



Fly agaric toadstools, Whitemoor

Red deer stag and hind © Kevin Brewer

# A rich diversity of wildlife

The New Forest National Park is one of the best places for wildlife in Britain.

The Forest's rich variety of habitats has at its heart been created by a unique grazing system stretching back a thousand years. Habitats combine and merge to form a natural mosaic.

Over half of the National Park is internationally important for wildlife. There really is no other place quite like it.

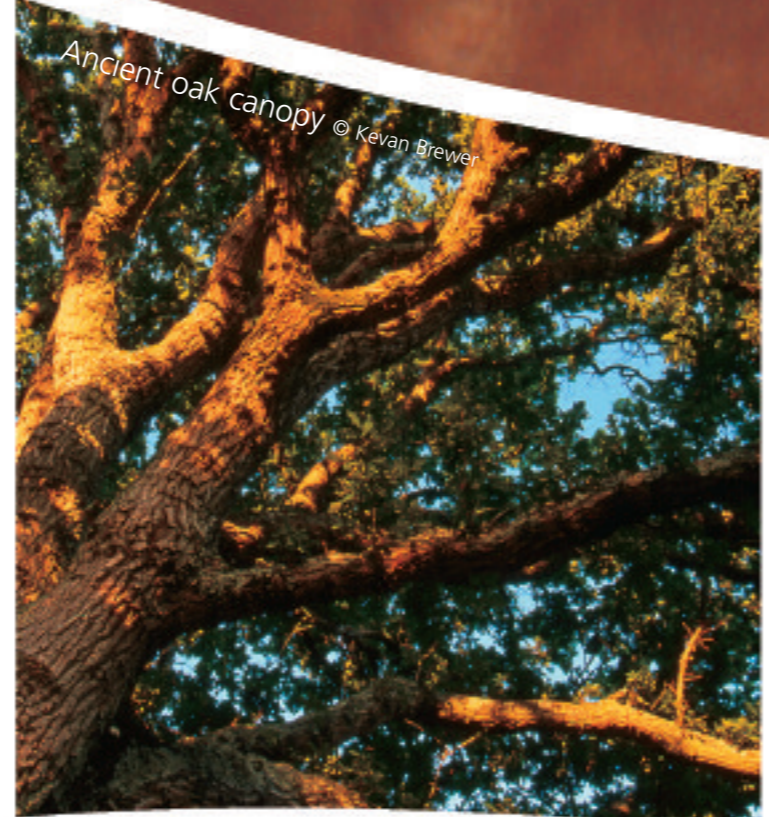


Four-spotted chaser & damselfly



### Valley mires

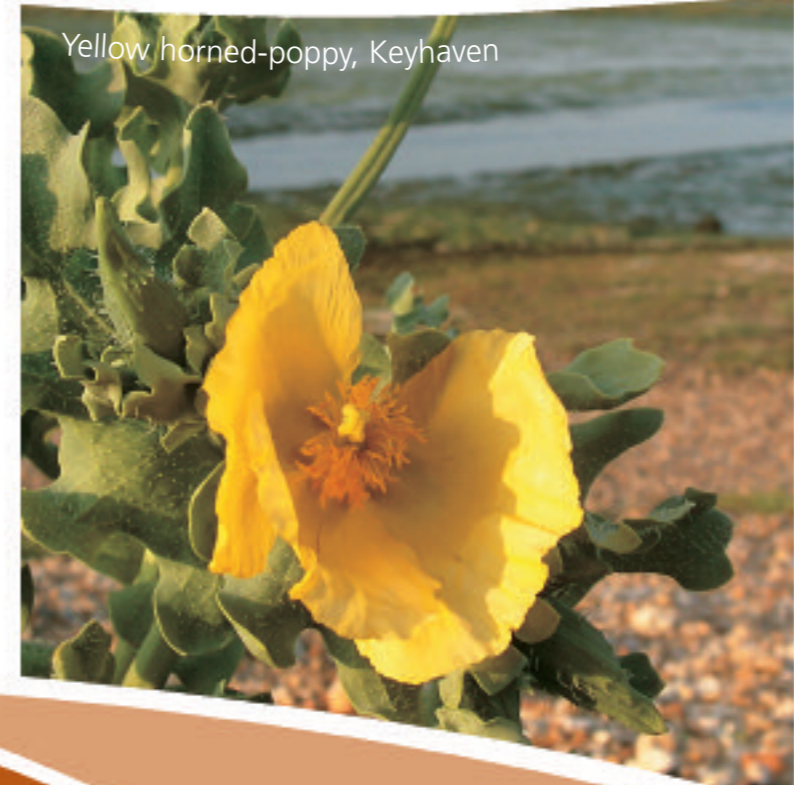
These extremely rare boggy areas are vital for insects such as dragonflies and damselflies, and breeding wading birds such as the curlew. The Forest contains almost all of this special habitat that remains in Europe.



Ancient oak canopy © Kevin Brewer

### Ancient woodlands

These contain the greatest concentration of 'veteran' trees in western Europe, and support a huge variety of life.



Yellow horned poppy, Keyhaven

### Unspoilt coast

The National Park coastline is exceptionally varied. You'll find unique plants growing on shingle and saltmarsh, and mudflats provide food for thousands of wetland birds in winter.

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### Heathland

The Forest's dry heaths are perfect for reptiles; all six British species can be found here. Rare birds like the nightjar and the Dartford warbler also breed here.



Sand lizard © Forestry Commission

### Forest inclosures

Originally Open Forest, these areas were fenced for timber production. They are frequented by the deer of the forest: fallow, red, roe and sika. Forest rides are good places to see butterflies.



Roe deer, Blackwater

### Adjacent farmland and countryside

Animals such as deer, birds of prey and over-wintering coastal birds all feed and shelter in neighbouring fields.



Brent goose © Mike Reid