

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

<p>1) At Boltons Bench at Lyndhurst I were pestered by ponies as we were having a picnic, such that we had to abandon the picnic and return to our car. 2) We politely remonstrated with a family who were petting ponies and taking photographs of this activity by the Longslade Bottom car park. We explained that by petting these animals it encouraged them to approach visitors for food and causing a nuisance. The man was rude in his response saying that it was us who were causing the nuisance.</p>
<p>1. At Bolton's Bench group of children wanted to show the children that he was not afraid of the ponies and gave one of them a hug around the neck. The children were all around the group of ponies when the one being hugged reared and kicked out hitting another pony behind. This had a chain reaction and all the ponies scattered winning and kicking. It was amazing that nobody was injured. 2. Two ladies started feeding a pony carrots near the boot of their car at the church above Bolton's Bench. This triggered a number of others to run over causing aggressive interaction and bucking around the cars and people in the area. 3. At Anderswood near Burley a lady with an Dog on a lead started feeding a pony dog biscuits. An older lady with a dog on a lead got nervous and walked off to the toilets. The pony was between the lady's car and my car. After eating the the biscuits the pony made a determined effort to search other people's car boots. The two dogs took no notice of the ponies and did not cause any issues.</p>
<p>1. During summer in particular I am constantly stopping & asking people to please not pet ponies. Most people are simply ignorant, & do stop when I explain why it's not a good idea. A handful of people get very abusive when I talk to them, & once I was actually scared of the very aggressive response - luckily I was in the car & not on foot, so I could simply drive away. 2. the road persists on feeding the donkeys in particular outside . As a result the ponies & donkeys congregate on the road & there were several animal deaths this summer.</p>
<p>1. Visitors blocking traffic to feed livestock 2. Children feeding livestock on the side of Roger Penny Way and getting pushed by excited ponies onto the highway 3. Livestock gathering in certain locations in anticipation of visitors' "treats"</p>
<p>66 instances recorded in the 2022. The report includes anecdotal details of specific instances</p>
<p>A family having picnic was disturbed by donkeys trying to rob food. This was at Hatchet Pond.</p>
<p>A frequent occurrence, particularly summer visitors, but year round. Have personally seen inappropriate petting of livestock, feeding directly and feeding by leaving peelings and the like on the ground.</p>
<p>A herd of donkeys followed me into the car park in Beaulieu and 4 of them stood in front of my car door making it difficult to gain access as well as it being very intimidating. It is obvious that they were trying to see if I was going to feed them, a behaviour learned from ignorant people feeding them.</p>
<p>A local foal became assertive and rather aggressive, possibly as a result of having become accustomed to being fed.</p>
<p>A man was feeding ponies what appeared to be cooking apples to ponies at Beaulieu near to the village exit</p>
<p>A number of cases where I have attended persons, and children who have been bitten or kicked by aggressive ponies usually after they had been feeding them</p>
<p>A number of times I have encountered people feeding ponies from car windows on Forest roads, this makes passing difficult and encourages the stock to stay on or close to the road. It also encourages ponies and donkeys to spend time in the villages so not grazing the open Forest.</p>
<p>A small child, with parents feeding donkeys at Boltons Bench. The child became frightened and ran away from his parents, he was holding a bag of food. One donkey proceeded to run after the boy, with it's ears down, obviously annoyed. The mother managed to get her son to stop running and drop the bag, she then rescued him and the relieved family beat a retreat. This happened after I spoke to the parents, diplomatically, about the feeding of livestock and the Forest rules. Also, I witnessed a car full of ladies stationary on the Beaulieu road, by the cricket ground feeding carrots to a group of ponies from the ca windows. The ponies were jostling for space and getting very restless. I spoke to the driver but got no favorable response to the lesson I tried to impart.</p>
<p>A young couple were sat on the grass cuddling (young woman) a foal. I explained it was a forest by-law and prohibited to touch or feed and said it encourages them to go to humans and if they can't get the purposeful attention they are after then can get aggressive and hurt someone. This was by the roadside in plain view but she said the goal came to her. I said I knew that wasn't the case as I'd seen her go to it (I hadn't but it had the desired effect) she and her partner got up and walked off. In Lyndhurst by the turning to Appletree Court I approached a grandmother with a leaflet from NFDC about not touching or feeding the animals and said I would not wish for her granddaughter to get hurt (She was stroking the rear of a pony and the woman was doing the same on her side. I explained mares in foal or with a foal might kick out and I wouldn't wish the child to get injured. She thanked me and said she didn't know.</p>
<p>Abuse from people when you tell them they shouldn't do it. I have been sworn at, told that the person is used to horses.</p>
<p>Advised parent it may be unwise to allow child to pat pony and received abuse.</p>
<p>Aggressive donkeys at Hatchet Pond whilst walking with kids</p>
<p>Aggressive ponies in a forest car park, coming up to and blocking us in the car expecting to be fed.</p>
<p>Aggressive and forthright ponies collecting in tourist hotspots actively seeking feed</p>
<p>All the time - we see tourists giving the donkeys in Brockenhurst food they shouldn't, packets of crisps, or instagramming themselves patting the ponies...also have witness several times when ponies or the pack of donkeys get aggressive if chance for food. One group of students outside our house got surrounded when they had sat on the ground to eat sandwiches! It didn't turn nasty but it was certainly intimidating for them. Have seen ponies moving the donkeys out the way to get to tourists first who were offering food too. Also saw one women trying to Instagram herself in the middle of a peaceful herd of deer who had all sat down to chill out on a summers evening... and she walked right into the middle of their group to take her picture and they all started stampeding / running in frantic moves because she has disturbed them. I was walking my dog on the other side of the field and couldn't believe what she was doing. People are uneducated on how to behave around all of our forest animals and don't understand they do want a bit of space, not constantly pestered with someone invading their peace!</p>

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Also seen cattle and pigs being fed and petted and these should be included in the PSPO
Animals approaching car in car park preventing me from exiting or entering the car for fear of getting kicked or bitten.
Animals are becoming more 'demanding' as pedestrians walk by carrying bags . . . they see 'food', having received such 'goodies' before as I have experienced. With a few animals following quite close, it can prove off-putting; [REDACTED], and apart from animals breaking down garden fences to gain access to winter greens etc., in winter, no other issue was experienced. Now, animals and birds regularly scavenge items out of designated waste bins - even where lids are fixed - they often tear open the rubbish sacks by the roadside that await refuse collection and obviously such content has questionable worth for them. Although the pannage season is relatively short, I would wish for pigs to be included within the order. Youngsters running after younger pigs as they try to 'pet' them (seen along the roadside adjoining the 'New Forest Drive' housing estate) could result in serious injury with a protective sow 'taking charge'. Like other Forest animals, they should be left alone.
Animals attracted to roads and car parks. Being pestered by horses for food.
Animals encouraged onto the roads
Animals getting a little "pushy and slightly aggressive" towards people who they think might have food.
Animals hanging around in areas with lots of cars and people - car parks, pubs, but also roads where people pull over to feed animals. Specially dangerous in darker months.
Animals have approached me when picnicking because they are used to being fed
[REDACTED] turning out stock this is a frequent occurrence becoming more of a problem each year. Last year [REDACTED] a visitor feeding [REDACTED] Pannage pigs sausages . This resulted in the animals being removed from the forest and isolated due to disease risk . A vet checked them every week for a month. Very costly.
[REDACTED] livestock petted and fed. The publics response is that they can do that.
[REDACTED], I am often having to advise visitors to not pet or feed the ponies.
[REDACTED] this is observed on a daily basis, with often serious consequences and the livestock being blamed, when in fact it is learnt behaviour from visitors feeding and petting them causing them to change their behaviour and become aggressive.
As a local on many occasions have stopped to advise generally tourists why horses etc should not be fed, or petted. In most cases they are ignorant of the dangers to the animals and are assuming I'll tell them they will be bitten or kicked. Education, signage is absolutely key! Car parks with US National Park style simple info considered?
As a local resident and regular user of the forest I am shocked and appalled by the arrogance of visitors. On multiple occasions I have tried to explain in a friendly manner to people that it is not good for the ponies to be fed or petted and this has resulted in the visitors feeling entitled to pet them and feeling like they're doing no harm. I frequently see carrots left on the floor at holmsley when I am running
As a regular walker in the Forest I often observe ponies being petted and sometimes fed. If possible I will pass the time of day with the offenders and advise them that the should not pet the livestock and sympathise with them as they are loveable. I then explain why they should not be petted and fed so as not to just be a "kill joy". It is difficult not to pet many livestock especially when they approach you and I inform them that this is the very reason . Also that some can be a bit "nippy". Most people understand when given an explanation but occasionally one or two can be a bit abrasive.
As a resident I constantly encounter visitors feeding the livestock, as a car owner it encourages them onto the verges and then encourages them to bit and kick, [REDACTED] I know how to avoid letting myself be in that situation, but I have seen visitors being attached by ponies when they stop feeding them
[REDACTED] i have regularly had to deal with people feeding/petting ponies and donkeys
[REDACTED] I have needed to ask visitors not to feed ponies, explaining the reasons why, but this has not always been well received.
As an onlooker and local inhabitant it is extremely concerning to see people who are naive in the ways of these animals and the dangers attached to them.
As [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the area, we regularly see people petting and feeding ponies, often close to the road. When challenged, it is obvious that many treat the forest as a petting zoo/amusement park.
As I live in the new forest I regularly see visitors petting the wildlife. i have also seen the animals then bite the people petting them & get angry with them. [REDACTED] regularly advise visitors not to touch or feed the animals, especially in popular areas such as Beaulieu & Hatchet pond. I find after a busy summer season that the animals are quite aggressive as they have been handled & fed for a number of weeks.
Asked people to please stop feeding ponies and was told to "F off". I updated them where the nearest casualty dept was!
Asking people not to feed and received very negative response
Asking people not to feed/pet and getting verbal abuse for doing so
Asking people to not feed / pet the horses and donkeys in Beaulieu and Hatchet Pond, usually being met with abuse.
At Bolton's Bench we have seen many people trying to eat sandwiches and other picnic items and being aggressively pestered hungry ponies
At [REDACTED] campsite just last summer I was riding [REDACTED] when a [REDACTED] came across the small ditch and proceeded to drive across the forest until it reached a group of ponies , the toddler in the passenger seat climbed across to sit on his dads lap in the drivers seat and they started feeding the ponies out of the window with carrots, I reported to the police (who didn't come out) and to the campsite who said they do it every year all we can do is try and tell them but they don't listen !!!

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I was driving along a forest road between the A338 junction by the Filly Inn and Sway Road out of Brockenhurst when I became aware of a group of 20 or so ponies behaving aggressively, biting and kicking each other. I could see standing by the open passenger door feeding the ponies closest to

Attacked and abused by persons feeding ponies. Have intervened on many occasions where members of the public have been caught feeding the ponies

I observed a family near to ponies by Bolton's bench. One of the young girls was stroking and petting a pony. I said loudly that "these animals are wild and should not be petted and stroked and that they do bite" I was told to F off by the parent and I did not want to have a confrontation. This happens regularly at Bolton's bench when families park up and walk a few yards only. More recent signs have been a help in educating some of the visitors.

Being chased by ponies who are after food (even though we had none on us), having a picnic interrupted and trampled by a pony after our food.

Blinking tourists feeding the donkeys and ponies junk foods/treats.

Burley Road between Burley and Thorney Hill - family parked on grass verge throwing apples and carrots from a carrier bag to ponies, including a foal, on the side of the road. I stopped my vehicle to ask them to stop and the reasons why they shouldn't be parked there or feeding the ponies. I tried to be informative about how it attracts the ponies to go to cars and about choke and colic (how small a horse's throat is, how they can't be sick etc) in the hope that it would educate them. In return I received an extremely aggressive outburst from the father and eldest child telling me to and they weren't going to stop because they always came to the NF to feed the ponies. Unfortunately there are some people who think they can do exactly as they please! and then I got beeped at by another vehicle to get me to move! Burley Village car park (next to the pub) - there always seems to be sandwiches broken up and left on top of the pony proof litter bins. I just haven't seen who is putting them there.

Calling it a problem is to overstate the case, but I regularly come across numbers of donkeys and horses blocking the road out of Godshill and along Roger Penney way - caused in part by animals and people seeking each other out around the Fighting Cocks.

Came across a family putting a child on the back of a pony at Rockford common also a child kicked by a pony the child was being encouraged to touch the pony, ambulance was called..

Camped on numerous occasions and the people at Boltons Bench are feeding the horses. Some of the campers have fed the horses (promptly stopped by wardens) but the horses then realise food is in the vans and hang around and can get quite antsy around you. and have seen horses literally stampede a picnic when food is evident. The rustle of a plastic bag! They recognise the sound.

Car stopped on the road close to Furzley cross road. A woman and a man handing out carrots to a couple of donkeys on the road. Rude when I attempted to explain the danger to humans and animals. Also being mobbed by a mare as soon as I stepped out of my car in a Forest car park. I ended up having to throw a bit of dead wood in her direction to make her keep her distance. Several groups of cattle now seem to be wary and on the defensive when we walk our on lead dogs which never used to happen some years ago. People with dogs are also often a problem. The number of dogs 'lost' on the Forest demonstrates how little control many people have over their dogs, not to mention the times you see a group of deer running with a dog in hot pursuit..

Cars blocking roads to feed animals & animals being attracted to roads due to feeding.

Cars park on the side of the road casing blind spots, carving up the verges and throwing food at the animals and then stay to take photographs! Which often leads to animals biting and then the public kick back and blame the animal !!

Cars stopping alongside roads to feed and pet animals, with livestock encouraged to both approach traffic and expect food.

Caught someone feeding one of my ponies on the forest whole carrots, when I asked them not to and reasons why I got a rude answer back.

Chased by donkeys when taking photos near Janesmoor pond - believe they thought I had food

Child injured in camp site.

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Constant feeding of animals has drawn animals closer to road sides and busy car parks. In creasing risk of road traffic accidents and human contact with the animals.
Constant petting and feeding in Brockenhurst. Petting across the whole forest. Witnessed picnics disrupted by ponies wanting to be fed
Constant problem of people stopping in the road to feed animals and take photos. Also dumping food (carrots/veg) on the forest for them to eat thus hanging around these areas many of which on roads
Constantly see people feeding and petting ponies, sitting their babies/children on ponies, trying to push the ponies off off the road or following the ponies around
Constantly see tourists feeding and petting then getting agitated when the animals won't leave them alone. There is a big misunderstanding that these animals do not belong to anyone and therefore do not get fed, as well as the other end of the spectrum that they are pets.
Constantly witnessing petting and feeding of ponies and donkeys. When asking people not to one is usually ignored. One example is a herd of donkeys surrounding a car to be fed by the occupants through the car windows. It is out of control now and needs penalties imposed.
Continually coming across people feeding ponies and donkeys and explaining why not. Many of them ignore advise and carry on when my back is turned. One example : I came across a young family with bags of carrots totally surrounded by ponies but the parents could not see the danger their young children were in as the ponies argued over the food. I physically had to remove the bags from the family for their own safety- but the family could not understand that they might have been injured. [REDACTED] I have actually been asked [REDACTED] for advice on what food to take the ponies that come up to their cars in the carparks!!
[REDACTED] have witnessed the feeding of ponies and donkeys in Godshill and parents trying to put young children and toddlers on the backs of ponies and donkeys!
Countless examples of people feeding and petting from cars at roadside and at visitor hotspots like Boltons Bench. Discarded food, notably after events like Halloween around car parks in the designated area
Cycle group longdown feeding carrots to ponies before starting and also cycling on unauthorised track
Death of [REDACTED] pony when she was less than 2 years old. Heartbreaking and so unnecessary.
Donkey at hatchet pond ate my picnic once.
Donkeys and ponies being encouraged onto the roads by being fed through open car windows. Children being put on the backs of wild, uncontrolled, foals and ponies and donkeys. These animals then invade picnics, kicking or trampling children. I have seen cows attack visitors when they have come between the cow and calf. Highly dangerous as cows can be very aggressive. The problems are greatest in 'honeypot' areas; eg, Hatchett Pond, near Burley cricket ground, Balmer Lawn stream, Wilverley, Whitefield Moor, and Longslade to name a few place.
Donkeys becoming more agressive by [REDACTED] school because people keep feeding them
Donkeys being too friendly, unafraid of humans.
Donkeys coming up whilst we were sitting down on camping chairs. Real nuisance as they expect to be fed. Horses and do keys following people with children at pace expecting to be fed.
Donkeys crowding near group of people wanting to feed them, so that the animals jump into road. An adult putting a small child on to a donkey's back
Donkeys looking for food. Attacking children
Donkeys on the road that won't move, people stopping their cars in stupid places, the usual things
Donkeys roam free near hatchet pond had obviously been fed and came through car window in summer whilst waiting at kids bus stop, looking for more! They bit [REDACTED] [REDACTED] through her clothes! They also try to get rubbish out of public bins opposite the shop and at hatchet pond. You sometimes can not fish even with a permit at hatchet as the donkeys won't leave you alone expecting you to have something for them.
Due to previous feeding, Ponies and Donkeys associating any bag (camera bag etc) that gets put down on the ground as an opportunity to get food and becoming aggressive - kicking out with hind legs etc.
During the summer or holiday season we, as residents of the new forest, we often witness incidents of visitors feeding life stock and sometimes taking small children too close to Donkeys sometimes when Donkeys have their young close by. We sometimes intervene and explain the dangers which is mostly met with shock and surprise although mothers and fathers should know better than to let their children be too close to wild or semi wild animals. When we have witnessed feeding of mostly Donkeys but sometimes horses, we do the same and its often met with the same level of "Oh we didn't know" and that might even be with signs a few feet away. When we see food on the floor dropped for the animals we often pick it up and dispose of it. We are not commoners, just residents who want to see the new forest protected.
Emboldened to approach rather than go about foraging
[REDACTED] a couple stopped their car near the slip road from the A31 going towards the Acres Down turning and were hand feeding sandwiches to 2 ponies at the edge of the road whilst taking photos! Too dangerous to stop and challenge them with other traffic around
Every year when the donkey foals are born, visitors pet, cuddle, feed and photograph them. Oftentimes they do this in the road or at the edge of the road, which is dangerous for the animals and humans, and creates long traffic jams at, for example, Godshill. The donkeys learn that they will get fed at this location and so congregate there. Similarly, people feed the ponies there and near car parks. A number of ponies in the area now follow and pester humans for food.
Feeding deer and people petting ponies with young children in tow, also going near foals.

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Feeding extensively from car windows and throwing carrots from cars around the Fighting Cocks Inn at Godshill on the notoriously dangerous and high fatality Roger Penny Way. The ponies, donkeys and other livestock congregate here regularly and particularly bad in poor light. It is also a road that is regularly salted and this learnt habit of possible food available, exacerbates the secondary habit of licking salt off the road, a huge danger to both animals and drivers.
Feeding of ponies and donkey's at Wilverley and Hatch Pond
Feeding of ponies at the roadside
Feeding often brings animals to the roads
Feeding them can lead them to hanging around in car parks, around roads and ponies learn that people have food.
Forestry England teams have experienced incidents as part of their routine patrols and had a number of incidents reported to via the public.
Had to advise a family with a very small child the dangerous position she was in as she was carrying a bucket full of apples in amongst a herd of ponies trying to feed them, in real danger of being kicked or trampled. Have frequently had to advise daytrippers of the dangerous position they are putting themselves and the animals in by feeding them out of car windows, in the last few years the scale of this problem has got so much worse. Have had to remove unsuitable food which has been put out for the animals which could cause choke or colic, the list just goes on.
Had to have [REDACTED] pony shot because people kept feeding her and she became aggressive
Hatchet Green at Hale is an open area visited by much livestock and also many people. Over the last three years a new campsite in the village [REDACTED] has led to an increase in tourists using this area and consequently more people approaching the animals. Many of the visitors are not aware of the issues of feeding and petting the livestock.
Have come across people feeding and petting free-roaming equines on the Forest on numerous occasions, including right next to signs telling them not to. On 1 particular occasion I had to 'rescue' 2 women with very small children who were trying to have a picnic but were being harassed by ponies who a few moments before were being fed by another family.
Have had problems when with my horses in a car park with NF ponies (a group of 3) not leaving me and them alone-was not normal behaviour. I happened so be driving past the car park (ashley walk) and saw same 3 ponies with a women and 2 children-and some food. Stopped and suggested her her she should not be doing this. She said that she did not see a problem as she fed them there (the same ones) regularly. Told her of the problems it was causing me and the risk to them being encouraged to a car park by the B3078-then told her that it can make them unmanageable and dangerous and they can send up shot! I dont think she liked that-never came across her again-the same 3 ponies were about for a while-would chance them away
[REDACTED] and observed a continuing problem with people (mainly visitors) feeding the stock and habituating them to approaching the public.
Have seen numerous incidents of people trying to pet the horses and even letting their children pet the horses. There was an incident last summer in Minstead village when a child was kicked even though the parents had been warned about the risk. Have also seen people feeding ponies through car windows then squealing when the horses got pushy.
Have seen numerous people feeding the ponies and donkeys on the roadside encouraging them to the roads where they then get run over. Have had over "interested" donkeys putting their head through my window while I'm waiting in my car to pass them as they are blocking the road. Seen people driving dangerously around the horses and donkeys because they are impatient and don't want to wait for them to move. In my mind this problem with the animals hanging around on the roads is because people feed them. I've often seen people feeding them from their car window whilst ON the road and recently saw a man with an aggressive group of ponies around him because he was feeding them apples by the roadside and they were getting aggravated by each other and bolshy towards him
Have seen people feeding carrots to ponies encouraging them to stand in the road to be fed from a car
Have seen visitors try to touch or feed ponies and put themselves at risk. By the way they approach them it is evident they have no equine experience. Often children are close by as well
Have tried to explain to people feeding & petting forest run ponies why it should not happen, usually met with a lot of abuse. [REDACTED].
Have witnessed people throwing food such as apples and carrots, out on grass verges close to busy roads. Have seen food left for them, I have seen people feeding and petting or trying to pet the horses, ponies and donkeys, including small children encouraged by parents. I have tried to warn people of the dangers of feeding and petting, advising them of notices forbidding it, but they have continued to do so or been rude, or told me they are local and know what they are doing.
Have witnessed visitors offering food to animals in the forest and/or petting the ponies and donkeys many times. Have suggested that they are putting the animals in danger of over familiarity with humans or cars which can result in them being put at risk of traffic or illness from eating inappropriate food. Response ranges from a rude response of it not being my business to being totally ignored.
Having to stop a man letting his toddler give a crisp packet to a pony to lick. Having ponies pester us when having a picnic.
Holiday makers feeding and petting the forest animals.
Holliday makers leaving Holiday home. Gates open so donkeys make a mess up the road by emptying bins ect.
Horse followed us and became slightly aggressive
Horses gathering around car parks and following members of the public in search of food.
Horses ponies & donkeys are fed by people in cars who let them put heads in cars & locals often put out carrots & veg for them. When they have picnics & BBQ's ponies are fed. Feeding of stock on forest causes colic & death in some cases & upsets natural bacteria in their stomachs & then goes on to cause traffic problems as ponies and donkeys stand in road waiting for cars to feed them.
Horses, donkeys etc getting harassed by tourist. Tourists letting kids sitting on them. Donkeys kicking out and chasing tourists after feeding them

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Horses/Donkeys coming up to my car when parked in new forest carparks such as hatchet pond. Coming very close to my door on multiple occasions expecting food. This is a danger to myself (potential to get bitten or something eaten/taken from my car if i opened the door). Also a danger to the livestock if they managed to eat something they shouldn't OR from being close to a vehicle that may not be stationary or see them. This issue has stemmed from people petting or feeding horses and donkeys from their cars.

and have witnessed people petting and feeding ponies, and others they run with. When I ask them not to because the animal could be harmed, I am always met with rudeness and hostility. On one occasion, parents allowed their children to walk over to the nearest pony and try to encourage it to them. I am very comfortable and confident around ponies and can read their body language, but approaching a pony is something I would never do. I can give countless examples of confrontations I have gotten into trying to explain to people why they should not be petting/feeding.

ponies running on Rockford Common/Linford area. I have witnessed a family petting ponies and a foal belonging to a commoner. When I requested that they did not encourage the foal to be patted the family continued to stroke the foal. I explained the full reasons behind the request that ponies should not be approached and only enjoyed from a distance. I explained that they are semi-feral, I explained that these ponies live there all year round and that the family as visitors should respect the animals personal space. I explained that if you feed them the ponies can soon start looking for tit bits from other visitors and eventually they can kick or bite if they don't get a treat. I explained that if a pony become aggressive they will be removed from the Forest and it is very likely that they will be put to sleep. I explained that there was signage at the carparks telling them not to feed or pet the ponies. The whole family looked at me as if I was an alien who was making up stories and eventually the huffed and told the family to move away but I am sure that once I had walked off they would simply return to their petting of the ponies. ponies live in an area that is over run with dog walkers and visitors all year. They see so many people these days that very few ponies are truly wild as they were when I was a child. Animals that have no 'fear' of humans are far more dangerous than ones that prefer to keep their distance from humans. If people continue with this petting and feeding behaviour there will be troubles galore and commoners risk being sued if people sustain injury from their stock. Eventually this would without doubt mean that less commoners will be prepared to 'take that risk'. Commoning as we know it is threatened by the behaviour of visitors. The New Forest is famous for the ponies and the visitors love to see the foals each spring but if petting and feeding is not prevented eventually they may find that there are no ponies here for them to enjoy. Respect for the Forest run livestock is necessary and as education of the public does not seem to be working then a PSPO is definitely a tool that must be tried. I have also found various foodstuffs put out for the animals - some is totally unsuitable and should be considered as fly tipping! At insists on putting out carrots (I have photos as evidence) but even though ponies can eat carrots they need to be cut up in the correct way and I would advise that animals were monitored whilst feeding items such as carrots as they have been known to 'choke' on foodstuffs such as these and indeed there are reports of Forest run pony feeding on carrots and dying from 'choke'.

I am recently from and during the last 2 years witnessed many examples of visitors approaching, touching and attempting to feed ponies and donkeys right across the forest.

and I record the incidents so I know only too well the dangers that people feeding and petting ponies creates. I also have to deal with the aftermath when someone is badly hurt by a pony which has kicked or bitten them because it has demanded food.

I came across a car whose occupants were parked and feeding sliced bread to NF ponies. They had attracted a group of ponies that were standing in the middle of a busy road crossing the NF. I spoke to the people who did not realise that the ponies belonged to commoners & were not wild, that sliced bread was harmful, that their actions were causing a danger to the ponies and other road users as the road was blocked, that feeding the ponies caused them to alter their behaviour to come looking for food. While speaking to these people one pony came over and pushed me in the back knocking me which clearly hurt.

explain the problems caused by feeding ponies. These I have stopped many times and explained - most people understand but occasionally they have been nasty!! If this happens I tell them it is most distressing to find an animal dead or badly injured and screaming in pain. I have also seen people feeding donkeys in the middle of Brockenhurst! When I explained they told me they had brought them down from london specially!!

I encounter people feeding and petting the NF livestock on an almost daily basis. I have approached the visitors a number of times to politely educate them as to why it isn't safe to do so, but 9 times out of 10 have been met with rude and abusive replies. The livestock are now drawn to the roads as the associate cars with food, so head for the roads.

I frequently see cars stopping to pet animals near roads, which attracts the animals towards roads, and the same cars stopped on the roads also creates a traffic hazard for other road users and may also encourage other visitors to do the same.

I have admonished people for feeding ponies and seen ponies attacking picnics at Bolton Bench.

I have approached people hand feeding animals on the forest, in order to try to explain why it is detrimental to the animals, to be met with abuse. I feel if I could try to tell them they may be fined, that they would perceive me as trying to help them rather than "ruin their fun"

I have attempted to intervene when seeing an adult encouraging young children to feed a pony and in one case putting a very young child on the ponies back. In some cases this has resulted in an abusive response. Ponies thus treated are likely to represent a threat thereafter when looking for more food from an approaching child getting too close. A serious accident could follow and doubtless the adult involved would seek to sue. Such a case if successful would mark the end of commoning and eventually the loss of the unique New Forest habitats which continue to be shaped by the grazing action of depastured live stock.

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

I have been quite aggressively approached by animals expecting to be given titbits.
I have been surrounded by a group of ponies trying to take things from my hand
I have been verbally abused when trying to give advice on why the Newforest stock should not be approached. I also saw a foal chocking on an apple. [REDACTED] was rung fortunately it did dislodge the piece of apple
I have experienced groups of people petting and feeding donkeys and ponies around Hatchet Pond which then encourages more animals to follow and more people to join in. As a long-time [REDACTED] I am aware that this is destructive to the well-being and behavior of the animals. I have also experienced similar in other parts of the proposed Restricted Area.
I have found the forest stock to be overly friendly which then becomes frustration when food is not forthcoming and leads to ponies bickering between them. I have seen non equine educated people in car parks caught between ponies fighting and I myself have had to dodge ponies when just trying to get dog bags out of the car, simply the rustling attracted ponies
I have frequently seen people petting ponies and donkeys throughout the New Forest. This is very common around Beaulieu where people approach donkeys too closely to take photos with them often with small children. I have also seen ponies that have approached people demanding food where they have been used to previously being fed
I have had to advise individuals driving slowly to allow their children to feed ponies out of the windows that this was dangerous and encouraged ponies to follow moving vehicles.
I [REDACTED] know well the issues and dangers of the public feeding of Forest stock. Over the years, I've seen ponies, cattle and donkeys being fed everything from massive heaps of apples, to sweets, bread, vegetable peelings and whole pumpkins. FC Rangers can't be everywhere, and when you try to help and explain to members of the public, it's 50/50 in my experience whether you get a good response. Some people get it and stop, but many don't, and others can even be aggressive towards you.
I have many times seen visitors feeding ponies, petting them, and sitting their children on them. My gentle and polite requests to stop are usually met with incredulity, and sometimes with hostility.
I have met visitors who were in the act of feeding ponies and also people stopped by the roadside in their car and encouraging the ponies to come to their car to be petted. This was within the last 2 years, but I have to say this is an all too regular occurrence. Pointing out to the visitors the reasons why they shouldn't be doing this is all too often met with abuse from them.
I have observed families including quite young children feeding and attempting to stroke both ponies and donkeys on a number of occasions.
I have often had to explain why it is wrong to feed the ponies to visitors. Most take it well, but sometimes I've received verbal abuse "what harm can it do", "mind your own business" etc.
I have often seen people with and without children petting or feeding ponies. One time a car pulled over on the verge and children leaned out of the window to feed the ponies. [REDACTED] asked people politely not to feed them, resulting in verbal abuse. I am also worried if [REDACTED] pony was ever to kick or injure someone while being fed or petted. [REDACTED]
I have removed vegetable chunks from the mouths of calves and ponies along with aluminium cans. I have personally seen youths pouring beer down the throats of ponies
I have seen adults take photographs of their children holding on to ponies and donkeys!
I have seen and tried to engage with people feeding, letting and allowing children dangerously close to livestock, people rarely want to listen and are often abusive even when approached politely. Ponies often follow me and my dog when we are out walking, because they're so used to being fed and petted by people.
I have seen bread left on the ground following a BBQ on land near the [REDACTED] pub and also animals being petted in this area. I have also had ponies following me closely in this area thinking that the dog poo bag I was holding might contain food.
I have seen horses trying to climb into cars when people have fed them, broken the doors on cars, bit people, kicked children or tried too. I have also tried to say to these people that very clearly don't live local that you can't feed the ponies to which I have been verbally abused and told where to go. It can't continue.
I have seen kitchen waste being left out by local people for the animals and witnessed visitors feeding animals many times.
I have seen many people at Hatchett Pond car park feeding the ponies and donkeys, and being barged as other stock comes in to get some of the food. And also I have asked people not to feed the ponies and donkeys as the food is not suitable for the natural diet of the stock.
I have seen members of the public feeding unsuitable foodstuffs to ponies which could be very harmful to the health of the animals
I have seen numerous instances of people feeding and petting ponies, and spoken to some of them. If a PSPO was in place, such conversations would be much more effective.
I have seen on multiple occasions ponies being fed and petted in the forest that has caused near misses on roads and where ponies/donkeys have been seen to chase people.
I have seen on numerous occasions people petting and feeding ponies who are then attracted to roads and popular visitor areas and present a danger to motorists and themselves. The ponies can on occasions become aggressive to the public and other ponies as they compete for food. Donkeys can act in the same way.
I have seen people being harassed by ponies when they've stopped feeding them
I have seen people feeding horses close to the roadside. This encourages them to loiter on verges and roads.
I have seen people petting and feeding animals next to the road in Beaulieu encouraging donkeys to reach into cars and putting animals at risk of being hit. Any mention to someone that it is dangerous for the animals is usually met with abuse. I have had to remove a plastic bag from a cow's mouth, and witnessed ponies eating dumped grass cuttings.
I have seen people petting the animals - adults and children. It is not fair on the animals. A very important part of the New Forest is to see these animals in their local area and people should be able to look but not touch. The animals need to be protected not the humans who should know better.

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

<p>I have seen people putting their children on the backs of ponies. You try and tell the public that this is dangerous but you get abuse back. Lots of times I have seen people taking photos close the the ponies and donkeys (touching them). I have found food scattered in areas which will draw animals close to eat. This I believe are from locals. I am aware (from other sources) of injuries, either by a pony kicking someone or just animals being aggressive. Hatchett Pond and Boltons Bench are high areas (as well as others)</p>
<p>I have seen people trying to pet them and seen someone almost get kicked. I also know someone whose animal became unwell - they believe because of fruit thrown on the forest.</p>
<p>I have seen people with children treating ponies as pets, feeding them inappropriate food (sandwiches, crisps) which is unhealthy and dangerous. Due to this behaviour some ponies have become too friendly with people and now approaching walkers/visitors looking for food which could be dangerous for both animals and humans.</p>
<p>I have seen ponies and donkeys fed unsuitable items containing plastic or food which could cause them harm. I've also seen animals seeking out people at some car parks where they know they can get food.</p>
<p>I have seen ponies fed inappropriate items many times by members of the public and also people encouraging their children to pet forest stock. When approached people do not take kindly to being advised it is unwise and potentially dangerous to humans and animals.</p>
<p>I have seen tourists and local residents feeding the horses and donkeys; when challenged the local's are the most aggressive.</p>
<p>I have seen, and challenged, a number of people petting and feeding ponies. Most people simply hadn't realised that they shouldn't get close to the animals. Some had a "it's only a pony" attitude.</p>
<p>I have spoken to numerous people when I have seen them doing this most recently in Bolton's Bench car park and on Putmore Lane at Sway</p>
<p>I have spoken to people on numerous occasions about the problems they are likely to cause by feeding/petting ponies etc. While many people are unaware of the problems they are contributing to or the risks they are taking and happy to comply with the advice, a few can be openly abusive or obstructive, considering that it is their right to do so or that the animals are there for their enjoyment.</p>
<p>I have spoken to several people over the last year about why they should NOT feed or pet the NF animals. Most people are reasonable when spoken to but occasionally, some are rude and a bit aggressive.</p>
<p>I have witnessed on many occasions people touching the new forest ponies and feeding them. I have spoken to a few people and have advised that they are not allowed to do it, they actually belong to people, I have said that the new forest ponies could choke on what they are hand feeding them. I have also explained on many occasions that it causes the ponies to get too familiar with humans and they will keep coming over to other people in the hunt for food. It wasn't until my family and I went to Wilverly Green [REDACTED] and one of the new forest ponies decided it was going to come over to the children sat in the picnic blanket, it must have thought their was food. This pony turned very nasty, thankfully the children are Horse Savvy and soon moved away. The pony decided it was going to walk onto the blanket to sniff around, it was very persistent in looking for food, it carried on to the next bunch of people who actually had a picnic, the pony ate their picnic and when they tried to move it on, the pony kicked out at them several times, caught one lady on her leg, It was very content eating whatever they had in their picnic. Now I'm sure that the food was not ideal for a pony but this pony looked like it was a pro at mobbing picnics. Someone will get hurt one day, but the general public need to understand that it is not ok to just touch or feed.</p>
<p>I have witnessed a young child who was kicked in the face after trying to pet a young foal</p>
<p>I have witnessed an occasion when a boys leg was broken when kicked by a pony- this was some years ago Two weeks ago a mother allowed a child about 2 or 3 years old to approach a pony at Bolton Bench. The pony lashed out but fortunately missed</p>
<p>I have witnessed inappropriate feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies and Donkeys and picked up vegetables left in various parts of the New Forest</p>
<p>I have witnessed many cases of people feeding livestock on the forest, including members of a coach party. These are often next to the road causing safety issues for passing motorists, the livestock and the people feeding. Most stop when you explain why it is a problem but some become abusive. [REDACTED]</p>
<p>I have witnessed multiple incidents of livestock petting and feeding within the last 3 years. It is escalating significantly. Parents of young children are encouraging them to go in front and feed animals, causing a real risk. Choke is real and will kill animals in a horrific way. Trying to politely educate people does not work and measures that are meaningful need putting in place. I have also seen convergence on roads and car parks growing year on year and putting the public and the livestock at risk.</p>
<p>I have witnessed on many occasions throughout the area, mainly visitors with very young children, feeding and petting the animals. This is a major problem.</p>
<p>I have witnessed people feeding and petting livestock whilst out in The Forest either walking horse riding or driving my car. I have pulled over when driving and politely advised individuals that they are putting peoples livestock at risk and themselves. Animals may become ill or die people may be bitten kicked or trampled. I have always known to leave Forest stock alone and this issue has been worse since Lockdown. It must be stopped/ policed or implement fines</p>
<p>I have witnessed people feeding ponies apples from their car in the middle of the road, & leaving apples on the road. I have seen various vegetable waste, eg carrot & cabbage, left at the side of the road. I have seen a small child about to feed carrot to ponies. I am regularly approached by ponies expecting to be fed.</p>
<p>I have witnessed people feeding ponies human food in the centre of Burley. Also I have regularly seem people stop their cars by animals and touching them through the window. I have seen parents encouraging their children to stroke ponies and pigs. I am surprised that there haven't been more injuries.</p>
<p>I have witnessed people feeding the New Forest animals and them seen the animals become aggressive whilst fighting over the food. Whilst litter picking, I was surrounded by a group of horses who associated my bag of litter as a bag of food. I am used to the animals and for the first time ever felt frightened by this experience.</p>

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

<p>I have witnessed people interacting with equines on numerous occasions. Most people seem receptive when you explain the dangers. I think enforcement is key.</p>
<p>I have witnessed repeated incidents of people approaching, encouraging or feeding the livestock. I have been approached by livestock who have learned to associate people with food who have become very persistent in their approaches.</p>
<p>I have witnessed several encounters between families and individuals and groups of ponies where I have been concerned that the situation could quickly get of control resulting in a child (or adult) getting seriously hurt. To illustrate I saw a young lad () accompanied by his parents, feeding a group of four ponies a packet of biscuits. Another, more dominant pony approached the group, with ears back intent on getting his share whereupon the boy in question got bitten. There have been several other instances where I have felt the need to politely advise people that they are not supposed to feed the animals on the forest. The danger isn't only to humans but to the animals themselves when people feed foodstuffs that are not suitable for a grazing animal.</p>
<p>I have witnessed several near fatal attacks due to feeding and petting livestock - not just ponies but cattle/pigs aswell.</p>
<p>I have witnessed several occasions when a member of the public has been injured whilst trying to pet the ponies.</p>
<p>I have witnessed the feeding and petting of animals on the forest on at least 100 occasions in the last 2 years. I have seen ponies and donkeys approach cars and pedestrians and endanger their own safety on many many occasions. I have seen ponies and donkeys be aggressive to pedestrians when approaching for food.</p>
<p>I have witnessed tourists feeding ponies, who have then tried to get food from myself. They became very persistent and I was concerned for the safety of my children. I have not seen this pre pandemic ().</p>
<p>() I regularly see visitors feeding/petting the ponies, donkeys and pigs. Whenever possible I try to explain why they shouldn't be doing it, but am met by rude replies in most cases.</p>
<p>() I frequently witness people at the () pub and other local areas feeding and attempting to pet donkeys and ponies. This leads to the animals congregating in the area and blocking the road - causing traffic hazards and risk to the animals themselves and drivers. The animals also come down purlieu lane and seek food from people on the lane. I have tried to politely advise these people that they are putting themselves and the animals at risk by feeding and petting but have been ignored, laughed at and verbally abused. Often they will feed and pet in areas where there are large signs telling the, it's prohibited such as godshill enclosure car park, Ashley wa k car park etc. I've also seen people pull onto grass verges on roads such as Roger Penny way and feed them from their cars - attracting the animals to the side of the road. I feel there needs to be much more stringent rules and punishment for petting and feeding.</p>
<p>() regularly have to advise visitors - and unfortunately even some locals - why petting and feeding of animals is wholly inappropriate.</p>
<p>() I have lost count of the number of times I have seen members of the public interacting with depastured animals. They either gather around them for photos, PUT THEIR CHILDREN ON THEM, feed them, chase them, wa k towards them with out of control dogs pulling on their leads, causing sheep to scatter, reach out of cars to get them to come to the vehicle (like we are Longleat), stop dead in their vehicles in the middle of the road (Wittensford, where pigs are often gathered) with absolutely no regard for their safety or any other road users. These are only a few examples of what I have personally witnessed. It happens on a weekly if not daily basis.</p>
<p>() and in the Summer months (and at other times) witness frequent petting, feeding, abusing (punching and prodding) and putting children on backs on ponies and donkeys. In 2022 the donkeys and foals were badly affected by the actions of people. I witnessed on several occasions people entering a private property to remove apples and then feed to donkeys. When challenged these people were abusive and threatening.</p>
<p>() have advised people on MANY occasions not to stroke horses, take selfies with them or feed them. Often visitors are not aware that they are wild, and bite and kick. I often walk away very frustrated by their attitude.</p>
<p>() I rarely walk in the forest without coming across groups of people petting and / or feeding ponies or attempting to do so. I have seen people try to put children on ponies for photo opportunities and once saw someone strike a pony with a large piece of wood when it would not oblige. In summer I often see people pulling up on the side of the road to pet and feed ponies and donkeys and take photos of each other posing with the animals. It just encourages the animals to hang about by the road in the hope of treats and is very dangerous for them.</p>
<p>() I have witnessed families with toddlers and pushchairs feeding ponies and children then injured when the herd jostles to be fed. I have witnessed people stopping their cars to feed and pet the donkeys / ponies from the car windows thus encouraging the animals to approach roads and cars. Frequent near miss RTAs outside () when people stop cars and even stand in the middle of the road to feed the animals on a corner. A group of tourists putting their arms around the ponies necks and feeding them - one tourist was kicked. A family trying to "herd" a mare and foal in order to get closer - the child was kicked by the mare. Picknickers feeding ponies and their picnic and them being tramped..... the incidents are numerous and continuous, a real threat to the safety of animals, people and motorists. No common sense, it seems ! The average tourist does not understand the threat. The large warning signs placed in the car parks the past season have helped I'm sure.</p>
<p>() frequently see the visitors petting animals. They are unaware of the danger they are in of being bitten. If told, they are often resentful and can be quite hostile. A public service order would explain the situation but would need to be advertised everywhere there was interaction between animals and visitors. How could this be done without littering the area with lots of notice boards?</p>

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

<p>██████████ witness tourists ALL THE TIME petting the horses and donkeys. I also regularly see tourists giving them food with no hesitation. I have also seen a local village store leave old sandwiches/baguettes out on top of public bins which the donkeys, horses, cattle and pigs eat. The current extensive signage is not enough to dissuade the public or locals from this behaviour which causes animals to eat food which isn't appropriate and risks hurting the animals as they linger in car parks. The tourists are patient when they want to play with the animals, but impatient if the animals get in the way when the tourists want to leave!</p>
<p>I often come across general public (could be local or tourists) thinking it is OK to pet ponies - particularly foals on open forest and feeding ponies in car parks and close by. Visitors often want pictures with ponies and allow young children to wander too close to ponies - unaware of animal behaviour. Often when politely suggesting not such a great idea and reasons why - often told to be told they know what they are doing/not hurting anyone/mind your own business etc - best to walk away as people are far more verbally aggressive when challenged since Covid. ██████████ I do have enough understanding to know what these ever more frequent interactions are doing to these semi feral animals</p>
<p>I often see donkeys waiting in car parks to be fed causing distress and danger to the donkeys</p>
<p>I once tried to advise a mother and child that they should not continue petting a pony but never again.</p>
<p>I recently had to help a visitor to the new forest who was kicked by a mare. I warned the lady to stop stroking the mare, she ignored me and got a kick. The tourist had no idea that it was dangerous or illegal to approach, feed or touch the ponies. This incident was not the first time I have come across this situation, it is just one example. More education for the visitors. Also include, do NOT touch cows and pigs?</p>
<p>██████████ have seen multiple groups feeding and stroking the ponies normally within metres of the huge no feeding sign. I have tried to approach and educate people with very little positive response. Unfortunately most visitors think it is part of the reason to visit. I personally witnessed a visitor place his ██████████ son on a ██████████ at Janesmoor car park and move back to take a photo. Without regular patrols and prosecutions nothing ever changes</p>
<p>I saw a family petting and kindly said it was dangerous as they were unpredictable. I was met with shouting abuse and told to mind my own business in an impolite way. I find visitors especially do not understand how dangerous animals can be. Being brought up around here I was taught otherwise but it does not appear this information is being acknowledged by many people.</p>
<p>I saw a man at cadmans pool tip a large quantity of vegetables on the verge near a group of donkeys. I've seen numerous members of the public petting ponies/donkeys in all areas of the the New Forest.</p>
<p>I saw people trying to pet pony's, I have previously removed pumpkins and bread off the forest myself. And tried to educate people not to touch the pony's to be told that's why they are here</p>
<p>I saw Visitors feeding and petting animals</p>
<p>I see an increasing number of tourists feeding and petting ponies, corresponding with: 1) an increased number of holiday lets where the home owners fail to warn the hirers about the rules of the forest - I've had to clear up bread, and other such food left on the forest for the livestock when tourists leave and throw out their left-over food. 2) an increasing number of home sales where newcomers are ignorant of the forest rules. I think the feeding and petting is far more a danger to the livestock than it is to the public. Dangerous due because it encourages livestock onto the roads, it encourages them to hang around people's home rather than feeding normally and of course, the foods given to the livestock is dangerous to their health. It can endanger public safety but no where near to such a degree as to injure as many people as the livestock.</p>
<p>I see people all over the New Forest stopping to pet and feed ponies, often without getting out of their cars. This encourages the animals onto the road, putting them at increased risk of collisions. Ponies will often start to become aggressive when fed, lashing out at each other and although I have never witnessed an injury, I have witnessed many 'near misses' with adults and children narrowly avoiding kicks and bites. I have also witnessed lots of inappropriate foodstuffs being left on the forest including most concerningly, discs of chopped carrots, bread and grass clippings</p>
<p>I see the feeding & petting of forest animals every day ██████████ ██████████ It's out of control & breaches are not enforced. ██████████ ██████████ & speak to people in the forest when I see them petting or feeding animals. The majority of people are unaware that feeding & petting of animals is against the forest code & can harm the animals. Most people in my experience are apologetic & stop feeding / petting when spoken to. However, it's relentless & happens hour after hour with different people - includes locals & visitors to the forest.</p>
<p>I see this all the time at campsites around the new forest. Family's letting their young children close too and letting the wild animals.</p>
<p>I see visitors to the forest on occasions feeding the livestock from or near the roads and this only encourages the live stock to congregate near to traffic where they are at more risk of injury. There are loads of signs telling visitors not to feed the animals but they still do it. How are these new rules to be enforced?</p>
<p>I stopped at Hatchet Pond to have an ice cream, I had my ██████████ dog with me. I was sitting on a bench by the lake when I was approached by a mother donkey and her foal, they obviously were used to being given titbits. My dog is well trained and was sitting peacefully at my feet and he ignored the donkeys. When I ignored them, they attacked my small dog, knocking him over, then chased him for quite a distance. He eventually managed to outrun them and return to me, limping. ██████████</p>
<p>I stopped to ask a member of the public not to sit their baby on a donkey and got shouted and swore at</p>
<p>I strongly suspect ██████████ New Forest pony was killed by the dumping of rotten food ██████████ There had been a spate of it in the immediate days leading up to him coming down with colic. ██████████</p>

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

<p>I support the prohibition of feeding but feel that the petting element could be contentious. I never seek to pet livestock but because of the feeding element by other visitors animals are friendly and often approach voluntarily. The root cause of this behaviour is the illegal feeding so I believe if you deal with that the animals will adjust their behaviour, I'd rather this than turning touching animals into a criminal activity. I'm worried that we are heading to a US style national park where you enter having read a massive bill board of things you must not do. I do not need to be told not to feed grizzly bears as I value my life. Happy for the advise not to pet or touch the animals to be highlighted but leave it at that. I prefer to relax in the national park rather than carry thick rule book with me on every trip.</p>
<p>██████████. On multiple occasions I have stopped people petting the animals, and ██████████, politely explain why. Most times I either receive nasty comments and am ignored.</p>
<p>I watched as a holiday maker fed apples to some donkeys. This resulted in one of the donkeys kicking out when others came near. The tourists were in danger of being kicked.</p>
<p>I witnessed a family allowing young children to pet & feed donkeys at Hatchets Pond. This resulted in the donkeys following the family back to their car. At one point the donkeys getting quite close to the children almost nudging them. The children appeared to be frightened at that point The adults appeared to think it was funny. It was obvious to me that the donkeys were just after more food. I could imagine this type of situation escalating ie if donkeys became aggressive or adults touched them to shoo them away</p>
<p>I witnessed a man manhandling a foal. He pretty much rugby tackled it. For no reason other than, I think, to show off to the people he was with. Unfortunately I was too far away to intervene and to be perfectly honest, I was concerned about my own safety had I intervened. I've also seen people feed ponies who have then showed signs of aggression (ears back etc) to try and get more food.</p>
<p>I witnessed a man running in front of some Forest ponies with a carrot in his hand encouraging them to chase him. When I pointed out the potentially serious issue with his behaviour, he was not impressed but I did firmly persuade him to stop. A couple of hundred yards further on there was a vehicle which had stopped at the side of the road and the driver was unloading carrots and other vegetables 'to feed the ponies and donkeys!!!'. She did not accept this was wrong.</p>
<p>If you go to Beaulieu and try to eat a sandwich next to the lake the donkeys come up really close to you. I never give them any food but feel they are encouraged to do so by other people. I love donkeys but it can be very intimidating and also people attract them to cars and therefore endanger them. Also ponies can be more aggressive and I was followed around by one just because I had a plastic bag!</p>
<p>I'm the summer months I often see ponies being petted or fed mainly near car parks. I've also on one occasion seen a pony get very aggressive. I guess the pony was expecting food and wasn't happy when the family group didn't have food. I'm not a fan of fines for either petting for feeding but I would prefer warning letters hand to the culprits or warning of a fine if caught again. I see the biggest danger to the wildlife is speeding cars but it seems not much is being done about that. I'm often driving through the forest from hythe to lymington and in the last 2 years I've only seen one police camera van and one officer with a speed gun. It's not just the danger to the animals, it's also the danger to the public walking and cycling on the narrow roads who are in danger of speeders. I feel there should be a permanent van moving around the forest every day, I'm sure it will pay for itself in fines.</p>
<p>In going about the forest I regularly see people feeding or petting ponies.</p>
<p>In Lyndhurst, during the summer, I had cause to speak a man ██████████ who was allowing them to pet and feed a pony. One of the children was standing directly behind the pony and I was concerned for ██████ safety.</p>
<p>In the area surrounding the ██████████ pub, Godshill, during the summer. Users of the pub and the nearby short term campsite nearby feed and pet the ponies etc, causing them to congregate on the road.</p>
<p>██████████, nothing has changed. People still pet and feed the animals, despite the massive campaign over recent years. I have handed leaflets to people, spoken to them etc and often get told to mind my own business. One guy was feeding sandwiches to a new born donkey! It's beggars belief that they still do these things, usually within a few steps of a sign!</p>
<p>Interaction of tourists with ponies and donkeys at the ██████████ pub in Godshill. Animals and people standing on the B3078, a very busy and fast road. Small children sitting on donkeys. Animals being fed pub food (chips, chicken...). Encountering tourists on the open forest, petting ponies and not aware of potential for kicks and bites.</p>
<p>It doesn't help my forest run ponies if they are looking for people to feed them titbits rather than browsing for their own food to sustain themselves particularly over winter. I do not appreciate being mugged by a mob of hungry ponies walking back from the shops in Brockenhurst trying to steal my shopping off me, as a group they were intimidating even though I'm used to horses.</p>
<p>It encourages horses into areas that are dangerous for them</p>
<p>It is a continual problem in this area. We have many donkeys and they are being constantly petted and fed. It causes them to frequent the car parks and pubs where they are even fed from car windows. We have given up trying to explain the whys and why nots just to be met with abuse and ignorance. The Forest is being treated as a petting zoo and it has to be stopped somehow.</p>
<p>It is a frequent occurrence particularly close to car parks and along roadside verges where people will stop to take photographs and approach, ponies particularly, or pass 'food' through the windows. I'm guessing in the main these are holidaymakers who haven't seen/read what signage is available.</p>
<p>It is almost a daily occurrence where I live, there are 2 campsites in our village and campers feed my ponies left over vegetables salad items and have even caught them feeding sandwiches, in the autumn we have seen them feeding acorns to ponies and when you tell them they are poisonous to the ponies they say the ponies wouldn't eat them if they were.</p>
<p>It's a constant problem. People petting ponies etc. while standing almost next to a notice telling them not to! Dangerously taking photos of young children petting the animals - sometimes this is toddlers. Daily concern as I drive through the forest, especially in the spring and summer but also in the winter. I do believe people just don't understand the dangers as I generally find, if you talk to them they happily move on.</p>

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

<p>I've been told to [redacted] off more times than I care to recall when asking people not to feed the animals.</p>
<p>I've seen animals used to being fed approach other people thinking they will get food. We were at the Walter Tyrell and all the horses got very agitated and cantered around us fighting for attention from us. We had our dogs with us and it was disturbing. [redacted]</p>
<p>I've seen so many examples of ponies being fed since I've live in the forest [redacted] I'm out in the forest daily and particularly in summer I see this happening regularly. I've also seen on many many occasions people stopping in the middle of the road to pet and feed ponies from their cars with complete disregard for traffic in front or behind. I regularly find food dumped and have seen ponies fighting over it and gorging themselves on all sorts of things they shouldn't be eating.</p>
<p>I've witnessed feeding or petting (or both) at Bolderwood carpark, around Boltons Bench and on the golf course on the north-east side of Lyndhurst. Visitors (I assume) are not aware or think it is not important.</p>
<p>I've witnessed on several occasions people feeding ponies and stroking them including young children. In one instance approaching Brook a car ahead of me threw carrots out the window on onto the verge thereby encouraging animals onto the road.</p>
<p>I've witnessed people approaching, feeding and petting ponies, as well as occasions when the animals have become more demanding and this has scared people, who have put themselves at risk.</p>
<p>Living and working in the New Forest I often see visitors feeding and petting the animals. I have in the past told them they are not on the forest to be petted. Visitors do not understand the consequences of their actions. Whether that be being kicked, bitten or chased and the dangers it causes the animals and car drivers as the animals learn to expect food near roads and care parks.</p>
<p>Living [redacted] I have not infrequently observed visitors petting and feeding ponies and donkeys alongside verges and on the village green, despite notices displayed on the green and by [redacted] pub not to do this. As a consequence, animals become motivated to hang around the road edges, exposing themselves to road traffic dangers. If one tries to explain very politely, to people, some of whom have young children who they try to sit on the animals or who approach too closely and risk being bitten or kicked, why they should not feed or pet the ponies they often become verbally abusive or at best just continue their actions.</p>
<p>Living near the forest, all my life, I have countless times seen people feeding forest animals at the road side. This attracts animals to the roadside, endangering both the animals and other road users and, most likely, contributing to the annual death toll of both. Secondly, the animals maybe harmed by being fed unsuitable food, when they can obtain perfectly suitable food from the forest itself.</p>
<p>Lots of time seen cars pull over and feed/pet/photo free roaming stock, young most of all. When I have challenged I normally get a lot of verbal abuse, have had threats of violence.</p>
<p>Many instances asking people not to feed and explaining why. I have been told by some that they know so I've just picked up the whole carrots, apples etc I've also had to rescue people who had been feeding then surrounded and unable to get back in car. I've rescued people who were just sitting quietly and not feeding or petting or people trying to get out of the car in car park and surrounded by ponies thinking they may get food. [redacted] family were by a car park with picnic and the [redacted] was feeding a mare (who had foal with her)) with whole apples that were small. I explained and she said I give them to my horses!! I went into further details eg would you like people to feed your horses etc and chased mare away. as I walked off the foal went over to the picnic and they did chase it away. I always hand out leaflets. and many similar instances.</p>
<p>Many times witnessed animals being fed and or handled by people who are obviously not commoners etc Walking through herds, cuddling animals and taking selfies etc. Especially worrying to see children and even pushchairs in such dangerous situations. I work and live in the forest and particularly in holiday periods witness this on almost a daily basis.</p>
<p>[redacted] frequently see visitors to the area feeding and petting ponies and donkeys in the middle of the village and at particular visitor locations such as Andrews Mare, and Acres Down.</p>
<p>Members of the public feeding ponies dangerous food such as grass clippings, carrot rounds, bread, apples, acorns. Attracting ponies to stick their heads in open car windows. Encouraging ponies to kick and bite and compete over food. Dogs chasing foals. Encouraging ponies to the roads.</p>
<p>Mop feeding ponies in Pilley, pointed out to them not to do it. They stopped. Found vegetable peelings dumped on road through Pilley</p>
<p>Most problems have been associated while travelling the Forest roads. Other road users have been seen on numerous occasions attracting livestock to the roadside, through petting, and feeding, in order to get a photo or for self gratification. In most cases the 'offending' is done without getting out of their car.</p>
<p>Most summer days in Brockenhurst. When speaking to offenders politely about danger to themselves and animals receive indifference at best or abuse.</p>
<p>Most trips to the forest include seeing someone trying to stroke a pony or get photos with their children right by ponies. Several times seen ponies chewing on litter/food that's been left by humans.</p>
<p>Motorist stopped in passing place to pet and feed pony through car window. Pony stood in middle of road blocking any vehicles passing. When I advised motorist that they should not let or feed ponies they became abusive</p>
<p>Multiple experiences: Cleared up approx 2 carrier bags full of apples dumped at Longslade last autumn, have also cleared up grass cuttings someone was 'feeding' to the ponies, personally intervened when some twit was mounting a Shetland pony at Wilverley Plain to ride it....I've lost count of how many times I've politely mentioned to visitors they are putting themselves at risk approaching the ponies to 'fuss' them...</p>
<p>Multiple instances of parents allowing children to pet and feed ponies and donkeys, and worse, trying to put children on the backs of ponies for a 'photo-op' at several notorious hotspots, FE car parks and when coming across stock near road verges, treating the animals as if the NF was some sort of petting zoo. Not only has this encouraged stock to congregate and loiter where humans can be expected, particularly dangerous around the road network, but has led to some nasty incidents where mares have become extremely bolshy, fighting each other for food near picnickers and people deliberately feeding stock. Picnickers leaving their picnic detritus and excess (often entirely unsuitable) food behind on the ground or dumped in nearby undergrowth is another significant issue.</p>

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

<p>██████████, people parking on grass verges and coaxing ponies and donkeys to the ride side causing traffic to build up and inevitably animals in the road putting them at great risk. I found a horse consuming a huge amount of whole mouldy carrots someone had dumped on the edge of a busy road in the forest which was causing the pony to resource guard and chasing its herd mates into the road. People petting and feeding livestock in car parks causing the animals to harass me and my toddler trying to go for a dog walk and then fighting each other in the herd to try and get any scraps they're used to receiving.</p>
<p>██████████ forest ponies being fed in the middle of the road from a car - causing a traffic jam and dangerous manoeuvres by other cars trying to get past. When asked politely to stop they declined</p>
<p>Nearly every time I have been walking on the Forest I have witnessed people interacting with the ponies and donkeys. They treat them like tame pets by feeding them or trying to put children on their backs. Most times it results in the ponies getting bad tempered and often kicking out or biting.</p>
<p>Need to stop on many occasions where cars have pulled up on verge and ponies have been attracted to the car or persons feeding through a window or outside. Have witnessed children being put on the backs of donkeys. Have also witnessed foodstuff being thrown out and left on Forest near roadsides. Fighting Cocks on Roger penny Way is notoriously bad for customers of the pub feeding ponies.donkeys.</p>
<p>No one will stop feeding them even if you tell them not to and why. If people were fined then the message would have more substance. Ponies are dying from being feed, and getting more involved with the public because of it</p>
<p>Numerous (100's) reports to the ██████████ in the last 2 years of people feeding or petting forest stock</p>
<p>Numerous times over the years I have seen ponies being fed/petted by people who seem oblivious to the the danger they could be in. If you say anything you get told to off. I once saw a mare giving birth at Wilverley Plain there was a woman standing very close behind the mare with a dog on a lead taking photos, other people were crowding around the poor mare some with dogs. I ██████████ told them to get the dogs away and leave her alone its not a theme park and they could cause serious injury to the mare or foal if she was spooked by them. It didn't go down well but they did move.</p>
<p>Observed a family at Hatchet Pond feeding some ponies and a pony tried to bite a child ██████████ as the child did not give it any food, this child responded by hitting the pony. Have at least on 2 occasions seen members of the public feeding ponies in a car park and from a car. (Near to the ██████████ pub - across the road). Over the last 2 years, have also seen members of the public approaching ponies or foals to pet them or take close up pictures.</p>
<p>Observed and challenged members of public feeding animals. Usually the response is 'I didn't realise it was harmful'. Sometimes response is less courteous.</p>
<p>Observed members of the public feeding ponies, when it was pointed out to them that the ponies belonged to someone and they should not be fed they carried on saying they had horses at home?!</p>
<p>Observed people petting ponies at the roadside very near passing traffic</p>
<p>Often seen people feeding ponies/donkeys out of car windows. This obviously encourages the animals to approach cars</p>
<p>On almost daily basis during summer. A few examples are cars stopping with window open feeding and petting ponies, causing themselves and the ponies danger and impeding traffic. People feeding carrots to the donkeys in Brooklyn Rd Brockenhurst, then getting scared when the donkeys crowd in on them. I've had to collect up discarded pumpkins from The Forest after halloween, and apples dumped in autumn. I've intervened when people have tried to feed sandwiches to ponies and also when parents let their toddler sit on ground next to foal lying down. Always I explain danger to animal and human and some are fine and say they did not realise the animals should not be petted or fed but sometimes people have been abusive.</p>
<p>On at least two occasions in the last 2 years I have had to confront members of the public at Bolton's Bench for petting/feeding the ponies. On one occasion a man had his arm around a pony's neck and was walking along with it, but when I said something he didn't seem to think it was a problem even though the pony was trying to walk away. On the other occasion a pony had its head through the window of a car in the Parc Pale car park where it was highly likely it was being fed. I asked the driver of the car if they were feeding it - they denied it but it was clear the pony would not have come up to the car and stuck its head in of its own accord. I am fed up of people not knowing how to treat animals in the forest and would welcome a ban to deter these people, along with plenty of signage and raising awareness in local towns and cities (through schools perhaps?) to educate those who are unaware.</p>
<p>On multiple occasions I've had to ask people to stop feeding and/or move away from New Forest ponies and pigs; in some cases they have obliged, not realising it was a problem, other cases were met with insults</p>
<p>On numerous occasions I have seen and in some cases spoken to people feeding the ponies and cows. In one incident a man was trying to feed a cow ragwort. On another a couple were feeding a pony a banana skin.</p>
<p>On several occasions I have asked people (possibly visitors) to stop feeding ponies. This has in some cases resulted in verbal abuse to me.</p>
<p>On several occasions I have stopped my car on the Lyndhurst-Beaulieu road to speak to people feeding and petting ponies on verges and/or photographing them.</p>
<p>██████████ we were walking to the car where we saw a young family feeding a small group of two ponies. We suggested to them that this was a really bad idea and explained that the young children may get seriously injured as they were constantly running back and forth to their parents to get picnic items to feed the animals. They were horrified and immediately took the children back to a safe distance. The ponies then approached them to get more of the food.we managed to safely move the ponders away behind a gorse stand. We then checked they were ok and explained what they had done. They stated and really believed that the ponies were totally safe to feed.</p>
<p>Only being "mugged" by ponies when out walking in the Forest</p>

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

█ tent was entered by a donkey who proceeded to wreck it. When the donkey was eventually removed it was seen, half an hour later, being fed from a csravan. This was quite a few years ago so it is very sad that this is still happening
Over many years (I live and work in the New Forest area) I have seen ponies, donkeys and sometimes even cattle being offered food but in the last three or so years the incidences have multiplied. This has had a very noticeable effect on the behaviour of animals namely more animals lingering on the road waiting for an offer of food, animals following and even pestering people clearly hoping for food and animals (especially ponies and donkeys) becoming agitated and sometimes aggressive if no food is offered or more food is not given. Attempts to explain that feeding is not good for the animals are 95% futile.
Over my lifetime in the Forest █ I have seen on numerous occasions members of the public being harassed by livestock, normally where they have been feeding them and have none left.
Over tame and obviously publicly fed Ponies hassling myself and family.
Over the years I have offered friendly advice to people I have seen feeding/petting New Forest stock. In the main I have found people to be arrogant and aggressive when I explain why this could harm the animals. Most ignore me and carry on.
█ forest ponies were feeding carrots and hitting █ ponies so they █. Also many tourists feed carrots etc and of course picnics attract ponies so why not ban picnics ? It's bound to attract the ponies and either you will risk tourists being kicked as they try to get the ponies away or they feed the ponies - a No win situation
Parents and children thinking they are pets and should be educated in the knowledge that these animals are roaming freely and are not pets to be fed or touched
Parents placing their children on the backs of donkeys at Hatchet Pond and Brockenhurst, feeding livestock carrots and other vegetables. People enticing ponies to their car windows to feed them with junk food whilst parked on verges. Approaching pony and donkey foals to pet. Standing between a calf and cow to feed the calf! The list is endless
Particularly during the summer months, people drop carrots and apples next to the road, grass clippings on verges, I have seen people feeding donkeys from their car windows in the road, petting and chasing pigs and even putting their children on ponies! The donkeys local to us are far too tame now and approach us every day. I cross the road to avoid them.
People are stroking and feeding them all the time - even when the signs are there
People blocking roads as they've stopped to feed & pet the animals. People feeding the animals things they should not be fed. Reporting an animal to the agister as it was unwell from being fed things it shouldn't have been.
People feeding and petting ponies and donkeys is very common especially in honey pot areas like hatchet pond and balmerlawn. I have seen animals change their behaviour and become irritable most people feeding/petting are completely unaware of animals and their behaviour. I have seen small babies being put on the back of donkeys. People feeding out of car windows with only a small part of the window open because the pony almost bit their child. I have witnessed people chucking carrots out of the car on roadsides encouraging animals onto roads. I have seen a children kicked and a one child bitten. I have seen a pony struggling to chew an old piece of bread which was given to it.
People feeding animals at Hatchet's Pond and Beaulieu and Dibden enclosure. When approached aggression is displayed and requests to stop completely ignored.
People feeding animals close to the road, encouraging them to hang around busy roads, making them vulnerable and a danger to people
People feeding animals from cars encouraging them to congregate in car parks. Cars stopping to take photos of animals which then gather around the car in the road. People approaching young animals with their small children, unaware of indifferent to the potential danger.
People feeding animals in or near car parks has caused us concerns as ponies tend to get quite pushy in those areas seeking food. We try to teach our grand children how to behave in the New Forest, seeing people feeding animals makes that task just a little more difficult. Feeding clearly causes ponies to come closer to roads with potential for even more road traffic incidents
People feeding unsuitable food to ponies near the road.
People from outside the area parking in dangerous places to pet & feed animals & getting sworn at when trying to educate them
People getting far too close to horses, encouraging them up to car windows and throwing food to them.
People getting too close to the animals and getting bitten because the animals associate people with food and squabble amongst themselves.
People have been injured through this many times and ways some serious some "Just bite"☐
People petting animals, selfies next to animals, putting children on animals, people running bikes into stock, terrible risks to themselves, the livestock and the ability of commoners to exercise their traditional rights.
People put out apples , carrots etc on the verges which could choke the stock ; I have removed where possible
People refused to take leaflet and couldn't see anything wrong with what they were doing.
People, particularly in Brockenhurst, have caused animals to expect feeding - some then become persistent in their demands. █. Animals regularly roam nearby with no issues at all until one day when children needed to bring their lunch in plastic bags rather than lunch boxes as they were going on a trip. That time, donkeys became very persistent indeed.
Please refer to our earlier statement in support of PSPO 2.
Ponies and donkeys gravitating to local roads hoping to be fed causing danger to themselves and local traffic
Ponies and donkeys in certain areas can be persistent in approaching for food where high visitor numbers are. In particular I would suggest picket post and the car parks/lay-bys around Ocknell and Jane smoke pond. The ice cream vans are also an issue. I have often seen people bring bags of carrots specifically to feed the animals.

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

Ponies and donkeys kicking out at people
Ponies and donkeys that have been fed by members of the public becoming more aggressive in seeking food from people because they become conditioned to expect feeding.
Ponies and donkeys were encouraged around a gateway by carrots being thrown on the ground there. The animals began fighting over the food and the gate could not be used - I was stranded as I could not safely open the gate. The person who was responsible for the carrots thought it was funny
Ponies approached me [REDACTED]. I stood still and did not touch them, they soon got bored!
Ponies approaching my vehicle and acting aggressively. Ponies approaching my family when on foot looking to be fed
Ponies approaching parked cars, putting heads through windows and becoming aggressive when not fed
Ponies attracted to car parks and cars expecting food. Public unaware how to act in response. Ponies Can rarely be aggressive.
Ponies attracted to car parks and roadside by feeding, creating nuisance and traffic risk.
Ponies begging for food while sitting in car in car park.
Ponies being attracted to the road having been offered food by passers by. People, children and baby in pram being surrounded by ponies demanding food. Tiny child going over unattended to stroke stallion.
Ponies blocking both sides of road and I myself having to get out of car to move animals off the road so traffic could move. [REDACTED] know how to move animals but too many times I have seen people taking photos with the ponies, donkeys and mules and this causes the animals to move out of the way onto the road. I also want to say what I had experienced about two weeks ago driving down to beuliea from brockenhurst horses running into road protecting foal I stopped car foal next to my car with all the horses protecting it because of a pig. These horses didn't know the pig wouldn't hurt them so it goes both ways people should not feed or pet horses and the commoners should keep an eye on their livestock because there could have easily been an accident when the horses ran into the road
Ponies can become very aggressive when they are fed. More inclined to approach cars and humans
Ponies chasing people due to being fed previously
Ponies coming approaching car windows.
Ponies congregating on roads where people were feeding them, risk to ponies, drivers and cyclists
Ponies etc have become used to being fed and can aggressively scavenge for food putting people enjoying the New Forest responsibly at risk. It will take time to reduce this behaviour but a start needs to be made.
Ponies expect to be fed by visitors I have witnessed several times when New Forest animals have approached people and vehicles in the expectation of being fed
Ponies not leaving me alone wanting feeding.
Ponies running out in the road because fights were breaking out because a lady and her daughter had a bag of carrots and were feeding them and in desperation she was throwing them on the floor and that made it worse!
Ponies will frequently approach people and vehicles expecting to be given food, I have seen this many times in the Boultons Bench area and at other car parks.
Primarily speeding cars on the 40mph roads but also we've seen ponies in Car Parks coming up to vehicles, possibly "begging" for food though that's impossible to know. We've experienced this first hand with a pony at Busketts Wood, which attempted to reach his/her into our car before we gently shooed it away
Public feeding/petting animals out of cars, encouraging animals to stand in the road, thus endangering them.
Question is not clear. Are you meaning me as an individual? No I haven't had people feeding me??!!!! However I regularly see visitors feeding ponies, once a woman had bought a bag of carrots and was standing on the [REDACTED] cricket ground feeding all of them to 2 ponies!!! She had no idea this was not a good idea. Preventing this is the challenge. Marketing to date has clearly not working. Policing this is a major problem. Who will do that?
Received abuse from holiday makers when politely asking them to not feed ponies.
Regularly advise mops to keep away and children away from ponies and donkeys. Regularly shoo donkeys away from parked vehicles sat with open windows and often food. Regularly see out of owner's control dogs harassing ponies and cows.
Regularly see people feeding and petting ponies on the forest. Know of ponies that have choked on food and learned to approach cars and have then been hit on the road
Regularly see people offering food to ponies. One local resident was throwing carrots over her garden fence for the ponies. When we spoke to her she was adamant that she was entitled to do so and was helping the ponies. She still would not listen when we pointed out that she was potentially harming our wild mares. Recently saw that donkeys were eating frozen carrot pieces which someone had scattered on the verge of Sway Road, Brockenhurst nearby to the school.
Regularly see visitors feeding food to ponies at Forest Carparks and alongside the roads as well as finding deposited apples, carrots, etc. in similar areas. People tend not to like being told not to do it!
Saw 4 people in a car feeding very large chunks of carrot from their car window to some ponies who were obviously struggling to eat the carrots due to the size. I stopped to explain but the occupants just laughed & drove off. Also in the same area someone had thrown a large amount of cabbage on the forest which can be poisonous to ponies.
Saw a parent put he [REDACTED] on the back of a donkey. Got a mouthful of abuse when I said please be careful they are wild animals.

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

Saw some people feeding the ponies, told them to stop and while we were talking horse was trying to get in the bag and the person ran to get away towards a young family sitting down. The horse followed and almost trampled on the young family
See it all the time - people stopping cars in the middle of the road to pat ponies completely ignorant of traffic. When out walking see people feeding ponies, putting kids on or near ponies. Worse in the summer
See it on a very regular basis
Seeing holidaymakers petting and feeding ponies and donkeys in local Forest car parks. The signage in the New Forest is woefully inadequate. The public should be educated, not fined. There should be far more informative signage in main parking areas.
Seeing people take their young children up to New Forest animals to 'pet' them not realising how dangerous it could be. Having ponies approach me looking for food after they've been given food by other people previously.
Seeing tourists feeding on purpose then being harassed by ponies while eating/ drinking ourselves
Seen and witnessed and spoke to other visitors who were feeding the livestock directly from huge buckets with vegetables!! Also witnessed someone getting kicked! From stroking a pony!
Seen animals following people and hassling them after being fed or petted. Animals approaching cars in the road to ask for food. Animals fighting over food being offered to them.
Seen children touching ponies which then think there is food on offer and begin competing with each other which can develop into kicking and biting, very dangerous for the child.
Seen families with small children not experienced with these animals and has been ok but potential risks either side for it not to be is obvious to me. Giving the food is an extra problem and the encouragement to receive it affects other visitors who do not like the animals close and they then blame the nomad which I have also seen. There is limited understanding that these are not soft farm animals.
Seen it happen
Seen it happen and concerned that the animal will become aggressive and potentially attack somebody
Seen it many times, has to be a deterrent
Seen members of the public feeding animals including paper and plastic wrappers and then leaving the site
Seen on multiple times feeding/petting in the areas around Brockenhurst
Seen people feeding and petting ponies and donkeys around Hatchet Pond which encouraged more ponies and donkeys to join those being fed and more people to join in. Also witnessed people petting and feeding donkeys in Beaulieu, High Street and also alongside the river. It is difficult to warn people to desist without the strength of a PSPO.
Seen people petting animals with small children close by, and seen food dumped in the forest, which encourages animals closer to the roads and inevitably causes road accidents.
Seen people putting their child on the back of a Shetland. Others dumping food on the side of the road
Seen people trying to feed ponies with breakfast cereal at Setthorns campsite, petting donkeys in Beaulieu, trying to place a child on the back of a pony near Brockenhurst. See it most days in the holidays.
Seen people trying to put toddlers on backs of donkeys near beaulieu. Two men, [REDACTED] and dog wanting to get close to ponies near beaulieu airfield for photos when with foal and when stallions out - getting upset when horses starting to circle and kick out.
Seen ponies not afraid of people and approaching me in car parks
Seen tourists feeding ponies ice creams and crisps. Encountered "pushy" donkeys in car park areas who have obviously been fed and think that this is a good way of getting food.
Several times, but once I asked a [REDACTED] tourist not to feed the ponies on The Bench at Lyndhurst. The ponies were fighting for carrots and kicking out. The man had children with him. One pony went to viciously bite another pony for the carrots. The man would not stop feeding the ponies. I felt sorry for the owners.
Some commoners are dumping non native ponies brought in from other areas many coloured cob type ponies which are not being fed and these nuisance ponies chase dogs and are a danger to the people trying to enjoy the forest peacefully. The proper new forest ponies are fine but bringing in non natives is ridiculous.
Some half wit, on multiple occasions last winter was putting carrots out for stock near Gorley. I picked it up everytime I saw it. At Moyles Court, many tourists feeding and petting horses and donkeys...a frequent occurrence. Too many times to mention....tourists feeding and petting horses.
Spoken to many people to try & get them to stop petting and/or feeding. Took photographs of this happening to document it. One person was feeding a banana to a donkey. A couple had their small children at back legs of pony which could have kicked out - when I explained potential danger, man said I wasn't to worry, [REDACTED]. So many incidents, usually near roads, which entice animals to come near, or on roads, as they associate humans with food. It needs to stop. I haven't encountered much rudeness, some people were simply ignorant, not all knew animals are privately owned, some think it's fine because the animals are there for tourists to enjoy, pet & feed.
Talking to the Public at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The level of ignorance I have experienced has been increasingly year on year. Even though there has been a marked increase in people trying to educate the public this has been matched by an increase of selfish attitude that they will do what they want. Only when the horses start to get nasty biting or kicking do they start to listen to what you are saying
The livestock at Boltons Bench regularly approach people trying to get food.

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

The number of people feeding / petting the livestock seems to increase each year. When politely telling members of the public of the dangers of doing this (to them and the livestock) the invariable reaction from the public is abusive. It seems the livestock are seen as objects in a zoo. This summer I stopped to talk to a family who had parked their car on the verge and we're feeding donkeys Doritos by the side of the road. When I asked them to stop and explained why, the Mother ran at me screaming for me to [redacted] off" and said I had no authority to stop her doing anything she wanted. When I told her she was actually breaking a by-law the verbal abuse continued. This is not an isolated incident, it is pretty typical of every encounter.

The number of tourists I see petting the animals while I am cycling, walking or driving through the Forest is staggering and I am frequently horrified. When you speak to people they don't seem to think they are doing anything wrong so I think it would be fantastic to be able to refer to the fact that it is a restricted area and what they are doing is prohibited.

[redacted] receive regular reports of feeding of stock and this information has already been provided to NFDC. Ponies in particular are often fed food that can be dangerous to them (eg windfall apples and old hay). Feeding can cause ponies to become aggressive and dangerous to humans. In those circumstances the animal has to be removed from the Forest and may be destroyed through no fault of its own. The owner of the animal may face legal action from a member of the public injured by Forest stock.

The woods [redacted] are damaged by livestock, particularly the slow-growing and very old hollies. One area has been nearly destroyed by cows whose feed is regularly supplemented in the area by the [redacted]. There are provisions to stop this feeding in the VGS Terms and Conditions, but no over-sight or enforcement is enacted. I know of no case of cow or pony being damaged by human feeding, nor have I come across Commoners having to pay (for example) vet's fees because of feeding. On the other hand I have, though rarely, seen ponies kick out at unwary human admirers. The difference between this proposed PSPO and the one for fires is that the human disturbing the stock is likely to be the sole victim of any aggressive response by the animal, which is targeted and short-lived. An idiot who lights a BBQ or a bonfire which escapes, is very likely to negatively affect many other humans, animals (wild and owned) AND their habitat. And that for the longterm. Not only might we want to try to keep to a minimum the number of rules governing a natural recreation space, but these orders are likely to be difficult to enforce anyway: why have more than one, the one on fires?

There is a huge error in this consultation. Map 2 does not include the village of Hale, which is partly within the perambulation and cattle grid area of open space available to Commoners animals. Hatchet Green is within this area and missed off the map. It is a major haunt for commoners animals in this area who have often been bred locally and include it as well as the nearby open forest and commons. Up to 100 animals graze this area during summer months where they meet visitors intent on treating them as in a petting zoo or wishing to (kindly in their view) feed them. Please extend the boundary of this map immediately as every year Hatchet Green is presented with dangers to people and animals by this behaviour. A major incident has often only been avoided by residents educating the public and asking them to take their children away from the grazing animals. Choking and other issues have also only been prevented by visitors seeking to feed the animals.

This has been happening for years and years. It teaches the animals to trust humans. And some are naive to what the animals can and can't eat. Years and years ago [redacted] bitten off by an animal, either a horse or donkey. We were taught "It is part of being in the forest -ponies home too"the forest that now no longer exists...which is my point you need to make up your minds....is the New Forest a Forest anymore? People are confused. (I certainly aim). I've known the forest fo [redacted] & I can honestly say I have never fed a pony because I was taught they are wild....Now we are told they are owned, but they graze wildly on common land. I personally believe they shouldn't be fed. Recently I have witnessed people feeding apples to ponies in a carpark... I can't tell a complete stranger not to, so many people do and it would just stress me out, so the best way is to ignore it, but the animals don't get that and they follow you. The more people do it, the more they are likely to follow and beg. The answer I believe is in educating visitors, and publicize more. There is very little except on facebook ! wild animals bite, what do you expect?

Time and again we see visitors ignoring signs and petting animals, feeding animals and even photographing animals with young children on them. We have been pursued aggressively by ponies/donkeys expecting to be fed.

Too many to mention. From people feeding grass cuttings, to sandwiches, to several bags of whole apples in one go, lawn cuttings including yew etc etc the list goes on. People stopping on road sides to pet the ponies and donkeys, tempting them onto the road by waving titbits at them.

Tourists and Visitors observed feeding at Hatchet Pond

Tourists frequently stop their cars in the middle of the road to encourage new forest livestock to come over so they can touch them, take photos and feed them. They usually hand feed them food items such as crisps, bread, sweets and processed foods. I have also witnessed people collecting acorns and feeding them to ponies. This is extremely dangerous as it risks colic and poisoning. Even those who dont have any food to hand to give them, the biggest risk is the fact that they encourage livestock to their vehicle which causes association therefore more road deaths of livestock seeing a car and running over expecting to be fed or petted.

Tourists in car stopping on forest road to feed ponies (using brocolli and carrots that were bought for their consumption but happened to be available in the car). Concerns: 1/ these items could harm the animals 2/ the car, people and ponies were all on the tarmac of the narrow forest road, therefore causing an obstruction and with a high possibility of a collision between the ponies and vehicles squeezing past. 3/ this behaviour encourages ponies to gather at the roadside, increasing the risk of collision with passing vehicles.

Tourists petting donkeys in the middle of the road. I politely explained why they shouldn't do it and got verbally abused.

Tourists tend to feed and approach the ponies and cattle either for photographs or general interest. On a number of occasions my family and I have had to ask visitors not to do this and informed them of the sad consequences. It is a huge concern for the New Forest, as is the problem of letting dogs run at and around cattle and ponies. Such actions put both the animals and other humans at great risk. There needs to be incredibly strict rules to stop such behaviour.

Tourists throwing apples at ponies from one side of the road to the other over passing traffic at Godshill

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

Traffic danger experienced when a car in front suddenly stopped, wound down the window to pet a young pony. A car coming in the opposite direction also did the same, completely blocking the narrow road. Drivers drove round the blockage on verges and open grass land narrowly missing other ponies. Shocking chaos and danger to wild animals and people! Damage to verges and grass with deep tyre marks
Tried to advise people who were petting ponies to stop but they carried on and then set up a picnic .. which the ponies then went towards so the children started swishing at them so I yelled at them to stop. I was by the stream too a little further along with [REDACTED] who were with me and not bothering anything and they are able to ignore the livestock!). When the ponies started to kick up around them they finally listened. Packed up and left. I did call across to tell them that is why they shouldn't pet or feed the livestock. Honestly the stupidity.
Tried to stop a family visiting Wilverley Plain from feeding ice cream and sandwiches to the ponies!
Trying to eat lunch with children whilst being harassed by ponies that are obviously used to being fed.
Two occasions where people have been feeding ponies. They were not aware that they should not be doing that. They were very happy to stop when I explained the problem to them.
Unfortunately I have seen this happen to visitors when they believe that horse in the Forest are the equivalent of pets! They are rudely surprised at the reaction to what they think are over friendly horses who do not take no for answer, when they are offered food by young children!
Various occasions when walking I have seen ponies 'stealing' from people's picnics. NOTE that I blame the people, not the ponies who only want to eat! The problem is that the ponies can then ingest wrappings, etc. that could be harmful. The people, of course, lose their picnic but, generally, they've only themselves to blame!
Vehicle sat in middle of road throwing carrots out, donkeys viciously fighting one another over carrots. I [REDACTED] say this is against bylaws only to have abuse hurled at me. They do drive away but as soon as I rode off they turned round and went back to the same spot and started again. This is just one of many incidents I have witnessed, including people sitting their toddlers on the back of the ponies.
Visitors feeding donkeys and ponies at Hatchett Pond making livestock, especially the donkeys, approach people expecting food.
Visitors feeding donkeys outside [REDACTED] encouraging them to return and loiter on a busy road. Donkeys congregating outside the [REDACTED] pub waiting to be fed by campers.
Visitors feeding Forest stock, encouraging them closer to the roadside
Visitors feeding ponies in places that are popular with visitors, such as by rivers and streams that are next to roads, and where often people are picnicking. Ponies will then return to these places in hope of finding food again. They are then at risk of injury from vehicles.
Visitors near a campsite were leaning out of their vehicles giving ponies carrots. This had encouraged several ponies into the roadway causing a danger to the animals. We told the visitors of the error of their ways feeding the ponies & advised them by feeding them encourages the animals into the road where many get killed by speeding traffic.
Visitors to local campsite trespassing on private land to pet animals; children being encouraged to feed and pet animals by local campsite owners - with an image of this on their website; cars stopping in the road so that occupants can pet and feed animals.
Visitors to the area petting horses in my road. Then being spooked and panicked when horses are less than friendly - causing disturbance.
Visitors to the New Forest stopping in the road or driving on to restricted areas to get out of vehicles to get close to Ponies. It is a danger to the animals, other road users and the people themselves.
Visitors winding down windows and feeding ponies often with foals at foot. When asked and explained why this is not a good idea often met with rude and abusive responses!! Also witnessed visitors placing young children on the backs of ponies to take photographs in addition to allowing very small children to wander around the ponies even pulling their tails!! Again calm explanations are not well received even though they are in the interests of the animals and humans!!
Watched a car with a [REDACTED] on board pull into a layby. The [REDACTED] passenger wound the window down and offered a nearby pony a sweet. The pony then put its head through the window and was trying to get at whatever the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] screamed, opened the car door, with the pony's head still through the open window, and ran off down the road. The pony extricated itself from the window opening and went down the road after her. More screaming. [REDACTED] managed to double back and returned to the car ahead of the pony. Straight into the car, slammed the door, window still open, pony's head straight back inside. More screaming from inside the car. Car pulled away with pony still partially through the window.
Watching people feed ponies and then get agitated because the ponies will not leave and the people (presumably visitors) start hitting them to make them go away.
Watching people feeding horses and donkeys from their cars, then being verbally abused when I tried to explain why this was not wise.
We have had people shout at us and threaten us for telling them not to feed ponies. Have seen horses kicking tourists due to being petted ect.
[REDACTED]. We have tried to explain when we see people petting the animals but the public generally have no understanding that encouraging ponies etc near the roads by feeding them are putting them in danger. Also feeding ponies etc can encourage unsafe behaviour as they expect food from everyone.
We have seen people petting and feeding the ponies but when approached they shout abuse at you and carry on and don't see it as a problem even if there are signs
[REDACTED], on many occasions we have witnessed people interacting with the animals either feeding or petting. On several occasions I asked people not to do this and met with abusive comments the extent I have now stopped saying anything. On one occasion I witnessed a family petting a foal, the foal's mother was nearby neighing a warning which was being ignored by them. Afraid of meeting more abuse I left them to it.
[REDACTED] had to stop a member of the public from plating [REDACTED] ponies mane
[REDACTED] on the New Forest and have seen visitors feeding and them. [REDACTED] ponies died after being fed hedge cuttings.

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

<p>We removed picnic litter (a plastic bottle) from a cow that was eating it last year.</p>
<p>We see people petting ponies and donkeys every weekend in the summer and quite often also see them offering food. We often try to explain why they shouldn't do these things & people are frequently unaware that they're doing anything wrong.</p>
<p>We see tourists petting and feeding animals all the time. I even saw one young family trying to put a small child on the back of a donkey with a foal. They ignored me when I said it was dangerous</p>
<p>We were approach by a donkey at Godshill car park that would just not leave us alone even though our dog on a lead was barking and lunging at it.</p>
<p>We were just out for a walk in the Forest and a horse came up to us and tried to get at the contents of my partners handbag, can only assume he thought it contained food. This had never happened to us before and it was a little frightening at the time.</p>
<p>When having a picnic lunch at various places such as Hatchet Pond, Linford and near Bank, New Forest ponies or donkeys have tried to take food out of our hands or from the bench we've been sitting on, barring their teeth when we've shooed them away. This is both intimidating and distressing. Some visitors don't respect that the animals are wild and treat them like petting animals in a tourist attracton.</p>
<p>When I walk my dog I park in official car parks and, in some, find that ponies will approach the car and often frighten the dog.</p>
<p>When in the village of Burley with family we have had ponies aggressively approaching us for food and displaying anger and their teeth, circling to kick. Blocking our path when seeking food. We are locals and know ponies and own horses.</p>
<p>When out and about we have experienced many incidents of people feeding and petting, there are too many to recall all of them.</p>
<p>When out cycling in Forest last summer, I stopped to advise a family feeding and petting ponies on Furzley Common that their action were harmful to the animals' health, attracting them to roads, reducing their natural fear of cars and humans and possibly making them aggressive around people with food. I was told "It's nice for the children" and "Anyway, [REDACTED] owns ponies".</p>
<p>When taking a break during a walk, I was eating an energy bar and having a hot drink on the open forest near a popular spot. When a horse approached me, seeking food, it tried to bite me when I refused. I wasn't injured, but its saliva left such a noticeable and permanent mark on my trousers that I had to throw them away.</p>
<p>When witnessing a member of the public feeding ponies and informing them not to do so i was looked at like I was talking rubbish</p>
<p>While cycling in the New Forest I came across a family feeding and petting ponies and donkeys with the animals grouped around the car in which the visitors were travelling. A large queue quickly formed on either side of this blockage through which an ambulance showing blue lights was trying to travel in an emergency. It could not proceed due to the width of the road, the queuing vehicles and the large number of animals involved. I regularly see families stop while driving to feed animals when I cycle through the area, thus forming blockages of the road by attracted animals. I even find this feeding and petting when cycling off road on the waymarked gravel tracks in the woods. I explain the problems caused by feeding the animals and some says that they are unaware of the situation.</p>
<p>While walking in the Forest I have been pestered by ponies looking for food because they had become accustomed to being fed in a nearby car park.</p>
<p>While working in the area I observed the ponies, donkeys etc being encouraged to come on t roads by members of the public parking beside the roads to feed them. I have also seen a small child pushed over and bitten by a donkey due to them holding a bag of carrots.</p>
<p>Whilst visiting Beaulieu last summer I saw a number of people petting ponies. Some people were photographing their small children actually sitting between the legs of a lying down foal. I felt this was potentially dangerous to the photographer and even more so to the child as the mare may have taken exception to the activities. Also, whilst at Stoney Cross photographing some flowers, a car was driving along the long straight and stopped to look at some donkeys and these animals immediately surrounded the car and were allowed to poke their heads right inside the car and were being stroked by the car occupants. Not only could the donkeys have bitten the people but it also created something of a traffic jam as cars could not easily pass by.</p>
<p>Whilst walking with a rambling group, I have observed ponies going on to the roads after being encouraged and fed by uninformed visitors.</p>
<p>Witnessed a family encouraging ponies to them by offering carrots, then taking photos of children petting the ponies. 4 Ponies followed/chased them into the car park, surrounding the cars preventing any cars from moving. This is one of many similar events.</p>
<p>Witnessed animals following and chasing people for food. witnessed animals being harrassed. Witnessed animals getting anxious and intolerant when not fed, witnessed animals kicking out and biting for food. Witnessed injuries to people when caught up feeding hungry ponies. Witnessed animals being encouraged to approach vehicles parked and on the road. Encourages animals to hang around the road and picnic areas in anticipation of food.</p>
<p>Witnessed both people petting the ponies and feeding them. Also posts on social media in which families took toddlers up to the ponies and were feeding them crisps. Have seen fruit/vegetables left on the Forest on multiple occasions. Outside of the 2 years, I witnessed a family feeding a pony from the back of their car and were very close to serious injury as the pony went from warning kicks to meaning business with 2-footed kicks close to ribs</p>
<p>Witnessed countless people approaching the livestock in the forest to pet them, feed them and allow their dogs to get nose to nose with ponies before barking at them and causing several horses to run into the road. Often see and have ponies approaching myself on walks despite staying away from them, especially in car parks. Having grown up in the New Forest, this wasn't as prolific and has certainly become an increasing issue. I have witnessed accidents where a car has struck several ponies, staying with one dying pony that attempted to stand despite multiple horrific injuries until the verderers and police arrived on scene to put the animal to sleep.</p>
<p>Witnessed numerous people feeling livestock on the forest</p>

Q4. Please can you give us some more detail about the problems you have personally experienced with the feeding and petting of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the proposed Restricted Area in the last 2 years.

Witnessed on more than one occasion an adult trying to put a [REDACTED] child on the back of a pony. I have also seen tourist stop in the middle of a busy road to try and take photos of new born ponies. One lady tried to put a camera in the face of a pony for a selfie.
Witnessed people being kicked whilst feeding forest stock.
Witnessing cars stopping with their windows rolled down and the occupants attracting the attention of livestock to come to the windows. Seeing people, especially with young children, approaching livestock and treating them as if they were in a petting zoo.
Witnessing individuals feeding horses or donkeys inappropriate or dangerous pieces of food. Politely asking the individual to stop, but they have then become aggressive.
Young families feeding a pony then more dominant ponies intervening and ponies kicking each other close to people. Seen multiple times around Brockenhurst. Also feeding ponies from cars on the road