

FOREWORD

The New Forest is an incredibly special place of incalculable value. It is a place shaped by centuries of activity associated with land management, from commoning to timber production to tourism, and vitally it remains a working landscape today. Being one of the largest areas of freely accessible open space in southern England it is a prized location for all sorts of recreational activities and also a site of international, if not world-wide, importance for rare habitat, wildlife and unique landscape.

The Forestry Commission is extremely proud of its long standing association with the New Forest and the organisations track record of delivering society's objectives for the area in innovative, efficient and cost effective ways. The Crown Lands of the New Forest truly are one of the jewels in the English public forest estate and this plan sets out the work programme we will pursue in the years ahead.

The Forestry Commission remains committed to delivering the widest range of goods and services through its activities in the area. We do not believe that societies interests would be best served by an excessive focus on a single objective. So, our activities will continue to revolve around delivery of a full suite of social; environmental and economic outcomes associated with the land in our care. Given the founding purpose of our organisation, we will particularly seek to lead by example in the pursuit of sustainable woodland management to deliver the outcomes associated with the 'England Trees and Woodland Framework'.

Because of the scale and position of the Crown Lands we fully recognise the leadership role we have in the area and we will not shy away from this. We will fully contribute to the delivery of National Park purposes and the ongoing protection, maintenance and restoration of the area's special qualities. Throughout we will seek to work in partnership with others towards the delivery of shared objectives in addition to objectives specific to our own organisation. Undoubtedly, there will be challenges ahead and the level of available resources will ebb and flow and it is at these times that the strong and effective partnerships that we will continue to forge between Forest organisations will be critical.

As we look to the future and the work that will take place as a result of this management plan we are thrilled to be part of such a special place!

Michael Seddon
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Forestry Commission

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