



Chief Executive's report

October 2024



Business Plan themes

Incorporating the five themes of the National Park Partnership Plan 2022-27, plus improvement goals and targets for our Authority under Re:New Organisation – Achieving Excellence.



Re:New Climate



Re:New Nature



Re:New People



Re:New Place



Re:New Partnership

Re:New Organisation – Achieving Excellence

Protect – First Purpose

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area



Re:New Nature

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies – Wiltshire and Hampshire
- Team Nature meeting of conservation directors at hosted by North Yorks Moors NPA (see photos)
- Re:New Nature at the New Forest Show
- Hosted eNGO leaders and NPA CXs
- Members session on nature recovery



Species Survival Fund

- £1.3m scheme to restore New Forest habitats and increase wildlife.
- Improving 250 hectares for nature over more than 20 sites – the equivalent of 350 football pitches.
- Six partners (Freshwater Habitats Trust; Amphibian and Reptile Conservation; Commoners Defence Association: Wildlife Trust, Wild New Forest, NFNPA) plus support from the RSPB and New Forest Biodiversity Forum.
- 11 sites surveyed, recording over 650 different species.
- Staff recruited.
- Project Board established.



**SPECIES
SURVIVAL
FUND**



Funded by
UK Government

Heritage
Fund

Future farming in the New Forest update

- Farming in Protected Landscapes into last 6 months; 28,556 ha of projects over scheme lifetime
- Environmental Land Management scheme: feasibility study to identify a successor scheme to Higher Level Stewardship scheme progressed with a workshop and consultation discussions



Schemes for nature through planning

Completed agreements

- Eastleigh Borough Council nutrient mitigation
- Kings Manor nutrient mitigation, Isle of Wight
- Heaton Farms nutrient mitigation, Isle of Wight
- Kingwell nutrient mitigation, Keyhaven
- Kingwell BNG units, Keyhaven

Agreements due to be completed imminently

- Kings Manor BNG units, Isle of Wight
- Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) – nutrient mitigation



Algal mat, Solent coastline
(Credit: HIOWWT)



Constructed wetland
(Credit: Whitewool Springs)

Schemes for nature through planning

- Strategic access management and mitigation measures (SAMM): co-ordinating the work of neighbouring planning authorities and other partners to address recreational impacts on the New Forest's designated sites.
- Bird Aware Solent: Revised strategy for scheme to mitigate potential recreational impacts of planned new development.



Water and New Forest Catchment Partnership

- Blue Horizons legacy – habitat restoration, creation and management.
- Wilder for Water – citizen science.
- Stand at New Forest Show with Beaulieu Estate (right).



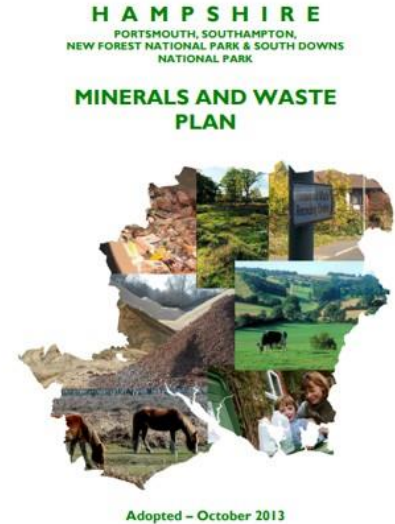
Planning

- 125 applications received 1 July to 23 September and 108 applications determined (approval rate of 94%)
- Three appeal decisions received (two dismissed, one allowed).
- 58 new enforcement cases, 64 concluded.



Planning policy

- Minerals and waste plan to SoS for independent examination
- Planning Consultations:
 - National Planning Policy reform proposals - responses both local and national
 - Solent CO2 pipeline, now dropped



Archaeology updates

- Iron Age – Romano British settlement at Fordingbridge (top)
- Thorney Hill investigation of 1920s Gypsies and Travellers compound when no longer allowed to camp out on the open forest. Filmed by Channel 4's 'Digging for Britain' (below right)
- East Boldre graves recording with volunteers (below left)
- Penny Moor access over SAM for wetland scheme



Enjoy – Second Purpose

To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.



YouCAN (youth for climate and nature) first year highlights

- NPA highlights: Youth board – first session held with a residential at Fort Climate Centre (right); 13 junior ranger sessions; new youth volunteering programme.
- 19 sessions of a new Young Adult Ranger work experience programme at The Parks Foundation, Bournemouth, alongside five Bournemouth University students
- Three young volunteers and interns at Southampton National Park City
- 12 sessions at different sites for young people with experts on climate to help shape a theatre performance



New Forest Code

- Ranger Code operations – Mountie, Wolf (fly tipping), campsites, pony feeding/petting operation with Forestry England.
- National Heathland Conference and 'Bark Ranger' back on social media highlighting responsible dog walking
- Preparation for dark nights (animal accidents).



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:



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.



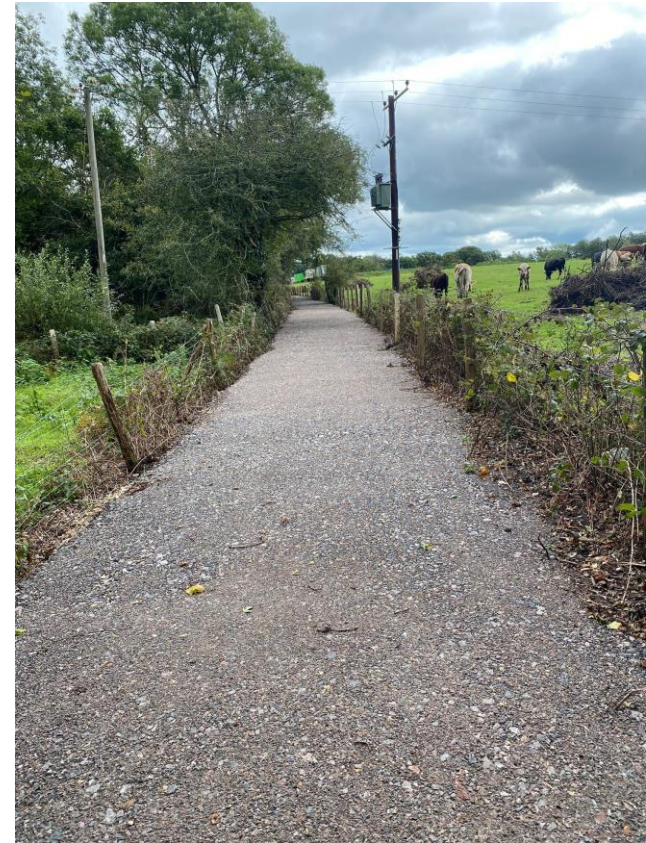
newforestnpa.gov.uk

thenewforest.co.uk



Access improvements

- Breamore Railway line £300k scheme thanks to funding from National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative
- Dilton Bridleway improvements (right)
- Knightwood Oak Trail improvements.



Behind the scenes campaign

- Commissioned by the Partnership Plan Leaders Panel to increase understanding of how special the National Park is for nature.
- Looks at the wildlife and people behind the scenes.
- Launch at the New Forest Show and theme of our stand.
- Images by internationally-renowned photographer Steve Poole.
- Over 123,000 impressions online to date.



PedAll

New Forest Show:

- 1,000 riders tried out the bikes on a small ride over the three days.
- £3,000 raised.

Pass the PedAll dawn til dusk challenge with Ride Leader Gareth Jones at New Park, Brockenhurst:

- 12 hours cycled
- Supported by over 160 riders
- More than 133 miles ridden
- 200 laps completed.
- Around £5,000 raised for PedAll.



Health and wellbeing

- Two new NHS Public Health fellows - Jennifer Wyllie (left) and Laura Pridmore (right), working two days a week and pictured joining the Pass the Pedall ride.
- Working on green social prescribing in the New Forest and surrounding area, particular focus on benefiting older people.
- Supported by Hampshire County Council's Public Health team.
- Hampshire 2050 Year of Health and Wellbeing.
- Green Health Hub.



**The Green
Health Hub**

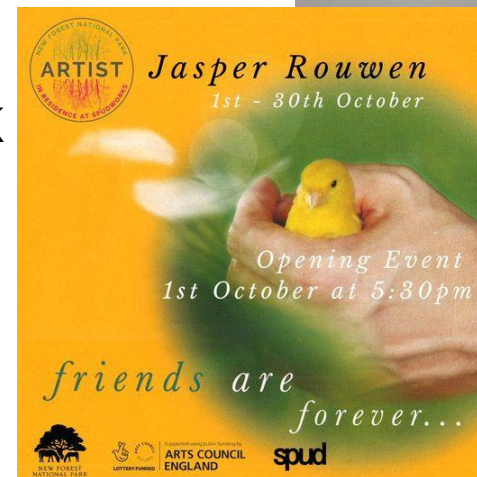


Arts

- Jasper Rouwen – artist in residence during May. Currently exhibiting at spudWORKS. Explores ‘the boundaries, oppositions and intersections between the domestic and wild, public and private, strange and mundane’.

Through his paintings, videos and installations, Jasper tries to reconcile the various opposites he encountered in the same way the Forest does.

- Mark Drury from Spud at National Parks UK Conference.



Prosper – Our Duty

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



Greenprint

Greenprint network to be established to share knowledge and practice across the five themes of:

- Climate resilience
- Nature (blue and green infrastructure)
- Natural Health Service
- Quality Design and Build
- Green skills and jobs.

Agreement to set up local authority network to collaborate on common work areas such as :

- air quality
- water quality
- flood prevention.

NPA, University of Southampton and Hampshire County Council secured funding for fellowship to review the region's green skills/jobs offer and make recommendations.



BMW Recharge In Nature project

Recharge in Nature project by BMW with National Parks Partnerships funding deployed:

- new twin charging point at Sway (the only village previously without charging points).
- the appointment of two apprentice rangers.
- 80 young people to better connect with nature and feel inspired to protect it.



Sustainable Communities Fund

- Woodgreen Shop: £2,000 grant towards installing an extra array of roof solar panels to contribute around 30% of the shop's electricity consumption saving £4,000 a year and helping to reduce carbon emissions.
- East Boldre Village Hall: £2,000 for new audiovisual equipment so a wider range of activities can be offered.



New Forest Marque

- Currently 183 members, including 39 members of Inspired arts and crafts branch.
- Celebrated the 20th anniversary at the New Forest Show
- Inspired members' first collective exhibition as part of Hampshire Open Studios.
- Events included the New Forest Show; Romsey Show; Damerham.
- Marque award as part of New Forest Business Partnership's Brilliance in Business Awards; celebrated members' successes in the Great Taste Awards and British Food Fortnight.



Brilliance in Business Awards

New Forest Business Partnership awards

The three businesses shortlisted in our sponsored category, Sustainable Business of the Year, are:

- Chewton Glen Hotel and Spa
- New Forest Aromatics
- New Forest Escapes.

Awards night is 28 November.



Enjoy the Forest visits survey

Enjoy the Forest visits survey with Go New Forest and Forestry England launched end June.

743 responses received over 11 weeks.

Currently analysing the responses to help inform future recreation management.



New Forest Tour

- 20th anniversary.
- 14% drop in patronage compared to 2023 over 11-week season.
- Residents' ticket sales saw a 13% increase.

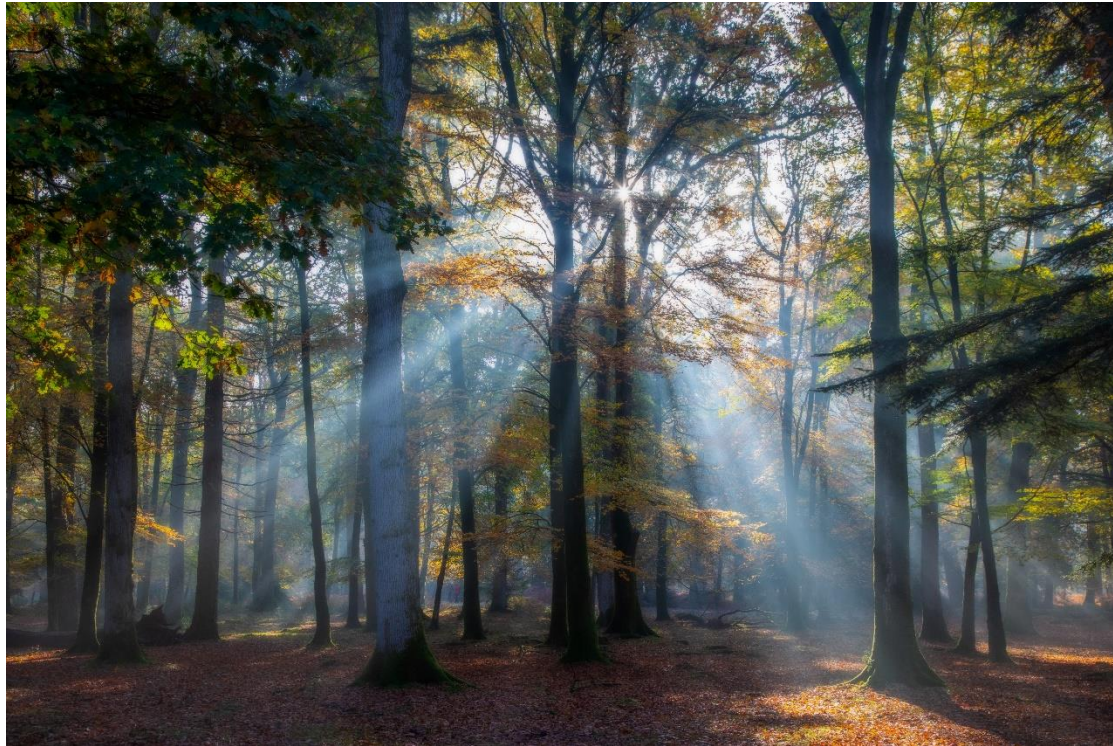


Walking and cycling

- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - extensive network of cycle routes across the Forest, as well as walking zones for the main residential areas, proposed.
- Eight-week consultation by Hampshire County Council ends Sunday 3 November
- Active Travel England visit
- Forestry England presentment re cycle routes (off-road)

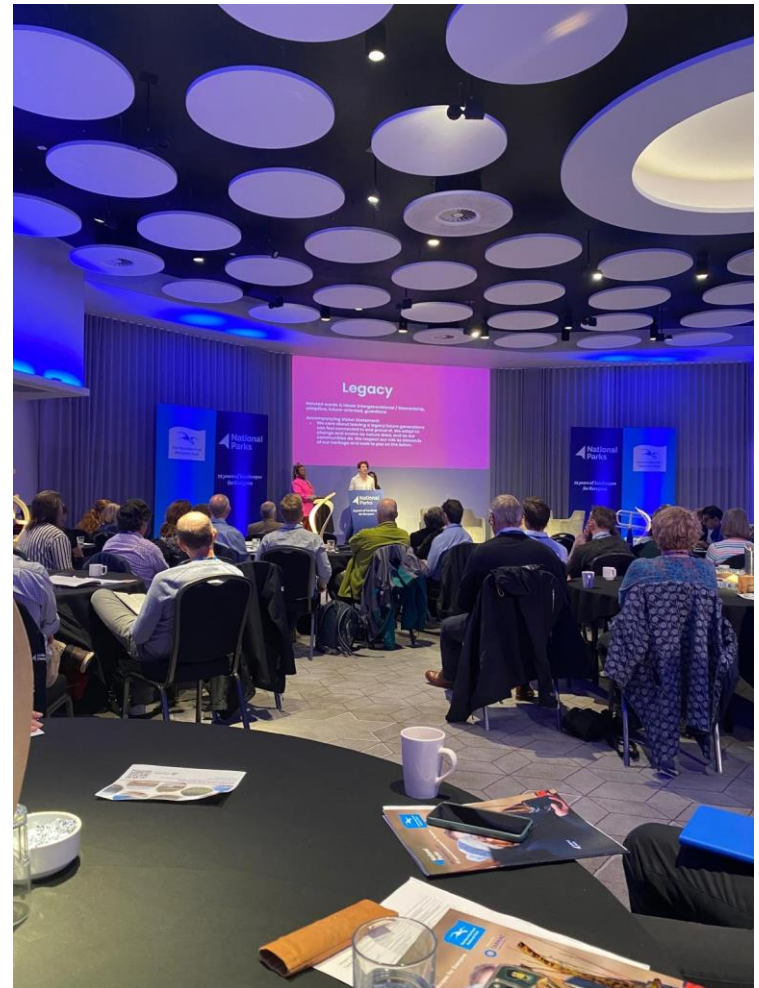


Excellence



National Parks UK Conference

- Conference hosted by Northumberland National Park in Newcastle
- 75th Anniversary of UK national parks
- Theme - 'Landscapes for Everyone'



New Forest Show – Behind the scenes theme



Wildlife tunnel with giant species,
sounds and scents of the Forest



Behind the scenes exhibition with photos
and interviews of people working for nature

New Forest Show

Behind the scenes campaign launch
(top)

National Park Awards with the CLA
(below):

- Young Farmer/Commoner: Christian Newman from Totton
- Best Supporter of Local Produce: Cottage Lodge Hotel, Brockenhurst
- Sustainability Champion: Rebecca Gabzdyl of East Boldre Community Stores
- Young Environmental Champion: Gemma Hobbs from Boldre.



HRH The Duke of Gloucester visit

- HRH The Duke of Gloucester saw high quality design schemes in Sway.
- Visited The Living Room at SpudWorks – a Building Design Award winner.
- Reviewed an exhibition about the Local List project.
- Also visited Chapel Stores, East Boldre.



New Government

- Youth Board and staff member Hayley Quarrington represented all national parks youth voice at the first Defra reception held by the incoming Secretary of State Steve Reid
- Letters from and to Ministers housing/nature moment and from Forest Farming Group on Future Schemes
- Preparations Comprehensive Spending Review



12th New Forest Walking Festival

- 19 October to 3 November including half term
- Guided walks with experts from a range of different organisations
- Walks to suit all interests and abilities, covering topics such as wildlife, photography, archaeology, and the arts.
- Many are free of charge.
- **Book places at**
www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival



AM 696/24

Revised Bird Aware Solent Mitigation Strategy

