

# New Forest Commoners Defence Association

12<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## New Forest Recreation & Cattle

Thank you to all those cattle commoners who came to the recent joint CDA and Verderers meeting on recreation and cattle. The wide range of views expressed during the meeting were discussed by the CDA committee at its October meeting. The committee drew two clear conclusions from this:

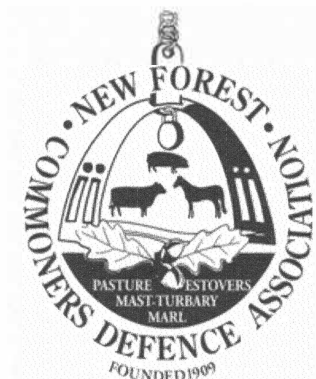
Firstly, the scale of recreational pressure on the Forest and the decline of sensible behaviour amongst Forest users mean that the lack of clear signage and enforcement of the byelaws needs urgent action. The CDA will now significantly increase its campaign for these vital changes.

Secondly, the committee also considered what more, if anything, we as commoners could do to protect all Forest users from very serious harm whilst the root causes of the problem are addressed. As a result of this discussion:

**The CDA recommends that all depastured cattle are dehorned**, except for those native breeds for which horns are an essential breed characteristic (primarily Highlands and Longhorns).

We believe that this voluntary step can address an avoidable risk of serious injury, and that it is entirely consistent with the maintenance of common rights.

**Tony Hockley**  
Chair, CDA



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