



## **Notes on completion**

### **Notes on Completion**

**Your application will have a better chance of success if you read the programme introduction and help notes before filling in this form.**

**This application form has nine sections following your project summary below:**

**Section One - Your Organisation**

**Section Two - The Heritage**

**Section Three - Your Project**

**Section Four - Project Outcomes**

**Section Five - Project Management**

**Section Six - After the Project Ends**

**Section Seven - Project Costs**

**Section Eight - Additional Information and Declaration**

**Section Nine - Supporting Documents**

**We will confirm we have received your application when we have your online form and all supporting material. If you are sending any material in hard copy, this must arrive within five days, and by the relevant programme deadline, if applicable. We will not assess your application if you miss the published programme deadline, have not provided the correct supporting documents (please do not send more than we ask for) or have not answered all the questions.**

## Summary

**Name of your organisation**

New Forest National Park Authority

**Project title**

Our Past, Our Future: sustaining a unique historic landscape for future generations

**Reference number**

LP-13-01112

**Project summary**

**In no more than 150 words, summarise your project. We will use this text to tell people about your project, including our decision takers.**

The New Forest is a unique landscape survival - extensive areas of ancient woodland, mire and heath, closely connected to the villages, small-holdings and farms which are integral to the Forest. and which have been formed through the close relationship between the land and its people over thousands of years.

New pressures put this heritage at risk: changes in land management, increases in population and loss of connection with the land threaten the intrinsic character and quality of the Forest. Our partnership intends to take action to sustain this unique landscape for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. A transformational programme of learning, informed access, community involvement and landscape restoration projects working with farmers, commoners, landowners, communities and visitors will enable us to share understanding and develop the necessary skills, engendering the love and enthusiasm needed to care for the Forest and make it fit for the future.

**Have you received any advice from us before making your application?**

Yes

**Please tell us who you received advice from.**

Rachel Evans and Sarah Wicks

**Is this your first application to the Heritage Lottery Fund?**

No

**Please tell us the reference number and project title of your most recent application.**

HG-09-06641 New Forest Remembers - Untold Stories of World War II

## Section One - Your Organisation

### 1a Address of your organisation:

**Address line 1** Lymington Town Hall  
**Address line 2** Avenue Road  
**Address line 3** LYMINGTON  
**Town / city**  
**County** Hampshire  
**Postcode** SO41 9ZG

### 1b Is the address of your project the same as the address in 1a?

No

### Enter the address of your project:

**Address line 1** The New Forest National Park  
**Address line 2**  
**Address line 3**  
**Town / city** LYNDHURST  
**County** Hampshire  
**Postcode** SO43 7NY

### Local Authority within which the project will take place

New Forest

### Constituency within which the project will take place

New Forest East

### 1c Details of main contact person

#### Name

Kathryn Boler

#### Position

External Funding Officer

### Is the address of the main contact person the same as the address in 1a?

Yes

**Daytime phone number, including area code**

01590646690

**Alternative phone number**

07986153177

**Email address**

kathryn.boler@newforestnpa.gov.uk

**1d Describe your organisation's main purpose and regular activities**

The New Forest National Park is one of the smallest of the national parks at only 220 square miles and was designated in 2005. The New Forest National Park Authority took up its full powers in April 2006 and is responsible for delivering the two purposes of National Park designation:

- 1) To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the park and
  - 2) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities by the public.
- In pursuing these two purposes, the Authority also seeks to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities within the Park.

In delivering the purposes and above duty, the Authority is involved in the following activities:

- providing a planning service that helps to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.
- developing strategies, policies and schemes which help to sustain agriculture and promote thriving commoning activity that is in keeping with the National Park landscape.
- working with partners on schemes which strengthen the protection, understanding and management of the historic, archaeological and cultural aspects of the National Park landscape.
- working with partners on schemes which conserve and enhance the nature conservation value of the National Park.
- promoting and co-ordinating schemes and activities which support local cultural traditions, skills and products.
- carrying out education work which reinforces people's understanding of the National Park and encourages people to enjoy, value and care for it.
- enhancing opportunities for quiet recreation on safe, accessible routes.
- encouraging people from a wide range of backgrounds to experience at first hand, enjoy and become involved in caring for the National Park.

Unlike many other National Park Authority's, the New Forest National Park Authority is not a land owning organisation and therefore relies on working in partnership with a wide range of land owners and managers to achieve a sustainable future for the Forest.

**1e The legal status of your organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

Other public sector organisation

**If your organisation is any of the following, please provide the details shown:**

**Company - give registration number**

**Registered Charity in England, Scotland or Wales - give registration number**

**Charity recognised by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland - give reference number**

**1f Will your project be delivered by a partnership?**

Yes

**Who are your partners? Please provide a named contact from each organisation**

The Landscape Partnership Board includes representatives of key delivery and funding partners, as well as those with key strategic input over the areas of work included within the Scheme. The group have met during the development of this bid to agree focus, content and priorities for the bid and to discuss funding and the partnership agreement (see supporting documentation). During the Development Phase, the Board will also recruit two new members who will represent the communities and volunteers involved in the project. Partners represented on the Board include: National Trust (landowner, delivery and funding partner) - Dylan Everett, Countryside Operations Manager; Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (landowner, delivery and funding partner) - John Durnell, Head of Conservation for West Hants; Beaulieu Estate (landowner, delivery and funding partner) - Rachel Pearson, Land Agent; Environment Agency (delivery and funding partner with key strategic input and representing the New Forest Catchment Group) - Maxine Holden, New Forest Catchment Officer; Natural England (key strategic input) - Richard Lemon, Senior Adviser : Landscape Scale Delivery - South; New Forest Land Advice Service (delivery partner) - Julie Stubbs, NFLAS Manager; Forestry Commission (land manager, delivery and funding partner) - Michael Seddon, Deputy Surveyor SE England District; New Forest Centre (delivery and funding partner with focus on visitor and community interaction) - Hilary Marshall, Centre Manager; Cadland Estate (representing private landowners and the Cultural Heritage Action Planning Group)- Gilly Drummond, Owner; Commoners Defence Association (delivery partner representing commoners' interests) - Graham Ferris, Chair; Kevin Stubbs (providing historic building expertise and representing the Cultural Heritage Action Planning Group) - Historic Building Consultant. Other partners who are not represented on the Board but will be involved in the Stakeholder Group and have been involved in developing specific project ideas or will be involved in delivering aspects of the Scheme include; Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service, New Forest District Council, Southampton University, Bournemouth University, New Forest Association, the Verderers, Sparsholt College, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre and Pond Conservation.

**1g Are you VAT registered?**

Yes

**Please provide your VAT number**

871934300

## Section Two - The Heritage

**In this section tell us about the heritage your project focuses on and why it is valued.**

### **2a What is the heritage your project focuses upon?**

#### **THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK**

The New Forest National Park is a unique landscape survival in lowland England - a great expanse of natural habitats with extensive areas of ancient woodland, mire and heath intimately connected to the villages, small-holdings and farms of the Forest. The National Park extends from the wooded slopes of Wiltshire in the north across the central New Forest plateau to the open coastline of the Solent in the South. It has been formed and is sustained through the close relationship between the land and its people over thousands of years. A wealth of archaeological and historic features exist within the National Park and much of the area is still managed by traditional agriculture and a strong system of commoning.

The New Forest National Park was established in 2005, the first to be created in the South East of England. It covers 220 square miles (569 square kilometres), making it the smallest national park in the UK other than the Broads. It is home to more than 34,000 people and is under intense pressure from development in surrounding areas.

In total 56% of the National Park is designated of international value for nature conservation. It contains internationally important, extensive areas of lowland heath, ancient woodland, valley mires, river valleys and coastal marshes. In turn, these support a very high number of nationally rare (and some internationally rare) species, particularly invertebrates. The New Forest Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar sites cover more than 29,000 hectares.

The SPA was qualified for designation under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive for its regular use by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of Dartford Warbler, Nightjar, Woodlark, Hen harrier and Honey buzzard. In addition, the SPA qualifies for designation under Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive as it supports more than 350 pairs of breeding wood warbler and 25 pairs of hobby.

The Annex II species that are a primary reason for the designation of the New Forest Special Area of Conservation include southern damselfly and stag beetle, whilst great crested newt, brook lamprey, bullhead, barbastelle bat, Bechstein's bat and the Eurasian otter are also qualifying features.

In addition to the SPA and SAC designation, 28,000 hectares of the Forest were designated a Ramsar site in 1993. The 29 nationally important species listed within the designation include; small fleabane, slender cottongrass, pennyroyal, southern damselfly and stag beetle and as well as 180 species of invertebrates ranging from butterflies such as the high brown fritillary to freshwater invertebrates such as the tadpole shrimp.

The National Park has 214 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 622 listed buildings and 20 designated Conservation Areas. In addition there are at least another 200 ancient monuments that could meet the criteria for scheduling and many more that are gradually being identified through field survey.

The 622 listed structures within the National Park vary widely, ranging from grand houses such as Hale, the 14th century monastic barn at St Leonards and the 13th century Palace House at Beaulieu down to commoners' cottages and features such as bridges and even telephone boxes, the unique recognisable features which make up the fabric of the National Park.

There are also many unlisted buildings, often dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries which are locally significant and give the New Forest its distinctive character particularly in their relationship to the landscape.

The New Forest is a major recreational resource with over 325 km of Public Rights of Way and over 3,000 hectares of accessible land (over 50% of the area of the National Park). Research by Tourism South-East (2005) indicated that there were 13.5 million visitor days spent per annum in the National Park. Most visitors come to enjoy the peace and quiet, natural beauty and wildlife of one of the last ancient, relatively unspoilt and open landscapes in England and there is a massive opportunity for inspiring and connecting people with

the New Forest's heritage.

## OUR PAST, OUR FUTURE - THE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP AREA

The New Forest Landscape Partnership area is contiguous with the National Park Boundary as this is the functioning area of the Forest's unique pastoral system. Approximately half of the National Park are Crown Lands which are managed by the Forestry Commission for conservation, recreation and rural economy.

At 569 square kilometres, the Partnership recognises that this is in excess of the recommended size for a landscape partnership area. In order to focus resources to maximum impact, the partners are agreed that the actual delivery of the on the ground habitat restoration works and access improvement works will be focused on those areas surrounding the Open Forest (this equates to approximately 50% of the National Park area) which are at much greater risk. . Over the years, development and land use change has eaten away at the edges of the Forest, reducing the size and connectivity of the woodland and heathland habitats.

In addition, the Open Forest receives much higher protection (through planning, the Verderers and management by the Forestry Commission) and has received considerable investment in recent years, not least through the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, which is delivering restoration programmes for both habitats and heritage sites on the Open Forest. This has been at the expense of the surrounding lands which have had little focus to date and are at a greater risk of deterioration. The HLS funded restoration works on the Open Forest, combined with habitat improvements delivered through the Landscape Partnership Scheme on the surrounding lands, offer a one-off opportunity to achieve landscape-scale improvements at a national park scale. The Environment White Paper declares that "we will achieve a better quality natural environment by taking and promoting concerted action across our farmed land, woodlands and forests, towns and cities, and rivers and water bodies". This Scheme, combined with the existing work funded on the Open Forest through the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement will be delivering exactly the vision outlined within the White Paper.

The focus of this Scheme will not only increase the conservation value of the enclosed lands, but will also increase the robustness of the the Open Forest, increasing its ability to withstand climate change and other pressures.

Despite the primary focus of this Scheme on the lands surrounding the Open Forest, it is crucial that the overarching elements within the scheme such as visitor engagement, interpretation, skills development, working with communities, volunteer development, and educational campaigns spread the whole breadth of the National Park in order to have maximum impact.

A map is attached showing the whole Landscape Partnership Scheme area and the areas surrounding the Open Forest which will be the focus for practical habitat and site restoration projects.

## SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK

The New Forest National Park has a number of qualities which make it unique and immediately recognisable, and when taken together, distinguish it from all other parts of the country. The following qualities were identified through public consultation in 2007:

### 1) The New Forest's outstanding natural beauty:

The sights, sounds and smells of ancient woodland with large veteran trees, heathland, bog and mire. The National Park encompasses a wide variety of different landscapes, from the woodlands and rolling heaths in the centre of the Forest to the farmed landscape of small fields, hedgerows and narrow lanes. Together these form an extensive area of ancient countryside with hidden villages and hamlets, which has largely been lost from other parts of lowland Britain.

### 2) An extraordinary diversity of plants and animals and habitats of national and international importance:

The mosaic of lowland heath, mire, ancient pasture woodland and Forest lawns that forms the Open Forest is unique in Britain and Europe. The interconnection and scale of these habitats allows many rare and restricted species of plants, birds, animals and insects to thrive, as well as the commoner species that are in many cases declining elsewhere in the country. The New Forest has a far higher proportion of designated land than any other English National Park.

### 3) A unique historic, cultural and archaeological heritage, from royal hunting ground to ship-building:

The cultural landscape of the New Forest has developed continuously from prehistoric times to the present. A wealth of features have survived to indicate this long use by human society, including more than 340 Bronze Age barrows, a number of fine Iron Age hill forts and many Roman pottery production sites. Throughout the area there are numerous remnants of medieval buildings, enclosures and other earthworks associated with the Royal Forest. The main rivers and timber industry supported a boat and ship-building industry and the coastal salt-workings were amongst the most important in the country during the 18th Century. The National Park has 214 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, constituting almost 10% of all scheduled monuments in the South-East region, together with a huge number of important unscheduled sites. These unscheduled sites are added to continually through new technology, fieldwork and discoveries by land managers and the public.

### 4) A historic commoning system:

The unique commoning system maintains so much of what people know and love as the "New Forest", forming the heart of a working landscape based on farming and forestry.

Although common rights were once widespread in Britain and Europe, they have been lost in many areas due to the enclosure of common land and the disafforestation of former royal forests. The New Forest remains one of the few extensive lowland commons where rights are still widely practised and a strong commoning culture continues. Over the centuries commoning has largely been responsible for shaping the distinctive landscapes and habitats of the Open Forest. There were six traditional rights of common, several of which are still practised today including the right of mast which allows the turning out of pigs to feed on the acorn crop and common pasture which allows the grazing of ponies, cattle and donkeys.

The grazing of ponies and cattle has always been central to the pastoral economy of the New Forest. In recent years between 6,000 and 8,000 ponies, cattle and donkeys, pigs and sheep have been depastured on the Forest as a whole by over 600 practising commoners. They are one of the most obvious and distinctive features of the area and for many visitors, they are undoubtedly a very important part of their experience of the New Forest National Park.

### 5) Tranquillity:

The tranquillity and remoteness that can still be found in many parts of the National Park, albeit in the midst of the busy, built up south of England, is a quality of importance to both visitors and residents alike. The relative peace and naturalness, combined with the open and unfenced landscape of much of the area, gives a sense of space and freedom. This contrasts with the increasingly built up and intensively managed landscape of southern England and provides a means of release from the pressures of modern life.

### 6) Wonderful opportunities for quiet recreation and discovery:

The New Forest National Park has open access on foot or horseback to more than 116 square miles in the centre of the National Park and an extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths across the rest of the area. These provide many opportunities for quiet recreation and the exploration of the landscape.

### 7) Strong and distinctive local communities:

The New Forest National Park communities traditionally have a strong cultural identity, with a wealth of local traditions and a thriving commoning community. Many local people have a strong sense of New Forest history and are deeply committed to the protection of the local area. Local dialect, unique place names and traditional events still continue, although community life is now constantly evolving and adapting to modern ways of living and working.

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER OF THE NEW FOREST

When National Character Areas were first introduced in the 1990's the New Forest was shown as one large character area. Similarly the New Forest National Character Area profile produced in 2012/13 by Natural England covers not only the National Park but also the lower Hampshire Avon Valley and some of the wider New Forest District Council areas.

The New Forest National Park's 2013 draft Landscape Character Assessment (which is out for public consultation at present) describes the landscape in more detail, subdividing the National Park into 19 smaller areas with similar character and type providing detailed descriptions of key characteristics and features. These are helpful as they provide comprehensive descriptions for each area. However, it is important that the New Forest is considered in its entirety, as the pastoral system which underpins the New Forest landscape is dependant on the whole mosaic as a complete working landscape:



## Summary of the landscape character of the New Forest:

Lying within the Hampshire basin, the New Forest forms an elevated plateau of sands, gravels and clays that slopes gently to the coast of the Solent, bounded by the river valleys of the Avon Valley to the west and the Test to the east. A steeply wooded ridge marks the western edge of the plateau and the start of the distinctive Forest core - a mosaic of woodland, ancient woodland pasture, intimate stream valleys, heathland, mire and forest farmlands. The northern part of the plateau contains dramatic landforms with expensive elevated open heathland plains cut by steeply eroded U-shaped valleys. The A31 divides the plateau along a natural watershed. To the south of this the landscape is more verdant with open lawns and larger areas of semi-natural woodland and wood pasture, as well as extensive open heathland. This whole area reveals an incredible time depth, preserved through the system of commoning.

The unenclosed semi-natural woodlands, heathlands, mires and grass lawns together form the area known as the Open Forest interspersed with large wooded Inclosures. Combined these cover some 50% of the National Park area and are managed largely by public and voluntary bodies - the Forestry Commission (responsible for managing the Crown Lands of the National Park, covering some 47% of the National Park), the National Trust, Hampshire County Council and the Hants and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

The Forest Inclosures were created at various times since the 17th Century and are fenced to protect them from grazing stock. Many of the older broad-leaved woodlands and specimen conifers are important landscape features and wildlife habitats.

Pockets of ancient forest farmlands and small-holdings with strong commoning traditions border the Open Forest. Heathland commons run along the western and northern edges of the Open Forest while assorted fields (medieval fields cut out from the original woodland cover) and woodlands are particularly characteristic of the eastern and southern boundaries. In contrast the large-scale coastal estates along the Solent fringes are dominated by Parliamentary enclosures evident in large rectangular fields bounded by predominantly hawthorn hedgerows.

In total, some 23% of the National Park is privately managed farmland. These enclosed lands of small-holdings and large estates create a rural landscape characterised by scattered farmsteads and hamlets, narrow winding lanes and small fields divided by thick hedgerows. About 62% of the enclosed landscape is under pasture and meadowland.

Settlements are part of the distinct landscape of the New Forest and have their own distinct sense of place. Historically the towns and villages of the New Forest developed on the more productive land of the river valleys and coastal plain fringing the Forest core. The four main villages within the National Park are Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst, Sway and Ashurst.

Rural settlement is either nucleated as in Beaulieu or Woodgreen, or dispersed with scattered hamlets such as Frogham. Linear villages, such as East Boldre, developed later as land was enclosed piecemeal from the Open Forest. The main villages expanded from the 19th century onwards and have a denser settlement pattern. Some of the larger estates have buildings set within landscaped grounds and parkland.

Key landscape characteristics for each of the character areas are included in the draft Landscape Character Assessment which is attached as supplementary information.

## SOCIAL CONTEXT

The New Forest has a population of approximately 35,000 according to the latest Census data. It has a particularly ageing population compared to the national average and other English National Park areas. Only 39% of the local population is younger than 45 (compared to the national average of 59%), while 38% are aged 60 and over (compared to 23% for England as a whole). The New Forest demographic makes the linking of generations and the handing down of skills and knowledge from the older generation to the younger ones a priority.

The majority of the population within the Landscape Partnership area live in dispersed and small rural communities. There are 37 villages of varying scale within the National Park spread across 37 parish areas. Most have limited services within the communities and the smaller settlements are particularly at risk of losing

or suffering from reduced services. This, combined with the lack of a good public transport network to most of the smaller villages, means that most residents are dependant on their cars.

About one-third of residents live in the four main villages of Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, Sway and Ashurst and these have a long tradition as local centres of cultural and economic life.

Many people are attracted to live in the New Forest because of the quality of the environment and this has resulted in high land and property prices.

Affordable housing for people with a strong local connection is a particular issue, especially affecting younger people who wish to remain involved in local employment. The gap between house prices and local earnings has widened considerably over the last 10 years. House prices are now well beyond the reach of the majority of local residents. This has had a major impact on young commoners who need housing in the area to enable them to continue commoning but who have been priced out of the housing market. A commoners dwelling scheme has helped some practising commoners to build suitable holdings on exception sites and ensures that these properties remain tied to commoning use in the future, but the numbers of these are fairly minimal.

The make-up of communities within the New Forest has changed rapidly in response to a combination of social and economic trends. There is less of a focus now on the traditional rural way of life and many residents do not have direct connections with the local area, with many travelling outside the area for work.

## ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The tourism industry makes a major contribution to the local economy. It is estimated that visitors spend £175 million on their trips to the National Park (2009 STEAM figures for the National Park) and the tourism sector employs approximately 2,800 people within the National Park. Maintaining a high quality natural environment contributes significantly to economic benefits by supporting tourism.

Although the land-based businesses now provide a relatively small proportion of the total numbers of jobs in the New Forest, there are still a large number of these businesses in the area, providing employment that is above average for Hampshire, the South-East region and the country as a whole. The farming, commoning, forestry and woodland management industries remain vital in maintaining the land use management practices that help conserve the landscape character and cultural identity of the National Park.

The combination of the strong rural industries that support the landscape which in turn supports the vibrant tourism industry results in a unique economy which is interlinked and where each part is dependant on the other for long-term sustainability. Existing initiatives such as the New Forest Marque (a New Forest produce quality assurance and marketing scheme) support this rural economy by providing benefits to both local businesses and visitors.

The working population within the New Forest area is lower than the average for Hampshire a whole and is predicted to decline further over the next few decades resulting in a decline in the economically active population.

## POCKETS OF DISADVANTAGE

Although the New Forest is generally not considered to be a deprived area, this does hide a specialist agricultural / commoning and forestry sector that suffer from low incomes, marginal sustainability and an ageing workforce.

The District level analysis of the Rural Evidence Research Centre for 2005 categorises the New Forest as a significantly rural, low productivity district. Defra also classify the New Forest as being one of the five districts in the South-East with significant poor economic performance (Local Futures Group: The Knowledge Economy in Rural England, 2004.)

There are also pockets of deprivation with regard to education, skills and training, Two New Forest Super Output Areas fall in the bottom 10% of most deprived nationally within this category and a further 6 are in the bottom 20%. The area has a greater proportion of people without qualifications (27.6% - OCSI, 2007 figures) compared to both County and regional levels.

## REGIONAL CONTEXT

The National Park is sandwiched between the economic growth areas of Southampton and Bournemouth. Research by Tourism South-East in 2005 indicated that over 15 million people live within a 90-minute drive of the National Park. Other research estimates that housing development in the period 2006-2026 within 50 kilometres of the New Forest will result in an additional 1.05 million visits per annum - an increase of 8%.

The New Forest provides a critical "green lung" for the South-East region with its increasing population and development pressures.

**2b Is your heritage considered to be at risk? If so, please tell us in what way.**

The landscape of the New Forest has changed considerably over the last 100 years and will almost certainly continue to change, potentially at a significantly faster rate in the future than in the past and on a landscape-scale.

This is primarily the result of the huge changes in lifestyle that have taken place during this time period including:

- 1) an increase in the number of people visiting / enjoying recreation within the New Forest
- 2) a decrease in land-based jobs
- 3) changes in land management practices to more intensive farming and landuse
- 4) a decrease in the traditional skills which are needed to manage both the natural and built environment
- 5) huge increases in land and property prices
- 6) changes in values and fashions which effect the way we want to live and how we want our homes to be
- 7) many new residents moving into the area
- 8) a decrease in public transport and increase in car use / more residents travelling to work outside of the New Forest
- 9) increased pressure on resources

Each of these is having a specific effect on the landscape, habitats, wildlife, buildings, structures and the cultural heritage of the New Forest.

- 1) An increase in the number of people visiting / enjoying recreation within the New Forest:

Visitor days to the New Forest already stand at 13.5 million visitor days per annum and this is set to increase by another 1.6 million per annum by 2026. This is understandable as the New Forest has a unique landscape for enjoying the pleasures of the outdoors with its open access, plentiful wildlife and the roaming livestock. This offers a great opportunity to engage, enthuse and involve visitors in caring for the Forest but the sheer number of visitors also brings with it increased pressures and difficulties both for the landscape and its wildlife and for those that live and work here.

For example, the commoning community suffer from impacts such as the feeding of their livestock (resulting in some animals having to be taken off the Open Forest as through progressive feeding, they are exhibiting aggressive behaviour when they see food), animal accidents on the roads, gates being left open and visitors wanting to watch management activities such as the drifts (when the ponies are collectively rounded up into a pound) but not realising the safety implications of getting in the way of hundreds of stampeding ponies.

Wildlife disturbance is also a key issue when it comes to recreational impacts. Disturbance can in extreme circumstances affect breeding success, winter survival and whether species are forced to migrate and become excluded from the areas they would otherwise occupy. These impacts are difficult to establish objectively because of the complexity of the ecological relationships of wild species and large numbers of factors that can influence population levels, but general principles can be applied and educational campaigns can make big steps in changing behaviours for instance, in ensuring that ground-nesting birds are not disturbed during critical times of the year.

- 2) A decrease in land-based jobs:

Employment in the land-based sector in the New Forest has been decreasing over decades, with estates reducing their land management staff and the number of young people going into agriculture or forestry decreasing year on year. Whereas 40-50 years ago, many of those living in the Forest would automatically follow in their parents footsteps by becoming commoners, farmers and foresters, this is no longer the case. This results in a younger generation who don't have the same link and connection with their surrounding landscape and who don't necessarily learn the traditional land managements skills from their parents as previous generations would have done. This is resulting in a younger generation of Forest residents who are increasingly disconnected from the natural environment and who are growing up without the skills or knowledge to care for the Forest in future.

- 3) Changes in land management practices:

As agriculture has intensified, the hedgerows, rough margins, buffer strips and woodlands which are part of

the landscape character of many of the enclosed Forest lands have been gradually removed. This has resulted in the fragmentation and loss of UK BAP habitats and a resulting landscape which offers less in the way of stepping stones and green corridors for wildlife and which is less resilient to challenges such as climate change and disease.

Similarly many fields which were in agricultural production are now being used for other enterprises such as hobby farming or equine uses. Often pastures and small woodlands are not managed, resulting in a decrease in the landscape and conservation value of these habitats. Where they are managed, fields are often drained resulting in the loss of the ephemeral ponds which are the primary reason for Ramsar designation and which support a wide range of wildlife and botanical interest. This is most often due to a lack of understanding about why these features are important and a lack of experience and skills in how to best look after the land and how best to combine new uses with sustainable land management practices.

Economic pressures over the last century have also resulted in larger scale changes of land-use from heathland or deciduous woodland to conifer plantation, thus resulting in a loss of biodiversity on a much larger scale.

Changes in land use, larger machinery and the ability to farm areas of land now that would otherwise have been left, have also resulted in a high amount of damage to archaeological sites which in many cases were unknown, locations inexact or significance not understood by the land manager in question.

#### 4) A decrease in the traditional skills needed to manage both the natural and built environment:

The changes in agricultural requirements, land management practices and land ownerships outlined above have resulted in a new generation of farmers, commoners and landowners who don't necessarily have the traditional skills to best manage this heritage landscape. These skills are wide ranging and include pasture management, hedgelaying, hedge management, ditch and stream management, copse / woodland management / coppicing. As well as the lack of skills to be able to carry out some of these tasks, there is often also a basic lack of understanding about why these tasks are required, what tools and machinery are best for the task and what time of year tasks should be carried out.

The result of this lack of knowledge and skills is a gradual deterioration of the landscape, fragmentation of habitats and a decrease in biodiversity.

For the built environment, the loss of traditional building skills is also an increasing problem. Historic buildings form the core of virtually every settlement within the New Forest and the special character of these buildings is often irretrievably lost by the use of inappropriate materials and methods of repair.

Examples which are frequent in the New Forest include the use of cement mortar rather than the traditional lime mortar which results in long-term damage to the traditionally soft bricks, the use of non-lime based renders on cob walls which do not allow the walls to breathe, using new materials which are not of an appropriate character, as well as being visually obtrusive. In addition, the increasing trade in second hand materials is sometimes resulting in the unnecessary wholesale replacement of sound traditional materials. Feedback from a small pilot project with a number of existing builders who carry out repairs to heritage buildings within the New Forest has confirmed that many people in the trade now don't have the understanding and skills to carry out repairs to these buildings using the correct methods and materials. However, the pilot project also confirmed that once engaged, they are very keen to learn and then to put their new skills into practice.

#### 5) Huge increases in land and property prices:

One of the main drivers for change in land management is the changing fortunes of small-holdings within the New Forest. These have previously provided the back-bone to commoning whether it be directly or through the provision of back-up grazing for rent. The high cost of land and property has resulted in many small-holdings coming out of productive use. Young commoners, farmers and foresters find that the prices make it extremely difficult to get property within the New Forest, thus providing just another reason to reconsider their employment and lifestyle choices. The result of this is a decreasing number of young people taking up commoning year on year.

#### 6) Changes in values and fashions which effect the way we want to live and how we want our homes to be:

Small-scale changes to homes and properties takes place almost constantly in response to shifting values and availability of products. Although change is inevitable, it is often at the expense of those features which give the New Forest its particular character. Over time these are having a real impact, leading to a general suburbanisation and a dilution of character.

The use of new and ornamental plants within gardens and ponds is a national problem, but in the New Forest has had a detrimental effect on the local landscape. Invasive non-native species particularly within the waterways and ponds are vastly reducing numbers of some of the more scarce native marginal plants which are significant to the New Forest landscape such as pennyroyal, coral necklace and allseed.

Changes in lifestyle have had a huge impact on the way young people interact with the natural environment today. Children growing up today spend less time in the outdoors than they ever have, with competing interests such as ipads, the internet, computer games and the shopping centre taking them away from the informal play that would have taken up a significant proportion of their time in previous generations. This is resulting in a generation of young people who have little interaction with the natural environment, let alone an understanding of its history or what keeps it the way it is.

#### 7) New residents:

The increasing number of new residents within the New Forest area has had a wide range of impacts on the Forest. Many are now landowners who are enthusiastic to learn but don't yet have the understanding or the traditional land management skills needed to manage their pastures, woodlands or boundary features. This has resulted in large areas of land which are either under-managed or mis-managed and which are losing both their landscape and conservation value. For instance, few of the woodlands that are outside of the Open Forest are now in active management. Similarly as many of the properties within the New Forest have heritage value, there are a generation of new property owners who don't necessarily understand the history of their property or appreciate its historic value and features. This often results in a gradual degradation of the building or in some cases complete removal. Many unlisted cob buildings, simple brick cottages and early bungalows give parts of the New Forest their distinctive character, but every year fewer (and much fewer in original condition) survive.

Each year, some of the newer residents to the Forest take up the challenge of becoming active commoners. This is extremely positive for the future of commoning but in most cases the new and young commoners keep only ponies. This is because there are increased skills required to manage and breed cattle, as well as a plethora of regulations which owners have to contend with. The Forest however, relies on there being a mix of grazing animals due to their different browsing and grazing habits. Cattle will browse on the heather and tougher vegetation that ponies will not and it is this mix of grazing habits that keep the habitats in favourable condition. Opportunities exist to support new commoners in learning the skills and procedures necessary for cattle ownership.

#### 8) A decrease in public transport and increase in car use / more residents travelling to work outside of the New Forest:

The high numbers of cars travelling in and around the Forest not only has an impact on congestion and air pollution but also on the number of animal accidents on the Forest roads, whether it be commoners' livestock or wildlife such as deer. In 2012, 65 commoners animals were killed and 18 injured in road traffic accidents and numbers have been similar for the previous two years.

#### 9) Increased pressure on resources:

Reduced budgets in recent years have resulted in a much reduced ability for public sector bodies to carry out schemes on a scale sufficient to make a significant impact. Similarly, farmers, commoners and estate owners are finding it increasingly difficult to find funds to make environmental improvements and manage the land sustainably when the economics of farming are so tight, with low livestock prices and high commodity prices.

This Scheme offers an ideal opportunity to address this situation by pooling together the resources, knowledge and enthusiasm of all of these groups, resulting in a collective impact which is greater than the sum of its parts.

**2c Does your project involve work to physical heritage like buildings, collections, landscapes or habitats?**

Yes

**Tell us the name of the building(s), collections, landscape or habitat area**

New Forest National Park - varying landscape improvements on land owned by a range of landowners including voluntary sector, public sector and private owners. Also specific building restoration of the Grade II\* listed Verderers Hall, The Grade II listed Beaulieu Icehouse and Eyeworth Weir - an industrial archaeological site of local significance.

**Do you, or a partner organisation, own the building, land or heritage items outright?**

Yes

**Do you or a partner organisation have a mortgage or other loans secured on the property or item, or any plans to take one out?**

No

**For landscape projects, please provide an Ordnance Survey grid reference for your landscape**

SU 300 081

**2d Does your project involve the acquisition of a building, land or heritage items?**

No

**Please tick any of the following that apply to your heritage:**

**Accredited Museum, Gallery or Archive**

**Designated or Significant (Scotland) Collection**

**DCMS funded Museum, Library, Gallery or Archive**

**World Heritage Site**

**Grade I or Grade A listed building**

**How many buildings of this type are included in your project?**

There are 13 Grade 1 listed buildings within the Landscape Partnership area. Although direct work to these are not planned, they may feature or benefit through the Building Skills and Heritage on my Doorstep projects.

**Grade II\* or Grade B listed building** ×

**How many buildings of this type are included in your project?**

There are 33 Grade II\* listed buildings within the LP area and we have specific proposals to restore one of these - The Verderers Courtroom. The others may feature or benefit through the Building Skills and Heritage on my Doorstep projects.

**Grade II, Grade C or Grade C(S) listed building** ×

**How many buildings of this type are included in your project?**

There are 576 Grade II listed buildings within the LP area and we have specific proposals to restore at least one of these which is at present on the "at risk" register - the Ice House at Beaulieu. The others may feature or benefit through the Building Skills and Heritage on my Doorstep projects.

**Local list** ×

**How many buildings of this type are included in your project?**

There are 1787 local interest buildings within the 20 conservation areas that cover the park. There are many more buildings of similar quality outside the conservation areas. All of these may feature or benefit through the Building Skills and Heritage on my Doorstep projects.

**Scheduled Ancient Monument** ×

**How many monuments of this type are included in your project?**

There are 214 Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the Landscape Partnership area but there are also over 200 more at present that have been identified suitable for scheduling. These may feature or benefit from the Rediscovering and Conserving our Archaeological Heritage project.

**Registered historic ship**



**Conservation Area** ×

**Registered Battlefield**

**Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Scenic Area (NSA)**

**National Park** ×

**National Nature Reserve** ×

**Ramsar site** ×

**Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site (RIGS)**

**Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or e-SAC** ×

**Special Protection Areas (SPA)** ×

**Registered Park or Garden** ×

**Grade I listed Park or Garden** ×

**Grade II\* listed Park or Garden** ×

**Grade II listed Park or Garden** ×

**If applicable, what is the registration or inventory number/s?**

There are 7 registered parks and gardens within the LP area and a further 78 sites on the Hampshire register of gardens of historic interest. These may feature or benefit from the Building Skills and Heritage on my Doorstep projects.

## Section Three - Your Project

**In this section, tell us about your project. Make sure you include all your planned activities, and capital works if applicable.**

### 3a Describe what your project will do.

This Landscape Partnership bid is centred on the New Forest National Park which is a unique, internationally important landscape with a continuity of land management since medieval times. However, the New Forest is in constant flux and is continually having change foisted upon it as a result of development pressure, population increase, changes in land management and a decreased connection between people and the land. This is leading to habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss and a deterioration in the character of both the natural and built environment, as well as the loss of knowledge, skills and understanding required to sustain it.

However, we have a strong partnership of organisations involved in this bid, which although have diverse interests, have a willingness to share and an over-riding wish to work together to sustain the Forest and its special qualities for future generations. All of these organisations coming together to develop this bid is an achievement in itself given the sometimes conflicting interests of all of the organisations involved. Collectively these organisations have huge knowledge and skill resources which can be used to deliver the Scheme and which can be transferred to local communities and visitors. Residents and visitors alike have tremendous love and enthusiasm for the Forest which offers an amazing opportunity to inspire and engage them in supporting and caring for the Forest in future years.

This partnership's vision is to increase the robustness of existing habitats, the built heritage and Forest communities in order to better equip the Forest to thrive through change and modern-day pressures. This will be achieved by:

- "Growing the Forest" - reconnecting the core Forest with its surrounding landscape to build connectivity, increase biodiversity and buffer the core of the Forest from future changes.
- Reestablishing the traditional skills needed to care for the unique natural heritage and built heritage of the New Forest
- Establishing links with the surrounding communities who have become disconnected from the Forest and can play an essential role in looking after their local heritage whether it be natural or built.
- Encouraging, enthusing and inspiring a new generation of people to be more involved in learning about, championing and caring for the New Forest.
- Maximising the contribution of the local economy (tourism, commoning, farming, forestry) in supporting a sustainable landscape.

In order to achieve this, the Landscape Partnership will deliver four programmes of work, each of which contains a range of projects which aim to collectively achieve the objectives set out above and which will address the key threats and opportunities for the landscape which were highlighted earlier:

#### PROGRAMME 1: Restoring Lost Landscapes

Practical work within the lands surrounding the Open Forest aimed at restoring habitats and decreasing fragmentation, increasing access and discovering and restoring the New Forest's archaeology and built heritage.

#### PROGRAMME 2: Developing Forest Skills

The development of knowledge and skills required for the sustainable management of New Forest priority habitats and the built heritage.

PROGRAMME 3: Discovering Forest Heritage and Inspiring a New Generation -Increasing the discovery of the New Forest landscape and an understanding of its unique heritage in residents, communities and visitors. Inspiring a wide range of existing and new audiences, capturing their care and passion in helping to care for the Forest.

#### PROGRAMME 4: Monitoring and Evaluation -

The fourth programme of work focuses on the monitoring and evaluation of the Scheme, assessing the difference that the project has made both to the on the ground heritage and biodiversity, as well as to the people and communities that have been involved.

There are cross-cutting themes which run between these programmes including volunteer and community involvement which feature strongly throughout and is essential to making the step change towards the sustainable management of the landscape.

Some of the projects included within the Scheme have been subject to small-scale externally funded pilot projects. These have been focussed on just one area or community, for example, a small area of the Bisterne Estate for the Better Boundaries project or the community of Burley for the Conserving the Forest Fringe project. Although these projects have proved very successful on a small-scale, the lack of resources within the partnership organisations has prevented these from being replicated across a wider area. This Scheme will allow the Partnership to deliver the most effective of these projects on a landscape-scale, growing and improving the projects from the lessons learnt through the pilot studies.

## PROGRAMME 1: RESTORING LOST LANDSCAPES

This programme aims to address the deteriorating landscape which surrounds the Open Forest, both natural and built, through a range of on-the-ground projects focussed on the restoration or enhancement of prioritised landscape types, habitats and built features. It also aims to increase physical access across the Forest, connecting Open Forest to outlying settlements for increased community use.

The programme objectives are to increase biodiversity value and connectivity, improve landscape integrity and increase the resilience of the landscape and its features to withstand future challenges such as climate change and disease whilst also improving community accessibility to the landscape. Projects within this programme focus on those habitats and built features where management and improvement works could make the most impact.

Key projects for this programme are:

### 1a. Working Woodlands

- addressing habitat fragmentation by returning neglected and unmanaged woodlands back into long-term sustainable management whilst supporting and developing a strong woodland culture.

The New Forest contains 20,481 hectares of woodland, of which 40% is privately (including charities and voluntary sector bodies) owned. The private woodlands within the Forest are found in the lands surrounding the Crown Lands and are typically made up of either overstood coppice, ancient woodland with high ecological value or undermanaged mixed woodland planted in the 1950's. The value of these woodland types is rapidly declining due to neglect and a lack of sustained management.

At present 3,556 hectares of privately owned woodland is unmanaged due to the prohibitive cost of management, woodland size, a lack of understanding of what is required by new woodland owners with limited knowledge of woodland management, lack of access and a lack of communication between demand and supply businesses.

A range of activities will encourage woodland owners to put their woodland back into management. A recent woodfuel conference in the New Forest attracted almost 100 delegates and feedback suggested that there is great interest from woodland owners in woodfuel production and that they desire further support and workshops in woodland management and progressing plans for woodfuel production. Building on this enthusiasm, this project will restore the positive management techniques directly to the woodland owners.

This project will deliver advice, support and training to woodland owners as well as conducting site surveys, producing detailed management advice and linking small woodland owners together to make management activities more practical and economically viable. Case studies and best practice examples which can be used as demonstration sites will be developed, along with on-line fact sheets and practical management information. Woodland owners looking to get their woodlands into economic management will be supported through a range of support mechanisms including the connection of woodland owners with the timber supply chain, marketing of local products and the provision of relevant training.

The outcomes for this project will be woodlands that:

- are sustainably managed

- provide a financial return for woodland owners
- have increased biodiversity value and cultural assets
- have a self-sustaining network of woodland owners that work together and support each other
- to revive and celebrate woodland culture and traditional woodland crafts and products.

This will benefit the wide range of species which thrive in well managed woodlands including bluebell, narrow leaved lungwort (in decline in Hampshire), light crimson and dark crimson underwing moths, pearl bordered fritillary (in rapid decline in Hampshire) and woodcock, all of which are on the Hampshire priority species list and many on the UK priority species list.

#### 1b. Better Boundaries

- addressing the fragmentation and deterioration of habitats through the restoration of boundary features and engagement with target audiences.

Traditional field boundaries such as hedges, ditches, streams, banks, copses and buffer strips contribute much to the overall character of the New Forest and are an essential component of the landscape, both in terms of overall visual appearance and as a record of historic use.

These boundaries also have considerable ecological value as habitats for plants and animals and can serve as corridors for movement and dispersal for a wide range of species. The result of the removal and mis-management of these features is a deterioration in the habitats and associated species and a gradual change in the character of the Forest, particularly around the periphery.

Hedgerows are of particular importance for the conservation of farmland and woodland birds, and for mammals. As many as 16 out of the 19 birds included in the Farmland Bird Index, are associated with hedgerows, with 10 using them as their primary habitat. In addition, 10 out of the 18 terrestrial mammals listed as priority species in the UK BAP make significant use of hedgerows, for food or to enable them to move through the landscape. Rare or threatened species closely associated with hedgerows include several European Protected Species, notably dormouse and most species of bat including the greater horseshoe bat. These species require well connected networks of hedgerows, rather than individual hedgerows, emphasising the importance of hedgerows at a landscape-scale for biodiversity.

The scarcity of young hedgerow trees to replace mature ones when they die is a major cause for concern: across Great Britain, the number of isolated hedgerow trees fell by as much as 3.9% just between 1997 and 2007.

In order to address the issue of the loss or under-management of field and property boundaries, and the resulting biodiversity loss and fragmentation, this project will focus on equipping volunteers, community groups, conservation groups, landscape contractors and landowners with a better understanding of the need for these traditional boundaries as well as the traditional skills to be able to create, manage, restore and regenerate these boundary features effectively.

This would be done through a combination of promotion and engagement, training, advice, best practice examples and works on the ground.

Where Highways Authority, county, district, town or parish councils manage the boundaries to roads, for example grass verges, hedgerows and trees, there are also opportunities to work with them and their contractors to negotiate management plans for strategically located sites which could act as the missing links of wildlife corridors. Many verges and hedgerows next to roads are managed at inappropriate times of year or are over managed in a way that does not benefit wildlife and with some basic changes could become much more important for insects such as bees and nesting birds.

A small pilot Better Boundaries project funded by Natural England was progressed during 2012-2013. This project was limited to one small area on a dairy farm but by working closely with the landowner, managed to achieve 4,000 metres of restored or newly created hedgerows, the development of nectar strips on field margins and the transformation of a number of woodland copses. The success of this project has confirmed the need to deliver this on a landscape-scale across the Forest and will be used as a best practice example to encourage other land managers.

The outcome for this project will be the increased connectivity of habitats across the landscape through:

- the regeneration of low value hedgerows through laying, coppicing and gap planting.
- the introduction of ditch and stream management to benefit aquatic wildlife and the restoration of bank-side vegetation and trees
- the introduction of new hedgerows and ditches.
- the improved management of verges for biodiversity
- a better understanding of the need for these features and why they are important in supporting the wider landscape by landowners, communities, and contractors.

This project will directly support species such as Barbastelle and Bechstein's bats which are both on the Hampshire priority species list and the White Letter Hairstreak which is on the UK priority species list.

#### 1c. Conserving the Forest Fringe

- working with communities to address encroachment issues and the removal of priority habitats from property boundaries.

Much of the New Forest landscape is affected by built development but it is the areas where settlements interface with the Open Forest that the intrinsic value and character of the area often deteriorates due to encroachment issues.

It has been consistently found that most of these changes are created through a misunderstanding of the nature of the Forest landscape, and arise from a lack of knowledge and access to consistent and informed advice.

In order to address this, the Forestry Commission has fairly recently allocated resources to support a new post, "Estates Keeper" to manage encroachment issues proactively to ensure a more sustainable outcome with the community. This approach has been trialled with the residents of Burley and is proving so successful and has such strong support from the local community that there is a wish to replicate within the remainder of the Forest Fringe.

As this is a very specialist area of work, it is important that the skills and knowledge of the current Estates Keeper who is close to retirement age, are transferred over time to a replacement. To enable this, a trainee will be recruited who will focus on working closely with communities to raise awareness and understanding and to reinstate non-attributable urbanisation. The project would work closely with Parish Councils, many of whom have expressed their desire to see this work progressed, and who would act as Champions for the project and would create over time a sense of guardianship within local communities.

The outcomes of this project will be:

- improved protection for historic boundaries within settlements on the fringes of the Open Forest, in order to protect the landscape character of the Forest.
- less urbanisation around the periphery of the Open Forest and less removal of property hedgerows and tree belts that are important corridors for wildlife.
- a transfer of skills to a trainee, and a move from reactive work to proactive engagement with communities
- an increase in knowledge and sense of ownership amongst local communities through a greater understanding of the maintenance of historic property boundaries and the traditional landscape character of these settlements.
- Enthusiasm and understanding of how traditional features can add character to the landscape.

#### 1d. New Forest Invasive Non Native Species Project

- addressing the deterioration of Forest habitats caused by the growing problem of Invasive Non Native species.

With the exception of habitat loss, the impact of Invasive Non Native Species has been identified as possibly the greatest threat to biodiversity world-wide. Within the New Forest, a large proportion of the key problems

are associated with either aquatic environment or with the margins of river valleys. Problem species include *Crassula helmsii* (a matt forming species found in ponds), parrots feather, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and American skunk cabbage. The impact of these on the New Forest is particularly acute because of the extremely high wildlife value of the semi-natural habitats.

Invasive species, especially *Crassula helmsii*, are having a detrimental impact on the Mediterranean temporary ponds which are one of the reasons for the New Forest Special Area of Conservation designation.

These ponds hold a range of plant species characteristic of this type of habitat including coral necklace, allseed and pennyroyal. Some of these temporary ponds are also important for fairy shrimp and Triops. *Crassula helmsii* is capable of creating a dense matt of rhizomes which will exclude scarce native marginal plants. The presence of *Crassula* within the New Forest ponds has been identified by NE as a cause of Unfavourable Condition within the New Forest SSSI and Unfavourable Conservation Status in the New Forest Special Area of Conservation.

Although a considerable amount of work has been put into managing these species in recent years, this work needs to be funded in new areas, particularly in the areas of the Beaulieu and Lymington River where water bankside non-natives are a serious and expanding issue.

This project will provide a co-ordinated approach to the removal of the full range of aquatic and riparian non-native plant species within the Scheme area. It will deliver large scale practical on the ground management work, improved data recording and collection and crucially, extensive volunteer and community involvement.

The outcomes for this project will be:

- a reduction in the distribution and abundance of key invasive non native species particularly focussed on the Lymington and Beaulieu rivers and on temporary ponds.
- an improvement in the riparian habitats which support a wide range of priority plant and invertebrate species.
- a record of the distribution of the problem species within the New Forest.
- engagement with volunteers and community groups and increased skills and understanding in identifying and controlling species.
- increased skills for land managers in identifying and controlling the spread of species.

#### 1e. Living Waters

- addressing the deteriorating rivers, streams and ponds outside the Crown lands through a programme of restoration and community engagement projects.

The New Forest is exceptionally important for its freshwater and marine wildlife and significantly for its macroinvertebrate populations and freshwater plants. The Forest water courses have in the whole been much richer in biodiversity than most other areas in lowland England because of its traditionally managed non-intensive landscape which has been largely free from polluting influences such as agricultural fertilisers and urbanisation.

The ponds of the New Forest are as much a part of the landscape as the heathland, woodland and river habitats. They occur in every habitat type and on every type of geology within the Forest and as a result show a huge diversity of pond types which in turn supports an incredibly varied and rich invertebrate community. In spite of their value, ponds are often overlooked in the implementation of legislation designed to protect the freshwater environment (eg. the Water Framework Directive).

Over time, different activities in the Forest have been having an impact on this valued freshwater environment. Forest streams have been subject to extensive modification, often associated with drainage and Forestry Practice, which prevents the rivers from functioning naturally, and damages the quality and diversity of habitats and species which live both in the rivers and adjacent to them.

Increased intensity of land management and changes in land management practice in the enclosed areas of the Forest mean that the naturally high water quality of the Forest streams generally deteriorates as they leave the Open Forest. The existing programme of stream restoration projects within the Forest do little to address this issue and this Scheme provides the opportunity to build on the Open Forest work and to more

effectively address the issue on a landscape-scale.

This project aims to address these issues through a combination of habitat creation and habitat restoration works and by improving their connection with the local and wider community.

Volunteer groups will be set up locally to the water courses who will be champions for that particular water body and will help to monitor the quality of the water environment and will act as the eyes and ears on the ground. Training events, public engagement activities and the development of school education packs which will help to raise awareness and share good practice in how to care for the water environment and will reconnect people with their rivers and streams.

Capital works will include restoring river processes and the natural hydromorphology required to support the niche species, putting in place measures to improve water quality (reed beds, settlement areas), putting in block pollution pathways where land management changes will not address the problem and working with landowners to create new ponds and manage existing ponds more effectively for the niche species that reside there.

The project will also work closely with landowners more generally to find ways to change their land management practices both to support their economic operations and help improve the water environment.

This work has been prioritised by the New Forest Catchment Development Group which works together to address catchment issues on a landscape-scale and includes representatives from Natural England, New Forest National Park Authority, Forestry Commission, Pond Conservation, Environment Agency, Southern Water, New Forest District Council, New Forest Association, National Farmers Union and other local interest groups, all of whom see the Landscape Partnership Scheme as an exciting opportunity to take forward these works more effectively on a landscape-scale.

This project will improve freshwater habitats for a significant number of Hampshire priority species including tadpole shrimp, fairy shrimp, medicinal leech, southern damselfly, Hampshire purslane, Brook lamprey, bullhead, great crested newt (in decline in Hampshire) and the otter.

The outcomes for this project will be:

- Rivers and ponds in better condition and habitats which are more robust and able to support the rare plant and invertebrate species which are specific to the New Forest.
- A wide range of people (local interest and young peoples' groups, local residents, school children and landowners) involved in caring for their local rivers, streams and ponds, are inspired by the biodiversity the water supports and are taking action to help keep these in a good condition for future generations.

#### 1f. Nature's Stepping Stones

- improving the quality of important wildlife stepping stones to create an ecological network of sites surrounding the Open Forest.

The Natural Environment White Paper emphasises the importance of managing the natural environment at a landscape scale and putting in place corridors and "stepping stones" to create an ecological network. The aim is to address habitat fragmentation and the consequent loss of biodiversity. Whilst the core of the Forest is well protected, there are a large number of smaller sites that could make a more effective contribution to the ecological network.

These are being identified and recorded as Sites of Special Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). These sites vary in size and make-up and include ponds, woodlands, grassland, heathland and road verges and streams, all of which help to provide ecological networks and increase resilience of biodiversity to the pressures of land use and climate change. The sites belong to a wide range of owners including parish councils, voluntary sector bodies, local authorities and private owners.

In many cases these sites are either unmanaged or not appropriately managed, thus resulting in a decrease in biodiversity value over time.

This project aims to engage with a range of landowners of SINC sites, providing advice, survey work, the development of management plans and practical on-site management. Volunteers from local conservation groups with the help of specialists where necessary, will be engaged to help with survey work and any practical management works, as well as the long-term management of their local sites.

The project will also include the administration of a small grant scheme for the owner's of SINC sites, in order to encourage them to make environmental improvements such as hedge planting and restoration, eye sore removal, tree planting, seed harvesting, ditching, scrub and invasive plant removal, protection of historic features and the installation of infrastructure to enable grazing on site if this is felt to be beneficial to its future management. Grants are intended to promote investment by the land owner so would only be for part of the total cost of the works. The evaluation of applicants would be on a case by case basis and would use the following criteria; delivery of biodiversity benefits, delivery of landscape benefits, delivery of cultural heritage benefits and the delivery of community benefits.

Priority will be given to those sites that include fragile habitat which is either already degrading or is at risk of degrading without input.

Hampshire priority habitats which will benefit from this project will include lowland dry acid grassland, lowland meadows and lowland heathland. Species which will benefit from improvements to these habitats will include small pearl bordered fritillary (in rapid decline in Hampshire), hornet robberfly, woodlark, nightjar and the smooth snake (in decline in Hampshire), all of which are UK priority species and Hampshire notables.

The outcomes of this project will be:

- A range of locally significant stepping stone habitats restored and enhanced, which combined with the other projects within this programme will provide considerably improved connectivity and linkages between the Open Forest and the outlying fragmented habitats.
- An increased ability for the movement of species across the landscape.
- Land owners with an increased understanding of the importance of their land, the context in which it sits and its required management for biodiversity benefits.
- Engagement with local communities resulting in the involvement of volunteers in surveying, caring for and monitoring local sites.

#### 1g. Rediscovering and conserving our archaeological heritage

- conserving and enhancing the archaeological and historic environment of the National Park by identifying and recording, raising awareness, supporting conservation improvements and encouraging the long-term sensitive and appropriate management of archaeological sites.

Recent archaeological projects have provided an extensive data resource which includes LiDAR, infra-red and aerial photographic coverage for the National Park. However data verification through field survey has specifically concentrated on the coastal margin, the Open Forest and on World War II installations. As a consequence there are large areas of the enclosed landscapes, particularly woodland areas that have not been subject to any kind of ground survey to verify sites noted in the newly acquired data sets and to assess them for their significance and condition.

This project will equip volunteers (building on the success of the large and enthusiastic band of volunteers involved in the New Forest World War II project) with the specialist skills, knowledge and support to enable them to carry out general site and monument identification and the assessment of significance and condition under professional supervision.

This information can then be used to engage and educate land managers about the archaeological sites, monuments and landscape features on the land that they manage, with the aim of aiding their protection and ensuring good management in future.

Sites will also be prioritised for conservation action either through volunteer involvement or by using specialist contractors. These will be identified through the field work, but two specific sites which have already been identified for priority action are Eyeworth Weir and the Beaulieu Ice House.



Eyeworth Weir controls the water flow from Eyeworth Pond and was constructed in the 19th Century to supply the local gunpowder factory. The weir sits within Forestry Commission land and is an area of the landscape that is strong in its industrial history but has little explanation despite being in an area which is popular with visitors and locals alike. Most people are unaware of its significance and the weir itself is now in poor repair with the wooden piles rapidly deteriorating. A scheme of repairs and interpretation will be delivered through this project.

Beaulieu Ice House was built in the early to mid 19th Century and is constructed of the local yellow brick. As its name suggests, it was used by the Beaulieu Estate for the storage of ice and is one of only 3 listed ice houses within the National Park. The entrance brickwork is in need of significant repair and the risk of further deterioration of the structure is high given the nature of the building, hence it is on the listed buildings at risk register. Repairs to the building will be combined with improved public access and interpretation which will engage the many visitors to Beaulieu in its history and an understanding of its use.

In order to enable volunteers to be involved in field surveys and condition assessments, this project will provide specialist archaeological training through Brockenhurst College aimed at giving participants a base of knowledge about archaeological subjects relevant to the New Forest.

The training will include a range of day and evening classes as well as field visits and will be led by experienced specialist staff from the New Forest National Park Authority and other partner organisations. The training will cover subjects such as:

- general archaeological site and monument identification, assessment and management
- the New Forest industrial heritage
- the archaeology and heritage of church yards
- and the extant archaeological remains of planned landscapes.

Previous archaeological projects delivered within the Forest have demonstrated that there are a huge number of residents who would like to be involved in local archaeology projects and would like to learn more about it. The training programme proposed is the result of requests from these existing volunteers and offers them the opportunity to increase their skills and knowledge in specific areas. Further discussions during the development phase will inform the range and scope of the subject areas that are covered within the classes.

The outcomes of this project will be:

- A greater number and much more diverse range of people engaged in local archaeology projects and local archaeology and heritage groups.
- Improved knowledge, skills and confidence for volunteers enabling increased scope for involvement in identification and long-term monitoring of archaeological sites.
- the identification of sites using existing LiDAR data.
- the assessment of significance and the condition assessment of sites by groups of trained volunteers.
- the conservation and restoration of prioritised sites.
- Engagement and an increase in understanding and advice for land owners and managers.
- At least one site removed from the At Risk Register.
- Restoration of Eyeworth Weir, Beaulieu Ice House and a range of other priority sites identified through the field surveys.
- A greater understanding of the local archaeological and historic landscape features.

#### 1h. Historic Routes and Green Corridors

- the restoration of historic bridleways and byways to increase accessibility for all users, encourage more regular use and promote understanding of their heritage

Historically bridleways and byways were the main transport routes for everyday life – they were used for everything from visiting neighbours to postal deliveries to military movements to moving livestock.

Within the New Forest enclosed landscape, bridleways and byways figure as linear features, often bounded by hedgerows and sometimes appearing as sunken lanes. They are an integral part of the green infrastructure network which provide links from the Open Forest areas to the surrounding villages and can be

important green corridors for wildlife.

Over the last century many of these historic byways and green corridors have lost their splendour and for a period of 30-40 years in the middle of the last century, very little work was carried out to keep these ways open. Their main usage at that time was by people on foot, consequently many bridleways and byways gradually became encroached by vegetation, with just a narrow passage being kept open. The effect of the overgrowth was not only to close off the side of the ways, it also led to a build up of detritus which has formed layers of soil which in many areas has become deep mud. Wayside ditches, when no longer cleared by the traditional parish lengthsman, have filled up and no longer function to take water away from the routes.

This project aims to survey and prioritise the historic byways that when restored to their original, historic condition would provide the most benefit. Benefits would be assessed in terms of the potential for use by the local community and by people on longer-distance travels, the reinstatement of historic landscape features and associated benefits to wildlife.

The byways will be restored through a combination of vegetation clearance by local volunteers and drainage and surface improvements by contractors. The restored bridleways will be easy to use by all user groups alike whether it be walkers, cyclists or horse-riders. People with pushchairs, buggies and restricted mobility will have the reassurance that the ways will be entirely free from stiles, kissing gates and steps.

Innovative interpretation will compare past and present use and will inspire people to visit different areas of the New Forest.

The outcomes of this project will be:

- An increase in the accessible routes available for use by pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders
- Promotion of the restored routes resulting in an increase in people using these routes, taking pressure off the more fragile areas of the Open Forest.
- Restoration of the historic routes to their past splendour.
- Local community members engaged in improving, interpreting and promoting their local historic routes.

## PROGRAMME 2: DEVELOPING FOREST SKILLS

This programme aims to turn around the continuing decrease of traditional skills in the Forest by providing a range of projects designed to equip a wide range of audiences with the specific skills and training needed to care for and maintain this unique heritage landscape.

Key projects for this programme are:

### 2a. New Forest - Above and Beyond

- sustainable land management training and skills development programme for a wide range of audiences

The New Forest Land Advice Service provide detailed one to one advice to a range of land owners (including commoners, farmers, parish and town councils and equine owners, amongst others) in the New Forest about how to best manage their land for environmental gain and to prevent further loss of biodiversity.

Whilst this is very successful, this one to one advice and the development of bespoke management plans in conjunction with the landowner is time consuming and thus is able to reach only a small proportion of the land owners and managers within the New Forest.

In order to reach a wider audience and to have an increased impact, this Scheme would allow the Land Advice Service to develop and deliver a programme of training and skills development courses which will focus on giving the next generation of landowners the skills to keep the traditional systems going (coppicing, hedge-laying) and older generations the new skills required for today's modern-day agricultural requirements.

The training programme will also focus on encouraging the best practice management of land, integrating economic needs with management for wildlife habitats. This will cover subject areas such as pasture and soil

management.

The outcomes for this programme will be:

- Land that is better managed and in better condition
- A legacy of sustainable land management by a new generation of skilled land managers.
- Commoners and farmers who are better equipped to deal with today's modern requirements but still retain and pass on the traditional skills used to managed the land.
- Landowners with an increased knowledge of the fragility and unique nature of the New Forest landscape.

## 2b. New Forest Apprentice Ranger Scheme

- opportunities for young people to gain an environmental conservation qualification and a range of work experience that will allow future employment in the environmental sector.

Young people today are the most disadvantaged group looking for employment because they lack the experience of the workplace and the job specific skills that employers require at a time when the job market is at its most competitive.

Many employers of rangers now ask for graduates or HND equivalents which puts those interested in a career in environmental conservation at an entry level or with little or no qualifications and limited experience at a disadvantage. The aim of this new apprenticeship ranger scheme is to provide better access routes for young people into environmental conservation and to better equip them in moving on to a further career in this area.

As organisations move forward and find ways to increase savings, ranger teams have found that seasonal ranger positions are one of the first to be reduced. In an industry where the vicious cycle of needing experience to gain a job but no job to gain experience is felt by many, more entry level opportunities need to be made available for those wishing to make environmental conservation a career.

Critically, whilst younger workers may not have all the experience employers think necessary, they are going to be the workforce of tomorrow.

The New Forest apprentice ranger scheme will be a partnership between the Ranger services within the New Forest National Park Authority, the Forestry Commission, National Trust, Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and will be supported by Sparsholt College.

Two apprenticeships per year will be available for the 4 year period and it is hoped that it would be continued beyond this once the partners have seen the success of the scheme and it has become embedded into their organisations.

Each apprenticeship will be employed by the National Park Authority but will gain practical experience in all aspects of environmental conservation by working with a range of partner ranger teams. Apprentice rangers will develop a professional working style, safe working practices, gain awareness of the work environment and learn ways of communicating effectively with colleagues and members of the public.

Experience provided by each of the partner organisations can be generalised as:

- New Forest National Park Authority - Working with communities, increasing understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by visitors and residents.
- Forestry Commission - Recreation management across the New Forest Crown Lands including byelaw enforcement. Practical land management skills including heathland burning and forestry.
- National Trust - Conservation work through practical habitat management and site maintenance on the New Forest's Northern Commons
- Hampshire County Council – Site management and people engagement across a number of sites.
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust - Site management and people engagement across a number of nature reserves.

Apprentices will complete a Level 2 Diploma in work based Environmental Conservation at Sparsholt College.

The outcomes of this project will be:

- an increased number of young people with the skills and qualifications required for employment in the environmental sector.
- strong partnerships developed which will have a long-term commitment to supporting young people into work in the environmental sector.

## 2c. Building Skills Circle

- a programme of public engagement and training opportunities for a wide range of audiences to develop the understanding and traditional skills required to look after the Forest's unique heritage properties and structures.

The historic buildings within the National Park vary widely from large estate houses down to small-scale residential dwellings made from cheap locally available materials. This reflects the general poverty at the time with a dispersed population gaining a living from subsistence small-holdings. The oldest surviving cottages date from the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries and are timber framed with thatched roofs, whilst cob still survives from the 18th century. The later Victorian cottages, found in many of the villages, are typically simple red brick buildings with slate roofs. Agricultural buildings were occasionally built of cob but were more often timber-framed and timber clad, often with cladding to be replaced later with corrugated iron.

All of the historic buildings constructed from vernacular materials such as local brick, tile, cob, thatch, timber frame, and corrugated iron, are intrinsic to the Forest's special character and require specialist skills, methods and materials in order to maintain and alter them for use for future generations. Most of these buildings are not listed buildings and therefore do not have any statutory protection.

In the conservation areas, 1787 buildings have been identified as buildings of local interest with character and original features surviving intact. There are many more across the rest of the National Park.

Over time the special character of the historic buildings within the New Forest is being irretrievably lost by the use of inappropriate materials and the methods of repair. These buildings form the core of virtually every settlement within the New Forest.

This project aims to conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlements within the New Forest, raising awareness and encouraging the sensitive management of features.

The project will train and increase the knowledge of volunteers to identify and record the survival of buildings constructed from vernacular materials. This will be followed by a programme of events in order to engage a wider audience in discussions about vernacular materials and the skills needed for maintenance and repairs and will result in owners and others having improved knowledge in how to look after their historic buildings.

The project will also deliver a programme of bespoke training events aimed at local building companies, architects, agents and surveyors. These will increase their knowledge of traditional building skills and will equip them with skills in specialist repair techniques through both practical and technical training events.

The project will also seek to provide subsidised training through some established specialist training providers such as the Lime Centre, the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum and West Dean College. This approach has been successfully tested on a small-scale through a LEADER funded pilot project which resulted in 56 training events being attended.

Lastly this project will ensure that people have direct and easy access to specialists operating locally from specialist contractors to consultants. This will be achieved through a range of means including an annual building skills fair, the development of a building skills directory and web based information.

The outcomes of this project will be:

- A comprehensive record of buildings constructed from vernacular materials
- An increased understanding and enthusiasm by professionals, owners, community members and volunteers about what makes these buildings important, their characteristics and the specialist skills needed to work on

them.

- Local craftsmen who are better equipped to restore and conserve historic buildings for future generations.
- The availability of information about the skills required and how you can access businesses, trainers and consultants with these skills.

## 2d. Encouraging New and Young Commoners

- a programme of training and support delivered by experienced commoners aimed at new and young commoners, to build their skills and confidence in continuing the commoning way of life.

The historic commoning system is essential to maintaining the New Forest landscape and has been a major part of the area's cultural heritage and economy for more than a thousand years.

The grazing of ponies and cattle has always been central to the pastoral economy of the New Forest, the animals roaming freely over the Open Forest, across the unfenced roads and along the many verges within the Perambulation. They are one of the most obvious and distinctive features of the national park and for many visitors, particularly the younger visitors, they are undoubtedly the most important element of their experience of the New Forest.

Today commoning in the New Forest is of significant importance as a cultural survival of a medieval socio-economic pastoral system once extensive in England and on the Continent. However present day commoners have a wide range of modern-day issues to deal with including increased regulations, increased traffic, increased visitor pressure, high land and property prices, increased agricultural commodity prices and last but by no means least, very low sale prices for their stock, particularly ponies. The economic climate of the last few years has had an acute effect on commoning which is only barely economically viable at the best of times.

All of this provides good reasons to cast doubt over whether to take up commoning and whilst it is impossible to deal with some of these issues, it is possible to support potential and learning commoners through a programme of skills development, training and mentoring. The Commoners Defence Association will lead on delivering a programme of works which will provide them with an understanding of livestock regulations, how commoning works in the Forest, how to manage and breed livestock and will give them the basic health and safety training and necessary certified qualifications to allow them to practice commoning safely.

This programme will also give commoners the skills to be able to common cattle as well as ponies. Numbers of cattle in the Forest are lower than required in order to maintain the Forest habitats in the most favourable conditions, but new and young commoners lack the confidence to start a small herd due to the plethora of regulations involved, the additional skills needed to manage cattle and the lack of knowledge about which breed is most appropriate for them and how to source and breed from them in future. Despite all of these issues, cattle are not only required to manage the Forest landscape but also offer a more viable economic option to new commoners as New Forest bred cattle can fetch a premium, particularly if the resulting meat is recognised within the New Forest Marque quality assurance scheme.

The outcomes for this programme will be:

- new entrants into commoning with the increased skills, knowledge and confidence to be able to common a range of livestock sustainably
- a continuation in the practice of commoning with new and younger commoners to take over as the older commoning families reduce, and a passing down of knowledge and skills from one generation to the next
- an increase in the cattle on the Forest which will improve the quality of the habitats and the long-term sustainability for the commoners

## PROGRAMME 3: DISCOVERING FOREST HERITAGE AND INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION

This programme aims to increase discovery of the New Forest landscape and an understanding of its unique heritage in residents, communities and visitors. We aim ultimately to inspire a wide range of existing and new audiences, capture their enthusiasm and passion in helping to care for the Forest and thus ensure that it is intact for future generations to enjoy. The programme will establish links with the surrounding communities

who have become disconnected from the Forest and can play an essential role in improving their local habitats.

Key projects for this programme are:

### 3a. E-cademy

- sharing knowledge, data and information about the New Forest, making it fully accessible on-line to all users and promoting it to a wide range of audiences.

Due to the unique nature of the New Forest, every year specialist interest groups, statutory bodies, students, researchers, consultants, and members of the local community collect data and research information about the New Forest which could expand knowledge of the geography, wildlife, archaeology, economy, sociology and culture of the New Forest. The information they record is often only disseminated within their own group or organisation. There is no method for gaining access to this wealth of knowledge and no forum or mechanism for bringing these communities and organisations together. This allows groups to either unknowingly duplicate work or more importantly to miss out on the increased understanding that this wealth of information could have provided.

The museum and Christopher Tower Library at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst offer a unique service which is dedicated to the natural history and human history of the New Forest. The information is contained in conserved artefacts, paintings, prints, photographs, manuscripts, reports, books and maps. At present, access to these resources requires a visit to the Library and physical retrieval of all of the materials required.

The aim of this project is to provide an on-line gateway to both the materials held in the Centre's Museum and Library and to the wealth of resources about the New Forest held by other libraries, record offices, universities, statutory bodies, community organisations, specialist groups and individuals. The increased access to data will result in more informed decision-making and an increased understanding and appreciation of the Forest's heritage.

The project will engage volunteers in auditing the existing sources of information, seeking new sources and promoting the availability of the gateway.

The gateway will be available on-line and provide easy access for all interested in New Forest data but specifically organisations performing research, local specialist groups, schools, colleges and members of the New Forest community. Partners in the scheme will include not only the organisations that will use the data but those such as Southampton and Bournemouth University who create a lot of research data about the Forest.

The gateway will also include on-line publications which will bring together source material relating to specific areas of interest in the Forest, providing transcripts of documentary material. These will expand the knowledge of important aspects and periods of the Forest's history which have received little or no detailed work to date.

Crucially, the E-cademy project will also prioritise those records in the Forest that are only available in hard copy and will begin a process of digitising these to preserve them accessibly for future generations.

The outcomes for this project will be:

- More comprehensive knowledge and a better understanding of this unique heritage landscape.
- Improved conservation and management of the New Forest due to increased knowledge and shared information.
- An on-line hub which will allow existing and new information and data to be recorded in an accessible form and made available for all interested users.
- The creation of a new culture of sharing information and working together by the creation of an informal network and on-line forum to foster information exchange and collaboration.
- A legacy of continued support from the partners towards maintaining and developing the E-cademy beyond the period of this scheme.

### 3b. Heritage on Your Doorstep

- involving communities in finding out about the heritage of their local area and engaging the wider public in events, activities and interpretation which will spread the enthusiasm and knowledge of that local heritage.

The cultural heritage of the New Forest has been formed through the richness, complexity and peculiarities of its natural and social history. Its development can be seen in archaeological sites, the domestic and agricultural buildings, historic houses and designed landscapes, settlement patterns and the character of the Forest landscape itself scattered with ancient trees, droves and hedgerows. Less tangible are dialect, artistic and literary achievements and the people and events which are remembered in fact and legend.

Building on the high levels of enthusiasm in the Forest for learning about local heritage, this project will work with local communities to map their local heritage, developing a toolkit for researching specific themes (eg.churches), with members of the community leading on field work and archival research about areas of interest in their own community. Areas of interest might include surviving historic features such as sign posts and post boxes, ancient trees, buildings of local significance, archaeological features, people's memories, histories of people, places and events, place-names, church yards or historic houses and gardens. The project will include activities aimed at involving all members of the community, varying in age from school children to grandparents.

The information gained through the community projects will feed into a web based portal which will allow members of the community to feed in information on the heritage in their own area as and when they discover it.

Community led events and schemes to celebrate their own community's heritage will be developed and could include ideas such as Open Churches, Buildings or Gardens, heritage trails, on site interpretation, web-based interpretation or plaques to highlight local features. The communities will be encouraged to come up with additional ideas that are specific to their local area.

The outcomes for this project will be:

- Communities with an enthusiasm and pride for their local heritage resulting in better cared for buildings and landscapes.
- A wider and more diverse range of people involved in and passionate about their local heritage.
- Better local interpretation and on-line information about heritage focussing on telling local stories and bringing the local heritage alive.

### 3c. A Common Cause

- This will be delivered in conjunction with the training programme for new and young commoners and will restore and record the heritage of commoning in the New Forest and passing on an understanding of commoning practice to a wide range of audiences.

Commoning has been a major part of the New Forest's cultural heritage and economy for hundreds of years and is essential to maintaining the New Forest's heritage landscape. However the practice of commoning today is often at odds with the present way of life and the large number of people in the Forest, both residents and visitors can have a large impact on the commoning community and the effective management of their stock.

The commoners' livestock are probably the most characteristic feature of the New Forest to both residents and visitors alike so it is therefore surprising that there are still so many of both that don't know about the ancient system of commoning or even realise that the livestock belong to individual commoners.

This project therefore aims to deliver a range of activities which will bring to life the story of commoning in the New Forest, engage the commoners in recording and conserving commoning heritage, making it accessible on-line and will engage with the wider public in understanding about the heritage of commoning and today's commoning practices.

Central to this programme will be the restoration of the Grade II\* listed Verderers' Hall- the 1904 forest courtroom located adjacent to the Queen's House in Lyndhurst. The Hall is where the Verderers public meetings are held and where commoners make presentments for the consideration of the Court on matters related to commoning in the New Forest. Restoration of the Hall will include restoration to the quarry tiles, timber features and paintwork, as well as improvements to access and security to allow increased future access to the visiting public. Enhancements to the Hall will also include the provision of updated and improved interpretation.

Other improved interpretation will also be provided at key sites such as the Beaulieu Road Sales Yard which is central to the commoning way of life and whose pony sales are visited by hundreds of people each year.

The outcomes for this project will be:

- A better understanding from members of the public about the history of commoning, actions required for the management of stock and the actions individual's can take to support commoning and help to look after the stock. This would result in a greater harmony between the public and the commoning community.
- The preservation of the Verderers Court – a building central to the commoning community.
- Records, photographs, maps and documents relating to commoning made accessible for future generations.
- Commoners taking a more central and lead role in progressing educational campaigns and interpretation about commoning and establishing which methods of communication are most effective.

### 3d. Foxbury - Gateway to the New Forest

- development of a flagship Gateway site to the Forest, which offers tremendous opportunities for habitat restoration, people engagement (particularly young people) and increasing understanding about the New Forest.

Foxbury is a 150 hectare site located close to some of the larger settlements in the north of the Forest. The site, which was bought in 2005 by the National Trust using grant aid, has been a commercial conifer plantation for many years, but is now being slowly restored to its 19th century heathland and mixed deciduous woodland habitat, both of which are Hampshire priority habitats.

This is an exciting project which will have an enormous impact on the landscape by restoring priority habitats for the Forest, increasing recreational opportunities on a well managed site which will benefit the more fragile habitats of the nearby Commons which are under increasing pressure.

The first stage of the Foxbury project has seen the removal of vast swathes of the commercial plantation including the dense rhododendron understorey and invasive birch. Also the removal of banks of trees on the boundary with Foxbury and Bramshaw Commons which has opened up some remarkable views and means that Foxbury now sits as part of the landscape of the historic Bramshaw Commons as it once did.

There are already signs of recovery and heather growth on some of the areas cleared first of all. However this work is just the first phase in a 10 year plan to restore the site and to provide an infrastructure which will support the many recreational uses required and activities which will engage local communities and visitors. Further funding is now required to support the delivery of the remaining phases of development, which will launch the site as a flagship, and which will be used as an example of best practice by other land owners to encourage the development of similar sites.

The site is already being used for some school visits, activities and for practical work by the Princes' Trust but there is scope to use it for so much more and the National Trust and the other Scheme partners are committed to supporting a wide range of future activities on the site.

Delivering the remaining phases in the plan for Foxbury is a priority for the Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme and includes progressing the following elements:

- the planting of 22,000 deciduous tree to form the woodland areas amongst the heathland
- the provision of boardwalks through boggy areas of woodland and around the pond
- the provision of gates, culverts and fencing to manage water courses and public access
- the provision of new car parking facilities



- the provision of a composting toilet on site
- the provision of a small education centre for use by school groups, ranger activities, volunteer base.
- the provision of onsite, web based and digital interpretation explaining the history of Foxbury, its changes over the centuries and its future
- the delivery of a regular programme of events and activities

Community involvement and local volunteers will be key to the successful development of the Foxbury site and it is therefore important that basic infrastructure such as a composting toilet, small car park and small education centre are provided early on to provide those involved with the facilities required to enable their involvement. The ethos at Foxbury is very much about embracing and encouraging the simple pleasures of the outdoors, enhancing peoples' relationships with the landscape.

The outcomes for this project will be:

- the restoration of lowland heath and creation of new deciduous woodland, leading to increased biodiversity, improved connectivity and integrity with the surrounding commons
- improved recreational provision, resulting in reduced pressure and damage on the fragile surrounding commons and Open Forest
- community engagement, broadening and deepening relationships with volunteers, visitors and local communities
- the fostering of longterm advocates for the National Trust and the New Forest through volunteer and partner engagement
- increased educational opportunities and engagement with young people resulting in young people who have an increased connection with the natural environment and grow up to love and care for their local heritage

### 3e. New Forest Connects

- a comprehensive programmes of events, engagement, educational activities and interpretation (in all of its guises) aimed at inspiring a wide range of audiences (new and existing) about the heritage of the New Forest

One of the larger projects within the Scheme, New Forest Connects will deliver a suite of targeted interpretation which builds on the successful partnerships and techniques developed in the New Forest to reach new audiences and to increase both understanding and action to help our landscape at risk.

This work is an important "shop window" to some of the major themes in the Partnership Scheme and is intended to provide an introduction to heritage to a wide range of people.

It will do this by being accessible (inexpensive, easy to reach, attend, find and use), innovative (using new media and the latest interpretation and design techniques), targeted (the development phase will research and define the new and existing audiences we want to reach and how best to reach them) and evaluated throughout (using industry approved methods of visitor and interpretation evaluation).

The project directly links to the scheme's aim of addressing the loss of connection and engagement with the landscape and the loss of understanding associated with this.

The partnership is committed to identifying new partners and organisations to work with to enable us to reach new audiences. The partnership is particularly keen to try and engage the "silent majority" - all of those people who live in and around the National Park, but do not engage or get actively involved in New Forest life or caring for the Forest.

The development phase for the Scheme will include agreeing an interpretation framework which will ensure that interpretation across the Scheme is complementary is carefully thought out, themed and evaluated.

Sub-projects within New Forest Connects include:

#### a) National Park at your Fingertips

The use of new media to make interpretation available to all at the touch of a finger. 100 heritage features across the National Park which include the "top ten" of the following: wildlife sites, archaeology sites, buildings, churches, views, ancient trees, historical industrial remains, local food producers etc. For each top

ten there will be an introductory film, more detailed information and interactive pages on partners' websites.

b) New Forest Connects: exhibitions

Exhibitions each year on a heritage topic at a number of locations within the New Forest. Each will focus on a different topic – historic buildings, wildlife, commoning etc and use a variety of ways to engage and inform the public.

c) Events, Activities and Education

The development of a series of hands-on activities and events that will be used at fairs, visitor locations, existing events and with existing groups, schools and colleges that will engage a wide range of audiences (new and existing) and inspire and enthuse them to learn more about the Forest and to become more involved in Forest life.

in addition a range of exciting and thought provoking materials will be developed to engage people in learning more about the New Forest and to raise awareness of key educational messages aimed at influencing behaviour which can be damaging to wildlife and the Forest livestock.

d) Wild New Forest Zone

A new permanent wildlife discovery zone at the New Forest Centre, replacing the now aging and somewhat traditional display. Woven into the interpretation will be key messages for example to ensure the newly enthused visitors are aware of the needs of the fragile resident or wintering birds. This exhibit will specifically target those unfamiliar with wildlife and the New Forest and will pilot techniques to engage and signpost people onto other experiences in the Forest and at home to increase their knowledge and enjoyment of the Forest's natural heritage.

e) Heritage Explorer

This mobile unit will be staffed by rangers and volunteers and will enable people to connect to the New Forest story while out and about in the Forest, whether at busy visitor sites, remote areas, attractions or events. Face to face interpretation is known to be the most effective in terms of conveying interpretative themes and objectives.

f) Senses of Place – Onsite interpretation

On-site interpretation aimed at improving people's understanding and enjoyment at a number of key visitor sites across the New Forest. With a common heritage theme uniting the sites, heritage messages will support each site's management plan, as well as the larger interpretation framework for the bid. The interpretation will be based around the senses and will be designed so that all audiences will be able to enjoy and experience the sites more interactively.

The outcomes for this project will be:

- An increased membership of Forest organisations, involvement in Forest projects and volunteering
- New audiences and hard to reach groups inspired to enjoy and learn about the National Park and get more involved in Forest life
- A shared engagement and ownership of the Forest heritage.
- An increased engagement with the "Love the Forest" visitor gift scheme which would result in a sustainable funding stream to support conservation and educational projects within the New Forest.
- An increase in "forest friendly" visits and behaviour eg. driving carefully, not disturbing nesting birds, taking litter home etc
- A better understanding by the partners in how to best engage and inspire people

3f. Wildplay

- the development of wildplay sites for and involving young people to encourage greater engagement with the natural environment of the New Forest.

Despite living in or close to a national park, many young people nowadays feel disconnected from the natural environment, partially due to the changes in ways of living, an increased focus on technology and also increased safety concerns for younger children. Unfortunately this has resulted in many young people growing up without feeling the excitement of building dens and tree houses, playing in natural streams or ponds, or

even just climbing trees or clambering over dead tree trunks. This can have a detrimental effect on health (both physical and mental) and results in a growing number of people who grow up with no connection to the natural environment around them. Evidence demonstrates that repeat engagement with nature is one of the most important elements in inspiring and sustaining a lifelong connection and there is increasing evidence to show that informal play-led learning is a more effective way of engaging with some groups than a more formal activity led approach.

This project aims to address this by developing three wildplay sites towards the periphery of the national park and close to the larger areas of population. These wildplay sites will be areas that are specifically identified, managed and have low key infrastructure (for example, natural logs, rope swings, den building materials, tree houses) to allow young people to enjoy the natural environment and the outside in an environment which has the perception of being safer than the Open Forest but is not a risk-free environment. The sites will be developed with involvement from local young people thus building up a sense of ownership over each of the three sites and a closer connection with the local communities.

This project supports the principles for wildplay outlined in the recently published Natural Childhood Report produced by Stephen Moss. The Partnership agrees with the report that "the time to act is now, whilst we still have a generation of parents and grandparents who grew up outdoors and can pass on their experience". Statistics within the report support the need to implement projects such as this with some urgency. For instance:

- Fewer than 10% of kids play in wild places, down from 50% a generation ago
- The roaming radius for young people has declined by 90% in one generation
- A 2008 study showed that half of all kids had been stopped from climbing trees

The Partnership support the National Trust's principle that every child under the age of 12 should visit a national park and with the National Park's location, within 90 minutes of a quarter of the UK population, it is in the ideal position to contribute to this aim.

Key outcomes for this project will be:

- young people who have increased engagement with the natural environment and are inspired to work with or enjoy their natural surroundings throughout their lifetime.
- young people who have a sense of ownership and care thus reducing anti-social behaviour and the resulting negative impacts such as fires and vandalism.
- local communities which provide opportunities for young people - consultation with young people in the New Forest show that many think that there is "nothing to do" there.

#### PROGRAMME 4 - MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This programme focuses on the monitoring and evaluation of the overall Scheme - what have we achieved, what lessons have been learnt, what difference have we made to biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage, how have we affected the way people think and act. This will be crucial in informing future management and in focussing budgets - what are the best methods for communicating with people, engaging them and affecting behavioural change, which projects can have the most positive benefit on biodiversity and specific species, what effect has the project had on the condition of historic buildings. This is particularly important at a time when budgets and staff resources are so stretched and it is critical that resources are directed to the areas of work that can make the most impact. Plans for monitoring will be developed during the Development Phase but specific ideas for monitoring at this stage include:

##### 4a. Biodiversity Monitoring

The biodiversity monitoring will be coordinated by the Wildlife Trust and will be carried out by both professionals and trained volunteers. The Trust will work with partners to identify a range of sites which will be restored, enhanced or better managed during the delivery of the Scheme. These will have baseline surveys carried out before any works are carried out and further surveys carried out during and after the Scheme so that changes in species numbers can be monitored over time. Species for monitoring will be chosen depending on the habitat type but will focus particularly on those which are on the Hampshire priority species list, so for instance, monitoring of the Better Boundaries sites might include surveys of species such as Barbastelle and Bechstein's bats, Linnet and White Letter Hairstreak. Similarly, surveys within the woodlands

which have been brought back into management could include the monitoring of species such as Bluebell, Narrow Leaved Lungwort, Pearl Bordererd Fritillary Butterfly, Stag Beetle, Light Crimson and Dark Crimson Underwing Moths and Woodcock.

#### 4b. Improving Understanding and Behavioural Change

This Landscape Partnership Scheme focuses strongly on engaging with different audiences with the intention of increasing levels of understanding about the Forest, increasing the rural skills required to care for the Forest and changing behaviour. This is wide ranging and includes, amongst many others, changing the land management practices of land and property owners through educational workshops, campaigns, training opportunities and one on one engagement, increasing the understanding of the Forest, its wildlife and the traditional commoning system here with visitors and local residents, engaging young people to have increased engagement and enthusiasm for the Forest, and increasing enthusiasm amongst local communities for involvement in caring for their local heritage.

The wide range of activities proposed collectively through the Landscape Partnership Scheme provides a unique opportunity to monitor the success of the different activities and ways of engaging people to identify which are most effective and which ultimately have the biggest impact. This area of work will be led by Southampton University on behalf of the Partnership as they have specific expertise in this area of work and will design a PhD which will focus solely on this. The results of this work will be able to inform not only future work in the New Forest but also future Landscape Partnerships, as the results are likely to be transferable to other protected landscapes and rural areas.

#### **3b Explain what need and opportunity your project will address**

Our Landscape Partnership area covers the whole of the New Forest National Park whilst focussing primarily on the lands surrounding the Open Forest which are more critically at risk from the gradual chipping away of their landscape character and have had little investment to date.

The New Forest National Park is one of the last remaining extensive areas of relatively unspoilt countryside and semi-natural habitat in lowland Europe. The commoning system has preserved a pattern of land management going back thousands of years and this is apparent in the richness of the archaeological sites and features within the National Park.

However, this unique landscape is subject to a number of risks which threaten the future of its natural, built and cultural heritage. Three workshops with involvement from a wide range of stakeholders identified the priority actions required to address these risks and threats as well as the opportunities to engage and harness the enthusiasm of local communities.

#### Key Risks for our Heritage

##### 1) Natural Heritage

Over 40% of priority habitats and 30% of priority species are declining in most recent UK analysis.

The UK Government's recent Biodiversity 2020 strategy signs up 'to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'.

The HLF project in the New Forest aims to contribute to this objective through all four programmes by delivering the following outcomes highlighted as mechanisms in Biodiversity 2020 strategy:

- a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation
- putting people at the heart of biodiversity by involving and engaging local communities in volunteer projects and offering training opportunities
- reducing environmental pressures through working with landowners and other land managers to improve their management of habitats,

-improving our knowledge through survey and monitoring

The State of Hampshire's Biodiversity report, written in 2006, states that freshwater and wetland habitats are in poor condition and that grassland areas and many woodlands are not managed to conserve their biodiversity. In addition it highlights that diffuse pollution via run-off poses serious challenges and that alien plant and animal species are well established in all of Hampshire's terrestrial habitats and some species are highly damaging to native species and communities.

The report states that the main problems affecting various species in Hampshire are habitat fragmentation, habitat loss through development, poor water quality and diffuse pollution, intensive land use in farming and forestry and inappropriate land management.

Again the programmes within this Scheme are all designed to make positive strides towards turning around many of these issues in the New Forest.

Specifically this will be delivered by tackling habitat fragmentation and intensive land use through creating and enhancing boundary features as habitat networks via Better Boundaries, working with landowners and managers on best practice in order to tackle inappropriate land management through Above and Beyond, Working Woodlands and Nature's Stepping Stones, tackling issues around poor water quality and diffuse pollution through projects like Living Waters and eradicating invasive alien plants through the Non-native Plants Project.

Woodland and trees in the Forest fringe support a rich fauna of birds, bats – including the rare Barbastelle and Bechstein bats – and invertebrates including the pearl bordered fritillary butterfly.

Ponds in the enclosed lands of the Forest are more nutrient rich than the acidic ponds of the Open Forest, and support amphibians such as the nationally protected great crested newt, and dragonfly and other invertebrate species not found within the open forest ponds.

Many rivers cross the forest fringe, draining the open forest. They support populations of several European protected species, including otter, bullhead, lamprey and migrant sea trout. Floodplains are narrow, but support an important assemblage of wet meadow, reedbeds and reed-lined ditches, and provide habitat for bats, invertebrates and birds including water rail, grey wagtail and kingfisher.

Survey work in the New Forest on the loss of these habitats and the effect on individual species has been minimal to date but it is estimated that in 2011 only 48% of the 375 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation within the NFNP were being managed in a way that will retain or improve their nature conservation interest. The condition of the remaining SINCs within the New Forest is either 'unfavourable' or unknown (HBIC).

A workshop focussed on biodiversity in the Forest which was held in 2011 and was attended by over 40 individuals representing over 25 organisations resulted in a "Growing the Forest" partnership developing. The concerns raised within the workshop are central to the natural environment focussed work within this bid and three quotes from the workshop sum up the main thoughts of the environmental bodies within the Forest:

- " A robust ecosystem is the best defence against both population pressure and climate change."
- "Grass roots support is essential for sustainable conservation especially on a landscape scale."
- "The landscape needs to be productive as well as supporting wildlife eg. biofuels, sustainable products, public access and tourism."

## 2) Built Heritage

The Landscape Partnership area contains 10 listed buildings on the at risk register and 2 further listed buildings which are being watched and are both considered to be medium risk. Of these 12 buildings, none have management plans in place as yet, and only one is in development.

There is significant concern about unlisted buildings of local interest within conservation areas, as recent surveys (2007 and 2010) have identified changes to historic buildings which affect their special interest. For example, in the Western Escarpment Conservation Area, there were 282 domestic buildings of Local, Vernacular and Cultural Interest initially identified in the 2007 survey, which significantly enhanced the character of the conservation area. However, in a survey only three years later, it was considered that 27 of

these buildings had been altered in such a way that they no longer had this level of interest or value – a 10% loss in three years. These were alterations which fall within permitted development rights so could not have been managed through the planning process, but could possibly have been prevented through an increased understanding by the property owners.

### 3) Cultural Heritage

When asked about Cultural Heritage in the New Forest, many people think first of commoning, yet despite its significance in the Forest it is still continually under threat due to poor economic viability, high commodity prices, stock deaths on Forest roads, a receding pool of affordable back-up grazing land, high house prices and an increase in regulatory requirements.

Commoners, despite their significant role in maintaining the landscape, find it increasingly hard to continue in the face of these threats, combined with all of the practical management issues which arise due to the significant number of visitors to the Forest and the recreational pressure on many sites.

The 2007 Commoning Review listed public understanding as one of the key issues for commoners. There is a general lack of understanding about commoning and the livestock which can lead to behavioural issues. There is also a lack of awareness from some residents regarding Forest law and customs which can cause danger to the Commoner's stock; most notably the need to fence against the Forest, the placing of rubbish on the Forest for bin collection which results in access by Livestock, and encroachments beyond a property's boundary which reduces the grazing land available.

### 4) Resources

Resources within all of the partnership organisations are stretched to the maximum at the present time, with no sign that this will improve in the foreseeable future. Decreasing public sector budgets and an increase in competition for other funds mean that staffing resources and funds to deliver capital works are minimal thus making it almost impossible to deliver the step change to enable integrated, landscape-scale improvements. Instead, organisations are focussing on small-scale one-off projects as and when the funding is available, which although successful individually, don't have the impact of an integrated, co-ordinated programme of delivery.

The lack of staff resources in particular is having a detrimental impact on the engagement with communities and other organisations as these more time-heavy areas of work are often those which are decreased when staff resources are stretched. Conversely, the lack of resources does provide an opportunity for organisations to reflect on their ways of working and look at improving integrated partnership working where the collective impacts will produce results which are greater than the sum of their parts.

### 5) Knowledge

The stakeholder workshops held to inform this bid, clearly indicated that although there is a lot of existing information about the Forest, much of this is not easily available (hidden away in universities, libraries or only available in an inaccessible hard copy) and a big proportion is only known about by the organisation, business or individual that produced it. This effectively means that Forest organisations and land managers are not getting access to all of the appropriate information which could be available to support integrated working and land management decisions. There is a clear need to make this information easily and accessible to all in the Forest to be able to inform understanding and decision making.

In some areas of work such as the condition of vernacular buildings, information about our heritage is clearly lacking and survey work is much needed to be able to provide a baseline to monitor against and information on which to make management and policy decisions.

### 6) Skills

Traditional land management skills in the Forest are decreasing year on year.

Landowners and managers remain crucial to retaining the character of the New Forest, but traditional and essential skills such as hedgelaying, coppicing, woodland management, ditching, commoning, pasture

management and stock management are being lost at a worrying rate.

Similarly the traditional skills required to manage the historic built environment are being lost as many of the more generalist builders aren't aware of the need for specialist skills such as working with cob or lime mortars, renders and plasters.

Both of these sets of skills are essential to maintaining the character of the New Forest and there is a clear need to ensure that future generations retain these skills.

## 7) Understanding

Whilst the New Forest is loved by its residents and by the millions of people that visit the park each year, many people are still unaware of its many-layered history and the reasons why the Forest is how it is today. This includes the role of commoning in maintaining the landscape and also all of the individual small characteristics of the New Forest which on the whole remain unnoticed but collectively create the New Forest landscape that people know and love today.

Changes to these smaller elements of the landscape whether it be to the natural or built heritage are often due to a lack of detailed understanding of the heritage and can individually seem small and inconsequential to those involved. However, collectively these changes can chip away at the landscape character of the area, resulting in a landscape which eventually has lost its heritage significance. The Partnership recognise that the National Park landscape cannot be "preserved in aspic" - it is a dynamic and living landscape that must change with the times. A critical challenge for this Partnership will be finding the balance between preserving what is critical to the landscape character of the New Forest whilst allowing it to grow and change to allow modern ways of working and living.

There is a clear need and a wish amongst all partners to work more closely with residents and visitors in order to increase understanding of the overall story of the Forest, increase appreciation of the individual characteristics and special qualities of the Forest and inspire enthusiasm for people to be involved in caring about the Forest.

## Opportunities

### 1) A Co-ordinated Approach

The New Forest has a complex range of both public sector and voluntary sector organisations involved in the management of its heritage landscape, all with different views, areas of interest, responsibilities and ways of working.

Whilst all of these groups work together on a smaller-scale, it has been difficult in the past to form larger long-lasting partnerships which will address key issues and areas of work within the Forest. In fact, a previous attempt to take forward a Landscape Partnership Scheme in the New Forest proved unsuccessful for this reason, as political issues in the Forest at the time flared up and resulted in the Partnership dissolving. Whilst this was disappointing at the time, the organisations in the Forest learnt a lot from this experience and have moved on considerably since this time in their approach to working together. In fact, many of the projects developed for the previous Landscape Partnership Scheme have since been progressed through the New Forest HLS Scheme (covering only the Open Forest) which is being delivered through a partnership of three of the key Forest organisations, with input from many others.

This Landscape Partnership Scheme will give key Forest organisations a platform for building on this success by working together to deliver a successful landscape-scale scheme. This would result in a continuing building of working relations within the Forest and a more effective joined up approach to the delivery of areas of work and addressing key issues which is essential if the Forest is to adequately address the threats that it faces today.

### 2) High Levels of Enthusiasm and Interest

Evidence from volunteer initiatives such as the annual New Forest Volunteer Fair demonstrate that there is a clear demand for opportunities for volunteers to be involved in a range of tasks from basic practical conservation tasks, though to specialist surveys, oral histories or helping out at events.

This demand is also evidenced through local community groups and more specialist heritage groups who want to get involved in recording, conserving and telling the story of their local heritage features. Existing smaller-scale projects have been inundated with potential volunteers, to the extent that the limited members of staff involved in those projects have been unable to cope with the level of demand.

### 3) A population of potential volunteers and huge numbers of visitors

The New Forest has a high proportion of the population that is not economically active. Much of this group is retired, has time available, enthusiasm and a wealth of experience that could be captured through a range of volunteering opportunities to support and care for the Forest.

In addition every year the Forest has millions of visitors, many of whom are from the surrounding areas and have the potential to be future volunteers, future residents and who could contribute to Love The Forest (the visitor gift scheme set up by the New Forest Trust to support ongoing conservation and education in the Forest).

### 4) Securing the Future of Commoning

This Scheme offers a unique opportunity to deliver comprehensive support and skills development for commoners, particularly focussed on new and young commoners who will be the foundation for future generations of commoners. This scheme will focus on passing down the knowledge and experience of existing commoners to the new generations to ensure that the practice continues into the long-term. It will also build up stronger partnerships between the commoners and policy-making organisations which will enable commoners to have a more significant influence on the development of policies which affect their sustainability and way of life.

### 5) Biodiversity

This Scheme offers the opportunity to secure biodiversity gain on a landscape-scale, reducing habitat deterioration and fragmentation, and increasing connectivity through green corridors and stepping stones which will enable species to move across the landscape. This will also result in a landscape which is more robust and able to withstand challenges such as climate change and disease.

## **3c Why is it essential for the project to go ahead now?**

Over the last 20-30 years, pressures on the Forest have grown with increased visitor numbers, large numbers of new residents, development pressures and changes to land management practices to name but a few. These pressures have been slowly changing the Forest and whilst the Open Forest which is managed by the Forestry Commission has received considerable investment both in time and funds to try and effectively manage these pressures, the habitats and settlements around the Open Forest have been neglected in comparison.

Since the set-up of the National Park in 2005, stakeholders at workshops have continually raised many of the same issues and whilst many of these on the Open Forest are now being addressed, around this core, despite the progression of a number of successful pilot schemes, the situation has just continued to get worse.

Given that all of the pressures on these areas are only going to increase in future years and that we have evidence that many of the buildings and habitats are deteriorating at a worrying rate, it is crucial that Forest organisations start working together and building stronger partnerships now to try and address this deterioration and restore some of the damage that has already been done in order to maintain the unique landscape character of the New Forest for future generations.



### **3d Why do you need Lottery funding?**

Resources in both the public and voluntary sectors are extremely limited at the present time and this looks set to continue for the foreseeable future. This is limiting both on the ground works through the lack of capital funding and community engagement activities due to a decreasing staff resource.

With decreasing resources, many of the statutory bodies are having to prioritise their statutory obligations such as Planning or Licensing over and above everything else.

Whilst there are some smaller funds available to support individual projects, these are extremely competitive and really only the Lottery funds are of a scale suitable to carry out the necessary landscape-scale improvements.

Without Lottery funding, improvements over the next 5 year period will be small-scale and piecemeal, making a negligible impact on the issues outlined. This would result in the continuing deterioration of elements and features within the landscape and in many cases it would not be possible to restore these at a later date so they would be lost to the New Forest permanently, thus cumulatively and significantly affecting the unique landscape character of the Forest.

Lottery funding will give the Partnership the platform for working together thus having a more significant impact on the landscape and the people that engage with it. This will result in a more sustainable future for the New Forest, a unique landscape which enriches lives on a local and national scale.

### **3e What work and/or consultation have you undertaken to prepare for this project and why?**

A workshop held in 2011 to discuss biodiversity in the New Forest formed the basis for the beginnings of discussions about a Landscape Partnership. Over 40 individuals, representing more than 25 organisations within the Forest, agreed that partners needed to co-ordinate plans on a landscape-scale. The participants collectively agreed at the workshop that action needed to be taken to utilise the links between the area and the pastoral economy to achieve significant benefits for buffering and supporting the core Forest and that in doing so, communities must be engaged and reconnected with their local natural heritage.

Plans and priorities for the Landscape Partnership Scheme have been developed alongside the National Park Action Plans for Biodiversity, Landscape and Cultural Heritage as they have a natural fit together and Forest organisations have been able to more effectively use their time to discuss the issues, priorities and ways of delivering projects at the same time.

Three large workshops were held in early 2013 which involved over 50 stakeholders either as individuals or representing Forest organisations. These resulted in a list of priorities for the Forest and agreed areas of work that the participants felt were key to take forward through both the Landscape Partnership Scheme and through other routes. These priorities and proposed actions form the basis of the National Park's Cultural Heritage Action Plan and Biodiversity Action Plan. These workshops have been followed by a wide range of multi-organisational/group meetings and meetings with individual organisations to discuss actions and project proposals. Site meetings have been held at those sites and buildings which have already been identified for restoration works. The Landscape Partnership Scheme is seen as one of the key routes for delivering landscape-scale actions within both of these Plans.

Initial discussions with smaller local interest groups and parish councils have been positive. However, full consultation and detailed discussions have not yet been carried out at a grass-roots level as we intend to engage fully with communities during the Development Phase. Previous experience in the Forest has demonstrated that involving smaller groups and communities too early on in a long-term scheme such as this can result in a loss of interest over time due to the long timescales involved.

The proposals within this Landscape Partnership Scheme fit within the framework of the National Park Management Plan which was developed in consultation with individuals from 71 different national, regional and local organisations and was subject to wide consultation (receiving over 10,000 responses) in communities across the Forest. Relevant themes within the Management Plan include Conserving Local Distinctiveness, Enhancing Landscapes and habitats, Encouraging Sustainable Land Management, Understanding the Special Qualities of the National Park, Enjoying the National Park and Supporting Local Communities. This Landscape Partnership Scheme would deliver outputs for all of these areas.

The Scheme also fits with a number of the strategic objectives within the New Forest National Park Local Development Framework specifically Core Strategy Policies CP2: The Natural Environment, CP3: Green Infrastructure, CP7: the Built Environment, CP8: Local Distinctiveness, CP17: the Land-Based Economy

## Section Four - Project Outcomes

**In this section, tell us about the difference that your project will make for heritage, people and communities.**

### 4a What difference will your project make for heritage?

The partners involved in this Scheme, envisage that it will make the following difference:

Overall this project will bring about the better management of our heritage landscape though the partnership working towards collective objectives and taking joint responsibility for management decisions.

In addition, the monitoring and evaluation aspects of this project will allow for a better understanding of the impact that restoration and changes to management and maintenance regimes have had on indicator species and the condition of vegetation. This will allow future management and maintenance decisions to be based on evidence rather than guesswork.

Individual projects will result in heritage landscapes and buildings with improved future management and in better condition. Targets include:

- 60 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation with management plans in place.
- 60 hectares of SINC sites enhanced and in better condition
- Woodland owners working together to successfully implement management plans and develop economic uses for small woodlands
- 540 hectares of woodland previously unmanaged brought back into active sustainable management
- 1500 hectares of woodland with improved management for environmental and economic benefit
- 6 hectares of native woodland replacing the coniferous plantation at Foxbury
- 5000 trees planted to create new mixed deciduous habitat at Foxbury
- 4000 metres of boundary features either created, restored or enhanced
- the removal of invasive non native species from 40 prioritised locations
- 11.5 kilometres of river with restored geomorphology
- 54.5 kilometres of river improved for fish and eel passage
- 43 kilometres of rivers with improved water quality
- 15 kilometres of historic bridleway and byway improved in condition and more accessible
- 2,000 hectares of woodland surveyed for archaeological sites identified through LiDAR
- 75 archaeological sites surveyed, including 15 heritage industrial sites and 10 burial grounds
- the restoration of key buildings and archaeological sites including the Verderers' Hall, the Beaulieu Ice-House and Eyeworth Weir.

In addition to practical improvements on the ground, the Scheme will also be identifying and recording a wide range of heritage data to help with future management decisions and to provide baseline data for future monitoring. Many of the projects will include collecting stories, photographs, documents and information about heritage important to specific communities. This will be used for interpretation, telling the story of the Forest and recording details for future generations.

Specific proposals for identifying, recording and making accessible heritage data includes:

- the identification and recording of the survival of buildings constructed from vernacular materials.
- a comprehensive assessment of sites, monuments and landscape features for the Scheme area
- the recording of species and the condition of vegetation for monitoring purposes
- the recording of photos, documents and stories on the heritage of commoning
- the recording of photos, documents and oral histories relating to the communities involved in the Heritage on Your Doorstep project.

In addition to this, the E-cademy project will bring together existing data relating to the heritage landscape from a whole range of sources into an on-line Gateway portal which can be used by anyone and will provide useful hints, tips and guidance for people trying to learn more about specific aspects of the Forest. Prioritised heritage information will be digitised and made accessible through the site.

#### **4b What difference will your project make for people?**

The New Forest provides a wealth of services for people which are taken for granted. Cultural services include education, health and wellbeing, spiritual enrichment and inspiration. It regulates water, air and climate and provides food, fibre and water. These services are of local, regional and national importance for individuals and the economy. Improving understanding of how the New Forest provides these services for people will be threaded through the Scheme and will enable people to increase their connection with the Forest and its process of change.

Our Past, Our Future is very much focussed on engaging a wide range of people in the programmes of work and in giving them the skills, enthusiasm and confidence to be involved in managing, maintaining, recording and enjoying heritage in years to come.

Targets for skills development include:

- 500 people attending day or evening courses on managing and maintaining historic buildings
- 125 people (target audience of building contractors, architects and surveyors) attending technical building skills courses eg. lime plastering, cob walling
- 750 people trained in sustainable land management skills including woodland management, coppicing, pasture management, soil management, removal of invasive species.
- 200 people trained in archaeological heritage including field survey work, assessment of significance and condition assessment.
- 30 people trained in researching, scanning, cataloguing and recording

The development of volunteers is central to the delivering of many of the proposed projects and is essential if we are to safeguard the future of the Forest. The volunteering activities will be wide ranging and will be used to encourage a diverse range of people, with a particular focus on the new audiences identified in the Audience Development Plan to be involved in learning about and caring for their local heritage.

Targets for volunteer involvement include:

- 300 volunteer days for the identification and recording of heritage buildings constructed from vernacular materials
- 600 volunteer days accumulated across 60 events for the identification and removal of invasive non native species
- 750 volunteer days for habitat and species monitoring, practical site management, restoring and regenerating traditional boundary features
- 320 volunteer days for river restoration and water quality monitoring work
- 200 volunteer days for progressing the E-cademy project including steering group, investigating source material, digitising and promoting the on-line portal
- 120 volunteer days for the investigation, mapping and interpretation of the heritage in their community
- 150 volunteer days for experienced commoners passing on their skills to others, recording commoning history, developing interpretation and interacting with members of the public over their educational campaigns
- 1,800 volunteer days for carrying out archaeological field work including ground truthing and condition assessment.

Volunteers will receive a wide range of benefits from being involved in the Scheme including:

- Learning new skills - practical and intellectual
- Improved self confidence and motivation
- Improved health and wellbeing - activity in the outdoors and increased social interaction
- increased inspiration, connection and enthusiasm for the New Forest landscape
- Increased sense of belonging and ownership, leading to improved mental wellbeing
- Increased employability for individuals through volunteering and learning opportunities
- Increased co-operation and understanding - individuals and communities having a better relationship with statutory and voluntary agencies based on mutual understanding

In addition to the many volunteering opportunities that will be created through this Landscape Partnership Scheme, there will also be a wide range of both targeted engagement activities for specific audiences and wider more generalist activities which will reach a wide range of residents and visitors to the New Forest.

Targets for specialist engagement include:

- 100 woodland owners engaged in discussion about the future management of their sites and any appropriate economic potential
- 100 land owners / managers engaged in discussions about the boundaries on their land and involved in practical works
- 20 landowners engaged in improving water quality on river catchments

Targets for wide engagement include:

- 10 parishes engaged in the Conserving the Forest Fringe project, identifying problem encroachment and character deterioration issues to inform education programmes.
- 8 communities involved in investigating and identifying their local heritage
- 7,000 people per annum using the new E-cademy on-line portal to access information about the heritage landscape.
- 20,000 people per annum visiting the Wild New Forest permanent exhibition at the New Forest Centre and the themed temporary exhibitions.
- 5,000 people and 2,000 school children per annum visiting the newly restored Verderers Court.
- 190,000 people visiting the newly restored and interpreted ice house at Beaulieu.
- 300,000 people per year experiencing the new site interpretation at a range of key sites across the Forest.
- 700 people attending an annual building skills fair and the celebration of traditional local crafts and skills
- 600,000 people per year learning from new and improved information through websites, apps and other digital media.
- 1300 school pupils and young people involved in learning visits to Foxbury.
- 1500 people involved in organised activities at Foxbury such as bushcraft, wildlife watch etc
- 400 people attending community and open events associated with work to improve the water environment.

A comprehensive monitoring programme will determine what people have learnt from each of the projects, and what difference this is making to their lives. Are they more involved in local heritage now, have they changed their land management practices, have they developed new skills that they are using in the Forest and wider, have they altered their understanding of the Forest and its heritage, has this translated into action in any ways such as volunteering, involvement in local groups, contributions towards Love the Forest (the New Forest's visitor gift scheme).

Discussions with the wide range of audiences reached through the Scheme from school children, through to diverse visitors from surrounding urban areas, residents, landowners, commoners and people accessing on-line data from far afield, will be carried out to determine the effect of the Scheme on understanding and behaviour. This information will not only be useful in evaluating the success of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, but also in informing future ways of working in the Forest and elsewhere.

#### **4c What difference will your project make for communities?**

The Landscape Partnership scheme will result in the New Forest being a better place for the communities that live and work within the National Park.

The natural environment will have improved connectivity, providing greater resilience against disease and the effects of climate change. Restored and enhanced landscape features and habitats and better water quality will result in improved biodiversity and a more secure future for many of the wildlife species and plants that are characteristic in the New Forest.

The built environment will have buildings and heritage features that are in better condition and that are at a reduced risk of damage or deterioration through a lack of management or understanding.

For local communities, the Scheme will result in better community cohesion and a better sense of place and ownership with a shared appreciation for their local heritage. It will also result in a decrease in conflict between those living and working in the Forest and those visiting the Forest due to a better understanding and changes in behaviour.

The heavy focus within the Scheme on volunteering, training and engagement will result in a rejuvenation and longterm increase in membership in local organisations and groups. It will also widen the range of audiences that are "Friends" of organisations such as the New Forest Trust or the New Forest Centre and who support these organisations, whether it be through volunteering, promotion or financially.

Opportunities will be taken during the delivery of the Landscape Partnership Scheme to positively promote

existing schemes within the Forest such as:

- the New Forest Tour (an open top bus that takes a number of routes throughout the Forest and allows people to hop on & off where you like and catch another bus later on, or switch between tours, all on the same ticket) which would reduce car journeys and congestion
- the New Forest Marque (a quality assurance scheme for local producers) which encourages the purchase and use of local products
- existing and ongoing events programmes delivered by a wide range of organisations across the Forest
- Love the Forest - the New Forest visitor gift scheme which supports conservation and education projects in the New Forest.

#### 4d What are the main groups of people that will benefit from your project?

The main groups of people to benefit from our project are:

##### 1) Day visitors and staying visitors to the New Forest National Park

The New Forest has a very varied visitor profile (see below). The project will benefit all those seeking an introduction to the New Forest's heritage, whether a day visitor or staying visitor. Families will benefit from targeted interpretation and opportunities for shared learning and involvement. Day visitors and repeat visitors will also benefit from increased understanding and enjoyment of the Forest's special qualities through the interpretation projects. All visitors will see increased biodiversity and landscape value through the habitat improvement and linking projects, as well as increased access to the landscape and its heritage. This is a huge group of people who will see real benefit.

Effective visitor engagement is a core part of the Partnership, as the visitor, both local day visitor and staying visitor, is an important part of making the New Forest landscape sustainable. Visitor figures and statistics are gained in a number of ways.

The New Forest visitor profile, meaning people visiting landscape heritage sites, can be approximated from visitor surveys 2009-2011:

Local resident	39%
Day visitor from home	17%
Staying visitor in the New Forest	31%
Day excursionist from holiday base	13%

Additionally:

4% are visitors travelling from overseas.

Average group size is 2.75 people

40% between the ages of 55 years to 75 plus years

2% consider themselves to be part of an ethnic minority

92% reported that they did not suffer from any impairment which affects their daily activities.

The last detailed New Forest visitors survey was carried out in 2005 and found there were 13.5 million day visits annually and confirmed that people visit the New Forest for the tranquillity of the natural environment and the unique New Forest experience. In 2013 and 2014 this will be updated this to provide a more detailed baseline part funded by a Local Sustainable Transport Fund. The development phase will also help with developing our visitor data, to help inform the delivery phase.

Rather than an increase in the total number of visitors we expect an increase in the level of understanding and awareness and crucially, engagement with the heritage. However we do expect an increase in some of the harder to reach audiences such as young people, visitors with disabilities and those who are new to New Forest heritage. Our heritage interpretation offer will be tailored to the audiences as outlined. We also expect increased enjoyment and engagement resulting in more repeat visits.

##### 2) Communities and people living within the park, including those new to the area and its heritage

New residents and those who are familiar with the Forest (but might have a limited understanding of its heritage) will benefit from a wide range of engagement, volunteering and training opportunities. Volunteering in Forest life will help communities and their connection with the landscape, enabling them to become local heritage champions. Communities will also benefit from landscape, built heritage and biodiversity improvements.

##### 3) Young people and children

Young people will benefit through targeted training (particularly for young commoners, farmers and land managers) and apprentice opportunities. Children will benefit generally from the proposed delivery of increased family learning opportunities, opportunities for fun and interactive engagement at activities and events throughout the Forest.

Wild play, close to local communities and developed in conjunction with local young people will provide opportunities for young people to engage with the landscape in a fun way and on a frequent basis, contributing to their health and wellbeing, as well as creating a lifelong connection with the natural environment.

4) The landscape management community of the New Forest

This is a vitally important group of people for the future of the New Forest, which includes commoners, farmers, craftspeople, land managers of woodlands, nature reserves, watercourses and those with important cultural and natural heritage sites and heritage potential on land they manage. They will benefit through increased training and skills development, and specialist advice on how to realise their potential and that of the land they manage.

5) Those working in or wishing to work in the heritage industry locally

The project will benefit people in and wishing to work in the heritage industry, including rangers, interpreters, surveyors, specialists in ecology and archaeology. This will be via volunteering, training and apprenticeship opportunities.

**4e Does your project involve heritage that attracts visitors?**

Yes

**What are your existing visitor numbers?**

13500000

**How many visitors a year do you expect on completion of your project?**

13500000

**4f How many people will be trained as part of your project, if applicable?**

1200

**4g How many full-time equivalent volunteers do you expect to contribute personally to your project?**

700

**4h How many full-time equivalent posts will you create to deliver your project?**

5

## **Section Five - Project Management**

**In this section, tell us how you will develop and deliver your project.**



## Development phase

### 5a What work will you do during the development phase of your project?

The main aims of the development phase of the Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme is to further develop the plans and projects indicated in the Stage 1 application.

Two of the largest areas of work within this phase will be the development of the audience development plan and the development of an associated interpretation framework and delivery plan.

Key to this will be improving our understanding of existing audiences and how to best engage and encourage new audiences. This will allow us to involve the widest range of people possible in the scheme and to reach the maximum number of people through interpretation and events.

The development phase will be strategically managed by the Landscape Partnership Board but delivery will be achieved through the employment of a new full-time Scheme Manager and Community Engagement Officer, as well as input from existing staff within the New Forest National Park Authority and all of the other partner organisations. Consultants will be appointed for specialist areas of work and to provide extra resource where required.

At the end of the development phase we will have a completed Landscape Conservation Action Plan ready for submission in March 2015.

The key areas of work for the development phase will be as follows:

#### 1) Development of an Audience Development Plan

Enthusiasing people to be more engaged and involved in caring for our heritage over the long-term is critical to the success of this Scheme and its long-term legacy.

Building on our existing audience development plan (2007) this newly updated audience development plan will utilise existing studies, survey results and other information from the Partners which will help to identify potential user groups and priority audiences for development. The plan will also identify gaps in information and will gather new data from existing audiences and heritage sites and attractions, as well as discussions and focus groups with new audiences.

The plan will identify those groups who are less likely to visit the New Forest and access information relating to it, identify barriers which may exist in accessing the New Forest and related information with respect to its heritage, identify barriers to involvement and lastly will help to inform the development of interpretative themes, events and activities which will help to break down these barriers.

#### 2) Community Engagement and Volunteer Development

To date, the development of the Scheme has focussed on engaging with approximately 50 key partners through individual discussions and a series of workshops. Initial discussions with smaller community groups and parish councils have been positive to date but during the development stage we now want to focus on engaging with these groups further and giving them the opportunity to be involved in the scheme and to shape the plans and development of the individual projects. This will be carried out through a range of community focussed events and activities.

Opportunities for volunteer involvement are prevalent throughout the whole Scheme and form the backbone to successful delivery for most of the projects. The development phase will provide the framework for the volunteers involved in the Scheme, ensuring a structure for the development and training of volunteers, matching volunteers to tasks and recruiting initial volunteers for early tasks.

During the development phase, 2 enthusiastic individuals will be recruited to join the Scheme Board to provide community and volunteer input into the Scheme.

#### 3) Confirmation of the Board Members and Development of the Stakeholder Group

During the development phase, the Shadow Board and the Scheme Manager will develop and agree terms of

reference for the Board and will confirm the final members for the Delivery Phase including the two community representatives. These members will all sign up to a more detailed partnership agreement for the Delivery Phase. The Memorandum of Agreement for the Development Phase is attached as supplementary information.

The stakeholder group will also be developed during the development phase and will be used to gain wider input into the developing proposals. Terms of reference for the group will be developed by the group members as it develops.

#### 4) Surveys and Studies

Some of the projects proposed within the Scheme require further surveys, studies and research to inform the development of the detailed plan of works. Those which have been identified at this stage are:

##### Beaulieu Ice House

Engineering and photogrammetry survey of the ice-house and development of detailed specification for the works required.

Better Boundaries project - survey and assessment of key areas of the Forest to establish priorities for areas which are suffering from deterioration and which will produce the most beneficial results in terms of connectivity, joining the core of the New Forest to other surrounding areas of ecological interest.

Nature's Stepping Stones - basic surveys, assessment and landowner liaison to prioritise sites which will provide the most ecological and community benefit.

Living Waters - appraisal of Dockens Water catchment, surveys, assessment and landowner liaison.

#### 5) Detailed Project Development

Many of the projects identified in this bid require further work to firm up costings, develop briefs, agree timetables for works and ensure the integration of projects and partner activities across the Scheme.

Work required for the individual projects includes:

##### Working Woodlands

Identification of priority woodlands, landowner liaison, identification of best practice examples for case studies, development of training and skills development programme in discussion with woodland owners.

##### Conserving Our Forest Fringe

Development of job description for trainee, consultation with parishes.

##### Rediscovering and Conserving our Archaeological Heritage

Development of training programme consultation with existing archaeological volunteers and Brockenhurst College. Development of job description for Community Archaeologist to deliver project. Development of brief for engineering survey of Eyeworth Weir.

##### Above and Beyond

Further consultation with target audiences to identify detailed training needs and skills gaps.

##### New Forest Apprenticeship Scheme

Development of detailed apprenticeship job descriptions and plans for how the placements will be delivered across the partners.

##### Buildings Skills Circle

Liaison with estates and landowners to identify historic buildings and structures that can be used for training purposes and as best practice examples. Consultation with target audiences about detailed training requirements.

##### Encouraging New and Young Commoners

Further consultation with Young Commoners Group and with known new commoners to discuss their detailed

skills and knowledge gaps and cost up appropriate training options.

#### New Forest E-cademy

Development of job description for Project Officer. Detailed consultation with stakeholders about the scope of the proposed portal, on-line forum and annual conferences. Development of detailed project plan and timescales.

#### Heritage on my Doorstep

Consultation with local communities and parish councils about areas of interest and activities and subject areas they might like to include. Identification of focus areas for year 1.

#### A Common Cause

Development of brief for survey works and specifications for the Verderers Court. Further consultation with the Building Conservation Officer and specialists. Development of detailed project plan for restoration works. Quotes for all proposed works.

#### Foxbury - A Gateway to the Forest

Detailed project plan for implementation of the works, quotes for all works, site specific interpretation plan based on Scheme interpretation plan, development of activity plan for events and activities on site.

#### New Forest Connects

Based on results of the Audience Development Plan and the Interpretation Plan - further consultation with target audiences, development of project plan. Quotes for major areas of work.

#### Wildplay

Assessment of identified sites and decision about which 3 sites will be progressed. Consultation with local communities and particularly young people about requirements. Development of plans and discussions with the planning authority. Necessary approvals. Development of project plan and individual site costings.

### 6) Interpretation framework and plan

Given the heavy focus within the Scheme on interpretation and engaging with members of the local community and visitors to the New Forest, it is important that we have an overall framework which will pull all of these threads together, ensuring that the interpretation messages fit together as a whole, tell the necessary stories about the Forest and reach a wide range of audiences.

The partnership have a particular interest in identifying how to best engage with audiences such as young people and the silent majority (those who live in and around the New Forest but do not interact actively with the Forest).

This work will be carried out by the Scheme Manager and the Community Engagement Officer working closely with the Interpretation Officer at the New Forest National Park Authority, and supported by specialist external expertise.

### 7) Development of Detailed Monitoring and Evaluation Proposals

The partners are keen for monitoring and evaluation to take a central role in the Scheme rather than just be an added after thought. Workshops and individual discussions between partners have highlighted the need for a better understanding of the effectiveness of much of the work that goes on in the Forest whether it be educational campaigns, landscape restoration projects or interpretation initiatives. At the moment much work within the Forest is based upon what we think might work rather than what has been demonstrated to work. This Scheme provides an exciting opportunity to better understand what really does work and where to focus much-pressured resources in future years to have the most benefit. Partners who are keen to lead on the monitoring and evaluation of specific areas of work include Southampton University (Engagement, understanding and behavioural change), the Hants and Wight Wildlife Trust (biodiversity), the New Forest National Park Authority (historic buildings) and the Commoners Defence Association (educational campaigns on commoning issues). These organisations will be working up detailed monitoring and evaluation proposals during the development phase. These will be looked at comprehensively to see whether they fulfil all of the

partners' requirements and to identify any other further areas of work that might be necessary in order to gain maximum knowledge from the delivery of the Scheme.

### **5b Who are the main people responsible for the work during the development phase of your project?**

The Our Past, Our Future Scheme Development Manager will be responsible for delivering the actions and outputs identified within the Stage 1 application and for developing the full Stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Scheme Development Manager will be responsible for working with the Landscape Partnership Board, arranging meetings, providing secretariat and update reports, finalising partners and the partnership agreement (which has been discussed and agreed by the Shadow Board in principle) and will report to the Board for strategic direction.

The Scheme Development Manager will be responsible for co-ordinating the areas of work outlined within the Development Phase, albeit that these will be delivered with a considerable amount of input from a wide range of staff both within the NFNPA and the other partner organisations. The Scheme Manager's role will include commissioning contractors and co-ordinating and monitoring the activities of the partner organisations to ensure the effective delivery of all the agreed actions and that the appropriate financial management is in place.

The Community Engagement Officer will be responsible for engaging, consulting, and involving communities in the development and delivery of the Scheme. This will include engaging with parish councils, existing conservation, heritage and volunteer groups, as well as establishing links with specific audiences such as young people. This role will also be responsible for developing a framework for recruiting, developing and training volunteers and a process of matching volunteers to all of the Scheme tasks that are available.

A wide range of National Park Authority staff (and the staff of other partners) will be involved in both the Development Phase and the Delivery Phase and these include:

#### **Project Delivery Manager**

The Project Delivery manager will provide line management and support to the Scheme Development Manager and Community Engagement Officer. The Project Delivery Manager will carry out appraisals, offer support and, in liaison with the Partnership Board, set and monitor objectives for the team. The two officers will sit within the Project Delivery Team and will be supported by IT, HR and administration from the National Park Authority.

#### **Interpretation Officer**

The Interpretation Officer will assist the Scheme Development Manager, Community Engagement Officer and approved consultant in the development of the Audience Development Plan and Interpretation Plan. They will provide New Forest specific interpretation and people engagement experience.

#### **External Funding Officer**

The External Funding Officer will oversee the completion of the second round application and supplementary documents. The Officer will also ensure that sufficient match-funds are secured as per the targets set out within the costings within the first round application.

#### **Specialist Services Team**

The Specialist Services Team will provide advice and support on landscape, ecology, access, building conservation, building design, archaeology and trees. The team will offer specialist advice across the entire scheme, and assistance, project development and management on the following projects:

- &#61607; Rediscovering and conserving our archaeological heritage
- &#61607; Historic Routes
- &#61607; Building Skills Circle
- &#61607; Becoming an Archaeologist
- &#61607; Heritage on your Doorstep

#### **Community and Visitor Services Team**

The Community Services team provide specialist advice on interpretation, education and community engagement. The team will offer advice across the entire scheme where required, and assistance, project

development and management on the following projects:

- &#61607; New Forest Apprentice Ranger Scheme
- &#61607; A Common Cause
- &#61607; New Forest Connects

**5c Complete a detailed timetable for the development phase of your project. Use the 'add item' button to enter additional rows.**

<b>Development activities</b>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Start month</b>	<b>Start year</b>	<b>End month</b>	<b>End year</b>	<b>Who will lead this task</b>
Activity Plan					
Conservation Plan					
Management and Maintenance Plan					
Project Business Plan					
Recruitment of Scheme staff	November	2013	February	2014	New Forest National Park Authority - Project Delivery Manager
Develop working group for audience development and interpretation framework / plan	March	2014	March	2014	Scheme Development Manager in conjunction with NFNPA Interpretation Officer and working group
Agree detailed brief for audience development plan and interpretation framework and plan	April	2014	April	2014	Scheme Development Manager in conjunction with NFNPA Interpretation Officer and working group
Tender process and appointment of consultant for specialist input into development of audience development plan and interpretation framework / plan	April	2014	June	2014	Scheme Development Manager in conjunction with NFNPA Interpretation Officer and working group
Audience development plan and interpretation framework / plan	June	2014	November	2014	Scheme Development Manager in conjunction with NFNPA Interpretation Officer and working group
Initial engagement with parish councils and community groups through new events and existing meetings	May	2014	August	2014	Community Engagement Officer
Development of framework for volunteers	April	2014	June	2014	Community Engagement Officer
Recruitment of initial volunteer base for Development Phase projects	June	2014	November	2014	Community Engagement Officer
Arrange first meeting of LPS Board	March	2014	April	2014	Scheme Development Manager
First meeting of LPS Board followed by subsequent meetings every quarter	April	2014	April	2015	Scheme Development Manager
Preparation and publicity for open meeting for stakeholders	May	2014	June	2014	Community Engagement Officer
Subsequent meetings of the stakeholder group	September	2014	April	2015	Community Engagement Officer
Engineering and photogrammetry survey of Beaulieu Ice House	May	2014	July	2014	NFNPA Archaeologist
Better Boundaries project - surveys and assessments to establish priority areas and develop specifications for delivery phase works	April	2014	October	2014	New Forest Land Advice Service Manager
Nature's Stepping Stones - basic surveys, landowner liaison and site assessments to prioritise sites	April	2014	October	2014	New Forest Land Advice Service Manager
Development of complete and detailed project plans and costings for each project	April	2014	October	2014	All lead project partners but overseen by the Scheme Development Manager
Development of detailed monitoring and evaluation plan	September	2014	November	2014	Scheme Development Manager
Preparation of Landscape Conservation Action Plan	October	2014	December	2014	Scheme Development Manager
HLF Monitoring meeting	July	2014	July	2014	Scheme Development Manager
Review of documents incl. Landscape Conservation Action Plan with HLF	January	2015	January	2015	Scheme Development Manager

Task	Start month	Start year	End month	End year	Who will lead this task
Submission of Stage 2 application to HLF	April	2015	April	2015	Scheme Development Manager
Scheme promotion and publicity	May	2014	February	2015	Scheme Development Manager in conjunction with the Community Engagement Officer and Partnership Board
Secure additional match funding required from identified sources - Love the Forest, Sustainable Communities Fund. NF LEADER, corporate sponsorship	March	2014	September	2015	NFNPA External Funding Officer
Development of communication strategy and plan for the Scheme	September	2014	January	2015	Scheme Dev Manager with NFNPA Comms Team

**5d Tell us about the risks to the development phase of your project and how they will be managed. Use the 'add item' button to enter additional rows.**

### Development risks

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation	Who will lead this
Staff recruitment - lack of suitable candidates delaying the start of the Development Phase	Low	High	Realistic job descriptions, competitive salaries, adverts in the most beneficial sources.	Landscape Partnership Board
Lack of project management resulting in delays in the development of the Stage 2 bid	Medium	High	Ensure a robust framework for project management and scheduling including reporting to the LPS Board and to the Scheme Development Manager's line manager.	NFNPA but also shared responsibility with the LPS Board
Loss of enthusiasm due to long development timescales	Medium	High	Good communication between partners, sound understanding of expected timescales and commitment in advance	NFNPA and the LPS Board
Stretched staff resources in partner organisations could have a negative impact on the timescales for development of detailed plans and costings	Medium	Medium	Clear understanding of what is required at the outset and the timescales involved. Clear guidance from HLF about the level of detail required.	All partners on the Board
Confusion about scheme aim and objectives	Medium	Medium	Clarity and discussion at Board level, good communication between partners, and Scheme staff	Scheme Manager and the Landscape Partnership Board

## Delivery phase

### **5e Who are the main people responsible for the work during the delivery phase of your project?**

The structure which will have been formed for the Development Phase will be continued into the Delivery Phase, with the Landscape Partnership Board providing strategic direction and ensuring that the agreed projects are delivered effectively, on time and within budget. The Stakeholder Group will continue to provide a valuable role in developing and delivering projects and promoting the overall Scheme.

The four-year delivery phase of the project will be progressed by a team of staff which will consist of:

#### Scheme Manager

The Our Past, Our Future team will be lead by a full time Scheme Manager who will provide overall project management and co-ordination for the Scheme. The Scheme Manager will oversee team workloads and will work closely with partners to ensure that projects are delivered to budget and on time. This post will report to the Landscape Partnership Board and will have overall responsibility for Scheme budgets including liaison with funders and ensuring the funds are claimed appropriately and on time.

#### Admin and Finance Support Officer

The Admin and Finance Support Officer will be a 3 day a week post which will focus on the administration and financial processes required to ensure a smooth delivery of all of the projects and the financial recording required between partners. The post will also be involved in some of the arrangement and booking processes required for events and training courses.

#### Restoring Lost Landscapes Land Advisor (3 year post)

This post will have ecological and land management skills and will be full time for 3 years. The post will be responsible for sustainable land management advice across the projects, but specifically for the implementation of the Better Boundaries and Nature's Stepping Stones projects which will involve considerable landowner liaison and the training and management of volunteers involved in landscape restoration works.

#### Community Archaeologist

This post will be for 3 days per week and will provide archaeological input into a wide range of projects within the Scheme. They will also have specific responsibility for the implementation of the Rediscovering and Conserving our Archaeological Heritage project including the delivery of an archaeological training programme.

#### Community Heritage Officer

This will be a 4 day a week post which will focus primarily on the Built Heritage and the community heritage projects. They will have specific responsibility for delivering the Building Skills Circle Project, the Heritage on my Doorstep project and the Historic Routes improvements.

#### Community Engagement Officer

This will be a 3 day a week post which will recruit and coordinate volunteers, oversee their involvement in the wide range of Scheme project and ensure their overall support and encouragement. They will also over see the events, community engagement and interpretation elements within the Scheme and coordinate the Stakeholder Group.

The New Forest National Park Authority will host the project team and we have therefore included basic office costs and support as in-kind funding.

All of the other partners will be crucial to leading and delivering specific projects within the Scheme including:

Hampshire and Wight Wildlife Trust - the Invasive Non Native Species Project, the Wildplay project and the New Forest Apprenticeship scheme.

New Forest Land Advice Service - the Above and Beyond training project and the Working Woodlands project.

Forestry Commission - Conserving the Forest Fringe, the New Forest Connects, A Common Cause projects, the New Forest Apprenticeship scheme



National Trust - the Gateway to the Forest project , New Forest Connects and the New Forest Apprenticeship Scheme

Commoners Defence Association - A Common Cause and Encouraging New and Young Commoners projects, the New Forest Connects project

New Forest Centre - the E-cademy and New Forest Connects project

Environment Agency - Living Waters project, New Forest Connects, A Gateway to the Forest

There are also a wide range of organisations who are partners in specific projects but are not Board partners. These include Hampshire County Council who are involved in the New Forest Apprenticeship Scheme and the Historic Routes project, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre who are involved in the biodiversity survey and data collection work for many of the projects, Pond Conservation who are involved in the Living Rivers project, Southampton University who are involved in the E-cademy project and the Scheme monitoring, and Bournemouth University who are involved in the E-cademy project.

**5f Complete a summary timetable for the delivery phase of your project. Use the 'add item' button to enter additional rows.**

<b>Delivery activities</b>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Start month</b>	<b>Start year</b>	<b>End month</b>	<b>End year</b>	<b>Who will lead this task</b>
Recruitment of project staff	November	2015	February	2016	NFNPA with input from Board
Project team to start	February	2016	March	2016	NFNPA
Quarterly meetings of the Project Board	November	2015	March	2020	Scheme Manager
Stakeholder Group meetings	December	2015	March	2016	Scheme Manager and Community Engagement Officer
Working Woodlands - Development of website with case studies and best practice examples	February	2016	February	2017	New Forest land Advice Service
Working Woodlands - Delivery of training, site surveys, management plans, woodland advice, woodfuel development	May	2016	February	2020	New Forest Land Advice Service
Better Boundaries - Training of landowners and volunteers and implementation of boundary habitat restoration projects	January	2016	December	2018	Restoring Lost Landscapes Land Advisor
Conserving the Forest Fringe - Historical / legal research on boundaries, recruitment of trainee, establishing parish priorities for action	February	2016	January	2017	Forestry Commission
Conserving the Forest Fringe - Series of parish based public engagement events, commencement of the Boundary Service, capital projects to restore and reinstate at risk boundaries and features	March	2017	February	2020	Forestry Commission
NF Invasive Non Native Species project - Volunteer events, contractor treatments at specific locations, public engagement events	February	2016	February	2020	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Living Waters - restoration of water courses, implementation of capital works, engagement events, volunteer monitoring of water quality	January	2016	December	2019	Environment Agency / NF Catchment Development Group
Nature's Stepping Stones - specialist surveys, engaging land managers, training courses for volunteers and landowners, implementation of small grants scheme	January	2016	December	2018	Restoring Lost Landscapes Land Advisor working with the New Forest Land Advice Service
Rediscovering and conserving our archaeological heritage - Volunteer training (year 1), detailed surveys of know deteriorating sites (year 1) Field surveys and ground truthing (years 1-4), conservation repairs to identified sites (years 2-4), wider archaeological day and evening courses (years 2-4)	January	2016	December	2019	Community Archaeologist
Historic Routes - preliminary surveys, specifications and quotes for works	March	2016	March	2017	Community Heritage Officer
Historic Routes - vegetation clearance with volunteers, drainage, infrastructure and surfacing works, interpretation and promotion of routes (year 4)	April	2017	December	2019	Community Heritage Officer
Above and Beyond - programme of sustainable land management training courses for target audiences	March	2016	December	2019	New Forest Land Advice Service
New Forest Apprentice Ranger Scheme - recruit and train 2 apprentices per year of the Scheme	December	2015	January	2020	New Forest National Park Authority
Building Skills Circle - Training and engagement programme in building conservation skills to a wide range of audiences	March	2016	January	2020	Community Heritage Officer

Task	Start month	Start year	End month	End year	Who will lead this task
Encouraging New and Young Commoners - establish training programme to develop essential commoning skills	January	2016	December	2019	Commoners Defence Association
E-cademy - investigating, cataloging and digitising source material, development of website, annual themed conference	January	2016	December	2019	New Forest Centre
Heritage on my Doorstep - Engaging communities to research, understand and interpret their local heritage	April	2016	February	2020	Community Heritage Officer
Verderers Hall - detailed survey, specification of works	November	2015	October	2016	Forestry Commission
Verderers Hall - Restoration, improved access and interpretation	December	2016	November	2017	Forestry Commission
A Common Cause - recording and interpreting commoning heritage, educational campaigns	March	2016	February	2020	Commoners Defence Association
Foxbury - Gateway to the Forest - creation of deciduous woodland areas working with volunteers and community groups, restoration of water courses, implementation of infrastructure, events, educational activities	January	2016	December	2019	National Trust
New Forest Connects - delivery of a wide range of interpretation, events, activities, public engagement	March	2016	February	2020	Community Engagement Officer
Wildplay - delivery of three wildplay sites with involvement from local young people	March	2016	September	2019	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the National Trust
Biodiversity monitoring - all projects	November	2015	February	2020	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Behavioural change / people engagement monitoring	November	2015	February	2020	Scheme Manager in conjunction with Southampton University
Mid-term evaluation and celebration of achievements	August	2017	October	2017	Scheme Manager and LPS Board
Final Scheme evaluation, followed by Scheme Celebration event	November	2019	March	2020	Scheme Manager and LPS Board

**5g Tell us about the risks to the delivery phase of your project and how they will be managed. Use the 'add item' button to enter additional rows.**



## **6a How will you maintain the outcomes of your project after the grant ends and meet any additional running costs?**

The Landscape Partnership will bring together and join landscape management in a way not done before in the New Forest. There already exists a network of organisations and communities managing the heritage of the New Forest, but after the end of the scheme we will have a much stronger working relationship which will result in more integrated delivery between partners and which will continue the landscape-scale approach. Our approach is to deliver projects which have a life beyond the end of the delivery phase, with a partner responsible for the lead and resources to continue key elements of the project. The National Park Authority will act as the overall lead in the on-going protection of heritage across the Forest, and will continue to support this work after the scheme ends. The main mechanism for this will be the National Park Management plan, which will by then be in its third cycle, 2020-2025.

We will maintain the outcomes of the scheme in the following areas:

### 1. Outcomes for heritage

- Continued collective decision making and shared responsibilities for heritage management
- Greater resilience of habitats and landscape to ensure that species are able to more easily adapt to future change such as climate or land use
- Land and watercourse management plans in place with a commitment to deliver them and the continuing advice support network provide by the Land Advice Service and other partners
- Monument and archaeological site management plans and monitoring procedures in place for sites of significance
- Enhanced economic activity based on careful heritage management such as woodlands, resulting in resources to continue appropriate management
- An on-line meeting and sharing place for data about the New Forest and its protection
- Self-supporting networks of land and heritage managers established e.g. sites of importance for nature conservation, building skills circle, water catchment groups
- Clear peer reviewed research into the benefits of engagement of heritage and how to motivate its protection (these results will help across the heritage sector nationally)
- Baseline data established and condition status recorded in a number of areas enabling continued sound management of heritage
- Increased contribution to Forest heritage protection funds for example 'Love the Forest' visitor gift scheme

### 2. Outcomes for people

- Volunteers engaged with Forest life and Forest organisations, many of which will have continuing volunteering opportunities through the partner organisations, and the support to do this through the annual volunteer fair
- An established and revitalised land management community equipped with the training and skills to continue excellent heritage management
- Thousands of new people engaged with New Forest heritage and opportunities to explore their interests further in the New Forest, National Parks and heritage as a whole. Interpretation plans and techniques developed to continue this work

### 3. Outcomes for communities

- Communities with both champions to help continue their interest, and the support from organisations such as the National Park Authority, New Forest Centre and other partners
- Young people will have an interest and connection to heritage and the partners are committed to continuing this e.g. Wildlife Trust clubs and events, National Park Authority education service

## **6b Tell us about the main risks facing the project after it has been completed and how they will be managed.**

<b>After project risks</b>				
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Risk Owner</b>
Lack of Resources - Across the partnership there are varying degrees of need for additional resource to manage heritage.	Medium	High	It is impossible to say what level of resources will be available to the partners at the expected end date of 2020, but we are confident that the partnership, having being cemented across the delivery phase, will look to combine and share resources to make the most of what is available. A key element of the project is to build the existing schemes in the Forest, such as the "Love the Forest" visitor gift scheme, which will then enable new resources to be channelled into protecting and sharing New Forest heritage.	New Forest National Park Authority
Organisational Change - It is possible that some of the partners will change in nature during or after the end of the project, which could have an effect on their commitment to on-going heritage management.	Medium	Medium	Even if organisational change is proposed, their will still be a requirement to management and maintain the Forest. This may require building new partnerships with new organisations but commitment to protecting the heritage landscape is high across all organisations.	New Forest National Park Authority
Environmental - predicted climate change may threaten the heritage that the Scheme has worked to protect.	Medium	Medium	The increased integrity and connectivity created through the Scheme will create a landscape which is more resilient to changes in climate, new diseases etc. The principles of sustainable land management which run throughout the LP Scheme will help to reduce the risk.	All partners
Loss of knowledge	Medium	Medium	Projects such as the E-cademy and the strong links between organisations and partnerships with the academic sector will lower the risk of knowledge being lost after the end of the scheme.	New Forest Centre
Loss of engagement with volunteers and communities	Medium	High	This Scheme will have built up a high momentum of community and volunteer involvement. During the Scheme it will be critical for the Our Past, Our Future team to make strong links and tie in areas of work with the existing heritage and community organisations so that volunteers can get involved in their activities and continue beign involved in caring for the Forest over the longterm.	Scheme Manager

**6c How will you evaluate the success of your project from the beginning and share the learning?**

Monitoring needs to begin before the Scheme has officially begun - even now we can notice the improved relationships and communication between the Scheme partners.

We intend to carry out both a mid-term and a final evaluation of the Scheme, using external input where necessary to assist with the review.

The evaluation will assess both quantitative and qualitative outputs based on a range of methods. The quantitative outputs will draw on the data gathered during the period of the Scheme and will be straight forward outputs such as the number of ancient monuments or woodlands restored and with agreed management plans, or the number of people visiting the exhibitions and displays at the New Forest Centre. Detailed data collected from surveys of indicator species before and after restoration projects will allow us to assess the effectiveness of projects on biodiversity and this monitoring will continue beyond the life of this Scheme. The results of this will inform future management plans, programmes of work and budget decisions.

Each of the projects will have clear outputs and the lead delivery partner for each project will be expected to provide the statistics on a 6 monthly basis. These will be analysed and discussed at Board level to ensure progress is on target. We will also involve the Stakeholder Group in providing feedback on the quality of the work and the impact on local people.

Qualitative outputs are more difficult to evaluate but we intend that the monitoring work lead by Southampton University will provide data for the final evaluation into the "people" side of things. Assessments will include looking at how values and perceptions have changed within the different target audiences, has the Scheme changed the behaviours and actions of these audiences, do people have a better understanding of the heritage of the Forest and its working community, are people getting more involved and is this likely to have a longer-lasting effect beyond the end of the Scheme period. Surveys with visitors will allow us to assess whether their visit has been enhanced by the Scheme, has our vision of visitors having a better understanding of the heritage of the New Forest been achieved?

Critically , the planned monitoring and evaluation will also look at how effective each method of engagement, involvement and learning has been. This will inform future audience development and interpretation work in the Forest.

Celebration events half way through the Scheme and at the end of the Scheme will allow us to celebrate achievements but also capture wider feedback on the success of the Scheme. This will allow a wide range of people who have been involved or affected by the Scheme to discuss their experiences and to hear about the experiences of others.

Detailed plans for the monitoring and evaluation of the project will be developed during the Development Phase.

**Section Seven - Project Costs**

**In this section, tell us how much it will cost to develop and deliver your project.**

**7a Development-Phase costs**

**Development costs**

<b>Cost Heading</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
Professional Fees	Engineering and photogrammetry survey of the Ice House, specification for ice house, surveying, prioritisation of sites and specifications for Better Boundaries project, surveys, prioritisation of sites and landowner liaison for Nature's Stepping Stones project, consultancy input into development of the Audience Development Plan and Interpretation Framework, Catchment appraisals and surveys for Living Waters project	114000		114000
New staff costs	Staff costs for full time Project Manager for 14 months - band 8 and full-time Community Engagement Officer for 14 months band 7 including travel and training	96900		96900
Recruitment	Advertisement costs for Project Manager and Community Engagement Posts	1500		1500
Other	Travelling, training and expenses for project staff and volunteers, IT equipment, camera, NFNPA legal costs for tenders and contracts.	7700		7700
Full Cost Recovery				
Contingency	7.5% of actual expenditure items to reflect possible changes in costs over the timeframe	16500		16500
Non-cash contributions	NFNPA host Authority costs covering office premises, IT support, finance support, comms support	14800		14800
Volunteer time	Volunteers involved in Partnership Board, survey work for better boundaries project and audience development	6500		6500
<b>Total</b>		<b>257900</b>		<b>257900</b>

**7b Development-Phase income****Development income**

<b>Source of funding</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Secured?</b>	<b>Value</b>
Local authority	New Forest National Park Authority contribution	Yes	20000
Other public sector	Forestry Commission £15,000 confirmed, Environment Agency £35,000 confirmed	Yes	50000
Central government			
European Union			
Private donation - Individual			
Private donation - Trusts/Charities/Foundations	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust £2,000 confirmed, National Trust £3,000 confirmed, New Forest Centre £500 confirmed	Yes	5500
Private donation - corporate			
Commercial/business			
Own reserves			
Other fundraising			
Non cash contributions	NFNPA host Authority costs covering office premises, IT support, finance support, comms support	Yes	14800
Volunteer time	CDA Board Membership at £150 per day confirmed, Better Boundaries survey work and audience development visitor surveys @ £50 per day	Yes	6500
HLF grant request			161100
<b>Total</b>			<b>257900</b>

**7c Development phase financial summary**



Total development costs	257900
Total development income	96800
HLF development grant request	161100
HLF development grant %	62

## Section Seven - Project Costs

### 7d Delivery-phase capital costs

Cost Heading	Description	Cost	VAT	Total
Purchase price of items or property				
Repair and conservation work	Restoration to traditional boundary features (ditching, tree planting, hedge gapping etc), Restoration of water courses, Mixed woodland planting at Foxbury, restoration of Verderers' Hall, Restored infrastructure on historic routeways, Conservation repairs to monuments and structures including Beaulieu Ice House and Eyeworth Weir.	831450		831450
New building work	Low key on site infrastructure for 3 wildplay sites, Access improvements at Foxbury including car park, culverts, gates, fencing, also composting toilet and small education centre for school visits, activities, volunteer use.	133300		133300
Other capital work	Interpretation, including on-site panels, fixed and travelling exhibitions, interactive exhibits, web-based, apps, digital visual aids, heritage explorer, plaques and trails	302500		302500
Equipment and materials	Trees, shelters, stakes and materials for boardwalk	78500		78500
Other				
Professional fees relating to any of the above	Project management for Invasive Non-Native Species project, Working Woodlands survey work and management plan development, woodfuel production advice, Survey and monitoring work - restoration of water courses, Conservation engineering and repair reports incl. Verderers' Hall, Archaeological survey reports, Project Management and legal costs for Wildplay project, Data gathering and Survey work for Conserving the Forest Fringe project	386697		386697
Total		1732447		1732447

## Section Seven - Project Costs

### 7e Delivery-phase activity costs

Cost Heading	Description	Cost	VAT	Total
New staff costs	Scheme Manager - full time band 9, Admin and Finance Support Officer - 3 days per week band 5, Restoring Lost Landscapes Land Advisor - full time band 7 for years 1-3, Community Archaeologist - 3 days per week band 7, Community Heritage Officer - 4 days per week band 7, Community Engagement Officer - 3 days per week band 7. Plus Project co-ordinator employed by the NF Centre to oversee and develop the E-cademy and digitisation project	768275		768275
Training for staff	Training for all staff, continued professional development	5000		5000
Paid training placements	New Forest ranger apprenticeship programme - 8 apprenticeships in total with transport, Trainee Estates keeper for 3 years, learning about encroachment issues and working with communities on the Conserving the Forest Fringe project	188400		188400
Training for volunteers	Training (including equipment costs) in traditional land management skills including hedge laying, coppicing, wildlife and vegetation surveys, archaeological field surveys, specific archaeological periods and subjects, traditional building skills (cob repairs, lime plasters and renders), surveying and monitoring water quality, researching, recording, cataloging and digitising. Costs include trainers, venues and materials.	215990		215990
Travel for staff	Travel for all members of staff across the 4 year programme	17700		17700
Travel and expenses for volunteers	Transport and refreshment costs	24600		24600
Equipment and materials	Literature and publications incl. design, posters, booklets, case studies and fact sheets, Education materials - FSC guides, dipping nets etc, educational campaigns, family focussed educational materials, materials for events, IT and office equipment for Scheme staff,	161650		161650
Other	Includes Small Grants Scheme for owners of Sites of Special Interest for Nature Conservation, educational and learning events such as National Festival of Archaeology, historic buildings and commoning, plus the digitisation of key heritage material to make available online, Costs for celebration of traditional local crafts	282300		282300
Professional fees relating to any of the above	Includes database development, GIS work and portal development for projects such as Heritage on Your Doorstep, Building Skills Circle and the E-cademy project. Also the costs for a specialist co-ordinator to carry out archivist and analyst work for the commoning heritage recording work and the commoning educational campaign work. Survey specialist to oversee biodiversity surveys. PhD placement in behavioural change monitoring the success of educational campaigns, training and methods of communication.	213588		213588
Total		1877503		1877503

#### 7f Delivery-phase - other costs

<b>Cost Heading</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
Recruitment	Advertising for all new posts	4000		4000
Publicity and promotion	Including overall promotional material for whole Scheme as well as individual promotion using a range of means and to different audiences for each of the individual projects proposed and for activities, events, exhibitions	56400		56400
Evaluation	External input into evaluation of the effectiveness of the Scheme, incl. evaluation of the overall interpretation programme	20000		20000
Other				
Full Cost Recovery	0			
Contingency	5% of total delivery costs not including in-kind funding	97300		97300
Inflation	2% of total delivery costs not including in-kind costs	38900		38900
Increased management and maintenance costs (maximum five years)				
Non cash contributions	Including specialist ecological surveys by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, in-kind staff contributions to the E-cademy project by Southampton University, Bournemouth University and the New Forest Centre, Venue contributions from private estates and the NF Centre, labour from private landowners, HLS funded National Trust staff working on the practical implementation, restoration works and activities at Foxbury, NFNPA host Authority costs covering office premises, IT support, finance support and comms support	308400		308400
Volunteer time	Volunteer input into a wide range of projects including activities such as habitat restoration, vegetation and wildlife surveys, water quality monitoring, removal of invasive non-native plants, vegetation management and removal, archaeological field surveys and condition assessments, building condition surveys, practical tasks and event support on the Foxbury site, commoning training, researching, cataloguing and digitising, and visitor education.	383600		383600
Total		908600		908600

## **Section Seven - Project Costs**

### **7g Delivery-Phase income**

Source of funding	Description	Secured?	Value
Local authority	New Forest National Park Authority £280,000 + £60,000 from Developer Contributions / Community Infrastructure Levy towards ecological mitigation measures	Yes	340000
Other public sector	Forestry Commission £78,250 Confirmed, Environment Agency £80,000 confirmed, Sparsholt College £18,000 confirmed, Southampton University £29,500 unconfirmed, Bournemouth University £2,000 unconfirmed, New Forest Catchment Development Group £21,000 unconfirmed	Yes	228750
Central government	Govt apprenticeship contribution	Yes	13600
European Union			
Private donation - Individual			
Private donation - Trusts/Charities/Foundations	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust £40,800 confirmed, New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust (New Forest Centre) £8,000 confirmed, National Trust £13,200 confirmed	Yes	62000
Private donation - corporate			
Commercial/business	Beaulieu Estate	Yes	2000
Own reserves			
Other fundraising	Corporate sponsorship, grants from Sustainable Communities Fund, NF LEADER and the Love the Forest grant scheme	No	340000
Increased management and maintenance Costs (maximum five years)			
Non cash contributions	Including specialist ecological surveys by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, in-kind staff contributions to the E-cademy project by Southampton University, Bournemouth University and the New Forest Centre, Venue contributions from private estates and the NF Centre, labour from private landowners, HLS funded National Trust staff working on the practical implementation, restoration works and activities at Foxbury, NFNPA host Authority costs covering office premises, IT support, finance support and comms support	Yes	302700
Volunteer time	Volunteer input into a wide range of projects including activities such as habitat restoration, vegetation and wildlife surveys, water quality monitoring, removal of invasive non-native plants, vegetation management and removal, archaeological field surveys and condition assessments, building condition surveys, practical tasks and event support on the Foxbury site, commoning training, researching, cataloguing and digitising, and visitor education	No	398600
HLF grant request			2830900
Total			4518550

### 7h Delivery-phase financial summary

Total delivery costs	4518550
Total delivery income	1687650
HLF delivery grant request	2830900
HLF delivery grant %	63

**7i If cash contributions from other sources are not yet secured, how do you expect to secure these and by when?**

Whilst the majority of funds have been confirmed, the partnership does have a shortfall of £340,000 which will need to be secured from additional sources. However, we are confident that we will be able to secure funds through applications to the Sustainable Communities Fund (target £100,000), the New Forest LEADER programme (target £50,000) and the Love the Forest Scheme (target £40,000) and as such, we have spoken to the administrators of these schemes to ensure that the amounts we are suggesting are both feasible and realistic.

In addition we propose to secure £120,000 through corporate donations and have again discussed and agreed the £120,000 target for this with the Corporate Sponsorship Officer at the NFNPA.

We anticipate further smaller amounts will be secured from a range of other smaller sources and partners such as the Churches Trust. We are therefore confident that that the majority of these funds can be secured during the development phase and the remainder during the Phase 2 bid assessment period.

**7j If you have included Full Cost Recovery, how have you worked out the share that relates to your project?**

Full cost recovery has not been included.

## Section Eight - Additional information and declaration

**This part of the form aims to collect the information we need to report on the range of organisations we fund. We will not use this information to assess your application. We encourage you to be as specific as possible about the people your organisation represents.**

**If your organisation represents the interests of a particular group, such as young people or disabled people, tell us which by filling in the tables below.**

**If you are based in Northern Ireland, where legislation requires us to report in detail on the organisations we fund, please complete the tables in full, as applicable.**

If you are based outside Northern Ireland and your organisation represents the interests of a wide range of people and not any particular group, mark this box only.

Age

Disabled people (people with physical or mental problems which have significant and long-term negative effects on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)

Ethnicity

Marital Status

People with dependants (for example, children or elderly relatives)

People living in households with incomes below the national average, or people living in the most deprived local-authority wards in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Political opinion (Northern Ireland only)

Religious belief

Gender

Sexual orientation

## **Declaration**

### **a) Terms of Grant**

You must read the standard terms of grant for this programme on our website.

By completing this Declaration, you are confirming that your organisation accepts these terms. For partnership projects, all partners must confirm that they accept the standard terms of grant by adding a contact at the end of the declaration.

### **b) Freedom of Information and Data Protection**

We are committed to being as open as possible. This includes being clear about how we assess and make decisions on our grants and how we will use your application form and other documents you give us. As a public organisation we have to follow the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

When you complete the Declaration at the end of the application form, you are confirming that you understand the Heritage Lottery Fund's legal responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and have no objection to us releasing sections 2, 3 and 4 of the application form to anyone who asks to see them. If there is any information in these sections of the form that you don't want made publicly available, please explain your reasons below:

We will take these into account when we respond to any request for access to those sections. We may also be asked to release other information contained elsewhere in the form and we will respond to these requests after taking account of your rights and expectations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 1998. In those cases, we will always consult you first.

The Heritage Lottery Fund will not be responsible for any loss or damage you suffer as a result of HLF meeting these responsibilities.

When you complete the Declaration you also agree that we will use this application form and the other information you give us, including any personal information covered by the Data Protection Act 1998, for the following purposes:

- To decide whether to give you a grant.
- To provide copies to other individuals or organisations who are helping us to assess and monitor grants.
- To hold in a database and use for statistical purposes.
- If we offer you a grant, we will publish information about you relating to the activity we have funded, including the amount of the grant and the activity it was for. This information may appear in our press releases, in our print and online publications, and in the publications or websites of relevant Government departments and any partner organisations who have funded the activity with us.
- If we offer you a grant, you will support our work to demonstrate the value of heritage by contributing (when asked) to publicity activities during the period we provide funding for and participating in activities to share learning, for which we may put other grantees in contact with you.

We may contact you from time to time to keep you informed about the work of the Heritage Lottery Fund

Tick this box if you do not wish to be kept informed of our work

**I confirm that the organisation named on this application has given me the authority to complete this application on its behalf.**

**I confirm that the activity in the application falls within the purposes and legal powers of the organisation.**

**I confirm that the organisation has the power to accept and pay back the grant.**

**I confirm that if the organisation receives a grant, we will keep to the standard terms of grant, and any further terms or conditions as set out in the grant notification letter, or in any contract prepared specifically for the project.**

**I confirm that, as far as I know, the information in this application is true and correct.**

**I confirm that I agree with the**  **above statements.**

**Name** Kathryn Boler  
**Organisation** New Forest National Park Authority  
**Position** External Funding Officer  
**Date** 30/05/2013

**Are you applying on behalf of a partnership?**

Yes

**Please add the details of additional contacts below:**

John Durnell	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Head of Conservation for West Hants	30/05/2013
Julie Stubbs	New Forest Land Advice Service	New Forest Land Advice Service Manager	30/05/2013
Hilary Marshall	New Forest Centre / Ninth Centenary Trust	New Forest Centre Manager	30/05/2013
Mike Seddon	Forestry Commission	Deputy Surveyor SE England District	30/05/2013
Dylan Everett	National Trust	Countryside Operations Manager	30/05/2013
Rachel Pearson	Beaulieu Estate	Resident Agent	30/05/2013
Maxine Holden	Environment Agency	New Forest Catchment Officer	20/05/2013
Graham Ferris	Commoners' Defence Association	Chair	30/05/2013
Richard Lemon	Natural England	Senior Adviser - Landscape Scale Delivery - South	30/05/2013
Gilly Drummond	Cadland Estate	Owner	30/05/2013
Kevin Stubbs	Cultural Heritage Action Planning Group	Representative	30/05/2013



## Section Nine - Supporting Documents

Please provide all of the documents listed at each round, unless they are not applicable to your project. You will be asked to indicate how you are sending these documents to us - as hard copy or electronically.

### First round

**1. Copy of your organisation's constitution (formal rules), unless you are a public organisation. If your application is on behalf of a partnership or consortium, please also provide the constitution of each of these organisations too.**

If you have sent a copy of your constitution with a previous grant application (since April 2008) and no changes have been made to it, you do not need to send it again. Tell us the reference number of the previous application.

Electronic

**2. Copies of your agreements with project partners, signed by everyone involved, setting out how the project will be managed (if applicable);**

Electronic

**3. Copy of your organisation's accounts for the last financial year. This does not apply to public organisations;**

Not applicable

**4. Spreadsheet detailing the cost breakdown in Section seven: project costs;**

Electronic

**5. Calculation of Full Cost Recovery included in your development phases costs (if applicable);**

Not applicable

**6. Briefs for development work for internal and externally commissioned work;**

Electronic

**7. Job descriptions for new posts to be filled during the development phase;**

Electronic

**8. A small selection of images that help illustrate your project. If your project involves physical heritage, please provide a selection of photographs, a location map and, if applicable, a simple site map or plan. It would be helpful if these are in digital format (either as an attachment or on disk). We will use these images to present your project to decision-makers.**

Electronic

**If applicable, please attach any additional documents as required for the programme that you are applying under. For further guidance, please refer to Section 9 of the application guidance**

Electronic

**Please now attach any supporting documents.**

**When you have completed the form click the submit button to submit the form to the server. You can view what you have entered by clicking the draft print button above.**