



**Copythorne Parish Design Statement
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Consultation Statement – July 2025**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 12 (a) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), this 'Consultation Statement' sets out the consultation undertaken during the preparation of the Copythorne Parish Design Statement SPD.
- 1.2 The draft Copythorne Parish Design Statement was the subject of a statutory 6-week period of consultation between 23 April and 4 June 2025. This statement focuses on the work undertaken both prior to this public consultation taking place; and following the receipt of consultation responses. The Copythorne Parish Design Statement was presented for formal adoption to the New Forest National Park Authority meeting on 24 July 2025.
- 1.3 In accordance with the relevant regulations, the Consultation Statement provides details of who was consulted on the draft Copythorne Parish Design Statement SPD between April and June 2025; how they were consulted; a summary of the main issues raised during the consultation; and how those issues have been addressed in the final SPD.

2. Background and preparation of the Copythorne Parish Design Statement

- 2.1 The parish of Copythorne is located almost entirely within the National Park for planning purposes and is home to circa 3,000 residents. It is one of the larger, more populated parishes in the National Park and this is reflected in the number of planning applications received by the National Park Authority from local residents, businesses and landowners in the parish each year.
- 2.2 In 2024 Copythorne Parish Council resolved to prepare a Parish Design Statement to provide local design guidelines for future development to assist residents and developers in preparing their proposals. The role of the Design Statement is not to prevent new development, but to enable development to make a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the parish.
- 2.3 Copythorne Parish Council established a steering group comprising local residents and representatives from the parish council to take the work forward. Information has been gathered through articles in the parish newsletter and agenda items at parish council meetings. Officers from the National Park Authority's planning policy & conservation team have also been engaged in the process, provided feedback where appropriate.

- 2.4 The Parish Council have consciously prepared a succinct document focusing on local matters within the parish. This is in recognition that the majority of the parish is already covered by the adopted New Forest National Park Local Plan (2019), the National Park Design Guide SPD (2022) and the respective Conservation Area Character Appraisals for the Forest Central North and Forest North East Conservation Areas (insofar as they relate to the areas of the parish of Copythorne).
- 2.5 The main elements of the Copythorne Parish Design Statement include:
- A brief history of the parish, highlighting the evolution of the six main settlements in the parish (Bartley, Cadnam, Copythorne, Newbridge, Ower and Winsor), all of which have their own identity and origins.
 - Section 4 of the draft Parish Design Statement provides an overview of the 28 nationally listed buildings/assets in the parish.
 - A series of recommendations to be taken into account when proposals in the parish are being considered (for example, encouraging a 'rooftop first' approach to solar panels for both residential and business properties). These recommendations have been discussed with Authority officers, with revisions made where necessary to ensure they are in general conformity with the higher order planning policies for the National Park area.
 - Section 9 highlights factors outside the scope of local design guidelines, in recognition of the fact that the design statement cannot set new planning policies (which require independent examination); and can typically only address matters where planning permission is required

3. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 3.1 The Government's National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) resource on strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal confirms, '*Supplementary planning documents do not require a sustainability appraisal, but may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already have been assessed during the preparation of the relevant strategic policies.*' (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 11-008-20140306). Given that the Copythorne Parish Design Statement SPD is providing local design advice and does not allocate land for development, it is the Authority's position that neither a Sustainability Appraisal nor a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.
- 3.2 'Competent authorities' (including National Park Authorities) must carry out an assessment under the Habitats Regulations to test if a plan or project could significantly harm the designated features of a European site. It is the Authority's view that the Copythorne Parish Design Statement SPD is not a 'plan or project' that might have an impact on a European site and therefore no assessment is required.

3.3 The Authority bases this position on the fact that the Copythorne Parish Design Statement does not set out where future activities or developments should take place within the parish; and does not itself consent development. The higher order New Forest National Park Local Plan (August 2019) was subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment.

4. Public Consultation – 23 April to 4 June 2025

4.1 National planning regulations require a period of public consultation of at least 4 weeks on draft supplementary planning documents. The National Park Authority is committed to a 6-week period of public consultation on draft documents, which better reflects the meeting cycles of local town and parish councils and provides greater opportunity for the public to comment. The draft Copythorne Parish Design Statement was approved for the purposes of public consultation at the Authority's Planning Committee meeting in April 2025. The 6-week public consultation on the draft Village Design Statement ran from 23 April to 4 June 2025.

(i) Who was consulted

4.2 Annex 1 to this Consultation Statement list the organisations and bodies notified of the 6-week public consultation on the draft Copythorne Parish Design Statement. This includes statutory consultees, other consultees and local groups/stakeholders.

4.3 In addition, Copythorne Parish Council have raised awareness of the Parish Design Statement and the opportunities to input into the review through various methods over the last couple of years. The review of the Village Design Statement has been overseen by a working party of parish councillors and local parishioners who have a particular interest or area of expertise.

(ii) How were they consulted

- Over 200 statutory and general consultees were directly notified of the start of the consultation (see Annex 1). This included neighbouring town and parish councils, local stakeholder groups, statutory consultees (e.g. Historic England) and local planning agents.
- The draft Copythorne Parish Design Statement was made available on the Authority's website and for inspection during office hours at Lymington Town Hall.
- A press release was issued to local media outlets, summarising the role of the draft Parish Design Statement, the consultation period, how comments could be made and where the document could be viewed. A formal press notice was also issued.
- The consultation was actively promoted through the Authority's social media channels, including Facebook (49,000 followers) and X (16,500 followers).

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

- 4.4 In accordance with Regulation 12(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the Authority is required to set out in this Consultation Statement, “*a summary of the main issues raised*” during the consultation period; and “*how those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document*”. The table on the following pages fulfils this requirement and focuses on the changes sought to the draft Copythorne Parish Design Guide SPD in the representations received. It should be noted that the Authority is not required to list every single point raised during the consultation, only the main issues raised.
- 4.5 All of the representations received during this period have been reviewed and changes made to the draft document where appropriate. This process was undertaken in liaison with Copythorne Parish Council.

5. Formal adoption of the Copythorne Parish Design Statement

- 5.1 The final version of the Copythorne Parish Design Statement was considered at the full National Park Authority meeting on 24 July 2025 for formal adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.
- 5.2 Authority members were presented with a cover report, a Consultation Statement and the revised version of the document. Officers from the Authority’s policy & conservation team were joined by a representative of Copythorne Parish Council to respond to questions.

Respondent	Summary of main points raised	NPA response to the main points raised
Historic England	<p>Welcome the production of a Design Statement to guide change in the Parish.</p> <p>Page 10: Welcome inclusion of section 4 on local heritage. That said, we note that section is headed “Conservation and Historic Buildings”. “Conservation” means different things to different people. Suggest broadening the heading of section 4 to “The parish’s historic environment” or similar.</p> <p>Recommend tailoring section 4 to refer to both designated and non-designated heritage assets. Indeed, might section 4.1 be renamed “Designated heritage assets”?</p> <p>Recommend amending the heading of section 4.2 to “Non-designated heritage assets”. This would also provide an opportunity to refer to the New Forest NPA local list, which includes entries within the Parish.</p> <p>A new section 4.3 would be logical and helpful, covering recommendations on the need to conserve or enhance the significance of the designated and non-designated heritage assets in the parish. We recommend liaison with the NPA’s heritage team as appropriate in finalising related recommendations.</p>	<p>Historic England’s support is welcomed.</p> <p>Comments noted and the heading of Section 4 has been amended to ‘Historic Environment’.</p> <p>Agreed. Section 4.1 amended to ‘Designated heritage assets’ in line with Historic England’s feedback.</p> <p>Agreed. Section 4.2 amended to ‘Non-designated heritage assets’ in line with Historic England’s feedback. An online link to the New Forest National Park Local List has also been included.</p> <p>Agree. New wording added at 4.3 to state, “National planning policy confirms that heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations. Development should therefore contribute to the positive conservation and enhancement of the heritage assets in the parish of Copythorne – both designated assets (e.g. the listed buildings and parts of two Conservation Areas) and the non-designated features (e.g. the 170+ locally listed assets). Planning applications submitted within the parish of Copythorne</p>

	<p>Page 16: Reference to the two conservation areas is welcome, though the current text implies the two areas are Cadnam and Bartley. This needs to be edited.</p> <p>Page 17: Point 2 of the recommendations: Re-development may entail repair and reuse of older buildings. That being so, we recommend amending the wording to something like: “The repair and reuse of older buildings should be encouraged first, rather than re-development demolition and rebuilding, in order to retain the character of the villages.”</p>	<p>should describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance.”</p> <p>Section 7.2 amended in line with Historic England’s recommendations to refer to the full titles of the two Conservation Areas within the Parish.</p> <p>Agreed – amendments made to point 2 in the recommendations in accordance with Historic England’s feedback.</p>
Natural England	<p>Landscape Character Assessments provide a context for looking at possible changes and for seeking to ensure that the countryside character is protected and enhanced. Local area LCAs and those for protected landscapes, should be cross-referenced as they are a useful tool to ensure that the Village Design Statement makes a positive contribution in terms of design, form and location, to the character and functions of the landscape, and avoids any unacceptable impacts.</p> <p>Natural England is revising the suite of 159 National Character Area (NCA) profiles to make environmental evidence and information easily available to a wider audience. NCA profiles are guidance documents. The revised and current NCA profiles are available on the NCA pages of our website for you to refer to.</p>	<p>New section 11.2 ‘Other relevant guidance and documents’ added. This includes a link to the New Forest National Park Landscape Character Assessment and also Natural England’s National Character Areas.</p> <p>New section 11.2 ‘Other relevant guidance and documents’ added. This includes a link to the New Forest National Park Landscape Character Assessment and also Natural England’s National Character Areas.</p>

	<p>The Design Statement could usefully promote high quality and multifunctional green infrastructure. Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance provides an introduction to delivering green infrastructure at the micro and neighbourhood scale through features such as street trees, green facades and green roofs, where consistent with the local character.</p> <p>Design guidelines should respect, and where possible, enhance the village's local and neighbouring biodiversity resources. The Town and Country Planning Association has produced a practical and design orientated Biodiversity by Design guide to achieving high levels of biodiversity in developments, which may be of use.</p>	<p>Comments noted. However, the Copythorne Parish Design Statement focuses on local design issues and therefore has a narrower scope than the New Forest National Park Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan. No changes are recommended in light of this feedback.</p> <p>As above and comments noted. However, the Copythorne Parish Design Statement focuses on local design issues and therefore has a narrower scope than the New Forest National Park Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan. No changes are recommended in light of this feedback.</p>
Local Residents	<p>Page 2: Glossary: The ROW entry should be changed to: PROW Public Right of Way. This will more accurately reflect the current usage of both abbreviations within the document.</p> <p>Page 6: Parish Map: The split between the "North Ward" and the "South Ward" should be shown on this map.</p> <p>Page 7: Conservation Areas Map: Suggest that the two Conservation Areas that cover parts of the Parish are shown in slightly different shading.</p> <p>Pages 8 and 9: Parish History: The history of the villages follows closely the 2008 Copythorne Parish History Society's publication "A Brief History on the Parish of Copythorne. The Parish steering group may wish to add</p>	<p>Agree – Glossary amended to refer to 'PROW – Public Right of Way' in accordance with the feedback.</p> <p>No reference to the North and South wards of Copythorne Parish in the Parish Design Statement, as the two wards are not relevant to the design guidelines or decisions on planning applications.</p> <p>Conservation Areas Map unaltered. New section 11.2 'Other relevant guidance and documents' included and a link to the online Conservation Areas maps including in this.</p> <p>Agree. Section 3.2 'Ower' expanded to include further details of the history this this village, based on the Copythorne Parish History Society's publication as recommended.</p>

<p>to the rather sparse details given for Ower by taking some of the details given in this publication.</p> <p>Page 10: Locally listed buildings: Not to make any reference to Local List of Heritage Assets more commonly known as “locally listed buildings” would be a significant omission in this PDS.</p> <p>Page 12, Section 5.1: Local Economy: The following two paragraphs are within 5.1 Local Economy:</p> <p>The Cadnam river predominately flows in an easterly direction through the North Ward and joins the River Test to the east of the village of Ower.</p> <p>Bartley Water as the name suggests rises in Bartley and flows into Southampton Water at Eling Tide Mill.</p> <p>Both paragraphs do not sit comfortably with the sub-section “Local Economy” and should be transferred to Section 8.5 Flooding.</p> <p>Page 12, Section 5.2: Clubs and Groups that have existed for at least five years and are still thriving should surely be mentioned in this PDS.</p>	<p>New wording added to section 4.2 to state, “There are 170 registered non-designated historic assets which can be accessed on the NFNPA webpage (hyperlink inserted). This list includes all assets in the National Park. Copythorne’s assets can be extracted by selecting “COPY” as the parish.</p> <p>Agree. These two paragraphs have been moved from Section 5.1 to Section 8.5 on ‘Flooding’ as suggested.</p> <p>Agree. Additional wording added to section 5.2 to state, “A list of current clubs and activities can be found at https://www.copythorneparishhall.org.uk/whats-on/.”</p>
--	--

	<p>Section 8.5 Flooding should be revised as follows:</p> <p>8.5 Flooding</p> <p>The Parish Council maintains a dedicated Flooding page on its website: https://www.copythorne.org.uk/flooding/</p> <p>There are two rivers flowing through the Parish, the Cadnam River and Bartley Water. Both rivers rise in the forest areas to the north east in the Minstead area. The Cadnam river predominately flows in an easterly direction through the North Ward and joins the River Test to the east of the village of Ower. The Fletchwood Trib of Bartley Water flows through Bartley and finally into Southampton Water at Eling Tide Mill.</p> <p>Over 1,000 properties have been identified as “at risk of surface water flooding” within the Lower Test Catchment Management Plan.</p> <p>Over 20 properties in the Parish will shortly benefit from the installation of property flood resilience measures under the supervision of the Environment Agency which is fully funding the work.</p> <p>It is suggested that the Lower Test Management Plan is added to the Council’s “Flooding” page</p> <p>8.6 Recommendation: Encourage residents of the Parish to use the information on the back page of the Parish Flood Plan latest update.</p>	<p>New wording added in 8.5 to refer to “The Parish Council maintains a dedicated Flooding page on its website: https://www.copythorne.org.uk/flooding/” as suggested.</p> <p>The additional proposed wording regarding the number of properties at risk of surface water flooding within the Lower Test Catchment Management Plan has not been included. The focus of the Parish Design Statement is on providing local design guidance, rather than guiding where development takes place spatially (which is the role for the respective local plans and any future neighbourhood plan covering the parish).</p> <p>Changes have been made to the recommendation at 8.6 to state, “Encourage residents to report local flooding events to the Parish Council and the “Lead Local Flood Authority” (which is currently Hampshire County Council) or the Environment Agency as appropriate.”</p>
--	--	---

<p>Page 19 – 8.6 Recommendation: It is difficult to understand why the Design Statement is proposing this recommendation in its current form. Is it really the case that the Parish Council no longer wishes to know, directly from residents, about flooding incidents?</p> <p>Much of the Parish flooding does come under Hampshire County Council (as both the Highways Authority as well as the Lead Local Flood Authority) but also flooding, especially when a significant flooding incident which has generally been found to be a main river issue, therefore should be reported to the Environment Agency.</p>	
---	--

Annex 1 - Organisations notified of the draft Copythorne Parish Design Statement consultation (April – June 2025)

Mining Remediation Authority	Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council
Historic England	Milford on Sea Parish Council
Natural England	Minstead Parish Council
Environment Agency	Netley Marsh Parish Council
Marine Management Organisation	New Milton Town Council
National Highways	Redlynch Parish Council
National Grid	Ringwood Town Council
Bournemouth Water	Sopley Parish Council
Wessex Water	Sway Parish Council
Southern Water	Totton & Eling Parish Council
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board	Wellow Parish Council
Hampshire County Council - planning	Whiteparish Parish Council
Hampshire County Council - transport	Woodgreen Parish Council
Hampshire County Council - countryside	
Hampshire County Council - Property services	
New Forest District Council	
Test Valley Borough Council	
Sir Desmond Swayne MP	Action Hampshire
Sir Julian Lewis MP	Age Concern Hampshire
Christopher Chope MP	Associated British Ports
Caroline Nokes MP	Bournemouth International Airport Ltd
John Glen MP	Calshot Activities Centre
Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council	Campaign for National Parks
Beaulieu Parish Council	CPRE Hampshire
Boldre Parish Council	Christchurch Bicycle Club
Braemore Parish Council	Community First New Forest
Bramshaw Parish Council	Country Land and Business Association SE
Bransgore Parish Council	Country Land and Business Association SW
Brockenhurst Parish Council	Cranborne Chase & West Wilts Downs
Burley Parish Council	National Landscape
Copythorne Parish Council	ExxonMobil Chemical Ltd
Denny Lodge Parish Council	Federation of Small Businesses
East Boldre Parish Council	Friends, Families and Travellers
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Fordingbridge Society
Exbury & Lepe Parish Council	Forestry England
Fawley Parish Council	Friends of Brockenhurst
Fordingbridge Parish Council	Friends of the New Forest
Godshill Parish Council	Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Hale Parish Council	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Hordle Parish Council	Hampshire Association of Local Councils
Hyde Parish Council	Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society
Hythe & Dibden Parish Council	Hampshire Constabulary - Designing Out Crime officer
Landford Parish Council	Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service (New Forest Group)
Lymington & Pennington Town Council	Hampshire Gardens Trust
Lyndhurst Parish Council	Hampshire Outdoor Centres
Marchwood Parish Council	Hampshire Scouts
	Homes England
	Lepe Country Park
	Lymington & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry Limited
	Lymington Harbour Commissioners
	Lymington Society
	Jackson Planning
	National Farmers' Union
	National Grid
	National Trust
	National Trust Hants & IoW

Network Rail
Network Rail
New Forest Access Forum
New Forest Business Partnership
New Forest Centre
New Forest Commoners' Defence Association
New Forest Equestrian Association
New Forest Friends of the Earth
New Forest Hounds
New Forest Runners Club
New Forest Sports Council
Go New Forest
New Forest Transition
New Forest Trust
Ramblers Association (New Forest Branch)
Ringwood Society
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Sandy Balls Estate
Sandy Balls Holiday Village
The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain Central
Office
The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain Western
Office
Solent Forum
Solent LEP
Solent Protection Society
Southampton Airport
Sport England
SSE
Swindon & Wiltshire LEP
The Caravan Club Ltd
Tourism South East
Verderers of the New Forest
Wild New Forest
Wilts & Dorset Bus Co Ltd
Wiltshire Association of Local Councils
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
UK Youth

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

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

60+ active planning agents and consultants