

AM 690/24






NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY AUTHORITY MEETING – 17 OCTOBER 2024

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Report by: Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

Summary:

This report covers the period since the Authority meeting on 25 July 2024. The report has been formatted to accord with our statutory purposes and duty; these are delivered by the Re:New Forest themes of 'Climate, Nature, People, Place, Partnership and Achieving Excellence' from our agreed Business Plan, summarised as follows:

 Re:New Climate	 Re:New Nature	 Re:New People	 Re:New Place	 Re:New Partnership
Establishing data and evidence baseline and implementing nature-based climate solutions.	Making space for nature and mitigating recreational pressures.	Increasing green skills and jobs - supporting New Forest business / green tourism. Sustainable land management and securing the future of commoning.	Promoting health and wellbeing through contact with nature.	Establishing stronger partnerships within the boundary.
Building a New Forest coalition for a Net Zero economy.	Enhancing natural capital.	Increasing the National Park's resilience to the effects of climate change.	Connecting people with nature and landscape.	Leading the green agenda beyond the New Forest.
Activating communities and increasing sustainable travel.	Supporting nature recovery through Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).	Increasing the availability of affordable housing.	Safeguarding cultural heritage.	Developing a centre of excellence of insights and innovation for the New Forest.
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 				

Recommendation:

To note the report.

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Equality and 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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AUTHORITY MEETING – 17 OCTOBER 2024

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Report by: Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

As we move into autumn, we can look back on a summer of progress with our partners across all of the shared Partnership Plan themes.

Our Re:New Nature work has seen us support both Local Nature Recovery Strategies for the counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire, ensuring nature recovery plans and opportunities for the New Forest are represented appropriately in the emerging strategies. This has been greatly helped by the work of the Re:New Nature Partnership launched a year ago at the New Forest Show identifying priorities and potential projects.

Meanwhile our £1.3m Species Survival Fund project, also made possible by the growing collaboration, is under way. With five other partners, the project is working to restore up to 250ha of land across a minimum of 20 sites – the equivalent of 350 football pitches. This first phase has focused on wildlife surveys of 11 sites, with over 650 species recorded including several rare 'red list' species. Groundwork preparation, staff recruitment and establishing an oversight Board have also taken place, in preparation for on-the-ground capital works to start in earnest in autumn/winter. Already the project is starting to show how we can better engage landowners in nature recovery.

The Farming in Protected Landscape grant scheme has continued into its final six months and the feasibility study to identify a successor scheme to Higher Level Stewardship scheme progressed with a workshop and consultation discussions. This study will be vital in determining how we can support commoners and management for nature across the New Forest landscape into the future.

A new tool to boost nature in the planning toolkit went live this quarter, with the planning team receiving the first applications subject to statutory biodiversity net gain (BNG) – which now applies in general residential developments with 10 or more dwellings, or where the site area is greater than 0.5 hectares. The aim is to make sure that habitats for wildlife are left in a better state than they were before the development – seeing a 10% improvement. The habitat creation required to achieve 10% net gain can be undertaken on the development site itself if space and circumstances allow, on a separate site or a mixture of the two.

The Policy team concluded vital overarching legal agreements enabling both BNG and nutrient neutrality obligations to be met in the National Park. The team also responded to very important consultations on proposed reforms to the national planning policy and to proposals for the now abandoned Exxon Mobil Solent CO2 pipeline. Not only did they lead locally, sharing responses with partners and communities, but also on behalf of the national park family in a joint response to proposed reforms.

The historic and built environment of the Forest has been in the spotlight in the past weeks. We welcomed HRH The Duke of Gloucester to view high quality developments in the Forest in early October, visiting SpudWorks at Sway to see 'The Living Room' - one of our Building Design Awards winners. He also viewed other schemes in the heart of Sway and discussed the Local List and conservation areas, before moving on to the Chapel Stores at East Boldre.

The community run Chapel stores were also the location of a recent volunteer project led by our archaeology team. Volunteers tidied up the graveyard and digitally recorded the stones' inscriptions, revealing text that was not previously visible. The team also advised on an excavation at Thorney Hill to investigate a compound created in the 1920s when Gypsies and Travellers were no longer allowed to camp out on the open forest. The project was filmed by Channel 4's 'Digging for Britain'.

Our education and youth team have led the Youth for Climate and Nature (YouCAN) scheme successfully to the end of its first year. Highlights include establishing the Youth Board for the New Forest which met for the first time in September with a two-day residency at the Countryside Education Trust (CET) and new volunteering opportunities for young people. A member of the Youth Board and member of staff, Hayley Quarrington represented all national parks youth voice at the first Defra reception held by the incoming Secretary of State Steve Reid, meeting him in person and ensuring awareness of the New Forest National Park.

The summer season of outreach to visitors and presence on the Forest saw Rangers spend 350 hours on patrol promoting the New Forest Code with a focus on the PSPOs, including a joint operation with Forestry England staff to target feeding and petting ponies at hotspots including Burley, Brockenhurst and Bolton's Bench. The profile of the operation and messaging were also boosted on social media. Over 800 visitors staying at Camping New Forest sites were engaged on how to care for the Forest through ranger walks, family activities and the mobile unit. One of the ranger team also attended the National Heathland Conference in Dorset to share best practice and lead a session on responsible dog walking for staff managing other heathland areas.

The New Forest Show enabled valuable engagement with partners and the public and was a true celebration of Forest life, with the the Heart of the Forest section of the showground where we and many Forest organisations are co-located winning the President's Cup. The Partnership Plan 'Behind the Scenes' campaign to highlight the wildlife of the New Forest and the people working for nature in the background was the

focus of our stand with over 2,600 people visiting. The joint campaign with images by photographer Steve Poole has continued online with over 120,000 impressions on social media to date and in print with a feature in Park Life and numerous magazines. The annual review and autumn/winter issue of Park Life have been printed. Other highlights of the Show were celebrations of 20 years of the New Forest Marque, the PEDALL rides raising £3,000 and the annual Awards with CLA presented in the main ring.

PEDALL also celebrated the fantastic fundraising achievements of Gareth Jones, who rode continuously for 12 hours supported by over 160 riders, clocking up 133 miles and raising £5,000.

Access in the National Park has been given a boost over the past months with a £525,000 scheme to improve the landscape and visitor access at the former Breamore Railway line, near Fordingbridge, given the green light thanks to a £300,000 grant from National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative which we secured. The project with Hampshire County Council will improve the highly valued river valley by developing a wildlife-rich corridor and improving the quality of the landscape. Improvements to the bridleway at Dilton Farm and the Knightwood Oak Trail have made access easier and directed footfall away from sensitive areas.

We welcomed two new Health Fellows shared with Hampshire County Council's public health team who will be working on green social prescribing in the New Forest and surrounding area. We attended the launch of Hampshire 2050's 'Year of Wellbeing' and will be using the HCC initiative to highlight our work on a 'natural health service' following on from the inspiring Green Halo Conference in June.

The end of September saw a New Forest National Park delegation attend the biennial National Parks Conference hosted by Northumberland National Park. Marking the 75th Anniversary of National Parks, the conference focused on how we can be 'Landscapes for Everyone' as we go into the next 75 years. We heard inspirational and challenging perspectives on how we can be more inclusive in our work.

Once again, the youth voice from the New Forest was excellently represented by the interventions and presence of Hayley Quarrington and Hayden Bridgeman, giving hope for the journey ahead. The conference renewed collective resolve to tackle challenging issues together for climate, nature and people and to engage the new government in securing our national parks for everyone today and for future generations.

DELIVERY OF NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

The report has been formatted to accord with the statutory purposes and duty, which we often refer to as Protect, Enjoy and Prosper. These are delivered through our Re:New 'Climate, Nature, People, Place, Partnership, Organisation' objectives from the agreed Business Plan, a summary of which is set out on the first page.

Our Business Plan is delivered through annual Work Programmes, progress on which is set out in these reports alongside the formal quarterly reporting under the six themes to the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee; at the end of each year we produce an Annual Review document.

The final section of this report lists the Members', our Chair's and the Chief Executive's activities and events.

1 First Purpose: Protect

Nature Recovery

In September Members attended a briefing on Nature Recovery in National Parks and the New Forest provided by Paul Walton. This took a closer look at the expectations and drivers for nature recovery, including the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework and the contribution National Parks will make towards 30by30 – the global commitment to protect and conserve a minimum of 30% of land and sea for biodiversity by 2030. Discussion of initiatives such as the Re:New Nature Partnership, our Species Survival Fund project, the contribution of planning and our Green Links study gave an insight into our work here in the New Forest. There was also a review of the "Team Nature" approach to joint working across the National Park family.

The National Park Directors of Conservation met in the North York Moors in early October, providing the opportunity to further develop the Team Nature approach. The group was joined by colleagues from the National Parks England and the Protected Landscapes Partnership to help ensure national policy work can fully support nature recovery delivery at the local level.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Hampshire County and Wiltshire Councils are the bodies responsible for producing Local Nature Recovery Strategies: a new system of plans for nature recovery consisting of a map of the most valuable areas for wildlife, opportunities for nature improvement and local priorities. The NPA is a supporting authority and has been assisting with preparing the maps and ensuring the nature recovery priorities for the National Park are fully represented in the new strategies. The final versions of the strategies are expected in 2025 following a period of consultation. Members have the chance to have a 'first look' at the draft plans on Monday 21 October when officers from both Wiltshire and Hampshire will present on progress.

Net Zero with Nature

The National Parks UK commitment to the Race to Zero initiative was launched in July. We are now completing our first annual reporting process which will help to identify areas of improvement for us to develop as an organisation that is leading on climate issues in our geographical area. We are expecting feedback before the end of 2024.

Coinciding with the launch of Race to Zero was publication of a revised emissions baseline and net zero pathway for each National Park. We are working with the authors of the baseline to ensure the methodology used takes full account of the nature of land use in the New Forest.

We are also improving our understanding of local climate change projections. In August we received a good response to a tender to develop a climate change risk and opportunity register for the National Park which will form the basis of an Adaptation Plan. This will detail the actions needed to be carried out by National Park stakeholders to deliver adaptation efforts. The project will interpret national climate data to provide local climate projections and hazards specific to the National Park. The contract was awarded in September and the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2025.

Resources for the Adaptation Opportunities Assessment are from the YouCAN project which has also supported the development of bespoke New Forest learning materials to deliver Carbon Literacy Training which will be rolled out to staff, Members and partners.

In September John Stride, our Net Zero with Nature Programme Manager, attended a Green Finance Knowledge Share workshop hosted by National Parks Partnerships (NPP). The two-day event covered governance, due diligence and ethics, the attributes of Protected Landscapes that bring green finance opportunities, Revere Partnership and opportunities for engagement with the National Parks Partnerships to grow green finance opportunities here in the National Park.

Species Survival Fund Project

The programme is now fully underway with all the staff posts filled across the partner organisations involved in the project and a Project Board established. Much of the first phase of capital work will start in the autumn / winter period, but a programme of baseline survey work has been undertaken on 11 priority sites over the late spring and summer. This has shown the wealth of species already associated with the sites included in the programme with over 650 species recorded. The multi-year project is aiming to restore up to 250ha of land across a minimum of 20 sites. Early work has highlighted the contribution the project can make in encouraging landowner engagement in nature recovery and the process of preparing sites for nature restoration.

Development Management

125 applications were received in the period 01 July to 23 September 2024. In the same period 108 applications were determined with an approval rate of 94%.

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

We have now received several applications which are subject to statutory biodiversity net gain.

Planning Enforcement

Since June the enforcement team has carried out initial assessments on 58 new enforcement cases and worked hard to conclude 64 cases. Less than half the cases were closed, as no breach of planning control was found, and the remainder resulted in negotiations, applications and / or remedial steps being taken by the people responsible. The Team has issued two Enforcement Notices, neither of which have been appealed. The Enforcement Notices relate to the erection of a substantial outbuilding that was refused permission and then dismissed at appeal; and the use of land for storage and distribution purposes and hard surfacing.

Policy

The partial update to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan – which covers the whole of the New Forest National Park – has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. The Plan establishes the future levels of provision of minerals and waste facilities that are required to meet national and regional policy targets and objectives. It sets out an updated vision of how this will be achieved and provides details of strategic sites that will deliver the vision. The submission draft Plan, supporting evidence base and all the representations received during the previous Regulation 19 consultation have been submitted for examination.

The Policy team has co-ordinated the Authority's response to several important consultations in recent months. These include: (i) our response to the Government's proposed reforms to national planning policy, which was the focus of a members' workshop in early September; (ii) the joint National Parks England response to the same consultation; and (iii) our response to the proposed Solent CO₂ pipeline, available to view at [Proposal for Solent CO₂ pipeline - New Forest National Park Authority](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/proposal-for-solent-co2-pipeline) ([newforestnpa.gov.uk](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)). We have worked closely with partners in preparing these consultation responses, which focus on the impacts of the proposals on the delivery of the statutory National Park purposes. On 3 October Exxon Mobil confirmed they will not be progressing the Solent CO₂ pipeline proposals in South Hampshire, citing the lack of certainty around Government policy support.

The team continues to work closely with partners to ensure the planned development taking place in and around the National Park does not impact on the integrity of the internationally designated sites of the New Forest and Solent Coast. This work includes:

- The completion of overarching legal agreements to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and nutrient neutrality projects in the area. These schemes will deliver a significant quantum of local BNG units and nutrient credits to ensure biodiversity net gain is delivered and that new development does not exacerbate water quality issues in the Solent's designated sites.
- Co-ordinating the work of neighbouring planning authorities and other partners to address recreational impacts on the New Forest's designated sites through the implementation of strategic access management and mitigation measures (SAMM) within the New Forest, complementing the work neighbouring authorities are doing on new recreational greenspace provision within their administrative areas.
- Mitigating potential recreational impacts of planned new development through the Bird Aware Partnership Revised Strategy (see separate agenda item). This updates the existing 2017 mitigation strategy and is based on the findings of an independent review of the strategy.

Archaeology

During this reporting period the Archaeology Team has consulted on 27 New Forest District Council and 19 Authority planning applications and given comments and recommendations on several other ongoing planning cases and enquiries. We also welcomed Hayley Quarrington to the Team as our Administration Assistant. Hayley will be supporting the team two days a week for the next few months.

Fieldwork at a site in Fordingbridge has concluded with work now moving into the post excavation phase of analysis and reporting. The unexpected discovery of this Iron Age – Romano British settlement highlights the importance and need for archaeological investigation ahead of development and we very much look forward to reading the findings once the report is issued. Developer-led archaeology, through conditions placed on planning permissions, give opportunities to make new discoveries that we otherwise wouldn't have due to the limitations for archaeological investigation within the protected landscape of the National Park. Discoveries here contribute to our understanding of past land use and occupation which can help inform our understanding of the wider area including that of the New Forest National Park.

Penny Moor is scheduled for wetland restoration. Following over a year of consultations with Forestry England, Historic England and Natural England, work progressed with the installation of an access point over the Scheduled Monument called Bishop's Dyke (a Medieval Deer Park boundary). A badly damaged section, eroded over the years from vehicles, animal and people crossing it, was selected.

To prevent further damage during ground works and ongoing use of this crossing point, an engineered surface was carefully laid over the remains of the historic bank and ditch. On top of this a temporary road was placed.

Following the restoration at Penny Moor the temporary road will be removed leaving the protective surface over the monument, which will be grassed over later. This will enable much needed access into the area whilst prevent the ongoing damage to the monument.

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. The equipment has been in constant use and is being actively handed over and shared between different societies, including for a project on the Isle of Wight. Community groups are actively teaching each other surveying and data processing techniques upon equipment handovers in between the official training sessions, which is exactly what we envisioned/hoped for the project.

On Saturday 27 July, our volunteers gathered at East Boldre Community Stores to help clean the gravestones located in the Chapel's grounds. This was done to prepare the stones for RTI scanning (commissioned as part of their wider National Lottery Heritage Funded project), which aimed to digitally record the stones' inscriptions and reveal text that was not previously visible. In preparation for this recording process, the gravestones were cleared of brambles and ivy and then gently cleaned following War Memorial Trust guidelines. The fantastic results of the scanning have now been published along with a project summary: [Graveyard | East Boldre Community Stores | East Boldre](#)

On Saturday 21 September, the Ranger Team and Archaeology Team represented the NFNPA at Hurst Castle Watch Day (open day to celebrate Hurst Castle), where we hosted beach litter picking and archaeological finds handling activities. The event was a great success, attracting well over 500 attendees.

From 16 to 22 September, an archaeological excavation was undertaken at Thorney Hill to investigate the largest of seven compounds created in 1926 when Gypsies and Travellers were no longer allowed to camp out on the open forest. The project was filmed by Channel 4's 'Digging for Britain' and advised on and visited by the NFNPA Archaeology Team. [Romani Archaeology Project – ACERT.](#)

The New Forest Knowledge website site continues to be very popular with view stats, for this period, well over 26,000 views. The Team continues to support the New Forest Heritage Centre team working together to maintain the site as best we can.

Building Design and Conservation

Earlier this month, we welcomed His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester as part of a royal visit to the National Park. With a background in architecture, His Royal Highness visited the site of arts, architecture and education charity [SpudWorks](#) and this included a tour of the award-winning building - 'The Living Room' – an informal art therapy space for people with dementia and mental health issues. The design is a modern spin on an oast house found across Hampshire and beyond.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire Nigel Atkinson Esq and they met NPA Chair David Bence, NPA Planning Committee Chair Gordon Bailey and Cllr David Hawkins, Chairman of New Forest District Council.

In the meantime, the team continues to deal with a varied caseload of applications to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the New Forest's rich built heritage. These range from larger planning applications – such as the redevelopment of the former Lyndhurst Park Hotel site within the Lyndhurst Conservation Area – to smaller proposals affecting non-designated heritage assets. The team also oversees the New Forest National Park 'local list' and a report with further proposed additions to the list will be considered by our Planning Committee in due course.

We have been working with Netley Marsh Parish Council and Copythorne Parish Council on the review of the Forest North East Conservation Area and accompanying Character Appraisal. This review has identified two areas which could be considered for inclusion within the Conservation Area and further work is being undertaken on this. Formal proposals will be the subject to public consultation and presented to the full Authority meeting for consideration at the appropriate time.

Farming in Protected Landscapes and Environmental Land Management (ELM)

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is into its final six months. The Local Assessment Panel met in October and with several applications still expected to come forward we are confident that the full allocation of grant money will be awarded before the end of the programme in March.

Work on a potential successor Environmental Land Management scheme to the current Verderers Higher Level Stewardship scheme continues. The Countryside Stewardship feasibility study being carried out by local consultants with direction from the Forest Farming Group will complete in March. We continue to work with partners to prepare the information needed to support a future Landscape Recovery submission. We await the announcement about the next round of the Landscape Recovery from Natural England and Defra.

Catchment Partnership update

The period has seen key work programmes reaching an exciting new stage of delivery. The new funding sources of Species Survival Fund and Youth for Climate and Nature are allowing the Partnership's 'Blue Horizons' Project (a workstream delivering habitat restoration, creation and monitoring) and 'Wilder for Water' (seeking to investigate and address pollution sources via citizen science and engage stakeholders delivering solutions) to build on their early phases and continue to deliver benefits for the Forest's natural environment. The Catchment Partnership through the Freshwater Habitats Trust has also secured match funding from the Water Environment Improvement fund provided via the Environment Agency, and we have been working with the Agency to scope further funding over the medium term.

Catchment Partners' work and its relationship with Nature Recovery were showcased at the New Forest Show on a stand with the Beaulieu Estate. We were pleased to meet almost 1,000 people during the show, from a varied audience of local communities,

visitors, landowners and valued partners.

Our work to create new cleanwater habitats in conjunction with our partner NatureSpace was given a boost recently when the first developer took advantage of using the new District Licensing Scheme for mitigating impacts of development on great crested newts. The scheme streamlines the process of planning and legal licensing whilst delivering improved outcomes for newt populations via carefully designed compensatory habitat. As well as benefiting newts, the habitats will aid nature recovery for other important species.

2 Second Purpose: Enjoy

Education and Youth

In August, our team welcomed Ella Abbott as Education and Youth Officer while Amy Moore is on maternity leave. As well as supporting the New Forest Show, the team has worked alongside the ranger team this summer in delivery of family events and continuing the Junior Rangers programme for our YouCAN funded work. In September, a new programme of school visits is underway, including additional visits for underrepresented groups funded by Defra.

We are working closely with partners Forestry England to establish a new learning agreement that will ensure the future delivery of our highly sought-after visits on the open forest, showcasing best practice for school visits in environmentally sensitive areas. Our youth engagement Coordinator Katie Barrow has worked closely with the new volunteering coordinator to have a full programme of youth volunteering opportunities ready for autumn and winter.

In July, Members unanimously supported the establishment of a Youth Board for the New Forest. On 14 and 15 September the New Forest Youth Board met for the first time during a residency at the Countryside Education Trust (CET). During the two days the group took part in a host of team-building activities and informative workshops run by the NPA and partners, this included:

- Learning about climate change during a 'Climate Fresk' session run by Decarbon Easer. 'Climate Fresk' is an NGO who inform participants about the science behind climate change and empower them to take action. The 'Fresk' is a card-based activity, during which the group use the cards to design a climate-based mural/fresco.
- Animal feeding and a tour of CET's working farm
- Water testing session with Freshwater Habitats Trust
- Bat detecting and stargazing led by our landscape officer and one of our rangers
- Networking with New Forest organisations and YouCAN partners
- Started to plan the future of the Youth Board.

The Youth Board is a group of young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 who aim to champion youth voice across the National Park and beyond. The project is part of the

Youth for Climate and Nature (YouCAN) scheme. Our team were incredibly pleased to hear positive feedback about this first event, and to see how members of the youth board are keen to use and develop their skills for the benefit of others.

'[I valued] getting to speak with some great members and see that the entire group want to bring things to the table - really makes me excited about what the future has in store for the youth board.' Youth Board Member

'It was truly enriching to be around like-minded yet diverse people all with a common goal, and to share in such a safe and open space. I thought the workshops and activities were well balanced and helpful, as well as connecting us they helped us get to know one another. The location was beautiful and there were adequate breaks in between. I felt inspired by the topics we discussed, the energy in the room and the beauty of where we were.' Youth Board Member

Lastly, the New Forest Educators' forum met in early September for a much-appreciated networking event. We were kindly hosted and given a short tour by the RSPB team at Franchises' Lodge.

Public and community events / rangers / recreation management

August was very busy with the school holidays and information provision for local information centres, businesses and accommodation providers. As well as attendance at local shows and events, over 350 hours were spent on patrol, promoting responsible use of the Forest, with a focus on the PSPOs. A day targeted at promoting not feeding and petting livestock was delivered with Forestry England staff where members of the public and businesses were engaged with at hotspots including Burley, Brockenhurst and Bolton's Bench. Associated social media coverage boosted messaging.

Events attended included Ellingham Show, Burley Show, New Forest Food Festival, Ringwood RACE Bug Hunt, Hythe of Activity and Hurst History weekend.

We continued cross working with Police, Forestry England, NFDC, NFDog & Commoners Defence Assoc, on community engagement initiatives including Operation Mountie, Operation Wolf (fly-tipping) and dog walker engagement.

Two Wild Play Days were run at Pennington Common and Forest Front Nature Reserve reaching out to 167 people from local families along with the junior rangers who joined us in learning how to plan, set up and run an event.

Rangers delivered another successful campsite engagement programme for Camping New Forest. Consisting of informal craft activities and games running alongside the mobile information unit and scheduled evening guided walks, at the four main campsites (Ashurst, Roundhill, Hollands Wood and Holmsley), Naomi and James, with occasional

cover from other rangers, engaged with 828 campsite guests across two days each week of the summer school holidays.

Hayden continues to lead on our work with underrepresented groups including restarting SEN School, Oak Lodge's Duke of Edinburgh volunteering, partnering with Forestry England and RSPB. A summer walk focusing on health and wellbeing was delivered for refugee and asylum seekers at Keyhaven.

In September, Dawn attended the National Heathland Conference, in the Purbecks with many topics relevant to several teams across the Authority, including partnership working, mitigation, monitoring and management, impacts of climate change and delivery with reduced resources which is impacting across the sector. A staff 'Learning@Lunch' session is set for November to share learning from the three days.

Dawn also led a learning session for other mitigation practitioners working with dog owners on 'engaging with dog walkers on countryside sites'. Attendees included staff from South Downs National Park, Dorset Heaths Partnership and Thames Basin Heaths.

Communications

The NPA welcomed three new Communications Assistants, thanks to funding from the YouCAN scheme, Species Survival Fund and Higher-Level Stewardship scheme and our support for the New Forest Marque.

The Behind the Scenes campaign, commissioned by the New Forest Partnership Plan group, was launched on the first day of the New Forest and Hampshire County Show, with a special reception at the NPA stand. The campaign encourages more people to understand why the National Park is so special, with a focus on wildlife and habitats, and the people working for nature recovery behind the scenes in the New Forest.

More than 2,600 people visited the NPA stand at the New Forest Show over the three days. The interactive wildlife sensory tunnel was a particular hit with younger visitors, as were the craft activities. The stand also featured a large map of partnership nature recovery projects across the New Forest, and in a separate area, 'behind the scenes' photographs of New Forest people working or volunteering in conservation – taken by internationally renowned photographer Steve Poole.

Our New Forest National Park Awards were given out in the main ring at the New Forest Show, in partnership with the CLA. We also provided panels outlining the main projects and benefits of the HLS scheme for the Verderers stand at the Show.

The 2023/24 Annual Review was produced and printed in time for the Show, with main achievements shared on social media and through the NPA's newsletter.

Since the Show, the Behind the Scenes campaign has been promoted on many NPA and partner channels, with new web pages, newsletters, magazine articles and social posts highlighting the amazing wildlife and the people who work tirelessly year-round to

safeguard the future of the New Forest.

Thanks to the Species Survival Fund project we are again providing communications support to the Commoners Defence Association. We agreed a communications plan and have helped promote the questionnaire about the future of commoning, pannage, animal accidents, the Verderers election, and a video update from CDA Chair Andrew Parry-Norton which has so far received 2,200 views.

Communications support for the New Forest Marke has included a photocall at the New Forest Show to celebrate the local produce scheme's 20th anniversary; the Marke's support for the New Forest Business Partnership's Brilliance in Business Awards; members' successes in the Great Taste Awards; British Food Fortnight; events and fairs throughout the summer; welcoming new Marke members; commoning Marke members and pannage pork; and features as part of the partnership Behind the Scenes campaign. We also supported the New Forest Inspired members' first collective exhibition as part of Hampshire Open Studios.

Various YouCAN projects have been promoted including new volunteering opportunities for 18 to 30 year-olds, the launch of the New Forest Youth Board residential weekend at the Fort Climate centre, and a refugee walk with partners Southampton National Park City.

We had a set of climate 'lucky dip' cards designed and printed for rangers to engage with the public about small actions to help the environment (funded by YouCAN).

National Heath Week was celebrated through a series of social media posts and a special newsletter highlighting the importance of New Forest heathlands, the species they support, and the initiatives in place to help protect them (such as the HLS scheme).

We continued the 20th anniversary season of the New Forest Tour with Go South Coast, MoreBus and Bluestar, capturing memories of visits over the years, reminding people of Tour dates into September, and thanking visitors for their custom.

We shared Hampshire County Council's launch of the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan public consultation, as well as The UK National Parks' '[Race to Zero](#)' initiative, committing to drive action to halve carbon emissions within their landscapes by 2030 and become significant net carbon sinks by 2050. We also announced our collaboration with BMW to enhance the EV charging network, fund the appointment of two apprentice rangers and support around 80 young people to better connect with nature and feel inspired to protect it.

Our Enjoying the New Forest visits survey, in conjunction with Forestry England and Go New Forest, came to an end, with results to be published after analysis.

Ranger activity has been a focus of this reporting period, showcasing joint ranger patrols with Forestry England, and highlighting the work of Operation Mountie – the multi-agency operation looking to combat and reduce the number of animal collisions across the New Forest. We reprinted animal accidents hotline cards and car stickers and asked the public to be aware of the New Forest code ahead of August bank holiday.

The New Forest National 'Bark Ranger' social channel was relaunched on International Dog Day to promote responsible dog ownership, and we also reminded people of the Professional Dog Walkers Charter when choosing a dog walker.

We helped to publicise Pass the PEDALL - a popular community event which saw ride leader Gareth successfully complete a dawn-til-dusk cycling challenge to raise money for PEDALL inclusive cycling charity.

We responded to press enquiries on pharmaceuticals in water, EV charging points, government housing targets, Pass the PEDALL, and pannage.

Blogs published this period included the importance of pannage, a new monthly wildlife calendar, and Hayley Quarrington's visit to a Defra reception at the House of Commons.

Other communications activities highlighted World Ranger Day, the New Forest Business Partnership's Brilliance in Business Awards, New Forest Artist in Residence, New Forest Pride, International Bat Night; tick awareness, the Woodland Trust's Tree of the Year campaign (the Elephant Oak in the NF is on the shortlist), the Green Health Hub (with new stories added), the NPA hosting friends from Cranborne Chase National Landscape and HRH The Duke of Gloucester's visit to Sway.

Fundraising

Our application to National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative has been approved for a project working with Hampshire County Council on the former Breamore Railway line, near Fordingbridge - funds of £300,000 have been approved towards a total of £525,000 of landscape improvements along the line. The project will reduce the visual impact of the pylon line by diverting attention away from the electricity transmission infrastructure to points of interest along the route. Visitor access will be improved for the growing population of Fordingbridge and the landscape will be enhanced along this highly valued river valley by developing a wildlife-rich corridor and improving the quality of the landscape character.

Health and Wellbeing and Inclusive Projects

Our two new Health Fellows (shared with Hampshire County Council's public health team) have started working two days a week on joint projects. They are working to develop the Green Health Hub particularly with respect to benefiting older people (which is their specialism within the field of psychiatry) and also to review the current picture with regards green social prescribing in the New Forest and surrounding area. They joined the Pass the PEDALL event and have met with a range of stakeholders. In the next month they will work up in more detail the projects they will be delivering.

We attended the launch of Hampshire 2050's 'Year of Wellbeing' and are looking forward to working with HCC and others to use this opportunity to highlight our work towards a 'natural health service', as outlined in the Partnership Plan.

The Artist in Residence programme has continued with two new artists arriving at spudWorks in October. Em Burrows and Jeremy Segal are sound artists and plan to develop an installation in May 2025 around the idea of a temporary sound/ radio station for the Forest. May's artist in residence, Jasper Rouwen, has an exhibition entitled 'Friends are forever' showing throughout October and the opening event took place on 1 October.

PEDALL New Forest Inclusive Cycling

It has been a very busy period for PEDALL starting with the New Forest Show where around 1,000 people had a go at riding around our small loop, along with sponsorship raising around £3,000.

The summer holidays have been PEDALL's busiest ever, with more rides and riders visiting us at both Burley and Ashurst sites. We have also arranged several off-site visits, including at Southampton Sports Centre, Slades Park in Bournemouth as well as a visit to Abbotswood care home in Romsey, where we took residents on a ride around the small neighborhood. Having two seasonals ride leaders (Robin & Pat) working with us this year has really enabled us to facilitate more people, along with the addition of six new bikes to the fleet.

This term has seen the start of a new group from Regents Park School participating in a basic bike maintenance course at Ashurst.

Our big event, Pass the PEDALL, was a great success, where Gareth rode continuously for 12 hours around a loop at the New Forest Show ground. He was supported by over 160 riders throughout the day, made up of regular riders and groups along with NPA and FE staff as well as local cycling groups and sponsors. Gareth completed 200 laps which equated to 182.7km (133 Miles) and we raised in the region of £5,000 and counting. A big thank you to all those who came out and supported us.

Volunteering

In the past three months we have focused on our key volunteers delivering the Ease-of-Use Path Survey. We have changed our volunteer portal systems to a more bespoke and less expensive option. With the securing of project funds from the New Routes to Nature and YouCAN projects, we have opened new volunteering opportunities and are preparing an October launch event.

This launch event is in partnership with Flourish-in Nature, a charity which works with the additional needs community, helping people access volunteer tasks who couldn't normally attend. Our winter tasks are focused on helping local landowners achieve nature recovery within the National Park.

We have recently recruited to the role of Volunteer and Accessibility Co-ordinator which will enable us to move forward with the October volunteer launch and review our

approach to volunteering and ambassadors.

Access and Rights of Way

We are working in partnership with Hampshire County Council to repair a badly eroded public bridleway at Dilton Farm. The path was severely damaged by the unexpected and extreme rainfall events of the past year. Works will consist of putting down a wide and compacted gravel surface with extensive drainage features and a clear cross fall. Once the path works are completed, we will add National Park signage along the route.

Works are now complete at the Knightwood Oak (funded from Defra's Access for All grant) where the trail has been resurfaced to be more accessible and re-routed to a less environmentally sensitive area.

3 Duty: Prosper

Re: New Forest Partnership Plan

The New Forest National Park Partnership Plan Officers' Group met in early September. The meeting covered the progress made by the Government on the apportionment of the national 'Protected Landscapes Targets & Outcomes Framework' to individual protected landscapes; the timeline for the production of further guidance on the strengthened legal duty placed on relevant bodies to 'seek to further' the statutory National Park purposes in their work; and the major planning consultations that have taken place in recent months.

The Partnership Plan Leaders' Panel is due to meet in November 2024, with the meeting hosted by the Environment Agency and Southern Water and the focus being on the water environment in the New Forest.

Greenprint

We continued to support the Greenprint initiative, which enables partnership working across the central south to enhance green growth. Work included facilitating a second workshop with representatives from local authorities in the region, resulting in a paper to the Partnership for South Hampshire recommending the establishment of a Greenprint network to share knowledge and practice across the five themes (broadly these are climate, nature, health, design and build and green skills and jobs). The workshops identified some common work areas such as air quality, water quality and flood prevention. In addition, a partnership between the NPA, University of Southampton and Hampshire County Council has enabled a funded fellowship to review the region's green skills and jobs offer and make recommendations. This will take place in Q1 of 2025/26 and we are assisting with recruitment to this opportunity this autumn.

New Forest Marque

The summer was the usual busy time for Marque members with attendance at shows across the National Park and surrounds – including Netley Marsh, Damerham Fair, Ellingham Show, the New Forest Food Festival and the New Forest Show. The Heritage Centre in Lyndhurst has also created a pop-up selling point outside the Centre on each Friday and Saturday until the end of September.

At the end of August, the Marque has 183 members, including 39 members of Inspired, the category for creators of arts and crafts inspired by the beauty of the New Forest.

New Forest Business Partnership

The annual Brilliance in Business Awards were launched on 29 August, with the Awards ceremony scheduled for 28 November. The NPA sponsor a Sustainable Business of the Year Award; nominations for this year's event closed on 1 October.

Visitor experience

The 'Enjoy the New Forest' survey closed on 15 September and received 743 responses over the 11-week timeframe. Work is underway to identify some trend data and information which may shape our partnership work programmes and priorities.

The Visitor Information Communications Group, comprising partner organisations and Local Information Points, met on 23 September to share key information and updates from the summer season, and identify ways to better work together.

New Forest Tour

The season lasted 11 weeks and finished on 15 September. Initial indications suggest a 14% drop in patronage compared to 2023. The season started strongly – on a par with 2023 – but weakened gradually mid-season and significantly in the final fortnight. Further analysis is underway to determine the details and reasons. On a more positive note, residents' ticket sales saw a 13% increase.

Sustainable Transport and Active Travel

The £2 cap remains on the adult single bus fare across England, including the New Forest. We await to hear how, if at all, this reduced ticket price impacted on New Forest Tour ticket sales this season.

There has been considerable progress on our work on active travel:

- The New Forest Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan (LCWIP), led by Hampshire County Council and supported by the NPA, Forestry England and NFDC, is out for consultation, ending on 4 November. A member briefing on this is

scheduled for Tuesday 15 October.

- Active Travel England (ATE) representatives visited the New Forest on 25 September and met with NFNPA, Forestry England and HCC staff and representatives of the Cycle Working Group and PEDALL. The purpose was to review progress of the ATE National Park Capability Fund grant (£100k) which we have received for 2024/25. The first project, a light touch review of the National Cycle Network in the National Park, has been completed and the next three projects will consider: a) feasibility of crossings on the A35 and safety on the Holmsley Straight Mile (near Holmsley Bridge); b) a cycle network wayfinding study and c) further priority route feasibility following consultation on the LCWIP. ATE commented on the good opportunities for active travel in the New Forest and the strength of partnership working here. We are talking with HCC about how the fund can unlock further road safety funding to enable safer walking and cycling crossing of the A35 identified on the draft LCWIP 'leisure routes'.
- We have been supporting the work of Forestry England (FE) and the Cycle Working Group in developing proposals for better management of the off-road cycling / robust route network on Crown Lands, one of our joint actions under the Recreation Management Strategy. This includes measures to increase compliance with the network such as better information, paper and digital mapping, a cycle ambassador scheme and joining up parts of the network to increase connectivity. An initial presentment with supporting information was made by FE at the Verderers Court in September, with a final view to be taken in the November court. Any new additions to the network will go through a further feasibility process and all relevant permissions sought.

Affordable Housing

Work has now commenced on the development of the Whartons Lane site in Ashurst, which will deliver 31 affordable dwellings for local people in affordable housing need. Similarly, work is well underway on the Church Lane site in Sway, which is due to deliver 23 affordable dwellings, secured for local people in housing need through the accompanying Section 106 legal agreement. Planning permission is due to be issued shortly for the rural exception site development of 10 affordable dwellings at New Inn Road, Bartley, secured for local people through the legal agreement.

Sustainable Communities Fund

Funds of £2,000 have been awarded to Woodgreen Community Shop Association towards installing an additional array of electricity generation solar panels on the roof of the existing community shop. The shop's current solar panels (funded by a grant from the NPA back in 2009) contribute 10% of energy use and the additional panels will provide around 30% of the total shop electricity consumption saving approximately £4,000 a year and helping to reduce carbon emissions. The shop is owned by the local community, for

the benefit of the local community. It is an important part of Woodgreen and neighbouring villages of Hale, Breamore and Godshill serving more than 900 households. It is also a Local Information Point and has a small café, which is likely to provide a warm space for the community during the winter. The shop supports a wide range of local suppliers and more than 60% of staff who run the shop are volunteers as are the entire Committee Management Team. In 2009 the NPA provided a grant of £25,000 towards the building including solar PV canopy, energy efficient lighting, local timber frame and cladding, recycled paper insulation in the roof, and an air-to-air heat pump with heat recovery ventilation to capture the heat generated by the refrigerators and use it to heat the shop.

Funds of £2,000 have been awarded to the committee of the East Boldre Village Hall to purchase and install new audiovisual equipment so that the building is better able to support a wider range of activities. Film nights have been trialed using hired equipment and these have proved very successful. The equipment would help support a wider range of talks, training sessions, fitness classes, and encourage more use of the stage and theatre productions. A more vibrant offer supports reduced social isolation and greater community cohesion. In the longer term the committee is planning to make changes to the interior and exterior of the building to improve its carbon footprint and make it more attractive and sympathetic to its surroundings. This will include pitching the roof and adding timber cladding to the brickwork, restoring the original shape of the WW1 RAF concert hall, providing internal access to the second hall (currently accessed via the toilets), and increasing the size of the internal useable space by nearly 50%.

4 Organisation: Achieving Excellence

Human Resources

As of 30 September 2024, the total staff headcount was 85 or 74.96 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

	Headcount	Variation from previous report	Full Time Equivalents	Variation from previous report
Core funded	62*	+ 4	55.16*	+ 4
Funded by external projects	23	+ 3	19.80	+ 2.61
Total	85	+ 7	74.96	+ 6.61

*Of the core funded roles, one staff member (1 FTE) is working in shared services, four are on a fixed-term contract and 21 are part-time.

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

Role	Contract type	How funded
Communications Assistant x 3	Fixed term to July/August 2026, full-time	Project funded
Administration Assistant	Fixed term to January 2026, full-time	Project funded
Planning Officer x 2	Maternity cover, full-time	Core funded
Project Co-ordinator	Fixed term to February 2026, part-time	Project funded
Education and Youth Officer	Maternity cover, full-time	Core funded
Volunteer and Accessibility Co-ordinator	Fixed term to April 2026, full-time	Project funded

We are currently recruiting for:

Role	Contract type	How funded
Receptionist (Monday & Tuesday)	Permanent	Core funded
Policy Officer	Permanent	Core funded

IT & Cyber Security Services

Security / Infrastructure

In September, a second cyber security incident tabletop exercise took place involving the NPA's Cyber Incident Response Team. The exercise simulated an attack involving a breach of data that could have been on our own system or a third-party system. The aim of the exercise was to see how the team reacted, what actions were proposed and, on this occasion, how the IT team would we react if the IT & Cyber Security Manager was not present. The team felt the exercise went well, and agreed this would be a useful exercise to run at least annually, each time simulating a different scenario.

Planning system

Extensive checks across all modules in the planning system have been made to test the linking of the converted PDF files. Double entries were identified for some of the Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) where PDFs already existed for the documents, these have been manually removed. The main deletion of Tif files took place mid-September, having been replaced with PDF versions. In addition to improving use of the system for staff, this

work will also improve the experience for public viewing of the files online. This leaves approximately 600 documents that need further testing/checking.

Work to progress the digital planning project continues and conversations are being held with Agile Applications with a view to create a TPO Citizen Portal, which will enable the public to view TPO documents online. This work would be beneficial for other National Parks and Councils as well as ourselves.

Changes to the Land Registry / land charges are still in the pipeline, currently data has been provided to Land Registry for them to review / compare with the current Land Charges providers data. Once Land Registry have completed this comparison exercise, we will be advised of any data tidying / updating of data.

Other work / projects

Following a successful rollout of Windows 11 to some test users, a full rollout will be undertaken over the next few months. To facilitate this change for all users at the same time, some new equipment (desktops/laptops) have been purchased, with older equipment repurposed for other tasks.

Work has begun on designing and implementing a new Wi-Fi system that will make the Wi-Fi signal stronger and a lot easier to connect to for meetings in and around the Town Hall. We will also be setting up a new guest Wi-Fi network for non-staff to use when visiting the building.

We have been reviewing the MFD's (printers), to either extend or replace our current contract, and have decided to extend our existing contract for an additional two years.

Backup – the IT & Cyber Security Manager has been investigating various backup solutions to ensure we were getting the most out of our existing backup solution.

Artificial Intelligence - We have been testing out new AI functionality in Microsoft products and look to expand this test to other departments next year.

Legal and Information management

In September the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee approved the updated [Data Protection Policy](#) and [Access to Information Policy](#) which are now live on the website and have been circulated to staff. As part of the ongoing review of our information management processes we updated the Freedom of Information page on the website and the public can now use a simple online web form to make a request for information <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/freedom-of-information/>

Information requests

So far this year we have received 33 formal requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Of those 27 have been responded to within

the statutory timeframes and the remaining six have yet to be responded to, however we anticipate being able to meet the deadlines. As in previous years, the majority (55%) of the requests relate to our planning work, including policy matters, pre-application advice and specific planning applications and enforcement cases. A further 36% relate to our finance and ICT arrangements. In four (15%) of the responses we withheld the information requested in its entirety, these all related to sensitive enforcement matters. In six (22%) of the requests, we did not hold the information that was being sought. The rest were either released in full or subject to limited redactions such as the personal data of third parties. We also dealt with four requests for an internal review and in all cases the original decision was upheld. We are not aware that any have been subsequently referred to the Information Commissioner which would be the next stage if a requester remains dissatisfied with the outcome of the review.

Complaints

We have received 13 formal complaints to date this year compared to 11 in the same period last year. All were related to planning matters. There were three planning applications that attracted more than one complaint from different complainants (i.e. seven of the 13 related to three applications). At the time of writing two are under consideration and have yet to be responded to. Unfortunately, due to staff unavailability we were not able to meet the 20-working day deadline in four cases and those response times ranged from 22 to 25 working days, although our average response time was 19.8 working days. In all but three of the resolved matters the complaint was not upheld. In the remaining three, whilst we didn't uphold the substance of the complaint, we offered an apology for the way the matter had been handled. Four complaints were considered by the Chief Executive at Stage 3 of the process, and none were upheld.

Ombudsman decisions

This quarter we have received four decisions from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (the Ombudsman) which is an unusually high number. However, three of these were from a single complainant. In all three cases the Ombudsman declined to investigate the complaints and closed the case at the initial stage because they considered they would be unlikely to find evidence of fault or injustice caused to the complainant which would warrant an investigation. The fourth one related to a planning decision that has not been issued yet, therefore the Ombudsman also closed this case at the initial stage. These decisions can be found on the Ombudsman's website at <https://www.lgo.org.uk/decisions/> and by entering the New Forest National Park Authority in the 'Organisation name' search field.

Personal Data Rights

We received one application from a member of the public to exercise their right to erasure of their personal information under the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). This request was responded to within the statutory one-month timeframe but was refused. The request was for the deletion of their recent job application documents, whilst it was refused at the time of the response, we were able to reassure them that the data

was scheduled to be deleted six months after the posts were filled, in accordance with our retention policy.

5 Members

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

- 30 July, 31 July & 1 August – New Forest Show
- 20 August – Planning Committee
- 2 September – New Forest Access Forum
- 5 September – Consultative Panel
- 5 September - FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) Local Assessment Panel
- 5 September – Members Day – Developing the Members Role
- 9 September – Resources, Audit and Performance Committee
- 17 September – Planning Committee
- 19 September – Members Day – Nature Recovery
- 15 October – Planning Committee
- 15 October – Members Briefing - LCWIP

5.2 Forthcoming Members activities include:

- 21 October – Members Briefing – LNRS
- 4 November – Resources, Audit and Performance Committee
- 19 November – Planning Committee
- 2 December – New Forest Access Forum
- 5 December – Consultative Panel
- 9 December – Members Day – TBC
- 17 December – Planning Committee
- 6 January – Standards Committee
- 21 January – Planning Committee

5.3 Chief Executive's external engagements

- 25 July – Nature Recovery presentation prep
- 26 July – Women in Protected Landscapes online Leadership event
- 26 July – Nature Recovery policy work meeting
- 29 July – RSPB catch up meeting
- 29 July – Meeting with Director of Communications, National Parks UK
- 29 July – Meeting with Green Leadership Coach
- 29 July – Pre New Forest Show evening with New Forest Show and Agricultural Society
- 30 July – 1 August – New Forest Show, including 'Behind the Scenes' reception,

Lunch at the President's table and NPA / CLA Awards

- 6 August – Meeting with City of London Officer
- 6 August – Meeting with Associated British Ports (ABP)
- 7 August – Hosted a visit by Natural England Director of Science
- 7 August – Regular meeting with Deputy Director, Natural England
- 8 August – Catch up with Assistant Director, Hampshire County Council
- 8 August – Meeting with Director of Environment & Innovation, Southern Water
- 12 August – Natural Capital meeting
- 13 August – Nature recovery meeting
- 19-20 August – Hosted visit to New Forest from other NPAs and national eNGOs
- 21 August – Intro meeting with colleagues at Natural England
- 21 August – Directors of Conservation meeting
- 22 August – Meeting with Business South
- 22 August – Meeting with staff coaching consultant
- 22 August – Meeting with Area Director, Environment Agency
- 23 August – Hampshire & Isle of Wight Public Sectors Leaders meeting
- 23 August – Regular meeting with Chair, National Parks Partnerships
- 5 September – Partnership for South Hampshire Chief Executives meeting
- 9 September – Intro meeting with Solent Project Manager, Blue Marine Foundation
- 9 September – Meeting with Managing Director, ep architects
- 10 September – Business South Board meeting
- 10 September – National Parks England Board meeting
- 10 September – Beaulieu Estate meeting
- 11 September – Meeting with Renew Nature Partnership Chair
- 12 September – Meeting with Mezzana Partners
- 12 September – Attend online leadership webinar
- 12 September – National Park City Board meeting
- 16 September – HLS Board meeting
- 16 September – Regular catch up with Deputy Surveyor, Forestry England
- 17 September – Meeting with Nature Recovery Coordinator, National Parks England
- 18 September – Business South Business Leaders Breakfast, Southampton Boat Show
- 18 September – Greenprint Steering Group
- 18 September – Meeting with Chief Executive, Youth Hostel Association
- 18 September - CPRE Board and Hampshire CPRE Board Stakeholder Dinner
- 19 September – Regular catch up with Chief Executive, New Forest District Council
- 20-24 September – Attend Future Green City Conference
- 24-26 September – Attend UK National Parks Conference, Northumberland
- 1-3 October – Directors of Conservation annual meeting, North Yorkshire
- 4 October – Green Leadership programme planning meeting
- 8 October – Green Leadership programme session 1

- 9 October – Meeting with Chair and Chief Executive, Countryside Education Trust
- 11 October – Visit by Deputy Director, Natural England
- 13-16 October – St George's Fellowship Leaders Conversation, Windsor

5.4 Chair's engagements

- 31 July – New Forest Show including NFDC Corporate Plan Launch and NPA / CLA awards
- 10 September – NPE Board meeting
- 18 September – Solent Freeport Board meeting
- 30 September – PA2 Feasability Study meeting
- 30 September – PfSH Joint Committee
- 16 October – Solent Freeport Board meeting

6 Recommendation

To note the report.