

B2 HISTORIC LEGACY & MANAGEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The history of the New Forest and its associated legacy is intricately responsible for the management structure, customs and condition of the Crown Lands today. On one hand the historic management has helped to create and maintain the valuable mosaic of habitats found in the Forest today while on the other it has led to the decline and degradation of the wetland habitats and loss of heathland and ancient woodland. In order to understand why the Crown Lands are managed as they are today and the issues involved, it is important to appreciate the historic legacy and the associated conflicts, which have led to the current day position.

Certain key historical periods and events have been particularly important in shaping the development of the Crown Lands and an attempt has been made to summarise these below. However, a number of more detailed accounts have been produced by various authors and these are listed at the end of the chapter. Precise areas and timings of historic Inclosure differ between various historical accounts, thus the areas and periods quoted in this chapter are derived from David Stagg's accounts set out in Volumes 45, 46 and 48 of the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club.

2. KEY HISTORICAL EVENTS

2.1 1079 - The designation of the New Forest as a royal 'forest' by William I

Although the area has been utilised by man since prehistoric times, the New Forest as we know it today has its' origins back in the 11th Century. Entries in the Domesday Records suggest that the New Forest perambulation was created some time between 1066 and 1086 to provide a hunting forest for William 1 and his court. A medieval hunting forest was not a forest in its true sense, but a mix of woodland, heath, pasture and scrub whose management was devoted purely for hunting. Indeed it was a:

"territory of woody grounds and fruitful pastures, privileged for wild beasts and fowl of forest, chase and warren, to rest and abide there in the safe protection of the King, for his delight and pleasure" (Manwood, 1598)

In order to protect the game and their associated habitats the Forest was governed by a complex series of judicial and legal structures. Local inhabitants were forced to remove fences, cease their own hunting activities and restrict fuel wood cutting. In compensation for the curtailment of activities the inhabitants were granted certain forest rights, some of which are still exercised by commoners today. For example, forest laws regulated grazing by livestock, allowed pigs to be turned out at certain times of the year to eat the fallen acorns and controlled the collection of fuel wood and turfs. Further Orders and Rules controlled an annual cycle of management in which dues were collected, animals marked, drifts made and "beasts of strangers" impounded for fine and collection. They also controlled deer and timber exploitation and allowed for the enclosure of coppices. Indeed the imposition of forest laws instigated many of the conflicts and issues between Commoners and Crown which, still persist today!

The medieval structure for the administration of forest law was complex and delivered through a number of management hierarchies.

Forest administration came under the control of the Lord Warden who was appointed by the Crown. He oversaw a wide range of officials concerned with the protection of game and Forest habitats including a hierarchy of keepers.

The Courts of Attachment and Swainmote were presided over by the Verderers, who were elected by the freeholders of the County on the King's writ. They sat with a jury and heard presentments on Forest offences and decided the appropriate course of action including passing on more serious offences for settlement in the higher court, the Forest Eyre. The Forest Eyre had both judicial and investigative functions and was assisted by the Regarders who were also elected by freeholders of the County. The Regarders role was to inspect and report on the condition of the Forest every three years and one of their main functions was to mark trees for felling. The last Forest Eyre was held in 1670.

Woodwards appointed by the King, were the chief officers appointed to oversee the management of timber, sale of woods and execution of warrants for the felling of timber. The role existed from the early 16th century until the end of the 17th century when their powers were lost to the department of the Surveyor General of the Woods. During the reign of Elizabeth I, Woodward were assisted by Preservators who were appointed from the Regarders. Their main task was to certify all trees and branches which had fallen as well as dealing with issues relating to woodland management. During the reign of James I the role of the Preservators was abolished and passed back to the Regarders.

2.2 Early silviculture

In the early days the emphasis was on managing the Forest for deer and other game. Forestry was only a secondary consideration, although indirect evidence such as demand for hurdles in 1226, suggests it is highly likely that coppices did exist. One of the earliest records dating from 1389 records the sale of timber and underwood from 109 acres of coppices.

Under the reign of Elizabeth I, an Act of 1483 encouraged the enclosure of private forest coppices within the bounds of forests for three years after cutting as standard and extended the period to seven years. It is thought likely that this also applied to Crown Coppices. There is certainly further evidence of leasing of coppices through the 16th and 17th centuries.

The management of Crown woods for timber was formalized in an Act of 1542 which created the Court of Surveyors and the post of Surveyor General of the King's Woods to increase the commercial function of Crown woodlands. This new office was under the direction of the Exchequer with responsibilities for timber and 'profit of the king'. Not surprisingly the Surveyor General was often in conflict with the responsibilities of the Lord Warden whose duty was to preserve the game and maintain the forest unchanged.

The creation of the post of Surveyor General in turn gave rise to a second hierarchy of officers, known as "Deputy Surveyors" who were assigned to manage "forest districts". The ensuing "Statute of Woods" in 1544, which was a form of management plan for

coppices, extended the period of enclosure to seven years for woods over 24 years growth and woods of lesser age for shorter periods. A later Act of 1588 extended the length of enclosure after felling to nine years.

The coppices were leased by “wood seller tenants” who could cut the hazel underwood and lop pollarded oak for fuel, charcoal, fence stakes and house repairs. However sapling oaks had to be left to mature for use by the Navy.

A survey of 1609 reveals that the New Forest contained:

- ◆ 123,927 ‘Tymer Trees’ of which 23,927 could be spared
- ◆ 118,072 loads of Fyerwood and decayed Trees of which 58,072 loads could be spared.
- ◆ 1,304 acres of Coppice Woods
- ◆ 96 acres of Aldermooses

However, it would appear that Forest Law was not always strictly imposed. Poorly paid officers remote from Crown supervision were often idle and corrupt while Forest rights were regularly abused by the commoners, particularly in relation to the coppice system. During the 16th/17th centuries it became more difficult to lease coppices and regulations relating to coppice management were frequently abused. Reports from the Regarders repeatedly note the inadequacy of the coppice system to preserve timber, mainly due to the short time scale of enclosure leading to lack of any management incentive. By the late 17th century harvestable timber had declined to an all time low.

2.3 1698 Act of the Increase and Preservation of Timber in the New Forest

The 1698 Act allowed for the first phase of large scale timber production. Prior to this time around 340 acres had been enclosed c.1670 in small plantations (Holmhill, Aldridgehill and Holidays Hill) although the legality of these early Inclosures was questionable. The 1698 Act permitted the enclosure and planting of 6000 acres in a rolling programme over 20 years with 2000 acres to be taken immediately followed by 200 acres per year for 20 years. In reality only ~1000 acres had been taken by 1700-03 along with two surviving coppices, North & South Bentley which were cleared and re-sown with acorns but not recognised as formal statutory Inclosures. A further 230 acres were planted c.1751 and a further 2044 acres acquired during plantings in 1768 (1040 acres) and 1775 (1004 acres).

Although the 1698 Act gave statutory recognition to common rights and stipulated that the Inclosures were to be on land which ‘could be best spared from the commons and highways’ it led to significant conflict between Crown and commoner. More than a thousand freeholders and commoners petitioned against the Act and local resistance often led to broken fences and incursions by stock. Furthermore, since the break down of Forest Law the commoners had claimed the right to de-pasture stock on the Forest throughout the year. However, the 1698 Act reintroduced the regulation to remove stock from the forest during the fence month (14 days either side of midsummer day when deer calve) and during winter heyning (22 November to 4 May) when winter forage was low.

Maladministration and corruption continued to reign. By 1789 'The Fifth Report of Commissioners to Enquire into the Woods, Forests and Land Revenues of the Crown' reported that the New Forest was over run by deer, most of the forest customs had lapsed and the Forest was regularly exploited by those entrusted to look after it. Indeed, three of the inclosures had been turned into rabbit warrens by the keepers who found it more profitable to rear and sell rabbits than tend trees!

2.4 1808 Act of the Increase and Preservation of Timber in Dean and New Forests

Lord Glenbervie, the Surveyor General of the time had doubts about the legality of making further Inclosures under the 1698 Act and indeed questioned whether the Act had become obsolete due to the neglect and poor state of the Inclosures made since the first enactment. Subsequent legal opinion suggested that while all initial Inclosures made in 1700 might be laid open and an equal quantity of forest land inclosed all the rest must be legalized by act of parliament.

Thus with concern about the poor state of timber production, the 1808 Act of the 'Increase and Preservation of Timber in Dean and New Forests' was passed which confirmed the allowances of the 1698 Act. As a result, by 1811 Glenbervie could declare that the last of 6000 acres had been enclosed. Over a period of 5 years some 3,930 acres of new Inclosures were completed and a further 850 acres re-enclosed where earlier plantations had failed. From this time until the Deer removal act of 1851 an area approaching 6000 acres was continually enclosed.

Once the 6000 maximum had been achieved plantations that were of a sufficient growth to withstand browsing from grazing animals could be thrown open and an equivalent area enclosed in lieu. Thus under this rolling power a further 777 acres were enclosed in 1817, 753 acres in 1830, 394 acres in 1843 and 323 acres in 1848.

It was also around this time that some of the Crown Freehold woods such as Park Ground and Brick Kiln were planted on former farmland.

2.5 1851 Deer Removal Act

Increased afforestation was justified by the national need to supply the navy with timber but it was not proving a popular move in the New Forest and the Crown needed to find a suitable motive for doing so. By this time no monarch had hunted in the forest for a few hundred years and the deer population was seriously over stocked. Thus the 1851 Deer Removal Act saw the Crown award itself a further 10,000 acres for silviculture as a compensation payment for relinquishing the Crown's right to stock the Forest with deer!

Despite most of the deer being eradicated, the Office of Woods still attempted to enforce the fence month and winter heyning which together with the degree of afforestation and loss of common grazing enraged the commoners. In turn, the gentry many of whom were landowners were further provoked because they could charge enhanced rents from land carrying commoning rights. With increased Inclosure such areas were being drastically reduced.

Under the 1851 Act, Inclosures were required to be at least 300 acres in extent, so together with loss of grazing went the habitats of ancient pasture woodland, heath, bog and lawn under a blanket of Inclosures. Where new inclosures were created the main streams were often straightened and new drains cut in tributary valleys. On the upstream side the cutting of drains was usually restricted to within the inclosure boundary and indeed the 1870 1:2500 O.S. maps show many of these tributary channels originating at boundary of the inclosure fences. Over the years these channels have deepened significantly and extended well beyond the boundary fence into the open forest. It is in many of these Inclosures that habitat restoration works are taking place today to regenerate the wetland habitats damaged at this time.

Another significant addition was that the 1851 Act also allowed for species other than broadleaves to be planted. Previous legislation had restricted species choice to 'tymber trees' although planting of pine in the New Forest had been recommended by surveyors as far back as 1787. Legislation to allow wide scale planting of pine stands had previously failed but statutory constraints were often circumvented by recommendations that oak plantations in bleak situations should be sheltered by firs¹. Thus Scots Pine was first introduced as nurse crops for young oak c1820's. However, the 1851 Act allowed for conifers to be planted as pure stands within some Inclosures on poorer soils. Indeed, it was at this time that some of the biggest incursion of conifers into the forest took place.

It was also around this time, 1846-52, that some of the earliest drainage schemes took place on the Open Forest to improve grazing on lawns funded by compensation money from the Southampton & Dorchester Railway.

It was the great landowners who led much of the campaign to save the Forest from further Inclosure. In 1866 the New Forest Association (NFA) was formed to organize opposition and petition Parliament. At the same time the New Forest's landscape, ecology and amenity value was becoming increasingly recognised by outsiders, many of whom were wealthy, well educated individuals. The felling of large stands of old oak pollards and beeches to make way for regimented planting was not appreciated! The opening of the Southampton & Dorchester Railway in 1845, despite cutting a large swath through the forest, had done much to open the Forest up to general recreation. Thus in 1877 the lobbying forces of landowners, commoners and environmental campaigners alike were instrumental in producing the 1877 New Forest Act.

2.6 1877 New Forest Act

The 1877 New Forest Act restricted any further enclosure to the 17,680 acres enclosed at that time as a consequence of 1698, 1808 and 1851 Acts with no more than 16,000 acres allowed to be enclosed at any one time. The rolling power was abolished and significantly, the remaining 45,000 acres of Crown common land now referred to as the Ancient and Ornamental Woodland was to remain permanently unenclosed.

Furthermore, the 1877 Act established a new management body to control the exercise of common rights - the Court of Verderers of the New Forest. They became a Body Corporate with powers to manage the pastoral interests of the Forest as well as adopting the role of controlling development on the Open Forest. For 40 years or more following

¹ Lascelles claimed that Scots Pines was first planted in 1776 at Ocknell Camp (Tubbs, 2001)

the 1877 Act, the Crown and Verderers were constantly at logger heads over their respective roles and powers on the unenclosed forest. The Verderers insisted that the Crown only had unimpeded rights within the Inclosures and anything on the open forest required their consent. Ultimately the cost of litigation between the Court and Office of the Woods drained the Verderer's funds but lack of compromise ensured that the Forest remained relatively unchanged until 1914 and the impact of the First World War.

The Victorians, with their interest in landscape and amenity were instrumental in introducing ornamental trees or "exotics" to the Forest. Between 1882–1889 around 3000 ornamental trees comprising 13 species were planted in and around the unenclosed Forest, including Turkey Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore, Limes, Maples and Scarlet oaks. Although most were planted on roadsides and around villages a few were planted deeper in the forest and these have left a legacy of secondary regeneration.

2.7 The War & Inter War Years

Through the wars years the Forest was intensively managed for timber production to support the war effort. Land acquisition for national interest during the Second World War reeked havoc. Around 8,700 acres of land on the open forest was appropriated for military training, airfields and firing ranges as well as growing crops. Although most has been returned to the Forest some has been poorly restored.



In 1924 the management of the New Forest passed to the Forestry Commission under the Forestry (Transfer of Woods) Act, 1923 and became vested in the Minister of Agriculture rather than the Sovereign. The Forestry Commission embarked on implementing national forest policy which was essentially the conversion of broad-leaved woods to conifer plantations. Despite anger at some of the Forestry Commission's felling policies during the interwar years the Verderer's Court was too weak and impoverished to have much influence.

2.8 The New Forest Act 1949

The New Forest Act 1949 overhauled the administration of the forest and revived the Verderer's Court. Importantly for the current day administration of the Forest, it clarified responsibilities between the Verderers and Forestry Commission. Section 11 is of particular relevance:

“It shall be the duty of the Forestry Commissionersto carry out such work as appears to them after consultation with the Verderers, and with due regard to the interests of amenity.....for securing that the Forest will be properly drained, that culverts and bridges crossing drains or streams in the Forest....will be properly maintained, and that the grazing will be kept sufficiently clear of coarse herbage, scrub and self-sown trees.”

Indeed between 1965-1986, ninety-six drainage projects were carried out implementing Section 11 of the 1949 Act (Tubbs, 2001).

The Act also gave the Verderers power to authorize the Forestry Commission to enclose a further 5000 acres of Open Forest for plantations but in return compensation had to be paid to the Verderers for any land enclosed. These became known as the Verderers Inclosures but unlike earlier Inclosures they are only held on a 150 year lease and have to be opened to stock for much of that time. In 1958 approval was given to enclose 2005 acres despite strong opposition from the New Forest Commoners Defence Association, the New Forest Association and local residents.

The 1877 Act required that the *“ancient ornamental woods and trees shall be preserved”*. This sparked controversy over whether these woodlands should be left to regenerate naturally or be subject to management intervention to secure regeneration. The resulting outcome was that the 1949 Act gave the Forestry Commission powers, with the consent of the Verderers, to enclose small areas (no more than 20 acres) of the Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands in order to secure their future regeneration. These enclosures, known as the ‘A & O’ Regeneration Plots total 57 sites covering around 800 acres. Details on the historic management of these sites are described further in Chapter B4.

2.9 The New Forest Act 1964

Although the 1964 Act was principally concerned with altering the perambulation in respect of animal husbandry and range of pasture rights it did contain an important clause in relation to conservation, notably that the Forestry Commission and Verderers were to:

“have regard to the desirability of conserving flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features of special interest”

The Act also made provision for recreation by allowing the Forestry Commission with the Verderers’ consent to make campsites on the unenclosed forest. Further provisions in relation to works to “help preserve” the ancient & ornamental woodlands were to have a significant impact in the future direction of forest management.

2.10 The Ministers Mandate & rise in Nature Conservation importance

Through the 1950’s and 1960’s, in order to comply with national forest policy, there was a huge drive by the Forestry Commission to eliminate broad leaved trees within the Inclosures and replace them with conifer plantations. Conifers are not generally suited to damp ground and it was through the drainage and ground preparation for the

plantations that many of the water courses were straightened leading to the damage to the hydraulic network which wetland and habitat restoration is now seeking to address:

“Before planting, main watercourses had to be drained with a mechanical excavator and then the whole area ploughed at 5 ½ ft. spacing with crawler tractors and special ploughs... On the worst soils, that is the compact gravels which often have an underlying pan, a subsoiler was used behind the plough in order to break the pan.” W.A. Cadman

Provisions in the 1964 Act also gave the Forestry Commission permission with the consent of the Verderers to carry out in the unenclosed parts of the Ancient & Ornamental woods “...all such silvicultural maintenance works as may from time to time be necessary”. This provision gave the Forestry Commission the excuse to try indirectly to commercially exploit the unenclosed pasture woods through extensive thinning, with notable interventions taking place in Brinken and Rushpole woods in 1969. The public outcry was enormous and resulted in the Ministers Mandate 1971. This Mandate recognised the unique heritage and conservation value of the New Forest and essentially allowed the Forestry Commission to operate a forest policy in the interests of the New Forest rather than Great Britain as a whole. Significantly the Mandate declared that the unenclosed woods were to be managed without regard to timber production and conversion to conifers within the Inclosures was to cease.

The latest Ministers Mandate 1999 places a further obligation on the Forestry Commission to conserve the natural and cultural heritage and places a high priority on maintaining the Forest’s traditional character.

Further protection to the nature conservation interests of the Forest has been gained through agreements between the Forestry Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council (now Natural England). In 1959, three Forest Nature Reserves² were established under an Agreement between the Nature Conservancy and the Forestry Commission and five areas³ of the Forest were notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with further extensions made in 1971 and 1987 covering 28,947 hectares. Furthermore, recent designations of parts of the Forest as a RAMSAR site, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) have helped to recognise the importance of the Forest on an International and European level.

Nature conservation objectives have not always been popular with all interested parties. In particular, there have been significant disputes with Commoners over such issues as scrub control and loss of grazing. Some see the more recent agreements and management techniques as contrary to Section 11 of the 1949 Act quoted above.

Another legislative mechanism to improving the condition of the Forest has been the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act). The CROW Act amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act to introduce a number of legislative measures that give greater protection to wildlife and enable the process of achieving favourable condition of habitats. In particular the provisions of the CROW Act place clear duties and responsibilities on many organisations and individuals to promote the interests and sustainability of these special sites and to view them as national assets.

² Bramshaw Wood & Bramble Hill Walk, Mark Ash, Matley & Denny

³ Beaulieu Heath East, Cranes & Vales Moor, Hatchet Pond, Linwood Valley, Wilverley Walk & Holmsley Station

2.11 The New Forest National Park Establishment Order 2005

The latest twist to the historic development of the Forest is the creation of the New Forest National Park with the objectives to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park; and
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities by the public.

In addition the National Park has a duty to support the social and economic well being of local communities in ways that sustain the National Park's special character.

The National Park Authority took over limited powers in April 2005 with full statutory functions relating to planning and right of access from 1 April 2006. Section 62 of The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on all Government departments and other public bodies including the Forestry Commission 'to have regard to the purposes of National Parks in the exercise of their own function affecting land in a National Park'.

2.12 Summary

So it can be seen that the Crown Lands of the New Forest have had an interesting but turbulent history which has given rise to the unique landscape, habitats and traditions which survive today. Past land management practices have resulted in damage and degradation of important habitats which restoration and management is seeking to reverse today. The old conflicts and suspicions between "Crown and Commoner" still simmer along with the Verderers working hard to ensure that the Commoners rights and interests are wholly addressed. However, the importance of nature conservation and the need to protect the unique heritage of the Forest is being increasingly recognised and embraced by different organisations involved in the management and working of the Forest. With the recent creation of the New Forest National Park Authority and the subsequent development and implementation of the New Forest National Park Management Plan the next chapter in the history of the Crown Lands is beginning to unfold.

Table 2-1: Summary of Key Historic Events

Date	Historic Significance
1079 - The designation of the New Forest as a royal 'forest' by William I	Forest managed exclusively for deer and other game. Removal of all fences and introduction of Forest Laws. Common rights granted as recompense
Act of 1542	Creation of the post of Surveyor General of the King's Woods to increase the commercial function of Crown woodlands. This new office was under the direction of the Exchequer with responsibilities for timber and 'profit of the king'.
1698 Act of the Increase and Preservation of Timber in the New Forest	First large scale afforestation through the creation of Inclosures. Conflicts with commoners over loss of grazing and imposition of Forest Laws. By end of 18 th C Forest poorly managed and timber supplies declining.
1808 Act of the Increase and Preservation of Timber in Dean and New Forests	Confirmed allowances of 1698 Act resulting in Inclosure of 6000 acres at any one time in a rolling programme.
1845	Opening of Southampton & Dorchester railway bringing artists, naturalists and other recreational users to the New Forest.
1846-52	First drainage schemes to improve Forest for grazing
1851 Deer Removal Act	Culling of deer in return for Crown enclosing 10,000 acres of open forest. Forest Laws of fence month and winter heyning still imposed which together with loss of grazing led to large scale revolts among commoners and gentry. Large scale introduction of conifers and drainage works
1877 New Forest Act	No further creation of Inclosures permitted other than that granted under previous Acts. No further enclosure of Ancient & Ornamental woodland allowed. "Re-creation" of Court of Verderers to administer common rights and pastoral interests remote from Crown influence. Introduction of ornamental trees into Forest by Victorians
The War & Inter War Years	Forest intensively managed for timber production. Large tracts of land acquired for airfields, firing ranges and food supply.
1920's-30's	Further drainage of the Open Forest
1924	Forestry Commission takes over responsibility for management of New Forest from the Crown. National forest policy ensures that afforestation is vigorously pursued
The New Forest Act 1949	Revived Verderers Court and clarified responsibilities between Verderers and Forestry Commission. Act set out requirement for Forestry Commission to maintain drainage and scrub control for grazing interests. Led to significant drainage between 1965-1986. Creation of Verderers Inclosures in return for compensation payments. Enclosure of small areas of Ancient and Ornamental woodland allowed to secure future regeneration.
The New Forest Act 1964	Alteration of perambulation boundary and addition of fencing and cattle grids to help control livestock movement and prevent accidents Provision for creation of campsites Obligation for Forestry Commission & Verderers to give due regard to nature conservation interests. Permission to carry out silvicultural maintenance to preserve Ancient & Ornamental Woodland.
The Ministers Mandate 1971	In recognition of the unique environment of the New Forest, permission was granted to allow forest management to diverge from national policy of large scale conifer planting.
1959, 1971, 1987	Designation & extension of New Forest SSSI
The Ministers Mandate 1991	Places obligation on the Forestry Commission to conserve the natural and cultural heritage and places a high priority on maintaining the Forest's traditional character
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)	Legislative requirements place duty on organisations and individuals to promote the interests and sustainability of the Forest and to achieve favourable status of habitats.
The New Forest National Park Establishment Order 2005	New Forest designated a National Park
2005	New Forest receives full status as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Further Reading

Stagg, D. J. 'Silvicultural enclosure in the New Forest to 1780'. *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society*, 45 (1989), 135-45. Publisher: Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society. ISSN 01428950.

Stagg, D. 'Silvicultural inclosure in the New Forest from 1780 to 1850'. *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society*, 46 (1991), 131-44. Publisher: Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society. ISSN 01428950.

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Tubbs, Colin R. (2001) *The New Forest, New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust*

Anthony Pasmore 'Historical Background To The New Forest' in Appendix 5 of Management Plan For the Crown Lands of the New Forest 2001-2006, Forestry Commission

New Forest Record Series

[Vol.1 Use and Abuse of a Forest Resource](#), New Forest Documents 1632 - 1700
Edited by Richard Reeves. Published Feb 2007.

[Vol.2 Ruin and Reform](#), New Forest Administration 1739 - 1769
Edited by Peter Roberts. Published Nov 2006.

[Vol.3 Preservation and Decay](#), New Forest Documents 1565 – 1624
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[Vol.4 Accounts of the Duke of Bedford](#), Lord Warden of the New Forest, 1746-71.
Edited by Peter Roberts. Published February 2008.

[Vol.5 To Inquire and Conspire](#), New Forest Documents 1533 - 1615. Elizabethan and Jacobean enquiries into the management of the New Forest.