

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY MEETING – 17 JANUARY 2019**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Report by: Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

Summary:

This report covers the period since the Authority meeting on 11 October 2018. The report has been formatted to accord with the 'Protect, Enjoy, Prosper and Achieving Excellence' themes from the 2018-21 Business Plan, summarised below:

Protect	Enjoy	Prosper
<p>Our priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and growing the natural capital across the National park Landscape, connecting with surrounding areas to ensure habitats and wildlife are sustainable. Ensuring new development is sympathetic and in keeping with the National Park, promoting high quality design and environmental net gain. Conserving the historic and built heritage; supporting local culture with continued focus on commoning. 	<p>Our priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping more people to understand and value the things that make the New Forest National Park unique and special. Enabling high quality and beneficial experiences of the National Park. Facilitating a partnership approach to managing recreation to achieve a net gain for both the working and natural landscape as well as for the recreational experience. 	<p>Our priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting a distinctive and prosperous local economy where natural capital is an integral component of doing business. Promoting connectivity across the National Park through sustainable transport and information and communication technologies. Supporting the social wellbeing and sustainability of New Forest Communities.
Achieving Excellence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining and enhancing a capable, motivated team that delivers high quality service. Championing the National Park and brokering partnership to achieve collaboration for the benefit of the New Forest and its communities Identifying new resources and using them alongside our existing resources, effectively and efficiently. 		

Recommendation:
To note the report

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Equality & Diversity Implications:

There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.

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The last quarter of 2018 has been critical to the progress of important plans to secure the future of the Forest's landscape and wildlife. The Local Plan Examination in November was a significant milestone, with hearing sessions covering 14 matters and involving 25 participants. The Inspectors have already confirmed our compliance with the 'duty to cooperate', one of the key legal tests for the plan and officers are dealing with outstanding issues raised including allocation of the Ashurst Hospital site.

Just before Christmas, our planning team was also notified that the Lyndhurst Park Hotel appeal will no longer take place as it has been withdrawn by Pegasus Life and we are now looking to recover those costs.

We worked closely with the commoning community to promote the safe driving campaign #add3minutes that is currently touring around the Forest using striking animal silhouettes that highlight the number of animals that have been killed on New Forest roads over the previous year. We also helped promote the Commoning Voices exhibition which began its tour of Forest venues at the New Forest Heritage Centre.

Conservation work around the National Park continues to be boosted by the Our Past, Our Future landscape partnership scheme, including woodland management on a number of sites and through training and advice given by Land Advice Service.

Conversations instigated with Exxon Mobil at Fawley through the Green Halo Partnership has resulted in us advising on the potential for grazing 37 hectares of unmanaged land. We are also working with RSPB on an expression of interest bid to the Landscape Enhancement Initiative for £200,000 to remove invasive rhododendron at the Franchises Lodge nature reserve.

An hour-long documentary exploring the landscapes, history and wildlife that make the New Forest one of the UK's most important ancient woodlands aired on BBC Four on 9 January. The programme was created by Big Wave and presented by writer and environmentalist, Peter Owen-Jones in collaboration with us, the Forestry Commission and the Commoners Defence Association. This serves as a powerful timely reminder of just how exceptionally important and unique the New Forest and its commoning tradition is at a time of uncertainty about the resources available to support the Forest going forward.

November saw the first Anniversary of the Green Halo Partnership, with a wide range of partners from across sectors signed up and attending the event at Ordnance Survey to mark the first year of the partnership and plan for the year ahead. Presentations from Defra colleagues confirmed how central the concept of 'Natural Capital' is to their policy direction and it is exciting to have a partnership of 70 organisations up and running and to be able to position our area at the forefront of natural capital delivery.

We have focussed on stepping up engagement of people in understanding and caring for the Forest in a number of ways. A programme of activities and events have been planned to celebrate the 70th anniversary of UK national parks and mark the nationwide 2019 Year of Green Action (YOGA). Activities include a new award for the National Park's best green building, a stand at the New Forest Show full of green activities for all ages, a new Young Environmental Champion award and the Big Pedall Ride Out – a celebrity-led bike ride for people of all abilities. We're also encouraging people to try 12 challenges at their own leisure as part of the Year of Green Action such as taking part in wild play, reducing single-use plastic and buying from local producers www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/12challenges. Preparations are under way for a YOGA-themed 2019 New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair on Sunday 27 January at Lyndhurst Community Centre.

More than 1,500 people attended this year's New Forest Walking Festival in October and our walking app has had over 4,500 downloads in the first two months. We hope that it will encourage people to understand the Forest and learn how to care for it as they do so.

Our third annual Family Trees event saw almost 200 people plant trees to celebrate their loved-ones at Bartley Park in Totton. The event was held during the opening weekend of National Tree Week and received some fantastic feedback from those taking part.

As well as our education team running sessions for 449 pupils from nine schools and colleges, we have been increasing the capacity for education around the National Park, running training courses for teaching professionals and students looking to pursue a career in education. Our rangers also connected with over 2,000 people during the autumn.

It is this time of year that, under the 'Prosper' objectives of our business plan, we receive numbers for the New Forest Tour. It saw 11% increase in revenue and 15% increase in patronage in 2018, meaning nearly 40,000 people explored by bus instead of by car, saving over 261,000 private car miles.

Our wider sustainability work has continued to focus on plastic pollution and on New Year's Eve eight members of our staff joined local organisations to take part in a litter pick at Hurst Beach. Preparations are underway with partners for this year's Spring Clean.

The big issues facing the Forest and our work in partnership to respond to them were presented to Julian Glover, who is leading Government's review of protected landscapes, during his visit in October. We ensured the itinerary allowed him to meet as many partners as possible, to view projects on the ground and gauge what our National Park, located in the busy South of England needs to thrive into the future. We worked with staff and members to make our submission to the call for evidence in December. We will be reconnecting with the review team in the coming months and know that contact to date has been well received; we are making sure the Forest's voice is heard.

DELIVERY OF NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

The report has been formatted to accord with the 'Protect, Enjoy, Prosper' objectives from the 2018-21 Business Plan, a summary of which is set out on the first page. In addition, a fourth section, 'Achieving Excellence', summarises those activities that support and contribute overall to all our work, and the final section lists Members' activities and events.

1 Protect

Protecting and growing the natural capital across the National Park landscape, connecting with surrounding areas to ensure habitats and wildlife are sustainable

Our Past, Our Future (OPOF) Landscape Partnership Scheme

Work is progressing on the Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership scheme and most partners are on track to achieve their targets. The OPOF Board met in November to discuss progress across the scheme and all reported positive outcomes to date. Board representatives and project officers also attended a legacy workshop in November which was run by Resources for Change. The workshop identified potential synergies, where a collaborative approach to legacy was likely to be more successful and have greater impact than if it was taken forward by any one organisation or individual. These were as follows;

- Sharing expertise, knowledge and resources
- Volunteer Hub/ Coordination
- Fundraising
- Strategy for the New Forest to include common mission & objectives
- Partnership working
- Shared training opportunities
- Communication

The Board members will continue to consider the ongoing legacy of their projects and of the partnership and consider links to the New Forest Partnership Plan.

Progress on some of the projects over the last quarter is highlighted below under the three main themes of the scheme. Work on other OPOF projects being managed by the NFNPA are also included under other sections of this report.

a) Restoring Lost Landscapes

The work through this theme continues to meet the objective to reconnect the core with the surrounding landscape and to build connectivity.

- Practical conservation work started again in September and will continue over the winter on several privately owned woodland, meadow and heathland sites. This has

involved contractors and volunteer work parties removing scrub and undertaking other conservation work in liaison with private landowners, including HIWWT's Linwood Reserve where the project has opened up an area of the Dockens water.

- The HIWWT have recently analysed the work they have completed to date and have found that, with the help of volunteers, they have removed Himalayan Balsam from 52km of riverbanks in the New Forest since the start of the project.
- The Forestry Commission are continuing to deal with encroachment issues. The project is now moving towards providing advice in advance rather than dealing with existing encroachments which demonstrates the success of the project to date in raising awareness. Currently, the worst problems arise from building work and fly tipping (aggravated by recycling centre closures and charges).
- Work through the Historic Routes project has identified 20 candidate trails which will now undergo in-depth historical research and field survey work by trained volunteers to determine access, signage, condition, and their historical importance.

b) Developing Forest Skills

The projects have continued to train people in a number of areas. This has provided people with skills to look after their local natural and built heritage and also to support a sustainable landscape.

- NFLAS has run a total 52 Rural Skills courses representing 500 course places, taken up by 350 different individuals. The project is continuing to develop new courses with input from young commoners.
- Two new apprentices, Jake and Hayden, started in October. They are currently undertaking a placement with the HIWWT at Blashford Lakes.

c) Discovering Forest Heritage and Inspiring a New Generation

Work has continued within this theme to produce materials or run events which have raised awareness and understanding and changed behaviour. There have been a number of outputs in relation to commoning during this quarter:

- Children from St Michael and All Angels Infant school in Lyndhurst have been the first to complete the commoning education toolkit. They were awarded their 'commoning badges' at a special ceremony at the Verderers' Hall in October.
- A one day conference titled 'The role of commoning in the maintenance of landscape and ecology: a New Forest, national and global perspective' was held in October and 125 delegates attended. The presentations were videoed and can be viewed on New Forest Knowledge website <https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/commoningconference2018>
- An exhibition on 'Commoning Voices', curated by Lyndsey Stride, ran at the New Forest Heritage Centre until 6 January 2019. It has received very positive feedback and will tour other venues during 2019.

- The Shared Forest Business Group continues to grow and held an evening event at the Commoning Voices exhibition in November in order to give members an opportunity to find out more about commoning and commoners and to attract further members.
- The CDA's website has been redesigned www.realnewforest.org
- Autumn safe driving campaign was launched to coincide with the changing of the clocks, this included animal silhouettes that highlighted the number of animals that have been killed on New Forest roads over the previous year. The silhouettes will be on display at various locations around the Forest in order to raise awareness of drivers.
- The Shared Forest is now working to draw together the project messages in order to focus on promoting education and understanding of the commoning way of life for the final year of the project.

Other work of particular note this quarter includes:

- The New Forest Walking Festival took place during October and featured 80 guided walks.
- A Community Heritage Fair was held in Lyndhurst on 6 November and was well attended with 21 stands by local history and heritage groups and 186 visiting attendees. The feedback from the groups was that the event was a great platform to network with each other and to share their work with other groups and with members of the public.
- Art groups from across the New Forest have joined together to launch 'Folio' and, in conjunction with the NFNPA, have submitted a successful bid to ACE, gaining £23,000 of funding. Folio will now develop a strategic plan for arts engagement and development in the New Forest, including an Arts Festival 2019 with one major work and three community pieces. This will feed into the ultimate objective of an 'ACE Creative People & Places' funding bid.
- Work at the Sway wild play site is now complete and a launch event will follow in the New Year. A third site at Ashurst is currently under discussion for 2019.

New Forest Land Advice Service (NFLAS)

Having completed our Better Boundaries Project (4km of hedgerow restoration on the western escarpment) we are still working on our other three OPOF projects; Nature's Stepping Stones, Rural Skills and Working Woodlands. Winter work on the two habitat restoration projects has been in full swing since September; our work with landowners, contractors and volunteers is now really paying off with tangible enhancements on the ground.

In early December, through our Rural Skills project, we ran an Agricultural Regulations and EU exit timelines event for commoners and farmers and had over 45 people attending. We also ran another equine course, this time focusing on worms and parasites and their link to poor manure management and soil health, giving us an opportunity to advocate our best practice land management techniques to people keeping horses.

Our work with farmers and commoners to clean up their yards to enhance water quality in the New Forest streams is ongoing through partnership working with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Freshwater Habitats Trust. This falls under the banner of two work areas; Countryside Stewardship and the New Forest Catchment Partnership and is an excellent example of how NFLAS can facilitate a streamlined, collaborative approach to achieving targets on farms. We have recently been working to deliver these types of improvements on five farms.

Following a meeting between the Chief Executive and Managers at ExxonMobil, Fawley regarding the Green Halo Partnership, we have started to assess a significant area of ExxonMobil's unmanaged land at the refinery in the hope we can find some back up grazing for young commoners and work with the estates team to make improvements to their woodlands. So far we have identified 37 hectares of potential grazing land and will be working with ExxonMobil and the CDA/Young Commoners to progress this in the new year.

During this quarter we have given advice or training to a total of 83 commoners, plus a range of other farmers and land managers, demonstrating wide reach we have and the importance of the Service to the Forest.

New Forest Catchment Partnership

November saw almost 50 people, including volunteers and representatives of local and national organisations, come together for the second New Forest Water Forum. We've had great feedback from attendees who enjoyed hearing about work in the Catchment and some of the special species that are linked to wetlands.

We helped facilitate the Solent Forum Coastal Communities Workshop which brought together economic regeneration specialists, coastal managers, funding officers, planners and environmental bodies to identify opportunities for bids to the Government grant scheme, and start to establish the partnerships required to access and operate such bids.

National Grid Visual Impact Provision (VIP) Project

National Grid has carried out ground investigation work at Hale Purlieu, along its preferred route for potential undergrounding of the high voltage power line. Trial pits and boreholes have been carried out with Natural England and National Trust's consent.

National Grid held a meeting at Mannington Substation, Three Legged Cross, near Ringwood, for their Stakeholder Reference Group on 13 December. The group comprised representatives from Natural England, National Trust, Verderers, Hale Parish Council, NFNPA and 'Alaska' (a company that specialises in heathland restoration). At the meeting National Grid informed the participants that the planning application that they intend to submit would now be submitted in July 2019, not the previously stated Spring 2019.

Following the meeting a site meeting led by a representative of 'Alaska' took place in the Ashley Heath area to look at an area of heathland that the company had restored.

Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) programmes.

The funding from National Grid to ameliorate the impact of their High Voltage infrastructure on the landscapes of National Parks and AONB's continues. The successful LEI funding for Warren's Copse at Holbury has continued to be used for improving the footpath infrastructure and access with the replacement of existing small timber bridges and steps. This work was carried out in September and October to a high standard using oak to replace softwood, so that the timber will last a long time and be less of a maintenance burden for Fawley Parish Council, who own the woodland. Culvert pipes were also replaced underneath the bridges to allow water to runoff where required.

We still await the final decision from ofgem regarding the funding of improvements to Landford Bog, owned by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. We are hoping to hear in January 2019.

We have been working closely with RSPB on the LEI expression of interest bid for Franchises Lodge, their recently acquired woodland that was part of Hamptworth Estate. The bid is for £200k to remove rhododendron from the woodland and also improve the condition of three tumuli (Scheduled Monuments) that are covered in both rhododendron and conifer trees. The LEI programme will fund up to a maximum of 75% of a project cost and the remaining 25% has to be found from match funding. If the £200k bid for funding is successful then RSPB will have to match fund £66,500 which can include volunteer time, RSPB officer time (management of the rhododendron removal), cash from sale of felled conifers etc. The expression of interest deadline is 15 February 2019 and we are hoping to find out if we have been invited to submit a full application by mid-March.

1.1 Ensuring new development is sympathetic and in keeping with the National Park, promoting high quality design and environmental net gain.

Development Management

We received 153 applications in the period 11 October to 11 December and in the same period determined 112 applications with an approval rate of 88%.

Significant planning applications determined include a resolution to grant permission for the former Redmayne site in Brockenhurst for residential-led, mixed use development, subject to the completion of a Section 106 agreement. Pre-application discussions have continued with Fawley Waterside as they progress their plans for the redevelopment of the former power station site.

The public inquiry for the Lyndhurst Park Hotel appeal will no longer take place as the appeal has been withdrawn at a very late stage in the process. The Authority has submitted a claim for costs incurred on the grounds of unreasonable behaviour.

Twenty two appeal decisions have been received since the last meeting: 15 were dismissed and six allowed.

A planning workshop was held for Members on 4 December 2018 and two further workshops are scheduled to take place in the New Year (Planning Enforcement and the new Local Plan).

Ecology

The autumn has been a busy time for wildlife planning issues. Ecological consultations for planning applications for both NFDC and NFNPA have been running at a rate of almost 10 a week during the period. We anticipate NFDC going out to tender for their ecological advice service in the New Year.

Ecological advice has also been ongoing into the design and environmental assessment of the Fawley Waterside proposals, including assessing existing delivery of quarry restoration which is linked to the scheme. Input has also been provided to Hampshire County Council's proposals to create a new road bridge at Holmsley which will require careful consideration of impacts on protected habitats and species.

We provided input to a workshop operated on behalf of Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to improve the operation of the new South Marine Plan. The Marine Plan delivers sustainable development for the marine and intertidal areas of the south-east area including National Park. Marine planning has important links and interactions with land-use planning such as the Authority's Local Plan. Integration of systems is required as the intertidal zone between high water and low water mark is covered by both planning systems. The Authority is a statutory stakeholder in the Marine Plan process and must also liaise with the MMO regarding schemes that have impacts on the coastal and marine environment. Further information is available using the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/marine-planning-in-england>

We also participated in a mock Drought Order exercise for the River Test (much of the New Forest derives its public and business water supply from the Test River) had the Government approved the changes agreed to the process, the weather and water levels in the river would have meant the process would have been initiated for real this autumn.

Enforcement and Trees

Between October and December the Tree Team have again registered a high volume of tree work applications, nearly 300 in total and we are looking at one of the highest ever number of applications at around 1,300 for the whole year.

This number is likely to halve after April 2019 when New Forest District Council take their Tree Service back in-house. Arrangements are now in hand to transfer part of the existing Tree Team to New Forest District Council under the 'TUPE' regulations.

Five appeals were received over the course of the year and all were dismissed with the Planning Inspector agreeing with the decision of the Authority's Tree Officers.

Only two Tree Preservation Orders have been made since October and both these were due to the potential threat to important amenity trees from proposed development. There are also two on-going investigations for unauthorised tree works where excessive pruning has been carried out and a protected Oak tree ring barked which has now killed the tree. Unfortunately there is no knowledge or witness to this damage and is unlikely to be pursued through the courts.

Since October the Team have commented on some 50 planning applications from the National Park Authority's Development Management Team and over 60 consultations for NFDC Development Management.

Following the successful Veteran and Ancient Tree Management course held last year, in September we organised another OPOF funded training course on Pest, Diseases and Fungi of Trees. This free event was well received by local tree work contractors and others working in the industry. With presenters from the Forestry Commission Research this also highlighted the importance of Biosecurity and the Authority is now actively promoting measures for Biosecurity across the organisation.

This year's Family Trees event was run by the New Forest National Park Authority in conjunction with Totton & Eling Town Council during the opening weekend of National Tree Week (24 November – 2 December) and marked the beginning of the tree planting season.

Almost 200 people planted trees at Bartley Park in Totton, choosing one of 13 native tree species, while children enjoyed designing woodland pendants and special leaf messages with the National Park Authority's rangers.

Every group that took part in the tree planting received a free personalised certificate as a memento, dedicated to someone special or a memorable event in their life. Families said they were celebrating everything from their child's birth, to wedding anniversaries and the life of a loved-one.

Trees and woodlands are a key feature of the natural beauty of the New Forest and they also make an important contribution to the appearance of towns and villages within the area. As the Family Trees woodland grows and matures it will provide a legacy for future generations and provide a lasting memory of a loved-one.

Recent changes to the planning enforcement team have seen the appointment of a new Planning Enforcement Manager (David Williams) and Enforcement Officer (Katherine Pullen).

Policy

The focus of the Policy Team's work over the last quarter has been on the Local Plan Examination hearing sessions, which took place in Lymington Town Hall between 6 – 15 November 2018. The hearing sessions were chaired by the two Government appointed Planning Inspectors and covered 14 separate matters, including housing numbers, affordable housing provision, employment and business needs, the built and historic environment and proposed housing site allocations in the National Park. The sessions were attended by around 25 participants, including local residents, Parish Councils, statutory consultees (such as Historic England and Natural England), landowners, Estates and site promoters. Authority planning officers were joined by specialists from Natural England and our consultants covering various evidence base studies during the hearing sessions. The Examination hearing sessions also provided the opportunity for local residents, landowners, parish councils and other interest groups to share their views on the draft Local Plan and whether it meets the Government's tests of soundness.

Following the end of the hearing sessions we received a letter from the Inspectors at the end of November 2018. In this, the Inspectors confirmed that the Authority has complied with the Localism Act's 'duty to co-operate' in the preparation of the Local Plan – one of the key legal tests all Locals Plans must meet to proceed towards adoption. The Inspectors also asked the Authority to give further consideration to the opportunity for residential development on the Ashurst Hospital site, which was promoted for redevelopment by NHS Property Services at the Examination hearing sessions. We have subsequently met with the NHS and Natural England to discuss the Ashurst Hospital site and our formal response to the Inspectors (dated 9 January 2019) is available on our Local Plan webpage <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/local-plan> We await the response of the Inspectors to this latest correspondence.

Outside the Local Plan work, the Policy team continues to respond to planning policy consultations from neighbouring authorities, as well as supporting local communities in the production of Neighbourhood Plans. The revised Hythe and Dibden Neighbourhood Plan was published for consultation on 1 December 2018 and the Authority's consultation response was considered at our Planning Committee meeting on 15 January 2019.

1.2 Conserving the historic and built heritage; supporting local culture with continued focus on commoning.

Archeology

Survey work at Pitts Deep on the New Forest coast has taken place resulting from concerns about erosion of the remains of the pier. This serviced the former bricks work on the Pylewell estate. The remains have been recorded and sampling of material has taken place. The pier shows on maps from the 18th Century. The original pier was probably created for the nearby ironworks at Sowley. The iron works founded originally in

the late 16th century and functioning until around the 1820s supplied iron to Bucklers Hard and also for navy ship building at Portsmouth.

The rubble core of the pier contains iron-ore, iron slag, cinder, slate from Devon and furnace bricks. The conclusion is that the material originated from the iron smelting site at Sowley. Geological analysis of the iron ore by Dr Ian West has indicated a local origin possible from Hordle Cliff or deposits east of Yarmouth and the Isle of Wight. Not as suspected from the well-known iron ore deposits at Hengistbury Head. The slag originates from a blast furnace and the one that at Sowley was at times water-powered. Colleagues at Historic England have analysed the material and have suggested some may come from secondary ironworking processes possibly the recycling of scrap iron.

NFNPA archaeologists assisted members of the New Forest History and Archaeology Group on an excavation led by Professor Tony King of Winchester University between the 20 and 26 of August with their excavation at New Copse Enclosure near Brockenhurst. Staff contributed two days to the project and part of the Park's help involved a magnetic susceptibility survey of the area to identify archaeological deposits found within the woodland. As a result the group opened a small test pit over an area with a high magnetic signal and this revealed a Roman floor. This is the first and only Roman floor to have been found on a Crown Land site in the New Forest. An important and exciting discovery.

Survey using horse power on the Open Forest

In November 2018, National Park archaeologists teamed up with Bournemouth University and the New Forest Driving Society to undertake a world first. By combining a horse and cart with a high tech geophysical cart, which would normally be pulled by a quadbike, the team were able to undertake a magnetometry survey of an enclosure site not previously recorded within the County Records. This site that had been identified from the Lidar data. The approach proved a great success and the results will be shared once available. It is hoped that a similar approach might be used on other sites in the future. The work was filmed by the BBC and also by Meridian and featured Lawrence Shaw explaining the work and was shown on the same day in the local evening news programs.

Community led projects

a) Lidar Analysis and Survey

Work continues in analysing Lidar data of the open forest and Inclosures, with support from local volunteers. Hundreds of new sites have been confirmed and added to the Hampshire AHBR in the last year, which will inform terrestrial works as well as general heritage management and understanding. It is to be hoped that at the end of the ten year Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme on the Crown Land that the Lidar data sets will be able to be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) and become more widely available. Negotiations to achieve this have been ongoing with the ADS service

and the cost of deposition has been agreed. The joint owners of the data have to agree the ultimate data deposition.

A citizen science initiative has also been undertaken to encourage local 'citizen scientists' to undertake condition assessments of scheduled monuments (SAMs) found within the New Forest on Forestry Commission land. In just over 6 months, nearly half the scheduled sites have been visited and this work has fed into the production of new Scheduled Monument management plans that the Forestry Commission will use to manage and protect these sites into the future.

We have also been working with the National Trust staff and volunteers to re-assess the SAMs on National Trust commons and undertake projects to remove a number for the Heritage at Risk list as well as preventing others from being added to the list.

b) New Forest Ware Ceramic Recording

During the summer of 2018, a team of archaeologists and volunteers visited the British Museum stores in London to photograph and record a number of complete Roman pottery vessels, previously excavated by Reverend J Pemberton Bartlett in the 1850s. These photos were used to create 3D reconstructions of the vessels which can now be viewed at an online museum: (<https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/pottery>). We are currently working to expand the digital collection further and have already confirmed collaboration with the Hampshire Cultural Trust and Salisbury museum in 2019.

c) Ibsley Control Tower

3D recording of the Ibsley airfield control tower has provided a record of the building and this can be viewed at

<https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/still-watching-over-ibsley/>

2 Enjoy

2.1 Helping more people to understand and value the things that make the New Forest National Park unique and special.

Education

October saw the education team teaching 449 pupils from nine schools and colleges. Although the number of schools carrying out GCSE fieldwork has declined following curriculum changes, we are delighted that several of the local secondary schools have asked us to work with their younger students to ensure they have an opportunity to experience the National Park.

Alongside the Working Woodlands team, we provided an in-service training day for the entire staff of Foxhills Infant and Junior Schools. The mix of practical conservation work and education activities was well received, despite the very cold weather.

We also worked with NPA rangers to lead an outdoor learning session on enjoying and understanding the National Park for BA Hons Early Childhood students from Brockenhurst College, many of whom are child care professionals or managers in local institutions.

Interviews have played a significant part in this term, with Year 10 students attending work experience interviews here at the Town Hall, and the education team representing the NPA at careers events and mock interviews along with other local employers. Mock interviews provide an excellent opportunity for students who are in the process of applying for college places or jobs to gain useful feedback from “real” employers.

The Education team has worked with other staff to develop a range of events and activities for the 2019 Year of Green Action. Youth engagement was also a focus for workshops at the National Park Educators and Outreach Conference in November.

Other forward planning includes our 2019 Litter Campaign Assembly, entitled “What if.....?” The assembly asks children to consider what the National Park would be like if all the Forest creatures’ food was packaged (like ours) and offers each of them the chance to make a pledge to do one small thing to help make the Forest better for all.

The term ended with a lively meeting of the Educators’ Forum at Minstead Study Centre, attended by 23 outdoor educators from 14 organisations, at which the Forum bade farewell to founder members Jane Pownall and Chris Townsend, who are retiring after more than 25 years of inspirational work at Minstead.

Public and community events / rangers

Rangers shared ‘caring for the Forest’ messages with over 2,000 people during a sunny autumn that drew many people into the Forest to enjoy fungi, pigs at pannage and autumnal colours.

We are pleased to say that many of these contacts were young people. Eight groups began their New Forest Youth Access Project journey, including one recently set up by Southampton Children’s Hospital to support teenagers who are waiting for, or have had, a kidney transplant. For their first visit this group took part in habitat management work for HCC Countryside Services at Lymington-Keyhaven Nature Reserve, cutting and burning a huge amount of mature gorse in one day. Four other groups of young people are working for their John Muir Award, enjoying activities such as hedgerow planting, wildlife-friendly gardening and rhododendron cutting.

An autumn sensory session for 42 pupils at Forest Park Secondary School was praised by the headteacher for its accessibility: *‘I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the wonderful day we have had. Every teacher and learning support assistant has said how*

much their pupils have enjoyed the experience of exploring all the different forest items.'

Over 160 preschool children and their families descended on Blackwater Arboretum for the annual New Forest Toddle - our Walking Festival event for little legs. They followed an animal actions trail and coloured in their own certificates when they finished. In addition, our ranger visits to preschools, nurseries and library children's clubs in and around the National Park helped over 300 very young children to begin discovering the special area where they live.

We teamed up with Forestry Commission staff to hold a workshop in Lyndhurst to discuss options for a Professional Dog Walkers' Charter, along with other ways to improve standards of practice for walkers operating commercially. The 26 dog walking businesses at the event welcomed the proposals and there was widespread support for the approach that is being taken. The draft Charter has been agreed by members of the Dogs Forum, and several of its representatives from NFDog, HCC and Friends of the New Forest joined us at the workshop.

We are helping Lymington and Pennington Town Council take care of an overgrown amenity area by setting up a residents' conservation group. After just a few litter picking and scrub clearing sessions, the Friends of Priestlands Ponds group has already significantly enhanced the site. This will benefit wildlife as well as the local community. The volunteers enjoy working together and are learning the basic conservation skills that will enable them to help look after Priestlands Ponds in years to come.

Communications

A new walking app is proving popular with over 4,500 downloads a month after launch, enabling people to easily access our approved routes and messages about caring for the forest on their phones.

Working with a range of organisations, we launched the #add3minutes animal accidents reduction campaign to encourage people to slow down when driving across the forest in the darker evenings. Near life-size silhouettes of the animals showing how many were killed last year are touring towns and villages over the winter months to raise awareness.

The Walking Festival saw around 80 guided walks with experts and 1,500 people attending. Over 90% of those who left feedback said they learnt something new about the National Park.

Nearly 190 people attended the first Community Heritage Fair in Lyndhurst to speak with over 20 stands showcasing local history and heritage groups, plus a programme of talks. The event proved popular in terms of networking, promoting the groups' work and attracting new volunteers.

Around 200 people attended a very wet Family Trees event at Totton, with some fantastic feedback and some moving personal stories about the lives of family members they were

celebrating. A video of the day is available on the National Park YouTube and social media channels.

The Green Halo Partnership conference was a success with over 70 people attending and taking away a leaflet and pledge card we produced to help boost membership. We launched the Green Halo Partnership website which is now live at www.greenhalo.org.uk.

Promotion of the Volunteer Fair on 27 January is in full swing with a press release, social media ads and a Volunteer Guide publication.

We have written the content for the Essential Guide visitor publication which we produce jointly with the Forestry Commission.

A feature and a film about horse logging, which is part of the OPOF Working Woodlands project, has received widespread coverage in the media. Meanwhile, using a New Forest pony to pull archaeology scanning equipment across a sensitive site was picked up by ITV Meridian, BBC South Today, Radio Solent, and a number of print publications.

We have a programme of local celebrations for the 70th anniversary of UK national parks and Year of Green Action which will be rolled out across 2019. This includes a programme of arts with Folio - the new consortium of arts organisations in the Forest born out of the Arts Festival.

2.2 Enabling high quality and beneficial experiences of the National Park

Interpretation projects

We have assisted with the installation of the Commoners Voices exhibition including the setup of audio visual equipment and content for example a head-cam film of a ride out through the forest on horseback and automatically triggered content from local commoners.

Other interpretation activity included installing the Ancient and Remarkable Trees exhibition in the was installed in the foyer of the Town Hall, developing a wooden ship interactive for a 2019 exhibition at St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery, leading several guided walks as part of the walking festival and progressing the Historic routes and past pathways project. The historic routes project has 49 registered volunteers including nine trained surveyors and 12 trained researchers. Map research has now finished and on the ground surveying is taking place alongside local parish liaison to determine the best final routes to interpret.

Health and Wellbeing

The PEDALL base is now operational, staff and volunteers have been busy painting and fixing up the premises and the bikes have been moved over to the new site. An accessible toilet has been installed and new hard standing outside the building provides

the space for groups to gather and try the bikes prior to a ride. The first year report to Big lottery has been received and is very positive. It states *'The past year has seen growth and evolution for the PEDALL project, having apparently exceeded Big Lottery targets in the main, in terms of children and young adults reached. Due to additional demand and capability, additional provision has also been developed for some older adults who are isolated or have complex needs, including dementia and poor mobility e.g. are in wheelchairs.'*

Volunteering

The New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair takes place on 27 January. The fair is at capacity again this year with 50 stalls booked for the fair. New organisations to attend this year include Testwood Lakes Sailability, Hythe Pier Heritage Association and Keep Britain Tidy. Promotion through local media and community groups has taken place. The fair will see the launch of the New Forest's 'Year of Green Action', which will include opportunities throughout the year to get involved in conservation work.

The New Forest Land Advice Service engaged with 90 volunteers in the last quarter through the Working Woodlands and Natures Stepping Stones projects. Nearly 30 regular volunteers helped restore woodland, meadow and heathland habitats. We also held a volunteer day at Foxhills School with the Education team and 58 members of staff cut down invasive species, created wildlife corridors and learnt more about their own woodland.

2.3 Facilitating a partnership approach to managing recreation to achieve a net gain for both the working and natural landscape as well as for the recreational experience

Recreation Management

The responses to the 2018 Future Forest public consultation showed strong support for the draft proposed actions for managing recreation. People also asked for additional, and clearer information about what will be done – so the RMS Steering Group is developing a work programme for 2019 including further public engagement on specific topics.

We have continued to input to the year-long habitat mitigation research that has been commissioned by six local planning authorities. This involves face-to-face interviews across the Forest, counts of parked cars and telephone interviews. The results should enable the authorities to agree a common approach to mitigating the impact of new housing on the designated habitats.

A report on visitor numbers to the New Forest will be published in the New Year. This combined data collected in 2004-05 with more recent datasets and trends, to calculate visitors in 2017, and forecast future growth.

Educational campaigns

NFDOG has agreed to part-fund a seasonal ranger again in 2019. Together with funding from Camping in the Forest, FC and the NPA's developer contributions, this should enable us to employ four seasonals to boost our ability to talk with people during the busier summer months.

We are pleased that the SLA with NFDC to provide a People and Wildlife Ranger (Dawn Rayment), as part of their wider habitat mitigation work, will be renewed for a further two years.

The Animal Accident Reduction Group met to agree a joint winter campaign comprising stronger signage on high risk routes, a touring 'display' of near-life-size animal silhouettes and associated publicity. Road traffic incidents in 2018 were more frequent than in 2017, probably in part because more animals were depastured.

The Joint Litter Working Group met to plan the 2019 Spring Clean, which will again coincide with Keep Britain Tidy's national campaign.

The Cycle Working Group has updated its terms of reference, in particular to include encouraging *responsible* cycling. It plans to assess how the network of permitted off-road cycle routes could be improved in order to improve safety, reduce vehicle use and reduce the desire to cycle where it is not permitted.

Access and Rights of Way

The New Forest Local Access Forum bid farewell to the forum officer Petronella Natrass (HCC) in the December meeting. The NFNPA is taking back management of the LAF from March 2019.

Signage designs are being developed for use on the England Coast Path and also to improve selected Rights of Way where external funding such as developer contributions can be used to encourage use of robust routes that are away from sensitive designated habitats. The route through Hale and Woodgreen (which already has a supporting leaflet) will hopefully be the first such route to have the improved signage.

The Rural Communities Fund is likely to help fund changes with the Lyndhurst Circular Walk and also to support Brockenhurst Parish Council in replacing a broken kissing gate and surface improvements to a well-used public footpath.

The Mend Our Mountains campaign to improve the Lepe Loop has raised roughly £10,000 so far and is hoping to access more funds through an application to the Charlottle Bonham-Carter Charitable Trust.

Alison Barnes gave a talk to the New Forest Ramblers, emphasising the strong connections between National Parks and The Ramblers Association and thanking them

for their efforts in supporting the New Forest walking festival. The Ramblers enjoyed the talk and gave a donation towards the OPOF project in thanks.

3 Prosper

3.1 Supporting a distinctive and prosperous local economy where natural capital is an integral component of doing business.

Green Halo Partnership

27 November marked the first anniversary of the Green Halo Partnership, with a conference for Partnership members held at Ordnance Survey. The partnership has received wide ranging support over the last 12 months, with architects, wildlife charities, councils, utility businesses, health bodies, universities and civil engineering firms among 70 organisations signed up so far.

In January 2018 the Government published the 25 Year Environment Plan and Defra's Green Finance Team Manager, Daniel Barwick addressed the Conference, highlighting how the concept of natural capital is becoming embedded in government policy and citing National Parks as an exemplar of driving the natural capital approach at a local level.

Sustainable Tourism

In October a Go New Forest Discovery Day took place, in which 19 people from local tourism businesses attended a guided tour to a commoners' holding and a walk out onto the Open Forest to hear how commoning and the landscape are inextricably interlinked.

Sixty coastal-based Go New Forest-affiliated businesses were invited to participate in a litter pick along Hurst Spit, in support of the Year of Green Action target. This provided an opportunity for positive collaborative action, NPA visibility and public engagement. More detail in section 3.3.

New Forest Trust

Two new businesses signed up to the scheme with Thatched Cottage (Brockenhurst) trialling the use of donation cards and Woodlands Lodge hotel adding a £2.50 donation on room stays. A further four business are stocking the A-Z guides and collecting donations. Training on the history and wildlife of the New Forest and work of the Love the Forest Scheme was provided to three business and a presentation given to Lymington Chamber of Commerce.

3.2 Promoting connectivity across the National Park through sustainable transport and information and communication technologies.

Sustainable Transport

As referenced in the previous reporting period, summer 2018 was successful for the New Forest Tour. More detailed information is now available: approximately 11% increase in revenue and almost 15% increase on patronage on last year. Routes for the New Forest Tour 2019 have been confirmed and will include only minor changes.

There is an aspiration to continue operating the Bluestar 9 extension in 2019, although currently a subsidy is required to ensure its financial feasibility. It is hoped that more widespread knowledge of the route and the new facilities at Lepe will lead to an increase in patronage and should help achieve a shift towards commercial viability.

3.3 Supporting the social wellbeing and sustainability of New Forest communities.

Affordable Housing

An application for two affordable houses and a local heritage centre in Burley was approved in September. The application was made by the NFNPA following an agreement with the landowner to secure a 999 year lease of the land as an 'exception site'. It is proposed that the two proposed affordable units will be funded through development contributions. This new scheme is in line with the Authority's continued commitment to respond to the growing need for affordable homes for local people in the New Forest.

As part of the Authority's membership of the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH), officers from NFDC, NFNPA and HARAH met with East Boldre parish council to discuss a potential site for affordable housing within the parish. The councillors have been positive about affordable housing in their parish and have agreed to publish a call for sites in their newsletter and invited representatives from HARAH, NFDC and NFNPA to their next annual parish assembly in March to give a talk about affordable housing options.

The NFNPA have provided the recently established Hampshire Community Housing Partnership (HCHP) with a letter of support for their bid to Homes England to set up a Hampshire-wide hub of local authorities which would benefit from accessing resources and knowledge in developing community-led housing.

With the current HARAH Memorandum of Understanding ending in March 2020 there may be a possibility to merge HCHP and HARAH as there are obvious overlaps between both partnerships. The NFNPA is part of a HARAH working group which will look into different options for HARAH post 2020.

Holger Schiller will take over the chair of the HARAH officers group in April 2019 on behalf of the NFNPA.

The NFNPA continues to work closely with NFDC's Housing Team and meets regularly with their officers to discuss opportunities for affordable housing in the National Park.

Sustainable Communities Fund

Lyndhurst Parish Council has now installed a new cycle repair kit outside the community centre in the main public carpark in Lyndhurst. The stand-alone repair facility provides cyclists with free equipment to make adjustments and repairs on the spot. It features a range of eight tools securely attached by retractable stainless-steel cables, as well the option of a pump and wheel holder.

Bransgore Parish Council has completed the refurbishment and restoration of the Grade II WWI memorial in Bransgore. The setting of the memorial is much improved with new oak posts and chains as it would have been originally designed, and in keeping with the landscape quality of the National Park. Work was completed in time for the Remembrance Service to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI.

Reducing plastics

We continue to raise awareness among colleagues, partner organisations and community groups of the harm discarded plastics can cause and of ways in which people can reduce their use of single use plastics. On New Year's Eve, 8 NFNPA staff were joined by local accommodation providers, the managers and club members of the New Forest Paddle Sport Company, and Lymington Triathlon Club members at Hurst beach. In total 11 large bags of litter, including hundreds of pieces of plastic fragments, cut rope, fishing line, used syringes and several lumps of palm oil, were collected from the tidelines along the Spit.

We have purchased a six-month license to show the film "A Plastic Ocean" which documents the devastating impacts of marine micro plastics on both wildlife and humans and also looks at ways organisations across the globe are trying to combat the issue. Events to show the film are being set up by the Coastal Ranger; the first (held on 4 January, at Bramshaw Village Hall) was supported by The Bramshaw Trust and Bramshaw Film Club which attracted 54 people and led to requests for further viewings and a school session.

4 **Achieving Excellence**

4.1 **Maintaining and enhancing a capable, motivated staff team that delivers high quality services.**

Human Resources

As at 2 January 2019 the total staff headcount was 87 or 75.97 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

	Headcount	Variation from previous report	FTE	Variation from previous report
Core funded	69*	+ 2	59.95*	+ 2.25
Funded by external projects	18	0	16.03	0
Total	87	+ 2	75.97	+ 2.24

*Of the core funded roles, 9 staff (7.92 FTEs) are working in shared services, 26 are part-time and one is on a fixed-term contract.

In the last three months we welcomed the following new staff:

Name	Job title	Contract type	How funded
Richard Nash	Planning Officer	Permanent	Core funded
• Jake Barnes • Hayden Bridgeman	New Forest Apprentice Ranger	Fixed-term	Project funded – Our Past, Our Future
David Williams	Planning Enforcement Manager	Permanent	Core funded
Katherine Pullen	Planning Enforcement Officer	Permanent	Core funded

Recently we said goodbye to our Apprentice Rangers Peter Dovey and Martyn Meaker after the successful completion of their apprenticeship and to Paul Hocking (Enforcement and Trees Manager). We wish them well in their future ventures.

Recruitment is currently underway for:

Job title	Contract type	How funded
Seasonal Assistant Rangers	Fixed-term, full-time	Jointly funded by the Authority, Camping in the Forest, the Forestry Commission and NFD OG

Information Management

The number of new information requests received in the third quarter of the year has eased a little, although cumulatively we are still up 18% on last year (46 vs 39). We have also received a greater number of requests for internal reviews than usual and are still dealing with a number of quite complex requests.

The number of complaints received to date this year are still considerably down on last year (10 vs 22). In December we received a decision from the Ombudsman regarding a complaint which was initially raised in 2017, regarding how we investigated and responded to a planning enforcement complaint. The LGO found that our approach to investigating the matter was not at fault and that we had followed national and local guidance and made decisions we were entitled to make in the exercise of our officers' professional judgement.

4.2 Championing the National Park and brokering partnership to achieve collaboration for the benefit of the New Forest communities.

Landscapes Review of National Parks and AONBs

In October the Panel carrying out the review of England's protected landscapes issued a call for evidence to establish whether the protections for National Parks are fit for purpose. We hosted a visit by the Review chairman Julian Glover and panel member Sarah Mukherjee at the end of October, which provided an opportunity for them to meet a large number of stakeholders and gain an understanding of the complexities of the New Forest.

Following opportunities for staff and members to contribute we submitted our evidence to the Review in December. We supported the key messages submitted by National Parks England and made some key points from the perspective of the New Forest. These are summarised below:

Our four asks of the Review were to:

- Inspire and achieve a renewed sense of joint mission and purpose across partners and communities for the purposes of National Parks, with the 70th Anniversary providing a catalyst for this; celebrating our joint achievements and restating our collective determination to meet the challenges and securing shared responsibility across the sectors and communities.
- Restate the importance of a Plan (Partnership Plan) for the National Park that is shaped and owned by all, in pursuit of the purposes and duty for which it is designated. The Review needs to enshrine the delivery of the Plan in law, policy and practice to secure the commitment and the alignment of skills and resources of all parties.

- Confer additional powers and resources to enable National Park Authorities to work with partners in meeting the expectation that a National Park should be an exemplar of delivery of the 25 Year Plan; including maintaining our planning function, delivering nature conservation and cultural heritage gains, enabling positive land management/rural development and benefitting communities both within and outside the National Park.
- Confirm and clearly mandate the role of National Parks in inspiring communities, partnerships and action for our natural and cultural heritage beyond our boundaries, recognising the experience and skills we can offer to enable society at large to access the benefits of nature, e.g. Green Halo Partnership.

The 5 opportunities identified by National Parks England included:

1. National Parks as bigger and better places for nature, that are connected through wildlife corridors to each other and resilient to climate change
2. Bespoke farming and land management schemes that work for National Parks
3. Harnessing a passion for our National Parks
4. A strong new partnership with the NHS to improve people's health and wellbeing
5. Every child has the opportunity to visit a National Park to enjoy outstanding learning experiences during their time at school.

Team New Forest

Support is provided for parish quadrant meetings, New Forest Marque, New Forest Access Forum and Consultative Panel. At its last meeting on 6 December, the Panel considered an update on Superfast Broadband and the Recreation Management Consultation findings and a very informative presentation on freshwater habitats in the New Forest by the Freshwater Habitats Trust.

4.3 Identifying new resources and using them alongside our existing resources, effectively and efficiently.

ICT Services

Work to upgrade and move both the Idox Public Access and Idox DMS servers was successfully completed mid-October. Over the go live weekend in excess of 1.8 million files were transferred. We are currently in negotiations with Idox regarding the procurement of a new planning system, Uniform, which should this go ahead, will be a major project throughout most of 2019.

We took the opportunity to renew the Microsoft licences early with a £7,000 saving. These licences will come into effect in March 2019. Following the Microsoft Power BI

demonstration to the Data and Evidence Group, areas have been identified where this software could be very beneficial.

Both the main domain controller servers and GIS1 have now been decommissioned. We are waiting for an update to the software that pushes the tree pages up to the website before being able to decommission the planning servers IdoxDMS and IdoxWeb.

The Systems Support team have gone live with Microsoft Office 365, and the Information Management team is planned for a go live in January. The Records Management Project Assistant has been working closely with staff champions to help progress the project and in the New Year will be assisted by ICT to move the project forward.

The planned power outage on 8 December put the ICT disaster recovery to the test and was a useful exercise, allowing us to fully review our processes and ensure our documentation is up-to-date. Both the power down and back up went very smoothly.

Security threats continue to be high on the ICT work agenda with a continued large number of security patches being released which requires out of hours work to minimise disruption to staff. An upgrade to the anti-virus system (Eset) was installed in November unfortunately causing some potentially serious issues which took a considerable amount of time to rectify. We are currently visiting each machine to ensure the latest Eset client is on all laptops and PCs and additionally checking for any other security updates to the hardware.

5 Members

Meetings and Authority membership

5.1 Some Members were involved in some or all of the following meetings and events

- Planning Committee – 16 October
- Resource, Audit and Performance Committee – 5 November
- Planning Committee – 20 November
- New Forest Access Forum – 3 December
- RMS Members Day – 5 December
- Consultative Panel – 6 December
- Planning Committee – 18 December
- Planning Committee – 15 January

5.2 Forthcoming activities include:

- Resource, Audit and Performance Committee – 4 February
- New Forest Marke Members Day – 5 February
- Planning Committee – 19 February

- Resource, Audit and Performance Committee – 4 March
- Consultative Panel – 7 March
- New Forest Access Forum – 11 March
- Planning Committee – 19 March

5.3 Chief Executive's engagements

- New Forest Leadership Group meeting – 15 October
- Meeting with Interim CX, Southampton City Council – 16 October
- Landscapes Review Panel visit – 25/26 October
- NPE Video conference – 30 October
- Meeting with CX South Downs NPA – 30 October
- SE FWAC – 31 October
- Senior Leadership Team training session – 1 November
- Meeting with Sparsholt College and CLA – 2 November
- Meeting with MHCLG and Defra – 6 November
- NPs branding meeting – 8 November
- Beaulieu dinner – 9 November
- NFDC Armistice Commemoration – 12 November
- Visit to ExxonMobil – 12 November
- Meeting CX Forest Enterprise – 13 November
- ENPOG meeting – 14 November
- Meeting Cllr Rob Humby – 19 November
- National Infrastructure Commission Round Table – 20 November
- Family Trees event – 24 November
- Speaker at New Forest Ramblers AGM – 24 November
- Green Halo Partnership event – 26 November
- Waterside Forum – 28 November
- Meeting with CX NFDC – 28 November
- Meeting with Business South – 28 November
- HIOW CX meeting – 30 November
- LEP event – 3 December
- NW Parish Quadrant meeting – 3 December
- Forest Farming Group – 4 December
- National Park for Dorset meeting – 6 December
- Consultative Panel – 6 December
- Verderers Tour of Stock – 7 December
- Meeting with Deputy Surveyor – 10 December
- RMS Steering Group – 10 December
- Senior Leadership Team development session – 12 December
- Net Environmental Gain project team meeting – 18 December
- HLS Board – 9 January
- Meeting with CX Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust – 9 January

- Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group – 14 January
- Meeting with CX NFDC – 14 January
- Meeting with CX Eastleigh Borough Council – 16 January

5.4 Chairman's engagements

- Landscapes Review Panel visit and dinner – 25 October
- Meeting with CX Forest Enterprise – 13 November
- Green Halo Partnership event – 27 November
- NPUK AGM and Chairs' Forum – 29-30 November
- Chaired Forest Farming Group meeting – 4 December
- Chaired Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group – 10 December

6 Recommendation

To note the report.