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By email to: david.illsley@newforestnpa.gov.uk
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Dear David

New Forest National Park: Submission Draft Local Plan Consultation

The Campaign for National Parks is the independent national voice for the 13 National Parks in England and Wales. Our mission is to inspire everyone to enjoy and look after National Parks – the nation's green treasures. We have been campaigning for more than 80 years to ensure that our National Parks are beautiful, inspirational places that are relevant, valued and protected for all.

Our response to this consultation focuses on the proposals relating to the land to the south of the Fawley Power Station site. As you will be aware, we submitted a response to the consultation which took place last summer on alternative housing sites, objecting to the inclusion of this particular site.

We recognise that there are potential benefits to be gained from re-developing the power station site itself and that the draft local plan seeks to address the site-specific issues associated with development on the land within the National Park. However, we do not believe that development of the scale proposed is appropriate in a National Park and we remain very concerned that the development on the brownfield (power station) site is being used to justify inappropriate development on greenfield land within the National Park. **We continue to object to the inclusion of the land to the south of Fawley as a potential housing site in the draft local plan.**

The reasons for our objection remain the same as the ones we set out in our letter of 25 July 2017. In particular, we do not believe that there is a need for the development in this particular location, given it is immediately adjacent to a site with the potential for 1000 new homes. We also have significant concerns about whether the detrimental impacts on the special qualities of the National Park can be adequately mitigated as there will already be increased numbers of visitors to this part of the Park as a result of the residential development on the Power Station site.

As the draft local plan notes, it is not possible to meet the full identified need for housing within the National Park without having a detrimental impact given the wide range of environmental designations that cover the area. This means that it would be entirely appropriate not to include all the land that has been identified as potential housing sites. There is a strong case against the inclusion of the land South of Fawley Power Station and a strong presumption in national planning policy against major development in National Parks. We therefore believe **there is insufficient justification for allocating this site as a potential housing site and it should be removed from the final version of the Plan.**

There are good reasons why National Parks are treated differently in planning policy. They are essential to the nation's health and well-being as well as delivering a wide range of other benefits.

Ensuring they continue to deliver these benefits is even more important in areas like the south-east of England given the huge pressure for development in this part of the country. We believe that the land in the National Park to the south of the Fawley Power Station site could best support redevelopment of the area by providing residents of the new housing with an area of undeveloped greenspace which offers opportunities for recreational activities away from the built-up area.

Please get in touch if you would like further information about any aspect of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Bradshaw', written in a cursive style.

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