

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 28 FEBRUARY 2008





NEW FOREST SIGN RATIONALISATION ACTION PLAN






1 Introduction




- 1.1 Widespread rationalisation of highways signage in the New Forest necessitates the commitment of a range of organisations, both at the strategic and operational levels. Most of the actions require funding from the highways authorities and funding priorities will influence which actions can be progressed quickly.
- 1.2 Opportunities to rationalise signs fall into two main categories:
 - Non-statutory signs (including the various animal accident warning signs) for which the need and design is open to debate;
 - Statutory signs where Department for Transport regulations usually dictate the number, location and design.
- 1.3 The New Forest has special authorisation from the Department for Transport for the way its 40mph zone is signed. Health and safety considerations also impact on signage.
- 1.4 All proposals and actions in this Action Plan are guided by the Signage Strategy for the New Forest National Park, especially the underlying principles contained in this strategy.
- 1.5 The list is not intended to be exhaustive; it focuses on issues which are of particular relevance to the National Park. Some of the actions cover a range of signs; others refer to specific signs where a particular issue has been identified.
- 1.6 Since the designation of the National Park, considerable progress has been made, driven partly by the Hampshire-wide sign decluttering initiative being taken forward by Hampshire Highway Authority and partly by the commitment of local highway officers.
- 1.7 The list of actions in this plan will be updated at least annually.

2 Action Plan

	General issues	Proposal	Actions
A	Ensuring consistently high standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Checklist needed for Highway Engineers and Managers to guide rationalisation of all statutory signage (including, regulatory, warning directional and information) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hampshire Highway Authority to prepare checklist to be agreed with National Park Authority by end March 2008. ▪ National Park Authority to promote use of the checklist by other organisations
B	Route by route approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rationalisation of all signs on B3054 to be used as a model to guide work on other routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hampshire Highway Authority to rationalise B3054 signage after taking specialist advice on safety issues. Completion by end June 2008. ▪ Other routes to follow in liaison with National Park Authority
C	Problem locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locations where existing signage is noticeably obtrusive/poor (e.g. Rising Sun and Telegraph Hill junctions) to be addressed as a priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highway authorities to identify locations and respond as resources allow
D	Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All organisations with responsibility for signage to have adequate funding and resources to make significant year on year progress with sign rationalisation ▪ Aim to be justifiably proud of New Forest National Park signage by end 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All organisations with responsibility for signage to make sign rationalisation a high spending priority as budgets are prepared ▪ National Park Authority to have an annual dedicated match-funding budget

	Specific signs	Proposal	Actions
E	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely spread across open forest Hampshire County Council byelaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of signs (and empty posts) Where significant local problems exist, ensure land owner conveys message with minimal impact on environment (for example by Forestry Commission posters in their car parks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampshire Highway officers have in hand (72 removed by 6/2/08) Assessment of problem locations as need arises
F	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small shield signs Widely spread across open forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of signs (and empty posts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampshire Highway officers have in hand (47 removed by 6/2/08)
G	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary sign made of Correx 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New sign conveying immediacy of danger of animal accidents, reducing need for permanent signs on high risk roads National Park Authority supplied 20 to Agisters 17/10/07 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority officers to assess measure of success in raising awareness, impact on the landscape and practicalities of use at end April 2008
H	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large shield-shaped sign with changing messages including children's slogans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace with simpler, less obtrusive signs (See I below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Park Authority to approve replacement design 28/2/08 B3054 shield signs to be replaced summer 2008 Accident data to be analysed after one year

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I	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed design to replace large shield signs above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design prepared in liaison with all stakeholders; Hampshire Highway Authority to make final decision Retain ability to display slogans and change messages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed design to be installed on B3054 summer 2008 Accident data to be analysed after one year
J	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs on B3054, B3078, B3058 15-20 in total 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial removal on B3054 between Lyndhurst and Beaulieu in parallel with other measures Monitor accidents and aim to remove from other roads after one year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampshire Highway Authority to remove from B3054 when replacements for large shield signs installed Accident data to be analysed after one year
K	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four signs on B3054, B3078, B3079 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial removal on B3054 between Lyndhurst and Beaulieu in parallel with other measures Monitor accidents and aim to remove from other roads after one year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampshire Highway Authority to remove from B3054 when replacements for large shield signs installed Accident data to be analysed after one year
L	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Forest Committee logo 15+ locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampshire Highway Authority to remove by end March 2008
M	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 roundels on most Forest roads in lieu of upright 40mph repeater signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-paint faded or missing 40 roundels and ensure all roads with high accident levels have 40 roundels at intervals of not more than 500m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampshire Highway Authority to complete B3054 by end June Other routes to follow in liaison with National Park Authority

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N	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three-tiered round timber posts at cattle grid gateway sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace three tiered round posts with two, equal height, square-cut wooden posts if sign not being removed altogether 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampshire Highway Authority to complete both ends of B3054 by end June Other locations to follow in liaison with National Park Authority
O	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown Lands boundary sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure only necessary Forestry Commission signage is in situ and that this is located appropriately with respect to other signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry Commission to review need for and content of its signs and report to next meeting of Boundary Markers and Signage Group
P	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional finger post signs with National Park finials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be used instead of hollow or New Forest Committee equivalents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampshire Highway Authority has annual finger post budget 5-10 being installed each year (5 by 15/2/08)

