

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 9.30 a.m.  
in the Library, the King's House, Lyndhurst**

PRESENT	Mr E Heron	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Mr A H Pasmore	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Elected Verderer
	Mrs A Tilbury	Elected Verderer
	Miss K Harrison	Elected Verderer
	Mr M Gammon	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Miss A Sevier MBE	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mr R Manley	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr C Chatters	Natural England Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE	Miss J Bayley	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J Gerrelli	Head Agister

APOLOGIES

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2026/14700 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.

2026/14701 NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

There are no new declarations of interest. The OV advised that he is no longer an elected member of Hampshire County Council having stood down at the elections held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May and having formally ceased to be a Councillor on the 11<sup>th</sup> May.

2026/14702 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister said the Welfare Tour held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May had been a success. The tour bus that went to the north of the Forest suffered a flat tyre which caused a delay but they still managed to see plenty of animals.

The welfare tour continues to be a valuable event and a good opportunity to liaise with UK Welfare Charities. Some lovely comments were received from the welfare representatives who deal with other areas of common land, they appreciate the governance and management of the New Forest.

The Head Agister said overall the ponies are looking well, the foals are looking bonny, and the recent rain has greened everything up. The grass is starting to grow on the Forest now. There are still the odd few ponies that are not doing so well, and the Agisters continue to remove them as necessary.

Agister Lovell has a broken leg after being kicked while catching a young mare and her foal. The Head Agister said the Agister team are coping but are under pressure, it has highlighted that there is no slack in the system.

Cattle are still being marked by the Agisters and are starting to be turned out.

2026/14703 STRANGLES AND EQUINE FLU RESUME

There has been a confirmed case of Equine Flu in an unvaccinated pony on a small private yard in the Lymington area. Currently no cases have been identified in the Forest Herd.

Mr Stride said there is a pony with strangles in Emery Down.

2026/14704 STALLIONS RESUME

25 stallions were turned out on Monday 11th May, the Head Agister said as usual they have been moving around and at one point last week there were four stallions at Stoney Cross.

The grazing at Mottisfont is holding up well, Mrs Woodley is contacting the National Trust to see if we can graze the water meadows again this summer.

2026/14705 BOVINE TB RESUME

No new cases to report this month.

2026/14706 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Forest Ponies	4919	4692
Forest Cattle	1158	1123
Forest Donkeys	127	99
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	6204	5914
Common Ponies	394	529
Common Cattle	65	221
Common Donkeys	69	82
Common Pigs	18	14
Common Sheep	6	6
Total Common Stock	552	852
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	6204	5914
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	528	832
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	6732	6746
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	6756	6766

### The Head Agister left the meeting

2026/14707 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS RESUME

Mr Deakin said a gelding has been impounded as its ownership is unknown. An advert has been placed in the Lymington Times.

## OPEN COURT

**IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Craig Harrison, Deputy Surveyor  
Mr Ollie Adderley, Land Agent, South West England**

**The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS**

#### 2026/14708 STALLIONS

The stallions were turned out on Monday 11th May and they can remain on the Forest until Monday 22nd June

Please try to avoid the stallions and unless it is completely unavoidable, please don't ride or walk through the pony herds. We advise horse riders to avoid stallion areas. Any equine entering their area will inevitably result in the stallion approaching to check if the newcomer is a threat to his herd or should be encouraged to join it. An entirely natural reaction, which can be intimidating to all but the most confident riders.

The stallion area list for 2026 can be found on the Verderers Website and has been shared on social media so please look to see where the stallions have been turned out. However, do bear in mind that the stallions do not always remain in the area where they were first turned out.

#### 2026/14709 FOALS

You don't have to travel far now to see some of the Forests newest residents. Drivers are reminded to take extra care when driving on the Forest roads. With the arrival of the foals and the stallions drivers must expect the unexpected and be prepared to stop as ponies can cross the roads with little notice. Walkers are reminded to give all livestock a wide berth and to always keep dogs under close control.

#### 2026/14710 OLD HAY

In the spring and early summer, we regularly see bales of old hay put out on the Forest. This is often done by horse owners when hay becomes mouldy or dusty and is no longer suitable for their own animals. Feeding it to Forest livestock puts the animals' health at risk and encourages aggressive behaviour.

Members of the public, including residents, should never feed the Forest animals or put out on the Forest anything which the stock may eat. The animals have all they need on the Forest. Those which lose condition are taken home by their owners and provided with supplementary feed.

#### 2026/14711 PERAMBULATION FENCING

The Court thanks Mr Parry-Norton for his presentment regarding perambulation fencing and recognises the importance of maintaining safe and effective boundary fencing for the protection of Forest livestock and the public.

The Court would take this opportunity to remind landowners that, where land adjoins the Open Forest, it is their responsibility to maintain fencing in a stock-proof condition so as to prevent Forest livestock from entering their land.

The Court wishes to clarify that it does not hold a comprehensive database of all parties responsible for fencing forming part of the perambulation, nor does it have

the resources to compile such a register or to contact all individual landowners or authorities responsible for fencing along the Forest boundary.

Where concerns relate to fencing that forms part of the public highway, the Court strongly encourages issues to be reported directly, in the first instance, to the relevant highways authority, being Hampshire County Council or National Highways. This enables the precise location to be identified and the defect to be addressed as efficiently as possible.

Where issues are raised in relation to privately owned fencing forming part of the perambulation, the Court will, where contact details are known or can reasonably be established, seek to remind landowners of their responsibilities to fence against Forest livestock.

The Court will continue to remind those responsible for perambulation fencing that defective fencing can allow Forest livestock to escape and come to harm, and that responsibility for any resulting loss or damage may, in such circumstances, rest with those responsible for the fencing concerned.

#### 2026/14712 ANIMAL ACCIDENTS

The Court is grateful to Gilly Jones for her presentment and for her continued involvement with the Animal Accident Reduction Group and shares her concern about the ongoing need to ensure that members of the public know how and where to report collisions involving Forest livestock.

Despite many years of sustained work through the Animal Accident Reduction Group, which Mrs Jones now chairs, including the distribution of information cards and clear guidance on reporting procedures, the Court recognises that this remains a persistent challenge. The Court is grateful for the commitment shown through this work and for the efforts made to reinforce these messages wherever possible.

The Court remains committed to working with all Forest partners to press home the requirement to report all animal accidents immediately. The Court is grateful for the joint working between communications teams across Forest organisations, including the National Park Authority, Forestry England, Go New Forest, and the local authorities covering the Forest, to help ensure that consistent messages are shared as widely as possible.

#### **THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT**

##### 2026/14713 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR APRIL 2026

The Agisters attended 4 accidents in April compared with 1 in April last year.

2 ponies were killed, 1 pony escaped injury and another pony reported to be involved in an accident could not be found.

All the accidents happened in the dark.

The total number of Commoners' animals killed and injured this year is 10 compared with 13 in the same period last year.

## PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

2026/14714 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S CAR PARKING CHARGES  
Presentment by Lucie Rowe, New Forest Commoner

"Good morning Official Verderer, Verderers and all attending Court here today. I am Lucie Rowe – A New Forest Commoner.

My presentment this morning is regarding the recent implementation of car parking charges in the New Forest.

I would like to put on record that I feel that the communication by Forestry England to the Commoners of the New Forest regarding the exemption of car parking charges has been at best poor and at worst non-existent. Given that by the very nature of commoning the Commoners are people that will undoubtedly be on the Forest daily, it has never been made clear from day one how the exemption scheme works.

Personally, I received a link (from where I do not recall) to a form which I completed, and I had to attach what I consider to be personal information regarding my vehicle insurances. This on-line form whizzed off into the ether – never to be seen again! No acknowledgement from FE, no explanation of what happens next – NOTHING!

At the eleventh hour, just a few days before the car parking charges commenced, I received an email from the Verderers Office to say that if they had been able to verify that I had paid my marking fees I should be ok and my vehicles will be exempt from car parking charges – Surely it was not a scheme implemented by the Verderers so it would not have been their responsibility to keep me informed?

To date, I know commoners who are quite frankly not prepared to share their personal information regarding their vehicles to ensure they have 'free' access to carry out their duties and I know Commoners who have not received the exemption form. In truth, I don't think many commoners are informed how this new system is working or affecting them and considering these are the people that have a responsibility to be out and about in The Forest I think they have been treated very badly by Forestry England throughout this whole process.

As a final point, I would like to mention that the Parking Notices now displayed in car parks across the whole of The Forest states that the public can be parked there until 11 o'clock at night. I was under the impression that the public should be off the Forest by dusk which in the winter would be 4 o'clock. The FE notices used to say that car parks would be locked at dusk so why is Forestry England now encouraging the disturbance of the livestock and wildlife in The Forest to carry on for such an elongated period? It is obvious to me that they have no regard for any of us.

Thank you."

2026/14715 TARMACKED CAR PARK ENTRANCES  
Presentment by Sarah Nield, Chair of the New Forest Association (NFA)

"Official Verderer, Verderers and the members of public attending court today, I am Sarah Nield, Chair of the New Forest Association (NFA).

Just a short question today. The entrance to several of the Forest's most popular car parks have been tarmacked. Many drivers will be very relieved that they no

longer need to negotiate the lumps and bumps that can form at these entrances and indeed the entrances may not become as wide as a result.

Given the potential impact on the Forest, we understand that in the past the Verderers have given consent to similar work and thus we ask whether consent has been given to the recent work at other Forest car parks for instance at Whitefield Moor and Puttles Bridge. Is Natural England satisfied with the work and materials used?"

2026/14716 DAMES SLOUGH INCLOSURE  
Presentment by Anna Lawrence, local resident

"My name is Anna Lawrence; this Presentment regards the recent felling in Dames Slough. The area was a Verderers' Inclosure made fifty years ago and thrown open in 2010. The felling was carried out by contractors. Given the damage, I wonder whether these are the same contractors as at Broomy Inclosure?"

I live locally and observed the felling. Despite machinery, potentially unstable log piles and rough ground conditions, ponies were present during works and are present now. Amongst the hazards is a temporary bridge over a ditch. This is constructed of a large metal drainage tube, a middle layer of smaller tubes and a rough top-coat of soil and logs. Some of the soil is washing away and the logs and tubes are loosening. Is it unreasonable to suppose that this will constitute a trap for stock, people & wildlife?

Ruts measure 1m deep having dried a little, compared to 1.5m during the work. Among the detritus are crushed tree tubes. Around the ruts, the soil has been churned up, so now sands make a flat, parched pan beginning to dry hard on top. This despite a reported digger on site.

One tiny nod to the woodland habitat means that a wood ant pile has been protected by candy tape. Now the wood ants are woodless and the candy tape flaps meaninglessly in the wind. In the same area, bankside plants have been left to dry on black plastic which is killing the grasses underneath. Who is responsible for this part of the remediation and when will it be completed?

Further east is a tiny patch of broadleaved trees left as a shelter belt. Large machines have tracked very close both sides of them. The trackways have many large branches and even stems partially or totally buried. These will now have to be recovered - with more heavy machinery. The roots of these trees (and the mycology undoubtedly associated with them) have already been damaged and the trees left exposed and without shelter themselves. They will be further damaged on remediation.

Roadside trees have been felled. They did not reduce grazing except by the area of their stems, but they added to the aesthetic amenity and provided at least a little screening from the cars that tear past. Were they seen as potential costs: if allowed to grow, they might have leaned and then created (God forbid, in a National Park) a hazard to traffic?

Landscape scale change has been achieved here by chainsaw and digger; the Forest has been biologically and aesthetically impoverished. How does this accord with the New Forest Act 1877 section 6:-

*in cutting timber or trees for improving the woods, or for sale, care shall be taken to maintain the picturesque character of the ground, and not wholly to level or clear the woods, but to leave from time to time a sufficient number of the most ornamental trees; and to keep the woods replenished from time to time by*

*protecting the self-sown plants, or by planting trees in the vacant spaces, having regard to the ornamental as well as the profitable use of the ground.*

And this in a Verderers' Inclosure, part of planned deforestation in accordance with the Forest Design Plan. Does any of the design plan and its implementation, accord with the laws that founded the Forest we know today?  
I can supply photographs of all features mentioned.

Thank you for hearing my Presentment.”

2026/14717 NEW FOREST RESEARCH

Presentment by Alexandros Theodorou, PhD Researcher at the University of Southampton

“Good morning, Official Verderer, Verderers, and members of the Court. My name is Alexandros Theodorou, and I am a PhD researcher at the University of Southampton. My research focuses on the New Forest, and in particular on the ecological, social, and cultural dimensions of large herbivores and their management within the Forest.

The New Forest is a distinctive landscape shaped by many different people, practices, and perspectives. Large herbivores such as ponies, cattle, and deer are a familiar and important part of the Forest, and there is a long tradition of knowledge and experience surrounding their presence and management. A central part of any form of management is evidence, it shapes the decisions that are made, as well as the knowledge, understanding, and perceptions that inform those decisions. In the New Forest, this evidence comes from many sources, including scientific research, practical experience, and the knowledge of those who live and work in the Forest. As a result, views on the role and management of large herbivores can vary widely among those connected to the landscape.

My research aims to better understand how the knowledge, experience, and perspectives of those connected to the Forest contribute to how the Forest functions today and how it may be managed in the future.

As part of this research, I am hoping to speak with a wide range of people connected to the Forest to explore stakeholder knowledge, evidence, and perceptions of different large herbivore species and their management. This includes commoners, land managers, conservation organisations, local authorities, and members of the local community.

I am therefore presenting to the Court today to ask whether the Verderers, or others present, might be willing to share their perspectives as part of this research. Participation would involve a voluntary and confidential interview of around 45–60 minutes, and all contributions will be anonymised in any research outputs. I would also be very grateful if the Verderers, and anyone present, might consider whether there are others whose knowledge and experience of the Forest would be important for the aims of this research, and if they would be willing to share information about the study within their own networks.

If anyone would be interested in taking part, or would like to know more about the study, I would be very happy to speak after the meeting. I will also leave my contact details that can be shared with others who may wish to participate.  
Thank you very much for your time.”

2026/14718 THE NEW FOREST AND HORSE RIDERS  
Presentment by Anne Smith, New Forest Equestrian Association (NFEA)

"Good morning, Official Verderer, Verderers, and members of the Court.

For many centuries the New Forest has been one of the premier places in the UK, to ride horses. The New Forest Equestrian Association has canvassed members of the association and the general public for their views on the current appeal of riding on the Forest.

The unpopularity of the new car parking charges figures very highly and will increase the number of cars parked on the verges. This has made riding on the road more dangerous for both horse riders, livestock and walkers. Stock crossing the road between parked cars is virtually invisible to oncoming traffic. The car parking charges are unsurprisingly unpopular, there is little information on how and where the funds raised are to be spent.

In order to set up the payment facilities and ongoing policing, requires considerable expenditure (signage, dragons teeth, parking wardens) how is this funded and when will it be repaid? How does this enhance the Forest, make it more accessible, encourage outdoor exercise? The remit of the National Park is to protect vital landscapes and wildlife habitats, to encourage recreation and support the local communities. Car parking charges seems to be at odds with all three of these tenets. Many car parks have been made smaller with the effect of severely reduced space to turn a horsebox or car and trailer limiting a number of riders who used to regularly transport their horse to ride on the Forest, now have to hack on the road to get to various parts of the riding network.

Bridges – now many are deemed to be not 'horse safe' has further limited the areas available to riders as many do not have other access points that do not include fast running water, steep banks or unsafe ground (bogs and mires).

The advent of the proposed cycle tracks crossing known horse riding tracks, is extremely dangerous as cyclists and horses rarely combine in safety.

Some areas we would like to see action on:

Parking charges, they are here and despite the unpopularity let's see some benefits of restoring the car parks to a better size – having some recommended for animal transport with a suitable designated turning space – warning signs not to park too close to the ramp on a vehicle so it cannot be used to load horses/donkeys/stock getting in or out.

Fix the bridges please, they were previously used by horses and cattle, and should continue to be available, particularly those built wide enough to take a horse!

The BHS created a leaflet 'Be nice, say Hi' in conjunction with Cycling UK to make cyclists aware that horses do not see them as a human on a bike, but a fast moving silent, potential predator, which can make them 'spook' and react badly, if cyclist could call out on approach either in front or behind a horse it is far less likely to be a problem. These leaflets or similar should be issued to those cyclists who are on the forest and particularly those hiring a bicycle and not used to forest stock.

It is felt very strongly that the running and management of the Forest seems to be moving away from the founding principles of a National Park, ignoring the original intention of an appreciation of nature, and enjoying the wonderful fauna and flora of our beautiful Forest."

2026/14719 COUNTY PARISH HOLDING (CPH) NUMBERS  
Presentment by Immy Bickford-Smith, Local Resident and Farmer

"Good morning. My name is Immy Bickford-Smith. I am a farmer with statutory rights to turn out stock onto both the Crown Lands of the New Forest and the Adjacent Commons of Ibsley, Rockford and Gorley.

Concerns raised about CPH numbers and other information essential for effective disease control purposes is to ensure everything possible is done to protect the long term future of farming in the New Forest.

Following my presentment in February it was disappointing to learn that the verderers do not hold current Temporary Land Association (TLA) information (so do not know where cattle may be grazing when off the common land.) And the accuracy of the Parish section of the CPH numbers has not been verified. The Verderers didn't confirm they hold CPH numbers for all those grazing animals on the common land but did confirm they hold them for all cattle graziers.

Further information has just been published on the verderers website under the headings Commoners - VGS - TB Policy (Verderer's TB Control Plan Amended February 2026) and says: "*There are approx 700 active commoners and about 135 of these graze cattle on the Forest – this equates to approx. 90 individual CPH numbers and around 3,000 cattle...*"

135 cattle graziers with approx. 90 individual CPH numbers are quite unusual figures.

The RPA is responsible for issuing CPH numbers (not APHA) and in the past when discussing its allocations of New Forest common land for subsidy payments RPA explained not all New Forest claimants would have CPH numbers. RPA said: "*there are situations which could arise where a claimant doesn't have enclosed land or a holding. In these cases they would rely on either open grazing in the New Forest or they could be part of a family farming business that has a holding and CPH, but would be paying their own fees to graze animals in their own right.*"

However - a marking fee is not a fee to graze animals ('rights' are attached to land/property) the fee is a payment for the services of the Agister. And a grazier that has inadequate or possibly even no backup land or holding could potentially have a serious problem. e.g. if movement restrictions are imposed and stock has to be removed from the common land.

APHA gave a talk on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 "Overview of bTB in Hampshire." This also included information about the TB control plan for New Forest common land graziers. There seemed to be considerable confusion when a couple of significant changes to the rules were discussed (rules updated in 2021) including changes to movement licences for cattle on/off common land (the verderer's blanket license replaced by individual licenses since 2025) and additional action now required by APHA for inconclusive reactors (APHA consider multiple herds of cattle mixing together on common land are higher risk)

Information essential for disease control purposes that is inaccurate and/or inadequate could end up having a devastating impact on the wildlife of the New Forest and on all farmers in the area – as well as on commoners turning stock out onto the common land.

I hope you will agree that all deserve the best protection you can give them. Thank you."

**The Head Agister closed the Court**

## IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)

### CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2026/14720 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S CAR PARKING CHARGES

RESUME

The Official Verderer said we can all agree that the roll out of the Commoners Parking Exemption hadn't gone as smoothly as we would have hoped.

The Court discussed public access to the Forest between dusk and dawn. Mr Pasmore said Forestry Commission Byelaw 7.3 states that *no person shall on the lands of the Commissioners park or leave unattended a motor vehicle between the hours of sunset and sunrise except by the side of a highway for a stop of reasonable duration for refreshment or other reasonable cause*. He said Forestry England are entitled to break the byelaws but asked if it was a conscious decision to do so or a failure to enforce.

The Deputy Surveyor said he hopes the new parking enforcement will enable greater control of infringements, the Official Verderer disagreed saying that in the past if a car park had been used regularly after dark the local Keeper would have locked it. He asked the DS, as extending the permissible period for vehicles to utilise the car parks had been a policy decision, whether the impacts of this had been properly considered under the Habitats Regulations. If so, the OV asked that evidence of this be made available ahead of the June Court.

The matter is resumed until the June Court.

2026/14721 TARMACKED CAR PARK ENTRANCES

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England have only retarmacked existing surfaces and no new areas have been tarmacked.

Mr Chatters said it would be helpful for the Court to see a list of all tarmacked areas. The Official Verderer agreed saying a GIS layer would be useful showing both the areas and the dates consent was given.

The Court discussed that although tarmac has an urbanising effect its use has stopped the growth of car park bell mouths resulting in less loss of grazing.

The Clerk is asked to find details of when consent for the use of tarmac was sought and agreed.

Action Clerk

2026/14722 DAMES SLOUGH INCLOSURE

RESUME

The Court is aware of the damage in Dames Slough Inclosure and has concerns for livestock welfare. A site visit with Forestry England has been arranged for this Friday.

Dames Slough is not a Verderers Inclosure. The matter will be discussed further at the next Court after the site visit has taken place.

2026/14723	NEW FOREST RESEARCH	DISCHARGE	
	<p>Mr Chatters said he knows Mr Theodorou and that he has been attending the Verderers Court for a few years now. The Official Verderer and Mr Stride both said they are happy to speak to him about his research. The Official Verderer will reply to the presentment at the next Court.</p> <p>The Clerk is asked to obtain and circulate Mr Theodorou's contact details.</p>		Action Clerk
2026/14724	THE NEW FOREST AND HORSE RIDERS	DISCHARGE	
	<p>The Court noted the previous reassurance from the Deputy Surveyor that revenue raised from car parking charges will remain in the New Forest.</p> <p>The Deputy Surveyor said the Forest car parks have not reduced in size, the gravel areas have not changed.</p> <p>The Official Verderer said it is changes in Health &amp; Safety requirements that have made the Forest bridges unsuitable for horse riders, not any action by Forestry England. Forest bridges have never conformed to modern specifications for use by ridden horses, and every rider must assess for themselves if they wish to cross a bridge or not.</p>		
2026/14725	COUNTY PARISH HOLDING (CPH) NUMBERS	RESUME	
	<p>Mr Deakin said Ms Bickford-Smith's presentment implies that cattle commoners don't have any land to keep their cattle when they are not on the Forest. He said this is not true and all cattle are removed from the Forest to the commoners holdings for marking and TB testing when they must be kept in for at least three days.</p> <p>Family members turning out from the same holding share CPH numbers.</p> <p>Mr Deakin said a new request for information has come from APHA regarding any commoners using Temporary Land Association's (TLA's). The Court needs to discuss the request and the further changes that may need to be made to the TB Plan with APHA.</p>		
<b>NEW SUBMISSIONS BY FORESTRY ENGLAND</b>			
2026/14726	CAMPING NEW FOREST REQUEST TO EXTEND THE OPENING OF HOLMSLEY CAMPSITE	DISCHARGE	
	<p>The Court agreed that Holmsley Campsite can remain open until the morning of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, providing that the site is cleared of all camping paraphernalia promptly so it can be safely thrown open to livestock ahead of the drift. Compliance with the requirement to clear the site fully and expeditiously will be considered a key factor should the Court receive any similar requests in the future.</p>		Action OA
	<p>Mr Adderley is asked to communicate this to Camping New Forest.</p>		

2026/14727	WESSEX INTERNET EMERY DOWN	DISCHARGE
	<p>Wessex Internet's proposal for Emery Down is approved with no objections subject to the usual three conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.</p> <p>The Court found Wessex Internet's plans difficult to follow even with good local knowledge of the area. Wessex Internet are to be asked to inform the Court when works commence and are completed on the Forest so the Court can monitor the works as they happen.</p>	
		Action Clerk
2026/14728	SOUTHERN GAS NETWORKS (SGN) PROPOSED GAS MAIN REPLACEMENT PITMORE LANE AT THE SHIRLEY HOLMS JUNCTION	DISCHARGE
	<p>The works have been carried out without consent albeit to a good standard. An extra compound has been erected on the grazing which was not in the submitted plans.</p>	
2026/14729	NEW ACCESS TRACK TO HEATHER VIEW, HILLTOP, BEAULIEU	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Court highlighted the other statutory requirements to Forestry England but in this instance Verderers Consent is not required.</p>	
2026/14730	SOUTHERN GAS NETWORKS (SGN) GAS MAIN REPLACEMENT IN LYNDHURST	DISCHARGE
	<p>SGN's proposal for Lyndhurst is approved with no objections subject to the usual three conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.</p>	
<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND</b>		
2026/14731	PERAMBULATION FENCING AND VICINAGE	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Court discussed incidents of common pigs escaping through poor private fencing in Nomansland. In this instance Vicinage does not apply as it is outside of the pannage season meaning there is no mutuality of Rights over the Commons and Crown Land.</p>	
2026/14732	LANDSCAPE RECOVERY SCHEME	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor said the Chair of Forestry England had visited last week and is aware of the urgency to find a future scheme for the New Forest.</p>	
2026/14733	FORESTRY ENGLAND CAR PARK CHARGES	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Official Verderer said he has not seen any evidence of increased parking in the uncharged Forest car parks such as those on National Trust or Hampshire County Council owned land, but this may change over the summer.</p> <p>The Deputy Surveyor said the Parking Wardens are issuing parking fines to vehicles parked in bell mouths and gateways.</p>	

2026/14734	DENNY WOOD CAMPSITE	RESUME NOVEMBER
	The Court asked the Deputy Surveyor to provide details of the long-term management plan for Denny Wood Campsite.	
2026/14735	SIGNAGE	RESUME
	The Deputy Surveyor said he will share items from the multi-agency meeting with the Court.	
2026/14736	CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP	RESUME
	Mr Chatters said Camping New Forest have cancelled the next round table meeting.	
2026/14737	CADNAM CRICKET CLUB	RESUME
	Mr Adderley said he has received the management plan from the club, which is now waiting for Natural England approval.	
	Mr Deakin said he is happy to report that the spoil heap has finally been moved.	
	Concern is raised regarding the number of vehicles parking on the grazing when the car park is empty. Mr Adderley said the club have a right to drive from the barrier to the clubhouse but that it does not cover parking. He said Forestry England are not enforcing car parking charges for club members and he will ask that they use the car park.	

#### DE-MINIMUS PROPOSALS

2026/14738	DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE	RESUME
	DM0246 Apr 26 SSE, Peartree Cottage, Exbury Road, new electricity supply on an existing overhead pole and a new pole inside the property boundary	

#### EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

2026/14739	EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES	RESUME
	EM0027 Apr 26 Southern Water, Burst Water Main between the A35 and The Cottage, Gritnam, Bank	
	EM0028 Apr 26 South West Water, Burst Water Main, Hale Purlieu, Charford Firs, Hale	
	EM0029 Apr 26 South West Water, Burst Water Main, Hale Purlieu	
	EM0030 Apr 26 South West Water, Water Leak, Meadow View, Dilton, Brockenhurst	

**SSSI RESTORATION WORKS**

2026/14740 SSSI RESTORATION WORKS RESUME

No new requests this month.

**ENCROACHMENTS ON FORESTRY ENGLAND LAND INCLUDING THE ENCROACHMENTS LIST**

2026/14741 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

Mr Adderley said the encroachment at Chilly Hill is being dealt with by the Estates Team.

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2026/14742 ACTION LIST RESUME

The Action List was noted.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2026/14743 CAMPING NEW FOREST CAMPSITE WALK AROUND DISCHARGE

The Court asked Mr Adderley to arrange an end of season walk around before the November Court.

Action OA

2026/14744 PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSENTS RELATING TO FOREST CAMPSITES RESUME

The Court agreed that issues with communication need to be resolved. The matter will be resumed at the next Court.

2026/14745 CAMERAS TO MONITOR MINERAL LICKS DISCHARGE

Miss Harrison has a trail camera on loan from Forestry England. She will liaise with the Agisters to decide the best location to site it.

2026/14746 BROCKENHURST VILLAGE SIGNAGE RESUME

The Court discussed the request from Hampshire County Council to install new village name plates in Brockenhurst and raised concerns at the proposals aim to urbanise the village. Names plates are not permitted development as road signs. All of the proposed name plates will need the Courts consent. The Court has requested the location of all planned signs and details of the consultation held with the New Forest National Park Authority.

Action Clerk

2026/14747 TEMPORARY FENCING FOLLOWING A WATER LEAK AT RUSHY FLATS B3080 RESUME

Mr Pasmore reported the temporary fencing erected at Rushy Flats to allow the ground to recover following a water leak has collapsed and is a danger to livestock.

Action Clerk

2026/14748	BARRIER TO BLACKGUTTER CAR PARK	RESUME
	Miss Harrison reported the barrier to the old Blackgutter car park on the B3078 has been nailed shut. Access is required for livestock management including the drifts and she asked for a lock and chain to be installed.	Action OA
2026/14749	KINGS HAT COTTAGE	DISCHARGE
	Mrs Tilbury asked if there is an update on King Hat Cottage. Mr Adderley said there is a possibility that it may be refurbished subject to costs. He said Forestry England are currently working with a third party surveyor to locate the leak in the water supply to the cottage.	
2026/14750	EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE HALL	RESUME
	Mr Deakin said the heras fencing at the village hall has not been moved back to the agreed area. Two chemical toilets have been placed on the grazing at the rear of the hall which need to either be moved onto hard standing or periodically moved to avoid killing vegetation. He has also noticed materials are being stored on the grazing on top of planks which will kill any vegetation underneath.	Action OA
2026/14751	KNIGHTWOOD OAK PICNIC TABLES	DISCHARGE
	Mr Deakin said the Head Agister had raised concerns for public safety as the picnic tables are sited where they can be accessed by ponies. The Deputy Surveyor said the tables had been moved to protect tree roots from damage.	
2026/14752	THE QUEENS TREE PLAQUE	DISCHARGE
	Mr Deakin said the plaque at the Queens tree is propped up against the trunk. The posts holding the plaque have rotted and need to be replaced.	Action DS
2026/14753	PINE REMOVAL AT BUCKHEARD BOTTOM	DISCHARGE
	Mr Deakin asked if the Court felt a site visit is required to Buckheard Bottom. Anyone wishing to attend a site visit is asked to let the Clerk know so she can arrange a date.	Action All
2026/14754	MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES	DISCHARGE
	The Deputy Surveyor said the food concession van at Bolderwood has been moved inside a fenced area. He said discussions have been held regarding Boltons Bench and Wilverley and plans will be circulated soon.	
2026/14755	FOREST GLADE, BARTLEY	DISCHARGE
	Mr Stride asked if there is an update available on the encroachment at Forest Oaks in Bartley. Mr Adderley said the case is going to Court next week.	

**There being no other business involving Forestry England, the Deputy Surveyor and the Land Agent left the meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING**

2026/14756 RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE VERDERERS REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES RESUME

Mr Deakin asked that it be placed on record that while he understands that as a holder of a public office he has a responsibility to uphold the principles set out, he wished to make it clear that as an Elected Verderer, he is answerable to the Commoners who elect him. The Court voted to adopt the Nolan Principles with 9 in favour and 1 abstaining.

2026/14757 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1877 NEW FOREST ACT RESUME

Miss Sevier said the next meeting which will be with the New Forest Show Society is scheduled for Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

2026/14758 UPLIFT IN HLS SCHEME RESUME  
SEPTEMBE  
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The matter will be resumed at the September Court

**HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME**

2026/14759 FUTURE AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEME (LANDSCAPE RECOVERY/COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME) RESUME

Mr Gammon updated the Court regarding the facilitator agreement with the Foundation for Common Land. The Court discussed the potential to request additional funding under the current HLS Scheme. Mr Gammon will draft a paper detailing the Courts reasons for the request.

**TRAINING**

2026/14760 FIRST AID TRAINING DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said the Agisters and the VGS Administrator have now completed First Aid Training.

2026/14761 VERDERER INDUCTION RESUME

Mr Deakin highlighted a lack of training for newly elected or appointed Verderers. The Official Verderer said he is looking at updating the current regulations and policies which would include induction training. Miss Sevier suggested longer serving Verderers could act as a mentor.

**STAFF MATTERS**

2026/14762 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES RESUME

The minutes were noted.

2026/14763 STAFF TRAINING DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer said staff training needs to be reviewed. He will pick this up with Mr Deakin and the Clerk outside of the Court.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

2026/14764 POUND AT AMBERWOOD

DISCHARGE

Miss Sevier said some rails on the run in towards the pound at Amberwood need to be replaced. Mr Stride said the Agister is aware and has been waiting for a delivery of new rails.

2026/14765 TRAINEE AGISTER

DISCHARGE

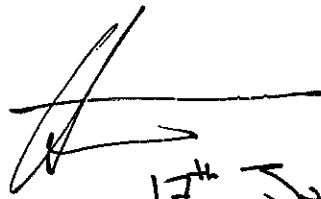
Mr Manley said that the Agisters are all of a similar age and will be approaching retirement at the same time. The Official Verderer said the Court does not currently have the funds available to take on an apprentice. Mr Manley will investigate any funding schemes that may be available.

2026/14766 DARTMOOR COMMONS CASE

DISCHARGE

Mr Gammon provided a detailed report to the Court following the High Court judgement against the Dartmoor Commoners Council.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 14:43 hrs



17<sup>th</sup> June 2026