

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 13 March 2017*

Agenda Item 4: *Chair's Report*

1. National Grid VIP Project.

As a member of the Community Liaison Group for this project which is dealing with removing pylons and burying cables in the Hale Purlieu area I have received an update on its progress.

A series of GIS surveys will commence on 20th February. The work is expected to last for 3 weeks. The surveys should identify environmental issues and archaeological constraints in the corridor at Hale Purlieu through which the preferred route runs.

The information gained will inform the detailed design. The location of the surveys has been agreed with the National Trust (the landowner) the New Forest NPA and the Verderers.

A full planning application is due to be submitted in summer 2018.

2. Letter received 27 February

The Forum has been sent an enquiry about locked gates in Parkhill, Church Place and King's Garn Gutter Inclosures (see attached letter). Clearly addressed to the Forum, the letter has no details of the sender's name or address. It is therefore proposed that the Forum should respond via the minutes of this meeting.

Ruth Croker
Chairman
February 2017

27 FEB 2017

New Forest Access Forum
c/o New Forest National Park Authority
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington
SO41 9ZG

Date: 13.2.17

I would like to bring to your attention a matter which I hope can be raised and resolved with the relevant authorities through your forum.

It has come to my attention that a number of gates have been padlocked by FC in Parkhill Inclosure, Church Place Inclosure and Kings Garn Gutter Inclosure. There may be other areas that I'm not aware of.

On reaching a padlocked gate which sometimes is a wicket gate or sometimes a five bar gate (with no wicket) one has no option but to climb over or under or through strands of wire.

In my view this type of obstruction is not improving public access of the forest for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area, as described in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) and is inhibiting the recreation enjoyment of the forest in an unsafe manner.

I would be grateful if this could issue could be brought to the attention of the responsible authorities and that a resolution can be found swiftly.

Many thanks,