



Forestry Commission
England



Boundaries in the Forest

Conserving the Forest Fringe is part of the 'Our Past, Our Future' partnership project, which aims to achieve a reduction in encroachments onto Crown Land by working with and offering guidance to local communities.

Our Past, Our Future
Working together for the New Forest





Information for residents about boundaries

The New Forest is a highly protected site. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a National Nature Reserve, a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and also a Special Area of Conservation.

Fencing

Before undertaking any fencing or other boundary work, you should accurately ascertain the position of your boundary using land registry plans, and if there is any discrepancy or uncertainty with the position on the ground you should consult the Forestry Commission.

Notwithstanding the position of the boundary, parts of your property outside your fence may lie in open forest; as such this area will form part of the common grazing and must not be enclosed. Any small encroachment contributes to large areas of lost grazing Forest wide.

Your fence needs to be well constructed and stock proof allowing commoners stock to graze your property bank without accessing your property.

Ditches should be kept clear of debris and allow water to drain freely.

Hedging

When planting hedging on your boundary please consider using native hedging plants such as blackthorn, hawthorn and holly. Avoid using hedging plants that are poisonous to stock (e.g. Laurel, Yew etc). It is important that hedges are maintained and cut back next to roads, paths and bridleways. Any cuttings must be taken away promptly, not left on the Forest for the animals to eat as they can be poisonous.

For more info please call the Forestry Commission on **0300 067 4601** or visit forestry.gov.uk/newforest

Diagram showing the property boundary onto Crown land

