

Park Life

News from the New Forest National Park Authority



NEW FOREST
NATIONAL PARK

Spring/Summer 2026

FREE!

Bees are one of the many beneficiaries of the Species Survival Fund project (photo: Steve Laycock)



A trio of rare ladybird species were recorded in the New Forest last summer (photo: Russell Wynn)



Dragonflies have had their habitats restored and expanded thanks to the Species Survival Fund project (photo: Steve Laycock)

New Forest species given new lease of life for future

A major nature recovery project has given renewed hope to a whole host of species in the New Forest.

From dragonflies and ladybirds to eels and bats, thousands of species stand to benefit from having their habitats restored and expanded to the edges of the Forest and beyond. The £1.3million Species Survival Fund (SSF) project was a two-year collaborative scheme aiming to reverse species decline and build resilience among habitats across the National Park. Led by the New Forest National Park Authority, the SSF brought together five partner organisations to enhance nature covering 320 hectares – the equivalent of 448 football pitches – on 31 sites.

This ambitious partnership project saw experts restore wetlands, create wildflower meadows and reconnect fragmented landscapes to

help pollinators, amphibians, reptiles, freshwater species and more to thrive.

The five partners in the project were Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC), Freshwater Habitats Trust (FHT), Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT), New Forest Commoners Defence Association (NFCDA) and Wild New Forest (WNF) – with additional support from the RSPB and the New Forest Biodiversity Forum.

Sharing understanding and expertise among the partners proved – and will continue to prove – critical to the project, and while the full results of it will not be seen for a number of years, there have already been some immediate successes.

ARC improved reptile habitats by restoring heathland. This involved clearing shrubs, bushes and invasive species to return the areas to a more favourable condition for reptiles, while areas of sand

were created to help sand lizards breed.

HIWWT created 26 acres of new meadows, giving a real boost to species like bees and dragonflies. More than 22,000 wildflower plugs were planted, 225kg of wildflower seeds were sown and 982 metres of new hedgerow were established, allowing pollinators and insects to expand their habitats.

The New Forest's freshwater landscape was strengthened and expanded by FHT, which created 27 and restored 14 ponds across the Forest, alongside revitalising priority habitats including fens, wet meadows and wet woodlands.

This work has enhanced conditions for a wide range of species, including great crested newt, European eel and raft spider, as well as many specialist wetland plants and invertebrates.

WNF provided ecological expertise and survey support

to help guide the approach by partners to restore habitats and improve species, while the NFCDA helped inform partners and the public about the wider benefits of commoning to the New Forest landscape.

Getting people involved has been crucial, with partners attending more than 160 events involving nearly 28,000 people, with around 38,000 reached overall through public events, youth groups and online activity.

John Stride, Net Zero with Nature Programme manager at the NPA, said: 'Sites will continue to be monitored and restored in the coming years, and the hope is that more wildlife will flourish, local communities will remain engaged and the Forest will remain a vital stronghold for nature well into the future.'

● Turn to pages 8-9 for more Species Survival Fund success stories.

Building Design Award winners



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The New Forest in a changing climate: why our landscape needs us now

How climate change is affecting the New Forest and what we can do about it.

The New Forest has always been a place where history is written into the land.

Yet throughout the centuries, one thing remained remarkably stable: the climate. However, that stability is under threat and with it the internationally important habitats of the New Forest and the wildlife which call it home.

Between the time of King William the Conqueror in 1066 and the start of the Industrial Revolution around 1760, atmospheric carbon

dioxide (CO2) concentration levels remained largely stable. However, they have since risen nearly 50% higher to levels last seen millions of years ago.

Scientists around the world agree that this rise – mainly due to human activity – is a key reason global temperatures have risen by nearly 1.5 °C, with the last three years being the warmest on record.

This global shift is already shaping the New Forest's future.

Hurst Spit (photo: Adobe Stock)



What the data tells us

As part of the NPA-led Youth for Climate and Nature (YouCAN) scheme, local experts analysed Met Office data to understand what climate change means specifically for the New Forest. Their findings are striking.

Under the most likely global greenhouse gas emissions scenario, by 2100:

- Summer temperatures could rise by over 4°C above the 1981–2000 average with peaks nearly 5°C warmer.
- Winter temperatures may increase by more than 2°C.
- Total annual rainfall may stay similar, but the pattern will not.
- Over 40% less summer

rainfall.

- Up to 20% more winter rainfall.

Specialists from Wild New Forest and MapLoom then worked with a range of other local experts to assess how these changes may affect habitats, from wetlands and heathlands to ancient woodlands and coastal marshes, and what this means for wildlife, heritage, and the services nature provides to people.

The unique and special habitats of the New Forest and the species that rely upon them will be under huge additional pressure with these changes in temperature and rainfall as well as the likely sea-level rise. To help the New

Forest to continue to be the amazing place for wildlife that we all enjoy, it is critical that we take action to support the resilience of these habitats.

Action is already underway

The good news is that the New Forest National Park Authority and partners have already begun work to strengthen the New Forest's resilience to climate impacts. Restoring heathlands, river and wetland projects, creating ponds, and helping ancient woodland recover through the Species Survival Fund (see pages 1, 8 and 9), are helping habitats become 'bigger, better and more joined up'. These efforts also lock away

carbon and support species under pressure but there is much more still to do.

How everyone can help

Small actions add up, we can all help New Forest nature to be more resilient by:

- Offering a home for wildlife by creating a wildlife pond or leaving a corner of your garden to grow wild.
- Joining local volunteer groups restoring habitats or tackling invasive species.
- Joining a New Forest Green Group taking action in their local community.
- Following the New Forest code (see page 16) and Freshwater Habitats Trust's Water Code to protect sensitive areas. See www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk
- And of course, reducing emissions where we can is always helpful – fewer car journeys, thoughtful food choices, considerate water use and careful waste sorting all make a difference.

The New Forest has endured for centuries. With collective effort, we can help ensure it thrives for centuries more. www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/ climate

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- Growing your own veg in a Changing Climate (19th April)
- Beekeeping (18th April)
- Introduction to Smallholding (10th May)
- Woodland Walk (17th May)
- Nightjar Walk (4th June)
- Butterflies (14th June)
- Intro to Sheep Keeping (28th June)
- Herb Gardens for Wildlife (12th July)
- Artists' Charcoal Making (19th July)
- UK Bats - Walk and Talk (25th August)
- Ponies and Commoning (5th September)
- Jams and Preserves Workshop (12th Sept)
- Tree ID (3rd October)
- Apple Pressing and Juice Making (11th October)
- Pruning Fruit Trees (22nd November)
- Hedge Laying (29th November)

Course Key:
 Woodland skills
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 Guided walks
 Smallholding
 Self-sufficiency
 Ornithology
 Wildlife ID

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Huge thanks to NFU Mutual New Forest for their support in this project

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Q&A with Victoria Mander, Chair of the New Forest National Park Authority

Q: What drew you to this role?

Having mostly worked in the international conservation sector, I was travelling a lot with work and seeing all these amazing habitats and numerous threats to them. I wanted to have an impact on nature where I live, and realised I could apply all I had learned to the UK. The New Forest was the perfect place.

Q: Tell us a bit about your background.

After working as a groom in my early 20s, I dropped out of a history degree and, thanks to David Attenborough, realised I wanted to work in wildlife conservation (despite not having any of the right qualifications). After starting a part-time role at Rutland Water Nature Reserve, I worked really hard getting experience through volunteering and – with the help of a local charity – gained two relevant degrees and undertook an unpaid internship.

This led me to a career in the international conservation sector. I worked for a charity on projects all over the world where I specialised in tree species conservation. I then founded Vision Wild, an organisation which supports charities and land managers to design, manage and evaluate nature conservation projects.

My first links with the New Forest came through my childhood New Forest pony, which I loaned from a local lady. I've since always held a fascination for the National Park and its ponies. Now, as a trained ecologist and conservationist, I hold a love of the National Park for its unique landscape, rhythms and species – particularly wildflowers.

Q: Why is the New Forest special?

For me, what makes the Forest so special is not necessarily all the numerous important and impressive facts, which you can find anywhere, but it's the way it



Victoria Mander, chair of the New Forest National Park Authority

feels. And the way it makes you feel. The smells and sounds of the Forest are equally grounding and atmospheric. Returning home to the Forest after being away brings an immediate feeling of decompression.

Q: What are the biggest challenges facing the New Forest at the moment?

Borrowing a phrase from our CEO, Alison Barnes, I try to think about these challenges in 'Forest time'. By that, I mean working to the landscape's timeframe – in 100-year blocks – rather than the short-term horizons our own human body clocks tend to impose.

The most pressing challenge is global change: the biodiversity crisis, the climate emergency, and the complex factors driving them. Addressing these requires us to strengthen the landscape so its habitats and species can withstand periods of stress and uncertainty.

We also have to balance competing land uses, both within and beyond the Forest boundary. It's vital that we protect and enhance what's already here, while also improving connectivity with neighbouring habitats, including the coast and other protected landscapes, so nature can adapt and move across a joined-up network. Careful thought is needed about how land is used and prioritised. All of this is made more complex by the uncertainty we're currently

navigating including changes in local governance shifts within Hampshire. Since 2016, significant reforms in land use policy have also affected commoning, and greater certainty is essential if these systems are to function effectively.

Underpinning everything is funding. Despite our unique biodiversity, large resident population, and the millions of visitors we welcome each year, we remain one of the least funded national parks. In 2025, Defra reduced our funding by nine per cent – a devastating cut at a critical time. Sustained investment is essential to equip our team to meet these challenges and secure the National Park's long-term future. Ultimately, it's people who make the difference in any organisation, and supporting them is one of our most pressing challenges today.

Q: The New Forest is often described as 'unique'. What does that mean for how it should be managed day to day?

It's not for me to say how land 'should' be managed. The real expertise lies with the people working on it every day - the keepers, land managers and rangers. The Commoners, alongside Forestry England, do an exceptional job of caring for this landscape.

What matters most is that the Forest remains open, connected and functioning as a whole. That means

sustaining the practices that have shaped and maintained it for centuries. This is a landscape that has stayed largely open and unenclosed for hundreds of years, and the fewer barriers and fences, the better.

At the heart of that openness is grazing. The impact of animals browsing and grazing at scale is extraordinary. Attempting to replicate that with machinery or manual labour would be colossally expensive, probably impossible, and potentially damaging to the Forest itself.

Q: Do you have a favourite place in the New Forest?

I don't really have a favourite place, but my favourite thing is to find new places. There's so much of it still to discover. The northern parts are an endless trove of wonder.

Really, my favoured spots shift and change with the seasons

(depending on nature's calendar). I have favoured spots to hear nightjars in summer, and of course, see fungi in the autumn.

I also love being out on the water. There's truly nothing like it, especially in summer. Paddling my kayak in complete silence, free from the hum of motors, is incredibly tranquil. The calm is mesmerizing, a rare kind of peace that must be preserved but it can only exist because of the vast, open spaces that make it possible.

Q: What can people do to help protect this beautiful place?

Follow the New Forest code and be pro-active and promote it if you live here or have a business here, and support the Commoners and all the other organisations protecting the Forest.

Going beyond that, I think it's important to always think

about what's best for nature when making everyday decisions, especially in how you use your garden or land (however big or small) or spend your leisure time. Should you let your dog off the lead there...? Should you be using that pesticide...? If everyone made small, proactive decisions each day, collectively they could have a massive impact.

You can also take an interest in how local decisions are made, as most of them – including ours – take place in public. It's vital that young people in the New Forest have meaningful opportunities to be heard, because their voices will help shape the future of the landscape they will one day inherit and care for.

There are lots of ways to get involved, including Junior Ranger sessions, volunteering opportunities, and joining our Youth Board.

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Winning designs in the National Park

These designs are the winners of our Building Design Awards 2025 celebrating developments across the National Park which make a positive contribution to the New Forest's special character.

Best Conservation Project – Rose Cottage, Frogham

Having stood empty for several years, this Grade II listed thatched cottage had fallen into disrepair. Originally built of clay cob more than 200 years ago, it had very little structural support, and the internal plaster was crumbling. After consulting with the NPA's heritage conservation team, the new owner ensured the roof and upper mezzanine floor were properly strengthened, before carefully removing the cement render to make repairs to the front of the cottage.

When a rear wall collapsed during the repairs, it was reconstructed using the original materials and traditional techniques, helping

to preserve the cottage's historic and architectural character.

A single-storey lean-to extension was also rebuilt, ensuring the building remains both functional and true to its heritage. The fresh coat of Rose of Jerico tallow limewash was matched to the cottage's original colour.

Rose Cottage is a rare example of an 'encroachment cottage' which would have been built directly onto the ground on the edges of Crown land. They were sometimes built in a single night and there was a commonly-held belief at the time that if you could build a house on unenclosed land between



Rose Cottage after restoration (photo: Lori Butler)

sunset and sunrise then the owner of the land couldn't expel you.

The judging panel said the renovation was 'an exemplary celebration of the New Forest vernacular', with an owner who is passionate and knowledgeable about historic buildings and employs skilled heritage craftspeople.

The owner thanked Salisbury-based Favonius Architects; structural engineers at Romsey-based Andrew Waring Associates, and

Salisbury-based builders Brian Franklin and Sons for their part in the restoration process.

Best Green Project – Paultons Park Solar Canopies

Paultons Park near Romsey has recently introduced four solar car ports and battery storage to its existing parking area.

The car ports have a cantilever design by local architects Studio Four with more than a thousand solar panels fitted to a steel framework.

In total, the car ports cover 173 spaces and have generated 770,000 kWh annually – with 82% used on site. As of March 2025, Paulton's Park has saved 68 tonnes of CO2 – the equivalent of planting 4,000 trees.

The judges called the solar canopy project 'an exemplary green scheme', praising its contemporary yet highly functional design and innovative reuse of brownfield land. They also highlighted the scheme's minimal impact on the National Park's landscape character.

Best Residential Building – 8 Moorlands Close, Brockenhurst

Number 8 Moorlands Close is a detached chalet bungalow built in the 1970s, now sympathetically extended for flexible, long-term living.

The design includes 200mm of external wall insulation; high performance triple glazing throughout; a new warm-deck roof system and underfloor insulation; air source heat pump with



Above: Foundation and Independence Hub at Brockenhurst College (photo: Harry Palmer). Left: 8 Moorlands Close (photo: Studio BAD). Below: Solar car ports at Paultons Park (photo: Paultons Park)



underfloor heating, and solar panels with battery storage. Careful window placement, shading and natural ventilation ensure that temperatures remain comfortable throughout the year, without the need for mechanical cooling.

The judges described the design, by Southampton architects Studio BAD, as a 'noteworthy blend of modern, forward-thinking ideas' that respects the local vernacular through its choice of materials and strong environmental credentials.

They commended an approach that follows the government's guidance on embodied carbon (the emissions linked to building materials and construction), by keeping and reusing existing structures wherever possible rather than replacing them. They were especially pleased to see a retrofit scheme on a more typical modern home found within the New Forest.

Best Non-Residential Building - Brockenhurst College Foundation and Independence Hub.

This single storey building at Brockenhurst College offers specialist facilities within a

mainstream environment for learners with special educational needs.

The highly-accessible scheme blends in with the natural colours of the New Forest, and has sensory gardens and wildflower meadows in its grounds.

The modular hub was made from Structurally Insulated Panels (SIPs), making it cost effective, durable and energy efficient. Its strong environmental credentials meet with BREEAM 'very good' criteria, including air source heat pumps, solar panels and underfloor heating.

The judges praised the building for being accessible, practical, and thoughtfully designed, with materials chosen to complement the landscape character of the National Park.

They agreed the scheme by architects Re-Format goes well beyond a standard modular building, with the owners carefully considering not only the needs of the students but also how the structure would sit within its New Forest setting.

The winners' plaques were created by New Forest company BearWood using sustainable local oak.

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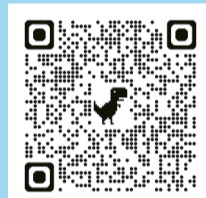
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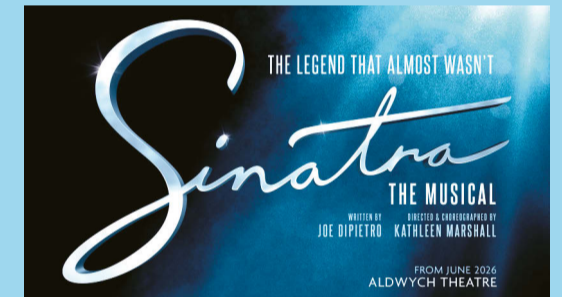
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DAY EXCURSIONS

April 2025

Wed 8th	Lacock Abbey - NT	£44.50
Wed 8th	Lyme Regis	£23.50
Thu 9th	Winchester & Hampshire Canal	£35.00
Thu 9th	Kennet & Avon Canal Trip	£38.50
Thu 9th	Sidmouth	£24.50
Fri 10th	Seaton Tramway & Jurassic Coast	£35.50
Fri 10th	Windsor River Cruise	£35.00
Fri 10th	Windsor Only	£35.00
Sat 11th	Ideal Home Show 2026	£39.50
Mon 13th	Swanage Railway	£37.50
Tue 14th	Isle of Wight Tour with guide	£41.50
Tue 14th	Arundel Castle Tulip Festival	£52.00

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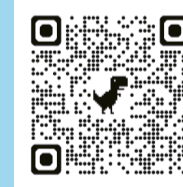


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Mon 13th	Castles & Gardens of Kent	5 days	HB	£465
Sun 19th	Bletchley Park & IWM Duxford	2 days	HB	£169
Sun 19th	Spain's Costa Brava	11 days	HB	1099
Sun 26th	Dutch Bulbfields & Amsterdam	4 days	HB	£565
Mon 27th	4* Langham Hotel Eastbourne	5 days	HB	£499
Mon 27th	York - RHS Harlow Carr	5 days	HB	£449
Mon 27th	St Agnes & St Ives	5 days	HB	£495

May 2026

Sat 2nd	Ports of the Seine Valley	6 days	FB	£1499
Sun 3rd	Stratford-upon-Avon Mini Break	2 days	HB	£129
Mon 4th	4* Snowdonia & Ffestiniog	5 days	HB	£649
Thu 7th	Looe & Lanhydrock	5 days	HB	£549
Fri 8th	London - Hilton Canary Wharf	3 days	BB	£235
Sun 10th	Manchester City Centre Break	3 days	BB	£199
Mon 11th	Chester & Llangollen Canal	5 days	HB	£419
Thu 14th	Sandringham House & Norwich	5 days	HB	£499
Sun 17th	Cardiff City Break	3 days	BB	£199
Mon 18th	Northumberland & Bamburgh	5 days	HB	£565
Mon 18th	Honfleur & Monet's Garden	5 days	BB	£549
Mon 25th	Tenby & Pembrokeshire	5 days	HB	£539

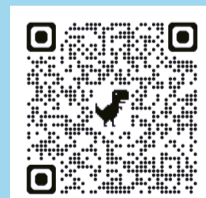
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Farming for the next generation

Farming sustainably and in harmony with the New Forest landscape is at the heart of Shelley Oaks Farm.

The 80-acre farm in the north-east of the New Forest is home to Chris, Caroline, and their family, which includes a menagerie of animals, notably their 80-strong flock of pedigree Jacob sheep. Shelley Oaks has been in the family for three generations. However, it wasn't until 2016 that Chris and Caroline moved in and brought the farm back under family management. The intention was to farm productively but sustainably, without the need for heavy inputs or interventions, and they joined the New Forest Marque local produce

scheme. Choosing to rear Jacob sheep was a 'happy accident' for Chris and Caroline but has turned out to be a lasting love affair. Jacobs were recommended to them as they are a hardy native breed, well suited to the environment and pasture-fed. The flock roams the farm freely, naturally fertilising the land and helping to restore and maintain soil health. Caroline admits that she is a self-confessed earthworm enthusiast, 'if you haven't got good soil, you've got nothing,' she says. Tree and hedge planting has also been a priority. New orchards and shelter belts are establishing, while veteran oaks are carefully managed

and young trees planted for the future. 'You farm and plant for the next generation' she reflects. 'We may never see them mature, but hopefully someone will.' As members of the New Forest Marque, Shelley Oaks is part of a network of local producers committed to provenance, sustainability and supporting the working landscape of the Forest and surrounding areas. The Marque helps residents and visitors identify produce that has been grown, reared or made within the New Forest area. As demand for transparency around food origins and production continues to rise, that clarity has never mattered more. Shelley Oaks sells its 100%



Chris and Caroline (photo: Abi Chadwick)

pasture-fed hogget – young sheep aged between one and two years – locally through seasonal meat boxes. Unlike traditional lamb, hogget is more developed in flavour with delicate fat marbling meaning a richer taste. Caroline explains that they have a loyal community of local customers who get notified by email when the boxes are available, and they happily collect direct from the farm. Farming alongside the New Forest brings responsibility as well as inspiration. It is, Caroline says, 'unique and precious, and also under pressure from many angles. It's up to all of us in all of our different walks to try and preserve it. Is that an easy

task? No, I don't think so.' Joining the New Forest Marque meant that navigating the challenges that come with being a New Forest producer suddenly became less daunting. Caroline recalls her first Marque social event feeling like a 'collective cuddle – a room full of passionate producers keen to share knowledge and support each other...I came back buzzing with positivity. That was seven years ago and we've been Marque members ever since.' **To find out more about New Forest Marque producers visit www.newforestmarque.co.uk.** **To discover more about Shelley Oaks' hogget boxes, visit www.shelleyoaksfarm.co.uk**

New Forest Marque welcomes over 20 new members

- New Forest Venison
- Andy Palmer Artist
- Emma Baker Textiles
- Andy Tait Photography
- Lymington Firewood
- Pamela Bell Artist
- Max the Woodie
- Bramble and Beach Photography
- Eight Two O Spirits
- Helen Nikandrou Artist
- Wheelers Fishmongers
- Kathryn Dalziel
- Hythe Shed at the Pier
- Green Man Association
- The Artful Hare
- Kim Thompson Artist
- Tracey Dovey Artist
- Emily Hancock Artist
- New Forest Ice Cream
- New Park Consultancy



Jacob lambs (picture: Caroline Jewell)



Caroline with Jacob sheep

Meet the New Forest Marque

- 18 April, Great New Forest Marque Breakfast, various locations
- 2-31 May, Folklore Exhibition at the New Forest Heritage Centre, Lyndhurst
- 28-30 July, New Forest Show, New Park, Brockenhurst
- 15-16 August, New Forest Food Festival, Hinton Admiral Estate
- 22 August – 19 September, Hampshire Open Studios Exhibition at the New Forest Heritage Centre, Lyndhurst

Have your say on the next phase of the National Park Local Plan

The next phase of consultation on the draft New Forest National Park Local Plan is taking place late this summer into autumn, and it's an important opportunity for local communities, organisations and stakeholders to get involved.

The Local Plan is a key planning document and sets out how development within the New Forest National Park will be managed over the coming years. It guides planning decisions on where homes, employment space

and community facilities may be located, while ensuring that the New Forest's unique landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage are protected and enhanced. The Local Plan plays a vital role in balancing the identified needs of people who live and work here with the special qualities that make the New Forest such a distinctive place.

This next phase of consultation will build on the feedback received following the public consultation on the initial draft version of the Plan which closed in December 2025. It will present refined

draft planning policies on key issues such as meeting local housing needs, climate change, nature recovery, transport and supporting thriving local communities. Residents, parish councils, businesses and partner organisations are all encouraged to review the revised draft proposals and share their views.

Taking part in the consultation is straightforward. There will be opportunities to find out more through public sessions, where National Park Authority staff will be on hand to



An aerial view of Beaulieu (photo: Adobe stock)

explain the proposals and answer any questions. Your feedback matters. Responses received during this consultation will be submitted alongside the draft Local Plan and supporting evidence to the Government for

independent examination by the end of 2027. By getting involved, you can help ensure that future planning decisions reflect local priorities and continue to protect the special character of the New Forest for generations to come.

Further details, including consultation dates and how to take part, will be shared soon. Keep an eye on the National Park Authority website and social media for updates. www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/LocalPlan



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Helping wildlife flourish

The New Forest Species Survival Fund project was a major investment in nature to restore and reconnect some of the area's most important habitats.

Bringing together partners, land managers and local communities, the programme focused on practical action to help wildlife flourish across this unique landscape, from woodlands and wetlands to heathlands and river corridors.

Led by the New Forest National Park Authority and delivered in partnership with five partner organisations, the two-year project targeted areas where habitats had become fragmented or degraded.

By improving habitat quality and strengthening ecological networks, it will give species the space and resilience they need to adapt and thrive.

The New Forest is nationally significant for its biodiversity, supporting rare plants, fungi, invertebrates, birds, reptiles and mammals within a working landscape shaped by commoning. Through restoring habitats, tackling invasive species, planting trees, enhancing watercourses and monitoring species, the Species Survival Fund (SSF) has helped tip the balance back in favour of nature.

What follows is a collection of stories that showcase the difference this work is making – and has already made – on the ground. Together, they highlight how targeted investment and local collaboration are helping secure a more resilient future for the New Forest.

The Species Survival Fund (SSF)



Common lizard (photo: Steve Laycock)

project in the New Forest which ended in February 2026 was supported by Government funding and managed through the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Shedding new light on New Forest bats

The project shed new light on local bat populations and improved habitat for these elusive nocturnal hunters. The New Forest is a national stronghold for bats, and of the UK's 18 species, 14 can be found here.

In 2025, baseline surveys were undertaken to measure bat activity before habitat improvements were carried out through the project.

Wild New Forest placed bat detectors at 11 sites for around a fortnight each, with the detectors set to record bat echo-location calls from dusk until dawn.

More than 140,000 individual bat passes were detected during the surveys.

Detailed analysis indicated all

SPECIES SURVIVAL FUND

Funded by UK Government Heritage Fund

14 of the New Forest bat species were potentially recorded; although not all could be confirmed with high confidence using acoustic data alone.

Common and Soprano Pipistrelle were the most frequently detected species, accounting for 94 per cent of all bat passes.

The nationally scarce and red-listed Barbastelle was recorded at all the sites surveyed, with nearly 40 passes per night at one parkland location.

The locally rare Greater Horseshoe Bat was also recorded at two sites in the north of the New Forest.

Bats thrive in landscapes that offer an abundance of insects and other invertebrate prey. The SSF project improved and increased bat habitat by creating insect-rich wetlands and wildflower meadows, restoring native woodland, and planting new hedgerows to strengthen connections between habitats.

Prof Russell Wynn, Director of Wild New Forest, said: 'These new data have revealed existing bat hotspots and highlight the exceptional bat diversity in the New Forest.'

New woodland site takes root

A team of volunteers spent a

day planting 250 trees to transform a barren and quiet area into a thriving environment for species and wildlife populations.

The area on a site near Bramshaw was previously swamped by invasive rhododendron but creating new woodland aimed to boost its biodiversity.

'My vision for the land is to try to create an environment where wildlife can thrive, but also people can coexist,' said landowner Matthew Cutts.

'It feels a shame to create an environment where we feel that we're separate from animals and that we can't be there.'

'I have this dream that it could be this open-air space where people could spend time working in the woods, but in a way that went hand in hand



Above and inset below, Candelabra Coral (photos: Russell Wynn)

with nature to show there are ways of living side by side with animals.'

New eel pass reconnects vital habitat

A new eel pass was created to help one of the UK's most enigmatic and endangered species.

The work, led by Freshwater Habitats Trust (FHT), transformed what was previously an impassable ditch into a vital migration route for eels and other aquatic life.

The eel pass, which is on an estate in the east of the Forest, consists of two, six-metre long pipes under an access track, creating a safe pathway for young eels (elvers) to move upstream.

The area where the pass lies previously experienced erosion, which caused difficulties for fish, invertebrates and aquatic plants.

However, the transformation means the site now forms a small but crucial part of the

wider habitat network needed to support eels.

Nationally rare fungus arrives in the Forest

A nationally rare fungus was discovered in several areas of the New Forest for the first time.

The elegant Candelabra Coral – *Artomyces pyxidatus* – is notable for its distinctive appearance thanks to its crown-tipped creamy white branches resembling a candelabra.

One of the discoveries was made by Professor Russell Wynn, Director of Wild New Forest, during the project. 'The sudden arrival of the Candelabra Coral in the New Forest was remarkable,' he said.

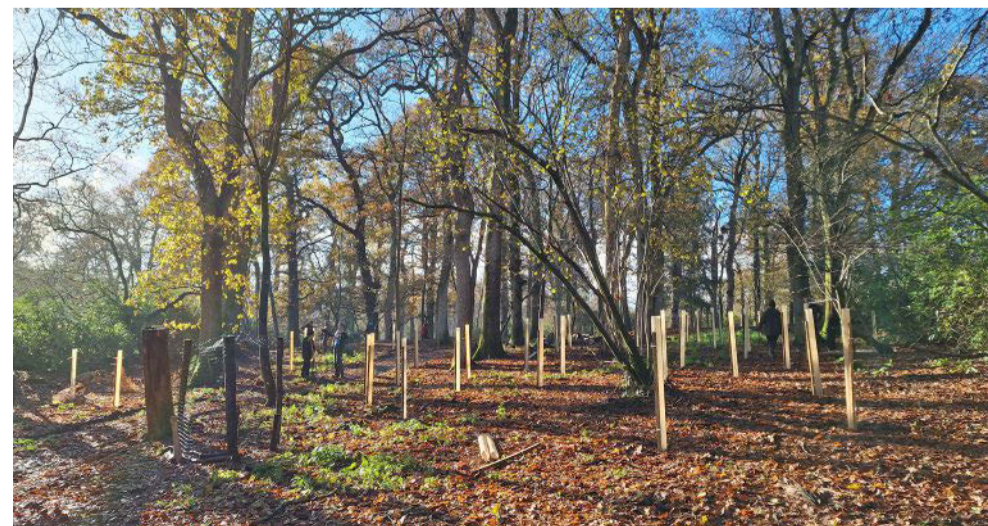
Candelabra Coral is typically found on decaying deadwood, such as rotting beech and silver birch logs, and thrives in moist woodland environments.

The fungus, which can grow up to 10cm high, was thought to be extinct in the UK, with no records during the 20th century.

However, it was rediscovered in Suffolk in 2012, and in the



Pipistrelle bat (photo: Russell Wynn)



New trees planted in woodland

across the New Forest



Little Arboreal Ladybirds (photo: Russell Wynn)

last five years it has been recorded in at least 10 English counties.

Rare ladybirds discovered

A trio of rare ladybird species were recorded in the New Forest last summer, with one new to Britain and one not seen in the area for more than 15 years.

Ladybirds are key indicators of ecological change and the presence of these species in the New Forest is linked to habitat quality and the changing climate.

Two of the exciting discoveries were made during surveys for the project undertaken by Wild New Forest.

The most notable discovery was the 13-spot Ladybird, a wetland species which was discovered in damp, meadow habitat and which has not been seen in the New Forest

for nearly two decades.

The other nationally scarce ladybird discovered was the Adonis' Ladybird, which is typically associated with dry sandy, grasslands. Meanwhile, a small, orange ladybird – called *Calvia decemguttata* but known informally as the Little Arboreal Ladybird – was also discovered in the New Forest last year.

New Forest insects given new lease of life

More than 24 acres of grassland – the equivalent of more than 13 football pitches – were planted with wildflowers to help boost insect numbers in the New Forest.

More than 550 metres of new hedgerows were also planted by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to provide

additional habitat for insects and animals which rely on them, such as birds and bats. Senior nature recovery manager Tracé Cooper-Williams, said: 'The UK is experiencing serious decline in flying insects – a staggering 60 per cent over the last 20 years.

'Many of those species are pollinators – we wanted to do something to help those species in the New Forest.

'The project provided us with a great opportunity to boost local pollinator populations by creating habitat to enable species to spread out from the core of the Forest.'

Sand lizard and adder benefit from restored heathlands

Sand lizard, smooth snake and adder are particularly vulnerable to threats such as

climate change, recreational pressures and fires, which can severely damage their habitats.

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC) created and restored heathlands in the New Forest to enable the recovery of these species and improve the resilience of their habitats. Sand lizard and smooth snake are both European-protected species, while adders are classed as nationally vulnerable.

'All three are facing several threats both nationally and locally, impacting the range and distribution of populations, and the habitats that support them,' said ARC project officer Eryn McDonald. 'This type of work helps to restore lowland heathlands to a favourable condition, supporting the species that rely on these surroundings. 'It also helps link up the habitats from inside the Forest to the surrounding areas, creating a bigger, better, more joined up landscape.'

Connecting people with nature

Thousands of people have been involved in volunteering, developing skills, and learning more about New Forest nature thanks to the Species Survival Fund.

Over the course of the project, 167 events were attended by almost 28,000 people, helping to raise awareness of the Forest's unique wildlife and the importance of protecting it.

The project also invested in building skills and long-term capacity of a professional and volunteer workforce for nature conservation. Through the trainee wildlife surveyor programme, 145 people took part in 31 hands-on activities, gaining practical experience in ecological survey techniques. A further 327 professionals took part in 13 dedicated development events, strengthening expertise within the conservation sector and



Landowner Matthew Cutts hopes his land will be transformed

supporting better-informed management across the landscape.

Community participation has been equally significant. In total, 560 volunteers – including 225 new recruits – contributed to 150 activities, ranging from practical conservation tasks like tree planting to monitoring different species.

The project also reached around 38,000 people through public events, youth organisations, promotional materials and online channels like social media, helping to build a wider culture of supporting and caring for nature in the New Forest.

'Encouraging signs of recovery'

The Species Survival Fund has demonstrated how vital sustained investment is for the future of the New Forest.

By restoring habitats at scale and strengthening collaboration across organisations and land managers, the programme has helped build much-needed resilience into one of the country's most important landscapes.

John Stride, Net Zero with Nature programme manager at the New Forest National Park Authority, said: 'The New Forest supports an exceptional

range of life – from rare plants and dragonflies to mammals and reptiles – but like much of the UK's countryside, it has faced pressures from habitat loss, invasive species and changes in land use.

'The Species Survival Fund project has made a tangible difference on the ground. We've been able to reconnect fragmented habitats, restoring vital corridors that allow species to move, feed and breed more successfully. Areas once dominated by invasive species have been carefully cleared and replanted with a diverse mix of native flora, creating stronger, more resilient ecosystems.

'As a result, we are already seeing encouraging signs of recovery, with improved conditions for priority species and a richer mosaic of habitats across the landscape. The project has also brought organisations, land managers and volunteers together, strengthening partnerships and building the skills needed to safeguard the New Forest's wildlife for the long term. 'By improving habitat quality and resilience at scale, the initiative supports England's national biodiversity targets, including the ambition to protect 30 per cent of land for nature by 2030. Just as importantly, it helps ensure the New Forest remains a living, working landscape where nature and people can continue to thrive side by side.'



A new eel pass created by Freshwater Habitats Trust. Above right, a slow worm



How the NPA is supporting the next

The New Forest Young Content Creators scheme is helping to break down barriers for young people in and around the National Park to talk about climate and nature.

Young creatives aged 16 to 30 applied for funds of up to £150 each to support them in producing digital, climate and nature-focused content on topics that they are passionate about.

So far more than 20 New Forest Young Content Creators have successfully applied for the scheme. The content they made has reached over 73,000 social media impressions and over 3,000 engagements.

Funding was allocated by the NPA as part of the Youth for Climate and Nature (YouCAN) scheme to support young, budding content creators in the New Forest, Southampton and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole areas



Members of the public enjoy the New Forest National Park Authority's Thrive Festival at Carvers Recreation Ground, Ringwood

Festival celebrating people, wildlife and the future

New Forest Thrive is returning to Ringwood on 4 July 2026, a festival celebrating the unique and special place that is the National Park, as well as highlight community connections with the Forest.

Led by the New Forest National Park Authority, the event looks to the future to celebrate the Forest's communities, as well as its wildlife, landscapes, and so much more.

The first New Forest Thrive (launched in 2025) had four zones: Creative and Discovery, Chill Out and Sustainable Transport, each with interactive displays, activities, and performances on offer to inspire people of all ages and to promote positive climate and nature-based actions.

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/thrive



New Forest Young Content Creator Omkar Dherange

care about most, while providing real-world media experience and exposure to help them on their career paths.'

New Forest Young Content Creator Omkar Dherange said: 'For international postgraduates and early-career creatives like me, schemes like this can be genuinely career-shaping. They help build confidence, professional portfolios, and credibility while encouraging responsible, values-led content creation.

who are passionate about climate and nature and how this affects their local communities. The content produced can be video, audio or photography, should be social media-focused, community-based and appeal to other young people.

The project began in 2025

with application windows opening twice a year for spring/summer and autumn/winter. Applicants pitch for the topic they are passionate about, the amount of money they would need and what they intend to spend it on.

The NPA also supports them

with links to a wide range of local experts and a large social media presence of around 140,000 followers to share the finished content.

New Forest National Park Authority communications assistant and project lead, Josh Taylor said: 'The climate and nature emergencies affect

young people massively and yet the conversation and ability to do something is often taken out of their hands.

'I'm proud to be leading a project which gives other young people like me a platform and the financial help to tell the stories they

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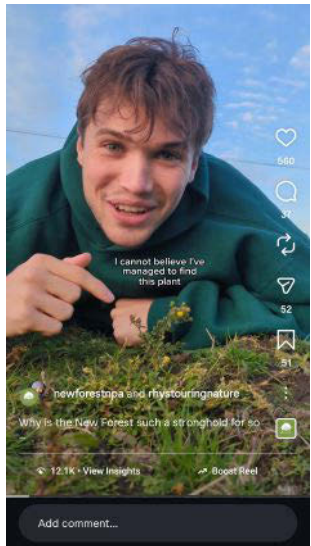


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Content Creator Rhys Leighton

'When young creators are supported and guided, we become advocates, using our platforms to raise awareness, influence behaviour, and inspire others to engage positively with nature and climate action.'

Find out more and view content created through the scheme on the New Forest NPA website: www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/content-creators

Young people given stronger voice in shaping the New Forest's future

The New Forest Youth Board and National Park Authority members are advocating young people's views by sharing expertise and working together.

Members of the two Boards met to discuss ways young people can have their priorities heard through policy, decision making, and increased representation.

The New Forest Youth Board is a group of 18 to 30-year-olds championing young people by contributing to boards, committees, and consultations like the National Park Local Plan suite of planning policies, part of which is being revised; and attending events including the New Forest Volunteer Fair in Brockenhurst and Thrive Festival in Ringwood.

New Forest Youth Board member and university student Josie said: 'Having a voice means giving young people the opportunity to talk and network on issues they feel passionately about. It's important to have input in decision making processes that impact young people in the long-term, so it's important to have foresight and input.'



New Forest Youth Board and partner organisations.

'Collaborating with NPA board members, young people can benefit from experiences and expertise on issues and routes to reach certain groups. It's about learning from what somebody already knows and can pass down.'

New Forest National Park Authority member and chair of the YouCAN partnership board James Wylor-Owen said: 'The Youth Board allows the next generation to shape the environment they'll live in and make clear what's important to them, instead of people talking on their behalf. It allows young people to take stewardship of their own future.'

The events and initiatives on these pages are part of the Youth for Climate and Nature (YouCAN) scheme, made possible thanks to National Lottery players and funded through a Climate Action Fund grant from The National Lottery Community Fund. YouCAN is aimed at 11 to 30-year-olds to encourage more community-led action to tackle the nature and climate emergencies. Find out more about the scheme at: www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/YouCAN.



Go Wild in Southampton

Following its successful launch in 2025, Urban Wild is returning to Southampton from 23 – 31 May 2026.

Urban Wild is a week-long celebration of Southampton's green and blue spaces, full of walks, talks, workshops, performances and more. Whether you're curious about urban ecology, passionate about the arts, or simply



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PEDALL – New Forest Inclusive Cycling provides ‘companionship’, ‘pride’, and a host of physical and mental health benefits to riders



Established by the New Forest National Park Authority, the PEDALL charity offers guided off-road cycling experiences that are accessible to all, regardless of ability, health conditions, or wellbeing needs, thanks to a fleet of specialised cycles.

For some, PEDALL ‘proves you can’ while for others it’s about belonging. For everybody, sessions are a fun, sociable way to explore the Forest with confidence.

Hear from some riders about why joining PEDALL is so special.

‘PEDALL offers companionship’ – a parent’s story

Poppy is a young person with Down syndrome who loves to cycle and enjoys regular days on the bike in the fresh air. ‘Cycling with PEDALL is something Poppy and I can bond over, doing something together,’ mum, Debbie, said. ‘Most of the time, I’m her mum and her carer, but with PEDALL we can be buddies. We can be on the side-by-side bike, and there are no concerns about safety or risk. It’s stress-free, I think that’s the best way to describe it,’ Debbie said. ‘We can sing songs and try to spot wildlife. It’s just very relaxing and very interactive.

‘It gives me something peaceful to do enjoying the countryside as much as she does.’

Poppy used to join her mum and dad on rides when she was little and would sit in a trailer but moved on as she got older and became more independent.

‘We wanted Poppy to experience the joy of cycling and being surrounded by nature,’ Poppy’s dad, Julian, said. ‘And it’s good for us as



Above and top right, Pass the PedALL event in New Park Brockenhurst

parents to meet like-minded people.’

Debbie agreed: ‘It’s nice to enjoy the company of other riders. That gives me companionship. I’m not just going solo all the time trying to entertain Poppy.’

‘We can get out in the Forest again thanks to PEDALL’ – a couple’s story

Riding in the New Forest with PEDALL has helped one couple reconnect with a passion – cycling together in nature.

‘Riding with PEDALL has been

a total gain,’ Tricia and John said. ‘It’s made us use our bodies and meet new friends – it’s very sociable, and we’ve been able to connect with some very nice people.’

The pair – retired and in their 70s – said PEDALL has the power to bring people together from a range of backgrounds with a shared experience overcoming challenges.

‘There may be people with other conditions and we can relate to them about things and talk about how we care,’ John explained.

‘I love the Forest,’ Tricia said, who lives with a rare inherited progressive disorder that affects her mobility. ‘Connections to wellbeing and nature mean everything to me.

‘I can’t really say more than that because it just makes me happy. Being able to get out again thanks to PEDALL means a great deal.

‘I want other people to know about it, because once you get to this sort of stage, you might think you’re not going to ever be able to do anything else. But PEDALL proves you can.’

‘It’s nice to get out with other people because that side of things is good for both of us,’ John said.

‘Riding with PEDALL also reduces potential risks. If we’re out cycling on our own and get a puncture two miles out, how do we get back? So it’s a confidence thing.’

‘There’s pride for people joining PEDALL, they’re part of something’ – a support group’s story

‘We call ourselves the Hampshire Forget-me-nots,’

seasons, and enjoying the companionship they get.’

Jane spoke of ‘obvious benefits’ including cardiovascular health and improved appetite and sleep patterns, as well as cognitive wellbeing boosts and others gained through increased Vitamin D.

‘Exercise in green spaces is so powerful, and that’s before you add in the social elements and the interest,’ she said. ‘It’s really quite special. People can talk about their cycling and share photos with their families.’

Jane added: ‘It’s important to remember carers also often don’t have the same day-to-day opportunities to get out to exercise.

‘So, it’s not just somebody with dementia who gets the benefits when riding with PEDALL, it’s the carer too.

‘As a carer, you can feel an awful lot of guilt about whether you’re doing well – wondering “are you doing enough?”. I think taking somebody out into the Forest with PEDALL; that’s something special.’

Visit PEDALL’s website to hear more stories and donate today to help more people experience the benefits the project provides: www.pedall.org.uk



Poppy (L) and mum Debbie (R)



Tricia (R) and John (L)

New vision for the future of the New Forest National Park

Local organisations will soon be working together on an updated Partnership Plan to guide the National Park into the next decade, and will be inviting the public to have their say.

The Environment Act 1995 requires all English National Park Authorities to publish a management plan for their geographic area. It outlines the vision and strategy for conserving and enhancing its natural beauty, including wildlife and cultural heritage and promoting opportunities for public understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.

The Plan is not just for the work

of the National Park Authorities but helps guide the collective work of all those with responsibilities or an interest in the National Park, including councils and Government bodies. The current New Forest National Partnership Plan has key themes of climate, nature, people, place and partnership and ends in 2027. The new Partnership Plan will run from 2027 to 2032 and will incorporate ambitious national targets to enable plants and wildlife to thrive; tackle climate change; and enhance beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

The National Park Authority's

Interim Head of Planning and Place David Illsley said: 'Arguably, climate change is the single most important threat to the future of the National Park.

'There is an urgent need to ensure the measures that will be required to enable the landscape, its wildlife and communities to adapt to climate change are fully understood and the appropriate actions identified.'

Partner organisations in the New Forest are preparing the draft Partnership Plan. Public consultation is due to take place in spring 2027 with the final Plan due to be published in summer 2027.

New neighbours at Foxlease Park in Lyndhurst

The New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) is set to become neighbours with Foxie's Future CIO in Lyndhurst after purchasing three small properties on the Foxlease Park estate.

Two of the three-bedroom semi-detached homes, which have stood empty for some time, will be modernised and rented out. The Authority is also exploring whether the third building could serve as a drop-in base for staff and volunteers supporting conservation work across the National Park, while retaining office space in Lymington.

Foxie's Future CIO was established in August 2023 after Girlguiding UK announced plans to close and sell its historic Foxlease Activity Centre. Following a £4m-plus fundraising campaign – including a £1.78m grant from Round 3 of the Government's Community Ownership Fund – the charity secured the 65-acre site in November 2024. This saved it from closure, ensuring it remains available for years to come for young people and the local, national and international community.



The cottages bought by the New Forest NPA at Foxlease, Lyndhurst

NPA Chair Victoria Mander said ring-fenced capital funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had enabled the 0.8-acre purchase. Rental income will support the Authority's work protecting the National Park and helping communities thrive.

Victoria added: 'This mission and our values closely align with those of Foxie's Future. We're pleased that the purchase is also helping the new charity to become more sustainable and continue to provide a wonderful facility of learning in the outdoors for the National Park community and beyond.'

Foxie's Future Chair Hazel Warwick welcomed the NPA as 'new neighbours', saying she looked forward to future joint projects and volunteering opportunities.

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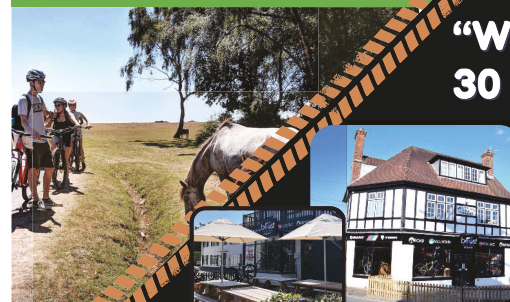
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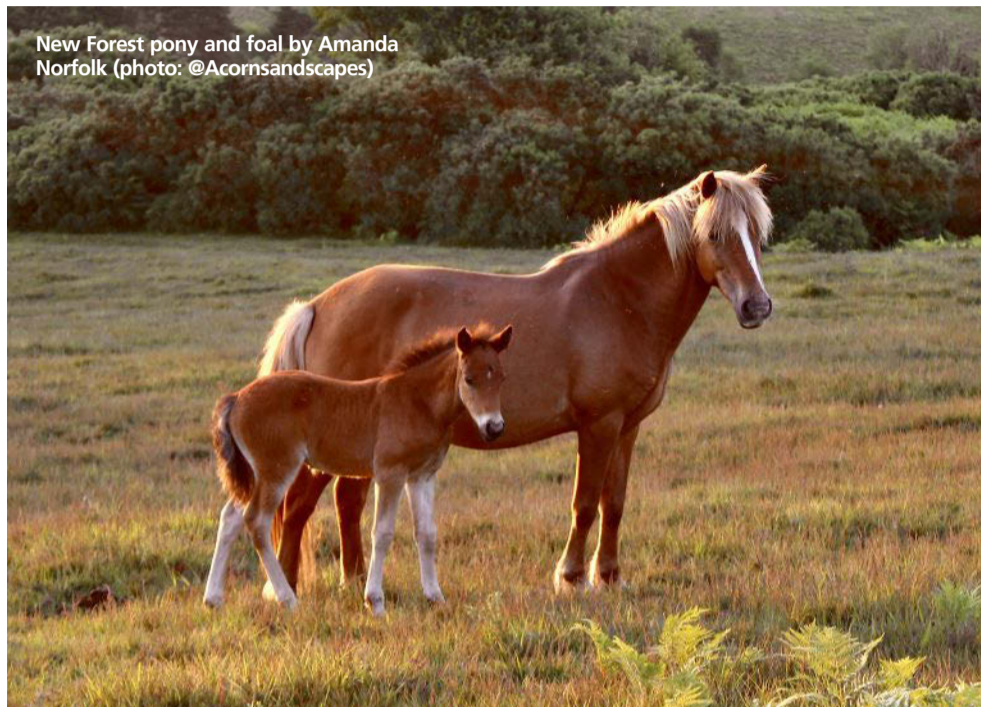
Protecting new life in the New Forest

The warmer months have arrived in the New Forest National Park, and you'll see New Forest foals taking their first unsteady steps beside their mothers on the open heaths and village greens.

While it's a heartwarming sight, it's vital that these young ponies are protected and given space.

Thank you for not touching, feeding or approaching foals or their mothers, however calm they may appear. Mares are naturally protective and can react unpredictably if they feel their foal is threatened. Human interaction can also cause stress and, in some cases, lead to long-term or fatal welfare issues for the animals. You can be fined or prosecuted for petting or feeding ponies and donkeys in the New Forest.

Drivers are also urged to take



New Forest pony and foal by Amanda Norfolk (photo: @Acornslandscapes)

extra care at this time of year and remember that ponies and cattle have right of way on Forest roads. Foals are inexperienced and can suddenly step into the road without warning, especially if

startled. Slow down, particularly at night when livestock is harder to spot, and be prepared to stop. Collisions not only endanger the animals but can cause serious injury to drivers and passengers. If

you're involved in an accident with an animal please call 999.

By keeping your distance and driving with caution, you can help ensure the New Forest remains safe for all.



It's ground nesting bird season

Dartford warbler (photo: Steve Laycock)

Each spring and summer, the heaths and open landscapes of New Forest National Park provide a vital home for some of the UK's most threatened ground nesting birds.

Species such as the nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler rely on the Forest's heathland to breed and raise their young. Unlike many birds, these species build their nests directly on the ground.

Their eggs and chicks are perfectly camouflaged among heather and grasses: a clever defence against natural predators, but one that offers no

protection from accidental disturbance.

A single step off the path, a roaming dog, or a bicycle cutting across open heath can unintentionally destroy a nest or cause adult birds to abandon their young.

By keeping to the main tracks you can make a real difference. This helps protect fragile nesting sites and reduces stress on breeding birds during this critical time of year.

Dog walkers are also encouraged to keep pets close and under control, especially in areas known for ground nesting activity.

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Team New Forest: Working together to care for a special place

Team New Forest plays an important role looking after the National Park, and rangers are a crucial part.

Rangers from the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) spent more than 2,000 hours regularly visiting 230 locations in and around the Forest in 2025 having conversations with nearly 18,500 people – increasing people's awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the National Park to help protect it as a special place for nature.

The NPA team works closely with partners including Forestry England, the Police, Freshwater Habitats Trust, New Forest Dog Owners Group, Commoners, the New

Forest Marque, local councils, schools, scout groups, members of the public, and many more.

Community support is key, with everyone having a role in



NPA ranger Jim Day

helping look after the National Park's rare and sensitive wildlife, habitats, and landscapes.

NPA rangers regularly support conservation volunteers, Junior Rangers, and the New Forest Youth Board, as well as joining partners on initiatives including the police-led 'Operation Mountie' patrols to help make the Forest's roads safer and protect people and animals on the road.

They attend events including local shows and community fairs, appear in the media, conduct patrols to protect rare ground nesting birds, and help enforce PSPOs (Public Space Protection Orders) which ban feeding or petting ponies or lighting fires.



NPA ranger Naomi Addleton

Rangers also run litter picks, and lead various talks and workshops all to promote safe and responsible behaviour by everyone enjoying this special place.

New Forest NPA rangers share why it's so important people always follow the New Forest and Dog Walking codes:

Naomi Addleton (NPA area ranger)

'The New Forest is a stronghold for many nationally rare and scarce species from lichens, plants, and fungi to bats, birds, and reptiles. New discoveries are being made all the time, too, such as rare ladybirds and the candelabra coral fungus just last year.

'Some of these species might appear common to people who live in or visit the Forest frequently but they can be hard to find outside of it. There's always something new to learn or share and so much can be found along tracks or beside car parks.

'Many of our species depend on habitats having exactly what they need – there are fungi that can only survive if there's enough deadwood, ground nesting birds that can only hide their chicks if they aren't disturbed by people or dogs, and dragonflies that can only survive in streams not polluted by insecticides.

'The most common sightings can bring the most joy and some of my favourites include

seeing green tiger beetles on sandy heaths, watching bag worms haul lichen home across a picnic bench, and listening to the drum of a woodpecker.

'The habitats and wildlife of the Forest are important to me, but the people I meet on patrol might enjoy it for the scenery and tranquillity or as somewhere to exercise, walk their dog, or camp with their family. Whatever the reason, we can all help look after it by following the New Forest code.'

Jim Day (NPA people and wildlife ranger):

'Walking in the New Forest with your four-legged friend is hugely popular and great for your health and wellbeing, as well as being a fantastic way to connect with nature.

'The National Park is an important home for rare and sensitive wildlife like migrating



NPA lead ranger Gillie Molland

and ground nesting birds, invertebrates in freshwaters, and Commoners' livestock, so the importance of always picking up after dogs and keeping to the tracks to minimise impacts can't be overstated.

'We're pleased to have nearly 100 professional dog walkers signed up to our Professional Dog Walker's Charter, which means people set good examples and follow the New Forest's Dog Walking Code to help protect the National Park's wildlife and habitats from damage and disturbance.'

Gillie Molland (NPA lead ranger):

'With such a wide range of habitats, landowners and interest groups involved in caring for and safeguarding the New Forest National Park, working together is absolutely essential. As a ranger team, we take pride in embodying the spirit of "Team New Forest" every day.

'We value talking with the public while out on patrol, attending Parish Council meetings, supporting community events and fairs, and working closely with the many organisations and land managers across the Forest. 'We are united by a shared commitment to protecting this landscape and its cultural heritage for future generations.'

Enjoy the Forest car-free

The popular New Forest Tour is back on the road this summer, between 14 July and 13 September, offering people the chance to explore the Forest's towns, villages and coastline sustainably from an open-top bus. With three scenic routes showcasing the very best of the area, the service provides a relaxed, car-free way to discover local attractions, wildlife and hidden gems. This

season, there's an added bonus: the red route now stops at Brockenhurst, making it even easier to hop on and off – and change routes – in the heart of the Forest.

Whether you're planning a full day out or simply fancy seeing the New Forest from a different perspective, the Tour is a great way to travel while leaving the car behind.

www.thenewforesttour.info

**POLICE (24hrs) – 999 (emergency)
101 (non-emergency)**

Road traffic accident involving a pony, cow, donkey, pig, sheep, dog or deer

**VERDERERS' OFFICE
023 8028 2052 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)**

Sick, injured or distressed pony, cow, donkey, pig or sheep (not deer)

**FORESTRY ENGLAND
0300 067 4600 (24hrs)**

Sick, injured or distressed pony, cow, donkey, pig, sheep or deer

NPA 00893

IT'S THE LAW:

Report all accidents involving a pony, cow, donkey, dog, pig or sheep to the Police as soon as possible, and within 24hrs.

REMEMBER:

- Forest animals have no road sense and have right of way!
- Drive slowly, especially at night, and give animals a wide berth.
- Don't feed the animals.

Changes to car parking

From April 2026, Forestry England is introducing parking charges at all 129 of its car parks in the New Forest.

To avoid damage and obstruction in this working Forest, please only park in designated car parks – not in gateways or on verges (which are protected habitats in their own right).

www.forestryengland.uk/new-forest

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



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

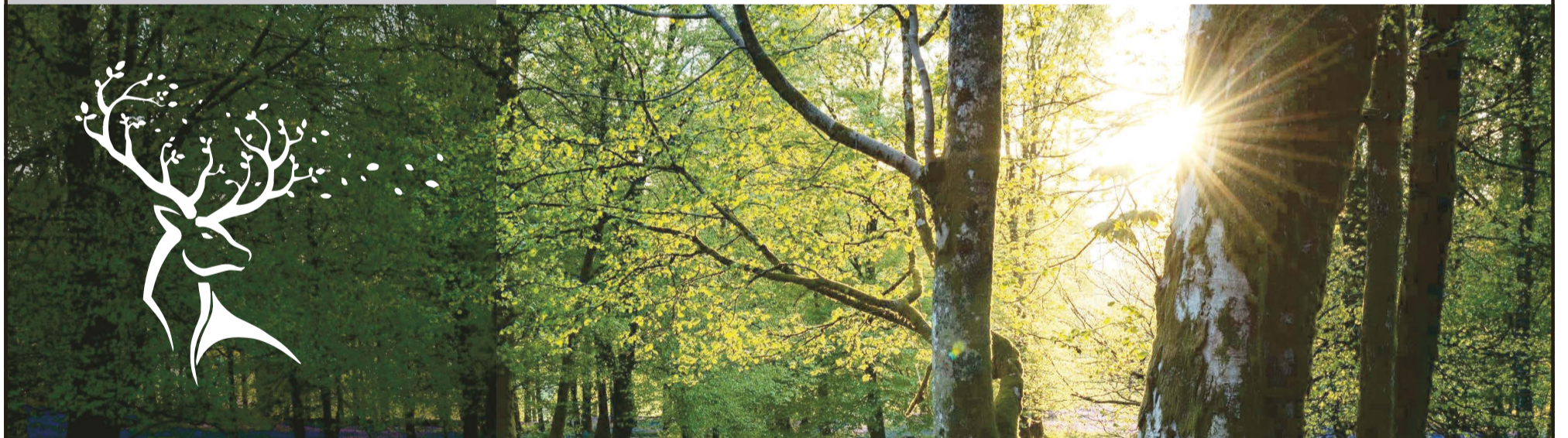
*Failure to comply may result in a fixed penalty of £100 or being taken to court and a fine of up to £1,000.



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