

## **NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM**

**Meeting:** *Monday 10 June 2019*

### **Agenda item 3: *Chairman's Report***

#### **1. Hale Pylons. Visual Impact Provision Project.**

This project which was announced in 2015 was to underground pylons in 4 nationally important landscapes. It is funded by Ofgem.

A pause in the project to underground pylons on Hale Purlieu, which is National Trust land, was announced in March 2019. The area is an important area of heath and bog land with valley mires.

Habitat regulations are the cause of the pause. Information about the future direction of this project is awaited.

My personal view is that the money will be reallocated to the next project on the priority list. This will be in another part of UK.

#### **2. New Forest Wetland Restoration Project of the Forestry Commission.**

This project has won the UK River Prize and Nigel Holmes Trophy at the Annual River Restoration Conference. Recognition at a national level.

HLS money has been used to facilitate the restoration work. The project is ongoing.

#### **3. Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Project.**

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire AONB have been successful in their bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This is after several attempts and a lot of hard work. The AONB has been awarded a grant of £1.68 million. With matched funding, £2.7 million is available for the 5yr project.

The project aims to unlock the secrets of the area. It will do this by supporting activities which conserve and or enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the area or help people to understand and appreciate its special qualities.

6.8% of the AONB is in the NFDC area, the western side of the Avon Valley

Ruth Croker