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NPA 00686

Progress report 2018

Partnership Plan for the New Forest National Park



All national parks have a partnership plan for their area, to help guide the work of partners with responsibilities and an interest in the park.

We are now half way through the lifespan of the New Forest Partnership Plan and there are many achievements to celebrate.

Most of the 90 actions contained with the plan are progressing well, with tangible results on the ground. From new visitor facilities on the coast to a land acquisition for nature conservation in the north of the Forest, the impact we are having is clear to see.

In the New Forest we work together as a team to deliver

our Partnership Plan's themes of 'protect, enjoy and prosper'. As partners, we are collectively responsible for carrying out and monitoring the progress of its actions.

During the final two years of the plan we will continue to work hard to progress our actions, many of which chime with the ambitions of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

This update gives a flavour of some of the work so far by

picking out some key successes as well as case studies that show the human side of our work.

As the Government begins its review of national parks, we hope to show how 'Team New Forest' can work collectively to secure a positive future for the National Park.

New Forest National Park Partnership Plan Partners

Produced jointly by:





Pete Dovey (right) & Martyn Meeker

Case study:

Apprentice rangers

Apprentice Rangers Pete Dovey and Martyn Meeker are putting their passion for the outdoors into action as New Forest Apprentice Rangers.

They are spending 12 months helping out different ranger teams across the Forest to learn new skills, find out how each organisation works and see first-hand the role they play in wildlife conservation. The apprentices also attend Kingston Maurwood College in Dorchester to gain their qualifications in environmental conservation.

It is hoped that by providing these apprenticeships to young people it will help them to enter this sector of work in the future. Martyn and Peter are two of seven apprentice rangers that the Our Past, Our Future project, backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, plans to train over four years.



The Lookout visitor restaurant at Lepe Country Park

Highlights Protect

LH3 Page 20

4km of hedgerows have been restored by working with nine landowners.

LH4 Page 20

1,000 acre site at Franchises Lodge in the north of the National Park secured for nature conservation.

LH7 Page 20

90 local stakeholders attended the first 'Working Together for Water and Wildlife' event on improving the water environment in the New Forest.

LH10 Page 21

£250,000 of central Government funding secured to investigate future pressures on the New Forest arising from new housing development.

LH14 Page 21

2 new sites containing priority habitats were identified through surveys by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC).

LM6 Page 23

3,000 heather bales produced from the management of the Open Forest and used for the restoration of important wetland habitats.

LD2 Page 24

200 people attended the New Forest Historical Research and Archaeology Conference to hear about recent archaeological findings in the New Forest.

LD5 Page 25

300 people have better knowledge or skills to repair and look after historic buildings thanks to subsidised training courses.

ST1 Page 27

1 tranquil area map produced, showing highly tranquil areas in the Forest that need protection.



Highlights Enjoy

SQ1 Page 28

10,000 local children learned not to leave litter when out enjoying the New Forest.



Litter assembly at William Gilpin Primary School, Lymington

SQ4 Page 29

4 giant seed sculptures have been installed at Blackwater Arboretum to offer a more inclusive visitor experience.

SQ5 Page 29

120,000 New Forest related records searchable online through www.nfknowledge.org

SQ7 Page 29

529 pupils from 14 school groups took part in sessions about countryside management and rural tourism.

SQ8 Page 29

70 groups have visited the Verderers' Hall since the restoration of its historic features.

EP4 Page 31

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.

EP8 Page 31

£2.91 million has been invested in The Lookout visitor restaurant, elevated boardwalk and toilets at Lepe Country Park.

Highlights Prosper

LC4 Page 32

5 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.

LC8 Page 33

19 primary schools benefited from The Golden Mile training, a project to get children more active.

LC10 Page 33

£78,000 of funding has been allocated towards eight community projects supporting volunteering, education and encouraging sustainable living.

EW11 Page 35

54 training courses in rural and land-based skills delivered, including lambing, sprayer operator safety, chainsaw handling and tree safety and surveying.



Hedgelaying course



Inclusive cycling session on Beaulieu Heath

Sami Blastock & Charlie Knight



Case study:

Commoner mentoring

Experienced commoners across the Forest have teamed up with young and new commoners to pass on their knowledge and help preserve the Forest's traditional practices.

The New Forest Land Advice Service and the Commoners Defence Association set up the first pairings in June 2016 and so far 19 people have benefited by spending time with five commoners on their landholdings helping with their day to day work.

Sami Blastock, from Buckler's Hard is among this year's new commoners, and has been meeting up with Charlie Knight on his farm in Beaulieu several times a week. Sami said 'Charlie has allowed me to participate in many different aspects of farming including commoning, attending Salisbury Market, Beaulieu Road sales, drifts, meetings and talks. When this course is done I hope to carry on with Charlie for many years to come.'