

Consultative Meeting
On behalf of
Forestry England

March 2024









By working together throughout 2023, we were able to collectively achieve some really significant results for the Forest.



National Park volunteers gave over

300 days

of volunteering to support the Forest.

1.000 hours

the commoning community manage the annual drifts for

180 signs to inform the public

New Forest livestock with

110 car park and cycle route closures

Outdoor fires

across the New

in 2023 compared

to 2021.

Forest district down by

90

cars stopped on Forest roads

30

tickets issued for speeding and other offences

**Animal** and

road safety

ioint "Operation Mountie"

actions to improve animal

safety on Forest roads

60

drivers given education

10

Responsible dog walking pop up events in New Forest car parks

**50% •** 

drop in thefts from motor

vehicles in Forest car parks following dedicated patrols

900 members

patrols and

conservation projects across the Forest

Intervened

in over

Spoke directly to over

Carried out litter picks on

 $80_{\rm kms}$ of Forest roads

Litter

Supported

40+

community

collecting over 100 bags of rubbish

litter picking events

A series of joint fly-tipping spot checks on vehicles carrying waste across the Forest resulted in

195

vehicles stopped. Action taken against 50 drivers

Forestry England

Dedicated wildlife patrols and monitoring sessions

nesting birds

the deer rut















1.7m +

(up from 1m last year)

350 social media posts

(up from 250)

10

joint press releases

975.000

newsletters and publications (up from 500,000 last year)

20

tourism information boards featuring the New Forest Code placed in key villages. towns and campsites

## **New powers - Public Space Protection Orders**

700 people providing education on Public

Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) banning fires/BBQs

150 and petting/feeding ponies. behaviour

**Patrols** 

7,000+

ranger patrols

joint patrols with the emergency

New Forest

96 for ground







- The number of accidents rose from 82 in 2022 to 92 in 2023.
- 27 ponies died compared to 34 in 2022.
- The number of New Forest ponies that died due to accidents dropped, but the number of cattle, pigs and sheep that lost their lives increased.
- November and December were the deadliest months for animal accidents.
- The vast majority of those caught speeding this year, where on their daily commute and only 5% were visiting the area.





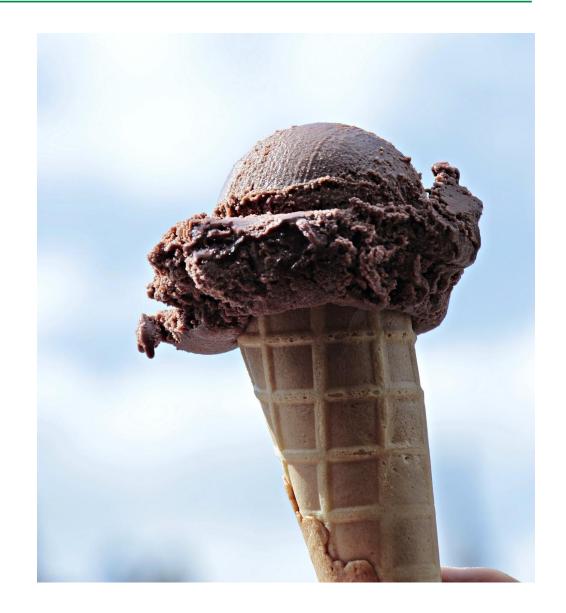
- The orders aim to protect the forest from wildfires by banning BBQs and fires and prohibit feeding and petting ponies or donkeys to improve public safety and animal welfare.
- Over the first three months of the new PSPOs, the New Forest team used the new powers to intervene in 152 incidents involving over 700 people.
- More than 120 of the incidents involved petting and feeding ponies or donkeys.







- Mobile refreshment sales in some of our car parks is just one way that we raise funds that supports our work.
- We've been encouraging local refreshment businesses to consider this opportunity.
- Successful companies will be contractually required to meet conditions around managing litter and helping us to deliver key educational messages including not feeding or petting livestock and the Public Space Protection Order rules.







- The winter months are a busy time for our staff, who are working hard to repair and re-surface the car parks after the busy summer and autumn period when the volume of traffic was very high.
- With hundreds of thousands of vehicles use our car parks, deteriorating the surface. Add to that bad weather and potholes and cracks quickly develop.
- Spiralling cost of materials and inflation over the last year is making the ongoing situation challenging.





## Wildlife - ground nesting birds

- People are being asked to help rare ground nesting birds survive in the New Forest again this year by staying on the main tracks and keeping dogs with them here.
- Whilst the fortunes of some species of these rare birds have improved in recent years thanks to people's support, others still remain under considerable pressure.







## Current forestry work in the New Forest:

- Replacing fences and clearing up windblown trees after recent stormy weather.
- In Tantany Woods, we've removed some Scots pine and birch to open-up wet lawn areas and create glades within the woodland. Also, coppicing and pollarding some holly around veteran oak trees to support rare lichens.
- At Holmsley, there's been coppicing work to open-up and protect the surrounding bog, creating more habitat for rare plants - e.g slender cotton grass.
- Open habitat restoration near Sloden Inclosure and King's Copse
- In Rans Wood, near Beaulieu we've been removing a small number of trees and overgrown vegetation around an artificial drainage channel. Returning this area to its natural state will support the wildlife and plant life that need wetland areas to survive, help absorb carbon, and make the area more resilient to flooding and drought.







- Planting 4,800 oak and 1,200 hornbeam trees in Parkhill Inclosure.
- Enriching the ride edges within areas of the Inclosures in the north of the Forest by planting a further 3,852 young trees. The mix of species includes, hawthorn, cherry, Alder buckthorn and crab apple, which will benefit pollinating insects and create healthier woodlands.

