

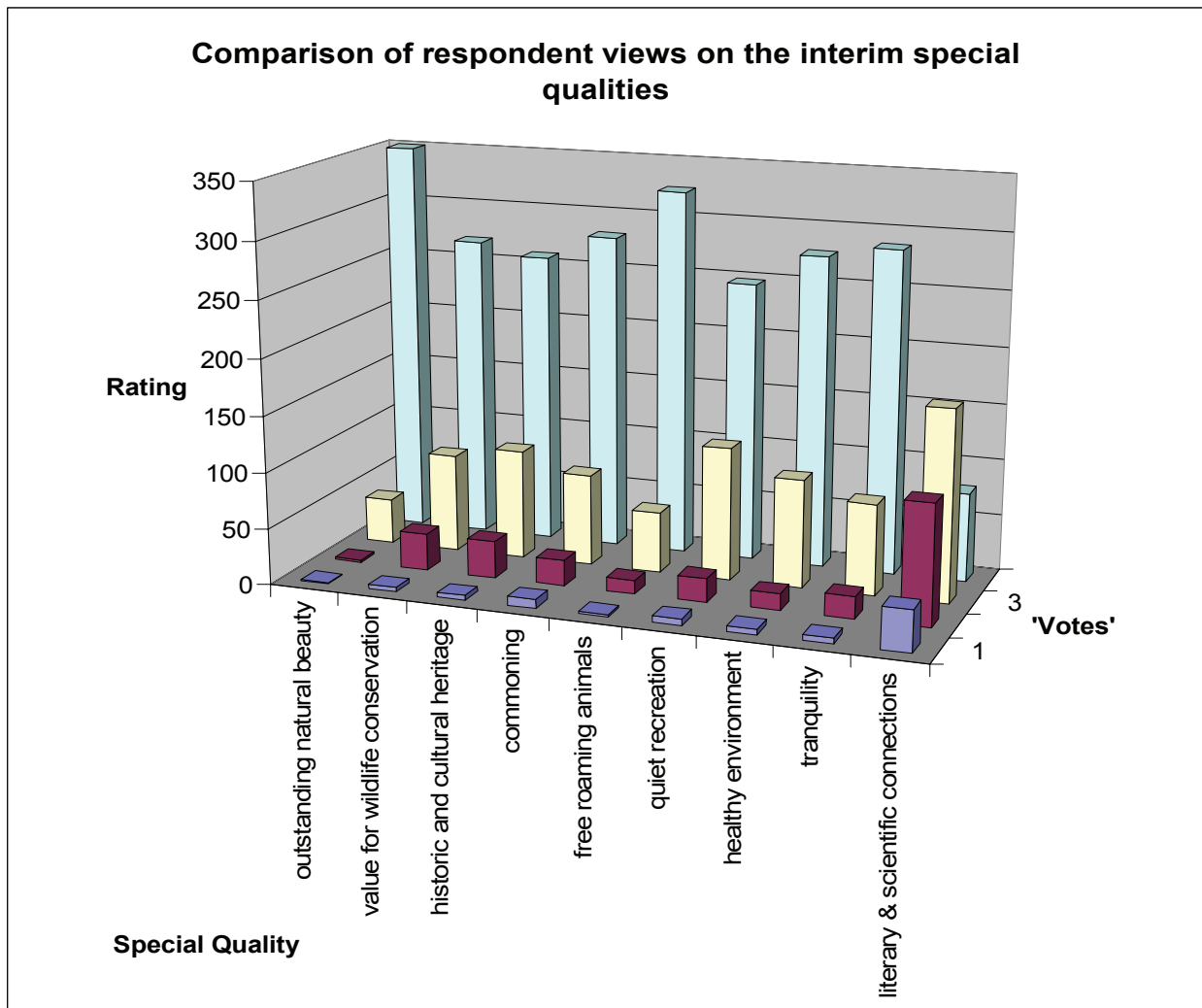
Special Qualities Consultation Responses

1 Introduction

A total of 393 responses were received from the public plus comments from:

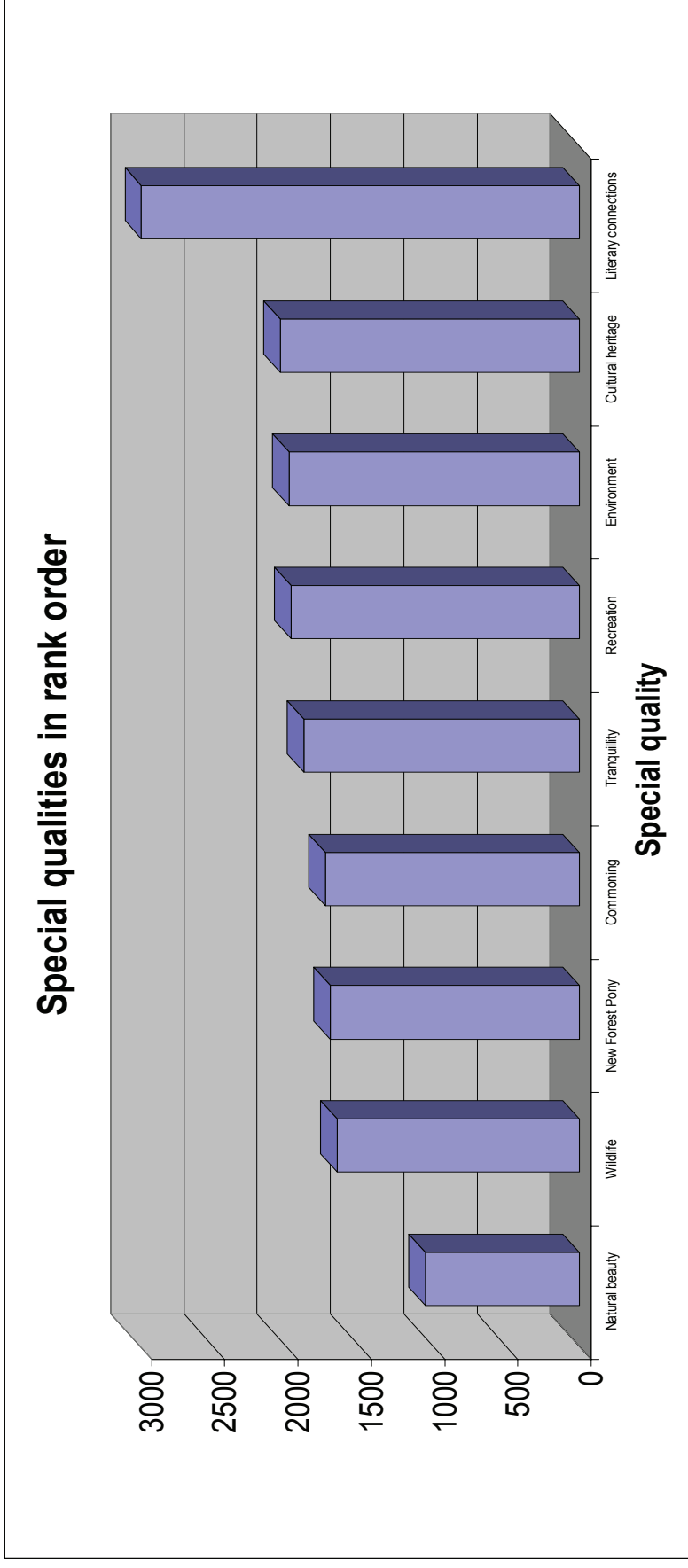
The Forestry Commission Ramblers' Association Pinetops Nursery New Forest Equestrian Association New Forest Consultative Panel Visitors to the New Forest Show Four schools in the New Forest National Park Authority staff and members	Statutory Bodies including Hampshire County Council, English Heritage, Natural England, South East England Development Agency, South East England Regional Assembly, New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Wiltshire County Council The New Forest Local Access Forum
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2 How do people rate the interim special qualities?



3 Priority order placed on each special quality

The highest rated special qualities are on the left, the lowest on the right.



Note that because of the scoring process – those with the least scores are rated as having a higher priority.

4 Do people think any special qualities have been missed from the list?

4.1 Table 4 outlines the responses received in rough order of the number of comments.

Proposed addition	What have we done with the proposal?
Freedom to roam and access to large open space (x 108+)	Pulled this out from previous version and raised its status
<i>Walking with dogs</i> in the forest (x 50)	See main Paper – include within freedom to roam special quality as it is largely a function of access and does not merit separate status on its own
<i>A working landscape</i> (x 10) plus strong verbal comments from the New Forest Consultative Panel and Statutory Bodies	Pulled this out from previous version and raised / strengthened its status
Rural Village communities with a strong spirit in the Park x 12	Pulled this out from previous version and raised / strengthened its status
Horseriding (x 11)	Pulled this out from previous version and raised / strengthened its status
Model aeroplanes and boats (x 7)	It is felt that this is already covered by the interim statement under recreation - no change (see main Paper)
Its uniqueness and wilderness feel x 6	It is felt that this is already covered by the interim statement – no change
Free car parking x 5	It is not felt that access for vehicles should be considered a special quality
Camp sites on open Forest (x4)	It is felt that this is already covered by the interim statement under recreation - no change (see main Paper)
Coastline /connection with the sea x 3	It is felt that this is already covered by the interim statement – no change
Other grazing animals x 3	It is felt that this is already covered by the interim statement – no change
Trees and woodland (plus strong comments from Statutory Bodies) (x 3)	This special quality has been expanded and given greater emphasis under the special quality for landscape
Archaeology (x3) plus strong comments from Statutory Bodies	Included reference to this in cultural heritage
diversity of landscapes x 2	It is felt that this is already covered by the interim statement – no change
Reptile centre / Scout and Guide centre / Avon Valley / Coastal access / Cricket grounds / deer / good visitor accommodation / importance of the Verderers /	It is felt that these comments are either covered adequately by the existing list – or are not so unique or significant to the New Forest as to deserve greater status

autumn colours / small scale farming communities / carnivals / festivals	
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5 Perceived threats to the special qualities in next 5 years?

These will be used to help inform the risk assessment on special qualities and evolving policies such as the recreation management strategy. Comments are grouped into themes and the numbers relate to the number of comments received (approximately).

The issues and concerns raised were as follows:

People, tourism, and pressure

Too many visitors / people / tourism / demand for recreation x 154
Threats to the freedom to run dogs off leads x 44
Litter and fly tipping x 41
Closing of car parks x 32
Population growth in the south and its impacts x 28
Dogs off leads x 27
Poor understanding of the New Forest by visitors and locals x 22
Off road Cycling x 19
Erosion – vehicles / cars on tracks / shod horses x 19
Wild fires x 10
Damage caused by Camp / caravan sites x 10
Threats to close camp sites damaging people's enjoyment and access x 8
Policies to discourage visitors x 6
Some users getting more attention than others x 5
Over exploitation and disturbance x 3
Car parking charges
Organised events
Jet skis
Lack of visitor facilities
Threats to access
Abuse by selfish people

Traffic and transport

Traffic congestion, speeding and roads x 147
Pollution x 22
Animal accidents x 20
Southampton / Bournemouth airport x 9
HGVs x 8
Failure to provide a Lyndhurst bypass x 7
Lyndhurst bypass x 5

Other

Affordable housing and land for commoners and essential workers x 40
Climate change x 35
Interference from the National Park Authority and having National Park status x 26
Government legislation / and the views of Natural England x 22
More rules and too much regulation / bureaucracy x 23
Privatisation / commercialisation of amenities and forest x 9
Theme park approach x 7
Crime x 2
Being insular and not looking beyond our boundaries
Loss of community spirit

Land management

Too few young commoners and threats to commoning x 45
The activities of the Forestry Commission x 28
Too much emphasis on environmental / conservation issues over recreation / too much willingness to listen to experts x 20
Too many trees being felled especially as part of conservation programmes x 12
Too much management of the Forest x 9
Over grazing on the open Forest x 6
Back up grazing land supply x 5
Reduced funding for conservation x 5
Poor management and fragmentation x 5
Management of the forest by those who do not understand it x 5
Over burning for management purposes x 4
New diseases that affect the animals and trees x 4
So called conservation projects x 4
The New Forest Pony 'bloodline' is at risk from out breeding should be kept pure (Pony breeding x 3)
Not enough conservation work being undertaken x 3
Encroachments on the extent of the common x 3
Loss of traditional ways of doing things and customs x 3
Deer population growth x 2
Bracken spread x 2
Loss of native woodland
Coastal erosion
Timber prices

Development Pressure

Unsympathetic development within the Park and close / beyond the boundary x 89
Locals being forced out by 2nd home owners and outsiders x 27
Noise (from airplanes and other sources) x 14

Creeping urbanisation x 10
Planning restrictions x 9
Viability of small businesses x 6
Gravel extraction x 4
Land fill sites x 3
Light pollution x 3
Loss and degradation of vernacular buildings x 2
Scruffy village centres x 2

6 How should the NPA deal with these threats?

Again, these responses will be used to help inform the risk assessment on special qualities and evolving policies such as the recreation management strategy. The numbers relate to the number of comments received (approximately).

People, tourism, and pressure

Provide more tourist information and education / raise awareness of how to behave appropriately in the New Forest x 47
Campaign against litter x 28
More car parks / don't close them in winter x 22
Should employ more countryside wardens x 21
Don't develop tourism facilities and limit the growth in numbers of visitors x 19
Keep some areas quiet – others accessible – disperse recreation around the Park x 14
Better recreation management x 12
Improve footpaths and bridges x 11 and Should take on the management of Rights of Way from Hampshire and Wiltshire County Councils
Encourage tourism and promote the NF x 9
Encourage visitors to visit and enjoy the special places of the Park x 6
Rotate use of busy areas / Create honey pots on edge or outside of Park x 5
Move the car parks to the edge of the Park x 8
More signs / info to keep cyclists on approved routes x 7
Mobile visitor centres / Develop a Visitor centre on the A31 / information centre at Brockenhurst / Ringwood x 5
Limit camp sites x 5
Control dogs x3
Fewer, smaller car parks x 3
Support dogs off lead x 3
More paths and walks especially on edges x 3
Safer cycling routes x 3
Don't reduce campsites x 3
Improve access and waymarking x 2
Develop some Children's play areas x 2

Need proof to blame dogs for everything / More responsible dog owners
Develop a recreation management strategy x 2
Provide wider gates on tracks for carts
Create a voluntary fire warden service
Don't regulate the users too much
Produce a holistic and good plan for the New Forest

Traffic and transport

Speed restrictions x 32
Improve public transport x 23
More width / weight restrictions for heavy vehicles and enforce them x 12
More traffic management x 10
Promote a Lyndhurst bypass x 10
Keep vehicles off verges x 9
More speed cameras x 8
Encourage greater use of public transport x 6
Route traffic around Park x 5
Introduce road congestion charges to manage traffic x 4
Develop green transport initiatives e.g. car sharing x 4
Close roads / Remove tarmac from some roads x 3 / promote quiet road surfaces
Bus shelters
Produce a holistic and good plan for the New Forest

Other

Listen to local views / ensure we consult widely / respect locals / remember who we represent x 20
Facilitate the building of more affordable houses x 17
Produce a holistic and good plan for the New Forest
Hold elections for Members of the National Park Authority
Nothing x 6
Only act on a sound scientific evidence base x 6
Avoid imposing any more rules and regulations on the New Forest x 4
Remember that people and public benefit are important as well as conservation x 3
Act on climate change x 2
Better customer care x 2
Target funding / try not to do too much
Monitoring of the state of the Park x 2
Expand volunteering x 2
Introduce a Tourist tax
Have a Public debating forum - to meet twice a year

Land management

Listen to the experience and knowledge of the Agisters and Verderers / and

adopt traditional management methods x 16
 Control the activities of the Forestry Commission x 12
 Support young commoners and commoning x 10
 Improve deer culling x 3
 Minimise management x 3
 Subsidise grazing for commoners x 2
 Restrict management burn rotations x 2
 Allow natural processes x 2
 Squirrel culling x 2
 More trees
 Produce a holistic and good plan for the New Forest
 Permit commoners to only have the number of animals the land can support
 Lobby MPs for better plant health
 Establish a Trust fund to remove eyesores and improve the landscape
 Clear bracken and rhododendron

Development pressures

Restrict development through planning x 42
 Enforcement of planning policy and development control x 18
 Need a buffer against development around the Park x 12
 Seek to balance conflicts in a sensitive way x 7
 Limit airport expansion and flight paths over the Forest x 6
 Close land fill sites x 5
 Any new development should be on brown field sites x 2
 Produce a holistic and good plan for the New Forest
 Halt growth (of immigration to the New Forest from other parts of the country)
 Take a firm lead and don't balance issues too much – be radical
 Stop 2nd homes in the Park
 Influence the activities of large companies in the Park
 Take a more relaxed approach to permitting diversification of redundant buildings
 Less planning

7 What would you spend £10,000 on?

Table 7: A summary of the most popular suggestions

1	More education, provision of information and interpretation of the history and traditions of the New Forest including wildlife / info on drifts for visitors / expand our website / How to get hold of an agister / self guided trails / improve interpretation of cultural heritage/ fire awareness / transport for children from adjacent conurbations / better signage and waymarking
2	Better maintenance and repair of car parks and tracks - and keep them open in winter. Fencing of more roads to exclude stock
3	More Broadleaved Trees and other conservation work including:

	more bird hides / nest boxes / ecological research / reintroduce black grouse to the New Forest / increase the understorey / ground flora of woods / bracken control
4	Better access for all including: New cycle routes that link existing ones/ More walking routes / better camp site facilities / better tea rooms / more toilets / more benches
5	Commoning including local branding and more pounds for commoners
6	Reducing and repairing damage from tourism and damage caused by Forestry Commission work
7	Highlight animal accident issues and work to reduce the problem - Animal collars
8	An anti-litter campaign including bins / collection / litter on the shoreline / dog poo bins
9	More staff working on the ground in the National Park / publicise and enforce bye laws / increase the use of wood fuel

8 Other Comments

“Please keep the New Forest as a time capsule”

Over crowding does not exist - don't cramp recreation – maintain our freedoms such as the freedom of dog walkers to let their dog off the lead

“Remember the Forest belongs to the locals”; “Remember local people”

“We need more things for teenagers to do”

More footpaths and disperse visitors

“Camp sites are well managed”

Thank you – NPA needs to get it right

“The New Forest has too much signage”

Change the powers of the Verderers to ensure common sense preservation occurs / retain Verderers powers

“Lymington should be in the National Park”

“Maintain and enhance village centres”

Concerned about continuing hunting with dogs

More trees less felling

Less change

Rotate car park closures

Wide recognition that dogs should be under control and responsible owners but should have the freedom – promote responsible dog walking

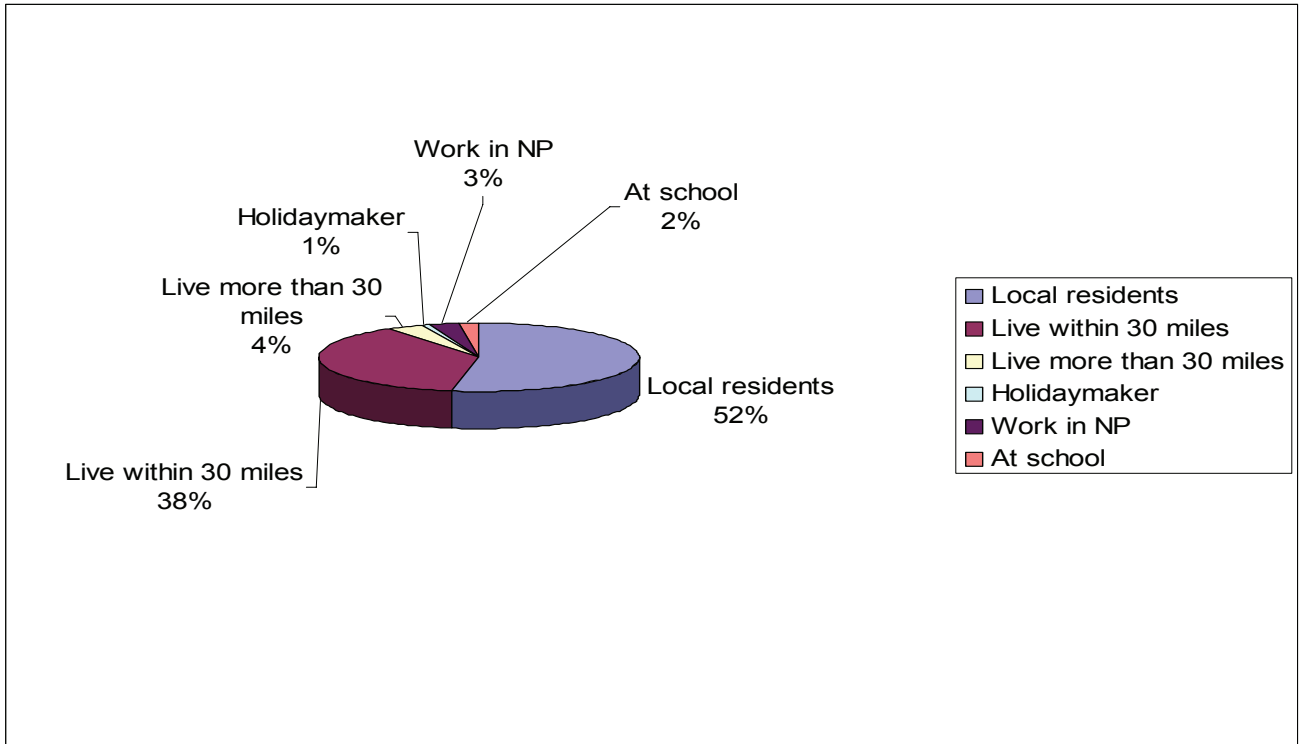
Restrict signage to car parks

Overemphasis on birds

You wont stop people coming by closing car parks – need more facilities not less

Why quiet recreation – why not unquiet recreation too?

9 Connection of respondents with the New Forest



10 Feedback from Interviews at the New Forest Show, 2006

Additional input into the Statement has been provided from a range of interviews carried out by a professional interviewer at the New Forest Show in 2006. A summary of these pieces is provided below.

		Topics covered
Who is speaking	Where From	
Georgie	Telfont Magna, Nr. Salisbury	Childhood memories of the New Forest and going to school in Burley. Riding her pony in the area. When visiting notices increase in volume and speed of traffic and the amount of litter.
Betty	Ringwood	Retired here 11 years ago from Hemel Hempstead. Enjoy quiet and peacefulness of countryside, walks with their dog, no restrictions where they can walk and don't feel threatened by people. Notice increased traffic in summer months with holidaymakers.
Peter and Emma	Bournemouth	Climbing trees, throwing sticks in the river and the ponies. Prefers Forest in winter when less people around; the peace and quiet. Thinks 40mph speed limit good to protect ponies.
Peter	Ashurst	Increase in number of visitors and traffic. Horse-riders ruining tracks; increase in number of bugs in Forest. Removal of conifers a bad thing. No restrictions on where to walk. F.C./Verderers/Agisters have always done a good job looking after Forest and should continue to do job they've been doing. Hope NFNPA keep area as it is; not to make it too touristy
Chris	Emery Down	Lived in area for 28 years. Huge increase in volume of traffic. Speed of traffic – too many ponies get injured. Would like to see a bypass through Lyndhurst; should build a tunnel. Should have car parks outside of forest and bring people in on buses or pony and trap. 40mph still too high for Lyndhurst.
Paul and Angela	Emery Down	Lived in area around 40 years. Speed and volume of traffic; too much commercial traffic especially through Lyndhurst; high pollution levels. In favour of bypass. Lack of public transport. Too many visitors. Suggest a park and ride scheme to cut down amount of cars coming into Forest. Cyclists in danger on local roads and to motorists. More guided walks. New Forest tour bus too expensive for families. NPA need to exercise more control of traffic.
Jack	New Forest (area unknown)	Lived in area since 1951. Concern over loss of wildlife in area – birds, insects, butterflies; not sure why, doesn't think it's to do with pesticides. Forest looked after perfectly well up to now; feels lot of bureaucracy creeping in with NPA and not sure if they're qualified to do it. Pressure

		needs to be put on public to learn how to look after Forest. Commoning essential and affordable housing for commoners.
Teresa	Brockenhurst	Too busy in the Summer. Likes the peace and natural beauty of Forest. Concerned about how NFNPA handle planning applications. Need more cycle paths. Would like to see more preservation, keeping the natural beauty; forestation ruins all the tracks.
Dorcy	Fordingbridge	Too many people. Not quiet anymore. Not enough affordable housing to keep young people in area – will lose local skills.
Tim	Local	Came to area in 1961. Forest is a beautiful and important place. Too many cars. Feels great potential for the encouragement of local businesses/local skills and local food products to reduce food miles.
Calum and Anna	Visitors	Enjoyed seeing the birds, animals and scenery and see the ponies roaming freely.
Dionis	Local resident	Childhood memories. Cycling and riding her pony in the Forest. Later in life, teaching youngsters to ride in exchange for helping in the stables. Now its too over-populated, too urbanised and too many cars
Raymond	Commoner, Bramshaw	Childhood memories. No cars around. Keep forest as it is – against roads being fenced as it spoils character of forest.
Christine	Local resident	Likes the peace and quiet of the Forest. Important to protect the habitat of the wildlife. Forest has always been well managed; hopes NPA will continue this.
Don and Mary	Totton	Enjoy seasonal changes; appreciate its history and heritage. Rely on public transport or their bikes as they don't have a car. Too much traffic. Hope NPA don't over-develop; keep as it is.
Peter	Local resident	Hopes NPA will tighten up on planning. On car park closures – feel it just saves FC doing any maintenance work; nothing to do with the bird situation. Too many organisations i.e. councils, FC, Verderers, NPA – who does what? – lack of communication between them all. Problem of litter, no bins. Dog walkers always being blamed.
Brian	Lee on Solent	Childhood memories of holidays in Forest – the freedom, the ponies and cattle. Biggest/best change – controlled car parking. Hopes NPA will continue to protect Forest as it is and no over development.
Linda	Minstead	Lived on a farm in Forest as a child. Took ponies to market, roundups.
Helen	Lyndhurst	Moved to the area from Southampton a year ago. A Friends of the Earth supporter. Has seen a

		reduction in the pine enclosures and putting in more broadleaf. An increase in erosion, litter and human excrement in forest. Feels the NPA should be a beacon of practice and devise a transport strategy to reduce amount of traffic on roads; protection of animals – speed of traffic, conservation, on litter – provide recycling points Forest needs to be protected. With global climate changes this will affect the kind of trees and species of wildlife, if water levels dropped and forest rivers dried up, this could mean potential extinction
Denise and Sean	Cadnam	Moved to area 2 years ago. They've just found out that the property they own has common rights, so are very excited about this. Feel part of the community. They love the freedom of the forest, but concerned about noise, amount of traffic and welfare of animals. Think NPA will be good for the forest.
Rita	Tiptoe	Lived in Forest for 44 years and previously lived in Sway where there are now too many houses. Over the years seen an increase in traffic and litter. If they close the car parks this will only encourage motorists to park on the roads/verges. Feel Commoners and Verderers have looked after the Forest over the years. Hope Forest stays as it is for year to come.
Simon		Based at either Salisbury or Shaftesbury livestock market. Holds several sales of New Forest ponies at Beaulieu Road Yard 6 times a year. Should promote and keep traditions of Verderers and commoners in place. People in forest very insular. Life for farmers very tough with value of stock falling. Hope NPA will protect the age old traditions.
Sally	Owls Barn	New Forest Marque. Have been running as organic certificated business since 1990s. Farm shop sells mix of organic, free-range and locally produced food, including their own beef and lamb. Do a vegetable box delivery scheme in the area. Lots of regular visitors, people more discerning what they eat and looking for local produce, and want to know how, or where it is produced and if chemical free. Explained the New Forest Breakfast and what it comprised of - marque endorses its validity. National Park appears to be a good thing, no interference so far. Hope it will be supportive, as get wild venison from Park, and need to keep producer, Forest and outlet working together.
Jenny	Farrington, Hampshire	New Forest means freedom away from the concrete. Forest unchanged and still nice to visit. Ponies wild and free. Tranquility. Money should be spent keeping it litter free and tidy. Footpaths should be open.
Anita	Bournemouth	Loves peace and quite of Forest as lives in town. Only blight on Forest is noisy traffic and people who do not respect it. Should be more speed humps and wardens. Litter bad.

		National Park should be treasured, protected and not swallowed up with housing.
Jim	Rushington, West Sussex	New Forest peaceful, always something different to do. Lots of wildlife. National Park is a good thing. Money should be spent to keep on looking after the Forest as it has been.
Sally	Bransgore	Lived here over 60 years –no place like it, but has changed. Childhood memories of aerodromes and roads not fenced off. However fencing has not been detrimental. Too many animals on the Forest, - needs to be monitored. Cycling should also be monitored, activities need fair amount of policing. Tourists help local economy but need help to understand how the Forest works and how not to damage it, Like it to stay way it is but more control how visitors use the Forest. Should be done by enforcement as can't rely on people to be sensible. National Park needed to protect it from larger conurbations on its periphery. Money should be spent on quality affordable housing, which fits in with area.
Len	Ashworth Lodge – Commoner	Spent all his life in the Forest. Brought up riding donkeys and ponies. For pocket money used to sell fir cones in village for fire lighters. Much quieter in villages and on roads years ago. Had around 30 donkeys at one time and as grandchildren and great grandchildren came along, gave them each a female donkey to breed and encourage them to become Commoners. Thinks Forest should be tidied up; it's a disgrace. Where timber is lying on ground still from hurricane – it's now destroying the vegetation. Thinks it should be called the New Forest National Park Disaster. Bluebells and primroses all seem to have disappeared over the years. Thinks lack of maintenance in Forest; he recently lost a cow which fell into a 4-ft ditch and couldn't get out and eventually it died. Regular visitor to Verderers Court; been going since is was 16 and he's now 89. Thinks ponies are losing their hardiness as they only run in Forest for around 2 months, then put out for grazing.
Eileen	Calshot	Born in Dorset. Moved back to area in 1980 from Berkshire. Loves the trees and beauty of Forest and hopes it will stay the way it is now.
No name given	Woodfalls	Concerned about what NPA allowing their conservation officer to do. In last 6 – 12 months Turford Inclosure has been destroyed with logging machines and ripped it to shreds, just leaving a large bog. Ripped through virtually every track in Minstead, bulldozed through archaeology of old munitions factory which has now virtually disappeared. Turf Hill ruined. Thinks conservation officer should go out into Forest and talk to people before allowing areas to be bulldozed all in the name of so called conservation. Area being totally spoilt and torn apart.

Roy	Windsor, Nr. Southampton	Farmer. Born and bred in New Forest. Sells his meat under New Forest Marque at monthly markets at Beaulieu, Lymington and Lyndhurst. Spoke out the Marque and farming in general. Need animals in Forest, otherwise can't be maintained properly.
Chris	Totton	Semi-professional bee keeper. Produces honey, beeswax, candles, pickles, mustard and jams under New Forest marquee. Childhood memories – freedom and beauty of area. Thinks we should encourage more people to shop at farmers markets for the locally grown produce.
Vicky	Milford	Craft bakers who specialise in bread and cakes. Flour used in baking comes from Alderholt Mill and local eggs and spring water all used in their products which carry New Forest Marque. Born in area and like Forest way it is. Likes the quiet and peacefulness.
Viv	New Forest Hampers	Started off with fresh food hampers using produce from local organic farms and set up website to sell. Now do all sorts, Christmas hampers, wedding, gift hampers sourcing very best non-perishable produce/products. Carries Marque. Lived in Forest for over 40 years; now changing with the tourism, cyclists coming into area – losing the freedom.
Tim	Local	Started up New Forest barramundi fish farm in Lymington. Baby fish brought in from Australia and grown on. Over 95% of water used is re-cycled with no chemicals or additives used. This is first freshwater fish to be offered in UK. Built on N.F. marque. Lot of resistance and scepticism initially from local people, but product has gone down well.
Gerald	Lyndhurst	Has a 32-acre farm with forest rights which they use to the full. Have cattle, pigs and ponies which are put out to feed in forest and are grass/gorse fed. They are able to produce good quality free range meat. Sells his produce through a local farm shop, who agreed to sell it because it carries the NF marque.
Carole	Wootton	Enjoys the peace and tranquility of Forest; likes walking and cycling. Her concern is of the campsites being taken away from the F.C. and of possible changes i.e. shops and burger bars which will destroy feel of Forest. Thinks Forest has been managed well enough up to now and hopes it will continue.
Peter	Ringwood	Came down from London 20 years ago and bought his aunt's house in Ringwood. Was evacuated to his aunt's house as a child, where Ringwood became the centre to the build up of D-Day landings where American and Canadian troops were billeted. Enjoys Forest for its openness, wilderness and uninterrupted views. Enjoys its history. Forest has remained virtually unchanged over time. Better road signage now. Commoning, FC and Verderers important and hopes NPA's involvement will strengthen these peoples' livelihood. Feels NPA need to address

		road situation/speeds. Roads through Forest are too narrow making it harder for larger cars/4 x 4s to pass together, this slows down traffic if cars won't give way or if cars have to go off road. Creation of National Park has put pressure on towns like Ringwood to build and cram in too many houses.
Ted	Lymington	Came to Forest 45 years ago. Foresters suspicious of change. Forest started to get spoilt after the 50's/60's with cars, and people enjoying more leisure time coming to Forest. Felt need to bring in some control and protect Forest long-term. NPA's promotion of policy is to 'conserve and enhance' and to 'understand and enjoy' its special qualities. Many of the Members already known in Forest in their role of Commoners, Verderers, Councillors etc. making their interest in what happens to Forest even more important. Concerns expressed that by creating the NP, and with NPA, there would be a lot of bureaucracy and Forest would be taken over from local people. Concerns over affordable housing and need to sustain the Commoners. Concerns over climate change and sea levels rising.
Mavis	Romsey	Came to area 40 years ago. Likes walking in Forest, enjoys the quietness, open spaces and long vista. Welcomes 40 mph limits. NPA need to education people on how to use Forest. Keep it as natural as possible. Too much traffic.
Evelyn	Sway	Born in Hordle. Lots of small shops/local banks have gone. Would like NPA to look at condition of roads. Overgrown pathways; need hedges/grass verges cut back as no-where to walk, pot-holes. Likes Forest area, the space and freedom. Towns too crowded and expensive
Maria	Pagham, Nr Chichester	Tries to visit Forest once a month. Likes the peace and tranquility, trees, wildlife. Thinks NPA good thing; the way to go for funding and preservation. People don't like change. Doesn't see a problem with taking down trees as a means to regenerate new growth.
Paul	Fritham	Has worked as a ranger for F.C. for 10 years. Talked about his varied job with the F.C. Apart from office work, his jobs in the Forest include looking after cycle routes, checking facilities etc. He also writes information leaflets and gives talks etc. Spoke about the general role of the F.C. Likes the quiet of the Forest, a sense of wildness and mix of habitats.
Clare	Broadstone	Born in the area. Likes Forest for its naturalness, not too many tourist attractions, feeling of space and horses and cattle roaming freely. Hopes NPA will continue its conservation programme.

11 A selection of the best young peoples' responses for the special qualities consultation

Nature surrounding, fresh and sweet
Everlasting stretch of green
Where time is pleasant
Fun place to be in, perfect for picnic
Of all places, New Forest is the best
Riding through the shade of the trees
Enthralls you
So magic and breathtaking
The New Forest is a must this summer!
(By Sophie Pope, age 10)

New Forest is
Excellent for
Walking
Fishing
Or
Riding
Especially in
Summer
Time
(By Callum Macnab)

Never hurt the animals
Everything needs to be looked after
We should all respect the New Forest
Forest is a beautiful place
Only if people look after it
Roads are dangerous places for animals
Every year animals get run over
Sit down and have a picnic but
Take your rubbish home!
(By Chloe Adams, age 9)

We would like a skate park in the New Forest because we like skateboarding and there is nowhere to skate. We could try to make an eco-friendly skate park with all the ramps and things made of strong and flexible wood.
(By Al and Ed age 11)

I like the New Forest because it is full of trees and we like riding our horses there. I've lived in Fordingbridge for nine years and every Sunday I take my dog for a walk there and it's a wonderful place. I wouldn't want anything to change because if you made a skate park it wouldn't be the New Forest any more. I don't think there are any bad things about the New Forest. I just think people should put their rubbish in the bin.
(By Lauren and Elsie)

The old grey roe buck deer
Trotted over the gravel path
Leaping into the sweet grass
And disappearing into the Forest
(By Danny, age 10)

I love walking through the New Forest
The ponies trotting start swinging their manes
Whinnying and playing with each other
I love the New Forest because the
Orange leaves wet with dew and flowers opening
But most of all I love the ponies they gallop all day long
With their manes flying behind them their fur is wet
From the night
(Kayleigh, age 9)

My favourite bit about the New Forest is all the paths you can follow. There's lots of amazing things to see and do like fallen down trees to walk across and try to balance on. There is also some shimmering, refreshing streams to jump across and have fun like stone skipping competitions. My favourite thing though has to be all the lovely animals.
(By James Harris, age 10)

The whispers of the trees
The buzzing of the bees
The sound of the breeze
The colours of the leaves
Are all in the Forest

The sun in the sky
The birds passing by
They fly so high
I couldn't touch them if I tried
Are all in the Forest
(By Phillipa James, age 10)

Wishing tree thoughts from New Forest show, 2005:

The forest is special because the trees are good for animals and the soil is good for ants. It is beautiful and I like it because it has got animals.

I wish that people would keep to the speed limit so that no New Forest ponies died.

I wish that the New Forest stays the same and that when I'm older me and my children can come riding in it.

I wish for all endangered species to be looked after and that people look after the environment and try to stop the terrible things they do to pollute.