

Annex: New Forest Partnership Plan 2015-2020 monitoring report – overview of progress to deliver the actions

Indication of progress via traffic-light system

Dark green	Action has achieved or exceeded its original outcome or output. It may be finished or ongoing.
Light green	Action is ongoing and has achieved most of its outcomes or outputs.
Amber	Action may be ongoing but unlikely to achieve its outcomes or outputs.
Red	Action has not been carried out or it started but didn't progress further.

Action	Description	Indicator	Lead partner	Supporting partners	Progress
LH1	Improve the condition of locally important nature conservation sites, working with site owners and prioritising the most vulnerable grassland, heathland and wetland habitats. The target is to enhance at least 30 local sites.	Action achieved	New Forest Land Advice Service	n/a	53 ha of land restored to improve biodiversity which includes work at 25 sites; removal of scrub and trees from sites to start enhancement restoration process into grassland and heathland habitats; biological surveys completed; 45 sites surveyed and 24 management plans written.
LH2	Work with landowners and managers to maintain the national SSSI condition targets of 95% of SSSI units in favourable or recovering condition, with 50% of these in favourable condition by 2020. Whilst these are national targets it will be the ambition of the delivery partners to aim higher locally, within the New Forest, to achieve 60% favourable condition by 2020.	Ongoing, off target	Natural England	Forestry Commission	At the time the partnership plan was launched the amount of SSSI in Favourable condition was 53.82%, this has risen to 54.68% (an increase in 250ha). The reduced delivery towards this aspiration is largely due to delays in the delivery of works to restore wetlands.
LH3	Create links between habitats through a better network of hedgerows, woods, streams, road verges and field margins, working with private and public sector landowners. The target is to develop and complete at least one major landscape scale project within the park by 2020.	Action achieved	New Forest Land Advice Service	n/a	In total 4,078m boundary features have been restored/created in the project, involving 22 landowners. Work will continue in providing management advice to all owners, an event and production of an information pack. RSPB's Franchises Lodge as major landscape scale project; a landowner network has been established. A farmer cluster involving larger estates has also been set up.

LH4	Seek opportunities for large-scale habitat restoration, including continuing the major restoration work at Foxbury which will return the area to heathland and broad-leaved woodland, improve access to visitors and complement the open landscapes of the nearby Bramshaw commons.	Action achieved	National Trust	National Park Authority	18,000 trees planted (26ha of native woodland created); Basecamp area set up with 3 timber cabins to provide shelter and storage and a composting accessible toilet; car park built; increased number of people visiting the site (8,900 people); 57 school visits; approx. 1,737 volunteer days (all these are between 2016-2020); improved interpretation, signage leaflets; Forest School up and running.
LH5	Continue to monitor coastal change to inform the conservation and creation of habitats, and help in the development of schemes to stabilise saltmarsh.	Action achieved	New Forest District Council	n/a	£49,000 secured by the Solent Forum from the Water Improvement Environment Fund to look at the benefits of using dredged material from the seabed to help protect the coast. Continued input into the development of the Hurst Spit Project to provide improved flood and erosion protection.
LH6	Take forward a project to protect the grazed verges of the Open Forest from damage and erosion, both by parked cars and traffic overrun.	Action achieved	Verderers	Forestry Commission, National Park Authority	An HLS Verge Restoration Officer post was created and, amongst other achievement, 28 locations saw verges restored for wildlife and grazing thanks to education and practical measures such as ditches and posts to stop parking.
LH7	Promote an integrated approach to river catchment management in the New Forest; including wildlife conservation, surface and ground water quality and flood prevention, working with all agencies, communities and landowners.	Action achieved	New Forest Catchment Partnership	National Park Authority, Freshwater Habitats Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Nine miles of stream throughout the Forest have been restored back to their original course to encourage natural processes. Continued delivery of work programme to include the wetland restoration (both stream and mire restoration to encourage natural processes), removal of non-native species such as rhododendron, heathland restoration through the removal of seedling trees and lost lawn restoration to remove the colonising scrub. Integrated approach includes collaboration, engagement, events, collecting evidence, website, newsletter, etc.

LH8	Improve the water quality and ecological value of river catchments by carrying out practical enhancements to at least 43 km of rivers and 5 ponds, working with land managers.	Action mainly achieved	New Forest Catchment Partnership	National Park Authority, Freshwater Habitats Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	About 5 km of rivers restored so far; 43 km was an unrealistic target. Partnership campaigns to avoid sewage blockages, septic tank maintenance and avoiding phosphate pollution from domestic sources have taken place. Running volunteer network of water quality monitor every other month covering the whole Beaulieu catchment. 35 organisms including fish, amphibians, birds and mammals identified by eDNA surveys at Hatchet Pond.
LH9	Expand the project to remove invasive non-native plants along river corridors, working with landowners to target at least 40 prioritised locations.	Action achieved	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	n/a	Invasive non-native plants have been controlled at more than 80 locations totalling 53km along the Avon Water, Cadnam River, Fleet Water, the Lymington River and its tributaries the Passford Water and the Mill Lawn Brook. 663 volunteers have spent 2,279 volunteer days controlling Himalayan Balsam. Contractors have controlled Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and American Skunk Cabbage. 13 training events to raises awareness of invasive non-native plants have been held.
LH10	Reduce the impacts of any new development which may have an effect on the internationally protected habitats and species of the National Park by access management, education and awareness-raising projects and the provision of new or improved areas for countryside recreation, all funded by developer contributions.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	New Forest District Council, Wiltshire Council, Test Valley Borough Council	£250,000 of central Government funding secured to investigate future pressures on the New Forest arising from new housing development; publication of the resulting Footprint Ecology report. 5,300 face-to-face interviews conducted at 60 car parks as part of a Government-funded study into visitor pressures on the New Forest's habitats. The revised New Forest National Park Habitat Mitigation Scheme SPD was adopted in Summer 2020 and increases the level of financial contribution required towards mitigating the impacts of increased recreation on the New Forest's designated sites.

LH11	Develop a green infrastructure plan for the National Park to help identify opportunities for an improved network of open spaces and attractive alternative locations for recreation, with benefits for health and wellbeing linking with the green infrastructure strategies of neighbouring local authorities and identifying joint projects.	Not pursued further	National Park Authority	n/a	This action has been superseded / absorbed by similar initiatives, e.g. mitigation strategy, Recreational Management Strategy and Green Halo.
LH12	Carry out a targeted programme of surveys of protected or vulnerable species to assess population levels and inform conservation needs.	Action achieved	Forestry Commission	n/a	Large number of surveys been / being carried out, e.g. Southern Damselfly, Black Bog Ant, Medicinal Leech, One-Grooved Diving Beetle, Spotted Crane fly, Large Marsh Grasshopper, Sedge Jumper, Long-spined Ant, etc. 60 volunteers from Hampshire Ornithological Society carried out a New Forest-wide survey of the rare Woodlark and found 169 nests.
LH13	Publish a comprehensive Ancient Woodland inventory for the NP, and promote to land managers as the basis for ancient woodland restoration projects.	Ongoing, off target	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	n/a	The project turned out to be far bigger and more complex than originally anticipated. HIWWT were only able to achieve a review of the woodland falling within the Crown Land within the project budget.
LH14	Establish clear methods for monitoring the status of wildlife and habitats, contributing to the Government's Biodiversity 2020 targets, including the extent and condition of priority habitats and the number of local people engaged in wildlife issues.	Action mostly achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	As well as extensive volunteer initiatives to monitor species of concern, work has continued on specialist surveys. 8 local wildlife sites re-surveyed and samples taken to inform their condition over time. Two new sites containing priority habitats were identified through surveys by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC).
LM1	Provide New Forest focused land advice and supporting information, including Lidar and infra-red data where appropriate. The target is to provide advice to 250 landowners, farmers, commoners and woodland managers over five years.	Action achieved	New Forest Land Advice Service	n/a	3,000 lost or forgotten archaeological sites recorded with LiDAR over across 23,000 hectares of the open Crown Lands by expert staff and with the help of volunteers. Advice given to landowners, farmers, commoners and woodland managers exceeds 500 individuals; however, a range of different advice is usually provided for the same individuals, so the actual number of different advice cases is far higher.

LM2	Provide practical training on best practice for land management, aimed at farmers and commoners, with at least six courses arranged each year. The target is to enable training for 600 land managers and at least 30 new and young commoners.	Action mostly achieved	New Forest Land Advice Service	New Forest Commoners Defence Association	92 courses were run and 443 people have gained new skills such as pasture management, soils and livestock management which will ensure that lands of the New Forest are well managed and kept in favourable condition. 23 young and new commoners were mentored by 8 experienced commoners.
LM3	Promote the use of ecosystem services maps of the NP and surrounding area as an aid to sustainable land management and to show the value of the natural environment for social wellbeing and the economy.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	3,300 tonnes of nitrogen removed annually by natural habitats in the Solent. 'Developing Ecosystem Accounts for protected areas in the New Forest' and 'New Forest National Park & 20km surrounding area Ecosystem Service Mapping Project' reports published. Currently being used and promoted via the Green Halo initiative.
LM4	Increase the availability of back-up land for commoning by enabling the use of land managed by public and voluntary sector organisations, and in addition seek to maintain the stock of existing back-up land.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	New Forest Land Advice Service	In addition to the 2ha that had been made available at the time of the mid-term report, three sites which are supporting 4 young commoners have been secured on untenanted land at Fawley Refinery (approx. 8ha). NPA acquired a meadow which is grazed by a young commoner in Godshill. Commoners needing back-up land for their animals have been matched with landowners who needed their grasslands grazed.
LM5	Increase the economic viability and environmental value of woodlands by establishing 'management hubs' of nearby woodland owners and expanding the markets for local timber products, working with the industry and neighbouring local authorities. The target is to improve the management of at least 2,000ha of woodland by 2020.	Action mostly achieved	New Forest Land Advice Service	n/a	56.9 ha of woodland improved by working with 30 different landowners; 2,000 ha of woodlands is unrealistic. Work carried out through a combination of volunteer work parties and contractors; individuals have been trained on coppicing course. Started to network with timber businesses. 1,000ha of woodland brought into Woodland Management Plans and Countryside Stewardship Schemes so they're managed better for wildlife.
LM6	Research potential new markets for the products of Open Forest management, to aid the economic and environmental sustainability of these important habitats.	Action achieved	Forestry Commission	n/a	FC produced a total of over 6,000 heather bales from the management of the Open Forest and also sell bracken mulch compost. 1,113m ³ of bracken removed to improve New Forest habitats has been composted/mulched and sold to horticulturalists, private estates and garden centres.

LM7	Coordinate and promote the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme, in particular encouraging uptake from farmers and landowners adjacent to the New Forest SSSI.	Action achieved	Natural England	n/a	Since 2018, several new Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier schemes have been developed and started delivery in areas directly adjacent to the New Forest SSSI, adding to numerous HLS agreements in adjacent areas that have received stewardship extensions. Cluster farm initiatives are also being developed to the North of the New Forest and around North Solent SSSI/NNR, with Natural England working in partnership with New Forest Land Advice Service to deliver these schemes.
LM8	Support commoners and smaller farmers in adapting to changes in the CAP, including events for land managers to raise awareness and help with the new online system for payments.	Action achieved	New Forest Land Advice Service	National Farmers Union	Original action not applicable any more due to Brexit, however NFLAS worked on a DEFRA Test and Trials. NFLAS are communicating with all commoners and land managers on the Agricultural Transition database via newsletters. 48 New Forest farmers and commoners given information and updates about grants and policy post-Brexit at an event run by the New Forest Land Advice Service.
LD1	Complete a comprehensive record of vernacular buildings and structures, and work with owners to ensure their local importance and conservation value is recognised.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	List of all the vernacular buildings currently identified (mostly in conservation areas) in the National Park published. Guidance notes to help planning officers and applicants understand why these buildings are important and how they are to be treated in the planning process published. Successful bid to add more buildings to the list and enhance its presentation.
LD2	Bring together all available information on archaeology and identify gaps in knowledge, focusing on specific time periods or themes each year, including the Bronze Age, Roman period, historic industries and ancient route ways.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	Various seminars, surveys, events and conferences have been held and various archaeology projects complete. Steering Group formed including HCC, New Forest Access Forum, WCC and NPA staff.

LD3	Develop a WWI project, involving local people in recording family memories and mapping wartime locations in the Forest, and developing an online archive of WWI material.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	New Forest Remembers online archive established and continues to be well used. 30,278 people have viewed nearly 200,000 web pages about the New Forest Remembers World War II on the New Forest Knowledge website; 61% were aged 18 to 34, thus attracting a new generation to the Forest's wartime heritage.
LD4	Design and take forward a project to assess changes in the local distinctiveness of settlements over time, with the involvement of communities.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	The New Forest Community Heritage Forum ('Heritage on my Doorstep') set up and groups are now more able to share their knowledge and research with each other through the New Forest Knowledge website.
LD5	Work with property owners to encourage the renovation and active use of historic buildings where these are 'at risk'. The target is to improve the condition of 20 historic buildings by 2020.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	Historic England	Depending on the definition of 'improved condition' a far higher number of historic buildings are being improved annually. The homeowners' courses aimed at professionals, agents and builders continue to be highly popular. Advice is being provided on an ongoing basis.
LD6	Actively manage the scheduled and unscheduled ancient monuments on the Crown Lands and Open Forest to bring them into good condition. The target is to improve the condition of at least 10 sites on the Crown Lands each year.	Action mostly achieved	Forestry Commission	National Trust, Hampshire County Council, Historic England, National Park Authority	With the support of the Verderers' HLS Scheme, FC have implemented protective measures to 5 Scheduled Monuments on the Open Forest. These include measures to protect from damage by rabbits and commoning stock as well as the removal of rhododendron and tree regeneration from vulnerable sites. The prehistoric Hillfort at Home Farm near Ashurst was successfully restored and deleted from the Heritage at Risk Register in 2019.
LD7	Maintain the character of Forest edge settlements by working with, initially, two local communities to protect traditional boundaries and other features, and prevent encroachments on Forest land.	Action achieved	Forestry Commission	Verderers	An Estates Keeper has worked with ten parishes to raise awareness and understanding about the importance of boundaries onto the Crown land and reduce visual encroachments. Practical work has protected 3.5km of verge. Three leaflets for property owners and contractors produced with the results of some positive outcomes and a greater awareness of the issues by local communities. An encroachment working group was set up the estates officer and partners.

LD8	Deliver a range of projects to enhance the Western Escarpment Conservation Area, including recommendations for the design of new highway infrastructure and addressing damage to verges, and evaluating success for use in other conservation areas.	Action achieved	Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group	National Park Authority	New Action Plan is more tightly focussed on deliverable actions. The previous Action Plan 2012-17 delivered progress on 10 projects. 6,000 leaflets circulated to households and businesses to raise awareness of the protected status of roadside verges and the important contribution they make to the character of the New Forest.
LD9	Support communities wishing to design Village Design Statements or Neighbourhood Plans, including policies that take into account the local distinctiveness of their area.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	Wiltshire Council, New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council	Ongoing support for communities wishing to develop Village Design Statements and Neighbourhood Plans; coordination with other local authorities where parish is in both areas. Seven Village Design Statements have been formally adopted by the NPA. Eight Neighbourhood Areas have been designated within the National Park area, with one Neighbourhood Plan 'made'.
CC1	Raise awareness about the increased risk of tree diseases and pests, and agree a strategy to sustain the woodlands of the New Forest in the long term, including a public seminar in 2015 and other discussion / consultation events.	Action achieved	Forestry Commission	n/a	New Forest Knowledge conference in 2016 highlighted the risks that an increased number of pests and diseases, often attributed to climate change, poses to the New Forest habitats including woodlands. The New Forest Inclosures Forest Design Plan Consultation Event highlighted the risks of climate change to the long-term health of New Forest woodlands, particularly to beech and oak trees. Annual tree health events held in SE England that New Forest stakeholders have attended. Suite of webinars from February 2021 on tree threats.
CC2	Research the effects of coastal change on winter bird roosts, and breeding sites for gulls and terns, and recommended key sites to safeguard in the future.	Action achieved	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	n/a	Three years of bird movement studies have been completed and a new Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy has been published and disseminated to all coastal local authority partners. 25 miles of intertidal habitat along the New Forest coastline surveyed to provide information on its condition.

CC3	Maintain the New Forest's important function as a carbon sink by protecting and restoring natural habitats, including wetland and mires.	Action achieved	Natural England	n/a	20 miles of rivers and streams restored, including mires and streams at more than 60 locations. Continued progress of the Wetland Restoration Strategy through partnership working. These naturally functioning ecosystems will act as a sponge to soak up carbon and keep it locked, halting the release of carbon that was taking place as the habitats were eroding.
CC4	Produce and promote a climate change adaptation plan for the National Park, identifying likely future climate-related impacts and suggesting ways of adapting to them.	Ongoing, off target	National Park Authority	n/a	New Forest Climate Change Adaption Plan draft published by Atkins in July 2018. Technical risk assessment / impact assessment published alongside it. Unknown if Plan will be finalised.
CC5	Support communities wishing to prepare Emergency Response Plans, or establish Flood Action Groups, to plan ahead for future flood or other extreme weather events.	Action achieved	Hampshire County Council	Wiltshire Council, New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Environment Agency	Ongoing work by the Flood and Water Management team and the Emergency Planning Team allows parishes and members of the public access to guidance and templates to produce their own Flood Action Plans and set up their own Flood Action Groups. The Environment Agency continue to support communities where requested with information and data in partnership with Hampshire County Council.
CC6	Seek further support and funding for identified flood relief, coastal defence and beach management works designed to reduce flooding and coastal erosion in the future.	Action achieved	New Forest District Council	Environment Agency, Hampshire County Council, Verderers	Partners are exploring a sustainable future with regards to the risk from flooding and coastal erosion between Hurst Spit and Lymington. The project aims to investigate if and how the significant challenges facing this coastline now and into the future can be tackled. Future aims are to submit the initial stage of the Business Case process – Strategic Outline Case – November 2021 and to unlock additional funding in order to explore potential options in greater detail. £50,000 for research into how sediment moves at Hurst Spit was secured to help better understand coastal erosion.

ST1	Ensure the updated tranquillity mapping for the NP is available in the necessary mapping formats and encourage its use by those involved in managing or administering the Forest.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	Tranquillity map published in 2015; used for planning purposes.
ST2	Agree ways to maintain and enhance the tranquil areas of the NP over time, including ways to reduce disturbance from low-flying aircraft, working with interest groups and local communities.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	A widening of an existing 'local avoid' location to restrict activity by low flying helicopters was agreed between Natural England, the MoD, Hampshire Ornithological Group, and the NPA to protect red-listed birds in this area.
ST3	Progress the undergrounding of low voltage cables in appropriate locations, prioritising the most visually sensitive areas.	Action achieved	SSE	National Park Authority	£60,000 given by National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative fund for landscape improvements at Warren Copse, Holbury and Landford Bog. Low voltage cables have also been undergrounded at Buckland Rings and Picket Post.
ST4	Seek national funding for protected landscapes to underground high voltage cables and remove pylons, focusing on the pylons in the north of the Forest and close to the waterside.	Not pursued further	National Grid	National Park Authority	National Grid stopped any further work on the undergrounding at Hale Purlieu due to very strong local opposition.
ST5	Carry out an assessment of the visual impacts of communications, services, and other infrastructure on the open landscapes of the Forest and seek ways to reduce those impacts where possible.	Not pursued further	Verderers	National Park Authority	Not being carried out by Verderers due to lack of resources.
SQ1	Promote public awareness campaigns on specific New Forest issues, with initiatives targeted at both visitors and local people. The aim is to achieve, year on year, fewer road traffic animal deaths, less disturbance of ground nesting birds, greater protection of fungi reduced dog fouling and litter and lower incidence of feeding ponies.	Action mostly achieved	National Park Authority	Forestry Commission, National Trust, Verderers, New Forest District Council, Commoners Defence Association, New Forest Dog Owners Group	300,000 people viewed social media campaigns educating and signposting them to information about ground nesting birds. Various other successful public awareness campaigns implemented in partnership, e.g. #add3minutes, Shared Forest Business Group, dusk walks programme, Date With Nature, Wild Wednesdays, Fun in the Forest, Marine Wonders, Look but Don't Pick fungi campaign, Clean for the Queen event in 2016, Great British Spring Clean, litter campaign 'Leave nothing but footprints', Look but Don't Touch leaflet, etc.

SQ2	Support and help coordinate the work of volunteer groups and networks, enabling them to become an integral part of delivering specific projects in the National Park, including (as examples) mapping of local heritage features, archaeological field work and removal of invasive plant species. The target is to involve as many local people as possible, with a combined total of at least 5,000 volunteer days over 5 years.	Action achieved	New Forest Landscape Partnership	n/a	2,000 volunteers have helped various projects in the OPOF Landscape Partnership scheme, totalling 77,000 hours or 11,000 volunteer days. Annual volunteer fair at Lyndhurst Community Centre with 600 attendees, volunteer celebration events, volunteers trained in ecology, archaeology, archiving, etc.
SQ3	Fully support the New Forest Volunteer Ranger Service through the provision of staff resources, funding and training. The service will aim to deliver about 1,400 volunteer days annually.	Action mostly achieved	Forestry Commission	n/a	There are currently 58 Volunteer Rangers and an additional 80 active Two Trees Conservation Team members. Together these 2 groups provided 4,800 volunteer days undertaking, conservation tasks and public engagement across the New Forest. No volunteer service in 2020 due to lockdown.
SQ4	Further develop targeted, effective and suitable interpretation that helps tell the story of the New Forest to a wide variety of audiences, using, for example, self-led trails and new media.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	Forestry Commission, National Trust, Ninth Centenary Trust, Hampshire County Council	Onsite improvements to interpretation, temporary exhibitions, guided walks, talks and events have taken place over five years through the OPOF scheme, attracting 133,000 people. Examples include exhibitions at the New Forest Show and New Forest Heritage Centre on Charter of the Forest and Commoning voices, portable commoning exhibition, Arts Festival, Walking Festivals, 5 new historic trails, 3 wildplay sites, numerous wild play events, interpretation installed at Foxbury, Avon Tyrell, Holbury Manor Farm, Tatchbury Mount Hospital, the Verderers Hall, Bolderwood, Beaulieu Road, Blackwater, and the Reptile centre
SQ5	Establish an E-cademy online centre for research and studies related to the New Forest, enabling access to a wide range of material held by organisations and academic institutions.	Action achieved	New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust	n/a	New Forest Knowledge website live and is now receiving around 13,000 hits a month. 37 volunteers have digitised 20,000 items; New Forest Knowledge now has around 133,000 searchable records. Four conference held that have attracted over 600 delegates.

SQ6	Organise a regular New Forest Wildlife Forum event, bringing together the many wildlife organisations and researchers to exchange ideas and publicise projects.	Action mostly achieved	National Park Authority	Land Advice Service	Some New Forest Water Forum Events organised by the Freshwater Habitats Trust and supported by the National Park Authority and the Land Advice Service; not annual due to lockdown; 100 people attended the 2019 New Forest Water Forum Event to raise awareness about and promote work to restore ponds, rivers and streams.
SQ7	Support educational activities and programmes that encourage learning about the National Park, from Forest School activities for pre-school children to Countryside Management courses for university students, including expanding the New Forest Curriculum for local schools and colleges and annual conferences for teachers and secondary school pupils	Action achieved	National Park Authority	Hampshire County Council	Schools studying Countryside Management and Rural Tourism, almost 3,000 pupils investigating National Parks and Coastal Processes; working with New Forest Marque to develop a school assembly about the importance of local produce. Local secondary school pupils carry out work experience placements at the authority. Various activities at Lepe country park; OPOF developed an educational toolkit on commoning.
SQ8	Improve understanding of commoning traditions by restoring the historic features of the Verderers Hall and enabling free public access.	Action achieved	Forestry Commission	n/a	Restoration of Verderer's Hall completed. Redecoration and new interpretation installed incl. a new information cabinet, and a film, access improvements also completed, and several open days held for the public. Volunteers will continue to help run open days in the future.
EP1	Improve the specific areas of open space for people and wildlife in parishes within and around the National Park, working with interested local communities. The target is to work on projects with at least ten communities and local groups.	Action mostly achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	Cross-cutting action that meets objectives of several other actions, including Wildplay (LC9) and Community Wildlife Plans initiative (LC2); target of ten communities can't be verified but probably been met. Four local community groups improved open spaces for people and wildlife at Milford, New Milton, Hordle, Wellow and Landford.
EP2	Work with individual communities to design and fund at least five projects annually to help improve local rights of way or access to countryside recreation.	Ongoing, off target	National Park Authority	n/a	£10,000 spent on upgrading the popular circular walk known as the Lepe Loop. Small Grants Fund / Rural Communities Fund in partnership with HCC: fewer people have been applying for it over the years; five projects annually too ambitious; about three projects on average. Lack of further financial resources to implement projects.

EP3	Improve the safety and connectivity of routes used by pedestrians, horse-riders and cyclists to travel between settlements and places of interest, including an awareness-raising campaign to encourage mutual respect and the responsible shared use of the network of roads and agreed tracks by all.	Action mostly achieved	National Park Authority	Hampshire County Council, Forestry Commission	Connectivity of routes used by pedestrians, horse-riders and cyclists to travel between settlements and places of interest is one of the main expected outcomes of the updated Recreation Management Strategy. Regular awareness-raising campaigns, joint publications of leaflets and fliers are being implemented with partner organisations.
EP4	Establish a volunteer-led organisation to give people with disabilities the opportunity to experience cycling in the NP, using specially adapted bikes.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	1,959 participants and carers have enjoyed inclusive cycling in the New Forest with PEDALL. The 'Friends of PEDALL' charity has been established to ensure the long term sustainability of the project.
EP5	Through the New Forest Public Events and Safety Advisory Group, monitor the effectiveness of the charter for cycle event organisers to assess if there is a need for any further controls in the future, and work with all event organisers to improve the running of any large-scale events within the National Park, reducing impacts on the Park and its communities, while ensuring they can be enjoyed by all those involved.	Action mostly achieved	New Forest District Council	Hampshire County Council, National Park Authority, Hampshire Constabulary	All public feedback received following an event is sent to the organiser for a response. Every cycle event organiser with over 150 participants liaises with the SAG with all but 1 event adhering to the cycle charter. Seven large, annual, cycle events complied with most aspects of the Cycle Event Organisers' Charter.
EP6	Develop a new 'Forest Park' in the southern Test Valley to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation close to communities in Romsey, Eastleigh and Southampton, helping to reduce pressure on the sensitive habitats of the NP.	Ongoing, off target	Test Valley Borough Council	Forestry Commission	The delivery of the Forest Park will extend beyond the lifetime of this Partnership Plan. Most of the land is owned by a number of private landowners and in some locations, they lease it to FE. However, TVBC working with Eastleigh Borough Council have secured the delivery of Home Wood, one of the areas allocated for the Forest Park. This 35ha mixed wood is situated on the south eastern boundary of Test Valley. This action is also included in TVBC's local plan (policy LHW3 'Forest Park').

EP7	Develop the facilities at Blashford Lakes nature reserve to create an important centre for visitors near the western edge of the National Park.	Action achieved	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	n/a	Reserve signage updated, new education pond created, Tern Hide with a larger, more accessible 'eco-hide' replaced; new features for visitor engagement, including the 'Wild Walk' sculpture trail and eco Welcome Hut. New interpretation in the Blashford centre foyer with a multi-wildlife camera system installed to stream live footage back to the centre and welcome hut. Combined with donations from the public nearly £300,000 was invested.
EP8	Redevelop the visitor facilities at Lepe to provide a flagship country park, incorporating sustainable design and creating an innovative centre for interpretation relating to the coast and Forest.	Action achieved	Hampshire County Council	n/a	£2.91 million has been invested in The Lookout visitor restaurant, elevated boardwalk and toilets at Lepe Country Park.
LC1	Work with communities to identify heritage features of importance to them, and help them record and celebrate these to a wider audience; initially involving eight local communities.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	639 people have attended training events and programmes including media and archaeological interpretation training, building conservation, photogrammetry and Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) photography. Community Heritage Forum set up and meets twice a year; 21 local groups have been supported to create 38 heritage projects, e.g. 'command of the sea' exhibition in Milford on Sea. 15 community groups were supported in finance, training and other aspects to help them deliver projects revealing the New Forest's heritage.
LC2	Continue to support the Community Wildlife Plans initiative, helping eight local communities to deliver their action plans, including practical environmental improvements.	Action achieved	New Forest Land Advice Service	n/a	Complete; nature conservation projects on local, parish level, mainly in parishes around the Park. Several initiatives were set up with help from NFLAS, e.g. regarding insurance, surveys, etc., and groups are now self-sustaining. Eight parish/town councils supported in recruiting and training wildlife champions, carrying out wildlife surveys and producing plans to enhance nature on green spaces in their areas.

LC3	Provide best practice advice and potential funding support for village shops, community buildings and other community facilities, including organising an annual Hampshire village shops conference to share information and encourage collaborative working.	Ongoing, off target	Hampshire County Council	n/a	Rural Communities Grant scheme can provide funds to support improvements to village shops and countryside access, however limited amount of successful projects in the Park so far. Hampshire village shops conference discontinued.
LC4	Expand the Village Agents programme within the New Forest, enabling older residents to gain advice on transport, home maintenance and financial matters from volunteers within the community.	Action mostly achieved	Age Concern Hampshire	Hampshire County Council	Five volunteer Age Concern Village Agents signed up in and around the New Forest, enabling older residents to gain advice on transport, home maintenance and financial matters; however, Age Concern find it very difficult to recruit new volunteers, or fill in geographical 'gaps' within the Park.
LC5	Identify possible sites for affordable housing, including suitable publicly owned land, and agree new schemes designed for local people which are of high quality and sustainability, and are in keeping with the character of the area.	Ongoing, off target	New Forest District Council	National Park Authority, Action Hampshire (HARAH)	15 affordable flats and houses built in Bransgore, Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst, including affordable rented and shared ownership. However, only very few viable (rural exception) sites for affordable housing have been identified over the last five years. Most sites that are being suggested by landowners or NFDC are unsuitable, mainly due to location. However, the NPA work closely with NFDC to identify potential future sites.
LC6	Use the Forestry Commission's housing stock in ways which benefit the special qualities of the area, by including lettings to practicing commoners and those involved in local land-based businesses or organisations.	Ongoing, off target	Forestry Commission	n/a	Currently most of the housing stock is let, however, open market is made available too where applicable. Recent hike in rents by FC has caused some anxiety amongst tenants as to whether they can continue to afford to live in FC let housing in the future.
LC7	Reduce fly-tipping by monitoring the main hotspots on council land in order to tackle known offenders, and improving awareness of the best means for households to dispose of unwanted bulky waste.	Action mostly achieved	New Forest District Council	n/a	Reduced fly-tipping through awareness raising with partners, offering a bulky waste collection service and expanding the current garden waste collection. Continued working with Hampshire fly-tipping strategy group to identify and enforce fly-tipping. However, fly-tipping cases still too high.

LC8	Actively involve local communities in a variety of initiatives to improve health and wellbeing, including the New Forest Health Walks programme, dementia awareness training and projects to encourage a more active younger generation.	Action achieved	New Forest District Council	Hampshire County Council, Wiltshire Council, NPA, Community First New Forest	Providing Disabled Facility Grants, organise Golden Mile, Let's Be Active Roadshow, Ping table tennis community project, training for Active Lifestyle Officers, Social Prescribing Pilot, Healthy Walks initiatives, Parkrun, Satellite Clubs, Dementia Awareness Week, Walking Festival, etc.
LC9	Help young people to get more involved in the National Park by removing barriers and providing new opportunities, including developing at least three 'wildplay' sites, enabling direct experiences of the natural environment, and encouraging confidence and skills through the Mosaic Youth Project.	Action achieved	National Trust	National Park Authority	Wild play sites installed at Foxbury, Holbury, Sway and Ashurst. Various events have taken place which have been attended by 6,000 people since 2017. Wild Play toolkit developed; rangers delivering sessions to National Citizenship Service participants. Sessions continue to be delivered to Brockenhurst College students and young people from the Princes Trust.
LC10	Support a range of local initiatives that encourage more sustainable lifestyles and economies, including energy conservation, local food production and sustainable transport. The target is to support at least 50 community projects over five years.	Action mostly achieved	National Park Authority	New Forest Transition	£78,000 of funding has been allocated towards eight community projects supporting volunteering, education and encouraging sustainable living: various initiatives by Transition such as the Schools Energy Project with thermal imaging camera, West Solent Solar Cooperative, retrofitting events, free to borrow energy monitors, walking tours around solar farm and water mill, recycling sheds, New Forest Food Challenge, Bike Week events, electric car hook up initiative, etc. Total number of projects unknown.
EW1	Continue to promote the Brand New Forest campaign encouraging greater use of local businesses by local people, including a pilot Fair Booking initiative, establishing a locally based visitor accommodation booking system.	Action mostly achieved	New Forest District Council	New Forest Business Partnership	Continued growth of the Brand New Forest scheme in order to support local business including Village of the Year. Supporting New Forest Business Partnership through continued growth in membership and activities. Brand New Forest is now carried out by Go New Forest; no further updates received.
EW2	Deliver the Rural Development LEADER Programme for the New Forest, funding the growth and creation of jobs in rural businesses and supporting local services.	Action mostly achieved	LEADER Local Action Group	New Forest District Council	Due to Brexit the programme finished early but has been very successful in supporting rural businesses. £1.2 million of EU grants awarded to 40 local businesses, creating 32 new jobs.

EW3	Work closely with the relevant Local Enterprise Partnerships to identify initiatives that both support a sustainable local economy within the Park and help deliver the LEP's wider economic objectives.	Ongoing, off target	Hampshire County Council	New Forest District Council, LEADER LAG, National Park Authority	Very limited investment by LEP in the New Forest as usually larger-scale economic opportunities are preferred. Lepe Country Park however did benefit from LEP funding. Ongoing engagement with LEP through Green Halo and other initiatives.
EW4	Encourage private sector investment in forestry and land management by providing a range of business opportunities for work on the Crown Lands, suitable for companies of different sizes and expertise.	Action achieved	Forestry Commission	n/a	The Forestry Commission engages specialist contractors, individuals and large companies in a range of activities from professional surveys (e.g. biodiversity) to logistics (transport) to timber processing. Camping in the Forest and tourism also seen as major benefits in the future. Applications by landowners for woodland management plans have been approved and some moving forward to Woodland Improvement Grants.
EW5	Promote the New Forest Marque as the recognised symbol of local produce and help to support and develop new and existing local produce businesses. The target is to achieve 160 businesses as Marque members by 2020.	Action achieved	New Forest Produce Ltd	National Park Authority	162 businesses are members of the New Forest Marque quality assurance scheme for local produce – up 20% since 2017. The Marque has been a huge success during lockdown: Marque members were helping people to stay home and save lives by offering online ordering and deliveries.
EW6	Provide practical means of connecting local producers with outlets, such as hotels, shops and pubs, through the EU funded 'DEAL' project, providing supply chain software and a centre enabling the easy distribution of products.	Not pursued further	New Forest District Council	n/a	This was a work programme established and undertaken by the previous Employment & Tourism Service and has been discontinued.
EW7	Help rural businesses and communities to function more efficiently by supporting the national programmes to deliver superfast broadband to 95% of premises, and seek additional funding to provide a more complete coverage throughout the National Park.	Ongoing, off target	Hampshire County Council	Wiltshire Council, National Park Authority, New Forest District Council	Whilst there have been improvements in broadband coverage, including community-led initiatives, there are still a significant number of areas without coverage. Even though there is close to 95% coverage, 'complete' coverage is currently unlikely to happen for another few years.

EW8	Support a range of skills training related to the local area, including providing apprenticeships in environmental conservation, training at least 125 people in traditional building skills.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	The National Park Authority employs two apprentice rangers every year; 36 building conservation courses run, with almost 400 professionals and homeowners trained in traditional building skills.
EW9	Arrange training for at least 100 tourism businesses and staff to help make their business more sustainable, and to better promote the special qualities of the Park to visitors.	Action mostly achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	Various training and dissemination events regarding sustainable recreation and transport, climate change and other New Forest specific themes such as commoning, being delivered for tourism business and bus operators throughout the year. 181 people trained to help make their businesses more sustainable and to better promote the special qualities of the National Park to visitors.
EW10	Actively encourage the development of social enterprises within rural communities, providing practical support, advice and guidance on funding.	Ongoing, off target	Hampshire County Council	Action Hampshire	Economic Development team liaise with and refer potential social enterprise clients to Action Hampshire for specific expertise, advice and support; no further input received.
EW11	Increase interest and demand for courses in rural and land-based skills through improved marketing and promotion.	Action mostly achieved	Hampshire County Council and education providers	n/a	Picked up by NFNPA's (OPOF's) New Forest Skills Project which facilitates subsidised courses each year for three years aimed at farmers, commoners and landowners around the New Forest. 54 training courses in rural and land-based skills delivered, including lambing, sprayer operator safety, chainsaw handling and tree safety and surveying.
TT1	Investigate measures aimed at reducing HGV through-traffic by encouraging the use of more appropriate roads, including a web-based route planning system that identifies preferred routes.	Not pursued further	Hampshire County Council	Wiltshire Council	Web-based system would not be used due to satnav usage. Significant barriers to setting up voluntary schemes for lorry controls as very difficult to enforce; only Police and VOSA have authority but no interest or funding.
TT2	Review speed limits for the minor roads in Wiltshire that lie within the National Park, considering suitability and enforceability, in order to reduce traffic speed.	Not pursued further	Wiltshire Council	National Park Authority	Speed limits are assessed against criteria issued by the DfT. Speed limit reviews are requested and funded through Community Area Transport Groups. Apart from Landford, no schemes have been pursued or come forward.

TT3	Work with Highways England to help minimise delays and improve the reliability of journey times on the A31 and M27, in order to improve the use of other routes through the Forest by long distance traffic.	Not pursued further	Hampshire County Council	n/a	HCC Strategic Transport taken part in HE consultation in support of the provision of an improved A338/A31 interchange off slip and westbound third lane (Ringwood). No other schemes planned or implemented.
TT4	Develop a 'Quiet Lanes' network in appropriate locations, initially as a limited pilot project, to help maintain the rural character of minor roads and enable their safe use by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, as well as motorists.	Not pursued further	Hampshire County Council	n/a	Pilot project at potential scheme in Burley. Proposals were eventually abandoned following a lack of support by the Parish Council who argued that the initiative would not provide an enforceable way to slow down the traffic. No other schemes investigated.
TT5	Reduce unnecessary sign clutter within the NP, particularly targeting the minor road network.	Ongoing, off target	Hampshire County Council	Wiltshire Council	This is generally ongoing and the reduction in sign clutter is a consideration within every project. Must be balanced with the demand for additional signing to support human and animal casualty reduction. Unlikely that sign clutter reduction work can be considered and actioned as a priority and will be subject to the availability of resources.
TT6	Publish design guidelines for highways infrastructure to ensure that new works to the road network respect local distinctiveness and avoid suburbanisation, including the appropriate design and location of signs, kerbing, footways and other elements, taking into account the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorised users.	Not pursued further	Hampshire County Council	n/a	Full agreement on the content of guideline document was not achieved and concerns were raised about managing expectations at a time of significant budget constraints. Draft guidelines exist but final document won't be progressed or published.
TT7	Produce and implement a maintenance plan and specification for highway operations, setting out agreed standards within the NP, taking into account the sensitivity of its protected landscapes and habitats.	Ongoing, off target	Hampshire County Council	n/a	90% complete; awaiting Wildlife Habit Assessments to be completed after which sign-off from Natural England (and the Verderers, Forestry Commission etc) will be sought. No further updates received.

TT8	Improve opportunities to use a range of sustainable transport options, including the New Forest Tour, Beach Bus, other seasonal bus services, rail links, walking and cycling, and investigate the possibility of Park and Ride. The target is to achieve a 5% reduction in the number of visits by car by 2020.	Action mostly achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	Usage of bus services generally increasing year-on-year, however, depending on the weather. NPA Travel Concierge services at Brockenhurst Station and New Forest Centre provide information about sustainable transport opportunities over the summer holiday season. Park and Ride feasibility study completed. No baseline figure for car journeys available.
TT9	Rebrand and promote existing local bus routes into and across the National Park, adding a New Forest theme, providing user-friendly information and enabling commercially viable services for residents. To include routes between Lymington and Southampton, Bournemouth and Salisbury and Southampton and Salisbury.	Action mostly achieved	National Park Authority	Wiltshire Council, Hampshire County Council, bus service operators	NPA Travel Concierge services at Brockenhurst Station and New Forest Centre provide information about sustainable transport opportunities over the summer holiday season. 6,300 visitors and residents given help and information by the travel concierge team in 2019. No rebranding of local bus routes.
TT10	Explore the funding and feasibility options, such as the Enterprise M3 LEP, for adjacent to carriageway cycle routes on fenced roads between main settlements to improve safe access for commuting and leisure cycling, including a link between Lymington and Cadnam.	Not pursued further	Minstead Parish Council	National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council	Funding and feasibility options have been explored; however not an HCC priority and no funding available. Furthermore, cycle path would mainly be on SSSI land which would prove problematic.
TT11	Undertake an 'active travel' programme, encouraging walking and cycling to reduce car use and other initiatives, aimed at people of all ages and abilities.	Action achieved	National Park Authority	n/a	Completed in 2015/16. Other initiatives such as the Walking Festival, Open Art competition and exhibition are being promoted. Working with National Parks UK, Accord with Public Health England to establish a 'natural health service' of projects launched. 115,000 downloads of the New Forest walking app providing approved walks for people on the Rights of Way network and on waymarked trails.