

20 years

2005  
2025



# Chief Executive's report

October 2025



# 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



# FE Car parking scheme

Forestry England announced proposals to introduce parking charges across its 129 sites in spring 2026.

Understanding the need to raise income, we have asked for:

- All income raised in the Forest to be reinvested in the Forest
- Robust measures to counteract displacement parking
- A local concession scheme
- Minimal infrastructure that would impact the character of the Forest.

A nationwide FE parking membership is available, currently at £94/year or £2 a week. There will be exemptions for those working in the Forest.



# Duty to further National Park purposes

- Introduced in 2023.
- Legal requirement for responsible organisations to further NP purposes rather than just 'have regard to'.
- Strengthened duty was reportedly under threat – concern could be repealed or weakened.
- Not amongst Planning Bill amendments tabled on 14 October.



# Species Survival Fund (SSF) new species discovered

- £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: NPA, Freshwater Habitats Trust; Amphibian and Reptile Conservation; Commoners Defence Association; Wildlife Trust, Wild New Forest.
- Three new species of ladybird – great media coverage and positive feedback from good news story.



**SPECIES  
SURVIVAL  
FUND**

Funded by  
UK Government

Heritage  
Fund

# Dibden 'Solent Gateway 2' proposals

Announcement of informal  
'Solent Gateway 2'  
proposals by Associated  
British Ports for:

- An automotive terminal
- New access road
- Country park
- Nature area.

Illustrative plans show the  
footprint would go into the  
National Park.



# Local Plan

- Preparing for six-week consultation beginning 5 November
- Evidence base finalised
- Roadshows around National Park communities
- New online consultation platform
- Examination by Government inspector due in 2027.



# Buckler's Hard excavation

Archaeology team worked with University of Southampton and the Buckler's Hard Shipyard Trust to uncover the shipbuilding slipway at Buckler's Hard.

24 NPA volunteers assisted three-week excavation.



# Supporting and championing commoning

- NFLAS livestock workshops
- FiPL grants for Commoners
- Meeting with Minister at New Forest Show
- Briefed all local MPs
- Meeting with Foundation for Common Land.



**VERDERERS  
OF THE  
NEW FOREST**



**FOUNDATION FOR  
COMMON LAND**

# 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 scheme

- First New Forest Thrive festival in Ringwood attended by over 500 people
- Youth Board – over 600 volunteer hours in a year.
- Great presence at New Forest Show.



# Rangers

Engaged with 6,000 members of public.

Patrols including Operation Mountie animal accidents reduction campaign.

Community events including Brockenhurst College Freshers Week re safe driving and PSPOs.

Organising walks for the Walking Festival.



# Campaign to reduce animal accidents

- New Forest Drive Safe campaign launched to encourage businesses to share messaging with staff.
- Operation Mountie.
- Communications around clocks changing and increased accident risks due to darker nights/morning.



# Park Life

- Water campaign
- Commoners feature
- Local Plan review
- New Forest Drive Safe campaign
- Nature infographic
- Coastal birds
- New Forest Marque
- Youth board
- Artist in residence.

# Park Life

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FREE!

News from the New Forest National Park Authority



## Saving the New Forest's freshwaters

The New Forest is one of the best places for freshwater habitats in the UK – a habitat that's declining globally. In the heart of the National Park there's an abundance of pristine ponds, streams and wetlands, largely free of significant pollution. Yet the picture changes as you move downstream, where a combination of sewage and waste water spills, leaking septic tanks, land use practices, chemicals and road drainage all have a negative impact on water quality. A programme of restoring rivers and wetlands is included.

### How we can all help improve our water quality

- 1) Keep any septic tanks in good order
- 2) Use eco-friendly cleaning products
- 3) Only put flushable waste down the toilet
- 4) Follow the New Forest Water Code
- 5) Leave no trace – pick up dog mess and use local toilets
- 6) Use suitable facilities – to

- get rid of waste water
- 7) Check, clean and dry – make sure any kit doesn't leave mess, pens, and diseases
- 8) Right activity, right place – for paddle sports and swimming
- 9) Stick to the pitch – wild camping isn't allowed
- 10) On the right track – keep dogs under control and stick to permitted paths

In the New Forest National Park Partnership Plan, and the National Park Authority convenes a New Forest Water Catchment Partnership with Freshwater Habitats Trust to drive this forward. A partnership of landowners, government agencies, organisations and communities are:

- creating new ponds
- restoring natural water courses
- reducing non-native invasive plants in our nests
- helping farmers reduce polluting run-off

However, more needs to be done to improve our water quality and to prioritise investment in our most treasured landscapes, Dr Naomi Ewall of Freshwater Habitats Trust said. 'The New Forest's diverse array of freshwater plants and animals are supported by a vibrant mosaic of habitats from ponds to lochs, rivers and streams, and marshes and swamplands.'

'Protecting these high-quality habitats won't just safeguard the Forest's biodiversity, it

could also be the key to

reversing the decline of

freshwater wildlife across

England and Wales.'

Building out from the Forest's biodiversity hotspots, we can create a network of healthy, unpolluted and interconnected freshwater habitats to allow species to spread across the landscape. Paul Walton, the New Forest National Park Authority's Head of Environment and Rivers, said: 'Everyone should remember that national parks are taken into consideration in changes to water regulation which are currently being considered.'

He said: 'We and our partners

continue to demand faster,

more concerted action and

more determined focus on

adequate resourcing from our

water companies

and regulators to achieve best

water quality for the

internationally important New

Forest National Park.'

'If our national parks are to

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wildlife and support a

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'Action is needed to

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# National Park Awards with the CLA

New Commoning Champion award.

Winners of the 2025 awards – supported by Moore Barlow and the New Forest Agricultural Show Society:

**Young Farmer:** Lewis Potter from Calmore

**Best Supporter of Local Produce:** Sway Butchers

**Sustainability Champion:** Ringwood Repair Café

**Young Environmental Champion:** Rhys Leighton from West Wellow

**Farming and Nature Champion:** Ben Dolbear from Beaulieu

**Commoning Champion:** Andrew Parry-Norton from Cadnam.

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# Nightjar Project

- Project to highlight the migration of the nightjar from West Africa to the New Forest.
- Artist Kwame Bakoji-Hume created a large nightjar sculpture.
- Activity to make nightjar models.
- Project has been present at several events over the summer including the Thrive Festival, New Forest Show and Southampton Mela.
- Helps open up conversations about belonging and connection.



# PEDALL

- New Forest Show
- Pass the PEDALL – 2<sup>nd</sup> year and attendance doubled to over 400.
- At least £7,000 raised so far.



# Breamore Railway footpath

Working with volunteers and Hampshire County Council to improve two-miles of former railway line with vegetation clearance, surfacing and tree works.



# 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.



# Green skills and jobs

- Greenprint Partnership – green skills and jobs study completed by NPA and University of Southampton.
- New Forest District Council – working with NFDC economic development scheme to develop opportunities in conservation, land management, forestry sectors.
- Business South Blog - vision for 'World Class Environment and World Class Economy' and connecting with devo/LGR vis



# Sustainable transport

- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan approved by Hampshire County Council.
- Transport Summit planned for November.



# Sustainable Communities Fund

Hale village hall – grant of £2,000 for LED lighting and movement sensors



Photo: Hale Village Hall

# Health Fellows

Health Fellows Laura and Jennifer ended their year-long fellowship.

Presented at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Resident Doctor Wellbeing and Awards Day on 29 September at Shirrell Health and led a nature connection walk for attendees.



# Excellence



# New Forest Show



- 20th anniversary reception setting out challenges ahead
- Minister Baroness Sharon Taylor visit
- Stand featured the YouCAN scheme with Youth Board asking for views about the Forest
- Archaeology - Roman pots
- Ground nesting birds
- 2,500 attended.



# MP tours

MP tours to see Partnership Plan projects and discuss challenges.

L to r: Sir Julian Lewis at Buckler's Hard; Sir Desmond Swayne at Breamore Railway Line; Caroline Nokes with Freshwater Habitats Trust and NPA.



# Hosted National Parks England Board



# Thank you to NPA members

Saying goodbye and thank you to (left to right) Chair of Resources and Deputy Chair Patrick Heneghan, our Chair David Bence and former Chair Prof Gavin Parker.



# Welcome to New NPA members

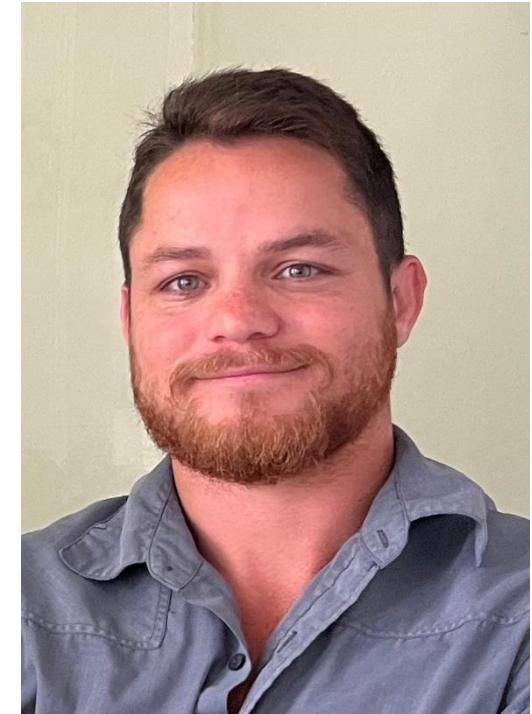
Adarsh Parekh



Ella Mason



James Wylor-Owen



# Women in protected landscapes

# Women in Protected Landscapes - the place edit



# Welsh Wildlife Trusts visit



# New Forest Walking Festival

- 18 October to 2 November
- 45 walks with experts
- Family-friendly half-term walks; long, more challenging rambles; and plenty of accessible routes
- Some already sold out.

