



New Forest National Park



Hampshire County Council Select Committee
29 June 2010



Today's presentation



- New Forest National Park
- What are we trying to conserve – special qualities
- Issues and challenges for the New Forest
- Working with partners



Statistics



- Covers 220 square miles or 570 square kilometres - the smallest of England's national parks
- More than 34,000 people live within the New Forest National Park – making it the most populated national park in England



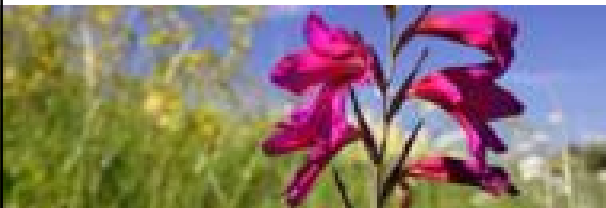
Location



- In the busy south
- Ringed by large towns and cities
- Large resident population
- Accessible by main roads, motorways and airports



The 'statutory purposes' of a National Park Authority



- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park
- To promote understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities



...and the duty

Foster the social and economic well-being of communities within the Park ...





Also the Planning Authority

2009/10

- 1058 Planning applications
- 71 appeals (36% allowed)
- 550 enforcement complaints, 386 live enforcement cases





Setting the strategic direction



Special qualities of the New Forest



Some issues and challenges for the New Forest

- Recreation and visitor pressure
- Natural environment
- Cultural heritage
- Tranquillity
- Sustainable development





Recreation and visitor pressure



- Unmatched open access on foot or horseback
- Extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths
- Coastal activities

Challenges:

- 2nd most visited National Park in England and Wales
- 13.5 million day visits
- 50% of all the accessible natural green space in south east England





Natural environment

- 56% of Park has nature conservation designations
- Commoning system is a key feature that has created and sustained many of the special qualities





Major issues for conservation:

- Climate change
- Green infrastructure connectivity
- Land management practices
- Balancing demands with nature conservation



Cultural heritage

- 10% of scheduled ancient monuments in south east England
- More than 600 listed buildings
- Many other sites and buildings of interest





Major issues for conservation:

- Development pressures
- Creeping spread of suburbanisation
- Pressures for house improvements and replacement
- Lack of understanding and awareness



- Special quality
- Highly valued
- Fragile and threatened

Tranquillity



Sustainable development



Challenges:

- Development and economic activity beyond the Park
- Sustaining commoning and appropriate agriculture
- Resources for land management
- Sustainable tourism
- Adapting to climate change



Working with partners



NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK



Some examples and opportunities

- Transport policy
- Road infrastructure
- Protection
- Climate change
- Land management
- Access
- Sustainable development



Transport policy



- Emerging Local Transport Plan 3
- Revision of New Forest Transport Strategy
- Hampshire Freight Strategy
- National Park Management Plan and RMS



Road infrastructure



- Highway improvement schemes and maintenance
- Signage rationalisation
- Sustainable transport



Passenger transport



- New Forest Tour
- Lymington to Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership
- Local visitor and passenger transport



Protection - Strategic

- Landscape Strategy
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Hampshire County Landscape Character Assessment
- Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership





Protection - local



- Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
- Wildlife sites in active management
- Solent Forum
- Coastal Heritage Project
- Coastal ranger



Climate change

- Local Strategic partnership
- New Forest adaptation plan
- North Solent Shoreline Management Plan
- Coastal Communities Adapting to Change
- Opportunities to reconnect areas of habitat





Land management



- Joint working at Hampshire County Council owned sites - access and events
- New Forest Land Advice Service



Access

- Implementation of Recreation Management Strategy
- Access Forum
- Countryside Access Plan
- Providing access to Hampshire's Heritage
- Small grants scheme
- Direct funding
- Coastal access





Sustainable development



- New Forest Sustainable Business Network
- Local distinctiveness - design guidance