

2015 - 2021



# Our Past, Our Future

*Working together for the New Forest*



## Our Past, Our Future is a £4.4 million Landscape Partnership Scheme for the New Forest supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) in partnership with 10 other organisations, it has undertaken 21 projects to restore lost habitats, develop skills and inspire a new generation to champion and care for the New Forest.

The scheme started in October 2015 and ends in March 2021. The scheme covers four key themes:

- Restoring lost landscapes
- Developing Forest skills
- Discovering Forest heritage and inspiring a new generation
- Monitoring and evaluation.

### Partners in the scheme

**Beaulieu**



**Forestry England**



**Hampshire  
County Council**



Read on to discover some of the excellent outcomes for wildlife, heritage and people which will help to secure the future of the National Park.

Patrick Heneghan, Our Past, Our Future (OPOF) Chairman, said: 'Since early 2019, I have had the immensely rewarding experience of being involved with the fantastic work the Our Past, Our Future scheme has been delivering. Right from the start I have been struck by the huge importance and value to the New Forest of the 21 projects being undertaken. As well as the incredible scope of work, particularly impressive has been the commitment and common sense of purpose demonstrated by a diverse range of partners. The OPOF achievements are covered in depth in this newsletter and I hope that once you have read them you will be as inspired as I have been. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my appreciation to all those organisations that have

Right - Volunteers taking a break from hedge planting

Below - OPOF partners at the launch in November 2015





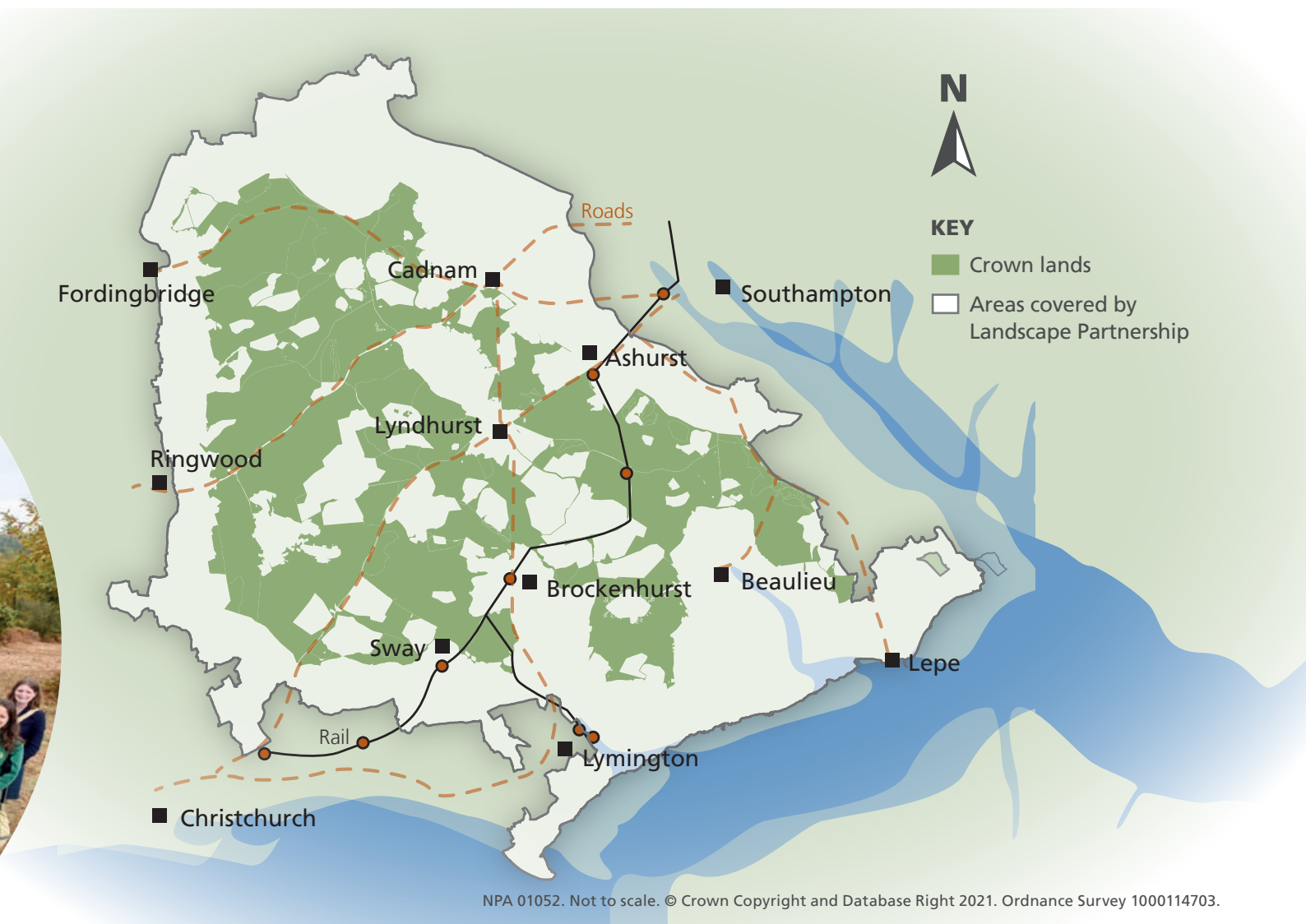
provided funding, to those partners who have led the various projects and, very importantly, to all the local community volunteers who have turned out in such numbers to do so much of the physical work needed to make the projects successful.'

Rachael Gallagher, OPOF Delivery Manager, said: 'The OPOF scheme has been a fantastic opportunity for communities, organisations, stakeholders, landowners and volunteers to work together to help protect the heritage of the New Forest for the future.'



Top right - Wild flower meadow in Bartley

Right - Apprentice Ranger, Marty Meeker leading a walk





Above - Volunteers working in the woodland



Right - Woodland at Minstead Manor cleared of rhododendron

## Working Woodlands Led by the New Forest Land Advice Service

Flora is flourishing and attracting more wildlife at newly managed woodlands across the New Forest.

Around 40% of privately-owned woodland in the Forest is unmanaged, however, with good management, biodiversity increases and habitats become more resilient to pests, diseases and climatic change.

The New Forest Land Advice Service set out to bring 120 hectares of small, privately-owned woodland back into active management.

Selective thinning of woodlands (usually through a carefully written management plan), creates gaps in the tree canopy allowing natural regeneration of the woodland and a flourishing ground flora. This not only means the woodland is sustainable and resilient but also that it attracts wildlife.

### Environmental highlights

- Rhododendron coverage has been reduced by 74% across the project woodlands.
- A woodland in Walhampton was recently cleared of rhododendron, 15 species of birds were recorded in 2017. A repeat survey in 2019 recorded 10 additional individual species, a huge increase possibly linked to the clearance of rhododendron.
- Woodland specialists Barbestelle and Bechstein's bats have been recorded.

Right - Wood warbler

### Social highlights

- Volunteers have made a significant contribution to the project, carrying out management work to improve 45 hectares of woodland across 11 sites. They have contributed a total of 4,348 hours of work, including tasks such as clearing rhododendron and coppicing.
- Woodlands are ideal places for learning and increasing overall wellbeing, however, some groups find access to nature a challenge. Private woodlands can offer less restrictions and a variety of groups have benefited from access to private woodlands, including Above and Beyond, a charity which trained ex-military personnel in basic chainsaw skills.

### Economic highlights

- Nearly 800 tonnes of timber was felled and extracted from 10 sites, specifically to enhance nature and sustainability in the woodlands.
- Through project funding, the sale of nearly 550 tonnes of timber generated £11,500.
- Over the past two years, relationships with contractors, timber businesses and wood fuel suppliers have grown in strength, providing a cost-neutral or, in some cases, profitable way for landowners to manage their woodlands.
- Seven coppices within four woodlands have been restored, totalling around 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The result is cut hazel, which is used to install deer protection fencing, further saving on costs.

Project officer Gemma Stride said: 'Working Woodlands has improved the connection between land, communities and local economy. The project has fostered a feeling of achieving together and consolidated relationships, knowledge and understanding.

'It has created a sense of place, enriching people's lives in local communities and, crucially, it has enhanced these woodlands for wildlife and given them a more biodiverse future.'

WOODLAND

**134 ha  
restored**







Right - White admiral butterfly  
© Gary Palmer

## Nature's Stepping Stones Led by the New Forest Land Advice Service

Butterflies, bumblebees and birds have been boosted by the restoration of important areas for nature in the New Forest.

The Forest's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) vary from small ponds to woodland and open grassland. They help to buffer and connect natural areas, providing ecological networks and increasing the resilience of biodiversity.

The New Forest Land Advice Service has worked with the owners and managers of grassland, heathland, coastal and wetland SINCs in poor condition. The team worked on 25 sites, and 53 hectares are now restored and being managed well, plus two new areas have been designated as SINCs.

Surveys have shown increases in lowland heathland, acid grassland, fen meadow, valley mire, rush pasture and species-rich meadows. Many of the sites show an increase in butterflies and bumblebees thanks to more nectar-rich flowers being available.

### Highlights

- Restoration work at Avon Tyrrell has resulted in an increase in heathland habitat and the spread of ling heather and other heathland species. Part of this area has now been designated a new SINC.
- Newleaze Copse meadow in Pennington is now grazed with Dexter cattle following scrub clearance. This has resulted in an increase in herbs including tormentil and bog pimpernel has been recorded for the first time. Bats are now foraging over the meadow rather than flying over it.

- Two hectares of fen meadow, rush pasture and scrub habitat have been restored at Emery Down Meadows through willow clearance. Sneezewort, thought long gone in this area, has re-established since clearance, while numbers of breeding birds, butterflies and bumblebees have increased.

HABITAT RESTORED  
**53 ha**

## Better Boundaries Led by the New Forest Land Advice Service

Boundary features such as hedgerows, ditches and banks are important to local wildlife and contribute to the character of New Forest farmland.

The New Forest Land Advice Service has worked with 22 landowners to restore, enhance or create 4km of boundary features in the west of the Forest.

Through hedge laying and hedge planting these improved features have created new habitat corridors and better opportunities for wildlife to thrive.

All hedges monitored by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust were found to have experienced an increase in value for biodiversity since the restoration works.

Bats are now commuting and foraging along a new hedge that was planted to connect existing hedges.

Right - Hedgerow in Hyde before work  
Below - Laid hedge in Hyde



HEDGEROW  
**4 km restored**

## New Forest Invasive Non-Native Plants Led by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Wild flowers are flourishing along riverbanks where volunteers have helped remove huge swathes of invasive non-native plants.

An array of volunteers including scouts, students and staff from local businesses have worked hard to control Himalayan balsam, while contractors have tackled three other invasive non-native plants. The teams have worked in co-operation with 80 landowners and numerous events have been held to advise communities on the problems caused by invasive non-native plants including giant hogweed along the Avon Water, American skunk cabbage along the Fleet Water and Japanese knotweed at 20 sites along the Cadnam River.

New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer Catherine Chatters said: 'Together we've made great progress. With the help of 661 volunteers, Himalayan balsam has been pulled along 53km of riverbank to conserve the native vegetation. In places where there were dense 'forests' of balsam, the vegetation has been restored to a beautiful carpet of bluebells, stitchwort and pink campion.

'The project has led awareness-raising sessions for a variety of people including anglers and fishermen, horticulturists, volunteers, local authority staff, parish councils and Network Rail; this has made a difference by increasing people's ability to recognise invasive non-native plants, understand the problems they cause and know how to control them.'

Right - Girl Guides from Calmore help clear Himalayan balsam



Left: Volunteers pulling Himalayan balsam (Gill Rowlands, Patsy Baverstock, Brian Matthews and Claire Benton)

Right: Volunteers at the end of a Himalayan balsam pull (Chris Luther, Mark Glover, Jill Harvey, Patsy Baverstock, Brian Matthews and Judy Labram)



### Highlights

- Areas targeted include Avon Water, Cadnam River, Lymington River and its tributaries and Fleet Water.
- 661 volunteers have helped hand-pull Himalayan balsam along 53 kilometres of riverbank.
- Students from the University of Southampton have helped monitor 10 sample sites over four years, showing a reduction in invasive non-native plants.
- 13 training events have been attended by a wide range of people.

Landowners and land managers along Mill Lawn Brook and Cadnam River have attended meetings to raise awareness of invasive non-native plants, help them identify species and understand their responsibilities for controlling them.

This has also provided an opportunity for people to get to know each other better and has generated a sense of community and responsibility.

**HIMALAYAN BALSAM**  
**53 km**  
**of riverbank**  
**cleared**



## Biodiversity Monitoring Led by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

More than 21,000 wildlife sightings have been recorded in the New Forest, highlighting the huge success of habitat restoration efforts.

Rare woodland bats have been seen, notable bird species spotted and almost half of the UK's species of bumblebee recorded.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) worked with volunteers to carry out breeding bird surveys and monitor butterflies, bees, bats and reptiles at sites which have been restored, enhanced or better managed through four projects within the scheme:

- Working Woodlands
- Better Boundaries
- Nature's Stepping Stones
- New Forest Invasive Non-Native Plants.

In total 268 species of plant and animals were recorded with the help of volunteers, who have contributed 2,240 days of their time.

The results show an increase in numbers of wildlife and variety species in areas where habitat has been added to or improved, linked to adjoining habitats, or a source of food and shelter created.

### Highlights

- Barbastelle and Bechstein's bats recorded
- 11 of the 24 UK bumblebee species seen
- 23 of the 59 UK butterfly species seen
- 70 bird species spotted
- Improvements in all monitored hedgerows.
- An average reduction of 83% in rhododendron, with one site achieving 98%
- Japanese knotweed declining at all sites.

Carmen Green, Ecologist at HIWWT, said: 'The monitoring surveys have made a fantastic contribution to the New Forest's wildlife database with just over 21,000 wildlife sightings. In addition, over 40 volunteers have participated in these wildlife surveys, gaining new skills and developing existing skills in species identification and surveying, while enjoying spending time in the Forest.'

'Even over a relatively short period we have observed some exciting early indications that habitat management works are having a positive effect on wildlife across all the projects.'

**For more details on how these results were achieved, see the individual project updates.**

BIODIVERSITY MONITORING  
**52**  
sites  
surveyed

Right - Bog pimpernel



Above - Golden ringed dragonfly © Carmen Green Photography

Right - Ragged robin

Left - Volunteers carry out a butterfly and bumblebee survey





## Foxbury Led by the National Trust

The National Trust's Foxbury has been transformed with a third of the site now native woodland and a huge increase in wildlife.

Thanks to improved facilities and infrastructure, the 142-hectare former plantation is now open for educational and recreational activities, connecting local communities and taking the pressure off the open Forest.

Woodland management has included removing invasive species such as pine and rhododendron – allowing native trees, wildflowers and shrubs to re-establish – as well as planting 18,000 trees.



Above - Foxbury's new basecamp, featuring timber cabins

A third of Foxbury is now woodland; trees planted include oak, alder, and sweet chestnut, as well as blackthorn, hawthorn, crab apple and wild cherry.

When the site was a plantation, bird surveys consistently identified around 12 species of bird. Now, 106 species of bird have been identified including breeding Dartford warbler and woodlark. The site is also now home to one of the densest nightjar populations in the New Forest, with 27 churring males identified in recent surveys. Further studies have identified 26 species of butterfly, including heathland butterfly the silver-studded blue, 12 species of bat and over 17 species of dragonfly and damselfly.

Jacob White, former area ranger at the National Trust, said: 'Foxbury is a huge success story for the National Park, not just through the regeneration of rare habitats and colonisation of wildlife, but also through its ability to involve members of the community from all walks of life through education, learning and volunteering.'



Above - Thornden school visit to Foxbury

'With such an undertaking of habitat restoration, we knew local community involvement was fundamental for long-term success. So far over 400 people have helped us plant 18,000 trees, survey for wildlife and maintain the heathland, clocking up over 1,600 volunteer days.'

A basecamp area has been created with three large timber cabins, an accessible composting toilet, running water and electricity.

The facilities have been well used by schools, colleges, universities, youth and community groups, as well as a weekly Forest School for local pre-school children. The scheme has also funded a new car parking area, allowing more people to attend events.

**NATIVE TREES**  
**18,000**  
**planted**

Below - Newly planted trees at Foxbury





## Volunteering

No matter what the weather, the size of the task in hand, or the strength of the tea, our volunteers keep working, keep smiling and keep returning!

Perhaps the biggest success story of Our Past, Our Future has been the time and effort our incredible volunteers have contributed.

Around 2,000 people have volunteered for the scheme, giving 77,000 hours of their time on a range of opportunities, including archaeological surveys and research, historic routes, events, practical conservation, water quality monitoring and biological surveys.

As well as supporting the New Forest and its community, volunteering offers huge health and wellbeing benefits.

Richard Austin, Volunteer, Training and Mentoring Coordinator, said: 'Volunteering gives people the chance to see parts of the New Forest that they haven't before, all while making new friends, learning about this historic landscape and becoming custodians of it.'

Volunteers have been recruited through the NPA website, flyers, social media, events and the New Forest National Park Authority Volunteer Fair.

Brian Matthews, from Lymington, has volunteered more than 1,200 hours on a range of New Forest projects since the scheme started. He said: 'I've undertaken a beach clean and litter surveys, a shore search, a bioblitz, water quality testing and other conservation tasks including many hours pulling Himalayan balsam. As well as addressing my environmental concerns, an additional personal benefit is that I find working outdoors is very therapeutic.'



Right - Volunteers clearing scrub



Above - Volunteer Brian Matthews

Volunteer celebration events have been held to thank the volunteers for their work and to let them know how the projects are progressing.

### What next for volunteering?

Volunteering is a great way to meet people, learn new skills and help keep what makes the New Forest so special.

Richard said: 'Beyond the scheme, volunteers will be able to continue to volunteer with the NPA by joining our practical conservation task days, restoring historical monuments and undertaking path maintenance along rights of way.'

The NPA website details the different opportunities available both with the NPA and local organisations. The annual New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair takes place every January; the 2020 event attracted more than 760 people and almost 60 organisations.

**VOLUNTEER TIME**  
**Over**  
**77,000**  
**hours**

## Living Waters

### Led by Freshwater Habitats Trust on behalf of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

The freshwaters of Beaulieu River catchment – river, streams and ponds – are outstanding for freshwater wildlife and historical heritage, and it is important to protect and preserve them to enhance the Forest for future generations to enjoy.

Living Waters has improved aquatic biodiversity in the Beaulieu River catchment by addressing diffuse nutrient and sediment pollution, as well as managing high-quality habitats like the Beaulieu Abbey ponds. Practical work completed with the aim of reducing run-off includes:

- A water harvesting system and sediment trap installed at Leygreen Farm
- A water harvesting system, including a pump to reuse the water where it's needed on site, installed at Chichester Trees and Shrubs nursery
- A muck spreader, manure shed and water harvesting system at Countryside Education Trust.

Water quality monitoring for nitrates and phosphates was carried out by 35 volunteers between 2016 and 2019 at 60 locations in the catchment.

A highlight of the project has been to help the migration of European eel along the Hartford Stream thanks to the installation of three individually designed passes for eel on existing dams. Within three months of the works being completed, young eels were recorded using the passes to swim upstream.

Below - Sampling pond water © FHT



Above - This shed was built at CET to provide improved storage of manure



Right - Learning about the freshwater species that inhabit Hartford Stream

Freshwater ecologist Dr Naomi Ewald said: 'It shows that, with high-quality freshwaters like the Hartford Stream, it only takes a small amount of work to make a big difference to the wildlife.'

Events have helped raise awareness of the importance of the Forest's freshwater habitats and the plants and animals they support. These have included an eel and fish talk at Beaulieu Village Hall, a heritage walk along Beaulieu Abbey Stream and horse pasture management training. A questionnaire was sent to more than 100 residents and stakeholders and 100 visitors were interviewed, to help understand people's behaviours in relation to water quality issues. The history and biology of the Hartford Stream and its ponds has been researched with some interesting findings.

Jeremy Biggs, Director at Freshwater Habitats Trust, said: 'The local community has been key to the project's success, bringing together heritage and conservation to ensure our best places for freshwater wildlife are looked after in the long term.'

**WATER QUALITY**  
**60**  
**locations**  
**monitored**

## Conserving the Forest Fringe Led by Forestry England

Centuries-old vegetation is damaged or lost when people park on verges, fly-tip or encroach on Forest land.

Forestry England has worked with 10 parishes to tackle these issues and educate residents on the importance of Forest verges and historic boundaries.



A trainee estates keeper was taken on in 2016 and the post has now been made permanent at Forestry England, ensuring the ongoing legacy of this work and enabling it to expand across the whole Forest.

Not only do verges contribute significantly to the character and appearance of the New Forest, they are home to rare wildlife and provide important grazing for commoners' animals.

Verge damage has been identified across the Forest with issues resolved, where possible, by landowners or the installation of dragons teeth, ditching and banks, protecting more than 3.5km of verge.

The project has also started to address fly-tipping and encroachment issues, including clearing rubbish on an area of wasteland outside the grazed Forest in Lyndhurst.

To help raise awareness of the importance of historic boundaries and how valuable they are in maintaining the character of the landscape, advice has been given to residents and contractors. Leaflets produced include: Accessing your Property, Boundaries in the New Forest and Getting Building Work Done.

Forestry England is now seeing some positive outcomes and a greater awareness of the issues by local communities.

Below - Newly installed dragon's teeth in Nomansland



VERGES

**3.5 km  
protected**



Right - Learning about veteran trees

## Veteran Trees

### Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA)

The New Forest has the highest concentration of ancient and veteran trees in the British Isles and many species depend on them for their survival – including woodland birds, bats, fungi, lichens and invertebrates.

Now a new generation of tree experts has been trained how to care for them.

In total, 36 tree surgeons and tree officers have received up-to-date training in the care and management of ancient trees to prevent the loss of this scarce and valuable resource.

NPA Senior Tree Officer Nik Gruber said: 'It was great for so many local tree work contractors and partners to get together and share our knowledge of tree care. It is widely appreciated that there is a very large number of veteran and ancient trees in the New Forest and that this population contributes to our landscape.

'Ancient trees are important because of the range of organisms that rely on them for habitats and niches. Often management means doing as little as possible or undoing damage caused by unsympathetic management practices.

'We all learned how to recognise and appreciate veteran and ancient trees and discovered the best methods for their long-term care.'

ANCIENT TREE CARE  
**36  
people  
trained**

## New Forest Rural Skills

### Led by the New Forest Land Advice Service and the Commoners Defence Association

Hundreds of commoners, farmers and landowners have learned new skills through a range of courses and mentoring partnerships.

With 40 different subsidised courses on offer, including many at Sparsholt Agricultural College, the Rural Skills programme has covered both traditional and modern land management techniques. This has included pasture and soil management, environmental and sustainable land management, wildlife conservation on the farm, record keeping and paperwork, and farming practices.

**Volunteering for OPOF and taking part in Rural Skills led Dom Hypher on a journey which ended with a whole new career in the New Forest. Here he tells us how it happened.**

'After many years in teaching I decided it was time to change career. I'd always wanted to work outside and was interested in combining my existing skills in education with outdoor work, ideally in the New Forest which is just on my doorstep. Having researched the route into this sector, it became evident that certain experience and skills were necessary. I started looking for volunteering opportunities and the ones that stood out were those offered by the Our Past Our Future partnership scheme. The range of opportunities was vast, from archaeology to practical conservation tasks to wildlife monitoring and many more.

Right - Dom Hypher



Above - Learning about flower rich grassland

'It's always slightly nerve-racking to attend your first volunteer session, but I received an incredibly friendly welcome, both from those facilitating the sessions and the other volunteers. I soon realised there was a wealth of knowledge and experience to learn from, coupled with excellent advice and support from the OPOF team, not to mention a steady supply of biscuits or cake, with tea out of the legendary Kelly kettles!

'Running alongside this were opportunities provided by the training courses organised by the New Forest Land Advice Service. The subsidised cost and organisation of these courses made them affordable and accessible, providing further experience and relevant qualifications.

'With the help of these experiences and qualifications, I gained my first job on a farm as assistant herd manager helping look after 120 Red Devon cattle, used primarily for heathland conservation management. From this experience, I moved on to working at a farm/education centre in the New Forest; a fantastic combination of education and farm work based around introducing people of all ages to the world of farming and the environment.

'I never thought as I cut my first rhododendron branch, that a few years later I'd be, among other things, pond dipping with school groups in ancient woodland or showing sheep at the New Forest Show! I feel incredibly fortunate to have been able to develop such a rewarding and enjoyable career, and in many ways, this is thanks to the opportunities, support and guidance provided by the Our Past, Our Future partnership.'

RURAL SKILLS

**435**  
people  
trained



## Mentoring

Forest knowledge has been shared and lasting friendships formed thanks to our innovative mentoring scheme for commoners.

Helping to round-up New Forest ponies, caring for stock and sheep showing are just a few of the skills learned during the free scheme, which aims to give new commoners the necessary skills to continue with the traditional practice of commoning.

The Vanderhoek family had been commoning for less than a year when they were paired with Ann Sevier, a 13th generation active commoner whose family has lived in the parish of Hyde since the 1650s.

At the time the Vanderhoeks had three ponies on the Forest and had acquired back-up grazing land near Fordingbridge. It was perfect timing for the family to join the scheme and to be paired with an experienced commoner. They spent 245 hours with Ann, including at various local commoning events such as the Verderers Court and Beaulieu Road Sales.

Tony Vanderhoek said: 'Our mentor Ann was a great character to be with and taught us a lot of general commoning skills. Being with Ann allowed us to gain contacts with other commoners and to learn from their experiences as well. We are still great friends with Ann.'

The family now have 11 ponies in total, regularly attend pony drifts and Tony has joined the Commoners Defence Association (CDA) committee.

Eight experienced commoners have now been paired with 23 young and new commoners through the mentoring scheme. Each pairing lasts one year, with participants spending time on their mentor's land to learn vital commoning skills that ensure the survival of this unique way of managing the Forest's rare habitats and traditional way of life.

New commoner Sami Blastock, from Buckler's Hard, was teamed with experienced commoner Charlie Knight based in Beaulieu.

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. I hope to carry on with Charlie for many years to come.'



Above - Charlie Knight and Sami Blastock were one of the pairings through the scheme

COMMONING  
**23**  
people  
mentored

'Charlie is an absolute expert on deer especially fallow, and we have watched sika stags on many occasions when checking the pigs. We would sit and watch and he would tell historical facts as well as throwing in what bird he could hear at that time without drawing breath!'

Richard Austin, Volunteer, Training and Mentoring Coordinator, said the scheme has been invaluable in better integrating young commoners and those new to commoning into the community.

He added: 'Our mentorees have benefitted from the vast expertise and support of our mentors which has given them the confidence to attend commoning events, make new friends, undertake work experience and become part of the CDA committee.'

'Our training programme has met the need and demand for upskilling local commoners, farmers and landowners in order to better manage their livestock and land. The courses have provided a great breadth of information and many local people have taken the opportunity to attend multiple courses over the project and reported positive feedback on their experience.'

# Our Past, Our Future

*Working together for the New Forest*

A £4.4m scheme led by 11 partners working across 21 projects to restore lost habitats, develop Forest skills and inspire a new generation to champion and care for the New Forest.

HERITAGE

**58**

community projects



COMMONING  
**270,000**  
people learned  
about commoning



NEW FOREST KNOWLEDGE WEBSITE  
**133,000**  
documents  
published

EVENTS

**789**  
held



**133,000**  
attended



RIVERBANK AND HEDGEROWS  
**61km**  
restored





HABITATS  
**213 hectares**  
restored



2015

TO 2021

WILDPLAY

**3**  
sites set up



GROUPS AND SCHOOLS  
**397**  
engaged



UNTEERING

**2,000**  
volunteers



**77,000**  
hours



TRAINING

**157**  
courses



**3,230**  
people  
attended

HISTORIC MONUMENTS  
**108**  
restored



## Building Skills

### Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA)

The special character of historic buildings within the New Forest can be irretrievably lost when inappropriate materials and methods of repair are used.

To help conserve and enhance the distinctiveness of New Forest settlements, the NPA has run subsidised courses for architects, surveyors, structural engineers, builders and homeowners.

To date, 347 local building professionals and homeowners have attended a range of courses, helping raise awareness and encourage sensitive repair and management.

People have learned about the importance of local traditional building materials, techniques and sympathetic repair methods. Topics have included cob buildings, historic masonry, historic timber-framed structures and roof coverings, such as thatch, lime renders, mortars and plasters, as well as historic joinery and metalwork.

Right and below - People participate in a traditional cob wall building skills workshop



Above - A lime mortar skills workshop

Participants made the following comments:

'Learning about building so many different types of property made from all manner of materials such as wood, bricks, cob and stone, was exceedingly interesting and useful. I can now look at a building with different eyes, checking its tiles, timbers and foundations and having a clear idea of its age.'

'Discussions on early New Forest building, especially cobb and thatch, has made me far more aware of Forest history. I now look at my home from a more historical aspect.'

'The course has ignited an interest in historical building techniques. I am much more aware of how my house was constructed and how to restore and prevent issues.'

Some of the courses were filmed and four short, educational films have been created and made available online.

[newforestnpa.gov.uk/conservation/landscape-partnership/training/](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/conservation/landscape-partnership/training/)

TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS  
**347**  
people  
trained





## Apprentice Rangers

### Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA)

From carrying out conservation work and wildlife surveys, to assisting with public events and looking after country parks and nature reserves, our eight trainee rangers have experienced action-packed apprenticeships.

Each year-long, paid environmental conservation apprenticeship has involved working with the NPA as well as partners Forestry England, the National Trust, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

The apprentices received a variety of countryside management experiences with each of the partner ranger teams and attended Kingston Maurward College in Dorchester, gaining qualifications in Environmental Management as well as certificates in chainsaw operations, brushcutters and strimmers and the safe use of pesticides.

NPA Lead Ranger Gillie Molland said: 'I am immensely proud of the achievements of the apprentice rangers. It has been fantastic to see each person grow and develop as they have progressed through their apprenticeships. Ours is, as far as I know, a unique project because of the partnership approach to the work experience gained. I am very grateful to each of the partner ranger teams for hosting the apprentices and passing on such a wealth of experience and knowledge from habitat management and species surveying to public engagement and event delivery. I have learned lots myself over the past five years and I am excited and hopeful we can develop plans to continue this opportunity into the future.'

Our apprentices have gone on to work in a range of roles within the New Forest or environmental conservation sector, including an assistant ranger at Lepe Country Park, groundsperson for the New Forest and Hampshire County Show, trainee wildlife ranger for Forestry England and seasonal ranger for the New Forest National Park Authority.

Funding from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund is enabling two more apprentice rangers to start in 2021.

APPRENTICE RANGERS  
**8**  
trained

Right - Hayden Bridgeman and Jake Barnes  
New Forest apprentice rangers 2018/19

### Beck Sheehan

**New Forest apprentice ranger 2019/20**

'The apprenticeship has given me the chance to gain so many valuable skills while working in a beautifully unique area and alongside some incredible people. I've made so many memories and invaluable connections.'



### Jake Leigh

**New Forest apprentice ranger 2019/20**

'This has been an amazing experience, not only do we gain a lot of practical qualifications and experiences, but we also get to work with some brilliant teams with years of combined knowledge and experience.'



### Marty Meaker

**New Forest apprentice ranger 2017/18**

'It's great to put back in what I have taken from the Forest. I am loving the whole journey and looking forward to where I will end up.'



### Pete Dovey

**New Forest apprentice ranger 2017/18**

'I'm thoroughly enjoying this unique apprentice opportunity. It's great to learn how diverse and intricate the environment is.'



### Katherine Argyrou

**New Forest apprentice ranger 2016/17**

'I've never come across an apprenticeship that is so varied in what it offers. I could go from burning up that devil-some rhododendron on huge bonfires to assisting at a toddler toddle event. Each day is different; you never get bored.'



## Historic Routes and Past Pathways

### Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA)

Five fascinating new walking trails rich in history and folklore have been established with the help of local communities.

The NPA, along with volunteers, carried out extensive research to identify existing rights of way with historical significance, as well as easy access for local people.

NPA Interpretation and Outreach Officer Gareth Owen said: 'All the trails offer a range of history to discover as well as beautiful landscapes to explore and views to take in.'

#### Highlights

- 700 rights of way over 37 parishes researched
- 260 walkover surveys undertaken
- 25 volunteers trained in archive research
- 13 volunteers trained on ground surveying
- 5 trails chosen: Carters Lane, Marchwood; Lepe to Fawley; Rockford Common; Stuckton Iron Works; and Tatchbury Mount, Totton.

Below - Route of the Tatchbury Mount trail



scale. © Crown Copyright and Database Right 2021.  
Ordnance Survey 1000114703.



Above - Volunteer taking a break from a rights of way survey

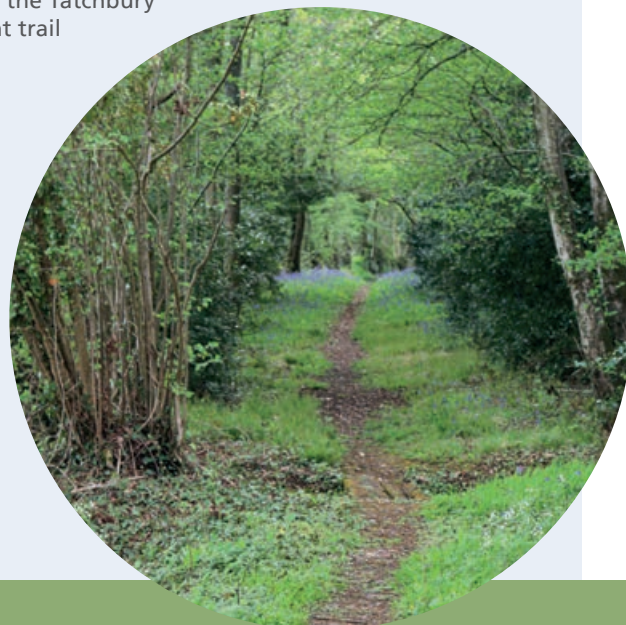
HERITAGE TRAILS  
**5**  
identified

#### Featured trail: Tatchbury Mount

Easily accessed from west Totton, this trail starts at Hanger Farm Arts Centre, which was once a busy farm and is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The trail passes Morrisons before connecting to another old farm, Hazel Farm, then heads along an old right of way, under the Totton bypass, and into the New Forest National Park. The trail offers views south, across fields and trees with Southampton dock cranes in the far distance and takes in the ageing tree-covered earthen ramparts of the Tatchbury Mount, an Iron Age hillfort. Further information on the five trials, including maps and historical information can be found on the NPA website.

[newforestnpa.gov.uk/historicroutes](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/historicroutes)

Right - The old roadway along the Tatchbury Mount trail







## Ecademy Led by the New Forest Heritage Centre

An incredible archive of New Forest photographs, maps, memories and more is now available at the touch of a button.

The New Forest Heritage Centre and the NPA worked together to create the New Forest Knowledge website, which boasts more than 133,000 searchable records.

Users can explore content via a map-based search which has 35 different layers, as well as contribute their own information.

The website brings together a wealth of information from the New Forest Heritage Centre Museum, the Christopher Tower Reference Library and other libraries and databases.

Project officers were helped by students and 37 volunteers who spent thousands of hours scanning and cataloguing over 20,000 items from the current library collection as well as new information.

Key collections include Arthur Simmons's collection of First World War material relating to East Boldre; an impressive collection of historic posters; Richardson, King and Drivers' 1789 map of the New Forest; and Félicité Hardcastle's collection which includes an album of Victorian photographs of Burley, which are of exceptional quality, taken by J. Bruce Cooper.

Records available include old maps, postcards, photographs, papers and books, and the site receives on average 11,000 hits per month.

The project has also hosted four conferences attended by 600 delegates. The themes explored include Ecology and Management of the New Forest in an Era of Climate Change; New Forest Archaeology; Commoning; and Built Environments of the New Forest: Past, Present and Future.

Katharine Walker, Ecademy Project Officer, said: 'The Ecademy Project has brought the Christopher Tower Reference Library to life, with a large team of volunteers working towards a collective goal cataloguing and digitising the New Forest Heritage Centre collections.

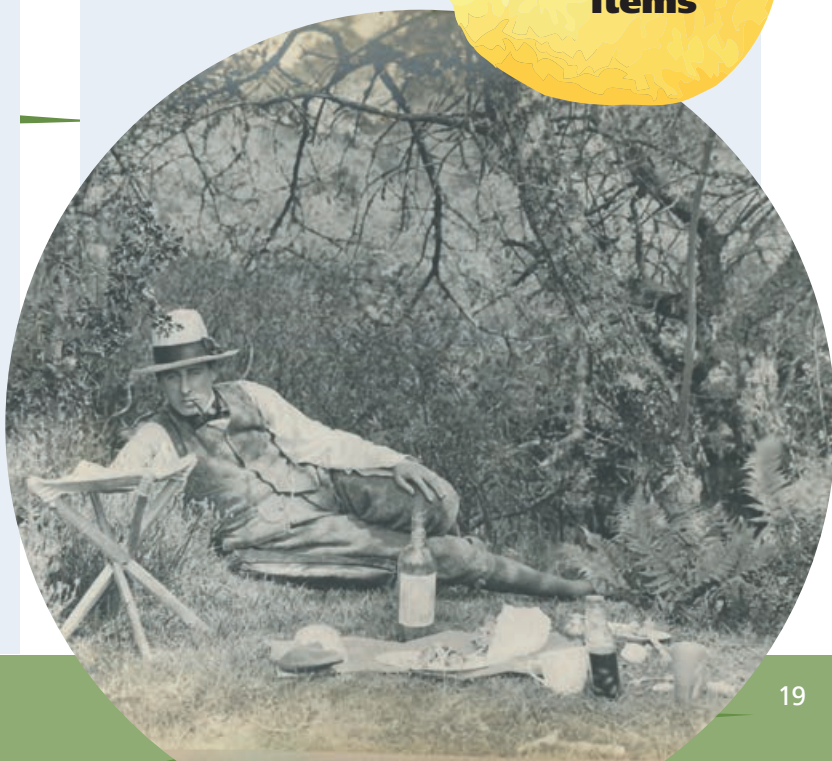
'Through the creation of the New Forest Knowledge website, we have shared not only our New Forest collections, but those of other museums, libraries and archives, with users across the world. By making information more accessible and encouraging people to contribute their own material to the website, we hope that this will educate and inspire a wider community to protect the Forest for the future.'

[nfknowledge.org](http://nfknowledge.org)

Above - Ecademy volunteers in the Christopher Tower Reference Library

Below - Photograph by J. Bruce Cooper (Burley) that has been digitised and added to the New Forest Knowledge © New Forest Heritage Trust

DOCUMENTS DIGITISED  
**20,000**  
items





## Rediscovering and Conserving Our Archaeological Heritage Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA)

A highly significant Bronze Age monument dating back more than 4,000 years was revealed during two community digs in the New Forest.

Archaeologists and volunteers discovered the ring ditch monument and five Bronze Age cremation urns during excavations in Beaulieu in 2018 and 2019. The team also found some unexpected evidence of much earlier inhabitants from the Mesolithic period (8000 – 2700 BC).

Volunteers were given the chance to learn archaeological techniques during the project, which has given us a fascinating insight to the prehistoric communities who once inhabited the New Forest.

There have been many more highlights of this project, which has aimed to raise awareness of our archaeological heritage, support conservation and encourage long-term appropriate management. It has focused on industrial and WWII sites, burial grounds and un-surveyed woodlands.

Right - Volunteers at a Beaulieu dig unearthing burial urns



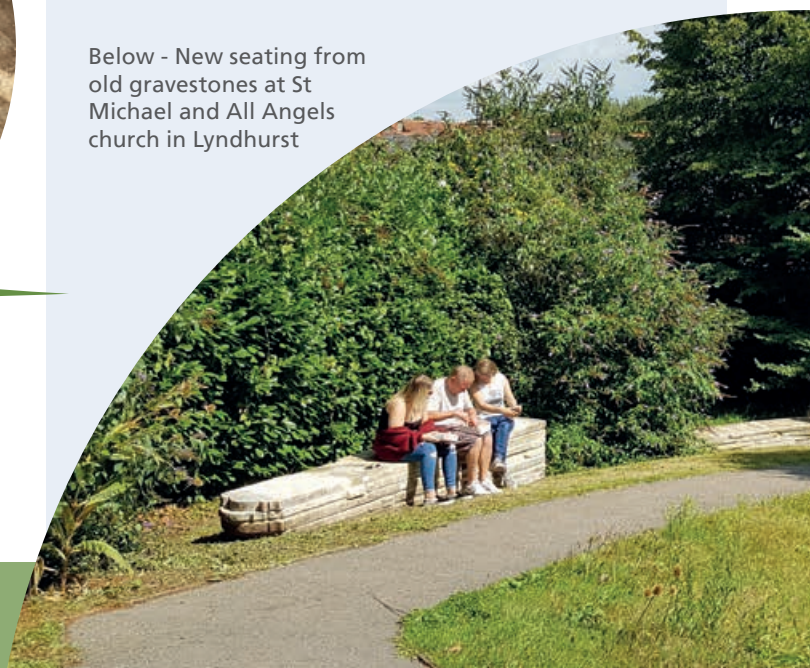
Left and below - A before and after photograph showing detail to a weather-worn gravestone by using RTI



### Highlights

- A woodland and field survey of 5,647 hectares resulted in the discovery of Bronze Age barrows, WWII sites, charcoal pits and saw pits, medieval boundary banks and landscaped grounds. Consequently, 1,218 new or enhanced records have been added to the Historic Environment Records (HER).
- Bournemouth Archaeology accurately plotted monuments in 12 New Forest graveyards: Lyndhurst, Emery Down, Brockenhurst, East Boldre, Boldre, Exbury, Thorney Hill, Copythorne, Minstead, Burley, Dibden, and Netley Marsh. Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) was then used in some of these churchyards to read illegible inscriptions on the gravestones. All the information gathered is now publicly available on the New Forest Knowledge website ([nfknowledge.org](http://nfknowledge.org)), allowing people to trace family members and find out more about the area's heritage.
- Repairs have been made at a range of sites: Beaulieu ice house; Emery Down Almshouse Pump; three listed Lyndhurst Church

Below - New seating from old gravestones at St Michael and All Angels church in Lyndhurst



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
**5,647**ha  
woodland  
covered





Above -  
Dig Burley

monuments; two scheduled ancient monuments at Stagbury Hill; Hale Pillow Mounds; Mulberry Harbour and D-Day structures at Lepe Country Park. In Lyndhurst, gravestones that made up an old footpath were lifted and recorded and then made into two seating areas in the churchyard with the help of funding from the EU Rural Development New Forest LEADER Programme.

- Nine short films have been made about various aspects of the New Forest's heritage. The series is called New Forest History Hits and is available on YouTube at [youtube.com/newforestnpa](https://youtube.com/newforestnpa)
- Villagers in Burley spent a bank holiday weekend digging 50 excavation pits in gardens and at community sites to reveal the village's past. 'Dig Burley' saw over 400 people taking part and led to an array of archaeological finds including a Neolithic flint that have helped us understand the age and development of this historic village.

## Heritage on My Doorstep Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA)

Local people have unearthed the history and heritage of the New Forest and shared it with their communities.

With support from the NPA's archaeologists, 21 local groups and parishes have created 38 heritage projects.

A range of training opportunities have been offered in archaeology and history, as well as surveying and archive research. This has included trips to the National Archives in London, training in social media and courses in geophysics and field surveys.

A Community Heritage Forum was set up to encourage local groups to meet and develop projects, produce posters and books, as well as publish their research in books and on the New Forest Knowledge website.

### Highlights

- A WWI exhibition at East Boldre Village Hall included hundreds of restored photographs and featured the Tucker Diaries, the diaries of Corporal Gordon Tucker who was a mechanic at Beaulieu, Hounslow and Wye Aerodromes between 1916 and 1919.
- 'Command of the Seas: The Navy and the New Forest against Napoleon', an exhibition at St Barbe Museum was created in partnership with the Milford-on-Sea Historical Record Society and the NPA. It explored some of the key naval battles in the run up to the Battle of Trafalgar, as well as what life was like in the navy at the time.
- The discovery of a goat shed near Lyndhurst housing a collection of 550 county show certificates, dating from 1919, pinned to the walls and ceiling.

Right - Corporal Gordon Tucker diaries on display at a WWI exhibition

HERITAGE GROUPS  
**21**  
engaged



## Common Cause: Verderers' Hall Led by Forestry England

The historic hall where the Verderers' public meetings are held has undergone a complete restoration.

The Grade II\* listed Verderers' Hall, located adjacent to The Queen's House in Lyndhurst, is where commoners make presentments for the consideration of the Court on matters related to commoning in the New Forest.

The original structure of the hall dates back to Tudor times and it has been used for Forest Courts since at least the later medieval period.

Restoration work completed includes repairs to the internal tiled floor, bay window and stained glass, as well as external re-pointing and internal decoration. Enhancements to the hall include a heating upgrade and better security.

Deer heads and wall features have been re-installed and a new interpretation cabinet built, with a screen for showing films about the New Forest. Open days have been held and will continue to be run by volunteers in the future.

Improved access to this historic hall will maximise educational opportunities and make it a powerful tool for sharing the important role played in the New Forest by the commoners, verderers and agisters.

Below - The newly renovated Verderers' Hall

VERDERERS' HALL  
**220**  
groups  
visited



Above - Animal silhouettes used in the winter driving campaign

## Common Cause: A Shared Forest Led by the Commoners Defence Association (CDA)

The New Forest is shared by many people and it is important we all do what we can to keep it special.

A new, broader approach has seen commoners working directly with Forest organisations, schools and businesses to help everyone connect with the New Forest and understand the role that commoning plays in keeping it so special.

For the first time, behaviour change experts were consulted to help develop ways to increase public awareness and change people's behaviour. Social media, posters, leaflets, toolkits, and face-to-face discussions are now being used to deliver key commoning messages and help people better understand the community and its traditions.

### Highlights

- 61 businesses have joined the Shared Forest Business Group and are promoting safe driving to their 3,000 employees.
- A Shared Forest Education Toolkit for primary aged children has been designed by teacher, commoner and outdoor learning expert Lyndsey Stride. It helps children appreciate this incredible landscape as part of the curriculum and includes great projects on New Forest nature and New Forest commoning.
- A #KeepYourDistance campaign, developed with the NPA and Forestry England, reminds residents and visitors not to feed or touch the livestock.

Right - Pupils from St Michael and All Angels CE Infant School receiving their commoning badges



- An #add3minutes campaign, developed with the Animal Accident Reduction Group, tells drivers '40 is too fast in the dark' and 'always be animal aware'. It gained 920,000 impressions (number of times a post is seen) on Facebook in 2020.
- Five near-life-size animal silhouettes were displayed in prominent locations around the New Forest, providing an eye-catching reminder that winter evenings are the most dangerous time for accidents.
- A new CDA website [realnewforest.org](https://realnewforest.org) has been launched.
- A conference titled The Role of Commoning in the Maintenance of Landscape and Ecology was attended by 125 people at Lyndhurst Community Centre.



Left - Shared Forest Business  
Group lorry sticker

## Common Cause: Through Our Ancestors' Eyes

### Led by the Commoners Defence Association (CDA)

Twenty commoning families have recorded their memories and given photographs to a new collection of Forest history.

The archive of commoning, forestry and agriculture in the New Forest, has been created to ensure the history of the Forest is saved and made available to future generations.

#### The archive includes:

- 782 scanned photographs from 20 commoning families
- 14 oral recordings of people, which have been transcribed and linked to 500 of the photographs.

All the photographs, audio files and transcripts are stored at the Christopher Tower Library at the New Forest Heritage Centre, Lyndhurst.

Much of the collection is now searchable on the New Forest Knowledge website.

[nfknowledge.org/groups/through-our-ancestors-eyes/](https://nfknowledge.org/groups/through-our-ancestors-eyes/)

Former CDA Chair Tony Hockley said: 'The project has built a huge network of supporters for New Forest commoning; people who are willing to celebrate the way the grazed landscape has survived and its benefits to society.

'The positive change, particularly in the level of understanding and appreciation of our commoning system is very clear, which has made increasing numbers of commoners willing to start sharing their own stories, whether in person or online.

'We are much more confident than we were that we now have tools and a partnership available to tackle the challenges faced by our landscape and its cultural heritage.'



Above - Driving Dalgetty's cattle through Fordingbridge (CDA/AE/PH005) © Peter Harrison  
<https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/peter-harrison-images>



## New Forest Connects

### Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA)

Thousands of people have discovered what makes the New Forest special through a diverse range of events. Visitors and those living and working in the Forest have taken part in walking festivals and tours, visited exhibitions and joined in family activities.

Many events have focused on spreading the message of commoning and its importance within the New Forest, including behind-the-scenes tours.

Tours have included visits to a commoner's holding, the pony sales and a walk through the Forest, helping teach people about commoning. Groups who have attended include the New Forest Tourism Association and local tour guides, New Forest Arts organisations and Camping in the Forest campsite wardens.

Commoners now have a much greater presence on social media following media training, helping spread key messages about caring for the Forest and showing daily life as a commoner.

#### Highlights

- The New Forest Walking Festival has taken place every year since 2016 (except during 2020 when it was changed to a virtual festival, due to the Covid-19 pandemic). Aimed at helping people discover more about the area's history, heritage and wildlife, 6,800 people have taken part in one or more of the 250 walks.

Below - 'Step into the New Forest's Story' won Best Large Stand at the New Forest Show in 2016



Above - Old Railway Walk

- Curated by commoner, teacher and outdoor learning expert Lyndsey Stride, the 'Commoning Voices' exhibition explains the relationship commoners have with the Forest, one another, their animals and the public. The exhibition included stories from commoners, photographs and information about key Forest characters. Following a stint at the New Forest Heritage Centre, the exhibition toured other venues in and around the Forest to spread the messages further.
- The 'Step into the New Forest's Story' exhibition was awarded the Best Large Stand prize at the New Forest Show in 2016. The exhibition also ran at the New Forest Centre, where it was visited by almost 10,000 people.
- The 'Tree Stories of the New Forest – Past, Present and Future' exhibition considered how trees can help us understand the New Forest's long and interesting history. It included a stop-frame animation activity for families to create a film about the Charter of the Forest. The film is available on the NPA's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/NewForestNPA](https://youtube.com/NewForestNPA)

Displays and information boards have been installed at Avon Tyrell, Tatchbury Mount and Holbury Woods, to interpret the habitat restoration work undertaken at these sites.

WALKING FESTIVAL  
**6,800**  
people  
took part



## New Forest Connects: Sense of Place Led by Forestry England

Displays at key Forestry England sites are encouraging people to be inspired by, enjoy and learn about the New Forest.

At Blackwater, sculptor Richard Austin worked on site, creating four seed sculptures, an archway, tall tree trail markers and information boards. The work was informed by research into ways of encouraging people with special needs to the site. Children from Hill House School in Lymington visited during the works and a range of local groups were invited to the launch event.

New information at Bolderwood includes panels, an interactive map, seasonal information and a deer sound box. At Beaulieu Road Sales Yard, a new panel tells the story of the yard and gives information about commoning. A replacement trail at the New Forest Reptile Centre is also planned.

**BLACKWATER ARBORETUM**  
**4**  
**seed sculptures**  
**installed**



Above - A wooden archway sculpture at Blackwater



Left - Chalk boards allow seasonal interpretation at Blackwater arboretum



Above - Blackwater Arboretum welcome sign

Left - Richard Austin sculpting the trail markers



## Wild play

### Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA)

From mini-beast hunting and stick crafts, to balancing on logs and making mud pies, free play within nature offers countless benefits to children.

To encourage local families to explore nature and exercise outside, three permanent wild play areas have been created in partnership with parish councils. Features at the sites include wooden forts, balancing logs, a carved lizard and seating areas. Volunteers have planted fruit trees and wild flowers and bug hotels have been built with the help of local pre-school children.

#### The new sites are at:

- Holbury Manor Woods in partnership with Fawley Parish Council
- Stanford Rise in Sway in partnership with Sway Parish Council
- Ashurst Recreation ground in partnership with Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council.

Around 6,000 people have attended wild play events, enjoying den building, natural crafts, crabbing and scavenger hunts.

NPA Wild Play Officer Claire Pearce said: 'The three sites have quickly become an integral part of their communities and receive lots of regular visits from local children. Being a part of children's wild play experience has been extremely rewarding.'

Right - Opening event at Holbury wild play site

Below - Children and parents playing at the newly opened Sway wild play site



Right - The opening of Ashurst wild play site



Regularly engaging with nature through play will not only benefit children's health and wellbeing but also help to develop a generation highly motivated to protect and conserve the natural world.'

Leaflets packed with ideas for wild play activities have been produced, as well as a wild play toolkit for parish councils, groups, and organisations interested in developing wild play opportunities within their community. The toolkit features advice including how to identify potential sites, community engagement, health and safety and insurance considerations. The leaflets and toolkit are available to download on the NPA website [newforestnpa.gov.uk/wildplay](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/wildplay)

Claire said: 'The success of the project has also been demonstrated by the increasing interest in wild play from other New Forest communities, many wishing to develop their own wild play spaces. We have supported these communities with ideas and advice as well as producing a toolkit to help them on their journey.'

WILDPLAY EVENTS

**6,245**  
attended







Above - Launch of Folio

## Arts Festival

### Led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA)

The unique landscape, heritage and culture of the New Forest has been showcased through a variety of art forms. From film and theatre performances to music concerts and workshops, many events have been set in unique spaces, including a beach hut, an arboretum and an ancient shipyard.

Two arts festivals, held in 2016 and 2017, attracted more than 10,000 people. The Arts Festival project has brought together a wide range of local organisations: hArt; Forest Forge Theatre Company; Forest Arts Centre; Forestry England; New Forest Heritage Centre; Minstead Training Trust; Hampshire Cultural Trust; SPUD; Countryside Education Trust; New Forest District Council; National Trust; St Barbe Museum and Coda. A number of these have gone on to create Folio, a new umbrella group of arts organisations, to take a fresh approach to developing creative events and programmes across the New Forest. Folio has been successful in getting a small grant from Arts Council England to grow audiences and deliver artistic engagement within communities and is now applying for further funding.

## Highlights

- 'Time and Place', a photographic heritage project which gathered and curated stories and old photographs from residents of Hythe and the Waterside, resulted in a three-week exhibition called '22 Miles of Sea' at the New Forest Heritage Centre.
- 'Folk Orc' in the Forest was a series of workshops which culminated in a performance at Forest Arts and then further developed to produce a book of New Forest folk songs.
- SPUDology has seen two artists - Simon Ryder and Reinhild Beuther - take up residency at spudWORKS. Their work has focused on interpreting the landscape at Hill Top in Beaulieu and considers the idea that humans and nature have been closely entwined for centuries.
- 'In the Eyes of the Animal', a free virtual reality experience allowing 900 people to go on an immersive journey in the forest through the eyes of four different animals.

NPA Grants Officer Fiona Wynne said: 'The strength of this project has been the relationships we have developed with arts organisations in the New Forest. We started off with a festival, then adapted our approach to concentrate more on supporting arts organisations and helping develop Folio.'

Below - Celebrating the opening of the Arts Festival



ARTS EVENTS

**11,000**  
people  
took part

## Behaviour Change

One of the challenges facing the New Forest is how we tackle harmful behaviours which impact the traditional ways of life and land management practices that make the New Forest special.

Some OPOF projects have a specific focus on changing these behaviours, for example the Shared Forest project aims to stop members of the public feeding free-roaming ponies and reduce animal accidents, while other projects include positive elements of behaviour change, such as encouraging children to take part in wild play or landowners to manage their land for conservation.

We commissioned behaviour change experts to improve our partners' knowledge of behaviour change theories and to design different approaches and techniques that the partners could apply to their projects.

Shared Forest looked in depth at developing different approaches which could be introduced and tested. The work helped guide several of the Commoners Defence Association's initiatives including #RealNewForest. Commoners are now making widespread use of the strapline 'Real New Forest' when sharing information about commoning, helping to entice people to find out more and build a sense of identity around commoning.

A behaviour change toolkit has been produced to share with heritage, landscape and nature conservation practitioners.

Right - Sarum orienteering event at Foxbury



## Evaluation

Our Past, Our Future has been hailed a catalyst for successful partnership working in the New Forest. Thanks to the hard work of all those involved, the scheme has also achieved most of its targets and aspirations.

An external evaluation of OPOF found it created a 'step change' through a new, collaborative culture, with the partnership at its core. Relationships between commoners and key Forest organisations were considered particularly successful, as well as the range and quality of volunteering opportunities through OPOF. Given the feeling of positivity created by OPOF, the key challenge now is to ensure the collaborative culture across the Forest continues.



Above - Some of the OPOF team

With grateful thanks to our funders:



If you want to find out more about any of the projects please email  
**[communication@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:communication@newforestnpa.gov.uk)**  
or go to **[newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership)**