



MEDIA STATEMENT

25th November 2019

ATTACKS ON NEW FOREST LIVESTOCK

Statement by CDA Chair, Tony Hockley

“Any harm to New Forest livestock hurts everyone. We all depend upon the vocational commitment of 700 local people to turn livestock out to graze the landscape. Most have just a few animals, and there are only around 200 sheep in the whole of the New Forest, but they are part of its very special culture. Every animal matters to its owner.

It is devastating to lose one in this way, and it is the sort of thing that will make commoners give up. If the grazing goes then the accessibility, culture and biodiversity go too. Any crime against one of the animals that graze the New Forest is a crime against everyone who loves and enjoys this special landscape. Commoning practice here has survived over centuries, against huge development pressures. Please help us maintain this record of survival. Support us in protecting our grazing animals from harm. Commoners look out daily for each other’s animals, but we have to rely on the general public to care too and let us know if anything is wrong.

We’d implore anyone with any information at all on these terrible incidents to contact the Police on 101”

Further Information: Tony Hockley 07768 237389 tony@realnewforest.org

On Friday 22nd November 2019 Hampshire Police said:

“We are appealing for witnesses following suspicious incidents involving animals near Lyndhurst.

We received a report at around 11am on Tuesday 19 November that a dead ewe had been found at the roadside in Penn Common Road, Bramshaw. The ewe had a puncture wound to its side. We are looking to see if this incident is linked to two other incidents, in which cows have been found with wounds.

One of these incidents took place sometime between 2.30pm on Tuesday 19 November and 9.10am on Wednesday 20 November. A heifer was let out in the Bramshaw area and when it returned it was found to have a wound on its neck. The animal was taken to the vets for treatment. The second incident took place sometime between 7pm on Tuesday 12 November and 1pm on Thursday 14 November. Two calves that had been let out in the Linwood area returned with small wounds to their shoulder. The wounds have been treated.

Sergeant Andy Williams, of Hampshire Constabulary’s Country Watch team, said:

“These incidents are unusual in the New Forest. We are looking at the circumstances of each one to see if they are linked, and to see how these animals came to be injured.

*“If you have any information that could help our enquiries, then please call 101, quoting the crime reference number **44190416137**.*

“We would also urge anyone who uses the Forest, including Commoners, to be vigilant. Please contact us if you see anything suspicious, even if you think what you have seen or heard is not that important.”