

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 2nd December 2019*

Agenda item 5: *Forum Officer's Report*

a) Forum Officer's Report – *report from Adam Vasey, National Park Access Ranger*

The New Forest Access Forum

- After receiving a number of applications, we have successfully recruited for three posts to represent farming, landowning & conservation and Estate Management.

The Landscape Review

- After 70 years the government commissioned Julian Glover to write a report on the 10 English national parks & AONBs to ensure that they are fit for the future. The full report and summaries can be read at the link below.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>.

The Lepe Loop

- 180 metres of surface works have been completed by Farwells and are bedding in well. We are waiting for a gap in the weather to complete the last 100 metres of work to the boggy bridleway section.
- Once the special by design project is completed then we will have a design for national park signposts and we will order 15 new signs to be placed around the Lepe Loop.

Landscape Enhancement Initiative (National Grid)– Waterside Walks.

- This project seeks to support Gareth's work on the Historic Routes project by funding additional works to the "Lepe to Fawley" route and the "Carter's Lane" route.
- We are in the process of contacting landowners and potentially finding a third route.

Other Access & Rights of Way Projects

- The Historic Routes project has selected 5 finalists and its volunteers are busy researching the history of these routes.

Accessibility

- We are writing up the Open Sight Hampshire report and collecting their detailed feedback forms which will influence our accessibility targets in the coming years.
- Following the success of the OSH visits we're looking to repeat the format and engage with other additional needs groups.