

BUSINESS PLAN 2015-2018

Draft 2016-17 Work Programme

Protect

We will endeavour to ensure the qualities that make the National Park a unique and special place are conserved, enhanced and resilient.

Protect Priority 1: Enhancing the New Forest's landscapes and habitats

We will work with land managers, land owners and commoners to enhance the New Forest's landscapes and wildlife habitats, by:

- giving clear advice and guidance, using the Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Action Plan and tranquillity mapping
- developing and delivering projects which restore, enhance and maintain important wildlife sites
- offering support, advice and training
- working with partners to enhance the New Forest at a 'landscape scale'.

Action/Outcome	Owner	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Deliver habitat restoration and river catchment enhancement through landscape scale partnerships across the National Park. These include: Our Past Our Future (OPOF), where the NPA is the lead body, the Verderers HLS Scheme, New Forest Catchment Partnership (co-host) and New Forest and Solent SPA (Special Protection Area) Forums. LH4, LH7	Ian Barker, Lawrence Shaw, Rachael Gallagher	<p>Catchment co-hosting partnership has been awarded £15,000 for delivering partnership activity in 2016/17 by Defra. We are working with the Environment Agency to secure resources for improvements to fish passage and channel morphology in the Beaulieu catchment by end of Q4. Citizen science water testing of waterbodies in the New Forest piloted this spring, results to be reported in later quarters. Living Waters element of OPOF is underway, capital works implemented and training event planned for Q2.</p> <p>SPA initiatives supported and we are engaged in the review of the coastal SPA contribution scheme.</p> <p>Planning permission successfully obtained for two schemes of habitat restoration as part of New Forest HLS scheme.</p> <p>OPOF LPS is 10 months into the Delivery Stage, most of the 21 projects are now underway and on schedule for delivering the required targets, including those within the Restoring Lost Landscapes theme.</p>		
Enhance important wildlife sites with active management delivered through 3 OPOF projects: Working Woodlands, Better Boundaries and Natures' Stepping Stones. The targets are 10 SINC's (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation), 1200m of hedgerow and 40 ha of woodland under active management. LH1, LH3, LM5	Julie Melin-Stubbs	All three projects are in a spring/summer phase which means that survey, monitoring and planning of capital works for next winter are now underway. The Working Woodlands Project Co-ordinator is now in post so that project can begin with planning for the winter and finding new sites. Survey and monitoring of the Better Boundaries and Nature's Stepping Stones sites is being co-ordinated and delivered jointly by Angela Peters and Sarah Jackson of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust through the OPOF Biodiversity Monitoring project, with the help of volunteers. Both officers have been involved with training up where necessary.		
Identify and secure £60k in grants as match funding to deliver OPOF.	Fiona Wynne	A number of potential grants have been identified and are being discussed with the relevant project managers. A draft bid to the Arts Council for funding towards the Arts Festival is currently in progress.		

Action/Outcome	Owner	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation
Identify the areas of greatest need for back-up grazing for commoning and identify the mechanisms for securing grazing land. LM4	Julie Melin-Stubbs / Paul Walton	Mapping being carried out under the Green Halo work is helping identify the areas where back up grazing is both needed and where land may be available. Securing the land for grazing remains the key with options to be explored in Q2.		
Provide a programme of land management support, advice and training for 100 landowners, farmers and commoners. LM1, LM2	Julie Melin-Stubbs	One hundred and fifty commoners had one to one help with their Basic Payment Scheme forms, a crucial support mechanism for commoning whose animals are so important for the management of the open Forest. Other farmers, landowners and commoners had other advice and support as ever. The New Forest Rural Skills Project continued to deliver its annual programme of 30 courses for the land managing community with 8 courses organised during this quarter and many others in planning phase for later in the year. Highlights this quarter included a fully booked cattle breeding and husbandry course at Emery Down. The Commoners Mentor Scheme entered delivery phase after months of planning with 6 mentors starting to work with our 11 mentorees.		

Action/Outcome	Owner	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation
Work with the New Forest Ecademy (OPOF) and partners to identify the priorities for future surveys on species and habitats. LH14	Ian Barker	Support for New Forest Amphibian and Reptile Partnership to identify priorities for these species groups. Work for highest identified priority – smooth snake is underway and spring survey commenced. Liaison and support has been provided for Biodiversity Conference organised by The Academy and Bournemouth University due to take place in third quarter.		
Seek to reduce impacts from noise, visual disturbance and lighting on the tranquillity of the National Park. The priority is the National Grid Visual Impact Provision project at Hale Purlieu ST1, ST2, ST4	Sarah Kelly	A joint site to Hale Purlieu with all major stakeholders to walk the line was held on 17 May, a two day public exhibition was held by National Grid with a National Park presence on 1 and 2 July with a meeting on 11 July with all parties, including Natural England. Advice given to National Grid regarding an EIA scoping request. Ongoing liaison with National Grid and other stakeholders regarding opportunities and constraints of potential undergrounding.		
Finalise a climate change adaptation plan report and set up New Forest Climate Change group. CC4	Andy Brennan	No progress this quarter, action planned for Q3		
Coordinate action through the Verderers HLS, OPOF and Western Escarpment Project to reduce verge damage and encroachment. Outcomes will contribute to delivery of the New Forest Site Improvement Plan. LH6, LD7, LD8	Sarah Kelly	Work continuing with verge protection with key partners, Forestry Commission and Verderers.		

Protect Priority 2: Ensuring new development is sympathetic and in keeping with its surroundings

We will seek the highest quality of development in the New Forest to minimise impacts on its special qualities and deliver enhancements by:

- providing clear National Park planning policies and a high quality planning service
- working with neighbouring authorities in the development of their planning policies and proposals that may affect the National Park
- increasing knowledge and evidence about changes to the special qualities of the National Park
- supporting delivery of green infrastructure plans within and outside the National Park to reduce pressure on the most sensitive areas.

Action/Outcome	Owner	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	
Lead partners in developing a strategic approach to the provision of green infrastructure and the management of natural capital within the National Park and a surrounding 25km "Green Halo". LM3, LH11	Paul Walton/David Illsley	<p>Two events were held to further the development of the Green Halo concept. A meeting with officers from neighbouring Authorities mapped opportunities for Green Infrastructure, SANGs (Suitable Area of Natural Greenspace) etc. This work is now being digitised and will be a foundation for further opportunity mapping in the future.</p> <p>An event organised and hosted by the NPA in conjunction with Business South introduced the Green Halo concept to regional business leaders. The event was well received with many new stakeholders acknowledging the significance of the National Park to the wider area and pledging support for the Green Halo approach.</p>		
Undertake a full review of our adopted Core Strategy (2010), taking into account the experiences since the Core Strategy was adopted and changes in national planning policy (introduced through the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Policy Guidance). To include public consultation on the draft Local Plan in Autumn 2016 and the preparation of the Submission draft Local Plan by Spring 2017.	David Illsley	Good progress has been made on the review of the planning policies for the Park in Q1. This has included meetings with relevant bodies; the commissioning of further evidence base studies; and briefing sessions with members. The draft Local Plan is on target to be presented to the full NPA meeting in September 2016 prior to going out for public consultation.		

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Run a series of themed planning workshops for Parish and Town councils, including building design and conservation, planning policy, trees, development control and enforcement.	Steve Avery	A series of four planning related workshops have been set up for 2016. The first two of these – focusing on building design and conservation and planning policy – took place in Q1 and were both attended by over 40 local town and parish councillors. The final two workshops on enforcement, trees and development control will take place before the end of 2016.		
Introduce charging for pre-application advice for certain types of development whilst maintaining an open and accessible planning service.	Steve Avery	The framework for introducing pre-application charging is being worked-up (Summer 2016) and the current intention is to present a paper outlining the proposed charging scheme to the September 2016 Planning Development Control Committee. Charging could then be introduced before the end of 2016.		
Co-ordinate the use and distribution of developer contributions to support habitat mitigation measures within the National Park.	Steve Avery	The Authority continues to successfully negotiate the payment of developer contributions towards habitat mitigation measures in the National Park (including the coastline). To date around £50,000 has been collected from new residential development in the Park to provide a range of mitigation measures.		

<p>Re-visit the merits of introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy for the National Park following enactment of the Housing and Planning Bill and further government planning reforms.</p>	<p>Steve Avery</p>	<p>Following changes in national planning policy, in June 2016 members of the Planning Development Control Committee endorsed the principle of developing a CIL Charging Schedule for the National Park. This work will be progressed in parallel with the timetable for the Local Plan Review.</p>		
<p>Co-ordinate the local design awards scheme to recognise and promote exemplary development in the National Park.</p>	<p>David Illsley</p>	<p>Following the success of the 2015 Building Design Awards, nominations for the 2016 awards opened in Q1 and will run until October 2016. Awareness raising has taken place with local parish councils and will also include a presentation to the annual Planning Agents meeting in September 2016.</p>		
<p>Support the Western Escarpment Conservation Area Action Plan by working with Parish Councils in delivering the actions identified in the Plan. LD8</p>	<p>Lisa Crouch</p>	<p>The Steering Group met in June and discussed the progress of the Western Escarpment Verge Protection Project. Discussions were also held on which actions from the Action Plan were to be prioritised and taken forward by the group in the next meeting in September.</p>		

Protect Priority 3: Conserving the historic environment and local way of life

We will support the conservation of features that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the New Forest, by:

- enabling local people to retain and promote traditional building skills and crafts
- developing initiatives that encourage recording and celebration of features of interest to local communities
- providing advice and resources for specific community-led projects that promote local distinctiveness and cultural heritage
- improving knowledge and skills amongst the public to further protect the archaeology of the National Park.

Action/Outcome	Owner	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Develop period and thematic research strategies to address gaps in the knowledge of specific time periods of the Forest's archaeological record. LD2	Frank Green	Work on the Roman research strategy completed to be circulated through the New Forest Heritage Forum in the Autumn. Work progressing on transcribing the recordings of the day seminar on the Palaeolithic and Early Holocene strategy and drafting the strategy.		
Establish a New Forest Heritage Forum as part of OPOF LD4	Frank Green/James Brown	Established, first meeting held and a great success and further meetings to be arranged.		
Curate the New Forest Remembers Exhibition and Heritage Portal, a WWI & WWII online archive. The WWI exhibition will be shown at five different venues, 12 new articles added to the Portal, 50,000 page views and 5 talks given. LD3	Gareth Owen	New Forest Remembers WWI Exhibition was on display at the NF Centre from 6 Feb to 1 May receiving a total of 11,187 visitors. The panels were then shown in our reception area during May. The panels are now booked to attend three local history group events, Downton History Group, Ashurst and Colbury History event and with the Redlynch Local History Society later this year. The online archive continues to grow with four new articles added to the Portal and 19,655 page views during this period. One talk was given to 52 members of the Poole Heart Support Group.		

Action/Outcome	Owner	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Actively manage scheduled and unscheduled ancient monuments on the Crown Lands and Open Forest. Improve the condition of at least 10 sites on the Crown Lands. LD6	Lawrence Shaw	Between April and July, the project officer has been working with staff and volunteers to clean the vast quantity of data gathered during the field season. This work will help towards the deposition of archaeological data with the County. The largest area to be included is Beaulieu Heath which contained over 300 features. Work has continued in supporting the FC with mitigation being undertaken at Broomy and Suburbs Wood prior to works taking place. A number of mitigation data packs have also been produced for the FC prior to works taking place later in the year.		