

Welcome

The New Forest National Park is truly unique.

It's a 'world capital' for wildlife with a huge diversity of rare plants and animals – one of the reasons why it was made a National Park in 2005.

A place of outstanding natural beauty, the unique landscape is shaped by the grazing of ponies, cattle and pigs that roam freely. These animals may appear wild, but they are owned by people called commoners. This active, working Forest has been managed by people for centuries.

One of the last places in southern England to offer a sense of wildness and tranquillity, it's a wonderful area to explore on foot, horseback, or by bike.

Indeed William the Conqueror, who set aside the 'New Forest' for hunting more than 900 years ago, would probably recognise much of it today.

Front cover: New Forest Pony © Chris Fairhead

DID YOU KNOW?

Over **600 commoners** turn out **ponies, cattle, donkeys, sheep and pigs** as part of their traditional 'common rights'.

Free-roaming animals

When you visit the New Forest one of the first things you will notice is the free-roaming animals.

It's rare to travel more than a few miles without coming across these famous Forest residents.

You can spot brand marks on the ponies that show who owns them or different tail-clippings indicating in which part of the Forest they belong.

They are known as 'the architects of the Forest' because it is their grazing that creates the accessible landscape we all enjoy.

The ponies, cattle, donkeys and pigs are owned by local people called commoners, who take great pride in their animals – often owning several generations of the same families.

Ponies grazing

Be Forest Friendly!

Driving: The ponies and other animals have no road sense and frequently stand or walk on the unfenced roads, so give them (and walkers, cyclists and horse riders) a wide berth and be especially careful when driving at night.

Ponies, donkeys, cattle & pigs: For their safety and your own please **keep your distance** from

the animals — although owned and cared for by commoners, they are unpredictable and best treated as wild. Please **don't feed or pet them**; there is plenty of natural food and it's best that they don't come to rely on people's attention. They may look friendly but they can bite and kick, especially mares with foals.

The New Forest is one of **15 National Parks** in the UK, each providing precious habitat for wildlife and breathing space for millions of people each year.



lovethetheforest
securing the future of the new forest

Do you love the Forest?

Then please help secure the future of its wildlife, young people and commoners by donating to the New Forest Trust at lovethetheforest.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1099420



Follow the New Forest code

Be Forest Friendly!



Keep your distance from the animals – don't feed or touch them



Keep dogs under control. Don't let dogs approach or chase any animals



Stick to the permitted cycle tracks



Take home litter and dog waste



Park only in car parks



Drive with care – animals on the road!



No fires or barbecues



No wild camping



Help wildlife by keeping to the main tracks

Search for newforestnpa    

Contact the New Forest National Park Authority, call **01590 646600** or email enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk

Sign up for our enewsletter at newforestnpa.gov.uk



Contact us if you would like to receive the Pocket Guide in another format such as large print or Braille.

Walking

Explore 27 easy-to-follow New Forest walks.

Download the free New Forest Walks app with GPS navigation and fascinating points of interest to view as you walk. newforestnpa.gov.uk/walksapp

You can also use our online routes finder that allows you to search by distance, location or even whether there is a pub near the route! Once you have chosen your preferred route just print off the map and directions. newforestnpa.gov.uk/walks

Ticks: Check your dog and yourself for ticks when you get back home – they can lead to Lyme Disease.

Join the New Forest Walking and Cycling Festival for dozens of behind the scenes wildlife walks, history hikes and family strolls: 15 October to 6 November 2022. newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival

Dog walking at Blackwater

Be Forest Friendly!

Cycling

There are more than 100 miles of waymarked family-friendly cycle routes to explore, all of them off-road and traffic free.

The network, managed by Forestry England, is easily accessible from railway stations at Ashurst, Brockenhurst and Sway and links the main New Forest villages. There are details on where to hire bikes and more than 20 easy-to-follow cycle routes at newforestnpa.gov.uk/cycling

Be Forest Friendly!

Inclusive cycling with PEDALL

Cycling is allowed only on the waymarked tracks and other designated routes. When approaching people and animals, call out a warning and pass slowly and wide. Try to leave gaps for overtaking vehicles and never ride more than two abreast. Keep to a safe speed, wear bright colours to be visible and always use lights in the dark.

Enjoying wild play

New Forest events and heritage

There are many exciting events and activities taking place in the New Forest this year, including the New Forest Show in July. For details pick up the Essential Guide visitor newspaper, speak to the rangers, or visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/events

If you want to find out about Forest life and history then visit the New Forest Heritage Centre. Enjoy the changing exhibitions, discover all the best things to see and do and buy unusual New Forest gifts in the shop. newforestheritage.org.uk

A taste of the New Forest

Try delicious local produce or handmade crafts bearing the New Forest Marque from local shops, cafés and markets.

newforestmarque.co.uk



Be Forest Friendly!

BBQ-free New Forest:

To reduce the risk of devastating wildfires, vast swathes of the New Forest and Dorset are now complete no BBQ and fire zones. BBQs, camping stoves or anything with a naked flame are no longer permitted in car parks or any area of the Forest. All BBQ facilities at Forestry England sites have been

removed, and prominent no BBQ signs installed. Many shops and outlets in and around the New Forest have taken disposable BBQs off sale.

Litter: Your food and litter could harm the wildlife and livestock. Please take your litter home with you to dispose of responsibly.

Southern damselfly © Mark Heighes

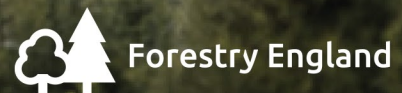


New Forest Heritage Centre

New Forest National Park

Pocket Guide

FREE MAP!



newforestnpa.gov.uk

Your New Forest adventure awaits...

Every year, tens of thousands of people choose the best way to get around the National Park – with car-free trips on the New Forest Tour. There are great-value day tickets to ride all day, with discounts at attractions, tempting treats, and audio commentaries revealing secrets of the Forest. Bikes and dogs welcome! Check the map for routes.

Local information points

- **New Forest Activities Booking Centre Ltd**, Beaulieu, SO42 7WA
- **Cyclexperience**, Brockenhurst, SO42 7TW
- **Shappen Stores**, Burley, BH24 4AB
- **The Herald**, Hythe, SO45 6AH
- **Landford Village Stores**, Landford, SP5 2AJ
- **The Village News**, Milford-on-Sea, SO41 0QD
- **Sway Deli and Coffee Shop**, Sway, SO41 6BB
- **Woodgreen Community Shop**, Woodgreen, SP6 2AJ
- **Woodland Centre**, Hoburne Bashley Holiday Park, BH25 5QR
- **Minstead Community Shop**, Minstead, SO43 7FY

New Forest Tour

Enjoy grandstand views from the open-top Tour. Discover three scenic routes around magical landscapes, picture-postcard villages and popular attractions, with a commentary to guide you. Free connecting ferry and buses. Hop on and off and switch routes – all on the same ticket. Hourly, every day. thenewforesttour.info

@NewForestTour

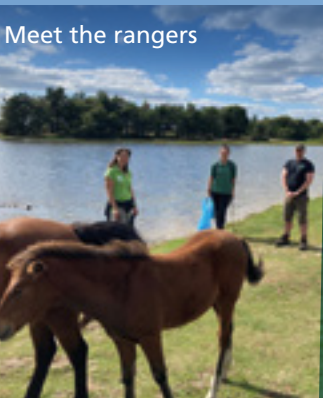


New Forest tour bus © Chris Balcombe

Fungi: Please leave fungi for everyone to see and enjoy. The New Forest is one of the most important sites for fungi in Britain, some fungi are so rare and vulnerable they are included in the protected species list and it's illegal to pick them. If you suspect or see commercial picking please call the landowner – either Forestry England on **0300 067 4600** or the National Trust on **01425 650035**.

forestryengland.uk/fungi-the-new-forest

Be Forest Friendly!



Commoner's calf © DK Littlebrook

DID YOU KNOW?
The New Forest was established by **William the Conqueror** in **1079** as '**Nova Foresta**' ('new hunting ground')

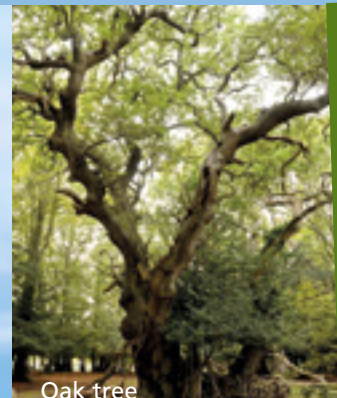


Silver-studded blue butterfly

Need somewhere to stay?
Visit thenewforest.co.uk for luxurious spas, family hotels, quaint B&Bs and friendly campsites.



Beaulieu © Mark Simpson



Oak tree

DID YOU KNOW?
Over **2,600** species of fungi have been recorded here



Fungi at Norley Wood © Rebecca Harnett

DID YOU KNOW?
The New Forest has the **highest concentration of ancient trees** in Western Europe, with more than **1,000** recorded



Fungi at Norley Wood © Rebecca Harnett

The New Forest Water Code
The New Forest is one of the best and most important freshwater areas and coastal landscapes in the UK. New Forest wetland wildlife relies on clean, unpolluted water. Please follow the simple code to help protect them:

- Leave no trace:** Use local toilet facilities and take pet waste home if you can't find a bin.
- Use suitable facilities:** Never tip waste water into vegetation, ditches or other water bodies.
- Check clean and dry:** Ensure equipment is clean so it's not carrying invasive pests and diseases from the last place you visited.
- Right activity, right place:** Paddle boards and other water activities are not allowed everywhere. Please check permissions.