

BLASHFORD LAKES STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The [Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan \(BLSMP\)](#) has been prepared to review and update the Blashford Lakes Management Strategy & Plan 1992 (the 'Blue Book'). A copy of the document is available for inspection and copies can be supplied on request. The purposes of this report are:
- to request that the BLSMP be approved for use as informal guidance to assist in the management of the lakes and their immediate environs, and the determination of planning applications within the study area; and
 - to seek agreement on the proposed Terms of Reference for both the Blashford Lakes Consultative Forum and the Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan Steering Group, attached at Annex 1 to this report.
- 1.2 The 'Blue Book' was produced by Wessex Water and a number of partners including NFDC in response to a requirement of a legal agreement related to a planning permission for use of the lakes for water storage. The original recommendation was that it should be reviewed every 4-5 years. By 2002, Wessex Water had substantially met their obligations and there was a need to consider the benefit of having such a strategy. There was a collective view amongst the strategic partners that it had been beneficial, but that it needed to be reviewed.
- 1.3 The 'Blue Book' needed updating because since 1992, many of the lakes have been included in national, European and international nature conservation designations. Further, ongoing work on mineral extraction and restoration has led to some variation in the original proposals.
- 1.4 The revised plan has been prepared by Land Use Consultants under the guidance of the Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan Steering Group which comprises representatives of Hampshire County Council, Wessex Water, Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water, the Environment Agency, English Nature, the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and New Forest District Council. Preparation of the BLSMP has involved consultations with many stakeholders and interest groups in the study area including Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council and Ringwood Town Council (see BLSMP Appendix 3). A draft of the BLSMP was published in July 2004 for public consultation. Some 20 people and organisations responded, and their comments are reproduced at Annex 2 to this report, along with the responses recommended by LUC and the Steering Group, which included a number of changes to the document.

2. THE REVISED DOCUMENT

- 2.1 The BLSMP:
- updates the objectives and detailed management proposals for all the activities that take place in the study area, and for individual lakes, watercourses and areas of land within the area;
 - revises the terms of reference for the Blashford Lakes Consultative Committee, including extending its membership, re-titling it the Blashford Lakes Consultative

Forum, and NFDC taking over its chairmanship from Wessex Water – the proposal is that it should be chaired by a local Member of NFDC;

- updates the terms of reference for the Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan Steering Group.

A full statement of the proposed updated terms of reference is attached at Annex 1 to this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Strategic Management Plan does not entail any changes to the Council's current financial commitments in the Blashford Lakes area.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The purpose of the Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan is to ensure that the gravel workings and lakes are restored and managed to maximise their benefits for both wildlife and recreation.
- 4.2 The potential for criminal access has been a factor in determining the proposed access network.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan be approved and published for use as informal guidance to assist in the management of the lakes and in the determination of planning applications within the area; and
- (b) the proposed Terms of Reference for the Blashford Lakes Consultative Forum and the Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan Steering Group as set out in Annex 1 to this report be approved.

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Background Papers:

Published documents

**TERMS OF REFERENCE:
BLASHFORD LAKES STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN STEERING
GROUP
BLASHFORD LAKES CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
BLASHFORD LAKES STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Purpose	<p>1/. Keep the Strategic Management Plan under review and initiate an update when required</p> <p>2/. Monitor the implementation of the Strategic Management Plan and improve the management of the study area.</p> <p>3/. Engage in joint working, through such means as sharing skills, joint funding of projects, shared data collection, or collectively seeking funding in order to fulfil the strategic action plan.</p> <p>4/. Operate and engage with, a Consultative Forum to receive views and feedback on the implementation and review of the Plan.</p> <p>5/. Devise, implement and monitor a programme of data collection which facilitates the implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>6/. Review current and planned operations undertaken within the Strategy area, to ensure they are in accord with the Strategy.</p> <p>7/. Act as a clearing house for intended projects, so as to avoid any duplication and ensure best use of resources in appropriately implementing the Strategy.</p> <p>8/. Create working groups to facilitate implementation of the strategy, if needed.</p> <p>9/. Produce an annual action plan that reports on the progress of implementation and sets out the intentions for the future.</p>
Frequency of meetings	Bi-annually. Extra meetings to be called if needed.
Membership	<p>Shall be comprised of the Blashford Lakes Partnership, together with those statutory agencies contributing to the Management Plan and its implementation. Additional representatives, including from the Blashford Lakes Consultative Forum, can be invited by agreement of the Group. The membership of the Group is set out below</p>
Arrangements for convening	All members of the Group attend on an equivalent basis. The convening of meetings is to be delivered by each organisation, in turn, with each

meetings	undertaking these tasks for a calendar year.
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STEERING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Bournemouth and West Hants Water	Roger Harrington
English Nature	Rue Ekins
Environment Agency	Ben Evans
Hampshire County Council – Minerals	Julia Davey
Hampshire County Council – Recreation and Heritage	Andrew Smith
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Jess Pain
New Forest District Council – Leisure Service	Martin Devine
New Forest District Council – Planning Service	Julia Norman
Wessex Water	Fiona Bowles

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BLASHFORD LAKES CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Purpose	<p>1/. Bring together as wide a representation as possible of organisations and landowners in the area covered by the Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan, whose interests are pertinent to the Plan’s objectives.</p> <p>2/. Provide a broadly based Forum for the discussion and presentation of views, rather than as a decision making body.</p> <p>3/. Inform the Steering Group as to their views on the implementation and review of the Strategic Management Plan, focusing on matters of wider interest to the Steering Group and Forum.</p> <p>4/. Nominate members to be part of sub groups where this would assist the Steering Group, or any of its constituent members, in implementation of the Strategy.</p>
Frequency of meetings	Bi annually but there may be further meetings on specific subjects by agreement.
Arrangements for convening and chairing meetings	<p>The meeting will be chaired by a local ward councillor of New Forest District Council, as appointed by the Authority.</p> <p>Support to the Chairman and the Committee in the operation and convening of meetings will be by New Forest District Council.</p>
Operation of the meeting	<p>1/. Receive and discuss updates from the Steering Group on progress with implementation of the Strategic Management Plan.</p> <p>2/. Receive and discuss future projects and issues which further the implementation of the Management Plan.</p> <p>3/. Offer the opportunity for members of the Forum to request items for the agenda, which pertain to the purposes of the Forum and are matters of wider interest within the Forum.</p> <p>4/. Receive and discuss reports from Forum members on their</p>

	activity in the Plan area which is pertinent to the Management Plan.
Membership	Shall be comprised of one representative of those local groups, organisations and landowners active within the area covered by the Strategy that shall make a positive contribution to the purposes of the Forum. A list of members is attached. The Steering Group shall consider any further requests to join the Forum.

CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Chairman: New Forest District Councillor	Cllr Bill Dow
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Bournemouth and West Hants Water	Roger Harrington
Cemex Aggregates	Alex Finn
Cemex Angling	Adrian Ellis
Christchurch Angling Club	Paul Jerome
Ellingham Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council	Cllr Patrick Webster
English Nature	Rue Ekins
Environment Agency	Ben Evans
Hampshire County Council	Cllr Mrs K Heron
Hampshire County Council – Minerals	Julia Davey
Hampshire County Council – Recreation and Heritage	Andrew Smith
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Jess Pain
Hanson Aggregates	David Norminton
Hanson Conbloc	Nigel Cox
Ivy Lake Water Ski Club	Patrick Prior
Kingfisher Lake	tba
National Park Authority	tba
New Forest Bird Group	tba
New Forest District Council – Leisure Service	Martin Devine
New Forest District Council – Planning Service	Julia Norman
New Forest Water Park	tba
RAF Ibsley Historical Society	tba
Raymond Brown	Raymond Brown
Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society	Rowan Brockhurst
Ringwood Town Council	tba
Somerley Estate	Lindsay Burtenshaw
Spinnaker Sailing Club	Ian Campbell
Tarmac	Andy Cadell
Wessex Water	Fiona Bowles

Schedule of responses to consultation on Draft Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan May 2004

Consultee codes (nos. 2-20 are in order of receipt of responses):

1. Blashford Lakes Consultative Committee (BLCC) – Minutes of Meeting 1 July 2004
2. Jonathan Ellis (12/6/04)
3. R. B. Brockhurst, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society (14/6/04)
4. Kate Ashbrook, Open Spaces Society (24/6/04)
5. Patrick Prior, Ellingham Water Ski & Wakeboard Club, British Disabled Waterski Association (South West) (24/6/04)
6. John Levell (28/6/04)
7. Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust (9/7/04)
8. Martin Devine, New Forest District Council (12/7/04)
9. A. A. and A. M. Van Den Berg (13/7/04)
10. Mrs E. Webster (13/7/04)
11. Terry Simpson, Ringwood Town Council (21/7/04)
12. Michael Stubbs, National Trust (21/7/04)
13. R. A. Hoors (25/7/04)
14. Max N. Coleman (26/7/04)
15. Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council (27/07/04)
16. Mrs V. J. Mitchell (30/7/04)
17. Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group Hon. Secretary/Treasurer (30/7/04)
18. Mrs Vera Smith, RAF Ibsley Historical Group (30/7/04)
19. Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council (30/7/04)
20. Mrs E. Webster (18/8/04)

Individual points made by respondents are numbered separately, e.g. 1/1 – 1/21, and arranged in the order of the Strategic Management Plan

BLASHFORD LAKES STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN – PUBLIC CONSULTATION: ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

<i>CONSULTEE RESPONSE</i>		SECTION/ PARA. No./ PROPOSAL	COMMENT	PRO
<i>No.</i>	<i>NAME</i>			
GENERAL COMMENTS				
1/1	BLCC Meeting	General comment – Status of BLSMP	<p>The status of the plan is not clear; it does not show how it relates to other plans and regulations, or what takes precedence in any given situation.</p> <p>It is useful as a factual document, providing helpful background information. However, a document that is supposedly supplementary to planning guidance should not be this long. Also, isn't planning guidance intended for people creating a future use, rather than running a current use?</p> <p>It is hard to ascertain what text is policy and what text is background supporting information.</p>	? Th It gu de of ? Th co ex be re ? Th fir G re sc in ? Th di te pe th
12/1	Martin Stubbs, National Trust	General comment – Status of BLSMP	<p>Many thanks for consulting the National Trust on the Draft Management Plan for Blashford Lakes. Your letter has been passed to me in my role as planning adviser to the Thames and Solent Region. As you know the National Trust is a nearby landowner at Ibsley Common.</p> <p>The Trust would recommend that the status of the document be clarified in the introductory paragraphs. The management Plan has clear implications for land-use decisions and would sit comfortably as a 'Supplementary Planning Document' in the future Local Development Framework for the New Forest. This would enhance the weight given to such a strategy as a material planning consideration. We hope that these comments may be of assistance.</p>	See r
6/1	John Levell	General comment –	The original concept of the Blashford Lakes Strategic Plan	No cl taker

CONSULTEE RESPONSE		SECTION/ PARA. No./ PROPOSAL	COMMENT	PRO
<i>No.</i>	<i>NAME</i>			
		Status of BLSMP	<p>came about as a mechanism WWPlc established to meet the statutory planning requirement (1986) for the future management of the lakes intended to be under WWPlc control. (1.2)</p> <p>Given the nature of the legal requirement placed on a commercial operation it is outside the scope of the consultation to include privately owned and managed areas without the expressed consent of those involved. If that is the case an important section of the document should include the agreements, dates of entry and conditions under which the areas outside the original WWPlc controlled lakes were included in the management area. To produce the draft document without the validation of the included owners will inevitably diminish the overall strategy in that the inclusion of these areas will be viewed as a means to falsely influence determination of after-use of WWPlc sites beyond the remit of the committee or steering group.</p>	oppo inclu agrees Plan

7/1	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The figures are helpful. • An additional figure illustrating the pattern of land ownership, occupancy and management responsibility within the study area is necessary. Without this it is not possible to identify who is responsible for what area. • A figure summarising existing HCC and NFDC / English Nature consents and conditions would be invaluable. This would be of particular value in identifying where consents/ conditions may need to be modified, or new consents/ conditions issued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
1/2	BLCC Meeting	General comment – Balance of interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By introduction, JE mentioned that there are concerns in some quarters about a bias towards nature conservation, although there are legislative / regulatory reasons for this. • RE for English Nature set the scene. The major issue for the review in the first place was nature conservation legislation (e.g. CROW Act, Habitats Directive) as applied through designation of the lakes. Consents cannot be given unless EN is satisfied that there will not be damage, and to positive management is needed in those areas that are not in favourable condition. The wish is to meet various stakeholders' wishes, without compromising nature conservation. If an activity or an after-use has a significant impact, a compromise has to be found. • The decision on whether an activity is unsuitable rests with the local competent authority (e.g. the local authority, Environment Agency) depending on the activity. English Nature only provides advice to competent authorities; it does not make the final judgement. The authority has to take English Nature's advice into account, but the authority makes the decision accordingly. Sometimes, English Nature's advice is not followed. 	<u>No cl</u>
1/3	BLCC Meeting	General comment – Balance of interests	<p>BLCC members' views</p> <p>There is a perception that EN has more authority than just an advisory input. It is worrying in the long term if one person can make decisions on behalf of an entire organisation.</p> <p>The phrase 'will cause damage' can be interpreted in different ways, particularly if temporary activities are undertaken e.g. cut trees can grow back.</p>	Eng ? Er pc pr th H im

			<p>It is difficult to look ahead when deciding whether to place constraints on activities. However, the competent authority can pick up any imbalance in the document, which is a problem.</p> <p>Some lakes are identified elsewhere for recreational use (e.g. Ibsley, Rockford), but the BLSMP has designated them for nature conservation. In this way the Plan is biased towards nature conservation; recreational users do not have any backing for their activities, despite the absence of proof that these activities are unacceptable for nature conservation.</p>	<p>TH ke th ? Sc nc up TH de ca be de de pl Pl cc ? T th m pc lal m pc ? In re de of da</p>
1/4	BLCC Meeting	General comment – Balance of interests	<p>Further BLCC members' views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of water supply, the companies are going through review of consents; there are no guarantee that abstraction will continue where it currently occurs. 	<p>•</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HWT would argue that Blashford is an internationally important site for wildlife, of the sort that makes up only 1% of the English countryside, hence strict laws in favour of wildlife. For its own part HWT wants to encourage people wishing to discover nature, but they also have to show that this will not be damaging. There have been instances of adverse effects - one winter, when water skiing took place regularly, bird numbers dropped dramatically. It is the Trust's intention to collect more data on species numbers. It would be very helpful to have more data on the use of lakes by recreational interests, to make this bird data more meaningful. • In the original blue book Ibsley Water had completely different characteristics. It has quickly become an attractive site to wading birds. • The Plan needs to be read carefully to find favourable references to recreation; nature conservation is referred to in most locations by contrast. For leisure the loss of Ibsley being designated for recreation is a blow; however, the argument in favour of nature conservation there is compelling. So, do recreational interests convey their view compellingly enough? • In terms of managing change on both a day-to-day basis and for the longer term, the BLSMP could give more clarity. In principle, it helps to have more data being shared; more sophisticated information that is reviewed together is useful and helps build trust. • There has always been a tension as interests ideally want a guarantee that their activities can continue; ultimately the degree of trust that has developed allows compromise and leads to co-operation.
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3/1	R. B. Brockhurst, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society	General comment – Balance of interests	We believe that that on no account should Nature Conservation interests be allowed to outweigh all other considerations and that the public access should be accorded a high priority. It should be borne in mind that local people who will make use of such access have had to put up with mineral workings in this area for some 50 years!	<u>No cl statu const accoi</u>
19/1	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	General comment – Balance of interests	The Parish Council has given consideration to the above document, produced for consultation purposes, and wishes to make the following observations. Given that the majority of the flooded gravel pits, from Hurst Ponds in the south to North Mockbeggar Lake in the north are within this parish it is hoped that one will appreciate that these comments have particular relevance.	<u>No cl</u>
19/2	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	General comment – Balance of interests (cont.)	It is accepted that any management plan must have consideration for a number of different and sometimes conflicting interests, e.g. preserving water reserves, recreation, nature conservation and quality of life of local residents. It needs to be emphasised that in order to have these flooded gravel pits local residents have endured over 50 years of various nuisances associated with noise, dust, pollution, heavy traffic, loss of land etc. Indeed they are still enduring nuisances, for instance in the last few weeks soil from the earth moving and bunding by Tarmac at Ibsley and Blashford Quarries has blown into properties in Ibsley Drove and Across the A338/	• •
6/2	John Levell	General Comment – Title of Area	The title of the area as covered by the strategy refers specifically to a ‘study area; this is a misleading title as the inclusion of the word ‘study’ infers scientific or academic intention. This is not the purpose of the strategy and thus should be removed to avoid the charge of pseudo or quasi scientific motives to influence planning or sponsorship decisions.	<u>No cl used</u>
6/3	John Levell	General Comment – Names of Lakes	It is important to ensure all names of areas and lakes are up to date, the excuses for inclusion of names not in use for over twenty years points to an inflexible strategy incapable of adaptation to meet ever changing circumstances.	<u>No cl being</u>
7/2	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 7 (Use of 'study area')	Suggest change ‘lakes’ to ‘study area’ as the plan covers both terrestrial and aquatic areas. This comes up a number of times in the text i.e. Para 8 bullets 3,4 &co.	<u>Acce appr</u>

19/3	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	General comment – Local people’s interests and Funding	Clearly we need a guarantee that funding will be readily available to finance the projects that will be of interest to local people, bearing in mind the comments made in the first blue book concerning finance- see paragraph 5/3/2 in the copy page attached. (Appendix B)	No cl fund Table
7/3	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	General comment – Landscape	Aesthetic issues are very important in the study area but not a strong element in the strategic plan. The recent historic emphasis of encouraging tree and shrub growth in the study area is in conflict with the historic open landscape, and an emerging landscape of important open water and open ground habitats and land uses. A landscape strategy is required to consider the landscape within the study area, a how the study area fits into, and is seen from, adjacent areas.	Acce prep.
7/4	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	General comment – Appropriate Assessment	When we have a draft we are confident with, this should be subject to a shadow Appropriate Assessment procedure to test both the strategy against the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the Ramsar Convention. This will help us avoid having specific proposals in a strategy that are at risk of failing when they form part of a plan or project.	Spec to re Asse sites inter signif

15/1	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Individuals consulted	A small additional point is that under Mr John Davison (Assistant Head of Countryside (Operations), Hampshire County Council) is mentioned twice.	<u>Acc</u>
SECTION 2 – EXISTING SITUATION AND CHANGES SINCE THE ORIGINAL PLAN				
7/5	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 2 (Introduction)	The task that the plan sets itself requires an understanding of the changes that have occurred since the previous plan. These changes are not clearly identified in the plan. Much of the information is there but it is scattered. Can this be presented in summary/ table form?	<u>No c</u> <u>Orig</u> 3, ar
7/6	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 6 (Strategic context of BLSMP)	This would be an appropriate place to refer to all the other Avon Valley, New Forest et.al. strategies that our management strategy relates too. The details of this to be given elsewhere. An awareness of the strategic context of this strategy would be particularly helpful in addressing transport and recreational issues.	<u>No c</u> <u>Sum</u> <u>ame</u> <u>prov</u>
7/7	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 3, Bullet 3 (Factors influencing the SMP – New Forest National Park)	The Ministers statement of June 2004 needs to be incorporated here. The National Park includes Mockbeggar lane and the area around Cherry Orchard. The ‘de minimus’ National Park boundary has however highlighted issues arising from Section 62 of Environment Act 1995/	<u>Acc</u> <u>need</u> <u>and</u>
19/4	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 2.9 – Mineral extraction	This is inaccurate in the timescale quoted for the completion of extraction at Ringwood Quarry, which is stated as being over the next few years. In fact extraction is designated to be finished by December 2004 and restoration completed by June 2005/	<u>Incl</u> <u>mine</u>
7/8	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 5, Bullet 2 (Value of Blashford Lakes – Ecological asset)	The lakes need to be considered both within the context of the Avon Valley and the New Forest.	<u>Acc</u> <u>ame</u>
7/9	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 3, Bullet 2 (Factors influencing the SMP – SPA and Ramsar site)	This should be recast to reflect the range of interests in Natura 2000 series Both SAC and SPA on site together with the much broader range of wetland interests under Ramsar site. The statutory interests are far broader than the Wildfowl of the SPA.	<u>Acc</u>
19/5	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 2.99 (should be 2.29?)– Nature Conservation	Is inaccurate in that as few as 30 Bewick swans over winter in the Avon Valley compared with 314 that came early in winter of 1987, and the white geese are rarely seen now.	<u>Acc</u>
19/6	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge	Para. 2.41 and 2.45 –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Council finds it alarming to read that there are 1000 members of the Spinnaker Sailing Club, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

	& Ibsley Parish Council	Sport/ Transport	<p>approximately 120 members of Ivy Lake Skiing Club plus many members of the two fishing clubs. Yet in para 4/45 it is stated that ‘In accordance with sustainability principles, the Strategic Management Plan does not promote access by car’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim should be to encourage people using the lakes to access from the south by foot using parking preferably within the built up area of Ringwood. For people engaging in the above activities, this is clearly impractical. For those just wishing to walk or bird watch etc the suggestion is equally unrealistic and is obviously made without knowledge of the public transport availability. 	
19/7	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 2.41 and 2.45 – Sport/ Transport (cont.)	<p>The Parish Council is opposed to any further commercial development, including leisure activities, on the Lakes. This cannot be achieved without an inevitable increase in people, traffic, noise and general disturbance. The infrastructure and, in particular, the narrow lanes are not adequate to cope with increased demands. The parish is already affected by indiscriminate parking.</p>	<u>No c</u> deve to R that recre How with is an activ less whic wate impr How prop acce traff
7/10	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 5, Bullet 4 (Value of Blashford Lakes – Water sports)	<p>The presence of canoeing on site is minimal and cannot readily be described as importance in anything but the most local context. Water Skiing and sailing are present but how do we determine their relative importance? With the exception of the disabled waterskiing surely these are a very small component of a much larger local and regional resource? If a relative importance is to be given it needs justification.</p>	<u>No c</u> spor whic Wat impr
15/2	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Para. 2.44 Footpaths	<p>This refers to the Avon Valley Path, which is a county promoted route, as not being heavily used. The path is a well used path and as a promoted route takes priority in our work. We are also keen to look at providing circular routes off such long distance routes where we can and the plan proposals could help us achieve this.</p>	<u>Acc</u>
15/3	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service,	Para. 2.48, Bullet 1	<p>This states that in order for a route to the west of the A338 to be used as a cycleway, it must first be designated</p>	<u>Acc</u>

	Hampshire County Council	– Footpaths and Bridleways	as a bridleway. This is incorrect. Once the route is designated as a bridleway, cyclists will be able to use the route (as will pedestrians and horseriders). If the route is to be surfaced with a hard surface to provide for cyclists, it is important that a grass strip be provided alongside for horseriders. (Although it is felt that cycle and pedestrian use is likely to be more substantial than horse use.	
7/11	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 5, Bullet 7 (Value of Blashford Lakes – Agricultural resource)	The agricultural resource relating to New Forest is potential rather than actual. Should we identify the different potentials of (i) the grasslands effectively functioning as a part of the open Forest and (ii) the grasslands providing back-up grazing for the Forest.	No c Sum ame prov
19/8	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	General comment – Local people’s interests	There is nothing in the document concerning the loss of local habitat- farmland and hedges along with the wildflowers, insects, birds and animals. One used to be able to see or hear common plovers, grey plovers, partridges, nightingales, whitethroat, barn owl, hares and even a corncrake on the former Ibsley Airfield. Yet the flooded gravel pits that we are left with after, more than 50 years of disturbance, are deemed to be of such great importance that access has to be restricted. It must be emphasised that because of the extensive gravel extraction in the valley, the water table has fallen and left the water meadows in a poor state. Accordingly wildfowl that would normally be nesting in the water meadows are now found at the lakes.	No draf situa
SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC AIM AND KEY PRINCIPLES				
1/5	BLCC Meeting	Key Principles	This is the most important part of the report essentially. JE feels that they are same as those in the preliminary document.	No c actic
1/6	BLCC Meeting	Key Principle 1	The multi-use aspect of the lakes could be seen as an overriding point. Attempting sustainable land use means the coexistence of different interests and activities in one area. Also, the lakes as a locality will continue to evolve and develop – it will not be a static picture.	No c actic
1/7	BLCC Meeting	Key Principle 4	The issue of nature conservation taking precedence provoked discussion. In reality there is typically good discussion between interests; English Nature would have to have good evidence before seeking sanctions to be imposed and there would have to be a genuine case to answer - it won't spuriously limit activities. English Nature also sees the value of 'green tourism' as a recreational use. However, it is recognised that some parties are	No c actic

			concerned about this point.	
5/1	Patrick Prior, Ellingham Water Ski & Wakeboard Club	Key Principle 4	It is noted that Key Principle iv allows precedence to Nature Conservation when they claim there is a 'legal and policy obligation'. My concern is who decides if that 'legal and policy obligation' really is important, and absolutely relative, in a particular case.	<u>No c</u> prin para
1/8	BLCC Meeting	Key Principle 7	IC pointed out the addition of 'within constraints of nature conservation' (with reference to recreation activities) being added for Key Principle 7/	<u>No c</u> furth Prin inter cons othe this o
1/9	BLCC Meeting	Key Principle 7 (Appendix A2 AV4)	"Recreational use which does not prejudice any water resource use and are compatible with nature conservation interests" - implies that sailing on Blashford Lake is to be reviewed.	<u>No c</u> prop this whe temp but t seen prov In vi ensu conc bulk
19/9	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 3.28? – Key Principle 7	The request by Ian Campbell from Spinnaker Sailing Club for a guarantee that there will be permitted sailing on Rockford Lake is rather presumptuous. As to the request that the sailing club should be allowed to use Ibsley Water for sailing, in accordance with policy AV-4 of the adopted NFDC Plan, we call for an urgent amendment to the plan so as to delete water sports allocation to this lake.	<u>No c</u> prop Ibsle activ plac sign cons

19/10	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 3.29 – Key Principle 8	Key principle 8 is noted which is to improve access for local authorities to improve footpath access for local residents. The report is quite right in stating that ‘It has long been an objective of the local authorities to improve footpath access to and through the lakes.’ In fact since 1977 with the publication of the Blashford Ibsley Local Plan before work started at some pits, including Ibsley Water. The Parish Council strongly support this objective but cannot support the need to conduct a study of dog walkers on footpath 19/ The landowner himself regularly exercises his own dogs, off leads, over this area. (Appendix A) (refers to an Appendix supplied with Consultation Response	? Su ? N su in fo
SECTION 4 – MAIN MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS AND KEY ACTIONS				
6/4	John Levell	Water Storage and Supply	With the connection of the abstraction and supply network within the area of the lakes the potential for the transfer of non indigenous aquatic weed, (Crassula helmsii, Nymphoides peltata) has not been dealt with. The process by which the risk of contamination of the Avon Valley and River Avon SSSI’s when the abstraction pumps are backwashed or cleaned should be included to ensure consideration has been given to this potential risk and guaranteeing no such adverse impact can occur. To avoid the impact of the acknowledged risk to the Avon SSSI’s due to abstraction, in the event of future increased demand, consideration should be given to the recharge of the lakes from tidal limit abstraction. (This consideration was raised at the time of the original consultation during the 86 planning application and refuted on the grounds that there was not enough public awareness to warrant a second pipeline in the proposed trench of the initial supply lines. Financial expediency was not used as the reason for the second pipeline not being included).	No c cons Envi with thes
6/5	John Levell	Water Storage and Supply	A further concern is that of the impact of these large open bodies of water on the ground water level within the Dockens Water SSSI corridor. The possibility of dewatering the stream during periods of low summer flow has particularly serious implications for EU designated species Atlantic Salmon (salmo salar) Bullhead (Cottus gobio) Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri) Water crowfoot (Ranunculus peltatus). The recharge of these reservoirs also has the potential impact on related indigenous invertebrate, mollusc (Desmoulin’s whorled snail) amphibian and reptile	No c are a with

			populations currently inhabitant in the associated ditches and dykes of the SSSI/pSAC's.	
6/6	John Levell	Nature Conservation (see also Appendix 2)	<p>It is my contention that the lakes do not meet the criteria for selection as a biological SSSI under the guidelines as determined by the Nature Conservancy Council.</p> <p>My contention is that the lakes as managed under the existing strategy and under those as proposed in the draft strategy are in direct conflict with the best interests of the Avon Valley and 4River Avon SSSI's and more importantly pSACs.</p> <p>I believe management policy should be primarily aimed at reducing the potential harmful ecological impact of these lakes and an immediate change of priority and emphasis is required.</p> <p>I would advocate a far more recreationally based strategy that has considerable advantage over that being promoted by this consultation document. The potential benefits to be accrued from an ecological and environmental balance as opposed to the dogmatic adherence to a falsely applied statutory conservation designation stand to benefit the local community to a far greater extent than the proposals in this consultation document.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

6/7	John Levell	Nature Conservation (see also Appendix 2)	Viewed in the light of the potential adverse impact (see Appendix 2) the Blashford Lakes pose to the surrounding SSSI/pSAC's the assessment as included in Appendix 4 fails to fully appreciate or comply with European legislation (The Conservation<Natural Habitats, &c.> Regulations 1994 No2716 Part iv para 48) the requirement of a full impact assessment. The change of use from mineral extraction to the after-use as proposed by this draft required the production of such an assessment before further consideration can be given this consultation..	<u>No c</u>
7/12	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 8, Bullet 4 (Key Proposals – Nature Conservation)	This is a good key proposal. The plan does not go on to identify all the statutory issues, particularly those to do with the River Avon SAC that flows through the site, together with the multiple features of the Ramsar site.	<u>Acc</u>
7/13	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 8, Bullet 5 (Key Proposals – Nature Conservation)	Another welcome key proposal. This runs into difficulty given the range and significance of the nature conservation features of the study areas are not fully known, and where known are not fully integrated into the strategic plan. I.e. lower plant interest, ancient tree interests, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, derelict settlement edge lawn interests (Blashford/Goblin's Green/Forest drives et. al). To address this we need to identify what data needs collecting to describe and then assess natural features and their relative importance.	<u>No</u> requ avail this 4/35 6/ / deta impl
1/10	BLCC Meeting	Key Actions – Landscaping North Somerley lake	No information has been received from Tarmac so far in terms of proposals for landscaping North Somerley lake. There may be an ongoing need for silt settling there. For some time it was clear that some restoration / land use change might not happen for many years, with mineral workings still taking place. This situation has changed markedly (with the exception of some locations (e.g. area west of A338)) as most gravel extraction is ceasing. So things may start happening, subject to the usual permissions.	<u>No c</u> throu
1/11	BLCC Meeting	Key Actions – Wetland	If there is generally better wetland around the complex, English Nature may not need to be quite as interventionist about the current areas / lakes that are in place.	<u>No c</u> actic
1/12	BLCC Meeting	Key Actions – Hydrological and ecological modelling	Hydrologically, there is upheaval still. BWH plan to carry out pumping tests over 3 months, with hydrological and ecological modelling. Data will be used to establish the effects of drawing-down water.	<u>No c</u>
1/13	BLCC Meeting	Key Actions – Monitoring	Many of the key actions relate to data gathering and monitoring. Some monitoring (e.g. numbers of walkers)	<u>No c</u> actic

			needs to be developed in the future, particularly to see if there are correlations with wildfowl numbers and movements.	
1/15	BLCC Meeting	Key Actions – Private landowners’ interests	Is there sufficient flexibility in the Plan to recognise private landowners’ interests in the action points? All the points are recommendations; as such they are open to discussion between interests.	<u>No c</u> <u>Prin</u> <u>certa</u> <u>natu</u>
1/16	BLCC Meeting	Key Actions – Additional Key Actions	A request was made for an action point on pest control.	<u>No</u> <u>man</u>
19/11	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	General comment – Balance of interests (cont.)	<p>Whilst reference is often made to the conservation importance that has accrued from these artificially created lakes there is a tendency to ignore the downside. For instance in return for more than half a century of mining local residents have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large numbers of rabbits invading gardens, destroying plants and even tearing the bark off trees- see the attached photograph of damage done to the lime trees along the side of the A338 last winter. 2. Many fields are being badly damaged by the grazing of and droppings from Canada Geese and Grey Leg Geese. 3. Cormorants have been attracted to the flooded pits by the legal and illegal stocking of fish. These birds are now depleting the fish stocks in the Avon all year round. 4. Ground water levels have dropped significantly over the years causing wells and water courses to dry up eg Linwood in 1940s and Linbrook is now continually dry from early May to late October. 5. In periods of heavy rain it is more difficult for flood water to flow away naturally due to the bunds created by the pits, so increasing the problems for local people. 6. The invasive weed Crassula Helmsii has spread to our ditches and local ponds. 7. Ragwort growing unchecked, in gravel pits and around the lakes has caused problems for many years. <p>Yet apart from the need to control the weed there is no reference to any of the other matters in the consultation document on how other pests should be controlled or even an acknowledgement that they present a problem.</p>	No c for d
17/1	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Para. 4.22 – Nature conservation– Key Action 5	We strongly welcome the continued recognition of the need for undisturbed habitats, particularly for wintering birds. We also endorse the proposal in key Action 5 to improve the conservation value of the area.	<u>Supp</u>
19/12	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish	Para. 4.37 – Fishing – Key Action 13	The Parish Council is shocked to learn that RMC does not have permission to fish at Rockford and Snails Lake and thus the lakes have been illegally stocked with fish. This	<u>No</u> <u>furtl</u>

	Council		matter needs to be sorted out with the planning authority without delay.	
17/2	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Para. 4.37 – Waterskiing – Key Action 14	We realise the need to make provision for recreational activities on Blashford Lakes and in general, we welcome the proposals to allow for these. However, we are a little concerned about the effect of water-skiing on disturbance, although we do appreciate that this will be permitted only in the summer months. Moving this activity from Ivy Lake has clearly been a good move, but we are somewhat worried that this activity on the adjacent Ellingham Lake may still cause disturbance at Ivy Lake and the area near to the Study Centre. We understand that water-skiing is allowed at Hucklebrook Lakes (New Forest Water Park). Is this not a sufficient venue in the area? If not, then North Somerley Lake (where shooting continues) might be a sensible site.	<u>No</u> to E prag long by E
2/1	Jonathan Ellis	General comment - Rowing	I have not managed to see the draft plans for the above but would like to suggest that the sport of rowing could use the lakes. Rowing could generate an income by charging crews to use the lakes. There are many local rowing clubs in the area that are being ‘crowded out’ by leisure craft in their own areas and I know would hugely benefit from a lake at Blashford. There are rowing clubs in Christchurch, Bournemouth (a club and separate Uni Club), Poole, Lymington, Southampton (about 5 clubs in Southampton). Additionally there are two public schools in the area who have established rowing centres: Canford at Wimborne & Brianston at Blandford. Please see dorneylake.com to see what Eton school have done. The site shows what is charged to use the lake.	<u>No cl</u> not, i Lake
1/14	BLCC Meeting	BLSMP’s Key Action 15 – Rockford Lake	In terms of Rockford Lake, the status quo has been maintained - the Plan only says that consideration will be given to the use of recreation at Rockford. However, the demand for sailing has increased considerably and facilities are full a lot of the time (i.e. car parking, boat parking space). It is the view of the sailing club that Rockford should have been given over for recreation, particularly if Ibsley is not going to be allocated to recreation use any more.	<u>No</u> saili is an cons of sa can oblig can emp cons main was
7/14	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife	Executive Summary – Para. 8, Bullets 6-	Welcome key proposals but all of these require a high level of understanding of the biological character of the	<u>No</u> Plea

	Trust	11 (Key Proposals – Recreation, transport)	study area together with a consensus as to what monitoring works will provide information upon which decisions can be based. I suggest the data and methodology are currently not available to implement these proposals.	'Strategic Management
17/3	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Para. 4.37 – Shooting – Key Action 16	We strongly welcome the proposal to end shooting at Mockbeggars and Ibsley Water.	Support
15/4	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Detailed Management Proposals	In general we welcome the access proposals as the area represents an important resource for local people for quiet recreation, e.g. walking, cycling and birdwatching. As mentioned at 4/44, we welcome the suggestion that the permissive routes proposed be dedicated as public if no problems arise associated with this access. We would be particularly keen to see this happen with the routes that create strategic links, either by linking north to Ibsley and the Avon Valley path or those that form part of larger circular routes.	Access links,
15/5	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Para. 4.42 – Footpaths and Bicycles – Key Action 18	We are very disappointed to see that this proposed footpath is not intended to link with Mockbeggar Lane. This would be an ideal opportunity to create a link from Ringwood north to the Avon Valley Path while also providing scope for circular walks. The rationale behind this decision is not clear as it is unlikely that through traffic will significantly increase the overall number of visitors. It is also likely that if a formal link is not created, an informal way through will develop which may prove more difficult to manage than a properly established one.	No. concerns
15/6	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Para. 4.44 – Footpaths	We welcome the suggestion that there be a long term view to making the permissive paths definitive unless special circumstances suggest otherwise. The Countryside Service would be happy to help work towards this.	Support
7/15	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 8, Bullet 10 (Key Proposals – Recreation – Cycle/Foot paths)	The proposed cycle paths and footpaths are not shown to fit into a wider context	No. concerns
13/1	R. A. Hoors	Footpaths	Unless and until the corridor tower is put to good use (e.g. by RSPB and RAF Ibsley Historical Group) and under proper supervision, it should remain closed to public access. To suggest a footpath along the eastern side of	Access continues

			the Mockbeggar Lakes at least partly to open the control tower to the public would be most unwise as it would soon create problems concerning litter, use by tramps/vagabonds as a doss-house and by drug-takers and glue sniffers, evidence of which already exists in a small way.	
17/4	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Footpaths (support)	We welcome the expanded network of footpaths to give restricted access to areas where birds concentrate and the erection of further hides. Ibsley Water, as the largest lake, is an important area for birds (including Widgeon): the provision of a sheltered or sunken section between Mockbeggar Lane and Ellingham Drove will meet both the need for minimum disturbance and the need of those who wish to study the birds, as well as the educational requirements of the Study centre.	Supp
19/13	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	General comment – Local people’s interests (cont.)	Copy pages are enclosed (Appendix J) taken from the book entitled Gravel Pit Restoration For Wildlife produced by RSPB in conjunction with Tarmac. Item 8 in the summary page on page 165 indicate that hides should have different orientations to cope with varied light conditions. This backs the request by the Parish Council for hides at the proposed open space at Ibsley (Appendix I) and alongside A338 at the bund (Appendix F)	<u>No</u> man
19/14	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	General comment – Access and amenity (cont.)	As some compensation please let us have the path and cycleway by Ibsley Water, an open space, along with paths, bird hides and notice boards as soon as possible.	<u>No c</u> align route stud;
19/15	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	General comment – Access and amenity	During the 12 years since the publication of the original Management Plan, the parish has been allowed one permissive path by Ellingham Pit. The pit is now used for water skiing. Also there are 3 bird screens around Mockbeggar Lakes but due to silting problems few birds are now to be seen. In the same time a study centre has been established for school children from Hampshire, Dorset, and Wiltshire, which is funded by the Partnership along with the 2 wardens.	No cl

19/16	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 4.41 – Footpaths	<p>This refers to the proposed bridleway west of the A338/ However the Parish Council is aware that Tarmac may need North Somerley lake to take silt for a further 20 years, if they obtain planning permission to take sand and gravel from Plummley Wood and Farm. A planning application may be submitted this year. Accordingly the Parish Council recommends a fully open path and cycleway elsewhere. The Parish Council would like the cycleway to be east of the A338 behind the bund by Ibsley Water with appropriate screening where the bund has been removed. This path would start in Mockbeggars Lane and cross Ellingham Drove and use the existing path by Ellingham Lake to cross Dockens Water via a new bridge and then pass west of Snails Lane to join the existing metal path by the A338 which leads to Ringwood. Surely this is a much safer route for walkers and cyclists with no crossings of the dangerous A338 at Ibsley and Snails Lane or need to cycle along the A338/</p> <p>The bund will have to be moved to make room for the path at Ibsley Lake but this can be done at the time when the bund is being profiled at the request of Hampshire County Council. This path and cycleway all, of course, link up with the project by Ringwood Town Council to enhance walking and cycling at Ringwood. (see enclosed photocopies taken from issue 370 of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge News – Appendix E.) The new path at Ibsley Water should have at least 2 bird hides so that people can enjoy the views possible from the west of that lake as shown in the enclosed photographs. (Appendix F)</p> <p>The report quotes at length from the Draft Appropriate Assessment under The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994, (Appendix D) But, of course, flooded gravel pits are not natural, they are unnatural and man made. Anyway concerning our proposed route for the path and cycleway, it is requested that it be permitted in accordance with para 49 of Part IV of the Regulations as set out in the copy page from the regulations attached. (Appendix G). The new Cycleway would, of course, fit in well with the New Forest District Council Strategic Cycle Routes as set out in the enclosed consultation paper. (Appendix H)</p>	No c footp prop orde to lb use c restc may exist prop east regar the t alignr route stud! As at
19/17	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 4.41 – Footpaths (cont.)	<p>The report quotes at length from the Draft Appropriate Assessment under The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994, (Appendix D) But, of course, flooded gravel pits are not natural, they are unnatural and man made. Anyway concerning our proposed route for the path and cycleway, it is requested that it be permitted in accordance with para 49 of Part IV of the Regulations as set out in the copy page from the regulations attached. (Appendix G). The new Cycleway would, of course, fit in well with the New Forest District Council Strategic Cycle Routes as set out in the enclosed consultation paper. (Appendix H)</p>	
13/2	R. A. Hoors	Footpaths	There exists a footpath along the eastern side of the A338 from Ivy Lane to Ellingham Drove and one from Mockbeggars Lane running behind the ‘Old Bears’ pub linking it with the Avon Valley footpath crossing over Ibsley Bridge. The obvious route for a path linking	No c alignr route stud!

			<p>Ellingham Drove with Mockbeggar Lane would be one linking these two along the western edge of Ibsley Water. There may be a case for a spur from this to run along the south of Ibsley Water linking with the one south of the Dockens Water viewing Rockford Lake. There seems little point in duplicating the Ivy Lane to Ellingham Drove path with another on the other side of the road.</p>	
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15/7	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Para. 4.41, Bullet 1 – Footpaths and bridleways	As above at 2.48 (Consultation Response 15/3), the sentence in parentheses referring to provision for cyclists should be removed as cyclists have the right to use bridleways.	Acce
19/18	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 4.42 – Footpaths Key Action 18	Para 4.42 and 4.112 –reference is made to a possible path between Ibsley and Mockbeggar Lakes from Mockbeggar Lane to Ellingham Drove, which would have to be screened and sunken and closed for long periods of time. Clearly this path is through a very sensitive area.	No c route reco no si
13/3	R. A. Hoors	Footpaths	Additionally the lakes are being well-managed by the Wildlife Trust and allowing public access would not be in the best interests of nature conservation. The existence of the three hides/screens would seem to lend support to this area, i.e. by looking at the wildlife without walking over it or disturbing it.	No c
5/2	Patrick Prior, Ellingham Water Ski & Wakeboard Club	Para. 4.42 – Footpaths Key Action 18	I note that there is a suggestion that a public footpath should be made along the East and South banks of Ellingham Lake and that a car park to serve that path could be developed alongside Ellingham pound. You may or may not be aware that we now hold a 25 year lease on that land and would presumably be required to give our legal consent for any such proposal. We would have some concerns as to whether it would affect our security and make us more vulnerable to vandalism. Our initial consultations with the police indicate that this would probably be the case.	No c the l land. Plan inves landc issue Sugg retai
17/5	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Para. 4.43 – Footpaths and Bicycles – Key Action 18	Whilst Para.43 of the full report discusses footpaths only, we note with concern that the Action Plan 18 refers to path use by both walkers and cyclists. We are deeply concerned about the disturbance caused by the latter and suggest that they be confined to the Bridleway to the West of the A338/	No c exter Plan for r redu wildl cyclir
17/6	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Para. 4.44 – Footpaths and Dogs– Key Action 18	We note (and share) your expressed concern about disturbance, which can be caused by dogs. Is it really necessary to allow dogs, which do not mix well with wildlife? At the very least, it is recommended that appropriate notices be displayed requiring dogs to be kept on leads (except, again, on the bridleway West of the A338). Collection of faeces should also be required to avoid walkers, particularly children, from being contaminated.	Acce to be appr infor prov faece
7/16	Clive Chatters,	Executive Summary	This proposal runs contrary to the long standing New	No c

	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	– Para. 8, Bullet 11 (Key Proposals – Transport)	Forest strategies seeking to reduce unnecessary car journeys, particularly on unfenced Forest roads. Also generic national commitments to find ways of reducing journeys by private car. Can we modify this to commit ourselves to producing a transport strategy for the study area? In this context consider if additional capital investment is to be made to visitor facilities then where may this be best placed to meet transport strategy.	and c lengt it wa prov be in prov was :
13/4	R. A. Hoors	Car parks	The hardstanding south of Ellingham Drove should not be used as a car park because: - It is too near to the New Forest boundary and against long-standing aims to take the pressure off the forest by siting public facilities in this area away to the west; - It is not linked well with any footpath or subject of interest; - It would exit dangerously onto a 60 mph road; - It would almost certainly be misused as a skid-pan/racetrack at night as is already happening in the sandpit area; - It is also scheduled under Section II of your Key Proposals ‘to pursue opportunities to enhance the nature conservation value ...’	<u>No.c</u> desig the s
19/19	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Car parks/Open space	The Parish Council would welcome a parking area off Mockbeggars Lane by St Martins church graveyard, for use only at times of funerals- the key to the gate should be kept by the vicar. The Parish Council makes a strong request for an open space or pocket park in the north west corner of Ibsley Water by St Martins graveyard. There is already in place screening from the willow trees with room for a bird hide looking over the islands on the lake. It does not appear that this site is of great interest of nature conservation, indeed opium poppies can be seen growing in one of the series of photographs that illustrates the area and were taken in June (Appendix 1)	<u>No.c</u> alignr route faciliti study
10/1	Mrs E. Webster	General comment – Local people’s interests	I refer to the public consultation allowed for the review of the Blashford Lakes Management Plan. I have lived here since 1951 during which time there has been more than 50 years of gravel extraction in the Avon Valley. In 1964 we had 40 gravel lorry movements an hour in Mockbeggar Lane. At times it has been so noisy because of the cranes, conveyor belts, beepers etc that it has been	<u>No.c</u>

			<p>impossible to stay long in the garden. During one period the ground shook under my feet with gravel extractions a few yards from the vegetable bed. At other times my garden has been covered with soil blowing from the Tarmac Ibsley Quarry. When the bunds were put up by my garden, the fumes were so bad I developed asthma. So far the main beneficiaries at the Blashford Lakes have been school children from Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire along with those people who fish, shoot, sail or ski. It is vital that local people are made to feel welcome. We have tried to get an open space locally for many years without success, first in the field opposite the Malt House in Mockbeggar Lane and next by the Ibsley Village Hall. It would be great to have an open space in the infilled area by the cemetery at St Martin's Church in Mockbeggar Lane with seats, bird hides and even a garden in memory of those who served at the former Ibsley Airfield during the Second World War. If possible with parking for the elderly and for people to visit the graves at the cemetery.</p>	<u>No.c</u> alignr route faciliti stud:
19/20	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 4.39 – Access and Parking	This quotes Policy AV-6 of the New Forest District Council Local Plan which states that the area north of Ringwood, including Poulner Lake, the Wash Pit and Linbrook Lake, be designated as a country recreation area. As a matter of urgency the access road from North Poulner Road must be improved. At the moment it is full of potholes. (see photographs Appendix D)	<u>No.c</u> alignr route faciliti stud:
15/8	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Access and Parking	It is important that access for all is considered in the implementation of the permissive routes proposed. Provision should be made for those with mobility impairment with the creation of appropriately located accessible circular routes, with suitable car parking made available.	<u>No.c</u> acce imp: para
14/1	Max N. Coleman	Para. 4.45 – Car parks – Key Action 19	With reference to the above draft plan, I live at the far end (N.E.) of Woolmer Lane which I understand is the proposed route to a new car park for visitors to Blashford Lakes. I would point out to you that Woolmer Lane is a private road being only a few feet wide thus making it impossible for vehicles to pass each other and surely is totally unsuitable for the purpose. I trust that this aspect will be re-considered and I wish the lakes plan every success as a worthwhile project for all to enjoy.	<u>Acc</u>
16/1	Mrs V. J. Mitchell	Para. 4.45 – Car parks – Key Action 19	I write to express my concern about item 4.45 on pages 4.45, location 3/ S.W. Linbrook Lake (west) which, states access to car park will be off Woolmer Lane. Firstly, Woolmer Lane is a private lane, and second there are no passing places other than residents gateways. It is a very	<u>Acc</u>

			<p>narrow winding lane with several blind corners, which would cause problems for traffic reversing if they met cars coming from the other direction.</p> <p>I certainly would not like cars reversing or parking in my gateway, which could cause long term problems of erosion of banks and perhaps even some damage to gates etc. While I do not wish to deprive anyone of the chance to visit the area I feel access from other wider roads would be more appropriate and cause fewer problems for the people who live in the immediate area.</p> <p>I hope you will take note of the above observations before any further decisions are made.</p>	
19/21	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 4.45 – Car parks – Key Action 19	Paras 4.45 and 4.146- these set out the possible parking area south west of Linbrook West, just to the south of the ready mix and processing plant to be accessed off Woolmer Lane. However Woolmer Lane is, in fact, a private road and very narrow and moreover additional parking is not required at this location as adequate parking already exists at Poulner Open Space.	<u>Acc</u>
19/22	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 4.47 – Agriculture and grazing – Key Action 20	The suggestion that further agricultural grazing could be achieved east of Linbrook Lane East appears to be incorrect as there is only the verge of the lake, less than 1 acre, which is used for sheep grazing on a small scale under a private agreement.	<u>No c</u>
17/7	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Para. 4.48 – Education – Key Action 21	We strongly support the idea to expand the Study Centre and to include an information centre there, as well as additional access.	Supp
19/23	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 4.52 – Educational material	The Parish Council fully support this paragraph and urges the implementation of the signs and leaflets as soon as possible. Action has to be taken to inform people where they are allowed to walk, fish, sail and ski.	Supp
17/8	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Para. 4.54 – Education – Key Action 23	We particularly welcome the proposal to restore the old Control Tower and to use it as a viewing centre and a possible interpretation centre. Ideas for the funding of this should be explored.	Supp
20/1	Mrs E. Webster	General comment – Education	At the Ellingham Show on the 14th August 2004 at the Somerley grounds, there was a magnificent archaeological display, including pottery pieces, urn, axe, spear head and flints found at the Tarmac Ibsley Quarry. Apparently, these may be passed on to Winchester Museum, however, these must surely be displayed in the Blashford Lakes area.	<u>No c</u> strat
18/1	Mrs Vera Smith, RAF Ibsley Historical Group	Executive Summary – Historical Value – Old Ibsley Airfield Control	Whilst we agree with most of the proposals the Summary contains we feel that not enough emphasis is placed on the historical value of the old Ibsley airfield Control Tower. The World War 11 fighter airfield at Ibsley, used by both	<u>No c</u> Sum feasi appr

		Tower	<p>R.A.F and U.S.A.A.F., with at one time some 3,000 Americans based and accommodated here in 1944, was and will probably remain the most important historical event in the area. The R.A.F. Ibsley complex stretched for over two miles, from the village of Rockford to the South and Northwards to the Communal and accommodation sites at South Gorley, with the Station Hospital further away at North Gorley.</p> <p>There are a number of wartime structures still remaining at Ibsley but by far and away the most important is the old Airfield Control Tower. It is of unique construction being a type 518/40, built with concrete floor, staircase and balcony, and believed to be the only one of this type built and still remaining. We feel more emphasis should be given to the Blashford Lakes Strategic Management Plan Summary to its conservation and hopefully at some point restoration, so that there is an opportunity for historic interpretation as a reminder, not only for this generation but for future generations, of the important part Ibsley Airfield played in World War 11, where close on one hundred service men paid the supreme sacrifice. We trust you will consider our views on the Control Tower favourably.</p>	resto
3/2	R. B. Brockhurst, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society	General comment – Mockbeggar Lane	We feel that it would be desirable that seats, bird hides, explanatory and interpretive noticeboards and an open space either south of Mockbeggar Lane or north of Ellingham Drove should be provided as part of the Strategic Plan.	<u>No c</u> align route facili study

SECTION 4 – PROPOSALS FOR MANAGEMENT UNITS

20/1	Mrs E. Webster	General comment – Ellingham Lake - Disturbance to wildlife	At 9pm on 14th August 2004 a firework display was held at Ellingham Lake Skiing Club. The wildfowl were very much disturbed on the surrounding lakes e.g. Ibsley, Mockbeggar Lakes, the noise of the geese, ducks, and gulls was incredible – thousands of gulls flew off up the valley. It is outrageous that this and other disturbances on the lakes are allowed, yet major restrictions are forced on local people who want new paths, bird hides and open spaces close to lakes who have lived through decades of disturbance because of the gravel mining.	No c mana
19/24	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	General comment – Disturbance to wildlife	The relationship between the firework parties at Somerley House and the wildfowl on Blashford Lakes should be monitored to determine the level of disturbance between May and September.	No c mana
15/9	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Para. 4.139 Lin Brook East	It is stated that there are no plans for increased access. However there are outstanding issues regarding access from Snails Lane along the eastern edge of Linbrook Lake. A Section 52 agreement dated 1976 between the landowners and Hampshire County Council placed a burden on the landowners and their successors in title to build and dedicate rights of way as indicated in the Local Plan of the time. The routes indicated ran east of Northfield Lake and west of Linbrook Lake.	Acce
17/9	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Para. (4.157?)– North Mockbeggar Lake	The proposal for a reedbed adjacent to the future North Mockbeggar Lake is strongly endorsed.	Supp
9/1	A. A. and A. M. Van Den Berg	Para 4.179 Poulner Lake	We are unable to understand that while many of the lakes within the group are covered by Ramsar and SSSI protection, no such protection is afforded to Poulner Lake. Due its close proximity to Linbrook Lake, which is SSSI (the two are separated only by a narrow strip of land) the habitat is naturally shared by most of the wildlife. Indeed, our home is within yards of Poulner Lake and we derive much enjoyment from observing the varied and myriad forms of wildlife, which are often to be seen. The herons and kingfishers in particular are frequently to be seen at the extreme eastern end of Poulner Lake, just in front of Linbrook Cottage. We also receive frequent visits from deer, foxes, various snakes, owls Canadian geese and many others. Please, can anything be done to extend this protection?	No c
9/2	A. A. and A. M.	Para. 4.183 –	Regarding the implementation of a SINC order, this is	? Su

	Van Den Berg	Poulner Lake	<p>something which we have been pursuing for some two years and as a member of the Toad Patrol for the past few years we can assure you that they most definitely DO exist and that their route to the lakes crosses the Gorley Rd and across the eastern end of Poulner Lake. Large numbers of toads are saved by the members of the Toad Patrol, but unfortunately we do lose some.</p> <p>Anything which, can be done to protect this route, would be very welcome. with this in mind, we would respectfully query P.73 (4.183) regarding a toad pond site at the Western end of Poulner Lake. Should this read the Eastern end, due to its proximity to Gorley Rd? Your assurance would be appreciated.</p>	? A sp
19/25	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 4.183 – Poulner Lake	Concerning the toad pond site off the Gorley Road this should refer to the eastern part of Poulner Lake and not the western as stated.	<u>Acce</u> easte
15/10	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Para. 4.184 – Northfield Lake	The permissive route to the east of Northfield Lake will shortly be dedicated as public.	<u>Acce</u> acco

19/26	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para.s 4.27, 4.45 and 4.198 – Rockford Lake	Para 4.27 – It is ironic and contradictory that you want to enhance the nature conservation at the Hardstanding at Ellingham Drove (see the enclosed photograph of the flowering sedum taken this year – Appendix C). Yet in Paras 4.45 and 4.198 the report advocates parking on this site for people sailing at Rockford Lake and general visitors. There have been a number of accidents at this busy junction at Ellingham Crossroads in recent years and additional traffic wanting to turn down Ellingham Drove that can only make matters worse.	No c desig the s
19/27	Mrs Brenda Turk, Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council	Para. 4.229 – Lin Brook Corridor	The Parish Council welcomes overall objectives for the Lin Brook and Management proposals. It is an interesting stream and very popular with local people.	Supp
5/3	Patrick Prior, Ellingham Water Ski & Wakeboard Club	Funding of proposals	There appears to be no mention in the plan as to where the finance for any of the proposals would come from. Would they be funded from public money or privately funded?	No c finan
SECTION 5 – FORMAT OF BLCC				
1/17	BLCC Meeting	BLSMP's Future format of BLCC	JE will stand down as Chair of BLCC once the BLSMP review is complete. The Plan currently suggests the Chair moves from WW to NFDC. The BLCC was originally a planning condition; the strict legal position on how it is allowed to evolve needs to be verified. One argument was offered against this suggestion – that there was a danger of the Chair being politicised, particularly if it was a Council Member.	BLC Cons mem landc coun
1/18	BLCC Meeting	BLSMP's Future format of BLCC	Reasons offered for NFDC taking on the Chair: NFDC is well placed to oversee the Committee during the afteruse phase of the lakes A single organisation is better for administration purposes e.g. meeting arrangements, minutes etc. NFDC can be relatively impartial. MD agrees that the NFDC could play these roles, but it should be an open discussion for the Committee to decide as they wish.	BLC Cons mem landc coun
1/19	BLCC Meeting	BLSMP's Future format of BLCC	One of the most important aspects for any Chair is that momentum and focus are maintained.	See r
1/20	BLCC Meeting	BLSMP's Future format of BLCC	The Blashford Lakes Partnership provides a good mechanism for getting things done on water company land. What happens if the Plan encompasses other lakes and land, beyond those owned by water companies, is a different matter.	See r
1/21	BLCC Meeting	BLSMP's Future format of BLCC	It has been suggested that BLCC is enlarged to take on other interests and individuals. One argument is that it is a	See r

			consultative committee, which should allow other landowners to be involved. Against this, there is an argument for making the Committee smaller, for the sake of efficiency and effectiveness.	
5/4	Patrick Prior, Ellingham Water Ski & Wakeboard Club	Representation of recreational users	I suspect that the answer (to who decides if the 'legal and policy obligation allowing precedence to Nature Conservation – see Consultation Response 5/1 above) will be that it is the responsibility of the Steering Group to adjudicate on such a matter and that leads me to comment that it is not clear who is representing the recreational users on that committee. Maybe it is the New Forest District Council Representative, but if he is to become the Chairman of the Group, he may find it difficult to argue against the combined 'weight' of English Nature and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and carry out the impartial duties of a Chairman.	No c
6/8	John Levell		An obvious next question, not answered by this document, is who determines the format and members of "The Steering Group"? If the enlarged "Management Area" included several further new owners, their inclusion on any such group should be automatic or at least their acknowledgement that the strategy is likely to influence future planning decisions related to their private assets should be included within the consultation document. The role of commercial interests in the form of the Water Co's and those in receipt of sponsorship from the same sources leaves the integrity of the "Steering Group" open to question. The existing structure of the steering group leaves the entire strategy open to the accusation of a "Green Wash".	No c landc Secti
7/17	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Executive Summary – Para. 12 Review of Consultative Committee and Steering Group	If NFDC are asked to chair we need to identify which part of the authority the invitation is sent too. Leisure services would be disadvantaged in chairing as they have a role of promoting interests that a chair would need to take an impartial view on. Similarly a planning officer would be disadvantage in needing to avoid prejudging possible future planning decisions. I suggest if this is the way forward then either Chief Exec's dept or legal services are asked to provide the chair.	See r
15/11	Sally Plummer, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council	Paras 5.32-36	It is important that Hampshire County Council is included here. As Highway Authority we are responsible for the maintenance of the surface of rights of way that exist over the site. Hampshire County Council also has a statutory duty to prepare Rights of Way Improvement Plans under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the plan for	Acce acco

			<p>the New Forest will include this area. The plan will look at local peoples needs and aspirations for countryside access as well as public and private landowners issues with public access on their land. This strategic management plan is likely to provide valuable background to the Improvement Plan.</p> <p>In addition, the County Council has set up a 'Local Access Forum', a statutory body made up of local users and landowning interests. The Forum provides advice to local government on all aspects of countryside access and may wish to be consulted on the future access management of the site.</p>	
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17/10	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Membership of BLCC	We note that it is recommended that other stakeholders who are not represented on the consultative Committee be invited to join. We hope that such an invitation might be extended to the New Forest Bird Group.	See r parti wide NFB
OVERALL SUPPORTING COMMENTS				
7/18	Clive Chatters, Hampshire Wildlife Trust	General support	An interesting and valuable consultation draft.	Supp
9/3	A. A. and A. M. Van Den Berg	General support	We welcome the overall objectives for Blashford Lakes.	Supp
11/1	Terry Simpson, Ringwood Town Council	General support	The Town Council was pleased to receive a copy of this consultation document. It has now been studied in some detail and I am pleased to advise you that the Council approves the plan and has no adverse comments to make.	Supp
17/11	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	General support	We do endorse the plan in principal, subject to some provisos. (See Consultation Responses 17/3-17/12)	Supp note Cons
5/5	Patrick Prior, Ellingham Water Ski & Wakeboard Club	General support – recreation	Firstly, I wish to complement you on achieving a fine balancing act and in part, allaying some of the fears of the recreational users of the lakes. I suspect that a part of the worry felt by the recreational users has developed from a belief that the ‘environmental lobby’ have been pushing to have pre-eminence in all matters involving the lakes.	Supp
3/3	R. B. Brockhurst, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society	General support – Footpaths	We strongly support the proposed provision of all the other linked footpaths referred in section ‘‘Access and Parking’’ of the Summary. We consider that the paths should be made definitive from the outset rather than only ‘‘in the long term’’.	Supp
17/12	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Nature conservation – birds	In general, we strongly welcome the proposal Plan, noting in particular the emphasis on, and precedence given to, nature conservation in key principles 3,4 and 7, as well as the improved public access, particularly for bird study and educational purposes without adding additional disturbance.	Supp
17/13	Sir Charles Pringle, New Forest Bird Group	Nature conservation – birds	We further welcome the continued recognition of the area for its importance for over-wintering birds and the need for minimum disturbance, particularly during the late autumn and winter months.	Supp
NON-RESPONDERS				
3/4	R. B. Brockhurst, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society	Not responding as Local Correspondent for Open Spaces	Thank you for your letter of 2 June with the enclosed summary of this draft plan sent to me in my capacity as the Local Correspondent of the Open Spaces Society. In fact, I no longer act as such Correspondent and am	No.c

		Society	passing your letter and enclosure to the Society's General Secretary. However this Society also has a very real interest in the Blashford Lakes area and its future representing as it does (and over 30 years) some 500 local walkers and others concerned with the protection and improvement of public rights of way in this area. (See Consultation Responses 3/1-3/3)	
4/1	Kate Ashbrook, Open Spaces Society	Unable to respond	Rowan Brockhurst has passed onto us, your letter to him of 2 June with the accompanying draft plan. Unfortunately, we don't have sufficient local knowledge to respond but we are happy to leave it to Rowan Brockhurst and the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society to comment.	No c