

# A history of hunting and shipbuilding

The New Forest is rich in history and evidence of this can be seen throughout the National Park.

Almost 1000 years ago William I created his 'New' Forest by placing it under forest law. Those who killed the 'beasts of the chase' without the King's permission ran the risk of stiff punishment. Since William's time the Forest has survived many changes and provides a fascinating story of different human activity.

New Forest Embroidery © New Forest Association

Engraving from Percival Lewis' 'Laws and History of the New Forest' (1811)



Rufus Stone

**The Rufus Stone**  
King William II, nicknamed Rufus, was killed by Sir Walter Tyrell while hunting in the year 1100. Tradition has it that an arrow deflected from a tree at the spot marked by the stone. But was it an accident or murder?



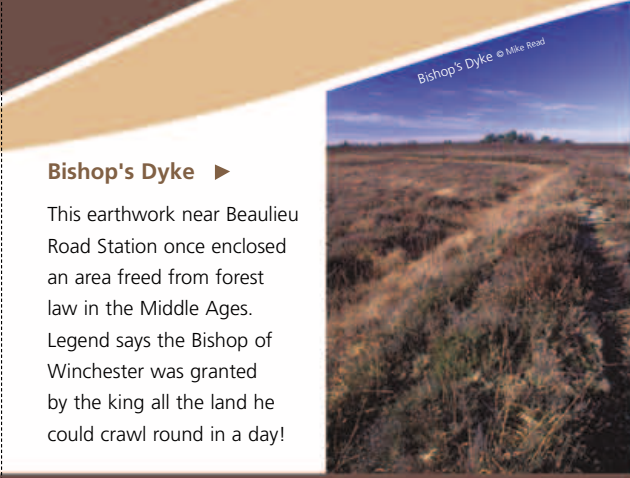
Bucklers Hard

**◀ Bucklers Hard**  
Timber from the Forest was used by shipwrights at Bucklers Hard on the Beaulieu River. Some of Nelson's ships were built there.



**◀ The Verderers' court**  
This court dates back to medieval times and is held in the Queen's House, Lyndhurst. Since the 19th century the Verderers have been responsible for the welfare of commoners' animals and conservation of grazing.

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Bishop's Dyke © Mike Read

**Bishop's Dyke ▶**  
This earthenwork near Beaulieu Road Station once enclosed an area freed from forest law in the Middle Ages. Legend says the Bishop of Winchester was granted by the king all the land he could crawl round in a day!

**Coastal Castles ▶**  
Hurst Castle and Calshot Castle overlooking the Solent tell the story of 500 years of defence of the realm. They were built for Henry VIII and have been fortified many times since.



Hurst Castle from the air © Sean Crane

**The Forest at war ▶**  
During the Second World War the New Forest became an important training and staging area, with numerous airfields and ranges. It was closely involved in the build up for the invasion of Europe.



Beaulieu airfield from the air

