New Forest National Park
Establishment Team

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK UPDATE
Issue 6, January 2005

A New Forest National Park

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

National Park Authority Members

Defra has consulted on its proposals that the Authority should have 22 members. The public consultation closed on 6 December and Defra is currently analysing responses. These will be available on their website in due course. Under the proposal, six members 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
The shortlisted candidates were interviewed for the six posts on 11, 12 and 13 January in the New Forest. They will be selected by the end of February.

Members from Parish Councils
As stated in December’s issue, the parish appointees elected by the New Forest parish councils are Diana Halford (South West area), Clive Maton (South East area), Robert Morris (North East area) and John Sanger (North West area). They will be formally appointed once the Establishment Order for the NPA has Parliamentary approval.

The Statutory Instrument to establish the New Forest National Park Authority

A draft Establishment Order has been produced. The aim is for the Order to go before Parliament in February. The NPA cannot be established until the National Park has been formally designated.

Additional National Park areas

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
is writing his report and is expected to provide it to Defra in mid January. The boundary for the Park will then be finalised, so enabling the Designation Order to be confirmed.

**Work of the Establishment Team**

The Establishment team is still busy working on various issues, including drawing up plans for the training of members and drafting an advert for the Chief Executive post. Discussions are also being held with local authorities on the planning function.

The team is also working hard to look at ways of maintaining relationships with stakeholders. It is clear that a lot of valuable work is already being carried out in the New Forest and that it is important for nothing to be lost during the establishment of the NPA.

The search for interim accommodation for the NPA is underway, and a company has been commissioned to search for a suitable location. Thanks to the generosity of New Forest District Council, the team will be expanding to a temporary home at the Council’s offices in Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, at the end of January. Any new contact details will be placed in the next issue, although they will still have their office in Queen’s House.

Mike Yates, formerly of NFDC, has now joined the team to deal with accommodation issues. His responsibilities will cover office moves and health and safety.

**Contacting the Establishment Team**

The team’s office is generally covered from Tuesday to Friday of each week. To contact the team, please call [023 8028 6821](tel:02380286821), send an e-mail to: [newforest@countryside.gov.uk](mailto:newforest@countryside.gov.uk) or write to:

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**Useful contacts**

**Websites:**

- Defra: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)
- Countryside Agency: [www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)
- New Forest Committee: [www.newforestcommittee.org.uk](http://www.newforestcommittee.org.uk)

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