

Park Life

News from the New Forest National Park Authority



Spring/Summer 2023

FREE!



Sophie meeting school children and, left, the new Fort Climate Centre



Meet our new ranger



4

Green travel



13

Grand designs



15

Help rare birds



16

HRH opens new climate centre in New Forest

HRH The Countess of Wessex - now the Duchess of Edinburgh - has opened a new climate centre in the New Forest National Park.

The centre in Beaulieu was created to help people of all ages learn about the climate crisis.

The building was donated to the Countryside Education Trust by the Fort Foundation, inspired by Mr E. S. Fort OBE. Mr Fort had long wanted to bring education about climate change to the general public to encourage action on the climate emergency.

The Fort Climate Centre will provide schools education, be a focus for courses and events about climate change and the environment for the general public, and act as a hub for local green groups.

The Countryside Education Trust (CET), based in Beaulieu, has been delivering



Sophie with volunteers Noah Barnard and Marg Verdon

environmental education programmes since 1975.

The Fort Climate Centre has also benefited from a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the Green and Blue Horizons from City to Forest scheme, led by the New Forest National Park Authority.

For the Countryside Education Trust, this has involved developing new climate-

focused courses for young adults and professionals, enlarging its volunteering capacity and engaging seven interns in a variety of climate and environment projects. These projects have ranged from encouraging people to tackle food waste to monitoring trees at risk from a changing climate in the Beaulieu Estate's ancient woodlands.

Interns supported by the Green and Blue Horizons project spoke to the Countess about their project work. Children from non-farming backgrounds, who form the CET's after-school club, showed the Countess the animals they care for and talked about their prize-winning attendance at events to demonstrate their animal handling, such as the New Forest Show.

The Countess met some of the CET's volunteers who were planting climate-resilient crops and she was introduced to the CET's oldest and youngest volunteers – 90-year-old Marg Verdon and nine-year-old Noah Barnard. She also met children from Beaulieu School who demonstrated various climate games, including a food miles race.

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Growing green careers

In the first few years of your early green career – and sometimes your first career role – it's important to have a support network of others with similar shared experiences. That's why the NFNPA has an early careers group. Here, those aged under 30 in the organisation can meet to share challenges and successes, and attend talks and advice sessions from more senior figures in the NPA.

There is also a wider Early Green Careers Group set up for those in the first few years of an environmental role across many New Forest organisations. This group meets regularly and provides

an opportunity for networking and socialising with others in similar careers in the local area.

Here are some of our Early Careers Group members talking about their roles, how they got here and what advice they would give to other young people looking to get into the environment sector.



Name: Hayden

Current role: North Area Ranger. Rangers are the eyes and ears of the National Park,

and the role is very public-facing. Duties include visiting key sites to provide face-to-face contact with members of the public, helping them to enjoy, understand and benefit from the National Park.

Past experience: I finished a degree in photography but was unsure of what to do next. I saved up some money and volunteered on a turtle conservation project which led to paid seasonal roles abroad in Malaysia, Ascension Island, and the Caribbean.

I then completed a 13-month apprenticeship with the New Forest National Park Authority, which included further qualifications and five placements with partner organisations.

Favourite part of your job?: Meeting people from all different backgrounds and

finding out what they love about the outdoors.

Advice for others: Listen to everything and don't be worried about what you don't know yet – it will come with time.



Name: Chris

Current role: Communications Assistant. Duties include external and internal communications. This takes many forms, from video and photo to social media, written blogs and news releases.

Past experience: I studied BA Hons in Sports Journalism. I have worked abroad, as well as in multiple temporary roles. My last role was as a café/restaurant manager.

Favourite part of your job?: The feeling of doing good and that our messages can make a difference!

Advice for others: Build your skills in your spare time towards the career you want.

Name: Emily

Current role: Building Design and Conservation Officer. Duties include assisting in the conservation and understanding of the New Forest National Park's built heritage through the planning system and informal advice and project work. This includes structuring negotiations to achieve a compromise

between owner requirements and conservation objectives. I also review and revise the listed building condition survey and monitor the condition of listed buildings.

Past experience: I studied History, Archaeology and Chemistry at A Level (Religious Studies at AS level). I then completed a joint honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Archaeology, and a Master of Arts Degree in Conservation Studies.

Favourite part of your job?: The heritage sector is really interesting to be a part of, but you don't have to be really academic to be part of it.

Advice for others: The heritage sector would not run without any of the skilled craftspeople and builders, so if you are interested in practical things look into scholarships and

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NPA Champions Youth and Diversity Through new Environmental Placement

Young people from diverse backgrounds applied for a new work placement opportunity to help boost diversity in the environmental sector.

The 12-month paid internship starts in April and offers hands-on experience across all aspects of the Authority, from communications to planning, as well as chances to be out in nature with the ranger team.

The NPA was successful in securing £19,000 for the role as part of the nationwide New to Nature programme, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by Groundwork.

Research shows:

- 57% of disabled people feel excluded from being able to reduce their environmental impact.
- Less than 7% of environment professionals are from ethnic minority backgrounds.

New to Nature aims to get young people from diverse backgrounds into paid work placements across the natural environment and landscape sector, in turn boosting the diversity of the green jobs sector.

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the programme will run until May 2024 and will provide paid work placements for at least 70 people.

apprenticeships, because there are lots available through Historic England, the Churches Conservation Trust, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), the Prince's Trust and Heritage Crafts, National Trust, English Heritage, Historic Royal Palaces etc.



Name: Claire

Current role: Planning Officer. Duties include pre-applications, fielding general enquiries and recommending planning applications.

Past experience: I am a geographer at heart and studied it at university. I also volunteered with my local steering group which led to me gaining experience in the Planning Department at my local council. The National Park Authority has since supported me in further developing my skills through an MSc in Spatial Planning and Development.

Favourite part of your job?: The variety of being in the office as well as being out and meeting and negotiating with applicants to protect the National Park's landscape, heritage, ecology, and the vitality of local communities.

Advice for others: No one is perfect; we all make mistakes. It is how we grow, progress and learn from them that matters.



Name: Alistair

Current role: Apprentice Ranger. Duties include ensuring that people know how to care for the Forest whilst also enjoying it.

Past experience: I completed a degree in Chemistry and also undertook some woodland management volunteering. I have a keen interest in conservation.

Favourite part of your job?: The huge variety of tasks, being outdoors, meeting

different people and working in one of the most beautiful and interesting places in the UK.

Advice for others: Don't worry if you get a bit lost in the National Park, it's one of the best ways to explore!



Name: Sam

Current role: Systems Support Technician. Duties include running the ICT helpdesk, dealing with user issues and queries, and fixing devices (PCs, laptops, work phones etc.)

Past experience: I originally applied for a temporary unrelated job at the NPA and then demonstrated the skills required to move into my current role.

Favourite part of your job?: Getting to meet and interact with all members of staff, across all departments.

Advice for others: Get a summer/part time job if you

can. I didn't and feel like I missed out on a lot of skills that would have helped when I got my first job.

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Meet Jim Day, the new People and Wildlife Ranger for the New Forest National Park Authority

Why do we need a People and Wildlife Ranger?

The New Forest National Park is a very special place. It is internationally important for nature, with 56% of it protected through designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It has a mosaic of habitats including woodlands, heaths, mires and saltmarshes which support a wide variety of wildlife, which need to be protected.

My position is part of the New Forest District Council's Green Way scheme. This looks at new housing developments around the fringes of the National Park and ensures the right mitigation measures are in place so there's no adverse impact from the developments on our internationally-designated sites.

Although one of the smallest National Parks, the New Forest is also one of the most accessible and as such it is visited by more visitors per sq km than any other. It can be so easy for any of us to inadvertently negatively impact the very thing that we have come to enjoy.

What's your main role?

To engage with new communities in newer



building developments, in particular those at Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Totton. While the residents aren't actually in the National Park, they can easily access it. My job is to help share what makes the New Forest special and how people can protect it. I also help people make more use of the green spaces they have which they can use for recreation. It's well-documented how green spaces can benefit people's mental and physical well-being, so it's really important to get out into nature.

How do you do this?

I speak with residents directly through schools and community groups –

organising wild play days, events and activities, and sharing messaging from the New Forest code. I help people value and explore their local green spaces through guided walks or wildlife discovery sessions, for example. These look at the species on our doorsteps, highlighting our amazing wildlife and helping people to appreciate it. You can't protect what you don't have experience of. I bring our mobile ranger display vehicles out to communities, and also to the car parks around the edge of the New Forest which residents access most often from those towns and villages outside the National Park boundary. If you see me,

please come and say hello and find out more!

What's the biggest recreational activity in the New Forest?

Those of us with dogs are doubly blessed to be able to walk in the New Forest, and more time is spent dog walking in the National Park than all other recreational activities combined. A walk in the Forest can be very social as well as wonderful exercise and fresh air for the dogs and their owners alike. We have such a wealth of choice when it comes to places to walk. So, my role also promotes responsible dog ownership. This includes always picking up

after your dog and disposing of it properly; not letting dogs worry livestock; and staying on the tracks so as not to disturb ground-nesting birds in spring and summer.

What's your favourite part of the job?

Working in the New Forest! I also love opening people's eyes to things they didn't know are there. For 20 years I was an education officer at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and sharing knowledge is a privilege for me. People walk through the countryside and often don't see what they're walking past. I love pointing out the tiny details around us, such as the

small scarlet red hazel flowers that will end up as a hazelnut if fertilized. Or the Town Hall Clock – an ancient woodland plant which is small and not very showy but close up its perfect cube of flowers is just wonderful.

I also encourage people to listen to nature more and identify bird calls. When people are more in tune to what species sound like, they are more likely to see them!

Anything else you'd like to add?

If everyone who lives, works or plays here follows the New Forest code, the National Park will continue to be an amazing place for future generations to visit.



Dog walking in the Forest

Gillie Molland (Lead Ranger), Hayden Bridgeman (North Ranger), Jim Day (People and Wildlife Ranger), Claire Sherwood (Central and South West Ranger), Erika Dovey (South Ranger)



Jim is one of five full-time New Forest National Park Authority rangers.

Each year, additional seasonal rangers are employed for six months from March to September to help people learn about the importance of the New Forest, its protected species and promote key 'caring for the Forest' messages to reduce their impact. There's also a scheme in place for Apprentice rangers to work with different partners across the National Park.

If you're interested in the rangers attending your event or assisting with your community project then email them at rangers@newforestnpa.gov.uk

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Supporting community champions

Pilley Community Shop and local Post Office in the New Forest is run by the community for the community.

Shops like this are vital to help maintain the vitality and long-term sustainability of the village and a great way to champion all things local.

The shop is one of over 300 projects to have benefited from the New Forest National Park Authority's Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF). Since 2006 the fund has awarded £2.5m in grants to help improve the sustainability of the National Park including support for several community shops in the Forest.

Pilley Community Shop is run on a not-for-profit basis and offers a wide range of New Forest Marque produce alongside its general goods and post office services.

Shop Manager Caroline Danke said: 'Some of our customers rely on us for their weekly shop so it's very important to them. The sense of community is very good around here and we are very supported.'

When the shop relocated in 2022, the NPA provided a grant of £2,000 to help equip the new premises.

Vincent Slattery from Pilley Shop Committee said: 'I had by chance a copy of Park Life and in there was a mention of the Sustainable Communities Fund.'



Pilley Community Shop

Mr Slattery saw that one of the examples mentioned in the article was the Minstead Community Shop and says he suddenly thought that 'if Minstead have a community shop that's qualified for the sustainable communities fund, they could perhaps do that as well.'

Just like for Pilley, SCF has provided grants to other shops like Woodgreen and Minstead to help maintain these important community assets and continue to save food miles. Many of these shops provide vital facilities for people including personal shopping and deliveries as well as social hubs.

New Forest NPA member John Sanger is Chair of the Sustainable Communities Fund. He said: 'We've awarded funding to various projects over the years. A lot of the emphasis now is on environment, ecology and carbon saving but all of them have the common theme of enthusiastic people. It's great to see the enthusiasm of people working on these sorts of projects and the way it can bind communities together.'

The NPA continues to invite community groups, green groups, charities, schools and youth groups based in the New Forest National Park to apply for grants available

from its Sustainable Communities Fund.

These are for projects which improve wildlife and habitats, reduce carbon emissions or connect new groups of people to nature. Funds of up to £10,000 are available or micro grants of up to £150. These have helped to provide new native planting, bug hotels, hedgehog homes, nest boxes, bird feeders, pollinator trails, water recycling, and compost facilities.

This year's application deadline for the micro grants is 28 April.

For more information see www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/SCF



Minstead Community Shop



Pupils from St Joseph's Catholic School pruning willow

Funding successes for Forest

The New Forest National Park Authority has secured £2.7 million of funding for around 20 different NPA projects over the past four years.

We have also secured successful funding bids with and on behalf of a range of other partners, from the Freshwater Habitats Trust to the Commoners Defence

Association. Every £1 we invest in projects generates a further £18 of investment into the Forest (up from £14 previously).

Projects have included nature recovery, landscape enhancements, youth initiatives, volunteering, access improvements, apprentices and interns, and green skills.

We are also working strategically with our partners to develop a portfolio of projects and priorities which will form the basis of future funding bids to support the themes of the five-year New Forest National Park Partnership Plan – climate, nature, people, place and partnership.



A litter pick with New Forest Ambassadors

One of England's largest agri-environment schemes, which supports vital conservation projects in the New Forest, has been extended for a further five years.

The Verderers of the New Forest Higher-level Stewardship (HLS) scheme helps to protect the majority of the New Forest National Park's internationally-important wildlife and landscapes. Its range of projects includes restoring habitats, delivering education, protecting archaeology, and supporting commoning.

The scheme had an original life span of 10 years which expired in 2020. Since then, it has been rolled over annually, so the five-year extension is welcome news. It has so far brought nearly £23 million into the Forest, with a further £2 million granted each year of the five-year rollover.

Natural England provides technical advice and support to the scheme that is

Shaping the environment



HLS wetland restoration at Fletchers Thorns; an educational trip to the New Forest; the HLS scheme has a range of initiatives which support commoning



managed by the Verderers of the New Forest in partnership with Forestry England and the New Forest National Park Authority, with support from the Commons Defence Association.

The HLS scheme has achieved an exceptional amount since 2010:

Restoring wetlands: Returned 20 miles of streams, which were artificially-straightened

in Victorian times to drain the Forest, back to their natural courses, as well as restoring rare and important wetland habitats. This improves the carbon storage in these wetlands, helps to prevent flooding and supports rare species such as the southern damselfly and curlew.

Restoring rare habitats: 1,000 hectares of heath and grassland, the equivalent

of 1,600 football pitches, have been restored back to their natural habitats. This includes removing trees from plantations to allow rare open heathlands to thrive, ridge and furrow removal, scrub management and bracken harvesting - to support internationally-protected habitats.

Twenty-three miles of roadside verges - also included within

the Site of Special Scientific Interest - have been restored and protected.

Supporting commoning: Crucial funding and expert advice have been provided to hundreds of commoners, and a range of initiatives put in place to continue the traditional system of land management.

Protecting archaeology: The scheme area has been

surveyed using LiDAR, leading to thousands of archaeological sites being identified and recorded, with an on-going programme to manage them with the help of hundreds of volunteers.

Educating the next generation: More than 18,000 children have gained a greater understanding of the New Forest through school visits.

Removing invasive plants: Rhododendron and other non-native invasive species have been removed or reduced across approximately half of the HLS agreement area, helping native habitats and wildlife to flourish.

Lord Manners, Official Verderer of the New Forest, said: 'The five-year extension offered from the Rural Payments Agency is fantastic news for the Forest.'

'It means that the partner organisations can build on their existing work as well as put longer-term plans in place to deliver vital projects.'

Find out more at www.hlsnewforest.org.uk



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An £800,000 investment in the New Forest has brought thousands of people together to extend nature networks and create wildlife-rich corridors that link National Park habitats to neighbouring towns and cities.

Areas of grassland, woodland, hedgerows, streams, and ponds have been improved, bringing with them numerous opportunities for people to understand, value and help to care for the landscape.

Across the project 19 jobs have been created or retained at the New Forest National Park Authority and among our partner organisations – Countryside Education Trust, Freshwater Habitats Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and New Forest Commoners Defence Association – and where possible we've been working together to enable each other to deliver for the landscape and rural communities.

The 18-month scheme has come to an end this March but project highlights have included:

104ha of land (equivalent to 95 football pitches) improved for nature and climate resilience across 27 sites, plus 2km of hedgerows planted across 32 sites

Species return to woodland near Lymington

At Furzey Ground woodland near Lymington, Freshwater Habitats Trust's (FHT) woodland project officer, Angela Peters, and the team at FHT has been working to remove invasive non-native species and carry out gentle thinning to create light pockets where wetland features exist. Invasive species such as Himalayan balsam and Rhododendron had overtaken the woodland, stifling the native plants and sucking the nutrients from the soil. These plants grow densely and block sunlight from reaching the woodland floor.

Specialist wetland plants have flourished as a result including lesser skullcap, water mint, marsh bedstraw, yellow loosestrife, flag iris,



New Forest waterways species
Pic: NFNPA

bugle, figwort, ragged robin, in areas now receiving more sunshine and the return of common darter and golden ringed dragonflies. Angela said: 'Small wetlands respond very quickly to intervention demonstrating the power of small changes to create big gains for biodiversity.'

Expert advice and training given to landowners, farmers, and commoners.

A key goal of the Horizons scheme has been to restore and create habitats that help wildlife to thrive and become more resilient to climate change. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Farmland Advisor, Rhys Morgan, and the team at the New Forest Land Advice Service, Freshwater Habitats Trust, and

the Countryside Education Trust have been working with networks and clusters of farming, commoning, and landowner groups to help improve landscape scale resilience.

The networks and clusters have met regularly over the past year to discuss how to develop the health of freshwaters, ways to improve water quality, opportunities for training include bankside and grazing management and species identification.

As a result, one group has already received a grant and two others are potential candidates for grants to carry out work beneficial to the Forest.

The networks will continue to meet and be guided with expert advice after the

Horizons project finishes, demonstrating that such funding can provide a platform for ongoing success across the Forest.

Innovative solutions to protect water quality

The New Forest is home to many small rural businesses and one of the challenges is finding innovative ways to protect water quality and reduce reliance on mains water supplies. The FHT has been working on one site to install a new rainwater harvesting system that takes rainwater from roof surfaces and stores it in tanks holding around 120,000 litres – the equivalent of 100 hot tubs full of water. These tanks have saved the rural business nearly £3,000 per year in

mains supply and provided water during drought periods. Capturing the water in this way also benefits freshwater biodiversity by reducing the amount of water impacting the surrounding areas that leads to nutrient and sediment runoff.

115 volunteer events with 235 regular volunteers (4,575 hours)

Volunteers take part in New Forest Waterblitz

The New Forest's wetland landscape is both ancient and fragile, with areas boasting pristine streams, ponds and mires all bursting with rare species.

All this combines to make it one of the best and most important freshwater and coastal landscapes in the UK.



Our understanding of the Forest's water quality helps organisations make effective decisions when restoring and preserving the amazing waterways.

FHT's Wilder for Water project officer, Thea Margetts, worked with volunteers to carry out the second 'Waterblitz' testing the quality of waters in the



Richard Snelling (RSPB) with commoners Sarah and Andrew Parry-Norton



Water Blitz volunteer Pic: FHT



Dexters cows on back-up grazing land Pic: NFNPA



Clearance at Furzey Ground

Pic: FHT



Volunteer equipment Pic: NFNPA



NFNPA volunteers

about the New Forest. The building was donated to the Countryside Education Trust by the Fort Foundation, inspired by Mr E. S. Fort OBE. The centre reflects Mr Fort's long-held desire to bring education about climate change to the general public to encourage action on the climate emergency. The team has filled the space with amazing educational material, interpretation boards and most importantly, brought onboard amazing staff and interns to run workshops and courses from inside the centre, roles which the Horizons scheme has paid for. Jane Cooper, Chief Executive of the Countryside Education Trust, said: 'We are looking forward to helping people of all ages to learn more about the challenges of climate change and empowering them to act. We believe that this building will provide an inclusive base for climate education in the New Forest and beyond.'

Communications role brings national attention to commoning

The New Forest Commoners Defence Association (CDA) created a new dedicated role to be able to communicate key messages about commoning and raise its awareness. As a result, the CDA has gained national press attention as well as a growing social media presence over the last 18 months.

Stories on road safety, the importance of cattle, and the work commoners do to protect their animals has garnered national attention in the press.

The CDA's social media presence under the name of 'Real New Forest' has seen a growth under the stewardship of this new role. Posts on its social media pages have reached an audience of 2.1 million pages, seeing their total following grow by 17%. This has helped build a strong platform for future communications from the CDA and it now has a dedicated media library, website tracking, and a strategy moving forward with social media.



Water tanks installed by FHT Pic: FHT

New Forest. Over the past four months, 170 volunteers have collected a total of 650 samples from ponds, lakes, ditches, streams, and rivers from all over the New Forest, with records still coming in. As a sneak preview the results are showing that 85% of waterbodies samples

are clean, 8% have some pollution and 8% are high pollution. The Forest's ponds are the cleanest of the water bodies with 93% classed as clean. FHT would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers that have been involved in this project and for supporting its work as a catchment partnership to raise awareness and protect the best freshwaters, ensuring a resilient future for the New Forest.

New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) volunteers continue their hard work

Over 100 volunteer events have taken place coordinated and delivered by NFNPA. This has seen 235 people



This project is funded by the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

spending nearly 4,600 hours clearing paths, planting hedgerows, removing invasive plant species, litter picking, carrying out surveys of the Rights of Way network, and on archaeology tasks. The team has also been working alongside the Freshwater Habitats Trust to improve the New Forest's freshwaters and with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to plant new hedgerows that act as wildlife corridors for nature to

be able to move amongst the landscape. Record numbers of people were at the highly successful volunteer fair in January with over 920 people attending. The fair welcomed potential volunteers of all ages to speak to over 45 organisations on the opportunities available to help the New Forest.

136 engagement events reaching over 8,000 people

Fort Climate Centre – A new educational hub in the New Forest.

The Countryside Education Trust (CET) in Beaulieu has recently opened its new climate centre. Officially opened in March by HRH The Countess of Wessex (now the Duchess of Edinburgh), the centre will be an educational and community-based hub for people of all ages to learn

Respecting and caring for the Forest

New Forest District Council is proposing two Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to tackle anti-social behaviour and support the New Forest code. The PSPOs ban the lighting of fires and the use of BBQs principally on the Crown Lands managed by Forestry England, and also make it an offence to feed or pet ponies, horses, mules, and donkeys in the New Forest.

If approved by the Council at its Cabinet meeting in April, the PSPOs would allow Fixed Penalty Notices to be issued with fines of £100, or up to £1,000 with a Magistrates' Court prosecution.

The new powers would be introduced in July.

Patrick Heneghan, New Forest National Park Authority Deputy Chair and Chair of the Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group, said: 'The New Forest is internationally important for its

wildlife and many rare species. With hotter, drier summers it's more important than ever that we do all we can to reduce the risk of wildfires.

'The Open Forest and the habitats it supports are maintained by the commoners' animals grazing the landscape. 'However well-intentioned, feeding and petting New Forest ponies can cause them serious harm, encouraging them closer to the roadsides and busy car parks and stopping them from seeking their own natural food.'

If the PSPOs are confirmed following a consultation which took place in December 2022 - January 2023, the National Park Authority, Forestry England and the Verderers will support education and enforcement of the PSPOs.

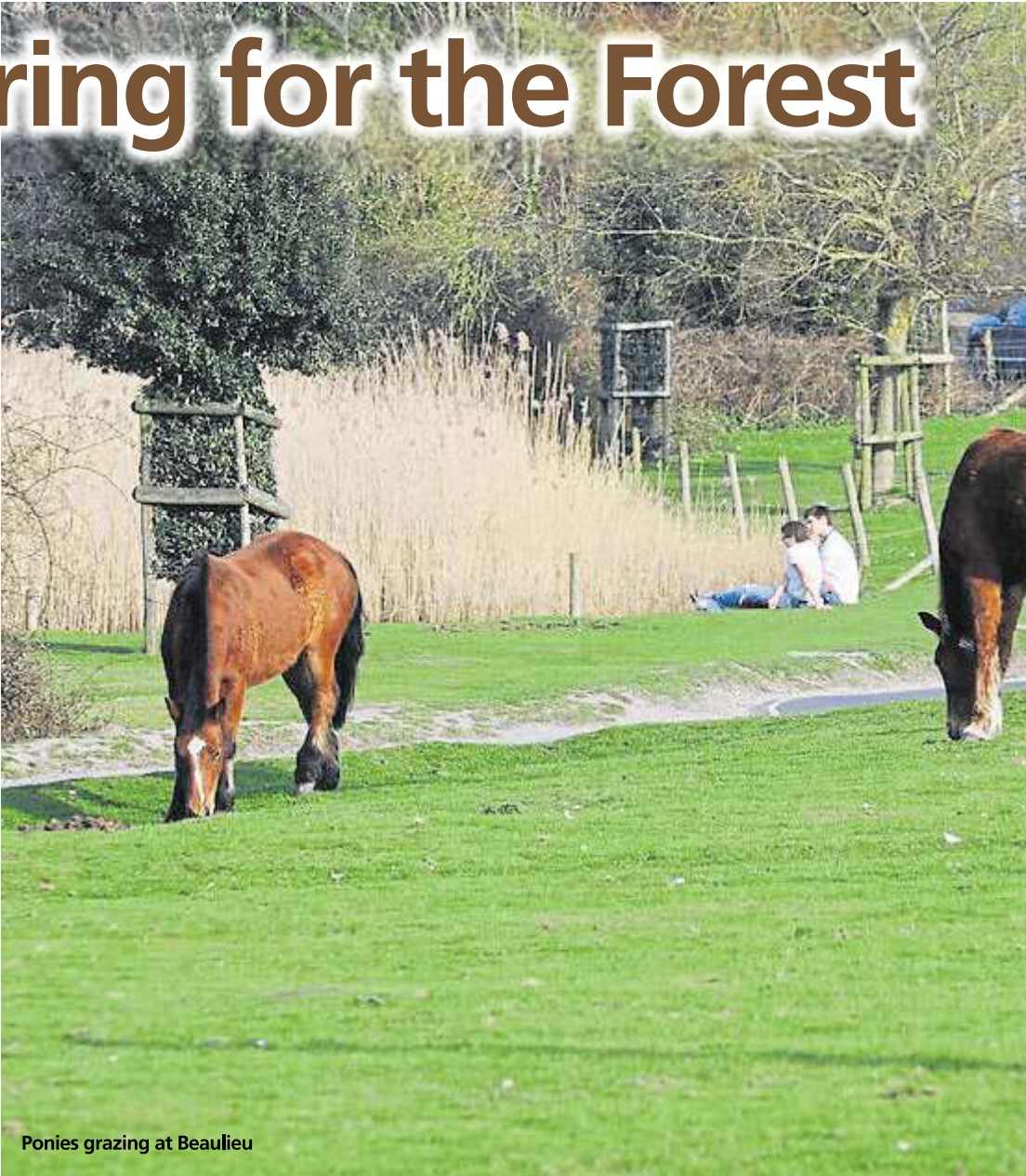
New signs would be put in place to notify people of the orders.

Rangers and other staff would be trained to follow an

approach of 'engage; educate; encourage; enforce'.

Craig Harrison, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest said: 'Protecting the New Forest from the growing risk of wildfires and their potentially devastating consequences is a key priority. Our teams have spent many hours preventing irresponsible use of BBQs and fires and working with the emergency services to respond to incidents.'

Lord Manners, Official Verderer of the New Forest said: 'The Verderers welcome the introduction of a PSPO prohibiting the feeding and petting of Forest stock. 'Feeding ponies can be dangerous to their health and cause aggressive behaviour towards people. Animals can be unpredictable, and can bite or kick, especially mares with foals. The Forest ponies are best left to fend for themselves away from roads and car parks.'



Ponies grazing at Beaulieu

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Follow the New Forest code

The New Forest is a unique place with rare wildlife and free-roaming livestock. Thank you for helping us care for this special place by following the simple New Forest code:

	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











www.newforestnpa.gov.uk
www.thenewforest.co.uk

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Grovelly is working closely with New Forest Dog Owners Group and we are promoting the "pick up your dog poo" on the forest. We are stocking plastic free bio degradable poo bags (you still can't leave them in a tree!) and the renowned Dicky Bag – a sealed pouch that you can attach to you belt, dog walking bag, or lead and store the poo stinky free until you can dispose of in a bin or take it home. Pop into store to see this great range of funky bags, lovingly designed in Devon.

And remember, we are still in the season for Alabama Rot – so make sure you are washing your dogs down with a fresh water wash when coming in from a walk. We have in store a number of water vessels as well as unique ways of washing legs with the Paw Wash. But, if your dog acts in a strange way, licks a lesion or cut on its legs, is lethargic, or appears ill, it's important to get your vet to assist as soon as possible."





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Opening Times: Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm



Here's to the delights of home-grown wine

The New Forest is blessed with an abundance of locally produced food and drink, but did you know we have four thriving vineyards in the region?

Marlings, Brook Hill, Setley Ridge and Coach House are all certified by the New Forest Marque and produce a variety of wines, including many award-winners.

Whether you favour a crisp white, a bold red, or something gently sparkling, you'll find a fabulous home-grown wine for you. When you buy wine produced in the New Forest, not only are you treated to a top tippie, but you support small, family-run vineyards and the New Forest community.

Marlings in Sway is a small vineyard producing around 4,000 bottles of wine each year. Planted over 30 years ago, the vineyard is one of the oldest in Hampshire and was already established when growers Paul Cartmell and Mark Barber took it over 10 years ago.

Paul said: 'We have improved the vineyard over the last 10 years by planting new varieties more suitable to today's climate such as Chardonnay and Pinot Noir vines, changing pruning techniques and improving vine health, which enables us to produce award-winning sparkling and still wines.'

Marlings is run by a small team, including qualified winemaker, Piotr Nahajski, but at harvest time they welcome local people who join them to pick the grapes.



Follow the Marque on social media. You can find the New Forest Marque on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - follow @newforestmarque for all the latest New Forest food and drink news.



Paul said: 'Harvest time is our favourite time of year – it can be very satisfying when there is good crop of grapes and there is a great buzz amongst the pickers and in the winery.'

The vineyard produces a sparkling rosé brut, made via the traditional Champenoise method, a still white wine predominantly from Bacchus grapes, and a still rosé wine.

They have won a range of awards, most recently a silver medal in the Decanter World Wine awards 2022 for their Sparkling Rosé Brut.

Marlings focuses on supplying and supporting restaurants and retailers in and around the New Forest. Stockists include Shallowmead Farm Shop in Boldre, Pilley Community Shop and Shappen Stores, Burley.

Brook Hill is a family-run vineyard in Bramshaw where Ian and Amanda Brown hand-pick, crush and ferment on site to make a range of award-winning still and sparkling wines.

Initially a hobby, Ian planted the vines at Brook Hill in 2012 and the couple produced their first small batch of wine three years later. Today the vineyard is around 2.5 acres with more than 2,500 vines made up of six varieties including Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, which they use principally for their sparkling wine, and white varieties Bacchus, Ortega and Pinot Gris for still wine.

In addition, they grow German red grape Dornfelder for still red and rosé. In a good year they aim to produce around 3,500 bottles.

Amanda said: 'Ian had recently retired, and we had always enjoyed wine, so with his skills and interests in biochemistry and gardening it seemed an ideal project. He went on some courses, and we have learned a lot from other vineyard owners and wine producers - it is a very friendly and interactive community.'

Brook Hill produces white, red and rosé still wines, as well as sparkling white and rosé. They've won several silver and bronze medals, both from the Independent English Wine Awards and from Wine GB, the main organisation for wine grown and

produced in England and Wales.

Ian said: 'It has been great developing Brook Hill within the New Forest. People love to buy local produce and we have had a lot of support and networking, particularly via the New Forest Marque. We only sell within the New Forest area, which helps to make us very sustainable.'

Brook Hill wines are sold at local hotels and shops including Forest Park Hotel in Brockenhurst, Green Hill Farm Holiday Village shop in Landford, and in hampers from The Forest Foodie based in Lymington.

Another family-run New Forest vineyard is Setley Ridge, which is owned by Paul and Hayley Girling. Set on the outskirts of Brockenhurst, the vineyard opened in 2001 and produces red, white and rosé still wines and occasionally English sparkling wine.

The couple grow the grapes, make the wine and bottle all on site.

Paul Girling said: 'In the late summer, early autumn we get together to pick the grapes and celebrate the harvest by eating and drinking amongst the vines. At all times we try to be sensitive to the environment in which we work and are rewarded with a rich diversity of flora and fauna for us to enjoy and appreciate.'

Paul also works closely with Roger Marchbank who owns Coach House, a small vineyard in West Wellow. Roger grows grapes at his vineyard and then crushes and ferments at Setley Ridge. It is a lovely example of how collaborative the producer community is in the New Forest.

● For details of all four vineyards, go to newforestmarque.co.uk.

About the New Forest Marque

The New Forest Marque is a food and produce scheme set up to champion businesses who pride themselves on producing and providing food, drinks and crafts with clearly defined New Forest provenance. The New Forest Marque also works to protect, encourage, and promote the traditional farming practices which help fashion the iconic landscape found in the New Forest.

The New Forest National Park Authority is proud to support the New Forest

Marque which helps promote businesses involved in the production, processing and distribution of local produce – businesses for whom the New Forest is at the heart of their product.

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

The sign of true, local produce

The New Forest Marque has welcomed a wonderful variety of new members recently, including:

- Coffeewagen - serving hot drinks and home-made cakes and cookies, using locally sourced ingredients, from a sixties inspired van.
- Kempe Wood Art - creating bespoke wood items, from chess sets to furniture, made from local timber.
- Pondhead Conservation Trust -

award-winning charity restoring New Forest woodland and selling premium charcoal.

- Scout and Hunter - event caterers offering creative, personalised food and drink with a focus on local ingredients.
- Wild Close Bees - family-run apiary in Woodgreen offering honey and beeswax products, plus jams and more made with local, seasonal produce.



Wild Close Bees and Pondhead Conservation Trust



A different perspective

Travel around the New Forest car-free and get a different view of the National Park while helping the environment too.

The National Park has buses and trains and plenty of flat, accessible routes and trails to enjoy on foot or by bike.

Walking

You can explore 40 easy-to-follow New Forest walks by downloading the free New Forest Walks app – with GPS navigation and fascinating points of interest to view as you walk.

Or use our online routes finder to search by distance, location or even whether there is a pub nearby!

There are also 10 specially designed accessible walks to try.

● www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/walks

New Forest Tour

Don't miss grandstand views from the open-top Tour bus, which runs from 1 July to 17 September 2023.

Hop on and off wherever you like, or switch between three scenic routes, all on the same ticket! Hear the stories of the people, places and



Bike maintenance at Ashurst



Riding with PEDALL



Enjoying open-top views from the New Forest Tour



Exploring New Forest tracks

animals of the New Forest with an audio commentary. You can also track live departure times on the website or app.

Bikes and well-behaved dogs go free

on the Tour, so why not enjoy a walk or cycle ride too?

Look out for special discounts for residents!

● www.thenewforesttour.info

New Community Hub in Ashurst

Need more confidence getting about on two wheels? Inclusive cycling charity PEDALL has opened a new

Community Hub in Ashurst, which you can reach by train or bus.

PEDALL sessions aren't just for those with a disability.

It's also now offering social confidence rides to get you in the saddle, improve wellbeing, make friends and connect with nature.

Riding with PEDALL means you don't need to worry about getting lost or getting a puncture as staff are there to guide and support you, allowing you to focus on the beautiful surroundings.

Gentle, relaxed rides offer support with like-minded people and may involve cake stops!

The hub is also offering free bike safety checks and maintenance advice. Every Wednesday, its doors are open between 10.30am and 2.30pm to help you keep your bike safe and running.

It can offer basic training for you to learn to do these checks yourself, and for a small donation, staff may be able to fix or replace parts if needed.

● www.pedall.org.uk

Thinking of making a personal injury claim?

You've suffered an injury through no fault of your own and you're considering making a claim. In a situation like this, the thought of contacting a personal injury solicitor could be daunting.

So, what should you expect when calling a personal injury firm for the first time?

At Simpkins & Co we pride ourselves on being friendly, approachable and compassionate and we appreciate that if you've been injured, it will be a very traumatic time for you. We'll listen to the details of what's happened, how you've been injured and how you feel now. We'll discuss with you the process of making a claim and how we can help. We can nearly always do 'no win, no fee' with personal injury matters, which is risk-free for you. If you choose not to proceed, there is absolutely no obligation to go ahead with a claim. You have 3 years from the date of the accident to make a claim.

If you think you have a claim, call our Lyndhurst office on **01425 275555** or email **info@simpkinsand.co.uk**. All enquiries are strictly confidential.



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The Cave is a unique business in Milford on Sea that serves as an **off-license** specialising in premier quality wines, spirits and beers as well as a **wine and tapas bar**. Since 2013, The Cave has served thousands of locals and visitors alike and has proved to be a popular destination venue for the discerning traveller.

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The Cave, 2 Church Hill, Milford on Sea, 5041 OQH | www.thecavemos.co.uk | Tel: 01590 642195

Love the Forest and apply for funding

You can now apply for grants of up to £5,000 for projects which help secure the future of the New Forest.

It's thanks to the Love the Forest scheme, run by registered charity the New Forest Trust, which has recently funded a wide range of conservation, education and commoning projects. These include printing the New Forest code to show how to care for the Forest; supporting the campaign to reduce animal accidents; research into rare pine martens; a film for visitors about how to keep the Forest special and providing litter picking kits for National Park ambassadors.

Businesses across the National Park generously help raise the funds from their customers by adding a small donation to restaurant bills, accommodation, products and services.

New Forest Trust Chairman



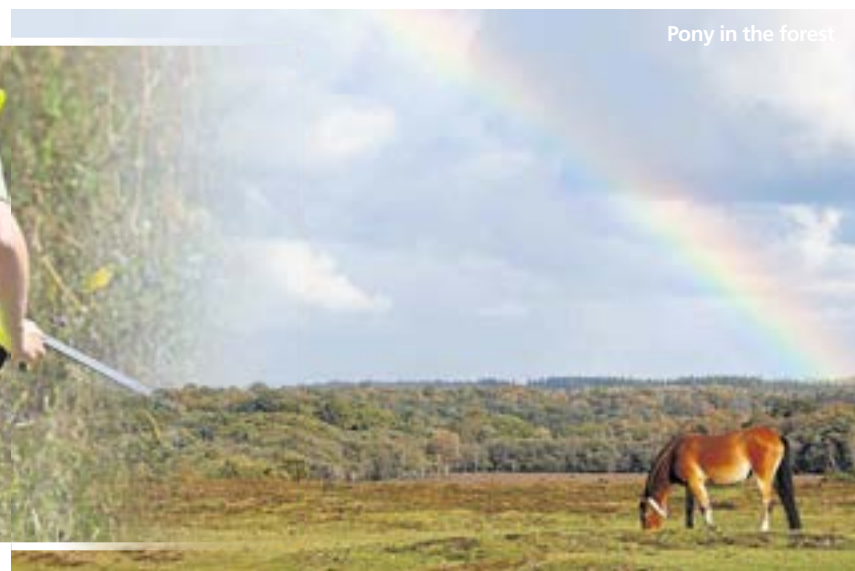
Pine marten Pic: Martin Noble

William Ziegler said: 'The New Forest landscape is globally important for nature and it's only through everyone working together that we can make sure it's around for future generations.'

'We know there are some great projects which could get under way with a bit of funding so we're calling on businesses, communities, schools and organisations to



New Forest Ambassador



Pony in the forest



submit their ideas. Applying is easy and you'll get a quick response.

'We would also like to thank our partner businesses and their customers who have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds over the years to ensure the spectacular New Forest is not just protected but improved.'

Grants of £50 to £5,000 are available and projects must

meet one or more of the New Forest Trust charitable objectives:

- Promoting the conservation, protection and improvement of the New Forest
- Promoting the conservation and protection of the commoning livestock, the deer and other flora and fauna of the New Forest
- Promoting the education and understanding of the

public in the commoning of livestock, of fauna and flora and the environment of the New Forest.

Find out more about projects the scheme has supported and how to apply for your own grant on the website: www.lovetheforest.org.uk

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Little Hill
Pic: David Hayhurst



Wood End House
Pic: Sheerin Bettie Architecture



Grand designs



Congratulations to the worthy winners of our Building Design Awards!

Every year we as a planning authority celebrate high-quality design and the best new developments across the National Park, inviting nominations across several categories.

The New Forest is renowned for its spectacular landscape but its buildings are also an important part of what makes the National Park special.

Best Green Building 2023 was awarded to Little Hill in Hyde. The residential scheme, designed by owner and architect David Hayhurst, replaced a run-down post-war bungalow with a highly energy-efficient home. The judging panel, made up of National Park Authority members, commended its form and positioning to get natural heat from the sun ('solar gain') while limiting light spill. Its use of sustainable materials and air source heat pump also impressed the judges.

David Illsley, NPA Policy and Conservation Manager, said: 'Little Hill is a really positive example of a replacement dwelling in a rural Conservation Area that enhances the site through a design inspired by New Forest



Unit One, Forest Corner Farm
Pic: LST Projects LTD

agricultural buildings.

'The new home achieves the highest energy performance rating.'

Highly Commended in the Best Green Building category was residential building Pannage Green in Lyndhurst. David Lovegrove Architecture took a holistic design approach to the new-build property to include a rainwater harvester, heat vent recovery system, triple-glazed windows, wildlife boxes and a pond.

Best Conservation Scheme went to Wood End House in Lymington, a Grade-II

Listed building which had fallen into disrepair and had been unsympathetically altered in the past. Using a historic photo of the home as a guide, Ringwood-based Sheerin Bettie Architecture reintroduced a number of features including sash windows, original chimney designs and heritage cast iron works.

The home's historically-significant ceiling moulds and friezes were also painstakingly preserved, while outbuildings were newly-built from handmade bricks in keeping with the original home.

The judging panel praised the scheme's attention to detail, adding that the conservation work had been carried out to the highest standard.

Best Non-residential Building was awarded to Unit One, Forest Corner Farm near Ringwood. Local architects Sheerin Bettie designed the new reception, consulting area and surgery for an existing veterinary hospital; replacing a large, dominating corrugated tin-clad grain store and mill building.

The award-winning scheme is based on the style of a

Hampshire threshing barn with central opposing gables and large barn door openings. David Illsley said: 'The panel commended the building's high energy efficiency standards, as well as its traditional detailing in keeping with its location in the Western Escarpment Conservation Area.'

Highly Commended in the best non-residential building category went to an outbuilding within the grounds of the Grade-II Listed Minstead Lodge. Winchester-based TKLS Architects designed a new toilet block

and wet room in place of an existing small lean-to toilet and pottery kiln.

The judging panel was impressed with the simple form and detailing, materials and joinery which tied the design into the adjacent stable buildings.

Gordon Bailey, Chair of the New Forest National Park Authority's Planning Committee, and a member of the Awards panel said: 'Our role is to ensure that new developments make a positive contribution to the New Forest's special character.'

'We're pleased to reward these winning designs, which show how high-quality developments can conserve and enhance the National Park. Not only do they incorporate sustainable construction, lighting and materials, but their proportions and materials are sympathetic to their setting within the landscape and our villages. 'Congratulations to the very worthy winners of these outstanding schemes.'

Prof. Gavin Parker, Chair of the New Forest National Park Authority, presented the awards at the March Authority meeting. The plaques were made by New Forest company BearWood using sustainable local oak.



Businesses including the Thatched Cottage in Brockenhurst are supporting the ground nesting bird campaign; to protect birds such as this curlew nesting with its chick Pic: Forestry England Roger Wilmshurst

Keeping on track to support rare birds

Local community groups and businesses are pledging their support to ‘stay on the tracks’ in the New Forest during this year’s ground nesting bird season.

People using the Forest this spring and summer are being encouraged to join them and take a few simple measures to help these rare and vulnerable birds.

The New Forest is a Special Protection Area for Birds and a critical breeding location for endangered ground nesting birds. Key species here include

curlew, lapwing, around 15% of the UK’s visiting population of nightjar, and a third of the nation’s breeding population of Dartford warbler. They’re under pressure in many parts of the UK, so helping them breed successfully in the New Forest is vital to their overall survival.

Unlike most birds, ground nesting birds build nests and raise their young on the ground around woodland edges and on the open heathland areas of the Forest. Special quiet zones are in place

from March until late summer at critical breeding locations to help reduce the likelihood of disturbance resulting in nests being abandoned and chicks exposed to predators.

In the quiet zones, people are asked to stick to the main tracks and not to venture onto open, heathland areas where birds will be nesting. Those with dogs are asked to lend their support by keeping pets with them on the tracks and where necessary using leads to keep them under close control.

A small number of Forestry England car parks near these areas will be closed: Clayhill, Crockford, Crockford Clump, Hincheslea, Hincheslea Moor, Ocknell Pond, Ogdens, Shatterford and Yew Tree Heath.

Everyone spending time on the Forest whether on foot, wheels or hooves can join the joint campaign from Forestry England and the NPA by staying on the main tracks and looking out for special signage in the most sensitive locations. Orange signs indicate areas

very close to breeding grounds and can be seen in locations including car parks and on the main tracks. Red ‘stop’ signs highlight nesting sites in the immediate vicinity and ask the public to avoid these areas.

Matthew Lawson, New Forest Business Partnership Chairman and owner of The Thatched Cottage, Brockenhurst, said: ‘We all have a collective responsibility to care for the special wildlife here in the New Forest, particularly rare ground nesting birds. ‘Whether it’s businesses,

residents or visitors, we can all do our part.

‘We are happy to be able to share tips with the local community to raise awareness of how best to look after these birds and would encourage other Forest businesses to do the same.’

Other organisations pledging their support for the campaign include New Forest Dog Owners Group, New Forest Cycle Working Group, New Forest Access Forum, and the British Horse Society.

#StayOnTheTracks



FOREST PARK
COUNTRY HOTEL & INN

Luxury in the New Forest

Awarded best hotel in Hampshire 2021 by international review site, the Forest Park is an iconic country hotel located in Brockenhurst village. Its luxurious accommodation offering tranquil nights with either garden or forest views and is the perfect base to explore the New Forest National Park.

The Acorn Room Restaurant serves freshly prepared local food and The INN serves a wide selection of local & international wine, spirits and beer. The hotel also has a spacious garden for outdoor dining and facilities to host events, special occasions, meetings and weddings.

Booking is essential for all indoor & garden table reservations

