

# Welcome

The New Forest National Park is truly unique.

It's a 'world capital' for wildlife with a huge diversity of rare plants and animals – one of the reasons why it was made a National Park in 2005.

A place of outstanding natural beauty, the unique landscape is shaped by the grazing of ponies, cattle and pigs that roam freely. These animals may appear wild, but they are owned by people called commoners. This active, working Forest has been managed by people for centuries.

One of the last places in southern England to offer a sense of wildness and tranquillity, it's a wonderful area to explore on foot, horseback, or by bike.

Indeed William the Conqueror, who set aside the 'New Forest' for hunting more than 900 years ago, would probably recognise much of it today.

Front cover image © Stu Meech

Follow these simple ways to help keep the New Forest special for future generations to enjoy.

Be Forest Friendly!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Over **700 commoners** turn out thousands of **ponies, cattle, donkeys, sheep and pigs** as part of their traditional 'common rights'

## The famous New Forest ponies

Over **5,000** ponies roam free throughout the open area of the Forest and even in the main streets of some villages such as Brockenhurst and Burley.

Spot the brand marks that show who owns the pony or different tail-clippings indicating in which part of the Forest they belong.

The ponies are known as 'the architects of the Forest' because it is their grazing

that creates the accessible landscape we all enjoy. Ponies are owned by local people called commoners, who take great pride in their animals – often owning several generations of the same families.

Pony at Rockford Common  
© Martin Dolan

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**Horse riding:** Horse riders have open access to the New Forest, but to reduce damage to the ground please use tracks when it's wet.

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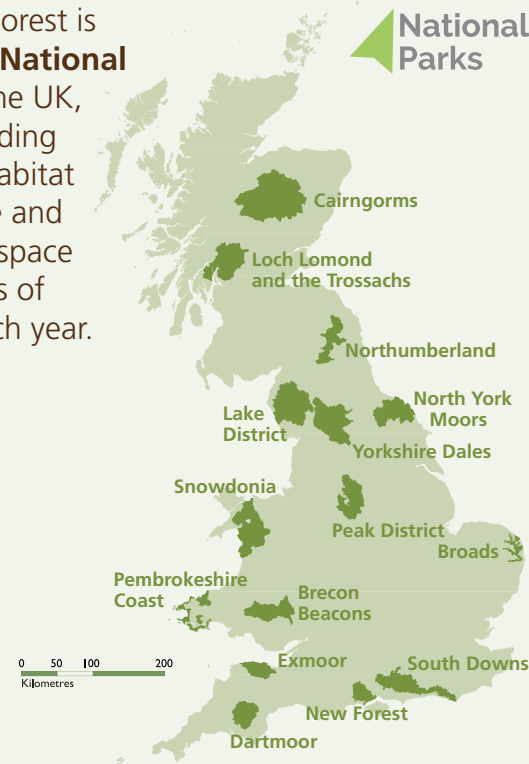
**Driving:** The ponies and other animals have no road sense and frequently stand or walk on the unfenced roads, so give them (and walkers, cyclists and horse riders) a wide berth and be especially careful when driving at night.

**Ponies, donkeys, cattle & pigs:** For their safety and your own please keep your distance from

the animals — although owned and cared for by local people called commoners, they are unpredictable and best treated as wild. Please don't feed or pet them; there is plenty of natural food and it's best that they don't come to rely on people's attention. They may look friendly but they can bite and kick, especially mares with foals.

Animals on the road in the New Forest  
© Natasha Weyers

The New Forest is one of **15 National Parks** in the UK, each providing precious habitat for wildlife and breathing space for millions of visitors each year.



## New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall  
Avenue Road  
Lymington SO41 9ZG

**01590 646600**  
[enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

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

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

Cycling on Hampton Ridge

## Walking

Explore the woods, heathland and coast of the New Forest on 30 easy-to-follow routes.

The online routes finder allows you to search by distance, location or even whether there is a pub near the route! Once you have chosen your preferred route just print off the directions or download the trails to your smartphone for free. [newforestnpa.gov.uk/walks](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/walks)

After your walk check your dog and yourself for ticks as they can lead to Lyme Disease.

Join the **New Forest Walking Festival** for over 100 behind the scenes wildlife walks, history hikes and family strolls with local experts. 13 to 28 October, 2018. [newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival)

Dog walking near Ashurst

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**Birds:** To help ground nesting birds rear their young safely, keep yourself, dogs and ridden horses on the main tracks from the beginning of March to the end of July.

**Dogs:** To minimise disturbance to wildlife, livestock and other people, please keep your dogs close by you and visible at all times – if necessary use

a lead. Pick up after your dog, especially around car parks, on paths and where people play or picnic, and take bagged waste home if there is no litter bin.

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

FREE ENTRY!

## New Forest culture and events

Start your visit at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst.

Find out about Forest life and history in the fascinating museum, enjoy the changing exhibitions, discover all the best things to see and do and buy unusual New Forest gifts in the shop. [newforestcentre.org.uk](http://newforestcentre.org.uk)

There are hundreds of exciting events and activities taking place in the New Forest this year, including the three-day New Forest Show in July. For details pick up the Essential Guide visitor newspaper, speak to the rangers, or visit [newforestnpa.gov.uk/events](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/events)

Wild play at Lepe country park

## A taste of the New Forest

Try delicious local produce or handmade crafts bearing the New Forest Marque from local shops, cafés and markets. [newforestmarque.co.uk](http://newforestmarque.co.uk)



Be Forest Friendly!

**BBQs and fire:** To reduce the risk of damaging wildfires, campfires are not permitted without the landowner's permission. Disposable BBQs are welcome at Bolderwood, Blackwater and Wilverley where stands and water are available. Raised non-disposable BBQs are allowed on the hard-standing areas of car parks,

providing water is available. You can hire fixed-stand party-sized BBQs from the Forestry Commission (**0300 067 4601**) and from Hampshire County Council at Lepe Country Park at [www.hants.gov.uk/lepe](http://www.hants.gov.uk/lepe)

**Litter:** Your food and litter could harm the ponies and donkeys. Please take your litter home if bins are full.

## Cycling

There are more than 100 miles of waymarked family friendly cycle routes to explore, many of them off-road and traffic free.

The network, managed by the Forestry Commission, is easily accessible from railway stations at Ashurst, Brockenhurst and Sway and links the main New Forest villages. There are plenty of places to hire bikes during your stay and more than 20 easy-to-follow cycle routes at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/cycling](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/cycling)

Be Forest Friendly!

Cycling at Keyhaven

New Forest National Park

## Pocket Guide

Find out more  
[newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk)

FREE MAP!





# Your New Forest adventure awaits...

Every year, tens of thousands of people choose the best way to get around the National Park – with car-free trips on the New Forest Tour. There are great-value day tickets to ride all day, with discounts at attractions, tempting treats, and audio commentaries revealing secrets of the Forest on some services. Check the map for routes.

## Travel Concierge

Meet the New Forest Travel Concierge for advice about exploring the National Park without a car. The service is available at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst railway station from 7 July to 9 September. [newforestnpa.gov.uk/travel\\_concierge](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/travel_concierge)



**RINGWOOD BREWERY**

*Come and visit the Ringwood Brewery Shop*

(Open: Monday - Saturday 9.30-5pm)

Tours are also available, booking compulsory. Call our Brewery Store on 01425 470303

138 Christchurch Rd, Ringwood BH24 3AP

[WWW.RINGWOODBREWERY.CO.UK](http://WWW.RINGWOODBREWERY.CO.UK)

## New Forest Tour

Enjoy grandstand views from the open-top Tour. Discover three scenic routes around magical landscapes, picture postcard villages and popular attractions, with a commentary to guide you. Hop on and off and switch routes – all on the same ticket. Hourly, every day, 7 July to 9 September. [thenewforesttour.info](http://thenewforesttour.info)

Hop on the New Forest Tour



Be Forest Friendly!

**Fungi:** Please leave fungi for other people to enjoy. Fungi are essential to the New Forest's internationally protected ecosystem. Foray leaders must apply for permission for educational excursions from the Forestry Commission in advance. If you suspect or see commercial picking please call the Forestry Commission on **0300 067 4600** or the National Trust on **01425 650035**.

**Unidentified objects:** Areas of the New Forest were used to test bombs in World War I and II. Please keep away from objects that might be dangerous and notify the police immediately on 999.

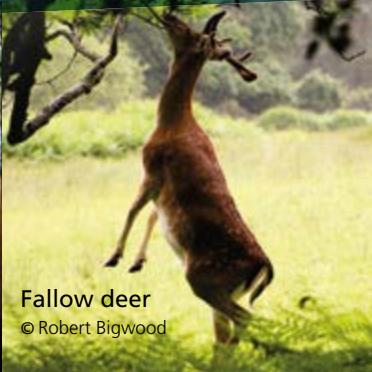


Meet the rangers

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The New Forest was established by **William the Conqueror** in **1079** as **'Nova Foresta'** ('new hunting ground')



Highland cow  
© Zoe Davis



Fallow deer  
© Robert Bigwood

## Need somewhere to stay?

Visit [thenewforest.co.uk](http://thenewforest.co.uk) for luxurious spas, family hotels, quaint B&Bs and friendly campsites.



Beaulieu



Oak tree

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The New Forest has the **highest concentration of ancient trees** in Western Europe, with some yew trees believed to be over 1,000 years old

## DID YOU KNOW?

Over **2,600** species of fungi have been recorded here



Fungi © Steve Elson

## Spectacular seasonal sights

- May: Newborn foals and bluebell carpets
- July: Sun-drenched coastal views from Lepe Country Park
- August: Purple heather in bloom
- November: Free-roaming pigs and autumn colours

Picnicking on Lepe beach

