


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.



New Forest Code **working in partnership**



Sharing the New Forest Code

1.7m+ ↑
impressions
(up from 1m last year)

350 ↑
social media posts
(up from 250)

10
joint press releases

975,000 ↑
people reached via 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


Community support

New Forest National Park Ambassadors
900 members

National Park volunteers gave over
300 days of volunteering to support the Forest.

Forestry England volunteers gave over
1,000 hours to supporting patrols and conservation projects across the Forest

Forestry England's team helped the commoning community manage the annual drifts for
110 car park and cycle route closures
180 signs to inform the public



Animal and road safety

11 joint "Operation Mountie" actions to improve animal safety on Forest roads


90 cars stopped on Forest roads

30 tickets issued for speeding and other offences

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.




Litter

Supported
40+ community litter picking events

Carried out litter picks on
80 kms of Forest roads collecting over **100** bags of rubbish

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




New powers - Public Space Protection Orders

Spoke directly to over
700 people providing education on Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) banning fires/BBQs and petting/feeding ponies.

Intervened in over
150 incidents of banned behaviour

Outdoor fires across the New Forest district down by
30% in 2023 compared to 2021.




Patrols






7,000+ hours of ranger patrols

30 joint patrols with the emergency services

Dedicated wildlife patrols and monitoring sessions
96 for ground nesting birds ↑

35 during the deer rut ↑



- 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, were 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.



Public Spaces Protection Order

Be Forest Friendly!

It is an offence to:

-  Feed, provide or deposit food for consumption by any New Forest pony, horse, mule or donkey
-  Pet or touch any New Forest pony, horse, mule or donkey

Fail to terminate any of these activities or surrender any items used in conjunction when required by an Authorised Officer.

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

To find out more, scan the QR code or visit newforest.gov.uk/PSPO

New Forest District Council | Forestry England | safer new forest Targeting Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

- 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.



- 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.

