

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 28 JUNE 2007

SIGN RATIONALISATION ACTION PLAN

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1 Introduction

1.1 Opportunities to rationalise signs in the New Forest fall into two main categories:




- Non-statutory signs for which the need and design is open to debate. These include the various animal accident warning signs. Working with the Highway Authority, the Authority can ensure that surplus, ineffective, signs are removed and that remaining signs are well planned and coordinated.
- Statutory signs where Department for Transport regulations usually dictate the number, location and design. For these signs the Authority can agree with the Highway Authority some underlying principles which will influence signage where possible and if resources allow. For example the 40mph zone which covers much of the New Forest is dictated by the special authorisation granted by the Department for Transport and any change to this signage would need to be renegotiated.

1.2 Although significant aspects of the plan are still 'work in progress' agreement on some key signs has been reached and approval of these by the Authority would enable progress on the ground to be made.

1.3 All proposals in this Plan are guided by the draft Signage Strategy, especially the underlying principles formulated by the Boundary Markers and Signage Advisory Group.




2 Rationalisation of signs where agreement has been reached


2.1 The table below shows signs for which action on the ground is possible when approved by the Authority.




	Sign designs and supporting information	Proposals
A	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Often after the grid (widely spread elsewhere) – estimate 100 in total ▪ Hampshire County Council byelaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove 'feeding animals' signs (and empty posts) throughout the Forest ▪ Where feeding animals is a significant localised problem, ensure the land owner conveys the message in a way that does not impact on the environment (for example by using Forestry Commission posters on their car park Information Points)
B	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ About 12 sites well within the 40mph zone, usually both sides of the road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove all these smaller shield-shaped signs
C	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed new temporary sign to convey immediacy and reduce need for permanent signs on high risk roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Authority to fund 10 new signs ▪ Design to be agreed with Agisters but likely to be similar to collapsible police diversion sign shown ▪ Agisters to leave at site of each animal accident within the perambulation for set period of time (one week would mean an average of three or four signs would be in situ on the Forest at any one time)




3 Rationalisation of signs where agreement has yet to be reached

3.2 The tables below show signs for which action on the ground is not yet possible.

Signs along high risk open forest roads (away from the gateways)		
	Sign designs and supporting information	Proposals
D	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs on B3054, B3078, B3058 About 15-20 in total  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four signs on B3054, B3078, B3079  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 roundels on most Forest roads 	<p>This work will be informed by the County Council's audit of B3054 signs which is yet to be completed. Actions may then include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial removal of these yellow signs on a specific route alongside use of new temporary Animal Casualty sign First trial to be B3054 between Lyndhurst and Beaulieu Re-paint faded or missing 40 roundels and ensure all roads with high accident levels have 40 roundels at frequent intervals Monitor accidents compared with previous years and hope to remove from other roads after one year

Signs at gateway/cattle grid locations		
	Sign designs and supporting information	Proposals
E	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three-tiered posts at cattle grid gateway sites; 15+ locations on round wooden posts 	<p>Current intention is to replace the round wooden posts with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two square-cut wooden posts

<p>F</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both sides of road, 15+ locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of New Forest Committee logo sign-plates to be done at same time as other work at these locations
<p>G</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Department for Transport authorisation for the green border and words 'The New Forest' Green bordered speed limit signs with white text at the top are widespread throughout the National Park  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options being investigated 	<p>We are investigating with the relevant authorising bodies different options for the 40mph zone sign including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remove the word 'ZONE', review the need for a border or the rectangular sign <p>If successful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace 40 zone signs at gateway sites when posts are replaced Replace other similar signage as funds allow. <p>If unsuccessful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree whether to lose the white text altogether or to change to 'New Forest National Park' Implement as above

<p>H</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large shield-shaped sign. New Forest Committee logo and targeted road safety and crime reduction slogans ▪ At 13 locations, mostly at either end of roads with high animal accident rates ▪ Annual slogan competition at three schools aims to reach drivers through their children 	<p>Timing to be agreed in discussion with stakeholders, but likely action will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove these large shield signs and replace some or all with new smaller animal warning signs (see below) <p>The best method of conveying messages currently promulgated by slogans is under discussion</p>
<p>I</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two of the options for proposed new animal warning sign ▪ Green border ▪ 1.3m / 1.8m wide ▪ mounted on square cut wooden posts 	<p>Content of signs to be discussed with stakeholders, but likely action will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Install new animal warning sign at both ends of roads with high accident rates (mostly at 'gateway' locations where large shield signs currently exist) ▪ Three A31 exits which currently have large shield signs have few accidents; locations near Beaulieu would be preferable
<p>J</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crown Lands boundary sign ▪ Sometimes at entrance to 40mph zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be retained but review location of those at gateways when other nearby signs are changed to minimise cluttered impression