

Membership of the New Forest Access Forum 2006/2007

Forum member

Cllr Nigel Clarke
Olive Collins
Ruth Croker
John Cropp
Sam Dovey
Alastair Duncan (vice chair)
Gordon Garrett
Cllr Kathy Heron
Wendy Hughes
Sir Edward Hulse (until June 2006)
Peter Maltby (until March 2007)
Chris Marshallsay
Roger Neath
Rachel Pearson
Richard Reeves (until March 2007)
Bruce Rothnie
Ann Sevier (chair)
Peter Walsh

Representing

Hampshire County Council
Disability
Walking
Dog Walking
Farming
Volunteering
Horse Riding
New Forest National Park Authority
Education
Land Management
Camping and Caravanning
Local Business (Equestrian)
Tourism
Land Management
Nature Conservation
Land Management
Commoning
Cycling

All members can be contacted via the Forum Secretary on telephone: 01590 646665
email: access.forum@newforestnpa.gov.uk

or write to the Forum at:

**New Forest Access Forum
South Efford House
Milford Road
Lymington
SO41 0JD**



More information and all papers relating to the Forum can be found on the New Forest National Park Authority's website www.newforestnpa.gov.uk.
Select *Looking After* and then *New Forest Access Forum*.

All Forum meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak at a meeting, please contact the Forum Secretary at least two weeks in advance.

The New Forest Access Forum is the Local Access Forum for the New Forest National Park and Southwest Hampshire, and is a requirement under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.



**NEW FOREST
ACCESS FORUM
Annual Report
2006-2007**



Hampshire
County Council



NEW FOREST
NATIONAL PARK

Year Of Transition

The establishment of the New Forest National Park Authority in April 2006 led to a change from us being a sub-group of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum to becoming an independent Forum for the New Forest.

The geographical area we cover is the whole of the National Park, which includes parts of some Wiltshire parishes, and the South West Hampshire areas of the Waterside, Western Downlands and the Avon Valley.

The aim of the Forum is to provide guidance on and to contribute towards improving opportunities for everyone to enjoy the countryside and the coastal area.

The Forum is a team of local people who use their excellent knowledge to inform and support the recommendations. This annual report contains information about our past year's work and subjects for the coming year.

We look forward to working with all the local authorities, parishes, voluntary bodies and neighbouring Forums to improve the enjoyment of this very special area by local people and visitors.

*Ann Sevier
Chair*

What is the New Forest Access Forum?

The Forum is a Local Access Forum established and administered by the New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It is an independent body, the primary purpose of which is to advise on how to make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open air recreation in ways that take account of the needs of wildlife and enable land managers to make good use of their land.

What have we done this year?

This year we held four formal, public meetings and we ran a Workshop to look at access to the countryside from the urban fringe on the Waterside (the eastern part of our area). Representatives from local parish councils, countryside user groups, and land owners attended the Workshop and helped us make suggestions about how the local access provision could be improved and extended.

We commented on Hampshire County Council's Countryside Access Plan for the New Forest and Southwest Hampshire.

We contributed to the National Park Authority's consultation on the special qualities of the New Forest. We welcome the Authority's decision to act on our recommendation that there should be better provision of information about the easily accessible countryside in the area.

We formally responded to Government consultations on diversity, on Access Forum Regulations, and on regulating the new power for National Park Authorities to make Traffic Regulation Orders.

We set up sub-groups to look into diversity, signage of cycling routes and coastal access. We also participated in a task group set up to look at Hampshire County Council's policy for managing vehicles in the countryside, and sat on a panel to administer small grants for access improvements.

We feel it is important to maintain close contact with our neighbouring Forums. One of our members attends each of the meetings of all our immediate neighbours in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset, and we encourage members of these Forums to attend our meetings.

What are our plans for next year?

We will be working closely with the National Park Authority on the development of its Recreation Management Strategy. This will be a key document for the Authority as it enters its second year of operation.

Our coastal access sub-group will be examining the expected Government consultation on access to the English coastline, and we hope to be involved in any implementation procedure that may follow.

The final rights of way improvement plans are expected from both Hampshire and Wiltshire County Councils. We are looking forward to involvement with their progression and delivery.

We will be holding our second Workshop event. This year the Workshop will be in our northern area, and we hope to produce some innovative solutions for the improvement of local access.

