

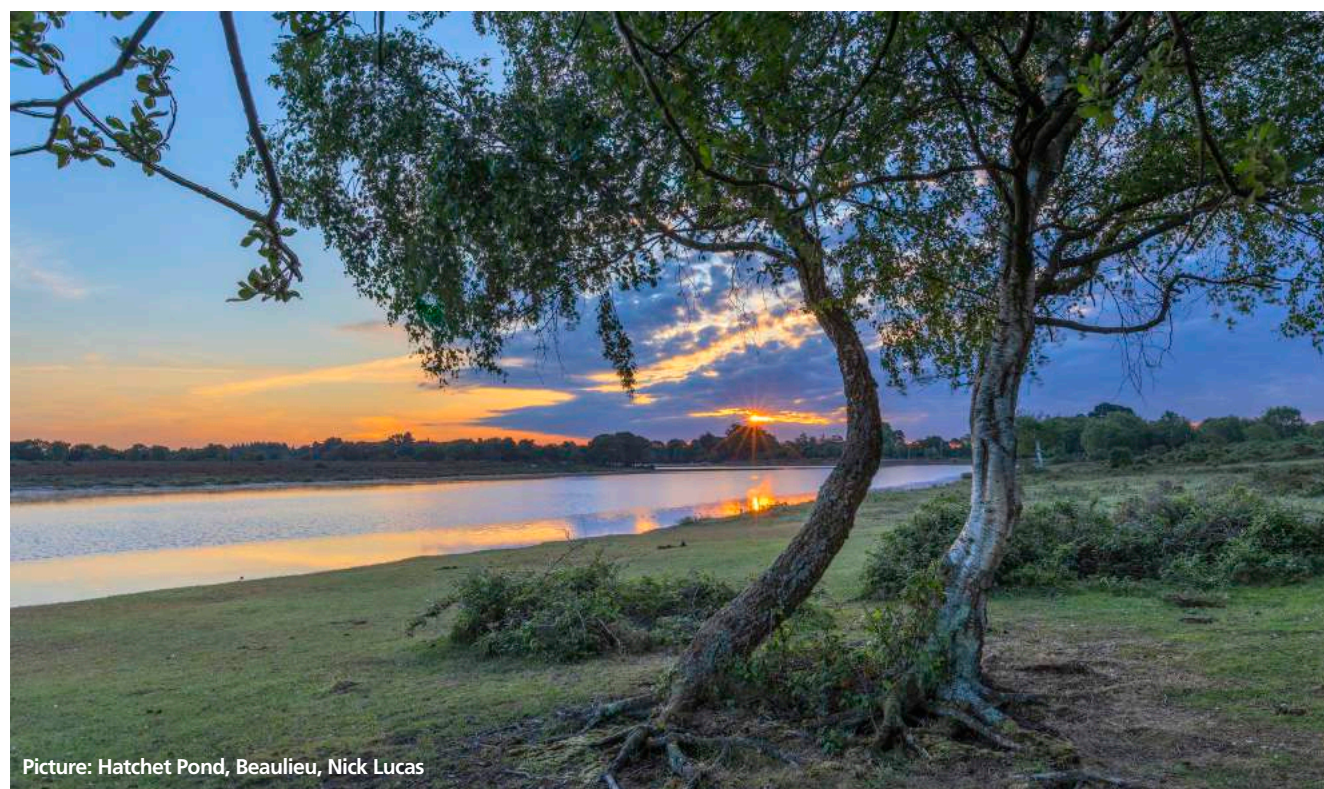
Park Life

News from the New Forest National Park Authority



Autumn/Winter 2021

FREE!



Picture: Hatchet Pond, Beaulieu, Nick Lucas

Green injection of £800k to help the National Park

Plans to help address the climate and nature emergencies in the New Forest have been given a boost thanks to a half a million pound grant.

The Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund awarded £539,200 to the New Forest National Park Authority's scheme which, with matchfunding, means a £800,000 investment into the National Park.

'Green and blue horizons from city to Forest' will help restore habitats, begin our path towards net zero with nature, and encourage new and diverse audiences to connect with the Forest.

It's part of the Government's £40 million second round of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, a multi-million pound boost for green jobs and nature recovery. In the New Forest National Park, 17 jobs will be created or retained and around 50 local contractors will be needed to help support nature improvements.

The NPA will work alongside the Countryside Education Trust, the Freshwater Habitats Trust, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and the New Forest Commoners Defence Association to deliver the scheme over 18

months, which started in September 2021.

We'll also work with farmers, landowners, communities and volunteers to extend nature networks and create wildlife-rich corridors that link National Park habitats to neighbouring towns and cities. Areas of grassland, woodland, hedgerows, streams and ponds will be improved, bringing with it numerous opportunities for people to understand, value and help to care for the landscape.

To coincide with a new Fort Climate Centre in Beaulieu, due to be completed later this year, the Countryside Education Trust will be developing opportunities for people to learn all about climate change and its impact on the New Forest and beyond.

One of the main beneficiaries of the New Forest grant is the Freshwater Habitats Trust. Its Wilder for Water project raises awareness of the special qualities of the New Forest waterscape and to champion a best practice 'clean water standard' for camping and recreation.

Dr Naomi Ewald of the Freshwater Habitats Trust said: 'This is fantastic news for the conservation of the New Forest's freshwater and coastal habitats. The funding will help us to build a skilled

team of professionals and volunteers within the New Forest National Park who are dedicated to protecting arguably one of the best Important Freshwater Areas in the UK – critical for freshwater biodiversity and home to many rare plant and animal species. Our vision is to work with partners and landowners to extend the area of top quality habitats, building out from the heart of the open Forest, and raise awareness of the importance this exceptional landscape with communities and visitors.'

Prof. Gavin Parker, Chair of the New Forest National Park Authority, said: 'Green Recovery scheme funding is a great boost for the New Forest and will help with the recovery of nature and people. The award enables the National Park Authority to extend wildlife corridors, aid climate resilience, connect people with nature and help create green jobs.'

The Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. The fund is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

■ Visit www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/ horizons

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Popular walking festival back for autumn

One of the most popular events in the New Forest is back.

Now in its ninth year, the New Forest Walking Festival is set to be bigger than ever before, with guided cycle rides new for 2021. Sponsored by Hoburne Bashley holiday park, the Festival takes place across the New Forest over three weeks from 16 October to 7 November 2021. Experts will be leading the way on dozens of guided events from wildlife walks to historic meanders, forest bathing to fungi spotting, bird watching to ranger rambles. It's a chance to learn about the special landscape, habitats and culture of the New Forest, connect to nature and even experience new things – such as navigation skills or Nordic walking. To incorporate the autumn half term, the Festival will feature guided walks suitable for families of all ages – including spook-tacular Hallowe'en fun. Many of the events are free, but all places need to be booked, so don't miss out. New Forest National Park ranger Adam Vasey said: 'We're pleased to introduce guided cycle rides this year as part of the Festival, to encourage responsible



Wartime tales of RAF Beaulieu



Join a coastal walk

cycling in the National Park. All rides will follow designated cycle trails in the New Forest, led by qualified guides, and all levels are catered for – including experienced riders and people with different disabilities.

'Being outdoors has so many physical and mental health benefits, and what better place to unwind than the New Forest which is truly stunning in the autumn?' The New Forest Walking Festival is run in partnership with many local organisations including Forestry England, New Forest



Walkers enjoying an autumn ramble

Association, New Forest Ramblers and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. When out in the Forest, please follow the latest Government guidelines and the New Forest code.

For more information about Hoburne Bashley, visit www.hoburne.com. For more information about the Walking Festival, and to book a place on a walk or cycle visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival



www.grovellypetsupplies.co.uk

It's been a strange and trying year for all of us, but many of you have found comfort in a new furbaby for the family.

Dog and Cat ownership this year has grown, and we recognise it is a minefield knowing what to feed, how to train and what to buy for your new arrival. Grovelly Pets has created a hub of specialists who can help you through the learning and enjoyment of your new family member. As specialists in Pet Nutrition and Healthcare, all of our team are trained Nutritional Specialists and can offer advice with getting the right start for a long and healthy life, to addressing quite serious health issues such as allergies and sensitivities to foods and treats. Our ethos is a natural approach to Pet Health and Wellbeing, stocking the largest range of healthy foods for all dogs and cats, whether that be raw, wet or high quality dry food for dogs and cats to overcome common health conditions which are caused by poor diet.

Check out our Facebook page Grovelly Pets Brockenhurst, or all products can be seen on our full e-commerce website www.grovellypetsupplies.co.uk where we also offer a Click and Collect service. Free local deliveries to the area are offered on a Thursday

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For further information and to sign up visit www.oakhavenhospice.co.uk/regular-giving-to-support-oakhaven

Or you can help by making Oakhaven part of your future planning.

It is because of the legacy of Phoebe and John Coates, who gifted the land on which the Hospice sits that Oakhaven exists; without their vision and generosity, we simply wouldn't be here.

Would you consider leaving us a legacy to help secure our future? Further information can be found at www.oakhavenhospice.co.uk/legacies



A gift in your Will, a legacy no matter its size contributes to meeting our ongoing needs.



making every moment matter

New Forest commoners: ordinary people, extraordinary commitment



Meet Ben Mansbridge

Ben is a New Forest Commoner who, at 21, qualified as a Farrier. Ben has been shoeing for the past 12 years, and many of his customers are based in the New Forest.

Ben said: 'I try to uphold the traditions of the New Forest, including turning out and breeding quality New Forest ponies. Our bloodlines have run through generations which were started by my grandfather.'

'Commoning is a full-time responsibility and you need to be prepared to drop everything to sort your animals out. The ponies are not quiet and tame and when they don't want to do something it's quite a challenge to change their minds!'

The New Forest's animals are the real architects of the Forest and have helped shape the landscape for centuries.

Ponies, cattle, pigs, donkeys and sheep are free to roam and graze on open areas, in a traditional system of land management known as commoning. In the New Forest, commoning has created and maintained some of our most precious habitats, which are a world capital for wildlife.

The grazing animals are owned by local families using their commoning rights. The members of these families are called commoners – ordinary people with an extraordinary commitment to this special place.

They have commoning rights from land they own, rent or share that allows them to graze their animals on the Open Forest.

The commoning community is diverse. At its heart are several large families who have farmed in the New Forest for generations. Around them are many individuals who are equally committed to their animals and this special way of life.

Commoning is a vocation, not a career. You'll find commoners working in organisations and businesses throughout the New Forest area, whether in public services such as schools and colleges, care homes and hospitals, or in farming, education and tourism.

Caring for the animals that graze the Forest has to be fitted into these normal, busy lives. All year round, commoners tend to their livestock, so you might see them rounding up their ponies, or checking on their cows. It's all part of the New Forest's long history as a living, working forest.

Meet Erika Dovey

Pictures: New Forest National Park Authority

Erika is a New Forest commoner and works as a ranger for the New Forest National Park Authority.

Erika said: 'As a commoner, my responsibilities include keeping an eye on the condition of my animals all year round, but also helping other commoners when they need a hand. It's very important that people do not approach, feed or touch the ponies. They are not domesticated ponies - they live off what the Forest provides, and feeding them anything by hand is not good for their natural behaviour. It can also prove fatal for their digestive system and teach them bad habits, so please keep your distance and don't feed the livestock. Thank you.'



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A feast for the eyes

Autumn is peak time for a wide variety of fabulous fungi in the New Forest National Park. If you're out and about, please look but don't touch and leave the fungi for the wildlife and others to enjoy.

About half of the New Forest is a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) - the ancient woodlands, wetlands and open heathlands, which are home to many rare species of plants and wildlife. This Crown Land is one of the most important sites for fungi in Britain.

Some are so rare and vulnerable they're included in the protected species list, and it's

illegal to pick them – even for scientific reasons.

There are more than 2,700 species of fungi in the National Park alone. They're essential to the Forest's ecosystem, which is why the New Forest National Park Authority, together with partners such as Forestry England, are appealing to people to look, but please don't pick.

As well as being essential rotters and recyclers, fungi provide food for some animals and are vital to many invertebrates to enable them to complete their life cycles. They're also great to simply admire and are marvellously photogenic too.

Fungi enjoy a status all of their own! They're often thought of as plants, but some experts say they're closer to animals. Their weird and wonderful names include 'chicken of the woods', 'death cap', 'stinkhorn', 'devil's fingers', 'sulphur tuft' and 'amethyst deceiver'.

As their names suggest, some are poisonous or not good to eat. Although certain fungi are edible, please respect the natural environment and leave fungi in the ground so everyone can admire their seasonal display.

Why not join a fungi walk as part of the New Forest Walking and Cycling Festival taking place 16 October – 7 November this year?

For more information, visit
www.newforestnpa.gov.uk



Faerie fungus, Sarah Fox



Gymnopus junonius, Michael Matthews



Chicken of the Woods fungi on Oak tree at Burley, John Hearne



Green Oak Cup fungus, Nigel Matthews



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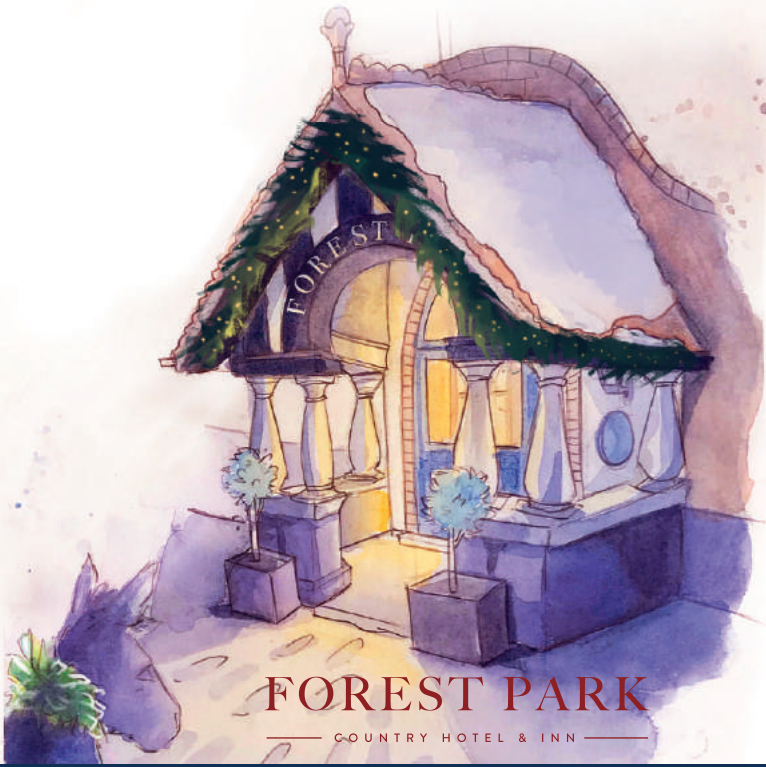


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Alison Levy,
NPA Nature
Recovery
Officer

Meet the National Park's Nature Recovery Officer

Alison Levy is the New Forest National Park Authority's new Nature Recovery Officer. A landscape conservation project designer, Alison will be spending the next 18 months helping our unique habitats to increase and strengthen, supporting our wildlife for decades to come.

Q. What is a Nature Recovery Officer and why does the New Forest National Park need one?

A. It's a new role that's been created with money from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund. Created by Defra and distributed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, there is £40 million to support projects that deliver and focus on nature restoration, nature-based solutions to climate change and connecting people with nature. The NFNPA has identified a need to do more to support nature here and as Nature Recovery Officer I will be increasing the amount of land available for nature and wildlife. I'll be looking holistically at the New Forest landscape and identifying where landowners can assist with this and what we can do to help them.

Q. How will you do this?

A. My main role will be to produce what I've referred to as my 'master map', looking at areas of opportunity. This could involve anything from identifying where specialist species such as bats might be nesting, so we can improve habitats for them. Or it could mean identifying landowners who we've engaged with in the past and who might be willing to work with us to increase the ecological network so that all creatures have more habitat they can use. Following that we can put practical measures into place to make this happen.

Q. Can you give an example?

A. Yes! We have some amazing woodland which could have much higher biodiversity value – meaning it could support a greater range of plants, insects and wildlife – but it has loads of rhododendron in it. They are beautiful to look at but invasive and reduce biodiversity. If we can rid woodland of this non-native species, we can create more high-value land, essentially a better ecosystem. Another good example is supporting peat bogs. By doing this we restrict the amount of carbon which gets released into the atmosphere, because peat holds it well. But improving boggy areas for carbon means you're also improving them for specialist plants and the insects which rely on them and,

ultimately, the much bigger wildlife that we all like to see.

Q. Any specific priorities?

A. In essence it's all about finding where we can make the greatest impact. That's where the master map comes in. You can use GPS to do fairly complex things, such as working out how far a newt could travel from one site before it would run out of food because the habitat wasn't good enough. Then you can take action to increase that habitat, giving newts better chances. It's really about identifying holes in the landscape which need filling – managing for biodiversity and habitat – so that more species can survive there. We want to create more corridors and connectivity across the New Forest's landscape.

Q. Is the New Forest really this important?

A. It really is – there's a huge amount of specialist wildlife that you can't find anywhere else, such as the New Forest cicada. There's the interplay between the coast and the land with different habitats used by migrating birds. Then there's the unique way the New Forest is run. I don't know of anywhere else where you have ponies, cattle and pigs using the landscape as they would have done in Medieval times, maintaining it in a way that's not done anywhere else. We have specific fungi that exist on cattle droppings, insects which live in the tiny pools created by the water which collects in ponies' hoof-prints, the way grasses are grazed at different heights – it all helps to produce unique micro-habitats.

Q. Will you be helping any particular species?

A. Absolutely! We know people find it easier to identify and get on board with key and easily identifiable species. It's a complex set of processes but if, for example, you work to improve the habitat of curlews or Brent geese, you will also be supporting a much wider range of things which aren't necessarily as noticeable but just as important.

Q. When will we notice all this happening?

A. My first steps are very much to set the groundwork and foundations as to how we're going to continue this into the future. It's not just going to be a few projects to tick a few boxes – it's something that will have impact for years to come.

New Forest dog walkers' charter

The New Forest is enjoyed every day by many dog walkers and their four-legged friends.

All professional dog walking businesses using the Forest are being encouraged to follow standards set out in our New Forest dog walkers' charter. It lists 24 ways that businesses can help care for the Forest and provides a standard mark for pet owners to find responsible dog walkers.

The charter, developed with a number of dog walking businesses, has three main themes:

- Operating the business in a professional manner
- Staying safe and respecting the environment
- Being considerate to other Forest users.



Follow and share the New Forest code

There are ways everyone can enjoy the New Forest National Park without causing inadvertent harm to the stunning protected habitats and wildlife.

Thank you for following the New Forest code – which focuses on nine simple ways everyone can help care for this unique place, helping to protect the landscape, livestock and wildlife of the New Forest.

It's been put together by the New Forest National Park Authority with partners Forestry England, Verderers of the New Forest, New Forest Commoners, New Forest District Council and Go New Forest, with support from the National Trust, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire County Council, and the New Forest Trust. You can help share the code - through social media, on an email signature or print a poster for your window. Visit www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/NFcode for more info and a digital toolkit.

Add three minutes to protect Forest livestock

**POLICE (24hrs) – 999 (emergency)
101 (non-emergency)**

Road traffic accident involving a pony, cow, donkey, pig, sheep, dog or deer

VERDERERS' OFFICE
023 8028 2052 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Sick, injured or distressed pony, cow, donkey, pig or sheep (not deer)

FORESTRY ENGLAND
0300 067 4600 (24hrs)

Sick, injured or distressed pony, cow, donkey, pig, sheep or deer

IT'S THE LAW:

Report all accidents involving a pony, cow, donkey, dog, pig or sheep to the Police as soon as possible, and within 24hrs.

REMEMBER:

- Forest animals have no road sense and have right of way!
- Drive slowly, especially at night, and give animals a wide berth.
- Don't feed the animals.

■ Please carry the emergency numbers with you. Reporting an accident early could save an animal's life.

If you do have an accident involving a pony, cow, donkey, pig or sheep you are required by law to report it to the police as soon as possible. A reward of up to £5,000 is offered for information leading to the successful conviction of drivers prosecuted for failing to stop and report an accident involving a Forest animal.

Picture: Russell Sach

As the days get shorter, animal accidents on New Forest roads sadly increase, with November being the deadliest month for livestock.

Please be extra vigilant at this time of year. Slowing down from 40mph to 30mph will add only three extra minutes to most journeys across the Forest and can drastically reduce accidents involving animals.

Winter is the worst time for animal deaths as clocks go back, and more journeys are taken in the dark. Low sunlight, dazzling on-coming headlights and bad weather can make visibility poor. According to the New Forest Animal Accident Reduction Group, many animal accidents can be attributed to poor visibility. Even when driving slowly, people should also consider road and weather conditions.

The free-roaming animals are known as the 'architects of the Forest' – it's their grazing which helps make the Forest internationally important for wildlife.

Although the overall trend of accidents has been gradually reducing over the years, any death or injury to an animal is a great loss to the owner and to the New Forest.

In 2019, 58 animals were killed and a further 32 were injured. In 2020 when traffic was reduced by Covid-19 restrictions, 50 animals were killed (the lowest on record) and a further 21 were injured.

Steve Avery, New Forest National Park Authority director said: 'We will continue to work tirelessly alongside other organisations as part of the Animal Accident Reduction Group to raise awareness with drivers and to protect

the animals which create the New Forest landscape.'

Most of the drivers involved in animal accidents are relatively local people on regular trips. The high-risk routes have been identified as:

- the B3078/79 from Cadnam to Godshill
- the B3054 from Lymington to Dibden Purlieu
- the B3055 from Brockenhurst to Sway
- the C10 from Picket Post to Holmsley.

How drivers can help:

- Be ready to stop – animals can step out even when they've seen you approaching.
- Drive slowly, especially at night – there is a pool of darkness behind the headlights of approaching cars – an animal may be standing in it.
- Give animals grazing by the side of the road a

wide berth – cross to the other side of the road and be prepared to STOP if there is on-coming traffic.

- Grazing animals on both sides of the road? Take extra care – they may cross to join their friends.
- One animal by the roadside means there are others close by – be aware.
- Bends and tops of hills need more care – animals may be standing in the road just out of sight.
- Reflective collars worn by some ponies may help you see them in the dark – but be aware that not all ponies have them.
- Deer can easily jump the fences alongside roads like the A337, A31 and A35 – and when there is one deer more will usually follow.
- Be animal aware at all times.

Follow the New Forest code

The New Forest is a unique place with rare wildlife and free-roaming livestock. Thank you for helping us care for this special place by following the simple New Forest code:



Keep your distance from the animals – don't feed or touch them



Keep dogs under control. Don't let dogs approach or chase any animals



Stick to the permitted cycle tracks



Take home litter and dog waste



Park only in car parks



Drive with care – animals on the road!



No fires or barbecues



No wild camping



Help wildlife by keeping to the main tracks

Be Forest Friendly!



Have you thought about volunteering?

With covid restrictions easing, more volunteering opportunities are opening up across the New Forest.

Volunteering is a great way to meet people, be active and learn new skills. It's also a chance to help in areas such as wildlife conservation, countryside access and archaeology. You can give as little or as much time as you like! Whatever your interests and abilities, you can play your part in caring for this unique landscape and helping people explore and understand it and its community.

Look out for news of our popular volunteer fair, taking place in January 2022. In the meantime, why not learn more and sign up to be a



Volunteers Lesley Hancock and Graham Kirkby

volunteer? Our website has details of both our volunteering opportunities with us and those of other local organisations.

The New Forest National Park Authority is calling on people and community groups to join them in the New Forest Climate and Nature Challenge.

The NPA declared a climate and nature emergency and has committed to work with partners to ensure the National Park is "net zero with nature" by 2050.

The COP26 summit from 1 – 12 November is seen as critical because it's the first time when countries must set out more ambitious goals for ending their contribution to climate change under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

As the COP26 summit gets under way in Glasgow, here are a few ideas about how you can get involved in the New Forest over the coming weeks and months.

● Take the Climate and Nature Challenge pledge on our website and sign up for tricks and tips about how to live more sustainably in the New Forest



Join the New Forest Climate and Nature Challenge!



Swap your car journey for a bike ride, dedicate an area of your garden to nature and join on of the many community groups across the Forest to help tackle climate change

- Join our Net Zero with Nature Programme Manager Olivia McGregor on a walk in Brockenhurst on 5 November through the New Forest's habitats to hear about the unique role they play in tackling climate change (part of the New Forest Walking and Cycling Festival)
- Keep an eye out for the next Awakening Festival in February – last year over 800,000 saw Awakening Festival climate change messages online and thousands joined our first virtual festival of 28 events. Email communications@newforestnpa.gov.uk if you would like to run an event in the 2022 festival
- Get some funding for your climate and nature project through our Sustainable Communities Fund



- Swap a car journey for one by bus, train or bicycle – join a PEDALL session to build up your confidence on a bike
- Join one of the many community groups across the Forest that are taking action to help tackle climate change and help nature
- Bee inspired by Conservation Connection and dedicate an area of your garden for nature
- Find out what the National Park Authority and partners are doing to tackle climate change
- Understand your carbon emissions so you can take impactful action – take the quiz using the WWF Footprint Calculator

For details of all the above check out our website at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk



Climate change and the New Forest

Climate change is the greatest long-term challenge for the National Park.

The impact of climate change on the New Forest is likely to be wide-reaching, with warmer, wetter winters, hotter, drier summers, rising sea levels and an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, the effects of which are already being seen.

This will have significant detrimental effects for our wildlife, local livelihoods and human health.



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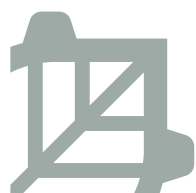
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Above left and far right, practical work in the New Forest; centre, Claire Pearce from the New Forest National Park Authority

Improving access to nature

Many people have noticed the part nature has played in helping us through the Covid pandemic.

Add to this the increasing research and data showing the demonstrable mental health uplift that being in green or blue space affords, and the evidence is overwhelming.

As the New Forest National Park Authority's Wild Spaces Youth Officer, it's Claire Pearce's job to tackle this issue by helping young people from a wide variety of backgrounds get into nature and outdoor places.

Her work is part of Generation Green, a joint national project between a number of organisations including the Youth Hostels Association, Scouting, Girlguiding, the Outward Bound Trust and English National Parks and Field Studies Council. It's financed up to March

2022 by the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund and delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

'We take people aged 11 to 25 years from schools and youth groups on a variety of experiences within the National Park to build their connection with nature,' said Claire.

Generation Green helps a wide range of people gain access to nature and fosters increased care for the natural world through greater understanding. It will also inspire a greater variety of young people, from the National Park and including those from the New Forest's urban fringes and deprived coastal areas, to go into careers in the environmental sector which, according to the YHA, is one of the least diverse workforces in England.

As Wild Spaces Youth Officer, Claire has devised courses consisting of six one-day sessions and residential visits in the New Forest, and projects to connect young people with the green spaces closest to where they live. Her work began in the New Forest last April and will continue until the end of March 2022.

'The young people could be doing some practical conservation on our heathland or attending a wellbeing walk, helping them to notice the benefits of connecting with the outdoors,' she says. 'Basically, we are introducing different ways to connect with nature and spaces around the National Park.'

A lot of effort goes into linking back, helping participants to access green space and the coast and waterways nearest their own homes so the beneficial effect of the project continues in their daily lives. There have also been opportunities

for residential nights at YHA Burley.

Projects can include planting or improving wild or green spaces in the areas where the young people live. 'For example, they may have wildlife in spaces in their area but might want to put in some benches or install play equipment for younger people to enjoy those spaces more,' said Claire.

There is also the ability to grant up to £150 to groups to enable participation. 'This money could provide transport or even the cost of basic waterproofs for young people who can't afford them or don't have them – whatever helps to get them outside,' said Claire.

She says the best part of her job has been seeing young people get more out of nature. 'I remember one group of young people with learning disabilities,' she said. 'One of the sessions we did was with PEDALL, an inclusive cycling project where you can have alternatives, such as side-to-side or recumbent cycling, and one young man who was non-verbal had been uncertain about trying this.'

However, Claire later learned from his group's leaders that he had been 'literally bouncing with enthusiasm' after cycling this way. 'His college said that despite being non-verbal, you could see from his body language how much he'd enjoyed it and how much he'd gained from it.' Another high was learning that a leader who had previously been concerned about taking a young person to projects involving water because they were unsure of their potential reaction, had gained the confidence to do this through the sessions.

'Coming on our course helped the leader to build confidence in taking them to sites where



Experiencing PEDALL thanks to Generation Green

there was water, which means that young person and others will continue to benefit in the future,' she says.

Even the New Forest's unique environment, with roaming ponies, donkeys, cattle and pigs brings an additional dimension to Generation Green.

'If the young people haven't seen them before, it can be mind-blowing for them to watch such large, lovely animals strolling by,' says Claire.

'We may take it for granted but seeing their reactions is always brilliant.'

Ultimately, she says: 'We want them to recognise how being in these spaces helps their wellbeing and help them realise that it's always good to be in a green space and to connect with nature whenever they can.'

Interested in seeing how this project could help your group? Contact Claire Pearce, Wild Spaces Youth Officer, New Forest NPA
Claire.pearce@newforestnpa.gov.uk
 01590 646600 newforestnpa.gov.uk



A student from Great Oaks College, Southampton

Support the next wave of Generation Green young people in the New Forest



Love The Forest is appealing to people to help boost projects to care for the Forest and develop the next generation of custodians.

The scheme's latest flagship fundraising appeals are supporting the next phases of:

- the Generation Green programme to help young people connect with nature and develop skills to care for the Forest
- the New Forest Ambassador scheme, with hundreds of local people litter-picking, sharing the New Forest code and reporting issues they see out in the Forest.

As well as these flagship projects, the fundraising scheme run by the New Forest Trust (a registered charity) will continue to support its regular causes including a small grants scheme, running the Beaulieu Road pony salesyard, raising awareness of the Forest animals, and building a fund to provide and maintain New Forest commoners' holdings. Now the Love the Forest scheme, which saw tourist donations plummet during the pandemic, is appealing to people to give whatever they can to help by donating at: www.lovetheforest.org.uk William Ziegler, Chairman of the New Forest Trust

which runs the Love the Forest fundraising scheme with tourist businesses, said: 'The New Forest National Park is one of the most important nature conservation areas in Europe.'

'Its future depends on a large number of people caring for it and new generations coming through. 'There is some short-term lottery funding to get the Generation Green scheme under way but we really need to reach more youngsters to teach them about caring for the environment and to get more ambassadors out and about with the tools they need to protect the Forest.'

The New Forest is renowned for its spectacular landscape but its buildings are also an important part of what makes the National Park special.

Now you can have your say on a new Design Guide for the whole of the National Park – as part of a six-week public consultation which ends on 22 October.

The updated Design Guide will, once formally adopted, be used by our planning team in discussions with applicants and architects to help inform the design and materials used in new development. The Design Guide will also be useful for town and parish councils and local communities in making comments on applications within the National Park.

We deal with around 900 planning applications each year and place a strong emphasis on good design, with an annual Building Design Awards, Local Plan policies on protecting and enhancing the built environment and local design guidance.

NPA Planning Director Steve Avery said the draft Design Guide has been compiled after initial discussions with parish councils, local architects and planning agents. This six-week consultation now provides a formal opportunity for people to comment on the draft Design Guide.

He said: 'Since the current New Forest National Park Design Guide was adopted in 2011 there have been significant changes in both local and national policy and guidance, so there are clear benefits in reviewing and updating the document. The updated Guide places a greater focus on areas such as climate change and

Have your say on Design Guide for the entire National Park



Picture: Cottage at Fritham, NFNPA

sustainability that have risen up the planning agenda since the previous Design Guide was adopted a decade ago.

'The draft Design Guide also sets out details of the types of sustainability measures that can be incorporated into new development, while respecting the environmental protections and local character of the National Park.'

The public consultation on the draft Design Guide runs until 22 October 2021. You can view the documents and response form at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/design-guide/

The documents are also available to view at the National Park Authority office at Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington SO41 9ZG

weekdays from 9am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4pm and people can write to that address or email policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk with their responses.

All of the representations received will be reviewed and changes made to the draft document where appropriate. A 'consultation statement' will be prepared summarising the main issues raised during the public consultation and how those issues have been addressed in the final document.

The final Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document is due to be considered by the Authority for approval at its meeting in December 2021.

'Since the current New Forest National Park Design Guide was adopted in 2011 there have been significant changes in both local and national policy and guidance, so there are clear benefits in reviewing and updating the document.

'The updated guide places a greater focus on areas such as climate change and sustainability that have risen up the planning agenda.'

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ON THE MARQUE

Celebrating the best of New Forest produce

From Forest to Fork

Ponies may be the most well-known animals roaming the New Forest National Park but in the autumn they are joined by hundreds of pigs.

At this time of year, commoners - local people whose properties have rights allowing them to graze animals on the Forest - let their pigs loose to Hoover up fallen acorns, which are poisonous to ponies and cattle.

The practice is known as pannage and dates back to the time of William the Conqueror, who founded the New Forest in 1079.

Pannage is also known as 'common of mast' and it traditionally enabled commoners to fatten their pigs for slaughter and salting in the winter. Pannage pork is known for its unique nutty flavour.

Pedigree beef cattle are also turned out on the Forest and their grazing and poaching (where their hooves tread near ponds and streams) create fantastic habitats for wildlife.

All the pigs, ponies, cattle, donkeys and, in some areas, sheep that graze and forage on unfenced common land in the National Park are owned by

local families using their commoning rights. This grazing has helped shaped how the area looks today, with big, accessible, open landscapes which are internationally protected.

The New Forest Marque champions commoners and farmers in the New Forest alongside local food, drink and craft producers, as well as retail and hospitality businesses who offer New Forest Marque produce.

Claire Lee, New Forest Marque Operations Manager said: 'Every animal labelled with the New Forest Marque logo will have spent at least half of its life grazing in the New Forest and all produce must meet required criteria, so you can be sure of its New Forest provenance.'

By choosing produce labelled with the New Forest Marque logo you can strengthen the local economy, help conserve nature and also reduce your carbon footprint. Plus, as the time from Forest to fork is shorter, your plate is filled with tastier, fresher, more nutritious food.

Find out more at the New Forest Marque website newforestmarque.co.uk.



New Forest pigs foraging for acorns

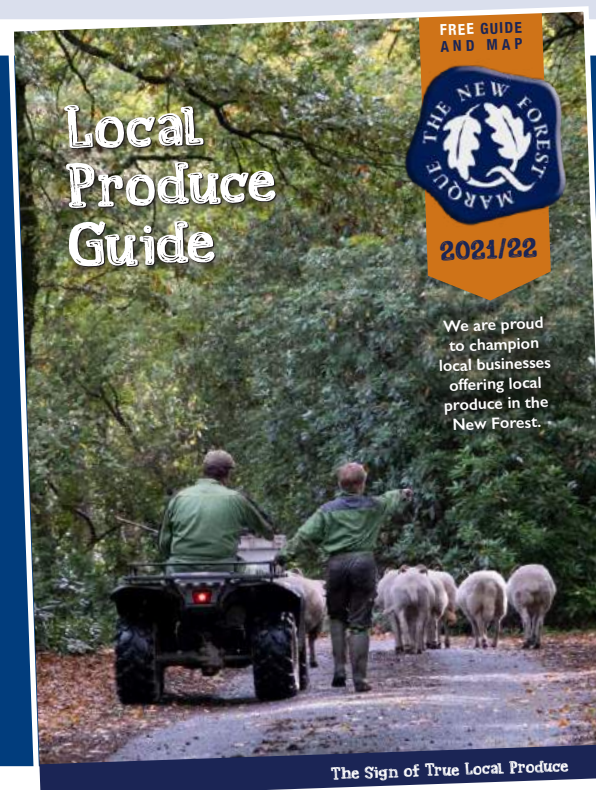
The perfect way to spend a Sunday

Browse, try and buy New Forest produce at Eats 'n' Treats on Sunday 28 November.

The event at Brockenhurst College will include a food and craft market, demonstrations, a food court and bar, plus live music.

New Forest Eats 'n' Treats is Christmas-themed, offering you the perfect opportunity to buy unique, high-quality gifts for friends and family.

Organised in association with The New Forest Marque and Go New Forest, the event takes place from 11am to 4pm. Entry is £1 for adults. Children go free.



Where to buy local and support the New Forest

Discover the variety of local produce the New Forest has to offer with the New Forest Marque's latest guide.

The Local Produce Guide 2021/2022 includes a map showing you places you can visit to enjoy New Forest food, drink and crafts.

Businesses featured range from food and drink producers to arts and crafts creators, as well as retail and hospitality places.

Look out for a copy when you're out and about in the Forest or you can download one at newforestmarque.co.uk.

Handcrafted produce direct to your door

If you love trying local produce, sign up now to receive a Taste of the New Forest selection box delivered direct to your home each season.

These unique boxes feature hand-picked seasonal products from New Forest Marque members and are delivered four times a year. Each box contains a selection of around eight to 10 products which have been grown, reared, caught, brewed, produced or processed within the New Forest.

A one-off costs £45 or an annual subscription, including a box each quarter, costs £140.

Currently, deliveries can only be made within the New Forest. The next box will be delivered on 16 November. Sign up by 1 November at newforestmarque.co.uk/shop.

The sign of true, local produce

The New Forest Marque is awarded to produce which has been grown, reared, caught, brewed, produced or processed within the New Forest.

The New Forest Marque welcomes its newest members, taking the total to 160 members:

- Bees and Botanicals. Beekeepers selling honey and 100% natural, cold pressed soaps, lip balms and candles.
- Central Fruits. Suppliers of fresh, local produce at open air markets and direct to people's doors.

- County Foods. One of the largest, independent, family owned and run catering butchers in the South.

- Lakeside Bee Services. Products and services to support the preservation of bee populations, including extractions, courses, care and maintenance.

- New Forest Fish and Shellfish. Fresh fish caught locally, using low impact methods, landed daily to ensure the best quality fish and shellfish.

Discover the full range at newforestmarque.co.uk

- Strides Honey. 100% pure raw honey, unheated, unpasteurised, with nothing added to it.

- Tasty Hampshire. Online shop selling sustainable, artisan produce from the New Forest, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

- The Cellar Ringwood. Independent, family-run business offering an extensive wine list along with a cheese, charcuterie, mezze and other specialities.

- Utterly Rawsome. Raw dog food made using UK-sourced, human grade meat.

Help protect restaurants and runways for our birds

The New Forest is one of the best places for rare birds and for some species it's their last UK stronghold.

In winter, some of our ground-nesting birds head to the coast for a holiday, leaving their breeding sites on the New Forest's heathlands behind.

Our areas of saltmarsh, mudflat and coastal grazing marsh provide birds such as the curlew, snipe, redshank and lapwing with a fantastic winter buffet. When the tide is right these vital habitats provide a wealth of eelgrass, shellfish, worms and crustaceans.

Yet these coastal wintering birds are vulnerable.

The twice-daily tidal cycle and the fact that many birds can't feed when it's

dark means that the time-slots when feeding is possible are very restricted.

Birds are particularly wary of dogs that stray from well-used paths – an off-lead dog on the foreshore can create mass panic, lost feeding or roosting time and a waste of flying energy searching for somewhere safe to land.

We can help make a difference maintaining these important 'restaurants and runways' for the birds by keeping our distance, staying on the main tracks in winter, and causing minimal disturbance.

It's vital that the birds are in tip-top condition so they can cope with bad winter weather, and stay strong enough to travel and lay eggs in the spring.



Snipe

In the New Forest, snipe are fairly widespread but still rare, with perhaps 100 pairs in total. They are decreasing dramatically in southern England so the New Forest population is an important stronghold.

You can see them in winter along the coast or along river valleys. They usually feed around the edges of marshy lagoons, and roost tucked away among grassy tussocks – scan the margins of pools between Keyhaven and Lymington to find them.

Redshank

The Hampshire-wide population has contracted to become largely coastal – the Solent is an important area for them in southern England. Redshanks on the Open Forest are now restricted to a small area in the south east, with no more than 5-10 pairs.

In the New Forest, one of the best areas to find redshanks is the coast between Keyhaven and Lymington. Here you can walk the raised coastal path and see them feeding on the mudflats or around the pools at any time of year and any time of day.



Lapwing

Lapwing still breed throughout Hampshire but in much smaller numbers than in the past. In the New Forest they breed both in the central open heaths and grassland (around 150 pairs) and in the surrounding farmland. If you want to see lapwings, especially their displays, then the most reliable areas are the short grazed grasslands at the coast near Lymington. They flock together in winter and are often seen at this time of year.



Curlew

The number of breeding curlew in the UK has declined by half in the last 25 years and have now been added to the UK red list for endangered species mainly due to loss of habitat. The New Forest is now one of the few areas in south east England where the curlew still breeds. Sadly, curlew numbers in the New Forest have declined by as much as two-thirds in the last two decades, with just 40 pairs left. Curlews head for coasts after they have finished breeding on grassy or boggy heathlands. They like large areas of mudflats and saltmarsh, so it's much easier to find them there in autumn and winter than inland in the summer.

■ Find out more at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/discover

Pictures: NFNPA, Tim Bernhard

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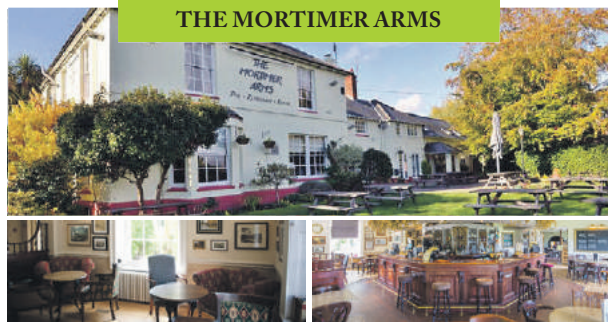
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