

**South England Forest District
The Queen's House
Lyndhurst
Hampshire
SO43 7NH**

Jonathan Harding
Field Manager (Regulations)
Forest Services South East & London Area

Tel 0300 067 4600
Fax 02380 283141
John.stride@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Planning & Environment Manager
John Stride

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Dear Jonathan,

Please accept this letter as notice of our submission for approval under the Forestry Act and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations of the New Forest Inclosures Forest Design Plan.

The Plan encompasses around 8500 hectares of the approximately 26,000 hectares of the New Forest Crown Lands managed by the Forestry Commission.

The Inclosures are included within the New Forest designations of Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Site of Special Scientific Interest. These designations identify qualifying and notified features including open habitats of heathland and grassland, ancient pasture woodlands and wetlands as well as species such as ground nesting birds, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates. In addition to these features, many other habitats and species benefit from the unique historic management of the New Forest.

The Inclosures, as part of the New Forest Crown Lands, fall entirely within the New Forest National Park and as such, play an important role in the delivery of the objectives of the National Park Authority.

The New Forest Inclosures have also historically been an important source of forestry products including high quality timber and firewood. These products, resulting from management of the Inclosure woodlands have historically, and continue to provide employment opportunities, income to support the wider management of the New Forest and high quality products for use by people far and wide.

The New Forest lies in the south of England, within commuting distance of London and in an area of increasing human population and urban development. In 2009 it was estimated that the New Forest was subject to around 12.5 million day visits per year, averaging to around 34,000 visits per day.

The Plan has been developed to balance the high value that the New Forest offers to nature, the economy and people.

The documentation can be found at <https://englandconsult.forestry.gov.uk/forest-districts/new-forest-inclosures-forest-design-plan-approval> from 18th April 2017. This includes background and context, detailed maps of the proposals and appendices which include our Operational Planning process, timber production forecast, how the Plan will support nature conservation features and effects of open habitats restoration on EIA (Forestry) related factors such as wildfire risk, flood risk, landscape value, carbon sequestration and the historic environment.

I look forward to hearing from you and helping to support you with any further information you may require.

Yours sincerely

John Stride
Planning & Environment Manager