

# Welcome

The New Forest National Park is a special place. You don't have to take our word for it: that is what people say when they live and work here or come to visit.

The New Forest is a place of outstanding natural beauty, which is one of the reasons it was made a National Park in 2005. It is a unique mixture of ancient woodland, heather-covered heath, wide lawns, boggy mires, rivers and streams, picturesque villages and unspoilt coastline. People are sometimes surprised that the New Forest National Park has a coast; it is a forest with sea views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight!

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A two-year coastal heritage project is working to discover the archaeological secrets of the New Forest both above and below the tide-line.

Another reason the New Forest merits National Park status is that it offers fabulous opportunities for quiet recreation, enjoyment and discovery. It is a wonderful place to explore on foot, by bike or on horseback with many miles of marked trails.

The New Forest is special too for its extraordinary diversity of plants and animals including rarities such as the wild gladiolus, silver-studded blue butterfly, the Dartford warbler and reptiles like the sand lizard.

William the Conqueror set aside the Forest for hunting more than 900 years ago and he would probably recognise much of it today. Deer remain a common sight. The New Forest National Park is home to over 34,000 people with many thousands more on the doorstep, yet it remains one of the last places in the south of England to offer a sense of wilderness and tranquillity. It includes the largest remaining area of lowland heath in Europe.



Image References: 1. Brock Hill, 2. Bog beacon, Noddywood, 3. Silver-studded blue, Crookford Stream, 4. Blarney wood, Keyhaven, 5. Ponies showing tail clipping, Whitefield Moor.

## Caring for the New Forest

**People and nature live together harmoniously in the New Forest National Park. To ensure that they continue to do so, please follow this simple code of behaviour:**

**Access:** Keep to tracks to avoid disturbing wildlife. Plan your route to be out of Forestry Commission car parks by dusk.

**Dogs:** The New Forest is a great place to walk dogs but please keep them within sight and under control at all times. To help the tracks between March and July. Some beaches are out of bounds to dogs during the summer; look out for local restrictions.

**Driving:** The 40mph speed limit on unenclosed roads greatly reduces the number of accidents involving animals. Slow down and give ponies and other forest animals a wide berth; they have little road-sense! Be especially careful at night.

**Fire:** Because uncontrolled forest fires are a great threat, campfires are generally not allowed in the New Forest. Barbecue sites are provided for hire at Wilverley Forest.



**Ponies:** Human food can harm ponies so please do not feed or even stroke them. They may look friendly but they can bite and kick – especially mares with foals – and hand-fed ponies tend to gather near roads and become aggressive with other visitors. There is plenty of natural forage for them in the Forest.

**Litter:** Please take your litter home. Wild camping is not allowed. Forest Holidays and other operators.

**Forest management:** Take notice of any warning signs and keep a safe distance from work sites. Only pass a vehicle loading timber when told it is safe to do so.

**Camping:** The New Forest is a wonderful place to pitch your tent or bring your caravan, as long as you use one of the designated sites provided by Forest Holidays and other operators.

**Cycling:** Keep to the waymarked tracks. Give way to walkers and horse-riders, and call out a warning when approaching them. Ride in single file on narrow roads and never more than two abreast. Wear bright colours to be visible and always use lights in the dark.

and Anderwood car parks by the Forestry Commission (023 8028 3141 or [www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest)) and at Lepe Country Park by Hampshire County Council (please book in advance: 023 8089 9108 or [www.hants.gov.uk/lepe](http://www.hants.gov.uk/lepe)).



6. Swayby fingerpost, 7. Pony, Bahner Lawn, 8. Kite, Hurst Spit, 9. Donkey foal, Widden Bottom, 10. Autumn woodland, Searthorns.

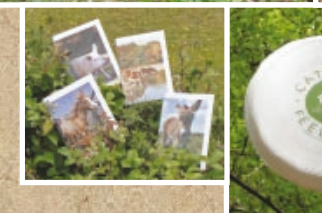
## Pocket Guide to the New Forest National Park



## Forest Store

### Unique gifts

inspired by the New Forest National Park



[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/foreststore](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/foreststore)

## Where in the world?

The New Forest National Park is mostly in Hampshire but also extends north into Wiltshire. Its boundaries are formed by the Wiltshire chalk downs to the north, the Solent to the south, the 'Waterside' communities of Southampton Water to the east and the Avon Valley to the west.

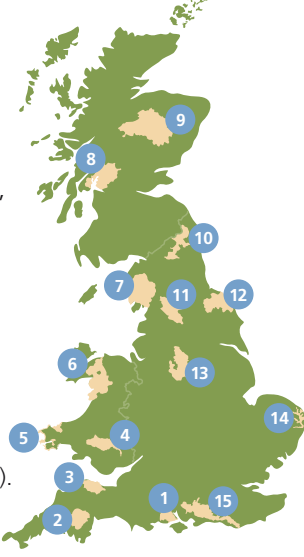
## Brainteasers

- Where in the New Forest was Nelson's favourite ship HMS Agamemnon built? a) *Ashlett Quay* b) *Buckler's Hard* c) *Calshot*
- Which classic science fiction film was partly shot in the New Forest? a) *Silent Running* b) *Blade Runner* c) *Rollerball*
- What is the name of the world land speed record-breaking vehicle which can be found in the New Forest? a) *Bluebird* b) *Bluebell* c) *Bluestar*
- Where in the New Forest can you find Alice's looking-glass? a) *The New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst* b) *Queen's House in Lyndhurst* c) *Down a rabbit hole in Lyndhurst*
- How many species of beetle are found in the New Forest? a) 24 b) 240 c) 2,400

**ANSWERS:** 1. b) Buckler's Hard in 1781. 2. c) Rollerball. 3. a) Bluebird. Scenes shot inside the furniture-locking control rooms of Farley Power Station. 4. a) Bluebell, which can be seen at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu. Donald Campbell set a World Land Speed Record of 403.10 mph (648.783 kph) in this car on 17 July 1964. 4. a) The New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst has a big mirror from Cuffinells, the former New Forest home of Alice Hargreaves (nee Liddell) who was Lewis Carroll's inspiration for Alice of Through the Looking-Glass stories. 5. c) 2,400, nearly two-thirds of all those found in the UK.

## Meet the family

If you have enjoyed the New Forest National Park (1), why not explore another in the UK National Park family? There are 14 more distinctive landscapes to discover: Brecon Beacons (4), the Broads (14), the Cairngorms (9), Dartmoor (2), Exmoor (3), the Lake District (7), Loch Lomond and the Trossachs (8), Northumberland (10), North York Moors (12), the Peak District (13), Pembrokeshire Coast (5), Snowdonia (6), the South Downs (15) and Yorkshire Dales (11).



Visit [www.nationalparks.gov.uk](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk) to find out more.

## More information

- Lympington visitor information centre 01590 689000
- Lyndhurst visitor information centre 023 8028 2269
- [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk) or [www.thenewforest.co.uk](http://www.thenewforest.co.uk)
- National Park Local Information Points in Ashurst, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Burley, Hythe, Landford, Minstead and Sway Downs (15) and Yorkshire Dales (11).
- The National Park Explorer which travels around the National Park and the surrounding area
- An introduction to the National Park is available in 24 different languages at [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)
- Download 'New Forest UK' free from the iTunes store for your iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch for a growing range of eBooks from the New Forest National Park Authority and New Forest District Council

## What is a National Park?

A National Park is an area of exceptional natural beauty with great opportunities for outdoor recreation that needs special protection and management.

The New Forest was made a National Park to ensure that:

- the natural beauty, wildlife and history are protected
- people can appreciate and enjoy it.

National Park status is the highest level of countryside designation, putting the New Forest in the premier league of UK and world landscapes. It ensures the strongest permanent protection for the future against increasing development pressures for housing and transport.

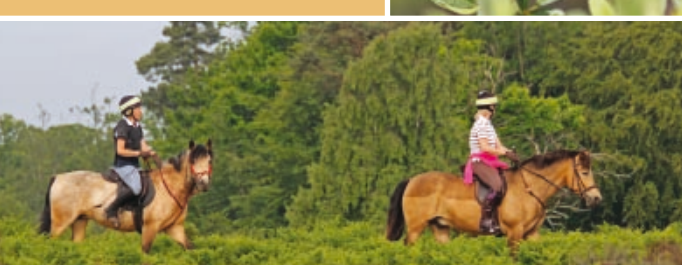


Image References: 1. Sunrise, Keyhaven, 2. Demoiselle on bog myrtle, Crookford Stream, 3. Horse-riders, Hinchelsea Bog.

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Highland cow, Brockenhurst

Printed on recycled paper



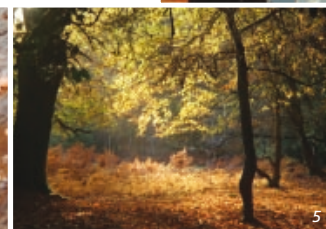
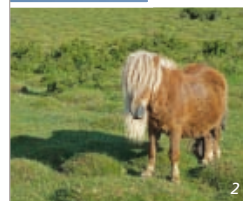
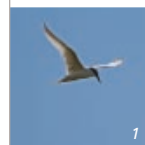
Mare and foal, Crookford Clump

## 10 top things to see and do

■ **The famous New Forest pony.** There are around 4,000 ponies roaming free so you will find them all over the National Park and even in the main streets of some villages such as Burley and Brockenhurst. See if you can spot the brand marks that show who owns the pony or the different tail-clippings that indicate in which part of the Forest the pony belongs. Please don't feed or touch the ponies – they are usually friendly but they have been known to kick and bite.

■ **The New Forest Centre.** This is simply *the* place to start a visit to the National Park. The Centre, in the main car park in Lyndhurst, has fascinating displays about New Forest life and history. There are changing exhibitions, a well-stocked visitor information centre, a shop for all your New Forest gifts and even a reference library which is the best source of New Forest information anywhere.

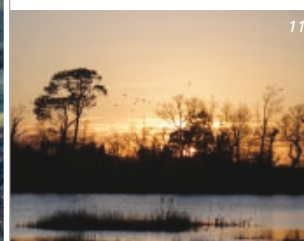
■ **History on the beach.** Visit places such as Lepe Country Park, Calshot or Buckler's Hard to find evocative remnants of the country's wartime past including structures used for D-Day during World War II and a shipbuilding industry dating back to Nelson's time.



■ **Bugs and beasties.** The New Forest National Park is a world capital for wildlife. Look really closely to see if you can spot some of the colourful inhabitants such as damselflies and dragonflies, grasshoppers, beetles and butterflies.

■ **Autumn colours and fabulous fungi.** Any time from September through to December you may catch a spectacular show of orange, yellow and gold leaves. Head for any of the National Park's wooded areas. There are said to be 2,700 types of mushrooms and toadstools in the New Forest. If you look carefully, you will discover a magical world at your feet... and sometimes above your head on tree trunks and branches. There are many different shapes and colours.

■ **Brilliant views of the Isle of Wight.** If you can see what appear to be hills in the distance to the south, they may be the higher parts of the Isle of Wight across the Solent. From many places on the Solent Way footpath, which runs close to the coastline, you will feel as if you can reach out and touch the island. If you fancy a trip which gives great views of the New Forest from the water, there are regular ferries from Lymington.



# The New Forest National Park



**Key**

- National Park Boundary
- Perambulation Boundary
- District Boundaries

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■ **New Forest produce.** Why not try some of the delicious local produce bearing the New Forest Marque from local shops and cafes? Or tuck into the New Forest breakfast available at Exbury Gardens and elsewhere.

■ **Open-top tour.** Get a bird's-eye view of the Forest from the open top of the New Forest tour bus in the summer months. It's a great circular route which takes in the New Forest landscape, towns and villages, visitor attractions and links with rail and ferry connections. Go to [www.newforesttour.info](http://www.newforesttour.info). Or leave the car behind, take the train and enjoy a bike ride or walk – there are four stations in the heart of the National Park.

■ **Audio trails.** Download trails to your MP3 player from our website covering a range of cultural connections with the New Forest and enjoy the suggested walks at your leisure.

■ **Exciting events.** Join one of the hundreds of events that take place all over the Forest, from rambles with the ranger to family fun days. Pick up a copy of the *Forest Focus* visitor newspaper for details.

## 10 top figures

- **Area:** 56,658 hectares or 218 square miles. You could fit six New Forests into Britain's largest National Park, the Cairngorms.
- **Woodland:** 22,379 hectares or 86 square miles – four and a half times the size of the city of Southampton.
- **Heathland and grassland:** 16,000 hectares or 61 square miles. Heathland is rarer globally than rainforest.
- **Farmland:** 14,849 hectares or 57 square miles – equivalent to 18,500 football pitches.
- **Coastline:** 42 kilometres or 26 miles – the length of a marathon and a very scenic one at that.
- **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs):** 32,103 hectares or 124 square miles – nearly as big as the Isle of Wight, which covers 147 square miles.
- **Scheduled Ancient Monuments:** 214. These include sites of former royal hunting lodges, barrows, small hill-top forts and boundary banks. Much of the archaeology of the New Forest relates to agriculture, animal enclosures and modest industrial processes such as charcoal and salt-making.
- **Listed buildings:** 610. These range from palaces and country houses such as Palace House at Beaulieu, Hale Park and Exbury House to many smaller typical cottages built of brick, timber-frame or cob – clay mixed with water, straw, sand and earth.
- **Public footpaths:** 235 kilometres or 146 miles. Laid end-to-end the paths would stretch from Brockenhurst to Birmingham.
- **Population:** 34,935 – making the New Forest the most densely-populated National Park in the UK, with 61 people per square kilometre.



## 10 top facts

- The New Forest is the **smallest** National Park in the UK
- The highest point in the National Park is near Bramshaw at around 135m or 443 feet
- The tallest tree is a Wellingtonia (giant sequoia) on the Rhinefield Drive which is 55 metres or 178 feet high
- The oldest tree is a common yew at Brockenhurst Church which is believed to be 1,000 years old
- A higher proportion of the New Forest National Park than any other in England is of national or international importance for nature conservation – 56%
- The National Park has most of the valley mires in north-western Europe – 75 per cent or 90 out of the 120 mires
- The New Forest is the **only place in Britain** where the wild gladiolus grows
- The New Forest is home to the UK's largest breeding population of the rare **Dartford warbler**
- The oldest human evidence in the National Park is from the **Stone Age**
- The Isle of Wight became separated from what is now the New Forest 9,000 years ago. There is evidence of fire pits beneath the Solent showing that people were living beside it as a river before it became a saltwater channel.

**Image References:** 1. Tern, Keyhaven. 2. Shetland, Balmer Lawn. 3. New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst. 4. Lycogala terrestris, Norleywood. 5. Autumn colour, Portuguese Fireplace. 6. Shells, Lepe. 7. Rhinefield House Hotel, near Brockenhurst. 8. Marsh orchid, Hinchelsea Bog. 9. Ponies in the reedbeds, Lymington River. 10. Rufus Stone, Upper Canterton. 11. Sunrise, Hatchet Pond. 12. Brockenhurst railway station. 13. Grey pony, Hatchet Pond. 14. Red sail by shore, Keyhaven. 15. Mare and foal, Crockford Clump. 16. Spring leaves, Blackwater. 17. Southern wood ant on heath spotted orchid, Norleywood. 18. Grey pony, Setley Plain. 19. Donkey foal, Widden Bottom. 20. Canadian Memorial, near Mogshade Hill. 21. Breakwaters and 'dolphins', Lepe. 22. Black-tailed godwits, sunrise, Keyhaven. 23. Sulphur tufts, Portuguese Fireplace. 24. Hurst Point Lighthouse, Hurst Spit.

## Other formats

Contact us if you would like to receive the *Pocket Guide* in another format such as large-print or Braille.