

# Recreation Management Strategy

Update: December 2018

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(Forestry Commission, Natural England, Hampshire County Council,  
New Forest District Council, Verderers and New Forest National Park Authority)

# Summary of 2018 Consultation feedback

## **1,074 responses received**

- Very high level of support for all 25 draft proposed actions

## **670 free text comments received**

- Most confirmed support for the draft proposed actions and the 'examples of possible delivery'
- Some asked for clearer and additional information about how the actions will be carried out

Obj. 1: Convey the things that make the New Forest special to both visitors and local people in more consistent and effective ways...

1. Improve information and interpretation about the New Forest's special qualities
2. Encourage tourism providers to promote key messages in their communications
3. Develop activities to help people to connect with the special qualities
4. Increase formal education work and provide New Forest specific resources

# Obj. 2: Address significant and/or widespread negative impacts caused by recreation...

5. Develop a 'toolkit' of different ways to influence recreational behaviour
6. Address significant and widespread negative impacts caused by recreation
7. Use enforcement activities to deter illegal recreation-related activities
8. Increase staff, volunteers and ambassadors to encourage responsible recreation
9. Manage organised activities and larger events to minimise negative impacts

# Obj. 3: Reduce the barriers that limit participation in beneficial outdoor recreation among those who need it most

10. Inspire young people to understand and value the New Forest's special qualities

11. Harness the health benefits of outdoor activity in and around the New Forest

12. Identify and implement appropriate changes to increase accessibility

# Obj. 4: Achieve a net gain for the New Forest's... landscape and for the recreational experience by influencing where recreation takes place

13. Develop a vision for where people should be encouraged to enjoy outdoor recreation

14. Consult on possible changes to 'gateways', key sites and core routes

15. Develop a phased plan to implement agreed beneficial changes

16. Implement the plan as resources allow, adapting in the light of monitoring

# Obj. 5: Increase... funding... for recreation management....

17. Raise funds and other resources for specific recreation-related projects

18. Mitigate the impacts of new housing on protected areas in a more coordinated way

19. Consult on ways to raise funds from people who use recreation facilities

20. Ask Government to include access improvements in land management grants

# Obj. 6: Collate data and evidence to... help inform... management of recreation

21. Collect data and evidence to help manage recreation in the New Forest

22. Analyse and publish data to improve recreation management in the Forest



# Obj. 7: Regularly review progress... and adapt forward plans...

- 23. Regularly review the implementation of the actions in this strategy
- 24. Adapt and gain agreement for revised actions necessary
- 25. Review the Recreation Management Strategy actions after five years

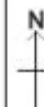


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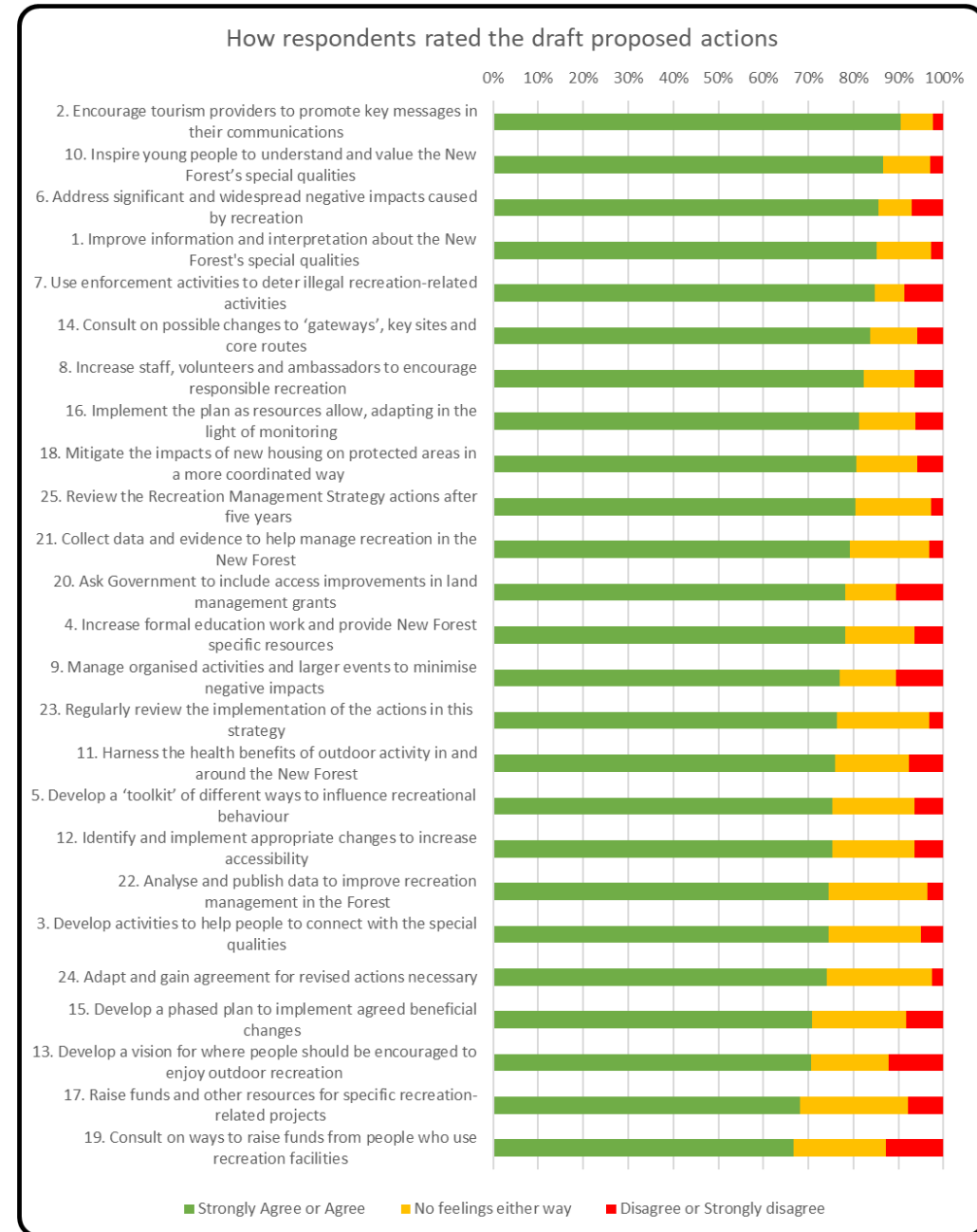
Date Printed: 07/09/2018  
 Consultation Response  
 Postcodes 2018

## Map illustrating location of respondents



SCALE: 1:430000

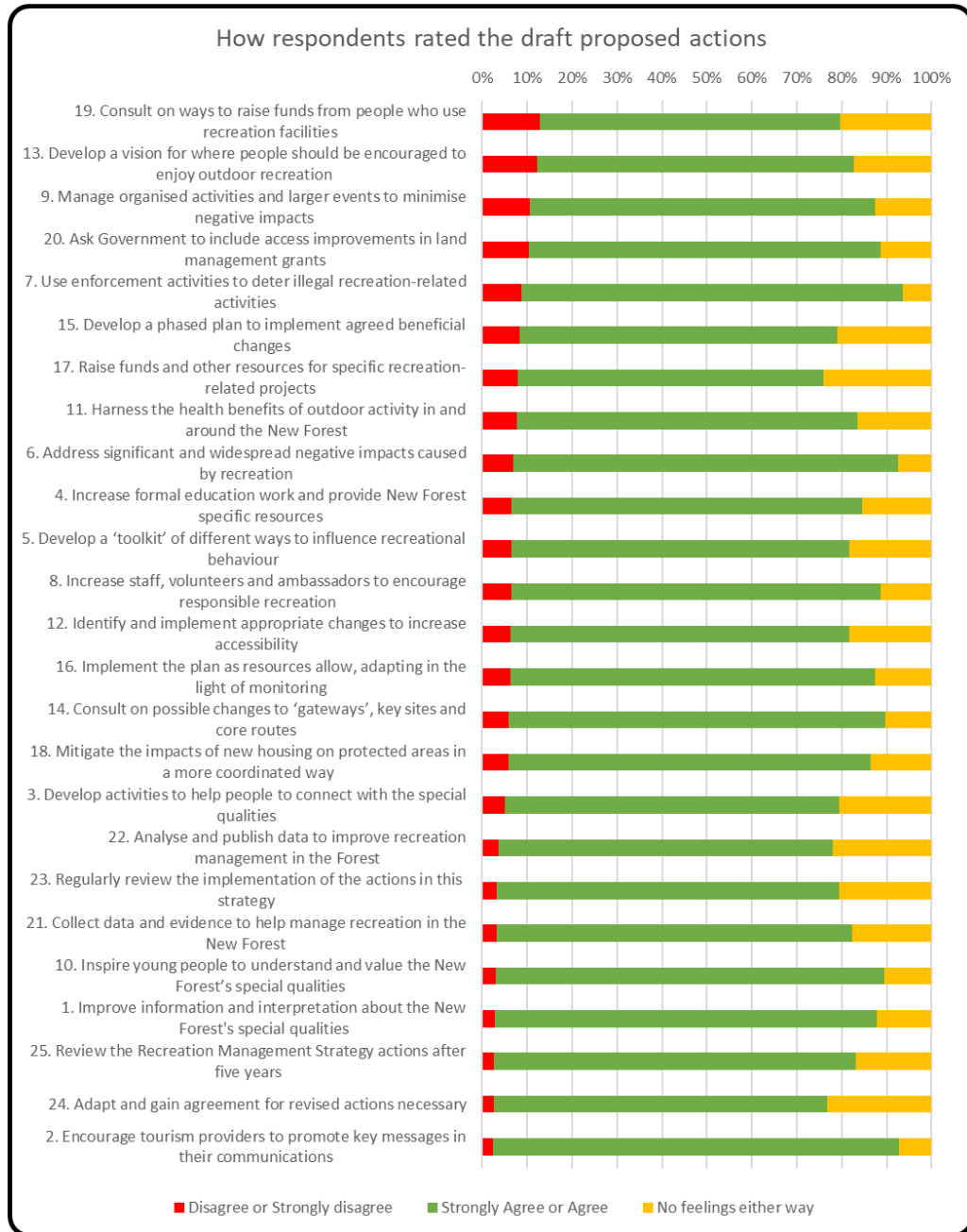
Average of 78%  
 agreed or strongly  
 agreed with draft  
 proposed actions



# The 5 actions with highest agreement

- Action 2. Encourage tourism providers to promote key messages in their communications (90% agreed or strongly agreed)
- Action 10. Inspire young people to understand and value the New Forest's special qualities (86%)
- Action 6. Address significant and widespread negative impacts caused by recreation (86%)
- Action 1. Improve information and interpretation about the New Forest's special qualities (85%)
- Action 7. Use enforcement activities to deter illegal recreation-related activities (85%)

Average of 6%  
 disagreed or  
 strongly disagreed  
 with draft  
 proposed actions



# The 5 actions with highest **disagreement**

- Action 19. Consult on ways to raise funds from people who use recreation facilities (13% disagreed or strongly disagreed)
- Action 13. Develop a vision for where people should be encouraged to enjoy outdoor recreation (12%)
- Action 9. Manage organised activities and larger events to minimise negative impacts (11%)
- Action 20. Ask Government to include access improvements in land management grants (10%)
- Action 7. Use enforcement activities to deter illegal recreation-related activities (9%)

# Free text comments

Of the 1,074 respondents, 670 people provided additional free text comments in answer to the request:

‘Please tell us if you have further comments about our plans to manage recreation in the New Forest’.

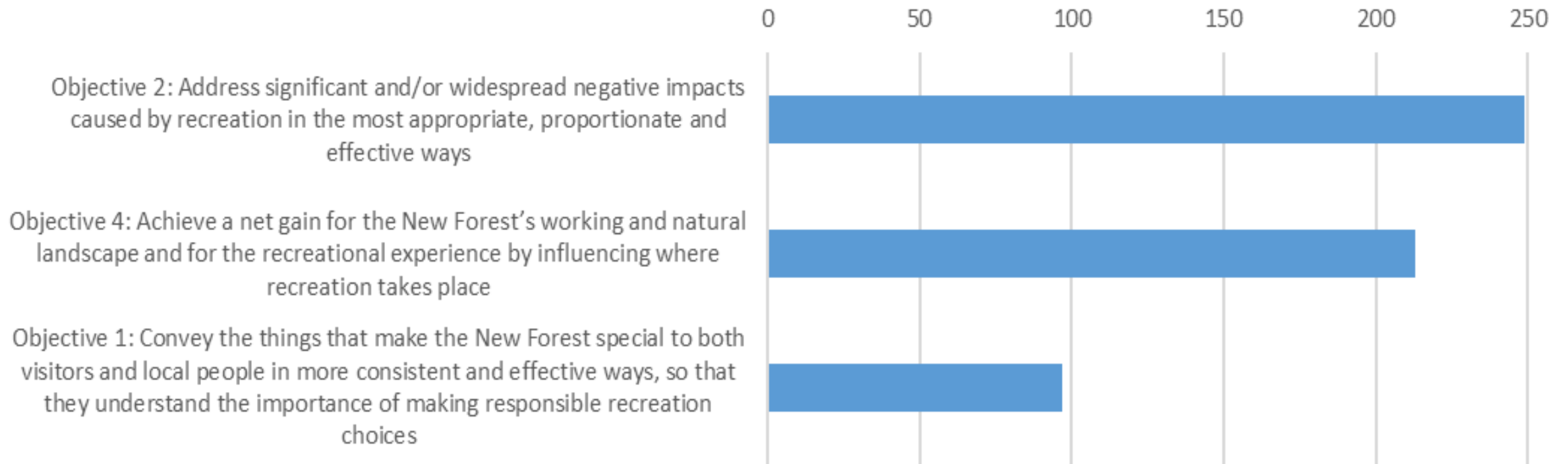
# Free text comments

- 73% of comments (490) confirmed support for the draft proposed actions and the 'examples of possible delivery'.
- 27% of comments (181) highlighted issues that are outside of the primary scope of the recreation management strategy, e.g. how local authorities respond to the need for additional housing and general traffic management issues.
- 9% of comments (58) included opinions about the nature and content of the consultation itself and how it could have been improved, e.g. the need for clearer and additional information about how the actions will be carried out.



# Objectives 2, 4 and 1 attracted more comments than the others

Number of free text comments relating to each respective Objective  
2018



# Obj. 2: Address significant and/or widespread negative impacts caused by recreation...

84	Need to <u>enforce byelaws</u> and have <u>more rangers/volunteers/staff</u> on the ground
56	Concern about the negative impacts <u>of large scale recreational events</u> such as cycle events
37	View that more needs to be done about uncontrolled <u>dogs</u> and dog fouling
33	Concern that <u>roads</u> are becoming more congested due to increased <u>visitor traffic</u>
25	Need to address <u>litter and fly tipping</u> incidents
24	Need to reduce <u>animal accidents</u>

# Obj. 4: Achieve a net gain for the working and natural landscape and the recreational experience by influencing where recreation takes place.

119	Would like an increased level of <u>off road cycling access</u> and/or <u>safer on-road cycling</u>
31	Support for <u>review of car parking</u>
30	Support for <u>drawing recreation away from the most sensitive areas within the Forest</u>
26	Would like more <u>sustainable transport</u> for visitors such as park and ride schemes and/or better local bus services
23	Would support measures to <u>reduce the amount of cars</u> using Forest roads to make their use for recreation easier
19	Suggested <u>gateway sites</u> where people could park and then explore the forest via cycling, riding or walking

# Obj. 1: Convey the things that make the New Forest special to both visitors and local people in more consistent and effective ways...

71	Believe that the <u>quality and availability of information</u> is important, including better online resources
26	Believe that formal, <u>curriculum-based education</u> is important
12	Support for <u>more walks and other events</u> to highlight the special qualities
9	Need for <u>local businesses to do more to educate visitors</u>

# What next?

- Clearer descriptions of each action being developed
- Some actions already started; some new or to be expanded
- Actions relating to spatial distribution of recreation need to be discussed with local communities, landowners and user groups
- Footprint Ecology research for local planning authorities due August 2019
- RMS Steering Group meets 10 December to discuss forward plan