
Update on behalf of Forestry England (South District)

New Forest Consultative Panel

Richard Burke

Recreation Manager, New Forest - South District





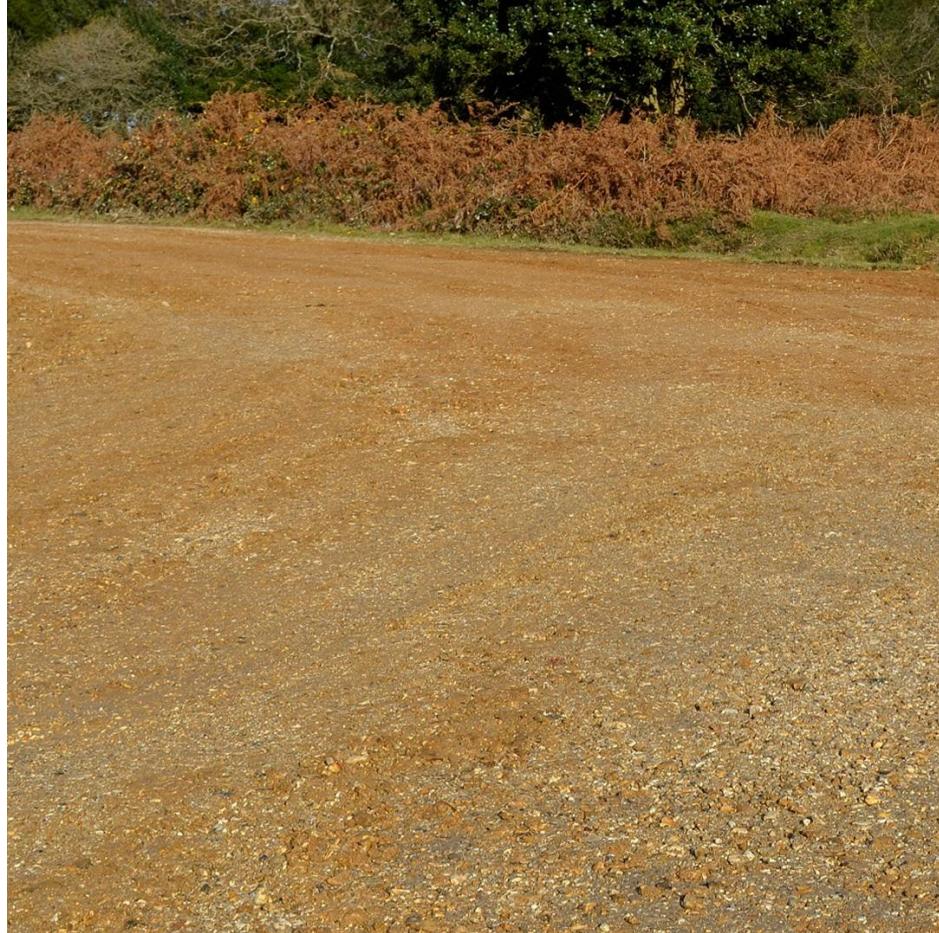
Knightwood Oak Trail & access upgrade

- Resurfaced car park & trail
- Accessible parking spaces
- New picnic benches
- Removed overgrown vegetation around the New Forest's oldest tree
- New signage and interpretation
- Supported by additional DEFRA funding provided by the New Forest NPA



Ongoing maintenance work

- Continuing challenge of repairing high levels of damage caused over the winter and early spring
- In May alone, 11 sites needed urgent works requiring 80 tonnes of gravel and hoggin
- Works will continue
- Forestry England website regularly updated with temporary closures for maintenance



Wootton & Brownhills - resurfacing

- Large area of trails being resurfaced and repaired
- Work began 27 May and will continue into early July
- Wootton & Brownhill car parks closed Monday to Friday
- Section of the cycle route (post 181 - 189) also closed while works are ongoing

Public engagement - events



New Forest Nature Discovery Day - Wilverley

- Well attended public engagement event raising awareness of the New Forest's special nature
- Involved a host of conservation groups including HOS, ARC, RSPB, Wild New Forest and local nature specialists
- Range of activities on offer including guided nature walks, plant identification, and bio-blitz
- Over 300 different species identified

Walking in partnership

- Collaboration with the local police and other agencies to increase access to nature
- Supported by our ranger team



Rhododendron removal

- Annual program removing this invasive, non-native plant
- Significantly reduce biodiversity if left to grow
- Part of the wider HLS environmental stewardship programme
- Forestry England removed this plant across an area of 7 hectares last year
- Public reporting survey launched to help inform the locations to target later this year
- [Rhododendron control - HLS New Forest](#)



BBQ & Fire safety

- Our ranger team have seen an increase in the use of BBQs, campfires & outdoor cooking equipment
- Using the PSPOs they are now able to intervene to prevent or stop the activity
- 3 fixed penalty fines issued
- Working with partners a communications campaign is in place to highlight the PSPOS/ban and share fire safety messages
- Forestry England are working with Hants Fire Service on joint patrols in the New Forest
- Aiming to increase awareness that the ban in the New Forest includes ALL outdoor cooking equipment including stoves

Thank you