

## **New Forest Access Forum 8 March 2021**

### **Chairmans Report** addition.

Freshwater Restoration Strategy (FWRF).

A workshop took place on 1st March.

This was facilitated by Footprint Ecology funded by Natural England for 2 months.

Evidence was considered and there was detailed consideration of monitoring.

Protocols, methodology and timescales were considered.

Funding for the project is limited. HLS is likely to be able to provide funding for 1 year.

Ruth Croker.

### **Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum.**

I attended a virtual meeting on 2nd March.

This was the first meeting since 04.07.19.

Recruitment of new members has taken place. There are 11 new members. 8 others have been reappointed. A temporary Chair was agreed on before the meeting.

Points of Discussion included:

- Definitive Map Modification Orders and consideration of a scoring method to decide a priority for dealing with them and streamlining the process currently in use. In Wiltshire there are 198 outstanding cases in the queue with the likelihood of many more being submitted shortly by the BHS.
- The above figure excludes Swindon.
- Enforcement issues due to the illegal use of rights of way. Some problems are caused by hare coursing and use by farmers. Four by fours have been using footpaths.
- A dedicated rights of way officer was thought desirable.
- It was suggested that the Rural Crime Police Team should be asked to assist in dealing with the problem.
- 2026 Cut off Date. A letter will be sent requesting an extension.

Ruth Croker.