



Chief Executive's report






October 2023



Partnership Plan and Business Plan



Business Plan to 2027

|  Re:New Climate |  Re:New Nature |  Re:New People |  Re:New Place |  Re:New Partnership |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Establishing data and evidence baseline and implementing nature-based climate solutions.</p> | <p>Making space for nature and mitigating recreational pressures.</p> | <p>Increasing green skills and jobs - supporting New Forest business / green tourism. Sustainable land management and securing the future of commoning.</p> | <p>Promoting health and wellbeing through contact with nature.</p> | <p>Establishing stronger partnerships within the boundary.</p> |
| <p>Building a New Forest coalition for a Net Zero economy.</p> | <p>Enhancing natural capital.</p> | <p>Increasing the National Park's resilience to the effects of climate change.</p> | <p>Connecting people with nature and landscape.</p> | <p>Leading the green agenda beyond the New Forest.</p> |
| <p>Activating communities and increasing sustainable travel.</p> | <p>Supporting nature recovery through Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).</p> | <p>Increasing the availability of affordable housing.</p> | <p>Safeguarding cultural heritage.</p> | <p>Developing a centre of excellence of insights and innovation for the New Forest.</p> |
| Re:New Organisation: Achieving Excellence | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering high-quality services through a capable and motivated staff team • Maximising resources and using them efficiently and effectively • Modernising our use of the office space and our wider ways of working | | | | |

Business Plan themes

Incorporating the five themes of the National Park Partnership Plan 2022-27, plus improvement goals and targets for our Authority under Re:New Organisation – Achieving Excellence.



Re:New Climate



Re:New Nature



Re:New People



Re:New Place



Re:New Partnership

Re:New Organisation – Achieving Excellence

Partnership Plan Leaders Panel

Leaders Panel and officers group meetings.

Key issues included: Recreation Management; Habitat Mitigation Scheme; Future of Commoning post 2024; Getting messages out about Special Qualities.



Protect – First Purpose

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area



YouCAN scheme

Youth for Climate and Nature (YouCAN)

£1.4 million scheme including £1.2 million from National Lottery Community Fund.

11- to 25-year-olds drive community action to tackle the nature and climate emergencies.

Supports 15 jobs.

Three-year scheme led by the NPA with six regional partners (Bournemouth to Southampton).



Our Nature Story

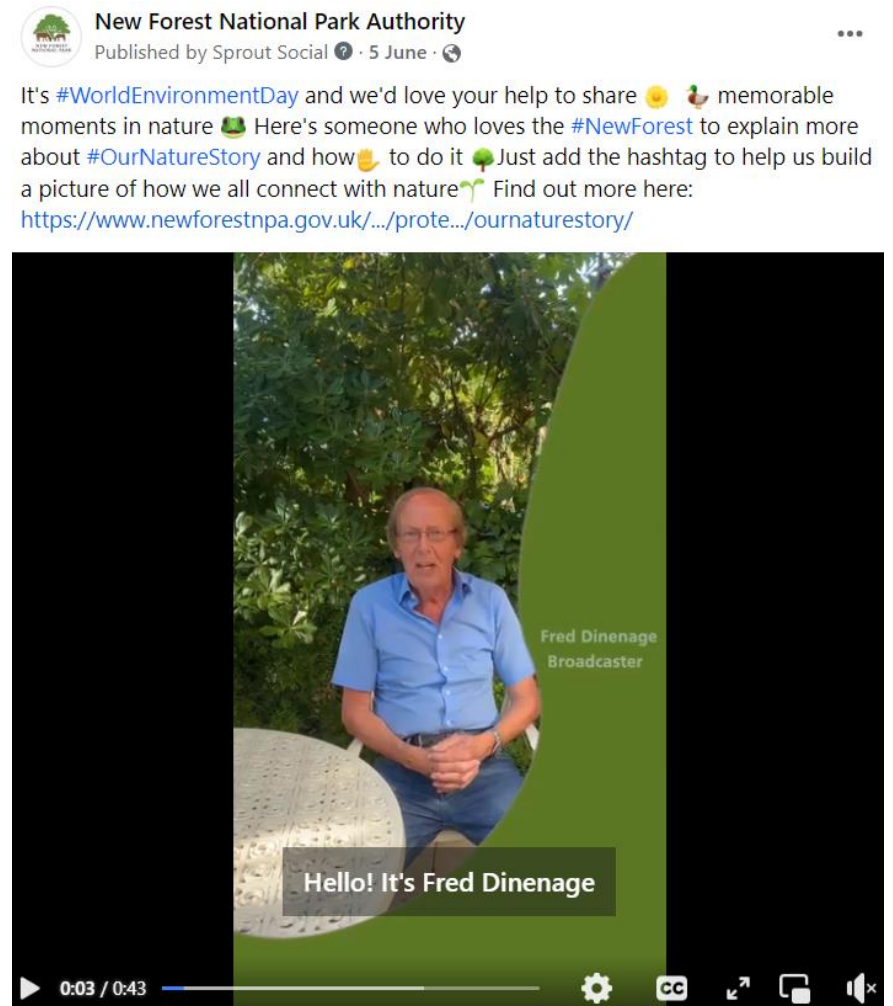
Campaign launched on World Environment Day about people's favourite ways and places to connect with nature.

Over 300 #OurNatureStory posts on social media through June/July.

96,000 impressions; 2,000 likes/comments/shares.

Featuring stories from the Chief Exec of RSPB, local media professionals, young people and NPA staff.

Stories displayed on TV screen at New Forest Show.



New Forest National Park Authority
Published by Sprout Social · 5 June · 🌍

It's #WorldEnvironmentDay and we'd love your help to share 🌞 🌿 memorable moments in nature 🌳 Here's someone who loves the #NewForest to explain more about #OurNatureStory and how 🌱 to do it 🌲 Just add the hashtag to help us build a picture of how we all connect with nature 🌿 Find out more here: <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/.../prote.../ournaturestory/>

Fred Dinenage
Broadcaster

Hello! It's Fred Dinenage

0:03 / 0:43

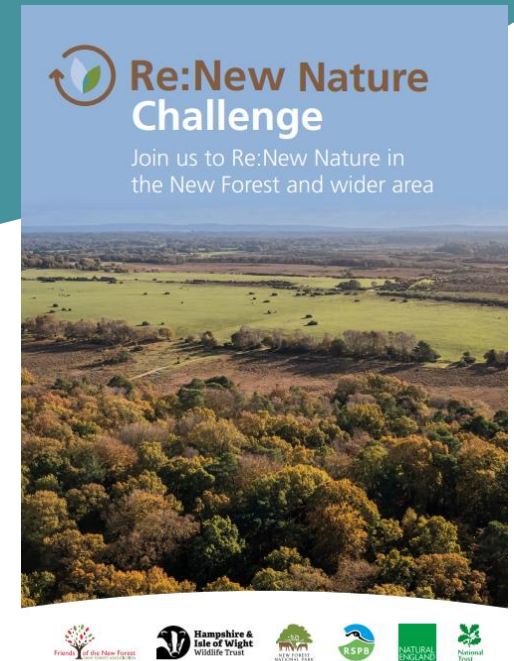
Re:New Nature Challenge

Ambition for nature recovery in and around the National Park proposed by wildlife partners.

Challenge to landowners, communities, organisations and individuals to work together to drive large scale habitat restoration and bring together the resources required.

First round of bid to Defra's Species Survival Fund for £1 million approved.

Re:New Nature Partnership to be established in Autumn working with LNRs.

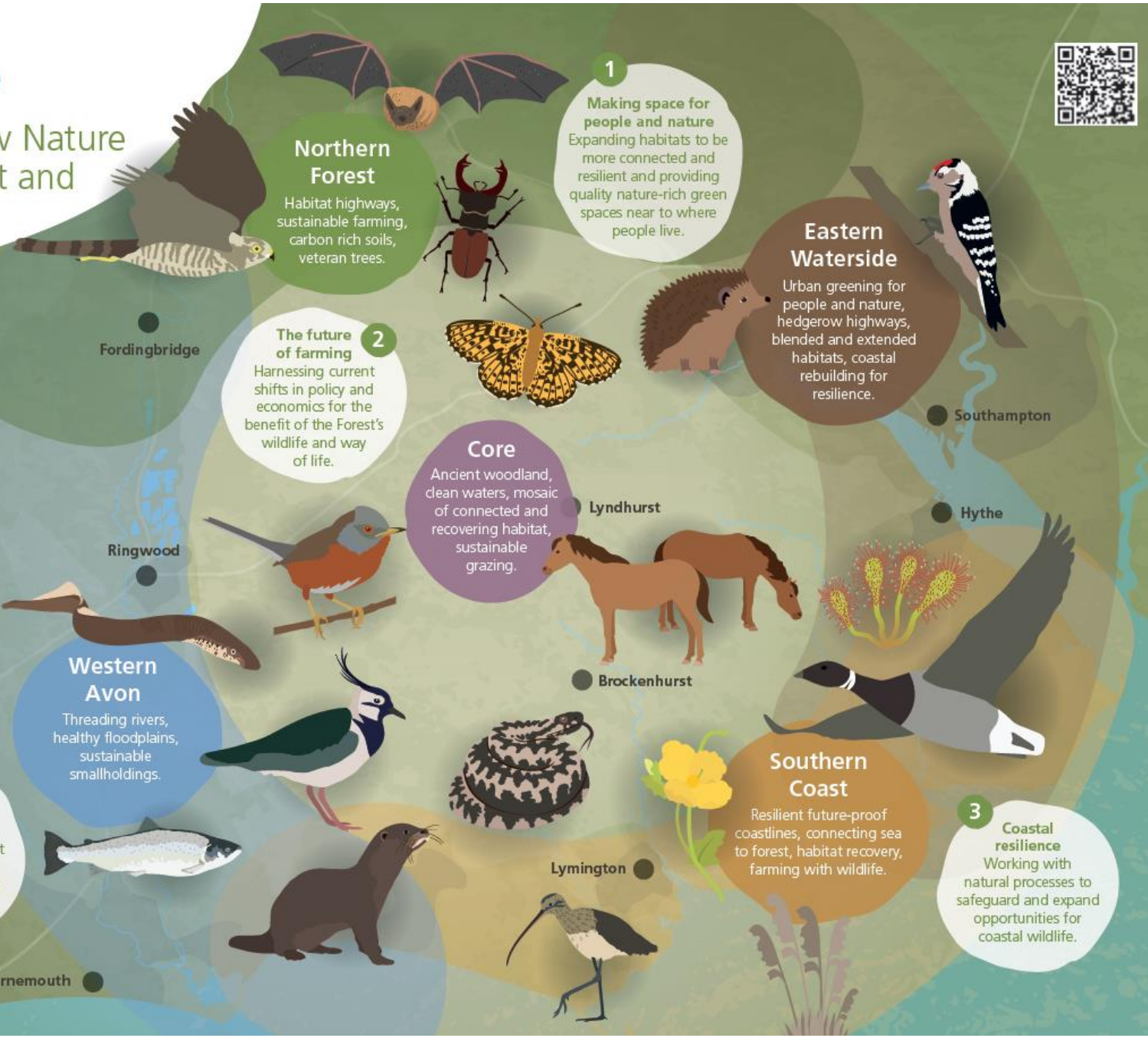


Join us to Re:New Nature in the New Forest and wider area



The New Forest can be viewed as the core of heavily protected habitats with four surrounding areas, each with its own landscape character.

We have identified four nature recovery themes that will be critical to the future of the Forest.



Planning

Consultation on permitted development

Article 4 direction on campsites

Preparation of three Neighbourhood Plans

130 people attended parish council planning training event (right)

Notable cases included Ashurst and commoners dwelling at Rockford (top).



Planning tour

Members visited:

- The Old Dairy at Sway.
- The Manor at Sway.
- The Living Room at Spud in Sway (top left).
- Battramsley House, Boldre (top right).
- The Icehouse and Clock House, Beaulieu.
- Pilley Community Shop (bottom).



Higher Level Stewardship scheme AGM

Around 100 people attended the AGM at Minstead Village Hall

Speech by Official Verderer Edward Heron



Verderers of the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme

In numbers

The New Forest scheme is the largest agri-environment scheme in England. Here are some of the achievements since it started in 2010.



18,000

school children went on visits to learn more about the New Forest



3,000

archaeological sites identified and recorded following a laser scanning survey of the whole national park, equivalent to 125,000 football pitches

29,000

reflective collars fitted to ponies, donkeys and cattle to help prevent road accidents



26

miles of verges restored and protected after vehicle damage, to save rare plants and grazing areas



200

sites saw invasive rhododendron plants removed which crowd out native species



20

miles of streams and rivers restored to their natural courses, which won the UK River Prize



50

ponds surveyed to gather data on rare species



35

surveys of rare species to see how they're faring and how we can help them



1,000

hectares of heath and grassland (the equivalent of 1,400 football pitches) has been restored through measures such as tree felling and bracken harvesting – to support internationally-protected habitats



540

commoners signed up to the Verderers Grazing Scheme, receiving payments when they demonstrate responsible practices

1,650

requests by commoners for land management advice, training and support to the New Forest Land Advice Service

1,320

foals born to improve the gene pool of the rare and threatened New Forest breed, which is essential in shaping the landscape

40

pounds rebuilt in hardwood, to improve safety and ensure they last longer. The pounds play an important role in the success of commoning and are symbols of the unique cultural heritage of the New Forest



Enjoy – Second Purpose

To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.



Rangers

2 PSPOs came into force from July – feeding and petting of ponies and lighting of fires/BBQs.

Summer of activities at four Camping New Forest campsites engaging with 1,230 people through guided walks, family activities and information provision.

Events included: Ellingham Show; Wild Wednesdays at Reptile Centre; New Milton Bee Fayre; Wildlife Wonders at Lepe Country Park.



New Forest Code and PSPOs

- Code translated into 10 languages, including Ukrainian.
- Ground nesting bird partner campaign saw 25,000 video views; 171,000 impressions on social 13,000 engagements; publications reach of 573,000; 13,000 people at events; plus signage near nesting sites.
- 700 people spoken to by partners about PSPO issues in 152 incidents. No fines issued.

Engage – Educate - Enforce



Artists in residence

Cycle of artists then exhibitions in conjunction with Sway charity Spud and Arts Council England.

Brief to explore relationship with National Park Landscape in new and creative ways and connecting new audiences.

Our third artist in residence Melanie Rose exhibiting 4 to 30 October with 'Shadowing'.

A large, abstract artwork featuring dark, textured brushstrokes that resemble tree trunks. Overlaid on this are several overlapping circles in various colors: green, orange, purple, and yellow. The text 'SHADOWING' and 'MELANIE ROSE' is printed in large, white, sans-serif font across the top. Below the name, the dates '4TH - 30TH OCTOBER' are listed. Further down, the text 'spudWORKS Sway, Lymington' is displayed. At the bottom right, the website addresses 'www.spud.org.uk' and 'www.melanierose.org.uk' are provided. Logos for 'spud', 'NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK', and 'LAHRI' are located at the bottom of the poster.

SHADOWING
MELANIE ROSE

4TH - 30TH OCTOBER

spudWORKS
Sway,
Lymington

www.spud.org.uk
www.melanierose.org.uk

spud
NEW FOREST
NATIONAL PARK
LAHRI

Artists in residence

Alex Julyan (below) is undertaking her residency during October.



Volunteers and Ambassadors

Volunteers - 1,600 hours during 14 sessions to cut back vegetation and improve paths across the National Park.

New Forest Ambassadors - beach clean and survey for the Marine Conservation Society at Hurst Spit.

**** Save the date! ****

Volunteer Fair, Brockenhurst Village Hall, Sunday 28 January 2024.



Pedall

July – September: 2,356 riders, 19 organisations (800 at New Forest Show)

Dementia Friendly Hampshire and Alton in partnership with the Enliven project and Exeter University. Rides enjoyed by carers and family members alongside those living with dementia.

Lottery bid submitted.



Prosper – Our Duty

Working in partnership with other organisations it is also the Authority's duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.



Green skills and jobs

Intern programme (funded by Groundwork New to Nature).

Early green careers network.

Work experience placements.

School visits with 444 students.

Brockenhurst College Freshers Day.

Youth and volunteering sessions.

Pilot junior rangers programme booked up within hours of launch, demonstrating clear demand from families.



New to Nature Intern Hayley meets Caroline Nokes MP

Europarc Conference and award

Ranger Hayden Bridgeman (second right) collected her scholarship award from the Alfred Toepfer Foundation as part of the Europarc Conference in the Netherlands

Scholarship recognises her work with local refugee groups

Funding will be used for two study visits to look at how protected areas in Europe can make nature inclusive to all by visiting refugee camps, meeting with other practitioners in the field and creating a toolkit for other protected areas to use.



New Forest Tour

40,686 passenger journeys over 11 weeks. 2% decrease compared to 2022 which was across 12 weeks.

Facebook impressions up 182% compared to last year and engagement up 75%.

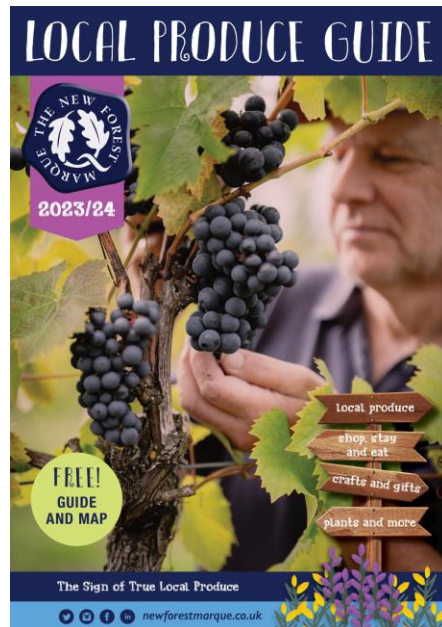
Runner-up in the UK Open-Top Bus Cup 2023



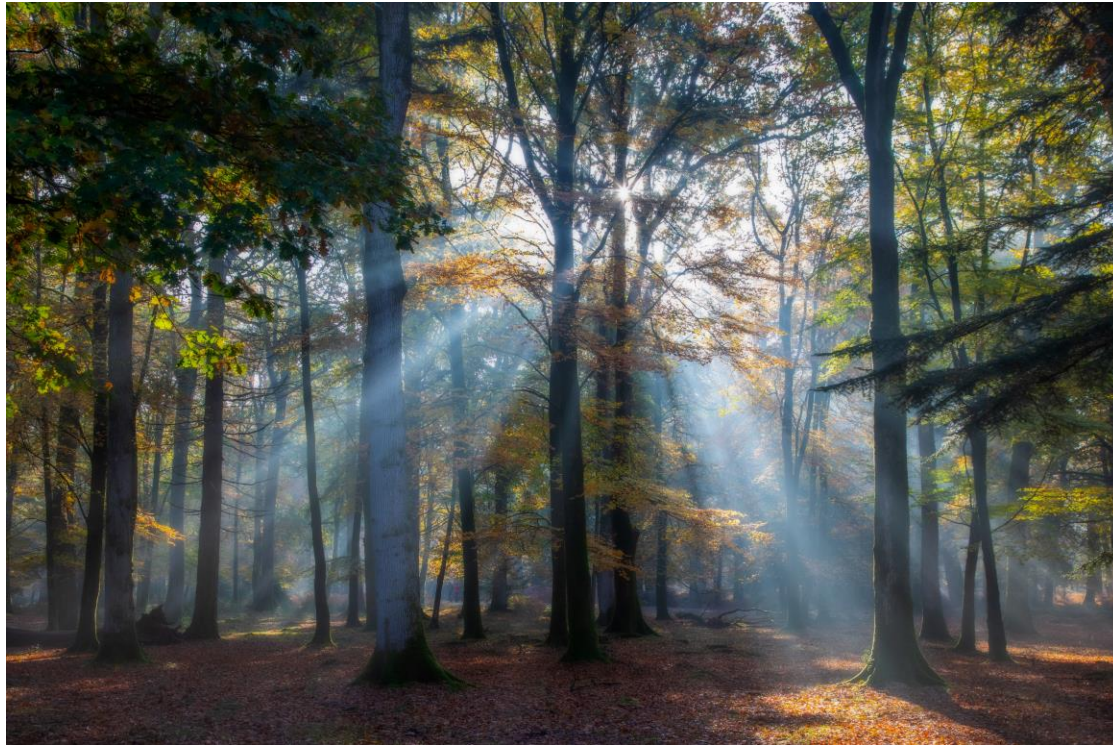
New Forest Marque

Prestigious global Great Taste Awards 2023 – 14,000 worldwide entries.
Marque members claimed 10 awards.

New Forest Inspired – for arts and crafts inspired by the Forest with £27k grant from Arts Council England.



Excellence



New Forest Show

10th New Forest Awards with CLA.

Provided the display and video for the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme on the Verderers stand.

New Forest Marque local produce area proved popular.

PEDALL welcomed 800 riders to try the all-ability bikes.



Building Design Awards

Nominations now open for the New Forest National Park Building Design Awards 2024, which will be awarded in the spring.

Schemes completed over the last three years that enhance or protect the built environment of the National Park.

Four categories: residential schemes, non-residential schemes, conservation projects and green buildings.



MP visits

Hosted Sir Desmond Swayne, Sir Julian Lewis and Caroline Nokes (pictured) to view NPA projects in their constituencies, meet partners and discuss current issues affecting the National Park.

Successful meeting with John Glen MP.



Visits



Wiltshire Council Leaders, Portfolio Holder and Officers at RSPB Franchises Lodge Reserve (left).

Hampshire County Council Leader and Deputy Leader also visited this week.

Defra visit to view Farming in Protected Landscapes projects.



Visits



Directors of Conservation
– UK National Parks.

National Parks England Chairs
and Chief Execs.



Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB)

Amendment to strengthen the duty on all relevant public bodies to ensure they '**must seek to further**' National Park purposes (currently they merely have to 'have regard' to our purposes).

One of the issues discussed with Lord Benyon at the New Forest Show.



On now...

Walking and Cycling Festival

14 to 29 October

Expert-guided walks and cycle rides for all interests and abilities, such as wildlife, heritage, arts, and culture.

Theme of accessibility – encouraging everyone to get out and enjoy the special qualities of the National Park, with many walks available on accessible tracks.



Coming up...

Animal Accidents campaign

#PassWideAndSlow

Featuring multi-agency 'Operation Mountie'.

New hotline cards and eco-friendly car window stickers.



Coming up...

Brilliance in Business Awards

The New Forest National Park Authority Award for Sustainable Business of the Year.

Finalists:

- New Forest Collection
- True Horizon
- Vida Promotions

Celebrating local businesses at the awards ceremony on 30 November.

