

**Statement of Common Ground between New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority and Meyrick Estate Management Ltd**

**Site CN1–Christchurch Urban Extension and CN2 Land South of Burton-Suitable Alternative Greenspace (SANG)**

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1. A statement of common ground between Meyrick Estate Management Ltd \*(MEM), Natural England and Christchurch Borough Council has been submitted to the Examination in Public for Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy. The agreement sets out the current position in relation to the mitigation of European protected sites from any potential adverse effects of development of the urban extension at Roeshot, Christchurch by the formation of SANG between those parties.
2. The principle of SANG is that they should provide a suitable alternative natural greenspace for recreational use which both deflects the new population away from European/internationally designated heathland and provides a new area for existing users so that there is a no net change in the level of use on the protected heathland. The new SANGs will have a variety of natural features such that local residents will be substantially diverted from the specially protected sites.
3. Options for the provision of SANG shown in the statement of common ground referred to above at paragraph 1 may include SANG sites and links to serve the new population that may be located within New Forest National Park or New Forest District Council as well as land within Christchurch Borough.
4. New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority support the concept of SANGs to provide heathland mitigation being provided beyond the administrative boundary of the authority for which mitigation is required due to geographical proximity of the new population to the boundary.
5. New Forest National Park Authority agree that SANG use is consistent and compatible with the duties as a National Park. The New Forest National Park Authority has statutory purposes and socio-economic responsibilities as specified in the Environment Act of 1995 one of which is to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.
6. New Forest District Council agree that provision of SANG to mitigate potential harm to protected habitats is consistent with the adopted New Forest Core Strategy objective to promote and safeguard biodiversity, protection and enhancement of wildlife, and landscape quality in the Plan Area. To avoid harmful impacts on the New Forest National Park. To promote public education and understanding of the care and quiet enjoyment of the natural environment.

7. New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority reserve their position on the nature of the proposed SANGs for site CN1 at Roeshot as that they will need to consider the design and implementation details of the final SANG proposals and may be required to consider a planning application for the proposed works for the SANG.

DBrunton

13/9/13

*Dean Brunton (on behalf of New Forest District Council)*

