All National Parks are expected to have a Management Plan for their area, to help guide the work of partners with responsibilities and an interest in the Park.

In November 2015, the main partner organisations listed below came together to produce a Partnership Plan as a supplement to the existing Management Plan for the New Forest National Park. The Partnership Plan brings the Management Plan up to date and suggests a number of new actions for 2015 – 2020 covering a wide range of topics.

This annual Progress Report highlights some of the actions which are already underway. We recognise that we are at a time in the life of the Forest where collective leadership is needed to secure this unique living, working landscape for future generations. We will continue to work together as a team to deliver the Partnership Plan themes of ‘protect, enjoy and prosper’. Whilst bringing different views and remits to the task, we will be prepared to be innovative and work with a ‘can do’ approach in the context of change to secure the best possible future for the Forest.

New Forest National Park Partnership Plan Partners
Case study:

**People and Wildlife Ranger**

Each year, ranger Dawn Rayment talks with thousands of people out and about in the New Forest and encourages them to enjoy the area responsibly.

This work includes attending major Forest events, organising behaviour classes for dog owners and even running coffee mornings at iconic locations.

There is a particular focus on reducing disturbance of ground nesting birds during breeding season by encouraging people to stick to the main tracks from March until July.

Dawn's work is part of a 'Green Way' strategy to prevent any damage to the internationally-designated areas of the New Forest caused by new housing.

Dawn Rayment, People and Wildlife Ranger.

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**Highlights Protect**

- **LH1** Page 20
  - 8.4 hectares of land has been enhanced for wildlife through practical, environmentally-friendly land management.

- **LH3** Page 20
  - 1,635 metres of hedge has been restored to create better links between habitats.

- **LH6** Page 21
  - 1,000 dragon's teeth have been installed in Nomansland and Woodgreen to protect grazed verges from damage and erosion by vehicles.

- **LH8** Page 21
  - 4.3 km of stream has been restored to its natural watercourse to benefit streamside habitats.

- **LH9** Page 21
  - 16 properties along the Cadnam River have had land treated for Japanese knotweed.

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**Highlights Enjoy**

- **SQ3** Page 28
  - 1,699 days spent undertaking conservation tasks and other public engagement activities by the Volunteer Ranger Service in 2016.

- **SQ4** Page 29
  - 300% increase in downloads of self-led walking and cycling trails on redesigned New Forest routes website, helping people to better understand the Forest when they visit.

- **EP2** Page 31
  - 10 access improvements made, including upgrades on the surface of a bridleway in Hordle, cycle network signage improvements between Totton and Lyndhurst, and reinstatement of a footpath in Hythe, which had been washed away by flooding.

- **EP3** Page 31
  - 2 km off-road cycle link was newly created between Marchwood and Eling.

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**Highlights Prosper**

- **HC8** Page 33
  - 350 people regularly attend healthy walking groups across the New Forest and hundreds more have received dementia awareness training.

- **EW2** Page 34
  - £110,000 worth of grants through the Rural Development LEADER Programme for the New Forest will fund the growth and creation of jobs in rural businesses and support local services.

- **EW5** Page 34
  - 137 businesses are members of the New Forest Marque quality assurance scheme for local New Forest produce.

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**Highlights Learn**

- **EP8** Page 31
  - £2.7m is being spent on improving the visitor centre and cafe at Lepe Country Park.

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**Case study:**

**Award-winning volunteer**

Brian Matthews, from Lymington spent an astonishing 400 hours volunteering to pull Himalayan balsam and other invasive plants in 2016.

As reward for his efforts he was named Project Champion for the non-native plants project and was on hand to officially open the 2017 New Forest Volunteer Fair.

The Volunteer Fair brought together more than 40 local organisations to offer hundreds of volunteer roles protecting the Forest to more than 700 attendees.

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