

Consultative Panel Forestry England Update June 2026

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Fire safety

- Amber warnings of wildfire risk
- Joint patrols with fire service volunteers
- Monitoring use of fire/BBQ

Community Engagement

- Guided community walks
- Bolderwood Cabin open
- Dog Owners engagement session with NFDOG
- Fly-tip Ops with NFDC & Police at Lyndhurst and Crockford



Parking ranger team

- Recruitment and onboarding complete
- Team of 12 rangers now all in post
- Working closely with existing ranger team and other operational staff.
- Offers a boost to our ability to engage with the public beyond enforcement
 - Litter picking - collecting on average up to 12 bags of rubbish a week.
 - Verge parking education and stickers
 - PSPO enforcement - NFDC have provided training for an initial group from this team to support when these are renewed in July



Went live on 20 April

- Charging now live in all 129 car parks

Positive response to membership

- Highly discounted parking charges - £1.85 a week
- Positive support for the New Forest
- Ongoing community to engage and communicate with



- **Ways to pay**
 - RingGo is one options in a range of ways to pay
 - Transferrable tickets from pay machines at 16 locations
 - Phone-line
 - Payment via a button on our website
 - Membership
 - [Parking Information | Forestry England](#)
- **New page for accessibility**
<https://www.forestryengland.uk/new-forest/access-information>



- Investment in new team & machinery
- Active programme of repairs now underway
 - Tarmac around key entrances from the highways - cost over £200k
 - Surface repairs carried out at 55 car parks since the start of Feb
- Keeping the public updated

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/new-forest/where-we-are-working>



Record heathland restoration this winter

- 50 hectares of inclosures returned to open habitat
- Nearly one fifth of our commitment to this in the current 10-year Forest Design Plan.
- HLS projects
 - Dames Slough, Highland Water, Woosons Hill, Milkham, North Sluffers, Fawley
- Additional projects
 - Roe, Coppice of Linwood, Fletcher Hill, Denny.



- Ongoing programme delivered over the last 15 years
- Restoring original water courses, bogs and mire systems
- In the last 3 years restoration has been carried out at:
 - Picket Mire
 - Penny moor
 - Furzey Lodge
 - Anses Wood
 - Ravensnest
 - Hawkhill Lodge
 - North Slufters



- Monitoring long-term benefits
 - geomorphological surveys,
 - fixed point photography,
 - vegetation surveys before & after.
- Findings so far...
 - Holding more water on the forest
 - Benefitting key species of plant and aquatic life
 - Creating more - and connected - habitats for species that rely on wet areas including wading birds
 - Slowing the flow and reducing flooding further downstream



- Plan to boost our work in this area.
- Further sites identified for later this year....
 - Knightwood
 - Ipley
 - North Slufters
 - Fawley
 - Roe
 - Coppice of Linwood/Salisbury Trench



Volunteering for conservation

- Recognised the amazing volunteer work this year for National Volunteer Week
- Kings Copse - coppicing ride side birch & willow to keep rides & glades open and improve habitat for butterflies and specifically the White Admiral.
- Holmsley - widening of rides using hand tools to enable access for butterfly recorders on official transects
- Brick Kilns - cut birch and pine, drag in and clear off banks to allow more light to the forest floor and help promote growth of flora



- We are supporting a new exhibition at the New Forest Heritage Centre opening on 3 July.
- Celebrating one of the most overlooked chapters of WW2 - the Women's Timber Corp or "Lumberjills"
- Discover how these incredible women supported the war effort in the New Forest and how they paved the way for women in the forestry sector today
- Many personal stories and testimonies are included



Forestry England

Thank you