



Future Forest

Recreation Management Strategy consultation

Findings Report

February 2018



High-level findings of what people said in the Future Forest call for views
Recreation Management Strategy consultation carried out in summer 2017



Summary

This report sets out who was consulted as part of the Future Forest 'call for views' public consultation held over the summer of 2017, describes how they were consulted and summarises the main findings.

A separate 'Next Steps' Report gives some initial early thoughts on how the comments received might inform actions within an update to the New Forest Recreation Management Strategy 2010-2030 (the 2010 Strategy).

1 Managing recreation in the New Forest

The New Forest is a working landscape with a long and proud history that dates back almost 1,000 years. The central area of heathland, mire and woodland is well known for the commoners' animals that have shaped what is known as the open Forest, and there are extensive enclosed plantations from which timber is harvested. This area has multiple international designations for its wildlife habitats and rare species, as has the coast. Surrounding and in between the designated areas you can find farmland, nature reserves and villages – 35,000 people live within the National Park and many more live and work nearby.

The New Forest also attracts many people, both local and from further afield, to enjoy outdoor activities. In 2005, it was estimated that there are 13.5 million visitor days to the National Park each year. Of these, 60% relate to day-visitors (many very local in origin) and 40% to staying visitors; they are spread across the whole of the National Park, including within the central area described above. In part because it is the smallest of the UK national parks, it has one of the highest population densities and concentrations of visitors (exceeded only by the South Downs on both counts).

This volume of activity brings significant health and well-being benefits, supports the local economy and helps people to experience and thereby value the special qualities of the area. However, there are also negative impacts on the New Forest environment, and on those who work and live in the area and the current facilities weren't designed for their current level of use – which looks set to increase even further.

The 2010 Strategy was produced following extensive public consultation; it has 61 'priority actions' aimed at managing recreation, grouped under 15 topics.

A new and updated suite of focused actions is now needed so that, across the National Park and beyond we can achieve a net gain for the working and natural landscape and for the recreational experience, by:

- protecting the spectacular, yet fragile, wildlife-rich landscape that people come to see;
- managing recreation for local people and our visitors.

We also need to use limited resources wisely.

The Forestry Commission, Natural England, Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, Verderers and New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) therefore jointly decided that it is time to produce an update to the 2010 Strategy and they asked the NPA to lead on the consultation. The views and knowledge of the public and relevant organisations are key to this work, hence the consultation.

2 How the consultation was run and analysed

The Future Forest ‘call for views’ public consultation was held over the summer of 2017. It was an open consultation exercise which enabled anyone who wished to contribute to have their say about the management of recreation in the New Forest. Responses could be submitted through an online response form, available at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/futureforest and by paper version. Unstructured responses sent through other means, such as email or as written letters, and received by the consultation’s close were also accepted.

There were 1,554 responses, mostly through the online response form – from 1,502 individuals and 52 organisations and groups. Responses from organisations and groups highlighted similar issues to those mentioned by individuals, so all of the responses were combined in the same database for the purpose of analysis and this report.

Managing recreation in the New Forest is complex, and the six organisations responsible for the consultation wanted to learn what people thought *and why*, not just offer some options and ask respondents to vote for the best. So, although respondents were asked to choose up to six of the 15 recreation management topics identified in 2010 that they thought should be prioritised in the future, they were then asked to explain *why* they had made their choices and to give additional comments.

During the New Forest Show visitors to the NPA stand were asked to engage in a ‘taster’ consultation. 420 respondents were asked to choose just two high priority topics each by sticking coloured dots against the 2010 list of topics, red for respondents who lived inside the National Park and blue for those who live further afield. This taster exercise also helped encourage respondents to participate in the online consultation.

Other publicity included drop-in promotion in villages and leisure centres, news releases, social media, the NPA e-newsletter, talks at various forums and e-mails direct to local authorities, town and parish councils and other local organisations.

Comments have been analysed and included in this report where they most directly related to recreation management and if they were mentioned by more than a handful of respondents.

The analysis only takes into account actual responses; where ‘no response’ was provided to a question, this was not included in the analysis.

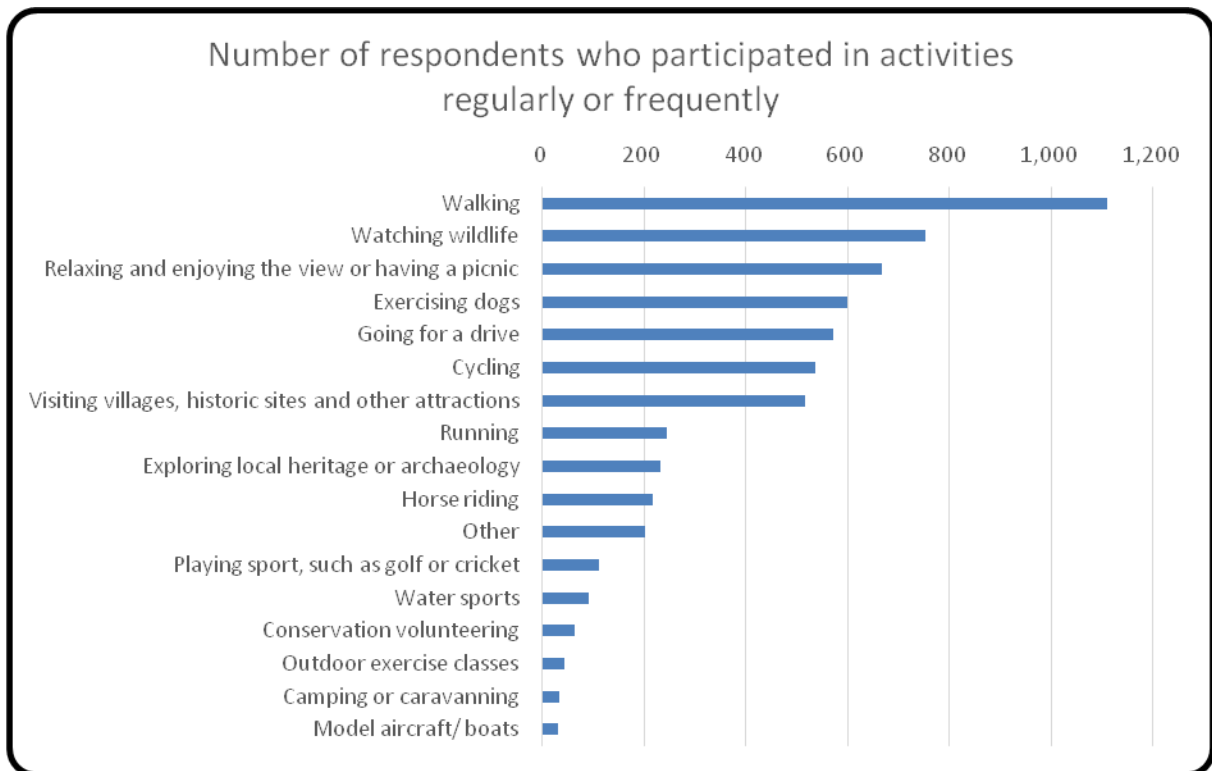
No attempt was made to limit participation in the consultation to a balanced and representative sample survey approach of the local (or wider) population. However, the consultation delivered a wealth of comments and suggestions, providing both a useful picture of the views about recreation management of those who participated and a useful first step in the engagement of the public and stakeholders in the development of the update to the 2010 strategy.

A separate ‘Next Steps’ Report gives some initial early thoughts on how the comments received during the consultation might inform actions within an update to

the 2010 Strategy. The update will be drafted during the first half of 2018 and be subject to further public consultation during the summer. Agreed actions and named organisations to lead on their delivery will then be published towards the end of 2018 or early in 2019.

3 Analysis of comments submitted

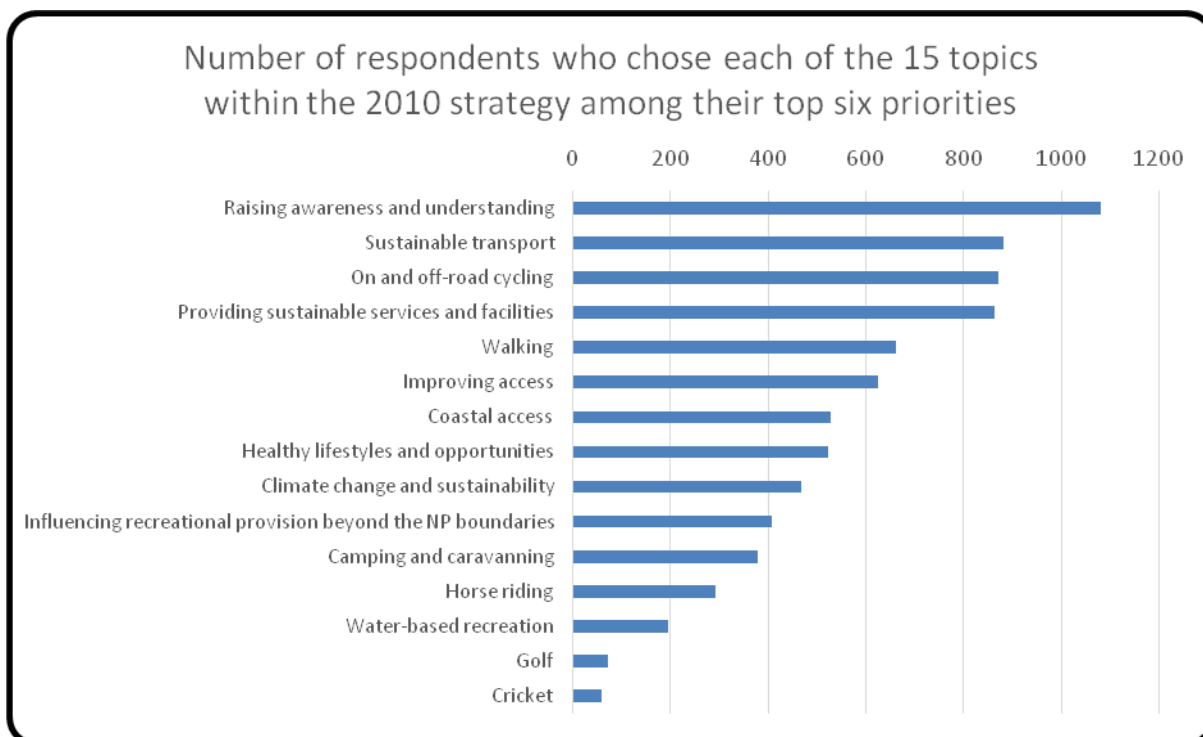
Which kinds of recreation are most popular?



The chart above shows that respondents most frequently participate in one or more of seven different recreational activities, with walking being the most popular.

The 'other' recreational activities most frequently mentioned were eating out, geocaching, photography and shopping.

Which of the 15 topics identified in the 2010 strategy did respondents think should be prioritised?



The chart above shows that respondents chose some of the topics within the 2010 Strategy more frequently than others, with raising awareness and understanding being the most popular.

Note that many respondents didn't use all their six choices (e.g. 56% chose six topics and 20% chose five). This accounts for the fact that the total of the choices shown above is far less than six times the total number of participants. Inevitably there were also small differences in the number of choices made by people who live in different locations, who are in different age groups or who have or do not have a disability – this accounts for a small part of the differences in the percentages shown in the tables about these topics towards the end of this report.

Which themes did respondents highlight in their comments?

The tables below summarise the analysis of the free-text comments received about each of the 15 topics in the 2010 strategy. They are presented in order of their popularity or 'rank' in the main consultation, followed by a similar analysis of additional comments received.

Data from the taster consultation at the New Forest Show are included for comparison, in italics. Note that the reasons why these respondents made their choices were not recorded, so the analysis of themes in the tables relates only to the main consultation.

In total, 7,080 free text comments were received. Many of these comments highlighted more than one 'theme'. For example, to explain why 'walking' had been chosen as a priority someone might say 1) that walking is good for improving our health, and 2) that they were concerned at the impacts on ground nesting birds.

| Raising awareness and understanding | |
|--|---|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Raise awareness of how special the New Forest is and how and where to enjoy it without causing harm through improved education, promotion, campaigns, rangers and events. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 1,080 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 1 (69%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | 241 |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | 1 (57%) |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 612 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided, frequently confirming that the New Forest is a special place and that through a range of ways the understanding of both visitors and local people should be increased, especially given the large number of people currently using it |
| 209 | Concern about safety and welfare of commoners' animals (feeding and petting the animals and road traffic accidents caused by poor driving), including asking for greater awareness about the role of commoners. |
| 109 | Concern about litter and fly-tipping |
| 70 | Concern about impacts on wildlife (especially ground-nesting birds) |
| 69 | Need for more staff or volunteers (e.g. rangers, staffed visitor centres, educational events and to enforce byelaws). |
| 67 | Concern about dogs, usually highlighting disturbance of wildlife or stock, or/and the importance of disposing of dog waste |
| 56 | Recognition that the New Forest is a working Forest that should not be treated or promoted as a country park or playground |
| 46 | Concern about off-network cycling, dangerous cycling and/or cycle events |
| 43 | Concern about a wide range of other specific issues. The following list gives a flavour of these concerns: fungi picking, illegal use of drones or motorcycles, wild camping, gates left open, vandalism, parking on protected verges (verge parking), excessive noise, digging up plants, fireworks, events, feeding swans in Lymington and wearing flip-flops (with associated risk of catching Lyme disease from ticks). |
| 31 | Need to work with children and young people (e.g. through schools). |
| 27 | Concern about damage by barbecues and camp fires |
| 21 | Need for greater two-way understanding between user groups |

| Sustainable transport | |
|--|---|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Improve access by public transport to reduce traffic. Make Forest roads and crossing points safer for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 881 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 2 (57%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>99</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>4 (24%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 461 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided |
| 191 | Specific requests for more or cheaper buses or a park-and-ride system |
| 69 | Need to improve the cycle infrastructure (including through more off-road cycle paths) |
| 67 | Specific reference to difficult crossing points |
| 65 | Need to improve road safety (e.g. through lower speed limits and more enforcement) |
| 55 | Need to reduce animal accidents or danger to wildlife |
| 44 | Need to resolve specific routes with congestion or that are used as 'rat-runs' |
| 39 | Need to reduce traffic pollution (including noise) |
| 36 | Need greater understanding and tolerance between different user groups |
| 16 | Requests for better promotion of rail travel, an enhanced rail experience or that the Waterside railway should be reopened |
| 7 | Suggestions that some roads should be closed, that access to some areas should be by sustainable modes only or that there should be a congestion charge |

| On and off-road cycling | |
|---|--|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Improve the safety, connectivity and use of an agreed network of on and off-road cycle routes, linked to towns and villages, including agreement for some changes on Crown Lands managed by the Forestry Commission. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 872 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 3 (56%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>137</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>2 (33%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 320 | Need for a more joined network of permitted off-road routes that will allow travel between villages, from residential areas onto the network and longer circuits – without the need to use dangerous roads. A wide range of gaps in the network was highlighted. Comments included the need for better signage and maps, and that improvements would reduce the tendency for cyclists to go off-network. |
| 261 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided |
| 107 | View that cycling is a low-impact activity that improves health and wellbeing, brings economic benefits or results in fewer cars on road |
| 107 | Need to improve road safety, including through better road maintenance (e.g. of road edges), the addition of white lines or creation of cycle lanes, reducing the amount of traffic and through more considerate driving by motorists |
| 96 | Concern that cyclists should cycle more responsibly and courteously, and adhere to the Highway Code (on the road). Even those that wanted additional off-road routes frequently said that cyclists should stick to permitted routes. |
| 70 | Dislike of organised cycle events and the way in which they are managed, or simply that there are too many cyclists on roads |
| 25 | Desire for more adventurous off-road routes or facilities (whether on the open Forest or private land). |

| Providing sustainable services and facilities | |
|---|--|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Review and improve visitor facilities and car parking to reduce impacts on the most sensitive areas, reduce parking on verges and cover maintenance costs. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 863 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 4 (56%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>111</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>3 (26%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 293 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided |
| 148 | Need to reduce verge and gateway parking, including through enforcement. View that the problem is exacerbated by car park closures or/and could be helped by improved car parking. |
| 110 | Need to increase or improve car parking and associated facilities in less sensitive places (including around the edge of the National Park) |
| 80 | Need to provide better information (e.g. through signs, rangers or visitor centres) to clarify where parking is or isn't allowed and raise awareness of things like how special the New Forest is. |
| 47 | Should charge for car parking (perhaps free or cheaper for local people or frequent visitors) |
| 43 | Need for better maintenance of car park surfaces |
| 37 | Should reduce provision of car parking in sensitive areas |
| 35 | View that cycling, walking or using public transport to reach the New Forest is better than using cars |
| 27 | Should provide more bins (for litter and dog waste) |
| 27 | View that more toilets are needed |
| 13 | View that car parks should not be closed |
| 12 | View that car parking should remain free |

| Walking | |
|---|--|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Encourage private landowners to establish new walking routes on their land. Find ways to reduce the impacts of walking on sensitive wildlife. Provide better information and access to people with disabilities. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 662 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 5 (43%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>89</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>5 (21%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 209 | General support for the summary of walking actions provided, and of the associated health benefits, frequently adding that it is a fundamentally good and enjoyable thing to do that has low impacts on the environment. |
| 172 | Support for proactively encouraging use of selected routes away from sensitive areas and for new routes on private land – provided this does not impact on farm stock or sensitive wildlife in these areas. |
| 94 | Need to reduce impacts on wildlife (e.g. by dogs) and commoners' animals (feeding them) – including through better information and education. |
| 62 | Need to improve or better maintain existing walking routes to encourage people to use them or to make them accessible to people with limited mobility and families. |

| Improving access | |
|---|--|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Develop a more joined up network of agreed routes and improve and promote use of them. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 624 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 6 (40%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>51</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>7 (12%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 221 | General support for the summary of topic actions provided |
| 92 | View that off-road cycle routes should be extended and more joined up |
| 77 | Need to reduce impact on sensitive areas, erosion of route surfaces or the number of people who get lost. |
| 73 | Need to resolve road traffic issues (especially around Lyndhurst). (Note that although the specific actions for this topic within the 2010 strategy were targeted at <u>off-road</u> recreation routes (for walking, cycling and horse riding), the summary provided in this consultation was not explicit in this respect.) |
| 62 | Road safety concerns (often linked with comments about cycling) including difficult crossing points and getting between villages, campsites etc. |
| 61 | Requests for better maps, waymarking or other information to help and encourage people to explore the New Forest along the agreed routes |
| 37 | Need to improve access into the New Forest from neighbouring areas by foot, bike, horseback or public transport, e.g. so that people could leave their car at home |
| 28 | Need to improve walking routes (e.g. the condition of paths or bridges, and issues with mud or flooding). |

| Coastal access | |
|---|--|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Implement and promote the England Coast Path and associated access rights when the Government's consultation is complete and the route is confirmed. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 528 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 7 (34%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>51</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>8 (12%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 343 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided, frequently adding that they enjoy coastal walks and that the concept of allowing the route through private land was to be welcomed. |
| 25 | View that the path will bring health benefits and help people to better value the coast |
| 23 | View that the route will attract people away from more sensitive inland areas |
| 18 | View that there will be economic benefits, e.g. through increased tourism |
| 17 | Want or assume that there will be access along the route for cyclists and/or horse riders |
| 16 | Need to make sure there is no impact on farm animals or wildlife and that walkers are informed about these risks |
| 12 | Concerns about potential parking or maintenance problems, and requests that the path should be installed to a high standard of access in the first place |
| 7 | View that the path will or should be linked to other nearby rights of way, e.g. to create circular routes |

| Healthy lifestyles and opportunities | |
|--|---|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Enable young people, and people with disabilities, health needs or other disadvantages, to enjoy and benefit from the New Forest. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 524 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 8 (34%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>51</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>9 (12%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 315 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided, frequently adding that this was an obvious choice or that it is important that young people have positive experiences of the New Forest so that they will want to care for it in the future. |
| 63 | Need for better access or facilities to cater effectively for people with limited mobility (such as those with wheelchairs or mobility scooters) or for families with young children. Including specific mention that such facilities need not necessarily be within the open Forest. The need for access to the New Forest without the use of a car, for example for young people, was included in this theme. |
| 24 | View that organised activities would help engage these people who might not otherwise visit the New Forest, examples being inclusive cycling with adapted bikes, carriage driving schemes, and educational and wild play events. |

| Climate change and sustainability | |
|---|--|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Assess the impact that outdoor activities have on the environment and encourage people to adopt more sustainable practices, including public transport options where possible. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 468 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 9 (30%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>49</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>10 (12%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 189 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided |
| 102 | Need to reduce traffic and its associated pollution, improve public transport and increase cycling and walking |
| 75 | Frustration about the intensity and negative (unsustainable) impacts of various forms of recreation including cycling, dog walking, litter, jet skis and drones, erosion caused by verge parking and horse riding and animal accidents |
| 30 | Need for more information or better education to influence behaviour |

| Influencing recreational provision beyond the boundaries of the National Park | |
|---|---|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Work with neighbouring local authorities and influence their planning policies to create significant new and improved outdoor opportunities on the edge of the National Park to serve local communities. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 407 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 10 (26%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | 36 |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | 11 (9%) |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 264 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided, frequently adding that this should help protect sensitive areas and improve health and wellbeing of local communities. Moors Valley was frequently mentioned as a good example of an existing facility that draws people away from the New Forest to engage in activities that would not be appropriate in more sensitive areas. |
| 22 | Requests for better access to the New Forest from nearby communities, through improved routes, car parking (near the perimeter) and public transport |
| 22 | View that new areas outside the National Park should cater for cycling activities |
| 21 | Potential for economic benefits and employment, for example through commercially viable recreation facilities on private land |
| 16 | View that new areas outside the National Park should cater for dog walkers |
| 9 | View that wildlife at new sites could benefit through use of green corridors and habitat management. |

| Camping and caravanning | |
|--|---|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Audit the campsite provision in the National Park: ensuring it keeps its appeal to visitors and benefits to the local economy while preventing and reducing negative impacts on the Forest. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 379 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 11 (24%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | 35 |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | 12 (8%) |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 152 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided |
| 47 | Want better facilities or fewer restrictions, more camp sites or longer seasonal opening times |
| 47 | View that camping and caravanning bring benefits to the local economy |
| 43 | View that restrictions should be greater, that there should be fewer campsites, or that alternative sites should be found for those that are causing harm |
| 10 | Concern that current sites are too expensive |
| 8 | View that facilities should not be increased |
| 8 | Need to encourage people to walk, cycle or use public transport from campsites |
| 7 | View that more basic (wild) camping should be allowed |

| Horse riding | |
|---|--|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Improve safety for horse riders, the connectivity and condition of routes and promote high standards of paddock management | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 292 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 12 (19%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | 78 |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | 6 (19%) |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 91 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided |
| 78 | Need better understanding and respect for horse riders from other user groups, e.g. cyclists, motorists and dog walkers |
| 55 | Concern that roads are dangerous for horse riding |
| 49 | Calls for a range of access improvements for horse riding, e.g. more or better maintained bridleways and riding routes, improved gates and latches and parking |
| 25 | View that some paddocks should be better managed |
| 14 | Concerns about unnecessary interference in paddock management |
| 12 | View that horse riders need better 'education' (e.g. through a code of conduct to reduce damage to tracks) |
| 9 | Concerns about ragwort (either on private land or in public areas) |

| Water-based recreation | |
|--|--|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Enable people to understand and enjoy water-based activities on the coast without harming sensitive sites and species | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 195 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 13 (13%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>24</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>13 (6%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 84 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided |
| 50 | Request that better information should be provided – to promote the activities, stress the risks involved (both safety, and negative impacts on tranquillity and the environment) and to encourage more responsible recreation |
| 31 | Concerns about litter or impacts on wildlife and habitats |
| 14 | Request that access to coastal sites should be improved (including for people with disabilities) |
| 6 | View that this topic should have included freshwater habitats as well as those on the coast |

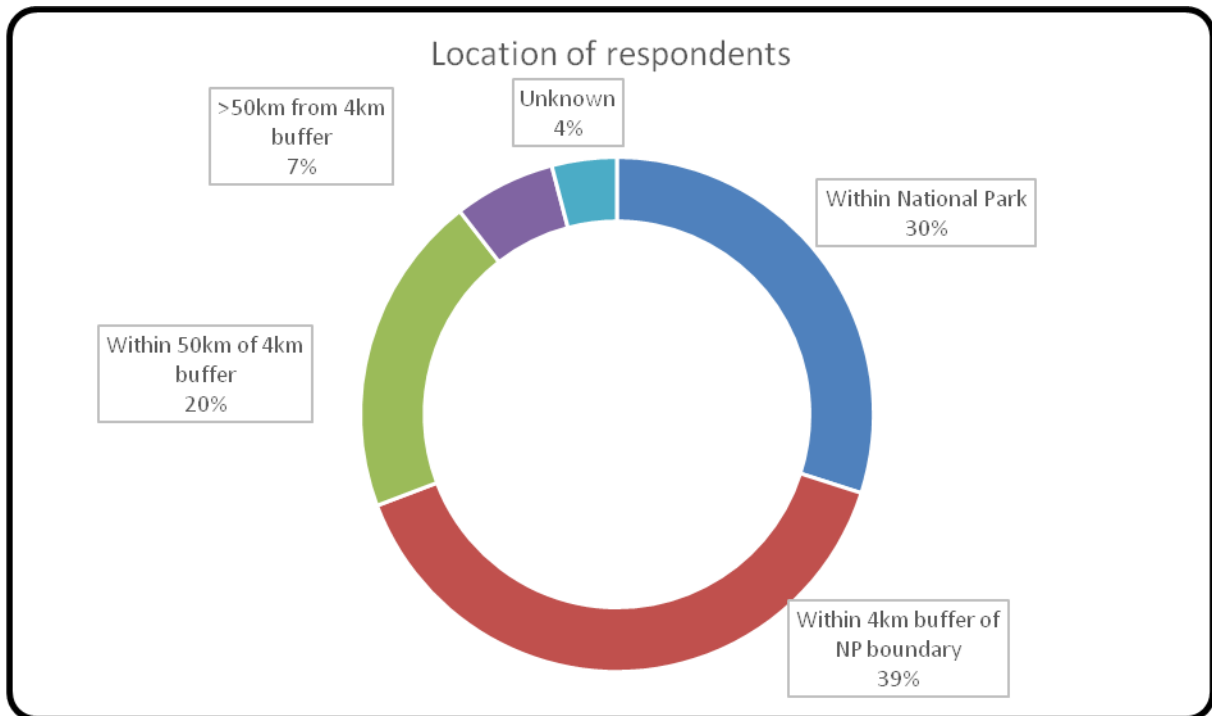
| Golf | |
|--|--|
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Help golf clubs manage their land to ensure related facilities fit well into the landscape. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 72 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 14 (5%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>15 (3%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 40 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided, including adding that golf is a healthy recreational activity to be encouraged. |
| 9 | View that golf course managers should have more freedom to manage the land with fewer restrictions |
| 6 | View that golf courses should be relocated or be more tightly restricted because they are unnatural or incompatible with management for wildlife |
| 4 | View that golf courses bring economic benefits |
| 3 | Concern that commoners' animals sometimes damage greens and fairways |

| | |
|--|---|
| Cricket | |
| Summary of 2010 actions provided: Help cricket clubs manage their areas with the environment in mind and ensure facilities complement the landscape | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents prioritising this topic in the main consultation | 58 |
| Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it | 15 (4%) |
| <i>Number of respondents prioritising this topic at the New Forest Show</i> | <i>18</i> |
| <i>Rank for this topic, and percentage of respondents that chose it</i> | <i>14 (4%)</i> |
| Number of respondents highlighting the following themes | |
| 32 | General support for the summary of the topic actions provided, including commenting on the range of benefits of the sport to people |
| 7 | View that cricket pitch managers should have more freedom to manage the land with fewer restrictions |
| 3 | View that better advice on how to manage the pitches should be provided |

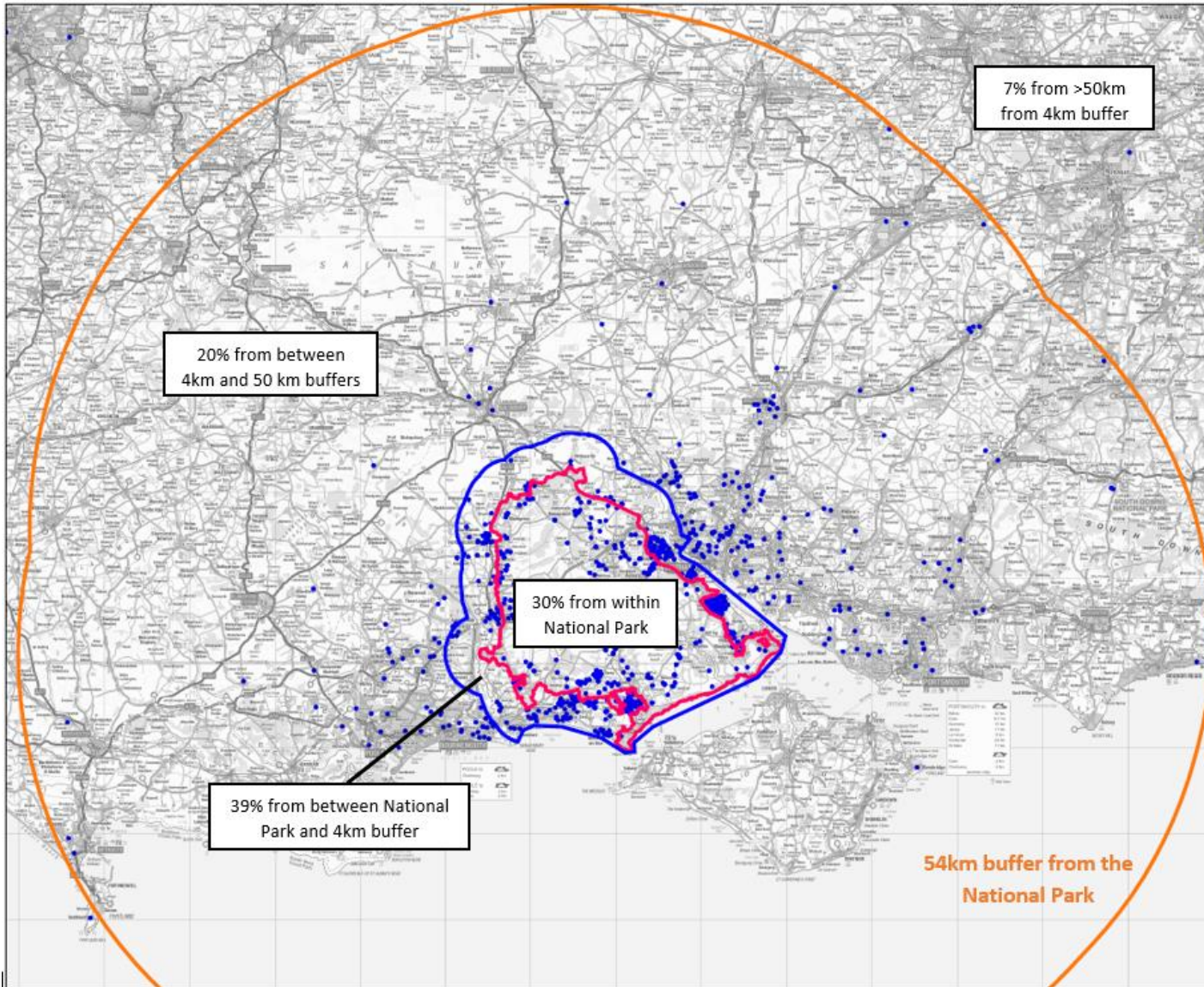
| | |
|--|---|
| Additional comments | |
| Instruction provided: Please tell us if you have any other comments about how we can all enjoy outdoor activities and protect the New Forest. | |
| Results | |
| Number of respondents providing additional comments in the main consultation | 982 |
| The online software allowed much longer 'additional comments' than it did for the 15 priority topics. They are categorised under three broad headings, two of which have apparently opposing approaches. | |
| Education by instruction or encouragement | |
| 384 | View that people should be <i>told (or 'made')</i> to <i>change their attitudes and behaviour</i> to reduce their impact on the New Forest's environment, commoners' animals, wildlife and other people. The issues highlighted were frequently the same as those expressed under 'raising awareness and understanding' and a wide range of user groups or target audiences for education and enforcement were mentioned (tourists, local people, dog walkers, cyclists, car drivers, horse riders etc.). |
| 263 | View that <i>behaviour change should be achieved through a softer, positive and more welcoming stance</i> , the provision of more information and interpretation about the things that make the New Forest special, encouraging volunteering, promoting healthy and non-damaging activities and the encouragement of young people to learn about and experience the New Forest. |
| Managing access through improvements, changes to promotion or restrictions | |
| 344 | View that the demand for recreation should be managed or accommodated by <i>extending access, improving facilities or relaxing restrictions</i> , for example by joining up permissible routes, providing waymarking, enlarging car parks, providing more litter bins, improving visitor facilities and public transport, improving the maintenance of roads, building new roads such as a bypass for Lyndhurst, making crossing points safer, developing visitor 'gateways', providing and promoting new sites for recreation (especially outside of sensitive areas) or allowing more geocaching, drone or kite flying, fungi picking or mountain biking. |
| 312 | View that recreation should be managed through <i>increased restrictions</i> of one form or other: reduced access, closing car parks, roads, camp sites, golf courses or cricket pitches, putting dogs on leads, or not allowing model boats or aircraft, hunting, cycling or running events – and the National Park should not be promoted. |
| Covering the cost | |
| 56 | Views that additional funds need to be generated to cover the potentially large cost of implementing many of the requests listed above, including through charging for parking where it is currently free or charging for specific recreational activities. |

4 Who took part in the consultation?

Where did the respondents live?



The consultation was open to anyone who wished to participate, and the use of social media, websites etc. could have attracted many respondents from a great distance away. However, the diagram above and following map show that a majority of consultation respondents live inside the New Forest National Park or within 4km of the boundary (69%). A significant number live between 4km and 50km from the boundary (20%), including Southampton and Bournemouth, leaving 7% who live further away (4% of respondents did not provide their postcode).



New Forest National Park Authority
 Lyminster Town Hall
 Avenue Road
 Lyminster
 SO41 9ZG

Tel: 01590 648600
 Fax: 01590 648686

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Consultation Responses

Map illustrating location of respondents



SCALE: 1:430000

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 Ordnance Survey 1000114703

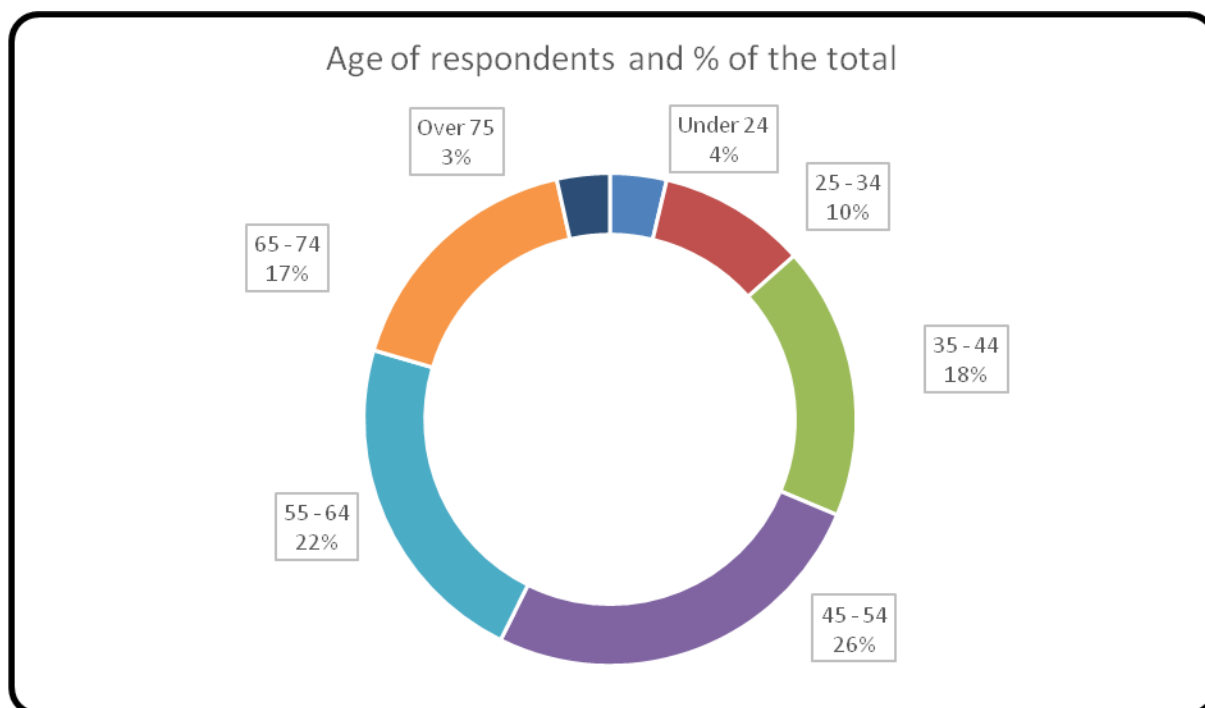
Did respondents' choice of priority topics depend on where they lived?

| 2010 priority topic | % of respondents from different locations that chose each of the topics among their top priorities | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Within National Park | Between National Park and 4km buffer | Between 4km buffer and 50km buffer | >50km from 4km buffer | Unknown |
| Raising awareness and understanding | 65% | 58% | 50% | 46% | 56% |
| Sustainable transport | 52% | 45% | 43% | 51% | 30% |
| On and off-road cycling | 49% | 49% | 46% | 53% | 44% |
| Providing sustainable services and facilities | 47% | 46% | 41% | 37% | 46% |
| Walking | 26% | 36% | 35% | 36% | 30% |
| Improving access | 25% | 34% | 32% | 35% | 20% |
| Coastal access | 19% | 34% | 30% | 27% | 24% |
| Healthy lifestyles and opportunities | 22% | 28% | 23% | 35% | 26% |
| Climate change and sustainability | 25% | 23% | 22% | 27% | 30% |
| Influencing recreational provision beyond the National Park boundaries | 29% | 17% | 18% | 12% | 22% |
| Camping and caravanning | 19% | 19% | 17% | 29% | 12% |
| Horse riding | 19% | 15% | 10% | 15% | 20% |
| Water-based recreation | 10% | 11% | 8% | 5% | 18% |
| Golf | 5% | 3% | 2% | 1% | 4% |
| Cricket | 5% | 2% | 2% | 0% | 6% |

The table above suggests that for most topics, the opinions of respondents from different locations were broadly similar. However, people living within the National Park more frequently prioritised raising awareness and understanding, influencing recreational provision beyond the National Park boundaries, horse riding, golf and cricket than people living further afield. Conversely they less frequently chose walking, improving access and coastal access. More detailed analyses could be done if this is needed to further inform the update of the 2010 Strategy.

In the New Forest Show 'taster consultation' (using a different consultation methodology), respondents who lived within the National Park more frequently chose horse riding, sustainable transport and on and off-road cycling as high priority topics, in comparison to those who lived further afield.

What was the age distribution of respondents?



The diagram above shows that age groups of 35-44 years and above were well represented in the consultation, but that as is often the case with open consultations, fewer people in younger age groups took part.

Did respondents' choice of priority topics depend on their age?

| Priority Theme | % of respondents from different age groups that chose each of the topics among their top priorities | | | | | |
|---|---|---------|---------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| | Under 35 | 35 - 44 | 45 - 54 | 55 - 64 | 65 and above | Undisclosed |
| Raising awareness and understanding | 46% | 43% | 56% | 63% | 63% | 53% |
| On and off-road cycling | 31% | 47% | 53% | 54% | 54% | 36% |
| Sustainable transport | 35% | 40% | 48% | 55% | 55% | 37% |
| Providing sustainable services and facilities | 31% | 36% | 47% | 49% | 49% | 41% |
| Walking | 21% | 26% | 30% | 38% | 38% | 22% |
| Improving access | 26% | 29% | 33% | 31% | 31% | 29% |
| Healthy lifestyles and opportunities | 25% | 23% | 25% | 27% | 27% | 21% |
| Coastal access | 17% | 24% | 27% | 29% | 29% | 15% |
| Climate change and sustainability | 29% | 17% | 25% | 25% | 25% | 18% |
| Influencing recreational provision beyond the NP boundaries | 15% | 16% | 18% | 23% | 23% | 21% |
| Camping and caravanning | 11% | 18% | 18% | 20% | 20% | 19% |
| Horse riding | 15% | 8% | 14% | 23% | 23% | 11% |
| Water-based recreation | 8% | 9% | 9% | 9% | 9% | 7% |
| Golf | 1% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 6% |
| Cricket | 2% | 2% | 1% | 3% | 3% | 3% |

The table above suggests that the opinions of respondents did depend in part on their age. For example, people aged under 35 years more frequently prioritised climate change and sustainability than older people. Conversely they less frequently chose camping and caravanning. More detailed analyses could be done if this is needed to further inform the update of the 2010 Strategy.

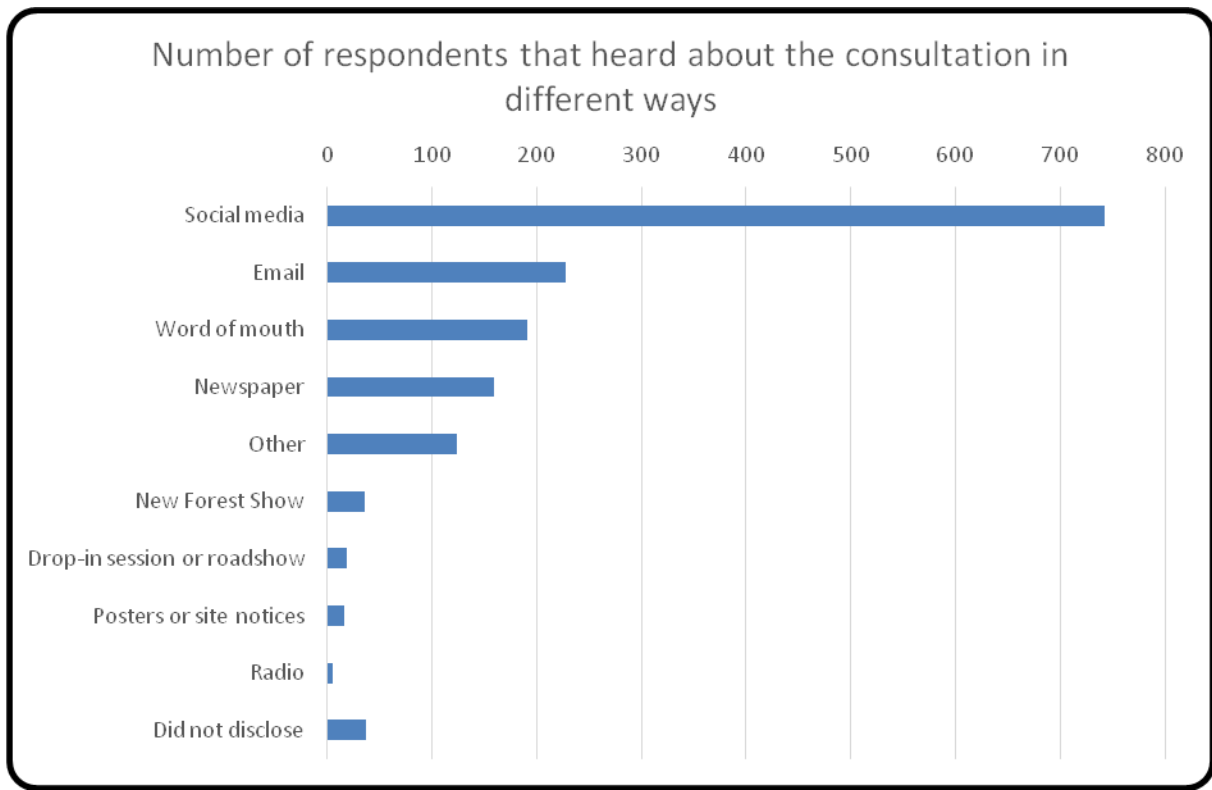
Did respondents' choice of priority topics depend on whether or not they had a disability?

The number of respondents who considered themselves to have a disability was 78, 5% of the total.

| 2010 priority topic | % of respondents with and without disabilities that chose each of the topics among their top priorities | |
|---|---|---|
| | Respondents who consider themselves to have a disability | Respondents who do not consider themselves to have a disability |
| Raising awareness and understanding | 60% | 70% |
| Sustainable transport | 49% | 59% |
| On and off-road cycling | 47% | 59% |
| Providing sustainable services and facilities | 47% | 57% |
| Walking | 40% | 44% |
| Improving access | 33% | 40% |
| Coastal access | 32% | 36% |
| Healthy lifestyles and opportunities | 41% | 33% |
| Climate change and sustainability | 31% | 31% |
| Influencing recreational provision beyond the NP boundaries | 18% | 26% |
| Camping and caravanning | 22% | 25% |
| Horse riding | 23% | 19% |
| Water-based recreation | 10% | 13% |
| Golf | 4% | 5% |
| Cricket | 1% | 4% |

The table above suggests that respondents with and without disabilities may have different priorities, but the small sample size of people who consider themselves to have a disability makes it difficult to draw conclusions. Further analysis could be done if this is needed to better inform the update of the 2010 Strategy.

How did respondents hear about the consultation?



The chart above shows that respondents most frequently heard about the consultation through social media, followed by e-mail, word of mouth and newspapers.

The most frequently mentioned 'other' ways in which respondents heard about the consultation were Cycling UK newsletter, various websites and forums/meetings.

List of organisations that responded

52 responses from organisations or groups were received:

- Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council
- Beaulieu Estate and Beaulieu Enterprises Ltd
- Beaulieu Model Flying Committee
- Bramshaw Golf Club
- British Driving Society
- British Horse Society
- Brockenhurst Parish Council
- Burley Villa School of Riding
- Commoners Defence Association
- Countryside Education Trust
- Denny Lodge Parish Council
- Disabled Ramblers
- East Boldre Parish Council
- East Sussex Cyclists' Touring Club
- Exbury Gardens
- Fawley Waterside
- Friends of Brockenhurst
- Go New Forest CIC
- Godshill Parish Council
- Hale Parish Council
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Hampshire Ornithological Society
- Hordle Parish Council
- Hyde Parish Council
- Hythe and Dibden Parish Council
- Minstead Parish Council
- Minstead Trust
- National Trust, New Forest
- Natural England
- Netley Marsh Parish Council
- New Forest Access Forum
- New Forest Activities
- New Forest Association
- New Forest Dog Owners Group
- New Forest Equestrian Association
- New Forest Equine Forum
- New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust
- New Forest Outdoor Centre
- New Forest Study Group
- New Forest Young Commoners
- New Milton Town Council
- Pokesdown Primary School
- Public Health, Hampshire County Council
- Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum
- Shared Forest
- Solent Radio Control Model Boat Club
- Solent Radio Controlled Model Yacht Club
- Test Valley Borough Council
- The Forest Rambling Club
- Verderers of the New Forest
- West Hampshire CCG Get Hampshire Walking Steering Group
- Whiteparish Parish Council

