

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 01 June 2015*

Agenda item 9: *National Park Management Plan*

The New Forest National Park Management Plan was published in 2010 and contains the vision and objectives designed to guide the long-term management of the National Park.

It also includes a great deal of information about the New Forest and the main issues it faces, described under 10 different topics. These range from enhancing landscapes and habitats and conserving local distinctiveness, to supporting local communities and improving traffic and transport.

The Plan was agreed following extensive public consultation and the direct involvement of many Forest organisations, communities and individuals. They all played a large part in creating the Plan in its final form. The majority of the Plan is still entirely relevant and will not be changed, however, the priority actions covered the period 2010-15 and now need updating.

In December last year the Forum submitted comments on the 'Call for views' informal consultation on the initial draft of the Plan 2015-2020.

A revised version of the [Management Plan update](#) is now available for public consultation. The closing date for responses is 22 June 2015. A final version of the update will then be considered by the National Park Authority and other partner organisations, followed by publication later in the year.

The full Plan can be found on the [website](#). The main changes to the initial draft are shown in red-brown type in the document and the most important revisions that have been made are provided in Annex 1.

National Park Management Plan update
Revised draft

A summary of the main changes to the Management Plan update following the 'Call for views' consultation

List of contributing organisations

- A new page has been added (p.3) showing all the organisations that are leading on actions or that have contributed ideas for the revised plan.

Additional projects under 'Achievements over the last five years' (Chapter 3)

- Two new projects have been added in this section (p.12 and 13):
 - Benefits of LEADER funding for rural businesses (lead: NFDC, Local Action Group)
 - Creating a community woodland at Maybush Copse, Landford (leads: local community in Landford, Wiltshire Council, National Park Authority)
- Other projects suggested have also been listed for inclusiveness (p.13): 'Love the Forest' project; Western Escarpment Conservation Area Action Plan; re-introduction of grazing on Barton commons; enhancement of Redlynch Parish Cemetery.

Additions and changes to 'Important recent changes affecting the National Park' (Chapter 4)

- A short paragraph outlining the Water Framework Directive has been included (p.14). This relates to various actions under 'improved condition of river catchments'.
- The descriptive section on recreation has been re-worked to clarify the second purpose of the National Park, linking enjoyment with the special qualities, and to emphasise the complexity of recreation management in the New Forest (p.17).
- The section on cycling events has been updated in light of the completion of the cycling code and charter, and to change the emphasis to include all large-scale recreational events (p.18).

Amendments and additions to the actions

- An action has been added under land management to help commoners and smaller farmers with the new on-line system for farm support (p.24).
- Two actions under 'Enjoying the special qualities' have been re-worded to add clarity, and broadened to include all large-scale events and the role of the Public Events and Safety Advisory Group (p.30).
- An action has been added under 'Enjoying the special qualities' to help people with disabilities experience cycling in the National Park (p.30).
- Three actions have been added under 'Improving traffic and transport' to expand this section. They include better promotion of existing local bus routes, investigating the feasibility of adjacent-to-carriageway cycle routes and an 'active travel' project to reduce car use and improve health (p.35 and 36).

Amendments to Annex 3 - The roles of lead organisations

- Changes to the descriptions of two organisations - English Heritage (now Historic England) and the Verderers - have been included (p.40 and 42)

Annex 4 - The special qualities of the Park

- The special qualities of the National Park are set out in this additional annex. The text has been taken directly from the 2010 Management Plan (p.43)

Other changes to the text and actions

- Throughout the document there are also a number of relatively minor amendments designed to make the text and actions clearer, provide more detail or add further lead organisations