



Chief Executive's report

July 2024



Business Plan themes

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



Re:New Climate



Re:New Nature



Re:New People



Re:New Place



Re:New Partnership

Re:New Organisation – Achieving Excellence

Protect – First Purpose

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



Partnership Plan tour

Focus on Wiltshire and Test Valley areas,
with visits to:

- RSPB Franchises Lodge
- Langley Wood National Nature Reserve
- Lyburn Farm
- Paulton's Park.



Species Survival Fund

- £1.3m scheme to restore New Forest habitats and increase wildlife.
- £1.04m grant from Species Survival Fund plus match funding.
- Six partners (Freshwater Habitats Trust; Amphibian and Reptile Conservation; Commoners Defence Association: Wildlife Trust, Wild New Forest, NFNPA) plus support from the RSPB and New Forest Biodiversity Forum.
- One of only 20 successful schemes nationwide.
- Hosted visit from Defra's policy and protected sites team to see some of the sites and meet partners.

**SPECIES
SURVIVAL
FUND**



Funded by
UK Government

Heritage
Fund



Farming in Protected Landscapes

Defra announced extension of FiPL roles for six months after scheme ends – to September 2024 and Farm Advisor role to March 2027.

Over £800,000 in grants will have been allocated by the NFNPA to over 50 projects by the end of the scheme.



England Agriculture and Rural Development Group

Meeting of English NPAs, Defra and Natural England.



Future scheme for the Forest

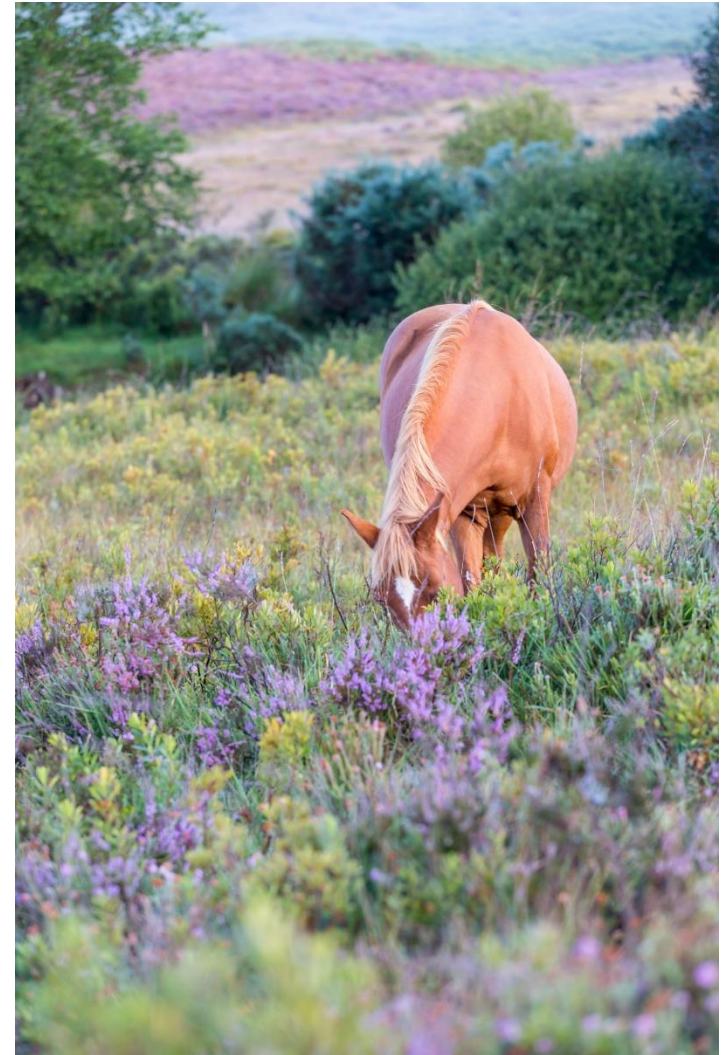
How can future agri-environment schemes support commoning and habitat restoration as we move to domestic agricultural policy?

Existing Higher Level Stewardship scheme will come to an end.

Forest organisations calling for a bespoke scheme to better suit local circumstances.

Forest Farming Group (FFG) of Forest organisations wrote to new Secretary of State Steve Reed MP asking for urgent response.

FFG commissioned feasibility study to help determine most appropriate scheme.



Fawley Waterside

Outline planning applications with NFDC and NFNPA withdrawn due to 'wider economic pressures and increased construction costs'.

Fawley Waterside will continue to work with the planning authorities to consider the most appropriate development strategy for the site.



Solent CO2 pipeline

- ExxonMobil launched consultation into proposal for underground pipeline to transport CO2 from Fawley Refinery to location in the English Channel.
- Any planning application would be called in and determined by Government.
- Give your views at www/Solentco2pipeline.co.uk



Hampshire Minerals and Waste plan

- Led by Hampshire County Council, with NFNPA, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and South Downs NPA.
- Draft plan, supporting evidence and representations from latest consultation will soon be submitted to Secretary of State for independent examination.
- Is a partial update to the existing plan adopted in 2013.

H A M P S H I R E
PORTSMOUTH, SOUTHAMPTON,
NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK & SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK

MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN



Adopted – October 2013

Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements

- Residents voted overwhelmingly in favour of a draft Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan in referendum on 4 July and in favour of a draft Wellow Neighbourhood Plan on 11 July.
- The Plans will help the NFNPA and NFDC/Test Valley Borough Council to decide planning applications.



New Forest Catchment Partnership

- Partnership hosted by NFNPA
- Defra committed a further £15k
- Last year partnership generated £200k cash/in-kind contributions
- 3,317 volunteers involved.

Hosted Chief Executive of Southern Water to visit the Beaulieu area to see freshwater ecosystems with Freshwater Habitats Trust and Environment Agency.



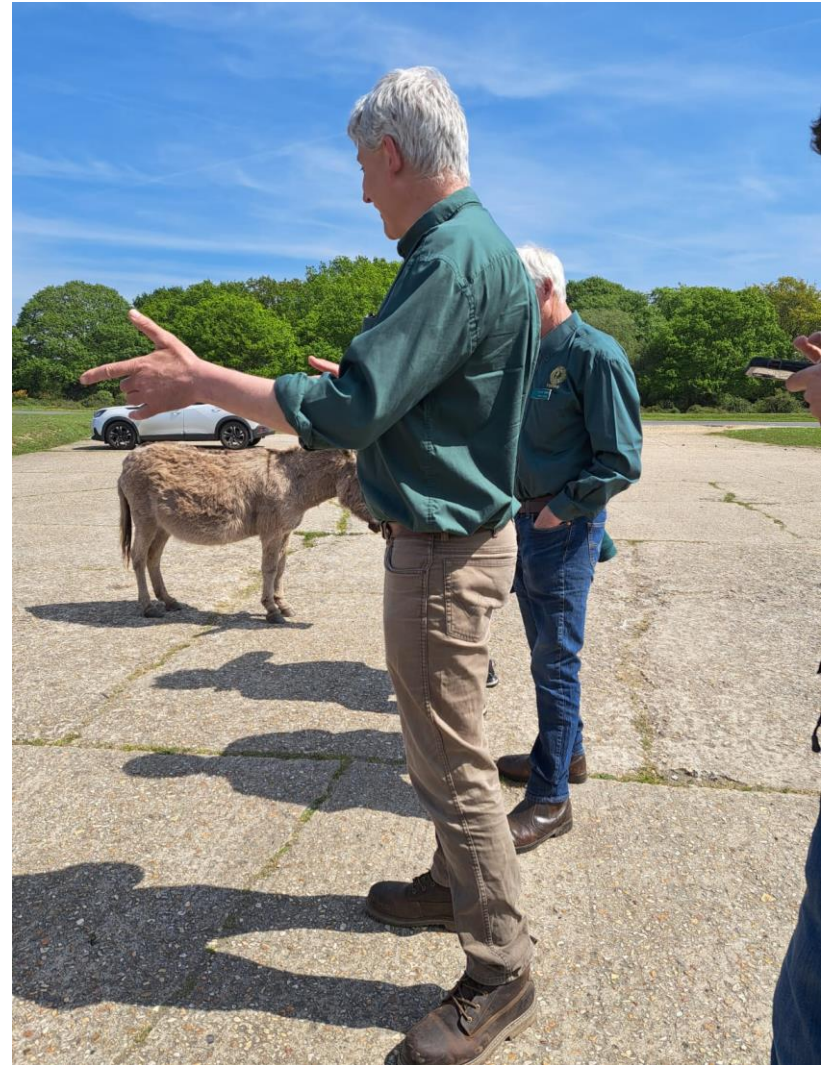
Archaeology

Our archaeology team led NPA and NFDC planning staff on a visit to an excavation in advance of a housing development at Fordingbridge.

Hosted annual meeting of Joint UK statement on the Historic Environment in the National Parks (19 heritage staff from 12 national parks, Welsh Government, Forestry England, Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales).



Tour of stock



Enjoy – Second Purpose

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



Behind the scenes campaign

- Commissioned by the Partnership Plan leaders to increase understanding of how special the National Park is for nature.
- Looks at the wildlife and people behind the scenes.
- Launch at the New Forest Show and theme of our stand.
- Will run for six months to mark the 75th anniversary of UK national parks.



New Forest Code

Operation Mountie animal accident patrols held with Police, New Forest Roads Awareness and Forestry England stopped over 40 drivers. One driver stopped doing 76mph in a 40mph limit and failed a drug test.

Two joint sessions with Police and New Forest Dog Owners group to educate people about ground-nesting birds and livestock with young offspring.

Code reprinted now including Wiltshire Council logo.

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:



Scan me to find out more

 <p>Keep your distance from the animals – don't feed or touch them*</p>	 <p>Keep dogs under control. Don't let dogs approach or chase any animals</p>	 <p>Stick to the permitted cycle tracks</p>
 <p>Take home litter and dog waste</p>	 <p>Park only in car parks</p>	 <p>Drive with care – animals on the road!</p>
 <p>No fires or barbecues*</p>	 <p>No wild camping</p>	 <p>Help wildlife by keeping to the main tracks</p>

*Failure to comply may result in a fixed penalty of £100 or being taken to court and a fine of up to £1,000.





newforestnpa.gov.ukthenewforest.co.uk

YouCAN (youth for climate and nature)

- Junior rangers – 34 signed up for monthly sessions (top right).
- Youth board – nine young adults signed up.
- Early Green Careers Network – 44 registered.
- Work experience for Year 10 pupils. Four schools participating.
- Gardeners World Live at Beaulieu – gold-winning show garden created by Broadleaf Home Ed group in Bramshaw with the Beardy Gardener and Lily Clarke, in conjunction with NFDC, Culture in Common and NFNPA including £2k contribution from YouCAN (bottom right).



Access to nature for young people

Defra funding for young people's access to nature through Access Unlimited Consortium.

Project will give underserved young people in England a chance to spend time visiting and connecting with nature in protected landscapes.



Arts and Culture

- Yarrow Townsend appointed first writer in residence in a project by arts development agency Artful Scribe in conjunction with the Countryside Education Trust in Beaulieu, with a grant from our Sustainable Communities Fund.
- Artists in residence programme: Alex Julyan and Ben Adamson took part in the residency during October 2023 and exhibited their work (right) at spudWORKS in Sway during May. Jasper Rouwen took part in the residency during May and will exhibit at spudWORKS in October.
- Culture in Common D-Day anniversary commemorations.
- Cultural quarter at the New Forest Show.



New Forest Awakening Festival

- Annual climate and nature festival, now in its fourth year.
- 3,000 people attended 90 events organised by over 50 partners.
- Events included walks, talks, theatre, arts and crafts, a local produce roadshow, growing advice, climate-themed events, litter picks, behind the scenes tours, and early green careers advice.
- Messages reached more than 1.5 million people through social and traditional media channels.



Health Fellows

- Two new NHS Public Health fellows join us in August working two days a week.
- Supported by Hampshire County Council's Public Health team.



Prosper – Our Duty

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



New Forest Tour

NF Tour launch on 29 June.

20th anniversary marked by goodie bags to first group of customers.

Discounted tickets for New Forest National Park residents available from the Morebus app.



New Forest Marque

- Members visit.
- SLA renewed to provide comms support and hosting the Marque.
- Currently 171 members in part thanks to Marque Inspired scheme launched for arts and crafts.
- New Marque local produce guide has been printed.
- Events include Netley Marsh Steam Rally, Damerham Fair, New Forest Food Festival, Ellingham Show and New Forest Show.
- 20th anniversary launch at the New Forest Show.



Tourism sector

Working with hotel groups to promote our caring for the Forest messaging, the code, walking app, Tour and other sustainable tourism approaches.

Enjoy the Forest visits survey with Go New Forest and Forestry England launched end June.



Green Halo Partnership Conference

National Parks for Health – a natural health service

Over 100 delegates from health and social prescribing sectors plus other NPAs.

- Inspiring speakers
- Well-being activities
- Market place of social prescribing organisations/activities
- Networking opportunities.

Presentations available at
www.greenhalo.org.uk/past-events.

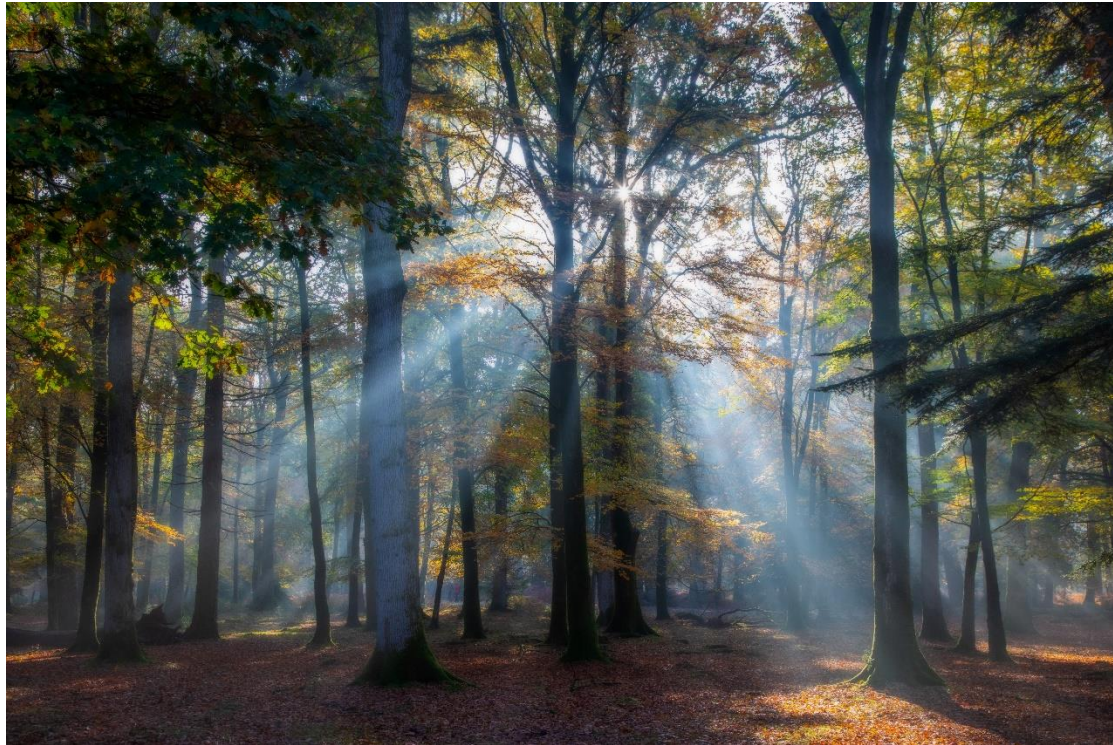


Greenprint workshops

- Greenprint is framework for Green Recovery and Growth developed by a partnership between the NPA, University of Southampton and University of Portsmouth, supported Local Authorities and the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH).
- Workshop of local authority partners in June to scope out future collaboration and communication.



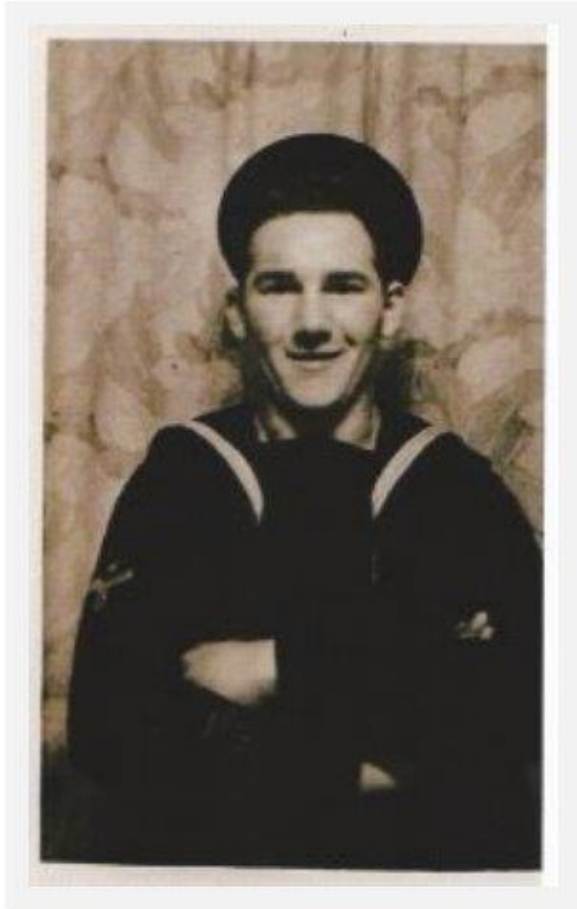
Excellence



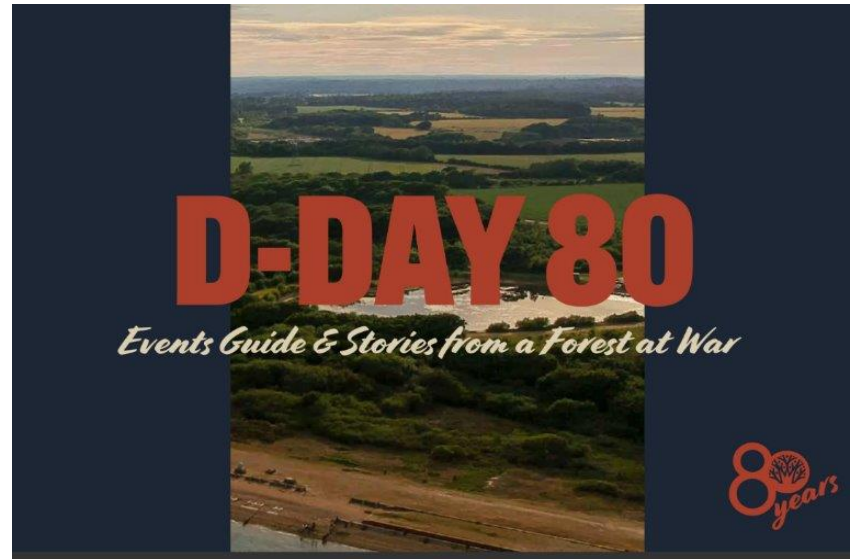
80th anniversary of D-Day



80th anniversary of D-Day



John Bence in uniform



A photo of an LCT of the type John Bence was on

National Park Awards

- National Park Awards with the CLA launched and judging completed in the following categories:
young environmental champion;
young farmer/commoner;
best supporter of local produce;
sustainability champion.
- Winners will be announced in the main ring at the New Forest Show on 31 July.

(2023 winners pictured below)



New Forest Voices

- Supported UK National Parks programme to create a 'vision for belonging in national parks' with a workshop for the Soil Collective working on the project and then hosted a session for all southern national parks. Results will be presented at the September UK National Parks conference in Newcastle.
- NFNPA member and staff workshops on the EDI policy planned for September.

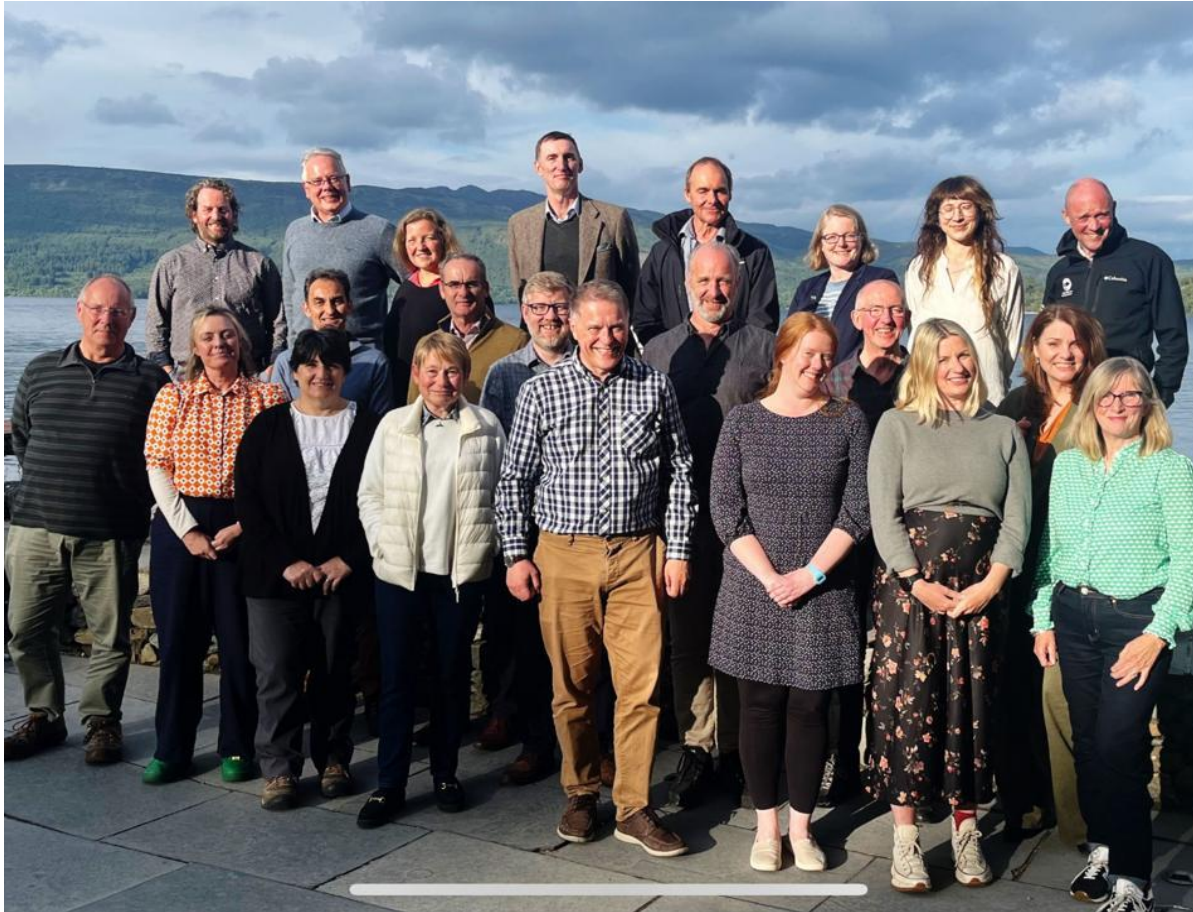


Freedom of Information Requests

- 77 Freedom of Information requests received in last financial year – highest number ever received.
- 15% increase on previous year.
- Met the statutory response timeframe in 94% of requests.



UK Chairs Forum - Loch Lomond



Team Nature

June 2024

◀ National Parks

Taking Leadership on Nature Recovery

Alison Barnes, FRSA FLA

CEO of New Forest National Park Authority

Lead Chief Exec for Nature Recovery



Lake District National Park Authority recruitment Panel

Gavin Capstick announced as new
CEO of Lake District National Park
Authority.

Taking over from Richard Leafe in
October.

Gavin joined the Authority in 2018 as
Head of Programmes and Resources
and was appointed Director of Visitor
Services and Resources in 2022. He
comes from a strong public service
background which has seen him work
for Cumbria County Council, Capita
and Carlisle City Council in a range of
policy, community service, and contract
management roles.



Events with Partners

The Wildlife Trusts Seeing Is Believing event

Attended by Chairs and Chief Executives and TV presenters Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin.



University of Southampton Vice-Chancellor's Celebration Dinner

