Defra has proposed that the Authority should have 22 members. Six would be appointed by the Secretary of State; twelve would be nominated by local authorities (five by Hampshire County Council, four by New Forest District Council, and one each by Test Valley Borough Council, Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County Council); and four would be nominated by parish councils for subsequent appointment by the Secretary of State.

Members appointed by the Secretary of State
Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed for the six posts in January. They will be selected by the end of February.

Members from Local Authorities
The public consultation on the proposed numbers of members from local authorities closed on 6 December. All comments received are now being analysed.

Members from Parish Councils
The New Forest parish councils have elected their members to fill the four Secretary of State, parish council appointments, although the appointments cannot formally be made until the Establishment Order for the National Park Authority has Parliamentary approval. Those elected were Diana Halford (South West area), Clive Maton (South East area), Robert Morris (North East area) and John Sanger (North West area). Their names will now go to Alun Michael for formal approval.

A draft Establishment Order has been produced and will be provided to the Preparations Group members in December for comment before being finalised. The aim is for the Order to go before Parliament in February.

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
The hearings into the proposed inclusion of land at and around Fawley power station were held on 30 November and 2 December in Lyndhurst. The Inspector will now write his report and, it is hoped, be able to provide it to Defra before Christmas. The boundary for the Park will then be finalised, so enabling the Designation Order to be confirmed.

The Establishment Team has been looking at what the National Park Authority will need to function from April, and what it will need to do to take on its full functions the following year. It is clear that there is a firm base of good relationships in the Forest on which to build the National Park Authority.

The team has also continued its introductory meetings with various representatives in the New Forest area. Susan Carter, the Interim Chief Executive for the National Park Authority, met the Commoners Defence Association on 7 December and will meet the New Forest Association in January.

Gillian Lewisohn from Defra’s National Park’s branch will be joining the team from January. She will be working primarily with the new members of the Authority.

The team’s office is generally covered from Tuesday to Friday of each week. To contact the team, please call 023 8028 6821, send an e-mail to their recently changed e-mail address: newforest@countryside.gov.uk
Or write to:
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If you would like to contact Susan Carter directly please e-mail her at her recently changed e-mail address: susan.carter@countryside.gov.uk

The Establishment Team would like to thank you for your support and look forward to the New Year.

Websites:

Defra:
www.defra.gov.uk

Countryside Agency:
www.countryside.gov.uk

New Forest Committee:
www.newforestcommittee.org.uk

E-mail addresses:

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