



NEW FOREST
NATIONAL PARK

Protecting
together,
shaping
tomorrow

Annual Review 2017 – 2018





Chairman's and Chief Executive's statement

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, published in January 2018, echoes much of our work this year – ensuring nature is at the heart of decisions on the future of our landscape, community and economy.

This year we have worked with our partners to champion the New Forest and its commoning traditions in crucial discussions on the future of farming after Brexit.

After many years of groundwork, a new RSPB nature reserve in the north of the National Park – the size of 1,300 football pitches – was launched with our support and funding assistance.

We consulted on an updated suite of planning policies for the National Park in our draft Local Plan, which considers a scheme for significant development at the former Fawley Power Station and looks to address the community's housing needs.

Meanwhile Europe's largest agri-environment scheme here in the New Forest has made further progress in restoring wetland areas, supporting commoning and improving habitats for rare species.

People's connections with the natural world and the National Park are vital in ensuring its survival. We worked with our partners to launch a joint consultation on how recreation should be managed in the Forest and teamed up with the health sector to put the National Park at the centre of efforts to improve our population's health and wellbeing.

A £4.5m Lottery Fund scheme involving 10 partner organisations made great strides this year in conserving our heritage and landscape as well as encouraging people's involvement in the New Forest through education, events, training courses and volunteering.

The national park does not exist in isolation and what happens beyond our boundaries is increasingly relevant to the state of the New Forest.

We want to secure the National Park for the future, using fresh approaches and innovation. We instigated a new Green Halo Partnership to bring our region's private, public and third sectors together to develop a suite of projects and ideas to ensure our environment, economy and communities thrive.

Achievements this year demonstrate that only through our collective efforts – combining our skills, knowledge, funds and resources – can progress be made to secure the future of this special place.

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, Chairman

Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

Main cover photo: Waterside ponies

Smaller cover images (left to right): Archaeology volunteers, children at the opening of a wild play site and a kingfisher perching.

All © Nick Lucas

About the New Forest National Park Authority

Our vision

The vision for the National Park in 20 years' time is of an area which has a unique and immediately recognisable sense of place, where:

- tranquillity and a feeling of naturalness pervade large parts of the Park
- the mosaic of distinctive landscapes and habitats are all of the highest quality and a great variety of wildlife is able to flourish
- there is a strong sense and understanding of the heritage and living culture of the Forest
- all visitors can gain inspiration, health and well-being and enjoy the extensive areas of land with open access
- the far reaching consequences of climate change are taken into account in all policies and future plans
- people live and work sustainably and contribute to the care of the Forest
- local, regional and national organisations recognise the value of the National Park and there is a shared understanding of its role within the wider area
- everyone contributes in appropriate ways to keeping the National Park a special place for present and future generations.

Our mission – National Park purposes

As guardians of a national park the New Forest National Park Authority has statutory purposes and socio-economic responsibilities as specified in the Environment Act of 1995:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.

Working in partnership with other organisations it is also the Authority's duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.

We like to sum this up as:

**Protect
Enjoy
Prosper**



Right: The UK's 15 National Parks
Contains Ordnance Survey data.
© Crown copyright and database right 2018
© National Parks UK 2018

Our Authority board members 2017-18

National Park Authority members have overall responsibility for making decisions. They are responsible for setting policies and priorities, ensuring efficient and effective use of resources, and that money is well spent. It is their job to represent the interests of the National Park and to balance out any conflicting pressures.

Thanks go to all members who have served over the last year, in particular to Ken Thornber who sadly passed away in 2017. Ken was a diligent and well respected member of the Authority and he is much missed.

Local authority appointees



David Harrison,
Chairman of
Resources, Audit
and Performance
Committee



Edward Heron,
Deputy Chairman
of the Authority



Gordon Bailey



Richard Frampton



Penny Jackman



Richard Clewer



Mel Kendal



Keith Mans



Leo Randall,
Chairman of
Planning Committee



Barry Rickman



Neville Penman



Pat Wyeth

Secretary of State appointees



Oliver
Crosthwaite-Eyre,
Chairman of
the Authority



Phil Marshall,
Chairman of
Standards
Committee



Patrick Heneghan



Marian Spain,
Deputy
Chairman of
Resources, Audit
and Performance
Committee



Gavin Parker



David Bence

Parish appointees



Richard Taylor



George Bisson,
Deputy Chairman
of Standards
Committee



Harry Oram,
Deputy Chairman
of Planning
Committee



John Sanger

Our 22 members do not represent any particular political group. Driven by the National Park purposes and duty, they work with officers to establish and then deliver our work programme, with operational aspects delegated to officers.

- 12 are appointed by the county, district, and borough councils with land within the National Park
- six are appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- four are selected from the parish councils within the National Park.

Tackling big issues and putting the Forest first

1 Helping nature, business and communities thrive



The New Forest is one of Europe's most important sanctuaries for nature, situated in the busy south east of England and surrounded by Southampton, Bournemouth, Poole and Salisbury.

By Alison Barnes, New Forest National Park Authority Chief Executive

In such a busy part of the country, how do we ensure nature and people work hand-in-hand to flourish?

We are pioneering a new partnership with businesses, universities, charities and communities to ensure that the natural environment is an integral part of how we all work and live.

This Green Halo Partnership brings together organisations from across central southern England to protect and enhance our 'natural capital' – the benefits we derive from nature such as clean air and water, protection from flooding, food and healthy outdoor activities.

The partnership was launched in November 2017 at Ordnance Survey in Southampton, where architects, wildlife charities, councils, utility businesses, health bodies, universities and civil engineering firms were among around 70 organisations signing up.



Together we seek to:

- **Inspire** by promoting best practice in protecting and enhancing natural capital and ecosystem services
- **Encourage** by developing and delivering new projects
- **Support** by helping to identify resources for projects and offering expert advice to assist in their delivery
- **Inform** by continuing to promote and publish research on natural capital, and by communicating its activities to local communities.

Our ambition is not constrained by administrative boundaries, opportunities can come from all areas and all sectors in and around the National Park – hence the Green Halo.

This partnership is not a 'talking shop' – it focusses on action and creating real world projects that further the Green Halo objectives. This will be the focus over the coming year.



'We are delighted to be supporting the Green Halo Partnership in order to enhance the value of our natural assets, drive sustainable business growth and improve the quality of life in our area.'

Dr Mike Short, CBE, Board Member of Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

'Natural England is a committed member of the Green Halo partnership. The aims of the Green Halo align perfectly with our Conservation Strategy and local ambition in the region. This is significant partnership opportunity and we are excited to see the projects that will emerge that protect and enhance our precious natural capital.'

Fran Davies, Natural England's Hampshire, Dorset and Isle of Wight Area Team Manager

Photo: Green Halo launch at Ordnance Survey in Southampton
© R J Whetton

2 Safeguarding the Forest's future after Brexit



By Paul Walton, Head of Environment and Rural Economy, NFNPA

Over the coming decade the UK government will design and implement its own system of support that, according to the government's own 25 Year Environment Plan launched in January this year, will have environmental enhancement at its heart.

The Plan also promises to pass on to the next generation a natural environment in a better state than it is currently. This includes new habitats for wildlife, more wetlands to reduce the risk of flooding and measures to ensure new development results in overall gain for the environment.

So what will this mean for the New Forest National Park?

Farming and land management is key to sustaining the special qualities of the New Forest that make it unique and fundamental to its status as a National Park.

The extraordinary diversity of plants and animals is reflected in the fact that over half of the National Park is recognised for its national or international nature conservation value.

The practice of grazing animals across the Open Forest at the heart of the National Park is reliant on the support to commoners provided by payments from the CAP. These payments also play a key role in ensuring farmers and land owners beyond the Open Forest can maintain their small fields, hedgerows and flower-rich meadows.

These payments have also helped maintain the water quality of the New Forest rivers and streams, ponds and coastal waters over the last 10-20 years.

We have been working with partners to start to make the case for continued funding to support the environment of the National Park once the UK leaves the European Union.

The government has said it wants to invest public money in public goods – improved biodiversity, air and water quality, the safeguarding of our historic landscapes and the opportunity for more public access to the countryside.

All of these goods are provided by the New Forest National Park and we have joined with commoners, farming groups and land managers in a Forest Farming Group to ensure that the importance of the New Forest is recognised by government as new environmental policies are developed.

Photo: New Forest Land Advice Service staff play a key role in supporting commoners



Tackling big issues and putting the Forest first

3 Managing recreation to benefit the Forest



Millions of people visit the New Forest every year. Visitors enjoy seeing the free roaming animals, cycling on the tracks and walking through peaceful woodland. For many, the National Park is the location for their most treasured family memories and there are significant health and wellbeing benefits.

By Nigel Matthews, Head of Recreation Management and Learning, NFNPA

However, all this ever-growing activity gives local organisations with a remit for managing recreation a huge challenge as they seek to protect the Forest's spectacular, yet fragile, wildlife-rich landscape for future generations.

That is why over the last year we have been working with the Forestry Commission, Natural England, Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and the Verderers to conduct the Future Forest consultation. A strong and enduring joint commitment is needed to manage recreation so that, across the National Park and beyond, we can achieve a net gain for the working and natural landscape and for the recreational experience.

The eight week consultation in summer 2017 was the first stage of the process to update the Recreation Management Strategy that was established in

2010. Over 7,000 comments were received from 50 organisations and 1,500 individuals, including many who don't normally get involved in public consultations and yet live locally or spend a lot of time in the area.

The feedback showed the importance of raising awareness and understanding of the things that make the New Forest special. It also demonstrated the need to manage where people go and to find more resources to protect the Forest.

As well as the online consultation we looked at other information, including feedback from user groups and forums, available data and evidence, and assessments of existing work programmes, policies and regulations.

After further liaison a new and updated suite of draft actions has been developed, together with examples of how they could be delivered. A further round of consultation is taking place this summer (2018) to help inform which actions should be taken forward if resources can be found.

The plan is that different organisations will take the lead for, and assist with, different tasks. It will also be vital that each of us that benefits from this amazing place plays our part so that the New Forest will thrive into the future.

For further details visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/futureforest

Photo: Cyclists near Brockenhurst



1,554

people and organisations had their say on New Forest recreation

4 Development within and beyond our boundary



There is considerable pressure for new development in the New Forest – we receive more than 800 planning applications each year.

By Steve Avery, Executive Director, Strategy and Planning, NFNPA

Our planning powers are our main tool for protecting and enhancing the New Forest, by allowing us to ensure that development is sympathetic to the National Park's special qualities.

Over the last year we have been reviewing the Local Plan for the National Park, which includes identifying appropriate sites for small scale development. While opportunities for new house building within our boundaries are understandably limited, some new homes, especially affordable ones, are vitally important if we are to sustain our local communities.

Our planning work is not just about preventing inappropriate development. We are also keen to celebrate innovative and distinctive design in new buildings.

Our Building Design Awards have been running for three years and celebrate outstanding new buildings, extensions and larger developments across the National Park. The winning buildings not only respect their surroundings but often improve the overall appearance of the area.

Looking beyond our boundaries is also vital, as pressures from around the New Forest become increasingly relevant to the state of the National Park.

We know that plans will come forward for significant development around the National Park, particularly along the Waterside and at the redundant Fawley Power Station. There is strong demand for houses and employment opportunities in this area, which remains a highly desirable place to live and work – not least because of its high quality natural environment.

Our challenge is to ensure the natural beauty and wildlife of the New Forest National Park and its surrounds are enhanced, ensuring a focus on 'net environmental gain' as set out in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan while at the same time creating an environment that helps improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

We will continue to engage with surrounding authorities as their own plans evolve to address wider strategic cross-boundary planning issues, such as habitat mitigation and providing affordable housing.

Alongside this work through the planning system, the developing Green Halo Partnership will continue to bring the private, public and third sectors together to ensure the environment, economy and communities thrive.

800

planning applications received each year

Photo: New affordable housing in Bransgore



PROTECT

Putting the Forest first



'The National Park is a fragile and important area that needs protection to ensure it flourishes in the face of modern pressures. One of our major tools to protect the Forest is our planning service, which ensures any development is appropriate and sympathetic.'

Leo Randall, Chairman of Planning Committee

Landscape partnership focuses on volunteering and training

We are now over half way through the £4.4 million Heritage Lottery Fund Our Past, Our Future landscape partnership scheme, led by the National Park Authority with 10 key partners.

The scheme encourages the local community to get involved in protecting and preserving the landscape character and history of the Forest through volunteering.

We are grateful to all our hard working volunteers who have contributed over 31,000 hours of volunteer time so far, taking part in practical tasks such as, pulling up invasive Himalayan balsam from our rivers, wildlife surveys and research tasks.

Since the start of the scheme, the Ecademy project has had 34 volunteers scan 9,517 items from the Christopher Tower Reference Library in the New Forest Centre, including old maps, postcards, photographs, papers and books.

Many of these items can be seen on the New Forest Knowledge website, launched in November 2017. The site provides a publicly-accessible online archive of the National Park's history and can be accessed at nfknowledge.org.

The scheme also provides opportunities for volunteers to upskill through free training in areas such as wildlife surveys, to help monitor the effectiveness of any restoration or improvement works being undertaken across the projects.

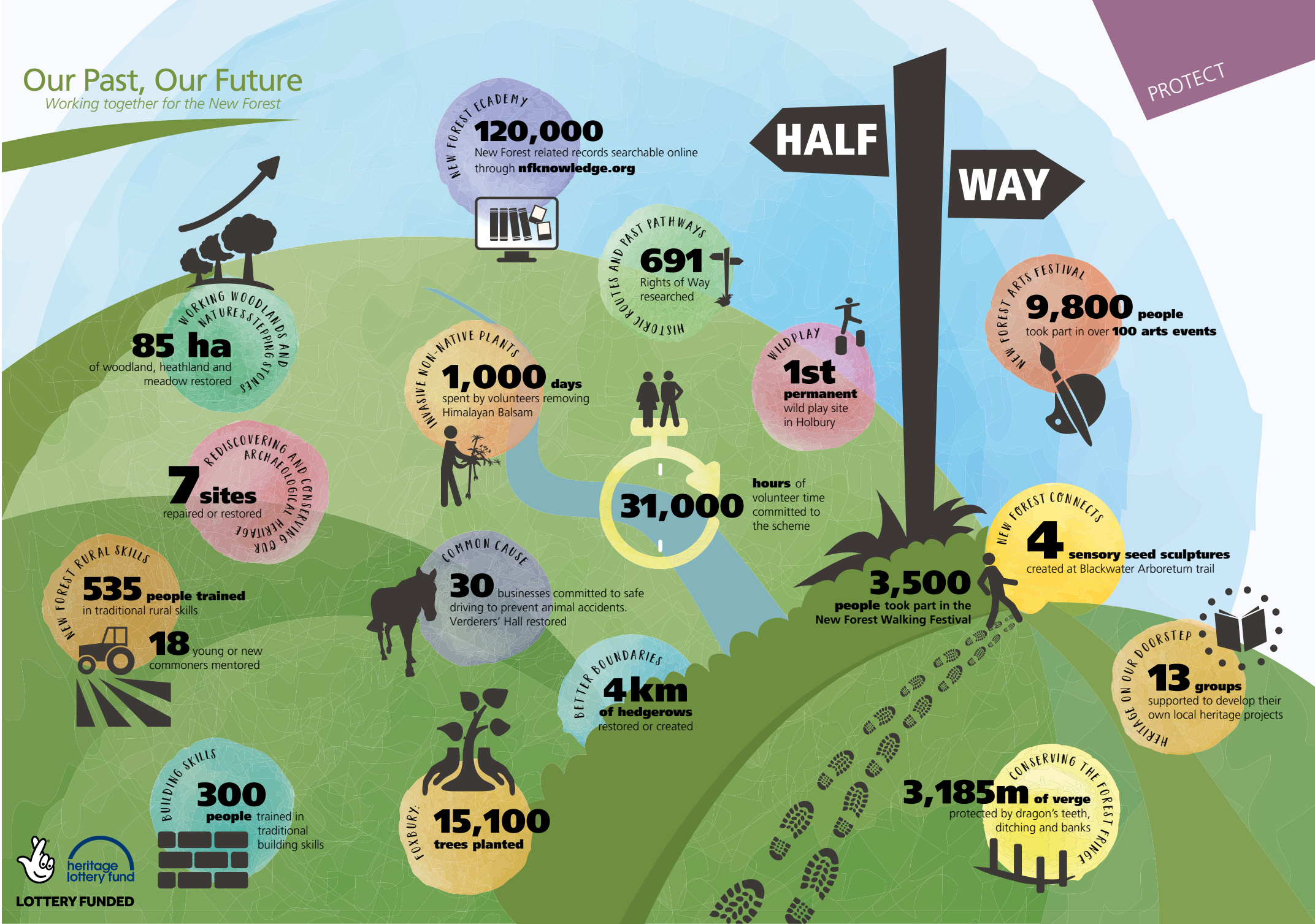
The first two years of summer surveys have provided the baseline data for 33 sites within the scheme, with highlights including recording the rare barbastelle bat on five sites and 10 of the 24 UK bumblebee species.

The New Forest Rural Skills project, led by the New Forest Land Advice Service, runs subsidised courses for farmers, commoners and other landowners to help preserve the traditional skills found in the National Park and provide them with the expertise required for today's modern agricultural requirements.

A total of 49 subsidised courses have been run in the first two years of the scheme, taking place at Sparsholt College and various locations around the Forest. Almost 500 people have been trained in a wide range of skills, including hedgelaying, sheep breeding, grasslands management and coppicing.

To find out more about training opportunities, visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/training

More information about volunteering in the New Forest can be found at newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteering



Project partners:



- From left to right:
1. Calmore Guides Himalayan balsam pulling
 2. Grasslands training course
 3. Hedgelaying course
 4. Sheep breeding course



Apprentice rangers, Peter Dovey (right) and Martyn Meaker

Meet our apprentice rangers

Apprentice rangers Martyn Meaker, 27, and Peter Dovey, 38, have a passion for working in the outdoors.

Over 12 months, they are gaining experience with our ranger team as well as with the Forestry Commission, National Trust, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

As part of their apprenticeship they are attending Kingston Maurwood College in Dorchester to gain a Level Two Diploma in Work-based Environmental Conservation and Level Two Award in Business for the Environment and Land Based Sector. They will also complete a variety of land management qualifications, including chainsaw training, safe use of pesticides and trailer training.

Martyn Meaker said: 'It's great to put back in what I have taken from the Forest, I am loving the whole journey and looking forward to seeing where I will end up!'

Peter Dovey said: 'I love learning how diverse and intricate the environment is, along with how important volunteer involvement is throughout the countryside to achieve its conservation.'

In total, seven apprentice rangers will be trained over four years as part of the Our Past, Our Future landscape partnership scheme.

To find out more about the Apprentice Rangers project, please visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/apprenticerangers.

'Secret forest' saved for the nation

Over the last few years we have been working with the RSPB to save a huge area of the New Forest for the nation, a process that came to a successful conclusion this year.

Few people have been in the 1,000-acre woodland at Franchises Lodge near Nomansland, which is the size of over 1,300 football pitches.

The spectacular woodland provides a bridge between two already internationally-important wildlife areas – Langley Wood National Nature Reserve to the north and the New Forest Special Protection Area to the south. It's an extremely rare chance to turn a huge piece of the north of the National Park into a special place for nature, making the Forest bigger, better for nature and more joined-up.

Below: RSPB Franchises Lodge © Terry Bagley

We contributed £200,000 to the purchase and our Chairman Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, said: 'This is very good news for the Forest. The acquisition of this site by the RSPB is significant as it gives us the opportunity to undertake landscape-scale improvements to these habitats in a prime location adjacent to the Open Forest.'

'We are pleased that RSPB is keen to work with commoners and other local people to ensure that the site is managed appropriately. This will bring the same benefits to a wide range of species as it does on the Open Forest and will ensure this important site flourishes for years to come.'

Although there are public rights of way through the site, there is no car parking or facilities on the reserve and these are limited nearby. The RSPB is therefore not encouraging visitors at this time.

A series of meetings and guided walks have taken place with people who live very close to the site and local species experts have been drafted in to help survey the reserve to find out what is there so that the RSPB can make informed decisions on how to move forward with habitat management and public access.



The impact

1,000 acres of forest habitat secured for nature conservation



Helping to safeguard Franchises Lodge

Julie Melin-Stubbs, Manager of the New Forest Land Advice Service on her involvement with Franchises Lodge.

Nature has almost had free reign in some areas of Franchises Lodge and in other areas commercial forestry has been introduced.

There are some woodland areas of the land which are so special they have been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, but we're certain that more treasures will be revealed as the RSPB investigates further and starts to manage the land specifically for wildlife and for people to enjoy.

We are excited to have the RSPB as a land manager partner in the Forest for the first time and are looking forward to working closely with them and having their expertise, their staff and volunteers, as well as their national voice, to help us protect the National Park – one of the most precious landscapes in the UK.

This is a long-term project and will take time, working with the community and a range of partner organisations to get it right. The first step is to establish exactly what is on the site before undertaking heathland and woodland restoration, introducing some grazing by commoners in some areas to improve the habitat quality, and also looking at providing opportunities for people to discover this secret area of the Forest for themselves.

It's a thrilling prospect that after centuries of seeing the Forest grow smaller and its rare flora and fauna diminish, we now actually have a chance to make the New Forest bigger and to protect it for future generations.



Great British Spring Clean tackling litter in the Forest

We teamed up with New Forest District Council, the Forestry Commission and the Verderers to join the national Great British Spring Clean weekend in March organised by Keep Britain Tidy.

Despite having to cancel scheduled public events twice due to snow, over 20 community litter picks were arranged by the Forestry Commission, National Trust, Hampshire County Council and individual New Forest communities, with the help of the District Council.

Above: Pictured at the Spring Clean launch at Milford on Sea are New Forest District Council Environment Portfolio Holder Cllr Alison Hoare; NPA Deputy Chairman Edward Heron; NPA Head of Recreation Management and Learning, Nigel Matthews; Forestry Commission Deputy Surveyor Bruce Rothnie; Milford Parish Councillor Bob Bishop.

150km

of Open Forest roads were litter picked by contractors

Protecting through planning

Reviewing our local plan

A significant amount of work was done on the review of the Local Plan for the National Park over the year. This included a six week consultation on potential alternative housing sites in summer 2017; the preparation of the Submission draft Local Plan in late 2017; and the final six week consultation on the draft Local Plan in January – February 2018. A major challenge of the review has been to strike the right balance between the need to enhance and conserve all that is special about the New Forest whilst planning for some new housing to meet the needs of the Forest's communities.

Representations were received from just under 200 organisations and individuals during this final period of consultation and the Local Plan, supporting documents and all of the representations received have now been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination, scheduled for November 2018.

Handling planning applications

There is considerable pressure for new development in the New Forest and this was once again reflected in a high number of planning applications received during the year – 820. We actively encourage applicants to seek pre-application advice with input from our specialist officers and this means that we were able to approve a high percentage of the applications received. Government closely monitors the performance of all local planning authorities and over the year 100% of major applications, 84% of minor applications and 90% of other applications were determined within the statutory time period.

Planning application fees increased nationally by 20% from January 2018 and this additional income has allowed us to continue to invest in delivering a bespoke planning service for the Forest.

The impact

87% of planning applications are approved

Enforcement

Our enforcement team investigated around 300 reported cases in 2017/18. Government advice is that enforcement action should only be taken as a last resort and so we aim to resolve most breaches of planning control through dialogue and negotiation. However, this is not always possible or appropriate because of the scale and harm being done. That's why we served 18 enforcement notices directed

against the most harmful planning breaches this year.

Most enforcement notices are complied with. However we successfully secured a High Court Injunction at the Royal Courts of Justice in February to ensure compliance against a long-standing planning breach and we had two further successful prosecutions in the Magistrates' Court which then resulted in compliance.

Trees

Trees are an essential part of the New Forest's character and communities.

We host a shared tree team with New Forest District Council which determined over 1,200 applications for tree work this year.

Trees in the parts of the National Park which are designated as Conservation Areas have special protection to preserve the historic features and the landscape qualities of the National Park.

We made 50 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) this year to protect trees under threat. Following a TPO, any unauthorised works to those trees could lead to prosecution but we aim to protect the tree from such works in the first-place.

In the last year we also ran a workshop for local tree contractors to inform them about the large and precious stock of veteran trees in the New Forest.

Below: Woodland near Ashurst

Did you know?

We made **50 Tree Preservation Orders** this year to protect trees under threat

PROTECT

Building Design Awards



Mill Stream



Stuckton Farm

The area's distinctive and attractive buildings make an important contribution to the New Forest National Park's unique character.

The annual New Forest Building Design Awards recognise the best new developments from the previous three years.

The winner of the individual building category this year was Mill Stream in Burley, a detached property that was adjudged to blend in well with its rural surroundings. Its owners are Anna Lawrence and Chris Walter and it was designed by Sherlock Architecture.

The winner of the extension category was Stuckton Farm in Stuckton. Its owner Paul Allen and architect Maughan Architecture were commended for constructing a high-quality wood-framed conservatory that enhances the character of the thatched cottage that it has extended.

All winners received engraved wooden trophies, produced by New Forest Marque member Pigshed New Forest, which is based near Boldre.



Building design award winners



Supporting commoning

A new campaign was launched to cut the number of New Forest animals killed or injured on the roads in the winter months.

New Forest commoners, who own the animals, and organisations joined together to create the #add3minutes campaign to appeal to local drivers to slow down during the winter months.

The campaign aimed to prompt a reduction in the usual huge rise in animal deaths and injuries in the longer nights.

November and December (after the clocks go back) usually see the highest number of animal deaths and injuries. September, October, January and February are also high risk months. About three quarters of the accidents involve local drivers.

The #add3minutes campaign included:

- new temporary warning signs on key roads
- a police mobile speed camera van out in the Forest
- campaign messaging on bin lorries, social media activity and posters in local businesses
- 20 of the Forest's largest employers signed up to the campaign to encourage awareness among their staff
- Drivers were asked to sign an online petition and pledge to #add3minutes to their commute across the Forest.

Although there are annual fluctuations, the overall trend in the proportion of animals killed or injured is downwards. There is more to be done, but campaigns like this one do seem to be having a positive effect.

Above: New Forest commoners join representatives of local organisations at Beaulieu Road Sale Yard to appeal to local drivers to slow down

The impact

Seven commoners have mentored 18 young and new commoners during the first two years

Offering land advice

The New Forest Land Advice Service continues to support the commoning community by providing nature conservation and sustainable land management advice on holdings, running training courses at a subsidised cost and giving assistance with form filling for the Basic Payment Scheme.

As part of the Heritage Lottery Fund Our Past, Our Future landscape partnership scheme, they have teamed up with the Commoners Defence Association

to create a mentoring scheme for aspiring commoners.

The mentoring scheme pairs experienced commoners with new and young commoners to pass on their expertise and knowledge to help preserve the Forest's traditional practices, in addition to halter training, microchipping livestock and tagging calves.

Enhancing the Forest's landscape

We work in partnership with the Verderers, Natural England and the Forestry Commission to run the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme. It is a rare opportunity to improve and conserve the New Forest's historical sites, commoning tradition and fragile habitats for future generations.

The £19m scheme began in 2010 and over the last year it has made great strides to ensure the Forest flourishes in the future.

Find out more at hlsnewforest.org.uk

Did you know?

More than **10 miles** of wetland has been restored in the New Forest since 2010



Stream restoration shortlisted for prestigious award

The HLS scheme's work to return a New Forest stream to its natural state was shortlisted in the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence.

Work took place over the last year to return over two miles of artificially straightened Avon Water to its natural meandering stream course through Wootton riverine woodland, near Sway.

This is part of more than 10 miles of wetland restorations across the National Park.

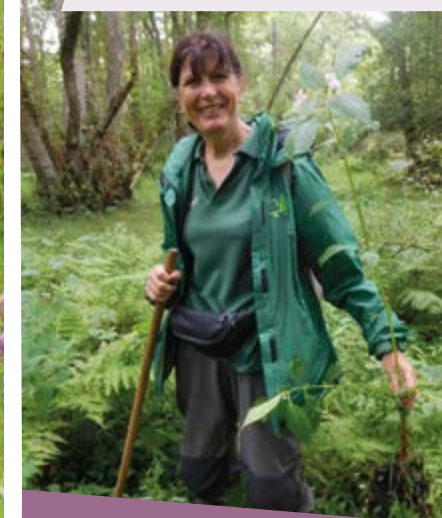


Rare chicks thriving in restored wetland

Rare wading birds were spotted in New Forest wetland habitat that was recently restored.

The lapwing chicks were feeding at a stream in the north of the National Park which was restored to its naturally shallow, winding state in 2014.

Photos from left to right: Restored wetland site near Brockenhurst; lapwing chick; volunteer pulling invasive Himalayan balsam plant.



Tackling alien invaders

Dumping garden waste was identified as one of the reasons why invasive non-native plants are posing a threat in the National Park.

Across the Forest, garden clippings are contributing to plant invaders cropping up in ponds, woodlands and heathland, often crowding out native species with devastating consequences.

So the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project is removing these plants across the Forest with a team of committed volunteers. The initiative is hosted by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and funded by the HLS scheme.



ENJOY

Inspiring people to care



'The New Forest is a special place for many millions of people who visit each year. We aim to help all visitors learn more about the special qualities of the National Park when they visit, so that they will take steps to care for the area. This includes not dropping litter, being aware of animals when driving, and staying on the main tracks during ground nesting bird season. By working with visitors we can ensure that they help to preserve the very thing they come to see, this beautiful and important landscape.'

Marian Spain, Deputy Chairman of Resources,
Audit and Performance Committee

Healthy park, healthy people

Over the last year we have developed a number of initiatives to help people improve their physical and mental wellbeing while learning more about the New Forest.

This work builds on a partnership between Public Health England and the nation's 10 National Parks – in the form of a Joint Accord – to encourage more people to experience the many health benefits of getting out and active in National Parks. This follows recent research showing that six million people in the country are not even managing to take a 10-minute brisk walk once a month.



'England's National Parks are not only some of our most stunning landscapes – they connect people across the country with nature and have a crucial role in improving our physical health and mental wellbeing. This accord is a great step forward and shows how we can harness our natural environment to keep our communities well and healthy.'

Lord Gardiner, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, responsible for National Parks



Wild play site

The impact

1,500 people attended wild play events

A year of wild play

The popular wild play events at Hurst Beach, Bolderwood and Whitefield Moor again proved popular with over 1,500 visitors. 94% of respondents wanted more ideas on outdoor family activities so an activity booklet was created on the website that has had over 600 downloads to date.

The first of three wild play sites in the New Forest opened at Warren Copse, in Holbury this year. From minibeast hunting and balancing on logs, to stick crafts and hide and seek, wild play activities are free and use the natural environment as inspiration for families to discover more about local wildlife.

The Warren Copse site is funded by £24,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund Our Past, Our Future scheme, £31,000 from the National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) and £1,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme.

Inclusive cycling receives big lottery grant

We support the PEDALL – Happy, Healthy, Active project to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy the health benefits of cycling in the National Park.

Last year the project received a £300,000 grant to allow it to expand its work helping more young people transform their lives through outdoor exercise.

The PEDALL – Happy, Healthy, Active project is a partnership between the New Forest National Park Authority, Southlands School, Oaklodge School, and SCARF (Supporting Special Children and their Relatives and Friends).



Inclusive cycling at Beaulieu Heath with PEDALL

Celebrating the Forest through art

Artists and creative groups from across the New Forest came together over two weeks in summer 2017 to celebrate the National Park through art.

The New Forest Arts Festival hosted over 60 tree-themed events encouraging visitors and residents to explore new parts of the Forest and engage in the National Park's rich creative community. Working with local creative organisations, the Festival brought together a variety of art forms inspired by the Forest's culture, wildlife and landscape.

Events this year included an outdoor performance of Arthur Miller's The

Crucible at Blackwater Arboretum, workshops at an ancient shipyard and a family theatre performance at a Roman villa.

Artists and art organisations benefited from a £6,000 boost thanks to a small grant scheme funded by New Forest District Council and the New Forest National Park Authority. Many of the events within the Festival were free or discounted thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding.



ENJOY



Celebrating local artists

A stunning mixed media painting of a Highland cow triumphed over a spectacular collection of artworks to win the fifth New Forest Open Art competition.

Sandra Binney's 'Well Hello' beat 185 other entries to win first prize in the yearly contest,

which was once again sponsored by ExxonMobil at the Fawley refinery and chemical complex.

The Open Art competition and subsequent exhibition aims to celebrate the beauty of the National Park through art.

Pictured left to right at the Open Art exhibition preview evening: Hilary Marshall, New Forest Centre Manager; Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, New Forest National Park Authority Chairman; Open Art competition winner Sandra Binney with her painting 'Well Hello'; Alison Jones, Community Affairs Manager from ExxonMobil at Fawley Refinery.

Tree planting event helps 'spruce' up local churchyard

Families and friends came together to celebrate their loved ones by helping to plant a community wildlife space in the New Forest.

Over 300 people planted trees at St Nicholas' Churchyard in Brockenhurst during November.



Walking festival takes big strides

The fifth annual autumn New Forest Walking Festival saw more than 1,500 walkers attended expert led walks during the two week event.

The Festival is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and allows people to find out something new about the Forest in the company of archaeologists, wildlife experts and rangers. Walks cover a diverse range of activities, including wild play events for children, behind the scenes tours of historical sites, photography tuition and even alpaca walks.

The impact

94% of walkers said they learnt something new about the National Park.



Promoting the benefits of volunteering

Volunteers are at the heart of much of the work that we and partners undertake in the Forest.

Every year we run the New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair to encourage people to try one of the hundreds of roles on offer from 46 local organisations.

This year 600 people visited the fair to meet a diverse range of organisations, from the RSPB and Forestry Commission, to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Hampshire Scouts.

The event also saw the launch of the #pledge10000 campaign, with almost 2,600 hours having been pledged by potential volunteers towards achieving a target of 10,000 hours of volunteering in 2018 to help preserve and protect the National Park.

Many of these hours are part of the Our Past, Our Future landscape partnership scheme. To thank our volunteers for their hard work we ran a special celebration event for 60 people in February.

The occasion brought together staff from five organisations across the Forest, including the National Park Authority, National Trust, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, New Forest Centre, and New Forest Land Advice Service.

More information about volunteering in the New Forest can be found at newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteering

Bring the Forest's past to life

Last year thousands of people discovered the story of the 800 year old 'Charter of the Forest' and its link to a modern-day Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

The Charter of The Forest gave important rights to many inhabitants of the New Forest that still underpin the area today.

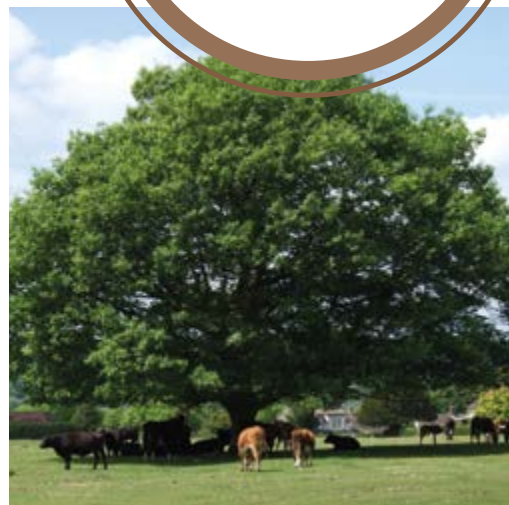
An exhibition at the New Forest Centre and a New Forest Show stand were visited by thousands.

Activities included an animation zone to create stop frame animation characters, a tree time challenge and a vote to find the public's favourite New Forest tree, Woodgreen red oak.



The impact

22,000 people learnt about the Charter of the Forest



The impact

Improved access to 26 miles of National Park coastline

Extending access along the coast

This year Natural England published proposals to improve public access along a stretch of coast between Highcliffe and Calshot.

If approved, this route will become part of the England Coast Path – the 2,700 mile long distance walking route and England's newest National Trail currently being developed around the entire English coast.

When the Secretary of State has decided the route of the coast path, we will be responsible for establishing and maintaining the section that will be within the National Park, and we aim to do this to the highest standard.

Fundraising to save Forest footpath

We are spearheading a fundraising campaign to reinvigorate one of the National Park's most popular walking routes.

The Lepe Loop, on the New Forest's southern coast, is currently almost impassable during wet weather, with signage and interpretation boards in urgent need of renewal.

So a campaign is underway to raise thousands of pounds for the footpath as part of the nationwide Make One Million campaign. Run by the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), the national campaign is aiming to raise £1million to renovate footpaths in all 15 of the UK's National Parks.

Online donations are now being accepted, with fundraising continuing through 2018 with a variety of local initiatives.

There will also be a contribution to the campaign from the BMC's fundraising nationally and grant funding will be sought locally.

Money raised will be used to improve the surface of the route so that it is more accessible throughout the year. It will also be used to replace the finger

posts and interpretation boards, making the route easier to follow and allowing walkers to learn about its history and wildlife.

More information: mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk/new-forest



Ranger Dawn Rayment and her 'ranger dog' Cooper



Eurasian curlew on New Forest heathland © Mike Read

The impact

Our seasonal rangers talked to over 3,000 people about ground nesting birds last summer.

Working to protect rare birds

The New Forest is a stronghold for rare ground nesting birds including curlew, lapwing, woodlark and nightjar and we play a full part in raising awareness of these unusual species.

The key task is to encourage people to keep themselves and their dogs to the main tracks during the breeding season of March to July to avoid disturbing nests and threatening the birds' survival.

Encouraging responsible dog owners

Ranger Dawn Rayment and her young cocker spaniel Cooper work with local dog owners to spread the messages about ground nesting birds. This includes running their own twitter account sharing Forest friendly messages and training ideas. Working with New Forest District Council they opened a new dog activity area at the

King George V Recreation Ground in Calmore, Totton which hopes to reduce the number of recreational visits to the most sensitive areas of the New Forest National Park.

Dawn has also been busy speaking at local dog training courses which helps raise awareness among new dog owners about what is good behaviour out on the Forest.

Helping campers

Our seasonal rangers attended public events and talked to visitors around the Forest between May to June last year.

Working alongside partner organisations and using a range of resources such

as life size bird models, bird call sound box, nesting site maps and a range of literature, the rangers helped forest users to understand about the range of ground nesting birds and how they can enjoy the Forest in a responsible way.

The seasonal rangers also gave 57 activity sessions on the 10 Camping in the Forest campsites during the summer, involving over 1,700 visitors.

Through the delivery of engaging and fun family oriented sessions, the rangers were able to encourage understanding of the special qualities of the National Park and inspire environmental awareness and responsibility amongst visitors to the campsites.



Inspiring young people

Inspiring through education

A staggering 13,500 children from over 60 primary schools have been visited by our education team over the last year. They have been focussing on how easily plastic can go from the heathlands and woodlands to the ocean and back again, with potentially disastrous consequences.

In the autumn education staff and rangers also presented 20 school assemblies to 3,400 children showing the benefits of buying local food and using brands from the New Forest Marque.

We also helped over 2,800 days of learning to take place in the New Forest thanks to our Travel Grant Scheme, helping children experience the Forest first hand.

Clockwise from top: Priestlands students collect their John Muir Award; Priestlands students undertake conservation work; Litter assembly at Netley Marsh Infant School.

Inspiring through youth initiatives

The John Muir Award continues to be popular with schools, colleges and youth groups in the New Forest, with over 60 Awards being completed during the last year.

Groups from Brockenhurst College, Priestlands School and the Prince's Trust discovered and explored the New Forest and got involved in practical conservation work such as maintaining pathways at Furzey Gardens and hazel coppicing with Pondhead Conservation Trust.

Our rangers also welcomed over 600 teenagers from across Hampshire to the New Forest as part of the National Citizenship Service (NCS).

With the support of partner organisations, the rangers helped the young people aged between 15 and 17 to find out more about the special qualities of the National Park and how they can play a part in protecting it for future generations.



'The children loved the story of the plastic bag in the New Forest and what can happen when the animals come across plastic in their environment. Thank you to the education team for making this problem come alive. Hopefully these children can keep our Forest beautiful.'

Jane Flood, Head of Learning at Netley Marsh Infant School

'Taking part in the John Muir Award has been great fun. As part of the award you have to share your experience which we did, displaying all the work at the New Forest Show. We received some fantastic comments from the Show judges about how great the Rhododendron clearing was that the students did as part of the Award.'

Alexandra Jamieson, Rural Skills at Priestlands School, Lymington



Summertime as a ranger

Summer is the busiest time of year for our ranger team. With visitors and residents out enjoying the New Forest, we encourage them to care for the Forest when they are out and about.

Here are some of the highlights from summer 2017.



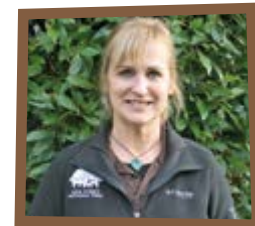
Gillie Molland, Lead Ranger

'People love visiting the National Park and in many cases they are keen to be Forest friendly, but don't know how. So last summer we attended 23 events with our mobile information unit and talked with almost 8,000 people to let them know how they can help us care for this special place.'



Craig Daters, Ranger

'It's so important that the next generation understand the Forest and why it's so precious. So it was great to run sessions in the New Forest for nearly 600 16-17 year olds taking part in the National Citizenship Service scheme in 2017.'



Claire Sherwood, Ranger

'The New Forest has lots of great campsites, which are particularly popular for families on their summer holidays. So each year our seasonal rangers are based at campsites to let people know about not touching the animals, only having BBQs at designated sites and lots of other handy tips. Last summer we spoke to over 1,700 campers!'



Chris Marshall, Ranger

'I do lots of work with our education team running assemblies and workshops for children in local schools, tackling issues like not dropping litter, last year we dressed as superheroes! This helped us to engage with over 1,100 children, hopefully making them the Forest friendly visitors of the future.'



Dawn Rayment, People and Wildlife Ranger

'I am funded by New Forest District Council to work with recreational users of the Forest to help protect rare birds that nest on the ground. These birds are in decline and if their nests are disturbed between March and July it can have a big impact on their breeding. In summer 2017 we talked to 3,000 people to ask them to stick to main tracks during breeding season.'

8,000

people learnt
how to look
after the Forest

Nearly

600

16-17 yr olds
taking part in NCS
sessions in the
New Forest

1,700

campers helping
to care for
the Forest

Over

1,100

children learning
about litter

3,000

people learnt
about ground
nesting birds

Supporting the working forest



'The New Forest is a working forest with innovative rural businesses and thriving communities. This last year has seen us support local people to run sustainable businesses, celebrate the contribution of commoners and help people travel car-free around the National Park. This work ensures that the area continues to thrive and its residents prosper both economically and socially.'

Edward Heron, Deputy Chairman of the Authority

PROSPER



The New Forest National Park Awards

Each year we team up with the CLA to recognise the best of the Forest's rural businesses, commoners and producers.

The 2017 awards saw hand crafted wooden bowls presented to the winners during a special ceremony at the New Forest and Hampshire County Show. The awards are sponsored by Moore Blatch and supported by the New Forest Agricultural Show Society. The 2017 winners were:



Rachel Rabbetts

The expansion of Rosie Lea's from a tea shop in Brockenhurst to a new cafe and farm shop at Setley Ridge is a real Forest success story and its owner Rachel is passionate about local produce and supporting producers in the New Forest.

Paul Brockman at Hoburne Bashley Holiday Park

Paul has achieved outstanding results at this site through active woodland management. Paul's passion for what he does is evident in the woodcraft school's organic growth which he has developed, giving children the chance to develop and learn in a rural environment.

Nicky Cook of Hounslow School

(represented by partner Kevin James) Nicky was recognised for her ability to inspire young minds and staff members alike to pick up and run with her sustainability projects. Nicky took the school through its first Green Flag Award eight years ago and has now achieved four Green Flag awards.

Oliver Cook

Oliver won this award for his ability to expertly juggle the pressures of a demanding full time job with commoning commitments. He takes a leading role in the commoning community, running the New Forest Young Commoners, as well as caring for his own ponies and cattle.



Brilliant businesses rewarded

Cycle hire company Cyclexperience was one of 24 New Forest businesses to taste success at the 12th annual New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards. The Brockenhurst-based business won the New Forest National Park Award for Outstanding Contribution to the National Park. Owner Nikki Ryce, second from left in front row, collected the award on behalf of the business.

Tested tough – Columbia partnership with National Parks

Columbia Sportswear became official outfitter to the UK National Parks in May 2017.

This five-year partnership sees more than 2,000 National Park staff clothed free of charge in Columbia clothing, boots and accessories. More than 16,000 items of clothing were delivered to National Parks in 2017/18.

Columbia is also putting the National Parks at the heart of its UK marketing and communications to tell people how special these protected landscapes are and how people can help care for them. This has included coverage in The Guardian, both in print and online, which have included features on the New Forest.

National Parks Partnerships manages the Columbia relationship on behalf of the 15 UK National Parks.



National Park rangers test the Columbia uniform.



PROSPER

'We applaud Columbia for this enlightened investment in the UK's National Parks. This is a high-value partnership, enabling us to focus our resources towards looking after these special places for now and for future generations to enjoy. We have been hugely impressed by Columbia's environmental and ethical commitments as well as their genuine enthusiasm for the UK's National Parks and their plan for support over the next five years.'

Steve Curl, Chair of National Parks Partnerships LLP



Helping youth hostel get that National Park feel

A revamped youth hostel in Burley was launched in October.

We provided more than £30,000 of funding to build new cycling facilities and install inspiring displays. Together, these will encourage visitors to travel to the youth hostel and around the New Forest National Park by sustainable means in order to ease congestion and ensure the Forest remains a tranquil, enjoyable place to visit.

The displays also provide people with handy information like walking routes, while offering tips on caring for the Forest when they visit.

Alison Barnes, Chief Executive of New Forest National Park Authority said: 'We are delighted that our Family Cycling Experiences fund has been able to support YHA in providing improved cycling facilities at YHA New Forest.'

'This is the first youth hostel I stayed in as a child on a school trip and I like to think that it played a role in building my love of the countryside. Our partnership with YHA helps to ensure that these experiences remain available to young people and their families.'

The impact

New cycle storage and display boards to inspire visitors to care for the New Forest.

Helping people travel sustainably



New Forest Tour

Bumper year for open-top Tour

The New Forest Tour offers three scenic routes around the Forest's varying landscapes, picture postcard villages and popular attractions such as Exbury Gardens and the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu.

In 2017 the Tour enjoyed a successful year, with a passenger increase of six per cent, with over 34,000 people enjoying grandstand views of the Forest from July to September.

Lepe to the beach

Thousands of people hopped aboard the Beach Bus service in 2017 to visit Hythe, Lepe, Beaulieu and Lymington. In total, 4,447 passengers climbed on board, a decrease on the year before that suggested a reduction in demand for the service.



New Forest Travel Concierge

Championing local produce

The New Forest Marque is a membership organisation of local producers, and the hospitality and retail businesses that offer this produce. The Marque is awarded to produce which has been grown, reared, caught, brewed, produced or processed with the New Forest.

We assist the Marque with funding and business support as part of our work to promote sustainable local business.

New Forest Marque members include farm shops, caterers, brewers, growers, food, drink and craft producers, as well as B&Bs, hotels, tearooms, pubs, restaurants and independent retailers.

Right: Jane Overall (centre) receiving her National Parks Hero award from New Forest Marque Operations Manager Claire Lee (left) and NPA Chief Executive Alison Barnes

The scheme has a total of 140 members, with 24 new businesses signed up in 2017.

In 2017, New Forest Marque Chairman Jane Overall won the National Parks Hero award for her outstanding contributions to the New Forest.

A full directory of members and more information about the scheme is available at newforestmarque.co.uk



The impact

The New Forest Tour contributed an estimated £555,000 to the local economy

Concierge offer travel advice

The New Forest Travel Concierge welcomed a total of 8,900 people to the New Forest in 2017. Located at Brockenhurst Railway Station and, for the first time, at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst, the concierges showed visitors that they do not need a car to explore the beauty of the National Park and helped them book tickets for the New Forest Tour and popular attractions.



'I am honoured to have received this award as I feel privileged to have the opportunity to help and support such a wonderful group of members and this has only been possible with the support of the New Forest Marque team, my fellow Directors and the New Forest National Park Authority.'

Jane Overall, New Forest Marque Chairman

Refill window sticker advertising free refills of tap water



Building sustainable communities

Over the last year we have supported six sustainability projects with grants of more than £38,000.

Refill New Forest

We awarded funds to New Forest Transition to set up a Refill New Forest scheme, to help reduce single-use plastic bottle pollution by improving access to free drinking water, on the go.

The scheme promotes free tap-water refill points in cafes, shops, businesses and transport hubs by encouraging businesses to sign up to the scheme. They display a round, blue Refill window sticker alerting passers-by that they're welcome to fill up their water bottle for free.

Over 20 local businesses have signed up to the scheme and around seven local schools are taking part and encouraging their students to carry refillable bottles.

20

local businesses have signed up to the scheme

Local Community Archaeological Training and Equipment (LoCATE)

A total station (total station theodolite) is an electronic/optical instrument that helps groups to carry out 3D landscape surveys, building recording and small scale survey and monitoring.

We awarded £2,000 to enable the purchase of a new 'total station' for undertaking archaeological surveys. LoCATE is a partnership between us and Bournemouth University working with archaeological societies and community groups from across Hampshire and Dorset.

The project supports local groups' research by extending the range of techniques and skills they can use and helping them learn about and record our historic environment.

The results are available via the New Forest Knowledge website at nfknowledge.org and shared with the relevant heritage organisations such as county councils and Historic England.

More information on our sustainable communities fund can be found at newforestnpa.gov.uk/scf



Encouraging visitors to Love The Forest

A visitor gift scheme raising thousands of pounds for the New Forest has received support from the National Park.

A total of 45 outlets across the Forest, from campsites to top hotels and campervan hire companies to village stores, are supporting the Love The Forest scheme.

Last year it raised nearly £29,000, with grants awarded to the New Forest Centre and Calshot Nature Club so that young people can learn more about wildlife and commoning in the New Forest. Further grants were given to the Our Past Our Future project to support initiatives to reduce animal accidents and record the histories commoners. Funding was also provided to the Commoners Defence Association to produce 'Sally the Pony' story books which are aimed at children to help promote responsible behaviour around commoners' animals.

Outlets add a small donation to accommodation or meals and the funds raised are then distributed as grants to support projects to protect wildlife and commoning or educate people about the New Forest.

The scheme was set up a number of years ago by the charity The New Forest Trust, which asked the National Park Authority to help with administration and to build the number of members and donations.

In six months, a steering group was set up to assess the grants and oversee the administration role. It now includes two of the businesses who have been long-term supporters – Balmer Lawn Hotel and the Greenclose hotel group which includes the Montagu Arms at Beaulieu and Careys Manor, Brockenhurst.

A new grant application and appraisal process has been set up and the Love The Forest website has been revamped.

For details visit newforesttrust.org.uk/love-the-forest

Achieving excellence



'We strive to achieve excellence in our work to ensure we have the maximum positive impact on the Forest. By working on innovative projects with partners, we ensure that National Park status continues to bring a wide range of benefits to the area.'

Harry Oram, Deputy Chairman of Planning Committee

ACHIEVING
EXCELLENCE



NPA Chief Executive Alison Barnes,
NPA Senior Tree Officer Nik Gruber, NPA
Member Harry Oram, Brockenhurst Parish
Council Groundsman Kevin Baker and
Brockenhurst Councillor Michael Croker at
the family tree planting event in Brockenhurst.



Above: Tree officer Nik Gruber at the Family Tree planting event

Modernising our website

Last year we began building a new website, as our old website software had come to the end of its life. Our aim was that it would be easier to use and better showcase the beauty of the National Park.

More than 300,000 people visit our website every year, making it the main way in which we connect with visitors and residents.

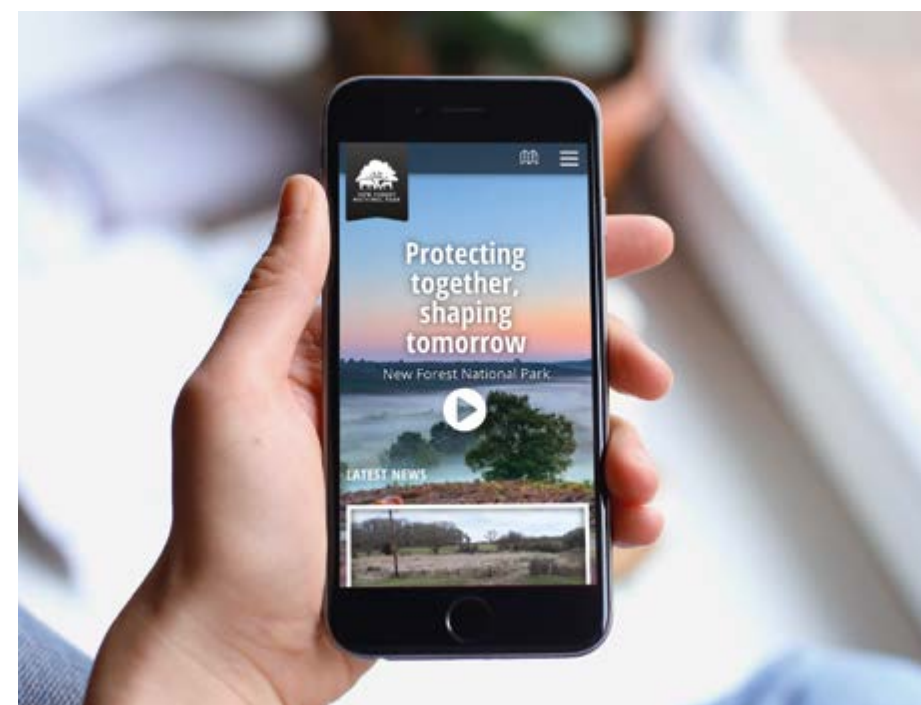
It allows people to submit or view planning applications as well as being used by visitors wanting to know more about the area. We aim to make the

planning process simple for residents and provide visitors with directions on being forest friendly.

We enlisted the help of a web design company and set about auditing our current site ready for the switch over.

After several months of hard work we launched the new website in spring 2018. The new design has received an overwhelmingly positive response, with users saying it is easier to find the things they want and it does justice to the beauty of the Forest.

newforestnpa.gov.uk



1,000
hyperlinks to redirect



Making the most of our expertise

From archaeologists to rangers, tree officers to ecologists – we have an incredible range of knowledgeable experts.

We make the most of this expertise by sharing it with other organisations through Service Level Agreements (SLAs). These bring money into the Authority that helps us continue our work to protect the Forest, while building strong partnerships with other organisations.

Over the last year we have run a number of successful SLAs:

- Archaeology advice for the Forestry Commission
- Building conservation, ecology, tree work and ranger services for New Forest District Council
- Communications support for the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship scheme, a partnership between us, the Verderers of the New Forest and the Forestry Commission.

Working more sustainably

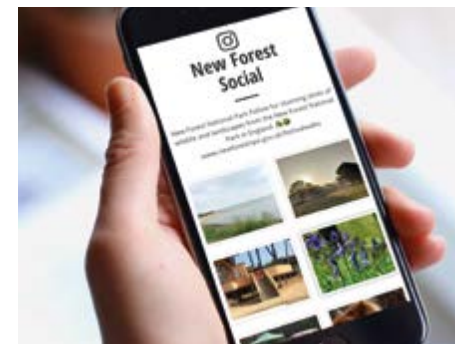
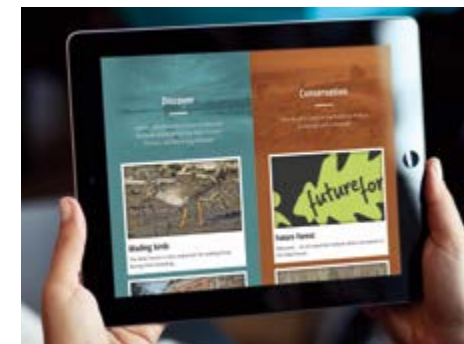
As an organisation we seek to reduce the impact we have on the environment caused by our business operations.

We encourage our staff to reduce their impact wherever possible. We provide cycle parking, use an electric car, operate an extensive recycling system, and purchase energy efficient and sustainably sourced goods when possible.

10,000
documents and meeting notes to migrate



800
pages to check, rewrite or delete



600
photos to resize

Putting on a show

Our stand at the New Forest Show celebrated the fascinating history of the Forest, while looking forward to a positive future.

Thousands of people visited our stand in the Heart of the Forest and took part in a range of family-friendly activities. Visitors could craft their own modelling clay creations to star in our stop frame animation about what the 1217 Charter of the Forest was and why it was important for local people. Taking up the tree time challenge, people could match historical events to the time line to discover the Forest's a long and fascinating history, and think about the ongoing story.

The show was the final chance for people to vote for their favourite New Forest tree of the year. From a shortlist of eight, Woodgreen red oak triumphed over the others to become tree of the year. We also encouraged people to take part in the Future Forest zone, to tell us what their priorities are as we develop a new action plan to ensure people can enjoy recreation in the Forest while protecting the area from harm.



Photos clockwise from left: Tree dating station; New Forest Show stand; animation station.



ACHIEVING
EXCELLENCE



Bringing investment to the Forest



'We are always striving to use our budget to provide the best possible return for the New Forest. By investing wisely we produce £13 of value for the Forest for every £1 we spend, helping protect and enhance the National Park.'

David Harrison, Chairman of Resources,
Audit and Performance Committee

FINANCIAL
REPORT



Financial Information

Following a number of years of significant reductions, for the past two years our core grant from Defra has been 'protected', which includes a 1.7% inflation offsetting increase (equating to £53,000).

Despite this increased financial stability, we have continued to seek cost efficiencies where possible and sought ways to increase effectiveness in the work we do. We continue to generate substantial external partnership funding to further services and delivery. On average every £1 we contribute to joint projects generates a further £13 from partner organisations.

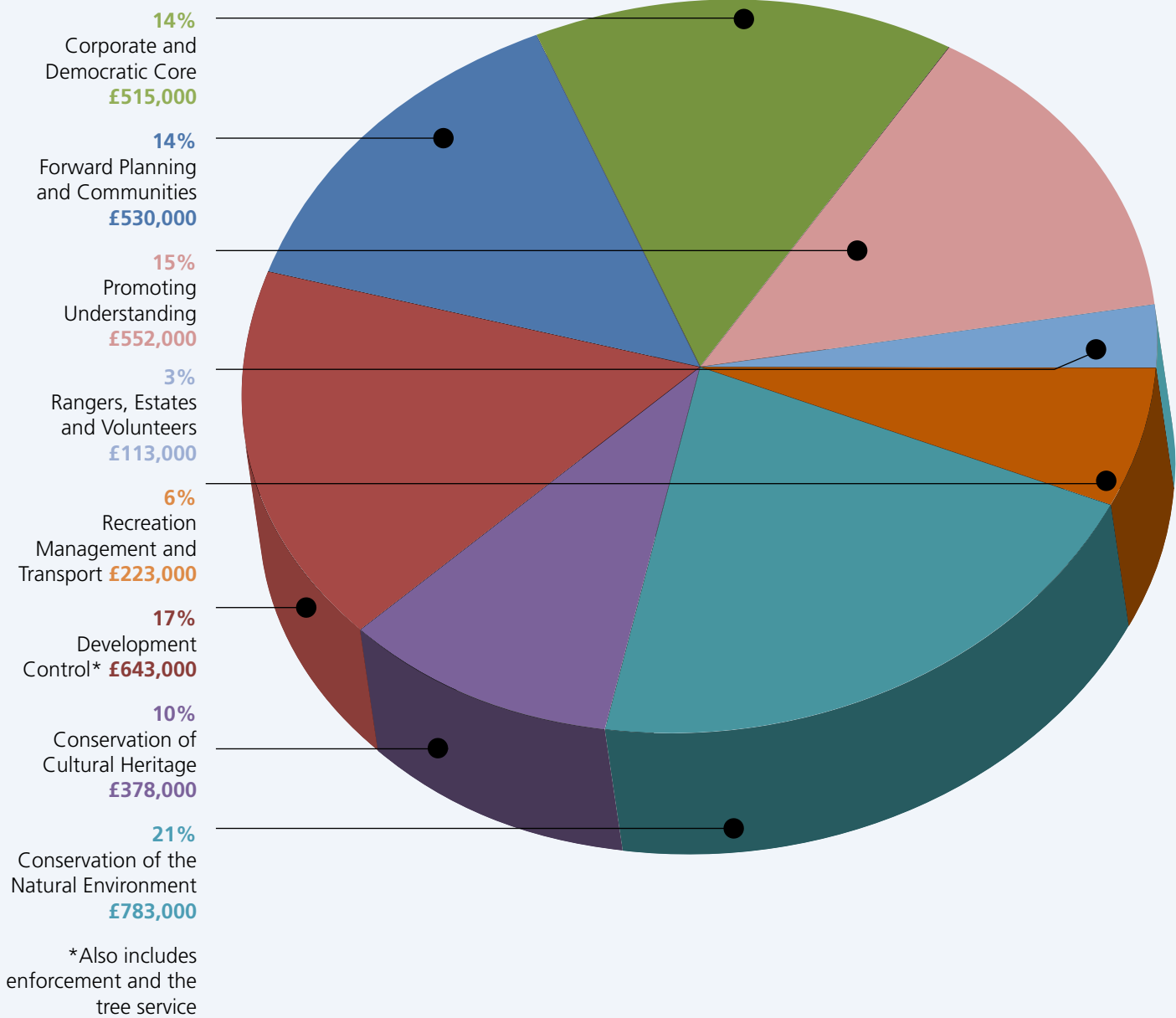
We received around:

- £3.142m** from Defra
- £300,000** in statutory fees for planning and related applications
- £310,000** for shared services with other local authorities (trees, ecology, rangers, archaeology, building conservation & design, comms, administration)
- £35,000** grants related to the planning service
- £7,000** on our investments
- £12,000** in other income generated (such as talks, guided walks, New Forest Tour advertising and charging for expert advice)

Significant external funding totalling £1.2m was secured for the Forest, including:

- £790,000** Our Past, Our Future: Landscape Partnership Scheme
- £70,000** Pedall inclusive cycling project
- £60,000** Higher Level Stewardship Scheme
- £60,000** New Forest Land Advice Service
- Plus many more small projects...

2017-18 Net Expenditure



Yacht race at Lepe beach by Viv Hutchinson

Judges' pick in Summer 2017 Seasonal
Snaps online photo competition.



Contact us

We welcome your views and comments about this Annual Review or any other aspect of our performance or services. For regular updates, please sign up to our email newsletter via our website.

Write to us at:

New Forest National Park Authority
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington
Hampshire SO41 9ZG

Call

01590 646600

Email

enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk

Join us on



This document is available in other formats such as large print, Braille, or any alternative language.

With thanks to photographer Nick Lucas for supporting our work with free images.
[flickr.com/nicklucas](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nicklucas/)

newforestnpa.gov.uk

Slufters Pond
© Nick Lucas