

# 9 A Lasting Difference

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## 9.1 Introduction

The Landscape Partnership will bring together and join landscape management in a way not undertaken before in the New Forest. There already exists a large and varied network of organisations, volunteers, interest and user groups, and communities involved in managing the heritage of the New Forest. After five fully-funded years of delivery this network will have strengthened and will result in more integrated delivery at the landscape-scale. The Landscape Partnership is committed to maintaining this into the future.

The enhanced conservation work, increased awareness, understanding of and engagement with the area's heritage, improved physical and intellectual access, and additional training, skills development and volunteering opportunities provided will provide a clear legacy for the OPOF scheme, even though the projects which deliver these benefits themselves may be time-limited. All of projects will have created a lasting legacy including:

- Raised awareness about how to manage the land for conservation and improve the biodiversity of the New Forest. This will be achieved through projects such as Better Boundaries and Natures Stepping Stones.
- Raised awareness about the areas heritage and skills developed necessary for its long-term protection. This will be achieved through projects such as Heritage on my Doorstep, Rediscovering Archaeological Heritage.
- Interpretation for the future, this will be achieved through projects such as New Forest Connects and Common Cause.
- Long-term management of the area by supported many of the skills necessary. This will be achieved through projects such as New Forest Rural Skills and Building Skills Circle.
- Continue to learn about what has worked and feed that into ongoing work of the NPA and others.

## 9.2 Legacy Outcomes

### 9.2.1 Legacy outcomes for partnership

- The Partnership is built on firm foundations and the projects are owned by partners. This sense of ownership and responsibility will ensure that projects are maintained and delivered and ensure their long term sustainability.
- A number of the projects in the scheme will require close working by a range of new partners and communities to achieve successful delivery. This will required shared resources and close coordination to achieve project

outcomes. Working together will make the partnership stronger and provide partners with the resources and skills to manage the heritage in the long term and ensure that the positive contributions made by the scheme are sustained.

- For the partner organisations individually, five years of fully-resourced, well-planned and well-coordinated delivery will support new ways of working in the future. Each will emerge from their experience in delivery as organisations that will have adapted to changing times and circumstances.
- Where seeking future funds, the strong partner relationships built in delivery will lead to stronger, better-designed, more holistic future projects which would have a wider potential suite of funding opportunities than many single-issue, single-partner projects.
- From the beginning, all project delivery partners have been encouraged to develop a legacy strategy for their projects so that the aim is always to continue or build upon the HLF funding in order to support an ongoing landscape approach.
- Certain systems developed through OPOF will continue to expand beyond the delivery phase such as the Volunteer forum.

### 9.2.2 Legacy outcomes for heritage

- Habitat restoration and improved condition and quality of a number of the area's special landscape features resulting in increased biodiversity in the future
- 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
- The long term future of the New Forest's commoning heritage will be supported by a better understanding of its significance and management practices
- The scheme will deliver consequent improvements in quality meaning less effort is required to maintain that quality.
- 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
- Monument and archaeological conservation work and ongoing management plans and monitoring will make the built heritage more resilient.
- All capital projects undertaken as part of the OPOF scheme will be protected by agreements with the beneficiary organisations to ensure the benefits of the HLF investment are maintained and continue to be managed for a minimum 10 year period beyond the scheme.
- Restoration work undertaken will allow ongoing maintenance using volunteers that would only require light intervention.
- Enhanced economic activity based on careful heritage management such as woodlands, resulting in resources to continue appropriate management
- Work with private landowners may enable them to draw down HLS funding for long-term management

- Self-supporting networks of land and heritage managers established e.g. local heritage forum, building skills annual fair, water catchment groups
- Research into the benefits of engagement with heritage and how to motivate and change people's behaviour
- 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

### 9.2.3 Legacy outcomes for people

- The legacy from the volunteering work will be a large pool of volunteers who are trained to undertake a range of tasks and can therefore help maintain many of the projects we develop through the scheme. This network of volunteers and champions will be able to sustain some of the work beyond the lifetime of the formal partnership.
- People engaged with Forest life and Forest organisations, many of which will have continuing opportunities through the partner organisations, and the support to do this through for example the annual volunteer fair
- An established and revitalised land management community and built heritage community equipped with the training and skills necessary to continue heritage management
- Thousands of new people engaged with New Forest heritage and opportunities to explore their interests further
- Increased knowledge of, access to and appreciation of landscape, heritage among residents, visitors and managers.
- Increased awareness of the key role played in management of the landscape by commoning
- Young people will have an interest and connection to heritage that partners are committed to continuing this e.g. Wildlife Trust clubs and events, National Park Authority education service
- Improved understanding of the importance of the New Forest heritage will lead to a lasting behaviour change which will have positive benefits

### 9.2.4 Outcomes for communities

- Communities that are more involved with their landscape heritage.
- Communities that will involve and inspire others within neighbouring communities to take action.
- Communities with champions to help continue their interest, and the support from organisations such as the National Park Authority, New Forest Centre and other partners
- The records and discoveries about the area's heritage will provide a foundation for further monitoring and future project work.

- Information resources produced through the Scheme, either published online or in hard copy e.g. videos, booklets and information panels, which will be distributed to as wide an audience as possible and will be made available beyond the timescales of the scheme.
- Upkeep of key web-based resources, such as the OPOF website itself, will be taken forward as part of continued partnership working beyond the lifespan of the scheme or would be moved to the National Park Authority website.
- Information resources produced through the scheme will be appropriately curated for, and archived, in a way that ensures their long-term survival and easy access.
- Copies of all data and reports created will be located in the relevant depositories, including Historic Environment Records, Biodiversity Records Centres and New Forest Centre Library.
- Maintained wild play and discovery areas

### 9.3 How the Scheme will ensure long term legacy

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. As the local community, amenity groups, existing volunteer groups etc have helped to identify the detail of the projects then through their ownership they will be empowered to continue with them beyond the life of the HLF funding.

From the start the partnership has taken the view that the OPOF needs to be developed with a view to planning beyond the end of the HLF funding period, to provide a legacy for the scheme as a whole, for the landscape, its heritage, communities and visitors. This will be achieved as follows:

- **Incorporating the scheme's outputs into core activities delivered by partners.** The partnership will aim to find ways of using the resources created as part of project delivery for continuous benefit to the partnership and local communities.
- **Ensuring that the events instigated for the area will be continued.** The partnership will hope to continue to hold annual events such as community heritage forums, festival of archaeology. Some of these events will be owned by the community. The occurrence of such events will be crucial for community participation, to provide a continued connection with the landscape.
- **Finding ways of continuing the provision of training opportunities.** The partnership is keen to continue to provide opportunities for local people to learn new skills.
- **Finding ways of continuing the volunteering opportunities.** The partnership is keen to continue to provide opportunities for local people to

volunteer. Through the development stage a Volunteer Forum has started to form and this will be further expanded during the Delivery phase.

- **Strengthened relationships between partner organisations and a commitment to continue enjoying the efficiencies of joined-up working.** Working together may result in a desire to continue the partnership beyond the lifetime of the project or that individual members of the partnership will take on a long-term legacy role for particular elements of the scheme, possibly within an overarching, continued partnership with an identified lead body. This will be considered further during the delivery phase.
- **Aligning with related partnerships and initiatives.** Through close working relationships with other partnerships and initiatives in and around the New Forest, including the HLS, National Park Management Plan, NFLAS, Access Forum, Educator Forum etc mutual benefits can be secured. Through this, the partnership can also assure that the OPOF's aims will be embedded in and taken forward through other initiatives.
- **Enabling greater community empowerment.** The OPOF scheme is very community-focused, to encourage an increase in local knowledge and experience, and greater community empowerment, and ownership. This will enable smaller community groups and Parish Councils to be better engaged and understand the landscape's issues. Community groups and residents will be empowered to take care of the landscape and their local environment. The partnership is keen to help community groups further by pointing out and helping with further grant sources and fundraising opportunities.
- **Behaviour change.** Many of the projects aim to change behaviour in order to protect the heritage of the New Forest into the future. This behaviour change will trickle through to others and so provide an ongoing benefit. In addition knowledge on which methods are the most effective at changing behaviour can be used by all partners in their work to influence peoples behaviour in the New Forest.

## 9.4 Conclusion

The Landscape Partnership sees OPOF as the start of increasing participation and collaboration where local landowners, parish councils, residents, farmers, visitors and agencies work together to share, understand and appreciate the importance of this landscape and together have the skills and opportunities to contribute to and champion its future.

Key to continuing this is the sharing of a deepening knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of the area which can continue after the Landscape Partnership Scheme is completed. The Partnership is committed to working together in the longer term and will encourage and support local communities in developing the knowledge and skills to play a more prominent and effective role in having responsibility for the plans and decisions that will shape and protect the best of this landscape long into the future.