

## New Forest

Do you ever visit The New Forest and if so how often do you visit? *(Tick one box only)*

<i>Weekly</i> .....	8 (2%)
<i>Monthly</i> .....	41 (10%)
<i>Within the last 6 months</i> .....	112 (27%)
<i>Within the last years</i> .....	81 (20%)
<i>More than a year ago</i> .....	84 (20%)
<i>Never visit the New Forest</i> .....	78 (19%)
<i>Don't know/ can't remember</i> .....	9 (2%)
<b>Base</b>	<b>413 (100%)</b>

Welborne is located 14.3km east of The New Forest as the crow flies. Although this is a considerable distance, it nonetheless provides a misleading impression of proximity because Southampton Water intervenes. By road, Welborne is 31km from the closest fragments of the New Forest SPA and 36km from the main area of the SPA. The analysis in the Footprint Ecology visitor study identified that 75% of regular visitors to the New Forest live within 10km of the SPA. One would therefore expect that Welborne residents would form a very small proportion of overall visitors to the SPA.

These distances fit with the results of the resident survey undertaken for this application. That survey indicates that North Fareham is a marginal source of regular New Forest visitors. Although people from North Fareham do visit the New Forest, almost 90% of residents either do so infrequently (i.e. once every six months at most) or not at all. A central core of regular visitors who use the SPA on a weekly basis does exist but constitutes only 2% of all residents (which, assuming that similar patterns of behaviour could be applied to Welborne, would be approximately 255 people).

Even if all visits by all residents of North Fareham (or Welborne) could be deflected therefore, it would not appreciably alter recreational pressure in the New Forest.

The New Forest National Park Recreation Management Strategy does identify that (as part of the package of wider works the New Forest intends to deliver) the provision of new areas of green infrastructure can be expected to absorb some of the anticipated growth in levels of recreational demand from new housing and increased populations in adjacent urban areas. While provision of green infrastructure would not by itself be a total solution to recreational pressure in the New Forest, for those parts of the catchment that would make a marginal contribution (such as Welborne) it will serve to further reduce visits to the SPA.

Having established the principle of providing approximately 78ha of SANG at Welborne (particularly 39.4ha at Dash Wood) to meet the daily walking and dog walking needs of future Welborne residents, it is considered that Welborne's already marginal contribution to regular visitor pressure on the New Forest would be reduced to such an extent that it would be negligible.

It is further recommended that a continuing dialogue is established with the New Forest National Park regarding the ongoing studies it is undertaking to inform the Recreation Management Strategy. This should seek to establish whether, and at what point, any financial contribution towards implementing the RMS would be required, over and above the Welborne Plan's proposals for SANG and contributions to the SDMP avoidance and mitigation strategy.

Assuming the same patterns applied to Welborne then the 5,600 dwellings (13,216) would, over the c. 15-20 years it would take the entire development to be built out and become occupied, mean that:

- 264 people would visit the New Forest weekly (i.e. 13,728 visits per year)
- 1,322 people would visit the New Forest monthly (i.e. 15,864 visits per year)
- 3,568 people would visit twice yearly (i.e. 7137 visits per year)
- 2,746 people would visit annually (i.e. 2,746 visits per year)

So, without mitigation, Welborne would result in a further 39,475 visits per year to the New Forest by the time it is built out and occupied, compared to 1,050,000 additional visits estimated from the entire 50km surrounding the SPA (i.e. 3.8% of the total predicted visitor increase).

Footprint Ecology work estimated that there are 13 million visits a year to New Forest, predicted to increase to 14 million by 2030. Of the fourteen million visits, approximately 39,500 would be due to Welborne residents (0.3% of the total). Therefore residents of Welborne may make a contribution to visitor pressure in the New Forest, but a very small one.