

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 07 September 2015*

Agenda item 3: *Chair's Report*

1. Recreation Management Strategy

A meeting of the Advisory Group took place on 4th June. Steering Group members were not present. Nigel Matthews acted as facilitator for the meeting.

Updates were given on the work on tranquillity mapping and ground nesting birds.

The main topic of the meeting was the Recreation Management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the New Forest. Those present agreed that this MOU, which aims to benefit both recreation and wildlife, provided a useful framework.

2. Meeting with National Park Authority Members

I was asked to speak briefly (in 10mins) about the LAF and about walking in the New Forest. Members were particularly interested in walking. I spoke of the desire for easy to use routes. Routes with good surfaces, well signed and free from hazards. Also of the need for suitable car parking at walk start points, as access by public transport is limited particularly in the western part of the Forest. I also said that walking groups want to experience a variety of landscapes in a walk and that this can be provided on the periphery of the Forest. John Lynn joined me in talking about community /core routes and Health Walks.

3. Cranborne and West Wiltshire AONB

Cranborne Chase Wood Fair is being held in the grounds of Breamore House on the 3rd and 4th of October. Information can be found at www.woodfair.org.uk .