

# Consultative Panel On behalf of Forestry England

1 June 2023



This year it's been another successful breeding season for goshawks in the New Forest.

We've set-up a new nest camera that's enabling viewers to see the birds in their natural habitat, up close and personal.

All 3 eggs hatched successfully and the parents are busy tending to the chicks needs. We're hopeful that all 3 will fledge successfully and make their own way in the forest. We expect them to leave the nest sometime in mid-June. The YouTube livestream can be found here:  
[www.forestryengland.uk/new-forest/goshawks-the-new-forest](http://www.forestryengland.uk/new-forest/goshawks-the-new-forest)



The breeding season for ground nesting birds here is a critical time of year and to help explain more about these amazing birds, we're publishing video diaries with Lee, one of our New Forest Keepers.

He's been sharing his knowledge about the different species found in the New Forest and some of the work being done to try and halt their numbers declining.



The HLS wetland restoration programme continues - this summer contractors will be returning to sites that were previously worked, to repair small parts of forest streams and mires.

This work aims to maintain the watercourses and help to make sure streams and the surrounding habitats are more resilient in both winter floods and summer droughts.

We're also starting a small, new wetland restoration project in July at Picket Bottom. By restoring the natural watercourse here, it will reduce the speed of the water moving through the area during heavy rain.



We aim to cause minimum obstruction to footpaths and have taken into consideration the popularity of key locations. Only a small number of routes will be affected by the works and alternative footpaths are available.

Our Ranger team continue to remind people about not feeding and petting ponies.

Over the coming weeks we'll be installing the new PSPO signage across the Forest at key locations.

From 1 July, it will be a criminal offence to feed or leave food out for New Forest ponies and donkeys and to touch or pet them.



The new campsite operator has re-opened the sites, ready for this year's season.

We continue to work with Camping New Forest to ensure their campsite management plans are in place, so that this unique and precious environment is protected, whilst also supporting the local community and economy.



We continue to be part of Operation Mountie, a multi agency approach to reducing speed and animal deaths across the New Forest, regularly carrying our patrols along Roger Penny Way.

Hampshire Constabulary gave more drivers tickets for speeding and other drivers were spoken to by the New Forest Roads Awareness Team and Forestry England staff and given advice about why New Forest roads are so special.



Forestry England's Rangers and PC Roberts have been carrying out cycle patrols. This includes focussing on high fire risk areas and we will be spending lots of time there, especially now the weather has warmed up.





The recent dry conditions present a higher risk of wildfire here in the south of England.

We continue to work closely with the Hampshire Fire and Rescues Service on sharing key messages with the public and joint patrols across the Forest.

We're reminding people that the New Forest is a strictly no fire or BBQ zone and from 1 July it will be a criminal offence to light or cause a fire or use a BBQ here. There is an exception for Forestry England owned campsites where BBQs or stoves that are purpose built and raised off the ground can be used for cooking. Disposable BBQs are not allowed on any of the campsites or at any other location in the Forest.



As part of the HLS scheme, rhododendron has been managed at 200 sites and there's an ongoing programme of work to remove these pretty invaders. We're currently surveying areas for Rhododendron and if you spot any growing where they shouldn't, please tell us. There's a useful map online that gives you more information about how to report a sighting:



visit: [www.hlsnewforest.org.uk/projects/habitat-restoration-and-maintenance/rhododendron-control/](http://www.hlsnewforest.org.uk/projects/habitat-restoration-and-maintenance/rhododendron-control/)

Forestry England's contractors have a busy programme of works in the New Forest thinning out some trees to give the remaining ones more space to grow.

We all use things made from wood every day. From the books we read and paper we write and draw on, to the furniture we sit, eat and sleep on. Our forests are looked after properly, so they can provide a renewable source of wood forever.

During the next 2-3 months there will be forestry activities in the following areas enclosed for growing trees: Sloden and Alderhill Inclosures, Parkhill Inclosure, Roe Inclosure and Rhinefield Sandys/Vinney.



Dog owner engagement events.

Forestry England Rangers and New Forest Dogs have been talking to dog owners in our car parks about following a few simple steps to limit the likelihood of attacks on wildlife and animals grazing on the Forest.

Dogs play a large part in forest life, many of our staff are dog owners too and we ask that owners act responsibly and ensure their pets are within sight at all times.

