



The Lord Gardiner of Kimble
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
LONDON
SW1P 3JR

25th July 2017

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you as a group of New Forest organisations with an interest in the future of farming support for this special area.

We have prepared a paper, which we are pleased to enclose. This sets out what we believe the New Forest's commoners, farmers, Verderers and land managers are doing to preserve and enhance the environment and human ecology of the New Forest. We believe that the Forest's farmers are providing a service to the nation that is, in principle, deserving of special support through locally led and managed agri-environment schemes in the future.

In fact, we think it is fair to say that our farmers are already doing exactly what the Secretary of State hopes for when he spoke recently about his vision for a "Green Brexit". With our proven record of partnership working we continue to be effective custodians of the National Park's landscape, protecting and improving it for future generations and providing a major public benefit. We believe that our farmers should be rewarded for that public benefit.

This is the principle which we believe in and we ask that the Government adopts it. We would particularly welcome the opportunity for our group of organisations to discuss with you the special challenges we face and the public benefits we deliver. We offer our assistance in working alongside Defra to shape the right future scheme for the New Forest and invite you to visit the New Forest to view our landscape management first hand.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre DL, Chairman, New Forest National Park Authority
Lord Manners, Official Verderer, Verderers of the New Forest
Dr Tony Hockley, Chairman, New Forest Commoners Defence Association
Sam Dovey, NFU Mutual, New Forest
Robin Edwards, Country Land and Business Association

c/o New Forest NPA, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9ZG