The New Forest will be England’s ninth National Park (including the Broads which has similar status), ensuring that this unique area is enhanced and conserved for this and future generations to enjoy.

A National Park Authority (NPA) is in the process of being created. It will further the purposes of the National Park:

1. To conserve and enhance its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage;
2. To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.

At the same time the National Park Authority will have a statutory duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities.

Further information, including a map detailing the boundary, can be found on the Defra website: www.defra.gov.uk

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**Members appointed by the Secretary of State**

The Countryside Agency received approximately over 60 applications for the 6 posts. Shortlisted candidates will be notified in December and interviews will take place in January.

**Members from Local Authorities**

Defra is currently undertaking a three-month consultation with those local authorities with land in the New Forest area, on the proposed allocation of their National Park Authority members. Comments from others with an interest are welcomed and should be sent by 6 December to:

Alasdair Grant
CYD 6
Defra
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EB

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**Members from Parish Councils**

The New Forest Association of Local Councils is organising the selection of Parish Council members. Candidates will be proposed by their parish, with a second parish also supporting them. Voting will then take place on 2 December at the Association’s General Meeting and nominees will be sent to Defra in early 2005.

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Work is being carried out by Defra to draft the Establishment Order that will bring the National Park Authority into being.

The aim is to put this statutory instrument before Parliament in the early part of 2005 to enable the Authority to come into being from next April with limited powers. There will then be a transitional year during which the National Park Authority will take on its full range of powers from 1 April 2006.
In response to the public consultation on the three small areas proposed for addition to the National Park, two objections were received relating to the inclusion of the land at and around Fawley power station. These objections will be presented at a hearing, which will take place on 30 November and 2 December at, starting at 10am, at:

**Lyndhurst House Hotel**  
Lyndhurst  
Hampshire

Documents relating to the inquiry can be viewed from 8 November at:

**New Forest Library Museum**  
High Street Car Park  
Lyndhurst  
Hampshire

Notices announcing the hearing will be placed in the Hampshire and Dorset Advertiser, the Hampshire Chronicle and the New Forest Post in the week beginning 8 November.

The Establishment Team is spending more time in the annex of Queen’s House, Lyndhurst but its office is still not covered all the time. It now has an IT system, which is an extension of the Countryside Agency’s so that the team’s e-mail address has changed.

To contact the team, please call 023 8028 6821, send an e-mail to: [newforest@countryside.gov.uk](mailto:newforest@countryside.gov.uk)  
Or write:  
New Forest National Park  
Establishment Team  
Queen’s House  
High Street  
Lyndhurst  
SO43 7BD

The Establishment Team has continued to make steady progress.  
Susan Carter, the Interim Chief Executive for the National Park Authority, is now spending half of each week in the New Forest (usually Tuesday afternoon until Thursday evening), working from a Bristol base the rest of the time.  
She attended the October meetings of the New Forest Committee and the Committee of Verderers and has also met representatives of a number of other local organisations. She has been much impressed by the pragmatic and constructive approach evident at all the meetings. There is much interest in what the establishment of a National Park Authority will mean and a determination to ensure that the Forest gains the maximum benefits.
This news update is produced by the Establishment Team, who have been brought together to deal with the process of establishing a National Park Authority for the New Forest National Park. Previous issues can be found on the New Forest National Park page on the Defra website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/issues/landscap/newforest/index.htm