



New Forest National Park Authority
Park-wide Article 4 Directive regarding
Temporary Campsites.

1. Introduction

Article 4 Directives have been used for decades within Planning legislation, to deny permitted development rights for specific reason. By way of example, a new housing development with small gardens may have one so permission was required for a new shed, which might otherwise be permitted development elsewhere.

It is stated that the New Forest has three times more camping and touring caravan bedspaces per kilometre than the average across all other English National Parks and has seen a significant increase in these pop-up sites since Spring 2020.

2. Directive for Classes B and BA of Part 4, Schedule 2 – introduced in 2022

The NFNPA Local Plan of 2019 states Article 4 Directives will be considered to ensure proper planning of campsites.

In March 2021, the NPA made a directive to cover ***All new temporary sites created since 1 March 2020 (regardless of size) and all existing temporary camp sites created prior to 1 March 2022 with more than 50 pitches.***

due to complaints from residents and parishes on the issues the temporary sites created. The Dept for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities confirmed they would not intervene.

The order was brought into effect on 30 September 2022. The authority has created a guidance note to assist in planning applications on this type of development.

3. Directive for Class BC of Part 4, Schedule 2 – introduced October 2023

July 2023 saw the introduction of further permitted development sites for up to 50 pitches (tents and motorhomes, and any moveable structure necessary for campsite use such as portable toilets/showers) for maximum 60 days per year, and these rights cover national parks (Class BC of Part 4, Schedule 2). This change nullifies the previous Article 4 Directive therefore a new, immediate effect Directive is for

Any land that was first used as a recreational campsite after 1 March 2020 and use of any land for more than 28 days in any calendar year.

The new Directive came into force on 27 October 2023 and New Forest National Park Authority are inviting comments until 1 December 2023. Comments will be considered at the point the authority decides whether to confirm it or not, by 26 April 2024.

The order, although in immediate effect will expire if it is not confirmed within six months of its making.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE – It seems entirely sensible to safeguard the National Park from development that creates negative impact for both local infrastructure and ecology.