

Sue Baillie

From: "Steve Avery" <Steve.Avery@newforestnpa.gov.uk>
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Cc: "Alison Barnes" <Alison.Barnes@newforestnpa.gov.uk>; "Sarah Kelly" <sarah.kelly@newforestnpa.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 June 2013 15:48
Subject: RE: LAP and LCA Consultation

Dear Sue,

It was good to see you yesterday and I do thank you for taking the time to come in and discuss the draft Landscape Action Plan and draft Landscape Character Assessment. Amongst the various issues we discussed, I understand that there is some confusion about the legal status and future application of both documents (once finalised).

The Landscape Action Plan will be a non statutory document with no legal weight. It's aim is to raise awareness about the landscape and to seek agreement about how we might all work together to keep the New Forest a special place. It offers practical advice and guidance and puts forward some suggested actions grouped around seven specific themes which are set out in the introduction.

The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is a more technical document and one that is widely commissioned by many other local authorities. It's main purpose is to help understand, and articulate, the character of the landscape. It helps to identify the features that give a locality its 'sense of place' and pinpoints what makes it different from neighbouring areas. LCA can be used in many situations, for example in devising indicators to gauge landscape change and to inform future proposals for planning policy, environmental assessment and the management of protected landscapes.

I think both documents would benefit from better introductions to help explain their purpose and application and how they have been prepared.

We are pleased that people are taking an interest in these documents and look forward to receiving further comments and feedback during the current consultation, which remains open until 31 July 2013. Thereafter, we will need to take stock of the consultation responses before deciding on the next steps.

In the meantime, if you or anyone contacting you wish to discuss any aspect of these documents further, then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or my colleague Sarah Kelly.

Kind regards,

Steve

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