

## **Forest Farming Group**

Notes of meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

The Library, Kings House, Lyndhurst

### **Present**

Andrew Parry-Norton (CDA, Chair of meeting with DB attending on Teams), David Bence (NFNPA via Teams), Nicola Brown (Natural England), Graham Ferris (Verderers), Jim Greenwood (Independent), Mike Pittock (FE), Isobel Budden NFU (substitute for Ben Gibbons), Robert Stride (CDA), Edward Heron (Verderers), Paul Walton (NFNPA)

Oliver Cook – New Park Consultancy (part of the meeting)

### **Apologies**

Oliver Cooper (NT), Ben Dolbear (CDA)

### **Notes and actions from last meeting**

PA2 application: since the last meeting the funding was approved by the RPA with New Park Consultancy commissioned as consultants. An inception meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> March and terms of agreement confirmed by exchange of letters in April.

### **Update on PA2 study**

Andrew PN and Oliver Cook provided an update on progress. Work programme agreed with the FFG sub group. Monthly meetings scheduled between the consultants and the FFG subgroup (Chaired by Andrew PN). Work scheduled to complete in March 2025.

### **Discussion on future priorities**

General discussion on the opportunities provided by the change in national government. Likelihood of uncertainty around ELM timetable as the new administration review current activity.

**AGREED** that a letter would be sent to the new Environment Secretary to ensure the New Forest is highlighted to the new ministerial team.

### **Date of future meetings**

Agreed that the priority will be the delivery of the PA2 study. Next meeting of the full FFG to be held towards the end of 2024 unless policy changes announced sooner.