

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 28 JUNE 2007**

**NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL REPORT  
Summary of the meeting on Thursday 10 May 2007**

**Report by:** Stephen Trotter, Director of Conservation, Recreation and Sustainable Development

**Summary:**

This report outlines the main issues discussed by the Consultative Panel on 10 May 2007.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. To note issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 10 May 2007.**
- 2. To note that the date of the next Panel meeting is Thursday 5 July 2007.**

**Resources:**

None

**Paper:**

NFNPA 195/07: Cover paper

**Contact:**

David Stone  
Tel: 01590 646645  
Email: [david.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:david.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk)



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**Main agenda items:**

**1 Matters Arising**

**Panel representation on the Open Forest Advisory Committee**

The Panel agreed to appoint Eddie Holtham (Fawley Parish Council) as one of its two representatives on the Forestry Commission's Open Forest Advisory Committee to replace Martin Westlake (Fordingbridge Town Council) who was retiring from the Panel. This Committee enables the Forestry Commission to consult on and seek advice on management of the Open Forest and represents a key interface between the Forestry Commission and various groups including commoners, conservation bodies and the statutory bodies.

**2 Forestry Commission**

Mike Seddon (Forestry Commission) gave a presentation on the Forestry Commission's programme of removing inclosure fences over the last five years and in the future. The intention was that stock should be allowed to graze certain areas that had previously been enclosed; some areas would thus be returned to heathland and others would be open woodland. Whilst supporting the Forestry Commission's programme, the Panel discussed the effect of removing fences on commoners (who often used fences to herd ponies during the annual drifts), woodland management, and the conservation of particular species, such as butterflies.

**3 Conservation of butterflies and moths in the New Forest**

Dr Dan Hoare of Butterfly Conservation gave a presentation on the conservation of butterflies and moths. The debate on forestry management and grazing was very relevant to the conservation of butterflies and moths. He explained that the statistics gathered for butterflies and moths were very useful indicators of general biodiversity

in the area, and in particular of the conditions for other invertebrates (which were not so well recorded).

Dr Hoare said he hoped that Butterfly Conservation would be working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority in developing its Biodiversity Action Plan and with the Forestry Commission to advise on management.

**4 New Forest Hampshire Action Team (Hat) – who it is and what it does**

Sian Campbell of Hampshire Action Team (HAT) and Councillor Nigel Clarke (Ringwood Town Council and Chairman of New Forest HAT) gave a presentation, explaining that the organisation was created to identify, consider and make recommendations concerning issues which might influence or improve Hampshire County Council's services.

**5 Update on the Recreation Management Strategy for the National Park**

Jeff Haynes (New Forest National Park Authority) explained that information arising from the informal consultations on a recreation management strategy was being evaluated. National Park Authority members had held a first informal discussion on recreation issues; the Project Board had held its first meeting and the first meeting of a Key Stakeholder Advisory Group was likely to be held the following month. Consultants had been appointed to take forward the formal consultation exercise starting this summer. Through this the National Park Authority hoped to gain a deeper understanding of stakeholders' views and identification of issues to be addressed.

He then briefly outlined the process leading to adoption of the strategy.

**Recommendations:**

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