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# Update on behalf of Forestry England (South District)

## New Forest Consultative Panel

**Richard Burke**

Recreation Manager, New Forest - South District





## Fire safety

- Better weather led to increased use of stoves and campfire incidents compared to last summer.
- Regular joint patrols between our rangers and volunteers from Hants & IOW Fire Service.
- Ranger visits to New Forest campsites targeting motor homes to reduce stove use when travelling outside of the campsites.

## PSPO education

- Regular patrols at key hotspots to educate and inform
- Intervened in 169 incidents involving 900 people across both PSPOs
- Total of 4 fines now issued for fire related incidents



## Community engagement

- Encroachment of a large number of vehicles at Whitemoor Pond - worked closely with NFDC and Hants Police to arrange removal and clean up.
- Recent increase in dumped and burnt-out vehicles - costly and complex to remove.
- Joint police patrols in car parks to address anti-social behaviour and theft from vehicles
- April - August dealt with 95 fly-tips on the Crown Lands
- Supported 4 Operation Mountie exercises to promote animal safety on Forest roads



## Community engagement

- New Forest Show - our activity zone welcomed many thousands of people over the 3 days. The area won first prize in the trade stand award
- Spoke to 8,300 people via our information cabin at Bolderwood
- Walks in Partnership - regular community walks led by Forestry England and local police.
- Verderers Court Open Days - staffed and supported by our volunteers.
- Planning for our volunteer led conservation work over for this autumn and winter. Tasks include managing ride edges to support butterflies.



Continuing to work with statutory bodies to develop an approach to address sustainable funding to continue our care for the New Forest

Considering a range of aspects

- Signage
- Concessions
- Enforcement
- Verge protection
- Working forest

# Our work - heathland restoration



## Restoring timber plantations (inclosures)

- Some are being thinned and planted with native trees to create more biodiverse woodlands
- Others are being returned to heathlands or wetlands
- 170 hectares of heathland have been restored since 2019
- We plan to return a further 190 hectares over the next 5 years
- The work is supported by the Verderers of the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme

# Our work - heathland restoration



## Boosting biodiversity

- Restoration is a long-term process, however we are already seeing signs of nature returning.
- Hampshire Ornithological Society Woodlark survey - found that this ground-nesting bird species was returning to recently restored sites.
- Working with New Forest Bio-diversity Forum and Wild New Forest to understand which species are benefitting and how bio-diversity is returning.
- Survey results will be shared later this month.

# Our work - heathland restoration



## Works programme

- Work takes place in the autumn and winter months
- This year we will be focussing on around 12 heathland sites.
- Activities include
  - Plantation felling or thinning
  - Infilling artificial drains
  - Maintaining restored areas - bracken cutting and pine seedling pulling.

# Thank you