

AM 632/22

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 20 OCTOBER 2022

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Report by: Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

Summary:

This report covers the period since the Authority meeting on 14 July 2022. The report has been formatted to accord with the 'Protect, Enjoy, Prosper and Achieving Excellence' themes from the Business Plan, summarised below:

Protect	Enjoy	Prosper
<p>Our priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and growing the natural capital across the National park Landscape, connecting with surrounding areas to ensure habitats and wildlife are sustainable. • Ensuring new development is sympathetic and in keeping with the National Park, promoting high quality design and environmental net gain. • Conserving the historic and built heritage; supporting local culture with continued focus on commoning. 	<p>Our priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping more people to understand and value the things that make the New Forest National Park unique and special. • Enabling high quality and beneficial experiences of the National Park. • Facilitating a partnership approach to managing recreation to achieve a net gain for both the working and natural landscape as well as for the recreational experience. 	<p>Our priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting a distinctive and prosperous local economy where natural capital is an integral component of doing business. • Promoting connectivity across the National Park through sustainable transport and • communication technologies. • Supporting the social wellbeing and sustainability of New Forest Communities.

Achieving Excellence

- Maintaining and enhancing a capable, motivated team that delivers high quality service.
- Championing the National Park and brokering partnership to achieve collaboration for the benefit of the New Forest and its communities
- Identifying new resources and using them alongside our existing resources, effectively and efficiently.

Recommendation:
To note the report

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Equality & Diversity

The Equality Act 2010 provides protection from discrimination in respect of certain protected characteristics and places us under a duty to have due regard to the advancement of equality in the exercise of our functions. We aim to eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity throughout all aspects of our work. More details regarding our projects and initiatives, such as PEDALL, are set out in the relevant reports and Equality Impact Assessments.

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Re:New Forest – the Partnership Plan for the National Park – was launched during this reporting period at the New Forest Show. The five-year Plan is for the whole National Park landscape and for all with a role in caring for the Forest. Its launch represents a major milestone for the nine statutory partners that have steered its development together.

The [Re:New Forest](#) approach sets out a vision of a New Forest in 2027 moving towards net zero, with wildlife habitats restored, thriving local communities, and more people caring for the Forest and benefiting from connecting with nature. Centered around the five themes of **climate, nature, people, place and partnership**, the ambitious plan has been shaped thanks to input from hundreds of individuals and organisations during the development phase which began with a canvassing of views at the last New Forest Show in 2019. It was fantastic to be joined by so many partners at the launch and throughout the three days of the Show, many of them coming together again for the first time in three years due to the pandemic. Commitment and passion for working together for the Forest was palpable throughout and it felt like a true celebration of the New Forest and its communities. Our climate change focused stand featuring Forest green groups, the annual awards with the CLA and the presence of PEDALL and New Forest Marque all showed how we are collaborating and galvanizing action across Forest organisations and communities. It was definitely one of the most important and special Shows I have had the privilege to attend.

Resourcing the strategy remains a major challenge. We are currently compiling with partners a portfolio of projects to deliver Re:New Forest which can then be combined into different funding applications. Meanwhile a year-long project to investigate how to drive private investment into nature restoration in the New Forest has just been completed. The Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) awarded us £100,000 to work with green finance company Palladium and three landowners to develop a model of assessing nature restoration opportunities, giving them an economic value and accessing private finance. The learnings were shared with around 50 landowners and managers at a workshop in September and there is great interest from across the Forest to engage with these emerging investment opportunities.

As well as furthering our work on the climate and nature, protecting the built environment and heritage assets has been a key focus. Over the summer building design and conservation officers have been advising several New Forest estates about managing their heritage assets. Work on revising and updating the Authority's 'local list' of buildings and features that aren't appropriate for national listing but that are locally important is progressing well, with the first tranche of assets approved by the Planning Committee following nominations by local groups, town and parish councils and communities.

The archaeology team dealt with two reports of damaged ancient monuments – one where a BMX jump course had been created on an Iron Age hill fort with deep excavated pits and jumps made from the spoil, a fire pit, steps and a slide. Advice was given to the landowner and contact with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England, to help progress the repairs to the monument. The other was a report of erosion damage to a barrow, a Bronze Age burial mound, by continued use by the landowner which was also reported to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

Meanwhile our enforcement team has taken formal action relating to two domestic outbuildings and a campsite which was operating in breach of a condition. Compliance has been achieved at a former nursery which was being used for residential purposes.

Four of the five major housing site schemes set out in our Local Plan have now been considered by the Planning Committee – the redevelopment of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel site; Church Lane, at Sway; Whartons Lane, Ashurst; and the National Park-element of the redevelopment of the former Fawley Power Station. There are resolutions in place to grant permission on these allocated sites and they will deliver around 120 new affordable dwellings in the National Park, making a significant contribution towards meeting the demand for affordable housing in the New Forest.

Community involvement in working with the NPA to care for the National Park is growing further, with over 900 ambassadors registered, over 200 of whom are young people. Events with ambassadors have included a litter picking walk at Calshot Beach and canoe litter picking on the Beaulieu River with the Freshwater Habitats Trust as part of the partnership Horizons scheme.

In terms of more formal volunteering opportunities, the autumn/winter programme is in full swing. Successes already this year have included a huge volunteer effort which has successfully removed all the invasive Himalayan balsam plant from the golf club site at Hamptworth. Volunteers have also been involved in clearing paths at six sites and wildlife conservation days.

A volunteer celebration walk and picnic was held in August to thank volunteers and was well-attended. We are now planning the Volunteer Fair to drive more volunteers to a wide range of organisations. Next year's fair will be on 29 January at Brockenhurst Village Hall, having outgrown its previous location which hosted over 50 organisations.

Our Ranger Team connected with 4,724 people over the summer out on the Forest, in campsites and at a wide range of events sharing messages on caring for the Forest and specific campaigns such as BBQ Free New Forest with an appearance on The One Show. As we go into the Autumn, the team is helping manage the public during the drifts, deer rut and working with police and Forest organisations on reducing animal accidents through 'Operation Mountie'.

It is a time of uncertainty for individuals, businesses and communities in the Forest and the full staff team received a presentation from Citizens Advice on the New Forest 'Cost of Living Campaign' which is partly funded by Hampshire County Council so that we are equipped to signpost people to local support. We have also sponsored the sustainability category for the Brilliance in Business awards once more, helping to promote local businesses at this critical time. Our support of New Forest Marque remains very important for our local producers and we continue to work with Forest organisations to deliver grants through the Farming in Protected Landscapes Scheme.

It is clear at this time National Parks must focus efforts on our duty to foster social and economic wellbeing, as we discharge our two purposes. It was therefore very timely that the National Parks UK Conference exploring 'What does the nation need from National Parks today?' was held in Exmoor at the end of September. This was attended by two of our members, alongside representatives from across the 15 National Parks, enabling a sharing of practice and renewed commitment to ensure our National Parks continue to respond to the big issues of our time. Our Re:New Forest plan is very much aligned and leading the way with many of the themes that were covered at the conference.

Partnership and engagement with communities and businesses remains vital and it is therefore great to be looking forward to our tenth Cycling and Walking Festival, curated with a wide range of partners over the October half term. This will engage people through over 80 guided events with what is special about the Forest and how to care for it and provide many opportunities for wellbeing through connection with nature.

DELIVERY OF NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

The report has been formatted to accord with the 'Protect, Enjoy, Prosper' objectives from the Business Plan, a summary of which is set out on the first page. In addition, a fourth section, 'Achieving Excellence', summarises those activities that support and contribute overall to all our work, and the final section lists Members' activities and events.

1 Protect

Protecting and growing the natural capital across the National Park landscape, connecting with surrounding areas to ensure habitats and wildlife are sustainable.

Farming in protected landscapes

A further two applications were considered at the Local Assessment Panel meeting in August with one fully approved and the other receiving support for elements of the proposal. A further two applications for under £5,000 were approved during August. The programme is on course to spend the 22/23 allocation and there remains a number of projects in the pipeline. The national programme is being evaluated by Defra and a number of applicants from the New Forest have been invited to offer their views on the programme.

Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF)

Our work to design and test a possible model for restoring nature using private investment, delivered in partnership with Palladium and supported by the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund finished at the end of September. The year-long project tested opportunities for landowners to generate new revenue streams from three different ecosystem service markets: Biodiversity Net Gain, Woodland Carbon Code and Nitrate Neutrality. The project culminated with a workshop in September, attended by 50 landowners and agencies that presented the project findings and sought the views of land managers on how to continue to work in this developing area. The NEIRF project has enabled the NFNPA to develop our knowledge of this rapidly developing field and has highlighted the value of our relationship with National Parks Partnership and Palladium. We will continue to develop our work with local partners to help ensure landowners and managers in the National Park can receive appropriate information and guidance.

National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative funding (LEI)

The LEI funding continues to fund landscape enhancement at Landford Bog and Franchises Lodge, with projects at both locations proceeding well. A decision from National Grid of funding for footpath improvements in Marchwood, Tatchbury and Cadland is still awaited.

1.1 Ensuring new development is sympathetic and in keeping with the National Park, promoting high quality design and environmental net gain.

Development Management

Planning application numbers have remained steady - we received 133 applications in the period 1 April to 22 June and in the same period determined 138 applications with an approval rate of 91%.

During this same period, three appeal decisions were received; two were dismissed and one was allowed.

The application for the site allocation at Church Lane in Sway was considered by Members at the August planning committee and was approved subject to the prior completion of a legal agreement. We completed the legal agreement for the former Lyndhurst Park Hotel and issued the planning permission; works are likely to commence just as soon as we can discharge the pre-commencement conditions.

More recently the team has been focused on the move to the new planning system. There has been some unavoidable disruption to the planning service – we were unable to register any new applications or issue any decisions from 26 September – 12 October.

We held a well-attended Members Planning Tour on 13 September when we visited several completed developments in Brockenhurst and Sway.

Ann Braid will be leaving the team in October to move to a new role on the Isle of Wight. We are grateful for her contribution to the team over the last ten years.

Trees

Since the last report tree work applications have also remained steady with 168 new tree work applications registered to carry out works to protected trees. In the same period 157 decisions have been issued, 100% of which have been determined within eight weeks.

During the same period, 47 consultations have been provided on planning applications and continued involvement with several major development sites.

Investigation continues into any unauthorised works to protected trees and the removal of two hedgerows in Sway.

Planning Enforcement

Over the last quarter, the enforcement team has been working through its caseload in preparation for the move over into the new planning system. It has been an opportunity to carry out a minor review of procedures which will be ongoing as we become familiar with the new software. As well as investigating typical planning breaches the team is also

undertaking some small-scale projects with a view to making the enforcement service more efficient and effective over the next 12 months. The projects are focusing on issues which consistently come up in enforcement investigations to ensure that we have the necessary resources to tackle them consistently and without unnecessary delay. Katherine Pullen has also been using her experience and expertise to assist the Tree team with gathering evidence about a possible hedgerow offence and lead on reviewing the Authority's procedures in light of this work.

Formal action has been taken in respect of two domestic outbuildings and a campsite which was operating in breach of a condition. Compliance has been achieved in respect of a former nursery which was being used for residential purposes.

Policy

A report on the review of the adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan was considered at the Authority's Planning Committee in October. This follows the earlier report endorsed by members at the July full Authority meeting, which set out the timetable for the review of the Plan (through an updated Local Development Scheme). The Plan provides the minerals and waste planning policy framework for the whole of the New Forest National Park (including the area in south Wiltshire) and we are working in partnership with the other minerals and waste planning authorities in Hampshire on the review.

Measures to mitigate the impacts of planned development on the internationally designated sites of the New Forest, River Avon and Solent continues to be a focus for our work. Legal agreements are now in place between the National Park Authority and a number of neighbouring local planning authorities to enable nutrient impacts on the Solent from development in the National Park to be off-set. Work is also underway to address similar nutrient impacts (phosphorus) on the River Avon. In terms of addressing recreational impacts on the New Forest's designations, the Authority's adopted mitigation scheme (2020) continues to operate and we are also looking to commission further joint work with neighbouring planning authorities to inform a more strategic, cross-boundary approach to mitigating planned development.

Consultation responses have been submitted to Network Rail's consultation on the Waterside rail line proposals and the Hampshire County Council's Local Transport Plan.

The Policy team continues to support local communities in producing neighbourhood plans. Ringwood Town Council is currently liaising with both the National Park Authority and New Forest District Council on their emerging neighbourhood plan. This will cover the whole of Ringwood Parish and seeks to enhance habitat and species connectivity between the Avon Valley and the New Forest.

1.2 Conserving the historic and built heritage; supporting local culture with continued focus on commoning.

Archaeology

During this reporting period the Archaeology Team has consulted on 11 planning applications and 14 from New Forest District Council and given comments and recommendations on several other ongoing cases. Forestry England's Service Level Agreement work and the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) work has continued.

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

Wetland /Stream Restoration

There has been one enquiry during this period, at Pondhead where minor maintenance was carried out on a previously restored section of watercourse. A site visit was undertaken and final guidance issued in advance.

Ridge and Furrow Removal

Ridge and furrow removal has been undertaken at at Dunces Arch outside Lyndhurst. This was a site that had previously been investigated and checked for unexploded ordnance, after being discovered during a pre-works geophysical survey.

Lidar data to Archaeology Data Service (ADS):

As reported last, all parties are happy with the data being made publicly available via ADS. The final paperwork has now been signed and data made public:

ADS Collection: 3530. The Verderers of the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme

https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/newforestlidar_ne_2020/index.cfm

Forestry England's Service Level Agreement

We continue to provide archaeological advice, data packs and site mark ups across FE's entire Southern District.

During this period requests have been received for four sites, for which provisional mitigation advice has been issued on two (the others are newly arrived and are currently being processed). Site visits have been made to five sites (four of which had been issued with provisional guidance in the last term), and data packs with final guidance has been issued for four (the fifth is in progress). As we move into autumn and then winter the tempo of operations will increase and site visits are currently being arranged for some of the 11 sites that we are waiting for FE to take forward.

We have also supported FE with advice regarding the production of Historic Environment Assessment (HEAs) for 27 sites as part of their Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS). This funding is being used to find ways to unlock barriers to carrying out peatland restoration across the Dorset heaths and mires.

Damage to Scheduled Monuments

Two reports of damage to Scheduled Monuments, on private land, have been received. At Tatchbury Mount, an Iron Age hill fort, a BMX jump course had been created on the earthen banks, NW side of the monument. This had resulted in some deep excavated pits with the spoil forming jumps, a fire pit, with steps and a slide created on the face of the inner bank. A site meeting was held with the landowner and advice given. The owner was also put in touch with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England, to help progress the repairs to the monument. The other was a report of erosion damage to a barrow, a Bronze Age burial mound, by continued use by the landowner. This was reported to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments who will be contacting the owner, again, regarding the care of this Ancient Monument.

Data consolidation

Over the years the Authority, via various projects and work, has recorded and created a large amount of heritage data. However, this data is stored in separate project files, in a range of formats and in semi and completed data sets. Since the start of 2021 we have been finding and reviewing all these various data sets with the aim of consolidating them into one New Forest heritage data set that can work alongside the Hampshire and Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) data we also retain. Work is ongoing to review and assess these various data sets and we hope to be able to start developing a consolidation plan soon.

Research Frameworks and Strategies

In 2017 three Themed Research Frameworks were published via the New Forest Knowledge website: <https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/new-forest-national-park-archaeological-research-framework> but more were planned to follow. We have now started to review the documents, report and other media produced from the earlier work with the aim of progressing, to publication, the remaining (started but not finished) New Forest National Park Archaeological Research Frameworks for other periods/themes.

Festival of Archaeology 2022

For this year's Festival Archaeology (16 July to 1 Aug), we ran a guided walk at Setley Prisoner of War Camp. This was sold out and attended by almost 20 participants with a waiting list for others. As this walk was extremely popular, we have agreed to put it on

again as part of the Walking Festival later this year. Sadly, due to staff illness, the second walk at Matley organised together with Forestry England had to be cancelled.

Archaeology - Working with Community Groups

Portable Antiquity Scheme 2020: Wessex Archaeology is very kindly providing post-excavation support. Following an excavation in late October 2021, working with the Portable Antiquity Scheme and The New Forest History and Archaeology Group, soil samples were collected from the excavated feature with the hope of being able to have them analysed. The Environmental Team, at Wessex Archaeology, has been processing these soils samples with a report due imminently.

LoCATE: We are continuing with the LoCATE (Local Community Archaeological Training and Equipment) scheme, working with archaeological societies and community groups from across Hampshire and Dorset. Avon Valley Archaeological Society make regular use of the magnetometry equipment and are continuing to locate Neolithic Long Barrows and carry out valuable research. A new magnetometer has been added to the collection of LoCATE equipment. It is currently being tested by AVAS and will be stored at the office.

WWI Hospital: We continue to support a small local group with their research into the history of Lady Hardinge Hospital for Wounded Indian Soldiers in Brockenhurst and a proposed geophysical survey project of the site some time in 2022, subject to permissions.

Romani Community Archaeology: We are providing archaeological advice to Forestry England regarding the Romani Community Archaeology Project, which is an archaeological fieldwork charity hoping to launch in Spring/Summer 2023 and currently going through the FE permissions process. The charity's aims are 'educating, encouraging and engaging through the investigation of historic Romani sites by today's Romani people.'

Graveyard Survey: Meetings have now been held with two of the groups that took part in the Our Past Our Future (OPOF) Graveyard Survey project. This project stopped at the end of the OPOF lottery scheme; it was hoped it could continue and conclude but COVID prevented this. The two groups would like to finish off their surveys and make their findings publicly available. An action plan has been drafted and we hope to be able to support these groups to conclude and publish their findings.

New Forest Knowledge website: Several meetings have now been held with Angus Harley, the new New Forest Heritage Centre Manager, to discuss the New Forest Knowledge website. The website continues to be extremely popular. The view stats from July to date are over 31,000 views. The new team at the Centre has had challenges in getting to know the NFK website. With a new team comes reflections on what has been done and new ideas for the future of the site. Both the Archaeology Team and the NFHC

are keen to work together to secure the future of the site as well as develop it. December 2022 sees the end of the legacy funding from OPOF and discussions are focused around how the site is funded, maintained and developed going forward.

Building Design and Conservation

Building Design and Conservation officers continue to deal with a significant caseload, ranging from applications relating to the adopted Local Plan site allocations, to proposals affecting individual properties and assets. Over recent month officers have been advising several New Forest estates on the management of the built environment assets.

Work on revising and updating the Authority's 'local list' continues to progress well. All local planning authorities are encouraged to have up-to-date information available on the assets in their areas that are locally important. Officers have been working with local groups, town and parish councils and communities to update the local list for the New Forest National Park and a range of position nominations have been received. Further information is available at [Local List of Heritage Assets - New Forest National Park Authority \(newforestnpa.gov.uk\)](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)

In July and in early October officers met with Copythorne Parish Council and Netley Marsh Parish Council to discuss the scope of the update of the Forest North East Conservation Area Character Appraisal. The two parish councils have positively engaged with officers on this review, which will be a useful exercise for future planned Conservation Area Character Appraisal reviews.

2 Enjoy

2.1 Helping more people to understand and value the things that make the New Forest National Park unique and special.

Education and Youth

We've had a great summer, working with a variety of audiences. Across this quarter, we have worked with six schools (366 students), mainly teaching about the special qualities of the New Forest as well as a local school learning about plastic pollution. Our feedback from Freegrounds School highlights just how important these school trips are to their students: 'Our vote for whether the New Forest is important was 100% "yes it is". They all could state at least five different ways it was important to different groups of users (inc. wildlife) and not just locally, but in the UK and around the World'.

The hands-on interactive bird beak activity was a huge success at the New Forest Show and has been used more recently at the Holiday Activity and Food programme sessions that took place in the summer holidays. These sessions were in partnership with St Barbe Museum and were aimed at supporting children who receive benefit related free school meals, as often, school holidays can be a pressure point for families. Here is a quote that

sums up how effective and enjoyable the activity was: 'we loved finding out about the rare birds, we loved using the sock birds, it was very effective, and the staff were lovely'.

This autumn, we have been attending some careers fairs at local schools on the edge of the National Park, aimed at Year 10 and Year 11 students (15-16 year olds) who are looking into work experience or future education prospects. It has been great to be invited to these events especially as our stand has a different offer to the other representatives. Many of the representatives were colleges, apprenticeships and services. As green careers are integral to protecting our fragile landscape, we helped students see how their interests could help conserve and protect the environment too.

Claire Pearce has been redeployed into the new role of Youth Development Officer, pursuing our aims within the youth ambition document whilst delivering funded projects. During the summer, her role has been supported by the National Parks Partnership with Forest Holidays, and now continues as an extension of the Green and Blue Horizons project. Claire will be supporting colleagues to deliver youth focused volunteering opportunities and nature connection sessions, while maintaining contact with groups we have already engaged and scoping new areas of work including the Youth Portal (survey launched September 2022) and early green careers networking opportunities.

Lastly, with the price increases of coaches, the Travel Grant Scheme is invaluable to groups. So far, 33 groups have claimed the Travel Grant Scheme (£4,800) and £3,000 of this has been paid out. Enabling children to experience the outdoors is so important and some schools have had to be creative in their approach to enable the school trip to happen, such as hiring minibuses from local schools.

Public and community events / rangers

Rangers engaged with 4,724 people through this period.

Ben Attwell finished his Countryside Worker apprenticeship and stayed with the ranger team to fulfil seasonal ranger duties assisting with Camping in the Forest activity sessions until 30 September when we said goodbye to him. It has been wonderful to watch Ben grow in knowledge and skills over the past 18 months and especially in confidence both personally and professionally. We wish him well furthering his conservation career.

We have been pleased to welcome Jim Day as our new People and Wildlife Ranger, working to deliver part of the NFDC Green Way habitat mitigation scheme. Jim joins us with a wealth of skills and knowledge after working 20 years for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust at Blashford Lakes.

Camping in the Forest sessions were run four nights a week during the summer holidays including additional dusk walks two days a week. In total the seasonal and apprentice rangers engaged with 1,162 people.

This period saw many engagement sessions with varying groups and locations promoting the New Forest Code and taking the mobile unit out to pop up events both on and off the Crown lands. It included four 'Fun in the Forest sessions', 'Ringwood RACE Bug Hunt', Greenhill/Sandy Balls, a SCARF session at Lepe focusing on the coastline wildlife, and an internship youth group at Countryside Education Trust focusing on commoning and climate change. Other events were New Milton Bee Fayre, Hoburne Bashley Woodland Fayre with New Forest Marque producers, New Forest Marathon and Burley Village Show, gratefully assisted by member Stephen Tarling.

Rangers continued literature distribution to local businesses to meet high demand due to a busy summer, especially distributing cycle maps.

The long, dry and extremely hot summer significantly increased the fire risk rating and NPA rangers assisted Forestry England with fire patrols and promoting the BBQ and fires ban across the National Park. Team members were interviewed for radio as well as appearing on BBC Countryfile to promote the ban.

Joint cycle patrols were undertaken with New Forest Heart Cops talking about the increasing bike theft rate, antisocial behaviour and promoting the New Forest code. Other joint working sessions were run in partnership with NPA, FE, CDA, NFD OG and local police to promote responsible dog walking.

Rangers now represent the NPA on Operation Mountie, supporting and working with the police and community speed watch to promote awareness of free roaming livestock crossing roads and reducing animal accidents.

The team has been pleased to strengthen relationships with Beaulieu Estate and assist them with their responsible forest use messaging and conservation awareness including a successful joint engagement day at Buckler's Hard with the mobile info unit.

Rangers have given talks to New Forest Hotel Collection staff helping spread our key messages to guests and a talk about our work to Sway WI.

The team continues to support volunteering on path clearance tasks and supporting and leading education visits from schools.

September and October continue to be busy for the team, supporting the agisters and commoners with public safety at the drifts and supporting FE in deer patrols. It has become increasingly necessary to help reduce disturbance during the rut from irresponsible photographers and promote the New Forest Code to forest users.

Communications

This reporting period saw the launch of Re:New Forest – the Partnership Plan for the National Park. We produced a full strategy document and a summary version to connect with further partners and potential investors. Re:New Forest was officially launched at the New Forest Show with a reception and cake cutting with Dr Julian Lewis MP and invited guests. We have created cross-team staff groups within the NPA to drive forward each of the five themes of climate, nature, people, place and partnership.

Re:New Forest formed part of our New Forest Show stand display, visited by over 2,000 people. The stand focused on the climate and nature emergency with displays and activities about the impacts of climate change on the National Park, what the main causes are and what we can all do to reach net zero by 2050. Over 800 people have now signed up to the New Forest Nature and Climate Emergency pledge to take small steps towards more sustainable living, many of whom made pledges at the Show. Community green groups from around the New Forest had displays on the stand to demonstrate what they are doing in their communities and how people can put their pledges into action with steps such as composting, growing your own and wildlife friendly gardening.

The New Forest National Park Awards with the CLA were presented at the New Forest Show with a reception for the winners, those shortlisted and invited guests. This year's awards had the most nominations ever at 130 across the five categories.

The winners were:

- Young Farmer/Commoner: Katie Ferrett from Romsey
- Best Supporter of Local Produce: Setley Ridge Farm Shop, Brockenhurst
- Rural Diversification: Tatchbury Manor Farm, Winsor
- Sustainability Champion: Countryside Education Trust, Beaulieu
- Young Environmental Champion: Arun Curson from Bransgore.

The Brilliance in Business Awards were launched with New Forest Business Partnership and the NPA sponsors the award for Sustainable Business of the Year. Judging will take place on 19 October with the awards ceremony being held on 1 December at Brockenhurst College.

The Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund project has now come to an end, investigating how to drive private investment into nature recovery projects. A finale event attended by around 50 landowners and managers was held in Brockenhurst Village Hall to share the project's findings. As well as issuing a press release about Columbian experts Terrasos visiting the landowners involved in the project, we have worked on a film, press release, e-book and web page to capture the learnings to share with other landowners and managers.

Alison was featured in a Campaign for National Parks blog about nature recovery: [Putting National Parks at the heart of nature recovery | Campaign for National Parks \(cnp.org.uk\)](https://www.cnp.org.uk/blog/putting-national-parks-at-the-heart-of-nature-recovery)

The Environment Agency held a series of exhibitions about the Hurst Spit to Lymington coastal strategy, which we helped to promote. The exhibition and open events sought initial views on a shortlist of options for future management of the coastal area. EA then aims to consult formally next spring/summer. The exhibition panels and further information can be found here: [Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy \(hurstspit2lymington.co.uk\)](http://hurstspit2lymington.co.uk)

We helped the education and youth team with a survey about their plans to make it easier for young people across the New Forest to find out about green opportunities - volunteering, apprenticeships, internships or clubs.

We have worked with the Green Groups Network to highlight a range of eco events around the New Forest including Great Big Green Week events in Sway and Ringwood and to fund some of the groups' initiatives through the Sustainable Communities Fund, as well as teaming up with them at the New Forest Show.

Bookings for the Walking and Cycling Festival launched at the end of September. Celebrating its 10th year, the Festival has 80 walks and cycles with expert guides available to book and some sold out in the first week. The Festival is from 15 October to 6 November. For details and to book visit: <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/things-to-do/whats-on/new-forest-walking-festival-2/>

Our annual review 2021/22 is now available in printed form and to view online: <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/app/uploads/2022/07/Annual-Review-2022-WEB.pdf>

The autumn/winter issue of our residents' newspaper Park life is about to be printed, featuring articles about the Partnership Plan, Horizons scheme update, animal accidents campaign, RSPB Franchises Lodge projects and the Walking and Cycling Festival highlights.

The first batch of built heritage features approved to go on the Local List were promoted and picked up by local media and widespread engagement on social media. We also promoted the Indian soldiers' graves at Brockenhurst during South Asian heritage month.

We have issued an internal communications survey to staff to inform an internal communications plan and further improve collaborations across teams and work on the Partnership Plan.

The joint New Forest Code campaigns involve patrols, signage and communications and specific targeted interventions. This spring/summer season on social media alone our campaigns saw 894,000 impressions with nearly 80,000 engagements. Key partner campaigns included highlighting the fire risk and BBQ ban during the heatwave.

We are working with partners to calculate the impact of this year's joint campaign to protect rare ground nesting birds. Our social posts recorded over 84,000 impressions and 4,000 engagements, with articles in the annual review, Park life, Pocket Guide, Essential

Guide and local press. Learning about ground-nesting birds was also a feature of the New Forest Show stand visited by over 2,000 people.

Partner organisations are planning the launch of the annual animal accident reduction campaign when the clocks go back. Data shows that it is mainly local commuters who cause the accidents and we are working with local businesses to raise awareness with their staff. Operation Mountie joint patrols with the Police, New Forest Roads Awareness and Forestry England are continuing, speaking to drivers and issuing tickets. Mobile speed cameras and changing signs will also be deployed again.

Fundraising

Our application for £7,000-£10,000 from the Seed Corn fund administered by Natural England was successful. The funding is for small projects within the Thames Solent that further the Nature Recovery Network by increasing, improving, and joining up a network of wildlife-rich places. Our application, submitted by Alison Levy (Nature Recovery Officer), will test the efficacy of 'Mycoremediation' using locally-found mushroom species to decontaminate the water environment. The study will develop a proof of concept and tested methodology and provide a store of lab and genetic analysis to develop the concept further.

As part of the partnership Green and Blue Horizons from City to Forest scheme, funded by Defra's Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF), we have appointed an external consultancy, CFP, to help us assess and evaluate the impact of the project. CFP specialises in green spaces and heritage consultancy and has evaluated several GRCF projects around the country. Our evaluation will focus on understanding the project's impact against the fund's three themes and two economic benefits. This will include data collection and analysis and the development of a final written report for the NPA and our partner organisations. The report will also be shared with the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the terms and conditions of funding and will help us to gather evidence for future funding bids.

Culture in Common has now launched across the New Forest enabling communities to connect through arts, culture, and heritage. The project is one of 39 projects funded by Arts Council England across the country designed to transform access to arts and culture in places where engagement is below the national average. The £1m investment for the New Forest is guided by a consortium of organisations - Energise Me (lead), Folio, The Handy Trust, New Forest District Council, and New Forest National Park Authority - blending arts, community engagement, environment, heritage, physical activity, and health expertise. The funding supports the first three years of a 10-year vision to develop a thriving community-driven arts scene which has co-creation at its heart, enabling communities to plan, commission and create their own creative activities and events. The first phase of the project is focused on understanding what matters to local people through street surveys, community meetups, supporting local events and setting up taster sessions.

1.1 Enabling high quality and beneficial experiences of the National Park

Interpretation and inclusive projects

The National Park Artist in residence programme has continued and there is a month-long exhibition taking place in October at SpudWORKS in Sway entitled 'We Belong Here' by the artist Marie Smith. In addition, there was an opening party on 8 October and a Photo walk on 15 October (as part of the Walking and Cycling Festival). Our second artist Beccy McCray started her residency at the beginning of October. We are currently discussing a third artist for 2023 while we seek longer term funding and partners for the programme including a possible application to Arts Council England.

The New Forest Show theme of how people could help meet the climate challenge was a great success with the displays and activities being well received by visitors and our partner organisations.

As part of our inclusive national park programme, and in collaboration with Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group ([SWVG](#)) and Southampton National Park City ([SNPC](#)), we organised 'Welcome to the New Forest National Park' days out for 34 people over two days. The groups travelled to and around the area completely car-free, complete with a guided walk and talk by the ranger team, to help them see and understand how we can all responsibly enjoy the area, and how to access it without a car. We are discussing with SNPC how we can develop a longer term partnership between the National Park City movement and the New Forest National Park.

Volunteering and Ambassadors

We held a volunteer celebration walk and picnic on 31 August to thank volunteers which was well attended.

Path clearance days took place at Frogham, Tatchbury Mount Hospital, Hale and Woodgreen, Lymington and Ashlett Creek, involving 56 volunteers and 182 hours in this period. Wildlife conservation days took place at Walhampton and Hamptworth.

There has been a big increase in volunteer hours at Hamptworth (Golf Club) and this year they achieved complete removal of the invasive Himalayan balsam plant from the site.

We have 933 ambassadors registered including 233 youth ambassadors. We organised litter picking walk at Calshot Beach and canoe litter picking on the Beaulieu River with Thea Margetts of the Freshwater Habitats Trust as part of the partnership Horizons scheme.

Richard Austin, our volunteer coordinator, has left the Authority for a new job after over six years in post. We are covering a busy programme of volunteer tasks over the winter with the wider engagement team while we review our delivery and source additional funding to support this work.

Health and Wellbeing

In Q1, the NPA-supported Walks for Wellbeing programme recorded 1,611 walking hours, and 575 volunteer hours with an economic value of £7,003. The following walker case study has been provided by Community First who co-ordinate the walk programme (May 2022):

'Mrs Z had cancer seven years ago, receiving both radiotherapy and chemotherapy. She is clear of cancer. After feeling very unfit as a result of lack of exercise and people to walk with during the pandemic, she sought out activities. Healthy Walks are ideal for her, providing a relatively safe environment. The pace is proving quite a challenge for her. Quite near to the end of the walk she had to rest on a bench but the Walk Leader could see her the whole time the rest of the group continued and once they were all delivered safely to the end of the walk the leader went back to meet her and they walked back together. She is a very determined lady and believes that her persistence with walking will result in an improvement in her fitness to levels she previously maintained. The walks are friendly and welcoming and this has helped to alleviate the feelings of isolation she has felt since moving.'

Our Health Education Education Fellowship trainee James Alden has started work on an evaluation of health benefits of the National Park based on local and national data, which will assist with our natural capital work and identification of future investment opportunities in greenspace and nature, and potential health benefits.

PEDALL

Donna Neseyif, PEDALL Project Manager, retired after five years helping PEDALL develop and thrive. Donna has been instrumental in growing PEDALL and staff, volunteers and Friends of PEDALL trustees thanked her at a goodbye ride in the Forest from the base at Burley. We are currently recruiting for this role, with interviews scheduled for November.

We have applied to the South Western Railway Customer and Communities Improvement Fund for additional staff and match funding for PEDALL in 2023-24.

From July -September we have had 1,610 riders plus 346 staff/ carers taking part in 143 sessions and 180 Volunteer days. We had a full presence at the New Forest Show where we had 922 people riding all paying £2 each, with this plus sales of bottles, pens and scarf and sponsorship from solicitors Scott Bailey, we took just under £3,000 for the Charity Friends of PEDALL. We would like to return to the Show in 2023.

We have also raised money through Highcliffe golf club over that last year with us being both male and female club captain chosen charity. This comes to an end in October and when last informed they had raised in the region of £5,000.

We were also very kindly donated £2,000 from a member of the public, Paul Robson, who had raised it by riding his hand trike.

2.3 Facilitating a partnership approach to managing recreation to achieve a net gain for both the working and natural landscape as well as for the recreational experience

Recreation Management

The joint 'Care for the Forest, Care for Each Other' campaign was run again this year with partner organisations, which included coordinated ranger patrols, temporary signage and promoting the New Forest Code. We have continued to work closely with New Forest District Council (NFDC) and partners in considering the feasibility of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to address persistent 'anti-social' behaviour and misuse of the Forest. This has involved collating and submitting evidence to NFDC to support a PSPO to address fires/bbqs and feeding and petting livestock.

Access and Rights of Way

The Calshot to Gosport section of the England Coast Path is now open with all signs, gates and interpretation in place. We look forward to working with landowners, local contractors and crafters to create the Highcliffe to Calshot section in the future.

Our volunteer groups continue to clear overgrown paths, helping people to access the countryside right on their doorstep.

3 Prosper

3.1 Supporting a distinctive and prosperous local economy where natural capital is an integral component of doing business.

New Forest Marque

After the difficulties of the last two years it was great for the New Forest Marque members to be able to display their produce in person this year, with the New Forest Show, Ellingham Show and series of New Forest Marque roadshows proving popular with the public and an important trading opportunity for members. NPA rangers helped distribute the Marque Local Produce guide through the summer.

Visitor experience

There is an ongoing survey to understand visitor – both local and outside the national park boundary – behaviour and impact on the New Forest National Park. 720 responses have been received so far and the survey will stay open until the end of October. Posters

displaying QR codes are on display at local information points, campsites and main visitor areas such as community centres, Lepe Country Park and the Heritage Centre in Lyndhurst.

As a partnership venture, we created a 'visitor welcome' film, which is in the stage of final editing. It contains engaging content which will be useful online and at all visitor points, accommodation and attractions. Flexibility to adapt and extend the film in other guises such as 'Get to know the New Forest', 'Who does what?' which will be useful for seasonal staff across all sectors, DoE groups, and an online induction to get to know the place.

A new community-owned shop opened in Pilley was part-funded by the Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF) and now displays New Forest National Park literature.

Also supported through the SCF grant scheme is a bike repair station with a map showing helpful visitor detail such as eateries, accommodation, transport hubs with links to further information via app, situated outside Boost Hub in Brockenhurst village.

Whilst not an official NFNPA local information point, St Giles Hermitage in Godshill, has recently changed from church functionality to a welcoming visitor stop-off and small library. During the Easter and summer season, 166 people – many from nearby Sandy Balls holiday park but also from as far afield as USA, Seychelles and New Zealand - have signed the visitor book, complimenting volunteers on the beautiful curation and art adorning the church interior and the plethora of local information available.

3.2 Promoting connectivity across the National Park through sustainable transport and information and communication technologies.

New Forest Tour

The season started on 25 June and ended on 18 September. The operator is still preparing the report on patronage and boarding points across all three routes, however, we hope the Tour enjoyed a successful season, based on the weather being mostly hot and sunny, with some rainfall only towards the end. The season duration is different every year and so, as well as comparing total loads, it will be relevant to compare identical operating dates. The operator is still recovering from a cyberattack at the beginning of September, which is impacting on delivery of the final Tour report.

It was the first year trialling an app-based resident's ticket. We have received some feedback from residents and await detail within the report as to its uptake compared to non-resident's tickets. This will be an item for discussion when we meet with the operator over the autumn. Similarly, we will be keen to know if multi-day ticket sales increased, on account of their expiry dates being removed, allowing greater flexibility for customers.

Customer feedback was mostly very positive: 4.7 rating (out of 5) on TripAdvisor. In cases of customer concern, we liaised with the operator to resolve issues as swiftly as

possible. Our social media following was steady with a total reach of 27,425 on Facebook. The most popular public engagement was an eye-catching video by our new communications assistant, capturing the best aspects of the Tour, promoting car-free connections and our walking app.

Sustainable transport

Since the [government announcement](#) on 3 September to cap bus fares at £2, we have remained hopeful that this will positively impact the lives of people living within and travelling to the New Forest by bus. We continue to share news relating to public transport and active travel via New Forest Travel on Facebook and Twitter.

Walking and cycling

Preparations have started for the 2022 New Forest Walking and Cycling Festival. We hope to have fantastic array of walks and rides including walks by local artists. All the walks and rides focus on introducing people to the special landscape of the New Forest to discover its magic and learn how to keep it special. The festival dates are Saturday 16 October to Sunday 6 November.

Work with HCC (programme lead), NFDC and FE regarding the development of a New Forest Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is ongoing.

3.3 Supporting the social wellbeing and sustainability of New Forest communities.

Affordable Housing

Applications for four of the adopted Local Plan (2019) housing site allocations have now been considered by the Planning Committee. There are resolutions in place to grant permission on the allocated sites which would deliver circa 120 new affordable dwellings, making a meaningful contribution towards addressing the significant affordable housing need arising from communities within the National Park. We are also considering further planning applications for 'rural exception site' developments in other communities. This is an established national planning policy designed to help meet local affordable housing need and the applications are due to be determined in coming months.

We are hoping to finalise the access agreements for the Burley Affordable Housing Scheme in the next few weeks.

Sustainable Communities Fund

In June to help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we provided micro grants of up to £150 in support of the small actions that really do make a difference in helping to tackle the climate and nature crises. This included:

- Breamore Primary School – hedgehog houses, bat boxes, and bee house
- Hale Primary School – window feeders and bug hotels
- Orchard Infant School – wildflower seeds, wildlife camera, and timber to build wildlife habitat
- Friends of Brockenhurst Station – bug hotels to complement existing wildflower garden
- Amberwood Learning – wildlife camera and phone microscopes.

We also approved funds of £600 for Minstead Trust to install new interpretation boards to explain to visitors about the ancient meadow restoration work that has taken place at Furzey Gardens. Visitors can see across the meadow from several viewpoints in the gardens and can engage with the meadow without threatening its delicate environment. The interpretation boards will help visitors to navigate and identify the fauna and animals that reside there.

4 Achieving Excellence

4.1 Maintaining and enhancing a capable, motivated staff team that delivers high quality services.

Human Resources

As at 8 October 2022 the total staff headcount was 77 or 68.22 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

	Headcount	Variation from previous report	Full Time Equivalents	Variation from previous report
Core funded	59*	0	51.98*	- 0.90
Funded by external projects	18	0	16.24	+ 0.58
Total	77	0	68.22	- 0.32

*Of the core funded roles, one staff member (1 FTE) is working in shared services, one is on a fixed-term contract and 19 are part-time.

In the last three months we recruited to the following roles:

Role	Contract type	How funded
New Forest Apprentice Rangers x 2	Fixed term	Project funded
Receptionist	Permanent	Core funded
Communications Assistant x 2	1 x permanent, 1 x fixed term	Core and project funded
People and Wildlife Ranger	Fixed term	Project funded

We said goodbye to:

Role	Contract type	How role will be filled in future
Administration Assistant (Scanning)	Permanent, core funded	Assessing vacancy
Inclusive Cycling Project Manager	Fixed term, project funded	Like for like replacement
Volunteer, Training and Mentoring Co-ordinator	Fixed term, project funded	Assessing vacancy
Seasonal Assistant Ranger	Fixed term, project funded	N/A – end of fixed term contract
Communications Administrator	Fixed term, project funded	N/A – end of fixed term contract
Planning Officer	Permanent, core funded	Like for like replacement

Staff wellbeing

As part of our commitment under Nurture in our People Plan, the Wellbeing Group continues to meet regularly to ensure our wellbeing focused initiatives provide our staff with the required support. The dedicated Wellbeing area on our internal intranet continues to provide access to information to help staff maintain and enhance their mental health and wellbeing.

Citizens Advice New Forest were invited to deliver a presentation to staff with information on their Cost of Living Campaign in September. This not only provided our staff with details of the support available to them but also outlined the information that can be conveyed to the New Forest communities we engage with through our roles.

4.2 Championing the National Park and brokering partnership to achieve collaboration for the benefit of the New Forest communities.

Team New Forest / Updating the Partnership Plan

With the launch of the new Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027, we have set up new programme steering groups comprising officers from across the relevant teams within the Authority to help progress work on the Partnership Plan priorities. The first meeting of the new Leaders' Panel was due to take place in the New Forest in September, but is being rescheduled because of the Mourning Period following The Queen's death. We look forward to working with partners to deliver the Plan's priorities.

4.3 Identifying new resources and using them alongside our existing resources, effectively and efficiently.

ICT Services

Security / Infrastructure

We continue to receive security alerts, more recently relating to suspicious attempts to access NPA accounts abroad. Some are quite clearly targeted; some could be people trying to access emails whilst on holiday. As a security safety measure, if we have not been informed that someone may be accessing NPA systems from outside the UK, and we cannot get confirmation from a manager, we will disable that account.

The new cloud infrastructure is ready to go but is now awaiting the installation of our update office internet connection, to replace the existing HPSN, which is being led by Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council and due in October. Lots of work has been done to ensure all these systems are backed up and ready to be transferred with as little disruption as possible should the current storage solution fail.

A new Firewall and Wi-Fi for the office are being looked at as these must be replaced by the end of the year.

Work on a cyber security incident response plan is booked in for w/c 24/10, this will be followed by a tabletop exercise towards the end of November.

Replacement planning system

As previously reported, this project had to be postponed predominantly due to difficulties arising with GIS. To overcome these issues the GIS servers will be hosted in the cloud by Cadcorp.

We are currently dealing with Go Live. The public facing element of the system, Citizen Portal, may go live slightly later as stringent GDPR checks need to be completed

first. This project has placed an immense demand on the ICT team's time and is impacting on the Team's availability to work on other projects.

Other work / projects

The new Media Library has been setup and all photos and meta data have now been transferred. This will now need work from the Comms team before we can go live with the system.

A new cloud-based printing system was on trial during September with the new system to be setup for all printers in October.

The move to a single sign in for the HR hub was delayed by NFDC, hopefully to be implemented before the end of the year.

A new GIS database server hosted in the cloud has been setup and connected to the new planning system. Work to move all GIS users to the new database will start in October. Alongside this a new GIS map server has been setup to host our maps which will go live in October.

The software running the telephone system is now end of life, and the phone system sits on the local storage network so needs to be moved urgently. This project will begin once the planning system is up and running.

Legal and Information management

Information requests

We have considered 31 formal requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by the end of Q2, which is the same number received during the same period last year. As in previous years, the majority (77%) of the requests relate to our planning work, including enforcement matters, pre-application advice and specific planning applications. All but one were responded to within the statutory timeframe, or are still in progress and on target to meet the relevant deadline.

Complaints

We have only received one formal complaint to date this year, which was related to trees at a planning application site. It was responded to within the 20-working day deadline and was not upheld.

Privacy and data protection

We continue to work hard to ensure that we meet our obligations under the GDPR and are constantly reviewing and updating our website, documents and privacy notices to improve transparency and compliance, whilst responding to data protection queries as

they arise. The Data Protection and Information Bill, which aims to reform the GDPR following the UK's exit from the European Union, has had its second reading in Parliament and the Data Protection Officer continues to follow its progress and consider what preparations and adjustments the NPA will need to make as it progresses.

5 Members

5.1 Some Members were involved in some or all of the following meetings and events

- 19 July – Planning Committee
- 26 – 28 July – New Forest Show
- 16 August – Planning Committee
- 5 September – Resources, Audit and Performance Committee
- 12 September – New Forest Access Forum
- 13 September – Members Planning Tour
- 20 September – Planning Committee
- 27 – 29 September – National Parks Conference
- 5 October – Members Day – Archaeology
- 18 October – Planning Committee

5.2 Forthcoming activities include:

- 7 November – Resources, Audit and Performance Committee
- 15 November – Planning Committee
- 1 December – Consultative Panel
- 5 December – New Forest Access Forum
- 15 December – Members Day – TBC
- 20 December – Planning Committee
- 9 January – Standards Committee
- 17 January – Planning Committee

5.3 Chief Executive's engagements

- 15 July – Meeting with CX, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
- 15 July – Greenprint meeting
- 18 July – ENPOG meeting
- 19 July – Greenprint Steering Group
- 20 July – Meeting with CX, Test Valley Borough Council
- 20 July – Meeting with Natural England
- 21 July – Coaching session
- 21 July – Meeting with Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council
- 22 July - Meeting with Kristine Olson-Chapman

- 26-28 July – New Forest Show
- 29 July – Greenprint meeting
- 1 August – Meeting with Friends of Brockenhurst
- 2 August – Nature Recovery Team meeting
- 3 August – Meeting with CX, Solent LEP
- 4 August – Meeting with CX and Leader, NFDC
- 11 August – APPG wash up meeting
- 11 August – Meeting with Solent LEP
- 12 August – Meeting with CX, Business South
- 12 August – Meeting with Director of Conservation, North York Moors NPA
- 15 August – ENPOG meeting
- 16 August – Partnership proposal meeting
- 16 August – CX Performance Panel pre meeting
- 17 August – lunch with Business South Leaders
- 17 August – Meeting with Defra
- 18 August – Nature Recovery Meeting
- 19 August – Greenprint Steering Group
- 22 August – Executive Board meeting
- 23 August – CX Performance Panel
- 24 August – Meeting with RSPB
- 24 August – Nature Restoration meeting
- 24 August – New Forest Folklore book launch
- 25 August – Southern Water meeting
- 5 September – RAPC
- 8 September – Solace and Natural England roundtable
- 8 September – Meeting with Olivia Inspires charity
- 13 September – Members planning tour
- 13 September – Meeting with CX, NFDC
- 13 September – Call with Head of Planning Policy, TVBC
- 15 September - Conversations with Olmsted: An International Perspective Conference briefing
- 16 September – NEIRF event
- 20 September – PfSH Chief Executives meeting
- 20 September – Landscapes for Everyone meeting
- 20 September – Speaker at Conversations with Olmsted: An International Perspective Conference
- 21 September – Green Recovery meeting
- 21 September – Green Halo Steering Group
- 21 September – ENPOG meeting
- 21 September – Introductory meeting with BCP FuturePlaces
- 22 September – Business Leaders Breakfast, Southampton Boat Show
- 23 September – Wildlife Roundtable workshop
- 27-29 September – UK National Parks Conference

- 30 September – Call with RSPB
- 3 October – Meeting with Jonathan Males, Mezzana Partners
- 3 October – Wildlife / Nature Recovery meeting
- 4 October – Nature Recovery Team meeting
- 4 October – Future New Forest Partnership Steering Group
- 4 October – Forestry England Trees and Woodland event, with FC Chair and CX
- 5 October – HLS Board
- 5 October – Session with TVBC CX and Heads of Department
- 7 October – Meeting with Chair, CPRE Hampshire
- 12 October – meeting and site visits with CX, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority
- 13 October – Site visits in Loch Lomond with RSPB Scotland
- 17-19 October – NPA Conservation Directors Awaydays

5.4 Chairman's engagements

- 26-28 July – New Forest Show
- 29 July – PfSH meeting
- 4 August – Meeting with CX and Leader, NFDC
- 11 August – Meeting with Solent LEP
- 23 August – CX Performance Panel
- 11 October – NPP AGM
- 12 October – Solent Freeport Board meeting
- 19 October – NPE Chair's meeting

6 Recommendation

To note the report.