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# Park Life

News from the New Forest National Park Authority

Autumn/Winter 2018



**FREE!**

## New Forest 'prehistoric burial' mystery unearthed



National Park Community Archaeologist James Brown (centre) unearthing neolithic flints with volunteers Ian Richardson and Sue Pinyoun

**Archaeologists and volunteers have found an important prehistoric burial site near Beaulieu dating back thousands of years.**

A community dig in a field at East End set out to investigate what they thought was a Bronze Age barrow which had been ploughed over and they were thrilled to find four cremation burial urns dating from that period around 3,000 years ago.

But as the excavation progressed further, the evidence began suggesting that the site might have been an important place for even older human activity which Bronze Age settlers then adapted.

New Forest National Park Authority Community Archaeologist James Brown said: 'We were elated to find the urns – they were inverted in what we originally thought was the ditch around the barrow and one has a decorative band pattern on it that will help us to date them. These urns were domestic pots and contain cremated human bone placed into small pits. So we know this site was a place of memorial for people in the New Forest around 3,000 years ago.

'But we didn't find any evidence of the barrow's mound or any burial activity in the middle as you might expect.'

He said the lack of evidence may be the result of the barrow being ploughed out, or destroyed by the later field boundary ditches that run through the middle. The site was fully metal-detected as part of the archaeological investigation with the only finds being modern metal work in the topsoil.

**'It is always good to find something when the day has been spent moving mud and stone!'**

'However, there was evidence of human activity below the level of the urns', he said. 'We also found two Neolithic flints from around 5,000 years ago, one of which probably would have been attached to a wooden shaft and used as a spear. Geophysics scans showed that there may have been two entrances to the site. So the evidence is strongly hinting at a much earlier Neolithic monument that was then re-used in the Bronze Age.'

Volunteer Ian Richardson, from Poole, said the volunteers were fascinated to see what the site revealed. 'It is always good to find something when the day has been spent moving mud and stone!' he said. 'You get in touch with the past

Flint from Beaulieu excavation

and think the last person to pick that up was here thousands of years ago.'

National Park Senior Archaeologist Frank Green said: 'The archaeologists will now analyse the urns and soil and use scientific techniques to date them, conserve them and hopefully display them in the New Forest. Ongoing work will attempt to try and fully understand what might prove to be an incredibly important part of the New Forest's prehistoric past.'

Thanks to the Beaulieu Estate and the tenant farmer, the dig provided a rare chance to excavate on farmland in the New Forest. As the Forest doesn't get built on as much as other parts of the country there are fewer opportunities for excavation while sites are being developed.

James said: 'This often leads people to assume that the Forest didn't see much early human activity – it's probably there but we just don't get the chance to see it. So the finds at this site are already adding to our knowledge in quite a substantial way of the story of people who have lived here in the past – the residents, their lives and how they exploited the Forest landscape.'

### Draft New Forest National Park planning policies to be examined

**A proposed new suite of planning policies for the National Park will be reviewed at a public hearing.**

Work began on the review in 2015 and the draft Local Plan has been prepared within the context of recent changes in national planning policy. The draft Plan focusses on protecting the New Forest's landscape and habitats; meeting affordable housing needs for local people; supporting the local economy; and conserving

and enhancing the Forest's historic built environment. It was submitted to the Secretary of State in May following several rounds of consultation which hundreds of people and organisations responded to.

Two Government-appointed Planning Inspectors will conduct the examination on behalf of the Secretary of State to determine whether the submitted Local Plan is sound.

The public examination takes place at Lymington Town Hall from 6 to 15 November.

The timetable for the hearing sessions and list of people the Inspectors have invited to speak can be found at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/localplan](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/localplan)

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# Proposals to manage recreation ‘on right track’

Over 1,000 individuals and organisations gave their views on how recreation should be managed in and around the New Forest National Park, with nearly 80% agreeing with the proposed actions.

The Forestry Commission, Natural England, Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and the Verderers asked the National Park Authority to conduct the Future Forest consultation on behalf of the statutory bodies.

The aim of the Future Forest consultation is to help decide how we should:

- protect the spectacular, yet fragile, wildlife-rich landscape that people come to see
- manage recreation for local people and visitors use limited resources wisely.

The online survey asked people their views on 25 draft proposed actions. Most of the actions received a very high level of support (on average 78% of people agreed or strongly agreed with them).

The actions were based on feedback received last year and ranged from developing an agreed New Forest-wide network of key visitor sites and core walking and cycling routes; to measures to protect against specific activities that have an impact on the Forest; and increasing the range of initiatives designed to help people understand why the Forest is so special.

Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor at the Forestry Commission, said: ‘The knowledge and views gathered from this consultation will help us to make the right choices for the future benefit of the New Forest.

‘We all will need to take responsibility, share solutions and celebrate passing on to our descendants a Forest in better condition and more resilient to future changes.’

Of 1,074 respondents including 40 organisations, nearly 700 provided additional comments. One of the aims of the survey was to hear the views of a wide range of local people and visitors, including people who don’t normally get involved in public consultations

and nearly 60 per cent said they had never taken part in a New Forest consultation before.

New Forest National Park Authority Chairman Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre said: ‘We’re grateful to everyone who took the time to give us their thoughts on how we can best manage recreation in and around the Forest. Other organisations tell us that they often receive only a few hundred responses to consultations so we’re really pleased with the level of response.

‘The fact that such a large majority of people support the actions means that were on the right track and shows how much people care for the New Forest.

‘We are now going through the comments and we hope to come up with specific plans early next year showing how the actions will be carried out.’



Keep up to date at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/futureforest](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/futureforest)

## Helping New Forest communities

Community organisations and businesses can advertise their events free of charge on the redesigned National Park Authority website. Visit [newforestnpa.gov.uk/events](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/events) for details.



Children enjoying balancing games at the opening of the New Forest’s first wild play site at Holbury Manor in Holbury

## Families celebrate first wild play area in the New Forest

Around 200 people took part in den building, natural crafts and a scavenger hunt at Holbury Manor, near Hythe, to open the first of three permanent wild play sites in the New Forest.

The site will help families discover and connect with their surroundings and provide an area for children to explore nature and improve their health and wellbeing.

Calshot Nature Club families enjoying a wild play session at Holbury Manor wild play area

# Bumper year for Love the Forest scheme

People and businesses who ‘Love The Forest’ have come out in force to help fund projects to keep the New Forest special for years to come.

The Love the Forest visitor gift scheme encourages visitors to donate or add a pound to their hotel, restaurant bills, or product sales which are then given out in community grants for conservation and education projects. Last financial year nearly £28,000 was raised.

Over 30 businesses are taking part, including Greenclose Hotels (the Montagu Arms Hotel, Beaulieu, and Careys Manor, Brockenhurst) which has raised nearly £20,000 since 2007; New Forest Ice Cream which has raised £2,500 through sales of peach melba ice cream since 2013; and the Balmer Lawn Hotel, Brockenhurst, which raised £30,000 over eight years.

The scheme is part of the New Forest Trust charity and is administered with help from the New Forest National Park

Authority. Grants of up to £5,000 are available and more organisations are encouraged to apply.

Calshot Nature Club is one of the projects to benefit from a recent Love The Forest grant.

‘If we understand the New Forest we’re more aware of how to look after it’

Club leader Viv Drake said the £720 funding provided after-school sessions for families to help them learn more about New Forest habitats, wildlife and the commoning system. Visits included meeting a Forest keeper, seeing charcoal made at Pondhead Community Woodland in Lyndhurst and exploring the reptile centre near Lyndhurst.

Nearly 20 adults and children attend the club. Viv said: ‘The sessions are very informal and hands-on.

The families say they always learn something and really enjoy it and look forward to coming each week.

‘If we understand the New Forest we’re more aware of how to look after it – like why you don’t have fires and don’t fly drones on the Forest – and can pass this on to other people too.’

Alison and Chris Wilson own the Balmer Lawn Hotel, Brockenhurst, which adds a discretionary £1 to leisure visitors’ accommodation bills which it donates to the Love the Forest scheme. They are celebrating reaching their £30,000 total.

Alison said: ‘It’s surprising how the one pounds add up! We are very pleased to put something back into the Forest – the tourism industry relies on the Forest as part of our product. If we don’t support it and ensure it’s looked after and cared for, we won’t have a business so we should protect it. We’re a family-owned business and we live in the Forest so the more support we can give, the better.’



To support the Love the Forest scheme, find out more about the projects it supports or apply for a grant, visit: [newforesttrust.org.uk/love-the-forest](http://newforesttrust.org.uk/love-the-forest)

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# Release the pigs!

By Matt Stroud

Nestled in a quiet part of the New Forest, down a long, tree-lined track, Storms Farm is certainly a challenge to find.

The attractive stone farmhouse near Cadnam, with its ginger tom on constant guard, seems a world away from the hustle and bustle of modern life.

But venture within and you will find that this is no sleepy smallholding, cut off from the outside world. This is a bustling, lively farm adapting ancient Forest traditions for the present day.

Its owner, commoner Andrew Parry-Norton, is tall, jocular and unstintingly friendly. His passion and pride for his animals is infectious. As we trundle round his farm on a super-charged golf buggy, Andrew tells me his story.

Above the din of the engine, he recounts how his family have run this farm for four generations, that his brother and he now own half each and the ways in which they have had to adapt. The family are proud commoners, turning sheep and cattle out onto the Open Forest to graze in a tradition that stretches back hundreds of years.

After a whistle-stop tour we screech to a halt and in front of us are dozens of pigs; from hefty sows to their days-old piglets. It is an impressive and welcome sight, and this is what has brought me to Storms Farm – it's pannage season.

Pannage sees commoners practice their right of mast and turn pigs out into the New Forest each autumn for around six weeks. The pigs Hoover up fallen acorns that would otherwise prove poisonous to ponies and cattle.

With this year's acorns falling fast, pannage is upon us and today is the day that Andrew releases his pigs from his fields into the woodlands that border his farm.

He drives the trailer full of porkers the few hundred yards to the edge of the woodland ('It's easier that way, absolute chaos if I try to shepherd them round myself!' he says) and I watch as he opens the trailer gates. After a few sniffs and some tentative steps, the young pigs clatter down the ramp and snuffle off into the woodland fringes.

Grunting to each other to ensure they stay together, the pigs seem very content to my untrained eyes. Pannage obviously makes them happy, but what's in it for Andrew?

'There are the obvious benefits for the ponies, protecting them from the acorns, but a big reason is that it makes the pork taste fantastic,' he says. 'The diet of acorns gives the pork a rich, full flavour that is unlike anything you will taste in the supermarkets.'

As the pigs wander off into the woodland where they will stay for the next two or three months, we pack away the trailer and return to the farmhouse.

He says: 'It's like no pork you've ever tasted. Meaty, full of flavour and the crackling is incredible. It's a premium product – turning our pigs out means their pork is a real speciality and a product unique to the New Forest. There is a real demand among people, increasingly so, for local meat that is traceable and local.'

Local produce is clearly important to Andrew. He cannot compete on price with larger farms so he rears high quality livestock and places their New Forest upbringing at the forefront of his marketing. The fact that his pigs are turned out to gorge on acorns among the ancient woodlands of the New Forest is unusual and makes their meat highly desirable.

This belief in local produce has led Andrew to join the New Forest Marque, an accreditation scheme that denotes genuine New Forest produce. 'We joined the New Forest Marque relatively recently and it's been a real benefit,' Andrew says. 'It proves that our produce is from the New Forest and people look for it, it's a recognised brand – it's been a real help with our marketing. We've also met a lot of like-minded producers through the Marque, who are interested in our product and can help our business grow.'

With the pigs safely released, it's time to leave Andrew to his never-ending list of jobs around the farm. As he waves me off from his farmhouse door, I'm left with a sense that focusing on the New Forest provenance of their meat is a smart move from this family farm.

Meat from free-roaming animals that graze among some of the most beautiful and precious land in the country – now that's what I call a unique selling point.

Look out for pannage pork at local butchers and farm shops or find out more at [newforestmarque.co.uk](http://newforestmarque.co.uk)



'There are the obvious benefits for the ponies, protecting them from the acorns, but a big reason is that it makes the pork taste fantastic'



Andrew Parry-Norton outside Storms Farm farmhouse



A Saddleback is released from the trailer to forage for acorns

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# Campaign underway to renovate much-loved footpath

Join the fundraising campaign to improve Lepe Loop footpath

**A** fundraising push to reinvigorate one of the New Forest National Park's most popular walking routes is underway.

The Lepe Loop, on the New Forest's southern coast, takes walkers across fields, through woodland and along shingle beaches with views of the Isle of Wight.

There are three big areas that could benefit from improvement – the signage (interpretation), a series of bridges, and some sections of the path where surface improvements would encourage more use.

The New Forest National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council and the Friends of Lepe have joined together on the fundraising drive. It is part of the British Mountaineering Council's national Make

One Million campaign, which is aiming to raise £1million to renovate footpaths in all 15 of the UK's National Parks.

Access Ranger Adam Vasey said: 'We are hoping to raise enough money to make it easier for families and people with disabilities to access the Lepe Loop in off-road buggies and off-road mobility scooters. It's just the boggy bits that would need repairing, and we would also need to replace a few gates and bridges.'

Visit Lepe to buy a raffle ticket and support the campaign, or donate online at [mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk/new-forest](http://mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk/new-forest)



Access Ranger Adam Vasey

**'We are hoping to raise enough money to make it easier for families and people with disabilities to access the Lepe Loop'**



Appeal aims to make the path accessible for all



Winners of the 2018 Building Design Awards

## Search is on for Forest's best buildings

**N**ominations for the best new developments are needed in the fourth New Forest Building Design Awards.

The Awards recognise schemes with high quality design which enhance their communities in the National Park. Previous winners have included a new-build housing scheme in the centre of Lyndhurst, a traditional thatched cottage in Woodgreen and a farmhouse extension in Stuckton.

Nominations can be made by anyone living in or visiting the New Forest National Park and must be for a high standard design that has been completed in the last three years.

People are welcome to nominate their own buildings and awards will be given in the following categories:

- Best residential scheme
- Non-residential
- Best conservation project.

Nominations are open until 31 December 2018 and the winners will be chosen by a panel of members from the National Park Authority's Planning Committee.

**Submit your nomination at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/designawards](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/designawards)**

# Traditional 'horse power' managing precious New Forest woodlands



Toby Hoad, of Dorset Horse Logging, helping to revive a woodland at Pilley in the New Forest with one of his Comtois horses, Celine.

**O**nce it was commonplace to see working horses throughout the New Forest.

Now these old traditions are making a comeback and reclaiming their place in modern forestry management.

Around 40% of privately owned woodland in the New Forest is currently unmanaged. The New Forest Land Advice Service helps landowners to care for the woodlands so they're better for wildlife and people and are more economically viable.

Gemma Stride, Project Co-ordinator for the Working Woodlands Project, said: 'Many of these small private woodlands in the Forest are not accessible to the big heavy machinery as they don't have pathways or large "rides" through the trees that would sustain the

weight and width the equipment requires. These heavy vehicles can damage the delicate infrastructure and biodiversity of the Forest floor which thrives in these small areas.

'So we've brought in a local horse logger Toby Hoad to take out the felled timber from a small wood in Pilley. It is amazing to watch these beautiful horses at work with the huge benefit of them having minimal impact on the forest floor. This is of particular significance when restoring an ancient woodland site.'

Toby, owner of Dorset Horse Logging, says his two Comtois horses, Celine and Fleur, love to work the Forest. He mainly uses voice commands to guide and direct the horses and it has taken over three years to trust, train and gain a relationship with them.

Toby said: 'The woodland we are working in was extremely wet when we visited in May

and even after the hot and dry summer it is still boggy in places. The horses are very nimble, managing to weave in-between the trees, only scarifying the woodland floor. They are also great to use for selective felling and thinning and come into their own when working on a slope.

**'It is amazing to watch these beautiful horses at work with the huge benefit of them having minimal impact on the forest floor.'**

'I also use them for bracken rolling which is done around mid to late summer. The horses pull a special roller which bends and partially breaks the bracken fronds which weakens the

plant as it attempts to regrow, but it needs to be repeated for a few years to minimise regrowth.'

Landowner Lynne Truell said: 'It was wonderful to have Toby and his horses executing a critical part of the holistic woodland management plan created by the Working Woodlands Project.'

To watch the horses in their full glory and hear more about the benefits of horse logging watch the video on the New Forest National Park Authority's YouTube channel.

**The Working Woodlands project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the Our Past, Our Future landscape partnership scheme. It involves 21 projects which will better equip the New Forest to thrive through change and modern-day pressures.**

## New Forest partners visit successful schemes to improve the National Park

**A**n innovative visitor centre on stilts, a wild play area and a river clean-up operation were some of the projects visited by representatives of organisations who care for the New Forest.

The New Forest National Park Partnership Plan is the management plan for the Forest which over 40 organisations are helping to put into practice. The actions in it range from improving the Forest's habitats; to encouraging more volunteers; restoring historic properties and helping more young people to learn about the natural world.

The Plan is up for review next year so over 50 people took the chance to visit some of the recent successes

and begin to think what the partnership needs to do through its plan for the five years from 2020. Cllr Roy Perry, Leader of Hampshire County Council, said: 'Our resources are stretched so working with the National Park Authority, district councils and parish councils is very important. We want to keep Hampshire a prosperous and attractive environment and the role of the National Park in that is crucial.'

**Find out more about the Partnership Plan for the New Forest National Park at [newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk)**



Representatives from organisations working on the New Forest Partnership Plan at Lepe Country Park sensory garden



# Protecting the freshwaters of the New Forest

**B**etween the hues of purple heather in summer, the fiery colours of ancient woodlands in autumn and the native New Forest ponies grazing, it's easy to forget that the New Forest is in fact a world class freshwater landscape.

Thanks to high quality habitats free from pollution from intensive land use, the New Forest boasts an incredible freshwater environment with exceptional wetland wildlife. Unrivalled in terms of its quality and quantity, the New Forest is a stronghold for some of our most endangered plants and animals, such as the tadpole shrimp and coral necklace.

**'We have already installed a range of measures, with the fantastic support of landowners and local farmers'**

The tadpole shrimp is a rare species of freshwater crustacean that looks like a miniature horseshoe crab. Coral necklace is a beautiful plant with long, trailing red stems and clusters of white flowers resembling beads threaded along a necklace.

To help preserve and promote the Forest's outstanding clean water, local volunteers are working with the Freshwater Habitats Trust to run



the Living Waters project. They are creating and restoring habitats on a tributary of the Beaulieu River to benefit plants and animals, including declining species such as eel and the common toad.

They are also working with landowners and farmers to reduce the impact of nutrient pollution. Around 35 dedicated local volunteers are looking for changes in polluting phosphate and nitrate levels by monitoring water quality at 60 sites in the River Beaulieu catchment area.

Naomi Ewald, Coordinator of the New Forest Catchment Partnership and Director of Research and Development at Freshwater Habitats Trust, said: 'Working with the local community is crucial in protecting the outstanding freshwaters of the New Forest.'

'We have already installed a range of measures, with the fantastic support of landowners and local farmers, which will help to improve the water environment; but there are many more opportunities and we hope to build on the momentum of Living Waters to continue this work in future.'

**Find out more about Living Waters at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership)**

**Volunteers helping to protect the Forest's freshwater habitats. Credit Freshwater Habitats Trust**



## Shakespeare no fear



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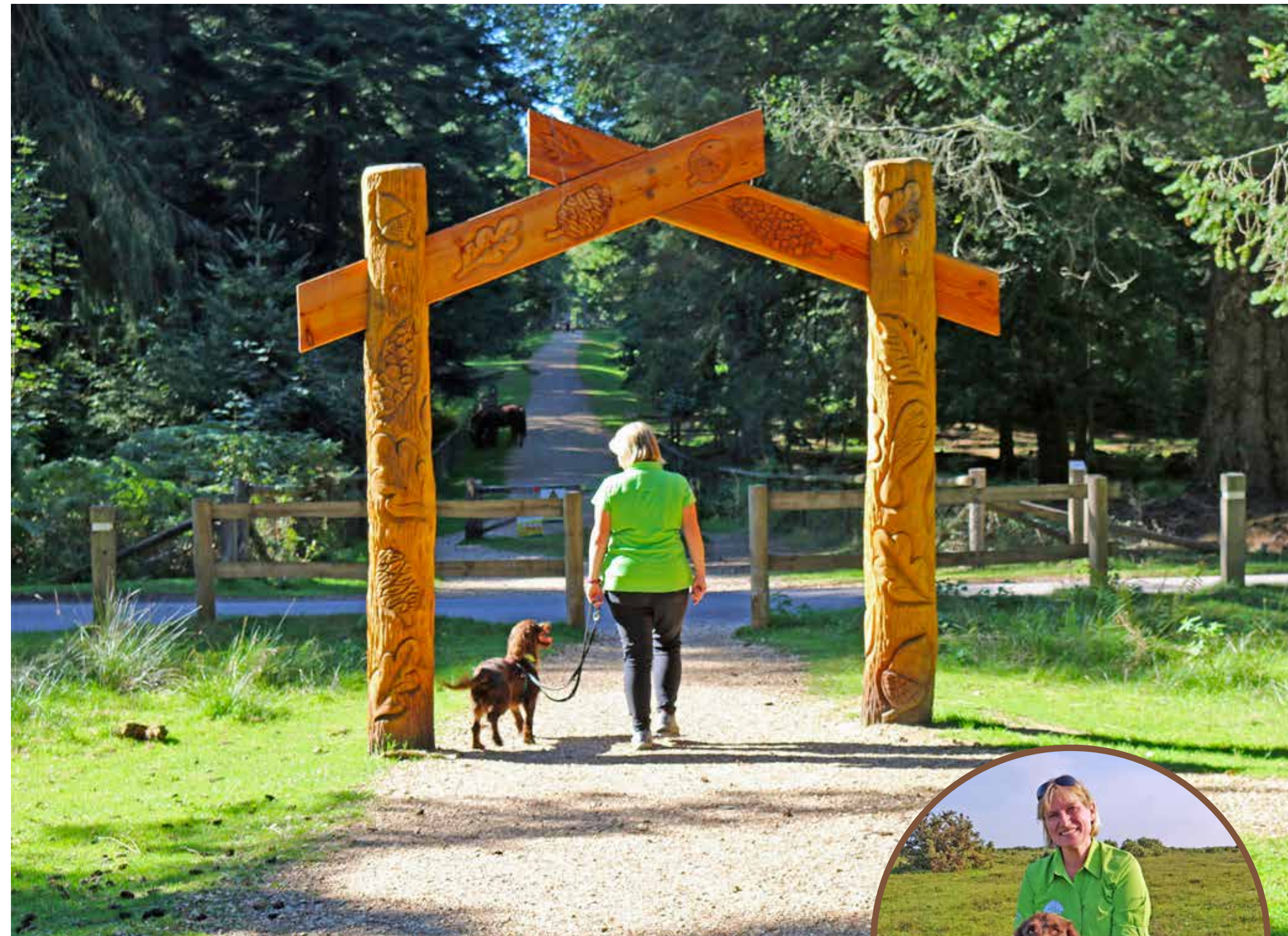
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**'I keep Cooper in sight and close enough to call back on walks, especially as there may be cyclists using the tracks.'**

## Our favourite autumn dog walk



**People & Wildlife Ranger, Dawn Rayment, and 'Bark Ranger' Cooper**

After heading through the arboretum, this walk continues out onto forestry tracks. If you turn right and then right again you join the Tall Trees Trail, where you can take a longer walk if you have more time or turn right and head back towards the car park.

Games keep Cooper interested in me and not wandering off getting into trouble on our walks, why not try some of these on your next adventure?

- Treats reward good behaviour and I also like to sprinkle them in long grass or around obstacles for Cooper to sniff out. Scent is really important to dogs and just 20 minutes of nose work games can wear a dog out as much as one hour of walking
- The large redwoods on this walk are an excellent place to try some hide-and-seek with him
- Old logs and fallen trees are great for a rustic agility course. I get Cooper to jump over them and walk along them.

**W**e caught up with our People and Wildlife Ranger, Dawn Rayment, and 'Bark Ranger' Cooper the spaniel, to find out what their favourite walk in the Forest is at this time of year. Dawn and Cooper help keep the New Forest a special place for all to enjoy by encouraging responsible dog walking, reminding visitors to be mindful of the wildlife and the importance of protecting the environment.

Many people assume walking a dog should be as long and far as possible to wear their dog out, with plenty of space for long off-lead runs. I make sure that every walk is about the quality of time I spend with Cooper, reinforcing his training and getting him mentally tired, which is just as important.

Blackwater Arboretum is a great place to walk your dog, taking in spectacular views of ornamental trees and some lovely new sculptures.

Beginning in the car park, it's safer to start the walk on the lead as this walk requires you to cross the road.

Heading up the gravel path, this route takes you straight through the arboretum, but if you have more time it's worth walking around the circular path to take in even more stunning Forest scenery.

### Start / Finish

**Blackwater car park, between  
Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst.  
Grid ref. SU 268 047**

### Distance

**Under two miles**

### Duration

**Under one hour**



**Follow Cooper's adventures on twitter  
[@doggieranger](https://twitter.com/doggieranger)**



# Autumn walking festival explores the real New Forest

Join this year's New Forest Walking Festival to discover the real New Forest with the experts who know it best.

From 13 to 28 October join guided walks to discover World War II remains, try wild play activities and spot fascinating wildlife. We run the festival with support from other Forest organisations and businesses and this year there are more than 70 walks to choose from.

The festival has proved popular with residents and visitors since it began in 2013. More than 1,500 people attended last year's event, with 94% saying they learnt something new and interesting about the New Forest. Walks cover topics including:

- Free-roaming pigs, ponies and the traditional rights of commoning
- Wild play activities for children
- D-Day remains and a WWII bomb testing site
- Fungi spotting
- Top tips for bird watching.

Jim Mitchell, New Forest National Park Authority Interpretation and Outreach Manager, said: 'With a wider range of walks that ever, we are really looking forward to this year's walking festival. 'Exploring with a knowledgeable guide is one of the best ways to find out what is special about the Forest, while at the same time gaining all the health and social benefits a good walk can bring.'

The New Forest Walking Festival is funded by the £4.3m Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund to make the Forest fit for the future. Book now at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/festivalwalks](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/festivalwalks) or if you can't make the festival, visit the website to download a wide range of walking routes you can follow yourself.



Book now at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/festivalwalks](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/festivalwalks)

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E: [enquiries@longdownfarm.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@longdownfarm.co.uk)  
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[www.newforestmohair.co.uk](http://www.newforestmohair.co.uk)

Check our website for winter and Christmas opening dates.

# EVENTS DIARY

## OCTOBER

### New Forest Knowledge Commoning Conference 2018

Mon 29 October, 9.30am - 5pm

Lyndhurst Community Centre, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY

The New Forest is a prized area for endangered species and a beautiful landscape for recreation. Commoning is crucial to its survival.

Speakers include researchers from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Foundation for Common Land, University of Southampton and Community Research Institute.

Price £15pp. Please book online at: [nfknowledge.org/blog](http://nfknowledge.org/blog)

Parking charges apply (free for blue badge holders).

Enquiries: [kath.walker@newforestcentre.org.uk](mailto:kath.walker@newforestcentre.org.uk)

### Autumn Wild Play Day

Weds 24 October, drop in between 10am – 3pm

Holmsley Campsite, Forest Road, Burley, BH23 8EB

Discover fun ways to explore, play and get creative in the outdoors, from your back garden to the New Forest woods, streams and heaths. Create some forest art, explore with scavenger hunts and much more. Wear old clothes and don't forget your wellies!

Suggested donation £1/child. Parking is free. Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries: 01590 646600

### Fascinating Fungi

Fri 26 and Sat 27 10am - 4pm and Sun 28 October 10am - 2.30pm

New Forest Reptile Centre, A337 near Lyndhurst, SO43 7GR. OS Grid ref: SU271071

Meet with local fungi enthusiasts from the Hampshire Fungus Recording Group.

There will be short walks to see what can be found in the Forest at this time of year from the fascinating kingdom of fungi.

Free. Suitable for all ages, Parking charges apply. No booking required.

Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. Dogs welcome on leads.

Enquiries: [exhibition@hampshirefungi.org.uk](mailto:exhibition@hampshirefungi.org.uk)

## PEDALL New Forest Inclusive Cycling

**P**EDALL runs inclusive cycling sessions for people who need support so that they can enjoy cycling in the New Forest National Park. Try out different cycles to find the right one for you. Learn how to start, control the cycle and stop safely. These sessions take place on the off-road cycle network which is made up of wide gravel tracks.

Starter sessions are held on Saturdays from 10am to 11.30am, are free of charge, and must be booked in advance at [pedall.org.uk](http://pedall.org.uk). You can then come on one of our guided rides.

**Inclusive cycling at Beaulieu Heath with PEDALL**

2018	2019
20 October	19 January
24 November	9 February
15 December	2 March
29 December	23 March



## JANUARY

### Volunteer Fair

Sun 27 January 2018, 10.30am – 4pm

Lyndhurst Community Centre, Car Park, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY

The New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair will be bursting with volunteer opportunities to suit all tastes when it returns this January.

Visitors will have the chance to join more than 40 organisations working in and around the National Park, helping them to inspire youngsters, record wildlife, restore landscapes and help communities. Volunteering is great fun, ideal for making new friends and proven to be good for you!

As well as browsing the display stands, visitors can gain further insight into volunteering in the New Forest National Park through talks from local groups. Come and take part in a Year of Green Action 2019!

Free event. Suitable for all ages. No booking required. Parking charges apply (free for blue badge holders). Enquiries: 01590 646600

## NOVEMBER

### New Forest Connects exhibition

Sat 3 November 2018 – Sunday 6 January 2019

New Forest Heritage Centre, Lyndhurst Car Park, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY

Learn about commoners in the New Forest and explore their lives and day to day challenges. Open daily, free entry.

### New Forest Eats and Treats

Sun 4 November, 10am - 4pm

Brockenhurst College, Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, SO42 7ZE

Try, buy and learn about local food, drink and craft. Come along to our unique event which will include a food and craft market, chef demos, live music and a pop-up food court. It's the perfect opportunity to buy high quality and unusual Christmas presents. The event is being organised in conjunction with Go New Forest as part of its Food and Drink Week 2018. Visit [gonewforest.com](http://gonewforest.com) and the New Forest Marque at [newforestmarque.co.uk](http://newforestmarque.co.uk).

Free event. Suitable for all ages. No booking required. Parking is free. Enquiries: [events@brock.ac.uk](mailto:events@brock.ac.uk)

### New Forest Community Heritage Fair

Tues 6 November 2018, 10am – 3pm

Lyndhurst Community Centre, Car Park, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY

The New Forest Community Heritage Fair will see groups from around the Forest come together to share their current research and passion for the fascinating history of the New Forest. The event is a perfect opportunity to find out more about heritage on your doorstep and chat with some local experts.

Please pop in during the day and see what you might discover!

Free event. Suitable for all ages. No booking required. Parking charges apply (free for blue badge holders). Enquiries: 01590 646600

### Family Trees

Sat 24 November, 10am – 3pm

Bartley Park, Totton, SO40 7EA

Each year, families come together to celebrate a birth, marriage or life of a relative with the planting of community wildlife spaces in the New Forest. To be a part of this day please register your interest at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/familytrees](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/familytrees).

### New Forest Christmas Fair

Sat 24 November and Sun 25 November, 10am - 4pm

Exbury Gardens & Steam Railway, Summer Lane, Exbury, SO45 1AZ

The New Forest Christmas Fair is a traditional family day out, full of local produce and gifts and festive atmosphere.

Adults £2.50, children are free. No booking required. Dogs welcome on leads. Parking is free. Enquiries: 023 8089 1203

## DECEMBER

### New Forest Christmas Fair

Sat 1 December and Sun 2 December, 10am - 4pm

Exbury Gardens & Steam Railway, Summer Lane, Exbury, SO45 1AZ

See Sat 24 November for details.

## Key

Orange – New Forest National Park Authority event  
Green – Forestry Commission  
Blue – New Forest Heritage Centre





# #Add3Minutes to Forest car journeys this winter

**Drivers are being urged to just #Add3Minutes as the nights draw in to make journeys safer.**

When the clocks change in October and people have to drive home in the dark, there is a much higher risk of hitting one of the free-roaming animals.

In 2017 56 commoners' animals were killed on New Forest roads. Most of the accidents are caused by local people on regular trips, with four main roads seeing the most accidents.

Forest organisations are appealing to people to drive slowly and to just add three minutes to their journey - the extra time it takes to drive some of the most dangerous routes in the Forest at 30mph rather than 40mph.

Tony Hockley, Chair of the Commoners' Defence Association, whose members own the animals, said: 'Local people let their animals graze the New Forest to keep it accessible for everyone to enjoy and to help threatened wildlife to thrive.'

'It is vital that the animals remain free to roam widely, which means they will be using the roads and verges. They are unpredictable and we all need to be ready for one to step out. Every animal killed is a great loss to the Forest, and to its owner. A small adjustment to our winter journey times could make a huge difference.'

Nigel Matthews, of the New Forest National Park Authority, convenes the Animal Accident

Reduction Group of local organisations. He said: 'A range of initiatives is in place during this peak time for accidents - including new road warning signs, the police mobile speed camera and social media activity.'

'At night, the headlights of approaching vehicles sometimes make it difficult to see animals on or near the road so it's best to drive really slowly.'

The four main routes where accidents occur are:

- **Lymington — Beaulieu — Dibden Purlieu**
- **Brockenhurst — Sway**
- **Burley — Picket Post**
- **Cadnam — Godshill**

Sue Westwood, Clerk to the Verderers, added: 'It is really important to not only drive slowly past any animals that drivers see close to the road, but also to move over and leave sufficient room as they pass so that if the animal does step into the road, they can avoid a collision. Colliding with a large animal will add significantly more than three minutes to a journey!'



**Be prepared for animals on or near the road and drive carefully, especially at night.**

*probably*

## THE FRIENDLIEST PUBS IN THE NEW FOREST

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