

The reappointment of the Honourable Ralph Montagu, as the Forestry Commission appointed Verderer for the New Forest has been confirmed. The reappointment by the Forestry Commissioners takes effect from 1st August 2009 for a third and final three-year term.

Ralph Montagu has served in this unsalaried role as the Forestry Commission's appointed Verderer since July 2003. Mr Montagu brings knowledge of the New Forest and experience in managing land for wildlife and people to the work of the Verderers Court to compliment the expertise of his 9 other Verderer colleagues.

The Verderers' Court dates back to medieval times, and was re-established by the 1877 New Forest Act. The Court consists of ten Verderers – five are elected and five are appointed. One is appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, one by the Forestry Commissioners, one by the New Forest National Park Authority and one by Natural England. The Official Verderer, who presides over all, is the Sovereign's representative. The five elected Verderers must all be commoners.

Further details about the role of the Verderers' Court can be found through the Verderers' official website at www.verderers.org.uk