

## **NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM**

**Meeting:** *Monday 12 March 2018*

**Agenda item 3: *Chair's Report***

### **New Forest Design Strategy**

A meeting took place on 16.01.18.

This meeting was about the open habitat restoration proposals. The change of woodland to heathland. 90% of the trees to be felled would be conifer.

Participants were reminded of the context, the regulations and the process to be undertaken.

Discussion took place on the following criteria:

- Flora and fauna.
- Soils and water.
- People, access and recreation.
- Archaeology and landscape.
- Climate.

Approval is being sought for the work to be done in the next 10yrs.

An environmental impact statement is required and best practice suggests a meeting with stakeholders (this meeting) to identify possible impact on the environment.

The next step is to outline what needs to be in the impact strategy statement and then to put it together.

### **New Forest Wetland Restoration Strategy**

A meeting facilitated by the University of Southampton for the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency took place on 7.12.17.

I attend this meeting along with many other stakeholders. Discussion took place and opinions were sought from those attending.

An updated restoration plan and a reshaping of the wetland strategy is the aim of the process and it is intended that as a result the Forest is left in a more sustainable position.

A new Draft Strategy is being produced and there will be a period of consultation.

Ruth Croker  
March 2018