

Presentment to the Court of Verderers

18th October 2017

Dr Tony Hockley
Practicing Commoner
Chairman, New Forest Commoners Defence Association



On behalf of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association

Recreational Harm

The September court heard several presentments on pressures and abuse of the New Forest. The CDA supports such concerns.

Commoners have long been involved in educational efforts. But education alone will not suffice for companies that see the Forest as a profit opportunity, or for those who care only for their own entertainment.

Enforcement action is a sad necessity. In 2005 the Forestry Commission prosecuted one of the kite-buggy riders using Wilverley Plain¹. That sent a warning to others. Similar resolve is needed on other routine breaches of the byelaws.

I would highlight two current issues that typify the challenges that can only be resolved by the Forestry Commission:

- The **Ordnance Survey**, another public body, has started to facilitate mountain-bike trespass; allowing subscribers to its online mapping service to upload their routes for others to follow. The Forest is now covered with these unlawful routes.
- On 2nd December the Forest will face its first **commercial event in the hours of darkness**. It is sponsored by a headtorch company, and hosted by Foxlease. For £30 entrants are offered the thrill of a night-time incursion into Forest. The company says that the racer will have: *“a wealth of wildlife to keep your mind occupied”*.

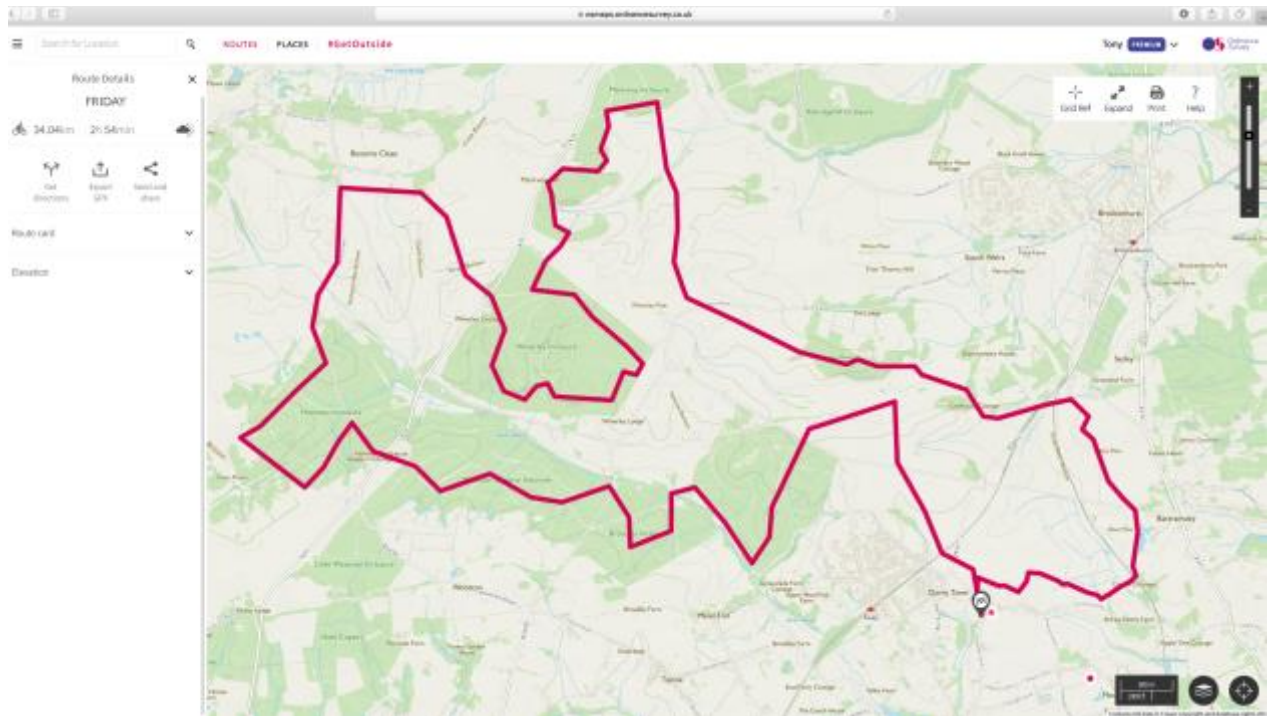
Both of these are abuses of the Forest that the Forestry Commission could and should stop. It seems that the tranquillity of the Forest is being sold to anyone capable of making money from it whilst we all stand by. Our livestock and this special place deserve much better and we would urge to Court to do whatever it can to make this case.

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¹ Verderers Court minutes, January 2006 (item 2006/2082)

OS Online – Example of unlawful cycle route mapping



Maverick Silva Dark Series – New Forest



2nd December 2017

19 Nov 2017

Blackburn and the Dark Series... (text is small and partially illegible)

 <p>100% Cotton Available in 100% Cotton Available in 100% Cotton</p>	 <p>100% Polyester Available in 100% Polyester Available in 100% Polyester</p>	 <p>100% Nylon Available in 100% Nylon Available in 100% Nylon</p>
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Pricing

<p>100% Cotton</p> <p>Available in 100% Cotton Available in 100% Cotton</p>	<p>100% Polyester</p> <p>Available in 100% Polyester Available in 100% Polyester</p>	<p>100% Nylon</p> <p>Available in 100% Nylon Available in 100% Nylon</p>
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