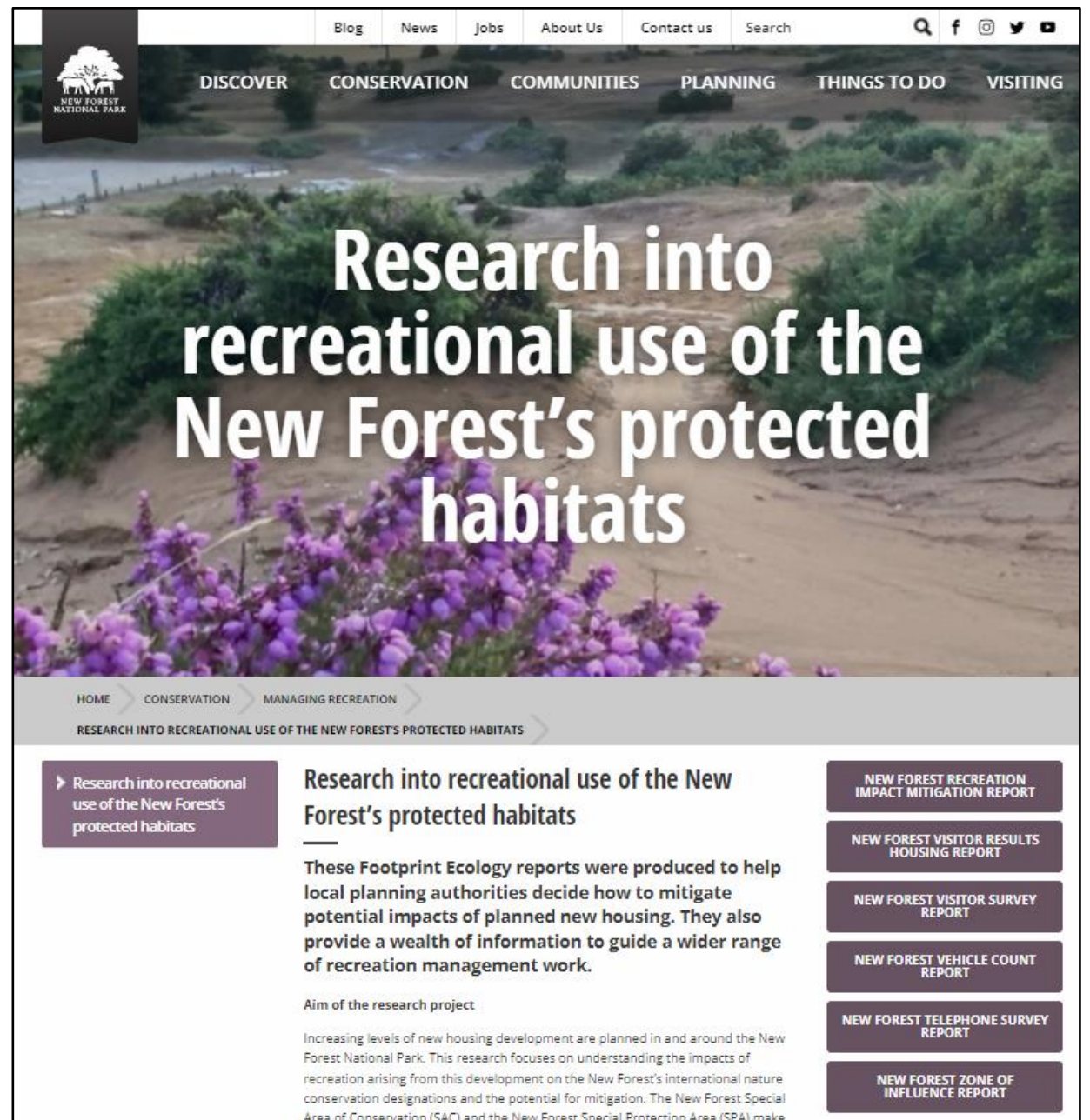


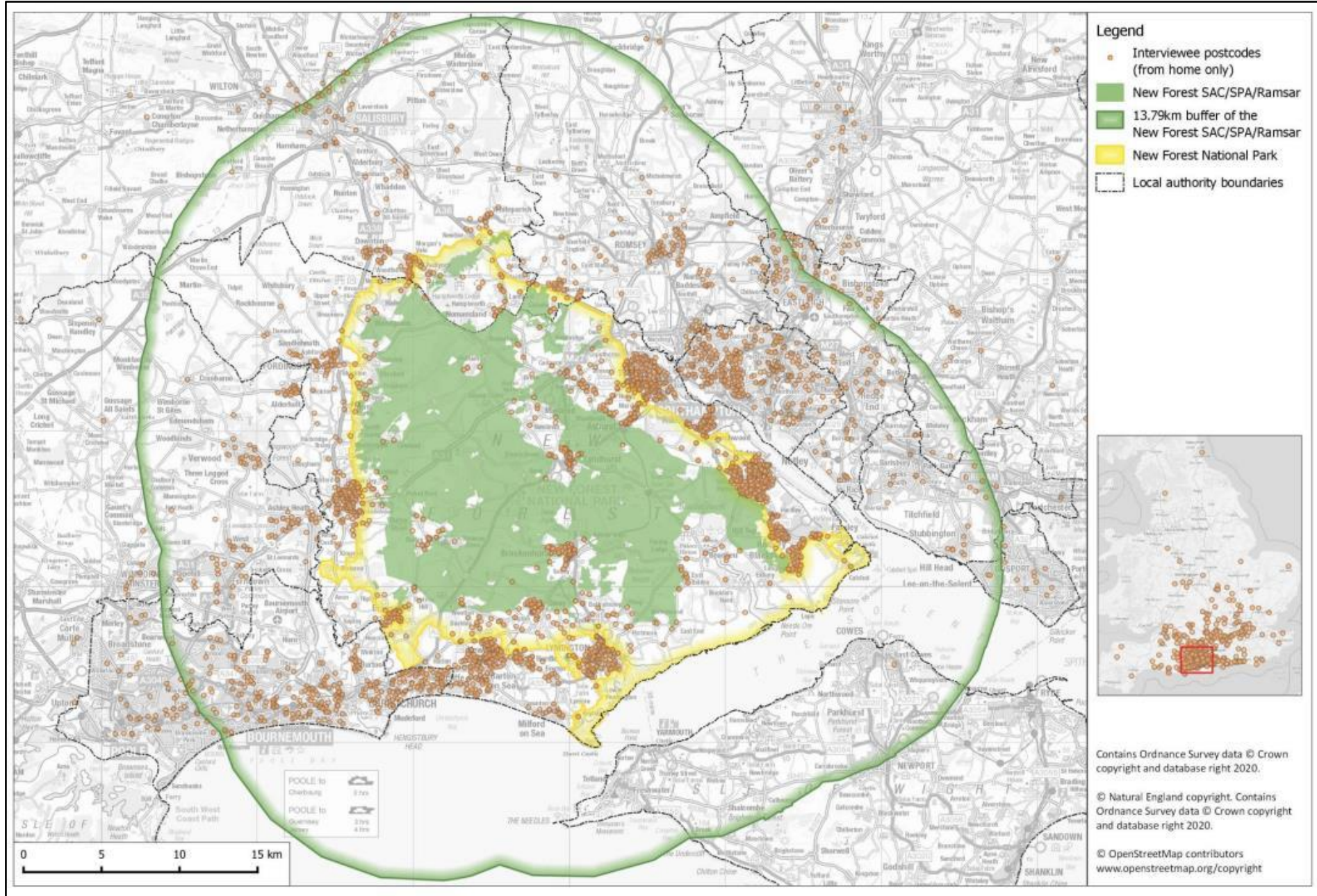
# Footprint Ecology research reports

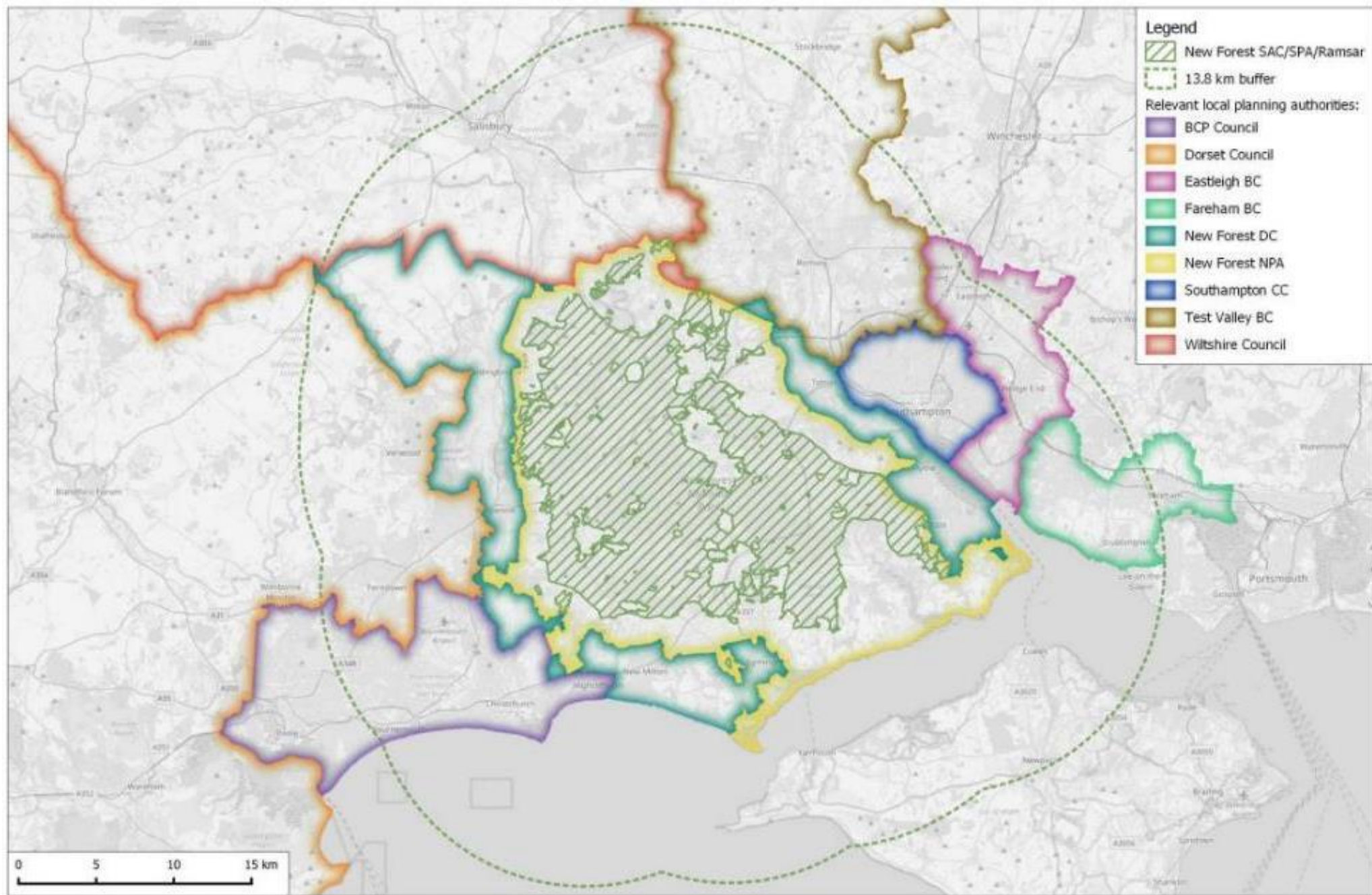
The Footprint Ecology research reports (2020 – 2023) identify a range of potential impacts from the projected increase in visitors to the New Forest arising from the planned development.

The reports recommend a strategic, proportionate and co-ordinated approach is developed across local authorities within the defined 13.8km 'zone of influence'.



The screenshot shows the website for New Forest National Park. The top navigation bar includes links for Blog, News, Jobs, About Us, Contact us, and a search function. Below this is a secondary menu with links for DISCOVER, CONSERVATION, COMMUNITIES, PLANNING, THINGS TO DO, and VISITING. The main header features the New Forest National Park logo and a large background image of a landscape with purple flowers in the foreground. The main heading reads "Research into recreational use of the New Forest's protected habitats". Below the heading is a breadcrumb trail: HOME > CONSERVATION > MANAGING RECREATION > RESEARCH INTO RECREATIONAL USE OF THE NEW FOREST'S PROTECTED HABITATS. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column has a purple button with a right-pointing arrow and the text "Research into recreational use of the New Forest's protected habitats". The middle column has a heading "Research into recreational use of the New Forest's protected habitats" followed by a paragraph: "These Footprint Ecology reports were produced to help local planning authorities decide how to mitigate potential impacts of planned new housing. They also provide a wealth of information to guide a wider range of recreation management work." Below this is a sub-heading "Aim of the research project" and a paragraph: "Increasing levels of new housing development are planned in and around the New Forest National Park. This research focuses on understanding the impacts of recreation arising from this development on the New Forest's international nature conservation designations and the potential for mitigation. The New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) make". The right column contains five purple buttons with white text: "NEW FOREST RECREATION IMPACT MITIGATION REPORT", "NEW FOREST VISITOR RESULTS HOUSING REPORT", "NEW FOREST VISITOR SURVEY REPORT", "NEW FOREST VEHICLE COUNT REPORT", and "NEW FOREST TELEPHONE SURVEY REPORT". At the bottom of the right column is a larger purple button with white text: "NEW FOREST ZONE OF INFLUENCE REPORT".





# Existing approach to mitigation taken by local planning authorities

LPA	Summary of position
New Forest NPA	Revised Habitat Mitigation Scheme SPD (July 2020)
New Forest DC	Updated 'Mitigation for Recreational Impacts SPD' adopted April 2021. Focus on greenspace delivery and PROW enhancements. The NFDC scheme also funds additional ranger provision.
Test Valley BC	New Forest Mitigation Framework (2014) currently being updated (2024). Focus on new SANG delivery
Eastleigh BC	Interim New Forest Mitigation Strategy adopted March 2022. Includes extension to Itchen Valley Country Park, the delivery of additional ranger resource and transfer of contributions to the NPA.
Southampton CC	Ring-fenced CIL contributions for New Forest recreation mitigation to be spent within the New Forest's designated sites on 'infrastructure projects'.
Fareham BC	Interim approach to mitigating New Forest recreational impacts approved. Includes the transfer of contributions to the NPA to scale up measures in the NPA's mitigation scheme.
Wiltshire Council	Interim New Forest Mitigation Strategy approved January 2022; updated Strategy approved May 2024
Dorset Authorities	No strategies specifically relating to mitigating recreational impacts on the New Forest's designated sites. Considering interaction with Dorset Heathlands mitigation framework

New Forest District outside the National Park

# Mitigation for Recreational Impacts

On New Forest European Sites

Supplementary Planning Document

Enabling the Delivery of Green Growth

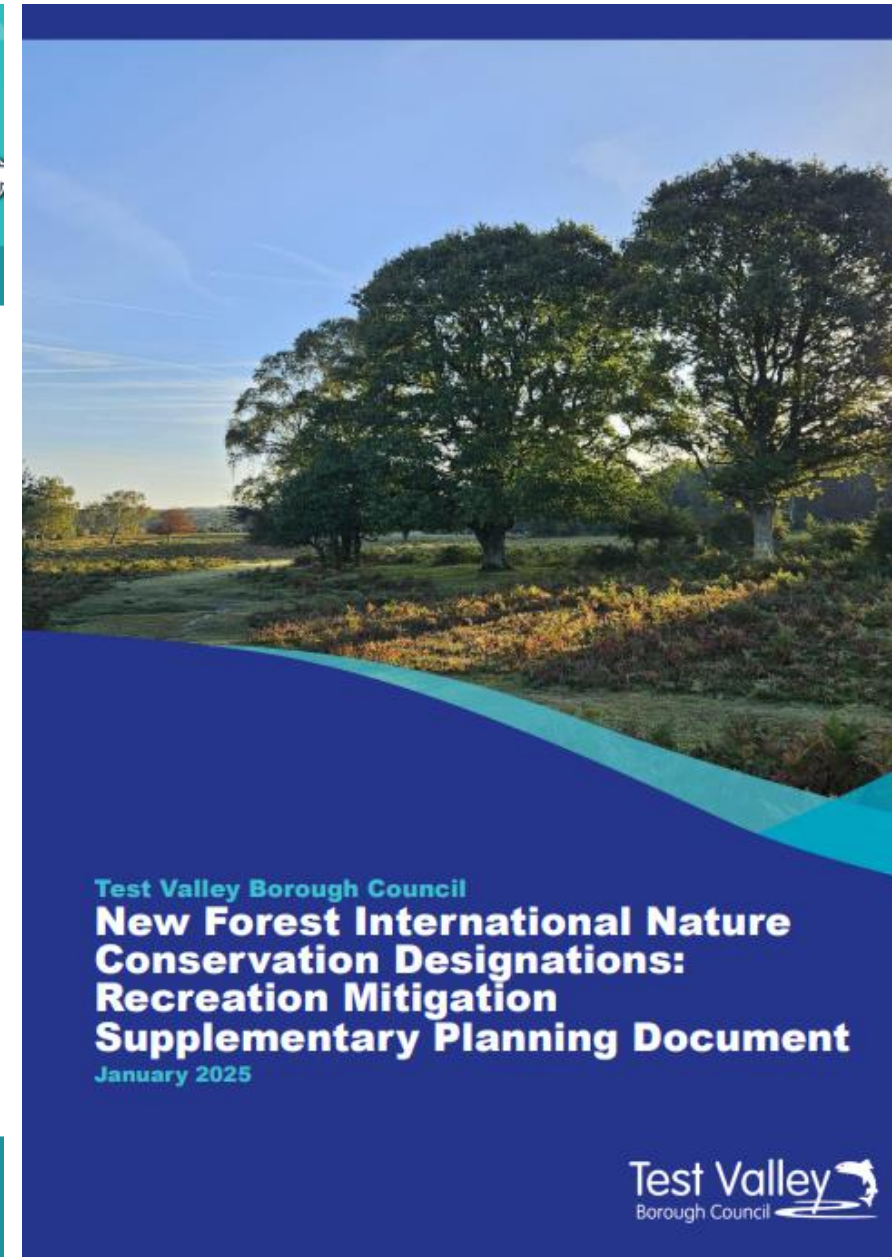
Adopted 5 May 2021



## Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036

# Interim New Forest Recreation Mitigation

June 2019



Test Valley Borough Council  
**New Forest International Nature  
Conservation Designations:  
Recreation Mitigation  
Supplementary Planning Document**  
January 2025

# What's been delivered to date on habitat mitigation

- People & Wildlife Ranger role working in the National Park area funded by developer contributions from development in New Forest District. Contributions also transferred to NPA from Fareham Borough Council and Eastleigh Borough Council.
- Over 120 hectares of new 'Accessible Natural Recreational Greenspace' due to be delivered as part of NFDC's strategic housing site allocations.
- Principle of cross-boundary use of developer contributions established in several neighbouring LPAs (e.g. NFDC, FBC). 13.8km 'zone of influence' accepted by key stakeholders.
- Mitigation strategies adopted by 7 LPAs in and around the New Forest, delivering significant new greenspace provision and enhancements (e.g. extensions to Itchen Valley Country Park in Eastleigh, new SANG acquisition in Test Valley).
- Project steering group made up of 9 local planning authorities, Natural England and Forestry England working to deliver agreed measures within the New Forest's designated sites. Support from the Partnership for South Hampshire – see September 2023 Joint Committee report.

# Strategic Access Management & Monitoring (SAMM) commission

Footprint Ecology commissioned to produce a further report covering the following requirements:

- To devise a fully costed package of strategic access management and monitoring (SAMM) measures for the New Forest designated sites that could be used by all planning authorities within the 13.8km zone of influence to mitigate recreational impacts on these designated sites.
- To ensure a consistent approach to SAMM provision for all local authorities. This should help Natural England to be able to support mitigation plans through Local Plan processes and in Habitats Regulations Assessments, and help local planning authorities with developer contributions for SAMM. Currently the existing and interim approaches being developed by individual local planning authorities are based on a variety of approaches.
- To identify a consistent methodology for setting developer contributions that can be used by all local authorities within the 13.8km zone of influence.

# New Forest Strategic Access Management & Monitoring (SAMM measures) – 2023 report

- LPAs within the 13.8km 'zone of influence' agree that a package of SAMM measures are required within the designated sites.
- Footprint Ecology recommend a range of costed SAMM measures, including:
  - Access infrastructure and projects: Including parking provision;
  - Engagement: ranger team, targeted work with dog walkers; and
  - Monitoring of visitors, key habitats and species.
- Per dwelling tariffs are calculated based on visit rates from each authority, providing a tiered tariff structure that means new housing coming forward closer to the New Forest will contribute more than that further away.



# Per dwelling tariffs/developer contributions

Local planning authority	Proposed developer contribution
New Forest National Park Authority	£2,700 per dwelling
New Forest District Council	£2,700 per dwelling
Test Valley Borough Council	£700 per dwelling
Wiltshire Council	£600 per dwelling
Dorset Council	£400 per dwelling
Southampton City Council	£300 per dwelling
Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole Council	£300 per dwelling
Eastleigh Borough Council	£200 per dwelling
Fareham Borough Council	£100 per dwelling

# Development within the 13.8km – 15km buffer

- The Footprint Ecology SAMM report states, “Large sites just beyond the 13.8km, out to 15km may also need to provide mitigation and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.”
- Natural England support this recommendation and this has resulted in discussions around:
  - (a) the scale of development covered by the term ‘large sites’;
  - (b) the form of mitigation that may be required; and
  - (c) the role of this ‘outer zone’ in identifying where impacts need to be ‘screened’.

