Planning for a successful future

The National Park Authority has been ensuring its planning role helps protect the New Forest's unique environment and way of life.

The Authority and a wide range of organisations successfully gained an exemption from proposals which would have allowed farm buildings to be turned into housing without planning permission. We argued this would put the vital rural economy of the New Forest at risk.

National Parks are also to be exempt from new rules allowing shops to convert to housing without planning permission.

The announcement of the National Park exemption of 1.5% of the area on Saturday as Planning Minister Nick Boles MP visited the New Forest to see the thriving New Forest economy first-hand.

Nick Boles MP said: 'I was delighted to visit the New Forest and see the work the National Park is doing to protect this part of the country in a way that allows communities to thrive. They are showing how it's possible to support businesses that will provide much-needed jobs in a way that safeguards the magical landscape of the New Forest.'

National Park Chairman Julian Johnson said it was vital that any changes to the planning system help keep Forest communities thriving, not prevent progress which benefits the Forest. He said: 'We want to ensure the right scheme is developed for the right place and which will ensure the Forest is a living and working landscape for generations to come.'

The Authority has also launched an online portfolio of good design case studies, celebrating high quality sustainable design and acting as a guide for future applicants, agents and architects.

Visit www.newforestnpa.gov.uk for details.
Welcome
to the New Forest National Park Authority’s newspaper Park life.

With the recent announcement that a £2.9 million Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership grant has been ear-marked for the National Park, we have a unique opportunity to make the New Forest landscape more resilient and fit to face the challenges of the future, making Forest habitats bigger, better and more joined-up. On this theme, over 70 wildlife enthusiasts from the New Forest and surrounding areas looked at current landscape and wildlife projects at a recent event in Lyndhurst. This, the first ever ‘New Forest Wildlife Forum’ gave representatives from local wildlife organisations opportunity to discuss their on-going work to help improve the extent and quality of local habitats and provide habitat links to the area surrounding the National Park.

In working to protect the Forest for future generations, we are clear that the Forest is a living, working environment too. This is why we continue to champion New Forest businesses through our planning role, working with others to establish business needs into the future and to champion these – in particular pushing for provision of high speed broadband across the National Park.

With our combined efforts, funding to support a range of initiatives and a forward-looking focus, we will work to ensure this precious landscape continues to thrive.

Best wishes,

Julian Johnson
New Forest National Park Authority Chairman

Art in the Park
The New Forest is world-renowned for its stunning landscapes, classic English views and spectacular wildlife.

To celebrate this unique place the New Forest National Park Authority has teamed up with the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst to launch a joint open art competition.

If you are a budding artist, photographer or craftsperson who takes inspiration from the New Forest, we would like to hear from you.

The competition and an exhibition of the artwork is sponsored by ExxonMobil at the Fawley Refinery and local magazine Park Culture.

Prizes from ExxonMobil at the Fawley Refinery:

- First prize - £500
- Second prize - £300
- Third prize - £100
- People’s Prize - £100 and a feature in Park Culture magazine.

The open art exhibition is hosted by the New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst, from 26 July to 31 August. See more at www.newforestcentre.org.uk.

How to get in touch

Park in your inbox
Find out about all the latest news, events and information from the New Forest National Park by signing up to our monthly email newsletter at newforestnpa.gov.uk.

For instant updates...
and events follow newforestnpa on Twitter or like the New Forest National Park Authority on Facebook.

Other formats
Contact us if you would like to receive Park life in another format such as large-print or Braille.

Contact us
Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington SO41 9DS.
Switchboard: 01590 646600
Email: enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk

Working together to update the National Park Management Plan
The National Park’s major strategy document which guides the way we work together to look after the New Forest is up for its first review after five years.

The National Park Management Plan includes a comprehensive long-term vision for the area and 10 objectives covering everything from conserving the landscape and its wildlife to supporting local communities and the economy.

The current version was published in 2010 following much public consultation and discussion with all the organisations, interest groups and communities in the Forest.

Most of the original plan remains entirely relevant today, so a partnership group of all the main organisations in the Forest is looking into preparing an update rather than starting from scratch again. Once an initial draft has been pulled together, it will be widely advertised for public consultation and discussion with Forest organisations later in the year.

The update will include an overview of what has been achieved over the past five years and a description of any major changes that have affected the Forest during that time (such as changes in government policy and the economic situation).

National Park Authority Chairman Julian Johnson said: ‘Most importantly the new plan will focus on priority actions to redouble our partnership and join up to benefit the Forest from 2015 to 2020 and beyond. All the main organisations have agreed to help in this and will contribute a list of projects that are important to them and which they will undertake. The update will therefore be very much a partnership plan for the Forest itself, rather than for any particular organisation. This will be a plan that makes us greater than the sum of the parts and therefore more equal to the challenges ahead.’


For more details, contact Nick Evans on 01590 646679, email nick.evans@newforestnpa.gov.uk.
Working together for woodlands and wildlife

The New Forest National Park Authority is working with others to promote responsible woodland management. This will help the National Park’s woodland become resilient to disease and more productive, therefore boosting the wood fuel market in the New Forest. Owners of managed woods will then be able to provide a sustainable, local and carbon-neutral energy source, which will benefit local communities, habitats and wildlife.

Good Woods is a ground-breaking project aiming to breathe new life into UK woodlands and is helping to reduce the high level of unmanaged woodland in the New Forest, which currently stands at over 40 per cent.

The scheme operates across the south and east of England and sees B&Q teaming up with sustainability charity BioRegional and forestry charity The Sylva Foundation to revive woodlands to provide environmental, social and economic benefits. The project is administered by the New Forest Land Advice Service within the New Forest and surrounding areas.

To mark the end of the year-long Good Woods project in the New Forest which has seen eight woodlands receiving help, representatives from the Sylva Foundation and B&Q met local people carrying out coppicing and general woodland management at one of the sites - Honeylake Wood, New Milton.

Left to right: Julia Griffin, B&Q Corporate Social Responsibility; Georgianna Watson, New Forest Land Advice Service Advisor; Alison Barnes, New Forest National Park Authority Chief Executive; Alistair Yeomans, Sylva Foundation Chief Operating Officer.

Love the Forest

Local conservation charity the New Forest Trust is asking everybody to get involved in its Love the Forest scheme.

The scheme - which raises funds to support the protection and improvement of the unique New Forest landscape, the animals, flora and fauna and the traditional forest way of life - is already supported by many local businesses and their customers.

Now lots of people are choosing to support Love the Forest in different ways, by taking part in a challenge event or raising funds to mark a special occasion.

Start fundraising now at uk.virginmoneygiving.com and select New Forest Trust as your charity.

@LoveTheNForest

lovethenforest

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Telephone: 01425 472572
or email showroom@newforestfarm.com
See the New Forest from a Viewpoint

It's becoming even easier to leave your car behind and enjoy the natural beauty of the New Forest National Park. You can walk, cycle, hire an electric Twizy, hop on the Beach Bus or enjoy grandstand views from the top deck of the New Forest Tour. Travelling car-free can be good for our health, cuts down on congestion and pollution, and it’s also a lot of fun.

New Forest Tour
Choose from three scenic routes around magical landscapes, picture postcard villages and enjoy money off popular attractions. Hop on and off where you like and switch routes – all on the same ticket. You can even bring your bikes (carried free). The Tour runs hourly seven days a week from 28 June to 14 September. Book online for a 10% discount: www.thenewforesttour.info

Twizy
These two-seater electric vehicles are a fun way round the New Forest. They have a range of 50 miles and there's an extensive network of chargepoints around the forest. Your Twizy pack also includes a Brand New Forest card for discounts at many local pubs, restaurants and attractions. www.thetwizy.co.uk or call 01590 624 066.

Beach Bus
Ride the Beach Bus this summer to make the most of the coast at Lepe Country Park from 26 July to 31 August. The service runs from Hythe Ferry to Lymington, with 20% off at popular attractions such as Esbury Gardens, the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu and Buckler's Hard. You can even enjoy a free ice cream at Lepe. www.thebeachbus.info

Cycling
Explore the National Park on two wheels, with more than 100 miles of waymarked family friendly cycle routes, much of it off-road and traffic free. There are plenty of places to hire bikes, including trikes and adapted bikes for young people with disabilities. www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/cycling.

Travel Concorde
Based mainly at Brockenhurst rail station throughout the summer, the friendly travel concierge runs a pedal-powered mobile unit full of information on car-free experiences and the best places to visit. Stop by and say hello. www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/travel_concorde

Walking
Walking is a wonderful way to see the New Forest close up, whether it's in woodland, along the coast, or across heathland. Enjoy the freedom to ramble across open land, before heading for some refreshments at a charming country pub. Discover walking routes at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/walking
Multi-million pound funding boost to ensure New Forest National Park is fit for the future

The future conservation of the New Forest National Park’s unique landscape, wildlife and heritage has been given a huge boost thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

A £2.9m HLF Landscape Partnership grant has been earmarked for the National Park to restore lost habitats, develop Forest skills and inspire a new generation to champion and care for the New Forest.

The seven-year New Forest Landscape Partnership will be led by the New Forest National Park Authority and 10 key partners, who will contribute their own funding to increase the pot to £4.5m.

The aim is to make the Forest more robust and able to withstand modern day pressures such as trends in agriculture, climate change, and increasing demands from a growing population that is less connected to the countryside.

The funding will help restore ancient woodland, grassland, meadows, waterways and historic buildings, protecting the area’s special qualities formed over a thousand years thanks to a unique system of land management based on commoning rights.

As well as practical measures, the project will develop a shared understanding and enthusiasm for the area between commoners, landowners, local communities and visitors, particularly around the edges of the Forest.

Local communities will also be consulted through parish councils and local interest groups about how the project will be developed.

Find out more at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership.

Designs on the future

High quality building design in the National Park is to be celebrated with plans for a Building Design Awards scheme.

The National Park’s planning policies aim to achieve high standards of design and to conserve local distinctiveness when new development is permitted. The awards will showcase the best examples of the nearly 1,000 planning applications it deals with each year.

Local communities and architects will be able to nominate examples of new development – from an individual building, to an extension or a larger development – that they feel deserves special recognition for the efforts made to enhance the built environment of the Forest.

Details of the awards scheme are being worked up and we plan to launch them in early summer 2014. Further information will be available at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/building_design.

New grants scheme simplifies New Forest funding

Projects that promote sustainability in the New Forest are set for a boost from a new scheme offering grants of up to £50,000.

The Sustainable Communities Fund combines several existing grants schemes to provide a one-stop shop for projects that promote sustainable living and working within the National Park, with grants available for up to 75% of a project’s cost.

Applications are now being accepted from anybody planning to launch or expand a project that supports:

- cultural heritage
- biodiversity
- awareness of why the New Forest is special
- engagement of people with the National Park
- provision of local food and goods
- reducing carbon emissions in the National Park
- sustainable transport options including cycling facilities.

The fund simplifies the process by combining existing sustainable transport grant schemes with the Sustainable Development Fund. Since April 2006 the SDF has:

- funded 132 projects
- awarded £1.45m of grants
- secured £3m from other sources
- involved 390 community groups and 597 businesses
- benefited 58,000 people.

Find out how to apply at: www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/grants.
Burley has been awarded 2014 Brand New Forest Village status because it has the greatest density of Brand New Forest Card offers.

Buy a Brand New Forest Card

and support local businesses

At just £5 the card will save you ££££s all year round at participating businesses

For full details of all offers and where you can buy your card visit brandnewforest.com
Activities and events

The New Forest National Park is a great place to explore in the spring and summer and we have a packed events programme of walks, activities, trails and exhibitions for you to get involved in and enjoy – best of all, lots of our events are free.

Special Exhibition: Transport through the ages
Saturday 3 May - Sunday 1 June 10am-5pm (last entry at 4pm)
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst. SU301082
Jump aboard for a whistle-stop tour of weird and wonderful contraptions from the penny-farthing to the pedal bus.
Free entry to exhibition. Suitable for all.

Transforming Travel in the New Forest National Park
Monday 12 May 7pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst. SU301082
The New Forest National Park is a popular leisure destination for visitors, but with nearly 96% of visitors arriving by car, visitor traffic poses a threat to some of the special qualities of the National Park. It is therefore an ideal location for developing sustainable transport that both allow visitors to enjoy the attractions of the area whilst minimising their impact on those special qualities. This informative talk by officers from the National Park Authority Transport and Tourism team will discuss the challenges faced and the exciting projects being developed to improve the situation.
£6 non-members, £4 members. Booking required 02380 283444.

Fun in the Forest Days
Tuesday 5 Aug - 10.30am - 3pm
Blackwater Car Park, SU267047
Tuesday 12 Aug - 10.30am - 3pm
Puttles Bridge Car Park, SU572029
Catch up with the New Forest Rangers for a host of FREE activities such as bug hunts, stream dipping, scavenger hunts, colouring and crafts. Bring your wellies and be ready for Forest funtime!
Suitable for any age (all children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required.
Enquiries: 01590 646660

Date with Nature
Sat 5 Apr - Mon 1 Sept 10.30 - 4.00
New Forest Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst. SU277071
A sneak peak of what’s happening in the nests of some of our most spectacular and secretive residents via our live nest-cams, chat to the experts and get the lowdown on our native reptiles, who all live in the Forest.
Car parking donation. Suitable for all. No booking required. Enquiries: 01273 775333

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The New Forest Remembers WWII
Sat 5 & Sun 6 July, 10am - 4pm each day
Lape Country Park, SU267086
70 years on from D-Day we commemorate the part that Lepe and the New Forest played in the run up to the Normandy Landings. Throughout the weekend the country park will turn back the clock to the war years with displays, living history re-enactments, military vehicle displays, guided walks to the embarkation beach and bands playing music of the times. On the Sunday morning a parade of standards and cliff top memorial service will be held in the presence of veterans.
Free event, parking charges apply. Wartime themed food available in the cafe throughout this event.

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Lymington-Keyhaven Nature Reserve Open Day
Sun 14 Sep 10.30am-4pm
Lymington-Pennington Nature Reserve, Keyhaven. SU277086
Come to Hampshire’s premier coastal reserve and enjoy the spectacle of birds as they stop off on their annual migrations. Stalls, crafts, guided walks, family activities, wildlife viewing and more. Joint event with Hampshire County Council.
Free. Suitable for all. No booking needed - just come along. Enquiries: 01590 646660

Meet the rangers. Left to right:
- Craig Deters covers the north of the National Park.
- Claire Sherwood works mainly in the south west and central areas.
- Gillie Hayball is the Lead Ranger and also helps promote volunteering.
- Lesley Kay is the Coastal Ranger, mainly in the east of the National Park including Lape Country Park (her post is joint-funded by the National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council). For more details about the ranger team visit www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/rangers

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Wild Wednesdays at the Reptile Centre
Wed 28 May 10am-4pm
New Forest Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst. SU277071
Animal themed activities to entertain the family. Come and have a date with nature in the New Forest!
Car parking donation (small charges for some materials) Suitable for all. No booking required.

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Enquiries: 01590 646660

Local Produce Market
Sunday 8 June 11am - 4pm
Royalsons Woods, Brokenhurst. SU194976
Come and experience traditional local wood crafts from a wide range of demonstraters and craftsmen. Woodland products will be for sale on the day ranging from charcoal and haldies and there will be plenty of opportunity to have a go at woodland crafts. Locally produced food and products on sale. A wide variety of children’s activities. Entry to the event is via Sandy Down, Selley. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, in partnership with the New Forest National Park Authority.
Free entry. Suitable for all. No booking required. Enquiries: 01489 774400

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New Forest Walking Festival
Sat 18 October - Sun 2 November
Discover the hidden treasures of the New Forest National Park. Walkers of all ages will be led on bespoke experiences by expert guides highlighting the unique countryside, wildlife, culture and history of the National Park. Guided walks can be reached by public transport, and many are free or discounted for those who travel by bus, train, bike or on foot.
Prices vary. All ages. Booking required. www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival