

# New Forest Horse Keeping Workshop. 1 April 2009

## Workshop outputs

(Word for word what participants or  
facilitators wrote on the evening)

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## About the workshop and this report

### ▪ Purpose of the workshop

Draft policies in the consultation draft of the New Forest National Park Plan, have been controversial and caused a great deal of concern to the equine community and related business. The draft policy has also been a catalyst for equine organisations and other interested parties to bring to the fore a wide range of related concerns and issues.

This workshop involved representatives from a range of relevant organisations and interests to start the process of finding a way forward. (The attendee list is in the Annex)

This was the first of two workshops and so focused on opening up and exploring the context, benefits, and challenges. The workshop also included listing ideas and solutions for how the policy, and broader situation, could be improved. The second workshop will be looking to prioritise and refine ideas to bring about positive change.

### ▪ About this report.

During the workshop, the aim of the facilitators was to record in writing the essence of everything that was said or to collect the views of participants in other ways such as on post-its, maps, or diagrams.

Following the workshop all this has been typed up 'word for word', as it was written, and then sorted to aid understanding. This report follows the same order as the event.

### ▪ Why sort the outputs?

Conversations do not progress in a linear or logical fashion but go off at tangents, circle back and change direction suddenly. As a result, it can be very difficult to make sense of a discussion when it is reported in the sequence in which it happens and important themes and ideas can be obscured.

It is for this reason that the outputs of the workshops are sorted and grouped.

The sorting is done by seeing what themes emerge rather than to a predetermined set of titles. The ideas could have been grouped differently, or different titles chosen, so no weight should be attached to them.

### ▪ Using this report

Whilst this report serves as a record of what was discussed, and an *aide memoir* for those who took part in the workshop, it is recommended that it is not used as a means of communicating with non-participants without explaining the following:

- The aim of the workshop was to capture the range of views, perspectives, and understanding and all points were recorded whether or not they had wide agreement.
- Differences of view result from different values, experiences, perspectives, or from different sources of data and information. Where information or 'facts' were contested, we encouraged people to identify the kind of information that is needed, or the questions that need to be answered, to clarify the situation.
- We do our best to capture every point but sometimes the speed of the discussion means these can be quite cryptic in places.

- During the workshop, all points are noted but not attributed unless a participant references relevant reports, research, case examples, or other data. In these cases, the participant will have been asked for their participant number, which will have been assigned to them randomly to provide a degree of anonymity. Such points are referenced as follows eg: <12>.
- Since everything at the workshop is handwritten, it is sometimes difficult for the typist who may have to guess a word or spelling. Where there is a query the flip charts are checked again or technical terms checked with relevant experts. However if uncertainty remains, the word or phrase will be highlighted in grey.

Acronyms used in this report	Meaning
ADAS	Agricultural Development and Advisory Service
CDA	Commoners Defence Association
FC	Forestry Commission
NFEA	New Forest Equestrian Association
NFDC	New Forest District Council
NFPBCS	New Forest Pony Breeding & Cattle Society
NFPEC	New Forest Pony Enthusiasts Club
NFPPG	New Forest Pony Publicity Group
NPA	National Park Authority

# Horse Keeping Workshop Brockenhurst Village Hall

## Agenda

- 5:45
- Registration, coffee and tea will be available
  - Imagine it is 2020 and you are travelling around the New Forest delighted with what you see. What do you see? *Add your thoughts to those of others.*
- 6:00
- **Welcome** Leo Randall **National Park Authority Member**
  - **Facilitators introduction** Diana Pound **dialogue matters**
  - **Plan Preparation Process** Richard Lemon **Director of Strategy and Planning**

### Developing understanding

Benefits and challenges:

- What are the benefits of horses and horse keeping in the New Forest?
- What are the issues and challenges of horses and horse keeping in the New Forest?

Management:

- What is already working well to enhance the benefits of horses in the forest and reduce or overcome issues? How could this be strengthened or enhanced?

Information:

- In relation to horses and the New Forest, what are the current trends or changes?
- What information and data do you think is needed to make well informed decisions? (What information do you have that you could make available?)

### Tea and Coffee

### Improving the situation

- What suggestions or ideas do you have for positive approaches to horse keeping and horse based recreation?
- What are the risks of having a policy on horse keeping?
- What are the benefits of having a policy on horse keeping?/What would happen if there was no policy on horse keeping?
- What suggestions and ideas do you have for what a policy, and supporting text could be like?

### Wish list

- Out of everything that you have discussed this evening, what three things do you most want to happen?
- **What happens next**
- **Closing comments**

no later  
than 9:30

Finish

## 1 Imagine it is 2020 and you are travelling around the New Forest delighted with what you see. What do you see?

### **A working forest**

- A living Forest, work and play, economic activity
- Working Forest, not a tourist museum
- Forest nearly the same – working
- A working Forest with active commoners
- Working people (commoners, foresters etc)
- A working Forest
- Thriving local businesses
- A landscape that is well managed and retains a sense of “living, working and well-being” – i.e. not a fossilised, sterile environment
- Local business – farm shops, feed merchants

### **Commoning**

- Thriving commoning and small business community
- My grand daughters as commoners
- Commoning flourishing – animals peacefully grazing
- Commoning

### **Thriving villages**

- Plenty of economic activity in the villages
- Thriving local villages/communities

### **Appropriate development**

- No more demolishing of Forest cottages, which are then replaced by mansions.
- Occasional well developed and small settlements that reflect local character.

### **Peace and tranquillity**

- Peace, calm and serenity
- A quieter wilder place
- Good grazing, no litter, no urbanisation, peace and tranquillity

### **Unspoilt landscape**

- Horses grazing in open/unfenced/natural landscapes
- Wide open natural spaces
- Signage kept to a minimum
- Wide open spaces (with trees and plants a plenty)
- Unspoilt landscape – a minimum of development
- Unspoilt landscape

### **Natural habitats and wildlife**

- Abundant wildlife
- Evidence of natural countryside with minimal human intervention
- More lawn restoration (less scrub)
- More open forest habitats
- Beech and oak trees
- Ancient/semi-ancient woodland being allowed to support vibrant wildlife communities – both invertebrates and vertebrates
- Less destruction of trees at all, especially during the nesting season

### **Ponies, cattle and pigs**

- Ponies, cattle and other animals roaming freely
- Livestock
- Forest stock grazing freely
- Free running forest stock
- Plenty of animals, no fly-tipping
- Ponies, cattle, pigs, horse riders
- Ponies and cattle grazing
- Cattle, horses and pigs roaming free, but in appropriate conditions
- Commoning flourishing with good looking ponies and cattle with cow bells
- New Forest ponies and other animals grazing

- A high standard of horse welfare and appropriate facilities, well maintained

**Riders enjoying the Park**

- A Park that welcomes riders
- Riders enjoying the Forest as they have always done
- A Park that promotes riding
- Riders enjoying riding in the Park
- Recreational riders continuing to freely enjoy riding throughout the Forest
- Horse riders, dog walkers and carriage drivers in harmony
- Horse riding freely pursued

**People enjoying themselves**

- People, visitors and local enjoying the Forest
- People enjoying the Forest
- A landscape that provides inspiration and enjoyment to residents and visitors alike
- Somewhere I'd like to come back to
- People are looking relaxed and happy and there are no National Park signs

**Safer roads, lower speed limits**

- Less traffic and moving slowly
- Less traffic
- Lower speed limits enforced so as to prevent the carnage
- Single track roads restored with passing places
- Motorists that understand and respect the animals
- Better driver habits around ridden horses and de-pastured stock
- No dead animals as a result of RTAs

**Tidy and litter free**

- A litter free environment
- Forest as now, but no litter or fly-tipping
- No litter
- No litter
- More lawns and less rubbish
- Tidy, well looked after fields and properties, and no litter
- Small, well managed fields with well maintained hedges supporting stock or ponies/horses

**Much the same as now**

- Things are much the same as they are now
- The same as I see now
- I would like to see the Forest nearly the same as today
- The Forest as we know it today

**Other**

- Fair planning
- Not another Moors Valley Country Park

## 2 Developing understanding

### 2.1 What are the benefits of horses and horse keeping in the New Forest?

#### **Income and livelihoods**

- Provides a lot of revenue
- Creates many jobs
- Valuable part of economy – on par with tourism
- £15 million to economy <22>
- Supports vets, farriers, farmers etc
- Provides income / jobs
- Plays role in supporting rural crafts and skills (fencing etc) (and non-equine businesses)

#### **Develops skills and standards**

- Provides basis for commoners to learn their skills
- Develops centres of excellence (qualify vets etc)
- Promotes standards through good equine businesses e.g. vets / farriers
- Businesses take the lead in promoting standards and sharing good practice.
- Gives National Park an opportunity to advertise itself – as look after animals so well

#### **Sense of community**

- Crosses all social divides
- Social fabric
- Benefit to local community – social interaction.
  - clubs, groups, events, societies

#### **Character of the forest**

- Integral part of the forest
- Delight to see horses grazing in open unfenced landscape
- Is a tourist draw
- Important part of New Forest landscape.
  - Part of mixed farming landscape
  - enclosure remnants
- Cultural heritage – historic link i.e. commoners are also recreational horse keepers.
  - Unique to Forest – villages surrounded by commoning land.
- New Forest brand – image and identity

#### **Commoning**

- Links / assists with commoning
- Commoning stock → versatile pony → source of commoning stock.
- Absolutely fundamental
  - without stock no forest
  - interaction between commoners + recreational horse-keepers
  - benefits forest in terms of positive reputation – e.g. tourism
- No commoning, no stock → no commoning – circle
- Keep focusing on benefits of horses + not always enough on benefits of horse-keepers – underpins commoning.

#### **Recreation**

- One of fastest growing recreational activities (nationally not locally)
- Wonderful place to ride and train.
- New Forest offers excellent variety / opportunities for riding. Raises standards, promotes excellence especially in New Forest ponies

#### **Affordability**

- Makes more affordable – to keep at home more affordable than livery

#### **Personal and child development**

- Keeps children off streets – teaches children responsibility
- Brings enjoyment, pleasure, health benefits / physical, emotional and psychologically
- Disabled people – benefits
- Encourages children (and adults) to develop health and fitness (ECM). Every Child Matters

- Gov. policy.
- Livery (and DIY) support those who are less experienced.

#### **New Forest pony breed**

- Provides infrastructure that makes New Forest Pony so successful
- Vital part of conserving New Forest Pony breed

#### **Land use**

- Part of farm diversification
- No other economically viable use for small paddocks in and around the Forest.

#### **Environment and conservation**

- Ponies valuable conservation grazers – contribute to biodiversity
- Enables people to connect to environment around them and experience wildlife close-up (horses cause less disturbance)
  - continuous landscape
- Dung – wildlife associated
- Grazing, trampling, poaching provides habitats for other species
- Riding from home - reduced carbon footprint.

## **2.2 What are the issues and challenges of horses and horse keeping in the New Forest?**

#### **Grazing and practical horse keeping issues**

- Variable quality of grazing across seasons and locations
- Small areas restrict ability to rotate and rest
- Control of obnoxious weeds
- Impact of climate change on grazing, ability of land to support horses etc, content of grass (laminitis risk)
- Issues relate to horse-keeping across UK, not only New Forest.
  - Issues outside of open forest
  - Challenges of enclosed land not unique to New Forest
  - More horses on smaller amounts of land
  - Improved pastures i.e. fertilizer use and rich / improved grasses which are not necessarily suitable for horses → poor practice in sub-division
- Difficulty in obtaining broad-leaved weedkillers (because of increased regulation)
- Rubbish removal – can't take trailers to the tip
- Disposal of manure is an issue because of nitrate restrictions that are coming in
- Horse welfare issues are increasing e.g. allergies, infections, stereotypes e.g. crib-biting

#### **NPA and the horsekeeping policy**

- Bureaucracy – too many layers e.g. NPA on top of everything else
- Definition of recreational horse keeping
- Horse keepers are all extremely alarmed by horse keeping draft policy

#### **Changes in landscape**

- Changes in landscape from traditional use e.g. commoning to recreational / suburban (entrance gates, tarmac)
- Impact of 'boxing-in' – happening more in some areas, but no change in other areas

#### **Planning restrictions**

- Planning restraints for development potential. Effect equine industries

#### **Effects of housing development**

- Loss of land to housing development
- House-building proposals around National Park will increase pressure on the park e.g. to increase bogs to hold back water (Regional Spatial Strategy)

#### **Environmental issues**

- Erosion (? Evidence)
- Perception of over-grazing
  - more fragmented landscape
- Less hunting, therefore less erosion / riders

#### **Visual/aesthetic issues**

- Jumps – perceived as intrusive
- Electric tape - swop white for green

**Economic issues**

- Expensive field rent
  - effect economics of communing
- People keep horses to maintain livelihood
- So many external pressures e.g. from EU – e.g. – microchipping, vaccination against exotic diseases – all of these (and more) increase the commoners’ expenses and horse keepers’ expenses
- Financial pressure
- Price of foals is too low for commoning to be viable

**Where people ride**

- Having sufficient places to ride
  - sometimes hard to find ‘formal’ places to ride e.g. maneges
- ‘Formal areas’ / maneges can relieve pressure on Forest – more people now wanting to ride in schools / maneges.
- Less riding schools now
- More riders using tracks than open forest
- More ‘new’ recreational riders- ride shorter distances and repeated routes

**Rider safety**

- Road surfaces have become slippery and some tracks are very stony (inappropriate tarmac)
- Vastly increased traffic

**Conflict with other users/interests**

- Conflicts
  - riders and cyclists
  - riders and dog-walkers
  - drifts e.g. tourists, photographers
  - drifts not seen as recreational horse riding
  - riders + families

**People new to area**

- Attitudes of new residents
- More people without ‘understanding’ of the forest are trying to shape the future of the forest
  - lack of educational facilities
  - not part of Forest community
- National Park boundary – many traditional families now outside National Park and many villages now inhabited by incomers

**People new to horse owning**

- Challenge to educate people new to horse ownership and to also educate planners and other re horse keeping and needs of keepers within the New Forest

**Blaming**

- Recreational horse keepers blamed for everything
- Some disagreement on above point.

**2.3 What is already working well to enhance the benefits of horses in the forest and reduce or overcome issues? How could this be strengthened or enhanced?**

a) What is already working well?	b) How could it be enhanced?
<b>General</b>	
- Most things going well	
<b>Equestrian community</b>	
- Existing organisations are working well – NFPBCS, NFPEC, NFPPG, NFEA	

a) What is already working well?	b) How could it be enhanced?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lots of mutual support within the equestrian community</li> </ul>	
<b>Promotion of New Forest Ponies</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NFPPG has succeeded in spreading the market for pony sales, as is too local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Celebrate New Forest Pony as valuable export – local quality marque as a breed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recreational pony keeping underpins commoning, because a substantial proportion are sold to recreational owners locally</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good work with organisations promoting the New Forest breed and better quality and given Park free publicity. Need more communication with NPA. But remember other breeds.</li> </ul>	
<b>Pony welfare</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Majority of horses in forest are well looked after</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education (not restriction) needed to ensure even greater majority of horses are in good condition.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ponies are in better condition than in the past (e.g. 1970s) because of the Verderers, the CDA and the pony society (NFPBCS)</li> </ul>	
<b>Equestrian knowledge</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local equestrian community is extremely knowledgeable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NPA needs to take much more account of local equine knowledge and of commoners land management knowledge</li> <li>- NPA needs to listen to those people who matter and act upon what they say</li> <li>- Stop distinction between commoners and recreational equine community = one equine community</li> </ul>
<b>Policies and consultation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing levels of consultation</li> <li>- Are the current NFDC planning policies working well?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is a view that the policies are not working well</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NPA needs to extend consultation more and consult more with general public – talk to people out in Forest</li> <li>- Need for a positive policy that recognises socio-economic benefits of horse-keeping rather than a negative policy</li> </ul>
<b>Advice and codes of conduct</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landowner advice service has been well received (non-threatening)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landowner advice could be expanded to equine owners</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forestry Commission Codes worked well</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to develop code and extend more</li> <li>- Emphasis should be on education, spread of best practice and encouragement rather than legislation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tenancy agreements include conditions relating to landscape and land management</li> </ul>	
	Work with SCATS & other suppliers to encourage good practice - e.g. colour of rugs
<b>Grants and investment</b>	

a) What is already working well?	b) How could it be enhanced?
– Small grants (Leader +) funding eyesore removal, fencing etc	– Expansion of small grants
– Investment in off-forest facilities because reduces pressure on the forest	– More investment in off forest facilities - including indoor schools (don't exclude them)
– Commoners / Verderers Countryside Stewardship Scheme	
	– NFPPG needs more funding as is about to run out
<b>Environmental links</b>	
	– Opportunity to bring together scientists / ecologists with equine community – how horse keeping can benefit the natural habitats and wildlife
	– New Forest = very important habitat & equine community could embrace that
<b>Back-up grazing</b>	
	– A scheme to secure back up grazing

## 2.4 In relation to horses and the New Forest, what are the current trends or changes?

### More small plots

- Change of use of land so horses kept in small plots
- Change of use of agricultural land sold in small plots (national RICS Data)
- Farmland sold in e.g. 1 acre plots (nationally) eg Bramshaw parish – this is the biggest problem
- It is part of farm diversification - which is encouraged
- Horse keepers feel that getting the bad press, but it is land owners selling the small plots of land - what motivates / drives this? Finances, necessity?
- Land prices have increased dramatically

### Landscape effects

- Equestrian management techniques perceived as being more anti-social – landscape effects from horse keeping
  - fencing materials
  - fertilizers on grasses decreases biodiversity

### Loss of grazing land and livery

- Loss of grazing land generally
  - development pressure
  - building in paddocks of large houses
  - mowed by home owners rather than grazed
- houses used as weekend cottages so loss of grazing land

### Horse riding concentrated in few areas

- Closing the car parks means all horse boxes go to a few areas instead of spread out

### Other types of recreation use

- More mountain bikers – but not on bicycle routes
- More competition with other types of recreation and conflict

### Welfare issues

- Some horses at certain times of year have to be kept on small plots for welfare
- 7% horses at risk of laminitis
- Perception that fear of laminitis is a problem – from novice horse owners
- Keeping horses too intensively can be a welfare issue
- The number of depastured animals increased significantly over the last 5 years - this tends to

- fluctuate over time
- Horses welfare is more to the fore
- Slippery roads reduce the hacking life of the horse as non-slip nails are required and creates concussive injuries

**Safety**

- Road are less safe
  - widened by stealth - loss of non-skid down the side – more slippery – causes more accidents
  - speed
  - lack of respect
  - numbers of cars

**Loss of riding schools and livery yards**

- Riding schools are disappearing – nationally (700 nationally) 2 last year in NF
  - Used to be 3 riding schools in Burley in 1930, now one
  - There is hard data on the decline because you need a licence – data held by NFDC
- Inexperienced people keeping horses – new to horses – linked with closure of riding schools and costs of lessons
- Loss of livery places – if no land to rent and no livery where do you go?

**Changes in numbers of horses?**

- The number of shod horses maintained since 1994 ref grazing survey report - updated 2007 <16>
- Little or no measured increase in recreational horse keeping – 1994 → 2007 <13>

**Changes in numbers of people riding?**

- Nationally number of people riding has gone up – is this the same in New Forest?

**Change in types of horse and the effects**

- The type of horse kept – used to be for hunting and hacking
- Now much more competition horses that are bigger and do more poaching to small fields
- Fancy breeds so more fancy kit – have jumps – colours and clutter / stuff
- Change to bigger horses create more poaching on forest

**Changes in horse keepers**

- Has the demographic of horse owners changed?
- More single horse owners - Health & safety means riding school have to use safer 'boring' horses so people go off and get and go out on own horse
- Education is needed to advise new horse owners - codes eg PROGRESS Project aimed to reconcile conservation and recreation – produced a horse riding code. The project ran in then New Forest by Forestry Commission up to Christmas 2008
- Trend to ride more off the forest in controlled environment in maneges and fields not in the green forest

**Commoning economy**

- Verderers countryside stewardship scheme – now in last few years of it which has strengthened commoning
- Link between drop in market prices of ponies - more get put out on the forest

**New residents lack understanding**

- Demographic changes - new residents are less tolerant of horse riders and horse keepers – equestrians
- Urban dwellers moving to rural environment + not understanding / accepting rural life
  - Urbanites – changed and affects democracy – decisions that are made

**2.5 What information and data do you think is needed to make well informed decisions? (What information do you have that you could make available?)**

a) what information and data is needed?	b) What information have you got that you could make available
<b>Economic benefit</b>	
- How many horses are kept in the New Forest	-

a) what information and data is needed?	b) What information have you got that you could make available
that contribute to people's livelihoods.	
– Data on numbers of people employed directly and indirectly through horsekeeping.	–
– Data on the financial contribution horsekeeping (and commoning) makes to the local economy.	–
– Data/info on how to protect New Forest Pony and sustain strong local market.	–
<b>Social and health benefits</b>	
– Impact of horse keeping on youth work (clubs, groups etc).	–
– Quantify health benefits of horse riding.	–
<b>Horse ownership</b>	
– Accurate and up to date info on horse ownership to see trends over time.	–
– - could update study from 18 years ago.	
– Data on demographics of different types of horse owner.	–
<b>Distribution of horses</b>	
– Distribution of horses throughout the New Forest.	–
<b>Recreation patterns</b>	
– Where do riders go to ride? Pattern of recreational use among riders.	– Survey done about 18 years ago on riding habits, reasons for visiting New Forest – who? – The 1994 Report on recreational use of horses in the New Forest Heritage Area. – The 2007 update of the above report by DEFRA Verderer Pat Thorne
	– The 2005 Forestry Commission Progress New Forest Visitor Survey (tabulated results) – <a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/INFD-6TLKNY">www.forestry.gov.uk/INFD-6TLKNY</a>
<b>Data on landownership</b>	
– Landownership – private / estate / tenanted etc and how ownership patterns have changed.	–
<b>Land use</b>	
– Evidence of loss of back up land.	–
– - What is it? Where is it? If being lost why?	
– Data on loss of farms.	–
– Info/evidence on loss of back up grazing land in the Avon Valley (and other areas) and relation to gravel pits.	–
– Data on / reasons why land prices have increased within the New Forest.	–
– Info on demand for horse keeping land.	–
<b>Data to support policy</b>	

a) what information and data is needed?	b) What information have you got that you could make available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need info/data to quantify all statements in policy and supporting text.</li> <li>- Need to explore reasons behind the issues the Plan is trying to address.</li> </ul>	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence to support assertions of damage caused by horse keeping to enclosed land.</li> </ul>	-
<b>Erosion</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data and evidence of erosion caused by horse riding compared to that caused by other Forest users, including FC etc.</li> </ul>	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact of different forms of recreational use on the wildlife of the Forest.</li> </ul>	-
<b>Grazing</b>	
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data available on best grasses for grazing (Person 4).</li> <li>- The 1990 Report on Grazing by Richard Illingworth.</li> <li>- Nutrient Requirements for Horses, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, p 146 – 149</li> <li>- Fructan content in pasture grasses – J Graessler and U van Bastel, Landwirtschaftskammer, Hannover</li> <li>- Waltham Equine Research Digest – June 2006, Issue 2. Scientific output on laminitis.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data on densities of various horse and pony types linked to the biodiversity of the fields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity and Horse Grazing PhD - O’Beirne, Ranelagh, University of Cambridge 2001. (<i>Linked to point 4 in part (a) of this question</i>)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information on biodiversity and how to improve it on grazing land without incurring unnecessary restriction and financial burden.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- English Nature <i>Horses, grasslands and nature conservation leaflet</i> (2002)</li> </ul>
<b>Good practice</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examples of best practice from other National Parks and other areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surrey County Council is a particularly good example of positive advice and guidance to managing equestrianism. <a href="http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/horsepastureproject">www.surreycc.gov.uk/horsepastureproject</a></li> <li>- National Horse Strategy – British Horse Federation, environmental chapter.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information on different materials for hard standing.</li> </ul>	
<b>Audit existing data</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better understanding of what already exists and has been done over time. No need to recreate data already gathered.</li> </ul>	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Audit</u> of existing data – bring NPA up to date, bring data centrally and sharing.</li> </ul>	-
<b>Other sources of information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wide variety of data available from New Forest Pony Breeders Society (2)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Needs to be recognition of the local expertise relating to horsekeeping, commoning and land management</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses/pdfs/en-horse-industry-strategy.pdf">www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses/pdfs/en-horse-industry-strategy.pdf</a></li> </ul>	

**a) what information and data is needed?**

**b) What information have you got that you could make available**

- Farriers code of conduct – outlines facilities horse owners should provide for their farriers.

### 3 Improving the situation

For this part of the workshop, people were in four groups. Each group's work has been given a different colour font. When viewed in colour, this shows where each group made similar points in relation to the questions.

#### 3.1 What suggestions or ideas do you have for positive approaches to horse keeping and horse based recreation?

##### Work with equestrians and horse owners

- NPA work with horse keepers in issues such as landscape management.
- Must talk to local experts.
- Draw on expertise and knowledge of the local groups and local people in general.
- Recognition of expertise in area.
- Land owners and recreational horse keepers should be involved in preparing / giving this advice.

##### A regular forum

- Regular meetings of 'interest' groups to prevent high levels of angst building up.
- A forum of equestrian interest groups to take positive approach, to include commoners, riders, Forestry Commission, NPA – to improve relationships and aid communication.

##### Equine expertise in the NPA

- Does the NPA have an experienced equine rep? This may be helpful – if they are sufficiently knowledgeable – local knowledge.
- NPA employ officer with local equestrian background to provide info, advice and support.
- Planning authority to employ staff aware of correct horse-keeping procedures and needs.
- Equestrian education for planners.

##### NPA to take a positive approach

- Need to develop a strategy that encourages good equestrian activity / responsible horse ownership.
- Need to recognise the benefit that keeping horses make to the character of the Forest.
- Recognition that miss-management by horse keepers represents a tiny minority.
- Encouragement, non-confrontation.
- NPA use terminology that doesn't get people's backs up:
  - - Recreational riders X
  - - Pony keeping X
  - - Horse keeping X
  - - Horse riding X
  - - Riding ✓
  - - Horseback riding X
- National Park Authority needs to get rid of 'romantic' ideas and have a more practical and pragmatic approach to horse management.

##### Guidance /standards tailored to the unique context of the New Forest

- Guidance must be practical and based on conditions and context of the New Forest – not brought in from elsewhere: e.g. soils, carrying capacity, suitable standards / density for specific areas within the forest.
- Practical – based on how horses are actually kept – e.g. horses not turned out 24/7. – ie relevant to the variety and diversity of types / ways of keeping horses.
- There are welfare issues in the Forest.
- Create standards of horse keeping for New Forest wide and then tailor information for specific areas.
- Even how horses are shod varies across the country depending on soil types and surfaces.
- Better guidance on good practice for managing land for horse welfare and management of the land for biodiversity.
- Positive publicity and educational materials - available in feed merchants etc.

##### Resources that could help inform tailored guidance

- Blue Cross – Fat Horse Slim - gives welfare advice across the UK - Can this be tailored to the New Forest? - Welfare issues are also key to any guidance.
- Produce resource similar to Surrey County Council's positive approach and website.
- Education e.g. Surrey Council website has page on horse-keeping with info on construction of stables, fencing, classifieds, etc.

#### **Support to encourage good practice**

- Land management advice supported by small grants to implement improvements.
- Project based exercises where horse keepers can be involved in Forest based funding activities – to encourage ownership.
- Support for livery yards – may include farm diversification and DIY.

#### **Research**

- Explore differences in how land management and grass species can impact welfare building on scientific evidence and papers and apply it: e.g. pony grazing open forest compared to horse keeping on small plots and laminitis fears
- Better understanding of future riding trends, increase in riding in manege etc. And future demand.

#### **Utilising existing organisations**

- Rather than imposing from above, need to establish joint working amongst existing bodies and use existing information and opportunity e.g. BHS certificate, Pony Club – if everyone were a member of these there wouldn't be a problem.
- Leaflet to encourage people to become involved in existing organisations.

#### **Promote riding**

- If want to increase the number of riders (e.g. Government Agenda) need to increase positive promotion.

#### **Demonstrations centres and education**

- Working 'village' (or centre) where can see equestrian related crafts and provide education/information/training in good practice:
  - The New Forest Show is the best for rural industry and crafts – would be good for people to see it all year round
- Educational facilities – centres of excellence:
  - equestrian – safety, keeping, etc
- 'Model' demonstration farms, yards, stables, etc.
- Look for and identify good practice.
- More support from colleges / educational institutes on formal course based on ordinary horse owners, or potential owners.

#### **Information on where to ride**

- Have recognised routes for riding?
  - documented and signposted
  - but sign posting – already too much/many
  - and part of the value of the area is open use of the forest
  - bridleways would have to be maintained – so would not be cost effective
- Grid refs on gates.
- Better information provisions – drift dates, restrictions from Forestry Commission etc.
- Internet system to report things seen on Forest – clayholes etc.

#### **Better planning and shared use of manege facilities**

- All weather surfaces constructed: - e.g. on equestrian properties – can be done in a way that is not intrusive visually and reduces pressure on the Forest.
  - its not excluded by policy - the issue is about locating them in appropriate places.
  - would it reduce pressure because different people prefer different ways of riding?
  - but there us also schooling on Forest itself
  - share private arenas?
- For shared maneges provide funding schemes – DIY / full livery can provide facility for others.
- Remove conditions of planning to allow shared manege use – in a non-commercial capacity.
- Shared / communal schools (maneges).
- Encourage multi-use of facilities etc.

#### **Planning**

- Planning consent for structures that aid tidiness.
- Planning needs to look at giving permission for stables with electric, water, concrete floors

(not just shelters) positioned well (unobtrusively), with more maneges (which can be used as a turnout paddock in winter which saves land and is a training facility to save use of open forest).

#### **Maintenance of tracks**

- If erosion perceived as problem then maintenance needs to address e.g. tracks / areas close to yards.
- Track repaired quickly following forestry.
- If tracks maintained quickly, new tracks won't be formed to avoid damaged areas.
- Move areas available = less wear on open forest.
- Celebrations of historical importance of horse-keeping and breeding in the New Forest.
- Examples or regular suppliers of rustic style equestrian furniture.

#### **Tape amnesty**

- Tape amnesties – green for white etc.

### **3.2 What are the risks of having a policy on horse keeping?**

#### **Too negative an approach**

- You cannot pull a horse – you encourage it to go forward – it's the same with this.
- Encouragement and positive approach needed.
- Tendency to rely on the policy to address issue rather than using other methods – advice etc.
- Can be too negative. Presumption is usually against.

#### **Difficulties implementing and enforcing**

- Ensuring compliance is difficult and costly.
- There's a risk the policy is so complicated that it won't work.
- Better to have no policy than a policy that doesn't work:- e.g. horse transport policy dictates that animals must be on long enough tie that they can lie down, but if you do, they can die.
- More bureaucracy.
- Policing a policy may be difficult.
- May create unmanageable workload – increase in planning applications etc.
- Policing (fairly) of policy.
- Policy may never be attainable – may be unrealistic.

#### **Welfare issues**

- Policy wording could cause welfare issues e.g. grazing and laminitis, feeding, rugging, acorn poisoning.
- May introduce animal welfare issues.

#### **Difficulty of drafting a policy that is neither too restrictive nor too open to interpretation**

- Policies can be over interpreted long after the event: application can be quite different 10 years down the line – get unintended effects - a change in personnel can lead to different interpretation.
- Need a balance and flexibility - but then it requires interpretation with the associated problems - but the alternative is that it is too prescriptive
- Restrictive of what you are able to do as a horse owner.
- If policy is not reviewed won't meet needs over time.
- Good practice changes so policy would go out of date – need relevant, up to date advice.
- Policy would need to be flexible e.g. pony needs are different from horses.
- Can be too open-ended and open to variety of interpretations - can be too generalised.

or

- Policy can be too rigid and lacking flexibility - Policy might be too prescriptive
- Can give 'black and white' picture.
- Policies can become a straight-jacket.

#### **Equity**

- Difficult to formulate a fair policy given so much variety in horse types and ways of keeping them.
- Policy is focused on particular part of horse community – not new riders and not encouraging non riders.
- Alienation of certain types of owner.
- Can be divisive e.g. allowing stables for some situations but not others.
- Create division among recreational riders and commoners.

- Difficult to have policy that effectively addresses diverse situations – risk of over simplification.

#### **Knock-on effects for character and economy of forest**

- If policy leads to people opting out of keeping horses, the whole Forest infrastructure would disappear.
- Ponies are a tourist attraction so policy can't threaten tourism.
- No ponies, and the forest isn't grazed so lose the character.
- **Conflict of policy:** - if reduced horse population would conflict for promoting small business
- **Planning will encourage people to get rid of horses because of:**
  - no flexibility in plans
  - restrictive policies will restrict no of people able to ride
  - goes against traditions
  - property with planning permission will increase in value
- May cause decline of New Forest pony – CF Dartmoor / Exmoor because of local market slow down → historical side and impact on commoners.
- May lead to a reduction in equestrian tourism.
- If a policy reduced the horse-keeping what else would land be used for?
- **Needs sustainable activities.**
- **The risk is that policies are too people centric and don't take account of the other parts of nature.**

#### **Lack of expertise in policy-makers**

- Policy writers don't understand the subject – should use local knowledge.
- Policy can be formulated by someone without equestrian knowledge.
- Policies can be based on perceived issues:
  - are issues real?
  - will policy solve issues?

### **3.3 What are the benefits of having a policy on horse keeping?/What would happen if there was no policy on horse keeping?**

**NB several of the groups made it clear that their responses were based on there being a positive, well-written, fair and consistent policy**

#### **Support traditional culture**

- A policy could help support traditional forest culture i.e. equestrian activity.
- **More people able to access horse riding.**

#### **Promote Safety**

- Policy could make first-time horse ownership safe for owner, pedestrians, etc. all round.

#### **Appropriate development**

- **Policy – could incentivise appropriate development e.g. horse shelter using local materials.**
- **Policy can be enabling as well as restrictive.**
- **Give control over design.**
- **Lack of policy could mean blanket ban on development or horse keeping etc.**

#### **Landscape and biodiversity**

- **Policy helps to conserve and enhance, protect the countryside for its own sake:**
- **No policy - visual impacts.**
- **Will protect landscape.**
- **Landscape, biodiversity trashed with no policies.**
- **Policy could promote greater biodiversity through improved land management.**
- **Policy could recognise fragility of some areas and robust nature of other areas. No policy could leave negative effects.**

#### **Prevent unwanted changes in land use**

- **Deal with land fragmentation.**
- **With no policy - could be open season on all land in forest (agricultural / farmland).**

#### **Encourage good practice**

- **Can positively recognise current management practices.**
- **Helps maintain standards.**

- Policy is opportunity to control poor practice.
- Over-enthusiasm – overdoing stocking, especially when just starting if no policy.
- Inappropriate or no enforcement if no policy.
- Improved education for minority of horse keepers who need help.

#### **Welfare**

- Improved welfare issues.
- No policy - welfare issues.
- Poor welfare with no policies.

#### **Transparency, fairness and process**

- Provides objectivity and consistency to help decision makers.
- Transparency.
- Informs people.
- Makes a subjective decision objective if it is evidence based.
- Market forces would prevail without a policy.
- Anarchy and chaos without a policy!
- Accusations of nepotism and favouritism with no policy.
- More conflict with no policy.
- Nothing to judge things against – benchmarks – if there is no policy.
- Difficult to plan with no planning policies.
- People know where they are – protects everyone and environment.
- Everyone knows where they stand.
- Removes uncertainty.
- Fairness – relieve pressure on forest.
- Continuity across boundary e.g. electric tape.
- No policy - lack of clarity, definition, ambiguity, uncertainty.
- Inconsistent application:- different cases dealt with differently as no criteria to judge against if no policy
- Provides sound basis for enforcement.
- Financially viable – one fee for planning (including biodiversity / change of use).

#### **Coordination and communication**

- Policy could lead to more coordination.
- NPA equine rep could meet regularly with all existing organisations to update information available to equine community and tourists (the policy could put this in place).
- Let the equine expert write the strategy on behalf on the NPA, based on discussion with local experts.
- Policy could enable appropriate feedback to NPA to inform its overall aims.
  - Nothing here conflicts with the secondary aim of the National Park, or with the primary aim.
- Policy process has helped bring out the debate and beneficial.

#### **Planning system**

- Planning system in UK valuable – elsewhere countryside is degraded.
- Can bring a local flavour to a national policy.

#### **Protection against inappropriate development**

- Guard against worst excesses - need robust policy to address worst problems and inappropriate development
- Prevents people proposing inappropriate development.
- Policy could help mitigate the impact of all the extra housing development (Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East).

#### **Benefit to business and organisations**

- Can help to plan your business.
- Policy could support farmers diversifying to ensure certain standards.
- Could support the existing organisations.

#### **Existing policy**

- Existing policy by NFDC not caused problems so why not go back to that?
  - doesn't have the level of detail
- If the policy works (is fair and consistent).

#### **Need for a policy?**

- With no policy, development could still be by general development policies within plan.

### 3.4 What suggestions and ideas do you have for what a policy, and supporting text could be like?

#### **NPA take notice of tonight**

- Want to see that the NPA has taken notice of what's been said tonight.

#### **Positive approach**

- Should be encouraging and supportive of good practice – not too restrictive and not dictatorial.
- Framed as what you can do rather than what you can't do – which would also help improve the relationship.
- Say will be permitted provided that...
- More positive approach with positive guidance and encouragement.
- Policies to be proud of.
- Presumption in favour of development.
- Presumption in favour of horse-keeping.
- Encouraging.
- Leading and supportive – continuous improvement to enable National Park to become centre of excellence.
- Fair fact based / Evidence - positively phrased rather than negatively.

#### **Tone**

- Respectful in tone so when people read it it is respectful to them.
- Non-confrontational (NICE).

#### **Reflecting local needs**

- Needs to reflect local landscape, character and history in the view of the local community, not just the NPA – not just any old policy.
- Take account of the fact the forest is a working forest – not just a tourist haven.
- Needs to find balance between needs of users.
- Shouldn't be prohibitive to commoning.
- Locally focused.

#### **Formulated with input from equestrian community**

- Should be formulated with consultation by relevant groups.
- Written by people that know the subject.
- Policy that whole equestrian community subscribe to.
- A plan for the National Park by the residents.

#### **NPA representative with relevant knowledge**

- Policy should be developed, guided and reviewed by experts. Experts are: NPA rep, who meets regularly with existing Forest equine organisations. NPA rep then disseminates info from meetings to all individual horse owners. NPA rep - critical that knowledgeable people draft job description, person spec and involved in interview and their annual appraisal.

#### **Clear and easy to understand**

- Plain English, no jargon, acronyms unexplained.
- Short.
- Clear layout.
- General policy statement that is broken down into specifics.
- Plain English.
- Easy to understand.
- Easy to read.
- Short and to the point.
- Cut the jargon.

#### **Realistic policy**

- Needs to be enforceable.
- Sets out a clear framework.
- Application process 'doable' by horse – keepers.
- Policy that doesn't require obtaining too many independent reports.
- Policy and the planning application process not to be unrealistic or financially prohibitive. Must be proportionate to proposed development (biodiversity surveys etc)

**Clear guidance**

- Supplementary guidance – but not in the policy itself.
- Guidance for developing clarity.
- Guidance that backs up policy:
  - workable
  - involve opinions of those affected
  - positive
  - aspirational towards better standards
  - educative
- Guidance supported by images of good practices:
  - maybe photos
  - maybe sketches
- Realistic examples of preferences (e.g. fencing).

**Complements/supports other policy**

- Doesn't contradict other Government policies, e.g. DEFRA.
- Supports National Horse Industry Strategy (aim 6).

**Evidence-based**

- Should be evidence based (sound and updated).
- Should have high degree of objectivity.
- Stick to one or two things that are easily defined and none subjective. Supported by really good planning guidance.

**Forward-looking and adaptive**

- Forward looking and far reaching – adapting to new learning – we learn from listening so need to be reviewed and adapt.
- Should not be retrospective.

**Comprehensive?**

- Comprehensive.
- One that covers all different aspects of horse keepers.
- Better consideration of animal welfare.

**Use NFDC policy?**

- Adopt the existing NFDC policy in the new plan.
- NFDC Local Plan policy has less detail so doesn't list key indicators. It's simple and concise.
- Are indicators helpful?
  - are they too restrictive or perceived as too restrictive?

**Interpretation?**

- A level of interpretation needed – spirit of policy not letter.
- - But wording can come back and 'bite you' later.

## 4 Wish list

### 4.1 Out of everything that you have discussed this evening, what three things do you most want to happen?

#### NPA have a positive approach towards equestrians

##### Positive approach to equestrian community

- A cohesive, informed, pro-active, supportive and encouraging approach to equestrianism in the New Forest.
- That horse keepers feel supported, enabled and empowered, not the reverse

##### Recognition of the benefits of horses in the New Forest

- Recognition of the positive aspects of recreational horse keeping in the wider areas of employment and social well-being.
- That the NPA recognises and celebrates the cultural heritage and historical of horsekeeping and breeding in the New Forest and takes this as the starting point.
- Recognise the importance of horse riding in the area and reassure the equestrian community.
- The NPA to recognise that equestrian activity is essential to maintaining the Forest and it is under pressure from urban encroachment, physically and culturally.
- Horse riding being promoted and encouraged by the NPA as a healthy, inclusive activity.
- People wanting to come to the New Forest to ride because of excellent facilities.

##### NPA learns and develops knowledge of equine subjects

- NPA to be more approachable and knowledgeable of equine subjects.
- That the NPA recognise the scope and variety of EXISTING equine policy and encourage membership of EXISTING equine organisations.

#### Ongoing dialogue to develop the policy

##### Local knowledge and expertise

- A policy drawn up with the active co-operation of knowledgeable local people.
- People who work and live in the Forest to be part of policy making.
- NPA must communicate with residents and local organisations making use of their expertise and knowledge which has shaped the Forest.
- That the NPA uses local expertise to inform policy.

##### Understanding of different perspectives

- Understanding of respective and differing positions.

##### Continuing dialogue

- Further consultation on any revisions to the horse keeping policy.
- Consultation on planning policies at initial draft and additional working up stages.
- Open meetings
- Continuing dialogue.

##### Building consensus

- A policy which unites rather than divides the local community to which they all subscribe.
- Consensus on a policy that supports positive horse keeping but also provides a control mechanism for poor practice.
- A move towards consensus on appropriate revisions
- Consideration given to the full range of opinions, recognising that there is not always and absolute answer.

#### The Policy

##### Policy review

- Complete redraft of the recreational horse document to return to the planning policies of NFDC.
- DC12, 13 and 14 re-written and unfair conditions removed.

##### Positive Policy

- That the NPA comes up with supportive and enlightened policies recognising the expertise in

- the area, and becomes recognised as a centre of excellence.
- Positive approach to policy (not negative)
- A clear policy emphasising the positive aspects of horse keeping and riding, based on facts.
- A policy that encourages equestrian activity, not discourages.
- A policy that seeks to encourage responsible equestrianism.
- A policy that recognises the importance of recreational horse keeping in the New Forest.
- A policy with presumption in favour of development subject to any necessary caveats

#### **Clarity of policy**

- Easy to read document.
- Absolute clarity of definitions – what is a recreational horse keeper versus a landowner who grazes horses, makes hay and ride.

#### **Retrospective planning**

- Not retrospective.
- Clarity about the situation vis-à-vis retrospective planning. The difference in value between agricultural use land and horse – recreation keeping land is huge. Will everyone have to have a ‘Certificate of Use’ at the point of scale?

#### **Consistency of approach**

- All recreation should be suited to the New Forest. Any inappropriate recreation should be directed elsewhere.

#### **Policy implementation**

- To get the policy up and running.

### **Actions**

#### **Take action**

- ACT on what has been talked about tonight.
- NPA to listen and act on all the comments that have been made tonight.

#### **Set up an equestrian forum**

- National Park continues to support a forum like this for different horse/pony interest groups to discuss issues.
- Set up a permanent consultative group like this one.
- Formulation of a “broad church” equestrian consultation forum.
- Regular meetings with NPA equine rep.
- Bona fide commoners included.

#### **Develop a shared evidence base to inform decisions**

- A landscape survey to determine where horse keeping can be encouraged and where it may be detrimental.
- Evidence base for policy.
- Less reliance on data that is not relevant to how recreational horses are actually kept.

#### **Promote a working Forest**

- To find a way forward that will benefit the Forest, the Forest community for generations to come. Where businesses will be sustained, walking dogs, riding horses, cycling etc can be maintained AND planners should stop living in small narrow minded boxes. Conservation and day to day living can and have worked together for generations.
- Recognise that it is a working Forest and must be protected as such as allowed to work.

#### **Appoint a specialist/experienced equine Rep to NPA**

- NPA advisors on policy.
- NPA to use their equine rep to meet regularly with the local equine experts.
- An experienced NPA equine rep to be appointed.
- Appointed equestrian knowledgeable advisor(s) to advise horse owners re. management, also planners!
- NPA to employ an equine expert from the New Forest and proper dialogue to take place and notice taken for foresters.
- That the NPA appoint an experienced equine rep that meets regularly with existing New Forest equine organisations.

#### **Funding**

- Funds to support positive initiatives: tape amnesty; hedge planting; rustic paddock furniture.
- To try and create more finance.

#### **Elected personnel**

- Elected personnel on National Park management.
- Democratically elected policy makers.

**Alternatives / solutions**

- Look at further opportunities to enhance and develop off-Forest riding.
- Give consideration to DIY yards instead of owners buying very small acreage to manage their horses on and livery yards to provide employment opportunities in the New Forest.
- Per headage rate be increased to at least 1.5 acres, preferably 2 acres for horses living 24/7 on the land.
- See interest groups advocate the use of dark coloured electric fence materials.

**Develop good practiced guidance tailored to the New Forest**

- Guidance on good practice for horse grazing.
- Co-ordination and dissemination of best practice guidance.
- Advice on good practice (fencing, stable design, hedges etc).
- Animal welfare paramount.

**Extend/Set up an advice service**

- Extend landowners advice service to include recreational horse keepers.

**Meeting between ecologists and horse groups**

- Organise meetings between horse groups and ecologists / those with expertise in managing land to minimise impacts on landscape and biodiversity.

**Encourage viability**

- That the equestrian community continues to be viable
- Commoners foals fetching their true worth.

**Other comments**

- I should love to see the cowbells back.
- That the Forest remains much as it has been and is not swamped.

## 5 Short term Actions following the workshop

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
NPA	Type up meeting notes	By Tuesday 14 April 2009
Diana	Sorting out	By Wednesday 22 April 2009
All	Next meeting	Wednesday 29 April 2009
Diana	Agenda	Wednesday 22 April 2009
?	Draft alternative policies	?

## Annex 1 List of Attendees

	Name	Trust	Role
1.	Alex Chalmers	Farrier	
2.	Alison Russell	British Horse Society	
3.	Anne Moulard	British Driving Society	
4.	Chris Aldhous	New Forest Equestrian Association	
5.	Chris Marshallsay	Livery yard owner	
6.	Clive Maton	NPA Member	
7.	David Illsley	NPA Planning Policy Officer	
8.	Dionis MacNair	Verderers of the New Forest	
9.	Eve Gillmon	New Forest Association	
10.	Fiona MacDonald	Vet	
11.	Frances Clayton	SEEDA Equestrian Sector Champion	
12.	Geoff Fairfoull	ADAS	
13.	Graham Ferris	New Forest Equestrian Association	
14.	James Young	New Forest Commoners Defence Association	
15.	Jane Murray	New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society	
16.	Jeff Clarke	NPA Interim Head of Policy & Plans	
17.	Jennifer Dixon-Clegg	The Fortune Centre for Riding Therapy	
18.	John Durnel	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	
19.	John Pemberton	NPA Member	
20.	Kathy Heron	NPA Member	
21.	Katrina Brown	SEEDA Equestrian Sector Champion	
22.	Leo Randall	NPA Member	
23.	Mark Weston	British Horse Society	
24.	Pat Thorne	Verderers of the New Forest	
25.	Rachel Green	Natural England	
26.	Richard Lemon	NPA Director of Strategy & Planning	
27.	Shirley Young	New Forest Pony Publicity Group	
28.	Steve Avery	NPA Head of Development Control	
29.	Steve Kitcher	New Forest Equine Directory	
30.	Sue Bennison	Bramshaw Parish Council	
31.	Suzanne Kemp	New Forest Pony Enthusiasts Riding Club	
32.	Tessa Johnstone	British Driving Society	
33.	Tina Cant	Forest Uprising Group	
34.	Vicky Bignall	Forest Uprising Group	

### Others

1.	Diana Pound	dialogue matters	
2.	Lisa Chilton	dialogue matters	
3.	Claire Gingell	New Forest National Park Authority	Facilitator
4.	Saira Evans	New Forest National Park Authority	Facilitator