



NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No: 260328
www.newforestassociation.org

National Park Management Plan – Revised Draft October, 2009

The New Forest Association formed in 1867 to protect the Forest is one of the oldest conservation societies in the country.

The Association is disappointed that this plan appears to have lost its direction.

The Vision needs the context that was provided in the earlier version by the chapter entitled 'Portrait of the New Forest National Park'. It would also be useful to include a reference to the Sandford Principle, reminding readers of the legal requirement for National Parks to 'attach greater weight' to their first, conservation, purpose than to their second purpose if there is conflict between the two.

There should be a single over-arching Strategic Aim that is behind the thinking and purpose of this plan. Something along the lines of:

'The long-term protection of the New Forest will be given the highest priority, and within this context, land management and development proposals should enhance the special qualities of the New Forest National Park and must not detract from them.'

There is no real attempt to look to the future. The concept now is to try to hold the line whereas previously there was real vision in attempting to improve on the present situation. The wording of many of the Objectives has been weakened and now shows bias towards potential development. That same process is obvious throughout the document which frequently refers solely to local communities and not to the National Park as a whole.

The New Forest has been taken out of the National Park Management Plan.

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