



# Considerations in National Parks

- National Park Purposes and Duty
- English National Parks and the Broads - UK Government Vision and Circular 2010 (DEFRA)
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – particularly paras 115-116



# National Park Purposes and Duty

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the park's special qualities by the public

and, in pursuing these two purposes, a duty on NPAs'

- To seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the communities within the National



# Sandford Principle

- Section 11A(2) of the *1949 National Parks Act* requires any relevant authority - when exercising or performing functions relating to, or affecting, land in a National Park – to attach greater weight to purpose one ‘conserving and enhancing’ where there appears to be conflict between the two purposes



# South Downs National Park

- The SDNPA has identified seven special qualities of the South Downs National Park: <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/about-us/special-qualities>
- A 2050 vision for the National Park has been identified: <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/about-us/vision> and
- A draft 'Management Plan' for the National Park has been subject to consultation: <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/about-us/management-plan>



## DEFRA National Parks Circular

- National Park Authorities' primary responsibility is delivery of their statutory purposes
- Active support and co-operation of all public bodies whose activities affect the Parks is also vital to the achievement of Park Purposes
- NPAs must ensure that in furthering the Parks' Purposes they give sufficient weight to socio-economic interests to fulfil the duty to sustain strong communities



## DEFRA National Park Circular

- National Park Authorities have an important role in terms of the delivery of affordable housing
- Government recognises that Parks are *‘not suitable locations for unrestricted housing and does not provide general housing targets for them.’*
- *‘The expectation is that new housing will be focused on meeting affordable housing requirements’*





# National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- Para.14: presumption in favour of sustainable development
- Para.14: local plans should meet '*objectively assessed needs*', with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change



# National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Unless:

- *‘any adverse impact would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole’ or*
- *‘specific policies in NPPF indicated development should be restricted’*





## National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- Para.115: *'great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks'*... which (together with AONBs and the Broads) have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty
- Para.115: *'the conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas and should be given great*



- Para.116: planning permission should be refused for major developments in national parks apart from exceptional circumstances and in the public interest
- Para.116: major development applications in national parks should include an assessment of:
  - Need for the development and the impact of permitting it on the local economy
  - Cost and scope of developing elsewhere or meeting in another way
  - Any detrimental effect on the environment, and



## South Downs Local Plan

- First time National Park will be planned for as a single entity
- Will provide a single reference point for planning policies within the National Park
- Will provide the context and ‘hooks’ for neighbourhood plans and SPDs
- Will set out delivery of purposes, duty, vision and Management Plan objectives and policies “on the ground”



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