)	✓	✓		✓ for the CS7 informal requirement	£350 per dwelling	£71 per dwelling
Developments with no 'SANGS' provision on site	✓				£350 per dwelling	£71 per dwelling

Table 29 CIL contributions towards mitigation

Affordable Housing

7.21 Under the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) affordable housing is exempt from paying CIL and therefore contributions can only be sought for access management and monitoring. It will therefore be for the private dwellings to fund the mitigation of the affordable housing. The Council would welcome comments on how to manage this situation.

Appendix 1 Consideration of Development Proposals Affecting Internationally Designated Sites

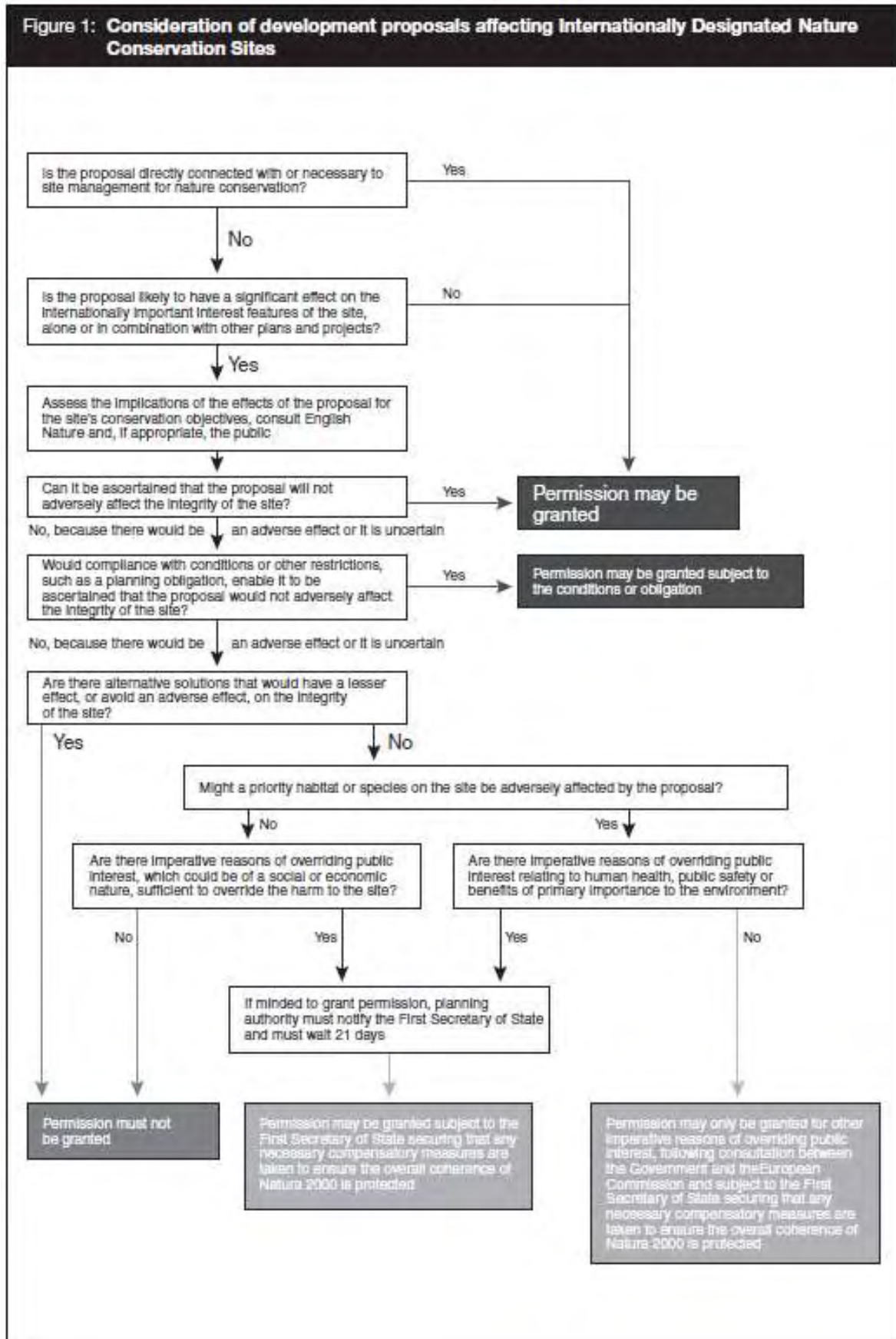


Figure 1 of Circular 06/2005 'Biodiversity and Geological Conservation'

Appendix 2 – European Site Descriptions

Southampton and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC

The Solent on the south coast of England encompasses a series of coastal lagoons, including percolation, isolated and sluiced lagoons. The site includes a number of lagoons in the marshes in the Keyhaven – Pennington area, at Farlington Marshes in Chichester Harbour, behind the sea-wall at Bembridge Harbour and at Gilkicker, near Gosport. The lagoons show a range of salinities and substrates, ranging from soft mud to muddy sand with a high proportion of shingle, which support a diverse fauna including large populations of three notable species: the nationally rare foxtail stonewort *Lamprothamnium papulosum*, the nationally scarce lagoon sand shrimp *Gammarus insensibilis*, and the nationally scarce starlet sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis*. The lagoons in Keyhaven – Pennington Marshes are part of a network of ditches and ponds within the saltmarsh behind a sea-wall. Farlington Marshes is an isolated lagoon in marsh pasture that, although separated from the sea by a sea-wall, receives sea water during spring tides. The lagoon holds a well-developed low-medium salinity insect-dominated fauna. Gilkicker Lagoon is a sluiced lagoon with marked seasonal salinity fluctuation and supports a high species diversity. The lagoons at Bembridge Harbour have formed in a depression behind the sea-wall and sea water enters by percolation. Species diversity in these lagoons is high and the fauna includes very high densities of *N. vectensis*.

Solent Maritime SAC

The Solent encompasses a major estuarine system on the south coast of England with four coastal plain estuaries (Yar, Medina, King's Quay Shore, Hamble) and four bar-built estuaries (Newtown Harbour, Beaulieu, Langstone Harbour, Chichester Harbour). The site is the only one in the series to contain more than one physiographic sub-type of estuary and is the only cluster site. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime of four tides each day, and for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive estuarine flats, often with intertidal areas supporting eelgrass *Zostera* spp. and green algae, sand and shingle spits, and natural shoreline transitions. The mudflats range from low and variable salinity in the upper reaches of the estuaries to very sheltered almost fully marine muds in Chichester and Langstone Harbours. Unusual features include the presence of very rare sponges in the Yar estuary and a sandy 'reef' of the polychaete *Sabellaria spinulosa* on the steep eastern side of the entrance to Chichester Harbour.

Solent Maritime is the only site for smooth cord-grass *Spartina alterniflora* in the UK and is one of only two sites where significant amounts of small cord-grass *S. maritima* are found. It is also one of the few remaining sites for Townsend's cord-grass *S. x townsendii* and holds extensive areas of common cord-grass *Spartina anglica*, all four taxa thus occurring here in close proximity. It has additional historical and scientific interest as the site where *S. alterniflora* was first recorded in the UK (1829) and where *S. x townsendii* and, later, *S. anglica* first occurred.

The Solent contains the second-largest aggregation of Atlantic salt meadows in south and south-west England. Solent Maritime is a composite site composed of a large number of separate areas of saltmarsh. In contrast to the Severn estuary, the salt meadows at this site are notable as being representative of the ungrazed type and support a different range of communities dominated by sea-purslane *Atriplex portulacoides*, common sea-lavender *Limonium vulgare* and thrift *Armeria maritima*. As a whole the site is less truncated by man-made features than other parts of the south coast and shows rare and unusual transitions to freshwater reedswamp and alluvial woodland as well as coastal grassland. Typical Atlantic salt meadow is still widespread in this site, despite a long history of colonisation by cord-grass *Spartina* spp.

Solent and Southampton Water SPA

The Solent and Southampton Water are located on the south English coast. The area covered extends from Hurst Spit to Hill Head along the south coast of Hampshire, and from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises a series of estuaries and harbours with extensive mud-flats and saltmarshes together with adjacent coastal habitats including saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reedbeds, damp woodland and grazing marsh. The mud-flats support beds of *Enteromorpha* spp. and *Zostera* spp. and have a rich invertebrate fauna that forms the food resource for the estuarine birds. In summer, the site is of importance for breeding seabirds, including gulls and four species of terns. In winter, the SPA holds a large and diverse assemblage of waterbirds, including geese, ducks and waders. Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta b. bernicla* also feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar

The area covered extends from Hurst Spit to Gilkicker Point along the south coast of Hampshire and along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises of estuaries and adjacent coastal habitats including intertidal flats, saline lagoons, shingle beaches, saltmarsh, reedbeds, damp woodland, and grazing marsh. The diversity of habitats support internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl, important breeding gull and tern populations and an important assemblage of rare invertebrates and plants.

The estuaries and harbours of the Solent are particularly sheltered and form the largest number and tightest cluster of small estuaries anywhere in Great Britain. The Solent and Isle of Wight system is notable for its large range and extent of different habitats.

The intertidal area is predominantly sedimentary in nature with extensive intertidal mud and sandflats within the sheltered harbours and areas of gravel and pebble sediments on more exposed beaches. These conditions combine to favour an abundant benthic fauna and green algae which support high densities of migrant and over-wintering wildfowl and waders. Eelgrass *Zostera* beds occur discontinuously along the north shore of the Isle of Wight and in a few places along the northern shore of The Solent.

The Solent system supports a wide range of saltmarsh communities. Upper saltmarshes are dominated by sea purslane *Atriplex portulacoides*, sea plantain *Plantago maritima*, sea meadow grass *Puccinellia maritima* and sea lavender *Limonium vulgare*; locally thrift *Armeria maritima* and the nationally scarce golden samphire *Inula crithmoides* are abundant. Lower saltmarsh vegetation tends to be dominated by sea purslane, cord grass *Spartina* spp., glasswort *Salicornia* spp. and sea-blite *Suaeda maritima*. Cord-grasses dominate much of the saltmarsh in Southampton Water and in parts of the Solent and it was the original location of the introduction of *Spartina alterniflora* and subsequent hybridisation with the native species.

There are several shingle spits including Hurst spit, Needs Ore Point, Calshot spit and Newtown Harbour spits which support a characteristic shingle flora.

A range of grassland types lie inshore of the intertidal zone including unimproved species-rich neutral and calcareous grasslands, brackish grazing marsh systems and reed dominated freshwater marshes.

The brackish water lagoons associated with grazing marsh systems behind the seawalls, e.g. Keyhaven-Lymington, Gilkicker lagoon, and at Brading Marshes contain internationally important communities of rare and endangered invertebrates and plants.

New Forest SAC

Hatchet Pond in the New Forest in the south of England is in fact three ponds, one of which is an example of an oligotrophic waterbody amidst wet and dry lowland heath developed over fluvial deposits. It contains shoreweed *Littorella uniflora* and isolated populations of northern species such as bog orchid *Hammarbya paludosa* and floating bur-reed *Sparganium angustifolium*, alongside rare southern species such as Hampshire-purslane *Ludwigia palustris*. Hatchet Pond is therefore important as a southern example of this lake type where northern species, more common in the uplands of the UK, co-exist with southern species.

In the New Forest vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* occurs on the edge of large temporary ponds, shallow ephemeral pools and poached damp hollows in grassland, which support a number of specialist species in a zone with toad rush *Juncus bufonius*. These include the two nationally scarce species coral-necklace *Illecebrum verticillatum* and yellow centaury *Cicendia filiformis*, often in association with allseed *Radiola linoides* and chaffweed *Anagallis minima*. Heavy grazing pressure is of prime importance in the maintenance of the outstanding flora of these temporary pond communities. Livestock maintain an open habitat, controlling scrub ingress, and trampling the surface. Commoners' animals also transport seed in their hooves widely from pond to pond where suitable habitat exists. Temporary ponds occur throughout the Forest in depressions capable of holding water for part of the year. Most ponds are small (between 5-10 m across) and, although great in number, amount to less than 10 ha in total area.

The New Forest contains the most extensive stands of lowland northern Atlantic wet heaths in southern England, mainly of the M16 *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum* type. M14 *Schoenus nigricans* – *Narthecium ossifragum* mire is also found on this site. The wet heaths are important for rare plants, such as marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe* and marsh clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata*, and a number of dragonfly species, including the scarce blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura pumilio* and small red damselfly *Ceriagrion tenellum*. There is a wide range of transitions between wet heath and other habitats, including dry heath, various woodland types, *Molinia* grasslands, fen, and acid grassland. Wet heaths enriched by bog myrtle *Myrica gale* are a prominent feature of many areas of the Forest. Unlike much lowland heath, the New Forest heaths continue to be extensively grazed by cattle and horses, favouring species with low competitive ability.

The New Forest represents European dry heaths in southern England and is the largest area of lowland heathland in the UK. It is particularly important for the diversity of its habitats and the range of rare and scarce species which it supports. The New Forest is unusual because of its long history of grazing in a traditional fashion by ponies and cattle. The dry heaths of the New Forest are of the H2 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Ulex minor* heath type, and H3 *Ulex minor* – *Agrostis curtisii* heath is found on damper areas. There are a wide range of transitions between dry heath and wet heath, *Molinia* grassland, fen, acid grassland and various types of scrub and woodland. Both the New Forest and the two Dorset Heath SACs are in southern England. All three areas are selected because together they contain a high proportion of all the lowland European dry heaths in the UK. There are, however, significant differences in the ecology of the two areas, associated with more oceanic conditions in Dorset and the continuous history of grazing in the New Forest.

The New Forest represents *Molinia* meadows in southern England. The site supports a large area of the heathy form of M24 *Molinia caerulea* – *Cirsium dissectum* fen-meadow. This vegetation occurs in situations of heavy grazing by ponies and cattle in areas known locally as 'lawns', often in a fine-scale mosaic with 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths and other mire and grassland communities. These lawns occur on flushed soils on slopes and on level terrain on the floodplains of rivers and streams. The New Forest *Molinia* meadows are unusual in the UK in terms of their species composition, management and landscape position. The grasslands are species-rich, and a particular feature is the abundance of small sedges such as carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, common sedge *C. nigra* and yellow-sedge *C. viridula* ssp. *oedocarpa*, and the more frequent

occurrence of mat-grass *Nardus stricta* and petty whin *Genista anglica* compared to stands elsewhere in the UK.

The New Forest, one of three sites selected in southern England, is considered to hold the largest area in England of Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion, in complex habitat mosaics associated primarily with the extensive valley bogs of this site. The habitat type is developed in three situations: in natural bog pools of patterned bog surfaces, in flushes on the margins of valley mires and in areas disturbed by peat-digging, footpaths, tracks, ditches etc. In places the habitat type is rich in brown mosses *Cratoneuron* spp. and *Scorpidium scorpioides*, suggesting flushing by mineral-rich waters. The mosaics in which this habitat type occurs are an important location for bog orchid *Hammarbya paludosa*.

The New Forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodland in Britain and represents Atlantic acidophilous beech forests in the most southerly part of the habitat's UK range. The mosaic with other types of woodland and heath has allowed unique and varied assemblages of epiphytic lichens and saproxylic invertebrates to be sustained, particularly in situations where the woodland is open and the tree trunks receive plenty of light. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system.

The New Forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodland in Britain; much of it is a form of W14 *Fagus sylvatica* – *Rubus fruticosus* woodland that conforms to the Annex I type *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests. The mosaic with other types of woodland and heath has allowed unique and varied assemblages of epiphytic lichens and saproxylic invertebrates to be sustained, particularly in situations where the woodlands are open and the tree trunks receive plenty of light. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system.

The New Forest is representative of old acidophilous oak woods in the southern part of its UK range. It is the most extensive area of active wood-pasture with old oak *Quercus* spp. and beech *Fagus sylvatica* in north-west Europe and has outstanding invertebrate and lichen populations. This site was preferred over other sites that lack a succession of age-classes because, although scattered over a wide area, the oak stands are found within a predominantly semi-natural landscape with a more balanced age-structure of trees. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system. The New Forest has been identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna by the Council of Europe (Speight 1989).

Within the New Forest, in southern England, birch – willow *Betula* – *Salix* stands occur over valley bog vegetation, with fringing alder *Alnus* – *Sphagnum* stands where there is some water movement. These stands appear to have persisted for long periods in stable association with the underlying *Sphagnum* bog-moss communities. The rich epiphytic lichen communities and pollen record provide evidence for the persistence of this association. The Bog woodland occurs in association with a range of other habitats for which the site has also been selected.

The New Forest contains many streams and some small rivers that are less affected by drainage and canalisation than those in any other comparable area in the lowlands of England. Associated with many of the streams, particularly those with alkaline and neutral groundwater, are strips of alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland which, collectively, form an extensive resource with a rich flora. In places there are examples of transitions from open water through reedswamp and fen to alder woodland. The small rivers show natural meanders and debris dams, features that are otherwise rare in the lowlands, with fragmentary ash *Fraxinus excelsior* stands as well as the alder strips. In other places there are transitions to 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains and 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*), for which this site has also been selected.

The New Forest in central southern England is an outstanding locality for southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*, with several population centres and strong populations estimated to be in the hundreds or thousands of individuals and with a long history of records. With Preseli, Dorset Heaths and the River Itchen, it represents one of the four major population centres in the UK.

The New Forest represents stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* in its Hampshire/Sussex population centre, and is a major stronghold for the species in the UK. The forest is one of the most important sites in the UK for fauna associated with rotting wood, and was identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna by the Council of Europe (Speight 1989).

New Forest SPA

The New Forest is located in southern Hampshire, west of the Solent in southern England. It comprises a complex mosaic of habitats overlying mainly nutrient-poor soils over plateau gravels. The major components are the extensive wet and dry heaths with their rich valley mires and associated wet and dry grasslands, the ancient pasture woodlands and inclosure woodlands, the network of clean rivers and streams, and frequent permanent and temporary ponds. The area supports important populations of breeding birds associated with such habitats, including Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*. Breeding Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* and wintering Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* are also notable.

New Forest Ramsar

The New Forest is an area of semi-natural vegetation including valley mires, fens and wet heath within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. The habitats present are of high ecological quality and diversity with undisturbed transition zones.

The suite of mires is regarded as the locus classicus of this type of mire in Britain. Other wetland habitats include numerous ponds of varying size and water chemistry including several ephemeral ponds and a network of small streams mainly acidic in character which have no lowland equivalent in the UK. The plant communities in the numerous valleys and seepage step mires show considerable variation, being affected especially by the nutrient content of groundwater. In the most nutrient-poor zones, Sphagnum bog-mosses, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, common cottongrass and similar species predominate. In more enriched conditions the communities are more fen-like.

River Avon SAC

The Avon in southern England is a large, lowland river system that includes sections running through chalk and clay, with transitions between the two. Five aquatic *Ranunculus* species occur in the river system, but stream water-crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans* and river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans* are the main dominants. Some winterbourne reaches, where *R. peltatus* is the dominant water-crowfoot species, are included in the SAC.

There is an extensive population of Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* along about 20 km of the margins and associated wetlands of the Rivers Avon, Bourne and Wylde. This is one of two sites representing the species in the south-western part of its range, in chalk stream habitat. It occurs here in a separate catchment from the Kennet and Lambourn, within an environment more heavily dominated by arable agriculture.

The Avon represents sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* in a high-quality river in the southern part of its range. There are excellent examples of the features that the species needs for survival,

including extensive areas of sand and gravel in the middle to lower reaches of the river where sea lampreys are known to spawn.

The Avon is a high-quality river that represents the southern part of the range of brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*. A healthy, stable population occurs in the main river and in a number of tributaries. The main river, and in particular its tributaries, provides clean beds of gravel for spawning and extensive areas of fine silt for juveniles to burrow into.

The Avon in southern England represents a south coast chalk river supporting Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*. The salmon populations here are typical of a high-quality chalk stream, unaffected by the introduction of genetic stock of non-native origin. The Avon has an excellent mosaic of aquatic habitats, which include extensive areas of gravels essential for spawning and growth of juvenile fry. There has been limited modification of the river course by comparison with many other southern lowland rivers in England.

The Avon represents bullhead *Cottus gobio* in a calcareous, relatively unmodified river in the southern part of its range in England. The River Avon has a mosaic of aquatic habitats that support a diverse fish community. The bullhead is an important component of this community, particularly in the tributaries.

River Avon SPA

The Avon Valley SPA encompasses the lower reaches of the River Avon and its floodplain on the south coast of England. The site extends for approximately 20 km between Bickton and Christchurch. The River Avon displays wide fluctuations in water level and parts of the valley are regularly flooded in winter. Consequently, the valley includes one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain, including extensive areas managed as hay meadows and grazing marsh under low-intensity agricultural systems. These extensive floodplain grasslands support wintering Bewick's Swans *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* in numbers of European importance, and Blashford Lakes Gravel Pits within the SPA are particularly important for wintering Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Avon Valley Ramsar

The site encompasses the lower reaches of the River Avon and its floodplain between Bickton and Christchurch. The River Avon displays wide fluctuations in water level and parts of the valley are regularly flooded in winter. The Avon valley has a greater range of habitats and a more diverse flora and fauna than any other chalk river in Britain. The valley includes one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain, including extensive areas managed as hay meadow.

Dorset Heaths SAC

This is a complex site which includes 37 SSSIs, most of which include fine transitions between European dry heaths and wet lowland heathland and mires, as well as other habitats such as woodland, grassland, pools, saltmarsh and reedswamp. The common characteristics of the M16 *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum* wet heaths are the dominance of cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, heather *Calluna vulgaris* and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, and the presence of a diverse group of rare species. These include Dorset heath *Erica ciliaris* (which readily hybridises with *E. tetralix*), white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, brown beak-sedge *R. fusca*, marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, great, round- and oblong-leaved sundews *Drosera anglica*, *D. rotundifolia* and *D. intermedia*, and marsh clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata*. Typical mosses of the wet heath include *Sphagnum compactum*, *S. pulchrum* and *S. tenellum*. These sites are a stronghold for invertebrates, particularly dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies and spiders, including the Annex II species Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*. Within the UK, some of these invertebrates are restricted to the Dorset heaths.

This site displays fine transitions between Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*, dry heaths and other habitats. Dry heath NVC types include H2 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Ulex minor*, H3 *Ulex minor* – *Agrostis curtisii*, H4 *Ulex gallii* – *Agrostis curtisii* and H8 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Ulex gallii*. The area of heathland has been reduced and fragmented, with about 86% lost since the mid-18th century. However, the Dorset heaths represent some of the biggest and finest remaining areas of lowland heathland in the UK. The dry heath occurs on very infertile soils and is not very diverse botanically, but occasionally some nationally scarce plants occur, such as mossy stonecrop *Crassula tillaea* and yellow centaury *Cicendia filiformis*. In places, where heather *Calluna vulgaris* occurs in mature stands, lichens of the genus *Cladonia* are very abundant. Uncommon features of the south-eastern heathlands are the localised presence of bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and the co-existence in some areas of western gorse *Ulex gallii* and dwarf gorse *U. minor*. The dry heaths support populations of European importance of several species, including rare butterflies (e.g. silver-studded blue *Plebejus argus*), grasshoppers and spiders. Among birds, the dry heath is very important for woodlark *Lullula arborea*, European nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata* and some migrants such as hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* and Eurasian hobby *Falco subbuteo*. All six species of native British reptiles, including the Annex IV species sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* and smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*, occur within the Dorset Heaths.

The two Dorset Heaths cSACs, together with the New Forest, support a large proportion of the resource of Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion within England. The habitat is widespread on the Dorset Heaths, both in bog pools of valley mires and in flushes. There are numerous valley mires within the Dorset Heaths, and the habitat type is most extensively represented here as part of a habitat mosaic. This location shows extensive representation of brown-beak sedge *Rhynchospora fusca* and is also important for great sundew *Drosera anglica* and bog orchid *Hammarbya paludosa*.

This site in south-west England, along with Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes, represents the Dorset stronghold of southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*. The large size of the two cSACs, and a long history of records indicating well-established populations, should ensure the future viability of the small populations that occur here.

Dorset Heathlands SPA

The Dorset Heathlands cover an extensive complex of heathland sites at the western edge of the Hampshire Basin in southern England. The area is centred around the large estuary of Poole Harbour and lies in close proximity to the urban conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole. Past losses of the heathland (an estimated 75% during the twentieth century to development, agriculture and afforestation) have left the remaining heaths in a highly fragmented state. Despite this decline and fragmentation, the heaths show a high degree of ecological cohesion. They contain large areas of dry heath, wet heath and acid valley mire, all habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. The examples of the Dorset Heathlands are among the best of their type in the UK. There are also transitions to coastal wetlands and floodplain fen habitats. The whole complex has an outstanding fauna in a European context, covering many different taxa. Many species have a specialist ecology, strongly associated with, or restricted to, heathland. The area is ornithologically important for specialist breeding birds of lowland heathland, as well as for some wintering raptors.

Dorset Heathlands Ramsar

Extensive and fragmented, these heathland areas are centred around the estuary of Poole Harbour and are adjacent to the urban conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole. The heathland contains numerous examples of wet heath and acid valley mire, habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. These heath wetlands are among the best of their type in lowland Britain. There are also transitions to coastal wetland and fen habitat types. The wetland flora and fauna includes a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce species, especially invertebrates.

Appendix 3 – Previous reference numbers for onsite SANG provision

Some of the projects listed in this mitigation strategy are previously identified projects in the PPG17 Study, Open Space Priority Report and Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The table below lists the reference numbers used in each of these documents

Project Name	New mitigation ref	Previous project ref	Document project listed
Testwood Recreation Ground	to3	TOT60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012 • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007
Church lane	fa2	FAW13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012 • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007
Redwood Park	ly2	LYM6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012. • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007
Bath Road	ly1	LYM41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012 • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007
Ballard Lake	nm3	NM15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012 • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007
Ashington park	nm5	NM46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012 • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007
Carrick way	nm4	NM80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012 • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007
Golden Hill Woodland	ho1	HOR9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012 • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007
Northfield Lake Area	ri1	RNG12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012 • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007
Whitsbury Road	fo1	FOR26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2012 • Open Spaces Priority Report 2010 • PPG17 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study 2007

Appendix 4 - Key Council Contacts and Useful Links

Planning Contacts

For general enquiries about this SPD or other planning issues relating to the Local Development Framework please contact:

Planning Policy Team
Appletree Court
Beaulieu Road
Lyndhurst
SO43 7PA
Tel: 023 8028 5555
Email: policyandplans@nfdc.gov.uk

For general enquiries relating to the development of a specific site / pre-application enquiries please contact:

Development Management Team
Appletree Court
Beaulieu Road
Lyndhurst
SO43 7PA
Tel: 023 8028 5345
Email: dev.control@nfdc.gov.uk

Useful Links:

Other information relating to the Council's Local Development Framework can be found on the Council's website – www.newforest.gov.uk

This includes:

- Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy
- Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development