

Q5. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with wildfires in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

1) Area of grass scorching at Culverley where it would appear a portable BBQ had been used. 2) Remains of a portable BBQ spotted and removed from Beaulieu Airfield. 3) Intervened with a couple who were using a portable BBQ at Matley and politely advised them this was not permitted.
2 Young people had put a small tent up and lit a fire close to Longslade View
A family had been camped out all night and had just lit a fire to cook breakfast. I told him how dangerous it was but all I got was abuse and mouth. I told him that I would call a keeper and he could be fined but it made no difference. So I poured my water bottle on it and put it out. All he said was thanks very much you have just ruined my breakfast.He was gone in an hour.
A fire on the open forest near our home in Brockenhurst
A group had lit a fire on heathland during the dry spell. Were defensive when I walked over so I called a ranger. The group had put the fire out when the ranger arrived.
A large circle was dug out of the grass near the bridge crossing the stream near Martins Road in Brockenhurst and used as a campfire.
A nearby campsite called ██████████ encourages and supplies Fire Pits and BBQs to the ██████████ pitches on its site. Last summer was one of the hottest on record . The surrounding forest and gardens were "tinderbox dry". A spark from one of the many Fire Pits could have caused a wildfire that would set alight the natural environment as well as nearby properties. With summer 2023 likely to be as hot and dry WE MUST ensure that any fire risk like this is eliminated it is too dangerous!!!
Areas of scorched grass on the lawns which fortunately hadn't spread but took ages to regrow.
██████████ I have had to deal with BBQ's and wildfires.
██████████ I once had to put a fire out and I have seen several areas of scorched earth
██████████ i have often had to deal with people bar b q ing, and lighting camp fires.
██████████ we often see the charred ground near car parks where disposable BBQs have been used.
As someone who lives in Lyndhurst we regularly see tourists lighting BBQs and even during the hosepipe ban this year when we had rocketing temperature people would regularly have disposable BBQs and we would see the scorch marks on the grass ██████████
At Hatchet Pond, especially disposable BBQs. After use they are left behind because they are too hot to take home and difficult for litter pickers to deal with.
Barbecues being used at Wilverly.
Barbecues being lit on open forest land.
BBQ left in undergrowth which had luckily gone out after scorching the ground.
BBQs and fires at Linford Bottom & Moyles Court constantly in summer
BBQs and fireworks
BBQ's and people starting fires which have had to be dealt with by fire brigade
BBQs being lit in car parks and surrounding woodland, causing damage to the ground. BBQ smouldering with risk of Fire reported to 999. Brockenhurst area.
BBQs left behind, with burnt grass and bushes
BBQs lit on dry grass undergrowth, particularly around car parks, public spaces. Abandoned disposable BBQs & associated littering.
Blackened circles in the vegetation where fires have been lit
Burley fire brigade always having to be called out to ██████████ campsite because of people with BBQs / wild camping
Burnt patches where I walk. Litter and discarded disposable BBQs left.
Came across a discarded BBQ still alight and ground around it smoking and about to catch fire. Dealt with it before it caused significant damage.
Came across a tin foil from a disposable BBQ last year
Campers removing turf and creating a fire pit during a long hot summer. Disposable barbecues regular picked up around carparks regardless of weather conditions. Several chinese lanterns picked up - not burnt out but having created burnt area landing while alight.
Camping groups setting up wild camping in the North of the forest and not enough wardens around to move them on.
Caught a couple near Yew Tree bottom car park with a disposable BBQ in the Heather. They had got up and walked away from it just leaving it smouldering. I intervened strongly but politely to them and they did then pour water on it and take it with them.... They told me they thought 'the rubbish people' would clear it up....
Challenged some people who had lit a fire and were camping overnight. Called FE and weren't reassured with the response. They said Ranger would come. We revisited in the morning and fire relit and people still there.
Close to Pig Bush car park I have seen, many times, the remains of fires sometimes still smouldering, damaged grass, blackened collected logs, and singed heather, litter left with it including can with sharp edges, remains of food, I have shooed away investigating ponies who could be hurt. These fires are sometimes associated with wild camping which again I have seen in this area.
Damage to grass on FE land to the east of the railway line near Ashurst Hospital caused by a number of portable BBQs
██████████ campsite 2020 - a group lighting fire away from the site amongst tress during a very dry spell. Matley Wood margin - residues of still warm disposable BBQ along with all the associated litter and discarded food from a barbecue

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Despite the clear danger posed by fires and BBQs, I always see groups of people lighting fires and having BBQs in the forest. When approached and reminded how dangerous it is, the groups usually tell you to "p*ss off!"
Discarded BBQs left smouldering in the open forest
During last summer whilst out horse riding [REDACTED] would see folk wild camping in the forest with either open fire or prunus stoves
During the last 2 years working within the local tourism industry I have encountered numerous examples of abandoned disposable BBQs and burnt spaces created by random fires lit by users. These were both adjacent to car parks and deeper in the forest
During the summer of 2022, I came across remains of a fire lit on the forest floor within Dibden Inclosure and considerable rubbish strewn about comprising bottles and cans which had contained alcoholic liquor. I reported the matter to the Forest Ranger.
Evidence from [REDACTED] 2022 including 2 men asked to put out a small fire and a burnt-out car. Further burnt-out cars witnessed at Milkham, Wootton Bridge and Highland Water. Discarded used BBQs discovered while litter picking
Evidence of 'portable' BBQ's having been lit in the most stupid of places, leaving scorch marks on the grass ... even when designated BBQ areas have been provided - e.g. such as at the car park areas close to the 'Rhinefield House' areas of the Forest.
[REDACTED] near the site of the Wareham fire - caused by a BBQ. Picnics in the forest are ok ... but personally I cannot see that BBQ's are ever necessary in the Forest.
Finding smouldering fires, that have been lit over night, and having to put them out.
Fire on heathland behind [REDACTED] Fawley
Firepits on [REDACTED] campsite, Frogham - which are a well documented nuisance to locals and a danger to thatched properties nearby,
Fires being lit beside the Avon water on a number of occasions. Numerous disposable barbecues being left. Barbecues on Wilverley plain. Evidence of fires on numerous other places
Fires local to Hythe and Dibden last year, causing huge plumes of smoke across the area, dangerous to local traffic, any dwellings and wildlife.
Fires on the Godshill area
Forest fires near Dibden enclosure is close to where we live. The fire destroyed new forest land, habitats for the animals & caused disruption on the roads. It takes up valuable fire fighters time dealing with dangerous situations that are totally preventable
Forestry England teams have spent many hours in recent years preventing irresponsible use and working with the emergency services to respond to incidents.
Found 3 BBQs in wooden areas, 2 in bank area, 1 whitely wood, 1 still alight, all had large areas of singed ground around them.
Found a smouldering fire around 8.30am on a [REDACTED] walk in Busketts area near Ashurst. Had to call the fire brigade who came out but took a while as they had no key access to the gate as they were not a local crew. Forestry England workers who were doing tree work actually got to it first and put it out. Photos taken and matter reported. This was during the really hot summer and if I had not found the fire so early it may well have re-ignited and caused more damage. This was in an area with lots of dry pine needles around so could easily have re-ignited. It was away from the gravel path and had [REDACTED] and spotted paper rubbish first it may not have been found. Found similar evidence of overnight fires on a few occasions - also what seemed to be school exercise books/paper used so may be schoolkids. Perhaps a night patrol could be set up, especially during summer months/tourist season?
Found and reported to Forestry England a smoldering disposable BBQ used carelessly by illegal campers which had burnt the grass around it.
Frequent damage to the northern commons through open fires, large areas of burnt ground each year
Frequent fires and embers from barbecues in car parks at Janesmoor Pond, Longcross and Bramble Hill car parks. These are areas where [REDACTED] New Forest ponies have run. If areas like this set on fire, there are animals in nearby fields which will not be able to escape. I have not been able to persuade anyone to devise a fire plan for the evacuation of domesticated or forest run animals.
Greenhouses on fire in Hordle
Groups of people / families having BBQs (1 spotted by Matley car park, 1 spotted to the east of Matley car park), 1 person having a wildfire in a clearing off Hatchet Lane.
Had to call Forest Ranger to disperse wild campers who had a fire and barbecue going. Also put out a smouldering fire with stream water at Busketts Lawn.
Had to tell some visitors to put out their portable BBQ
Have come across discarded but still hot 'disposable' BBQ kits on Rockford and Ibsley Commons. Also seen burnt out gorse bushes in these areas where fires have started but fortunately not spread.
Have found two groups of people in the last two years on Gorley Common sat around a bonfire. Have tried to explain the implications of this, neither time received a good outcome
Have had to ask people to put out barbecues in the middle of summer to prevent a possible fire breaking out.
Have many times witnessed the effect of uncontrolled fires in the forest and actively approached/prevented/reported people lighting campfires in tinder dry conditions etc.
Have noted charred ground due to BBQ and or open fires close to dry heather and bracken in Broomy Walk and Spring bushes forest car parks
Have seen illegal campers in Hasley with camp fires
[REDACTED] came across group of men fishing and they had lit a fire. It was in the middle of a woods. It was very intimidating and they were very verbally aggressive when he suggested the put out the fire

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<p>██████████ This is an ever increasing problem as the more people are encouraged to come to the New Forest ██████████ and have had to call the firebrigade on at least 3 occasions to attend BBQs on the open heath surrounding Hatchet Moor and Hatchet Pond. I have disposed of numerous disposable BBQs over the summers of 2020 to 2022. On one occasion I informed a large group of people burning 3 BBQs under tree branches of the dangers in the heatwave of 2022. Visitors ██████████ who had no clue of the dangers to the countryside which was timber dry. I despair at what I see.</p>
<p>I came across a professional photo shoot with models for an outdoor clothing company which had created a make-believe camping scene with a real lighted campfire. I also came across a group of about 10-12 people including children (probably 2 or 3 families) which had set up their own large BBQ</p>
<p>I cannot believe anyone would want to even consider lighting a fire in a forest but, sadly, there are those who only think of themselves. I have seen old BBQ material left for animals to burn themselves on because the selfish individuals are allowed to just drive away. Appalling behaviour.</p>
<p>I found a fire in Burley New Enclosure in summer 2022 and had to call the Fire Brigade and Forestry Commission to have it extinguished.</p>
<p>I have advised many people to extinguish their barbecues so as not to cause a fire, and nearly always had a rude response.</p>
<p>I have certainly come across, on more than one occasion, people using both disposable BBQs and also charcoal BBQs, this is all within the proposed restricted area, as a resident within the restricted area I am personally very concerned about wildfires</p>
<p>I have come across disposable BBQ's still burning and left after the family/persons have gone home.</p>
<p>I have come across multiple incidents of people wild camping and open campfires on the ground. I extinguished a campfire from the previous evening still smoldering at 4pm after being badly buried in gravel. This posed a serious injury risk to walkers as the remnants of the fire were not visible but would have caused burns.</p>
<p>I have come across wild camping while walking my dog, the associated litter is dangerous and the damage to the environment is unacceptable and also dangerous with large trees on fire internally for days weakening the structure. I've also seen BBQs placed at the base of gorse bushes that have caught fire acting as a danger to anyone nearby.</p>
<p>I have experience of people lighting fires and BBQs at Tanners Lane and on the heath on Bagshot Moor. While not causing wildfires they have caused damage to the ground (in one case a bench on the coastland at Tanners Lane). With increased extremes in temperatures like droughts and heatwaves, it's obvious they could lead to wildfires. I would extend the restrictions to bonfires on domestic properties bordering the heathland for that reason.</p>
<p>I have found discarded disposable BBQs in the Forest, usually near car parks ██████████ in the Bramshaw area. The scorch marks remain for years.</p>
<p>I have found numerous burnt patches where there have been camp fires or disposal BBQs. On one occasion it was associated with a large amount of litter, which I collected.</p>
<p>I have found numerous fires left smouldering unattended and have called the firefighters 3 times to extinguish them in the last couple of years, All at Mill lawn Burly. Also people still using barbecues even with notices stating no barbecues our fires. There is no forest wardens to report these matters to , plus when I have rung the forestry commission to report these matters no one answers the calls on the weekends when most of these incidents take place. I once did manage to get someone and she said where is the New Forest when I tried to report a fire, I then had to give a lengthy explanation to where the New Forest was in the country, I was put through to someone up north who had no idea of where the New Forest was. We need local contact information not being transferred to forestry commissions at the other end of the country.</p>
<p>I have had to change my planned walking route in the Forest on several occasions in the past two years because of fires</p>
<p>I have had to put out a wildfire caused by wild camping and pick up sacks of litter. I had to seek help from my local Forestry England Keeper on several occasions.</p>
<p>I have known sites subject to arson and wildfires. The impact of unmanaged fires is adverse to the wildlife and forage of the Forest.</p>
<p>I have seen and reported to Forestry England lighting of open wood fires on the ground, portable barbecues and use of gas cylinder fires near car parks and tracks.</p>
<p>I have seen at close hand the effects of wildfires in the proposed area and also had direct experience of dealing with the effects of wildfires on adjoining heathlands areas ( with eg wildlife recovery post - fire)</p>
<p>I have seen lots of disposable BBQs being left after use</p>
<p>I have seen people having BBQs and fires during times of high fire risk. The new forest is one of the most important and sensitive habitats in Europe and we must protect it.</p>
<p>I have seen people light fires/BBQ's in the sensitive areas of the New Forest National Park which I reported</p>
<p>I have seen several examples of fires in car parks or close to them that could have easily got out of hand and there would have been no facilities to fight them had they done so.</p>
<p>I have seen the dreadful ecological damage caused in several places over the last 2 years on the Forest caused by fires started or BBQs being used. Scorched ground in the best case scenario, having to call the fire brigade twice in the worst case scenarios.</p>
<p>I have seen the effect of wildfires and the length of time the ground takes to recover. I have also seen numerous instances of people with disposable barbecues and portable stoves which are against the agreed New Forest Code. I've also spoken with people about BBQs - I believe the PSPO would make such conversations much more effective.</p>
<p>I have seen the remains of cooking fires at Broadley including large smoldering logs and the same at Setley Pond.</p>
<p>I have seen the remains of fires and burnt out cars when walking in the forest which has damages the surrounding area and presents a serious danger particular in dry weather.</p>
<p>I litter pick in the Forest and in the summer months almost every week there is discarded debris in and around Forest Car Parks such as discarded BBQs, food waste, drink cans and bottles and plastic bags. Often the BBQs are lit on grassy areas and burn marks are also a problem.</p>

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have had to stop people lighting fires in Hinchleslea Woods above Longslade Bottom

we have had 4 occasions when ignorant people have parked outside our house and disappeared into the forest overnight. We have found them camping, making fires, leaving litter and worse in our beautiful surroundings. We need these orders to protect our fragile forest from these people who just don't care.

Whilst out walking last summer during the height of the drought I saw a family in the forest near Acres Down with a picnic. They had a disposable barbecue directly on the ground and were struggling to extinguish flames which were spreading across the forest floor. I helped to stamp out the flames and pointed out that barbecues were forbidden for this very reason and was met with a frightening torrent of abuse. I returned later and the barbecue had just been abandoned

I regularly come across new areas of devastation in the forest which have been caused by wild fires each year. It is noticeable that quite a few of these fires occur around public holidays. The introduction of new rules will only be of benefit if those visiting the forest are made aware.

I saw a wild fire behind Sway Allotments, which it was rumoured had been started by lads. It was moving very fast with a brisk breeze and I was concerned for the safety of grazing in that area and if the wind had changed direction it could easily have set fire to my field boundaries and a barn.

I was driving over Roger Penny Way in high summer last year when it was tinder dry and saw an organised group lighting a BBQ on the dry ground. There was gorse everywhere and the risk was huge- but the people were just oblivious.

I witnessed wild camping near my home and they had lit a fire where they were camping amongst gorse bushes. The fire had not been out of control but burned a large circle of grass which took many months to regrow

On one-night shift we received information that there were camping at Coverly Car Park. We went through the extended process of reporting the fire but the had left to pick up rubbish and put water on the ashes. I went and recorded the registration numbers of the cars involved and later returned in the early hours of the morning after

In the past year a large fire close to home with huge quantities of flame and smoke resulting in considerable habitat damage and potential risk to adjacent properties. Also last year I reported fires in local woodland on the open Forest on a three occasions.

In various Car Parks within the forest during the summer months, many discarded single use BBQs were strewn on the outer edges of the CPs, many of these could potentially started a wildfire.

Indirectly, due to staff time taken up by managing reported incidents making them unavailable for more positive recreational management

I've seen the damage caused by fires in several places within the forest and how long it takes for the environment and ecology to recover

Large group of people with a huge fire by the side of Roger Penny Way, mid summer

Last summer I came across four young adults "wild camping" behind a screen of bone-dry gorse bushes who had just lit an open campfire. The location was extremely dangerous but at least they put the fire out when asked

Linford Bottom, Hatchet Pond, Andrew's Mare. Deep in the forest, well away from highways - multiple locations.

fires are a daily issue over the spring, summer and even autumn months. BBQs are everywhere and often left smouldering in the Forest or the beach as people don't think about how to dispose them. They are left abandoned often with litter sprawled around or even branches are used to make fires. BBQs are also left on the beach which as kids are often barefoot is so dangerous as even in the rare event they are taken away the area will remain exceedingly hot for many hours. I strongly believe they should be banned in this National Park in the Forest and on the Coast.

Loss of habitat in New Forest

have come across the remains of disposable barbeques at Forest carparks. Specifically, Andrews Mare, and Hazel Hill.

Members of the public having barbecues and building open fires next to our local forest car park. These are not only incredibly irresponsible but damage the underlying ground for decades. Also something to consider is the frequency of used and discarded fireworks found around November 5th and New Years Eve. Thankfully no fires caused to date we have had extremely dry weather.

Members of the public wild camping in the woods (open forest) next to our house and having a fire. Members of the public using disposable BBQ's or bringing their own BBQs on to the open forest near our house. When asked to put the BBQ out because of the fire risk, members of the public are quite often rude to the point of abusive. Somehow they think it is "their right" to do whatever they chose to do in the "park", no matter the risk to wildlife or local residents properties. These are not isolated incidents, but par for the course of a standard day in the Forest, with visitors feeding the ponies, cycling wherever they choose, littering, setting off fireworks, doing doughnuts in FE car parks (Stoney Cross every Friday & Saturday) and using the local roads as race tracks. When politely being informed that these activities may be breaking the bye-laws the usual response of the public is to be told to "f\*\*k off". A more robust and punitive system is imperative.

Multiple fires/BBQs used in and around Abbotswell car park throughout dry summer periods resulting in burnt areas of grass and risk to local homes and wildlife. There is no clear way to report this as challenging users often results in unpleasant confrontation. There is also repeated examples of uncontrolled use of fires and barbeques in an unlicensed campsite on Abbotswell Rd where there is little provision for fire safety and poor water pressure should a fire spread. This was particularly concerning during the extreme heatwave in 2022 when wildfires were destroying homes and land in the UK.

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<p>██████████ challenged a family who had lit a disposable BBQ by the beach at Balmer Lawn and whilst the man was understanding the lady was quite abusive. ██████████ called NFDC to report the incident but were unable to get through so spoke to a local resident who were known to be a relevant contact and they reported it. I have advised visitors on numerous occasions of the risk of discarding cigarette butts in the Forest. Issue is lack of official policing and risk of abuse. Also lack of publicity to visitors of NF Code . ██████████ -- I advise and am always polite, most people plead ignorance.</p>
<p>No experience of wildfires but have come across people lighting fires and BBQs in Forest and on heathland even when obvious notices in every car park that they are prohibited because of high fire risk.</p>
<p>Not a wild fire, but the smell of charring flesh and other foods that surrounds contained BBQs is disagreeable and incongruous in what many 'Nature lovers' wish to experience when in the Forest. One BBQ efuvia can permeate a large area.</p>
<p>Numerous reports of fires out of control reported to ██████████ and forwarded on to FE Keepers / Fire Brigade</p>
<p>Often I've seen the remains of fires in the forest. Also at Tanners Lane, asked one couple to please put out the fire. They were quite unpleasant.</p>
<p>On several occasions have come across people lighting fires and using BBQs on the open Forest during total fire bans. Fortunately in most cases they have put the fires out when asked to do so with an explanation as to why. In one case it was a group of 5 men and as a ██████████ I didnt feel comfortable challenging them so I called the local Keeper who came out immediately and dealt with the situation.</p>
<p>Once a group of young people had lit a BBQ under an Oak tree and almost set the tree alight. The other time a young couple had used a disposable BBQ and when I told them it could cause a fire, they removed it, but it was already hot underneath.</p>
<p>Other than regularly coming across unsafe BBQs and campfires also fireworks and chinese lanterns, anyone who spends any time away from main routes will know of sites.</p>
<p>Out walking in the summer I have had to call the emergency services because of what I thought was a heath fire. It turned out that it was a controlled burn but the prospect of such fires in summer months is concerning.</p>
<p>Over my lifetime in the Forest ██████████ I have seen the damage caused by uncontrolled fires to both the Flora &amp; Fauna of the Crown Lands and adjoining commons on many occasions.</p>
<p>Overnight party in Bolderwood area next to the river. Wood fire on the ground was left after the party and was smouldering through the leaf mould. My friend and I used empty beer cans to douse the smouldering leaf mould with water from the river. Some of it had to be scuffed into the river. This situation had the potential to spread and/or ignite into a full fire.</p>
<p>People have left a disposable BBQ out on grass land where I found it near Wilverly Green, this was when I was riding ██████████ I saw it, you could clearly see it had burnt the grass around it. Luckily this time it had not caught alight. I did put water on it, moved it to a safe location, near my car and trailer, carried on with my ride, it had cooled down by the time I got back, I took it home and disposed of it there.</p>
<p>People having fires in places in the forest away from car parks and official sites. Did not spread but could easily have done.</p>
<p>People lighting disposable BBQ's within 25m on my house, ██████████, and leaving rubbish and dangerous debris when leaving. Being abusive when asked to clear up after their 'picnic'. People are a major threat to all aspects of the Forest!</p>
<p>People seem much keener since lockdowns to have a BBQ without actually considering fire risk especially in hot weather and without taking reasonable precautions. Same applies to throwing away cigarettes without extinguishing them. So we need to ban all of it to stop this happening because people will carry on otherwise claiming "they didn't know"</p>
<p>People setting up BBQs - both on stands and on forest floor on the open forest next to both the car parks in Burley by cricket pitch. Have reported incidents. Several occasions when out and about on forest come across burnt grass/heather lawn areas with burn marks and old BBQ or open fire sites - was worst in 2020 summer.</p>
<p>People with disposable BBQs at Puttles Bridge</p>
<p>People with camp fires in tinder dry woodland who refused to put them out, evidence of the remains of camp fires in various places.</p>
<p>Personally witnessed and reported disposable BBQs and portable camping / gas equipment being used to cook on the open forest.</p>
<p>Pollution by smoke and BBQ food. ██████████</p>
<p>Requested members of the public not to leave a lighted throw away BBQ on site.</p>
<p>Responsible for alerting or putting out numerous fires particularly in the summer months as ██████████</p>
<p>Rubbish left around fire in bushy area near Hatchet pond. We cleared the rubbish to remove threat to ponies</p>
<p>Saw an area of forest heathland on fire during summer: very dangerous to animals and local houses.</p>
<p>Scorched areas beneath barbecues.</p>
<p>Seeing the impact of wildfire at studland and wareham. I am extremely concerned this could easily occur in the New Forest.</p>
<p>Seen BBQ on the forest and 1 x open fire.</p>
<p>Seen fires in the summer, destroying habitat and risk of spreading to communities</p>
<p>Seen many open fires and BBQs on the open forest. I have been especially concerned as they have mainly have been in periods of extremely dry weather</p>

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Seen numerous burnt patches of ground that will take years to recover. Also the fire on Pennington common [REDACTED] we know first hand how dangerous wild fires can be.
Several times I've seen people camping illegally & lighting fires. I usually get abuse if I say anything so it would be good if there was something in law.
Smoke due to wildfire causing danger when driving. Worry and stress, impact on mental health particularly overnight hearing people out on the forest in the summer and then smelling smoke. Large areas of vegetation scarred and blackened surrounded by rubbish and glass bottles left after "gatherings". □
Smoke from fires reaching our property last summer 2022
Smouldering remains of discarded portable barbecues, people having barbecues despite warning signage and scorched areas of vegetation in moorland areas around Hatchet Pond and elsewhere in the Forest.
The area should be extended to Hale/Hale Park. We are surrounded by woodland - [REDACTED] campsite and fire pits/BBQ are a real threat. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] fire pits and BBQs have been allowed close to and on our boundary [REDACTED] have not caught fire and spread to the wider forest.
The burning of Pennington Common
There have been repeated fires in the trees at Thorney Hill. I have also seen numerous burn marks and disposable barbecues while out walking in the Forest.
There was a Forest Fire in the village that I live in. Emergency services were called and the Fire Service put it out. The flames were at least 30 foot High.
There was a large fire in the gorse along the B3055 just outside the village of Sway (2020). I have come across remains of several recent fires in wooded areas within the New Forest (where it would be so hidden away from view so extremely difficult if not impossible to prevent happening).
There was a very damaging fire at our local green space Pennington Common. Severe damage to valuable bird habitat.
These are set out in our earlier statement submitted in support of PSPO No 1
Thickwits lighting a disposable BBQ on heathland near Holmsley.
This summer, in the first period of ultra-high temperatures and after fires destroying houses east of London had been reported on National news, [REDACTED] started a bonfire on [REDACTED] own land which is adjacent to the NP and therefore the restricted area. [REDACTED] it had escaped beyond the bounds of where it was lit. The PSPO will not deal with this kind of fire escape, but in multiple properties which border on to the NP, such behaviours remain a very real threat. This is the second episode of this type I am aware of in the last five years, the first occurred in a property about half a mile away which also borders the Forest. [REDACTED] is in a Conservation Area: why can the PSPO not extend into such areas of private land in the middle of the Forest. I believe people would accept the restrictions -we have hosepipe bans, after all- and the drawing of the map to exclude private property immediately adjacent to or in some cases actually surrounded by the NP, vitiates the effectiveness of the order.
Three youths had lit a fire on black knoll, Brock. I advised them that they were breaking the bye laws they were not keen to use their tins of beer to do so and basically ignored me. That has been the case in many other instances particularly with regard to cyclist.
Throughout the late spring/summer whilst walking the dog coming across BBQs or firepits that have not been disposed of properly, or not quite put out properly or where the ground and surrounding area has been severally damaged and would take months to come back to what it was. This is at Brockenhurst and surrounding land.
Two forest fires in the inclosure [REDACTED]
Two young people setting up camp & lighting a fire amongst trees near the allotments in Brockenhurst. We had to call the fire brigade out to extinguish the fire. The young people claimed that they didn't know that fires weren't allowed in the forest. I've seen so many burnt patches on the forest floor where people have had portable BBQs .
Visitors to the area lighting campfires on land next to Kings Hat car park in the height of summer. When I said that fires and BBQs were not allowed I was verbally abused and told I didn't own the land.
Walked past areas blackened by wild fires, also I've been concerned about wild fires in my area as [REDACTED]
Walking by the larger pond west of Andrews Mare car park and came across a small campfire that had been abandoned but was still smouldering. I made sure the fire was fully out and dispersed the remnants over an area of sand to ensure there was no further risk of it catching again.
We had a fire break out on the Forest [REDACTED]
We had to call the verderers and advise them of a possible fire. Beaulieu fire station responded and the fire was put out. Location woodland near Dibden Purlieu.
We have come across people using portable barbecues and some discarded portable barbecues with scorched grass around Hatchet Pond.
We have had a few fires in the Langley, Mopley and Fawley areas, the devastation its caused is frightening. The fire fighters risked their lives for someone else's stupidity
We have had wild fires up on the plateau above the High Corner Inn at Boldre. Also a group of boys had a fire and camped out in an enclosure and the firebrigade was called. [REDACTED] that night. It is always a constant threat.
We have seen fire damage caused as a result of disposable BBQs use at car parks within the Restricted area. It is irrefutable that the cause of the fires we have witnessed were started from small rectangular burn areas in the grass verges. We have also witnessed a family having trouble with a lighted disposable BBQ that they have placed on top of a wooden picnic bench.

Q5. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with wildfires in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

<p>[redacted] on several occasions had to report fires occurring on forest land just the other side of the Devils Den. If the copse there caught fire, it [redacted]. We are extremely concerned about these fires, but equally concerned how it will be police, when we very rarely see anyone in authority, be it forestry or police.</p>
<p>We were walking near Newlands Plantation near Ringwood and spotted wild campers with a fire during one of the driest period of this past Summer (2022). We called the fire brigade who attended.</p>
<p>While not in the Restricted area we have had embers from open fires in [redacted] land [redacted] in very dry weather. I do not understand why Frogham is not included in these proposals</p>
<p>While walking our dog we found a tree which was still smouldering on Brockenhurst Common. We extinguished it with water from the stream (carried in a shoe). A fire, presumably to cook food the night before, had been set at its base. [redacted].</p>
<p>While walking well away from any roads or popular walking paths I came across a large (2m diameter) smouldering fire on the edge of woodland. The ground itself seemed to be burning. The fire had clearly spread from a campfire (there were food containers nearby and a partial circle of stones in the fire area). The potential for the fire spreading and setting fire to the trees was considerable and it was unlikely that it would be readily discovered until this happened. In the last 2 years I have come across three disposable barbeques left in the forest. They have all been placed directly on the ground and have burnt the vegetation beneath, and in one case the area around the BBQ had clearly caught fire (1/2 m diameter burnt patch).</p>
<p>While walking, we have been exposed to unplanned heathland fires and feeling nervous about them reaching property, cutting off our access to safety and wildlife being destroyed. We have also had the smoke from new forest fires drifting into our homes.</p>
<p>[redacted] in the Restricted area. I have come across on numerous occasions, disposable barbeques left on the ground, with the surrounding grass burnt.</p>
<p>Whilst walking my dog evidence of localised damage from both disposable BBQs and camp fires.</p>
<p>Wildfire during summer 2022 with strong potential to spread. Caused a lot of smoke and air pollution</p>
<p>Wildfires on two occasions within the enclosure at Dog Pit gate. Fire services called on both occasions</p>
<p>Within the Harford wood area in Beaulieu [redacted]. We have found evidence of fires having been lit in this area which is currently not in the proposed designated restricted area. Surely this area must be included in the overall 'restricted area' as the underlying peat has been known to cause fires started at the surface travelling underground. And should this area not be included surely it would make it more likely that indiscriminate pyromaniacs would choose to start camp fire here.</p>
<p>Witnessed and reported a large family gathering lighting up disposable BBQs at Horseshoe Bottom on a windy day!!!!</p>
<p>Witnessed one fire in Setthorns which required fire service attendance, Luckily the 4x4 fire truck was available to deal with the fire. Witnessed one fire in the gorse at Horseshoe, was from an evening picnic. Telephoned forestry number who dealt with it.</p>
<p>Witnessed people having BBQs (disposable ones) on the ground during the dry weather in car parks</p>
<p>Witnessed tourists with a lit fire on Canada Common in 2022. Witnessed impact of tourist fires in Bramshaw woods in 2021.</p>
<p>[redacted] have approached members of the public who appeared to be preparing to light a BBQ at the car park at Godshill.</p>
<p>Youngsters setting up a barbeque by Wilverley.</p>