

**Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting**  
**14 March 2022**

**Present**

Members: Ruth Croker (Chair)  
Bob Damper  
Erika Dovey  
Paul French  
Sarah Hammett  
Pippa Hutton  
Olly Leicester  
Trudi Lloyd-Williams  
Gary North  
Richard Taylor  
Marcus Ward

Officers: Adam Vasey (New Forest National Park Authority)  
Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance: Richard Burke (Forestry England)  
Linda Devlin (Forestry England)

**1 Apologies & Welcome**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Peter Armstrong and Ann Sevier.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed new members to the forum. Each member introduced themselves and gave a short explanation of their skills and background.

**2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

- 2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**3 Chair's Report**

- 3.1 The Chair referred to her written presentation and highlighted the Farming in Protected Landscapes Scheme, the recent RMS groups she attended and a recent site visit to look at wetland restoration just off the A31 in Ellingham.
- 3.2 The report was taken as read and a copy of such can be found on the website.

**4 Forum Officer's Report**

- 4.1 The Forum Officer began his report by drawing members attention to the volunteer access work, he explained that the access surveyors were currently surveying the NPA promoted routes network and added that the path clearance crew would restart their work in April. Mr Vasey was pleased to announce that the Calshot to Gosport section of the England Coast Path had now been determined and works would start at the end of April to install infrastructure along the route. Currently a timescale for the Highcliffe to Calshot section had not been determined, the HRA

was still being completed and following this the 70 plus objections would be investigated by the Planning Inspectorate.

- 4.2 The remainder of the report was taken as read and a copy of such could be found on the website.

## **5 Additional Reports**

- 5.1 Forestry England's report can be found on the website.
- 5.2 The Chair advised the Forum that she had recently attended an online meeting with Wiltshire LAF, where they discussed ROW and maintenance.

## **6 Public Representations**

- 6.1 There were no public representations.

## **7 A Vision for Cycling in the Forest – Richard Burke (FE)**

- 7.1 Richard Burke gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining a vision for what a sustainable off road cycling network could look like. He explained that as part of the RMS strategic actions which refer to cycling, partner organisations along with FE have committed to address the issue of off road cycling in the forest.
- 7.2 Mr Burke went on to highlight the limitations of the current cycle network and where improvements would be required. He explained that to take forward this vision stakeholder support would be required along with the help of local businesses and groups, to provide a safe and positive experience.

A copy of the presentation is available on the website.

## **8 Event Management within the HRA Framework – Linda Devlin (FE)**

- 8.1 Linda Devlin began her presentation by introducing herself to the forum, she explained that she would be clarifying information regarding Forestry England's 5 year Habitats Regulation Assessment for permitted activity on the New Forest Crown Land which had recently been renewed for a further 5 year period from July 2021.
- 8.2 Ms Devlin explained that the aim of the HRA document is to ensure that Forestry England can meet its legal duties under the Habitats Regulations and ensure measures are put in place for any adverse effects from permitted activities on the Forest. There was a significant challenge to avoid or mitigate potential negative impacts associated with permitted activities without compromising people to enjoy sites for recreation.

A copy of the presentation can be found on our website and more information can be found on Forestry England's website here –

[New Forest - planning an event or activity | Forestry England](#)

## **9 Discussion Item 1 – Habitat Regulation Assessment Framework**

- 9.1 Further discussion took place regarding the presentation with Forum members asking for clarification as to what was classed as an event. Ms Devlin responded that an event would be classed as over 25 people groups below this number would be deemed low risk and not require permission. A question was also raised regarding commercial and non-commercial activities, again Ms Devlin responded that all commercial activities would require permission along with any educational activities, however these would not be charged for. It was suggested that Linda Devlin come back to the forum in a years' time to advise how this was progressing.

## **10 Discussion Item 2 – The Glover Report**

- 10.1 Adam Vasey gave a brief overview of the Landscape Review and the questions which had been posed, he asked for members to respond to him via email to ensure a response was sent.  
A copy of the presentation is available on our website

## **11 Any other business**

- 11.1 No further business.

### **Date of next meeting:**

13 June 2022, 9.30am – 1.00pm, Venue: TBC

The meeting closed at 12:45pm