

# Park Life

News from the New Forest National Park Authority



Spring/Summer 2021

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Joint patrols in the New Forest



## Care for the Forest, care for each other

**New Forest organisations are calling on people to 'care for the Forest, care for each other' ahead of an anticipated busy summer season in the National Park.**

Over the past few months, the number of people enjoying the open countryside has increased. Spending time in nature is an important part of recovery post COVID-19, with many benefits to our physical and mental wellbeing.

A joint action plan is now in place to ensure the New Forest can play a positive and active role in helping people recover from lockdown in the great outdoors while also caring for this special place which is a world-renowned capital for wildlife.

The plan has been developed jointly by the New Forest National Park Authority, Forestry England, New Forest District Council, and tourism body Go New Forest with support from The Verderers, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Hampshire Constabulary.

Last year was exceptional in many ways and saw greater numbers of people spending time in the countryside. While most people respect these landscapes, unfortunately the New Forest - like many other places around the country - experienced anti-social behaviour.

Forest organisations, emergency services and communities worked to address issues such

as littering, fires and irresponsible parking. Teams were pooled to increase the impact of patrols, a New Forest code was launched (see page 6), over 50 local retailers agreed to ban disposable BBQs, and over 400

New Forest Ambassadors were recruited with parish councils to help support the Forest. Joint patrols and putting hundreds of warning stickers on vehicles were used to discourage verge parking and gateway blocking, and joint communications about caring for the Forest reached over six million

people.

To reduce the risk posed last year by a significant rise in the irresponsible use of BBQs, vast swathes of open countryside across the New Forest and Dorset have now been declared a complete no BBQ and fire zone. These are no longer permitted in car parks or any areas of the open Forest. This year, greater numbers of staff across all organisations are available with joint patrols focused on key issues and visitor hotspots. This highly-visible and coordinated approach, together with more signs, will make the best use of resources to protect the Forest. When the easing of restrictions allows, staff will be boosted by

Forestry England's team of volunteer rangers. New Forest Ambassadors, led by the National Park Authority and parish councils, are already helping with litter picking, reporting irresponsible parking and creating a greater awareness of the New Forest code.

Local communities and businesses are being encouraged to get involved with the campaign by publicising the New Forest code, becoming New Forest Ambassadors and reporting problems and issues.

Bruce Rothnie, New Forest Deputy Surveyor, Forestry England said: 'The New Forest is home to some of Europe's rarest and most fragile landscapes. Keeping this place special requires everyone spending time here to help care for the area; only in this way can we ensure it remains here for all to enjoy.'

Prof. Gavin Parker, Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority, said: 'The New Forest is truly an amazing place and getting outside is a great way to boost our mood and our physical health. However, this cannot be at the expense of this precious place, which is a living, working Forest. We would like to thank all those who helped last year and call on everyone out in the Forest and our communities and businesses to help us care for the Forest, and care for each other.'

### Creating a lasting legacy

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# New Forest Partnership Plan: Have your say

• Rockford Common, by Nick Lucas

Tackling the climate and nature emergencies, managing recreation pressures and connecting people with nature are among the challenges being addressed through a new draft Partnership Plan.

All English national parks must have a management plan, often referred to as the 'Partnership Plan' for the area. This helps guide the work of all those with responsibilities and an interest in the National Park.

The New Forest National Park Authority is working with its partners to review the Plan for the next five year period. This provides the opportunity to secure renewed commitment from all who can contribute to the protection of the National Park, to enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities and through this work the prosperity of its communities by aligning our collective skills, knowledge and resources.

A public consultation will take place this summer and you can feed back on the draft plan which will address the principal challenges and opportunities

facing the New Forest and set out a shared ambition and an agenda for action.

The focus will be on working together to achieve progress in five key areas:

- Nature Recovery – habitats restored, expanded and maintained to enable wildlife to thrive, both within and around the National Park.
- Net Zero with Nature – significant cuts in land-based carbon emissions secured through restoring natural habitats and carbon capture.
- Thriving Forest – a living, working Forest sustained through support for cultural heritage, commoning, local produce, sustainable tourism, access to affordable homes and helping to attract high-value businesses and employees.

- An inclusive National Park – people in and within reach of the New Forest, of all backgrounds, abilities and socio-economic groups, can value the National Park as an important part of their lives and seek to care for it.
- Team New Forest – communities, businesses and organisations work together as a team to deliver the vision of the Partnership Plan, sharing knowledge, ideas and resources to deliver the best for the Forest.

Gavin Parker, Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority, said: 'Much has happened both locally and nationally since the previous Partnership Plan which will need to be reflected in the new version, such as the declaration of climate emergency at national and local

levels, recognition of the need for focus on nature recovery, on our own recovery from the pandemic as well as on a green economic recovery. A new Agriculture and Environment Act links public support of farming to delivery of 'public goods' and benefits to society and the new Environment Bill is, among other things, putting nature recovery to the fore.

'The past year has shown how nature is key to people's health and wellbeing, post COVID-19, so we're working on the parallel 'care' missions of restoring both nature and ourselves.

'Never has it been more important to have a "Team New Forest" with a clear plan, so that we can be focused together on meeting the challenges ahead.'

For more information visit: [www.newforest.gov.uk/partnershipplan](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/partnershipplan)



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# Tackling the climate and nature crises

Since the National Park was designated in 2005 we've recognised that the climate and nature crises are significant threats to this extraordinary area.

As organisations, groups and individuals, our collective actions are influencing the future of the New Forest National Park, including its nature, wildlife, infrastructure, communities and working forest.

## What are the impacts of the climate and nature emergency on the New Forest?

The UK's biodiversity has suffered huge declines: populations of the UK's most important wildlife have plummeted by an average of 60% since 1970. Such widespread loss of wildlife threatens the survival of the New Forest's internationally-important wildlife and rare species.

Climate change compounds this issue - it is the greatest long-term challenge for the National Park which is under threat from rising temperatures, wildfires, pests, diseases, drier soils and wetlands, and more powerful and frequent storms.

Winters will continue to become warmer and wetter, while summers will continue to become hotter and drier. These changes will have very significant compounding effects on water quality and storage, pollination, flooding, soil formation and carbon storage. For wildlife it could affect the range and numbers of species and alter their seasonal activity. There are also likely to be significant impacts on human health, wellbeing and our economy.

## What are we doing for the New Forest National Park?

As the New Forest National Park Authority, we're working to both reduce the effects of climate change and help the Forest adapt - so that the precious habitats of the National Park are maintained for future generations.

We're doing this in three ways:

- Restoring, creating and managing habitats and making wildlife areas more resilient (adaptation)
- Reducing our own carbon footprint (mitigation)
- Encouraging and supporting behaviour change among our communities and visitors (education).

## Net zero with nature

With our partners, we're working towards the National Park being 'net zero with nature' by 2050. Net zero is achieved when harmful greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activity are balanced by an equivalent amount being absorbed by the natural environment. We're working to reduce emissions throughout the National Park and maximise the ability of the National Park to absorb emissions, our work to extensively restore wetlands and carry out low-carbon farming practice being two examples of this.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We can all help to protect the New Forest. Taking a few steps, no matter how small, can all add up to make a positive impact on the environment.

- Walk and cycle instead of driving
- Make good use of public transport and trains
- Shop local
- Car share
- Switch to a renewable energy tariff
- Reduce, reuse and recycle
- Take litter home
- Follow the New Forest Code
- Join a local green community group

With the help of a new member of our team, our Net Zero with Nature Programme Manager, Olivia McGregor, we're producing a spatial plan for nature recovery and climate change in the National Park, and encouraging voluntary action among our communities, partners and stakeholders, engaging people from all ages and backgrounds.



Olivia McGregor

## Managing habitats

Keeping the New Forest's different habitats in good condition through effective land management (underpinned by commoning - the unique system of extensive grazing) will mean they'll continue to function well as carbon-storers and homes for wildlife. Across the open Forest, restoring habitats, managing woodlands and low carbon farming practices can all help to reach net zero targets.

Landscapes need to be bigger, better managed and more joined up. Larger swathes of habitats that are in good condition and well connected are more resilient and adaptable to climate change. They also allow wildlife to move more freely within them.

## A net zero organisation

The New Forest National Park Authority has committed to become a net zero organisation by 2030, reducing greenhouse gases created by office functions and work-related travel. We commissioned a review of our office building, have a new sustainability plan and have appointed a new sustainable performance officer to help us reach our targets - building on the 40% emission reductions we've already achieved this year.

## TIPS FOR CREATING A WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

- Plant flowers which attract bees and butterflies
- Build a bug hotel or drill holes in an old log
- Put up bird or bat boxes
- Leave a gap in your fence for wildlife such as hedgehogs to pass through
- Create a pond
- Compost your cuttings
- Leave an area of your garden to grow wild



• Beautiful demoiselle, by James West



Don't miss out on our free e-newsletter with the latest from around the Forest. Go to [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk) and click on NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

• Hatchet Pond, by Nick Lucas

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# A lasting legacy for the New Forest

A multi-million pound scheme for the New Forest has drawn to a close, leaving a legacy of connected communities and thriving wildlife.

The Our Past, Our Future (OPOF) Landscape Partnership Scheme undertook 21 projects to restore lost habitats, develop skills and inspire a new generation to champion and care for the New Forest. Led by the New Forest National Park Authority in partnership with 10 other organisations, the £4.4 million scheme was launched in 2015.

The local community, including residents, businesses and commoners, were at the heart of OPOF, forging new connections, discovering heritage and learning new skills.

Highlights include:

- 270,000 people learnt about commoning from events, exhibitions, groups, educational materials and social media.
- Three permanent wild play areas were created in partnership with parish councils.

- An online archive of photographs, maps and memories boasting more than 133,000 searchable records was set up. <https://nfknowledge.org/>
- A total of 108 historic monuments were restored.
- More than 3,200 commoners, farmers, residents and landowners learnt new skills through training courses and mentoring partnerships
- A toolkit was designed for primary aged children to help them appreciate the New Forest and the important role of commoning.
- More than 130,000 people discovered what makes the New Forest special through events including walking festivals, tours, exhibitions and family activities.

One of the biggest successes of OPOF, which was supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, has been the time and effort its 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 practical conservation tasks.

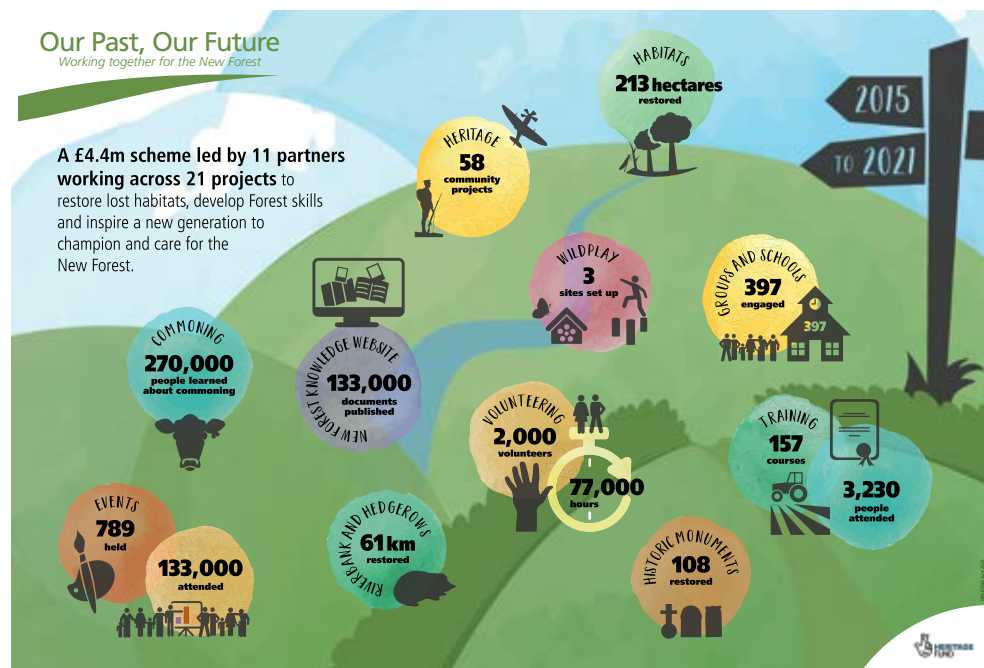
The scheme also achieved huge wins for nature:

- More than 210ha of habitat has been restored – equivalent to around 320 football pitches.
- Wild flowers are flourishing along more than 50km of riverbanks where 600 volunteers have helped remove huge swathes of invasive non-native plants.
- The National Trust's Foxbury site has been transformed with 20,000 native trees planted and a huge increase in wildlife.
- More than 21,000 wildlife sightings were recorded at selected sites within the scheme, highlighting the huge success of habitat restoration efforts.

**Patrick Heneghan, Deputy Chairman of New Forest National Park Authority and Chairman of the Our Past, Our Future partnership board, said:**

## Our Past, Our Future

Working together for the New Forest



'I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my appreciation to all those organisations that have 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.'



• Pony and rainbow

### The partners involved in OPOF were:

- Beaulieu Estate
- New Forest Commoners Defence Association
- Forestry England
- Freshwater Habitats Trust
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Hampshire County Council
- National Trust
- Natural England
- New Forest Heritage Centre
- New Forest Land Advice Service
- New Forest National Park Authority.

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# Be Forest-friendly

The New Forest National Park is a spectacular, yet fragile landscape that's a haven for wildlife and free-roaming animals owned by commoners.

Thanks to its unique mosaic of habitats, the New Forest is a stronghold for some species which have disappeared from much of the rest of the UK.

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



**Follow the New Forest code**

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

It has been put together by the New Forest National Park Authority with our partners.



Nesting Woodlark, by Mike Read

## Keep to the tracks to protect rare birds

Ground-nesting birds are very difficult to spot, and their nests – sometimes just off the main paths – are so well camouflaged that most of us wouldn't know we were so close to them.

You can help protect them by keeping yourself, dogs, bicycles and ridden horses on the main tracks until the end of July, and avoiding the narrow pony tracks that criss-cross the birds' territories. Ground nesting birds such as the lapwing, nightjar and curlew are at risk of completely disappearing from the UK as their numbers

dwindle due to loss of habitat and disturbance. The New Forest is one of the last places in the UK where these birds can still be found and helping them to breed successfully is now critical to their survival in the UK. This is one of the reasons why the New Forest National Park is a Special Protection Area for birds.

As in previous years, special quiet zones have been established around critical breeding locations and a small number of car parks near to these closed. Limiting activity in these small pockets

helps reduce the likelihood of birds abandoning nests and exposing chicks. This was clearly seen in the first lockdown when, due to the absence of people, these birds took advantage of normally busy areas such as car parks to nest or feed.

In these areas special signs are in place highlighting their sensitive nature and giving the public advice on how to avoid disturbing the birds. Orange signs are placed close to the breeding grounds and red 'stop' signs (asking people to choose a different route) are in the immediate areas of nesting sites.



By donating to the New Forest Trust, you're supporting conservation, education and commoning projects to help secure the future of the New Forest. You can do this by choosing restaurants and hotels which support the charity; through local donation boxes; or by donating online at: [newforesttrust.org.uk/donate](http://newforesttrust.org.uk/donate)

• Grazing ponies

## Parking with care

Many local residents and visitors travel to the New Forest by car.

However, on busier days some car parks are becoming full by mid-morning. If your chosen car park is full when you arrive, please find another one nearby. Do not park on the verge or block gateways.

Parking on verges causes damage. They might only look like ordinary grass or gravel but are protected

## Dog walking code

- Keep dogs on leads in and around car parks and alongside roads.
- Do not allow your dog to chase or attack livestock, deer or any other wildlife.
- Keep your distance from grazing animals, especially mothers and their young.
- Dogs must always be under effective control when on a public right of way. Keep them on the path and do not allow them to stray onto adjacent land.



## BBQ-free New Forest

The New Forest has now been declared a complete no BBQ and fire zone.

Since summer 2020, the New Forest National Park Authority has been calling on retailers across the Forest to remove disposable barbecues from sale and for a continued ban on fires and barbecues in the open countryside of the National Park.

Last year saw a significant rise in the irresponsible use of BBQs, presenting a major risk of wildfire with potentially devastating effects. In just one weekend rangers working with the fire service extinguished over 60 unsafe BBQs. Numerous areas of scorched earth were left across the protected habitats when a fire warning was still in place.

Please ask your local store to stop selling disposable BBQs and to display the poster available to download at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/BBQFreeNewForest](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/BBQFreeNewForest).

If you're a retailer, please let us know you're supporting our campaign by emailing [communications@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:communications@newforestnpa.gov.uk), and we'll add your name to the list.

Vast swathes of the New Forest and Dorset have now been declared a complete no BBQ and fire zone. BBQs, camping stoves or anything with a naked flame are no longer permitted in car parks or any areas of the open Forest. All BBQ facilities at Forestry England sites have been removed and prominent no BBQ signs have been installed at car parks and information points.

Following our plea, 50 shops and outlets in and around the New Forest have taken disposable BBQs off sale. We're continuing the campaigning in 2021 and will be recruiting additional outlets this year to support a BBQ-free New Forest.



## Keep your distance

The iconic New Forest ponies need protecting, as they're the architects of the New Forest and shape the way the area looks thanks to commoning – a centuries-old system of land management.

They need a wide berth from motorists and pedestrians too. While they look tame, they

can quickly become aggressive and bite or kick. There's ample grazing in the New Forest so they don't need supplementary food which they can unfortunately choke on. Drivers are reminded to slow down on Forest roads as the livestock roam freely across the National Park.

## Report a problem

If you see a problem in the New Forest which needs reporting - such as an injured animal, fly tipping or breach of planning permission, please go to [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/reportaproblem](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/reportaproblem)



More information at [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/carparks](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/carparks)

habitats in their own right and provide vital grazing for commoners' animals. It's also important not to obstruct gateways or car park entrances. The

National Park is a working Forest; access is needed at all times by people who care for the animals, manage the woodlands and for emergencies.

## Hop on the New Forest Tour

You can enjoy the very best views of the National Park thanks to the return of the popular New Forest Tour.

Local bus operators Morebus and Bluestar – in partnership with the New Forest National Park Authority – have extended the season to help support the local economy and reduce congestion and carbon emissions, therefore protecting the National Park's fragile landscape.

From Saturday 29 May to Sunday 12 September, the open-top bus service will provide a spectacular, panoramic perspective of the area's beautiful countryside and coast.

Passengers can sit back and enjoy an audio commentary about the area's culture and history, as well as

receiving discounts at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, the New Forest Wildlife Park, and local businesses participating in the Go New Forest discount card scheme such as Burley Fudge.

The Tour is one of the ways we're addressing the climate and nature emergencies locally. You can leave your car behind and travel for free on either Hythe Ferry or a connecting bus service and is easily accessible by train. Multi-day tickets are great value, and the flexible hop-on, hop-off aspect across the routes gives lots of freedom of choice.

Tickets can be bought online at [thenewforesttour.info](http://thenewforesttour.info), through the clickit2ride app or from the driver.



# Flagship environment scheme receives further funding boost

England's largest agri-environment scheme has been extended for a further year supporting vital conservation projects and commoning in the New Forest.

The Verderers of the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme protects and enhances the New Forest National Park's internationally-important wildlife and habitats.

Launched in 2010 as a 10-year agreement with Natural England, it is managed by the Verderers in partnership with the New Forest National Park Authority and Forestry England and will have brought £22 million into the Forest.

The scheme helps the New Forest face the nature and climate crisis. Fragile habitats have been conserved and commoning has been supported on a large scale, meaning ponies and cattle can continue to roam the landscape and shape the unique habitats through their grazing.

The HLS scheme has achieved an exceptional amount since 2010:

**Restoring wetlands** – Returned 20 miles of streams which were artificially-straightened in Victorian times to drain the Forest back to their natural water courses. This improves the carbon storage in wetlands, prevents flooding and supports the habitats of rare species such as the southern damselfly and curlew. On-going repairs are taking place.

**Supporting commoning** – Crucial funding and expert advice have been provided to hundreds of commoners to continue the traditional system of land management. It also includes a stallion scheme managing the selection and number of stallions which run on the forest each year. This helps to reduce the number of foals born each year and improves the quality of those foals.

**Protecting archaeology** – The whole 220 square miles of the National Park

has been surveyed, leading to 3,000 archaeological sites being identified and recorded, with an on-going programme to manage them.

**Educating the next generation** – More than 16,500 children have gained a greater understanding of the New Forest through school visits.

**Removing invasive plants** – Rhododendron and other non-native species have been removed or reduced across approximately half of the New Forest, helping native plants flourish.

**Restoring rare heathland, grassland and woodland** – Internationally-protected heath, grassland and woodland areas have been restored.

**Lord Manners, Official Verderer of the New Forest, said:**

'The scheme works to increase the New Forest's resilience in the face of habitat loss and the impacts of climate change. It has been a rare opportunity to conserve fragile habitats and support commoners and the rollover is welcome news as Britain has now left the EU and is working on a new domestic agricultural programme which is scheduled to come into effect in 2024.'



Find out more at [www.hlsnewforest.org.uk](http://www.hlsnewforest.org.uk)

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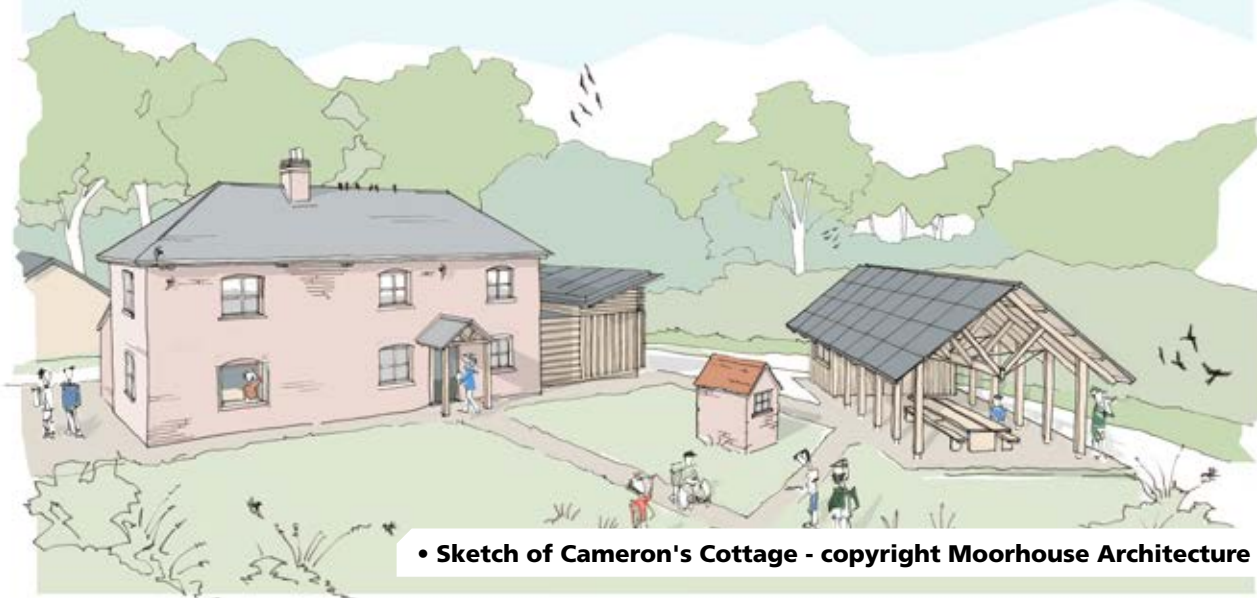
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# New nature centre at secluded New Forest reserve



• Sketch of Cameron's Cottage - copyright Moorhouse Architecture

**A derelict cottage in one of the RSPB's newest reserves is to become a nature centre for young people.**

Located in the secluded Franchises Lodge woodland reserve near Nomansland in the north of the New Forest National Park, the centre will welcome youth groups and charities, schools, colleges and universities later this year.

The site was saved for the nation by the RSPB in 2018 with the help of a £200,000 contribution from the New Forest National Park Authority and £25,000 from Friends of the New Forest.

The restoration of habitats made possible by the purchase of the site will aid nature recovery across the National Park as it provides a bridge between two already internationally-important wildlife areas – Langley Wood National Nature Reserve to the north and the New Forest Special Protection Area to the south. Larger swathes of habitats that are in good condition and well connected are more resilient and adaptable to climate change. They also allow wildlife to move more freely within them. The wood is home to birds including the hawfinch, spotted flycatcher, firecrest and redstart, as well as a range of invertebrates from beetles to butterflies. Botanically, it boasts an internationally important lichen community.

The National Park Authority continues to work with the RSPB on an ambitious 25-year plan to help improve the reserve's value for its wide range of wildlife and to encourage more people to connect with nature.

The new nature outreach centre, which will be completely off-grid with accommodation for residential stays, is named Cameron's Cottage in memory of 16-year-old naturalist Cameron Bepolka.

The project is a partnership between the RSPB and the Cameron Bepolka Trust, which raised £425,000 towards the cost of renovating and running the centre.

The Trust is a charity set up in memory of Cameron Bepolka, a Hampshire teenager who died in an accident in 2013. He was an avid nature lover who ignited his passion for conservation at a similar outdoor retreat in America.

RSPB spokesperson Beth Markey said: 'It has never been more critical to engage young people in nature. Cameron's Cottage is a truly wonderful venture that provides an unparalleled opportunity for young people to completely absorb themselves in nature, free from the noise of everyday life.'

Franchises Lodge is the RSPB's only nature reserve in the New Forest.

## MINDFULNESS IN THE FOREST

Sometimes we don't give ourselves permission to stop or slow down. Why not take some time out and relax in the Forest – or in your own garden – with these mindfulness techniques using different senses:

- Find a place to sit down and listen to the sounds. Can you hear any particular birds?
- Notice what's moving around you and what's still.
- Can you smell the trees? Walk through some pines where the turpines in the needles will help you feel relaxed and calm.

If you are interested in volunteering at Franchises Lodge, helping maintain the site and managing habitats, get in touch by email: [franchiseslodge@rspb.org.uk](mailto:franchiseslodge@rspb.org.uk)

The team also organises some workshops, walks and special events at Franchises Lodge. See the events section of the RSPB website: [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)



• Cameron's Cottage before work began

## PEDALL New Forest Inclusive Cycling



**The PEDALL New Forest Inclusive Cycling charity has extended its service to provide more support for the community. The charity is now offering rides to help people build confidence and reconnect with nature post COVID-19.**

PEDALL, supported by the New Forest National Park Authority, provides opportunities for more people to improve their health and wellbeing by getting outside, becoming active and enjoying time in nature.

The PEDALL team has a wide knowledge of the National Park and its array of fauna and flora, and supports everyone wanting to ride and reconnect with nature using a diverse fleet of specialist cycles with three or four wheels – as well as two-wheeled bikes.

PEDALL cycles are designed to help everyone at every stage of their journey, whether that's regaining confidence to get back on a bike, or as needs change moving from an independent cycle to something more stable or that can accommodate a wheelchair.

The charity is based in Burley, and all rides are on the designated off-road cycle tracks led by qualified and experienced staff and volunteers. Riders can focus on enjoying the surroundings and making new friends

in the peace and tranquillity of the New Forest.

PEDALL is run by the charity Friends of PEDALL and the New Forest National Park Authority, supported by the NHS, the charity SCARF and Colton Care. It's funded by the The National Lottery Community Fund, Sport England and British Cycling.

Rides have previously focused on young people with additional needs. However, with new funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, PEDALL is now able to provide rides for people with dementia, mental, physical, and behavioural challenges and 'confidence rides' to help support people post COVID-19.

Rides can be booked by the general public, and the PEDALL team strongly encourages family rides. These rides are often multi-generational with grandparents joining the family. One of the delights of cycling with the PEDALL specialist cycles is they cater for everyone, whatever their needs.

You can book a one-off ride to build confidence and support your wellbeing, or a set of rides so it becomes part of your regular routine. For more information visit [www.pedall.org.uk](http://www.pedall.org.uk) or you can contact the PEDALL team on [info@pedall.org.uk](mailto:info@pedall.org.uk) or call 01590 646640



# Conserving the character and history of New Forest buildings

**The New Forest's buildings are an important element of the National Park's character, and together with ancient woodlands, heathlands and free-roaming livestock, contribute to what makes the area special.**

Whereas around 2% of properties in the area are Grade I, II\* or II listed by Historic England in recognition of their national significance, there are many more which are now on the New Forest National Park Authority's 'local list'.

These include buildings considered important enough locally for their character and appearance to be preserved.

The Authority recently received funding from Historic England to enhance and expand its local list, which currently includes

among others: Beaulieu Village Primary School; Beaulieu Delicatessen in the High Street; the Royal Oak at Fritham; Brockenhurst Primary School, and the Cloud Hotel in Brockenhurst. Local listing ensures that the architectural or historic

interest of these buildings are protected. It doesn't mean there are any further controls that already apply to a property, but the Authority gives them special consideration when planning applications are submitted.

The Authority receives around 1,000 planning applications every year, of which 85% are approved.



Brockenhurst Primary School



The Royal Oak at Fritham



Palace House, Beaulieu

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

## New Forest style



**What is a typical New Forest building? The answer is there isn't an overall 'New Forest' style, but instead, various areas of the New Forest are defined by different architectural characteristics. The National Park includes commoners' dwellings, estate cottages and cob buildings, as well as larger nationally listed buildings such as Exbury House and Beaulieu Palace.**

In **Brockenhurst**, for example, buildings are mainly brick, and the main traditional roofing material is hand-made clay tiles. Vertical tile hanging on building walls, particularly using decorative patterns, is a prominent feature in the area. Windows and doors are generally made of timber, and hedges are important enclosure features, particularly in the more built up areas.

In the **north east** of the Forest, slate is the main roofing material on 19th and 20th century buildings, while thatch and clay tiles appear earlier (18th century and before). Chimneys are a predominant local feature on the mainly brick buildings, and in places Bridgewater style clay tiles and corrugated iron have been used for roofing and cladding. Some important examples of iron railings

at community buildings remain.

In the **west**, traditional construction materials are cob and timber frame with some examples of higher-status brick. Thatch is the main roofing material – commonly used from the 16th century onwards. In the 18th and 19th centuries, tile roofs were mainly linked to high-status brick buildings, and slate became popular in the mid-19th century.

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# ON THE MARQUE

Celebrating the best of New Forest produce

**The New Forest Marque is the sign of true local produce. Everything you see with the distinctive blue logo has been grown, brewed, reared, produced or made right here in the New Forest.**

There are now 155 businesses which are part of the thriving scheme.

You'll find the stamp of approval on cosy pubs, quaint tea rooms, high-end restaurants

– all offering a selection of menus bursting with locally-sourced ingredients.

Many accommodation providers offer fantastic local eats, drinks and treats. Or why not buy your own from retailers so you can enjoy a taste of the New Forest in your own home?

You'll find beautiful arts and crafts such as textiles, paintings and photography inspired by the New Forest, as well as woodcrafts using local sustainably-sourced timber.

There are also no less than five vineyards in the New Forest, together with beer brewers, cider makers and gin distillers. Many members offer home deliveries and click and collect from the farm gate services.

There's so much to choose from! Pick up a free copy of the New Forest Marque directory, or go online to [www.newforestmarque.co.uk](http://www.newforestmarque.co.uk) to see the fantastic array of produce on offer.

Not only will you be getting

fantastic local goods, but you'll be supporting local businesses and ensuring the New Forest landscape and traditions continue to thrive.

By shopping locally and buying New Forest Marque goods from small-scale producers who are closely linked with the landscape you can help nature and also reduce your carbon footprint. Your support helps ensure the New Forest National Park remains a special place into the future.

Thanks for supporting local!



These new members have recently been awarded the New Forest Marque, so a big, warm welcome to the following businesses. Full details for these and all New Forest Marque members can be found on the New Forest Marque website [www.newforestmarque.co.uk](http://www.newforestmarque.co.uk)

## Peony Cottage Cakes, Lyndhurst

Bespoke celebration cakes made using local eggs, fresh fruit and Alderholt Mill flour.



## Noble Bee, Hythe

Honey from a well-established beekeeper.

## Hoburne Bashley Woods, New Milton

The Woodland Centre at Hoburne Bashley is a very special place that introduces the beauty and magic of the New Forest to visitors of all ages.



## Woodlander Coppice, Brockenhurst

A community woodland teaching service, providing a range of award-winning woodland management and nature awareness teaching in the heart of the New Forest.

## Old Beams Inn, Ibsley

Pub featuring local produce on its new menu.



## Regent House Honey, Southampton

Honey producer with 60 hives across the New Forest. Works in partnership with Watsons of Norleywood Honey.

**The London Tavern, Ringwood**  
Community pub serving home cooked local produce dishes. Staff have been working throughout lockdown to support vulnerable people in their area.



**Shallowmead Farm Shop, Boldre**  
(formerly Roots and Fruits greengrocer in Lymington in partnership with Shallowmead Garden Centre) - Farm shop offering a wide range of local produce and zero waste products.



## Real Food Catering, Barton-on-Sea

Small home-based catering business run by Fiona Hill.



## New Forest Farm Produce, Fritham

Farm shop selling meat from its own farm.

## Shelly Oaks Farm, Ower

Family-run farm producing hogget (lamb in its second spring or summer).

## New for 2021 are these fantastic subscription boxes showcasing local produce from New Forest Marque members.

Each producer is not only based within the New Forest Marque area but their products are created using locally-sourced raw ingredients and materials.

The newly-launched quarterly boxes offer a range of seasonal New Forest Marque produce to allow subscribers to discover delicious, local products and unique hand-crafted treasures. Boxes will contain primarily local food and drink as well as handcrafted non-food items which will vary with the seasons.

By buying the Taste of the New Forest Marque Boxes (whether a one-off purchase or an annual subscription for the four seasonal offerings) you'll be supporting local food, drink and craft business in the New Forest and will be treated to a surprise selection of eight to 10 individually selected products supplied by Marque members and delivered to your door.

Subscription boxes are available to buy from as little as £30 per quarter, exclusively via the Marque website

and offered for delivery across the New Forest Marque area only.

Orders are being taken for the following seasons:

Autumn – (Delivery August 2021)  
Winter – (Delivery November 2021)  
Spring – (Delivery February 2022)  
Summer – (Delivery May 2022)

For full details and to subscribe visit [www.newforestmarque.co.uk/shop](http://www.newforestmarque.co.uk/shop)





# Connecting young people to nature

Park Life Spring/Summer 2021 12

• Wootton by Nick Mott

**Three new jobs have been created to help young people connect to nature in the New Forest.**

The New Forest National Park Authority has appointed two Apprentice Rangers and a Wild Spaces Youth Officer thanks to the Generation Green project – which supports not-for-profit outdoor education providers.

The project, funded by a £2.5million grant from the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund, will create hundreds of jobs across the UK, as well as training and volunteering opportunities, residentials and outdoor learning experiences. Taking part are a 15-strong Access Unlimited coalition of outdoor education providers led by the Youth Hostels Association (YHA).

The opportunities created by YHA, The Outward Bound Trust, Scouts, Girlguiding, Field Studies Council and the 10 English National Parks through the Generation Green project, will enable more than 100,000 young people in the UK to be connected to nature.

With the award, the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) has appointed two Apprentice Rangers – Jordan Jones



**Jordan Jones,**  
NFNPA Apprentice Ranger

and Ben Attwell – who will spend time with six ranger teams across the New Forest including NFNPA, Forestry England, National Trust, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and the RSPB.

Through a placement with each partner organisation, they will gain experience in a variety of ranger work, from public engagement and event delivery to site maintenance and practical habitat management. Apprentices also work towards the Countryside Worker Standard via Kingston Maurward College in Dorchester. These new apprenticeships build on a Lottery-funded scheme which has already seen six New Forest apprentice rangers graduate.



**Ben Attwell,**  
NFNPA Apprentice Ranger

Jordan, 23, said: 'The New Forest is a complex place and each day I find out more about the special qualities of area. There's a lot to tell people, and I have a lot to learn myself, but really want to get involved where I can, and work as part of a Team New Forest.'

Ben, 21, said: 'I've already been on patrol with other rangers, picking litter and learning about rare ground-nesting birds. The New Forest's landscapes are far more important than I first thought. I'm looking forward to helping to protect this amazing place.'

The grant has also funded a Wild Spaces Youth Officer to enable and inspire young people in local communities to connect to nature through public nature



**Claire Pearce,**  
Wild Spaces Youth Officer

and play sites both inside and outside the New Forest National Park.

In the role is Claire Pearce who was previously employed by the NPA as a Wild Play Project Officer, during which time she successfully set up four natural community play spaces in the New Forest area. Now she'll be helping people in the 14-24 age group get out into nature.

She said: 'I'm looking forward to working with teenagers and young adults. After the past few months of Covid restrictions, it's the perfect opportunity to help people who wouldn't normally engage with the Forest to enjoy all the benefits the National Park brings.'

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