



Our purposes and duty

As specified in the Environment Act of 1995 national park authorities have a responsibility to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.

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

We sum this up as:

Protect – Enjoy – Prosper

Progress report 2019

Partnership Plan for the New Forest National Park



All national parks have a partnership plan for their area, to help guide the work of partners with responsibilities and an interest in the park.

2019 is the penultimate year of the current Partnership Plan's five-year period and almost 80% of the 90 actions have either already been completed or are on track to achieve their original objective. So even with another year to go the Plan has already been a success.

The New Forest Partnership Plan is owned and delivered by a wide range of organisations and as partners, we are collectively responsible for

carrying out and monitoring the progress of its actions.

This update gives a flavour of some of the work done so far by picking out some key successes as well as case studies looking at some projects in more depth.

The 90 actions in the Plan are delivered under the themes of 'protect, enjoy and prosper' which reflect the National Park's two statutory purposes and duty (see back page). However, many

of the actions overlap with one or both of the other themes.

As we enter the final year of the 2015-2020 Plan we will continue to work hard to show how 'Team New Forest' can work collectively to make a positive impact on the National Park.

New Forest National Park Partnership Plan Partners

Produced jointly by:



Working in partnership with
Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Test Valley
 Borough Council

Environment Agency



New Forest
 DISTRICT COUNCIL

Hampshire
 County Council

Forestry England



Wild play

Highlights Protect

LH2 Page 20

3% increase in favourable condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the New Forest.

LH5 Page 20

£49,000 secured

by the Solent Forum from the Water Improvement Environment Fund to look at the benefits of using dredged material from the seabed to help protect our coasts.

LM4 Page 23

4 commoners needing back-up land for their animals have been matched with landowners who needed their grasslands grazed.

LM6 Page 23

1,113m³ of bracken removed to improve New Forest habitats has been composted/mulched and sold to horticulturalists, private estates and garden centres.



Bracken removal

Case study: Wild play

To help children discover and connect with nature the New Forest National Park Authority is creating three permanent, community-based wild play sites. We have already established two sites in Holbury and Sway, and a third site is being planned in Ashurst.

The aim is to enable children to play out in a natural environment on a regular basis and provide a safe but not risk-free environment. Volunteers help us to develop and progress these sites, ensuring they meet the specific needs of the local community.

A wild play toolkit has been created to help other communities create their own wild play space, guiding them through the various development stages and including lots of ideas for resources and activities.

Wild play events at the community sites and other locations throughout the year provide families with confidence and inspiration to spend more time outside. Some events are supported by partners such as Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Forestry England and the National Trust. In 2018 we've worked with around 1,700 children and adults through these events.

Highlights Enjoy

Highlights Prosper

SQ1 Page 28

90 dog owners at puppy classes trained in responsible dog walking, with other dog walkers attending outdoor sessions.



Responsible dog walking training at Foxbury

SQ2 Page 28

500 volunteers have provided

6,500 days to help look after the Forest's heritage through the Our Past Our Future landscape partnership scheme.

SQ7 Page 29

2,530 pupils from 50 schools and colleges learned about the special qualities of the National Park and its management in sessions taught by education staff.



Training heritage businesses to better understand the New Forest

LC1 Page 32

15 community groups supported in finance, training and other aspects to help them deliver projects revealing the New Forest's heritage.

LC2 Page 32

8 parish/town councils supported in recruiting and training wildlife champions, carrying out wildlife surveys and producing plans to enhance nature on green spaces in their areas.

EW3 Page 34

£370,000 of private sector funds invested to establish business, digital and social innovation academies.

EW4 Page 34

12 applications by landowners for woodland management plans have been approved, with 7 moving forward to Woodland Improvement Grants.

EW9 Page 35

181 people trained to help make their businesses more sustainable, and to better promote the special qualities of the National Park to visitors.



Volunteers surveying Hurst Castle

Case study: Heritage on my Doorstep

The NPA is working with local history groups and parishes to help them research and find out more about their local heritage. The groups have been trained on a range of topics and techniques including oral history recording, mapping, website development and various survey methods such as geophysics. Expert advice and funding have also been provided to help with book publications, websites, interpretation and research.

The Friends of Hurst Castle has begun recording areas of the castle as part of a wider project to allow the public to access areas which are currently inaccessible. Alongside work to acquire Leader funding for projects, the NPA has been training volunteers from the group to carry out building surveys of rooms in the castle and 3D scanning of features and structures. This will allow them to play an integral part in the ongoing care, management and interpretation of this historic site.