



Public Space Protection Order(s) extension key stakeholders' consultation

November – December 2025

Online key stakeholder consultation hosted by NFDC through Microsoft Forms feedback to PSPO 1 & PSPO 2 proposed extension. 30 responses were collected in total during 28 November – 19 December 2025.

The consultation period was open for a 3-week period from 28 November to 19 December 2025 for key stakeholders to provide their feedback on the two current PSPOs for NFDC to consider the possibility of extending for a further 3 years.

The online platform 'Microsoft Forms' was used for the consultation with the same content as the public consultation excluding demographic questions created by NFDC officers.

More than 60 key stakeholders, including Town and Parish Councils, were written to directly and invited to participate in the consultation via an online survey link provided in the correspondence.

Any representative unable to complete the survey online were sent either an electronic or paper copy and their responses were inputted and analysed as part of all submissions.

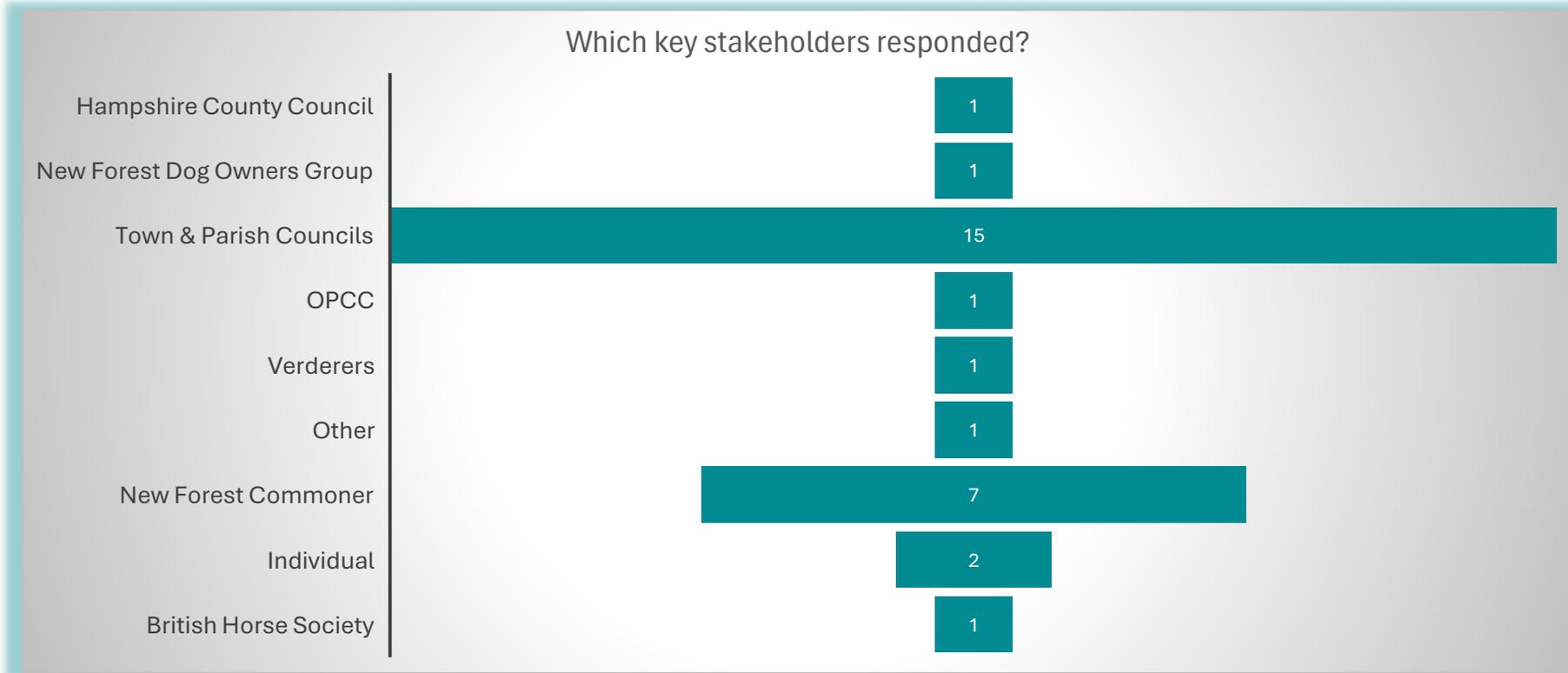
Respondents were able to access five documents prior to completing the survey:

- PSPO 1 order
- PSPO 1 map of the restricted area
- PSPO 2 order
- PSPO 2 map of restricted area
- Link to the PSPO page with all relevant documentation for further information.

30 responses in total were recorded.

The image shows a screenshot of a Microsoft Forms survey titled "New Forest District Council Public Space Protection Order(s) extension consultation". The form is designed to gather feedback on extending two Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for three years. It includes an introductory section explaining the purpose and a "We want to hear your views" section. The survey is divided into sections for PSPO 1 and PSPO 2. PSPO 1 is for fire-related incidents, and PSPO 2 is for New Forest animals. The form asks respondents to indicate the organization they represent, and then asks if they support the proposal to extend the PSPO for a further three years until 2029. It also asks for reasons for agreement or disagreement. The form is presented as a tilted document with a teal border.

Good spread of key stakeholders responding to the survey, with 50% of those completing the survey representing Town & Parish Councils. This indicates strong institutional and practitioner engagement



Do you support the proposal to extend the PSPO 1 (fire) for a further three years until 2029?



All 30 stakeholder representative responses supported extending PSPO 1 for a further 3 years.

Strong support for retaining PSPO powers as a preventative and useful enforcement tool due to hotter, drier summers increasing wildfire risk from disposable BBQs, campfires and similar items.

An amendment to PSPO 1 was requested to add sky / Chinese lanterns explicitly to prohibited items.



Do you support the proposal to extend the PSPO 2 (New Forest animals) for a further three years until 2029?



All 30 stakeholder representative responses supported extending PSPO 2 for a further 3 years.

Respondents expressed support for PSPO 2 as an effective measure to protect the local environment, livestock, and wildlife. Feedback highlighted concerns that feeding or petting ponies and donkeys can lead to illness, increased aggression, and a heightened risk of injury to members of the public, particularly children and visitors. Respondents also noted that human interaction encourages New Forest animals to move closer to roads, increasing the risk of traffic related incidents.

Further feedback indicated that the order helps to raise public awareness of the harmful impacts of these behaviours on New Forest animals. Suggestions for strengthening the order included increasing patrols in key hotspot locations such as Boltons Bench and expanding the scope of the order to cover additional livestock, including pigs.



Do you think there is sufficient awareness and signage advising of the orders?

The consultation responses strongly indicated a need for improved awareness of the PSPOs, particularly signage at forest entrances, car parks and key visitor hotspots.

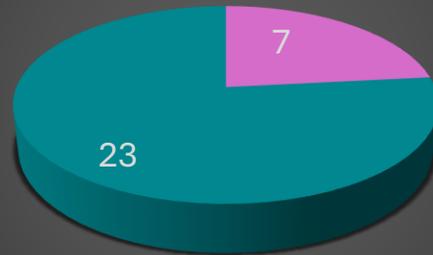
Respondents highlighted the need for more signage at popular locations such as Boltons Bench and Godshill and suggested wider use of local media and social platforms to raise visitor awareness.

Respondents requested enhanced, targeted communication via campsites, hotels and holiday accommodation, supported by signage on overhead gantries on key approach roads for visitors travelling into the forest.

It was recognised that increased signage does not automatically mean the public will read or take in the information and that visible patrols and prosecutions were essential to reinforce compliance with PSPO regulations.

Should the orders be extended, this matter will be explored further in partnership with Forestry England, as the organisation responsible for the PSPO signage scheme.

Is the signage / awareness sufficient?



■ Yes ■ No

